

## Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve

## Cook County

### Location and Access:

From Markham at jct. I-57 (west leg of Dan Ryan Expressway) (Exit 348) & Hwy. 6 (159th Street), take 159th Street east about 1 mile. to Whipple Avenue, then turn and go north 2 blocks. The nature preserve is to the north.

### Description:

Gensburg-Markham Prairie is a large natural area consisting of wet-mesic and mesic prairie, dry mesic and mesic sand prairie and sedge meadow communities representative of the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The Chicago Lake Plain was formed as glacial Lake Chicago receded at the end of the Wisconsin glacialiation. As the water receded, it left behind deposits of clay and sand. The wetlands on the preserve are underlain by clay while the drier sites are underlain by sand. An old beach ridge formed by the ancient lake runs southeast to northeast through the preserve, and is responsible for the difference in relief over the preserve. Gensburg-Markham Prairie is an unusual example of sandy loam prairie; it combines the characteristics of the black silt loam

prairies with the true sand prairies. The preserve contains rare plant species such as grape fern, sundrop, narrow-leaved sundew and grass pink orchid. In addition, other significant sand prairie plants are colic root, yellow-eyed grass, screwstem and huckleberry. The dominant grasses are big bluestem, Indian grass and prairie dropseed. Typical black loam soil species found here are nodding wild onion, cream wild indigo, prairie coreopsis and prairie alum root. Notable nesting birds include short-billed marsh wren, bobolink, swamp sparrow and Henslow's sparrow.

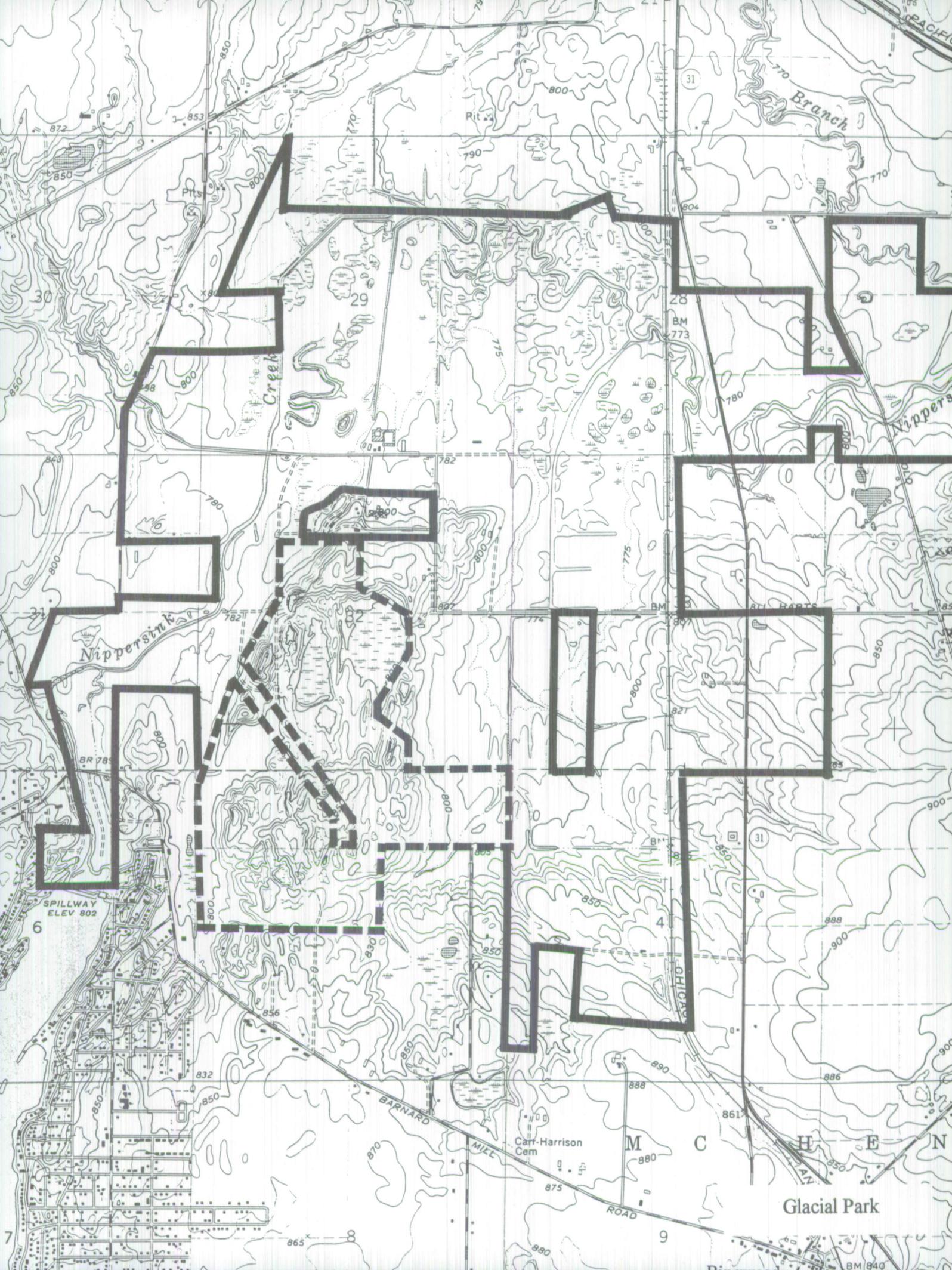
**Ownership:** Northeastern Illinois University, The Nature Conservancy and Natural Land Institute

**Dedicated:** September 1980

**Size:** 105.6 acres with an additional 6.2 acres buffer

**Topo Map:** Harvey 7.5

For Further Information Contact: Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 North St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625 (312/583-4050)



Glacial Park

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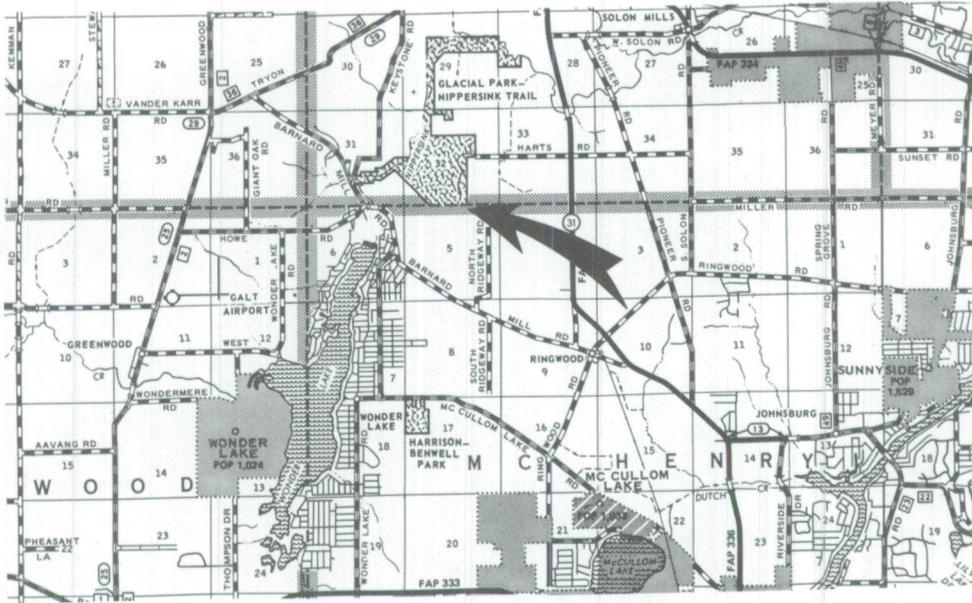
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## Glacial Park Nature Preserve

## McHenry County

### Location and Access:

From the town of McHenry, take Route Rt. 31 (Richmond Rd.) north for approximately 6.5 mi. to Harts Rd. Turn west (left) at Harts Rd. which takes you into Glacial Park.

Special Note: Glacial Park Nature Preserve is located within the larger Glacial Park, west of Harts Rd., west of the MCCD office. Foot trails provide access to the park and portions of the nature preserve. Parking and public facilities are available.

### Description:

Glacial Park Nature Preserve is part of a 2600 acre McHenry County Conservation District site known as Glacial Park. The preserve offers scenic vistas which reveal the glacial heritage of this region. Undisturbed knob and basin topography typical of glacial moraines, kames, dissected outwash terraces and kettles define the landscape. Exceptional examples of delta kames border the western edge of the preserve. Biological richness characterizes this site with over 420 plant species contributing to five distinct plant communities. The tallgrass savannas are dominated by bur, white, black and Hill's oaks with many forbs such as Culver's root, shooting star and yellow star grass in the understory. Small patches of dry hill prairies dominated by sideoats gramma and little blue stem occur in the oak openings

on the tops of the kames. A 10-acre central kettle features a very high quality low shrub bog with leather-leaf and sphagnum moss the dominate plants and poison sumac, cinnamon fern, bog buckbean and rusty cotton grass among other plants making notable appearances. Fen/sedge meadow community complexes occur in areas receiving large amounts of mineralized ground water. The largest kettle in the preserve is a 20-acre marsh with cattails, bulrushes, sedges and grasses.

Nine species of plants listed as endangered or threatened in Illinois occur in the preserve. Many species of butterflies, birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals can be found throughout this site.

In addition, large scale restoration of the entire Glacial Park has been underway since 1985. Re-establishment of the original hydrology in previously drained wetlands is part of the restoration project providing outstanding habitat for migratory water fowl.

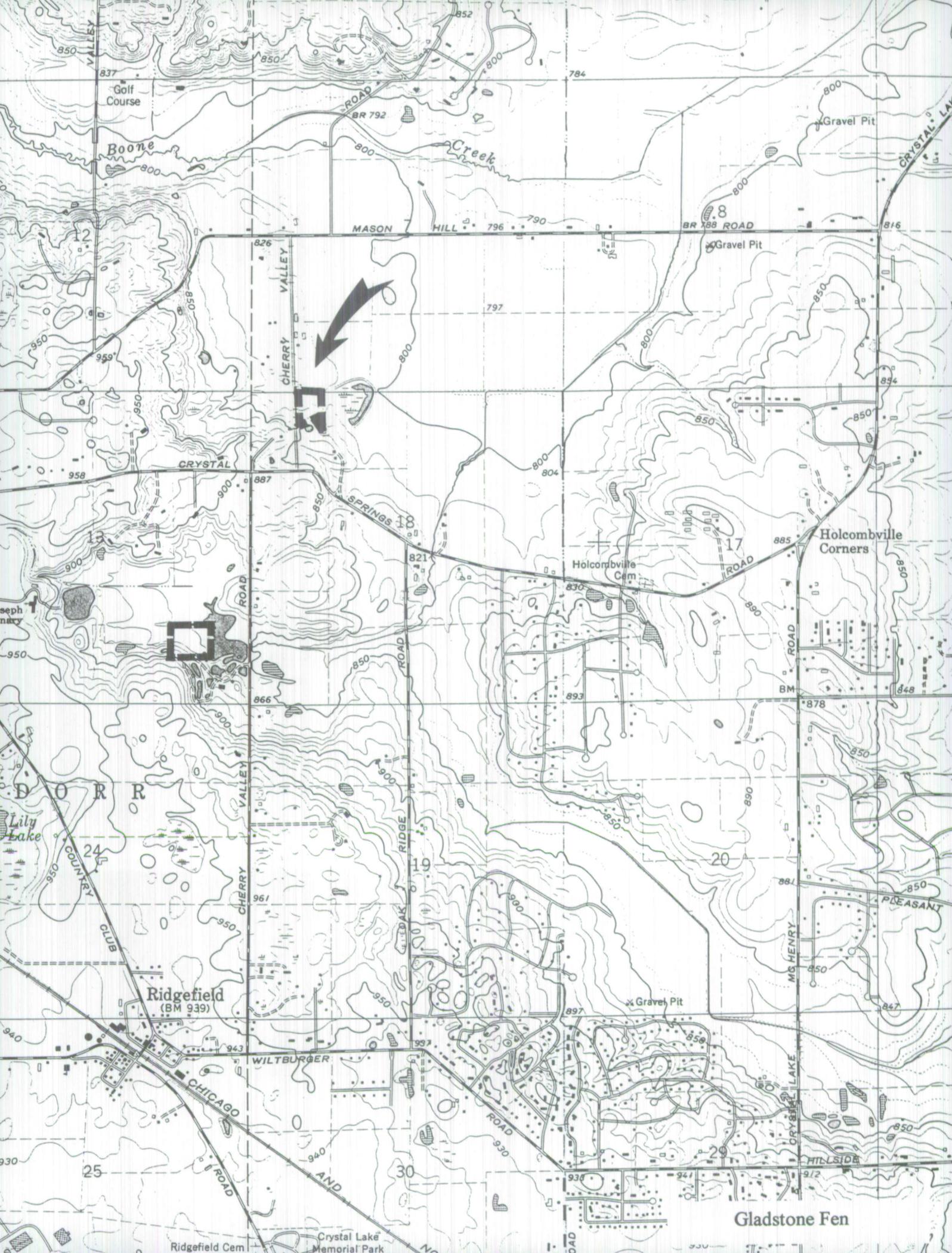
**Ownership:** McHenry County Conservation District

**Dedicated:** October 1992

**Size:** 330 acres

**Topo Map:** Richmond 7.5

For Further Information Contact: McHenry County Conservation District, 6512 Harts Rd., Ringwood, IL 60072 (815/678-4431)



Golf Course

Boone

Creek

MASON HILL

Gravel Pit

BR X88 ROAD

Gravel Pit

CRYSTAL

SPRINGS

Holcombville Cem

Holcombville Corners

Joseph

DORR

Lily Lake

Ridgefield (BM 939)

Gravel Pit

COUNTRY CLUB

WILTBURGER

CHICAGO ROAD

MS HENRY

PLEASANT

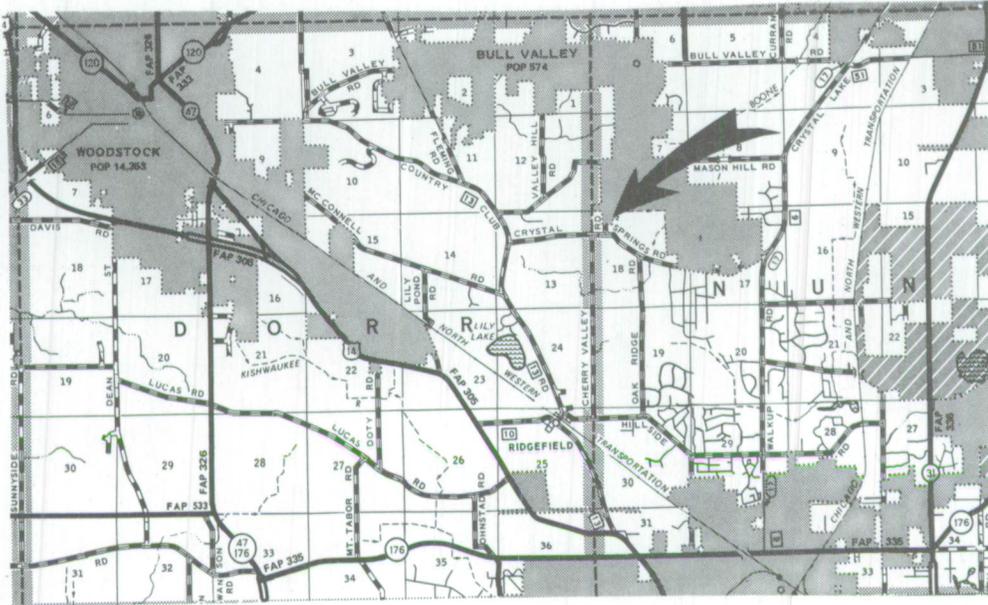
CRYSTAL LAKE

HILLSIDE

Gladstone Fen

Ridgefield Cem

Crystal Lake Memorial Park



## Gladstone Fen Nature Preserve

## McHenry County

### Location and Access:

Special Note: This is a privately owned site. Entrance is by prior permission only.

### Description:

The Gladstone Fen consists of approximately 5 acres of fen, sedge meadow, prairie and oak savanna communities. The most outstanding feature of this preserve is the one acre high quality fen formed and maintained by the mineral rich ground water which seeps continually into the fen from the surrounding morainal hillsides. Many calciphilic species, such as bog lobelia, grass-of-Pamassus, small fringed gentian and shrubby cinquefoil grow in this small fen. In the adjoining sedge meadow,

nine species of sedge, turtlehead, blue flag and swamp thistle are among the many plants that grow here. Additionally, the preserve provides habitat for several species of wetland restricted butterflies.

**Ownership:** Lee and Gertrude Gladstone

**Dedicated:** June 1991

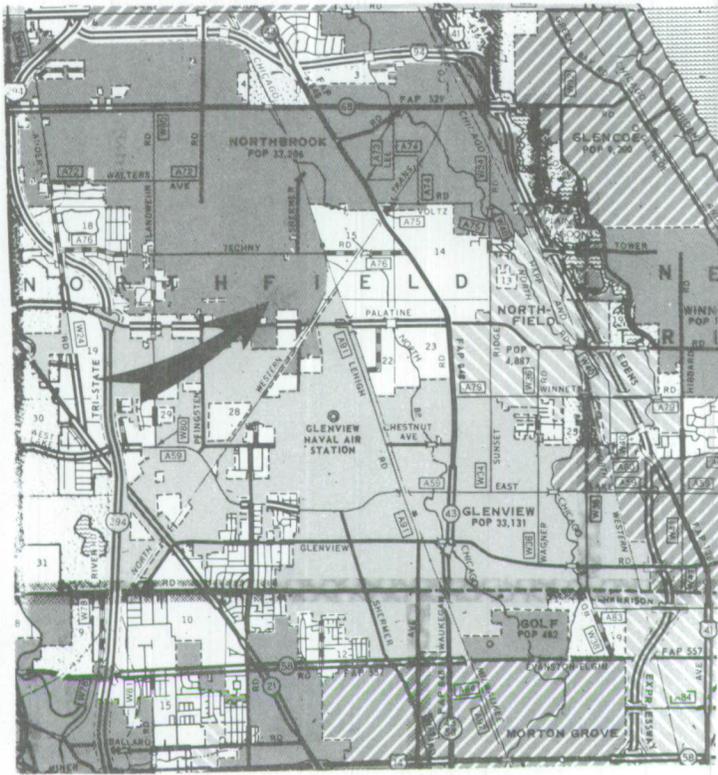
**Size:** 6.4 acres

**Topo Map:** McHenry 7.5

For Further Information Contact: Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, 524 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, IL 62706 (217/785-8686)



Glenbrook North High School Prair...



## Glenbrook North High School Prairie Nature Preserve

Cook County

### Location and Access:

From Northbrook at jct. Willow Road & Pflingsten Road, take Willow Road east 1 mi. to Shermer Road, then turn and go north 0.5 mi. to Glenbrook North High School. The nature preserve is in the northwest corner of the campus 0.4 mi. west of the high school, which is west of Shermer Road.

### Description:

Glenbrook North Prairie is a remnant of mesic black soil prairie. It lies in a slight depression on a gently rolling moraine. Some common herbaceous prairie plants are northern dropseed, sky blue aster, alumroot, and hard-leaved goldenrod. Wetter areas contain cordgrass and bluejoint grass. A cyclone fence was erected by the

Glenbrook High School Science Department to protect the prairie. Other management activities include prescribed burning.

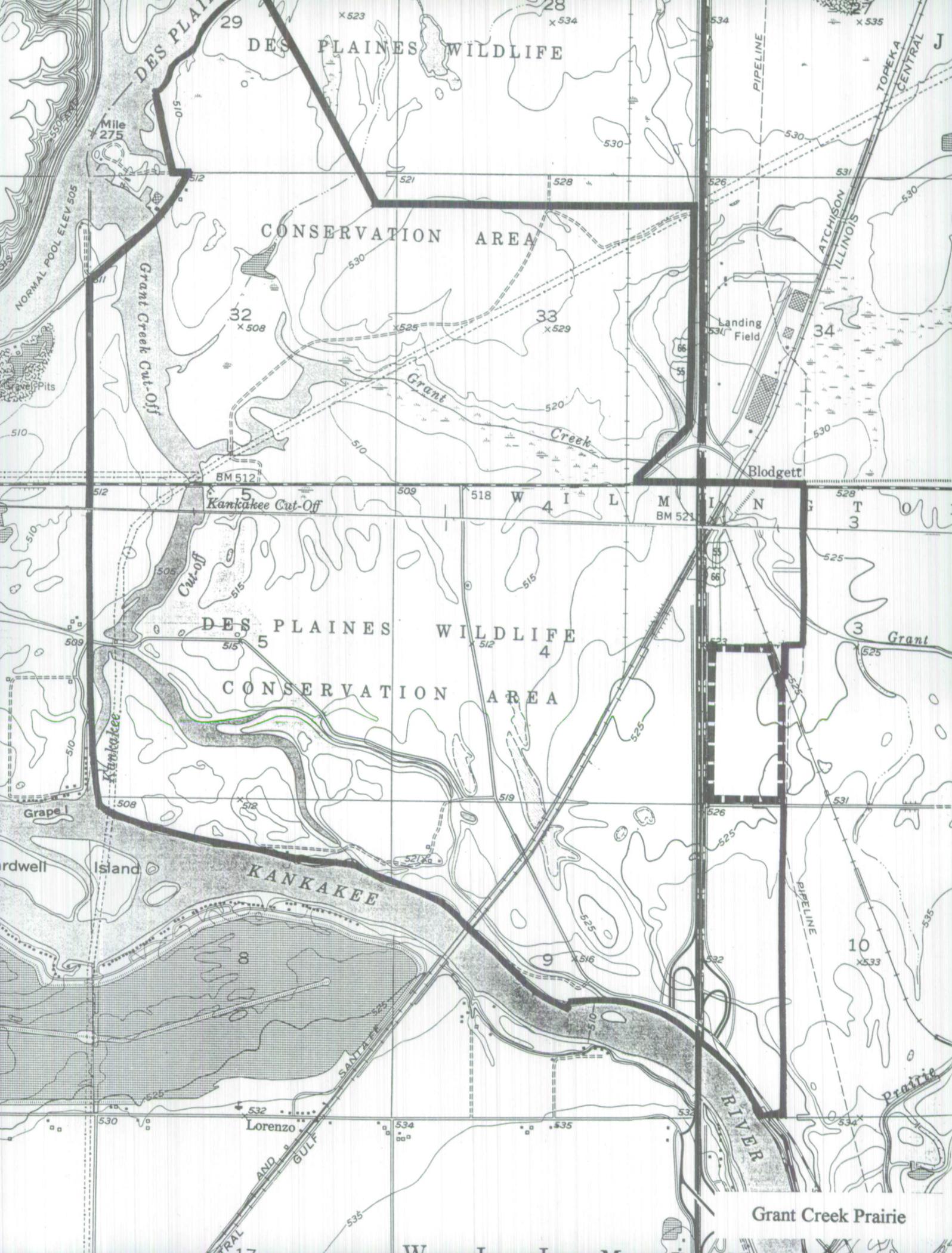
**Ownership:** Board of Education of Northfield Township High School District No. 225

**Dedicated:** March 1986

**Size:** 1.5 acres with an additional .7 acre of buffer

**Topo Map:** Park Ridge 7.5

For Further Information Contact: Glenbrook North High School, 2300 Shermer Rd., Northbrook, IL 60062 (708/272-6400, ext. 274)



DES PLAINES

DES PLAINES WILDLIFE

CONSERVATION AREA

Grant Creek Cut-Off

Grant Creek

PIPELINE

ATCHISON ILLINOIS TOPEKA CENTRAL

Landing Field

Blodgett

Kankakee Cut-Off

W I L M I N G T O N

DES PLAINES WILDLIFE

CONSERVATION AREA

Kankakee

KANKAKEE

PIPELINE

Prairie

Grant Creek Prairie

Mile 275

Lorenzo

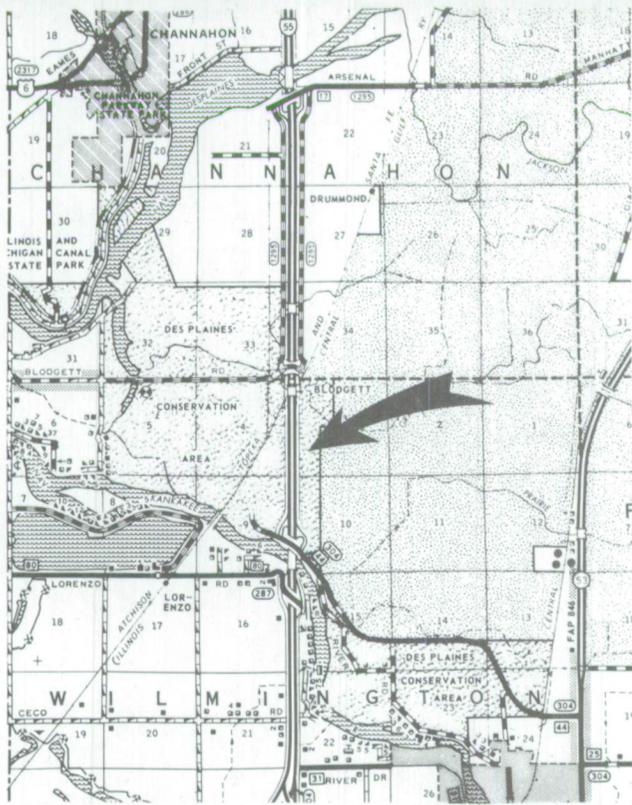
Grape Island

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## Grant Creek Prairie Nature Preserve

## Will County

### Location and Access:

From I-55 Exit 241 near Wilmington, go to the east frontage road of I-55, then turn north and go 0.8 mile. The nature preserve is on the east side of I-55 and is north of a River Road in the Des Plaines Conservation Area.

