

TRAILS

Hike any of nine trails of varying lengths and difficulty. Some trails are suitable for cross-country skiing.

Prairie Path: 0.25 mile trail near the main parking lot. Leads to Homestead Prairie Farm. 10 minutes/easy.

Rodney T. Miller Wetland: 0.25 mile of trail that begins at the wetland parking area. Provides benches, interpretive stations, and an overlook view. 10 minutes/easy.

Discovery Trail: 0.33 mile trail that winds through the woodland west of the Nature Center. Watch for deer and other forest life. 20 minutes/easy.

Bluestem Loop: 0.5 mile trail just west of the pine forest. This trail winds through prairie grass and wildflowers. 20 minutes/easy.

Woodland Trail: 0.5 mile trail that runs up and down hills through the woods. A good place to see deer, owls, woodpeckers, and other forest wildlife. 20 minutes/moderate.

Big Oak Loop: 1.3 miles Accessible from the Bluestem Trail, this path travels through woods and open land, connecting to the River Trail. 1 hour/moderate.

Lookout Trail: 1.25 miles beginning at Homestead Prairie Farm and running through prairie and forest. 1 hour/moderately difficult.

Bike Trail: 2.25 miles of paved, ADA accessible path that links Rock Springs Conservation Area to Fairview Park and Kiwanis Park in Decatur. 1 hour/moderate.

River Trail: 3.2 miles passing through deciduous forest, Turtle Ponds, and the historic Rock Springs Bottling Plant. 1.5 hours/difficult.

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Whether you're a family looking for a day of fun, or an educator in search of excellent outdoor programming, Rock Springs Conservation Area offers many recreational opportunities and programs throughout the year.

Some of the things we offer include: summer camps, guided hikes, workshops, living history programs, music, and displays by local artists. Visit maconcountyconservation.org to browse these programs and events.

You can also explore Rock Springs Conservation Area on your own. People of all ages may fish the ponds and the Sangamon River. The trails are suited for walking, hiking, wildlife viewing, and cross country skiing (when weather permits). Bicycles are welcome on the Bike Trail.

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 and motorized vehicles are not allowed on the trails.
- Bicycles on paved trails only.
- Plant, animal, and artifact collecting is not permitted.
- Leave nature as you find it for others to enjoy.
- Please note bike trail, canoe access and some trails are closed occasionally due to high water levels.
- Call the Macon County Conservation District hotline at 217-421-7493 for current trail conditions.

Save a Tree



Scan Me

Rock Springs

Conservation Area



Macon County
Conservation District

Rock Springs Conservation Area
3939 Nearing Lane
Decatur, IL 62521
GPS Coordinates:
39.817713 N, 89.00932 W.

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

www.maconcountyconservation.org

Find us on Facebook



Printed on recycled paper 1/2017

Macon County
Conservation District



Welcome to Rock Springs Conservation Area

Rock Springs Conservation Area is home to a Nature Center with exhibits, art galleries, a Window on Wildlife, and hands-on programs for the whole family. Pavilions, cross-country ski rentals, over nine miles of trails, and a restored 19th century farmhouse are just a few of the features which make Rock Springs Conservation Area a great place to explore year round.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT ROCK SPRINGS CONSERVATION AREA?

