



**BRADFORD WOODS**  
**TRAIL MAP**  
 5040 STATE ROAD 67 N  
 MARTINSVILLE, IN 46151  
 (765) 342-2915

Roads	Hiking Trail
Parking	Paved Trail

# BRADFORD WOODS TRAILS

## **ACA Trail (.7 mi)**

The ACA Trail can be accessed from the parking lot at the American Camping Association (ACA). This trail runs along the ridge of a hill. As you hike the trail you may notice that it is a wide path; the trail also functions as a firebreak and access road. The trail ends at Robb Hill Road. Watch for the four dominant trees of the Bradford Woods forest: Oak, Hickory, Maple, and Beech.

## **Bear's Trail (.4 mi)**

Bear's Trail begins near Griffith Village before dropping down a steep grade to Sycamore Creek (a rope is available). The trail then wraps around to the east, crossing Gold Creek Trail and passing the Vernal Pond before ending at Tipple Trail. Look for sand mining artifacts near the Vernal Pond.

## **Carlson Trail (.2 mi)**

Carlson Trail begins behind Carlson Cabin in Lilly Village, gradually winding its way down to the wetlands area.

## **Fern Valley Trail (.2 mi)**

The Fern Valley Trail begins near the Beech shelter off the Baxter Trail and descends into a moist, lush ravine. The steep slopes provide a protected environment: unlike the tops of the hills that are much drier and more susceptible to winds and storms, the ravines harbor plants that need more moisture or humidity to thrive. There are at least three different kinds of ferns along this trail: Bracken Ferns, Cinnamon Ferns, and Christmas Ferns.

## **Gold Creek (3+ mi)**

Gold Creek Trail starts at the bend in the road near Krannert Village and ends where Gold Creek runs into Sycamore Creek. It's .4 miles to where the trail crosses Robb Hill Road (use extreme caution when crossing the road), after which the trail continues another 2.6 miles. The babbling creek running along the west side of the trail is Sycamore Creek. This creek runs the entire length of the property and becomes the Old Swimmin' Hole Lake before it continues on to the White River. Reference the North End map for guidance on the northern portion of this trail.

## **Griffith Trail (.2 mi)**

Griffith Trail begins near Griffith Village and has several switchbacks down to Sycamore Creek (a less strenuous option than Bear's Trail). The trail follows the creek to Robb Hill Road.

## **Lake Trail (.3 mi)**

The Lake Trail is a strenuous trail that runs along the southern edge of the Bradford Woods property. The trail goes up a steep hill at the southern end of the dam before wrapping around steep ravines and returning to the Old 67 Road.

## **Lucy's Trail (.2 mi)**

Lucy's Trail connects Village Trail with the Sunshine Trail. Part of the trail is extremely steep, as the trail drops down from Village Trail to the lakeside. This trail will give you a clear view of Snake Island. It's not clear why the island is named Snake Island (perhaps it derives its name from its shape), but what is clear is who lives there now – geese. During the early spring the island is a popular place for Canada Geese to build nests.

## **Maple Trail (.5 mi)**

The Maple Trail connects Tipple Field with the ACA trail. Most forests of Indiana fall into one of two categories based on their dominant trees – beech/maple or oak/hickory. Along this trail, the

beech and maple trees are more prevalent. Keep an eye out for tapped maple trees in the late winter!

## **Memorial Trail (.3 mi)**

The Memorial Trail begins behind the monument located near Bradford Manor and ends at the ACA Trail. The monument is a tribute to the Bradford brothers and their generosity to Indiana University. On the west side of the trailhead, you'll see the Bradford family's first home - a "double pen" built around 1850. In the 1880s, after the sand mining business began to take off, the Bradfords purchased, relocated, and moved into the Campbell House, located on the east side of the trailhead. In 1912, they built the Manor House, a three-story, Craftsman-styled brick house, meant to impress anyone traveling along the highway.

## **Old 67 Trail (.4 mi)**

The Old Highway Trail starts behind the barn, which was built around 1900. The beginning of the trail is an asphalt road that was actually the original Highway 67. The trail ends at the Climbing Tower, near the spillway on Sycamore Creek. Take a moment to look around the stream for herons, crayfish, and turtles.

## **Sassafras Trail (.6 mi)**

The Sassafras Trail connects Tipple Trail and the ACA trail. This trail passes near a vernal pond, a temporary pond that is filled by melting snow and spring rains and usually disappears by mid-summer. Vernal ponds are an ideal habitat for a number of species, including frogs, toads, and salamanders, who lay their eggs in the water. At times during the spring the vernal pond can produce a deafening level of chirps, clicks, croaks, and ribbits.

## **Sunshine Trail (.2 mi)**

The Sunshine Trail is a steep road that leads to Towaki Beach, and is named for the Sunshine Club, who donated money to improve the beach. At the base of the trail is Towaki Beach, which provides one of the best views of Bradford Woods' 110-acre lake. Take a look for Great Blue Herons, Wood Ducks, Mallards, Canada Geese, and occasionally loons and grebes.

## **Tipple Trail (.6 mi)**

The Tipple Trail parallels the road from Griffith Village to Tipple Field, and runs through an area that was mined extensively for sand through the early 20th century. Tipple Trail is located along the path of an old narrow-gauge railcar track, which was used to transport sand from the various mining locations to a central sorting location, now known as Tipple Field. On the far side of Tipple Field is a group of Bald Cypress trees, growing here at the extreme northern end of their natural range.

## **Village Trail (1 mi)**

The Village Trail connects Griffith Village to Lilly Village, and runs the length of Bradford Woods' main facilities area from north to south. This accessible trail connects to the various villages, as well as the Interpretive Center, the Administration building, the Amphitheater, and the Activity Center. The trail begins to switchback near the lake, which allows the trail to be less steep and helps prevent erosion. The lake is used by many of the program areas for swimming, canoeing, and aquatic studies.

## **Wetlands (.2 mi)**

The Wetlands Trail is an trail that runs through the Bradford Woods' wetlands, explaining their role in wastewater treatment and the benefits of having such a system.