Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve

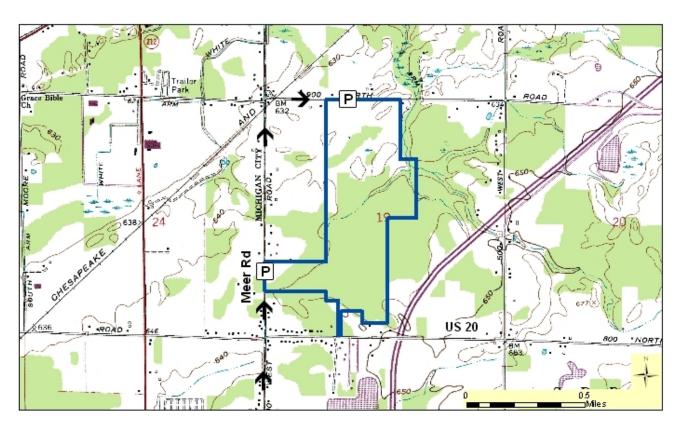
County: LaPorte Size: 197.30 Acres

Ownership: Shirley Heinze Land Trust

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Location and Access

Parking and trail. Take I-94 to US 20 (exit 40). Take US 20 west toward Michigan City. From US 20, take first right onto CR 600W (Meer Rd). **Southern trail parking**: On the west side of Meer Rd, 0.3 mile north of CR 800 N (Tryon Rd). **Northern trail parking**: Go north on Meer Rd to CR 900 N (Freyer Rd.). Turn right onto Freyer Rd; go 0.3 mile; parking lot is on south side of road. The out and back trail within the nature preserve portion of the property is more than 1.5 miles. The trail is easy to traverse but it can be muddy during seasonally wet times of the year.



Description: Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve contains a forest community known as boreal flatwoods, which is characterized by poorly drained soils on a relatively level or "flat" landscape. Overstory trees include red maple, northern pin oak, black gum, tulip tree, and white pine. Many of the plant species occurring here are typically more northern in distribution, and some barely reach within Indiana's northern border, being restricted to our state to these flatwoods. Several plants found here are rare to the state. A selection of interesting northern plants at Ambler include goldthread, wintergreen, shinleaf, and several species of clubmoss. Tall, elegant cinnamon and royal ferns are commonly encountered and scattered seasonal ponds provide important habitat for a diverse assemblage of breeding salamanders in late winter and early spring.

Further Information:

Shirley Heinze Land Trust, 109 West 700 North, Valparaiso, IN 46385 (219) 242-8558. www.heinzetrust.org Division of Nature Preserves, Coastal Regional Ecologist, Derek Nimetz: dnimetz@dnr.IN.gov Indiana Department of Natural Resources

