

An Early Summer Hike

at

BLACKACRE



Our hike started at the Nature Center.

We began by walking down the gravel road
by the old stone wall and broken down
wagon.

As we walk, there are signs of early
summer all around.

June is a summer month. Some flowers
only bloom this time of year.
The daisies and coreopsis are beautiful.

There are other ways to tell it is summer. The birds are busy making their homes in the trees, and looking for food.

This time of year the weather is usually warm in the morning and hot in the afternoon. Here's how the weather is today.

As we go down the gravel road we come to a wooden bridge. There is a stream running under it.

Looking into the water we can see
minnows and water striders.

The bridge is in a shady spot over the stream. Sometimes you can hear the water bubbling over the rocks.

Walking on down the road there is a meadow on the right and a pasture on the left.

In the meadow we can see tall grass
and sunny open spaces.

There is mostly grass in the pasture, and not too many wildflowers.

A little further down the road we
walk into a shady place where tall
trees are growing.

The trees are full of leaves. Some are dark green, some are yellow-green.

We cross another wooden bridge. This stream is smaller.

We left the gravel road and walked up
a small path.

At the top of the hill we get a surprise. Jackson's Pond pops into view.

The pond is surrounded by trees. A dock gives us a place to stand and look for fish.

The summer sun has warmed the water.

When we look closely we see insects
on the water, and dragonflies over the
water.

The pond is filled with a green plant called algae. The algae is food for fish, frogs, and turtles.

Another kind of plant in the pond is
cattails.

There is a path going all the way
around the pond.

In the mud, near the water's edge we may see animal tracks.

Deer, raccoons, ground hogs, and other animals come here to drink.

We leave the pond by a different path
and walk to the meadow.

The spring rains and summer sun help
new wildflowers to grow.

We have to cross the stream again to get
back to the Nature Center.

Blackacre is busy with animal activity
and plants growing everywhere.