

Standing Rush LLC at Bay View

Restroom:

There is a restroom on site that will be made available to trip participants

Site Information

This expansive 550+ acre, privately owned coastal marsh has been wetland since before European settlement. Yet its colorful past has included everything from tiling and farming to extensive clay mining to commercial trapping. However, waterfowl hunting has been the primary pursuit that has kept this significant holding on the map for the last 100+ years.

Dwindling financial resources coincided with the onslaught of loosestrife and then *Phragmites* from the mid-1980s until an ownership change in 2015. For the last three seasons, the property has been a working example of active wetland restoration and wholistic management. The bird response has been significant, thanks in large part to a system-wide shift in vegetation.

After birding the entrance around the field office, the tour can split into two groups: the first heading along the southwest property line (ultimately birding northwest toward Sandusky Bay), and the second heading to the northern dike, south of Route 2 (ultimately birding west toward Sandusky Bay). Dike-side habitats on the southern route vary from dense dogwoods and willows to emergent marsh. The northern route is biased more toward emergent marsh and open water. The groups can then reconvene for an up-close and expansive view of Sandusky Bay. Migratory passerines, waterbirds, waterfowl, rails, terns, eagles, and shorebirds can highlight this tour of nature in recovery.

NOTE: The description above assumes that the entire tour will be conducted on Standing Rush's West Marsh (west of SR 269). If management activities and/or bird activity warrants, viewing from easy access points on Standing Rush's East Marsh (east of SR 269) can also be arranged.

Aerial view the of entire Standing Rush property



Aerial view of the western portion of the property. This is where the majority of the field trip will take place. The yellow highlighted dike trail will be the main path of travel. The green highlighted dike trail is an alternate cut off trail.



Great Egret Marsh- The Nature Conservancy

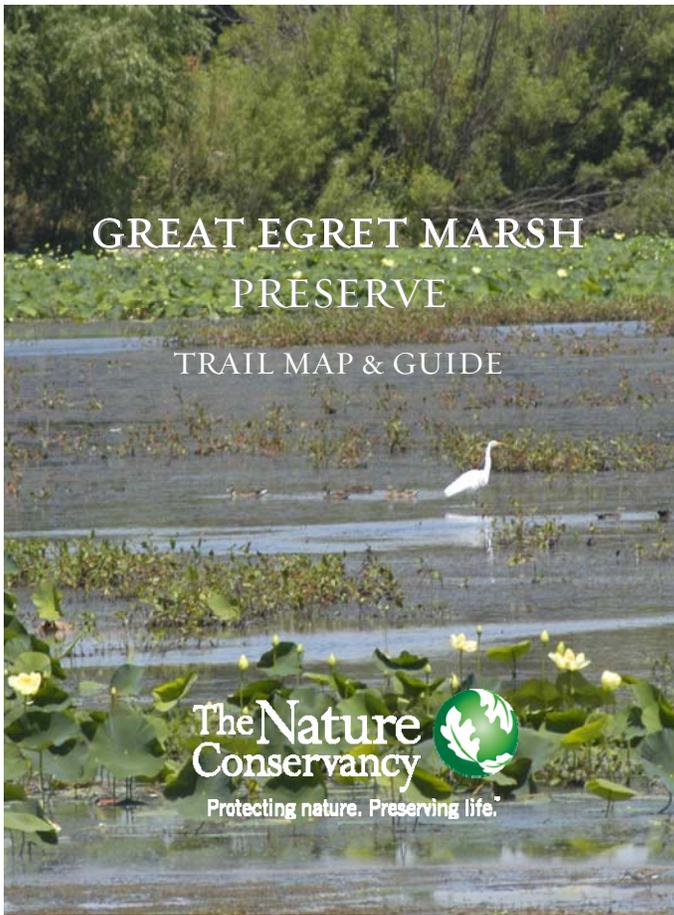
Great Egret Marsh Preserve consists of more than 150 acres of marsh and surrounding upland in Ottawa County across the road from East Harbor State Park.

