



Forest Preserve District of Will County

WOODS WALK

September 1 – November 30

2020 Hiking Guide

Welcome to Woods Walk 2020

1 Each hiker should have his or her own *Woods Walk 2020 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 September 1 and 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 that unique nature shot. That extra special shot can be entered into our photo contest. Visit *ReconnectWithNature.org/Preserve-the-Moment* to submit your photo.

3 Turn in your *2020 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 *willcountywoodswalk.com* and fill in the online form by December 31, 2020 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: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Isle a la Cache Museum • 815.886.1467

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

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

Monee Reservoir • 708.534.8499

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

Hours: Tuesday-Sunday, March: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. April: 6 a.m.-5 p.m., May-September 14: 6 a.m.-7 p.m., September 15-October: 6 a.m.-5 p.m., November: 8 a.m.-4 p.m., December-February: Closed

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

Four Rivers Environmental Education Center

815.722.9470

Located on Walnut Lane, off of Blackberry Lane south of Bridge Street, in Channahon.

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

Centennial Trail

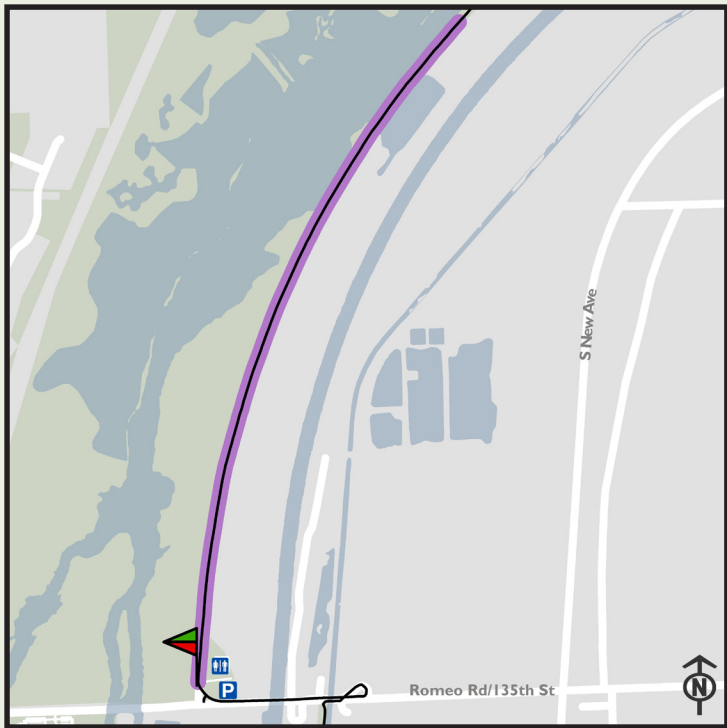
Schneider's Passage

Location

Schneider's Passage is located east of Route 53 on Romeo Road/135th Street in Romeoville.

Notable Features

- Centennial Trail is a 3.26-mile, linear paved trail. It is a flat trail that travels along the Des Plaines River through woodland and features a historic swing bridge.
- At Schneider's Passage in Romeoville, the Centennial Trail overlaps a portion of the 4.73-mile, linear paved Veterans Memorial Trail.
- At the Cook County line, the north end of the trail connects to the Forest Preserve District of Cook County's Centennial Trail.
- South of Schneider's Passage in Romeoville, the Centennial Trail links to a 3.17-mile crushed limestone segment of the I&M Canal Trail.



