

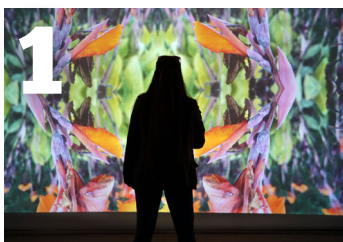
YOUR SPRING CHECKLIST

in the greater Champaign-Urbana area

April–June 2025



MUST-ATTEND EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



1 BONEYARD ARTS FESTIVAL

April 4–6 | boneyardartsfestival.org

Experience Champaign County's vibrant creativity at Boneyard, a three-day celebration featuring over 100 local artists and venues. Explore, shop, and be inspired as art takes over businesses, organizations, and public spaces across the community.

OUTSIDE IN CHAMPAIGN FORESTS

April 12, May 10, June 14 | champaignforests.org

Nature and community come together every second Saturday of the month! Champaign County Forest Preserves and Uniting Pride of Champaign County welcome queer-identifying individuals and allies who share a love for the great outdoors to explore 47 miles of diverse trails across seven preserves.

SATURDAY GARDEN TOURS

April 19, May 17, June 21 | allerton.illinois.edu

Allerton Park & Retreat Center in Monticello boasts 14 formal gardens, and you can experience the beauty of each while listening to the history behind its creation. If you go in May, be sure to check out the spectacular Peony Garden—a visitor favorite!



4 CHRISTIE CLINIC ILLINOIS RACE WEEKEND

April 24–26 | illinoismarathon.com

Need more cardio in your life? Take part in the races: a 1-mile and 5k Friday night, and the 10K, half-marathon, marathon relay, full marathon, and youth run on Saturday. Not a runner? Volunteer—or just cheer on the participants!

FARMERS MARKET SEASON KICK-OFF

May | urbanamarket.org | landconnection.org

Fresh greens, sweet berries, baked goods, locally raised meats, vibrant flowers—farmers market season is finally here! Gather your totes and head to Urbana's Market at the Square, opening May 3, and Champaign's Land Connection Market, starting May 13.



6 FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

Returns May 30 | 40north.org

Downtown Champaign comes alive every Friday this summer with this street-side performance series. Dance and dine to an eclectic mix of rock, hip-hop, bluegrass, jazz, R&B, indie, and more, along with free kids' activities.



Did you know?

According to CoworkingCafe, **Champaign-Urbana ranks as the 2nd best small city for women in tech**, following an impressive jump of 35 positions from last year's study. Using governmental data, CoworkingCafe's annual Women in Tech series ranks metro areas by the share of female tech workers, their earnings, unemployment and health insurance rates, along with broader professional metrics. CU also boasts **increased growth in female tech workers**, with women making up 28% of the region's workforce following a significant **113% increase between 2019 and 2023**.

Interested in starting a business here? Champaign-Urbana is host to the **Illinois Small Business Development Center** at Champaign County EDC. Services are offered **at no cost**, and include help with creating a business plan, market and customer research, accounting systems, international trade, government contracting, and so much more. Visit cusbdc.org for more info.

With the growing trend in **non-alcoholic beverages**, Champaign-Urbana's bar & restaurant scene has adapted with thoughtfully crafted mocktails. Experience Champaign-Urbana created their **CU Mocktail Trail** with over two dozen stops for you to check out for your next happy hour! Get started at: experiencecu.org/experience-passes

If you're looking for your next career move, the **Champaign-Urbana job board** connects you with opportunities across all industries in Champaign County. Set up alerts and get job openings delivered straight to your inbox. Explore now at makeitcu.com/jobs.



Want more ideas for events & activities?
experiencecu.org

Learn more about the community + search for jobs:
makeitcu.com

TOP IDEAS FOR FOOD & DRINK

Caprae at Prairie Fruits Farm

4410 N. Lincoln Ave., Champaign
prairefruits.com/caprae-restaurant

Every meal at Caprae is a direct connection to the farm—and our region's abundant harvest! The very definition of “farm-to-table,” Caprae celebrates local ingredients with the freshest produce, meats, and dairy sourced from their own fields and neighboring farms. Remember to visit the baby goats this spring!

