

Hidden Hollow Camp Won't Be Hidden Anymore in 2022

Effective January 3, 2022, there are two major changes planned for Hidden Hollow Camp located in Black River Nature Preserve in Lodi. First, the site will be open to the public year-round unless the enclosed building on the property is reserved. Since Hidden Hollow Camp's opening in 1984, it has not been open to walk-in visitors. Historically, the general public has only been able to utilize the site for day-use reservations or to attend naturalist-led programs. Second, the public will be able to reserve Hidden Hollow Camp for overnight camping. Reservations for day-use will only be allowed on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Camping will be permitted on Friday and Saturday nights only. This will allow the grounds to remain open to the public Mondays through Thursdays on a regular basis. The site will also be open to the public if there are no weekend reservations.

The enclosed building at Hidden Hollow Camp offers the perfect amenities for an "indoor camping" experience for up to 75 people, including a wood-burning stove, scenic wraparound porch, movie screen, electric range, food preparation tables, and a refrigerator. Please note this facility is one large room. There are no beds, bunks, or cots. Alcohol is permitted, inside the enclosed building only, when reserved for day-use or camping. Drinking water, restrooms, and a gray-water disposal pit are located outdoors. There's also a large campfire ring and a team-building challenge course. Neither RVs nor travel trailers will be allowed. Tent camping is permissible in addition to the use of the enclosed facility. Only one reservation is permitted per day.

The grounds feature a beautiful one-acre woodland pond and two nature trails. In geographical terms, a "hollow" is exactly as it sounds – a small valley or basin in the land. At the bottom of Hidden Hollow is the West Fork of the East Branch of the Black River. The rich soil of its floodplain is home to towering sycamore, black willow, and black walnut trees -- along with a diverse array of wildflowers. The trees and thickets here provide ideal habitat for migrating warblers. Visitors should plan on bird-watching during spring and fall migration. Improvements to the entry drive will be made next year to accommodate increased usage of the site on a daily basis.

The 2022 fee schedule will be as follows. Camping reservations will open at www.medinacountyparks.com starting on January 3, 2022:

Day Use Only 9 a.m. to dark	Medina County Resident	Out of County		Non-profit 50%
1 day	\$75	\$125		\$37.50
2 days	\$125	\$225		\$62.50
3 days	\$175	\$325		\$87.50
Camping Days/Nights	Medina County Resident	Out of County	Scouts	Non-profit 50%
2 days/1 night	\$150	\$260	\$40	\$75
3 days/2 nights	\$225	\$395	\$60	\$112.50

