

NAN WESTON NATURE PRESERVE AT SHARON HOLLOW

A Wooded Wonderland

 **LOCATION:**
South Michigan

 **SIZE:** 249 acres

 **TRAIL LENGTH:**
2.9 miles of trails

 **DIFFICULTY:** Easy



AUDIO TOUR AVAILABLE:

Get the insider's view of this preserve with a free self-guided tour on the TravelStorys app! To learn more, visit nature.org/miexplore.

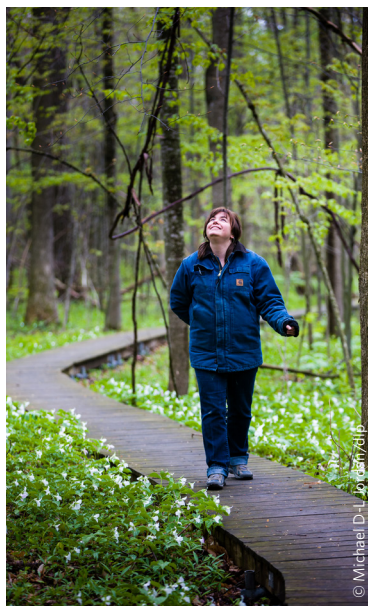


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The perfect place for a springtime stroll, the Nan Weston Nature Preserve at Sharon Hollow is one of The Nature Conservancy's (TNC's) most popular preserves in Michigan, and a half-hour drive from Ann Arbor. With the help of several boardwalks, its trails meander through shaded woodlands and over wetlands brimming with life. More than 260 species of vibrant wildflowers and other native plants thrive here!

Visitors can follow the trail to the shores of the River Raisin, so-named by French settlers for the wild grapes that grow along its banks. This 140-mile river was originally named Nummasepee by the Indigenous people of the region, meaning "river of sturgeon." At least 84 species of fish, 200 species of aquatic insects and 21 species of freshwater mussels live in the river and its tributaries, including some rare species.

With so much abundance within reach, it's no wonder that herons frequently nest on the preserve. Migratory birds also find stopover habitat in the preserve's forest and wooded wetlands, sheltering among the greens of spring or the fiery yellows, reds and oranges of fall. And for us humans, it's worth a visit any time of year!



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Born in 1913, **Anne C. "Nan" Weston** grew up in Connecticut and New York. At age 20, Nan was instrumental in the founding of Black Mountain College in North Carolina, where she was later the first student to graduate. In 1940, Nan and her husband Norm settled in Birmingham, Michigan. When Nan passed away, her family honored her with a generous donation to TNC, resulting in the establishment of the Nan Weston Nature Preserve at Sharon Hollow in 1993.

YOU SHOULD VISIT IF...

You love nature's ephemeral treasures! For a few short weeks during spring, a torrent of dazzling wildflowers floods the forest floor. Also in the wet spring months, temporary shallow pools of water known as vernal pools cover portions of the preserve. These pools provide critical habitat for eastern spring peepers, western chorus frogs and the red-backed salamander, as well as insects, snakes and some migratory birds. These magical pools may even contain fairies! Fairy shrimp, that is.

Some of the species that you can spot at this preserve include:

- Bright blue hepatica
- Dutchman's breeches
- Spring beauty
- Blue flag iris
- Cerulean warbler
- Rose-breasted grosbeak
- Barred owl

