

Directions:

We are located on Cold Spring Road between 30th and 38th street. Take the northernmost entrance into Marian College (near Allison Mansion). You may either park in the big lot in front of Marian Hall and use the stairs behind Allison Mansion or the stairs next to the St. Francis Colonnade, or park further back, behind the gym and follow the signs to "EcoLab Trailhead."

This publication was made possible by a generous grant from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust.

MARIAN COLLEGE
INDIANAPOLIS

ecOLAB

an urban wetland and historic landscape

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TRAIL MAP



INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

We're glad you're here.

Welcome to the Riverdale estate and the Marian College EcoLab. Riverdale, completed in 1914, was built by James A. Allison, one of the co-founders of the Indianapolis 500. The landscape for Riverdale was designed by famous landscape architect, Jens Jensen. Jensen, known as the Prophet of the Prairie, emphasized the use of native plants, water features, dramatic stone work, and the magic of light and shadow in his designs. You will see all of these elements on the Riverdale estate property.

The Marian College EcoLab is a portion of the Riverdale Estate which is used for environmental education activities. The EcoLab contains 55 acres of wetland and lowland forest and is home to several types of animals including mink, muskrat, fox, white-tailed deer, and more than 140 species of birds. More than 260 species of plants have been observed in the EcoLab.

The EcoLab contains approximately 1.5 miles of trails. Interpretive signs have been installed along some of the trails to provide more information about the significant historical and natural features of the landscape.

For more information about the EcoLab or Riverdale, visit: wetland.marian.edu or riverdale.marian.edu



The Prophet of the Prairie | 1.4 miles

This hike will take you past the design features that landscape architect Jens Jensen used when creating Riverdale. Some of the features you will see along this walk are a colonnade/council ring, spring water cisterns, and stone bridges, as well as Jensen's original trails. You can also appreciate Jensen's love of native plants and water features.

The trail starts at the top of the stairs next to the colonnade and ends near the east end of the main pond. Follow the column symbol on the map to find interpretive signs with information about Jensen's landscape design.



Exploring Wetlands | 1.25 miles

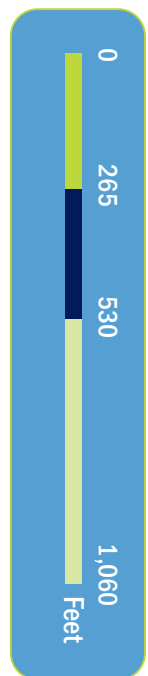
This hike will take you past several types of wetlands. See the effect that human and natural history has had on the landscape. Watch for native wetland plants, blue and green heron, and the work of our industrious beaver families.

The trail starts at the spring houses along the south shore of the main pond and ends near the east end of the pond. Follow the heron symbol on the map to find interpretive signs with information about the history and importance of the wetlands.



