

Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program

(734) 971-6337
parks.ewashtenaw.org



Washtenaw County is fortunate to have an enviable range of natural features that contribute to our quality of life. The purpose of the Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP) is to preserve and protect the ecological diversity and natural heritage of Washtenaw County.

Currently, NAPP manages over 1800 acres of land. Preserves are distributed throughout the County and include a wide variety of southeast Michigan habitats. Mature woodlands, sedge meadows, prairie remnants, a variety of wetlands, and river floodplains are examples of the ecosystems protected by the program. Some preserves maintain portions of active farmland, which are managed to help conserve natural resources.

Lands acquired through NAPP are managed as nature preserves, which make them ideal for walking, bird watching, nature study, and other quiet activities. Preserves are open to the public from dawn until dusk daily.

Visit a NAPP preserve today and enjoy the natural side of Washtenaw County!



View of quiet Lake Isabelle at the Brauer Preserve

Albert J. Miller and

Robert & Nancy Smith Preserve

29 Acres
Lima Township
The Miller-Smith Preserve is located one mile southwest of the Village of Dexter. For such a compact area, the site contains a wide variety of high-quality habitats. The trail system winds through dry oak-hickory forest, wet areas of swamp white oak, and past several small wetlands. The wetland areas include vernal ponds, which dry up by late summer, and are important breeding habitat for frogs and salamanders. Areas that stay wet all year are home to plants like silky dogwood and buttonbush.

The woods and wetland habitats provide good opportunities for birdwatching. Also—if you keep your eye out—fox and mink are among the mammals you could see here.



Vernal pond at Miller-Smith Preserve

The 12 acre Albert J. Miller Preserve was purchased through NAPP in September 2006. An additional 17 acres—the Robert & Nancy Smith Preserve—was donated by the Village of Dexter in 2008.



In partnership with:
Village of Dexter



Wild Blueberry

What you'll see:

- Vernal ponds
- Oak-hickory forest
- Fern diversity
- Wildflowers & sedges

Brauer Preserve

226 Acres
Freedom Township

Sandy knolls, upland habitats, and rich wetlands are just a few of the features found at the Brauer Preserve. For a quiet respite, visit the small Lake Isabelle situated on the south end of the property. The hardwood swamp around the lake is especially beautiful with mature trees and an abundant fern community growing among old mossy logs and hummocks. The diversity of habitats makes the Brauer Preserve a good birdwatching site. Indigo buntings, black-throated green warblers, and belted kingfishers are just a few of the species spotted here.

Approximately 85 acres of the Brauer Preserve are farmed. Native grasses were planted around the farm fields to help protect adjacent woodlands and waterways; this buffer also provides food and shelter for wildlife.

Nearly two miles of trails wind through the Brauer Preserve. Some trails are wet in spring, so consider wearing boots.



Brauer Preserve's Lake Isabelle



Painted Turtle

What you'll see:

- Lake Isabelle
- Vernal ponds
- Knolls
- Impressive fern community

Directions From I-94 Exit #167 (Baker Road), southbound. Turn right onto Jackson Road. Turn left onto Parker Road. The preserve entrance is on the west side of Parker Road, approx. 0.2 miles south of Waters Road.

Burns-Stokes Preserve

29 Acres
Scio Township

Only 29 acres in size, the narrow shape of this preserve, sandwiched between the Huron River and railroad tracks, makes it feel like a much larger area. River shoreline—about three-quarters of a mile—makes up the entire southern edge of this little gem!

Along the trails, look for the occasional mink scurrying past or trees felled by beavers—a fairly uncommon animal in Washtenaw County. For plant lovers, Burns-Stokes contains several of southeast Michigan's varied habitats. Almost all of the property is forested, with rich floodplain forest along the river and oak-hickory forest on the dry slopes. Start exploring and you'll find some surprises tucked into the woods...sunny little sedge meadows, prairie remnants along the railroad tracks, and meandering perennial streams.

Burns-Stokes is valuable from a historical perspective as well. Portions of an old mill dam and race provide evidence of the site's former use and are an important reminder of the region's water-powered past.



Huron River along the Burns-Stokes Preserve



Beaver Activity

What you'll see:

- Rapids in the Huron River
- Hints of beaver activity
- Interesting cultural artifacts
- Fen habitat

Directions From I-94 Exit #169 (Zeeb Road), northbound. Preserve entrance is approximately 2.1 miles. Entrance is at a jog in the road on the west side of Zeeb Road, immediately north of the bridge over the Huron River.

Nominate Your Property

to the
Washtenaw County
Natural Areas
Preservation Program

Contact the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission to request a Nomination Form, or download the form at napp.ewashtenaw.org.

