

Hiking Platte Plains Trail

Drive M-22 to Esch Rd. Turn right, toward Lake Michigan and park at the trailhead . The trail winds through an old pine forest and then past old farm fields. There will be a smaller trail turning to the right. Hike it for only a little way and you will come to an unexpected treat.... an area full of marl springs. If you go back to the main trail and continue on, this trail will circle around Otter Creek, Otter Lake, back to Lake Michigan and the trailhead.



These woods are full of little marl springs everywhere



The water bubbles up through a bed of marl-- a mixture of calcium carbonate and clay. It then flows to Otter Creek and from the Creek into Lake Michigan. Anyone stepping into the marl can get stuck and sink deeply.



Marl spring area



Beavers have been here also