Thank you for visiting JDCF's partner preserve, the Witkowsky State Wildlife Area.

JDCF is a non-profit land conservancy that works in Jo Daviess County, IL to help preserve this unique and beautiful part of the Midwest.

Because Jo Daviess County does not have a forest preserve district to protect and make available parks and recreation areas, JDCF provides this service to our community. We currently have over 1,000 acres open where the public can enjoy outdoor activities for free. JDCF also partners with like-minded entities such as the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to provide additional outdoor public spaces.

JDCF is only able to do this work through the support of individuals such as you. Annual membership begins at just $50.00 for you and your entire family! Visit www.jdcf.org and join today.


JO DAVIESS CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Preserving Land - Now & Forever

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# WITKOWSKY STATE WILDLIFE AREA

**A PARTNER PRESERVE OF THE JO DAVIESS CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**

# Visitors Guide

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JO DAVIESS CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

4518 S Blackjack Rd, Hanover, IL 61041

## Welcome!

Welcome to the Witkowsky State Wildlife Area, a partner preserve of the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JDCF). This 1,100-acre property is owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and managed with the help of the Friends of Witkowsky volunteer group, an affiliate of JDCF. This project was made possible by JDCF's Friends of Witkowsky volunteer group, ongoing support from the Witkowsky family, an Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation amenity grant, and Galena Country Tourism. We also thank planning, maintenance, and scientific staff from the IDNR for their technical and "boots on the ground" assistance with the project.

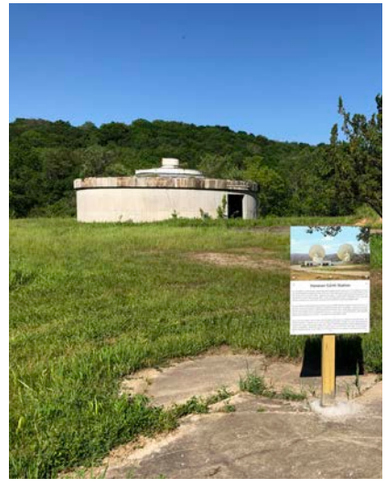
## Preserve Rules:

The Witkowsky State Wildlife Area is open daily dawn to dusk. The trails are closed to hikers during firearms hunting seasons. Hunting season dates are posted at the kiosks near all parking areas. To ensure the preservation of the site, the following activities are **NEVER** allowed:

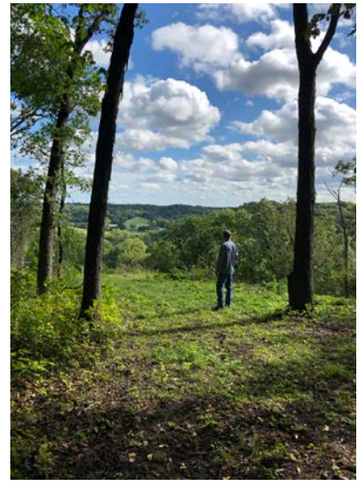
- littering
- fires
- camping
- biking
- dogs off leash
- access after dusk

## What will I see?

There are over 10 miles of trails for you to discover at this scenic property. Mowed trails wind through prairies, into deep forests with unique rock out-croppings, over shallow streams, and to a lookout with a stunning view of the surrounding countryside. There are even remnants of Hanover Earth Station to be explored.



Hanover Earth Station



Prairie Point Overlook

Signage on the Cedar Trail

# WITKOWSKY STATE WILDLIFE AREA

## OPEN DAILY DAWN TO DUSK - TRAILS CLOSED DURING POSTED HUNTING SEASONS

### A Family's Vision:

Over three decades have passed since Jack and Iris Witkowsky made the decision to donate 400 acres of their 510-acre farm to the IDNR as a leadership gift towards the creation of the Witkowsky State Wildlife Area. The family purchased the farm in 1965 and had spent many wonderful holidays, weekends, and summer vacations there. After years of enjoyment, it was their wish that others could experience this amazing property as they had. Donating it to the State for use as a wildlife area open to public use seemed like the best way to reach this goal.

"My parents had two stipulations for the donation. One, the State would need to expand the wildlife area by purchasing adjoining land and two, establish and maintain a trail system," said Jack & Iris' s daughter, Anne. "The State did make good on the first part as the property is now over 1,000 acres but was challenged with the second."

