Turkey Creek Nature Preserve

Look for pieces of shells in rocks along the trail!

Look to the trees and sky to spot hawks, eagles, and owls!

Wade in the creek to look for crawfish and other critters!

Can you spot these?

FOSSILS

Look for pieces of shells in rocks along the trail!

Barred owl
Red-tailed hawk

Parking
Access to creek

Trails
A to B and back
Distance=1.3 miles

.30 miles
.35 miles

A
B

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How did Turkey Creek Nature Preserve get so many fossils?

The fossils you see are from 350 million years ago, when a lot of the midwest was underwater! The warm seas made it possible for marine life to flourish.

Corals, marine invertebrates, and fish dominated the seas. Over time the sea disappeared, and everything buried in the sea floor was preserved through fossilization!

Brachiopods
Most brachiopods that you will find will look like these shells. The shell protects the animal's organs and they usually attach to rocks!

Bryozoa
Extremely small bryozoa animals formed colonies in these branching structures. Most can only be seen by microscope!

Crinoids
These ancient crinoids are part of the family related to starfish and sea urchins!

Corals
Most commonly seen at Turkey Creek. These corals were once part of a giant reef!

Only a very small portion of the life that used to exist is preserved in fossils. The process you're seeing is rare and makes Turkey Creek a very special place to visit!