

# Fabyan Forest Preserve

**Address:** 1925 Batavia Avenue      **Location:** Geneva      **Township:** Geneva

**Division:** Operations South      **Phone:** 630-208-7523

**Total Acreage:** 197      **Wetland Acres:**      **Woodland Acres:**

## Acquisition History

| <b>Purchased From</b> | <b>YR</b>    | <b>Acres</b> | <b>Price</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Fabyan Estate         | 1939<br>1973 | 245          | \$176,760    |

## Existing Amenities

|                 |     |                 |     |                |   |
|-----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|----------------|---|
| <b>Parking:</b> | Yes | <b>Spaces:</b>  | 203 |                |   |
| <b>Trails:</b>  | Yes | <b>Miles:</b>   |     |                |   |
| <b>Picnic:</b>  | Yes | <b>Shelter:</b> | 4   | <b>Tables:</b> | 0 |

Fabyan Forest Preserve is without question our most used and heavily populated preserve. There were many weddings in the Japanese Garden last year and countless others came for pictures. Thousands of people hours were spent fishing along its' river shores and thousands more jogged and rode bicycles along the trails and river bridge.

George and Nelle Fabyan came to the Fox River Valley in the early 1900's and bought a small farmhouse and ten acres south of Geneva. During the coming years they developed this farm into a fabulous estate of nearly 600 acres and called it "Riverbank."

With its model farm, large greenhouses, windmill, Japanese Garden and many other ornamental gardens, Riverbank became a showplace in the state. According to *Illinois Magazine*, the title "Colonel" was awarded to George Fabyan for his service on the governor's military staff. He used this title proudly all of his life. After the death of Nelle Fabyan, the Forest Preserve District of Kane County purchased 235 acres of the estate.

While the Fabyans lived on the estate, they employed more than a hundred people who worked as maids, gardeners, sculptors, carpenters, chauffeurs, etc. The Fabyans constructed numerous stone fountains, grottoes, statues and concrete and metal cages for the various wild animals they brought to Riverbank. The "Villa" designed by Frank Lloyd Wright is maintained as a museum containing part of Fabyan's collections.