

Griffy Lake Nature Preserve

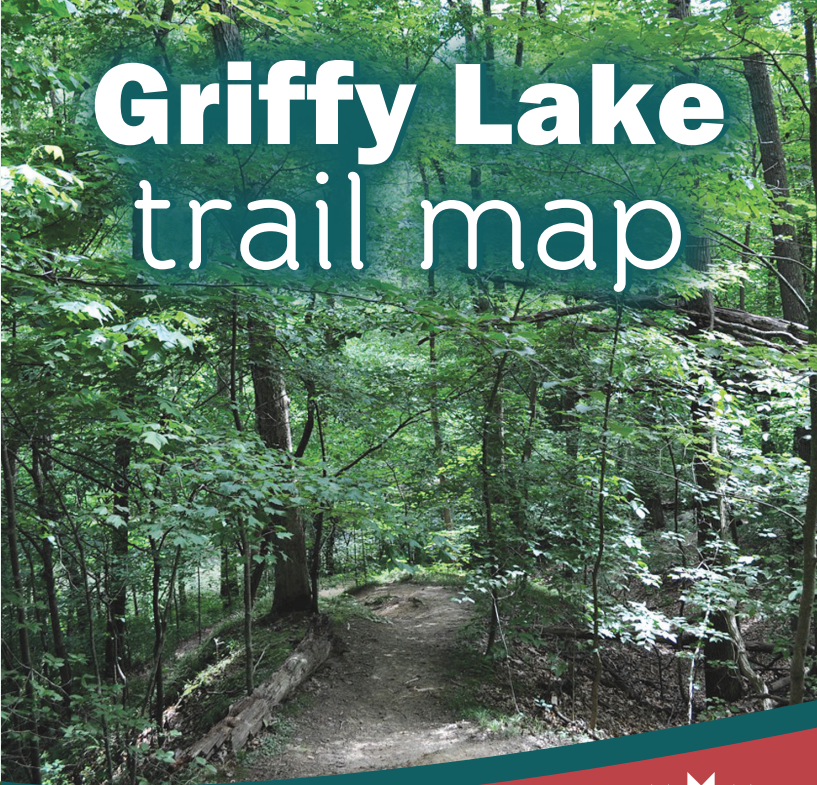
Griffy Lake Nature Preserve is home to several rare plant species and is considered one of the best remaining examples of mature upland forest in this area. Due to these unusual and fragile characteristics, as well as the scientific value of the land, this area has been set aside for preservation and protection.

To help protect the unique features and qualities of this natural area, some activities are prohibited, including horseback riding, mountain biking, off-road vehicles, dumping, military excursions, camping, campfires, and swimming.

The surface of the lake often freezes in winter with varying ice conditions that can be hazardous. The City of Bloomington assumes no responsibility for accidents resulting from individuals venturing onto the ice.



Griffy Lake trail map





City of Bloomington, IN - Parks and Recreation



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CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
Parks and Recreation

812-349-3700
bloomington.in.gov/parks



Great Outdoors Nature Programs—Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department natural resources staff plan a variety of programs and workshops, suitable for all ages, throughout the year. Inquire at the boathouse for a list of upcoming programs, or visit the Parks and Recreation Web site at bloomington.in.gov/parks. In addition, natural resources staff can plan a customized program or guided hike for your group. To plan a program with one of our qualified interpretive naturalists, call 812-349-3759.

Parking—A large gravel parking lot is located at the boathouse on Headley Road and at the dam on North Dunn Street. For the safety of Griffy Lake patrons and motorists, parking along Headley Road and Dunn Street is not permitted.

Picnic Area—Picnic tables are located around the boathouse. Grills are not provided. Grilling is permitted, but ground fires are prohibited. Separate trash and recycling receptacles are located around the boathouse.

Swimming—Swimming is prohibited for both humans and furry companions.

Boat, Canoe, Paddleboard and Kayak Rental—Available seasonally at the Griffy Lake boathouse. Call 812-349-3732 for information on rental rates, or to make boat rental reservations for a group. Privately owned, non-motorized watercraft (electric trolling motors only) may launch from the boat ramp just east of the boathouse. Boat owners must purchase a daily or seasonal launch permit in order to launch a boat at Griffy Lake when the boathouse is open.

Camping—Camping, ground fires, and overnight parking are not permitted at Griffy Lake.

