Fishing
Take time this summer and GO FISH! If you can have a few kids tag along where you can pass on your knowledge, no matter how grand or small, and get them excited about fishing—you will be passing along the joy of exploring and enjoying our lakes, ponds and rivers for years to come. Cast a line at these Conservation District Sites where fishing is allowed (with a valid license). Anglers should follow social distancing guidelines along shorelines.

BROOKDALE POND
18410 US Highway 14, Woodstock
Main Pond (11 acres)
largemouth bass, bluegill, bullhead, channel catfish, crappie, green sunfish, Northern pike
Twin Ponds (2 acres)
largemouth bass, bluegill, green sunfish, bullhead, carp

COUNTY LINE ROAD ACCESS
(Kishwaukee River)
4700 County Line Rd., Marengo
largemouth bass, bluegill, bullhead, channel catfish, green sunfish, Northern pike

DUFIELD POND — North Entrance (7 acres)
11700 Block of Country Club Rd., Woodstock
largemouth bass, bluegill, carp, crappie, channel catfish, yellow perch, Northern pike

FEL-PRO RRR
1520 Crystal Lake Rd., Cary
Main Pond (4 acres)
largemouth bass, bluegill, bullhead, pumpkinseed, warmouth
West Pond (1 acre)
largemouth bass, bluegill

FOX RIVER
Hickory Grove Riverfront
500 Hickory Nut Grove Rd., Cary
largemouth bass, bluegill, bowfin, carp, crappie, channel catfish, yellow perch, Northern pike, pumpkinseed, green sunfish, warmouth

FOX BLUFF CONSERVATION AREA
Algonquin & Cold Springs Rd., Cary
largemouth bass, bluegill, bowfin, carp, channel catfish, yellow perch, Northern pike, pumpkinseed, green sunfish, warmouth

THE HOLLOWS
3804 Route 14, Cary
*Lake Atwood (22 acres)
largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish, rainbow trout
*Little Atwood (2.5 acres)
largemouth bass, bluegill
LYONS PRAIRIE & MARSH
(2 ponds; 2.5 acres)
7500 Hickory Nut Grove Rd., Cary
largemouth bass, bluegill, bullhead, crappie, green sunfish, orange-spotted sunfish, warmouth

MARENGO RIDGE (1 acre)
2411 N. IL Route 23, Marengo
largemouth bass, bluegill
(Note: pond subject to winterkill)

NIPPERSKIN CREEK
Beck’s Woods
5940 N. Pagles Rd., Chemung
rock bass, smallmouth bass, bluegill, green sunfish, rainbow trout

PISCASAW CREEK
Beck’s Woods
5940 N. Pagles Rd., Chemung
rock bass, smallmouth bass, bluegill, green sunfish, rainbow trout

Pleasant Valley (1.5 acres)
13315 Pleasant Valley Rd., Woodstock
largemouth bass, bluegill

RUSH CREEK (5 acres)
20501 McGuire Rd., Harvard
largemouth bass, bluegill, green sunfish

SILVER CREEK (1.5 acre)
1200 Block Rawson Bridge Rd., Cary
largemouth bass, bluegill

STICKNEY RUN (3 acres)
3716 State Park Rd., McHenry
largemouth bass, bluegill, green sunfish

WINDING CREEK (1 acre)
8415 Johnson Rd., Hebron
largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie

All anglers on District sites are limited to only two fishing devices (max 2 hooks/device); the use of any live or dead fish, reptile, amphibian, bird, crayfish or leech as bait, wading, and individual flotation rings are prohibited. Catch-and-release is encouraged.
Camping

Sleep under starry skies nearby...

The Conservation District is working toward offering individual families and households an opportunity to go camping, while still falling under safe and social distancing guidelines.

Check the website for the most up-to-date details while we hope to offer summer and fall camping reservations. At Thomas Woods in Marengo, available camp sites will be reduced to allow for individual sites to be spaced apart.

The District’s five Group Campgrounds will be changed to individual, exclusive use reservations for the entire site for individuals, couples, and families of no more than 10 people.

Group Camp Sites (Firewood is sold separately.)

- Group campgrounds are open first Friday in April–last Sunday in November.
- Thomas Woods remains open for winter group camping December–March.

The Conservation District has five group campground locations. Reservations are made online only at MCCD.me/Reservations and require one week notice (exception: Thomas Woods Campground—see below).

Cancellations up to two weeks prior your reservation will receive a 90% refund. No refunds issued for cancellations less than two weeks from the reservation date.

