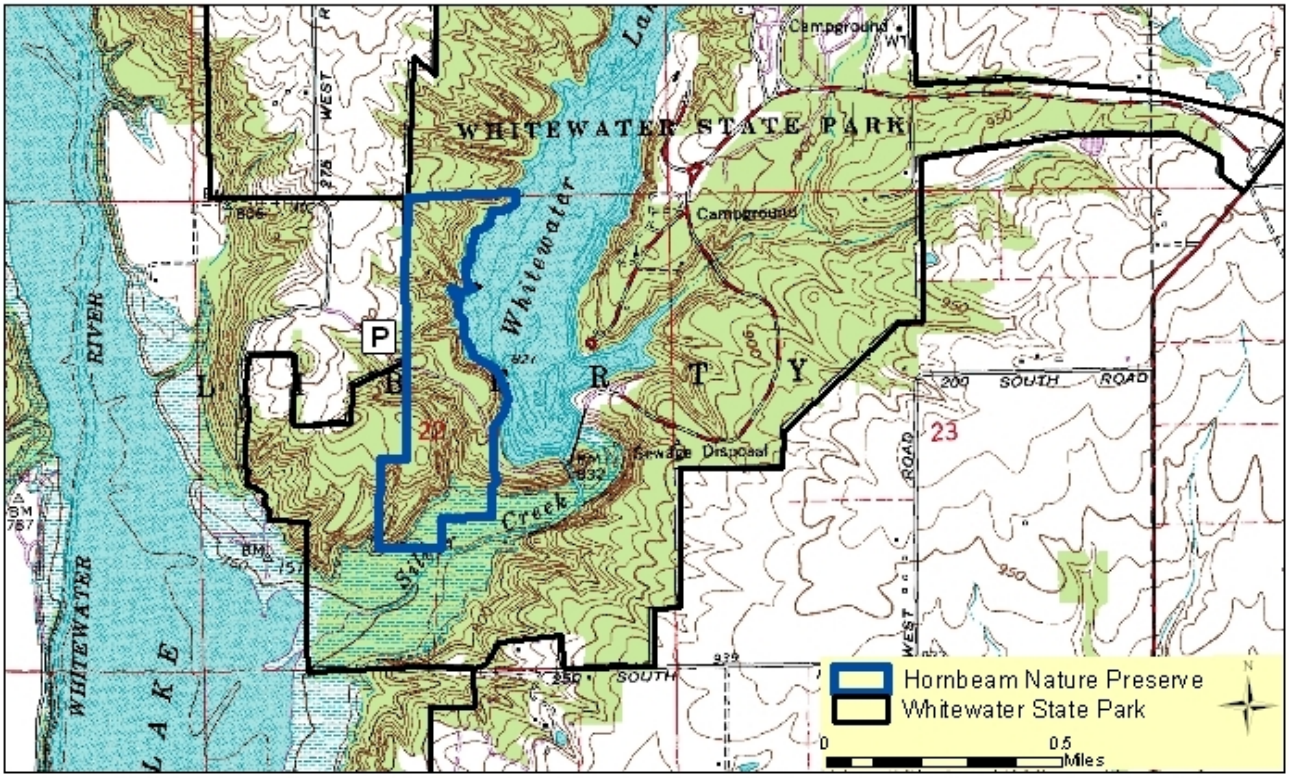
Hornbeam Nature Preserve

County: Union Size: 83 acres
Ownership: State Parks and Reservoirs - IDNR

Location and Access

Parking and trail. Hornbeam is located in Whitewater State Park and is outlined on the park map available at the gate house or park office. Trails 5 and 6 pass through the preserve.



Description: This mesophytic hardwood forest is intermediate between beech-maple and oak-hickory types. It tends toward beech-maple, but also includes large numbers of red oak, green ash, and hickory. The preserve name comes from the unusually high number of hornbeams (ironwoods) in the understory. In spring the forest is covered by a dense carpet of wildflowers. This preserve also has a small seep spring community.
The preserve is located on Ordovician sandstone, shale and dolomite. Glacial deposits from both Illinoian and Wisconsinan glaciers covered the area. Fossils have been exposed where streams have cut down through the bedrock.

Further Information:

Whitewater Memorial State Park, 1418 S. St Rd, 101, Liberty, IN 47353. (765) 458-5565.
www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/
Division of Nature Preserves Southeast Regional Ecologist, Jason Larson: jlarson@dnr.in.gov

USGS Quad map: New Fairfield
DeLorme ® page: 47