

Meacham Grove Forest Preserve, Bloomingtondale

The 255-acre Meacham Grove Forest Preserve in Bloomingtondale features woodland groves, meadows, wetlands, the meandering Spring Brook Creek and the Meacham Grove Nature Preserve. This forest preserve is infrequently birded and yet has a nice variety of birds with the mixed habitat.



Habitat type/site overview

Meacham has woodlands with many old growth trees, meadows, the man-made Maple Lake and Meacham Marsh wetlands. On the east side of Meacham Grove, the lake and adjacent wetlands are excellent places to see Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons, swallows, and other native wildlife.

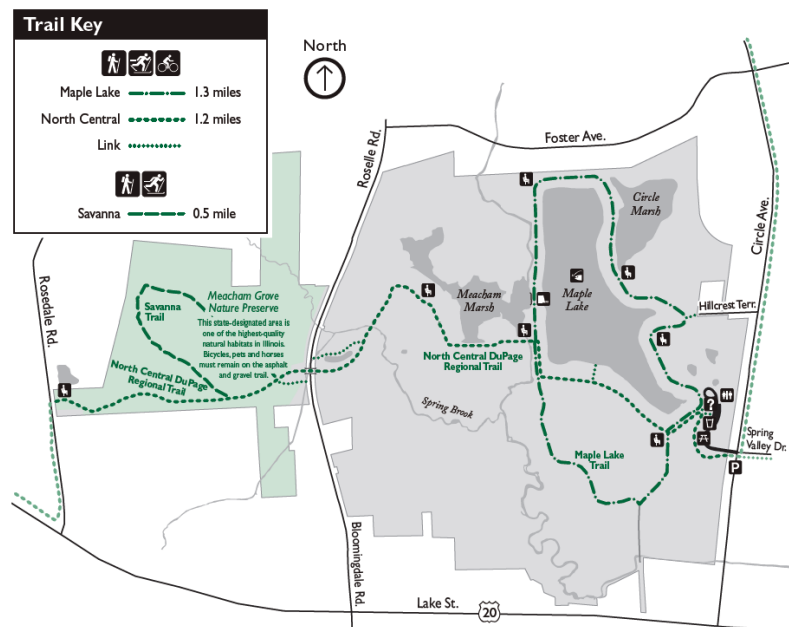
On the west side of Bloomingtondale-Roselle Road, an amazing variety of native woodland plants, some endangered, grow in an upland forest etched with intermittent streams. In 2012 the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission gave this area an extra level of protection by designating it as the Meacham Grove Nature Preserve.

Topography

There are three miles of trails in Meacham Grove Forest Preserve.

The Maple Lake Trail is 1.3 miles circling the deep man-made lake and on the south end circling the hill with meadow habitat. This limestone multiuse trail passes through meadow, nice edges overlooking woodland treetops, and along the wetlands and Spring Brook Creek edges.

The North Central Trail runs 1.2 miles from the eastern edge of the preserve to the western boundary, along the south end of the lake, through the adjacent wetlands, and the Nature Preserve. A pedestrian bridge carries the trail west over Bloomingtondale-Roselle Road with good views of treetops on both sides, an opportunity to see birds at eye level.



DBC Hotspot

The Savanna Trail (.5 mile) circling through the Meacham Grove Nature Preserve on the west side of Bloomingdale-Roselle Road is narrow and often muddy but worth walking through to find migrant and resident woodland birds.

Birds

Over 150 species of birds have been recorded in Meacham Grove Forest Preserve.

Woodlands. The woodlands along the Maple Lake Trail include Baltimore Orioles, vireos, woodpeckers and spring migrants. In the far west section, in the Nature Preserve, the many large trees host warblers and vireos during migration, woodpeckers, scarlet tanagers, flycatchers and resident woodland birds.

Meadows. The meadows surrounding the hill hosts Savannah, Vesper, Song and Field Sparrows; Eastern Meadowlarks; Orchard Orioles; Indigo Buntings and more.

Wetlands. In the Meacham Marsh look for herons, Great Egrets, ducks and some surprising shorebirds.

Lake. The swallows love this site and you can find Tree, Barn and Rough-winged Swallows in great numbers. Also, ducks, geese, cormorants, and on a lucky day in early spring a Common Loon.

Best time to go

The best opportunities for birding are from April through June—and the earlier in the day the better. This is a small and heavily used forest preserve. However, there are many good spots throughout the walk along the trails.

Amenities

There is a porta-potty at the parking lot on Circle Ave. This parking lot also has a visitor's kiosk and water fountain.

Access

The entrance is on the west side of Circle Avenue in Bloomingdale, 0.25 mile north of Lake Street (Route 20). There is one parking lot with approximately 30 spots including three handicap parking spots.

Site contributors

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