*Holiday surcharge fees apply to each day of the Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day weekends.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>Person Capacity</th>
<th>Resident / Non-resident per night</th>
<th>Holiday Surcharge per night*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rush Creek – 20501 McGuire Rd., Harvard</td>
<td>Exclusive Use 1-10</td>
<td>$25 / $50</td>
<td>$10 / $20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beck’s Woods – 5940 N Pagles Rd., Chemung</td>
<td>1-10</td>
<td>$25 / $50</td>
<td>$10 / $20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marengo Ridge – 2411 N Route 23, Marengo</td>
<td>Exclusive Use 1-10</td>
<td>$25 / $50</td>
<td>$10 / $20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hickory Grove – 500 Hickory Nut Grove Lane, Cary</td>
<td>Riverfront 1-10</td>
<td>$25 / $50</td>
<td>$10 / $20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Hollows – 3804 U.S. Hwy. 14, Cary</td>
<td>Large Area 1-10</td>
<td>$25 / $50</td>
<td>$10 / $20</td>
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<td>Small A 1-10</td>
<td>$25 / $50</td>
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<td>Small B 1-10</td>
<td>$25 / $50</td>
<td>$10 / $20</td>
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Individual Camp Sites (Firewood is sold separately.)

- Thomas Woods, in Marengo Ridge, is open May–October, Weekends (Call for weekday special use permit availability, (815) 338-6223, ext. 1211)

Reserve Online at MCCD.me/Reservations with a credit card. Advance reservations are not required for Thomas Woods, but to ensure your spot, reservations can be made online 48 hours in advance.

Reservations on Site: If space is available, (first-come, first-served) campers can make reservations on-site with the Campground Host. Payment by credit card, cash or check is accepted on site. Gates open at 8 a.m. Friday morning. Sites that have been previously reserved online will be marked “reserved”. Drop-in campers can choose any open spot and pay the Campground Host after 2 p.m.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>Resident / Non-resident per site, per night</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-electric</td>
<td>$12 / $18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric, RV only</td>
<td>$22 / $33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday surcharge per night*</td>
<td>$2 / $5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Firewood is available to purchase at time of reservation: $5 per crate (approx. 10 pieces)
• Check in between 2–7 p.m. Check out by Noon.
• Fees are listed as per night stay.
• Group campground reservations can be made for up to three nights.
• Reserve entire group campground, by reserving all areas for each date.
• A $100 cleaning fee will be charged for shelters/campsites damaged or left with excessive litter.
• All reservations are subject to a $2 administrative fee.

There’s an APP for that...

Classic Camping Cookbook
Night Sky
iTrack Wildlife Lite
Enjoy the outdoors, experience nature up close, and get some exercise by bicycling on over 45 miles of trails offered throughout the county that serve not only as recreational amenities, but as valuable resources that link communities, schools and neighborhoods.

The Prairie Trail  This 26-mile, multi-use trail follows a former railway line, that stretches from the Kane County line in Algonquin to the Wisconsin state border. The Prairie Trail provides access to over 100 miles of trail network including the Fox River Trail and the Great Western Trail. Because of its length, the Prairie Trail comes in close proximity to numerous shops and businesses making it easy for cyclists to bike to work, run errands, or to go to lunch or out for ice cream without the use of an automobile. The northernmost 7.5 miles from Ringwood to the Wisconsin line is a multi-use gravel trail shared by hikers, cyclists, and horseback riders.

Hebron Trail  Constructed on the former K.D. railroad line, this 6.3-mile trail runs from Church St. in Hebron eastward through North Branch Conservation Area and links with the Prairie Trail in Richmond. Through North Branch cyclists travel along oak savanna, sedge meadow, and over the winding banks of Nippersink Creek. Traveling west the trail takes a quiet route through rural farmland, open meadows and past the wetland complex of Goose Lake Conservation Area (not open to the public.) A camp-by-bike area is located in North Branch for the convenience of cyclists on longer trips.

The H.U.M. Trail  The Huntley-Union-Marengo trail currently runs from East Street in Marengo to Vine Street in Union. This 3.2 mile paved multi-use trail provides a recreational amenity for bikers, rollerbladers and runners and dog walkers alike. Traveling alongside railroad tracks, the trail provides an opportunity for a family bike ride or daily exercise route, linking the neighborhoods of Marengo and downtown Union. The trailhead is located on Prospect St. behind Marengo Middle School.

Ridgefield Trace  Ridgefield Trace is a 7.5 mile paved trail that offer residents a safe mode of travel whether by foot, bike or rollerblade. All sections are now linked, thus extending the route, primarily along Route 14, for 7.5 miles from Lake Ave. in Woodstock to Walkup Ave. in Crystal Lake.

Stone Mill Trail  This 1.5-mile trail is located between Lawrence Rd. in Harvard to Maxon Rd. in Chemung. Historically, a saw mill, grist mill, and flour mill once existed on the Chemung end of the trail dating back to 1845. Stone Mill Trail provides a great recreational amenity to these two rural towns and provides a safe means of travel. Conceptually, future phases will connect to Boone County Conservation District’s Long Prairie Trail.

