

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PENNSYLVANIA IMPORTANT MAMMAL AREA #1</b> <b>Presque Isle State Park</b></p>
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**COUNTY(IES)** Erie

**APPROX. SIZE** 3200 acres

**OWNERSHIP** Public (State)

**REASON FOR SELECTION**

- Includes wild populations of mammals that can be viewed in their natural habitat.
- Site is a natural area associated with an established educational program that interprets natural history of resident mammals.

**DESCRIPTION**

Presque Isle State Park is located on a spit of land that juts into Lake Erie and is attached narrowly to the mainland west of Erie, PA. While it is Pennsylvania's only seashore, it has approximately five different habitats that harbor their own unique flora and fauna. These include deciduous, coniferous, and mixed forests, grasslands, shrubby habitats, and swamps. Because of the many unique habitats, Presque Isle contains a greater number of the state's endangered, threatened and rare species than any other area of comparable size in Pennsylvania.

**MAMMAL NOTES**

The Park mammal list includes approximately 48 mammal species, but surveys are needed to verify the accuracy of the list. The site is actively used for public education, with 20-25 programs per year on mammals: attendance at these programs numbers about 2000/year in addition to numerous school groups. Beaver sign is readily observable, with the potential to develop interpretive educational materials.

**CONSERVATION NOTES**

The Park is home to many species of special concern that include numerous plants, approximately 40 birds, 9-11 fishes, 8 mollusks, 4 insects, and 1-2 reptiles. With more than 4 million visitors per year, there is a potential for adverse impacts on habitats unless human visitation is managed carefully. The Park has been designated an Important Bird Area (#1), primarily for its important role as a migration route, its large populations of migratory and nesting species, and because it harbors a large number of species of special concern. Visitors can view Presque Isle and Lake Erie from the Tom Ridge Environmental Center Tower, where a 75-foot, glass-enclosed tower offers a spectacular view of Lake Erie, the beaches, and the Erie lakeshore.