

SEASONAL ACTIVITIES



Skate Ski Trail

Silver Creek

1200 Block of Rawson Bridge Road, Cary

A skate ski trail differs from a traditional cross country ski trail by being packed, but not tracked. The trail at Silver Creek is a 1½ mile, relatively flat, trail loop.



Hike or Ski Solar Lighted Trails

November–March

During Central Standard Time.

Trails close at 9 p.m.

Pleasant Valley

13315 Pleasant Valley Rd., Woodstock

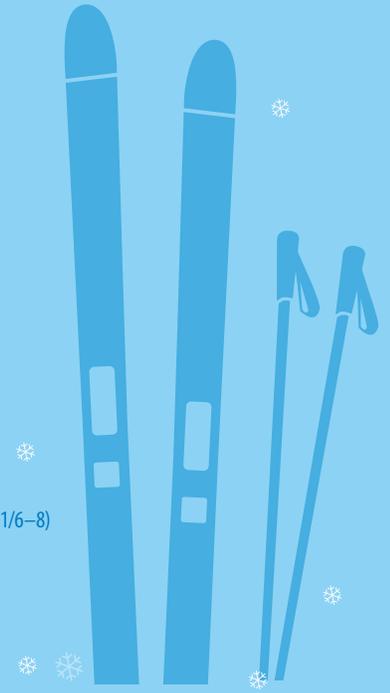
This half-mile looped trail located on the east side of the entrance drive is fairly flat terrain, perfect for beginners or shorter outings. Park in the first parking area and sign in.

Hickory Grove Highlands (Closed 10/30–11/1 & 11/6–8)

500 Hickory Nut Grove Lane, Cary

The .79 mile looped trail travels through a restored savanna, offering a longer scenic route suitable for intermediate skiers. Visitors should sign in at the trail head.

(Trail etiquette: When there is snow, hikers are asked to walk on the outside of the ski tracks.)



Cross-Country Candlelight Ski/Hike

Select Friday and Saturday evenings in December, January & February from 5–9 p.m. Details on page 18.

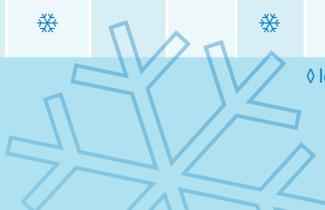
Find Your Fun...

Please note:
Sites marked with ** have temporary closures, details on MCCDistrict.org.

Sites marked with ‡ are open for "walk-in" traffic; parking lots will not be open or plowed.

	Stickney Run **	Silver Creek ** (packed for skate-skiing)	Rush Creek ** (Groomed with 4 inches of snow)	Prairieview Education Center (Groomed with 4 inches of snow)	Prairie Trail—North: Rt. 176 to Barnard Mill Rd. South: Pyott Rd. south to county line	Prairie Trail North/North Branch/ Hebron Trail	Pleasant Valley (Groomed with 4 inches of snow)	Marengo Ridge (Groomed with 4 inches of snow)	Lake in the Hills Fen ‡	The Hollows (Groomed with 4 inches of snow)	Hickory Grove/Lyons Prairie Marsh ** (Groomed with 4" of snow; access: Lyons Prairie Marsh through Hickory Grove Highlands)	Harrison Benwell	Glacial Park ** (Groomed with 4 inches of snow)	Fel-Pro RRR	Exner Marsh ‡	Coral Woods	Brookdale **
Hiking	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼
Cross-Country Skiing (†Skate Skiing)	☼ 1 mi. Beg.	☼† 1.3 mi. Beg.	☼ 3 mi. Beg.	☼ 4 mi. Beg./Int.	☼ 10 mi. ^(N) Beg. 4.5 mi. ^(S) Beg.	☼ 2.7 mi. Beg.	☼ 2.2 mi. Beg. 2.3 mi. Int.	☼ 1.5 mi. Beg.	☼ 1 mi. Beg. 1.75 mi. Int.	☼ 4.5 mi. Beg.	☼ 2 mi. Beg.	☼ 4 mi. Beg. 2 mi. Adv.	☼ 2 mi. Beg.	☼ 1.5 mi. Beg.	☼ 1.5 mi. Beg.	☼ 4.5 mi. Int. Multi-use trail	
Sledding / Snow Tubing												☼					
Snow Shoeing	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	
Ice Fishing / Ice Skating^o									☼								
Snowmobiling			☼			☼						☼					

^o Ice fishing/ice skating when there is 4" or more of clear ice present. You are responsible for clearing your own snow.



