

Baileys Harbor Boreal Forest & Wetlands

STATE NATURAL AREA

Location: Door County. T30N-R28E, Sections 2, 11, 14. T31N-R28E, Section 35. 434 acres.

Access: From the intersection of State Highway 57 and County Highway Q north of Baileys Harbor, go northeast on Q 3.5 miles to Cana Island Road, then go south (right) 0.1 mile. Park along the road at the T intersection where Cana Island Road splits to form a triangle. Walk south along Cana Island Road 0.3 miles, then east into the natural area. Look for SNA signs marking the site's boundary.

Description: Baileys Harbor Boreal Forest and Wetlands contains a unique and diverse landscape, influenced by the local climate along the northeastern coast of the Door Peninsula. Cooler springs and summers, warmer falls and winters, and reduced evaporation rates have allowed northern species and a boreal forest to thrive here, far south of their normal range. Balsam fir and white spruce dominate the forest, which grades into northern wet-mesic forest of white cedar, white pine, paper birch, and hemlock. Many orchids and rare plants find refuge in the forest, including the federally-threatened dwarf lake iris (*Iris lacustris*). The natural area protects over 1.5 miles of undeveloped Lake Michigan shoreline. An extensive alkaline rockshore, or bedrock beach, is exposed during periods of low lake levels. Bird's-eye primrose (*Primula mistassinica*), small fringed gentian (*Gentianopsis procera*), and tufted hair grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) are among the uncommon species thriving on the open dolomite (limestone) flats. Migratory shorebirds and waterfowl are attracted to the undeveloped shoreline, and this area is one of the few known nesting sites in Wisconsin for the common goldeneye, a diving duck that nests in forest tree cavities. The forested communities support a wide variety of birds associated with boreal habitats, including yellow-bellied flycatcher, Blackburnian warbler, and merlin. Baileys Harbor Boreal Forest and Wetlands is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1995. In 2013, the DNR dedicated a new unit to honor Wisconsin conservationist and long-serving Natural Resources Board member, Jonathan Ela. The Jonathan P. Ela Unit will serve as a living reminder to current and future generations of Wisconsinites that the beautiful landscapes, plentiful fish and wildlife, clean air and fresh waters require informed and persistent action by each of us, working together, at every opportunity.



State Natural Areas Program
Bureau of Endangered Resources
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Baileys Harbor Boreal Forest and Wetlands State Natural Area

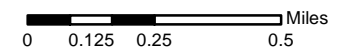
Door County
#284



-  State Natural Area
-  DNR Fee
-  DNR Easement

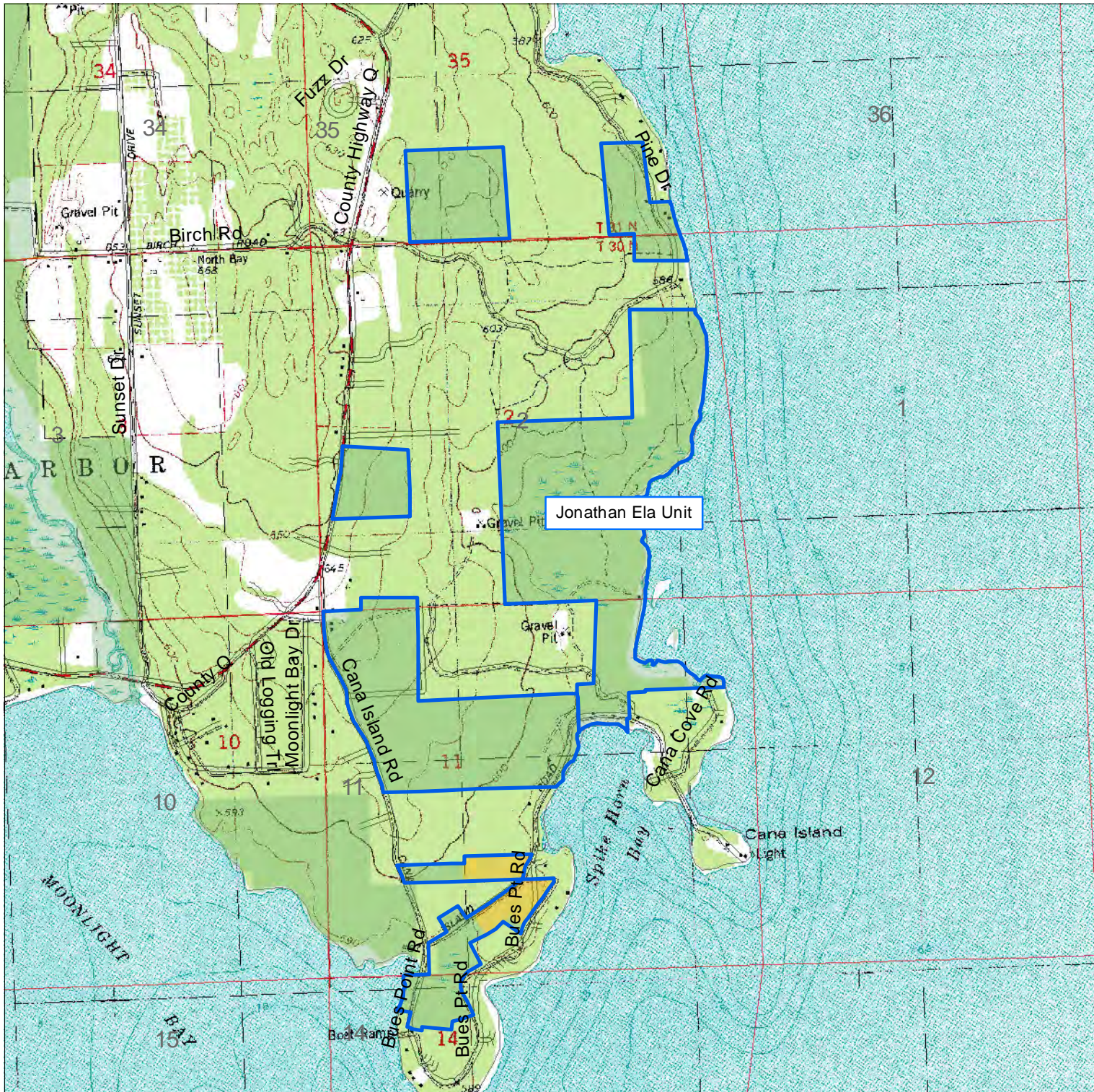


USGS Quad: Baileys Harbor 7.5'



1:24,000

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Europe Bay Woods

STATE NATURAL AREA

Location: Within Newport State Park, Door County. T32N-R29E, Sections 8, 9, 17. 200 acres.

