



# Vermilion Conservationist

## Spring 2025

Forest Glen • Kennekuk • Lake Vermilion • Heron • Kickapoo Rail Trail

### Nature at Night Educational Series



A "Nature at Night" educational series premieres this year at Kennekuk County Park's Education Center. Highlighting our nocturnal natural world, each program combines an indoor presentation followed by an outdoor exploration.

The first of four "Nature at Night" programs was held on Thursday, February 6 highlighting the eight species of owls found in Illinois and an outdoor owl prowl.

**Illinois Bats** will be held on Saturday, June 21, from 7:30 - 9:00pm. Often misunderstood, bats are incredibly beneficial wildlife in our ecosystems. Learn about their amazing adaptations with an indoor presentation, followed by a short hike outside to see them in flight. An echo-location device will help us identify the bats we find.

Discover why some animals prefer to roam the night on Friday, August 15, with **Nocturnal Animals** from 7:00 - 8:30pm. Learn about the benefits of nocturnal living with an indoor presentation, followed by a short hike outside to search for all animals big and small. An insect light will be set up to add to our discoveries.

The "Nature at Night" series concludes with **Myths, Legends, and Lore** on Wednesday, October 8, from 6:00 - 7:30pm. October is the month of enchantment and mystery. Learn what myths, legends, and lore are real and not real with an indoor presentation, followed by a short hike outside under an almost-full moon sky.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required at \$5/person/program. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. You may register for individual programs or all three remaining for the year. Full details, including registration, can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/nature-at-night-educational-series-3884583>, or by scanning the QR code at right. For questions, call 217-442-1691.



**"To assure our people permanent access  
to their outdoor heritage"**



### Vermilion Conservationist

This newsletter is a publication of the Vermilion County Conservation District. It covers news, programs, and natural history information of interest to residents of Vermilion County. It is free upon request from:

Vermilion County Conservation District  
22296 Henning Road  
Danville, IL 61834

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# Trees have *flowers* too

**Spring is the time of beautiful flowers on our trees.  
How many you can find at your VCCD parks?**

### Red Bud

Look for showy, lavender-pink flowers that typically open in April.



### Flowering Dogwood

Between mid-April and mid-May is when you can find these iconic white blossoms.



### Tulip Tree

The distinctive shape of their beautiful blooms are on display from late May to mid-June.



### Ohio Buckeye

The greenish-yellow flowers along a 4-8 inch stem bloom from April to May.





# MAPLE SYRUP FEST

Sunday, March 16, 2025



Over 500 sugar maple trees were tapped in January at Forest Glen Preserve in preparation for this year's Maple Syrup Fest. The event will be held on Sunday, March 16, 2025, from 10:00am - 2:00pm, showcasing Forest Glen's maple syrup and a variety of activities for people of all ages.

Watch the sap collected from Forest Glen sugar maple trees turn into syrup at the Sugar Bush. Test your skills as you tap a metal spile into a tree trunk. Learn the history and folklore of maple syrup on guided hikes along Willow Creek Trail that will begin every 30 minutes until 1:00pm. Tour the Pioneer Homestead Cabin for a step back in history. Visit the Gannett Nature Center for a kid's craft activity. Enjoy a taste of Forest Glen maple syrup with a French Toast Stick and Sausage Basket for \$6 at the Gannett Education Center. Please note there will be limited seating for eating at the Gannett Education Center. If available, the Forest Glen Maple Syrup will be for sale as well.

All activities are free with the exception of the French Toast and Sausage basket (\$6), and Forest Glen Maple Syrup Pints (\$15) or Quarts (\$30). Carry-out containers for the French Toast and Sausage will also be available this year. All activities will run concurrently during the event time with the last guided hike leaving at 1:00pm.

For more information, please call 217-662-2142.



## Special Pull-Out Section Inside!

Our 2025 Calendar of Events is included in this Spring Conservationist! Be sure to keep this section handy so you can be informed of the many events and programs the VCCD offers!

For up-to-date information on programs, nature news, events, and more; be sure to visit <https://vccd.org> and follow us on Facebook. You can also sign up for our free electronic newsletters by sending your name and email to [vccd@vccd.org](mailto:vccd@vccd.org).