Winter Camping

December 1–March 31

Thomas Woods in Marengo Ridge, Marengo

Take in the sights and sounds of the quiet, peaceful winter woods and sleep under crisp, star-filled skies. Hike the trails, follow animal tracks, bring your cross country skis or snowshoes and then stoke the campfire as you enjoy a steaming cup of hot chocolate.

Reserve online at MCCD.me/reservations with a credit card.



Ice Fishing

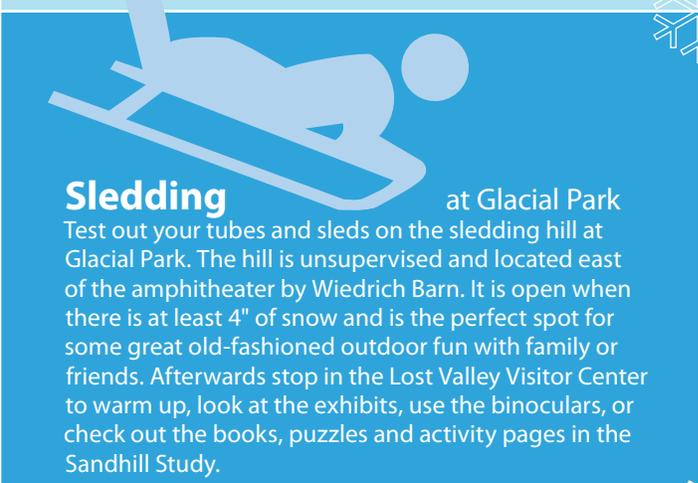
Winter Ice Fishing at Lake Atwood at The Hollows in Cary is fish at your own risk. Open/Closed Signs are not posted. Stay off ice that is less than 4" thick.



Sledding

at Glacial Park

Test out your tubes and sleds on the sledding hill at Glacial Park. The hill is unsupervised and located east of the amphitheater by Wiedrich Barn. It is open when there is at least 4" of snow and is the perfect spot for some great old-fashioned outdoor fun with family or friends. Afterwards stop in the Lost Valley Visitor Center to warm up, look at the exhibits, use the binoculars, or check out the books, puzzles and activity pages in the Sandhill Study.



Snowmobile

The Conservation District has over 17 miles of snowmobile trails in Glacial Park and along the Prairie Trail that connect with numerous County trails. Snowmobile trails are open in the winter after Dec. 10 when there is at least 4" of snowfall on frozen ground; 6" snow on unfrozen ground. Call the Snowmobile Hotline for county snowmobile trail updates and classes: 815-334-SNOW.



Seize the Day!

The snow has fallen and it's time to drop everything and enjoy it! **Sign up to receive an e-mail to let you know when and where we will be in the next 24 hours to enjoy the SNOW!!**

Will it be...

...a Cross-Country Ski Lesson at Prairieview?

...a Snowshoe Hike at Pleasant Valley?

...Night Sledding at Glacial Park?

Have you ever been frustrated by the fact that there's no snow when snow programs are planned, but then plenty of snow when they aren't? We have, too!

In December, January & February staff members will be on call to offer a program or activity when we get that perfect snow. We'll send a message 24 hours in advance with an invitation to join us when conditions are right!

Sound good? Call (815) 479-5779; or e-mail education@mccdDistrict.org.



