

Chicago Wilderness

June 2010

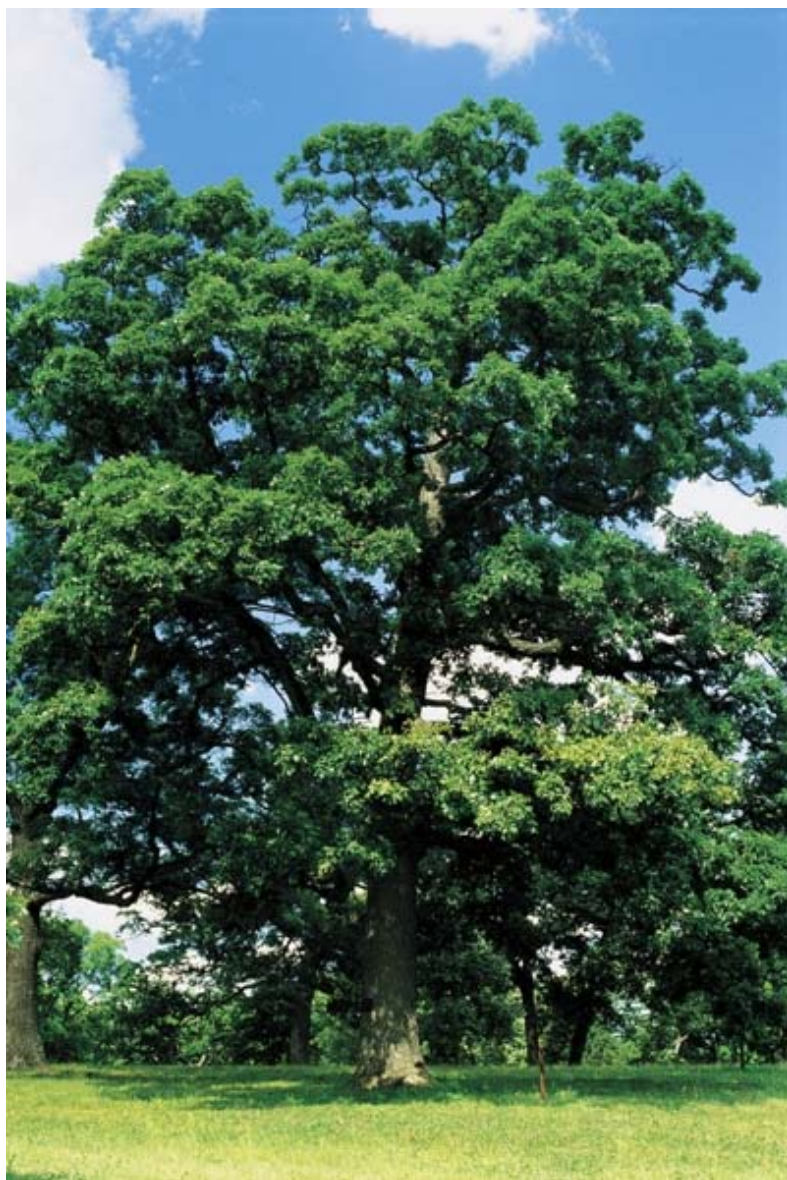


Photo Courtesy of [The Morton Arboretum](#)



Great Outdoors Month

On May 25, President Obama declared June, 2010 "Great Outdoors Month." In his proclamation, the President stressed the importance of protecting and enjoying nature as well as promoting active lifestyles for the nation's children. For the full text of the proclamation see <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/05/25/pr-proclamation-great-outdoors-month>.

Leave No Child Inside Month: Congressional Record Statement

Congressman Mike Quigley continues to support healthy nature and healthy children with his June 7th Congressional Record Statement in support of "Leave No Child Inside Month" to the US House of Representatives: "Madam Speaker, June is 'Leave No Child Inside Month,' a time when parents and children are urged to explore, play and enjoy the outdoors in Illinois. From Millennium Park to Lincoln Park Zoo, the Greenbelt Forest Preserve to McHenry Dam, families will be fishing, picnicking and learning beneath trees, beside beautiful lakes and amidst the natural treasures of Illinois. This January, I passed a resolution honoring the Chicago Wilderness and the 250 organizations that make up this group of environmental enthusiasts. They understand that children who grow up with an understanding of the land, air and water surrounding them grow into environmentally conscious adults. These adults are actively involved in efforts to clean, restore and preserve our precious resources. This month shows children that catching-and-releasing fish, playing with mud, and building a fort beat a video game any day. I look forward to joining the fun."



