



Great Lakes: Important Natural Features—Ridge and Swale, Level Bedrock Communities, Estuaries, Beaches and Dunes, Green Bay Marshes, Boreal Clay Plain Forests, Sandscapes, Red Clay Wetlands and Apostles Islands.

The Great Lakes ecosystems are of global importance. Even though the lakes themselves have been changed over the years, many of the shoreland communities have not. Rare species are numerous owing to the diversity and quality of habitats.

Great Nature Wisconsin LLC
 E-mail: greatnaturewi@gmail.com
 Web: greatnaturewi.com
 Phone: 608-790-6821



Ecology & Significance

Wisconsin Responsibility – Moderate
 Irreplaceable Features – Moderate
 Diversity of Natural Features – Mod Low
 Rare Species – Several
 Conservation Concern Species – Moderate
 Vulnerability to a Warming Climate – Moderate
 Conservation Status – Minute

This site has medium-term conservation opportunities.

Chambers Island lies 7.5 miles northwest of Fish Creek and 11.5 miles northeast of Mariette. The island was named after Col. Talbot Chambers who sailed past it in 1816 on his way to establish a military post at the head of Green Bay. Settlement on the island began in the 1840s and grew during the 1850s.

Chambers Island has seen wave after wave of lumbermen harvest the pine then hemlock on the island. Portions of the ownership today is still held for timber purposes.

Significant early settlement artifacts have been found including, a 10,000 year-old harpoon made of mastodon bone, and numerous burial mounds.



Photo courtesy Chambers Island Nature Preserve

Flora and Fauna

Several natural communities each harbor their own set of important plant and animals. A great Lakes Barrens community has a considerable prairie component plus thick bearberry patches and abundant mating populations of rhinoceros beetle. Two great Lakes barrens communities on the island may be the best examples in the state. The beaches extending nearly around the entire island have good populations of the rare sea rocket and seaside spurge. In addition, these beaches draw numerous migrating shorebirds and terns.



Photo courtesy Wikipedia.com

The island’s interior supports remnant hemlock forest and provides important nesting habitat for many neotropical migrant species, especially Blackburnian Warbler. An interior muskeg dominated by leatherleaf has proven to be valuable for land snails, moths, butterflies, reptiles, amphibians, and birds.