

Busse Woods Walk, Elk Grove Village, Illinois

Busse Woods/Ned Brown Preserve is 3,558 acres and part of the Cook County Forest preserve system. Since 1925, a small elk herd has inhabited a 17-acre enclosed pasture in Busse Woods. Originally, nine cows and one bull were delivered by train from Yellowstone National Park. The size of the herd has fluctuated over time and every three to four years new males are introduced to maintain genetic diversity. Busse's upland forest is an ancient remnant, full of tall red oaks and hickories, maple, ash, basswood, elm and very large ironwoods. Many of the trees here date back to before European settlement. The 489-acre Busse Forest Nature Preserve's unusual combination of flatwoods, upland forests, and marshes have earned it National Natural Landmark status.

Start point: The start point is the entrance marked "Busse Forest Main Dam Grove 26 & 27" accessed from Arlington Heights Road. The entrance is just south of Higgins. GPS: 42.01655, -87.99438 .

From the South: Take I-355 North toward Northwest suburbs. Continue onto I-290W. Take exit 1B toward IL72, Higgins Rd. Turn right onto Higgins. Turn right onto Arlington Heights Rd. Go through stoplights at Oakton and Landmeier. The destination is on your right.

From the North: Take I-53 South. Take exit 1B toward IL-72, Higgins Rd. Turn left onto Higgins Rd. Turn right onto Arlington Heights Rd. Go through stoplights at Oakton and Landmeier. The destination is on your right.

**If the start point parking lot is closed, please use alternate parking lot (GPS: 42.03090, -87.98731). Go back towards Higgins. Cross Higgins going to the next stoplight which is Bennett and turn left into the parking lot marked Busse Forest Elk Pasture. You will do the 5k walk in reverse. Since the 12k is a loop you can start in either direction.

TRAIL: The Busse Woods Trail is a paved walking/bicycle trail through the forest preserve. The trail is 12 kilometers (7.3 miles); a shorter 5K trail is available. The degree of difficulty is a 1A. Wheelchairs and baby strollers will have no problem on the trails. Restrooms and water are available at the start point and throughout the walk although some are seasonal.

AFTER YOUR WALK, please be sure to log back into the OSB system to "finish/complete" your online registration after completing the walk. The OSB system does not deduct any walking fee from your Event Bank until you have submitted walk completion info including the date the event was walked; the distance walked; and the selection of applicable special programs you're participating in. (Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded pdf is deducted from your Event Bank when the pdf is downloaded. Later, any pdf fee is credited back to your Event Bank when you submit the walk completion info as a paying-for-credit walker. Note, however, that the \$2 coupon for the downloaded pdf will expire in 60 days).

Special Programs - Walking the United States - 50 States

Walking the USA A-Z

Busse Woods/ Ned Brown Forest Preserve 12K and 5K
Busse Forest Main Dam Grove 26 & 27

The 5k trail is an out and back turning around at the Busse Forest Elk Pasture parking lot.

The 12k follows the trail around the preserve. Detailed instructions are below.

1. Exit Parking area toward Arlington Heights Road to paved bicycle trail.
2. LEFT on bicycle trail, keeping Arlington Heights Road on your right.
3. CROSS bridge over Higgins Road.

Just over the bridge is a fence on your right. This wooded area is the best spot for seeing elk, but you must look closely since they blend into the pasture/woods.

4. CONTINUE on the trail to the next parking lot (the small brick building on your right is the restroom). This is parking for the Busse Forest Elk Pasture.