Mail completed Nomination Forms to:
WCPARC
P.O. Box 8645
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645

Questions? Contact us at (734) 971-6337 or parks@ewashtenaw.org

Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission

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DeVine Preserve

137 Acres
Scio Township

As part of a large groundwater recharge area, wetlands make up the majority of this preserve. Open fields and a woodland also contribute to the site's landscape.

From the trailhead at the parking area, two loop trails wind through the small upland woods. Large bur oak and hop-hornbeam trees are notable, especially along the west loop trail. The east loop connects to an often wet seasonal trail (mowed July-November) that takes visitors into the wetlands and former farm fields in the northern areas of the preserve. The fields are particularly good for birdwatching. Some uncommon grassland bird species—including bobolinks, dickcissels, and savannah sparrows—have been sighted.

Note: Much of the DeVine Preserve is very wet, consider wearing boots.



Sedge meadow at the DeVine Preserve

Draper-Houston Meadows Preserve

80 Acres
York Township



Trillium in the floodplain forest

Just west of the city of Milan, the Draper-Houston Meadows Preserve protects over one-half mile of Saline River shoreline. At the preserve, you will encounter high-quality floodplain forest habitat with oak, walnut, butternut, and sycamore trees. Of particular interest is a significant stand of pawpaw, a small, understory tree with a banana-like fruit, which is uncommon in Washtenaw County.

In the southern portion of the property, visitors will find a lovely mature woodland and two creeks meandering through hedgerows on their way to the Saline River. The woods and hedgerows offer an attractive spring wildflower display.

A small trail loop is currently in place north of the river, and access to the rest of the site is planned.

Ervin-Stucki Preserve

126 Acres
Bridgewater Township

Over 1.2 miles of the beautiful River Raisin wind through the quiet Ervin-Stucki Preserve. Much of the property is made up of wetlands including forested floodplain, which dominate the site. Here skunk cabbage, Jack-in-the-pulpit, and swamp white oak are found in abundance. Former farm fields in the preserve are slowly converting to grasses, forbs, and shrubs. At present, a small part of the property is still being farmed.



River Raisin winding through the Ervin-Stucki Preserve



Trail leading to the River Raisin

Currently the Ervin-Stucki Preserve has 0.33 miles of trails. A boardwalk and trail lead to a river overlook.

Fox Science Preserve

69 Acres
Scio Township

The Fox Science Preserve—a former gravel pit—offers a rare opportunity to explore the geology of the region. Ancient table-sized glacial boulders of granite, tillite, gneiss, and limestone are scattered around the base of the former pit. Keep your eye out for fossils in the limestone boulders.

Untouched for almost 40 years, the land surface here resembles the landscape that was revealed upon the retreat of the glaciers some 12,000 years ago. In places where plants have started to become established, mosses, prairie grasses, goldenrods, asters, and shingle oaks grow on the developing soils.

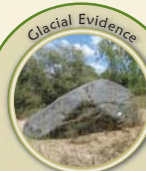
Fox Science Preserve was purchased in 2007. Preservation of this property was a collaborative effort between the City of Ann Arbor, Greenbelt Program, Scio Township, and the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP). In 2009, a 20 acre addition purchased by NAPP brought the total protected area to 69 acres.



Fox Science Preserve's unique landscape



In partnership with:
Scio Township



Glacial Evidence

What you'll see:

- Ice Age boulders
- Primary plant succession
- Unique landscape

Directions From I-94 Exit #169 (Zeeb Road), northbound. Turn right onto Miller Road, then left onto Peters Road. Entrance is on the east side of Peters Road, approximately 0.3 miles north of Miller Road.

Kosch-Headwaters Preserve

160 Acres
Superior Township



Fall goldenrod display

The Kosch-Headwaters Preserve is home to a variety of habitats including ponds, former farm fields, active farmland, and a mature beech-maple woods. The rather uncommon blue ash tree is abundant in the western portion of the preserve. Seasonal streams flowing out of the beech-maple woodland contribute to the headwaters of Fowler Creek, which ultimately flows into the Rouge River—hence the name "Headwaters".

Cropland and hayfields make up approximately 80 acres of the Kosch-Headwaters Preserve. Native grasses were planted around the farm fields to help protect woodlands and waterways.

Just east of Kosch-Headwaters Preserve, the adjoining Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy's Springhill Nature Preserve—known for its spring wildflower display—also protects high-quality plant communities.

