

# Superior Wildlands

## A FREE GUIDE

To Your Central and Eastern Upper Peninsula Federal Lands



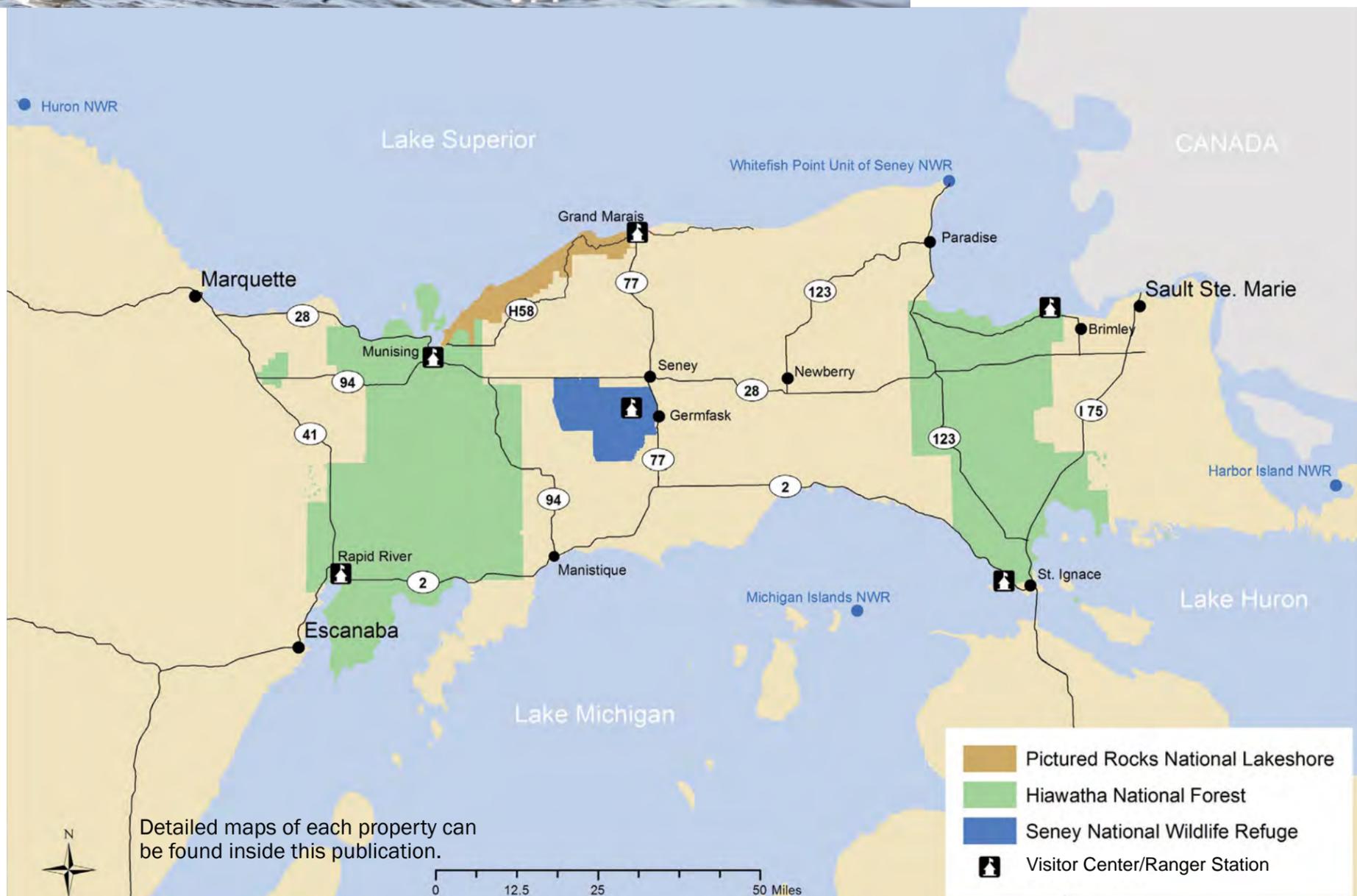
### Unplug



### Get Outside



### Explore





## ARE YOU READY TO KAYAK LAKE SUPERIOR?

### Preparation Checklist

At a minimum, you should have....

- Sea kayak
- PFD (personal flotation device)
- Wet suit
- Spray skirt (and know how to use it)
- Whistle and foghorn
- Bilge pump, paddle float and tow rope
- Weather radio
- Float plan
- A partner (kayaking alone is not advised)
- Spare clothes, food and water

**Additional Safety Information Available at**  
[www.nps.gov/piro/planyourvisit/kayaking.htm](http://www.nps.gov/piro/planyourvisit/kayaking.htm)

Kayaking at Pictured Rocks National Lake Shore, Grand Island National Recreation Area and other Hiawatha Great Lakes shoreline areas can be a fun adventure. However, it is not recommended for the novice kayaker (unless accompanied by a professional tour guide). Both Pictured Rocks and Grand Island feature many miles of sheer cliffs which offer no way off the water if wind and waves increase.

Lake Superior can become hazardous for any size vessel even in moderate weather. The weather can suddenly change, exposing you to cold temperatures, wind, fog, lightning and rough seas.

Except for shallow areas, Lake Superior's temperatures rarely reach above 55 degrees. Hypothermia can happen in as little as 15 minutes. **Before you go, check the marine forecast!**

Personal flotation devices (PFD's) and wet suits should be worn at all times on Lake Superior.

### Sea Kayaks vs. Recreational Kayaks

Sea kayaks with a spray skirt are recommended, because they are safer on Lake Superior. Recreational kayaks are designed for inland waters and are not suited for high winds and big waves. Recreational kayaks can fill with water and sink due to their large open cockpits. Sea kayaks are generally 16 to 19 feet long with hatches and bulkheads providing flotation in the front and back.

#### Sea Kayak



#### Recreational Kayak



### Recommended Skills

- Know how to properly use a spray skirt and be able to get back in your boat if you tip over.
- Know how to paddle around the wake from large boats. Be aware of wave bounce near cliffs.
- Know how to paddle within your skills and abilities. If there is any doubt, don't go out!



Recreational kayakers being rescued along the cliffs of Pictured Rocks N.L. Don't let this be you!

## Summer Interpretive Programs Are Popular



All three agencies present a variety of tours and programs from May through October. For a schedule, consult area bulletin boards, stop at a visitor center or view our websites - then join us!

### Seney Natural History Association



The Seney Natural History Association (SNHA) is a non-profit "friends" organization which provides financial support to the Seney National Wildlife Refuge.

Purchases made in the Marshland Bookstore and your donation to SNHA will assist the refuge with worthy projects. Projects include intern support, special events, program supplies, exhibit construction for a new visitor center and much more! We invite you to contact the SNHA to learn more about how you can become involved in these efforts. Your donation is tax deductible.

Seney Natural History Association  
1606 Refuge Entrance Road  
Seney, MI 49883  
[www.friendsofseney.org](http://www.friendsofseney.org)  
[facebook.com/friendsofseney](https://facebook.com/friendsofseney)

## Natural History Associations Partners in Interpretation and Education

There are several non-profit associations which support interpretation, education and research on these federal lands. Money generated from gift shops' sales, donations and memberships goes to support the places you are visiting. Each association is guided by a volunteer board of directors which votes on how revenue and donations should be spent based on budget and projects suggested by agency staff and volunteers. Here are some improvements paid for in whole or part by these associations:

- Campground programs
- Informational leaflets
- Exhibits and interpretive signs
- Observation scopes and decks
- Summer internships
- Teacher workshop materials and support
- Special events
- This newspaper!

