



**2022  
Annual Report**

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

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

# 2022 Annual Report



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

Welcome to your Preserves!

Sixteen 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.

Thank you.

Members of the Board of Commissioners

Lisa Brohl

Kendra Koehler

Kelly Faris

## 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 Commissioners (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 Commissioners of Put-in-Bay Township Park District shall recommend to the Ottawa County Court of Common Pleas a person to fill that position. After the expiration of the original terms of office, each term of office shall be for a period of three (3) years.

The first meeting of the Board 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)

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

Three Year Term  
Term Expires: May 2023

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

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

## Duff Woods



The three Duff brothers: Allen, Marvin, and Walter cut the ribbon officially opening 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 Put-in-Bay Township Park District and the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy held a dedication of Duff Woods Preserve on Sunday, September 18, 2022, at the entrance on Mitchell Road.

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 in perpetuity as a natural area.



Group attending the Duff Woods Dedication, September 2022

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 Appendaged 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.

A bench for the Duff Preserve was purchased by Angie Ohlemacher, Meggin Weimerskirch, Melissa Banning and Ursula Marshalek in honor of their dogs. An additional bench was donated by Mark Nemeč in memory of his grandfather, Robert F. Nemeč.

# Morrison Woods Preserve



Morrison sisters Pat Morrison Marida and “Margie” Margaret Morrison cut the red ribbon officially opening the 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, a donation 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.



Entrance to Morrison Woods Preserve

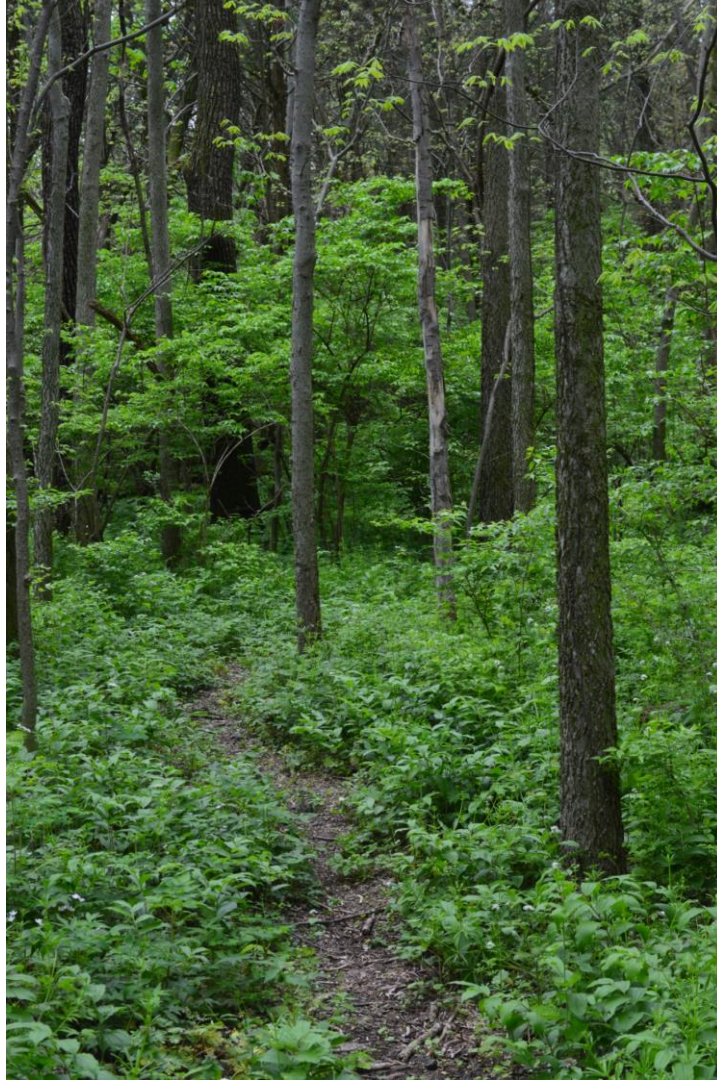
Benches were donated by Betty and Charles Finkbeiner in memory of the Morrissions, and by the Naugle family in memory of David and Sandy Naugle.



Naugle family members at bench which they donated to Morrison Woods

Top from left to right-Devon Naugle, Kevin Naugle, Summer Naugle, Brandon Naugle, Thomas DuVall, Kristine DuVall, Madeleine DuVall, Khloe Naugle, David Naugle  
Bottom from left to right-Matthew Naugle, Emma Naugle, Wendy Naugle, Alexa Naugle

## 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.

These 18.64 acres were donated to the Park District from the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy.

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

Cooper's Woods 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, Appendaged 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 have been studied extensively over the years by The Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory resulting in multiple publications of the research. The Ohio Natural Heritage Data Base documented the presence of the Eastern Fox Snake, and researcher Maggie Hantak reported the eastern melanistic garter snake on the property. Both snakes are Ohio Species of Concern.

The woods serve as an important population of the lead morph of the Eastern Red-back Salamander. The existing all lead morph population of Cooper's Woods is an extremely rare situation throughout the range of this species.



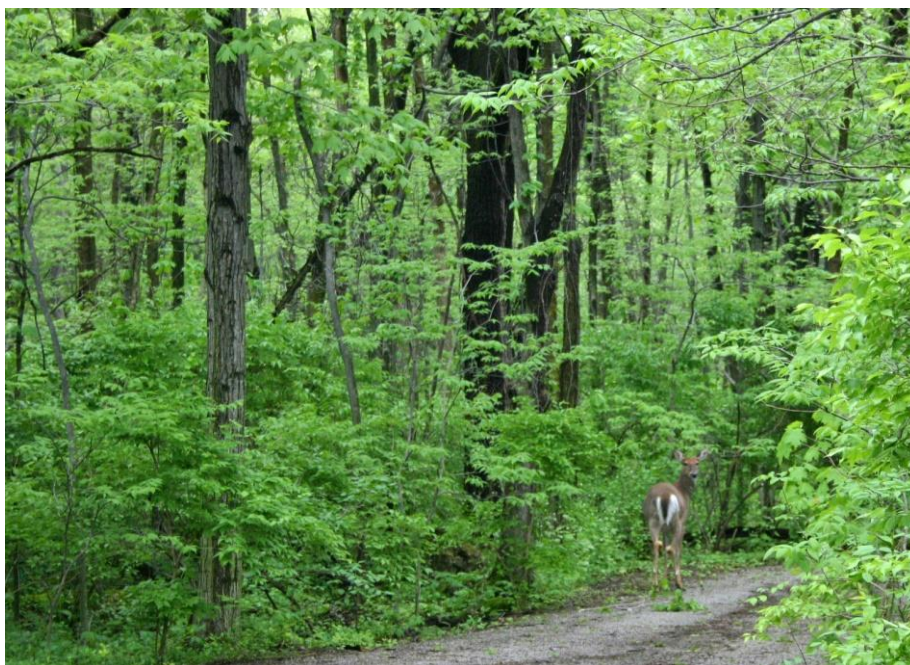
Eastern Red-backed Salamander - Photo by Kyle Brooks

The property's forestlands also serve as habitat for an important population of the lead morph of the Eastern Red-backed Salamander. The identification of the lead morph Eastern Red-Backed Salamander is extremely rare in this location.



Large-flowered Trillium at Cooper's Woods

## Benjamin Woods Preserve



Deer on path at 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, now encompassing more than 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 the woods also offer nesting habitat for resident songbirds and great horned owls. Benjamin Woods is home to 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. 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 a wooded trail system. A nature trail joins the Benjamin Woods Preserve with the Cooper's Woods Preserve trail loop. Interpretive signs are placed along the trail.

## 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, the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, 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.



