

NATURE PRESERVE USES

In June of 2017, Pilcher Park became an Illinois Nature Preserve, which helps protect the high-quality forest. Pilcher Park is one of the remaining forests in the Chicago region and in the state of Illinois. Joliet Park District retains ownership of the park, but the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources oversee the protection and stewardship of its natural features. After retaining the Illinois Nature Preserve status, several rules and guidelines for park use have changed. A few of them are listed here: leashed dogs are welcome, stay on designated trails while hiking, no dumping of trash or yard waste, and no removal of plants, fungi, or animals from the park. Thank you for your cooperation in following the rules and keeping Pilcher Park's status maintained.

| USES | NATURE PRESERVE | * SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS |
|--|-----------------|---|
| Hiking on Trail | ALLOWED | |
| Nature Observation | ALLOWED | |
| Photography | ALLOWED | |
| Dogs | ALLOWED* | On leash, on trail only |
| Geocaching | ALLOWED* | By JPD Permit; no soil or vegetation disturbance |
| Bicycling | ALLOWED* | On surfaced trails only |
| Cross-Country Skiing | ALLOWED* | On trail only |
| Group Off-Trail Exploration | PROHIBITED | |
| Mushroom & Other Collection | PROHIBITED | |
| Picnicking | PROHIBITED* | Allowed at picnic tables behind Nature Center & along Hickory Creek |
| Maple Tapping/Syrup Production | PROHIBITED* | As part of JPD programming |
| Off-Trail Nature Play | PROHIBITED | |
| Motorized Vehicles | PROHIBITED* | Only JPD Staff for Maintenance |
| Horses | PROHIBITED | |
| Metal Detecting | PROHIBITED | |
| Soil Excavation | PROHIBITED | |
| Introduction/Release of Wildlife from Off-Site | PROHIBITED* | Unless part of an INPC-approved recovery effort |
| Hunting | PROHIBITED* | Unless part of an INPC-approved wildlife control plan |
| Littering | PROHIBITED | |
| Fishing | PROHIBITED* | Allowed along Hickory Creek and pond by statue |

JPD - Joliet Park District
INPC - Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

