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from the director

The District staff and board of commissioners are very excited about the Jarrett Prairie Center Museum remodel and all that it will offer to our patrons and school kids. The new museum exhibits will further educate our visitors about our history and natural community in which we all cohabitate. It is our mission to not only purchase and restore these habitats but to try to build an understanding between the relationships of people and the local natural environment in which we live.

The new museum will help bridge the gap and educate everyone further into the reasons why it is vital to maintain a healthy and sustainable ecosystem and how we as humans play a role in that ever changing environment.

I would like to offer anyone to please email or call us to ask questions you may have on the reasons we do what we do. The District employees are very knowledgeable, educated, and energetic people who would love to take the time to explain to you what they do and why they do it. We are here as your local resource and I feel we should talk to anyone that wants to further their curiosities on any number of topics from the local ecosystems to the ins and outs of our golf course operations.

Take a look in this Blaze for answers to questions like why we burn the prairie, why we thin and cut trees within the Oak savannas, how and why is the golf course managing the Emerald Ash Borer, and all the educational programs that are offered to connect you with nature. The District does many things for a wide variety of ages and interests. I encourage you to find your interests and indulge yourself into a bit of the great outdoors this summer.

For more information, please call 815-234-8535 x200 or visit our websites at www.byronforestpreserve.com and www.prairieviewgolf.com. You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

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Summer Day Camp

The Byron Forest Preserve has a whole summer of awesome activities planned that will keep you busy and out of the house! Every week, we’ll have special activities and field trips planned around a theme. Of course, we’ll also have time for traditional camp games, activities, and crafts that take advantage of our trails and open spaces. Whatever your interests, each week you’ll find something fun, learn new things, and make great friends!

Our goal is to guide campers in developing skills such as fair play and conflict resolution while keeping them engaged in activities that cultivate their minds, spirits, and bodies. We strive to make camp fun for participants of all ages, interests, and abilities.

June 6th – August 12th
Monday–Friday – 9am–4pm – Ages 6–12
$110 per week & $90 per week (sibling)

Latchkey Care
$10 per week / 7–9 am
$10 per week / 4–6 pm

Please register by calling 815-234-8535 x200. Register by the Wednesday before camp begins. The field trip schedule may change due to availability. Field trips, snacks, drinks, camp shirt and all crafts are included in the weekly camp fee.
Themes & Field Trips

Week #1 / June 6-10  Green Screen
Could you make it on Survivor or American Ninja? Maybe The Price is Right is more your style, or maybe you'd rather be behind the cameras! We'll host our own shows, as well as film, edit, and, of course, watch. Trips this week include a challenge ropes course and a day at SkateCo and NickelWorld.

Week #2 / June 13-17 Back to the Future
It's the World of Tomorrow! Campers can build robots, fly a drone, and design a futuristic dream house. We'll also start some experiments, such as growing seeds in different mediums and test solar panels. Our Friday field trip will be to a science museum, of course.

Week #3 / June 20-24  Into the Past
Each day will be a blast from the past and include activities and games from a different era. We'll go to Sam's Drive In, visit the John Deere Farm, and spend a day at Donley's Wild West Town.

Week #4/June 27-July 1 All Our Senses
If we can touch it, smell it, taste it, see it or hear it, we'll do it! Create slime, follow your nose, make music, and more. At the end of the week, we'll head to Severson Dells for an afternoon, and then spend Friday at Krape Park and Lena Splashland.

Week #5 / July 5-8  Go Pro!
This week is all about adventure, and getting your perspective on it! We've got Go-Pro cameras to capture our explorations and feats, which will include hikes, playgrounds, and a day at Volcano Falls. No camp July 4th. Reduced fee $100/$80 sibling.

Week #6 / July 11-15  Underwater
We'll play with lots of water, as well as spending time exploring our local creeks and rivers. Be sure to wear clothes and shoes that can get muddy and wet this week!

Week #7 / July 18-22  Got Rhythm?
This week, we'll make our own musical instruments and explore sounds and voices. Whether you're a budding musician or just like to make noise, you'll find something fun to get involved.

Week #8 / July 25-29  Got Talent?
We've been working on our skills leading up to this week: filming with cameras, acting, music, and more. Share your hobbies and skills through the week and show your talents Friday on stage.

