

WELCOME TO BECKENHOLDT PARK

A 75 ACRE RETREAT

Beckenholdt Park is a peaceful getaway from the daily grind, even though it is located just off of Interstate 70. This little haven offers a variety of areas to explore and learn about natural processes and native plants. It includes prairie plantings, a unique feature to this area. The closest natural prairie starts near Griffith, Indiana, and heads westward.

In the late 1990's, a small group of concerned Greenfield Citizen's created PARCS, Inc. (the Park, Advocacy, Research, and Conservation Society) to promote the acquisition of park land for the City of Greenfield. In 1998, this land was optioned by the group, and by 2000 they had raised the funds to buy the 60.72 acre plot to donate to the City. Martha Beckenholdt was a significant contributor to the efforts and agreed to allow the park to be named after her family. In 2015, 15 additional acres were acquired through the Indiana Bicentennial Nature Trust and generous cooperation from surrounding property owners. This expanded the park by 25% and added a wetland and mature woods to the west.



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know there are over a dozen grass varieties in Beckenholdt Park? While we give little thought to native grasses today, early settlers noted lush green prairies and seas of grass as something to behold.

Home to six types of fescue and nine types of other grasses, there may just be more than meets the eye in the prairie areas of this park. Fescues, popularized as shade grasses, are able to host endophytes - something that is not common to all turfgrasses. Endophytes are a beneficial fungus that can aid the health of the turf.

Prairie plants are separated into three classes in the park: fescue, grasses, and forbs. Forbs are flowering plants other than grasses, and in this case include things like Compass Plant and Rattlesnake Master, as well as 41 other varieties. You read that right- there are a total of 43 types of forbs in Beckenholdt Park.

Look for a variety of additional learning opportunity signs posted around the park talking about the history of the area, ponds, wildlife, and more.



1

Indiana Native Tree Walk
Learn about dozens of trees native to Indiana. Our park is home to over 70 native trees. Look for the sign on the north side of this building for additional information.

2

Rover's Run Bark Park
Bark Park Members can enjoy the use of this two acre, fully-fenced play area for their four-legged friends. Passes can be purchased through the Parks Department.

3

Park Shelter & Fishing Pond
Enjoy a shaded picnic overlooking the fishing pond, or rent this shelter for your next event. Explore the pond area for stocked fishing and educational signs.

4

Native Planting Area
Walk along the paths and boardwalks to see a variety of grasses, plants, and wildlife. The trail around this area is just over a third of a mile.

5

Reforestation Learning
Take a stroll through the reforestation area to learn how Mother Nature reclaims an abandoned field and brings it back to a full forest.

6

Walking Trails and More
The outer loop trail around the park is nearly a mile in length. With a variety of mowed paths and interior trails, there are many ways to explore all the park has to offer.