5 Alpena Bi-Path

The Alpena Bi-Path is a bicycle and pedestrian pathway throughout the city. Bike, walk, roll, board, or skate on the 18-mile paved pathway and access all the waterfront parks in the city. The Bi-Path follows, along the top of the breakwall at the marina, allowing an unobstructed view of Lake Huron. A section to the shore of the Thunder Bay River through the Alpena Maritime Heritage Center. A 7-acre island jewel surrounded by the Thunder Bay River winds through the 50-acre wildlife sanctuary of water, low islands, and waterfalls. Several pats lead into key locations including lookouts, photographers, fishermen, and nature lovers through varied ecosystems including sand dunes, freshwater wetlands, woodlands, and marsh areas. Viewing and fishing platforms (one handicapped accessible viewing platform) are located at various points on the island.

6 Downtown Alpena

Historic Downtown Alpena where businesses provide old-fashioned personal service and quality. It is nestled between the shores of Lake Huron and the Thunder Bay River. Downtown Alpena is a short walk from the marina or the Maritime Heritage Center. Visit Downtown for all of your retail, service, and professional needs, enjoy your variety of dining and entertainment. Let us not forget to point out the view of Shinga-ba-Shores.

7 Island Park

A 7-acre island jewel surrounded by the Thunder Bay River which winds through the 50-acre wildlife sanctuary of water, low islands, and waterfalls. Several pats lead into key locations including lookouts, photographers, fishermen, and nature lovers through varied ecosystems including sand dunes, freshwater wetlands, woodlands, and marsh areas. Viewing and fishing platforms (one handicapped accessible viewing platform) are located at various points on the island.

8 Long Lake Park

Long Lake Park is located 10 miles north of Alpena, one-half mile off US 23. Situated on the east side of Long Lake, this county park occupies 68 acres. A total of 305 campsites are adjacent to the 5,652 acres of water that make up Long Lake. Water and electricity are available at 80 of these sites with the other 25 sites considered primitive sites. Park facilities include restrooms/showers, dumping station, concession island, concrete boat ramp, three docks, nature trails, two picnic areas (with tables and grills), picnic tables, and outdoor trailer storage. Special activities include an annual pig roast and a weekly pot luck dinner.

9 Northern Lights Arena & the Aplex

Northern Lights Arena is a class-A facility with 2 sheets of ice offering open ice skating, drop-in hockey, and figure skating and is home ice for the Alpena Wildcats (high school hockey). A 1/8 mile walking track is free to the public. For more information, please call Northern Lights Arena at 989-356-1878. www.nlatoday.com

10a Paul Bunyan

Babe was white at the time he was built in 1988. Ten years later, the 42-foot (13 m) sculpture was repainted red. In 2005, Paul and Babe were moved to their present location and were restored in 2007.

10b Shinga-ba-Shores

Shinga-ba-Shores is located across US 23 from Dinosaur Gardens. Completed in 1998, this volunteer-built 8,500 square foot playground was designed and built from the ideas of area children. The playground reflects Native Americans, farming, lumbering, and Great Lakes trades. The park features a pavilion and ballfields as well as baseball fields.
Alpena - Ossineke Area

Featured attractions described on reverse.

Other outdoor recreational facilities:

1. **Alpena Lighthouse**

2. **Alpena County Fairgrounds**

3. **Alpena Township Park**
   - Four Little League baseball fields.

4. **Alpena Golf Club**
   - Public golf course. 1135 Golf Course Road. 989-354-5052. www.alpenagolfclub.com

5. **Alpena Township Nature Preserve**
   - 132 acre natural area off Mission Bay Road.

6. **Thunder Bay Island Light**
   - Public access. Views from the water.

7. **Norway Ridge Pathway**
   - 4.5 miles of hiking, mountain biking and groomed ski trails. Trailhead off Worth Road.

8. **Devils Lake Trails**
   - 26 miles of groomed snowmobile trails.

9. **Arzo Sports & Fun Park**

10. **JW’s Awesome Acres**

11. **Ossineke State Forest Campground**
    - Rustic campground with 42 sites available on a first come, first served basis. Day use area with Lake Huron.