Glacial Park Snowshoe Rental

Get out and hike in the winter wonderland. Once there is 5" of snow or more stop in the Lost Valley Visitor Center to rent a pair of snowshoes for just \$10 for the entire day! We have men's, women's, and children sizes available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Snowshoe rental hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (last rental at 2:30 p.m.) You will be required to leave a drivers' license and \$20 (cash only) deposit.



Christmas Tree Recycling

Dec. 26–Jan. 15

Drop-off Sites:

- Glacial Park, Ringwood (off Harts Rd. & Route 31)
- Rush Creek, Harvard (twin oaks parking area—west of pond)

Tinsel and decorations must be removed. If trees are transported in a bag, please remove the bag. Commercial drop-offs are prohibited. Trees are processed into mulch, which will be available free of charge at a later date.



Everyone attending a program needs to register, both adult & child. Face masks are required during the entire program.



Space is limited to allow for physical distancing from other non-family members. Participants are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer.



SPECIAL EVENT

Cross-Country Candlelight Ski/Hike



Both *Friday* and *Saturday* evenings from 5–9 p.m.

- December 18 & 19** – Harrison Benwell, Wonder Lake
- January 15 & 16** – Marengo Ridge, Marengo
- February 12 & 13** – Prairieview, Crystal Lake

Don't miss your chance to cross-country ski on trails lit only by candlelight! Skiers of every experience level and age are welcome, but you must bring your own equipment. Gather around the campfire after your time out on the trail. Trails will be groomed for skiing if there is 4" of snow or more. No pets please.

Not enough snow? Leave the skis at home and enjoy a candlelight hike, a campfire and the allure of the winter woods. *Note: Check Before You Go, cancellations may occur due to weather (if trails are icy/hazardous or the wind chill drops below -20°) or staff emergencies. Check under Site Advisories at MCCDistrict.org.*

Frozen

Ages 7–12 w/Adult

Saturday, January 23, 10–11:30 a.m.
Shelter, Rush Creek, Harvard
Fee: R Free/NR \$2.00 Code: **6881**



Do you want to build a snowman? Or learn how no two snowflakes are the same? Or make a snow volcano? Come test your "frozen powers" and see all the amazing properties water has in the winter time.

Winter Bird Hike

Ages 14+

Saturday, February 6, 9:30–11:30 a.m.
Brookdale, Main Entrance, Woodstock
Fee: R Free/NR \$2.00 Code: **6863**



Not all birds migrate to warmer climates for the winter. Come look for those that are still around as well as the ones who migrate here for the winter. Please bring binoculars if you have them.

Crafty by Nature

Make and Take: Bird Seed Cookies *Adults and Families, Ages 5+*
Saturday, December 19, 10–11:00 a.m.
Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake
Fee: R \$5.00/NR \$7.00 Code: **6842**

Make festive birdseed ornaments to feed your winter bird residents during the cold winter months! We will learn about which birds stay active all year long and what food they need to survive winter. Each participant can make two bird seed cookies to take home.

Nature's Ornaments *Adults and Families, Ages 6+*
Sunday, December 20, 1:30–3 p.m.
Savanna Room, Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park, Ringwood
Fee: R \$5.00/NR \$7.00 Code: **6876** Register by 12/17.

In preparation for the upcoming holidays, come over to the Lost Valley Visitor Center to create one-of-a-kind pioneer inspired ornaments using materials from nature. There will be a variety of ornaments you can create and hang in your home!



Upcycling: Out with Old, In with the New

Adults and Families, Ages 10+

Monday, December 21, 7–9 p.m.
Savanna Room, Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park, Ringwood
Fee: R \$5.00/NR \$7.00 Code: **6891**

Saturday, February 20, 2–4 p.m.
Savanna Room, Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park, Ringwood
Fee: R \$5.00/NR \$7.00 Code: **6885**

Come check out how you can turn an old possession into a new creation! This upcycling program will show you fun ways to take old items you don't use anymore and re-purpose them to something new! For one of the projects **YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN OLD T-SHIRT!** All other supplies will be provided.