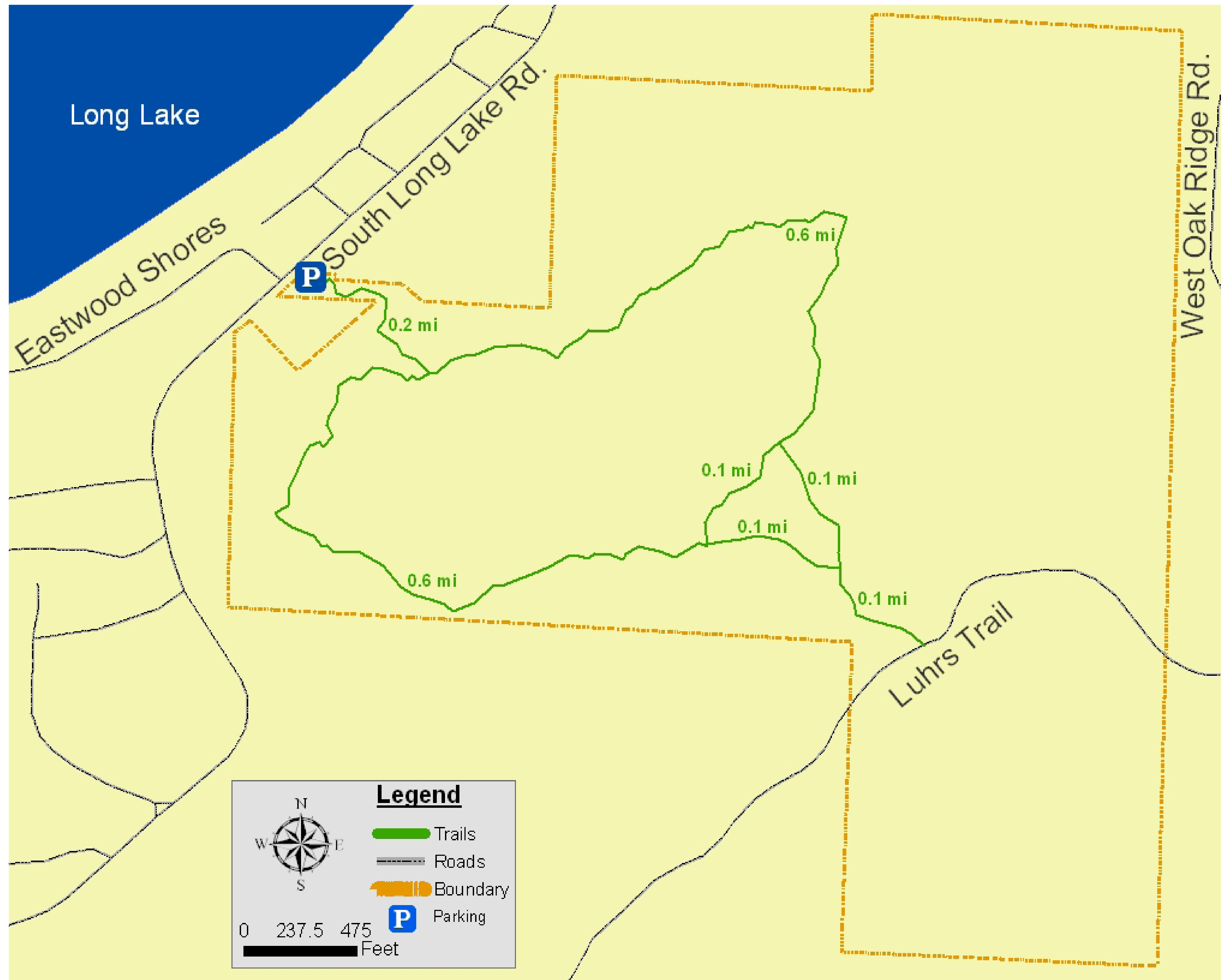




South Long Lake Forest Natural Area



For questions or concerns, contact Long Lake Township at 231.946.2249

..... "A Piece of History"



The property originally consisted of upland forest and wooded swamp wetlands until the mid-1800s when settlers began clearing the land. Logging occurred in all areas of the property with any tree species of several inches in diameter or larger being harvested. Following this period of logging, the non-sloping areas were extensively used for traditional agriculture, which included grazing, crop cultivation, and orchard establishment. In more recent history, the property has been owned by the Hall family who managed the forest for timber and enjoyed the property for recreation activities.

In 2001, the State of Michigan granted the westernmost 120 acres to Long Lake Township as an area for recreation. However, the 120 acres was only accessible via a seasonal road off of Bass Lake Road. In 2004, the Hall family contacted the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy and began exploring ways to preserve their 108 acres that now comprise the eastern "half" of the South Long Lake Forest. The Conservancy also contacted Ruth Webster at that time about some of her property as a better location for a potential trailhead. In 2006, the Long Lake Township Board authorized a ballot initiative to ask voters to approve the "Natural Areas" proposal to purchase, among other properties, the 108 acres owned by the Hall family and 1 acre owned by Ruth Webster. Thanks to the hard work of the Friends for Long Lake Township Natural Areas, the Conservancy, and many volunteers, the Natural Areas proposal passed. Today the South Long Lake Forest is 229 acres of primarily forested land which includes both upland and wetland habitats. The property has several existing trails and two-tracks to enjoy.

Thanks to the Hall family (Evelyn Summers, Patty Breithaupt, Jeff Hall, Dennis Hall) and Ruth Webster for their commitment to the land and their willingness to give the residents and visitors of Long Lake Township a chance to enjoy this property for generations to come.

..... Rules of Natural Area.....

WE HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY THIS WONDERFUL AREA THAT HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO THE COMMUNITY BY YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT. PLEASE ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING RULES.

- The Natural Area opens at 6:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m.
- No overnight parking. No overnight camping except December 1 through February 29 with a permit.
- No off road or motorized vehicles except on the county road and for authorized management purposes.
- No non-motor vehicles allowed except on designated, improved trails.
- No hunting of any wildlife except by means of a bow and arrow and according to MDNR regulations. No hunting structures are to be left longer than a 25 hour period.
- No firearms are allowed.
- No loud noises, disorderly, obscene or abusive behavior.
- Littering is strictly forbidden. Place refuse in provided receptacle at Trailhead. No dumping of yard waste or household trash.
- Dogs must be leashed or under immediate control by owner. Pickup and dispose of waste properly. Bags provided at Trailhead.
- No alcoholic beverages allowed.
- No solicitation of any nature.
- No plants or other specimens are to be removed unless authorized by management.
- No fireworks or any substance of explosive nature is allowed.
- Stay on designated trails; respect special access restrictions.
- No person shall damage, deface, or destroy any publicly owned property