

Trail Descriptions

SELF-GUIDED TRAIL

Pick up our Self-guided Trail booklet and be your own teacher as you wind through the many habitats present at CNC. This easy paved walk has a series of numbered checkpoints where you can stop to learn about some of the natural wonders you may see while on your visit.

SAVANNA TRAIL

Beginning near the Pergola, this mowed-grass trail leads you through grassland and oak savanna. It connects with the Self-guided Trail at the River Overlook.

BEACH TRAIL

As you walk through a deciduous forest, this 0.1 mile steep woodchip trail brings you down the ravine to the river. The trail is accessed at the top by the Self-guided Trail and at the bottom by the Railroad Bed Trail.

SOUTH RIVER BLUFF TRAIL

This steeply sloped woodchip trail, accessed at the top by the Self-guided Trail, winds among limestone ledges 0.1 mile down to the Railroad Bed Trail by the river.

RAILROAD BED TRAIL

After descending by either the Beach Trail, the North River Bluff Trail, or the South River Bluff Trail, follow this 0.75 mile grass trail along the beautiful St. Croix River.

NORTH LOOP TRAIL

Accessed via the Self-guided Trail, this 1.0 mile paved trail, which circles an old orchard, offers a view of our "sugarbush", where sap is collected from boxelder trees in the spring for making pure maple syrup. The trail also passes the Trailside Lodge and pine plantation.

NORTH RIVER BLUFF TRAIL

Beginning from the North Loop Trail, this moderately steep woodchip trail goes for 0.7 miles to the Railroad Bed Trail which runs along the St. Croix River.

RED CEDAR TRAIL

An extension of the North Loop Trail, this 0.3 mile gently sloping woodchip trail brings the visitor deeper into the woods overlooking the breathtaking ravine.

PRAIRIE LOOP TRAILS

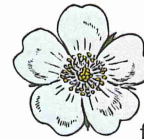
Visit our prairie restoration site across Cty. Rd. 21 to see native prairie plants in the spring, summer, and fall. The outer grass loop is 1.4 miles with several mowed paths that branch off throughout the prairie.

SEASONAL SNOWSHOE TRAIL

This 1.0 mile loop, accessed at the Visitor Center, brings visitors past the wetland and orchard, and winds through prairie and oak savanna. Bring your own snowshoes, or rent a pair from CNC when there is adequate snow cover (6+ inches).

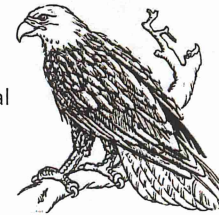
Welcome!

Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center (CNC) is a private, non-profit education and conservation organization established in 1981 by an endowment from the Thomas E. and Edna D. Carpenter Foundation.



CNC now comprises some 725 pristine acres in Minnesota and Wisconsin, with several miles of self-guided and wheelchair accessible trails.

Our Visitor Center offers several hands-on educational exhibits and is home to our animal ambassadors.



Both the trails and buildings are open seven days a week, all year, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. free of charge. Donations are appreciated. Binoculars and snowshoes (in winter) are available for rent.

Educational programs are offered for a small fee on weekends or evenings to the general public and are listed in our newsletter and online. Groups can make a reservation for a naturalist led environmental education program by calling our office at (651)437-4359.

Enjoy your visit!

Minnesota Campus

Winter Trail Map



**Carpenter
St. Croix Valley
Nature Center**

12805 St. Croix Trail S.
Hastings, MN 55033
(651) 437-4359

www.carpenternaturecenter.org



Please enjoy our trails from
8:00am to 4:30pm daily.
All dogs must be on leash.
Thank You.

North Prairie Loop Trail

ST. CROIX TRAIL/ CTV RD 21

South Prairie Loop Trail

ST. CROIX RIVER

Railroad Bed Trail

South River
Bluff Trail

Savanna Trail

Self-guided Trail

North Loop Trail

North River Bluff Trail

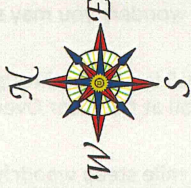
Red Cedar Trail

Beach Trail

APPLE
ORCHARD

CNC WETLAND

! CAUTION !
PARKING LOT,
SIDEWALKS, AND
TRAILS MAY BE
VERY SLIPPERY.



Seasonal Snowshoe Trail

Paved, Unplowed Trail

Paved, Plowed Trail

Grass or
Woodchip Trail

Benches

Points of Interest

G- Gazebo

P- Pergola

D- Education Dock

L- Ravine Lookout

R- River Overlook

Facilities

VC- Visitor Center

PV- Pavilion

IC- Interpretive Center

AB- Administration

AS- Apple Shack

MB- Maintenance

FH- Farmhouse

TL- Trailside Lodge

Map Legend

Deciduous Forest

Oak Savanna

Restored Prairie

Pine Plantation

Apple Orchard

Manicured Area

Water

Wetland

Point Douglas
Cemetery

Private Property