

# IVES ROAD FEN PRESERVE

*Where the Spring Peepers Sing*

**LOCATION:**

South Michigan



**SIZE:** 703 acres

**TRAIL LENGTH:**

3.7 miles of trail



**DIFFICULTY:** Easy

**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://www.nature.org/miexplore).



Thank you to all the volunteers who have spent thousands of hours restoring the Ives Road Fen Preserve! © TNC

**Restoration takes time, but the results are worth it.** When The Nature Conservancy (TNC) acquired the Ives Road Fen Preserve in 1987, it was overrun by glossy buckthorn, which shades out and dominates native plants. Restoring this preserve to the beautiful wildflower habitat you can explore today took two decades of committed effort.

Over this period, a dedicated crew of volunteers, as well as many TNC staff, removed more than 2.5 million buckthorn stems, spot-burned 10 million buckthorn seedlings and burned 400 piles of buckthorn shrubs. In 2010, we celebrated the removal of the last mature glossy buckthorn plant from the preserve.

The story of renewal at the Ives Road Fen Preserve extends beyond removing invasive plants, however. Staff, trustees and experts also removed hundreds of old agricultural drainage tile lines to restore the natural water flow through the fen, and we have continued to replant former agricultural fields with native prairie plants. Stabilizing the soil in a former gravel mine also brought back state-threatened Blanchard's cricket frogs, who make their home in the depression left by the mine.

Now, visitors to the preserve can see colorful prairie flowers, witness a much healthier landscape and know that the joyful chorus of spring peepers and other frogs they hear will continue for many years to come.



The wetlands on the Ives Road Fen Preserve filter water that flows into the River Raisin, which supplies several downstream communities with their drinking water.  
© Jen Moore

**YOU SHOULD VISIT IF...**

**You love a comeback story!** TNC continues to treat or remove buckthorn seedlings and other invasive plants to maintain the restoration progress made by volunteers and staff.

Our trained fire crew also uses prescribed burns to further control invasive plants and mimic the ecological effects of wildfires. The grasslands on the preserve evolved with fire, and depend on this natural process to regenerate and thrive. Look for the healthy green shoots emerging in the weeks after a burn!

