A Guide to the Nature Preserves of Put-in-Bay Township Park District
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       Park District
Created as a local government entity in 2006 by the Common Pleas Court of Ottawa County, the Put-in-Bay Township Park District (PIBTPD) is dedicated to protecting and preserving unique areas that sustain the heritage of the Lake Erie Islands. The Park District operates under the leadership of three members of the PIBTPD Board of Commissioners.

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy (LEIC), a non-profit organization, serves as the Advisory Council to the Park District. The Park District and the Conservancy maintain and preserve over 70 acres of properties on South Bass and Middle Bass Islands.

The Lake Erie Islands encompass habitat unique in the State of Ohio and in the Great Lakes. Located two and one-half miles off the Ohio coast, these islands are popular boating and vacation destinations. The islands were carved from glacial movements and contain numerous reefs. The islands have a rich history in maritime commerce, military activity, agriculture, and quarrying. The waters of Lake Erie moderate the climate and help to create a unique habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants. The islands are popular as stopovers for a variety of migrating birds. The underwater riches of the lake provide habitat for fish: gizzard shad, emerald shiner, and minnows, and sport fish such as walleye, yellow perch, and smallmouth bass.
The islands are rich in wetlands. These wetlands serve as critical habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl, including raptor, nesting bald eagles, great blue herons, great egrets, and black ducks. Further biodiversity can be found in the islands’ boreal forests, hardwood forest, meadows, scrublands, and old quarries.

**Alvar** is a biological environment of a wet, limestone plain with thin soil. Alvar is unique to the Lake Erie Islands and northern parts of New York and Michigan. The alvar serves as host to a distinct set of vascular plants, mosses, lichens, birds, land snails, leafhoppers, and other invertebrates, including hardy plants that can survive ice in winter and extreme heat in summer. The northern bog violet, balsam squashweed, Kalm’s lobelia, and Pringle’s aster are found in the alvar environment.

The isolation of the Lake Erie Islands creates a rich biodiversity of endangered and threatened species. The islands are environmentally vulnerable. However, with proper management, influences can be mitigated and some of these unique natural environments can be protected and preserved.
Put-in-Bay Township, Ottawa County, Ohio, contains numerous islands. The three largest are: South Bass Island, Middle Bass Island, and North Bass. South Bass Island – 1,588 acres – is the largest and is the most developed. The Village of Put-in-Bay is located on South Bass Island and has stores, restaurants, and taverns. Middle Bass Island is 804-acres.

The Board of Commissioners of Put-in-Bay Township Park District recognizes that forested spaces and natural areas are disappearing. It is the hope of this Board that commercial and residential development will be complemented with green space and natural areas that preserve the heritage of the islands.

**Board of Commissioners:**
The three member of Board of Commissioners of Put-in-Bay Township Park District is appointed by the Ottawa County Court of Common Pleas to serve a term of three years. The Commissioners serve without pay. The present members of the Commission are Lisa Brohl, Kelly Faris, and Kendra Koehler. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am, Put-in-Bay Town Hall.

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**Advisory Council:**
The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy is the Advisory Council to Put-in-Bay Township Park District. The LEIC has played and will continue to play a significant role in the maintenance and preservation of properties owned by the Park District. The Conservancy is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

**Partners:**
With the encouragement and support of numerous individuals, Put-in-Bay Township Park District has been extremely successful in protecting and preserving natural areas in the Lake Erie Islands. The Park District assists in the educational efforts of the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center (LEINWC), and the District maintains cooperating agreements with the National Park Service and The Ohio State University. These partnerships allow for continued island preservation and common activities such as sponsored education programs and hikes to share the beauty of these natural areas and educate visitors.

**Funding and Donations:**
The Park District has been extremely fortunate to receive grants, donations, and tax revenue. Private donations have also been vital to the preservation of these natural lands.

*The preserved and protected natural areas for which it is responsible are displayed in detail in the following pages.*
Open dawn until dusk

Please stay on the trail, respect private property

Pets are strictly prohibited

No motorized vehicles or bicycles on trail

No Collecting
The Jane Coates Wildflower Trail is a hiking trail which loops and winds over a half mile through the Ladd Carr Wildlife Woods. This area was the first island property to be protected as a natural area. The woods are an example of mature forested habitat found on the Lake Erie Islands. Sugar maple, hackberry, black cherry, basswood, Chinquapin oak, and blue ash are present. The area boasts a spectacular spring wildflower display with carpeted areas of Dutchman’s breeches, Jack in the Pulpit, wild hyacinths, blue phlox, and a large display of appendaged waterleaf in the late spring. A bench at the far end of the preserve offers an ideal place for wildlife watching. The footpath entrance and small parking area are located on Put-in-Bay Road near the Maple Leaf Cemetery. The Ladd Carr Wildlife Woods is named for “Men of the Lakes”: Bob Carr was the captain of various lake freighters during his career on the Great Lakes, and Nate Ladd was a commercial fisherman in the western basin of Lake Erie. The Trail is named after Jane Coates, an island artist.

