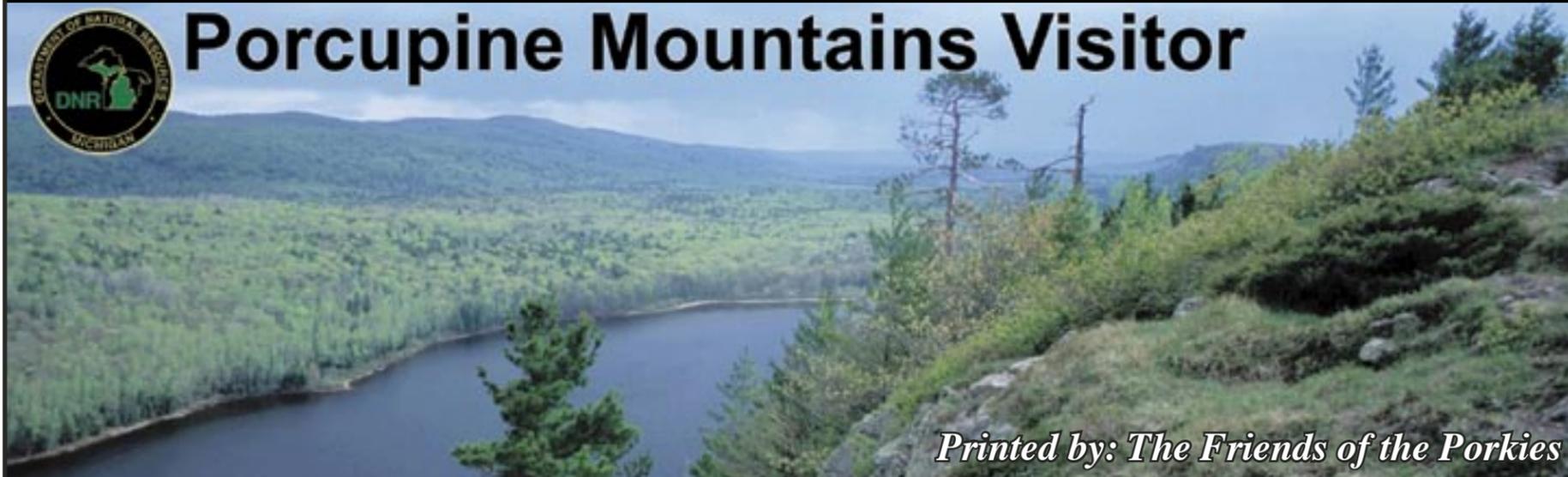




Porcupine Mountains Visitor



Printed by: The Friends of the Porkies

Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors

www.michigan.gov/dnr

Welcome to the Porcupine Mountains

Welcome! We hope your visit to Michigan's largest state park is safe and rewarding, and that you can return soon. One of the park's primary functions is to provide visitors with the opportunity for solitude and unconfined recreation -- a wilderness experience. The tall trees, cold streams, fresh air and soaring vistas are all here waiting for you to begin your adventure.

Wilderness is largely a matter of perception, however, and the success of your visit depends largely on you and your fellow visitors. A fire pit filled with scorched bottles and cans, food wrappers carelessly discarded along the trail, a barking dog or blaring radio -- all these things can break the spell of the wild.

Before you head out to enjoy the park, please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the park's rules and regulations; most are a simple matter of safety and common courtesy.

Enjoy the wilderness on its own terms by traveling quietly and in small groups. Collect and carry out any trash that you find. Always dispose of human waste properly. Never feed wildlife. Protect your pets by keeping them on a leash and under your control.

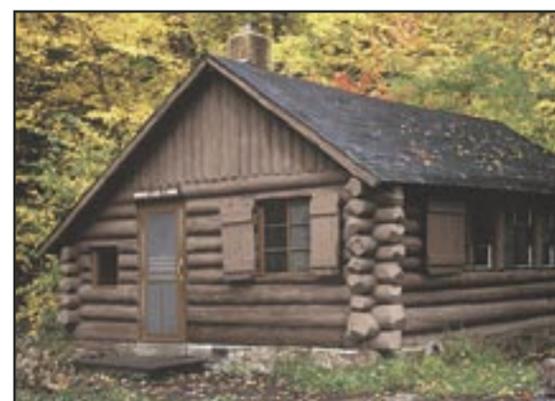
Doing these things will help keep the park wild for all visitors. Thank you for visiting Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. See you on the trails!



