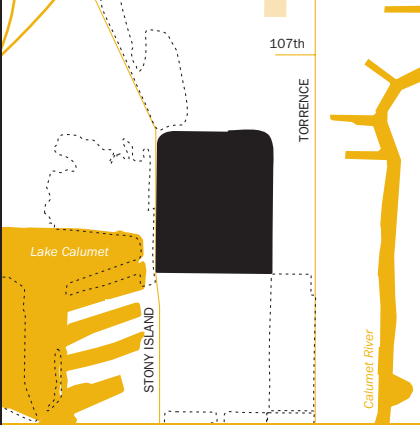


BIG MARSH

Big Marsh is the largest individual wetland in the Calumet Open Space Reserve with approximately 90 acres of open water **1**. The water is shallow, with an average depth of two feet. Any time of day during the warmer months, herons and egrets are found feeding along the water's edge.

Up until 1999, this was the site of the black-crowned night heron rookery. That year, a blocked culvert forced the water level to rise, and the herons relocated to Indian Ridge Marsh (site 42, p. 66). The wet portions of Big Marsh remain an important site for waterbirds. Hawks and kestrels are frequently seen in the upland area **2**.

Hiking and biking trails and canoe launch are ideas for this area in the future. As of this writing, the site is undeveloped.



Big Marsh



ADDRESS 11400 S Stony Island Ave
OWNER Private
ACREAGE 295.92

HABITATS
1 Wetland
2 Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS For the uplands, park on the east side of Stony Island by the mound of dirt at what would be 116th Street; the dirt pile barricades vehicles from entering an access road for the landfills to the south. For the wetland and open water, park at what would be 114th Street.

