

JOHN ARTHUR WOOLLAM PRESERVE

A Magical Retreat

**LOCATION:**

Eastern Upper Peninsula



SIZE: 185 acres



TRAIL LENGTH: 2 miles out-and-back (with options to continue)



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.



The Woollam Preserve features 4,300 feet of Lake Huron shoreline, home to rare species such as Michigan's state flower, the dwarf lake iris. © Jason Whalen/Fauna Creative

Spellbinding forests of spruce, pine and cedar.

Looming boulders, shaggy with moss. A rocky, rugged coastline giving way to serene Lake Huron waters. The John Arthur Woollam Preserve is an enchanting place, where the magic of the natural world thrives.

Here, visitors can find examples of the globally rare alvar, a type of grassland found in only two places outside of the Great Lakes region. Its thin soil supports only the hardiest of plants and lichens, such as the carnivorous butterwort, which captures insects for extra nutrients. Other parts of this preserve, however, provide a rich environment for rare plants such as the threatened Houghton's goldenrod, Pitcher's thistle and lakeside daisy.

Life abounds here year-round. Even when the ground is covered with snow, it is likely to be crisscrossed by the tracks of small animals. Ruffed grouse are commonly seen and heard drumming here in early spring, and if you are lucky, you may encounter a hen with her brood during summer. The woodlands can also be thick with migratory birds in the spring and fall.



From his childhood days in Kalamazoo, **Dr. John Woollam** has loved the lands and waters of Michigan, and he went on to become one of the most prolific and successful benefactors of land conservation in the state. In 2014, the land conservancies of Michigan and John's friends and family came together to dedicate this property as the John Arthur Woollam Preserve, in recognition of the thousands of acres and miles of shoreline and inland lakes he has helped protect across his home state.

YOU SHOULD VISIT IF...

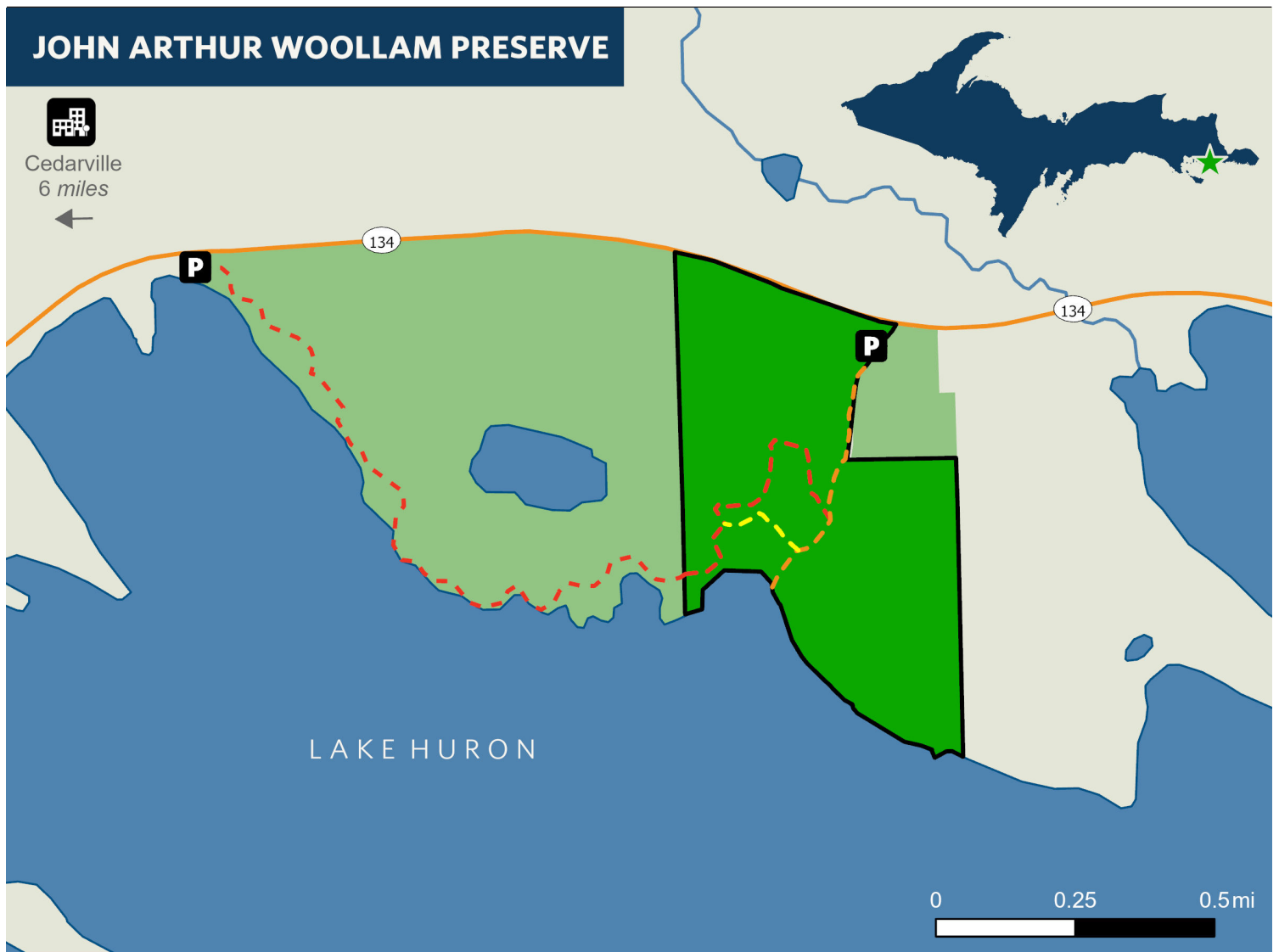
You love spring songbirds! The Les Cheneaux area of Michigan is a favorite spot for nesting and migratory birds, where they can rest and refuel after crossing Lake Huron. During peak migration, hundreds of vireos, thrushes, grosbeaks and warblers call from the treetops and thickets—and some of them will stay all summer.

