

## Welcome to the Duck Lake Nature Trail.

It's a quiet trail. You will hear the red wing black birds/cardinals and marsh birds.

Wear a hat and take bug spray. You might enjoy bringing your binoculars and perhaps a notebook to record what you see and hear.

You can walk the trail or you can ride your bike.

You can enter the trail from the west or the east.

If you drive down south shore drive or come down Schofield road to the stop sign

The Trail is very close. Walk down the private road until you get to the back of the large metal building.

The trails west end starts behind the large building where you will find a well worn path in the middle of the trail. As you walk watch for holes that were animal homes.

Soon the Bush Honeysuckle will be in bloom with bright sulfur yellow flowers in small clusters. They bloom in June and July and often last into august.

As you walk down the trail look for wild flowers.

As you walk if you look down the right and left sides of the trail you will find large groups of Marsh Marigolds and skunk cabbage in the water. You may also see wild purple iris in the water. Some common flowers you will see are solomon's seal Spring beauty, Blood root Dutchmans britches Rue anemone with white or pink flowers. As you approach the bridge on the right side of the bridge is a very old Rugosa Rose. As you cross the bridge look to the right and you will see a large patch of marsh marigolds in the water along with a very large skunk cabbage. As you walked you probably noticed some very old dead elm trees.

If you continue to walk the trail watch for our numbered tree stands. Many of the tree stands have tree and plant information.

As you continue on your walk you will arrive at a very wet area. You may have to go off the trail and walk in a dry area to you left. You will have to step over branches, etc.

At the end of the muddy area you will be able to get back on the dry trail continue to watch for all the numbered tree sign for they have interesting information.

At some point we will have a boardwalk over the wet area.. It takes about 2 hours.

When you get to the very end of the trail you will see stairs and that is the East end of the trail.

Enjoy your walk on the trail .

When you want to walk the trail you can start at the West end or the East end.

As you are walking look for asparagus in a very flat area just after you walk over a very low, small foot bridge.

Look for the Native Columbine which is starting to bloom.

Some walkers find mushrooms and large white round puff balls.

There are many varieties of weeds along the trail. Some of the common weeds are red clover ,creeping charlie, plantain, garlic mustard, queen Anne's lace, chicory, bindweed , mullein and dandelions.

This is a quick view of a walk down the Duck Lake Nature Trail .

*Written by Penny Wagner - Town of Geneva Park Comm.*