

# Boot Lake Nature Preserve

County: Elkhart      Size: 276.4 acres  
Ownership: Elkhart County Parks

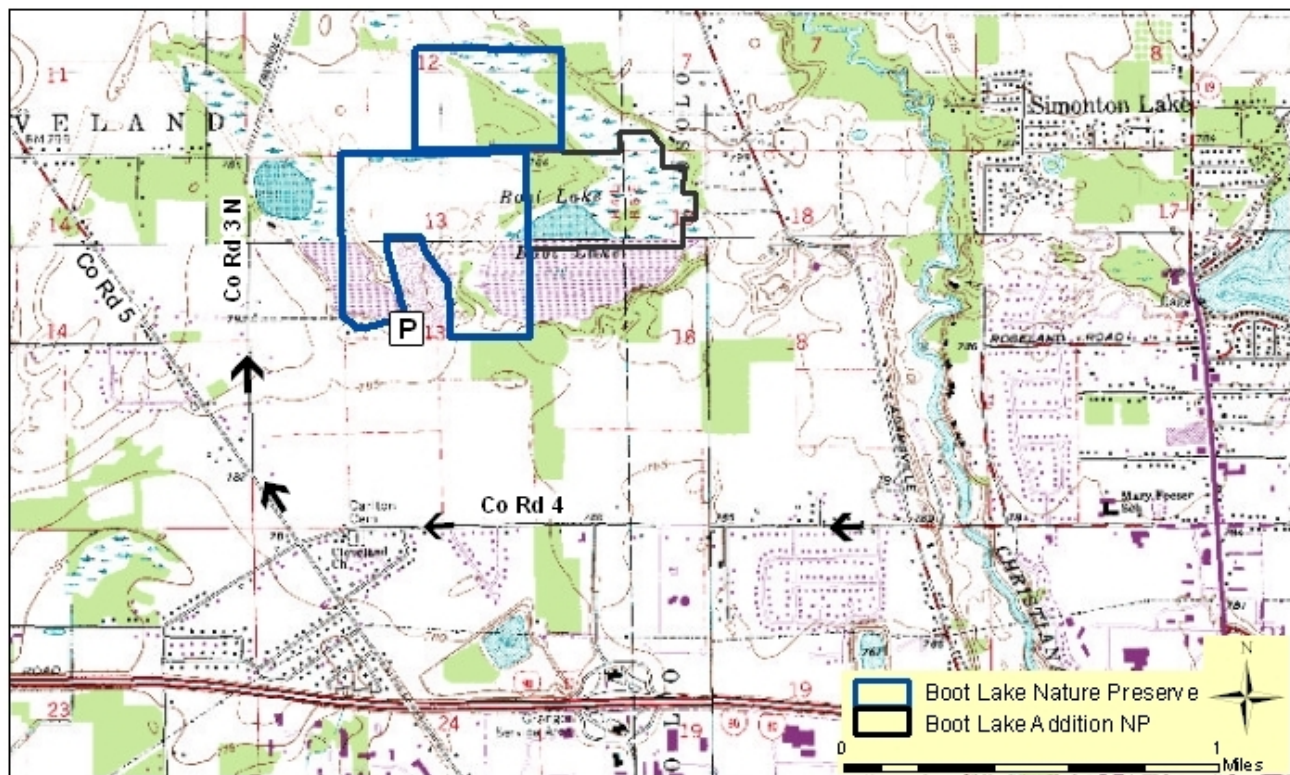


## Location and Access

**Parking and trail.** From the north side of Elkhart, take C.R. 4 west to C.R. 5 (Edwardsburg Rd) just past a cemetery and turn right (northwest). After a short distance the road splits. Take the right half (C.R. 3) and go about 0.4 mile to Williams lane on the right. Park in the lot at the end of the lane.

An alternative is to take S.R. 19 north from Elkhart to C.R. 4 (just past I-80/90 toll road). Continue as above.

From South Bend, pick up U.S. 20. Go east on U.S. 20 toward Elkhart. Take the S.R. 19 North exit and go through Elkhart to C.R. 4 (just past I-80/90). Turn left (west) and go about 2.4 miles to C.R. 5 (Edwardsburg Rd). Continue as above.



## Further Information:

Elkhart County Parks, 211 W. Lincoln Ave., Goshen, IN 46526-3280.

574-535-6458. [elkhartcountyparks.org](http://elkhartcountyparks.org).

Division of Nature Preserves Northeast Regional Ecologist, Rich Dunbar: [rdunbar@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:rdunbar@dnr.IN.gov).

## Boot Lake Nature Preserve

**Description:** This wetland area, a part of a larger 100-acre wetland complex, is made up of kettle lakes (formed by glaciation) that are in the process of naturally filling in and have succeeded into rare types of wetlands known as hydric peaty muck flats and hydric peaty sand flats. These support disjunct Atlantic Coastal Plain plants, a number of which are rare. Also in the area are buttonbush swamps, upland woodlands and fields, and a prairie restoration site.

Some of the plants found here are a variety of rushes and sedges, blue joint grass, meadow beauty, sugar maple, American beech, and red oak. Sandhill cranes have nested here in recent years.

This preserve was purchased with funding from the Indiana Heritage Trust Project.



Sandhill Crane



Water Lilies



Boot Lake