

MARKER #10

To the left is an old beaver dam, now filled in with sediment and vegetation. Around Labor Day the orange Touch-Me-Not, or Jewelweed, blooms here.

MARKER #11

White Ash is a hardwood tree found in the park. This old stump shows beaver damage to an old ash tree (generally a harder wood than they prefer). It was cut down before

they could fall it across our bridge! This beaver dam is newer. The lodge out in the middle of the marsh, created by the beaver for its' home, can only be seen early in the

year. Northern Water Snakes can often be seen basking in the sun or hunting for frogs here. Though they look intimidating, they are not poisonous. These as well as other snakes are protected in the park, please do not harm or attempt to catch them.



White Ash

MARKER #12

A 'Witches'-broom', the bush like growth high up in this large pine, was probably caused by a fungus or virus in the tree.

MARKER #13

This tree is a large White Cedar, an important wintertime food source for deer.

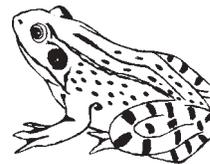
Nearby, the short plants with deep veins in the leaves are Bunchberries. They have a white 4-petaled flower in late May and June and they bear small berries which turn bright red by late summer. The berries can be eaten as emergency food, but be sure you know what to eat before you try because some red berries on the forest floor are not safe to eat.

MARKER #14

Here you find White Birch. In the past, this tree was very important to Native Americans. They had many uses for it, including making birch bark canoes.

MARKER #15

Our state tree, the White Pine is found here. This evergreen tree has needles in clusters of five. As impressive as these look, they're nothing compared to the ones logged out of here around the turn of the century. As wild as Wilderness Park is, most of it was a stump field at one time or another, and everything you see is either 2nd or 3rd generation growth.



Pondside Interpretive Trail



Michigan
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"Enjoy the interpretive trail"

Wilderness State Park

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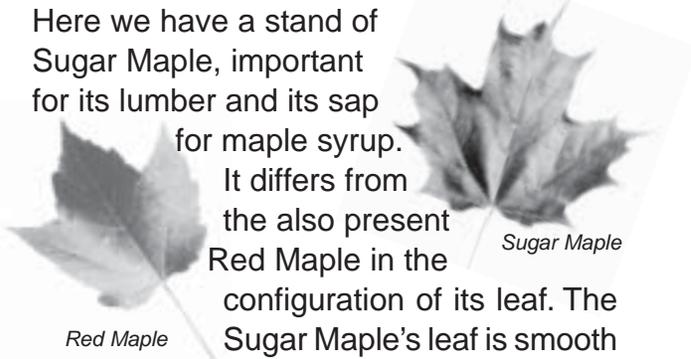
Welcome to the Pondside Trail

To use this guide, start at the large wood sign at the parking area south of the Pines Campground and walk clockwise around the pond. Please be considerate to your neighbors. The water, trees, and animals rely on the delicate balance in this neighborhood. Please do not take or otherwise alter any part of this beautiful community.

MARKER #1

Here we have a stand of Sugar Maple, important for its lumber and its sap for maple syrup.

It differs from the also present Red Maple in the configuration of its leaf. The Sugar Maple's leaf is smooth between the points, while the Red Maple's leaf is rough between the points.



MARKER #2

This big Balsam Fir differs from Hemlock by having a smooth bark with sap-filled blisters, and from Spruce by having flat, rather than squared, whorled needles. On early summer evenings, frogs are often heard here. Near shore, the Green Frogs make a 'twang' like the plucking of a banjo string, while further out, the Bullfrogs emit

a deep 'jug-arum'. On cold nights, Spring Peepers may be heard with their loud, high-pitched 'peeps'.

MARKER #3

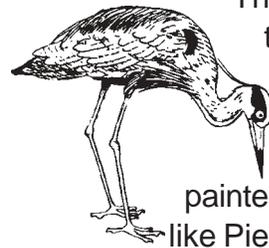
Partridge Berry is a small ground plant at the base of this tree.



MARKER #4

These milkweed plants are food for monarch butterfly caterpillars which are immune to the juice, somewhat toxic to most other creatures. This provides them with a defense mechanism against their predators, which soon learn that the black-white-yellow striped pattern (and the orange and black of the adult insect as well) means "stay away."

MARKER #5



This is a good vantage point to look for the Great Blue Herons wading along the far shore. Other wildlife to look for includes muskrats, painted turtles, and the small, duck-like Pied Billed Grebe, a diving bird.

MARKER #6

This sandy soil is often used by snapping turtles in early summer for laying eggs.

Skunks and raccoons keep the population in check by digging up and eating many of the eggs. The shells of which can often be found laying about throughout the summer. Wildflowers which grow here include the blue Flag Iris in June, the pink Morning Glory and the yellow St. John's Wort in July, and the bright red Cardinal Flower in late August.

MARKER #7

The Red Pine Trail starts at this point and links up to the Nebo and Hemlock Trails. The Pondside Trail continues along the water.

MARKER #8

Here can be seen the remnants of a bent tree straining up towards the light. Beyond it are younger trees; sometimes clearings must be made, by use of timber cutting or by controlled burning, to prevent forests from shading out new growth. Young trees are important for providing food and cover for small animals and birds. Directly across the trail is a white ash tree, its wood being very hard is often used in making tool handles.

MARKER #9



Here you find a shrub called Sweet Gale or Bayberry.