



Take a Hike Activity Sheet — October Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve

Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve is filled with a diversity of prairie plants. At this time of year, the plants have already flowered and produced their seeds. If you closely examine where the flowers were, you will find the seeds. Each seed has a mechanism that helps it to move away from its 'parent' plant so it doesn't have to compete for sun, water or space. Some seeds blow in the wind, some are eaten by animals, some hitch a ride, and some just fall to the ground. Start out hiking to the west on the Grand Prairie Loop Trail (3.88 miles) from the parking lot and try to locate the plants listed below. Examine plant seeds and then determine the way these seeds move around. Match each plant to its seed dispersal mechanism. Draw a line from the photo to the method each plant uses to move away from its 'parent' plant.



Common Milkweed

Photo courtesy: www.inhs.illinois.edu



Gray-headed Coneflower

Photo courtesy: www.inhs.illinois.edu



Prairie Rose

Photo courtesy: http://scarthphoto.com



Rattlesnake Master

Photo courtesy: www.inhs.illinois.edu

Plopper (fall to the ground)

'Scat'ters (pass through the digestive system of animals)

Hitchhiker (attach to people's clothing or animal fur)

Flyer (use wind to fly through the air)

After you have found the above plants, try to find additional seeds that are examples of each type of mechanism.

The Forest Preserve District of Kane County invites you to Take a Hike!

Complete 6 of the 12 "Take a Hike" activities at designated forest preserves this year to receive your Take a Hike patch. Earn credit for a hike by sending answers or your completed Activity Sheet(s) to our naturalist staff via:

- E-mail - programs@kaneforest.com
- Fax - 630-513-1702
- Mail - Creek Bend Nature Center, LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve, 37W700 Dean St., Saint Charles, IL 60175

For more information, call 630-444-3190 or visit www.kaneforest.com.

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

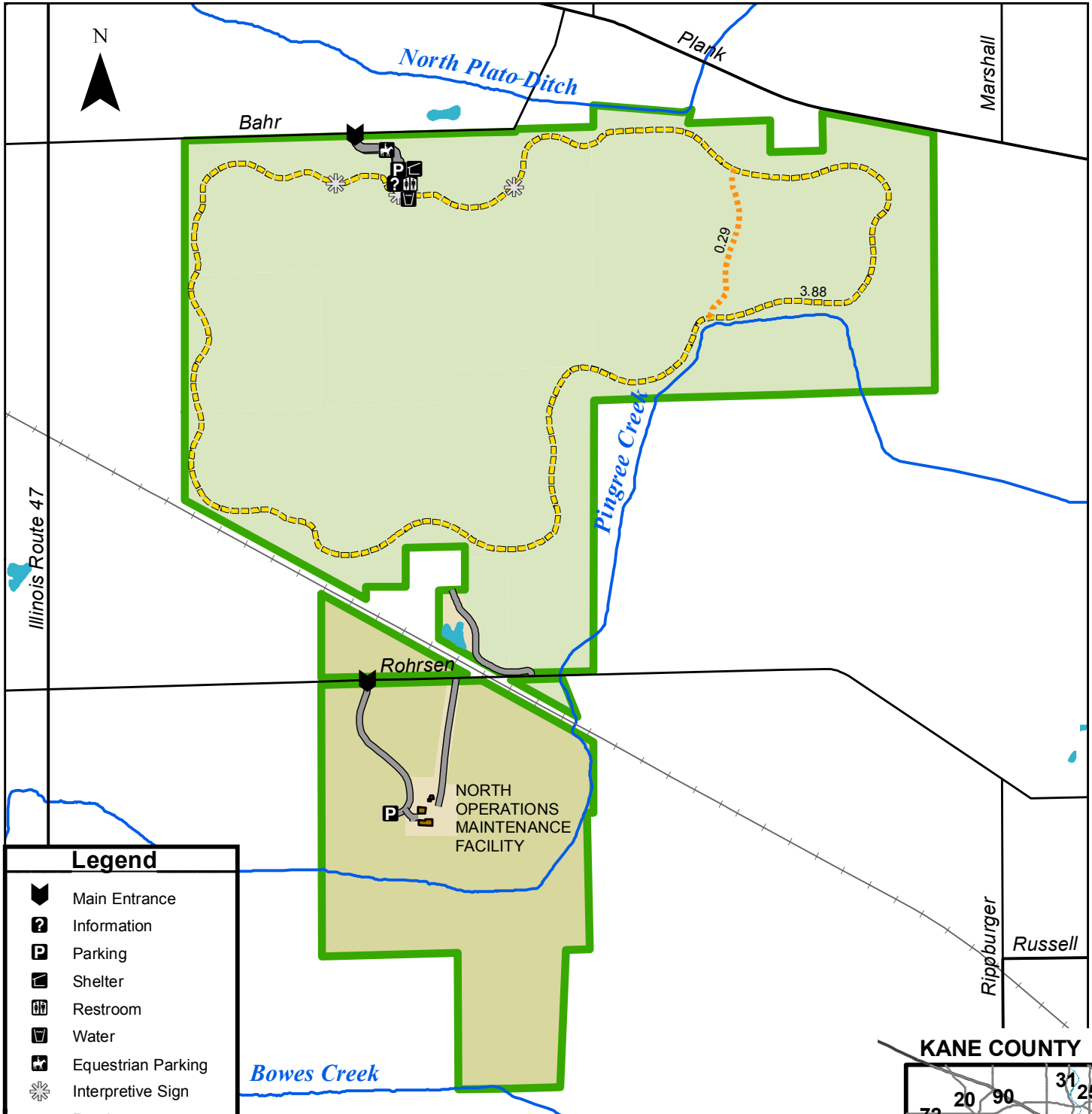
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE MAILING LIST FOR DISTRICT NATURE PROGRAMS? IF SO, SELECT PREFERRED CONTACT METHOD:

- E-MAIL REGULAR MAIL





Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve

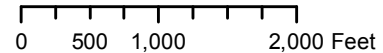


Legend

- Main Entrance
- Information
- Parking
- Shelter
- Restroom
- Water
- Equestrian Parking
- Interpretive Sign
- Road
- Railroad
- Forest Preserve Road
- Creek
- Open Water
- Forest Preserve
- Natural Area -
 - Cropland
 - Grassland
 - Maintained

Trail Information

- East Cutover Trail 0.29 mi, screenings
- Grand Prairie Loop Trail 3.88 mi, screenings



42W797 Rohrsen Road,
Hampshire, IL 60140
Approx. 1/2 mile east of Route 47

Acreage = 797
Total trail miles = 4.17

Information: (630) 232-5980
www.kaneforest.com
Hours: Daily, Sunrise-Sunset

