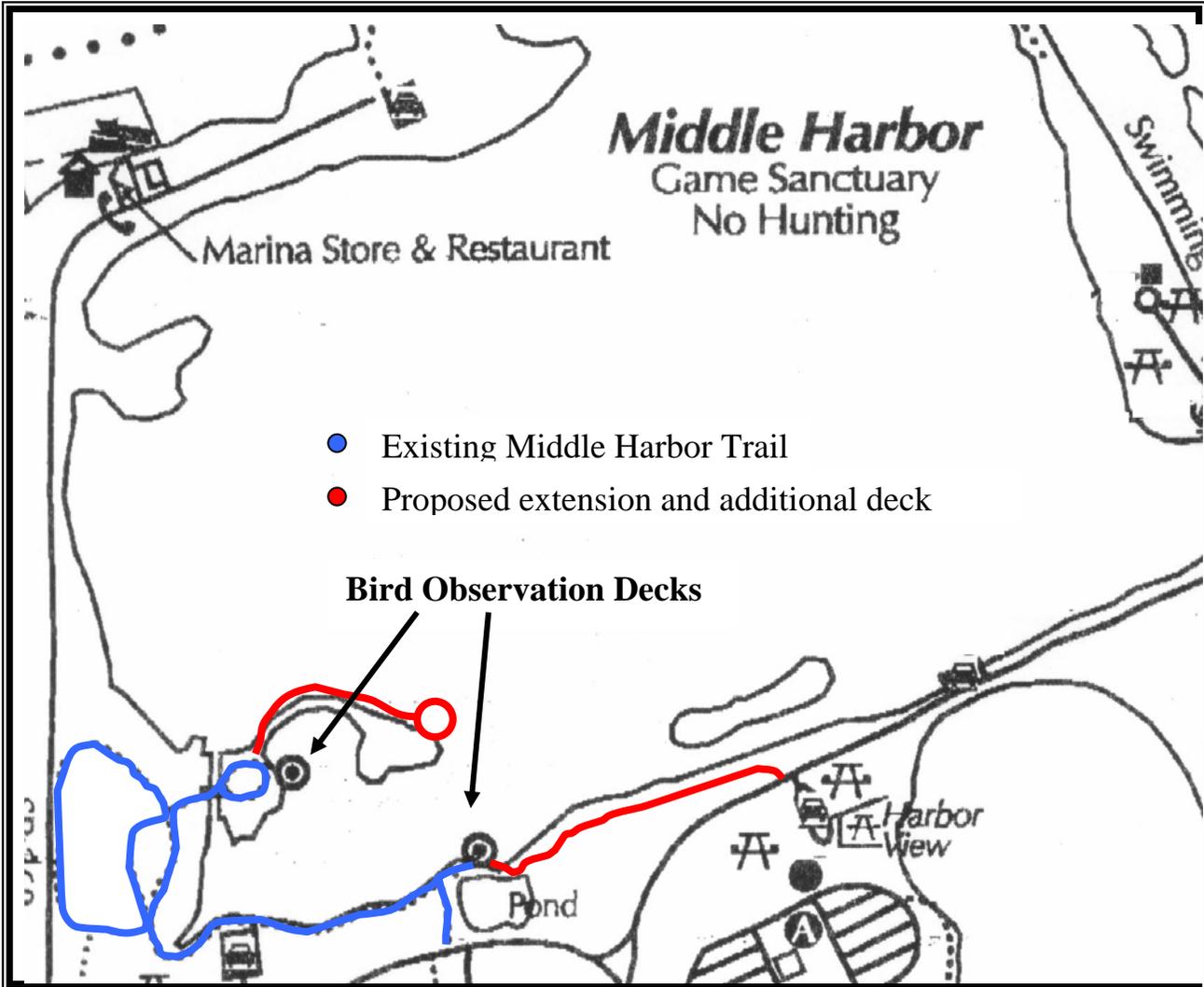


Middle Harbor Birding Trail Map (Present and Proposed Plans)



East Harbor State Park Middle Harbor Bird Observation Decks Final Report

East Harbor State Park has a visitation of over one million visitors a year, however certain parts of the population, such as birdwatchers, were not being served. Most people think of East Harbor as 'a campground' or 'a park with a nice beach', not as a prime place to come view birds and other wildlife. Since East Harbor is located on the shores of Lake Erie we receive a lot of "traffic" from the various migratory bird species including waterfowl and shorebirds. We thought it would be a good idea to develop a trail that would cater to birders because access to birding locations and activities is limited in this part of North Central Ohio. By developing this trail we hope to meet the needs of birders as well as offering educational opportunities that will attract more visitation to the area not only during the summer months but also during the spring and fall when visitation typically slows down. As a result we decided to develop the Middle Harbor Trail (see map #1) into a 'birding trail' and start with the observation decks to be able to view the many bird species that utilize the harbor. Until the decks were made, there was no easy way to view the harbor from the existing trails.

