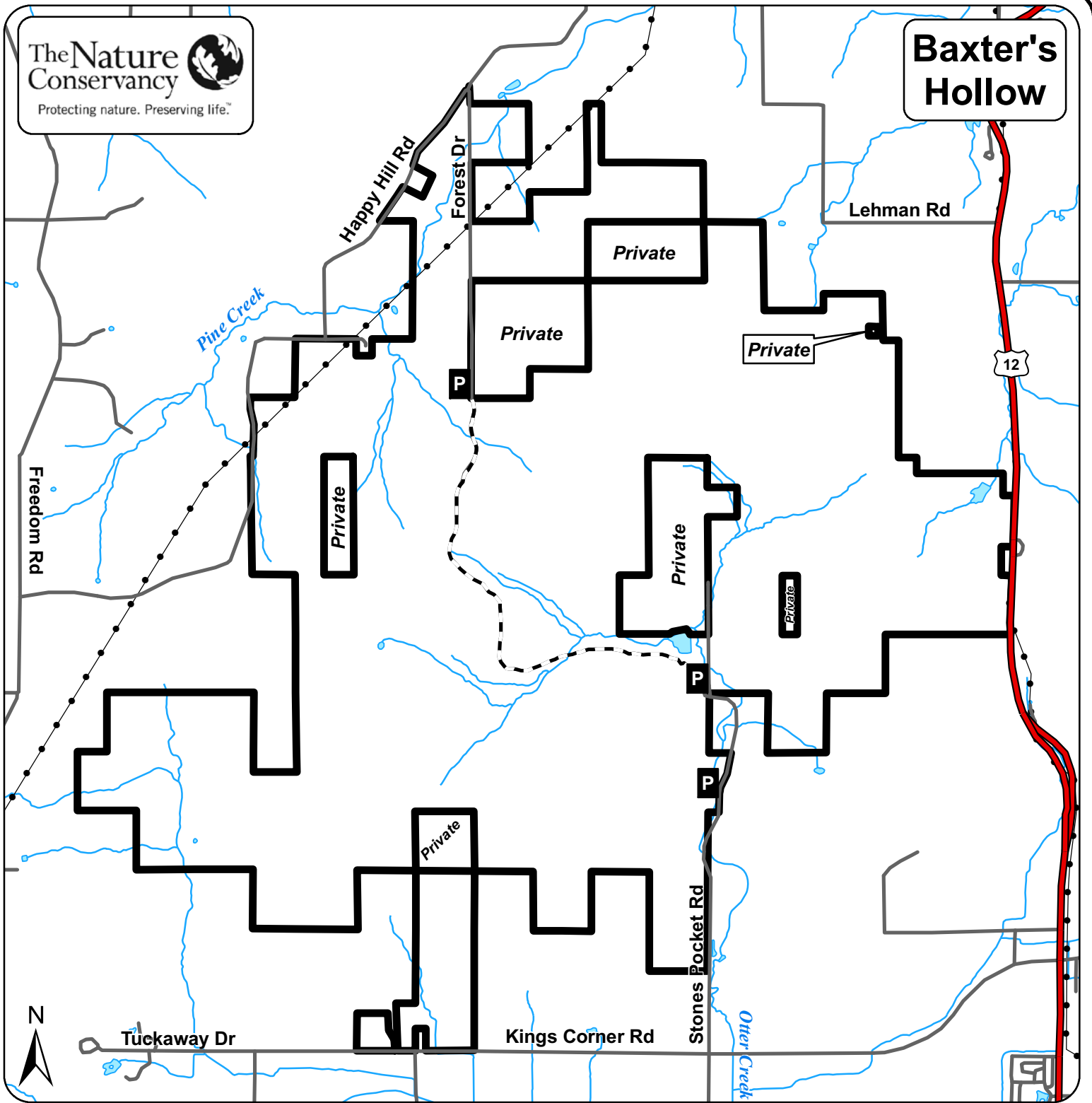
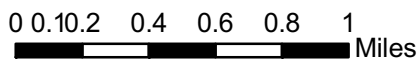


