

The Ridges Sanctuary

Hidden Brook Interpretive Trail Concept

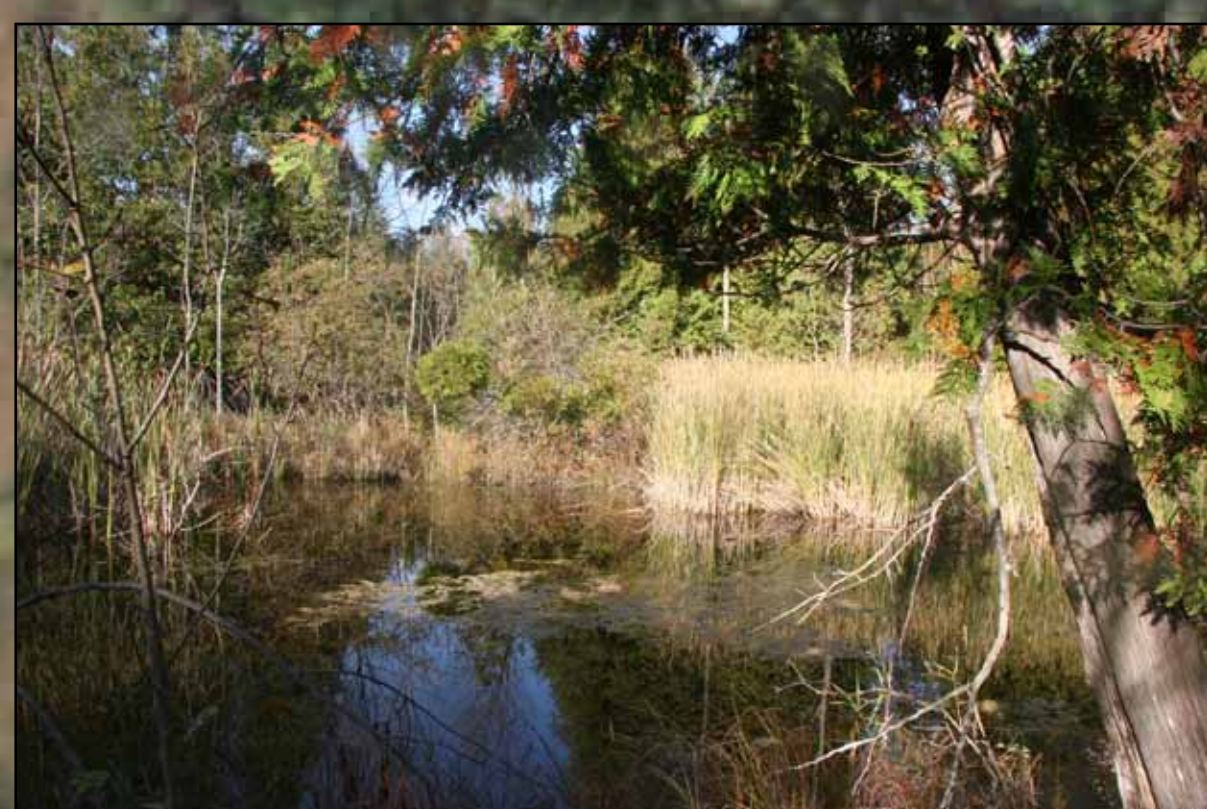
This universally accessible boardwalk trail will be an inviting gateway to The Ridges Sanctuary.

It will be a sensory introduction to the dynamic world of boreal forest and Great Lakes ridge and swale habitat. It will be a "Ridges experience".

- ▶ The walkway will rise and fall over the undulating landscape, offering glimpses of watery swales, stream crossings and boreal forest. This trail will offer mystery, variety, and beauty.
- ▶ The boardwalk will protect the plant life from trampling and promise safe passage to people who might not be comfortable on more primitive trails.
- ▶ Most visitors will limit their walk to this trail. It will serve as a buffer to the more fragile "Range Light 40" existing trail system.

