

## HISTORY

The Fort Daniel Conservation Area takes its name from the legacy of Reverend Daniel Traughber. Between 1838 and 1861, Traughber became one of the most influential and people in Macon County. Some believe he led a group of local Southern sympathizers during the Civil War, who rode at night to terrorize local Union farmers.

Fort Daniel Conservation Area is known for another historical reference. Years ago, some of the first families to migrate out of the forested mountains of Kentucky settled among the oaks and hickories here and called it "Whistleville." For over 100 years this quaint, self-sufficient community remained locked in time, resistant to the ever-developing world around them.

## PLANTS

This conservation area provides a haven for a variety of plants. The terrain includes oak-hickory forests, a sugar maple grove, open grasslands, and floodplain forests. Look for chinquapin oak, paw paw, wafer ash, and Kentucky coffee trees.

## PICNICKING

You can picnic in the pavilion next to the playground on the northern end of the site. To reserve the pavilion for a party or meeting, visit [maconcountyconservation.org](http://maconcountyconservation.org).

## TRAILS

Over 4 miles of trails are available for hiking and cross-country skiing.

**Blackberry Trail:** 0.75 mile trail circling the tallgrass prairie on the north end of the site.

**Owl Trail:** 0.8 mile trail that crosses Big Creek.

**Rabbit Trail:** 0.25 mile trail cutting through the Owl Trail loop.

**Deer Trail:** 0.6 mile extension of the Wagon Trail that winds through floodplain forests. Look for native wildflowers in the spring.

**Fox Trail:** 0.25 mile shortcut within the Wagon Trail.

**Wagon Trail:** 1.9 mile trail running alongside Big Creek and edges of the site, with the best views for seeing wildlife, open meadows, and forests.

## FOR YOUR SAFETY & ENJOYMENT

- Please leash and pick up after your pets.
- Picnics and fires are allowed only in designated areas.
- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on Macon County Conservation District properties.
- Firearms are prohibited.
- Please park only in designated areas.
- Horses, bicycles and motorized vehicles are not permitted on the trails.
- Plant, animal, and artifact collecting is not permitted.
- Leave nature as you find it for others to enjoy.
- Please note, the south side of this area is closed occasionally due to wet conditions.
- Call the Macon County Conservation District hotline at 217-421-7493 for current trail conditions.

Save a Tree



Scan Me



Macon County  
Conservation District

# Fort Daniel

Conservation Area

Fort Daniel Conservation Area  
4975 Fort Daniel Road  
Decatur, IL 62521  
GPS Coordinates:  
39.781681 N, 88.828326 W

Macon County Conservation District  
3939 Nearing Lane  
Decatur, IL 62521  
217-423-7708

[www.maconcountyconservation.org](http://www.maconcountyconservation.org)

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Macon County  
Conservation District



# Welcome to Fort Daniel Conservation Area

Located near Mt. Zion, Fort Daniel Conservation

Area is a 200-acre site rich in history and

recreational opportunity. The area's background

includes tales of Southern sympathizers during

the Civil War, and an old stagecoach route.

Fort Daniel Conservation Area provides trails,

a pavilion, playground, and varied terrain.

Big Creek winds through the area providing

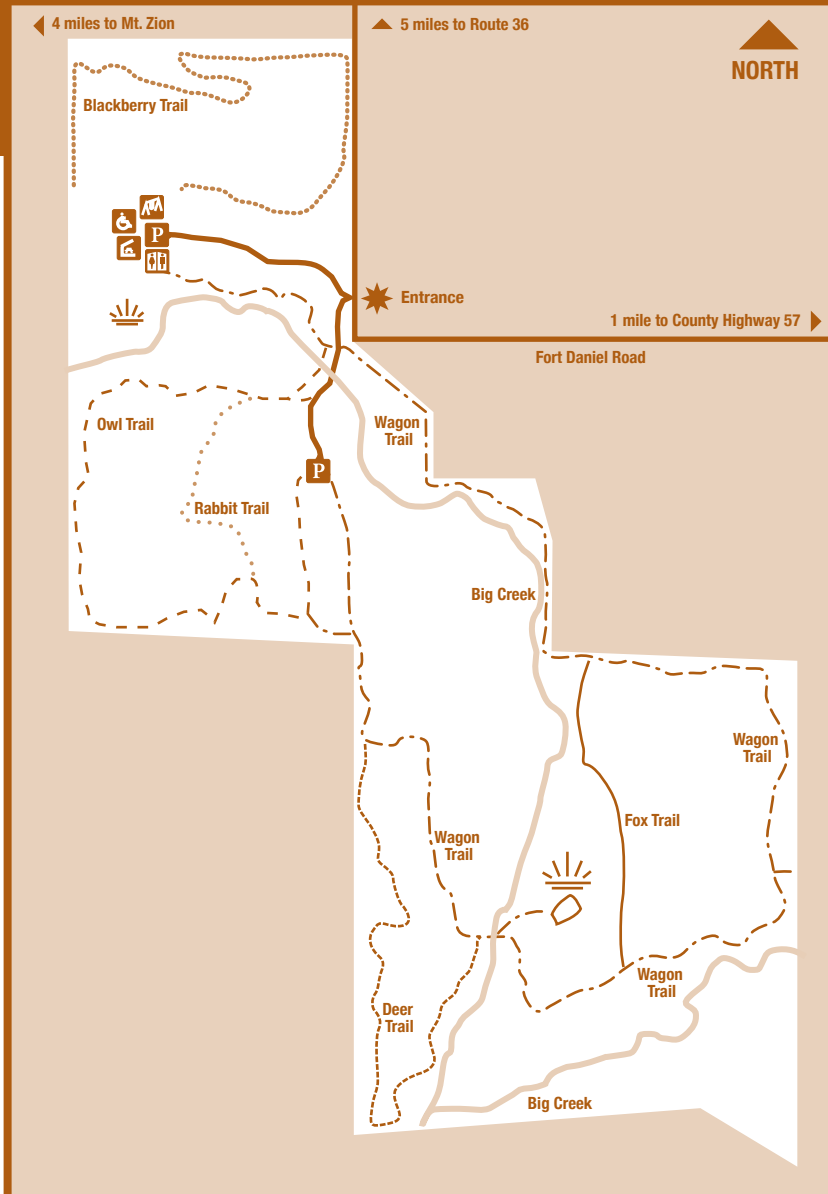
water and habitat for the wildlife. You'll see

many species of plants in the forests, grasslands,

and floodplain.

Open from  
7:00am to Sunset

-  **Parking**
-  **Restrooms**
-  **Picnic Shelter**
-  **Playground**
-  **Accessible Area**
-  **Private Property**
-  **Main Roads**
-  **Creek**
-  **Wetland**



## FORT DANIEL TRAILS

| TRAILS                 | DISTANCE  | TIME       | LEVEL     |
|------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Blackberry Trail ..... | 0.75 mile | 20 minutes | Easy      |
| Owl Trail - - - - -    | 0.8 mile  | 30 minutes | Moderate  |
| Rabbit Trail . . . . . | 0.25 mile | 10 minutes | Moderate  |
| Deer Trail - - - - -   | 0.6 mile  | 20 minutes | Moderate  |
| Fox Trail ————         | 0.25 mile | 10 minutes | Moderate  |
| Wagon Trail - - - - -  | 1.9 miles | 1 hour     | Difficult |

# Fort Daniel CONSERVATION AREA