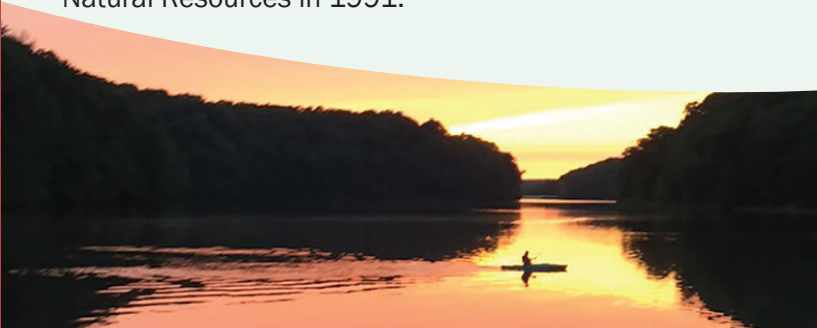
Dogs—Griffy Lake Nature Preserve is a protected area. Please protect wildlife, the highly erosive soils at Griffy Lake, and prevent injuries to your dog and other people, by keeping your dog on leash at all times.

Fishing—Adults 18 yrs. and up must have a valid Indiana fishing license to fish at Griffy Lake. Common fish species at Griffy Lake include bluegill, largemouth bass, redear, black crappie, and channel catfish.

History

Bloomington Water Company originated in 1923 with the intent to build a dam on Griffy Creek to ease periodic water shortages caused by leaking reservoirs on the west side of Bloomington. The dam was constructed in 1924 and with it, Griffy Lake was born. By 1934, the City of Bloomington acquired ownership of the water treatment plant located adjacent to Griffy Lake and much of the surrounding property.

In 1995, the Griffy Lake Water Treatment Plant was decommissioned; however, Griffy Lake remains as a back-up water supply to the City of Bloomington. The nature preserve was formed from more than 45 property acquisitions which occurred between 1922 and 2019. In total, the Griffy Lake Nature Preserve covers 1,220 acres including the 109-acre Griffy Lake. The southwest portion of the property was designated a state nature preserve by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in 1991.



Activities and Facilities

Boathouse—The Griffy Lake boathouse is open seasonally. Boathouse hours are usually weekends in April and October, and daily from May through September. Call the boathouse at (812) 349-3732 for specific hours of operation. Restrooms are available when the boathouse is open.

Walking on the road to reach the trailhead. Steep slopes, narrow pathways, and rock outcrops make the East North Shore Loop Trail the most rugged trail at Griffy Lake. Please stay on the trail when hiking in the area.

West North Shore Loop Trail—1 mile

This looping trails begins and ends at Griffy Lake dam. At the top of the dam the trail splits off to the left from the main trail. Sections of the trail explore upland forest habitat before dipping down into a creek bottom to rejoin the proposed Griffy Loop Trail.

Proposed Griffy Loop Trail—5.7 miles

A collection of trails explore Griffy Lake's state dedicated nature preserve area. A couple of the trails connect to the IU Teaching and Research Preserve trail system.

Hiking Trails

There are several hiking trails, ranging in difficulty from easy to rugged, at Griffy Lake Nature Preserve. Please respect the fragile environment of Griffy by remaining on marked trails. Dogs and other pets must remain on a leash at all times while in the nature preserve. Mountain biking, horseback riding, and off-road vehicles are strictly prohibited.

Hiking is a healthy activity that all ages can enjoy. On average, a 150 lb. person burns approximately

- 200 calories for every 30 minutes of hiking and
- 450 calories for every 60 minutes of hiking.

Nature Trail—0.5 mile

This self-guided trail begins across the road from the boathouse restrooms. It is an easy, loop trail with moderate slopes.

Hiking Trail—1.7 miles

This trail starts and ends with steep slopes; however, most of the trail is on a relatively flat ridgetop. Views along the trail include valleys, upland forest, and occasional glimpses of the lake. The trail starts across the park entrance road from the boathouse and ends at the east end of the boathouse parking lot.

Griffy Creek Trail—1.5 miles

This non-looping trail begins at the east end of the boathouse parking lot and follows the north branch of Griffy Creek. Views along the walk include the creek and the forested valley.

Lanam Trail—0.6 miles

This linear trail begins at the end of Lanam Road and extends to the Griffy Creek Trail. The trail provides views of the forest, and parallels sections of the north and middle forks of Griffy Creek.

