

***2023  
Annual Report  
Put-in-Bay Township Park District***

*Dedicated to protecting and preserving  
unique areas that enhance the heritage  
of the Lake Erie Islands.*

# 2023

## Annual Report



**P. O. Box 177**  
**Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456**

Welcome to your Preserves!

Seventeen years ago, the citizens of the islands created Put-in-Bay Township Park District. With the encouragement and support of property owners, individuals, organizations, the Ottawa County Prosecutor's Office, the State of Ohio, and the Federal government, Put-in-Bay Township Park District has been able to safeguard and protect forested areas, wetlands, and grass lands which are disappearing to development at an alarming rate.

With your help, we have been able to complement commercial and residential development with areas of green -- natural areas that preserve the treasures of the Lake Erie Islands. The Park District is proud of its accomplishments.

Put-in-Bay Township Park District has been privileged to have received well over \$10,000,000.00 in federal, state, local grants and private donations to preserve and protect sensitive areas in the Lake Erie Islands. The Park District is extremely grateful for this financial assistance.

**Thank you.**

# FORMATION OF PUT-IN-BAY TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT

On July 18, 2006, a petition to form a park district (Consistent with Ohio Revised Code 511.18) was presented to the Put-in-Bay Township Trustees.

This petition was forwarded by the Put-in-Bay Township Trustees to the Ottawa County Board of Elections where the signatures were authenticated and validated by that agency.

The validated petition was forwarded on August 14, 2006, to the Ottawa County Common Pleas Court.

On September 7, 2006, Judge Paul Moon, Ottawa County Common Pleas Court, held a hearing on the appointment of the Board of Park Commissions (Common Pleas Court Case No: 06MI022). Legal Counsel for the Township; Trustee Glenn Cooper, and Kelly Faris attended the hearing before Judge Moon.

At that hearing, Judge Moon appointed the following individuals to the Board of Park Commissioners of Put-in-Bay Township Park District: Marvin Booker, one year term; Lisa Brohl, two year term; Kelly Faris, three year term.

Consistent with Ohio Revised Code 511.19, on the expiration of each term, the Board of Commissions of Put-in-Bay Township Park District recommends to the Ottawa County Court of Common Pleas a person to fill that position. Each term of office is three (3) years.

The first meeting of the Commissioners of Put-in-Bay Township Park District was held on September 19, 2006. At the General Election on November 6, 2007, an overwhelming majority of the electorate voted Yes on Issue 5 affirming the creation of Put-in Bay Township Park District by the Common Pleas Court of Ottawa County.

The Board of Commissioners of Put-in-Bay Township Park District files an annual written report to the Ottawa County Court of Common Pleas. Put-in-Bay Park District is audited by the State of Ohio every two years.

## Commissioners

(Commissioners serve a three year term without compensation)

Lisa Brohl  
Box 155  
Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456

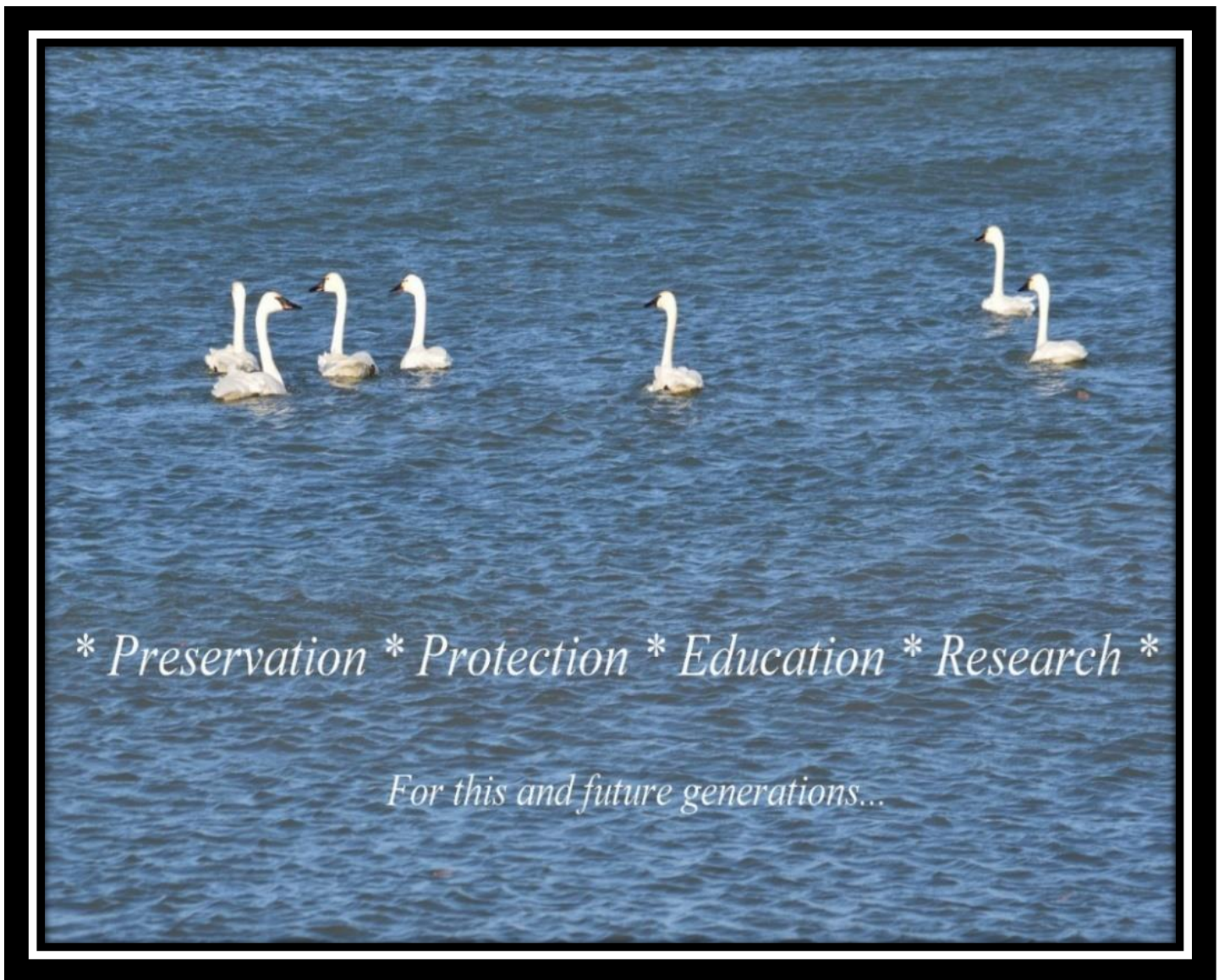
Three Year Term  
Term Expires: May 2024

Kelly Faris  
Box 404  
Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456

Three Year Term  
Term Expires: May 2025

Kendra Koehler  
Box 384  
Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456

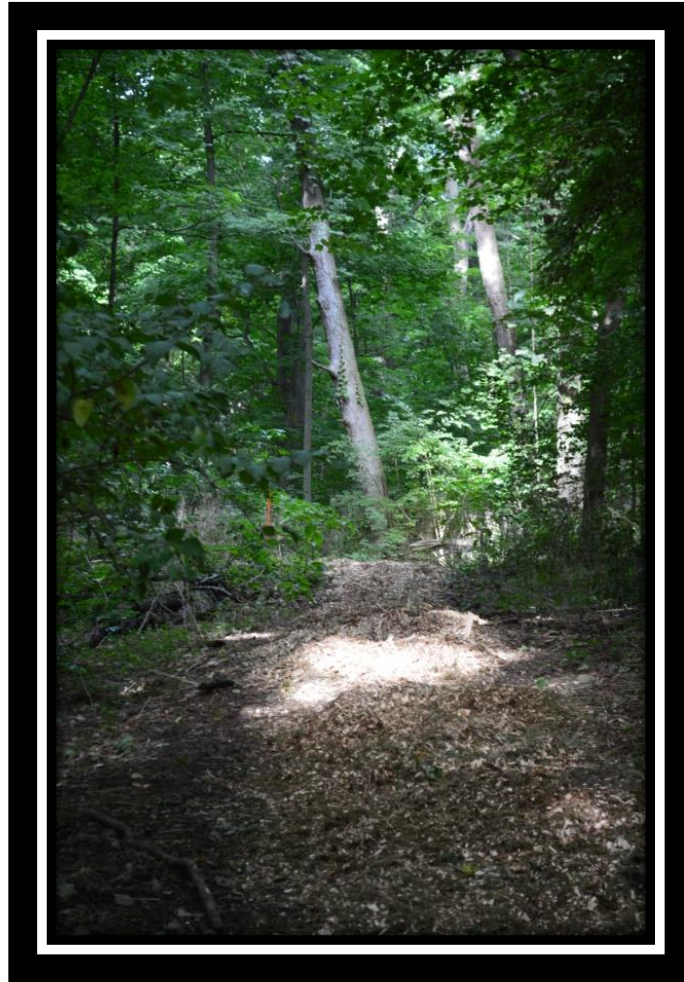
Three Year Term  
Term Expires: May 2026



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# Put-in-Bay Township Park District Preserved and Protected Natural Areas

## Duff Woods



Location: South Bass Island, Mitchell Road near West Shore Blvd.

Parcel: 0240670528701000, 0240670528703000 Acres 13.23

Access: Parking Lot

Trail: 2,200 feet – looped trail, rugged.

The 13.7 acre preserve was purchased with a grant from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund with matching funds from the Put-in-Bay Township Park District and the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy. The land will be preserved in perpetuity as a natural area.

The woods are a beautiful mix of sugar maple, common hackberry, blue ash, American basswood, chinquapin oak, and shag and shellbark Hickory with spring ephemerals like Appendage Waterleaf, Wild Leeks, Large-

flowered Trillium, Cut-leaf Toothwort, and many more. Summer brings nesting Baltimore orioles, great-crested flycatchers, red-eyed vireos and great horned owls to the woods. A looped trail begins at the small parking lot on Mitchell Rd. and the trail leads to two observation areas.

## Edward and Mary Morrison Woods Preserve



Location: South Bass Island, Corner of Put-in-Bay Road and Meechen Road

Parcel: 0240661928674000 Acres 4.211

Access: Parking at Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center

Trail: 1,270 feet of Looped Trail

On August 7, 2022, Put-in-Bay Township Park District and its partner the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy dedicated the Edward and Mary Morrison Woods Preserve. The purchase of the preserve was funded by a grant from Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, funding from the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, and a donation from the Mary Morrison Estate. The land will be preserved in perpetuity as a natural area.

A looped trail winds through a young forest with blue ash, eastern red cedar, and rough leaved dogwood.

# Cooper's Woods Preserve



Location: South Bass Island, Catawba Avenue

Parcel: 0240820010678000 18.64 acres

Access: Parking Area

Trails: Rugged and hazardous areas, caves are dangerous: Do not enter.

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy purchased the 18.64 acres and donated the tract to Put-in-Bay Township Park District.

Cooper's Woods has a unique assemblage of wildlife: white-tailed deer, raccoon, red fox, coyote, eastern gray squirrel, and the ever present chipmunk. More than 110 species of birds have been documented.

Cooper's Wood's is one of the largest intact forested areas on South Bass Island. This upland forest's composition is closer to that found on morainal ridges to the north in Canada. Sugar maple, common hackberry, northern red oak, white oak, basswood, black cherry, American elm, slippery elm, and black walnut are scattered throughout the 18 acres of the preserve.

In the spring, Cooper's Woods displays an abundance of Dutchman's Breeches, Appendage and Virginia Waterleaf, Purple Cress, Cut-leaf Toothwort, Blue Phlox and South Bass Island's most spectacular display of Large-flowered Trillium.



Cave in Cooper's Woods Preserve

The Woods has been extensively studied over the years by The Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory resulting in multiple publications. The Ohio Natural Heritage Data Base reports the



presence of the Eastern Fox Snake and researcher Maggie Hantak reported the eastern melanistic garter snake on the property, both of which are Ohio Species of Concern.



Eastern Red-backed Salamander

The property's forestlands also serve as habitat for an important population of the lead morph of the Eastern Red-backed Salamander. South Bass Island is not a part of the usual range of this salamander. The presence of the lead morph of the Eastern Red-backed Salamander is extremely rare in this location.