Hiawatha Interpretive Association  
P.O. Box 913  
Munising, MI 49862  
[www.hiawathainterpretive.com](http://www.hiawathainterpretive.com)



National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation  
P.O. Box 31  
Hoghton, MI 49931  
[nplsf.org](http://nplsf.org)  
[facebook.com/NationalParksOfLakeSuperiorFoundation](https://facebook.com/NationalParksOfLakeSuperiorFoundation)

NATIONAL PARKS OF  
LAKE SUPERIOR  
FOUNDATION



Eastern National  
470 Maryland Drive, Suite 1  
Ft. Washington, PA 19034  
[www.easternnational.org](http://www.easternnational.org)



AMERICA'S  
NATIONAL PARKS

Eastern National Forests Interpretive Association  
307-1/2 N. State Street  
Oscoda, MI 48750



# Hiawatha National Forest - West Unit



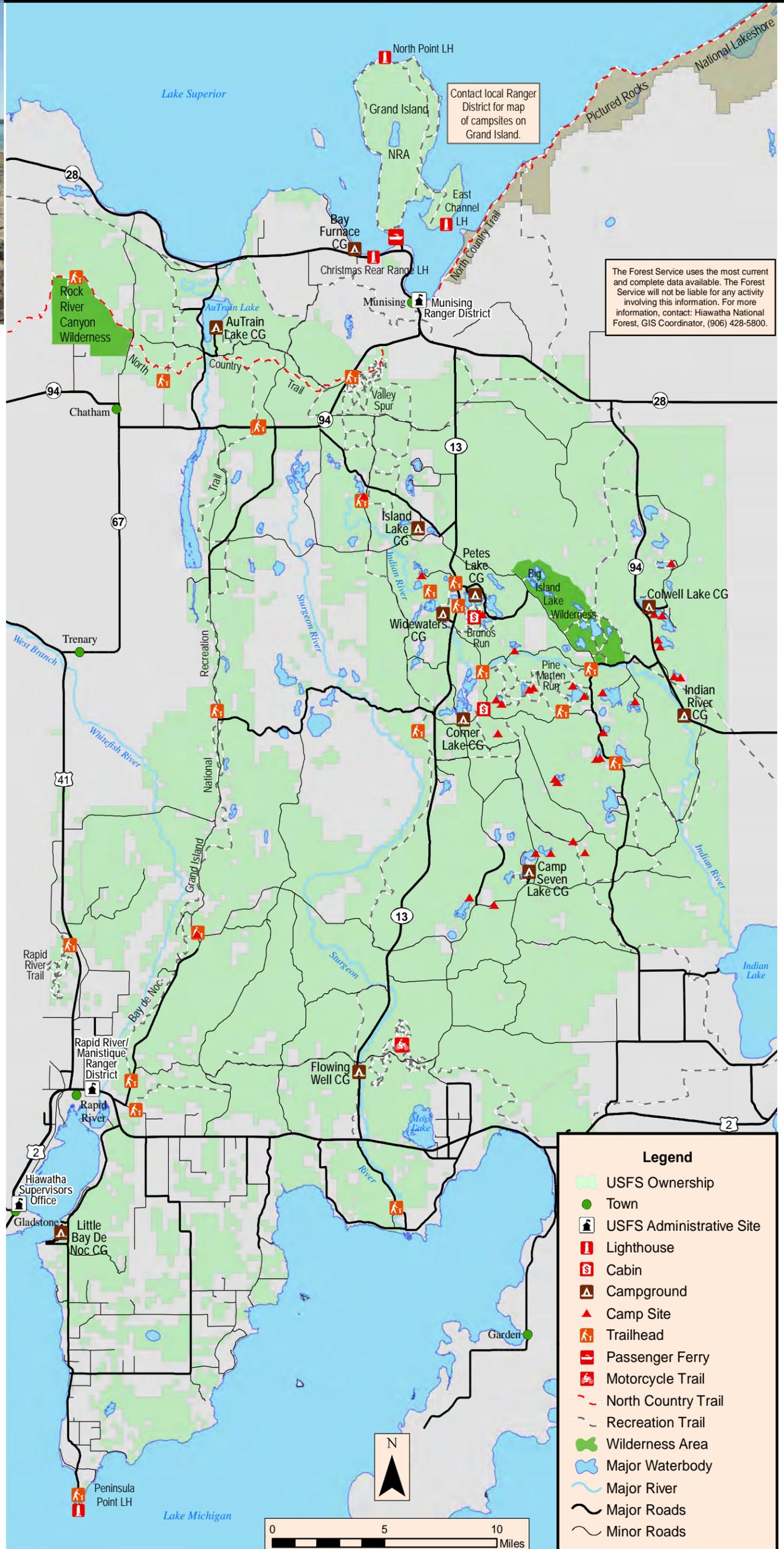
When you first enter the Hiawatha National Forest, look around. At first glance, you'll see a forest with abundant wildlife, miles of rivers and streams and dozens of waterfalls. You'll see a forest that touches the scenic shorelines and beaches of three Great Lakes, and is home to six historic lighthouses. You'll see historical structures, archaeological sites and prehistoric Native American artifacts that are a window to our past, which are being preserved for our future.

With one hundred miles of shoreline on three Great Lakes, the Hiawatha National Forest is uniquely positioned to provide visitors with a range of nationally distinct forest recreation opportunities. From lighthouses to Great Lakes islands, and spectacular shorelines to the Midwest's finest winter playground the Hiawatha brings to life a fascinating natural and cultural history while providing unique recreation opportunities to the visiting public.

Then, look closer, and you may catch sight of rare birds like Kirtland's warblers and piping plovers or hear the distinctive calls of sandhill cranes. You may hear the howl of a gray wolf or perhaps the cry of a bobcat. You'll see a landscape that is home to rare plants like the Houghton's goldenrod, dwarf lake iris, Pitcher's thistle and lakeside daisy.

**For info about Hiawatha's West Unit:**  
 Munising Ranger District  
 400 E. Munising Ave.  
 Munising, MI 49862  
 906-387-2512

Rapid River/Manistique  
 Ranger District  
 8181 US HWY 2  
 Rapid River, MI 49878  
 906-474-6442  
[www.fs.usda.gov/hiawatha](http://www.fs.usda.gov/hiawatha)



Updated On: 03-04-2019

Created By: kjw/GIS



Purchase a more detailed map at any Hiawatha National Forest District Office.

# Hiawatha National Forest - East Unit



The Hiawatha National Forest consists of about one million acres in two large units. The map on the previous page shows the Forest's West Unit located between Munising, Manistique and Rapid River. Shown on this page, the Forest's East Unit is located between St. Ignace and Sault Ste. Marie. The Forest touches Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. It boasts six lighthouses and a 26-mile scenic byway along Lake Superior's south shore.