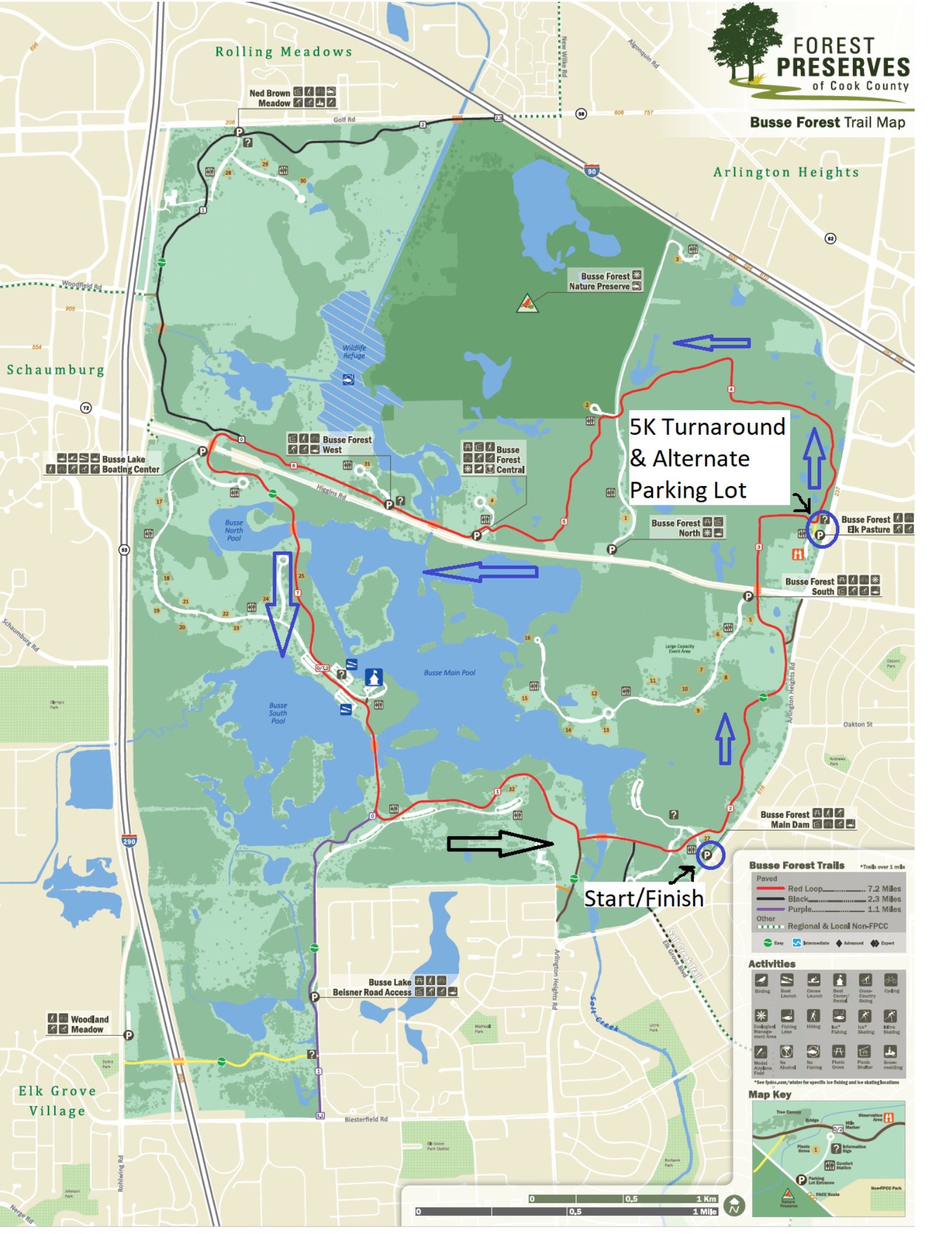
If walking 5k, turn around to return to the start. Retrace your steps, crossing Higgins via the bridge. Keep Arlington Heights Road on your left.

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5. CONTINUE on main trail as it curves to the left. Restrooms are available at Picnic Grove 2, between mile markers 4 and 5.
6. CONTINUE passing the entrances to Busse Forest Central and Busse Forest West. Restrooms available in each area.

7. LEFT onto the bridge over Higgins Road.
8. LEFT crossing a smaller bridge between Busse North Pool and Busse Main Pool.
9. CONTINUE through the Boating Center. There is a concession stand open during the season and restrooms.
10. CROSS the bridge between Busse South Pool and Busse Main Pool.
11. Continue LEFT to cross the Main Dam.
12. STRAIGHT to return to the start at Picnic Grove 27.

There are maps located in most of the parking lots. You will be following the red trail.



5K Turnaround & Alternate Parking Lot

Start/Finish

Busse Forest Trails *Trails over 1 mile

Paved	Red Loop	7.2 Miles
	Black	2.3 Miles
	Purple	1.1 Miles
Other	Regional & Local Non-FPCC	

● Easy
 ■ Intermediate
 ◆ Advanced
 ◆ Expert

Activities

*See [fpcc.com](#) website for specific ice fishing and ice skating locations

