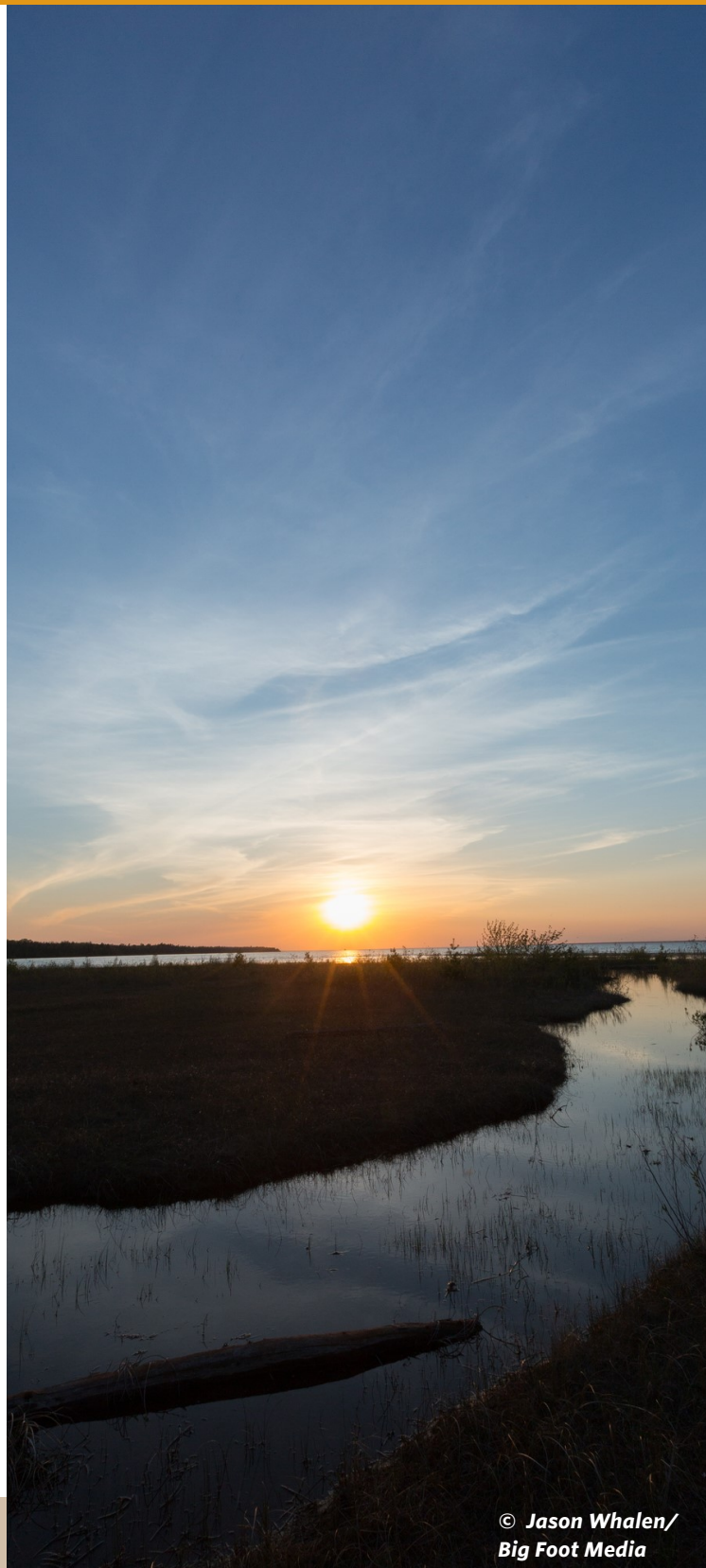




Grass Bay Preserve extends along two miles of stunning Lake Huron shoreline, a paradise for a multitude of wildflowers and migratory birds.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) first became aware of Grass Bay's amazingly lush and diverse flora in 1978. When the original 80-acre parcel went on the market in 1979, TNC secured an option to purchase it.

Because the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan treasured this site and also wanted to see it protected, they launched a multi-year campaign to raise money to assist TNC in purchasing the original parcel and adjacent lands. Subsequent additions have brought the preserve up to the 914 acres it is today.

