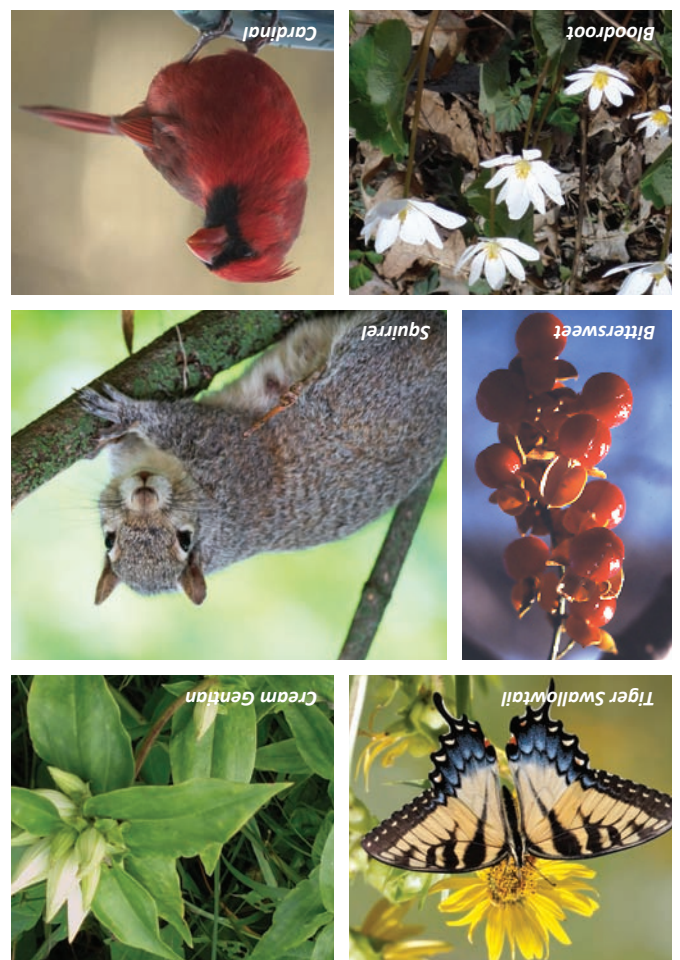


Nature Trail Guide



THE GALENA TERRITORY

Emergencies 9-1-1
Non-Emergencies 815-777-2141
 Sheriff's Department 815-266-6251
 GTA Security (cell) 815-777-2373
Administrative Office 815-777-2000
Marina 815-777-2012
Shenandoah Riding Center 815-777-2373
Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa 815-777-5000

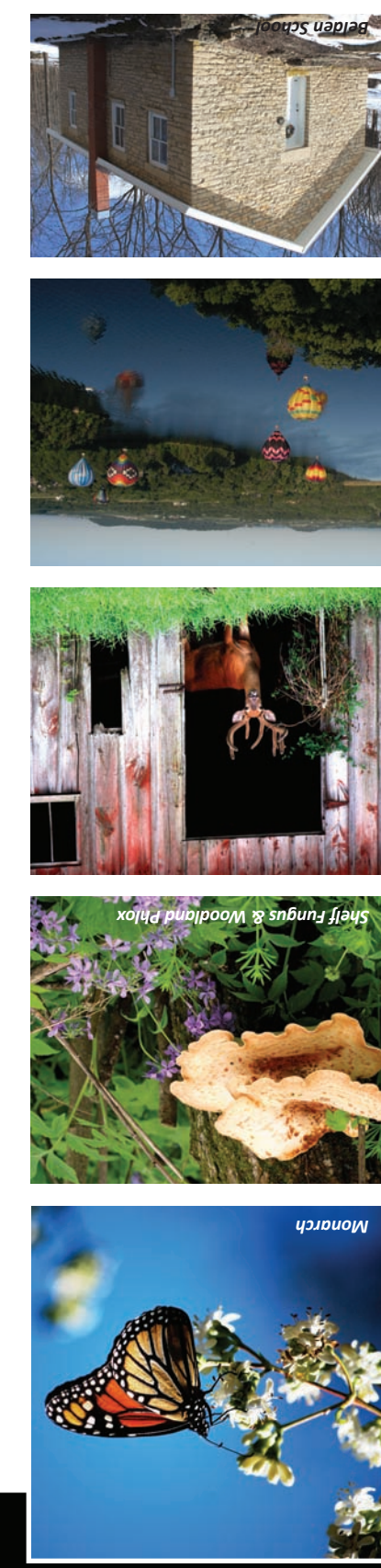
Contact Numbers

THE GALENA TERRITORY ASSOCIATION, INC.
 2000 Territory Drive | Galena, Illinois 61036
 815-777-2000
www.thegalenaterritory.com



