

Our Trails Take You Farther!

1. The Headlands International Dark Sky Park



Located along the clear blue expanse of Lake Michigan, the Headlands has 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, 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. The "Beach House" and the "Guest House" are available for rental. *Located west of Mackinaw City along Headlands Road.* emmetcounty.org/parks-recreation/the-headlands-an-international-dark-sky-park



Photo courtesy of Emmet County

2. 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, 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.

3. 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 UP, across the Straits of Mackinac, down the western side of the Lower Peninsula, and heading southeast toward Ohio across southern Michigan. northcountrytrail.org

4. North Western State Trail



The North Western State Trail runs from Petoskey north to Mackinaw City 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.* trailscouncil.org/north-western-state-trail

5. 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 hilly agricultural fields, quaint little towns, forests, lakes and rivers to native wildlife and wildflowers - abounds. The southern terminus of the trail is in Gaylord and the Otsego County Fairgrounds. The trail will take you north through Vanderbilt, Wolverine, Indian River, Topinabee, Cheboygan and, finally, 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/north-central-trail-gaylord-mackinaw-city



Photo courtesy of Top of Michigan Trails Council

6. Cheboygan State Park



A 7-mile system of well-marked trails provide access to scenic Lake Huron vistas and glimpses of rare wildflowers. 6 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. *Located east of Cheboygan on US 23.* michigandnr.com/parksandtrails



Photo courtesy of MDOT

7. Black Mountain Trails



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. *Location: Trailheads are located on Twin Lakes Rd, Doriva Beach Rd, County Rd 489, and Black Mountain Rd.* trailscouncil.org/black-mountain-recreation-area-trail

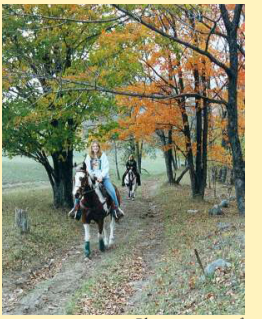


Photo courtesy of Top of Michigan Trails Council

8. Ocqueoc Falls Bicentennial Pathway



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 6 miles of hiking, biking and cross-country skiing opportunities with three marked loops. 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.* michigandnr.com/parksandtrails



Photo courtesy of Lake Huron Discovery Tour

9. 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 Hoelt 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. *Location: Trail can be accessed at lakeside parks in Rogers City, at P.H. Hoelt State Park, or at 40 Mile Point Lighthouse.* rogerscity.com/huron-sunrise-trail.html



Photo courtesy of NEMCOG

10. Thompson's Harbor State Park



These trails meander through the over 5,000 acres of undeveloped State Park with 7.5 miles of Lake Huron shoreline. This undeveloped State Park, a state-designated Dark Sky Preserve, provides a rustic retreat for hikers and cross-country skiers to explore the park's 6 miles of trails. 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. *Located north of Grand Lake on US 23.* michigandnr.com/parksandtrails



Photo courtesy of NEMCOG

11. Rockport State Recreation 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! *Location: Turn east from US 23 onto Rockport Road.* michigan.gov/rockport



Photos courtesy of Friends of Rockport

12. 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, allowing the right-of-way to be turned over to outdoor recreation. 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 lobeshores, forests, waterways and wildlife. *Location: 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.* trailscouncil.org/north-eastern-state-trail-michigan



Photo courtesy of Top of Michigan Trails Council

13. Alpena Bi-Path



The Alpena Bi-Path is a beautiful city-wide paved pathway for both walking and biking. It's a great way to see the City of Alpena! 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. The parks 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). Included within the Bi-Path system is Island Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, a 17-acre island jewel surrounded by the Thunder Bay River which winds through 500 acres of back waters and low islands. Located in the heart of the City of Alpena, several footpaths wind along the island's perimeter and interior which lead joggers, walkers, photographers, fishermen, and nature lovers through varied ecosystems including sand dunes, meadows, woodlands, gentle slopes, and marsh areas. Viewing platforms are handicapped-accessible. At the southern end of the Bi-Path, visit the South Bay area with its many businesses including curiosity shops, grocery store, convenience stores, and restaurants serving all types of cuisine. *Location: The Bi-Path is accessible from numerous parks throughout Alpena.*



Photo of bridge to Island Park courtesy of Alpena CVB

14. Norway Ridge Pathway



This 7-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! *Location: 5 miles west of Alpena off Werth Road.* michigandnr.com/parksandtrails

