

# River Bend Nature Center

Spring 2024 ACE Project



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# RBNC Mission

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"To help people discover, enjoy, understand,  
and preserve the incredible natural world  
around us"



# What is



**River Bend**  
NATURE CENTER



## Non-profit

RBNC is a 501(c)3 non profit organization

## Focus

Educational science & community connection

## Preservation

RBNC has preserved and converted 743 acres

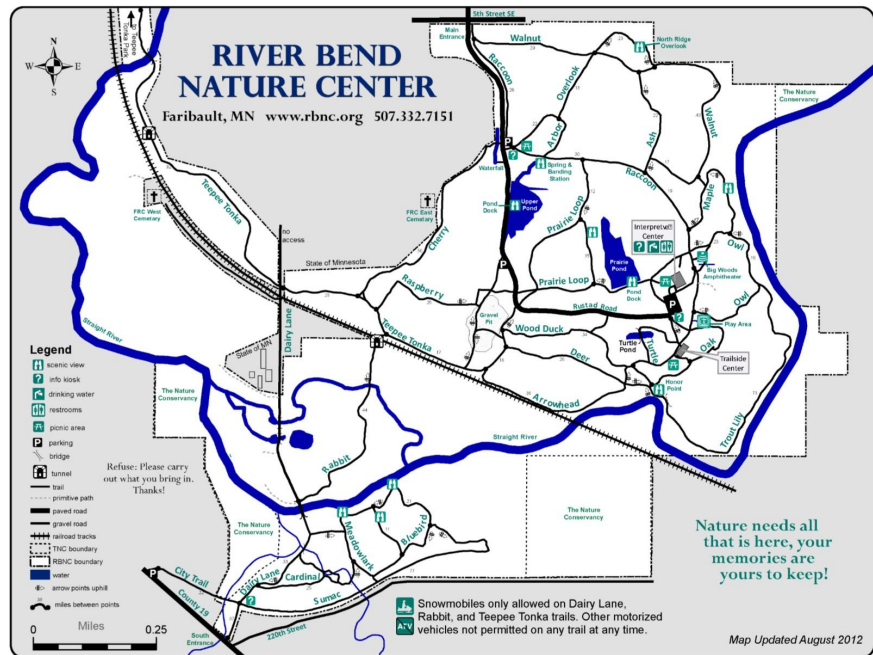
## What they do

Provide outdoor environmental classes and activities for formal and non-formal groups

## Accessibility

"Nature is for you...for me...for everyone"











# Our Project






# Our Project



**Signage  
Guideline  
Research**



**Trail  
Descriptions**



**Language  
Accessibility**





# Signage Guideline Research

## Criteria:

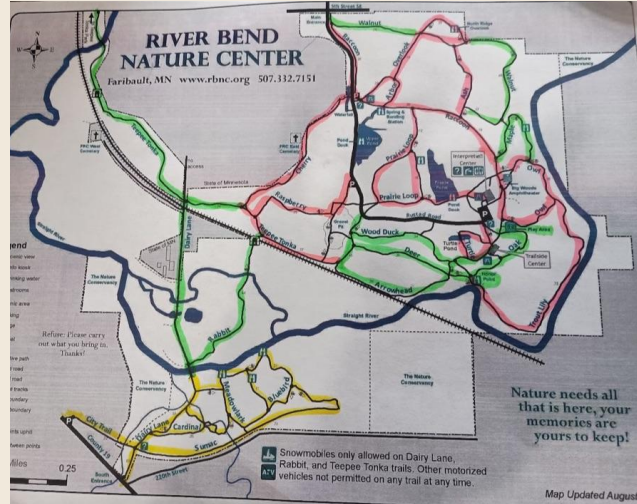
- Placement + size regulations
- Accessibility information
- Regulatory and warning information
- Materials + maintenance Guidelines

<p>Accessibility Information</p>	<p>It can be helpful to display accessibility information at the start of trails. USDA recommends these features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Typical and maximum trail grade.</li><li>● Typical and maximum tread cross slope.</li><li>● Minimum clear tread width.</li><li>● Tread surface type and firmness.</li><li>● Any major height obstacles (as appropriate)</li><li>● Trail distance is recommended but not required<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Show destination mileages for each destination as fractions to the nearest 1/4 or 1/2 mile for destinations up to 3 miles</li></ul></li></ul> <p>Can also consider creating a legend based on trail difficulty:</p> <div data-bbox="1255 633 1622 775"><div>Easiest DD-1</div><div>More Difficult DD-2</div><div>Most Difficult DD-3</div></div> <p>Figure 5-10—Simplified difficulty symbols.</p>
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# Trail Descriptions

## Criteria:

- Points of interest
- Trail surface
- Length
- Elevation changes
- Major obstacles
- Width of trail
- Uniformity of surface
- Availability of benches



### Rabbit

Points of Interest	Short tunnel passing under the railroad, 2 small ponds at the base of the hill, access to Straight River, bridge crossing at the end of Rabbit Trail to cross over to Dairy Lane
Trail Surface	Packed dirt
Length	~ ½ mile
Elevation Changes	Moderate
Major Obstacles	Some loose rocks near the tunnel
Width of Trail	5 feet
Uniformity of Trail Surface	Good
Availability of Benches	Poor

#### Description:

Rabbit is a fun trail with lots of twists and turns. It begins at an intersection with Teepee Tonka and passes through a short tunnel under the railroad. There is a moderate decline after the tunnel, with two small ponds at the base of the hill. At the end of the trail you will see the Straight River, which may be a great spot to relax and search for wildlife. From this point, you can cross a great bridge over to Dairy Lane, or you can continue to the Upper Dairy Lane path to meet back up with Teepee Tonka. Rabbit Trail is about ½ mile to the river, so it is a mile round trip.






# Language Accessibility



Teepee Tonka (Spanish)



Arbor Trail (Mandarin)





# Important Lessons

- There are many different barriers that people may experience when it comes to outdoor recreation - some of which may not be obvious
  - It can be helpful to create a systems map to ensure all communities are included!
- Accessibility initiatives can take many different forms
- We connected with our surrounding communities
  - Many of has had not visited Faribault before, and we learned a lot about the areas surrounding St. Olaf, specifically when it came to the diversity of the region and the varying levels of abilities



# Thanks!!





