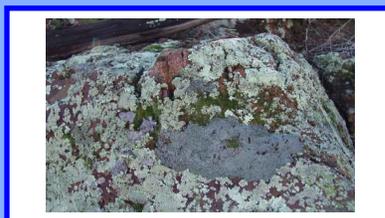


Trail Stop 5: Standing at Trail Stop 5 you can see through the clearing the log cabin shelter, picnic table area, and parking lot. This shelter can be reserved for groups by calling Walworth County Public Works' phone number listed on the back of this pamphlet. Various types of oaks including Bur and Red Oaks can be seen out towards, and across the road. As you look further into the clearing, coniferous trees will start to become more prevalent.

An easy way to identify a red oak and white oak are the shapes of the leaves. Red oak can be remembered by the sharp tips that resemble fire. White oak can be remembered by the rounded tips as well, the top two sections of the leaf make the letter "w."



Trail Stop 6: Looking on the other side of the trail from the marker, you can see two large granite boulders that were brought down by the glacier. These boulders have greenish-grey spots called lichens. Lichens are the beginning of the decomposition process. These spots are also seen on trees, buildings, tombstones, and old machinery like cars and farm equipment. This is a good sign that the air quality is healthy and clean.



Trail Stop 7: This is the last trail stop on the Vista Trail. As you can see, you are back at the main park area where the parking lot and restrooms are. During the spring and summer months, it can be noticed that Garlic Mustard is prevalent along the trail and very abundant around this trail stop. If the Garlic Mustard isn't prevalent Poison Ivy has been seen here as it is a plant that grows well as a wood's edge plant. It can be identified by having three leaves and a reddish stem between the three leaves. Poison Ivy isn't just found on the ground, but can be found on vines, climbing sides of trees.



Walworth County
Department of Public Works



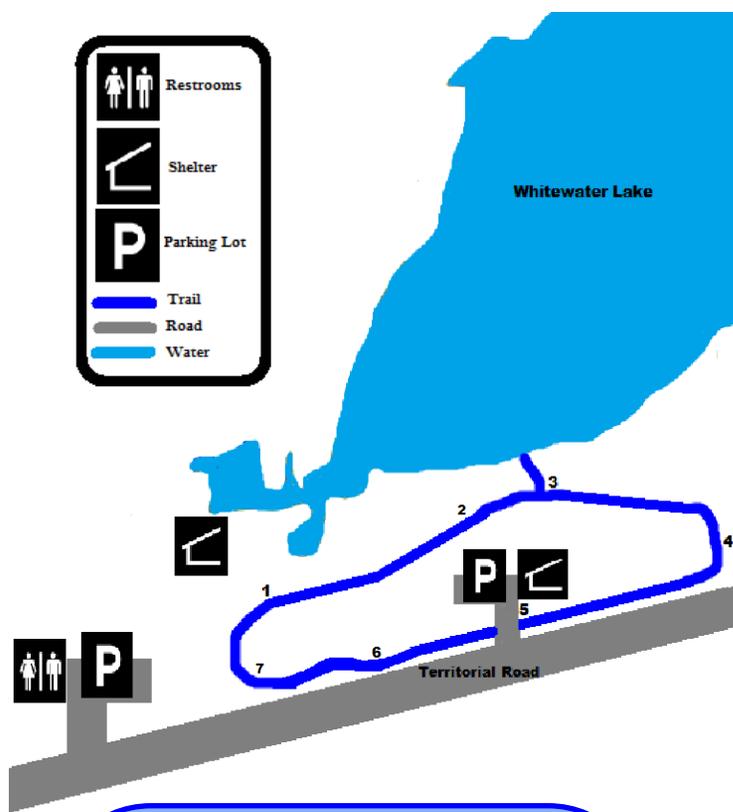
W4097 County Road NN
Elkhorn, WI 53121
262-741-3114, Option 2
www.co.walworth.wi.us



Natureland Park Vista Storybook Trail Map



W8338 Territorial Road
Whitewater, WI 53190



Trail Stop 1: As you approached the beginning of the Vista Trail, you might have noticed the amount of Plantains growing in the grass with an abundant amount of dandelions. Although the dandelions go away with the change in the season, the Plantains can be noticed throughout the year.



Plantains

Trail Stop 2: As you began your hike you might have noticed the little amount of ground vegetation on the herb layer. While the ground may not have much vegetation it is rich with pine needles. Notice how quiet it is when hiking through this section. The layer of pine needles or other decomposing leaves and sticks, is referred to as duff. The reason there is little to no herb layer vegetation on this part of the trail is because of the acidity that comes from the pine needles. Plants need the nutrients from the humus and mineral soil levels, but aren't able to because of the thick acidic duff layer from the pine needles. Try to identify the red and white pines that can be seen throughout the different trails at Natureland.



The Vista Trail is the shortest trail at Natureland County Park. Although it is short in distance, it has varying terrain as it follows alongside Whitewater Lake. The trail ascends up from the pines to deciduous trees beside Territorial Road by the cabin shelter that is available to reserve. Throughout the trail you can notice the remains of the Wisconsin Glaciation period from about 10,000 years ago.

Trail Stop 3: If you continue up the small extension trail to the lake you are given the chance to see Whitewater Lake from another viewpoint. If you walk quietly, the sound of frogs jumping into the water from the shore can be heard. Sandhill Cranes can be spotted outside of their breeding season as they tend to like ponds and lakes to avoid predators. Great Egrets are another kind of migratory bird that can also be spotted here. Many other birds migrate to Wisconsin during the spring and summer months.



Great Egret



Sandhill Crane

Trail Stop 4: After ascending up the trail, you start to turn around heading east back to the main parking lot. Shagbark Hickory can be seen at this stop as well as many other places in this park. As you continue down the trail, garlic mustard, which is an invasive species, will become more prevalent, especially at the end of the trail.