

# REICHERT *Nature Preserve*

Reichert Nature Preserve contains 145 acres of rolling woods and wetlands dotted with lakes and ponds. Located a short drive north of Little Portage Lake near Pinckney, the Preserve is a lovely place to relax in the shade beside a pond or explore trails that crisscross the landscape. Access to Reichert Nature Preserve is by written permission only, so if you like what you see here, contact us to obtain permission.

## *Preserve History*

As in the rest of Michigan, the landscape of Reichert Nature Preserve was shaped by glacial activity. The ponds present today were formed by settling and melting of the last glaciers, which also left behind the sandy, gravelly soil. Historically too wet for agriculture and development, this land was left largely unaltered. In the early- to mid-1900s, several attempts were made to farm the upland areas, but the sandy soil made for poor growing conditions. After Dr. Rudy Reichert purchased the land in 1964, he dredged several ponds to enlarge them for his family to swim and paddle.

Dr. Reichert donated the property to Legacy in 2012.

Reichert Nature Preserve offers tranquility.



Staff Photo

## *Who We Are*

Legacy Land Conservancy is a nonprofit conservation organization that works with private landowners and local organizations to preserve forests, prairies, wetlands, and farmland in Washtenaw and Jackson counties. Founded in 1971 as the state's first local land trust, Legacy leverages the support of donors and volunteers to protect the beautiful places and unique character of southern Michigan.

## *Get Involved*

- Lend us your energy and expertise! Volunteer opportunities abound: photo-monitoring, outdoor work, office support, and more.
- Subscribe to our e-newsletter.
- Make a donation.
- Attend a Legacy event.

Young adults with the Student Conservation Association built a boardwalk at Reichert.



Staff Photo

## *Contact Us*



LEGACY  
Land Conservancy

1100 N Main St Suite 203  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734-302-5263  
[info@legacylandconservancy.org](mailto:info@legacylandconservancy.org)  
[legacylandconservancy.org](http://legacylandconservancy.org)



LEGACY  
Land Conservancy



Staff Photo

# REICHERT *Nature Preserve*





Paul Morrison

Turtles call the creek and ponds home.



John Lloyd

## Preserve Highlights

In his lifetime, the late Dr. Reichert wanted this “Hundred Acre Wood” to provide a sanctuary for his family, with many places to play and reflect. Those amenities now extend to the public in the form of covered seating, well-placed benches, a gazebo, and a wetland viewing platform. The property’s two cabins, observation tower, and treehouse are not open to the public.

☐ – **Recreation Area:** This mowed area is ideal for picnics, Frisbee, kite-flying, or other lawn games and pastimes.

❖ – **Boardwalk Exploration:** Extending east from Devil’s Lake, a boardwalk provides access to the preserve’s extensive tamarack swamp. While you walk through this unique ecosystem, look for yellow lady’s slipper (*Cypripedium spp.*) and swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*). This trail passes near the caretakers’ home; please respect their privacy.

△ – **Beaver-ing Away:** On your way south along the central trail, see if you can spot evidence of beaver activity. Their characteristic gnaw-marks on fallen trees leave the straight poplars in this area looking like giant pencils. On this trail, be mindful of the troughs created where the beavers drag logs into the creek for transport downstream.

**Rare Plants:** The preserve is home to some remarkable plants we don’t often see. Look for:



**Pale vetchling**  
(*Lathyrus ochroleucus*)  
on the forested ridge

**Sweet-scented waterlily**  
(*Nymphaea odorata*)  
in the ponds

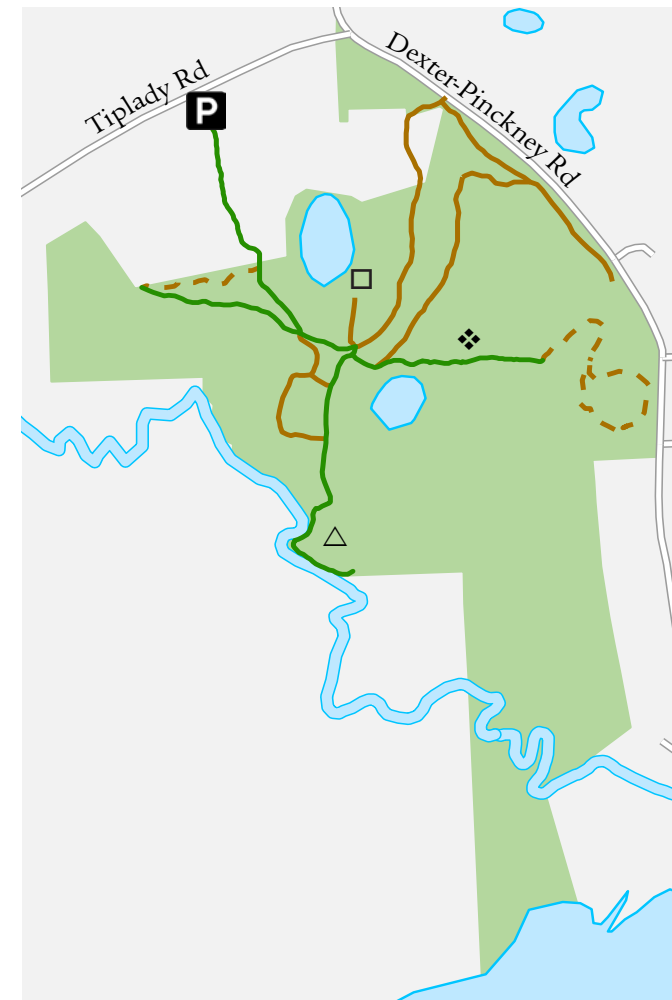


**Michigan lily**  
(*Lilium michiganense*)  
in the open grassy areas




## Getting Here


Access to the preserve is by written permission only. Please contact us to learn more.

 Main trail **2.0** miles roundtrip



### Reichert Nature Preserve

-  Main trails (2 mi)
-  Other trails
-  Proposed trails
- ☐❖△ Trail highlights

 700 Feet

