

Dear Visitor,

On behalf of the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District, we'd like to welcome you to enjoy the Winnebago County forest preserves. These beautiful natural areas are the perfect settings for camping, fishing, hiking, golfing, picnicking, bird watching, and many other activities.

So that everyone may continue to enjoy the preserves, we need your help to keep them beautiful and safe. Please be aware of and follow the rules. Safety suggestions are outlined in this brochure. Kindly report any suspicious activities.

The Winnebago County forest preserves are treasures for all of us to share. If we all work together, they will be enjoyed by generations to come. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Forest Preserve District Commissioners & Staff

GENERAL INFORMATION For Your Safety and Enjoyment

Careful planning and safety precautions will make your activities more enjoyable. Appropriate dress, footwear, and insect repellent are things to keep in mind. We also recommend you **lock your car** and place any valuables in the trunk.

PUBLIC USE HOURS

Preserves are open daily and public use ends ½ hour after sunset. Most preserve gates are locked nightly. Unattended vehicles without permits will be towed or locked in preserves.

NO TRESPASSING

Adjoining the forest preserves are private lands. Please respect the owners' rights.

PERMITS

May through October, shelterhouses may be reserved by calling the District office; when not reserved, use is on a first-come, first-served basis. Equestrian, letterboxing & geocaching, and balloon permits are issued from the District office. Model airplane flying field at Kieselburg Forest Preserve requires permits issued from the District office.



ALCOHOL

Alcohol is allowed. Drinking within parking areas is prohibited.

LITTER

To help preserve the land's beauty, use trash receptacles when provided. **No litter may be brought in from outside the forest preserves. All garbage made in forest preserves, including shelter cleanups, is to be put in dumpsters.**



FIRES AND FIREWOOD

Fires must be contained to grills and campfire rings and properly extinguished before leaving the site. Cutting or gathering firewood from District land is prohibited. **Pallets and treated lumber are prohibited.**



WATER SAFETY

Swimming is prohibited in preserve lakes & rivers. Life preservers are required for boating and canoeing. Watercraft launches close ½ hour after sunset – **don't get locked in!**



PRESERVATION

It is unlawful to hunt, collect, or injure any tree, shrub, flower, or wildlife. Fishing is permitted in accordance with posted regulations. A valid Illinois fishing license is required. Bow fishing is allowed for non-sport fish.



NO HUNTING

If you observe anyone chasing or shooting wildlife in the preserves, report it immediately. No weapons of any type are allowed.

PETS

Pets are permitted in all preserves except Severson Dells. They must be accompanied and leashed at all times. Scoop and leash laws are in effect. Sporting dog-training area is located in Four Lakes Forest Preserve (entrance on Route 70).



CAMPING

All campers must respect the "NO EXCESSIVE NOISE" ordinance and obey camping rules. Any violations should be reported to the area host, ranger, or the police. **Camping fees are required and will be collected on site by District staff. Camping only at campgrounds.**

Regular & Youth Campgrounds:

Hononegah
Sugar River
Pecatonica River
Seward Bluffs
Rotary (Youth only)



Equestrian camping only at Oak Ridge.



NOISE

No sound amplification or fireworks is allowed.

SAFETY FIRST

We are proud to say that our preserves are safe environments. We need you to help us keep them that way. Please be alert, observant and caring while visiting the preserves. **Have a cell phone with you. Please make a note of where you enter the forest preserve.**

All visitors are subject to provisions of the Forest Preserve District "General Use Regulations." Violation of any of these regulations may result in the revocation of privileges of the responsible individual.

SNOWMOBILES

Snowmobiles may be operated on Forest Preserve District property designated trails (Pecatonica Wetlands, Pecatonica River, Sugar River, Four Lakes, Seward Bluffs, and Two Rivers Forest Preserves) only when four inches (4") of snow cover is on 80% of the designated trail or area only between the hours of **sunrise to 10 P.M.**

BICYCLING

Bicycles are allowed only on paved paths and roads (**except for off-road bike trails at Espenscheid Memorial**). Motorized vehicles, including ATV's, are **not allowed** on trails or maintenance drives.

Bicycle paths: Blackhawk Springs – 2.3 miles
Headquarters – 1 mile

Parking access

For other paths: Hononegah
Roland Olson



Off-road bike trail:

Espenscheid Memorial– 2.75 miles.

Parking lots: Espenscheid Memorial or Perryville Road.

If you observe anything suspicious, be specific and **write down** vehicle descriptions, license plates and description of suspicious individuals. Note the time, date, and specific locations of any activity. If any suspicious activity is noticed, please contact the following:



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergency **911**

Forest Preserve Patrol
Information & Administration **1-815-877-6100**

24-Hour Winnebago County Sheriff's Dept.
Non-emergency **1-815-282-2600**

Crime Stoppers* **1-815-963-6067**

Target Illinois Poachers* **1-800-236-7529**

*Agencies may protect the anonymity of the complainant.

GOLF COURSES

Unsafe conditions on the golf courses should be reported to the starter at the respective clubhouse. **Golf is allowed only on golf courses and according to policy.**

Golf Clubhouse numbers are listed.

Atwood Homestead 1-815-623-2411

Ledges 1-815-389-0979

Macktown 1-815-624-7410



9/2009

INFORMATION GUIDE



**WINNEBAGO
COUNTY
FOREST
PRESERVE
DISTRICT**



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E-mail: wcfpd@wcfpd.org

www.wcfpd.org

Our Mission

*To assure the public access to permanent
natural lands and areas for safe and
enjoyable outdoor recreation and education.*