

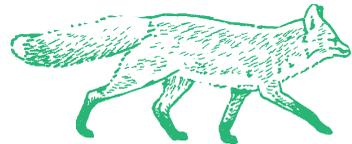


**6** As streams and lakes are tapped to provide a life-giving water supply to our town and cities, they also provide this essential requirement to the natural community.



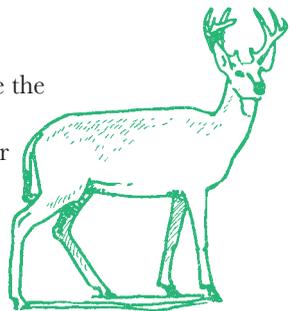
Many plants and animals live in direct association with a stream. Other plants grow near the stream, many animals depend on the stream as a water supply and some, such as the raccoon and kingfisher, depend on the stream for a food supply.

**7** The area in front of you is reminiscent of the vast



prairies that once covered two-thirds of our state and extended westward to the Rocky Mountains. The plant and animal inhabitants of the prairie are drastically different from those of the forest. Grasses, some waist or shoulder high, dominated the prairie community along with such animals as buffalo and pronghorn antelope, jackrabbits, ground squirrels, prairie dogs, gophers, coyotes and prairie chickens.

**8** If we were to observe the areas around a large city from atop a skyscraper in it's center, the change from the downtown area to peripheral city areas to suburbs to farmland could be seen. As you view the natural communities in front of you, how many different changes are apparent?

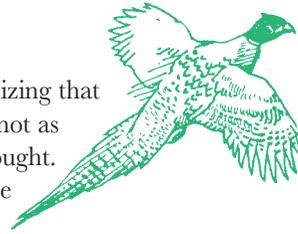


From the prairie in which you are standing, there is a marsh community directly in front of you, and a mature woodland beyond that. To the left of the marsh is a pond community and to the right of the marsh is a lowland floodplain community.

The transition zone between different communities is call an "ecotone."

**9** Today, we are realizing that our resources are not as limitless as we once thought.

We are finding that wise use and management of resources such as wildlife are the only way to assure their continued existence.



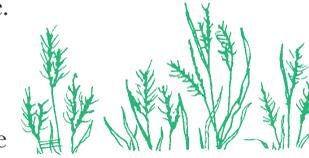
**10** As you walk across the pond community, notice some of the plant and animal inhabitants found here and how they are different from those in the other communities you have visited.

Along the edge of the pond, you can see the edible arrowhead plants emerging from the water. Usually found floating on the surface is a small plant called duckweed along with filamentous algae. Other plants grow completely submerged in the pond.

Aquatic plants provide a supply of oxygen for aquatic animals as do land plants provide oxygen for land animals. Eighty percent of the dissolved oxygen in a pond is provided by algae present in the water.



**11** Many times in order to catch a glimpse of the past we attempt to re-enact an event or duplicate an object of historical interest. Within this area a project has been undertaken to establish a small plot of ground as it would have looked perhaps 300 years ago.



We hope that as the prairie plot is established, you will revisit the area to watch a prairie grow and to enjoy the colorful wildflowers of our native landscapes. Thank you for visiting Tanglewood Nature Trail. We hope that you have enjoyed your walk and will return again soon.

**Further Reading:**

- (1) Burt, William H.; and Grossenheider, Richard PA, *Field Guide to the Mammals* - 1976
- (2) Peterson, Roger Tory; and McKenny, Margaret. *A Field Guild to Wildflowers*. Houghton Mifflin Co. Boston, 1968.
- (3) Reid, George K. *Pond Life*, Golden Press, NY 1967.

