ONEIDA NATION
INVITING PEOPLE BACK TO OUR LAND

NATURAL AREAS & TRAILS
GUIDE
The Oneida Environmental, Health & Safety Division realizes that the natural resources and environment of the Reservation are essential to the membership and community. Please use this guide to enhance your experiences of these natural systems. We appreciate your continued support which allows us to serve you better.

While enjoying these natural properties, please keep the following in mind:

♦ Many trails are rough and uneven so please take precaution while walking at your own risk.

♦ Please remain on the identified trails.

♦ Use caution as some plants such as wild parsnip, nettles, poison ivy or others are potentially harmful varieties.

♦ If you are gathering plants, please remember to take only what you will use and leave sufficient amounts for others.

♦ Information listed for your benefit includes the size of properties, the length of trails, and use icons.

♦ Please use the properties with respect and be respectful to other visitors. The access for each property is noted.
The natural resources of the Oneida Tribe’s Reservation are essential to our people and our distinct way of life. The preservation and enhancement of our environment is one of the Tribe’s highest priorities for our community and for future generations. The Oneida Nation’s guiding environmental principles state:

“The preservation and enhancement of our Mother Earth is an obligation of the members of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin. We give thanks for her well being and all other forms which come from our Mother Earth. We as Oneida people cannot turn our backs on this responsibility as caretakers, the Oneida Nation has, from the beginning of time, co-existed with all living being: the winged, the four legged, all plant life, the trees, the stones, the water and the air.

It is now time for the Oneida People to be held accountable to our children, their children, and for generations to come by creating a sustainable environment.”

Keeping with these concepts, the Oneida Environmental, Health & Safety Division has created a number of opportunities for inviting people back to the land as highlighted in this Oneida Nation Natural Areas and Trails Guide.

The inviting people back to the land initiative promotes an active lifestyle for improving health. It provides a place for experiential interactions with nature, to gain new respect and knowledge of our natural environmental systems; and places for traditional gathering and recreation that support our well being.

This guide will provide information on a variety of enhanced and restored natural area sites for mixed recreational uses. These 20 natural areas provide abundant opportunities for Oneida Tribal members, friends, family, and community members to enjoy the rich natural resources of the Oneida Nation.

Site information:

- Detailed maps of location, access, and trails
- Site descriptions
- Use restrictions
- Restoration and reforestation efforts
- What plants and animals can be seen at each site

The Environmental, Health & Safety Division, Environmental Resource Board, and Health Promotion would like to invite people back to the land.

– Oneida Environmental, Health & Safety Division Staff
DESCRIPTION
Numerous restoration efforts and purchases have made this the largest natural area on the Oneida Reservation. The site includes a stream restoration on Trout Creek, waterfowl ponds, wetland restorations, extensive reforestation and an observation overlook. Food plots, wild rice and wild bergamot gathering areas were established to benefit the wildlife and Tribal members.

WHAT TO EXPECT
Seasonally wet areas with relatively flat trails.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

ANIMALS
Various Ducks, Sand Hill Crane, Eagles, Osprey, Great Egret, Snow Geese, Pheasant, Grouse, Reptiles, Amphibians, Crayfish, Fish, Deer, Coyote, Fox, Turkey among numerous other wildlife species.

MEDICINAL PLANTS
Blue Flag, Jerusalem Artichoke, Mayapple, Marsh Marigold, Queen Anne’s Lace (Wild Carrot), Trillium, Wild Bergamot, Wild Grape and Wild Ginger.

CAUTION
Stinging Nettle, Thistles.

TREES
Lowland hardwoods including Elm, Ash, Spruce and a Cedar swamp. Upland hardwoods featuring Cherry, Hickory and Sugar Maple.

Coyote Run has over 900 acres with multiple access points.
DESCRIPTION
This was the first tribal designated wildlife area. Ponds are scattered across the landscape varying in size from ½ acre to 2 acres. Food plots are provided for wildlife and trails meander through open fields and small wooded parcels. Tree restoration has been completed to connect fragmented woods.

WHAT TO EXPECT
Features flat terrain with many ponds and an extensive trail system.

