



Forest Preserve District of Will County

WOODS WALK

September 1–November 30

2021 Hiking Guide

Welcome to Woods Walk 2021

1 Each hiker should have his or her own *Woods Walk 2021 Hiking Guide*. For additional booklets, call or pick them up at one of our visitor centers (see opposing page), where you can get additional information and perhaps purchase a walking stick. For directions to the preserves, visit *ReconnectWithNature.org*.

2 Hike seven of the 10 designated trails between Wednesday, September 1, and Tuesday, November 30, to receive a collector's medal. Look for the Woods Walk signs along designated trails, and be sure to bring your camera to catch a unique nature shot. That special shot can be entered into our photo contest. Visit *ReconnectWithNature.org/Preserve-the-Moment* to submit your photo.

3 Turn in your *2021 Hiking Guide* (with the back inside page completed) to one of our visitor centers, mail in the form on the back inside page or visit *ReconnectWithNature.org/Woods-Walk-Travel-Log-Submission* and fill in the online form by Friday, December 31, 2021, to receive your medal.

Questions? Call 815.727.8700 or visit:

Sugar Creek Administration Center

815.727.8700

Located on Laraway Road, 0.5 mile east of Route 53 in Joliet.

Hours: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Isle a la Cache Museum

815.886.1467

Located on 135th Street, 0.5 mile east of Route 53 in Romeoville.

Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday & noon-4 p.m. Sunday.

Monee Reservoir

708.534.8499

Located on Ridgeland Avenue, west of Route 50 and south of Pauling Road, 2 miles south of Monee.

Monee Reservoir is open Tuesday-Sunday from March-November.

Hours: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in March; 6 a.m.-7 p.m. from April-September; & 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in October and November.

Plum Creek Nature Center

708.946.2216

Located in Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve, 1.25 miles east of the intersection of Route 1 and Route 394 on Goodenow Road, in Crete Township.

Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday & noon-4 p.m. Sunday.

Evans-Judge Nature Trail

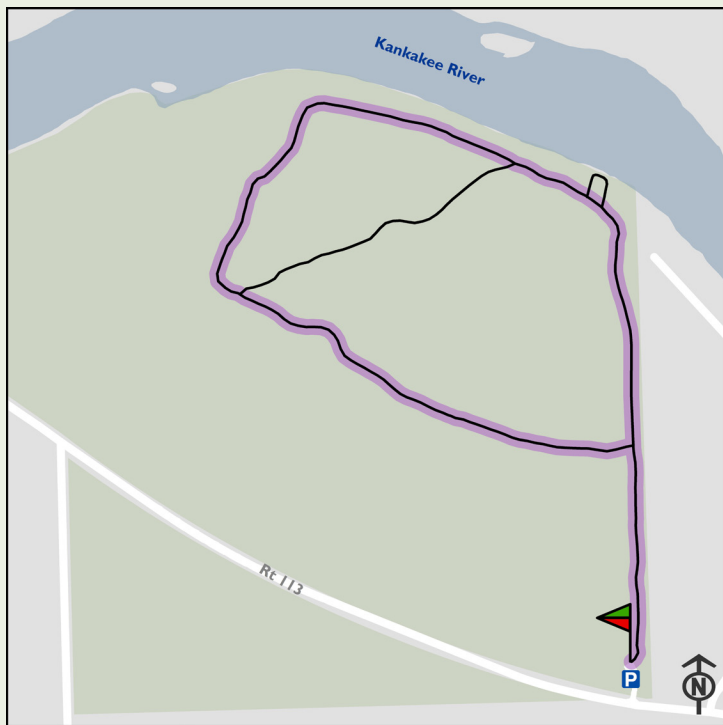
Evans-Judge Preserve

Location

Evans-Judge Preserve is located on Route 113, south of the Kankakee River and west of Kankakee River State Park in Wilmington.

Notable Features

- The 182-acre Evans-Judge Preserve was acquired between 2002 and 2003. The preserve is part of the Kankakee River preservation system, which conserves approximately 340 acres.
- Because the preserve was originally an island, the trail may get muddy at times due to flooding and may be periodically closed for safety.
- Evans-Judge Preserve protects a diversity of habitats, including forest, savanna, wetland and a portion of the Kankakee River.
- The preserve offers access to shoreline fishing on the Kankakee River.



