


WATERLOO RECREATION AREA  
 16345 MCCLURE ROAD  
 CHELSEA MI 48118  
 Phone: (734) 475-8307  
 Visitor Center Phone: (734) 475-3170

# Waterloo Recreation Area

## Beauty of Waterloo Driving Tour Map

Points of interest, Sandhill Crane viewing, and fall colors!





















 = Suggested Color Tour

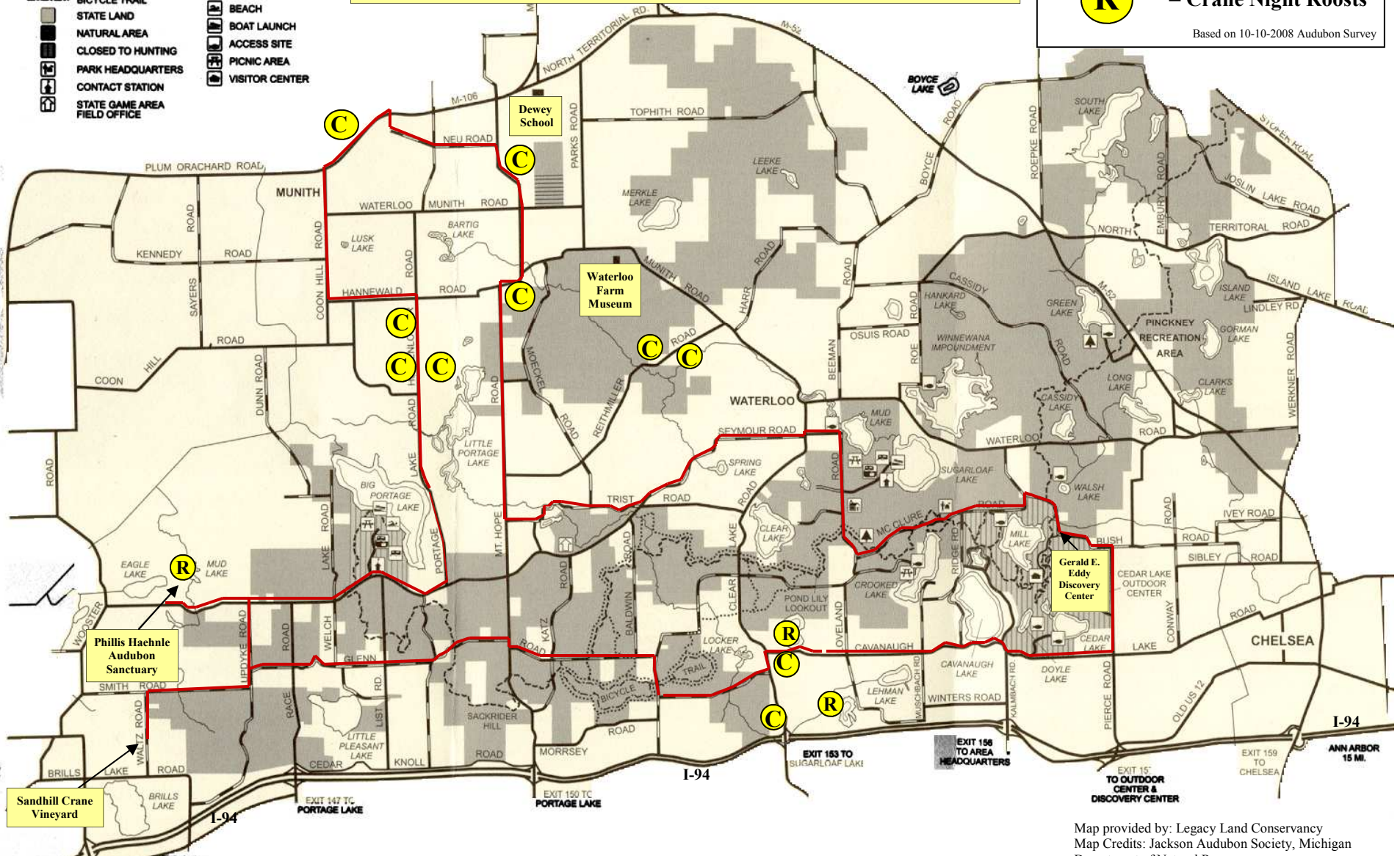
 = Cranes in Fields

 = Crane Night Roosts

Based on 10-10-2008 Audubon Survey

### LEGEND

- |   |                              |   |                    |
|---|------------------------------|---|--------------------|
|  | PAVED ROAD                   |  | MODERN CAMPGROUND  |
|  | GRAVEL ROAD                  |  | RUSTIC CAMPGROUND  |
|  | FOOT TRAIL                   |  | RUSTIC CABINS      |
|  | BRIDLE TRAIL                 |  | SANITATION STATION |
|  | BICYCLE TRAIL                |  | BEACH              |
|  | STATE LAND                   |  | BOAT LAUNCH        |
|  | NATURAL AREA                 |  | ACCESS SITE        |
|  | CLOSED TO HUNTING            |  | PICNIC AREA        |
|  | PARK HEADQUARTERS            |  | VISITOR CENTER     |
|  | CONTACT STATION              |   |                    |
|  | STATE GAME AREA FIELD OFFICE |   |                    |



