

explore miles of peaceful

# NATURAL AREAS.

**RED TRAIL 3.0 mi/68 min**

**STARTS FROM:** Schroth Trail Parking Lot  
**HIGHLIGHTS:** views of the Sangamon River; secondary forest containing oak, hickory, and maple trees; restored demonstration prairie  
**LOOK FOR:** snow trillium, virginia bluebells, and hepatica (spring); compass plant (summer); ringed-necked pheasants (fall); pileated woodpeckers (winter)  
**DID YOU KNOW?** Most of this area was farmed until around 1950

**MCDONALD FAMILY TRAIL (BLUE) 2.4 mi/53 min**

**STARTS FROM:** Lost Garden Parking Lot  
**HIGHLIGHTS:** highest quality oak-hickory upland forest in Central Illinois; unique views of the Sangamon River and surrounding bottomland forest; a well pump (east side of loop) from an old farm  
**LOOK FOR:** shooting star and migrating warblers (spring); nesting woodpeckers (summer); white-tailed deer (fall); white-breasted nuthatches (winter)  
**DID YOU KNOW?** An open area along the river bluff was a local picnic spot in the early 1900's

**PURPLE TRAIL .8 mi/19 min**

**STARTS FROM:** Sun Singer statue  
**HIGHLIGHTS:** early successional forest of honey locust, elm species, and a few oaks and hickories  
**LOOK FOR:** magnolia warblers (spring); eastern wood pewees (summer); turkey vultures (fall); red bellied woodpeckers (winter).  
**DID YOU KNOW?** Areas off of this trail were historically used as local trash dumps – we are still trying to clean them up! The small opening in the forest along this trail was once the site of a tower similar to the one in the Fu Dog Garden.

**MCDONALD FAMILY TRAIL (GREEN) 2.2 mi/49 min**

**STARTS FROM:** Lost Garden Parking Lot  
**HIGHLIGHTS:** highest diversity of tree species; good examples of oak-hickory upland forest; silver maple and scattered large bur oak bottomland forest; remnants of one of Robert Allerton's formal gardens, the Lost Garden; a pioneer cemetery (south end)  
**LOOK FOR:** bloodroot and bellwort (spring); green dragon and beavers (summer); wild turkeys (fall); pileated woodpeckers (winter)  
**DID YOU KNOW?** The Potawatomi Trail of Death passes through this area. More than 800 members of the Native American tribe moved through this area in 1838.

**BROWN TRAIL\* 2.6 mi/59 min**

**STARTS FROM:** Death of the Last Centaur parking area  
**HIGHLIGHTS:** Death of the Last Centaur statue; bottomland forest featuring ash, bur oaks, and sycamores (some over four feet in diameter!); home to the State Champion Swamp White Oak - 53" in diameter and 93' tall (just north of the trail section that runs along the river and about half-way between the Yellow/Brown and Purple/Brown intersections.)  
**LOOK FOR:** Virginia bluebells, migrating song birds, and blue-eyed Mary (spring); great-blue herons, wood ducks, and beavers (summer); coyote and white-tailed deer (fall); brown creepers and white-breasted nuthatches (winter)  
**DID YOU KNOW?** Heading north from the Centaur (to the Sun Singer), you can observe a transition between upland oak-hickory forest on one side and bottomland forest on the other.

**ORANGE TRAIL 1.1 mi/24 min**

**STARTS FROM:** Southeast corner of the Main Parking Lot  
**HIGHLIGHTS:** early successional and bottomland forest; the recently-restored Goldfish Pond; the Fu Dog Garden, including the House of the Golden Buddha and Vine Walk  
**LOOK FOR:** Smallmouth Salamanders (spring); red-shouldered hawks (summer); mink and beaver (fall); barred owls (winter)  
**DID YOU KNOW?** This trail was once home to two bronze statues: Bear and Man of Stone Age and Gorilla Carrying Off a Stone-Age Woman, both by Emmanuel Fremiet.

**YELLOW TRAIL\* 2.1 mi/48 min**

**STARTS FROM:** Sunken Garden  
**HIGHLIGHTS:** excellent examples of upland oak-hickory forest; bottomland forest with large silver maple and sycamore trees; Death of the Last Centaur statue; views of the Sangamon River; views of Mansion and Reflecting Pond  
**LOOK FOR:** large white trillium and bloodroot (spring); freshwater mussel shells (summer); colorful leaves (fall); red-headed woodpeckers (winter)  
**DID YOU KNOW?** The river is constantly moving and relocating its channel – look for signs of its movement over the last 100 years.

*\* There may be times of the year when the bottomland portion of this trail may be flooded. Please use caution.*



KEY

- A SCHROTH INTERPRETIVE TRAIL
- B MUSIC BARN
- C DEMONSTRATION PRAIRIE
- D WARD & DIANA MCDONALD FAMILY TRAILS
- E FORMER SITE OF THE LOST GARDEN
- F PIONEER CEMETERIES (2)
- G GOLDFISH POND
- H HOUSE IN THE WOODS
- I THE DEATH OF THE LAST CENTAUR (SCULPTURE)
- J THE SUN SINGER (SCULPTURE)