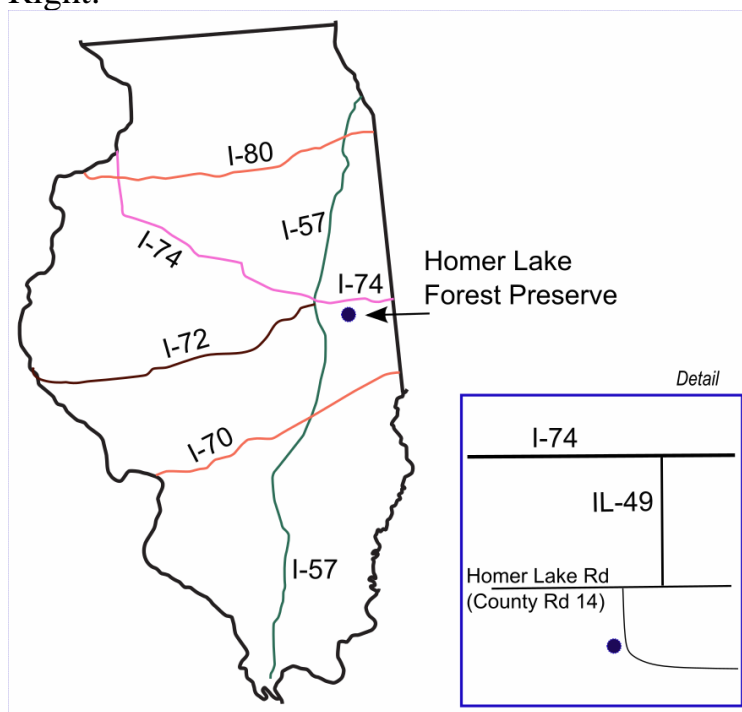


Directions to Homer Lake Forest Preserve:

From I-74: Take Exit 197 for Royal/Ogden. Turn South towards Ogden. At the 4-Way Stop, proceed South on IL-49. Continue for about 2.4 miles. Watch on your Right for a brown and white sign announcing, "Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Homer Lake". Turn Right onto Homer Lake Road. Take the first turn to the Left, about 1 mile. The street sign says, "South Homer Lk Rd", and "2600 East". Go South a short distance and enter the forest preserve on your Right. The Interpretive Center is near the entrance, on the Right.



Year Round Walk

HOMER LAKE FOREST PRESERVE HOMER, ILLINOIS

Date: Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2023

Start Location: Homer Lake Interpretive Center, 2573 South Homer Lake Rd.

Homer, IL 61849, (217) 586-3360

Trail Rating: 1B

Distances: 5 & 10 kilometer

Available in the Online Start Box

Sponsored by the Ridgewalkers Walking Club



**AMERICA'S
WALKING CLUB**
— ESTABLISHED 1976 —

YR-22-120387

This event is sanctioned by America's Walking Club, a member of the International Federation of Popular Sports (IVV).

When: January 1 - December 31, 2023

Where: Homer Lake Interpretive Center, 2573 South Homer Lake Rd. Homer, IL 61849; (217) 586-3360
<https://www.ccfpd.org/forest-preserves/homer-lake-illinois>

Homer Lake Forest Preserve is an 800-acre area in Champaign County, Illinois, just minutes from I-74. The preserve is popular among locals as a place for walking, fishing, kayaking, birding, play dates, and family gatherings. Pets are welcome and must be kept on a leash.

Homer Lake Forest Preserve opens at 7 AM year-round, weather-permitting. Closing times vary.

Interpretive Center hours are:

Sep–May, T–F: 1:00-5:00pm

Jun–Aug, M–F: 10:00am-5:00pm

Apr–Oct, Sa: 10:00am-4:00pm

Closed on Federal Holidays.

Hours are subject to change.

Online Start Box: There is no physical start box for this event. To use the Online Start Box, make an account at my.ava.org and follow the instructions.

Trails: Two AVA walks are available. The 5 km trail travels through the hardwood forest and bluebell fields bordering the Salt Fork River, as well as the historic Maple Sugar Grove, and several wetland, prairie and pollinator plantings. The 10 km trail adds another 5 km loop, traveling through the woodland on the west side

of Homer Lake and a large on-going prairie restoration project. The Virginia Bluebells are at their best in April and early May. The prairie is especially nice in the summer and early fall. The sugar maple trees in the Grove and on the North Peninsula can be terrific in October.

Restrooms/Water: Year-round bathrooms are available on both walks. Flushing restrooms are available in the Interpretive Center and the Walnut Hill Shelter, in season and during operating hours. Water is available at each bathroom. You might want to carry your own water and snacks.

Accessibility: The walks are not recommended for strollers or wheelchairs. However, the preserve has several areas that are accessible, especially around the Interpretive Center, the Natural Playscape, and any of the shelters, picnic areas, and docks.

Award: IVV Credit Only

All participants at sanctioned IVV and AVA events are eligible for international awards for events completed and distance accumulated. This event counts toward acquisition of IVV Achievement Awards.

POC: Polly Baker, mpaulinebaker@gmail.com, (317) 490-4896, PO Box 349, St. Joseph IL 61873 or Kimberly Bradley, KimiBradley@comcast.net, (217) 778-1718.

Disclaimer: The sponsors are not liable for accidents, thefts, and/or material damages.