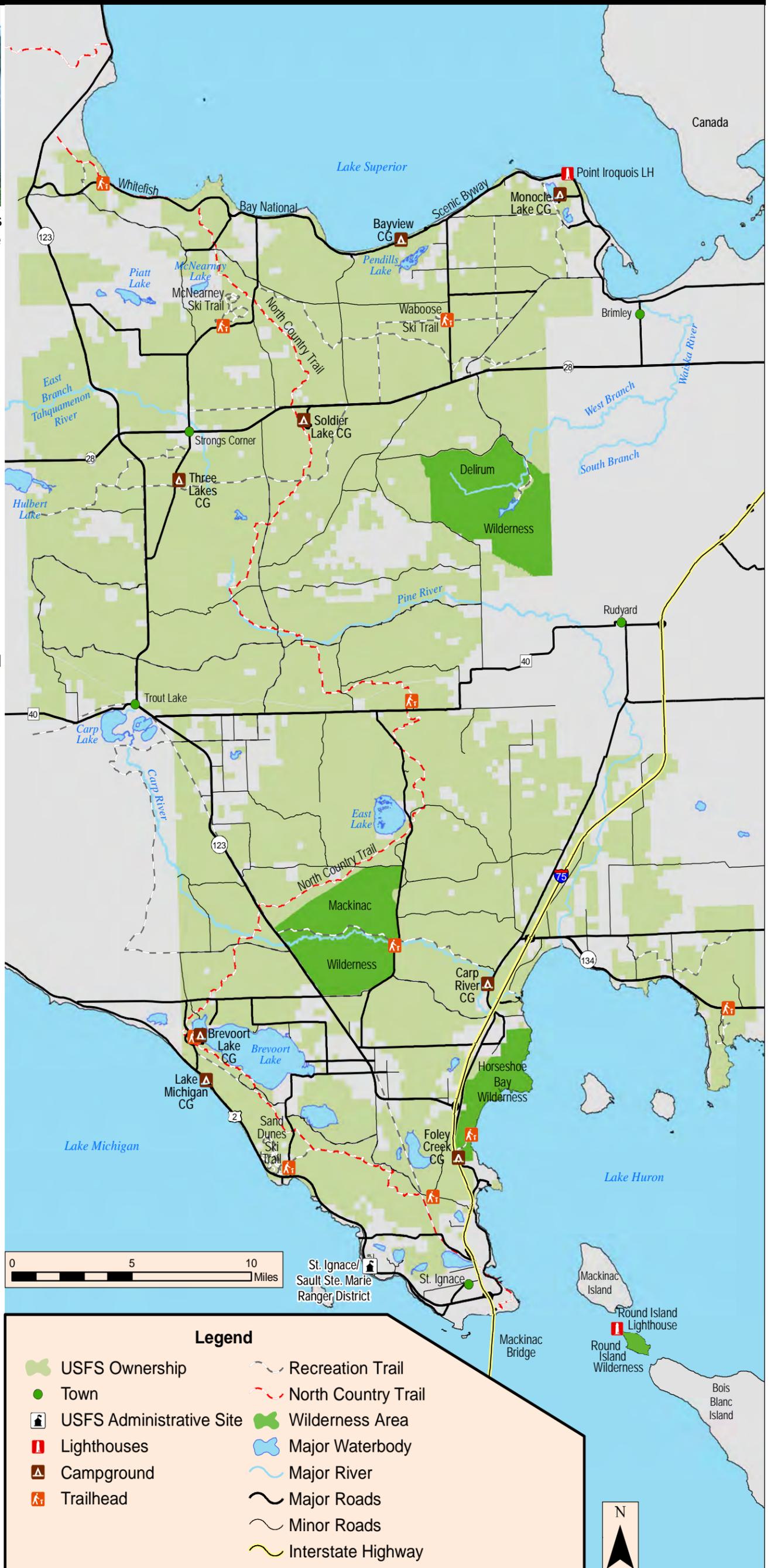
The Hiawatha National Forest was created in 1931 from abandoned farms, razed logging tracts and lands devastated by forest fires. Replanted originally by the Civilian Conservation Corps and cared for since by the U.S. Forest Service today's Hiawatha provides quality habitat for a variety of fish, wildlife and rare plants. The Forest is dotted with about 420 inland lakes. Eight hundred miles of streams and rivers flow through the Hiawatha emptying into the Great Lakes. Five of those rivers are National Wild and Scenic Rivers.

This is today's Hiawatha National Forest. We hope you'll plan to visit us while you're in the Upper Peninsula. Whether you enjoy historic sites, scenic drives, wildlife viewing or wide range of recreation opportunities, there is truly something for everyone. Check us out!

**For info about Hiawatha's East Unit:**  
 Hiawatha National Forest  
 W1900 US 2  
 St. Ignace, MI 49781  
 906-643-7900  
[www.fs.usda.gov/hiawatha](http://www.fs.usda.gov/hiawatha)



Chipmunk eating berries, © Keri Boothe



Updated On: 03-04-2019

Created By: kjw/GIS

Purchase a more detailed map at any Hiawatha National Forest District Office.

## Lighthouses of the Hiawatha

### Point Iroquois Light Station



Point Iroquois Light Station marks the mouth of the St. Mary's River between the shoals off Point Iroquois and the rocky reefs of Gros Cap, Ontario.

In 1620, the first white men to the area were French explorers Brule and Grenoble. From that time, Point Iroquois became a familiar landmark for the French explorers, fur traders and the missionaries who were to follow. The discovery of copper and iron ore in 1844 necessitated a passage for ore-carrying vessels through the rapids of St. Mary's River to the steel plants of the lower Great Lakes. In 1865, the St. Mary's Falls Canal (commonly known as the Soo Locks) was opened. The light was exhibited for the first time on September 20, 1857. With the growth of traffic through the locks, the importance of the light station increased. In 1870, the wooden tower and residence were replaced with the brick buildings that stand today. After one-hundred seven years of service, the light at Point Iroquois was replaced in 1962 with an automated light in the channel off Gros Cap. The light station became the property of Hiawatha National Forest in 1965. Through the efforts of the U.S. Forest Service and Bay Mills/Brimley Historical Society, the light station was restored for all to enjoy. Visit the museum to learn more about life as it once was in a lighthouse on Lake Superior.

Summer Hours  
May 15-October  
15; Open 9 a.m.  
to 5 p.m. 7 days a  
week.



### Round Island Lighthouse



Located in the Straits of Mackinac, Round Island Lighthouse was built in 1895-1896 at the same time that resort development was booming on Mackinac Island. Because of its prominent location, Round Island Light immediately became a scenic attraction as well as an aid to navigation. The light was decommissioned in 1947, following construction of a light and radio beacon near the Mackinac Island breakwall, and in 1958 ownership of the island and structure were transferred to the Forest Service.

Private donations and volunteer efforts have long been key to maintaining the aging structure. In 2010, the Forest Service signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society in order to recognize cooperative efforts by the organization to maintain the light and associated structures. The group works cooperatively with Boy Scout Troop 323 of Freeland, Michigan, to host an annual Open House at the lighthouse. Visible from Mackinac Bridge, the light today is most frequently viewed from the passenger ferries traveling to Mackinac Island.



### Peninsula Point Light

Peninsula Point is a special place to visit on Lake Michigan. When iron ore loading docks were built in Escanaba by Chicago Northwestern Railroad in 1864, Congress appropriated the funds to build a lighthouse at Peninsula Point. Construction was completed in 1865, and a hand-operated oil lamp burned in the lighthouse until 1922 when an automated acetylene light replaced it. In 1936, when the Minneapolis Shoal Lighthouse was put in operation, Peninsula Point Light was decommissioned by the Coast Guard and the Forest Service was granted custodianship. Although the lighthouse keeper's quarters burned down in 1959, the brick tower survived and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, visitors can climb the 40-foot circular staircase to find a panoramic view of Lake Michigan. In addition to the Lighthouse, the limestone shoreline is a great place to find fossils 400 to 500 million years old, and Peninsula Point is a popular spot to enjoy the Monarch butterfly migration in the late summer.

