



# Heritage Route 23

*A Pure Michigan Byway*



## Sunrise Coast Touring Guide

A guidebook for Heritage Route 23 along the Lake Huron coast from  
Standish to Mackinaw City





## Coastal Tourism Resources

### US 23 Heritage Route: [heritage23.org](http://heritage23.org)

Standish: [standishchamber.com](http://standishchamber.com)

Au Gres: [augresareachamberofcommerce.org](http://augresareachamberofcommerce.org)

Oscoda/AuSable: [oscodachamber.com](http://oscodachamber.com) or [oscodachamber.com](http://oscodachamber.com)

Tawas Bay: [tawas.com](http://tawas.com) or [tawasbay.com](http://tawasbay.com)

Harrisville: [alconacountychamberofcommerce.com](http://alconacountychamberofcommerce.com)

Alpena: [visitalpena.com](http://visitalpena.com)

Rogers City: [rogerscityareachamber.com](http://rogerscityareachamber.com)

Cheboygan: [cheboygan.com](http://cheboygan.com)

Mackinaw City: [mackinawchamber.com](http://mackinawchamber.com) or  
[mackinawcity.com](http://mackinawcity.com)

Michigan DNR: [michigandnr.com/parksandtrails](http://michigandnr.com/parksandtrails)

US Forest Service: [fs.usda.gov](http://fs.usda.gov)

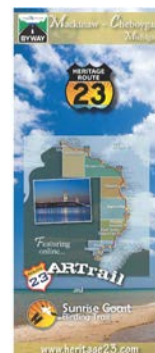
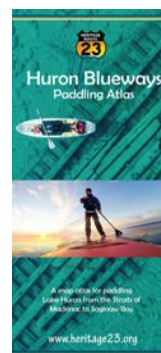
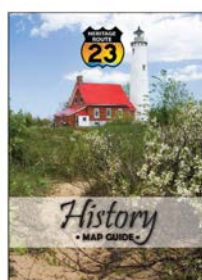
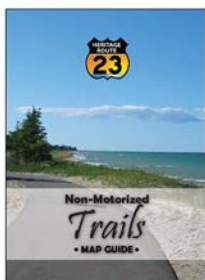
National Forest Camping: [forestcamping.com](http://forestcamping.com)

Up North Trails: [upnorthtrails.org](http://upnorthtrails.org)

## Key to Symbols

	Heritage Route 23		Campground	<b>Trails</b>		Shipwreck
	River Road National Scenic Byway		Campground (RV)			Lake Huron Blueway Access
	Sunrise Coast Birding Trail		Restrooms or Pit Toilet			Hiking/Biking Trail
	Saginaw Bay Birding Trail		Picnic Area			Huron Blueways Water Trail
	Historic Site		Swimming			Snowmobile Trail
	Marina/Harbor		Fishing			ORV Trail
	Boat Launch		Scenic Beauty			ORV Route
	Kayak/Canoe Access		Wildlife Viewing			Motorcycle Trail
						State of Michigan Land
						Huron National Forest

## Other Heritage 23 Maps & Guides



Visit our website to download maps and brochures  
[heritage23.org](http://heritage23.org)



Cover Photo: New Presque Isle Lighthouse

## Standish Historic Depot & US 23 Welcome Center

The Standish Historic Depot is often a traveler's first stop along the Sunrise Coast, so we want to highlight this historic gem which has been renovated into a Welcome Center for the US 23 Heritage Route!

Between 1880 and 1910, the Michigan Central Railroad (MCRR) decided to replace many of its Michigan depots. The MCRR extolled the virtues of its new stations in an 1890 publication: "The buildings that strike the traveler most forcibly, however, are the new railroad stations...their manifest beauty and appropriateness, their admirable construction, and convenient arrangement for the purposes of their use...make them models of railroad architecture . . . all [the buildings] are thoroughly harmonious, and suggest the comfort, the convenience, and even the cozy prettiness to be found in the internal arrangement, furnishing, and decoration. The Standish Depot, constructed in 1889, was one of these new stations."

### Early history

The original depot was built in 1871 (south of M-61) just after the Lansing, Jackson and Saginaw Railroad finished a new line north of Bay City to Wells. The City of Standish was platted around the railroad line, so the railroad was the key to the community's growth and success. After the MCRR leased the line in 1871, it built new lines across the state, reaching Mackinaw City ten years later. With Detroit now linked to most of the Lower Peninsula, the MCRR could focus on improving the passenger experience. When the citizens of Standish asked for a new depot, MCRR told them they would receive a completely new structure if they supplied the stone. Local farmers answered the call and brought wagon loads of large field stones to the site. Site grading was finished for a grand total of \$1,000, and construction began in May of 1889. The entire building was finished the week of October 13, 1889. A newspaper article proclaimed the new Depot "a little daisy."



### Depot a great community asset

The Depot was more than a transportation hub. The area in front of the Depot -the "Depot Park"- served as a community gathering place. In the 1910's a wood bandstand was moved to the grounds. A Bay City Times article from 1892 stated: "The MCRR have done much, and are continuing the good work, to make Standish the largest, liveliest, and best town on their road north of Bay City; and have spent more than \$10,000 there in the past year, their stone passenger depot alone costing \$5,000."

### Designers and builders

The architect for the Standish Depot was probably Frederick Spier of the well-known Detroit firm of Spier and Rohns. This firm designed many Michigan depots including Dexter and Niles, and a number of imposing Detroit landmarks like the Chamber of Commerce Building. The Standish Depot is a modest yet fashionable example of the Richardsonian Romanesque Style, popularized by the famous architect Henry Hobson Richardson of Boston. Detroit contractors Nelson J. Rogers and Robert M. Adams were in charge of the construction. Adams and Rogers built the Dexter Depot in late 1880's, so they were already familiar with Spier and Rohns designs. A year after the Standish Depot was finished, Rogers collaborated with another contractor to build a twin depot in Lawton.

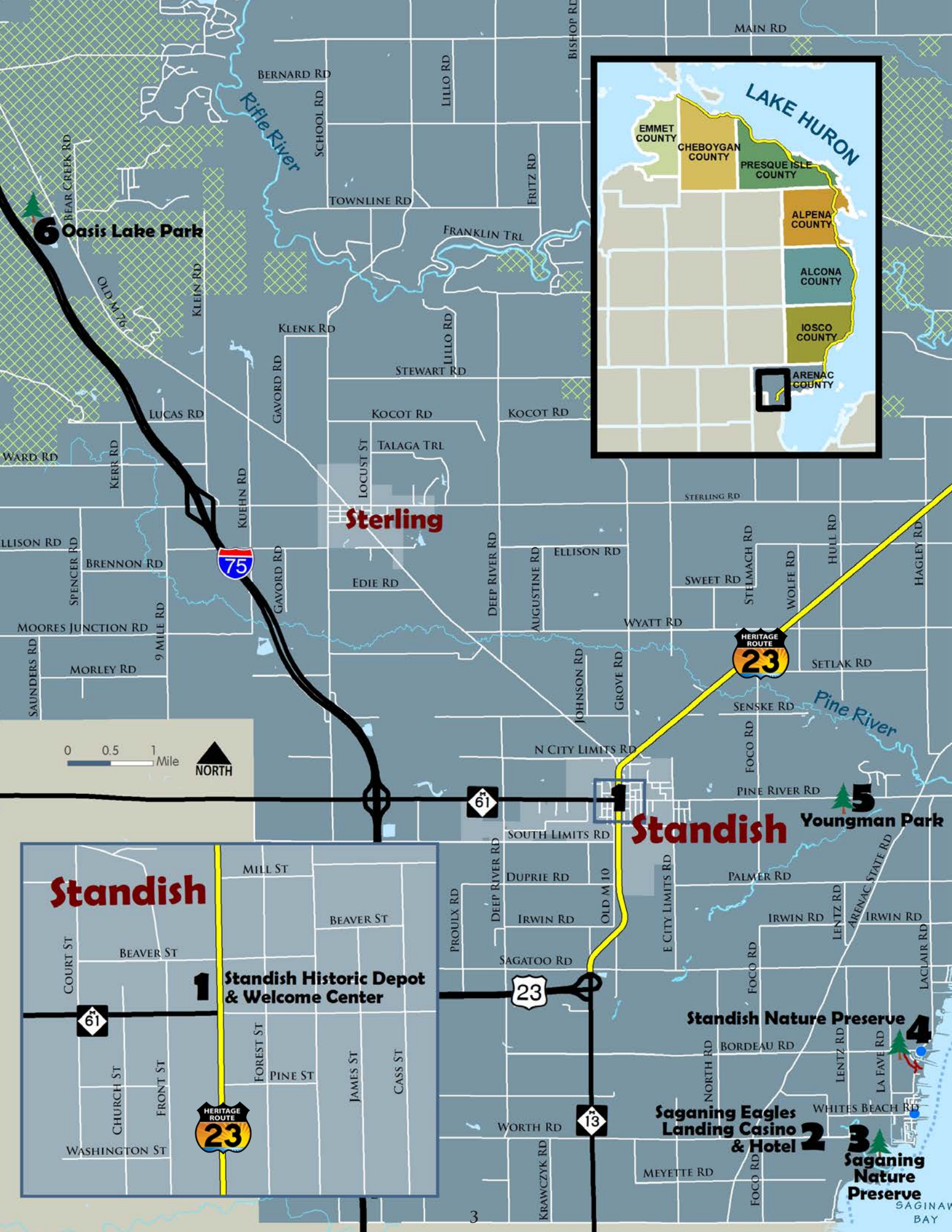


### End of the rail era

In the 1880's a total of eight trains stopped daily; by 1929 the number had dropped to four. Over time, the road in front of the Depot served more traffic than the railroad. In the 1940's, the Fletcher Oil Company built a gas station in front of the Depot, bringing the number of gas stations along "Gasoline Alley" to seventeen. The Standish Depot served passengers until the 1960's and freight traffic until 1972. The Depot was home to a variety of enterprises in later years, including a real estate office, but all of the occupants left the building features largely intact. Due to its fine condition, the important role it played in the history of Standish, and the architecture of the building itself, the Depot was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991.

Today the depot has been restored and contains railroad and local memorabilia. The depot serves as the southern Welcome Center for the US 23 Heritage Route!







# Standish



Standish Depot in 1908

## 1 Standish Historic Depot & Welcome Center



Located at the gateway to the US 23 Heritage Route, this restored MI Central R.R. Depot, built in 1889, is also a Byway "Welcome Center." Inside displays contain railroad artifacts and depot memorabilia. Special displays change monthly. Outside are two vintage British rail coaches open for viewing. Begin your Sunrise Coast trip by stopping in at the Standish Depot! *Located at the corner of US 23 and M-61 in Standish. Open daily.* [standishdepot.org](http://standishdepot.org)

## 2 Saganing Eagles Landing Casino & Hotel

A stay and play getaway providing over 148 rooms and three restaurants! With over 1,200 exciting slots and a variety of electronic table games, there are plenty of ways to hit it big close to home. At 32,000 square feet, this comfortable and convenient casino is the natural choice for fun and games. 2690 Worth Road, off M-13, just south of Standish. [saganing-eagleslanding.com](http://saganing-eagleslanding.com)

## 3 Saganing Nature Preserve



The 38-acre Saganing Nature Preserve is home to a dense woodland area and the delta wetland of the Saganing River which can be accessed on foot from the Preserve parking area. The southern half of this Preserve is very thick, wetland habitat with no established trails. Primarily held to help increase water quality by filtering stormwater runoff before it enters Saginaw Bay, the Saganing Nature Preserve's delta wetland habitat is also an important sanctuary for migratory birds and wetland plants and animals. The Preserve does have a rustic trail extending from the parking area out along the Saganing River, but it is seasonal and not well-established, so proceed with caution. Saganing Nature Preserve is perhaps best enjoyed in winter, especially for aficionados of skiing and snowshoeing. Recreational opportunities include hiking, wildlife observations, skiing, snowshoeing and fishing. Source: Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy. Turn east off Arenac State Road onto Worth Road. Drive all the way to the end past the casino and park near gate. <https://www.sblc-mi.org/saganing-nature-preserve>



Standish Historic Depot & Welcome Center

## 4 Standish Nature Preserve



The Standish Nature Preserve is one of the oldest preserves owned by the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy. It is a beautiful, mature hardwood forest with a series of wetlands and a pond that makes a home for many varieties of birds and wildlife. Standish provides a great spot for birding, with a small pond surrounded by dense hardwoods, all at the feet of a viewing area, just a few steps inward from the trail access on the east side of the Preserve. Recreational opportunities include hiking, wildlife observation and fishing. Source: Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy. Turn east off Arenac State Road onto Bordeau Road. The preserve is located on the south side of Bordeau Road after crossing LaFave Road. Turn right onto Bordeau Lane and park on the right side of the road near the trailhead. <https://www.sblc-mi.org/standish-nature-preserve>

## 5 Youngman Park



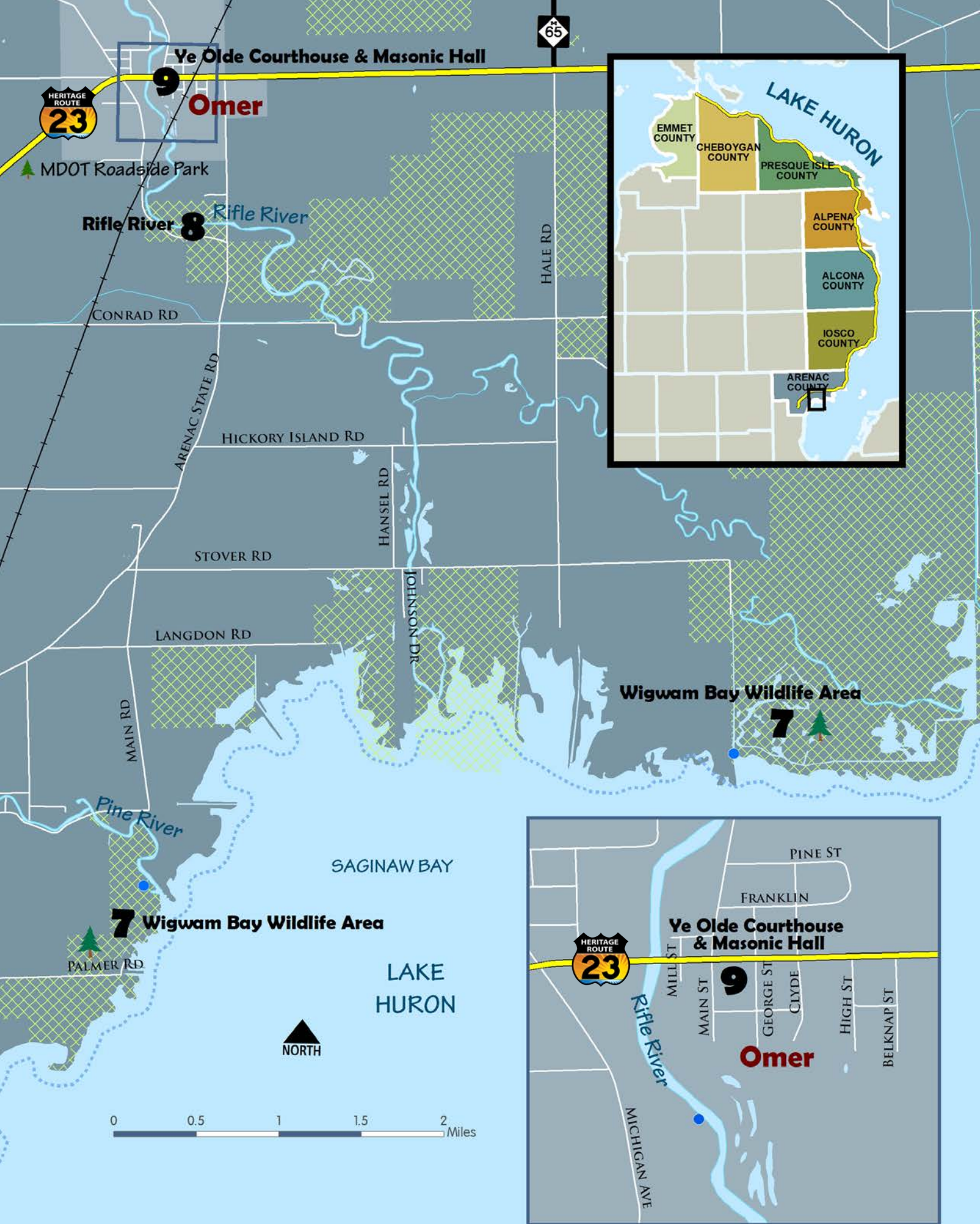
This lovely 46-acre wooded area is made up of fully mature trees and is adjacent to a softball field. A pavilion with picnic tables is available. Within the forested area there are numerous opportunities for hiking and appreciating the natural habitat. From the corner of US 23 and M-61, east 3.5 miles to Arenac State Road, then north 2 miles. Watch for signs. [arenacountyymi.gov/Recreation/Parks.aspx](http://arenacountyymi.gov/Recreation/Parks.aspx)

