






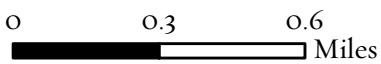


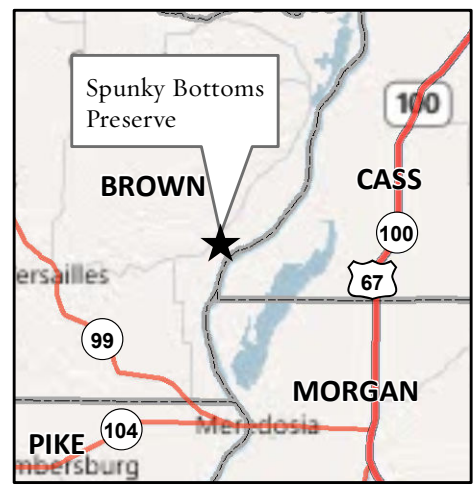
**Merwin Preserve
at Spunky
Bottoms**

-  Preserve Boundary
-  US Fish & Wildlife Service
-  IL Dept. of Natural Resources
-  Lakes & Rivers
-  Streams
-  Roads
-  Parking

I-72 West; US-67 North; LEFT onto IL-104 toward Meredosia; cross Illinois River; RIGHT on IL-99; RIGHT on Hwy 1675 East; RIGHT on Hwy 12 (La Grange Rd.); Spunky Bottoms Merwin Preserve is on the right.



September 2011



The Spunky Bottoms Preserve



Things to Do

- Canoeing/kayaking
- Fishing
- Bird watching
- Hiking
- Limited waterfowl hunting opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities

Please Contact:

Tharran Hobson, Restoration Manager
Illinois River Program Office at Emiquon
11304 N. Prairie Road
Lewistown, IL 61542
309-547-2730

What to See: Plants

Restoration at the preserve has included the planting of more than 7,500 trees in the bottomland hardwood forest areas and the transplanting of prairie cordgrass and sedges. In the preserve's upland prairie areas, you can see big bluestem, Indian grass, black-eyed Susan and prairie coreopsis. Every summer, thousands of American lotus bloom on the restored wetlands.

What to See: Animals

Visitors might encounter such interesting wildlife as the black, yellow and sora rail, and grassland birds like the Henslow's, song, grasshopper and swamp sparrows. They might also see Eastern bluebird, Orioles and migrating Warblers. Shore and wading birds found here include the American and Least bittern, little blue and black-crowned night heron. Various hawks and the bald eagle can be found as well.

The Illinois River is an increasingly important migratory flyway for the [American white pelican](#). Keep an eye out for the river otter, muskrat, beaver, mink, raccoon, bog lemming and short-tailed weasel, as well as the prairie king and Western ribbon snakes, and the green, plains leopard and northern cricket frogs.

Plan Your Visit

Access to the preserve is restricted due to restoration activities, on-going scientific research and a public waterfowl hunting program. For additional information or permission to visit the area, contact the Conservancy's office in Lewistown at (309) 547-2730.

Directions

Take I-72 West to US-67 North. Take a LEFT onto IL-104 toward Meredosia. Cross the Illinois River and take a RIGHT on IL-99. Take a RIGHT on Hwy 1675 East, then a RIGHT on Hwy 12 (La Grange Rd.). Spunky Bottoms Merwin Preserve is on the right.