### East Channel Lighthouse

The small wooden frame lighthouse on the southeast shore of Grand Island was constructed during the period 1869-1870 for the purpose of guiding vessels into Munising Harbor from the east. The location, opposite the dangerous shoal at Sand Point, was critical for safe navigation. When the Range Lights were constructed in 1908, this lighthouse was no longer needed; and by 1913, the light was abandoned. The land and lighthouse were privately purchased and divided into lots. Today, the lighthouse is community property, and a



private group has made efforts to stabilize the shoreline and renovate the lighthouse to preserve it in its current condition. Since the lighthouse is private, it cannot be accessed by land and can only be viewed by water. Several commercial boat tours pass close by and allow for great photo opportunities.

### North Lighthouse



Situated atop a 175-foot cliff on Grand Island's north end, this lighthouse has been identified as the highest

lighthouse above sea level in the United States. Originally built of wood in 1856, this remote lighthouse was a key navigational marker. In 1867, the lighthouse was replaced with the current brick keepers house and a 40-foot tower. The lighthouse is privately owned and not accessible by land but can be viewed from the water by private watercraft.



### Grand Island Harbor Range Lights



Tucked away among the tag alders and swamp conifers along M-28, the Grand Island Harbor Rear Range Light (a.k.a. Christmas Range Light) is easy to drive by without noticing. Range lights are different from traditional lighthouses because they were not used to warn away ships but to provide them with a line of travel through dangerous waters. As shown above, the Grand Island Harbor Range Lights can be clearly seen from the water and have been a very valuable navigation tool. The 62-foot rear and the smaller 23-foot front range lights were designed to work as a pair. By keeping the rear range light aligned with the front range light, mariners were able to stay on the proper heading through the narrow channel west of Grand Island leading to Munising Harbor. The Rear Range light was abandoned in 1969 and was transferred to the Forest Service in 1977.

Summer Tours  
Call the Munising Ranger  
District for a schedule.  
Tours are Free.





## Whitefish Bay Scenic Byway

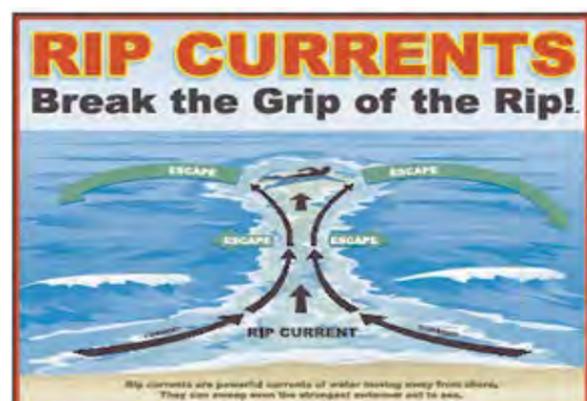
A Journey to the Past Along Lake Superior's Shoreline



Whitefish Bay Scenic Byway provides an outstanding opportunity to escape to the shores of Lake Superior for a relaxing drive, to explore scenic sand beaches and to journey back in time at Point Iroquois Light Station.

The Byway begins just north of Brimley on Curly Lewis Memorial Highway, also known as Lake Shore Drive. Beginning on the Byway's east end, Point Iroquois Light Station is a highlight of the Whitefish Bay Scenic Byway experience. The historic light station is open during the busy summer season. Visitors can tour the grounds and during the visitor center's open hours can also see exhibits inside the historic structure.

Heading west along the byway, beautiful landscapes abound. The two-lane road passes through hardwood forest and provides access to picnic areas, quiet beaches and hiking on the North Country National Scenic Trail. Plan to watch huge freighters passing or the sunset from benches overlooking the waterfront. For more information about the Whitefish Bay Scenic Byway, call the Forest Service at 906-643-7900 or stop by the Light Station for information.



**IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT**

- ◆ Don't fight the current
- ◆ Swim out of the current, then to shore
- ◆ If you can't escape, float or tread water
- ◆ If you need help, call or wave for assistance

**SAFETY**

- ◆ Know how to swim
- ◆ Never swim alone
- ◆ If in doubt, don't go out

More information about rip currents can be found at the following web sites:  
[www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov](http://www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov)  
[www.usfa.org](http://www.usfa.org)

## Rip Currents

Before you (or your children) swim in the Great Lakes, you should learn about "rip currents." Rip currents are dangerous currents or undertows that may develop without warning from any increase in wind speed. Personal flotation devices are recommended in areas where such currents may develop.

## Grand Island Ice Caves Postage Stamp



On January 18, 2020, the U.S. Postal Service released the new Grand Island Ice Caves Priority

Mail Express stamp, which celebrates the winter beauty of the Grand Island National Recreation Area (GINRA). The \$26.35 Priority Mail Express flat rate stamp features original artwork depicting the ice curtains located on the Lake Superior island's massive sandstone cliffs.

"We were thrilled to see the stamp design, including the outstanding artwork that captures our Upper Peninsula winter so well," said Charles Marsh, District Ranger at the Hiawatha National Forest's Munising and Rapid River/Manistique Ranger Districts.

Congress designated Grand Island National Recreation Area on May 17, 1990, in recognition of the outstanding features of this Lake Superior isle near Munising, MI. Impressive in any season, Grand Island's cliffs are especially dramatic in winter when ground water seeps into the crevices and caverns forming magnificent ice curtains and icicles that hang like stalactites from the rocks. The stamp art features artist Dan

Cosgrove's colorful illustration of how one of these ever-changing ice caves might appear from the inside looking out. U.S. Postal Service art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp with Cosgrove's original art.

As the land managers for Grand Island, the USDA Forest Service anticipates the publicity about the stamp will draw attention to Hiawatha National Forest and Grand Island specifically, as well as to the Michigan Ice Fest that occurs annually in Munising, MI, the GINRA's gateway community.

During the summer months, visitors reach the island using passenger ferry service, private boat or kayak for recreation opportunities such as hiking, biking and camping. In the winter, Grand Island is comparatively quiet, with access limited by the safety of crossing the Lake Superior ice, which is uncertain due to strong currents in the underlying channels between the island and the mainland.

"We also hope winter visitors will explore the mainland winter recreation opportunities offered by Hiawatha National Forest, such as our cross-country ski trails, as well as the state snowmobile trails we host," said Marsh. To learn more about recreation opportunities in Hiawatha National Forest and Grand Island National Recreation Area, visit the Hiawatha National Forest at [www.fs.usda.gov/hiawatha](http://www.fs.usda.gov/hiawatha).

## GRAND ISLAND IN LAKE SUPERIOR

Grand Island National Recreation Area, managed by the Hiawatha National Forest, is located about one-half mile from the mainland community of Munising, Michigan. Boaters can experience the island from a unique perspective with its approximately 27 miles of shoreline. Discover private coves, beautiful beaches and spectacular rock formations from the water.

Most of Grand Island's shoreline consists of 200-300 foot cliffs, so it is important to know your destination and plan your trip accordingly. Paddling around Grand Island's northern half may be hazardous as it sits 8 miles out into Lake Superior. Two-hundred-foot sandstone cliffs line the island's north shoreline and descend directly into the water with no place to beach a kayak. Most storms come from the northwest, so you are fully exposed to the winds of Lake Superior.

Allow ample time to travel. Underestimating



distance is easy to do. Notify a friend or relative of your intended route and your times of expected arrival.

