Pelee Island
Ecological Trail System

Pelee Island is situated in the Western Basin of Lake Erie, Canada's southernmost lake. Just above the Canadian-American border at latitude of 41 degrees, Pelee Island is located 800km south of Vancouver, BC. The climate of the Lake Erie Islands Archipelago boasts the highest heat units in the country and the longest frost-free season in Ontario. Many factors make the islands a place of wildlife diversity, a place which became home to a myriad of species rare to Canada. Almost one third of the vascular plant diversity of all of Ontario is represented on Middle and Pelee Island. Carolinian Canada at its richest is found here. Rare insects, snails, mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians have come to comprise a neighbourhood of outstanding natural heritage. Glaciation left a variety of habitats for wildlife: wetlands, sand dunes, alvars (areas of limestone with a shallow overburden), and deep soils suitable to the trees of the Eastern Deciduous Forest zone. The shallow waters of Lake Erie reach relatively high temperatures in the summer months, giving the islands a microclimate typical of more southern locations. For a two-week longer growing season than the adjacent mainland.

Map:

- The island sits on a bed of limestone, which is still quarried today. Not only was this used to build the first homesteads, but shipped out to construct the Wetland Canal and pave the sidewalks in cities, like Toronto.
- The bike route in Kingsville, Ontario meets the entrance to the ferry dock on Dock Road. The Kingsville bike route is connected to the Essex County Bikeway.
- You may notice the canals that snake around. This dyke system was put in place in the 1880's to drain the marshland that separated the original three land masses. The pump stations were updated in 2009.

Note: Compressed air for bicycles is available at South, North and West pump stations (marked by a on map).

ECOLOGICAL TRAIL SYSTEM
Township of Pelee

Legend:
- Paved Road
- Lakeside Trail (14km)
- Front and Centre Trail (2.2km)
- Beach
- Washrooms
- Rest Stop
- Interpretive Site
- Pump Station
- Natural Environment
- Park, Forest, Reservoirs
- Wooded Areas

Scale: 1:15,000