Centennial Trail Schneider's Passage

Surface Type: Asphalt

Total Mileage of Woods Walk Route: 3.02

DuPage River Trail – Whalon Lake Loop

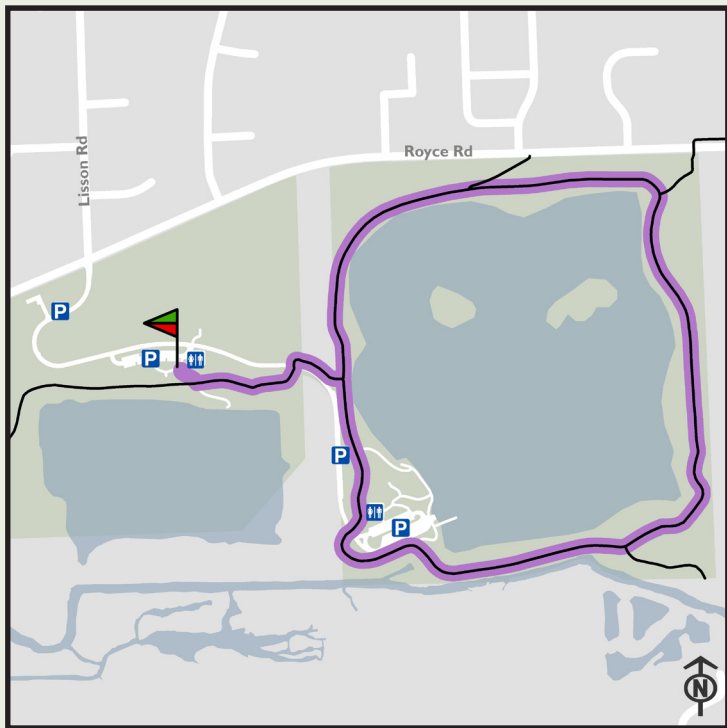
Whalon Lake

Location

Whalon Lake is located on Royce Road, west of Route 53/ Bolingbrook Drive, in Naperville.

Notable Features

- The 249-acre Whalon Lake is part of the DuPage River preservation system, which conserves more than 1,500 acres.
- Whalon Lake protects a diversity of habitats, including prairie, wetland, an 80-acre lake and a portion of the DuPage River. Wildlife found at the preserve includes a variety of waterfowl. The preserve is also home to a variety of plant species, including red mulberry and wild leek.
- The preserve features a fenced 11.9-acre off-leash dog park, including a 1.9-acre pen for dogs under 35 pounds. A permit is required for dog park use.
- The preserve offers access to shoreline fishing on its 80-acre lake. The lake is stocked with bluegill, black crappie, largemouth bass, channel catfish and walleye.



DuPage River Trail – Whalon Lake Loop

Whalon Lake

Surface Type: Asphalt

Total Mileage of Woods Walk Route: 2.06

I&M Canal State Trail

Lower Rock Run Preserve

– I&M Canal Access

Location

Lower Rock Run Preserve – I&M Canal Access is located on Houbolt Road/Hollywood Road, north of Route 6/Channahon Road, in Joliet.

Notable Features

- The 372-acre Lower Rock Run Preserve is part of the Rock Run preservation system, which conserves more than 1,450 acres.
- Lower Rock Run Preserve protects a diversity of habitats, including forest, prairie, savanna, wetland and a portion of Rock Run. Wildlife found at the preserve includes the northern water snake and eastern kingbird. The preserve is also home to a variety of plant species, including the leather flower, white water lily and prairie phlox.
- The Rock Run Greenway Trail and I&M Canal State Trail both connect to the 4.36-mile, paved Joliet Junction Trail to provide a 16-mile, mostly paved loop trail.



**I&M Canal State Trail
Lower Rock Run Preserve
– I&M Canal Access**

Surface Type: Limestone Screenings

Total Mileage of Woods Walk Route: 2.96

I&M Canal Trail

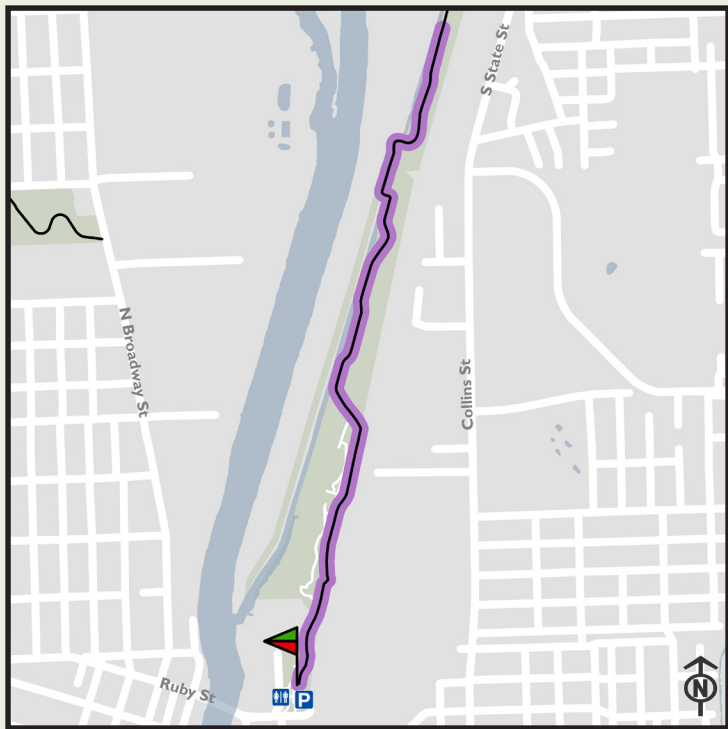
Joliet Iron Works Historic Site

Location

Joliet Iron Works Historic Site is located on Columbia Street, east of Route 53/Scott Street, in Joliet.