Large-flowered Trillium at Cooper's Woods

## Benjamin Woods Preserve

Location: South Bass Island, Langram Road

Parcel: 2.53 Acres

Access: Parking area

Trails: Rugged and Hazardous areas

The 2.53 acre Benjamin Woods Preserve is adjacent to the existing 18.7 acre Cooper's Woods Preserve, making over 20 acres of contiguous protected wooded karst topography in the center of South Bass Island. The woods provide resting habitat for migratory songbirds crossing the western basin of Lake Erie and offers nesting habitat for resident songbirds and great horned owls. It is also home to the eastern melanistic garter snakes and eastern fox snakes-both State of Ohio Species of Concern as well as potential hibernacula for the state threatened Lake Erie watersnake. Bats were noticed in 2019 around the buildings on the adjacent Benjamin parcel and a red bat was found during migration roosting in leaf litter on site.

The site provides wooded habitat for roosting monarch butterflies during migration. The trees are a unique mix of sugar maple, common hackberry, and American basswood more typical of forests found on glacial moraines to the north. Vegetation is strongly influenced by the dolomite rock close to or on the surface of the forest floor. The Benjamin Woods Preserve has a small parking lot and wooded trail system.

A nature trail joins the Benjamin Woods Preserve with the Cooper's Woods Preserve trail loop. Interpretive signs are located along the trail.

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*“Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.”*

— Theodore Roosevelt

## Massie Cliffside Preserve



Location: South Bass Island, East Point  
State Route 357

Parcel: 024057531074400                      Acres: 11  
0242052233337001

Access: Parking area, canoe, and kayak

Trails: Rugged, hazardous areas, cliffs

This 11 acre shoreline parcel on the East Point of South Bass Island includes cliff habitat and a dock for fishing. Clean Ohio Conservation Funds, a Nature Works Grant, Ohio Coastal Management Grant, Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program grant, a Lake Erie Islands Conservancy donation, private donations, and the land owner donation provided funding for the purchase.

A 1,750 foot trail winds through the woods to the cliffs, affording a spectacular view of Lake Erie and the surrounding Islands. Columbine and harebells bloom on the cliffs in the summer.

### Massie Cliffside Preserve Access Road

Put-in-Bay Investments completed the revamping of the Massie Cliffside Preserve drive with grading, widening, fresh gravel, and speed bumps. The work was funded by the Ottawa County Park District's Trails Improvement Program; the Lake Erie Shores and Islands Destination Development grant; and funding from the Put-in-Bay Township Park District. The Preserve is now more accessible for visitors with mobility issues, providing closer access to the lake and the cliffs. The improvements on the road also benefit local residents.

## Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve



Location: South Bass Island – State Route 357, East Terminus

Parcel: 0240802110662000 - 11150                      Acres: 9.1

Access: Foot, canoe, and kayak

Trails: Rugged, natural hazards

The Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve was the first property acquired by the Park District. Funding for the purchase was provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, First Energy – Section 6 Grant, Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, Black Swamp Conservancy, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Lorain National Bank, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Natural Areas, private donations, and a significant donation by Rose B. Scheeff. With 1,700 feet of Lake Erie shoreline, the Park is one of the last remaining natural settings for people to enjoy South Bass Island. Offering spectacular views of Lake Erie and the surrounding Islands, East Point’s rocky shores, shallow water, and upland cover also provide habitat for the Lake Erie watersnake, thousands of migratory songbirds and waterfowl, and a host of shoreline plants. Fishing and bird watching take place on the property.

A 2,205 foot looped hiking trail winds its way through the Scheeff Preserve.

## Jane Coates Wildflower Trail – Ladd-Carr Wildlife Woods



Dutchman's Breeches

Location: South Bass Island – Put-in-Bay Road  
Parcel: 0240659128669004 and 020659128669003; Part of Parcel 0240659128669000;  
0240658828667005; 0240817710847001; 024065912866900; 0240659128669002;  
0240817310843000  
Acres: 9.1  
Access: Foot  
Trails: Rugged, natural hazards



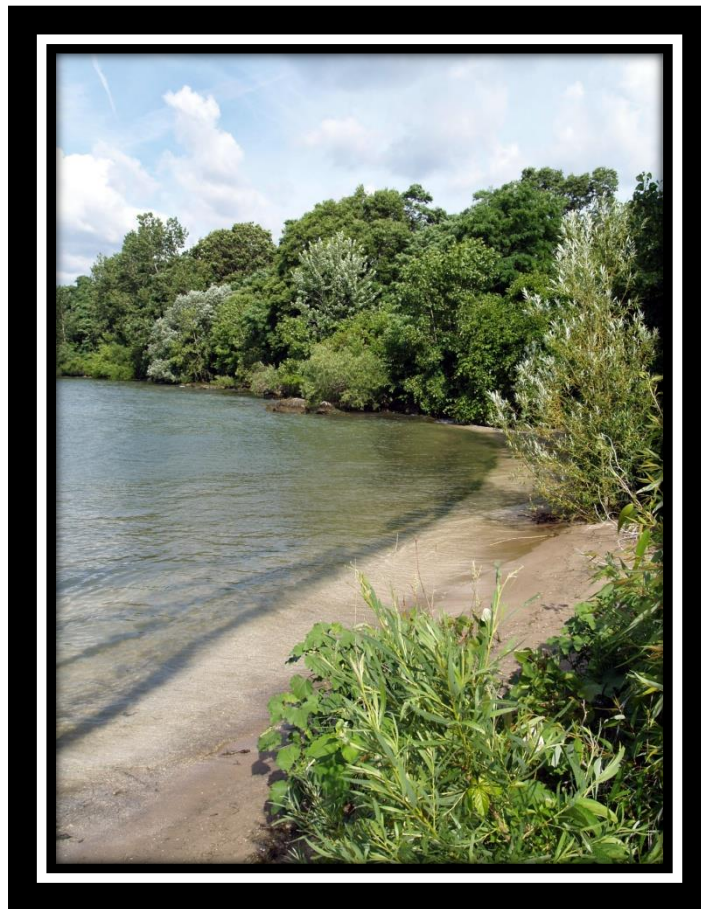
Jane Coates Wildflower Trail and the Ladd-Carr Wildlife Woods is a mature forested area, providing habitat for local species of birds and for migratory species.

Wild hyacinths and Dutchman’s breeches are abundant in the spring.

Funding for these purchases(Ladd-Carr Woods – 2006 and Jane Coates Wildflower Trail – 2007) was provided by Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, Nature Works, and private donations.

A 2,550 foot looped hiking trail weaves its way through the woods. A bench in the back of the preserve offers a spot for wildlife watching.

## **Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve**



Location: Middle Bass Island, North Shore Road

Parcel: 023-02887-03657-000 – North Shore Road      Acres: 7.82

Access: Canoe and kayak only

Trails: Rugged, natural hazards

The Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve consists of exceptional Lake Erie Islands shoreline and interior island habitat on Middle Bass Island. The property hosts a diversity of habitats including natural beach lands, hardwood forest, and grasslands, which attract large numbers of migrating bird and songbird populations. The preserve provides critical habitat for the Lake Erie Watersnake. Because of habitat protection at this preserve and other Park District preserves, the Lake Erie Watersnake has been removed from the list of federally endangered and threatened species. Located near the tip of the Island's northeastern peninsula, the preserve overlooks Schoolhouse Bay, a popular destination for boaters and swimmers, and it contains a shallow-water pier for canoes and kayaks. It is one of the first kayak accessible parks in Ohio. Trout lilies bloom in the preserve each spring. The Black Swamp Conservancy of Pemberville, Ohio, maintains a conservation easement on the property.

USGS Master Bander Tom Bartlett has identified over 120 species of birds at this site. More than thirty unique plant and tree species have also been identified.

## **Cleveland Addition- Middle Bass East Point Preserve**

Location: Middle Bass Island

Parcel: 0230511928511000 2.89 Acres

Access: By kayak or canoe only

On October 1, 2020, Put-in-Bay Township Park District (PIBTPD) dedicated a 2.89 acre wooded parcel purchased from Dr. William and Beverly Cleveland. The parcel is located at the very eastern tip of Middle Bass Island. This Cleveland Tract adds acreage to the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve. With this acquisition, nearly 11 protected acres of wooded and open land are protected for migratory bird habitat, walking, and bird watching in the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve.

The Park District is providing funds to remove invasive plants and trees from the parcel as part of the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation initiative.

## **Costello Tract Preserve - Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve**

Location: Middle Bass Island, North Shore Road

Parcels: 023-06624-16348-000 023-06624-16350-000  
023-06624-16339-000 023-06624-16340-000 Acres: 3.937

Access: Area not open until trails are established.

The 3.937 acre parcel is a unique forested area. The property provides a natural habitat for wildlife and plants. The Audubon Society and Birdlife International have identified the Lake Erie Islands as an important bird area. The Costello Preserve protects and maintains a forest community for migratory birds who use the Mississippi

and Atlantic Flyways. A number of State of Ohio and federally listed species have been identified on the property including the melanistic Eastern Garter Snake, the Lake Erie watersnake, and the Eastern Fox Snake.

The Black Swamp Conservancy of Pemberville, Ohio, maintains a conservation easement on the property.

## **Manderbach Preserve – Middle Bass East Point Preserve**

This parcel is immediately adjacent to the Costello Tract owned by the Put-in-Bay Township Park District. This area is reserved for migratory bird and wildlife habitat with no public access.

### **Middle Bass Forested Wetlands Preserve Schneider Tract**



Baltimore Oriole

Location: Middle Bass Island, Fox Road

Parcel: 023028680363000 Acres: 7.331

Access: Area not open until trails are established.

The Schneider Tract on Middle Bass Island, consisting of 7.331 acres, is part of an area defined in the publication, *Islands of Life: A Biodiversity and Conservation Atlas of the Great Lakes Islands* (2010), as an area of “globally rare shoreline, alvar, savanna and forest communities, which support globally significant



biodiversity and important ecological functions.” According to this publication, “the key ecological systems of the western Lake Erie Islands are wetlands (marshes and swamps) and limestone-; plain forest complexes.”

Due to development, these areas are rapidly disappearing within the Lake Erie Islands. This project protects these significant and sensitive wetlands.

The Schneider Tract is a limestone plain wetland forest whose hydrology is directly linked to Lake Erie water levels. The land provides migratory song bird habitat as well as breeding grounds for numerous varieties of amphibians.

Restoration and protection of this property is safeguarded by an Environmental Covenant with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. A report is filed each year with the OEPA.

## **Middle Bass Island Forested Wetlands Preserve Burgundy Bay Tract- Island Development Corp Tract - Hahn Tract**

Location: Middle Bass Island

Acres: 28.6

Access: Short trail at parking area on Fox Rd.

Eight acres were added in 2017 and 2018 to the Middle Bass Island Forested Preserve – The Burgundy Bay Tract. In 2019, the Island Development Corp Tract (4.4 acres) and Hahn Tract (8.3 acres) brought the total acreage in this area to 28.6. With the Schneider and Dieperink Tracts across Fox Rd., the MBIFWP now boasts 43.5 acres. It is the Park District’s largest preserve.

The parcel is a limestone plain wetland forest habitat characterized by its geology – a relatively thin layer of soil overlaying carbonate bedrock whose hydrology is directly influenced by Lake Erie water levels. It is the largest remaining block of forested land on Middle Bass.

The limestone plain forest provides rare habitat that has been largely lost throughout the Islands. The Eastern Fox Snake and the Lake Erie Watersnake are found on the site. The property is located in the North American migratory flyway and Atlantic flyway through which thousands of birds fly south to their wintering habitat and north to breeding grounds.

A trail with a small parking lot on Fox Road on the original 6 acres leads past Prothonotary warbler boxes and to an interpretive sign. Two pan foot bridges have been installed at the site. A

pan foot bridge/walkway rests on top of the soil and no supports are drilled or bored into the ground.

A portion of this property is protected by an environmental covenant with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. A report is filed annually. Deed restrictions have been placed on the property by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and The Conservation Fund. A report is filed annually with the USFWS.



Pan Foot Bridge -- Purchased with partial funding from the Middle Bass Island Music Fest

## Middle Bass Island Forested Wetlands Preserve Dieperink Tract

Location: Middle Bass Island

Parcels: A portion of 0230349404009000 – 7.6 acres

Access: Area not open until trails are established.