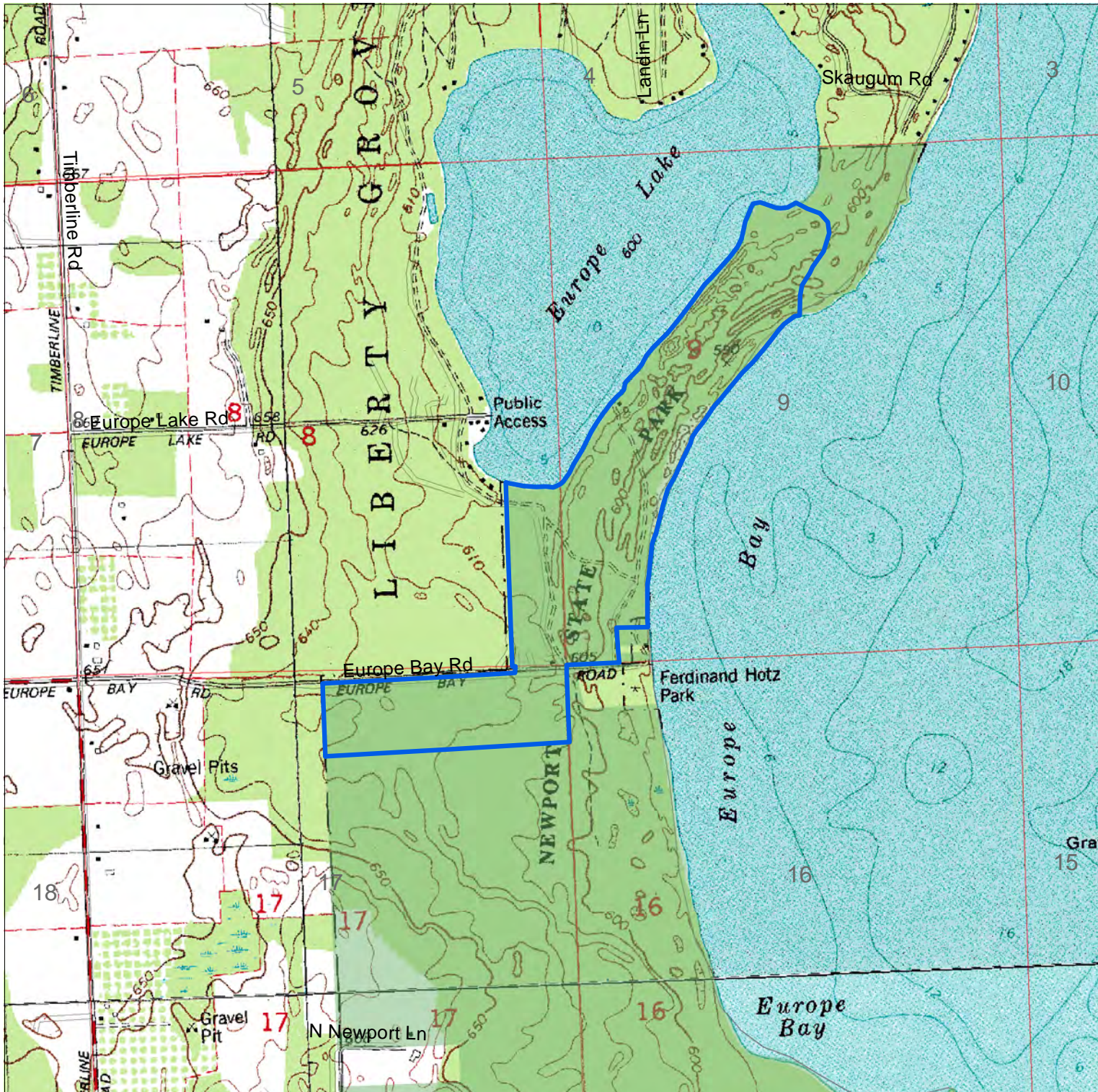
Access: From Ellison Bay, go east on State Highway 42 about 2 miles, then south and east on County Highway NP about 3 miles to the Newport State Park entrance. Get a park map at the contact station. The site is accessible via the Hotz and Europe Bay hiking trails. A Wisconsin State Park sticker must be displayed on all vehicles entering the park.

Description: Europe Bay Woods is located on an undeveloped isthmus between Lake Michigan and Europe Lake featuring over one mile of Great Lakes dune and beach communities, red pine groves, boreal forest, and northern dry-mesic and mesic forest. The isthmus, once the ancient shoreline of Lake Michigan, was created through wave action, which resulted in the deposition of layers of sand and gravel. Today, the isthmus contains northern dry-mesic forest dominated by red pine and red oak with scattered hemlock, beech, and red maple. Common understory plants include beaked hazelnut, wild sarsaparilla, wintergreen, Canada mayflower, and rough-leaved rice grass. Also present is a mature mesic forest consisting of beech, sugar maple, red oak, and yellow birch on undulating topography. Along Lake Michigan is an undeveloped sand beach and low dunes grading to cobblestone beach and finally dolomite bedrock. The dunes contain extensive mats of bearberry and creeping juniper intermingled with rabbit-berry, sand cherry, and the state threatened prairie sand-reed (*Calamovilfa longifolia* var. *magna*). The dunes and beach harbor numerous rare plants and animals including bird's-eye primrose (*Primula mistassinica*), dune goldenrod (*Solidago simplex* var. *gillmanii*), seaside spurge (*Euphorbia polygonifolia*), lesser fringed gentian (*Gentianopsis procera*), Lake Huron locust (*Trimerotropis huroniana*), and beach-dune tiger beetle (*Cicindela hirticollis rhodensis*). On gently sloping sandy soils is a boreal forest of balsam fir, white cedar, quaking aspen, white birch, and white spruce with white and red pine as the site grades into a forested ridge and swale community. Rare boreal forest species include the federally threatened dwarf lake iris (*Iris lacustris*), giant pinedrops (*Pterospora andromedea*), crawe sedge (*Carex crawei*), Cape May warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*), and black-throated blue warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*). Europe Bay Woods is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 2002.



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 Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation
 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
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dnr.wi.gov, keyword "sna"





Europe Bay Woods State Natural Area

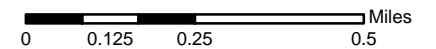
Door County
#379



- State Natural Area
- DNR Fee
- DNR Easement



USGS Quad: Washington Island SW 7.5'



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Mink River Estuary

STATE NATURAL AREA

Location: Door County. T32N-R28E, Sections 1, 2, 11-14, 23-26. T32N-R29E, Section 19. 1,787 acres.

