

UPDATED JUNE 2019



A GUIDE TO THE *Natural Areas of Grosse Ile*

*Prepared by the Grosse Ile Open Space / Greenways Committee
and Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy*



Grosse Ile residents are blessed to live in an area surrounded by an abundance of Michigan's natural heritage treasures. These natural areas include marshes, woodlands, meadows and trails which have been protected to remain in their natural state,

free from development. As a result, the small town, semi-rural natural ambiance of our community is maintained. The total protected area includes 601 acres of Grosse Ile Open Space, all on the main island, the GINLC's 35 acres on Grosse Ile and 121

acres of marsh land and stewarded easements, nearly 365 acres of the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources islands, and 80 acres owned by the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (DRIWR).

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We hope you enjoy walking through the woods, trails and easements, and viewing the marshes. We also hope you respect the privacy of adjacent residents, confine your visits to daylight hours, take nothing but pictures, and leave nothing but footprints.

Open Space and GINLC Properties - See Map Pages 8 & 9 North Section (from Hennepin Point to Church Road)

Open Space	GINLC
1. Bertha Park – a 1.1-acre park at the northeast corner of Meridian and Annette Avenue.	A. Hennepin Marsh Preserve -- 121-acre shallow-water wetland bordering the Detroit River Trenton Channel. Viewing access available through Hennepin Marsh Gateway Preserve.
2. Marion Park – approximately 7 acres bordered by Paulina and Voigt Avenues on the north and south. Noteworthy: 24 and 26-inch diameter black walnut trees and 38 and 48-inch diameter honey locust trees.	B. Hennepin Marsh Gateway – 1.5-acre wooded wetland habitat on Meridian between Annette and Paulina. Property features a short hiking trail with a boardwalk over wetland with a trail continuing to a wildlife observation platform overlooking the Hennepin Marsh. Ecology-related interpretive signs are present at the site.
3. Thorofare Road, west of the Wildlife Sanctuary – 3-acre site slopes down from the higher Wildlife Sanctuary and is bordered to the east by Thorofare Road. Noteworthy: 45-inch diameter Bur Oak near the southwest corner.	C. Grosse Ile Woods Preserves – 51 lots comprising a total of 9.6 acres of excellent wildlife habitat purchased from or donated by seven families and the Michigan Land Bank near Horsemill and Thorofare.
4. Grosse Ile Woods – a partially protected, heavily forested area west of the Wildlife Sanctuary (40 acres of Open Space land and 9 acres owned by GINLC). Thirty-seven acres of vacant private land remain to be protected through donation or purchase.	D. Thorofare Canal (Kobiljak) Preserve - 0.73-acre upland property on Thorofare and Byromar that adjoins the Thorofare Canal. GINLC continues to develop a more diverse habitat on the property with the planting of many native trees, shrubs and pollinator plants.
5. Horsemill Greenway (Bike Path) – 5-acre greenway fronts Horsemill Rd and Horsemill Open Space to the south.	E. Finazzo Easement – privately owned 0.85-acre site by Parke Lane and Horsemill is under a conservation easement. Wooded wetland habitat.
6. Horsemill Open Space – 31-acre rectangular site is bordered by Horsemill Rd on the north, Meridian Rd on the west, and Thorofare Rd on the east. The site was once farmland and now has a cover of brush and small trees.	F. Crysler Easement – 1-acre parcel, under conservation easement with GINLC, containing wooded wetland habitat.
7. Korneffel Woods – 38-acre property was purchased in 2004. Located south of Bridge Rd. Bordered by Meridian on the west and the eastern boundary is approximately 300 feet west of Parke Lane. It is heavily forested.	
8. The Wildlife Sanctuary and Trail – 12-acre property is bordered by roads on 3 sides, Horsemill (south), Thorofare (west) and Morkland (north), with trail entrances at each road. The east side slopes down to the Thorofare Canal. It has been under the stewardship of the Grosse Ile Garden Club since 1943. (See page 5)	<p>Special Note:</p> <p>Hennepin Point - privately owned by BASF Corporation. The 225-acre site at the northernmost end of Grosse Ile was formerly used by BASF's predecessor companies as a repository for byproducts from chemical manufacturing. The site has been secured and is being naturally rehabilitated and revegetated under BASF management. The site is not open to the public but will remain as a natural area for use by wildlife and wildlife researchers.</p>
9. East Wildlife Sanctuary – 37-acre site is bordered on the west side by Thorofare Canal, on the south by Horsemill Rd, Parke Lane and private property on the east, and private property on the north. There is a trail entrance north of Horsemill and east of Canal St.	
10. Parke Lane Open Space – 10-acre property is bordered by Parke Lane on the east, Wood Dr on the south, HCL Jackson on the west and Horsemill on the north. There is a trail into the site on Parke Lane.	
11. Wendell Court – 12-acre property borders the west side of Parke Lane near Wendell Ct. Purchased in 2003 with contributions from adjacent neighbors and Open Space funds.	

Open Space and GINLC Properties - See Map Pages 8 & 9 Central Section (from Church Road to Bellevue Road)