Notable Features

- The 52-acre Joliet Iron Works Historic Site 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 the site of an iron manufacturing facility from the late 1800s to the early 1900s. Cultural resources protected at the preserve include foundations of the blast furnaces and other structures from the dismantled factory. A 0.59-mile paved trail provides a self-guided interpretive tour of the site's historical significance.
- Amenities include a picnic shelter, restroom facilities and drinking water.



I&M Canal Trail

Joliet Iron Works Historic Site

Surface Type: Asphalt & Limestone Screenings

Total Mileage of Woods Walk Route: 3.04

Kankakee Sands Trail

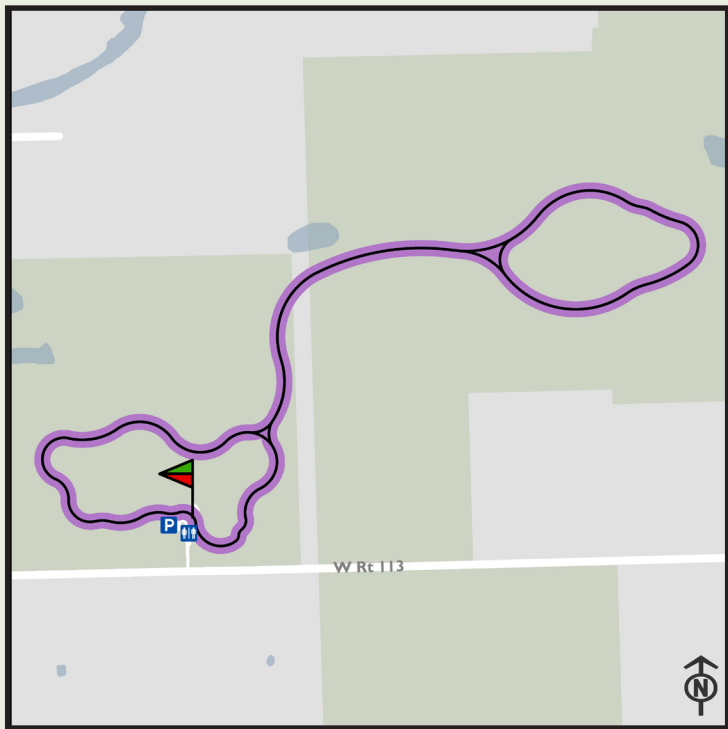
Kankakee Sands Preserve

Location

Kankakee Sands Preserve is located north of Route 113 and west of West River Road in Custer Township.

Notable Features

- The 555-acre Kankakee Sands Preserve is part of the Kankakee Sands preservation system, which conserves more than 1,200 acres.
- Kankakee Sands Preserve protects savanna and wetland habitat.
- A unique feature of the site is its sand dunes and savanna.
- The preserve is home to a variety of plant species, including oaks.
- The site is managed with invasive species control, prescribed burning and habitat restoration to protect and enhance its natural resources.



Kankakee Sands Trail

Kankakee Sands Preserve

Surface Type: Limestone Screenings

Total Mileage of Woods Walk Route: 2.97

Old Plank Road Trail Hickory Creek Preserve – 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

- The Old Plank Road Trail travels 22 miles from Joliet east through New Lenox, Frankfort, Matteson, Park Forest and Chicago Heights.
- The 135-acre 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 had originally been secured to build a wagon and horse road using wood planks, but the road was never built.