12. **Dinosaur Gardens**

13. **Negwegon State Park**
    - Undeveloped State Park with nature trails and backcountry camping.

14. **Thunder Bay RV Park & Campground**
    - 4250 US 23 South. (989) 354-2528.

15. **Camping Cove RV Park & Canoe Livery**
    - 5005 Long Rapids Road. (989)354-3748. campscove@charterinternet.com

Fishing and scuba diving charters also available.

Contact the Alpena CVB (989) 354-4191 or alpenacvb.com.
Featured Attractions...

6 Presque Isle Marina
Presque Isle offers the only natural harbor on Lake Huron with a new marina offering water, motosports, showers, clerk, electricity, pump-out, gasoline, launch, fishing pier, dog run, grill, and the Portage Restaurant. The Old Presque Isle Lighthouse is a short walk up the path.

7 Presque Isle Lighthouses
The Old Presque Isle Lighthouse was built in 1891, hand-hewn stone steps lead to the top of the tower for a panoramic view of the Lake Huron shoreline and the harbor. The New Presque Isle Lighthouse, with a tower height of 109 feet, is the tallest lighthouse on the Great Lakes with a hundred-acre park, picnic area, and museum. The light was first lit in 1871 and is still operational.

8 Thompson's Harbor State Park
Situated along 7.5 miles of Lake Huron shoreline, this undeveloped park provides a rustic retreat for hikers exploring the park’s 6 miles of trails. Hike in late May and June to see beautiful spring wildflower blooms. The rare dwarf lake iris may be seen in late May along the trails and on the shoreline. Thompson’s Harbor now has 2 rustic cabins. www.michigan.gov/thompsonsharbor

9 Harbor View/Quarry View
At Quarry View, stand at the observation deck and overlook the world’s largest open pit limestone quarry or watch the ships being loaded at nearby Harbor View, one of the few places in Michigan where observers can get such a close-up view.

10 PH Hoeft State Park
This magnificent, hidden woodlot, inside Lake Huron shoreline, 341 acres, is a rare area with swimming, playground and picnic facilities. Bike into Rogers City on the Huron Sunrise Trail! www.michigan.gov/hoeft

11 Sacred Rock
This massive boulder of Ordovician dolomite, measuring 20’ X 10’ X 6’, was deposited along the shore when the last glacier receded from the Great Lakes. The Indians, believed it to be sacred and were known to make sacrifices at the rock whenever they passed up or down the lake.

12 Glawe School
Glawe School was built in 1885 by Christian Glawe. The one-room schoolhouse, located in 40 Mile Point Lighthouse Park, is open Saturday—Sunday from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the summer. If the flag is up, the school is open.

13 40 Mile Point Lighthouse Park
The 1896 lighthouse features a restored lighthouse gift shop, the Calcite Pilothouse, picnic areas, and beach. Open Memorial Day weekend through mid-October. The entrance to the park is located approximately 300 yards north of the Lighthouse Park sign on US 23. Bike from Rogers City to the lighthouse on the Huron Sunrise Trail! www.40milespointlighthouse.org

14 Ocqueoc Falls
The highest falls in the lower peninsula. Ocqueoc (interpreted as “crooked river or water”) has two falls - the upper and lower approximately 300’ apart. Ocqueoc River is one of the few rivers in Michigan that runs from south to north. Rustic camping available at the Ocqueoc Falls State Forest Campground. Hike, ski or mountain bike the 6-mile Bloomer Trail, fish, or enjoy the wildlife in this beautiful park.

15 Black Mountain Forest Recreation Area
Outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy these 30 miles of ATV, hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiling, and cross country ski trails as well as camping, hunting, fishing, and horseback riding in a beautiful forest setting.

