



The Chicago Park District's Outdoor and Environmental Education Program envisions a utilization of our parks as natural environments cared for in an environmentally responsible way to increase the use of outdoor space and develop awareness, appreciation, knowledge and stewardship of these natural resources.

www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

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Chicago Park District

Timothy J. Mitchell,

General Superintendent & CEO



www.chicagowilderness.org

The Chicago Park District is a member of Chicago Wilderness, a partnership of more than 225 Chicago area organizations that have joined forces to protect, restore, and manage natural lands.



www.kidsoutside.info

The Chicago Park District proudly supports the *Leave No Child Inside* initiative.

Letter from the Superintendent



As the summer season comes to a close, the Chicago Park District looks forward to the upcoming fall and winter seasons' natural splendor. Before long, parks throughout this great city will be filled with autumn's delightful colors and magnificent views of nature.

This fall and winter, we want to remind everyone that the Chicago Park District has a great variety of programs and events offered at our more than 570 parks. From active programs such as gymnastics and swimming to more passive programs such as hiking and bird watching, the Chicago Park District offers a selection of activities for everyone to enjoy.

Aside from programs and events, keep in mind that even though the temperature drops, nature is still active and exciting. Catch a glimpse of fantastic fall foliage displayed at various locations throughout the Chicago Park District's urban nature areas and parks. A wide diversity of trees grow within the Chicago Park District and you can see ash, honeylocust, sugar and red maples, ginkgo, hawthorn, apple, elm, cottonwood and oak trees changing their colors at Columbus, Gompers, Humboldt, West Pullman, and Washington parks to name a few.

Also, fall means the return of migratory birds. Chicago, a crucial destination for these long-distance travelers, welcomes our fine-feathered friends biannually with many great locations along our lakefront such as Northerly Island, Montrose Point, and the Bill Jarvis Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary as a few great examples. If you have never been bird watching before, the Park District offers birding programs and walks for you to learn and discover a great deal about avian life.

During the winter season, the parks continue to stay active and offer up some exciting events and programs for kids of all ages. Polar Adventure Days, now in its fifth season, puts an interesting spin on winter fun for the entire family. The event occurs in December, January, and February and offers families the opportunity to explore Northerly Island and engage in winter activities. Additionally, park goers can enjoy the winter season by renting cross-country skis at Northerly Island or ice skating at one of the many ice rinks throughout the city.

Regardless of the season, the Chicago Park District offers programs and events at its parks year-round. We encourage you to take full advantage of the fun activities we have planned for you and your family. Our variety of activities allows us to be able to offer something for everyone. For more information, please visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com or contact the Chicago Park District at 312.742.PLAY or 312.747.2001 {TTY}.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Mitchell

General Superintendent & CEO, Chicago Park District



Newsletters: To have the newsletter emailed to you, visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com and click on the "contact us" link at the bottom of the page; when the registration page opens, fill in the required spaces and mark the "yes" dot for the Nature Newsletter. To receive a hard 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!