On January 11, 2018, Put-in-Bay Township Park District purchased 7.6 acres from the Dieperink family.

Combined with the 7 acre Schneider Tract owned by the Park District, the tract is now 14.6 acres of contiguous forest. The eastern portion of this parcel is slightly higher in elevation. There is swamp forest of silver maples, elm, and swamp white oak. Many dead and dying green ash trees are on this parcel and the adjacent Schneider tract. Camille Manoukian, an REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) student from The Ohio State University Stone Lab and Lisa Brohl did research on this tract and the Schneider tract the summer of 2017 to determine what trees are replacing the dead green ash which were devastated by the emerald ash borer.

Rough-leaved dogwood and buckthorn are growing in sunny areas. The non-native Amur honeysuckle is also growing in the area.

EnviroScience removed invasive Amur honeysuckle and buckthorn by basal spraying in 2017 and 2018. EnviroScience is a company that specializes in ecological consulting and ecological restoration throughout the United States and Canada, providing technology, recommendations, and solutions to meet environmental compliance needs. This work was funded by a National Park Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant. Matthew Monteith, an REU student, studied the forest composition of the two plots after removal of the invasive species and analyzed soil samples from the parcels. The higher ground holds sugar maples, hackberry, and eastern red cedar. The area is within ¼ mile of Lake Erie, providing ideal habitat for migratory birds.

The Eastern Fox Snake and Melanistic Eastern Garter Snake are found in this tract. Because of their rarity, both are listed as “Species of Concern.”

Hibernacula for the Lake Erie watersnake is also on the Dieperink Parcel.

An interpretive sign on Changing Island Forests has been installed.

## Dodge Woods Preserve



Location: South Bass Island – Corner of Thompson and Langram Road

Parcel: 3.6 acres  
Access: Parking Lot - Access is by foot  
Trails: Rugged, natural hazards - A 852 foot looped trail

This wooded area is mostly young forest. There is a mix of black walnut, common hackberry, black cherry, Kentucky coffee tree, wild grape, mulberry and eastern red cedar with some planted conifers and fruit trees on the edges as well as herbaceous plants and sedges.

Spring wildflowers such as Virginia waterleaf, bloodroot, wild leeks, false Solomon's Seal, and buttercups are found in the trail area. Enchanters nightshade as well as the tall bellflower are followed by Short's aster and goldenrod in the fall.

The variety of habitats make it an inviting stop for birds in the spring and fall migration season. The Eastern Fox Snake and the melanistic Eastern Garter Snake are found in the area. The property is adjacent to the bicycle path on the island. Hiking, nature photography, bird watching, and scientific study are encouraged. No motorized vehicles or camping are permitted.

## Dodge Woods Preserve –StoryWalk® Trail



StoryWalk® Trail

A StoryWalk® is located within the Dodge Woods Preserve. Seventeen storyboards are placed along the trail with pages from children's books displayed on each board to tell a story as visitors walk the woods. Books are changed periodically by the Erie Islands Library manager Karen Wilhelm. Originally funded by the Ottawa County Community Foundation,

StoryWalk® is now funded through the Ida Rupp Libraries, community businesses, and residents. Donations to support this project can be made to the Lake Erie Islands Library.

## Dodge Woods Preserve Addition

Location: South Bass Island – Corner of Thompson and Langram Road

Parcel: .7478 acres

Access: Parking Lot – Access is by foot

Put-in-Bay Township Park District purchased a .7478 acre addition to the Dodge Woods Preserve with funds from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund and the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy. The parcel will provide additional habitat and a buffer to the Put-in-Bay StoryWalk® Trail.

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*“To waste, to destroy our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed.”*

— Theodore Roosevelt

*“Water and air, the two essential fluids on which all life depends, have become global garbage cans.”*

— Jacques-Yves Cousteau

**Put-in-Bay Township Park District  
Properties Preserved and Protected**

	Totals	South Bass Island	Middle Bass Island
Petersen Woods	1.50		1.50
Lawrence Evans	0.75		0.75
Prokesh-Watkins	0.50		0.50
Ladd-Carr	2.10	2.10	
Jane Coates Wildflower Trail	3.00	3.00	
Jane Coates Wildflower Trail Addition	2.00	2.00	
Woischke Purchase-LEICHP	2.00	2.00	
Gump Woods	0.50	0.50	
Scheeff East Point Preserve	9.00	9.00	
MBI East Point Preserve	8.00		8.00
Cleveland Tract	2.36		2.36
Costello Tract	4.00		4.00
Massie Cliffside Preserve	7.00	7.00	
Knam Purchase	4.00	4.00	
MBI Forested Wetland-Schneider	7.33		7.33
MBI Forested Wetland-Burgundy Bay	6.27		6.27
MBI Forested Wetland	2.00		2.00
Manderbach	0.46		0.46
Benjamin Tract	2.54	2.54	
Coopers Woods	18.70	18.70	
MBI Forested Wetland Dieperink	7.54		7.54
Dodge Woods	3.00	3.00	
Dodge Woods Addition	0.75	0.75	
MBI Forest Wetland-Private small	1.90		1.90
Victory Woods-Foley	0.50	0.50	
MBI Forested Wetland-Burgundy Parcels	5.80		5.80
MBI Forested Wetland-Hahn Tract	8.30		8.30
MBI Forested Wetland-Island Development	4.40		4.40
Cooper's Woods Preserve	18.64	18.64	
Benjamin Woods Preserve	2.53	2.53	
Morrison Woods Preserve	4.21	4.21	
Duff Woods Preserve	14.00	14.00	
Duff Homestead Preserve	6.50	6.50	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>162.08</b>	<b>100.97</b>	<b>61.11</b>

## Black Swamp Conservancy to Put-in-Bay Township Park District

In January 2016 the following tax exempt properties, owned by the Black Swamp Conservancy, Perrysburg, Ohio, were donated and transferred to Put-in-Bay Township Park District:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Parcel Number</i>	<i>Acres</i>
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### **Gump Woods-South Bass Island—Victory Woods.**

Gump Parcel	South Bass island	0240567603569000	.5
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### **Petersen Woods-Middle Bass Island-1.5 acres.**

Petersen Woods	Middle Bass Island	0230294603727000	1.5
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### **Prokesh Property-Middle Bass Island-Burgundy Bay.**

Prokesh Parcel	Middle Bass Island	0230593028597000	.5
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### **Lawrence Evans Property-Middle Bass Island**

Lawrence Evans Parcel	Middle Bass Island	0230822718184001	.75
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### **Jane Coates Wildflower Trail-South Bass Island-3 acres.**

LaPlante Parcel	South Bass Island	0240658828667005	
LaPlante Parcel	South Bass Island	0240817710847001	
Woischke Parcel	South Bass Island	0240659128669001	
Woischke Parcel	South Bass Island	0240659128669002	

### **Ladd Carr Wildlife Woods-South Bass Island-2.1 acres.**

Brucken Parcel	South Bass Island	0240817310843000	
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## Lake Erie Water Trails



The Lake Erie Water Trail has five separate routes totaling more than 50 miles around North Bass, Middle Bass, South Bass Island, Kelleys Island, and along the mainland of Catawba Island and East Harbor State Park. Each route is unique.

Put-in-Bay Township Park District was the lead agency in developing the Lake Erie Islands Water Trail, and Lisa Brohl, Chief Executive Officer of the Park District, spearheaded the Water Trails project.

The Lake Erie Islands Water Trails is an official State of Ohio Water Trail.

### Comments from a Visitor and Volunteer to the Lake Erie Islands Preserves

*“When on our AM walk this morning through the Preserve, I got such a shock. Do you know what you have to do when you are ¼ miles away from home and you start to cry.... I’ve had lots of awards and recognitions in my years, but I have to say this is the one I will most cherish. I cannot thank the PIB Park District and the Conservancy enough. So very greatly appreciated ... Volunteering for the Parks and Conservancy is not work, it is a blessing...”*



## Wildflowers in the Preserves of Put-in-Bay Township Park District

Sharp lobed Hepatica	<i>Hepatica acutiloba</i>	
Pink Spring or Purple Cress	<i>Cardamine douglassi</i>	JT
Cut-leaf Toothwort	<i>Dentaria laciniata</i>	JT, MC
Bloodroot	<i>Sanguinaria Canadensis</i>	LEINWC
Large-flowered Trillium	<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>	CW
Dutchman's Breeches	<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>	JT, DW, CW
Rue Anemone	<i>Thalictrum thalictroides</i>	CW, MC
Wild Leeks or Ramps	<i>Allium tricoccum</i>	JT, CW
May Apple	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	JT, DW
Appendage Waterleaf	<i>Hydrophyllum appendiculatum</i>	JT, DW, CW
Virginia Waterleaf	<i>Hydrophyllum virginianum</i>	DW, CW, JT
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia Canadensis</i>	MC
Spring Beauty	<i>Claytonia virginica</i>	MC
False Solomon's Seal	<i>Maianthemum racemose</i>	JT, MBI EPP
Starry Solomon's Seal	<i>Maianthemum stellate</i>	CW
Solomon's Seal	<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	JT,
Hairy Solomon's Seal	<i>Polygonatum pubescens</i>	MBI EPP
Wild Hyacinth	<i>Camassia scilloides</i>	JT
White Trout Lily	<i>Erythronium albidum</i>	MBI EPP, SEPP
Yellow Trout Lily	<i>Erythronium americanum</i>	
Dame's Rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis*</i>	MCP, LEINWC
Sweet Cicely	<i>Osmorhiza longisylis</i>	ALL
Blue Phlox or Wild Sweet William	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	JT
Northern Bog Violet	<i>Viola nephrophylla</i>	
Downy Yellow Violet	<i>Viola pubescens</i>	JT, CW
Common Blue Violet	<i>Viola sororia</i>	
Early Meadow Rue	<i>Thalictrum dioicum</i>	JT
Hairy Beardstongue	<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	MCP
Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	ALL
Wild Geranium	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	CW
Virginia Bluebells	<i>Mertensia</i>	CT
Thimbleweed	<i>Anemone virginiana</i>	
Canada Anemone	<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata*</i>	ALL
Smooth Rock Cress	<i>Arabis laevigata</i>	
Alumroot	<i>Heuchera americana</i>	
Jack in the Pulpit	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	JT, LEINWC
Large Flowered Bellwort	<i>Uvularia grandiflora</i>	LEINWC
Uright Smilax	<i>Smilax ecirrata</i>	JT
Carrionflower	<i>Smilax herbacea</i>	JT
Spreading Chervil	<i>Chaerophyllum procumbens</i>	JT, LEINWC
Squawroot	<i>Conopholis Americana</i>	CW
Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	MCP
Iris	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	PW
Spotted Jewelweed	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	PW

Pale Jewelweed	<i>Impatiens pallida</i>	JT
Enchanters Nightshade	<i>Circaea quadrisulcata</i>	JT, DW
Jumpseed	<i>Phryma longistylus</i>	JT, DW, CW
Short's Aster	<i>Symphiotrichum shortii</i>	ALL
Calico Aster	<i>Symphiotrichum ericoides</i>	
Pringle's Aster	<i>Symphiotrichum pilosum var. pringlei</i>	
Tall Goldenrod	<i>Solidago altissima</i>	ALL
Zigzag Goldenrod	<i>Solidago flexicaulis</i>	
Grass-leaved Goldenrod	<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>	
Great Blue Lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	MBIFWP
Ditch Stonecrop	<i>Penthorum sedoides</i>	MBIFWP

Jane Coates Wildflower Trail-JT  
Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve-MBIEPP  
Scheeff East Point Preserve-SEPP  
Massie Cliffside Preserve-MCP  
Petersen Woods-PW  
Costello Tract-CT  
Cooper's Woods-CW  
Gump Woods-GW  
MBIFWP - Middle Bass Island Forested Wetland Preserve  
LEINWC - Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center-LEIN

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*"The earth has music for those who listen" —*

William Shakespeare

*"If you are not an environmentalist, you are either selfish or ignorant"*

—Andwar Bundini M.D. physician and philosopher

*"I really wonder what gives us the right to wreck this poor planet of ours."*

— Kurt Vonnegut

## 2023 Lake Erie Bass Islands Avian Research Project

H. Thomas Bartlett  
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Tiffin, Ohio 44883  
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419-447-0005(H) 567-278-2300(C)



