

Bendix Woods Nature Preserve

County: St. Joseph Size: 27 acres
Ownership: St. Joseph County Parks Department



Location and Access

Parking and trails. Located 14.5 miles west of downtown South Bend. Drive west on Western Ave, which turns into SR 2, until you reach Timothy Rd. Turn south until you reach the entrance to Bendix Woods, which will be on the east side of the road. Established nature trails wind through the preserve. There is a nature center in the northeast corner of the park, and a naturalist is available to conduct guided tours.



Description: This tract, within the larger Bendix Woods County Park, contains an old-growth woods dominated by beech and sugar maple, with red elm, basswood and black maple also important. Spicebush and pawpaw dominate the shrub layer, and thick stemmed Virginia creeper climbs into the canopy. In moist spots there are dense growths of jewelweed and nettle. Solomon’s seal, wild ginger, sanicle, running euonymus, blue cohosh and ferns are found along drier trail sections. Several large openings were created by a tornado during the summer of 1980. Recovery of the forest from this natural disturbance is being carefully studied.

Further Information:

St. Joseph Co. Parks Dept, 50651 Laurel Rd, South Bend, IN 46637. (574) 277-4828.
Division of Nature Preserves Northeast Regional Ecologist, Rich Dunbar: rdunbar@dnr.in.gov