Robert Sprague

Park Administrator Robert Sprague

Stay With Us



With 19 rustic cabins, four yurts and a modern lodge to complement the various camping opportunities, the park offers overnight lodging experiences to ensure everyone has an unforgettable vacation. Rustic cabins and yurts are \$60 per night. For more information about park lodging, stop by the Wilderness Visitor Center or Park Headquarters. Call (906) 885-5275.

The Wilderness Visitor Center



The Wilderness Visitor Center is located along South Boundary Road, near the M-107 junction. Whether you are visiting the Porcupine Mountains for an hour or a week, the center should be your first stop.

Here, you can check on trail conditions, register for backpacking, get directions to scenic sites, check wildlife sightings, note the interpretive activities schedule, view the park's 12-minute video presentation, and find

information about geocaching and letterboxing in the park. The exhibit room offers a look at the park's natural and human history.

Just outside the visitor center is an easy and enjoyable, self-guided nature trail. This mile-long loop takes about 45 minutes and highlights the wildlife and other natural features of the Northwoods.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the State's natural resources for current and future generations.

Emergency - 911 anywhere, any time, any phone



Map on pages 4-5

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You can make donations to support park activities. Contributions are welcome and will support this park. For information, please stop by the park headquarters or call (906) 885-5275.

Scenic Areas



Lake of the Clouds

The most-photographed area and the hallmark view of the Porcupine Mountains is the view at Lake of the Clouds.

From the parking lot at the western terminus of M-107, it is a short 100-yard hike (or you can take the slightly longer accessible boardwalk) to the spectacular viewing areas atop a 300-foot precipice that overlooks Lake of the Clouds and the heart of the Porcupine Mountains.

Signs along the route explain the geologic formations and reveal some of the natural and human history of the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park.



Summit Peak

At the end of Summit Peak Road, a one-half mile trail leads visitors to the highest point in the mountains.

The first 10 minutes of the trail climbs uphill under a dense hardwood canopy. Benches along the way provide convenient rest stops. Stairs and boardwalks take the trail over ancient lava flows and out onto a large viewing deck overlooking the Little Carp River. Continuing to the top, a lookout tower provides a panorama of the park's rugged wilderness -- ancient mountains that once were worn by the glaciers but now are blanketed by a thick forest. Lake Superior's vast blue horizon is seen in the distance.