The Greenspace Committee initiated an Adopt-A-Trail program to help with light maintenance, litter collection, and invasive species removal along the trails. Contact the Administrative Office at 815-777-2000 for more information.

Amidst the beautiful and unique topography there is an abundance of plant and wildlife. Woods and meadows are lush with grasses, flowers, ferns, shrubs, and trees. Woodland wildflowers are especially beautiful among limestone outcroppings. Wild turkey and white-tailed deer are frequently seen. Hawks, turkey vultures, and occasional osprey and eagles soar overhead. Traveling our stunning landscape of rugged hills, deep ravines, and panoramic ridge tops will bring you in touch with the natural beauty of this area.



Etiquette & Safety

- ★ Please stay on the trails; they are very near private property in many places.
- ★ Hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists share the trail. Hikers should yield to horses; cyclists should yield to hikers and horses.
- ★ When approaching another trail user it's courteous to greet them.
- ★ Terrain may be steep and difficult along some sections.
- ★ Trails may be seasonally wet or rough; please wear appropriate footwear.
- ★ When trails are soft and wet please use for hiking only.
- ★ Only use trails alone after letting someone know where you are going and when you will return.
- ★ Dogs must be on leashes or under control at all times.
- ★ Only GTA-authorized motor vehicles are allowed on the trails.
- ★ Plants and animals on Greenspace are protected. Do not pick seeds, plants, or fungi without permission from the GTA. Some plants may cause irritation or allergic reactions; protect yourself.
- ★ Wild animals should not be approached; if an animal allows you to approach, it is likely to be sick or injured.
- ★ Bluebird boxes should not be disturbed.
- ★ Trail maintenance is ongoing. Please report any obstructions or concerns to the GTA Administrative Office by calling 815-777-2000.
- ★ Resort Core trails are the responsibility of Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa.
- ★ Problems with those trails should be reported to 815-777-5000.

Trail Access Requirements

GTA trails are available to Association members and their guests. GTA Security patrols the trails and everyone should be able to present a GTA proximity card or GTA daily guest pass upon request. (No proximity card or guest pass is required for children five and under.)

TRAIL INFORMATION

Welcome to the natural wonders of The Galena Territory

WOODLANDS
 Ephemeral wildflowers blooming in the woodlands are a welcome sign of spring and warmer weather to come. Plants include hepatica, bloodroot, **Dutchman's breeches**, wild ginger, woodland phlox, **wild geranium**, jack-in-the-pulpit, **columbine**, May apple, and many others. These plants complete their reproductive life cycle early, taking advantage of the extra light before the trees leaf out completely. Find them blooming on warmer south-facing slopes first and cooler north-facing slopes later in spring.

The spring wildflowers grow with sedges, grass-like plants with triangular stems. They are followed by **ferns** and later-flowering plants such as lion's foot (or white lettuce), blue cohosh, red baneberry, pointed tick trefoil, woodland brome, **American bellflower**, bottle brush grass, sweet Joe Pye weed, silky wild rye, elm-leaved goldenrod, and short's aster.

