

## TRAILS

**All of our trails provide easy to moderate hiking.**  
**Choose from trails of various distances and combine trails for longer distances.**

*Trailhead on the south side of the Nature Center:*

**Green Trail** (south) - This 1.2 mile trail loops through Ewing Grove making for a pleasant hike through prairie and forest. Two shortcut trails (black) shorten the distance if desired.

**Yellow Trail** - This .6 mile trail is the perfect trek for families with small children. Your hike will conclude in Imagination Grove, our nature play area.

**Purple Trail** - This .8 mile side trip from the green trail ventures across the creek (cobble crossing) and provides access to the seep lookout.

**Brown Trail** - This short loop can also be accessed from either the Nature Center parking lot or the Illinois Department of Natural Resources gravel lot. A bench along the way provides a pleasant viewing spot of the prairie/savannah habitat.

*Trailhead at the Corn Crib:*

**Red Trail** - This short .33 mile trail is a favorite of visitors. Enjoy the diversity of the prairie and a short jaunt across the road along the railroad line where spring wildflowers are prolific. Tree identification signs are also posted on this route.

**Blue Trail** - This trail takes visitors from the Nature Center north to Funks Grove Church & Cemetery and Chapel of the Templed Trees.

**Pink Trail** - Enjoy a walk through the Sugar Grove prairie and reforestation project. A diversity of insects and birds delight hikers in the warmer months.

**Green Trail** (north) - This .37 mile trail section is a must! Enjoy beautiful scenery, the scent of pines, and great birding.

**Orange Trail** - This .5 mile section of trail follows the edge of the Timber Creek. Barred owls are frequently heard and seen in this area.

**Black Trails** - These designate short-cuts or trail access points.

## BUILDINGS AND FEATURES

**Nature Center** - Explore this renovated machine shed/cattle barn where you will find live animals, interpretive exhibits, a bird viewing sanctuary, and children's discovery area.

**Picnic Shelter** - Available to visitors unless previously reserved.

**Blacksmith Forge** - Illinois Valley Blacksmith Association members demonstrate the 3rd Saturday of every month and at special events. Blacksmithing classes are also offered.

**Astronomy Observatory** (Silo-style building) - The Twin City Amateur Astronomers offer frequent public observing sessions and conduct club activities throughout the year.

**Corn Crib Prairie Lookout** (White barn-like building)- Don't miss the spectacular view and cozy atmosphere of the prairie viewing room in the corn crib!

**Beautiful Gardens** - Enjoy our monarch waystation, butterfly garden, herb garden, and many native plantings throughout the immediate grounds.

## WELCOME TO SUGAR GROVE NATURE CENTER

Through a unique partnership with the Funks Grove Cemetery Association, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and Sugar Grove Foundation, over 1,100 acres of natural area, have been protected through the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and conservation easements. Portions of Funks Grove have been designated a National Natural Landmark by the U.S. Department of Interior.

The Nature Center serves as an access point to over 6 miles of trails in Funks Grove. Please keep in mind that many of these trails are on privately owned property. Our challenge is to provide visitors with a wonderful experience while preserving the features of this incredible natural area. Help us maintain the special quality of Funks Grove by observing the following guidelines. Please...

- ✿ Park bicycles at the Nature Center; do not ride on trails.
- ✿ Stay on designated trails; do not travel on unmarked and deer trails.
- ✿ Do not litter; pack it in, pack it out.
- ✿ Enjoy nature without disturbing plants and animals.
- ✿ Notify Nature Center Staff if the trails need any attention.

### Pets

Although restricted in the dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves, leashed pets are welcome on our other trails. Please clean up and carry out any pet waste.

### Access

Trails are for foot traffic only (hikers, runners, cross country skiers). Vehicles are restricted to designated parking areas. ATV's are not allowed on any trail or road.

### Fees

Admission to the Nature Center is FREE! Please consider a donation. As a non-profit organization, we depend on support from those who enjoy the site.



## Nature Center Hours

### November-March

Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

### April-October

Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Sunday, 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

The grounds, trails, and Imagination Grove are open daily from dawn until dusk.

## SUGAR GROVE NATURE CENTER

in beautiful, historic Funks Grove, IL

4532 N 725 East Rd. ✿ McLean, IL 61754  
309.874.2174 ✿ [www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org](http://www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org)



**Funks Grove  
Church**