Open Space	GINLC
12. Lowrie Greenway – 0.5-acre greenway located east of Meridian Rd. and northwest of Lowrie Rd.	G. Ryder Preserve – 0.24-acre site near Blauvelt and Lafayette with notable nice oak tree specimens.
13. Manor Woods – approximately 11-acre triangular shaped parcel is wedged between Meridian Road, the Thorofare Canal and Waterman Drive.	H. Caldwell Preserve – 0.48-acre lot adjoining the Thorofare Canal. Mixed-vegetation habitat.
14. Stout Woods – 10-acre heavily wooded site with a natural trail. Entrance from the end of Parke Lane.	I. Morse Preserve - two lots (0.39-acre) adjoining the Thorofare Canal. Contains notable Chinquapin Oak specimens. Small pond on property.
15. Island / Ferry Woods and Trail - 74-acre property between Island Blvd. and Ferry Road and E. River Road and Thorofare Canal. Includes the New Ferry Trail connecting Island Blvd. and Gage Avenue with Ferry Road. (see page 6)	J. D’Avanzo Preserve – four lots totaling 0.62-acre of mixed habitat bordering the waterway near Halley Crescent & Hickory Circle.
16. Bike Path Park – 2-acre parcel located at the intersection of the Thorofare Canal and Meridian Rd.	K. Ondo Preserves - four lots comprising 0.523-acre. One lot adjoin the Thorfare Canal. Three lots contain mixed-vegetation habitat.
17. Grays Drive Open Space - 7- acre parcel on the south side of Grays Drive.	L. Wittbold Preserve - 0.73-acre adjoining the Thorofare Canal. Mixed-vegetation wetland habitat.
18. Macomb Overlook – Observation deck at E. River and Macomb provides viewing access of the Detroit River.	M. MLBFTA Preserve - 0.3-acre lot adjoining the Thorofare Canal. Mixed-vegetation wetland habitat.
19. Parkway Woods and Playscape Trail - 32- acre property between Meridian and Parke Lane behind the stores and Post Office on Macomb to Grosse Ile Parkway. Access the trail from the Playscape. (See Page 7)	N. Wright Preserve - 0.45-acre adjoining the Thorofare Canal. Mixed-vegetation wetland habitat. Large black Walnut and Shagbark Hickory Specimens.
20. Sunrise Park – 0.5-acre site located on the Detroit River at the end of Grosse Ile Parkway, owned by Grosse Ile Township and stewarded by GINLC. Features a wooden stairway, kayak ramp, picnic tables, two retaining walls funded by the GINLC, and native plantings installed by GINLC volunteers. Dedicated to GINLC founder and conservationist Dr. Bruce Jones.	O. Taylor Preserve - 0.53-acre. Contains rare sedge marsh. Adjacent to D’Avanzo Preserve.
	P. Lalosh Preserve- 0.5-acre lot adjoining the Thorofare Canal. Dense mixed-vegetation wetland habitat.
State of Michigan (See page 14 for more information)	Q. Cleaver Preserve - 0.25-acre lot of upland habitat bordering marshland near Blauvelt & Lafayette.
Stony Island – 249-acre island (includes bottom-lands) owned by the State of Michigan and managed by the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources Wildlife Division.	R. Parkway Preserve- 0.17-acre heavily wooded low-lying parcel near Blauvelt & Lafayette.
	S. Grays Drive Easement - 2.9-acre easement at Grays Drive and Cadillac Circle of wooded wetland habitat that provides access to Gray’s Drive Open Space area.

Open Space and GINLC Properties - See Map Pages 8 & 9 South Section (from Bellevue Road south to Celeron Island)

Open Space	GINLC
21. Recreation Area Trail – 14-acre parcel north of the soccer fields and west of Meridian Rd. There is a trail access from west of the soccer fields that exists south of Meridian School on Meridian Rd.	T. Daly Preserve – two lots comprising 0.48-acre of wooded wetland habitat near Coleman and Brook Circle.
22. Loma Circle/Frenchman’s Creek – 15-acre property that slopes down to a marsh and Frenchman’s Creek, the western border. Loma Circle East extends across the northwest corner of the property.	U. Finazzo Preserve –1.4-acre upland site by Meridian and Rucker, adjacent to Open Space property.
23. Intrepid Pond – a natural pond containing fish, frogs and other wildlife, owned by Grosse Ile Township and stewarded by GINLC.	V. Emily's Way Preserve (Darany Property) -- 0.42-acre wooded wetland habitat with seasonally wet swale. Borders Open Space property near Rucker and E. River Rd. Numerous bird species are often present in this area.
24. Groh Road Open Space – 7-acre property crosses both sides of Frenchman’s Creek on the north side of Groh Rd.	
25. Centennial Farm Open Space and Trail – 37-acre parcel located west of the Centennial Farm. There is a trail from the farm into the woods. Noteworthy: a 40-inch diameter Red Oak tree. (See page 10)	State of Michigan (See page 14 for more information)
26. Meridian Woods and Trail – 183 contiguous acres bordered on the west by Meridian, with a trail accessible from Meridian. Meridian Woods abuts private homes between Rucker, Manchester and E. River Road. Noteworthy: a 45-inch diameter Bur Oak and several Red Oak trees with diameters ranging from 30 to 50 inches. A trail access is planned from Manchester. (See Page 11)	Celeron Island - 125 acres (includes bottom-lands) on four closely connected island owned by the State of Michigan and managed by the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources Wildlife Division. Noteworthy: American Lotus beds.
27. Oldani Marsh – Large marshland owned by Grosse Ile Township. Excellent wildlife habitat and wildlife viewing.	
28. Elba Mar Meadows – 12-acre parcel on E. River Road across from the Gibraltar Bay Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (See pages 15 for more information.)
29. Airport Natural Area – Property owned by GI Township Airport, stewarded by GINLC, adjacent to DRIWR Gibraltar Bay Unit on E. River Rd. Features a beaver lodge. Open to the public on Sundays, May - October, hosted by GINLC.	
	Gibraltar Bay Unit and Trail – GINLC partners with USFWS to offer nature programs to the public at the 40-acre site. Site includes a pond and a variety of habitats including the Gibraltar Bay. Noteworthy: Migratory bird stopover site. (See Page 12)
	Sugar Island – 30-acre island purchased for the Refuge in 2012. Public access is limited to the west beach, from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Hunting is allowed in season.
	Calf Island – 11-acre island included in the Refuge in 2002, with hunting access only.

Grosse Ile Trails

Wildlife Sanctuary

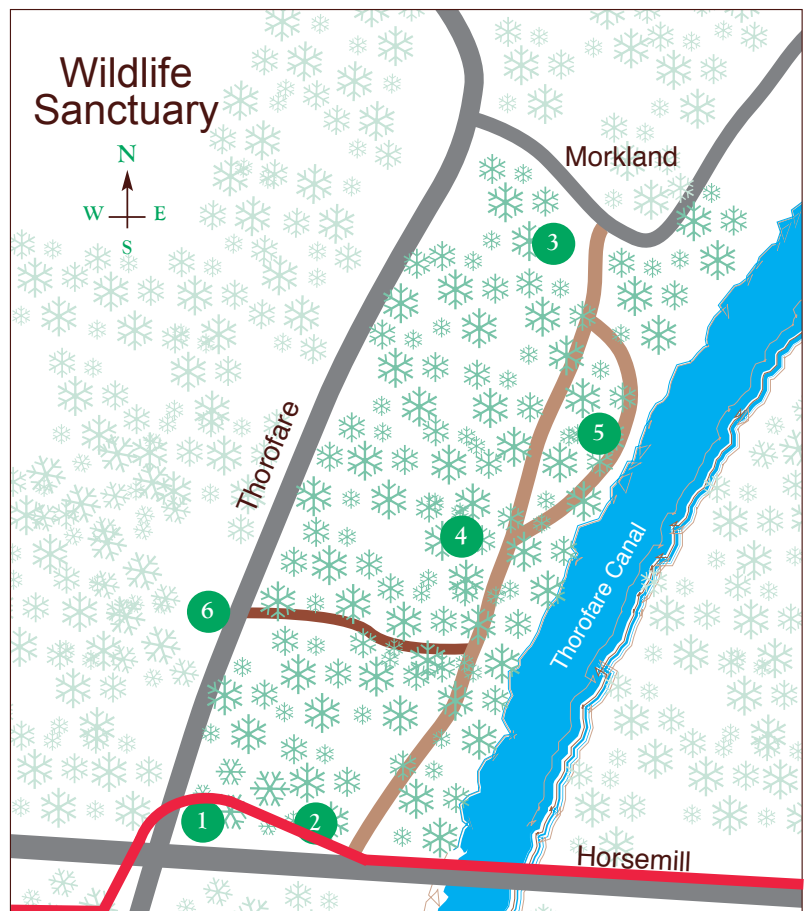
The Wildlife Sanctuary was donated to the Township in 1943 by Marie Smith, the Grosse Ile Garden Club President. In 2010 the Wildlife Sanctuary became a part of the Greenways Open Space Program and is now stewarded by the Garden Club and the Open Space Committee.

