

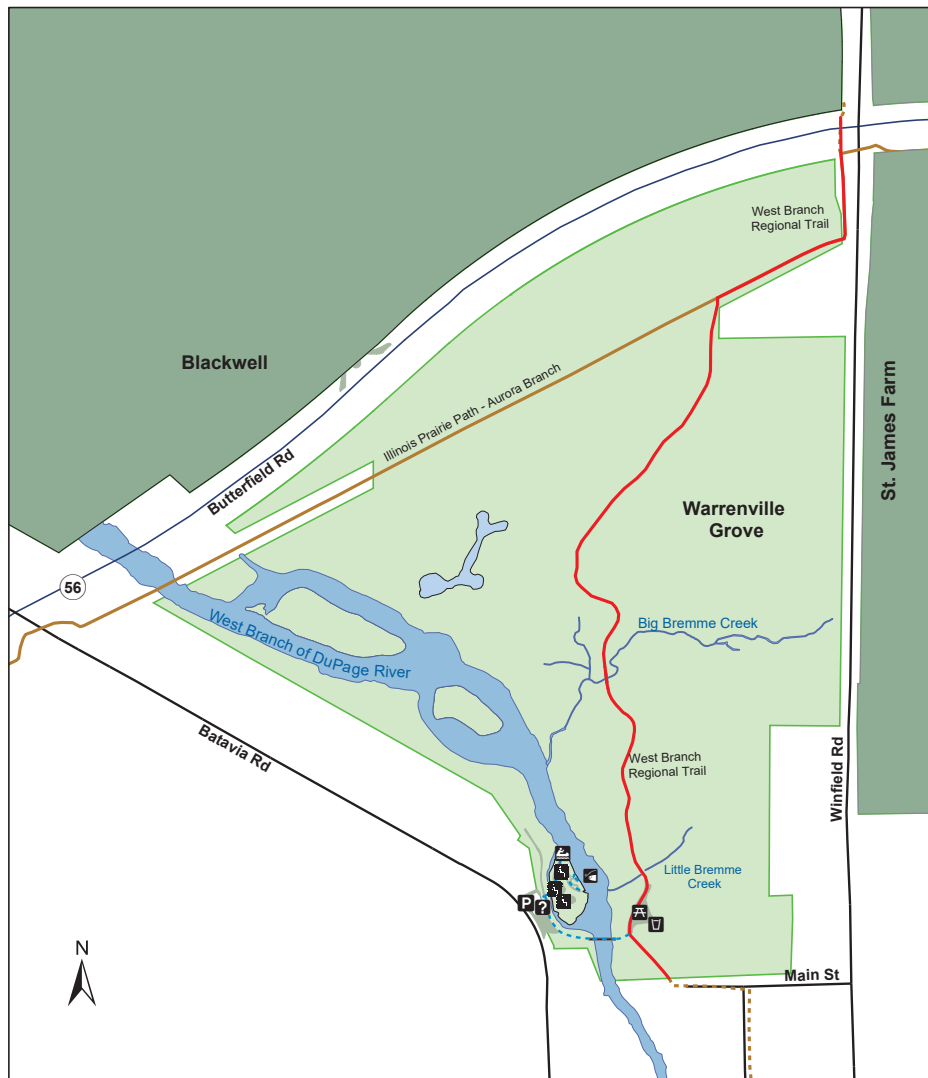
Warrenville Grove Forest Preserve, Warrenville

Warrenville Grove is on Batavia Road, 0.5 mile south of Butterfield Road (Route 56) and 0.25 mile west of Winfield Road. <https://www.dupageforest.org/places-to-go/forest-preserves/warrenville-grove>

Habitat type/site overview

Warrenville Grove is nestled between Blackwell Forest Preserve and St. James Farm. Its 127 acres of rolling topography feature floodplain, fens, upland woodlands, and the West Branch of the DuPage River.

Warrenville Grove Forest Preserve



DBC Hotspot

Topography

The main trail is a 0.7-mile section of the West Branch Regional Trail. It's a pleasantly shaded crushed limestone trail, plenty wide to accommodate both hikers and bicyclists.

Immediately beyond the parking lot is a small park with access to the river. Several informative trail signs describe the history and reclamation of the grove, which was the site of a grist mill that was a hub of activity for farmers and their families during the second half of the 1800s.

Fly fisherman are often seen wading near the riffles: the shallower, faster moving section of the river where rocks break the water surface. Water rushing over the rocks creates oxygen bubbles that dissolve, creating an oxygen-rich environment for fish and insects.



*Riffles in the West Branch of the DuPage River
Photo by Donna Kubik*

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*Bridge crossing over the West Branch of the DuPage River
Photo by Donna Kubik*

Just beyond the park, a trail crosses over the West Branch of the DuPage River. It joins the West Branch Regional Trail and winds north through upland woodlands consisting of oak, walnut, and maple.