You can contact us at [vccd@vccd.org](mailto:vccd@vccd.org) or:

Kennekuk County Park  
22296 Henning Road  
Danville IL, 61834  
217-442-1691

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20301 E. 900 North Road  
Westville, IL 61883  
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# Naturalist Notes: Bird Nests - Natural is Best

Brenna Karcher



*The days are longer, temperatures are rising, flowers are blooming, and the birds are busy!*

Over the past few years, we've seen Pinterest boards and Instagram pictures of suet feeders filled with yarn and artsy bird nests made with different colors of string. But is this really the best way to help our birds?

In many cases the nesting supplies most exciting in an image are not the most healthy or supportive of a nesting birds' needs. Most man-made yarns, fabric, even cotton, have limitations.

Cotton balls and fabric stay cold if they get wet, sucking the heat out of anything they are touching. Dryer lint is a mix of fabrics and plastic which dissolves when wet. So, if these have been used by a bird for insulation, it can have the opposite effect.

Woven yarn, string, thread, and even human hair have high tensile strength. This is valuable to us when making clothing and tying things up, but wildlife can get tangled and be unable to free themselves. Tightly twisted string can cut into wings or feet, causing infections and impeding movement.



Example of a string bird feeder found on Pinterest

## What can we do to help our flying friends instead?

Place yard clippings like grass, twigs, and plant stems in piles near brush cover. The birds can collect your yard waste, and hide from predators between trips.



Black-capped Chickadee collecting Cattail Fluff

If you don't like the look of yard waste in your yard, you can place similar materials in suet feeders hanging from branches or in berry baskets with open tops, or hang them like tinsel over bushes. All of these have the added benefit of allowing you to create presents for the birds with your family and placing them where you can watch from a porch or window!

Some birds, like robins, love to include mud in their nest construction! You can keep an area of dirt wet and muddy for their benefit! Just watch out for wayward dogs and toddlers- they'll be just as happy to play in it.

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## Pollinator Clues in Flower Hues

Lara Danzl

Native flowers have tough competition to win the attention of pollinators. Temperature fluctuations, droughts, and plant-eating herbivores only add to the game of survival. The game-winning goal of pollination is reproduction: when insects move pollen from one flower to another, the flower can produce fruits and seeds. Pollinators like bees, butterflies, and beetles are drawn to the sweet smells or special shapes of flowers, but colors can also add another level of attraction.

### **Burgundy-Maroon**

Spring wildflowers with a deep burgundy color are best for attracting carrion beetles, fungus gnats, ants, and scavenging flies. Many of these flowers also have a faint scent of foul-smelling meat to add an extra layer of allure. The deep red color and putrid odor resemble decaying meat. By enticing beetles and flies to help them reproduce, these plants avoid having to compete for more popular pollinators. Skunk Cabbage, Paw Paw, Prairie Trillium, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, and Wild Ginger are examples of plants with this pollination tactic.



The deep burgundy color of a Paw Paw flower.

### **White**

Several studies have shown that white flowers are not consumed as often by herbivores; the color may not look as appetizing for white-tailed deer, rabbits, and snails. While this may increase their survival rates, the downside is most pollinators are attracted to vibrant color hues. So white flowers can sometimes struggle with attracting pollinators while also avoiding herbivore grazing.

### **Yellow, Blue, and Purple**

Yellow, blue, and purple flowers tend to have more nectar and pollen than white or burgundy flowers, making them popular for bees and butterflies. The daisy family, Asteracea, generally have the highest amount of nectar with their compound flower heads having hundreds of individual florets. Members of the daisy family with blue or purple flowers include asters, coneflowers, thistle, and chicory; while goldenrod, sunflowers, and black-eyed susans have yellow flowers.



### **Color Stripes**

Spring Beauty flowers will sometimes have visible “nectar guides” stripes on each petal, helping direct pollinators to the center of the flower where the pollen and nectar can be found. These nectar guides have been described as something similar to runway lights guiding a plane to land.

Purple “nectar guide” stripes on Spring Beauty flower petals.

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## **Naturalist Notes: Birds Nests - Natural is Best Continued from page 4**

Lastly, if you live in town, don't have access to yard waste, mud, or any of the bird's natural nesting materials, there are ways you can help too. Garden centers sell moss and straw, both of which are fabulous nesting materials. Pick some up and set it out on a balcony, in a pot, or in a suet feeder.

Hope you get to watch the birds build safe and warm homes for their eggs throughout this spring!



