

## Glacial Park Snowshoe Rental

Get out and hike in the winter wonderland. Once there is 5" of snow or more stop in the Lost Valley Visitor Center to rent a pair of snowshoes for just \$10 for the entire day! We have men's, women's, and children sizes available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Snowshoe rental hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (last rental at 2:30 p.m.) You will be required to leave a drivers' license and \$20 (cash only) deposit.



## Winter Camping

**December 1–March 31**

**Thomas Woods in Marengo Ridge, Marengo**

Take in the sights and sounds of the quiet, peaceful winter woods and sleep under crisp, star-filled skies. Hike the trails, follow animal tracks, bring your cross country skis or snowshoes and then stoke the campfire as you enjoy a steaming cup of hot chocolate.

Reservations are made online with a credit card for your group or exclusive use of the campground; accommodations for 1–100.

Fees: \$55 Residents / \$90 Non-Residents.

Note: when reserving online, reserve the Marengo Ridge Group Campground; Camping will actually be in the Thomas Woods area.



## Snowmobile

The Conservation District has over 17 miles of snowmobile trails in Glacial Park and along the Prairie Trail that connect with numerous County trails. Snowmobile trails are open in the winter after Dec. 10 when there is at least 4" of snowfall on frozen ground; 6" snow on unfrozen ground.

Call the Snowmobile Hotline for county snowmobile trail updates and classes: 815-334-SNOW.



## Ice Fishing

Winter Ice Fishing at Lake Atwood at The Hollows in Cary is fish at your own risk. Open/Closed Signs are not posted. Stay off ice that is less than 4" thick.



## Sites open Sunrise to Sunset.

### Note SEASONAL Closures

Many McHenry County Conservation District sites are open year-round for your enjoyment. However, weather and safety concerns often dictate the closing of certain areas beginning in October as well as closures during the hunting season. Most sites reopen April 1 of each year. Check the website for current conditions and updates.



*McHenry County*  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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# Winter Outdoor Activities



*McHenry County*  
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## Cross-Country Candlelight Ski



Both *Friday* and *Saturday* evenings from 5–9 p.m.  
3rd weekend of: **December | January | February**

Don't miss your chance to cross-country ski on trails lit only by candlelight! Skiers of every experience level and age are welcome, but you must bring your own equipment. Gather around the campfire for refreshments after your time out on the trail. Trails will be groomed for skiing if there is 4" of snow or more. No pets please.

**Not enough snow? Leave the skis at home and enjoy a candlelight hike**, some hot refreshments around a campfire and the allure of the winter woods. *Note: Check Before You Go, cancellations may occur due to weather (if trails are icy/hazardous or the wind chill drops below -20°) or staff emergencies. Check under Site Advisories at MCCDistrict.org.*

## Hike or Ski Solar Lighted Trails

**November–March**  
During Central Standard Time.

Trails close at 9 p.m.  
(Note: Check for hunting season weekend closures)

### Pleasant Valley

13315 Pleasant Valley Rd., Woodstock

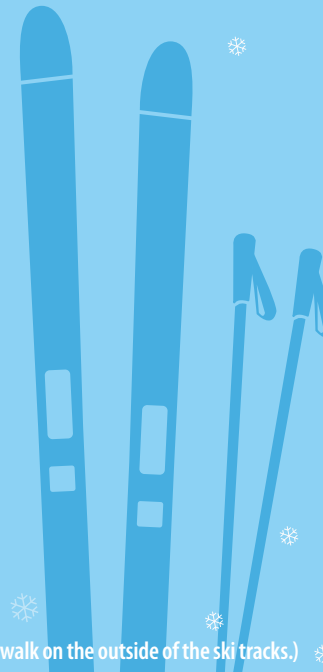
This half-mile looped trail located on the east side of the entrance drive is fairly flat terrain, perfect for beginners or shorter outings. Park in the first parking area and sign in.

