

Programming Partnerships Proposal

The Forest Preserves of Cook County is seeking proposal from Cook County individuals and organizations to partner with the Conservation & Experiential Programming Department to provide public programs that educate and activate the public to become lovers, users, stewards and advocates of and for the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

About the Conservation & Experiential Programming (CEP) Department

The mission of the CEP Department is to inspire the protection and enjoyment of the Forest Preserves of Cook County's natural areas and the plants and animals that live in them by connecting diverse audiences with nature through a wide range of educational and outdoor recreation experiences.

To achieve its mission, the CEP Department provides public programming and community engagement for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC). Public programming focuses on education and outdoor recreation opportunities for people to learn about and enjoy the forest preserves. Examples of public programming include nature and conservation education, outdoor adventures, camping, water fun, swim lessons at our three aquatic centers and cultural and seasonal special events. Community engagement focuses on developing relationships with citizens to connect them to the Forest Preserves and to energize their active use, stewardship and advocacy of and for them.

The CEP Department's public programming is focused at six nature centers, three aquatic centers, five new and revitalized campgrounds and at sites with new or recently upgraded facilities such as Eggers Grove, Dan Ryan Woods, Thatcher Woods, Rolling Knolls, Cummings Square, Caldwell Woods and Swallow Cliff. Additionally, the CEP Department develops and hosts numerous special events and outdoor adventure recreation activities throughout the Forest Preserves.

The CEP Department has aligned its educational and outdoor recreation programming with the Next Century Conservation Plan (NCCP). The NCCP is an ambitious and visionary strategy that lays out a set of bold actions to ensure that the forest preserves will continue to thrive and that the people of Cook County will treasure and sustain this amazing resource now and in the future. There are four goals outlined in the NCCP that are centered on nature, people, economics and leadership:

1. Provide programs in the preserves that emphasize benefits of nature for healthy people and healthy communities
2. Invite, excite and engage diverse visitors to the Forest Preserves from all walks of life
3. Make the Forest Preserves accessible to all
4. Educate visitors and the community about the Forest Preserves' natural treasures

Together with partners, the CEP Department is focused on advancing these four goals through community outreach processes, development of new partnerships, and the continuation of experiential programs delivered by staff and partners that expose the community to the benefits and wonders of nature.

CEP's Approach

CEP's Challenge

CEP continues to develop and implement a diverse program menu even with limited staff. Our challenge is to develop relationships with partners at the local level who can assist us with programming and who will become long term advocates, stewards and ambassadors of the Forest Preserves.

Seeking proposals

To address these challenges, the CEP Department is seeking proposals from individuals and organizations interested in partnering with us on new programs or on expanding existing programs. Examples of to be part of existing programs include but are not limited to: Nature Block Party, Kids Fest, Insect Fest, Explore the Forest, Nature IS Accessible—at our Nature Centers, Campgrounds and Aquatic Centers, If you or your organization have a programming idea that you would like to propose we are now accepting partnership proposals twice throughout the year.

Please find an application for a pre-proposal attached. If your pre-proposal is selected, a formal proposal application will be provided. To submit a pre-proposal please email experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov with

the subject line "Programming Partnership Pre-Proposal. You should expect an initial contact back from FPCC within two weeks of your email. Initial contact is the beginning of a conversation about your idea.

Zone locations:

Nature Center locations:

- [Little Red Schoolhouse - 9800 Willow Springs Rd, Willow Springs, IL 60480](#)
- Sagawau Environmental Learning Center
- Sand Ridge Nature Center
- Trailside Museum of Natural History
- Crabtree Nature Center
- River Trail Nature Center

Campground locations:

Aquatic Center locations:

Other programed site locations:

Pre-Proposal Application

Contact Information:

- Name (first/last)(required)
- Organization/User Group:
- Description of organization/user group:
- Address:
- Email (required)
- Phone (required)
- Website:

Program/Event Information:

1. Description of program/event (required)
Describe what you are proposing in as much detail as possible including a suggested date or time frame for the program/event
2. Location of program/event:
Please list a potential location or locations for your proposed program/event:
3. What communities would this program/event be serving? *Please list names of communities (Chicago community areas, municipalities or zip codes*
4. What type of audience is your event/program is targeting?
5. How many people do you estimate your program/event will serve?
6. How does your program/event align with the goals of the Next Century Conservation Plan and the mission of the CEP department?