Week #9 / August 1-5  Hide and Seek
We'll learn about camouflage and how to be sneaky, play games of stealth, and go on scavenger and treasure hunts. We'll also visit some of the nearby parks and playgrounds and have a day of adventure on Friday.

Week #10 / Aug. 8-12  Around the World
Food, games, and crafts from other countries will keep us busy this week! Don't think about school just yet...we'll end the week with playing and swimming, as well as our much-loved overnight campout.

Overnight Campout $25 / August 12-13
From 6 pm, Friday, Aug. 12, until 10am, Saturday, Aug. 13, join us for our traditional overnight program! We supply tents, food, snacks, and activities, including a night hike, stargazing, games, campfire, s'mores, and more. Plus, we'll play a ton of games! This is a separate registration and fee. Registration is open to all campers, not just those signed up for the final week.

Register online at www.byronforestpreserve.com
What really happens at Summer Day Camp?!

By Janet Dahlberg, Summer Camp Director

I first worked in outdoor education in 1994 when I was hired to run a summer day camp for the Miami Metrozoo in Florida. Though the environment has changed, I still adhere to the principles I learned back then: children are naturally inquisitive about the world around them, and opportunities for both structured and unstructured play encourage learning, curiosity, decision making, and creativity. Through many years of school, experience working with kids, and attendance at camp and environmental education conferences, I have expanded that philosophy and have learned to program with intent. That means there’s always more going on below the surface. “What are we doing today?” isn’t only about concrete skills such as learning to shoot a recurve bow or making a better paper airplane; it’s also about building confidence, learning it’s okay to fail and try again, developing empathy, encouraging and helping others, and a myriad of other “skills” that can’t be easily measured. So what does this look like on a day-to-day basis? Here are a few typical activities during day camp and some of the underlying outcomes we work on:

**Mondays** start with introductions and group teambuilding games. One of our favorite name games involves one camper who is “it” and another who is the detective. Campers move around the group, shaking hands and introducing themselves to each other. “It” removes campers from the game though a given signal—usually a wink or a special handshake—until either the detective has identified “it” or most of the players are out. Kids love this game and think it’s a blast, while the counselors know that shy campers are being approached by the more outgoing ones and encouraged to speak, names are repeated and learned, and kids are practicing introducing themselves and shaking hands. That might sound silly, but think about what an important social skill that is!

On **Tuesdays** we break into groups and head inside for something called “Makerspace.” This is free play time where we throw open the cupboards and campers can choose from a variety of activities. We have Legos, K’Nex, board and card games, scrapbooking and craft supplies, paints and canvas, science kits, blocks, karaoke, and often a special activity that relates to the theme of the week. Kids can experiment in a pressure-free environment with no expectations to produce a perfect cookie-cutter craft, and counselors will answer requests for help by encouraging campers to try different solutions for themselves. We know the process is more important for children than the end result—that’s how they learn. Makerspace is a great way to encourage that process! Last year, a group of campers built boats from bottles, tiny motors and batteries, and a variety of propellers and would take them to Lake Louise on Wednesday, try them out, then refine them the next week. That’s the kind of experimentation we love.

**Wednesdays** are for trips to Lake Louise. Kids can swim, boat, fish, and play on the beach throughout the day. We love it when campers get to try something new, such as kayaking for the first time or catching their first fish! We work on other skills, too... “I can’t find my shoes!” becomes less and less common as the summer progresses; that camper who caught a fish gets over his fear of putting a worm on the hook by himself; an older camper teaches a younger one how to balance on a paddle board.

On some **Thursdays** we will travel to local playgrounds. Severson Dells is one of our favorites since it’s so unique! Kids need variety in climbing and balancing to develop those motor skills, and Severson Dells sure has that. They also may play with musical instruments, water, bark and other natural materials. We hike and explore, find geocaches, catch frogs...all in a day’s fun. Blackhawk Park in Byron, Belvidere Park, Alpine Park, and Anna Paige Park are our other options for these days, and each has its own awesome facilities to keep us entertained and engaged. Behind the scenes, of course, we’re working on group and social skills, encouraging success, and growing confidence.

Our field trips tend to be on **Fridays**. Not all of them are strictly educational, but a trampoline park simply offers a chance to work on a different set of skills than a science museum—both are great! We also like to end the week on a super positive and fun note, not only to retain campers but also because it helps campers hold on to positive memories and experiences from the week and feel even better about what they did and accomplished.

