

In the far northeast corner of Illinois, Volo Bog State Natural Area protects one of the state's rarest ecosystems—bogs. The site also features marshes, woodlands, savannahs, prairie restoration areas, and old fields awaiting restoration.

As a State Natural Area, the site emphasizes low-impact recreation activities and educational opportunities for all ages.

Here you can:

- ◆ Hike
- ◆ Enjoy a picnic (no alcohol in our SNA)
- ◆ Explore exhibits in the Visitor Center
- ◆ Attend Guided Bog Tours
- ◆ Attend other nature programs and guided hikes
- ◆ Ask about field trips for school classes, youth and adult groups.
- ◆ Go birding
- ◆ Cross-country ski and snowshoe.
- ◆ Deer archery is also offered in season, by permit.
- ◆ Get involved!

Ask about volunteering or become a member of *Friends of Volo Bog*

A NATURE PRESERVE ETHIC

WALK QUIETLY

So as not to disturb others, animals or humans.

PICK NO FLOWERS

So they may form seeds and so others may enjoy their beauty. Also, pick no other plant parts.

TREAD LIGHTLY

Stay on trails or in designated study areas. Avoid stepping on plants.

RESPECT ALL LIVING THINGS

Do not disturb wildlife or their homes.

TAKE ONLY MEMORIES

Leave only footprints.

Do not collect anything except litter.

While groups of 10 or more are welcome, they are required to register in advance with the site office to avoid crowding and scheduling conflicts.

At least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors.

Actions by nature can result in closures.

For more information on other state parks, visit www.dnr.illinois.gov

Hearing-impaired individuals may call the DNR's TTY number 217-782-9175

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion, or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702; (217) 782-2662; TTY (217)782-9175.



Volo Bog

State Natural Area

Ingleside, IL

28478 W. Brandenburg Road
Ingleside, IL 60041
815-344-1294 dnr.volobog@illinois.gov
<https://dnr.illinois.gov/parks/park.volobog.html>



Volo Bog is Illinois' only open-water quaking bog. Forming in an ancient glacial lake, poorly-decomposed dead plants have been filling it in over the past 11,000 years—first from the bottom up, then also from the top down, creating a unique peatland of concentric vegetational zones. The inner three zones are still floating on top—including the tamarack trees! Poor drainage and acidic conditions created by sphagnum moss and other plants, cause slow decomposition, allowing layers of peat to accumulate. These unique conditions provide habitat for ferns, orchids, poison sumac, and carnivorous plants!

The lake originally covered about 150 acres and was 50 feet deep. Today, the bog itself is about 50 acres with the rest a surrounding marsh moat. A floating boardwalk takes visitors through five vegetational zones to the open water “eye” of Volo Bog and back.

Volo Bog was first documented in 1921 by W.G. Waterman, (an apt name) of Northwestern Illinois University. At the time, the wetland was owned by dairy farmer George Sayer. A fund-raising campaign, managed by Cyrus Mark, the first director of the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, collected \$40,000 in donations to purchase the 47.5 acre bog in 1958. Deeded to the University of Illinois, the land faced threats from a proposed development in the late 1960s that would have impacted the bog. Local residents formed the “Save Volo Bog” committee, whose efforts resulted in the transfer of Volo Bog to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in 1970.



An on-site Naturalist coordinates programs

Volo Bog State Natural Area is an excellent outdoor classroom, offering programming for students PK through HS & life-long learners.

That same year Volo Bog was dedicated as the 25th Illinois Nature Preserve, and in 1973, it was registered as a National Natural Landmark with the U.S. Department of the Interior. Over the years, other threats have surfaced including a proposed highway that would have bisected the State Natural Area, and other land uses that are eyesores visible from the trails today.

Today, more than 1,250 acres comprise the State Natural Area, protecting Volo Bog and other ecosystems on the site.

The Volo Bog Interpretive Trail starts just outside the Visitor Center and leads downhill to the floating boardwalk.

From the outer edges of the old glacial lake, the boardwalk takes explorers through the five vegetational zones to the Eye of Volo Bog:

5. Marsh Moat Zone (Not a bog)
4. Tall Shrub Zone (Scrub Shrub)
- prelude to the bog
3. Tamarack Zone (the bog begins!)
2. Low Shrub Zone
1. Herb Mat Zone
0. Open Water Eye of Volo Bog

Seasonal Trail Brochures of Volo Bog are available at the Visitor Center.

Public Bog Tours are held most weekends at 11 & 1.

Guided Bog Tours are available as part of field trips offered to school classes and other organized groups.

The Visitor Center housed in an old dairy barn (circa 1899) offers exhibits about Volo Bog and wetlands in general.

The building also has a classroom, the Friends of Volo Bog's *Tamarack Shop*, a reference library, restrooms, and friendly staff and volunteers who answer questions.

