

MESIC PRAIRIE / OAK SAYANNA (115 Acres)

What you see when you look at the tall grass prairie only reveals half of the story...sometimes less. Besides having striking blossoms and fall color, many of these long lived perennial flowers and grasses have massive root systems that can bore down to 8' deep! Several are capable of spreading laterally by rhizomes (horizontal underground stems). These immense underground support systems make the mesic prairie a more drought tolerant plant community.



MESIC PRAIRIE / OAK SAYANNA

FORESTED WETLAND

(33 Acres Created, 158 Acres Existing)

The forested wetland is similar in soil moisture to the wet prairie but instead of mostly herbaceous (not woody) plants it is dominated by trees and shrubs. Silver maple, red maple, swamp white oak, green ash, shagbark hickory, blue-beech, and American elm are common trees in this community. Shrub species present include spice bush, silky dogwood, graydogwood, nannyberry, arrow-wood viburnum, winterberry, and black currant.



FORESTED WETLAND

WET PRAIRIE (182 Acres)

Depending on what time of year you are visiting the preserve you may be thinking "Where is the water?" The wet prairie is a different type of wetland than the emergent wetlands. There is not always surface water present. Spring and fall are the wettest seasons here and there will be standing water at those times. However, during the drier parts of the year the water level is below the ground but still provides hydration for this community of hydrophytes (hydro = water, phyte = plant). In fact, if the wet prairie was always submerged, many of the plants seeded there would not have an opportunity to grow. The intriguing plants that thrive in these conditions include sedges, rushes, bulrushes, grasses and a vast number of flowers. The wet prairie is the most rich in plant species out of any community in the preserve.



WET MESIC PRAIRIE

WET MESIC PRAIRIE (28 Acres)

The wet mesic (mesic: moderate supply of moisture) prairie could be considered the melting pot of the preserve since it is an area of transition from the wetland community to the mesic prairie community. The plant species from the mesic prairie that can tolerate more moisture, along with wetland plants that are able to withstand relatively drier conditions, can both grow here. Although drier than the wet prairie, the wet mesic prairie is still considered a wetland type. The only species unique to the wet mesic prairie within the preserve is the towering Sawtooth Sunflower (*Helianthus grosseserratus*).

MESIC FOREST (12 Acres)

The mesic forest can be distinguished by its trees. Sugar maple, basswood, American beech, yellow birch, white oak, black cherry, hop-hornbeam, and bitternut hickory together exemplify this community. Within the preserve there is remnant and created mesic forest. The created portion is 12 acres stretching along the length of an esker (glacial river deposit of sand & gravel) in the northwest corner of the preserve. A remnant stand is just south of there; just follow the Esker Trail south and connect with the West Wood Trail. Spring in the forest is accented with spring ephemerals like Spring Beauties (*Claytonia virginica*), Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*), Large-Flowered Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*), and Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*).

AN ISLAND EXPLANATION

You may notice the peculiar trees marooned on islands in two of the ponds or possibly those on land toward the north end of the preserve where foxes now dwell. A survey prior to construction detected the NYS and Federally Endangered Indiana Bat, which roosts under the loose bark of large unobstructed trees. These islands were left during construction to preserve any potential bat roost trees.

SENECA MEADOWS WETLAND PRESERVE



AMERICAN BITTERN (*Botaurus lentiginosus*)



SPRING BEAUTY & TROUT LILLY (*Claytonia virginica & Erythronium americanum*)

TRAIL MAP



IESI-Seneca Meadows, Inc., is a waste management and recycling company that holds itself to a higher standard, often surpassing regulatory requirements for the preservation and protection of the environment. The company's most recent initiative, the Seneca Meadows Wetlands Preserve in Seneca Falls, New York, serves as a living testament of its devotion to the natural world.

The Preserve features over seven miles of trails through diverse native plant communities that include: emergent, wet prairie, wet-mesic prairie, forested wetlands, upland savannas and tall grass prairies. Close to 200,000 native plants, trees and shrubs were planted, and 450 acres were seeded to develop the created wetlands, and enhance existing wetlands that comprise this ecological treasure.



Gray Tree Frog (*Hyla versicolor*)



Garter Snake (*Thamnophis* sp.)

EMERGENT WETLAND (50 Acres)

What is an emergent wetland? Simply put, it is a consistently shallow body of water, where marsh plants emerge from the water. Within the preserve, eight shallow rain-fed ponds were created for this purpose. This wetland type supports emergent and aquatic plant life, resident and migratory birds, amphibians, reptiles, semi-aquatic mammals, insects, and macro invertebrates. Some emergent wetlands even contain small fish, seasonally.

The vegetation in the water offers food and cover for animals, and acts as a natural filter that is capable of removing toxins from runoff water. Many interesting plants grow in the emergent wetlands but none as eccentric as the small yellow flowered Swollen Bladderwort (*Utricularia inflata*). A carnivorous plant, Swollen Bladderwort does not photosynthesize; instead it suction feeds, drawing tiny aquatic organisms into its submerged bladders where the prey is digested.



