Nearby communities such as Forest Glen and Indian Woods have identity signs tying their residential neighborhoods to the forest preserves that surround them. This is an area where streets dead-end into large natural areas like Indian Road and Edgebrook Golf Course Woods. The area lies just west of the floodplain forest of the Chicago River (see Edgebrook Flatwoods, p. 56).

Directly after entering the forest preserve off of Central Avenue is an area where one can access the river. It’s a forested trail that plunges steeply straight down to the water. It’s one part of a long network of protected land that starts in Chicago and continues into suburban Cook County and on into Lake County.

At the end of the parking lots, there is a prairie growing in an old baseball field. Blazing star, obedient plant, yellow coneflowers, bee balm, and cup plant bloom here in mid-summer; some of the plants were reintroduced as part of restoration work. Weedy plants like white sweet clover and Queen Anne’s lace are also present.

Beyond the prairie lie the woods, which are reasonably open in the understory though the quality of the vegetation is not high. Notes from early land surveyors suggest that in presettlement times, brushy prairie and oak savanna would have dominated surrounding areas. The woodlands directly southeast of the former ball field offer a spring display of wild hyacinth and false Solomon’s seal.