Bird species to watch for include:

- American redstart
- Blackburnian warbler
- Black-throated green warbler
- Black-throated blue warbler
- Mourning warbler
- Northern harrier
- Black tern
- Bald eagle

AMERICAN REDSTART**BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER****BLACK TERN**

JOHN ARTHUR WOOLLAM PRESERVE



LEGEND



John Arthur Woollam Preserve




Protected Land: Privately Owned



Parking Area

 Bush Bay Hiking Trail (2.2 mi)

 Woollam Shoreline Trail (0.5 mi)

 Woollam Shortcut Trail (0.15 mi)



HOW TO GET THERE

Directions from Cedarville, MI: Head east on M-134 for 6.3 miles, until you see the preserve sign on the south (right) side of the road. Follow the two-track road there to the small parking lot at the trailhead.

MAKE TODAY A NATURE DAY!

Nearby points of interest include:

- Carl A. Gerstacker Nature Preserve at Dudley Bay, 6 mi: nature.org/miexplore
- Aldo Leopold Nature Preserve, 15 mi (only accessible by boat): landtrust.org/explore
- Maxton Plains Nature Preserve, 38 mi (via ferry): nature.org/miexplore
- Lodging, food and other natural areas: lescheneaux.net

TIPS FOR A GREAT VISIT

- The Woollam Preserve is open year-round for hiking, snowshoeing, backcountry skiing and bird and wildlife watching. May is the best month to spy migratory birds.
- Before and after your hike, please use the boot brush at the trailhead to remove potential invasive seeds from your shoes.
- TNC's trail continues about 1 mile, with several smaller spurs and loops to try, before leaving the preserve and entering the Bush Bay trail—a great way to extend your visit!
- Insect repellent and full coverage clothing are recommended in the early summer months to protect against biting insects.
- Be prepared for wet areas depending on the season and lake levels.
- Please leave pets at home.
- No camping or fires permitted.
- Please follow the rules posted at the preserve and online at nature.org/miexplore.

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