Evans-Judge Nature Trail

Evans-Judge Preserve

Surface Type: Natural Surface

Woods Walk Route Round Trip: 1.5 miles

Hickory Creek Bikeway to Old Plank Road Trail

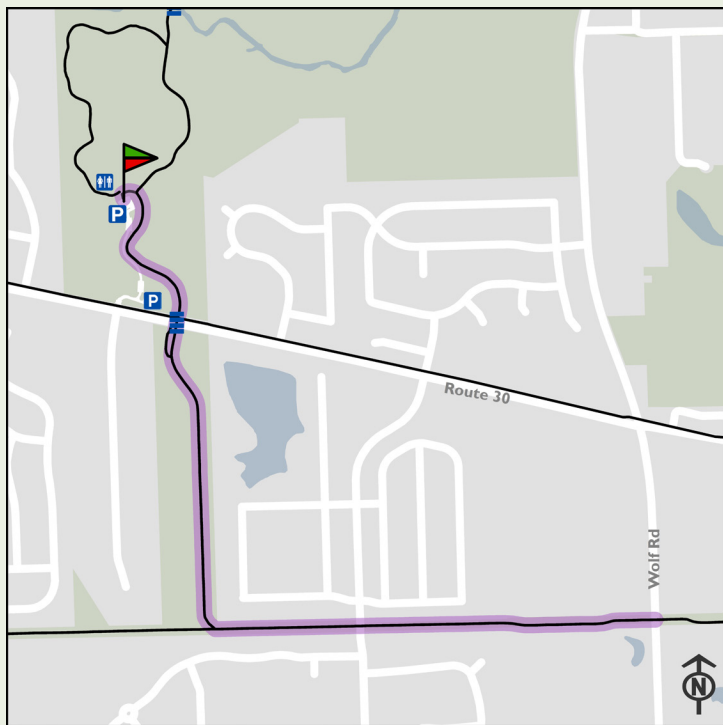
Hickory Creek Junction

Location

Hickory Creek Preserve – Hickory Creek Junction is located on Route 30/Lincoln Highway, west of Wolf Road in Mokena.

Notable Features

- Hickory Creek Junction is one of three access areas to the 1,541-acre preserve, which protects a diversity of habitats, including forest, prairie, savanna, wetland and a portion of Hickory Creek.
- Hickory Creek Junction provides access to the 3.75-mile paved western segment of the Hickory Creek Bikeway and connects via a 0.65-mile trail to the 22-mile Old Plank Road Trail.
- Old Plank Road Trail was acquired between 1992 and 2006. Prior to the District's acquisition of the land, it was an abandoned railroad. Before the railroad's construction, the corridor was originally secured to build a wagon and horse road using wood planks, but the road was never built. The trail is jointly owned and managed by members of the Old Plank Road Trail Management Commission.



**Hickory Creek Bikeway to
Old Plank Road Trail**
Hickory Creek Junction

Surface Type: Asphalt

Woods Walk Route Round Trip: 3.22 miles

Lake Renwick Bikeway

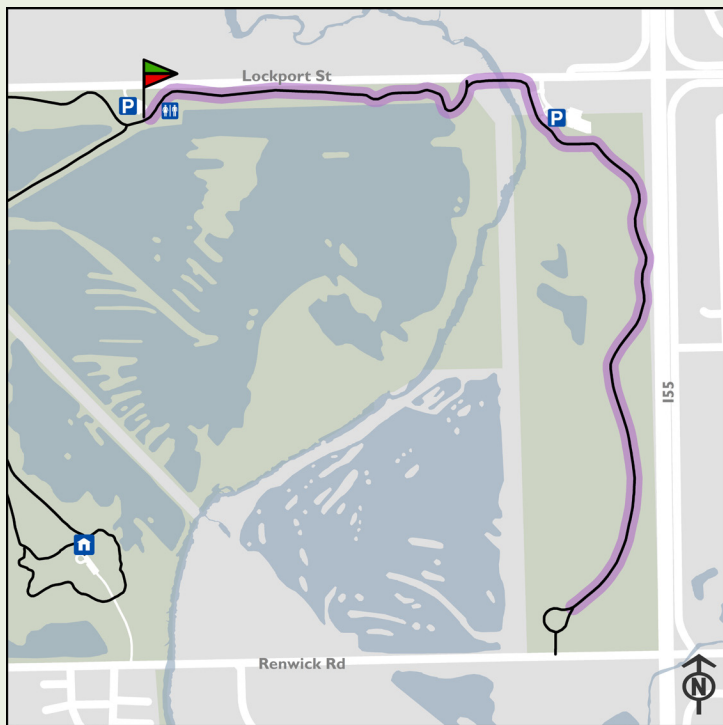
Lake Renwick Preserve – Turtle Lake Access