**And the rest of the time**—? Follow ByronSummerCamp on Twitter for daily and hourly updates with photos of our campers playing group games, sports, scavenger hunts, going on hikes, riding scooters, filming with our GoPros, catching insects and frogs, flying kites, exploring the woods, and all of the other things we do! And hey—any time this summer when you’re dropping off or picking up your campers, feel free to ask, “What are you doing today?”
Spring Bird Count
Join the rest of the state in conducting this annual count. Bring your own binoculars and field guides. We will search the Forest Preserve sites to see a wide variety of bird species.
Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Sunday, May 8
Time: 7 - 10 am
Cost: FREE
Ages: 10 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / none
Register by noon on May 4.

Bird & Butterfly Walks
Come out and enjoy a guided morning tour of the savannas and wooded areas of our preserves to look for our many colorful flying creatures. Our preserves are home to several different species of birds and butterflies. Bring your binoculars (or borrow ours). Be sure to wear sturdy walking shoes and dress for the weather.
Where: See below.
When: Fridays
June 10 - Howard Colman Hall Creek
12749 N. Weldon Rd, Rockford
July 15 - Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve
6651 N. River Rd, Byron
Time: 9 - 10:30 am
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 25
Register by 6/8 & 7/13.

Beekeeping Workshops
These workshops are the place to bee!! Learn techniques and tools of the trade.
*Bring your bee suits!!
Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Sundays
May 15*, June 12*
July 10*, August 14*
Time: 2 - 4 pm
Cost: $2 / person
Ages: 3 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 25
No registration required.

Canoe Tours of the Rock River - Oregon, Illinois to Castle Rock State Park
Take a scenic two-hour guided canoe tour down the Rock River from just below the dam in Oregon to Castle Rock State Park. View the area's many unique St. Peter sandstone rock formations and miles of hardwood forest along one of the most scenic stretches of the Rock River. Must have at least one adult per canoe and no more than three people per canoe. Please note: the July 18th trip will be departing from Castle Rock and taking out at Grand Detour.
Where: Meet at Oregon Park East
When: Saturdays, May 14, June 18, July 16
Time: 8:30 am - 12 noon
Cost: $10 / person
Ages: 12 and up for paddlers
Min./Max.: 3 / 10 canoes

3D Archery
Practice your archery skills with lifelike big game targets that include bear, deer, and turkeys. Bring your own equipment or use ours.
Where: Meet at Byron/Oregon Sportsman’s Club, Townline Road, South of Byron on Illinois Route 2
When: Wednesdays
June 15 & July 13
Time: 5:30 - 7 pm
Cost: $5 / person
Ages: 10 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 20
Register by noon on 6/13 & 7/11.

Geology Hike
We’ll take a stroll along the Four Hills Trail and talk about what’s underneath us, from the formation of the native limestone to the deposit of boulders during the ice age. We’ll take a look at fossils, find glacial erratics, and follow an old stream bed. If you’re curious about our local geology, want to learn about our natural history, or just want to enjoy a nice hike, please join us!
Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
Cost: FREE
When: Saturday, April 30
Time: 3 - 4:30 pm
Ages: 6 and up, families welcome
Min./Max.: 6 / 20
Register by April 27.
programs

3rd Annual Archaeology Artifacts Identification Day
Talk to professional archaeologists about your own collection of points, prehistoric tools, fossils, animal bones and other items that you have found and are curious about. If you don’t have any items of your own to identify, be sure to stop in anyway to see these artifacts and live demonstrations. Learn more about prehistoric tools and weapons through hands-on demonstrations at this interactive event. There will be special ongoing demonstrations of arrowhead and spearhead making techniques by nationally known flintknapper, Larry Kinsella. Larry has been teaching flintknapping for 35 years. He will provide all materials and safety equipment to teach beginning flintknapping, the art of making stone tools from flint.
Where: In & Near Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, July 9
Time: 10 am - 2 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
No registration required.