Major upgrades and extensions to the 350-yard long trail began in 2013 with the Grosse Ile Garden Club purchasing and installing a Memorial Bench in honor of Marie Smith. In 2015 the Committee designated the trail an Education Trail. The Open Committee is working with educators, the Garden Club and the Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy to provide our residents an environmental history of this unique area.

The Wildlife Sanctuary is accessible by the Horsemill Greenway Bike Path.



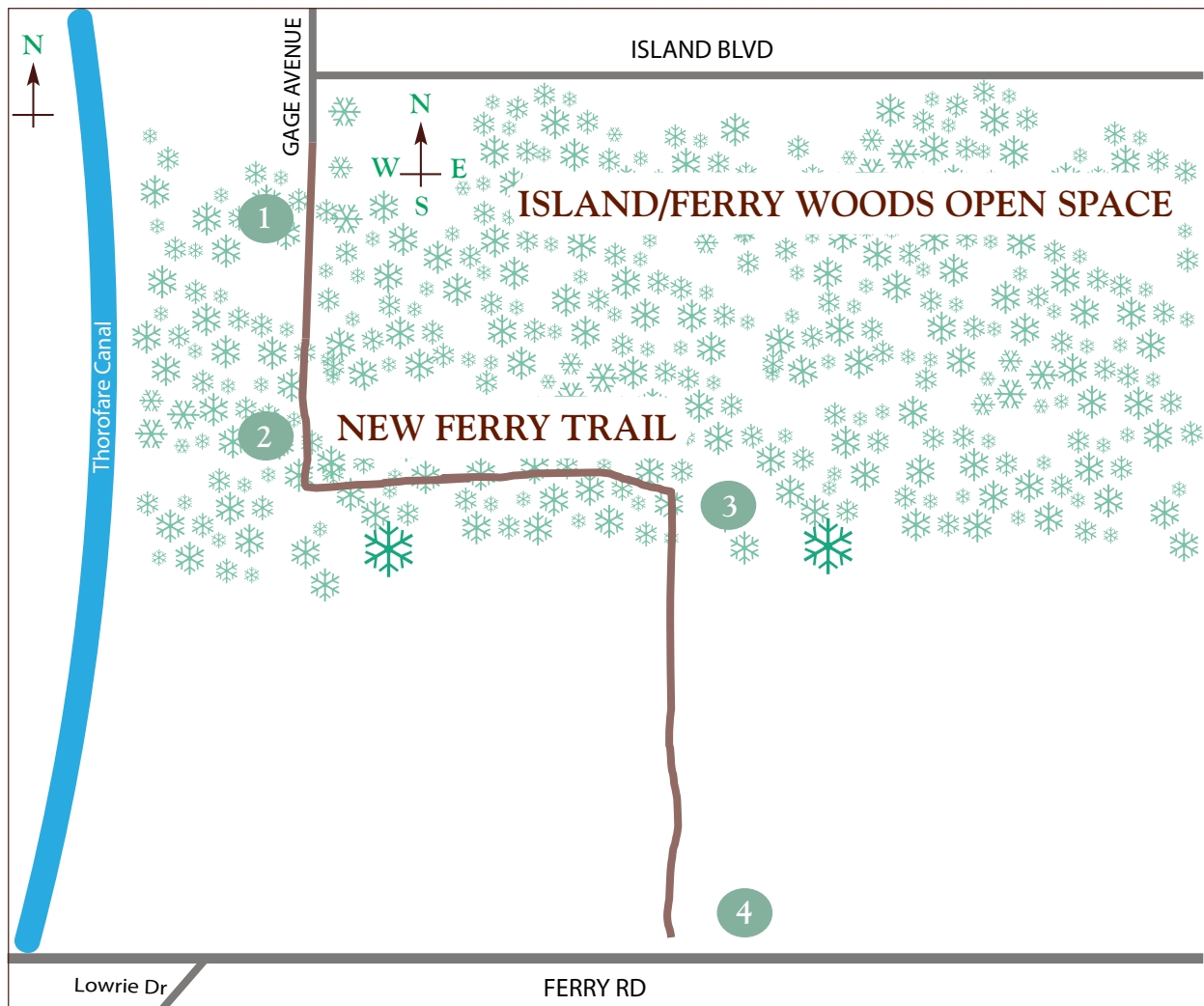
1. Sanctuary sign at Horsemill and Thorofare
2. Trail entrance on Horsemill
3. Trail entrance on Morkland
4. Walking Trail
5. Thorofare Canal overlook
6. Trail Spur to Thorofare



Grosse Ile Trails

Island/Ferry Woods and the New Ferry Trail

Island/Ferry Woods Open Space is located between Island Boulevard, and Ferry Road and between the Thorofare Canal and private properties on E. River Road. The New Ferry Trail connects Island Boulevard and Ferry Road via two north/south sections that are linked by an east/west trail that runs through the Woods. The New Ferry Trail replaces an unofficial trail that continued from the Open Space onto private property which has since been developed.