Old Plank Road Trail
Hickory Creek Preserve
– Hickory Creek Junction

Surface Type: Asphalt

Total Mileage of Woods Walk Route: 3.00

Plum Creek Greenway Trail

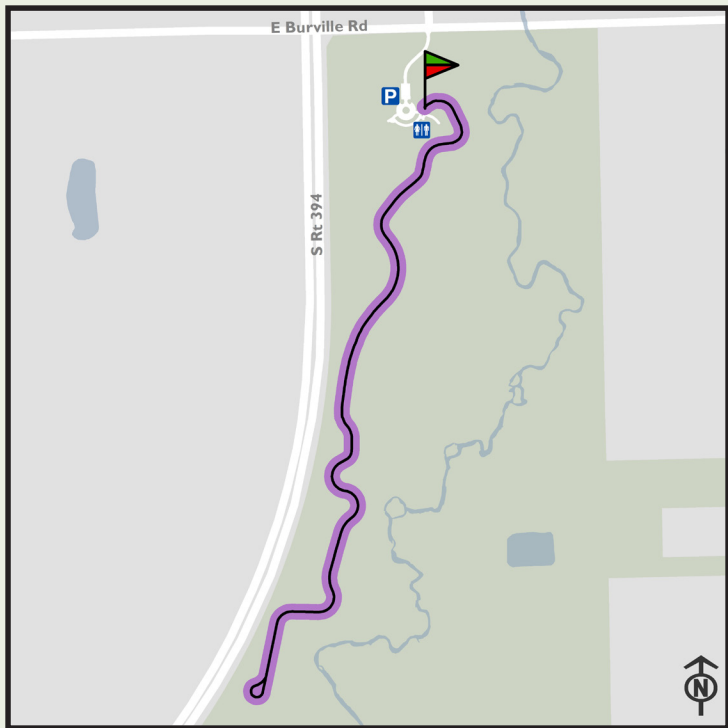
Plum Valley Preserve

Location

Plum Valley Preserve is located south of Burville Road and east of Route 394 in Crete Township.

Notable Features

- The 455-acre Plum Valley Preserve is part of the Plum Creek preservation system, which conserves more than 2,300 acres.
- Plum Valley Preserve protects forest and wetland habitat, and a portion of Plum Creek. Wildlife found at the preserve includes a variety of reptiles and birds. The preserve is also home to a variety of plant species, including lobed violet, sycamore, red pine and fire pink.
- The preserve features a 9-acre, off-leash dog park divided equally among three enclosures, including one exclusively for dogs under 35 pounds. A permit is required for dog park use.



Plum Creek Greenway Trail

Plum Valley Preserve

Surface Type: Limestone Screenings

Total Mileage of Woods Walk Route: 2.04

Spring Creek Greenway Trail

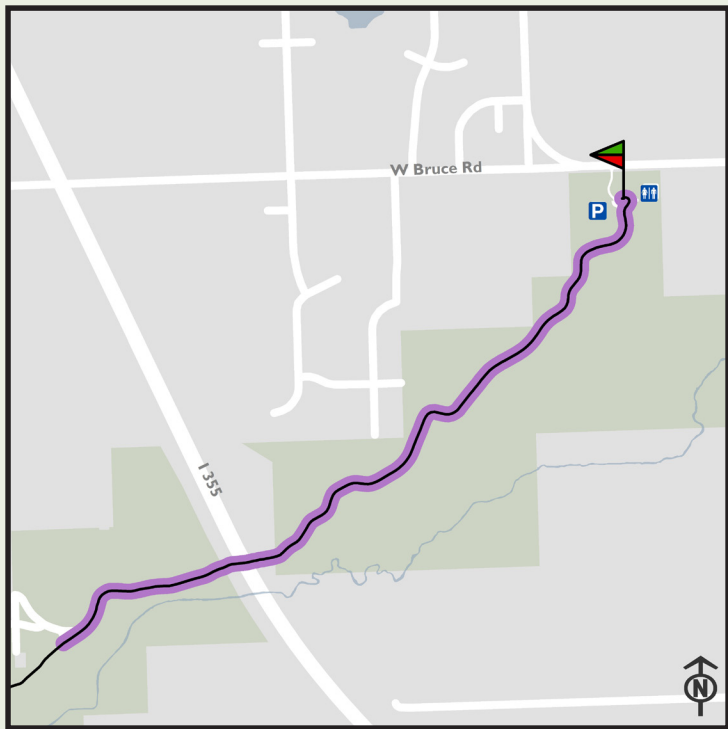
Hadley Valley – Bruce Road Access

Location

Hadley Valley – Bruce Road Access is located on Bruce Road, east of I-355, in Homer Glen.

