

# Nature Oasis Programs



The Nature Oasis Program helps Chicagoans experience and enjoy nature in the city. It strives to cultivate environmental awareness and appreciation by offering a wide range of nature-based programs across Chicago throughout the seasons. Programs and events generally take place in parks with unique and compelling natural areas.

We invite you and your family and friends to join us.

## Nature Oasis Sites

**Gompers Park** • 4222 W. Foster Ave.

**Humboldt Park** • 1359 N. Sacramento Blvd.

**Jackson Park** • on Wooded Island behind the Museum of Science and Industry

**Northerly Island** • on the Museum Campus  
1400 S. Lynn White Dr.

**South Shore Cultural Center**  
7059 S. South Shore Dr.

**Washington Park**  
5531 S. Martin Luther King Dr.

(312) 742-5039

TTY (312) 747-2001

## Website

[www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com)

## Nature Oasis Staff

Peg Stewart, *Manager of Outdoor and Environmental Education*

Matt Cote, *Program Specialist: Northerly Island*

Bob Long, *Fishing Guy*

Marija Maric, *Program Specialist: Adventure Recreation and Camping*

Rob Myers, *Program Specialist: Northerly Island*

Jane Schenck, *Harvest Garden Program Specialist*

Ena Kumar, *Harvest Garden Facilitator*

Jessica Soto, *Sr. Program Specialist: Nature Oasis*

## All Ages Programs

### Organic Gardening Series

Kilbourn Park & Organic Greenhouse,  
3501 N. Kilbourn Ave.

**Saturdays**

**September 27- November 15**

*(Note: No class November 8)*

Topics include: Organic Lawn Care; Rain Gardens & Why They're Important; Fruit Tree Basics; Intensive Urban Composting Systems; Fall Pruning and Clean-up for the Ornamental Garden; Organic Oyster Mushroom Cultivation. Fee: \$20 per class or \$100 for the series. *Register at the fieldhouse.*

### Sunset Bird Walk and Lecture

Northerly Island, 1400 S. Lynn White Drive

**Saturday, October 11** .....  
..... **4:30-6:30 pm**

Learn about fall migration from Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation, search for short eared owls with a guide. *Free, no registration required.*

### Twilight Nights

Northerly Island, 1400 S. Lynn White Dr.

**Saturday, October 11** ..... **6-8 pm**

Stargaze with the Adler Planetarium, learn about nocturnal animals, roast marshmallows and make a nature craft. *Free, no registration required.*

### Starting a Community Garden in the Parks

Union Park, 1501 W. Randolph St.

**Wednesday, October 15** ..... **6 pm**

Learn how to start and maintain a community garden in your local park. *Register at (312) 742-5039.*

### Fall Campfire Storytelling

Gompers Park, 4222 W. Foster Ave.

**Wednesday, October 15** . . . **5:30-7 pm**

Humboldt Park Boathouse,  
1359 N. Sacramento Ave.

**Thursday, October 16** . . . **5:30-7 pm**

Winnemac Park, 5100 N. Leavitt St.  
(near playground)



*Fall Campfire Storytelling continued . . .*

**Wednesday, October 22** . . . **5:30-7 pm**

Washington Park, 5531 S. Martin Luther King Dr.

**Friday, October 31** . . . . . **5:30-7 pm**

Enjoy spooky nature tales around the campfire, apple cider, crafts and more. *Free, no registration required.*

### Twilight Harvest Meal

Jackson Park Urban Farm (park in lot at Cornell & Marquette; walk south on Cornell; farm on right)

**Thursday, October 16** . . . **5:30-7 pm**

Harvest vegetables, herbs, and fruits; tour the Urban Farm garden; prepare a meal of salads, veggie kabobs and homemade ice cream. Register at (773) 486-6005 or [chicago@growingpower.org](mailto:chicago@growingpower.org). *Free.*

### Resources, Tips, & Ideas for Community Gardeners

Union Park, 1501 W. Randolph St.

