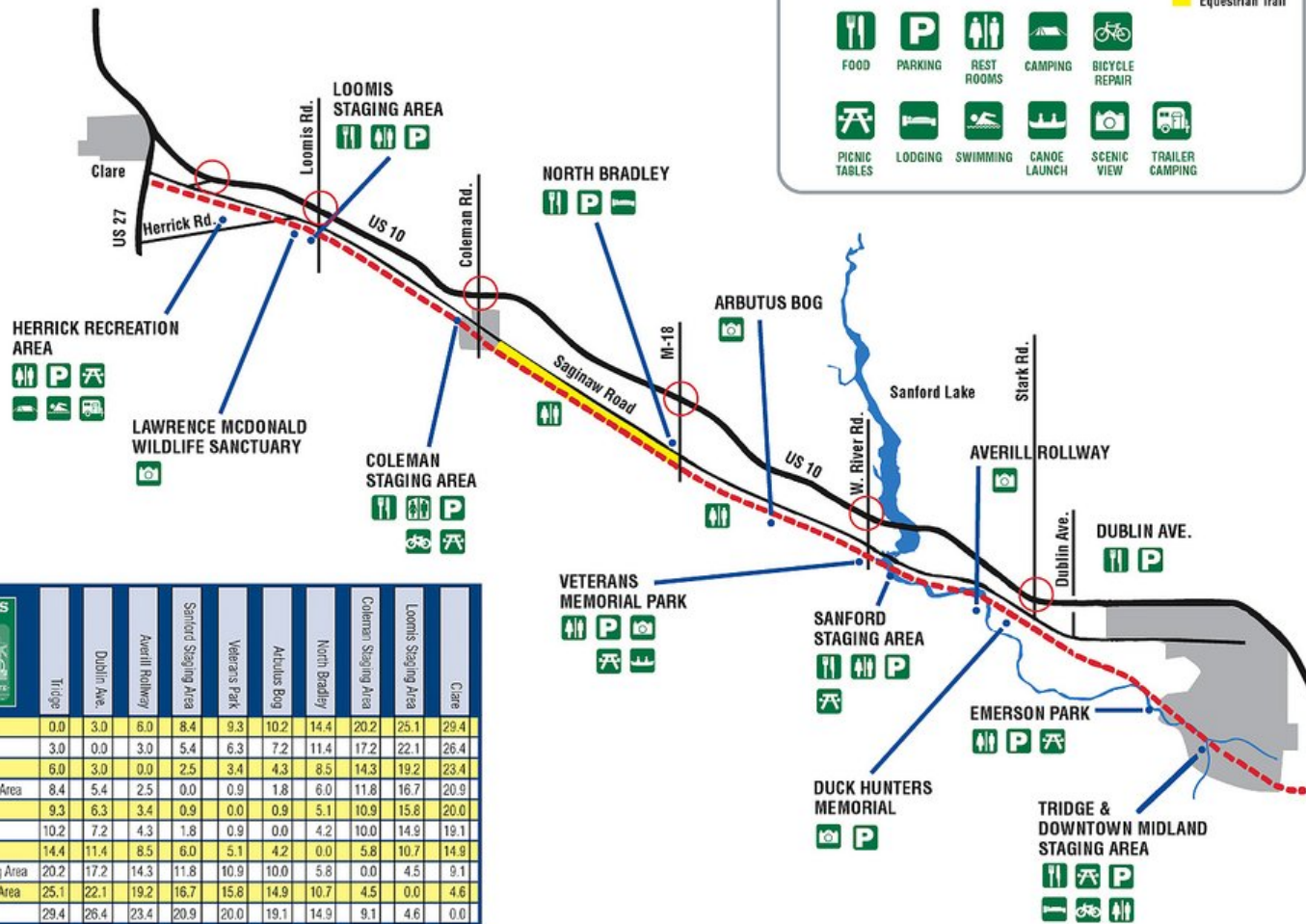




# Walking the Rail Trail in pursuit of Wildflowers

Gina Pederson  
Great Lakes Gardeners

# PERE-MARQUETTE RAIL-TRAIL



## Flowers identified on the Rail Trail

- ▶ Over 300 wildflowers have been identified blooming along the rail trail from Midland to Coleman
- ▶ Our Website ([peremarquettewildflowers.com](http://peremarquettewildflowers.com)) has pictures and information on the wildflowers
- ▶ Gina Pederson has a blog on the website that chronicles the blooming as it occurs during Spring, Summer, and Fall