DUTCHMAN'S BREECHES



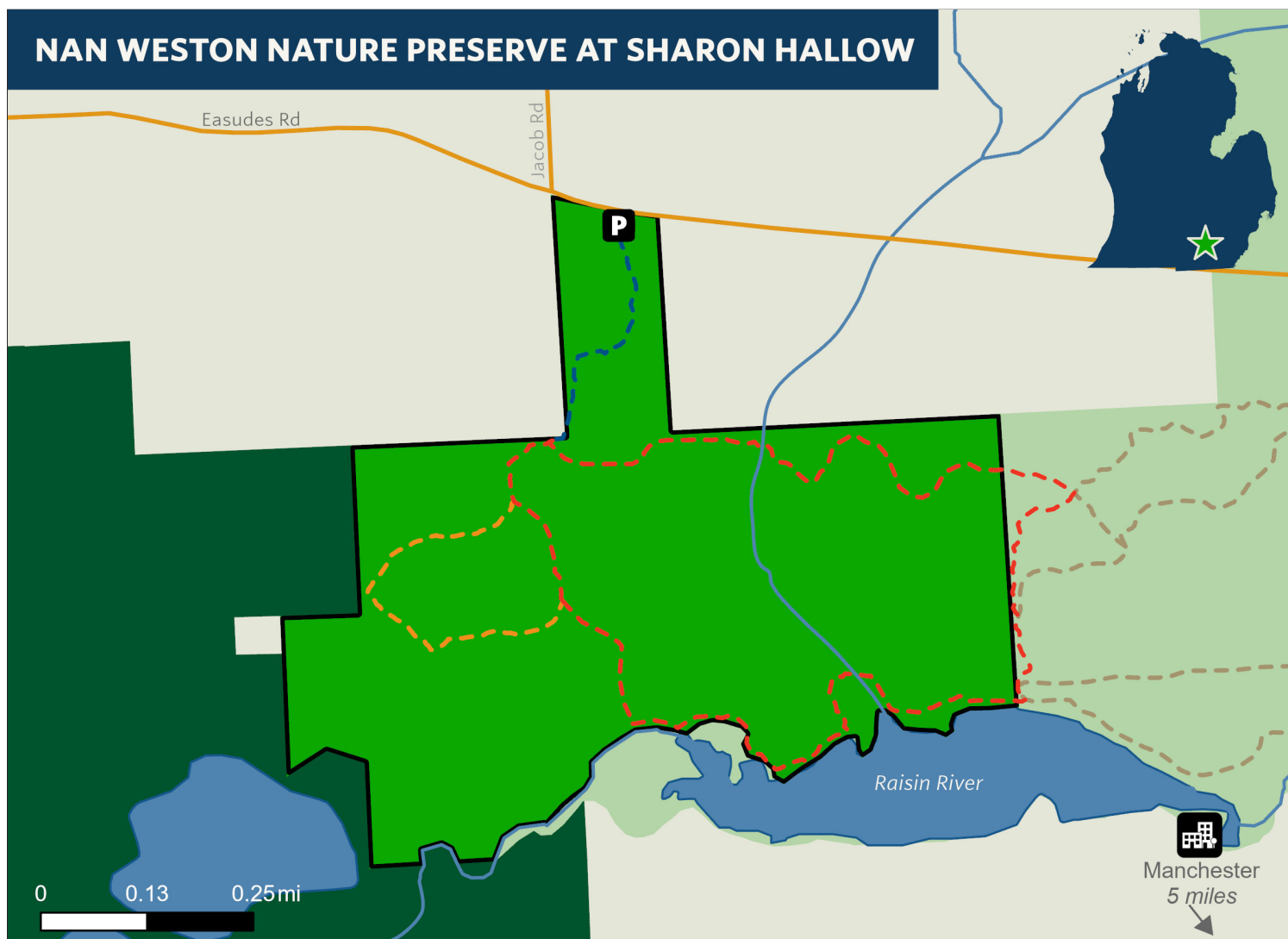
© Chris Helzer

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK



© Daryl Burnett/TNC

NAN WESTON NATURE PRESERVE AT SHARON HALLOW



LEGEND

- Nan Weston Nature Preserve
- Sharonville State Game Area
- Sharon Mills County Park

- Blue Trail (0.3 mi)
- Orange Loop (0.5 mi)
- Red Loop (2.1 mi)

- Park Trail
- Parking Area



HOW TO GET THERE

Directions from Chelsea, MI: At the junction of I-94 and M-52 in Chelsea, take M-52 south for 7.4 miles to Pleasant Lake Road. Turn west (right) onto Pleasant Lake Road and follow it for 3.2 miles to Sharon Hollow Road. Turn right, and follow Sharon Hollow Road as it curves north to Easudes Road. Turn west (left) on Easudes Road and travel 0.9 miles. You will see the preserve sign on the south (left) side of the road. Parking is available at the trailhead.

MAKE TODAY A NATURE DAY!

Nearby points of interest include:

- Sharon Mills County Park, 1.5 mi: washtenaw.org
- Sharon Hills Nature Preserve, 2.5 mi: legacylandconservancy.org
- Ives Road Fen Preserve: 25 mi: nature.org/miexplore
- Grand River Fen Preserve: 25 mi: nature.org/miexplore
- Lodging, food and more: experiencejackson.com or annarbor.org

TIPS FOR A GREAT VISIT

- While there are boardwalks over the wettest areas, trails can still be muddy. Hiking boots are recommended!
- 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.
- Bring insect repellent in the warmer months.
- Please leave pets at home.
- No camping or fires permitted.
- Please follow the rules posted at the preserve and online at nature.org/miexplore.

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