Male (L) and Female (R) Eastern bluebirds on a nesting box carrying natural nesting materials

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## **Pollinator Clues from Visual Hues Continued from page 5**



### **Ultraviolet**

Many flowers have ultraviolet patterns that are invisible to humans, but detectable to bees. The ultraviolet pattern is usually found in the center of the flower allowing the bee to quickly locate and collect nectar and allowing the flower to be more effectively pollinated.

It is fascinating how all elements of a flower are designed for pollination: their size, shape, smell, nectar quality, when they bloom, and even color!

Dandelion under both UV light coloration (left) and visible light coloration (right). *Photo from Wikipedia.*



# **KIDS TO PARKS DAY**

**May 17, 2025: 1-3 PM**  
**FOREST GLEN PRESERVE**



Join us at Forest Glen Preserve on Saturday, May 17, 2025, for an afternoon of crafts, nature, and woodland hikes! The Nature Center will be open for you to explore. A craft station will give kids an opportunity to create an owl puppet. Guided hikes led by naturalists will start at 1:15 and 2:15. We encourage you to take the day to explore your local parks!

This event is free with no preregistration required.

For more information, call 217-662-2142, Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm.





# Vermilion County Conservation District

## 2025 Calendar of Events

For the most up-to-date information, visit [VCCD.org](http://VCCD.org), call Kennekuk County Park at 217-442-1691, Forest Glen Preserve at 217-662-2142, and follow us on Facebook.

### January

- 11 Critter Breakfast, Gannett Education Center, Forest Glen, 10-11am, Free
- 15 VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Education Center, 4:30pm, Public Invited

### February

- 6 Nature at Night Series: Illinois Owls, Kennekuk Education Center, 6:00-7:30pm, \$5/person  
Preregistration required at <https://NatNOwls.eventbrite.com>
- 14 Vermilion County Conservation Foundation Board Meeting, Kennekuk Education Center, 9am
- 19 VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Education Center, 4:30pm, Public Invited

### March

- 10 Spring Turkey Hunt Draw for Kennekuk; Applications due March 7, call 217-442-1691 for info
- 16 Maple Syrup Fest, Gannett Education Center, Forest Glen, 10am-2pm, call 217-662-2142 for info
- 19 VCCD Board Meeting at Gannett Education Center, Forest Glen, 4:30pm, Public Invited

### April

- 11 Vermilion County Conservation Foundation Board Meeting, Kennekuk Education Center, 9am
- 16 VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Education Center, 4:30pm, Public Invited
- 26 IDNR ENTICE Education Workshop, "Illinois Birds," Kennekuk Education Center, \$10/person  
Registration and information at <https://enticeworkshops.com>
- 26 Illinois RiverWatch Citizen Science Project Workshop, Gannett Education Center, Forest Glen  
Fee and Pre-Registration Required at <https://ngrrec.org>

### May

- 3 Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale, Bunker Hill Historic Area, Kennekuk, 9am-1pm or until sold out
- 4 BHHA, Education Center at Kennekuk; Nature Center, Pioneer Cabin at Forest Glen Open to Public, 1-4pm
- 17 Kids to Park Day Event, Gannett Education Center, Forest Glen, 1-3pm, Free
- 21 VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Education Center, 4:30pm, Public Invited
- TBA Lake Vermilion boat ramp concessions open, call 217-442-1691 for hours

