



Mill Pond DNR Property Improvement Project

to enhance the property for public fishing, canoeing/kayaking, wildlife viewing, hunting, & natural resource education

Version 2.0



Presented To
Potential Partners

Presented by
Jamie Lewis Hedges

About the Area



This is ceded land of the Potawatomi, Ojibwe (Chippewa), and Odawa (Ottawa) tribes. The Thornapple River serves as a picturesque background beyond the wetlands. Today you can access this natural area from the Paul Henry Thornapple Trail, along the Thornapple Birding Trail, while visiting Nashville, MI in beautiful Barry County.



Wetlands

these habitats act as natural filters, enhancing water quality by capturing sediments and organic matter, ensuring cleaner water for the ecosystem. Furthermore, they mitigate flooding risks, as wetlands absorb and gradually release excess water, safeguarding communities from flood damage. This location on the Thornapple River supports a major subbasin of the Grand River Watershed in southern Lower Michigan.



Birds

Located on the Thornapple Birding Trail, location #20, this site has a significant bird population, including an impressive eBird list. Species include Tree Swallows, Gray Catbirds, Cedar Waxwings, Trumpeter Swans, Downy Woodpeckers, Black-capped Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches, Northern Cardinals, and Ring-necked Ducks, etc.



History

Before Europeans arrived, this area was primarily covered by beech-sugar maple forests and had riparian corridors with mixed hardwood and conifer swamps. In the early 1800s, Nashville established along the river's banks and thrives today. In 2009, the mill dam west of M-66 was removed, transforming the 60-acre mill pond into a floodplain habitat along the Thornapple River.



Conservation

The conservation of diverse ecosystems, including wetlands, savannas, and river corridors, provides crucial habitats for a range of plant and animal species, thus contributing to our quality of life. Once restored, this site can serve as a valuable resource for educational programs, wildlife recreation, and volunteer stewardship efforts, fostering an appreciation for the natural environment.



MILL POND NATURAL AREA

Map & Guide

Key Features

Size: 26 acres

Upland and wetland areas,
Thornapple River frontage.

Hiking, fishing, bird and wildlife
watching is available.

Rules

- Leave No Trace: Take Litter
- Nonmotorized Traffic Only
- No Camping, Plant Harvesting,
- All activities are limited to Michigan State and public safety restrictions.



Location: [42.607162, -85.077318](#)
E Reed Street,
Nashville, MI 49073

Contact: Barry Conservation District
1611 S Hanover St, Ste 105
barryconservation@gmail.com
(269) 908-4139

Goals & Objectives

The site consists of a degraded wetland, formerly a mill pond, and a degraded upland, once cleared for housing development but left unused, making it in need of extensive restoration. BCD plans to collaborate with The Village of Nashville, Barry County Parks, and natural resource agencies to support wildlife, education, and volunteer programs.



Nature & Wildlife Restoration

- Provide high quality, diverse, Southwest-Michigan-native communities to support sustainable local wildlife populations...
- Restoring a diverse community of native wetland plants in the Wetland to foster a variety of native wildlife, and...
- Restoring a diverse, healthy community of native species typically found in oak barrens.



Recreation Opportunities

- Provide quality recreational opportunities for people to connect with wildlife and natural communities...
- Establishing and maintaining a safe, environmentally responsible, and engaging trail system,
- Encouraging community involvement, and...
- Identifying opportunities for the expansion of access.



Environmental Education

- Provide educational opportunities to learn how conservation and land management affect wildlife populations and natural communities.
- Collaborating with area educators, schools, and environmental organizations, and...
- Creating on-site educational resources and programs.

Opportunities to Support

Join us as a sponsor of this wetland and oak savanna natural area. Your support will not only enhance the Nashville and Barry County communities but also help preserve these invaluable ecosystems.

All sponsors receive...

- ✔ Logo/Name Associated w/ Item
- ✔ Press Release
- ✔ Website & Social Media Spotlight
- ✔ Thanks During Related Events



est. \$600

Interpretive Signage

Transform this natural area trail into an enlightening outdoor classroom.



est. \$1500

Welcome Signage

Create an inviting gateway to history and nature education.



est. \$5,000

Management

- Create a spot where enthusiasts and kids can view their avian friends.
- ✔ Additional Recognition Signage



est. \$10,000

Observational Blind

- Create a spot where enthusiasts and kids can view their avian friends.
- ✔ Additional Recognition Signage
 - ✔ Special Recognition Event



est. \$100,000+

Wetland Boardwalk

- Help visitors explore and connect with the beauty of this ecosystem.
- ✔ Additional Recognition Signage
 - ✔ Special Recognition Event



Contact Information:

Barry Conservation District
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269.908.4139