Leonard Preserve

259 Acres
Manchester Township & Village of Manchester



Rolling terrain at the Leonard Preserve

Within walking distance from historic downtown Manchester, the Leonard Preserve protects high-quality wildlife habitat and nearby one mile of River Raisin shoreline. Put on your hiking boots because there are over four miles of nature trails that explore rolling hills, oak-hickory woodlands, sedge meadows, River Raisin floodplain, and more! The diversity of habitats makes for very good wildlife viewing. Wood ducks, coyotes, blue racers, and Blanding's turtles are some of the animals you may see at this preserve.

Be sure to visit the south end of the Leonard Preserve. Here you will find a 10-acre prairie remnant, which is home to some uncommon wildflowers and grassland nesting birds. The prairie grasses often grow over five feet tall by autumn. If you enjoy expansive vistas, a hike to the southernmost hills in any season is worth the effort!



Wild Bergamot

What you'll see:

- Variety of birds
- Mature bur oak trees
- Quiet wetlands
- Grasslands

Directions From I-94 Exit #169 (Zeeb Road), southbound. Turn right onto Liberty Road. Preserve entrance is on the north side of Liberty Road, approximately 0.5 miles west of Zeeb Road.



PawPaw Fruit in the Saline River Floodplain

What you'll see:

- Peaceful Saline River
- Pawpaw trees
- Mature woods
- Vernal ponds

Directions From US-23 Exit #27 (Carpenter Road), southbound. Turn right on County Street, continue onto Main Street. Main Street will turn into Mooreville Road. Entrance is approximately 0.25 miles on the south side of Mooreville Road.



Wild Lilies

What you'll see:

- Floodplain forest
- Spring wildflowers
- River Raisin overlook

Directions From I-94 Exit #159 (M-52), southbound. Turn left on Austin Road, then right onto Clinton Road. The preserve access point is on the west side of Clinton, approximately 0.6 miles south of Austin.



Cutleaf Toothwort

What you'll see:

- Scenic vistas
- Beech-maple forest
- Quiet pond
- Active farm fields

Directions From M-14 Exit #10 (Ford Road), eastbound. Turn right onto Prospect Road. The preserve entrance is located on the east side of Prospect Road, approximately 0.1 mile south of Ford Road.



Woodcock Chick

What you'll see:

- Prairie remnants
- Impressive vistas
- Winding River Raisin
- Black oak savanna

Directions From I-94 Exit #159 (M-52), southbound. Take M-52 approximately 10.5 miles, turn right onto Main Street. Turn right on Union Street. Entrance is located 0.5 miles north of Main Street.

Meyer Preserve

183 Acres
Superior Township

The Meyer Preserve is part of the Prospect Road corridor called the Superior Greenway. The preserve consists of two different parcels on the southwest and northeast corners of Vreeland and Prospect Roads. The western parcel contains active farmland, a beech-maple woods (where you can find a threatened sedge, *Carex lupuliformis*), and a large wetland complex. The natural habitats support migrating birds, great horned owls, and mink.



Wetland at Meyer Preserve-West

The eastern parcel features woodlots and active farmland. The property is close to one of Washtenaw County's highest quality woodlands, which is protected by Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy's LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve.

Meyer Preserve was purchased in 2008. Preservation of this property was a collaborative effort between the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP), City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program, Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, and Superior Charter Township.

In partnership with:



Great Horned Owl

- What you'll see:
- Large wetland complex
 - Mature woodlands
 - Migrating birds

Directions: From M-14 Exit #10 (Ford Road), eastbound. Turn right onto Prospect Road. Head south on Prospect Road about 2.2 miles. Park at LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve on the east side of the road.

Northfield Woods Preserve

48 Acres
Northfield Township

Look for Northfield Woods Preserve when driving north of Ann Arbor on US-23. Here you will experience a high-quality woodlot, wooded wetlands, about 10 acres of active farmland, and an area in transition from former farm fields to woods. The property contains numerous vernal ponds, which provide valuable habitat for amphibians. Ferns and wild geraniums are abundant throughout

One of the many amphibian homes at Northfield Woods Preserve

most of the woodland. Another feature of the property is a large stand of shagbark hickory trees found at the northeast edge of the woods.

At present, plans are underway for the establishment of a prairie on the southwest portion of the site.



Shagbark hickory trees in the fall



Wild Geraniums in the Spring

- What you'll see:
- Vernal ponds
 - Shagbark hickory trees
 - Spring wildflowers

Directions: From US-23 exit #49 (North Territorial Road), eastbound. Turn right onto Nollar Road. Then turn right onto Northfield Church Road. Take road past sharp bend south, preserve entrance is on the east side approximately 0.3 miles north of Joy Road.

Raymond F. Goodrich Preserve

36 Acres
Ann Arbor Township

For a good hiking opportunity close to the city of Ann Arbor, the Goodrich Preserve is the perfect spot. The preserve is adjacent to the University of Michigan's Horner-McLaughlin Woods; together these properties make up 125 acres of protected land.

