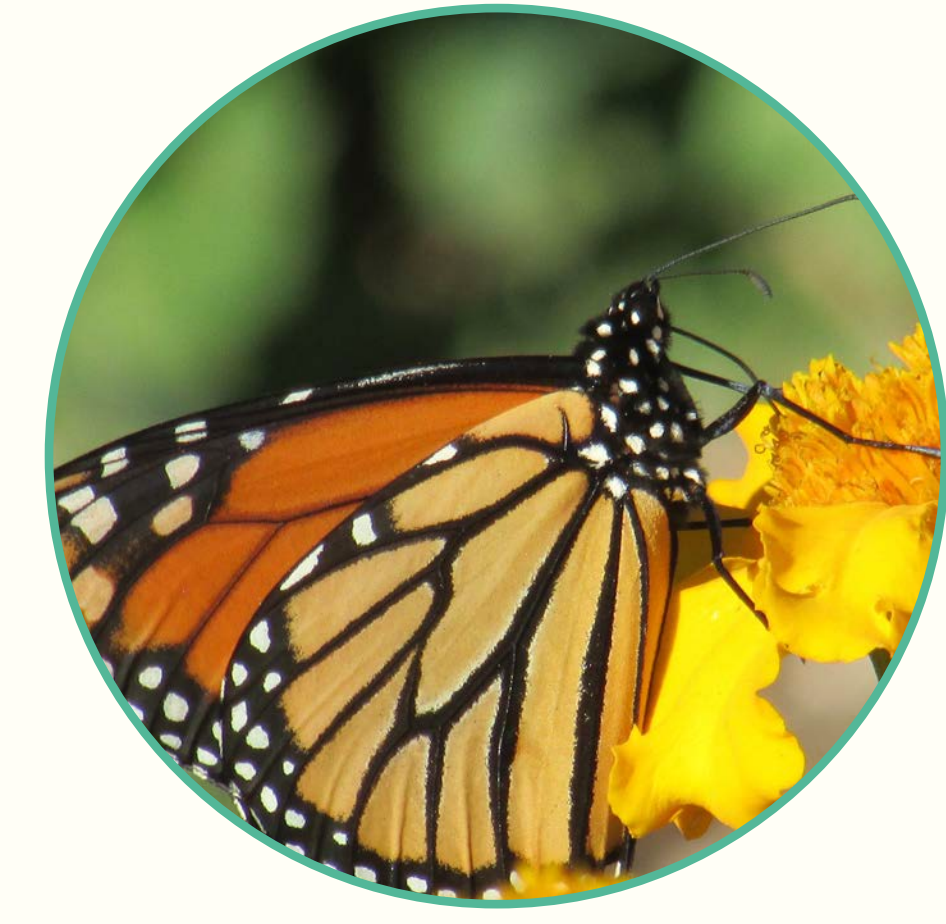




In 2012, nine-year old Lily had an idea to design a trail system that would wind its way through the back of our large open field.

Because she knew that trees would one day be planted there, she wanted to have trails to enable children and families to enjoy the forest and other areas of interest growing on the land. To start, she drew a trail system that highlighted the huge Oak Tree in the southwest corner of the property [Meshi's Sister], the Fairy Tree, the Linden [Lettuce] Tree, and the Tree of Peace. She imagined several small bridges stretching over some creeks, where children might pause to look at the water.

LILY'S EVOLVING TRAIL SYSTEM



1

2



In the spring of 2013, the Grand River Conservation Authority and Trees Ontario helped plant 6,500 trees on the property. Lily revised her map to accurately reflect the new layout on the land, marking where the trees had been planted.

Grandpa Frank, a volunteer, used a weed trimmer to draw the outlines of Lily's map and cut the first perimeter trail. That year, children who visited the land were able to enjoy the beginning of Lily's trail system.

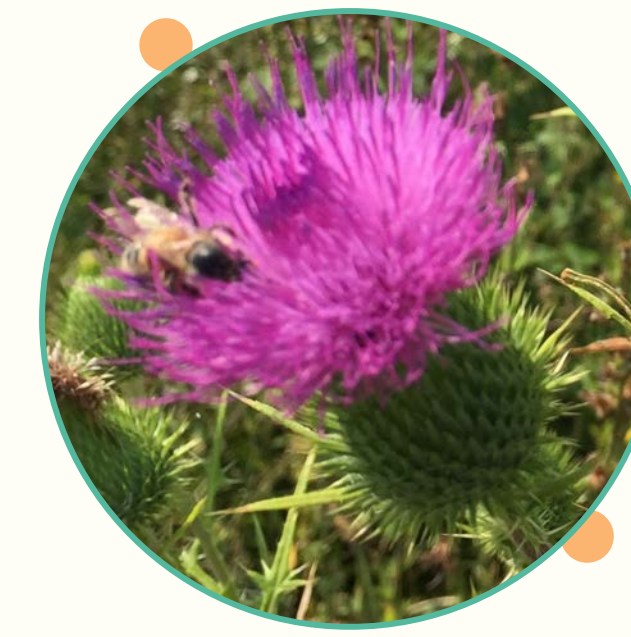


Children's Lands wishes to thank Lily Clark not only for her original idea of creating a trail system on the land but also for her patience and willingness to adapt and modify her vision to the changing landscape.



