

MAMMALS

opossum	striped skunk
eastern cottontail	bobcat
fox squirrel	white-tailed deer
eastern woodrat	thirteen-lined ground squirrel
prairie vole	least shrew
muskrat	southern short-tailed shrew
white-footed mouse	long-tailed weasel
hispid cotton rat	mink
coyote	beaver
badger	red fox
eastern mole	gray fox
woodchuck	harvest mouse
plains pocket gopher	deer mouse
big brown bat	meadow jumping mouse

BIRDS

great blue heron	loggerhead shrike
green heron	eastern kingbird
killdeer	chickadee
upland sandpiper	belted kingfisher
bobwhite	brown creeper
common nighthawk	nuthatch
great horned owl	blue jay
marsh hawk	indigo bunting
kestrel	tufted titmouse
Cooper's hawk	eastern bluebird
turkey vulture	vireos
bluegray gnatcatcher	dickcissel
mourning dove	brown thrasher
common flicker	yellow-billed cuckoo
red-headed woodpecker	rufous-sided towhee
downy woodpecker	sparrow (many types)
goldfinch	red-winged blackbird
meadowlark	common grackle
northern oriole	crow
robin	brown-headed cowbird
cardinal	American redstart
scissor-tailed flycatcher	house wren
mockingbird	ring-necked pheasant
catbird	warblers (several)
ruby-throated hummingbird	common yellowthroat
lowthroat	eastern phoebe

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

American toad	five-lined skink
cricket frog	eastern yellow-bellied racer
western chorus frog	black rat snake
gray treefrog	milk snake
plains leopard frog	western ribbon snake
bullfrog	northern watersnake
common snapping turtle	diamondback watersnake
ornate box turtle	copperhead
western painted turtle	massasauga
red-eared slider	timber rattlesnake
smooth softshell turtle	bullsnake
spiny softshell turtle	western worm snake
ground skink	prairie ringneck snake
western slender grass lizard	prairie kingsnake
prairie skink	common kingsnake
great plains skink	mudpuppy
tiger salamander	plains narrowmouth toad
plains spadefoot toad	

WOODY PLANTS

eastern walnut	osage orange
black walnut	bur oak
red oak	blackjack oak
green ash	box elder
American elm	Siberian elm
prickly ash	honey locust
shingle oak	red elm
American plum	Kentucky coffee tree
black cherry	sycamore
basswood	silver maple
hazelnut	wahoo
bladdernut	western buckeye
pawpaw	ironwood
leadplant	coralberry
golden currant	wild gooseberry
Virginia creeper	riverbank grape
red mulberry	shagbark hickory
chinquapin oak	bitternut hickory
black oak	hackberry
cottonwood	smooth sumac
redbud	staghorn sumac
black locust	aromatic sumac
black willow	rough-leaved dogwood
peach-leaved willow	poison ivy

sandbar willow
bittersweet
moonseed
white ash
chokecherry
elderberry
black raspberry

swamp dogwood
bristly greenbrier
climbing prairie rose
prairie rose
highbush blackberry
dewberry
raccoon grape

HERBACEOUS PLANTS

jack-in-the-pulput	wild garlic
dock	wild strawberry
blue violet	dutchman's breeches
may apple	chickweed
ox-eye daisy	sweet William
spotted spurg	snow-on-the-mountain
tick-trefoil	round-headed lespedeza
mullein	purpletop
coneflowers	black sampson
leadplant	johnny jumpup
prickly pear	solomon's seal
spiderwort	mallow
shepard's purse	evening primrose
dandelion	yarrow
prairie phlox	cat's claw sensitive plant
partridge pea	Illinois bundleflower
black nightshade	giant ragweed
windmill grass	black-eyed susan
butterfly milkweed	purple/white prairie clover
indigo	penstemon
big bluestem	switchgrass
Indiangrass	sideoats grama
bromegrass	bluegrass
buffalograss	eastern gamagrass
little bluestem	pitcher's sage
sunflowers, spp.	



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Herbert Reinhard Green Memorial Wildlife Area



Nature Trails

POST CREEK RIDGE TRAIL

1. This marker shows the location of the Green home site which was built in 1877 from the remnants of nearby Uniontown. This town was originally established as a trading post for the Pottawatomie Indians in 1848, and eventually grew to a population of 300. Uniontown was eventually met by a branch of every major trail in the area including the California-Oregon Trail, the Fort Leavenworth- Fort Riley Road, the Salt Lake City Trail, and the U.S. Mail Route. Uniontown suffered two outbreaks of cholera until it was abandoned and burned in 1859. A cemetery on nearby private property contains the mass graves of Uniontown cholera victims.

Several graves with barely distinguishable headstones are located just west of this marker. One gravestone indicates an early pioneer, born in 1824 in Fauquier County, Virginia, and died in 1851.