Location

Lake Renwick Preserve – Turtle Lake Access is located on Lockport Street, east of Division Street in Plainfield.

Notable Features

- The 839-acre Lake Renwick Preserve was acquired between 1989 and 2010. The preserve is part of the Lily Cache Creek preservation system, which conserves approximately 1,000 acres.
- A 149-acre portion of the site was registered as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve in 2003. This registration provides permanent protection for the natural resources at the preserve.
- Turtle Lake Access offers shoreline fishing in designated areas of Turtle and Budde Lakes. Catch-and-release fishing is encouraged.
- Lake Renwick Preserve protects a 200-acre lake with associated wetland habitat. Wildlife found at the preserve includes a variety of bird species, such as the great blue heron and great egret. The preserve also includes a variety of plant species, including prairie sundrops and rattlesnake master.



Lake Renwick Bikeway

Lake Renwick Preserve – Turtle Lake Access

Surface Type: Asphalt

Woods Walk Route Round Trip: 3.6 miles

Normantown Trail

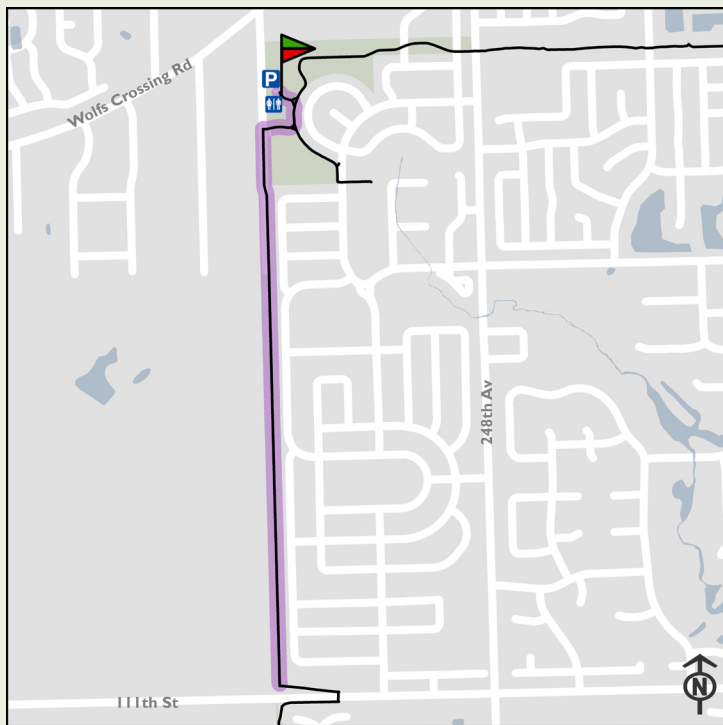
Vermont Cemetery Preserve

Location

Vermont Cemetery Preserve is located on Normantown Road, south of Wolfs Crossing Road in Naperville.

Notable Features

- Normantown Trail travels 2.6 miles from Vermont Cemetery Preserve south to 119th Street in Naperville. The northern 2.43 miles of this trail segment are paved, and the 0.17-mile southern portion is a shared-use road which allows vehicles to access Rockwell Lane from 119th Street.
- The trail is jointly owned and managed by the Forest Preserve, the Village of Plainfield and the City of Naperville. Eventually, the Forest Preserve District will own and manage 2.3 miles of the total path distance.
- The northern end of Normantown Trail connects to the 4.04-mile paved Tall Grass Greenway Trail at Vermont Cemetery Preserve in Naperville. A paved path then extends from the Tall Grass Greenway Trail north along Naperville-Plainfield Road and then east and south along 95th Street to the multi-jurisdictional DuPage River Trail.