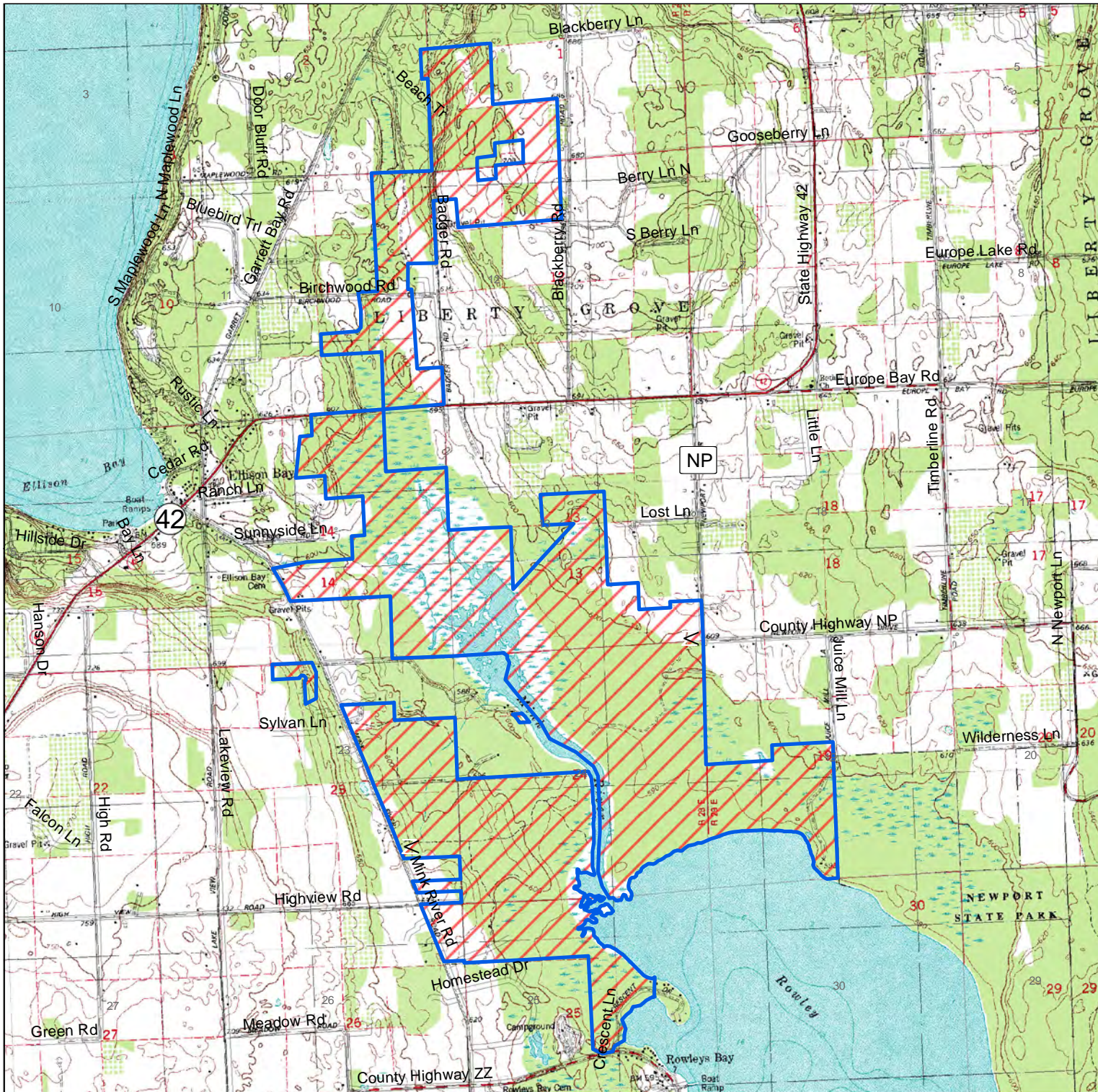
Access: The estuary is best seen by canoe. From the intersection of State Highway 42 and Mink River Road in Ellison Bay, go south on Mink River Road 2.7 miles, then east on Highway ZZ 0.9 mile to the Wagon Trail Resort on Rowley's Bay. A boat launch and canoe rental are available. For hiking access, from 42 and Mink River Road, go south on Mink River Road 1.2 miles to a parking area east of the road. For the eastern portion, from Ellison Bay, go east on 42 about 2.3 miles, then south on County Highway NP (Newport Drive) one mile to a parking area west of the road. Deer hunting is allowed on this preserve.

Description: The Mink River Estuary is one of the most pristine freshwater estuaries in the country. The river originates in alkaline, spring-fed wetlands in the central Door Peninsula and ends just a few miles downstream where it empties into Lake Michigan at Rowley's Bay. In between is the dynamic estuarine system, formed by the mixing and flushing of the waters of Lake Michigan and the Mink River. During periodic high water periods (seiches) the estuarine marshes are flooded, during low water the marshes are dry and many spring channels are evident. The vegetation of the natural area is diverse. Sedges, blue-joint grass, and other emergent vegetation with an overstory of willow, dogwood, and alder shrubs dominate the marshes bordering the river. Deeper areas of the marsh contain bulrush, wild rice, cat-tail and bur-reed. Water-lilies and water milfoil inhabit the deepest zone. The wetlands grade into lowland conifer swamp dominated by white cedar. A small stretch of beach along Rowley's Bay contains federally threatened dune thistle (*Cirsium pitcheri*) while patches of dwarf lake iris (*Iris lacustris*) are scattered through the property. The estuary is an important fish spawning and bird migration area. Numerous birds nest here including the yellow rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*), a state threatened species. Other rare and uncommon birds include black duck (*Anas rubripes*), black tern (*Chlidonias niger*), black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), and northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). Mink River Estuary is owned by the Wisconsin Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and was designated a State Natural Area in 1988.



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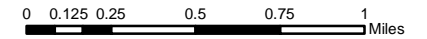


Mink River State Natural Area

Door County
#218



-  State Natural Area
-  The Nature Conservancy
-  Door County Land Trust
-  WDNR
-  Parking Area



1:36,000

USGS Quad: Ellison Bay 7.5'



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Moonlight Bay Bedrock Beach

STATE NATURAL AREA

Location: Door County. T30N-R28E, Sections 10 SE $\frac{1}{4}$, 11 SW $\frac{1}{4}$. 112 acres.

Access: From the intersection of State Highway 57 and County Highway Q north of Baileys Harbor, go north and east on Q 3.5 miles, then south on Cana Island Road 0.9 mile to Bues Point Road. Park southeast of the intersection and walk west into the natural area.

Description: Moonlight Bay Bedrock Beach protects a 5-acre undisturbed bedrock beach, rare plant and animal communities, geological features, and adjacent boreal forest relict, all which are dependent on the dynamic influence of Lake Michigan. The primary feature is the dolomite bedrock beach, which is periodically covered and exposed, depending on Lake Michigan water levels. When exposed, several plants indicative of these calcareous and unstable shorelines colonize the beach, including such rare species as small fringed gentian (*Gentianopsis procera*), tufted hair grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), bird's-eye primrose (*Primula mistassinica*), and several sedges (*Carex* spp.). Ambient shorelines are present as low ledges in the forested portions of the site. The boreal forest is typical of the northeastern Door Peninsula with white cedar, white spruce, paper birch, white pine, hemlock, and balsam fir. Common understory plants are thimbleberry and mountain maple. The groundlayer is sparse, with mosses and lichens predominating. The forest also harbors a population of the federally and state-threatened dwarf lake iris (*Iris lacustris*). Moonlight Bay Bedrock Beach is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1990.

