

# MACALESTER COLLEGE

SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55105

■ DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

Ordway Bulletin No. 21

Subject: FOOT-TRAILS at ORDWAY.

Maintaining a system of footpaths at Ordway is essential to our proper management of the land because it contains and controls the effects of human beings on the land. At the same time it makes it possible to be used by a great number of people, either in tour groups or in individual walks. It is advisable to not "over-use" a trail lest it open the land to erosion; accordingly provisions have been made for "switch-back" trails so that alternate trails may be employed whenever the wear on a trail appears excessive.

There are conducted tours for elementary school children at the 3rd-7th grade levels. For these the marked trails are convenient; also many adults prefer this to "breaking trail" through the underbrush, which is not encouraged because of the deleterious effect upon the environment. There are other reasons for trails: irritating plants, such as briars and poison ivy; a help for those who may become confused in the woods (although it would not be easy to really get "lost").

The marking system employed at Ordway identifies three foot-trails and an attempt has been made to minimize the use of signs, depending upon color-coded directional arrows.

TRAIL YELLOW is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length, being a looping path which passes through grassland, oak forest, wetland, birch forest and river flood plain. Along this trail there are good examples of the various types of habitat.

TRAIL RED is considerably shorter, being about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile in traverse. This is principally an oak forest path but it leads through a grassland and along a permanent pond and is quite interesting because of the latter habitat.

TRAIL GREEN is slightly longer than the others, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and runs concurrent with them in the first part of its traverse; it then forks to include two temporary ponds and returns to the parking-lot through scrub-oak and a wide expanse of grassland.



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