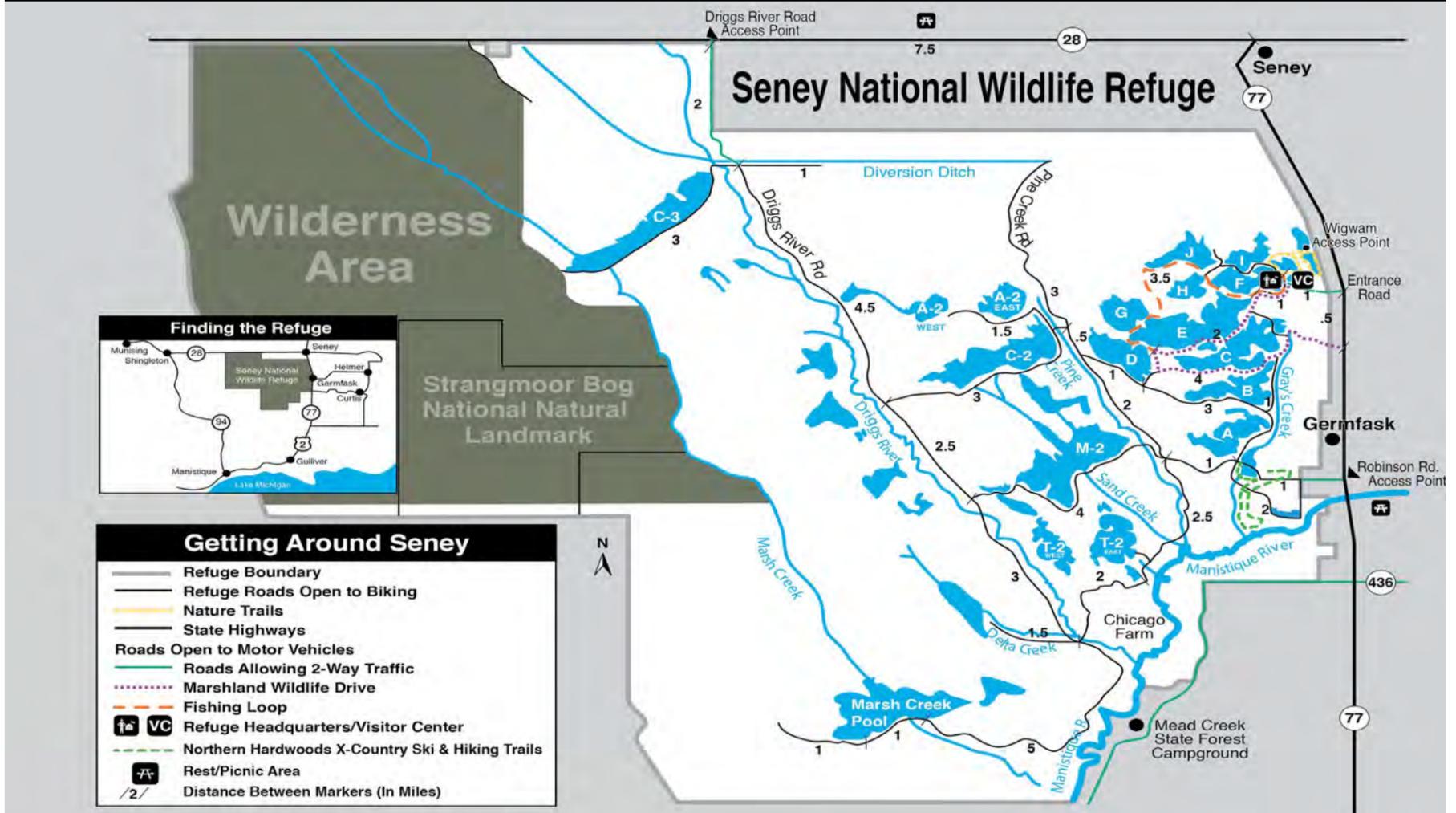
If you don't have your own boat or kayak, you can access Grand Island National Recreation Area via the passenger ferry and spend a day or even just a few hours biking and exploring. The island's breathtaking overlooks, pristine sandy beaches, fascinating cultural sites, deep hardwoods and inland lakes make it an exciting and secluded mountain biking destination. The island provides a combination of rugged dirt/sand trails and easier gravel roads that will accommodate any level of biker. If you don't have a bike with you, no problem! The Grand Island Ferry Service rents mountain bikes right at William's Landing.

Spend the day beachcombing, picnicking or swimming on one of Grand Island's fabulous beaches. Accessible by private boat, biking or hiking, these beautiful sand and rock beaches will captivate you.

Experience the island by motor vehicle on the Grand Island Bus Tour which takes you to some of the island's scenic vistas and historic sites. Each stop on the 2.5-hour tour is designed to give you a glimpse into Grand Island's past and familiarize you with the recreation opportunities that are available.

Overnight camping on Grand Island requires a reservation which can be made at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling 877-444-6777. The Munising Ranger District can assist you with your questions about Grand Island at 906-387-2512. The bus tour and ferry operate from around Memorial Day until early October. For information on their pricing and schedule, please call 906-387-2600.

# Seney National Wildlife Refuge



**Discovering Seney**  
 The refuge is a great place for visitors of all ages and abilities to watch and learn about the local flora and fauna. Established in 1935 as a sanctuary and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife, today the 95,238 acre Refuge supports a variety of wildlife including rare and reintroduced species by providing a rich mosaic of habitats: scrub-shrub, wetlands, forest, meadow and pools.

**Visitor Center**  
 Open May 15–October 20 from 9 a.m.–5 p.m., seven days a week, including holidays. Highlights include exhibits, a children’s touch table, “The Wonder of Nature” orientation film and the Marshland Bookstore. Binoculars, field guides, fishing poles, tackle boxes and kid’s packs can be checked out free of charge courtesy of the Seney Natural History Association.

**Marshland Wildlife Drive (7 miles) & Fishing Loop (+1.5 miles)**

These one-way auto tour routes meander through wetlands, meadows and forests. Four wheelchair accessible observation decks with spotting scopes make these drives great for wildlife watching. Borrow a pair of binoculars from the visitor center to add to your viewing pleasure.

**Paddling**  
 Enjoy a day of paddling on the Manistique River. This slow meandering float starts in the town of Germfask and goes thru the south-eastern part of the refuge. Public access points are the Manistique River Roadside Park in Germfask and the Mead Creek State Forest Campground on Manistique River Road/CR 436 southwest of Germfask. The float takes approximately 4 to 5 hours. Two canoe/kayak outfitters are located in the town of Germfask. Watch for bald eagles, muskrat and wood turtles. No boats or other flotation devices are allowed on refuge pools.

**Nature Trails**  
 The **Pine Ridge Nature Trail** starts at the visitor center. This 1.4-mile loop trail takes visitors through a variety of landscapes. Songbirds, swans, muskrat and beaver are commonly sighted along the trail. The **Show Pool Shelter Connector Trail** ties into the Pine Ridge Nature Trail and offers hikers a one mile extension (round trip) leading them to a view of the Show Pool Shelter picnic area and the show pools (the trail is washed out). As a detour hikers can take the **South Show Pool Loop** (one mile). The **Northern Hardwoods Trails** are a nice backdrop for a hike. In the spring, woodland wildflowers delight the senses. In the summer and fall, ferns, fungi and mosses carpet the forest floor.

**Bicycling**  
 Many miles of backcountry roads are available for biking throughout the refuge. For those who seek wildlife and solitude, these trails are for you. The roads are open during daylight hours only, so you need to plan your trip carefully. These roads are used to conduct a variety of refuge work, so please be aware of the possibility of equipment or vehicles on the roads. To help you plan your visit, mileage is marked on the refuge map above. Roads/areas may be closed for biological or management (fire, logging, maintenance) reasons; please obey the closure signs. All hiking and ski trails are closed to bicycles.

**Winter Activities**  
 The **Northern Hardwoods Trails** offer ten miles of groomed tracks. Trails are groomed weekly as conditions allow. Turn west off M-77 onto Robinson Road 1/3 mile south of the blinking light in Germfask. The trailhead is at the end of the road. Watch for otter trails in the snow and resident winter birds. Brochures and maps are available at the trailhead or may be downloaded from our website. Snowshoeing and dog walking are allowed almost anywhere on the refuge except on the groomed tracks. Snowmobiles are not permitted.