## 6 Oasis Lake Park



A 207-acre site with a 22 acre lake. The park offers swimming, fishing, picnic areas, children's playground, beach volleyball, and horseshoe pits. 25 rustic campsites available. M-76 between Sterling and Alger. [arenacountyymi.gov/Recreation/Parks.aspx](http://arenacountyymi.gov/Recreation/Parks.aspx)







# Arenac County



The Rifle River

## Omer

### 7 Wigwam Bay State Wildlife Area



More than 900 acres of wetlands occur on this 3,023-acre state wildlife area. A network of gravel-topped dikes in the wetlands is open to foot traffic all year. The remainder of the site is primarily undeveloped hardwood forest and small forest openings. Wigwam Bay is an outstanding site for viewing shorebirds, wading birds, waterfowl, and gulls. Unique or rare wetland bird species such as

black terns, Forster's terns, Caspian terns, yellow-headed blackbirds, American and least bitterns, sandhill cranes, common moorhens, and northern harriers are also found here. Bald eagles nest here and are often seen soaring or sitting in perches along the dikes. Come in the spring for an excellent opportunity to see nesting snapping turtles. Mink, beaver, and otters are regularly seen. The occasional bobcat is also found. Portions of this area are open to public hunting. Contact the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for hunting seasons and locations. *From Standish, take Pine River Road east about 3.5 miles to Arenac State Road. Turn left (north) and drive about 1.5 miles to Stover Road (County Road 58). Continue east about 3.5 miles to the site entrance on the right.* [michigan.gov/dnr](http://michigan.gov/dnr)

### 8 Rifle River



Numerous rapids make this stream one of the Lower Peninsula's fastest and one of the state's most popular trout fishing and canoeing destinations. The Rifle River is perfect for birders and wildlife viewing enthusiasts. A Michigan DNR public access site is located on the south edge of Omer, just off US 23. Several private canoe liveries are also located along the Rifle River. Lake Huron is a 6.5 mile trip down the river from the DNR Access.

### 9 Ye Olde Courthouse & Masonic Hall



The old Courthouse in Omer is the former Arenac County Courthouse, built in 1890. It was constructed after the original courthouse burned to the ground the year before. A local contractor, Angus McDonnell, submitted the lowest bid on October 21, 1889 for \$2,847. The new courthouse was completed on August 5, 1890. Mr. McDonnell lost heavily on this project and the courthouse board agreed to extend a sum of \$123.75 to him so that he would have at least "broken even." This brought the actual cost of the courthouse to \$2,970.75. The paint was barely dry when the county seat was moved to Standish! The building sat vacant until in 1892 it was purchased by the Masons.

The Masons bought the structure from the county for the sum of \$500. The building became the Masonic Hall and the Masons occupied it for nearly 100 years. This stately structure has survived many a heavy blow from man and nature. It survived the "cyclone" of 1895, the disastrous fires of 1901 and 1914, and the great flood of 1916. It survived the ruinous ice storm of 1922 and the ravages of time. This building from out of our past is reminiscent of New England architecture and communicates a quiet dignity that attracts many travelers along the Heritage Route.

Currently on the National Register of Historic Places, the building is filled with historic artifacts and documents. The magnificent furniture in the second story was custom made for the Masons in 1903. It is still in excellent condition and the original invoices are on display. A walk through this building is like a walk through a nineteenth century time capsule. It is reminiscent of the time when this was the home of the Omer Masonic Lodge #377. All of the old Masonic records are in excellent condition and that, along with city and township records, make it an outstanding source of genealogical information. This building is steeped in Arenac County history and historical data. Visitors can see Arenac's first jail as well as an 1890's era barber shop. *Located On US 23 in City of Omer.*



Ye Olde Courthouse & Masonic Hall



### MDOT ROADSIDE PARK

1 mile south of Omer located on east side of the road, this park has asphalt parking, BBQ grills, picnic tables, trash receptacles, water, primitive bathrooms, and a wooded area for shade while picnicking or stretching your legs.







## Au Gres



Au Gres River

### 10 Point Au Gres Park



This county park is located on Lake Huron and has a great sandy beach, picnic and play areas. Three pavilions, volleyball, horseshoe pits, and a barrier-free boardwalk are available. Visitors can enjoy 16 campsites (7 with water and electric hookups) and five rustic cabins each with sleeping accommodations for four adults. *Located southeast of Au Gres at 3177 S. Rumsey Road.* [arenacountymi.gov/Recreation/Parks.aspx](http://arenacountymi.gov/Recreation/Parks.aspx)

### 11 Gravelly Shoal Lighthouse



Completed in 1941, Gravelly Shoal Light is an automated lighthouse that is an active aid to navigation on the shallow shoals extending southeast from Point Lookout on the western side of Saginaw Bay. The light is situated about 2.7 miles (4.3 km) offshore and was built to help guide boats through the deeper water between the southeast end of Gravelly Shoal and Charity Island. Architecturally this is considered to be Art Deco style. *Location: 44.018333 N and -83.537222 W*

### 12 Charity Island



222-acre Charity Island, the largest island in Saginaw Bay, is part of the Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Its isolated beaches and unique hardwood forest provide excellent habitat for rare and protected plants, animals and songbirds. The island is located approximately 10 miles off-shore. Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge is closed to the public but wildlife observation and photography are welcome off-shore. A privately-run boat to the island and lighthouse experience is available on the privately-owned portion of Charity Island.

*Location: 44.018333 N, -83.537222 W*

Built in 1856-57, Charity Island Lighthouse was originally equipped with a white, 4th Order Fresnel lens. 4th Order Fresnel lenses were 28" with a focal length of 9.8" and used 5 ounces of oil per hour. Although a lens in that configuration had a range of up to 15 nautical miles, the Charity Island lens had a range of 13 nautical miles. In 1900, the light was fully automated, an acetylene lens replaced the 4th Order lens. It was deactivated in 1939 and replaced by the Gravelly Shoal light. Charity Island Lighthouse and keepers quarters are privately owned and are not part of the Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

*Location: 44.03139 N, -83.43556 W*



Charity Island

### Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge

Comprised of eight islands in Lake Huron and Lake Michigan, Sugar Island and Scarecrow Island are located in Alpena in Thunder Bay and Big and Little Charity Islands are located in Saginaw Bay.

Michigan Islands Refuge was established as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife.

### 13 Eickholt-Pressprich Nature Preserve



This preserve is a 48-acre property composed mainly of wetlands which improve water quality by filtering pollutants. It serves as a ground water recharge area and provides a special habitat for a variety of species. This Preserve is home to frogs, turtles, deer, waterfowl, and wildflowers; including white flowered beard's tongues, fringed and bottled gentians, wild sunflowers, and blue flag irises. Eickholt-Pressprich serves as an excellent landfall spot for migrating songbirds in the month of May and as an excellent stopover habitat for the huge influx of warblers that cruise up the Lake Huron shoreline. Source: Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy. *Turn south off US-23 onto Tonkey Road. The Preserve can be accessed by parking along East Michigan Avenue near the intersection with Tonkey Road.* <https://www.sblc-mi.org/eickholt-pressprich-nature-preserve>

### 14 Au Gres Boat Launch & Breakwall



There's plenty of parking (300 spaces for vehicles and trailers) at the Au Gres DNR boat launch located just in from the mouth of the Au Gres River. With four concrete ramps and loading docks, it doesn't take long to get on and off Saginaw Bay. The facility ends on a point jutting out into Lake Huron. It offers a scenic view of the Lake Huron coastline, especially for those using the long pier. A terrific year-round location for both hiking and bird watching. A fee (Recreation Passport) is required for entry. *Northeast side of the Au Gres River.*



## Au Gres

### 15 Au Gres Delta Nature Preserve



The Preserve includes Lake Huron shoreline and is adjacent to the Au Gres river. The Au Gres Delta Nature Preserve is rustic and is undergoing a large-scale Lake Plain Prairie restoration. The Preserve is a sanctuary for nature and is being carefully monitored as invasive species are removed and native species are restored. Please be respectful of the sensitive species and delicate botanical natural balance by leaving no trace of your visit. Explore the site on foot and enjoy the vast, wide open space available there. Source: Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy. *Turn south off US-23 onto Santiago Road, just west of Au Gres. Turn left onto Manor Road and park at the end where Manor Road meets Green Drive.* <https://www.sblc-mi.org/au-gres-delta-nature-preserve>

### 16 Arenac County Historical Society Museum



The Arenac County Historical Society Museum was first quartered in a rural schoolhouse and moved to its present facility in 1984 (the former Au Gres Methodist Church). The building, itself, is historic (circa 1883) and many of the tools used for its construction are on exhibit in the museum along with other historical church documents and artifacts that have been donated by its members.

Approaching the Museum entrance, a restored historic brick sidewalk leads you inside to find a rural schoolroom, bedroom and parlor settings, pioneer kitchen, a barber and apothecary shop, country store items, and vintage apparel. A commercial fishing exhibit features a 1910 IHC stationary engine, nets, and fishing equipment from long ago. In addition, the State's highest railroad bridge has been replicated in a unique scale model diorama. *304 E. Michigan Ave.*

### 17 Au Gres Harbor of Refuge



Owned by the City of Au Gres, the Au Gres Harbor of Refuge is located on the Au Gres River at the US 23 Bridge in downtown Au Gres. The harbor is deemed a harbor of refuge for boats to tie up to in case of emergency but facilities are closed. It is within walking distance to shopping, restaurants, ice cream and so much more! There are 30 boat slips available. Any questions should be addressed through the City of Au Gres, please call 989.876.8811. *Located on the Au Gres River at US 23.*

### 18 Au Gres Riverfront Campground & Day-Use Park



The City of Au Gres Riverfront Campground has 109 camp sites available for daily, weekly, monthly, or seasonal rates. All major credit cards are accepted. Inside the City Park, facilities for the public to use include tennis courts, basketball courts, volleyball court, baseball/softball fields, shuffleboard, horseshoes, children's playground, and lighted riverfront walkway. All sporting equipment must be provided by patrons. *Located on east side of the Au Gres River just north of US 23 (turn left on Main St).* [cityofaugrescampground.com](http://cityofaugrescampground.com)

## Birding Trails



#### Saginaw Bay Birding Trail

[saginawbaybirding.org](http://saginawbaybirding.org)

This trail covers a total of 142 miles, including M-25 and M-13, as well as 40 miles of the US 23 Heritage Route (Standish to Tawas). The trail runs from Port Crescent State Park on the eastern end to Tawas Point State Park on the western end and largely follows the shoreline of the entire Saginaw Bay. The distinct change in seasons, diverse habitats, sprawling miles of shoreline, over 200 species of birds, plus extensive natural areas with public access make the Trail a birder's paradise!



#### Sunrise Coast Birding Trail

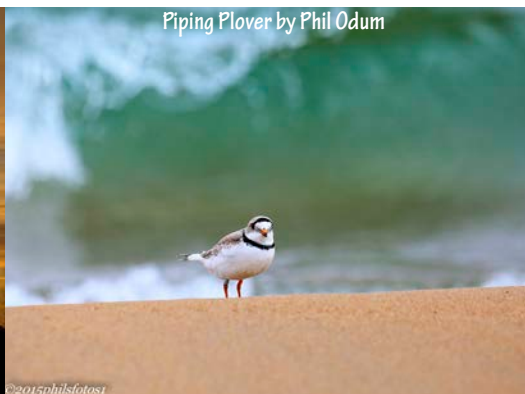
[sunrisecoastbirding.org](http://sunrisecoastbirding.org)

This trail covers 145 miles along US 23. The trail takes flight near the mouth of the famed AuSable River and wings its way north all along the Lake Huron coast to Mackinaw City. Birders will delight in observing the common, threatened, or endangered birds of the coastal and inland locations. The unique Kirtland's Warbler U.S. Forest Service-managed habitat west of Oscoda is a destination where one may get a memorable glimpse of this highly vulnerable and protected species. The endangered Great Lakes Piping Plover also nests here along the northern shores of Lake Huron which provide critical habitat for this fragile species. The spring Raptor Watch at the Straits of Mackinaw will thrill observers as thousands of these birds cross the Straits during seasonal migrations.

Sandhill Cranes by Arno Poerner



Piping Plover by Phil Odum



Hooded Merganser by Phil Odum





# ARTown

A featured self-guided tour on [www.heritage23.org](http://www.heritage23.org) is our amazing collection of arts and cultural attractions along the 200-mile US 23 Heritage Route. This collection includes museums, galleries, live theaters, historic sites, and local artisan shops. Visit [artownmichigan.org](http://artownmichigan.org) to see the ARTrail and events!

*There's more to see on 23!*



(Upper) The Domaci Gallery in Rogers City. (Lower) The cast of the Thunder Bay Theatre in Alpena (professional theater).







## Tawas City & East Tawas



### 19 Alabaster Bike Path Arboretum



Part of the Iron Belle Trail (a series of interconnected bike routes that run from Belle Isle in Detroit to the western tip of the Upper Peninsula), the Alabaster Bike Path Arboretum starts at Dyer Road at the southern line of Iosco County and winds north along US 23. The paved pathway also doubles as an arboretum – you'll find trees marked with QR codes to teach trail users about the trees they are seeing! The path is plowed all winter for walking. As you travel north, the bike path connects to the Tawas Bay Pathway which allows users to travel along Lake Huron and provides stunning views of Tawas Bay and the Tawas Point Light. The Pathway then curves out onto Tawas Point and ends at Tawas Point State Park. *Located along the east side of US 23, there is a trailhead at Dyer Road.*

### 20 Tawas Point State Park & Lighthouse



A nature lover's paradise! The park sits on a point that juts out into Lake Huron. Sandy beaches run along both the bayside and lakeside of the point. For hikers, an interpretive trail runs from the campground to the tip of the park's sandy crescent. Because of its location it attracts a large variety of waterfowl and shorebirds. A birding festival occurs the 3rd weekend in May. The site is also home to a large monarch butterfly population.

**Campground:** There are 193 modern sites, four cabins, and a yurt with a shallow, child-friendly swimming beach. There is also a pet-friendly beach, horseshoe pits, and a volleyball area.