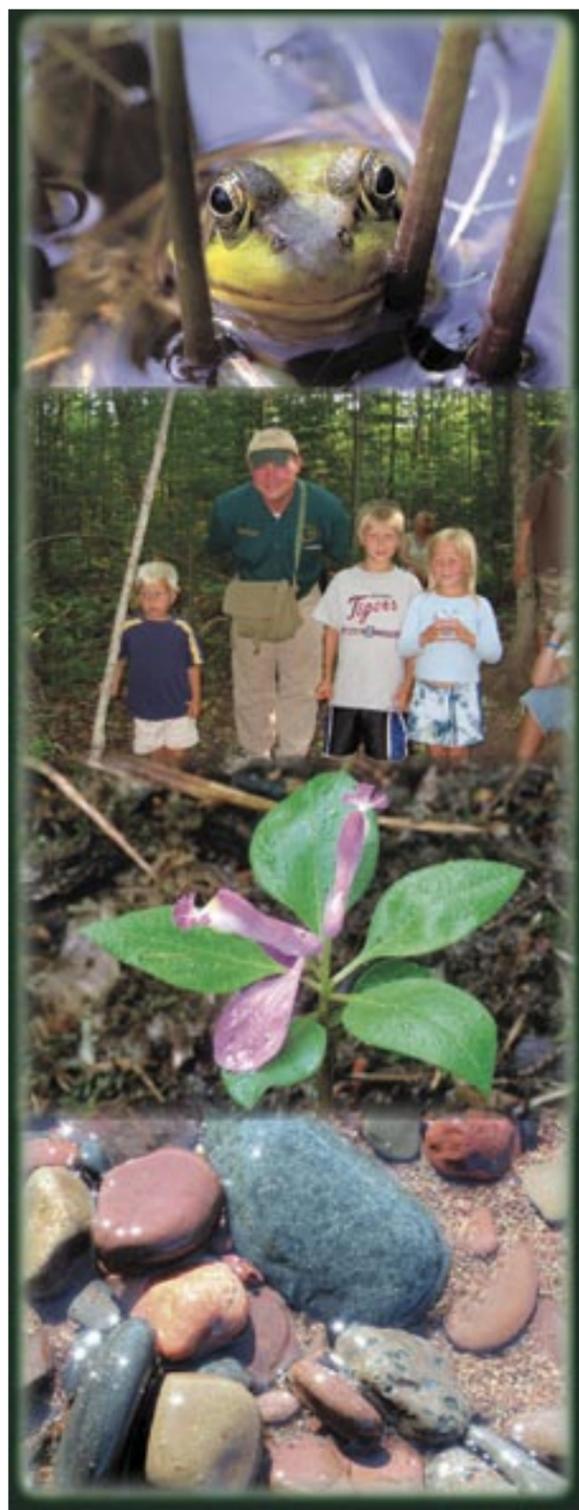
Presque Isle

Wild and scenic, the Presque Isle River tumbles over several waterfalls and rapids as it races to meet Lake Superior. The largest and most dramatic falls along the river is named Manabezho, after a powerful spirit-god of the native Ojibwa people.

A one-half mile boardwalk, with decks and observation platforms, parallels the Presque Isle River and provides breathtaking views of one of Michigan's wildest rivers. For your safety, no swimming or wading is permitted in the river.

Also located at this scenic area are a picnic spot, an overnight backpacker's parking lot and a rustic campground.

Interpretive Programs and Activities



Interpretive programs and activities at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park are held from mid-June through early October and from the end of December through February. For a detailed schedule or to get directions to program locations, stop by the Wilderness Visitor Center, park headquarters, either of the park campground offices, or visit the park's Web page at www.mi.gov/porkies.

Examples of programs for 2009:

Nonesuch Hike

Join us on this hike to the long-abandoned Nonesuch town site for a glimpse into the everyday life in an 1880s wilderness copper mining community. Meet at Nonesuch corner on South Boundary Road. Allow 1.5 hours for this hike of moderate difficulty.

Summit Peak Hike

What better way to end your day than a sunset hike to the top of Summit Peak. Bring your camera as we will be going to one of the premier locations in the Porkies to view the setting sun. Meet at the Summit Peak parking area and bring a flashlight. Allow 1.5 hours for this medium to moderately difficult hike.

Giants of the North

Meet at the Wilderness Visitor Center for this evening program about the Big Three of Michigan's northern forests -- the black bear, moose and gray wolf. 1 hour.

Aquatic Insect Hike

Bring your water shoes for this wet hike. We will explore the underwater world in the Union River, collect live insects using nets and identify what we caught before releasing the specimens back to the river. Nets will be provided. Meet at Union River interpretive trail for this 1-hour program.

Michigan Gray Wolf Hike

Are there wolves in the park? Where would they be and how did they get here? Learn all this and more as we discuss the natural history and current status of one of Michigan's most controversial animals. Meet at Government Peak parking area for this 1-hour hike.

Astronomy

Join us at the Lake of the Clouds observation area for a chance to look through our telescope at distant planets or galaxies. Learn some of the more notable summer constellations and also how to use a "star chart." If we're lucky, we may see some meteors or even the Northern Lights. Clear skies are required for this program which lasts 1-1.5 hours.

Bear Den Hike

Have you ever stuck your head in a bear den? Here is your chance. Join us as we explore the life of Michigan's black bear and end up at an actual bear den site. Get directions on where to meet at the Wilderness Visitor Center. 1 hour.

