



PUT-IN-BAY

T o w n s h i p

Park District

TRAIL GUIDE

**YOUR PASSPORT TO THE NATURE
PRESERVES OF THE LAKE ERIE ISLANDS**

WELCOME TO YOUR PRESERVES!

Fifteen 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 State of Ohio, and the Federal government, we have 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 and "...is dedicated to protecting and preserving unique areas that enhance the heritage of the Lake Erie Islands."

Thank You!

This Passport/Brochure will serve as your guide to the recreational trails of the Park District.



THE 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. The Ottawa County Board of Elections authenticated and validated the signatures. 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).

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.

The Islands are especially popular as stopovers for migrating birds crossing Lake Erie. The Islands also provide refuge for the Monarch Butterfly. The underwater riches of the lake and the matrix of Island



reefs provide habitat for a number of species of fish.

Wetlands, forests, and meadows provide habitat to various flora and fauna. With environmental management, outside disturbances can be minimized to maintain these unique natural environments and thus the rich biodiversity of the Islands.

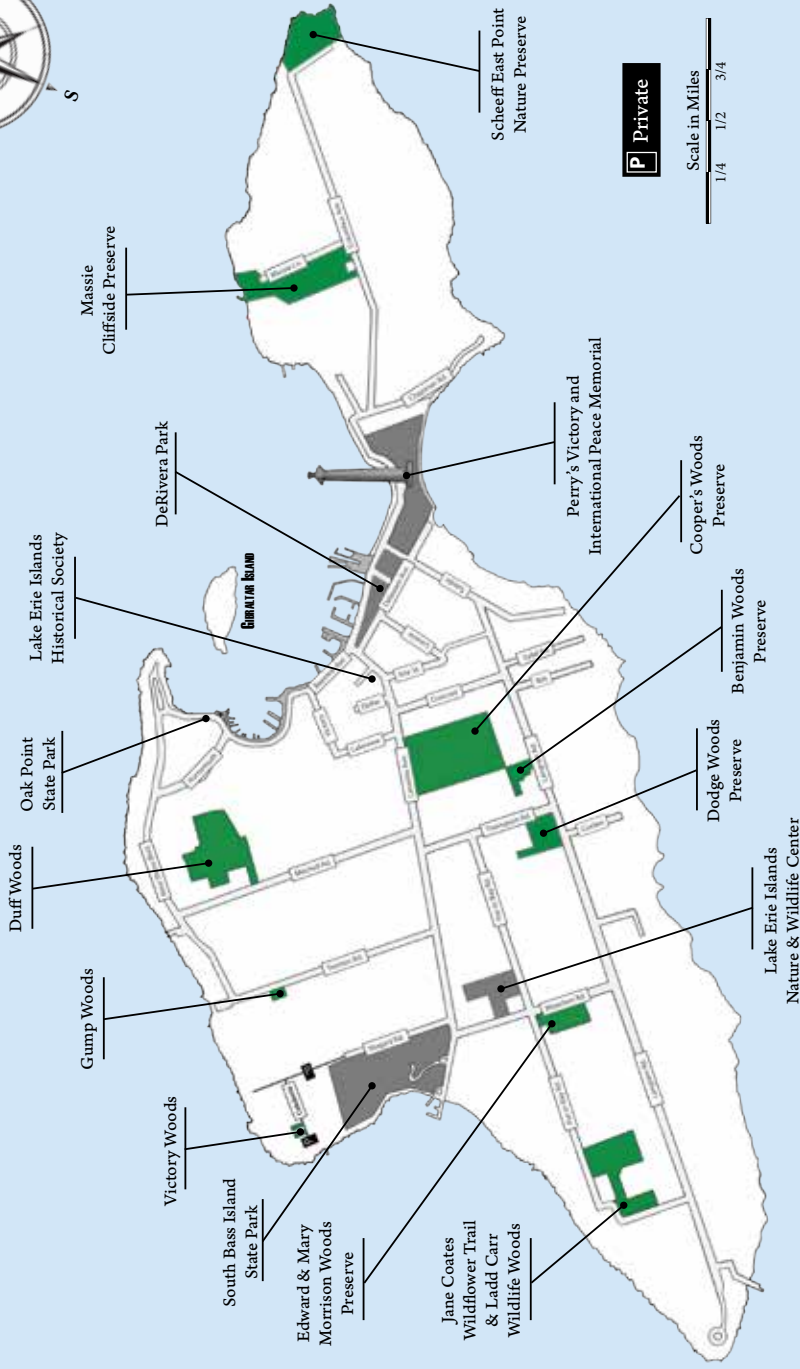
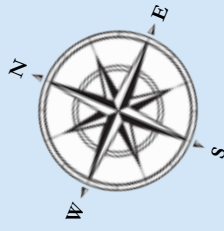


Put-in-Bay Township Park District recognizes that forested areas and natural spaces are disappearing to development at an alarming rate. The Park District preserves natural, scenic, and agricultural

locations to protect the vulnerable plants and animals of the Lake Erie Islands, enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors.