**Day-Use:** The day-use area has a mile of sandy beach on Lake Huron with picnic tables and grills. There is a beach concession that offers great food and drinks.

**Tawas Point Lighthouse:** Located within Tawas Point State Park, the lighthouse has been in service since 1876. At night, the keeper's house and tower are illuminated with exterior lights. Tours are available during the summer months.

A fee (Recreation Passport) is required for entry. *From US 23, turn onto Tawas Beach Road.* [michigan.gov/dnr](http://michigan.gov/dnr)

### 21 Gateway Park



Located at the mouth of the Tawas River, Gateway Park offers a fishing pier, boat launch, and children's playground featuring large concrete animal sculptures, designed by a local artist, for children to climb on! Gateway Park is home to the Northeast Michigan Regional Farm Market, May through October, 8:00 AM to 1 PM Saturdays. *Located on US 23.*

[tawascity.org](http://tawascity.org)

### 22 Veterans Park



Veterans Park offers a boardwalk along the Tawas River for fishing and a canoe/kayak launch. Also visit the Walk of Honor at the Veterans Recognition Plaza. *Corner of US 23 and Mathews St.* [tawascity.org](http://tawascity.org)

### 23 Town Square Park & Shoreline Park



These parks offer nearly 1,500 linear feet of Lake Huron shoreline! Amenities available at these parks include a 450-foot pier, boardwalk along the beach, playscape, picnic pavilions, electric car charging station, and a concession stand. Tawas Point Light is visible from these parks.

*Located on US 23.* [tawascity.org](http://tawascity.org)

### 24 East Tawas City Park



Long one of Michigan's most popular family campgrounds, the East Tawas City Park features 178 available campsites with full hookup including cable tv. The park day-use area features a gazebo, two sets of horseshoe pits, a "Mystery Ship" themed play structure, picnic tables, and grills for your enjoyment. The gazebo is also available for private rental. The campground and day-use area also features 1600 feet of groomed, sandy beach that is open to the public for no charge. *Located on US 23.* [easttawas.com](http://easttawas.com)

### 25 East Tawas State Harbor

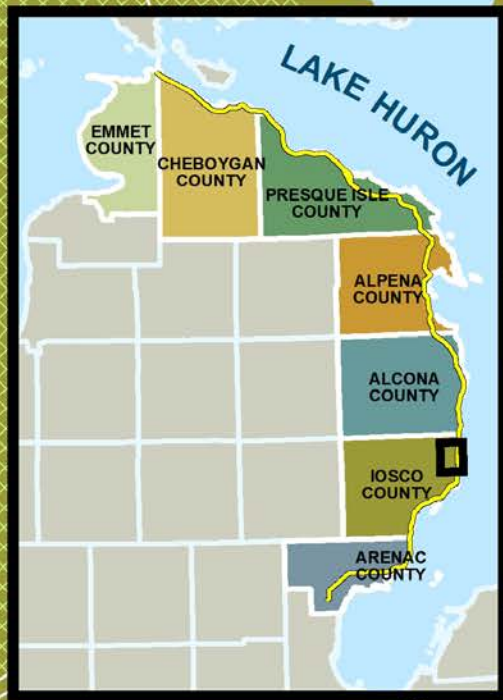


Visitors to the Tawas area will find a safe - and breathtakingly beautiful - harbor at East Tawas. The 134-slip marina (80 seasonal and 54 transient slips) is located on Tawas Bay. Amenities include a boat launch, toilet/shower building, dock office, playground/park, water, electricity, and recycling. There's also a swimming beach just south of the dock. But the State Harbor is more than just a marina - it has become a gathering point for local festivals and events. Its convenient and scenic location at the foot of the Newman Street Shopping District in East Tawas, is a natural draw for visitors. *Located on US 23.* [midnrreservations.com](http://midnrreservations.com)



*Tawas Point Light*







## AuSable & Oscoda



### 26 Shoreline Park



The site has everything a water lover could want. The park has a beautiful sandy beach, harbor, boat launch, and marine facilities. There are fully universally accessible features including a birding platform, boardwalk, and picnic facilities just south of the AuSable River Bridge. Shoreline Park is home to the Northeast Michigan Regional Farm Market, May through October, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM Wednesdays [Located on US 23.](#)

### 27 Oscoda Township Beach Park



Located at the east end of River Road, this park features 1,000 feet of Lake Huron frontage, a 300 foot observation and fishing pier, playground equipment, skateboard ramps and obstacles, splash pad, basketball court, and public restrooms. Free concerts are offered at the "Community Bandshell" at 7 pm Thursday evenings during the summer. [Located on Lake Huron at the end of River Road. www.oscodatownshipmi.gov](#)

### 28 Riverbank Park



This small park has several short paved trails and easy access along the river. A variety of conifers, hardwoods, vines, and shrubs offer food, shelter, and nesting habitat for many species. Warblers frequent the area. Woodpeckers, thrushes, and nuthatches thrive here

along with many waterfowl along the river. A small bayou at the end of one trail offers seclusion for Blue Herons, Belted Kingfishers and several duck species. [Follow River Road west from Oscoda - located on the left just prior to the Au Sable River bridge.](#)

### 29 Shore to Shore Trail



The Michigan Shore to Shore Trail is over 220 miles long that connects Lake Huron to Lake Michigan. Primarily used by horseback riders, the trail is also open to hikers and cross-country skiers. The trail features horse camps complete with privies and wells at approximately 18 to 25 mile intervals. Most of the camps overlook lakes or rivers. The east segment of the Shore to Shore Trail begins in Oscoda and generally parallels the AuSable River (south of the river). Some sections of the Shore to Shore Trail share segments with snowmobile trails. [www.mtra.org](#)

### 30 Eagle Run



Located approximately two miles west of Oscoda, Eagle Run is seven miles of loop trails for hiking, mountain biking and cross-country skiing located in a quiet setting following the shoreline of the Au Sable River. This area is one of the finest spring wildflower walks and a great area for bird-watching enthusiasts. It is the only trail system in this section of the national forest open to mountain biking. The trail is groomed by the Corsair Trails Council and the trailhead is plowed. [Located on River Road.](#)

### 31 Clark's Marsh



This vast wetland has many unpaved woodland trails surrounding it. The serene setting offers an abundance of bird species including Marsh Wrens, Virginia Rails, Green Herons, Swamp Sparrows, Blue-headed Vireos, and numerous warblers. [To access this site, follow Perimeter Rd straight to the edge of the runway. Continue on the pavement and turn left onto the forest trail that parallels the chain link fence. Drive south ¼ mile to the parking area at the end of the trail.](#)

### 32 Wurtsmith Air Museum



Wurtsmith Air Museum was established in 1994 for the purpose of preserving the history of Wurtsmith Air Force Base and aviation in northeast Michigan. The museum contains artifacts and memorabilia relating to the military along with static displays of a T-33 Jet Trainer, an L-19, a 727, and several other civilian aircraft. There is a "Wurtsmith Room" where pictures and collectibles from WAFB are displayed. [From US 23 \(heading north\) in Oscoda, turn left onto F-41. From F-41, turn left onto Arrow St then immediately right onto Perimeter Rd, then turn left onto East Van Etan St. wurtsmithairmuseum.net](#)

### 33 Van Etten Lake State Forest Campground



This semi-modern campground has 49 sites overlooking Van Etten Lake. Campsites will accommodate tents and small and large trailers. Some universally accessible sites are also available. Campground amenities include vault toilets, potable water from a forced water main, and an improved boat launch. A fee (Recreation Passport) is required for entry. [Located on Old 41. michigan.gov/dnr](#)

### 34 Huron Sunrise Park & Three Mile Park



Located approximately three miles north of Oscoda, this 14-acre beach park offers gravel parking along the side of the road and accessible trails for bicycling along the Lake Huron shore. These trails feed into Three Mile Park, which is owned and operated by the Michigan Department of Transportation. Accessible and additional parking is available at this roadside park. [Located on US 23.](#)



# River Road National Scenic Byway

## 35 Tuttle Marsh National Wildlife Area



Wonderful bird-watching opportunities abound in this 5,000 acre wetland complex.

*Location: From Oscoda, take Old US 23 five miles to Tuttle Marsh Rd, turn left into the entrance road. From Tawas, north on Wilbur Rd to Sherman Rd, right on May Rd, right on Brooks Rd, left on Swan Creek Rd, left on Davison and follow to Tuttle Marsh Rd.*

## 36 Corsair Trails



Seven miles of loop trails. Groomed in winter. *Trailheads off Monument Road.*

## 37 Foote Dam



Built in 1918, provides access to tailwaters of Foote Dam. Prime location for steelhead and salmon fishing. *5 miles west of Oscoda on Rea Road.*

## 38 Foote Site Park



This site is popular among birders as Trumpeter Swans nest here. The park is also the docking area for the Au Sable River Queen.

## 39 Old Orchard Park



Overlooks Foote Pond on the AuSable River. Open year-round, it also has a public winter sports park for sledding and cross-country skiing and hosts the Snowbox Derby.

## 40 Foote Pond Scenic Overlook



Spectacular view from high sand bluffs. Barrier-free access to a wooden deck. *9 miles west of Oscoda on River Road.*

## 41 Cooke Dam Hydroelectric Plant



On the National Register of Historic Places, the dam was placed on-line in 1912. *3.5 miles north of River Road.*

## 42 Highbanks Trail



7 miles along the bluffs of the Au Sable River. *Trailheads at Lumberman's Monument and Iargo Springs.*





### 43 Lumberman's Monument & Visitor Center



Interpretive signs and exhibits tell the story of moving logs from forests to the mills. Children enjoy climbing the log jam and using the crosscut saw. Hike the 260 steps down to the edge of the river to board the Wanigan, a replica of the floating cook shacks that followed the river log-drives. *Intersection of River Rd and Monument Rd.*

### 44 Canoers Memorial Scenic Overlook



Spectacular view of Cooke Dam Pond. *16.5 miles west of Oscoda on River Road.*

### 45 Iargo Springs Scenic Overlook



Breathtaking view 300 ft above Au Sable River. Underground springs viewing. *18 miles west of Oscoda on River Road.*

### 46 Five Channels Dam



Workers camp is on National Register of Historic Places. *On M-65.*

### 47 Loud Dam



Hydroelectric dam built in 1913. *Loud Dam Rd, 5 miles west of M-65.*

### 48 Westgate Overlook



Interpretive signs and exceptional views. *On M-65.*

### 49 Rollways Campground & Picnic Area



Rustic campground with several sites overlooking the Au Sable River and Loud Dam Pond. There are 19 campsites, some suitable for travel trailers. *Rollway Road, north of M-65.*

### 50 Old State House Trail



28 miles of ORV trails and ORV routes. A fee (Recreation Passport) is required for entry.



Au Sable River

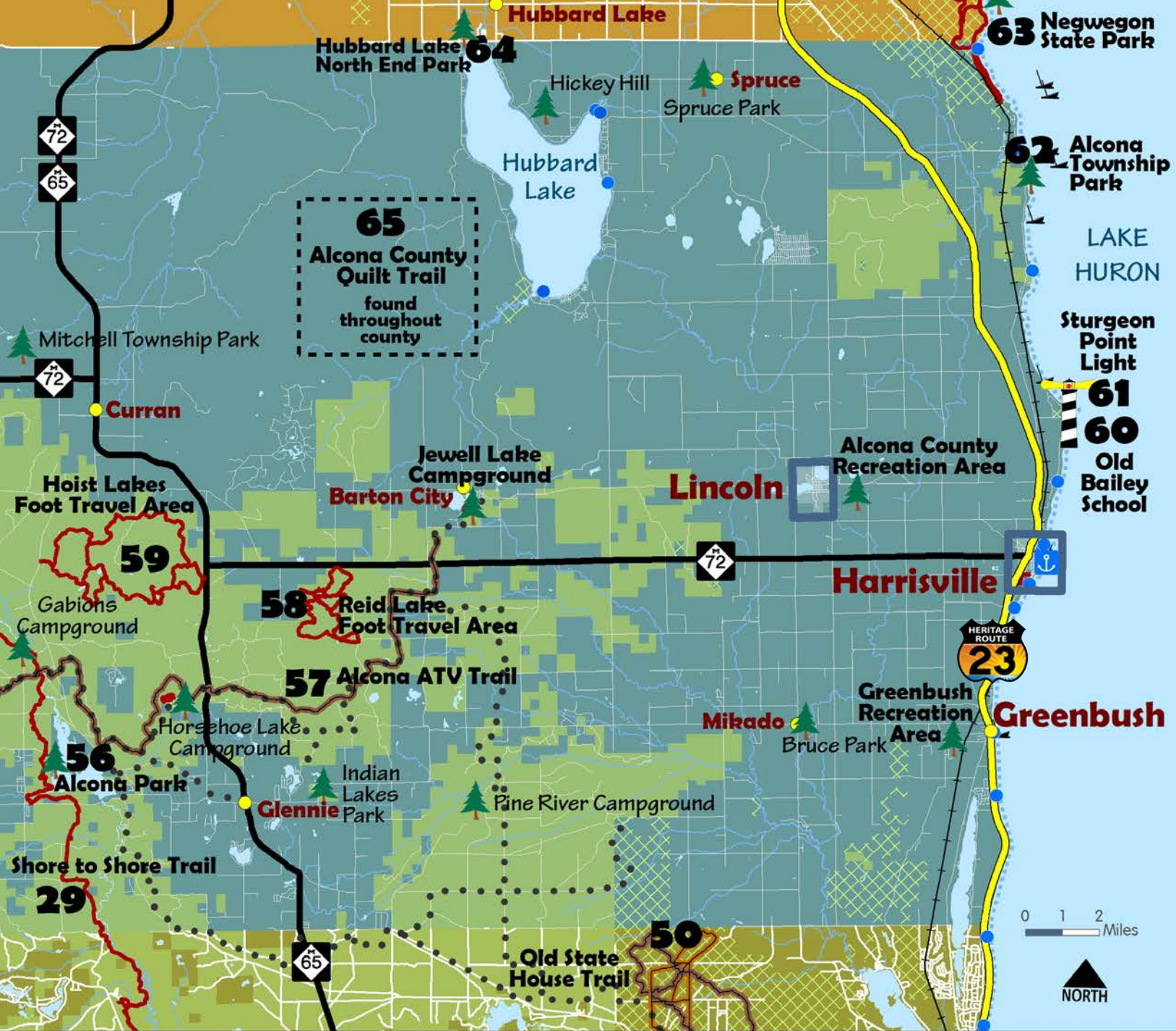
#### Au Sable River Queen

Located near Foote Site Park, this double-decker, authentic paddle wheel offers two-hour excursions for a view of wildlife and beautiful scenery. Relax as the captain narrates this area's colorful history! It is a popular fall color destination, requiring reservations for weekend trips. The Au Sable River Queen is accessible with a heated lower deck, snack bar, and onboard restroom facilities.

