



MAPLE BAY FARM AND NATURAL AREA: Proposed Habitat Enhancement Project

July, 2022

Love the land. Pass it on. 

An idyllic setting for land preservation, local agriculture, community collaboration, public access, and volunteerism, the Maple Bay Farm and Natural Area represents nearly every aspect of the Conservancy's work. This unique landscape embodies the spirit of Maple Bay and contributes to the love that people have for this charming property.

With a rich history in agriculture, farming is intrinsic to the land at Maple Bay and a significant part of the region's culture. However, over time, certain agricultural practices have degraded some of the property's natural features and come in conflict with recreational uses.

GTRLC is collaborating with Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service on a new initiative to improve the balance between recreation, agriculture and the natural environment by enhancing the native habitat at Maple Bay.

We will convert 90 acres of agricultural land that is currently the most susceptible to conflicts and natural area degradation to native habitat, creating a natural buffer to protect the property's sensitive wetlands, wildlife habitats, and recreation areas.

Carefully designed to sustain agriculture and enhance natural ecosystems, a mix of native wildflowers, grasses, forbs and shrubs will be used in targeted areas to support wildlife at Maple Bay, especially pollinating

insects and nesting grassland birds that are experiencing a concerning decline in numbers.

The 90 acres of former farmland will be restored in three phases between 2022-2024, with habitat consisting of 24 species of native grasses and wildflowers intended to replicate a prairie ecosystem. Meanwhile, the remaining farming activity will focus on 90 acres of upland soils on the east side of US-31, distant from sensitive natural features. Each site will be maintained for the long term and will take approximately three years to establish.

Your gift will:

- **Enhance native habitat for pollinator species, insects, and nesting grassland birds**
- **Improve balance between agriculture and the natural environment**
- **Promote sustainable agricultural practices**
- **Create a natural buffer to protect the sensitive features and recreational areas at Maple Bay Farm and Natural Area**

The total cost for this project is **\$147,000**.

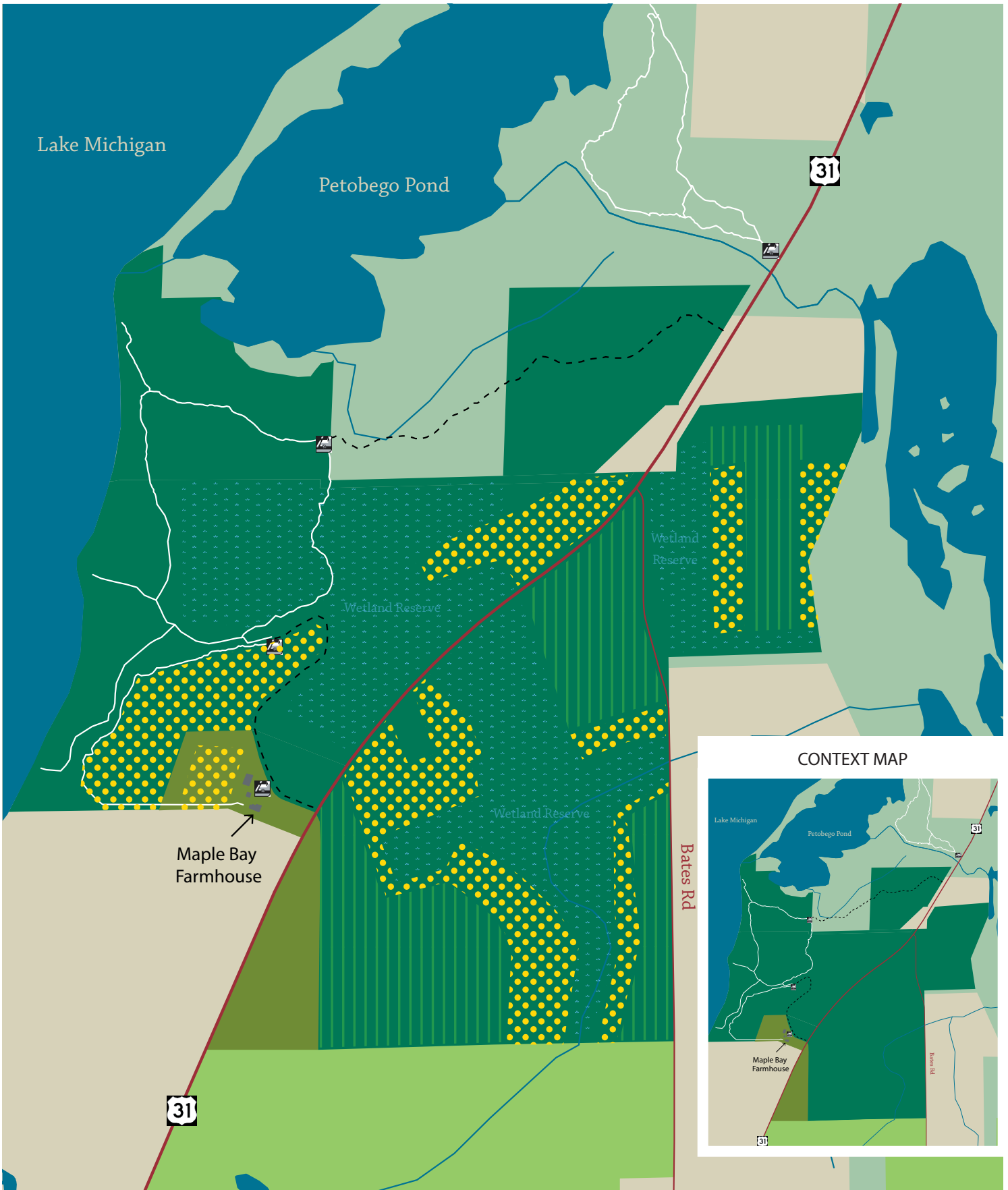
SUPPORT THIS PROJECT

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**In the event that fundraising support for a project exceeds the original project fundraising goal, the Conservancy will allocate the overage to purposes that the Conservancy determines further its mission, such as organizational costs, to protect additional land, or to care for the long-term stewardship of protected land.*





LEGEND

	Habitat Enhancement / Former Ag. Areas		Remaining Ag. Areas		Wetland Reserve
	Maple Bay Farm (GTRLC)		Maple Bay Park & Natural Area		Hiking Trails
	Maple Bay Farmhouse		Petobego State Game Area		Gravel Road
			GTRLC Protected Land - Private		