Upper Range Light

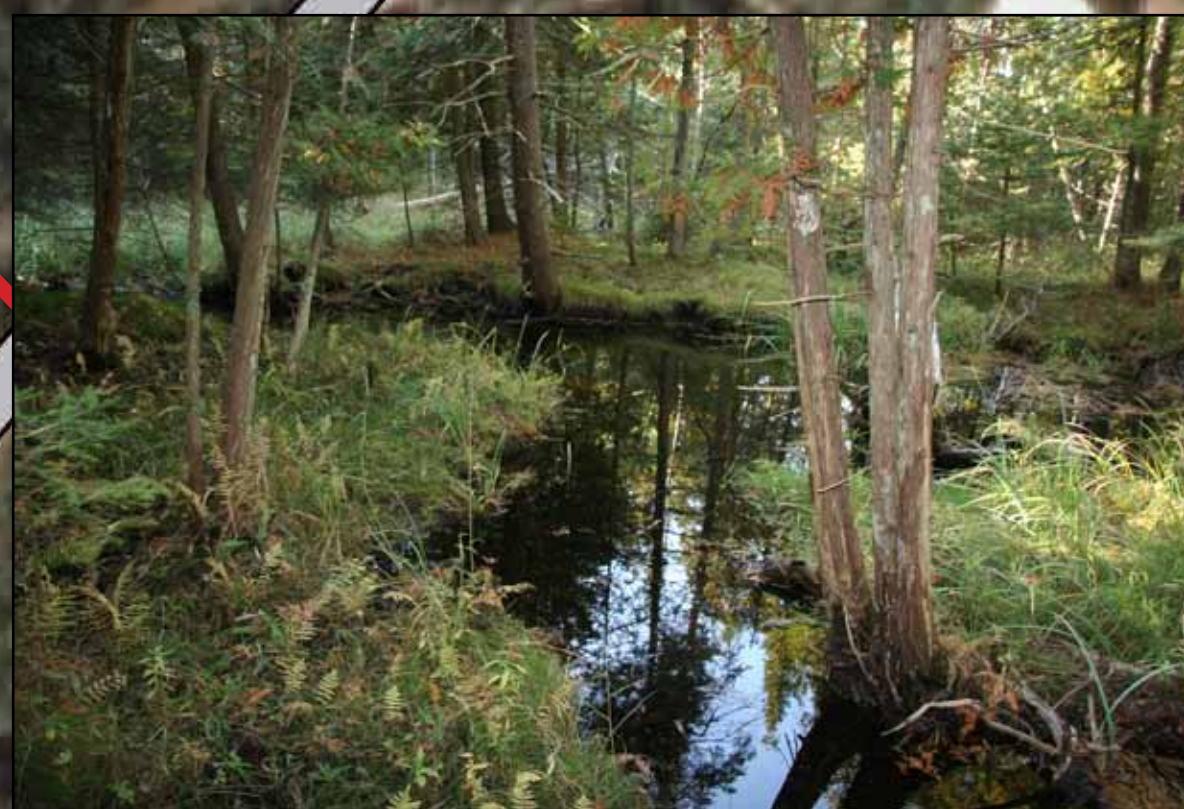
This trail will have sculptural and audio components to engage visitors of all ages. The entire trail must be designed as a "work of art" to capture the imagination of all who experience it. Quotes from the Founders will highlight the significance of the Sanctuary.



A large swale is an ideal location for an overlook. Portions of the boardwalk will rise above the swale, then descend to float on the water surface.



As they enter the trail on a prominent ridge, visitors will learn how the ridges and swales were formed.



"Hidden Brook" is a fast flowing stream that adds sound and movement to the visitor experience.



A rustic trailhead kiosk will beckon to visitors to walk the "Hidden Creek Trail". It will provide a map and interpretation of the major themes.



A spur from Hidden Brook loop trail connects to the existing "Range Light 40" trail system.

Lower Range Light



The trail forks and splits around trees and rejoins on the other side. Spurs take you to quiet reflective areas with benches. It is an adventure of discovery.



An arching bridge will enhance the experience of crossing the stream.