[facebook.com/AusableRiverQueenMI](https://facebook.com/AusableRiverQueenMI)









# Alcona County



## Harrisville, Lincoln & Greenbush

### 51 Harrisville State Park

Harrisville State Park features a campground and day-use area nestled in a stand of pine and cedar trees along the sandy shores of Lake Huron. The park is within walking distance of Harrisville and offers mini-cabins and rustic cabins all year long. A fee (Recreation Passport) is required for entry. *Located on US 23.*

[michigan.gov/harrisville](http://michigan.gov/harrisville)

### 52 Craftmakers Cabin

The cabin was built as a WPA project in 1936 to house the new Resort Bureau Headquarters and Information Bureau. It is now a unique shop of original art and handcrafted items made in the local area. *SW corner of US-23 and M-72.*

### 53 Harrisville Harbor

A total of 98 slips, 49 for transient and 49 for seasonal boaters. During the summer months, the Harbor Pavilion provides the backdrop for a variety of activities as well as the city's summer concert series on Wednesday nights. *From US 23, turn east on Main St, then left on Lake St.* [harrisvilleharborofrefuge.com](http://harrisvilleharborofrefuge.com)

### 54 Harrisville Depot & Lincoln Depot

Built in 1901 for the Detroit and Mackinac Railway Company, the Harrisville cut stone depot was a busy place any day of the week with the bustling lumber business around Harrisville. Daily trains arrived or departed to destinations such as Detroit or Cheboygan. As the lumber business diminished and automobile use increased, rail travel became less common. The last passenger train left the station on March 31, 1951. Mail and freight service continued through the early 1960's. This depot is one of the few remaining in northern Michigan. The Lincoln Depot, a wood structure that has been standing since 1886, was built by the Detroit, Bay City and Alpena Railroad. The Depot is located on Lake Street in Lincoln and served the community and the surrounding area until 1929. The first rail service to this area passed through Lincoln from the south and continued north through Ossineke and Alpena. *Located on Lake St in Harrisville (interior of depot inaccessible) and on Lake St and Fiske St in Lincoln.*

### 55 Harrisville Heritage Route Trail

The Harrisville Heritage Route Trail is a pedestrian and bicycle route that winds along the picturesque streets of Harrisville. The trail begins at the Harrisville Harbor, follows portions of Lake Street, Church Street, Main Street, 3rd Street, and 2nd Street and connects to trails at Harrisville State Park south of town and Harrisville Township Park to the north. You will hike or pedal past such historic buildings as the Old Place Inn (where John Dillinger reportedly had coffee). Be sure to stop and take in the spectacular view of sparkling Lake Huron at the end of Main Street!

### 56 Alcona Park

Located on the historic Au Sable River floodwaters above the Alcona Dam and surrounded by the Huron National Forest, this 1,100 acre park has three miles of shoreline on each side of this trophy fish-producing river. The river provides quality fishing of walleye, pike, perch, bass, and trout. Canoeing, boating, swimming, fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing are all available. 48 full-service campsites, 104 modern campsites, and 400 primitive campsites are available. Camping cabins are available for rent! *From Glennie, take Bamfield Rd to Au Sable Rd.* [alconapark.com](http://alconapark.com)

### 57 Alcona ATV Trails 29 miles of ATV linear trail through forests with rolling terrain. Connects to the Bull Gap system.

### 58 Reid Lake Foot Travel Area

A 3,000 acre back-country recreation experience that is closed to motor vehicles. 12 miles of gently rolling trails through the Huron National Forest will lead you around Reid Lake, once part of a northern Michigan farm. The ski trails are easily negotiated by a beginning skier with enough rolling terrain to please even the more advanced skier. Hunting and fishing are permitted. Reid Lake boasts a large population of largemouth bass, perch, sunfish, and rainbow trout. Small boats, canoes, and inflatable rafts are permitted, but they must be carried in and out of the foot travel area. National Forest Service vehicle pass is required. *Parking lot and trailhead are located on M-72 approximately 18 miles west of Harrisville.*

### 59 Hoist Lakes Foot Travel Area

Hoist Lakes encompasses over 10,000 acres of pine, aspen, and hardwood forests. Over 20 miles of looped trails wind through small pothole lakes and areas of beaver flooding as well as over and around hills and ridges. Hunting and fishing are permitted in-season. The Hoist Lakes area is home to whitetail deer, black bear, raccoon, red fox, coyote, beaver, otter, mink, badger, skunk, and squirrel. North Hoist Lake is home to bass and sunfish while South Hoist Lake is a designated trout lake and is regularly stocked with rainbow trout. Byron Lake offers good bass and perch fishing. National Forest Service vehicle pass is required. *Located on the west side of M-65 approximately 22 miles west of Harrisville.*

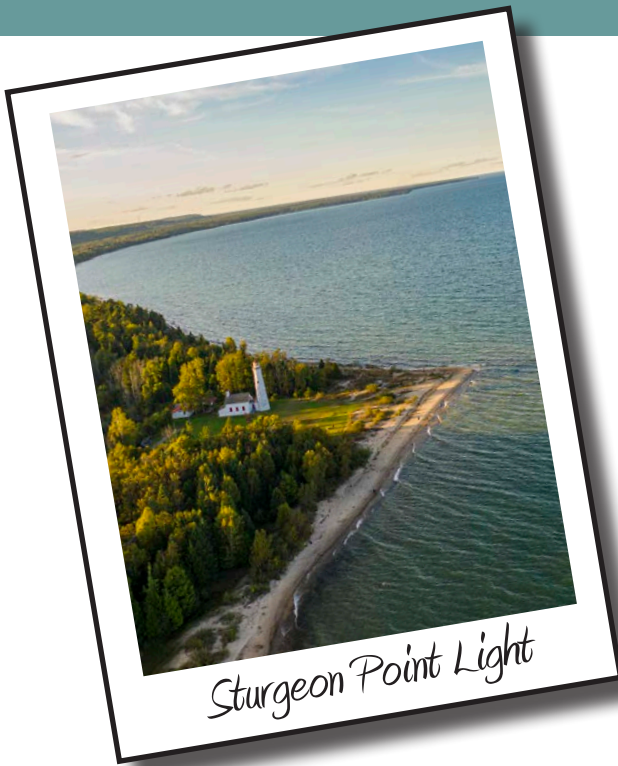
### 60 Old Bailey School

Built in 1907 of Norway pine, the Bailey School is one of the few remaining one-room, log schoolhouses still standing in Michigan. The school bell still rings from atop the roof to summon students of history and simpler times. It was built at the site of C.A. Johnson Logging Camp west of Mikado for the children of the logging crews. It bears the name of a lumberman who was part of the crew that built the school and who supervised moving it in 1913 to a site on F-30 where it served the community until 1941. Partially restored in 1973, the structure was disassembled, moved and restored in 1998 to its current Sturgeon Point site. It is furnished with items used during its time including a recitation bench, desks, drinking pail and dipper, and coal stove. *Old Bailey School is adjacent to the Sturgeon Point Lighthouse.*



# Alcona County

## Harrisville, Lincoln & Greenbush



Sturgeon Point Light

### 61 Sturgeon Point Light

Sturgeon Point juts into Lake Huron, and the waves off the point conceal a long, shallow reef which extends for almost a full mile beyond the visible confines of the land. In 1870, the Sturgeon Point Lighthouse became operational to mark the hazard of Sturgeon Point and continues to be an operational lighthouse today. The lighthouse was electrified and automated in 1939 and the last personnel left in 1941. The keeper's house is now a maritime museum. The keeper's house and the tower are both open to the public. *Heading north on US 23 from Harrisville, turn right onto Lake Shore Dr, then right on Point Rd.* [alconahistoricalsociety.com](http://alconahistoricalsociety.com)

### 62 Alcona Township Park

Located where the Black River flows into Lake Huron, visitors can enjoy picnicking, swimming, the playground, and a boat launch. In addition, a state of the art universally accessible kayak/canoe launch and fishing platform is available! *From US 23, turn east on Black River Rd.*

### 63 Negwegon State Park

Trails at Negwegon State Park (a 4,118-acre park) include 12 miles of back-country hiking through cedar, ash, pine, oak and aspen forests, views of Lake Huron, and back-country camping sites. This system consists of the 3.5 mile Algonquin Trail, the 4.8 mile

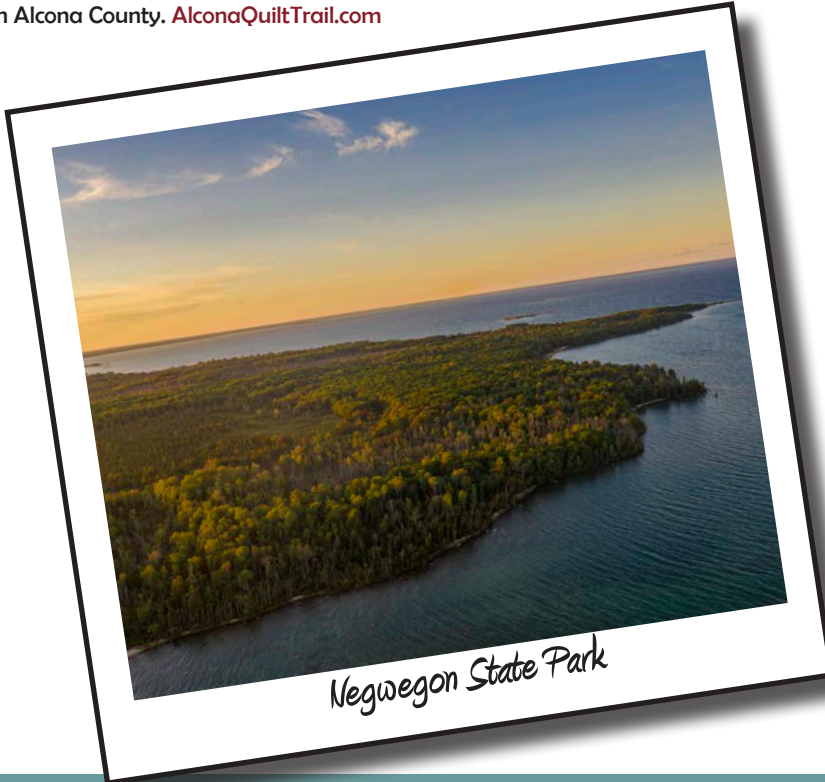
Chippewa Trail, and the 3.3 mile Potawatomi Trail. Trails are mostly flat with little to no elevation changes. Negwegon State Park is a rustic, undeveloped area open for hunting, walk-in camping, and hiking. Negwegon hosts a beautiful undeveloped sandy beach on Lake Huron. The Park is also protected as a Michigan Dark Sky Preserve, allowing you to enjoy the night sky. Please use caution when visiting Negwegon as the roads into the park are often so sandy that a four-wheel drive vehicle is needed. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on the trails or off-road. A fee (Recreation Passport) is required for entry. *Located on Sand Hill Trail.* [michigan.gov/negwegon](http://michigan.gov/negwegon)

### 64 Hubbard Lake North End Park

This park features a pavilion, benches, picnic tables, fire pits, lighted walkways, bike racks, and a boat launch. Launch and docks are fully accessible with 27 paved boat/trailer parking spaces. Relax here and enjoy the views of Hubbard Lake! *From US 23, turn west on Hubert Rd.*

### 65 Alcona County Quilt Trail

The Alcona County Quilt Trail consists of large painted wooden quilt blocks which are mounted on barns or other structures or sites of interest within the county. Designs are chosen to represent the history of the site or the people who live there. Visit the website to follow the trail to 28 historic sites in Alcona County. [AlconaQuiltTrail.com](http://AlconaQuiltTrail.com)



Negwegon State Park



Alcona County Quilt Trail



# Alcona County

## Download the Alcona County Bike Route Maps

Visit [www.heritage23.org](http://www.heritage23.org) – click on Harrisville and click on the “Historic Trail” icon. Six self-guided tour brochures are available for download/print including the Harrisville Heritage Route Trail (historic walking tour through town) and five self-guided bike routes which take you past historic structures in the rural parts of the county. They include (1) The Black River Route, (2) The Greenbush Route, (3) The Old Stone Church Route, (4) The Springport Route, and (5) The Sturgeon Point Route.

### The Old Stone Church Route

A US 23 Heritage Route Bike Tour

Total Trip: 16.7 miles

**Trailhead**  
Harrisville Harbor on Lake Street

Overview Map of Alcona Bike Tours

### Travel the "Old Stone Church Route"...

- 0.35 mi** Turn north on Lake Street. Harrisville Depot (Historical Marker 1) located on the west end of Dock Street.
- 0.15 mi** Turn left on Washington Street.
- 6.3 mi** Turn right on US 23 and travel north.
- 1.0 mi** Turn left at Shaw Rd. Old Stone Church (Historical Marker 11) located at the corner of Shaw Rd and Poor Farm Rd.
- 5.5 mi** Turn left on Poor Farm Rd. Travel south. Traffic can appear unexpectedly along this section.
- 2.6 mi** Turn left onto Walker Rd. Travel east to US 23. Airport is located on the south side of the road near the intersection with Mill Creek Rd..
- 0.9 mi** Turn right onto US 23 back to Harrisville.
- 0.3 mi** Turn left onto Church Street. Methodist Church (Historical Marker 5) on the southwest corner of US 23 and Church Street. Turn left onto Lake Street back to the trailhead at the Harbor.

#### Historical Marker: Harrisville Depot

Built in 1901 for the Detroit and Mackinac Railway Company, this cut stone depot was a busy place any day of the week with the bustling lumber business in and around Harrisville. Daily trains arrived or departed to destinations such as Detroit or Cheboygan. As the lumber business diminished and automobile use increased, rail travel became less and less common. The last passenger train left the station on March 31, 1951. Mail and freight service continued through the early 1960's, after which the building was used for occasional storage by the railroad. This depot is one of the few remaining in northern Michigan.

#### Historical Marker: Old Stone Church

In 1880 the Township of Alcona had 187 houses, 4 schools, 2 Churches, a lighthouse, and 3 post offices. Presbyterians living there built their own white frame church, the First Presbyterian Church of Alcona. In 1886, the Church building was moved two miles west to the present site in Haynes Township. In June 1924, sparks from a roof fire at a neighboring farmhouse set the church ablaze. Many of the interior features were saved, but the building was totally destroyed. Volunteers rebuilt the church with stones found on surrounding farmland. It was reopened on June 6, 1934. In 1969, the church became the present nondenominational community church.

#### Historical Marker: United Methodist Church

The first Sunday School and Church in Alcona County was Methodist, with Rev. Joseph P. Merchant walking the Huron Shore, from settlement to settlement, from Tawas to Alpena. He settled in Harrisville with his family in 1861. He formed membership classes that met in a house with no chimney and two small slide windows on the bank at the foot of what became Church Street. When the town built a new schoolhouse on the Court House Square, that building was used by the Methodists. The present church, was built in 1867. Membership included such early family names as Conklin, Colwell, LaChapelle, Rutson and Van Buskirk. By 1899, the congregation numbered 140. The stained glass windows date from 1924.

**Quilt Trail Panel**

Discover Heritage Route 23....your Pathway to the Sunrise Coast!

www.heritage23.org

### Before You Ride

- Water is only available at trailhead. Bring your own water on the trip.
- Cell phone reception varies and does not exist along some route segments.
- All county roads have gravel shoulder. US 23 has paved shoulder.
- Be predictable and operate like a vehicle.
- Always wear an approved helmet.
- Ride with traffic.
- Use hand signals.
- Be mindful of other traffic.
- Wear appropriate clothing.
- Use lights at night.

This map was developed by the US 23 Heritage Route program and NEMCOG. The user of this map bears responsibility for his/her own safety. The US 23 Heritage Route or NEMCOG makes no express or implied guarantee as to the safety or condition of the roads shown and has no responsibility for maintaining them. Conditions indicated on the map are subject to change. Be prepared to make your own assessment of traffic and roads appropriate to your riding skills. All entities involved in the creation of this map disclaim responsibility and shall not be answerable or held accountable in any manner for loss, damage, or injury that may be suffered as the result of the use of this map.







