



Forest Preserve District of Will County

WOODS WALK

September 1 – November 30

2022 Hiking Guide

Welcome to Woods Walk 2022

1 Each hiker should have his or her own *Woods Walk 2022 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. The Hiking Guide is also available online at *ReconnectWithNature.org*. Directions to the preserves are provided there as well.

2 Hike seven of the 10 designated trails between September 1 and November 30 to receive a collector's medal. New this year is a bonus hike taken from the trail lineup from Woods Walk's first year: a short hike at Racoon Grove Preserve. Look for the Woods Walk signs along all designated trails, and be sure to bring your camera to catch that unique nature shot to enter into our photo contest. Visit *ReconnectWithNature.org/preserve-the-moment-contest* to submit your photo.

3 Turn in your *2022 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 December 31, 2022 to receive your medal.

Questions? Call 815-727-8700 or visit:

Sugar Creek Administration Center

815-727-8700

17540 W. Laraway Road, Joliet

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

Hidden Oaks Nature Center

815-722-4121

419 Trout Farm Road, Bolingbrook

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

Isle a la Cache Museum

815-886-1467

501 E. 135th Street, Romeoville

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

Monee Reservoir

708-534-8499

27341 Ridgeland Avenue, Monee Township

Hours: Tuesday-Sunday, March: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. April: 7 a.m.-6 p.m.,
May-August 14: 6 a.m.-7 p.m., August 16-October: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.,
November-February: Closed

Plum Creek Nature Center

708-946-2216

27064 Dutton Road, Beecher

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

Four Rivers Trail

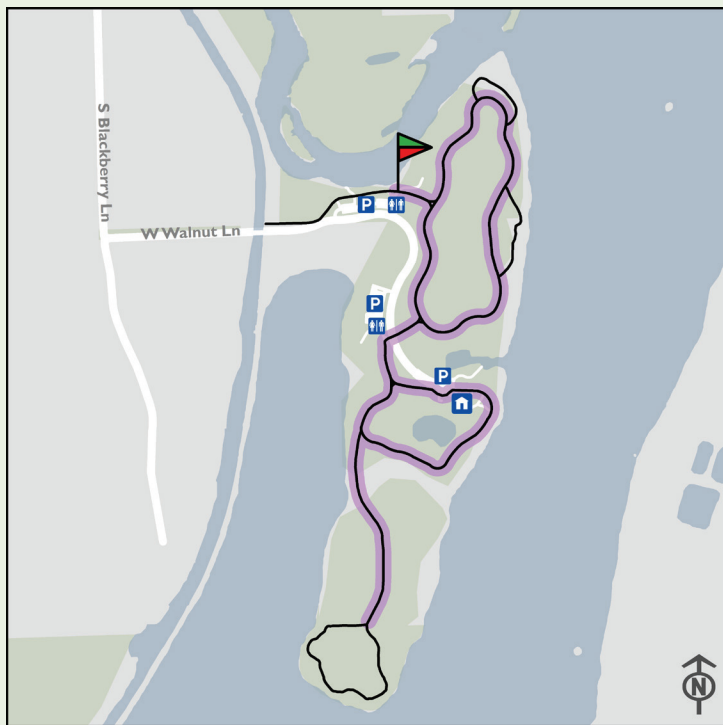
McKinley Woods – Kerry Sheridan Grove

Location

Kerry Sheridan Grove is located on Walnut Lane, east of Blackberry Lane in Channahon.

Notable Features

- The 525-acre McKinley Woods is part of the Des Plaines River preservation system, which conserves more than 2,400 acres.
- The preserve 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.
- The preserve is also home to a variety of plant species, including redbud, blue ash and chinquapin oak.



