

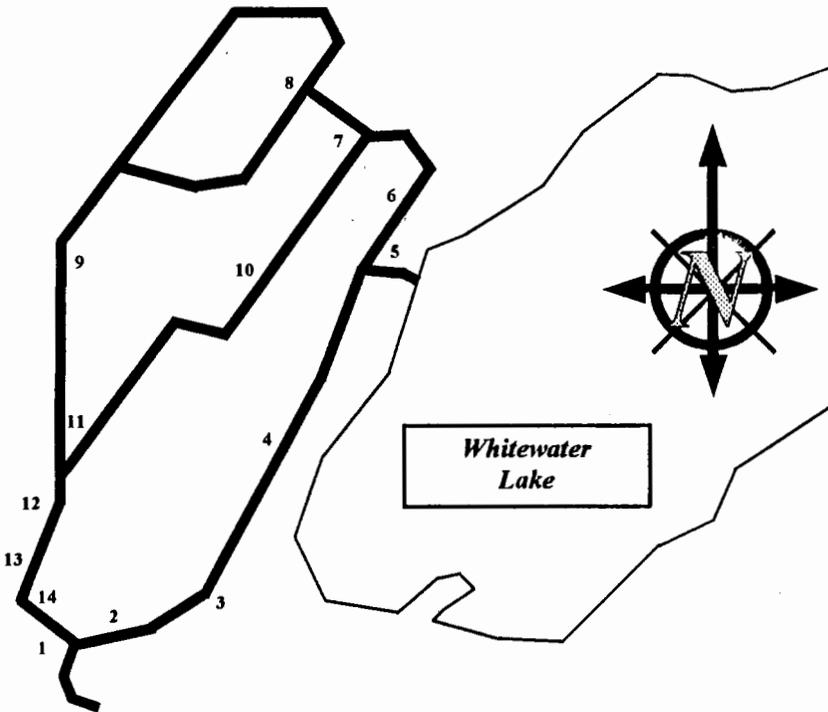
*Nature Land County Park*  
*Walworth County, Wisconsin*

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**Trail of Many  
Terrains**

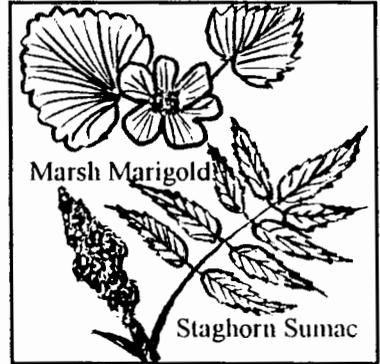
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By:  
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## Trail of Many Terrains

1. As you walk over the bridge, which is the beginning of this trail, you will notice how clear the stream is. **Watercress** can be seen growing in this stream. The large plants with round leaves along the water edge are **marsh marigolds**. The beautiful yellow flower can be seen in early spring. Look for water insects and dragonflies on or near the water. The water strider looks like an insect with little cups on his feet. Just beyond the bridge on the right side, you will see the whitish-green bark of the **quaking aspen**, a little **maple** and also **hickory** trees.



2. Stop and look at the **wood duck house** in the middle of the water. This is the closest point to the duck habitat. Along the trail can be found many **multiflora rose** bushes. Watch out, they can be rather prickly! A vine called **hog peanut** can be seen wrapping around many plants in the area.

3. Stop and listen to the water, trees and birds. It is like music to your ears. The water is seen flowing in a different direction than the other streams. This would be a good time to discuss watersheds. There appears to be more algae in this particular area. Notice the small rocks that may have been carried by the water and deposited here. All along the right side of the trail are **honeysuckle bushes** bearing orange and then red berries in mid summer. You can smell the blossoms of the honeysuckle in early spring. This makes a good habitat for the birds as a ready source of food.

4. This area on the left was filled with **sumac** several years ago and has been cut recently. Small sumac bushes are emerging now and you would expect to find large colonies of **staghorn sumac** in a year or two. This is a warm sunny area, definitely on a higher ridge than when we entered the trail. Flowers seen in mid summer are

**butterfly weed, yarrow, thistle, sweet clover.** Trees include the **aspen**, notice the leaves quaking in the wind, **hickory** etc...

