Ecosystems at Merry Lea

Merry Lea's 1,189-acre nature preserve is home to a diverse selection of Indiana ecosystems.

	Species spotlight:
Forests at Merry Lea	
Lowland Forest Poorly drained soils	Silver Maple, Red Maple, Burr Oak, Pin Oak, Cottonwood, Sycamore trees
Upland Forest Well-drained soils	Red Oak, Black Oak, White Oak, Shagbark Hickory, Bitternut Hickory trees
Wetlands at Merry Lea	
Bog Peat-forming, nutrient- poor, oxygen-deficient, acidic water	Sphagnum moss
Fen Peat-forming, nutrient- rich, alkaline water	Grasses and sedges
Marsh Herbaceous plants	Sedges, cattails, rushes
Shrub-Carr Neutral or alkaline water	Scrubby vegetation
Swamp Almost year-round saturated soils	Trees and shrubs
Vernal Pond Temporary, collects water in spring from melting snow and rainfall, dries up in the summer	Important breeding ground for amphibians
Wet Meadow Saturated soils	Non-woody vegetation, grasses
Grasslands at Merry Lea	
Meadow Typically formed in abandoned agriculture fields	Queen Anne's Lace, Goldenrod, Black-eyed Susan, Bee-Balm
Black Oak Savanna Widely-spaced Black Oak trees in a field of grasses and forbs	Black Oak, Little Bluestem, Butterfly Weed, Round- headed Bush Clover
Tall Grass Prairie A field of grasses and forbs maintained by fire	Indian Grass, Big and Little Bluestem, Sideoats Grama, Canada Wild Rye, Black- eyed Susan, New England Aster



- people of all ages
- Providing a setting for re-creating opportunities that benefit the human body & spirit while not exploiting the land or excessively disturbing its ecosystems

Help us fulfill our mission. Donate online at: goshen.edu/merrylea/donate

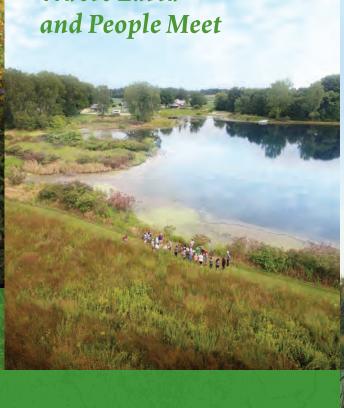


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Trail Map



1700 S. Main St., Goshen, IN 46526 844.704.3400 (toll-free) admissions@goshen.edu



Where Earth

History of Merry Lea

Pre-1830s:

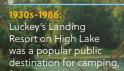
Nine hundred acres of naturally occurring wetlands and open water covered lowland areas. The Miami Nation lived in the area for centuries prior to their removal, due to the Indian Removal Act of 1830.

1830s:

Settlers used upland forests as woodland pastures and sources of timber, or cleared them for farming.

1880s:

Ditches were dug to drain the lake and expose rich soil for growing potatoes, onions and peppermint.



The Rieths generously donated Merry Lea to

Restoration of wetland

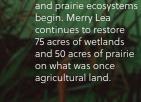
Goshen College

land for preservatio

property is purchased

Rieth Village is constructed, becoming the first LEED Platinum certified facility in Indiana.





Lee and Mary

Luckey's Landing

Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center Trail Map

Trail Information

Hours:

Open dawn to dusk, 365 days a year.

Parking:

The Learning Center gate closes at 5 p.m. Please park along the side of the lane outside the gate if enjoying trails after this time.

Restrooms:

Available in the Learning Center during work hours. After hours, from April through October, porta potties are located at the Learning Center and Farmstead trailheads for visitor use.

Help Merry Lea fulfill its mission by:

- Staying on designated trails
- Traveling only by foot or skis on all trails