### June

- 1 BHHA, Education Center at Kennekuk; Nature Center, Pioneer Cabin at Forest Glen Open to Public, 1-4pm
- 2 VCCD Wildlife Programs begin for 9 weeks at Vermilion County Libraries. Free  
Call your local library for dates and information
- 7 Illini Bass Club & DARE Kid's Fishing Derby, Horseshoe Pond, Kennekuk, 9am, Free
- 12 Creek Stomping Summer Camp, 4th-7th Grade, Gannett Education Center, Forest Glen, 9-11:30am\*\*
- 13 Vermilion County Conservation Foundation Board Meeting, Kennekuk Education Center, 9am
- 14 Prairie Blooms Guided Hike, Doris Westfall Tallgrass Prairie Nature Preserve, 9-10am, \$5/person  
Pre-Registration opens March 1, 2025 at <https://prairieblooms.eventbrite.com>
- 17 Toddling Into Nature Camp "Feathered Flyers" - open to ages 3, 4, 5 yrs., Kennekuk, 10am or 2pm\*\*
- 18 Toddling Into Nature Camp "Feathered Flyers" - open to ages 3, 4, 5 yrs., Kennekuk, 10am\*\*
- 18 VCCD Board Meeting at Gannett Education Center, Forest Glen, 4:30pm, Public Invited
- 19 Toddling Into Nature Camp "Wonderful Wetlands" - open to ages 3, 4, 5 yrs., Kennekuk, 10am or 2pm\*\*
- 20 Toddling Into Nature Camp "Wonderful Wetlands" - open to ages 3, 4, 5 yrs., Kennekuk, 10am\*\*
- 21 Nature at Night Series: Illinois Bats, Kennekuk Education Center, 7:30-9pm, \$5/person  
Preregistration required at <https://NatNBats.eventbrite.com>
- 24 Wonder Bugs Summer Camp, K-3rd Grade, Kennekuk Education Center, 9-11:30am\*\*
- 26 Young Explorers Camp, K-3rd Grade, Gannett Education Center, Forest Glen, 9am-3pm\*\*
- 28 IDNR ENTICE Education Workshop, "Coyote Track" Kennekuk Education Center, \$10/person  
Registration and Information at <https://enticeworkshops.com>

**\*\*VCCD Summer Camps require Preregistration and Fee**

**Registration information found online at [VCCD.org](http://VCCD.org) or at park offices.**

# Vermilion County Conservation District

## 2025 Calendar of Events

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### July

- 1 Gone Fishin' Summer Camp, 4th-7th Grade, Horseshoe Pond, Kennekuk, 9-11:30am\*\*
- 2 Gone Fishin' Summer Camp, 4th-7th Grade, Maple Grove Lodge, Forest Glen, 9-11:30am\*\*
- 6 BHHA, Education Center at Kennekuk; Nature Center, Pioneer Cabin at Forest Glen Open to Public, 1-4pm
- 9, 10 Paddling Around Lake Mingo Camp, 4th-7th Grade, Lake Mingo Boat Ramp, Kennekuk, 9-11am\*\*
- 12 Spinners & Weavers Day, Gannett Education Center, Forest Glen, 10am-3pm, Free
- 12 Moonlight Glow Paddle on Lake Mingo, Kennekuk, Ages 12 and up, Preregistration Required  
\$15/person or BYO Boat \$5/person, Call 217-662-2142 for more information
- 15 Young Explorers Camp, K-3rd Grade, White Oak Barn, Kennekuk, 9am-3pm\*\*
- 16 VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Education Center, 4:30pm, Public Invited
- 17 Junior Explorers Camp, 4th-7th Grade, White Oak Barn, Kennekuk, 9am-3pm\*\*
- 21 Forest Glen Preserve Whitetail Deer Archery Hunt Lottery Draw; Applications due July 18
- 22, 23 Pioneer Kids Summer Camp, K-3rd Grade, Gannett Education Center, Forest Glen, 9-11:30am\*\*

### August

- 3 BHHA, Education Center at Kennekuk; Nature Center, Pioneer Cabin at Forest Glen Open to Public, 1-4pm
- 8 Vermilion County Conservation Foundation Board Meeting, Kennekuk Education Center, 9am
- 12 Perseid Meteor Shower Viewing Party, Meadowlark Shelter, Forest Glen, 9-11pm, Free
- 15 Nature at Night Series: Nocturnal Animals, Kennekuk Education Center, 7-8:30pm, \$5/person  
Preregistration required at <https://NatNAnimals.eventbrite.com>
- 20 VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Education Center, 4:30pm, Public Invited

### September

- 7 BHHA, Education Center at Kennekuk; Nature Center, Pioneer Cabin at Forest Glen Open to Public, 1-4pm
- 13 River to Rail Bike Ride for the KRT, Preregistration & fee required, Four SAG-supported Routes Available  
Information and Registration opens February 1 at <https://RtoR2025.eventbrite.com>
- 13 Natural Dye Day, Pioneer Homestead Cabin, Forest Glen, 10am-3pm, Free
- 15 Waterfowl Hunt Draw for Lake Mingo and Lake Vermilion, Applications due Sept 12, call 217-442-1691 for info
- 17 VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Education Center, 4:30pm, Public Invited
- 27-28 Revolutionary War Re-enactment, Pioneer Homestead Cabin area, Forest Glen, 10am-4pm, Free
- 28 Pioneer Craft Day, Pioneer Homestead Cabin area, Forest Glen, 10am-4pm Free

