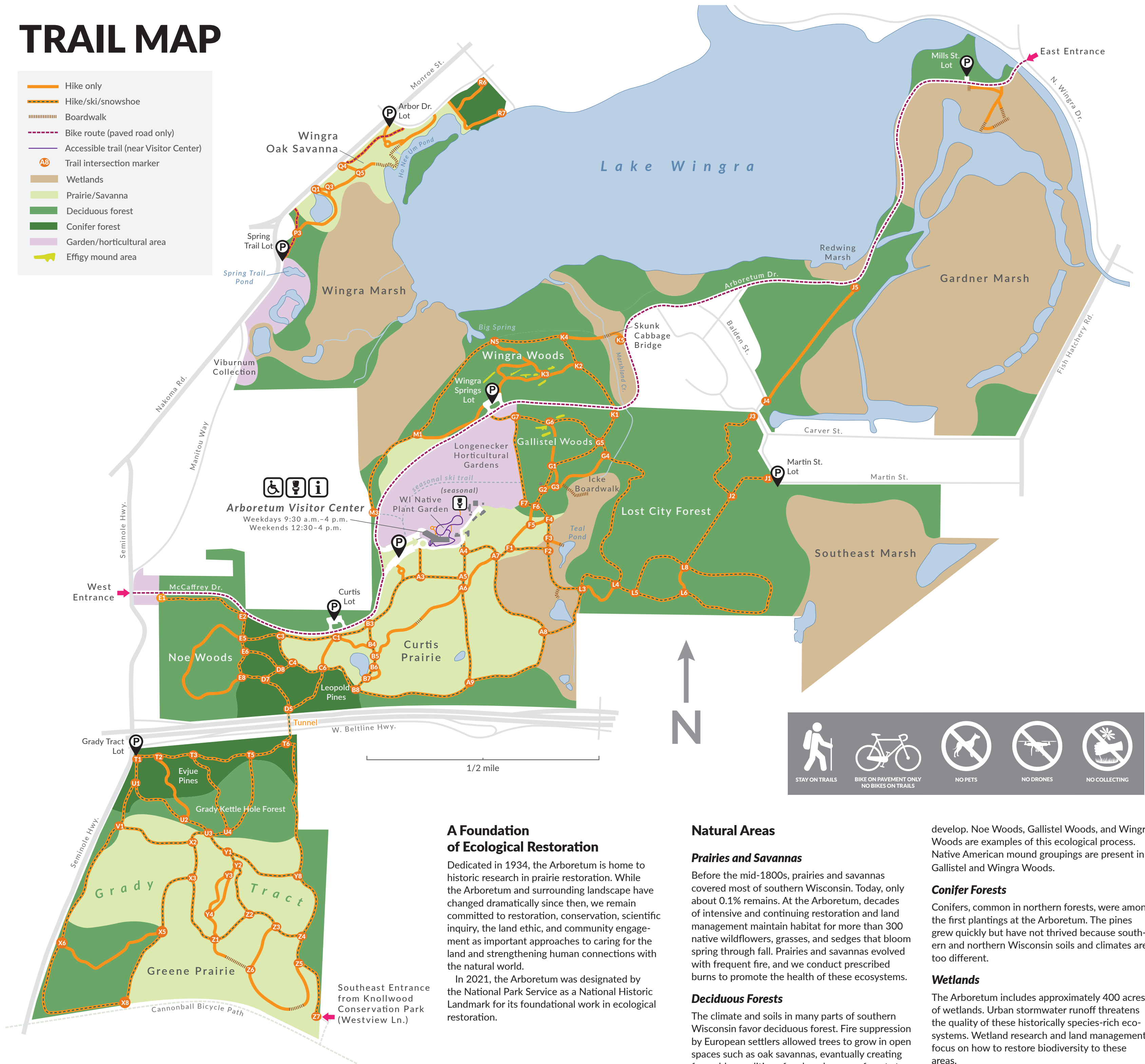


# TRAIL MAP

-  Hike only
-  Hike/ski/snowshoe
-  Boardwalk
-  Bike route (paved road only)
-  Accessible trail (near Visitor Center)
-  Trail intersection marker
-  Wetlands
-  Prairie/Savanna
-  Deciduous forest
-  Conifer forest
-  Garden/horticultural area
-  Effigy mound area



**Arboretum Visitor Center**  
 Weekdays 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
 Weekends 12:30 - 4 p.m.

## A Foundation of Ecological Restoration

Dedicated in 1934, the Arboretum is home to historic research in prairie restoration. While the Arboretum and surrounding landscape have changed dramatically since then, we remain committed to restoration, conservation, scientific inquiry, the land ethic, and community engagement as important approaches to caring for the land and strengthening human connections with the natural world.

In 2021, the Arboretum was designated by the National Park Service as a National Historic Landmark for its foundational work in ecological restoration.

## Natural Areas

### Prairies and Savannas

Before the mid-1800s, prairies and savannas covered most of southern Wisconsin. Today, only about 0.1% remains. At the Arboretum, decades of intensive and continuing restoration and land management maintain habitat for more than 300 native wildflowers, grasses, and sedges that bloom spring through fall. Prairies and savannas evolved with frequent fire, and we conduct prescribed burns to promote the health of these ecosystems.

### Deciduous Forests

The climate and soils in many parts of southern Wisconsin favor deciduous forest. Fire suppression by European settlers allowed trees to grow in open spaces such as oak savannas, eventually creating favorable conditions for closed-canopy forests to

develop. Noe Woods, Gallistel Woods, and Wingra Woods are examples of this ecological process. Native American mound groupings are present in Gallistel and Wingra Woods.

### Conifer Forests

Conifers, common in northern forests, were among the first plantings at the Arboretum. The pines grew quickly but have not thrived because southern and northern Wisconsin soils and climates are too different.

### Wetlands

The Arboretum includes approximately 400 acres of wetlands. Urban stormwater runoff threatens the quality of these historically species-rich ecosystems. Wetland research and land management focus on how to restore biodiversity to these areas.