**Hunting**  
 Ruffed grouse, American woodcock, Wilson’s snipe, snowshoe hare, white-tailed deer and black bear may be hunted during some state seasons in designated areas with the proper licenses. Only approved non-toxic shotgun shot is allowed on the refuge for migratory bird and upland game hunting. For the health of wildlife we are asking hunters to voluntarily switch to non-toxic shot for deer and bear hunting. Check the hunting brochure for current regulations.

**Fishing**  
 Anglers may fish in the pools along the 3.5-mile Fishing Loop including the accessible fishing pier, in the Show Pools or in C-3 Pool from May 15-September 30. The Manistique, Creighton and Driggs Rivers, as well as the Walsh Creek and Ditch are open for fishing during regular state seasons. The refuge is open to ice fishing from January 1-February 28 on any pool.

Species found on the refuge include northern pike, yellow perch, brown bullhead, brook trout and sunfish. To protect the trumpeter swan and common loon, lead sinkers cannot be used on the refuge. Check the fishing brochure for current regulations.

**Harvesting**  
 Visitors are welcome to harvest some types of wild edibles, pine boughs, seeds and antlers for personal use. For rules and regulations, harvest limits and seasons visit our website.



Cape May Warbler, © P. David Allen II



[www.facebook.com/seneyrefuge](http://www.facebook.com/seneyrefuge)  
[www.fws.gov/refuge/seney](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/seney)

# Seney National Wildlife Refuge



Trumpeter swans fighting by © Helen Denoyer

## Welcome to Wild

The National Wildlife Refuge System is a network of lands that benefits wildlife, provides unparalleled outdoor experiences for all Americans and protects a healthy environment. The refuge system includes 150 million acres of land and water from the Caribbean to the Pacific and Texas to Alaska. There is at least one national wildlife refuge in every state.

## Mission

The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management and, where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

## Upper Peninsula National Wildlife Refuges

There are four national wildlife refuges located in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan: Seney, Harbor Island, Huron and Michigan Islands. Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge is closed to the public to protect nesting colonial waterbirds. Lighthouse Island is the only island open to public visitation at Huron National Wildlife Refuge. Seney and Harbor Island are open to the public.

## Summer 2020 Refuge Operations

Visit our website – [www.fws.gov/refuge/seney](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/seney) for updates and additional information.

At Seney National Wildlife Refuge, the following services and operations are suspended until further notice in order to comply with federal, state and local efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19:

- Visitor center operations remain closed
- All public events scheduled for the month of June are cancelled
- Spotting scopes are not installed at observation decks

The health and safety of our visitors, employees, volunteers and partners at Seney National Wildlife Refuge is our number one priority. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working service-wide with federal, state and local authorities to closely monitor the COVID-19 pandemic. We will notify the public when we resume full operations and provide updates on our website and social media channels.

Outdoor spaces at Seney National Wildlife Refuge remain accessible to the public in accordance with the latest federal, state and local health guidance, including:

- The Marshland Wildlife Drive is open
- The Fishing Loop and designated pools are open for fishing
- The outdoor restrooms at the headquarters building are open
- More than 10 miles of foot paths are open for hiking
- Many miles of backcountry roads are open for hiking or bicycling

Restrooms are available at Show Pool Shelters along M-77 and near the Headquarter's Office by the base of the fire tower. The bathrooms are cleaned daily. While the restrooms are closed for cleaning there will be a porta-jon available in the same general location. The porta-jon's have hand washing facilities. Hopefully you will be able to coordinate your refuge visits so that you do not have to use public restrooms, but they are available when you need them. Even though they will be regularly tended to, please follow CDC guidance on personal hygiene prior to visiting the refuge and be prepared to be able to tend to hygiene even if restroom supplies are not available at the time you use the facilities.

And, please remember to give yourself and other visitors a trumpeter swan's wingspan of space (6-8 feet) between you as you enjoy overlooks, foot trails, benches, etc.

Please take care of yourselves and help us take care of our refuge. Remember to take your trash with you. Contact us if you have questions or want to report issues at [Seney@fws.gov](mailto:Seney@fws.gov).

### Photo Contest

#### Photos Due August 31

Did you get some great shots? Enter them in the photo contest! In September we will display all the entries online where visitors may vote for their favorites. When on display for voting, the entries depict an incredible array of outdoor experiences. [Details can be found on our website.](#)



Great Blue Heron, © Jim Triezenberg.

## Special Rules

- Drones are prohibited.
- Please do not feed wildlife.
- Daylight use only.
- Dogs are allowed on a leash.
- Camping or overnight parking is prohibited.
- Off-road vehicles are prohibited.
- Open fires are prohibited.
- No boats or flotation devices are allowed on refuge pools.
- For specific details on hunting, fishing and gathering regulations see the respective brochures or the website.

## Whitefish Point Unit

The Whitefish Point Unit of Seney National Wildlife Refuge is a bird watchers' delight. It is located 11 miles north of Paradise, Michigan and is a stop-over for birds migrating to and from Canada. The Whitefish Point region is renowned for its concentrations of birds during migration. Each year thousands of raptors, perching birds and waterbirds funnel through the point to cross Lake Superior. Visit and enjoy its trails, gravel beaches, sandy beach dunes and stunted jack pine-dominated forests.

### Rules and Regulations

- Dogs allowed on leash only. *Unleashed dogs are a danger to piping plover chicks.*
- Open during daylight hours only.
- Hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, wildlife observation, photography, and mushroom and berry picking are permitted.
- Drones, fires, camping, rock and driftwood collecting, removal of natural items, hunting, off-road vehicles and snowmobiles are not permitted.



Federally Endangered Great Lakes Piping Plover Chick, © Sierra Utych

Portions of the Whitefish Point Unit are closed during the summer months to provide disturbance free nesting habitat for the endangered Great Lakes piping plover.

# Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore



## Welcome to Your National Lakeshore

If you have been here before, you know how incredible this park is. From day to day and season to season, the Lakeshore provides a wide array of outdoor experiences.

So, why is this place special and why was it designated in 1966 as our nation's first National Lakeshore? Could it be that the park borders Lake Superior - the world's largest freshwater lake? From Miners Castle you can look out over 1/10th of the world's fresh water!

Could it be the five square miles of Grand Sable Dunes, the largest collection of perched sand dunes on Lake Superior? Our sand dunes contain some of the rarest plants in the Great Lakes region.

How about over a dozen miles of spectacular sandstone cliffs that rise over 200 feet above the lake? Cliffs where peregrine falcons nest, and rare arctic plants eke out a living in breathtaking microclimates.

What about the sparkling inland lakes and gurgling streams that meander through the park? Don't forget our many waterfalls too!

There is so much natural history here a person could spend a lifetime exploring, hiking, skiing, kayaking, snowshoeing, bird watching, beachcombing, camping, sailing, walking, swimming, fishing, canoeing - whew,



Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore © Craig Blacklock

what an amazing list of things to do!

And if history is your thing - just wait! Would you like to climb the 85' Au Sable Lighthouse tower and view a storm-tossed Lake Superior?

How about looking over a 36' Coast Guard self-righting lifeboat on Sand Point? Imagine going out in that little shell when there are 10' waves on the big lake!

Or you might picture yourself as a collier at the Schoolcraft blast furnace at Munising Falls where pig iron was made in the 1800s.

If you travel to the Log Slide, you can imagine hitching up your draft horse to a set

of logging wheels used in summer logging in the U.P.