Notable Features

- The 726-acre Hadley Valley 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. The preserve is also home to a variety of plant species, including tall swamp marigold, wahoo, great angelica, yellow avens and shingle oak.
- The preserve is also the location of the largest restoration effort in the District's history — a stream de-channelization, wetland restoration, and wildlife habitat restoration project in 500 acres of the preserve — performed in partnership with the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, Openlands, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the O'Hare Modernization Program.



Spring Creek Greenway Trail

Hadley Valley – Bruce Road Access

Surface Type: Limestone Screenings

Total Mileage of Woods Walk Route: 3.02

Spring Creek Greenway Trail

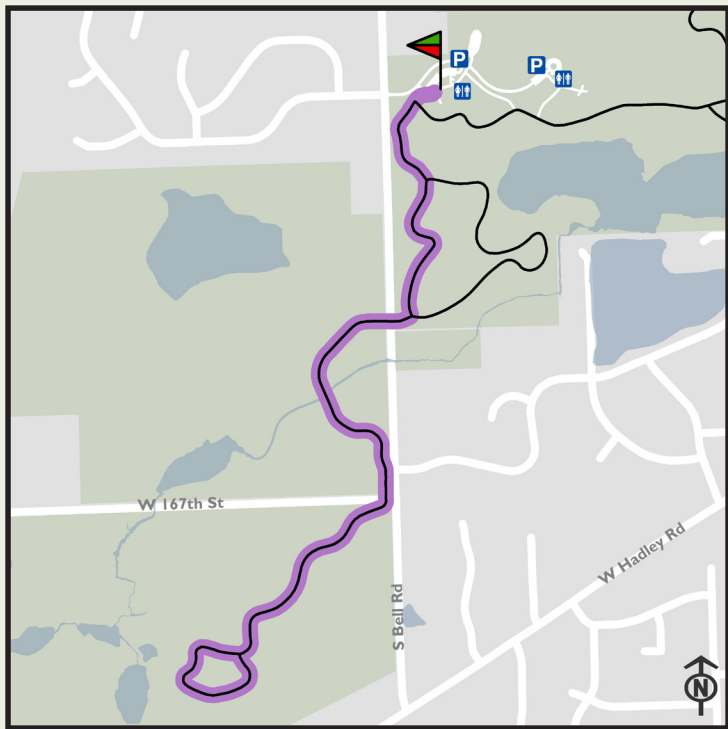
Messenger Marsh

Location

Messenger Marsh is located on South Bell Road, south of 159th Street/Route 7, in Homer Glen.

Notable Features

- The 620-acre preserve is part of the Spring Creek preservation system, which conserves more than 2,000 acres.
- Messenger Marsh protects a diversity of habitats, including forest, savanna and a portion of Spring Creek. Wildlife found at the preserve includes the wood frog, brown snake and 110 bird species.
- The site is managed with habitat restoration to protect and enhance its natural resources. The preserve is also part of a tree mitigation project funded by the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority that has planted more than 10,000 trees and shrubs at the preserve.