THERE’S AN APP FOR THAT...

Map My Ride
Strava
Bike GPS — Ride Tracker
Go GEOCACHING!

There’s a large amount of positives surrounding Geocaching. It’s great for your health and wellbeing, for spending time outdoors while on your Geocaching journeys! It’s a great way to explore sites you might not otherwise have visited and a reason to get your hike in!

Geocaching is a “treasure hunting” game played throughout the world by individuals, friends, families, adventure seekers equipped with GPS device or smartphone. The general idea is to locate hidden containers called geocaches or simply caches. Once you find it, take a trinket and leave one of your own behind, sign the logbook and share your experiences through Geocaching.com.

Each year the District puts together a Cache Your Way Challenge. Complete the program and claim a one of a kind, limited edition District GeoCoin!

The District also maintains an ongoing GeoSeries, Cache Your Way Across McHenry County, highlighting the BEST spots throughout the McHenry County Conservation District. A GeoCoin is available for the completion of this program as well. Also join our Facebook page Cache Your Way Across McHenry County!

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Century Hikers Club Ages 14+

Looking to get outdoors and enjoy the natural areas of McHenry County Conservation District? The Century Hikers will motivate you to hit different milestones and receive a variety of rewards!

Members can participate in exclusive programs. Hike with others by joining “The Trail Pack.”

Enrollment is easy!

Enroll online at MCCD.me/Registration, enter code 5122. Want to pay with cash or check? Email the club coordinator at education@MCCDistrict.org or call (815) 479-5779.

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Get into a Woodland & Explore

The District has a number of trails through woodlands that are perfect for summer hikes in the cool shade. Visit Marengo Ridge, Coral Woods, Pleasant Valley, Hickory Grove Highlands, Glacial Park, Harrison Benwell, Stickney Run, and Rush Creek. Hikers will travel through stunning oak and hickory woodlands, with the exception being the large stand of Sugar Maples at Coral Woods. In addition both the Pleasant Valley and Brookdale trails go through former pine tree plantations.

Don’t forget to look up! Bring binoculars. Woods are an attractive respite for numerous songbirds, owls and woodpeckers. Scarlet tanagers, indigo buntings, numerous warblers, flickers, bluebirds, meadowlarks, great horned owls and screech owls, as well as downy and hairy woodpeckers claim these woods as their home. Nesting boxes are also strategically placed along the edge where prairie and woodland meet to encourage the re-population of bluebirds.

Don’t forget to look closely! Bring a magnifying glass. Look at the woodland floor in a new way. Zoom in on flower buds, lichen and bugs.

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Hiking

August 2–November 30

Complete your sheet and claim your 2020 GeoCoin.

This year’s theme is SQUIRRELS.

All caches will be live on geocaching.com.

Note: This is a separate program from the GeoSeries. There are a limited number of coins—first-come, first served; one coin per household.

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Get started at: MCCD.me/CYW

Find us on Facebook @CacheYourWayAcrossMcHenryCounty
Outdoors DIY

**Roving Naturalists  Adults and Families, Ages 5+**
Stop by and visit with one of our Naturalists at a new conservation area each week. Ask questions about what is blooming, animals that are out and about, and get recommendations for a great hike. No registration required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tuesdays: 3:00–5:00 pm</th>
<th>Thursdays: 9:30–11:30 a.m.</th>
<th>Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.–Noon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>16 Coral Woods</td>
<td>18 Exner Marsh</td>
<td>20 Boone Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23 Fel-Pro RRR, Main Entrance</td>
<td>25 Glacial Park, Kettle Lot</td>
<td>27 Kishwaukee Headwaters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 Lake in the Hills Fen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>7 The Hollows</td>
<td>9 Pleasant Valley</td>
<td>11 High Point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14 Fox Bluff</td>
<td>16 Brookdale</td>
<td>18 Elizabeth Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21 The Hollows</td>
<td>23 Harrison Benwell</td>
<td>25 Lyons Prairie &amp; Marsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28 Marengo Ridge</td>
<td>30 Prairieview</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>4 Fel-Pro RRR, West Entrance</td>
<td>6 Glacial Park, Keystone Landing</td>
<td>8 Winding Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 Hickory Grove – Highlands</td>
<td>13 North Branch</td>
<td>15 Stickney Run</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Become an OUTDOOR EXPLORER**

*Families with Children Age 14 and Under*

Exploring outdoors keeps kids active, happy, and healthy. Need a little extra help motivating your kids to step away from the computer screen and onto the trails? Purchase a full color Outdoor Explorer activity book. Challenge your kids physically, intellectually, and creatively by having them complete scavenger hunts, wildlife observations, tree measurements, hiking challenges and more.