Rugged cliffs along Lake Erie at Massie Preserve

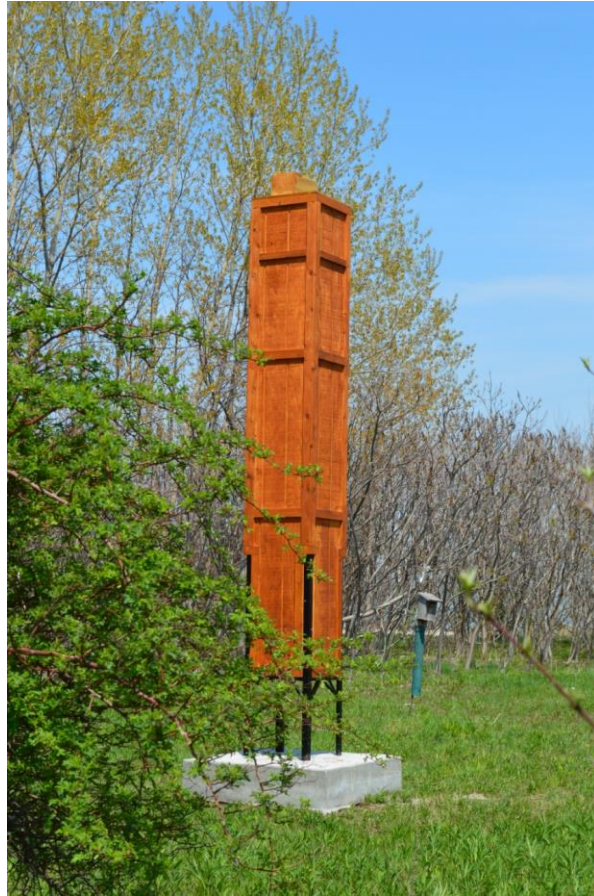
## Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve



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 (Section 6 Grant), Western Reserve Land Conservancy, First Energy, Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, Black Swamp Conservancy, Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Division of Natural Areas and Division of Wildlife, Lorain National Bank, Sandusky Eagles Foundation, 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 residents and visitors 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. The Scheeff preserve is monitored once a year by the Western Reserve Land Conservancy.



**Chimney Swift Tower – Scheeff East Point Preserve  
(Tree Swallow bird house in background)**

The Chimney Swift is a medium-sized, sooty gray bird with very long, slender wings and very short legs. Some have called the Chimney Swift a “flying cigar.”

The Chimney Swift spends most of its time flying, catching insects and even drinking by skimming over water. The swifts have a short legs and small feet. The bird cannot roost in trees, but can only roost by clinging to a vertical surface. The swifts mate for life. The female lays 4 to 5 eggs, and the young hatch in 19 days and fledge in about a month later. The birds live about five years.

Brick chimneys on houses and buildings are disappearing, and the number of Chimney Swifts is diminishing. There may or may not be a correlation between these two statements.

A man-made chimney has been erected at the Scheeff Preserve to provide nesting places for the swifts. The tower has a large enough diameter for the Chimney Swifts to nest and roost inside the shaft. The tower stands 14 feet high and is insulated to prevent the inside from overheating. Ventilation holes at the bottom permit air to circulate through the shaft and also prevent overheating. The holes are small so that snakes cannot enter the chamber. A removable bottom

piece facilitates cleaning at the end of the nesting season. Metal flashing at the top prevents raccoons and other animals from entering.

The inside of the tower has a rough texture so that the small birds can cling to the vertical interior where Swifts build their small nests from twigs and saliva. Last year, chimney swift feathers were found at the base of the chimney suggesting possible nesting or migratory roosting activity.

The Chimney Swifts winter in South America as far south as Peru. They will spend about six to seven months in their new tower, and will return to this tower year after year.

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



Dutchman's Breeches at Jane Coates Wildflower Preserve

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



Dutchman's Breeches

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 was provided by Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, NatureWorks, and private donations.

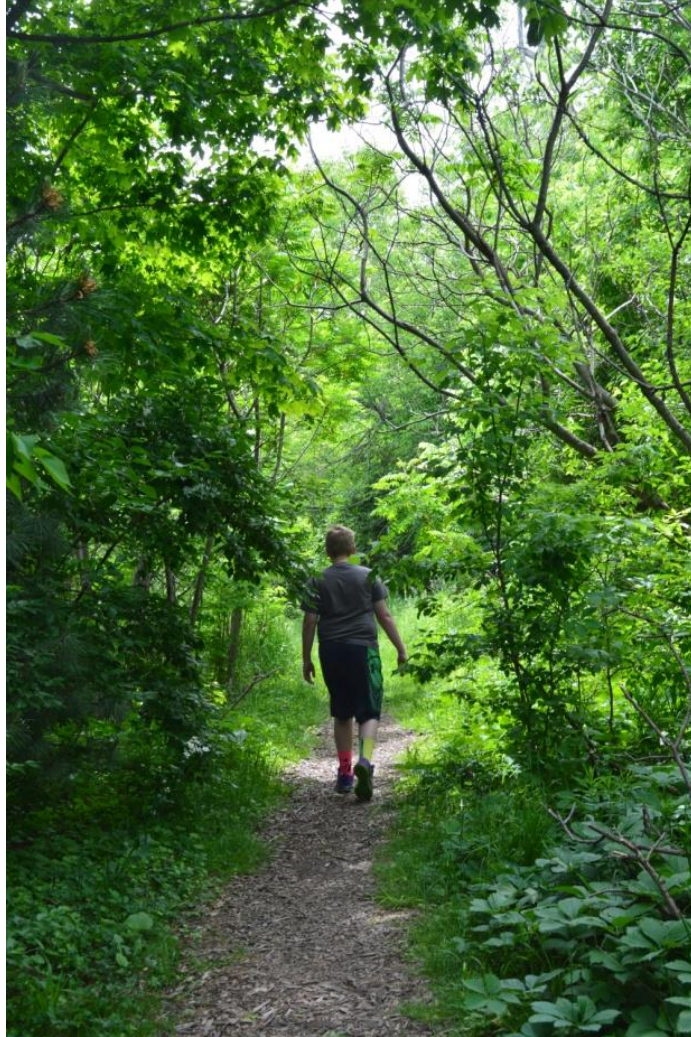
A 2,550 foot looped hiking trail weaves its way through the woods. A bench in the back of the preserve offers a spot for wildlife watching.

## 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. In a large part as the result 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, ensuring that the tract will be maintained in its natural state in perpetuity. 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 birdwatching in the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve.

The Park District is utilizing funds from the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Initiative to remove invasive plants and trees from the parcel.

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## 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.

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## 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 is 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, ensuring that the tract will be maintained in its natural state in perpetuity.

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## Middle Bass Forested Wetlands Preserve Schneider Tract



Baltimore Oriole

Location: Middle Bass Island, Fox Road  
Parcel: 023028680363000 Acres: 7.331  
Access: Area is 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 that supports “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 sensitive, ecological systems are rapidly disappearing within the Lake Erie Islands. The Schneider Tract will protect 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.

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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 encompasses 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. This year, two pan foot bridges were installed on the trail at the Burgundy Bay Tract. A pan foot bridge/walkway rests on top of the soil and no supports are drilled or bored into the ground. A sign will be installed with funding received from the Lake Erie Islands Middle Bass Island Music Festival.

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 which protects the remainder of the tract. A report is filed annually with the USFWS.

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# 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 the 7.6 acres from the Dieperink family.

Combined with the 7 acre Schneider Tract owned by the Park District, the tract is now 13.6 acres of contiguous forest. The eastern portion of this parcel is slightly higher in elevation than the surrounding parcels. 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 during 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 which 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 is funded by a National Park Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant. Matthew Monteith, a REU student, studied the forest composition of the two plots after this removal and analyzed soil samples from the parcels. The higher ground holds sugar maples, hackberry, and eastern red cedar. The area is within ¼ miles 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 located on the Dieperink Parcel.

An interpretive sign on Changing Island Forests has been installed.

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## 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.



House Wren Eggs – Dodge Woods

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.



StoryWalk along 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. Books are changed periodically by the Erie Islands Library manager Karen Wilhelm. The cost of the StoryWalk® is maintained by donations from the Ottawa County Community Foundation, community businesses, and residents.