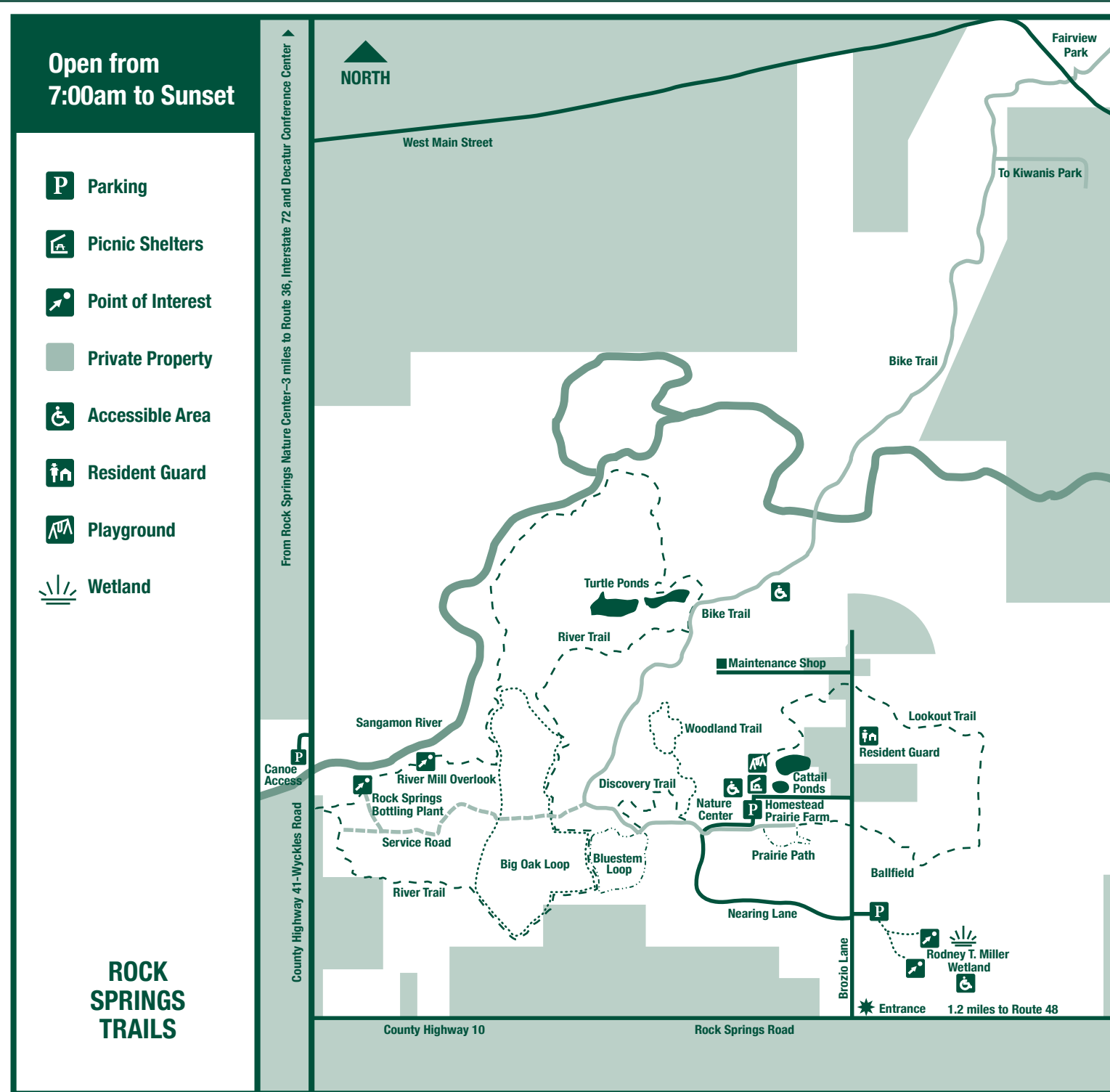
- Hiking trails and paved bike trail
- Pavilion and room rentals for weddings and events
- Birthday parties
- Nature Center with a Window on Wildlife, live animals, and exhibits
- Tours of Homestead Prairie Farm
- Cross-country ski and snowshoe rental
- Free Exploration Packs to borrow
- Sangamon River canoe access off of Wyckles Road
- Wetlands, restored prairie, and forests
- Educational programs, camps, and workshops

THE ECOCENTER

The EcoCenter is an interactive exhibit located in Rock Springs Nature Center. Explore the history and ecosystems of Macon County, as you discover how native plants and animals struggle to survive in a changing landscape.

HOMESTEAD PRAIRIE FARM

Walk into the past to an exciting place where the days before the Civil War live on. Follow in the footsteps of the Joseph Trobaugh family by visiting their home, an heirloom garden, woodworking shop, and the nearby restored prairie. Find interpretive programs available throughout the year at maconcountyconservation.org.



Rock Springs CONSERVATION AREA