



Discover New Adventures at the Champaign County Forest Preserves

Let the Champaign County Forest Preserves provide the perfect backdrop for your unforgettable outdoor experiences with family and friends. The best part is you don't have to go far or spend a lot of money to create meaningful memories.

At the forest preserves, there is no shortage of recreational activities to enjoy. Throughout the preserves, you will have plenty of opportunities to fish in ponds, lakes, and rivers. If you don't have access to a fishing pole, you can check one out at the Homer Lake Interpretive Center for the day. We will provide a rod and reel; you just need to provide the bait. Another way to get out

on the water is by coming out to Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve on a Saturday or Sunday and renting a pedal boat or kayak until Labor Day.

While at Lake of the Woods, check out the 18-hole, certified Audubon Sanctuary golf course. This is a golf course that protects our environment and preserves the natural heritage of the game. You could also try foot golf, a sport in which you kick a soccer ball into a cup using the fewest kicks possible.

If you are looking for a longer stay, the Middle Fork River Forest Preserve offers camping. All sites have electricity and are scattered among a forest ecosystem.

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There is a swim beach and easy access to the Middle Fork River. This preserve is also Illinois' first and only Dark Sky Park, one of the darkest spots in the county, and perfect for stargazing.

If you are looking for a more guided experience, we have programs and events throughout the county for everyone! From nature hikes to historical programs, outdoor concerts to stargazing, many of our programs are FREE and open to all ages and abilities. We're sure you'll find something for everyone.

The Champaign County Forest Preserves are not just destinations for outdoor recreation but hubs of community connection and cultural enrichment. Come join us as we celebrate the



beauty of the preserves and the wonders of nature, creating unforgettable memories and fostering a deeper appreciation for the world around us. For more information on all the activities, events, and amenities available, visit our website at www.champaignforests.org. We look forward to seeing you soon!



PEDAL THE PRESERVES IS AN EXCITING CYCLING EVENT benefiting the Forest Preserve Friends Foundation. All levels of cyclists are welcome! *Exact routes and distances will be announced closer to the ride.*

Special Offer: Bike to Camp

Take advantage of our bike-to-camp option with specially reserved campsites at Middle Fork River Forest Preserve. Camp overnight on August 17 and enjoy food trucks and a free concert with Afro D and Global Soundwaves from 5-7 p.m. at the campground.

ROUTE OPTIONS

Middle Fork WITH CAMPING (Saturday-Sunday)

- **Distance:** 60 to 65 miles (optional add-ons available)
- **Start Time:** 7 a.m.
- **Price:** \$95
- **Route:** Explore the Kickapoo Rail Trail and Homer Lake Forest Preserve, with an overnight stay at the Middle Fork River Forest Preserve.

Middle Fork (Saturday Only)

- **Distance:** 60 to 65 miles (optional add-ons available)
- **Start Time:** 7 a.m.
- **Price:** \$55
- **Route:** Explore the Kickapoo Rail Trail, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, and the Middle Fork River Forest Preserve.

Royal (Saturday Only)

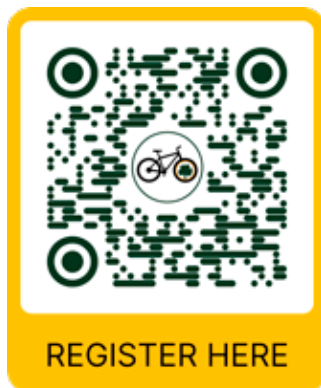
- **Distance:** 40 to 45 miles
- **Start Time:** 7 a.m.
- **Price:** \$55
- **Route:** Explore the Kickapoo Rail Trail and Homer Lake Forest Preserve, visit Hidden Acres Park, and head to Little Roch's restaurant in Royal.

Homer Lake (Saturday Only)

- **Distance:** 20 to 25 miles
- **Start Time:** 7 a.m.
- **Price:** \$55
- **Route:** Explore the Kickapoo Rail Trail and Homer Lake Forest Preserve, with a visit to Hidden Acres Park.

KRT (Saturday Only)

- **Distance:** Choose your distance, up to 12 miles.
- **Start Time:** 7 a.m.
- **Price:** \$12
- **Route:** This ride uses the Kickapoo Rail Trail between St. Joseph and Urbana. The route is entirely on the KRT, and the distance is up to you! The \$12 registration fee covers one adult plus up to one child.



REGISTER NOW and join us for a memorable cycling adventure!



We're looking for your very best photos of the Champaign County Forest Preserves' landscapes, close-ups of plants, insects, birds and other wildlife, images that highlight the seasons and shots of people enjoying the outdoors or participating in our recreational offerings.

Winning photos are featured in a 2025 Champaign County Forest Preserves wall calendar, on display throughout the preserves, and on our social media accounts. Make sure the images reflect the beauty and diversity of Champaign County's forest

preserves landscapes and the joy of outdoor recreation. Winning photographers will receive a copy of the calendar and a framed copy of their picture.

Photos eligible for the 2024 photo contest must be submitted via email to **photos@ccfpd.org** between August 12 and August 30, 2024. There is a submission limit of five (5) photos per person and all photos must meet requirements.

Official rules at champaignforests.org/photo



Thank you Bobbie!

Bobbie Herakovich's impactful tenure on the Board of Commissioners for the Champaign County Forest Preserve District came to a close in June. Joining the board on July 17, 2014, she served two dedicated terms, leaving a legacy of enhanced outdoor recreation and community engagement.

Her vision and contributions have left an indelible mark on Champaign County, ensuring that future generations can enjoy the natural beauty and recreational opportunities she worked so hard to enhance. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.