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## 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 be additional habitat and a buffer to the Put-in-Bay StoryWalk® Trail.

Put-in-Bay Township Park District  
Protected and Conserved Properties

	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	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>155.58</b>	<b>94.47</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. An additional stop was added at Catawba Island at the Nehls Memorial Nature Preserve.

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. Andrea Irland, National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, provided technical assistance. Ohio Sea Grant developed the brochure and map of the Lake Erie Water Trails. The project was made possible by an Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

The Lake Erie Islands Water Trails has now become an official State of Ohio Water Trail. As a result of this official designation, the Park District is now eligible to receive funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for brochures and replacement signs. Due to high water, some signs have been replaced.

## 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
Appendaged 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, MBIEPP
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>	MBIEPP
Wild Hyacinth	<i>Camassia scilloides</i>	JT
White Trout Lily	<i>Erythronium albidum</i>	MBIEPP, 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 Upright 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>Symphiotrichium shortii</i>	ALL
Calico Aster	<i>Symphiotrichium ericoides</i>	
Pringle's Aster	<i>Symphiotrichium 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  
Middle Bass Island Forested Wetland Preserve-MBIFWP  
Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center-LEINWC

# Research and Monitoring

## Lake Erie Watersnake

Dr. Kristin Stanford

Recently, ophidiomycosis (snake fungal disease, SFD) has been identified in more than 30 snake species throughout the Eastern and Southwestern United States, including the Lake Erie watersnake. Although a great deal of research has been conducted since the initial 2013 news release, population level impacts of the disease are still largely undetermined due to the lack of robust, long-term data available for most snake populations (Sleeman 2013; Allender et al. 2016). However, the historical data available for the LEWS population provides a model system for asking important questions and obtaining timely results about the impacts of Ophidiomycosis, previously referred to as Snake Fungal Disease or SFD. Such research will benefit wild snake populations as a whole, including those that are threatened and endangered. The following report summarizes the results of the population monitoring, disease surveillance and outreach efforts conducted in 2021 field season.

### Population Monitoring

In 2021, monitoring efforts for Lake Erie watersnake populations were once again limited in scope due to COVID-19 restrictions. Monitoring activities were limited to less than 6 surveyors at a time who were required to keep socially distant. Two part-time research assistants (Mariah Scherer and Marissa Dowalter) were able to assist in the sampling but were limited in their availability.

Fortunately, we continued to draw participation from our pool of individuals who volunteered their time to help survey and collect data.





Our surveys of the Lake Erie watersnakes (LEWS) were conducted at 7 field sites on four of the five large US islands in the Western Basin of Lake Erie - Kelleys, South Bass, North Bass, and Gibraltar Islands. During all monitoring trips, Lake Erie watersnakes were captured by hand during area constrained searches of suitable shoreline habitat within defined study sites. Following capture, all watersnakes were scanned to determine if they were previously marked, measured to determine body size, and classified by sex.

All individual snakes were carefully visually examined for the presence of skin lesions that could be associated with Snake Fungal Disease. Surveillance monitoring was conducted at the South Bass Island State Park, South Bass Island-East Point, Gibraltar Island, and Kelleys Island State Park. Swabbing followed a strict vetted procedure that was developed by Dr. Matt Allender of the Wildlife Epidemiology Laboratory. Snakes not previously marked were given a Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag and released at their site of capture. A total of 978 LEWS were captured, 150 from Kelleys, 244 from South Bass, 144 from Middle Bass, 255 from North Bass, and 185 from Gibraltar (Table 2 & 3).





Captures of LEWS at seven field sites on the five large US islands in the Western Basin of Lake Erie.

<b>Island</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Number of Snakes</b>
Kelleys	State Park	117
	Long Point	33
South Bass	State Park	159
	East Point	85
Middle Bass	State Park	144
North Bass	South Shore	255
Gibraltar	Gibraltar Island	185
<b>Total</b>		<b>978</b>



### Ophidiomyces Detection and Classification

Researchers continue to survey LEWS population for the fungal pathogen *Ophidiomyces ophiodiicola* linked to Snake Fungal Disease (SFD).

Total number of individual LEWS swabbed for *Ophidiomyces* at seven field sites on the five large US islands in the Western Basin of Lake Erie.

Island	Site	Number of Snakes Sampled	Number of Swabs Collected	Swabs Analyzed for Surveillance Monitoring
Kelleys	State Park	39	50	
	Long Point	10	10	
South Bass	State Park	83	102	36
	East Point	37	41	
Middle Bass	State Park	53	67	27
North Bass	South Shore	66	70	39
Gibraltar	Gibraltar Island	73	110	33
<b>Total</b>		<b>361</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>135</b>



A stand-alone education and outreach opportunity in 2021 that deserves specific note was **Coyote Peterson's – Island Adventure**. The Lake Erie watersnake conservation program was once again presented to the masses in an episode of Coyote Peterson's new series called Wild Field Trips.



The premise for the show was for the host (Coyote Peterson) and his Junior Co-host (Sydney) to learn about the native Lake Erie watersnakes and the invasive Round Goby and assist with some research sampling. The "Island Adventure" episode was filmed in August of 2021 and premiered on the Brave Wilderness YouTube channel on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The popularity of the show mirrors that of the 'Snake Researcher' episode of Dirty Jobs filmed in 2006, this time reaching a new generation of viewers. **3,384,640 views** (December 15, 2021 – February 15, 2022)

## 2022 Avian Research Program Report



### South Bass Island Bird Banding Totals

1	<b>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</b>	12	American Goldfinch
15	Ruby-throated Hummingbirds	1	Field Sparrow
1	Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	Song Sparrow
1	Eastern Screech-Owl	1	Lincoln's Sparrow
1	Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	Swamp Sparrow

8	Downy Woodpecker	32	White-throated Sparrow
1	Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted)	1	White-crowned Sparrow
2	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	29	Baltimore Oriole
1	“Trail’s” Flycatcher	156	Red-winged Blackbird
12	Least Flycatcher	4	Brown-headed Cowbird
1	White-eyed Vireo	41	Common Grackle
2	Blue-headed Vireo	22	Ovenbird
4	Red-eyed Vireo	1	Northern Waterthrush
3	Blue Jay	8	Black-and-white Warbler
3	Purple Martin	2	Tennessee Warbler
38	Tree Swallow	2	Nashville Warbler
2	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	3	Connecticut Warbler
6	Barn Swallow	3	Mourning Warbler
6	Black-capped Chickadee	6	Common Yellowthroat
1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	Hooded Warbler
4	White-breasted Nuthatch	9	American Redstart
15	House Wren	10	Cape May Warbler
2	Carolina Wren	1	Northern Parula
2	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	15	Magnolia Warbler
21	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	Bay-breasted Warbler
7	Veery	16	Yellow Warbler
19	Gray-cheeked Thrush	34	Blackpoll Warbler
99	Swainson’s Thrush	9	Black-throated Blue Warbler
1	Wood Thrush	6	Palm Warbler (“Western”)
54	American Robin	19	Yellow-rumped (“Myrtle”) Warbler
27	Gray Catbird	3	Canada Warbler
4	Brown Thrasher	<b>1</b>	<b>Scarlet Tanager</b>
2	European Starling	36	Northern Cardinal
5	Cedar Waxwing	5	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
20	House Sparrow	1	Indigo Bunting
31	House Finch		
<b>71</b>	<b>Total Species</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>Total Individuals</b>

**Includes all species of birds and individuals banded by the Researchers on South Bass Island in 2022**

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

**Red = new for SBI banding list/study 2022**

## **Middle Bass Island Banding Totals**

2	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2	Swamp Sparrow
1	Eastern Screech-Owl	54	White-throated Sparrow

