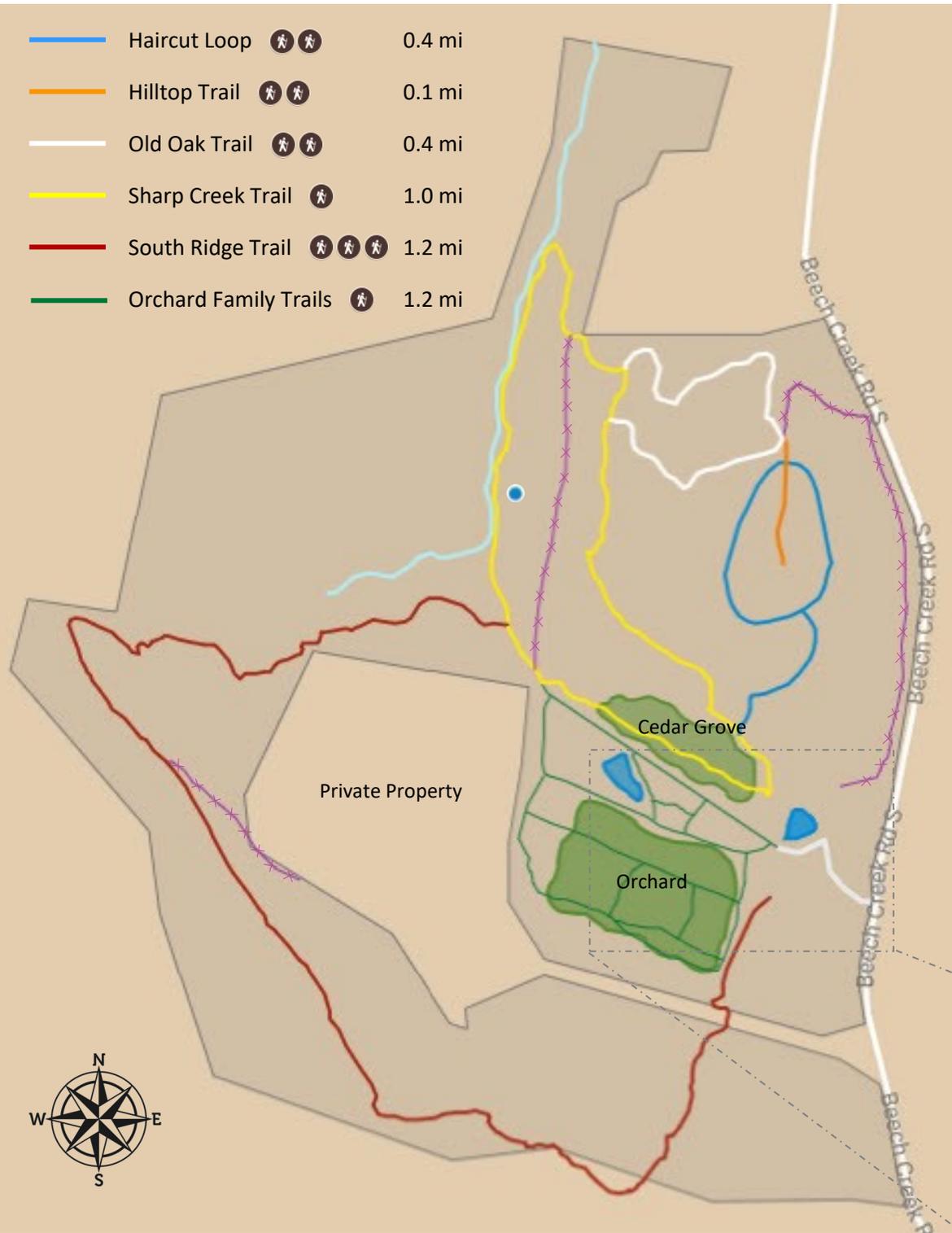


-  Haircut Loop  0.4 mi
-  Hilltop Trail  0.1 mi
-  Old Oak Trail  0.4 mi
-  Sharp Creek Trail  1.0 mi
-  South Ridge Trail  1.2 mi
-  Orchard Family Trails  1.2 mi



-  Visitor Center
-  Parking
-  Portable Restroom
-  Creek Platform
-  Birding Platform
-  Pond Platform

