










REGULATE TO BETTER PROTECT

The conservation efforts on the natural reserve and the protection of these surprising landscapes of the Saône river valley are all our responsibilities - this important work is only possible through the implementation and observation of specific rules established by ministerial decree.

Therefore, some practices are strictly forbidden within the natural reserve :

-  No camping
-  No fire or barbecue
-  Picking or collection of vegetation (flowers, fruit...), mushrooms, animals and minerals (sand, peat...) is forbidden
-  No littering
-  No entry to motorized vehicles, bicycles or horses
-  A permit is required for drone flights

An additional benefit of this 'code of good conduct' is the continued protection of animal and vegetal species while allowing visits to the natural reserve.

-  Please stay on the trails and boardwalks which are designed to allow for the observation of plants and animals without disturbance.
-  Pets are not allowed on the reserve with the exception of dogs on leash. Off leash dogs are a significant cause of disturbance to the animals of the reserve due to their roaming away from the marked trails.
-  Please be respectful of the quiet nature of this site by keeping noises to a minimum and refrain from loud exclamations or shouting. You are sharing this natural space with animals that are sensitive to your presence.

La Truchère-Ratenelle National Natural Reserve is situated close to the confluence between the Saône and Seille rivers in the Saône-et-Loire region. On a surface of close to 100 hectares, the reserve is home to diverse milieux including expanses of sand, a woody peat bog, a marshy pond and cooling forests.



ONCE UPON A RESERVE

Over 10,000 years ago, sandy areas and bogs were under development, and the evolution of these landscapes has accelerated since the Middle ages: the pond formation and significant sand erosion processes have led to their dune shaped appearance seen today.

From the 1950's, woods have gradually colonized this space during a time that was also marked by the disappearance of the practice of pasture on this site.

In 1970, a decision was made to set up a protection mechanism for this site and thereby prevent sand extraction, peat harvesting as well limit urban development and waterway interventions. A decade later on December 3rd 1980, the National Natural Reserve La Truchère-Ratenelle is created. Later in 1990, its management is entrusted to the Burgundy Natural Spaces Conservancy.



SITE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

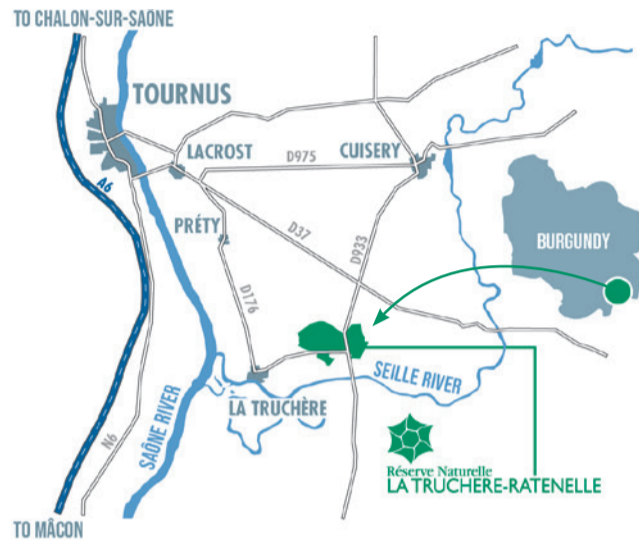
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English language guide

Réserve Naturelle LA TRUCHÈRE-RATENELLE



TO ACT IS TO PROTECT

FOCUS ON THE 'SAND DUNES'

Without intervention, sandy areas and their grasses do naturally regress to be taken over first by moors, and then by woodlands.

Although it may seem counter intuitive to go against the dynamic nature within a reserve, the main goal is to maintain open sandy ground that can support a flora and fauna of notable interest. To achieve this, important 'sand dune' rejuvenation works have been undertaken since 2017: harrowing, wood cutting and uprooting...

To ensure the ongoing maintenance of these milieux, herds have been reintroduced on the reserve.



A WISH FOR MORE 'NATURAL' FORESTS

Ancient forests do include a significant proportion of dead wood, which are generally very rich in terms of biodiversity.

In order to restore a more natural character to these woodlands, a non-intervention program is favored on the lots belonging to the Burgundy Nature Conservancy. However, specific works are still undertaken by the Burgundy Nature Conservancy to limit the presence of specific undesirable plant species that are invasive by nature, such as red oak and black locust trees. Trail maintenance projects are also carried out to ensure the safety of visitors.

