

The Otter Creek Preserve: a 1.9 mile Nature Trail ...

a Mosaic of Habitats in the village of Alexandria Bay

The Otter Creek Preserve and Nature Trail offers walking, hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing on 115 acres of diverse forest and wetlands. A portion of the trail is ADA accessible.

Thousand Islands Land Trust's "Signature Preserves"

This map shows various preserves including: Wellesley Island Preserve, Crooked Creek Preserve & MacSherry Trail, Otter Creek Preserve & Nature Trail, Grindstone Island Preserves & Nature Trail, Zenda Farms Preserve & MacFarlane Trail, Rivergate Trail & S. Gerald Ingerson Preserve, Foster Blkie Woods Preserve, and Cleve Vincent.

Learn more online at www.TLandTrust.org



North

A detailed map of Alexandria Bay and the Otter Creek Preserve. It shows the bay, surrounding streets, and the preserve's boundaries. Key features include the 'Preserve Entrance', 'Hemlock' tree, 'Lynch Creek', and 'Sourthern Pt.' (Point).

CLIMATE CHANGE

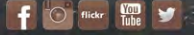
Resilient landscapes, like the Otter Creek Preserve with its lush forests and extensive wetlands and shrublands are better able to resist the negative impacts of climate change, providing safe havens for native species. Successional forests like this one are carbon sinks, exchanging carbon dioxide for oxygen through photosynthesis. Tributaries with adjacent wetlands are natural sponges that help mitigate fluctuations in water levels. Unfragmented natural areas that connect expanses of wilderness together are the key to survival for species affected by climate change.



Directions to the Preserve: In Alexandria Bay, turn south on State Route 26 (Church Street) Drive a half mile to the Preserve entrance on the right.



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The Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT)
 Otter Creek Nature Trail
 TRAIL GUIDE
 OTTER CREEK PRESERVE
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Golden-winged Warbler
 The largest NY populations of this steeply declining songbird are here in the St. Lawrence Valley. Their native habitat is young forest, usually created by natural disturbances such as fire or beaver activity. Lack of this kind of disturbance along with human development have had a drastic impact on the population.



Wood Duck
 Wood Ducks nest in the hollows of trees, high above the forest floor. When the ducklings hatch, their mother calls to them from below and they hurl themselves out of the nest in the tree and free fall to the ground.

A cross-section diagram of a wetland habitat showing various species in different layers: Snapping Turtle, Brown Bullhead, Largemouth Bass, Green Darner, Painted Turtle, Leopard Frog, Blandings Turtle, Muskrat, and American Bittern.

BUT IT'S A SWAMP!

Wetlands are messy, muddy, stinky places that are really important for the health of the St. Lawrence and all the wildlife that live here. They are actually really cool. What happens in wetlands? Fish spawn, birds nest, muskrats eat, deer cool off, foxes hide, the list goes on and on. And that's only half of it. Wetlands also help the water itself, filtering out toxins as the water moves in and out of cattails, grasses, and seaweeds. Water is absorbed in boggy places, which helps to reduce ups and downs in water levels. Everybody benefits from wetlands.

Red-winged Blackbird



A view into Wetland Life

The Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) is...

Working to conserve the natural beauty, diverse wildlife habitats, water quality and outdoor recreation opportunities of the 1000 Islands region, for present and future generations!

The Otter Creek Preserve Nature Trail offers rustic hiking through 1.9 miles of pine forests on granite outcroppings, with breathtaking overlooks of marshes on both Lynch and Otter Creeks. Visitors travel through many of the diverse habitats found in the 1000 Islands and St. Lawrence River Valley. A portion of the trail is ADA accessible.



The St. Lawrence Fishery benefits from ecosystems like Otter Creek. Pike spawn here in the spring, and small panfish like Bluegill and Pumpkinseed thrive in its sheltered waters.

Partners for Fish & Wildlife has constructed "potholes" in the wetlands of Otter Creek to encourage plant diversity in the cattail marsh along the NW corner of the preserve. Essentially a deeper open spot that is scooped out from the cattails, the potholes attract waterfowl and provide improved spawning habitat for Northern Pike and other species.

Otter Creek Preserve has two areas managed as Golden-winged Warbler habitat. This handsome bird migrates from coffee plantations in Central and South America to shrublands and young forests in North America. Its preferred habitat is less and less available, which has put the bird in decline. It also hybridizes with Blue-winged Warblers, reducing the number of genetically pure Golden-wings. Otter Creek is one of three Golden-winged Warbler Demonstration Areas in the 1000 Islands. Managing for Golden-winged Warbler also benefits a variety of other shrubland species, including Ruffed Grouse, Woodcock, Turkeys, and more.

1000 ISLANDS LAND TRUST
Live. Learn. Conserve.
www.TILandTrust.org

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The Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization created in 1985 to conserve the natural beauty, diverse wildlife habitats, water quality and outdoor recreation opportunities of the 1000 Islands region, for present and future generations!

TILT is supported by donations from people who care about the Thousand Islands region of the St. Lawrence River. Our conservation work is only possible through the generosity of our supporters.

Donations of land, conservation easements, and financial resources to TILT are tax deductible under provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. To find out more about donating land, creating a conservation easement, or including TILT in your will please call us at 315-686-5345.

Please detach below & mail with payment to the address above.

Yes! I would like to support TILT and help conserve Otter Creek Preserve:

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My gift is in honor QR in memory of:



| | | | | | |
|--|--|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| TRAIL KEY | | --- Main Trail | | --- Kayak Landing Trail | --- Cattail Trail |
| --- Northern Loop | | --- South Loop | --- Bridge Trail | --- Welcome Kiosk | |
| --- Observation Tower Trail (ADA Accessible) | | --- Parking Area | | ■ Observation Tower | ● Interpretive Signage |
| GROUND COVER KEY | | ■ Shrubland | | ■ Grassland | ■ Forest |
| ■ Wetland | | | | | |

The Fitzsimmons Observation Tower provides an excellent vantage point for viewing Golden-winged Warbler habitat. The lower level is ADA accessible.

The Walker Suspension Bridge offers beautiful views of Lynch Creek and is a fascinating example of engineering and construction.



Preserve Rules: We encourage you to enjoy hiking, birdwatching, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, and to please help us steward this preserve for the enjoyment of future generations. Preserve open sunrise to sunset • No motorized vehicles • No camping, dumping, fires, or collecting flora & fauna • Keep pets on a leash • No trapping • No Hunting

