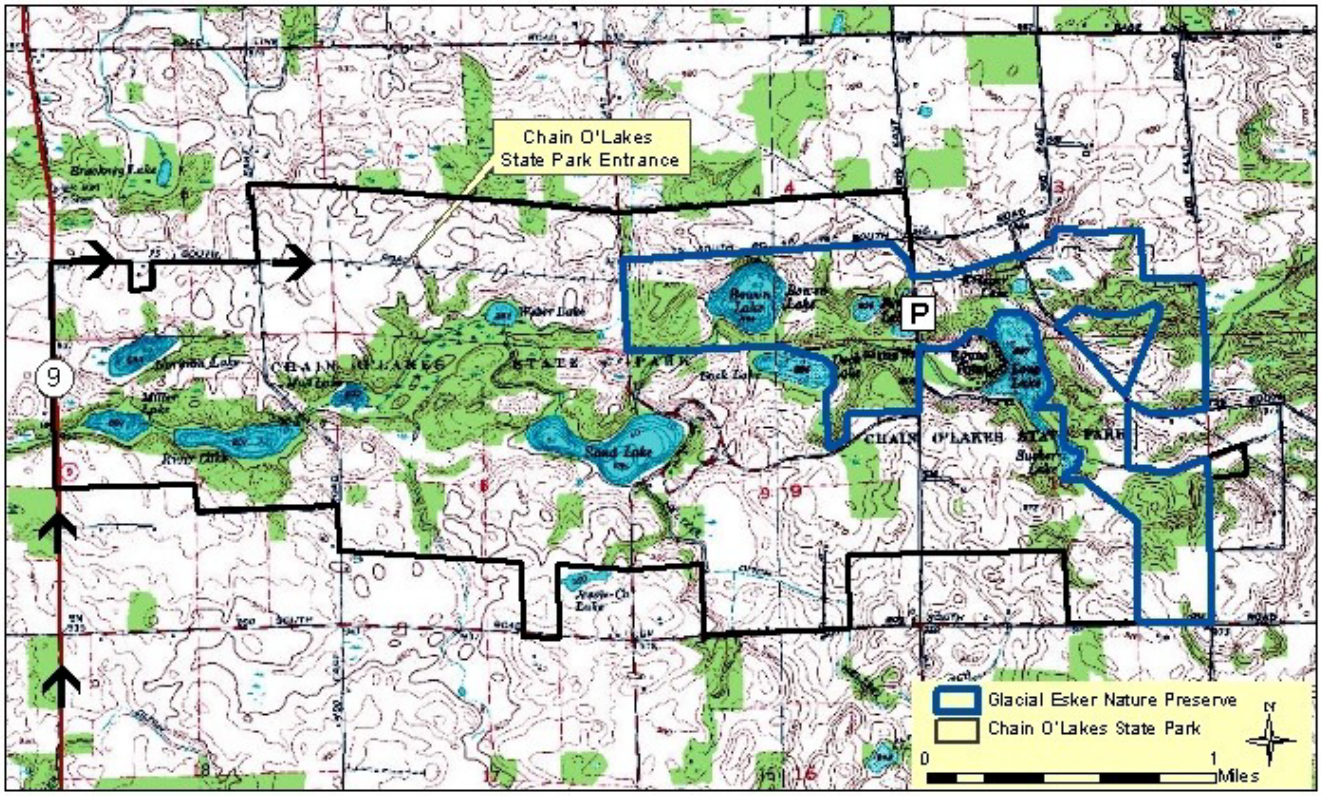
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Glacial Esker Nature Preserve

County: Noble Size: 731.56 acres
Ownership: State Parks - IDNR

Location and Access

Parking and trails. In Chain O'Lakes State Park. From Fort Wayne, take US-33 N for about 18 miles. Turn right (Northeast) onto IN-9 and go 4 miles, there will be a sign for the park on right. Turn right (East) onto E CR 75 S for about 1 mile until you reach the State Park entrance. There are several places to park and trails to take through the preserve. Shown on the map below is the parking area near the 8 and 9 trailheads. Trail 2, which circles Bowen Lake, and the parking area on the north side of Bowen Lake, are also within the nature preserve.



Description: The topography of this preserve was formed by the glaciers. Flat-bottom lowlands occupied by channels that were cut by glacial meltwater interconnect a series of kettle lakes by shallow wetlands, creeks, and floodplain forests. There are scattered 'erratics', large rocks that were carried by the glacier from its parent source and dropped 'erratically'. The ridge top and ravines of the esker are covered with upland forest. The preserve also contains several lakes, runs along several lakeshores, and includes their associated emergent and submersed wetland communities. The natural communities of the preserve contain many species that are area-sensitive wetland and forest interior plants and animals dependent upon large, unfragmented wetland and forest ecosystems. Noteworthy animal species found in this preserve include the brown creeper, and the hooded, cerulean and prothonotary warbler. It's also home to several hawks, the least bittern, barn owl, and black-crowned night heron.

Further Information:

Chain O'Lakes State Park. 2355 E 75 S, Albion, IN 46701. (260) 636-2654.
Division of Nature Preserves Northeast Regional Ecologist, Adam Balzer: abalzer@dnr.in.gov