Four Rivers Trail

McKinley Woods – Kerry Sheridan Grove

Surface Type: Asphalt

Woods Walk Route Round-trip: 1.99 miles

Hammel Woods Nature Trail & DuPage River Trail

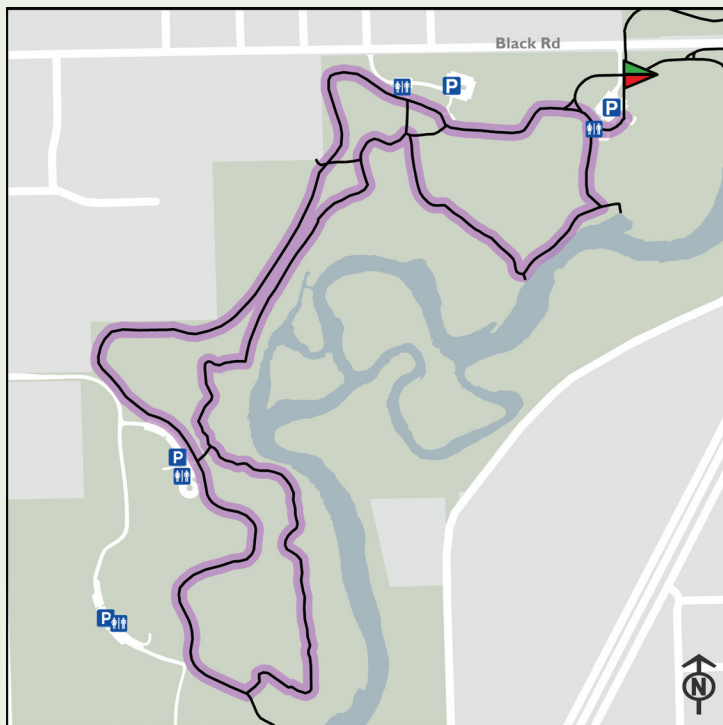
Hammel Woods – Route 59 Access

Location

Hammel Woods – Route 59 Access is located on Route 59, north of Route 52/Jefferson Street in Shorewood.

Notable Features

- The 445-acre Hammel Woods is part of the DuPage River preservation system, which conserves more than 1,500 acres.
- The first 147 acres of Hammel Woods were the District's second and third acquisitions in 1930. The preserve is located at the site of the historic Grinton Mill and was named in honor of American soldiers who fought in the World War I battle in Hamel, France.
- Hammel Woods offers two picnic shelters for rental, shoreline fishing and canoe/kayak launches on the DuPage River. No launch pass is required. The preserve includes access to a 3.77-mile, paved segment of the DuPage River Trail, ideal for biking, hiking/running, in-line skating, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.



Hammel Woods Nature Trail & DuPage River Trail

Hammel Woods – Route 59 Access

Surface Type: Natural Surface and Asphalt

Woods Walk Route Round-trip: 2.86 miles

Hickory Creek Bikeway

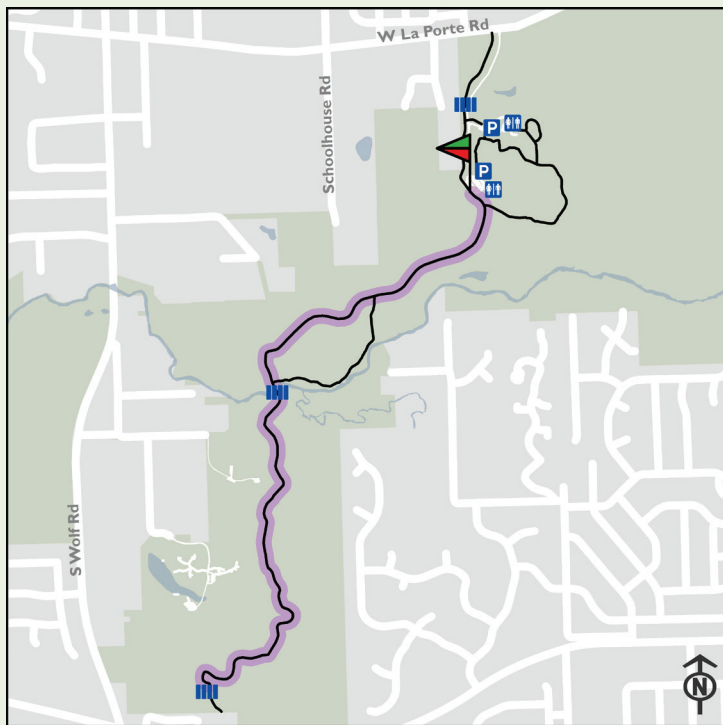
Hickory Creek Preserve – LaPorte Road Access

Location

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

Notable Features

- The 1,541-acre Hickory Creek Preserve is part of the Hickory Creek preservation system, which conserves more than 2,400 acres.
- The preserve is the District's largest individual land holding. The majority of the property was acquired for a regional stormwater reservoir which was never constructed.
- LaPorte Road Access features 1.25 miles of natural surface trail and provides access to the 2.25-mile, paved eastern segment of the Hickory Creek Bikeway.



