**Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP)**

**List of NAPP Preserves**

**NAPP: Preserves – Northeast Washtenaw County**

**LeFurge Woods Preserve:** This [preserve](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/directions/buttons/f.jpg/view%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), at 2384 North Prospect Road in Superior Township, is open to the public for wildlife viewing every day between sunrise and sunset. Parking is on the road, or in a small lot. The preserve is owned by the [Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy](http://www.smlcland.org/properties_washtenaw.php%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) (SMLC); NAPP funds were used to purchase a conservation easement. Trails lead visitors over meadows, wetlands, agricultural land, and woods.

**Kosch Headwaters Preserve**: This[160-acre site](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/napp/preserves/kosch.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) is on the headwaters of Fowler Creek, which ultimately runs into the Rouge River. It contains a beech-maple woodlot and is about 50% cultivated land. The preserve entrance and parking is located on the east side of Prospect Road, approximately 0.1 miles south of Ford Road and 0.8 miles north of Cherry Hill Road.

**Meyer Preserve:** Located in Superior Township, the preserve is [two separate properties](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/napp/preserves/meyer-preserve%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) totaling 139 acres. At the northeast corner of Prospect and Vreeland Roads are 55 acres, with another 84 at the southwest. The entrance and parking are not yet developed; parking for the Meyer Preserve is on Prospect Road at LeFurge Woods Preserve. Preservation of this land represents collaboration among WCPARC and SMLC, which helps to manage the land. Mainly agricultural land under contract with a local farmer, the preserve also contains about 45 acres of woods and wetlands.

**Northfield Woods Preserve:** This Northfield Township preserve is [48 acres](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/napp/preserves/northfield-woods-preserve%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) with wooded land that is diverse in both species and age, and in which invasive species are minimal. With a number of vernal ponds, and an open understory, the preserve is more resistant to such invasive species as garlic mustard. Trails are not yet developed, but the preserve is walkable. The preserve entrance is on the east side of Northfield Church Road approximately 0.3 miles north of Joy Road.

**Raymond F. Goodrich Preserve:** On Dixboro Road just south of M-14 in Ann Arbor Township, this [29-acre preserve](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/napp/preserves/goodrich.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) is adjacent to the 101-acre University of Michigan Horner-McLaughlin Woods, creating an area of old-growth oak-hickory forest, native shrubs, several small wetlands, and a large swamp that separates much of the woodland from the M-14 freeway. The preserve access point is located on the west side of Dixboro Road, approximately 0.2 miles south of M-14 and 150 feet north of Overbrook Drive.

**NAPP: Preserves – Southeast and Southwest Washtenaw County**

**Draper-Houston Meadows Preserve:** This [80-acre preserve](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/napp/preserves/draper-houston-meadows-preserve%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) is in York Township, west of Milan, with over ½ mile of Saline River frontage, high quality woodlots, wetlands, and a stand of native paw-paw trees, a floodplain understory tree that is becoming hard to find in Washtenaw County. A small trail loop is currently in place north of the river, and access to the rest of the site is planned. To get there from US-23: Exit #27 (Carpenter Road), southbound. Turn right on County Street, continue onto Main Street. Main Street will turn into Mooreville Road. The entrance is approximately 0.25 miles on the south side of Mooreville Road.

**Brauer Preserve**: This 187-acre [preserve](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/napp/preserves/brauer.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) has a variety of habitat types: dry forests, southern swamp, marsh, and open water, and about 70 acres that were farmed before WCPARC acquired the property from the Brauer family. WCPARC developed a conservation farming plan that includes crop rotation, establishing field borders and buffer strips to protect waterways, and minimum use of fertilizer and pesticides. In the northeast corner of Freedom Township, the preserve parking area is on the right (west) side of Parker Road, approx. 0.2 miles south of Waters Road (and approx. 0.7 miles north of Ellsworth Road).

**Clarke & Avis Spike Preserve:**In north central Sharon Township, this preserve does not yet have an entrance or parking, according to the WCPARC website. The Spring 2011 WCPARC Newsletter shows the site on the north side of Grass Lake Road between Sylvan Road and Hashley Road. The Chronicle reported on April 17, 2012 that staff are working on trail layouts, and on June 12, 2012 that WCPARC had applied for an MDEQ permit to construct a boardwalk.

**Ervin-Stucki Preserve:** Located in Bridgewater Township in the second largest watershed in the county, that of the River Raisin, with half a mile of River Raisin shoreline, this [126 acre preserve](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/napp/preserves/ervin_stucki.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) has boardwalks across wetlands to a river overlook. WCPARC is finalizing a trail to take visitors further into the preserve. The preserve access point is on the west side of Clinton, approximately 0.6 miles south of Austin, directly opposite Burmeister Road.

