

## GET INVOLVED...

Make Shoal Creek Conservation Area your passion and volunteer with the Shoal Creek Volunteers. Assistance is needed in all areas from trail maintenance and gardening to tour guides, grant researchers and web designers.

If you are unable to volunteer, but would still like to make a tax deductible donation to the conservation effort, direct donations for Shoal Creek Conservation Area may be sent to:

Shoal Creek Volunteers, Inc.  
c/o Henry Eilers  
1302 East Union Ave  
Litchfield, IL 62056

## DIRECTIONS:

From Illinois Route 16: Turn North onto Yaeger Lake Trail and continue approximately two miles to Lake Lou Yaeger. Continue across the dam, and the conservation area will be on your left.



**BECOME A PART OF NATURE**

## MARVEL AT THE SMALL THINGS



## CONTACT INFORMATION:

SHOAL CREEK VOLUNTEERS: (217) 324-3410

LAKE LOU YAEGER: (217)324-5832

TOURISM OFFICE: (866) 733-5833



[TOURISM@CITYOFLITCHFIELDIL.COM](mailto:TOURISM@CITYOFLITCHFIELDIL.COM)

[WWW.VISITLITCHFIELD.COM](http://WWW.VISITLITCHFIELD.COM)



# SHOAL CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

LAKE LOU YAEGER  
LITCHFIELD, ILLINOIS



ENJOY ILLINOIS



## ABOUT SHOAL CREEK CONSERVATION AREA...

Shoal Creek Conservation Area consists of 266 acres, and was established on January 8, 1990. It is owned by the City of Litchfield and has been recognized as one of the best remaining examples of Southern Illinois till-plain barrens and woodland communities. The Conservation Area is located across the dam, East of Lake Lou Yaeger, and is accessible from the parking lot East of the preserve signs.

Cameras are a must have on your visit since the picturesque terrain ranges from level flatwoods, to steep ravines with sandstone outcroppings, to intermittent streams, and minor waterfalls. Make sure to pack your binoculars to get the best view of the flora and fauna that reside in the area. Studies have shown that Shoal Creek Conservation Area is home to over 700 species of plants, 70 kinds of butterflies, and at least 74 species of birds. A host of showy wildflowers delight visitors from April to October.

Shoal Creek Conservation Area is visitor friendly with a designated walking trail consisting of two loops, Loop A and Loop B. It is suggested that the hiking level is of moderate difficulty with Loop B being more challenging than Loop A. Trails wind in and out of old-fields, woods, ravines, ridge tops, and

skirt the lake shore. Loop A explores the inland prairie and woodlands with a mostly flat terrain with slight gradients. In contrast, Loop B takes naturalists into the woods to traverse steeper ravines, and as the trail meanders along the shore hikers are rewarded with views of beautiful Lake Lou Yaeger. The combined distance of the two nature trails is nearly one mile.

Along the walk, hikers have the opportunity to view fifteen native tree species which have been identified with their common and scientific names. Look for the tags on the tree trunks ten feet off the ground. Five benches have also been placed along the way to invite quiet contemplation of the surrounding scenery. A complimentary trail guide, courtesy of Litchfield Rotary, is available at the trail head. It explains the landscape, history and current management by the Shoal Creek Volunteers, Inc. Picnic areas and restroom facilities are available in the park on the west side of Lake Lou Yaeger.

Shoal Creek Conservation Area provides a great hiking experience with opportunities for birders, botanists, photographers, and nature enthusiasts. In addition to beautiful Shoal Creek Conservation Area and Lake Lou Yaeger, Litchfield is a quaint town awaiting your exploration. Litchfield conveniently has six hotels for visitors, an abundance of dining options, and a rich Route 66 history!

**LOOP "A"**  
[Please refer to map below]  
**Station 1-** Management  
**Station 2-** Old-field/Savanna Upland  
**Station 3-** Bluebird Houses  
**Station 4-** White Oak  
**Station 5-** Open Woodland/Savanna  
**Station 6-** Farmland

**LOOP "B"**  
**Station 1-** 'To manage or not'  
**Station 2-** Shagbark Hickory  
**Station 3-** Lake  
**Station 4-** Woods  
**Station 5-** Primitive Plants  
**Station 6-** Soils  
**Station 7-** Bat House

