



Best Day Hikes for Families



1

[River Trail Nature Center](#),

Northbrook, IL: On this very green walk, you will find free exhibits and an area where wild animals (owls, eagles, coyotes) are cared for. On-site educators help to tell the story of the plants and animals along the Des Plaines River.

3

[Crabtree Nature Center](#),

Barrington Hills, IL: On three self-guided trails, you will discover a rolling glacier-formed landscape, as well as local wildlife.

5

[Ryerson Conservation Area](#),

Riverwoods, IL: Trails lead past historic buildings along the Des Plaines River into dense woodland. A small farm boasts of sheep, goats and chickens!

7

[Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie](#),

Wilmington, IL: This prairie reserve is a U.S. National Grassland operated by the U.S. Forest Service, complete with a herd of American bison!

9

[Matthiessen State Park](#),

Oglesby, IL: For those interested in geology, Matthiessen offers beautiful rock formations, dells, abundant vegetation, and wildlife.



2

[North Park Village Nature Center](#),

Chicago, IL: This 46-acre nature preserve and education facility offers trails through woodland, wetland, prairie and savanna habitats. Interact with wildlife and natural resources in an urban setting.

4

[Fort Sheridan](#), **Lake Forest, IL:**

Known for mature trees and scenic bluffs, Fort Sheridan has 3.65 paved miles of trails.

6

[Chicago Botanic Garden](#),

Glencoe, IL: 385 acres include McDonald Woods and a restored Illinois prairie. Bring your library card to EPL Children's Desk if you would like a pass for half-off the price of parking

8

[Starved Rock State Park](#),

LaSalle Co., IL: The state park is characterized by seasonal waterfalls, bluffs, and canyons.

10

[Kankakee River State Park](#),

Bourbonnais, IL: Trails follow the Kankakee River and Rock Creek, and on into the forests. Limestone canyons abound.

