

Hawk Hollow Forest Preserve, Bartlett

Hawk Hollow is located in northwest DuPage County. It is south of Stearns Rd., east of Bartlett Rd. and west of County Farm Rd.

Habitat type/site overview

Hawk Hollow contains one of the largest unbroken blocks of grassland in DuPage County. With 1172 acres, it includes grassy meadows, mature woodlands, and fens. The West Branch of the DuPage River bisects the park.



Topography

Hawk Hollow is flat with a few gentle inclines. The 5.6 miles of trails are predominantly crushed limestone with some mowed grass trails as well. These trails connect to both Mallard Lake to the east and to West Branch Forest Preserve to the south. Hawk Hollow contains a 34-acre fenced in off-leash dog area.

To bird the area close to the West Branch of the DuPage River, one must leave the trail area. This area can be very wet/muddy so mud boots are recommended. The grassy trails can also be muddy so plan accordingly. There is a grass trail along the outside perimeter of the dog area.

For an expanded view of this map, visit the DuPage Forest Preserve site at www.dupageforest.org.

Birds

Hawk Hollow is a great area to search for our grassland birds. Henslow's, Field, Song, Savannah, and Grasshopper Sparrows; Bobolinks; and Eastern Meadowlarks all call Hawk Hollow home.

During migration, various warblers, vireos, flycatchers, orioles, cuckoos, woodpeckers, and swallows can all be found along the West Branch of the DuPage River. Some of the hard-to-find DuPage birds that have been sighted at Hawk Hollow include Bell's Vireo, Western Meadowlark, Prothonotary Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Sedge Wren. A good place to try for the Henslow's Sparrow is the grassy area between the off-leash area and the river. Listen



DBC Hotspot

for their distinctive “tsi-lick” calls. Hawk Hollow is underbirded in the winter and perhaps would be a great place to search for Northern Harriers or Short-eared Owls.

Best time to go

Spring and fall migration periods are the best time to observe the widest variety of birds. However, the summer can be a great time for Hawk Hollow’s grassland breeders, including Henslow’s, Field, Song and Savannah Sparrows, along with eastern Meadowlarks and the always fun-to-observe Bobolinks. Sedge Wrens have been reported on occasion and are probably regular breeders.



Amenities

Restrooms are available in the parking area for the off-leash dog area located on the northern edge of Hawk Hollow, off of Bittersweet Dr. There is little shade available on the Hawk Hollow trails so sunscreen is advised. Ticks should not be a problem if one stays on the limestone trails; however, if one is planning on going off trail, precautions for ticks should be taken.

Access

Hawk Hollow can be accessed from the north from Stearns Rd. (south a short distance on Bittersweet Dr.) east of Bartlett Rd. and west of County Farm Rd. This is where the parking for the off-leash dog area is located. Hawk Hollow can also be accessed from the corner of Schick and Bartlett Roads in the southeast corner of the park as well as Lawrence Ave. just west of County Farm Rd. You can park on Lawrence and walk in a short way to access the grass trails.

Site contributor

Content and photography by Scott Latimer.