

# Tekakwitha Woods Forest Preserve and Nature Center

“In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous.” - Aristotle

## Nature Trails

A network of foot trails extends through the oak-hickory woodland, forested ravines, and along the Fox River. Each season affords enjoyable walking and wildlife viewing. Spring boasts wildflowers and migrating songbirds. In summer, enjoy cool shade along the wooded trails. Autumn brings splendid colors in the forest and prairie. The stark beauty of winter is evident in the snow-covered landscape.



## Nature Center

Tekakwitha Woods Nature Center features natural history exhibits for all ages. The Fox River diorama is the main attraction and allows the visitors an underwater experience without getting wet. The Illinois prairie is celebrated in the bison display. A children’s discovery corner, activity center, and a wildlife observation area are other highlights. Environmental educators and scout leaders may access our library of curriculum loan materials.



## Programs

Public programs include events for all ages. Naturalist-guided tours and field trips are available year-round. Group programs are offered for schools, scouts and other organizations. We provide assistance in planning self-guided nature programs as well. Program information is available at (847) 741-8350 or on our web site: [www.co.kane.il.us/forest](http://www.co.kane.il.us/forest)

## Hours of Operation

The trails at Tekakwitha Woods are open to the public every day of the year from 8:00 a.m. until sunset. The Nature Center is open during the following hours:

**April 1- November 30:**  
**Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**  
**Saturday, Sunday, 12 noon - 4 p.m.**  
**Closed Friday**

**December 1 - March 31:**  
**Monday, Wednesday, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, Thursday, by appointment**  
**Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.**  
**Closed Friday**



## Volunteers

Volunteers add an exciting dimension to the activities at Tekakwitha Woods. Whether it's assisting with school field trips, scout programs, woodland birthdays, habitat restoration, or special events, volunteering is a rewarding experience. For information about volunteer opportunities, call the Volunteer Coordinator at (847) 741-9798.

## History of Tekakwitha Woods

This 65-acre parcel of land at the "big bend" of the Fox River is rich in cultural and natural history. The property was once part of the private recreation area called Five Island Park. The nature center building was originally a dance pavilion. The historic McGuire House belonged to Father Hugh McGuire of St. James parish in Chicago. McGuire bequeathed the house and adjacent land to the Sisters of Mercy in 1908. The sisters owned and managed the property as a retreat center for many years. The Forest Preserve District of Kane County purchased the property in 1990. At the request of the Sisters of Mercy, the forest preserve was named "Tekakwitha" in honor of the first Native American woman to be considered for sainthood.

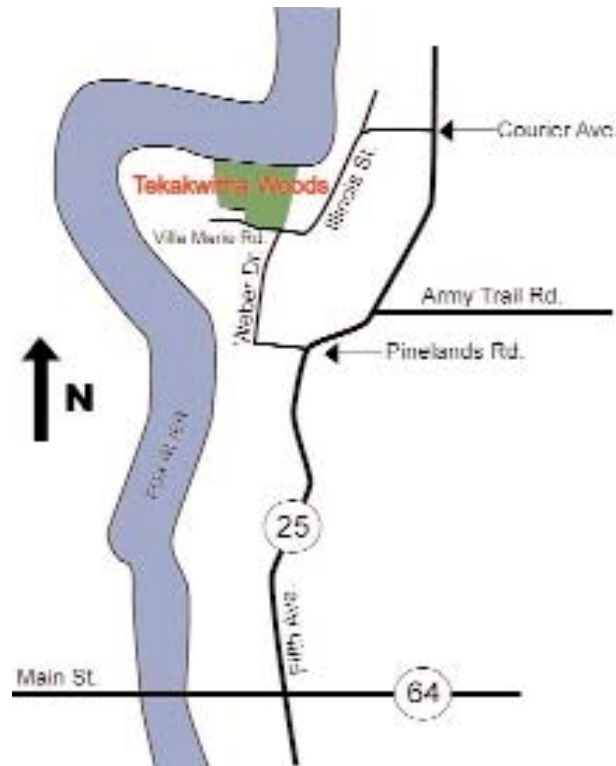
## Where is Tekakwitha Woods?

### From the south:

Take Route 25 to Pinelands Rd. Turn west and continue to Weber Dr. Turn north (right) and continue to Villa Marie Rd. Cross Villa Marie Rd. into parking lot.

### From the north:

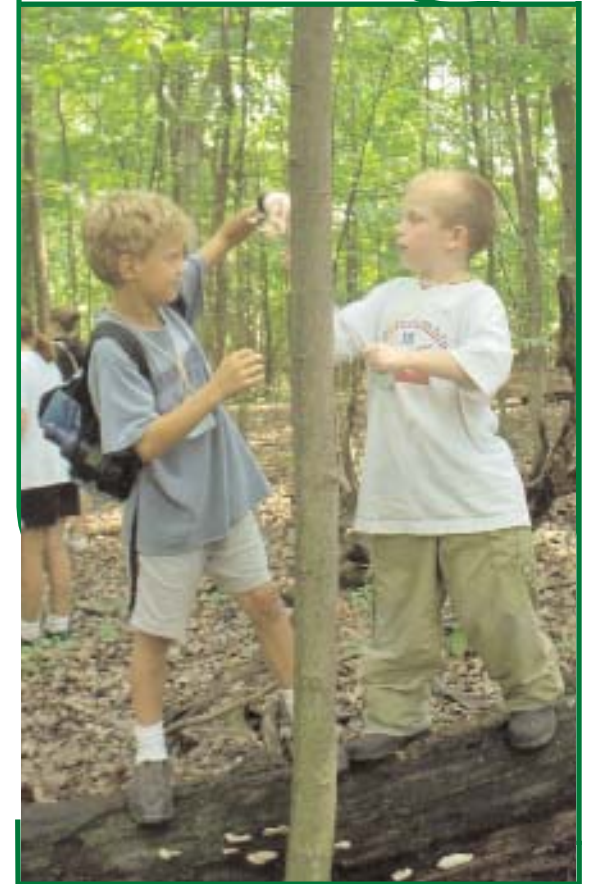
Take Route 25 to Courier Ave. Turn west on Courier Ave. and go to Illinois Street. Turn south (left) on Illinois St. Take to Villa Marie Rd. Turn west (right) on to Villa Marie Rd., then north (right) at District sign into parking lot.



Call (847) 741-8350 for further directions.

Tekakwitha Woods and Nature Center  
35W076 Villa Marie Road  
St. Charles, IL 60174

## TEKAKWITHA WOODS & NATURE CENTER



KANE COUNTY FOREST  
PRESERVE DISTRICT