

OFFICIAL TRAIL GUIDE:

Eagle Marsh

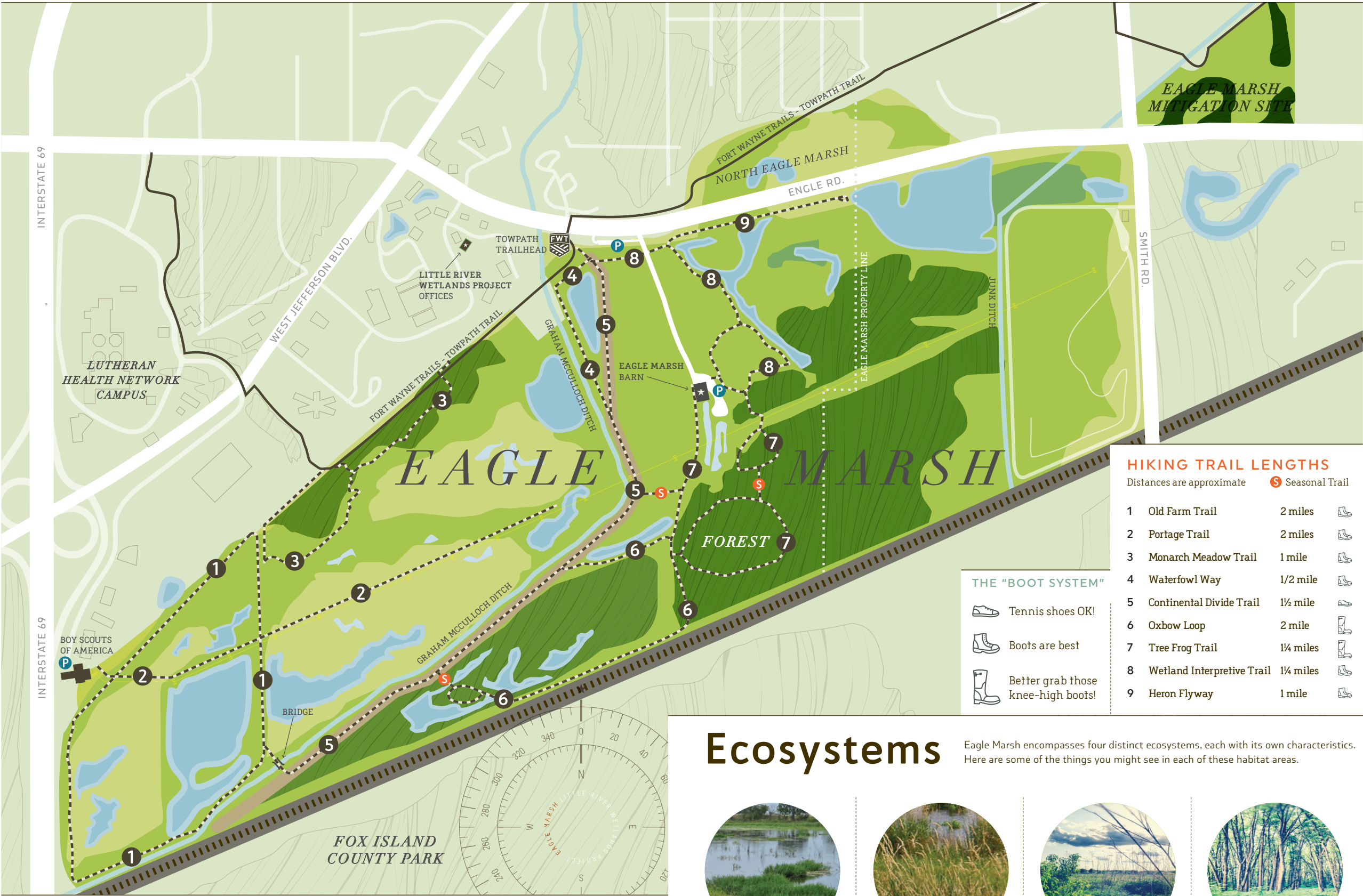
WETLAND PRESERVE
6801 Engle Road / Fort Wayne, IN 46804

At more than 750 acres, Eagle Marsh is one of Indiana’s largest wetland restorations. With the adjacent Fox Island County Park and other privately owned natural properties, Eagle Marsh creates almost two square miles of habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Little River Wetlands Project acquired Eagle Marsh (then wet farmland) in 2005 and, after extensive planning, began to restore it to wetland. Shallow areas were dug deeper, drain tiles broken, and pumps removed to hold more water on the land. Over 500 acres were seeded with native rushes, grasses, and wildflowers and approximately 45,000 native trees and shrubs planted.