### October

- 5 BHHA, Education Center at Kennekuk; Nature Center, Pioneer Cabin at Forest Glen Open to Public, 1-4pm
- 8 Nature at Night Series: Myths, Legends, and Lore, Kennekuk Education Center, 6-7:30pm, \$5/person  
Preregistration required at <https://NatNMyths.eventbrite.com>
- 10 Vermilion County Conservation Foundation Board Meeting, Kennekuk Education Center, 9am
- 15 VCCD Board Meeting at Gannett Education Center, Forest Glen, 4:30pm, Public Invited

### November

- 2 Thanksgiving at the Cabin, Pioneer Homestead Cabin area, Forest Glen, 1-4pm, Free
- 19 VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Education Center, 4:30pm, Public Invited

### December

- 5 Vermilion County Conservation Foundation Board Meeting, Kennekuk Education Center, 9am
- 7 BHHA Holiday Open House at the Bunker Hill Historic Area, Kennekuk, 2-8pm, Free
- 7-31 BHHA Holiday Lights at the Bunker Hill Historic Area, Kennekuk, 5-8pm, Free
- 17 VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Education Center, 4:30pm, Public Invited

### January 2026

- 5 First Day Shelter Reservations accepted for 2026, call 217-442-1691 for more information

**\*\*VCCD Summer Camps require Preregistration and Fee  
Registration information found online at [VCCD.org](http://VCCD.org) or at park offices.**





# New Playgrounds Funded by VCCF

The Vermilion County Conservation Foundation (VCCF) plays a crucial role in supporting conservation efforts, environmental education, and outdoor recreation for the Vermilion County Conservation District. The Foundation helps secure resources to protect natural habitats, enhance park facilities, and expand education opportunities for the community.



In Vermilion County, every park holds its own story created from the laughter, footsteps, and memories of those who have walked its trails, played on its playgrounds, and gathered under its trees. For each person in the community, these spaces are more than just parks - they are memories filled with adventures, family picnics, bike rides, and quiet moments of reflection. Whether it's a favorite fishing spot, a well-worn swing, or the perfect shade tree, every corner of our parks holds a special memory waiting to be revisited and shared.

What if you could help protect these memories and make the parks even better for generations to come? Good news - you can, the VCCF is here to make it happen!

Through grants, donations, and community partnerships, the VCCF helps fund conservation projects. Past projects include historic building restoration, ramp materials for Eagle View Tower at Heron County Park, Maple Grove Lodge renovations, land acquisition, and Beech Grove Trail ADA restroom facilities and updates.



A current plan worth noting is the playground project. The playground project stems from the removal of playground equipment from the parks in 2020 due to ADA requirements and liability concerns. In 2022, the VCCF went into action to bring playgrounds back to the parks! Since then, two new playgrounds have been installed at Forest Glen, one at Kennekuk, and another one is on the way! Be sure to "swing by" and check them out!

If you are interested in learning more about the VCCF, donating to the playground project, or becoming a member, please visit our website at <https://www.vccfoundation.info/>

Also mark your calendars for August 2, 2025 for a new summer event at Kennekuk County Park sponsored by the VCCF! Come on out and make some memories!



# Illinois Birds Workshop

Saturday, April 26, 2025

Explore the biodiversity of Illinois bird species during spring migration season! See birds up-close with a bird netting activity and learn about current bird research being conducted in east central Illinois!

Register today to attend the ENTICE "Illinois Birds" Workshop on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at Kennekuk County Park. Bird adaptations and their life history will also be discussed. An outdoor hike to search for birds and their signs will make this an all-encompassing bird program!

Discussions and activities will target grades K - 6, however, all educators are welcome to register for the workshop and can adapt the information as appropriate. Supplemental resources will be provided and professional development hours are available. This workshop is part of the ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) program from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The workshop will be held at Kennekuk County Park's Education Center, from 9:00am - 3:00pm. Pre-registration is required, \$10/person, at <https://www.enticeworkshops.com>.



