

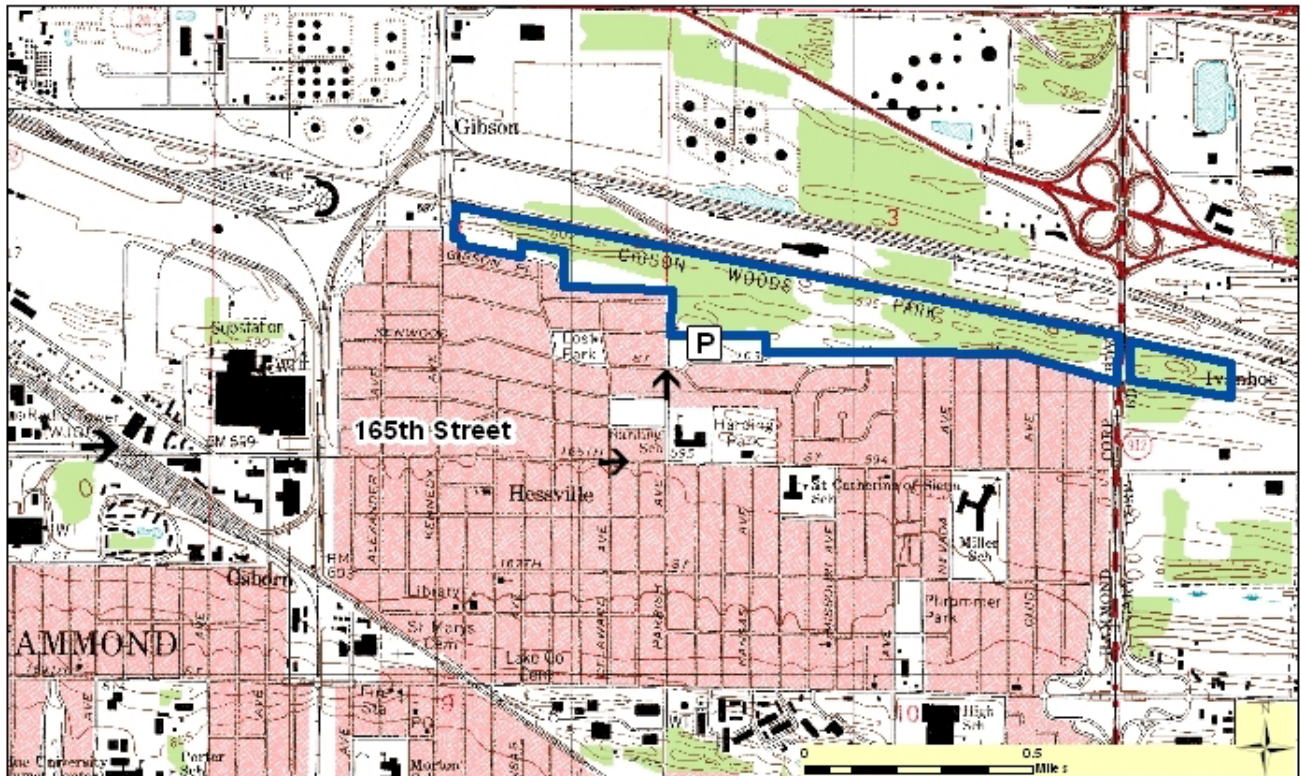
Gibson Woods Nature Preserve

County: Lake Size: 120 acres
Ownership: Lake County Parks and Recreation Department



Location and Access

Parking and trails. From the intersection of I-80/94 and Kennedy Ave, go north on Kennedy Ave. to 165th St. Take 165th St. east to Parrish Ave. and then go north on Parrish Ave to the parking area. The preserve is open Tuesday-Sunday (excluding holidays). March through October, trails are open from 9AM- 5PM; November through February, trails are open 9AM- 4PM. The nature center is open 12-4PM Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. A naturalist is on staff to lead reserved programs and scheduled hikes. There is a wheelchair accessible boardwalk through the first part of the trail. The trails beyond are natural terrain. There are three looped trails which are relatively easy to hike. The nature center offers a variety of interpretive displays, a wildlife viewing room and restrooms.



Description: This tract is a remnant of the very rare “ridge and swale” topography formed thousands of years ago during the retreat of glacial Lake Chicago. It contains the longest undissected dune ridge in Indiana, outside of the National Park. Communities include: dry-mesic sand savanna with an overstory of black oak and an understory of bracken fern, mesic sand prairie dominated by big bluestem and tall coreopsis; wet-mesic forest dominated by pin oak and speckled alder. Rare plants include: paper birch, Kalm’s St. John’s-wort, and golden sedge. The area supports a variety of wildlife, including Franklin’s ground squirrel.

Further Information:

Gibson Woods Nature Preserve, 6201 Parrish Ave, Hammond, IN 46323. (219) 844-3188.

lakecountyparks.com/152/Gibson-Woods-Nature-Preserve

Division of Nature Preserves Grand Calumet Regional Ecologist, Emily Stork: estork@dnr.in.gov