

Welcome

Welcome to the Lincoln Marsh Natural Area. Wheaton Park District maintains this natural area to enhance appreciation and involvement in the natural world by people of all ages. Nestled within Wheaton, the park's 146 acres are highly valued for recreation, education and environmental reasons. The natural area provides visitors with many outdoor activities including hiking among the 2 miles of trails, bird-watching, picnics, environmental education, interpretation programs, and a teams and ropes course. Lincoln Marsh provides several valuable benefits to the community – flood control, water quality improvement, wildlife habitat, and recreation and education opportunities for thousands of people annually. Enjoy and discover Lincoln Marsh at your leisure.

Park Rules and Environmental Reminders

Thousands of people visit Lincoln Marsh each year. While visiting, please help preserve the beauty of our natural area and promise an enjoyable visit for the park visitors who follow you by complying with the following rules and reminders.

Collection

Everything at Lincoln Marsh is protected by law. Please do not gather plants, animals, rocks or other natural objects. Park visitors who follow you wish to enjoy them too.

Dogs

Dogs must be on leash at all times. This protects your dog and the plants and wildlife that call Lincoln Marsh home! Please remember to clean up after your dog. Mutt mits are available at the entrance to the parking lot.

Garbage

Please place garbage in cans provided. Recycling is encouraged. Try to pack out what you pack in.

Trails

Stay on designated marked trails to help protect our valuable natural resources and wildlife for future visitors. Bicycles are not permitted on the woodchip trails.

Wildlife

Feeding of wildlife is not permitted.

Park Hours

Daily from dawn to dusk.

*Happy trails. Enjoy your visit
and return often!*

History

Between 1979 and 1992 more than 100 parcels of land were assembled to form the core of this park. Land acquisition continues around the park's perimeter to enhance existing open space, reduce potential flood damages, and enhance flood control. Funding for land purchases has been provided by the Wheaton Park District, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, DuPage County Department of Transportation, City of Wheaton, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and with assistance from The Conservation Foundation.

Natural Diversity

Although it's called Lincoln Marsh, the park features several habitats: wetlands, wet-mesic grasslands, mesic prairies, successional woodlands, and mature oak-hickory woodlands. These habitats are rich in plant and animal life. As you walk through the different habitats you will be surrounded by cattails, oak, black cherry and locust trees, goldenrod and coneflowers, just a few of the plants found in this natural area.

Quiet and observant hikers will be surprised by what they hear and see as they explore the Lincoln Marsh. The wildlife that calls Lincoln Marsh home includes red fox, coyotes, deer, raccoons, opossums, squirrels, chipmunks, mink and muskrats. You may even catch a glimpse of a garter snake or painted turtle basking in the sun. During the spring months attune your ears to listen for chorus frogs, American toads and bullfrogs as they call out from the wetlands. Birds are abundant throughout the year; listen for the "konk-la-ree" of the red-winged blackbird from the cattails, watch for the flash of yellow in the prairie from the goldfinches in summer, hear the drumming of downy woodpeckers in the forest, and look above it all to watch for the red-tail hawk soaring through the sky.

It is a goal of the Wheaton Park District, through responsible management techniques, to ensure that our natural resources can survive and flourish at Lincoln Marsh.

Take only photographs...leave only footprints.



Lincoln Marsh Natural Area

Trail Map



Discover the Wonders of Nature

Our mission at Lincoln Marsh is...

To increase awareness and appreciation for our connections to the earth and to each other through educational and social experiences in a healthy ecosystem.