Foxtails Wildlife Area
has 394 acres with two access points

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

ANIMALS
Various Ducks, Songbirds, Red-tailed Hawk, Sand Hill Crane, Red Fox, Grey Fox, Pheasant, Grouse, Deer, Coyote, Turkey and numerous other wildlife species

MEDICINAL PLANTS
Blackberry, Dandelion, Plantain, Queen Anne’s Lace, Raspberry and Red Clover

TREES
This area is predominately lowland hardwood community with tree restoration of soft and hardwood mix of Spruce, Pine, Ash and Maple
DESCRIPTION
Created for the recreational enjoyment of the Oneida Tribal Community, this site will open in 2015 with an 18 acre lake, extensive trails, parking, beach area, and natural areas. Plans for future include a boat ramp, piers, camping and changing/restrooms.

WHAT TO EXPECT
This lake is a restoration site for a fishery in Oneida. A fisheries management plan is being developed for the lake including stocking and habitat enhancement. The main features of the lake are fishing, non-motorized boat use (electric only) and swimming. Beach is open dawn to dusk.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

ANIMALS
- Various Waterfowl
- Songbirds
- Deer
- Coyote
- Turkey
- Numerous other wildlife species

MEDICINAL PLANTS
- Wild rice planted in 2014

TREES
- White Pine
- Birch
- Serviceberry
- Plum
- Oak
DESCRIPTION
Recreational opportunities include a 5-acre lake with multiple fish species and a shared border with the Duck Creek. Dam removal downstream from here has increased the seasonal fish run with a variety of fish.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

ANIMALS
Various Ducks, Songbirds, Pheasant, Grouse, Eagle, Osprey, Great Blue Heron, Deer, fish include Bass, Bluegill, Crappie, Northern and numerous other wildlife species

MEDICINAL PLANTS
Blue Vervain, Gooseberry, Goldenrod, Great Blue Lobelia, Heal All, Horsetail, Jack in the pulpit, Jewelweed, Lousewort, Mullein, Mayapple, Queen Anne’s Lace, Raspberry, Skunk Cabbage, Spotted Joe Pye Weed, St. Johnswort, Staghorn Sumac, Strawberry, Swamp Buttercup, Swamp Milkweed, Wild Bergamot, Wild Ginger, Wild Grape, Wild Leeks and Wild Onion

CAUTION
Poison Ivy, Wood Nettle, Wild Parsnip

TREES
Upland and lowland hardwoods including Ash, Birch, Cedar, Oak, Maple, Hickory, Hemlock, and White Pine

WHAT TO EXPECT
This natural area features low-impact camping sites and an extensive trail system through wooded rolling hills along Duck Creek and around Quarry Lake.

Snapping Turtle at Quarry Lake
Marsh Marigold at Quarry Park

Quarry Park Natural Area 163 acres with three access points

Oneida Community Access
5. WHERE THE WATERBIRDS NEST

DESCRIPTION
This natural area features an overlook, a 55 acre shallow lake and is surrounded by grasslands, a tree reforestation, wetland restoration and wildlife food plots.

WHAT TO EXPECT
A trail system encircles the pond and provides an incredible opportunity for waterfowl viewing. A canoe launch is available off of South County U. Seasonally wet in areas with relatively flat terrain.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

ANIMALS
Waterfowl including various Ducks, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Green Heron, Great Blue Heron, Snow Geese, Great Egret, Osprey, Eagles and many, many more

TREES
Northern Hardwood Mix of Ash, Maple, Oak, White Pine and Spruce

MEDICINAL PLANTS
Common Milkweed, Goldenrod, Wild Grape, Blackberries, Raspberries, and Highbush Cranberry
DESCRIPTION
A haven for Monarch Butterflies, waterfowl and other wildlife species. Restoration efforts include wetlands, pond establishment, and nesting habitats. Food plots support productive wildlife.

WHAT TO EXPECT
Mainly open fields with seasonally wet relatively flat trails.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

ANIMALS
Various Ducks, Amphibians, Crayfish, Fish, Reptiles, Turkey, Red-tailed Hawk, Pheasant, Woodcock, Deer, Coyote, Black Bear, Butterflies, and Skunk among numerous other wildlife species.

MEDICINAL PLANTS
Common Milkweed, Evening Primrose, Goldenrod, Swamp Milkweed and Queen Anne’s Lace

TREES
Bottomland hardwoods dominate the site, mainly Cottonwood Willow, Elm, and Silver Maple

(Caution: Stinging Nettle)

6. DUCKS GATHERING

Ducks Gathering has 89 acres with one access point

Oneida Community Access
7. ROSE HILL WETLANDS

DESCRIPTION
Visitors will find a diverse habitat including mature hardwoods, swamps, wetlands, and open meadows. This diversity provides a variety of wildlife viewing opportunities. In 2015, the property will be 30 years under Oneida stewardship.