### Description:

Grant Creek Prairie contains high quality wet prairie and mesic prairie communities with over 110 different native prairie plant species. Some of the characteristic wet prairie species include blue-joint grass, cord grass and tussock sedge. Mesic prairie grasses are prairie dropseed, Indian grass, big bluestem and switchgrass while forbs include leadplant, false wild indigo and tall coreopsis. Birds include bobolink, grasshopper sparrow and sedge wren. Upland sandpipers have been seen in adjacent areas. Mammals such as prairie voles, shrews, coyotes and reptiles and amphibians like the

western fox snake, blue racer, smooth green snake and western chorus frog can also be seen. Prior to the state's acquisition, Grant Creek Prairie was grazed by cattle which allowed hawthorn trees to invade the northern section. Current management of the preserve is primarily concerned with the elimination of these small trees.

**Ownership:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources

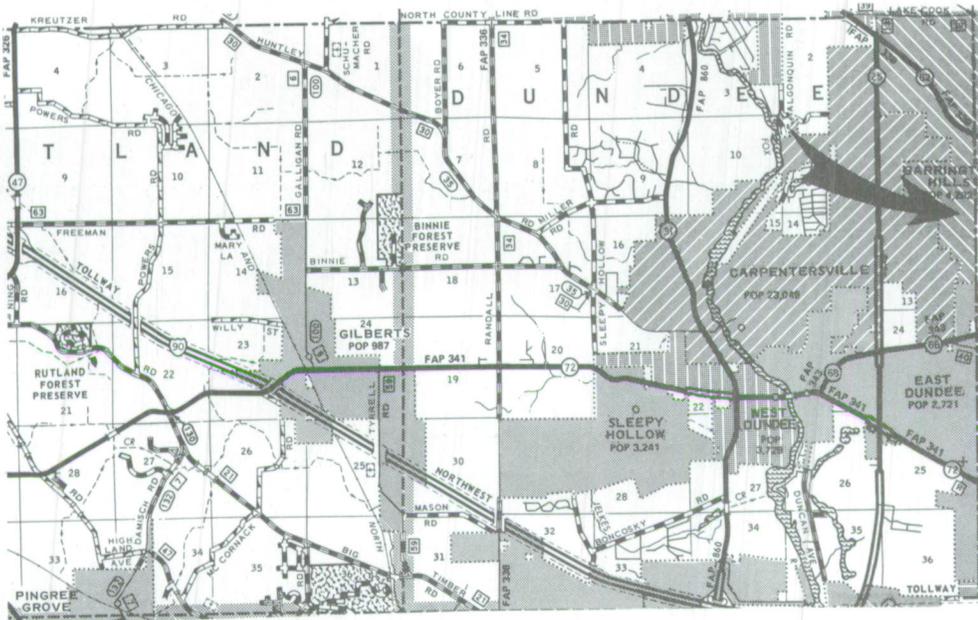
**Dedicated:** September 1978

**Size:** 78 acres

**Topo Map:** Wilmington 7.5

For Further Information Contact: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Biologist, 100 First National Bank Plaza, Suite 10, Chicago Heights, IL 60411 (708/709-3300) or Site Superintendent, Des Plaines Fish and Wildlife Area, 24621 N. River Rd., Wilmington, IL 60481 (815/423-5326)





## Helm Woods Nature Preserve

## Kane County

### Location and Access:

In Carpentersville from the jct. of Rts. 68 and 25, north on Rt. 25 for 2 miles. Right (east) on Helm Rd. for 0.75 mile. The entrance is on the south side of Helm Rd. If you pass the ComEd ROW you've gone too far.

**Special Note:** Unofficial foot trails provide access to the preserve.

### Description:

Helm Woods Nature Preserve is 75 acres of woodland with 80 acres of buffer incorporated in the larger Helm Woods Forest Preserve. The most unusual component of the preserve is the locally rare, high quality flatwoods community. Flatwoods occur on level or nearly level topography with an impermeable or slowly permeable soil layer which causes a shallow or perched water table. This condition results in the depressional area holding water during the spring rain but often drying out in the summer months. Several large old swamp white oaks contribute to the canopy cover along with white, red and green ash and American and slippery elms. Swamp sedge, hop sedge, bur sedge and the very uncommon

crowfoot fox sedge can be found growing in the wet woodland depressions with buttonbush and pagoda dogwood bordering some of the wet pockets. The high quality dry-mesic upland forest contains bur, white, black and red oaks and features an understory with a wide assortment of forbs including the locally rare long-leaved shinleaf, shooting star, wild geranium and red trillium. Several woodland shrubs can also be found here such as Iowa crab, hazelnut, black current and wild gooseberry.

Helm Woods has an active volunteer stewardship group which has been assisting with management of the preserve for five years.

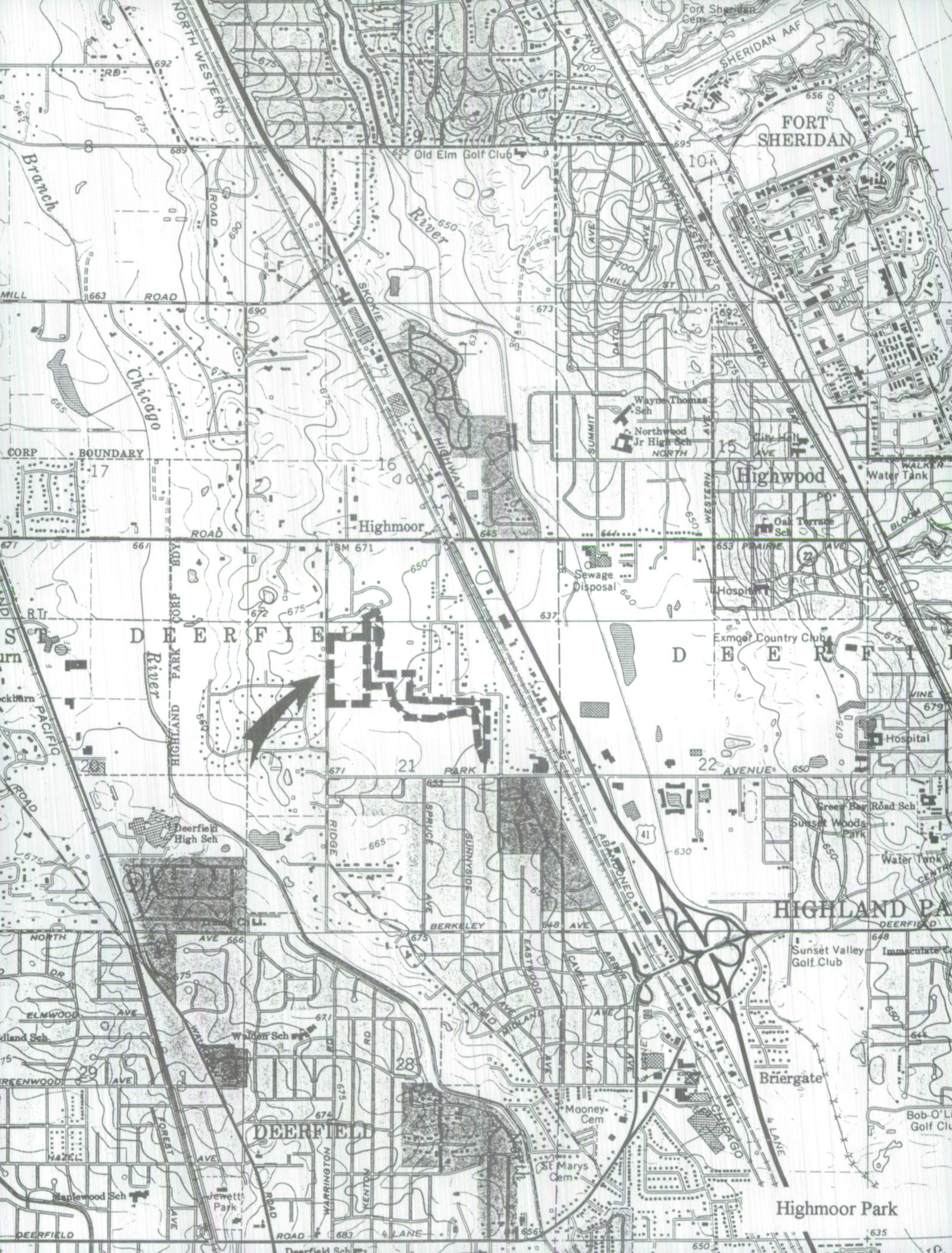
**Ownership:** Kane County Forest Preserve District

**Dedicated:** December 1992

**Size:** 75 acres with an additional 80 acres buffer

**Topo Map:** Streamwood and Barrington 7.5

For Further Information Contact: The Forest Preserve District of Kane County, 719 Batavia Ave., Geneva, IL 60134 (708/232-5980)



FORT SHERIDAN

Highmoor

Highwood

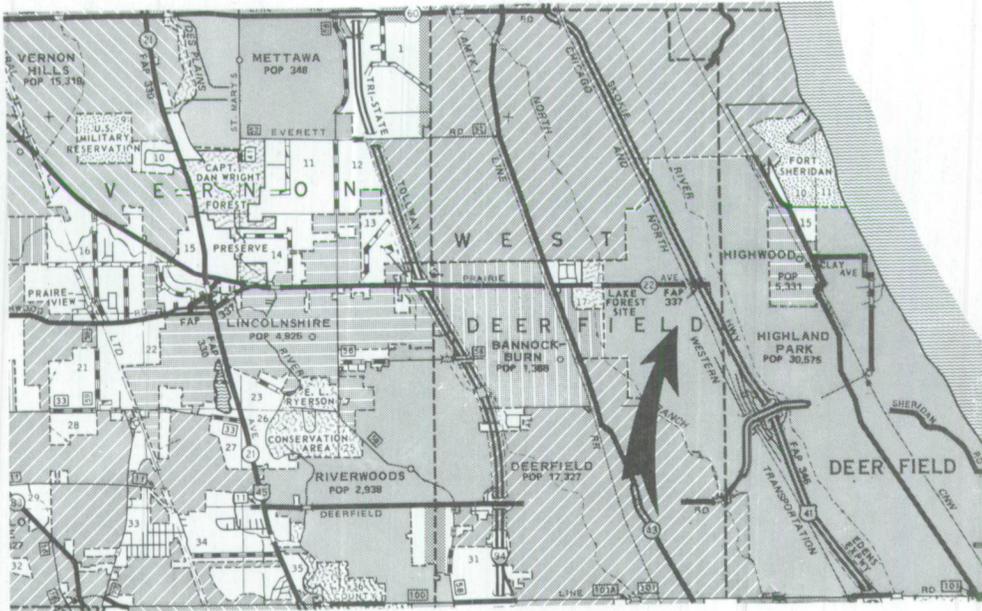
DEERFIELD

DEERFIELD

HIGHLAND PARK

DEERFIELD

Highmoor Park



## Highmoor Park Nature Preserve

## Lake County

### Location and Access:

In Highland Park from the jct. of Rt. 22 (Half Day Rd.) and Ridge Rd., head south on Ridge Rd. for 0.5 mile and turn left (east) into the parking lot on the northwest corner of the preserve.

Special note: A wood chip trail provides access to the preserve. A trail is planned to connect the Highmoor Park Nature Preserve and Hybernian Nature Preserve trail systems.

### Description:

Highmoor Park is a 10-acre mosaic of several plant communities contiguous to Hybernian Nature Preserve. These two preserves share a common border and are part of the same drainage way with water flowing from Highmoor Park into the Hybernian wetlands. Highmoor Park contains mesic, wet-mesic and wet prairies, sedge meadows, and wet and mesic open savanna remnants. Big bluestem, Michigan lily, Scribner's panic grass,

marsh blazing star, small sundrops and golden alexander highlight the prairie communities. The sedge meadows are characterized by tussock sedge, Virginia wild rye, bluejoint grass, fowl manna grass and blue flag. The savanna communities are dominated by oaks, including bur, white, black and Hill's oaks with blue beech and hazelnut in the understory. Woodland brome and Pennsylvania sedge grow on the woodland floor with many forbs such as sky-blue aster, shooting star and starry false solomon's seal.

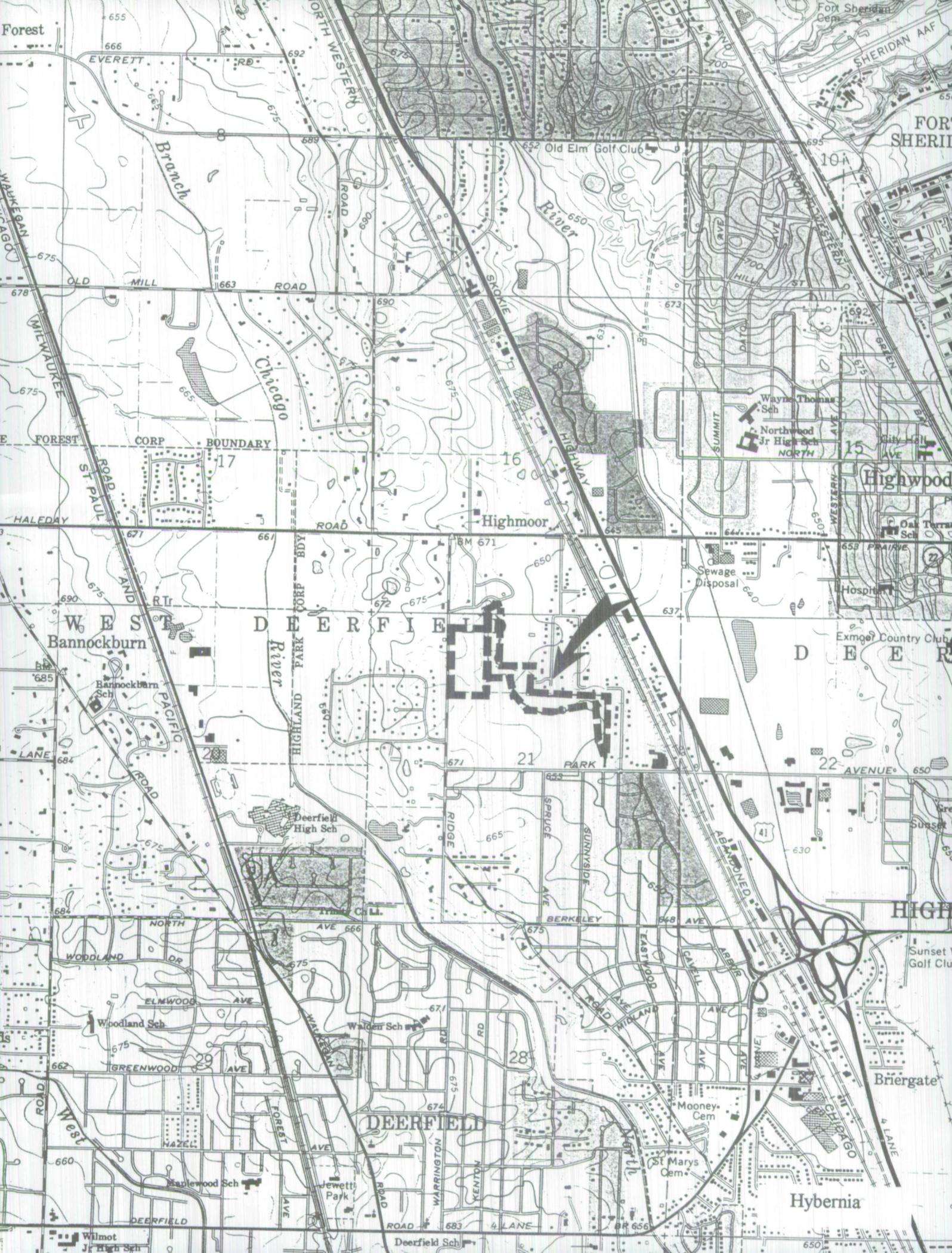
**Ownership:** Park District of Highland Park

**Dedicated:** June 1991

**Size:** 10 acres

**Topo Map:** Highland Park 7.5

For Further Information Contact: Park District of Highland Park, West Ridge Center, 636 Ridge Rd., Highland Park, IL 60035 (708/831-0818)



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GREENWOOD AVE

HAZEL AVE

WILMOT JR HIGH SCH

Chicago

Deerfield River

Deerfield High Sch

WALDEN SCH

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Old Elm Golf Club

Wayne Thomas Sch

Northwood Jr High Sch

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Sewage Disposal

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Exmoor Country Club

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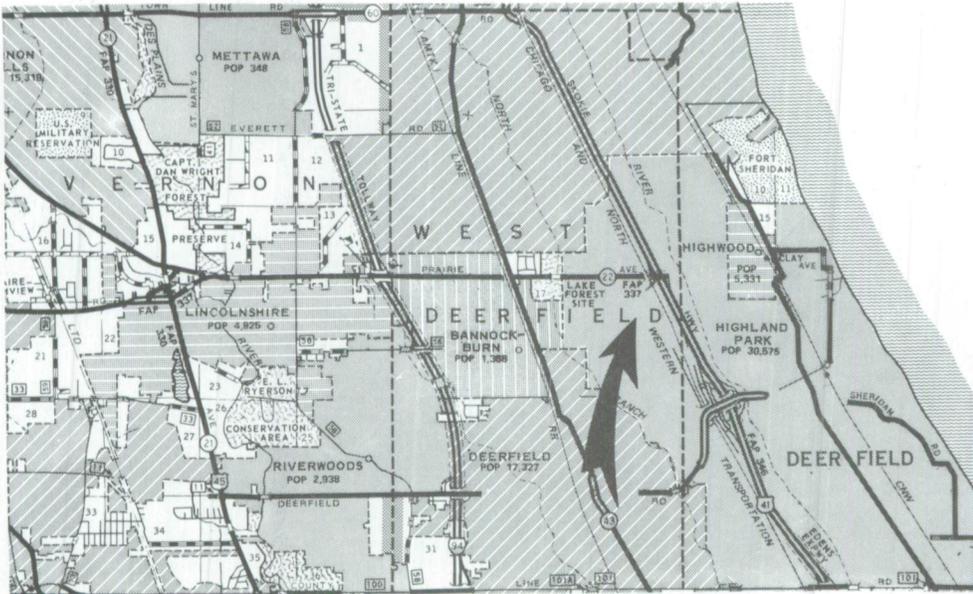
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## Hybernia Nature Preserve

## Lake County

### Location and Access:

In Highland Park from the jct. of Rt. 22 (Half Day Rd.) and Ridge Rd., head south on Ridge Rd. to Park Ave. Head east on Park Ave. to the entrance of Hybernia subdivision on Hybernia Drive. Follow Hybernia Drive north and look for the nature preserve sign on the east. Curbside parking is permitted.

Special Note: Wood chip trails provide access to the preserve.

### Description:

Hybernia is a 27-acre complex of wetlands, prairies and mesic savanna reminiscent of the integrated landscape of presettlement times. It is located within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Division and is situated on a rolling ground moraine. The wetland plant communities are within a drainageway which has a

seasonally high water table. Hybernia Nature Preserve is contiguous with Highmoor which features 10 acres of similar plant communities and is part of the same drainage system. These communities provide habitat for an array of beautiful prairie forbs such as the purple milkweed, bottle gentian, blue flag, fringed loosestrife, wild quinine, small sundrops and meadowsweet as well as many native grasses and sedges.

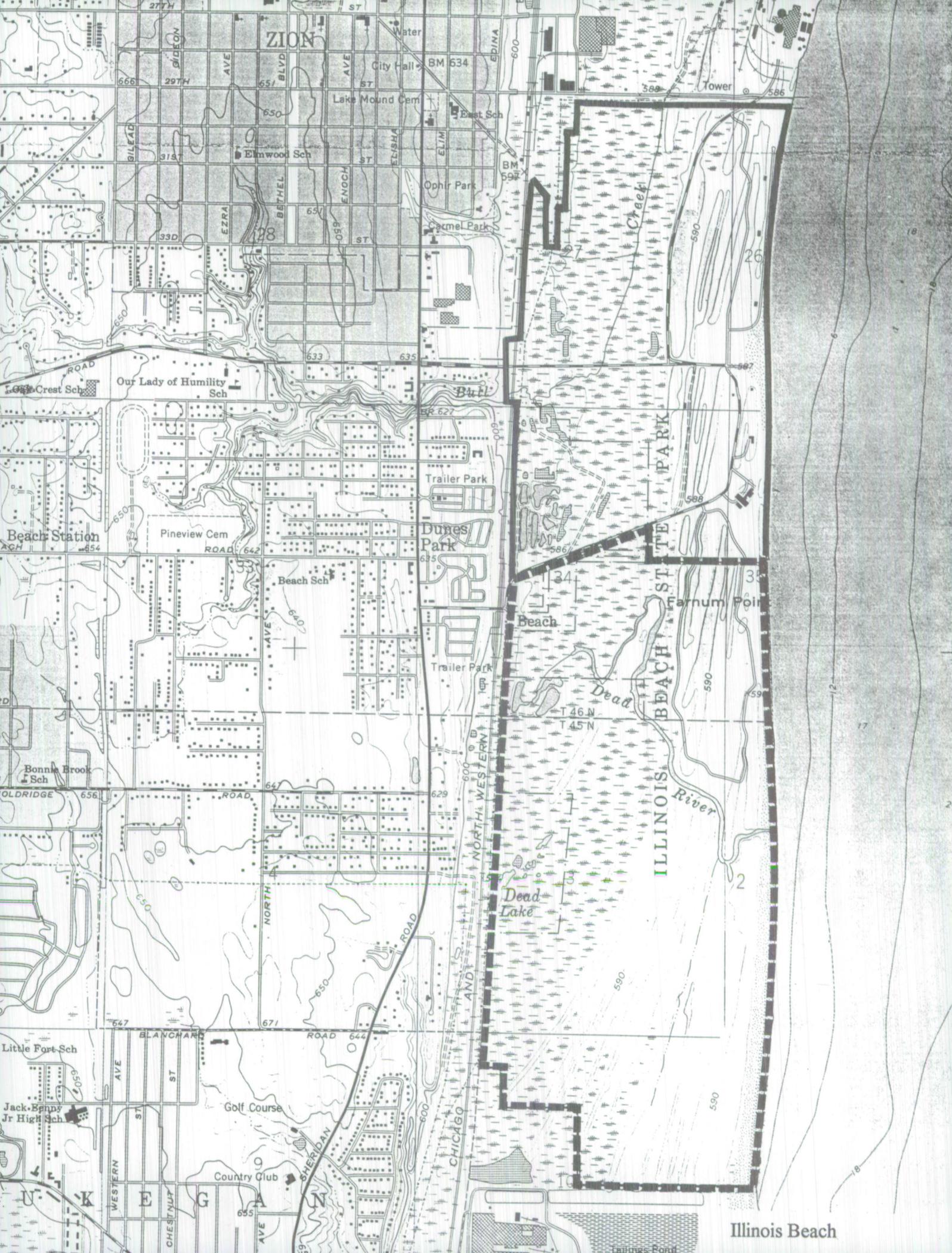
**Ownership:** Hybernia Associates Limited Partnership

**Dedicated:** December 1990

**Size:** 27 acres

**Topo Map:** Highland Park 7.5

For Further Information Contact: Red Seal Development Corporation, 425 Huehl Rd., Bldg. 18, Northbrook, IL 60062 (708/272-6280)



Illinois Beach



## Illinois Beach Nature Preserve

## Lake County

### Location and Access:

From Zion, take Sheridan Road south about 1 mile to Wadsworth Road, then go east to Illinois Beach State Park. The nature preserve is south of the park lodge.

Special Note: The preserve is located within the south unit of Illinois Beach State Park. A nature center, trail system and trail guide have been established. Access to the nature preserve south of Dead River is by permit only. Permits may be obtained from the site superintendent.

### Description:

Illinois Beach, dedicated in 1964, was the first Illinois Nature Preserve. In 1980, the area was also designated as a National Natural Landmark. Illinois Beach is one of the richest, biologically most diverse areas in the state. The preserve lies within the Lake Michigan Dune Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The interesting dune and swale topography resulted from the lowering of the water levels of ancient Lake Chicago following the last glacial period. The natural communities adapted to this unique lakefront environment include lakeshore, foredune, sand prairie, sand savanna, fen, panne, sedge meadow, marsh and pond. These natural communities support over 500 plant species and a large variety of animal species. Low sand dunes near the beach contain sandbinding grasses, bear-

berry and trailing juniper. The dry ridges found farther inland support sand cherry, willows, New Jersey tea, shrubby cinquefoil and large colonies of prickly pear cactus. Sand prairies are common on stabilized dunes and ridges. The typical grasses are little bluestem, switch grass, Indian grass and sand reed grass. Alkaline pannes are located in some of the swales near the lake. The common plants include sedges, Ohio goldenrod, fringed gentian, Kalm's lobelia and shrubby cinquefoil. The preserve supports many species of ducks, shorebirds, gulls, herons, rails and songbirds. The preserve is in an excellent area to see hawks, falcons and shorebirds during migration.

