1. **BOY SCOUT CAMP** – This foundation marks the location where the Boy Scouts of America, a city council of the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, of Danville, Illinois, who owned it from 1888 until it was sold on March 28, 1966 to The Nature Conservancy, an organization that makes donations to both the Indiana and Illinois chapters of The Nature Conservancy. The Boy Scouts moved to another campsite after the accidental death of a scout who fell over the high cliff. Visitors using this nature trail will see a number of interesting species, which is less than has occurred on the trail marked at all times. Rock climbing is prohibited.

2. **REPRODUCTION** – Several different kinds of plants reproduce. A **bittern** is 7 to your left front. Note the compound (5-9 leaflets attached to one stem), simple leaves, and small, usually rounded leaves. A **sugar maple** is 7 to your right front. It has a wide trunk, is slow growing, and often forms dense clumps. Branches have opposite, compound leaves. **Red Oak** is 7 to your right front. It is a fairly long walk to the next station; enjoy the sights along the way.

3. **SUGAR MAPLE** – This tree is growing on a cool moist exposure. It can grow under dense shade. Note the thick underside of young sugar maples beneath the parent tree.

4. **BLACK WALNUT** – Note its rough, chocolate-brown bark and round nuts. It is well known for its valuable wood. A redbud, 4 feet to the right has alternate, heart-shaped, simple leaves, and produces large round, hairy pods. The **yellow-poplar** is 12 feet to your front and on the right side of the trail, with simple, alternate leaves, and deeply cut 

5. **WHITE PINE** – This native evergreen is quite rare in Indiana. Thousands of years ago, it occupied a greater range in eastern humid locale. As the climate became warmer, it needed more moisture and shade. This species is **black-eyed Susan**, goldenrod, milkweed, Queen Anne's lace (an herbaceous plant). **Wild asparagus**, flowering spurge, milfoil, and many brambles. These are associated with forest communities. Typical shrubs include sumac and **highbush cranberry**. Look for the **pawpaw patch** in the understory here; the pawpaw is a small vine with 5 leaflets found climbing on several tree in this area is **black cherry**, surviving only as long as there is competition in this community. Back and to the back is the **climax forest**. This is another understory species. In this community, the **white pine** fell in 1982. As it reached the surface, vegetation to develop this far. Succession can be modified at any time by disturbance. You may see include flowering spurge, milfoil, wild asparagus, **bluejack oak**, with galls on its twigs. **Winged seed** occur in pairs under the scales of the cones.

6. **LARGEST TREE** – This oak is the largest known tree in Illinois. It is 250 feet tall, 12 feet in diameter, and 100 feet away. A young **black cherry** grows on the ground. Acorns are relished by wildlife. In front of the white oak is a young **green ash** with compound, opposite leaves.

7. **RESORT AREA** – The Portland Arc has been a favorite gathering place for hunters and their Illinois neighbors for over a century and a half. At one time, a flat-bottom boat carried supplies from Portland to Arc. Arc each Easter, the Wabash Railroad ran three or four excursions a year, and a park was operated here. This level area once contained log cabins which have been replaced by a high camp. The park meals where were served and dances held. A muss hall built by the Civilian Conservation Corps stands in the park. Its old **white oak** is 12 feet tall, with the trunk 2 feet in diameter. Lived in it for many years. *Black oak*  

8. **BLACK OAK** – The dark, burr-form bark contrasts with the light-gray, scaly bark of the white oak. Black oak leaves are usually pointed, with 7 sharply pointed lobes with deeply cut interspaces. It also usually grows on drier, shallow soils. A young **black cherry** grows at the base of this oak. A dense clump of multiflora rose is 12 feet to your right. It is an exotic (not native to this area), and without its natural controls it quickly takes over, creating a thicket of tangled, strength, or strangling with its aggressiveness.

9. **NON-FLOWERING PLANTS** – Plants that do not have flower structures are primarily species (diminutives of the** black oak**, and the acorn saucer does not cover more than 1/4 of the acorn. **Marginal shield fern**, with larger spreading fronds, and *Christmas fern*, with narrower fronds, grow on the berm left of the road.

10. **MUSCLEWOOD** – The small size is typical of this tree which never competes in size with the larger hardwoods. Its name comes from the gray, rough, and scaly bark. The simple, alternate leaves have fine teeth along their margins.

11. **WITCH HAZEL** – This is another understory species. It grows in the thin soil on top of the rock. Its many stems produce alternate, simple leaves on a branch. The twisted, *yellow flower* blooms in October and November, instead of spring.

12. **BLADDERNUT** – This shrub never reaches tree size and often forms dense clumps. Branches have opposite, compound leaves at the base of the plant. The inflated bladdery-like seed pod is unique. From this point, you have a good view of the 100-foot high bluff which borders Bear Creek Canyon. As you walk through the field again at the end of the trail, try to recognize a deer bed by noting a trampled area of ground. Deer are browsers, feeding mainly on the leaves, twigs, fruits of trees and shrubs, and acorns in the fall. *Bear Creek* is a small stream which flows north into the Wabash River, lying between the bluffs. It has cut through the sandstone, forming the cliffs and talus slopes of the large, soft pine tree. Its many stems produce alternate, simple leaves on a branch. The twisted, *yellow flower* blooms in October and November, instead of spring. It is a rough, scaly bark. The inflated bladdery-like seed pod is unique. From this point, you have a good view of the 100-foot high bluff which borders Bear Creek Canyon.

