

# The 10 Best Nature Centers in Illinois!

By [April Dowling](#)

Nature centers provide the opportunity to step away from daily responsibilities and appreciate nature. They're also ideal locations for children to explore and learn about the native wildlife and habitats of local areas. Illinois is fortunate to have many quality nature centers dedicated to preserving the land and educating the public on the importance of respecting the Earth. The following nature centers also have special programs and events for the entire family.

## **7. Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland, IL**



Sand Ridge Nature Center - Facebook

Explore 235 acres of diverse habitats including woodlands, oak savannas, prairies, and others at the Sand Ridge Nature Center. Visitors can view natural wildlife such as fish, turtles, snakes, and birds while discovering the rich natural history of the area. The nature center holds several events throughout the year, as well, celebrating Earth Day and Illinois Archaeology Day.

## **8. Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington, IL**



Crabtree Nature Center - Facebook

No matter the season, Crabtree Nature center is always beautiful and teeming with wildlife. Over 260 bird species have been spotted migrating over the 1,182 acres of woodland, prairies, and wetlands, which were all formed by glaciers thousands of years ago. The center openly welcomes visitors to explore the several miles of self-guided trails, as well.

## **9. Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs, IL**



Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center - Facebook

A log cabin school once stood at the site of this nature center in Willow Springs. The Little Red Schoolhouse is now dedicated to teaching both kids and adults about preserving the Earth. Visitors can also still see the fruit orchard planted on the site back in 1906.