



Scott Anderson file photo

An aerial view of the fall colors near Lovers Leap on Oct. 31, 2025 at Starved Rock State Park.

## IDNR announces Starved Rock State Park trail closure

SHAW LOCAL NEWS NETWORK  
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The Illinois Department of Natural Resources recently announced that French Canyon trail access at Starved Rock State Park will be closed through June.

The trail will be closed to accommodate the park's ongoing trail improvement projects.

The trail closures include trailhead access to the top of French Canyon, Starved Rock Lodge parking lot trails and the French Canyon trail behind the park's visitor center. The closures also will include parts of Brown Bluff and Campan-

ula trails.

Starved Rock State Park's existing trail closures include Tonti Canyon and Tonti Bridge, the La Salle Canyon to Tonti Canyon trail, and the west entrance's staircase to the boat ramp area. Hikers should not access areas with construction signage and caution tape.

The park, lodge and amenities will remain open. The park's east end access is available from the visitor center. Visitors can follow the Lovers' Leap trail. Starved Rock State Park's west end to St. Louis Canyon will not be affected.

For more information, visit the park's visitor center or the Starved Rock and Matthiessen state parks Facebook pages.

## Learn to spot clouds on Mars on April 2 in Granville

By TOM COLLINS  
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The Putnam Public Library District's Granville Branch invites the public to join a Citizen Science project, "Do NASA Live - Cloudspotting on Mars," at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 2.

Have you ever wondered what's happening in the Martian sky? Scientists are eager to find out, and now the public can help. Participants will review NASA imagery to identify clouds over Mars, contributing to scientific research on daily and seasonal weather patterns.

Using data from the Mars Climate Sounder aboard the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, attendees will help detect high-altitude water-ice and carbon-dioxide clouds. These observations support ongoing research into Mars's climate and provide clues about the planet's past, including conditions that may have supported


liquid water. Participants will learn to recognize and label cloud features, enabling scientists to study how Martian clouds form and evolve over time.

The program will be in-person at the Granville Branch and livestreamed by SciStarter, allowing participants to contribute data and interact with scientists in real time. Attendees should bring their own devices - laptops are recommended, followed by tablets - and charging cords for the two-hour program.


This event is part of Acts of Science: Connected, a Citizen Science Month collaboration with SciStarter and NASA Citizen Science.

No science background is required - just curiosity and an interest in exploring Mars. The program is geared to adults and youth ages 13 and older.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 815-339-2038 or visit the library at 214 S. McCoy St., Granville.




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