### Hickory Grove Highlands

500 Hickory Nut Grove Lane, Cary

The 1.25 mile looped trail travels through a restored savanna, offering a longer scenic route suitable for intermediate skiers. Visitors should sign in at the trail head.

(Trail etiquette: When there is snow, hikers are asked to walk on the outside of the ski tracks.)



## Cross-Country Ski

Once there is 4" of snow, outdoor enthusiasts can glide over 40 miles of cross-country ski trails at 16 different sites throughout the county. Skiers should sign in/out at the trail head.

Seven of the trails are packed and tracked when there is 4" of snow or more. Check trail conditions: [www.MCCDistrict.org/skiing](http://www.MCCDistrict.org/skiing)

Glacial Park, Ringwood	Pleasant Valley, Woodstock
Hickory Grove Highlands, Cary	Prairieview Education Center, The Hollows, Cary
	Crystal Lake
Marengo Ridge, Marengo	Rush Creek, Harvard

## Skate Ski Trail

### Silver Creek

1200 Block of Rawson Bridge Road, Cary

A skate ski trail differs from a traditional cross country ski trail by being packed, but not tracked. The trail at Silver Creek is a 1½ mile, relatively flat, trail loop.

## Find Your Fun...

Please note:  
Sites marked with \*\* have temporary closures, details on MCCDistrict.org.

Sites marked with † are open for "walk-in" traffic; parking lots will not be open or plowed.

	Stickney Run **	Silver Creek ** (packed for skate skiing)	Rush Creek ** (Groomed with 4 inches of snow)	Prairieview Education Center (Groomed with 4 inches of snow)	Prairie Trail—North: Rt. 176 to Baanard Mill Rd. South: Poynt Rd. south to county line	Prairie Trail North/North Branch/ Hebron Trail	Pleasant Valley (Groomed with 4 inches of snow)	Marengo Ridge (Groomed with 4 inches of snow)	Lake in the Hills Fen †	The Hollows (Groomed with 4 inches of snow)	Hickory Grove/Lyons Prairie Marsh ** (Groomed with 4" of snow; access: Lyons Prairie Marsh through Hickory Grove Highlands)	Harrison Benwell	Glacial Park ** (Groomed with 4 inches of snow)	Fel-Pro RRR	Exner Marsh †	Coral Woods	Brookdale **
<b>Hiking</b>	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️
<b>Cross-Country Skiing</b> (†Skate Skiing)	1 mi. Beg.	1.3 mi. Beg. †	3 mi. Beg.	4 mi. Beg./Int.	10 mi. <sup>(N)</sup> Beg. 4.5 mi. <sup>(S)</sup> Beg.	2.7 mi. Beg.	2.2 mi. Beg. 2.3 mi. Int.	1.5 mi. Beg.	1 mi. Beg. 1.75 mi. Int.	4.5 mi. Beg.	2 mi. Beg.	4 mi. Beg. 2 mi. Adv.	2 mi. Beg.	1.5 mi. Beg.	1.5 mi. Beg.	4.5 mi. Int. Multi-use trail	
<b>Sledding / Snow Tubing</b>												❄️					
<b>Snow Shoeing</b>	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	❄️	
<b>Ice Fishing / Ice Skating<sup>o</sup></b>									❄️								
<b>Snowmobiling</b>			❄️		❄️							❄️					

<sup>o</sup> Ice fishing/ice skating when there is 4" or more of clear ice present. You are responsible for clearing your own snow.



## Sledding at Glacial Park

Test out your tubes and sleds on the sledding hill at Glacial Park. The hill is unsupervised and is located east of the amphitheater by Wiedrich Barn and is perfect for some great old-fashioned, outdoor wintery afternoon fun with family or friends. Afterwards stop in the Lost Valley Visitor Center to warm up, look at the exhibits, use the binoculars, or check out the books, puzzles and activity pages in the Sandhill Study. Note: Sled hill is open when there is 4" or more of snow.