Baxter's Hollow

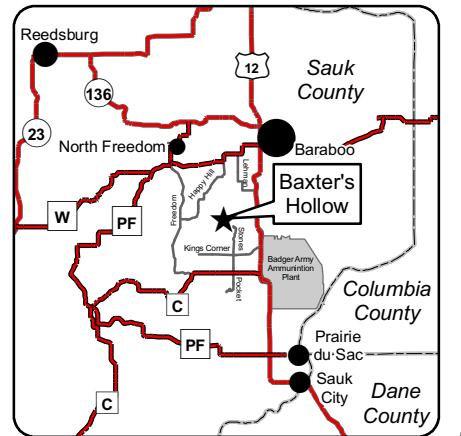


- Preserve boundary
- Parking
- Rustic Trail
- Transmission line
- River / Stream
- Lake
- Highway
- Local road

Directions: take US Hwy 12 northwest of Sauk City for 7.5 miles to intersection with Cnty Hwy C (across from Badger Army Ammunition Plant). Turn left (west) on Cnty C and travel 1.5 miles to intersection with Stones Pocket Rd. Turn right (north) on Stones Pocket; drive 2 miles into the woods. Park at one of several turn-off parking sites - you'll see a large preserve sign near one of them.



July 6, 2009



Baxter's Hollow / R.D. & Linda Peters Preserve

Why You Should Visit

Remarkable for the large area of deep forest and the mountain-like creek that it protects, Baxter's Hollow is the Conservancy's largest preserve in Wisconsin. Despite years of human habitation, this area still seems wild and untouched.

Spring is an especially good time to visit: the wildflowers are in bloom and the migratory songbirds have returned from their wintering grounds in Latin America.

Hours and Conditions

Open year-round, dawn to dusk. The unmarked trail is very primitive. Off-trail conditions are very rocky.

Some parcels of land within the preserve remain in private ownership - please do not trespass. The preserve boundaries are marked with small, yellow signs featuring The Nature Conservancy logo.

What to See: Plants

In spring, a variety of wildflowers bloom in the forest, including

- Jacob's ladder and marsh marigold in low-lying spots;
- carpets of spring beauty, dogtooth violet, and hepatica on hillsides; and
- shooting stars and alum root in the glades.

The rich forest covering Baxter's Hollow is part of Wisconsin's largest intact southern deciduous forest. You can see oak, hickory, maple, ash, yellow birch, white pine, maple and basswood.

What to See: Birds

Home to dozens of uncommon woodland warblers, vireos, flycatchers and thrushes, making the Hollow one of the most important nesting areas for forest-dwelling birds in southern Wisconsin. Birds that are rare in the state - such as the worm-eating warbler and the hooded warbler - can be found here.

What to See: Otter Creek

Otter Creek is the thread that ties the preserve together. The creek is home to a rich collection of aquatic life rare in Wisconsin, including the pickerel frog and at least five species of caddisflies found in few other places.

Why the Conservancy Selected This Site

The Nature Conservancy first came to the Baraboo Hills in the early 1960s at the request of local residents and university professors who recognized the unique nature of this area. They wanted the Conservancy's help in protecting it.

Baxter's Hollow is an important site for at least two reasons: it contains a good portion of the Otter Creek watershed, and it provides the deep woods that forest songbirds need.

What the Conservancy Has Done/Is Doing

Since 1969, The Nature Conservancy has steadily been acquiring parcels of land here. As of June 30, 2009, the Conservancy owns a total of 4,943 acres, making it the largest preserve in the Baraboo Hills.

Private landowners in the Baraboo Hills have been important to the Conservancy's preservation efforts at Baxter's Hollow, making cooperative conservation of this critical bird and wildlife habitat possible.