

ST. MARY'S RIVER CORRIDOR

Expanding MNA's Protected Areas to 2,000 Acres in a Major Migratory Flyway



The successful completion of two important land acquisition projects will add 412 acres to MNA's existing 1,563 acres of protected areas in the St. Mary's River corridor, a globally important flyway for rare waterfowl, songbirds, and raptors. The St. Mary's River Corridor is also a biodiversity hot spot within the Great lakes ecosystem, the largest freshwater ecosystem on Earth. The size and relatively undisturbed condition of the coastal wetlands and minimally-fragmented forests found there make this a high priority for conservation.



Conserving a Globally Important Flyway for Migratory Birds

Many migratory birds funnel through the St. Mary's River corridor each fall on their way to their winter homes, some traveling as far as South America. The St. Mary's River, the connecting waterway between Lake Superior and the Straits of Mackinac, provides a globally significant passageway for rare bird species, including black tern, Caspian tern, osprey, merlin, bald eagle, American bittern, northern harrier, and many others.

Expanding MNA's Carlton Lake Nature Sanctuary to 880 Acres

The wetlands at MNA's Carlton Lake Wetland Nature Sanctuary are along this migratory flyway. MNA's 70th Anniversary Campaign would add 360 acres to the existing nature sanctuary, expanding it to 880 acres, including ½ mile of lake frontage and adjacent wetlands on Carlton Lake. In recognition of the significance of this property, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act awarded partial funding toward this acquisition.



Expanding the Munuscong Lake Conservation Area to 1,095 Acres

Successful acquisition of an additional 80 acres will not only add to the existing coastal wetlands at MNA's Rocky Point Wetlands Nature Sanctuary, it will further enhance the protected acreage in MNA's southern Lake Munuscong coastal wetlands complex, which also includes the Schafer Family Nature Sanctuary at Roach Point and Munuscong Lake Nature Sanctuary. Combined, this complex will preserve 1,095 acres.

Protecting Coastal Wetlands, a Great Lakes Priority

Considered to be a high-quality coastal wetland due to the relatively undisturbed condition and minimally fragmented forests between Lake Munuscong and the Gogomain Swamp to the south, the added land at Rocky Point Wetlands Nature Sanctuary protects an area containing a variety of tree cover and forested community, providing abundant habitat for a diversity of wildlife species considered to be of conservation priority—and importantly, many migratory birds.



Scan the QR code at left or visit youtube.com/c/michigannature for a brief video about MNA's 70-year history by the award-winning videography team of Fauna Creative.