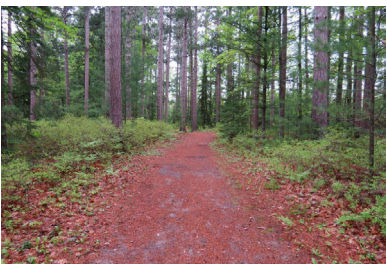


Photo courtesy of NEMCOG

15. 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, like most other Michigan cross-country pathways, is amply marked and relatively hazard-free, except for a few sandy patches. *Location: 11 miles west of Ossineke on Nicholson Hill Road.* michigandnr.com/parksandtrails



Photo courtesy of Michigan DNR

16. 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 three trails: 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. The terrain is a mixture of lowland areas with small ridges, mature pine forest, some hardwoods and aspen forest, and some pockets of open meadows mixed in. Negwegon hosts a beautiful undeveloped sandy beach on Lake Huron. Negwegon State 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. *Location: Off Sand Hill Trail.* michigan.gov/negwegon



Photo courtesy of Michigan DNR

17. Harrisville State Park & Harrisville Heritage Route Trail



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 the resort town of Harrisville. Established in 1921, it is one of Michigan's oldest state parks. Harrisville State Park offers mini-cabins and rustic cabins all year long. The Cedar Run Nature Trail winds through the park for about a mile before joining up with the City of Harrisville Heritage Route Trail. Bike rentals are also available at the park! *Location: South of Harrisville on US 23.* michigan.gov/harrisville

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 at the south end of town and Harrisville Township Park at the north end. 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!

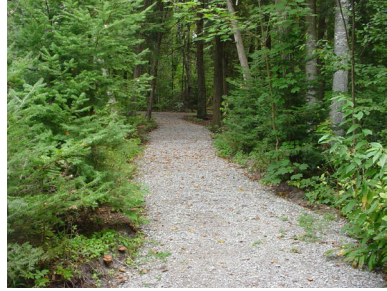


Photo courtesy of Michigan DNR



Photo courtesy of City of Harrisville

18. Reid Lake Foot Travel 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 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. *Location: Parking lot and trailhead are located on M-72 approximately 18 miles west of Harrisville.* fs.usda.gov/recarea/hnmf/recarea/?recid=18804



Photo courtesy of the National Forest Service

19. 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 white-tail 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. *Location: On the west side of M-65 approximately 22 miles west of Harrisville.* fs.usda.gov/recarea/hnmf/recarea/?recid=18798

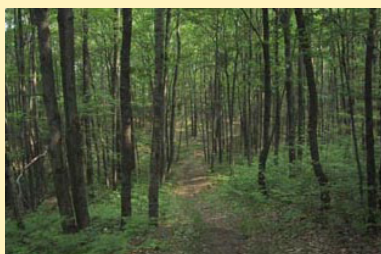


Photo courtesy of the Alcona Heritage Route Team

20. 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 foot traffic. 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. The Shore to Shore Trail has spurs which travel north into Cheboygan County and south toward Cadillac. Paper maps of the Shore to Shore Trail can be obtained from the Michigan Trail Riders Association. Sections of the trail are often re-routed due to logging, wind damage, water encroachment, etc, so be aware and follow the confidence markers (blue dots, triangles, arrows, etc). *Location: Trailheads are found at various locations. Contact the Michigan Trail Riders for more detailed information.* mtra.org



Photo courtesy of Michigan Trail Riders Association

21. Highbanks Trail



A short 7-mile trek along the bluffs of the Au Sable River will provide some of the best and most dramatic views of the river, where snowshoes and skiers will be able to look over the river valley with clear views almost to Lake Huron in some spots. The trail has access areas and parking at Largo Springs and Lumberman's Monument (accessed off River Road National Scenic Byway). The grounds of these sites are open in the winter, but the sites are not maintained and no toilet facilities are available. The trail is not groomed but is maintained by the US Forest Service and Corsair Trail Council - this means the trail is well-marked and cleared of fallen trees. *Location: Trailheads are found at Largo Springs and Lumberman's Monument off River Road.* fs.usda.gov/recarea/hnmf/recarea/?recid=18818



Photos courtesy of National Forest Service

22. Eagle Run



Located approximately 2 miles west of Oscoda, Eagle Run is 7 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. *Location: Eagle Run is accessed off the River Road National Scenic Byway.* fs.usda.gov/recarea/hnmf/recarea/?recid=18726

