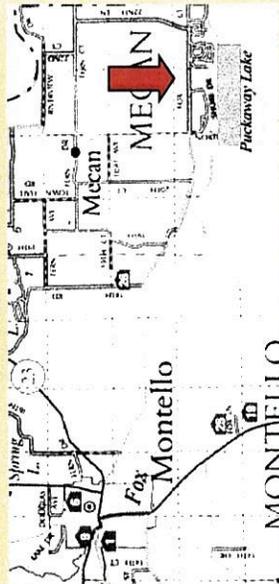


mosses and ferns thrive along this area of the trail. Chickadees use the moss to line their nests in cavities made by Downy Woodpeckers in the nearby Birch Trees.

#12: Saplings, such as those in this surrounding area are made up of many small trees that have a hard time growing due to shade from the forest canopy. However, these small Silver Maples provide browse for deer in the winter. A closer look also reveals that buck deer prefer the soft maple saplings for rubbing their antlers in the fall.

Directions to Apuckawa Nature Trail:

Drive east out of Montello on 23, then veer onto Cty Rd C. Drive on C to a Stop Sign where C turns north. Go straight ahead onto Fox Court. Watch for the Apuckawa Boat Landing sign on right.



Please respect private property that abuts the nature trail. Carry out your trash. There are bathrooms open seasonally at the landing. The trail is maintained by Marquette County Parks and Rural Planning and Land and Water Conservation.

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www.muirlanbirding.com

Checklist of birds you can see at Apuckawa Nature Trail

- ⇒ Bluebird ⇒ Red Bellied Woodpecker
- ⇒ Chickadee ⇒ White-Breasted Nuthatch
- ⇒ Bald Eagle
- ⇒ Wild Turkey ⇒ Red-winged Blackbird
- ⇒ Pileated Woodpecker ⇒ Cooper's Hawk
- ⇒ Downy Woodpecker ⇒ House Finch
- ⇒ American White Pelican ⇒ Baltimore Oriole
- ⇒ Forster's Tern ⇒ Great-crested Flycatcher
- ⇒ Robin ⇒ Eastern Wood Pewee
- ⇒ Red-eyed Vireo ⇒ Warbling Vireo
- ⇒ Dark Eyed Junco ⇒ Hairy Woodpecker
- ⇒ White Crowned Sparrow ⇒ Tree Swallow
- ⇒ Song Sparrow ⇒ Purple Martin
- ⇒ House Wren ⇒ Black Tern
- ⇒ Gray Catbird ⇒ Northern Flicker
- ⇒ Goldfinch ⇒ Canada Geese
- ⇒ Willow Flycatcher ⇒ Osprey
- ⇒ Yellow Warbler ⇒ Ring-billed Gull
- ⇒ Turkey Vulture
- ⇒ Cardinal
- ⇒ Blue jay
- ⇒ Mourning Dove
- ⇒ American Crow
- ⇒ Red-breasted Nuthatch



**NATURE TRAIL
MARQUETTE COUNTY**



**FOX COURT
TOWN OF MECAN**

A P U C K A W A

Fox Court Road

You can take the trail-out to Fox Court and walk back to the parking lot on the entry road or you can head back on the trail

There are twelve markers. See descriptions to right.

Be sure to honor No Trespassing signs on private property

Follow the trail and watch for the yellow numbered markers

Look for the Trail Head sign

Cross through the Parking Lot

Begin your walk at the Boat Landing

Apuckawa Interpretive Trail

When the first Yankee and European settlers moved into what we know today as Marquette County, there were many Native Americans living here. The shores of Lake Puckaway offered rich hunting and fishing and the first people lived on these lands for thousands of years. The name Puckaway is believed to mean wild rice beds and early explorers recorded the name as Puckawa, Apuckawa, and Puckway in various diaries and on maps. These lands are still rich with wildlife and diverse vegetation. Enjoy the view of the lake, the stroll through the forest and the harmony of nature.

#1: Many water birds, such as American White Pelicans and Forster's Terns (state endangered species) can be seen flying along the lake shore in spring, summer and fall. During migration, waterfowl are abundant. Bald Eagles can be seen hunting over the lake throughout the year, even in winter, and nest on both the east and west side of the lake.

#2: As you walk through the park area, be on the lookout for White Squirrels. Grey and Black Squirrels are also common in the park. The mowed grass is also attractive to nesting Eastern Bluebirds and other songbirds such as Robins and Vireos.

#3: Although brush piles can seem unattractive to people, birds love them as they use the cover for both food and shelter. Brush piles are especially important to migrating songbirds such as White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos. In summer, Grey Catbirds, Song Sparrows and House Wrens can be found feeding and sometimes nesting in brush piles.

#4: Willows and tall grasses and sedges afford ideal feeding and bedding habitat for White-tailed Deer all year round. Willow Flycatchers, American Goldfinches and Yellow Warblers all nest in the willows.

#5: There is no better place to see soaring birds or birds moving from the lakeshore to the wooded area than an open marsh vista. From this site, it is common to see Turkey Vultures and other raptors soaring high in the sky, as well as swallows and other birds catching insects on the wing.

#6: The wooded brush growing on the edge of the forest is Winterberry. These trees produce a bright, red fruit that is attractive to migrating birds in Autumn. Northern Cardinals and Catbirds both nest in the Winterberry groves along this woods-edge.

#7: Before the trail was built, this area was a large dumpsite. More than two truck loads of glass, cans and junk was re-cycled from the site. If you look closely, you might see a harmless Red-bellied Snake or Garter Snake that still makes this section of trail its home.

#8: Standing dead trees are critical habitat for Woodpeckers, nuthatches and chickadees. You can see large chunks of bark and wood chiseled on the sides of these trees, primarily from Pileated Woodpeckers. Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers also use these trees for nest sites, as do White-breasted Nuthatches and Black-capped Chickadees.

#9: The forest floor beneath this mixed maple and oak forest is littered with decades of leaves, making this the perfect place for Eastern Wild Turkeys to scratch in search of acorns, worms and insects. If you look around, you can see where turkeys have raked the ground free of leaves as they scratched for a meal. Turkeys can often be seen all year while hiking in this area.

#10: Five decades ago, school boys were given White Pine, Red Pine, Scotch Pine and Green Spruce trees to plant on their farms to replace trees that were cut during the logging years. These groves of white pine to the north as well as the other evergreen groves along the trail are remnants of these plantings.

Mourning Doves, American Crows, Red-breasted Nuthatches and many migrating birds utilize the pine groves for nesting, roosting and feeding sites.

#11: Three species of mosses and two species of ferns adorn this open, moist area commonly known as a "fern garden". Needing moist soil and ample shade,