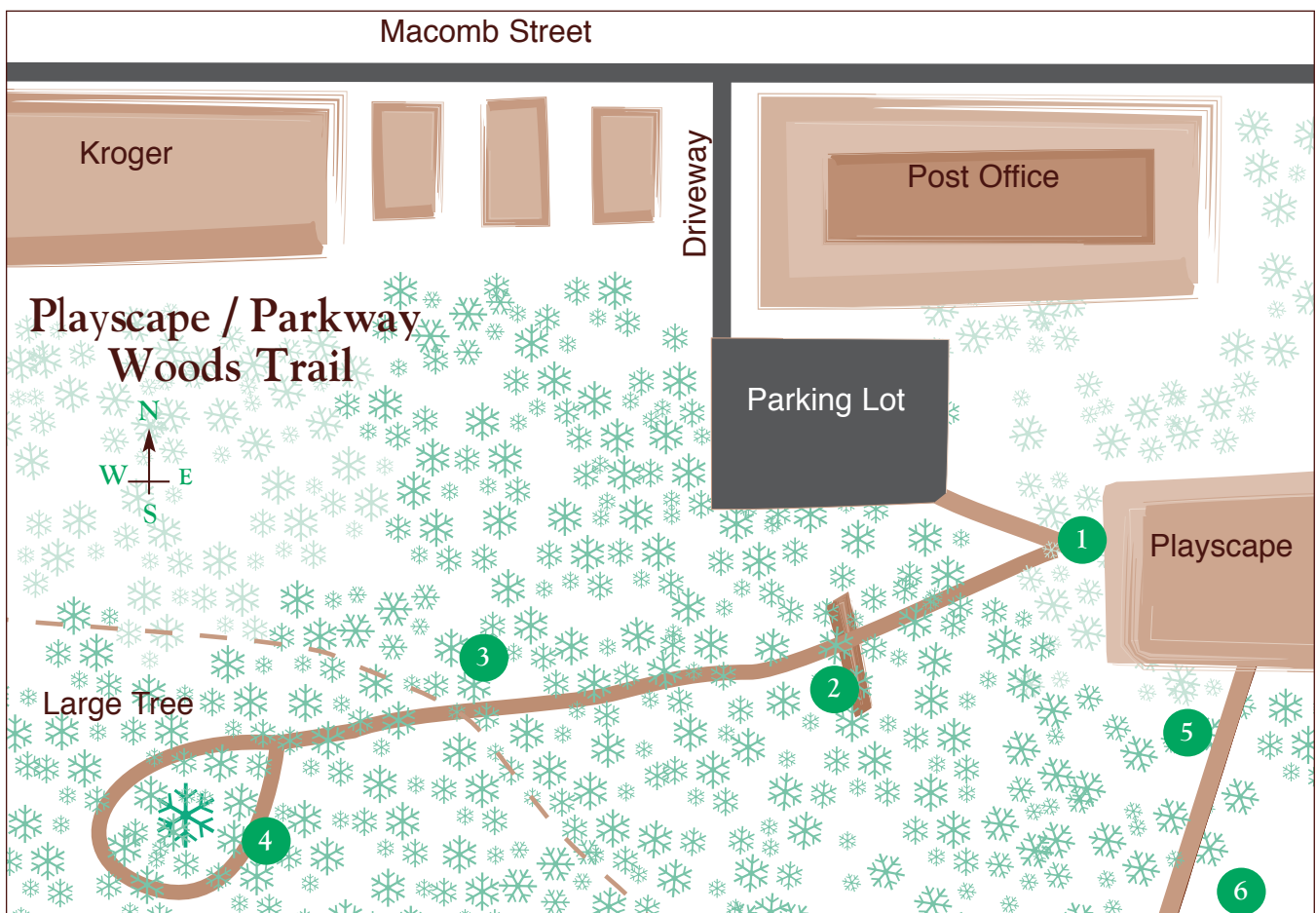
- 1. North trail entrance at Gage Avenue from Island Blvd
- 2. Trail turns

- 3. Trail turns
- 4. Entrance at Ferry Road

Grosse Ile Trails

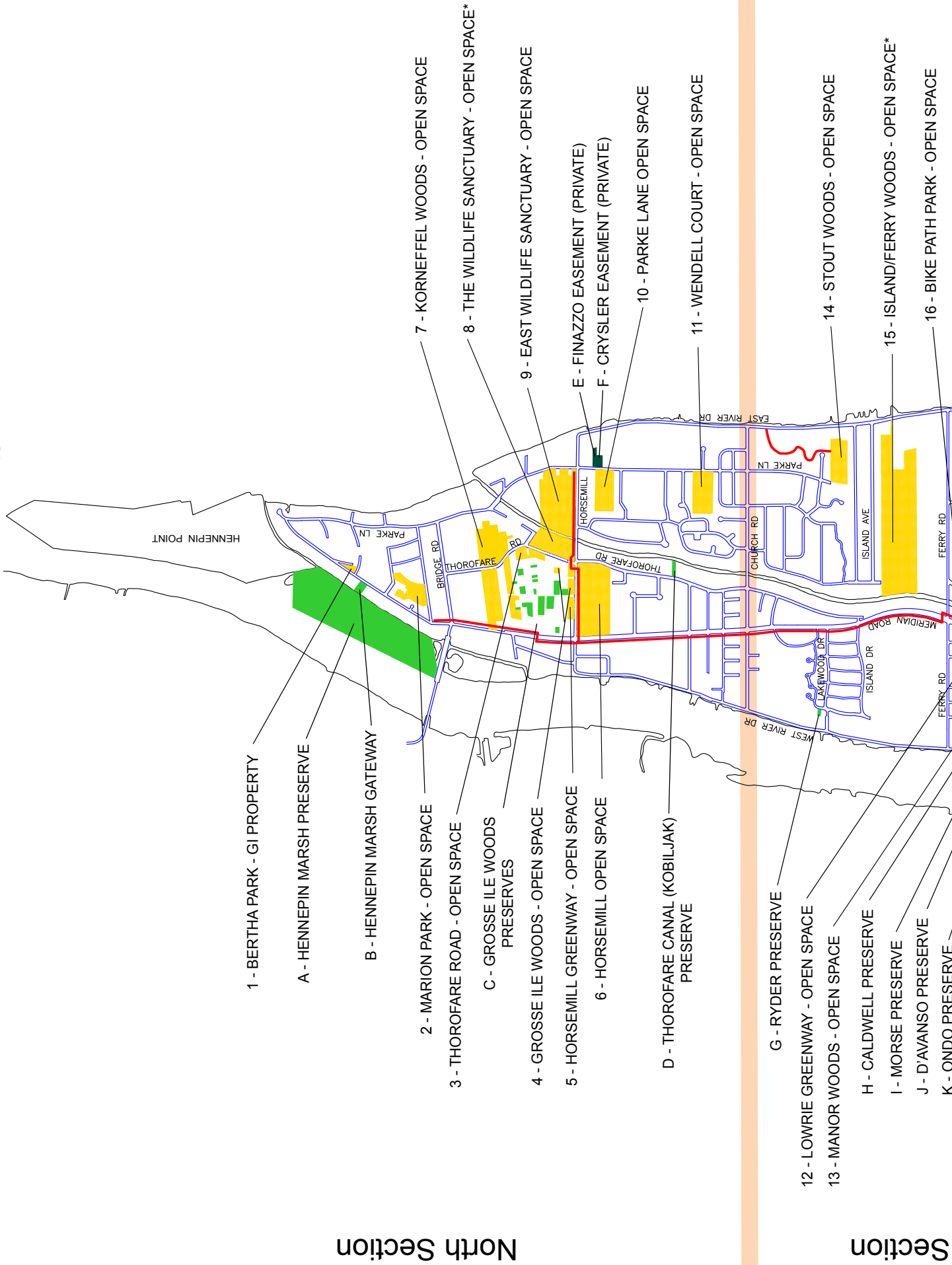
Parkway Woods / Playscape Trail

The Parkway Woods / Playscape Trail is located in the Open Space area directly west of the Playscape behind the Post Office. It is a closed-loop trail about 280 yards in length with wood chips. It was constructed by a local Boy Scout to obtain his Eagle Scout badge. The area is heavily forested and contains deer runs across the trail. It is an ideal trail to take your children or grandchildren after visiting the Playscape.



