



Welcome to... Morton Forest

"I donated my land to Dane County Parks because I felt, given our expanding population, it was important to protect open space and create quiet places of solitude for people to visit as an escape from their more crowded urban environments." - Stephen Morton

Wildlife



Badger

Grey with black patches on face and white stripes on back. Digs large burrows. Eats small mammals.



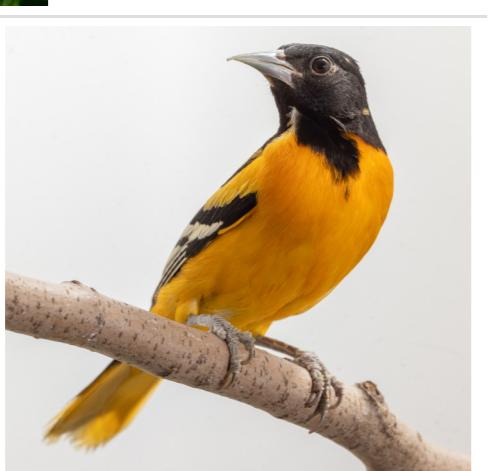
Red Fox

Reddish fur, bushy tail with white tip. Often solitary. Eats small mammals, rabbits, squirrels, and birds.



White-Tailed Deer

Very common. Active at dawn and dusk. Males grow antlers each year. Typically, easily found at interface between forest and prairie.



Baltimore Oriole

Males have bright orange plumage. Typically seen in spring. Diet is ripe, dark-colored fruit and insects. Rich, whistling song.

BLUE MOUNDS CREEK flows into the WISCONSIN RIVER, which flows into the MISSISSIPPI RIVER, and finally - the GULF OF MEXICO

Trees



Black Walnut

Deep brown, easily worked wood used in fine woodworking. Cultivated for nuts. Common in the southern US.



