

## OLD WOMAN CREEK RULES

1. Do not collect any plant, animal or substance.
2. Remain in channel at all times.
3. Remain in vessel at all times.
4. Do not disturb any manmade objects, markings or equipment, as these are part of our research program.
5. Observe all Ohio State Nature Preserve rules and regulations per Ohio Administrative Code 1501:17.
6. Access to Lake Erie is not recommended in shallow draft watercraft.
7. Age limit policy for minors:
  - Minors age 10 and older are allowed to canoe or kayak, but must be accompanied by an adult.

## CANOE SAFETY

1. Always wear a secured personal floatation device.
2. Watch for creek hazards.
3. Know your abilities and do not go farther than where you will be able to return from on the estuary.
4. Always paddle with at least one experienced boater in your group.
5. Avoid capsizing by maintaining three points of contact with the boat at all times.
6. If you are caught in a strong current, always swim or paddle parallel to the shoreline.
7. Do not paddle when a small craft advisory has been issued for Lake Erie. Please consult the National Weather Service for advisory information two hours prior to your launch.



## DIRECTIONS TO OLD WOMAN CREEK

Old Woman Creek Reserve is located three miles east of Huron, Ohio on US Route 6. From SR 2 exit at SR 61 and turn north on SR 61. As SR 61 dead ends, turn left onto US Route 6. Old Woman Creek Reserve Visitor Center is about one mile ahead on the left.

Our launch site is located one-half mile west of the visitor center.

Old Woman Creek  
National Estuarine Research Reserve  
ODNR Division of Wildlife  
2514 Cleveland Road East  
Huron, OH 44839  
(419) 433-4601  
oldwomancreek.org



### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

call 911 and, if possible, direct the vessel to the nearest road, bridge or overlook.

*Financial support for this publication was provided, fully or in part, by a grant under the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act, administered by the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Silver Spring, MD.*

*Copies of this publication are available from the Old Woman Creek NERR, Huron, Ohio.*

Publication 5459 (R0113)

# CANOE & KAYAK USE AT OLD WOMAN CREEK

— Lake Erie's Research Estuary —



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE



## ABOUT OLD WOMAN CREEK

Old Woman Creek Reserve protects one of the few remaining natural estuaries along the Lake Erie coast. A freshwater estuary is where the waters of a creek or river meet and mix with the waters of the Great Lakes. The Reserve, which encompasses the creek and its surrounding area, is protected by policies on both the state and federal levels. In addition to acting as a source of natural beauty for the community, Old Woman Creek Reserve is both a field laboratory, where scientists investigate human and natural impacts on coastal wetlands, and an outdoor classroom, where visitors of all ages have the opportunity to learn about these ecosystems in a natural setting. Results of research at Old Woman Creek can be applied to estuaries throughout the Great Lakes, and can be used as a freshwater comparison to oceanic estuaries.

## ACCESSING THE RESERVE BY CANOE AND KAYAK

Permits to launch your canoe or kayak into the estuary may be obtained in person at the Old Woman Creek Visitor Center during weekday business hours. Contact information and watercraft identification numbers are required. The permitting procedure is required to allow us to direct visitors away from research collection points, to manage human impacts on the estuary, and to maintain an area of public enjoyment and safety.

**NOTE:** Permits can be used daily between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Staff reserve the right to restrict permit use based on Reserve programs and activities.



## OLD WOMAN CREEK MAP

Access to Lake Erie is not recommended in shallow draft watercraft.

