

Magee Marsh Map - Trails

- 1** **Gallagher Memorial Trail** – Enter just behind the BSBO Visitor Center. This Trail loops through woodland edge, scrub-shrub habitat, and open meadow.
 - What to look for: warblers and other songbirds can be found throughout the woody vegetation; meadow birds such as the Lincoln's sparrow can also be found; rare wading birds (king rail and Virginia rail) have been reported in the wetland areas.

 - 2** **Magee – Ottawa Partnership Trail** – Enter at the first large curve in the road before the Bird Center (guests should park at the bird center to access this trail). Important – this is an out and back trail connecting Magee Marsh to Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.
 - What to look for: Forest edge habitat can produce warblers and other songbirds; may find wading birds and some waterfowl in the open water channel.

 - 3** **Woodies Roost Trail** – Enter at the trail head across the road from the Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center. This trail follows an impoundment that can produce good numbers of marsh birds and spring migrants.

 - 4** **Magee Marsh Walking Trail, West Loop** – Enter just behind the Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center. This trail loops around two small ponds through woody vegetation. This trail is fully accessible and a good option for those with mobility challenges.
 - What to look for: warblers can be seen in the vegetation throughout the trail; wading birds (green heron, blue heron, great and snowy egrets) often seen in the ponds; purple martins nest in the houses just behind the bird center; several swallow species fly over the ponds.

 - 5** **Magee Marsh Walking Trail, Bear Pond Loop** – Enter from the West Loop Trail to extend the length of Magee Marsh Walking Trail. Continues through woody habitat with views of the open water channel on the northern side of the trail.
 - What to look for: warblers can be seen in the vegetation throughout the trail; waterfowl often viewed in the channel.

 - 6** **Magee Marsh Boardwalk** – Premier location to view warblers and other songbirds. Access by permit only in 2021.
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-  **Boardwalk West Entrance and Observation Deck** – Usually the most productive birding location on the boardwalk. Wet woodlands provide fantastic habitat for warblers and other popular songbirds.
 - What to look for: Warblers often seen foraging for bugs low in trees; prothonotary warblers, blue-grey gnatcatchers, several vireo species, common yellowthroat, Baltimore orioles, among huge numbers of other species seen around the west end; woodcocks often found on the ground closer to the middle part of the boardwalk.
 - Perimeter area just outside the west entrance often nearly as productive as the actual boardwalk. Warblers work the vegetation, Baltimore orioles and yellow-billed cuckoos frequently seen.



Boardwalk East Entrance – Located at the very east end of the beach park lots. While usually less productive for migrating songbirds than the west end, there are still great opportunities to see numerous species.

- What to look for: an active eagle nest is located just across the road in a protected area.

7

Crane Creek Estuary Trail – Enter at the northwest end of the beach parking lot. This trail loops through wooded areas, along a levee with views of wetland habitats and mudflats, and along a forested beach.

- What to look for: Several owl species seen nesting in larger holes in trees (often in the wooded area at the beginning of the trail and along the levee side); wooded beach has produced several rarities including a cerulean warbler in 2019; waterfowl and wading birds (sandhill cranes) can be seen in the open water wetlands on the back half of the trail.

8

Beach Trail – Enter at several spots along the parking lot. This trail travels through the scrub vegetation along the beach with views of the open water.

- What to look for: Eagles easily seen flying over to and from nesting locations; gulls, terns, and waterfowl can often be seen flying over or in the water.

9

Wildlife Beach Trail – Enter at the northeast corner of the overflow parking lot. Important: this is an out and back trail.

- What to look for: Gulls, terns, and waterfowl are often seen flying over and in the open water; thickets and woods along the edge of the beach often have large concentrations of migrating songbirds.

Magee Marsh Map - Seasonal Trails

2A

Partnership Trail Extension – Enter via the Goosehaven Trail (at the approximant midpoint of the trail). Important: This is an out and back trail that emerges near the Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center. This trail travels on a mowed levee with views of wetland habitat on both sides.

- What to look for: Eagles perched in the larger trees lining the trail; wading birds along the banks and throughout the mudflats; swans and waterfowl in deeper water areas.

6A

Goosehaven Trail – Enter via the Estuary Trail or near the east end entrance of the boardwalk. This trail travels on a mowed levee behind the boardwalk with views of both wooded and wetland habitats.

- What to look for: Eagles perched in the larger trees lining the trail; shorebirds such as great blue herons, green herons, and egrets (great and snowy) are frequently seen along the banks of the waterway; warblers in the wooded vegetation on the lake side of the trail; wading birds in the mudflats on the inland side of the trail.

9A

Lakefront Levee Trail – Enter at the southeast corner of the overflow parking lot. This trail travels on a mowed levee with views of wetland habitat on the inland side and open water on the lake side.

- What to look for: Mudflats in the wetland habitat provide excellent opportunities to view shorebirds and wading birds; view gulls and waterfowl on the lake side.

Magee Marsh Map – Points of Interest



Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) Visitor Center – Will not be open during the 2021 spring migration season. Guests can find more information at BSBO.org and follow them on Facebook. BSBO also sponsors the Birding Ohio Facebook page.



Partnership Ponds Fishing Access – Public fishing access location with a small parking lot.

- What to look for: ducks and other waterfowl, great blue herons, egrets, and other wading birds.



Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center/Friends of Magee Marsh Bookstore – Will be open on a limited basis from May 1-23 to allow the Friends of Magee Marsh to operate their gift shop. Open hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day with a maximum occupancy of 12 guests and two volunteers. This building is fully accessible and has a limited number of flush restrooms. There is also a large display of bird mounts and historical information about the area.



Dog Training Grounds – Enter from the first (eastern) parking lot along the beach.

- What to look for: Gulls, terns, and waterfowl often seen in the open water.

Additional Birding Areas on Magee Marsh

Magee Causeway: This road connects the inland part of the area to the beach access areas and travels through a large expanse of wetland habitat with open water channels on each side of the road. Three gravel pullouts on the east side of the road are available for parking, but guests are encouraged to stay in their cars.

- What to look for: the open water channels can provide great views of waterfowl and larger wading birds; snowy egrets frequently seen in this area.
- **Watch for turtles and other critters crossing the road**

Forest edge along beach parking lot: The forested edge between the two entrances to the boardwalk can be extremely productive for migrants. Much of the road is blocked off to vehicles and is fully accessible. This is a great option for those that have mobility challenges.

- What to look for: warblers and other songbirds can be seen all along the forest edge; flycatchers (kingbird, etc) often seen in the area overlooking the pond; fantastic views of the active eagle nests.

- Important note: to protect the eagles, the area directly under the nests have been roped off and are not accessible.