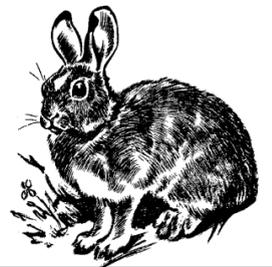




Tahquamenon Falls

VISITOR



Tahquamenon Falls State Park

2014

Upper Falls: a tannin-stained masterpiece



Pronounced tuh-qwa-meh-non (it rhymes with phenomenon), Tahquamenon Falls State Park is one of Michigan's most popular attractions. The Upper Falls is the main attraction, featuring an amber-colored waterfall that is 50 feet tall and 200 feet wide. The unique coloration of the water is due to the presence of tannic acid in the river, which leeches naturally from the trees and plants within the watershed.

The paved, 1/4-mile walkway to the Upper Falls meanders through a hardwood forest featuring sugar maple, American beech and hemlock trees. Visitors often cross paths with chipmunks, red squirrels, white-tailed deer and the occasional red fox. Birders enjoy looking for black-capped chickadees, red-eyed vireos, American redstarts, barred owls and pileated woodpeckers.



The view from the brink is worth the 94-steps it takes to get there!



The Fact Shack features a wolf/coyote display and park information.

The Fact Shack, an oak gazebo near the parking area at the Upper Falls, is filled with information to help plan your visit. Staffed daily during the summer months, the Fact Shack features hands-on exhibits, displays and park information. The friendly interpretive staff is familiar with every aspect of the park, along with local attractions, and is always happy to answer questions.

Aside from the scenic beauty of the waterfall and surrounding forest, the Upper Falls also features a privately owned establishment that is almost as well-known as the falls. The Tahquamenon Falls Brewery and Restaurant is a year-round tradition for many visitors to the area. Featuring locally sourced menu

items and homemade brews, the brew pub (as it is affectionately referred to) is one of the key attractions within the park.

The great-grandfather of the brew pub's current owner sold the majority of his property, which included the land surrounding the Upper Falls, to the State of Michigan for \$1, with the exception of a 2-acre parcel. The restaurant and gift shop now sit on that 2-acre piece of land.

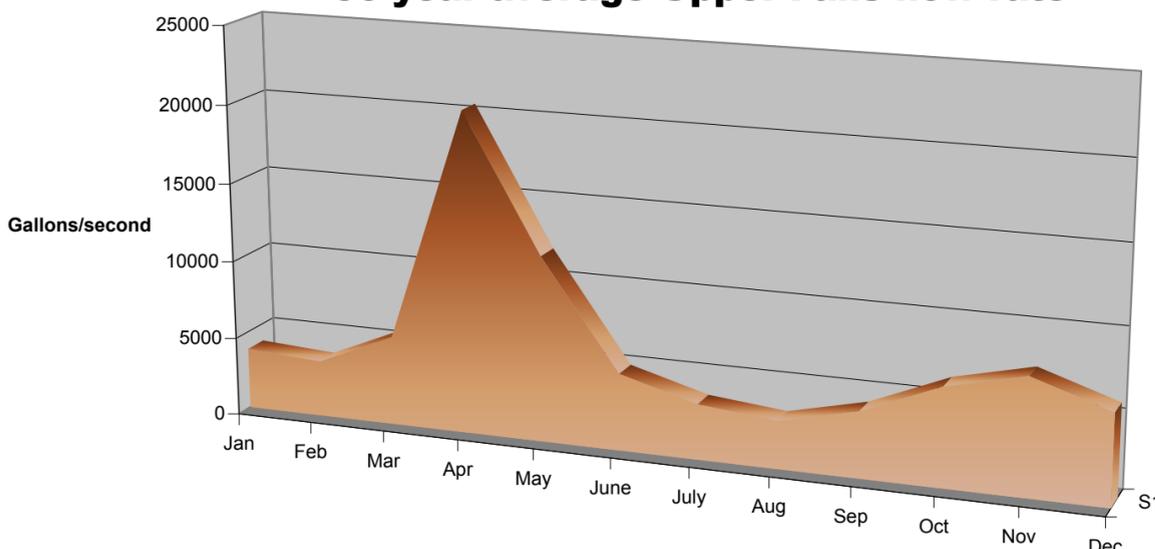
The Upper Falls is open year-round, and visitors are often amazed at how many people are around during the coldest days of winter. Snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling are popular activities in the park. Lantern-lit trails and ice-coated waterfalls create a peaceful atmosphere that few can resist.



The icy Upper Falls are a must-visit for many outdoor enthusiasts.

Tahquamenon River Flow

50-year average Upper Falls flow rate



The amount of water flowing over the Upper Falls is completely dependent on the amount of precipitation received within the 800-square-mile watershed. This often coincides with the seasons, and provides a unique viewing opportunity with every visit. As the graph illustrates, April is often the best time to catch the maximum flow rate.

Welcome! Thank you for choosing to visit Michigan's 2nd largest state park. We are positive that your stay with us will be memorable and educational.