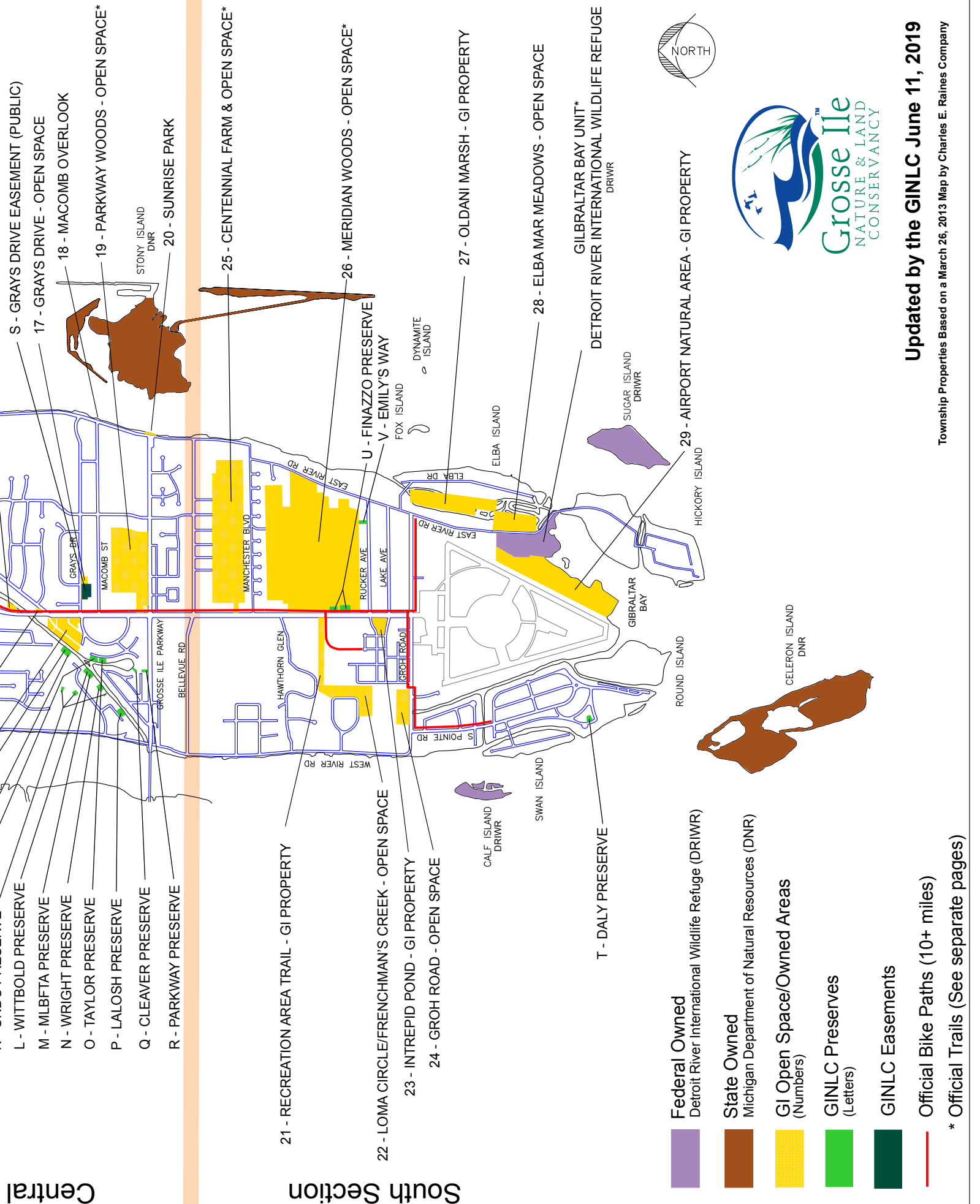
1. Trail entrance west of Playscape
2. Culvert covering small creek
3. Deer Run
4. Trail loop around large tree
5. Trail spur to GI Parkway
6. Trail entrance at GI Parkway

GROSSE ILE TOWNSHIP NATURAL AREAS AND BIKE PATHS



North Section

Section



- S - GRAYS DRIVE EASEMENT (PUBLIC)
- 17 - GRAYS DRIVE - OPEN SPACE
- 18 - MACOMB OVERLOOK
- 19 - PARKWAY WOODS - OPEN SPACE*
- 20 - SUNRISE PARK

- 21 - RECREATION AREA TRAIL - GI PROPERTY
- 22 - LOMA CIRCLE/FRENCHMAN'S CREEK - OPEN SPACE
- 23 - INTREPID POND - GI PROPERTY
- 24 - GROH ROAD - OPEN SPACE
- 25 - CENTENNIAL FARM & OPEN SPACE*
- 26 - MERIDIAN WOODS - OPEN SPACE*

- 27 - OLDANI MARSH - GI PROPERTY
- 28 - ELBA MAR MEADOWS - OPEN SPACE
- 29 - AIRPORT NATURAL AREA - GI PROPERTY

- L - WITTBOLD PRESERVE
- M - MLBFTA PRESERVE
- N - WRIGHT PRESERVE
- O - TAYLOR PRESERVE
- P - LALOSH PRESERVE
- Q - CLEAVER PRESERVE
- R - PARKWAY PRESERVE

- T - DALY PRESERVE

- Federal Owned**
Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (DRIWR)
- State Owned**
Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- GI Open Space/Owned Areas**
(Numbers)
- GINLC Preserves**
(Letters)
- GINLC Easements**
- Official Bike Paths (10+ miles)**
- Official Trails (See separate pages)**



