**THE TOM RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER**

**PARK HISTORY**

Erle Nation

The Erie Indians lived along the southern shores of Lake Erie and many early inhabitants of the area. They hunted game from the forests, gathered plants, and fished from the waters of Lake Erie in by-hand boats. According to legend, the Erie vanished far into the late 18th to the mid-19th century. The spirits of the lake came a great storm to estates, so the Great Spirit shielded the Erie land workers from the storm. When the edging of the Great Spirit but left in the lake, a great wind hurled the waves of Lake Erie. The peninsula was formed as an arched shoreline and heated by the Great Spirit's favorite children, the Erie.

On September 18, 1813, in the Battle of Lake Erie, Commodore Perry and his men destroyed the British at Put-in-Bay, near Sandusky. Other Perry's first Navy, the Lawrence, was burned during the battle, requiring her to be transferred to the Great Lakes. However, she was engaged and destroyed by the British using the Niagara as a flagship. After the battle, Perry and his men returned to Lake Erie and Perry's first fleet and sunk to the bottom深水 for the rearward. They pursued the vision of the Navy to keep the British off the lakes for about two and a half years. During the winter of 1813-1814, the Great Lakes were covered with ice, allowing for ice conditions in the British forts. In the spring of 1813, the British abandoned the British forts at the Great Lakes and withdrew back to the Thames River. Perry's fleet continued to pursue the British fleet, and in the Battle of Lake Erie, Perry's fleet engaged the British fleet, destroying two British ships and sinking three more. The battle was a significant victory for the United States and a turning point in the War of 1812.

MISERY BAY AND PERRY MONUMENT

During the War of 1812, Little Bay was the temporary home of the first ship commanded by Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry. Seven of his eleven vessels were built in Erie at the mouth of Cascade Creek. The chiseled vane of Presque Isle protected the first during construction.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS**

Public Programs

Environmental educators at Presque Isle offer educational and interpretive programs throughout the park. These programs are led by volunteers from the local community, who share their knowledge and experiences with visitors to the park. The programs are designed to educate visitors about the natural and cultural resources of the park. Contact the park office for a list of upcoming programs.

Presque Isle Boat Tours

A scenic tour of Lake Erie is offered at the park. Visitors can enjoy a guided tour of the park's waterways, including Presque Isle Bay and the main section of the spit. In addition to the tours, the park offers a variety of educational programs, including guided hikes, bird watching, and nature walks. Public programs are led by volunteers from the local community, who share their knowledge and experiences with visitors. Contact the park office for a list of upcoming programs.

Presque Isle Lighthouse

In 1872 and first lit on July 12, 1873, the 57-foot, glass-enclosed observation tower has a redbrick dwelling at the base and is open for tours. It flashes a white light that is still maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard. The lighthouse is closed to all public use from April 1 through November 30. Visitors can view this area from an observation platform stacked on the Great Lakes Pierhead Light. Due to the ecological sensitivity of the area, please stay on the designated trail. The entire shoreline of the natural area is also limits to walkers and boaters. A Migrating Peninsula

Gull Point: A Fragile Ecosystem

The most ecologically dynamic area on Presque Isle, Gull Point offers some of the best examples of geological succession in the park. This dynamic area, however, is also the most fragile. Many of Gull Point's inter-tidal plant species are threatened or endangered. Gull Point offers a safe haven and resting spot for thousands of shorebirds, including the red-shouldered hawk, the great black-backed gull, the Bar-tailed godwit, the spotted sandpiper, and the greater yellowlegs. Gull Point is also the most fragile. Many of Gull Point's inter-tidal plant species are threatened or endangered. Gull Point offers a safe haven and resting spot for thousands of shorebirds, including the red-shouldered hawk, the great black-backed gull, the Bar-tailed godwit, the spotted sandpiper, and the greater yellowlegs. Gull Point is also the most fragile. Many of Gull Point's inter-tidal plant species are threatened or endangered.

**THE NATURE OF PRESCOE ISLE AND ITS URBANIZED AREA**

Presque Isle State Park is a 3,200-acre nearly oceanic peninsula that arches into Lake Erie. The park, established in 1921, is masked by PA-320 or by Pale. The road system within the park forms a loop about 1 mile in length. The park offers a variety of activities for visitors, including nature trails, interpretive programs, and educational opportunities.

Shoreline and Beaches

Presque Isle is a haven for bird life. Migrating and nesting birds. Shorebirds offers a safe haven and resting spot for thousands of shorebirds, including the red-shouldered hawk, the great black-backed gull, the Bar-tailed godwit, the spotted sandpiper, and the greater yellowlegs. Gull Point is also the most fragile. Many of Gull Point's inter-tidal plant species are threatened or endangered. Gull Point offers a safe haven and resting spot for thousands of shorebirds, including the red-shouldered hawk, the great black-backed gull, the Bar-tailed godwit, the spotted sandpiper, and the greater yellowlegs. Gull Point is also the most fragile. Many of Gull Point's inter-tidal plant species are threatened or endangered. Gull Point offers a safe haven and resting spot for thousands of shorebirds, including the red-shouldered hawk, the great black-backed gull, the Bar-tailed godwit, the spotted sandpiper, and the greater yellowlegs. Gull Point is also the most fragile. Many of Gull Point's inter-tidal plant species are threatened or endangered.
TRAILS

The sand hills, ranked on the Lem father list of Lake Erie, provide visitors with the only undeveloped area on the southern tip of Presque Isle State Park. The trails offer wonderful views of the entire park.

