



Map provided by:
 Corporation

Discover the Cranberry Pond Nature Trail



Braddock Bay Park



Town Supervisor
 John T. Auberger

Cranberry Pond Nature Trail

The trail starts at Braddock-Bay Park and continues along Cranberry Pond for 3.8 miles. Deer, red-winged blackbirds, herons, ducks, and frogs can be seen near the pond and along the trail. Oaks, aspen, maples, shagbark hickories, and apple trees populate the trail. The following are points of interest along the trail:

1. The journey begins with a sign depicting the layout of the Cranberry Pond Nature Trail. This is the west branch of the nature trail.
2. This stand of trees consists of shagbark hickories, sugar maples, white ashes, white oaks, eastern hop hornbeams, American beech, and red oaks.
3. There are two giant oak trees on either side of you. Pass the purple loosestrife flowers and cross East Manitou Road. This is an invasive (non-native) plant and is currently under remediation.
4. Here there is a clearing with a view to the waters' edge. Ducks can be seen and bullfrogs can seasonally be heard croaking. Purple loosestrife, rushes, and duckweed inhabit this area. Continue to the south along East Manitou Road to follow the trail.
5. Two culverts give a good view above the pond, where red-winged blackbirds can be seen during the spring and summer months.
6. This is the entrance to the wooded part of the trail. There are many white ash trees in this area.
7. Here is an area that is surrounded by apple trees and vines.
8. To your left is a bench, and a large eastern cottonwood directly in front of it, probably one of the first trees to grow in this spot. A great fall feeding area for birds and mammals.
9. On your left is a birdhouse. Apple, oak, and white ash trees in this area are favorite nesting sites.
10. To your left, if you look past the tree branches to the north, you may be able to see birds flying above Cranberry Pond. As you continue along the trail, you will see a number of chokeberries, which are a source of food for many birds.
11. After passing some white ash and shagbark hickories, you will come across two giant red oak trees that are over 100 years old. You may also notice a fallen shagbark hickory that is covered with fungus and a wood duck house.
12. On either side of you are two large oaks. Besides oaks, there are also shagbark hickories that provide most of the fall food for wildlife.
13. While walking along the Parkway, you will come across a birdhouse after passing by some austrian pine, oaks, aspen, and linden trees. At this point, you may see a number of muskrat houses sticking up out of the cattails.
14. While standing before the culvert that is covered by rushes and cattails, herons, red-winged blackbirds, and finches can be seen over the water. Frogs may be spotted among the duckweed in the spring and summer close to the culvert.
15. The photo blind, built by Eagle Scout Scott Dansler in 2001, provides a window into nature. Ducks can sometimes be seen out on the sandbar.
16. At the entrance of the second leg of the trail, a shagbark hickory and some linden trees greet you. This entrance to a large woodlot consists of second generation willows and aspens.
17. Heading east, you will pass through a stand of aspen.
18. From this bench, you can see many kinds of trees, including maples, basswood, aspen, and shagbark hickories. The bench is located along a low area where ferns and may apples can be observed. (May apples bloom in early spring and summer)
19. From this point, a walk north will take you to the edge of Cranberry Pond, where many species of plants and wildlife can be observed.
20. A patch of ferns has grown in the area where the maples and aspen have allowed them light. At this point you can also see how wild grapevines have overgrown and contributed to the death of this mature tree.
21. Here are some gigantic vines. In the spring, trillium, jack-in-the-pulpit, may apples and trout lilies grow.
22. While re-entering the woods, you pass some New York aster, agrimony, and choke -berries. This section of the trail is rich with maples, oaks, beech, and aspen trees. You are now entering the east branch of the Cranberry Pond Nature Trail.
23. On the north side of the trail is a wetland cove that provides a nesting habitat for wood ducks.
24. Now you have entered a stand of maple trees.
25. Here is a giant red oak tree in a stand of white ash.
26. Here are some shagbark hickories, oaks, and maples.
27. This area shows how natural succession takes place once an opening in the forest develops. Sugar maple seedlings are repopulating it.
28. This stand of trees is in an advanced stage of succession. Notice the difference between these trees and those at station 27.
29. At this point, you have left the main woodlot and are in a low area typical of a waters' edge habitat. Arrowwood, dogwood, honeysuckle and viburnum are a few of the shrubs that can be seen.
30. You are now in a stand of aspen.
31. On your left is an exit to East Manitou Road. Go straight to continue with the trail. This area is populated with beech trees, chokeberries, and red pines.
32. As you leave the beech and apple trees, continue down East Manitou Road to return to Braddock Bay Park.