The preserve's marshes are part of the West Harbor Basin, a long, narrow pool of Lake Erie backwater that geologists believe was once the channel of the Portage River. As the last wave of glaciation receded and Lake Erie's water level rose, the river naturally rerouted itself to empty into the lake at Port Clinton instead of nearby [East Harbor State Park](#).

Created in 2013 with help from a [Clean Ohio Conservation Fund](#) grant, the preserve contributes to the Conservancy's goal to protect and restore an additional 10,000 acres of coastal habitat along Lake Erie.

CURRENT CONSERVATION WORK

- In 2018 an osprey tower was installed, a pipe draining ephemeral wetland habitat was removed, and additional signage was installed.
- In 2017 a portion of the perimeter dikes at Great Egret Marsh were rebuilt to improve the resiliency of the wetland's water management infrastructure to protect wetland habitat.
- In 2016 two new water control structures were installed, allowing improved water management capabilities as well as improved fish passage.
- In 2015 the upland portions of Great Egret Marsh were planted with 15,000 native trees.
- In 2014 a trail and interpretive signage were installed at the preserve, which officially opened to the public in May 2014.
- In 2013 the Conservancy was awarded a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to restore the old farm fields back to wetlands and improve fish passage in the existing diked marsh.
- In 2013 planning began for a trail system and interpretive signage.
- Ongoing work includes managing for invasive species. Portions of Great Egret Marsh are managed using herbicides in an effort to remove invasive Phragmites, reed canary grass, and Canada thistle. These non-native species provide little to no benefit to our native wildlife.



Trail Access

- **Inter-Marsh Loop Trail** – an easy 1.2 mile loop trail between the marsh units allows for wildlife viewing in the marshes and reforested upland area

Hours & Use

- Trails and canoe launch to West Harbor are open dawn to dusk
- For your safety, please be aware of any posted rules & notices
- Boats are prohibited in marsh units, fishing access from walking trails only
- No motorized vehicles or bicycles permitted on preserve trails & grounds

Travel Directions

- From State Route 2, take State Route 269 North. After 2.5 miles, turn right onto State Route 163 East / State Route 269 North for about 1/2 mile. Turn left onto State Route 269 North / North Buck Road for about 3/4 mile. Turn left onto Buck Road 139A. Entrance to the preserve will be on your right.
- GPS coordinates: 41.540989, -82.822400

Site Overview

Great Egret Marsh Preserve consists of more than 150 acres of marsh and surrounding upland in Ottawa County across the road from East Harbor State Park. The preserve's marshes are part of the West Harbor Basin, a long, narrow pool of Lake Erie backwater that geologists believe was once the channel of the Portage River. As the last wave of glaciation receded and Lake Erie's water level rose, the river naturally rerouted itself to empty into the lake at Port Clinton. Great Egret Marsh Preserve, and the surrounding West Harbor Basin, is a haven for waterfowl and wading birds. One of the preserve's defining features, great egrets, congregate here in abundance. The large, white, wading birds native to this part of Lake Erie can of-

Characteristic Species

Bald Eagle Trumpeter Swan Great Egret Great Blue Heron Muskrat Spotted Sandpiper Green Frog Mink Pickerel Frog Northern Water Snake Mallard River Otter Yellow Warbler



Snapping Turtle

Sora

Bur-reed

Marsh Wren

The Nature Conservancy is the leading conservation organization in the world. We are an international, non-profit organization, and our mission is to preserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. The Nature Conservancy in Ohio was established in 1958 and has helped protect more than 60,000 acres of important land and waters. For more information about us and our preserves, please visit nature.org/ohio or contact us:

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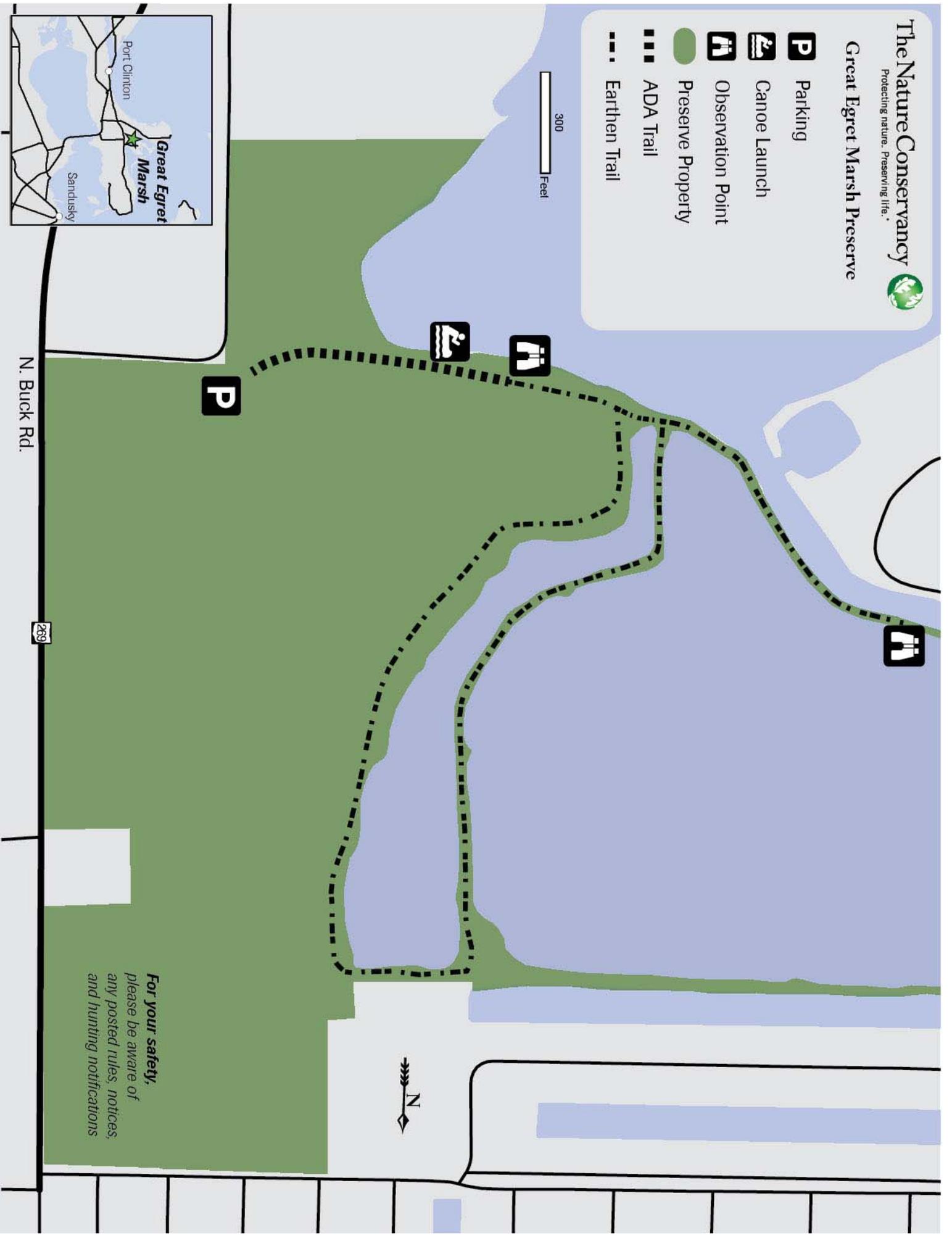
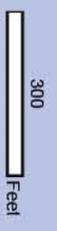
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in case of emergency dial 911

Great Egret Marsh Preserve

- Parking
- Canoe Launch
- Observation Point
- Preserve Property
- ADA Trail
- Earthen Trail



N. Buck Rd.

269



*For your safety,
please be aware of
any posted rules, notices,
and hunting notifications*