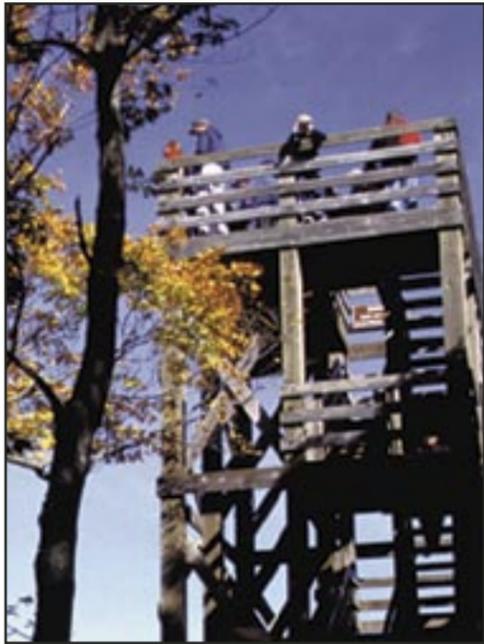


What To Do

Maybe you are just passing through or this is your final destination; chances are you have traveled a long way but you are finally here. Now what?

Make your first stop the Wilderness Visitor Center. There, park staff can help you plan your visit. The following also can help you decide what to see based on how much time you have.

One Day



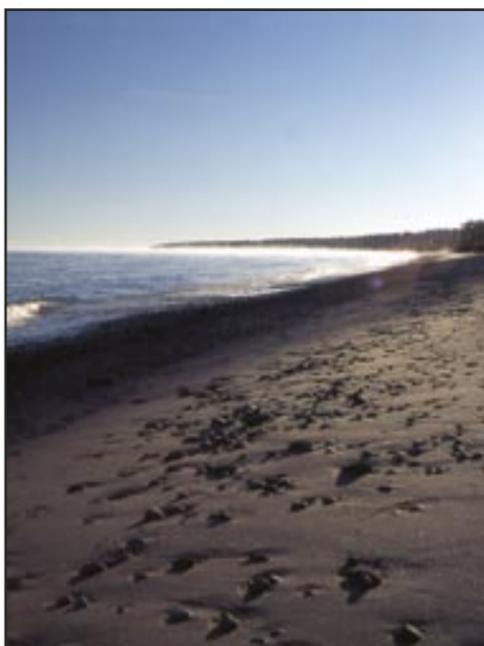
Climb the Summit Peak Tower

If you have only one day or less make sure you see the three Scenic Areas: Lake of the Clouds, Summit Peak and Presque Isle. Allow plenty of travel time. Presque Isle is about 32 miles from Lake of the Clouds. Summit Peak is sandwiched in between.

Also allow yourself time at each location to hike around. The views get even better at Lake of the Clouds if you hike a few miles on the North Mirror Lake, Big Carp River or Escarpment trails.

At Summit Peak, walk the half-mile to the observation tower for the premier panorama of the park. While at Presque Isle walk the two-mile loop formed by the East and West River trails that run parallel to the wild and scenic Presque Isle River and its amazing waterfalls.

Two Days



Enjoy the Lake Superior beach

Two days allows you to take in everything from day one, plus you also can attend some of the park's interpretive programs. On day two, hunt for agates, take a swim or spend time along the shore of Lake Superior. There are picnic areas at the east and west ends of the park. The east end has the only sandy beach.

Do some more hiking. Take the self-guided interpretive nature trail at the Wilderness Visitor Center or the historic interpretive trail at Union Mine. Other must-do hikes include Trap Falls, Overlook Trail, Lost Lake and Summit Peak Loop. The visitor center has a relief map and suggested hikes to help you plan each adventure.

Three Days or More



Find a remote waterfall

This option allows the most flexibility. You can do the previous two days worth of activities, plus experience the remote interior of the park. Take longer day hikes or plan an overnight hike. The Wilderness Visitor Center has options based on your abilities and time. Other hiking options include spending time at Mirror Lake, hiking to Shining Cloud Falls or down to a remote section of Lake Superior beach. Take our waterfall challenge to see how many of the park's named waterfalls you can visit in one day.