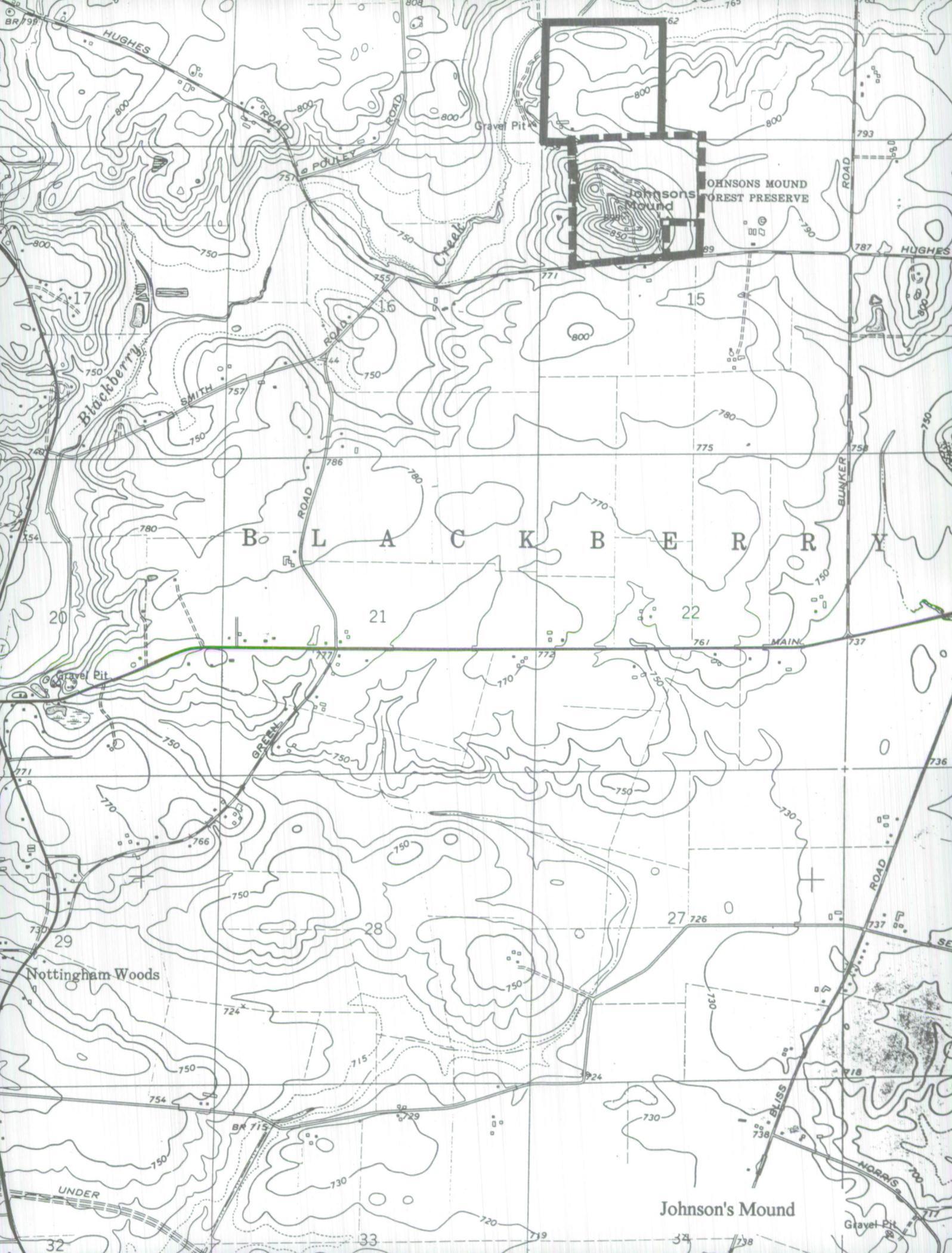
**Ownership:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources

**Dedicated:** October 16, 1964 as the 1st Illinois Nature Preserve

**Size:** 829 acres

**Topo Map:** Zion 7.5

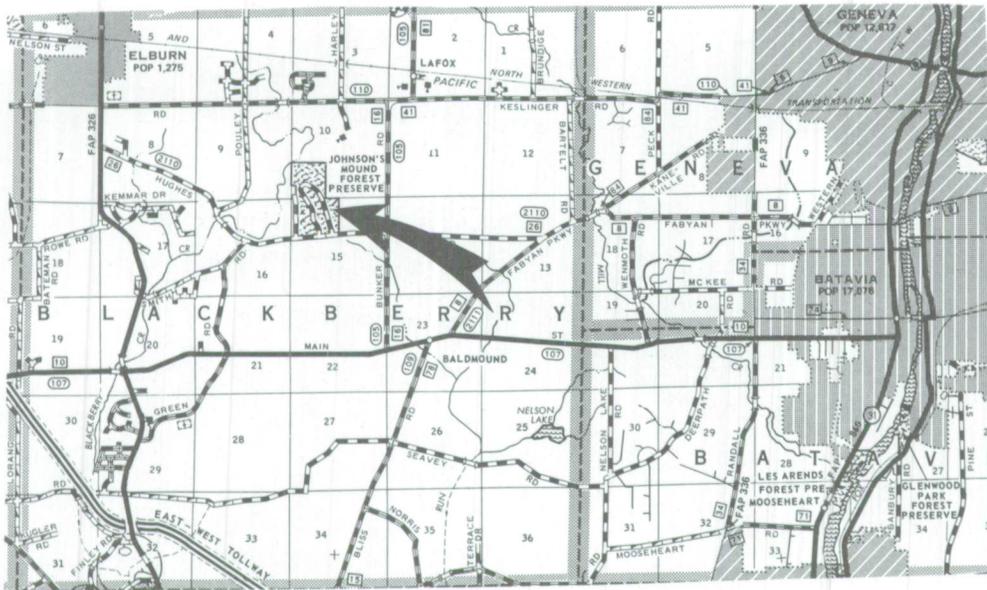
For Further Information Contact: Site Superintendent, Illinois Beach State Park, Zion, IL 60099 (708/662-4811) or Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Biologist, 110 James Road, Spring Grove, IL 60081 (815/675-2385)



JOHNSONS MOUND  
FOREST PRESERVE

B L A C K B E R R Y

Johnson's Mound



## Johnson's Mound Nature Preserve

## Kane County

### Location and Access:

At the jct. of Randall Rd. and Fabyan Pky. in Batavia, head west on Fabyan Pky. for approx. 2.25 mi. to Hughes Rd. Right on Hughes for 2.33 mi. to the entrance to Johnson's Mound on the north side of the road.

Special note: A paved roadway loops around the kame and picnic areas are provided.

### Description:

Johnson's Mound represents an outstanding example of a glacial kame which supports dry-mesic and mesic upland forest. It is classified as a till kame which formed during active glaciation rather than an outwash kame which formed during glacial stagnation. The kame is generally conical with slopes of 10-20%, occasionally undulating with shallow ravines and secondary knolls. This fairly well drained kame is dominated by sugar maples on all slopes growing with white ash, slippery elm and basswood. White and bur oaks contribute minimally to the canopy on the west and southwestern slopes. Understory trees and shrubs such as ironwood,

blue ash, hazelnut and gooseberry grow throughout the forest. A rich understory of woodland forbs, such as shooting stars and violet wood sorrel, populate the canopy openings on the western slopes, while dutchmans breeches, declined and large white trillium, Short's aster and blue cohosh grow throughout the kame. Poorly drained depressions are found at the base of the northern slope. A small, spring fed fen occupies one of these depressions with remnant populations of tussock sedge, bottle gentian, swamp milkweed and other characteristic forbs. The remainder of the preserve is buffer and consists of successional old fields and old tree plantations.

**Ownership:** Kane County Forest Preserve District

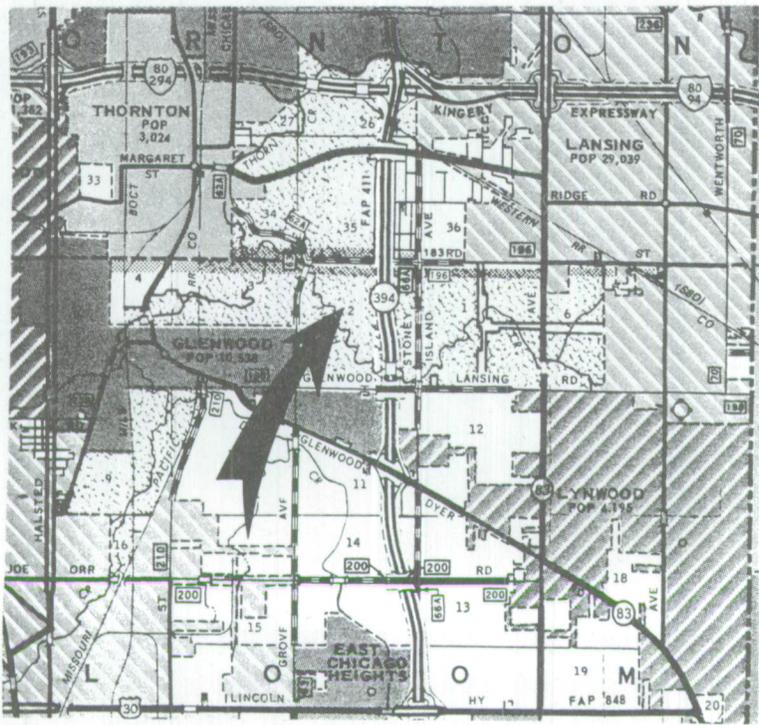
**Dedicated:** March 1992

**Size:** 185 acres

**Topo Map:** Sugar Grove 7.5

For Further Information Contact: The Forest Preserve District of Kane County, 719 Batavia Rd, Geneva, IL 60134 (708/232-5980)





## Jurgensen Woods Nature Preserve

## Cook County

### Location and Access:

From Glenwood at jct. Glenwood Lansing Road & Cottage Grove Avenue, take Cottage Grove Avenue north 1 mi. to 183rd Street, then turn and go east 0.2 mi., then turn and go south on the forest preserve road. The nature preserve is within the forest preserve and south of 183rd Street and east of the forest preserve road.

Special Note: Trails and parking are available at this preserve.

### Description:

Jurgensen Woods is a remnant of the extensive woodlands and prairie ecosystems that formerly occurred on the sandy plains of glacial Lake Chicago. Surviving plant communities at Jurgensen Woods that are unique to this sandy, relatively flat lake plain are shrub prairies, and sand flatwoods. The mesic woodlands at this preserve are dominated by a red oak, white oak and basswood association while pin oaks occur in the sandy flatwoods and on wet sites. In the shrub prairies, such

unique species as the purple chokeberry, hardhack, huckleberry and low bush blueberry may be found. Other prairie-associated species include Kalm's St. John's wort, sweetfern, grass pink orchid and narrow-leaved sundew. Jurgensen Woods Nature Preserve and the adjacent Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve represent some of the last remnants of the natural vegetation of the southern part of the Chicago Lake Plain.

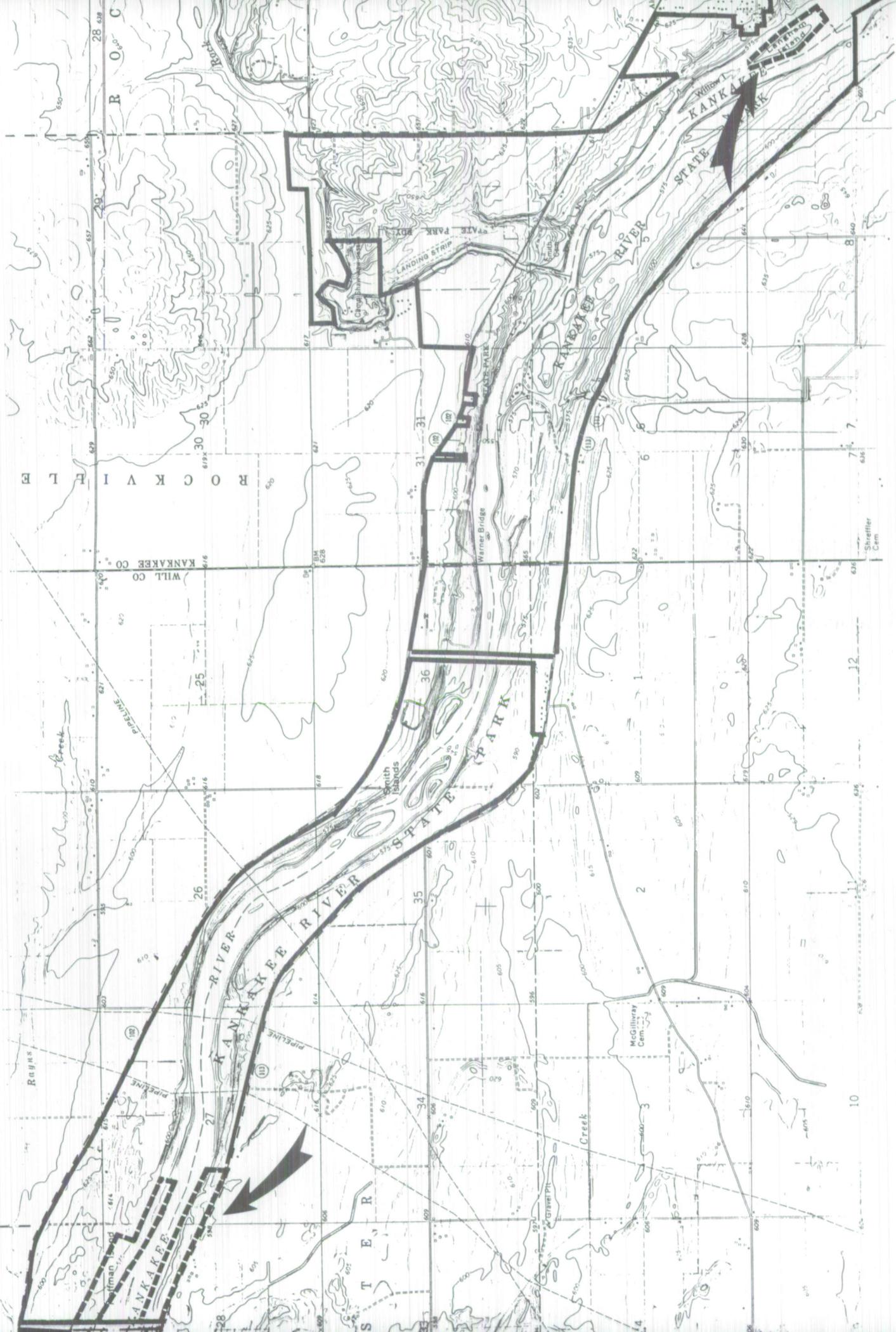
**Ownership:** Forest Preserve District of Cook County

**Dedicated:** January 1965 as the 6th Illinois Nature Preserve

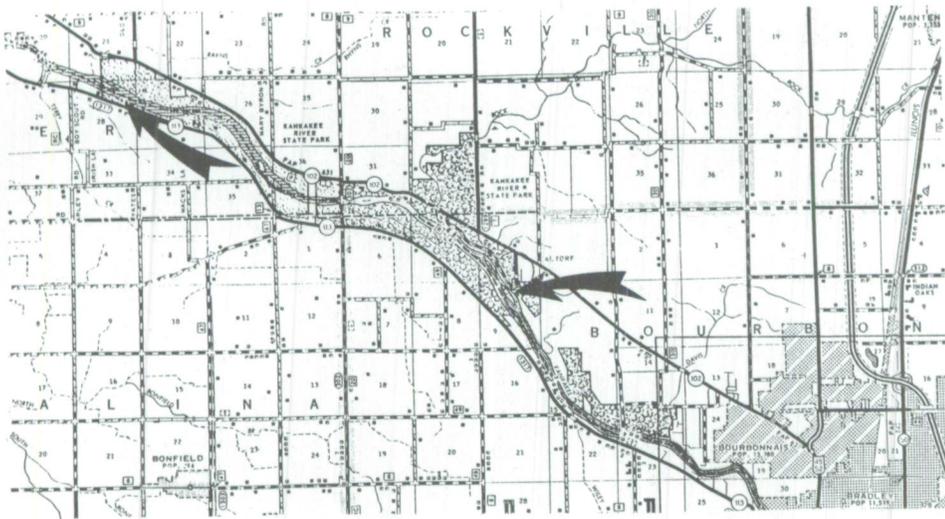
**Size:** 120 acres

**Topo Map:** Calumet City 7.5

**For Further Information Contact:** Forest Preserve District of Cook County, %Conservation Department, 536 North Harlem Ave., River Forest, IL 60525 (708/771-1330)



Kankakee River



## Kankakee River Nature Preserve

### Location and Access:

From Kankakee, take either Hwy. 102 or Hwy. 113 northwest 6 miles to Kankakee River State Park. The nature preserve is in the state park.

Special Note: The preserve is located within Kankakee River State Park, where facilities and recreational opportunities are available.

### Description:

Kankakee River Nature Preserve comprises 139 acres in two separate tracts - an island in the Kankakee River, known as Langham or Alton Island, and both sides of the river at the western most edge of Kankakee River State Park. The forested areas are representative of both the Grand Prairie Section and the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. The upland forest to the south is characterized by white and black oak. A more mesic forest is present on the north facing slopes and terraces along the river. Here, red oak, basswood and sugar maple are present in the overstory, while the understory is rich in wildflowers and ferns. A bottomland forest of silver maple, cottonwood and green ash occurs along the river and on the island. The

## Kankakee and Will Counties

tract to the north of the river consists of rolling sand hills, and it supports a typical white oak-black oak community. This community grades into a more wet forest along the low river bluff. Seepages in this area support a bog-like community with skunk cabbage and angelica. Dolomite bedrock outcrops are also present and many uncommon plant species such as wild stonecrop and bulblet fern occur here.

**Ownership:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources

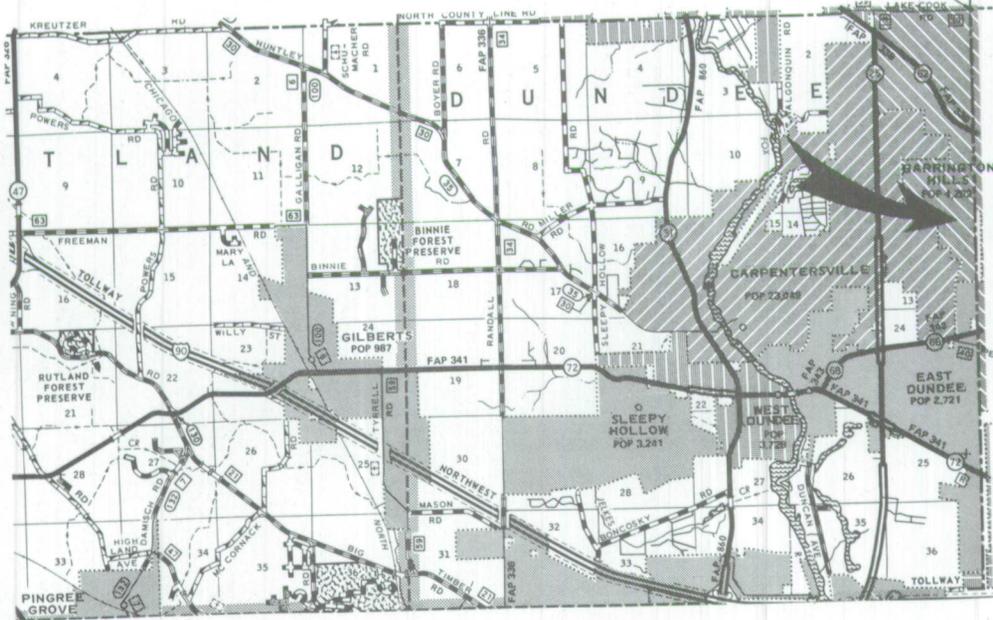
**Dedicated:** January 24, 1966 as the 15th Illinois Nature Preserve

**Size:** 139 acres

**Topo Map:** Bourbonnais and Bonfield 7.5

For Further Information Contact: Site Superintendent, Kankakee River State Park, Bourbonnais, IL 60914 (815/933-1383) or Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Biologist, 100 First National Bank Plaza, Suite 10, Chicago Heights, IL 60411 (708/709-3300)





## Kemper Park Nature Preserve

## Kane County

### Location and Access:

From the jct. of Rts. 68 and 25 in Carpentersville, head north on Rt. 25 for 1.2 miles to Hazard Rd. East (Right) on Hazard until it ends. Parking for Kemper Park is on the north of Hazard Rd.

Special Note: Foot trails from the east end of the picnic area connect to trails for Helm Woods Nature Preserve. Trails are unmarked and intersect with several unauthorized trails.

### Description:

This thirteen acre nature preserve is an addition to Helm Woods Nature Preserve, a larger forested tract of dry-mesic upland and northern flatwood forests. Kemper Park Nature Preserve is contiguous to Helm Woods and is comprised of similar plant communities. The dry-mesic upland forest is dominated by white, red and black oaks while the flatwoods are dominated by swamp white

oaks, ashes and elms with swamp sedge and fowl manna grass occurring frequently in the understory. Many forbs, especially spring ephemerals, sedges, grasses and shrubs can be found throughout the entire woodland complex.

Garlic mustard is a major problem in this preserve. Prescribed burns have been implemented to control this invasive species.

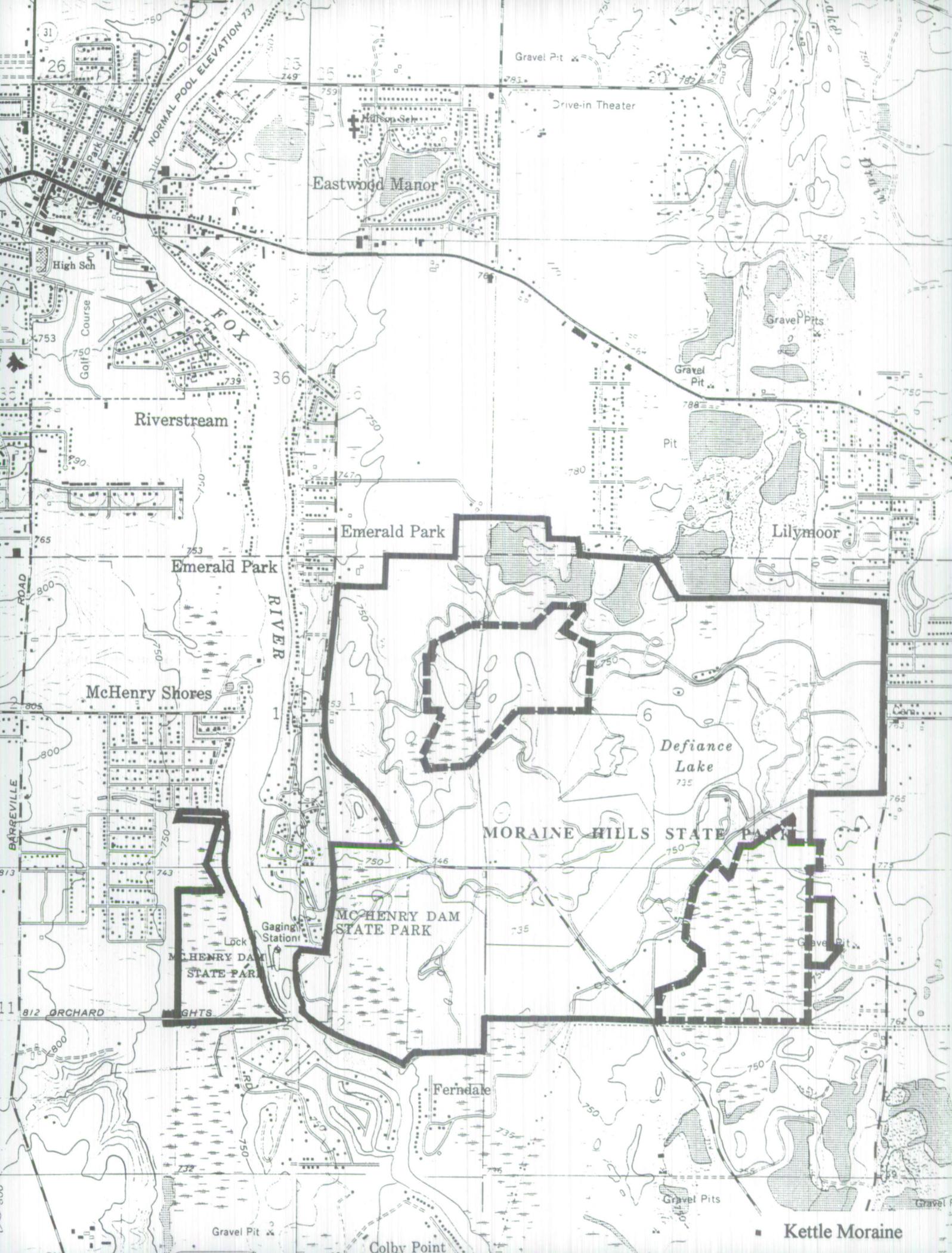
**Ownership:** Dundee Township Park District

**Dedicated:** March 1993

**Size:** 13 acres

**Topo Map:** Streamwood 7.5

For Further Information Contact: Dundee Township Park District, 21 N. Washington, Carpentersville, IL 60110 (708/551-4300)



Eastwood Manor

Riverstream

Emerald Park

Emerald Park

Lilymoor

McHenry Shores

Defiance Lake

MORaine HILLS STATE PARK

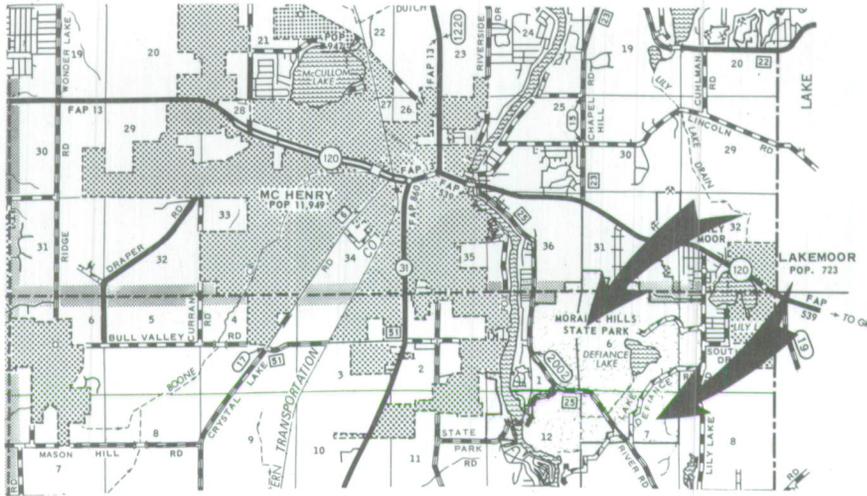
McHENRY DAM STATE PARK

McHENRY DAM STATE PARK

Ferndale

Kettle Moraine

Colby Point



## Kettle Moraine Nature Preserve

### Location and Access:

From the intersection of Highway 31 and Highway 120 in McHenry take Highway 120 east. Immediately after crossing the Fox River turn south on a county road (River Rd.) and follow the signs to Moraine Hills State Park. The nature preserve consists of 2 units in the state park, Pike Marsh and Leatherleaf Bog. To reach Pike Marsh take the main park road to the Pike Marsh Day Use Area. The preserve is reached by taking a short trail from the parking lot. There is a boardwalk out into the Marsh. To reach Leatherleaf Bog continue on the main park road to the Northern Lakes Day Use Area. The preserve is west of the parking lot.

