

Grand Beach Marsh Preserve Trail Guide

- Hike alongside a globally rare Coastal Plain Marsh.
- Enjoy the sound of frogs or the sight of an eagle soaring above the dunes.
- Observe nature's changes, day by day, year to year.

Preserve Information

In 2009, Chikaming Open Lands acquired Grand Beach Marsh through a transfer from The Nature Conservancy. Located along Grand Beach Road in Grand Beach, the Preserve was established in late 1984. The Preserve is an 11-acre gem that provides an outstanding example of a globally rare coastal plain marsh and is home to several rare or declining plant and animal species.

Distance Round-Trip: 0.44 miles

Estimated Hiking Time: 15 minutes

Cautions: The occasional root embedded in the trail. Watch for wet areas in the spring, they can be slippery. Take along insect repellent during the warm, rainy season. Check each other for ticks before going home.

Physical difficulty: Easy

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Visitation: Light

Nearest town: Grand Beach, MI

Other Points of Interest

Robinson Woods: Robinson Woods is an 80-acre forested preserve on East Road in Chikaming Township. Acquired in 2009 through a transfer from The Nature Conservancy, the Preserve consists of mature forest dominated by beech, maple and oak trees. Multiple streams also flow through steep ravines cutting through the Preserve.

Louis J. Sima Great Lakes Marsh Preserve: Located on the Galien River in New Buffalo, Chikaming Open Lands' Louis J. Sima Great Lakes Marsh contains approximately 150 acres of the larger Galien River Marsh, a Lake Michigan Coastal Marsh. The Great Lakes Coastal Marshes are considered one of the richest habitats on earth and support high plant diversity.

Trip Planner

Map: GB-01 (Grand Beach Marsh Trails 01), available from www.chikamingopenlands.com

Beginning access: Grand Beach Marsh Preserve trailhead (GB-001). From US-12, take the Grand Beach access road. After crossing the tracks, turn northeast (right) onto Grand Beach Road for 0.7 miles to Deer Park Drive. Then turn northwest (left) and watch for the preserve sign on the left. Park alongside the road.

Parking: Park alongside the road.

Ending access: Same

Hours Open: Open year-round, from sunrise to sunset.

For Your Protection:

In case of Emergency call: 9-1-1

To report a crime call: 1-800-525-5555

Bring Insect Repellent and Sunscreen

Hats or Bandanas provide Sun and Tick protection

Hiking Boots provide the best protection

Pets must be on short leash

No Camping or Ground Fires

No Glass Bottles, Hunting or Fireworks

These are foot trails only!

Stay on the trail

Do not litter or disturb plants and animals!

Contact Information: Chikaming Open Lands, 12291 Red Arrow Hwy, Sawyer, MI 49125; 269-405-1006; Local Trail Coordinator: col@chikamingopenlands.org; www.chikamingopenlands.org

