



July 19, 2022
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Information contact: 309-573-2354
dvdgpittman@gmail.com

**Friends of Rocky Glen hosts Second Annual Kickapoo Creek Festival,
July 29-31 at Wildlife Prairie Park**

July 19-PEORIA-Friends of Rocky Glen (FORG) will host its second Annual Kickapoo Creek Festival, Friday, July 29 through Sunday, July 31 at Wildlife Prairie Park (WPP), 3826 N. Taylor Rd, Hanna City IL.

The Kickapoo Creek Festival is a chance for people of all ages to gather for to learn about the diverse Kickapoo Creek Watershed, a connection of waterways meandering through much of Peoria county before emptying into Kickapoo Creek, connecting central Illinois to the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers and the Gulf of Mexico. The Kickapoo Creek Watershed provides home to diverse native plant, animal and insect species as well as recreational opportunities for residents.

The Kickapoo Creek Festival kicks off Friday, July 29 at 4 p.m. with free camping at the park. A large area will accommodate tent campers. WPP has a number of six-person tents available to use free-of-charge for the weekend.

Festival activities begin Saturday, July 30 with Family Yoga at 8:30 a.m. led by staff from festival sponsor, Soulside Healing Arts. Most festival activities will take place at the Parkside Pavilion Shelter, located across Taylor Rd. from the Wildlife Prairie Park main entrance. The Kickapoo Creek Festival is free-of-charge.

MORE

Other Saturday activities include:

- All day survival camp demonstration provided by Panther Creek Survival and Life Skills at Broken Tree Camp, located 15 minutes walking from the Parkside Pavilion Shelter following directional signs.
- Get in the Water (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and Learn to Fish (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) will give adults and children the chance to swim, canoe and fish in Kickapoo Creek. Parking for these activities is located where Taylor Rd. crosses Kickapoo Creek.
- Vision Quest Meet a Tree, one of the most popular festival activities, challenges guests to identify types of tree while blindfolded.
- Wildlife Prairie Park naturalists and their raptors will visit the festival at 11 a.m. for a close-up look at owls, hawks and vultures.
- Park naturalists also will present *Your Watershed and You*, at 12:30 p.m. to give an overview of the Kickapoo Creek Watershed and the efforts of FORG to create a geo-park to educate the public and preserve its natural and historic beauty.

Festival activities continue in the evening including:

- A grill circle will be set up from 4 to 7 p.m. for campers who wish to prepare an evening meal. FORG will supply grills and charcoal.
- Early evening yoga at 6:45 p.m.
- Sunset Gong Sound Experience featuring Cory Flanigan, Teresa Dev Preet and Jon Byler Dan at 7:45 p.m.
- A bonfire and star gazing guided by members of the Peoria Astronomical Society. Depending on cloud cover, festival guests may have a chance to view the Perseid Meteor Shower.

Parkside Pavilion Shelter will also feature vendors during the day including EcoLawn Organics, University of Illinois Extension, Friends of Kickapoo Creek, Nicole Klinge, Plant Healer and Herbalist, and Zero-Emission Lawn Care.

FORG will supply cold water and fresh fruit during the festival. Festival-guests are encouraged to bring snacks and food to grill for dinner. In addition, FORG will provide information on nearby restaurants for available for festival-guests.

FORG was formed over a decade ago to develop Rocky Glen Park as a recreational area. Volunteers worked for several years to build trails throughout the park. The park was subsequently sold to the Peoria Park District, though FORG volunteers continue to guide hikes and maintain the hiking trails. The group also has worked to preserve a prairie at Horseshoe Bottoms, located at the bottom of St. Mary's Cemetery.

In 2021, the group adopted a mission statement expanding its focus to protect the Kickapoo Creek Watershed using the concept of a geopark which provides a framework to understand the many aspects of a watershed, including biology, geology, botany, wildlife and human land use.

MORE

Since expanding its mission, FORG organized two Kickapoo Creek Watershed clean-up days with volunteers removing XX pounds of trash from Dry Run Creek bordering Illinois Central College (ICC) Peoria campus and behind Metro Centre Shopping Center. The group also has planted native-prairie demonstration gardens at Harold B. Dawson Middle School in West Peoria, The Peoria Riverfront Museum, Donovan Sculpture Park and at a private residence bordering Dry Run Creek in central Peoria.

For information on FORG and its activities and a complete list of Kickapoo Creek Festival activities, visit www.friendsofrokyglen.org or follow them on Facebook @FriendsofRockyGlen.

###