### Description:

This preserve contains a variety of natural features which owe their origins to the last glacial epoch approximately 12,000 years ago. Leatherleaf Bog is a 120 acre bog which contains the shrub leatherleaf, sphagnum moss, marsh fern, marsh marigold and several species of willow.

## McHenry County

Pike Marsh is a peat-filled basin which contains marsh and fen vegetation. Unlike a bog which is acidic, fens are alkaline in nature. Several notable species including bladderwort, pitcher plant and Blanding's turtle are present here.

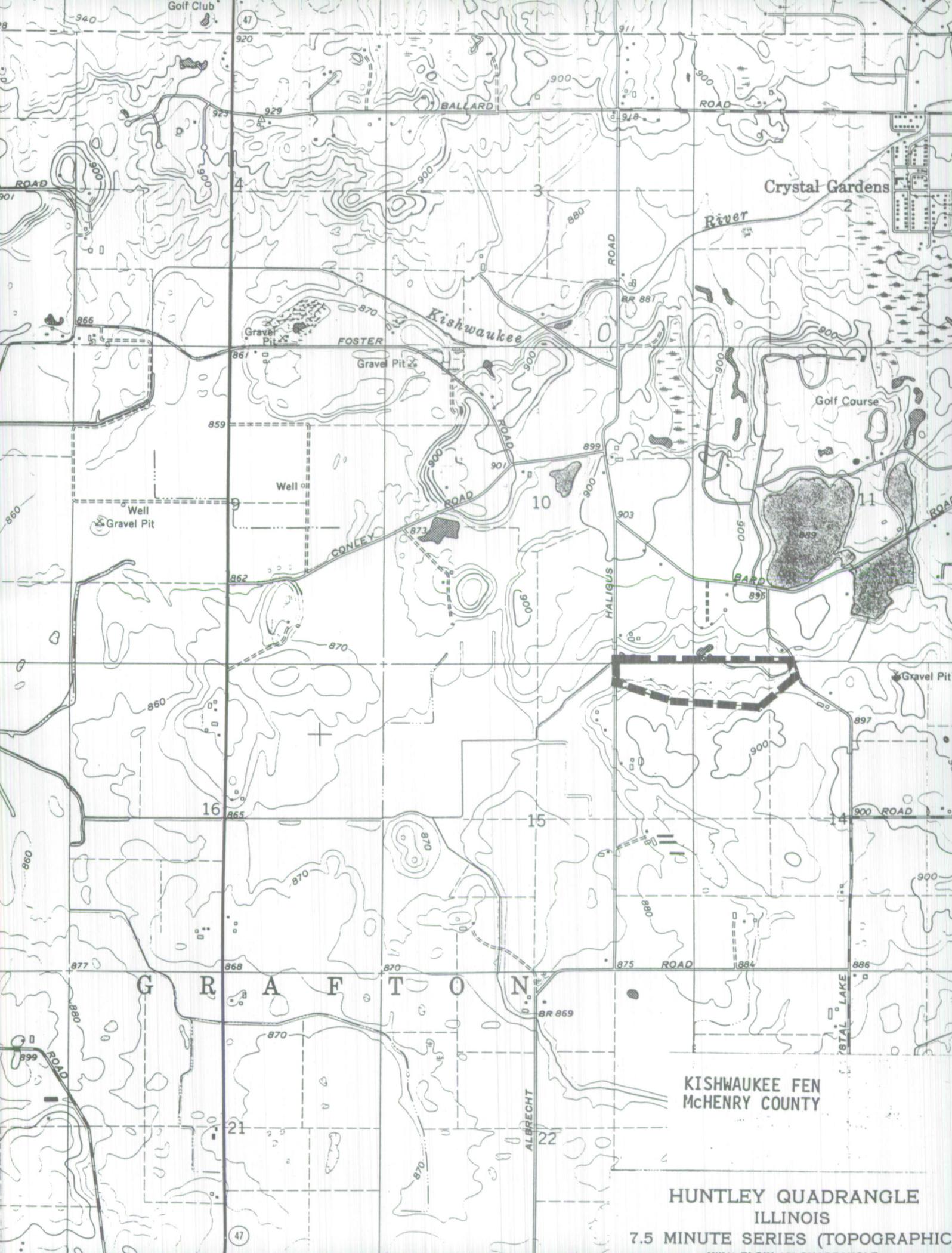
**Ownership:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources

**Dedicated:** December 1974

**Size:** 242 acres, in two parcels

**Topo Map:** Wauconda 7.5

For Further Information Contact: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Biologist, 110 James Rd., Spring Grove, IL 60081 (815/675-2385) or Site Superintendent, Moraine Hills State Park, McHenry, IL 60050 (815/385-1624)



Crystal Gardens

River

Kishwaukee

FOSTER

Golf Course

Well

Well  
Gravel Pit

CONLEY

HALIGUS

BARP

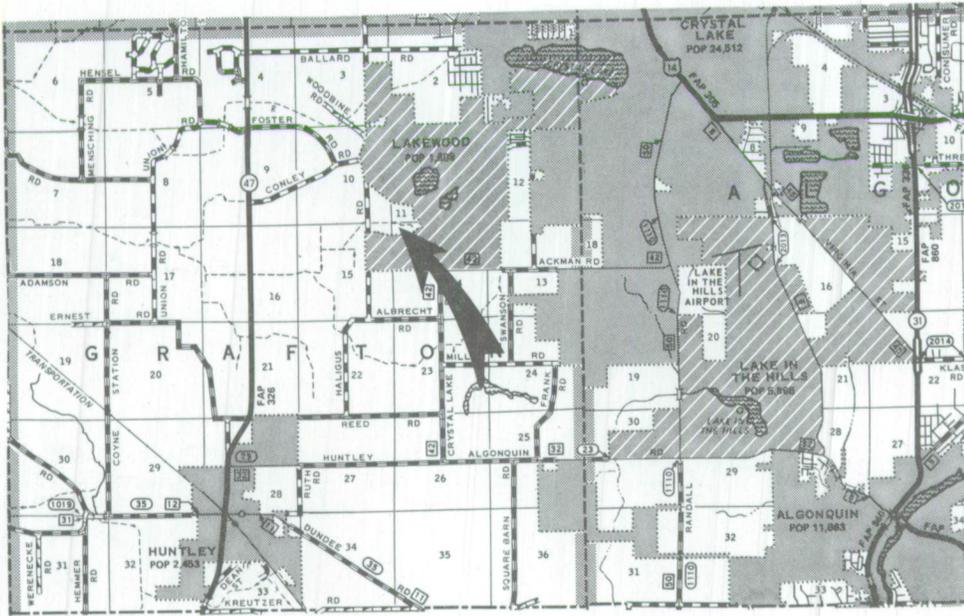
Gravel Pit

G R A F T O N

KISHWAUKEE FEN  
McHENRY COUNTY

HUNTLEY QUADRANGLE  
ILLINOIS

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



## Kishwaukee Fen Nature Preserve

## McHenry County

### Location and Access:

From the jct of Rts. 176 and 14, head west on Rt. 176 to Haligus Rd. Turn south (left) onto Haligus. At the intersection of Haligus and Bard, continue on Haligus for 0.5 mi. where the preserve is located on the east side of the road.

Special Note: There is no public access at this time. Public access is planned for the future. Contact the Village of Lake Wood for access information.

### Description:

Kishwaukee Fen is locally known as the Tumberry Wetlands. The ecological integrity of the fen is dependent upon the ground water supply from the surrounding uplands. The area surrounding the preserve is buffer, part of which is being restored to native vegetation. Golf course fairways also provide portions of the buffer. The fen features a high quality plant community includ-

ing many plants favoring calcium rich environments such as twig rush, sweet Indian plantain, turtlehead, swamp betony, grass of Parnassus and Kalm's lobelia. Other forbs abound here with many wetland sedges and grasses. The Baltimore checkerspot, dependent on turtlehead for its larval food supply, resides here with other wetland restricted butterflies. The area is being managed to eradicate invasive, exotic purple loosestrife and reed canary grass.

**Ownership:** Village of Lake Wood

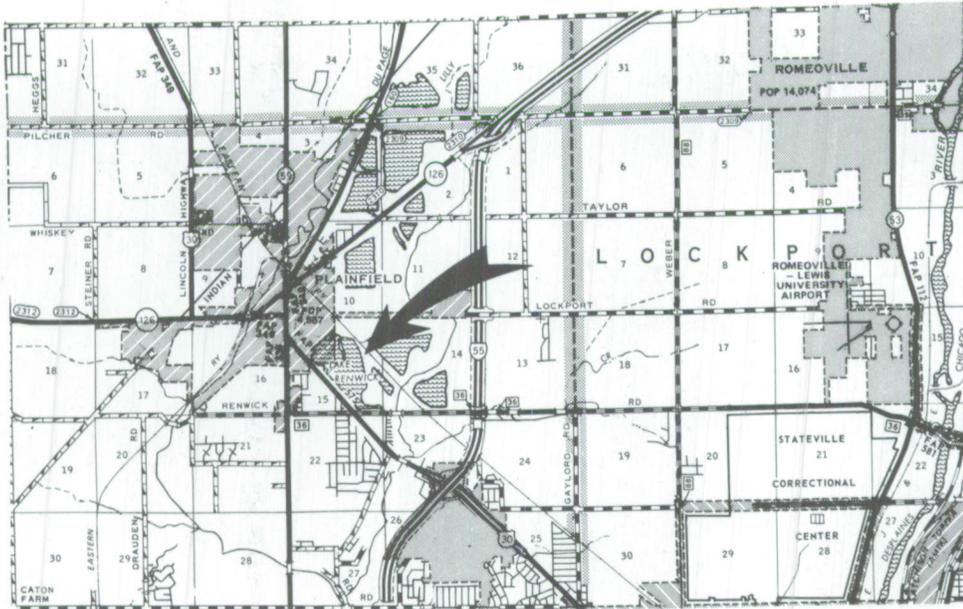
**Dedicated:** March 1993

**Size:** 35.5 acres

**Topo Map:** Huntley 7.5

For Further Information Contact: Village of Lake Wood, 2500 Lake Avenue, Crystal Lake, IL 60014 (815/459-3025)





## Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Nature Preserve

## Will County

### Location and Access:

The rookery is present on an island in Lake Renwick southeast of Plainfield in Will County. From Interstate 55, take the Plainfield or Joliet Road (Route 30) exit. Travel 1.5 miles to Lake Renwick. Visitors may view the birds from shore with binoculars and spotting scopes.

### Description:

This is a site established as a nature preserve for the purpose of protecting a large heron rookery which contains great egrets, great blue herons, black-crowned night-herons and double-crested cormorants. The great egrets and black-crowned night-herons are present in relatively large numbers. Recent management efforts

have included the construction of structures designed to prevent erosion of the island where the rookery is located. This erosion was a threat to the trees where the herons nest.

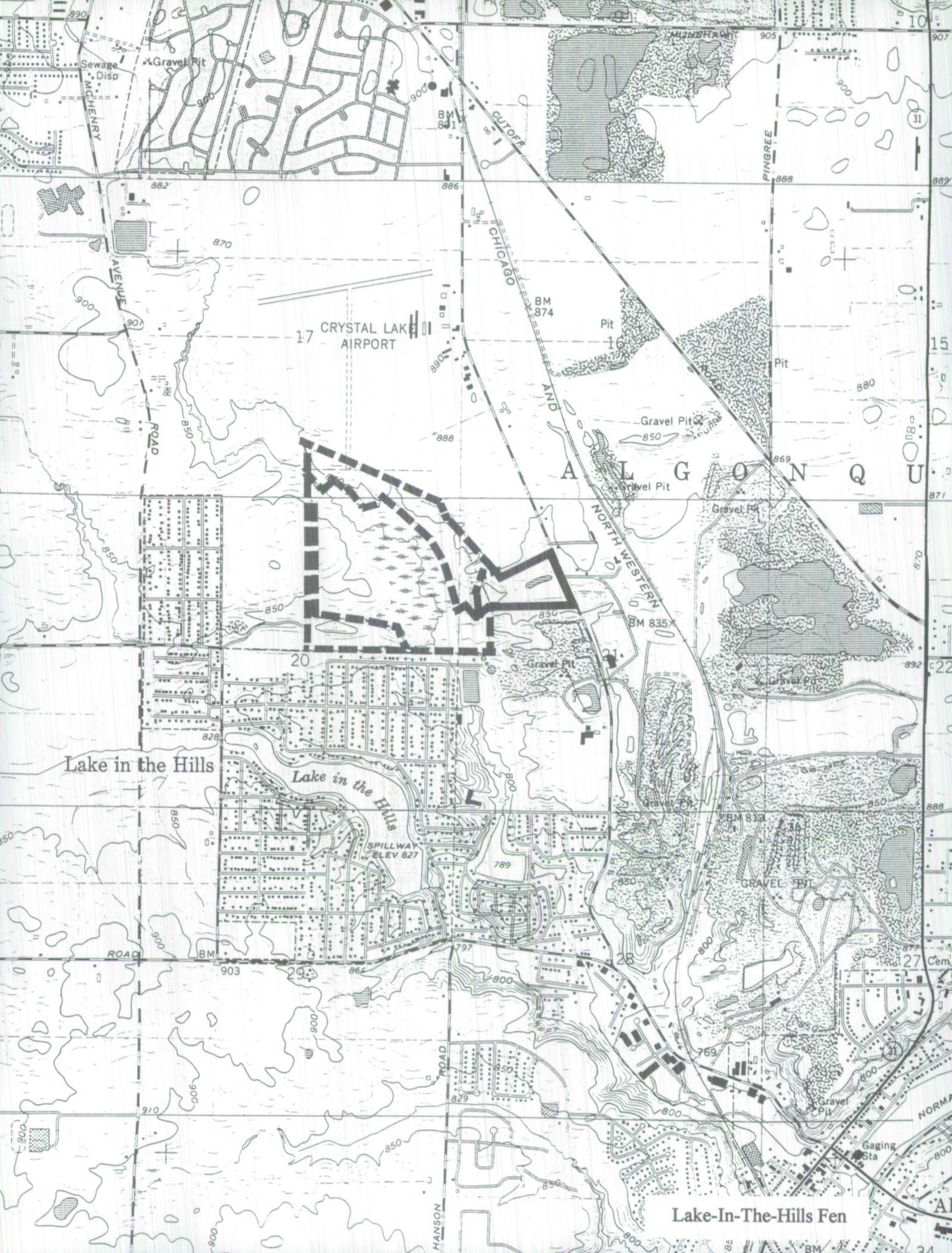
**Ownership:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Forest Preserve District of Will County

**Dedicated:** December 1992

**Size:** 320 acres

**Topo Map:** Plainfield 7.5

For Further Information Contact: Forest Preserve District of Will County, 22606 S. Cherry Hill Road, Joliet, IL 60433 (815/727-8700)



Lake in the Hills

Lake in the Hills

17 CRYSTAL LAKE AIRPORT

ALGONQUIN

Lake-In-The-Hills Fen

Sewage Disp

Gravel Pit

BM 881

BM 874

Gravel Pit

Gravel Pit

Gravel Pit

Gravel Pit

Gravel Pit

BM 835

Gravel Pit

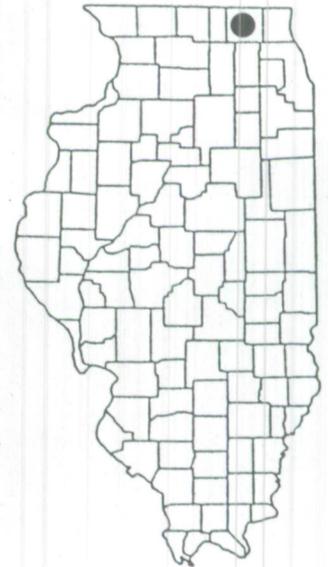
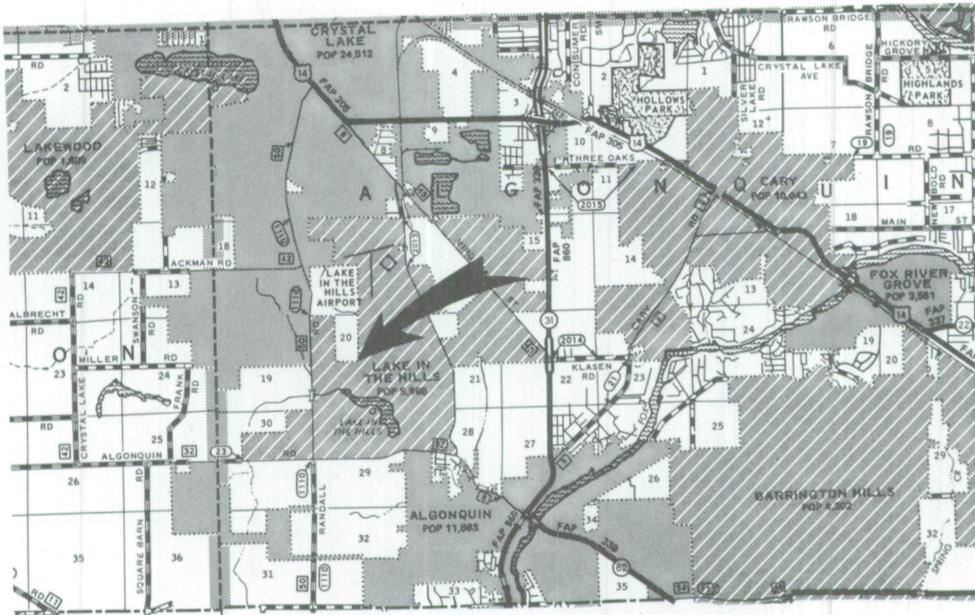
BM 812

Gravel Pit

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## Lake-In-The-Hills Fen Nature Preserve

## McHenry County

### Location and Access:

From Algonquin at the jct. of Rt. 31 and Huntley-Algonquin Rd. (Rt.62), west on Huntley-Algonquin for 1 mile to Pyott Rd. North on Pyott for 1.5 miles to the entrance of Barbara Key Park west of Pyott. Trailhead from Barbara Key Park provides access to the nature preserve.

Special Note: Parking and public facilities provided at Barbara Key Park.

### Description:

Lake-In-The-Hills Fen is a picturesque complex of morainal ridges, composed primarily of limestone gravel, which surround depressional areas that contain very high quality wetlands. Nine distinct native communities occur here and include calcareous floating mat, graminoid fen, low shrub fen, calcareous seep, sedge meadows and marsh, perennial stream, dry gravel prairie and mesic gravel prairie.

The gravel hills are covered by dry prairies dominated by native grasses interspersed with a rich diversity of rare wildflowers such as Hill's thistle, prairie smoke, prairie gentian and leadplant. Ground water collecting in the sand and gravel of the gravel hills absorbs minerals from the limestone and seeps out at the base of the hills to form fens. Many rare plants are found in the fen including the false asphodel. The fen is home to the tiny blue bell, our smallest damsel fly, which is known

to exist in only two sites in Illinois. Associated with the fen is the shrub fen, dominated by shrubby cinquefoil. Closer to the stream, sedge meadows provide a rich habitat for many uncommon wetland butterflies and birds as well as a variety of sedges, grasses and forbs. The sedge meadows grade into cattail marshes which border the perennial stream.

From the center of the preserve, surrounded by the gravel hills and overlooking the lush green vegetation of the wetlands, it is possible to get a sense of stepping back in time. The natural diversity and scenic beauty of Lake-in-the-Hills Fen make it an excellent place to view native landscapes closely resembling pre-settlement conditions.

An active volunteer stewardship group has been assisting with management activities for ten years.

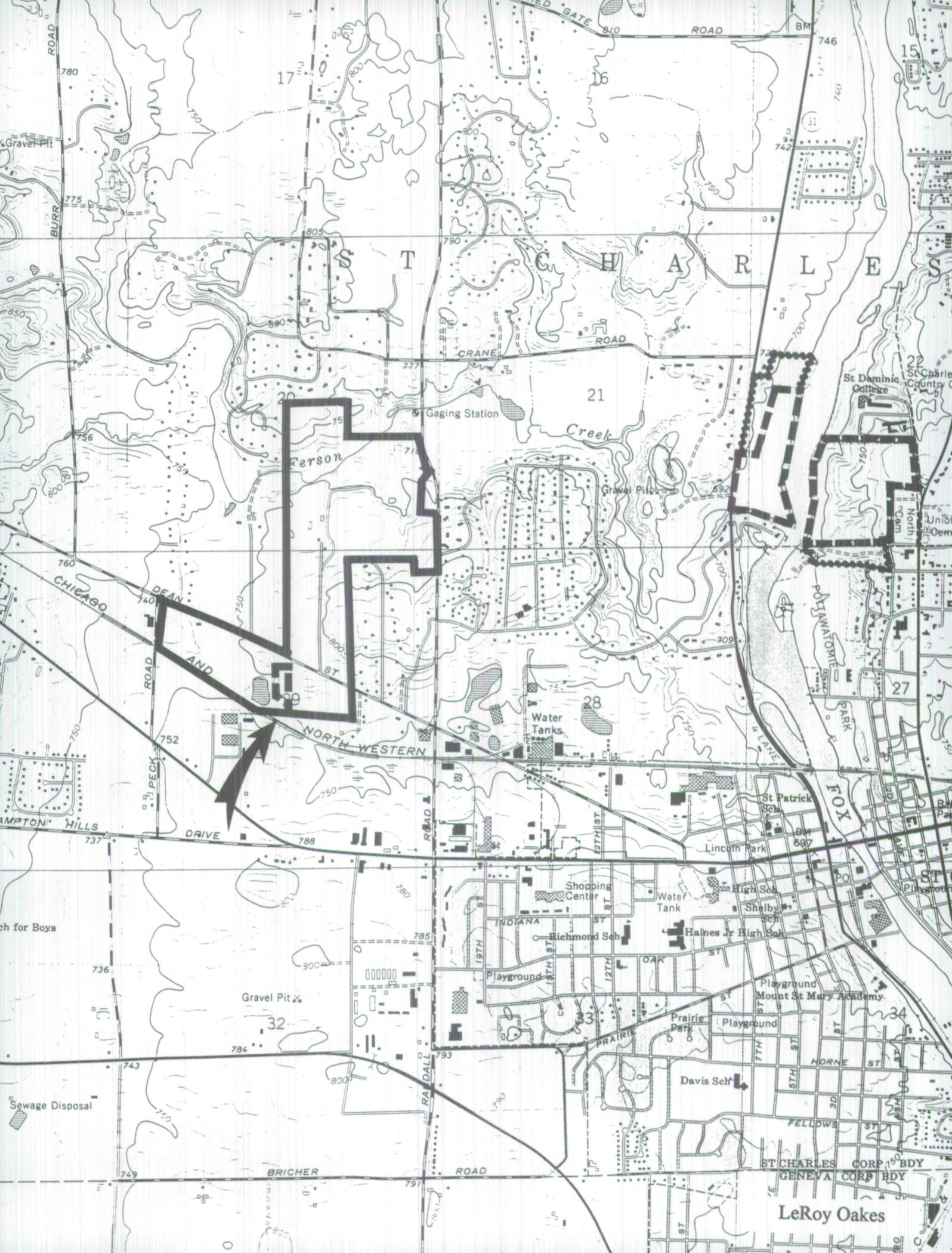
**Ownership:** Village of Lake-In-The-Hills, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

**Dedicated:** April 1990

**Size:** 207.1 acres

**Topo Map:** Crystal Lake 7.5

For Further Information Contact: McHenry County Conservation District, 6512 Harts Rd., Ringwood, IL 60072 (815/678-4431)



ST CHARLES

Person

Creek

CHICAGO ROAD  
DEAN ROAD  
AND

NORTH WESTERN

FOX

Shopping Center

Richmond Sch

Haines Jr High Sch

Playground  
Mount St Mary Academy

Davis Sch

ST CHARLES CORP BDY  
GENEVA CORP BDY

LeRoy Oakes

Gravel Pit

Water Tanks

CRANE ROAD

POTANATORIE

PARK

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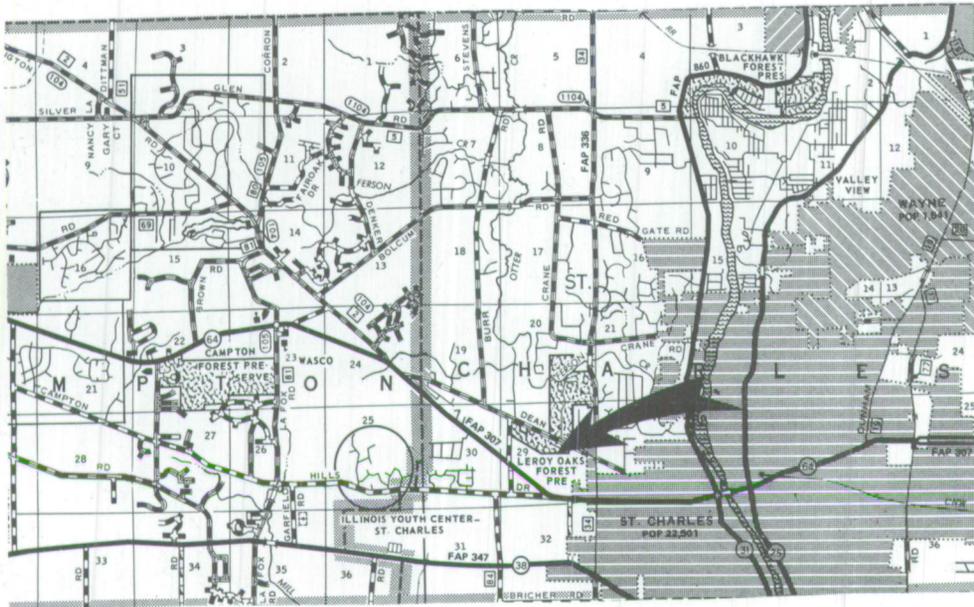
BM 992

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## LeRoy Oakes Nature Preserve

## Kane County

### Location and Access:

From the jct. of Rt. 64 and Randall Rd, north on Randall Rd. for 0.25 mile to the traffic light, turn west (left) onto Dean St. for 0.5 mile. Enter parking lot for Great Western Trail bike path on the south side of Dean St. The foot trail at the west end of the parking lot leads to the nature preserve.