16 Rogers City Marina
The “Customs port of entry” is along the waterfront. 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 for 102 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 just a few blocks away. www.rogerscity.org

17 Presque Isle County Historical Museum
The world’s largest limestone quarry, the giant ships of the Bradley fleet, Native Americans, frontier pioneers, lumberjacks and lumber barons, the Bertrand Sisters’ Millinery Shop, and a 1960’s gift shop are just a few of the exhibits that document the rich history of the county. Free admission. Open Tuesday-Saturday, May - September, from 3:2-9 p.m. www.thebradleyhouse.com

21 Great Lakes Lure Maritime Museum
The Great Lakes Lure Maritime Museum specializes in memories, not just artifacts. The generations of men and women who risked life itself to sail these waters are enshrined and 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 Street, Rogers City, MI. www.gllmm.com

30 Seagull Point Park
Seagull Point is a favorite place to watch sunsets. The park features an extensive network of nature trails, a mile of unspoiled beach, low dunes and windbreaks, and a nice view of the shoreline back to Rogers City and beyond.

31 Herman Vogler Conservation Area
On the banks of the Tawas River, this 270-acre park features picnic areas and family fishing in addition to 7 miles of hiking, biking, and ski paths that connect to the Huron Sunrise Trail.

32 Huron Sunrise Trail
Winding through woods with a spur to the Vogler Conservation Area and north along Lake Huron from Rogers City, the Huron Sunrise Trail is one of northern Michigan’s most beautiful. The all-asphalt trail ends at 40-Mile Point Light for an 8 mile ride.

Tourism Information
Your Pathway to the Sunrise Coast — www.heritage23.com
Rogers City Chamber of Commerce www.rogerscity.com 1-800-622-1485
Presque Isle County Visitor Information Service www.presqueislemi.org 1-989-734-8446
Michigan Department of Natural Resources www.michigan.gov/dnr
Onaway Chamber of Commerce www.onawaychamber.com 1-989-733-2974
Michigan Department of Transportation www.michigan.gov/travel

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Michigan Department of Transportation
Cover photo courtesy of the Michigan Department of Transportation
BROCHURE COMMODITY CODE 8014-0745
7 Jack Pine Lumberjack Shows

The Jack Pine Lumberjack Shows are a journey back into the late 1800’s when logging was king in the northwoods of Michigan. Watch as the men in blue and white historic attire compete for the title, “Bull of the Wood”. In chopping, sawing, pole climbing and log rolling, 1.5 miles south of Mackinac City on US 23. 231-436-5225.

www.jackpinelumberjackshows.com

8 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 learn about the importance and contribution of Michigan’s timber industry to the American landscape. The Historic Mill Creek Sawmill is a restored 1890s vertical sawmill. This out-of-doors museum is open late May to mid October, 7:30 am to 8:00 pm. Follow the path in progress on the historic log drive to the sawmill. 1 mile north of the Apostle Islands on US 23.

www.heritage23.com

9 North Central State Trail & North Eastern State Trail

North Central State Trail: The 62-mile rail trail between Gaylord and Mackinaw City has a surface of compacted limestone that is suitable for virtually any bicycle. Its uses include not only bicycling but also walking, horseback riding, and in the winter snowmobiling. Trailheads in Gaylord, Vanderbilt, Wolverine, River, Cheboygan, and Mackinaw City. www.northcentraltrail.org.

North Eastern State Trail: Traversing 71 miles between Alpena and Cheboygan, this trail joins up with the North Central State Trail just south of Lincoln Street in Cheboygan. With a cruise-able limestone surface, this trail follows the path first made possible by the lumber industry in the need to transport lumber by rail.

10 Lighthouses

Michigan lighthouses were beacons of brilliance as they guided sailors along the Michigan coastline. While some lighthouses have been moved, others have been converted to museums in order to share their stories. The Straits Area boasts numerous lighthouses and lighthouses of distinction:


11 Cheboygan & Mackinaw Marinas

The Mackinaw City Municipal Marina, Straits State Harbor, the Cheboygan Municipal Marina and the Cheboygan County Marina all provide a wide variety of services to boating enthusiasts. www.mackinawcity.com.

www.heritage23.com

12 Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw

The U.S.C.G. is a 240 foot icebreaker and buoy tender equipped with state-of-the-art navigation and engineering systems. It duties include icebreaking, search & rescue, navigation aid, Homeland Security, public relations and marine environmental protection.

