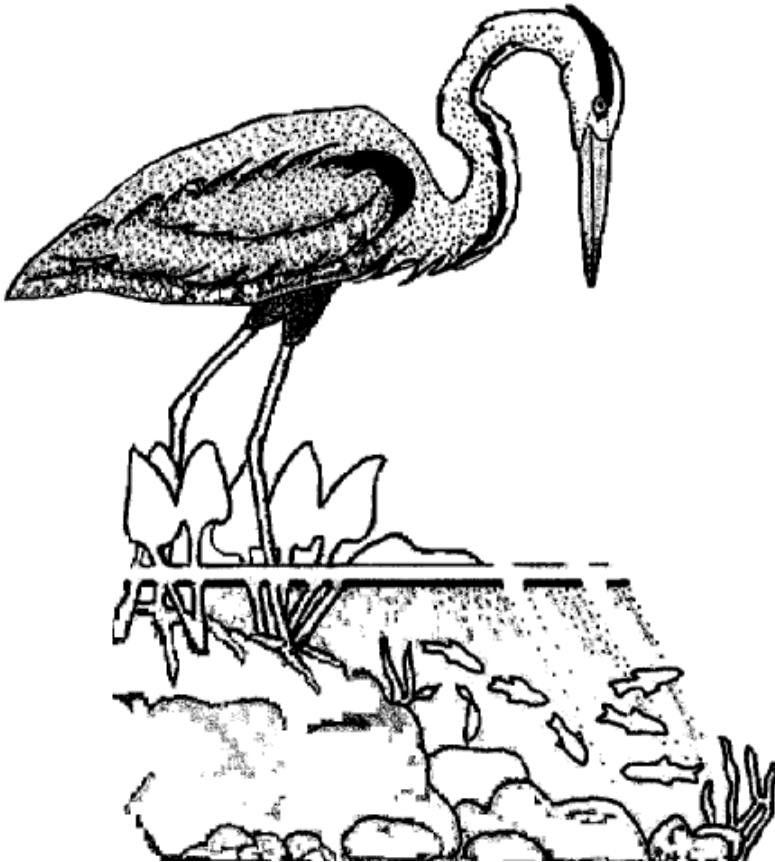


Kern Nature Preserve

Parking. No trails. There are two parking lots.

The North lot has a launch for boats that can be carried by hand, such as canoes and row boats. It may be closed occasionally along with the boat ramps due to *Hydrilla* infestations. To reach the north lot from the south lot, continue northwest on S 400 E for a little over one tenth mile. Angle left on Country Club Drive. Continue northwest on Country Club Drive for 0.6 miles to the gravel lot on the left.

The South lot is a grass and gravel parking area. To reach the south lot, travel north on US 31 toward Rochester. Turn right (E) onto E 350 S, go 1 mile until you reach S 500 E. Turn left (N) onto S 500 E and continue until you reach a fork in the road. Veer right for 0.1 mile, then left for 1.2 miles, staying on S 500 E, until you reach E 150 S. Go left (W) for 0.5 mi and then veer right as the road becomes S 400 E. The lot will be on your left, the SW side of the road.



Description:

Several wetland communities are found within the preserve. Many acres of high-quality marshland are covered with cattails, lily pads, bulrushes, reed grass and other grasses, sedges and aquatic flowers. Here and there forested islands jut up out of the marshland. Higher islands are forested with oaks and hickories, and low islands with tamarack trees.

Wildlife abounds on the preserve. Marshland birds such as marsh wrens, rails, ducks, herons, red-winged blackbirds, and swamp sparrows are found throughout. Migration time brings even more waterfowl into the area. Muskrats, mink, deer, raccoon, skunks, and opossum are among the many animals that may be seen.

Further Information:

Division of Fish and Wildlife, 402 W. Washington St, Rm. W273, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

(317) 232-4200. www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/

Division of Nature Preserves Northeast Regional Ecologist, Rich Dunbar: rdunbar@dnr.IN.gov