**2**      **Great Horned Owl**  
 11      Downy Woodpecker  
 4      Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted)  
 5      Eastern Wood-Pewee  
 3      Yellow-bellied Flycatcher  
 2      Least Flycatcher  
 2      White-eyed Vireo  
 6      Blue-headed Vireo  
 1      Philadelphia Vireo  
 13      Red-eyed Vireo  
 11      Blue Jay  
 25      Tree Swallow  
 6      Barn Swallow  
 9      Black-capped Chickadee  
 57      Red-breasted Nuthatch  
 3      Brown Creeper  
 17      House Wren  
 2      Winter Wren  
**1**      **Marsh Wren**  
 4      Carolina Wren  
 17      Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
**3**      Golden-crowned Kinglet  
 47      Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
 1      Veery  
 25      Gray-cheeked Thrush  
 44      Swainson's Thrush  
 8      Hermit Thrush  
 2      Wood Thrush  
 36      American Robin  
 8      Gray Catbird  
 7      European Starling  
 17      American Goldfinch  
 1      Eastern Towhee  
 1      Chipping Sparrow  
 4      Song Sparrow

**73 Species**

1<sup>st</sup> Column = Total individuals banded  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Column = Species / Subspecies

3      Dark-eyed Junco  
 9      Baltimore Oriole  
 79      Red-winged Blackbird  
 28      Brown-headed Cowbird  
 19      Common Grackle  
 7      Ovenbird  
**1**      **Worm-eating Warbler**  
**1**      **Louisiana Waterthrush**  
 3      Northern Waterthrush  
 1      Golden-winged Warbler  
 10      Black-and-white Warbler  
 7      Tennessee Warbler  
 33      Nashville Warbler  
**3**      **Connecticut Warbler**  
 6      Common Yellowthroat  
 2      Hooded Warbler  
 24      American Redstart  
 7      Cape May Warbler  
 4      Northern Parula  
 13      Magnolia Warbler  
 10      Bay-breasted Warbler  
 1      Blackburnian Warbler  
 11      Yellow Warbler  
 3      Chestnut-sided Warbler  
 119      Blackpoll Warbler  
 23      Black-throated Blue Warbler  
 16      Palm Warbler ("Western")  
**1**      **Pine Warbler**  
 37      Yellow-rumped Warbler  
 2      Black-throated Green Warbler  
 1      Wilson's Warbler  
 1      Scarlet Tanager  
 9      Northern Cardinal  
 1      Rose-breasted Grosbeak

**910 Total Individuals**

**Bold = unusual species for Lake Erie Islands**  
**Red = new for MBI banding list**  
**\* = new for the Lake Erie Islands since starting in 1996**



Youngsters helping with bird banding at Scheeff Preserve

## North Bass Island Banding Totals

2	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2	<b>Brown Thrasher</b>
3	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	<b>Northern Mockingbird</b>
3	Black-billed Cuckoo	6	European Starling
3	Downy Woodpecker	4	American Goldfinch
2	Eastern Wood-Pewee	1	<b>Field Sparrow</b>
3	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	Song Sparrow
5	Alder Flycatcher	2	<b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b>
3	Willow Flycatcher	4	Orchard Oriole
5	"Trail's" Flycatcher	27	Baltimore Oriole
3	Eastern Phoebe	147	Red-winged Blackbird

1	Great Crested Flycatcher	8	Common Grackle
3	Eastern Kingbird	1	Connecticut Warbler
2	Warbling Vireo	4	Common Yellowthroat
3	Red-eyed Vireo	4	American Redstart
3	Tree Swallow	1	Magnolia Warbler
11	Barn Swallow	1	Blackburnian Warbler
4	Black-capped Chickadee	37	Yellow Warbler
2	House Wren	1	Blackpoll Warbler
5	Carolina Wren	<b>1</b>	<b>Black-throated Green Warbler</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Swainson's Thrush</b>	12	Indigo Bunting
5	American Robin	3	Northern Cardinal
9	Gray Catbird		

**42 Species**

**351 Total Individuals**

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

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

**Red = New species banded for the island**

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\* **The Nature Conservancy** stated, “Populations of some migratory birds have declined drastically over the past 30 years, mostly due to habitat loss of the birds’ breeding and wintering grounds, as well as the loss of stopover sites along migration routes.” The Lake Erie Islands are a critical stopover site.

\* **Birdlife International**, a global partnership of independent organizations working together as one for nature and people, has identified the Lake Erie Islands as “critical to the survival of migratory birds, whose journeys can span thousands of miles.”

## 2022 South Bass Island Bird Report

By Paula Ziebarth, LEIC Board Member, Ottawa County Area Contact Ohio Bluebird Society

The Purple Martin colonies at Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve, South Bass Lighthouse, and at various homes on the island continue to do well. Proper habitat is necessary for success of the Purple Martin. South Bass Island has excellent habitat for them. Lake Erie breeds a myriad of flying insect species that allow them to thrive and raise a family. Housing must be at least 40 feet from any tall trees to protect them from marauding hawks and owls.

Purple Martin housing should be monitored every 5 to 7 days to check on the progress of the birds and to deal with any problems found during the nesting cycle. Two of the biggest challenges are attempts to take over colonies by non-native, invasive House Sparrows and nest hygiene. European Starlings are also an aggressive non-native nest site competitor, but have been mostly excluded from housing by using Starling Resistant Entry Holes. Many Purple Martin landlords use pesticides in nest compartments to control insect and mite infestations found in nests. Others prefer to replace nesting material with soft, dry white pine needles once or twice during the nest cycle to eliminate most of the pests found in nests and provide young birds with clean nest material during their 28-day stay in their nest compartment. The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy purchased vent caps for the gourds at Scheeff and the Lighthouse. The caps helped greatly with nest hygiene, providing much needed ventilation to keep nest material dry during late summer periods of high heat and humidity.



Purple Martin Eggs

Purple Martins are North America’s largest swallow. A Purple Martin's diet consists solely of flying insects. During their 4 to 5 months in Ohio, these birds consume hundreds of thousands of insects. This year’s young and their parents have flown to Brazil, making the long (over 4,000 mile) trip to their winter home.

A tree swallow’s plumage is iridescent blue/black back with a white underbelly. These birds primarily eat small flying insects. Each Tree Swallow family consumes more than 300,000 flying insects during the nesting season. Tree Swallows usually raise one brood per season, but we are seeing more late second nest attempts in Ohio, likely due to climate change. Tree Swallows overwinter in the southern states and Central America. They leave South Bass Island about a month before the Purple Martins.

Homeowners interested in housing Tree Swallows can readily attract them with a nest box that has a 1-1/2” hole mounted on a pole with predator baffle. Purple Martins return to the islands the first week of April and proper housing in wide open habitat will attract them. It is very important to make sure housing is not opened up until they do return or non-native House Sparrows and European Starlings will take over housing and kill native birds trying to use it. Housing should be monitored weekly and that means installing it on a pole with rope and pulley, or winch system for easy access. Predator baffle is extremely important as our eastern fox snakes and raccoons are great climbers and love to eat birds.

House Wrens like to nest in wood-edge habitat. Nest boxes are sited for them at Jane Coates Wildflower Trail and Dodge Woods Preserve. Residents living in wooded or wood edge habitat can easily attract House Wrens by setting out nest boxes with a 1-1/8” entry hole. This size hole will accommodate these small birds and exclude larger species.

