

Burnham Nature Sanctuary is located between the Metra train tracks on the west and Lake Shore Drive on the east. After passing through the entrance, there are three choices for exploring the site. First, a chip-path on the left leads through a woodland **2** that is used by migrating birds in spring and fall. Columbine can be found blooming here in May and early June.

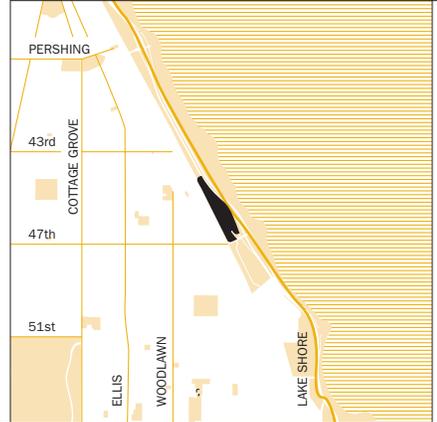
The second choice is a paved path to the right that goes to a boardwalk. The boardwalk meanders through a hill and swale grassland **1** and onto a paved path under the canopy of large honey locusts stretching east and west across the middle of the sanctuary.

The third option is to continue straight ahead on a paved path that passes a native butterfly garden. This is the original path. It continues north between the woodland and grassland, under the tree canopy, then around a large loop. On the north end of the loop there is a tall mesic prairie

planting rich with compass plant, cup plant, sunflowers and other characteristic wildflowers of Illinois prairies. On the south end, there is a young oak savanna with bur and swamp white oaks. Both the boardwalk path and the paved loop path have benches for resting and for nature observation.

The restoration began in 1998 with tree planting, woodland seeding and prairie seeding mostly at the north end. In 2002, three and a half acres of prairie were planted and the boardwalk was constructed. Management work by volunteers and the Chicago Park District is ongoing. The ten acre-site is slowly being restored by controlling invasive plants while introducing native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses. The site is an important link along the lakefront that provides habitat for migratory birds.

BURNHAM PARK—  
BURNHAM NATURE SANCTUARY



**Burnham Park—  
Burnham Nature Sanctuary**



ADDRESS 4700 S Lake Shore Dr  
OWNER Chicago Park District  
ACREAGE 11.78

HABITATS  
**1** Prairie / Grassland  
**2** Forest / Woodland

DIRECTIONS Exit Lake Shore Drive at 47th Street. Go west, and at the first traffic light at Cornell, turn right into a parking lot. Park at the farthest end of the lot, and enter by the sign for the prairie.