

TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS



FIREFLY TRAIL (0.68 mile, easy)

Easy hiking on this trail takes you through open fields and young woods. The fields have big sky views and consistent wind currents, perfect habitat for birds and butterflies. Throughout summer months, be on the lookout for monarchs. A dusk hike in late June or early July will provide the perfect opportunity to encounter fireflies.



SALAMANDER TRAIL (0.94 mile, moderate)

This is a dynamic trail with four creek crossings and unique geological features. Don't miss a stop at the Overlook where you can view the beautiful confluence of Long Branch and O'Bannon Creeks. From there, the trail descends to Long Branch Creek where it remains cool during the hottest days of summer.



BARRED OWL TRAIL (0.82 mile, moderate)

Wind through varied habitat and enjoy a nice view of O'Bannon Creek. This trail boasts butterflies and insects of all sorts, much attracted to milkweed in the summer and goldenrod and asters in the fall. Take the side route to the Bird Blind overlooking McCarthy Pond and catch a glimpse of waterfowl and other birds.



MAYAPPLE TRAIL (0.42 mile, easy)

Meander along this pleasant path and take note of the trees typical of a young forest—Box Elder, Black Locust and Sugar Maple. Mid-trail, you'll find yourself elevated, looking down on Long Branch Creek. See if you can spot hikers below on Salamander Trail. In spring and summertime, take time to observe large colonies of umbrella-like mayapple on the forest floor.



BLUE STEM TRAIL (0.46 mile, easy)

This trail is short and sweet, family and dog-friendly. It offers easy walking through a fully restored native prairie area. An abundance of native wildflowers in the summer and goldenrod in the fall attract numerous pollinators and birds to this area.



BEAVER TRAIL (0.65 mile, easy)

Keep an eye out for bright white, freshly chewed sticks—this is beaver territory! This path skirts along the edge of O'Bannon Creek and old pasture, hearkening days when the land was a working cattle farm. If you are lucky, you may catch a glimpse of a beaver active around dusk. In warmer months, you'll see bluebirds and butterflies fluttering in the field.



WOODPECKER TRAIL (1.6 miles, moderate)

Prairie, young woods, old growth forest, streams and moderate hills can all be discovered along this trail. The variety of habitat provides abundant and diverse wildlife sightings. Keep an eye out for old fences, remnants of a time past when the land was farmed or pastured. Enjoy the view overlooking O'Bannon Creek, where woodland wildflowers teem in springtime.