

California Woods Nature Preserve

Location: In Hamilton County of SW Ohio, east of Cincinnati, off Kellogg Avenue between Lunken Airport and I-275.

Website: http://www.cincinnatiparks.com/index.php/california-woods

Driving Directions: From the I-275 / Kellogg Ave. exit just north of the Ohio River, go west (toward Cincinnati) on Kellogg Ave. Before crossing the Little Miami River or reaching Lunken Airport, look for a small park sign marking the park road on the right (NE) side of Kellogg Ave.

Hiking Trail Miles: 3.37 miles

Trail Features: It's a beautiful place to hike in a forest on all dirt trails. Trails are not well marked in places, but you can't get lost since they all loop and interconnect. Be prepared to climb hills because there is very little flat ground.

With 113 acres of forest, California Woods Nature Preserve offers something for all nature lovers, featuring 53 species of trees, more than 200 species of herbaceous plants, and Lick Run Creek, home to kingfishers, snapping turtles, small fish, myriad invertebrates and the occasional visit from grebes, mallards, wood ducks and beavers. The park is open dawn to dusk. Park is adjacent to the Magrish Preserve, a designated "Important Birding Area".

Dogs: Not allowed.

Other Activities: A picnic shelter is available. There is also a Nature Center but it is only open when there is a scheduled program. Its restrooms are only open on program days.

