Discover the District

McHenry County Conservation District is home to over 115 miles of hiking trails, 45 miles of biking trails, 19 fishing sites, 5 campgrounds, 4 canoe launches, 41 miles of horse trails, and 21 sites with picnic shelters.

**Site Features**

North Branch, 15020 Westwego Rd., Richmond (41 acres) - The 0.1-mile multi-purpose trail runs through prairie and coves, covering over 100 acres of marsh and forest.

Boone Creek, 10550 Wilson Rd., Wonder Lake (37 acres) - This site provides visitors with an excellent opportunity to explore where the Kishwaukee River begins and ends.

Find your next outdoor adventure at one of our many natural areas.

**Canoe Trails**

NIPPERSINK CANOE TRAIL - This trail connects McHenry and Wonder Lake, providing a unique opportunity to explore where the Kishwaukee River begins.

Lyle C. Thomas Memorial Park & Landing, Spring Grove (11 acres) - Owned by the Village of Spring Grove, this site is managed by the Conservation District and as an additional amenity for local residents to walk with their dogs, bird watch, and enjoy the trails.

Estimated Paddling Times: 2 hours (calm water) - 3 hours (moderate winds) - 4 hours (rough water)

**Canoe Trail**

Canoe Trail - The 1.2-mile multi-purpose trail connects McHenry and Wonder Lake, providing an excellent opportunity to explore where the Kishwaukee River begins.

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Prairie Trail: The 1.5-mile multi-purpose trail runs through prairie and coves, one of the finest waterways in Illinois.

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The Conservation District
A variety of special events, as well as outdoor concerts added 2,167 acres. The 80s added acres of protected open space and discover the treasures find protected habitat at District sites. Explore History and linger in dazzling prairies filled with areas that highlight high-quality wildlife.

By using proven native species have safety and keep local history alive. The minimum age to special events. Bilingual volunteers translate at programs. Let’s get Social!

There are three important factors that ring true regarding ecosystem services:

1. Natural habitats provide ecosystems benefits to people 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
2. People receive more ecosystem benefits when there are more natural habitats.
3. Better quality habitats provide more ecosystem benefits than poor quality habitats.

The numerous benefits received from nature can be classified into four significant categories: ecological benefits, economic benefits, regulating benefits and cultural benefits. These ecosystem services are important to maintain human health, as well as a significant factor in human health and well-being—yet they are often ignored for.

Ecosystem services define the value and impact of protecting nature and the benefits gained. There is a direct correlation between ecosystems and human health benefits to human economies. Once we understand the impact and overall value of Ecosystem Services, we can better prioritize money and resources to protect ecosystems into the future. When ecosystems are considered valuable, they are more likely to be preserved.

Today, McHenry County Conservation District preserves over 25,000 acres. This public investment gives well beyond just protecting open space—it safeguards the quality of health and wellness on multiple levels for all residents far into the future.

McHenry County Conservation District
The Foundation welcomes charitable gifts, memberships and donations which provide the resources to the preservation of open space, protection of natural lands, wildlife habitat and endangered species, educational programs and recreational site improvements, as well as ensuring the preservation of McHenry County’s natural and cultural heritage for the future of future generations.

Donors need realize financial benefits, perhaps more valuable than the financial advantages is the satisfaction gained by helping to continue the mission and important work of the Conservation District and enhancing the quality of life for all residents of McHenry County.

The Conservation Foundation has provided funds to support 230 conservation projects, assisted in preserving over 800 acres of open space, secured over 15.4 million in grants, and successfully ran two Open Space Bond Refinements, ultimately providing $14.5 million to purchase open space, preserve wildlife habitat and add outdoor recreational amenities in McHenry County.

McHenryCountyConservationDistrict (815) 709-5992