Updated by the GINLC June 11, 2019

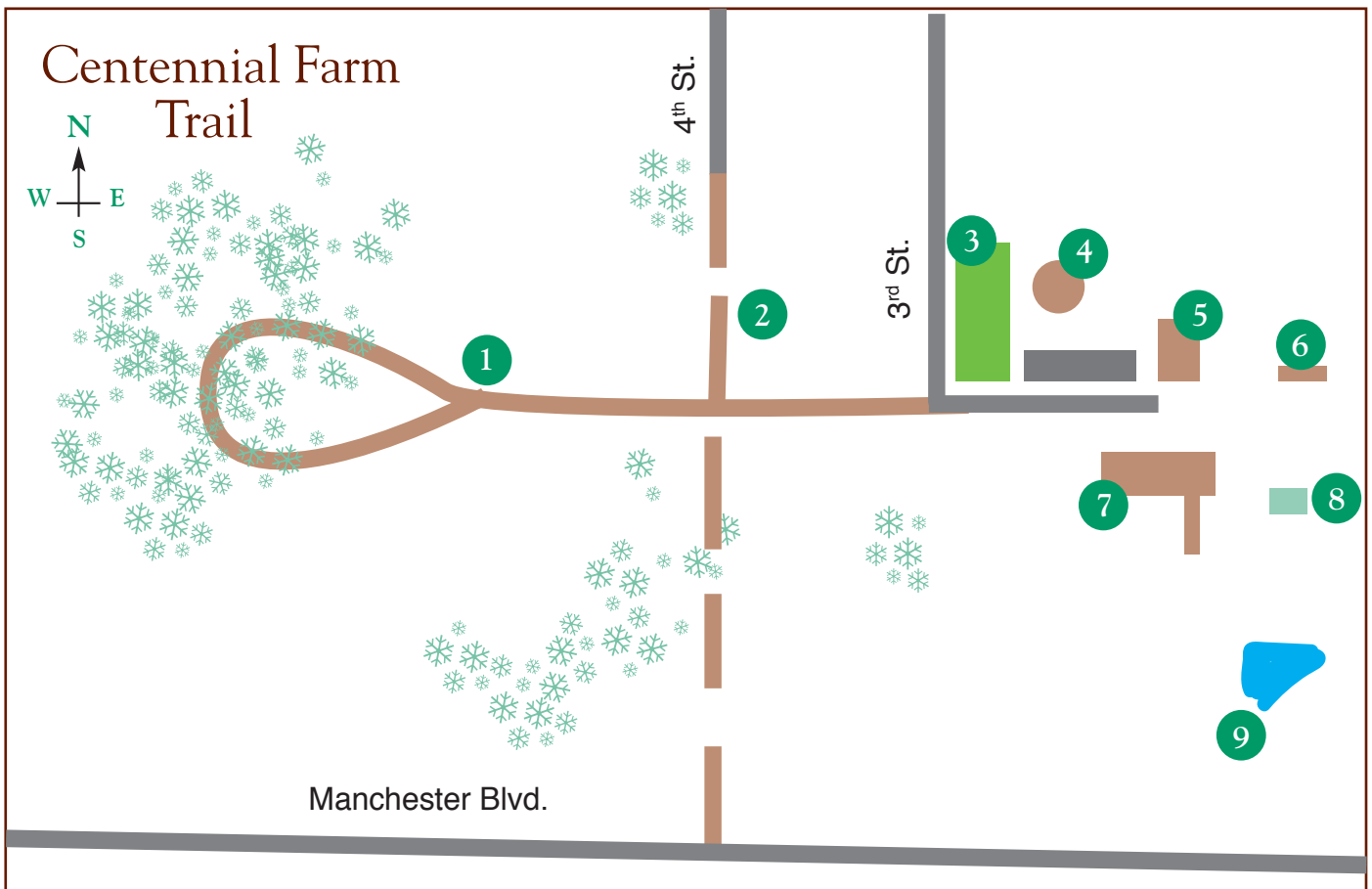
Township Properties Based on a March 26, 2013 Map by Charles E. Raines Company

Grosse Ile Trails

Centennial Farm Trail

This trail is located on the west side of the Centennial Farm within a mixture of open areas and heavily wooded areas. Two overgrown natural spurs are located to exits on 4th Street and Manchester.

It is ideal for those who are visiting the Centennial Farm recreation facilities and wish to take a stroll through the natural area of the Centennial Farm Open Space.



- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Main Loop Trail | 6. GI Animal Shelter |
| 2. Overgrown spurs to 4th St and Manchester Blvd. | 7. Luton Riding Academy |
| 3. Dog Park (Permit Required) | 8. Children's Garden |
| 4. Playground and Butterfly garden | 9. Centennial Farm Pond |
| 5. Centennial Farm Recreation Bldg. | |

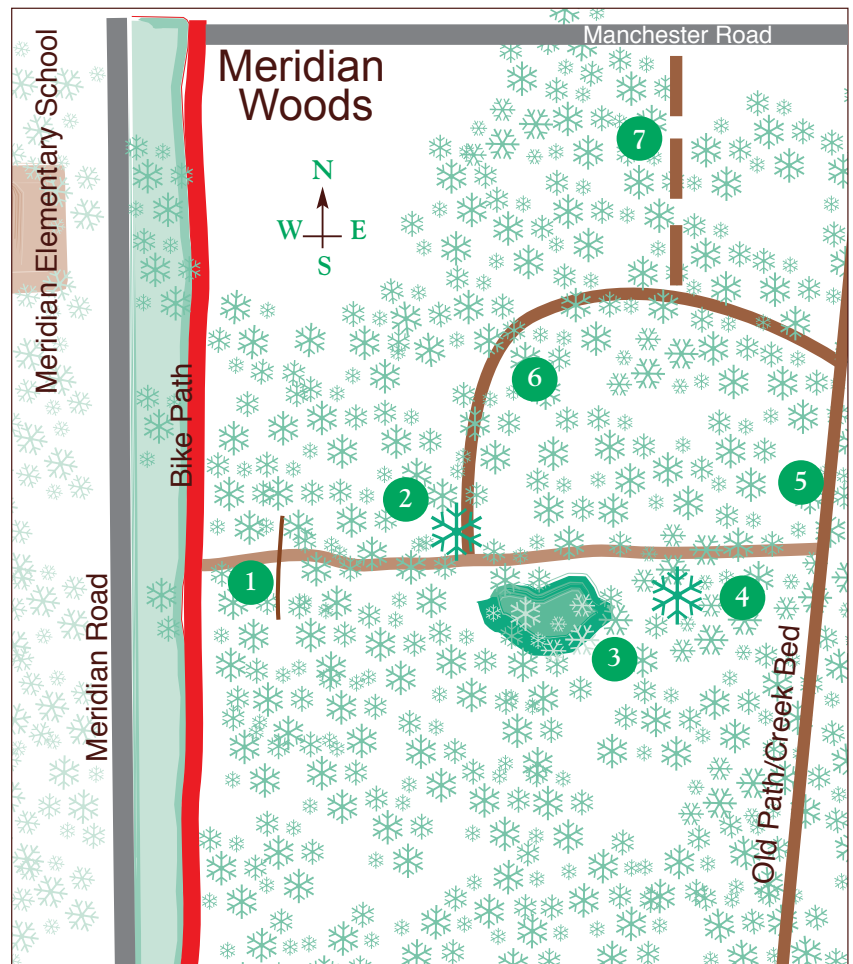
Grosse Ile Trails

Meridian Woods and Trail (formerly Manchester Woods)

The 183 acre woods trail is located in the Open Space on the east side of Meridian Road across from the Meridian Elementary School. The entrance is identified by a small berm with an evergreen tree. There is a loop natural trail with low spots and logs. There is a proposed path and access point north to Manchester Road.



