


# ERIE MARSH PRESERVE

## A Wetland Reborn

 **LOCATION:**  
Southeast Michigan

 **SIZE:** 2,216 acres

 **TRAIL LENGTH:**  
7 miles of trail

 **DIFFICULTY:** Moderate



### BECOME A COMMUNITY SCIENTIST:

Help us keep track of the species at our preserves by using iNaturalist to record your observations. Learn more at [nature.org/miexplore](https://nature.org/miexplore).



The Erie Marsh Preserve was donated to TNC by the Erie Shooting and Fishing Club and retained several buildings on the property for club members' use. The preserve is still open to the public for hiking and birding eight months of the year. © Deb Allen

**The flow of water between land and lake** is the key to the vibrant diversity of plants and wildlife found at Great Lakes coastal wetlands like Erie Marsh. One of the largest marshes on Lake Erie, Erie Marsh represents 11% of the remaining coastal wetlands in southeastern Michigan. Here, some of Michigan's few remaining colonies of American lotus and swamp rose-mallow thrive, and an abundance of birds can be found year-round—a wonderful draw for birdwatchers.

It wasn't always this way. When The Nature Conservancy (TNC) acquired the Erie Marsh Preserve in 1978, its connection to Lake Erie had been severed for years. Over time, the wetland habitats suffered and the diversity of waterfowl and migratory birds declined.

In 2011, TNC launched a decade-long restoration project across 946 acres that included engineering a new water management system to restore a diversity of wetland types, rehabilitating aging levees, installing a new fish passage structure and more—fully reconnecting the marsh to North Maumee Bay for the first time in 60+ years. Now, visitors to the preserve can enjoy rejuvenated wetlands that provide native fish and other aquatic life with the marshy habitat they need to breed and spawn, offer food and shelter to many birds, and help filter the waters of Lake Erie.



*THANK YOU to everyone who has helped protect and restore the Erie Marsh Preserve, including the **DTE Energy Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, EGLE, Erie Shooting and Fishing Club, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, NOAA and USFWS - Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.***

### YOU SHOULD VISIT IF...

**You love birdwatching!** Many different types of waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds make their home here in Erie Marsh throughout the year, but there's a reason TNC often hosts field trips to this preserve in the spring. That's when thousands of migratory birds descend on this preserve to rest and refuel on their return from winter habitat. Look for bald eagle nests—if you're lucky, you might see an entire convocation of eagles (also known as an aerie, soar or tower)!

### A few more species you might spot on your visit include:

- Green-winged teal
- Trumpeter swan
- Osprey
- Purple martin
- Double-breasted cormorant
- Marsh wren
- Black-crowned night heron

