



THREE AREAS TO EXPLORE

At the bottom of the staircase you will be surrounded by a natural collection of wildflowers, ferns, scouring rush, and club moss. Three plant communities can easily be explored by following the boardwalk:

1. Plants which thrive in very moist to wet conditions are located to the left of the staircase as you face the creek.
2. Liverworts and scouring rush prefer to grow along creek banks. Access to explore the creek is from the deck to the right of the staircase.
3. Clubmosses, ferns, and wild-flowers come into close view as the boardwalk passes by the steep valley walls and terraces to the right of the staircase. Refer to map for specific locations.

A BURIED PRE-GLACIAL VALLEY

The Pierson Creek Valley is a miniature version of what the valley looked like 75,000 years ago, before the last glacial advance in northeastern Ohio. The valley was part of a well developed, fast flowing stream and river system which moved in a northerly direction. The valley walls were higher, the water falls steeper, and the valley wider. When the Wisconsin glaciation moved through this area, it deposited glacial till into the valley, filling the valley to some unknown height. Ten thousand years ago, new streams created by the retreat of the glacier followed the path of least resistance—the original stream and riverbeds. This process is still continuing today as the creek cuts through the till which overlays the original bedrock.

When you stand in the valley admiring the delicate, ephemeral beauty of a wildflower or fern, think about the buried pre-glacial valley below you, its depths unknown.