

Skokie River Nature Preserve

Look for these nature discoveries as you explore the preserve. What else can you find?



Tree Swallow



Leaf Buds



Bloodroot



Trillium



Chorus Frog Call



Virginia Bluebells



Turkey Vulture



Catkins



Bluebird

Skokie River

Nature Preserve

Skokie River Preserve is Lake Forest Open Lands' oldest preserve. This 123 acre preserve has 4.2 miles of trails and includes woodland, savanna, prairie and stream habitats.



- Explore Shaw Prairie to get a glimpse of an original Illinois prairie remnant. This landscape showcases what the land looked like 100 years ago when Illinois was covered in prairie.
- Migrating songbirds are passing through our preserves in April and May. Look for them in shrubs and wooded areas near water. Listen for the raspy “fee-bee” call of the male phoebe, the whistled trills of warblers, and the “cheer-up, cheer-a-lee” song of the robin.
- Trees begin to leaf out and flower in April. Notice the soft, silver flowers on the pussy willow trees. Find swelling buds, flowers and new leaves.
- Spring is the best time to spot salamanders as they migrate from their burrows to lay eggs. Look under decaying logs or wet leaves near the river to find this elusive amphibian.
- Listen for chorus frogs at Dixon wetlands. These tiny frogs are less than 1.5 inches long. They are difficult to see, but their calls can be heard over long distances. Males make a loud “cr-ee-eeek” call to attract a mate, and their calls get louder with warmer temperatures.



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