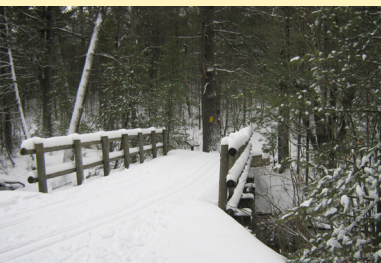


Photos courtesy of National Forest Service

23. Corsair Trails



The Corsair Trail System is one of the largest groomed trail networks in Michigan. The trail system is perfect for hiking and cross country skiing and winds through red pine forest and along Silver Creek in the Huron National Forest. There are several loops that allow for quick half hour trips or all day adventures. The trails are groomed for cross-country skiing and the warming shelter is open most weekends making this area a fun winter getaway. The Corsair Trail Council operates and maintains Corsair Trails. Entry fee applies at all trailheads. Water and toilet facilities are available. Warming shelter available.



Photos courtesy of National Forest Service

From Corsair Trailhead - This portion of the trail has a spur to a 600-foot interpretive and fishing trail along Silver Creek.

From Silver Valley Trailhead - The portion of trail from this trailhead offers skiing that is gentler and less hilly. There are 2 Silver Creek bridge crossings on this section.

Wrights Lake Trailhead - This portion of the trail provides a little more challenge with longer loops and steeper hills.

Location: Trailheads are located on Monument Road. fs.usda.gov/recarea/hnmf/recarea/?recid=18732

24. Alabaster Pathway & Arboretum/Tawas Bay Pathway



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 Pathway 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 Alabaster Pathway 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. *Location: Along the east side of US 23, there is a trailhead at Dyer Road.*



Photo courtesy of Alabaster Township

25. Sandy Hook Nature Trail (Tawas Point)



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. The Sandy Hook Nature Trail is an interpretive trail that runs from the campground to the tip of the park's sandy crescent near the U.S. Coast Guard's Fog Horn. It takes about 90 minutes to explore the natural features found along the route. Because of Tawas Point's 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. *Location: From US 23, turn east onto Tawas Beach Road.* michigandnr.com/parksandtrails



Photo courtesy of MDOT

26. Eickholt-Pressprich Nature Preserve



This 48-acre preserve is composed mainly of wetlands and is home to frogs, turtles, deer, waterfowl, and wildflowers including white flowered beardtongue, fringed and bottled gentians, wild sunflowers, and blue flag irises. Eickholt-Pressprich serves as an excellent landfill spot for migrating songbirds in the month of May and serves as excellent stopover habitat for the huge influx of warblers that cruise up the Lake Huron shoreline. *Source: Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy. Location: Turn south off US-23 onto South Tonkey Road. Park along East Michigan Avenue near the intersection with Tonkey Road.* sblc-mi.org/eickholt-pressprich-nature-preserve.html

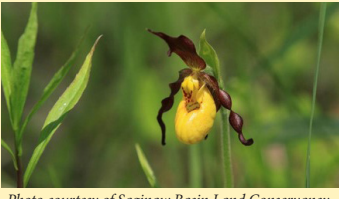


Photo courtesy of Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy

27. Wigwam Bay State Wildlife Area

More than 900 acres of wetlands are found on this 3,023-acre site A network of gravel-topped dikes in the wetlands is open to foot traffic all year. 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 to see nesting snapping turtles. *Source: Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy. Location: 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

28. Standish Nature Preserve

The Standish Nature Preserve 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 another great spot for birding, with a small pond surrounded by dense hardwoods, all at the foot of a viewing area just a few steps inward from the trail access on the east side of the Preserve. *Source: Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy. Location: Turn east off Arenac State Road onto Bordeaux Road. Cross LaFave Road and turn right onto Bordeaux Lane.* sblc-mi.org/standish-nature-preserve.html

Saginaw 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. There is 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. *Source: Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy. Location: Turn east off Arenac State Road onto Worth Road. Drive past the casino and park near the preserve gate.* sblc-mi.org/saganing-nature-preserve.html

Use the QR code to visit our YouTube Channel to watch our mini-documentaries including Shipwreck Alley, The Spirit of Ocqueoc, Historic Mill Creek, Tuttle Marsh, and Silence (which highlights winter recreation) youtube.com/us23heritageroute



Please be aware that not all uses listed are allowed on all segments of a trail system. Check referenced websites for detailed information.

heritage23.org
For more things to see and do along the US 23 Heritage Route, visit the website!

upnorthtrails.com
Visit the website for more information on over 10,000 miles of trails throughout the northern Lower Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula!