The Jane Coates Wildflower Trail and the Ladd Carr Woods were acquired in four separate acquisitions from 2006-2014 with funding from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant, NatureWorks Ohio, the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, donations from foundations, and donations from Georgia Ladd McVean, Mary Ladd Carr, Richard Gump, and Vince Cox.
DODGE WOODS

Please follow the posted rules of the preserve.
Dodge Woods consists of young forest. The site at one time was a vineyard, and remnants of the vineyard can still be seen. There is a mix of black walnut, common hackberry, black cherry, Kentucky coffeetree, wild grape, mulberry, and eastern red cedar with conifers, fruit trees, herbaceous plants, and sedges. In the spring, wildflowers such as Virginia waterleaf, bloodroot, wild leeks, false Solomon’s Seal, and buttercups are found along the trail. Enchanters nightshade, tall bellflower, Short’s aster, and goldenrod are in bloom in the fall. Dodge Woods is a 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.

There is a mulched trail, and a bike rack and parking spaces are available on Thompson Road (approximately a 120-foot walk to the entrance). The property is open from dawn to dusk. The property is adjacent to the bicycle path on the island. The site is used for hiking, nature photography, bird watching, and scientific study. No motorized vehicles or camping is permitted.

The Put-in-Bay StoryWalk® is located within this preserve. The StoryWalk® was a collaboration between the Park District and the Erie Islands Library. A StoryWalk® is an innovative way for children and adults to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. Seventeen Storyboard posts are placed along the mulched path and display laminated pages from children’s books. A grant from the Ottawa County Community Fund along with other donations from individuals and businesses made this installation possible.

**Location:** South Bass Island – Corner of Thompson and Langram Road  
**Parcel Size:** 3.6 acres  
**Access:** Foot  
**Trail:** 852 foot looped trail - rugged, natural hazards
Please follow the posted rules of the preserve.
The Massie Preserve on the East Point of South Bass Island contains 11 acres of cliffs, woodlands, a trail system, and a dock for fishing and kayak access. The property boasts more than 265 feet of Lake Erie shoreline and contains critical habitat for the Lake Erie Watersnake, the Eastern fox snake, and the columbine and harebell plant which bloom along the dolomite cliffs. A trail winds through the woods to the cliffs, affording a spectacular view of Lake Erie and the surrounding islands. The site provides opportunities for hiking, nature and bird watching, fishing, kayak access, outdoor education, and scientific research. Benches along the cliff edges provide views for sunsets.

This land was acquired by the PIBTPD in 2014 and was the site of a farm, vineyard, and homestead. The area was then used for rental cottages. After the acquisition of the property, a cleanup removed abandoned trailers, cottages, and a variety of trash. Tons of debris were hauled from the site. After the cleanup, a replanting of the area began. Hoptree and chinquapin oak were planted in the rocky areas with bur oak, swamp white oak, red oak, American basswood, and bladdernut planted in moderate to wet areas. 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 and restoration of the property.
SCHEEFF EAST POINT NATURE PRESERVE

Please follow the posted rules of the preserve

Parking area
Property line
Trail
The Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve was the first property acquired on South Bass Island by the Park District. With 1,700 feet of Lake Erie shoreline, the park is one of the last remaining natural settings for people to enjoy South Bass Island. An approximately ½ mile looped hiking trail winds its way along the shore of Lake Erie, 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, shorebirds, waterfowl, and a host of shoreline plants. Located in the Atlantic Migratory Flyway, this preserve provides resting areas for thousands of migratory birds making their bi-annual trek through the islands. The site is home to man-made nesting structures for purple martins, tree swallows, and chimney swifts where these sensitive species can roost and eventually make the flight to South America for the winter. Fishing and bird watching take place on the property.

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, Sandusky Bay Eagles Foundation, Black Swamp Conservancy, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Lorain National Bank, Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves and the Ohio Division of Wildlife, private donations, and a significant donation by Rose B. Scheeff.