**Wednesday, October 22** . . . . . **6 pm**

Get information on successful practices, resources, classes, and funding. *Register at (312) 742-5039.*

## Harvest & Halloween Festival

Jackson Park Urban Farm (park in lot at Cornell & Marquette; walk south on Cornell; farm on right)

**Saturday, October 25 . . . . . 1-4 pm**

Enjoy a garden scavenger hunt, pumpkin decorating, arts and crafts, music, petting zoo, and games. *Free.*

## Fall Family Nights

Winnemac Park, 5100 N. Leavitt St.

**Wednesday, November 5 . 5:30-7 pm**

South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 S. South Shore Dr.

**Thursday, November 6 . . . 5:30-7 pm**

Gompers Park, 4222 W. Foster Ave.

**Friday, November 14 . . . . 5:30-7 pm**

Meet live critters, create nature crafts, enjoy refreshments. *Free, no registration required.*

## Garden Buddies Family Event

Kilbourn Park & Organic Greenhouse, 3501 N. Kilbourn Ave.

**Saturday, November 8 . . 10 am-Noon**

Nature crafts, plantings, stories, games, demonstrations. *Free, for families with children under 6 years old.*

## 4th Annual Polar Adventure Days

Northerly Island, 1400 S. Lynn White Dr.

**Saturday, December 13 . . . 12-4 pm**

Enjoy amazing ice sculptures, live animals, crafts, hot cocoa and more. *Free, no registration required. Don't miss the January 17 and February 21 Polar Adventure Day events.*

### Want to Receive this Newsletter?

To have the newsletter emailed to you, visit [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com) and click on the "Contact us" link at the bottom at the page; when the registration page opens, fill in the required spaces and mark all three dots "yes". To receive a paper copy in the mail, call **North Park Village Nature Center at (312) 744-5472**. The newsletter is free.

**Are you receiving extra copies?** As a courtesy, and to save trees, please let us know by calling North Park Village Nature Center. Thanks!



## Chicago Park District Nature Areas - Volunteer Stewardship Workdays

Activities generally include tree mulching, trail maintenance, invasive plants removal, seeding or planting. Call the contact person listed for details.

### Burnham Nature Sanctuary

47th St. & Lake Shore Dr.

(meet in parking lot on 47th just west of Lake Shore Dr.)

**Saturdays: October 4; November 1 . . . . . 9 am-Noon**

Contact Pam Holy, (773) 275-2228

### Gompers Park

Corner of Foster Ave. & Pulaski Rd.

(meet in parking lot on Keeler; just south of Foster on west side of park)

**Saturdays: October 11; November 8; December 13 . . . . . 9 am-Noon**

Contact Jim Macdonald, (773) 736-1051

### Jackson Park

6401 S. Stony Island Ave. (meet at Darrow Bridge, south of Museum of Science & Industry on west side of parking lot)

**Saturdays: October 11, 25; November 8, 22 . . . 10 am-1 pm**

Contact Ross Petersen, (773) 486-0505

### Lincoln Park Conservancy

2430 N. Cannon Dr. (meet at gazebo on Stockton on west side of pond)

**Saturday, October 11 (tentative) . . . . . 10 am-Noon**

Contact Lincoln Park Conservancy, (773) 883-PARK or

[Volunteer@LPConservancy.org](mailto:Volunteer@LPConservancy.org)

### Loyola Beach Dune

Pratt Ave. & Lake Michigan (meet at entrance to dune habitat at west end of pier; just north and east of Pratt)

**Saturday, October 18 . . . . . 9 am-Noon**

Contact Ann Whelan, (773) 743-2662

### Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary

Montrose Ave. & Lake Michigan (meet at volunteer parking signs on west end of site; park on street, just before harbor)

**Saturdays: October 4; November 1 . . . . . 9 am-Noon**

Contact David Painter, (773) 935-1387

### Washington Park

5531 S. Martin Luther King Dr. (meet at SE corner of lagoon, near Fountain of Time)

**Saturday, October 18 . . . . . 9 am-Noon**

Contact Madiem Kawa, (773) 203-3418