Our first stumbling block was finding an organization to build the decks. For this task East Harbor turned to EHOVE Joint Vocational School and Career Center's landscaping and carpentry departments. This partnership between EHOVE and East Harbor State Park benefited the deck project in many ways. First, this project gave us the opportunity to involve an outside group in a volunteer capacity, helping to increase the students' sense of ownership of their state parks. Secondly, we would not have been able to do this project without outside assistance. At this time we do not have the staffing capabilities in regards to the time involved to accomplish such a project. So by working with EHOVE we were able to do a project that otherwise would not be possible.

The landscaping department, under the instruction of Jeff Belmont, did the initial work of marking a trail and clearing the areas to be used. Two classes came out each day, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. (See pictures #1-#5) There were approximately 6 students present each day for each class. The group worked for a total of 4 days and accumulated a total of 144 hours (12 students x 4 days x 3 hours/day = total hours). Once the areas were cleared construction could start.

East Harbor staff ordered materials, coordinated material delivery, marked the placement of the decks and dug the holes for the support posts of the decks. Once this was done the carpentry department, under the instruction of Jim Carper, began construction. Construction began on April 30, 2001 and continued on and off until June 17th (see pictures #6-#12). There were approximately 12 students present each day. The group worked for a total of 8 days and accumulated a total of 288 hours (12 students x 8 days x 3 hours/day = total hours). In building these decks it was also the students first chance to work with the recycled Trex lumber which is made from a combination of recycled

plastic and pre-consumer wood scrap. The students were able to compare and contrast the different materials used in this project and others they had worked on. They definitely noticed that Trex is heavier and denser than regular lumber, but their extra work was worth the effort as Trex has a 60-80 year lifespan in the outdoors. Since the completion of the decks the naturalist has conducted 5 programs that involved the decks. (see pictures #13-#14) Through these programs 77 visitors have already made use of the observation decks. Utilization of these decks will continue throughout the summer as part of the parks weekly programming. Throughout the fall, winter and spring months special programs (i.e. waterfowl watch) will be scheduled and the decks will be an integral part of these programs.

By building these decks we have given not only birders but also the general public access to an area that had not be easily viewed previously. These decks will now offer a new aspect to programming at East Harbor. In addition it gave the students from EHOVE the opportunity to contribute their skills to bettering their state park. It also introduced them to the idea of using recycled goods in construction. There are future plans to extend the already existing trail so that it begins at the Harborview Shelterhouse. (see map #2) By starting at the shelterhouse this will create a trailhead that starts at a parking area. Presently the trail does not have a 'logical' beginning point and does not provide parking. We would also like to extend the trail out into the harbor by means of a boardwalk. At the terminating end of the boardwalk we would like to construct another deck. This however is dependent on acquiring additional funds.

Financial Report

Grant Money Received	\$2700.00
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Expenses

Quality Building Supplies

26 2 x 10 x 10 joists (wolmorized)	\$ 304.72
12 2 x 10 x 12 supports (wolmorized)	\$ 220.68
8 6 x 6 x 10 posts (wolmorized)	\$ 187.60

\$ 713.00

Gordon Lumber

64 2" x 2" x 14' trex recycled lumber (railing)	\$ 720.00
64 5/4" x 6" x 12' trex recycled lumber (deck)	\$1020.80

\$1740.80

Carter Lumber

3 boxes Galvanized decking nails	\$ 17.37
5 driver bits	\$ 9.45
2 boxes Galvanized decking nails	\$ 13.98
20 bags concrete	\$ 59.80
**nails	\$ 55.00
**screws	\$ 20.97
4 2-step stringers	\$ 21.96
2 2 x 10 x 8 treated lumber (stairs)	\$ 12.12

\$ 210.65

TOTAL

\$ 2664.45

MATCHING FUNDS

Man hours

EHOVE landscaping (12 students x 4 days x 3 hours/day = 144 hours x \$5.50/hour	\$ 792.00
EHOVE carpentry (12 students x 8 days x 3 hours/day = 288 hours x \$5.50/hour)	\$1584.00
East Harbor Naturalist (45 hours x \$15.00/hour)	\$ 675.00
East Harbor Natural Resource Workers	
Worker 1(4 hours x \$10.58/hour)	\$ 43.32
Worker 2(16 hours x \$10.22/hour)	\$ 163.52
East Harbor Asst. Park Manager/Maintenance Supervisor (15 hours x \$27.54/hour)	\$ 413.10

TOTAL \$\$ HOURS

\$3670.94

Mileage

EHOVE landscaping department ~30 miles round trip x 4 days x \$.30/mile x 2 trips/day	\$ 64.00
EHOVE carpentry department ~ 30 miles round trip x 8 days x \$.30/mile	\$ 72.00

TOTAL \$\$ MILEAGE

\$ 136.00

TOTAL MATCH \$\$ \$3806.94



EHOVE students working on the decking of the Mudflat deck.





Looking from Harbor View Deck to the location of the Mudflat Deck (see arrow).



EHOVE carpentry students starting to lay the decking on the Mudflat Deck



EHOVE landscaping students dumping and spreading mulch on trail extension to the observation deck.





The Harbor View Deck area clear and ready for mulching.



EHOVE landscaping students loading up mulch.



Conducting programming on completed Harbor View deck.





Working on the railing of the Harbor View Deck





Carpentry students seeking shelter from the cold!



Laying decking for the Harbor View Deck.

East Harbor State Park

● Middle Harbor Trail