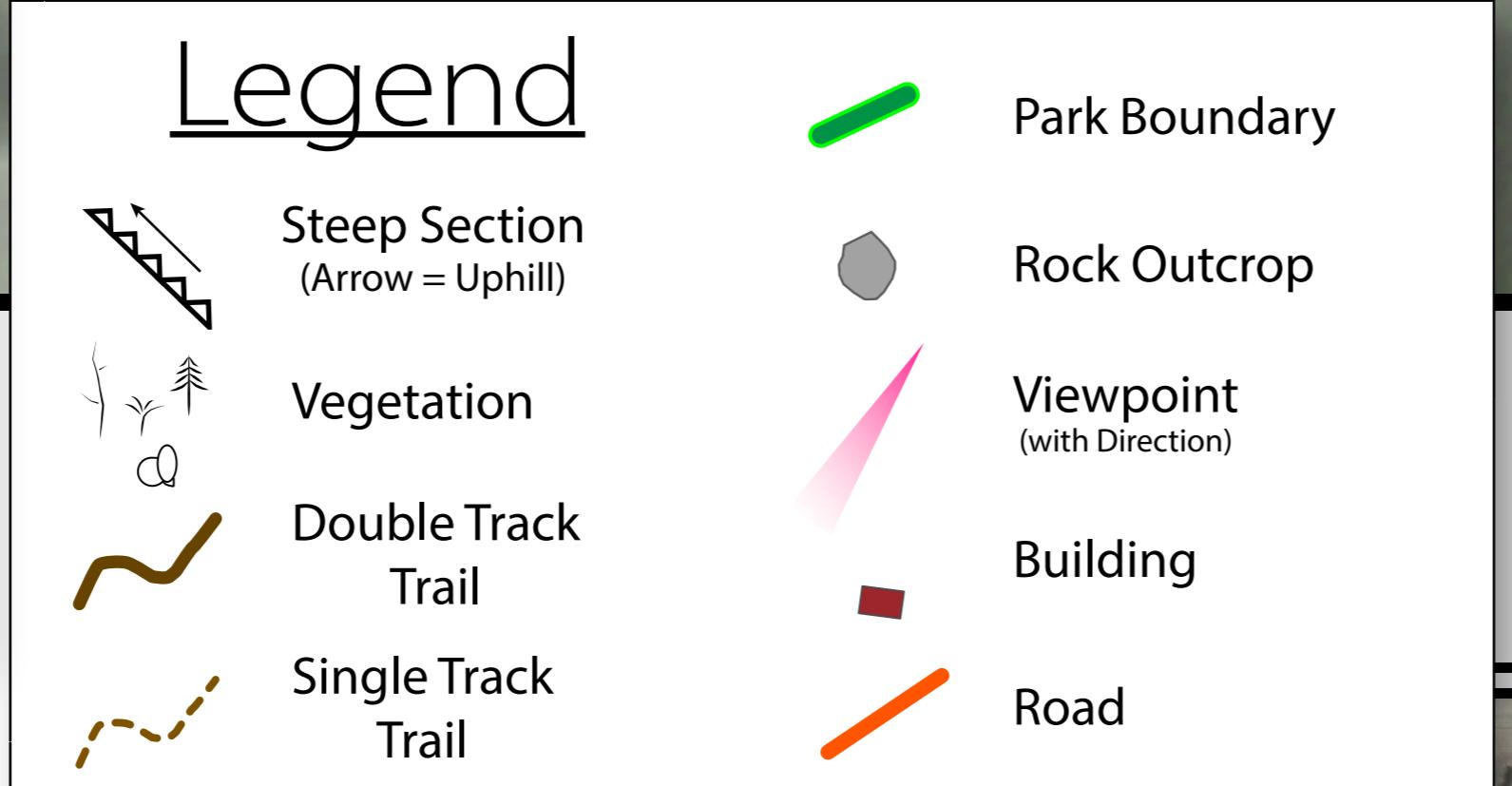
Burr Oak

Large acorns are an important food source for wildlife. Trunk up to 10 ft in diameter.