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

**Parcel Size:** 9.1 acres

**Access:** Foot, canoe, and kayak

**Trails:** 2,205 foot looped - rugged, natural hazards
Please follow the posted rules of the preserve.
The Burgundy Bay Tract consists of 8 acres of 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 unprotected 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 walking trail winds through the preserve. Prothonotary warble boxes are located within the preserve. Funding for this project was made possible by Ohio EPA’s Water Resource Restoration Program (WRRSP) and is safeguarded by an environmental covenant. Additional adjacent acreage has been preserved with the help of the Conservation Fund.
MIDDLE BASS ISLAND FORESTED WETLANDS PRESERVE -- SCHNEIDER TRACT & DIEPERINK TRACT
The Schneider Tract is comprised of 7.3 acres of forested wetland with successional island forest habitat, whose hydrology is linked to Lake Erie water levels. The land provides migratory songbird 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 EPA through the WRRSP.

The Dieperink Tract provides 7.6 acres of additional contiguous forest. There is a swamp forest of silver maples, elm, and swamp white oak. Though many green ash have fallen victim to the emerald ash borer, rough-leaved dogwood, silver maple, and some ash are beginning to repopulate in the wetter areas of the preserve. The eastern portion of this parcel is slightly higher in elevation. The higher ground holds sugar maples, hackberry, and eastern red cedar. The area is within a quarter of a mile from Lake Erie and provides ideal habitat for migratory birds. The rare eastern fox snake, melanistic eastern garter snake, and the Lake Erie watersnake are found in the tract. Efforts have been made to remove invasive species such as the amur honeysuckle and common buckthorn to keep them from overtaking the preserve. Put-in-Bay Township Park District purchased this property from the Dieperink family in 2018 with funding from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant and a Coastal Estuarine Land Conservation Program Grant.

The Hahn addition, an 8.3 acre tract across the street just north of the Dieperink tract, is expected to be acquired in the summer of 2019.
**Location:** Middle Bass Island  
**Parcel:** 1.5 acres Petersen’s Woods; 0.75 acres Lawrence Evans property  
**Access:** Foot

Located near the Kuehnle State Wildlife Area, this 1.5 acres of wet woodland is adjacent to the state protected wetland acreage. The woods are composed of green ash, silver maple, box elder, and swamp white and bur oaks. The cobble shoreline is used by Lake Erie water snakes. The woods provide habitat for bald eagles and herons who often rest in use the tall dead trees. Wild iris is present in the spring, and herons, songbirds, and jewelweed are visible in summer. Neotropical migrating songbirds are commonly seen during the spring and fall. Hybrid salamanders can be spotted in the spring and summer months.

The Lawrence Evans Property is a 0.75 acre tract of emergent wetland located between Kuehnle State Wildlife Area and Petersen Woods.

This area was purchased in 2004 with funding from grants from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, and the Nature Conservancy as well as funds from the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy.
Please follow the posted rules of the preserve.
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 birds and provides shelter and nesting space for resident songbirds. Over 120 species of birds have been identified at this site, as well as more than 30 unique plant and tree species. Trout lilies bloom in the preserve each spring.

The preserve also provides critical habitat for the Lake Erie watersnake. As a result of the success of the habitat protection effort at this preserve and other Park District preserves, the Lake Erie Watersnake has been removed from the list of federally endangered and threatened species. The Lake Erie Watersnake remains on the State of Ohio Threatened Species List.

Located near the tip of the island’s northeastern peninsula, the preserve overlooks Schoolhouse Bay, a popular destination for boaters and swimmers. The preserve contains a shallow-water dock for canoes and kayaks. Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve was one of the first kayak-only accessible parks in Ohio. A walking path circles through the preserve.

**Location:** Middle Bass Island, North Shore Road  
**Parcel:** 7.8 acres  
**Access:** Canoe and kayak only  
**Trail:** Rugged, natural hazards
OTHER PRESERVED AND PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS:

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District also manages several preserves which are not open to the public:

**South Bass Island**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITE</th>
<th>ACRES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woischke Woods</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gump Woods</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knam Purchase</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victory Woods – Foley</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Middle Bass Island**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITE</th>
<th>ACRES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prokesh/Watson Property</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costello Tract</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hahn Property – Under Contract</td>
<td>8.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Look for these wildflowers while visiting the preserves:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sharp lobed Hepatica</td>
<td><em>Hepactica acutiloba</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut-leaf Toothwort</td>
<td><em>Dentaria laciniata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloodrot</td>
<td><em>Sanguinaria canadensis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large-flowered Trillium</td>
<td><em>Trillium grandiflorum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutchman’s Breeches</td>
<td><em>Dicentra cucullaria</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rue Anemone</td>
<td><em>Thalictrum thalictorides</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Leeks or Ramps</td>
<td><em>Allium tricoccum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May Apple</td>
<td><em>Podophyllum peltatum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendixed Waterleaf</td>
<td><em>Hydrophyllum appendiculatum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Waterleaf</td>
<td><em>Hydrophyllum virginianum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbine</td>
<td><em>Aquilegia Canadensis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Beauty</td>
<td><em>Claytonia virginica</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False Solomon’s Seal</td>
<td><em>Maianthemum racemosum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starry Solomon’s Seal</td>
<td><em>Maianthemum stellata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solomon’s Seal</td>
<td><em>Polygonatum biflorum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haairy Solomon’s Seal</td>
<td><em>Polygonatum pubescens</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Hyacinth</td>
<td><em>Camassia scilloides</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Trout Lily</td>
<td><em>Erythronium albidum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Trout Lily</td>
<td><em>Erythronium americanum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upright Smilax</td>
<td><em>Smilax ecirrata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spreading Chervil</td>
<td><em>Chaerophyllum procumbens</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harebell</td>
<td><em>Campanula rotundiflora</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted Jewelweed</td>
<td><em>Impatiens capensis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pale Jewelweed</td>
<td><em>Impatiens pallida</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short’s Aster</td>
<td><em>Symphiotrichium shortii</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pringle’s Aster</td>
<td><em>Symphiotrichium ericoides</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calico Aster</td>
<td><em>Symphiotrichium pringelii</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Cress</td>
<td><em>Cardamine douglassi</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dame’s Rocket</td>
<td><em>Hesperis matronalis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Cicely</td>
<td><em>Osmorhiza longisylis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Phlox</td>
<td><em>Phlox divaricata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Bog Violet</td>
<td><em>Viola nephrophylla</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downy Yellow Violet</td>
<td><em>Viola pubescens</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Blue Violet</td>
<td><em>Viola sororia</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Meadow Rue</td>
<td><em>Thalictrum dioicum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hairy Beadstongue</td>
<td><em>Penstemon hirsutus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herb Robert</td>
<td><em>Geranium robertianum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Geranium</td>
<td><em>Geranium maculatum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Bluebells</td>
<td><em>Mertensia</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thimbleweed</td>
<td><em>Anemone virginiana</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Anemone</td>
<td><em>Anemone canadensis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garlic Mustard</td>
<td><em>Alliaria petiolata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smooth Rock Cress</td>
<td><em>Arabis laevigata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumroot</td>
<td><em>Heuchera americana</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack in the Pulpit</td>
<td><em>Arisaema triphyllum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Flowered Bellwort</td>
<td><em>Uvularia grandiflora</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carriionflower</td>
<td><em>Smilax heracea</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squawroot</td>
<td><em>Conopholis americana</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris</td>
<td><em>Iris versicolor</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enchanters Nightshade</td>
<td><em>Circaea quadrirrupula</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumpseed</td>
<td><em>Phryma longistylus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tall Goldenrood</td>
<td><em>Solidago altissima</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zizag Goldenrood</td>
<td><em>Solidago</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grass-leaved Goldenrod</td>
<td><em>Euthamia graminifolia</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Look for these species of birds while visiting the preserves:

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Eastern Screen-Owl
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Easter Wood-Pewee
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Acadian Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Great Crested Flycatcher
Eastern Kingbird
White-eyed Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Brown Thrasher
Cedar Waxwing
Dark-eyed Junco
Yellow-breasted Chat
Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole
Ovenbird
Blue Jay
Purple Martin
Tree Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Barn Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
House Wren
Winter Wren
Carolina Wren
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Veery
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Swainson’s Thrush
Hermit Thrush
Wood Thrush
White-crowned Sparrow
Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Northern Waterthrush
Blue-winged Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Northern Parula
Bay-breasted Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Palm Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Scarlet Tanager
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler
American Redstart
Cape May Warbler
Cerulean Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Chesnut-sided Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Wilson’s Warbler
Northern Cardinal
Indigo Bunting
• In 2010, the University of Michigan published A Biodiversity and Conservation Atlas of the Great Lakes Islands in which they identified the Lake Erie Islands as an area that is “globally rare.”

• The United States Audubon Society stated that within the Lake Erie Islands there is a need to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth’s biological diversity.

• 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.”

• The Nature Conservancy has placed South Bass Island on the Top 10 list of the “most threatened islands in the Great Lakes.”

