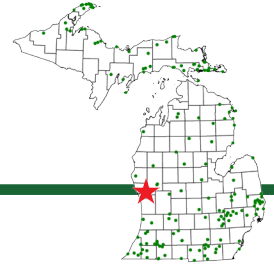


# Michigan Nature Association Five Lakes Muskegon Nature Sanctuary



## Sanctuary at a Glance:

**Location:** Muskegon County

**Size:** 113 acres

**History:** Acquired in a series of more than 11 acquisitions from 1977 to 2013.

## About MNA:

The Michigan Nature Association is a nonprofit conservation organization working to protect Michigan's rare, threatened and endangered species by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

Established in 1952, MNA's members, donors, and volunteers have built a remarkable network of more than 170 nature sanctuaries across the state – the largest network of natural areas established and maintained by a nonprofit conservation organization in Michigan.




## Michigan Nature Association

2310 Science Parkway, Suite 100  
Okemos, MI 48864  
(866) 223-2231  
[www.michigannature.org](http://www.michigannature.org)

## Join the Conversation:

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Photo: M. Penskar

The Five Lakes Muskegon Nature Sanctuary includes an extraordinary number of rare wildflowers, sedges, rushes and grasses. The sanctuary got its name from the small bodies of water in the area, also known as Carr Lake. According to the original federal survey in 1836, the entire area was shown as one large body of water. As years went by, it shrank into smaller ponds - the "Five Lakes."

The sanctuary consists of three natural communities: oak-pine barrens, coastal plain marsh and dry sand prairie. All three of these natural communities are considered imperiled in the state of Michigan and vulnerable to loss due to the low number of occurrences and risk of degradation. The sanctuary protects a sizeable coastal plain marsh, which contains disjunct populations of plants typical of marshes along the Atlantic coast. Eleven plant species and four animal species listed as endangered in the state of Michigan have been documented at the sanctuary since 2010, and more rare species may be found with future surveys.

## Home to An Array of Species

An impressive array of herptiles, particularly turtles and frogs exists here depending on the wetlands for water, with turtles using the surrounding sandy soils for egg laying sites.

# Five Lakes Muskegon Nature Sanctuary | Michigan Nature Association

A variety of bird species use the sanctuary throughout the year. The state-threatened common loon, special-concern classified American bittern, and many species of conservation priority including the pied-billed grebe, great blue heron, red-headed woodpecker, and field sparrow are annual visitors.

## Protecting Five Lakes Muskegon Nature Sanctuary

Invasive species are a significant issue at the sanctuary. Spotted knapweed and garlic mustard are the most dominant and threaten to displace some of the rare species and natural communities in the sanctuary.

MNA's stewardship team is beginning to manage the spotted knapweed by targeting pioneer patches within the sanctuary. Garlic mustard was identified in the south portion of the sanctuary. Like the spotted knapweed, stewards and volunteers manage garlic mustard by monitoring and removing the species from the sanctuary.

If you'd like to get involved and assist with stewardship projects at Five Lakes Muskegon, visit [www.michigannature.org/events](http://www.michigannature.org/events) for a list of volunteer opportunities.



Photo: Patricia Pennell

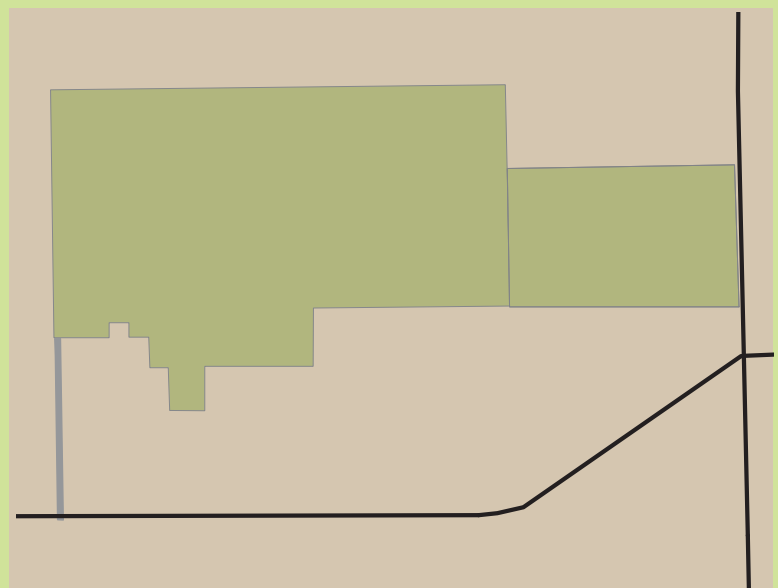


Photo: Steve Kelley

## How to Get There:

Take US 31 to the Laketon exit, go east a half mile to Evanston Ave. Turn right and go 3.9 miles to the Eagle Alloy parking lot. The trail begins on the north end of the parking lot.

Please call 866-223-2231 for more information.



Sanctuary Map