Swollen Bladderwort (*Utricularia inflata*)

Submerged Bladders





Map Key:



Rain Shelter Location



Edge of Wooded Area or Tree Line



Water Body

The SMI Wetland Preserve is a Carry In Carry Out Park. Please DO NOT Litter.

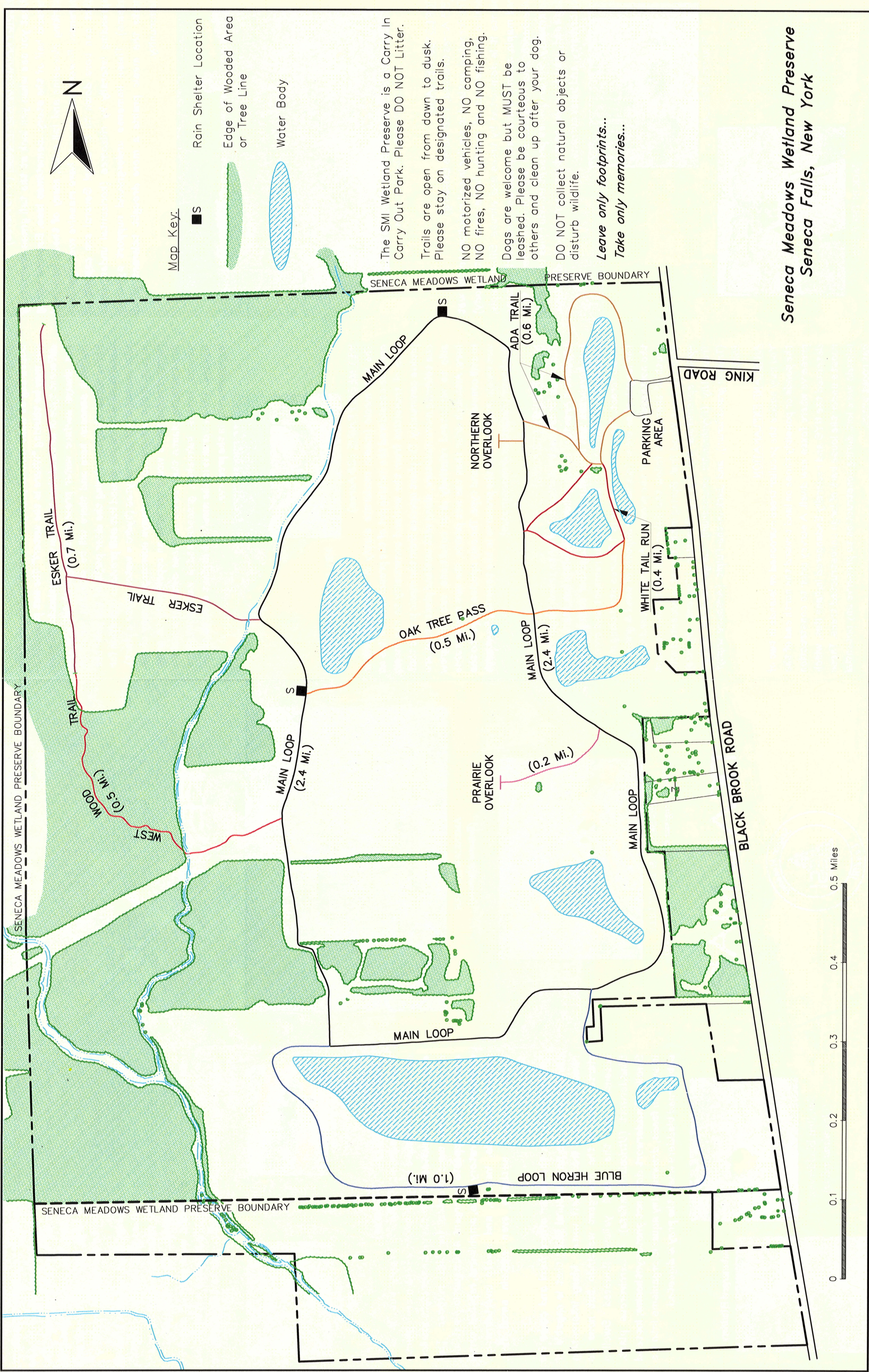
Trails are open from dawn to dusk. Please stay on designated trails.

NO motorized vehicles, NO camping, NO fires, NO hunting and NO fishing.

Dogs are welcome but MUST be leashed. Please be courteous to others and clean up after your dog.

DO NOT collect natural objects or disturb wildlife.

*Leave only footprints...
Take only memories...*



Seneca Meadows Wetland Preserve
Seneca Falls, New York