

Miami Woods

North Branch of the Chicago River

Address or Nearest Intersection:

Birch Ave. and Dempster St., west of Lehigh Ave., Morton Grove, IL.

Directions: Drive west from the Edens on Dempster Street about two miles. Enter the parking lot of the Prairie View Plaza on the south side of Dempster (about a half of a mile west of the railroad tracks - there is a Starbucks visible from the road). Drive to the back left (or southeast) corner of the lot.

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

Habitat Description: Miami Woods is a large forested area on the west side of the river with areas of prairie further up towards the road. The floodplain is subject to frequent flooding. Frequent sightings of deer in the woods, and there is a good diversity of macroinvertebrates.

Access to water: Enter the forest preserve from the most southern and eastern corner of the parking lot, 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). Water is shallow in some places, more slippery and steep in others. Recommend looking for macroinvertebrates in the riffle area.

Amenities: There are no shelters near the river or forest preserve entrance. However, some businesses in the mall may allow you to use their bathrooms.

Parking: Parking lot (behind strip mall parking garage) is large enough for cars and buses.

Capacity: 60 students.