**Grapevines** are twisted in many of the shrubs.

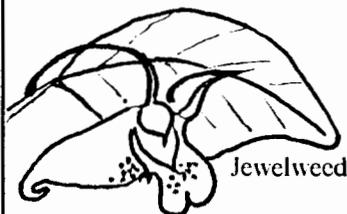
5. You will find a path that leads you down toward the lake.

**Hawthorns** are quite prevalent. These hawthorns have large spines (2-3 inches) sticking out from the branches. It has been told that the shrike (bird) will find a mouse and put in on a haw for storage. We

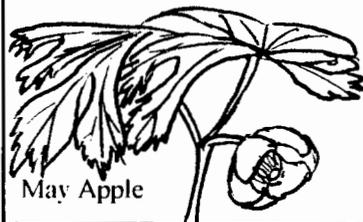
will enter first a deciduous tree stand and then a coniferous forest further on down the path. As you proceed, you will find a few small **white pine** (5 needles to a bundle).



Hawthorn



Jewelweed



May Apple

6. Just before the coniferous forest, you will cross a very wet area with the help of a few boards. Along the left of the "bridge" you can see **jewelweed**. This plant expels seeds in the fall of the year. All you have to do is touch the pod and the seeds jump thus it is also called touch-me-not.

7. This forest appears to have been planted because the trees are lined in rows. Large **spruce** line the edge of the forest, followed by **white pine** and then

further up the hill is **red pine**. Look at the trunks of the trees, white pine tends to be dark while the red pine has a red bark. Follow the path straight up the hill for the ridge path or walk the edge of the pines which is a short cut called the goldenrod loop.

### Ridge Loop

8. At the top of the ridge, you will observe **may apples** (umbrella plants), **fern**, many downed trees with fungi, along with oaks, cherry, hickory etc... Take a closer look at the may apples. They look like 10 in. umbrellas. In the spring, they have a showy white flower between pairs of leaves. Later it turns into little apples.

9. Under this **cherry tree** is **black-eyed Susan** and **thimbleweed**. Thimbleweed blooms in July with a star like greenish flower and a thimble in the middle.

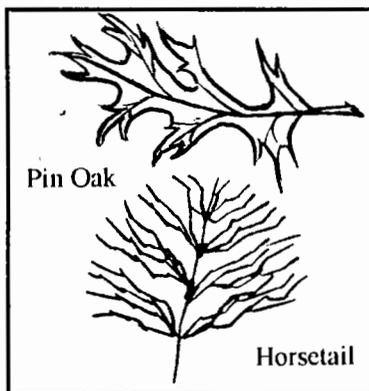
Not far down the path, is **bergamot** on the left side. Look for tall **bulrush** on the right.

### **Goldenrod Loop**

10. This loop is a shortcut which connects to the main trail. You will see plants that have been previously identified on the trail.

11. As you enter the main trail, large spruce can be seen. They have single needles which are square and can roll between your two fingers. The next area tends to be low and wet, bringing out the **willows** and **crabapple trees**. The grasses are very high. In the fall **goldenrod** and **asters** will be in bloom.

12. Here is a **pin oak**. It is a pretty shaped tree. Examine a leaf and see the pointy lobes which are cut close to the center of the leaf. It gets a glorious red color in the fall.



13. We join up with a stream on our right. Summer brings such flowers as the **spiderwort**, **thimbleweed** and **Joe Pye Weed**. Joe Pye Weed is a tall plant with lance-shaped leaves. It develops a large, magenta flower top in late summer and early fall.

14. As we finish our trail look for **horsetail** also called scouring rush on the right side of the path. It has a segmented stalk with whorls of leaves which resemble pine needles. It looks like little conifers that are 6 inches high. Settlers used this plant to scrub out cooking pans.

In conclusion, you can see why this trail was called the trail of many terrains. We visited many different kinds of terrains which allowed for a variety of plant species. The bird life is abundant no matter what time of day you visit.