# Alpena County

## Alpena Area & Ossineke

### 66 Paul Bunyan

Babe was white at the time he was built in 1937/38 on the hill across from the Lookout Inn. The legend was that a white cow on a hill signified good luck. In 1950, new owners bought the hill and Babe was painted blue. Paul was built in 1953. In 2006, Paul and Babe were moved to their present location and were restored in 2007. *Corner of US 23 and Nicholson Hill Rd in Ossineke.*

### 67 Dinosaur Gardens

Built from 1935 to 1970, this park is situated on 20 acres of mature forest with a trail leading you back in time when the earth was ruled by dinosaurs! Stroll next to life-size replicas of dinosaurs as well as prehistoric people and Ice Age animals. Some exhibits even provide a birds eye view with steps and an entrance into the replicas. Over 26 exhibits along the trail! This is a property that has been featured in Life Magazine, multiple newspapers, on television, and in Hollywood travelogues. *Located on US 23 in Ossineke.*  
[dinosaurgardensllc.com](http://dinosaurgardensllc.com)

### 68 Sanborn Park

This park has a sandy beach on Lake Huron along with places to picnic and a playground area. *US 23 to Ossineke Rd to State St. Turn left onto Lake St. in Ossineke.*

### 69 Ossineke State Forest Campground

There is a day use area available along with 42 sites for tents and small trailers generously spaced out along Lake Huron. Enjoy the barrier-free boardwalk out to Lake Huron! Sites available on a first come, first serve basis. *Located south of Sanborn Park.* [michigan.gov/dnr](http://michigan.gov/dnr)

### 70 Chippewa Hills Pathway

Chippewa Hills Pathway is one of the best groomed cross-country ski trails open to mountain biking in northeastern Michigan, following a roller-coaster route through a northern white cedar swamp and dense trees. For the most part it is high and dry and mostly singletrack. The path is amply marked and relatively hazard-free, except for a few sandy patches. *11 miles west of Ossineke on Nicholson Hill Road.* [michigan.gov/dnr](http://michigan.gov/dnr)

### 71 Thunder Bay Resort

Winter's white blanket, proud evergreens, and Thunder Bay's horse drawn sleigh ride invite you to cuddle up as you travel through the Northern Woods. From the sleighs, you'll view bull elk with world-class antlers. Warm up in front of the split stone fireplace inside the Elk Antler Log Cabin as a five-course gourmet dinner is prepared before you on two antique wood cook stoves. From apple/pear crepes to white chocolate mousse-filled pizzelles, it's guaranteed to be a gourmand's delight. All too quickly it's time for the short ride back to the clubhouse or to your deluxe accommodations. *Located on M-32 in Hillman.* [thunderbayresort.com](http://thunderbayresort.com)

### 72 Norway Ridge Pathway

This seven-mile hiking, mountain biking, and groomed cross-country skiing trail follows sandy ridges through lowland forest habitat covered with large red pines. Close to Alpena, the trail offers a year-round quick getaway with multiple trail loops and easy to follow trail markers! *5 miles west of Alpena off Werth Road.* [michigan.gov/dnr](http://michigan.gov/dnr)

### 73 45th Parallel

Along a picturesque bay south of Alpena, visitors will find themselves at the 45th parallel - halfway between the equator and the North Pole! *Many visitors stop to take pictures next to the sign along US 23. However, there is no parking lot, so please be wary of traffic at this location.*

### 74 Thunder Bay Island Lighthouse

Located six miles offshore, Thunder Bay Island Lighthouse is one of the oldest light stations on Lake Huron. Thunder Bay Island is the outermost in a group of islands connected to the north point of Thunder Bay by a shallow bank of numerous rocks, most of which are submerged. The light tower was first constructed in 1832 and was built to warn mariners of the dangerous reefs extending from the island. Squatters were attracted to the federally-owned island and, by 1845, a large fishing community thrived there. 160 people lived on the island with 31 fishing boats harvesting 12,000 barrels of fish each year. Faced with government action to remove them from the island, the trespassers picked up their belongings and relocated to nearby Sugar Island, where they stayed for years. Thunder Bay Island Lighthouse is currently not accessible to the public, however the light can be viewed from the water. *GPS Coordinates: 45.03734 N, -83.19435 W*

### 75 Alpena Township Nature Preserve

This park has a series of hiking trails leading to a sinkhole in Lake Huron. These trails and a Great Lakes fen offer a wide variety of wildflower viewing. The mixed woods harbor a variety of nesting birds including Black-throated Green Warblers and American Redstarts. Roadside parking is limited, so make sure your vehicle is off the roadway. *Located at the end of Misery Bay Rd.*

Thunder Bay Resort



Chippewa Hills Pathway



## Alpena Area & Ossineke



### 76 North Eastern State Trail



This 71-mile trail is surfaced in smooth, crushed limestone and offers an extended journey through some of the most remote, unpopulated areas of the state. The trail follows an old Detroit & Mackinaw Railway line first developed in the late 1800s to ship Michigan's vast supplies of timber to points beyond. What loggers didn't haul out was left on the ground, setting the stage for devastating forest fires in the early 20th century and turning entire towns into ash. Many of the towns were never rebuilt. The most recent owners of the line, Detroit and Mackinac Railway, abandoned operations in 1992. The trail passes through the hearts of small communities as well as near state parks and recreation sites, boat launches, and campgrounds. It also passes through a number of remote areas and incredible scenery from lakeshores, forests, waterways, and wildlife. *Trailhead in Cheboygan with restrooms, parking, and a shelter (also serves the North Central State Trail). At the southern end, the route connects to the Alpena Bi-Path via Woodward Avenue on the north end of Alpena.* [trails council.org](http://trails council.org)

### 77 Long Lake Park



Ten miles north of Alpena on the east side of Long Lake, this 68-acre county park has 105 campsites adjacent to Long Lake. Water and electricity are available at 80 of these sites with the other 25 sites considered primitive. Facilities include restrooms/showers, dumping station, concession stand, concrete boat ramp, three docks, nature trails, two pavilions,

picnic tables, two playgrounds, and two swimming beaches. Special activities include an annual pig roast and a weekly potluck dinner. Open May 15 to Sept 15. Camping is permitted after Sept. 15 until Nov. 1 on a daily rate schedule. [alpenacounty.org/parks-recreation](http://alpenacounty.org/parks-recreation) From US 23, turn on Long Lake Park Rd.

### 78 Middle Island Lighthouse



A U.S. Life-Saving Service Station was established on Middle Island in the 1880s. Middle Island is named for its location about halfway between the North Point of Thunder Bay and Presque Isle. The Middle Island Lighthouse was built in 1905. The 71-foot tower is made of brick and is painted white with an orange band in the middle. The light continues to be in operation. *GPS Coordinates: 45.19251 N, -83.3272 W*

### 79 Rockport State Recreation Area (& Besser Natural Area)



A state-designated Dark Sky Preserve located on the shores of Lake Huron, Rockport includes a deep-water protected harbor, an old limestone quarry of approximately 300 acres, a unique series of sinkholes, a dedicated Natural Area (Besser Natural Area), and a broad range of land types, vegetative cover, cultural resources and recreation opportunities. Visitors will enjoy over 23 miles of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails at Rockport! Turn east from US 23 onto Rockport Road. [michigan.gov/dnr](http://michigan.gov/dnr)

### 80 Thunder Bay Karst Preserve



The Thunder Bay Karst Preserve is composed of two adjoining preserves - the Stevens Twin Sinks Preserve and the Bruski Sink. The Stevens Twin Sinks consists of two sinkholes separated by a fragile saddle ridge, each about 200 feet in diameter and 85 feet deep. Visitors to the preserve can follow walking trails that offer views of the sinkholes and a nature trail near the Stevens Twin Sinks. A spur on Sinkhole Trail leads to earth cracks which indicate the sink continues to slowly collapse and widen. Nature Trail branches off and returns to Sinkhole Trail after meandering through a beech grove. Another short trail follows the south and east walls of Bruski Sink. *Located on Leer Road.* [caves.org/conservancy/mkc/preserve\\_tb.html](http://caves.org/conservancy/mkc/preserve_tb.html)

### 81 Sunken Lake Park



Sunken Lake Park boasts 160 acres of serene beauty, virgin timber, and walking trails that lead to unending discoveries of wildlife, generous scenery, and hours of relaxing escape. Sunken Lake offers modern camping sites and also a primitive area. Abundant nature, unique rock formations, historic sinkholes, and relics of the lumbering era are to be found. A fine picnic area is available and fishing from the rustic covered bridge will offer many hours of relaxation away from the present pace of today's world. A warm welcome awaits the nature lover, bird watcher, rock hound, and all for a step into our past. *Located on Leer Road.* [alpenacounty.org/parks-recreation](http://alpenacounty.org/parks-recreation)

### 82 Mystery Valley Karst Preserve



The 76-acre Mystery Valley Karst Preserve and Nature Sanctuary is located just a few miles north of the Thunder Bay Karst Preserve. It contains one of the largest karst "collapse valleys" in the Great Lakes region, several dramatic earth cracks, and a lake that rises and falls and sometimes disappears. Visitors to the preserve can follow two self-guided trails: Earthcrack Trail and Valley Trail. Not surprisingly, Earthcrack Trail passes a series of cracks, including two that converge into one that's several hundred feet long and nearly 15 feet deep. Following the Valley Trail, visitors can see fossils of marine invertebrates such as brachiopods, bryzoa, and crinoids that lived some 350 million to 400 million years ago. Unlike a valley carved by a river, Mystery Valley was formed by the collapse of the surface into a labyrinth of subterranean chambers created by the water erosion of rock below. Mystery Valley is 1.5 miles long and 500 yards wide at its widest point, making it one of the largest known collapse valleys in the Great Lakes region. *Located on Leer Road.* [http://caves.org/conservancy/mkc/preserve\\_mv.html](http://caves.org/conservancy/mkc/preserve_mv.html)



## Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve

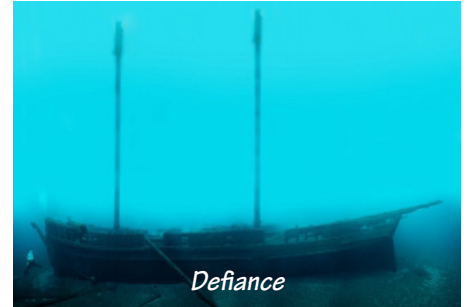
Over 200 shipwrecks are preserved in this freshwater sanctuary!



*Monohansett*



*EB Allen*



*Defiance*

*Photos courtesy of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary*

The sanctuary is dedicated to protecting the Great Lakes and their rich history. In this 4,300 square-mile marine protected area the cold, fresh water of Lake Huron preserves a nationally significant collection of over 200 historic shipwrecks. Through research, education, and community involvement, the sanctuary ensures future generations will enjoy these irreplaceable underwater treasures from our past. Shipwreck sites in sanctuary waters offer incredible diving, kayaking, and snorkeling opportunities for visitors. The boundary of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary extends off the coast of Alcona, Alpena, and Presque Isle Counties to the international boundary. For coordinates of shipwrecks, please visit [thunderbay.noaa.gov](http://thunderbay.noaa.gov). The sanctuary visitor center is located in Alpena (#88 described on page 26).

### Early history

The maritime history of the Thunder Bay region is characterized by the use of, and dependence upon, natural resources. These resources include animal furs, fisheries, forests, farmland, and limestone. The first recorded use of natural resources for transportation, food supplies, and recreation in Thunder Bay was by Native Americans during the Woodland period. European activity probably originated with the efforts of Native Americans and French traders to locate and trap beaver during the 1600's.

Trading and supply boats routinely passed Thunder Bay on their way to outposts at Mackinaw, Sault Ste. Marie, and Green Bay. In 1679, LaSalle's GRIFFON became the first major European vessel to pass by Thunder Bay, and many others were to follow. The need to transport supplies to northern frontier posts stimulated construction of small brigs, sloops, and schooners. Thunder Bay accumulated a large collection of shipwrecks because of its strategic location along shipping lanes and because the bay and nearby islands provided shelter for vessels during inclement weather.

Take a trip through maritime history on the **Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Trail!**  
[thunderbay.noaa.gov/visit/places.html](http://thunderbay.noaa.gov/visit/places.html)

*"Albany" courtesy of Photic Zone*







Besser  
Museum  
for  
Northeast  
Michigan  
**90**  
JOHNSON ST

**76** North Eastern State Trail

Northern Lights  
Arena/APlex

LONG RAPIDS RD

**Duck Park**

**89**

**Island Park**

Wildlife Sanctuary

Alpena County  
Fairgrounds

LaMarre Park

Rotary Island Mill Park

Great Lakes Maritime  
Heritage Center

**88** Alpena Shipwreck Tours

McRae Park

Riverside Skate Park

**87** Old Town Alpena

North Riverfront Park

**86** Little Red  
Lighthouse

South  
Riverfront  
Park

**85** Alpena Marina  
**Alpena**

**85** Bayview Park

Thomson Park

**84** Alpena Bi-Path

Blair Street Park

**83** Starlite Beach &  
Mich-e-ke-wis Park

Thunder Bay  
National Marine  
Sanctuary  
(See page 24)

THUNDER BAY

GRASS ISLAND



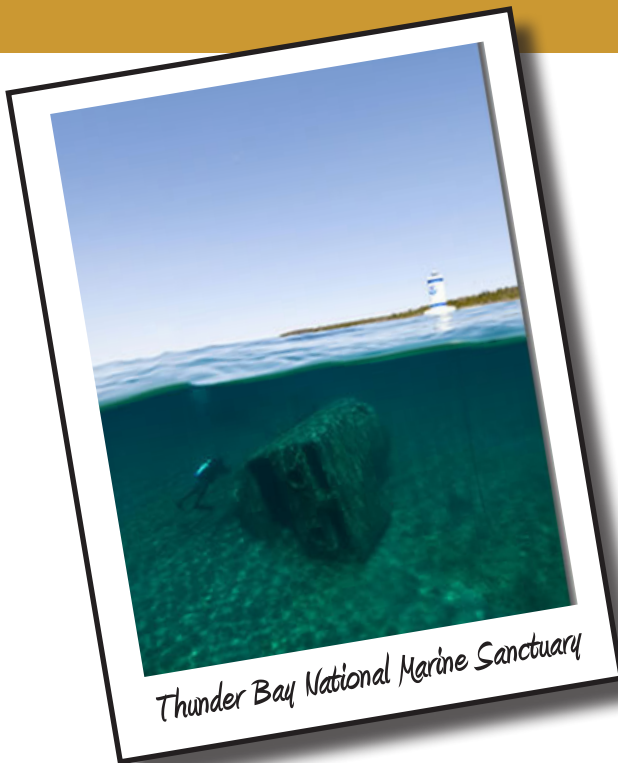
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**Evergreen Cemetery**  
The area now known as Evergreen Cemetery was locally known as "The Burial Ground," a pine barrens unsuitable for farming. The township acquired the land from Daniel Carter in 1866. Informal record keeping began then, but there were earlier burials prior to 1866. The area may have been the site of Native American burials before the first community members arrived. The majority of early pioneers and community developers are buried here. There are significant historical design characteristics to view and enjoy. (Marcia Simmons, *For The Purpose of a Burial Ground, the Early History of Evergreen Cemetery, Alpena, MI, 2019*). Visit [heritage23.org](http://heritage23.org) (under "Art, Culture & History") to find other historic cemeteries along the Sunrise Coast.



# Alpena County

## City of Alpena



Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

### 83 Starlite Beach & Mich-e-ke-wis Park



A wonderful, large, open beach with a splashpad, large playground, barbeque pits, picnic tables, and bathroom facilities/outdoor showers. The beach looks out onto Lake Huron providing beautiful scenery. Located just a few minutes walk of restaurants and stores.

