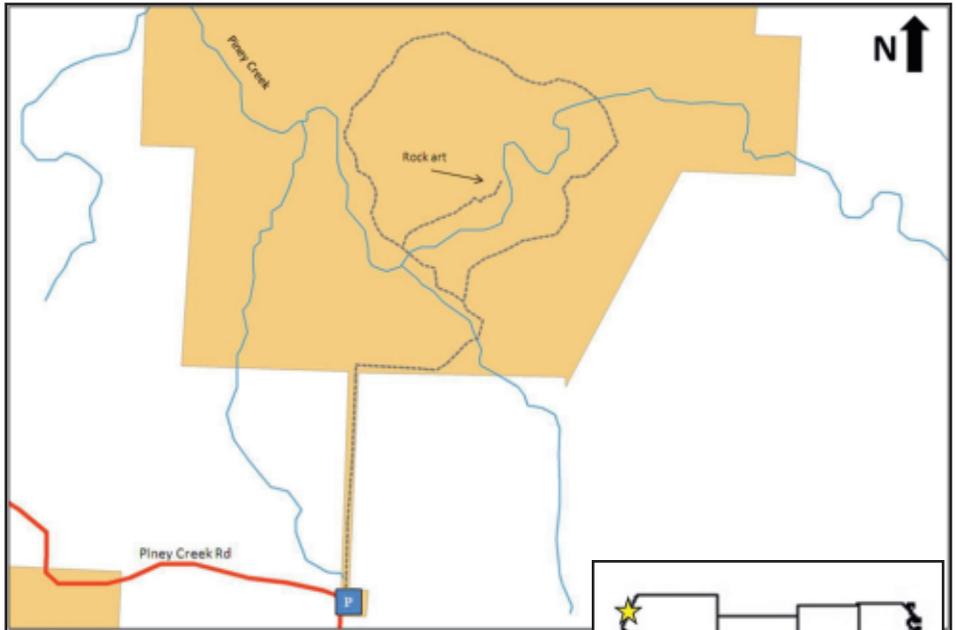


# Piney Creek Ravine Trail

Piney Creek Ravine Nature Preserve

1.2 mile Round Trip - Moderate Rating

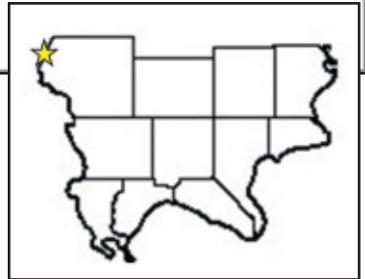
Trailhead: 37.8904, -89.6382



Piney Creek Ravine Nature Preserve is a beautiful sandstone canyon located in Randolph County. It is an Illinois Nature Preserve owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. This site is distinct in that it is one of only two sites in southern Illinois

with naturally occurring stands of the state endangered shortleaf pine. All other pine trees found in southern Illinois have been planted or escaped from a nearby plantation. Piney Creek Ravine is also interesting because it contains Native American rock art. A majority of the rock art has been defaced, much of it by early settlers, but some of the artwork is still intact. An interpretative sign near the area explains its history and significance.

The diversity of natural communities here provides habitat for the over 400 species of plants that are known from the area. For some species, this is the only place they occur in Randolph County. The trail starts as an access lane that leads north from the parking lot. Turn right to find a boot brush station and sign where the trail enters the forest and leads into the ravine. Heading down the trail, it is best to follow it to the left at the first juncture and then cross the creek. Shortly after turn right to go to the area with the cliff



drawings. This is a dead end so go back once you have thoroughly appreciated the beautiful prehistoric art. As you head back, take the trail to the right, which will loop around back to the first trail juncture. This route will take you through the remnant stand of naturally occurring shortleaf pine. There is a dead end trail that is not on the map that is easy to accidentally follow, so be sure to pay attention to the trail signs.

To get to this area, follow the brown signs from Highway 3 near Rockwood, Illinois. Hog Hill Road will lead to Piney Creek Road and the nature preserve parking lot is on the right.

## Notable wildflowers present at site

American agave  
*Manfreda virginica*

Blue-stem goldernrod  
*Solidago caesia*

Monkeyflower  
*Mimulus alatus*

Orange jewelweed  
*Impatiens capensis*

Seedbox  
*Ludwigia alternifolia*



Piney Creek. Rock art (upper inset) Monkeyflower (left inset)