

April 2025 events from the Environmental Control Commission

April showers bring May flowers—but regardless of the weather, April is a great month for all things outdoors. Here are some local events and opportunities we've found:

[Senior Fitness Walk](#) - Free!

Enjoy a gentle, moderately-paced 1-mile walk in Thatcher Woods

Wednesday, April 2

[Thatcher Woods](#), Chicago Avenue west of Thatcher Avenue

9 a.m.

[Book Sale Donation Drop-off](#)

The Library will be accepting book and DVD donations for the 2025 Spring Book Sale happening on April 5 (noon to 4 p.m.) and April 6 (2 to 4 p.m.).

Tuesday, April 1 to Thursday, April 3

[Forest Park Public Library](#), 7555 Jackson Blvd.

9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

[Bird Painting Workshop Step-by-Step: Bluebird](#) - \$5, materials provided

Sketch and paint a 9" x 12" canvas of a bluebird using acrylic paints. Ages 15 and up.

Friday, April 4

[Trailside Museum of Natural History](#), 738 Thatcher Ave., River Forest

9:30 a.m.

[Zoo Adventure Passport \(ZAP\)! Conservation Science Adventures Drop-In](#) - free

Explore Trailside Museum through play-based learning, nature crafts, and discovery with the community engagement team of Brookfield Zoo Chicago.

Saturday, April 5

[Trailside Museum of Natural History](#), 738 Thatcher Ave., River Forest

10 a.m.

[Trash Bash](#)

Bring electronics, prescription drugs, books, musical instruments, bikes, clothing and more. The first 25 donors receive a free, "Don't be Trashy" t-shirt.

Saturday, April 5

[Miller Meadow South](#), Grove 6. 1st Ave, south of Roosevelt Rd

9 a.m. to noon

[Makin' Music Bluegrass Jam](#) - Free!

Drop in and make a simple musical instrument from repurposed invasive plants with us, or bring your own guitar, fiddle, etc.

Sunday, April 6

[Thatcher Woods Pavillion](#), Chicago Avenue west of Thatcher Avenue

1 to 3 p.m.

[Prom Pop-Up Shop](#)

"Shop" gently used formal wear donations for your best prom and graduation fits!

April 7 to 12

[Maywood Public Library](#), 121 S. 5th Ave., 3rd floor

9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

[The Art of Foraging with Alexis Nikole Nelson](#)

Celebrate all the edible plants hiding in plain sight with Alexis Nikole Wilson, who peels back historical layers on African American and Indigenous food traditions.

Thursday, April 10

Virtual program. Register at bit.ly/ILP_AlexisNikoleNelson

7 p.m.

[Space Celebration: Storytime and Craft](#) - Free but registration required

Celebrate Cosmonautics Day with an out-of-this-world story time and craft. Ages 2 to 6 with adult.

Saturday, April 12

[Trailside Museum of Natural History](#), 738 Thatcher Ave., River Forest

10 a.m.

[Pollinator Pockets](#)

Learn about our local bees and butterflies and make a "seed bomb" to plant at home. All ages.

Drop-in.

Sunday, April 13

[Trailside Museum of Natural History](#), 738 Thatcher Ave., River Forest

1 to 3 p.m.

[Senior Fitness Walk](#) - Free!

Enjoy a gentle, moderately-paced 1-mile walk in Thatcher Woods

Wednesday, April 16

[Thatcher Woods](#), Chicago Avenue west of Thatcher Avenue

9 a.m.

[Fitness Hike](#)

Join a seven-mile, faster-paced hike without stopping or interpretation

Wednesday, April 16

[Fullerton Woods](#), W. Fullerton Ave, west of N. 1st Ave

9 a.m.

[Nature Book Club: "The Serviceberry" by Robin Wall Kimmerer](#) - Free!

Join the Forest Park Public Library for a discussion of this bestselling book. Ages 18 & up

Thursday, April 17

[Trailside Museum of Natural History](#), 738 Thatcher Ave., River Forest

7 p.m.

[Morning Bird Walk](#) - Free!

Enjoy a casual guided walk to look for birds and bird behavior. Led by John Elliott of Chicago Bird Alliance. Binoculars available.

Saturday, April 19

[Trailside Museum of Natural History](#), 738 Thatcher Ave., River Forest

8 a.m.

[“Bone” Appétit en Español](#) - Free!

Únase a nosotros durante la hora de comer para aprender sobre los animales embajadores de Trailside. Sin registracion necesario.

Saturday, April 19

[Trailside Museum of Natural History](#), 738 Thatcher Ave., River Forest

3 p.m.

[Be a Better Birder: Intermediate Bird ID](#) - Free, but registration required.

Step up your birding game by learning how to identify the complexities of birds.

Thursday, April 24

Virtual event. Register [here](#).

6 p.m.

[Celebrate Earth Day Activities](#) - Free!

Make a bird feeder, take home a tree, pick up litter, enjoy a wildflower walk and create recycled art.

Drop-in.

Saturday, April 26

[Trailside Museum of Natural History](#), 738 Thatcher Ave., River Forest

10 a.m. to noon

[Teen Exploration Day: The Botany of Zelda](#) - Free!

Learn how the fictional plants of Hyrule Forest connect to native plant species of the Forest Preserves. Inspired by the Nintendo game Zelda. Ages 12-17.

Sunday, April 27

[Trailside Museum of Natural History](#), 738 Thatcher Ave., River Forest

1 p.m.