**2022– Birds Fledged**

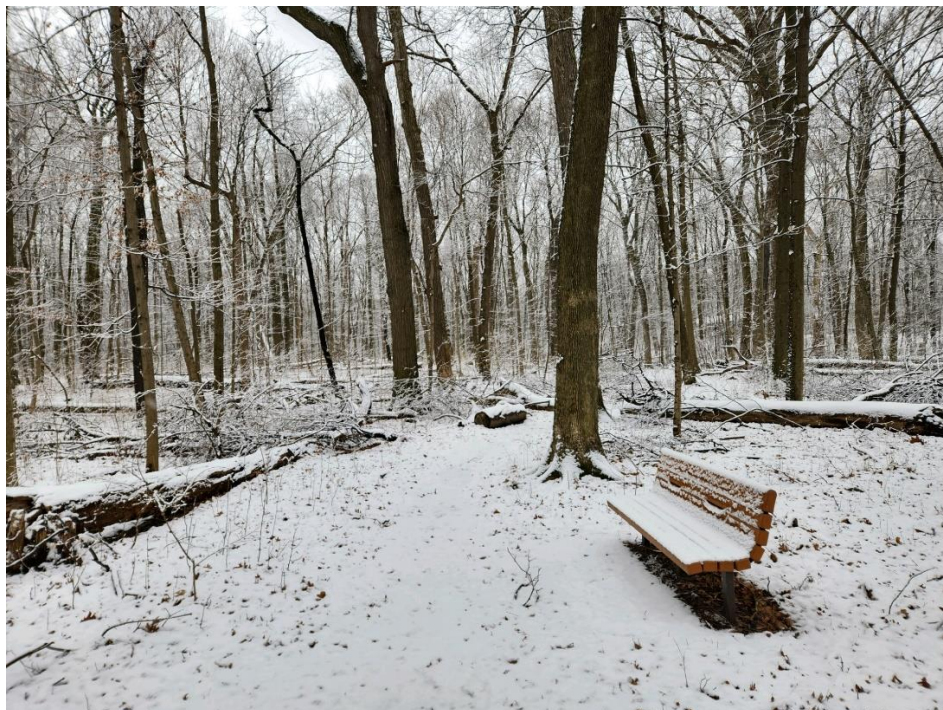
<b>TRAIL</b>	<b>TRES</b>	<b>BARS</b>	<b>HOWR</b>	<b>HOFI</b>	<b>PUMA</b>	<b>HOSP*</b>
Airline Road	88	23		2	131	17
Duggan					51	
Woodland Trails (Jane Coates, Dodge Woods and Wildlife Center)	12		11			
Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve	73				200	3
South Bass Island Lighthouse	7				56	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>20</b>

TRES = Tree Swallow; BARS = Barn Swallow; HOWR = House Wren; BCCH = Black Capped Chickadee; PUMA = Purple Martin

## Winter Audubon Christmas Bird Survey on South Bass Island December 18, 2022

	South Bass Counters	South Bass Feeders	South Bass Total
Canada Goose	233		233
Mallard	130		130
Black Duck	2		2
Bufflehead	202		202
Common Goldeneye	26		26
Red-breasted Merganser	1,008		1,008
Common Merganser	13		13
Trumpeter Swan	1		1
UNID Swan	1		1
Greater Scaup	1		1
Lesser Scaup	2		2
Scaup sp.	273		273
UNID Diving Duck			0
Horned Grebe	19		19
Pied Billed Grebe	1		1
Mourning Dove		3	3
Ring-billed Gull	22		22
Herring Gull	143		143
Greater Black-backed Gull	1		1
Unidentified Gull	45		45
Common Loon			
Double-crested Cormorant	11		11
Bald Eagle	4		4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	CW		CW
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	1
Red-tailed Hawk	3	3	6
Osprey			
UNID Hawk or Raptor sp.			
Eastern Screech Owl	1		1
Great Horned Owl	6		6
Great Blue Heron	CW		CW
Belted Kingfisher	CW		CW
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	19	23
Red-headed Woodpecker		1	1
Downy Woodpecker	13	31	44
Northern Flicker	10		10
Blue Jay		14	14
American Crow	11	11	22
Black-capped Chickadee	8	50	58
Tufted Titmouse			0

Red-breasted Nuthatch		4	4
White-breasted Nuthatch	8	7	15
Brown Creeper	CW		CW
Carolina Wren	5	4	9
Winter Wren		1	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
Kinglet sp.			0
American Robin	233	22	255
European Starling	1030	66	1096
House Sparrow	148	144	292
House Finch	17	40	57
American Goldfinch	2	13	15
American Tree Sparrow			
Song Sparrow			
White-crowned Sparrow			
White-throated Sparrow			
Dark-eyed Junco	66	25	91
Sparrow sp. UNID			
Red-winged Blackbird			
Brown-headed Cowbird			
Common Grackle			
Yellow-rumped Warbler			
Northern Cardinal	34	42	76
Cedar Waxwing			
TOTAL BIRDS	3738	573	4238



## Volunteers – Christmas Bird Count

Volunteers visited the Scheeff, Massie, Dodge Woods, Jane Coates Wildflower Trail, and Duff Woods preserves.

Volunteers at this year's Christmas Count: Lisa Brohl, Sandy Funtal, Elizabeth Heineman, Julene Market, Richard Gump, Elizabeth, Mary Ann McCann, Anita McCann, Dino Uszak, Kit Knaser, Renee Fultz, Jim O'Donnell, Carmen Trisler, Pam Stephens, Susan Ferguson, and Ruth Scarpelli.

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## Monarch Watch



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

The Monarch butterfly has captured the imagination of millions of people. The Monarch annual cycle is quite extraordinary since 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 even more complex since 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.

Based at the University of Kansas, *Monarch Watch* is a cooperative network of students, teachers, volunteers and researchers dedicated to the study of the Monarch butterfly and its spectacular fall migration.

The Park District is providing 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.

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

The Monarch butterfly has become a candidate for listing as an endangered species with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. That status will be monitored each year.

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## Island Tree Composition Research

By Emma Land

Emma Land from Roanoke College, Virginia, spent eight weeks this summer doing research under the auspices the Research for Undergraduates (REU) program of The Ohio State University Stone Laboratory.

Ms. Land worked with Lisa Kutschbach Brohl and Dr. Douglas Kane to research “Changes in Forest Composition on the Lake Erie Islands.”

Emma visited forest sites on South Bass Island and North Bass Island to compare current tree composition with data collected in the 1970’s and 1980’s by Dr. Earnest Hamilton, Dr. Jane Forsyth, and Dr. Ralph Boerner. Ms. Land also reviewed and compared data collection in the early 2000’s by Dr. Douglas Kane and his students and with work on Middle Bass Island and on Kelleys Island completed in 2017, 2018 and 2019 with Lisa Kutschbach Brohl and students.

Emma researched Cooper’s Woods Preserve, Jane Coates Wildflower Trail, and the Duff Woods Preserve as part of her project.

The emerald ash borer as well as other invasive species may have changed the composition of island forests. The Park District has applied to the USDA for a release of parasitoid wasps to control the emerald ash borer at Middle Bass and South Bass Islands. This process may allow for some renovation of green and blue ash trees at the Preserves.

Emma's results have been submitted for publication at the Northeast Naturalist Journal.

## Use of Preserves



Lance Dasher and Mark VonDeylen from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) installed “people counters” at Massie, Scheeff (at the beach), and Cooper’s Preserves. The counters were in place for the month of July. Volunteer Steve Prahst coordinated the installation of the counters.

The daily averages and peak volumes (highest day of usage) for the three locations for month of July:

Cooper’s Woods:	Average Daily Users – 54	Peak Volume – 104
Massie Lakeside:	Average Daily Users – 270	Peak Volume – 468
Scheeff Preserve:	Average Daily Users – 623	Peak Volume – 1,279

# Scheeff and Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve Restoration Projects

By Neal Hess



With the help of multiple funding agencies, the Put-in-Bay Township Park District is embarking upon our largest and most ambitious habitat restoration project yet. 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, which has been exacerbated by high Lake Erie water levels. The erosion has resulted in the loss of several feet of shoreline, loss of trees that have been washed into the lake, and the need to reroute portions of the trail at the Scheeff East Point Preserve. Similar erosion and loss of land issues are being experienced by other landowners on the islands and throughout the coastal Great Lakes.

The Park District is fortunate to have received three different grants, which will be used to thoroughly assess and evaluate the problem, to develop engineering and design plans to mitigate the issues, to acquire the permits necessary for construction, and then to construct natural restoration features to stabilize the shoreline areas and to improve their habitat. The three grants include 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).