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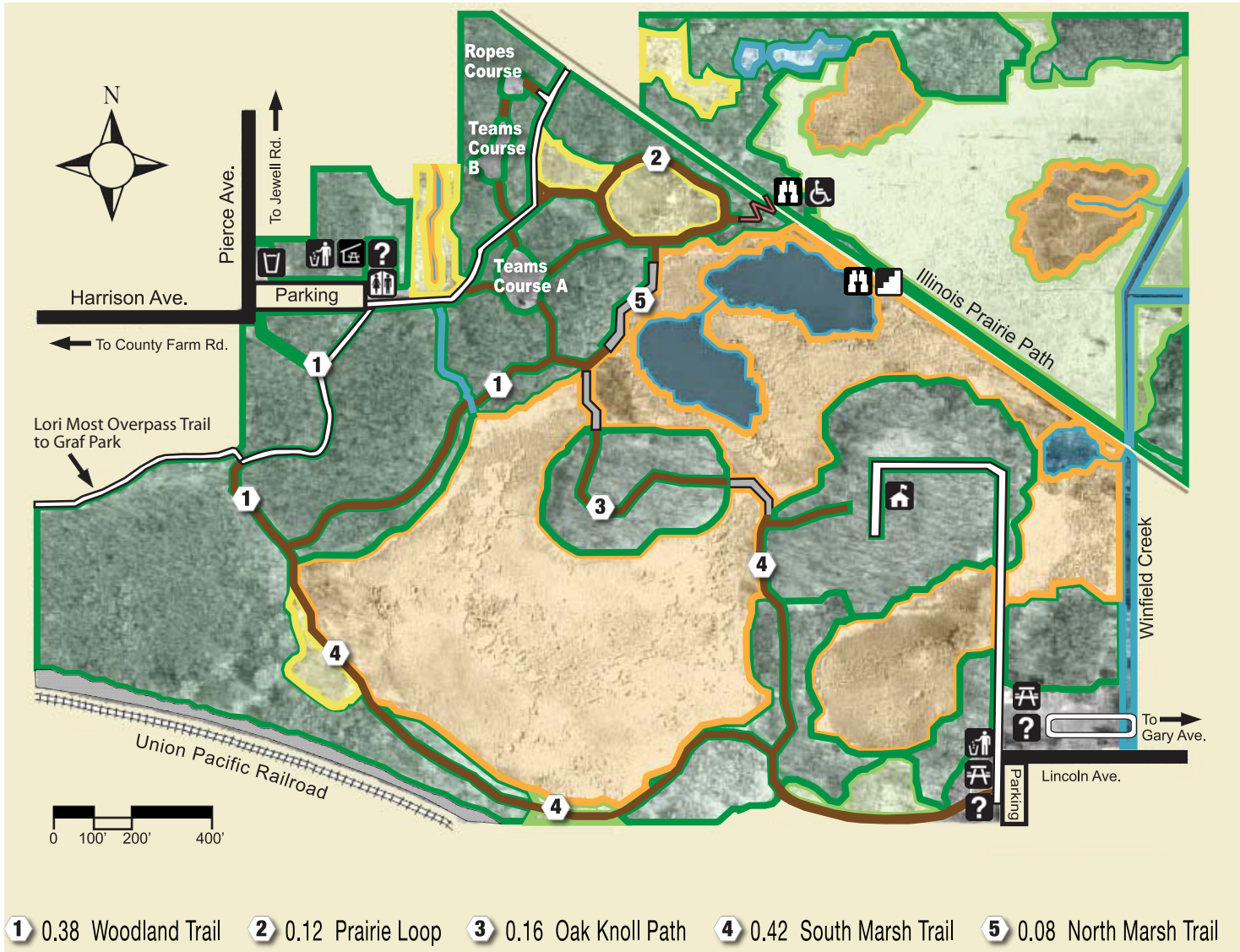
Lincoln Marsh Natural Area

is a facility of the Wheaton Park District.





Lincoln Marsh Natural Area Trail Map



- Drinking Fountain
- Information Kiosk
- Natural Area Office
- Trash Receptacle
- Overlook
- Wheelchair Accessible Ramp
- Stairs
- Shelter
- Picnic Area
- Toilet
- Woodchip Trail
- Limestone Trail
- Boardwalk
- Woodland
- Prairie
- Marsh
- Open Water
- Grassland
- Ramp

Contact the Lincoln Marsh
Natural Area Office:
630-871-2810