

SPECIAL EXHIBITS AND BOOTHS

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Browse information about local organizations that work to benefit education, water, and wildlife. Many organizations will have activities and crafts for children and families. Available first-come, first-served.

BIRTH TO FIVE

CENTRAL ILLINOIS CITY NATURE CHALLENGE

CHICO

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF ILLINOIS

COALITION OF NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

DECATUR & MACON COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

DECATUR AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

DECATUR GARDEN CLUB

ELECTRIC VEHICLE SPOTLIGHT

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

FRIENDS OF DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

FRIENDS OF LINCOLN TRAIL HOMESTEAD STATE PARK

GLACIER'S EDGE MASTER NATURALISTS

ILLINOIS PEOPLES ACTION

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE

LIVING WATER RANCH

MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

MACON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MERCY GARDENS

PAULA'S RETIRED RECYCLERS

PHEASANTS FOREVER

PROJECT ANIMAL FREEDOM

RESTORATION STATION

SANGAMON VALLEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

SANITARY DISTRICT OF DECATUR

SOUTHSIDE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

STEPHEN DECATUR ROSE SOCIETY

SUNSHINE SUPPLIES FOR TEACHERS

VENDORS

BY FAITH BAKERY

GALLERY 510 ARTISTS

JUST JENN CREATIONS

MCCD STAFF CRAFTS

VALORIE'S HONEY

PATIO

Enjoy live music by **Silas Tockey Music**

CONCESSIONS

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Quench your thirst and grab a quick bite at the KLC Creations Food Truck. Enjoy a refreshing beverage from Rockwell Coffee!

Festival of Spring Event Map



Festival of Spring

45th Annual



•An Earth Day Celebration•

Co-sponsored by

DECATUR AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY and
MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ROCK SPRINGS CONSERVATION AREA
APRIL 25, 2026



45th Annual Festival of Spring

•An Earth Day Celebration•

Saturday, April 25, 2026

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

MORNING ACTIVITIES

BIRD BANDING

Meet at the Information Shelter north of the parking lot

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM



Dr. Travis Wilcoxon from Millikin University will host a bird banding event in the area near the pavilions. The public is invited to learn about banding and see local songbirds in person and up close.

SPRING MIGRATION WALK

Meet at the Information Shelter north of the parking lot

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Join a knowledgeable Audubon guide for a walk on the trails in search of early spring migrants as well as birds who are in central Illinois year 'round. Spring is a wonderful time to discover new birds. Bring your own binoculars or borrow ours.

SANGAMON RIVER CLEAN-UP

Meet at the Information Shelter 9:30 AM to register

Clean-up event: 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Help to make the river a safer and more beautiful place for people and wildlife alike. Dress prepared to get dirty and bring your own gloves! Some bags and gloves will be available. Families and individuals welcome! Organized groups must register by calling 217-423-7708. Sponsored by Macon County Conservation District and the Community Environmental Council.

HOMESTEAD PRAIRIE FARM

HOMESTEAD PRAIRIE FARM OPEN HOUSE

Homestead Prairie Farm

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Enjoy a variety of activities at our historic, 1860s farmstead. Join interpreters in period clothing for tours of the home, garden, and woodshop. Children can also play with a variety of 1860s toys and games. You can also watch a spinning demonstration from the Spinners group on the HPF stage.

MASTER GARDENERS' PLANT A SEED

Homestead Prairie Farm
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Children can join a Master Gardener and plant a seed to take home and watch it grow.

INSIDE NATURE CENTER

BOOK SIGNING

12:00PM - 4:00PM

Check out some books written by local authors and get your copy signed!



PRIZE PASSPORT

Nature Center Main Entrance

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM



Children can collect signatures from booths they visit, then turn their passports in for a prize at the Prize Passport table. Passports are free from either staff, parking attendants, or from the Prize Passport table located inside Rock Springs Nature Center.



BIRDS OF PREY SHOW

Nature Center Auditorium

12:00 PM, 1:30 PM, or 3:00 PM

You will never forget the first time you see a live hawk, owl, or falcon right in front of you! Meet these predatory birds of the day and night while you learn how they survive in the wild habitats of central Illinois. Seating is limited, so do not miss this incredible show of beauty and power. Each show lasts about an hour.

LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE

Nature Center: Library

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Need a little break from all the activities? Come and check out our reference library located just inside the West Entry doors of the Nature Center. Take a look at a field guide, read a book to a child, or learn about local history! You can also pick up your scavenger hunt sheets here.

TEMPORARY TATTOOS

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Stop by the temporary tattoo table for a tattoo or two!

MCCD TABLE

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Check out the volunteering and summer camp offerings available at the Macon County Conservation District.

BASIL & FRIENDS

Forest View Classroom
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Meet a few of our ambassador animals and learn about mammals, reptiles, and amphibians native to Illinois from one of our naturalists. Spend some time with these fascinating animals up close and in person!



WEST LAWN AREA

FACE PAINTING

West Lawn

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Children can pick from a variety of designs and get their face painted. Sponsored by the Glacier's Edge Master Naturalists.

LIVING WATER RANCH

West Lawn

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Meet some horses, goats, and chickens up close and in-person from the Living Water Ranch.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS CITY NATURE CHALLENGE

West Lawn

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Help us showcase Central Illinois' underrated biodiversity by recording wild animals, plants, fungi, and other lifeforms!

WAGON RIDES

West Lawn: Flag Pole

12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Tour some of the highlights of Rock Springs Conservation Area on a tractor-pulled wagon ride. Wagon departs near the flag poles outside of Rock Springs Nature Center every 15-20 minutes, and rides are first-come, first-served. Last ride departs at 3:30 PM.



WILDFLOWER WANDER

Nature Center: West Entrance

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Join a guest speaker from the Inninois Natural History Survey to go on a woodland hike to look for some signs of spring on this wildflower hike. Get your phones ready to take photos of nature for the Central IL City Nature Challenge.

EARTH DAY STROLL

Nature Center: West Entrance

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Celebrate Earth Day with a leisurely, guided hike with one of our knowledgeable guides.

FRONT LAWN AREA

BEEKEEPER & POLLINATORS TABLE

Front Lawn

12:00PM - 4:00PM

Learn about some of our native pollinators with the Sangamon Valley Beekeepers Association. Local honey will be available for purchase.

TOUR OF NATIVE GARDEN

Front Lawn

2:00PM

Take a tour of a garden full of Illinois native plants and learn how you can start your own!

PLANTS FOR BIRDS

Front Lawn

12:00PM - 4:00PM

Learn about native plants that are great for our feathered friends and other wildlife.

PICNIC AREA & POND

BOOK EXCHANGE & SALE

12:00 PM - Until books are gone

Bring books to exchange. No books to trade? Just leave a small donation for the books you would like!

PAINT NATURE WITH NATURE

Pond Pavilion

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Enjoy nature at its best, then paint beautiful artwork of what you have just seen using nature's natural palette: flowers, leaves, stems, and charcoal. Provided by Decatur Area Audubon Society.

AQUATIC EXPLORATION STATION

Cattail Pond

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Discover some of the aquatic life that thrives below the surface of the cattail pond. Use nets to explore the pond.



CANOE RODEO

Cattail Pond

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Learn how to get in and out of a canoe as well as paddling strokes and some safety tips. Fun for everyone. \$3 per person.

Recommended for adults and children age 5 and older. All children must be accompanied by an adult.



MORE