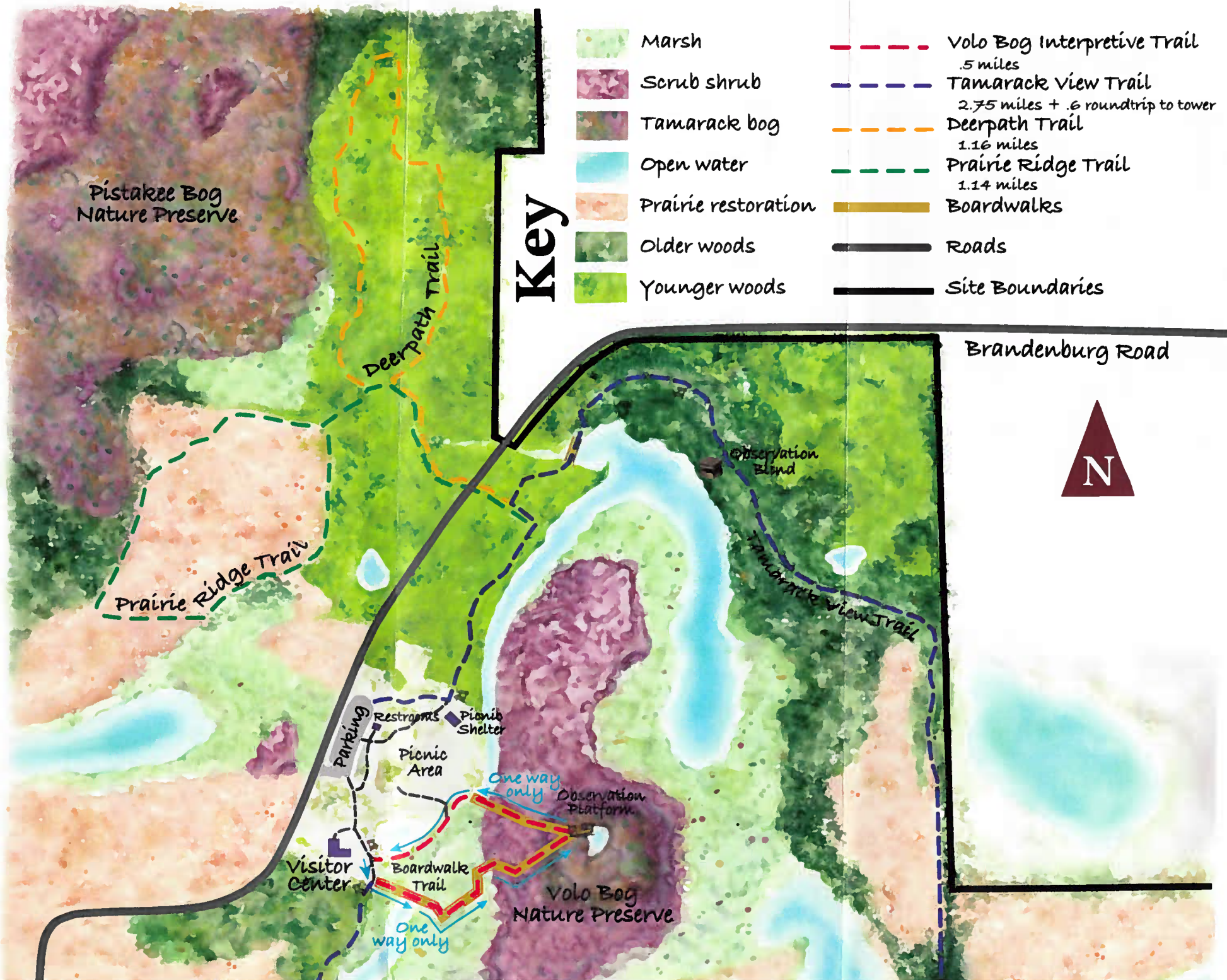


Visitor Center Hours

Wednesday—Sunday
9 am—3 pm

As Staff & Volunteers are Available







Volo Bog—the BOG—is an Illinois Nature Preserve, dedicated in 1970. Thank you for helping protect this unique ecosystem.

The Volo Bog Interpretive Trail...

loops 0.5 miles to the Eye of Volo Bog and back out again. Primarily a floating boardwalk, it can be flooded and a bit wobbly during high water times. There are interpretive signs along the way, seasonal trail brochures available at the Visitor Center, and Guided Bog Tours on most Saturdays and Sundays at 11 am & 1 pm.

NO DOGS on the Volo Bog trail, please, to protect the fragile hydrology and unique ecosystem of rare plants.

Tamarack View Trail (TVT) is 2.75 miles long and loops around the outside of Volo Bog through a variety of habitats.

The deciduous tamarack trees can be viewed off in the distance from points along the trail.

A few benches along the way offer places to rest and quietly observe nature.

Leashed dogs are welcome on
Tamarack View Trail.

Sullivan Lake Road

Two trails across the street:

Both trails have overlooking views of
Pistakee Bog Nature Preserve.

Deerpath Trail loops northward through shrubland habitat and young, regenerating woodlands. Deerpath is a great place to find shrubland birds.

Prairie Ridge Trail loops around a wide-open tallgrass prairie restoration. It overlooks Brandenburg Marsh, the Visitor Center and parking lot.

Leashed dogs are welcome on Deerpath
& Prairie Ridge Trails.