You also have the option to take in more interpretive programs or check out a few local attractions outside the park. Park staff is available to assist planning your visit.

Happy 90th

Michigan's State Park System is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year.

In 1919, the Michigan Legislature created the Michigan State Park Commission, which was charged with acquiring lands for state parks and maintaining the parks for outdoor recreation.

That same year, Interlochen State Park, south of Traverse City, became the first state park in the new system. Since then, Michigan has expanded to 98 state parks and recreation areas. Porcupine Mountains became a state park in 1945. The newest state park, Tri-Centennial State Park and Harbor, located in downtown Detroit, was established in 2003 and now is in its second phase of construction.

Over the years, the state of Michigan also has acquired 285,000 acres of land which serve as the foundation for six scenic sites, 10 lighthouses, 830 developed boating access sites, 17 harbors of refuge, five linear trail state parks, and numerous historic and cultural features, all under the management and supervision of the DNR Parks and Recreation Division.



Know Before You GO

Most of the park is designated wilderness; special precautions should be taken.

- Know what to do in the event the weather becomes hazardous.
- Carry extra food and water. Don't underestimate how much you need.
- Carry a map and compass and know how to use both.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Don't take any unnecessary risks. Once you enter the wilderness, you are responsible for yourself and your group's safety. Please be aware that wilderness travel can be dangerous.



Leave No Trace

Help preserve the park by following these few simple rules.

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare

Know the rules for the area and always be prepared for the unpredictable

2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Stay on the trail and camp at designated camp sites

