



Hiking Spree!

Spring is in full swing and there is no better time to get outside - we're taking advantage of the warmer weather by hitting the Willowsford trails, and we're inviting you to do the same!

With the many diverse trails throughout Willowsford Conservancy, there's an abundance to explore and see, no matter which village you reside in; that being said, on May 18th, we will kick off the Willowsford Conservancy Hiking Spree! This is a challenge to complete as many of the Willowsford trails as possible within 6 weeks – upon completion, you will receive your Hiking Spree lanyard and be entered into a raffle for a prize!

If you would like to participate but would be unable to traverse some of our tougher hiking trails, we have an option for you as well. Our Silver Walk trails are a great option for participants who might be mobility limited but would still like to participate in the hiking challenge.

THE TRAILS

There are at least two trails in every village with ranging mileage and difficulty. Here are their descriptions:

[Grant – Link to Map, Here](#)

Grant Loop – 5-mile loop that starts at the northern trail head and takes hikers along half of the full Grant Loop. This trail entails a walk mostly located in the woods with a short section along a sidewalk, as well as a stream crossing with steppingstones to cross. While walking past Allen Farm Pond, look closely for the local King Fisher bird swooping across the water on its hunt.

Campground Loop – 3-mile loop that starts at the campsite parking lot and loops around. This is an easy walk with only one or two steep hills and tracks along a sidewalk for a portion. There is an easy stream water crossing with plenty of rocks to cross. Kids will enjoy the neat obstacle course next to our campgrounds.

[Greens – Link to Map, Here](#)

Bull Run to Wetlands Way – A 4.25-mile loop with moderate difficulty as it is a naturalized trail that takes hikers down half of Bull Run Overlook trail. There are several small stream crossings along the way with steeper hills along the Bull Run portion of the walk. A beautiful hike through the peaceful woods of the northern Greens! While walking past Spring Peeper Pond, listen for a chorus of frogs and red-winged blackbirds singing.

Bull Run to Raptor Perch – A 4.5-mile loop with moderate difficulty. It follows the lower half of Bull Run Overlook with lovely views of Bull Run Stream that connects with Raptor Perch, as well as a sunny stretch of trail going through meadows. This includes several stream crossings with steppingstones as well as a few hills. While walking past Beaver Dam Pond, take a moment at the stream crossing to look at the resilience of the beaver dam that remains there.

Silver Walk: Willow Lake – A 0.85-mile loop along a paved trail for our silver walkers, enjoy a stroll around Willow Lake and past the sledding hills. While walking around the pond, see if you can spot the pair of swans that have taken up residency on the island.

Silver Walk: Julia Jackson Pond – A 1.15-mile loop along a mostly paved path with a short stretch of flat gravel trail. Enjoy the stretch of trail through rolling fields and admire the view of the mountains in the distance.

[Grange – Link to Map, Here](#)

Farm Loop – A 1.5-mile loop that starts at the Farm Stand and is very easy to traverse, guiding hikers around the outside of the Willowsford Farm fields. You can also observe the Blue Bird trail and American Kestrel boxes.

Lenah Run to Grange Loop – A 4-mile loop that starts at the community garden and loops around the southern half of the Grange. This trail is naturalized and goes through both forests and fields, with a few good hills to traverse. This is a relaxed and easy walk with a nice way to get some mileage into your day. Kids can take a fun detour to explore the Bear Barn Tree House along the way.

[Grove – Link to Map, Here](#)

Pinewoods Loop – A 2-mile loop that starts at the Willow Grove Pond parking lot and takes hikers along an easy to traverse trail. Hikers will enjoy varying scenery and a very pleasant walk on this trail. Look for the bee-hotel along you walk!

Tall Cedars – A 3-mile loop that starts at Pin Oak Park and takes hikers along a greater portion of the Grove trail system. An easy trail with one stream crossing.

Silver Walk: Pinewoods Loop – A 1.2-mile loop starting at Twin Ponds Park a looping through half of the Pinewoods Loop Trail. Enjoy the interpretive signage along the way and pause to rest on the benches and enjoy views along the way.

Silver Walk: Pin Oak Park – A 1-mile paved loop that starts at Pin Oak Park and takes walkers along a portion of our bluebird trail before looping back to Pin Oak Pond.



RULES AND GUIDELINES:

- Complete 4 Trails by June 30th to receive your Hiking Spree Lanyard
- Complete 6 or more trails to have your name entered into a raffle for a Grant Campsite rental!
- Enter the hikes as you go via the Hiking Spree Challenge Form. Click [here](#) for the online form to log your hikes.
- **IMPORTANT:** You will receive an email with a link to the form that you will use each time. Enter and "Submit" your progress as you go. And be sure to keep that email with the link handy. Log all the trails you hike by June 30th!
- The Hiking Spree will run from **May 18th to June 30th**. *Any entries submitted after 11:59 PM on June 30th will not be accepted.
- You can also keep track of the trails hiked on the attached form and complete the online form prior to June 30th.



Willowsford CONSERVANCY

Hiking Spree 2023 Trail Log

BE SURE TO SUBMIT ONLINE [HERE](#)

Participant Name

Village of Residence

Name of completed trail

Date Completed

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Lanyard Earned!

5. _____

6. _____

Raffle Entered!

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

Max Mileage Achieved!