The Burgundy Nature Conservancy advises and guides the authorized use of land owned by municipalities or private owners adjacent to the reserve so as to promote biodiversity considerations.



WETLANDS UNDER SURVEILLANCE

The quality and quantity of flowing waters are the main factors connected to the good health of wetlands. These factors are as much dependent on specific activities taking place on the reserve as those taking place over the entire watershed area.

The Burgundy Nature Conservancy is dedicated to advance its knowledge of their interrelationships with active studies and monitoring.

Dredging works are planned for the Fouget pond in 2023 to improve water flows and even the spread of sediments throughout the pond.





O. Girard - CEN Bourgogne

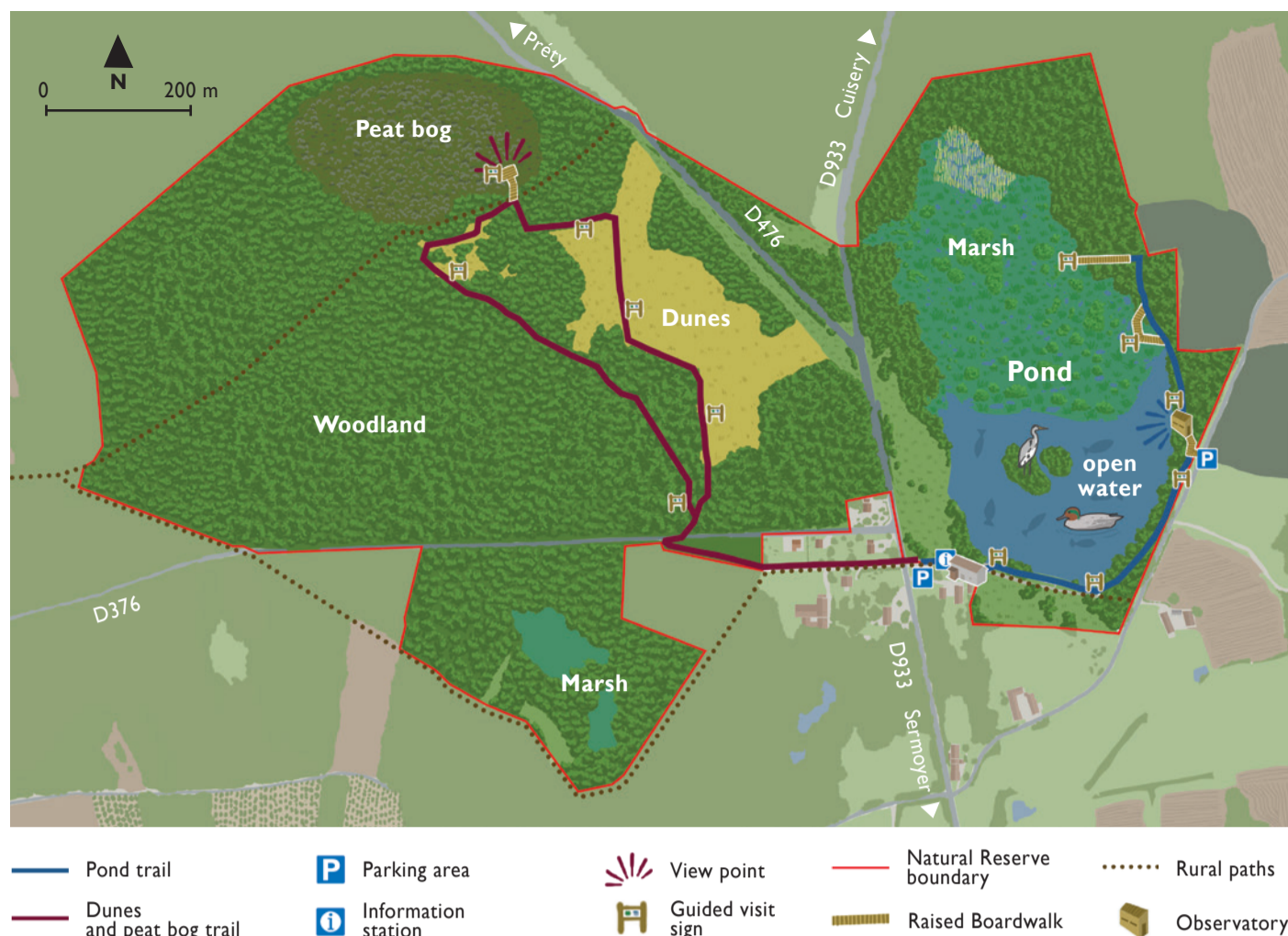
TO ACT IS TO RAISE AWARENESS

Besides the preservation of the flora, fauna and natural environments, the role of a natural reserve is also to **allow for the discovery of this natural heritage.**