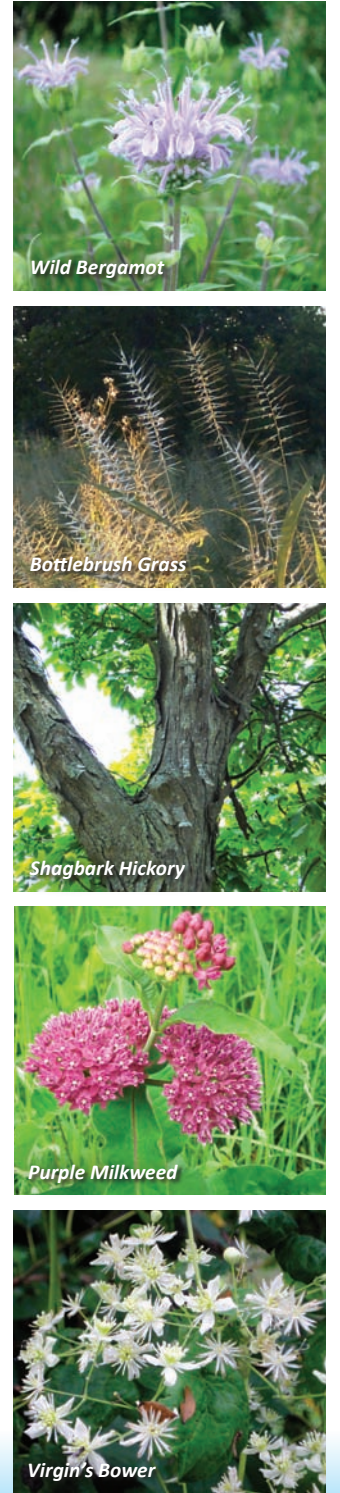
Typical major canopy trees of our woodlands include red oak, hackberry, American basswood, black cherry, white oak, bitternut hickory, big tooth aspen, quaking aspen, white ash, green ash, and walnut. Understory trees and shrubs include ironwood, musclewood, American bladdernut, red bud, prickly ash, grey dogwood, gooseberry, and choke cherry.



WOODLAND EDGES & OAK WOODS
 Plant communities change as they receive more sunlight, such as woodland edges or in oak woodlands. Many herbaceous species found along woodland edges can also be found in oak woods, which often have a less dense canopy. Both situations allow more sunlight to reach the ground.

Plants common along woodland edges will overlap with those found in the woods: wild geranium, May apple, sedges, American bellflower, **bottle brush grass**, sweet Joe Pye weed, woodland sunflower, and elm-leaved goldenrod. There are many plants that prefer the additional light the edges offer: Jacob's ladder, false Solomon's seal, germander, yellow coneflower, **wild bergamot**, fox glove beard tongue, arrow-leaved aster, spiderwort, Canada wild rye, **purple milkweed**, brown-eyed Susan. Interesting vines also occur in this habitat: **virgin's bower**, bittersweet, and wild cucumber.

The major canopy species of open oak woods include **shagbark hickory**, white oak, and red oak, though other previously listed species also occur. Woody, lower canopy species in this environment include grey dogwood, sumac, hazelnut, American plum, gooseberry, and raspberry. Open oak woods are becoming scarcer as the understory is dominated by shade-loving tree species, which do not allow for oak recruitment.



PRAIRIES/OPEN AREAS
 Another plant community shift occurs in nearly full sun situations: open savannas, prairies, and former pastures. Plant community changes are a continuum across a range of light exposure and soil moisture.

Overlapping species of woodland edges and open oak savanna/prairie include **spiderwort**, fox glove beard tongue, false sunflower, wild bergamot, yellow coneflower, spotted St. John's wort, and grey dogwood. **Bur oak** is the primary tree of open oak savannas, but shagbark hickory trees are not uncommon.

Most open areas in The Territory are former pastures that retained limited native plants and are experiencing eastern red cedar succession. Few degraded prairie remnants remain; reconstruction projects are ongoing since 2000. Prairies are dominated by grasses, but have a diverse mix of forbs (wildflowers) – remnants can contain 200 or more plant species!

Prairie grasses include little bluestem, side oats grama grass, **big bluestem**, and Indian grass. Forbs include shooting star, white wild indigo, **pale purple coneflower**, butterflyweed, compass plant, **rosinweed**, hoary vervain, whorled milkweed, **purple prairie clover**, false boneset, cream gentian, New England aster, stiff goldenrod, rough blazing star. Shrubs include lead plant, New Jersey tea, and hazelnut.