1. Trail entrance
2. Large maple tree with some poison ivy
3. Low spot - you may see some frogs
4. Large Tree
5. Path runs at creek bed
6. Path makes a loop back to original trail
7. Proposed path extension to Manchester Road



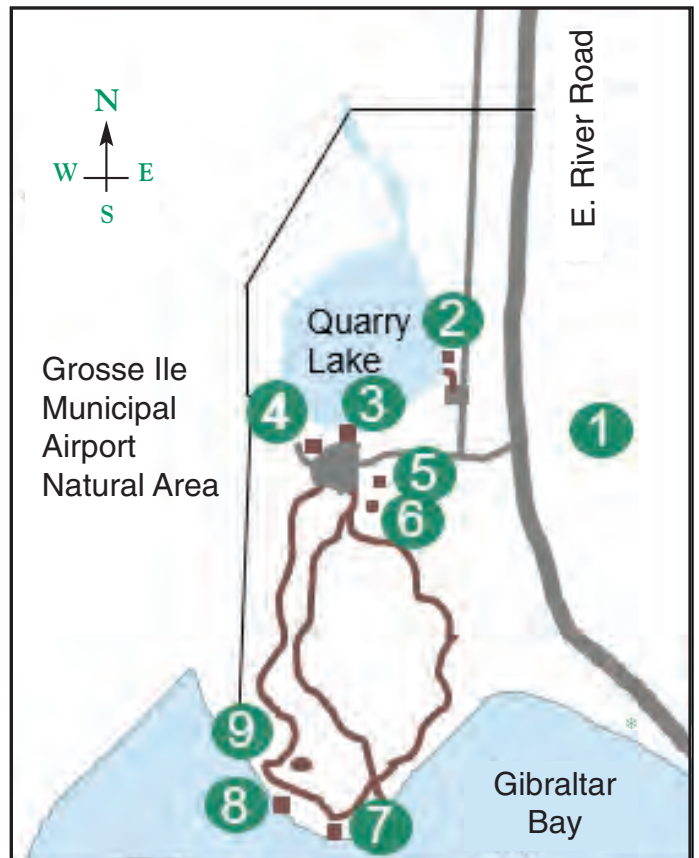
Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

Gibraltar Bay Unit Trails

The Gibraltar Bay Unit is accessed from E. River Road and is adjacent to the Grosse Ile Township Airport. Formerly a Nike missile site, the Dept. of Defense turned it over to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and it is now owned by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The GINLC continues to steward the property, volunteering on habitat restoration projects and conducting Sunday Open House events May through October when the Airport Natural Area is also accessible. The GINLC and Refuge staff offer nature programs on a semi-regular basis. Visit the GINLC website for more information, ginlc.org



This site has 2.5 miles of trails and more amenities than other natural areas on Grosse Ile. Aquatic species include American Lotus and wild celery. The bay is important for bass, pike, and long-nose gar. Beavers are active on the Airport property.



1. Entrance to GBU
2. Photo Blind
3. Quarry Lake Observation Deck
4. Shed, Portable Toilet, Garbage Can, Entrance to Airport Natural Area
5. Information Kiosk
6. Doggie Poop Bag Dispenser
7. Gibraltar Bay Observation Deck
8. Spotting Scope
9. Rock of Gibraltar Bay (glacial rock)

Grosse Ile Open Space Committee and the Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy

The fact that Grosse Ile abounds with nature is no accident; it is the result of foresight, planning, commitment and effort on the part of Grosse Ile residents, elected officials, local, state and federal agency professionals and community volunteers. There are two organizations on Grosse Ile that are dedicated to preserving the natural character of our island community – the Grosse Ile Open Space / Greenways Program, reporting to the elected Township board and funded via millages assessed to the property owners, and the Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy, a private, non-profit organization. The members of these two organizations are volunteers and are not compensated for their services.

Open Space Program

In the early 1990s many residents and Township Board members realized that continued uncontrolled development of Grosse Ile would jeopardize the natural character of the community and over-extend the capacity of its infrastructure. To correct this potential problem, in 1994 the Township Board established an Open Space Program to purchase vacant lots and deed restrict them to ensure they remained in their natural state. They also established a committee to oversee the lands, maintain them and provide analyses and information to the Township Board as required. Two millages were approved by the voters, one to purchase land to be protected, and one to maintain the lands. To date, 601 acres have been purchased and protected. At the present time, both millages have been allowed to expire with \$160,000 remaining in the acquisition account and \$250,000 remaining in the maintenance account. However, there are approximately 110 additional acres of privately owned vacant land that are suitable for protection under the Open Space Program.

The Open Space Committee consists of 7 volunteers appointed by the Township Board for a period of 3 years, including a representative from GINLC and from the Recreation Committee. A current Township Trustee also serves as liaison to the Open Space Committee. Current Open Space Committee projects include improving the condition of five existing trails, public service projects such as Dump the Junk, wood cutting for use by individuals and providing recommendations to the Township Board regarding property procurement.

Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy

The Conservancy is a private non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Established in 1993, its mission is “to promote for public benefit the preservation, stewardship and understanding of the natural resources in the Township of Grosse Ile and surrounding area.” To date, 35 acres of land and 121 acres of marshlands have been acquired by the GINLC. Funding for procuring GINLC lands is solely from donations from private individuals, foundations and grants. The Conservancy does not use any Township funds. In addition, the GINLC stewards many acres owned by the Township and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

The GINLC is led by a board of directors elected by members at its annual meeting in November. Monthly board meetings are generally held at the Township Hall. Membership is open to all GI residents and off-island supporters. The Conservancy offers a variety of environmental educational program throughout the year on Grosse Ile. More information is available at the GINLC website, www.ginlc.org and via the newsletter.

State of Michigan-owned Islands on Grosse Ile

The State of Michigan owns two islands within Grosse Ile Township – Celeron Island and Stony Island. They are managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Celeron Island is the southern-most island within Grosse Ile Township. It contains 125 acres (including bottom-lands). Technically, Celeron Island is composed of four closely connected islands. The island is named after Sieur de Celeron, once Commandant of Detroit. Celeron and Stony Islands are part of the “conservation crescent” embracing the southern end of Grosse Ile and represent valuable wildlife habitat with great biological diversity.

