

McHenry County Conservation District's

TRAIL OF HISTORY

October 15 & 16

9 a.m.–4 p.m.*

Glacial Park, Ringwood

Located off Route 31, north of McHenry

Join the fun at this educational re-enactment of life in the Northwest Territory.

Demonstrations • Military Tactics • Medicine Show • Fur Traders

Pioneer Games • Entertainment • Métis Village

Food Vendors & Much More!



ADMISSION:

In Advance/At the Gate:

Adults: \$5/\$7 Seniors 60+: \$2/\$3

Children (6-12): \$2/\$3; 5+under: Free

***Entrance Gates Close at 3 p.m.**

Access to the event is a 1 mile hike over hilly terrain. A shuttle is available for those who can not make the walk-in/walk out.

No pets, please!

Tickets on sale August 1–October 10 *Cash or check only.*

Prairieview Education Center, 2112 Behan Rd., Crystal Lake
Monday–Saturday 9 a.m.–5 p.m. and Saturday 1–5 p.m.

Brookdale, Administrative Office, 18410 US Highway 14, Woodstock
Monday–Friday 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

MAIL ORDER: TOH Ticket Sales, Postmarked by October 6.

Prairieview Education Center, 2112 Behan Rd., Crystal Lake, IL 60014. Include a check payable to MCCD, number of tickets requested, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Tickets are non-refundable!

Tickets may be used on either day of the event, but are good for only one day. No additional discounts for group sales.

For information, call Prairieview Education Center (815) 479-5779.

PRAIRIE FEST

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 10AM-2PM

Pleasant Valley Conservation Area

13315 Pleasant Valley Rd., Woodstock

Come celebrate with us the life, lore, beauty and diversity of our local prairies. Enjoy guided prairie hikes, activities for the kids, seed collecting and much more! Listen to live music. Bring a picnic lunch or take advantage of the food being offered for sale on site. Drop in for a few minutes or a few hours!



CACHE YOUR WAY ACROSS MCHENRY COUNTY

AUGUST 1 - NOVEMBER 30

SPEND FALL GEOCACHING YOUR WAY THROUGH MANY OF THE BEAUTIFUL SITES OF MCHENRY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT.



Caches will be placed in 15 different Conservation District sites. Sign-up to receive a list of coordinates and a questionnaire. Each cache will contain an answer to a corresponding question. Some caches will be posted on www.geocaching.com. You will need your own GPS unit to complete the program.

E-mail smichael@mccdistrct.org or call the District's Main Office at (815) 338-6223 to participate. Enroll any time throughout the fall!



Questionnaires may be mailed to the Main Office or e-mailed back to geocache@mccdistrct.org. Include your name and mailing address. All completed entries will be entered into a drawing to win a free camping weekend at one of the District's six campgrounds.

Completed entries must be returned by November 30, 2011. Some caches will remain posted on www.geocaching.com.



Photo taken at a cache in Glacial Park

Geocaching is a great activity for all ages who enjoy hiking and being outdoors. For more information on this popular "treasure hunting" activity, call (815) 338-6223 or read about it online: MCCDistrict.org/re-geocache.htm.



STAR PARTY

hosted by Northwest Suburban Astronomers

Saturday, October 8, 7–10 p.m.
Marengo Ridge

Search the night skies with the Northwest Suburban Astronomers! This is your opportunity to look at stars, galaxies, nebulae and star clusters with the help of NSA member telescopes available for public use.

Some of the observing highlights will be the planets Jupiter and Mars, M27 (The Dumbbell Nebula), M31(Spiral Galaxy in Andromeda), M15(Globular Star Cluster in Pegasus) and many other deep sky objects. The moon will be about 4 days past 1st Quarter and above the horizon for the entire event.

Bring blankets or a lawn chair, and a flashlight covered with red plastic or cellophane (red light preserves your night vision) along with binoculars or a telescope if you have one. If you are interested in astronomy or thinking about purchasing a telescope, this is a great place to get information. This event is free and open to all ages—no registration is required. In the event of inclement weather the event will be canceled. Visit the NSA website www.nsaclub.org for info.



Living History Events

Powers-Walker House, Glacial Park

Drop in any time during the open hours.
No registration is required.



Archaeological Awareness Sunday, September 11, 12:00–4:00 p.m.

Drop in at the Powers-Walker House to see flintknappers, stone grinders, cordage makers and other people demonstrating prehistoric skills. You will be able to try your hand at throwing an atlatl while pretending you are on a prehistoric big game hunt. A mounted cavalryman will be on hand to explain archaeology of the Little Big Horn site. Archaeologists will describe how prehistoric technologies are discovered and interpreted and share a time line of the prehistoric past. Examples of

artifacts will be on display, including those found at the Powers-Walker House. You may bring your own arrowheads or prehistoric tools for identification by professional archaeologists.

Living History Open House Thursday, October 6, 5:00–8:30 p.m.

Enjoy the twilight ambience of this 1850's house by candlelight and lamplight while enjoying a fall evening viewing the ever-changing colors in the Lost Valley Marsh. Smell the aromas and see what is being baked in the wood-burning stove. And, don't forget to check out any changes in the restoration of this historic house since the last time you visited.

Harvest Gathering of 1858 Sunday, November 6, 12:00–4:00 p.m.

