

Photo by Rita McAuley Karrip

#### National Audubon Society

[www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

NAS protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow, throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education and on-the-ground conservation.

#### American Birding Association

[www.aba.org](http://www.aba.org)

ABA inspires all people to enjoy and protect wild birds and is the creator of the Birding Code of Ethics.

#### Michigan Audubon

[www.michiganaudubon.org](http://www.michiganaudubon.org)

Michigan Audubon connects birds and people for the benefit of both through conservation, education and research.

#### National Wildlife Federation

[www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)

Uniting all Americans to ensure wildlife thrive in a rapidly changing world.

# MUSKEGON COUNTY WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



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Muskegon County Wastewater Management System



Wastewater Management System

## Bird Watching and Wildlife Photography Guidelines

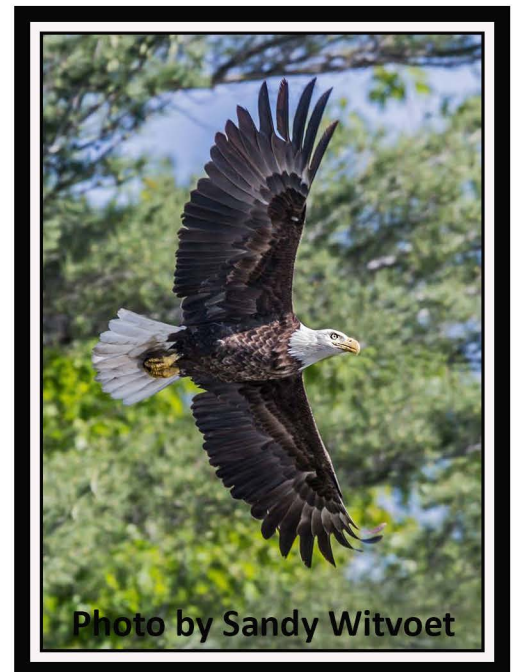


Photo by Sandy Witvoet

# "Flagship for Safe Treatment of Waste: A Bonus for Wildlife"

## FAQ:

### \*What roads can I drive on?

You can use any existing roads or trails –  
If you wonder if it's a road or trail, then it's not.

### \*Where can I go?

Anywhere on site inside the fenced area.

### \*Where can I park?

Along the side of any road, just be sure others  
can pass around you.

### \*Where are the entrances?

Maple Island Road north of White Road  
and Apple Ave at Swanson.

### \*What are the hours?

Dawn to Dusk.

### \*What if there are employees where I want to go?

We're here to clean water, so operation of the  
facility comes first in all cases.

### \*How do I get to the Lagoons?

Behind the Administration Building and up the  
ramp going East.

### \*How big are the lagoons?

Together they are 1,700 acres.

### \*How big is the whole facility?

A total of about 11,000 acres.

### \*Does everyone in the car need a pass?

No, one pass per vehicle.

### \*Is there a fee for the passes?

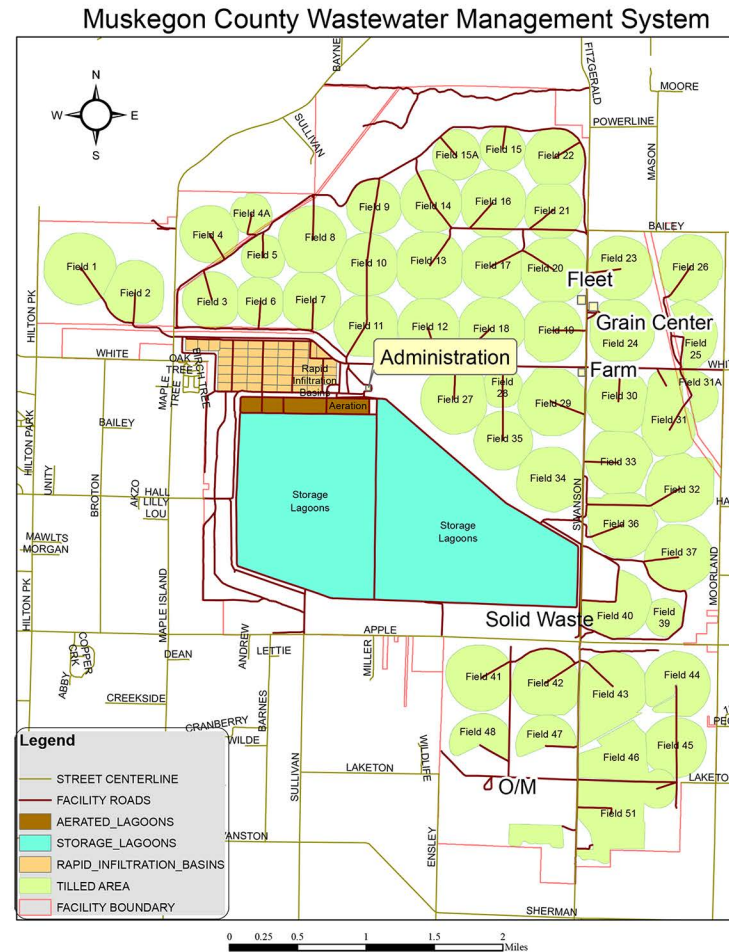
No, this is done as a community service.

### \*Can I get a tour of the facility?

We're happy to show you around to see what  
we do, but for bird and wildlife observation,  
you're on your own.

### \*Do you snowplow the roads?

We only plow the roads used for winter  
operations. If you get stuck, you're on your  
own for a tow.



698 N. Maple Island Road  
Muskegon, MI 49442

See our website to apply for an extended pass:  
[muskegoncountywastewatertreatment.com](http://muskegoncountywastewatertreatment.com)

Steve Barnard  
Wastewater Safety & Technical Coordinator  
[barnardst@co.muskegon.mi.us](mailto:barnardst@co.muskegon.mi.us)

A 1973 pilot project for the US EPA, the 11,000 acre MCWMS has proven itself as a safe and eco-friendly system to manage sewage. It is also a true gem for wildlife and wildlife watchers. The facility provides a haven for hundreds of bird species and a special opportunity for their human fans to view and photograph them. Waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds and raptors are all common visitors here. We welcome you to this special place and hope you enjoy your visit! Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with our rules for birdwatchers and wildlife photographers. Be sure to have your pass to be on the grounds. They are available Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (excluding holidays and weekends). Call to make arrangements if you need to obtain passes outside of these hours.

**Our telephone number is 231-724-3440.**

- Please be courteous and respectful to both your fellow watchers and the facility's wildlife.

- Be sure to allow room for cars and trucks, etc. to pass by on all of our roads. Please don't block our roads in any way with your vehicle.

- We ask that you not feed or bait the birds or wildlife to get those great pictures.

- Also, we ask you not to harass the birds or animals you see by throwing things or doing other actions that startle them into flight or movement. Stay a respectful distance from any bird or animal.

Thank you.