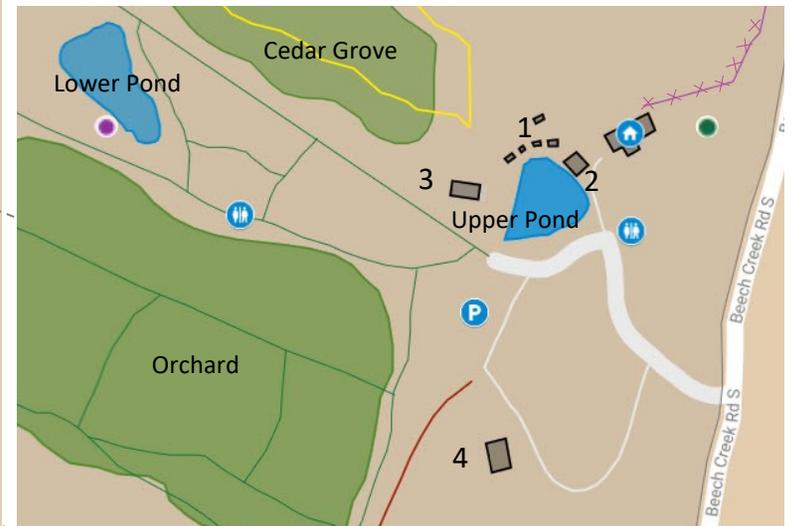
Trail Difficulty

-  Easy
-  Medium
-  Strenuous

 Sharp Creek (Seasonal)

 Service Vehicle Access Only Road

-  Owl Enclosures
-  Teaching Barn
-  Russell Pavilion
-  Equipment Barn



Primary trails at Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary are marked with 2"x6" vertical paint blazes the same color as they are depicted on this trail map and the trail names described below.

#### Sharp Creek Trail - 1mi

Offering an easy stroll through the variety of habitats found at OHNS, the Sharp Creek trail wanders through the shallow soils and limestone outcroppings of the Cedar Grove. Look for the transition from the predominantly cedar wood to the moister, richer soils of the mixed deciduous forest as the forest changes to a diverse wood of Ash, Oak, Hickory, and Tulip Poplar. Stop by the platform in the creek meadow for quiet contemplation before heading into the riparian zone beside Sharp Creek. The trail then leads away from the creek up into drier soils through the still dominant mixed forest before returning to the Visitor Center.

#### South Ridge Trail - 1.2mi

South Ridge Trail features pristine habitat and the dynamic of variable terrain as it leads up to the highest point on OHNS, 300 feet above the ponds and meadows near the Visitor Center. The lower north facing portion of this trail ambles up through rich, mature hardwood forest with large trees that dominate over a spicebush understory. From the ridgetop, visitors can enjoy panoramic views of surrounding lands. The drier ridgeback features trees that are adapted to the more challenging conditions of thin soil and weathering; Oaks and Hickories predominate while the ground layer is interspersed with native wildflowers in the spring and fall seasons.

#### Hilltop Trail - 0.1mi and Haircut Loop - 0.4mi

The loop trail offers a glimpse into the past as visitors travel up through a 50-year-old Loblolly Pine planting. Though not native to middle Tennessee, these Loblollies tell part of the story of the land, leaving guests wondering what it was like when these trees were little saplings. The trail ascends to the Loop of Haircut Hill where a path offers a 360° experience of changing forest compositions before returning to the trail through the Loblolly Pines and to its beginning. Climb to the very top of Haircut Hill for a bit of fresh air and a rest.

#### Old Oak Trail - 0.4mi

This trail is a jaunt through succession, as one community of plants replaces another over space and time. Pioneer trees, those that move in quickly after disturbance, dominate the southern portion of this trail below the northern slopes of Haircut Hill. This trail features the oldest and largest tree on the property, an approximately 350-year-old White Oak! As a storyteller, this tree tells how once, before Benjamin Franklin was born, an acorn germinated and grew for centuries with little competition as it spread into the space around it. Today, small maples thrive in the shade on the slope below offering a glimpse into the future composition of the land.

#### Orchard Family Trails - 1.2mi

These un-blazed walkways link the open areas near the Visitor Center, the upper and lower ponds and the orchard. Peaceful reflection and viewing at the platforms may reveal some of the smallest and most active of Owl's Hill resident wildlife.



## Trail Map

Welcome back to nature! We hope you enjoy your time hiking the trails of Owl's Hill. What awaits you is a variety of habitats suited for a diverse grouping of native (and not-so-native) plants and animals. Mixed deciduous forests house some of the oldest trees on the property and a good mix of wildflowers; our seasonal creek offers shelter for salamanders, crayfish, and small darters. The meadows provide wonderful nesting sites and plenty of seeds for our songbirds.

As you immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the natural world, please remember that we have been given the worthy task of preserving this land for wildlife. Our mission is to ensure the protection of this sanctuary for the plants and animals that call it home.

At all times, **please remain on marked trails only**. Please **refrain from littering**. Rocks, sticks, flowers, soil, feathers, or **anything that belongs in nature should stay there** for the wildlife and other visitors to enjoy.

We are happy you are here! We hope you leave with good memories and a sense of restored peace.