

Instructional Video 3. The Boardwalk Site along Spanish Trail

Hi again. So, we have just come from our stop about 30 metres up the trail in that direction, and now you'll look around and see that we are in kind of a flooded area, so I'm just getting the camera to pan a little bit, lots of wetland species, these little lollipop like looking grasses are a member of *Typha latifolia* or commonly known as cattail, and they are very effective at growing when there is standing water, with their roots inundated in water they can actually create buoyant roots [tubers/rhizomes] that will float as a floating mat on water. As you can see, we're in a sort of a wetland. Now, how did this wetland come into being? If you have a look, it wasn't always a wetland, there are some dead standing trees, or snags. Those would have been growing here around the time that a disturbance, flooding, happened. How did it happen? Well, I'm looking around, and I'm looking around for a house of an animal, a little north American animal, with a flat tail. You can guess at what that is, and at the process that happened, but certainly over a decade ago, we had that little animal build its home and essentially engineer this landscape to suit its needs, and thereby disturb the existing forest and create, again, a different kind of landscape. So, it's just another type of disturbance we find here. So, we're going to continue then down this trail in that direction and as you look at the horizon you'll notice that there are some very very tall evergreen or conifer tree species, so let's go and see if we can identify them.