

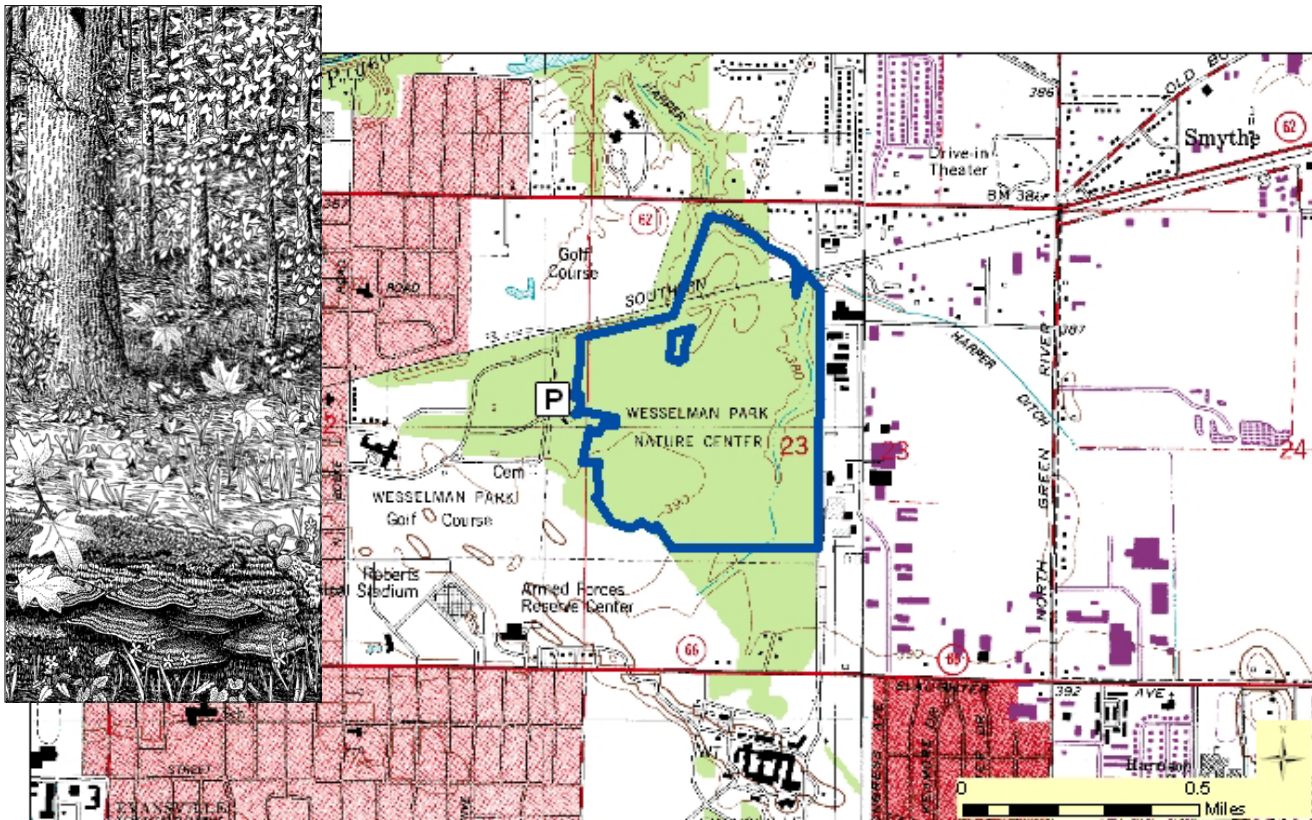
# Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve

County: Vanderburgh      Size: 197 acres  
Ownership: City of Evansville



## Location and Access

**Parking and trail.** From State Highway 62 (Morgan Ave.) in Evansville, turn south onto Boeke Rd. and proceed 0.5 mile to the Wesselman Park entrance. Park in the nature center parking lot. Several trails lead from the nature center through the preserve.



**Description:** This old-growth lowland forest is of exceptionally high quality. The basal area of 187 square feet per acre is the highest known for any woods in Indiana. The density of trees is also high and the canopy starts far above the forest floor. Despite the moderate variation in elevation within the woods (only 20 ft) there is a wide diversity of tree, shrub, and wildflower species. The degree to which sweetgum and tulip trees dominate the canopy, the large number of other trees in the canopy, and the southern influences set Wesselman Woods apart from most of the woods in Indiana. The presence of sugarberry, southern red oak, and cherrybark oak are examples of southern influences on the woods. The Wabash-Erie Canal and 2 railroads passed along the periphery of the preserve, but all three are now abandoned and grown up in forest. The interior of the woods has been protected for many years.

## Further Information:

Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, 551 N Boeke Rd, Evansville, IN 47714. (812) 479-0771.  
[www.wesselmannaturesociety.org](http://www.wesselmannaturesociety.org)  
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