Hickory Creek Bikeway

Hickory Creek Preserve – LaPorte Road Access

Surface Type: Asphalt

Woods Walk Route Round-trip: 3.47 miles

Kankakee Sands Trail

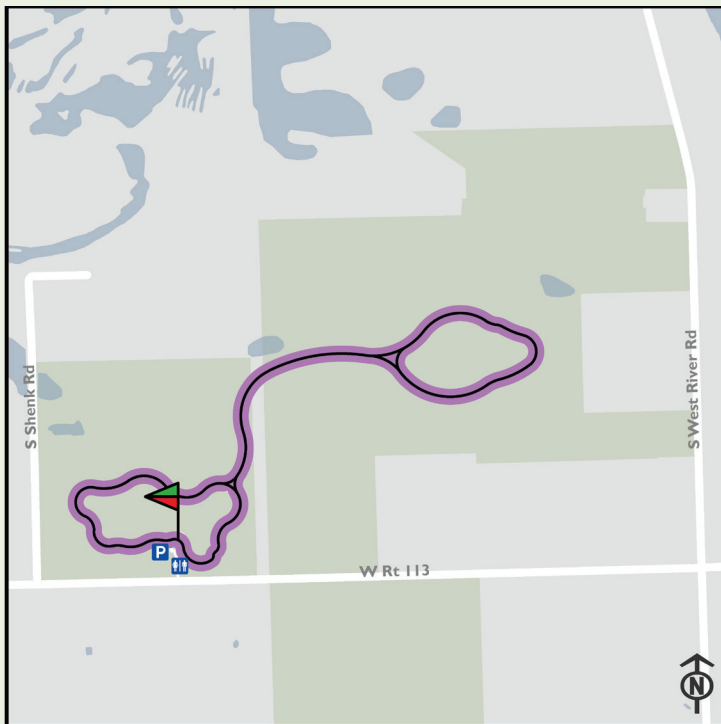
Kankakee Sands Preserve – Route 113 Access

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 was acquired between 1999 and 2012.
- The preserve is part of the Kankakee Sands preservation system, which conserves more than 1,200 acres.
- Kankakee Sands Preserve protects savanna and wetland habitat. Since 2013, the District has been restoring the preserve to what it was generations ago – a mixture of prairie, savanna and wetlands teeming with biodiversity.
- A unique feature of the site is its sand dunes and savanna.



Kankakee Sands Trail

Kankakee Sands Preserve – Route 113 Access

Surface Type: Limestone Screenings

Woods Walk Route Round-trip: 2.97 miles

North & South Loop Trails

Messenger Woods Nature Preserve

Location

Messenger Woods Nature Preserve is located on Bruce Road, east of Cedar Road in Homer Glen.

Notable Features

- The 441-acre Messenger Woods Nature Preserve was acquired between 1930 and 2006. A 144-acre portion of this preserve was the District's very first acquisition, made in 1930 at a price of \$125 per acre.
- The preserve is part of the Spring Creek preservation system, which conserves more than 2,000 acres.
- A 406-acre portion of the site was dedicated as an Illinois Nature Preserve in 1994 and 1999. This dedication provides permanent protection for the preserve's natural resources.
- The preserve is also home to a variety of plant species, including a spectacular display of spring wildflowers, such as blue-eyed Mary, showy trillium, wild geranium and hepatica.

*Dogs are not allowed in nature preserves, so please leave your pets at home for this walk.



North & South Loop Trails

Messenger Woods Nature Preserve

Surface Type: Natural Surface

Woods Walk Route Round-trip: 1.89 miles

Plum Creek Greenway Trail

Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve

Location

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

Notable Features

- The 891-acre Goodenow Grove Nature 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-leaved 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 Plum Creek Nature Center, which offers nature education opportunities for families, school groups and youth groups and a natural outdoor playscape.

