

FOREST LODGE NATURE TRAIL

Interpretive Trail

Main Attractions

Interpretive trail, scenic forest, hemlock swamp, and tamarack bog.

Distance

Forest Lodge Nature Trail: 1.2 miles, loop
Extended Nature Trail: 0.5 mile, loop

Approximate Time

45 minutes to 1 hour

Trail Surface

Hard-packed dirt path, average width: 2 to 3 feet

Rocks & Roots

Moderate, often occurring on inclines and declines

Exertion / Intensity

Light

Trail Terrain

Small hills

Total Elevation Gain

169 feet

Assurance Markers

Yes

Camping

No

Facilities

Parking area, water (hand pump), picnic tables, pit toilet

Trail Management / Ownership

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Cable Natural History Museum Tel: 715.798.3890

Hours / Season

Open daily, May 1st to November 1st

Trail Access Fee

USDA Forest Service - Forest Pass; daily: \$5, annual: \$20

Pets

Pets are allowed on the trails but must be kept under control on a leash no longer than 8 feet. You must clean up after your pet.

Directions

From Hwy 63 in Cable, go east on County M for 8.5 miles and turn left (north) onto Garmisch Rd. Go 1.0 mile to the parking lot which is on the right (south) side of the road.

Nearby Trails and Parks

Conservancy Trail loop begins at the Forest Lodge trailhead and connects with the Extended Nature Trail. Nearby trails: Rock Lake Trail, Namekagon Trail, & North Country Trail (hiking trails). Rock Lake / CAMBA mountain bike trails, Namekagon Cluster. Namekagon River (canoe/kayak river).

Namekagon, Two Lakes, & Day Lake Campgrounds (Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest) are all close by.

Trail Notes

There are 3 loop trails: the Forest Lodge Nature Trail, the Extended Nature Trail, and the Conservancy Trail. This guide covers the Forest Lodge and Extended Nature Trails.

The Forest Lodge Nature Trail is one of the best interpretive trails in northern Wisconsin. The trail winds through a wonderful variety of forest types and habitats. Visitors will find Hemlock groves, hardwood forest, pine forest, stands of birch/aspens, hemlock swamp, an open tamarack bog, and a small experimental prairie.

Hikers should pick up one of the free, 32-page booklets from the small wooden box located near the trailhead. The booklet gives a detailed narrative on each of the 23 stations on the Forest Lodge Nature Trail including descriptions of nearby flora and fauna as well as tidbits and facts about the interesting history of the area. Some of the described topics include: "Old Growth White Pines", "Lichens...", "Northern Bog Plants", "Salamanders, Frogs, and Snakes...", and "Woodland Ferns", just to name a few.

Overall, this is a winding and hilly trail. There are a few short, but steep inclines and declines that hikers should be aware of.

The Forest Lodge Nature Trail

From the parking lot, the Forest Lodge Nature Trail begins through an open field with scattered small pines and birch. The trail is about 4' wide and surrounded by tall grasses, sweet ferns, and wild berry shrubs.

You'll soon come upon a map-sign that marks the start / finish of the Forest Lodge Nature Trail loop. Follow the arrow and go left.

The trail narrows as it enters the forest to a well-worn, 2-foot wide dirt path that is easy to follow.

White Pine, Station #5

A narrow cut from the trunk of a large white pine that was harvested from this area is on display. The tree was estimated to be 246 years old when it was cut down in 1946.

Extended Nature Trail, Station #8

The Extended Nature Trail loop begins near a short wooden bridge at station #8. The loop rejoins the Forest Lodge Nature Trail just a few steps past the opposite end of the bridge. The Extended Trail will add about a half mile to your walk.

The Extended Nature Trail encircles a scenic swamp beneath tall hemlocks whose dense canopy blocks out most of the sunlight. Moss-covered deadfall crisscrosses the damp ground amidst thick patches of ferns. The swamp is surrounded by low, steep sided hills covered in dense vegetation including tightly packed stands of balsam fir. The pleasant scent of pine is strong throughout this short loop.

Tamarack Bog, Station #13

One of the highlights of the Forest Lodge Nature Trail is a boardwalk that extends out into the center of an open tamarack

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bog (read booklet) which is surrounded by mixed pine and spruce.

Much of the southern portion of the Nature Trail loop wanders past young hemlocks, balsam firs, spruce, and tamarack, especially when close to the bog. Occasionally you'll walk past tall mature trees.

Once you're away from the bog and swamp, you'll enter an upland forest habitat. Birch, oak, maple and aspen are common with a few giant white pines here and there.

Experimental Prairie, Station #23

As you near the trailhead, the trail leaves the forest and enters a small open area that is an experimental prairie. Several different species of prairie grasses have been planted here including: little bluestem, big bluestem, and Indian grass.

GPS - NAD83 / WGS84

Trailhead	46.20054,-91.10643
White Pine	46.19708,-91.10537
Start, Extended Nature Trail	46.19675,-91.10341
Conservancy Trail junction	46.19741,-91.09969
End, Extended Nature Trail	46.19655,-91.10307
Boardwalk, tamarack bog	46.19545,-91.10429

For best results, set waypoint arrival radius to minimum of 100 feet

Driving Directions (Google Maps)



**Forest Lodge Nature Trail
Parking Lot**

Elevation Profile