29. Saganing Nature Preserve

The 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. There is 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. *Source: Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy. Location: Turn east off Arenac State Road onto Worth Road. Drive past the casino and park near the preserve gate.* sblc-mi.org/saganing-nature-preserve.html



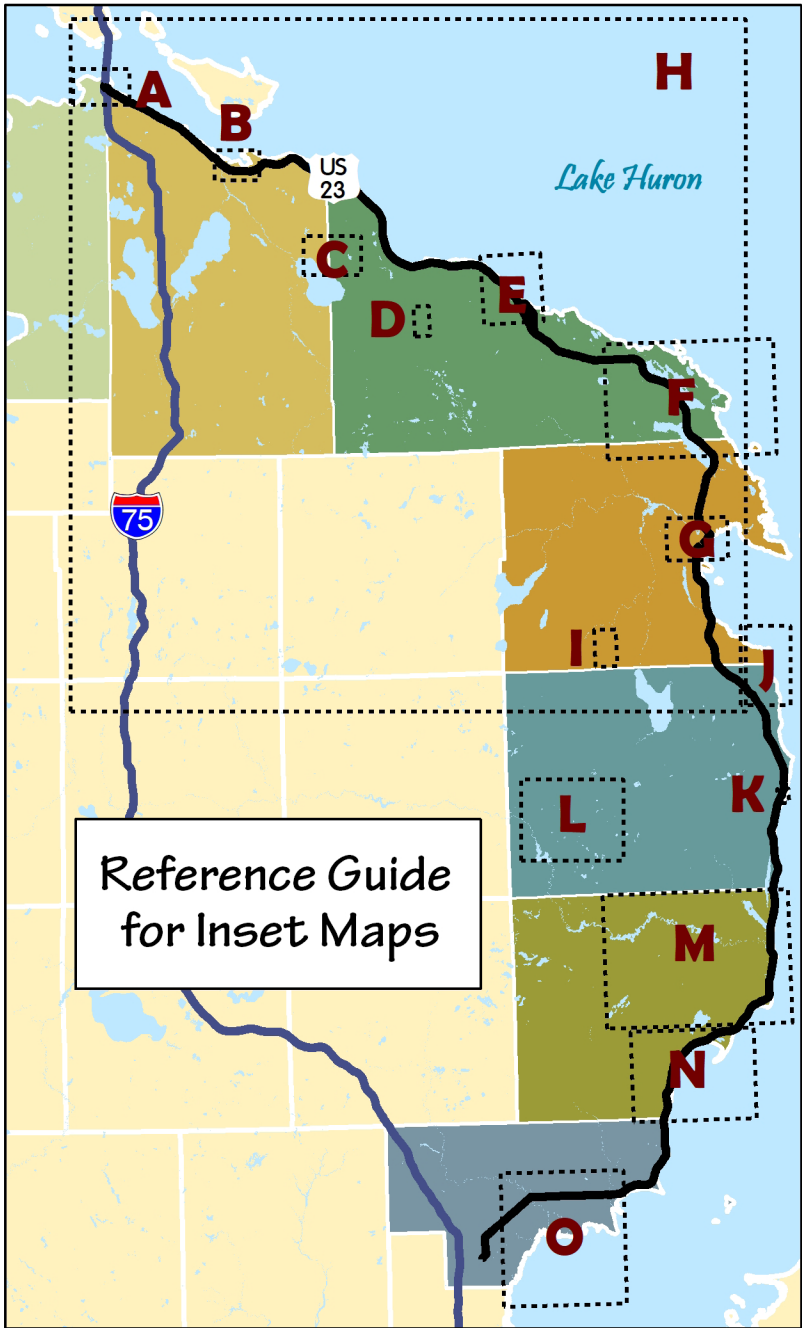
Photo courtesy of Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy

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Our Trails Take You Farther!

This map highlights trails along the US 23 Heritage Route.

1-29 Refers to the numbered sites described in detail on the reverse side of this guide.

- Non-Motorized Trail
- ORV Trail or Route
- Snowmobile Trail
- Recreational Facility or Point of Interest
- Trailhead
- Marina/Harbor