Normantown Trail

Vermont Cemetery Preserve

Surface Type: Asphalt

Woods Walk Route Round Trip: 2.95 miles

Rock Run Greenway Trail

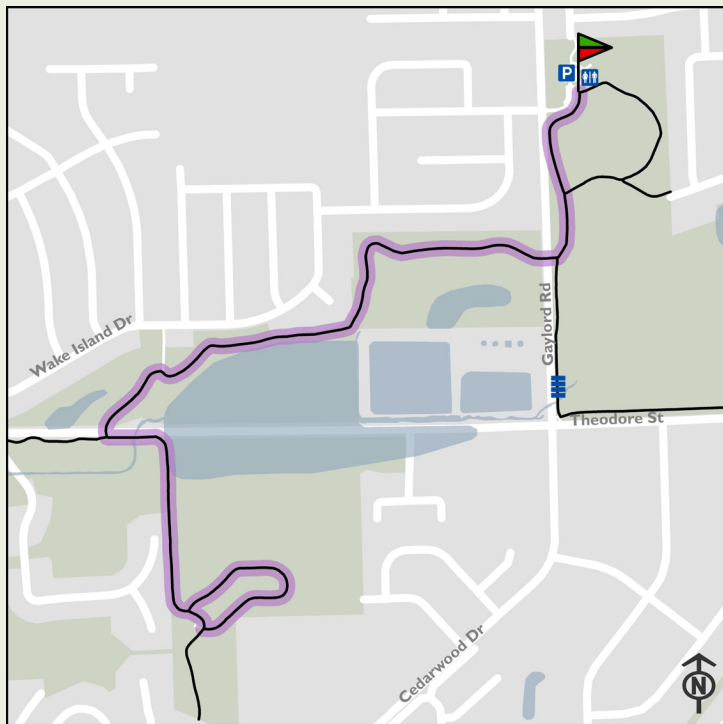
Theodore Marsh

Location

Theodore Marsh is located on Gaylord Road, north of Theodore Street in Crest Hill.

Notable Features

- The 288-acre Theodore Marsh was acquired between 1994 and 2009. The preserve is part of the Rock Run preservation system, which conserves more than 1,450 acres.
- A 140-acre portion of the site was registered as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve in 2003, providing permanent protection for the land's natural resources.
- Theodore Marsh protects a diversity of habitats. Wildlife found there includes more than 100 bird species, such as the pie-billed grebe. Various plant species can also be seen at this preserve, including velvety white vervain.
- The preserve provides access to the 11.24-mile paved Rock Run Greenway Trail and the 4.36-mile paved Joliet Junction Trail.



Rock Run Greenway Trail

Theodore Marsh

Surface Type: Asphalt

Woods Walk Route Round Trip: 2.93 miles

Scout Trail to Plum Creek Greenway Trail

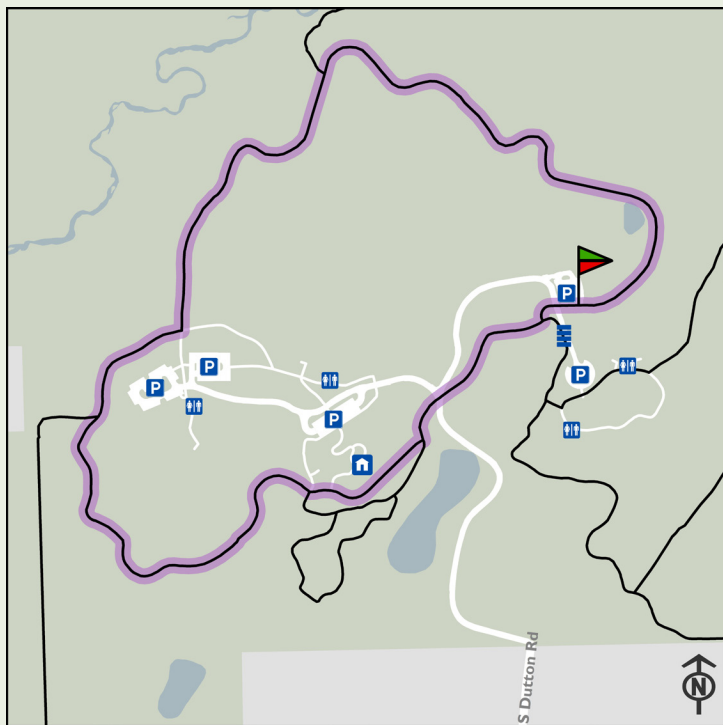
Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve

Location

Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve is located on Dutton Road, north of Goodenow Road in Beecher.