Fossil Hunt
Join us at the quarry any time; stay for a half hour or the whole time! We’ll be digging through the piles before there’s any spring growth to see what we can find. Bring a hammer to crack open the bigger ones and a bucket to carry away your finds. Fossil identification and guides provided.
Where: Park at the Land Mgmt Center at 6845 German Church Rd and walk the path to the quarry behind the facility
When: Saturday, April 30
Time: 10 am - 2 pm
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 20
Cost: $2/person
Register by April 28.

Butterflies of Illinois (Rescheduled Winter Lecture Event)
This presentation was originally scheduled for February 14, 2016, but was cancelled due to a snow storm. Dr. Michael Jeffords an entomologist for the Illinois Natural History Survey and Susan Post, Biological Control Specialist for the Illinois Natural History Survey, will share their knowledge and passion for the butterflies found in our gardens and rare natural areas of our state, as well as breathtaking photographs that they have captured of the many butterflies that call Illinois home. They will also speak about what is takes to prepare a field guide and will have copies of their book, A Field Guide to Illinois Butterflies, for sale.
Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Sunday, May 22
Time: 2 pm
Ages: All
Cost: Free
No registration required.

Canoe Rentals
We rent canoes! Please call at least one week in advance to schedule the date and time for your canoe trip. Canoes are $25 each with a 3-canoe minimum per rental. Paddles and life jackets are included. Call Mark at 815-234-8535 ext. 217 for this unique and fun outing.
Wildflower Walks
See the progression of the wildflowers in bloom at our many preserves. This is your chance to see some of our less visited preserves located on both sides of the Rock River.
Where: See below.
When: Saturdays
May 7 - Jarrett Prairie Preserve
7993 N. River Rd, Byron
June 11 - Howard Colman Hall Creek
12749 N. Weldon Rd, Rockford
July 16 - HeLeo Two Rivers Preserve
6065 N. IL Rte. 2, Oregon
August 27 - Jarrett Prairie Preserve
7993 N. River Rd, Byron
Time: 9:30 - 11 am
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 25
Register by noon on 5/5, 6/9, 7/14, & 8/25.

National Astronomy Day
Check out our three telescopes, make a space-themed craft, and take our astronomy quiz as we view the night sky.
Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Saturday, May 14
Time: 4 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 25+
Register by noon on May 12.

Constellation Night Hikes
Spend some time under the stars learning the summertime constellations and their stories.
Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Fridays, June 3
July 8, & August 5
Time: 8:30-9:30 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 25
Register by noon on 6/1, 7/6, & 8/3.

Mercury Transit
You will be able to watch the planet Mercury pass in front of the sun through a special telescope light filter.
Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Monday, May 9
Time: 6 am - 1:45 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: None
No registration required.

Perseid Meteor Watch
Spend the night and enjoy this annual meteor shower event. Bring sleeping bags, chairs, and a tent. The Forest Preserve has a few tents available for rental. We will have a campfire and provide s'mores from 8pm until midnight and donuts in the morning! Children must be with an adult.
Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Saturday, August 13
Time: 8 pm - 6 am
Cost: $5 / person
$10 / tent rental
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 40
Register by noon on August 10.
Learn the hows and whys of fly fishing. Bob Piros, a 50-year plus student of the art and science of fly fishing will teach a two-day class at the Jarrett Prairie Center. He has caught everything from cats to catfish on a fly rod, including trout, large mouth bass, small mouth bass, sunfish, walleye, northern pike, salmon, and salt water fish.

The first class session will cover basic understanding of the rod, reel, line, leader, and fly. Everyone will be practicing casting by the end of the session.

In the second class, you will put your knowledge to work by fly fishing for pan fish and bass in forest preserve waters. Both top-water and sub-surface fishing methods will be demonstrated and practiced. Because the ponds are catch and release only, efficient fish release methods will be demonstrated and practiced. All equipment will be provided. We will need to know if you are right or left handed and get your contact information so that you can view some basic instruction videos prior to the first class. If you have your own fly fishing equipment, please bring it to the class.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Tuesdays & Thursdays, April 26 & 28 and May 10 & 12
Time: 6 – 8 pm
Cost: $10 / person
Ages: 12 & up
Min./Max.: 4 / 8
Register by April 21 & May 5.
Enjoy a special “inside the fence” tour of The Nature Conservancy’s Nachusa Grasslands to see their bison herd. In the fall of 2014, The Nature Conservancy brought a herd of 60 wild bison from South Dakota to the Nachusa Grasslands to establish the first wild bison herd in Illinois in order to complete their prairie ecosystem. Their bison herd continues to grow with many new calves born each spring. We will be taking two Byron Forest Preserve District vans leaving from the Jarrett Prairie Center and driving to Franklin Grove. Our group will then be transported via open trailers for a guided tour to see the Nachusa Grasslands’ bison herd. This early summer tour will allow us to see the new calves before the prairie grass gets too high. Bring your cameras. Register early as space is limited.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, June 4
Time: 9:30 am - 12 Noon
Cost: $5 / person
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 20
Register by noon on June 1.

