

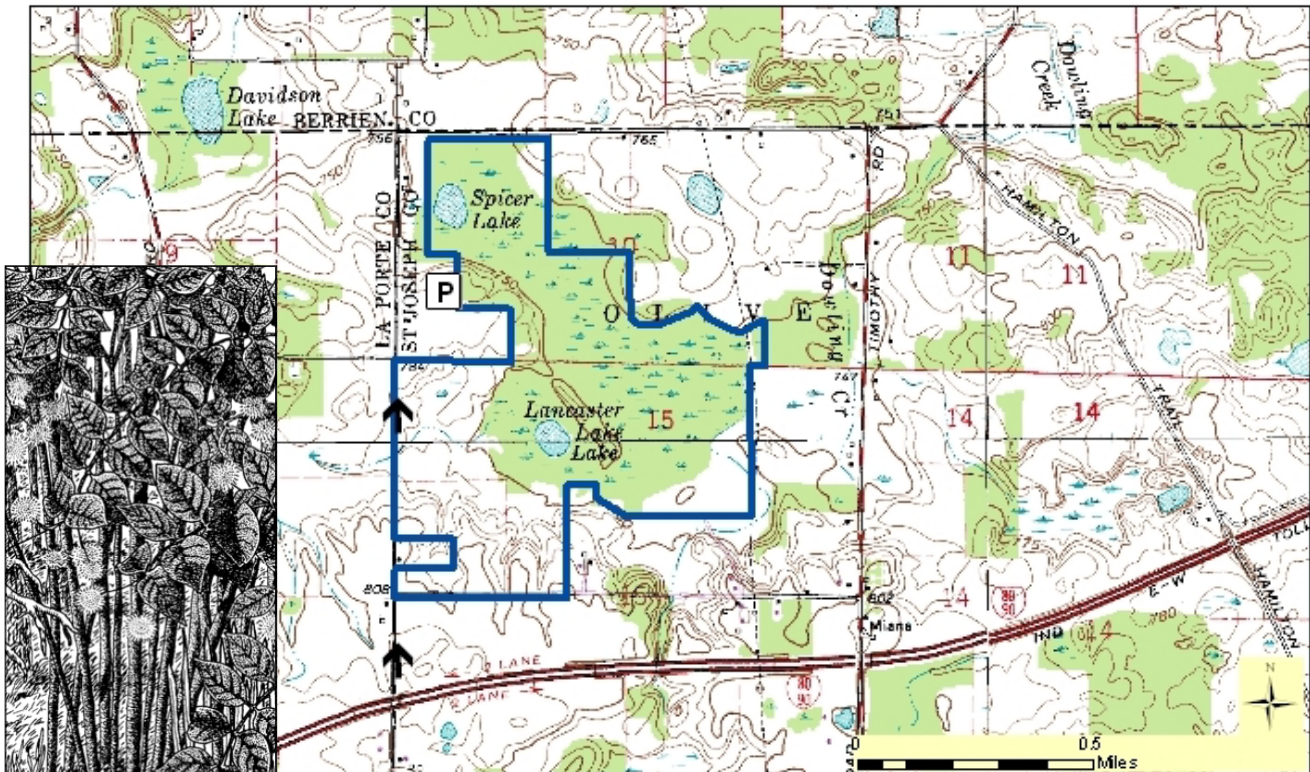
# Spicer Lake Nature Preserve

County: St. Joseph Size: 196 acres  
Ownership: St. Joseph County Parks Department



## Location and Access

**Parking and handicap-access trail.** Spicer Lake is near the LaPorte-St. Joseph County line and the Indiana-Michigan border. New Carlisle is 9.5 miles west of South Bend. From US 20 at New Carlisle take County Line Rd about 3.6 miles north to the park entrance. Park in the Nature Center parking lot. A boardwalk trail with handicapped access leads to the lake edge, and several trails wind through other parts of the preserve.



**Description:** This preserve protects two healthy lakes, Spicer Lake and Lancaster Lake, and most of the surrounding wetland basin, thereby protecting large expanses of swamp forest and marsh habitat. These lakes are pothole lakes formed by the melting of blocks of ice left behind when the last glacier retreated from Indiana. Spicer Lake especially illustrates succession from open water to swamp forest. Five acres of open water remain in the center of the lake. This is surrounded by a ring of yellow pond lily-swamp loosestrife marsh. Around this is a spicebush-winterberry-buttonbush shrub swamp which grades into red maple swamp forest. Swamp forest covers most of the preserve. Spicebush dominates the shrub layer within the swamp forest. The shrub and herb layers of the swamp forest vary quite a bit depending on the extent and duration of ponding. There is also a small marsh area with skunk cabbage and rice cut grass in the southwest corner of the preserve.

## Further Information:

St. Joseph Co. Parks and Recreation Dept, 50651 Laurel Rd, South Bend, IN 46637. (574) 277-4828.  
[www.sjcparks.org](http://www.sjcparks.org)  
Division of Nature Preserves Northeast Regional Ecologist, Adam Balzer: [abalzer@dnr.in.gov](mailto:abalzer@dnr.in.gov)