



Customer Service Locations ([Website: http://www.lcpd.org/](http://www.lcpd.org/))

Although many everyday transactions can be handled on our website, such as picnic shelter reservations, Dog Park, equestrian and other permits—if you'd like to handle these things in person, our customer service staff will be happy to help at one of three convenient locations:

General Offices

1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville IL 60048. Enter on Technology Way and make first left to parking area. Open 8 am–4:30 pm, weekdays. Phone 847-367-6640. Fax 847-367-6649.

Operations and Public Safety Facility

19808 West Grand Avenue, Lake Villa, IL 60046. Open 6:30 am–3 pm, weekdays. Operations phone 847-968-3411. Public Safety phone 847-968-3404. Operations fax 847-968-3116. Public Safety fax 847-968-3244.

Ryerson Woods Welcome Center

21950 North Riverwoods Road, Riverwoods, IL 60015. Open 9 am–5 pm, Tuesday–Saturday, 11 am–4 pm, Sundays. Restrooms only, Mondays. Phone 847-968-3320. Fax 847-367-6649.

These facilities are closed in observance of the following holidays:

New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and the Friday after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.



We offer expertly guided, hands-on school and scout programs throughout Lake County.

Our school programs are designed to address Illinois State Learning Standards and can be customized to fit your needs. Programs offer hands-on learning incorporating science, social studies, history and language arts, and feature experts, local historians and naturalists.

In addition to field trips, our education programs and staff are packed and ready to travel. Programs are economically priced and designed for one classroom of students. Programs are available at convenient locations throughout the county to minimize bus transport. Special discounts are available for multiple programs booked in a single day—call 847-968-3321 for details.

Browse available school and scout programs and sign up for our educator e-newsletter for special offerings year-round. Registration for our popular programs begins July 1, so you can have field trip plans in place before the rush of the new school year begins.



Scout Programs

Animal Habitats

Scout Group

Junior Girl Scouts

Fall



Winter

Spring



Summer

Bugs	Brownie Girl Scouts	✓		✓	
Earth Rocks	Webelos	✓	✓	✓	
Flowers	Junior Girl Scouts	✓		✓	
Fur Feathers and Ferns	Bear Scouts	✓		✓	
Hiker	Brownie Girl Scouts	✓		✓	
Indian Lore MB	Boy Scouts	✓	✓	✓	✓
Into the Wild	Webelos	✓	✓	✓	
Into the Woods (Self-Guided)	Webelos	✓		✓	✓
Making my Family Special (Self Guided)	Tiger Scouts	✓	✓	✓	✓
Senses	Brownie Girl Scouts	✓	✓	✓	

Ranger Programs	Grade/Scout Group	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Bicycle Safety and Rodeo	Various Scout Groups	✓		✓	✓
Fingerprinting	Various Scout Groups	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ice Safety	Grades K-5, Scouts	✓	✓	✓	
Map and Compass	Various Scout Groups	✓	✓	✓	✓
Plant and Animal Identification	Various Scout Groups	✓	✓	✓	✓
What a Ranger Does	Grades K-5, Scouts	✓	✓	✓	✓

Pre and Post Activities

Download pre and post program activities, and grant forms below. <http://www.lcfd.org/education/resources/>

- [Pioneers - If You Were to Walk](#) [Doc]
- [Mastodons - Ice Age Word Search](#) [PDF]
- [Pioneer Crossword Puzzle](#) [PDF]
- [Dinosaur Word Search](#) [PDF]
- [Pioneer Letter Home](#) [PDF]
- [Dinosaurs - Try this at Home](#) [Doc]
- [Native American Crossword Puzzle](#) [PDF]
- [Dinosaurs - Prehistoric Book List](#) [Doc]
- [Native American Animal Uses](#) [Doc]
- [Archaeology - What does an Archaeologist Study](#) [Doc]

Major Conservation Initiatives

Lake County is home to more endangered and threatened species than any other county in Illinois. We are actively working to restore the habitats that our native wildlife and plants need to survive and thrive.

Blanding's Turtle Recovery Program | Countywide

Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) is a medium-sized semi-aquatic turtle distinguished by its bright yellow chin and throat and mottled shell. Historically common in northern Illinois, they now remain in only a few isolated remnant wetlands. [Learn more »](#)



Dam Removal | Des Plaines River

Three low-head dams in this river have caused a decline in habitat quality by deterring the natural movement of fish, altering normal river flow and impacting the surrounding floodplain. The dams' low profiles are also a potential hazard to paddlers. [Learn more »](#)

Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid Conservation | Countywide

Every year a tall white orchid flowers around the Fourth of July weekend in spectacular fashion across Midwestern United States. Lake County Forest Preserves is home to some of the largest remaining populations. [Learn more »](#)





