TRAIL LOOPS
Looped Trail Systems

There are four sets of looped trail systems in the KMSF-SU that provide a more traditional State Park hiking trail experience. Since the Ice Age trail is also intended for hiking and snowshoeing, these trails also offer recreation seekers opportunities for cross-country skiing or mountain biking. These trail systems are extremely popular because they are looped and provide easy access to clearly delineated routes.

**Scuppernong Ski-Hiking Trail**

These trails, on County Highway ZZ just east of Hwy 67 north of the Village of Eagle, are open to hikers and classical stride skiers only; skate skiing is not permitted. There are three color-coated loop trails ranging from just over 2 miles to 5 miles. The Scuppernong area provides convenient parking, water, and a vault toilet. The trails have a nice rolling characteristic through hardwood forest and pine plantations. Hiking is not allowed when the trails are groomed for skiing.

- **Red Loop – 2.3 miles (Intermediate skier):** Short and narrow with steep terrain, is the only way to describe this loop. You'll pass through pine plantations and southern hardwood forest on a leisurely one-hour hike. Save your break for the bench on the Observation Loop overlooking a glacial sand plain.

- **Orange Loop – 4.2 miles (Intermediate skier):** This loop will take you deeper into the southern hardwood forest. It is here that you are more likely to see and hear the uncommon pileated woodpecker and coopers hawk.

- **Green Loop – 5 miles (Advanced skier):** About halfway on this loop you will pass by the edge of the Pinewoods Campground. As you continue through the pines, walk quietly down these old fire-lanes. Turkey vultures have been known to roost here. When you make your final descent from the ridge top to the parking lot, you will experience a roller coaster of hills that you won't soon forget.

**Emma F. Carlin Biking-Hiking Trail**

This trail system, on County Highway Z just south of State Highway 59, goes through a hardwood forest with mostly hilly terrain. Three color coded trails ranging from 2 to 4 miles. Parking, water, and vault toilets are available.

- **Red Loop – 1.7 miles:** Hardwood forests with a steep razorback ridge accent this short trail. Note the view of the glacial sand plain as all three loops return on the same spur trail, back to the parking lot.

- **Orange Loop – 2.34 miles:** This loop takes you a little further into the hardwood forest. A short segment of the loop takes you through a big dip in the terrain. This served as a logging road about 1977 when this area was clear-cut during a hardwood timber harvest.

- **Green Loop – 4.1 miles:** The north side of this loop is a mixture of open and wooded areas that, when in season, will treat you to the dramatic scent of walnuts and apples. The vista of Lower Spring Lake (where on a clear day, you can see Holy Hill) marks the points where the terrain and cover make a dramatic change. Deep, mature, hardwood forests leads you back to the parking lot.

**John Muir Biking-Hiking Trail**

On County Highway H north of the Town of La Grange and US Highway 12 and south of the Town of Palmyra, this is the most popular trail within hundreds of miles. Five different loops ranging from 1.5 miles to 10 miles. Parking, water, and vault toilets are available.

- **Red Loop – 1.25 miles:** This is a good, short loop through open fields, scattered pines and hardwoods. Don't miss resting on our bench in the spruce trees at the bottom of this loop's only difficult downhill.

- **Orange Loop – 5.21 miles:** Hikers won't forget the narrow, steep trail viewing of the largest of three leather leaf bogs.
- **Green Loop – 6.74 miles**: Some of the roughest, most diverse sections of the forest, second only to the back of Nordic’s longer blue loop. In spring, watch for some of the most spectacular displays of pasque flowers in the south end of this loop.

- **White Loop – 3.95 miles**: The first 2 miles of this loop wind through open areas with scattered mature pines. Your return trip zigzag in and out of hardwood and pine plantations. You can’t miss the crane’s eye view of our forests largest leaf bog. Some mountain bikers call this a beginners—intermediate loop.

- **Blue Loop – 9.96 miles**: Some of the greatest biking trails around. Our new south loops were designed for just this purpose. The southernmost blue loop that looks like a squirrel on a map, takes you 3.1 miles deep into a mature hardwood forest. Don’t miss the spring display of Jack-in-the-pulpits.

- **Rainy Dew Bypass – 4.63 miles**: When wet conditions require the southern portion of the trails to be closed, this trail will link the red trail to the orange, green, and blue trails.

- **Kid’s Loop – 0.35 miles**: A special loop has been created for the younger mountain bike riders. This loop is south of the Muir trailhead shelter and introduces young riders to the skills of off-road biking. Young riders have the option of riding a level trail or taking short loops off the main trail to test their skills riding in sand, over rocks, narrow beams, and logs.

### Nordic Ski-Hiking Trail

This trail, on County Highway H south of the Village of Palmyra, provides hiking and skiing for skate and classical stride cross-country skiers through a variety of vegetation, hardwoods, pine plantations, open meadows, and kettle moraine terrain. There are six different trails of varying lengths and degrees of difficulty, providing great hiking or skiing for all levels of ability. A warming shelter is open every day, and convenient parking, vault toilets and a sledding hill are also available at the trailhead. Hiking is not allowed when the trails are groomed for skiing.

- **Red Loop – 1.97 miles**: Not a beginners loop, this trail takes you over old farming pastures, broken up between 4 steep hills that only tractors once drove.

- **Orange Loop – 2.54 miles**: Mostly open trail with an excellent view of the Kettle Moraine topography, this loop overlooks a larger wet cattails.

- **White Loop – 3.25 miles**: This is a nice, flat, open, beginners loop. This trail follows the woods edge through scattered pines and open fields.

- **Green Loop – 3.66 miles**: More of the same but rougher terrain as you pass through Nordic’s hardwood forests.

- **Blue Loop – 9.19 miles**: The most difficult loop trail, giving one of the best cross sections of hardwood forests, pine plantation, open fields and topography. The back of this loop is not for the average skier; only the expert in good condition.

- **Brown Loop – 0.62 miles**: This short level loop was designed for the first time, beginner skier and the youngest members of your family. The loop winds through mostly older pine plantations.

- **Purple Loop – 1.64 miles**: This loop winds through mostly mature pines with a few small open spots and a couple rolling hills. It’s a great loop for a short summer hike or warm-up loop for skiers. This loop was originally designed for our popular Candlelight Ski/Hike that takes place in late January. Call 262-594-6200 for Candlelight Ski/Hike dates and information.
Old trails do exist in the Emma Carlin Trail system. Please only follow trails that have a Brown, Orange or Green color marker on it. Old trails no longer have color markers.