Receipt of the ODNR Emergency Erosion Assistance Grant is the result of a close collaboration between the Park District and Put-in-Bay Township. The Township will be administering this grant and they received money from it to engineer and construct a permanent fix to the Middle Bass Island Deist Road severe flooding and erosion issues. The Park District was able to assist by writing the grant application and by allowing use of our other grants as “matching funding” to increase the grant’s competitiveness.

As part of a public selection process, the Park District selected the engineering and design team of EnviroScience, Inc. and KS Associates, Inc. to be the project’s design engineers. These firms will conduct the necessary site assessments, coastal modeling, engineering and design activities, and permit acquisition so that the project can be constructed. Engineering and design work has been completed, and construction should be ready for bids in 2023.

The goal is to use natural shoreline restoration features and materials that will not only protect the park shorelines from erosion but which will also improve the nearshore aquatic and terrestrial habitat for the myriad migratory and year-round wildlife that utilize our preserves. Additionally, it is our hope that this project can be used to help influence and inform other coastal erosion control and shoreline restoration projects throughout the Western Basin of Lake Erie.





## AmeriCorps Intern – Kenneth McArtor

### Intern

Kenneth McArtor was the AmeriCorps intern for 2022. The intern position was funded with private donations.

Kenneth was born and raised in Wadsworth, Ohio, graduated from Wadsworth High School in 2020. He attends Eckerd College in Saint Petersburg, Florida. He is majoring in Marine Science. Last summer he worked with “Saving the Blue,” a nonprofit organization that strives to recover, restore and protect this threatened marine species. Kenneth took part in shark research, tagging over fifty sharks. He spent many summers on the Island. This summer, he worked with the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center, and Put-in-Bay Township Park District.

AmeriCorps is a federal agency which funds organizations to make a positive impact in communities. To support the placement of AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in communities, AmeriCorps provide more than \$800 million in grants every year.

### Recycling

Put-in-Bay Township Park District continues to provide recycling and trash bins at the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail, Scheeff East Point Preserve, Dodge Woods Preserve, and Massie Cliffside Preserve. The bins are marked for aluminum, glass, plastic and trash. Mark Lekanka maintains the recycling stations.

## 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 include grapes, and stone 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.

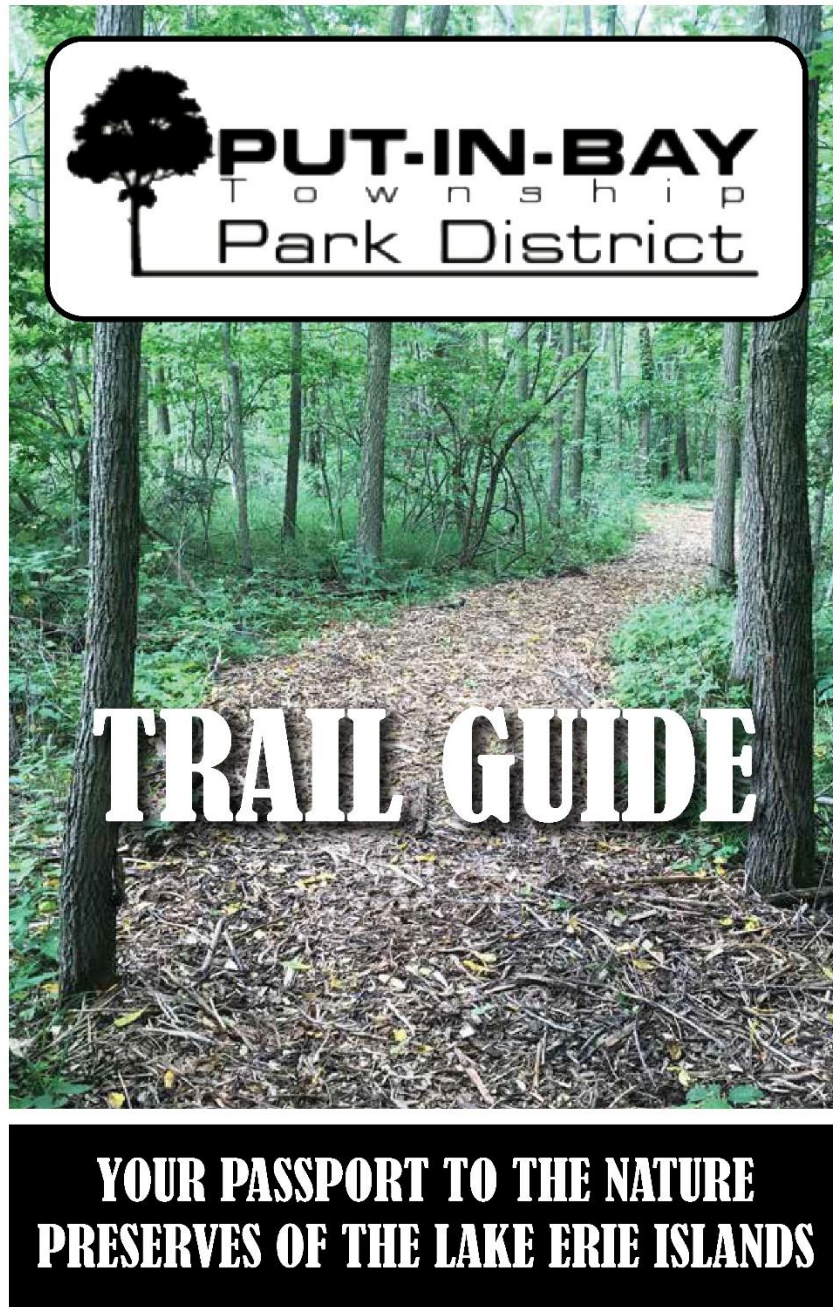
### Managing Habitat for Bats

Bats are the only flying mammal. Bats give birth and feed milk to their young. These night flying animals consume a tremendous number 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.

Two silver-haired bats (*Lasiurus noctivagans*) and two Eastern red bats (*Lasiurus borealis*) were captured at the Cleveland Preserve at Middle Bass. A hoary bat was recovered near the preserve this year.

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.

## Trail Challenge: Passport to the Preserves



Put-in-Bay Township Park District has published a Trail Guide booklet. The booklet provides an overview of the Nature Preserves and is available at the entrance to some preserves, the Put-in-Bay Chamber of Commerce, the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center, and Shores and Islands reception center in Port Clinton, Ohio and at [www.putinbayparks.com](http://www.putinbayparks.com)

## Member – Great Lakes Islands Alliance

Put-in-Bay Township Park District is a member and sponsor of GLIA, Great Lakes Islands Alliance. Membership of GLIA is comprised of residents from year-round island communities in the Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes Islands Alliance (GLIA) is a voluntary, collaborative network that brings together island leaders, residents, and advocates from across the region. The mission of GLIA is to “encourage relationship building, foster information exchange, and leverage resources to address shared challenges.” The group toured Park District preserves on Middle Bass Island.

This year’s GLIA Summit was held on October 2 -5 and was hosted by South Bass Island, Middle Bass Island, Kelleys Island, and the Canadian Pelee Island. 150 people from 19 island communities attended the summit.

## Grants for Road Improvements Massie Lane, Massie Cliffside Preserve

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District received a grant for \$20,000.00 from the Parks of Ottawa County, Parks and Trails Improvement Grant for the purpose of completing access improvements and adding signage at Massie Cliffside Preserve. These improvements will enhance the overall experience and accessibility for visitors to the preserve. The Park District also received an \$8,800 Destination Development Grant from the Lake Erie Shores and Islands for this project.

## Poker Kayak Day

The 7th annual Poker Kayak Day at Middle Bass Island was held on Saturday, August 8, 2022. The kayakers paddle around Middle Bass Island and stopped at a number of sites. The sites are manned by volunteers for safety and to distribute poker cards and snacks. Proceeds from the event benefit Put-in-Bay Township Park District. Tina Larson, Middle Bass Island, chaired the event.