Notable Features

- The 891-acre Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve was acquired between 1938 and 2007. The preserve is part of the Plum Creek preservation system, which conserves more than 2,300 acres. Prior to the District's acquisition of the land, the preserve was used as a Boy Scout camp. A 541-acre portion of the site was dedicated as an Illinois Nature Preserve in 1996.
- The preserve is home to several state-threatened or endangered plant species, including the spotted coral-root orchid and ear-leafed foxglove.
- Goodenow Grove offers five trail options, including the 0.78-mile gravel-surface Scout Trail and the 3.15-mile limestone Plum Creek Greenway Trail.
- The preserve features the Plum Creek Nature Center, which offers nature education opportunities for families, school groups and youth groups and a natural outdoor playscape.



**Scout Trail to
Plum Creek Greenway Trail
Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve**

Surface Type: Gravel/Limestone Screenings
Woods Walk Route Round Trip: 1.5 miles

Spring Creek Greenway Trail

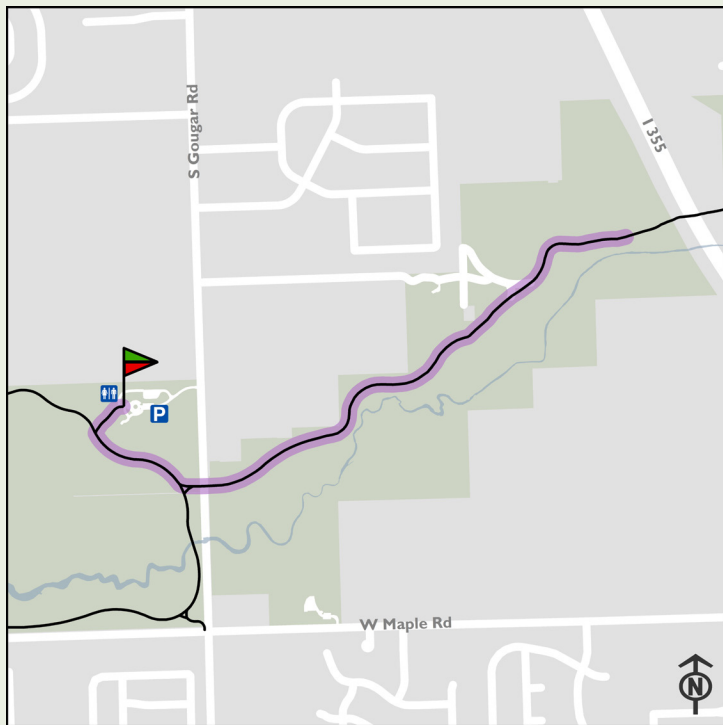
Hadley Valley – Gougar Road Access

Location

Hadley Valley – Gougar Road Access is located on Gougar Road, north of Route 6/Maple Road in Joliet.

Notable Features

- The 807-acre Hadley Valley was acquired between 2000 and 2014. The preserve is part of the Spring Creek preservation system, which conserves more than 2,000 acres.
- Hadley Valley protects a diversity of habitats, including forest, savanna, wetland and a portion of Spring Creek. Wildlife found at the preserve includes more than 15,000 species of insects, birds, aquatic invertebrates, fish, mammals, amphibians and reptiles.
- The preserve is the location of the largest restoration effort in the District's history, performed in partnership with the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, Openlands, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the O'Hare Modernization Program.
- The western segment of the Spring Creek Greenway Trail is a hilly, crushed limestone loop and linear trail traveling through woodland, savanna and wetland.