## Preparing for your wildflower walk

- ▶ Review the blogs on the website for the same period in previous years to get an idea of what may be blooming
- ▶ Get a reference guide like “What’s Doing the Blooming?”
- ▶ Get out your camera and set it for closeups



# Spotting the wildflowers

- ▶ Wildflowers can be very solitary or only in small groups until the explosion of flowers in late summer
- ▶ Many of the prettiest wildflowers are small, so take your time and don't be impatient, the hunt is part of the fun
- ▶ Many rare wildflowers that are preferred meals for Deer and Rabbit do best on the steepest slopes where they are out of reach



## Favorite rail trail walks

- ▶ Doan History Center to Dublin Road
- ▶ Dublin Road to Averill Rollway
- ▶ Averill Rollway to Sanford Staging
- ▶ Sanford Staging to Veterans Park or Arbutus Bog
- ▶ 8 Mile Road to 10 ½ Mile Road
- ▶ North Bradley Road to 10 1/2 Road



## Doan History Center to Dublin Road

- ▶ Distance is about 1.5 miles
- ▶ Passes behind Northwood University
  - ▶ Parking lot at Doan History Center
  - ▶ Parking lot at Senior Services



## From Dublin Road to Averill Rollway

- ▶ Distance is 3 miles
- ▶ From Duck Hunter's Memorial to Averill Rollway is about 2.5 miles
  - ▶ Parking lot at Senior Center
  - ▶ Small parking lot at Duck Hunter's Memorial
  - ▶ Small parking lot at Averill Rollway



## From Averill Rollway to Sanford Staging Area

- ▶ Distance is 2.5 miles
- ▶ Averill Preserve entrance is here
- ▶ Takes you through Sanford
  - ▶ Small parking lot at Averill Rollway
  - ▶ Large parking lot at Sanford Staging Area
  - ▶ Small parking lot at 7 Mile Road

## From Sanford Staging Area to Veterans Park

- ▶ Distance to Veterans Park is 0.9 miles
- ▶ Veterans Park entrance is between 7 and 8 mile roads
  - ▶ Parking lot at Sanford Staging area
  - ▶ Small parking lot at 7 Mile Road
  - ▶ Limited parking at 8 Mile Road
  - ▶ Parking lot in Veterans Park



## From Sanford Staging Area to Arbutus Bog

- ▶ Distance to Arbutus Bog is 1.8 miles
- ▶ Arbutus Bog entrance is between 8 and 9 Mile Roads
  - ▶ Parking lot at Sanford Staging area
  - ▶ Small parking lot at 7 Mile Road
  - ▶ Limited parking at 8 Mile Road
  - ▶ No parking at 9 Mile Road

## From Sanford Staging Area to 9 Mile Road

- ▶ Distance is about 2.4 miles
  - ▶ Parking lot at Sanford Staging area
  - ▶ Small parking lot at 7 Mile Road
  - ▶ Limited parking at 8 Mile Road
  - ▶ No parking at 9 Mile Road



## From 8 Mile Road to 10 ½ Mile Road

- ▶ Distance is about 2.9 miles
- ▶ There is a wetland between 9 and 10 1/2 Mile Roads
  - ▶ Limited parking at 8 Mile Road
  - ▶ Limited parking at 10 ½ Mile Road
  - ▶ No parking on 9 Mile or 11 Mile Roads

## From 8 Mile Road to North Bradley Staging Area

- ▶ Distance is 4.4 miles
- ▶ North Bradley is where M18 intersects N Saginaw Road
  - ▶ Good parking at North Bradley
  - ▶ Limited parking at 8 Mile Road
  - ▶ Limited parking at 10 ½ Mile Road
  - ▶ No parking on 9 Mile or 11 Mile Roads

## Wildflowers in Midland

- ▶ MidMichigan Health Wellness Trails
- ▶ Dow Gardens
- ▶ Whiting Forest of Dow Gardens
- ▶ Tridge area and Chippewasee Trail
- ▶ City Forest trails

## Wildflowers in Midland County

- ▶ Veterans Park in Sanford between 7 and 8 mile roads, entrances off both roads
- ▶ Pine Haven State Recreation Area (on West Maynard road off River Road just south of Interstate 10)
- ▶ Averill, Szok, Riverview and Forestview Nature areas (get map from Little Forks Conservancy)
- ▶ Chippewa Nature Center trails