3. Minimize Campfire Impacts

Keep fires small and only in designated metal fire rings

4. Respect Wildlife

Keep wildlife wild
Never feed or approach any wild animal

5. Be Considerate of Others

Respect other visitors

6. Dispose of Trash Properly

Pack it in, pack it out

7. Leave What You Find

Never move natural or historic objects

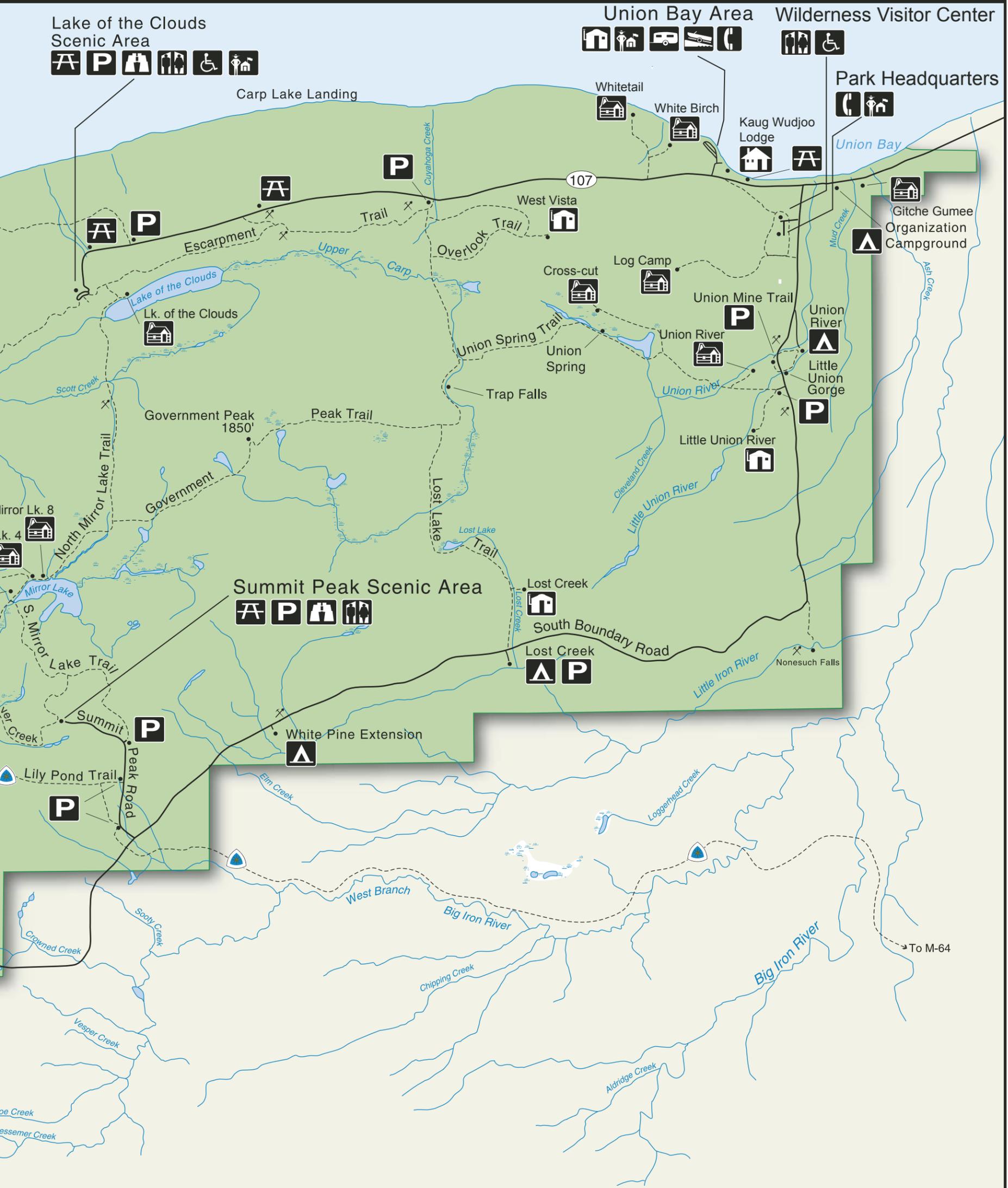


Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park



Porcupine Mountains was dedicated as a Michigan State Park in 1945 to protect the last extensive tract of old-growth hardwood and hemlock forest remaining in the Midwest. At nearly 60,000 acres, it is Michigan's largest state park, and among the Midwest's largest wilderness areas.

To the native Ojibwa people, this chain of mountains rising from the waters of Lake Superior reminded them of kâg, the woodland porcupine. The mountain range they called, Kâg-wadjiw, the Porcupine Mountains. Fifteen years before the Civil War, miners searched for copper in these mountains; and the landlookers soon followed, cruising the forests for pine and cedar. Today, visitors are drawn to the Park for the majestic old-growth forests, striking geologic formations, wildlife, waterfalls and outstanding wilderness opportunities.



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Sunset over Mirror Lake

Geology



USGS photograph C.R. Thornber photographer

Now cloaked in a vast hardwood wilderness, this area once was the scene of explosive volcanic eruptions and immense floods.

The interior highlands around Summit Peak and the prominent Escarpment Ridge were created during catastrophic volcanic periods beginning more than a billion years ago. Basalt, Andesite and Rhyolite all are volcanic bedrocks found in the park. The outlying bedrock

of sandstone and shale were formed by ancient seas and violent floods.

After the formation of the bedrock, glaciers scoured and shaped the landscape. More than 10,000 years of forest growth and regeneration created what park visitors now see.

Stop by the Wilderness Visitor Center to learn more about the park's geology.

Wildlife



Visitors to the park often perceive there is a lack of wildlife here. On the contrary, there is a rich diversity of animal species. Hundreds of species of birds reside in the park. Mammals, including white-tailed deer, moose, black bear, the gray wolf, bobcat, fisher, marten, river otter, fox and coyote are not uncommon.

The trick to finding wildlife is to avoid areas popular to humans. In the park's wilderness, animals

seek a relatively wild and natural existence. For an opportunity to see a black bear, consider natural food availability and periods of activity. During the wild berry season, for example, look for berry patches in remote areas of the park early in the morning or late in the evening when bear are more active. Hikes into the old-growth forest may be productive for some of the more unusual warblers and other songbirds. Lost Lake Trail and Union Spring Trail can be productive for viewing a variety wildlife.