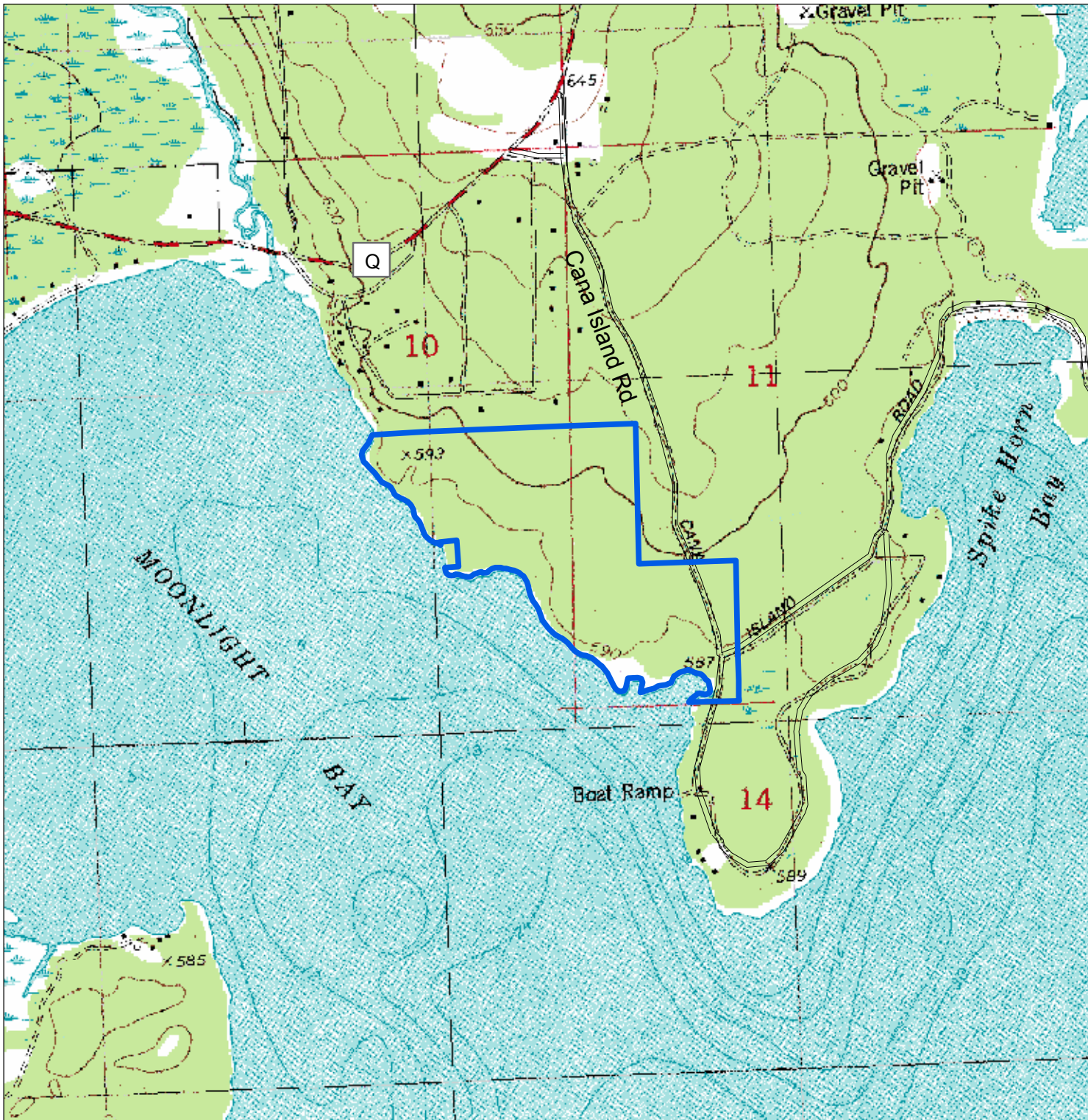


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Funded in part by the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program.

Financial assistance for this project was provided by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, administered by the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration pursuant to Grant #NA07OZ0138 and the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program. The Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, part of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and overseen by the Wisconsin Coastal Management Council, was established in 1978 to preserve, protect and manage the resources of the Lake Michigan and Lake Superior coastline for this and future generations.



Moonlight Bay Bedrock Beach
State Natural Area
#233

Door County



 State Natural Area



1:16,000

USGS Quad: Baileys Harbor East



Mud Lake

STATE NATURAL AREA

Location: Within the Mud Lake Wildlife Area, Door County. T30N-R28E, Sections 3-6, 8. T31N-R28E, Sections 28, 29, 33, 34. 2,555 acres.

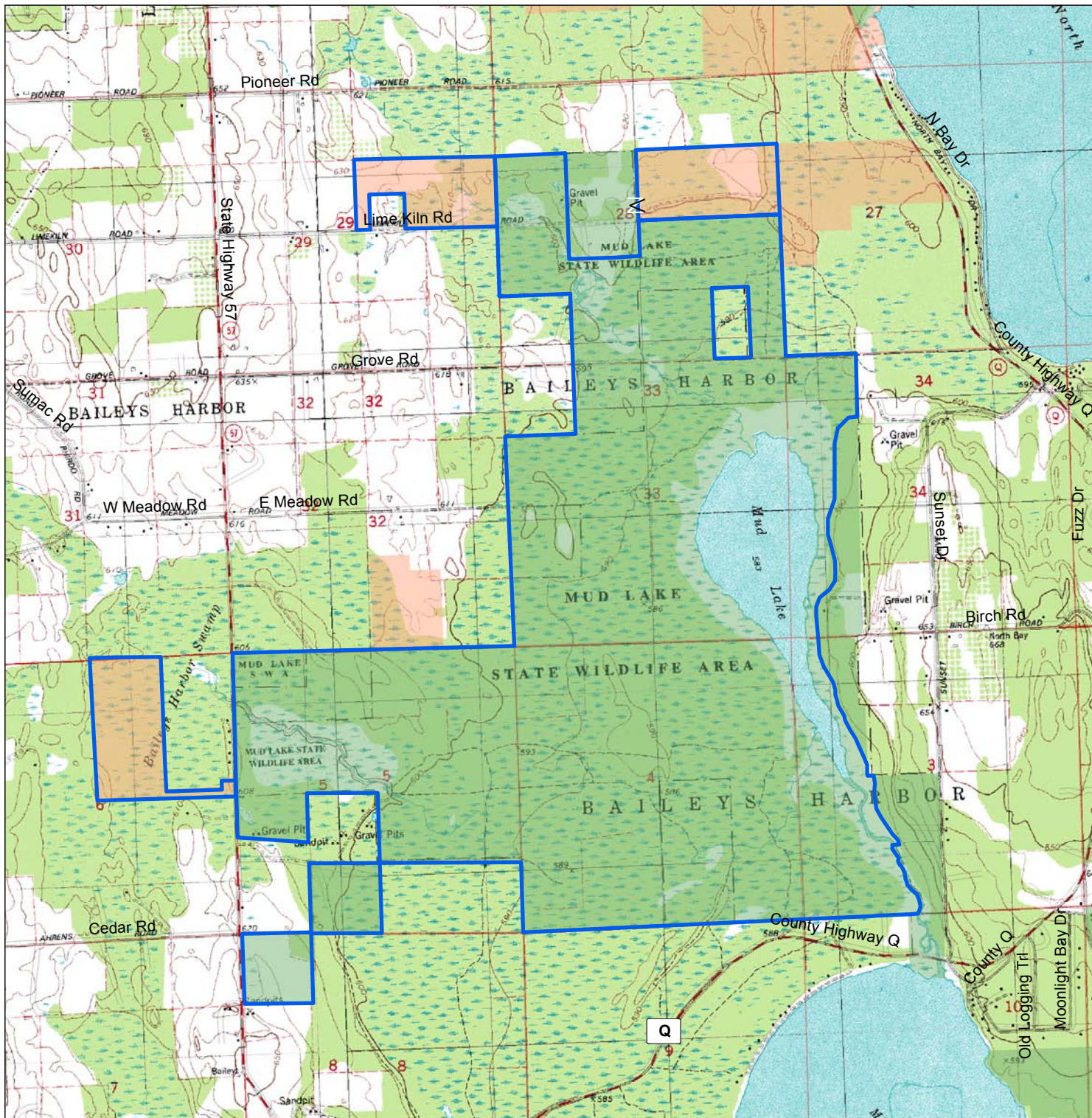
Access: From Baileys Harbor, go north on State Highway 57 0.75 miles, then east on County Highway Q 2.5 miles to Sunset Drive, then north 1.2 miles to Birch Road, then west to Mud Lake.

