

# Chamberlain Lake Nature Preserve

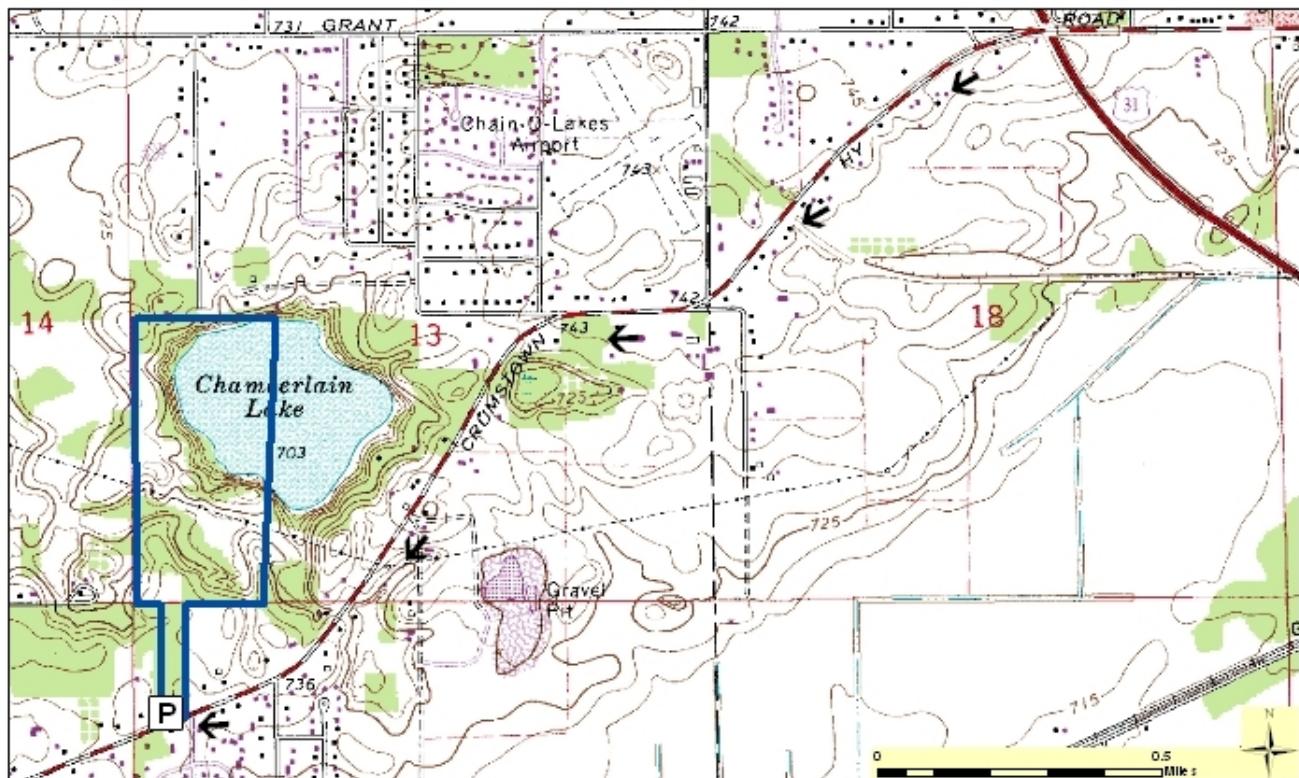
County: St. Joseph    Size: 82.5 acres

Ownership: Nature Preserves - IDNR



## Location and Access

**Parking and trail.** From the intersection of the US 31 bypass with SR 2 on the west side of South Bend—go west on SR 2 (Western Ave.) to the first cross street, Pine Rd (Pine Rd is just past St. Joseph’s Cemetery.) Go south on Pine Rd about 1 mile to Crumstown Hwy. (SR 223). Go west on Crumstown Hwy a little less than 1 mile to the nature preserve parking lot on the right. (Ramblewood subdivision is on the left just before the parking lot.) A trail leads through the woods to Chamberlain Lake. The parking lot and trail are maintained with the assistance of the St. Joseph County Parks and Recreation Department.



**Description:** Chamberlain Lake is a shallow basin with little open water during much of the year. As the water level recedes during the course of a normal year, interesting wetland communities develop including muck flats and floating mats of vegetation. Several of the wetland plants growing here have geographical affinities to the Atlantic coastal plain, and therefore, are quite disjunct from their normal range. Included among the unusual species here are dwarf umbrella sedge, warty panic grass, pipewort, purple bladderwort, spatulate-leaved sundew, and black-fruited spikerush. *A tornado in the fall of 2001 knocked down almost every canopy tree in the surrounding oak woods, but caused no damage in the wetland. It will take many years for the forest trees to re-grow to their former size.*

## Further Information:

St. Joseph Co. Parks and Recreation Dept., 50651 Laurel Rd, South Bend, IN 46637. (574) 277-4828.

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