Towards this goal, the **Conservancy proposes activities and guided tours for all.** To take part, go to the reserve specific information page on the Facebook page or on the web site for the 'Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de Bourgogne'.

Educational programs and **school activity days** for all are also provided **from kindergarten to university levels.**

All visitors are welcomed to the reserve to **walk at their leisure and enjoy its varied settings and feels.** They can explore along the **two marked paths** opened year round. It is also possible to visit the reserve virtually on the 'Conservatoire de Bourgogne' web site for a pre-view of what can be discovered on site.



A PATH OF CONTRASTING IMPRESSIONS, BETWEEN 'DUNES' AND MOORS



M. Paris - CEN Bourgogne

Distance : 1,9 km
Average completion time : 1h15 min
Main starting point : At the Reserve Information Board. Cross RD 933 road between residential houses then follow the marked directions.
Most favorable seasons for discovery : spring and late summer
Recommended gear : walking shoes, water bottle

This trail is unparalleled for a change of scenery and the discovery of a truly unique landscape in Burgundy. Following this path, you can wander through sand, soak in the sun, and traverse Grey Hair-grass grasslands and acidic Heather moors. You can then immerse yourself at the heart of the moist and refreshing birch moorlands where sphagnum moss and the white and cottony fruit of Cottongrass catch the eye.



G. Doucet - CEN Bourgogne



M. Paris - CEN Bourgogne

Common Cottongrass grows mostly in acidic moors and bogs and is most often found in mountainous areas than in plains. The long silky and downy strands of its fruits help with their spread with the wind and give them their cotton ball appearance. The fruits can be seen during summer months.

Heather is a low shrub coloring the 'dunes' in pink and purple hues all summer long. Mixed alongside broom and several types of grasses, it forms moors that mark the last stage in the evolution of sandy grasslands before forestation takes place here with Sessile Oak and Silver Birch.



S. Petit - CEN Bourgogne

Grey Hair-grass is a small grass with spiky blades akin to that of a hedgehog - it is protected in Burgundy. It is one of the first species able to colonize open sands. It flowers from May to August.



O. Girard - CEN Bourgogne

The **moorland** of the reserve displays a peculiar character, dominated by mosses in a **mostly humid environment** where sun rays can pierce through the cooling lattice of the birch tree canopy.

Several information panels installed along the path will guide you through the development phases of these **'dunes' and moors** in the Saône river valley. They also cover further details about plant and animal species which characteristics allow them to survive and thrive in these **extreme environments.**

OBSERVATION PATH ALONG THE WATERS AND THE POND EDGE



G. Aubert - CEN Bourgogne

Distance : 1,7 km
Average completion time : 1h
Main starting point : At the Reserve Information Board. Please follow directions
Most favorable seasons for discovery : spring and winter
Recommended gear : sturdy walking boots or shoes, binoculars

Do you feel like being serenaded by a gentle splash of water and watch nature awaken on the pond at dawn? This is the path for you!

The best place for bird watching is along the pond where you can spy the many species that call it home. **Raised boardwalks** allow you to get deep into the boggy area where aquatic plants thrive forming floating rafts of Bogbean interspersed with tufts of sand Sedge.

Small panels and interactive board are set up along the trail. An observatory with panel highlights of the different features of the ponds allows to observe the pond fauna without disturbing it. Beyond the observatory, the trail continues along the dyke with two more raised trail sections with information panels.



S. Petit - CEN Bourgogne



Pixabay

Bogbean is a perennial with crawling stems hidden in the silt which can form wide rafts on the water's surface. Its delicate white flowers can be seen from April to June.

The **purple heron** nests on the reserve in the grove located at the tail end of the pond. Its nest is a large platform made of reeds and twigs, located fairly high above the water line.



O. Girard - CEN Bourgogne