

Webster Woods

A mile long, easy to walk trail wanders through Webster Woods Preserve. To access the trail, park at Liberty Church (at the corner of County Road 1066 West and Ford Road). The trailhead can be reached a hundred feet or so down Ford Road, to the right. There, a sign will announce your arrival at Tulip Tree Trail. Follow the trail blazes and wooden signs for a short (less than one mile) loop through the woods.

Traveling west on the trail, you will see how blown over trees have left behind depressions that are now nurseries for frogs.

In this forest (and most in southeast Indiana), wind is the natural disturbance regime. When soils are saturated during winter and spring rains, heavy winds will cause trees to topple. Their root balls pull up and leave craters in the earth. These craters are the perfect place for young

frogs and salamanders. Why? Because the small pools are wet through spring, when amphibians need them, but they dry up each summer - animals that might prey on the young (like fish) can't survive in these small, ephemeral ponds.

The trail loops northward next, through patches of mayapples and a grove of nice-sized Tulip trees. Interpretive signs are posted along the way, so keep an eye out to learn as you hike.

Dan and Juanita Webster bought this woods in 1976 as a fun getaway from Hanover College where Dan taught biology for many years. Dan brought his classes to study the forest, and today Hanover College students visit in Spring to learn about the local geology and plant life.

The Websters presented this 40 acre woods to Oak Heritage and it

became our first nature preserve before their deaths in 2010 and 2011. They would be pleased to know that you spent time in the woods they loved so much. The trail currently navigates the western, flat portion of the woods. Visitors are welcome to explore the rolling hills on the east side of the preserve. It's easy to know if you've gone too far - you'll run into County Road 1066 West.

Many thanks to the volunteers who built Tulip Tree Trail and to the Community Foundation of Madison and Jefferson County, who generously helped fund the work.

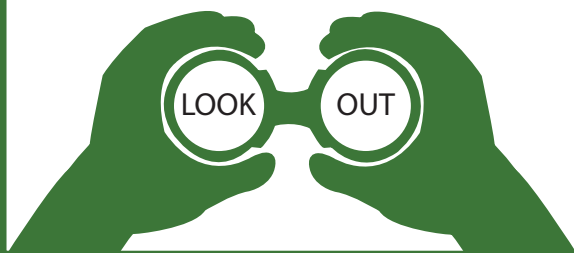


OAK HERITAGE
CONSERVANCY

Find an Orchid.

Believe it or not, Indiana is home to more than 40 species of orchids. Webster Woods is home to several of these native treasures. Come in Spring to look for them along the hiking trail!

Follow Your Ears and Look for Vernal Pools.



Like most wet woods, Webster Woods offers something special to our amphibian friends. Here, big, old trees naturally fall over when soils are saturated and the winds blow hard. When they tip over, they pull up a ball of their roots, leaving behind a crater that's several feet deep and often at least 10 feet across. This hole fills with water in spring, creating a perfect place for frogs, salamanders, and others to lay their eggs. Come in the Spring and listen for frogs calling from these "vernal" (temporary) pools.



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Points of Interest



Educational Sign



Observation



Parking



Trailhead

0 0.02 0.04 0.08 Miles

Streams

Trails

Minor Contours

Major Contours

Property Lines Light

Habitat Type

Access

Hay Field

Immature Forest

Mature Forest

No Access

Open/Meadow Area

Open Water

Pollinator Habitat

Restoration Area-Forest

Restoration Area-Pollinator

Native Wildflowers