WHAT TO EXPECT
Seasonally wet relatively flat trails through open fields and wooded areas. An electric power line runs through site.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

ANIMALS
Various Ducks, Hawks, Owls, Songbirds, Woodcock, Grouse, Deer, Coyote, Fox and numerous other wildlife species

MEDICINAL PLANTS
Blackberry, Black Eyed Susan, Chokecherry, Evening Primrose, Goldenrod, Gooseberry, Nettle, Mayapple, Mullein, Milkweed, Red Willow, St. Johnswort, Queen Anne’s Lace, Raspberry, Strawberry, Wild Bergamot (number 6), Wild Yam and Yarrow

(Caution: Wild Parsnip and Wood Nettle)

TREES
Upland and lowland hardwoods and many pioneer species such as Birch, Black Ash, Maples, Staghorn Sumac, and American Cranberry Bush

Rose Hill Wetlands has 200 acres with one access point.

Oneida Community Access
DESCRIPTION
Mainly wooded with rolling ridges of mature hardwoods that provide a thick canopy above the trail system. This large tract borders Duck Creek and has a unique aesthetic value and is an honored property of the Oneida Nation due to its proximity to historic areas. Two springs flow through the area into Duck Creek.

WHAT TO EXPECT
Steep inclines can provide for a rigorous workout. The Oneida Nation High School utilizes these woods for an annual sugar maple harvest in the spring.

ANIMALS
Various Ducks, Songbirds, Owls, Beaver, Otter, Grey Fox, Deer, Coyote, Turkey and numerous other wildlife species

MEDICINAL PLANTS
Cardinal Flower, Dandelion, Gooseberry, Horsetail, Indian Pipe, Jewelweed, Marsh Marigold, Rattlesnake Root, Red Clover, Solomon’s Seal, Trillium, Trout Lily, Wild Ginger, Wild Grape, Violets

TREES
Upland hardwood species include Oak, Hickory, Maples, and Basswood
Lowland softwood community of Cedar, White Pine, Norway and White Spruce

WHAT TO LOOK FOR
Morel Mushrooms

Norbert Hill Center Woods has 78 acres with multiple access points
PHEASANT MEADOWS

DESCRIPTION
This site is mainly comprised of agricultural fields and has traditionally been a release point for pheasant stocking. Restoration projects have included the development of three ponds and some small food plots. Branches of Oneida Creek run through this site.

WHAT TO EXPECT
Mainly open former agricultural fields with a small wooded area. There are no maintained trails at this natural area at this time but are in the plans for the future.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

ANIMALS
Various Ducks, Songbirds, Pheasant, Snipe, Woodcock, Otter, Grey Fox, Deer, Coyote, Bass, Bluegill and numerous other wildlife species

MEDICINAL PLANTS
Not yet identified

TREES
Spruce, Ash, Maple, Oak and White Pine
**DESCRIPTION**

The Oneida communities of Flying Leaf, Rolling Hills, and Green Earth surround this property. Hardwood flats are the feature to the north while swampy habitat proliferates in the south. Small winding tributaries are also present that flow into Fish Creek.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**

Seasonally wet trails with mainly flat terrain. Two restored wildlife ponds accessible from Beechtree Lane.

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**WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

**ANIMALS**

Various Ducks, Songbirds, Hawks, Owls, Snipe, Fox, Deer, Coyote, Turkey and numerous other wildlife species

**MEDICINAL PLANTS**

Mayapple, Marsh Marigold, Nettle, Queen Anne’s Lace, Trout Lily, Wild Bergamot (#6), Wild Cucumber, Wild Grape, Wild Leeks

**TREES**

Lowland hardwood community of Aspen, Birch, Basswood, Boxelder and Elm

Upland hardwoods on the east side with Hickory, Oak, Maple and Ash

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**Access Points**

Flying Leaf has 380 acres with four access points

Oneida Community Access
11. EDGE OF THE WOODS

DESCRIPTION
The area consists of a series of wetland areas for waterfowl, forested land, and borders both the Duck Creek and Trout Creek. The presence of these hardwood ridges and pristine wetlands are ideal for a variety of wildlife species.