Description: Mud Lake State Natural Area consists of a 155-acre shallow (maximum depth 5') drainage lake surrounded by an extensive shrub and timber swamp. The lake has a truly wild character to it. The bottom is predominantly marl, although dolomite bedrock is exposed in some areas. Many old snags along the shoreline attest to water levels that fluctuate with seasonal precipitation. Aquatic plants are most diverse in the outlet stream (Reibolts Creek) and include bur-reed, coon's-tail, pondweed, and wild rice. In the lake, soft-stem bulrush, yellow water-lily, common reed, and cat-tail is found. Immediately surrounding the open water is a narrow zone of shrubby northern sedge meadow dominated by sedges, willows, dogwoods, and sweet gale. The wetlands and lake provide habitat for the federally-endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*). The open zone grades into second-growth wet-mesic forest of white cedar, white spruce, balsam fir, and black ash. Reibolts Creek, which runs from Mud Lake to Lake Michigan, has been stocked with trout and supports a trout spawning run. Waterfowl use of the lake is occasionally heavy. Nesting birds include pied-billed grebe, American bittern, common golden eye, mallard, pintail, blue-winged teal, wood duck, and Virginia rail. Mud Lake is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1975.



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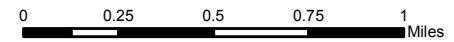


Mud Lake State Natural Area

Door County
#125



-  State Natural Area
-  DNR Fee
-  DNR Ease
-  Parking Area



1:32,000

USGS Quad: Baileys Harbor East, Sister Bay 7.5'



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Newport Conifer-Hardwoods

STATE NATURAL AREA

Location: Within Newport State Park, Door County. T32N-R29E, Sections 28, 29. 140 acres.

Access: From Ellison Bay, go east on State Highway 42 about 2 miles, then south and east on County Highway NP about 3 miles to the Newport State Park entrance. The natural area is accessible via the Newport and Ridge hiking trails (get a map at the park contact station). A Wisconsin State Park sticker must be displayed on all vehicles entering the park.

Description: Newport Conifer Hardwoods features a mix of northern forest types along Lake Michigan near the northern tip of the Door Peninsula. The cool, moist influence of the lake has allowed a forest composed of white birch, sugar maple, beech, and ash to develop. Elsewhere, boreal-like forest of eastern hemlock, balsam fir, white spruce and white cedar predominates. A 3-to-8-foot-high wall of dolomite blocks traverses the site from the northeast to the southwest. This ledge is the former shoreline sculpted during the Lake Nipissing stage of Lake Michigan. Above the ledge, hardwoods are found growing on a jumbled boulder substrate. In the south and east, the hardwood forests stabilize low sand dunes where large colonies of clubmoss can be observed. About ¼ mile of frontage on Lake Michigan is included in the natural area. Rare plants found here include western fescue (*Festuca occidentalis*), variegated scouring-rush (*Equisetum variegatum*), round-leaved orchid (*Platanthera orbiculata*), long-spurred violet (*Viola rostrata*) and the federally-threatened dwarf lake iris (*Iris lacustris*). Migrating songbirds make extensive use of the site and the rare common goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) breeds within the area. Newport Conifer Hardwoods is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1971.

