

## NAI REGION 4 GRANT REPORT 2020



Thanks to a \$1,000 grant from our local community foundation, along with another \$500 from NAI Region 4, Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) was able to design and print six of our popular self-guided interpretive hike brochures.

With the new challenge of COVID in 2020-2021 affecting the way we reach our audience, GRNA has been striving to find creative ways to reach visitors safely at a time when we are seeing increased usage of our natural area and trail system.

One way we have adapted our programming is by publishing a series of self-guided interpretive hikes as a way to provide nature education to visitors at all times of the day, year-round, and without person-to-person contact. A series of self-guided interpretive hike brochures have been produced and printed for visitors to select at trail-heads and the Grass River Center based on their interests. The six guides included:

**GRNA Trail Guide:** An interpretive trail map showing natural communities along our trails, along with a Chain of Lakes Water Trail map for our area that shows access points for paddling.

**May & June Blooms and Birds:** A guide to our spring wetland wildflowers and birds along the boardwalks with photos and a bloom calendar.

**Animal Tracks of Grass River:** A guide to winter animal tracks of common mammals and birds seen along our trails.

**The Trees of Grass River (Fall):** A key and guide to the trees at Grass River, organized by their leaves and needles, with an indicator of the fall color of each species.

**The Trees of Grass River (Winter):** A key and guide to the trees of Grass River in winter, organized by their buds.

**August Self-guided Wildflower Walk:** A guide to the wetland wildflowers of late summer with photos and a bloom calendar.

These self-guided interpretive programs will become an integral part of our education program during this time and beyond by helping us to reach our mission of increasing knowledge, appreciation and community-wide stewardship of the natural environment.