

Golf Course Audubon Certification

Environmental Stewardship Recognition for Lake of the Woods Golf Course



Lake of the Woods Golf Course has retained its prestigious designation as a “Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary” through Audubon International’s Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. This certification highlights the course’s commitment to environmental excellence in areas such as wildlife and habitat management, water conservation, and chemical safety.

Originally certified in 2004, the golf course undergoes recertification every three years, demonstrating consistent dedication to sustainable practices.

“Lake of the Woods Golf Course has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program and provides a sanctuary for wildlife on the property,” said Christine Kane, CEO of Audubon International.

As one of over 900 golf courses worldwide holding this certification, Lake of the Woods continues to exemplify environmental responsibility while enhancing the natural beauty and ecological value of its grounds.

The Leaflet

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2025



Join the Snowflake Search and Explore Your Winter Wonderland!

Get ready for a frosty adventure with the Snowflake Search! We’ve hidden 40 unique, hand-painted snowflakes on tree slices throughout the Champaign County Forest Preserves (except Kickapoo Rail Trail and Heron View Forest Preserve). Bundle up, grab your checklist, and head out to find as many snowflakes as you can!

Snap photos of your discoveries and share them with us on Facebook or Instagram using #champaignforests. You can download a checklist to track your finds at champaignforests.org.

This year, we’re adding a gaming twist with the Goosechase app! Download it for free, complete missions, and earn points for a chance to win prizes. There are 10 QR codes among the snowflakes—scan them to learn fun facts and complete missions as part of the Snowflake Search experience in the Goosechase app.

The Snowflake Search is a fun way to enjoy the preserves during the winter season while

discovering the beauty of our natural spaces. Start your search today and let the adventure begin!

Instructions to download Goosechase app
How to Get Started:

Step 1: Download the Goosechase App (iOS / Android).

Step 2: Login or create a free account.

Step 3: Search for the Champaign County Forest Preserves experience with code **WICA9Q**

Step 4: Click “Accept” to accept the Terms and Conditions found here.

Step 5: Create a Username and then click “Join this Experience.”



Complete missions and earn points to win prizes!
Scan QR code to learn more.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

See the full program descriptions online at champaignforests.org

February

Sunday, February 9 **FREE**
GARDEN SPEAKER SERIES: PLANT LIFE, LORE AND MYTH; BELIEFS OF THE PAST & PRESENT
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 2-3:30 PM
Join us as our Garden Program Specialist separates fact from fiction about plant life, their unique abilities, and how it affects our lives!

Wednesday, February 12
FULL MOON OWL PROWL
Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 6-7:30 PM
\$3 per person. Recommended for ages 4 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited. All attendees (adults and children) must register in advance.

Monday, February 17 **FREE**
THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT
Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 10:30 AM - 12 PM
Join forest preserve staff and volunteers to count the birds at Homer Lake and learn more about how you can become involved in this citizen science event! All Ages.

Monday, February 17 **FREE**
SCHOOL'S OUT: THE LINCOLN LEGACY!
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 1-2 PM
Recommended for ages 5 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday, February 22
SAP TO SYRUP: EXPLORING MAPLE TAPPING IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS
Homer Lake Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 10-11:30 AM & 12:30-2 PM
All ages. \$5 per person. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Register for the morning session or the afternoon session.

Thursday, February 27 **FREE**
GREAT HORNED OWLS; HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT
Urbana Free Library, Lewis Auditorium, 6:30-8 PM
The Champaign County Forest Preserves and the Champaign County Audubon Society are excited to host Mark H.X. Glenshaw, an award-winning naturalist renowned for his extensive observations and documentation of Great Horned Owls in Forest Park in St. Louis, Missouri since December 2005.

Register here for programs



Scan the QR Code or go to champaignforests.org.

Programs may be altered or canceled due to weather or health-related concerns.

March

Saturday, March 1
SAP TO SYRUP: EXPLORING MAPLE TAPPING IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS
Homer Lake Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 10-11:30 AM & 12:30-2 PM
All ages. \$5 per person. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Register for the morning session or the afternoon session.

JOIN THE FROG CALL SURVEY **FREE**
CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM!
Are you interested in learning about frog monitoring and identifying frogs by their calls? This training session is perfect for new, prospective, and returning volunteers. Open to ages 18 & up. There will be training opportunities this spring.

Saturday, March 8 **FREE**
VOLUNTEER EVENT: ANNUAL KRT SPRING CLEAN-UP
Kickapoo Rail Trail at North-east corner of Urbana Walmart Parking lot, 10 AM - 12 PM
Contact Sue volunteer@ccfpd.org or (217) 586-3360 with questions.

Saturday, March 8 **FREE**
OUTSIDE IN CHAMPAIGN FORESTS
Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, 10-11:30AM
Head OUTside in Champaign Forests, every second Saturday of the month where nature and community come together. For more info, email Chelsea at cprahl@ccfpd.org to receive location updates and monthly reminders!

