

# Lincoln Marsh Natural Area, Wheaton

Lincoln Marsh Natural Area is located just northwest of downtown Wheaton. From County Farm Road, go east on Harrison Street. Harrison ends in Lincoln Marsh's parking lot. The Wheaton Park District says the site is open from dawn to dusk, but sometimes the parking lot remains closed until almost 8:00 a.m.

## Habitat type/site overview

Two large marshes dominate the area. However, there is a large oak woodland, a small prairie, and two small ponds. A variety of birds, resident and migrants, associated with such habitats can be seen here.

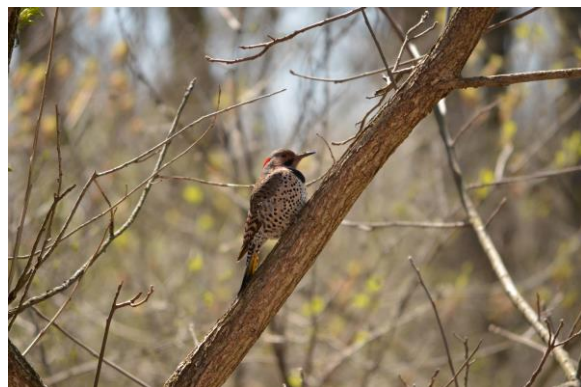
## Topography

The trails at Lincoln Marsh are generally excellent, consisting mostly of wood chips and crushed limestone; boardwalks cross low areas, and there are two floating boardwalks and bird blinds.



## Birds

During migration, anything may turn up here. Red-headed Woodpeckers occasionally nest in the oak woods, and it is possible to see four or five species of woodpeckers on a good day. Scanning the edges of the cattails, one may spot Wood Ducks with their young or hear a Marsh Wren making its voice heard over the Red-winged Blackbirds. Bluebirds next in available nest boxes. In late summer, migrating birds flock to some of the fruit trees, and tanagers, grosbeaks, and orioles flit from tree to tree. A resident Great-horned Owl may be heard as evening falls.



## ***DBC Hotspot***

### Best time to go

Because the trails are so good, any time is good to go out and enjoy watching birds. Early morning during migration periods is an especially good time to visit.

The spot is popular with dog walkers and families, so early in the day is the best time to go. Also, there are several “challenge courses” used by schools during the week when schools are in session.



### Amenities

Besides rest rooms and shelters, there are picnic tables and benches along the trails. Also, interpretive signs help explain some of the ecological features of the area.

### Access

The parking lot at the east end of Harrison Street is the best place to park. Also, the site is accessible from the Illinois Prairie Path.

### Site contributors

Content and photography by John Cebula.