Felines avoid water but these plants can’t get enough. A common native plant that is found around marshes, lakes, and roadside ditches. These plants provide habitat for muskrats, bullfrogs, red-winged blackbirds and many others.

(Mile 17) Find the water crossing under the trail; which way is it flowing? Named for the neighboring preserve, this moving water runs into Suttons Bay.

(Mile 16) Bigger than a pool, smaller than a lake. Whether natural or planned, this static (non-moving) water body is home to water fowl and amphibians. This water body is man-made and used to treat wastewater for Suttons Bay.

The water is shallow and moves fairly fast, insects and amphibians come here for baths. Can you hear the water breaking over rocks? That is the sound of oxygen being combined with the stream.

(Hint: This scientific word rhymes with sniffle)

(Mile 12) Sun-soaked orchards dry quickly in the afternoon heat. Look under the fruit trees and you might see tubing along the ground. These tubes transport water directly to the plants just like an at-home sprinkler system. What is this process called?

When the rain hits the ground precipitation becomes transportation. This movement across the land allows road salt, litter, and farmland fertilizer to catch a ride to the nearest water body.

(Lake Leelanau Dr, mile 8 to 10) Water water everywhere, why is none of it near the trail? Water flows downhill and collects in lowland areas, but in this area we are elevated up higher than the nearby water bodies, Lake Leelanau and Grand Traverse Bay.

These may break your bones, but provide excellent in-stream habitat like cover and nesting beds. While words never hurt me, moving this substrate hurts larval fish and insects’ chances of survival.