The Goodrich Preserve woodland is dominated by a mature forest that ranges from hilltop oak and hickory trees on the eastern portion of the property to maple-mixed hardwoods on the western edge. Native shrubs, predominantly buttonbush, surround several small wetlands and fill a large swamp that separates much of the woodland from the M-14 highway. Be sure to visit in the spring to enjoy the wildflowers!

Spring in the buttonbush swamp

Washtenaw County holds title to 19 of the 36 acres preserved. The remaining 17 acres are protected through conservation easements.



Luna Moth Hanging Around

- What you'll see:
- Buttonbush swamp
 - Varied topography
 - Trail connecting to University of Michigan's Horner-McLaughlin Woods

Directions: From US-23 Exit #41 (Plymouth Road), eastbound. Turn left onto Dixboro Road. The preserve entrance is located on the west side of Dixboro Road, approximately 0.2 miles north of M-14.

A little more about NAPP...

Program Origin
NAPP was established in 2000 by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners through the passage of Natural Areas Ordinance No. 128. The ordinance provides procedures and standards for purchase of natural areas by the County.

Who Manages the Program?
Responsibility for managing NAPP is assigned to the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission (WCPARC). Technical assistance is provided by NATAC, the Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee. The volunteer members of NATAC have expertise in land trust/conservation, wildlife management, environmental education, real estate/development, land use planning, botany/forestry, and fisheries/aquatic ecology.

How is Land Acquired?
Properties recommended by NATAC are reviewed by the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission and the Local Unit of Government where the land is located. If the Parks Commission elects to proceed with acquisition, the landowner is made an offer at fair market value, as established by a State-certified appraiser. WCPARC may purchase the land outright, or it may partner with other organizations to protect and preserve natural areas.



Leonard Preserve floodplain forest floor



Get Outside!

- Learn More!
For information on nominating land, contact the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission at 734-971-6337.

Help us protect plant and animal communities at NAPP preserves! The following are not permitted: dogs, bicycles, fires, dumping, fishing, hunting, camping, collecting, horses, and motor vehicles. Thank you!

Scio Woods Preserve

91 Acres
Scio Township

Just minutes west of Ann Arbor, Scio Woods Preserve offers a chance to get close to nature without traveling far from the city.

Over two miles of trails wind through this wooded preserve. Here you will encounter varying types

of woodlands—oak and hickory trees are found in locations with drier soils and the wetter woods are dominated by sugar maple and beech trees. A wetland system is located in the eastern portion of the preserve where you will find a buttonbush swamp and wetland plants such as pawpaw trees, spicebush, and bladdernut. Spring wildflowers are abundant in the preserve, and the wooded habitat is home to some uncommon birds including barred owls and pileated woodpeckers.

Scio Woods Preserve was purchased in 2008. Preservation of this property was a collaborative effort between the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program, Scio Township, and the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP).

In partnership with:



Enjoy the Wildlife!

- What you'll see:
- Mature woods
 - Buttonbush swamp
 - Spring flower display

Directions: From I-94 Exit #169 (Zeeb Road), southbound. Turn left from Zeeb Road onto Scio Church Road, go approximately 1.0 mile. Preserve entrance is on the north side of Scio Church Road.

West Lake Preserve

217 Acres
Dexter Township

With scenic views and a rural setting, West Lake Preserve is one of NAPP's most tranquil properties. Nearly two miles of trails take

you through a wide range of ecosystems, such as upland forest, wetland, open water shoreline, and open fields. Bring your binoculars—the diversity of habitats attracts numerous types of birds, including sandhill cranes, wild turkeys, belted kingfishers, and eastern bluebirds—a bald eagle has even been spotted several times!

The forested area of West Lake Preserve consists of mature oak and hickory trees with some portions having sandy soil dry enough for blueberry bushes and bracken fern to grow. Other portions of the property are very wet. A buttonbush swamp provides protection for young reptiles, including the State-protected Blanding's turtle, and various amphibians as they mature.

Note: There is no fishing or boating access to West Lake.