Cascades Park Trail—1.2 miles

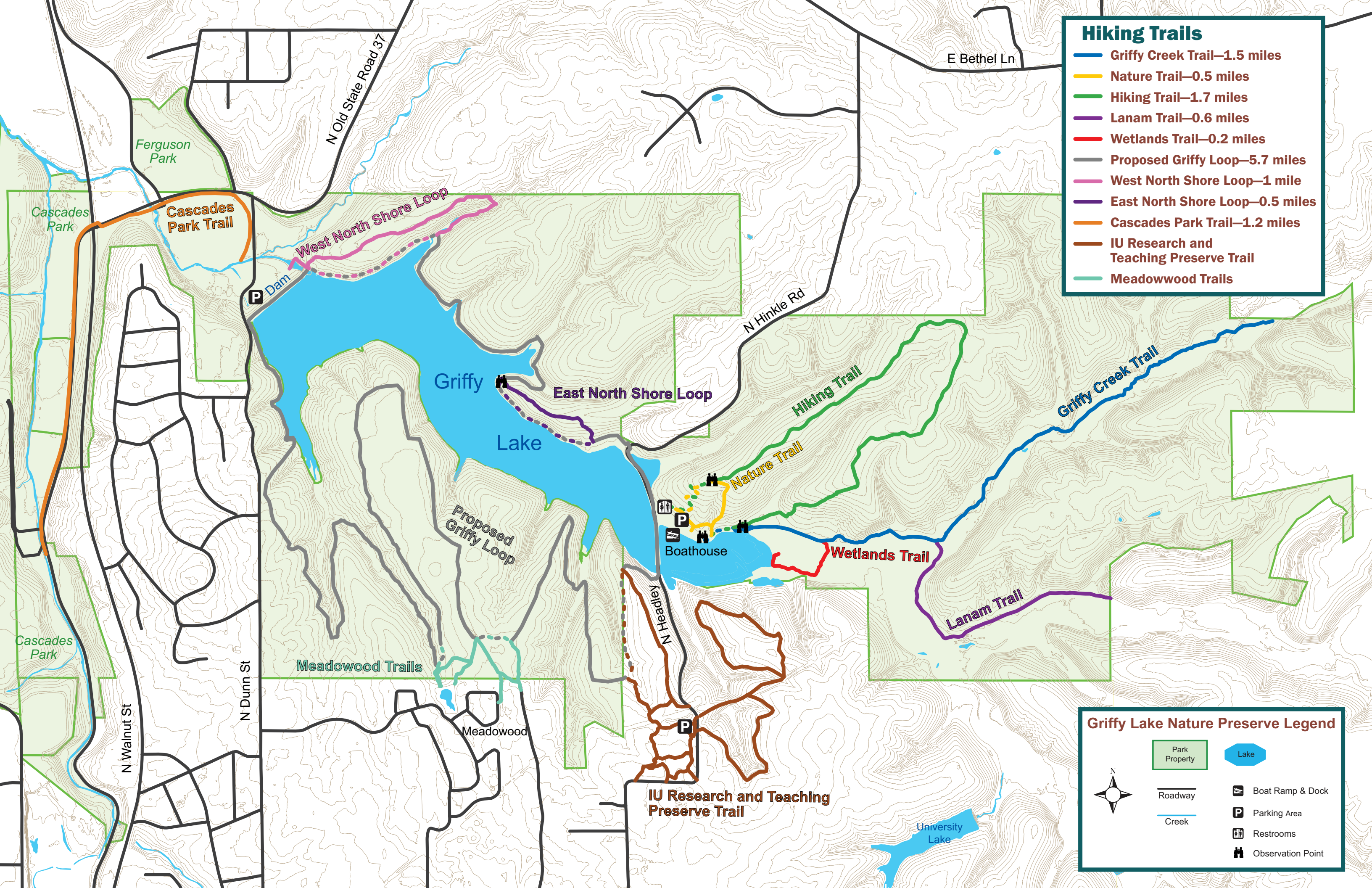
This paved, accessible, linear trail connects Lower Cascades Park to the intersection of Stone Mill Rd. and North Old State Road 37 that leads to the Ferguson Dog Park. The trail continues toward Griffy Lake and ends near the old filtration station.

Wetland Trail—0.2 miles

The Wetland Trail is an easy, non-looping trail, but it is seasonally wet. Please respect the fragile nature of this area by staying on the trail. The Wetland Trail begins at the Griffy Creek trailhead.

East North Shore Loop Trail—0.5 miles

This trail begins along the proposed Griffy Loop Trail, northwest of the boathouse. Please use care when



Hiking Trails

- Griffy Creek Trail—1.5 miles
- Nature Trail—0.5 miles
- Hiking Trail—1.7 miles
- Lanam Trail—0.6 miles
- Wetlands Trail—0.2 miles
- Proposed Griffy Loop—5.7 miles
- West North Shore Loop—1 mile
- East North Shore Loop—0.5 miles
- Cascades Park Trail—1.2 miles
- IU Research and Teaching Preserve Trail
- Meadowwood Trails

Griffy Lake Nature Preserve Legend



Boat Ramp & Dock

Parking Area

Restrooms

Observation Point