## Levy for Funding

Put-in-Bay Township Park District placed a 1.1 mill levy on the November 2022 General Election ballot. The tax was for the benefit of the Put-in-Bay Township Park District of Ottawa County, Ohio, for the purposes of operating, promoting, conserving, acquiring, developing, improving, and protecting land, and parks, vineyards, farm land, and trails. 387 votes were cast: 164 for the levy and 223 against the levy. The levy failed.

## 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 will 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, 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 person for the Park District.

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

Leah Bilski, environmental consultant, is a part-time employee, assisting in writing and implementing grants and working on other Park District projects.

Neal Hess serves as an environmental consultant and a conservation realtor for the Park District.

## 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.



# Future Projects

## The Duff Vineyard Program



The Duff Vineyard

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

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

2) The second portion includes the lake front, the house, and adjacent land. The Put-in-Bay Township Park District was fortunate to be awarded a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant in November to purchase four acres of the lakefront Duff homestead, including two acres of woods owned by Sue and Walt Duff. The Park District looks forward to the opportunity to have an office, storage, interpretive area, pollinator habitat, and lakefront for the public. The Park District needs matching funds to supplement this grant and will gratefully accept donations to

complete the purchase. The Park District is considering preserving the Duff Homestead building as a Visitor Center.

3) The third phase of this project is to purchase the Duff vineyard. A levy was placed on the ballot to purchase this property. The Put-in-Bay Township Park District levy did not pass in November. The revenue from this levy was to be used to acquire the Sue and Walter Duff vineyard. (Clean Ohio Conservation Funding cannot be awarded for agricultural purchases.) The Park District continues to seek funding to complete this purchase to protect the Island's viticultural heritage and to create a working farm park close to downtown Put-in-Bay.



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The Park District is working to preserve erosion at the Scheeff East Point Preserve and at Middle Bass East Point Preserve; replacement of a metal stairway and dock repairs at the Massie Cliffside Preserve Dock; improving walking trails, installation of additional interpretive signs; and upgrading parking areas. The need for an office is also being discussed.

## **Put-in-Bay Township Park District Land Preservation Guidance and Goals**

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** - 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 rather 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** - The Nature Conservancy included nesting bird colonies in their priorities for protection. There are limited areas that herons, gulls, and terns use for nesting and priority should be given to protect these spots.
8. **Vineyards** - Grape growing is an important part of our island heritage and one that we wish to see continue. The retention of vineyards is a priority for the Put-in-Bay Township Park District.
9. **State or Federally Listed Species** - We wish to protect habitat for state threatened, federal species of concern such as Lake Erie watersnake (*Nerodia sepedon insularum*), the state threatened Blandings turtle, as well as the species of concern such as the eastern garter snake and eastern fox snake. The Lake Erie Islands have unique populations of triploid ambystomid salamanders that should be preserved.

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On Friday, April 29, the Village of Put-in-Bay celebrated its 14<sup>th</sup> Arbor Day. More than twenty people participated in the planting of two trees: a Hop Tree (*Ptelea trifoliata*) and a Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*). The Hop Tree was used by Native Americans as a seasoning and medicine; and in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, German immigrants to Texas used the Hop Tree seeds in beer making. The Spicebush was used by Native Americas as a medicine and the crushed bark can be used as a cinnamon substitute. The trees were planted at the Arbor Day site off Langram Avenue, near the Put-in-Bay Post Office. Funding for the annual event is provided by the Council of the Village of Put-in-Bay.

In the fourteen 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 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 the second Wednesday of each month at 9:45 AM at the Village Town Hall. The Arbor Day Foundation is a million member nonprofit conservation and education organization whose mission is to inspire the planting, nurturing, and celebrating of trees. Members of the Village of Put-in-Bay Tree Commission are Lisa Brohl, Kelly Faris, and Kendra Koehler.

## Garlic Mustard Pull Competition

In 2021, the City of Green near Akron, Ohio, issued the Park District of Put-in-Bay a challenge to see which community could pull the most garlic mustard in a day. Put-in-Bay accepted the challenge, and the Annual Garlic Mustard Challenge began.

In 2022, the City of Green again challenged the Put-in-Bay community to a Garlic Mustard Pull. The Portage Parks also entered the competition. In spite of a limited number of volunteers due to bad weather, 958.6 pounds of garlic mustard were pulled from the Cooper's Woods Preserve.

Garlic mustard is an invasive species which can overwhelm the existing native foliage. Cooper's Woods Preserve contains large patches of garlic mustard. The best way to control this invasive plant is to physically pull it out of the ground before it can go to seed.

The grand prize for winning this friendly competition was bragging rights and a sense of accomplishment -- All challengers were declared winners!

## 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, Majorie 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 representative for special projects.

## Thank You

A special Thank You to Neal Hess, a 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; and to Mark Lekanka and the employees of Lekanka Construction, LLC for being the Parks District's "On Call" contractor. Thanks to Anthony Bailey and Jim Glauser of Lakeside Disposal for taking care of our trash at our preserves. And a thank you to all those individuals who walk through the Preserves and pick up trash and to those who have contributed to this report. Volunteers are an important asset to the Park District.

The Park District is grateful to Stacey Clink who headed the Political Action Committee for the Park District levy.

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## Conservancy in the Islands – A Chronology:

### **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 parents organization the Black Swamp Conservancy. The six original members were; Lisa Brohl, Kelly Faris, Carol Richardson, John Ladd, Lianne Genzman, and Claudette Moore.

### **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. Our first easement was located on the western shore of Kelleys Island and is now held by our parent organization the Black Swamp Conservancy

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

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-purchase**

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**

This wet woods of less than 1 acre were donated to the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy 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. No building can occur on site.

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

This site was purchased with a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant and matching funds 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-purchase**

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 beautiful wildflower display in the spring and proximity to Lake Erie shores provides habitat for migratory songbirds. A rare beetle was found in the area by researchers.

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

Two additional wooded acres to the north of the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail was purchased with a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant, Nature Works grant, and donations from foundations and individuals. It was dedicated on Earth Day, 2010.

**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 were 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. The Center is open every day from Memorial Day to Labor Day and weekends in May and September.

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

This preserve is accessible to the public by kayak only. 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 and the Lake Erie watersnake. A watersnake hibernacula has been constructed on site. An osprey platform was erected on site in 2013.

**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 acre purchase.**

An additional two wooded acres to the north of the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail Addition was purchased with a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant. 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. Matching funds were provided through a Lake Erie Islands Critical Habitat grant and funds from the LEIC.

**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. Additional lots have been purchased nearby from the Burgundy Bay Association and private property owners for another approximate 4 acres.

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

The Massie's Cliffside Preserve was purchased with a grant from the Lake Erie Islands Critical Habitat Clean Ohio Fund for the Put-in-Bay Township Park District 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 walking path to the lake. A number of 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 formed.**

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 Knam property was purchased with a CELCP grant (Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plans) –Great Lakes Initiative grant received by Put-in-Bay Township Park District. This wooded parcel will bring the total area protected 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. On January 11, 2018, the PIBTPD closed on seven acres from the Dieperink Family. The Put-in-Bay Township Park District made a 5.2 acre purchase on Middle Bass Island in spring of 2018 with funds from the Conservation Fund. The site is immediately adjacent to the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve

#### **2017 - Dodge Woods Preserve-3 acres**

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District received a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant to purchase 3.5 acres of woods. A StoryWalk trail was installed on the trail 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. PIBTPD paid closing costs. Deed restrictions were placed on the parcel so that no construction will ever take place.

#### **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 with funds from the Coastal Estuarine and Land Conservation Fund and the Conservation Fund. The lands were preserved in part by TC Energy and its subsidiary Columbia Gas LLC, in partnership with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Ohio and the Conservation Fund. Additional 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. 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 - approx. 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 lots are all 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 with 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 that will protect the Preserve as a natural area for ever.

