

FOREST PRESERVES of WINNEBAGO COUNTY EQUESTRIAN TRAILS

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County horseback trails were developed to afford horseback riders the opportunity to enjoy riding in the scenic beauty of the preserves. There are 28.4 miles of mowed trails for horseback riding with trailer parking, found in six of the forest preserves: Roland Olson, Sugar River, Oak Ridge, Deer Run, Rockford Rotary, and Seward Bluffs.

Equestrians are allowed to use the trails when they are marked "Open" in the preserves in which equestrian use is authorized. An equestrian tag is necessary to ride in the preserves and may be purchased online at www.winnebagoforest.org, by visiting the FPWC Office or by self-registration (not available at Rockford Rotary Forest Preserve). Equestrians must purchase a bridle tag for the season or purchase a daily pass each time they ride on forest preserve trails. Trails must be marked "OPEN" to ride. In addition, horse-drawn wagons are allowed on open paved roads within the preserves without a permit.

The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County is committed to enabling all to enjoy forest preserves and invites people of all abilities to discover the benefits of recreation at our sites, facilities, and programs. If you need special accommodations in order to access a preserve or facility, please contact the ADA coordinator by calling FPWC Headquarters 815/877-6100.

GENERAL RIDING TIPS

- Refrain from riding when ground conditions are wet or soft.
- Restrain on blind corners.

TRAIL RULES

Remember, these trails are shared with hikers, so stay alert and slow your horse to a walk when meeting oncoming users. Here are a few rules to follow to ensure everyone's safety.

- Horses are allowed only on designated trails.
- Riders and horses must enter and leave trails at access points only.
- When meeting on trails, riders must slow their horses to a walk and keep to the right.

TAGS

To obtain a tag, please visit www.winnebagoforest.org to purchase online or you may also come to Forest Preserve Headquarters where you will be issued an equestrian tag. **Please be sure to have the bridle tag visible when you ride in the preserves.**

FEES

	Res.	Non-Res.
Bridle tag daily each rider	\$ 8.00	\$10.00
Bridle tag seasonal each rider (Mid-April thru Mid-November)	\$25.00	\$35.00
Camping per night per unit (Seward Bluffs & Oak Ridge)	\$12.00	\$17.00
Roland Olson Arena	\$30.00	\$40.00

- **A daily bridle tag can be purchased at all equestrian parking sites excluding Rockford Rotary.**
- **Equestrian camping at Oak Ridge & Seward Bluffs Forest Preserves only.**

DEER RUN FOREST PRESERVE

5691 River Road, Cherry Valley, IL 61016

675 acres of preserve are filled with 9.5 miles of trails that follow the south and north branch of the Kishwaukee River and many other unique natural features. There is ample parking for vehicles and trailers. **Users can utilize a self-registration system for a daily riding pass and may apply for seasonal bridle tags at the site.**

OAK RIDGE FOREST PRESERVE

8322 Blomberg Road, Cherry Valley, IL 61016

This 653 acre preserve has ample parking for vehicles and trailers. Its varied terrain has 5.3 miles of trails. There is a river crossing that takes riders into Deer Run Forest Preserve. **There is equestrian camping. Users can utilize a self-registration system for camping and can acquire a daily riding pass. Seasonal bridle tags may be applied for at the site.**

ROLAND OLSON FOREST PRESERVE, 9669 Atwood Road, Roscoe, IL 61073

Donated in 1976 by Mr. and Mrs. Roland Olson, this 127 acre preserve was offered specifically to provide a place for horse riding activities within the County. The preserve has a 60' x 120' arena, two hitching posts, and 1.5 miles of bridle trail. Trailer parking is in the preserve near the arena. **Users can utilize a self-registration system for a daily riding pass and may apply for seasonal bridle tags at the site.**

ROCKFORD ROTARY FOREST PRESERVE, 5390 Rotary Road, Cherry Valley, IL 61016

0.7 miles of trail run throughout this 227 acre preserve. Heavily wooded and overlooking the Kishwaukee River, trail rules are critical here as the soil in this preserve is highly erodible. Equestrian access is provided near the preserve's entrance off Rotary Road. **No self-registration system at this site.**

SEWARD BLUFFS FOREST PRESERVE EQUESTRIAN AREA, 17617 Comly Road, Seward, IL 61077

The trails in this 636 acre preserve cover beautiful country which includes spring wildflowers, woodlands and dolomite cliffs. The trails loop to the east and west crossing Grove Creek to provide 7.8 miles of trails. **There is equestrian camping. Users can utilize a self-registration system for camping and can acquire a daily riding pass. Seasonal bridle tags may be applied for at the site.**

SUGAR RIVER FOREST PRESERVE, 10127 Forest Preserve Road, Durand, IL 61024

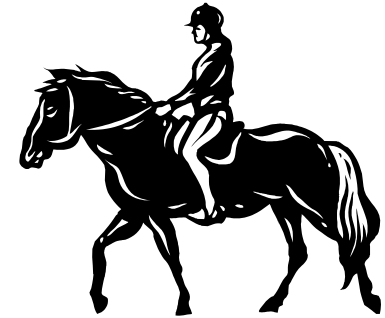
Travel to the northern part of the County to take in a double loop trail system in this 529 acre preserve. The 3.6 mile trail goes through oak woodlands, meadows and fields. Much of this preserve is sand prairie, which is a unique and fragile ecosystem that is highly erodible. Therefore, the equestrian trail hugs the east boundary of the preserve, avoiding these natural areas. **Users can utilize a self-registration system for a daily riding pass and may apply for seasonal bridle tags at the site.**

For more information on these or any other services, contact the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County Office at (815) 877-6100 or 5500 Northrock Drive, Rockford, Illinois 61103. www.winnebagoforest.org

UNLAWFUL ACTS

It is against the law to:

- Treat a horse cruelly or knowingly permit such treatment.
- Ride or lead a horse that is vicious, unmanageable or physically unfit for riding. (Horses that may kick should be marked with a red ribbon on the horse's tail.)
- Ride a horse that is not adequately and safely equipped for riding.
- Ride a horse in such a manner as to injure or endanger the person or property of any other person or property of the Forest Preserves.
- Race horses except during authorized special events.
- Park a horse trailer or truck for the purpose of loading or unloading a horse in any parking area not designated and posted as an equestrian parking area.
- Utilize equestrian facilities when posted closed to equestrian use.



EQUESTRIAN



**5500 Northrock Drive
Rockford, IL 61103
(815) 877-6100**

**www.winnebagoforest.org
e-mail fpwc@winnebagoforest.org**

Our Mission: The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County is dedicated to protecting, conserving, enhancing, and promoting Winnebago County's natural heritage for the environmental, educational, and recreational benefits of present and future generations.