13 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. 403 N. Huron Street. Call 231-627-5432 for concert schedules, tickets, and information. (Box Office: 231-627-5843). www.fetheatrehouse.org

14 The Inland Waterway

The Inland Waterway encompasses a 38.2-mile route from Lake Huron to Crooked Lake. In between, you travel the Cheboygan River, Mullet 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 38-mile waterway is a unique adventure perfect for any boating enthusiast. From wildlife to scuba diving to scenic beauty to water skiing, the Inland Waterway has it all. For more information, visit the Inland Water Route Historical Society at www.iwrhs.com

15 Heritage Village

Heritage Village recreates a period between 1880-1917. The 4-acre site features historic buildings, including a one-room school house and a 1900's pestle house. During the summer you may visit the village any day. But for tours conducted by docents, the village is open Saturday, Sunday, and Monday from 1pm to 4pm. For more information on our buildings and attractions use our Audio Tour by phoning 231-436-0003 and keying in stops 201 - 213. www.mackinawhistory.org

16 Mackinaw Heritage Village

Located at 231 E Central Avenue upstairs from Mama Mia’s Pizza. Open early May – mid October. 102 Straits Avenue. www.mackinacparks.com

17 Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse & Fog Signal Station

Erected in 1882, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse served as a beacon of safety in the Straits for more than 60 years. Climb the tower and take in the spectacular view. Interactive with hands-on exhibits. 526 North Huron Avenue.

www.mackinacparks.com

18 The Headlands International Dark Sky Park

The Headlands, a 600-acre thickly forested gem situated along the clear blue expanse of Lake Michigan, is one of only 6 International Dark Sky Parks in the world and is still the standard by which all others are measured. The Headlands possesses exceptional natural darkness, starry skies and natural 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, otters, great white raptors, wild turkeys, coyotes and occasionally a black bear. Marked nature trails guide hikers, bicyclists, cross-country skiers, and nature photographers to experience the park throughout the changing seasons. The “Beach House” and the “Guest House” are available for rental. www.emmetcounty.org/headlands

19 Colonial Michilimackinac

Michilimackinac, now one of the longest ongoing archeological projects of its kind, was founded in 1715 as a French fur-trading village and military outpost. It was here that fur traders and Indians rendezoused. French and British officials 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 daily May – mid October. 102 Straits Avenue. www.mackinacparks.com

20 Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum

“An American Hero Story” The “Queen of the Great Lakes” was built as part of war effort during WWII, the Mackinaw (MB-333) was the most powerful and capable icebreaker in the world and is still the standard by which icebreakers are measured. For 42 years, she served the Great Lakes shipping industry. She was decommissioned June 30, 2006. Tours are available, but visitors are advised to call ahead to schedule: 231-436-8825. www.michmuseum.org

21 Michigan Department of Natural Resources

www.michigan.gov/dnr

Mackinaw City Chamber of Commerce

www.mackinawchamber.com

23 Cheboygan Area Chamber of Commerce

www.cheboyganarea.com

Indian River Chamber of Commerce

www.ircambusiness.com

1-800-968-3302

24 Mackinaw Area Chamber of Commerce

www.mackinawarea.org

25 Mackinaw City Chamber of Commerce

www.mackinawcitychamber.org

1-800-666-0160

www.mackinawcity.com

26 Michigan Department of Transportation

BROCHURE COMMODITY CODE 8014-0744

Michigan Department of Transportation

www.mdo.org

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

www.michigan.gov/dnr

Mackinaw City Chamber of Commerce

www.mackinawchamber.com

Cheboygan Area Chamber of Commerce

www.cheboyganarea.com

Indian River Chamber of Commerce

www.ircambusiness.com

Funding for this brochure was made possible through: Michigan Department of Transportation, Mackinaw City Chamber of Commerce, and the Indian River Chamber of Commerce. Technical assistance and brochure design provided by: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy and Northern Michigan Council of Governments. Cover photo courtesy of the Michigan Department of Transportation.
Negwegon State Park

