



Ecosystem Explorers Itinerary

Dates: July 28-30, 2025

Time: 9 am-3 pm

Location: Independence Grove Forest Preserve, North Bay Pavilion.

What to wear: Sturdy closed toe shoes, clothing that is appropriate for the weather, movement, and exploration. Wear or bring long, lightweight pants for field explorations; optional- hat and sunglasses.

What to bring: Lunch, snack, reusable water bottle, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

Monday, July 28

Forest Exploring

What is an ecosystem? Learn how energy, plants, and animals are all connected as well as what ecosystems are unique to Lake County. Take to the forests to explore what adaptations plants and animal species need to survive as well as what conservation efforts are done to preserve this important ecosystem.

Tuesday, July 29

Wetland Wandering

Journey through soggy terrain as we peek at what organisms find homes in the mud. Discuss what makes a wetland special and what plants and animals can be found here. Spend the day fishing and using nets in creeks, rivers, and ponds to explore aquatic invertebrates. ***Wear or bring shoes that can get wet and muddy!***

Wednesday, July 30

Prairie Prowling

Get up close and personal with a beloved ecosystem of the Midwest: the prairie. Practice identifying different plants and netting insects to discover what species thrive in the grasses. Dive deeper into conservation efforts undertaken in Lake County and put your skills to the test in a mini identification competition.

Program Instructors: Elise Olmstead, eolmstead@lcfpd.org, 847-894-0724

Please email AskAnEducator@LCFPD.org for general questions.

**Be sure to complete and return all forms at least one week prior to the start of the program.*

**Please note that some activities may be substituted or modified due to time constraints, site resources, participant interests, or inclement weather. In the event of prolonged inclement weather (excessive heat or thunderstorms and lightning) the day's session will be canceled.*



Lake County
Forest Preserves

SUMMER ADVENTURES