



Warbler Ridge: Mark's Point

A reserve owned and managed by Grand Prairie Friends

Wetland Restoration Project

One of the major projects at Warbler Ridge Conservation Area is to restore wetlands in the Embarras River floodplain. Since 2017, nine acres of wetlands have been restored here in this area of Warbler Ridge, referred to as "Warbler Bottoms."

Directly across the road from this sign, you can see GPF's first wetland restoration. This 3-acre site was graded to hold water, and a flow control structure was installed at the south end. Staff and volunteers then planted wetland-specific plants and shrubs in the new wetland—these will get established as years pass.

Hike past the white gate along the South River Trail to access the South Wetland. The North Wetland is home to the Blue Flag Iris and can be located by hiking the North River Trail.

HOURS:
Sunrise to Sunset
Year-round

Why are Wetlands and Floodplains Important?

You are standing in the Embarras River floodplain. The low-lying land on either side of a river's banks makes up a river's floodplains. Restoring healthy floodplains is an important part of keeping a healthy community for people, plants and animals.

Floodplains and Wetlands:

- Act as natural filters, absorbing harmful chemicals and other pollution
- Store and slow down floodwaters
- Provide habitat for wildlife and serve as nurseries for many species of fish, insects, and amphibians
- Refill groundwater supplies

Unfortunately, Illinois has lost nearly 90% of its wetlands. Floodplain areas are often built upon or used for other human purposes. Help us in our effort to protect the Embarras River floodplain at Warbler Ridge.

You are welcome to explore the reserve. Please respect the property boundaries and the plants and animals that live here.

What is Grand Prairie Friends?

Grand Prairie Friends is a not-for-profit conservation organization and land trust. We have been committed to preserving and restoring tallgrass prairie and woodlands in east-central Illinois since 1984.

Grand Prairie Friends relies on donations and volunteers to support this work. Please donate or join today at GrandPrairieFriends.org.

Warbler Ridge Conservation Area

- Conservation Area Property
- Boundary
- Parking
- McKenzie-Waltrip Cemetery
- Other Natural Areas
- Private Property

Hiking Trails

- Aspen Loop (0.5 miles)
- Warbler Trail (3 miles)
- Warbler Loop Trail (0.3 miles)
- Cemetery Ridge Trail (2 miles)
- North River Trail (2.2 miles)
- South River Trail (2.5 miles)
- Warbler Bluff Trail (0.8 miles)

Trail lengths measured one-way

- Parking Locations:**
- P1:** 17487 Bypass Rd
 - P2:** North Trailhead on Bypass Rd
 - P3:** Mark's Point Trailhead on 550 N (here)
 - P4:** South Trailhead at 17161 Daileyville Rd
 - P5:** 17875 E CR 380N (in Fox Ridge State Park)
 - P6:** Warbler Bluff Trailhead on Harrison Street Rd



- Scan this QR code for:**
- Links to Google Maps for each parking area
 - Downloadable map
 - And more!



Mark Bokenkamp and his friends spent their weekends camping, fishing, and hunting in these woods. As an ecology student at Eastern Illinois University in the 1970's, these waters and ravines provided respite and adventure. Mark passed away in 2016 remembered as an accomplished artist blacksmith, friend, husband & father.

Mark's Point is named in remembrance of him and to preserve Warbler Ridge for the enjoyment of future generations.



Great Blue Heron

This reserve purchased with support from:



Take nothing but photos, leave nothing but footprints.