

Threats to Ecological Value

The presence of a sewage treatment plant on the property could obviously raise concern in terms of impacting the lake and marsh communities. However, water flows from east to west across the Glasby Lake basin. Because the sewage treatment plant is downstream of the lake and most of the marsh, it likely has more effect on the quality of water that flows out of the Glasby Lake basin than on the lake and marsh communities proper. Yet, if the sewage treatment plant does release water that is elevated in nutrients, it could generate favorable conditions for nutrient-demanding, invasive species such as common reed to colonize the marsh from M-43 and then move inward toward the more central parts of the property. The cattails (pictured to the right) that are currently widespread are also a nutrient-demanding species, but may be crowded out by more aggressive species in the future.



Cattail

Management Recommendations

Glasby Marsh is a very good candidate for conservation priority. Although the emergent marsh is only of moderate floristic quality, the wildlife habitat provided by the extensive



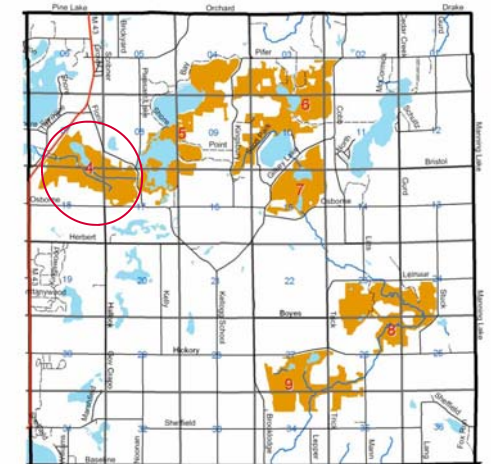
marsh is important for migrating birds. Because PCA 4 is accessed by few people, it also maintains a large area of “wild” habitat for wildlife that prefer such conditions. Few places remain that are as remote as Glasby Lake yet so close to human settlement.

The Glasby Marsh ecosystem is probably best left unmanaged. Monitoring effluent from the sewage treatment plant to ensure that water quality standards are met may help protect the western end of the marsh from being colonized by more nutrient-demanding plant species.

Barry Township Glasby Lake & Marsh PCA 4

Location

Potential Conservation Area (PCA) 4, located in sections 7, 8, 17 and 18 of Barry Township, is a 417-acre property of wetland and lake habitat that is bounded by M-43, Floria Rd., and Osborne Rd.



High priority potential conservation areas
Barry Township

Legend

- state highways
- county roads
- township boundary
- lakes
- rivers
- sections
- potential conservation areas



MICHIGAN STATE
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EXTENSION



Michigan
Natural
Features
Inventory



Diverse Ecosystems

Site Description

This Potential Conservation Area (PCA) is directly south of the town of Delton. A sewage treatment plant is located at the south western end of the site near M-43. Most of the PCA is bordered by agricultural fields and very low-density housing, although oak-hickory forest occurs along the steeper slopes adjacent to the marsh.



Potential conservation area 4
Barry Township
417 acres

Legend

-  potential conservation area
-  roads
-  wetlands



Communities and Ecosystems

PCA 4 is almost exclusively emergent marsh that is dominated by broad leaved cattail.



The presettlement vegetation of PCA 4 was a mixture of shrub swamp / emergent marsh, mixed conifer swamp, and lake communities; now this site is a relatively homogeneous emergent marsh. Prior to road development, a large hydrologic basin connected Blachman Swamp, Pleasant Lake, Mud Lake, Glasby Lake, the Crooked Lake system, and all their associated wetlands. Currently M-43 impedes drainage from Glasby Marsh, and Floria Rd. restricts the inflow of water from Mud Lake to Glasby Marsh. These impoundments generate more stable water level conditions in the Glasby Lake system; stable water levels promote the establishment and maintenance of cattail communities along lakeshores.

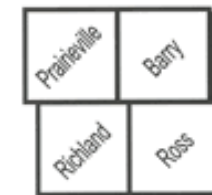
Plants and Animals of Interest

Glasby Marsh is not known to harbor any rare plants or plant communities, but what it lacks in botanical specialty it compensates for in terms of wildlife habitat. Glasby Lake is quite remote because the marsh is so extensive around the lake's perimeter. As a result, the marsh and lake are good breeding habitat for waterfowl and other bird species. Also, a variety of migratory birds use this PCA as a safe place to feed and rest during their migration. The Michigan Breeding Bird Census identified 41 species in this area.

This wet habitat is suitable for many amphibian species. Seven of the eleven frogs and toads found in southern Michigan have been heard in this area. The painted turtle is a common sight on the edge of the lake.



Eastern American Toad



Four Township Water Resources Council

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