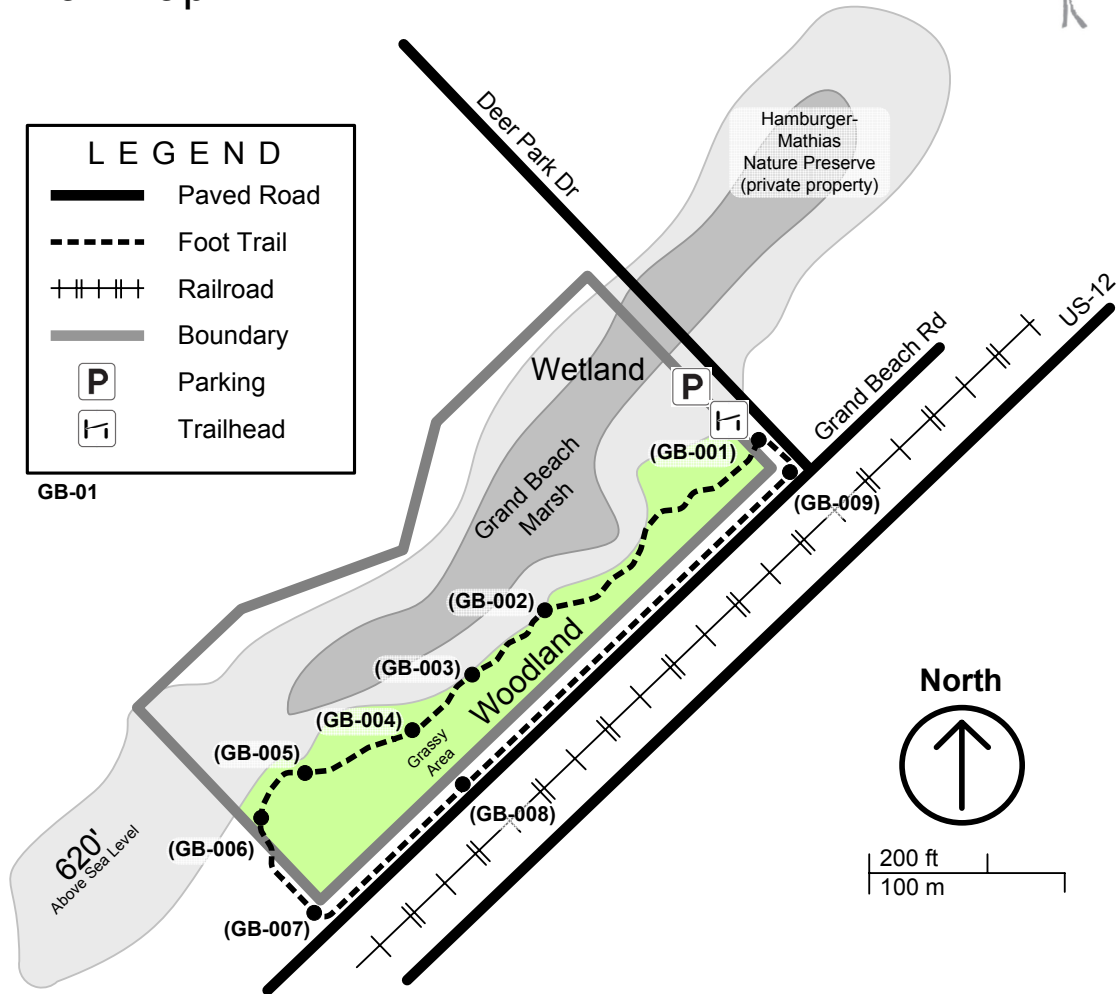
Trail Guide

Practice the 'Leave no Trace' principles (Int.org/learn/7-principles). Start at the northeast corner of the woods, near the intersection of Grand Beach Road and Deer Park Drive (GB-001). You will find a small sign that reads 'Loop Trail' at the trailhead. Not to be confused with the much larger marsh preserve sign that is further up the road. Follow the path southwest, walk quietly and pay close attention, you may see deer or wild turkey feeding in the woods. As you meander along the trail there is plenty of deep woods plant life on the forest floor. Do keep an eye out for several varieties of rare plants to Michigan. At points (GB-002) and (GB-003) you will catch glimpses of the marsh through the tree line and through the season its hue changes. Moving on, you will pass through an open grassland area which has another variety of plants growing in it (GB-004). Many of the plants found here attract butterflies. Further down the trail you will follow along the edge of the marsh (GB-005). This is evident because of the tall grasses you will be hiking through and a stunning view of the marsh. Take a moment amidst the simple beauty of nature. Make sure you look back toward the road. As you approach the southwest corner of the preserve, the trail veers south and exits the woods onto an old foot trail (GB-006). Turn left and follow the trail to Grand Beach Road (GB-007). Turning left again, follow Grand Beach Road to the northeast for about 0.25 miles. You will pass alongside the grassy area you walked through earlier (GB-008). When you reach the intersection of Grand Beach Road and Deer Park Drive (GB-009), turn left and you will see your vehicle parked along the road.

Grand Beach Marsh Trail

Waypoint ID	Description	Mileage	Latitude	Longitude
GB-001	Trailhead	0.00	41.77677	-86.77896
GB-002	Marsh view	0.07	41.77610	-86.78012
GB-003	Marsh view	0.09	41.77579	-86.78059
GB-004	Prairie crossing and marsh view	0.14	41.77558	-86.78084
GB-005	Marsh view	0.19	41.77538	-86.78152
GB-006	Old path junction	0.22	41.77503	-86.78180
GB-007	Grand Beach Rd. junction	0.24	41.77474	-86.78147
GB-008	Prairie view	0.30	41.77536	-86.78063
GB-009	Deer Park Dr. junction	0.43	41.77668	-86.77884

Grand Beach Marsh Preserve Trail Map



Note: Reference Trail Guide for Waypoint Chart.

Preserve Information: The Preserve is an 11-acre gem that provides an outstanding example of a globally rare coastal plain marsh and is home to several rare or declining plant and animal species. This trail has a difficulty rating of easy.

Entrance: GPS 41.77677, -86.77896

Distance Round-Trip: 0.44 miles

Directions: From US-12, take the Grand Beach access road. After crossing the tracks, turn northeast (right) onto Grand Beach Road for 0.7 miles to Deer Park Drive. Then turn northwest (left) and watch for the preserve sign on the left. Park alongside the road.

Hours Open: Open year-round, from sunrise to sunset.

Further Information: Contact Chikaming Open Lands, 12291 Red Arrow Hwy, Sawyer, MI 49125; 269-405-1006; col@chikamingopenlands.com.