### Description:

The LeRoy Oakes Nature Preserve is locally referred to as "Horlock Hill." The preserve is part of an end moraine composed chiefly of well drained sand and gravel. It has been called one of the finest dry prairies in the Chicago region. Used as the benchmark for dry hill prairies by the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory, this preserve has been reduced to less than half the size it was when discovered. Approximately one acre of very high quality dry prairie persists. Despite encroachment from a pine tree plantation and use as a dumping ground for spoil piles in the 1950s, the prairie continues to support a diverse and very uncommon plant community. Among the more unusual plants to be found here are short green milkweed, scurfy pea and Richardson's

sedge. It also features many characteristic plants such as the prairie and bird-foot violet, leadplant, false toadflax, downy gentian, cylindrical blazing star, grooved yellow flax and prairie cinquefoil.

Special Note: Adjacent to the Nature Preserve is a prairie that was recreated from an old farm field, by the local high school prairie restoration club from 1973 to 1983. Students propagated and planted seedlings from seeds they collected locally. Approximately 130 species of prairie plants including both mesic and wet-mesic plant communities have been established here.

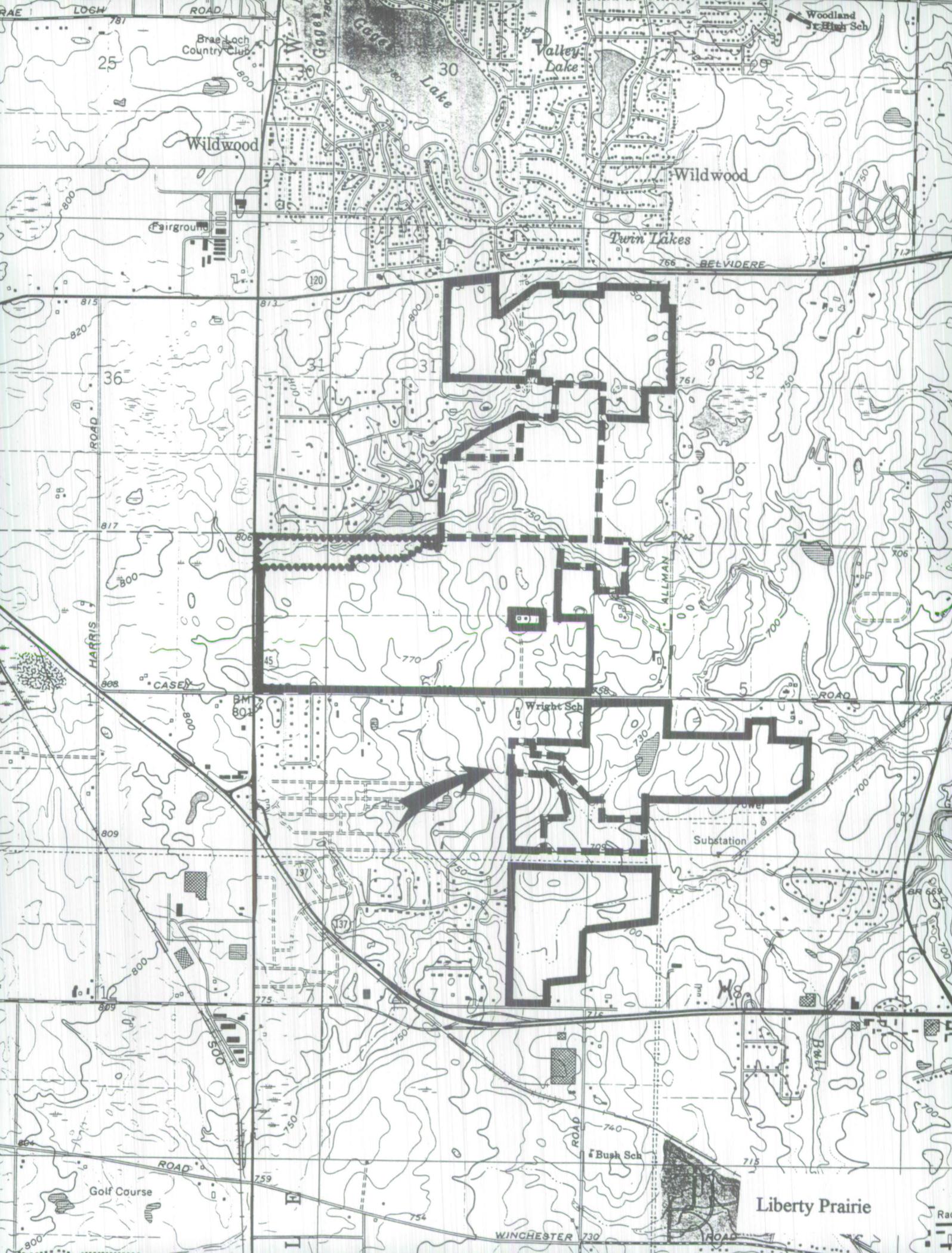
**Ownership:** Kane County Forest Preserve District

**Dedicated:** March 1992

**Size:** 20 acres

**Topo Map:** Geneva 7.5

For Further Information Contact: The Forest Preserve District of Kane County, 719 Batavia Road, Geneva, IL 60134 (708/232 5980)



Wildwood

Wildwood

Twin Lakes

BELVIDERE

Wright Sch

Substation

Bush Sch

Liberty Prairie

Brae Loch Country Club

Valley Lake

Woodland Jr High Sch

Fairground

Golf Course

HARRIS ROAD

WINCHESTER

25

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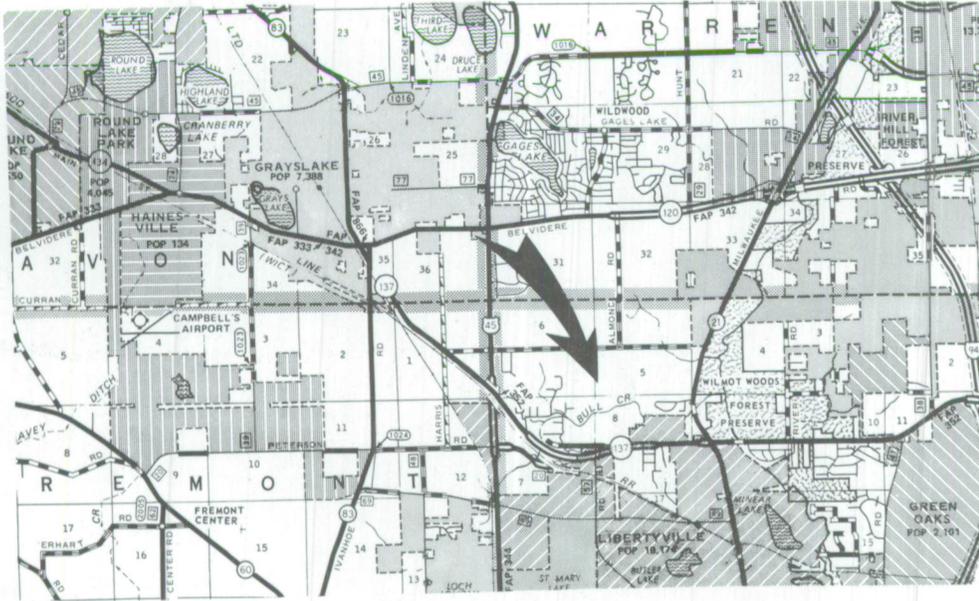
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## Liberty Prairie Nature Preserve

## Lake County

### Location and Access:

There is no developed access to this preserve; please contact the Libertyville Township Open Space District before entering the area.

### Description:

Liberty Prairie is comprised of several outstanding plant communities including a small virgin prairie that was only lightly grazed. The species richness indicates that most of the preserve was never plowed. Over 150 species of native flowering plants, ferns and fern allies have been found in the prairie and wetland communities. Other communities here are graminoid fen, sedge meadow and marsh. Prairie communities of Liberty Prairie exist along a drainageway on the edge of a morainal ridge on the west side of the Des Plaines River valley. In the early spring, the prairie is highlighted by the diminutive blossoms of species such as blue-eyed grass, yellow star grass and shooting star. Mid summer displays of marsh blazing star and marsh phlox are spectacular. In the fall the composites fill the landscape with blues, purples and golds of asters and goldenrods. The fen harbors such calciphiles as grass-of-Parnassus, Riddell's goldenrod, bottlebrush sedge and sterile

sedge. Slender bog arrow-grass grows on the edge of the fen. Tufted loosestrife, marsh skullcap and marsh vetchling flourish among the tussock sedge in the sedge meadow.

The fauna of Liberty Prairie is quite diverse. The native insects include six remnant restricted butterflies and moths. The smooth green snake inhabits the prairies and several wetland birds nest in the preserve.

The preserve is part of a 2500-acre macrosite being planned cooperatively by public and private land-owners.

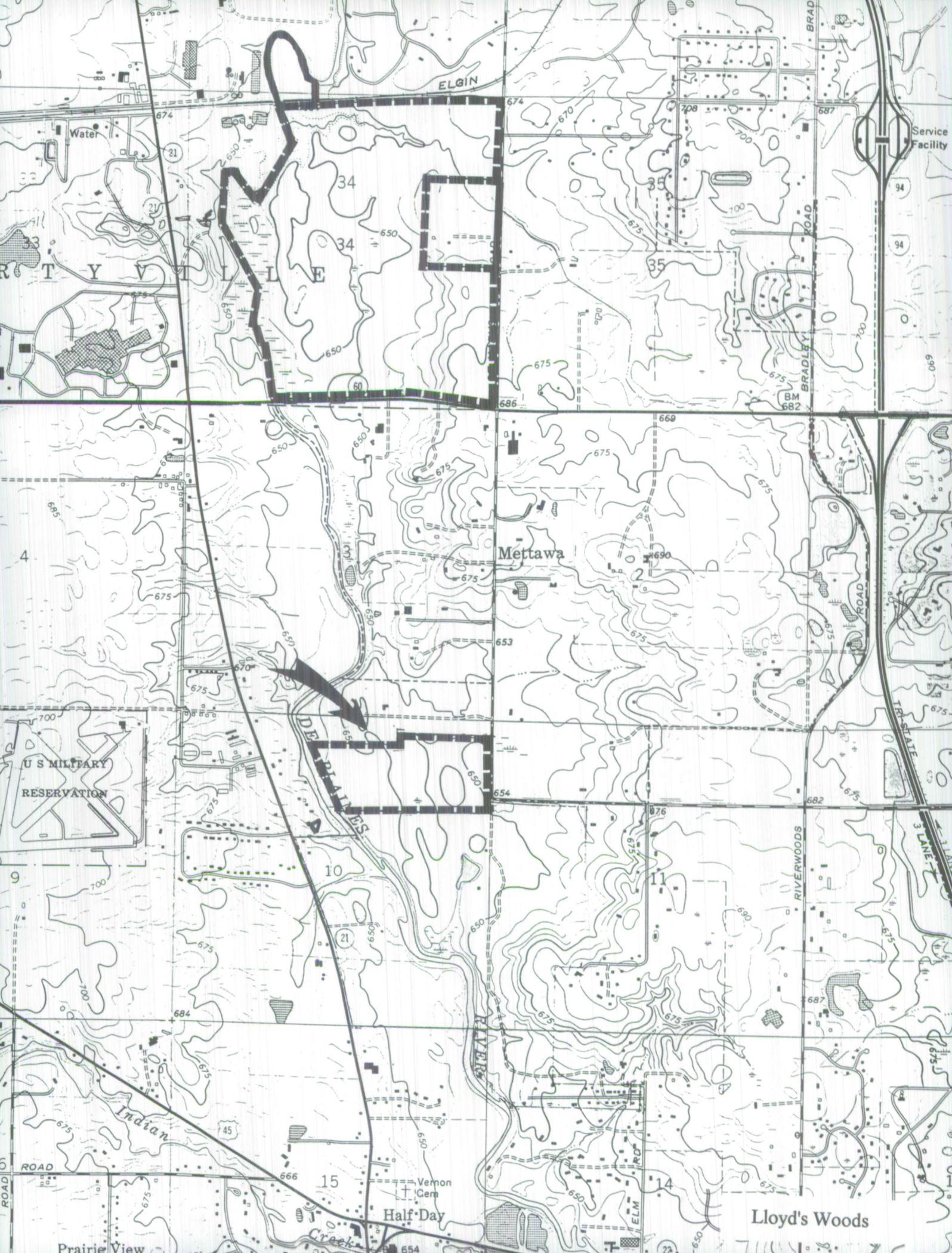
**Ownership:** Libertyville Township Open Space District

**Dedicated:** December 1990

**Size:** 47.1 acres

**Topo Map:** Libertyville 7.5

**For Further Information Contact:** Libertyville Township, 359 Merrill Court, Libertyville, IL 60048 (708/816-6800)



ELGIN

Service Facility

Water

R T Y V I L L E

Mettawa

U S MILITARY RESERVATION

DE PRAIRIE RIVER

RIVERWOODS

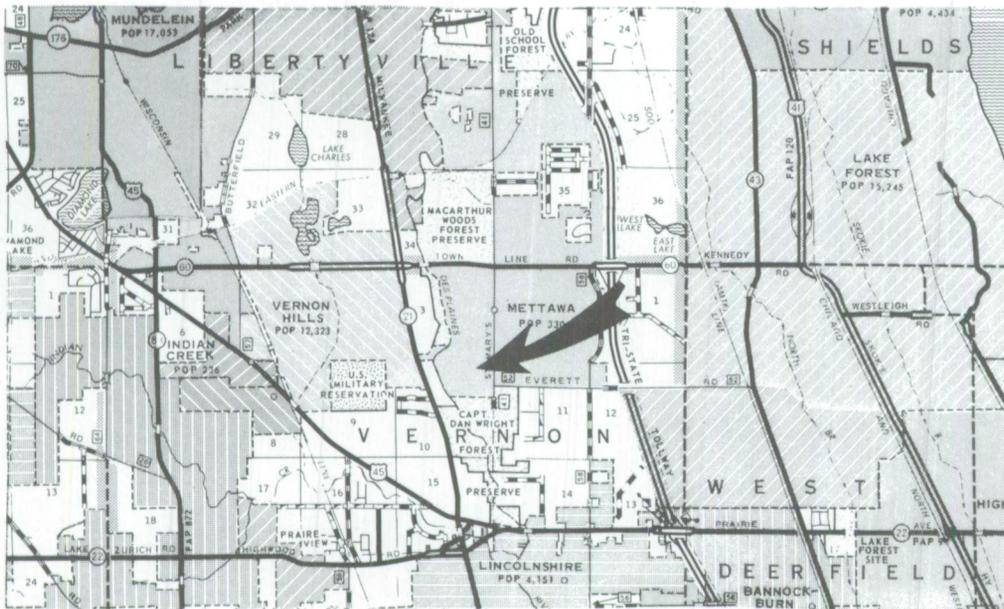
Lloyd's Woods

Half-Day

Prairie View

Indian Creek

ELM ROAD



## Lloyd's Woods Nature Preserve

## Lake County

### Location and Access:

From jct. Hwys. 21 & 60, (3 miles south of Libertyville) take Hwy. 60 east 1 mile to St. Mary's Road, then turn and go south 1.2 miles. The nature preserve is west of the road.

Special Note: Lloyd's Woods is a privately owned nature preserve. Entrance is by permission only.

### Description:

Lloyd's Woods represents the woodlands that once covered the eastern edge of the Des Plaines River valley. Although logged and lightly grazed in the past, the forest still retains good natural quality. Most of the preserve is mesic upland forest comprised of sugar maple and basswood. The smaller floodplain forest contains silver maple, green ash and willows. The unusual flatwoods community has suffered from the invasion of Dutch elm

disease. Swamp white oak and green ash are common here. The herbaceous understory is rich in wildflowers, including large stands of giant trillium, long-beaked sedge, cancer root, ostrich fern and running strawberry bush. The vertebrate wildlife includes chipmunk, deer, raccoon, veery and red-tailed hawks.

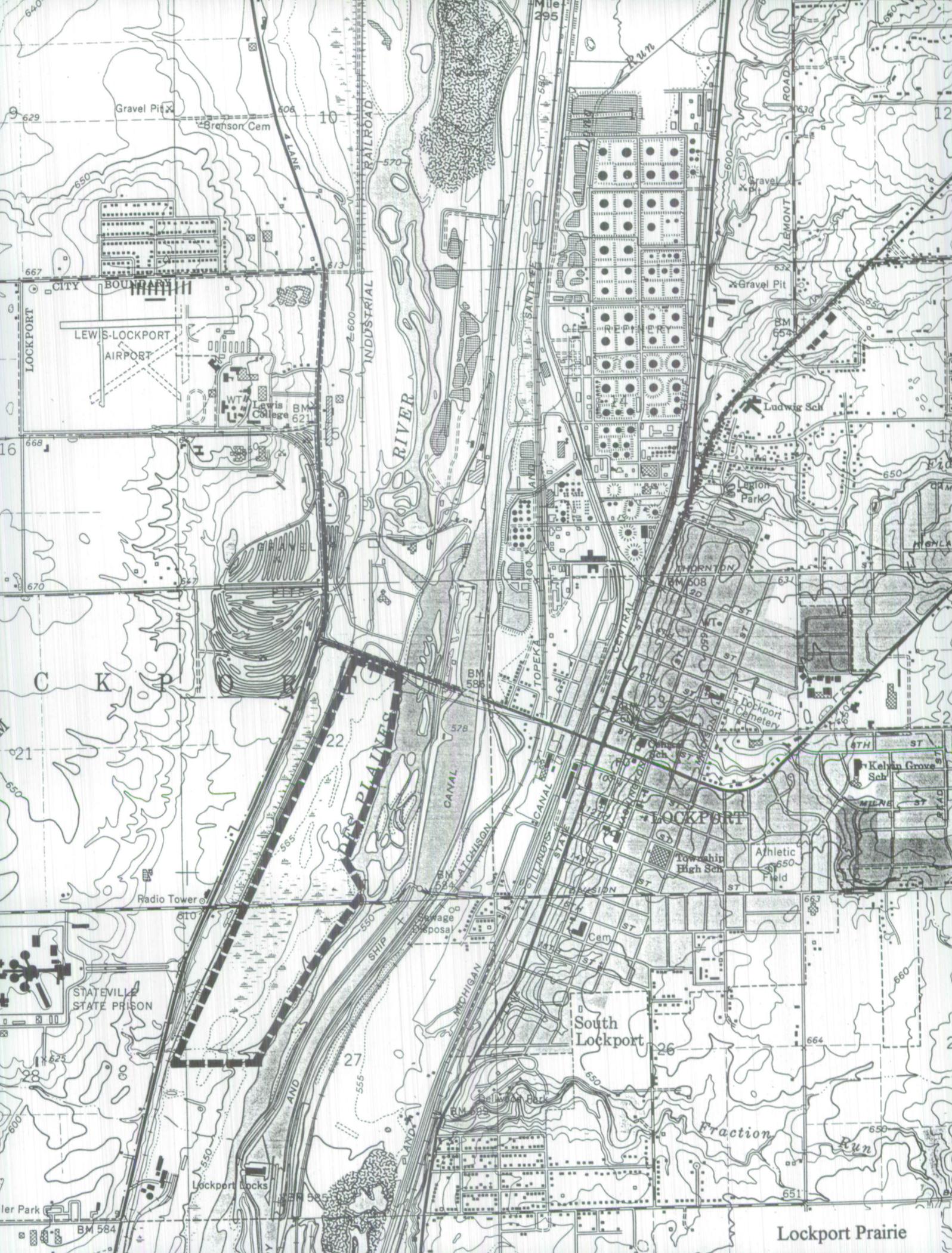
**Ownership:** Mrs. Marion M. Lloyd

**Dedicated:** November 1982

**Size:** 104.6 acres

**Topo Map:** Wheeling 7.5

For Further Information Contact: Lake County Forest Preserve District, 2000 North Milwaukee Avenue, Libertyville, IL 60048 (708/367-6640)



Mile 295

Gravel Pit X

Brenson Cem

LOCKPORT

CITY BOUNDARY

LEWIS-LOCKPORT AIRPORT

WT Lewis College

INDUSTRIAL RAILROAD

ROCK RIVER

C K P

PLAINS

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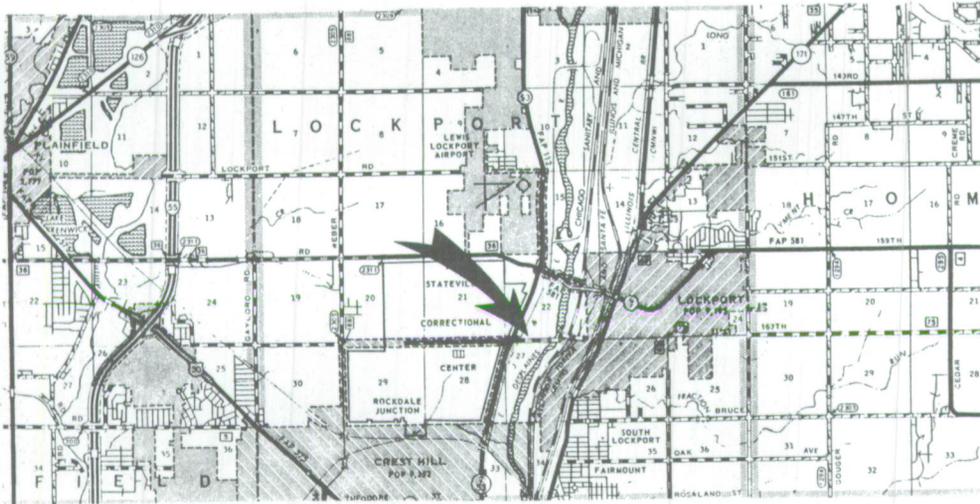
South Lockport

STATEVILLE STATE PRISON

Lockport Locks

BM 584

Lockport Prairie



## Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve

## Will County

### Location and Access:

From Lockport at jct. Hwys. 7 & 53, take Hwy. 7(53) south 1 mile to Division Street, then turn and go east 0.2 mile. The nature preserve is on both sides of the road.

### Description:

Lockport Prairie is located in the floodplain and along the Des Plaines River. This unusual location is largely responsible for the unique character of the prairie community; the plants have had to adapt to a high water table during most of the growing season. The dolomite prairie is a high quality remnant on shallow limestone soils. This type of community has almost completely disappeared from the Midwest. Some unusual plants of the dolomite prairie are low calamint, slender sandwort and Ohio horsemint. The fen vegetation is of high natural quality, and the marshes are in stable condition with little signs of disturbance. The dry ridges have been heavily disturbed by man's activities but still retain several interesting prairie plant species. Probably the most unique feature of Lockport Prairie is the presence of the federally endangered leafy prairie clover. Prior

to the discovery of the clover at Lockport Prairie, the last record of the plant in Illinois was over seventy years ago. Also, a large population of the rare prairie satin grass is found here. The preserve is a very significant tract of prime wildlife habitat. Numerous songbirds, shorebirds, waterfowl and birds of prey use the area. Mammals known to utilize the area are muskrat, raccoon, cottontail, vole and mice.

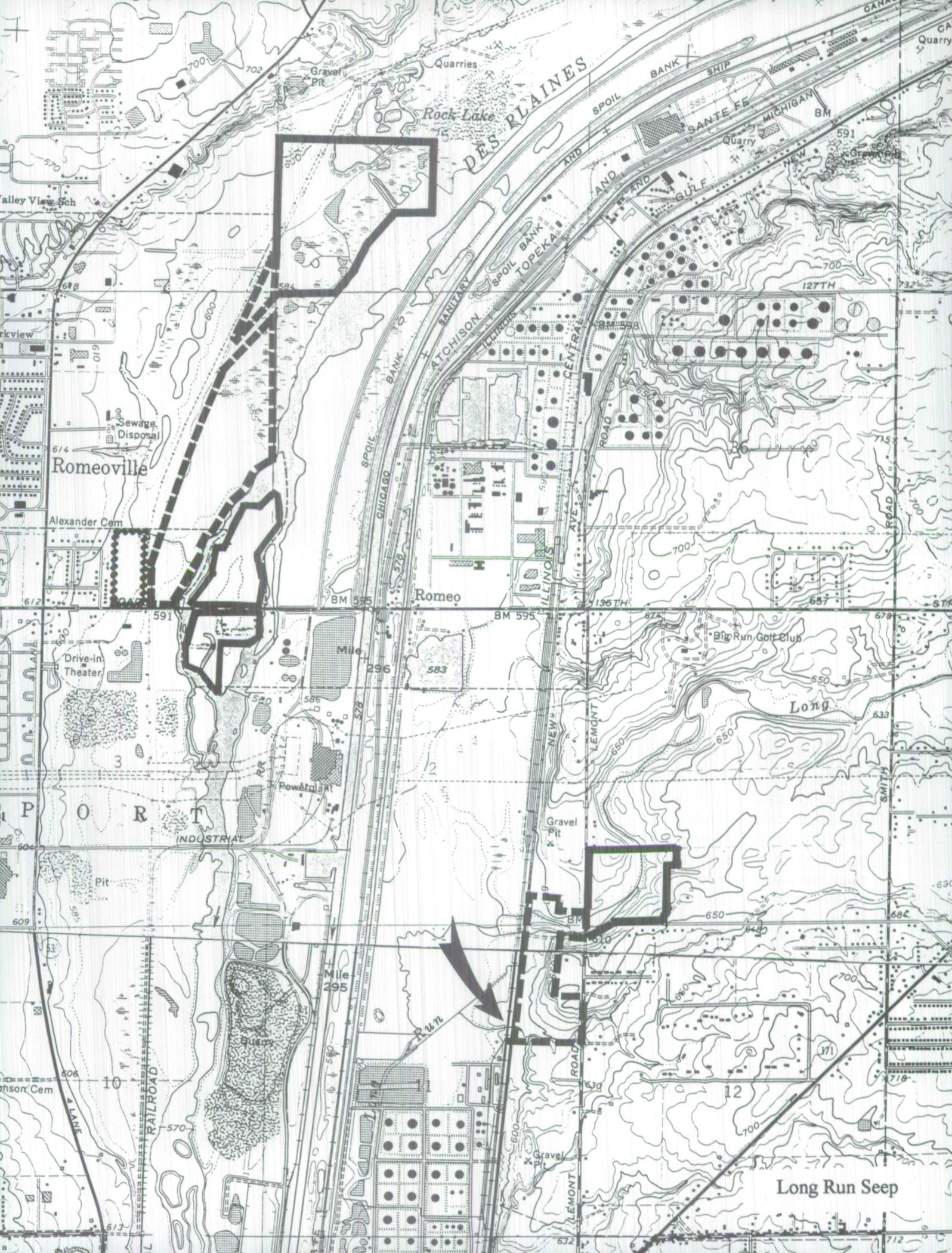
**Ownership:** Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (Leased and managed by the Forest Preserve District of Will County)

**Dedicated:** June 1983

**Size:** 254 acres

**Topo Map:** Joliet 7.5

For Further Information Contact: Forest Preserve District of Will County, 22606 S. Cherry Hill Road, Joliet, IL 60433 (815/727-8700) or Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, 100 E. Eve St., Chicago, IL 60611



DES PLAINES

Romeoville

Romeo

Long

Long Run Seep





## Long Run Seep Nature Preserve

## Will County

### Location and Access:

In Lockport, take Rte. 171 north from Rte. 7, turn left onto New Ave., continue north 1.5 miles. The nature preserve is on the right between New Avenue and Lemont Road.

