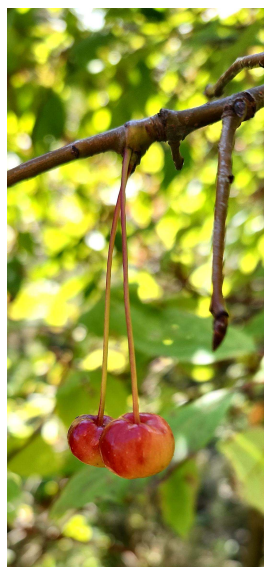


St. Olaf Natural Lands Afternoon Adventure: Windmill Trail

● **Access Points:** Access Windmill Trail from the [junction with Forest Restoration Loop #1](#) (which you can reach from the [Art Barn](#)) or from the southern end of [Prairie Loop](#)

Length: 0.6 mi

Time: 13-16 min



Accessibility:

Windmill Trail is a 10-foot mowed trail with one bench in the middle. The lower-lying wetland segment, on the southwest end, is prone to ruts. There is no elevation change excepting the northwest segment, where the trail declines as you enter the conifer stand.

Trail Description: Windmill Trail is a mostly shaded path bordered first by hardwoods, willows, and forbs at its south and west ends and then by a band of restored conifers at its northwest end. From the southern junction with Forest Restoration Loop #1, you'll pass Woodland Pond and a view of the solar farm (not accessible) and Big Ole. The trail can be muddy in the fall and spring.

Points of Ecological Interest:

If East Prairie Loop is epitomized by yellow, Windmill Trail's hue is red. You can't

walk the path without being smitten with the bright red lanterns of [Smooth Sumac](#). You need only glance a few feet into the woods to then catch blood-bright [Jack-in-the-Pulpit](#), rust-red [Virginia Creeper](#), and even a few cheeky [crab apple trees](#). At the north end, you enter the grove of ruddy red pines, where an odd quiet prevails. Inhale deeply. It's one of the best fall scents. If a chipmunk scoots by you, be polite. You aren't the only one with much work to do this fall.



More information at stolaf.edu/naturallands

Pictures: Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*) (right) and

Crab Apple (*Malus sp.*) (left)