Take a walk through the prairie at Forest Glen Preserve on Saturday, June 14, 2025, to learn about this native, once-expansive habitat. Wildflowers and grasses create the basis of a bio-diverse ecosystem worth exploring. Discover how Doris Westfall created the Illinois Nature Preserve named in her honor from a fallow field.

Hike will take place from 9:00 - 10:00am at the Doris L. Westfall Nature Preserve. Pre-Registration is required at \$5/person and opens March 1, 2025, at <https://prairieblooms.eventbrite.com>.





## Volunteer News

Lara Danzi

Partnering with the Vermilion County Museum with our BHHA buildings, Nature Center, and Pioneer Cabin open on the same weekends as the Lamon House in Lincoln Park, Danville was a tremendous success in 2024! Every single building on the first Sunday of each month, April to October, was adopted by our amazing volunteers! Visitor attendance was the highest since 2019 so we will continue this partnership for 2025. If you are interested in adopting one of the BHHA buildings at Kennekuk, or the Nature Center and Pioneer Cabin at Forest Glen on the first Sunday of each month, April - October, please let me know and thank you in advance!

Be sure to save the date of Sunday, August 17, 2025, for the Volunteer Appreciation Cookout at Kennekuk's White Oak Barn at 5:00pm. More details to come, we hope to see everyone there!



## Friends of the District

L. Ann Wright and Mike Metzen - Monetary Donation for the Kickapoo Rail Trail

Sons of American Legion - Monetary Donation

Danville Lions Club - Monetary Donation

Melanie Enos - Monetary Donation for flowers and shrubs at Forest Glen in memory of Rev. Paul and Estella Paskewitz and Rev James and Ursala Cornett

JoAnn Thompson - Monetary Donation in memory of Gerald Block

Sandra K. Powell - Monetary Donation in memory of Gail Bryant for the Bunker Hill Historic Area

Donald and Susan Richter - Monetary Donation

James and Janet Kouzmanoff - Monetary Donation in honor of Mr. & Mrs. J. Kent Robinson, Mr & Mrs. Scott Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Robinson, and Mr. & Mrs. Brian Robinson

Donations made in memory of Anthony I. Augustine for Kennekuk County Park

Gary & Carol A. Swank

Elsie J. Augustine

Jack & Julie L. Moore

Ellen & Joseph W. Crump

James D. & Mary E. Baird

Karen A. & E. Robert Albers

William Augustine

Thomas W. & Diana D. Ritter



VERMILION COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



# ANIMAL AMBASSADOR SPONSORSHIP

Help support the care of our resident Animal Ambassadors. All animals in our care need food, habitat, and healthcare. Your support can help us to provide for them at high standards.

To sign up as a sponsor, visit our website at [www.vccd.org](http://www.vccd.org) or follow the QR code.







Vermilion County Conservation District

# 2025 SUMMER CAMPS

VCCD Summer Camps offer outdoor fun for children 3 to 13 years old. With almost 5,000 acres between Kennekuk County Park and Forest Glen Preserve, children will gain appreciation and knowledge of wildlife and the great outdoors. Guided by experienced camp counselors, the activities will help children explore their natural world through hands-on discoveries, hiking excursions, and art.



## Camps for Children 3-5 years old

3-5 years old as of June 1, 2025

\$5.00/child/session, 1.25 hours

Kennekuk Education Center, Kennekuk County Park

Introduce young children to the natural world by exploring through stories, activities, crafts, and more *with a parent or guardian*. Each class is organized around a theme and emphasizes active learning through sensory experiences, and movement activities. Toddlers may sign up for one camp or both.

### Feathered Flyers

June 17 at 10:00am or 2:00pm

June 18 at 10:00am

Let's learn and explore the feathers, sounds, and colors of our local birds!

### Wonderful Wetlands

June 19 at 10:00am or 2:00pm

June 20 at 10:00am

Pond dipping and more will be explored as we learn about our wetland habitats.



## Camps for Children 6-9 years old

6-9 years old as of June 1, 2025

### Wonder Bugs

\$20/child June 24 at 9:00am - 11:30am

Kennekuk Education Center, Kennekuk County Park

Explore the wonderful wetlands of Kennekuk through books, activities, and a nature hike. Kids will get an up close, hands-on, aquatic experience with the plants and animals of the wetlands!

