CREEK BEND NATURE CENTER

Within Lake Oak Drive Forest Preserve at St. Charles is Creek Bend Nature Center—the heart of the Forest Preserve District’s environmental education activities. You’ll find live Butterflies, snakes, birds, and turtles in our Animal Touch Station. We have an entertaining and educational indoor hands-on station and a large outdoor garden area. In addition, we have sensory gardens, including a maze for the visually impaired, as well as therapeutic plots. A nature trail winds throughout the preserve, offering great views of the Illinois River. Creek Bend Nature Center is social-friendly, and offers picnic tables and grills on the main level, a nature exhibit area, outdoor deck, and a handicapped-accessible bath facility. Creek Bend Nature Center is staffed by highly trained volunteers and is open to the public. Other power-driven mobility devices such as Segways and scooters are not permitted at any preserve. See kaneforest.com or call Preservation Partners at (630) 377-6424 for exact hours. Private and group tours are available by appointment.

Creek Bend Nature Center Public Hours:
Monday - Thursday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday - Closed
Saturday - Sunday: 12 - 4 p.m.

Private Rent of Creek Bend Nature Center
Creek Bend Nature Center and surrounding grounds are available for private rental. The gorgeous backcountry will take your event from special to extraordinary. Reserve the indoor and grounds for weddings, corporate events, meetings and more. Showings are on Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. by appointment.

Call (630) 306-4004 for private rental information.

SHELTER RENTALS: PRESERVATIONS
Shelters are available for private rental. For small shelters (25-49 people) rental fees are $50, for county residents and $75 for out-of-country residents. For large shelters (50-people and over) rental fees are $85, for Kane County residents and $115 for out-of-county residents. Reservations open each year on January 2. Unless otherwise stated, shelters are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Shelters may be reserved by calling (630) 232-2342 on weekdays, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

MULTI-PURPOSE TRAILS
Four regional trails—including the Fox River Trail, Great Sauk Trail, Little St. Francis River, and the Dam Trail—wind throughout Kane County. These trails are open to non-motorized use only. Motorized vehicles, including dirt bikes, recreational golf carts, and snowmobiles are not permitted on any preserve. These trails are available to District-designated area. Electronic devices used to assist those with disabilities are permitted. See the Accessibility section for more information.

EQUESTRIAN AREAS
Horse trails are natural surfaced, grass paths or limestone sidewalks. All trails are available in some preserves. All trailhead facilities are designed to accommodate horseback riders. Trail riding is not allowed in restricted natural areas. Illinois Nature Preserves are not designated horse trails. To prevent trail damage during wet weather, trails may be temporarily closed. Individual forest preserves will post a sign at the entrance when horse trails are closed.

NATURE PROGRAMS & CULTURAL SITES
Understanding the past and preparing for the future

Nature programs are offered all year—both at Creek Bend Nature Center and forest preserves throughout Kane County—through the use of programs that allow you to find out about the amazing diversity of the area. Creek Bend Nature Center offers programs such as guided walks, interpretive programs, and seasonal events. To inquire or make youth or private camp reservations, please call (630) 444-3190 or e-mail programs@kaneforest.com. You may also visit our Web site at kaneforest.com

NATURE PROGRAMS
Nature programs are offered each quarter in the following topics:

- Creek Bend Nature Center:
- The Fox Forest: Our Web site at kaneforest.com.
- You may also subscribe to electronic or printed form.
- For information on programs, contact the District’s volunteer coordinator at (630) 741-2341.

CULTURAL HISTORIC SITES
In addition to the dynamic natural history programs and services, the District works to preserve, protect and maintain significant historic and cultural features of our open spaces, including these significant sites:

- DeKalb County Museum
- The Durant House Museum, located at LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve
- The Fox River Museum
- The Fox River Trail
- The Great Sauk Trail
- The Little St. Francis River Trail
- The Dam Trail
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