*Located on US 23 (State Ave).* [alpena.mi.us](http://alpena.mi.us)

### 84 Alpena Bi-Path



The Alpena Bi-Path is a beautiful city-wide paved pathway accommodating both walking and biking. It's a great way to see the City of Alpena and all the great things it has to offer. The Bi-Path connects almost every park in the city as well as many of the other attractions including the Besser Museum, Thunder Bay Recreation Center, Marina, the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and many more. Many of the parks throughout the city provide great spots to park a car and head out on the trail by foot or bike. Shipwreck buoys are viewable from the Maritime Heritage Trail (part of the Bi-Path system). *The Bi-Path is accessible from numerous parks throughout Alpena.* [alpena.mi.us](http://alpena.mi.us)

### 85 Alpena Marina & Bayview Park

This full-service marina offers 88 seasonal and 46 transient slips in addition to a 35-ton boat hoist, fish cleaning station, fuel, restrooms, store, and marine repair. Adjacent to the marina, Bayview Park has a playground, tennis courts, and a spectacular view! The bandshell also serves as the focal point for many community concerts and events!

*From US 23 (State Ave) heading north in Alpena, turn right at Prentiss Street.* [alpena.mi.us](http://alpena.mi.us)

### 86 Little Red Lighthouse



Located at the mouth of the Thunder Bay River, the 80-foot skeletal tower has been called "Sputnik" (resembles the Russian space satellite) and "Little Red" by locals. Believed to be the only lighthouse of this type in the U.S., the station was built of wood in 1877, rebuilt of wood in 1888, and finally constructed of steel in 1914. An automated active aid to navigation, the Alpena Light originally housed a 4th Order Fresnel lens. *From US 23 (State Ave) heading north in Alpena, turn right at Prentiss St (next to Bay View Park). Head out onto the breakwall to view Little Red.*

### 87 Old Town Alpena



Enjoy the great stores and restaurants in the Old Town district of Alpena. Beautiful, historic renovations have been done to preserve the buildings in this area making it a great place to visit. You are sure to love it! *From US 23, turn right on 2nd Ave - Old Town is on the east side of the 2nd Ave Bridge.*

### 88 Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center



Explore the exhibits at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center. Experience the maritime history, shipwrecks, and archaeology of the Great Lakes, and much more. Walk the deck of a life-sized schooner battling the Great Lakes storm and then dive in and explore a shipwreck—without getting wet! The sanctuary is dedicated to protecting the Great Lakes and their rich history. *From US 23 heading north, turn right onto 2nd Ave and cross the bridge. Turn left onto Fletcher St.* [thunderbay.noaa.gov](http://thunderbay.noaa.gov) See page 24 for information on the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

### 89 Island Park & Wildlife Sanctuary



Island Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, a 17-acre Island jewel surrounded by the Thunder Bay River, winds through 500 acres of back waters and low islands. Located in the heart of Alpena, several footpaths wind along the island's perimeter and the interior and leads joggers, walkers, photographers, fishermen, and nature lovers through varied ecosystems including sand dunes, meadows, woodlands, gentle slopes, and marsh areas. Viewing platforms are universally-accessible. There is a universally-accessible canoe/kayak/paddleboard launch providing access to the wildlife sanctuary that surrounds the island. *Corner of US 23 and Long Rapids Rd.* [alpena.mi.us](http://alpena.mi.us)

### 90 Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan



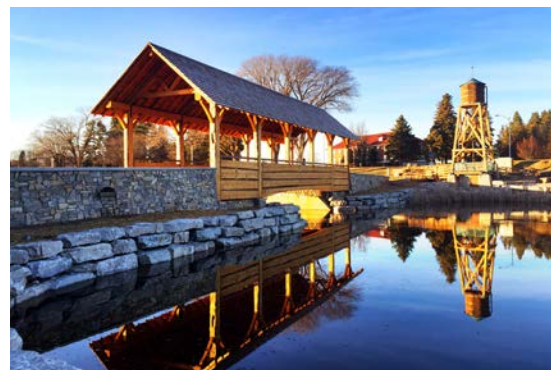
The Besser Museum offers educational experiences in art, history, and science. Visitors will be delighted by the museum's eight acre campus with a historic village, full-dome planetarium, Foucault pendulum, Devonian fossil pit (where visitors can keep all the fossil they find), rotating art galleries featuring local, regional and nationally renowned artists, wildlife exhibits featuring native and non-native specimens, and thousands of artifacts from early man! An exhibit on regional resources and the flourishing industries that contributed to the development of Northeast Michigan is also featured. *491 Johnson Street. From US 23 north in Alpena, turn right onto Johnson St.* [bessermuseum.org](http://bessermuseum.org)

### Alpena Shipwreck Tours

Explore the shipwrecks of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary on the 65-foot glass-bottomed Lady Michigan! Two large viewing wells on the main deck give passengers a front row view of shipwrecks on the bottom of Lake Huron. Departing from the port of Alpena, the Lady Michigan will take you on a comfortable adventure into the heart of Lake Huron's Shipwreck Alley. Daily tours begin in June and continue through the color season.

Tickets can be purchased online, by calling 888-469-4696, or at the Sanctuary Gift Store located at 500 W. Fletcher Street in Alpena. The Lady Michigan docks just behind the Heritage Center. Group and private charters are welcome.

[alpenashipwrecktours.com](http://alpenashipwrecktours.com)



Bridge to Island Park



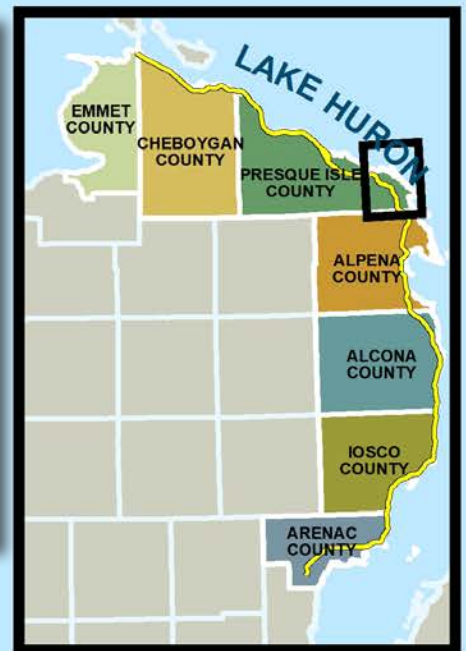


Photo by Kyle Taylor

Old Presque Isle Lighthouse

## The Ghost Light

The Old Presque Isle Lighthouse was only operational for 31 years, but it is well-known for its ghosts. Many say you can hear a woman's screams some nights from the ghost of a keeper's wife who was locked away in the tower long ago. But it's the ghost of George Parris that is the most talked about. He and his wife moved into the keeper's cottage in the 1990's to run the museum and give tours. Since George died, the light in the lighthouse comes on at dusk and goes off at dawn every night. This may not seem that odd for any other lighthouse, but this one's light had been permanently disabled. Air National Guard pilots have even reported seeing the light, and the Coast Guard has gone so far as to remove the old light from the tower—but it still shines. Source: Coastal Living ([www.coastalliving.com](http://www.coastalliving.com)), Jennifer Beeler, Steve Millburg, and Mamie Walling.



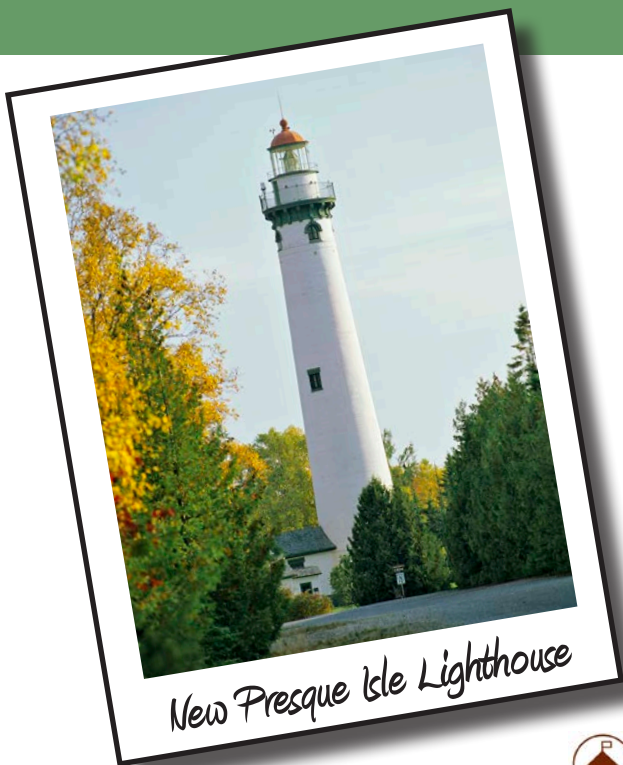
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# Presque Isle County

## Presque Isle



New Presque Isle Lighthouse

### 91 Range Light Park



By the time the New Presque Isle Lighthouse was erected in 1870, Presque Isle Harbor was a routine stop for many vessels conducting trade along the Lake Huron shoreline. A natural harbor of refuge, Presque Isle also provided safe and welcome shelter from sudden and powerful storms. The New Presque Isle Light alerted the mariners to impending dangers while the two smaller Range Lights guided them safely into harbor. When the lights were aligned, the mariner knew the safest and easiest path into or out of the harbor. The rear range light included living quarters for a keeper and family and is now a private residence. Modern, automated lights have replaced historic ones, but most of the original structures remain. The old front range light was relocated to the entrance of the Old Presque Isle Lighthouse grounds where it stood for many years. It was moved back to near its original location in 2004 and there faithfully restored. The grave of Adeline Sims, wife of range light Keeper William Sims, is located to the side of the keeper's path in a small, fenced-in area. Legend has it that while her husband and fellow Masons held meetings in the rear range light, she overheard and memorized secret passages. To seal her lips, she was made a member. Adeline Sims died an invalid in 1881 and was buried with a Masonic emblem on her gravestone. Sims is the only woman so honored by the Masons. Source: Presque Isle Township. *From US 23, turn right onto County Road 638. Turn left onto Grand Lake Road.* [presqueislelighthouses.org](http://presqueislelighthouses.org)



Visit Presque Isle's historic businesses - The Presque Isle Lodge (1920) and the Fireside Inn (1908) both on Grand Lake!



New Presque Isle Lighthouse

### 92 Presque Isle Harbor



Presque Isle offers the only natural harbor on Lake Huron with a marina offering water, restrooms, showers, diesel, electricity, pump-out, gasoline, launch, fishing pier, dog run, and grills (and food is available nearby). The Old Presque Isle Lighthouse is a short walk up the path. The Presque Isle Harbor Wooden Boat Show is held on the 3rd Saturday in June each year! *From US 23, turn right onto County Road 638. Turn left onto Grand Lake Road.* [presqueisleharborwoodenboatshow.com](http://presqueisleharborwoodenboatshow.com) [midntrreservations.com](http://midntrreservations.com)

### 93 Old Presque Isle Lighthouse



Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Old Presque Isle Lighthouse is one of the oldest surviving lighthouses on the Great Lakes. Built in 1840 by Jeremiah Moors of Detroit, the harbor light operated until 1871 when the keeper transferred to a new, taller, coastal lighthouse a mile to the north. The Old Presque Isle Lighthouse park is a complex composed of two main structures - a keepers dwelling and a light tower. Visitors can climb the hand-hewn stone steps for a panoramic view of the Lake Huron shoreline and Presque Isle Harbor. Nearby is the one-story, side-gabled brick keeper's dwelling which serves as a hands-on museum. Visitors can ring the bell from the Lansing City Hall clock tower. Tipping the scales at an impressive 3,425 pounds, this bronze behemoth is much bigger than the Liberty Bell, which weighed 2,080 pounds when cast. This lighthouse is locally known as the "Ghost Light" because, even though the light itself has been removed, locals report that, on some nights, it can still be seen! *From US 23, turn right onto County Road 638. Turn left onto Grand Lake Road.* [presqueislelighthouses.org](http://presqueislelighthouses.org)

### 94 New Presque Isle Lighthouse



Presque Isle Light Station is a complex of three historic buildings including a lighthouse tower and two keeper's residences. Located on the Lake Huron shoreline near Presque Isle Harbor, the "New Presque Isle Light" is the tallest lighthouse tower accessible by the public on the Great Lakes. Built in 1870, it replaced the 1840 harbor light. The light station complex is part of a 99-acre township park that includes a playground, picnic area, pavilion, and nature trails. A gift shop is located in the original keeper's quarters connected to the tower. Visitors, for a nominal fee, may climb the 130 steps to the top of the tower for a spectacular view. An unattached 1905 keeper's dwelling has been painstakingly restored. It is now a museum that provides visitors with an opportunity to learn about local history as well as how keepers and their families lived. *From US 23, turn right onto County Road 638. Turn left onto Grand Lake Road.* [presqueislelighthouses.org](http://presqueislelighthouses.org)

### 95 Thompsons Harbor State Park

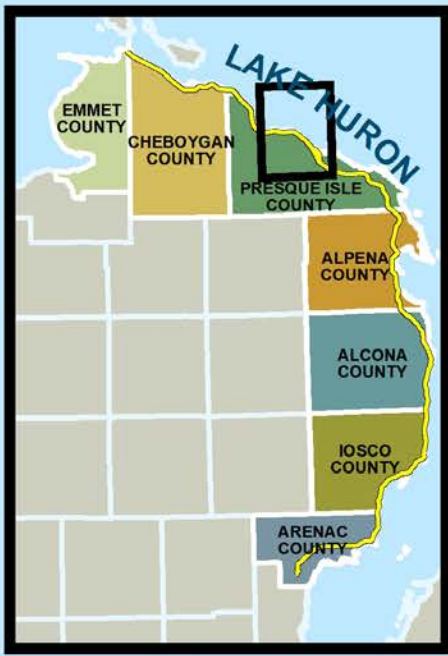


This undeveloped state park, a state-designated Dark Sky Preserve, has over seven miles of Lake Huron shoreline and provides a rustic retreat for hikers and cross-country skiers to explore the park's six miles of trails (groomed in the winter). Primitive hiking trails wander through the second growth forest, sand dunes, and limestone cobble beaches. This area is ideal for birding and hunting, and visitors are encouraged to bring a map and compass and explore the uncharted areas of the park. Two rustic cabins are open year round. *Located north of Grand Lake on US 23.* [michigan.gov/dnr](http://michigan.gov/dnr)



Old Presque Isle Light







# Presque Isle County

## Rogers City



40 Mile Point Lighthouse

### 96 Quarry View/Harbor View

Harbor View provides an excellent vantage point of the largest open pit mine in the world as well as the large Great Lakes freighters that are loaded with limestone at its docks. The park includes interpretive signage and a viewing platform. The limestone operation also can be witnessed a few miles south, on Business US 23, at the Quarry View turnout. *From US 23, take Business 23 to Quarry View. To access Harbor View, take Park Dr to Calcite Rd, then to Harbor View.*

### 97 Ocqueoc Falls

Ocqueoc Falls is the largest waterfall in Michigan's Lower Peninsula and the only universally-accessible waterfall in the United States. After hiking the trail, take a swim in the falls! Ocqueoc provides approximately six miles of hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing opportunities with three marked loops and groomed trails. At this site, you can see where the Ocqueoc River has cut a channel through the limestone bedrock that underlays the entire region. During spawning season, you can see the salmon swim through these underground channels. *Located on M-68 approximately 20 miles west of Rogers City. michigan.gov/dnr*

