

# Trail Descriptions



## Piney Point Path

This short trail starts near the Woodland Blind and winds into the heart of a mature loblolly pine forest. Look for barred owls, woodpeckers and flycatchers.

The trail ends at an observation platform overlooking Prospect Bay. Take binoculars or a spotting scope and scan the marsh for green herons, egrets and a variety of waterfowl.



## Lake Trail

Start at the visitor center and follow the shell road toward South Meadow and Beach trails. Continue past the old lodge on Beach Trail.

Lake Trail will continue on the berm of Lake Knapp (to the right). Look for muskrats, herons and eagles. Follow the footbridge into the forest. Cut-offs for Owl Alley, Pellet Pass and Marshy Creek are to the left.

The trail passes East Blind, which offers views of waterfowl on Lake Knapp. The trail ends at the intersection of Marshy Creek Trail. Bear right to reach the parking lot. Bear left to access the canoe launch and observation tower overlooking the serene waters of Marshy Creek.



## Exhibit Area

Pass through the gate opposite the education building to enter the exhibit area. Meander around the ponds and look for frogs and painted turtles. Stop by the mews to get a close view of captive birds of prey such as eagles, hawks and owls. Check out the native garden to find out which plants are beneficial for wildlife.

## South Meadow Trail

Start at the visitor center and access this trail from Fox Pass or on the way to Beach and Lake trails. South Meadow is a mixture of wildflowers and warm season grasses such as switch grass and blue stem. Butterflies, caterpillars and praying mantis are readily seen. Look for sparrows, Cooper's hawks and meadow larks. At the far end of the meadow peer through the trees for a glimpse of Prospect Bay.



## Pellet Pass

Pellet Pass connects Owl Alley and Lake Trail. Look for owl pellets and other signs of birds of prey, such as feathers and bones. Keep an eye out for woodpeckers and brown creepers.

## Beach Trail

Start at the visitor center and follow the shell road toward South Meadow and Lake trails. Watch for bluebirds, swallows and warblers crossing the road. Stop by White Blind to view waterfowl on Lake Knapp. Note the osprey platform in the middle of the lake. Continue to the old lodge and bear left onto the boardwalk. You'll come to a fork at the observation tower overlooking Kent Narrows. The left fork heads to the beach. The right fork leads to a "salt panne"—a depression in the salt marsh where small fish and plankton reside. Look for foxes, crabs and water snakes. This is a great spot for picnicking, surf fishing or combing for bay critters.



## Owl Alley

Owl Alley connects Lake and Marshy Creek trails. Look for signs of great horned owls (pellets or feathers). Visitors periodically catch glimpses of these mighty hunters.



## Fox Pass

Fox Pass connects Piney Point Path and South Meadow Trail. As the name implies, foxes, as well as raccoons, deer and rabbits use this trail to meander about the property. The trail follows the fence line and ends just past the South Meadow pond. As the habitats along the trail change from forest to marsh to meadow, so do the types of wildlife you'll see. Look for warblers, catbirds, wrens and sparrows.



## Marshy Creek Trail

The trailhead for Marshy Creek is located at the far-east end of the parking lot along the tree line. The trail is actually a roadway to the canoe launch at Marshy Creek. Plant lovers will find a variety of species in different habitats along the trail – a wet meadow, a woodlot and a salt marsh. Stop by Hummock Loop Trail or the observation tower to view the creek from different vantage points. Look for river otters, eagles, osprey and wading birds hunting the inlet. In summer, Marshy Creek is full of bay grasses that shelter a variety of fish and blue crabs. Canoe or kayak paddlers of all abilities can enjoy self-guided tours of the creek's calm waters. In winter, visitors are treated to the spectacle of thousands of migrating waterfowl. Scaup, ruddy ducks and canvasbacks use this area as a wintering ground.



## Hummock Loop

Located off Marshy Creek Trail, Hummock Loop leads to a forested upland patch poking above the marsh, known as a "hummock." Look for brown-headed nuthatches, creepers and warblers. Keep an eye out for various reptiles and amphibians crossing the trail.

