Burnham Centennial Nature Trail

The Burnham Centennial Nature Trail was established in 2008 and offers the Lewis University community a passage to nature. Students, faculty and staff can enjoy a relaxing walk or a quick paced run in a section of campus dedicated to the wild and natural history of Illinois. Along this trail, you will find native plant and tree species. Earth Day and Arbor Day events are planned each year to restore the area, add more native plant species, and maintain existing species. A one-of-a-kind Frisbee golf course has also been created along the trail.

Regulations and Warnings

NO smoking
NO fires
NO pets
NO bicycles
NO off-road vehicles or any type of vehicles
NO alcoholic beverages

Safety

NEVER hike alone. Stay on the marked trail for your own safety.

Clean Up Litter

Take anything you bring onto the trail back with you. Pack up any garbage and deposit it in a trash can.

Weather Conditions

DO NOT use the trail when lightning, high winds, heavy snow or ice are in the area. These conditions can make the trail hazardous.

Native Plant Species

Many of the plant species that are common for this area (and found along the nature trail) may have sharp spines, poisonous barbs, or fruits that may stain hands and/or clothing.

Poison Ivy
Poison Oak
Poison Sumac
Arboretum Status
Lewis University has achieved arboretum status at its main campus in Romeoville. The University received this award by achieving certain standards of professional practices for arboretum and botanic gardens. Lewis University is an arboretum with more than 2,400 trees in addition to wooded areas.

Tree Walk
The 410-acre campus features more than 140 varieties of trees. Visitors to campus may take a Tree Walk utilizing a Tree Walk brochure with a map labeling each variety by location. Tree Walk brochures are available in the main lobby of the Learning Resource Center.

Burnham Centennial Nature Trail (Established in 2008)
Daniel H. Burnham (September 4, 1846 – June 1, 1912), an American architect and urban planner, whose visionary leadership helped transform Chicago into a beautiful metropolis, also provided a visionary plan for the entire Chicago region.

The Commercial Club of Chicago engaged Burnham and fellow architect Edwards Bennett to draft the Plan of Chicago. Released in 1909, the Plan of Chicago is a landmark in urban planning. The document envisioned a comprehensive approach to controlled growth for a great American city and set out the plan for Chicago’s vaunted boulevard system, lake front park system, integrated transportation system and suburban forest preserves. As a result, the city’s motto, Urb in Horto, City in a Garden, became a reality in the 20th century. Locally, Burnham is the architect for a number of buildings in Joliet, including the Public Library, and Edward Bennett drafted a plan for Joliet in 1919.

In recognition of these remarkable contributions to the overall quality of life throughout the Chicago metropolitan area, Lewis University dedicated these walking/jogging paths as the Burnham Centennial Nature Trail in 2008, which features more than two miles of footpaths. Please enjoy these trails, their link to the campus, and all the surrounding natural beauty.