Points of Interest

The Palos preserves comprise our largest and most diversified holding. Mostly hilly and forested, they are notable for scenic beauty and rich in history back to glacial and geologic times. Masses of hawthorns and crabapples bloom in spring; the woodlands provide colorful autumn foliage. There are fine upland meadows; many lakes, ponds and sloughs; a great variety and abundance of wildlife; and the best fishing waters in Cook County.

△ Dedicated Nature Preserve
< Maintained to furnish good fishing
★ Wildlife Refuge—Fishing Prohibited unless indicated
⊨ Area notable for spring wildflowers
谼 Slopes for Winter Coasting
🥛 Nature Trails
← Overlook with exceptional scenic view
HQ Division Headquarters
1 Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center and Trails
2 Old Country Lane
3 Maple and Tampier Lakes boat docks—rowboats for hire
4 Site of original Argonne Laboratory for atomic research
5 Cross Country Ski Trail Area.
6 Dynamite Road nature trails
7 St. James Church and Cemetery, founded 1837. Site of Indian village, chipping station and signal station.
8 I & M Canal Bicycle Trail Parking Lot
9 Landing Along Chicago Portage Canoe Trail—Stony Ford To Lemont Landing—14.4 Miles
10 Toboggan slides and shelter
11 Trail located on glacial ridge, called an esker
12 Trail thru wild isolated area with fine scenery
13 Model Airplane Flying Field

INTERESTING THINGS YOU MAY ENJOY

Large concentrations of waterfowl and shorebirds, including ducks, geese and egrets, nesting and feeding on Longjohn, Saganashkee and McGinnis sloughs during the spring and fall migration periods.
Blackberry, dewberry and raspberry patches plentiful in meadows and woodland openings at many locations and ripe for picking in July.
Mushrooms plentiful in many woodlands during autumn.
Wild prairie roses, some climbing to the tops of hawthorn and crabapple trees, along trail from St. James Church to site of original Argonne Laboratory.
Spring wildflowers bloom first in Black Partridge Woods which, with its creek and big springs that flow the year around, was a winter retreat and chipping station for Indians.
Pawpaw trees and shingle oaks in Pawpaw Woods—the northern limit of where those trees occur in Illinois. Spice bush also
Forest Preserve District of Cook County
IN RELATION TO
The City of Chicago

Palos Division

Sag Valley Division
Landing Along Chicago Portage Canoe Trail—Stony Ford To Lemont Landing—14.4 Miles

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INTERESTING THINGS YOU MAY ENJOY

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- Pawpaw trees and shingle oaks in Pawpaw Woods—the northern limit of where those trees occur in Illinois. Spice bush also plentiful.
- Sycamores and an unusually large ironwood (hop hornbeam) tree at McClaughry Springs. Also a sheer cliff of sandy "groundhog" clay deposited by the last glacier.
- Bank swallows and kingfishers formerly nested in the sandy clay face of Swallow Cliff, just west of U.S. 45.
- At Swallow Cliff Woods picnic area, a grove of white pines planted in the 1920's.
- Kentucky Coffeetree and a very large elm at site of pioneer home south of 87th St. on east side of U.S. 45.
- Buffalo Woods, so named because it formerly was fenced to enclose a herd of buffalo.
- Hidden Pond Woods contains an example of a farm pond constructed by the original owner to water his livestock.
- These Palos Hills are the result of the last glacier that pushed its way this far south. The ponds and sloughs lie within potholes resulting from the melting of huge blocks of ice left by that glacier. The city of Chicago is founded on the flat bed of old Lake Chicago, ancestor of Lake Michigan.

RULES FOR HORSEBACK RIDERS

Horseback riders must observe the following rules, which are enforced by Forest Preserve District Police:

- A rider must have a license.
- The horse must be licensed and wear a numbered tag.
- Stay on the established trail at all times.
- Slow to a walk or trot and keep to the right when meeting other riders, hikers or bicyclists.
- The only permitted gaits are the walk, trot or canter.
- Horses must be kept under control at all times. Racing and wild riding are forbidden.

BICYCLE RULES OF THE TRAIL

1. Ride single file—keeping to the right side of the trail.
2. Stay in your own lane.
3. Give warning before passing other trail users.
4. Obey all stop signs.
5. Trails are designed for a moderate recreational speed of 8 mph. NO SPEED TRAINING OR RACING PERMITTED.

WALKERS & JOGGERS

Use the left side of the trail-facing oncoming bicycle traffic.