Complete at least 10 pages of activities by September 30, 2020 and redeem a prize! Notify us at Education@MCCDistrict.org when you have completed the activities.

Outdoor Explorer books and earned prizes will be mailed to participants. Purchase online only; $3.00 per book for residents and non-residents.

**Glacial Park Trail Guides: MCCD.me/TrailGuides**

Looking to take a hike but want more engaging information about where you are hiking? Experience this 3,300-acre gem of the county while you discover the natural heritage of your surroundings. Depending upon your interest, four guides are available to download for the two-mile interpretive trail that begins at the Visitor Center parking lot and follows the Deeppath trail loop: **Geology**—points out glacial landforms and explains the Ice Age and how it affected what is now Glacial Park; **Cultural History**—points out some clues of previous residents and explains what parts of our heritage the Conservation District hopes to preserve; **Plant Life**—defines certain plant communities and their importance; **Wildlife**—increases your understanding and appreciation of our native wildlife residents and help them continue to thrive.

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**Join The FOX Club**
*(Families Outside eXploring)*

This is a free opportunity designed to help families spend quality time outdoors while learning about nature. As a member of the FOX Club, families receive an exploration backpack, Conservation District site and trail maps, fun seasonal activity ideas, and a bimonthly newsletter.

In a typical year the club offers six gatherings, hundreds of outdoor exploration ideas, and a chance to meet other outdoor-loving families. As navigate our new normal we will find creative ways to keep your family engaged and connected!

Join online with Code 5123. For more information, contact the FOX Club coordinator at (815) 479-5779.

**Lost Valley Nature Detectives: Self-Guided Explorations at Glacial Park**

It’s a beautiful day for hiking and learning about the plants and wildlife of McHenry County! Due to Covid-19 the Lost Valley Visitor Center will be closed until further notice, but be sure to check out our website for a virtual Nature Detectives E-learning opportunity filled with things you can do from home!

**Summer Topics:**

- **June — Turtles**
- **July — Predators and Prey**
- **August — Insects**
E-Learning

Online learning opportunities have greatly shifted to digital environments putting learning at your fingertips. What started as a way to support student learning for our local teachers and parents during the Covid-19 pandemic, has expanded to include something for everyone! The Conservation District has put together additional online learning resources that include a variety of ways to for students, volunteers, individuals, and families to get enlightened and inspired by the natural world. Use the E-learning opportunities to enhance your on-site experiences. Explore the creative resources and check back frequently, as we will continue to add more.

Behind the Scenic Views
Looking for something for older children in middle school or high school? In our Behind the Scenic Views series, experts at the Conservation District discuss recent projects including things like wetland restoration and mussel surveys.

Migration Madness
Eyes to the skies! Learn more about are feathered friends and their spring and fall migration patterns. Print out the Bird Id sheets and grab your binoculars.

Pictured: American Redstart (M), p/c Marty Hackl

Trail Tips
Spring is a great time to learn about baby wildlife and what we should do if we come across them. Our Trail Tips series with Wildlife Resource Specialist Beth teaches viewers about the stages of local wildlife young, and the way their parents care for and protect them.

Discover Nature Resources
Check out these digital and printable resources created by our staff to help guide your Nature Discoveries. Topics include: Just for Fun–Word Searches; Spring Scavenger Hunt; Bird Matchmaker; Bird Sound Scavenger Hunt; and more!

Lost Valley Nature Detectives
Take a self-guided exploration through Glacial Park. Check out the monthly themed activity sheets filled with things you can do from home! Summer Topics: Turtles; Predators & Prey; Insects

Virtual Field Studies
Originally created for teachers and students, Virtual Field Studies is great for all ages who want to discover more! Topics include: Spring Wildflower Walk; At Home in the Woods; Festival of the Sugar Maples; Restoring Glacial Park and more.

Have You Ever Wondered...
Why snakes stick out their tongues? How an owl’s flight can be so silent? What a sandhill crane eats? Where monarch butterflies go in the winter? How a beaver can withstand the cold water in winter? Education Program Coordinator Kim Compton explores these questions and more in our environmental education series, Wonders of the Wild.

Tom Talks
Dr. Tom Simpson, Research Field Station Ecologist, has been hosting a series of webinars. View recorded Zoom presentations on our YouTube channel DiscoverMCCD. Topics include: A Step Back in Time; Stalking the Elusive White Oak; Walking Behind the Glaciers; Spirits of the Spring Woodlands; People and Fire: A very old relationship. To receive notification about future webinars, contact Volunteer Coordinator Jackie Bero JBero@MCCDistrict.org