

A River Thru History

Presented by the I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor Civic Center Authority

A Living History Rendezvous

September 14 & 15, 2024

Along the Des Plaines River in Willow Springs

Free parking and shuttle from UPS facility at

7811 Willow Springs Rd.

Fun for the whole family!

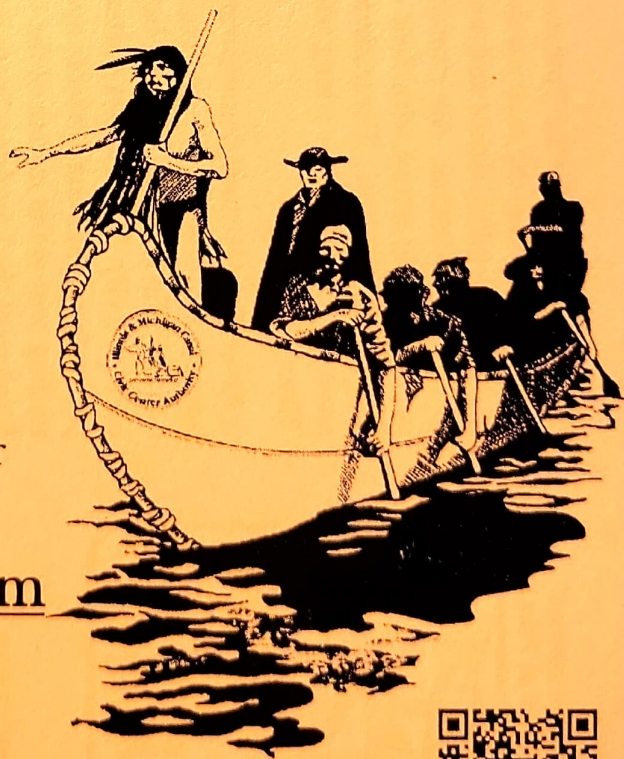
- Music
- Food
- Entertainment
- Canoe Rides and
- So much more!

Full list of activities please visit our
website at

www.ariverthruhistory.com

Saturday Sept 14th 10am–5pm

Sunday Sept 15th 10am–4pm



Sponsored by:



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of Cook County

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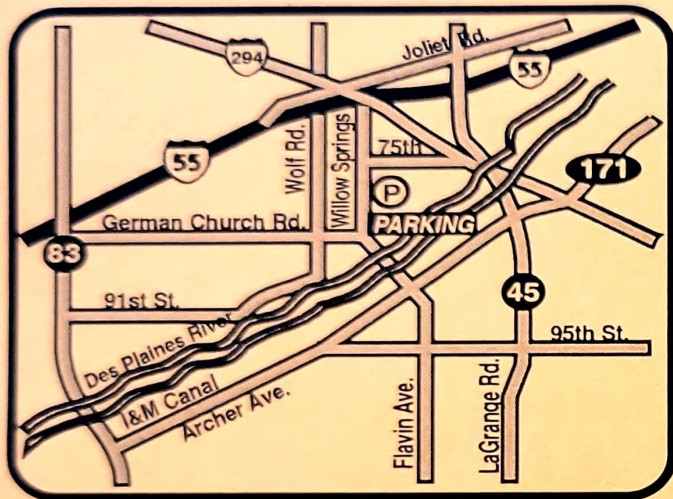
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***NEW LOCATION: Parking at UPS lot
ENTER from Willow Springs Rd at 79th St.**



A River Thru History

The Des Plaines Valley Rendezvous

is a re-creation of life in our area during the Fur Trade Era.

The Fur Trade Era began after the European Explorers, Louis Joliet and Father Marquette, canoed up the Des Plaines River and passed through the Chicago Portage in 1673. It lasted until local Indian tribes left northeastern Illinois after 1833. Rivers were the roads and highways of the continent during those 160 years.

Each fall the Rendezvous was the high point of the year for traders who bartered supplies for furs with local tribes. "Brigades" or "outfits" of voyageurs would bring supplies from the headquarters of fur companies and

collect cured skins/pelts. Sometimes, for as long as two weeks, the men would meet to trade and socialize, dance and sing, eat, drink, fight and race canoes. Afterwards, the brigades would return with their cargoes to Canada and the East. The traders would return to their posts for a long winter in the "Illinois Country".

A River Thru History demonstrates what a rendezvous might have been like along the banks of the Des Plaines River before Chicago became a city. Re-enactors portray life on the prairie from the time DuSable opened the first trading post at the mouth of the Chicago River until the Laughton brothers closed theirs at the Chicago Portage around 1833. We strive to highlight the early history of the 12 towns from Lyons to Lemont that comprise the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor Civic Center Authority.

Discover the rich history and wonderful stories of our region. Watch frontier crafts demonstrated and canoe races on the river, hear authentic music, taste real root beer and kettle corn, feel the hides, pelts, skins and bones of the fur trade. The past comes alive around you in an unforgettable combination of history, entertainment, learning, trading, food and fun.

www.aRiverThruHistory.com