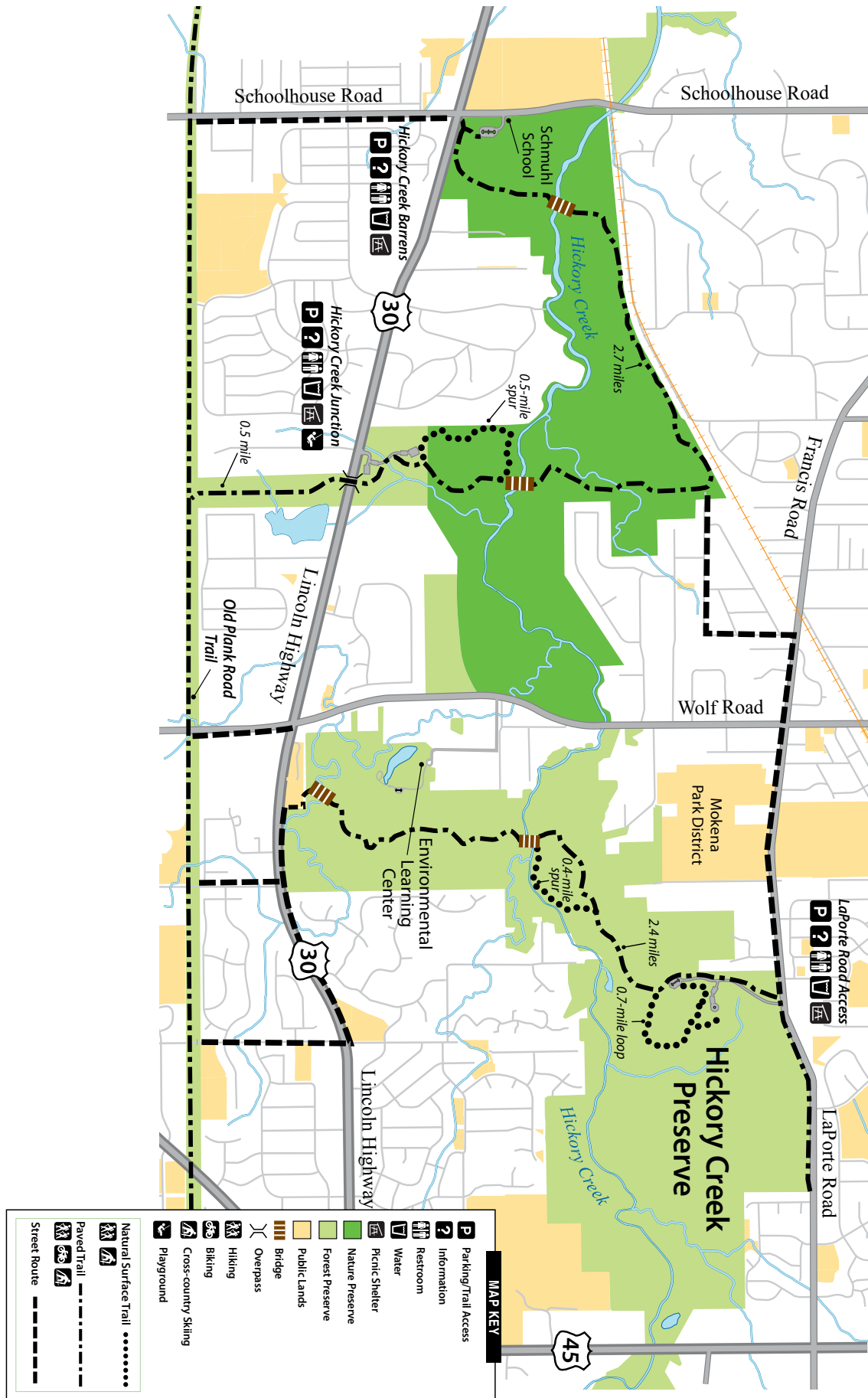


Hickory Creek Preserve



Directions to Preserve:

Hickory Creek Barrens Nature Preserve is located on Schoolhouse Road just north of Route 30 in New Lenox.

Hickory Creek Preserve – Hickory Creek Junction is on Route 30, 1 mile west of Wolf Road in Mokena.

Hickory Creek Preserve – LaPorte Road Access is on LaPorte Road, 1 mile east of Wolf Road in Mokena.

For information, please call 815.727.8700 or visit ReconnectWithNature.org.



Forest Preserve District of Will County

Hickory Creek Preserve

This 1,600-acre preserve started with a 139-acre purchase in 1942. The bulk of Hickory Creek Preserve was protected in the 1970s and '80s for a regional stormwater reservoir, which was never constructed. It is the District's largest individual preserve, and is dominated by various woodland and aquatic habitats, and several education and recreation areas.

In 1998, the District dedicated 575 acres of the western portion of the preserve as the Hickory Creek Barrens Nature Preserve, providing protection for a unique ecosystem consisting of a large mosaic complex of prairie-forest transition that includes prairie and savanna, and a silt-loam barrens community. The site provides habitat for both federally and state-threatened flora and fauna.

The following educational facilities are found in Hickory Creek Preserve:

- The historic one-room Schmuhl School Museum owned by the New Lenox Historical Society.
- The District's Environmental Learning Center, which provides training to teachers, environmental educators, school and youth groups, and the public. The site includes outdoor camping and a yurt.

Preserve and Trail Hours

Hours for the Rookery are 6 a.m. to sunset, April through October and 8 a.m. to sunset, November through March.

Trail Hours - The following select preserves are open sunrise to sunset to provide access to biking trails:

- I&M Canal Access, Joliet (I&M Canal Trail)
- Hickory Creek Junction, Mokena (OPRT)
- Black Road Access, Joliet (Rock Run Trail)
- Paul V. Nichols Access, Joliet (Rock Run Trail)
- Sugar Creek Administration Center, Joliet (WGT)
- Manhattan Road Access, Manhattan (WGT)
- Symerton Road Access, Symerton (WGT)

Information

Call 815.727.8700 weekdays to receive free informational brochures, such as:

Map & Guide to the Forest Preserve
County map showing preserve locations and complete recreational information.

The Citizen
Quarterly newsletter detailing family programs and preserve happenings.

Or visit *ReconnectWithNature.org* for more information and to request brochures or other trail maps.

In an Emergency, Call 9-1-1.

Please give the location and nature of the emergency.

In non-emergencies, call the Will County Sheriff's dispatch at 815.727.6191 to reach a Forest Preserve District Officer.

Trail Etiquette

- Slower traffic should stay to the right of the trail. Bicyclists should pass on the left, politely announcing "Passing on the left."
- While in a group, leave room for others to pass.
- Dogs are welcome on most trails but must be leashed. Cleaning up dog waste is required by ordinance. Dogs are not allowed in preserves designated as Nature Preserves.
- No Forest Preserve trail is designed for motorized use. Assistive motorized devices permitted.