Today, our job is far from complete. For years, intensive stewardship care will be needed to protect Eagle Marsh’s new native plants from being overtaken by invasive species.

But there’s good news, too. Already, birds and other native wildlife are returning to the land they once called home. More than 200 species of birds have been seen at Eagle Marsh, as well as many kinds of wildlife that are endangered or of special concern in Indiana, such as northern leopard frogs. Bald eagles, making a comeback from the brink of extinction, are seen regularly at the preserve.



Ecosystems

Eagle Marsh encompasses four distinct ecosystems, each with its own characteristics. Here are some of the things you might see in each of these habitat areas.



MARSH

Trails 1, 2, 4, 8, and 9 skirt the edge of marshy areas where ponds or soggy ground are found more than half the year. Muskrat dens, shorebirds and wading birds are often seen here. Wetland-loving plants, such as soft rush, wool grass, swamp milkweed, Joe Pye weed and monkey flower thrive here.



SEDGE MEADOW

A hike on Trails 1, 2 and 3 crosses treeless sedge meadows—named for the sedge plants that dominate their landscape. This plant’s grassy plume is an ecosystem of its own, providing sustenance and covering for many small creatures.



PRAIRIE

The grassy plains of prairie areas provide a natural grazing area for herd animals, and birds find food among the tall grasses and flowers. A quiet stroll along Trails 5, 8, and 9 reveals a great diversity of life.



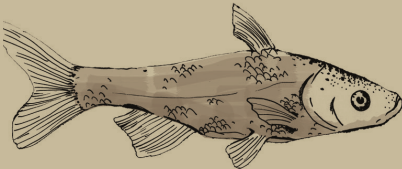
FORESTED WETLANDS

Take Trails 6 or 7 as they loop through Eagle Marsh’s serene forested wetland, which often flood in springtime. You’ll see a relatively open understory, and trees in this area are adapted to having their roots saturated much of the year.

756
ACRES

Using Facebook? Share your experiences with us at [Facebook.com/LittleRiverWetlands](https://www.facebook.com/LittleRiverWetlands)

Last Line of Defense THE ASIAN CARP BARRIER



Asian carp

In 2015, federal agencies built a new continental divide at Eagle Marsh to stop the spread of invasive species, such as Asian carp. Hike the Continental Divide Trail (Trail 5) that separates the eastern Great Lakes and western Mississippi River Watersheds. Combine Trail 5, Trail 1, Trail 3, and the Towpath Trail for a 5K loop hike.



WETLAND PRESERVE
6801 Engle Road // Fort Wayne, Indiana

Eagle Marsh

Preserve Guide



HOURS
Dawn to dusk.

RULES OF THE TRAILS
To protect our wildlife, do not bring in or remove animals or plants of any kind. Imported species can carry diseases, damage native populations or cause other problems.

Please take your trash out with you. Stay on marked trails. The wildlife of Eagle Marsh need our habitats to survive; please don't disturb them.

PROHIBITED
Dogs or other pets, hunting, fishing, biking, motorized vehicles, horseback riding, alcohol, drugs, weapons, camping, campfires and all collecting.

GROUP HIKES
Contact Little River Wetlands Project if you wish to bring children's groups to the preserve, conduct studies, or want to join us on one of our guided hikes.

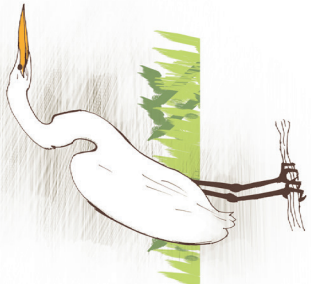
LRWP OFFICES
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LRWP.ORG



BALD EAGLE
Haliaeetus leucocephalus
Once nearly extinct in the U.S., bald eagles are now making a strong comeback, and can be seen regularly at Eagle Marsh.



MINK
Neovison vison
Mink nest in hollow logs or stumps near water or in bank dens dug by muskrats. They eat rodents, fish, crustaceans, frogs and birds.



GREAT EGRET
Ardea alba
These large birds hunt in classic heron fashion, standing immobile or wading through wetlands to capture fish with a deadly jab of their yellow bills.



