

HISTORY

Fort Daniel Conservation Area’s name comes from Reverend Daniel Traughber, a respected, local community leader in the years before the Civil War. While never the site of a military fort, the uncommon usage of “fort” was probably meant to suggest an enclave or isolated settlement. A nearby neighborhood was once called “Whistleville.” Known for its small farms among the forested hills, the unique name has more than one possible origin. In the southwest corner of the conservation area stands the historic Eli Ulery House. Built by him on his large cattle farm, it was completed in the 1860s. The house was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 and restored by its last owner, Pat Penhallegon.

PLANTS

This conservation area provides a haven for a variety of plants. The terrain includes oak-hickory forests, a sugar maple grove, open grasslands, and floodplain forests. Look for chinquapin oak, paw paw, wafer ash, and Kentucky coffee trees.

PICNICKING

You can picnic in the pavilion next to the playground on the northern end of the site. To reserve the pavilion for a party or meeting, visit MaconCountyConservation.org.

TRAILS

Over 4 miles of trails are available for hiking and cross-country skiing.

Pond Trail: 0.5 mile train circling the pond.

Blackberry Trail: 0.75 mile trail circling the tallgrass prairie on the north end of the site.

Owl Trail: 0.8 mile trail that crosses Big Creek.

Rabbit Trail: 0.25 mile trail cutting through the Owl Trail loop.

Deer Trail: 0.6 mile extension of the Wagon Trial that winds through floodplain forests. Look for native wildflowers in the spring.

Fox Trail: 0.25 mile shortcut within the Wagon Trail.

Wagon Trail: 1.9 mile trail running alongside Big Creek and edges of the site, with the best views for seeing wildlife, open meadows, and forests.

FOR YOUR SAFETY & ENJOYMENT

- **Please leash and pick up after your pets.**
- **Picnics and fires are allowed only in designated areas.**
- **Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on Macon County Conservation District properties.**
- **Firearms are prohibited.**
- **Please park only in designated areas.**
- **Horses, bicycles and motorized vehicles are not permitted on the trails.**
- **Plant, animal, and artifact collecting is not permitted.**
- **Leave nature as you find it for others to enjoy.**
- **Please note, the south side of this area is closed occasionally due to wet conditions.**



Fort Daniel

Conservation Area

Fort Daniel Conservation Area
4975 Fort Daniel Road
Decatur, IL 62521
GPS Coordinates:
39.781681 N, 88.828326 W

Macon County Conservation District
3939 Nearing Lane
Decatur, IL 62521
217-423-7708

www.MaconCountyConservation.org
Find us on Facebook

Welcome to Fort Daniel Conservation Area

Located near Mt. Zion, Fort Daniel Conservation

Area is a 609 acre site rich in history and

recreational opportunities. The area’s

background included both small farms and

a large cattle farm, a respected early church

leader, and the community’s beloved country

school. Fort Daniel Conservation Area provides

trails, a pavilion, playground, and varied terrain.

Big Creek winds through the area providing

water and habitat for the wildlife. You’ll see

many species of plants in the forests, grasslands,

and floodplain.

Open from
7:00am to Sunset

✱ Entrance

📍 Points of Interest

P Parking Lots

♿ Accessible Area

🚻 Restroom

🏠 Shelter

🎡 Playground

— Sidewalks

🌊 Creeks

— Main Roads

🌿 Wetlands

4 miles to Mt. Zion

▲ 5 miles to Route 36

Entrance

Fort Daniel Road

1 mile to County Highway 57

Big Creek

Maintenance Area

Wishing Well

Big Creek

Big Creek

Grover Patton
"Pat" Penhallegon
House

Trails	Distance	Time	Level
..... Blackberry Trail	0.8 mile	20 minutes	Easy
----- Deer Trail	0.6 mile	20 minutes	Moderate
———— Fox Trail	0.3 mile	10 minutes	Moderate
----- Owl Trail	0.75 mile	30 minutes	Moderate
----- Pond Trail	0.5 mile	15 minutes	Easy
..... Rabbit Trail	0.25 mile	10 minutes	Easy
----- Wagon Trail	1.9 mile	1 hour	Difficult

Fort Daniel CONSERVATION AREA