**Self-guided tour of Oak Hills Farm Prairie and Arboretum**

This is a natural area. Enter at your own risk. There is a lot of poison ivy. Stay to the trails, wear closed footwear and long pants. There are multiple trails which can be joined together in any order. The main trails junctions are marked with numbers on yellow stripes on blue posts. On the map, the numbers of viewpoints are underlined. Double yellow stripes mark the end of a trail. There are a two additional narrow trails marked with blue posts with orange stripes. Do not use the closed trail, marked with a red stripe. Please respect the red and white “No Entry” signs around our home.

#1 Main entrance to Oak Hills Farm, with a choice of 3 trails. One goes east, across prairie to #31, one goes to the middle of the prairie (#30)and the third goes north through a conifer plantation.

#2 Collection of rare trees which need shade and shelter e.g. Pawpaw, American beech. Continuing north the trail enters woods and may be muddy. Path to east goes past many trees.

#3 Several shade-loving trees and shrubs. Side path runs through woods between fields.

#4 View over cornfield. Invasive European buckthorn is being removed and native species planted.

#5 End of a trail which runs through a narrow strip of wood between Oak Hills Rd and field.

#6 North end of trail between hedge and new planting of 4,000 native trees and shrubs. Please head south, parallel to the road, or east under hydro wires, do NOT go north towards the house.

#7 South end of that trail. Wide path heads SE towards #8 and next field.

#8 View into large corn field. Trail heads north to #9, beside a row of oaks and buckthorn.

#9 One trail goes west back to road. The other twists down towards cornfield, then turns left (north) at bottom of slope. Lots of poison ivy and some dog-strangling vine in this area.

#10 Trail from #6 continues underneath hydro lines, along edge of field.

#11 South end of short cut through woods into open meadow with view of Rice Lake.

#12 Trail comes to “T” junction near the base of a hydro transmission pole.

#13 End of a short trail section to see pine plantation and view over corn field.

#14 A steep, windy trail north toward lake, or other trail along meadow with lake views.

#15 Lookout spot with chairs and view of Rice Lake. Note the lupines.

#16 From here there are hree options: south to #26 and shortcut through woods, west to detour into woods, northwest to head down towards prairie.

#17 Trail continues to #18 where it ends at large hollow oak tree. (Please do not go beyond the “No Entry sign”), or turn right and rejoin main path at #19.

#20, #21. “K”- shaped junction where two paths to/from the meadow meet a direct route back to the prairie (#24) and a detour which goes to #22 then turns right to end by some large oaks. It loops around a mound and rejoins the main path at #24.

#25 Near the bottom of the prairie is the beginning of a major path into the woods which leads up to a meadow, viewpoint and the base of a hydro transmission tower by two different routes.

#27 This is the east end of the trail through the wood between the prairie and a field.

#28 To the north is a shortcut which meets a path in the woods at #29. To the south there is a path up into the prairie and to #30, which marks a lookout with a few small oak trees surrounding a clearing.

#31 Lookout over woods and prairie with seats and a collection of vines.