**Leonard Preserve:** This, the [largest preserve](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/napp/preserves/leonard.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) in the WCPARC system, is on the northwest edge of the village of Manchester, protects nearly one mile of River Raisin shoreline. WCPARC partnered with The Nature Conservancy, which purchased the historic farm house and surrounding forty acres of land. WCPARC acquired the remaining 205 acres. The preserve has over four miles of hiking trails, and a ten-acre prairie remnant where grasses can grow over five feet tall by autumn. The preserve entrance is at the end of Union Street, off Main Street/Austin Road in the Village of Manchester (west of the Manchester downtown area).

**Riverbend Preserve:**In the southwest corner of Bridgewater County, this 43 acre preserve spreads along 1,100 feet on both sides of a wide, flat slow moving section of the River Raisin. About ¾ of the land is wetlands. [This preserve is not described on the WCPARC website; this description is based on the WCPARC Master Plan 2010-2014]

**Scio Woods Preserve**: An example of the collaboration of several entities (the [Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program](https://www.google.com/search?q=ann+arbor+greenbelt+commission&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a" \t "_blank), Scio Township Land Preservation Commission, and WCPARC), this [91 acre preserve](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/napp/preserves/scio-woods-preserve%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) just west of Ann Arbor has steep slopes and a mix of mature woodland, wetlands, ponds, and a seasonal stream. The preserve entrance is on the north side of Scio Church Road, about one mile from Zeeb Road, part in Lodi Township and part in Scio Township.

**Sharon Short Hills Preserve:** Although the WCPARC website has little information about this preserve, the Spring 2011 WCPARC newsletter announced acquisition of this 84 acre preserve in Sharon Township, on the west side of Hashley Road south of Grass Lake Road. The property has varied topography, reaching an elevation of 1,050 feet on the western portion. An access point and trails are still being developed, according to the newsletter.

**NAPP Preserves: Northwest Washtenaw County**

**Albert J. Miller and Robert & Nancy Smith Woods Preserve**: Although these [two areas](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/napp/preserves/miller.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) total only 29 acres, they are valuable because they lack invasive species, have numerous pocket wetlands, and remnant prairie species. The village of Dexter contributed the Robert & Nancy Smith Woods acreage to WCPARC. The preserve entrance is located on the north side of Dexter-Chelsea Road, one mile southwest of the village of Dexter.

**Burns-Stokes Preserve:** This is another relatively[small preserve](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/napp/preserves/burns_stokes.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), 29 acres, but the long narrow parcel is sandwiched between the Huron River and the railroad, with ¾ mile of river forming the southern edge. The preserve provides fishing, bird watching, and canoe landings, portions of an old mill dam and race. Part of the state’s Natural Rivers Program protection zone, this land has been a wildlife area since 1980. The preserve entrance is on Zeeb Road approximately 2.1 miles from I-94.

**Devine Preserve:** This [natural area](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/napp/preserves/devine.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) on Liberty Road was the first property purchased through NAPP in 2003. Most of the 137 acres are wetland, and two loop trails wind through the woods. Large burr oak and hop hornbeam trees are here. The preserve entrance and parking area is on the right (north) side of Liberty Road, approx. 0.5 miles west of Zeeb Road (and approx. 2.4 miles east of Parker Road).

**Fox Science Preserve:** This 69 acres is a [former gravel pi](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/napp/preserves/fox.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)t, dug to provide sand and gravel to build I-94, now home to glacial boulders and evidence of prehistoric vegetation, used for more than 35 years as an outdoor classroom. According to WCPARC’s 2010-2014 Master Plan, “the gravel here resembles that which must have occurred upon retreat of the glaciers 12,000 years ago.” This preserve is the result of a collaborative effort between the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program, Scio Township, and the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program. The entrance to the preserve is on the east side of Peters Road, approximately 0.3 miles north of Miller Road.

**Gosline Preserve**: WCPARC purchased this 40 acre preserve from the Legacy Land Conservancy. It is just west of Independence Lake County Park, and contains some deep water marsh habitat, according to the WCPARC Master Plan. It does not have a page on the WCPARC website.

**Squiers Preserve**: This [50 acre site](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/napp/preserves/squiers.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)in Sylvan Township is one for which NAPP funds were used to purchase a conservation easement from the Squiers family, which retains title to the land. The easement allows for public access and management as a nature preserve by WCPARC. Directions to the preserve are not public until WCPARC provides adequate parking facilities, according to both the Master Plan and the current WCPARC website.

**West Lake Preserve**: In Dexter Township north of Waterloo Road and east of Werkner Road, this [217-acre preserve](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/napp/preserves/west_lake_preserve%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)includes a buttonbush swamp, oak hickory forest, a small glacially formed kettle lake, and shoreline on West Lake, although there is no fishing in or boating access to West Lake. The diverse habitat lures sandhill cranes, wild turkeys, belted kingfishers, and eastern bluebirds, and bald eagles. The preserve is located on north side of Waterloo about 1.0 mile east of Werkner Road.