**Some of the species that have benefited from our efforts include:**

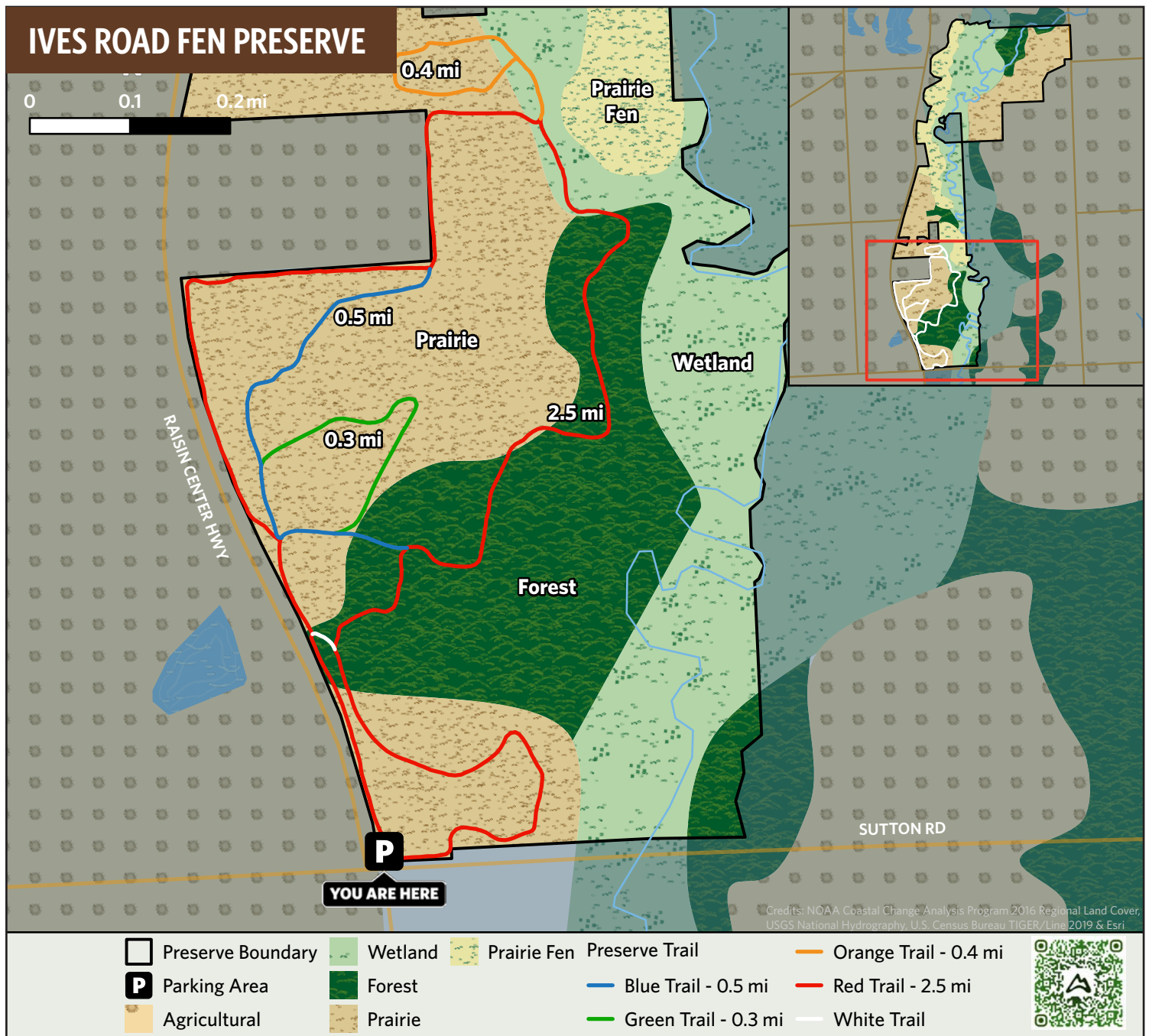
- Showy coneflower
- Hairy-fruited sedge
- Prairie rose
- Blanchard's cricket frog
- Yellow-breasted chat
- Blue-winged warbler
- Alder flycatcher

**PRAIRIE ROSE**

© Kim Stemberger/TNC

**BLUE-WINGED WARBLER**

© Jamie Chavez/Flickr



## HOW TO GET THERE

**Directions from Tecumseh, MI:** From downtown Tecumseh's intersection of M-50 and Evans Street, head south on Evans approximately 3 miles to Sutton Road. Note: Evans Street becomes North Raisin Center Highway south of town. Turn east (left) on Sutton Road. The preserve parking lot entrance is the first driveway on the north (left) side of the road, just past the railroad tracks.

## MAKE TODAY A NATURE DAY!

Nearby points of interest include:

- Lake Hudson State Recreation Area, 22 mi
- Nan Weston Nature Preserve at Sharon Hollow, 25 mi: [nature.org/miexplore](https://nature.org/miexplore)
- Grand River Fen Preserve, 35 mi: [nature.org/miexplore](https://nature.org/miexplore)
- Lodging, food and more: [experiencejackson.com](https://experiencejackson.com)

## TIPS FOR A GREAT VISIT

- Come in the spring for the spring peepers and migratory birds, and the summer for blooming wildflowers.
- Dress for the conditions—hiking boots are recommended, as well as insect repellent in the summer. Trails can be muddy.
- If you visit during the deer hunting season (**early September to early January**), wear bright colors and exercise caution. All hunters must have a TNC permit and state license.
- 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).

**Thanks for your help protecting the land, water and wildlife of this special place!**