

HABITAT MANAGEMENT



Restoration efforts in the preserve began in 1998 to enhance and recreate several historic habitats of the Bowling Green area. These include the Great Black Swamp, oak woodland, oak savanna, tallgrass prairie, shortgrass prairie, wet prairie and wetland. Bowling Green Parks and Recreation staff and community volunteers have worked primarily to remove non-native plants and introduce native plants as the base of these efforts. The resulting plant diversity in these habitats provide a variety of food sources for the insects, birds and other animals that call this preserve home. In the future, land stewardship tools such as prescribed burns and mowing will continue to be utilized in order to maintain these representative habitats.



WINTERGARDEN/ST. JOHN'S NATURE PRESERVE - Etiquette

For the enjoyment of all park users, we ask that you adhere to the following rules:

-  Park open from dawn until dusk.
-  Please stay on marked trails.
-  Dogs must be on a leash and in control at all times.
-  Please clean up after your pet. Pet waste bags are provided throughout the park.
-  Please do not litter.
-  Alcohol and intoxicants are prohibited.
-  The removal of plants and animals from this preserve is strictly prohibited.
-  The release of animals, the feeding of wildlife and the introduction of plant material and seeds is prohibited.
-  Smoking and vaping prohibited in all parks, including parking lots.

All City of Bowling Green ordinances are enforced.

For questions or information regarding Wintergarden/St. John's Nature Preserve and the Rotary Nature Center, please contact the Naturalist Office at 419-353-0301.

For facility rentals or for general information regarding the City of Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department, please call 419-354-6223.



E-mail us at bgparks@bgohio.org
www.bgohio.org/departments/parks-and-recreation

Photography provided by Sherri Werdebaugh

WINTERGARDEN/ST. JOHN'S NATURE PRESERVE - Trail Map



ABOUT THE PRESERVE - A Historical Timeline

Wintergarden/St. John's Nature Preserve has been pieced together over time through five separate land acquisitions. The first portion, Wintergarden Woods (21 acres), was obtained by the City of Bowling Green in 1946 as a site to install water wells. By the 1950's the water treatment plant for the City had been built along the Maumee River, and Wintergarden started to be used for day camps and scouting activities. In 1969, Wintergarden Lodge was built to provide overnight accommodations, rental opportunities, and programming space.

St. John's Meadow and Woods (37.5 acres) were added to Wintergarden Park, as it was then known, through State of Ohio Land and Water Conservation grant funding in 1986. The name was changed to Wintergarden/St. John's Nature Preserve to acknowledge the former owners of this parcel of land.

In 1999, the Bordner Meadow portion of the preserve (21.8 acres) was purchased with funds raised by Bowling Green residents. Along with this land acquisition came the transformation of Wintergarden Lodge to a nature center and the addition of staff for educational programming and park maintenance. As a result of these changes, the lodge was renamed The Rotary Nature Center. Then, in 2003, a 3.6 acre addition, Twyman Woods, was partially gifted to the still-growing preserve.

The most recent addition to the preserve was 19.7 acres acquired in 2005. This section of the preserve is named Tucker Woods, after long-time Parks and Recreation Foundation member Margaret Tucker. This parcel was also purchased through the generosity of local residents.

The City of Bowling Green is fortunate to have this 103 acre nature preserve as one of its many assets!

The Nature Preserve