### Young Explorers

\$35/child

June 26 at 9:00am - 3:00pm at the Gannett Education Center, Forest Glen Preserve

July 15 at 9:00am - 3:00pm at the White Oak Barn, Kennekuk County Park

During this fun-filled classic summer camp, kids will participate in a nature hike, roast a hot dog for lunch, discover wildlife, and create an arts and craft project.

### Pioneer Kids

\$20/child July 22 or July 23 at 9:00am - 11:30am

Gannett Education Center, Forest Glen Preserve

What was it like to be a kid in the 1850's? Join us for Pioneer Kids Camp to find out! Campers will hike to the Pioneer Homestead, make a jump rope, and cook a sweet treat on the hearth to enjoy.



# Camps for Children 10-13 years old

10-13 years old as of June 1, 2025

## **Creek Stomping Ecology Camp**

\$20/child June 12 at 9:00am - 11:30am

Gannett Education Center, Forest Glen Preserve

Follow our Naturalists on an adventure in Willow Creek while searching for aquatic life and observing animal tracks along the way. Participants must wear closed-toed shoes and clothes that can get wet and muddy. Campers will get wet!

## **Gone Fishin'**

\$20/child

July 1 at 9:00am - 11:30am at Horseshoe Pond, Kennekuk County Park

July 2 at 9:00am - 11:30am at Maple Grove Lodge, Forest Glen Preserve

Practice fishing from start to finish: bait your hook and care for your fish after the catch. Learn to identify common Illinois fish. Campers will see a live ethical demonstration on how to clean, cut, and prepare fish after catching. All fishing equipment will be provided.

## **Paddling Around Lake Mingo**

\$20/child July 9 or July 10 at 9:00am - 11:00am

Lake Mingo Boat Ramp, Kennekuk County Park

Learn about the diversity of fish, birds, mammals, and more that call Lake Mingo home with District Naturalists. Kayaking basics will be covered. All participants are required to wear a provided life jacket.

## **Junior Explorers**

\$35/child July 17 at 9:00am - 3:00pm

White Oak Barn, Kennekuk County Park

Junior Explorers will be able to enjoy a classic summer camp program, similar to our Young Explorers camp, but with nature adventure activities geared more to their age range. Explorers will take a hike, roast a hot dog for lunch, discover wildlife, and create a unique art and craft project.

# ? VCCD Summer Camp Frequently Asked Questions

## • **How do I register?**

Mail or drop off the registration form found on our website [www.vccd.org](http://www.vccd.org), or at the Kennekuk and Forest Glen offices. *All fees are due at the time of registration.* Camp placement is not confirmed until fees have been paid. Fee includes the listed program, craft materials, and snacks.

## • **How will I know my child is registered for the camp?**

Registration confirmations will be sent to the email provided on the form. Please legibly print your email and check spam/junk folders if you do not receive a confirmation.

## • **Can an adult or guardian stay with child during the camp?**

*NO adults, parents, or guardians are allowed to stay during camp with the exception of the 3-5 year old camps.* The VCCD offers different program opportunities for families; *Summer Camp programs are strictly for children.*

## • **Are VCCD camp counselors CPR/First Aid/AED Trained?**

Yes, VCCD camp counselors are trained. Camps will have a 10:1 campers to staff/volunteer ratio.

## • **Is the VCCD flexible with children attending camps outside their age range?**

It depends on the camp and age of child. Contact Lara at [ldanzl@vccd.org](mailto:ldanzl@vccd.org), 217-442-1691 to discuss.

Please call Kennekuk at 217-442-1691 if you have any additional questions regarding our camp programs.



# Vermilion County Conservation District

## 2025 SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

Complete form below and return with fee to:  
Vermilion County Conservation District, Attention: Summer Camp Registration  
22296 Henning Road, Danville, IL, 61834

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Age as of June 1, 2025 \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email for Confirmation \_\_\_\_\_

Special Information we should know, medications, allergies, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

- If my child should be injured while attending camp, I will be notified. If I cannot be reached, I authorize VCCD staff to act on my behalf to secure necessary medical treatment for the above child. I understand that payment of any medical expenses is my responsibility.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature Required

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*The VCCD takes videos or photographs of people at VCCD programs and events for promotions and marketing. They are used at the VCCD's discretion and become its sole property. If a registered participant wishes to be excluded from this, they may do so in writing to the VCCD or by simply stepping away from the camera.*

Please check appropriate camp date, time, and/or location. All camp fees are non-refundable. Don't forget to include your registration fee with form.

