

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

RIVER RIDGE BACK PACK TRAIL RULES & INFORMATION – EFFECTIVE 1/1/2022

TRAIL INFORMATION

- The trail is marked by red arrows, orange plates, or orange bands around the trees. Markers must be used in conjunction with the map for guidance. Total length of the trail is approximately 11 miles. Markers may not be visible if walking the trail in reverse.
- The trail begins at the Parking Lot near the *Old Barn Trail*. From here, the trail follows the *Deer Meadow Trail* to Sycamore Hollow Campus. From the campus follow the *Willow Creek Trail* and *Primitive Loop*. Water is available here except during the winter months. The first campsite is available at the Group Campgrounds. The second campsite is located at the east camp on the extreme east end of the trail. There are no facilities for water at either camp. There are outhouses at Group Camp. Winding through the Duffin Nature Area, the Back Pack Trail intersects the *Big Woods Trail* and leads to the entrance drive road.
- After crossing the road, the trail follows the southern boundary of the park, past the Doris Westfall Prairie and back to the Parking Lot near *Old Barn Trail*.

REGISTRATION

1. IF YOU ARE HIKING THE TRAIL FOR THE DAY – NO CAMPING – You are not required to turn in a registration form. You are required to pay the \$5.00 per person hiking fee and include the date of your hike, vehicle information – make/model/ license plate number, and emergency contact information with your PayPal payment.
2. IF YOU ARE HIKING AND CAMPING IN THE GROUP CAMP OR EAST CAMP – YOU MUST turn in a completed Back Pack Trail Registration form at least TWO weeks PRIOR to hiking/camping due to limitations on the number of campsites available AND pay the required hiking/camping fee through PayPal after confirmation of camping dates. Registrations may be emailed to rhoward@vccd.org or mailed to the address above. You may call the office at Forest Glen at 217-662-2142 to confirm receipt of your registration.
3. Due to the increased popularity of River Ridge Back Pack Trail, we are now charging a per person fee when you hike or camp on the River Ridge Back Pack Trail to help offset maintenance costs.
4. 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.

PAY THROUGH PAYPAL -
\$5.00 per person – DAY HIKING ONLY – NO CAMPING

PAY THROUGH PAYPAL AFTER FOREST GLEN CONFIRMS YOUR DATES -
\$25.00 – HIKING & CAMPING 1-6 people
\$50.00 – HIKING & CAMPING 7+ people

TRAIL RULES

1. A registration form for day hiking is not required. Day hiking fees are \$5.00 per person and payable through PayPal at www.vccd.org. Please complete the information required for day hiking and submit with your PayPal payment. Please see registration directions above.
2. Camping in the Group Camp or East Camp requires registration at least TWO weeks prior to hiking/camping due to limitations on the number of campsites available. 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. Please see registration directions above.

3. Fees – Hiking only fee is \$5.00 per person and is payable through PayPal. Camping and hiking fee is \$25.00 for 1-6 people and \$50.00 for 7+ people. Payable through PayPal after confirmation of camping dates.
4. Camping is allowed ONLY in the GROUP CAMPGROUNDS or the EAST CAMP. NO CAMPING ALLOWED ANYWHERE OTHER THAN THE DESIGNATED CAMPING AREAS.
5. No fires, except in designated areas within the campsites. 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.
6. Carry out all litter and refuse that you bring in. Pick up any litter along the trail that might have been previously left behind. Please help preserve the beauty of this trail.
7. 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.
8. Fishing in the Vermilion River is governed by state regulations.
9. Dogs must be on a leash. Please clean up after your pet.
10. There are multiple stream crossings along the trail.
11. Outhouses are available at Group Camp. One outhouse is available at East Camp.
12. Parking is only permitted at the designated parking area near the head of the trail, South of Audubon Barn.

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 parking lot near Old Barn Trail. 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
Parking Lot to campus area 1.5 miles
Parking Lot to Group Camp 3.0 miles
Parking Lot to river below tower 5.5 miles
Parking Lot to East Camp 7.5 miles
East Camp to entrance drive 2.5 miles
Entrance drive to Parking Lot 1.0 mile