Stroll by a peaceful pond at West Lake Preserve

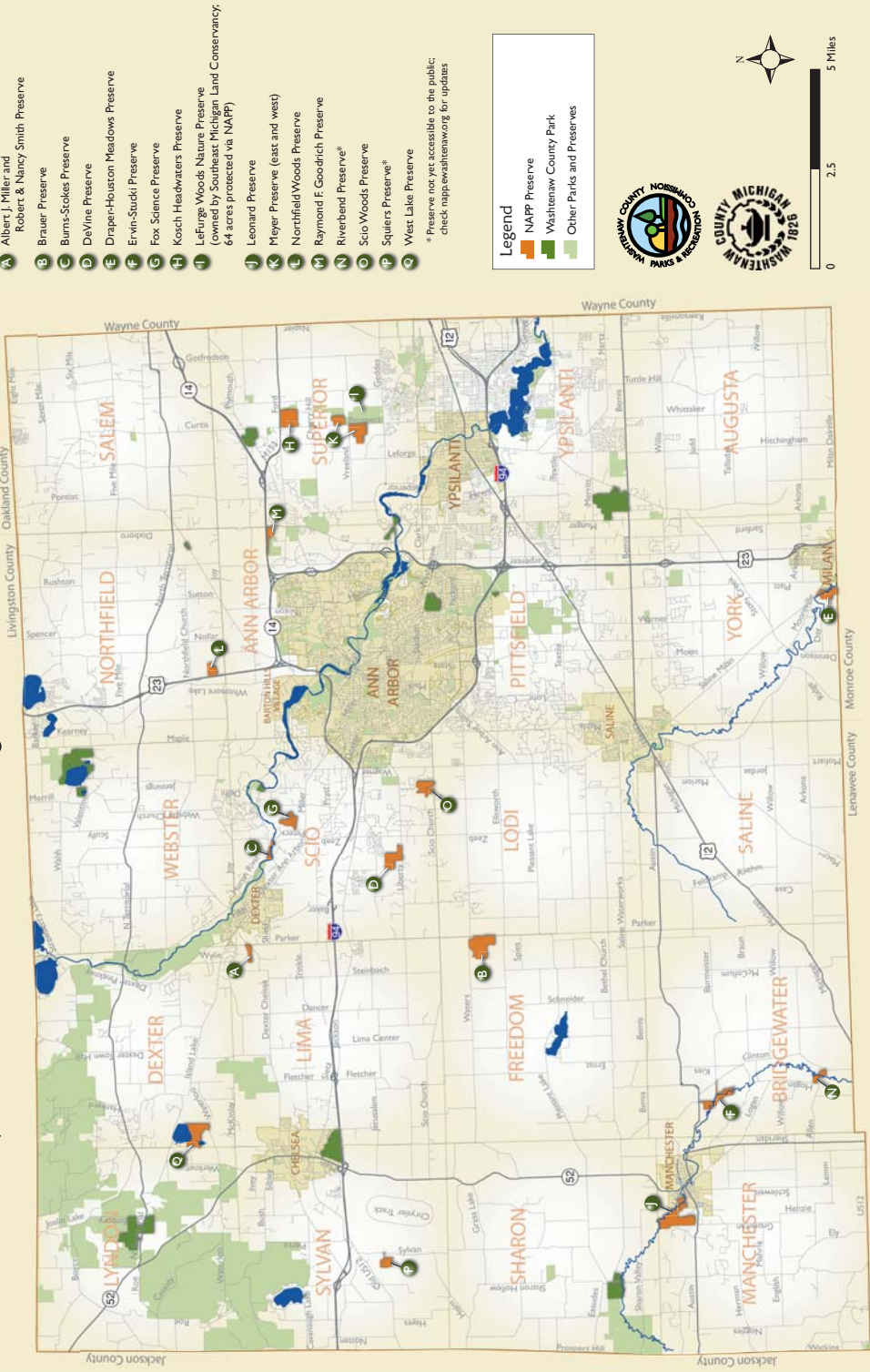


Monarch Caterpillar

- What you'll see:
- Serene West Lake
 - Rolling meadows
 - Quiet ponds
 - Mature oak trees

Directions: From I-94 Exit #159 (M-52), northbound. Turn right onto Werlener Road, then turn right on Waterloo Road. Preserve is located on north side of Waterloo about 1.0 mile east of Werlener Road.

Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP) Preserves



- A Albert J. Miller and Robert & Nancy Smith Preserve
- B Brauer Preserve
- C Burns-Stokes Preserve
- D DeVine Preserve
- E Draper-Houston Meadows Preserve
- F Ervin-Stucki Preserve
- G Fox Science Preserve
- H Kosh Headwaters Preserve
- I LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve (owned by Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy; 64 acres protected via NAPP)
- J Leonard Preserve
- K Meyer Preserve (east and west)
- L Northfield Woods Preserve
- M Raymond F. Goodrich Preserve
- N Riverland Preserve*
- O Scio Woods Preserve
- P Squiers Preserve*
- Q West Lake Preserve

* Preserve not yet accessible to the public; check map.washtenaw.org for updates

