

Immigrant Landscape

10 a.m. on June 22, June 30, and July 13
Sand Ridge Nature Center,
15891 Paxton Ave., South Holland, IL 60473



Sam Cholke, program manager for The Economy

Program Description:

“Immigrant Landscape” explores how Illinois became the second most altered landscape in the United States through an interactive walk and discussion about the economic forces that shaped the environmental history of the state.

In the spring of 2019, Illinois Humanities will lead a series of three public walks at the Sand Ridge Nature Center in South Holland, IL, that will be a moderated conversation between a historian and naturalist about several key periods of Illinois’ economic development and the changes each brought to the state’s landscape. The entry point to discussing each period will be a plant introduced to serve a specific economic need of that time, with a focus on plants now common in the landscape.

Format:

The formal program will consist of a 45-minute walk over approximately one mile with participants interacting with plant specimens and live plants on the trail, followed by 15-20 minutes of question and answer at the nature center. The discussion will be guided by a moderator, who will introduce the reasons specific plants were introduced, allowing the historian to discuss the context of period and the naturalist to elaborate on how specific plants react to humans’ changes to ecosystems.

Presenters:

- Ann Keating, Professor of History at North Central College
- Alex Palmer, Naturalist at Sand Ridge Nature Center of Forest Preserves of Cook County
- Moderated by Gavin Van Horn, Director of Cultures of Conservation at the Center for Humans and Nature

Audience:

As well as a general audience, Illinois Humanities will do targeted outreach to participants that can help us understand how expanding or adapting the project could best add to programming at other natural areas, historic sites, and educational organizations in the Chicago suburbs.

“Immigrant Landscape” is a pilot of Illinois Humanities’ Economy focus area, which strives to start conversations about the economic forces that shaped the state’s history and culture through engagement with the humanities.