

LaBagh Woods

North Branch of the Chicago River

Address or Nearest Intersection:

5275 N. Cicero Ave. north of W. Foster Ave.,
Chicago, IL.

Directions: Entrance is on the east side of Cicero Ave. just north of Foster Ave. Proceed on the park drive over the Edens Expressway (I-94). For Grove 1, take the first left and continue to the end of the parking lot. For Grove 3, take the right loop drive around to the far side of the preserve.

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

Habitat Description: LaBagh Woods is a complex woodland with a mix of large oaks, maples and cottonwoods. Occasional sunny savannas and sedge meadows dot the wooded landscape, as do low-lying wetlands. At the center of the site near the river, an oxbow slough fills the low bottomlands. Birders explore the area during spring migration. Mink and other water-loving mammals patrol the river banks.

Access to water: From Grove 1, the river is several hundred feet north through the woods. From Grove 3, walk along the bike path to the old railroad bridge. There are paths down to the river. Access to the river is excellent. Many entry points down small declines to water. Water near the edge is shallow and safe for wading, especially at the bridge. Water in the center of the river is often deeper.

Amenities: Bathrooms are available during the warmer months. Shelters, picnic tables and a large expanse of lawn for lunch.

Parking: Parking lot for cars and buses.

Capacity: 60 students.

