



Frozen Fauna Ages 7+

Animals have a variety of ways to deal with the hardships of winter. Some may store food, grow thicker coats, make incredible journeys of migration or go into the deep sleep of hibernation. There are a few that can go beyond hibernation into a state of “frozen animation” in which their bodies will completely shut down during the worst of our winter weather. When the weather warms these frozen creatures appear to rise from the dead. Learn more about these animals and their amazing feats of winter survival.

Saturday, December 3, 1:00–2:30 p.m.
Pleasant Valley, Shelter 2
Code: 211151-01, \$0 R/ \$2 NR

Historical Holidays

Celebrate the holiday season with a visit to two historical buildings at Glacial Park. Meet at the 1902 Wiedrich Education Center Barn where we will try our hand at a historical craft. Then we will enjoy a candlelight hike back in time to the 1854 Powers Walker House for some traditional stories. This program includes a 3/4 mile hike so dress for the weather and walking. Other arrangements can be made for those unable to make the walk. Registration deadline: December 15th.

Saturday, December 17, 3:00–5:00 p.m.
Glacial Park, Wiedrich Barn
Code: 211266-01, \$3 R/ \$5.25 NR

Solstice Night Hike Ages 6+

The winter solstice brings our longest, darkest night to the northern hemisphere. For centuries this event has been a call for celebration; come find out why! We'll investigate old ways to celebrate this celestial event while creating new traditions. Our new tradition includes a luminary-candlelight night hike, ending at a warm campfire. Dress for the weather and outdoor activities. Please do not bring flashlights—we will let the luminaries and the stars light our way.

Wednesday, December 21, 6:30–8:00 p.m.
Prairieview Education Center
Code: 211152-01, \$0 R/ \$2 NR

Winter Scavenger Hunt

Take a break from this busy time of year and gather the family for some outdoor fun and fresh air! We'll start with an introduction around the campfire. Then your family will head out on a scavenger hunt searching for signs of animal activity and looking at winter plant life.



Saturday, January 7, 1:00–2:30 p.m.
The Hollows, Picnic Grove #1
Code: 211253-01, FREE

Wintertime is Naturetime! Ages 5+

Have you been hiding inside this winter, but thinking of venturing out to see what nature has been up to beyond the cold and snow? Join us as we help you and your family explore Pleasant Valley Conservation Area. We'll provide the tools and techniques for making your own discoveries. Find out what makes this season as important and wonderful as the others! Dress for the weather.



Saturday, January 14, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Pleasant Valley, Shelter #1
Code: 212368-01, FREE

An Afternoon with the Short-Eared Owls Ages 8+

The short-eared owl is an Illinois endangered species but we are fortunate to have them visit Glacial Park every winter! Enjoy a winter hike at dusk to search for these special creatures. Bring binoculars if you have them, and dress for the weather. We will begin our afternoon with a short indoor presentation.

Saturday, January 14, 4:00–5:30 p.m.
Glacial Park, Lost Valley Visitor Center
Code: 212268-01, \$0 R/ \$2 NR

Coyotes & Cocoa Ages 7+

Join us for an evening with the coyotes and some tasty cocoa! After we learn about these intriguing mammals we will head out for a hike to look and listen for the “prairie wolf”. Dress for the weather and to walk on snow-covered trails.

Monday, January 23, 6:30–8:00 p.m.
Living Land Farm
716 E. Crystal Lake Rd., Cary
Code: 212369-01, \$0 R/ \$5 NR

What about Weasels? Ages 8+

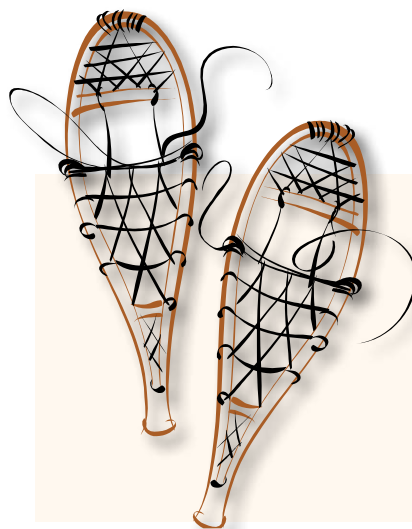
Join us as we find out more about the weasel family members that call McHenry County home. How many species can it be? There will be an inside hands-on portion as well as an outside exploration. Dress for the weather.

Saturday, January 28, 2:00–3:30 p.m.
Prairieview Education Center
Code: 212102-01, \$0 R/ \$5 NR

Winter Woods Walk

Enjoy a walk in the cool, crisp air! Along the way we will enjoy some activities and watch for winter wonders. Dress for the weather with proper footwear for walking through snow.

Sunday, February 5, 2:00–3:30 p.m.
Rush Creek, Picnic Shelter
Code: 212209-01, \$0 R/ \$2 NR



LOOKING FOR MORE

OUTDOOR WINTER ADVENTURE?

Check out *Introduction to Snowshoeing*, page 22 and *Destinations for Winter Fun*, page 15 or locate a conservation site near you at www.MCCDistrict.org.

Natural Valentine

Do you need a Valentine's Day gift idea? Bring your family to Prairieview Education Center to enjoy a hike, have your family's outdoor picture taken by District staff, and then come inside to make a "natural" picture frame to complete your Valentine's Day gift. Picture frames are limited to one per family. Pictures will be e-mailed to participants after the program. Registration deadline: Monday, January 30 so supplies can be ordered. No refunds after 5 p.m. on 1/30/12.

Saturday, February 11, 1:00–2:30 p.m.

Prairieview Education Center
Code: 212207-01, \$2 R/ \$2.50 NR



Conservation District programs that are designed as free exploration will be marked with the Leave No Child Inside log symbol.

For more information on Leave No Child Inside, visit www.kidsoutside.info.

Winter Constellations Ages 8+

Who is Orion and what is his story? Have you heard of the Seven Sisters? Just how are their stories intertwined? Under a hushed winter sky learn to identify a few major constellations, and listen to the stories behind them. Dress for the weather and come prepared to be outside for part of the program.

Friday, February 17, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Prairieview Education Center
Code: 212203-01, \$0 R/ \$5 NR

Winter Tracks

There is no better time to explore animal tracks than after a winter snowfall. Join us as we hike through Marengo Ridge to see what creatures have been traveling along the woodland trails.

Saturday, February 18, 1:00–2:30 p.m.

Marengo Ridge, Shelter #1
Code: 21316-01, \$0 R/ \$2 NR



Raccoon tracks

—LOST VALLEY VENTURES—

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

Lost Valley Visitor Center—Glacial Park

No program: Dec. 3, 24 or 31.

Are you looking for something the whole family can do for free on a Saturday afternoon?

Themed activities 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.

Topics change monthly:
December—*Nature Crafts*, January—*Animal Tracks*, February—*Coyotes*

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.

shake off the Chill

Sandhill Study Get a break from the blustery winds and enjoy the warmth of the Lost Valley Visitor Center at Glacial Park. Stop in to see the exhibit and spend some time reading, doing activity sheets and puzzles, looking up animal tracks in the identification books, or spy through binoculars and magnifying lenses. Take advantage of these free resources available to use on site. Vending machines available for a small snack or drink.

Hours: Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.



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, theme 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.

Hours: Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Sun. 12–4 p.m.