

Chicago River Day 20/20 Scavenger Hunt

Site Cluster: Cal Sag/Palos

Friends of the Chicago River

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1. Hidden Pond Woods – East

Walk the site until you locate an “Ecological Management Site” sign. According to the note posted under this sign, volunteers have been working to restore this site for a certain number of years. Take that number and subtract ten. Now count through the alphabet to find the letter that corresponds to that number (1=a, 2=b, 3=c, etc.).



2. Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center

This beautiful nature center is located at 9800 Willow Springs Road between West 95th Street and West 107th Street. It is one of the nature centers operated by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. If the center is open, feel free to explore. Begin your walk from the front entrance of the nature center. Turn right and take the Farm Pond Trail loop. Shortly, there will be a small pond to your left and homes created for a certain type of animal to your right. What is the double letter in the name of the animals that live in these homes?



3. McClaughry Springs Woods/Palos Park Woods – North

Along Kean Avenue, between Route 83 (Calumet Sag Road) and West 119th Street, are two forest preserves, McClaughry Springs (parking on the west side of the road) and Palos Park – North (parking on the east side of the road). Visit both sites. Each has a footbridge. McClaughry Springs’ is just north of the parking lot. Take a few minutes to hike up to the top of the hill while you’re here. Palos’ bridge is over Kean Avenue and down a slight grade, maybe 300 feet away. What is the 1st letter of the forest preserve with the newer bridge?



4. MWRD Harry “Bus” Yourell SEPA station

Sidestream Elevated Pool Aeration facilities were built by the MWRD to oxygenate the river water. The water is pumped up to a height and allowed to cascade down an artificial waterfall, thus adding oxygen and improving water quality. Follow the trail that begins at the far end of the parking lot. Veer to the left and cross the bridge on the path that leads along the aeration pools. Find the trees that are growing at the end of the first bridge. What is the double letter (and next to each other) in the family (common) name of this tree?



5. Worth boat launch

Follow West 115th Street west of South Harlem Avenue in Worth. The boat launch parking lot is on your left. Proceed down to the river, and take a walk to the docks that are on either side of the boat launch ramp. Find the signs located at the end of each dock. There is something that is not allowed here as described by these signs. What is the 2nd letter of this four-letter word?



6. Lake Katherine Nature Center

Follow the trail past the Environmental Learning Center to the Butterfly Garden. Enjoy the butterfly sculptures as you gaze out at the Cal-Sag Channel in the distance. Continue along the trail, keeping your eyes open for wooden boxes in the trees to your right. Find the one with an orange #6 in the corner. Figure out what animal are these built for (hint: the animal has a two-word name). What is the only letter in both of the words in its name?

How to Play

Unscramble the six letters from your scavenger hunt to spell a river-related word. To submit your entry, please email your six-letter unscrambled word to scavengerhunt@chicagoriver.org. Please include the site cluster name in the subject line of your message. Include your full name, address and phone number. All entries must be received by 5:00 pm on May 11, 2012. Winners will be randomly selected from all correct entries. Prizes – First prize: (1) Two spots on one of Friends’ guided canoe trips in the 2012 season (Children over 5 are welcome if accompanied by an adult). Second prize: (10) Chicago River Day 20/20 T-shirts. Third prize: (20) The Chicago River from Your Window Guides. In addition, the first 500 entries receive one free admission to the McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum. Be an adventurer! The more sites you visit, the better your chances to win!

To learn more about Chicago River Day 20/20: See What You Can Do, please visit www.chicagoriverday20-20.org.