You can check recent wildlife sightings at the Wilderness Visitor Center.

Flora



Hundreds of wildflowers, plants and ferns are found in the park. From the smallest wildflowers to the massive old-growth trees the variety of flora is impressive and even intriguing.

Discussion of the park's flora often starts with the most prominent -- the big trees of the old-growth forest. Eastern hemlock (some trees are estimated to be 600 years old), sugar maple and yellow birch dominate the

35,000 acres of old-growth forest found in the park. It is one of the "biggest and best examples of a Northern Hardwood Forest in the Midwest."

Also found in the park are some unusual flowers, plants and ferns. Polystichum braunii or Braun's holly fern is found near Lost Creek Trail. American trailplant (Adenocaulon bicolor) and northern holly fern (Polystichum lonchitis) can be located north of the Escarpment near Carp Lake Mine. Look for blue-eyed Mary (Collinsia parviflora) in forest openings along the Escarpment Trail. A plant list is available at the visitor center.

Bear Behavior

Black bears normally are afraid of humans and will leave the area in a hurry. If you see a bear near you, retreat slowly, do not turn and run. Always allow the bear to have a clear and unobstructed escape route. Give bears with cubs plenty of room. For your safety and the safety of the bear, never feed or approach bears.

Understanding Bear Behavior

A bear is studying you if...



- it stands on its hind legs to get a better view
- it waves its nose around smelling the air
- it makes non-aggressive grunting sounds

A bear may be getting upset if it...

- clicks its teeth
- gives a loud blowing sound

A bear is telling you to leave when it...

- blows loudly
- makes short lunges
- hits the ground or nearby objects
- gives a bluff charge that stops short of you



Don't Move Firewood



The movement of hardwood firewood is the leading cause of the spread of EAB. It is illegal to transport ash material or hardwood firewood (defined as any non-coniferous wood that has the bark and first half-inch of wood including the vascular cambium attached) out of any quarantined area in Michigan, including the entire Lower Peninsula.

EAB (emerald ash borer) is a wood-boring beetle. The adults are dark metallic green



David Cappaert photo www.insectimages.org

in color, one-half inch in length. Larvae are creamy white in color and are

found under the bark. The adult beetles typically make D-shaped exit holes when they emerge. To date, these beetles are responsible for the death or damage of 30 million ash trees in Michigan.

Please do your part by not transporting firewood. Although firewood may appear healthy and not visibly infested, it still may carry the EAB larvae in its dormant stage. Help us protect the ash trees of the Porcupine Mountains. Stop the spread of the emerald ash borer!

More about EAB: www.michigan.gov/eab

Porcupine Mountains Music Festival

Organizers of the 5th annual Porcupine Mountains Music Festival (PMMF), which always occurs the weekend before Labor Day, have struck the perfect chord between the tranquil, scenic beauty of the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park ... and an intimate, quality musical experience unlike any other.

This year's PMMF, Aug. 28-30, will feature approximately 25 national and regional acts performing on two outdoor stages, workshops in the chalet building and a third acoustic "busking" stage. The incredible lineup includes Cadillac Sky, a Texas band whose music has been coined everything from "experimental acoustic music" to "psychobilly bluegrass -- looking as much to Radiohead and the Beatles for inspiration as to Bill Monroe." Also new to the Porkies stage in 2009 are the Clumsy Lovers, a happy-go-lucky Vancouver quintet that expertly walk the tightrope between tradition-minded roots music ("Raging bluegrass Celtic rock," a reviewer once said) and sparkling modern pop.

Returning are crowd-pleasers Gandalf Murphy and the Slambovian Circus of Dreams, (who even dropped a sly reference to the park in their song "Summer Day" included on their most recent CD *The Great Unravel*). Other acts to return include Seth Bernard and Daisy May, Charlie Parr and the Reverend Eddie Danger.



