



## BACKYARD GARDEN

The Backyard Garden demonstrates what native plants can inhabit your own home landscape. Low-maintenance plants create year-round habitat for native wildlife. Food, shelter, water, and materials nesting are the elements of wildlife gardening, as our chipmunks agree!



## THE GULLY

Our newest habitat features plants that thrive in sunny and moist conditions. Runoff from this area provides the Amphibian Pond with water. This area had to be cleared of invasive plants before native plants were introduced. Walk the trails to find insects.



## 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 reproduce and look like "natives".



## AMPHIBIAN POND

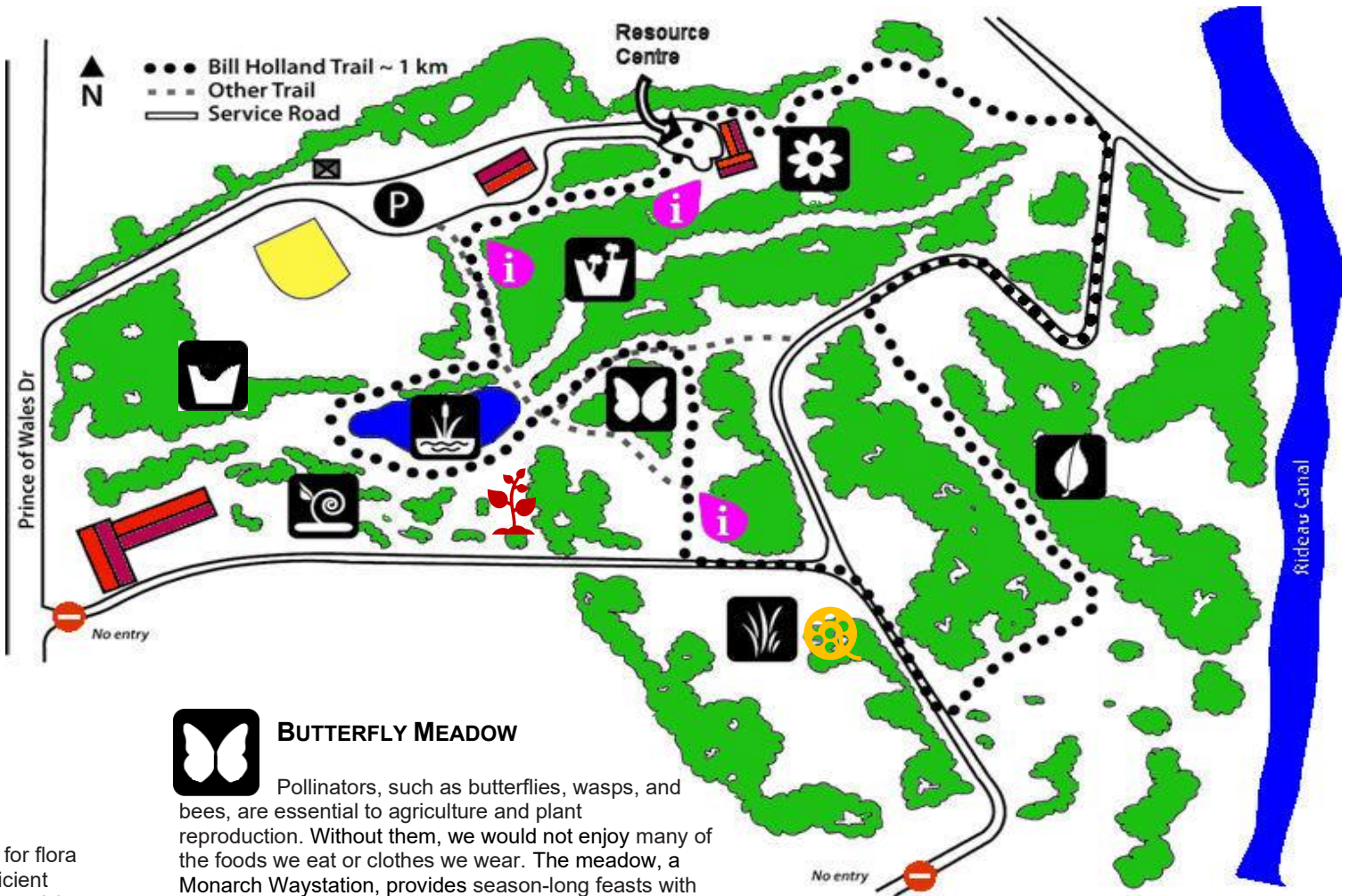
The artificial pond provides a home for flora that prefer a wet environment. Turtles find sufficient food to survive and reproduce along with toads and 3 species of frogs. The cattails become nest sites for Red-winged Blackbirds. Wait on the benches and bridge to hear the frogs calling or spot a variety of insect life.



## RAVINE

A ravine runs through the FWG from the Amphibian Pond down past the Backyard Garden to the Rideau Canal. This secluded habitat forms a continuous band of dense vegetation that harbours all sorts of wildlife such as Red Foxes, Cottontail Rabbits, and Groundhogs. The many layers of trees, shrubs, and tangled undergrowth make it a haven for insects and birds, such as hummingbirds and phoebes. Look for the colourful flowers on the northern slope.

Revised 2026  Pollinator boxes



## 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 meadow, a Monarch Waystation, provides season-long feasts with its wildflowers and larval host plants like goldenrods and milkweeds. A small pond adds basking areas, so our busy pollinators can drink and enjoy a break in the sun! Look for polliwogs and later Green Frogs in the pond.



## OLD FIELD

Many wildlife species require the open, grassy habitat provided by old farm fields. Birds, insects, and small mammals all use the field for nesting, feeding, and shelter. We have added nest boxes and remove trees and shrubs every few years to keep them from establishing and evolving into a forest community. Swallows, Red-tailed Hawks and Turkey Vultures circle the area while Song Sparrows inhabit the grasses.



Indigenous Medicine Garden (*Chakagamik*)



## OLD WOODLOT

This area transformed from an open field into a mixed forest by adding leaf mulch and rotted wood and by planting native trees, shrubs, and ground cover. In 2014, removal of large ash trees, killed by Emerald Ash Borers, allowed us to plant a variety of local tree species and enrich the soil from the felled trees. Standing dead trees (snags) provide woodpecker habitat, while fallen trees become "nurse logs", releasing soil nutrients and fostering plant and fungus growth. In 2025, non-native Norway Spruces were killed by "girdling" their trunks. Trilliums flourish here in the spring, later followed by Snakeroot and Wild Ginger.

Please stay on the trails and keep dogs leashed.