**"Yellow" Palm Warbler**  
**Second-Year / Unknown Sex**  
**May 3, 2023 Middle Bass Island**  
**East Coast Subspecies**

### Permits

**Federal Bird Banding Permit # 21624**  
**Ohio Division of Wildlife Wild Animal Permit # 24-039 and 20-164**  
**Ohio Division of Parks and Watercraft Collecting Permit**  
**Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves Permit #RP 2023 - 5**  
**Put-in-Bay Township Park District Research Permit**  
**Private Land Use Permit – Vineyard Bed & Breakfast**  
**Private Land Use Permit – Lisa and Russ Brohl**

## South Bass Island Bird Banding Totals 2023

6 Ruby-throated Hummingbird	22 Baltimore Oriole
2 Red-bellied Woodpecker	3 Brown-headed Cowbird
8 Downy Woodpecker	198 Red-winged Blackbird
1 Yellow-shafted Flicker	36 Common Grackle
2 Eastern Wood-Pewee	23 Ovenbird
6 Least Flycatcher	3 Northern Waterthrush
2 Great Crested Flycatcher	4 Black-and-white Warbler
4 Blue-headed Vireo	2 Tennessee Warbler
6 Warbling Vireo	15 Nashville Warbler
2 Red-eyed Vireo	4 Common Yellowthroat
16 Blue Jay	1 Hooded Warbler
387 Purple Martin	7 American Redstart
13 Tree Swallow	2 Cape May Warbler
4 Black-capped Chickadee	2 Northern Parula
6 Red-breasted Nuthatch	16 Magnolia Warbler
9 House Wren	4 Bay-breasted Warbler
2 Carolina Wren	22 Yellow Warbler
11 Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2 Chestnut-sided Warbler
12 Veery	3 Blackpoll Warbler
20 Gray-cheeked Thrush	6 Black-throated Blue Warbler
97 Swainson's Thrush	8 Palm Warbler ("Western")
4 Hermit Thrush	1 Palm Warbler ("Yellow")
49 American Robin	6 Yellow-rumped ("Myrtle") Warbler
35 Gray Catbird	3 Black-throated Green warbler
2 European Starling	1 Canada Warbler
1 American Goldfinch	1 Wilson's Warbler
5 Lincoln's Sparrow	1 <b>Scarlet Tanager</b>
5 Swamp Sparrow	17 Northern Cardinal
11 White-throated Sparrow	2 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
1 White-crowned Sparrow	1 Indigo Bunting
2 Orchard Oriole	

**60 Total Species**  
**Bold = unusual species for Lake Erie Islands**

**1148 Total Individuals**  
**Red = new for SBI banding list/study 2023**  
**Or new race of a species for SBI**

**Banding Days = 15**  
**Total Birds Banded = 1148**  
**Total Escapes/releases = 6**  
**Birds banded per net hour = 0.56**  
**Total Birds Handled = 1263**  
**Visitors = 285**

**Net hours = 1558.00**  
**Total Recaptures = 108**  
**Total Casualties = 1**  
**% Casualties per bird handled = 0.08**  
**Birds handled per net hour = 0.81**

## 2023 Middle Bass Island Bird Banding Totals

<p>1 Mourning Dove</p> <p>2 Ruby-throated Hummingbird</p> <p>3 Eastern Screech-Owl</p> <p>1 Red-bellied Woodpecker</p> <p>4 Downy Woodpecker</p> <p>4 Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted)</p> <p>4 Eastern Phoebe</p> <p>1 White-eyed Vireo</p> <p>4 Blue-headed Vireo</p> <p>1 Yellow-throated Vireo</p> <p>2 Philadelphia Vireo</p> <p>5 Red-eyed Vireo</p> <p>5 Blue Jay</p> <p>41 Tree Swallow</p> <p>3 Black-capped Chickadee</p> <p>10 Red-breasted Nuthatch</p> <p>1 White-breasted Nuthatch</p> <p>17 House Wren</p> <p>2 Winter Wren</p> <p>2 Carolina Wren</p> <p>29 Ruby-crowned Kinglet</p> <p>3 Veery</p> <p>17 Gray-cheeked Thrush</p> <p>23 Swainson's Thrush</p> <p>13 Hermit Thrush</p> <p>1 Wood Thrush</p> <p>17 American Robin</p> <p>2 Gray Catbird</p> <p>1 Brown Thrasher</p> <p>5 European Starling</p> <p>1 House Finch</p> <p>2 American Goldfinch</p>	<p><b>1 Savannah Sparrow</b></p> <p>2 Song Sparrow</p> <p>4 Lincoln's Sparrow</p> <p>6 Swamp Sparrow</p> <p>21 White-throated Sparrow</p> <p>2 White-crowned Sparrow</p> <p>1 Dark-eyed Junco</p> <p>18 Brown-headed Cowbird</p> <p>77 Red-winged Blackbird</p> <p>7 Common Grackle</p> <p>4 Ovenbird</p> <p>5 Northern Waterthrush</p> <p>1 Black-and-white Warbler</p> <p><b>1 Prothonotary Warbler</b></p> <p>2 Tennessee Warbler</p> <p>17 Nashville Warbler</p> <p>1 Common Yellowthroat</p> <p>1 Cape May Warbler</p> <p>2 Northern Parula</p> <p>16 Magnolia Warbler</p> <p>5 Bay-breasted Warbler</p> <p>6 Yellow Warbler</p> <p>1 Chestnut-sided Warbler</p> <p>13 Blackpoll Warbler</p> <p>4 Black-throated Blue Warbler</p> <p>11 Palm Warbler ("Western")</p> <p><b>1 Palm Warbler ("Yellow")</b></p> <p>1 Yellow-rumped("Myrtle") Warbler</p> <p>1 Black-throated Green Warbler</p> <p>1 Wilson's Warbler</p> <p>7 Northern Cardinal</p> <p><b>1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak</b></p>
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**63 Species**

**468 Total Individuals**

1<sup>st</sup> Column = Total individuals banded

2<sup>nd</sup> Column = Species / Subspecies

**Bold = unusual species for Lake Erie Islands**

**Red = new for MBI banding list**

**\* = new for the Lake Erie Islands  
since starting in 1996**

## **The top ten most banded species for 2023:**

387 Purple Martin  
43 Common Grackle  
275 Red-winged Blackbird  
40 Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
120 Swainson's Thrush  
37 Gray-cheeked Thrush  
66 American Robin  
37 Gray Catbird  
54 Tree Swallow  
32 White-throated Sparrow  
32 Nashville Warbler Magnolia Warbler  
32 Magnolia Warbler

## **The top ten most banded species over twenty-one years:**

4052 Red-winged Blackbird  
666 Common Grackle  
2271 Purple Martin  
563 Tree Swallow  
1232 American Robin  
542 Blackpoll Warbler  
1007 Swainson's Thrush  
532 Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
792 White-throated Sparrow  
518 Yellow Warbler

## **Audubon Christmas Bird Count 2023**

Audubon Annual Christmas Bird Count On December 17, the 36th Lake Erie Islands Christmas Bird Count was conducted on the islands of Pelee, South Bass, Middle Bass, and Kelleys. This is one of the few counts which covers areas in two different countries, the United States and Canada. Groups on each island were out all day counting each species of bird and total individuals on each island. This count was first run in 1987 and has been run each year since except for 1994. John Pogacnik has been the compiler and all data is stored by the National Audubon Society. Over the 36 years of this count, we have averaged 73 species and 26,984 individuals. The highest species count was 92 in 2016 and the lowest count was 47 in 1990. The highest number of individuals observed was 104,553 in 1992 and the lowest was 4,930 individuals in 1991.

# Research and Monitoring

## Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center (LEINWC) and The Ohio State University, Stone Lab Study Mammals on PIB Township Preserves

Excerpts from an article by Amy B. Alford

In 2023, the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center supervised a Stone Lab Research project for an undergraduate student, Juan Flores, to evaluate the mammal communities of South, Middle Bass, and Gibraltar Islands. Mr. Flores, is an undergraduate student from the University of Notre Dame. The advisors for the research were LEINWC Volunteer Research Coordinator, Amy Alford; and Director of the LEINWC, Renee Fultz.

The study was an effort to determine the population of White-tailed Deer as well as to observe Fox Squirrels on South Bass Island (Fox Squirrels were previously believed to only inhabit Middle Bass Island).

White-tailed Deer, Raccoon, Red Fox, and Coyote were surveyed in Cooper’s Woods, Ladd-Carr Wildlife Woods, Massie Cliffside Preserve, Scheeff East Point, and Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve. The survey was done by observing scat, viewing animals from camera trap stations, walking the preserves, and observing from vehicles.

Research determined that the White-tailed Deer population on South Bass Island is currently around 57 individuals or 20 deer per square mile. The majority of the bucks observed were in and around Cooper’s Woods. Male White-tailed Deer will often form “bachelor groups.”

Researchers also discovered coyote scat in Cooper’s Woods.

During the study, two does and three fawns were observed at the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve. A buck was captured on a camera trap on Middle Bass Island.

Research also detected at least 9 species of bats in the preserves, on Gibraltar Island, and at the South Bass Island Lighthouse. Some bats are migratory and some are an endangered species. The observation of bats indicates how important the Islands are in global biodiversity!

A major concern is, “How many deer can South Bass Island support?” This answer is dependent on a number factors including availability of food, predators, and the attitudes of Island residents. Biologists suggest a density of 15-30 deer per square mile is sustainable. The average density of deer in Northwest Ohio is 15 per square mile. The current White-tailed Deer density (at 20 per. sq. mile) on South Bass Island seems to be at a reasonable level.

This research is the beginning of a multi-year project. Continuing ongoing research will provide a better understanding of the deer population: how it is regulated by the availability of food, the prevalence of predators, and the ability of deer to migrate -- either by swimming or crossing the ice -- between and among the Islands and the mainland.

### Estimate of Deer Populations at Preserves

Cooper’s Woods Preserve	20
Ladd-Carr Preserve	2
Massie Cliffside Preserve	6
Scheeff East Point Preserve	29

## **Parasitic wasps released on islands to fight Emerald Ash Borers**

In 2002, observations were made of sick and dying Ash trees in the Windsor/Detroit area. U.S. Department of Agriculture determined that the cause of the destruction was an invasive insect called the Emerald Ash borer (EAB).

This pest was likely present in shipping pallets from China.

EABs subsequently spread throughout North America.

EABs have decimated the Ash tree populations in most of the eastern states.

The Emerald Ash Borers have been detected west of the Mississippi River. Over 40 states and a number of Canadian provinces are currently dealing with the EAB problem.

According to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA), "In addition to its value to the timber industry and the forest ecosystem, the Ash tree is one of the most popular landscape trees."

The cost of treating, removing, and replacing 37.9 million ash trees is estimated at \$25 billion.

Seeds that were deposited on the ground from the prolific ash trees have produced a new generation of ash trees that will help perpetuate the species. The United States Department of Agriculture determined that no native insects effectively prey upon EAB.

Three species of parasitoid wasps from China and Russia effectively prey on and destroy the Emerald Ash Borer.

So far, 6 million of these non-stinging wasps have been released in 29 states. These wasps are being raised at the U.S.D.A. Emerald Ash Biocontrol Rearing Facility in Brighton, Michigan.

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy's AmeriCorps Intern, Adrianna Burghardt, a Senior at the University of Dayton, led a project this summer to release the wasps into high Ash tree densities on South Bass and Middle Bass Islands.

The most recent study by the USDA showed that parasitoid wasps are killing 20-80% of the EABs. The Ash trees are again growing in areas where the wasps have been released.

The release of these parasitic wasps gives hope for restoring Ash trees within the Lake Erie Islands and within the Put-in-Bay Township Park District Preserves where the Ash tree population was decimated by the Emerald Ash Borer. This initiative was spearheaded by Lisa Brohl and AmeriCorps intern Adrianna Burghardt with assistance from Chris Helman, Kevli Sheth, Murphy Harrington, and Gerald Shanley.



# Bat Monitoring

**Research Personnel:** Lead Researcher Amy B. Alford, PhD; Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center Staff, Renee Fultz Director and Emily Beal Assistant Director; Stone Laboratory Staff: Juan Flores REU Student and J. Brian Alford, PhD Assistant Director; Daniele Miranda, PhD, University of Notre Dame, Assistant Research Professor.

