

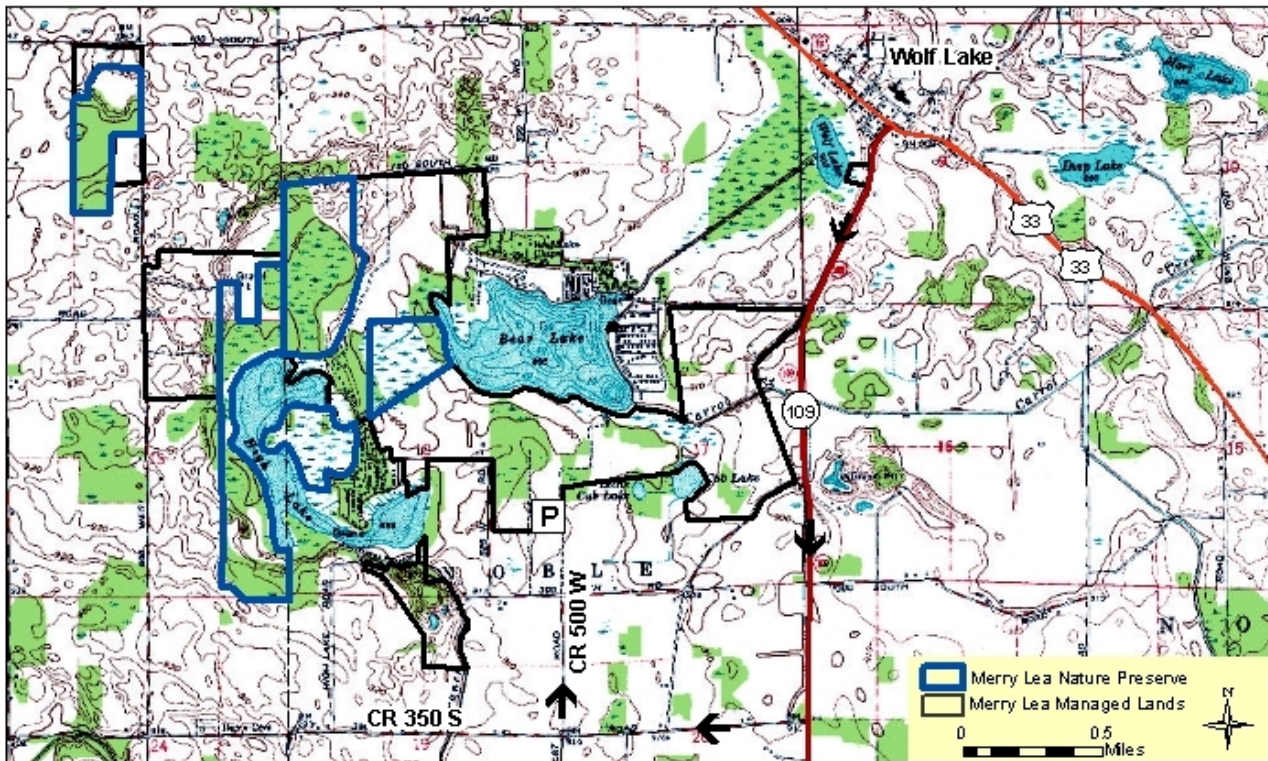
# Merry Lea Nature Preserve

County: Noble                      Size: 353 acres  
Ownership: Goshen College



## Location and Access

**Parking and trails.** Located west of Chain O'Lakes State Park. Drive south of the village of Wolf Lake on SR 109 for about 2 miles. Then head west on CR 350 S for 1 mile, turn north on CR 500 W for 0.75 miles to the Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center's parking area with adjacent trailhead. There are 7 miles of maintained trails through diverse ecosystems, but there are no trails in the nature preserve portions. Permission is required to visit the preserve portions.



**Description:** This preserve lies within the area of Indiana carved out and then filled in by the advance and retreat of the Wisconsin glacier. The glacial topography consists of a moraine lake with associated meltwater wetlands, and forested depositional esker uplands that support savannas. The wide variety of soils is a notable feature of the preserve yielding diverse natural communities, consisting of wetlands, marsh and tamarack bogs, natural lakeshore, lowland forest, upland forest, savanna and prairie. Goshen College uses this area as an outdoor laboratory for environmental and ecological education. The decades of restoration of the natural communities has afforded a great educational experience for students and long term academic study.

## Further Information:

Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College, Wolf Lake, IN, (260) 799-5869  
<http://merrylea.goshen.edu/>

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