Leave No Child Inside: Upcoming Events

Throughout June, Chicago Wilderness member organizations have been celebrating "Leave No Child Inside Month." Upcoming events include:

June 26: Family Fishing Day at Illinois Beach State Park, Zion, IL

Have you been wanting to introduce your kids to fishing, but haven't even tried it yourself? Stop by Illinois Beach State Park! Cast a line and have some fun! All ages and levels of experience are welcome. 11am - 2pm.

June 26: Mariposa Festival at Waukegan Public Library

Named for the Spanish word for butterfly, the new Lake County Mariposa Festival celebrates the beauty of nature and the arts.

Dancers, musicians, artists and outdoor enthusiasts will gather for this elaborate open-air festival, featuring live theater and musical performances, local foods and food demos, an art fair, nature exhibits, kid activities and more. 11am - 3pm. For more information, visit the Waukegan Public Library's website.

Leave No Child Inside Explorer Days!

Come out and explore the world of hungry caterpillars, grouchy ladybugs, and other charming critters!

Free events featuring fun, hands-on outdoor activities inspired by the lives of insects will nurture your child's sense of wonder and appreciation for nature. At the same time, parents and caregivers will receive simple guidance on how to take children outside anytime to play and discover nature in backyards, parks, preserves, and even on city sidewalks! Primarily targeted at families with children six and under.

This series of events is sponsored by the Colonel Stanley McNeil Foundation, Chicago Park District, Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Lake County Forest Preserve District, McHenry County Conservation District, Morton Arboretum, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service.

July 8, 1pm - 3pm, Greenbelt Forest Preserve, North Chicago

July 10-11, 11am - 4pm, The Morton Arboretum, Lisle

July 14, 1pm - 3pm, Nippersink Forest Preserve, Round Lake

August 1, 1pm - 2:30pm, North Park Village Nature Center, Chicago

August 21, 11am - 3pm, North Park Village Nature Center, Chicago

For complete details, please visit www.kidsoutside.info.



Highlights from "Leave No Child Inside Month" Events

Explorer Day at the Greenbelt Cultural Center, June 6

Lake County Forest Preserves staff set up two insect-collection stations as part of a larger family event at the Greenbelt Cultural Center. The event was a big success, with several hundred children and parents participating. For many families that attended, nature exploration was a new experience, so the guided activities taught them to feel comfortable and encouraged them to continue exploring - in other preserves, parks even their own backyard - with a complimentary "Exploration Kit!"

The Millennium Park Family Festival, June 9-13

Chicago Wilderness and the Lurie Garden were the featured partners in the Millennium Park's Family Fun Activity Zone for the Festival's "Wild in the City" week, June 9-13.

The hands-on activities enjoyed by approximately 1,750 children and adults during "Wild in the City" week included:

- Dipping for aquatic insects
- Digging for worms and making "worm tea"
- Planting and taking home a native flower
- Petting snakes, turtles, and lizards

Chicago Wilderness partner organizations that sponsored activities at the event included: Chicago Botanic Garden; Chicago Herpetological Society; Chicago Park District; Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo; Forest Preserve District of Cook County; Glenview Park District; Lurie Garden; Metropolitan Water Reclamation District; National Park Service/Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; Park District of Highland Park; Resurrection Retreat Center.

Get Outside Day at William Powers Conservation Area, June 19

Over 200 children and adults participated on Sat., June 19th, in the Get Outside Day! at the William Powers Conservation Area on the IL and IN border. The IL DNR, Field Museum, FPDCC, Fishin' Buddies, Chicago State University, and a half-dozen other Calumet Stewardship Initiative and Chicago Wilderness members guided families as they caught and released fish and aquatic insects, built forts, went on nature hikes, learned how to pitch a tent, and engaged in twelve other fun activities.

Father's Day at Kankakee River State Park, June 19

Families celebrated Father's Day Weekend by building a bird house together and having lunch around a campfire.





