

## What to look for on the Black River Trail

<p><b>Entire Trail</b></p>	<p>The Black River Trail will take you through various sub habitats. From Prairie Oak Savana to the riparian area along the Black river. Parts of the trail are marked with <b>blue flags or flagging strips</b>. “Riparian” means pertaining to or of a river.</p>
	<p>The spread of exotic plant species such as Himalayan blackberry and reed canary grass, coupled with fewer floods and fires have reduced the quality and quantity of native habitat for these plants. You will also see trailing blackberry can you tell the difference?</p>
	<p>Trees and shrubs you will see:          young oak seedlings and oak galls          Indian plum          roses          red-twig dogwood          serviceberry          ninebark          cascara</p>
	<p>Forbs, vines &amp; ferns you will see close to the river:          American winter cress          small flowered buttercup          oak tooth wort          small flowered trillium          false lily of the valley          Columbia tiger lily          yellow stream violet          sword ferns          shooting star          Orange Honeysuckle          Those in the trail will have wire mesh around them</p>
<p><b>Westside of Trail</b></p>	<p>Look for the <b>Osprey nest</b>. You might observe a Osprey returning from the Black River with a fish in its talons. If you are lucky enough to see this notice that the Osprey hold the fish with its head facing forward which makes it more aerodynamic and easier to carry.</p> <p>Please do not make loud noises or disturb the birds.</p>

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	<p>The road goes through a small area with Douglas Fir. Look for the <b>blue flags</b> that lead you over to the Eastside along the river. The Eastside of the trail is marked with <b>blue flagging strips</b> hung in the trees/shrubs.</p>
<b>Eastside of Trail</b>	<p>Look for the <b>girdled conifers</b> along the forest edge. They provide snags for woodpeckers and cavity nesting birds.</p>
	<p>Along the river edge there are multiple side paths used during Measuring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS). This project is part of a nationwide program administered by the Institute for Bird Populations, which is a network of bird banding stations that collect standardized data on key indications of avian health and survival during the breeding season. More than 800 birds have been banded at Glacial Heritage Preserve since 2013.</p>
	<p>Look for a <b>slough of the Black River</b>. This is one of the few places on Glacial Heritage with a view to open water.</p>
	<p>Follow the <b>blue flags</b> back to the main road and continue west to the five corners intersection.</p>
<b>5 corners</b>	<p>At this intersection the picnic area will be to your left and around this area that you will see young oaks coming up.</p>
	<p>Continue west back to your parking area and look for <b>prairie plants</b>. Document what you see with pictures and upload to iNaturalist when you get home. <a href="https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/prairie-appreciation-days">https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/prairie-appreciation-days</a></p>