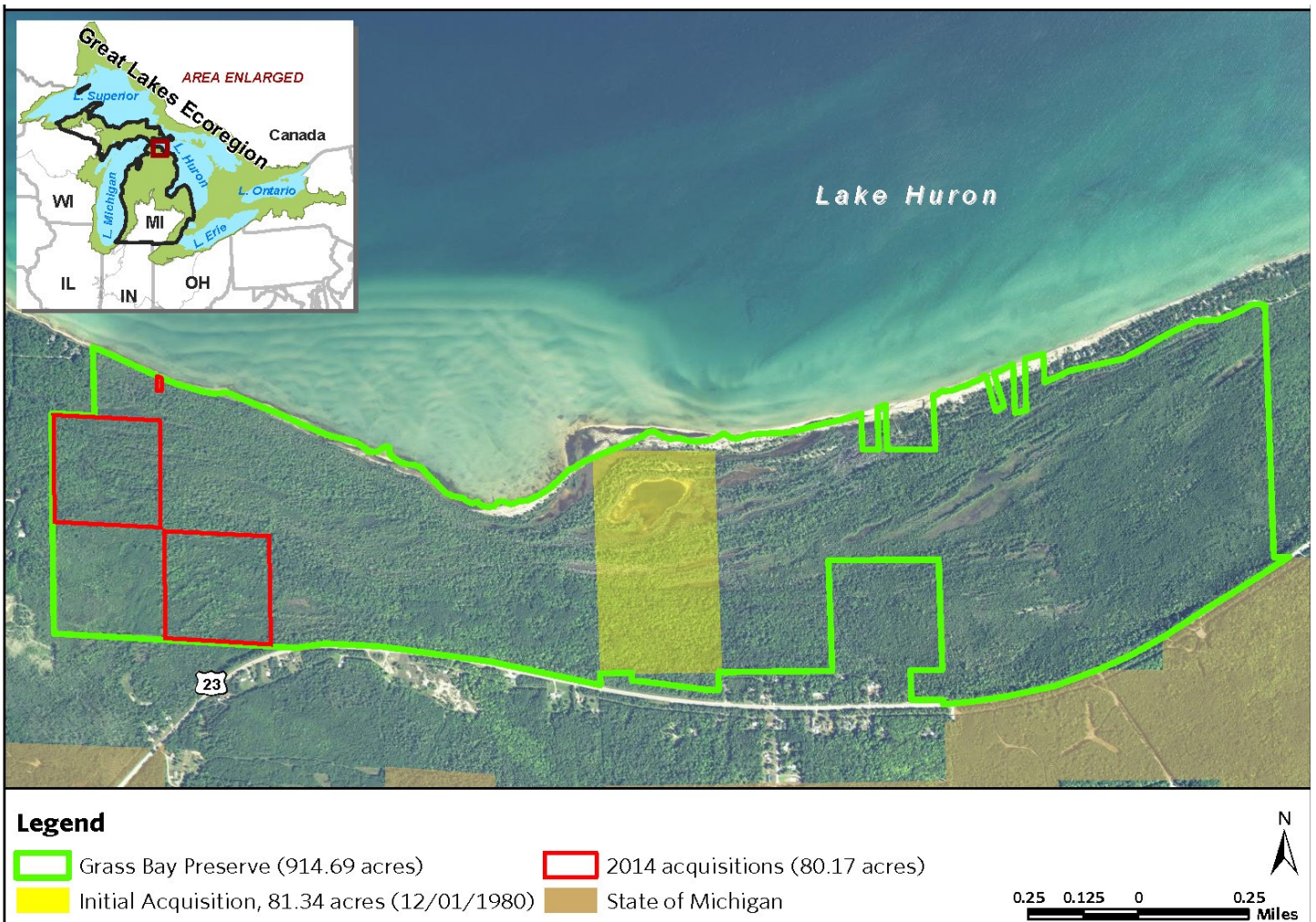


PRESERVE LOCATION

Grass Bay Preserve lies at the heart of an area rich in biodiversity and recreation. From Alpena to Cheboygan in the Lower Peninsula, and Bois Blanc Island to Drummond Island in the eastern Upper Peninsula, TNC works with local land trusts, federal and state agencies and municipal leaders to safeguard this important area by:

- ◇ Establishing a network of resilient lands and waters that protect coastal natural communities and processes.
- ◇ Monitoring and restoring fragile or sensitive areas made vulnerable due to invasive species, incompatible recreational use or fire suppression.
- ◇ Building support for conservation by working closely with local communities to develop and expand appropriate nature-based recreation and tourism economies.

To protect the unique and fragile ecosystems of Grass Bay Preserve, access is limited.



ECOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Three rare plants unique to the Great Lakes—and federally listed as threatened species—thrive at Grass Bay Preserve: the diminutive dwarf lake iris (blooming in purple or white—below), Pitcher’s thistle and Houghton’s goldenrod.



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Hundreds of species of migratory birds flock to these shores every year, and coastal wetlands nourish thriving Great Lakes fisheries. Grass Bay Preserve demonstrates this ecological abundance through highlights such as:

Over 300 plant species, including 12 orchid species as well as unique wetland and dune species such as the Lake Huron tansy.

Critical habitat for neotropical migrants such as the black-throated blue warbler and the prairie warbler.

A diverse landscape of shoreline, dunes, wetlands, and swamps and forests home to 12 of Michigan’s 13 coniferous species.

CONSERVATION GOALS

Land fragmentation and development, invasive species (particularly spotted knapweed) and prohibited recreational activities all threaten the health of this special place. Through restoration and stewardship, TNC works toward the following goals for Grass Bay Preserve:

- ◇ Minimal negative impacts from invasive species to natural communities and associated species.
- ◇ Healthy hydrological processes that support key natural communities.
- ◇ Healthy, thriving populations of native Great Lakes species.



Grass Bay Preserve stands as an enduring example of what a community can accomplish by coming together for the protection and stewardship of our vital Great Lakes lands and waters.