In late July and early August 2023, LEINWC staff and the REU student monitored summer bat (Family Vespertilionidae) species richness at Cooper’s Woods, Massie Cliffside, Scheeff, and Middle Bass Island East Point Preserves with equipment on loan from the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Acoustic bat monitors (SongMeter SM4, Wildlife Acoustics, Inc.) were mounted on trees. Each station was set for a 4-night consecutive recording period.

Bat echolocation call was processed with audio software able to detect high-frequency sound. Data was then analyzed with Kaleidoscope Pro (Wildlife Acoustics, Inc.) This equipment contains a set of sound classifiers for bats likely to be found in Ohio. All bat calls need to be vetted by state personnel for records to be validated. Species detected and their general conservation status is presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Bat species detected in PIBTPD preserves July-August 2023. ‘X’ indicates present.

Scientific Name	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	<i>Lasiurus noctivagans</i>	<i>Lasiurus seminolus</i>	<i>Myotis grisescens</i>	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	<i>Nycticeius humeralis</i>	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>
Common Name	Big Brown Bat	Eastern Red Bat	Hoary Bat	Silver-haired Bat	Seminole Bat	Gray Bat	Little Brown Bat	Evening Bat	Tri-colored Bat
Conservation Status	Concern	Concern	Concern	Concern	Unknown in Ohio	Endangered	Concern	Special Interest	Concern
Preserve									
Cooper’s Woods	X	X	X				X		
Massie Cliffside	X		X	X	X		X		
Scheeff	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Middle Bass	X	X		X			X		

## Callery Pear

Ohio is first state to make Callery Pear, also known as the Bradford Pear, illegal. It is now illegal to sell, grow, or plant Callery pear in Ohio because of its invasive qualities and likelihood to cause economic or environmental harm. The Callery pear dominates young, regenerating forest areas and inhibits the growth and establishment of native plant species. Callery pear is an ornamental species native to regions of Asia.

In 2023, Put-in-Bay Township Park District hired EnviroScience, Inc. to remove the callery pear from the Scheeff East Point Preserve and other Preserves. EnviroScience, Inc., a team of over 100 expert biologists, environmental scientists, and environmental engineers. specialize in ecological restoration and ecological issues.

# Coyotes

Excerpt from an article by Paula Ziebarth

Coyotes frequently cross the ice between the islands and the mainland. Although not native to Ohio, coyotes have populated all 88 counties in Ohio.

Coyotes are one of the few mammals which self-regulate their population. Coyotes are a medium-sized wild canid with slender legs, small feet, erect, pointed ears, and a narrow pointed muzzle. The majority of coyotes are gray, although some have a rusty brown or off-white coloration. The coyote stands about one and one half to two feet tall and is between 41 to 53 inches long. Males are larger than females and weigh anywhere from 20 to 50 pounds. Coyotes are omnivorous.

The coyote is primarily nocturnal, hunting at night. Typical foods include small mammals (rabbits, mice, chipmunks, squirrels), vegetables, berries, nuts, carrion, and even deer. It is estimated that coyotes have killed 80% of fawns. Coyotes are also controllers of Canada Geese.

A coyote “pack” consists of 2 to 8 adults. Coyotes are monogamous and only breed in January – March. They have young once per year and pups are born early May to early June. Litter sizes average 4 – 7. Coyote litter size is dependent on food availability. In areas where food supply is lower, reproduction is delayed to the age of three years. All the adult coyotes in a social group care for the young.

Coyotes are naturally shy animals. Coyotes usually hunt individually or in pairs. The major purpose of the “pack” is to protect young and protect territory from other “floater” coyotes. “Floater” coyotes are always on the move throughout territories, looking for a home with a new pack.

According to Dr. Stan Gehrt, The Ohio State University, it is nearly impossible to remove coyotes from an area. If an individual coyote or even an entire pack is killed, other coyotes will place them in a short period of time. Coyotes will never overpopulate an area. Killing coyotes can actually result in population increases.

## Lake Erie Watersnake

The Lake Erie watersnake (*Nerodia sipedon insularism*, a harmless species, is found on the islands of western Lake Erie, as well as the mainland of Ottawa County, Ohio.

Some background on the Lake Erie watersnake:

The US Department of the Interior listed the Lake Erie watersnake as a threatened species in 1999 when the snake population fell to under 1,500. Threats to the species included intentional killing and loss of its shoreline habitat on Lake Erie to development.

Through intensive habitat protection and public education, spearheaded by Dr. Kristin Stanford – the Snake Lady--, the Lake Erie watersnake population grew to about 11,980 in 2009. About 300 acres of inland habitat and 11 miles of shoreline have been protected for the snake since it was listed.

In 2011, US Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed the Lake Erie watersnake from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife. As the result of recovery efforts, the snake became the 23rd species to be delisted.

“The Lake Erie watersnake joins species such as the bald eagle, the American alligator, and the peregrine falcon that have rebounded from the threat of extinction and no longer require the protection of the Endangered Species Act,” Salazar said. “These species — and the hundreds of others whose extinction has been prevented by the Act — are living testimonies to its ability to bring species back from the brink by protecting them and conserving and restoring their habitat.”

Recovery criteria included a combined population of at least 5,555 snakes on the U.S. islands, sustained for six years, and protection of key habitat. Lake Erie watersnake, however, is still listed as endangered by the State of Ohio. Killing the Lake Erie watersnake is illegal under state law.

Partners in the efforts to recover the Lake Erie watersnake include the ODNR, Northern Illinois University, Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Put-in-Bay Township Park District, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and The Ohio State University Stone Laboratory.

Put-in-Bay Township Park District continues to work with researchers who monitor the Lake Erie watersnake.

The Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve, the Middle Bass East Point Preserve, and the Massie Cliffside Preserve are among the Put-in-Bay Township Park District sites that have been instrumental in the protection of the Lake Erie watersnake. A hibernacula was constructed at the Middle Bass East Point Preserve specifically for the winter hibernation of the Lake Erie watersnake.

## **Garlic Mustard**

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), introduced in the 1800's, is an Old World native mustard used in herbal remedies. An invasive species, garlic mustard, as of 2008, was documented as spreading exponentially. Garlic mustard is especially damaging to native plants. Garlic mustard develops in a two-year cycle, flowering in the second year, and then setting seed July through September. Garlic mustard prefers mesic hardwood forests. A mesic habitat is a type

of habitat with a well-balanced or moderate supply of moisture throughout the growing season.

Garlic mustard is present in Cooper's Woods Preserve, Duff Woods Preserve, and the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail. In May of 2023, fourteen volunteers at these sites pulled a total of 254.6 lbs. of invasive garlic mustard. Garlic mustard spreads easily by wind and by foot traffic. Garlic mustard plants appear in early Spring blocking light and infringing on the space for native plants to grow. The best way to remove garlic mustard is by pulling it by hand before it goes to seed.

## Bass Island Birds

Excerpts from an article by Paul Ziebarth LEIC Board Member, area contact Ohio Bluebird Society



AmeriCorp Summer Intern Anna Burghardt works at Purple Martin rig -- Scheff Preserve

## Purple Martins

Purple Martins are North America's largest swallow. A Purple Martin's diet consists solely of flying insects. During their 4-month stay in Ohio, Purple Martins consume thousands of insects. The Bass Islands provide perfect breeding grounds for these birds with a healthy population of flying insects. To ensure proper housing for these birds, nests must be placed at

least 40 feet from any tall trees to protect the birds from marauding hawks and owls. In addition, housing must be protected from climbing predators. Raccoons and eastern fox snakes are the biggest threats to these birds. A baffle at the base of the gourd tower deters these climbing threats. There are three major challenges to the success of Purple Martin reproduction: other birds taking over nests, extreme cold and rainy weather that reduces the insect population in the spring, and nest hygiene. In the fall, Purple Martins make a 4,000 miles trek to their wintering grounds in Brazil. The next spring, the Purple Martins will return to their same gourds. Purple Martins primarily live in man-made gourds.

## **Tree Swallows**

A tree swallow's plumage is iridescent blue/black back with a white underbelly. These birds require open habitat to hunt small flying insects that make up the majority of their diet. Each Tree Swallow family consumes more than 300,000 flying insects during the nesting season. Tree Swallows usually raise one brood per season, but more late second nestings in Ohio have been observed -- likely due to climate change.

While these birds once nested mostly in secondary cavities excavated and abandoned by woodpeckers (thus the name "tree" swallow), today they take readily to man-made nest boxes with 1-1/2" entry holes. This species is so prevalent that it out-competes Eastern Bluebirds and other native cavity nesters.



## Black-Capped Chickadees



Two species of chickadees thrive in Ohio. The black-capped Chickadee lives in the northern half of the state. The Carolina Chickadee resides in central and southern Ohio. It appears that the line between these two species is Ohio State Route 30.

Black-capped Chickadees often begin nesting before House Wrens migrate back to Ohio. Unfortunately, the habitat of the black-capped Chickadee is highly coveted by the House Wren. House Wrens often pierce eggs and young nestlings of other birds and toss them out of a nesting area.

### House Wrens

House Wrens return to the Bass Islands mid to late April. The House Wrens love wood-edge and brushy habitat. A nest box with a 1-1/8" hole will allow them to nest safely. House Wrens are insect eaters. They have a beautiful bubbly song. In May, the StoryWalk Trail at Dodge Woods Preserve provides a site to watch and listen. The House Wrens will scold anyone who approaches their nesting area -- a big voice out of such a small bird!

### 2023– Birds Fledged

TRAIL	TRES	BARS	HOWR	PUMA	HOSP*	EUST*
Airline Road	92	18		137	11	4
Duggan				29	1	2
Woodland Trails (Jane Coates, Dodge Woods and Wildlife Center)	18		19		1	
Scheeff East Point Natural Preserve	74			169	5	1
South Bass Island Lighthouse	14			59	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>

TRES = Tree Swallow; BARS = Barn Swallow; HOWR = House Wren; BCCH = Black Capped Chickadee; PUMA = Purple Martin \* Non-native House Sparrow (HOSP) or European Starling (EUST) attempts. No HOSP or EUST fledged from housing.

## **Managing Habitat**

Put-in-Bay Township Park District has installed an Osprey platform at the Middle Bass Island Preserve. Ospreys have been sighted in the area, but none have used the platform for their nest.

The Park District has also installed Chimney Swift structure to provide an alternative site rather than chimneys. No swifts have thus far used the structure.

In an effort to assist in preserving the habitat for bats, the Park District has installed a “Bat Tower” at the Cleveland Preserve on Middle Bass Island.

Tree Swallow nesting boxes have been installed at a number of preserves. All Tree Swallow nesting boxes are occupied each fall.

## **Monarch Watch**

Put-in-Bay Township Park District is a member of Monarch Watch and has designated South Bass Island and Middle Bass Island as “Monarch Islands.” Hundreds of thousands of Monarch butterflies migrate through the islands each year.

The Park District provides habitat for the Monarch and supports and encourages the survival of the Monarch butterfly by reestablishing native milkweed plants and nectar plants and encouraging citizens to plant milkweed and nectar plants on their properties throughout the Islands. The milkweed plant, in particular, is an absolute necessity for the existence of the Monarch. The Monarch lays its eggs on milkweed.

The monarch annual cycle is quite extraordinary! It involves an overwintering phase that follows a long fall migration, a remigration in the spring and a succession of generations before the start of the next fall migration. This pattern is made even more complex because it involves overlapping generations and a total of 4 migrations. In the last twenty years, the Monarch butterfly population has declined at an alarming rate.

“Monarch Island” signs have been placed at different locations on the Islands.

## **Poker Kayak Day**

The Poker Kayak Day at Middle Bass Island is held in August each year. The 2023 Poker Kayak Day was the 8<sup>th</sup> of the annual event. The kayakers paddle around Middle Bass Island and stop at a number of sites. The sites are manned by volunteers for safety and to distribute poker cards and snacks. Contestants receive a card at each stop. The collection of cards gathered at the sites, becomes the contestant’s poker hand. Prizes are awarded. Proceeds from the event benefit Put-in-Bay Township Park District. Tina Larson, Middle Bass Island, has chaired the event since its inception.