Grassland Mammals Conservation Program | Countywide

Meadow jumping mice (*Zapus hudsonius*) and least weasels (*Mustela nivalis*) are grassland-dwelling mammals native to the prairie, savanna and wet meadow habitats of Lake County. As with many grassland-dependent species of this region, both of these mammals have lost a significant amount of their historic range through conversion of grassland to agriculture and habitat fragmentation. [Learn more »](#)

Illinois State Toll Highway Authority's Mitigation Project | Pine Dunes

In 2013, we entered an Intergovernmental Agreement with the [Illinois State Toll Highway Authority](#) for the mitigation of impacts associated with the construction of the [O'Hare International Airport Western Access Project](#). [Learn more »](#)

Lake Plain Coastal Wetland Restoration | Multi-state Project

Partners are restoring and protecting over 1,790 acres of coastal wetlands and prairies at [Spring Bluff Forest Preserve](#), [Chiwaukee Prairie](#) and [Illinois Beach State Park](#). [Learn more »](#)

Northeast Illinois Ravine Restoration | Fort Sheridan

In partnership with the Alliance for the Great Lakes, we are enhancing rare Lake Michigan ravine community. [Learn more »](#)



North Mill Creek Restoration | Ethel's Woods

We are restructuring an earthen dam to slowly drain 53-acre Rasmussen Lake and restore the North Mill Creek stream channel. [Learn more »](#)



Smooth Green Snake Recovery Program | Countywide

Categorized as an Illinois Species in Greatest Need of Conservation, these tiny, jewel-colored snakes have drastically dwindled in numbers over the past few decades. As part of a joint conservation effort with the [Lincoln Park Zoo](#), we seek to restore the smooth green snake to its native prairie home. [Learn more »](#)

Woodland Habitat Restoration Project | Southern Des Plaines River

Oak woodlands are in trouble across the eastern United States. We have begun opening the canopy to increase the amount of light that reaches the ground and ensure the regeneration of oaks and other native trees and shrubs. [Learn more »](#)

Woody Invasive Species Clearing | Countywide

Invasive species have a negative effect on our natural areas and threaten the health of commercial, agricultural and recreational activities dependent on healthy ecosystems. Each winter, we selectively remove invasive woody species from forest preserves throughout the county. [Learn more »](#)

Locations, Facilities and Projects

[Preserve & Facility Listing](#)

[Preserve & Facility Search](#)

[Fishing Guides](#)

[Hike Lake County Fall Challenge](#)

[Improvement Projects](#)

[Ranger Police & Preserve Safety](#)

[Construction, Closures, Controlled Burns](#)

[Reserve a Facility or Shelter](#)

[Restoration Workdays](#)

[Youth Camping Facilities](#)

Volunteer

Each year, hundreds of people volunteer thousands of hours in forest preserves throughout Lake County. Our volunteers play a key role in operations and public safety, habitat restoration, cultural preservation and education. There are opportunities available for individuals and groups in a variety of settings—both indoors and out. No prior experience is required, just a willingness to help. Training is provided for all positions.

Available Opportunities

If you have the time, we encourage you to explore more than one category and multiple positions. We have individuals that volunteer in many capacities. A completed [Volunteer Interest Form](#) will set the process in motion. Browse volunteer categories below, or [view all volunteer positions »](#)



Conservation and Restoration

Help restore our natural communities by removing invasive species, monitoring wildlife and plant species, cleaning the Des Plaines River or working at our [Native Seed Nursery](#) or native gardens.



Educational Services

Teach about the cultural and natural history of Lake County to adults or school and scout groups in the preserves, on the water or at historical sites like [Bonner Farm](#) and the [Lake County Discovery Museum](#).



Museum and Cultural Resources

Welcome visitors to the [Lake County Discovery Museum](#), share information about galleries and exhibitions, and collect admission fees and gift shop sales. Assist staff with maintenance of our collections and archives.



Special Projects and Events

Volunteers help at special events at forest preserves throughout the county. The Ranger Cadet program introduces youth between the ages 14-21 to law enforcement and provides a chance to ride along with our Ranger Police.

Volunteer FAQ

- [What is a Volunteer?](#)
- [Orientation and Training](#)
- [Performance Evaluation](#)
- [Required Forms](#)
- [Scheduling Commitments](#)
- [Recording Volunteer Hours](#)
- [Inactivity and Departure](#)



Group Projects

"Give back" service projects with friends and co-workers are becoming very popular. We welcome corporate groups, civic groups, scout groups, church groups and more to help restore our natural areas. Groups may plant trees, remove invasive plants, or collect or sow native plant seeds.

Restoration Workdays

Work with a Site Steward to conduct approved projects that improve the health of our prairies, wetlands and forests. Typical activities include: invasive plant removal, native plant seed collection and processing and tree and shrub planting. Workdays are a great opportunity to spend time outdoors while giving back to the environment.

How to Apply

Simply show up (see schedule) at a workday near you. Workdays are offered every weekend throughout Lake County. Please remember to dress in long pants and sturdy shoes and bring work gloves. Additional equipment will be provided at the work site.