

# Outdoor Adventure Center

## Fact Sheet

### General Information

- The DNR's Outdoor Adventure Center, located at 1801 Atwater Street (the corner of Orleans and Atwater Street) in downtown Detroit, opens to the public on July 20, 2015. Special events for the public will take place at the facility throughout the week of July 20-26.
- The 41,000-square-foot Outdoor Adventure Center is open every day during opening week (July 20-26). Its normal hours of operation include 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday; noon to 5 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday and Tuesday.
- The Outdoor Adventure Center brings "Up North downtown." The center offers indoor, hands-on, interactive exhibits and experiences about Michigan's out-of-doors to an urban audience. The Center provides resources and information to visitors to take that next step — heading outside to engage in outdoor recreation.
- The Outdoor Adventure Center promotes understanding of wildlife, ecosystems and habitat, hunting, fishing and trapping, forestry, conservation, camping, outdoor recreation, cultural resources, watershed and river management, invasive species and much more.
- By offering this information through hands-on experiences, the DNR is educating the next generation of conservation stewards, including hunters, anglers, trappers and more.
- The Outdoor Adventure Center is an important connecting component of Detroit's downtown park system, which also includes Milliken State Park and Harbor and Belle Isle Park.
- A unique blend of public/private sponsorships helped make the center and its exhibits a reality. Corporate sponsors are being sought to fund long-term exhibit maintenance and updates.
- A Recreation Passport is not needed to access Outdoor Adventure Center parking or to enter the building. However, the Recreation Passport, required for access to Belle Isle Park and other Michigan state parks, can be purchased at the Outdoor Adventure Center during open hours.
- The Outdoor Adventure Center is located in what was the Globe Building. This facility once housed the Detroit Shipbuilding Company. An exhibit is dedicated to the building's important history. Much of the historical integrity of the building was maintained during construction, including walls of original brick, cast iron and Wellman trusses.

## Economic Value of Natural Resources

- Michigan has Four Great Lakes, 11,000 inland lakes and 36,000-plus miles of rivers and streams. *Bassmaster* magazine has named Lake St. Clair the best bass fishing lake in the country. *Field and Stream* has named Michigan the number one fly fishing state in the country. Michigan ranks fifth in the nation for the number of anglers.
- Hunting and fishing contribute nearly \$5 billion annually to the Michigan economy.
- Michigan provides 1,300 boat launches and 84 public harbors and marinas. Boating contributes \$4 billion annually.
- Michigan has nearly 10 million acres of land open to public hunting. Michigan ranks third in the nation for the number of hunters.
- Michigan's 102 state parks host 22 million visitors a year and contribute significantly to Michigan's \$22 billion tourism economy.
- Forestry generates \$16 billion annually for Michigan's economy, and the state manages nearly 4 million acres of forest land that provide a stable source of sustainable harvest for this industry.

## Main Exhibits

- **The Detroit River and the Great Lakes** - This exhibit connects visitors to the rest of Michigan by helping them to see the Detroit River as the outflow for Lake Superior, Michigan and Huron Watersheds. It also introduces visitors to aquatic invasive species.
- **Underwater Michigan** - This exhibit introduces visitors to Michigan aquatics. Visitors will also learn about native species of fish, and how the DNR works to protect, rehabilitate and enhance Michigan's fish population. The exhibit includes a large, 3,000-gallon aquarium featuring fish native to Michigan.
- **Overnight lodging** – Visitors will learn about the variety of overnight options at Michigan state parks, including yurts and cabins. This includes exhibition of a full-sized, furnished yurt.
- **River and lake activities** – This interactive exhibit, which features kayak and fishing simulators, exemplifies family fun on Michigan's lakes and rivers.
- **Underground Michigan** – This exhibit shares how Michigan's minerals, gas and oil benefit the citizens of Michigan. It also teaches visitors about animals that live in cool, damp, dark places.
- **Waterfall and plunge pool** – A large, 36-foot high, man-made indoor waterfall and plunge pool help visitors learn about water-based habitat.
- **Pine forests and trails** – Here, visitors will learn that Michigan's forests, land and water teem with plant and animal life, provide outdoor recreational opportunities,

support 150,000 jobs and contribute billions to Michigan's economy each year. The exhibit details the DNR's commitment to managing sustainable forests.

- **Duck blind** - From a duck blind, visitors learn that wildlife viewing is fun and easy, and that a significant part of Michigan's tourism economy depends on healthy wetlands, wildlife populations and natural habitats.
- **Beaver lodge and wetland** – Visitors can look inside a large beaver lodge replica. They'll learn how beavers create their own habitat by damming up water resources. This, in turn, creates wetlands and forms rich meadows that maintain a high water table.
- **Camping** – Camping can be simple. It requires few tools and at little cost. This exhibit showcases information about the many rustic camping opportunities at Michigan state forest campgrounds.
- **The big tree** – Visitors can climb around and inside this 40-foot-tall, 35-foot-wide tree. They'll learn how trees provide food, shelter and products for all kinds of animals and humans. This exhibit also features the DNR's role in managing public forests to support a healthy forest products industry, habitat for all of Michigan's wildlife and great places for outdoor recreation.
- **Nature in your neighborhood** - Making small changes in homes and yards benefits the environment and wildlife.
- **Hunting and trapping** - Hunters support the conservation of wildlife and the natural world around them.
- **Airplane** – Visitors can get inside an actual airplane, a Cessna 337C, while learning how the DNR uses airplanes to detect and fight forest fires and to survey and manage wildlife.
- **Michigan trails** - Michigan is the trail's state. With bicycle, snowmobile and off-road vehicle simulators, this exhibit gives visitors information on where and how to enjoy a wide variety of trail experiences throughout the state.
- **Treetop - The bald eagle and the tree canopy** –Visitors can “fly like an eagle” during this simulated experience, step into a life-sized eagle's nest and appreciate a variety of wildlife that lives high in the forest canopy.