

Roach Point Trail Maintenance Outing Report

November 02, 2019

By Dave Euler

The Sault Naturalists have visited the Schafer Family Nature Sanctuary at Roach Point several times over the last few years. We helped conduct a Bioblitz, we got lost in the swamp, but only once, and we have trekked over this 760 acre (370 hectare) Sanctuary on many occasions..

Roach Point is one of the largest nature sanctuaries owned by the Michigan Nature Association. "The Michigan Nature Association is a non-profit conservation organization working to protect Michigan's rare, threatened and endangered species by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive." More information here, <https://www.michigannature.org/menus/home.html>

We have informally adopted the trail into this Sanctuary and try to keep it clear for hikers, snowshoers and skiers to enjoy. Every year, or two, we cut fallen trees and remove debris from the trail to keep it mostly clear.

You can see from this picture that we have worked hard over a few years to remove trees and allow passage over the trail.

From the Michigan Nature Association website: "The forest at the Schafer Family Nature Sanctuary contains both northern mesic forest and northern boreal forest. The boreal forest consists of black and white spruce, tamarack, and balsam fir. Deciduous stands are composed of white birch, maple, and poplar. The central highest peak of Roach Point contains a sugar maple-hemlock forest. "



From the Sault Naturalists perspective, "A lot trees fall on the path and it's a big job to keep it clear."

On November 2, 2019, the day dawned cloudy and cool, with a hint of a wind from the East. The Sault Naturalists left Sault Ste. Marie at a robust 08:00 hours for the work-a-thon at the Point. It was a beautiful day in the neighborhood and the crew set right to work.

Here is forestmeister Dave, wielding the saw like a scalpel. :)



The Group Photo. The others were too busy working on the trail and didn't want to be in the photograph. :)

On the way out, the Little Red Wagon was very helpful carrying the forestmeister's tools.



At the end of the day, you can rest assured that the Roach Point trail is better than it was.