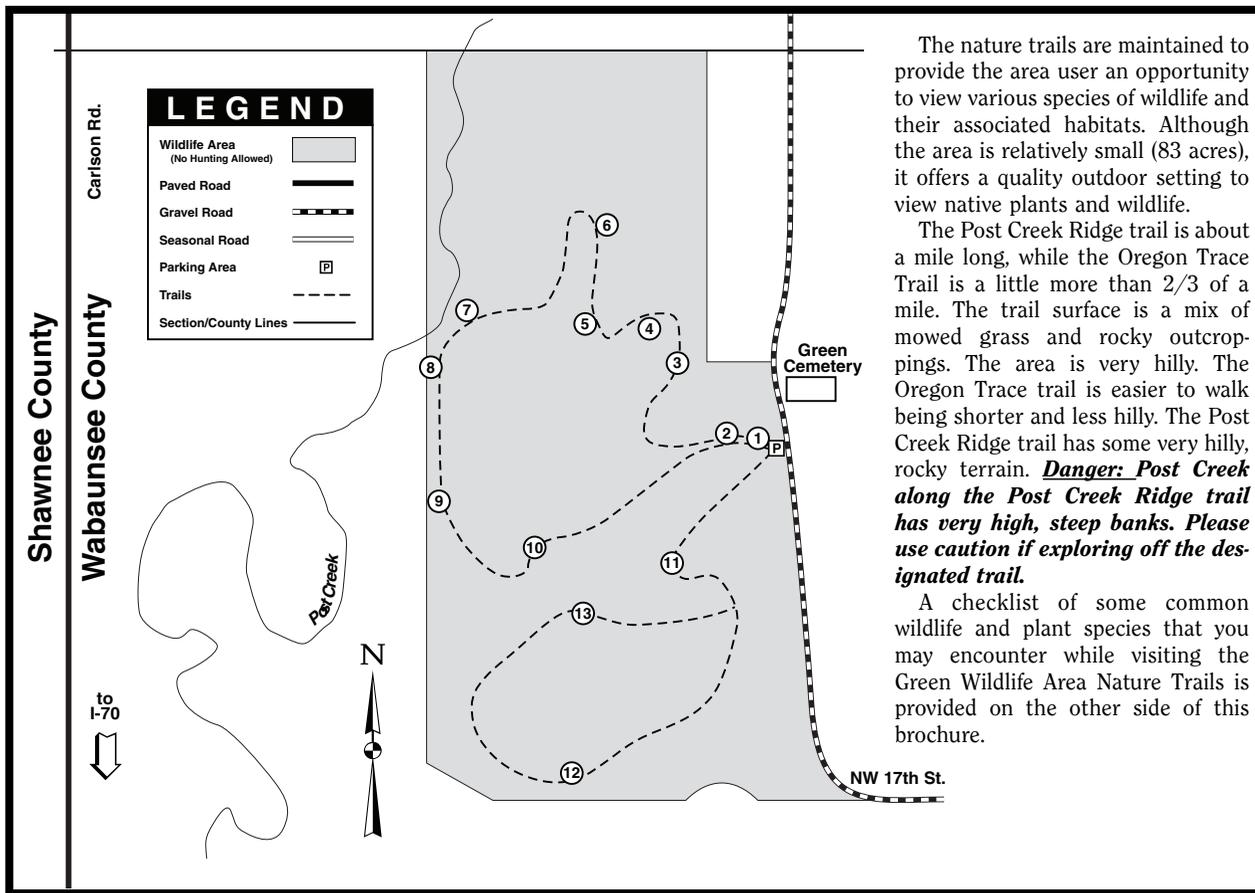
2. This area contains remnants of the old farming operation. Many pieces are horse drawn implements used to till and plant the small fields of that time period. The corral and outbuildings of the farm once stood in this area. The Green family used this area for agricultural purposes until the 1960's.

3. Much of this area was historically tall grass prairie. Farming activities caused secondary ecological succession allowing invader plant species such as Osage Orange and Honey Locust to invade. This area is in the process of being returned to native tallgrass prairie by removing this large woody vegetation. Prescribe burning the grassland is an effective and economical method of stimulating native plant species and controlling invading species. Native tallgrass prairie vegetation evolved with fire from lightning and those set by Native American Indians. These burnt areas resulted in lush new plant growth which attracted game animals such as bison. Consequently, the tallgrass prairie was stimulated and maintained by periodic fire.

Native grasses and forbs are important to ground dwelling wildlife for food, cover, and rearing of young. Important tall grass species include big bluestem, Indiangrass, switchgrass, little bluestem, sideoats grama, prairie cordgrass, and eastern gama grass.

4. This marker is located in an area of more mature timber. The mature post oaks at this site create a canopy which shades younger trees and impairs growth. The smaller trees at this site are mostly redbud. The stones placed in this gully have served as a primitive silt dam to slow erosion which was accelerated by overgrazing and farming the highly erodible soil.