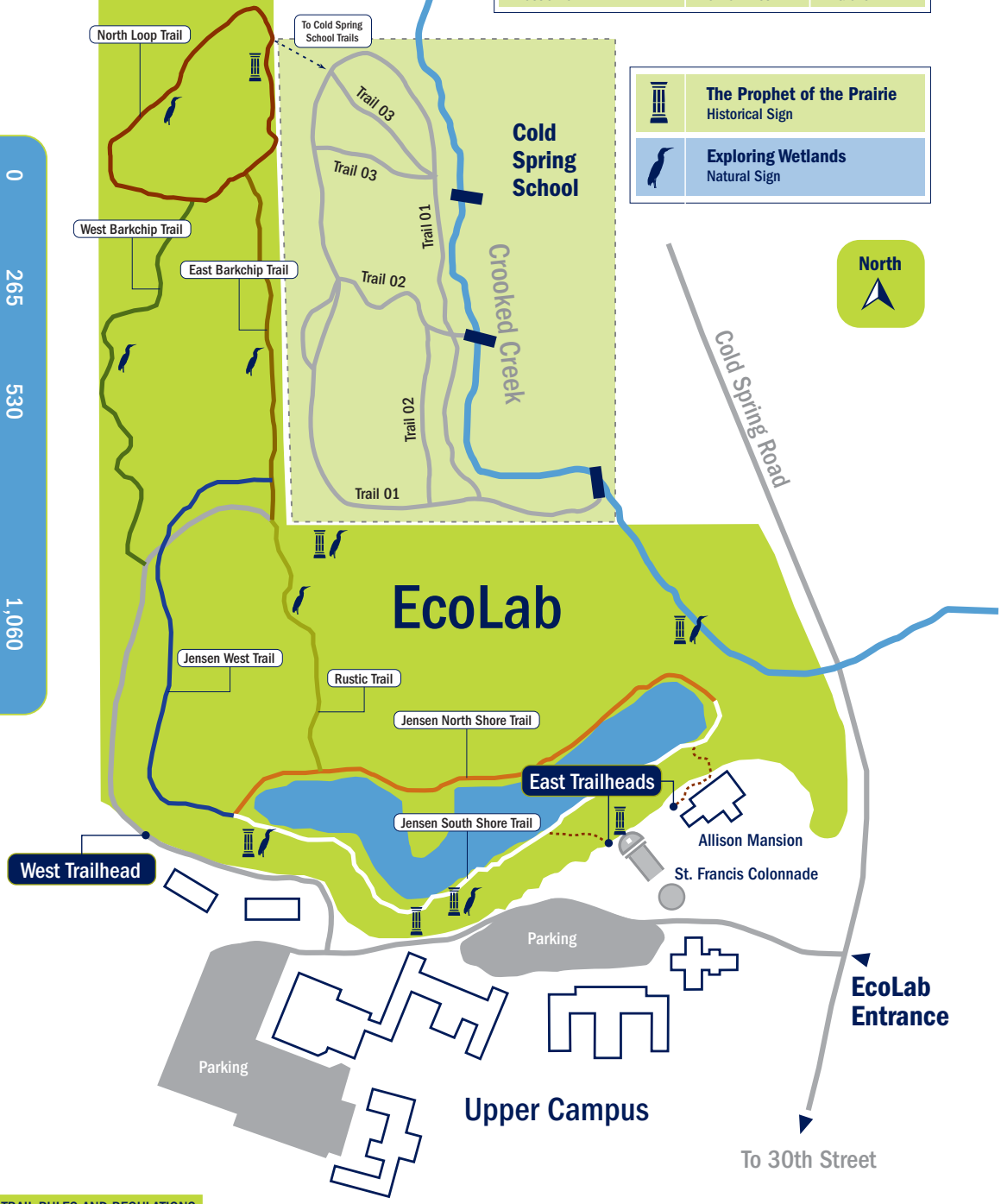
Upper EcoLab

TRAIL NAME	DISTANCE	MATERIAL
North Loop Trail	0.25 miles	Barkchip
East Barkchip Trail	0.15 miles	Barkchip
West Barkchip Trail	0.20 miles	Barkchip
Jensen West Trail	0.20 miles	Gravel
Jensen North Shore Trail	0.22 miles	Gravel
Jensen South Shore Trail	0.28 miles	Gravel
Rustic Trail	0.15 miles	Gravel



The Prophet of the Prairie
Historical Sign

Exploring Wetlands
Natural Sign



TRAIL RULES AND REGULATIONS

- The EcoLab is free to the public and open everyday from dawn until dusk.
- Guests with disabilities can enter the EcoLab using the West Trailhead at the northwestern corner of the Marian College campus. Follow the signs marked "EcoLab Trailhead" and "EcoLab Parking".
- All dogs must be kept on a leash and attended at all times.
- Please carry out any trash that you bring into the EcoLab.
- In case of an emergency, campus security can be reached at 317.955.6789.

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