WHAT TO EXPECT
Springs form a cold water stream that flows into Duck Creek. A minimally disturbed natural area contains a wide variety of habitat and plants. Many wetlands form between many ridges.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

ANIMALS
Various Ducks, Songbirds, Owls, Beaver, Otter, Grey Fox, Deer, Coyote, Turkey and numerous other wildlife species

MEDICINAL PLANTS
Goldenrod, St John’s Wort, Wild Bergamot

TREES
Northern and bottomland hardwood communities including a large variety of Oak, Ash, Maple, Eastern Hemlock, Spruce and Pine
This semi-suburban area is highlighted by a 5.5 acre pond for fishing, picnic, and relaxing. Cultural resources and facilities are on the surrounding property.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**

Water lilies are abundant in the lake. Recreational areas can be found adjacent to the lake. The site features a boat launch, handicap accessible fishing pier, grills, and several benches surround the lake.

**ANIMALS**

Various Ducks, Songbirds, Fish include Bluegill, Small and Large Mouth Bass, Rainbow Trout, Walleye, and numerous other wildlife species

**MEDICINAL PLANTS**

The grounds around the lake feature a medicinal plants garden

**TREES**

Oak, Maple, Pine, Spruce, and Ash
13. **Jordan’s Court**

**DESCRIPTION**
This natural area has an extensive trail system with new connections being established. Woodlands feature primarily Oaks, which give abundant acorn crop for wildlife.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**
Visitors can enjoy a mainly flat, roughly-mowed terrain for enjoyable walks through a seasonally wet secluded forest setting. There is a meadow in the center of the property that provides a relaxing environment for a picnic or taking a break from daily activities.

**WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

**ANIMALS**
Various Ducks, Songbirds, Red-Headed Woodpecker, Red-Tailed Hawk, Fox, Rabbit, White Tailed Deer and numerous small mammals

**MEDICINAL PLANTS**
Blue Vervain, Boneset, Evening Primrose, Heal All, Joe Pye Weed, Mayapple, Monkey flower Queen Anne’s Lace, St. John’s Wort, Wild Bergamot (#6), Wild Ginger, Wild Mint, Wild Leeks, Wild Rose, Wild Yam, Yarrow
*(Caution—Poison Ivy)*

**TREES**
Ash, Aspen, Elm, Oak, Maple and Birch

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14. **Where the Buffalo Roam**

**DESCRIPTION**
This area features a ramp and pavilion constructed for visitors to have an excellent view of Buffalo in their pastures. Ponds are adjacent to the pasture with frequent waterfowl visitors. Buffalo herd routinely numbers 60-80 head depending on time of year.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**
No maintained trails at this location. A Wild Bergamot and wildflower mix was planted here for Tribal members gathering needs. The pavilion has tables and is a good location for a picnic.

**WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

**ANIMALS**
Buffalo and waterfowl such as Bitterns, Shorebirds, Pelicans, Osprey, Tundra Swan, Great Blue Heron, and Whooping Crane

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Jordan’s Court has 250+ acres with two access points
Oneida Tribal Member Only Access

Where the Buffalo Roam has 400 acres of viewing area with one access point
Open Access
WHITE PINE NATURAL AREA

15.

DESCRIPTION
This site is mainly agriculture but includes a small wooded area of mainly maple trees. The trail meanders past food plots and a small reforestation project.

WHAT TO EXPECT
Seasonally wet flat terrain with maintained trails.

ANIMALS
Songbirds, Owls, Deer, Coyote, Turkey and numerous other wildlife species

MEDICINAL PLANTS
Bottle Gentian, Boneset, Heal All

TREES
Green Ash, Hickory, Maple, Oak, White Pine, Spruce

SUNRAY NATURAL AREA

16.

DESCRIPTION
This parcel features many game and non-game species. The trail system winds through mainly wooded area with a stream and various habitat types and is comprised mainly of mixed hardwoods.

WHAT TO EXPECT
Wooded area with several offshoots, seasonally wet areas. A tributary to Fish Creek runs through the property.