Spring Creek Greenway Trail

Hadley Valley – Gougar Road Access

Surface Type: Limestone Screenings

Woods Walk Route Round Trip: 2.62 miles

Thorn Creek Preserve Trail

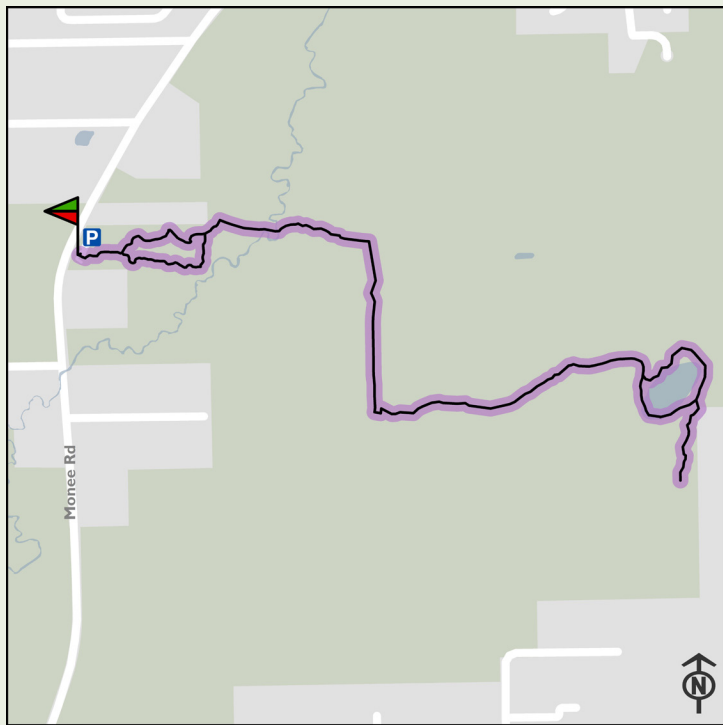
Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve

Location

Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve is located on Monee Road, north of Stuenkel Road in Park Forest and University Park.

Notable Features

- The 1,026-acre Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve was acquired between 1974 and 2006. The preserve is part of the Thorn Creek preservation system, which conserves approximately 1,600 acres.
- The preserve is jointly owned by the Forest Preserve District and the villages of Park Forest and University Park, and is managed by the Thorn Creek Woods Management Commission composed of the landowners and the Friends of Thorn Creek Woods.
- An 884-acre portion of the site was dedicated as an Illinois Nature Preserve in 1978, 1993 and 2001.
- Wildlife found there includes southern flying squirrels, warblers, woodpeckers and a variety of hawk species.
- Thorn Creek Woods features a nature center, which was converted from a historic 1862 church. The nature center offers nature education opportunities for families.



Thorn Creek Preserve Trail

Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve

Surface Type: Natural Surface

Woods Walk Route Round Trip: 1.95 miles

Trail of the Old Oaks

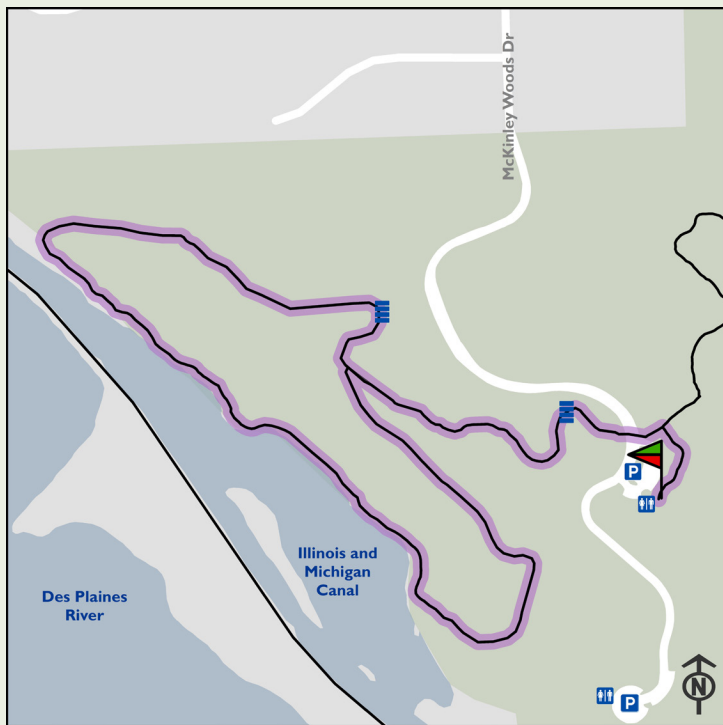
McKinley Woods – Frederick's Grove

Location

McKinley Woods – Frederick's Grove is located on McKinley Woods Road, south of Route 6/Eames Street in Channahon.

