



2009



2024



PALATINE, IL *Deer Grove*

A 500-acre portion of Deer Grove was the first parcel purchased by the newly formed Cook County Forest Preserves system in 1916. Comprised of more than 1,700 acres of rolling upland woodlands, forested ravines, remnant wetlands and restored prairie which harbor significant plant and ecosystem diversity. Since 2008, this site has undergone significant restoration using mitigation funds received as a result of the expansion of O'Hare International Airport. Over nearly two decades, contractors working alongside volunteers and land management partners, removed invasive brush and trees, treated invasives, stabilized ravine slopes, and amended drainage ditches. The return of fire to the landscape has revitalized the remnant ground cover and maintains the openness of the prairie restoration. Officially concluded in 2024, this project serves as a model for large-scale, high-quality ecosystem restoration in an urban environment and demonstrates the transformation that can come from significant investment and long-term stewardship...and of course lots of fire.

Deer Grove East is primarily open prairie, while Deer Grove West is heavily wooded. This tour will visit both halves of the preserve and discuss the different approaches that were used in each phase of restoration.

Transportation will be provided from the meeting location.



July 9, 2025 | 9 - 12 p.m. CST

Location: 42.142695, -88.045902

RSVP: <https://forms.gle/HjR83k3Hy9pr9nSj9>