



August 6, 2022

Thumbland Conservancy August 2022 Stewardship

Bidwell Sanctuary

Burtchville Township, Saint Clair County

The TLC is focused on stewardship of the Bidwell Sanctuary in Burtchville Township through August. You are welcome to help us and learn about this fascinating ancient beach ridge or dune and swale community. We are still clearing the new Burtchville section of the Southern Lake Huron Coastal Trail further north and also removing invasive shrubs like Japanese Barberry, Tartarian Honeysuckle, Common Privet, and Asiatic Bittersweet. You should bring work gloves, a hat, drinking water, and mosquito repellent, although mosquitoes have been few this summer. We will provide some hand tools but you are welcome to bring shovels, long pruners, and hand saws.

The entrance to the Bidwell Sanctuary is located along the north side of Metcalf Road, about halfway between M-25 and the Indian Trail North mobile home park, almost directly north of West Montevista Drive. The entrance is mowed and there is plenty of parking space. The trail entrance is at the edge of the woods, about 200 feet north of Metcalf Road.

Our work schedule on the Bidwell Sanctuary for the next week and a half is as follows:

August 13, Saturday, 2-5 PM, leader Dan Rhein, TLC Board Member

August 17, Wednesday, 10 AM – 1 PM, leader Blake Short, TLC Program Assistant

August 19, Friday, 10 AM – 1 PM, leader Blake Short, TLC Program Assistant

August 20, Saturday, 2-5 PM, leader Blake Short, TLC Program Assistant

Feel free to show up any time. If no one is at the preserve entrance, just follow the trail north, which will soon extend to the north end of the Bidwell Sanctuary about ½ mile north of Metcalf Road. Contact us by e-mail or phone if any questions.



Wetland swale along the coastal trail. Bidwell Sanctuary, May 2022.



Purple-flowering Raspberry, the Blue Water Area's Thimbleberry, is found only in the ancient dune habitat along the lakshore.



Coastal trail, Bidwell Sanctuary



Wetland swale along the coastal trail. Bidwell Sanctuary, May 2022.



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Thumb Land Conservancy

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