### 98 P.H. Hoeft State Park

This magnificent, wooded 340-acre lakefront park has a mile of sandy Lake Huron shoreline, 126 camp sites, a modern lodge and mini-cabin open year round, and a day-use area with swimming, playground and picnic facilities. Trails are groomed for cross country skiing. *Bike into town on the Huron Sunrise Trail! Located On US 23. michigan.gov/hoeft*

### 99 40 Mile Point Lighthouse & Glawe School

40 Mile Point Lighthouse was completed in 1896. The tower houses a working 1872 Henri-LePaute 4th Order Fresnell lens installed in 1919 with a characteristic of three seconds on and three seconds off. The gift shop is a wood framed building that was built to house the work crew during construction of the lighthouse and later served as a barn for the keeper's horses. Various keepers from the Lighthouse Service and the Coast Guard lived and tended the lighthouse from 1897 to 1968. The lighthouse site is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Michigan Historical Marker (local site number 2186). Visitors may climb the lighthouse tower, tour the museum and gift shop, step aboard the restored steamer Calcite pilothouse, tour the Glawe School (a one-room schoolhouse built in 1885) and visit the Joseph S. Fay shipwreck on the beach (depending on the water height, about 130 feet of the side is on the beach). Divers can visit the bottom of the shipwreck about 100 yards off the beach. There is FREE admission to the all structures in the park! 989-734-4907. *The entrance is 100 yards north of the Lighthouse Park sign on US 23 appx. 7 miles north of Rogers City. Bike from Rogers City to the lighthouse on the Huron Sunrise Trail! fortymilepointlighthouse.org*

### 100 South Shore Park/Fossil Park

The entire family will enjoy digging for fossils! Bring your digging tools and a bucket. Free to the public and great fun for the entire family! The Rogers City area has fossils dating back to the Devonian Period over 359 million years ago. This area was once a shallow inland tropical sea with the flora and fauna of the ancient coral reef. The fossil park is located along the scenic shores of Lake Huron. Concession booth located on the premises. *From US 23, take Park Dr, then turn left on Calcite Road. rogerscity.com/south-shore-park*

### 101 Lakeside Park/Rogers City Marina

A beautiful harbor invites sailboats and cruisers into a state-of-the-art facility. A port of entry, which makes for a great jumping off point to the North Channel, the harbor is home to 92 seasonal and 34 transient slips. An extended breakwall assures smooth dockage for boats coming in off Lake Huron. The breakwall extension has a fishing platform for anglers wishing to try their luck. Adjacent to the marina is Lakeside Park with its playground and swimming beach. Restaurants and shopping are just a few blocks away. *Located on Lake St. rogerscity.com/lakeside-park rogerscitymarina.com*

### 102 Presque Isle County Historical Museum

The world's largest limestone quarry, ships of the Bradley fleet, Native Americans, frontier pioneers, lumberjacks, lumber barons, the Bertram Sisters' Millinery Shoppe, and a 1900's school room are just a few of the exhibits that document the rich history of the area. Free admission! *176 W Michigan Ave in Rogers City. thebradleyhouse.org*

### 103 Great Lakes Lore Maritime Museum

The Great Lakes Lore Maritime Museum specializes in memories, not just artifacts. The generations of men and women who risked life itself to sail these waters are remembered here as are their uniforms, personal possessions, navigational and other maritime tools. Step into four centuries of fascinating Great Lakes history. *367 N. 3rd St (Business Route 23). glimm.com*

### 104 Herman Vogler Conservation Area

On the banks of the Trout River, this 270-acre park features picnic areas and family fishing in addition to seven miles of hiking, biking, and ski paths that connect to the Huron Sunrise Trail. *Take US 23 to Birchwood Dr. rogerscity.com/herman-vogler-conservation-area*

### 105 Huron Sunrise Trail

The Huron Sunrise Trail is an 11-mile paved trail suitable for biking, roller blading, or walking. This trail connects Rogers City to Hoeft State Park, 40 Mile Point Lighthouse, and miles of unspoiled Lake Huron shoreline. It follows the Lake Huron shoreline from the Rogers City to Forty-Mile Point Lighthouse, with a one-mile spur into the Herman Vogler Recreation Area. Winding through upland hardwoods, lakeshore dunes, parks and streams, the Huron Sunrise Trail is one of northern Michigan's most beautiful. *Trail can be accessed at lakeside parks in Rogers City, at P.H. Hoeft State Park, or at 40 Mile Point Lighthouse.*







## Black Mountain Area

### 106 Onaway State Park



Onaway State Park on beautiful Black Lake has rugged but picturesque land including sand and cobblestone beaches, large unique rock outcroppings, a diverse variety of trees, and a three-mile nature trail. The campground is set among virgin white pines and offers solitude, serenity, and family fun. Activities enjoyed by both locals and campers include swimming, fishing, and hiking. Fishing is abundant in Black Lake with muskies, perch, and pike being caught. The park appeals to those who prefer a quiet, scenic setting. *From US 23 in Rogers City, take M-68 west to M-211 north.* [michigan.gov/dnr](http://michigan.gov/dnr)

### 107 Red Bridge Trail & Route



Several loops are available within this 34-mile ORV system. There are flat, sandy areas as well as open and wooded areas. *DNR parking lot is available on Black River Road.* [michigan.gov/dnr](http://michigan.gov/dnr)

### 108 Black Lake State Forest Campground



This rustic campground sits along the northern shore of Black Lake, which is Michigan's seventh largest inland lake and is surrounded by rolling hills and lush hardwood forests. Each campsite has a picnic table and fire circle. Other amenities include vault toilets and potable water. The boat launch provides access for smaller fishing and pleasure boats. *Located 11 miles north of Onaway via M-211, County Road 489, Black Mountain Road and Doriva Beach Road.* [michigan.gov/dnr](http://michigan.gov/dnr)

### 109 Black Mountain Forest Recreation Area



The Black Mountain Recreation Area offers a vast network of marked trails for hiking, biking, ATV excursions, horseback riding, skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling. With over 30 miles available for hiking, 60 miles for off-road vehicles, and 80 groomed miles for snowmobiling, the area is ideal for any type of outdoor adventure at any skill level. Parking and trail access at Black Mountain are conveniently located at a number of locations, including the Black Lake State Forest Campground and the Twin Lakes State Forest Campground. *Trailheads are located on Twin Lakes Rd, Doriva Beach Rd, County Rd 489, and Black Mountain Rd.* [trails council.org](http://trails council.org)

### 110 Twin Lakes State Forest Campground

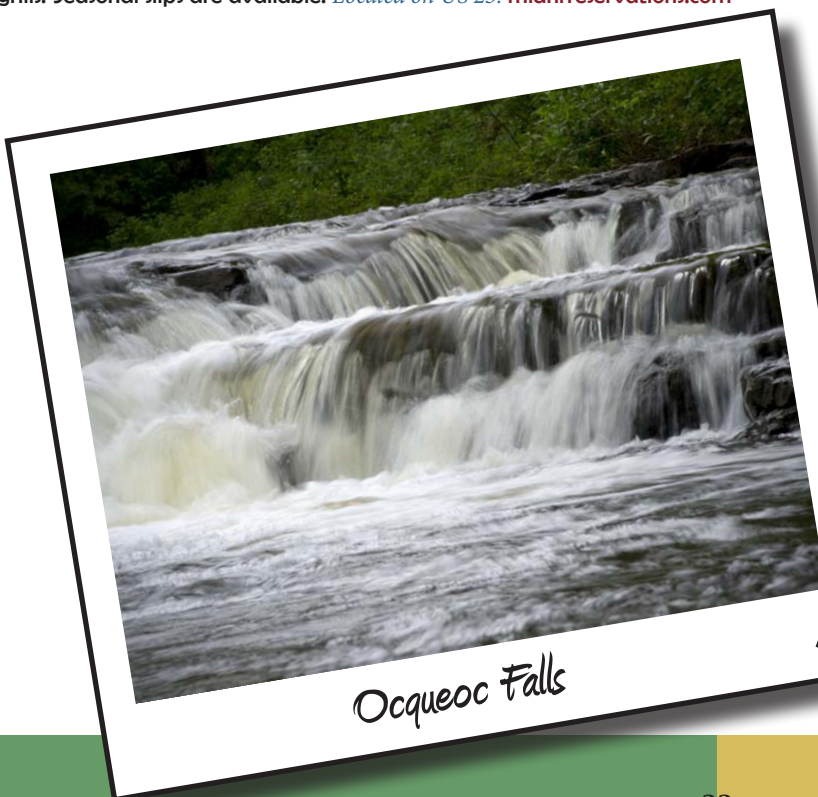


Nestled on a forested bluff along a beautiful lake, this rustic campground is a perfect destination for water sports, hiking, biking, and more. The campground includes 11 wooded sites perfect for tents and small trailer use. A carry-in boat launch provides access to paddling sports and fishing. Hiking and biking opportunities are located nearby at the Black Mountain. *It is located just six miles southeast of Alverno via Smith and Twin Lakes roads.* [michigan.gov/dnr](http://michigan.gov/dnr)

### 111 Hammond Bay State Harbor



Amenities include restrooms, showers, electricity, water, pump-out, gasoline, diesel, boat launch (fee required), refuse receptacles, dog run, ice, and grills. Seasonal slips are available. *Located on US 23.* [midnrreservations.com](http://midnrreservations.com)

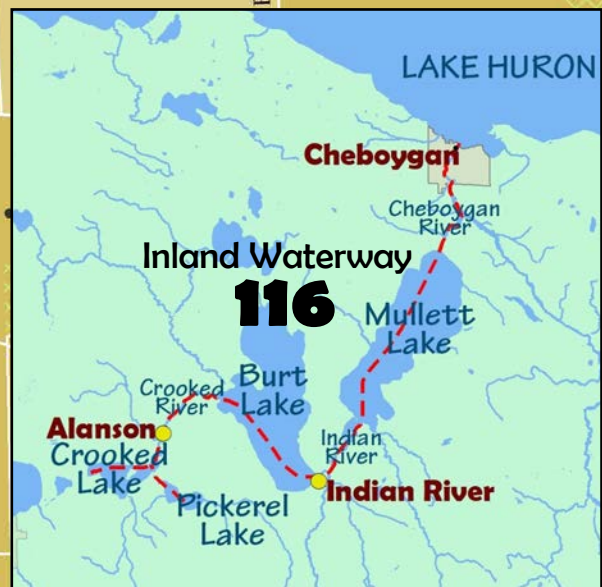


Ocqueoc Falls



Pitt Hoefft State Park  
on Lake Huron







# Cheboygan County

## Cheboygan

### 112 Cheboygan Lighthouses



The **Cheboygan Crib Light** is a light that marks the west pierhead of the mouth of the Cheboygan River into Lake Huron. From downtown Cheboygan, take Water Street east to First Street. Turn left on First Street to Huron Street. Head East on Huron Street to Gordon Turner Park, and walk the beach to the lighthouse and pier. **Cheboygan River Front Range Light**, is accessed from US 23 north - turn right onto Water Street. **Fourteen Foot Shoal Light** was named to note that the lake was only 14 feet deep at this point, which is a hazard to navigation, ships, and mariners. This light can be viewed from a boat. **Poe Reef** lies just eight feet beneath the water's surface between Bois Blanc Island and the Lower Peninsula mainland, and as such has long represented a significant hazard to vessels making their way through the Straits between Lakes Michigan and Huron. **Poe Reef Lighthouse** is best viewed by boat. However, fair views are available from Lighthouse Point near the ruins of the Cheboygan Main Light Station in Cheboygan State Park. The lighthouse is privately-owned and the tower is closed. Resembling a pair of eyeglasses in shape, the rocks of **Spectacle Reef** lie just seven feet below the surface of Lake Huron at a point eleven miles east of the Mackinac Straits. The light is best viewed from a boat. It is privately-owned and the tower is closed. (Note: Poe Reef Light and Spectacle Reef Light are not shown on the map).

GPS Coordinates for lights in the lake - *Fourteen Foot Shoal Light*: 45.6798 N, -84.4347 W  
*Poe Reef Light*: 45.6949 N, -84.362 W *Spectacle Reef Light*: 45.7732 N, -84.1367 W

### 113 Cheboygan State Park



A seven-mile system of well-marked trails provide access to scenic Lake Huron vistas and glimpses of rare wildflowers. Six miles are groomed in the winter. Warm up to a crackling fire after a refreshing day of skiing at one of the cabins available for winter rental! Modern camping, rustic cabins, and teepees are all available as well as trout fishing on the Little Billy Elliot Creek and fishing on Duncan Bay. Visitors will also find the foundation remains of the Cheboygan Point Light. In 1851, the Cheboygan Point Light was originally built on a pier in Lake Huron, but, due to rough water and winter ice, in 1859 it was rebuilt on the shore and was in operation until 1930. Also, a signed bike route leads from the park to Festival Square in Cheboygan and from there to the North Central State Trail. *Located east of Cheboygan on US 23.* [michigan.gov/dnr](http://michigan.gov/dnr)

### 114 Cheboygan Opera House



The Opera House, originally constructed in 1877, was restored in 1984. This acoustically superb theater has become a focal point for entertainment in the Straits Area. Call 231-627-5432 for concert schedules, tickets, and information. (Box Office 231-627-5841). [theoperahouse.org](http://theoperahouse.org). *403 N. Huron Street. From US 23 heading north, turn left onto N. Huron St.* [theoperahouse.org](http://theoperahouse.org)

### 115 History Center of Cheboygan County



Located at Huron and Court Streets in Cheboygan, the complex consists of four buildings which house artifacts and historic exhibits of the past. The grounds also display the Memorial Rose Garden and beautiful perennial garden. The museum also features a Settler's Log Cabin originally located on Burt Lake in a local Native American Village, the Cheboygan County Sheriff Residence constructed in 1882 with attached jail cells, the New Jail addition built in 1912-14, and Spies Heritage Hall, dedicated in 1997, providing additional exhibit space. *Location: From US 23 north in Cheboygan, turn left onto Main St, then right onto Court St and left onto Huron Street.* [cheboyganhistorycenter.org](http://cheboyganhistorycenter.org)

### 116 Inland Waterway



The Inland Waterway encompasses a 38-mile route from Lake Huron to Crooked Lake. In between, you travel the Cheboygan River, Mullett Lake, Indian River, Burt Lake, Crooked River and into Crooked Lake. This unique chain of lakes and rivers was once a vital means of transportation for the area. Visitors will travel through two locks - one located in Cheboygan and the other near Alanson. The waterway is a unique adventure sure to please any boating enthusiast. From wildlife and scenic beauty to water skiing, tubing, and swimming...the Inland Waterway has it all! [michiganwatertrails.org/northeast.asp](http://michiganwatertrails.org/northeast.asp)

### 117 North Central State Trail



The 62-mile North Central State Trail offers a multi-use trail adventure into Michigan's north woods with connections to well-established tourist towns at both ends. Northern Michigan scenery - from agricultural fields, quaint little towns, forests, lakes and rivers to native wildlife and wildflowers - abounds. The trail will take you south through Cheboygan, Topinabee, Indian River, Wolverine, Vanderbilt, Gaylord, and Waters. From Cheboygan, you can also go west to Mackinaw City. There are many opportunities to enjoy amenities and scenery along the way including public beaches, parking, restrooms, and restaurants. *Location: Trailheads are located in Gaylord, Vanderbilt, Wolverine, Indian River, Cheboygan, and Mackinaw City.* [trailscouncil.org](http://trailscouncil.org)

### Cheboygan Shipwreck Tours

Imagine the Straits of Mackinac over the ages. Storms of legend and ships that left port without return. Hundreds of wrecks lie just off the shores of Lake Huron and Lake Michigan, but some of the most beautiful, magnificent shallow water wrecks lie just outside the mouth of the Cheboygan river.