**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 for a portion of the purchase in November 2019. 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**

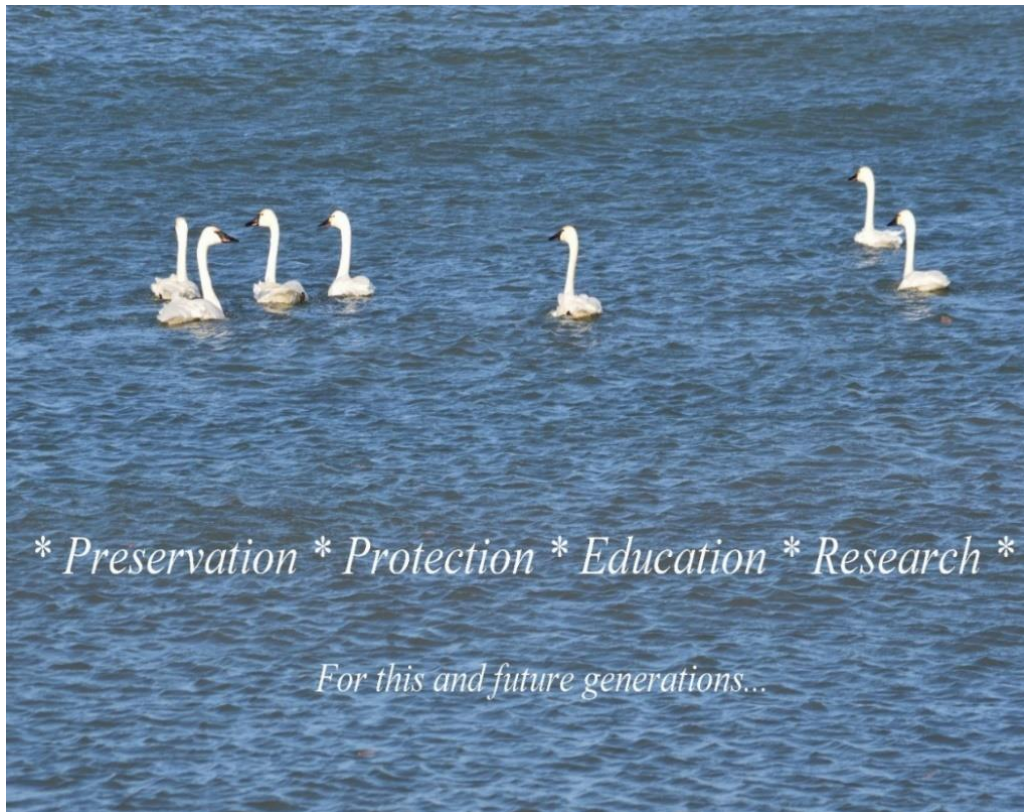
The parcel of woods is adjacent to the Costello Tract on Middle Bass Island. Aaron and Marianne Manderbach donated the parcel to Put-in-Bay Township Park District.

**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 in perpetuity as a natural area.

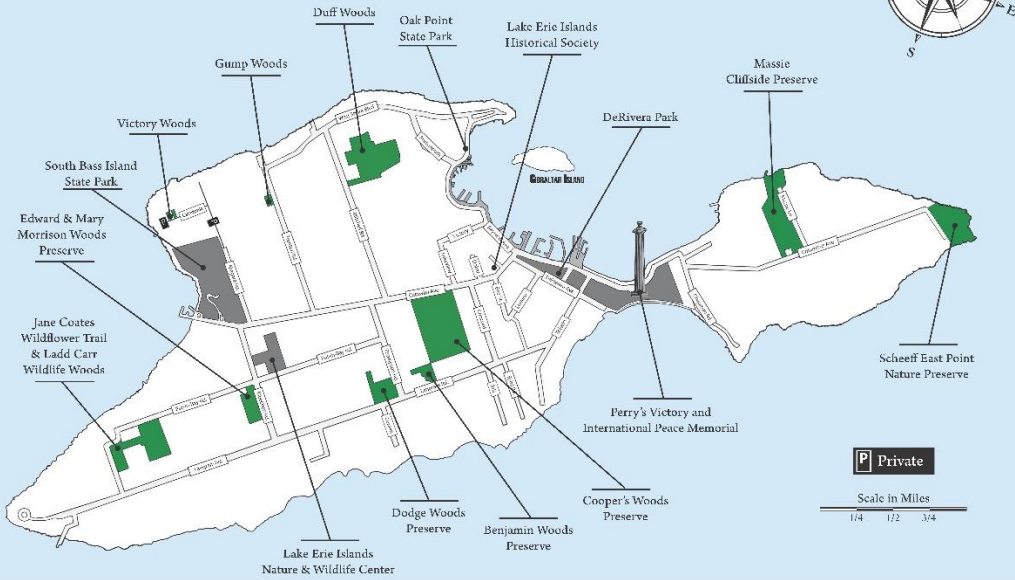


## End of the Year Financial Report for 2022

Put-in-Bay Township Park District	:	
Ottawa County Ohio		
Box 177		
Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456-0177		
Balance, Jan. 1, 2022		\$104,835.55
Receipts:		
Property Tax		\$106,092.28
Charges for Services		\$11,427.59
Intergovernmental Rev		\$140,692.35
		-----
Total Cash Receipts		\$258,212.22
Disbursements:		
<b>Salaries</b>		<b>\$8,353.28</b>
<b>Property; includes below</b>		<b>\$192,178.49</b>
(Purchase/Development/Protection)		
<b>Audit</b>		<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<b>Office/ Operating Supplies/Materials:</b>		<b>\$14,951.20</b>
Includes:		
Park signage, benches, publication materials,		
Office materials, and any/all materials imperative		
To the functionality of the Park District		
		-----
Total Cash Disbursements		\$217,482.97
Excess of Receipts Over Disbursements		\$40,729.25
Balance: Jan. 1, 2022 (BOY)		\$104,835.55
Balance: Dec. 31, 2022 (EOY)		\$145,564.80

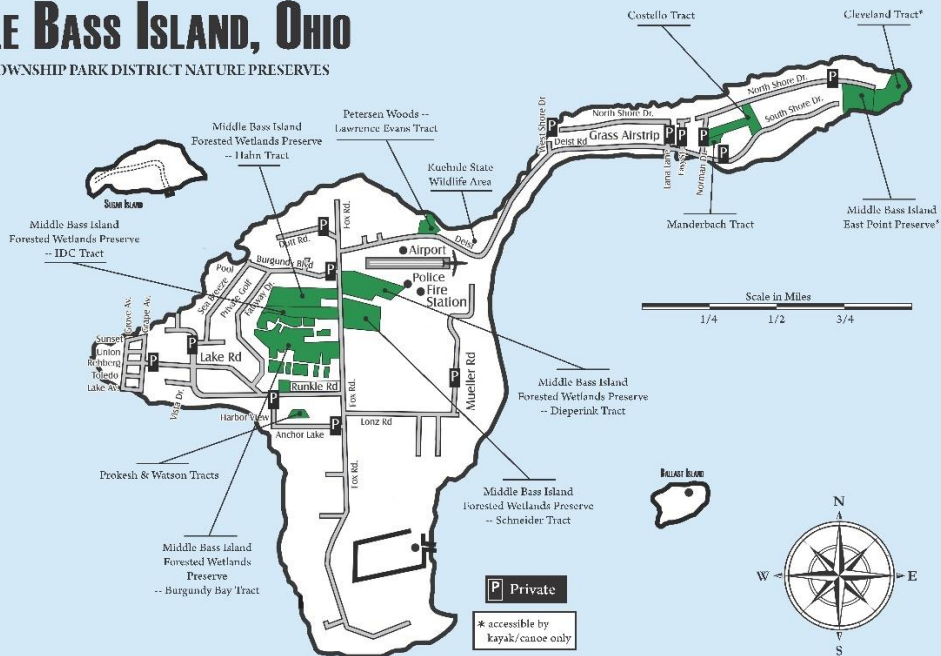
# SOUTH BASS ISLAND, OHIO

PUT-IN-BAY TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT NATURE PRESERVES



# MIDDLE BASS ISLAND, OHIO

PUT-IN-BAY TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT NATURE PRESERVES





Preserve

Protect

Enjoy