

State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources



The Lowden-Miller State Forest

ernor from 1917-1921. He ardently embraced proper pines – Frank O. Lowden (1861-1943), Illinois' govaugmented the natural hardwood forest by planting dividual who, in the early part of the 20th century, wood and pine trees. The history stems from the inbluffs along 3.5 miles of riverfront forested with hardhistoric sites. Its scenic qualities come from 120-foot area that is one of Ogle County's most beautiful and of the town of Oregon, lies a 2,356-acre wooded Nestled in the Rock River Valley, just 3 miles south

Lowden-Miller State Forest 55 57 72 70 64

estimated 500,000 trees were seeded directly by him way to retard soil erosion. Over several decades, an land use and strongly believed in reforestation as a

or under his supervision.

oldest in the state. were here before 1910 and are believed to be the productively. The earliest plantings of white pines pines and other tree species to see what would grow for crops, Lowden experimentally planted white sandy farmland. Because the soil was of limited use rated, not only native hardwoods, but pasture and large and diverse farming operation that incorpo-"rocky river" or "troubled waters." It was part of a sippi Forest from American Indian terms meaning his wife, Florence Pullman Lowden, called it Sinnis-Miller State Forest. But prior to that Gov. Lowden and Since 1992, the tract has been known as Lowden-

my children and my children's children and their chilthis beautiful and fertile spot as the place where Sinnissippi, Gov. Lowden wrote: "I like to think of his farm and forest. In his biography, Squire of the one term as governor as he preterred to return to paign, Lowden insisted that he wanted to serve only desire to continue in political office. In his 1916 cam-The governor's love of the land transcended his

had planted." dust, and in the shade of the old trees my own hand dren after them will gather long after I have become

forest growth having been developed at Sinnissippi, with nearly 80 percent of all data on Illinois hardwood conduct research of the developing forest. Today, forestry department at the University of Illinois to throughout his life. In 1938, he invited the new The governor remained an avid student of forestry

the university. the forest still serves as a field laboratory for

There are six parking areas available to the public.

The site offers deer, squirrel and turkey hunting. For regulations and permit information, contact the Cas-

Lowden-Miller State Forest has approximately 22 miles of maintained trails available for hiking and cross-country skiing. These trails are open for use year-round except for a few days during the firearm

hunting seasons. Check for closing dates at Castle

Information on the site is available at each lot.

Tree Farm. Sinnissippi Forest was designated the first Illinois and operated until it closed in 2009. In 1955, high-quality firs and pines for the holidays in 1948, wholesale and retail business began providing The family's Sinnissippi Forest Christmas Tree

generations. managed forest and preserving its beauty for future achieving their goal of keeping the area an actively zoned for development, the family said they were the state rather than seeing it subdivided or reto the state in 1993. In offering their land for sale to and his wife, Bonnie, sold an additional 1,039 acres wife, Nancy. Warren's brother, Phillip Lowden Miller Gov. and Mrs. Lowden, Warren P. Miller, and his 186-acre parcel of the forest from a grandson of In June 1992, the state of Illinois purchased a

State Park, which oversees its daily operations. Rock River from another DNR property, Castle Rock ment of Natural Resources and is located across the now totals 2,356 acres. It is managed by the Depart-Named for the family, Lowden-Miller State Forest

Forestry Practices

forestry education can continue. outstanding outdoor facility for the public where tree diseases. The forest's purpose is to provide an projects include thinning pines and working to control and planting an oak seed orchard. Other forestry projects such as controlling some exotic tree species sources Division has ongoing forestry studies and The Department of Natural Resources' Forest Re-

Equestrian Trail

Rock State Park.

Parking

Hunting

Hiking

tle Rock State Park office.

An equestrian parking area and designated horse trails are available. For information on the equestrian program and trail usage, contact the Castle Rock State Park office.

Camping

While camping facilities are not available at Lowden-Miller State Forest, other nearby state sites offer them, including Castle Rock State Park or Lowden Memorial State Park, both near Oregon, or White Pines Forest State Park, near Mount Morris.

For more information about Lowden-Miller State Forest, contact Castle Rock State Park, 1365 W. Castle Road, Oregon, IL 61061, phone (815) 732-7329, fax (815) 732-6742.

While groups of 25 or more are welcome and encouraged to use the park's facilities, they are required to register in advance with the site office to avoid crowding or scheduling conflicts.

Lowden-Miller State Forest

c/o Castle Rock State Park • 1365 W. Castle Road Oregon, IL 61061, (815) 732-7329

- At least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors.
- Pets must be kept on leashes at all times.
- Actions by nature can result in closed roads and other facilities. We hope you enjoy your stay. Remember, take only memories, leave only footprints.
- For more information on state parks, write to the Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271 or visit our website at www.dnr.state.il.us.
- For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-2CONNECT.
- Hearing-impaired individuals may call the Department of Natural Resources' TTY number, (217) 782-9175, or use the Ameritech Relay Number, 1-800-526-0844

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resource Way, Springfield, IL. 62702-1271; 217/785-0067: TTY 217/782-9175.

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Exotic Species

Plants and animals not native to Illinois are exotic species. Most of them are harmless to our state; however, some can be very invasive to native plant communities and can overwhelm or wipe out native species. Prevention and control of exotic, invasive species requires tremendous cooperation between managers and all users of parks, natural areas, and privately owned land. To learn more about exotic and invasive species and how you can help prevent their spread, visit the IDNR Exotic Species Website at: http://www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/ ExoticSpecies/exoticspintro.htm.