“The Shade is Killing Us!”

Yes, that is what the oak trees of the Midwest would tell us if they could talk. Come see for yourself up close the difference between healthier oak woods and sick shady woods. Why can’t we just put a fence around nature and then it’s safe and healthy? How have humans always affected the lands on which we live? Why do we want healthy oak woods? Find out the answers to these questions and some of your own with an easy hike in some of the areas you may not have walked before. Wear walking shoes and long pants; we will go off trail a little bit.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, June 25
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: Free
Ages: Teens and adults
Min./Max.: 5 / 25
Register by noon on June 23.
By Joni Camling, Preschool Teacher

The DLM (Developmental Learning Materials) Early Childhood Express program, developed using the latest research in early childhood education, covers a wide range of subjects: literacy, math, science, social studies, fine arts, health/safety, social and emotional development, music, physical movement and technology. Through a fully integrated instructional approach, student assessment and digitally rich programming, DLM is designed to ensure students develop a solid foundation for future success.

Research has shown that children learn best by making connections between what they already know about the world around them and the material they learn in school. DLM helps foster children’s understanding through meaningful and purposeful activities. With this in mind, each of the program’s eight units provides an essential question relating to the unit’s theme. One essential question is, “How do living things grow and change?” Each week, this topic will expand children’s thinking and understanding of growing and changing.

The DLM program features a range of new resources for Pre-K educators based on feedback that McGraw-Hill has received from teachers across the country. These resources include new flip charts, manipulatives, big books that are useful for shared reading, and other teaching and learning materials, which are based on the latest research in early childhood education. The new flip charts feature rhymes and chants to help build phonological awareness everyday throughout the school year. These charts are accompanied by songs, which are familiar to most Pre-K students. The songs are available in English and Spanish.

Student assessment is also a vital component of DLM. The program’s guidelines and forms allow teachers to effectively implement assessment in the Pre-K classroom and make informed teaching decisions regarding the developmental and educational needs of students. Additionally, DLM offers 21st century technology, including e-books for all stories in the program and an online planner, providing teachers the opportunity to plan and adjust their lessons at home.

DLM is aligned with each state’s early childhood education standards and the standards of Head Start, a national program that promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families.
We are proud to offer one of the best preschool education programs and facilities in the area. The program is housed in the Keller Education Center, a Leadership in Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum Certified Building. It is located adjacent from the Jarrett Prairie Center at 7993 North River Road in Byron. The Keller Education Center is one of only three platinum LEED certified education buildings in Illinois. The building is also the first and only platinum LEED certified building in Ogle County.

Get your children ready for kindergarten by enrolling them in our structured preschool classes. The Tuesday/Thursday classes are geared toward 3-year-olds and younger 4-year-olds. The Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes are geared toward older 4-year-olds and younger 5-year-olds. Children must be at least 4 years old to attend the three-day class. They must be at least 3 years old to attend the two-day class. Children must be potty trained. Immunization records are required. You may register your child at anytime throughout the year if your child’s birthday is later in the year. Please call 815-234-8535 ext. 200 for more information. First day of school will be August 24 for M/W/F students and August 25 for Tu/Th students.

Where: Keller Education Center
Ages: 3-5 years old
When: Mon/Wed/Fri or Tues/Thurs
Time: 8:30-11 am or 12:30-3 pm
Min/Max: 6/30-M/W/F morning & afternoon
6/18-TU/TH morning & afternoon
Cost: $110/month-M/W/F
      $90/month-Tu/Th
Registration is ongoing throughout the year.

Check us out on Facebook and our website at www.byronpreschool.com!
free summer concerts

Dan Hagemann - June 12
Enjoy singer song writer Dan Hagemann who grew up in Ogle County. Now based in Nashville, Dan’s writing style was heavily influenced by some of the greatest Americana, rock and folk songwriters such as Willie Nelson, Bruce Springsteen and James Taylor.