MONARCH BUTTERFLY
Danaus plexippus
In late summer, thousands of monarchs nectar on our fields of wildflowers on their migration path to oyamel forests in Mexico.



NORTHERN LEOPARD FROG
Rana pipiens
Although listed as a species of special concern in Indiana, these handsome spotted frogs are numerous at Eagle Marsh.

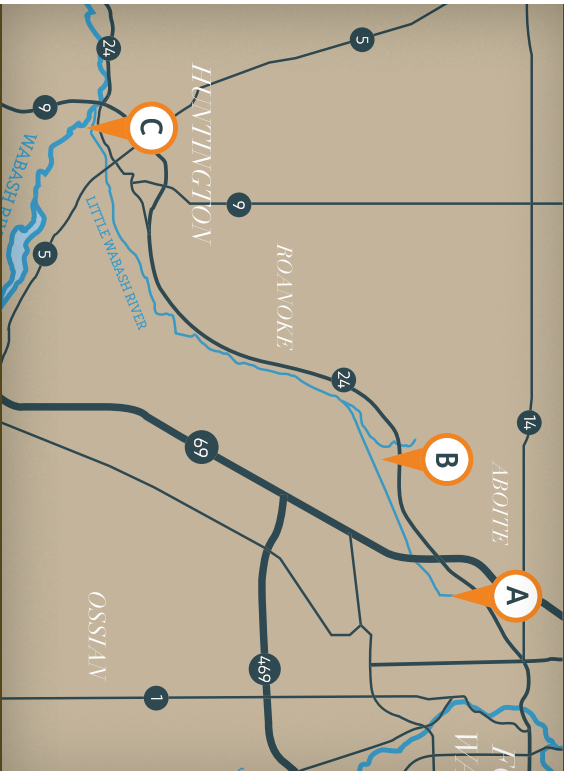


BLUE-SPOTTED SALAMANDER
Ambystoma laterale
In spring, blue-spotted salamanders migrate to vernal ponds in Eagle Marsh's wooded areas to mate.

Tread quietly as you hike through Eagle Marsh. You'll be rewarded by discoveries of a surprising variety of wildlife. Here's a sampling of the species you might see—many of which wouldn't be here without LRWP's preservation work.

Eagle Marsh Wildlife Guide

LRWP Preserves



A **EAGLE MARSH**
6801 Engle Rd, Fort Wayne, Indiana
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B **ARROWHEAD PRESERVES**
8624 Abbotte Rd, Roanoke, Indiana
255 ACRES

C **LITTLE RIVER LANDING**
A joint project with ACRES Land Trust
Huntington, Indiana
53 ACRES

WHAT TO WEAR
Our trails are unpaved and traverse a variety of grassy and forested terrain, so wear clothing and shoes appropriate for hiking (see our "Boot System" on the map). We also recommend long pants, and don't forget your bug spray, sunscreen, and drinking water. Consider bringing binoculars to get a better look at the wildlife, and a camera to capture your adventure!

Little River Wetlands Project
Restoring and protecting more than 1,000 acres of wetlands in Northeast Indiana

When settlers first arrived in this area, they found a vast wetland complex teeming with wildlife known as the Great Marsh. In fact, much of northeast Indiana was once wetlands. Although most of those wetlands have been drained, Little River Wetlands Project (LRWP) works to bring back a small portion of this valuable ecosystem.

WHAT WE DO
A nonprofit land trust, LRWP restores and protects wetlands in the watershed of the Little River, a tributary of the Wabash River. Our project area encompasses more than 140,000 acres in Allen, Huntington and Whitley Counties. We manage several preserves: Eagle Marsh, Arrowhead Prairie/Arrowhead Marsh, and Little River Landing (co-owned with ACRES Land Trust).

Education is a big part of our mission, too. We offer free nature education programs to the community, helping people learn about wetlands and the value of conserving natural areas.

WHY WETLANDS MATTER
Much of the wildlife that once thrived on the Great Marsh is now endangered or threatened. By providing needed habitat, our wetland preserves help these species survive. Wetlands also control flooding, cleanse groundwater and offer opportunities for recreation.

HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE
Intensive stewardship to nurture the young native plants is still needed at all our preserves. Consider volunteering, or make a donation at LRWP.org. Your generosity will help us preserve our valuable—and disappearing—wetlands.