

Wisconsin, *naturally*



FOULDS CREEK STATE NATURAL AREA

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Foulds Creek State Natural Area harbors an amalgam of forested and nonforested natural communities that span a spectrum of moisture and nutrient gradients from northern mesic (moderate moisture) forests to wet-mesic forest to cedar swamp to bog. The primary feature is a large, central conifer swamp with several good quality stands of northern white cedar, also known as arborvitae (Latin for “tree of life”). Eastern hemlock, white pine, yellow birch, sugar maple, red maple, white spruce and balsam fir are components of the adjacent upland forest canopy. Below it, in the shrub and ground layer, are early low blueberry, American starflower, bunchberry, wood sorrel, Canada mayflower and wild sarsaparilla. Rising above the surrounding plain of glacial till and organic peat deposits is a prominent esker running through the site’s interior. Eskers are long, narrow, winding ridges of sand, gravel and boulders that were deposited by meltwater streams flowing under glacial ice. Several alkaline springs and spring seeps originate at the base of the esker and flow through an adjoining conifer swamp, eventually feeding into Foulds Creek. The forest interior provides important breeding and stopover habitat for many neotropical migrants and other bird species. Warblers are well represented, and include Blackburnian, magnolia, chestnut-sided and black-throated green warblers. The natural area also protects a great blue heron rookery and an active pack of timber wolves.

Foulds Creek State Natural Area is within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Price County. The site is owned by the U.S. Forest Service and was designated



a State Natural Area in 2007. It is also recognized by the Forest Service as a federal Research Natural Area. There are no designated trails or other facilities on the property. Visit dnr.wi.gov and search “Foulds Creek” for a map, access directions and more information.

