

Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve

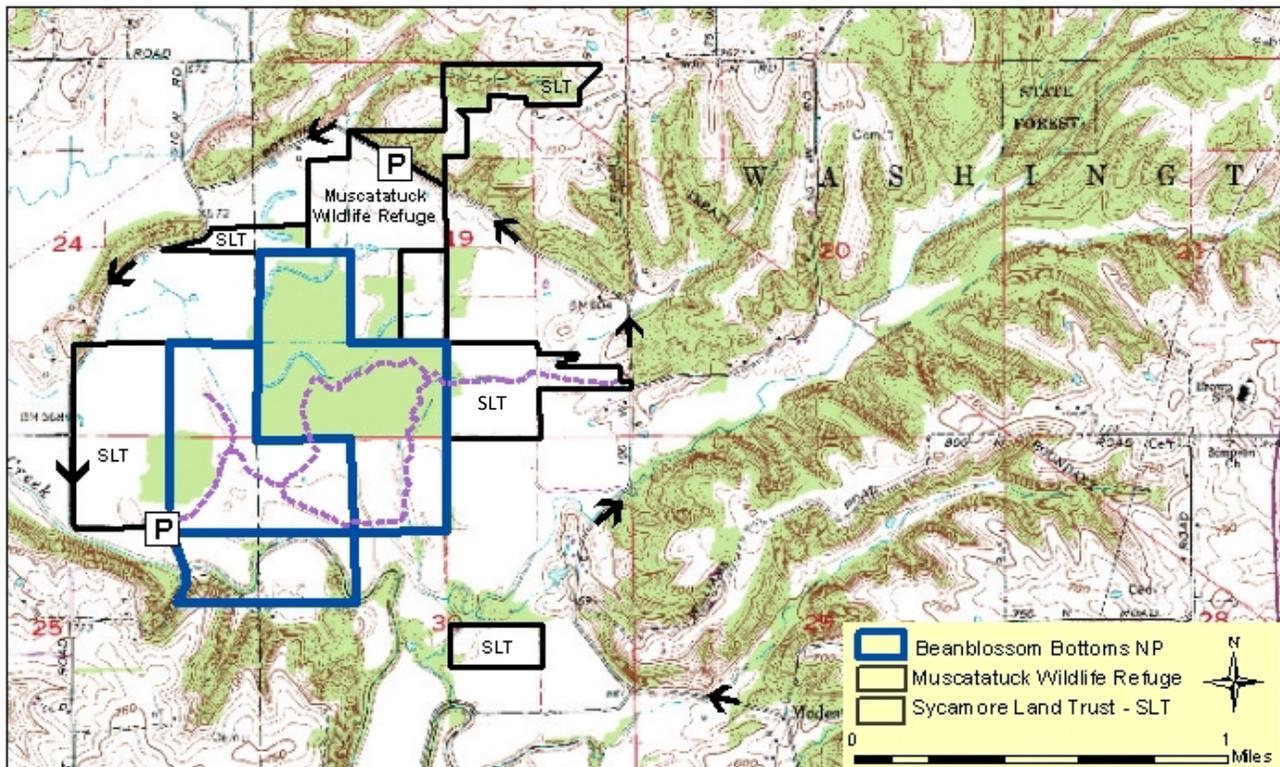
County: Monroe Size: 336.82 acres
Ownership: Sycamore Land Trust
Parking Coordinates: 39.27686, -86.57831



Location and Access

Parking and a 2.5 mile public access trail. Spring flooding can make the area inaccessible.

From the north side of Bloomington take Bottom Rd (Kinser Pike turns into Bottom Rd once across US 37) about 5 miles to the 1st parking lot (on the left) for the neighboring Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge. An observation deck by the lot looks across the refuge. To get to the 2nd parking area (for the trail), continue on Bottom Rd about 0.7 mile to Woodall Rd and turn left. Go about 1.3 miles on Woodall Rd to the parking area (on the left), which is just past a gate at a sharp right curve. The trail head is next to the parking area.



Description: Beanblossom Bottoms is a relatively high-quality mesic floodplain forest bordered by wet meadows and successional fields. Representative tree species include swamp white oak, pin oak, swamp cottonwood, sycamore, and silver maple. Ancient stream meanders abandoned to become sloughs are often bordered by the wetland plant, lizard's tail; wetland vegetation is diverse and found throughout the property. A small Great Blue Heron rookery and a Bald Eagle nest are found in the woods. It is recognized by the National Audubon Society as a state important Bird Area. The trail is rated Easy, open to the public and features 2.5 miles total of elevated boardwalk, gravel, and mowed grass. Please stay on the trail to avoid disturbing the nesting herons and eagles. Sycamore Land Trust has protected over 570 acres at this location, much of it with assistance from the Indiana Heritage Trust.

Further Information:

Sycamore Land Trust, Box 7801, Bloomington, IN 47401. (812) 336-5382. www.sycamorelandtrust.org
Division of Nature Preserves Central Regional Ecologist, Danielle Williams: dpwilliams@dnr.IN.gov