



GREEN POINT DUNES NATURE PRESERVE

Proposed Improvements

Sept, 2022

Love the land. Pass it on. 

Home to many native plant species and unique bird habitats, with a trail winding through forest and meadow to stunning views of Lake Michigan and a beach of unparalleled beauty, the Green Point Dunes Nature Preserve offers one of the lakeshore's finest recreational experiences.

In 2019 and 2020, high water levels and intense wave action in Lake Michigan caused the entire beach at the nature preserve to erode, damaging the staircase built in 2006 to provide safe, low-impact access down the dune to the shore. The lower section of the staircase was removed to keep trail users safe and prevent further harm to the infrastructure. Visitors have since been discouraged from accessing the lakeshore, but unfortunately a portion of the dune's sensitive habitat has been vulnerable to off-trail use.

Now that the water levels have receded, GTRLC will work to replace the staircase, allowing beachgoers safe access to the shoreline while protecting critical coastal habitat. Considering the lake's history and propensity for future water level fluctuations, the staircase's components were carefully selected to provide a safe, high-quality structure that will last for approximately 30 years.

The new staircase will balance weather resistance, longevity, and cost-effectiveness by using treated lumber and concrete piers to keep the wood elevated and dry. It will also feature taller guardrails and handrails that meet the current standards for construction.

Given the preserve's popularity and steep landscape, certain portions of the trail have also eroded over time. While plans are preliminary, a more sustainable and navigable trail system is being designed, which may reroute sections of the trail and include earthen steps to protect the preserve's fragile habitats.

With these improvements, we hope to enhance recreational experiences at one of the region's most spectacular nature preserves while safeguarding the very features that make it special.

Your gift will:

- **Protect sensitive coastal dune habitat**
- **Restore safe access to Lake Michigan's shoreline at a beloved nature preserve**
- **Create a more sustainable trail system that will enhance recreational experiences**

The total cost of this project is **\$103,429***.

Thanks to The Braun/McVeigh Family Matching Gift Challenge, support for this project will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000.

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.*





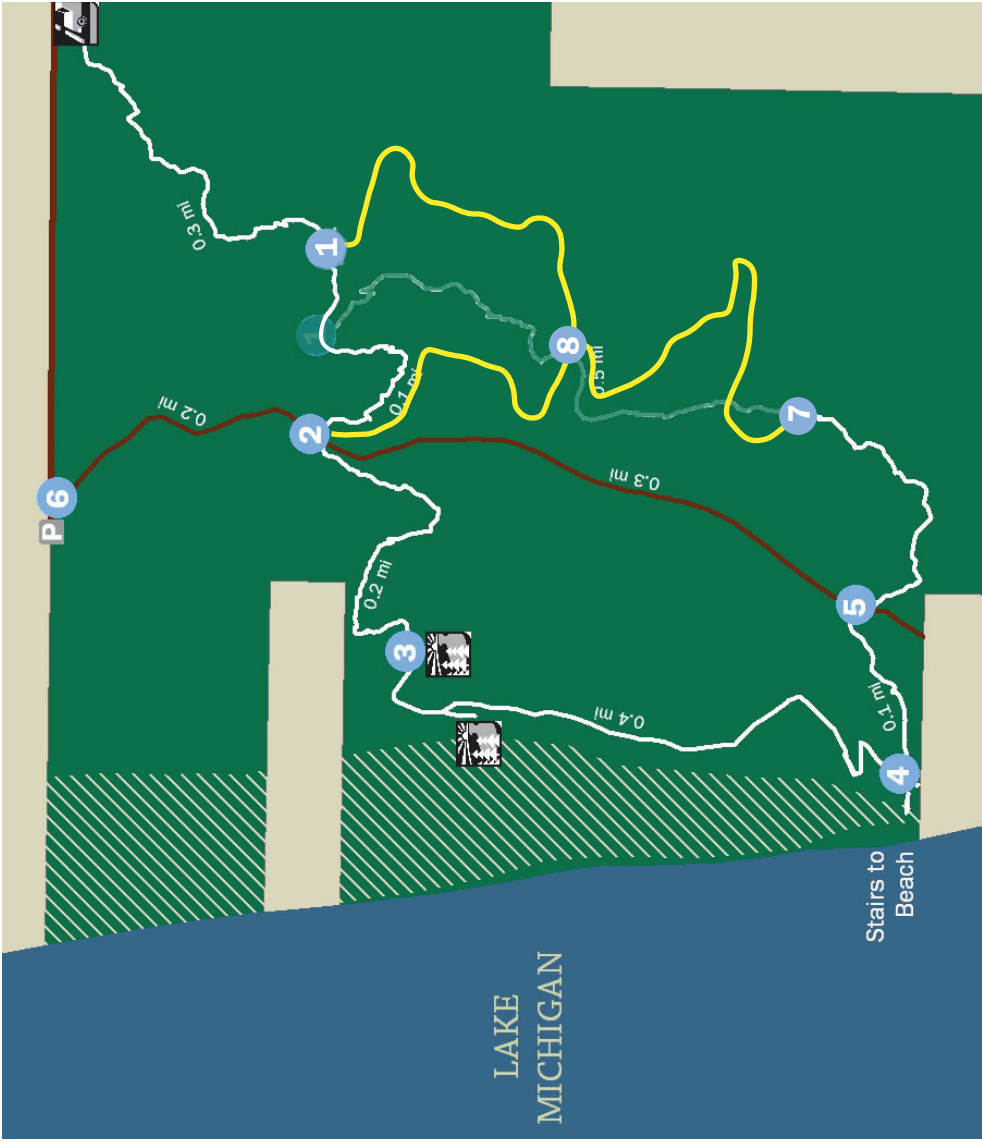
A.



B.



C.



The trails shown in yellow represent the approximate location of an extensive trail re-route for a more sustainable trail (the old trail is shown lightly for reference). The section of trail from 5-7 will remain in the same location but requires significant work, including building earthen steps, for better safety and more sustainability.

- A.** 2019's high lake levels eroded the beach and began to compromise the stairway.
- B.** The lower section of stairs was removed while lake levels were high to keep trail users safe and avoid damage that would render the entire structure unstable.
- C.** We are now hoping to rebuild the staircase similarly to its initial construction (pictured) with upgrades to meet current building standards.