

Griffy Lake Nature Preserve

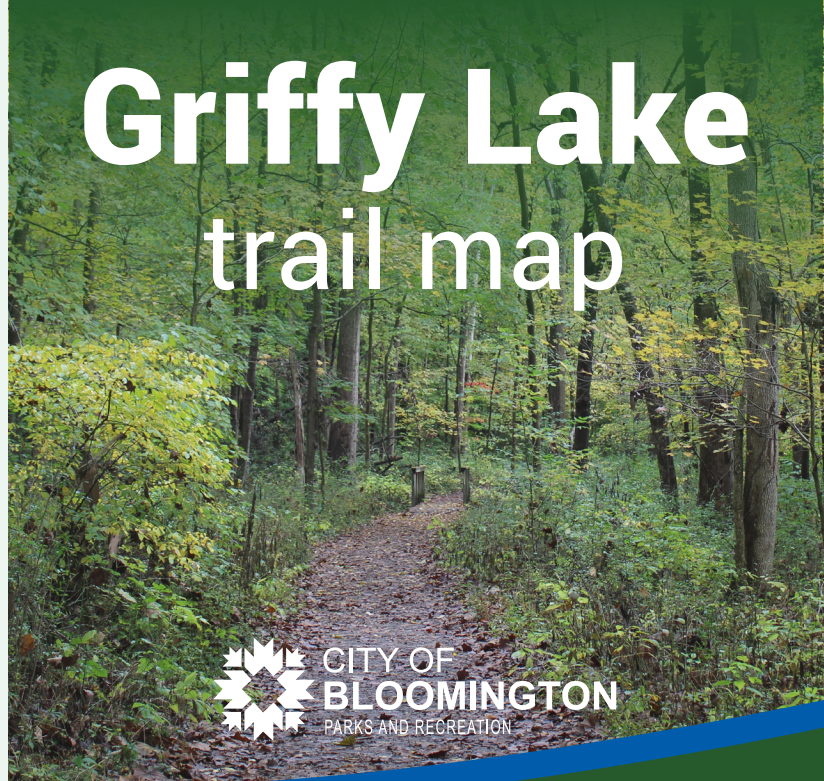
Griffy Lake Nature Preserve is home to several rare plant species and is considered one of the best remaining examples of mature upland forest in this area. Due to these unusual and fragile characteristics, as well as the scientific value of the land, this area is managed for preservation and protection.

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



btownparks
City of Bloomington, IN - Parks and Recreation
BloomingtonParks
Find us on OuterSpatial.

Use your smartphone's QR reader to access our Web site. 812-349-3700
bloomington.in.gov/griffylake



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.



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 boosts mental health by reducing stress and anxiety while enhancing mood. Physically, it improves cardiovascular fitness and strengthens muscles, promoting overall well-being. All trails are natural (dirt) unless otherwise indicated.

Nature Trail—0.5 mile

This self-guided trail begins across the road north of the boathouse. It is a loop trail with moderate slopes and a natural surface.

Hiking Trail—1.7 miles

This loop 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. Access this trail across the park entrance road from the boathouse, or at the east end of the boathouse parking lot.

largemouth bass, redear, black crapple, and channel catfish. Four bumpouts with limestone fine surface are located along the Griffy Causeway Trail to provide fishing access to the lake.

Great Outdoors Nature Programs—Bloomington Parks and Recreation 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 website 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—Gravel parking lots are located at the boathouse on Headley Road and at the dam on North Dunn Street. Three accessible parking spaces are located immediately east of the boathouse. For the safety of Griffy Lake patrons and motorists, parking along Headley Road and Dunn Street is not permitted. A bike rack is located next to the boathouse.

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

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

Canoe, Paddleboard and Kayak Rental—Available seasonally at the Griffy Lake boathouse. Call 812-349-3732 for information on rental rates. To make boat rental reservations for a group, email griffy.boathouse@bloomington.in.gov. Privately owned, non-motorized watercraft (electric trolling motors only) may launch from the boat ramp east of the boathouse. A daily or seasonal launch permit is required to launch a boat at Griffy Lake. Permits may be purchased when the boathouse is open.

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

Dogs—Griffy Lake Nature Preserve is a protected area. Please protect wildlife and 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. Be a responsible pet owner and pick up your pet's waste.

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,

West North Shore Loop Trail—1 mile
This trail begins and ends at the Griffy Lake dam. At the top of the dam the trail splits off to the north from the main trail. Sections of the trail explore upland forest habitat before dipping into a creek bottom to rejoin the Griffy Loop Trail.

Griffy Loop Trail—5.7 miles
A collection of trails explore Griffy Lake's state dedicated nature preserve area. Some trails connect to the IU Teaching and Research Preserve trail system. The Griffy Loop Trail on the south side of Griffy Lake was completed in 2023. Plans are underway to improve trails on the North Shore.

Griffy Causeway Trail—2.5 miles
Part of the Griffy Loop Trail with limestone fine surface. Paved ramp to fishing access.

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. All gender, vault-style restrooms are available when the boathouse is open.

Griffy Creek Trail—1.5 miles
This linear 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 branches off from the Griffy Creek Trail and ends at the park boundary. 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, paved
This trail connects the Griffy Loop Trail trailhead at the Griffy Lake dam to the intersection of Stone Mill Road and North Old State Road 37 that leads to the Ferguson Dog Park. The trail continues south to Lower Cascades Park and Clubhouse Drive.

Wetland Trail—0.2 miles
The Wetland Trail is a level, linear trail that is seasonally wet. The Wetland Trail begins at the Griffy Creek Trail trailhead.

East North Shore Loop Trail—0.5 miles
This trail begins along the Griffy Loop Trail northwest of the boathouse. Steep slopes, narrow pathways, and rock outcrops make the East North Shore Loop Trail the most rugged trail at Griffy Lake.

Hiking Trails - all are natural (dirt) surface trails unless otherwise indicated

-  Griffy Creek Trail—1.5 mi.
-  Nature Trail—0.5 mi.
-  Hiking Trail—1.7 mi.
-  Griffy Loop Trail—6.7 mi.
-  West North Shore Loop—1 mi.
-  East North Shore Loop—1.4 mi.
-  Wetland Trail—0.2 mi.
-  Meadowood Trails
-  IU Research and Teaching Preserve Trails
-  Lanam Trail—0.6 mi.
-  Griffy Causeway Trail—.25 mi. limestone fine surface
-  Cascades Park Trail—1.2 mi. paved

