Welcome!



The Wisconsin Campus of Carpenter Nature Center was established in the late 1980s when Al and Laurie Hein donated 98 acres of land south

of Hudson to CNC. Since then, the Al & Laurie Hein Trust, Dan & Jean Greenwald, and several community partnerships have enabled CNC to expand to 300 beautiful acres of prairie and woodland in Wisconsin. We are proud to preserve the habitat of the many amazing plants and animals that call this campus their home. The trails are open seven days a week for hiking and enjoying nature. Check CNC's website for periodic on-site programming. Donations are encouraged to help us preserve this wildlife habitat and provide affordable environmental education.

Campus Location



Trail Descriptions

BIG BLUESTEM TRAIL

easily Accessible

This relatively flat trail circles the west half of the restored prairie between South and East Cove Roads. The trail totals about 0.8 miles, with elevation varying 20 feet at the highest and lowest points. There is access to parking and the Greenwald Information Kiosk.

LITTLE BLUESTEM TRAIL

A sister to the Big Bluestem trail, this 0.8 mile loop circles the east half of the restored prairie between South and East Cove Roads. Take a break to enjoy the council ring.

GOLDENROD TRAIL

Use this 0.25 mile trail to connect to the prairie trails from the Ridgeline Trail. Experience this flat grassland area as you walk alongside the main driveway.

INDIGO TRAIL

This short 0.2 mile walk has a wide variety of plants from pine trees to prairie plants. In early summer, look for blooming Indigo in the prairie.

LAURIE & AL HEIN TRAIL

Beginning from the Acorn Trail entrance, this 0.25 mile trail is surrounded by tall trees and is located in the middle of a deciduous forest. This trail was a favorite walk for Al and Laurie Hein when they lived on this property.

RIDGELINE TRAIL

This 0.63 mile trail includes a hike into and out of a moderately sloped, large basin full of vegetation. From the top edge of the basin, take a glimpse of the spectacular view.

ACORN TRAIL

This 1.2 mile narrow trail winds around a deciduous forest and includes areas with steep slopes. Look for deer, squirrels, woodpeckers, and owl nests along the way.