Photos by Sandy Richardson, Michigan DNR

In addition to the music, PMMF offers a children's activity tent, where they have the opportunity to cap their festival experience on stage with an adorable and colorful performance. This magical balance of good music, good people, the natural amphitheater setting and the peaceful, scenic beauty of the park make the PMMF a "must do."

To view the most recent festival lineup, purchase tickets, view the archives and stay informed on all things PMMF, go online to www.porkiesfestival.org or call (800) 344-5355.



Artist-in-Residence Program



"The glory of these skyscraping forest giants seen on a crackling cold, golden afternoon was awesome in the best sense of this much overused, trivialized word. Some of these trees are 250 years old, 10 stories tall. For me no cathedral ever built comes close to the spiritual magnificence and grandeur of these trees.... The goose bumps I felt in that forest were not from the cold. The spirit of the place was well and truly holy."

The above excerpt regarding the mighty hemlocks found in the Porcupine Mountains is from Steve Pollick's three-part series "Going Wild" featured in *The Toledo Blade*, March 2009.

Eleven artists were selected for the Artist-in-Residence 2008 and winter 2009 season. The work and photos seen here are from these residencies. For more information about the Porcupine Mountains Artist-in-

Residence Program, including how to apply for the 2010 season, please visit porkies.org or e-mail airp@porkies.org.



Artist-in-Residence participant Ron Strong shot these during his residency.



Below is a photograph by Jann Kalscheur and poem by Lynne Diebel. Both were 2008 Artist-in-Residence participants.



**X
buried treasure map
what lies beneath the X mark?
Gitche Gumee knows**

www.porkies.org
or
email airp@porkies.org

Friends of the Porkies



www.porkies.org

From the Friends

The Friends of the Porkies are a completely volunteer organization funded by the generous contributions of our members. Our mission is to assist, support and enhance Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park.

We have established several services and programs over the past few years that you may be familiar with: the Porcupine Mountains Folk School, construction of the Dan Urbanski timber framed cabin to house the Porcupine Mountains Artist-in-Residence Program, the Porcupine Mountains Music Festival, and financial support for various park-related projects and programs. Last year, for example, the

Friends purchased several bird-watching kits which include binoculars, a field guide and case. These kits are available for public use. Contributions also helped purchase materials for the Lake of the Clouds accessible boardwalk project.

If you value our efforts and would like to contribute your time, talent or treasure, please join the Friends by making a generous contribution to our endowment or membership funds. The Friends of the Porkies are a federally recognized 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions are tax deductible. If you would like to help with a little sweat equity, volunteers are always needed to staff various projects and events. Contact us online at www.porkies.org



Bird-watching kits are available to use at the visitor center courtesy of the Friends of the Porkies.

Folk School

We are privileged in the state of Michigan to have a 60,000-acre wilderness park that provides the opportunity for everyone to experience wildlife and hike among giant trees while discovering endangered plants and listening for birds of many different voices. Lake Superior defines the northern boundary of the park; to the south the landscape rises to the top of the mountain.

In this spectacular outdoor setting there is a folk school which provides a friendly, nurturing environment where people come to enhance their lives by learning

traditional arts and skills, as well as gain a deeper appreciation of the diverse, natural and cultural resources found within these beloved mountains.

The Porcupine Mountains Folk School is proudly sponsored by the Friends of the Porkies in cooperation with Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. For information on upcoming workshops and events, how to volunteer, or become a member of the "Friends," please go to www.porkies.org, then click on Folk School.



"Tradition, Community, Wilderness"

*Support the Park
Join the Friends of the Porkies*

Regular memberships are \$25 and tax deductible.

Visit our website for more information www.porkies.org

Membership to Friends of the Porkies includes:

- Subscription to the Quill, the Friends' newsletter, featuring Park news, weather data, history, events, and more.
- A collective voice with other Park users to express your concerns and ideas to key State Park policy makers.
- Invitation to the annual membership meeting and Park improvement projects.
- Pet membership includes a "Friends of the Porkies" bandana.

Junior (18 years and under)	\$5.00
Regular	\$25.00
Business	\$50.00
Lifetime	\$300.00
Pet (owner must be a member)	\$10.00