### Description:

This preserve contains a calcareous seep representative of the Northeastern Morainal Division, a part of Illinois that contains many glacial lakes and other unique wetlands. Within this alkaline wetland, spotted touch-me-not, tussock sedge, skunk cabbage and the shrub nannyberry are common. Due to the calcareous nature of the site, several calcium-loving plants grow here,

including grass-of-parnassus, great Angelica, Kalm's lobelia and Riddel's goldenrod. Two exotic plant species, purple loosetrife and glossy buckthorn, are threatening the native plant communities of the seep.

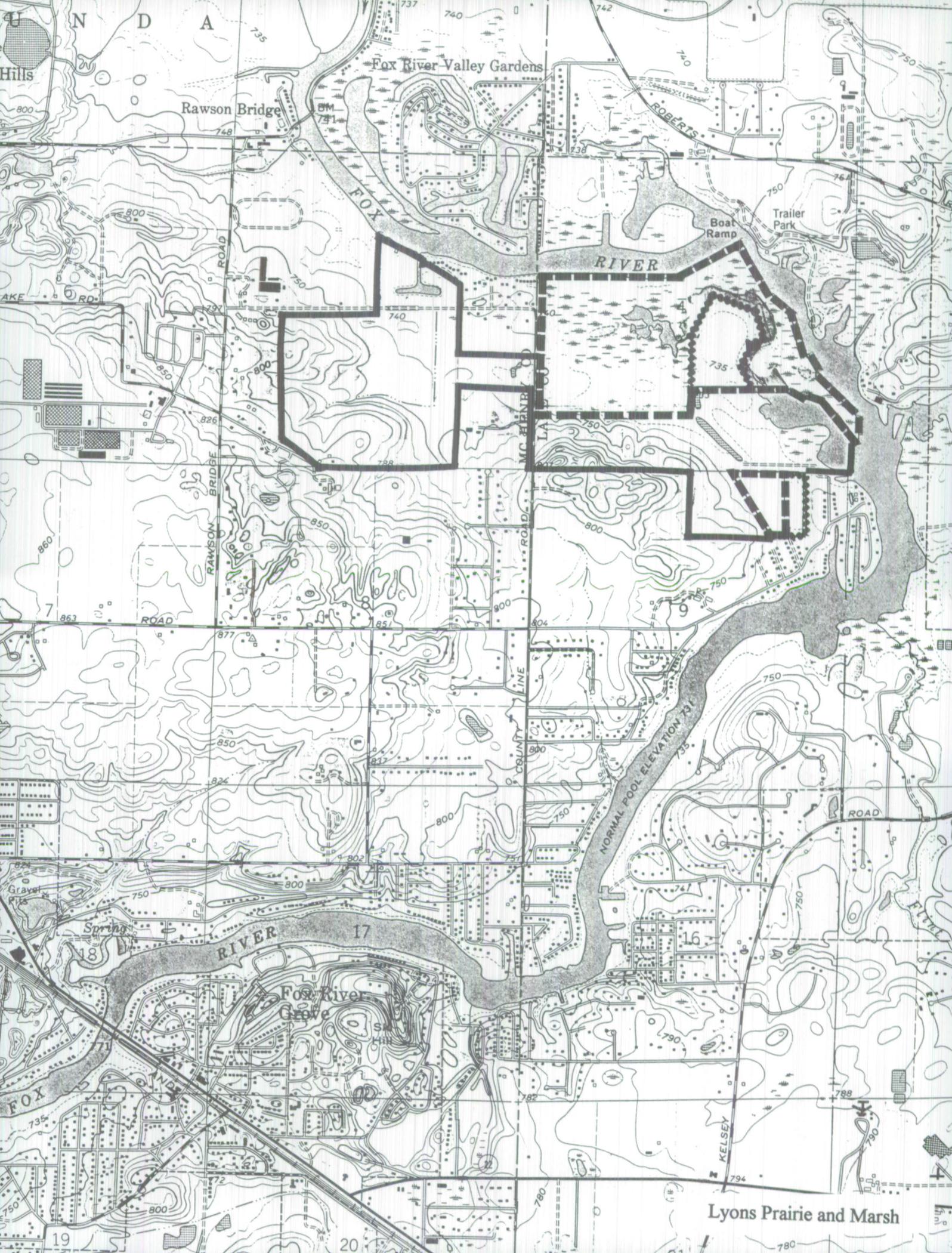
**Ownership:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources

**Dedicated:** April 1990

**Size:** 41.3 acres

**Topo Map:** Joliet and Romeoville 7.5

**For Further Information Contact:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Biologist, 100 First National Bank Plaza, Suite 10, Chicago Heights, IL 60411 (708/709-3300)



U N D A

Hills

Fox River Valley Gardens

Rawson Bridge

ROBERTS BRIDGE

FOX RIVER

RIVER

Boat Ramp

Trailer Park

RAWSON BRIDGE ROAD

MC FERRIS ROAD

COUNTY LINE

NORMAL POOL ELEVATION 731

ROAD

Gravel Pits

Spring

FOX RIVER

Fox River Grove

FOX RIVER

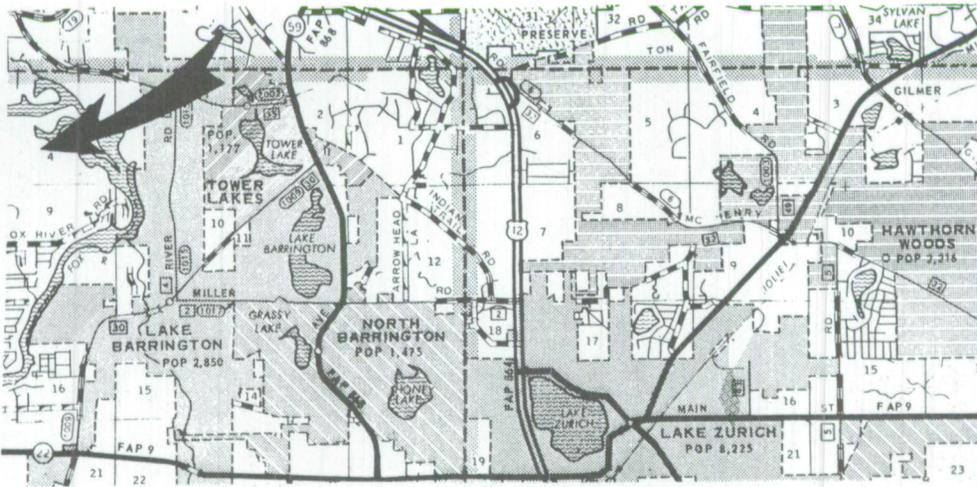
KELSEY

Lyons Prairie and Marsh

19

20

780



## Lyons Prairie and Marsh Nature Preserve

## Lake County

### Location and Access:

From near Crystal Lake at jct. Hwys. 14 & 31, take Hwy. 14 east and southeast 1.4 mi. to Three Oaks Road, then east 3 mi. to County Line Road, then north 0.8 mi. The nature preserve is east of County Line Road.

### Description:

The topography of this area consists of glacial knolls and moraines which are conspicuous features of the uplands while Lyons prairie and marsh occur in the Fox River valley. The lowland area is fed by groundwater, by runoff from the nearby uplands, and by overflow from the Fox River. The marsh occupies an old channel of the river. The dominant plants in the marsh community are sedges, rushes, cattails, and bluejoint grass. Common wildflowers include marsh phlox, swamp aster, blue iris, and meadow anemone.

The wet prairie is situated on glacial outwash in a low area along the Fox River. Big bluestem, cord grass, common reed, sedges, and bluejoint grass are the dominant species. Of particular interest is a large colony of orchids and Turk's cap lily. Many migrating and nesting birds can be viewed in this large, diverse wetland.

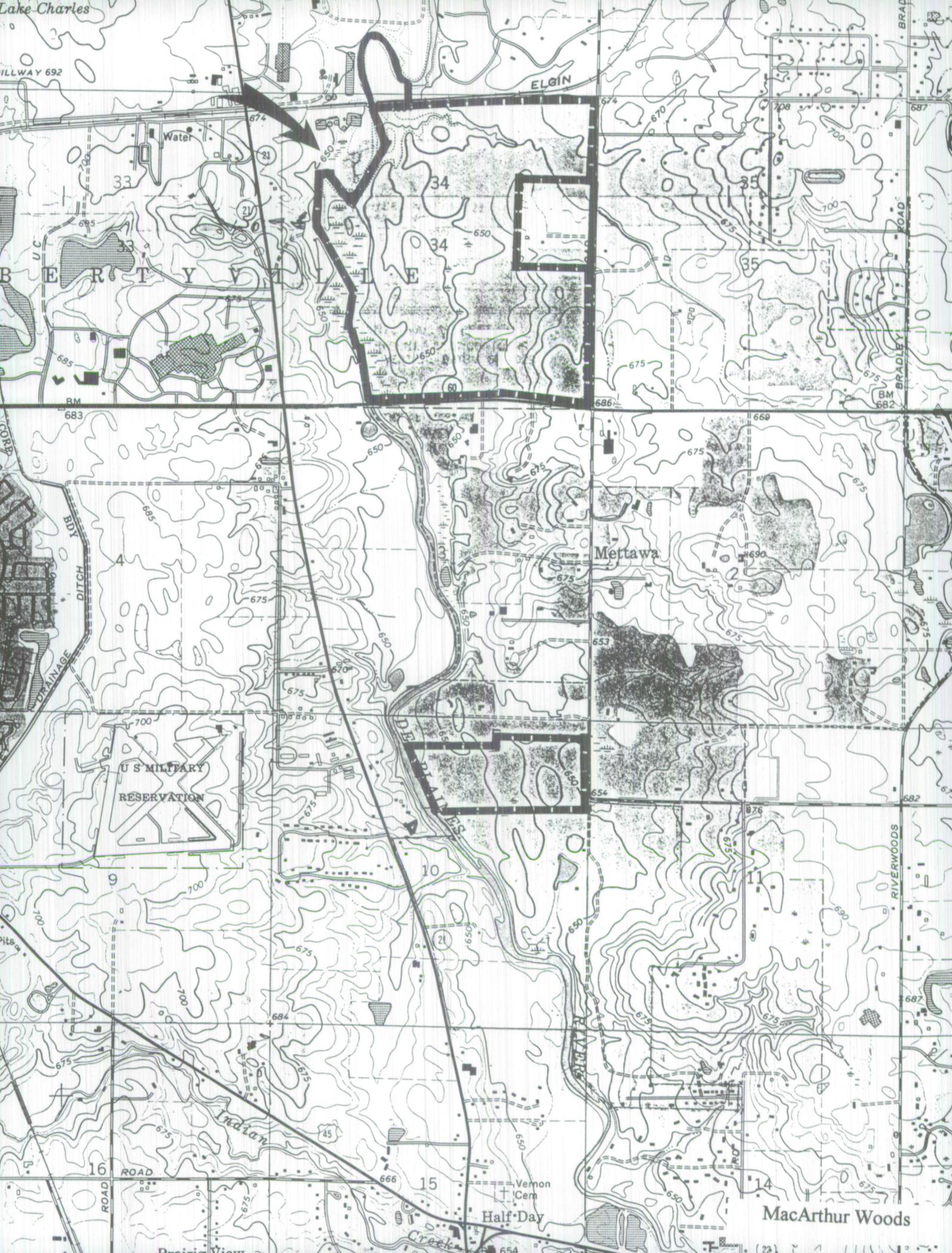
**Ownership:** McHenry County Conservation District

**Dedicated:** July 1982

**Size:** 259.2 acres with an additional 54.2 acres of buffer

**Topo Map:** Barrington 7.5

For Further Information Contact: McHenry County Conservation District, 6512 Harts Road, Ringwood, IL 60072 (815/338-1405)



Lake Charles

HILLWAY 692

ELGIN

Water

B E R T Y V I L L E

34

34

35

RM 683

BM 682

ROAD

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Maitava

U.S. MILITARY RESERVATION

DEER CREEK

10

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RIVERWOODS

16

ROAD

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Vernon Cem

Half-Day

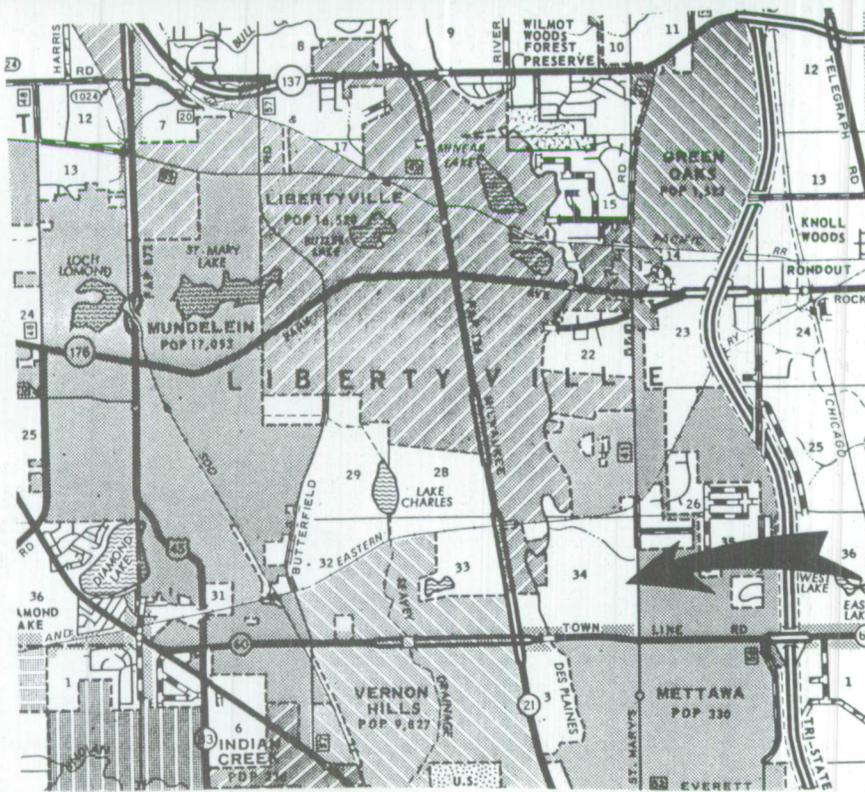
14

MacArthur Woods

Indian

Creek

(22)



## MacArthur Woods Nature Preserve

## Lake County

### Location and Access:

From the intersection of Highway 60 and 21 in Vernon Hills take Highway 60 east one mile to St. Mary's Road. Turn north on St. Mary's Road. The preserve is on the west side of the road.

### Description:

MacArthur Woods is a large undeveloped tract of forest that represents the forest that once covered the eastern edge of the DesPlaines River Valley in the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. Dry-mesic upland forest, mesic floodplain forest and northern flatwoods are the common communities. The upland forest is dominated by white oak, while the floodplain supports silver maple and bur oak and the flatwoods contain swamp white oak.

They also provide critical breeding habitat for forest interior birds, including brown creeper, red-shouldered hawk, broad-winged hawk, veery, pileated woodpecker and several rare and uncommon warblers, all of which are very sensitive to disturbance.

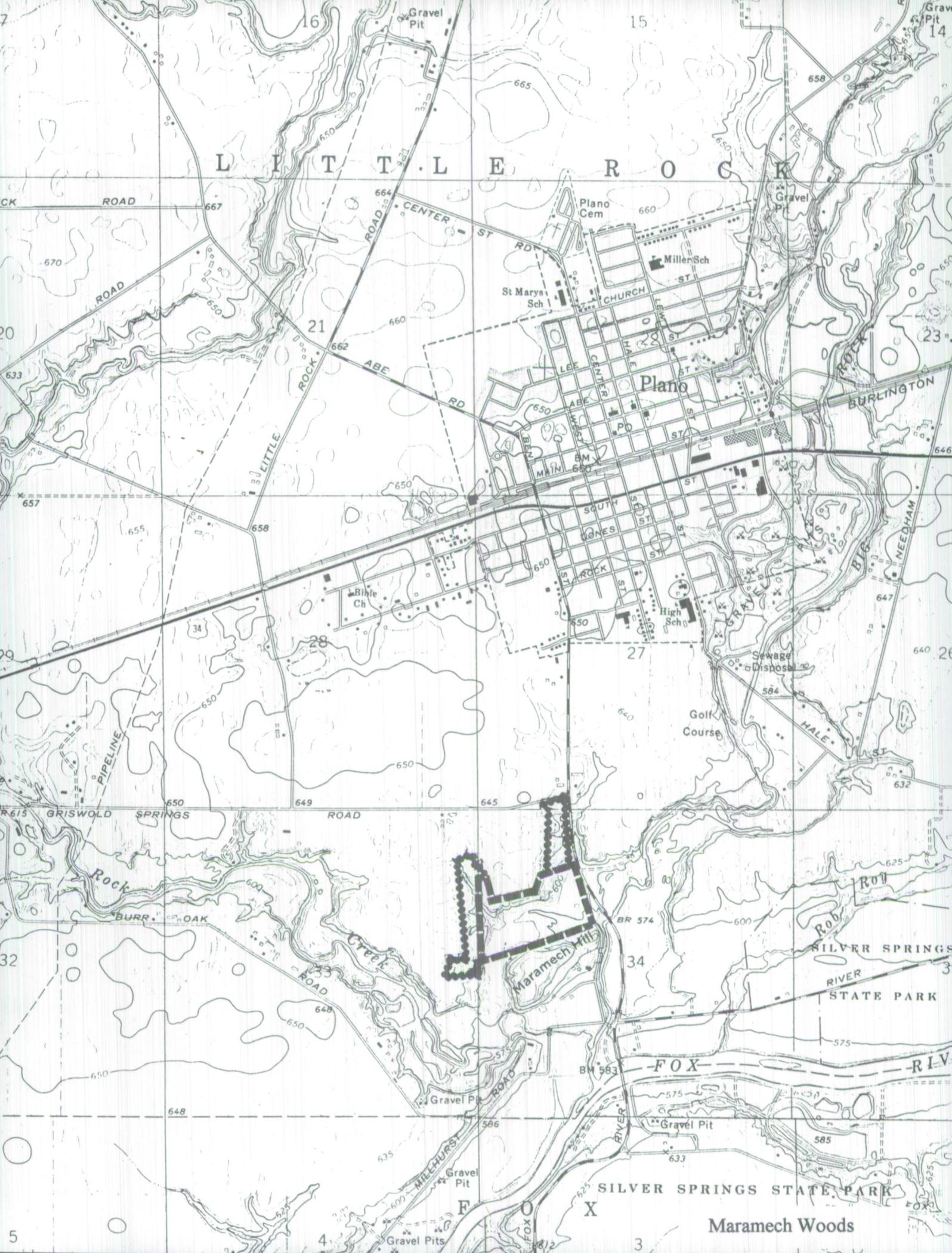
**Ownership:** Lake County Forest Preserve District

**Dedicated:** July 1981

**Size:** 446 acres

**Topo Map:** Libertyville and Wheeling 7.5

For Further Information Contact: Lake County Forest Preserve District, 2000 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Libertyville, IL 60048 (708/367-6640)



LITTLE ROCK

Plano

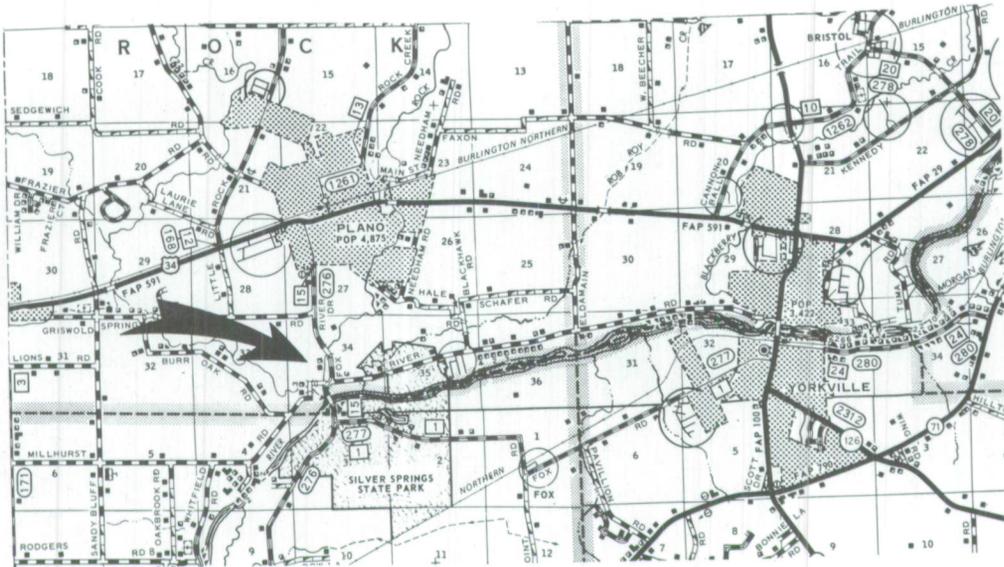
Plano Cem  
St Marys Sch  
Miller Sch  
CHURCH ST  
LEE ST  
MAIN ST  
SOUTH ST  
ROCK ST  
JONES ST  
High Scho  
Sewage Disposal  
Golf Course

Maramech Hills

FOX RIVER

SILVER SPRINGS STATE PARK

Maramech Woods



## Maramech Woods Nature Preserve

## Kendall County

### Location and Access:

From US Rt 34 in Plano, travel south 1.5 miles on the old Fox River Road (secondary Highway 276). The preserve is on the west side of the Highway, just north of the intersection with River Road. Parking and access are limited so please contact Kendall County Forest Preserve District.

### Description:

This diverse northeastern Illinois woodland is located in the Grand Prairie Section for the Grand Prairie Natural Division. The preserve is a complex of sedge dominated wet savanna/northern flatwoods, seep springs and wet-mesic to dry-mesic upland forest with

associated successional fields, upland forest and a small pine plantation as buffer. The tract is moderately disturbed, but is important because of the unique interplay of several different natural communities.