Stony Island is an approximately 249-acre island (including bottom-land) about a quarter-mile east of the center of Grosse Ile. Originally Stony Island was used by the Native American Potawatomi tribe for hunting and fishing. It was deeded to the Macomb family of Grosse Ile in 1781 and became part of a railroad-ferry river crossing between Canada and the U.S. during the late 1800s. During the 1930s, the island was used as a center of operations to create the Livingstone Channel, and then later as a base for dredging the shipping channel. The island’s odd shape and stony composition came from millions of cubic yards of sediment dredged out of the middle of the river to provide a deep shipping lane for large freighters. A small residential community existed on the island during this time. These homes no longer exist, however, abandoned machine shops and several sunken non-motorized barges remain. The Island was purchased by the State of Michigan in 1997 with Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund dollars and is currently a part of Grosse Ile Township and managed by the DNR.

Stony and Celeron Islands are seeing a resurgence of fish and wildlife, thanks to Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the EPA. From 2013 through 2018, the Friends of the Detroit River, in partnership with the DNR and the Detroit River Public Advisory Council, oversaw the planning and implementation of projects to re-establish spawning and nursery habitat for commercial, spot and forage fish species, revitalize coastal wetlands and protect terrestrial resources within the watershed. Projects included the construction of several thousand linear feet of habitat shoals and habitat structures for mudpuppies, turtles and fish including rock piles, basking logs and woody debris bundles.

Stony Island



Friends of the Detroit River

Celeron Island



Friends of the Detroit River

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge on Grosse Ile

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge was established by Congress in 2001. The Refuge is a combination lands owned by the federal government and those owned by and cooperatively managed with other partners. Together, the Refuge manages just over 6,200 acres and consists of unique habitats, including islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals, and waterfront lands within an authorized boundary extending along 48 miles of Detroit River shoreline from Detroit to Ohio. Grosse Ile is located within the authorized boundary and includes three Refuge units, the Gibraltar Bay Unit, Sugar Island and Calf Island.

Gibraltar Bay Unit (GBU) (See Page 12)

The GBU has an interesting history. Much of its land was once a Nike Missile site. The site was home to 30 Nike Ajax missile, 12 launchers, and two radar towers between 1955 and 1963. The U.S. Department of Defense turned the site over to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which partnered with the GINLC to restore the habitat and provide public access. In 2001 the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) took possession of the site from the EPA. The FWS partners with the GINLC on habitat restoration projects and educational nature programs for the public. The GBU consists of 40.5 acres and is open dawn-to dusk year-round.

Sugar Island

From the 1800s to the 1940s, Sugar Island was a popular amusement park, replete with a roller coaster and dancehall. It fell into disrepair and became an overgrown, neglected, privately-owned party venue until it was purchased in April 2012 by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service with federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding for inclusion in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. The western beach is open to the public from Memorial Day to Labor Day for day use by boating access. There are no restrooms. Alcohol, camping, and campfires are prohibited. The rest of the island is closed except to licensed hunters in season. Research and environmental education are allowed on the island under special use permits. For more information about how to obtain a special use permit, contact the Refuge Visitor Services Manager, 734-288-6458 or email detroitriver@fws.gov. Like the other Detroit River islands, Sugar Island is threatened with significant erosion and a GLRI-funded erosion plan is being developed.

Calf Island

A naturally formed island in the lower Trenton Channel, the 11-acre Calf Island provides important stopover habitat for migratory songbirds. Each end of the island is flanked by high-quality wild celery beds important for fish and waterfowl. With the exception of hunting in season, public-use activity on the island is prohibited at this time. Calf Island was included in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge in 2002.



Contact Information & Rules of Conduct for Grosse Ile Nature Areas

OPEN SPACE

GI Police 734-676-7100 to report violations of use.

Open Space lands are accessible to the public during daylight hours for walking, nature photography, bird-watching and similar activities. Plants and animals are not to be disturbed or removed, except for invasive species such as garlic mustard during volunteer work sessions. Visitors must respect the privacy of adjacent residents and the rules of use.

GROSSE ILE NATURE AND LAND CONSERVANCY LANDS

GI Police 734-676-7100 to report violations of use, GINLC email at info@ginlc.org.

GINLC lands are accessible to the public during daylight hours for passive recreational use (walking, nature observation, and photography, etc). Plants and animals are not to be disturbed or removed, except for invasive species such as garlic mustard during volunteer work sessions. Visitors must respect the privacy of adjacent residents and the rules of use.

DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS ON GROSSE ILE

GI Police 734-676-7100 to report violations of use, US Fish & Wildlife Service law enforcement officer 989-280-2468 or 419-707-4514, US Fish & Wildlife Service Visitor Services Manager 734-288-6458, detroitriver@gmail.com

Gibraltar Bay Unit is accessible during daylight hours. Sugar Island west beach is accessible during daylight hours from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Sugar and Calf Islands are accessible during hunting seasons for licensed hunters.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

GI Police 734-676-7100 to report violations of use, and DNR RAP Line 1-800-292-7800.

For Island questions contact the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area Headquarters at 734-379-9692.

Stony and Celeron Islands are part of the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area and are managed by the Wildlife Division out of the Pointe Mouillee Headquarters. All Pointe Mouillee Game Area rules apply to the Islands and are enforced by DNR Law Division Conservation Officers. The Islands are open to hunting and trapping. There is no camping, no ground fires, no alcohol, and no use or occupancy from 11:00pm – 4:00am. See the game area map for further rules and regulations. Maps are available online at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Visiting Grosse Ile's Natural Areas – Four Seasons of Wonder

During a visit to one of Grosse Ile's natural areas, or even by stepping outside, a Grosse Ile resident or visitor is sure to encounter a natural specimen of interest and beauty, from animals and plants to rocks deposited by Ice Age glaciers.



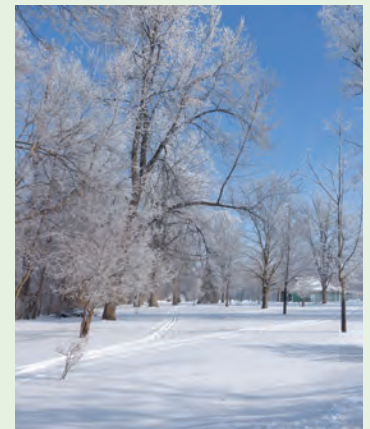
Redbud tree at the Wildlife Refuge.



A robin enjoys the bounty of summer.



Autumn at the Intrepid Pond.



Hoar frost on Hickory Island