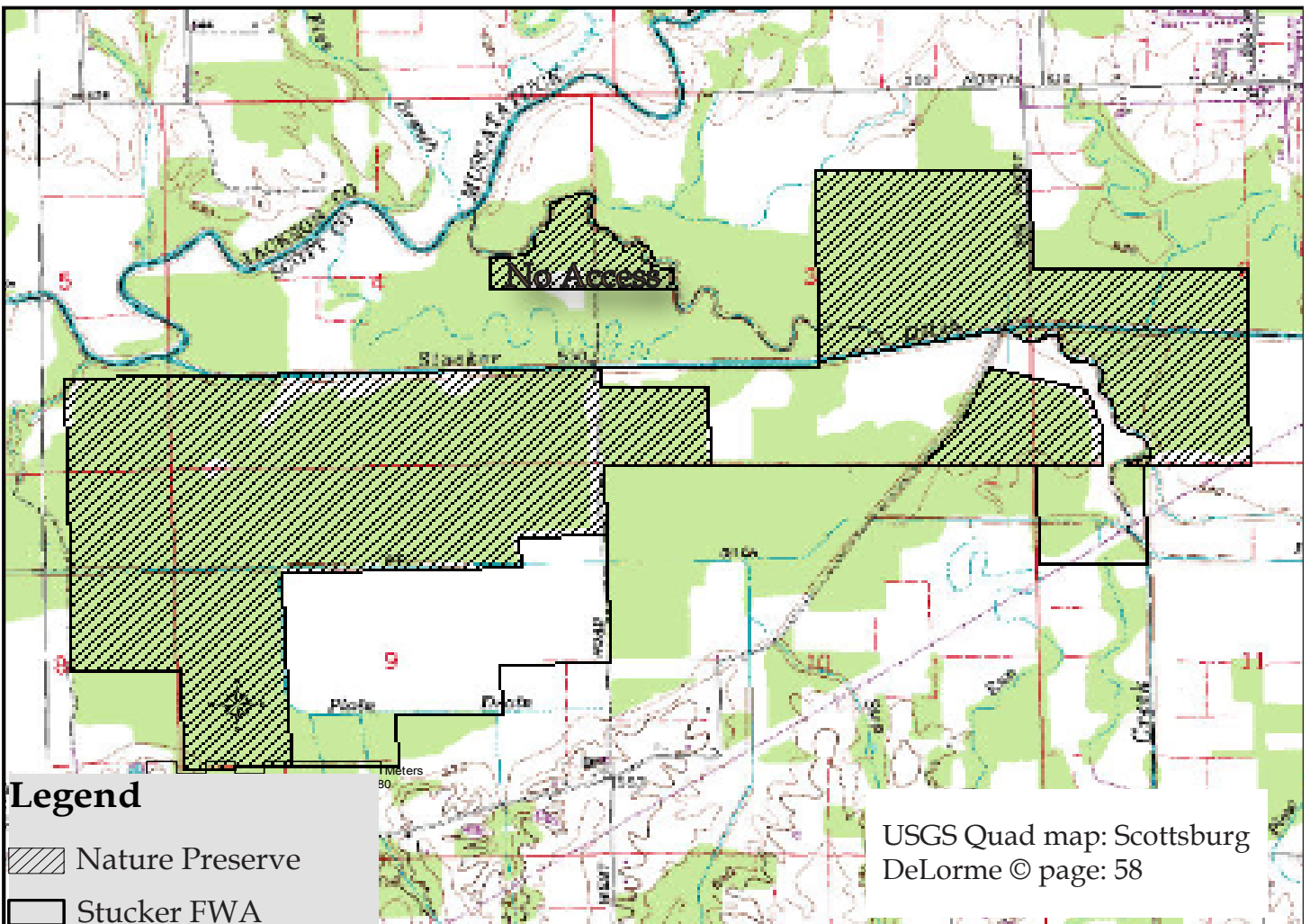


Thomastown Bottoms Nature Preserve

County: Scott Size: 889 acres Ownership: DNR Nature Preserves/Fish & Wildlife

Location and Access:

The nature preserve is located near the town of Austin. From I-65 take exit 34, going west on SR 256. After traveling about 0.5 mile, turn left (South) onto CR 300W. Take a right followed by a quick left to stay on CR 300W at about 0.5 mile from SR 256. CR 300W will change to Thomastown Rd. portions of the nature preserve are on both sides of the road (see map). Continue South and West on Thomastown Rd, turn right (North) at the stop sign onto Finley Firehouse Rd/CR 400W. Portions of another part of the preserve are on the left and right of the road near Stucker Ditch. There is no designated parking area. Please park in a safe place off the side of the road, being careful to avoid parking on private property. Visitors should be aware that hunting is allowed in season. Additionally, after heavy rains ditches may not be crossable and the ground can be very soggy.



Description:

This nature preserve is a part of a larger 1428 acre property jointly acquired by the DNR Divisions of Fish and Wildlife and Nature Preserves. It protects an extensive hardwood bottomland forest situated on the floodplain of the Muscatatuck River. Dominant trees include swamp white oak, pin oak, red maple, and green ash. The wet forest harbors plants such as cardinal flower, monkey flower, sweet Indian plantain, and many sedges. Occasional sloughs are dominated by buttonbush along with swamp milkweed, rice cutgrass, and featherfoil.

Further Information:

Division of Nature Preserves Southeast Regional Ecologist, Jason Larson: jl Larson@dnr.in.gov