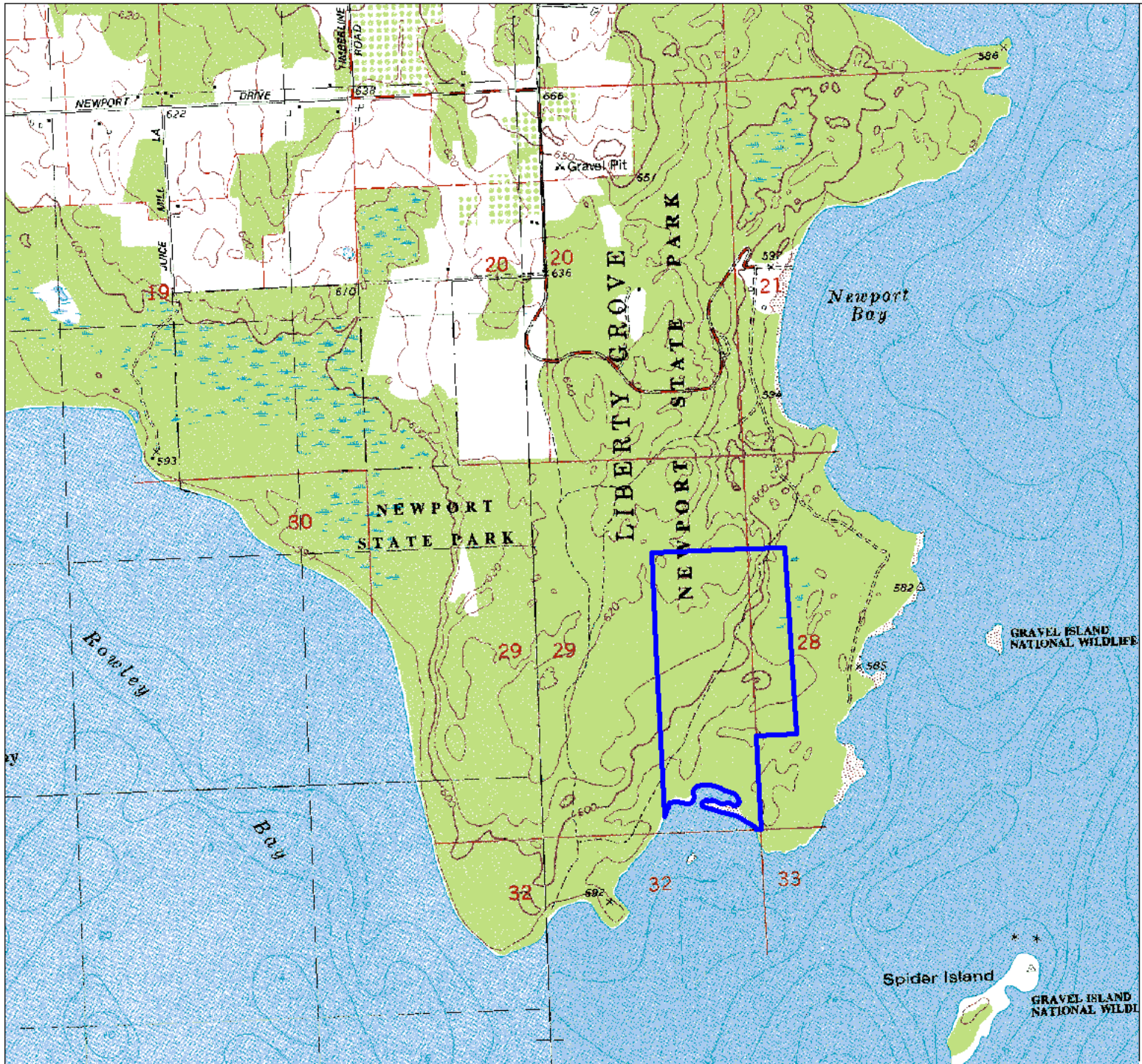


State Natural Areas Program
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www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/snass.htm



Funded in part by the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program.


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Newport Conifer
Hardwoods
State Natural Area

#90
Door County



 Natural Area boundary

0 0.5 Miles

1:24000

USGS Map: Spider Island 7.5'



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Map Creator: DH 2004
Bureau of Endangered Resources

North Bay

STATE NATURAL AREA

Location: Door County. T31N-R28E, Sections 10, 11, 15, 21, 22, 23, 27. 1,259 acres.

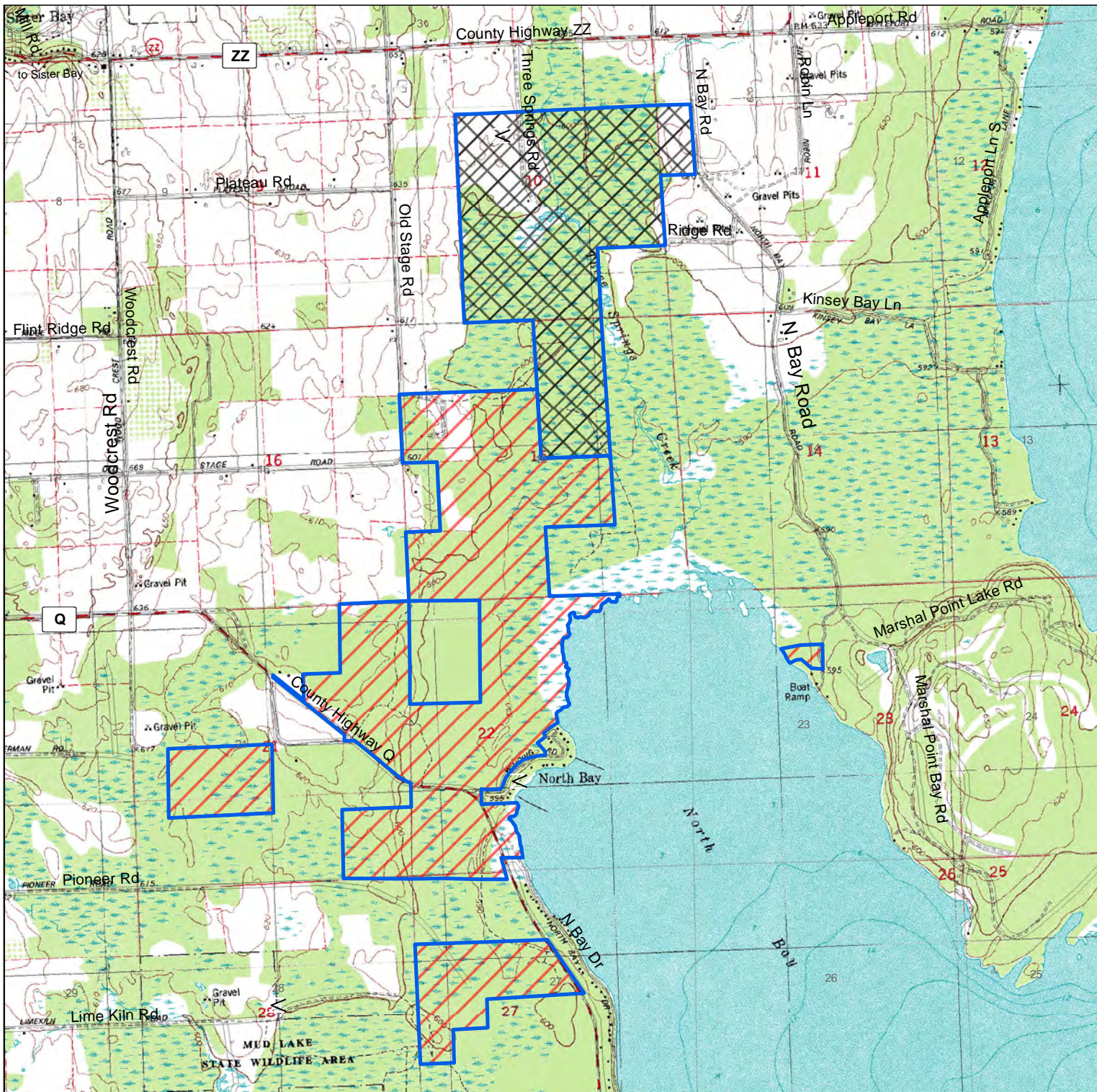
Access: From the junction of Highways 42 and ZZ (Maple Drive) in Sister Bay, go east on ZZ 0.6 mile, then south on Wood Crest Road nearly 2 miles, then east and southeast on County Q 1.4 miles, then north on Winding Lane 0.25 mile to a small parking area east of the road. This preserve is open to deer hunting in accordance with landowner regulations. Visit The Nature Conservancy and Door County Land Trust websites for details.