Negwegon State Park is a 3,728 acre rustic, undeveloped area open for hunting and hiking. The terrain is a mixture of low land areas, with small ridges, to mature pine forest, with some hardwoods and aspen forest, with some pockets of open meadows mixed in. Negwegon boasts a beautiful undeveloped sandy beach on Lake Huron. The Algonquin Trail, the Chippewa Trail, and the Pointe aux Barques Trail provide scenic hiking opportunities. Backcountry camping is available in Negwegon from April through November. This type of camping can be a very rewarding experience as some of Negwegon’s most scenic areas are accessible only by hiking, kayaking or canoeing along the Lake Huron shore. www.michigan.gov/negwegon

Sturgeon Point Lighthouse

Sturgeon Point juts into Lake Huron, and the waves off the point conceal a long and shallow reef which extends for almost one 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 decreted an archeological structure in 1999 and the last personnel left in 1941. The light apparatus is still maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard. The keeper’s house is now a maritime museum maintained by the Alcona Historical Society. The keeper’s house and the boathouse are both open to the public. www.alconahistoricalsociety.com

Old Bailey School

Built in 1907 of Norway pine, the Bailey School is one of the few remaining one-room, log schools still standing in Michigan. The school still rings from atop the roof to summon students of history and simpler times. It was built at the site of a C.A. Johnson Lumber Camp west of Mikado for the children of the logging crew. 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, a one-room school desk, and a coal stove. www.alconahistoricalsociety.com

Harrisville Harbor

The Harrisville Harbor was completed in 1961. A large basin had to be created along the shoreline by dynamite, dredging, and removing large boulders. The limestone wall was constructed to create the harbor of refuge for anchorage and shelter. A fixed dock was built in 1963, floating docks was added in 1988, and the current updated comfort station in 2008. The Harbor provides 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. www.hvharbor.com

Harrisville State Park

Harrisville State Park features a campground and day-use area nestled in a stand of pine and hardwoods. 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. Harrisville State Park offers mini-cabins and rustic cabins all year long. www.michigan.gov/harrisville

Sturgeon Point Lighthouse

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Harrisville Historic Route Trail

This 2.5 mile pedestrian and bicycle trail winds along the picturesque shores 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 at the south end of town and Harrisville Township Park at the north end. Pick up a Harrisville Historic Route trail brochure and follow along as you hike or pedal past such historic buildings as the Widow’s Watch Bed and Breakfast (where the former rooftop gas station can be seen sitting on the grounds of the property) and the Old Stage Line (where John Dickerson reported last call on the stage and took in the spectacular view of sparkling Lake Huron at the end of Main Street!). www.alconahistoricalsociety.com

Alcona County Quilt Trail

Follow the Alcona County Quilt Trail up the coast of Lake Huron and inland along the roiling green fields of Alcona County. Download the driving directions and find the IF X quilt blocks on the sides of historic barns, at local parks, on historic churches, at a train depot, and hidden in many more unexpected places. Each quilt square tells a story about the location. Travel the downtown Harrisville Walking Quilt Trail by visiting twelve downtown merchants and find 12” fabric quilt squares hanging in each. www.alconacountyquilts.com

Reid Lake Quiet Area

Reid Lake is 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 the more advanced skier. Hunting and fishing are permitted. Reid Lake boats 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 trail area. Parking lot and trailhead are located on M-72. National Forest Service vehicle pass is required.

Hoist Lakes Foot Travel Area

Hoist Lakes encompasses over 10,000 acres of pine, aspen and hardwood forests. The area is large enough to challenge any backpacking enthusiast! There are over 20 miles of trails winding through small pohite lakes and areas of beaver flooding, as well as over and around half a mile of shoreline! As you travel through the area, watch for examples of timber harvesting and tree regeneration, wildlife management and watershed management. Hunting and fishing are permitted in season. The Hoist Lakes area is home to white-tailed 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.