Spring Creek Greenway Trail Messenger Marsh

Surface Type: Limestone Screenings

Total Mileage of Woods Walk Route: 2.47

Wauponsee Glacial Trail

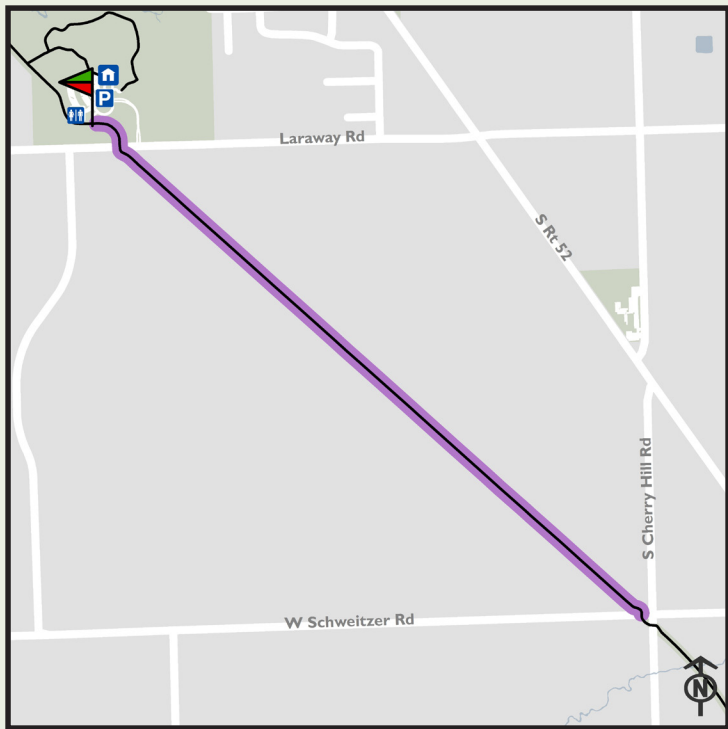
Sugar Creek Preserve

Location

Sugar Creek Preserve is located on Laraway Road, east of Route 53, in Joliet.

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 and the Wabash/Norfolk Southern
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- The Wauponsee Glacial Trail travels 22.42 miles from Joliet south through Manhattan, Symerton and Florence and Wesley townships to Custer Park.
- South of Manhattan, the trail connects to the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie trail system managed by the U.S. Forest Service.



Wauponsee Glacial Trail

Sugar Creek Preserve

Surface Type: Limestone Screenings

Total Mileage of Woods Walk Route: 3.04

FOUND OBJECTS SCULPTURE TRAIL

Forest Preserve District of Will County Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve

Now through March 31, 2021



About This Exhibit and Its Creator

Nature inspires and heals, and art interprets our connection with nature and ourselves. Through her work, sculptor Jennifer Meyer explores the relationship we have with discarded things, and invites us to a new perspective. As you explore, we hope you will be inspired and renewed by the creativity and beauty of each piece. Meyer is an artist and a licensed Clinical Professional Counselor who believes that just because something or someone has been used, discarded, abandoned or rejected does not mean there is no longer any potential value. Often what is needed for recovery is a little time and attention to construct a new perspective so that a renewal may emerge.



PRESERVE



MOMENT

PHOTO CONTEST

Grab your camera and participate in the 2020 photo contest! It's sure to be our best one to date.

THE DETAILS

TIME PERIOD: This year's contest runs from May 1 through December 31.

ENTRY RULES: Any submitted photos must have been taken in a Will County forest preserve during the contest period. They must also be free of any watermarks. 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. Keep in mind that any photos submitted only have to be taken during the entire contest period. For example, in November, you could enter a photo you took in June.

MONTHLY PHOTO JUDGING: Don't wait to submit your photos until the end of the contest, because 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 members of the public.

A GIFT JUST FOR PARTICIPATING: Each person who submits a photo will receive 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
OF WILL COUNTY

Bringing People and Nature Together



Visit ReconnectWithNature.org for more information.

Pedal the Prairie



Hickory Creek Preserve -
Hickory Creek Barrens
Saturday, September 5



7 miles

Lower Rock Run Preserve -
I&M Canal Access
Saturday, September 19



22 miles

Sugar Creek Preserve -
Sugar Creek Administration Center
Saturday, September 26



28 miles

All rides are 8 a.m.-noon. Free! All ages. Registration required: 815.727.8700.

Each ride has a presentation by a program partner, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

Program Partners: **Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie**



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**



**FITNESS
PREMIER**



Joliet Bicycle Club



**Forest Preserve District
OF WILL COUNTY**

Bringing People and Nature Together

ReconnectWithNature.org



815.727.8700

To receive your Woods Walk medal, please visit *willcountywoodswalk.com*, stop by one of the Forest Preserve 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 add the date you hiked each trail:

___/___/___ Centennial Trail (Schneider's Passage)

___/___/___ DuPage River Trail (Whalon Lake)

___/___/___ I&M Canal Trail (Joliet Iron Works)

___/___/___ I&M Canal State Trail (Lower Rock Run)

___/___/___ Kankakee Sands Trail (Kankakee Sands)

___/___/___ Old Plank Road Trail (Hickory Creek Junction)

___/___/___ Plum Creek Greenway Trail (Plum Valley)

___/___/___ Spring Creek Greenway Trail (Hadley Valley)

___/___/___ Spring Creek Greenway Trail (Messenger Marsh)

___/___/___ Wauponsee Glacial Trail (Sugar Creek)

Complete trails at seven of the 10 designated sites, and receive a 2020 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 District offerings. For more information, visit *ReconnectWithNature.org/ADA*.



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