SOUTH BASS ISLAND, OHIO

PUT-IN-BAY TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT NATURE PRESERVES



MIDDLE BASS ISLAND, OHIO

PUT-IN-BAY TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT NATURE PRESERVES



JANE COATES WILDFLOWER TRAIL



Open dawn until dusk

Please stay on the trail, respect private property

Pets are strictly prohibited

No motorized vehicles or bicycles on trail

No Collecting

A 2,550 foot looped trail through the mature forested habitat of the Ladd Carr Wildlife Woods.



DODGE WOODS PRESERVE

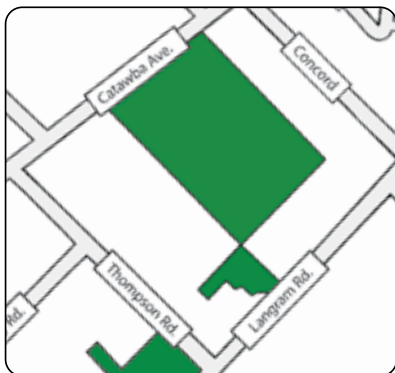


An 852 foot looped trail winds through a former vineyard which has become a young forest.

In collaboration with the Erie Islands Library, a

Put-in-Bay StoryWalk® has been installed along this trail. A StoryWalk® is an innovative way for children and adults to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. Seventeen Storyboard posts are placed along the mulched path and display laminated pages from children's books.

COOPER'S WOODS / BENJAMIN WOODS



The Cooper's Woods Preserve (18.7 acres) and Benjamin Woods Preserve (2.53 acres) are linked by a rugged loop trail of 2,635' with spur trails leading to Cooper's Woods Preserve parking area (85') and to the Benjamin Woods Preserve (725'). The



Shady Path Trail is a pleasant wooded 750' walk from the Cooper's Woods Preserve parking lot to The Goat Restaurant.

Susan Burnes

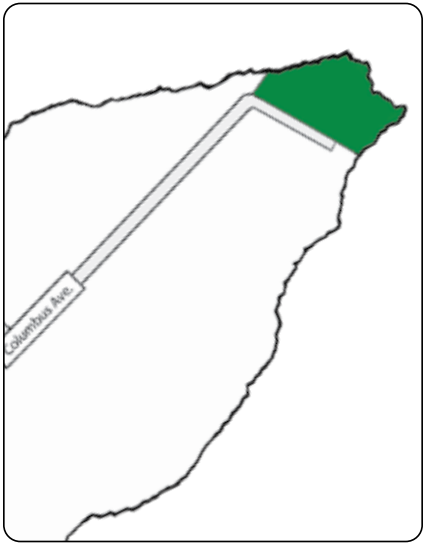
MASSIE CLIFFSIDE PRESERVE



A 1,750 foot trail winds through 11 acres of woods to dolomite cliffs. The preserve provides a spectacular view of Lake Erie and the surrounding islands.



SCHEEFF EAST POINT NATURE PRESERVE



A 2,205 foot looped trail follows the Lake Erie shoreline.



MIDDLE BASS ISLAND FORESTED WETLANDS PRESERVE

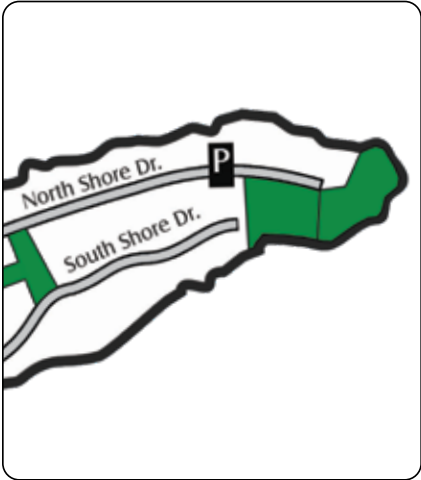


Middle Bass Island Forested Wetlands Preserve consists of four locations: Burgundy Bay Tract (limestone plain wetland forest habitat), Island Development Corporation Tract, Schneider Tract (forested wetland), and the Dieperink Tract (swamp forest). The trail is with the wet woods habitat of the Burgundy Bay parcel.

