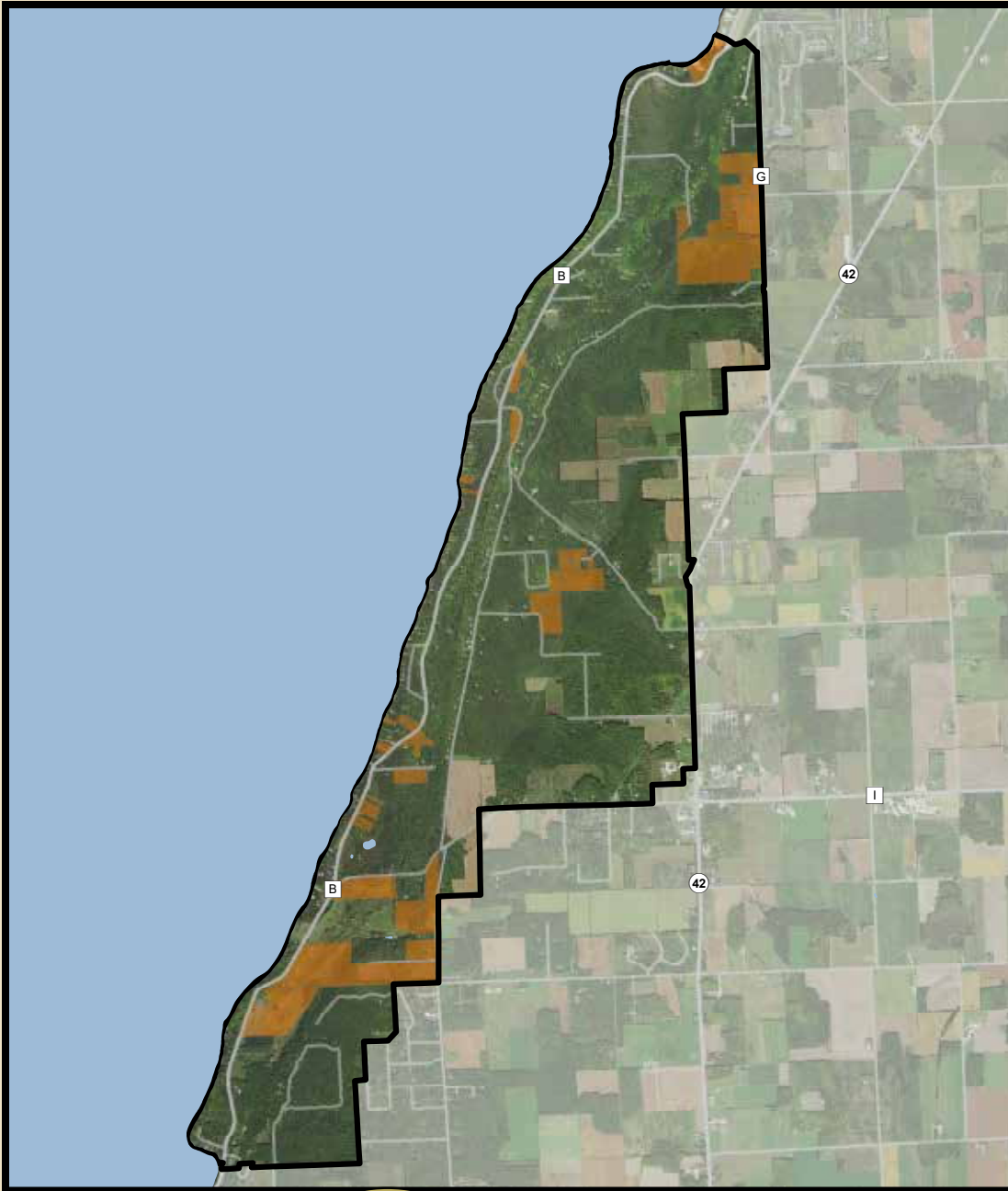


# BAYSHORE BLUFFLANDS

A Planning Tool for Migratory Bird Conservation along Lake Michigan

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## County

Door

## Ecological Landscape

Northern Lake Michigan  
Coastal

## Site Owner

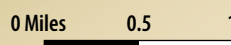
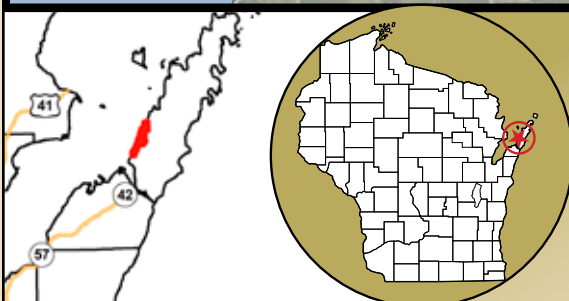
Door County Land Trust  
Door County  
Private Ownership

## Basis for Designation

Consistent Use Between  
Seasons

## Threats

Residential Development  
Agricultural Runoff  
Invasive Species  
Deer Herbivory





## BAYSHORE BLUFFLANDS

### Site Description

The natural communities of Bayshore Blufflands are significantly influenced by the Niagara Escarpment, which runs for several miles through the site. A dry-mesic forest of red and white pine, and red oak grow above the escarpment while aspen, sugar maple, red oak, eastern hemlock, and white cedar dominate the steep, talus slopes. The site slowly grades into several mesic forest types dominated by sugar maple, American beech, and red oak in some areas and white cedar, big-tooth aspen, and black ash elsewhere. Low-lying areas support hardwood swamp forest composed of green ash, silver maple, and swamp white oak. Open wetlands containing sedge, dogwood, willow shrubs, and tamarack are also represented. The understory throughout the site is diverse and structurally complex with herbaceous plants and a well-developed shrub layer that includes red osier and round-leaved dogwoods, chokecherry, ironwood, and mountain maple. The surrounding landscape is predominately low-density residential and agricultural development.

This site encompasses Frank E Murphy County Park, Bayshore Blufflands State Natural Area, and properties owned by Door County Land Trust, and extends two miles to include Green Bay's offshore waters. Bayshore Blufflands is designated a State Natural Area by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and a Conservation Opportunity Area of Regional Significance by the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan.