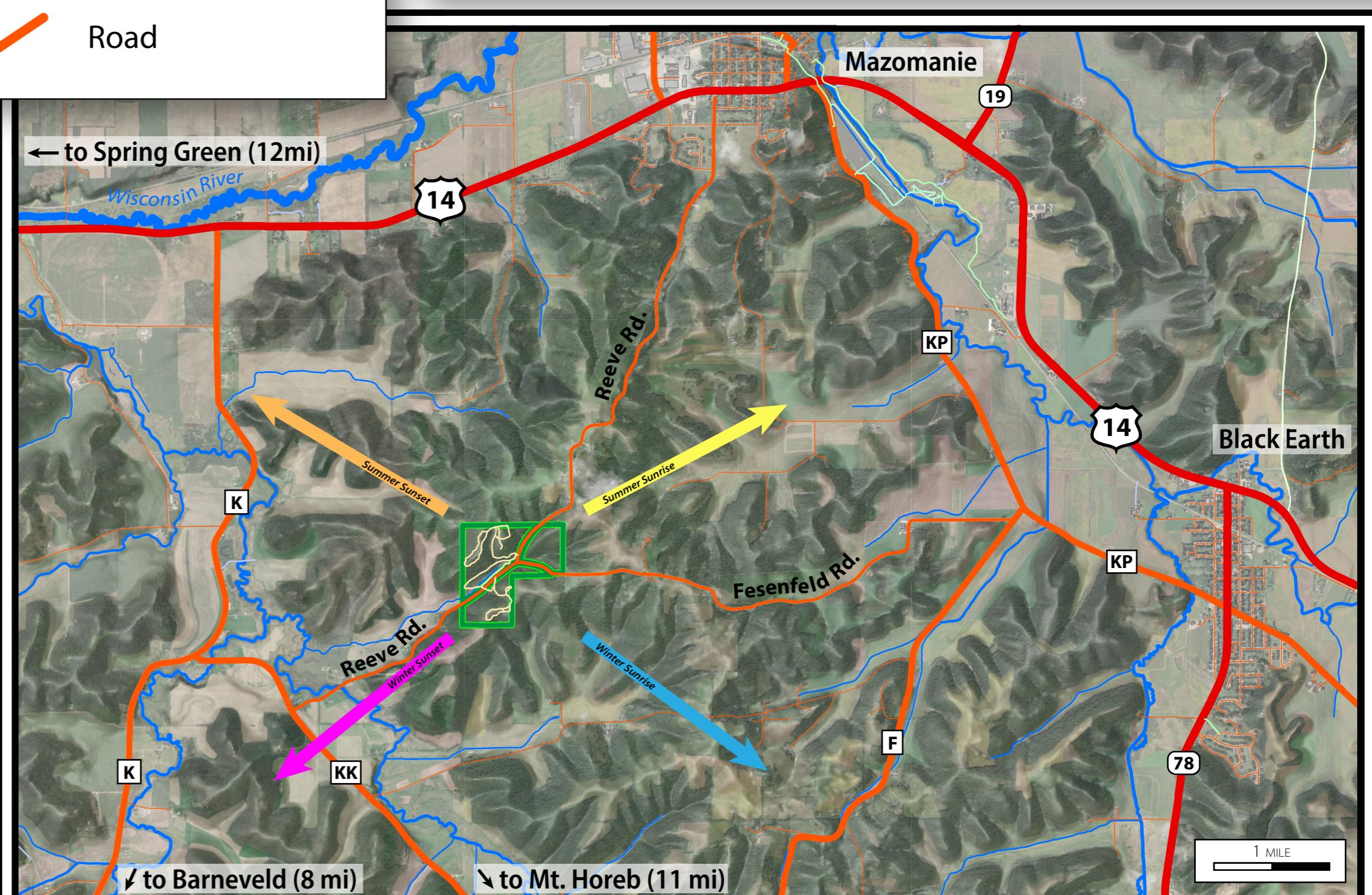
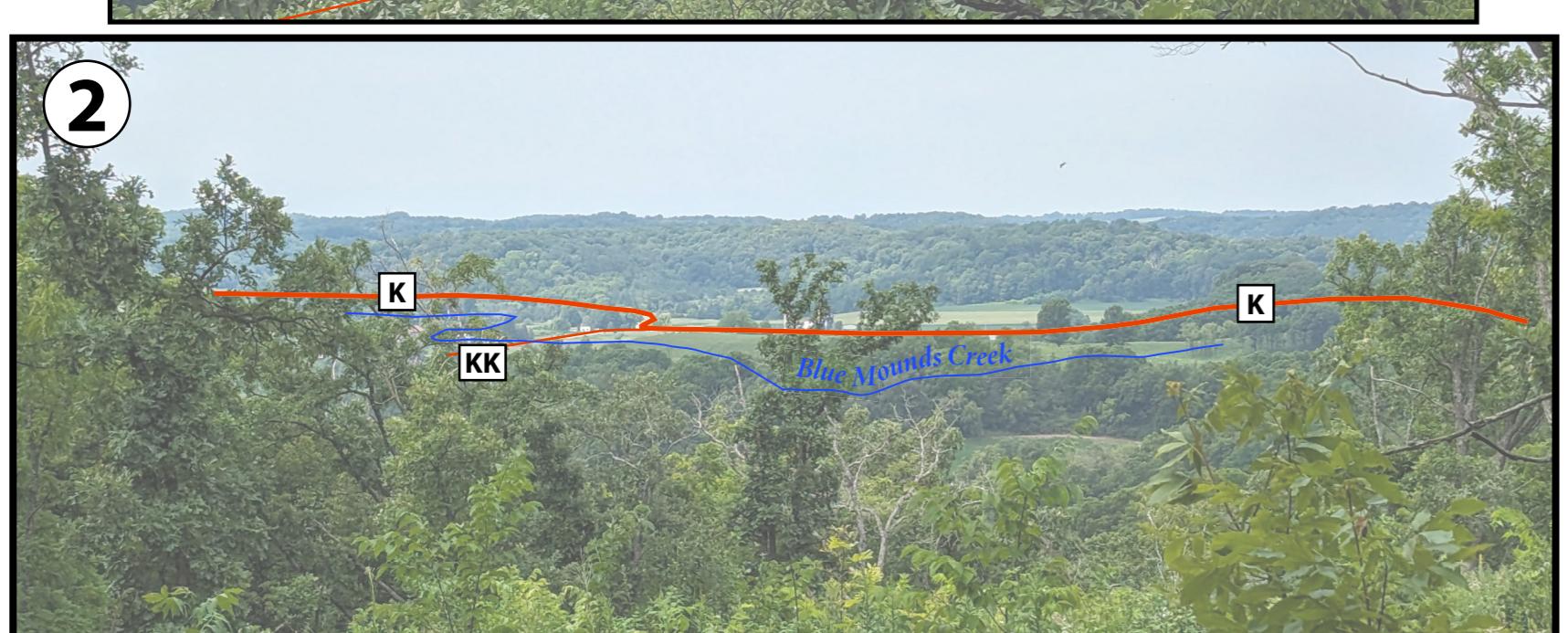
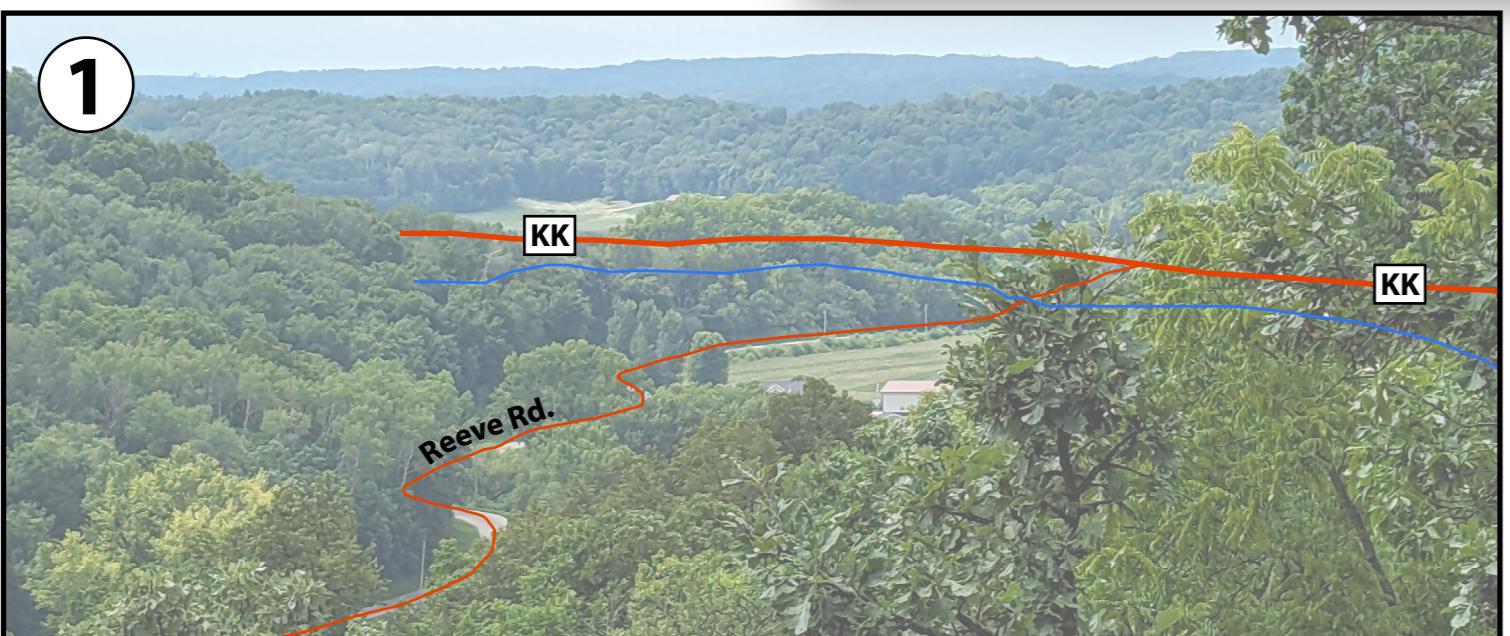


Quaking Aspen

Fast growing, tall, colonial tree. Individual trees can be up to 200 years old, but colony can live much longer.



Viewpoints



Morton Forest History

In 1953, UW Professor Walter A. Morton and his wife, Rosalie, purchased 81 acres of land, including a farmhouse, to be used as a weekend retreat for the family. The adjacent 39 acres were purchased in 1962. In 1982, Professor Morton passed away, leaving the property to his son Stephen. The original farmhouse burned in 1989 and the present day nature center cabin was constructed. Stephen Morton donated the property to Dane County Parks with a life estate to preserve the land for the public. A permanent endowment fund was created to support Morton Forest and in 2015, two covered benches were built to highlight the scenic overlooks. Stephen Morton turned the property over to the county and the forest officially opened to the public in October of 2016.

