

## Macnamara Field Naturalists Club 2021 Annual Report – Macnamara Trail

The Macnamara Trail and Nopiming Loop Trail were well utilized with many more visitors during 2021 as the pandemic situation continued for a second year.

Much work was done on the trail throughout the season including new kiosk signage and a new trail map. The trail was severely worn in many places. This required transporting and spreading many truckloads of woodchips on the trail up to the Lady's-slipper boardwalk.

Trail Angels, volunteers and Trail Coordinators provided routine maintenance to clear fallen trees and branches. New boardwalk sections were added or repaired. A new birdfeeder station was installed.



### Accomplishments

1. Trail work was performed on April 24, May 12 & 30, June 5, 15, 18, 19 & 24, July 12, September 15 & 25, October 17, 20 & 25, November 1, 4 & 10, and December 7
  - a. Woodchips supplied by arborists were spread on the Trail throughout the season; over 20 loads were delivered
  - b. New boardwalk sections were installed to access the Marsh Lookout Tower

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- c. Signage was installed to replace vandalized signs and to warn visitors of poison ivy, trail closures, danger at the Lime Kiln, and remind them that dogs are prohibited
  - d. Kiosk signage was updated and installed including a revised trail map
  - e. Woodchips were stockpiled near the Lady’s-slipper boardwalk and a “woodchip day” was organized for volunteers to wheelbarrow woodchips across the Lady’s-slipper boardwalk to cover the much-worn section up to the Lime Kiln
  - f. Walking Fern staircase was repaired but subsequently closed for safety reasons
  - g. Several boards were replaced on the Lady’s-slipper boardwalk; the stairs at the Lime Kiln were repaired
  - h. Brush was cut beside the Lady’s-slipper and Nopiming Loop boardwalks
  - i. First boardwalk was re-installed after it was moved aside to transport woodchips by tractor to the head of the Lady’s-slipper boardwalk
2. Donation box at the kiosk was repaired and a new lock installed
  3. Spur trail to Goodwins Bay was reopened after boards and wood cookies were placed over swampy areas, the boardwalk damaged by past floods was realigned and repaired, and trail markers were added
  4. Bird feeder station was relocated and a new cable and winch system were installed
    - a. The bird feeders damaged by vandals were repaired and hung from the cable
    - b. Kinburn Farm Supply again donated two 50 lb bags of sunflower seed
  5. Gravel was delivered and spread on the trailhead parking lot courtesy of Smiths Construction

Activities and Plans for 2022

1. Obtain quotes to replace the Walking Fern staircase
2. Prepare plan to replace Lady’s-slipper and other boardwalks that have deteriorated since being installed over 20 years ago
3. Make submissions for grants to replace boardwalks and staircases
4. Prepare points of interest (POI) for the Main Trail and the Nopiming Loop
5. Revise the Trail Guide with new POI and Trail Map
6. Install an “End of Trail” sign at the end of the Goodwins Bay spur trail
7. Spread remaining woodchips stored in the parking area and at the head of the Lady’s-slipper boardwalk
8. Cut brush beside the section of the Goodwins Bay spur trail
9. Repair boardwalks as needed

MNFC Trail Volunteers – 2020

Paul Carrier, Steve Duffield, Brian LaBrie, John McLaughlan, Brian Roadhouse, and numerous others

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MNFC Bird Feeding Team

Mary Green and Jean-Marc Verreault; backup: Yvonne Wiss

Trail Coordinators

Béatrice & Julian Romeskie

8 February 2022