

**FOREST GLEN PRESERVE
20301 E. 900 N. ROAD, WESTVILLE, IL 61883**

RIVER RIDGE BACK PACK TRAIL FAQ

1. What is a back pack trail? A back pack trail is several miles long. You may carry a backpack loaded with your supplies and you may spend the night. You may carry food, water, emergency supplies, and sleeping gear in your backpack. Backpacking requires planning.
2. Can I just show up at the Visitor Center the same day I want to hike? All hikers need to register using the hiking registration form. This must be confirmed by the office before your planned arrive. The Lorna J. Konsis Visitor Center is open Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. Changes to your registration such as additions to your hiking group or vehicle information must be sent by email or reported to the office before 12:00 pm Monday-Friday before your planned arrival. Unexpected, last-minute changes may occur and can be handwritten and placed in the mail slot located in the Visitor Center door.
3. How soon does my registration need to be sent? One week notice is REQUIRED for overnight camping. There are limited campsites in the two campgrounds on the trail, so pre-registration is key. There may also be current information regarding the trail that you need to know.
4. How do I pay the fee? Once your registration is confirmed, the fee may be paid through the Pay Now button located below the links to Registration, Rules, and Map on our website.
5. Can I arrive or leave Forest Glen anytime? Forest Glen has gates that are locked each day. Check Park closing and opening times when you register.
6. What if I need to cancel? Please let us know as soon as possible. There are NO refunds or credits for rescheduled hikes. If you have to reschedule your hike for any reason a new registration form must be submitted.
7. Where does the trail start? The trail head is located in the corner of the Visitor Center parking lot.
8. Where do I park? Overnight parking is allowed ONLY in the Visitor Center parking lot.
9. What do I need to do when I arrive? Check in is not necessary and no hiking permit will be issued. Your registration form with each vehicle's information and license plate number is sufficient. If you need additional trail information the Visitor Center is open M-F 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. You can email asteeples@vccd.org or call 217-662-2143 during regular business hours. The Visitor Center and Ranger Station have paper copies of the River Ridge Back Pack Trail map.
10. What if I just want to hike during the day and not camp overnight? Registration and confirmation for a day hike is also required and the fee is also payable upon confirmation. There are times when the trail is at maximum hiker capacity.
11. Where can I fill up my water container? There is a water tap located on the west side of the Audubon Barn. There are no man-made water sources on the trail. Plan to pack your drinking water. Many hikers use water filtration systems or purifiers. The Vermilion River is accessible in the Group Campground area and just before the East Campgrounds. Several creeks and streams are accessible along the trail.
12. Are there restroom facilities. There are outhouses located in the Group Campground. You will need to supply your own toilet tissue.
13. Will I be assigned to a campsite? Each group or solo hiker registration form is allowed ONE campsite. Camping is ONLY allowed in East Camp or Group Camp. The sites are larger than our public camp sites in the campgrounds. Your registration assures that there will be a site listed for those listed on your registration. Campsites are first-come, first-serve. Camping along the trail is NOT allowed.
14. Is there cell phone service on the trail? There is no or VERY limited cell phone service in Forest Glen Preserve.