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Plum Creek Greenway Trail

Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve

Surface Type: Gravel/Limestone Screenings

Woods Walk Route Round-trip: 2.92 miles

Prairie Bluff Trail

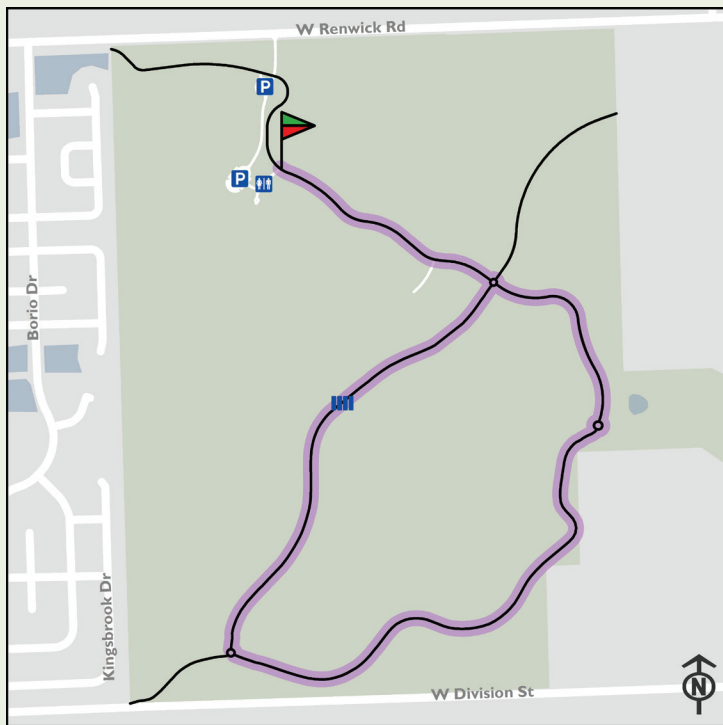
Prairie Bluff Preserve

Location

Prairie Bluff Preserve is located on Renwick Road, east of Weber Road in Crest Hill.

Notable Features

- The 680-acre Prairie Bluff Preserve was acquired between 2006 and 2008. 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 part of the Illinois Department of Corrections' Stateville Correctional Center.
- Prairie Bluff Preserve features 3.21 miles of paved trail, ideal for biking, hiking/running, in-line skating, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and picnicking.
- The preserve protects wetland habitat.
- The site offers one picnic shelter for rental.



Prairie Bluff Trail

Prairie Bluff Preserve

Surface Type: Asphalt

Woods Walk Route Round-trip: 2.26 miles

Rock Run Greenway Trail

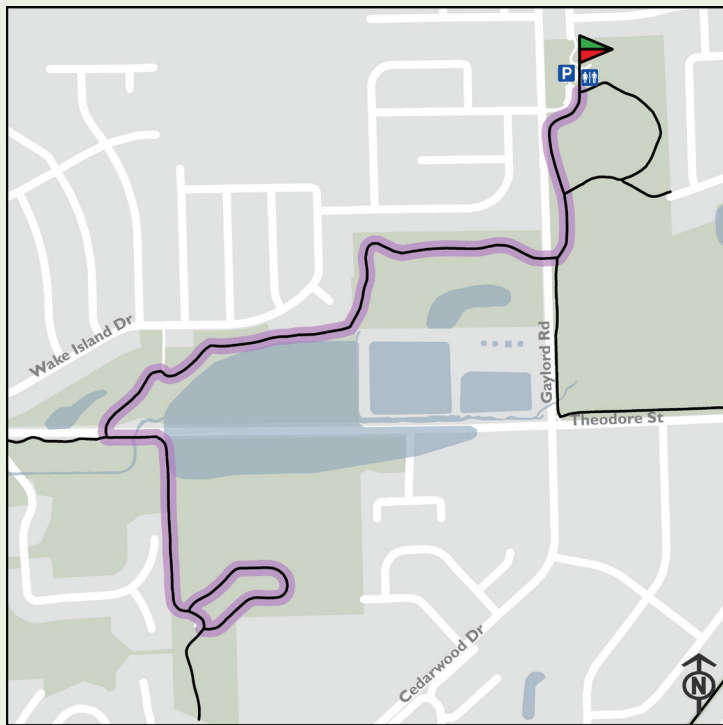
Theodore Marsh

Location

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

Notable Features

- The 288-acre Theodore Marsh is part of the Rock Run preservation system, which conserves more than 1,450 acres.
- The preserve's restoration began in 2000 with the removal of fill that had been dumped into the wetlands and the creation of upland prairie and wetland on more than 120 acres.
- Theodore Marsh provides access to the 11.24-mile paved Rock Run Greenway and the 4.36-mile paved Joliet Junction Trail. These trails are ideal for biking, hiking/running, in-line skating, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.



