

LaBagh Woods **14 15 16** is characterized by large oaks, hickories, and maples, with a mix of closed canopies and small areas that are more open. Much of the preserve near parking lots is mowed picnic areas. Large open-grown red oaks and bur oaks can be seen along the Chicago River bluffs while swamp white oaks can be found in the far northeast.

Sauganash Prairie Grove **1** to **13** is part of the La Bagh Woods complex, and is marked as such on Chicago maps. This area has its own distinct identity, however, as it is characterized by open oak woodland and areas of wet prairie. "Here one feels the wet, wooded, lowland soul of Chicago better than anywhere else," writes naturalist Ray Wiggers. (*Chicago Wilderness Magazine*, "Classic Prairie Restorations." Summer, 2000.)

Though other types of oaks are present within the general preserve, the best quality wet savanna and prairie are found in an area of swamp white oaks in the northeast corner of the site **10** to **13**.

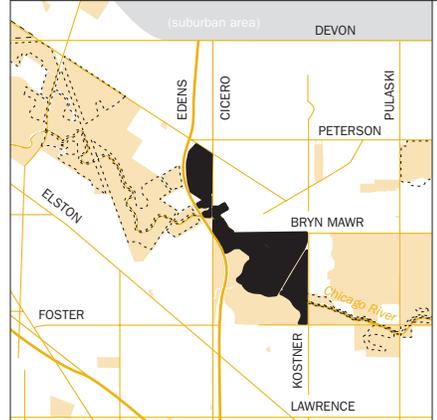
Walk south into the preserve along the wide trail found between Kilbourn and Kenneth Streets. An area of brushy woods gives way to a woodland of

more open character. In the spring false solomon's seal and other wildflowers will be in bloom.

The path leads to the river. Unlike other areas along the Chicago River farther south where the bank is pitched so steeply that access is treacherous, here there is a natural terracing downward along low but distinct bluffs.

Follow the wide path along the top of the bluff to the left, and then left again on another smaller path, and you will find yourself in one of the openings amidst the woods. Sedge meadow and wet prairie can be found in here **4**. In mid-summer, rattlesnake master blooms next to the purple plumes of liatris. Swamp saxifrage, cord-grass, bluejoint grass, tuberous Indian plantain, and turtlehead are all found here.

An infestation of brush and purple loosestrife are closing in on the prairie at the time of this being written; the area is being managed by the Forest Preserve District as a mosaic of open savanna, woodland, floodplain forest, marsh and sedge meadow.



LaBagh Woods and Sauganash Prairie Forest Preserve



ADDRESS 5200 N Kilbourn Ave
 OWNER Forest Preserve District of Cook County
 ACREAGE 103.25

- HABITATS
- 1 3 8 9** Forest / Woodland
 - 15 16** Riparian / Water Edge
 - 2 5 6 7** Wetland
 - 14** Savanna
 - 4 13** Prairie / Grassland
 - 10 11**
 - 12**

DIRECTIONS For LaBagh Woods west sections, enter the forest preserve off of Cicero, north of Foster. The long access road provides parking along the edges. For Sauganash Prairie, from Cicero turn east onto Forest Glen. Forest Glen winds south and changes names, eventually turning onto Bryn Mawr Avenue. Park near Kilbourn or Kenneth Streets; the entrance is partway between the two.