## Middle Bass Music Fest

The Middle Bass Music Festival has become an annual tradition at Middle Bass Island, Ohio. The one day event takes place from noon to 7:00 PM, at the Lonz Winery Patio and Pavilion. Numerous bands play for the venue and refreshments are available. The proceeds from this event benefit the Middle Bass Island Preserves. Although the 2023 Middle Bass Music Festival was rainy and cold, the event raised over \$11,000.00.

## Levy for Funding

Put-in-Bay Township Park District placed a 1.1 mill levy on the November 2022 General Election ballot. The levy intended to enable Put-in-Bay Township Park District to purchase a vineyard , adding an additional component an historical working island homestead park. 387 votes were cast: 164 for the levy and 223 against the levy. The levy failed. The Park District is grateful to Stacey Clink who headed the Political Action Committee for the Park District levy.

A 1 mill levy will be placed on the November 2024 ballot for the purpose of purchasing a vineyard.

Presently, Put-in-Bay Township Park District, as a governmental entity, has been approved by the Ottawa County Budget Commission to receive .7 (7/10) inside millage for construction, improvements, acquisition of property, maintenance, indebtedness, and any other lawful purpose.

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*“Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed.”*

– Mahatma Gandhi

## Objectives and Goals

The Board of Commissions of Put-in-Bay Township Park District recognizes that forested areas and natural fields in Put-in-Bay Township are disappearing to development at an alarming rate. It is the hope of this Board that commercial and residential development will be complemented with areas of green space, natural areas that preserve the natural heritage of the Islands.

Natural areas have an inherent value and an aesthetic value. They are sites that help to safeguard the unique flora and fauna of the Lake Erie Islands. Put-in-Bay Township Park District continues to



preserve natural, scenic, and agricultural locations to enhance the quality of life for the residents and visitors of Put-in-Bay Township. The Board of Commissioners continues to review and to evaluate unique and exceptional areas in terms of preservation as park land.

Vineyards within Put-in-Bay Township are disappearing. For years, vineyards were the economic mainstay of the Islands and are intricately interwoven into the historic fabric of Put-in-Bay Township. The pressures of increased development and the subsequent rise in land value have created a situation where the operation of vineyards is rapidly becoming economically unfeasible. Put-in-Bay Township Park District has an interest in creating a park that would preserve and maintain an operating vineyard. This may be the only way in which vineyards continue to exist in the Islands.

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District continues to work with the Black Swamp Conservancy, the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, the Trust for Public Land, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Coastal Management Assistance Program, the Conservation Fund, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Program, the Ohio NatureWorks Program, the Ottawa, Seneca, Sandusky Solid Waste District Programs, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Ohio Public Works Commission, The Ohio State University, the National Park Service, the Ottawa County Park District, and the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy in efforts to preserve and protect areas of significant ecological importance.

## **Employees**

Courtney Blumensaadt is the Clerk/Fiscal Officer of the Park District.

Patrick Green is a part-time groundskeeper and maintenance employee for the Park District.

Chris Helman, retired law enforcement officer, is a part-time maintenance employee on Middle Bass Island.

## **UAN – Uniform Accounting Network**

Put-in-Bay Township Park District is a member of the State of Ohio UAN system. The system functions under the auspices of the Auditor of the State. The Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) provides a software package and support for accounting, payroll and financial management. The UAN also provides computer equipment and technical support.

## Advisory Council



The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy serves as the advisory council to the Put-in-Bay Township Park District. The LEIC is composed of a ten member board of directors.

The LEIC has played and will continue to play a significant role in the maintenance, preservation, and planning involving properties owned by Put-in-Bay Township Park District.

We are pleased to have this conservation agency as a part of the Put-in-Bay Township Park District.

\*\*\*\*\*

*"I think that I cannot preserve my health and spirits, unless I spend ... time sauntering through the woods and over the hills and fields, absolutely free from all worldly engagements".*

—Henry David Thoreau

*"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."*

—The Lorax (Dr Seuss)

## Future Projects -- The Duff Vineyard Project



### **The Duff Vineyard Project**

The acquisition of the Duff properties to create a farmstead/homestead preserve complex is a three-part effort.

1) The first phase has been completed. The Duff Woods Preserve on Mitchell Road was acquired with the assistance of a Clean Ohio grant. The dedication of the 13.7 acres was held on September 18, 2022. A nature trail has been constructed. This park is open to the public.

2) The second phase of this project has also been completed. The Put-in-Bay Township Park District was fortunate to be awarded a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant to purchase four acres of the lakefront Duff homestead, including two acres of woods owned by Sue and Walter Duff. The Park District looks forward to the opportunity to have an office, storage, interpretive visitor center, pollinator habitat area, and lakefront which will be open to the public.

With the assistance of numerous donations, the Park District was able to raise over \$40,000.00 toward the renovation of the Homestead. That renovation is underway.

3) Yet to be completed is the third phase of this project -- to purchase the Walter and Susan Duff vineyard. In November 2022, A levy intended to purchase this property was unsuccessful.

The Park District continues to seek funding to complete this purchase to protect the Island's viticulture heritage and to create a working farm park. A levy will be placed on the ballot in November 2024.



The Duff Home will be a visitor center with storage and office space

## Other Future Projects

The Park District is working to prevent erosion at the Scheeff East Point Preserve and at Middle Bass East Point Preserve; to replace or repair the metal stairway and to repair the dock at the Massie Cliffside Preserve dock; to improve walking trails, install additional interpretive signs, and upgrade parking areas within the Park District Preserves.

### **Scheeff and Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve Restoration**



With the help of multiple funding agencies, the Put-in-Bay Township Park District is nearing the groundbreaking of its largest and most ambitious habitat restoration project yet. The Scheeff East Point Preserve on South Bass Island and the East Point Preserve on Middle Bass Island have both been experiencing severe coastal erosion over the past several years resulting in significant land and habitat loss.

Over the past year the Park District worked with its consulting engineers to develop full engineering and design plans and to receive the necessary permits to implement a natural shoreline restoration project. In the fall of 2023, the Park District solicited bids for the restoration activities at the Scheeff East Point Preserve. Shoreline Contractors, Inc. was selected as the lowest and best bidder for the work. Shoreline erosion prevention work should begin in spring or early summer of 2024. The Park District is currently finalizing plans for the Middle Bass East Point Preserve shoreline restoration work and hope to begin soliciting bids in 2024.

When restoration begins at the Scheeff East Point Preserve, the Park District will close the park, its trail, and the shoreline to public access. The Park District will advertise the closure and place signage at the Scheeff Nature Preserve in the weeks prior to closure.

The shoreline restoration project is being funded by grants from three different sources: a National Coastal Resilience Fund grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant administered by the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC), and an Emergency Erosion Assistance Grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR).

As part of the erosion control project, Put-in-Bay Township Park District, in coordination with Put-in-Bay Township, will make Improvements to Deist Road on Middle Bass Island. The work will ensure road does not flood and erode as frequently and severely as it has in the past. This project was also funded by the ODNR Emergency Erosion Assistance Grant program. This project is a collaborative effort between the Park District and Put-in-Bay Township.

## **Put-in-Bay Township Park District Areas Needing Protection**

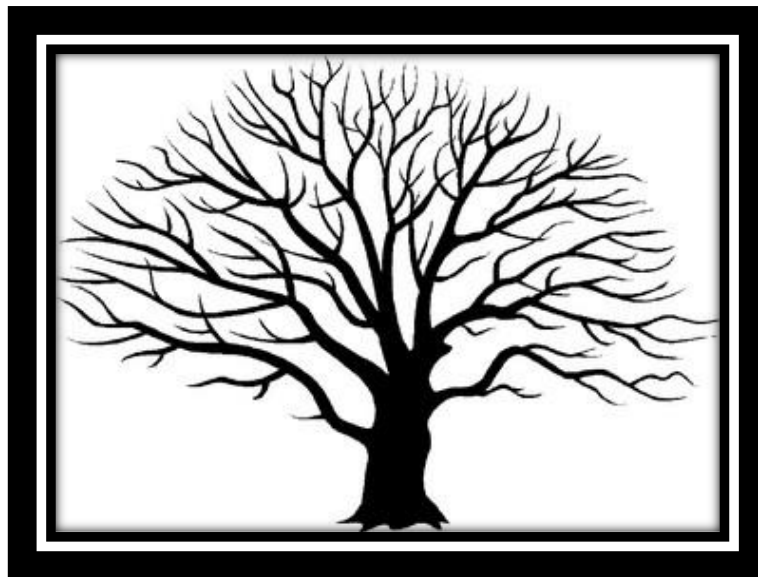
In cooperation with the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, Put-in-Bay Township Park District recognizes the need for the protection of unique, sensitive areas in the Lake Erie Islands.

This list includes recommendations from The Ohio State University Stone Lab, the Ohio Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies and researchers.

- 1. Karst Topography or Wild Caves** - Karst topography is a landscape formed from the dissolution of soluble rocks such as limestone, dolomite, and gypsum. It is characterized by underground drainage systems with sinkholes and caves. There are approximately 30 caves on South Bass Island that have been inventoried by the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves and by Wittenberg University. An isopod (small crustacean) new to science was found in one of the private caves.
- 2. Wetlands, marshes, swamp forests** - Wetlands on the islands are distinctive with a mix of eastern, southern and western species of plants. The ponds on the islands are unique geologic features studied by OSU Stone Lab for their plant zonation from swamp forest, shrubs like buttonbush, emergent vegetation such as bulrush, sedges, and duck potato, and finally floating leaved plants like water lilies and water lotus at the northern edge of its range here. Ohio threatened Blanding's turtles have been recorded in island wetlands and rare triploid salamanders use the wet woods.
- 3. Cliff Habitat** – Island Cliffs are home to a rare plant community of mixed northern species like Harebells (*Campanula rotundifolia*) and prairie species like Big-blue stem (*Andropogon gerardii*.)

4. **Shoreline** - An alvar is an area of little or no soil over limestone or dolomite bedrock resulting in a rare community of sparse vegetation. The Bass Islands contain many alvar like areas where plants like Kalm's lobelia (*Lobelia kalmii*), northern bog violet (*Viola nephrophylla*) and balsam squawweed (*Packera pauperculus*) are found. Sand beaches also hold many state listed and unique plant species.
5. **Forest Assemblages** - The forests on the Bass Islands are distinctive. The dolomite just below the surface supports trees such as blue ash, chinkapin oak, and hackberry. Forests on the drier sites are made up of sugar maple, common hackberry, and basswood-more typical of forests found on morainal ridges further to the north than the typical beech-maple or oak hickory associations found on the mainland. If these forests are within ¼ mile of the shoreline, they are critical habitat for migratory songbirds.
6. **Reefs** - The importance of reefs to spawning and feeding fish has been noted by Ohio Sea Grant and by the Nature Conservancy.
7. **Colonial Nesting Birds** - Protection of the areas that herons, gulls, and terns use for nesting is vital.
8. **Vineyards** - Grape growing is an important part of island heritage. The retention of vineyards is a priority for the Put-in-Bay Township Park District.
9. **State or Federally Listed Species** – The Park District endeavors to protect habitat for state threatened, federal species of concern such as Lake Erie watersnake (*Nerodia sepedon insularism*), the state threatened Blandings turtle, as well as the species of concern which includes the eastern garter snake and eastern fox snake. The Lake Erie Islands have unique populations of triploid ambystomid salamanders that also should be protected.

## Arbor Day 2023



The Village of Put-in-Bay Tree Commission Arbor Day was held on Friday, April 28, 2023.

There is a saying about the weather when planting a tree: If the weather is miserable for humans, it's good for the tree! The Bur Oak Tree and the Sycamore Tree that were planted during the 15th Annual Arbor Day

Celebration at the Arbor Day site near the Post Office should grow and prosper better than any other tree planted by the Village of Put-in-Bay Tree Commission. It was raining! It was blowing! It was cold!

Wood from the Bur Oak is used for flooring, fence posts, cabinets, and barrels. Acorns can be eaten boiled and raw. Native Americans used the bark to treat wounds, sores, and rashes. Wood from the Sycamore Tree is used for butcher's blocks, boxes and crates, furniture, and musical instruments.

In addition to their intrinsic beauty and innate magnificence, trees also reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality, conserve water resources, and create habitats and food for wildlife.

In the fifteen years since its creation by the Village of Put-in-Bay, the Tree Commission has been instrumental in planting more than forty trees in various locations in the Village and has assisted other organizations in their choice of trees to be planted. The Village of Put-in-Bay provides a stipend for the Arbor Day Celebration.

