

GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

Visitors are asked to stay on the trails for their own safety and to prevent damage to the plants.

Poison ivy is abundant in the woods and prairie.

Please respect this as a home for native plants and animals. Removal or destruction of any material, plant or animal, is prohibited.
Please keep pets leashed.

Adams Wildlife Sanctuary is owned and operated by Illinois Audubon Society.

You can support Adams by becoming a member of Illinois Audubon or by making a charitable contribution. Visit our website for membership and donation information at illinoisaudubon.org.

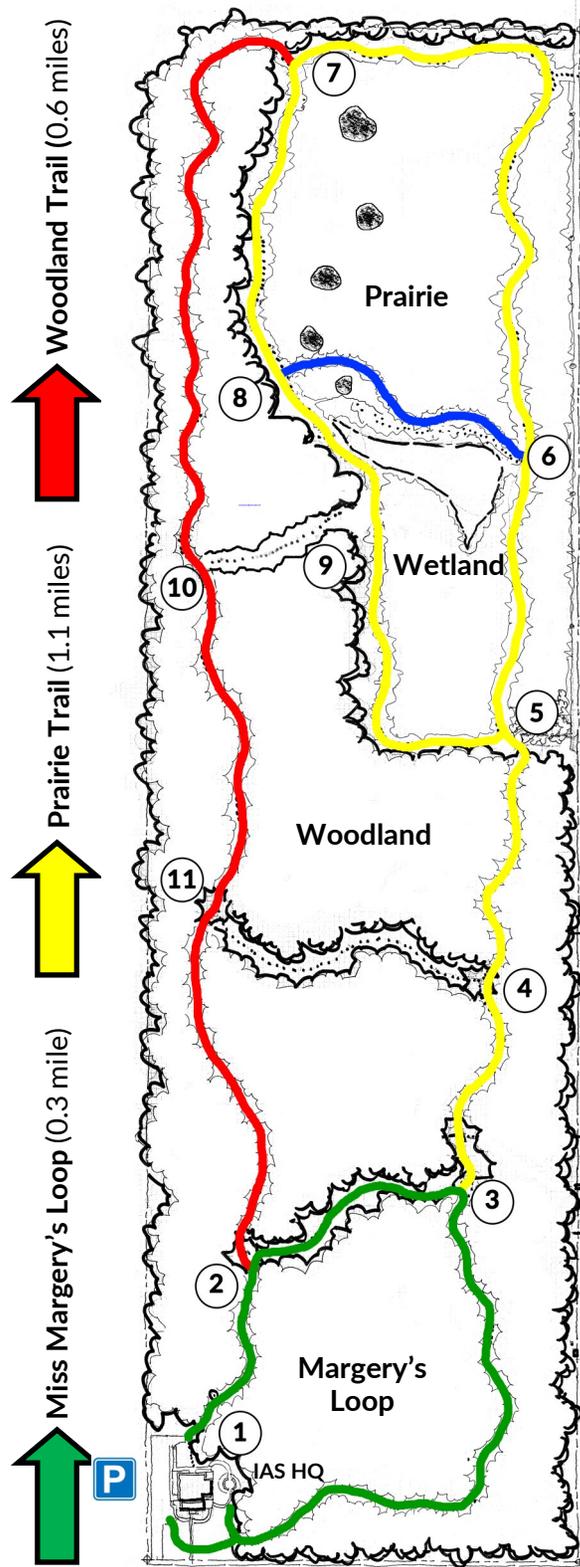
Mailing address:

Illinois Audubon Society

PO Box 2547, Springfield, Illinois 62708
217.544.2473

If you would like to volunteer at Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, please contact us at 217.544.2473 or ias@illinoisaudubon.org.

*Thank you for visiting.
Enjoy our trails throughout the year.*



Information & Trail Guide

ADAMS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



Illinois Audubon Society
PO Box 2547 | Springfield IL | 62708
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illinoisaudubon.org

Welcome to Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, a 40-acre wildlife sanctuary with woodlands, wetlands and prairie.

Illinois Audubon Society Headquarters and Historic House

The house and property were purchased in 1859 by Margery Adams's grandfather. Her parents moved onto the property in 1894 and Margery was born in 1897. When her father died, the farming on the property ceased; her mother and aunt lived in the house until they died. Margery lived alone until she died in 1983.

She cared about the animals on the property and donated it to the Illinois Audubon Society. In 2008, Illinois Audubon moved their headquarters to the site with a new facility complementing the original house.



Margery Adams (1897-1983)

Wildlife at Adams

There have been 80 species of migratory and non-migratory birds documented in the sanctuary. The woods have been home to coyotes, red foxes, raccoons, opossums, tree squirrels, ground squirrels, white-tailed deer, four kinds of frogs and five kinds of snakes.

Woodlands

After years of neglect, management of invasive species is the main stewardship activity. Invasive species are species that were introduced, either by accident or on purpose, and have not evolved within this particular ecosystem.

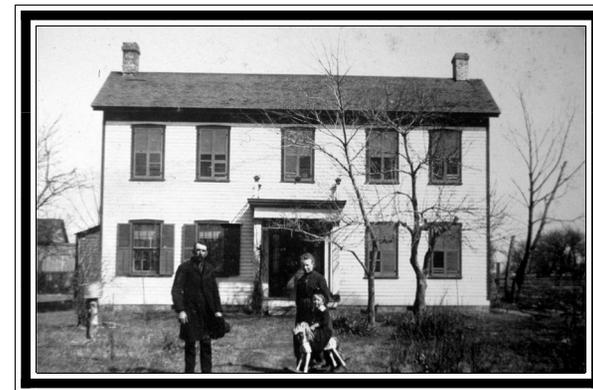
Native plants are often out competed as the invasives absorb all the nutrients and sunlight in the ecosystem. The brush piles you see will eventually decay and disappear, but meanwhile, provide food and shelter for many birds, insects, and mammals.

Native Trees, Shrubs, and Wildflowers

Where the invasives have been removed, native understory plants have come back. We now find eastern wahoo, coralberry, spicebush, arrowwood and elderberry. Wildflowers (bluebells, Dutchman's breeches, trillium, green dragons, Jack-in-the-pulpits, mayapples, Solomon's seal) have also returned.

Restored Prairie

The Adams prairie is a restored prairie. It was farmed until the 1980's. In 2009 Friends of Sangamon Valley helped remove invasive trees and the area was seeded with native grasses and forbs. In the summer you may see bluebirds, indigo buntings, tree swallows, and many butterflies, skippers, and dragonflies.



Wetlands

A wetland is an area that is part land and part water and in which water is the controlling environmental factor. It helps filter nutrients and helps with flood control. Adams Wildlife Sanctuary has five ephemeral pools. Wetlands provide habitat for birds, insects, reptiles and amphibians.

Gardens

Around the building volunteers have planted three pollinator gardens with native plants. Near the trailhead is a demonstration garden using prairie plants. In the front garden, woodland plants grow in the shade. By the building are more prairie plants.

Seasons at Adams Wildlife Sanctuary

In spring there are emerging wildflowers, migrating birds and breeding bird songs. In summer, the prairie starts to bloom, the woods are lush, and fireflies come out at dusk. In fall, the leaves of the understory plants turn beautiful pink, red and orange. The prairie turns golden.

Enjoy the trails at Margery Adams Wildlife Sanctuary. Trails are open dawn to dusk year-round.