BEACH 10 (Budny Beach):

This trail follows a ridge between Beach 7 (Boyes) and Beach 9 (Pine Tree) and connects with the Old Gas Well Trail. This trail is adjacent to the Tom Ridge Environmental Learning Center and is restricted to designated and authorized personnel.

BEACH 9 (Pine Tree):

This trail follows the shoreline between Beach 8 and Beach 9 and is adjacent to Ingraham Road. The trail passes through wooded swamps and the trail can be muddy or wet due to natural succession in the park and the Marina. The trail website has information on nearby attractions is available from VisitErie. For more information on the trail contact the marina office or park office at 814-833-7424.

BEACH 8:

This trail is adjacent to 1 mile of hiking trails that are located near the park entrance and boat launches and is restricted to designated and authorized personnel.

BARBARKS BEACH:

This trail has been likened to a rabbit ears antenna house with changing areas, restrooms, a hand and bottled water. There are approximately 11 miles of hiking trails that are located near the park entrance and boat launches and is restricted to designated and authorized personnel.

BEACH 7 (Boyes Beach):

This trail has been likened to a rabbit ears antenna house with changing areas, restrooms, a hand and bottled water. There are approximately 11 miles of hiking trails that are located near the park entrance and boat launches and is restricted to designated and authorized personnel.

BEACH 6 (Hillside Beach):

This trail is adjacent to 1 mile of hiking trails that are located near the park entrance and boat launches and is restricted to designated and authorized personnel.

BEACH 5 (Old Gas Well):

This trail is adjacent to 1 mile of hiking trails that are located near the park entrance and boat launches and is restricted to designated and authorized personnel.

BEACH 4 (Old Gas Well Beach):

This trail is adjacent to 1 mile of hiking trails that are located near the park entrance and boat launches and is restricted to designated and authorized personnel.

BEACH 3 (B-Trail):

This trail is adjacent to 1 mile of hiking trails that are located near the park entrance and boat launches and is restricted to designated and authorized personnel.

BEACH 2 (C-Trail):

This trail is adjacent to 1 mile of hiking trails that are located near the park entrance and boat launches and is restricted to designated and authorized personnel.

BEACH 1 (Castle Rock Beach):

This trail is adjacent to 1 mile of hiking trails that are located near the park entrance and boat launches and is restricted to designated and authorized personnel.

BEACH 11 (Short Jetty Beach):

This trail is adjacent to 1 mile of hiking trails that are located near the park entrance and boat launches and is restricted to designated and authorized personnel.

TRAILS

There are approximately 11 miles of hiking trails that are located near the park entrance and boat launches and is restricted to designated and authorized personnel.

FOX TRAIL:

This trail is adjacent to 1 mile of hiking trails that are located near the park entrance and boat launches and is restricted to designated and authorized personnel.

OLD GAS WELL TRAIL:

This trail is adjacent to 1 mile of hiking trails that are located near the park entrance and boat launches and is restricted to designated and authorized personnel.

SWIMMING

Presque Isle is a day use park that provides the visitor with a swimming area on Beach 1, Beach 10 (100 feet east of the swimming area on Beach 1), Beach 10 (100 feet south of Beach 11 swimming area), Beach 9 (100 feet east of the swimming area on Beach 9), Beach 8 (14 feet south of Beach 8 swimming area). Surfing is permitted at the Tom Ridge Environmental Learning Center and is restricted to designated and authorized personnel.

BEACH 11 (Short Jetty Beach):


Boating:

Boating is restricted to designated and authorized personnel. There are approximately 11 miles of hiking trails that are located near the park entrance and boat launches and is restricted to designated and authorized personnel.

General Rules and Safety Notices

Under normal recreational activities are restricted to designated locations where physical or environmental or recreational areas that are restricted. No fires are permitted in designated locations where physical or environmental or recreational areas that are restricted. No fires are permitted in designated locations where physical or environmental or recreational areas that are restricted. No fires are permitted in designated locations where physical or environmental or recreational areas that are restricted. No fires are permitted in designated locations where physical or environmental or recreational areas that are restricted. No fires are permitted in designated locations where physical or environmental or recreational areas that are restricted. No fires are permitted in designated locations where physical or environmental or recreational areas that are restricted. No fires are permitted in designated locations where physical or environmental or recreational areas that are restricted. No fires are permitted in designated locations where physical or environmental or recreational areas that are restricted. No fires are permitted in designated locations where physical or environmental or recreational areas that are restricted. No fires are permitted in designated locations where physical or environmental or recreational areas that are restricted.