

# York Woods Forest Preserve, Oak Brook

York Woods is a small gem of a forest preserve located in eastern DuPage County just southwest of the York Road and Roosevelt Road intersection. It was the very first forest preserve in the county.

## Habitat type/site overview

The habitat is primarily old oak trees with some open and marshy areas.

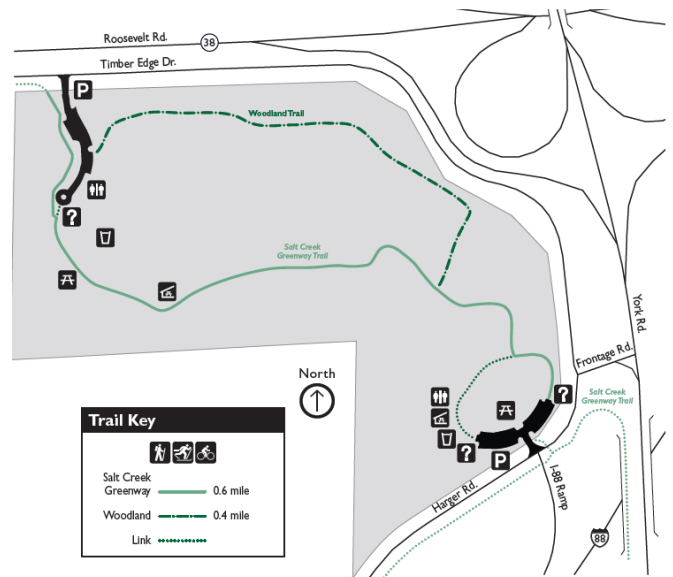
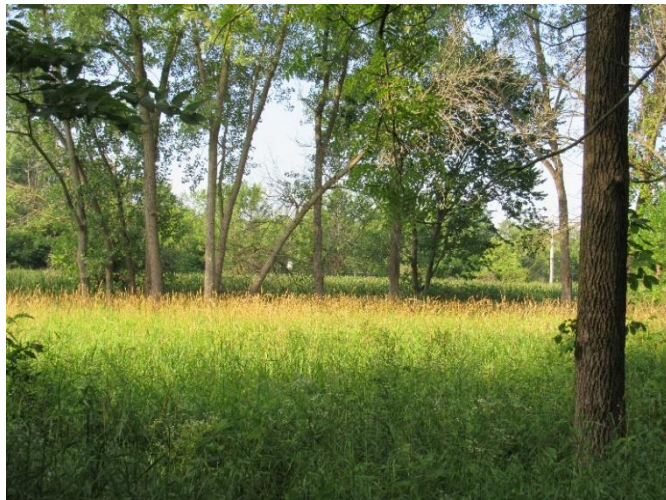
## Topography

An asphalt trail meanders through the woods and along the northern edge of the preserve, connecting the south picnic area with the north picnic area. A second, one-mile paved trail also connects the two areas and is open to hikers and cross-country skiers as well as to bicyclists or joggers.



## Birds

At the main parking lot, closest to York Road, there is a large, open, grassy area that has very good birding. In fact, the DBC has offered field trip "Sit-Ins" at this location for those with mobility issues or just in the mood to take it easy.



For an enlarged view of the map above, visit [www.dupageforest.org](http://www.dupageforest.org).

To begin, check the wooded ditch on the southwest side of the parking lot. Many interesting birds have been seen and heard there including Orchard Orioles. In the early morning, the sunlit trees to the west and the wooded meadow beyond are very good for vireos, warblers and woodpeckers. Then check the bathroom buildings for Eastern Phoebe nests. The shrubby area just to the right is very good for viewing

## **DBC Hotspot**

migrating warblers at eye level. Warbling Vireos are consistently heard at the beginning of the path and they are often visible there before the trees leaf out.

Most of the path is part of the Salt Creek Greenway Trail. When you reach the circle, stay left and watch for woodpecker holes in the oaks to your right as you walk down the hill. In the late spring, expect Scarlet Tanagers, woodpeckers and large numbers of Indigo Buntings here. In the early summer the Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Song Sparrows, Common Yellowthroats and House Wrens are quite vocal. At the bottom on the left is a large meadow with a small marsh at the back. In the spring this is a good place for warblers. Continuing on, there is a shelter on the right where Eastern Phoebes nest. Listen here for Eastern Wood-Pewees also. Great Horned Owls have been seen and heard in the oaks behind.



At the far parking lot (Timber Edge Drive), there is a vernal pool in the spring where you can usually find at least one pair of Wood Ducks. Or look for them high in the trees at the right fork of the circular trail as you enter. The trees in and in front of the vernal pool are super warbler attractors in the spring. And be sure to check the woods on the other side of the parking lot for thrushes; typically, there are quite a few Swainson's Thrushes.

From here you can continue east around the circle on Woodland Trail. However, this north side of the loop runs parallel to Roosevelt Road and the traffic noise overruns any bird song. We prefer to turn around here and backtrack.

In addition to the birds, in the spring York Woods is a wild flower hunter's dream. Look for jack-in-the-pulpit where the entry path joins the circle. While you are here, watch for white-tailed deer, coyote, and the ever-present chipmunks.

### Best time to go

At York Woods, the birds are especially active during the spring migration and spring breeding season. But it is a lovely site for a peaceful stroll year-round.

### Amenities

Amenities include picnic tables, restrooms (porta-potty at the frontage road entrance), two shelters and a path leading to a nice circular walk, all asphalt.

### Access

To reach the main entrance, go east on 22nd Street and turn north onto Spring Road. At Harger Road, turn right and follow the road to the south parking lot.

## ***DBC Hotspot***

To reach the lot on the north side, follow Harger Road toward Roosevelt Road (Route 38). Or, take I-88 to York Road. Proceed north on York Road to the Roosevelt Road west exit. Take the York Road south ramp. Go right on Harger Road. Hope to run into you there!

## **Site contributors**

Content and photography by Steve and Kathy Mineck.