

DISCOVERY CENTER HIKING TRAILS

Old Field Trail — .8 mile (1.3 km). The trail head is located across the road from the lower parking lot at the Discovery Center. The trail begins its journey through a deciduous forest along a narrow path. It gradually ascends stairs to an old field where a large Butternut tree is located. It loops back down the hill through a young hardwood forest. In spring and summer these open areas are dotted with wildflowers and butterflies.

Lowland Trail — 1.1 miles (1.8 km). The main trail starts at the Discovery Center and descends into a young deciduous forest. The Lowland Trail begins .3 mile from the Discovery Center and loops around a forested wetland. Wetland vegetation predominates especially where a boardwalk crosses a marshy area. A number of different tree species along this trail are identified with interpretative signs. This trail should not be missed in the spring when it is blanketed with wildflowers such as Trillium.

Spring Pond Trail — 1 mile (1.6 km). The main trail starts at the Discovery Center and descends into a young hardwood forest. The Spring Pond loop then branches off to the right and follows the edge of a vernal pond. This trail is especially fun in the early spring when Spring Peepers, Chorus Frogs, Wood Frogs and other amphibians fill the air with their mating calls.

Bog Trail — 1.5 miles (2.4 km). This is the most popular trail in the park (note: it is not a loop trail). The trail starts at the Discovery Center and travels up and down several hills through forested wetlands and a mature beech-maple forest. The last section of trail travels on a boardwalk that extends out into our famous floating bog. This unique ecosystem includes rare plant species such as the carnivorous Pitcher Plants. The bog is made up of old plant material that has accumulated over the centuries and is actually floating on top of an old post glacial lake. **Please remember that the collecting of plants is prohibited in the park!**

Oak Woods Trail — 1.3 miles (2.1 km). This popular trail starts at the Discovery Center. The first half of

the trail travels along a ridge parallel to Mill Lake affording some spectacular views and a few benches to rest on. The back half of the trail winds through a Oak-Hickory forest on a ridge which is a glacial moraine. The third bench overlooks a small pond. During spring and fall migrations, waterfowl can be seen on Mill Lake and the small pond. This trail has some steep, short hills and one set of stairs.

Lakeview Trail — 3.6 miles (5.8 km) starting from the Discovery Center; 1.5 miles (2.4 km) starting from Mill Lake access site or Ridge Road. If you start at the Discovery Center you begin by following the Oak Woods Trail for .5 mile until you reach an intersection. There the Lakeview Trail breaks off and heads in a Northwesterly direction following part of the Waterloo-Pinckney Hiking Trail. The trail winds through a deciduous forest until you reach the Lakeview loop. This trail travels through an Oak-Hickory forest and along some open fields that was a golf course in the 1920's. In late spring and early summer these open areas are covered with wildflowers.

Hickory Hills Trail — 5.3 miles (8.5 km) from the Discovery Center; 1 mile (1.6 km) from Waterloo Area Headquarters. This trail is a loop with numbered interpretive points along it's route. You can pick up a brochure at Area Headquarters or at the Discovery Center. The trail travels through an Oak-Hickory forest as well as part of an old golf course. This is a very hilly trail with a number of steep stairways. There are benches to rest on along the way including one on the shore of Crooked Lake.



WATERLOO RECREATION AREA



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