

# Mayfield Village Wetlands Trail Map



## #1- Wet Meadow:

A wet meadow is the habitat for grasses, sedges, rushes and cattails. The soil is often saturated with water and even floods occasionally. Redwing blackbirds nest in the cattails, weaving the long leaves into a basket shaped nest, which is supported by the stems of the cattail. These nests are well camouflaged but observant people can spot the female bird entering and exiting the nesting area.

## #2- Dry Meadow:

This dry meadow is home to many animals like rabbits, mice, fox and insects. The American woodcock uses this habitat for courtship behavior. Active at dawn and dusk, the woodcock eats worms, insect larvae, beetles and ants. Students from local elementary schools have been an important part of seeding native plants in these meadows.



## #3- Bluebird Nesting Boxes:

Bluebirds are related to robins (thrush family) and favor meadow areas that border forest habitats. A decline in bluebird population caused by a lack of natural breeding places like tree cavities has been reversed by the construction and appropriate location of man-made nesting boxes. Bluebirds eat soft-bodied insects and fruit

## #4- Wildlife Viewing Blind:

In 2003, this wildlife viewing blind was designed and constructed by Joseph P. Groszek as an Eagle Scout Project. The Ohio Division of Wildlife provided information and photos about common birds of Ohio (found inside bird blind)

## #5- "Poison Ivy" Tree:

Poison ivy is found along edges of trails as a ground cover, shrub or climbing vine. Urushiol is the oil found in all parts of the plant and is responsible for causing a rash in many people. Look closely at this tree and see the fine, hairy roots that allow the plant to cling to rough surfaces. Poison ivy does produce a berry, which is an important food for many birds that spend the winter in our area.



Please respect the Wetlands by staying on the trail and cleaning up after your dog.

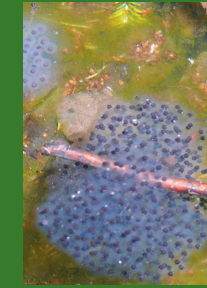
## #6- Young Forest:

Red maple trees dominate this area. This species is an important succession plant (natural replacement of one plant community by another). The foliage, twigs and bark of this maple are a favorite food for the Whitetail deer. Some birds, chipmunks and red squirrels consume red maple seeds, which mature in the spring.



## #7- Woodpecker Grocery Store:

This decaying tree has become a food store for woodpeckers looking for bark beetles. Red-bellied, downy and hairy woodpeckers make small holes while feeding. A yellow-bellied sapsucker makes a series of small holes in a horizontal line, tapping the tree for its sap and the insects attracted by it. Pileated woodpeckers make long, oval holes as nesting cavities.



## #8- Vernal Pools:

Vernal pools are depressions caused by uprooted trees and natural low spots. Some of the vernal pools in this wetland were excavated to replace wetland areas lost during the construction of Parkview Pool and the Progressive Campus. The resulting low areas collect ground and rainwater. These temporary bodies of water often hold enough water for amphibian eggs from salamanders, toads and frogs to hatch and the young to mature.

## #9- Gabion Dam Bridge:

A gabion dam was constructed to reinforce the creek bank. During times of heavy rainfall, this creek carries deep, rapidly moving water, which could erode the sides of the bank. In 2011, Eagle Scout David Girbino designed and constructed a walking bridge with volunteer help. Mayfield Village Maintenance Department poured the footers and Mayfield Village provided the building materials.

## #10- White Pine Grove:

White pines are native to Ohio, having returned to this area after the glaciers retreated over 10,000 years ago. White pines have 5 needles to a bundle and whorls of 5 branches around the trunk. The distance between whorls is one year's growth. Can you estimate the age of these trees?



## #11- Waterfall:

The rock formation in this waterfall is Cleveland Shale. This dark, oil-bearing rock was formed under ancient seas millions of years ago and is a common bedrock in the Cleveland area. Water comes from the surrounding communities of Richmond Heights and Highland Heights, and is part of the Chagrin River watershed.

## #12- Monarch Waystation:

Monarch waystations are places that provide plants necessary for monarch butterflies to lay eggs, provide food for their larvae (caterpillars) and nectar flowers for adult butterflies. Milkweeds are the only plants monarch larvae can consume. Monarchs may return to NE Ohio as early as late May. It takes about one month to complete the Monarch lifecycle. Three or four generations will be raised here. By late August, the newly emerging monarchs will begin migrating to Mexico where they will spend the winter.