

Harms Woods (Central)

North Branch of the Chicago River

Address or Nearest Intersection:

Harms Rd. south of Old Orchard Rd. and north of Golf Rd., Skokie, IL

Directions: The parking lot to use is off of Harms Rd., just under a quarter of a mile south of Old Orchard Rd. Go to back corner of parking lot and head left down bike path, turn off on dirt path and continue past oxbow to where the river goes left and right, about half a mile.

Owner: Forest Preserves of Cook County (permit required).

Habitat Description: Harms Woods is dominated by huge bur and swamp white oaks, with an understory of black ash, winterberry, hazelnut and other native trees and shrubs. The woods can be very wet in the spring and fall because a clay pan underlying the top layers of soil tends to hold water. Chorus frogs call from these small ponds.

Habitat restoration efforts have removed much of the invasive brush at Harms. There are many spring wildflowers to be found, including wild geranium, trout lilies, blue cohosh and white trillium. A variety of birds can be seen, including great crested flycatchers, chestnut-sided warblers, and Cooper's hawks. Wait by the river a while and you may spot a mink in the water.

Access to water: Access is okay in spots. The river tends to be quite deep, while the banks in many areas are quite steep.

Amenities: Picnic benches and shelters.

Parking: Parking lot for cars and buses.

Capacity: 60 students.



Harms Woods Picnic Groves