View these shallow water shipwrecks via Nautical North Family Adventures' glass-bottom tour boat. Feeling adventurous? Get the whole family out of the boat and into the water for shallow wreck snorkeling. Nautical North also offer a complete diving instruction and certification program for those who want to explore new places and deeper waters! [nauticalnorthfamilyadventures.com](http://nauticalnorthfamilyadventures.com)



UPPER PENINSULA



Mackinac Bridge 124

LAKE MICHIGAN

LAKE HURON

McGulpin Point Light

123

The Headlands Dark Sky Park

122

121

Mackinaw Heritage Village

May Woods Nature Trails  
TRAILSSEND RD

FERRIES TO MACKINAC ISLAND

120

North Western State Trail

119

North Country Trail

LINSLEY RD

31

75

N MACKINAW HWY

STIMPSON RD

POTTER RD

HERITAGE ROUTE 23

Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park

118

117 North Central State Trail



0 1 2 Miles





# Cheboygan County

## Mackinaw City



Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park

### 118 Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park



The site of the first industrial settlement in the Straits area! Hear the rush of water powering a reconstructed sawmill as you experience a sawmill demonstration. Participate in the sawpit method of lumber production. Immerse yourself in nature trails and interactive exhibits. Climb a 50-foot tower. Experience the adrenaline of the park naturalist-guided Adventure Tour, which includes the Eagles Flight Zip Line, Forest Canopy Bridge, and Nature Trail Climbing Wall. *Location: Less than 5 minutes south of Mackinaw City on US 23.* [mackinacparks.com](http://mackinacparks.com)

### 119 North Country Trail



The North Country Trail is a scenic hiking trail that stretches 4,600 miles from North Dakota to Vermont. The trail extends 1,150 miles through Michigan passing through the Upper Peninsula, across the Straits of Mackinac, down the western side of the Lower Peninsula, and heading southeast toward Ohio across southern Michigan. [northcountrytrail.org](http://northcountrytrail.org)

### 120 North Western State Trail



The North Western State Trail runs from Mackinaw City south to Petoskey along the former Grand Rapids and Indiana line of the Pennsylvania Railroad. This is a multi-use trail open to all non-motorized uses year-round and snowmobiles from December 1 to March 31. *Location: Trailhead is located in Mackinaw City.* [trails council.org](http://trails council.org)

### 121 Mackinaw Heritage Village



Heritage Village re-creates the period between 1880-1917. The 141-acre site features historic buildings including a one-room School House, a 1900 Pestilence House, Heritage Chapel, a restored log home, a sawmill, a Native American plank house, hiking trails, and Nature Center. Visit the village any day and take advantage of the Audio Tour. *Location: From US 23 in Mackinaw City, follow Huron St to Central Ave (left) through downtown. Head west to 1425 W. Central Ave.* [mackinawhistory.org](http://mackinawhistory.org)

### 122 The Headlands International Dark Sky Park



Located along the clear blue expanse of Lake Michigan, the Headlands has exceptional natural darkness, starry skies, and nocturnal habitat. Dark Skies programs are available. The park contains pristine woodlands, more than 2 miles of undeveloped Lake Michigan shoreline and many species of rare and endangered plant life. Visitors to the Headlands may experience sightings of the many wild animals native to the area including: bald eagles, osprey, white tail deer, wild turkeys, coyotes, and occasionally a black bear. Marked nature trails guide hikers, cross-country skiers, and nature photographers to experience the park throughout the changing seasons. *Located west of Mackinaw City along Headlands Road.* [midarkskypark.org](http://midarkskypark.org)

### 123 McGulpin Point Lighthouse



McGulpin Point Lighthouse protected shipping on the Straits of Mackinac against storms, fog, and rocks between 1869 and 1906. The site is approximately 10 acres and is a half mile north of the Headlands. It includes 336 feet of shoreline on the Straits with a commanding view of the Mackinac Bridge. *Location: From US 23 in Mackinaw City, take Huron St to Central Ave (turn left). Head west to Headlands Rd (turn right).* [mcgulinpoint.org](http://mcgulinpoint.org)

**The Big Rock at McGulpin Point:** About 390 years ago, pilgrims momentarily set foot on the Eastern seaboard of the U.S. and Plymouth Rock was christened an enduring symbol of American settlement. But 395 years ago, French explorers were plying the Straits of Mackinac and using a rock at least five times the size of Plymouth's to gauge water levels as they navigated in canoes along the tumultuous waters between Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsulas. McGulpin Rock has been observed since at least 1615 as an aid to navigation for French explorers around the time voyager Etienne Brule was traveling the Great Lakes. Native Americans used it much earlier. McGulpin Rock and the Straits of Mackinac history, while as significant and formative as the East Coast events, has remained largely out of textbooks because it was mainly the English who wrote early U.S. history, not the French, according to Sandy Planisek, a Mackinaw City resident, historian and author. *Dimensions: 33.8' horizontal circumference; 37' vertical circumference; 9' in height; weighs 54 tons.*

### 124 Mackinac Bridge



The Mackinac Bridge, built in 1957, is one of the longest suspension bridges in the world. The total length of the bridge is 26,372 feet (5 miles). The towers soar 553 feet above the water. The 1,024,500 ton structure features 42,000 miles of cable. Each year on Labor Day, the bridge is opened to walkers. [mackinacbridge.org](http://mackinacbridge.org)



The Mighty Mac



# Cheboygan County

## Mackinaw City

### 125 Colonial Michilimackinac



Michilimackinac, now one of the longest on-going archeological projects of its kind, was founded in 1715 as a French fur-trading village and military outpost. It was here where fur traders and Indians rendezvoused, French and British officers organized war parties, and explorers began their journeys into the vast western unknown. It was later occupied by the British who abandoned it in 1780 to establish a new fort on Mackinac Island. Open early May - mid October. *Location: 102 Straits Ave. Colonial Michilimackinac is located just south of the Mackinac Bridge. [mackinacparks.com](http://mackinacparks.com)*

### 126 Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse



With maritime traffic in the Straits of Mackinac steadily increasing, Congress authorized the construction of a light station at Old Mackinac Point in 1889. The new station was to replace an existing light at McGulpin Point, two miles to the west, which was not visible to vessels sailing on Lake Huron. A fog signal went into operation at Old Mackinac Point in 1890, and the lighthouse itself was completed and lit for the first time in 1892. A storage barn and oil house completed the station. Old Mackinac Point's flashing red light, shining atop a stately stone tower and castle-like keepers' quarters, was visible for 16 miles, guiding sailors through the sometimes treacherous waters of the Straits of Mackinac. For 65 years, the keepers of Old Mackinac Point stood watch every night to monitor the station's equipment. The Old Mackinac Point light station was decommissioned in 1957, replaced by navigational aids mounted on the newly-constructed Mackinac Bridge. Today visitors can climb the tower, take in the spectacular view, and interact with hands-on exhibits. (Source: [MackinacParks.com](http://MackinacParks.com)) *Location: 526 North Huron Ave. Heading north on US 23, follow Huron Ave to the light. [mackinacparks.com](http://mackinacparks.com)*

### 127 Mackinaw Historical Pathway



A self-guided walking tour through Mackinaw City includes more than 50 historical markers. The pathway winds through the city and includes information along the way about the area's history as the Crossroads of the Great Lakes. The numbered trail begins at the corner of Central Avenue and Huron Street then continues south on Huron Street to the State Dock, the north along the waterfront to Old Mackinac Point Historic Lighthouse and Colonial Michilimackinac. The trail ends along Nicolet Street and Central Avenue. Along the Historical Pathway, visitors can also learn more about the Mackinaw City area history using cell phones to access the Audio Tour. Signs along the route include a telephone number to call. The audio tour also can be used at the Icebreaker Mackinaw, Headlands, McGulpin Point Lighthouse, and the Heritage Village.

### 128 Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum



"An American Hero Story," the "Queen of the Great Lakes", built as part of the war effort during WWII, the Mackinaw (WAGB83) was the most powerful and capable icebreaker in the world and is still the standard by which icebreakers are measured. For 62 years, she served the Great Lakes shipping industry. She was decommissioned June 10, 2006. Daily tours are available May - October. 231-436-9825. *Location: 131 S Huron Ave. [themackinaw.org](http://themackinaw.org)*

### 129 Mackinac Island

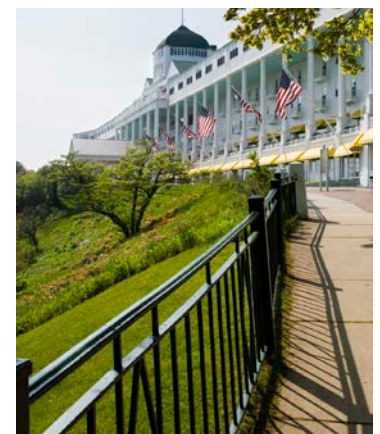


The island was home to a Native American (Odawa) settlement before European exploration began in the 17th century. It served a strategic position amidst the commerce of the Great Lakes fur trade. This led to the establishment of Fort Mackinac on the island by the British during the American Revolutionary War. It was the scene of two battles during the War of 1812. In the late nineteenth century, Mackinac Island became a popular tourist attraction and summer colony. Much of the island has undergone extensive historical preservation and restoration. As a result, the entire island is listed as a National Historic Landmark. It is well known for its numerous cultural events and its wide variety of architectural styles including the famous Victorian Grand Hotel. With automobiles having been banned here since 1898, Mackinac Island is the truly "all natural" theme park of America. Limited to transportation of horse and buggy, bicycle or foot, surrounded by water, it has escaped the vast changes of time. Its real Victorian image is preserved and enhanced by a small population of 500 permanent residents and scores of summer residents, maintaining bluff cottages in their original states. Historic sites abound across the island. Families, especially children, love exploring the historic, natural beauty of Mackinac Island State Park, honored by National Geographic as one of the 10 finest in America. Over 80% of Mackinac Island is within Mackinac

Island State Park - free of charge and open year round. Mackinac Island State Park is a landscape characterized by high limestone bluffs, beautiful vistas of sparkling water, vibrant forests, and mystical geological formations. Whether visiting this island parkland by foot, bike, horseback, or carriage, these many majestic geological wonders and unique historical monuments are visual treasures found only here - on the island sacred to the Ojibwa and Odawa Great Lakes Indian tribes. According to them, this is where life began. *Location: Ferry service to the island available in Mackinaw City and St. Ignace. [mackinacisland.org](http://mackinacisland.org)*



*The Mighty Mac*



*The Grand Hotel*



# Videos

Visit our You Tube channel to view our short documentaries

**Silence:** Winter along the Sunrise Coast (Emmy-nominated)

**Shipwreck Alley:** The Shipwrecks of Thunder Bay

**Spirit of Ocqueoc:** Exploring Ocqueoc Falls

**Historic Mill Creek:** Exploring the Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park

**Tuttle Marsh:** Birding at the Tuttle Marsh National Wildlife Area

[youtube.com/us23heritageroute](https://youtube.com/us23heritageroute)



*Silence*



*Shipwreck Alley*



*The Spirit of Ocqueoc*



*Historic Mill Creek*

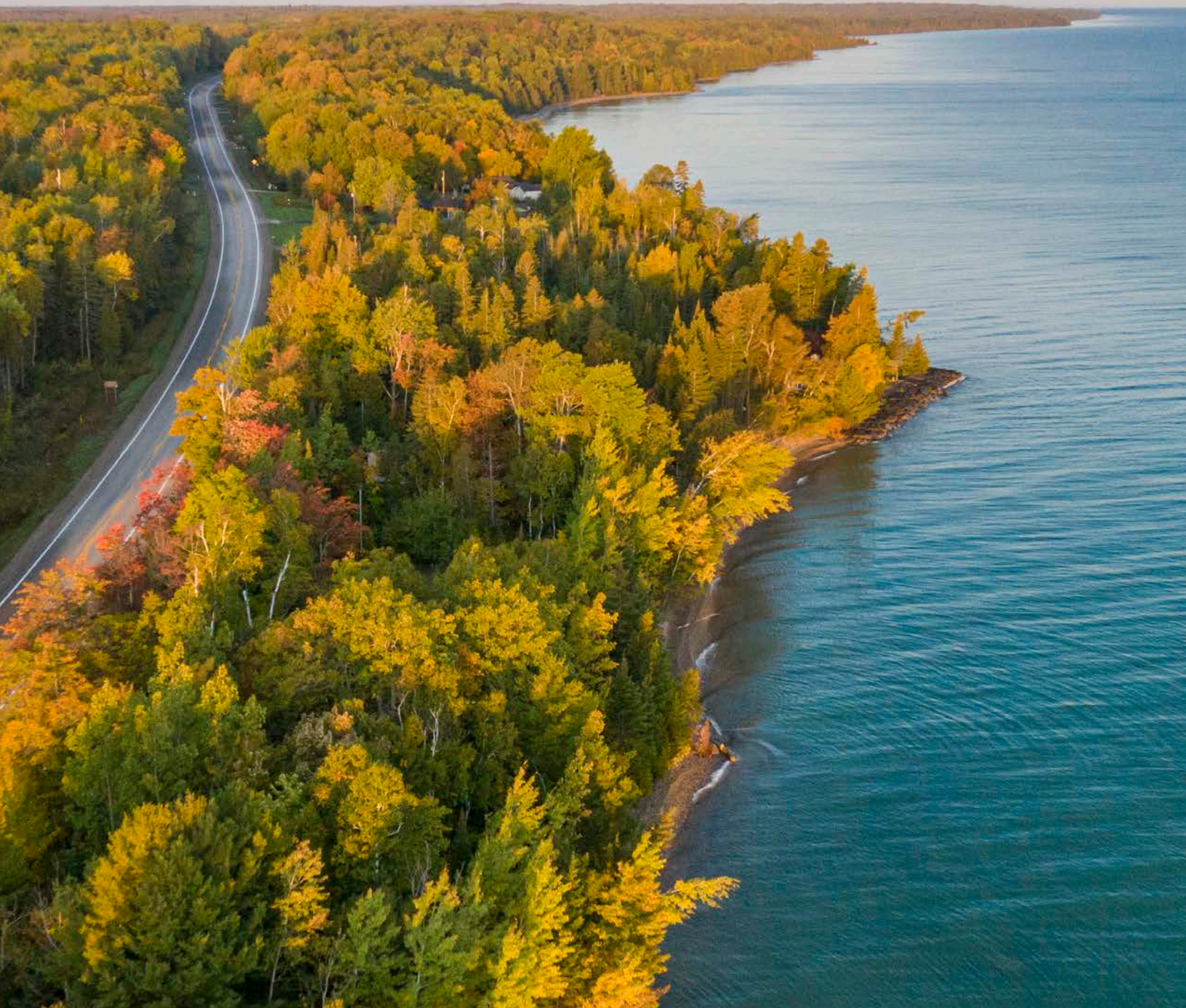


*Tuttle Marsh*





# *There's more to see on 23!*



DISCOVER  
**Northeast Michigan**  
EAST OF EXPECTED

Financial assistance for this project was provided by the Federal Highway Administration, National Scenic Byways Program, and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Map guide design by the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments.  
[www.discovernortheastmichigan.org](http://www.discovernortheastmichigan.org)

All photos provided by the Michigan Department of Transportation unless otherwise indicated.

## Plan your trip at [www.heritage23.org](http://www.heritage23.org)

Photo: US 23 north of Rogers City