Notable Features

- The 525-acre McKinley Woods was acquired between 1931 and 2004. The preserve is part of the Des Plaines River preservation system, which conserves more than 2,400 acres.
- Prior to the District's acquisition of the land, it was used as a Civilian Conservation Corps camp, and the Frederick's Grove Shelter is a remnant of that camp.
- McKinley Woods protects a diversity of habitats, including forest, prairie, wetland and a portion of the Des Plaines River. Wildlife found at the preserve includes the queen snake and 99 bird species, such as the cedar waxwing, bald eagle and purple martin.
- Frederick's Grove features 2.35 miles of natural surface trails. It also provides access to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' 61.5-mile crushed limestone I&M Canal State Trail.



Trail of the Old Oaks

McKinley Woods – Frederick's Grove

Surface Type: Natural Surface

Woods Walk Route Round Trip: 1.5 miles

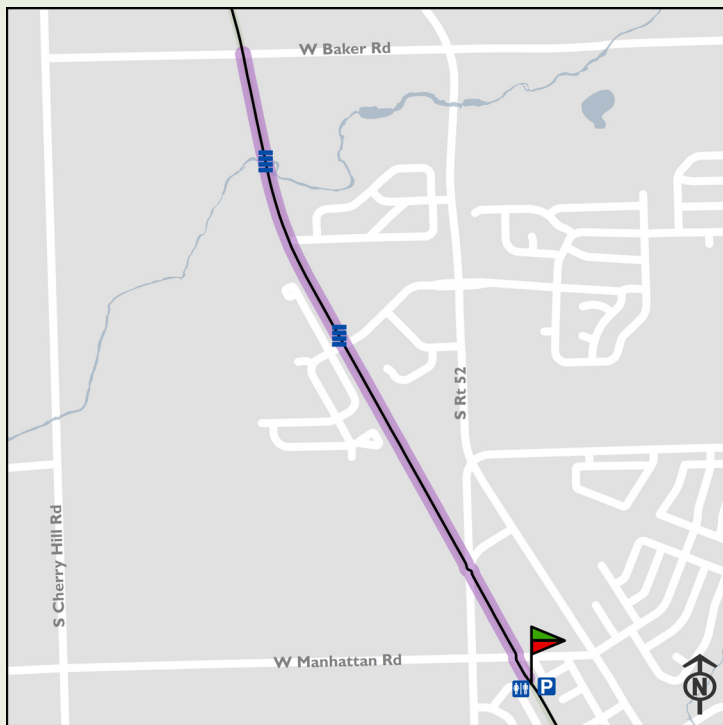
Wauponsee Glacial Trail – Manhattan Road Access

Location

Wauponsee Glacial Trail – Manhattan Road Access is located south of Manhattan Road and east of Gougar Road in Manhattan.

Notable Features

- The 275-acre Wauponsee Glacial Trail was acquired between 2004 and 2016.
- Prior to the District's acquisition of the land, it was two abandoned railroads: Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific from Joliet to Manhattan and the Wabash/Norfolk Southern from Manhattan to Custer Park.
- The trail travels 22.42 miles from Joliet south through Manhattan, Symerton and Florence and Wesley townships to Custer Park.
- South of Manhattan, the Wauponsee Glacial Trail connects to the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie trail system, managed by the U.S. Forest Service.



