

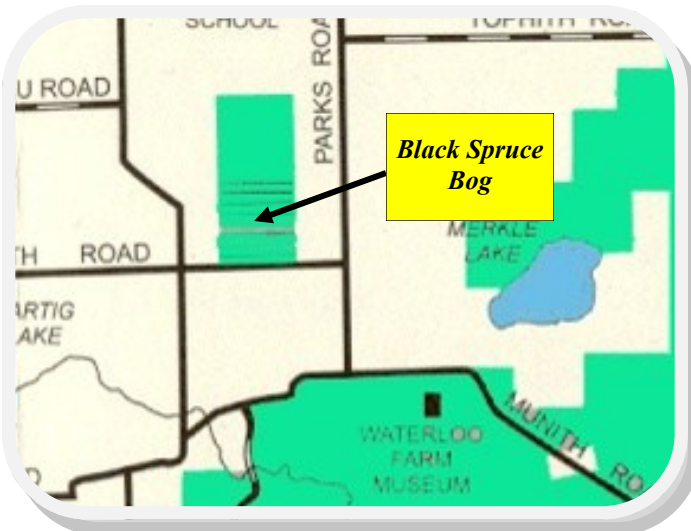
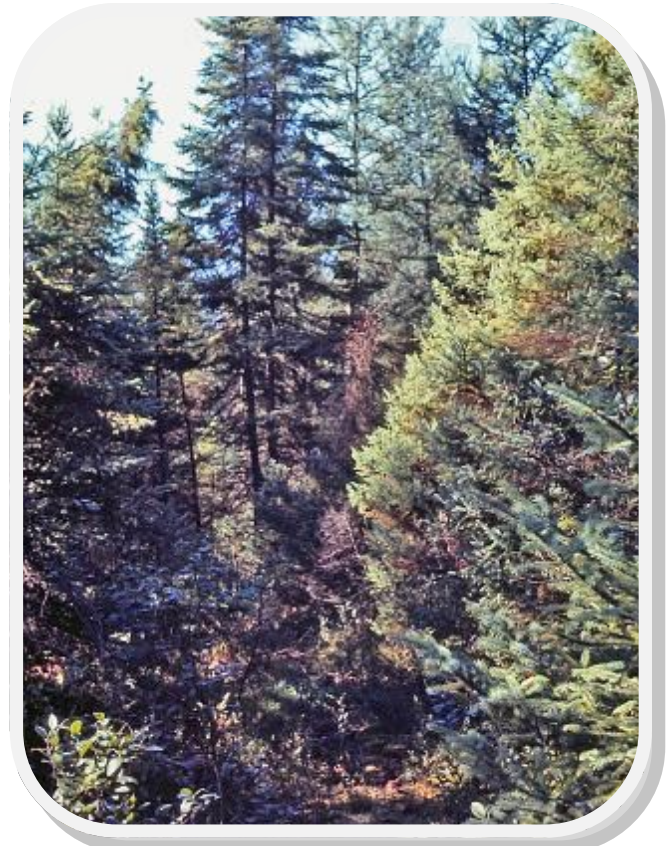
# Waterloo's Black Spruce Bog

Black spruce bogs are normally associated with Northern Michigan, the upper peninsula and Canada. Few people realize that the Waterloo Recreation Area is home to the southern most example of a black spruce bog in Michigan.

The bog is located on the north side of Waterloo Munith Road just west of Parks Rd. in the northern part of the park. It includes forty acres of bog plus additional land to the north that provides drainage that keeps the bog supplied with water. The bog has probably existed since the end of the last ice age some 10,000 years ago. As the climate warmed other Southern Michigan spruce bogs disappeared, but this one has survived.

In addition to the towering black spruce, the bog is home to sphagnum moss, pitcher plants, sundews, and the pink moccasin flower orchid. The diminutive saw-whet owl is also found there on occasion.

The bog is surrounded by heavy brush and swamp hardwoods and cannot be seen from the road. There is no trail that leads to or through it. To get in and out safely, one must have a compass and some waterproof boots, and be willing to crash through a lot of pucker brush.



The black spruce bog (above) is sometimes home to the saw-whet owl (below). It is also habitat for the pink moccasin flower orchid (lower left).