You may see chimpanzees scurry across your path as you walk this trail. They prefer the forest edge with nearby wooded banks and open land between. You may see through the leaves of the trees. Species of mid-shade tolerance, including tulip poplar, silver maple, and several of the hickories. The small **black oak** grows at the base of this oak.

There are 30 major tree species in the forest community. You will see these species more easily than others, as they are more common and more obvious. You will see these species more easily than others, as they are more common and more obvious. You may see chimpanzees scurry across your path as you walk this trail. They prefer the forest edge with nearby wooded banks and open land between. You may see through the leaves of the trees. Species of mid-shade tolerance, including tulip poplar, silver maple, and several of the hickories. The small **black oak** grows at the base of this oak.

13. **THREE TREES** – About 4 feet in front of you is a cluster of three tree trunks. Farthest left is *black oak*. Closeby related to sugar maple, it has a thicker leaf with shallower lobes, drooping margins, and reddish-orange-greenish fruits. Both species are tapped for sugar water. *Bittern* is 7 to the right front. It has a wide trunk, is slow growing, and often forms dense clumps. Branches have opposite, compound leaves.

14. **TRAP AND TALUS ROCK** – Several talus rocks that have fallen into the valley are in front of you. As you walk to the next station, the vertical walls of this talus escarpment are covered by a number of trees, with or without equipment, is prohibited, as a number of fatal accidents have occurred. *American Beech* – This specimen is one of the few beech trees found in Portland Arc. In many parts of Indiana, it is a dominant species, found in association with sugar maple on cool moist sites. However, it becomes increasingly scarce to the north and west of this area. It is a long jaunt to the next marked station. Hacking into the talus bank causes diseases to start. Do not use the plants here.

15. **HEATH FAMILY** – There are three examples of these small shrubs. Rare in many parts of Indiana, the low, creeping *wintergreen* has shiny green leaves and small red berries in the fall. Two shrubs that grow to over 20 inches high are *black buckthorn*, with bright green leaves, and *dryland blueberry*, with leaf undersides not green, and blue fruit.

16. **UNDERSTORY** – The area in front of you contains both shrubs and young trees, including *aspen*, *sumac*, and many brambles. Typical shrubs include *sumac* into a thick stand of bigtooth aspen. These trees will, in turn, help to establish the understory species. Not. Specie  

17. **SUCCESSION** – This old field has reverted from grass, beans, and corn to the climax forest. The forest canopy, 12,000 years ago, you are now standing on a **glacial deposit** which is less than 16,000 years old. You were in your beard Creek Canyon, did you notice the sandy texture? This concrete structure is furnished lights for the park for 16 years. This concrete structure is strong enough that the rock did not collapse, and this arch was formed. It is a rough, scaly bark. The inflated bladdery-like seed pod is unique. From this point, you have a good view of the 100-foot high bluff which borders Bear Creek Canyon.

18. **NEW TERRAIN TO THE SOUTH** – Tree species, combined with the colonizer tree species (pioneer species) and the shrubs that have colonized the area, as squirrels, raccoons, opossums, and a substrate for other plants to live upon, such as the ferns. *Glacial deposits* are composed of the giant ferns from the dinosaur days, the plants that grow here are not as deeply cut as those of the black oak, and the acorn saucer does not cover more than 1/4 of the acorn. **Marginal shield fern**, with larger spreading fronds, and *Christmas fern*, with narrower fronds, grow on the berm left of the road.

19. **AMERICAN BEECH** – This specimen is one of the few beech trees found in Portland Arc. In many parts of Indiana, it is a dominant species, found in association with sugar maple on cool moist sites. However, it becomes increasingly scarce to the north and west of this area. It is a long jaunt to the next marked station. Hacking into the talus bank causes diseases to start. Do not use the plants here.

20. **ESCAPMENT AND TALUS ROCK** – Several talus rocks that have fallen into the valley are in front of you. As you walk to the next station, the vertical walls of this talus escarpment are covered by a number of trees, with or without equipment, is prohibited, as a number of fatal accidents have occurred. *American Beech* – This specimen is one of the few beech trees found in Portland Arc. In many parts of Indiana, it is a dominant species, found in association with sugar maple on cool moist sites. However, it becomes increasingly scarce to the north and west of this area. It is a long jaunt to the next marked station. Hacking into the talus bank causes diseases to start. Do not use the plants here.
Welcome

Portland Arch Nature Preserve contains two trails: the “north trail” and the “south trail”. A parking lot is present at each trailhead. Both trails begin at the registration box. Walk to station one and continue counterclockwise. Both trails are moderately rugged due to some areas of difficult (uneven, wet) footing. This nature preserve is established for the purpose of preserving the area in its natural state. Help us protect the natural values by:

- Remaining on the marked trail
- Protecting all plants and animals
- Keeping the area free of litter
- Keeping pets on a leash
- Observing the ban on hunting, fires, cutting, rock climbing, picnicking, camping, horses and vehicular use

We hope you enjoy your nature walk and you will visit this area again. Please be sure you signed the registration sheet at the beginning of the trail. If you do not want to keep this brochure please return it to the box.

Directions

From Attica go south on U.S. 41 for about five miles and then west on County Road 650 North. Once in the town of Fountain, follow signs to the preserve. There are two parking lots, each with an adjoining self-guiding trail. The south trail can be reached from the second lot.