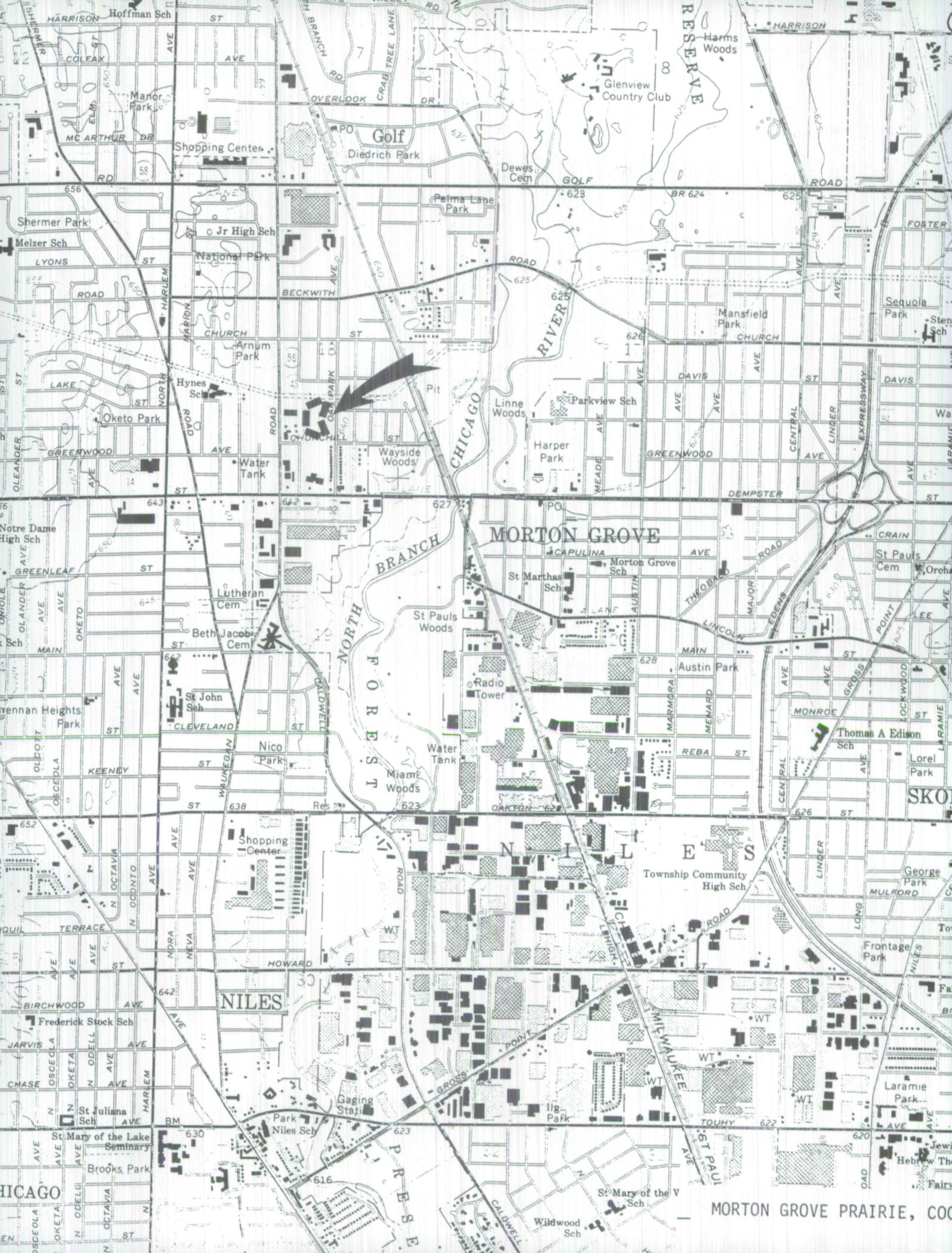
**Ownership:** Kendall County Forest Preserve District

**Dedicated:** August 1987

**Size:** 48 acres nature preserve, 37.7 acres buffer

**Topo Map:** Plano 7.5

For Further Information Contact: Kendall County Forest Preserve District, 110 West Ridge Street, Yorkville, IL 60560 (708/553-5444)



HARRISON ST

Hoffman Sch

COLFAK ST

AVE

Major Park

650

MC ARTHUR ST

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Shermer Park

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Melzer Sch

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LYONS ST

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ROAD

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LAKE ST

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GREENWOOD ST

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OKETO ST

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OLEANDER ST

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ORIOLE ST

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Notre Dame High Sch

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GREENLEAF ST

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OLANDER ST

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Sch

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MAIN ST

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St John Sch

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Stannan Heights Park

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OLCOIT ST

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OSCEOLA ST

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KEENEY ST

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St John Sch

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Stannan Heights Park

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OSCEOLA ST

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JARVIS ST

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OSCEOLA ST

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OSCEOLA ST

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St Mary of the Lake Seminary

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Brooks Park

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OSCEOLA ST

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OSCEOLA ST

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AVE

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Shopping Center

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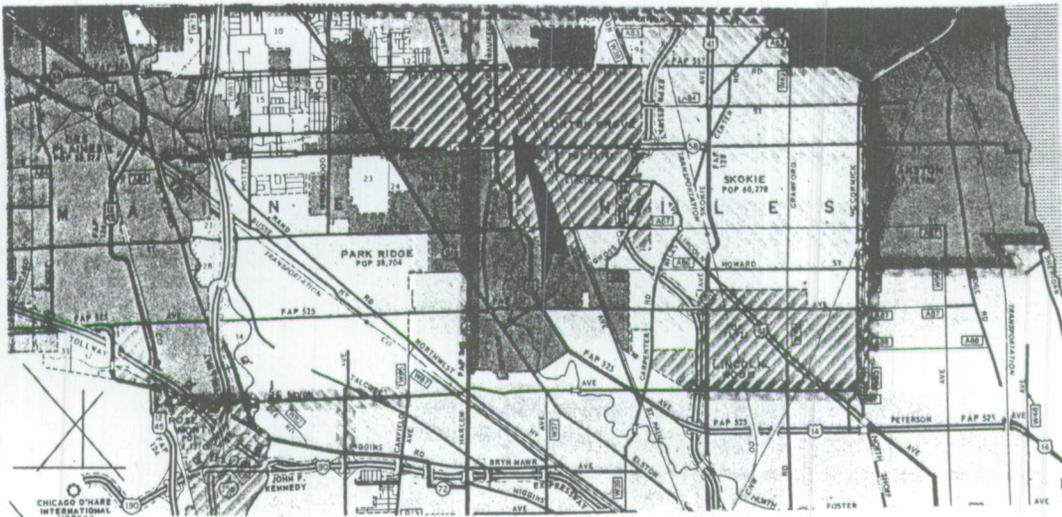
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## Morton Grove Prairie Nature Preserve

## Cook County

### Access and Location:

From Morton Grove at jct. Dempster Road & Waukegan Road, take Dempster Road east 0.1 mi. to Prairievew Park. The nature preserve is in the northeastern part of the park.

### Description:

Morton Grove Prairie is a remnant of mesic and wet mesic tallgrass prairie that represents the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. A great diversity of plant species occur in the preserve. Over 56 species have been recorded, with big bluestem and Indian grass dominating. Notable forbs include Indian plantain, rattlesnake master, shooting star, prairie rose and golden alexanders. The prairie is located in an urban setting where it was set aside by the

Morton Grove Park District as part of the city's bicentennial celebration. The preserve provides endless educational opportunities to those who might otherwise never experience or know the benefits of a prairie community.

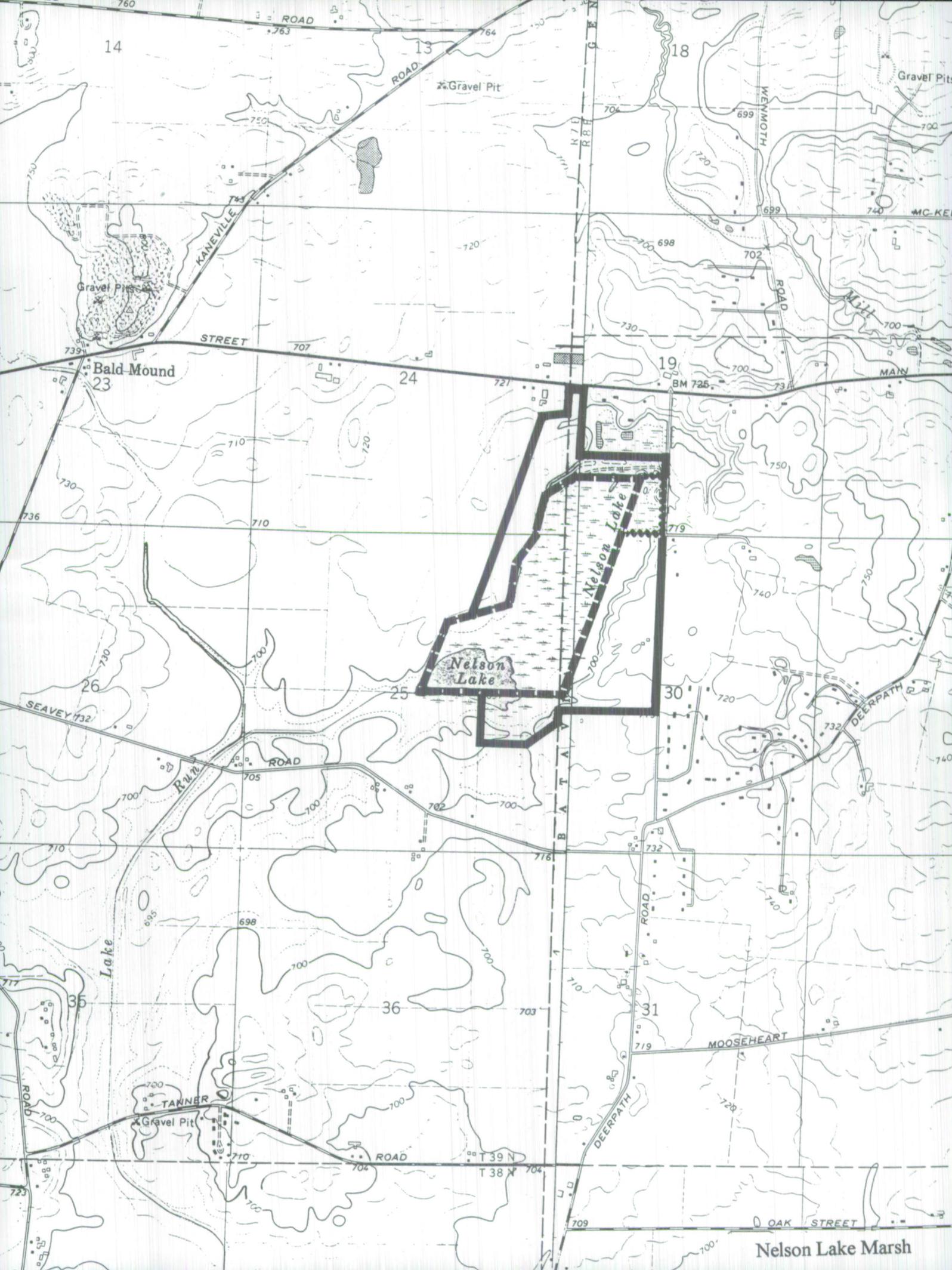
**Ownership:** Morton Grove Park District

**Dedicated:** October 1979

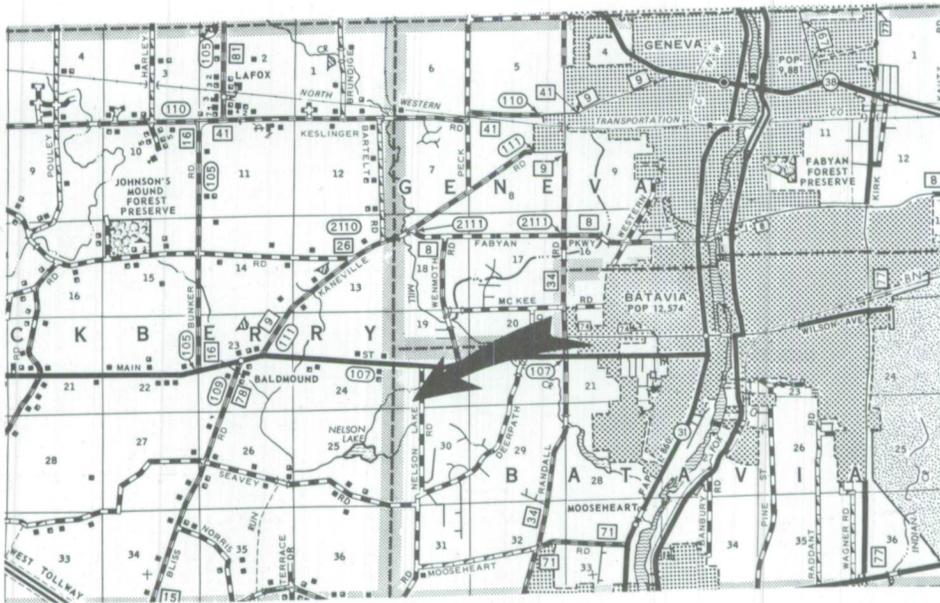
**Size:** 1.3 acres

**Topo Map:** Park Ridge 7.5

**For Further Information Contact:** Morton Grove Park District, 6834 Dempster Street, Morton Grove, IL 60053 (708/965-1200)



Nelson Lake Marsh



## Nelson Lake Marsh Nature Preserve

## Kane County

### Location and Access:

From Batavia at jct. Hwy.31 & Main Street, take Main Street west 3 miles, then turn and go south 0.3 mile. The nature preserve is west of the road.

### Description:

The natural features occurring at Nelson Lake Marsh Preserve include marsh, fen and open water communities with woodland and savanna communities occupying the borders. The marsh, lake and fen are the main features. The basin of the marsh was formed over 10,000 years ago during the Pleistocene glaciation when a persisting ice mass produced the large depression. Today the floor of the basin consists of Houghton muck, a very poorly drained soil formed by organic deposits often more than 50" thick. To the north, floating peat mats often fuse together creating a large cattail marsh. Swamp milkweed, great water dock and water parsnip are common in this community, with mad-dog-skullcap, blue flag and clearweed in patches of low growth cleared by muskrat and beaver. The 40-acre lake provides a stable aquatic habitat. In the summer the lake is covered with a dense tangle of aquatic plants, including duck-

weed, hornwort, coontail and great bladderwort. In mid-July the lake is blanketed with white water lilies. The preserve is very important to wildlife including rare and endangered types. Significant populations of invertebrates include localized species of butterflies such as swamp metalmark, meadow fritillary, purplish copper and Baltimore checkerspot. Interesting birds such as American bittern, Wilson's phalarope, black tern, sandhill crane and northern harrier have been observed in the spring and summer months.

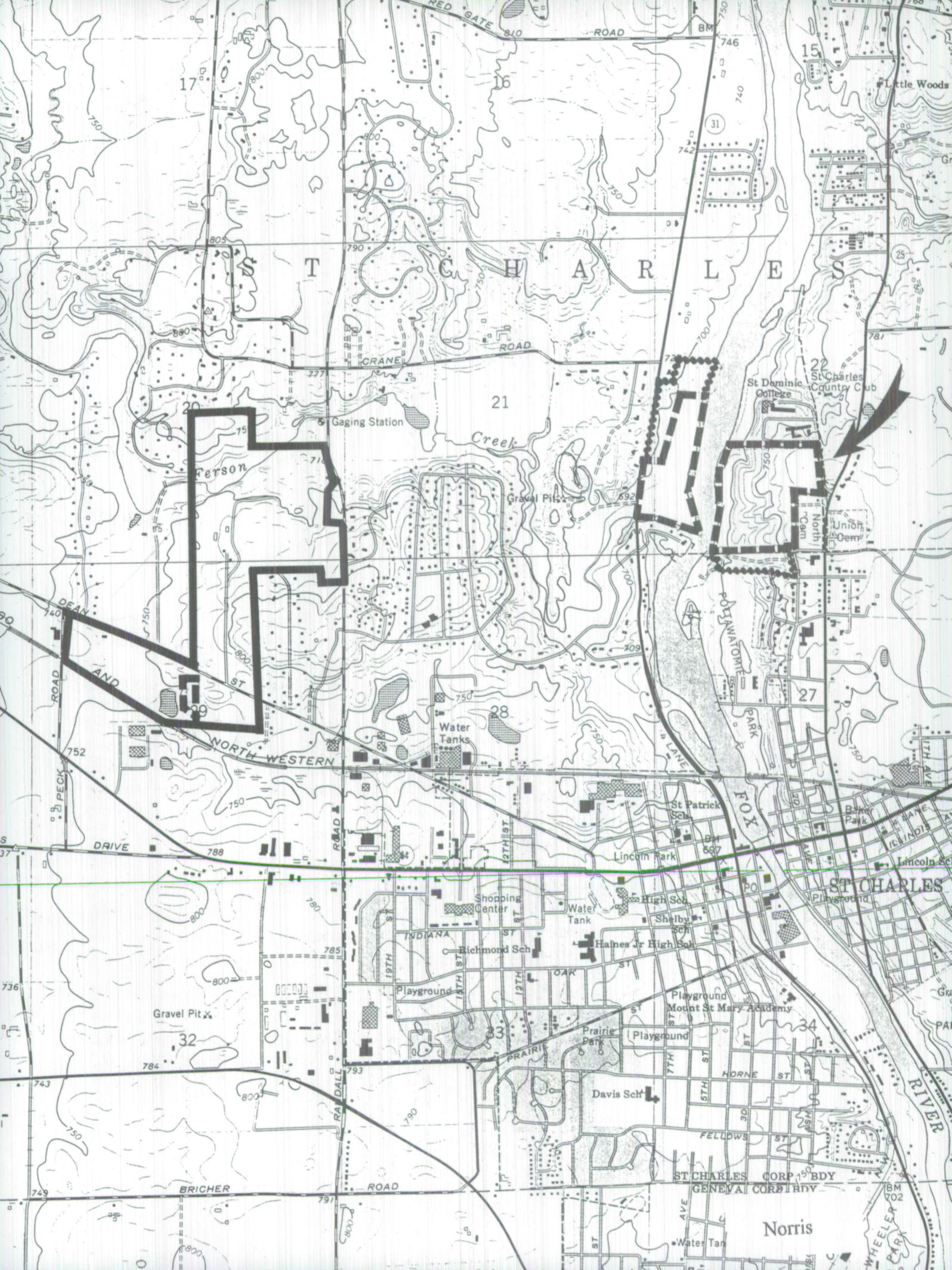
**Ownership:** Kane County Forest Preserve District

**Dedicated:** March 1981

**Size:** 157 acres with an additional 15 acres of buffer

**Topo Map:** Sugar Grove and Aurora North 7.5

For Further Information Contact: Kane County Forest Preserve District, 719 South Batavia Avenue, Geneva, IL 60134 (708/232-5980)



17

21

15

Person

Creek

St Dominic College

St Charles Country Club

North North Camp

27

Water Tanks

St Patrick Sch

Lincoln Park

ST CHARLES  
Playground

Shopping Center

Water Tank

High Sch

Shelby Sch

Richmond Sch

Haines Jr High Sch

Playground

Playground

Mount St Mary Academy

18TH ST

Prairie Park

Playground

Davis Sch

ST CHARLES CORP BDY  
GENEVA CORP BDY

Norris

Gravel Pit

32

33

34

Little Woods

Gr

25

781

Union Camp

15TH AVE

Baker Park

15TH AVE

Lincoln Sch

Gr

PA

WHEELER PARK

BM 702

RED GATE ROAD

ROAD

CRANE ROAD

DEAN ROAD

DRIVE

NORTH WESTERN

ROAD

INDIANA ST

19TH ST

RAFDALL ROAD

BRICHER ROAD

12TH ST

OAK ST

PRAIRIE ST

7TH ST

5TH ST

HORNE ST

FELLOWS ST

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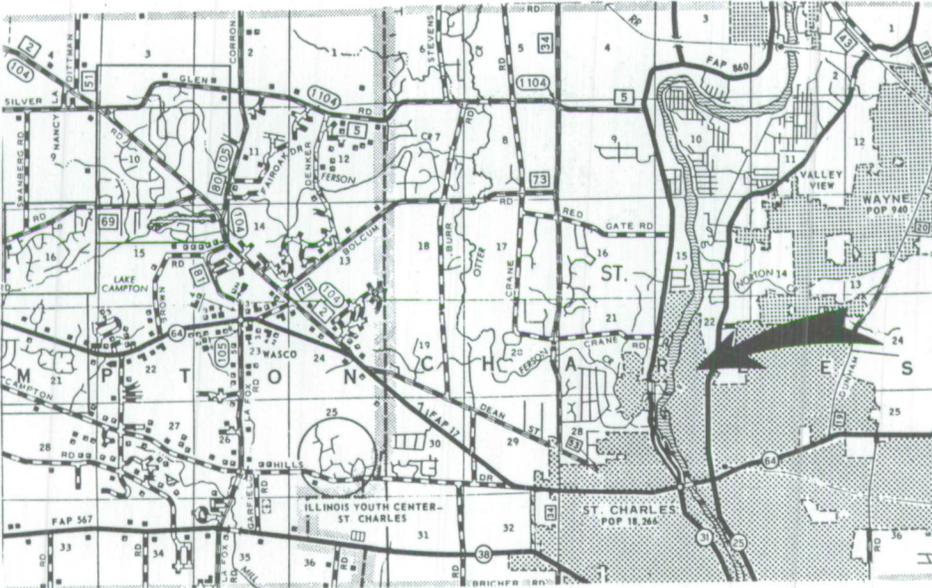
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FOX RIVER

WHEELER PARK



## Norris Nature Preserve

## Kane County

### Location and Access:

From the intersection of Routes 64 and 25 in St Charles, take Route 25 north to Johnor Ave. Turn west, Johnor becomes 3rd Ave. Entrance to the nature preserve is on the access road immediately behind (west) of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

### Description:

Norris Nature Preserve (formerly Jones Woods) is a remnant of the original dry-mesic upland forests that once bordered the Fox River. The area contains about 10% of the most outstanding natural forest remaining in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. This prime piece of property was owned and protected for many years by the Norris family of St. Charles. In 1978, the Nature Conservancy acquired the property and transferred ownership to the City of St. Charles and to the St. Charles Park District. Today, attractive features within the preserve are the rich spring wildflowers, riverside location, old growth trees, and status as one of the highest quality natural areas remaining in the region. Red oak and white oak dominate the dry-mesic forest. Some of these trees range from 100 to 150 years old. Other upland species

include ash, red elm, black cherry, and choke cherry. Along the river are small local mesic communities dominated by sugar maple, while floodplain communities support willow and silver maple. Other notable plants include twinleaf, squawroot, shinleaf, poke milkweed, ferns, and blue ash. The areas rich diversity of plant life provides excellent habitat for many woodland animals. Sightings have included squirrels, woodchuck, American toad, and 41 species of nesting birds. Several threatened and endangered species have also been recorded.

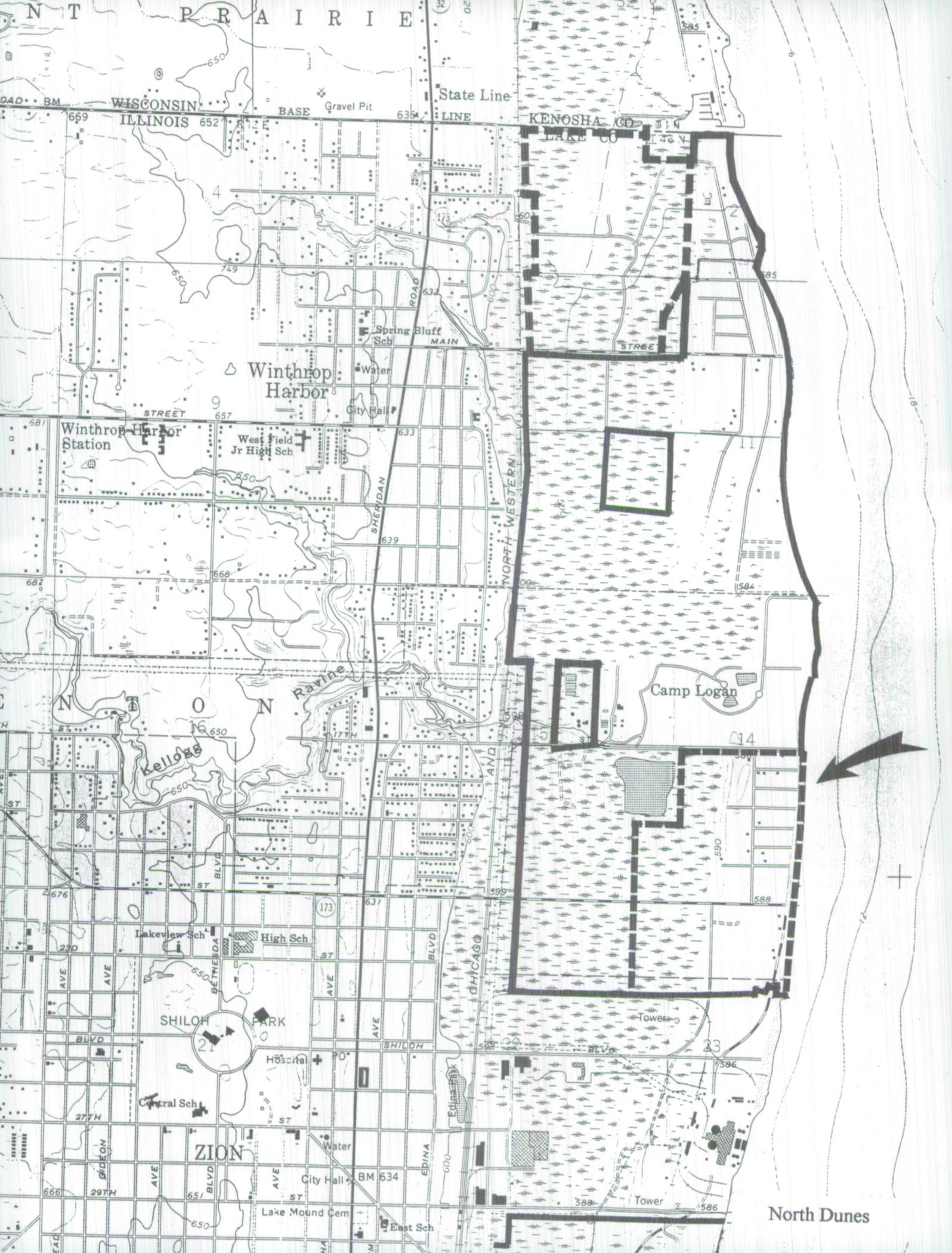
**Ownership:** St. Charles Park District and City of St. Charles

**Dedicated:** October 1978

**Size:** 62 acres nature preserve, 11 acres buffer

**Topo Map:** Geneva 7.5

For Further Information Contact: St. Charles Park District, 101 South Second Street, St. Charles, IL 60174 (708/584-2700) or City of St. Charles, 2 East Main Street, St. Charles, IL 60172



N T P R A I R I E

WISCONSIN ILLINOIS

State Line

KENOSHA CO LAKE CO

Winthrop Harbor

Winthrop Harbor Station

West Field Jr High Sch

Spring Bluff Sch

Camp Logan

Kellogg

Lakeview Sch

High Sch

SHILOH PARK

Central Sch

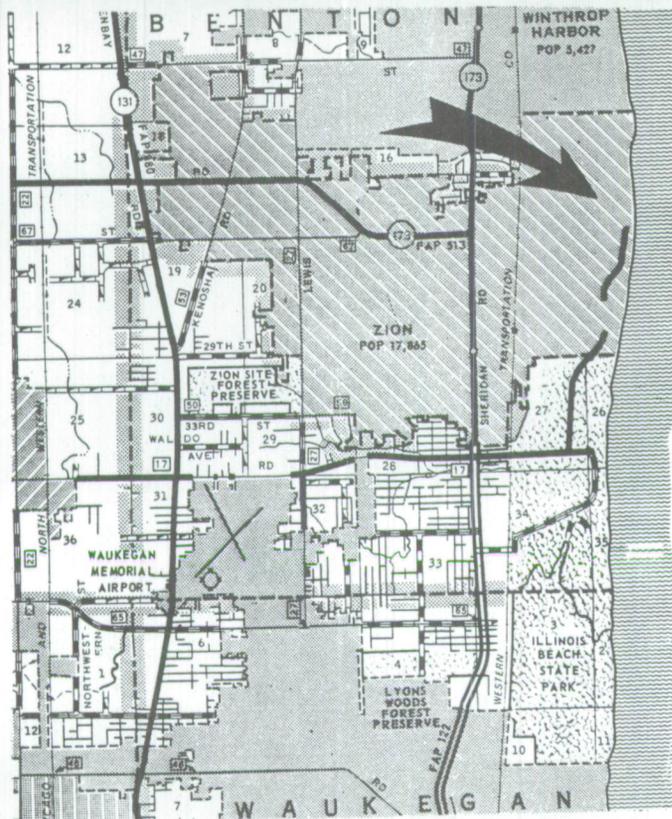
ZION

City Hall

Lake Mound Cem

East Sch

North Dunes



## North Dunes Nature Preserve

### Location and Access:

From Zion, take Sheridan Road north to 17th St. Turn east on 17th St. and go 0.5 mile to the entrance to the north unit of Illinois Beach State Park. Continue on 17th St. 0.5 mile. The preserve is on the south side of the road.