While enjoying the Lakeshore, please remember to take good care of yourself and the park. Stop by one of the park visitor centers for information, either the [Munising Falls Visitor Center \(open year-round\)](#) or the [Grand Sable Visitor Center \(open summer/early fall\)](#).

Feel free to chat with a park ranger. Ask them questions about the park and share your views on how we are doing at protecting your national lakeshore.

Park information can also be found on the web: [www.nps.gov/piro](http://www.nps.gov/piro). Have a great visit!

## Where Can I...?



### Where can I see the Pictured Rocks?

The Pictured Rocks are best viewed by boat, but a portion of the cliffs can be seen by driving to Miners Castle and walking a short distance to the viewing platforms. Other vistas can be accessed by longer day hikes on the North Country Trail.

### What are the Pictured Rocks Cruises?

One of the best ways to view the cliffs is with Pictured Rocks Cruises, the park's official boat concessionaire. Tours are available from mid-May through mid-October. Each cruise lasts about 2.5-hours and traverses nearly 14-miles of the cliffs. Find cruise

schedules, fares and general information at [www.picturedrocks.com](http://www.picturedrocks.com).

### Where can I get information?

The park has two visitor centers. The Munising Falls Visitor Center, located in Munising on Washington St./Sand Point Rd., is open year-round. The Grand Sable Visitor Center on H-58 on the east side of the park near Grand Marais is open in summer.

### Where are the waterfalls?

Waterfalls are found throughout the park and surrounding areas including Sable Falls near Grand Marais, Chapel Falls (3-mile hike round-trip), Miners Falls (1.2 mile walk round-trip) and Munising Falls in the western half of the park. **See the park map on the back page** and pick up a waterfall handout at the visitor centers.

### Where can I walk with my dog?

Pets are only allowed on a few trails and locations such as Munising Falls, Miners Castle and Miners Beach. They are prohibited on all trails and in all areas of the backcountry. See the pet poster on bulletin boards and at visitor centers for an updated list of where pets are and are not allowed.

### Where can I Kayak?

The inland lakes are the best places for paddling. Grand Sable Lake, Little Beaver Lake and Beaver Lake are easily accessed by vehicle. Lake Superior paddling should only be done by very experienced sea kayakers or with a guided commercial kayak tour company.

### Where can I camp?

The park has three rustic drive-in campgrounds and 14 small backcountry (hike-in) campgrounds. All campsites require a reservation year-round, obtained through [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Backcountry camping also requires a printed permit. There are no electrical, water or sewer hookups at any park campground.

### History Highlights

Don't forget to visit the Lakeshore's cultural treasures, including the historic Coast Guard Station and Boathouse at the end of Sand Point Road, the Au Sable Light Station, the logging exhibits at Log Slide and the shipwrecks along the beach near Hurricane River. Ask for directions and information at any visitor center.

## Being Aware for Your Safety

Falling rock, cascading dunes, rip currents and encounters with black bears due to improper storage of food...as a Lakeshore visitor, these are things you should be thinking about. As you visit the park, be aware your surroundings and ask yourself "what if?"

Many cliff areas along the North Country Trail are actually overhangs with free space below. As you are hiking in the park - stay back from the edge.

Rip currents are possible at several beaches along the Lakeshore depending on weather and water conditions. Check the bulletin boards to learn how to get out if you're caught in one.



worse!

If you need to talk on your cell phone, pull over at a safe location out of traffic. Talking on your cell phone may cause you to miss seeing wildlife - or

While the Grand Sable Dunes are a unique and beautiful part of the park, they too can hold hazards. Be aware that sand banks can collapse - sending you downslope or perhaps covering you.

People often remark they would love to see a bear during their visit to the park, but at a safe distance. Remember that a fed bear is a dead bear. Please follow food storage guidelines posted on bulletin boards and in backcountry regulations when camping. Secure food and other supplies in the food lockers provided or in a vehicle.

If you encounter a bear while on foot in the park, make noise and wave your arms. Do not drop your day pack or other items with food in them. Please report all incidents to a park ranger or visitor center.

Follow the Lakeshore on



# Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore



## Let's Go For A Walk!

Your visit to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore may be only an hour or two, or you may spend a week or more. If you only have a day or two to spend at the Lakeshore, consider visiting these popular attractions in developed areas of the park. Please note that bicycles are not permitted on Lakeshore trails. Pets are allowed along all park roads, in picnic areas, on paved walkways and some other areas noted below. Pets must always be on a 6-foot leash.

### **Munising Falls**

Nestled in a cool, shady valley, the 50-foot falls are at the end of a short 800-foot walk on an improved trail. The trail is a good place to look for wildflowers in spring and early summer. Water from the creek was once used in the production of iron at the Schoolcraft blast furnace, a story told on wayside exhibits and in the Munising Falls Interpretive Center. Pets are allowed on the trail to Munising Falls.

### **Sand Point**

The Sand Point beach is a popular spot for sticking your feet in the water and walking along the beach or hanging out in the evening to watch the sun go down over Munising Bay. The Sand Point Marsh Trail is a half-mile wheelchair accessible trail through a wetland and is a good place to look for warblers in spring and fall. Sand Point was a site of a former U.S. Coast Guard Station. The former boathouse is open in summer and houses a 36' Coast Guard self-righting lifeboat.

### **Miners Castle**

Beginning at the picnic area, a paved foot trail leads you past interpretive exhibits to breathtaking overlooks of Lake Superior and Grand Island. Erosion over long periods of time has created the interesting rock formations that give this place its name. Pets are permitted in picnic area, on paved walkways and overlooks.

### **Miners Falls**

A 1.2-mile round trip gravel path through a deep woods environment leads to the falls overlook. Miners River plunging some 60 feet over a cliff is home to brook and steelhead trout. Pets on 6 ft leashes are allowed on the trail to Miners Falls. Pick up after your pet.

### **Miners Beach**

A picnicker and beach walker's delight, Miners Beach extends for one mile on Lake Superior where waves roll in to polish beach cobbles. A 1-mile trail connects Miners Castle developed area and the picnic area at Miners Beach. Pets are allowed in picnic area and on Miners Beach.

### **Beaver Basin Wilderness**

Beaver Basin Wilderness is over 11,000 acres of designated Wilderness. Enjoy 16 miles of trails, beech-maple hardwood forest, white pines and lakes and streams.

### **Chapel Rock**

Circumnavigating Chapel Lake takes you to the beautiful Chapel Beach and Chapel Rock. The 6.6-mile trip makes a great day hike. Longer and shorter hikes are also available in this area.

### **White Birch Trail**

Located at the Twelvemile Beach Campground, this 2-mile self-guided interpretive trail explores a variety of ancient Lake Nipissing beach and upland plant communities.

### **Log Slide Overlook**

At 300 feet above lake level, the Log Slide Overlook is one of the highest locations in the park. The short level trail from the parking lot leads to spectacular views of Lake Superior, the Grand Sable Dunes to the east, and the Au Sable Light Station to the west. There is lots of sand. Stay back from the edge and watch for poison ivy throughout. Pets are allowed on the trail to the Log Slide Overlook. Pick up after your pet.

### **Au Sable Light Station**

Strolling about the grounds on a stormy day, one can feel the sense of duty and history for which this station is preserved. Access to the station is by a 1.5-mile hiking trail beginning at the east end of the lower Hurricane River Campground. Check at visitor centers and park bulletin boards for summer interpretive tours scheduled at the light station. Fee for tour. Leashed pets are allowed on the access road to the Au Sable Light Station.