The Arbor Day Foundation is a million member nonprofit conservation and educational organization whose mission is to inspire the planting, nurturing, and celebrating of trees. The Village of Put-in-Bay achieved Tree City USA recognition by the Arbor Day Foundation. The Tree Commission continues to meet the four requirements for the award: a tree board, a tree care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget, and an Arbor Day celebration.

Meetings of the Village of Put-in-Bay Tree Commission are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 9:45 AM at the Village Town Hall. Members of the Village of Put-in-Bay Tree Commission are Lisa Brohl, Kelly Faris, and Kendra Koehler.

## **Great Lakes Islands Alliance – GLIA**

Put-in-Bay Township Park District continues to be a sponsoring member of the Great Lakes Islands Alliance, or GLIA. The organization is a collaborative network of islanders from 20 islands across the Great Lakes in both the U.S. and Canada.

Since 2018, the mission of GLIA has been to “encourage relationship building, foster information exchange, and leverage resources to address shared challenges and embrace opportunities to benefit islands.”

GLIA is the only entity in the Great Lakes region dedicated solely to the unique needs of island communities. Island communities have much in common, despite their differences in size, history, culture, and geography. GLIA shares local experiences across a wide range of topics, including environmental protection, transportation, tourism, housing, emergency services, island schools, and infrastructure. GLIA seeks solutions and looks to the future. The annual in-person Islands Summit for the fall of 2024 will be held on Sept 22-25, 2024, in Hessel/Cedarville, MI, home of the Les Cheneaux Islands in northern Lake Huron.

## **Use of Park District Preserves**

Along with the hundreds of residents and visitors who enjoy the Park District Nature Preserves, the following agencies and groups have used the Preserves: the Middle Bass and South Bass Environmental Adventure and Nature Camp, the Northeast Ohio GeoCachers, Put-in-Bay Girl Scouts, the Put-in-Bay School Environment Club, The Ohio State University, Marjorie Book Continuing Education Society, Rockford College of Northern Illinois, the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, Ohio Wing Watch, bird banding, the Put-in-Bay Legislative Day, and the Road Scholar Program.



## Partners

Put-in-Bay Township Park District works closely with the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy which serves as an advisory council to the Park District. The Park District assists in the educational efforts of the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center (LEINWC), and the Park District maintains cooperating agreements with the National Park Service and The Ohio State University to work on island preservation and environmental education.

## Legal Representation

Mr. James VanEerten, Ottawa County Prosecutor, serves as the legal counsel for Put-in-Bay Township Park District. The Park District has also retained the legal firm of Marshall and Melhorn for additional legal assistance. Marsha Collett has served as the Park District's legal advisor for special projects.

## Thank You!

A special Thank You to Neal Hess, conservation realtor and environmental consultant for the Park District; to Richard Gump of R. Gump Builders who has been extremely generous in donating his time, expertise, and equipment; to Mark Lekanka and the employees of Lekanka Construction, LLC for being the Parks District's "On Call" contractor, and to Lake Disposal for providing trash receptacles and pick up at the Scheeff Preserve and the Massie Cliffside Preserve. A special "thank you" to Scot and Caroline Jackson of the Goat Restaurant for hosting two fund raising events to benefit the Duff Homestead Preserve project. Thank you to all those individuals who walk the Preserves and pick up trash in their continuing efforts to keep the preserves beautiful. And to those who have contributed to this report, thank you!

*Volunteers are a vital asset to the success of the Park District!*

## A Chronology -- Conservancy in the Islands

### **1993 - Black Swamp Conservancy**

The Black Swamp Conservancy (BSC) was founded in 1993 in Perrysburg, Ohio, by a group of people alarmed by the rapidly accelerating rate of development in rural northwest Ohio. These concerned citizens recognized the need to protect and enhance the best remaining natural and agricultural areas in this region and to promote responsible stewardship of the land. Both Lisa Brohl and Kelly Faris served on this Board.

### **2000 - Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy**

The Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy was formed and functioned under the auspices of its parent organization the Black Swamp Conservancy. The six original members of the LEIC-BSC were Lisa Brohl, Chair; Kelly Faris, Treasurer; Carol Richardson, John Ladd, Lianne Genzman, and Claudette Moore. In 2015, the chapter became an independent, tax exempt, conservation organization known as the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy.

### **2003 - Lake Erie Water Snake-Ohio Division of Wildlife Conservation Easement Program**

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy operates a program of conservation easements to provide habitat for the Lake Erie watersnake and other wildlife on private property. The first easement was located on the western shore of Kelleys Island. This easement has been transferred to the Black Swamp Conservancy.

### **2004 - Petersen Woods-Middle Bass Island-1.5 acres**

This property was acquired by the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy in 2004 with a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant with matching funds from LEIC-BSC, the Ohio Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and the Division of Wildlife. The wet woods borders Lake Erie on the north and the Kuehnle State Wildlife Area to the east. It was dedicated in the fall of 2004.

**2006 - Lawrence Evans Property-Middle Bass Island - .75 acres**

This property was acquired in 2006 with Ohio Division of Wildlife Diversity and LEIC-BSC funds. The emergent wetland is located between Kuehnle State Wildlife Area and Petersen Woods.

**2006 - Prokesh Property-Middle Bass Island-Burgundy Bay-donation**

The wet woods of less than 1 acre was donated by the Prokesh Family. The land is adjacent to property owned by the Middle Bass Island State Park. Deed restrictions have been placed on the property.

**2006 – Ladd-Carr Wildlife Woods-South Bass Island - 2.1 acres**

This site was purchased with a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant and donations from Georgia Ladd McVean, Mary Ladd Carr, and Richard Gump. The property is protected as a natural area.

**2007 - Put-in-Bay Township Park District**

When an initiative petition from the residents of Put-in-Bay Township was presented to the Court of Common Pleas of Ottawa County, Judge Moon created Put-in-Bay Township Park District. The creation of the Park District was affirmed at the General Election in November of 2007. The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy serves as an advisory board to the Park District.

**2007 - Jane Coates Wildflower Trail-South Bass Island - 3 acres**

Adjacent to Ladd-Carr Wildlife Woods, this property was acquired from the La Plante and Woischke families with a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant with matching funds from donor Vince Cox in memory of Jane Coates. A footpath entrance and small parking area are located on Put-in-Bay Road near the Maple Leaf Cemetery.

**2008 - Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve-South Bass Island - 9 acres**

This was a joint project with Put-in-Bay Township Park District, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, the Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy. The purchase was secured with a Section 6, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Grant for \$1.8 million, a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant, and donations from the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, the Ohio Division of Wildlife, First Energy Foundation, Sandusky Eagles Foundation, and private individuals. The preserve was named for major donor Rose Scheeff.

**2008 - Gump Woods-South Bass Island—Victory Woods.**

This wooded property was donated by Richard Gump in 2008. The property is less than 1 acre. The site provides a wildflower display in the spring and its proximity to Lake Erie shores provides habitat for migratory songbirds.

**2009 - Jane Coates Wildflower Trail Addition-South Bass Island - 2 acres**

Two additional wooded acres to the north of the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail were purchased with a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant, Nature Works grant, and donations from foundations and individuals.

**2009 - Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center-South Bass Island.**

The Center includes 1.2 acres of woods with two cave sites. The former Alaskan Birdhouse Museum and its contents was donated by Stan and Joey Wulkowicz. The center was first operated under the Lake Erie Islands Historical Society with a joint board of directors made up of Lake Erie Islands Conservancy members. The property is now operated by the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center, nonprofit charitable organization. A frog pond, bald eagle's nest exhibit, nature trail, and phenology and butterfly gardens are on the property.

**2010 - Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve-Middle Bass Island - 8 acres**

Funding for the purchase came from the Trust for Public Lands, a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant, a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant, an Ohio Coastal Management Assistance Grant, the Sandusky Eagles Foundation, Friends of Magee Marsh, the Frost Parker Foundation, Firelands Audubon, and private donations. Annual bird banding efforts have led to a management plan for a variety of habitat for migratory birds. A Lake Erie watersnake hibernacula has been constructed on site. An osprey platform was erected on site in 2013. This preserve is accessible to the public by kayak only.

**2013 - Costello Tract-Middle Bass East Point Preserve-Middle Bass Island - 4 acres**

This four acre parcel was purchased with a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant by the Put-in-Bay Township Park District in 2013. The grant was written by the Black Swamp Conservancy with assistance and funds from the Lake Erie Islands Chapter. The Black Swamp Conservancy holds a conservation easement on the property. The wooded four acre parcel is t-shaped with frontage on Norman, South Shore and North Shore Drives and is in close proximity to the MBI East Point Preserve. This acquisition adds to the acres protected for migratory birds, the Lake Erie watersnake, and two species of concern - the eastern fox snake and the melanistic phase of the eastern garter snake.

**2014 - Woischke Purchase - 2 acres**

An additional two wooded acres to the north of the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail Addition was purchased with a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant. Matching funds were provided through a Lake Erie Islands Critical Habitat grant and funds from the LEIC-BSC. With this purchase, there are now 9 acres of protected natural land: the Ladd-Carr Wildlife Woods, the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail, and the Woischke Addition.

**2014 - Schneider Parcel-Middle Bass Island - 7.33 acres**

This seven acre parcel was purchased through Ohio's Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP), created by the Clean Ohio Act of 1987. The site is a forested wetland (Great Lakes limestone plain forest) and contains successional forest habitats on Middle Bass Island. It provides habitat for migratory songbirds, eastern fox snake, and salamanders.

**2015 - Middle Bass Forested Wetlands-Burgundy Bay Tract - 6 acres**

This parcel was purchased with Ohio's Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) funds by Put-in-Bay Township Park District. The parcel has frontage on Fox Road. It is currently an undeveloped wet woodland with habitat for salamanders, migratory songbirds, frogs, and wetland plant communities.

**2015 - Massie Cliffside Preserve-South Bass Island - 7 acres**

The Massie's Cliffside Preserve was purchased with a grant from the Lake Erie Islands Critical Habitat Clean Ohio Fund with matching funds from the WRRSP program, the LEIC, and private donors. The site includes 265 feet of Lake Erie shoreline with cliffs and the state threatened harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*.) There is a walking path to the lake. Benches overlooking the lake have been installed. A dock is available for fishing and as a stop on the Lake Erie Islands Water Trail. The Park District was awarded a NatureWorks grant and Ohio Coastal Zone Management Grant to remove the buildings, install parking and trails, and replant trees. The Massie Cliffside Preserve was dedicated on August 7, 2016, with unveiling of the entrance sign, an interpretive sign at the second parking area, and a bench in honor of Lisa Brohl. Benches were installed with funds from private donors.

**2015 - Lake Erie Islands Conservancy created**

Lake Erie Islands Conservancy is recognized by the State of Ohio and the Federal Government as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable organization.

**2016 - Knam Parcel- 4 acres on South Bass Island**

The Knam parcel is adjacent to the Massie Cliffside Preserve. The four acre property was purchased with a CELCP grant (Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program) and a Great Lakes Initiative grant received by Put-in-Bay Township Park District. This wooded parcel will bring the total area of the Massie Cliffside Preserve to 11 acres.

**2016 - Middle Bass Forested Wetland Addition**

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District received a CELCP grant and a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant to purchase 12 acres of wet woodland adjacent to the other parcels owned by the Park District.

**2017 - Dodge Woods Preserve - 3.5 acres**

Put-in-Bay Township Park District purchased the 3.5 acres of woods with a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant. A StoryWalk trail was installed by the Erie Islands Branch of the Ida Rupp Library. Members of the community sponsor individual signs/pages.

**2017 - Burgundy Bay Lots - 4 acres**

Fifteen small lots (10' x 750') totaling just under four acres were purchased with funds from the Lake Erie Islands Critical Habitat Clean Ohio Conservation Fund and CELCP grants. These lots are immediately to the south of the Middle Bass Forested Wetland-Burgundy Bay Tract purchased in 2015.

**2017 - Foley Donation - 2 lots**

Put-in-Bay Township Park District accepted a donation of two lots in Victory Woods from John P. and Ellen Foley. (Lot 46 and Lot 48 of Victory Woods.)