Description: North Bay features one of the last remaining undeveloped stretches of Lake Michigan shore on the Door Peninsula. With nearly one mile of uninterrupted lakeshore, this site offers a range of plant communities that change through time in response to the periodic rise and fall of lake water levels. The site contains many high quality remnant communities including northern sedge meadow, calcareous fen, northern wet, wet-mesic and mesic forest, boreal forests of white spruce and balsam fir, and springs and spring runs. Also present are coastal marshes and a complex of Lake Michigan dunes with associated ridge and swale topography. From the open waters of the lake, to the coastal marshes and fen, to the lowland forest and surrounding uplands, this area provides critical habitat for many endangered and threatened species including numerous orchids, the federally-threatened dwarf lake iris, and the third largest known breeding population of the federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*). North Bay is also an important spawning area for a majority of Lake Michigan's whitefish population. Of the estimated 1.2-1.5 million whitefish, approximately 1.1 million spawn in the waters between North Bay and Moonlight Bay in Door county. Outlet streams also provide important habitat for numerous game fish species including northern pike, yellow perch, smallmouth bass, trout, and chinook salmon. Six species of rare and uncommon birds use this area for nesting and foraging including the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). This site also provides critical habitat for a wide diversity of migratory and nesting waterfowl including bufflehead, redhead, hooded mergansers, and northern pintail and the area is one of the few known nesting sites in Wisconsin of common goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*). A wide variety of shorebirds are also known to use the area. North Bay is owned by The Nature Conservancy and The Door County Land Trust. It was designated a State Natural Area in 2002.



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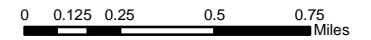


North Bay State Natural Area

Door County
#381



-  State Natural Area
-  The Nature Conservancy
-  Door County Land Trust
-  WDNR
-  Parking Area



1:32,000

USGS Quad: Sister Bay 7.5'



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The Ridges Sanctuary

STATE NATURAL AREA

Location: Door County. T30N-R28E, Sections 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 20. 1,070 acres.

Access: From the junction of State Highway 57 and County Highway Q on the north side of Baileys Harbor, go east and north on Q 0.1 mile and follow the signs to The Ridges Sanctuary entrance east of the road. Several hiking trails wind through the natural area. Detailed maps are available at the office. A donation is requested for use of the trails.

Description: The Ridges Sanctuary encompasses a diversity of unusual habitats, resulting in one of the greatest concentrations of rare plants in the Midwest. The preserve, recognized as a National Natural Landmark, was established in 1937 as Wisconsin's first area set aside to protect native flora. The natural area consists of about 30 narrow, crescent-shaped sandy ridges and recent research has correlated the ridge formation with the cyclical changes in Lake Michigan water levels which have occurred during the past 1400-1500 years. Each ridge represents a former beach line of Lake Michigan and took an average of 30-50 years to form. The narrow ridges are forested with black spruce, white spruce, balsam fir, and white pine with wet swales between the ridges. Swamp conifers occupy some of the swales; others are filled with marsh and bog flora. Sections of the forest can be classified as boreal and are similar to, but far disjunct from the northwestern Wisconsin boreal forests near Lake Superior. The cool waters of Lake Michigan heavily influences the local climate, allowing many northern species to thrive. Some areas of the ridges are open, wet, and calcareous. The list of rare species found at The Ridges is long and includes dwarf lake iris (*Iris lacustris*) in addition to 25 species of orchid. The largest known population of the federally-endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*) is found here. The Ridges Sanctuary is owned by the private conservation organization The Ridges Sanctuary, Inc. and was designated a State Natural Area in 1953.

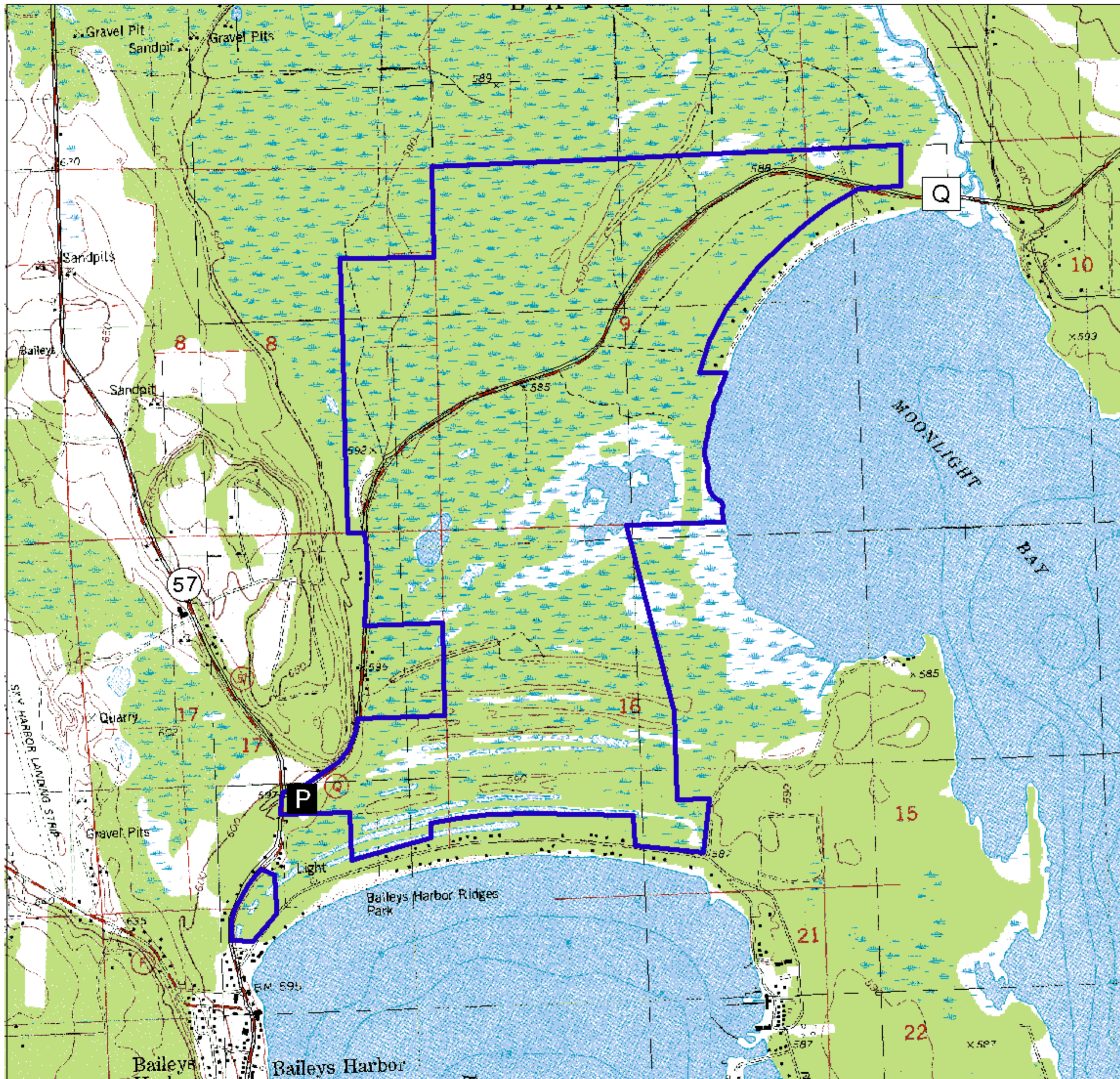


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The Ridges Sanctuary State Natural Area #17

Door County



 State Natural Area

 Parking

0 0.5 Miles

1:24000

USGS Map: Baileys Harbor East 7.5'



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Map Creator: DMH 12/2005
Bureau of Endangered Resources

Toft Point

STATE NATURAL AREA

Location: Door County. T30N-R28E, Sections 9, 15, 16, 21, 22, 27. 686 acres.

