

Churchill Park, Glen Ellyn

Churchill Park is located between Geneva and St. Charles Roads, just east of Bloomingdale Road.

Habitat type/site overview

Because of its small size and trails, Churchill Park is an ideal park for a short visit or to take children and beginning birders. There are three small ponds and adjacent marshes, all surrounded by a limestone trail. There is also a spur of the trail heading south into shrubby woodland adjacent to Churchill Elementary School.



Topography

The limestone trails generally provide easy walking; low, wet spots can be avoided. There are several footbridges along the trail. Since the park was restored when construction began on adjacent homes, native plant landscapers have actively maintained the site, and it often has beautiful displays of wildflowers during the summer.

Birds

For such a small site, Churchill Park has provided birders with 120 species of birds. Historically, it was home to the Greater Prairie Chicken! From spring through fall, Red-winged Blackbirds, Song Sparrows, and Common Yellowthroats seem to be everywhere, but pairs of Canada Geese, Mallards, and Wood Ducks nest at this park. Barn Swallows nest in the picnic shelter, and Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and Green Herons can often be seen stalking frogs and small fish around the ponds.



Best time to go

As with most sites, early morning during the spring and fall migrations provide the best opportunities to see the greatest number of species. During the summer, there are fewer species, but that is a good time for observing behavior. Few birds have been reported in January, but eBird records suggest that is partly because birders have ignored this site then.



DBC Hotspot

Amenities

There is a picnic shelter adjacent to the parking.

Access

There is a parking lot on the St. Charles Road side of the park.

Site contributor

Content and photography by John Cebula.