Wauponsee Glacial Trail - Manhattan Road Access

Surface Type: Limestone Screenings

Woods Walk Route Round Trip: 3.4 miles

**DON'T BE A
ZOMBIE
BE PREPARED**



SPECIAL EXHIBITION

**Saturday, September 4
-Sunday, November 28**

**10 a.m.-4 p.m.,
Tuesdays-Saturdays
Noon-4 p.m.,
Sundays**

**Plum Creek Nature Center,
Crete Township**

**This free exhibit will
motivate you in a fun and
active way to be prepared for
a natural disaster. Navigate
a maze that takes emergency
preparedness very seriously.
Can you survive a zombie
apocalypse?**

**This on-loan exhibit from Purdue University Agricultural Design Center
is open to all ages and is brought to the Forest Preserve through funding
provided by The Nature Foundation of Will County.**

**FOREST
PRESERVE
DISTRICT
WILL COUNTY**



**Visit *ReconnectWithNature.org*
for more information.**



PRESERVE MOMENT

PHOTO CONTEST

Grab your camera and participate in the 2021 photo contest! It's sure to be our best one to date.

THE DETAILS

TIME PERIOD: This year's contest runs through December 31.

ENTRY RULES: Any submitted photos must have been taken in a Will County forest preserve during the contest period. A complete list of rules can be found at ReconnectWithNature.org/Preserve-the-Moment-Contest-Rules.

TAKE FIVE: You can submit up to five photos per month, so choose wisely.

MONTHLY PHOTO JUDGING: Each month a panel of judges will select the top shot from that time period. That photo will then advance to the final round of judging.

ONLINE PARTICIPATION: After the contest ends, the top photo from each month will be posted for online judging by the public.

A GIFT JUST FOR PARTICIPATING: Each person who submits a photo receives a gift.



WINNING PRIZES

- 1st Place: \$500 MasterCard gift card
- 2nd Place: \$250 MasterCard gift card
- 3rd Place: \$150 MasterCard gift card

Monthly finalists will receive a \$75 MasterCard gift card. Plus, at the conclusion of the contest, three participants will randomly be chosen to each receive a \$75 MasterCard gift card.

The photo contest is sponsored by:
the  Nature Foundation of Will County

**FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
WILL COUNTY**

Bringing People and Nature Together



Visit ReconnectWithNature.org
for more information.



Be an Explorer. Be Awestruck. Be Adventurous.

Watch “The Buzz”

**@ 8:30 p.m. the last Wednesday of
every month on Facebook**

This nationally award-winning nature program will inspire you with its exploration of the forest preserves of Will County and the wildlife that call these special places home. See the scenic beauty that Will County has to offer, investigate parts of the preserves that the public seldom sees up close, and celebrate the wonder of nature that's all around us. Want to watch “The Buzz” at a later time? See past episodes on Facebook, YouTube and on a number of local cable stations. Check your local listings for air times.

**FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
WILL COUNTY**

Bringing People and Nature Together



To receive your Woods Walk medal, please visit *ReconnectWithNature.org/Woods-Walk-Travel-Log-Submission*, stop by one of the Forest Preserve District visitor centers (see Page 2) with this completed form in hand or fill in this form and mail it to:

Woods Walk
c/o Sugar Creek Administration Center
17540 W. Laraway Road
Joliet, IL 60433

Name_____

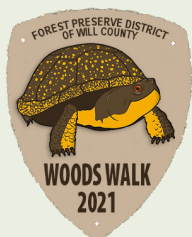
Address_____

Email_____

Please check the trails you hiked:

- ☐ Evans-Judge Nature Trail
- ☐ Hickory Creek Bikeway to Old Plank Road Trail
- ☐ Lake Renwick Bikeway
- ☐ Normantown Trail
- ☐ Rock Run Greenway Trail
- ☐ Scout Trail to Plum Creek Greenway Trail
- ☐ Spring Creek Greenway
- ☐ Thorn Creek Preserve Trail
- ☐ Trail of the Old Oaks
- ☐ Wauponsee Glacial Trail

Complete trails at seven of the 10 designated sites, and receive a 2021 collector's medal for your walking stick, hat or backpack.



Preserve Hours 8 a.m. to sunset

ReconnectWithNature.org



Woods Walk is sponsored by:
the **Nature Foundation** of Will County

In providing programs and services to the public, the Forest Preserve District will make reasonable modifications to ensure that all people have an equal opportunity to enjoy its offerings. For more information, visit *ReconnectWithNature.org/ADA*.

FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
WILL COUNTY

Bringing People and Nature Together