Events

Friends of the Chicago River 6th Annual Chicago River Summit: From Fish Hotels to Forest Preserves: Habitat Solutions in an Urban Environment, June 25, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., The Merchandise Mart, Chicago

The Chicago River Summit, founded in 2004 in partnership with Governor Pat Quinn, is an annual event that focuses on identifying sustainable solutions for the issues that impact the Chicago River. This year's theme is the importance of creating, enhancing, and maintaining habitat in the Chicago River watershed and other similar rapidly urbanizing areas. Presenters will provide information and real world examples of habitat solutions in the region. Please RSVP to John Quail at Friends of the Chicago River by Tuesday, June 22, 2010 Phone: (312) 939-0490, ext. 20; email: quail@chicagoriver.org. Registration is \$20 in advance; \$25 at the event. Space is limited to the first 150 registrants: Please visit http://www.chicagoriver.org/events/river_summit

Climate Change Exhibit at the Field Museum, June 25 - November 28, 2010

Explore the science, history and impact of climate change and its effects on oceans, atmosphere, land and societies. Visit the Chicago Climate Action Room to discover what the City, local businesses, organizations, and residents are doing to combat climate change and improve the quality of life in our communities while supporting our local economy. Chicago Wilderness and the CW Climate Action Plan for Nature will be highlighted in the Chicago Climate Action Room, along with other CW members. Visit the Field Museum's website for more information: http://www.fieldmuseum.org/exhibits/climatechange_tempexhib.htm.

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Go to 2040 Public Meetings

The draft GO TO 2040 comprehensive regional plan is now available for public comment through August 6, 2010. Based on nearly three years of research, deliberation, and public input, the plan recommends action in four themes: Livable Communities, Regional Mobility, Human Capital, and Efficient Governance. This document is open for public comment through August 6, 2010. The draft is available for download at <http://www.goto2040.org/plandocs/>

Comments can be left via the web site through an email to info@cmap.illinois.gov, in written form (ATTN: CMAP GO TO 2040 Draft Plan Comments), or using CMAP's general contact form. Feedback will also be accepted at a number of open houses around the region. The open house schedule is available at <http://www.goto2040.org/haveyoursay/>.

Please contact Erin Aleman (ealeman@cmap.illinois.gov or

312-386-8816) or visit <http://www.goto2040.org/> for complete details..

Save the Date! Greenbuild 2010 Chicago, November 17-19, 2010, McCormick Place West, Chicago

The award-winning Greenbuild International Conference and Expo, the world's largest conference and trade show dedicated to green building, is coming to Chicago November 17 - 19, 2010. Join the nearly 30,000 members of the green building community at this year's conference, which will feature more than 2,000 green building exhibits and presentations by hundreds of business, environmental and social leaders. For more information and to register, visit www.greenbuildexpo.org.

Nomkhubulwane and You

The Civic Knowledge Project together with the Human Elephant Foundation has created an activity booklet for children called, "Nomkhubulwane and You: How You Can Help Care for Mother Earth." The Civic Knowledge Project is an active supporter of the Leave No Child Inside initiative and is proud of this activity booklet that contains a section on biodiversity: what it is, how it's decreasing, how humans play a role in decreasing biodiversity, and what we can do to stop it. It gives children easy suggestions of little things they can do to actually make a difference, whether it is taking shorter showers or using both sides of a piece of paper. This booklet is inspired by the work of South African artist Andries Botha. Botha recently visited Chicago and created a remarkable elephant sculpture, Nomkhubulwane, which was on display at the Field Museum. Nomkhubulwane is a life size elephant made from recycled truck tires, which along with being an interesting visual piece, also shows children the importance of recycling. Check out Nomkhumulwane's facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/hefchicago?ref=ts> for more information on this travelling elephant!

Grant Opportunities

Do Something Offers Change for the Children Grants

Deadline: July 15, 2010

Ten grants of \$1,500 will be awarded to individuals age 25 or younger who are taking action in their communities through sustainable projects, programs, or ideas. Please visit <http://www.dosomething.org/grants/changeforthechildren> for details.

Youth Service America Accepting Applications for Global Disney Friends for Change Grants

Deadline: July 15, 2010

Seventy-five grants of \$500 will be awarded to youth-led service initiatives around the world that demonstrate youth leadership and a commitment to helping the environment. Visit <http://ysa.org/grants/announcements/friendsforchange2010> for more

information.

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