PRESCRIBED FIRE IN THE TERRITORY
 The Midwest is a tension zone between the wetter, eastern deciduous forest and the drier, Great Plains grasslands, resulting in high species diversity. The main factor allowing for diversity retention is disturbance – from herds of grazing bison and elk to landscape-scale fires. Large scale fire ended here in the mid-1800s with European settlement. Grazing disturbance continued by domestic animals instead of bison. Disturbance was reduced further as the county developed and fire-dependent plant communities started changing: woods became denser and prairies became scrubrier.

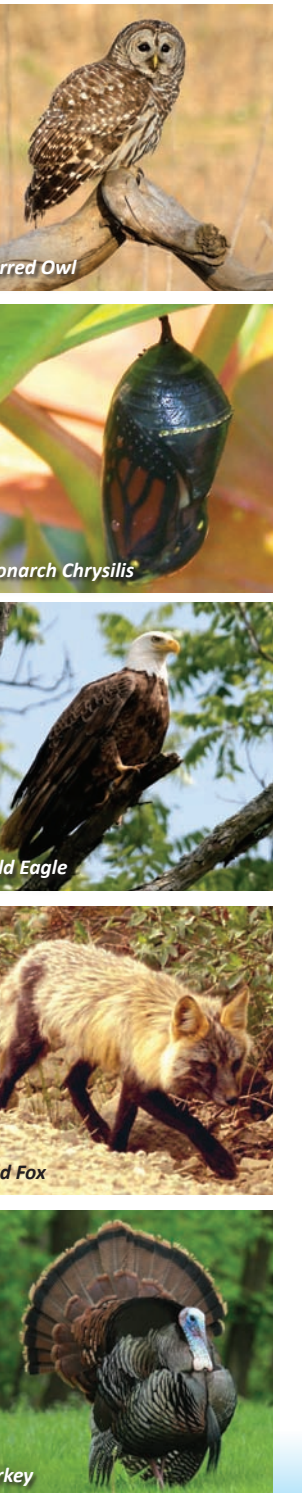
To assist woodland and prairie restoration efforts, prescribed fire is being reintroduced to the landscape. Burns occur from October through early May, depending on weather conditions.

BLUEBIRD HABITAT
 Eastern bluebirds, nearly eliminated through overuse of pesticides and habitat loss, are making a comeback thanks to bluebird recovery programs. The local program is tracked by the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation. Bluebird houses are common throughout The Territory; volunteer monitors remove unwanted nests (wrens and sparrows) and record nesting activity of bluebirds and tree swallows.

















WILDLIFE HABITAT
 In 2010 The Territory was designated a Certified Wildlife Community Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation, the first in Illinois, Iowa, or Wisconsin. The Territory and its members provide the basic tenets for wildlife to thrive: food, water, cover, and places to raise young.

In addition to woodlands and prairies, natural habitats also include Lake Galena, springs, and streams, all of which support myriad fauna: insects, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.