Access: From the intersection of State Highway 57 and Ridges Road on the north end of Baileys Harbor, go east on Ridges Road about 1.4 miles, then north on an access lane (fire number 8380) to a parking area at the gate. Or, continue southeast on Ridges Road 1.1 miles, then east on Point Drive 1.2 miles to its end. For available hunting opportunities, visit The Nature Conservancy's web page:

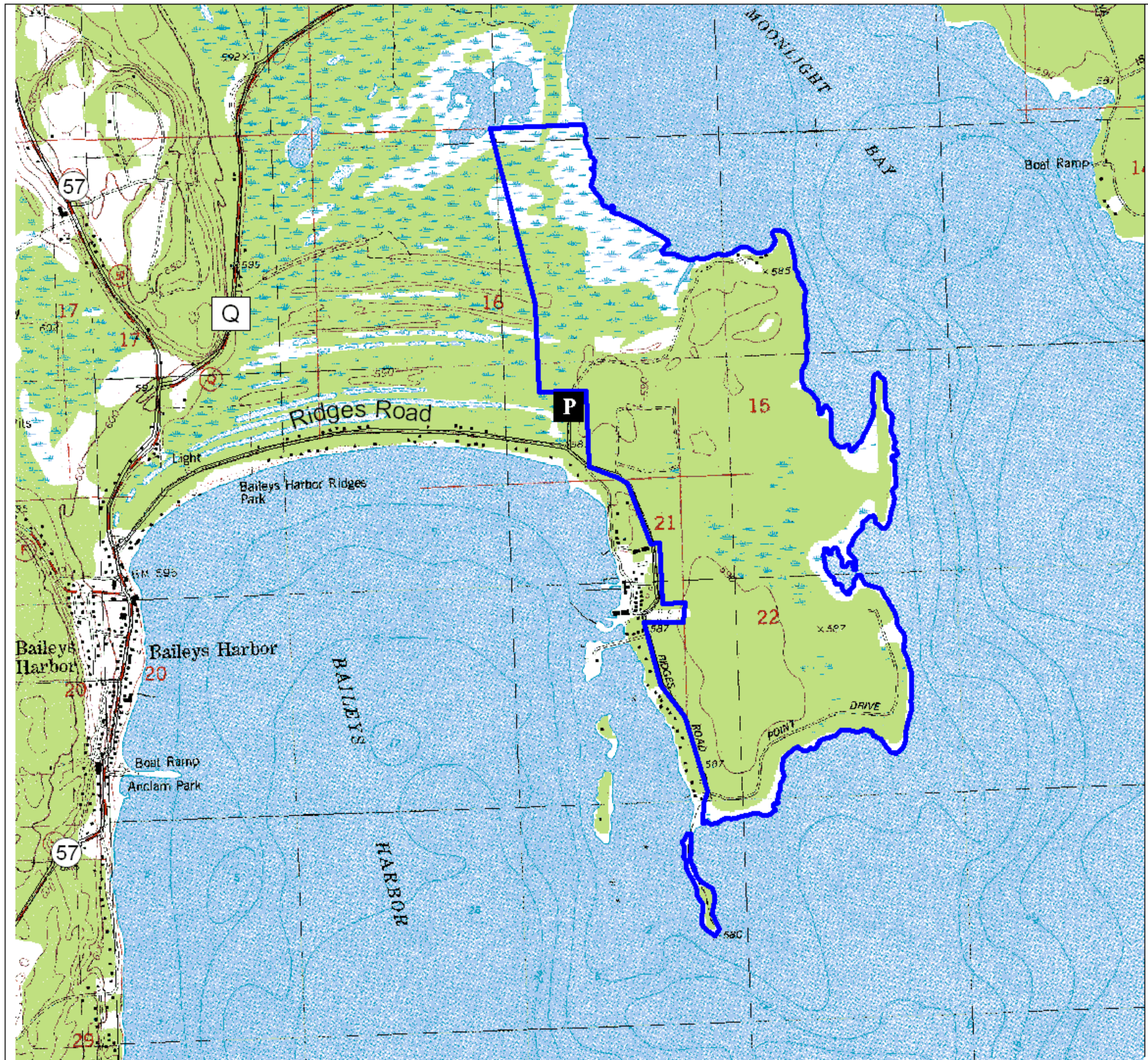
<http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/wisconsin/animals/>

Description: Toft Point contains several outstanding native plant communities concentrated on a 1-mile-wide peninsula along Door County's Lake Michigan coast. The natural area is bordered on the north by Moonlight Bay, and on the south by Baileys Harbor. There are more than two miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, with areas of wave-cut dolomite cliffs. Stretches of limestone cobble beach, mixed with marly soil, are exposed during periods of low lake levels. The vegetation of the eastern shoreline, influenced by the cooling effects of Lake Michigan, consists of a narrow strip of relict boreal forest dominated by balsam fir and white spruce. The majority of the peninsula is wooded with a mesic forest of sugar maple, yellow birch, hemlock, balsam fir, and scattered white pine. To the north, along Moonlight Bay, is an extensive calcareous sedge meadow that grades into shrub-carr and wet-mesic forest dominated by white cedar with occasional paper birch and black ash. Pockets of tamarack swamp and alder thicket are imbedded in the wetland. Extensive stands of hard-stemmed bulrush grow offshore in 1 to 4 feet of water, offering cover and spawning sites for a variety of fish. The natural area provides habitat for more than 440 vascular plant species and one of the most diverse bryophyte (mosses and liverworts) floras in the state. Several orchid taxa and many rare plant species find refuge here. Toft Point, along with the adjacent Ridges Sanctuary, contains many area-sensitive bird species including seventeen species of nesting warblers. The site is named for Kersten Toft who received the land as compensation for his work at a limestone quarry nearby. Remaining on site is an historic kiln, which is the state's best intact example of the early circular kilns that once dotted parts of the Niagara escarpment. Toft Point is owned by the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and the Wisconsin Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. The site is recognized by the National Park Service as a National Natural Landmark and was designated a State Natural Area in 1967.



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dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/sna/





Toft Point
State Natural Area

#57
Door County



 Natural Area boundary

 Parking

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

1:25000

USGS Map: Bailey's Harbor East 7.5'



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