

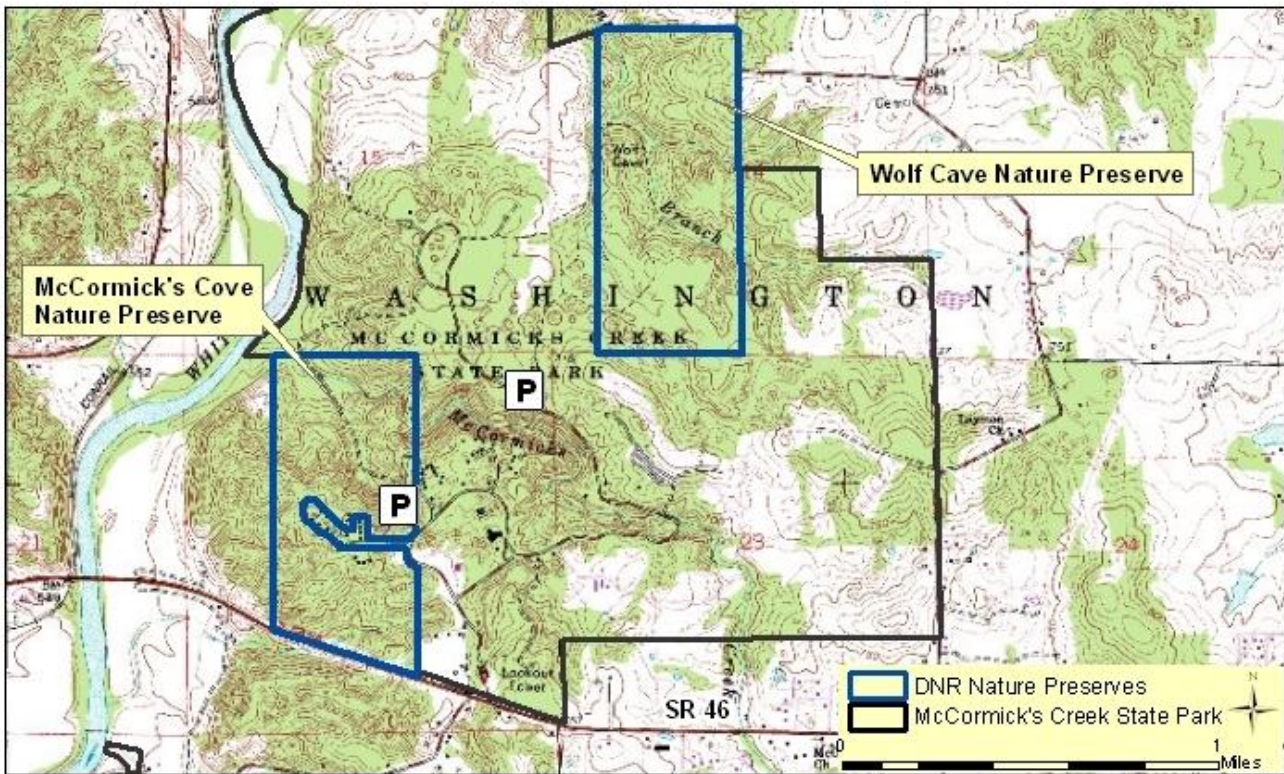
# Wolf Cave Nature Preserve McCormick's Cove Nature Preserve

County: Owen      Size: McCormick's Cove      177 acres  
  Wolf Cave                      214 acres  
Ownership: State Parks - IDNR



## Location and Access

**Parking and trails.** These 2 preserves are located in McCormick's Creek State Park, about 13.5 miles northwest of Bloomington, on SR 46. Trails run through both sites.



## Further Information:

McCormick's Creek State Park, RR 5, Box 182, Spencer, IN 47460. (812) 829-2235.

[www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/parks/mccormickscreek.html](http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/parks/mccormickscreek.html)

Division of Nature Preserves Central Regional Ecologist, Andrew Reuter: [AReuter@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:AReuter@dnr.IN.gov)



### **McCormick's Cove:**

This site was recognized as a significant natural area by Lindsey, Schmeltz, and Nichols in their 1969 book *Natural Areas in Indiana and their Preservation*. During a 1985 inventory of Owen County, McCormick's Cove was described as "probably the best mesic and dry-mesic forest seen in the county." In addition to these forest communities, the preserve contains high quality mesic (moist) and wet-mesic floodplain forest. Each of these community types exhibits old growth forest conditions. The area is floristically rich with a high diversity of wildflowers, ferns, and woody species.

### **Wolf Cave:**

Wolf Cave and Litten's Branch are not as widely known as the geological features and more spectacular scenery along McCormick's Creek. Wolf Cave is a small underground passage for water that enters from a wet-weather stream and emerges a short distance below in a secluded valley. At the point where the flow emerges, a collapse in the limestone ceiling has created a natural bridge. This arch has a larger opening than the more publicized Portland Arch in Fountain County.

Several forest associations are found in the preserve. American beech dominates cool slopes, with associates of red oak, white ash, tulip, sugar maple, and hackberry. In narrow valleys sycamore, red elm, and black walnut increase in numbers. Drier uplands have chinquapin, red, and white oak, and shagbark hickory. The preserve is also rich in mosses, liverworts, and ferns.