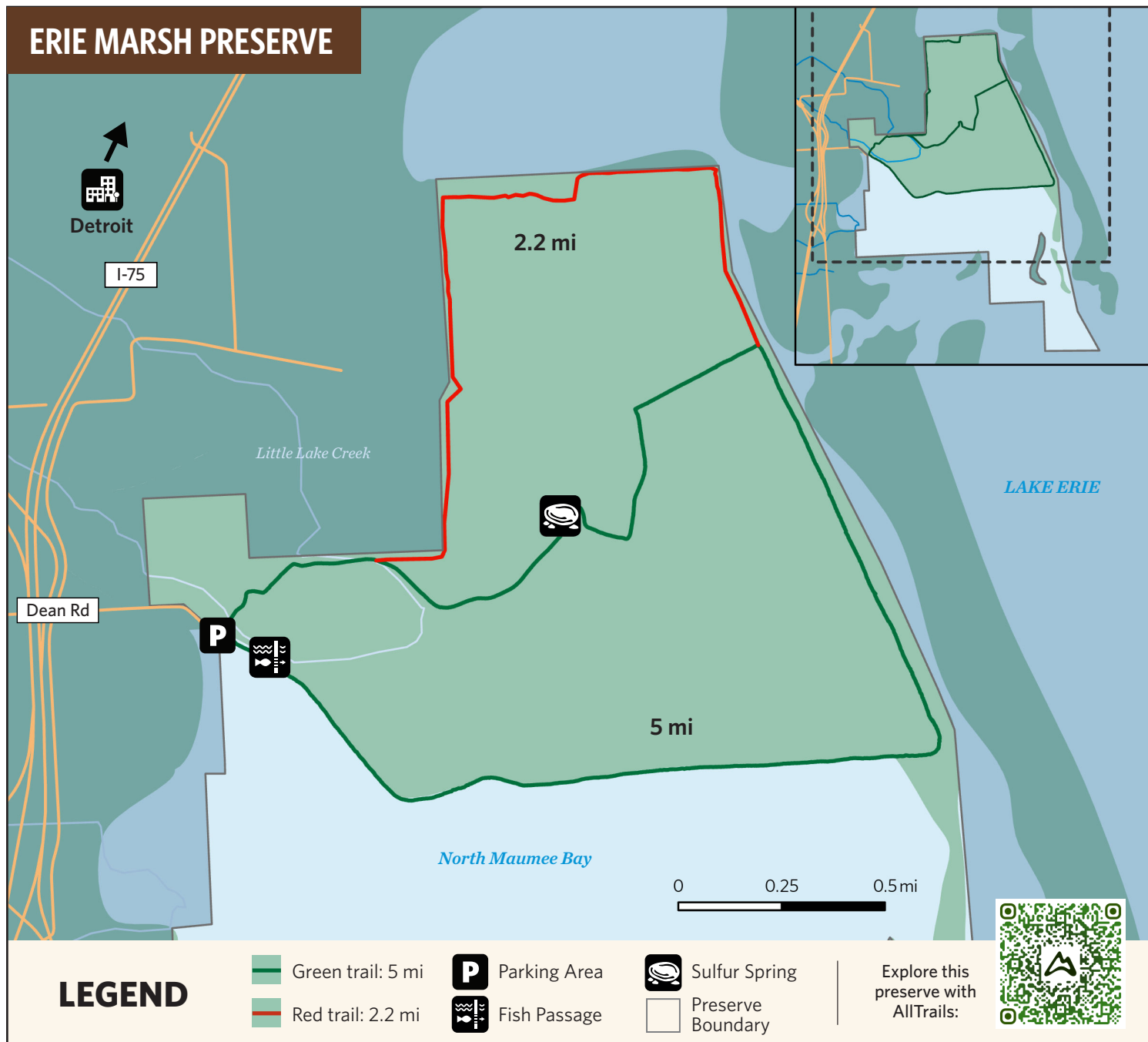
#### GREEN-WINGED TEAL



#### BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON



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## HOW TO GET THERE

**Directions from Monroe, MI:** Take I-75 south to Exit 2 (Summit Road). Head southeast on Summit Road for approximately 0.5 miles. When you are able to do so, make a U-turn onto Summit Road heading the opposite direction. Go 0.2 miles and turn north (right) on Bay Creek Road, just before the freeway entrance. Go 0.8 miles and turn east (right) on Dean Road. Continue until you see the Erie Shooting and Fishing Club cottages—you can park next to them. If the gate is closed, park on the roadside and walk in. Follow the trail to the north.

## MAKE TODAY A NATURE DAY!

Nearby points of interest include:

- William C. Sterling State Park, 16 mi: [michigan.gov/dnr](https://michigan.gov/dnr)
- Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, 30 mi: [www.fws.gov](https://www.fws.gov)
- Ives Road Fen Preserve, 35 mi: [nature.org/miexplore](https://nature.org/miexplore)
- Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, 50 mi: [detroitriverfront.org](https://detroitriverfront.org)
- Lodging, food and more: [monroecountychamber.com](https://monroecountychamber.com)

## TIPS FOR A GREAT VISIT

- The preserve is **closed to the public September 1 to January 1** during waterfowl hunting season.
- Be prepared for muddy terrain most times of year—pack your hiking boots!
- Bring binoculars for birdwatching.
- Please leave pets at home.
- No camping or fires permitted.
- Please follow the rules posted at the preserve and online at [nature.org/miexplore](https://nature.org/miexplore).

**Thank you for protecting the land, water and wildlife of this special place!**