**2017 - Watson Donation - .5 acre**

Maribeth Watson donated a .5 acre parcel of wet woods off of Anchor Lane on Middle Bass Island. The parcel is a subdivision within Burgundy Bay. Deed restrictions were placed on the parcel.

**2018 - Dieperink Purchase – 7 acres**

In January 2018, the Put-in-Bay Township Park District purchased seven acres from the Dieperink Family. These parcels are adjacent to the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve

**2019 - Middle Bass Forested Wetland Addition-Hahn Parcel - 8.2 acres**

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District purchased 8.2 acres from Carl Hahn. The purchase of these mature wet woodlands was made possible with grants from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund and the Coastal Estuarine Land Conservation Program.

**2019 - Middle Bass Forested Wetland Addition- Island Development Parcel - 4.4 acres**

Put-in-Bay Township Park District purchased the Island Development Parcel from the estate of Roy Curtis and the Burgundy Bay Association. Funding for the purchase came from the Coastal Estuarine and Land Conservation Fund, the Conservation Fund, TC Energy and its subsidiary Columbia Gas LLC, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Ohio, the Conservation Fund, and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) implemented through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program. The parcel has early successional habitat fronting Fox Rd. with more mature swamp forest in the rear.

**2019 - Middle Bass Forested Wetland Addition-Burgundy Bay Lots-9 lots - 2 acres**

Funds were provided by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) implemented through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program to purchase nine lots in the Burgundy Bay subdivision area adjacent to the Middle Bass Forested Wetlands Preserve. These parcels are wet wooded lots.

**2020 – Cooper's Woods-South Bass Island - 18.7 acres**

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy purchased Cooper's Woods Preserve from the DeRivera Park Trust. Funding was provided by a \$2 million grant from the Conservation Fund and the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund. On June 29, 2020, Cooper's Woods was transferred to the Put-in-Bay Township Park District. A conservation easement is held by the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy.

**2020 - Benjamin Parcel-South Bass Island - 2.53 acres**

The Put-in-Bay Township received a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant to purchase 2.53 acres of wooded land abutting the Cooper's Woods Preserve. The parcel was purchased from the Benjamin family.

**2020 – Cleveland - Middle Bass Island, East Point - 2.83 Acres**

The PIBTPD received a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant toward the purchase. A split rail fence has been placed around the northern edge of the preserve. A bullet bat house has been placed on the property and a kiosk has been installed.

**2020 - Dodge Woods Addition - .7 acres**

The PIBTPD received a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund for a portion of the purchase. The parcel is immediately adjacent to the Dodge Woods Preserve. The area is wooded and has an abundance of wildflowers. The open lawn portions will revert to woodlands and will provide a buffer for the trail currently on the parcel.

**2020 - Manderbach Donation - .485 acres**

The parcel of woods is adjacent to the Costello Tract on Middle Bass Island. Aaron and Marianne Manderbach donated the parcel to Put-in-Bay Township Park District.

**2022 – Morrison Woods Preserve – 4.121 acres**

The parcel is located at the corner of Put-in-Bay Road and Meechen Road. A donation for the purchase was provided by the estate of Mary Morrison.

**2022 – Duff Woods Preserve – 13.7 acres**

The 13.7 acre preserve was purchased with a grant from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund with matching funds from the Put-in-Bay Township Park District, Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, and support from the three property owners, Walter, Allen, and Marvin Duff. The land will be preserved as a natural area.

**2023 – Duff Homestead – 6.0 acres**

The property includes the historic Duff home which will be refurbished as a visitor center and an office. The two acres of wooded property will eventually have a walking trail. This wooded area is a prime birding site. The Homestead site will also have a pollinator site. A variety of trees will be planted at the site.



## **Intern**

Adrianna Burghardt was the 2023 AmeriCorps Intern for Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center, as well as the Put-in-Bay Township Park District. She is a native of Troy, Ohio. Ms. Burghardt is in her senior year at the University of Dayton where she will earn a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology and hopes to pursue a master's degree. During Ms. Burghardt's summer internship, she assisted in the release of Parasitoid wasps to control the Emerald Ash Borer, banded birds, provided educational programs to visitors, picked up trash at the Park District Preserves, and worked at the Wildlife Center and the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy's Middle Bass Island Music Festival.

AmeriCorps is a federal agency that funds organizations to make positive impact in society and to support the placement of AmeriCorps members in communities. AmeriCorps provides more than \$800 million in grants every year.

## **Recycling**

Put-in-Bay Township Park District continues to maintain recycling bins provided by the Ottawa Seneca Sandusky Solid Waste District at Jane Coates Wildflower Trail, Scheeff East Point Preserve, Dodge Woods Preserve, and Massie Cliffside Preserve. The bins, made with recycled materials, are marked for aluminum, glass, plastic and trash. In 2023, Put-in-Bay Township Park District was awarded a grant from the Ottawa Seneca Sandusky Solid Waste District to purchase two additional recycling containers: one for the Duff Woods Preserve and one for the Morrison Woods Preserve.

## **Spotted Lanternfly – Caution!**



The invasive Spotted Lanternfly has been found for the first time in Ohio. The insect was found in Mingo Junction, Ohio. If the Spotted Lanternfly becomes entrenched in Ohio, it could have a devastating effect on farms. The species may adversely affect vineyards, the major crop grown on the Island. Among the favorite host plants of the Spotted Lanternfly are grapes and other fruits, although its preferred host is the Tree-of-Heaven. (The Tree-of-Heaven was brought to California by Chinese immigrants during the Gold Rush.)

Put-in-Bay Township Park District has identified the Tree-of Heaven in some of its preserves and is in the process of eradicating the tree with the use of herbicides and girdling. If performed in the fall, girdling, cutting around the entire circumference of the tree, stops nourishment between the roots and the leaves and then herbicide immediately applied in the cut draws down into the root system.

### **Managing Habitat for Bats**

Bats are the only flying mammal. These night flying animals consume a tremendous amount of insects and play an important role in the ecosystem of the Islands.

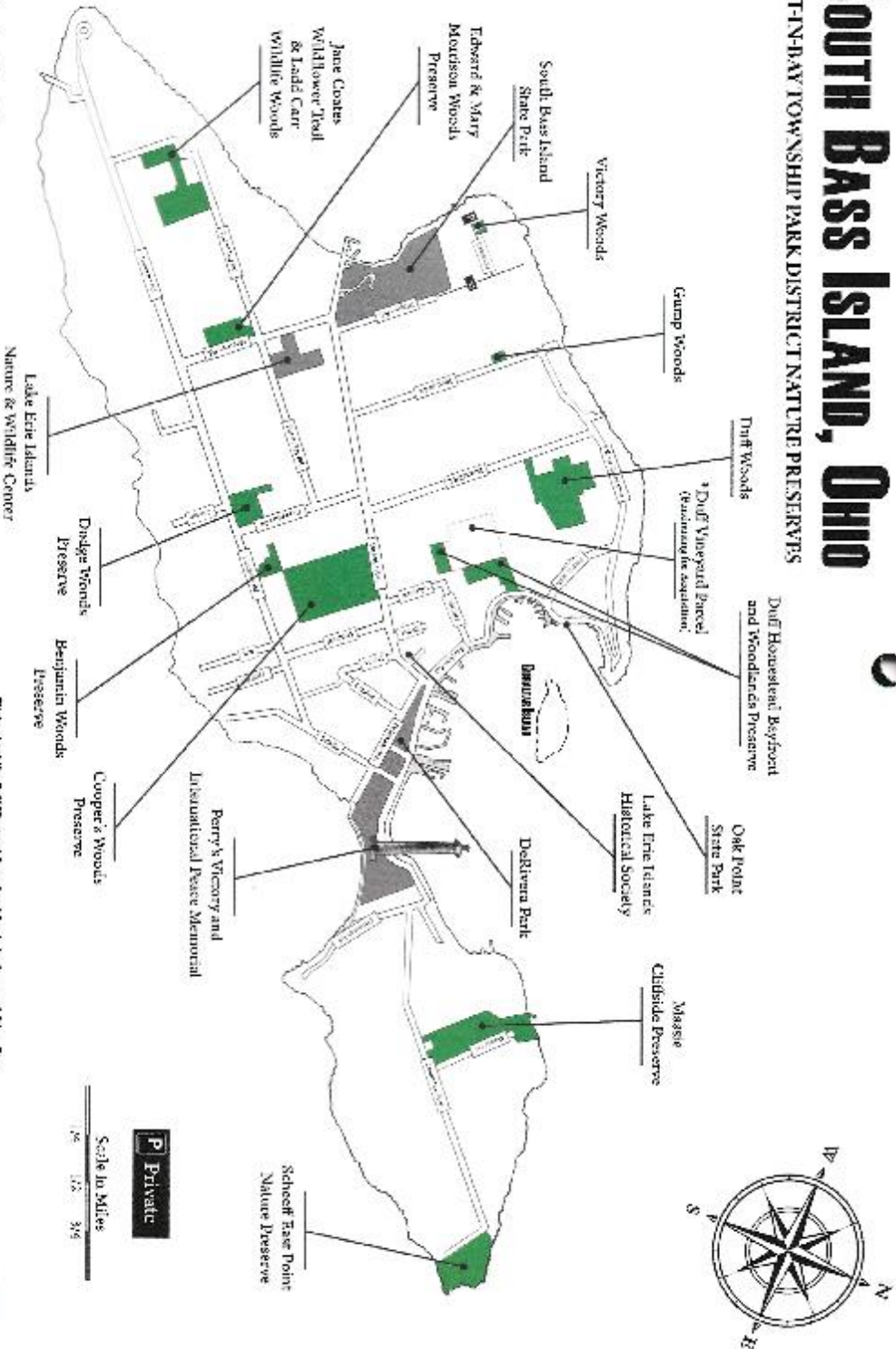
The habitat for bats is disappearing as natural areas become residential or commercial sites. In general, bats use a variety of daytime retreats such as caves, rock crevices, mines, and trees. Different species require different roost sites. The average lifespan of a bat is 20 years. In an effort to assist in preserving habitat for bats, the Park District has installed a “Bat Tower” at the Cleveland Preserve on Middle Bass Island.

## End of the Year Financial Report for 2023

Put-in-Bay Township Park District	:	
Ottawa County Ohio		
Box 177		
Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456-0177		
Balance, Jan. 1, 2023		\$145,564.80
Receipts:		
Property Tax		\$107,990.87
Charges for Services		\$77,948.98
Intergovernmental Rev		\$418,111.34
		-----
Total Cash Receipts		\$604,051.19
Disbursements:		
Salaries		\$8,671.38
Property (Purchase/Development/Protection)		\$647,048.49
Audit		\$2,359.00
Office/ Operating Supplies/Materials:		\$10,000.00
Includes:		
Park signage, benches, publication materials, office materials, and any/all materials imperative to the functionality of the Park District		
		-----
Total Cash Disbursements		\$668,078.51
Excess of Receipts Over Disbursements		\$-64,027.32
Balance: Jan. 1, 2023		\$145,564.80
Balance: Dec. 31, 2023		\$81,537.48

# SOUTH BASS ISLAND, OHIO

PULPINAWY TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT NATURE PRESERVES



**Calendar Abbreviations:**

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1 FEB - Feb. Fieldwork Clearings                     | 1 APR - April Management     |
| 2 FEB - Feb. Fieldwork Maintenance (Feb 19-20, 2019) | 1 JUN - June Management      |
| 3 - MICH - Michigan Wildlife                         | 1 JUL - July Management      |
| 4 - MICH - Michigan Wildlife                         | 1 AUG - August Management    |
| 5 - MICH - Michigan Wildlife                         | 1 SEP - September Management |
| 6 - MICH - Michigan Wildlife                         | 1 OCT - October Management   |
| 7 - MICH - Michigan Wildlife                         | 1 NOV - November Management  |
| 8 - MICH - Michigan Wildlife                         | 1 DEC - December Management  |

**More about the Duff Vineyard Parcel and funds for Reacquisition:**

The Duff Vineyard Parcel is a 1.5-acre parcel of land located in the village of Toledo, Ohio. It is a historic parcel that was once used for grape growing. The parcel is currently owned by a private individual. The Duff Vineyard Parcel is a historic parcel that was once used for grape growing. The parcel is currently owned by a private individual. The Duff Vineyard Parcel is a historic parcel that was once used for grape growing. The parcel is currently owned by a private individual.