Rock Run Greenway Trail

Theodore Marsh

Surface Type: Asphalt

Woods Walk Route Round-trip: 2.93 miles

Spring Creek Greenway Trail

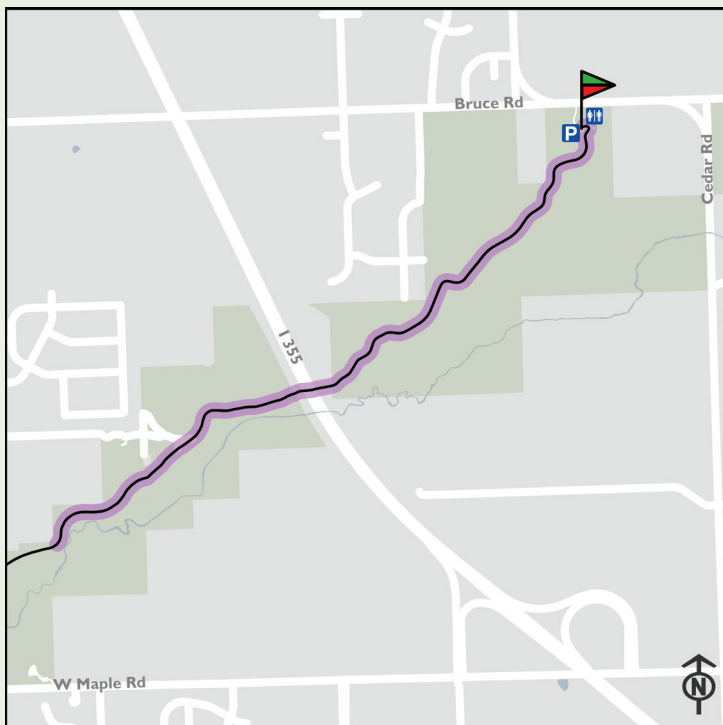
Hadley Valley – Bruce Road Access

Location

Hadley Valley – Bruce Road Access is located on Bruce Road, east of Interstate 355 in Homer Township.

Notable Features

- The 855-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.
- 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.
- Hadley Valley has three access areas, which all connect to a 5.01-mile, crushed limestone segment of the Spring Creek Greenway Trail.



Spring Creek Greenway Trail

Hadley Valley – Bruce Road Access

Surface Type: Limestone Screenings
Woods Walk Route Round-trip: 4.0 miles

Wauponsee Glacial Trail & Sugar Creek Nature Trail

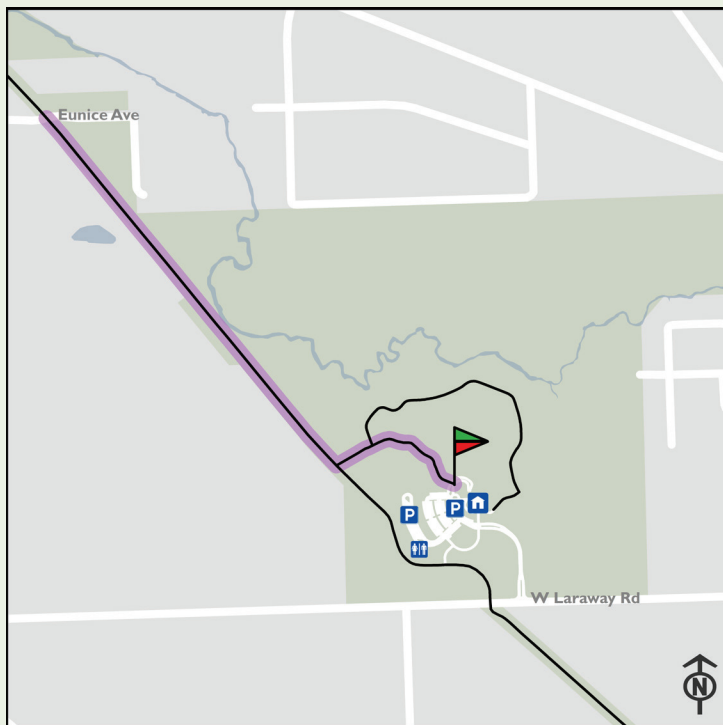
Sugar Creek Preserve

Location

Sugar Creek Preserve is located on Laraway Road, east of Route 53 and west of Route 52/Manhattan Road in Joliet Township.

