

Presque Isle State Park Locator Map



Locations

Hotspots & Trails	Distance (one way)	Footwear Conditions	Flood prone?	Habitats
Head of the Bay	<50'	Muddy	Yes	● ●
Leo's Landing	100' to 0.2 mi	Sandy, muddy	Yes	● ● ● ●
Duck Pond	<50'	Asphalt	No	● ● ● ●
Low Bridge	<50'	Asphalt	No	● ● ● ●
Boat Launch 4	0.1 mi	Grassy	Yes	● ● ● ●
Misery Bay	<50'	Asphalt, sandy	No	●
Graveyard Pond Trail	0.4 mi	Muddy	Yes	● ● ● ●
Niagara Pond	100'	Grassy, muddy	No	● ● ● ●
Sidewalk Trail	1.25 mi	May need to wade	Yes	● ● ● ●
Fry's Landing Trail	0.2 mi	Sandy, muddy	No	● ● ● ●
North Pier	0.2 mi to end	Cement	No	●
Thompson Pool & Bay Trail	0.1 mi	Muddy	Yes	● ● ● ● ●
Dead Pond Trail	1.5 mi	Sandy with wet spots	some spots	● ● ● ●
Pine Tree Trail	0.5 mi	Sandy with wet spots	some spots	● ● ● ●
Gull Point Shoreline Trail	1.25 mi	Sandy, muddy	Yes	● ● ● ● ● ●
Sunset Point	0.1 mi	Sandy	No	● ● ● ●

Habitats

● Deep Water	Diving ducks, loons, grebes
● Shallow Water	Dabbling ducks, coots, herons, egrets, shorebirds on edges
● Emergent Marsh	Herons, egrets, bitterns, gallinules, marsh wrens, blackbirds
● Woody Wetlands	Wood Ducks, many songbird species
● Upland Woods	Many songbird species, owls
● Conifers	Songbird species, Saw-whet Owls
● Sandy Beach	Spotted Sandpiper, other shorebirds, Snow Buntings, gulls, terns
● Breakwaters	Resting ducks, gulls, shorebirds

Birds of the Presque Isle Peninsula

Presque Isle is a premier birding location within Pennsylvania and the Great Lakes, with over 350 bird species confirmed here over the past 50 years. Its peninsular shape as well as its position on Lake Erie's southern shore intensify the density of migrant land

birds, especially in spring, while its aquatic habitats shelter and feed abundant migratory and wintering water birds. Extensive interior marshes and outer sandy beaches provide nesting areas for specialists requiring these rare habitats..



Safety Considerations

- Ticks are common on Presque Isle in warmer months. Take precautions to prevent tick-borne diseases: wear repellent, minimize contact with vegetation, inspect for ticks after hiking.
- Be prepared. Weather can change quickly. Carry a map and water.
- In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

RESOURCES

American Birding Association Birding Code of Ethics

- Respect and promote birds and their environment.
- Respect and promote the birding community and its individual members.
- Respect and promote the law and the rights of others.

See more: aba.org/aba-code-of-birding-ethics



Download eBird

Learn more about becoming a citizen scientist with Cornell's Lab of Ornithology

Join Erie Bird Observatory

Support local research, education & conservation efforts.



Gull Point Interactive Map

View a guide to this local resting spot for important migratory shorebirds

Presque Isle Audubon Birds of Erie County Checklist

View or download a checklist of birds you may see while visiting Presque Isle.



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BIRDING AT PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK



SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Spring

When the ice in **Presque Isle Bay** starts to melt, as early as late February, concentrations of waterfowl are found in open water. Thousands of ducks are seen on the bay side of the peninsula as March progresses, with highest diversity in places with mixed depths such as **Head of the Bay, Leo's Landing & Thompson Bay**. Songbird diversity peaks in mid-May, with abundant warblers along **Pine Tree, Dead Pond, & Fry's Landing Trails**. Shorebirds rest and forage at Gull Point, with highest abundance and diversity in the third week of May. Raptors can be seen anywhere, but with highest numbers streaming above the bluff as they follow the shoreline to the northeast.



Summer

Sandy beaches provide nesting habitat for several species, including Spotted Sandpipers and Piping Plovers, especially at **Gull Point**. Emergent marshes are home to Least Bitterns, Marsh Wrens, Common Gallinules, and Virginia Rails. In some years Prothonotary Warblers nest near the **Head of the Bay**. Shrubby and wooded areas are filled with Yellow Warblers, Gray Catbirds, Field and Swamp Sparrows; typically 60-70 bird species nest on the peninsula. Purple Martins form large migratory roosting flocks in early August before departing for Brazil, as do other swallow species. Shorebirds pass through Gull Point heading south as early as July.



Fall

Songbird migration lasts longer in fall than spring, with sparrows lingering into early November. Shorebirds continue through October, with peak abundance and diversity in August and September. Raptor migration is not nearly as pronounced in fall compared to spring. Waterfowl are numerous later in fall, but they avoid nearshore areas on the bay side once the hunting season begins in November. A three-week season for non-migratory Canada Geese occurs in September. No hunting occurs in interior marshes or on the lake side of the peninsula.



Winter

Large rafts of diving ducks can be seen offshore until ice closes over. Snow Buntings, American Pipits and sometimes Longspurs can be seen on beaches. In some winters Snowy Owls are seen on beaches, breakwaters or sand dunes. A few hardy Great Blue Herons and even Belted Kingfishers may persist through the winter. A few Myrtle Warblers may stay on as well, subsisting on bayberries.



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