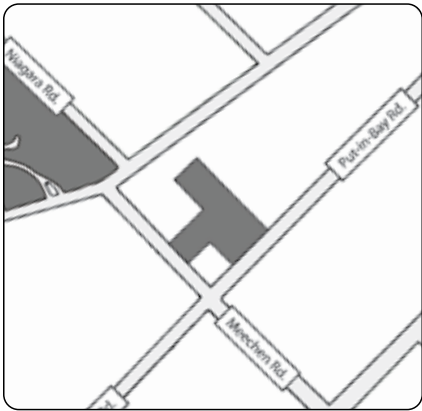
MIDDLE BASS ISLAND EAST POINT PRESERVE



This preserver is accessible by canoe and kayak only. A walking path circles through exceptional Lake Erie Islands shoreline and interior island habitat, natural beach lands, hardwood forest, and grasslands.



LAKE ERIE ISLANDS NATURE & WILDLIFE CENTER



A trail is located behind the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center. The LEINWC is dedicated to promoting conservation and education of the flora, fauna, and lands of the Lake Erie Islands ecosystem.



MORRISON WOODS PRESERVE



Morrison Woods is a nice walk in the shade of a young forest of common hackberry, ash, black walnut, black cherry, sugar maple and eastern red cedar with brushy edges of rough-leaved dogwood. The 4.21 acres of rocky ground and former vineyard provide habitat for migratory and resident songbirds. It is named for former

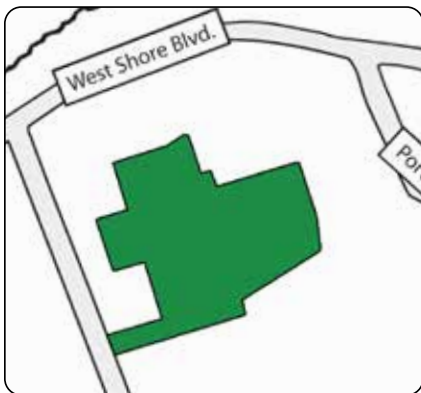
islanders, Edward and Mary Morrison. A looped 1270' trail starts at the corner of Meechen Road and Put-in-Bay Road. Two benches are located at the entrance to the preserve.



DUFF WOODS PRESERVE



The Duff Woods Preserve is 13.7 acres. A trail entrance on Mitchell Rd. leads to a long looped path through mature island forest of common hackberry, maple, oak, and hickory past spring brings a vast display of wildflowers. Listen for resident great horned owls, Baltimore orioles, yellow-billed cuckoos, and great crested flycatchers and in spring migratory warblers. The property has a unique karst geology that includes the presence of sinkholes, caves, karst swales and escarpments. A bald eagles nest is near the property.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT THESE NATURAL AREAS?

- Dispose of trash and recyclables in marked containers
- Appreciate natural areas but leave them undisturbed
- Take nothing from the Preserves
- Do not introduce non-native species, including live bait
- Observe wildlife from a distance
- Do not feed wildlife
- Keep pets on a leash
- Motorized vehicles and bicycles are prohibited
- Stay on marked trails

GET INVOLVED!

There are many volunteer opportunities available to assist the Park District such as: litter pickup, trail monitoring, mulching, fallen tree removal, removal of invasive species, bird banding assistance, and student research, or by mailing donations to the contact address provided in this passport to ensure the Park District's continued success.



LOOK FOR THESE ALONG YOUR JOURNEY!



Birds: bald eagles, purple martins, tree swallows, chimney swifts, herons, and various other songbirds and migratory birds



Reptiles & Amphibians: Lake Erie watersnake, eastern fox snake, eastern garter snake, and hybrid salamanders



Wildflowers: trout lilies, wild iris, jewelweed, columbine, harebell, Virginia waterleaf, bloodroot, wild leeks, false Solomon's Seal, buttercups, Enchanters nightshade, bellflower, Short's aster, goldenrod, Dutchman's breeches, Jack in the Pulpit, wild hyacinths, blue phlox, and appendaged waterleaf



Trees: green ash, silver maple, box elder, swamp white oak, bur oak, Chinquapin oak, elm, rough-leaved dogwood, sugar maple, hackberry, eastern red cedar, black walnut, black cherry, Kentucky coffeetree, mulberry, basswood, and blue ash

On behalf of the Put-in-Bay Township Park District, thank you for visiting these parks and preserves to witness these unique natural areas first-hand.

Please share your experience with others and encourage them to visit the nature preserves of the Put-in-Bay Township Park District and learn for themselves. Spreading awareness of the value of the Lake Erie Islands can help support the Park District for years to come.



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