Being such a large park, Tahquamenon Falls has the ability to offer a wide variety of outdoor recreational experiences. Campers can enjoy the luxury of modern campgrounds, or seek the silence of a primitive campsite. Site-seers can take in the thunder of the Upper Falls, or view the pristine beauty of Clark Lake. Hikers can walk the paved pathways at the Upper and Lower Falls, or test your skills on our 38 miles of less improved trails. The choices are unlimited, and they are yours!

During your visit, you will see examples of the investment Parks and Recreation Division is putting toward the future of Tahquamenon Falls State Park. Staff performing maintenance, providing customer service, working on improvements, and ensuring safety are examples of this commitment. Please take a moment to recognize a job well done.

Enjoy your visit,
Craig Krepps
Park Manager

Things to do, places to see!

You've arrived – so now what? Lucky for you, there are plenty of things to see and places to explore during your visit. Depending on how much time you have, there are a variety of activities and sight-seeing locations to keep you busy.

Half Day

For those on a tight schedule, the must-see locations are the Upper and Lower Falls. The Upper Falls features a ½-mile paved walkway that provides ADA-accessible viewing opportunities of the 50-foot-tall, 200-foot-wide waterfall. Take the 94 steps down to the brink for an up-close experience, or the 116 steps down to the gorge for a panoramic view.

Lower Falls – The entrance to the Lower Falls is 4 miles east of the Upper Falls along M-123. These falls are easily viewed and photographed from the paved walkway. A ¼-mile boardwalk will take you through thick coniferous forest, ending up at the viewing platforms where you can feel mist from the waterfall. Keep following the boardwalk upstream and you will find easy access to wade in the river and get your feet wet.



Visitors cool off at the Lower Falls.

One Day

River Trail – Many hikers come to Tahquamenon to tackle the infamous “trail between da falls.” This 5-mile linear trail is one of the more difficult trails in the park, due to exposed roots and hilly terrain, but is definitely the most scenic. The River Trail parallels the Tahquamenon River the majority of the way, offering multiple views for photographers and outdoor-lovers alike. Make sure to have plenty of water, snacks and bug spray along for the hike. A fee-operated shuttle service operates Memorial Day–Labor Day; check the schedule before you head out as times vary by season.



Sunrise view from the Whitefish Bay Picnic Area.

Whitefish Bay – If hiking isn't your thing, take a trip out to Whitefish Bay, where the mouth of the river meets Lake Superior. The Whitefish Bay Picnic Area offers a shallow, sandy beach, perfect for cooling off on hot days. Enjoy the view of Canada and the northern shore of the eastern U.P. from the many benches and picnic tables at this site. Grills and outhouses are available at this location.

Two Days

Clark Lake – After visiting the Upper and Lower Falls, take some time getting to know the wilderness of Tahquamenon. Drive, hike or bicycle down Clark Lake Road to access the hiking trail to Clark Lake. This remote inland lake is a great location for a picnic or quick snack as you enjoy the breeze on the bordering ancient sand dunes. Continue on the trail to complete the 5-mile loop through upland forest and peatland habitat. Listen for sandhill cranes and check the sand for wildlife tracks. Clark Lake Road is an unimproved two-track with occasional two-way traffic; use caution and drive slowly.

Paddle the Tahquamenon – Rent a kayak from the Rivermouth Campground Office and put-in at the Rivermouth Boat Access Site, located 5 miles south of Paradise. Paddle against the gentle upstream current around Marsh Island to take in the beautiful river scenery. Ducks, geese, turtles, beaver, mink and bald eagles are often seen in this area. More adventurous paddlers can head out to the shallow waters of Whitefish Bay and explore the shoreline.



Fishing by kayak is popular with many anglers.

2014 Special Events

Support Michigan State Parks with a Recreation Passport

By purchasing the Recreation Passport when you renew your license plate registration, you'll experience state parks, recreation areas, state forest campgrounds, non-motorized trails, boat launches and hundreds of Passport Perks shopping discounts from around the state. You'll also support historic and cultural sites in state parks and grants for neighborhood parks.

Check “YES” for the Recreation Passport when you renew your license plate at a Secretary of State branch office, self-service station, by mail or online. It's valid until your next vehicle plate renewal date. And that's good for you and great for Michigan!



Tahquamenon Falls State Park
State of Michigan
Department of Natural Resources

Mailing Address

Tahquamenon Falls State Park
41382 West M-123
Paradise, MI 49768

Contact us:

(906) 492-3415
michigan.gov/TahquamenonFalls
michigan.gov/TFallsEducation



TFallsNature



TQFalls

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

Tahqua Trail Run

August 9 – Upper Falls

This popular 25K trail race follows the North Country Trail along the Tahquamenon River, beginning near the Rivermouth and ending at the Upper Falls. An 8K race also will take place, and a special 2K run for kids 14 and under will occur on Friday. These races are sponsored by Great Lakes Endurance. Please register online at www.greatlakesendurance.com.

