



THE DARYL R. KARNS NATURAL HISTORY TRAILS

Environmental Education Center

Trail Entrance

EXPLANATION

- Crowe Valley Trail (length = 0.41 miles, 0.66 km) Moderate slope.
- Happy Valley Trail (length = 1.0 miles, 1.6 km)
Varies from no slope to steep ascent at the switchback.
- Horseshoe Falls Trail (length = 0.16 miles, 0.26 km)
Varies from no slope to steep ascent.
- Upper Bluff Trail (length = 0.83 miles, 1.33 km) No slope, easy walking.

N

Scale: 1:2,400



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The woodlands through which you will be walking belong to Hanover College and are open for all to enjoy. Please treat this area with consideration. Remove all trash that you bring in or find. Do not remove any natural objects from the area. Please stay on the trail or hike in the creek bed. No hunting, camping, or building of fires is allowed. Mountain bikes or horses should not be ridden on the trail.

Note: Please do not use the trail system after moderate to heavy rainfall. The high clay content of the soil means the trails become VERY SLIPPERY. Happy Valley Creek is a flash flood area, and water in the creek can rise very quickly,

producing dangerous conditions. It is always a good idea to have a partner when you go hiking on the trail system

The trail is divided into four segments marked with blue, red, green, and orange international hiking markers. The markers are about 3 inches across. They are attached to trees with aluminum nails (this does not hurt the tree and is a standard forestry procedure). These are "reassurance" markers, located 6-7 feet above the ground on both sides of the marked trees. We tried to be minimalist in their use. There are more markers in potentially confusing parts of the trail.

The following directions assume you are starting on Crowe Valley trail. The distances are approximate; a more accurate GPS-based map is planned. A natural history guide with marked "points of interest" is also planned.



Crowe Valley Trail = Blue markers (length = 0.41 miles, 0.66 km)

Moderate slope.

The Crowe Valley Trail begins adjacent to the President's house (near the memorial wall and garden across from the flagpole). Available evidence suggests that this part of the trail was used by students coming up from a river landing in the 1800's. This is the trail that first-year students use in the Hike the Point event during the August Experience. It goes around the Hanover college bluff and drops down to an abandoned old county road for a short stretch that takes you to Happy Valley Creek. The county road clearly shows what will happen to human constructions if left to time and the elements and is an interesting lesson in entropy.



Happy Valley Trail = Red markers (length = 1.0 miles, 1.6 km)

Varies from no slope to steep ascent at the switchback.

This trail begins at Happy Valley Creek and crosses the Creek three times (topography necessitates the crossings). Happy Valley creek is a typical rocky stream tributary of the Ohio. It is often completely dry, depending on time of year and weather. It is prone to flash floods and the geomorphology of the creek has changed considerably in recent years. In this section of the trail you will see evidence of the 1974 tornado (look for tree trunks lying down on the ground with large branches/trees growing up from the downed trunks). The trail continues to where two creeks merge to form the main Happy Valley Creek. Cross the



creek here and veer to the left (if you are coming up the trail from the old county road) and you will start up a series of scenic switchbacks (newly installed by the students) that will take you to out to Scenic Drive. If you have hiked the "old" trail, most of the wooden steps have been removed; there is only one tier at the beginning of the switchbacks.

Horseshoe Falls Trail = Orange markers (length = 0.16 miles, 0.26 km)

Varies from no slope to steep ascent.

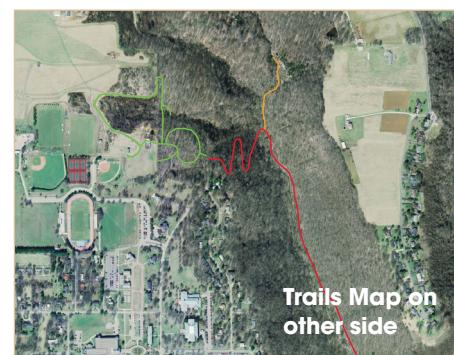
Horseshoe Falls trail is a side trail that takes you to what is generally considered the most beautiful waterfall on campus. At the point where you cross Happy Valley Creek (where the two creeks merge to form Happy Valley Creek) and before you start up the switchback trail, look to your right; orange markers will lead you to one of the headwater creeks of Happy Valley. The trail markers take you across one creek to another creek. Follow the creek to Horseshoe Falls (this portion of the trail is not marked). You can walk up the creek itself or follow the unimproved trail on the left side of the creek. Please do not attempt to crawl out of the ravine at the falls – this is dangerous.



Upper Bluff Trail = Green markers (length = 0.83 miles, 1.33 km)

No slope, easy walking.

The Happy Valley trail ends at scenic drive. This next section of the trail has a loop and side branches (possibly confusing, just explore – you can't get lost up here). This trail takes you through two mature areas of forest on two small bluffs, past a patch of younger forest on the cross country trail, and open field (a nice example of ecological succession). Walk to you right on scenic drive and will see a green marker and a series of wooden steps leading up the hill. The steps will take you to a loop trail that goes around this section of the bluff. A U-shaped subsection of this trail is mulched and is used by the Rivers Institute summer camps. One side arm of the loop will take you out behind the HC water tower. Near this exit, you will see another marked branch of the trail that will take you across a creek over to the next bluff (an unmarked side branch leads to the student created Acre shack/contemplation site). After you cross the creek keep walking and look to your right, you will see a side branch that leads you down a series of stone steps to a beautiful creek and waterfall. If you continue past the creek offshoot, you will walk onto another bluff; follow this trail and it will take you to the cross country trail. The trail markers end at this point. Using the cross country trail and the access road adjacent to the soccer field you will walk back toward the Environmental Education Center (the old YMCA building), community garden, the water tower, and the rest of campus.



Daryl R. Karns, September, 2010