Checks need to be made out to VCCD. Questions? Call 217-442-1691

### **Creek Stomping, \$20**

June 12, Forest Glen

### **Wonder Bugs, \$20**

June 24, Kennekuk

### **Young Explorers, \$35**

June 26, Forest Glen

July 15, Kennekuk

### **Junior Explorers, \$35**

July 17, Kennekuk

### **Feathered Flyers, \$5**

June 17, 10am, Kennekuk

June 17, 2pm, Kennekuk

June 18, 10am, Kennekuk

### **Gone Fishin', \$20**

July 1, Kennekuk

July 2, Forest Glen

### **Pioneer Kids, \$20**

July 22, Forest Glen

July 23, Forest Glen

### **Wonderful Wetlands, \$5**

June 19, 10am, Kennekuk

June 19, 2pm, Kennekuk

June 20, 10am, Kennekuk

### **Paddling Lake Mingo, \$20**

July 9, Kennekuk

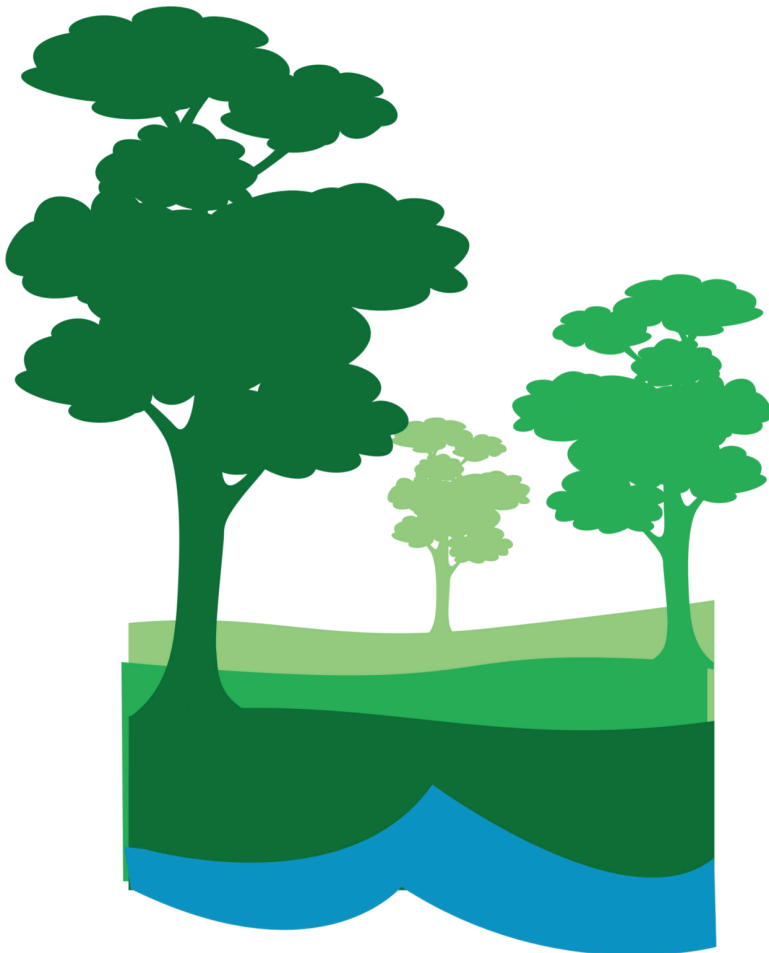
July 10, Kennekuk

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Vermilion County Conservation District  
22296 Henning Road  
Danville, IL 61834

Non-Profit Organization  
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Danville, IL  
Permit No. 839

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## *Join the Foundation Today* for your 10% discount on:

- Building Rentals
- Boat Decals
- Camping at Forest Glen
- Property Hunt Permits

*Your Vermilion County Conservation Foundation membership will assist the VCCD to conserve and protect natural areas, support environmental education, maintain public access to your outdoor heritage, and more.*

Choose a level of giving that is right for you:

- **LIFE** \$1000 (payable in up to 4 installments)
- **PATRON** \$100
- **SUPPORTING** \$50
- **REGULAR** \$25

Mail your check or money order to:

VCCF, 22296 Henning Rd., Danville, IL 61834  
Or Scan the QR Code to join through the website