The unique areas in the Lake Erie Islands are in danger of being irrevocably altered.
• Ohio loses over 40,000 acres of rural land to development each year.
• 95% of wetlands in Ohio have disappeared.
• Scientists estimate at the end of this century over 50% of the species of birds that we know today will be extinct.

As residential and commercial development continue at a rapid pace within the Lake Erie Islands, it is the hope of the Put-in-Bay Township Park District that some natural areas can be preserved.
With the encouragement and support of property owners, individuals, organizations, the State of Ohio, and the Federal government, Put-in-Bay Township Park District and the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy has been able to preserve and protect forested areas, wetlands, and grass lands which are disappearing to development at an alarming rate.

• The Lake Erie Watersnake was on the Federally Endangered Species List. With PIBTPD’s acquisition of the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve and the Scheeff East Point Preserve, enough critical habitat has been protected that the federal government removed this species from the Endangered List. Ongoing research aides in monitoring these snakes for Snake Fungal disease to help maintain the population’s growth.

• Preserves are located in the Atlantic Migratory Flyway and are now providing resting areas for the thousands of birds making their bi-annual trek through the Islands. Bird banding efforts are taking place to monitor the various species that utilize the islands as a stopover site. It will help in the study of migration, longevity, mortality, population, and feeding behavior.

• Special focus has been given to populations of purple martins, tree swallows, and chimney swifts through the placement of nesting boxes for each species in the Scheeff East Point Preserve. These man-made nesting structures are vital for the birds to give birth to new generations which eventually make their trek to their winter homes in South America and fly 5,000 miles to return to the Scheeff Preserve nesting site to breed. At one time, South Bass Island was home to one of the largest roosts in Ohio with an estimated 250,000 birds.

• The National Park Service has provided support for control of invasive species throughout the preserves. Herbicide spraying of amur honeysuckle, common buckthorn, and common reedgrass has occurred throughout various points of the Middle Bass Island preserves. These spraying efforts will be later evaluated for effectiveness.

• Monach butterfly conservation has been researched through monarch butterfly banding at the Massie Cliffside Preserve and other island locations. The banding of these butterflies is vital for research, protection, and preservation of the species. Through this process, a large population of monarch butterflies were documented in a number of locations on the islands and were observed traveling to their winter roost in Mexico. Put-in-Bay Township Park District maintains tree cover near the lakeshore as roosting habitat for these migrating monarch butterflies. Milkweed has been planted for a caterpillar food source, and native summer-blooming plants have been planted for adults. Put-in-Bay Township Park District hopes to maintain this pollinator habitat to help contribute to their conservation.

• Recycling containers have been implemented at the Scheeff East Point Preserve, the Massie Cliffside Preserve, the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail, and the Dodge Woods Preserve and are being used by visitors to keep the preserves clean and reduce waste.

Students are utilizing the preserves as instrumental sites in conducting research to further conservation efforts of habitat and wildlife.
WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT NATURAL AREAS?

• Dispose of trash in marked bins.
• Appreciate artifacts and natural objects but leave them undisturbed.
• The preserves are not for your collection at home, please leave nature where it belongs.
• Do not introduce non-native species, including live bait. Allow all equipment to clean and dry before moving to a new area.
• Observe wildlife from a distance and do not feed, follow, or approach it. Keep pets leashed or leave them at home.
• Motorized vehicles or bicycles are prohibited. Stay on marked trails.

On behalf of the Put-in-Bay Township Park District, thank you for visiting these parks and preserves to witness these unique natural areas first-hand. Taking the time to learn about the habitats and wildlife of the Lake Erie Islands and their inherent value is the first step in understanding the importance of conservation. It is the hope that this experience will further your respect for the environment and influence you to make environmentally-friendly choices in your daily life.

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

GET INVOLVED

Volunteer:
The Put-in-Bay Township Park District offers many volunteer opportunities:
• Litter pickup
• Trail monitors - walk the trails and inform the Park District of any issues
• Tree removal
• Installation of signage, benches, brochure boxes, garbage containers, pet bag containers, bird houses
• Spread mulch
• Mowing around parking area
• Garlic mustard removal
• Assistance in bird banding activities
• Student research

Donate:
Private donations are vital to the continued success of the Park District. As a local government agency, all donations to the Park District are tax deductible within the limits provided by law. Every gift helps to conserve, protect, and maintain natural areas within the Lake Erie Islands. You can be confident that your donation will be dedicated to the mission of the Park District.

Donations can be made to:
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Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456
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Facebook: Lake Erie Islands Conservancy
Instagram: @putinbayparks
Twitter: @leiconservancy

#wildputinbay

www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org

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