



BACKYARD GARDEN

The Backyard Garden demonstrates how you can bring local nature into your own home landscape. Low-maintenance native plants in a variety of growing conditions create year-round interest. Food, shelter, water, and places to build a home are the elements of wildlife gardening, as our friendly chipmunk population will agree!



EVERGREEN WOODS

Under natural conditions, abandoned fields can eventually become forests as they are colonized by fast-growing “pioneer” woody species, followed by subsequent longer-lived trees. We have sped up the process in our Evergreen Woods by planting a variety of both types of trees. Now mature, the saplings we planted are reproducing and looking more and more like a “natural” forest every year!



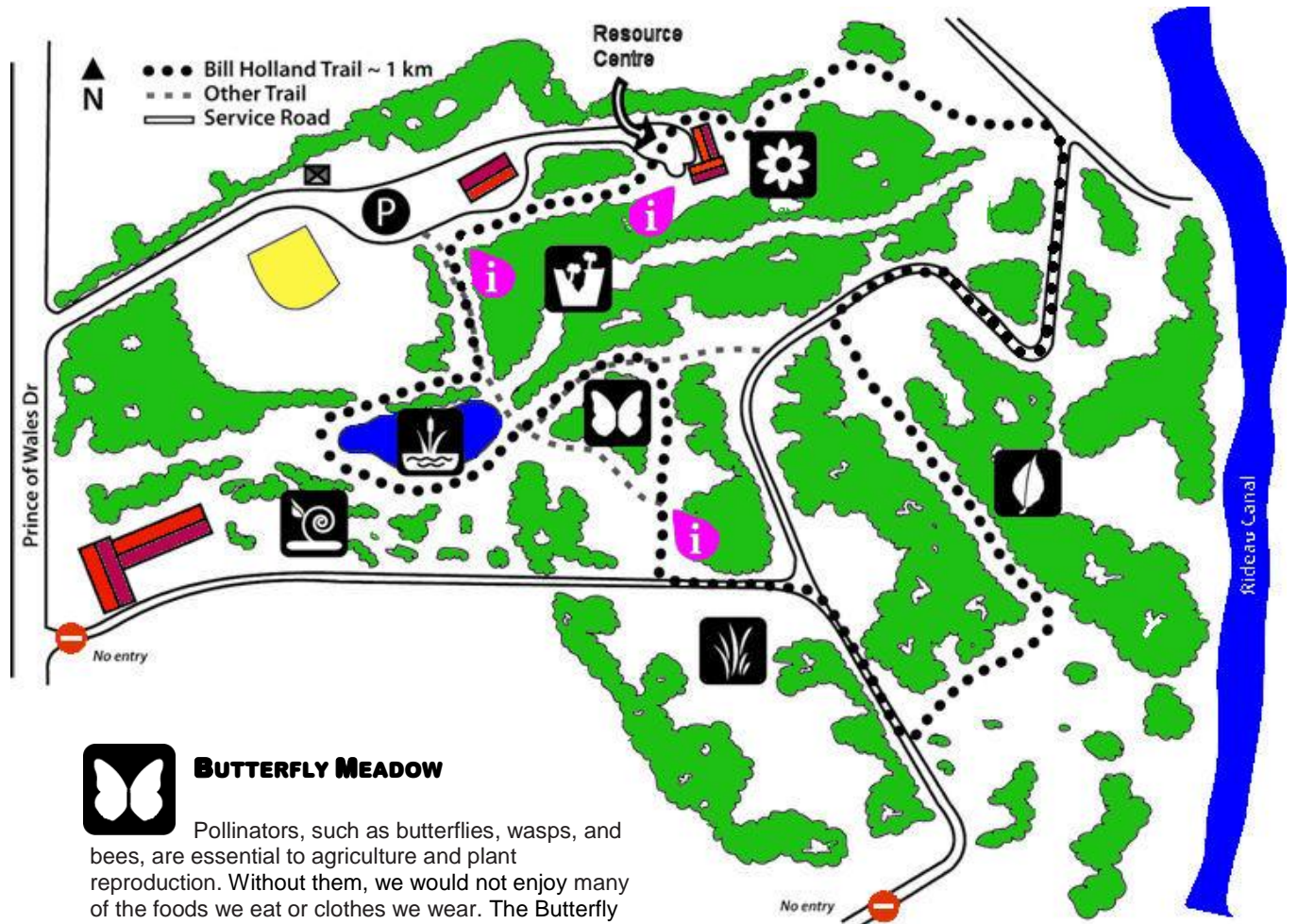
AMPHIBIAN POND

The Amphibian Pond is an artificial water body created to provide a home for those who prefer wetter feet and roots. Fed by runoff, the water and adjoining creek are slow moving. Turtles sun themselves on our purpose-built raft while Green Herons nest in trees and Red-winged Blackbirds perch and nest in cattails. If you wait, you should hear a variety of frogs calling or spot the incredible assortment of insect life.



RAVINE

A deep Ravine runs through the FWG from the Amphibian Pond down past the Backyard Garden toward the Rideau Canal. This is a secret and mysterious place that, like a hedgerow, forms a continuous band of dense vegetation that harbours all sorts of wildlife such as Cottontail Rabbits and Groundhogs. The many layers of trees, shrubs and tangled undergrowth make it a haven for birds, including over-winterers.



BUTTERFLY MEADOW

Pollinators, such as butterflies, wasps, and bees, are essential to agriculture and plant reproduction. Without them, we would not enjoy many of the foods we eat or clothes we wear. The Butterfly Meadow, which is also a Monarch Waystation, provides a season-long feast for pollinators with its wildflowers and larval host plants. A small pond and basking areas, such as logs and rocks, were added, so our busy pollinators can enjoy a break in the sun!



OLD FIELD

Many wildlife species require the open, weedy habitat provided by old farm fields. Birds, insects, and small mammals all use our Old Field for nesting, feeding, and shelter. We have added nest boxes and mow our site every few years to keep shrub and tree species from establishing and evolving toward a forest community.



OLD WOODLOT

The Old Woodlot was transformed from a park-like setting into a mixed forest by adding leaf mulch and rotted wood and planting native trees, shrubs, and ground cover. In 2014, the removal of many large ash trees, killed by Emerald Ash Borers, has allowed us to plant a greater variety of local tree species and enrich the soil with wood from the felled trees. Standing dead trees (snags) provide important habitat, while fallen trees become “nurse logs”, releasing soil nutrients and fostering plant growth.