

EYES, EARS & CELL PHONES PROGRAM

10 RULES FOR PRESERVE SAFETY



As you head out to enjoy a day in the forest preserves, be sure to have the phone number for the Will County Sheriff's Dispatch programmed into your cell phone. If there is an incident, you will immediately be able to make a call when time matters. Using your "Eyes, Ears and Cell Phones" can make all the difference.

In emergencies, always call 9-1-1. **But for non-emergencies, call the Sheriff's Dispatch at 815.727.6191** and ask to have a Forest Preserve Police Officer sent to your location in any Forest Preserve in Will County. **Add this number to your phone contacts!**

10 RULES FOR PRESERVE SAFETY

- 1 Travel with a partner whenever possible. Always tell someone where you are going and when you will return.
- 2 Do not leave valuables in view in your vehicle. Put them in the trunk prior to your arrival, or leave them at home.
- 3 Always carry your cell phone with you, and add our dispatch number to your contacts: **815.727.6191**.
- 4 Know your location and be aware of your surroundings. If you listen to music, wear only one earbud so you can hear traffic and other trail users.
- 5 Wear a helmet and other personal protective equipment. Know trail conditions and if they are slippery, icy or wet. Travel at safe speeds.
- 6 Be courteous to other trail users. Stay to the right on trails, except when passing. If you have to stop, move off to the shoulder.
- 7 Pass on the left, and give a clear warning signal before you make your move.
- 8 Report suspicious activity as soon as you see it.
- 9 Be a good witness. Get a description, location, direction of travel and license plate number when available. Report incidents immediately.
- 10 Know what time sunset is and be in your vehicle before dark. Forest preserves close at sunset.



Follow these 10 rules to help ensure your time in the forest preserves is enjoyable. Forest Preserve Police Officers are dispatched to all Will County Forest Preserves by the Will County Sheriff's Department regardless of where the preserve is located in Will County.

Program the Sheriff's Dispatch number – 815.727.6191 – into your cell phone for quick reference in non-emergencies.

IN AN EMERGENCY, CALL 9-1-1.

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Forest Preserve District
OF WILL COUNTY
Bringing People and Nature Together

ReconnectWithNature.org



TEN GREAT TRAIL TRIPS!


TOP 10

Looking for a new preserve to explore and a new trail to hike or bike? The Forest Preserve District of Will County has a variety from which to choose your next outing.

For more information on the District's preserves, trails and other offerings, visit ReconnectWithNature.org.




1 Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve

This 891-acre preserve features several interconnecting trails including: 1.89 miles of natural surface trail, 3.15 miles of crushed limestone trail and .38 mile of paved path. On the Plum Creek Greenway trail, hikers will encounter a stunning boardwalk that stretches 40 feet above a ravine. The Crete Township preserve protects forest, savanna, prairie/edge meadow and marsh. 




3 Lake Renwick - Turtle Lake Access

The 3.35-mile paved path in Plainfield travels through the Lake Renwick Preserve, which is home to a variety of plant species, including prairie sundrops and rattlesnake master. Trail travelers are likely to see a wide variety of birds including the great blue heron and great egret that make their home in the nearby Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Nature Preserve. 




5 Old Plank Road Trail

This 21-mile paved trail runs east from Washington Street in Joliet all the way to Western Avenue in Park Forest. Cruise a section of the trail or travel the entire former railroad route. The trail connects to the District's Wauponsee Glacial Trail and the state-owned Illinois & Michigan Canal Trail. 




7 Rock Run Greenway Trail

Ride, run or skate for 9.93 miles on this trail, which stretches southwest from Theodore Marsh in Crest Hill through Rock Run Preserve, Colvin Grove Preserve, Joliet Junior College and Lower Rock Run Preserve in Joliet where it links to the state's Illinois & Michigan Canal Trail. Continue onto the Joliet Junction Trail and the DuPage River Trail to create a 16-mile loop. 




9 Wauponsee Glacial Trail

The District's longest trail travels 22.29 miles from Joliet all the way to the Kankakee River in Custer Park. The trail was developed within two abandoned railroad corridors: Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, Pacific and the Norfolk Southern. The northern 2.8 miles are paved and the remainder is an equestrian-friendly crushed limestone trail. 




2 Hickory Creek Bikeway

The Hickory Creek Bikeway is a 5.93-mile paved path that connects eastern and western sections of Hickory Creek Preserve. Both trail sections wend their way through hilly terrain providing a scenic tour of savanna, prairie and wetlands. The western segment in New Lenox leads to both the 21-mile Old Plank Road Trail and the 7.56-mile Route 30 Bikeway. 




4 Messenger Woods Nature Preserve

The 441-acre preserve in Homer Glen features 1.98 miles of natural surface trail and is known throughout the region for an abundance of wildflowers that carpet the forest floor in spring and early summer. The preserve also protects high-quality woodland, prairie, savanna, wetland and a portion of Spring Creek. 




6 Prairie Bluff Preserve

Bike, hike, in-line skate or cross-country ski on this preserve's 3.21 miles of paved trail in Crest Hill. View prairie restoration efforts as you travel the loop trail, which links to the adjacent Brent Hassert Park and a Forest Preserve District picnic shelter. 



8 Spring Creek Greenway Trail

The western segment of this path is a hilly, crushed limestone loop trail that travels 5.01 miles through Hadley Valley's woodland, savanna and wetland. The preserve includes more than 15,000 species of insects, fish, mammals, amphibians and reptiles. This equestrian-friendly trail in Joliet connects to Pilcher Park pathways that are owned by the Joliet Park District. 



10 DuPage River Trail

A 2.55-mile segment of the DuPage River Trail loops around Whalon Lake, a popular preserve in Naperville that features an 80-acre lake. The flat, paved trail travels through prairie and wetland before it connects by boardwalk to an existing bridge over the DuPage River and leads to the Hidden Lakes Historic Trout Farm in Bolingbrook. 