Cheese & Crackers

1715 W. Kirby Ave., Champaign
crackerscheese.com

When only a serious sandwich will do. Sure, Cheese & Crackers offers fresh fish, imported cheeses, and artisan chocolate. They also craft some of the most decadent hand-helds around. Try their Premium Italian with Genoa salami or hot Gourmet Club, grilled in French butter.

Elm City Roastery

208 W. Main St., Urbana | elmcityroastery.com
 Power up your mornings (or afternoons...or evenings) with some Central Illinois-roasted

brew. Located in Downtown Urbana, Elm City Roastery offers handcrafted coffees, espresso, and drinks that feature their single-origin, small-batch coffee. The Due Gatti Latte is truly something special.

Briks Pizzeria

1705 Patton Dr., Mahomet | brikspizzeria.com

Pizza on the patio! Family-owned Briks Pizzeria in Mahomet is an inviting community space featuring brick-oven artisan pies. Gather friends or family and enjoy signatures like their “Brewmaster” pizza (beer cheese, breaded chicken, green onions, and BBQ drizzle) or create your own with a huge variety of toppings.

Ittonken

715 S. Neil St., Champaign

Stop by this brand-new Japanese ramen house for flavorful specialties including house-made broth, oil noodles, stir-fry, and fun drinks. Got a big group? Ittonken has two party rooms available. Bonus: complimentary hot tea and unlimited noodle refills (for dine-in)!

Triptych Brewing

1703 Woodfield Dr., Savoy
triptychbrewing.com

Triptych recently brought home seven gold medals from the Untappd Illinois Awards—and it's easy to see why. Their standout brew, “Forces Way Beyond Our Control,” is aged in a blend of their favorite bourbon barrels, with notes of rickhouse, charred vanilla, and coconut. Make plans to unwind at their taproom!



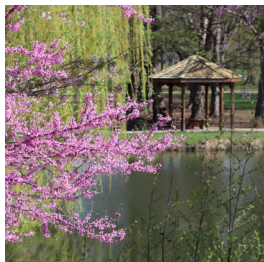
Maple + Yolk

810 W. Killarney St., Urbana | maplenyolk.com

From decadent delights like white chocolate raspberry pancakes to healthier fare steel-cut oatmeal and avocado toast, this brand-new breakfast and lunch spot will satisfy those brunch cravings. Add the all-day mimosas—try the ube!—and your plans are set.

Selfie Spots

Check out these spots and share on Instagram or Bluesky with #experiencecu!



Clockwise from top left

1. Cherry blossoms at the Japan House
2. Mask sculptures at Meadowbrook Park
3. With baby goats at Prairie Fruits Farm & Creamery
4. Champaign Public Library

Stay Active & Involved

Recreational Activities

Pickleball at Urbana's Health & Wellness Center

M-F, 9am-noon | urbanaparks.org

Grab your paddle and head to the brand-new Health & Wellness Center to play in a relaxed atmosphere, hone skills, and meet people! Ages 15+.

Hike Sullivan's Nature Trails

sullivanchamber.com/outdoors

Located near Lake Shelbyville, Sullivan's trails—Tabor Park, Camp Camfield, Okaw Bluff, and Chief Illini—are picturesque and perfect for picnics.

Volunteer Opportunities

Earth Day Invasive Removal, Lake of the Woods

April 22 | champaignforests.org

Join Forest Preserve staff to protect natural places and connect with others. No experience necessary, and all ages are welcome!

Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend

April 25-26 | illinoismarathon.com

If you'd rather rally than run, volunteer to help with the many needs of this huge community event!

PLUG INTO

Job Board + Community Job Application + Chambana Welcome Crew + New to CU Mixers + Chambana Proud Podcast + Chambana Proud Shop
makeitcu.com