

Threats to Ecological Value

Residential development poses the greatest risk to this PCA. Development of the upland forest in the western half of this property or the western end of the agricultural fields west of Cobb Rd. would impact the central portions of this site. Because PCA 7 is the smallest of the 20 PCAs that were surveyed, even small reductions in habitat buffer would reduce the ecological value of this site for wildlife.



Praying Mantis

Management Recommendations

PCA 7 is a very good candidate for conservation priority. Like Glasby Lake (PCA 4), few humans access Shallow Gilkey Lake and Little Gilkey Lake. These more “wild” habitats are important for some wildlife, including certain migrating or nesting waterfowl. The best way for landowners to access these lakes may be by boardwalks rather than channels.

The floristic quality of the wetlands associated with these lakes is also moderate to high.

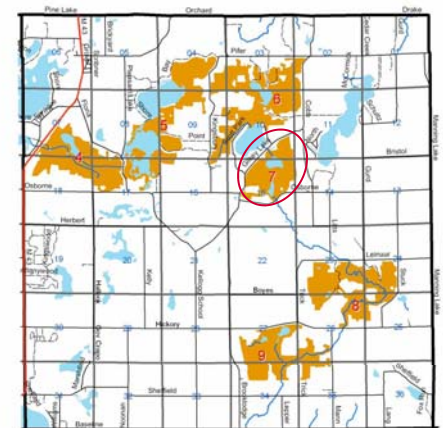
These ecosystems are probably best left unmanaged. Residential development near this relatively small PCA could decrease its ecological value if the habitat buffer around the lakes is reduced.



Barry Township Shallow Gilkey and Little Gilkey Lakes PCA 7

Location

Potential Conservation Area (PCA) 7, located in sections 10 and 15 of Barry Township, is bounded by Gilkey Lake Rd., Cobb Rd., and Osborne Rd.



High priority potential conservation areas
Barry Township

Legend

- state highways
- county roads
- ▭ township boundary
- lakes
- rivers
- sections
- potential conservation areas



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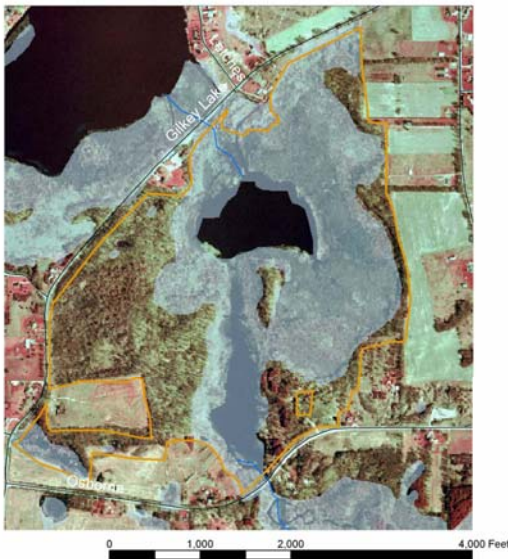


Michigan
Natural
Features
Inventory

Diverse Ecosystems

Site Description

This Potential Conservation Area (PCA) is predominantly wetland habitat that borders Shallow Gilkey Lake and Little Gilkey Lake. These lakes are near the headwaters of the Augusta Creek watershed. This PCA is bordered by agricultural fields, roads, and old fields.



Potential conservation area 7
Barry Township
272 acres



Legend

- potential conservation area
- roads
- wetlands

Communities and Ecosystems

The majority of PCA 7 comprises wetland habitat associated with the Shallow Gilkey Lake and Little Gilkey Lake basins; the remainder of the site is upland forest, most of which lies west of the overall wetland basin.

The larger wetland basin includes emergent marsh communities with abundant sweet scented water lily. The largest habitat, southern wet meadow, occurs along both lake perimeters.



Scented Water Lily

Southwest of Shallow Gilkey Lake is a southern shrub-carr community, which may be representative of other shrub- and tree-dominated wetland communities at this site.



Plants and Animals of Interest

Shallow Gilkey Lake and Little Gilkey Lake provide exceptional habitat for migrating and nesting waterfowl. Sandhill Cranes have been reported to be nesting in this area. The 2003 Michigan Breeding Bird Census reported 29 species of birds in this area.



Northern Leopard Frog

This large area of open wetland and adjacent uplands are suitable habitat for a number of species of concern such as the Eastern box turtle. Eight of the eleven



Eastern Box Turtle

species of frogs and toads of southern Michigan have been heard in this area

Four Township Water Resources Council

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