

Sunnybrook Preserve is a 72-acre park in Chester Township that protects mature forest, high quality wetlands, and portions of the East Branch of the Chagrin River watershed. It is Geauga Park District's intent to protect this natural area in perpetuity.



HISTORY

Sunnybrook Preserve, through most of the twentieth century, was maintained for horticultural purposes. In 1928 Dr. Harold and Edith Ruh purchased 170 acres in Chesterland to establish Sunnybrook Farms Nursery as a commercial venture, but also to provide their children with "a chance at productive living outdoors." The business stayed in the family for decades to come, with responsibilities passing to son Peter Ruh and his wife Jean, then to their son Tim and daughter Janet.

In 2001, Peter and Jean Ruh set up a conservation easement on their property with Chagrin River Land Conservancy (now known as Western Reserve Land Conservancy) to protect their family lands for generations to come. The Conservancy purchased the land, then according to the Ruh's wishes, sold 72 acres to Geauga Park District to be used as a public park.



I would like to put something here about this plant...

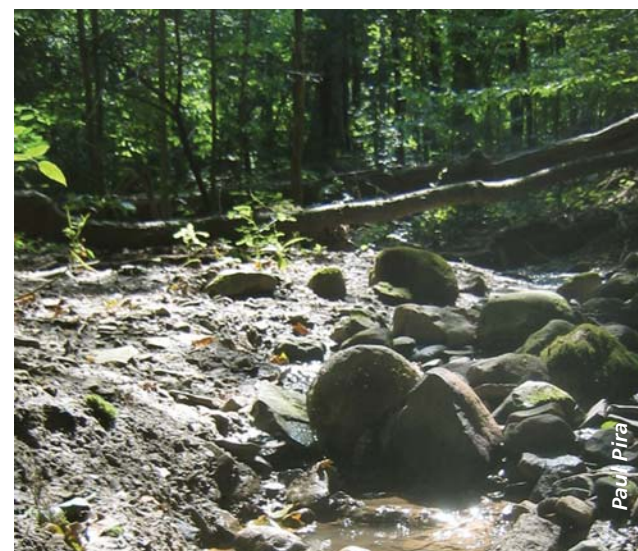


Swallowtail butterfly at Sunnybrook Preserve

Sunnybrook Preserve can be characterized by its rolling terrain formed from glacial deposits. The parcel is primarily forest, which attracts numerous species of wildlife, including several species of interest. Dark Eyed Juncos, Black Throated Green Warblers and Wood Thrush are among the songbirds documented there. The woodland sections of property are also home to the Woodland Jumping Mouse (an Ohio species of concern), Short-tailed Shrew, Hoary Bat, and Mink.

A portion of Sunnybrook Preserve is dominated by a unique wetland, called a fen. This wetland is characterized by a shrub-meadow habitat that is fed by cold, alkaline (high pH) springs seeping through gravel deposits. The fen is home to several rare plants, including the American Cranberry Bush, which is an "endangered" species in Ohio.

Sunnybrook Preserve also includes a sedge grass meadow and a conifer forest. A ravine and spring run north to south through the eastern portion of the property. The cool waters of the spring host populations of pollution-sensitive fishes, such as Redside Dace and Southern Redbelly Dace.



FACILITIES

Sunnybrook Shelter, with nearby restroom and parking area, features heated indoor and outdoor sections for year-round enjoyment. The shelter is fully accessible and has capacity for 48 people.



TRAILS

Sunnybrook Preserve is complete with 1.7 miles of trails that provide a variety of experiences.

- Pine Ridge Trail, located just off the parking and shelter area, provides a fully accessible route through forest and alongside nearby wetlands.
- Woodland Trail takes hikers through a variety of forest habitats, including a woodland vernal pool, which loops back to the parking area.
- For those wanting a longer loop through the woods, the Jumping Mouse Trail will add an extra 1/2-mile to the experience.



