

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, and field trips are scheduled each year.

Visit nwilaudubon.org for a full listing of preserve events, or visit on your own for a leisurely stroll.



Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

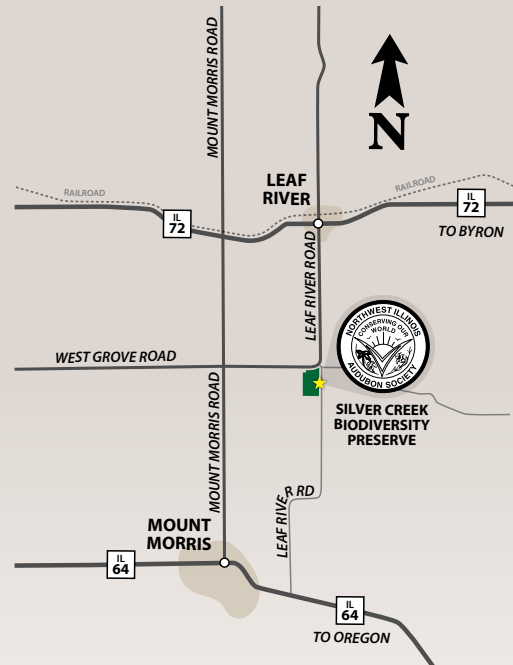
About the preserve owner

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.

The Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserve was created in 2012 through a generous gift of land to the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society from Joanne (Tarbox) Styles. As a condition of the gift, NIAS agreed to the establishment of a conservation easement on the property. The easement is held by the Natural Land Institute, a regional land trust based in Rockford, Illinois.

For additional information on all Northwest Illinois Audubon Society events and initiatives visit: nwilaudubon.org or write: NIAS, PO Box 771, Freeport, IL 61032

Finding the preserve



Parking: A small parking lot is located along Leaf River Road, on the east side 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.

Silver Creek

BIODIVERSITY PRESERVE

Tarbox Unit

ESTABLISHED IN 2012

Owned and managed by
the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

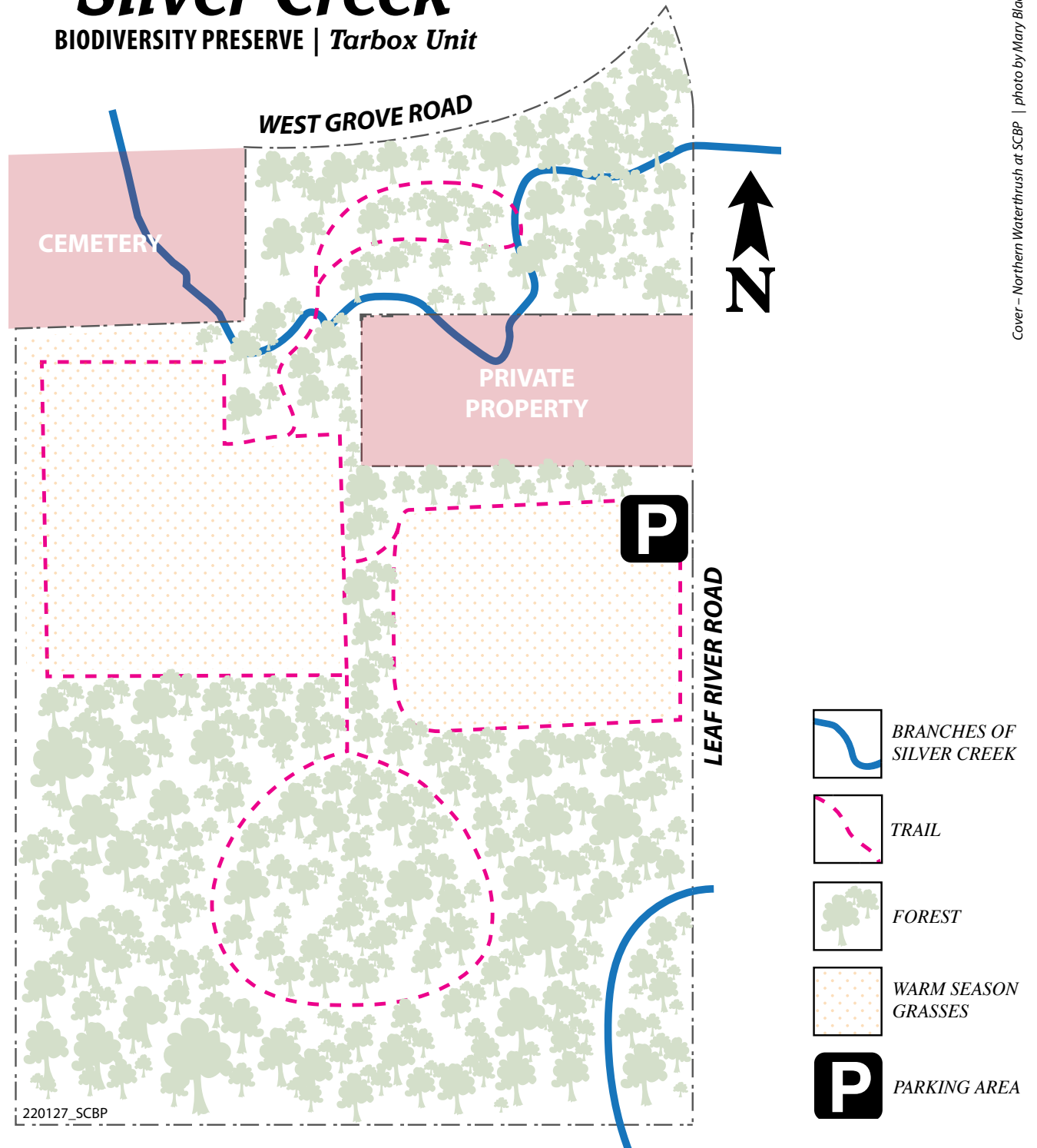
nwilaudubon.org



A group of attendees gather during a "Geology of the Preserves" field trip. photo by Juliet Moderow

Silver Creek

BIODIVERSITY PRESERVE | Tarbox Unit



220127_SCBP

About the preserve

Woodland, grassland and riparian habitats are found at the 50-acre Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserve.

The 35 wooded acres include oak-hickory forest, a globally rare natural community type, and two branches of spring-fed Silver Creek. The north branch flows over dolomite, creating especially clear water quality and feeding areas in the rock riffles for migrating songbirds. Both the north and south woods are dominated by many species of trees and shrubs, but also contain abundant populations of spring wildflowers and ferns in the south woods. Shortly after entering the south woods, one will encounter a narrow drainage flow, containing plants characteristic of wet environments, such as Orange Jewelweed.

The 15 acres of warm-season grasses were established through the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Various species of forbs (wildflowers) have been added over the years, diversifying these CRP plantings while establishing a "pollinator strip" adjacent to Leaf River Rd. Long-term plans include the re-creation of oak savanna habitat in these areas.

Over 300 species of plants and animals have been documented in those habitats, including over 100 species of birds.