LITTLE TRAVERSE CONSERVANCY'S

Beaver Island Nature Preserves & Trails

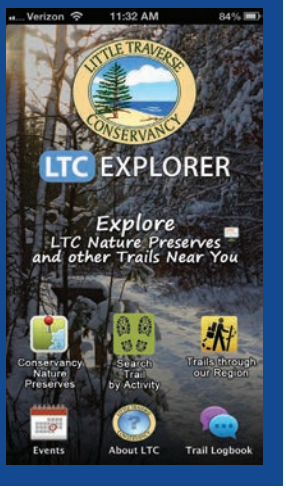
Since 1991 Little Traverse Conservancy has been working with the people of Beaver Island to conserve some of the most ecologically-significant island lands. Many privately-owned lands are now protected from future development with conservation easements. In addition, nearly 700 acres are available for public enjoyment as nature preserves or natural areas, as highlighted in this flyer.

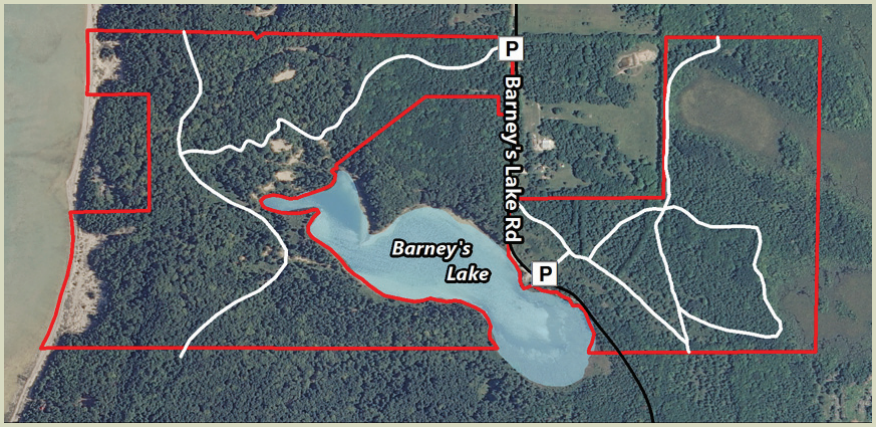
LITTLE TRAVERSE CONSERVANCY - 3264 Powell Road
Harbor Springs, MI 49740 - 231.347.0991 - www.landtrust.org

Download the app!

Our free nature preserve app provides users with accurate, detailed, and interactive maps and information about LTC preserves that are best suited for outdoor recreation.

The app is available on both Google Play and the Apple App Store by searching "LTC Explorer."





Barney's Lake Nature Preserve

The original 120-acre preserve was a gift to the Little Traverse Conservancy in 1990 by the heirs of Bernard and Margaret O'Donnell. Located about three miles southwest of St. James, the old O'Donnell homesite is east of the lake across from the lake viewing/access area. Once cleared fields are now a study in plant succession. Stones are piled along the old field and pasture boundaries. Wildlife commonly seen in the area include loon, great blue heron, whitetail deer, beaver, and snowshoe hare. In 2013, this preserve grew to 293 acres, 4,900 feet of Barney's Lake frontage, and 1,770 feet of Lake Michigan frontage. Features include open bog, sedge meadow, cedar swamp, and uplands with old logging trails that allow for hiking and exploring. Significant improvements - including boat racks - were made in 2011 and the trail was expanded to the west in 2013.

From St. James, take Kings Hwy. south 1¼ miles to Barney's Lake Rd. North and turn right. Go 2½ miles and the preserve can be found on both sides of the road. Look for a preserve sign on the left. Parking is on the right.

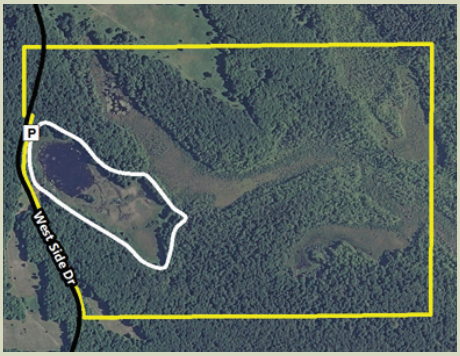
Marked Trails

Little Sand Bay Nature Preserve

Designated by a group of island residents as the number one priority for acquisition and preservation, the Conservancy purchased the original 60 acres in 1994. In 1999, LTC assisted the state in acquiring 30 acres to the north. And in 2011, LTC purchased a 28-acre addition to the preserve with funds from the J.A. Woollam Foundation. The preserve includes a mix of shrubs, cedar swamp, and sand dunes. A short trail (.4 mile) and foot bridges allow visitors to access the shore without damaging the sensitive habitat. When added with adjacent state land, nearly 1½ miles of Lake Michigan shoreline and a shallow swimming beach are now accessible.

From the Welke's Airport, go south on East Side Dr. for approximately 200 yards. Look for a sign on the left side of the road.

Marked Trails



CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY'S

Miller's Marsh Natural Area

With 230 acres, Miller's Marsh is the largest and most diverse true marsh found on the island. This wetland's diversity consists of a combination of open shallow water, extensive sedge (to the west) and sphagnum mats (to the east) surrounded by a mature second growth beech-maple forest. The preserve is home to frogs, migratory birds, and waterfowl. A small parking area leads to a one mile trail providing easy access around the marsh. Purchased by Little Traverse Conservancy in 1997, this property was conveyed to the Central Michigan Biological Station in 1998.

From St. James, take the King's Hwy. south for 4 miles. Turn right (west) onto Paid Een Ogs Rd. Continue about 1½ miles. At the four corners and airport turn left (south) onto West Side Dr. Continue on West Side Dr. approximately five miles to Miller's Marsh which will be on the left (east) side of the road.

Marked Trails

George & Althea Petritz Nature Preserve

At the northeast end of Beaver Island, this preserve is walking distance from town. A trail takes you through the 27 acres to 500 feet of gorgeous Lake Michigan beach. The donor wrote: "People, animals, plants, and trees allowed. All other human-made structures or objects prohibited. I would like it to remain a place to quietly appreciate nature."

From Port of St. James, take Main Street .7 miles north out of town. Turn left onto Lake Drive and travel .2 miles to the preserve sign on your left.

Marked Trails

KEY

- Bicycling
- Canoeing or Kayaking
- Fishing
- Hiking and Snowshoeing
- Horseback Riding
- Parking Area
- Scenic View/ Birdwatching
- Skiing
- Swimming Beach
- Signs and maps
- Geocache

Remember to download the smart phone app *(over)* or visit our website for interactive maps:
www.landtrust.org