### Description:

This large and diverse area contains wetland, prairie, savanna and beach communities representative of the Lake Michigan Dunes Section of the Northeastern Morainal Division. A very unique habitat known as a panne is restricted to the Lake Michigan shoreline.

The diversity of habitats present in this preserve support a great variety of plants and animals. Rare plant species include common bugseed, bearberry, downy yellow painted cup, bog arrow grass and trailing juniper. Notable breeding birds found or reported at the site



## Lake County

include Henslow's sparrow, king rail, Virginia rail, least bittern, American bittern, upland sandpiper and common snipe. The preserve is well known as a area where hawks and other migrating birds can be seen in spring and fall as they follow the Lake Michigan shoreline during migration.

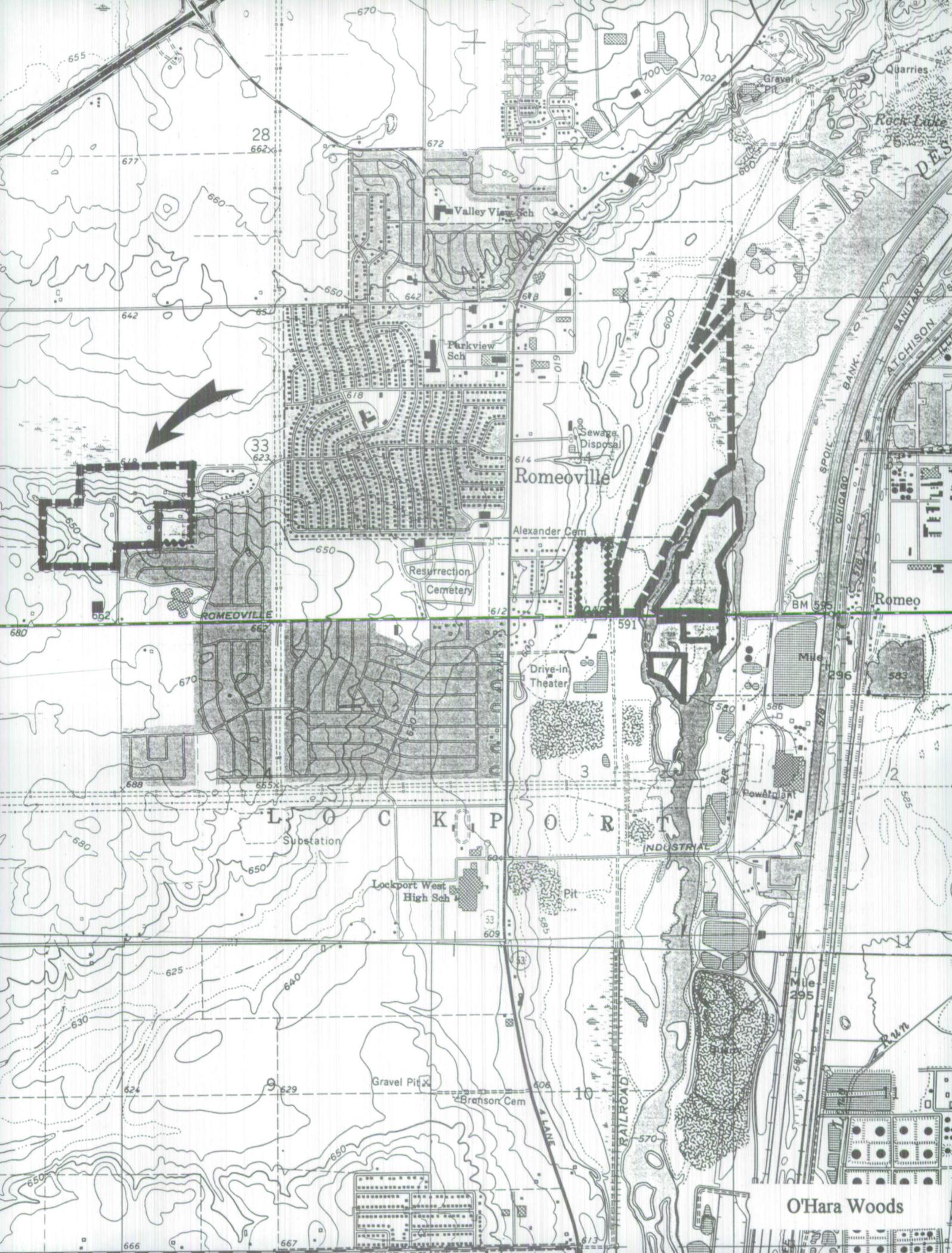
**Ownership:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources

**Dedicated:** September 1988

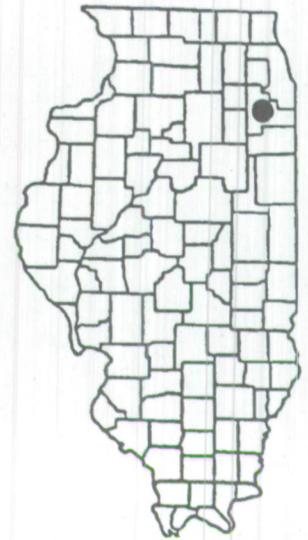
**Size:** 200 acres

**Topo Map:** Zion 7.5

For Further Information Contact: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Biologist, 110 James Road, Spring Grove, IL 60081 (815/675-2385), or Site Superintendent, Illinois Beach State Park, Zion, IL 60099 (708/662-4811, ext. 365)



O'Hara Woods



## O'Hara Woods Nature Preserve

### Location and Access:

From Romeoville at jct. Hwy. 53 & Romeoville Road, take Romeoville Road west 1 mi., then turn and go north 0.3 mi. The nature preserve is to the west.

### Description:

O'Hara Woods is a natural prairie grove containing undisturbed mesic upland forest and savanna once typical of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. Protected from prairie fires in presettlement times by wet soil and a steep ravine, the grove appeared as an island of trees in the midst of a vast prairie and marsh sea. Today, the woods is surrounded by crop fields. It is one of the last undisturbed maple prairie groves remaining in northeastern Illinois. The complex biological cycles of the forest soils are a key feature of the woods. The soil is rich in arthropods, earthworms, fungi and other decomposers which actively turn leaf litter into nutrients. These nutrients are then cycled upwards into nearby trees. The speed and vigor of this process are good indications of the overall health of the forest. A stand of bur oak, hawthorn, and white ash with a brushy understory is found southwest of the ravine and indicates that this area was previously a savanna. Northeast of the ravine and in the ravine itself a rich mesic forest can be found. Here the dominant species are sugar maple, basswood, red oak, blue ash, and

## Will County

walnut. And, a floodplain near the outer edge of the grove provides good conditions for bur oaks. Spring flora of the forest floor include species such as broad-leaved puccoon, squirrel corn, blue-eyed mary and bluebells. Fire pink is present in the summer. Seepage areas along the base of the slopes support skunk cabbage and marsh marigold, and a remnant of the once-vast Lily Cache Slough is present at the northern edge of the woods. Typical vertebrate species such as deer, raccoon, red fox, great horned owl, song birds, and migrant waterfowl may also be seen. O'Hara Woods has been lightly grazed and timbered since presettlement times and was used for storage of dynamite during World War II; twelve concrete foundations and several roads still remain.

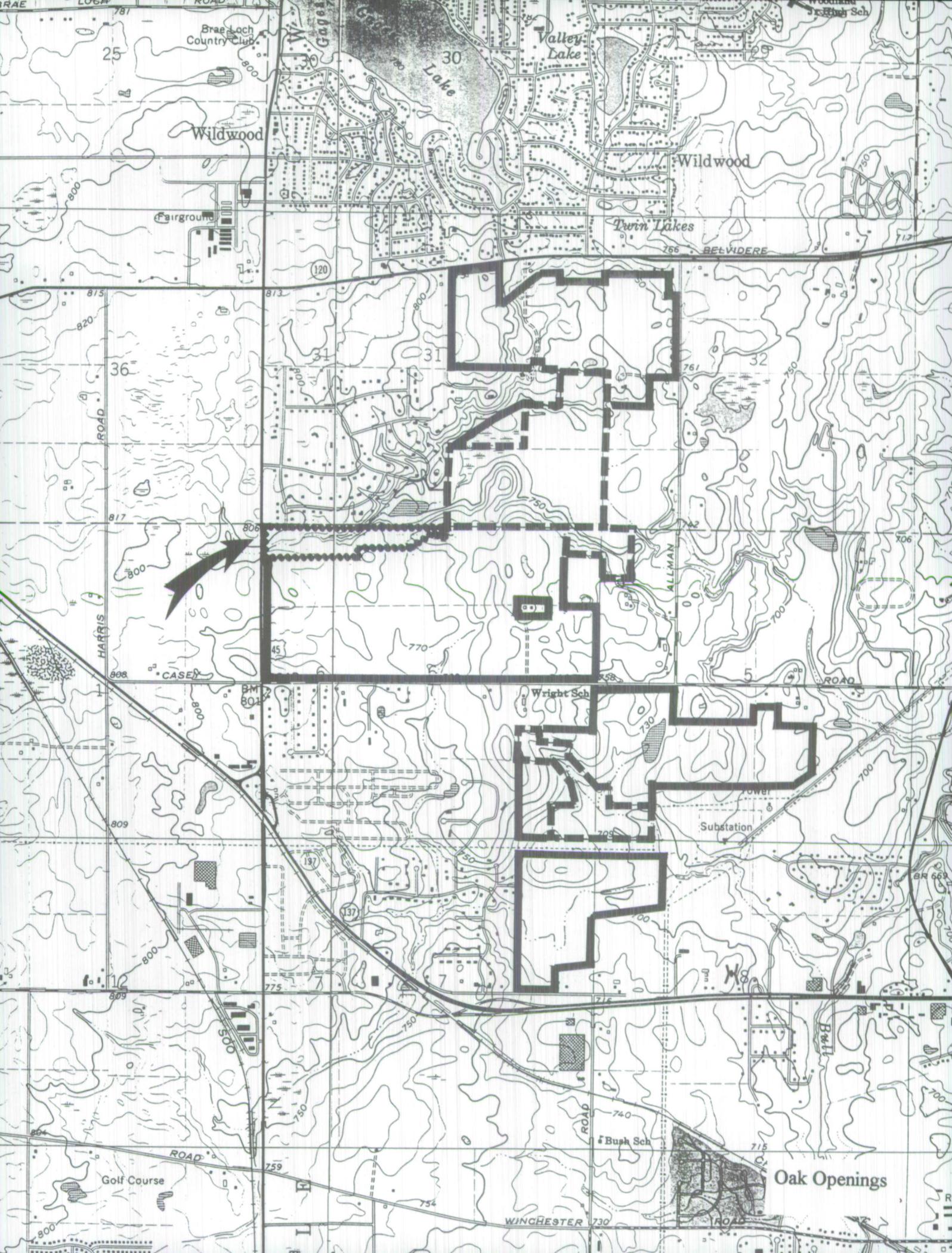
**Ownership:** Village of Romeoville

**Dedicated:** September 1982

**Size:** 70 acres nature preserve, 10 acres buffer

**Topo Map:** Romeoville 7.5

For Further Information Contact: Romeoville Department of Recreation, 800 W. Romeo Road, Romeoville, IL 60441 (815/838-8223) or Village of Romeoville, 13 Montrose Drive, Romeoville, IL 60441



Brae Loch Country Club

Wildwood

Valley Lake

Wildwood

Twin Lakes

Fairgrounds

36

817

808

809

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Golf Course

(120)

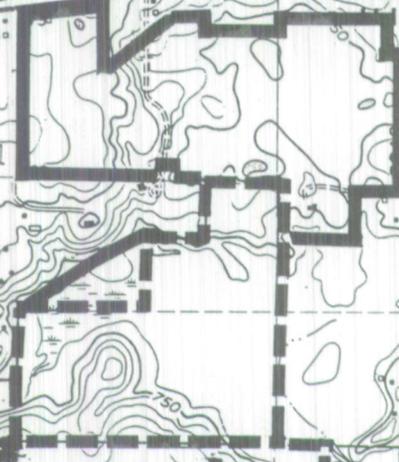
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(137)

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Wright Sch

Substation

Bush Sch

Oak Openings

WINCHESTER

ROAD

ROAD

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## Oak Openings Nature Preserve

## Lake County

### Location and Access:

The Oak Openings Nature Preserve is in private ownership. Access by prior permission only.

### Description:

Oak Openings is comprised of approximately 50 acres of oak woodland, wooded ravine, oak savanna, high quality sedge meadow and wet prairie. Early settlers of the upper midwest used the term *oak opening* to describe places where the dense forests of the east gave way to more open vegetation. Oak openings were essentially grasslands with scattered open-grown oaks interspersed with woodlands. The savannas and woodlands of the preserve have been disturbed but the gently rolling hills and original open grown trees, principally bur and white oaks, give hints of the past splendor of the pre-settlement oak openings.

Many remnant restricted butterflies inhabit the wetlands and savanna areas. The sedge meadow is composed of several species of sedges and many forbs such as blue flag, spotted Joe Pye weed, jewelweed and swamp aster.

Management efforts are directed at restoring a complex of natural communities representing the pre-settlement landscape which will provide habitat for native plants and animals on a long-term basis.

The Oak Openings Nature Preserve is part of an inter-agency cooperative project to establish a biotic reserve. The project brings together public agencies and private landowners to form a macro-site preserve of approximately 2,500 acres in Libertyville Township.

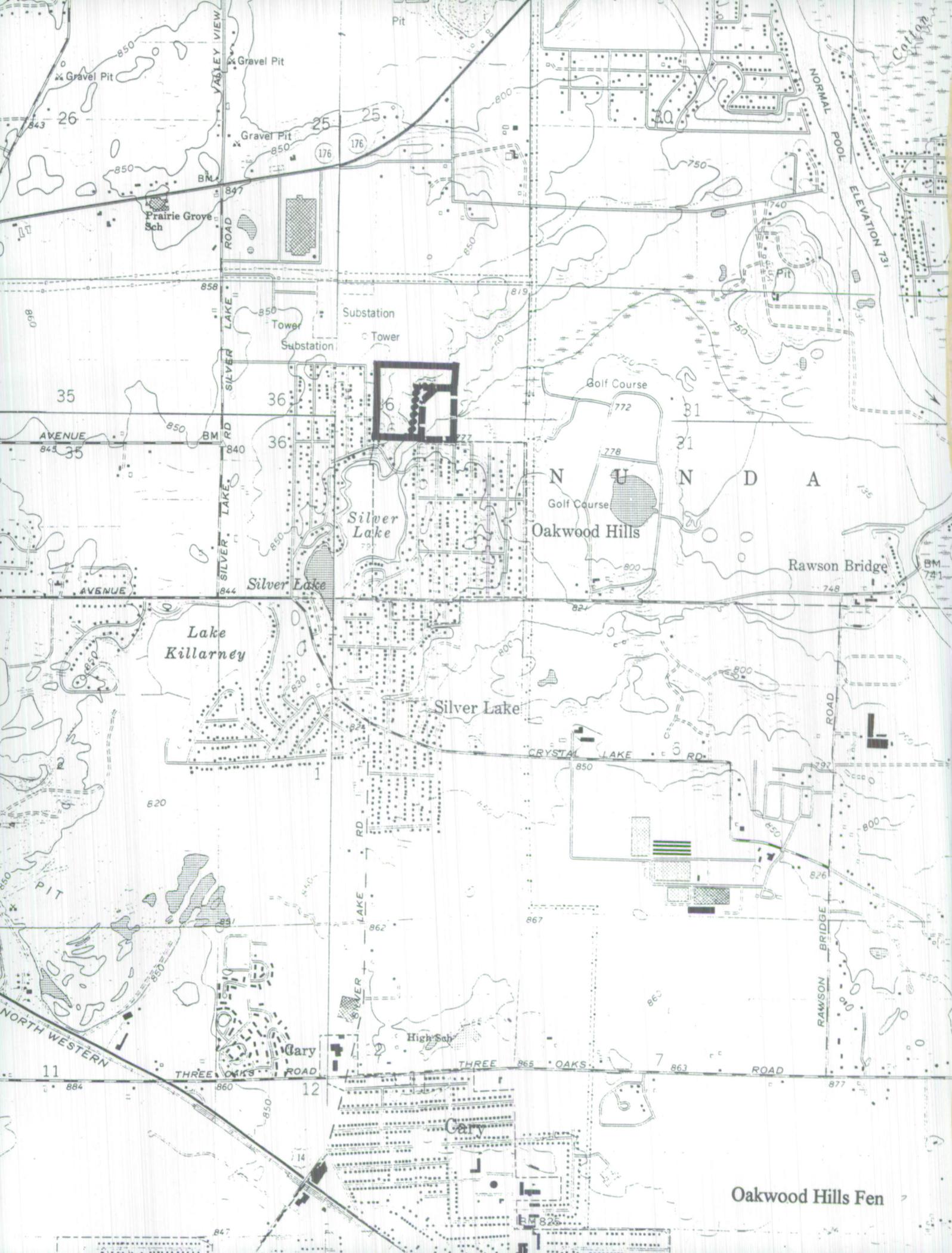
**Ownership:** Libertyville Township, Dorothy Donnelly

**Dedicated:** December 1990

**Size:** 16.1 acres nature preserve and 33.4 acres buffer

**Topo Map:** Libertyville and Grayslake 7.5

For Further Information Contact: Illinois Nature Preserve Commission, 524 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, IL 62701-1787 (217/785-8686)



Prairie Grove Sch

Substation  
Tower

Silver Lake

Lake Killarney

Silver Lake

Oakwood Hills  
Golf Course

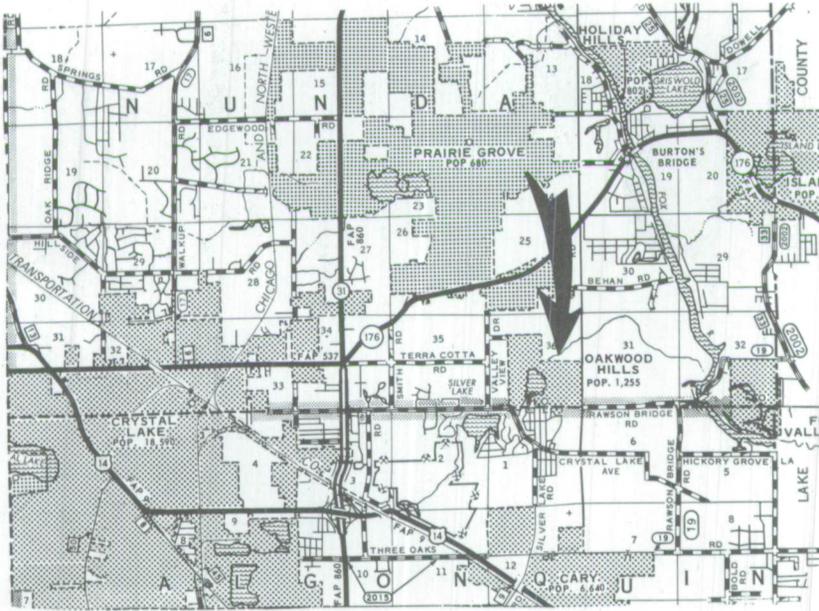
Rawson Bridge

High Sch

Gary

Gary

Oakwood Hills Fen



## Oakwood Hills Fen Nature Preserve

## McHenry County

### Location and Access:

In Oakwood Hills, go north on Lakeshore Drive (on the east side of Silver Lake) to the end. The nature preserve is to the north.

Special Note: A vehicle entrance to the park is at the northwest corner off North Park Road.

### Description:

Oakwood Hills Fen represents presettlement conditions of the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. Its natural communities, determined by soil and moisture gradients, consists of graminoid fen, calcareous seep and sedge meadow. The seeps and fens along the stream support several unusual plant species such as grass-of-Parnassus, fringed gentian,

sterile sedge and northern bog orchid. Sloping peat areas contain cotton sedge and bog valerian, while more alkaline seepages support twig rush, tufted hair grass and hair beak rush.

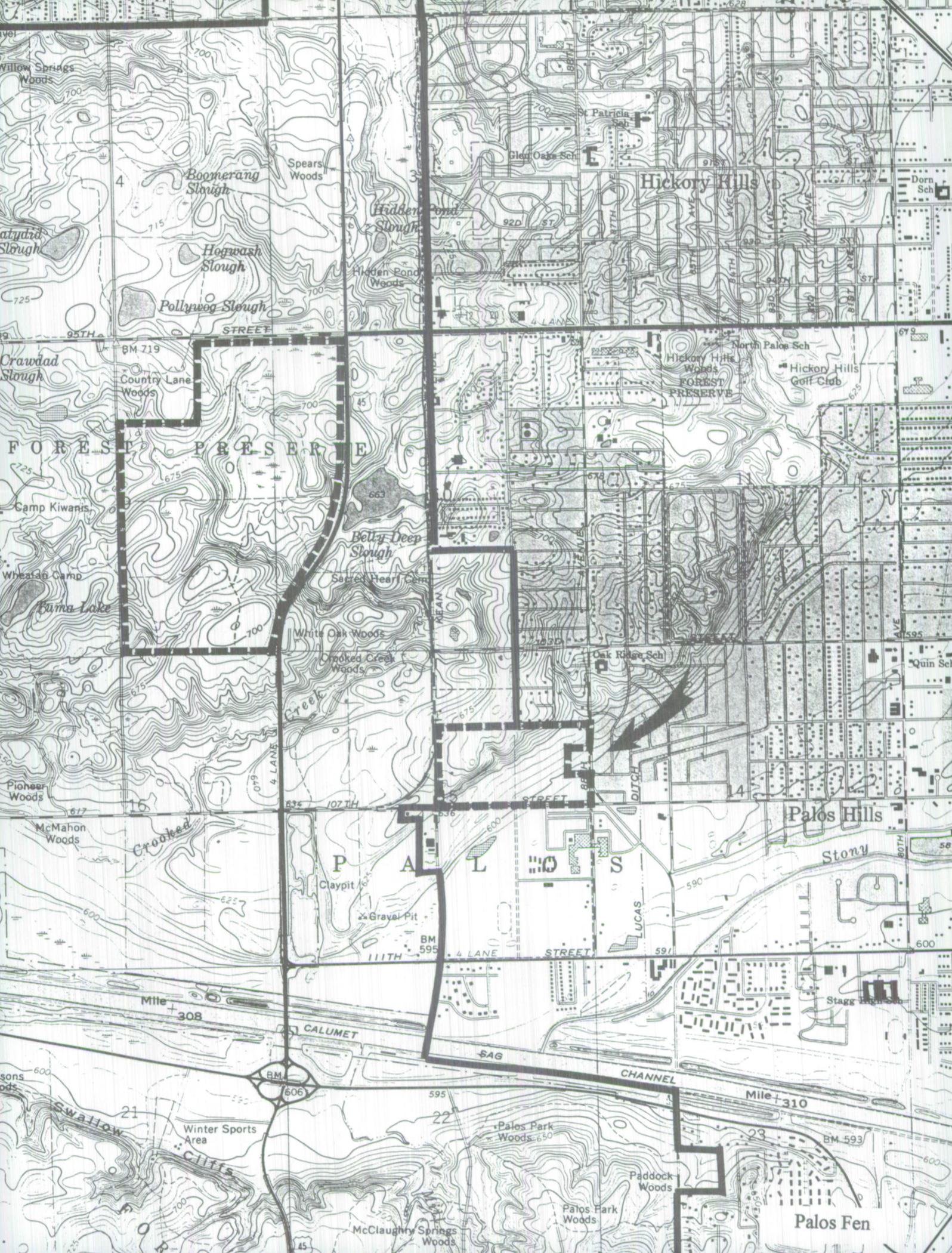
**Ownership:** Village of Oakwood Hills

**Dedicated:** March 1986

**Size:** 12 acres with an additional 4 acres of buffer

**Topo Map:** Wauconda and Barrington 7.5

For Further Information Contact: McHenry County Conservation District, 6512 Harts Road, Ringwood, IL 60072 (815/338-1405)



Boomerang Slough

Hickory Hills

FOREST PRESERVE

Belly Deep Slough

Palos Hills

Stony

Palos Fen

Crooked Creek

PALOS

Winter Sports Area

Palos Park Woods

Paddock Woods

McClaughey Springs Woods

Palos Park Woods

Willow Springs Woods

Atydid Slough

Crawdad Slough

Camp Kiwanis

Wheaton Camp

Bama Lake

Pioneer Woods

McMahon Woods

Swallow

Cliffs

Spears Woods

Hidden Pond Slough

Hidden Pond Woods

Country Lane Woods

White Oak Woods

Crooked Creek Woods

Claypit

Gravel Pit

Glen Oaks Sch

St. Patrick Sch

Hickory Hills Woods Forest Preserve

North Palos Sch

Hickory Hills Golf Club

Oak Ridge Sch

Dorn Sch

Quin Sch

Stagg High Sch

BM 719

45

16

634

107 TH

536

4 LANE

STREET

Mile 308

BM 606

595

Mile 310

BM 593

21

22

23

45

595

591

600

600

600

600