

## About preserve activities

Volunteers are working to restore and re-create native communities. Interested persons are welcome to participate in various management tasks, including strategic seed collection and planting, weed suppression, brush cutting, and prescribed burning.

In addition to stewardship activities, campfires, field trips, and a summer Butterfly Festival are scheduled each year. Visit [nwilaudubon.org](http://nwilaudubon.org) for a full listing of preserve events, or visit on your own for a leisurely stroll.



## Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

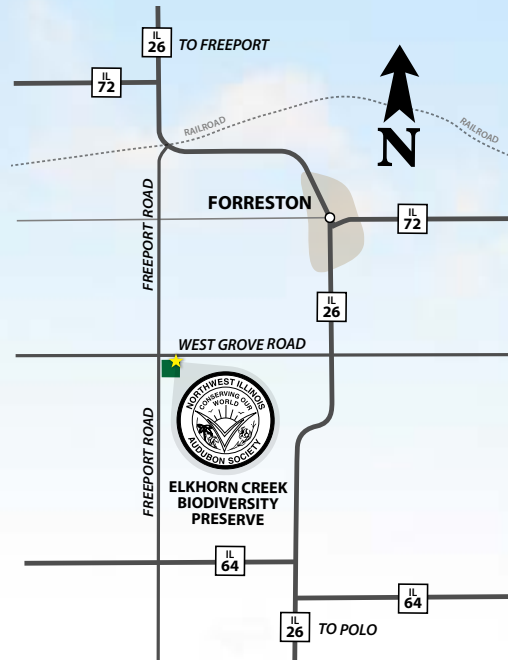
## About the preserve owner

The Northwest Illinois Audubon Society (NIAS), a chapter of the National Audubon Society, strives to educate its members and the public on a variety of environmental issues and aspects of natural history. Activities include programs, workshops, bird walks, bird counts, field trips, preserve management, and more.

In 1999, NIAS co-purchased the preserve in cooperation with the Prairie Preservation Society of Ogle County (PPSOC). In 2010, NIAS bought out PPSOC's interest in the preserve. This purchase was made possible by a bequest to NIAS from the estate of Clarence Mitchell and the transfer assisted PPSOC in acquiring a valuable remnant prairie, the Sand Ridge Prairie, located south of Oregon.

For additional information on all Northwest Illinois Audubon Society events and initiatives visit: [nwilaudubon.org](http://nwilaudubon.org) and write: NIAS, PO Box 771, Freeport, IL 61032

## Finding the preserve



**Parking:** A small parking lot is located along West Grove Road, on the northeast corner of the preserve.

**Please take only pictures;  
leave only footprints.**



Bird Watching • Hiking  
Photography • Frog Listening  
Plant Observation



Horse-back Riding • Off-road vehicles  
Trapping & Hunting • Bicycling/Mt. Biking  
Plant & Seed collecting • Dog Walking

*The Northwest Illinois Audubon Society celebrates diversity in nature and among the people and communities with whom we work. We are dedicated to providing an inclusive, welcoming, and judgement-free atmosphere where people of all experience levels, identity groups, and cultural backgrounds are actively encouraged to participate.*

# Elkhorn Creek

BIODIVERSITY PRESERVE

**ESTABLISHED IN 1999**

*Owned and managed by  
the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society*

[nwilaudubon.org](http://nwilaudubon.org)

# Elkhorn Creek

## BIODIVERSITY PRESERVE



NIAS member Richard Benning gives some identification tips to young attendees of the annual Butterfly Festival. | photo by Juliet Moderow

### About the preserve

Although small in size, the 43-acre Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve (ECBP) contains an impressive diversity of geologic and hydrologic features and the associated plant communities.

Situated over a small series of geologic faults, the preserve features outcroppings of both St. Peter sandstone and Ordovician-age dolomite. These geological differences result in the presence of both acid and alkaline wetlands. Additional wetland features include sedge meadows, numerous seeps, a small brook, and a portion of the area's namesake, Elkhorn Creek.

Several remnant hillside prairies can be found at Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve, with Little Bluestem being the dominant grass. Various forbs (wildflowers) are present as well. The woodland component of the preserve includes oak savanna areas, a bit of floodplain forest and areas of early successional forest. Additionally, former cropland is being converted to prairie and savanna using seed only from plant species that are found on the preserve and on adjacent acres.

Many species of wildlife occur in these habitats. Over 500 species have been recorded, including 140 species of birds, as well as hundreds of species of plants, insects, amphibians, mammals and more. A complete species list can be found at [nwilaudubon.org](http://nwilaudubon.org) or requested by mail.

