



10 Mosses and Lichens

This section of the trail reveals a variety of mosses and lichens. Lichens are gray, black or greenish plants that look like leafy crusts growing on wood bark or rocks. These plants are a combination of a fungus (mushroom) and algae (simple water plants).

Lichens are very sensitive to dry or polluted air. As a result, the amount of lichen found in an area can be used to gauge the level of pollution.

11 Clearings

Small open areas provide a diversity of habitat that encourages a wide range of wildlife. Sit for a while on the log, look and listen and you should hear a variety of wildlife.

Wildlife can be encouraged by creating clearings. Clearings should be shaped to give the greatest amount of edge, which gives the greatest amount of access to cover.

12 Old Rail Fence

The rail fence makes a good highway for squirrel traffic and perches for birds. Over time the hedgerows develop along fencerows due to seeds in bird droppings.

13 Succession

Plant succession is the process where abandoned fields eventually turn to rough pasture, then to old fields and eventually shrubs and scrub forest. Selective cutting and mowing are some of the methods used to slow down the invasion of unwanted trees.

14 Plantation Management

As you pass through this white and red pine plantation take note of the difference in the two trees. White pine have five needles and red pine have two needles. These trees were planted in 1973.

15 The Brush Pile

This brush pile has been constructed by piling cedar rails in alternate directions in layers. Slash cuttings were then piled on top. Brush piles are used for shelter from predators by rabbits, grouse, chipmunks and other small wildlife species.

A heavy winter snow blanket on the piles acts as a thermal blanket, providing excellent winter shelter.

How to Reach Us

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Perth Wildlife Reserve Trail Guide



This conservation area is specifically geared to wildlife management. This is an area for quiet observations. Take your time and keep your eyes open.

Trail length: 2.5 kilometres
Approximate time: 1.5 hours

Please note:

- This is a walking, ski or snowshoe trail only
- Stay on the trail to avoid plant damage
- Follow the blue markers
- Dogs are prohibited
- The reserve is closed from sundown to sunrise

We hope this trail and brochure inspire you to make the habitat in your backyard friendlier to wildlife.



1 Observation Tower

This observation tower provides an excellent view of the ducks and geese which use the pond-field area. We encourage you to record your observations throughout the reserve in the monitoring database box located in the tower.

2 Goose Nest Site and Grazing Area

The small pond and island in front provide a secure nesting site for geese. The field you are in is maintained by periodic mowing to provide a grazing field for deer and geese.

3 Stone Fence

Red squirrels, chipmunks and weasels are frequently seen zigzagging in and out of this old stone fence. The old stone fence provides good shelter and safe transportation routes for wildlife.

4 Wood Duck Nests and Salt Lick

Across the wetland you will see three wood duck nesting structures. One is a commercially produced plastic one and the other two are home-made wooden ones.

These and other nesting boxes placed in areas of suitable habitat have helped the recovery of the wood duck.

To the right, a salt lick is provided for the local deer population. Take a look for tracks in the area.

5 Apple Tree Rejuvenation

Look at this area for buckthorn invasion ... assess the health of the apple trees.

For apple trees to survive, encroaching vegetation must be managed. Common buckthorn can quickly take over areas like this one. Invading vegetation must be cut back in order for the apple trees to acquire the proper space and sunlight to yield more apples.

6 Hedgerow Shrubs

As you walk along this back lane, take note of the large variety of shrubs. Hedgerows provide food, shelter and are also travel lanes for wildlife.

7 Viewing Screen

This side trail will take you to a viewing screen on a small seasonal pond that was created in 1991. This screen allows opportunity to view waterfowl without being seen.

8 Turtle basking area at Jebbs Creek

Turtle basking platforms have been constructed from logs to provide an area for turtles in and above the water.

9 Tay Marsh

Here you can see Tay Marsh which is part of the Perth Wildlife Reserve. RVCA partnered with Ducks Unlimited to improve the marsh for wildlife species such as muskrats, fish, bullfrogs, ducks and other marsh birds.