Wednesday, March 12 **FREE**
WOODCOCK WALK
Buffalo Trace Prairie (E. Parking Lot), Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 6:45-8:15 PM
Meet at the east entrance to Buffalo Trace Prairie on Rt. 47 / N. Lombard across the street from the Museum of the Grand Prairie. We will hike on a combination of trails (approx. 1 mi hike) through the prairie and forest. There is some uneven terrain. All ages.

March 17-21 **FREE**
SNAKES ON SPRING BREAK!
Locations & times vary
Join us for an exciting and interactive program where you can get up close and personal with one of our resident snakes! No registration is required—everyone is welcome!

March 17 10-11 AM Homer Lake Interpretive Center
March 19 10-11 AM Museum of the Grand Prairie
March 20 2-3 PM Middle Fork Activity Center

Sunday, March 16 **FREE**
GARDEN SPEAKER SERIES: THE BIRTH AND DEMISE OF ILLINOIS' GRAND PRAIRIE
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 2-3:30 PM
Our guest speaker will be Fred Delcomyn; professor emeritus and Director emeritus of the School of Integrative Biology at the University of Illinois.

Thursday, March 27 **FREE**
WALK WITH A NATURALIST
Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 6-7 PM
This guided hike invites you to uncover the wonders of local ecosystems. Ideal for nature enthusiasts of all ages. No registration required, Meet outside the Homer Lake Interpretive Center.

Saturday, March 29 **FREE**
VOLUNTEER EVENT: 7th ANNUAL GOLF COURSE CLEAN-UP
Pro Shop, Lake of the Woods Golf Course, 405 N. Lake of the Woods Rd., Mahomet; 8 AM - 1 PM
Contact David, DSebestik@ccfpd.org or (217) 586-2183 with questions.

Join Us as an Outreach Volunteer!

Are you passionate about connecting with your community and sharing the joy of nature? The Forest Preserves are seeking enthusiastic Outreach Volunteers to help spread the word about all the ways people can enjoy our beautiful spaces. From hiking and picnicking to educational programs and events, there's so much to explore, and we need your help to inspire others to get involved!

As an Outreach Volunteer, you will represent the Forest Preserves at community events such as the Urbana Farmer's Market, Juneteenth celebrations, and more. This is a fantastic opportunity to engage with diverse groups of people, share your love of the outdoors, and make a meaningful impact.

This might be a great fit for you if you:

- Are outgoing and enjoy chatting with new people
- Have a curiosity and eagerness to learn more about the Forest Preserves
- Are available on weekends to attend events

What's in it for you?

We provide all the training you'll need! You'll learn discussion topics and general information about the Forest Preserves so you can confidently share your knowledge and answer questions from the community. Plus, you'll be part of a supportive team that shares your love for nature and community engagement.

Ready to get involved?

Reach out to **Sue** at sgallo@ccfpd.org to learn more or express your interest. Together, let's inspire others to discover and enjoy all the Forest Preserves have to offer!

Welcome Jenna Phillips, Our New Donor Relationship Coordinator!

Jenna Phillips has joined the Forest Preserves Friends Foundation as the new Donor Relationship Coordinator. Jenna brings five years of experience in nonprofit fundraising and is eager to use her skills to showcase the beauty and value of the preserves to our community.

Living near Sadorus with her husband, three dogs (Sandy, Stella, and Henry), and a feisty cat named Sushi, Jenna is a lifelong central Illinois resident who enjoys the outdoors. Her rural home has become a haven for wildlife, including Bald Eagles, Prairie Falcons, and Great Horned Owls, which she loves observing and recording.



When she's not exploring nature, Jenna enjoys weightlifting, reading, playing games (board and video games alike), and attending Renaissance Faires. She's passionate about conservation and sustainability and looks forward to collaborating with the team to protect and celebrate our natural spaces.

Welcome to the team, Jenna!

Phil Borsdorf Joins the Forest Preserves as Natural Resources Director



The Forest Preserves proudly welcome **Phil Borsdorf** as the new Natural Resources Director! Originally from Galena, Illinois, Phil's early love of wildlife guided him to earn a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology from UW-Stevens Point and an M.S. in Wildlife Science from Texas Tech University, where he studied lesser prairie-chicken habitat selection.

Phil brings a wealth of experience from his time with the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, where he honed his expertise in wildlife habitat restoration and natural areas stewardship.

Now residing in Champaign with his wife Michelle, young son Thomas, and their Labrador Retriever, Scoter, Phil enjoys outdoor adventures like hunting, camping, and hiking, along with cooking and music. He's thrilled to join the Forest Preserves team and looks forward to advancing the stewardship of our natural resources. Welcome, Phil!