

A hike into Gibson Woods Nature Preserve is a hike back in time to the southern Lake Michigan shore prior to its dominance by farms, factories and urban development. Here you can see the largest example of dune and swale topography left in the Great Lakes region. Atop the dune and swale lies one of the rarest ecosystems in the world, the black oak savanna, which is characterized by scattered black oak trees with prairie plants growing beneath them.

Gibson Woods has never suffered significant disturbance and so has much of its native plant community intact. Look for columbine, wild lupines and lady's slipper orchid in the spring. In the summer, the savanna glows with a multitude of prairie flowers. As summer draws to a close, goldenrod and fringed gentian begin to show their colors.

The preserve is an excellent place to watch birds as well, especially in spring when migration is in full swing.

The Environmental Awareness Center features displays about the local flora and fauna, as well as restrooms and a small gift shop. A naturalist is on duty to answer any questions you may have. We also offer a variety of education programs for all ages. Information can be found in the Lake County Parks Pathfinder, at [lakecountyparks.com](http://lakecountyparks.com) or on the Gibson Woods Nature Preserve Facebook page.

**IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE PLANTS AND WILDLIFE IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES ARE PROHIBITED BY THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES:**

- Hunting
- Camping and campfires
- Trapping
- Horseback riding
- Motorized vehicle use
- Removal or destruction of plants or wildlife
- Removal of living or dead trees whether standing or fallen

OBEYING THESE LAWS PROTECTS GIBSON WOODS' UNIQUE NATURAL HERITAGE NOW AND FOR YEARS TO COME.

# GIBSON WOODS NATURE PRESERVE

A LAKE COUNTY PARK  
AND STATE DEDICATED  
NATURE PRESERVE

## TRAIL MAP



HOURS:  
TUESDAYS-SUNDAYS  
(CLOSED MONDAYS AND HOLIDAYS)

GATES & TRAILS OPEN 9AM-5PM  
MARCH-OCTOBER

GATES & TRAILS OPEN 9AM-4PM  
NOVEMBER-FEBRUARY

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS CENTER  
OPEN NOON-4PM  
TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS,  
SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS



Gibson Woods Nature Preserve  
6201 Parrish Avenue  
Hammond IN 46323

219-844-3188  
[lakecountyparks.com](http://lakecountyparks.com)



GET OUT. GO PLAY. EXPLORE.

We hope you enjoy your visit to Gibson Woods Nature Preserve. To make your visit more enjoyable while protecting this unique and special natural area, we ask that you follow a few simple rules:

1. Stay on authorized trails and please follow any posted trail signs. Going off trail can damage many of the rare plants in the preserve or disturb habitat restoration areas.
2. **DO NOT** pick flowers or leaves or remove **ANY** plant material from the preserve.
3. Pack in/pack out any garbage you may have.
4. Leave bicycles, ATV's, motorcycles or other wheeled vehicles in parking lot or at home.
5. Leave dogs at home.
6. Picnic only at the tables provided in the parking area.
7. Be prepared. Our swales are temporary wetlands. We have healthy amounts of mosquitoes in late spring and summer. Ticks also are present in warmer weather. Bring water and insect repellent and/or a hat to protect yourself.