When Lily began she was 9 years old and the field was wide open. The trails system that she evolved ties together all of the features that Lily wished to highlight from the beginning but now also includes the 12,000 trees of the children's forest, the one acre wetland with its special ecosystem, a stand of sugar maples and the changing wildflower meadow.

We thank you, Lily, for envisioning a system of trails where the land, the trees, the plants and flowers and animals can be observed and appreciated as they flourish within their many ecosystems. Your trails will enable visitors of all ages the opportunity to enjoy and interact with all of the vibrant natural beauty that is here for a long time to come.



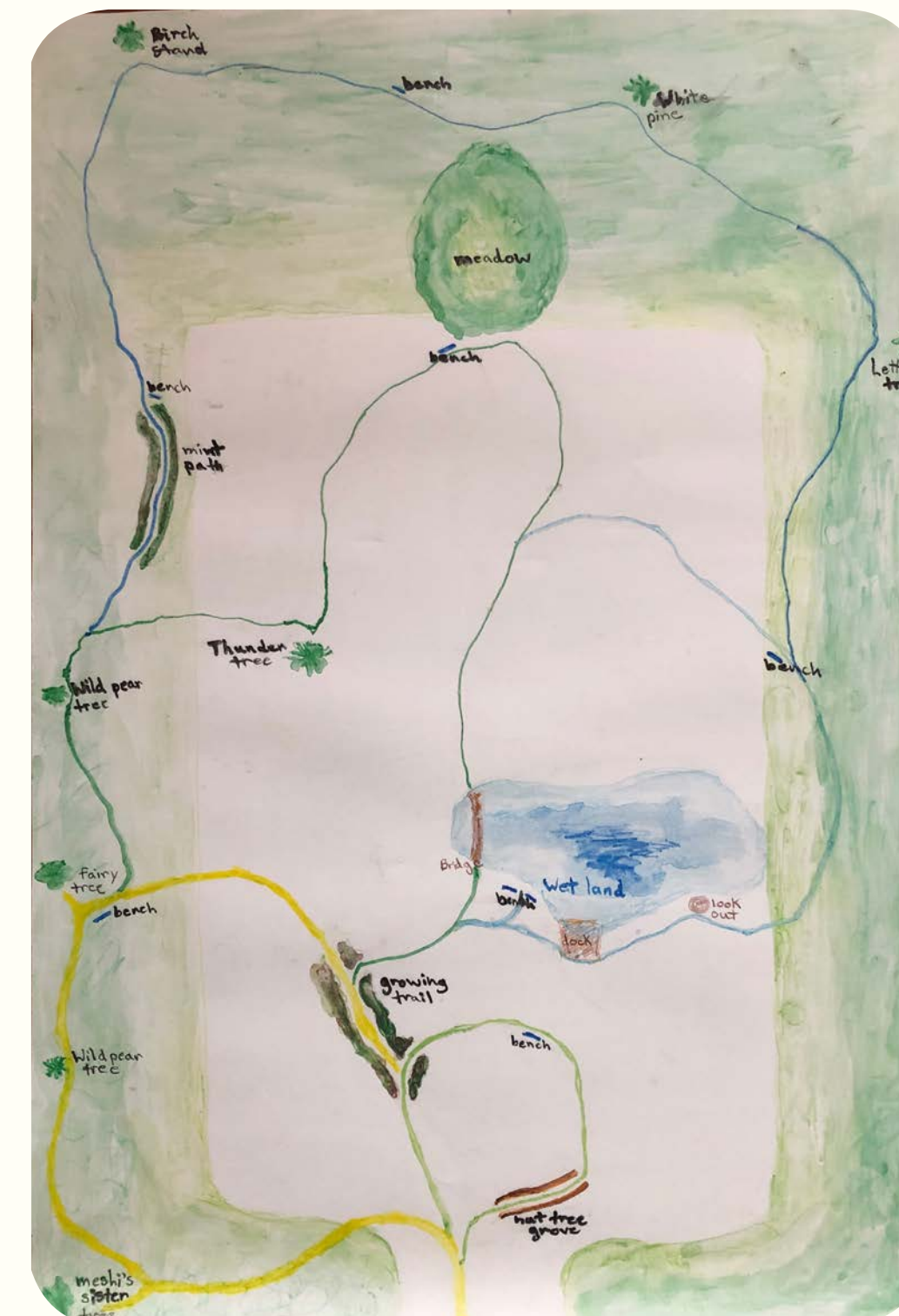
4

3



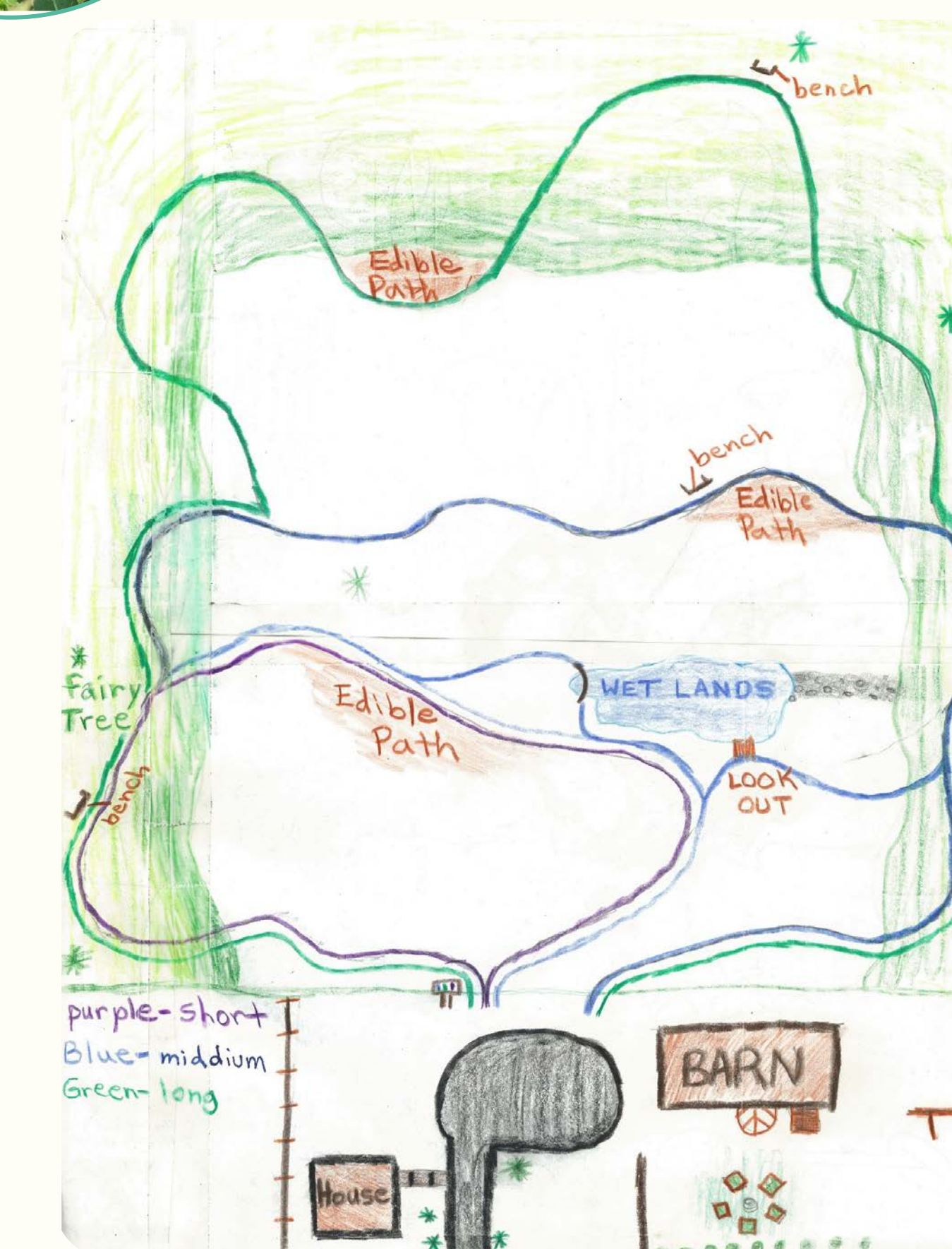
Lily's system of trails gives visitors a way to experience the changing seasons on the land.

As wave after wave of different varieties of wildflowers and plants grow up, bloom and then recede, they are replaced by something new. Year after year the trees of the children's forest grow taller and taller alongside the trails.



In 2016 Lily drew the final version of the trail system.

Together with Toronto landscape architect Joaquin Sevillano, she designed the first draught of an "official trail map" for the land. In the fall Lily's father, Jeff, began to blaze the trails using his 'bush hog', guided by the map that Lily and Joaquin had created. Following the plans on Lily's map and supported by his knowledge of forestry, Jeff cut trails that worked in harmony with the natural curvature, drainage and outlay of the land.



In May, 2014, 5,500 additional trees were planted at the back and a one acre meadow was formed on top of the rolling hills. Later that year, a one acre wetland was dug on the property by Ducks Unlimited, which was the vision of another child.

As the landscape evolved Lily continued to expand her vision. She drew the third version of her trail map to include the new additions as well as smaller loops which suited the growing number of preschools and younger children who regularly visited the land.