Notice the reddish quartzite boulders scattered nearby. These are glacial erratics, known as Sioux quartzite, which were carried to this area approximately 600,000 years ago when the last glacier covered much of Northeast Kansas. These glacial erratics were broken off of rocky outcrops by the advancing glacier in South Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota.



5. A scenic view of the valley below. During the walk from marker #4 you may have noticed poison ivy and a species of plant commonly known as beggar's lice. The seed from this plant attaches to passing animals (and clothing) to disperse and colonize other areas. Many types of ground dwelling birds and mammals utilize this plant for food. The seeds are easily removed from clothing by lightly scraping with a dull knife.

6. A look southwest from this marker provides a scenic view of the wooded valley below. The dead trees or "snags" located near this marker have cavities which provide nesting sites for birds such as eastern bluebirds, chickadees, nuthatches, and various woodpeckers. Raccoons, squirrels, and bobcats use cavities as denning sites. Dead trees and leaf litter attract numerous insects which provide food for many species of wildlife.

7. Just west of this marker, Post Creek may be seen flowing below. The pools and riffles provide homes for numerous aquatic and semi aquatic plants, animals, fish, and insects. Natural cavities in trees along the creek provide nest sites for wood ducks.

The creek also provides food and cover for beavers which build dens into the steep banks and use the adjacent vegetation for food and shelter. Notice the numerous short pointed small tree stumps. These trees have been cut down with the beavers continually growing sharp teeth. The tree bark is eaten and is often cached near the den as a winter food source.

Smooth sumac, black walnut, and northern red oak can be observed in the area. These woody plants produce seed and nuts utilized by many wildlife species.

8. This marker stands where an American elm tree once stood. The native American elm was once abundant throughout the Eastern United States. American elm numbers have been drastically reduced by the Dutch elm disease which is a fungus spread by the native elm bark beetle and the European elm bark beetle. The remains of an old fence indicates that the area east of this marker was once a cropfield.

The nature trails are maintained to provide the area user an opportunity to view various species of wildlife and their associated habitats. Although the area is relatively small (83 acres), it offers a quality outdoor setting to view native plants and wildlife.

The Post Creek Ridge trail is about a mile long, while the Oregon Trace Trail is a little more than 2/3 of a mile. The trail surface is a mix of mowed grass and rocky outcroppings. The area is very hilly. The Oregon Trace trail is easier to walk being shorter and less hilly. The Post Creek Ridge trail has some very hilly, rocky terrain. ***Danger: Post Creek along the Post Creek Ridge trail has very high, steep banks. Please use caution if exploring off the designated trail.***

A checklist of some common wildlife and plant species that you may encounter while visiting the Green Wildlife Area Nature Trails is provided on the other side of this brochure.

9. This marker demonstrates the extent that invasive woody vegetation (osage orange, honey locust, eastern red-cedar) have invaded the former cropfield. This area is in the process of being returned to native grasses. An area this invaded will require mechanical removal of the woody vegetation and reseeded to native grass and forbs. Few remnant grass species such as little bluestem are still present.

10. A look to the north from this marker shows a good example of an ecotone. An ecotone is a transition area between two adjacent vegetative communities. Ecotones may appear as a sharp boundary line between two plant communities, or they may gradually blend together over a broad area. In this case, upland woodlands and grasslands merge together. This situation is not static. Without fire, the woodland extends into the grassland area and slowly turns the grassland to woodland. This process is known as vegetative succession. Plant succession is a change in plant composition over time due to a lack of disturbance such as fire. Such changes in plant composition can be beneficial to some wildlife species, while being detrimental to other species.

OREGON TRACE TRAIL

11. This area provides a view of a reclaimed prairie area. This area was overgrown with osage orange and locust. This area was reclaimed by removing the invasive woody vegetation and using prescribed fire to stimulate native grass and wildflower growth. During the spring and summer, wildflowers such as black eyed susan, dotted gayfeather, showy partridge pea, and Illinois bundleflower can be observed in bloom. These wildflowers and others add diversity to the grassland by attracting numerous insects and producing seed. Insects and the seed these plants produce provide an important source of food for many ground nesting birds including bobwhite quail.

Stone fences built when the area was first settled still stand in this area. Many stone fences in the area were built after 1867 when the federal government passed a law abolishing the open range. The law provided payment of 40 cents per rod (16 1/2 ft.) to landowners to build and maintain a 4 1/2 ft. stone fence.

12. The depression running east to west from this marker is the eroded ruts of the Oregon Trail. Several trails converged in the area because of the natural rock in the Kansas River just north of here near Willard, Kansas.

13. The climax community for the eastern deciduous forest at this site is the oak-hickory woodland. This marker is located in an area of various oak and hickory trees. These trees are known as mast or nut producing trees. The nuts are an important food source for many wildlife species including wild turkeys, fox squirrels, and white-tailed deer.