Alcona Park - AuSable River

Located on the historic AuSable River floodwaters above the Alcona Dam, this 1,300 acre park has three miles of shoreline on each side of this trophy fish-producing river. Surrounded by the Huron National Forest, it is a favorite home away from home for many vacationers. The river provides quality fishing of walleye, pike, perch, bass and trout. Canoeing, boating, swimming, fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing are all popular activities for visitors. 48 full-service campites, 104 modern campites, and 400 primitive campites available. Camping cabins are available for rent! www.alcona.com

Tourism Information

Your Pathway to the Sunrise Coast

Huron National Forest

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

National Forest Campground Guide

www.michigan.gov/dnr

Huron National Forest

www.fs.fed.us

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Alabaster Bike Path & Arboretum

This 4-mile pathway winds its way from the southern edge of Tawas City through wooded areas and along the Lake Huron shores. The trail curves in and out of the woods and has a state-of-the-art wooden guard rail that keeps users safe from road traffic. The pathway also serves as an arboretum. Pick up an arboretum brochure and learn to identify native trees of Michigan. The trail starts at Alabaster Road and goes to Townline Road. The Alabaster pathway connects to a Tawas pathway that runs through the entire Tawas Bay area and out to Tawas Point State Park.

Tawas Point State Park & Lighthouse

A nature lovers 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 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.

Camground: There are 195 modern sites with a shallow swimming beach. Very child-friendly! There are also horsehoe pits, a volleyball area, and a ball diamond.

Pleasuring: A picnic area is available for day use.

East Tawas City Park Campground

Long one of Michigan’s most popular family campgrounds, the East Tawas City Park features 174 available campsites with full hookup including cable TV. The park Day/Use area features a 36’ octagonal gazebo, 2 sets of horsehoe 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 1607’ of groomed, sandy beach that is open to the public for no charge. An easy access to fishing is off the State Pier.

Huron National Forest & River Road National Scenic Byway

From US 23 in downtown Oscoda you continue east on the River Road National Scenic Byway which serves as the east-west route into the Huron National Forest. This route-bounds along the high banks of the Ausable River valley where visitors may enjoy panoramic views of the river and the natural beauty of the Huron National Forest. The U.S. Forest Service offers primitive camplines along the hertos and on islands of the Ausable River. Full-service camping is available along the Foote Pond reservoir at Oscoda Township’s Old Orchard Park Campground. The Huron National Forest and Ausable River valley offer package opportunities for fishing, canoeing, swimming, birding, hunting, snowmobiling and Michigan’s “Capital of Cross Country Skiing” at Concor Park. More information may be obtained at: www.byways.org

Lumberman’s Monument

This huge brone memorial to Michigan’s lumbering era sits on a high bluff overlooking the sparkling waters of the Ausable River. Erected in 1932, interpretive signs and exhibits tell the story of clearing logs from forests to the mills. Children enjoy climbing the log jam and using the crosscut saw. For those willing to hike the 360 steps down to the edge of the river, they can board the Wagenin, a replica of the floating cook shacks that followed the river log-drives. Location: Intersection of River Road and Monument Road.

Northeast MI Regional Farm Market

Operated Wednesdays at Ausable Shoreline Park in Oscoda and Saturdays at the corner of Westover and Sawyer Streets in East Tawas. This market runs rain or shine from Memorial Day until October. Great vendors offer heirloom veggies, organically grown greens, cheeses, berries, honey products, prepared foods, pastries, eggs, potioed herbs, soaps and skin care, large bouquets, plants, and much more. Shake the hand that feeds you! www.gersifted.com

Ausable Shoreline Park

The site has everything a water lover could want. The park has a beautiful sandy beach, hiking trails, birdwatching, “Sand Island”, and canoeing. There is a fully handicapped accessible birding platform just south of the Ausable River Bridge.

Oscoda Area Beaches

Public parks and resorts along Oscoda’s Lake Huron shoreline include uncommon stretches of “Sugar Sand” swimming beaches. Oscoda Beach Park is located at the east end of River Road. The park includes restrooms, playground equipment and skating ramps. Free concerts are offered at the “Community Bandshell” at 7 pm Thursday evenings during the summer. Three miles north of downtown are the Huron Summit Park and the MDCOT Rest Area. These two parks provide public access to one mile of undeveloped Lake Huron beach and shoreline. Oscoda public parks are open from sunrise to 10 pm.