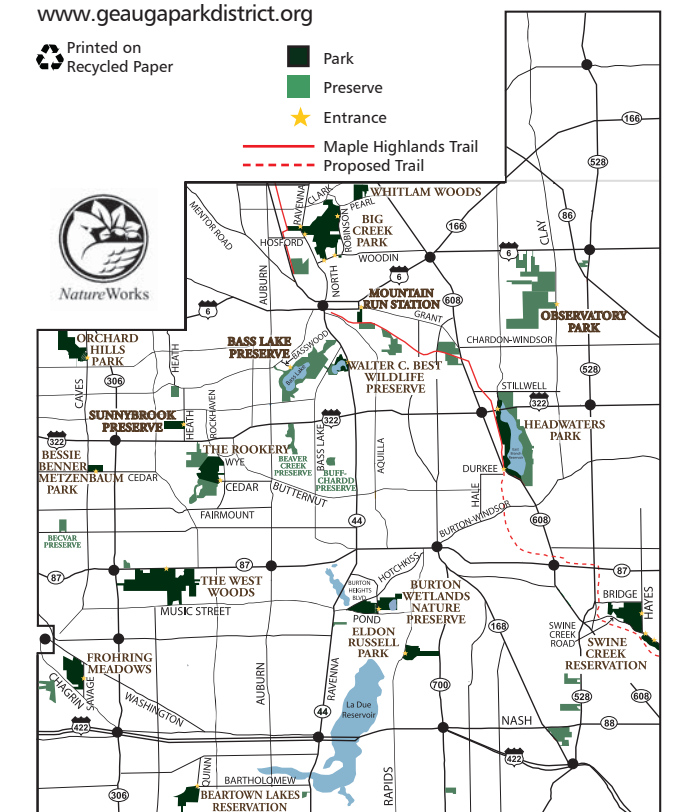
Sunnybrook Preserve

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT

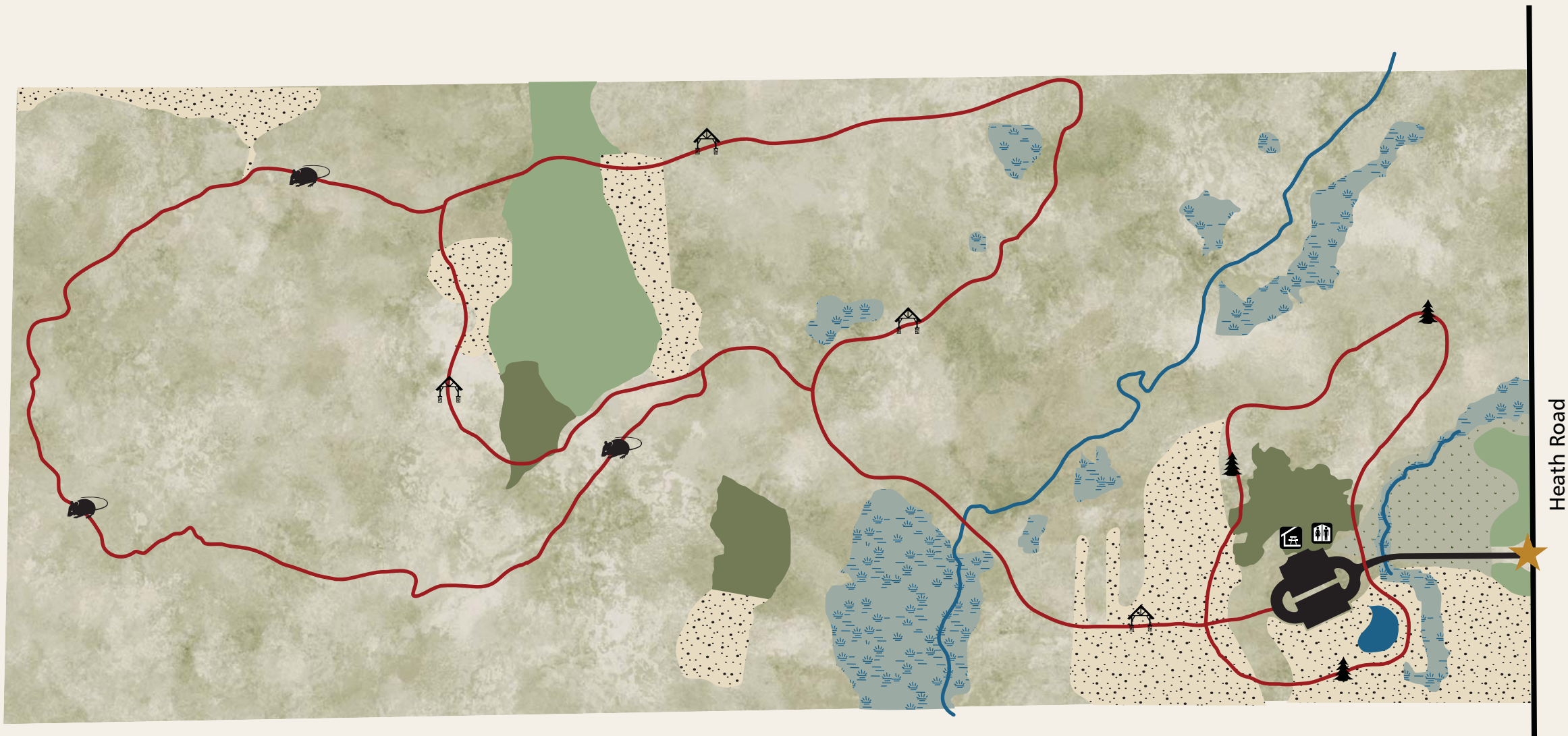
GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT

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Sunnybrook Preserve Lat: N 41 30.314 Long: W 081 6.103 5M-0109



Heath Road

PICNIC AREAS

Sunnybrook Shelter



TRAILS

MILES

	Pine Ridge Trail (paved)				.37
	Woodland Trail				.8
	Jumping Mouse Trail				.52



MAP KEY

- Park Entrance
- Conifer Forest
- Successional Forest (Young Forest)
- Mature Deciduous Forest
- Shrub/Brushlands
- Old Field
- Wetlands