### Stopover Importance

Bayshore Blufflands qualifies as a **Priority Stopover Site** because of its consistency of use between seasons (spring and fall). However, additional inventories are needed to better document species usage. As a large forest block adjacent to Green Bay, it likely provides important resources for migrating birds. Abundant woody debris, unmanaged standing dead snags, diverse understory structure, and varying tree age classes are important elements of quality stopover habitat. The oak component provides a preferred foraging substrate for many landbird species. Dense shrubby understory found throughout the site also provides protection from weather and predators.

### Conservation Opportunities

Bayshore Blufflands is categorized as a **Convenience Store** site that offers migrants a moderately safe place to rest with moderate food resources for refueling. Conservation efforts should focus on protecting the forest tract from further fragmentation, preserving natural hydrology, controlling invasive species, and buffering the site from non-compatible uses. Where old fields or significant gaps in the canopy occur, reforest with ecologically appropriate native species to increase the forest interior. Future land acquisitions should prioritize the following habitat attributes for migratory birds:

- Undeveloped or natural cover within 660 ft of lakes and wetlands where there is high insect productivity (especially midges and caterpillars)
- Undeveloped or natural cover that contains diverse habitat structure (vertical and horizontal)
- Undeveloped or natural cover with woody species that bloom through the spring migration period (oak, willow, elm, and others) or fruit throughout fall migration



- Ephemeral or temporarily flooded wetlands, including those in agricultural fields, with hydric soils
- Open water and/or emergent wetland >5 acres and <0.5 miles from another wetland
- Lake Michigan open water areas within 2 miles of shore

### Sources

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