

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

RIVER RIDGE BACK PACK TRAIL RULES & INFORMATION

1. Please turn in a completed Trail Registration form BEFORE hiking. Registration forms are available at the Lorna J. Konsis Visitor Center or our website www.vccd.org. Completed forms may be mailed to the address above or emailed to asteeples@vccd.org
2. Camping in the Group Camp or East Camp requires registration at least one week prior to hiking/camping due to limitations on the number of campsites available. The Camping fee is \$20.00 per site. Camping is ONLY allowed in Group Camp or East Camp. Camping along the trail anywhere other than Group Camp or East Camp is not allowed.
3. Fee of \$10.00 for 10 hikers or less. Additional hikers are \$1.00 per person. Camping fee is \$20.00 per camp site. Fees are payable through PayPal on www.vccd.org
4. Multiple stream crossings occur along the trail.
5. There are NO facilities for water at either camping area. The Vermilion River is located within a short distance of each campground for those with filtration systems.
6. Outhouses are available at Group Camp.
7. Trash cans are located at Group Camp. East Camp requires you to pack your trash out.
8. Camp fires are only allowed in designated fire pits. Feel free to collect and burn dead wood on the ground. DO NOT cut down live trees for firewood. All plants and wildlife are protected and live trees will not burn! Please make sure all fires and embers are properly extinguished before leaving.
9. Fishing in the Vermilion River is governed by Illinois state regulations.
10. Dogs must be on a leash. Please clean up after your pet.
11. Please help preserve the beauty of Forest Glen by picking up litter left behind by others. Your effort is greatly appreciated.

Itinerary Guide

Total trail length is 10.3 miles. Trail difficulty is rated as moderate. Multiple individual trails connect to form the River Ridge Loop Trail so you need to be aware of trail markings. Adjacent to the parking lot you will find the River Ridge Backpack kiosk with a large topography map located on the back side.

The trail head is located in the corner of the Lorna J. Konsis Visitor Center parking lot. The trail follows a clockwise direction and markings include red and white blazes on the trees, red arrows on wooden blocks, or red and white plastic trail indicators. If two blazes are found on a single tree the upper blaze indicates a sharp directional change in that direction. Markers may not be visible if walking in reverse.

The trail begins on the Old Barn Trail. This trail skirts the edge of Willow Creek Pond and connects to the Deer Meadow Trail. From here, follow the Deer Meadow trail until it connects with the Sycamore hollow Campus Road. There will be a large culvert on your right where the trail merges with the road. Follow the road north for a short distance until you see the Willow Creek Trailhead. Continue on Willow Creek past Howard's Hollow Seep Nature Preserve and turn right at the R.R.T./Primitive Loop sign. This trail section will require crossing Willow Creek and ascending your first hill. The trail then intersects Group Camp Road. Take a left on the gravel road and follow through Group Camp. Six sites are available at Group Camp. The trail continues between sites 3 and 4.

The second campground, East Camp, is located at the extreme east end of the trail, near the Indiana State Line. There are five sites located here. After hiking through East Camp turn west (right) on the trail; this rugged section winds through the Duffin State Nature Preserve, intersects the Big Woods Trail and leads to the entrance drive. After crossing the road, the trail follows the southern boundary of the park past the Doris L. Westfall Prairie State Nature Preserve, and back to the parking area.

DISTANCE

Halfway point is the river below tower 5.5 miles
Visitor Center to campus area 1.5 miles
Visitor Center to Group Camp 3.0 miles
Visitor Center to river below tower 5.5 miles
Visitor Center to East Camp 7.5 miles
East Camp to entrance drive 2.5 miles
Entrance drive to Visitor Center 1.0 mile