

In the late 1970s, the agency then known as the Illinois Department of Conservation (now the Department of Natural Resources) undertook an ambitious survey to find the very best remnants of nature that still survived in Illinois. Less than 1/10 of one percent of Illinois was found unplowed, uncut, or not developed or used. Within the City of Chicago, at the time only two sites were recognized as being of high enough ecological quality to qualify for inclusion as a site on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory, and Edgebrook was one of them. (Site 64, p. 104, Powderhorn Marsh and Prairie, on the far south border of the city, was the other.)

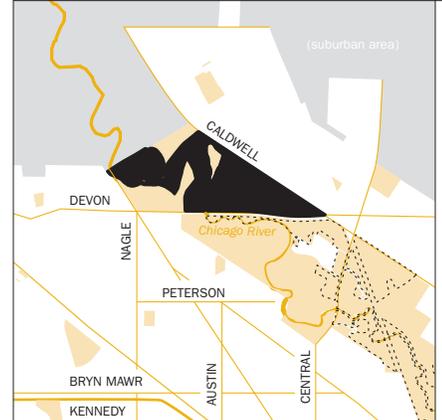
Edgebrook stands out as one of the city's most spectacular example of a native forest community. The "flatwoods," a type of natural community characterized by a layer of clay and damp spring conditions, are dominated by red maple and pin oak. It is the best place in the city to go to see spring wildflowers; in mid to late-April, the woodland floor is blanketed with spring beauties, trout lilies, and trillium.

Its richness is compounded by the fact that it doesn't exist alone, but is part of a larger complex of open prairie and oak savanna and oak woodland. On the north edge of the site, the woods become progressively more open until giving way to the open terrain of Bunker Hill Prairie (site 98, p. 36). If one were to keep going beyond these sites, there would be still more oak woods and occasional high quality natural areas all along the North Branch of the Chicago River; the Forest Preserve District of Cook County has extensive holdings up into Northbrook and Glencoe.

Two scenic ravines stretch into the flatwoods from the river on the area's western border.

EDGEBROOK FLATWOODS
FOREST PRESERVE

Site No. 22



6800 NORTH / 6000 WEST



**Edgebrook Flatwoods
Forest Preserve**

No. 22



ADDRESS 6800 N Caldwell Ave
OWNER Forest Preserve District of Cook County
ACREAGE 138.72

HABITATS
 1 2 3 Forest / Woodland
 4 5 Riparian / Water Edge
 6 7 Prairie / Grassland
 8 Wetland
 9 Savanna

Edgebrook Flatwoods Forest Preserve

DIRECTIONS The southeast corner of the site is at the intersection of Caldwell and Devon. Find street parking nearby, or park in the forest preserve lot a few blocks north and take a short walk south along the bike path, past Bunker Hill Prairie on the way. This parking lot is launching point for the 20-mile long North Branch Bike Trail.

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

100 Feet