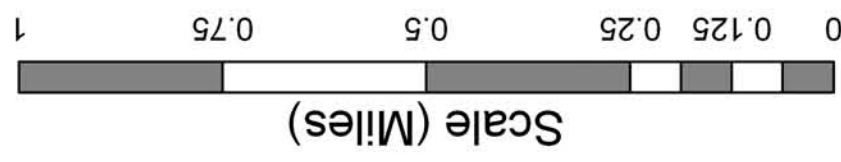
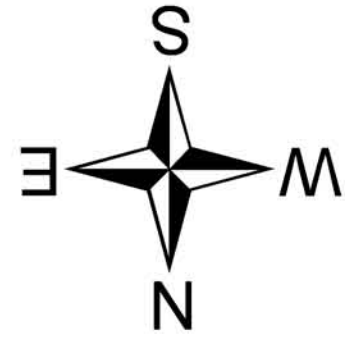
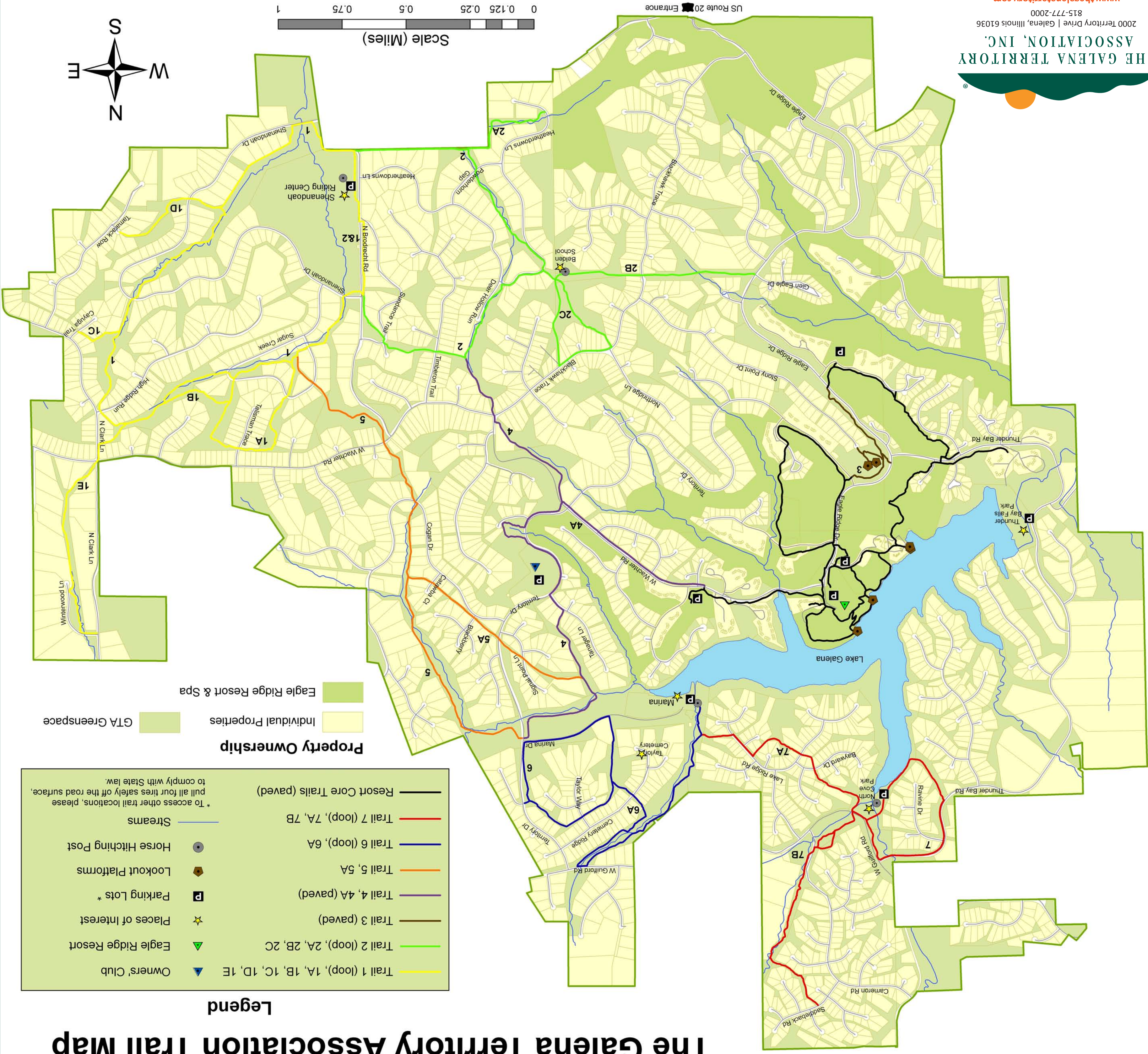


The Galena Territory Association Trail Map

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
|  | Owners' Club |  | Eagle Ridge Resort |
|  | Places of Interest |  | Trail 3 (paved) |
|  | Parking Lots * |  | Trail 4, 4A (paved) |
|  | Lookout Platforms |  | Trail 5, 5A |
|  | Horse Hitching Post |  | Trail 6 (loop), 6A |
|  | Streams |  | Trail 7 (loop), 7A, 7B |
|  | Resort Core Trails (paved) |  | Trail 1 (loop), 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E |
| * To access other trail locations, please pull all four tires safely off the road surface, to comply with State law. | | | |

- ### Property Ownership
-  Individual Properties
 -  Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa
 -  GTA Greenspace



US Route 20 Entrance