Visitors are encouraged to stay on the main forest preserve trails. Narrow footpaths are often created by repeat visitors. These paths are not maintained; you may encounter unsafe conditions on the footpaths such as poison ivy, unstable footing, and tree hazards. Additionally, the area is an important habitat for threatened and endangered birds. Going off-trail may disturb these birds, especially during nesting season.



Please remain on the trail.

Photo by Donna Kubik

The trail crosses two idyllic spring-fed creeks, Little Bremme Creek and Big Bremme Creek, meandering through the grove on their way to the river. The trail is mostly flat. The steepest section, with a grade of approximately 3 degrees, is on the north side of the bridge over Big Bremme Creek where the trail climbs to a clearing in the woods.

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*Big Bremme Creek
Photo by Donna Kubik*



*Bridge over Big Bremme Creek
Photo by Donna Kubik*

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*Bridge across Big Bremme Creek and the trail leading to the clearing
Photo by Donna Kubik*

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*The clearing between the bridge over Big Bremme Creek and the Illinois Prairie Path
Photo by Donna Kubik*

Just beyond the clearing, the West Branch Regional Trail ends at the Illinois Prairie Path – Aurora Branch.

The Prairie Path, also wide and crushed limestone, spans the northern region of Warrenville Grove. The path is forested on both sides and is also good for birding.

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Birds

Birds on the river

Viewing the river from the park, you'll often see swallows darting back and forth, feeding on insects over the ripples.

Mallard and Canada Goose families are commonly seen on the river.



Canada Geese

Photo by Mayumi Barrack

The view from the bridge that crosses the river often includes Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, Great Egrets, Double-crested Cormorants, and, occasionally, shorebirds, as Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers. Baltimore Orioles and Eastern Phoebe are attracted to the trees on either side of the bridge.



Green Heron

Photo by Stan Barrack

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Birds of the upland woods

The upland woods are favored by Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Scarlet Tanagers, Baltimore Orioles, Gray Catbirds, American Robins, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Great Crested Flycatchers, and Northern Cardinals. The song of the Eastern Wood-Pewee is often heard. Northern Flickers and Red-bellied Woodpeckers are common. Several warbler species stop by during migration; mostly Yellow-rumped Warblers and Yellow Warblers, plus American Redstarts and others.



Baltimore Oriole
Photo by Mayumi Barrack



Gray Catbird
Photo by Mayumi Barrack

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Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Photo by Mayumi Barrack



Great Crested Flycatcher
Photo by Mayumi Barrack



Red-bellied Woodpecker
Photo by Mayumi Barrack



Red-bellied Woodpecker
Photo by Mayumi Barrack

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American Robin
Photo by Mayumi Barrack

Little Bremme Creek continues to flow throughout the summer and is often a bathing spot for American Robins.

The bridge across Big Bremme Creek is good for viewing Eastern Phoebes and Black-capped Chickadees, especially in spring. There, you'll also hear the "FITZ-bew" of the Willow Flycatcher.

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Birds in the clearing

At the clearing, just south of the Prairie Path, there is almost always an Indigo Bunting calling from the top of a tree during the summer, no matter what the time of day. You'll often find Cedar Waxwings atop nearby trees as well as Hummingbirds. Northern Cardinals, Eastern Kingbirds, and Brown-headed Cowbirds are also found in this area. All summer long you can hear the call of the Common Yellowthroat and the Field Sparrow, but it's rare to actually get a glimpse of either! American Goldfinches feed on the Native Thistle and Bee Balm which are abundant in the clearing later in the summer.



Eastern Kingbird
Photo by Mayumi Barrack



American Goldfinch
Photo by Mayumi Barrack

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Birds along the Prairie Path

Among the wide variety of birds found along the Prairie Path are Blue Jays, American Robins, Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, Downy Woodpeckers, and sparrows.

Birds high above the treetops



Juvenile Red-tailed Hawk
Photo by Stan Barrack



Osprey
Photo by Stan Barrack

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Broad-winged Hawk
Photo by Stan Barrack



Turkey Vulture
Photo by Mayumi Barrack

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Best time to go

The preserve is prone to flooding in the Spring. Signs at the start of the trail remind visitors that the trail is closed when the water level reaches the trail surface.



Other than that, it's a pleasant birding spot 365 days a year.

The preserve opens one hour after sunrise and closes at sunset.

Amenities

In the park near the parking lot, there are park benches and grassy areas where you can spread a blanket.

There are no restrooms.

Access

It is best to park in the lot on Batavia Avenue. This provides easy access to the park and to the bridge that leads to the main trail. It also provides a nice introduction to the preserve via the informative trail signs in the park area.

Site contributors

Content and topography photography by Donna Kubik
Bird photography by Mayumi Barrack and Stan Barrack