ANIMALS
Songbirds, Owls, Deer, Coyote, Turkey and numerous other wildlife species

MEDICINAL PLANTS
Wild Leeks, Wild Grape, Wild Ginger and many more yet to be identified

TREES
Northern hardwoods community including Ash, Maple, Oak, Aspen, Birch
17. **PRAIRIE VALLEY**

**DESCRIPTION**
This area adjacent to Duck Creek is a recent establishment featuring different habitats. The prairie established in 1995 features 25 acres of rare wildflower grasslands and is wonderful habitat for grassland birds. Seventy acres of woodlands provide diverse trees and help stabilize soil adjacent to the banks of Duck Creek.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**
No maintained trails, with fairly level and dry area along Duck Creek with a large reforestation area.

**WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

**ANIMALS**
Various Ducks, Songbirds, Owls, Beaver, Otter, Grey Fox, Deer, Coyote, Turkey and numerous other wildlife species

**MEDICINAL PLANTS**
Wild Bergamot, Purple Coneflower, Compass Plant and many others

**TREES**
Pine, Oak, Maple, and Ash

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18. **SPRUCE RIDGE**

**DESCRIPTION**
Silver Creek flows through this property which features a pond and open fields. Opportunities for relaxing and wildlife viewing near Silver Creek.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**
Relatively flat terrain with a mowed trail.

**WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

**ANIMALS**
Various Ducks, Songbirds, Owls, Squirrels, Deer, Coyote, Turkey and numerous other wildlife species

**MEDICINAL PLANTS**
Blue Vervain, Goldenrod, Joe Pye Weed, Milkweed, Sensitive Fern, Queen Anne’s Lace

**TREES**
Mostly lowland brush species
**DUCK CREEK RIDGE 19.**

**DESCRIPTION**
This restoration adjacent to Duck Creek features natural springs. Reforestation, groundwater seepage wetlands, and wildlife ponds are examples of some of the amenities. Over four acres of native prairie and wetland plants, including plantings of over 450 live wetland and prairie plants.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**
No maintained trails at this natural area. You will find a natural spring on a hill overlooking ponds and many different prairie flowers.

**ANIMALS**
Various Ducks, Songbirds, Owls, Beaver, Otter, Grey Fox, Deer, Coyote, Pheasant, Turkey and numerous other wildlife species

**MEDICINAL PLANTS**
Black Eyed Susan, Blue Vervain, Milkweed, Plaintain, Queen Anne’s Lace, Red Clover, Sweetgrass, Compass Plant, Wild Bergamot

**TREES**
There is a reforestation established in 2010 with a mix of Oak, Maple, Birch, White Pine, and Spruce

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**FLORIST PRAIRIE 20.**

**DESCRIPTION**
The area was planted with 62 acres of prairie plants in 2007 and 2014. A wooded areas is south of the prairie and a tributary of Silver Creek flows through the natural area. The wooded areas open up to some small lake sedge meadows.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**
No maintained trails.

**ANIMALS**
Various Ducks, Songbirds, Deer, Coyote, Turkey and numerous other wildlife species

**MEDICINAL PLANTS**
Wild Bergamot and more yet to be identified

**TREES**
Lowland hardwood mix; 8 acres of reforestation of Pine and Spruce
The access to the Natural Areas of the Oneida Nation is governed by the Oneida Public Use of Tribal Land law. This law defines the type of access for each property in order to ensure the best use of Oneida lands for tribal members and community for now and into the future. Each natural area in this book has one of the following access designations defined for each:

**Oneida Tribal Member Access:** Open to Tribal members only. The Environmental Resource Board may designate land as Oneida Tribal Member Access to protect the land for Tribal member use due to the historical, spiritual, cultural and/or environmental significance of the land.

**Oneida Community Access:** Open to Tribal members, and their spouses and descendants; members of other federally recognized Indian tribes, bands or communities; authorized employees of the Tribe; and persons who are accompanied at all times by a Tribal member, the spouse or descendant of a Tribal member, or an authorized employee of the Tribe.

**Open Access:** Open to all persons for the land’s designated use and enjoyment. The Environmental Resource Board may designate land as Open Access where such designation is deemed beneficial to the Tribe and where such designation does not pose significant risk of damage to the policies of the Tribe and/or the land’s cultural or environmental preservation.

Thank you for enjoying, recreating, exercising, and respecting the lands of the Oneida Nation. If you have any questions or concerns about proper use of lands please contact the Oneida Conservation Dept. at 920-869-1450.

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