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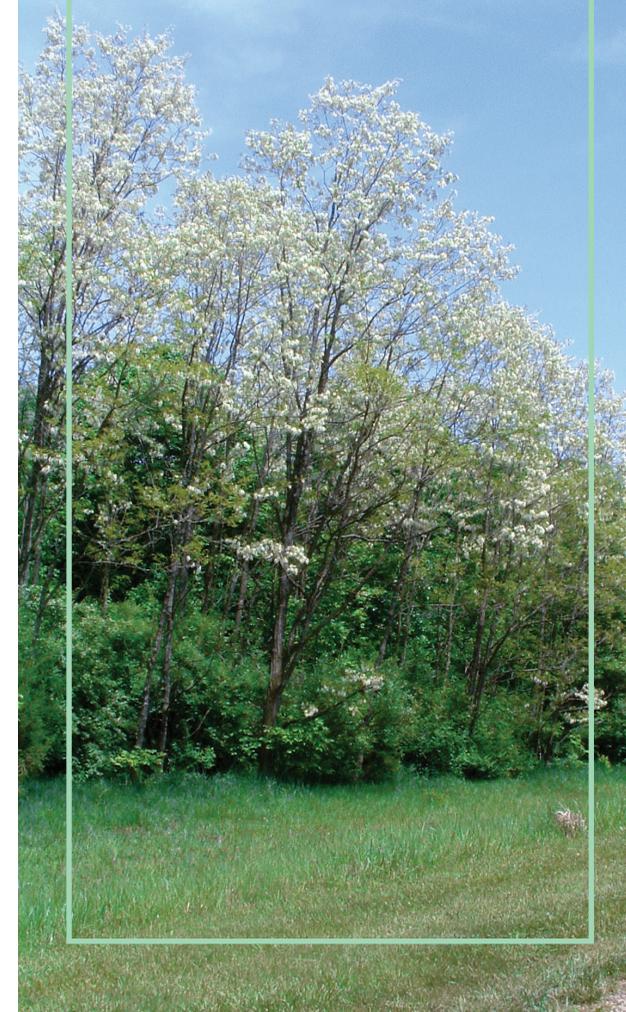
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# Tanglewood Nature Trail Map

Moraine View State Recreation Area



## Tanglewood Nature Trail Map - Moraine View State Recreation Area

**W**elcome to the Tanglewood Nature Trail. Although containing many plant and animal species, this trail has primarily been designed to emphasize the communities in which plants and animals live.

*In many ways a natural community is much like one of our communities or towns. In the natural community, each plant and animal citizen lives in its own home or "ecological niche" and makes a living in its own way, thus contributing to the welfare of the whole community.*



The topography of Moraine View State Recreation Area illustrates an area with soil rich in glacial material, brought here and deposited by the last Wisconsin Glacier. As the glacier receded it left ridges or recessional moraines consisting of rock and earth.

*Please leave the trail undisturbed so that others may enjoy it as you did.*



**1** You are now standing in a forest community. As you look at the forest, compare it with a city with hi-rise apartment buildings composed of several stories or levels of activity.



Below ground level is the moist basement where waste materials are recycled or decomposed and maintenance activities such as the absorption of water and nutrients by plant roots takes place.

The forest floor is a busy thoroughfare with various plants displaying their wares to the passing crowd of animals. On the tree trunks and lower limbs are the middle-class apartments occupied by squirrels, woodpeckers, wood ducks and raccoons. The hi-class penthouse apartments in the tree tops are occupied by famous singers in colorful feathered clothes, the birds.

**2** Green plants are the "food producers" of the natural community. In a process called "photosynthesis" they incorporate the sun's energy, nutrients from the soil and carbon dioxide into simple sugars. A by-product of this process is oxygen. Animals on the other hand, are the "food consumers" either directly eating plants or eating other animals that eat plants.



**3** As we are only beginning to understand the importance of recycling our waste materials, nature has been efficiently recycling her's for millions of years. Non-green plants such as mold and fungus, and insects such as carrion beetles, maggots or fly larvae, bacteria and vultures specialize in the recycling or decom-



posing process and complete the "producer-consumer" cycle by making nutrients available to the green plants.

The large log to the right of the post will one day become soil and its nutrients will nourish the trees that grow to take its place.

**4** The ridge on which Moraine View State Recreation Area is located is a "recessional moraine" or pile of debris left as the Wisconsin glacier receded. The boulder located along the trail was carried into Illinois, probably from Wisconsin, and dropped here.



If you will follow the short trail about 60 feet up the hill to the right, you will see an old field presently undergoing natural renewal or redevelopment called "succession."

This process involves about five stages. Each stage prepares the community for and blends into the next stage. The stages of succession include:

1. The short-lived or annual weed stage.
2. The long-lived or perennial weed stage.
3. The shrub and bramble stage.
4. The pioneer tree stage.
5. The climax stage.

**5** Welcome to the community of Tanglewood, after which the trail is named. Much like a town on a floodplain, this community experiences flooding conditions in the spring of the year and has adjusted to these conditions with special adaptations. People living in such an area construct levees, build their homes on stilts, and install pumps to avoid the water, but many floodplain or lowland plants and animals thrive on the abundance of moisture.