Map provided by: Legacy Land Conservancy  
 Map Credits: Jackson Audubon Society, Michigan  
 Department of Natural Resources



The Waterloo Recreation Area is the gem of southern Michigan. Thousands of acres of natural area are open to the public to enjoy in all four seasons.

**Waterloo Recreation Area** is the largest state park in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. At more than 20,000 acres, the park boasts:

- A visitor's center, the Gerald E. Eddy Discovery Center, with year-round exhibits & nature programs
- Two modern campgrounds
- A rustic campground
- An equestrian campground
- A swimming beach
- Several picnic sites
- Hundreds of acres of hunting lands
- 11 excellent fishing lakes
- 8 boat launches
- 12 miles of interpretive nature trails
- 47 miles of hiking trails
- 3 rustic cabins
- Numerous equestrian trails

Waterloo is southern Michigan's "big wild", enjoyed by over 600,000 visitors annually.

Legacy Land Conservancy has identified Waterloo as a top land conservation priority. Today, these areas are wild, natural, and serene. The Conservancy is working to fill in the gaps so it will remain that way long into the future.

Sources:  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources, [michiganandr.com](http://michiganandr.com)  
Legacy Land Conservancy, [legacylandconservancy.org](http://legacylandconservancy.org)



Sandhill Cranes roost at night in Waterloo-area marshes including Haehnle Sanctuary, where up to 4,000 may be seen in mid to late October.

**Greater Sandhill Crane** (*Grus canadensis tabida*)

**Found:** Mid-continental North America

**Height:** 4 feet (tallest bird in Michigan)

**Wing Span:** 6 feet

**Weight:** males 12 lbs., female 9 ½ lbs.

**Coloration:** Brown most of the year, turning gray when they molt in the fall, with a red forehead. The brown color comes from preening in marsh waters.

**In flight:** Can travel up to 50 miles per hour, up to 500 miles a day, reaching altitudes of over a mile.

**Voice:** The trumpet-like resonating *gar-ooo-a-a* call can be heard for over a mile depending on the wind.

**Living Dinosaurs:** Sandhill Cranes hold the record as the oldest living bird species. A fossil wing bone of a Sandhill was found in the Nebraskan deposit dating back 9 million years.

Cranes from southern Michigan migrate to Florida. Depending on the weather, most leave in November, but some have stayed through December. They usually return to Michigan in late February or early March.

At sunrise, cranes leave the wetlands to feed in nearby farm fields. They begin to return one to two hours before sunset. During the day, flocks can be located by driving the roads within 5 miles of their roosting sites.

Sources:  
Michigan Audubon Society, [michiganaudubon.org](http://michiganaudubon.org)  
Jackson Audubon Society, [jacksonaudubon.org](http://jacksonaudubon.org)



Nature trails, wineries, museums, and more — Waterloo offers something for the whole family.

**Selected Points of Interest:**

**Gerald E. Eddy Discovery Center**

Visitor center, year-round exhibits, nature programs, trails.  
17030 Bush Road, Chelsea, MI 48118, (734) 475-3170  
[www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov) and search by name

**Phyllis Haehnle Audubon Sanctuary**

Nature trails, wildlife viewing  
Located 6 miles northeast of Jackson, MI on Seymour Road.  
[www.haehnlesanctuary.org](http://www.haehnlesanctuary.org)

**Sandhill Crane Vineyards**

Vineyard and winery, tasting room.  
4724 Walz Road, Jackson, MI 49201, (517) 764-0679  
[www.sandhillcranevineyards.com](http://www.sandhillcranevineyards.com)

**Lone Oak Vineyard Estates**

Vineyard and winery, tasting room.  
8400 Ann Arbor Road, Grass Lake, MI 49240, (517) 522-8167  
[www.loneoakvineyards.com](http://www.loneoakvineyards.com)

**Waterloo Farm Museum & Dewey School**

Historic museum, living history programs.  
9998 Waterloo Munith Road, Waterloo, MI (517) 596-2254  
[www.waterloofarmmuseum.org](http://www.waterloofarmmuseum.org)

Map provided by:



Since 1971, protecting nature and farmland, today and forever.  
(734) 302-5263 [www.legacylandconservancy.org](http://www.legacylandconservancy.org)