Address or Nearest Intersection:
Birch Ave. and Dempster St., west of Lehigh Ave., Niles, IL.

Directions: Enter the parking lot of the mall on the south side of Dempster (just west of the railroad tracks - there is a Starbucks visible from the road.) Drive to the back left (or southeast) corner of the lot. Enter the eastern “hole in the fence”, walk to bike path, and go right (south) along the path (watch out for bikes). Past the large culvert look for a path to the left down to the river.  At the river look for the riffle (lightly churning water).

Owner: Forest Preserves of Cook County (permit required)

Habitat Description: Forested area around river, areas of prairie further west along path.  The floodplain is subject to frequent flooding. Frequent sightings of deer in the woods, and there is a good diversity of macroinvertebrates in the river.

Access to water: Water is shallow in some places, more slippery and steep in others. Recommend looking for macroinvertebrates in riffle area.

Amenities: None immediately near entrance or recommended river testing area.  However, if you continue west on the path, you will come to bathrooms, shelters and picnic benches.

Parking: Parking lot (behind strip mall)

Capacity: 60 students