### A Public/Private Partnership:

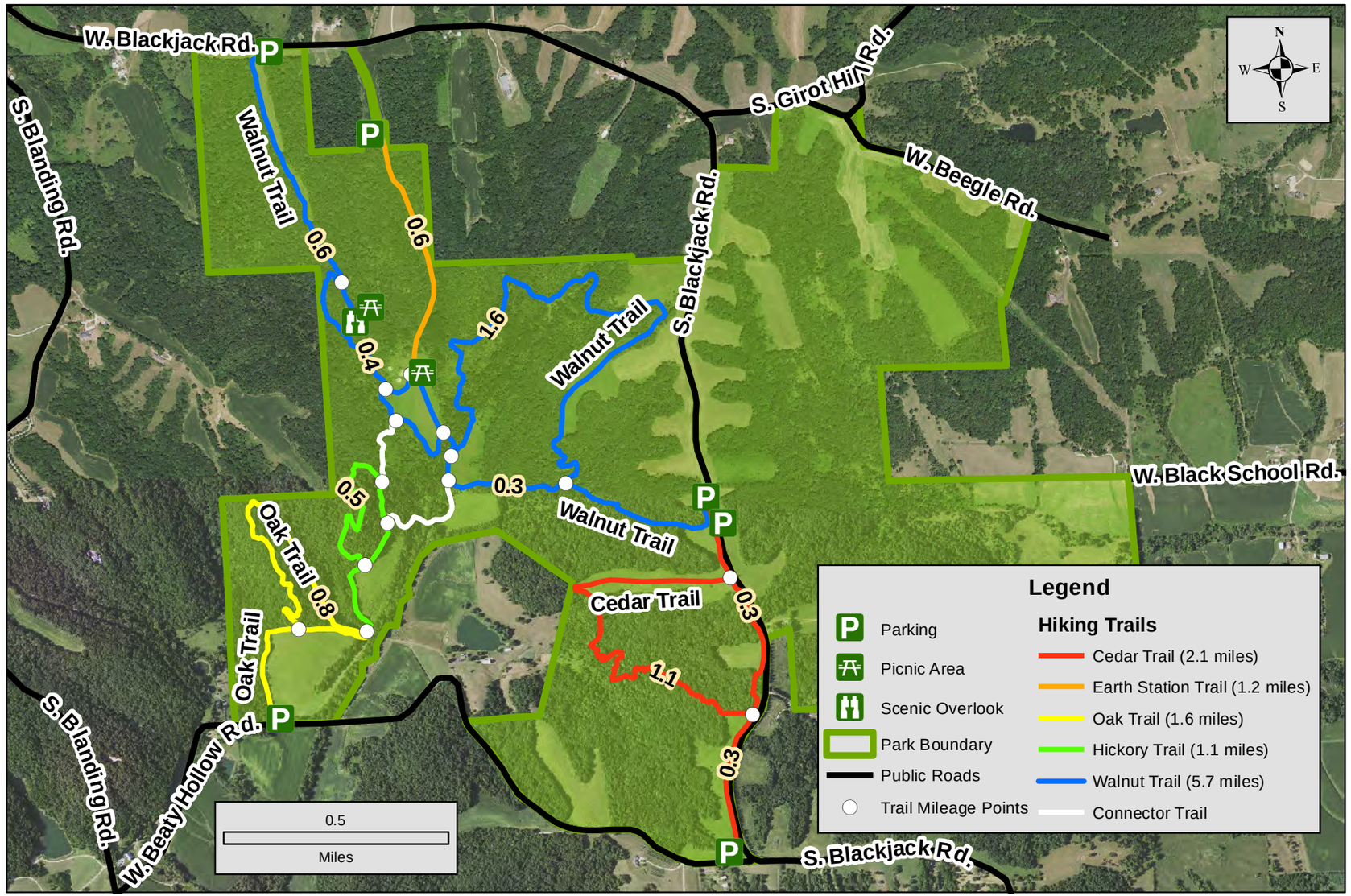
Fast forward to 2012. Local residents approached JDCF with the idea of forming a friends group to tackle the trails project at the Wildlife Area. JDCF agreed since public access to natural areas is part of its mission. After negotiating an agreement with the IDNR, the Friends of Witkowsky got to work and have since donated thousands of hours towards the creation and maintenance of the trail system here today.

### How can I get more involved?

There are a number of volunteer opportunities available.

- Conduct citizen science surveys.
- Join the Friends of Witkowsky volunteer group.
- Make a financial contribution to public amenities at the site.

Please contact info@jdcf.org for more information about volunteering and/or contributing.




Map created by Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation, 06-10-20
Property boundary markers in the field supercede boundaries displayed on this map.

Basemap: Orthographic Imagery, 08-02-20 and 08-09-20
Source: USDA Service Center Agencies