Bluegrass Reunion Band - June 19
Rockford’s band for contemporary and traditional bluegrass music. The Bluegrass Reunion Band, founded in 1987, was influenced by: Bill Monroe, Osborne Brothers, Hot Rize, Stanley Brothers, Jim & Jesse, Seldom Scene, Ricky Skaggs and Tony Rice. Their sound is traditional bluegrass, and they cover modern contemporary songs, bluegrass standards and songs of the “Western Cowboy.”

Patchouli - June 26
Nationally touring, award-winning songwriter Julie Patchouli and master guitarist Bruce Hecksel light up the air with their sparkling acoustic sounds and rich harmonies. Their unique “New American Folk Music” is a blend of elements of folk, pop, flamenco, and jazz.

The Backroads Trio - July 24
Rockford’s acoustic Americana band featuring the best of current and vintage country, folk, light rock, gospel, and bluegrass music.

Sponsored by Byron Bank.

Concerts are held on Sundays at 7pm at the Heritage Farm Stage located at 8059 N. River Rd., Byron.
"We cannot stop the winter or the summer from coming. We cannot stop the spring or the fall or make them other than they are. They are gifts from the universe that we cannot refuse. But we can choose what we will contribute to life when each arrives." -- Gary Zukav

The restoration crew is actively preparing their contribution for the next season by planning the tasks that will help remove or prevent the spread of invasive species within our preserve. We are focusing on figuring out our spring prescribe burn units and the locations of our early spring/summer spraying. One of the several different invasive species that we will be concentrating on this spring is the removal of Wild Parsnip.

Wild Parsnip is an invasive species that is native to Europe and Asia. It arrived in North America as a source of food via European settlers. It is believed that this plant has escaped our gardens and has spread across the region. The taproots of Wild Parsnip are edible, but people should be cautious around this plant. This two to five foot tall plant with yellow flowers is toxic. DO NOT TOUCH! The sap of Wild Parsnip causes a blister rash on human skin. These blisters appear to be similar to a rash caused by Poison Ivy, except these blisters can last for several months and become worse with the sun exposure. Permanent scarring is also possible.

This herbaceous biennial has a smooth, stout, and deeply grooved stem with alternate compound leaves. These compound leaves are comprised of nine leaflets. The lower compound leaves on Wild Parsnip grow up to eighteen inches long and six inches across with long stalks that attach the leaf blade to the stem (petioles). The upper compound leaves are much smaller in length and width with short petioles. The leaves are round and deeply lobed with teeth along the margins.

Wild Parsnip can be found in full bloom beginning in May and through October. The foul-smelling flowers remain in flower for one to two months. This species has a compound umbel, a flower cluster in which stalks of nearly equal length arise from a common center and form a flat or curved surface. The compound umbel consists of fifteen to twenty-five umbellets, a small or partial umbel, and each umbel-let contains twelve to thirty-five flowers. Wild Parsnip flowers have five yellow petals that are one-eighth inches across. These tiny umbellets with their petite flowers appear to look like one large umbrella shape flower, that can grow up to five inches across, on a long stalk. A dry fruit that splits into two or more one-seeded parts (schizocarp) replaces each flower of a Wild Parsnip. These seeds are flat with wings. Wild Parsnip spreads by reseeding itself through the seeds being dispersed by wind. After its seeds are distributed, the foliage of Wild Parsnip turns yellow and withers away.

This species grows well in full and/or partial sun with moist to mesic (moderately moist) conditions. Wild Parsnip also prefers fertile loamy soil. This invasive species is known for attacking our prairies and savannas because of these soil conditions. This plant can also be seen along roadways, pastures and fields, weedy meadows, vacant lots, and waste areas.

The restoration staff at Byron Forest Preserve District is managing the areas where Wild Parsnip is located to eradicate it and, in doing so, provide a region for native species to survive and thrive. We are managing it by controlling and removing this invasive species, whether it is spraying herbicide after a burn and/or hand pulling while wearing personal protective equipment (PPE), gloves, long sleeves, and long pants. Our crew is working diligently to prevent this species, among others, from invading our natural areas.