Second Homes

Iosco County has long been the lifetime vacation destination for owners of lakeside cottages and hunting camps. Within this region it is still possible to obtain lakeside and forested property at a relatively affordable price. For anyone considering buying a vacation home, discovering Iosco County can be particularly exciting. Nowhere else can you find better beaches, scenic forests, and sparkling rivers. For more information, contact the Northeast Michigan Board of Realtors at www.prohomerשלctors.com.

Tourism Information

Your Pathway to the Sunrise Coast www.heritage23.com

Huron Shores Heritage Route

Pathway to the Sunrise Coast

www.heritage23.com
1 Standish Historic Depot & Welcome Center

Located at the gateway to the US 23 Huron Shores Heritage Route, this newly restored MI Central R.R. Depot, built in 1889, is also the newest State “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 Huron Shores trip by stopping in at the Standish Depot! Located at the corner of US 23 and M-61 in Standish. Operated by Standish Area Chamber of Commerce. www.standishdepot.org

2 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. Perfect for birders and wildlife viewing enthusiasts. An MDNR public access site is located on the south edge of Omer, just off US 23. Several private canoe liverys are also located along the Rifle River.

3 Old Courthouse & Masonic Hall: Omer

Currently on the National Register of Historic Places, the building was built in 1890 and served as the county’s first courthouse. When the county seat was moved to Standish, it became the local Masonic Lodge. Visitors can see Arena’s first jail as well as an 1890’s era barber shop. Old Masonic, city, and township records make it an excellent source of genealogical information. Location: US 23 in City of Omer.

4 Arenac County Historical Museum & Genealogical Society

Inside this 1883 church are recreations of a rural school room, bedroom and parlor, apothecary shop, a country store and vintage apparel. The 2-story museum also features broadside and commercial fishing exhibits and is the genealogy center for the area. The museum also houses a functioning 1800’s era rural school room. Location: 107 N Main St (US 23) and M-61 in Standish. www.arenachistory.org

5 Saganing Eagles Landing Casino

Michigan’s newest place to play! With over 800 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. Location: 2690 Worth Road, off M-13, just south of Standish. www.saganingeagleslanding.com

6 Au Gres River/Lake Huron 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 4 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. Location: just east of the City of Au Gres.

7 Au Gres Riverfront Park & Campground

This shaded 25-acre campground is just a short distance from the DNR Au Gres River boat launch and Lake Huron breakwall. A paved walkway and wooden bridge connect it to downtown Au Gres. The campground has 119 sites with full hook-ups. Location: just north of US 23 on the northern edge of Au Gres. A 2.5 mile bike path runs from the park to the Lake Huron Breakwall. Reservations: cityofaugres@centurytel.net. (989) 876-8811

8 Charity Island National Wildlife Refuge

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. There is also an historic lighthouse on the island that is under private ownership. The island is located approximately 10 miles offshore and easily accessible from the Au Gres Boat Launch or a privately run ferry service. Photo courtesy of Brandon Schvrier of Michigan Sea Grant www.mgoceanprog.cmich.edu

9 Maple Ridge Historic Schoolhouse

The interior of this fully restored 1904 one-room schoolhouse takes you back in time to ink wells and slate chalk boards. Artifacts include period wall maps, wall alphabets, text books and more. Stop in and browse an interesting collection of period class photos. Directions: From US 23, take M-65 to Maple Ridge Road and turn left. For Charter Boats on Saginaw Bay... go to www.heritage23.com.

10 Arenac County Parks

Daily pass needed for Pte Au Gres Park and Oasis Lake Park. Pass available at parks or at the Arenac County Courthouse. (989) 846-6188.

Pte Au Gres Park

Located on Lake Huron. A great sandy beach, picnic and play areas. Three pavilions, volleyball, horseshoe pits, and barrier-free boardwalk available. 17 rustic campsites and 5 rustic cabins. Location: southeast of AuGres on Rumsey Road.

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. Location: M-76 between Sterling and Alger.

Youngman Park

This lovely 46-acre wooded area is made up of rocky uplands and is adjacent to a softball field. There are numerous opportunities for hiking and appreciating the natural habitat. Location: from the corner of US 23 and M-61, east 3.5 miles to Arenac State Road, then north 2 miles. Watch for signs.