Step back in time to the 1850's Powers-Walker House at harvest time. Try your hand at corn shelling, grinding corn into flour, or making a corn husk or yarn doll, while learning how integral the use of corn and other natural fibers were to the everyday lives of early settlers. Witness harvest activities like the baking of bread in the wood-burning cookstove and making candles for the wintertime. Tour the historic farmhouse and learn more about its restoration, or visit with a Cavalry sergeant and his horse as they demonstrate the weapons of the era used to protect these frontier lands.



—LOST VALLEY VENTURES—

Family Exploration Programs! Saturdays 2–3:30 p.m.

Lost Valley Visitor Center—Glacial Park
No program: Oct. 15, Nov. 26.

Are you looking for something the whole family can do for free on a Saturday afternoon? Come to Glacial Park for our Saturday exploration programs. Hosted every Saturday afternoon from 2–3:30 p.m., we will offer a fun family program. Topics change monthly: September—*The Prairie State*, October—*Fall Color*, November—*Wild Turkeys*; and include a nature lesson, game, and a hike. Programs are held primarily outdoors, so dress for the weather and walking. No registration required. All ages are welcome.

This program is intended for families and cannot accommodate organized groups. Youth groups are welcome to call (815) 479-5779 to schedule a program for their group. Check out our *Education and Recreation Opportunities for Youth Groups* brochure for more information.



Nature Preserve and Land & Water Reserves: An enduring Vision

Illinois Nature Preserves Photography Exhibit

July 2–October 30
Lost Valley Visitor Center,
Glacial Park

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission's traveling photo exhibit *Illinois Nature Preserves and Land and Water Reserves* commemorates 500 protected sites. Twenty-two exceptional photographs are on display and were selected from a slate of 225 photos submitted for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' 2009 Outdoor Illinois Photo Contest. All of the entries represented Illinois' extraordinary geographic range of biodiversity. The Commission appreciates this opportunity to share these images of Illinois' natural treasures. For more information on the traveling exhibit go to tinyurl.com/4koochn.



Glacial Park photo by Weg Thomas



For **Lost Valley Visitor Center Building Tours**, organized groups are welcome to call (815) 678-4532 to schedule a building tour for their group. Minimum 12 people.

Explore Glacial Park with these Interpretive Trail Guides...

Four Glacial Park interpretive trail brochures — **Geology, Cultural History, Plant Life and Wildlife** — are available at the Lost Valley Visitor Center in Glacial Park. The two-mile interpretive trail begins from the visitor center parking lot and follows the Deerpath loop. Experience this 3,300-acre gem while you discover the natural heritage of your surroundings.

Guides are available at Lost Valley Visitor Center in Glacial Park or online at MCCDistrict.org/web/ab-brochures.htm.





Backyard Native Garden This exciting exhibit uses a palette of native plants to showcase the benefits of natural landscaping and inspire others to “go native” in their own backyards. Visitors can learn about different examples of native landscaping by touring seven different stations, including the Native Vine Garden, Butterfly Garden, Backyard Prairie, Natural Prairie, Native Shrub Garden, Rain Garden and Prairie Garden Area.

Home Tweet Home While at Prairieview, take the ½ mile wooded trail on the west side of the parking lot. Stop at the kiosk to learn about different birds and their nesting habits like the screech owl, Eastern bluebird, tree swallow, and American Kestrel. See how many birds and nesting cavities you can spy. Stop inside for a bird check list and flip through bird ID books. Use the binoculars for an even closer look at the many birds that flutter amongst the prairie plants right up close to the floor-to-ceiling windows.



Exploration Station Located inside Prairieview Education Center, this interactive drop-in center features several hands-on activities that help children learn more about the natural world surrounding them. A puppet theatre, themed book bags and nature boxes, books, board games and puzzles are available to come explore at your leisure. The theme of the Exploration Station changes every three months to highlight seasonal changes taking place in the environment.

CATCH THESE SCHEDULED PROGRAMS AT PRAIRIEVIEW EDUCATION CENTER
(REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

Prairie Primer For Homeschoolers
— page 24

Fabulous Feathers — page 24

Discovery Days; Sunset Switch; Nature Play Open House; Coyote Campfire
— page 25

Sustainability 101: Thinking Renewables? Think Efficiency & Conservation First; Natural Crafts—Gourds — page 27

Tellebration Celebration; Backyard Birding — page 30

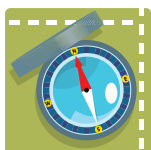


Explore Nature with Self-Guided Exploration Packs

Create your own adventure with exploration packs from McHenry County Conservation District’s Prairieview Education Center or Lost Valley Visitor Center in Glacial Park! Exploration Packs contain seasonal activities and are great resources for interested families, youth groups, or scouts to enjoy in the outdoors. Several kits are available for loan, *free of charge!*

Family Exploration —

These are backpacks your family or small group can borrow for use on the trails at Prairieview Education Center or Lost Valley Visitor Center. The packs contain seasonal activities in which your entire group can participate. Adult supervision is required. A driver’s license is required as a deposit and must be left during use. (For groups over 16, an educational permit is needed.)



Map and Compass Self-Guided Packs —

These packs are designed to be used on the map and compass course at Prairieview Education Center. The pack contains maps, compasses, and instructions for map reading activities and compass use. Each pack has supplies for up to 24 participants. Adult supervision is required; one adult for every four children is recommended. A driver’s license is required as a deposit and must be left during use. (For groups over 16, an educational permit is needed.)



For more information on the Exploration Packs, call Prairieview Education Center at (815) 479-5779 or Lost Valley Visitor Center in Glacial Park at (815) 678-4532. To secure an educational permit, please contact Prairieview Education Center at least 14 days in advance.