



# A Hike Back in Time

## History Along the Trails of DuPage Forest Preserves

DuPage forest preserves offer 166 miles of hiking trails, each one perfect for the “Take a Hike! Challenge.” Below are nine forest preserve that let you meet the challenge while taking in some interesting DuPage history.

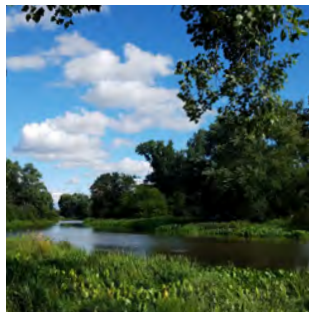


### **Blackwell Forest Preserve** Warrenville

The land at Blackwell Forest Preserve was shaped by the retreating Wisconsin Glacier 12,000 to 15,000 years ago. In the centuries following, savannas with widely spaced oaks formed on the higher ground while the lower-lying ground became home to marsh and prairie plants.

In 1977 at McKee Marsh, Forest Preserve District employees discovered the 13,000-year-old skeleton of a woolly mammoth, one of the oldest finds of its kind in northeastern Illinois.

[Trail Maps and Additional Info on Blackwell Forest Preserve »](#)



### **Churchill Woods Forest Preserve** Glen Ellyn

A community of about 500 Potawatomi Indians lived at this site as they waited for the U.S. government to send them west of the Mississippi River as mandated by the 1833 Treaty of Chicago. The treaty allowed the U.S. to acquire the last-remaining American Indian land in Illinois, including land that would become DuPage.

In 1834 Winslow and Mercy Churchill settled on the land, becoming prosperous farmers who earned a prominent reputation among residents of developing Glen Ellyn and Lombard as well as Milton Township, which they helped to establish. Their land stretched east to west from Route 53 to Main Street Glen Ellyn and north to south from North Avenue to Crescent

Boulevard — all bought for \$1.25 an acre.

The preserve’s Babcock Grove is named for brothers Ralph and Morgan Babcock, two of the county’s first settlers of European descent. Some of the grove’s white oaks date back to the 1830s, a time when settlers left seedlings untouched as they logged mature oaks for new plank roads. (Some say Winslow Churchill complained about the noise from the horse-drawn traffic that clattered over the planks on St. Charles Road and kept him awake at night).

[Trail Maps and Additional Info on Churchill Woods Forest Preserve »](#)



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### **Danada Forest Preserve** Wheaton

Danada has a rich history as the former home of Daniel and Ada Rice, owners of Kentucky Derby winner Lucky Debonair. The equestrian center and most of the surrounding preserve were part of the Rices' estate. They purchased the land in 1928, when it was a working farm with apple orchards, wheat and corn fields, and grazing lots for livestock. In 1943 Daniel bought eight Thoroughbreds for his wife's pursuit of horse racing, and the Ada L. Rice Stable was born, a legacy that would last 32 years.

The farm produced many champions and served as a training facility. The Rices patterned their 26-stall barn after the white dormered-window stables in Lexington, Kentucky. The design, which features center stalls surrounded by an inside aisle, allowed trainers to exercise their Thoroughbreds even in bad weather. The 0.5-mile regulation racetrack on the west side of Naperville Road conditioned yearlings that arrived from a sister farm in Kentucky.

[Trail Maps and Additional Info on Danada Forest Preserve »](#)



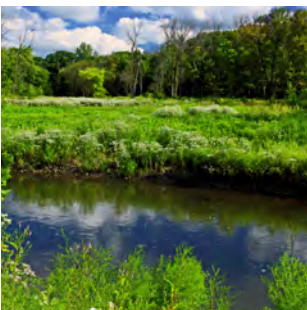
### **Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve** Oak Brook

Originally known as Brush Hill, the land around this forest preserve was renamed Fullersburg after Jacob Fuller and his son, Benjamin, who platted the town in 1851.

Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve opened to the public in 1920. In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps established a camp at the site. Workers there built the visitor center (then a boat house) and several of shelters that still stand today.

Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center offers hands-on exhibits and displays of native wildlife. Downstream, the historic Graue Mill and Museum features the only waterwheel gristmill in Illinois that continues to operate in its original location. The nearby Ben Fuller House is made of small timber and is one of the oldest balloon-frame structures in Illinois.

[Trail Maps and Additional Info on Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve »](#)



### **McDowell Grove Forest Preserve** Naperville

In the 1930s, McDowell Grove was a camp for the Civilian Conservation Corps — a work-relief program that was part of President Roosevelt's New Deal legislation designed to combat Depression-era unemployment while conserving the nation's natural resources. Workers constructed picnic areas, a plank bridge across the river, a boathouse, bridle path and a limestone dam on the West Branch DuPage River. The camp had six barracks, which provided housing for 200 workers. During World War II, the site served as a secret installation for developing radar technology. After Camp McDowell became a radar school in 1941, three additional barracks were added. The camp eventually served as a training site for Office of

Strategic Services (the precursor of the CIA) until 1944, and in 1946 the buildings were sold.

[Trail Maps and Additional Info on McDowell Grove Forest Preserve »](#)



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### **St. James Farm Forest Preserve** Warrenville

Several structures from late-1800 farmsteads remain, including a gabled-roof-and-wing farmhouse, one of the last of its kind in DuPage. For decades, though, the property was the retreat of the McCormick family of International Harvester fame. To accommodate their interest in horseback riding, the family built a colonial-style brick stable with stalls lined with wood and iron posts from England. To support their growing award-winning herd of Guernsey cows, they constructed a state-of-the-art dairy barn with roomy stalls and assorted outbuildings. In the late 1950s, the property passed to Brooks McCormick, who built the estate's indoor arena and developed the property's renowned equestrian facility, which grew to include a 62-stall stable for competitors' horses, a 1.5-mile steeplechase track, a 200-seat concession area, and dressage and jumping arenas.

[Trail Maps and Additional Info on St. James Farm Forest Preserve »](#)

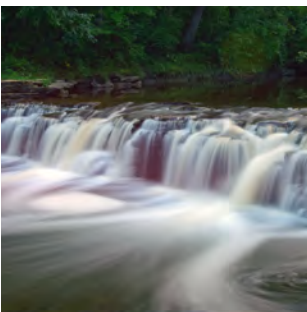


### **Kline Creek Farm at Timber Ridge Forest Preserve**

West Chicago

Visitors to Kline Creek Farm step back in time to experience life on a working farm in the 1890s. They stroll through restored farmstead structures and meet the historically costumed interpreters operating this living history farm using the tools and techniques of the past. Activities and events at the farm re-create the seasonal rhythms that have governed farm life for centuries. For the safety of the farm animals, pets are not allowed at the site.

[Trail Maps and Additional Info on Kline Creek Farm at Timber Ridge Forest Preserve »](#)



### **Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve** Darien

Long before Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet paddled their way through the Des Plaines River Valley in the mid-1600s, American Indians were living along the surrounding limestone bluffs, including today's Signal Hill, which served as a communications vantage point.

By the late 1800s the Ward Brothers' mill was turning out lumber on Sawmill Creek, and Edwin Walker's three quarries were yielding tons of quality Lemont, or Joliet, limestone for projects like the landmark Chicago Avenue Water Tower and Pumping Station. In 1907 the Lincoln Park Commission, a predecessor of the Chicago Park District, had its own 107 acres with a small nursery and a considerable supply of topsoil, which it used to fill in the shoreline along Lake

Michigan to create the Lincoln Park area.

[Trail Maps and Additional Info on Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve »](#)



### **Winfield Mounds Forest Preserve** Winfield

The forest preserve is named after burial mounds of prehistoric Native Americans who lived along the West Branch DuPage River. The three dome-shaped mounds are set in a triangular pattern and are the only documented prehistoric burial site in DuPage. The mounds lie west of the river along the edge of a mature oak-hickory forest. Vandals in the 1920s and subsequent scientific digs by the University of Chicago and Wheaton College likely removed all artifacts from the site.

[Trail Maps and Additional Info on Winfield Mounds Forest Preserve »](#)