### **Grand Sable Dunes Trail**

Starts at the west end of the Sable Falls parking area, the trail passes an old apple orchard and crosses over Sable Creek. It then winds uphill through jack pines into an open dune environment.

### **Sable Falls**

Beginning at the Sable Falls parking lot, this walk goes along Sable Creek, down 199 steps to Lake Superior. The trail continues past the falls to a rocky beach on Lake Superior. Leashed pets are allowed on the trail and beach.



Photo: Beaver Basin Wilderness, NPS.

## Regulations to Know



To help ensure a pleasant visit, please take a couple minutes to become familiar with the following regulations at the National Lakeshore:

**Drive-In Camping** - permitted only within the Lakeshore's three designated rustic campgrounds: Little Beaver, Twelvemile, and Hurricane. Reservations required year-round. No drop-in camping allowed. Fees. Reservations obtained via [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling 1-877-444-6777. Vehicle size restrictions apply.

**Backcountry Camping** - Hike in or paddle in. Reservations and permits required year-round for the park's 14 small backcountry campgrounds (each with multiple sites). Fees are \$5 per night/per person plus a reservation charge. Permits must be obtained and printed through [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling 1-877-444-6777.

**Pets** - are not allowed on most trails; where permitted, pets must be on a 6-foot leash. Check the pet poster on bulletin boards and at visitor centers for locations where pets are allowed.

**Bicycles** - permitted on roads where automobiles are permitted. Not permitted on hiking trails or roads closed to vehicular traffic.

**Hunting** - prohibited park-wide during the high visitor use period of April 1 through Labor Day. Hunting is allowed the remainder of the year as established by state and federal laws. Target shooting and trapping are prohibited year-round.

**Campfires** - allowed only in fire rings at designated locations. Fires on beaches prohibited except for the metal fire ring provided at Sand Point Beach.

**ORVs** - are only allowed on park roads and parking lots.

**Drones** - are prohibited in the park.

**Wildlife feeding** is prohibited - birds and small mammals rely on natural food to get them through the winter. Please do not make them dependent on human food.

**No littering** - Each of us enjoys a clean Lakeshore. Please pick up after yourself and others.

**Fireworks** - are best left to the experts. Use or possession of fireworks within the Lakeshore is prohibited.

**Removing rocks or other natural features** is prohibited.

Please do not injure or remove plants or harass wildlife.

**For more information, go to the park's official website:**  
[www.nps.gov/piro](http://www.nps.gov/piro).



# Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore



## Dunes

Did you know that Pictured Rocks has one of the best examples of perched dune systems in the world? Although the Lakeshore is primarily known for its colorful sandstone cliffs, the towering Grand Sable Dunes just west of Grand Marais contain some of the most significant, pristine and unique resources in the park.

Perched dunes are those that form on top of an existing coastal bluff. Michigan has two outstanding examples of these dune systems: here at Pictured Rocks and also at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

The Grand Sable Dunes (and the Grand Sable Banks that support them) are comprised of five square miles on the eastern side of the park. Rising 300 feet above the lake, they are the highest formations at Pictured Rocks.

### Dune Formation

When the last glacial age ended about 10,000 years ago, piles of stone rubble left behind in terraces and moraines created the rocky bluffs of the Grand Sable Banks. Water levels of still-forming Lake Superior rose and fell in response to the turbulent geologic changes occurring in the region.

During the last high water period (between 4,000 and 6,000 years ago), wave action eroded the rocky cliff face and the sand-size eroded material was then blown by onshore winds on top of the bluff to create the present-day dunes.

Recent studies hypothesize that when lake levels are low, sand supply to the dunes is decreased and vegetation communities are able to expand and stabilize the soil. During high levels, sand supply increases and plants are buried. During the last 5,000 years there have been about 10 separate fluctuations between lower and higher lake levels.

Soil studies have revealed remnants of ancient forests that are buried on top of one



another. Sometimes these “ghost forests” emerge from the shifting sands for a limited amount of time before being buried again.

### A Pristine Research Area

The Grand Sable Dunes contain uncommon plant species and communities, including the richest orchid flora in the Great Lakes and the federally endangered Pitcher’s thistle. The dunes support other rare species, including Lake Huron tansy and moonwort ferns.

Scattered grasses and many kinds of desert-loving plants grow throughout, while patches of jack pine forest can be found in sheltered dune valleys.

White-tailed deer and black bear are the largest mammals seen in the dunes, and a few deer usually winter in sheltered jack pine areas. Bald eagles and harriers might be seen soaring over the open stretches.

Due to its exceptional features, a portion of the Grand Sable Dunes was designated a Research Natural Area (RNA) in 1994. Research Natural Areas are part of a national network of field ecological areas in ecosystems with very limited public use

or disturbance. They are designated for research, education and maintenance of biological diversity.

The Grand Sable Dunes RNA offers a pristine environment for scientific study of climate change, lake level history, coastal landforms, soil development, rare plant communities and vegetation succession.

Sand dunes are dynamic, yet vulnerable environments. Please tread lightly while visiting these fragile area and take care not to step on vegetation. There are no trails within the dunes themselves; access is available via a ¼ mile walk from the Sable Falls parking lot, and also across the road from the small Grand Sable Lake parking lot on H-58.

### For Your Safety

Dunes can be unstable. Stay out of any designated closure areas.

Do not dig tunnels or caves in sand dunes as they can collapse and bury you.



## B.A.R.K Rangers on Duty!



There is a new kind of ranger at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore: the B.A.R.K. Ranger! Obedient, loyal and respectful, B.A.R.K. Rangers (and their humans) are dedicated to protecting and preserving the park. The next time you visit Pictured Rocks make sure to stop at one of the visitor centers and pick up a B.A.R.K. Ranger brochure. Read through the rules of B.A.R.K with your pet and sign the back! Follow all the rules and with a ranger’s signature, you can even buy a B.A.R.K. Ranger tag for your pet.

What is B.A.R.K.? It stands for:

- B. Bag your poop.**
- A. Always wear a leash.**
- R. Respect wildlife.**
- K. Know where you can go.**



These rules help ensure that visitors (pets and humans) have a wonderful outdoor experience while also protecting park resources for future generations.

B.A.R.K Rangers model good pet behavior for other four-legged park visitors. B.A.R.K. Rangers and their owners follow rules that minimize their impact on park ecosystems, wildlife and other visitors. For more information talk to a ranger at one of the visitor centers.

Photo: B.A.R.K. Ranger, NPS

# Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore



Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore consists of two zones. The Lakeshore Zone is federal land managed by the National Park Service (NPS). The Inland Buffer Zone is a mixture of federal, state, and private ownership. Please respect the rights of private landowners.

Beaver Basin Wilderness. Congress has designated nearly 12,000 acres in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore for protection under the 1964 Wilderness Act. Included are forests, streams, lakes, wetlands, and 13 miles of Lake Superior shoreline.

Wilderness is meant to protect forever the land's natural conditions, opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, and scientific, educational, and historical values. In wilderness people can sense being a part of the whole community of life on Earth. Preserving wilderness shows restraint and humility and benefits generations that follow us. Learn more at [www.wilderness.net](http://www.wilderness.net).

- Lakeshore Zone (NPS)
- Inland Buffer Zone (mixed ownership)
- Wilderness within Lakeshore Zone (NPS)
- Paved road
- Unpaved road
- Lakeshore access via paved and unpaved roads
- 4-wheel drive road
- Trail

- National Park Service campground
- Other public campground
- Private campground
- Boat launch
- Self-guiding trail
- Cross-country ski trail
- Picnic area
- Wheelchair-accessible
- Hospital

- North
- 0 1 5 Kilometers
- 0 1 5 Miles

