

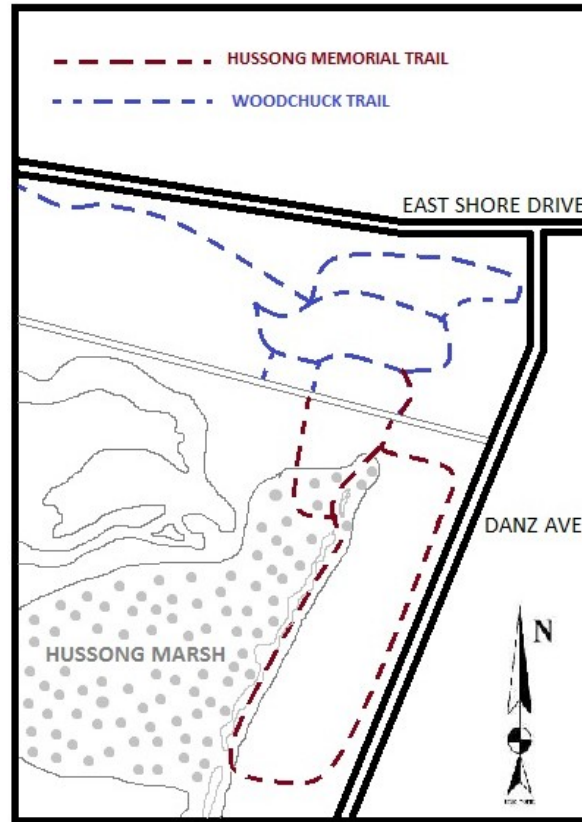
## The Hussong Memorial Trail

The Hussong Memorial Trail is a 1 mile trail dedicated to Clara Hussong. Mrs. Hussong was an ornithologist, conservationist, and nature writer. Her passion for birds led her to becoming one of the founders of the Green Bay Bird Club and became their first President. She was also involved in the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology and the Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Chapter. This trail is dedicated to her passion for nature and the natural areas surrounding the Green Bay area.



This booklet is an informational resource for your self-guided walk through the Hussong Memorial Trail. Along your hike there will be numbered posts marking areas of interest during your visit.

This booklet contains information for each stop. So enjoy your walk along this beautiful trail and make sure to stop and enjoy the scenery.



### The Hussong Memorial Trail



## The Hussong Memorial Trail

**A guide through the nature trail dedicated to Mrs. Clara Hussong.**



*In Memory of Mrs. Clara  
Hussong*

1. This is a low wetland area that hosts many species of wildlife such as squirrels, white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, and various species of woodland songbirds. A plant that is dominant in this area is stinging nettle, a species of plant that irritates the skin immediately after coming in contact with it. Avoid this plant when walking in wetland areas such as here.



2. Along with the various species of wildlife and plants, there is not a large diversity of trees here. The two dominant species in the area are cottonwood trees and box elder trees. But have little value to wildlife aside from nesting habitat for native birds. Cottonwood trees are those that drop cotton seeds that are seen in early summer.

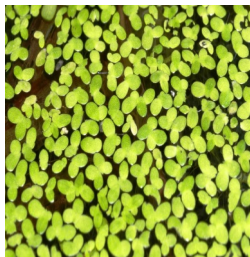


3. You are now moving onto the boardwalk. Watch the plant life change and the ground become more wet as you move into the Hussong Marsh.

4. The Hussong Marsh, like many other marshes, is characterized by the presence of cattails. Cattails are an important plant for many species of wildlife such as muskrats, who eat the plant, and red-winged

blackbirds who nest in them.

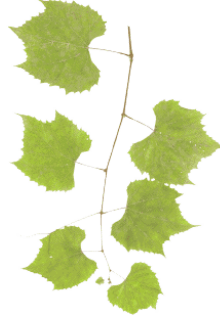
5. One thing you may have noticed in this marsh is the green material covering the water in the marsh. This green stuff is called duckweed, and is actually a large colony of it. A single duckweed plant is about the size of the head of a nail. So there are thousands of duckweed plants atop the water here in the Hussong Marsh.



6. At this point you can choose to turn left to return to Old Sanctuary Road or you can turn right to continue on the Hussong Memorial Trail.

7. The habitat you are walking through right now is what is called "edge habitat." The small band of trees surrounding you separate the Hussong Marsh and a prairie habitat east of you. Edge is an important habitat to have because it creates diversity of plants and animals. Any habitat type can be considered edge. "Edge" is defined as the change or transition of habitat. The more diverse the habitat, the more healthy it is and the more wildlife will use it.

8. This is where the habitat changes from open forest to grassland or prairie habitat. Watch the changes in plant species as well as a change in the wildlife you see. Notice on the left side of the trail there is a tree being consumed by a plant called grapevine. Grapevines crawl onto other plants to reach more sunlight and extend their branches, and in this case the entire tree is hidden by the grapevine that is using it.



9. This open field is a great example of prairie habitat. Prairie habitats contain various grasses, small shrubs, and wildflowers. Some wildflowers seen in this field are bergamot, goldenrod, and various species of sunflowers. Many species of wildlife use prairie habitat such as swallows, white-tailed deer, various songbirds, and cottontail rabbits.



10. The nest box in front of you is specially designed for a species of bird called the Eastern Bluebird, a species facing population problems due to pesticides and habitat loss. The boxes have an open top to try deterring competing species such as sparrows and starlings who like dark cavities.

11. Cottontail rabbits are a major species found in the prairie. They feed on the grasses and small shrubs found in this type of habitat and thrive by living near the edge for cover when predators are nearby. Hawks can be seen often around prairie habitats because of hunting species like cottontail rabbits, who use the open habitat, making it easier to spot and hunt them.

12. This tree is a Black Walnut tree. Black Walnut trees produce a large fruit called a walnut. The bark of this tree is heavily ridged and it has a compound leaf. Black walnuts are cool trees because they are called an allelopathic tree. That means they release a chemical into the ground to prevent other plants from growing. The chemical comes from the roots and from the walnuts.



13. As you are walking through this stretch of more dense brush and trees, notice the amount of sunlight that reaches the ground here. This area used to be prairie habitat just like the prairie you saw. But because there has been no management to prevent succession or any natural disasters such as a fire, the habitat changed from prairie to young forest. Succession is the change from one grouping of plants and animals to another (such as prairie to young forest).



14. This marker brings you to the Woodchuck Trail. You can either go left and return to Old Sanctuary Road, or take a right to hike the Woodchuck Trail. The prairie you are overlooking right now is facing a huge problem with an invasive called phragmites. Phragmites is a tall, narrow-leaved plant that likes open, wet, and disturbed areas. It is a huge problem because it grows fast and in thick colonies or groups that choke out

our native plants and don't allow anything else to grow.

Thank you for visiting the Hussong Memorial Trail. Come Back again for another visit soon!