Notable Features

- The 317-acre Sugar Creek Preserve is part of the Sugar Creek preservation system, which conserves more than 320 acres. It protects a diversity of habitats, including forest, prairie, wetland and a portion of Sugar Creek.
- Wildlife found at the preserve includes mink, dickcissel and northern harrier.
- The preserve is also home to a variety of plant species, including cream wild indigo and downy sunflower.
- Sugar Creek Preserve features the Sugar Creek Administration Center, which is open to the public and offers free trail maps and brochures, and issues picnic, camping and dog park permits for purchase.



**Wauponsee Glacial Trail
& Sugar Creek Nature Trail**
Sugar Creek Preserve

Surface Type: Limestone Screenings and Natural Surface
Woods Walk Route Round-trip: 1.48 miles

Raccoon Grove Nature Trail

Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve

Location

Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve is located on Pauling Road, east of Route 50/Governors Highway in Monee Township.

Notable Features

- The 213-acre Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve was acquired between 1937 and 1992.
- The preserve is part of the Rock Creek preservation system, which conserves more than 460 acres.
- Cultural resources protected at the preserve include part of a reservation granted to the daughters of a Potawatomi woman named Marie Bailly in 1832.
- A 211-acre portion of the site was dedicated as an Illinois Nature Preserve in 1989. This dedication provides permanent protection for the preserve's natural resources.
- Wildlife found at the preserve includes the tiger salamander and more than 80 bird species, including the scarlet tanager and eastern wood-pewee.

*Dogs are not allowed in nature preserves, so please leave your pets at home for this walk.



Raccoon Grove Nature Trail

Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve

Surface Type: Natural Surface

Woods Walk Route Round-trip: 0.54 mile

PRESERVE MOMENT

PHOTO CONTEST

**ENJOY SOME TIME IN NATURE, THEN
PRESERVE IT FOR POSTERITY!**

**Grab your camera and
participate in the 2022
photo contest! It's sure to
be our best one yet!**

TIME PERIOD:

Now through December 31.

THE DETAILS

MONTHLY PHOTO JUDGING:

Each month a panel of judges selects five photos from that time period. A public vote via Facebook determines the monthly winner, with each monthly winner being entered into a final round of voting at the contest conclusion.

A GIFT JUST FOR PARTICIPATING:

Each person who submits a photo receives a gift.

ENTRY RULES:

Submitted photos must be 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.



WINNING PRIZES

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

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

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

**FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
WILL COUNTY**

Bringing People and Nature Together



ReconnectWithNature.org

To receive your Woods Walk collector's medal, please visit *ReconnectWithNature.org/Woods-Walk-Travel-Log-Submission*, 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 check the trails you hiked:

- ☐ Four Rivers Trail
- ☐ Hammel Woods Nature Trail
- ☐ Hickory Creek Bikeway
- ☐ Kankakee Sands Trail
- ☐ Messenger Woods North and South Loop Trail
- ☐ Plum Creek Greenway Trail
- ☐ Prairie Bluff Trail
- ☐ Rock Run Greenway Trail
- ☐ Spring Creek Greenway Trail
- ☐ Wauponsee Glacial Trail
- ☐ Raccoon Grove Nature Trail – Bonus Hike



Use this QR Code to access the Woods Walk 2022 maps digitally.

The maps help hikers navigate the 2022 Woods Walk routes on a mobile device. Zoom in to a leaf to explore a Woods Walk route or search for a Woods Walk trail to get started. To find your location from your mobile device, click the “Find my location” icon beneath the search field.

Preserve Hours **8 a.m. to Sunset**

ReconnectWithNature.org



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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WILL COUNTY

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