Wilderness Canoe Race

September 13 – Lower Falls

This 17-mile professional canoe race begins at the Lower Falls and finishes at Whitefish Bay near the Rivermouth Campground. The event is hosted by the Michigan Canoe Racing Association and the Paradise Chamber of Commerce. Visit www.miracing.com for more information.

Hike Between da Falls

September 27, 9 a.m. – Upper Falls

Strap on your hiking boots and enjoy the most popular trail in the park, the 5-mile River Trail. A free shuttle will transport participants from the Upper Falls to the trailhead at the Lower Falls. The River Trail is rated moderately difficult and includes stairways, exposed roots and steep inclines. Join members from the local North Country Trail chapter at the Upper Falls before and after the hike to take part in activities, crafts and more.

Harvest Festival

October 11 – Lower Falls

Join us for the most popular event of the year! Events include pumpkin carving, campsite decorating, hayrides, costume contests, trick-or-treating and more! Families and friends have made camping during Harvest Festival a tradition. Both Lower Falls campgrounds (Hemlock and Portage) are included during Harvest Festival events. Make your campsite reservation early; this weekend books fast!

Upcoming 2015 Events

Snowshoe Hikes and Lantern-Lit Night Ski Every Saturday in February – Upper Falls

Come out and borrow a free pair of snowshoes or take part in an afternoon guided snowshoe hike. There is also a 1-mile lantern-lit ski/snowshoe trail, a 4-mile groomed cross country ski trail, marked snowshoe trails, and a packed walking trail to view the falls without snowshoes. Warm up by the bonfire, and complete your visit with a trip to the Tahquamenon Brewery and Pub, open all winter!



Hikers departing for the Hike Between Da Falls



Tahqua Trail Run



2012 pumpkin decorating winner



Lantern-lit trail every Saturday in February

Interpretive Programs

Looking for a fun way to enhance your visit to Tahquamenon? Attend a program given by a park naturalist! A full schedule of interpretive programs and guided hikes are offered throughout the summer. Get your feet wet catching aquatic critters during the River Hunt, try out a pair of binoculars during a birding walk, or sit back and enjoy an evening slide show from the comfort of your chair. Programs are designed for adults and families, not just kids.

Schedules are updated weekly. For a detailed schedule, stop by the campground offices, the host sites, the Upper Falls Fact Shack or the park headquarters. Schedules also are available online at www.michigan.gov/TFallsEducation.

Some examples of programs for 2014 include:

Geocaching 101

Find out what all the buzz is about surrounding the sport of geocaching. People of all ages enjoy using GPS units to find treasures hidden all over the world! Participants will learn how a GPS works and head out to find the 'cache'! GPS units are provided for this hands-on family activity.



Geocaching is a fun way to explore hidden areas of the park.



Archery programs are fun for all ages!

Arrows Away!

Learn how competitive the sport of archery can become during this introductory program. Participants will learn proper techniques to safely shoot a compound bow at our target range. Fun for the entire family! Arrows Away will take place multiple days each week throughout the summer.

River Hunt

Get down and dirty during this popular aquatic program. Wade in the water to hunt for the crayfish, insects and fish that call the Tahquamenon River their home. The River Hunt is fun for young and old alike! Find out how to use the critters you find to determine the health of our river. Be prepared to get your feet wet; foot gear is recommended. Nets are provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Owl Puke Investigation

After every meal, an owl will throw up a compacted pellet of fur and bones. These pellets can be dissected and the remains pieced back together to figure out what that owl ate. Become a forensic scientist and put together your own skeleton based on the pellet you dissect during this fun, hands-on program!

Creatures of the Night

Do you know what goes "bump" in the night at Tahquamenon? Learn about the unique adaptations nocturnal animals use to survive, and see how your senses compare. Fun activities will be presented so no one will walk away scared of the dark!

Bear Den Hike

Don't miss the opportunity to stick your head in a real bear den! Participants will take a 1-mile hike through the woods while learning about the life history of Michigan's black bear.

Wild About Wolves

Michigan's gray wolf is a rare success story in Endangered Species Act history. Brought back from the brink of extinction, wolves now number over 630 in the Upper Peninsula. Discover the role wolves play in Michigan's landscape.

Guided Upper Falls Tour

Tahquamenon's must-see destination is even better with your own tour guide! Enjoyable commentary is provided during the 25-minute walk to the Upper Falls. Find out what pests are invading the forest, what makes the river brown, and if anyone has taken the big plunge over the falls!



Junior Naturalist programs take place in the campgrounds.

Winter Adventures



Nature's Kennel offered dog sled adventures for the second year at the Lower Falls this past winter. Visitors pre-registered for a one-hour ride to the falls viewing area, including hot chocolate and photos with the dogs.



Over 250 people walked, skied or snowshoed the lantern-lit trail at the Upper Falls during Saturday nights in February. Free snowshoe rental, refreshments and a bonfire were offered, along with comraderie with other cold-weather adventurers!

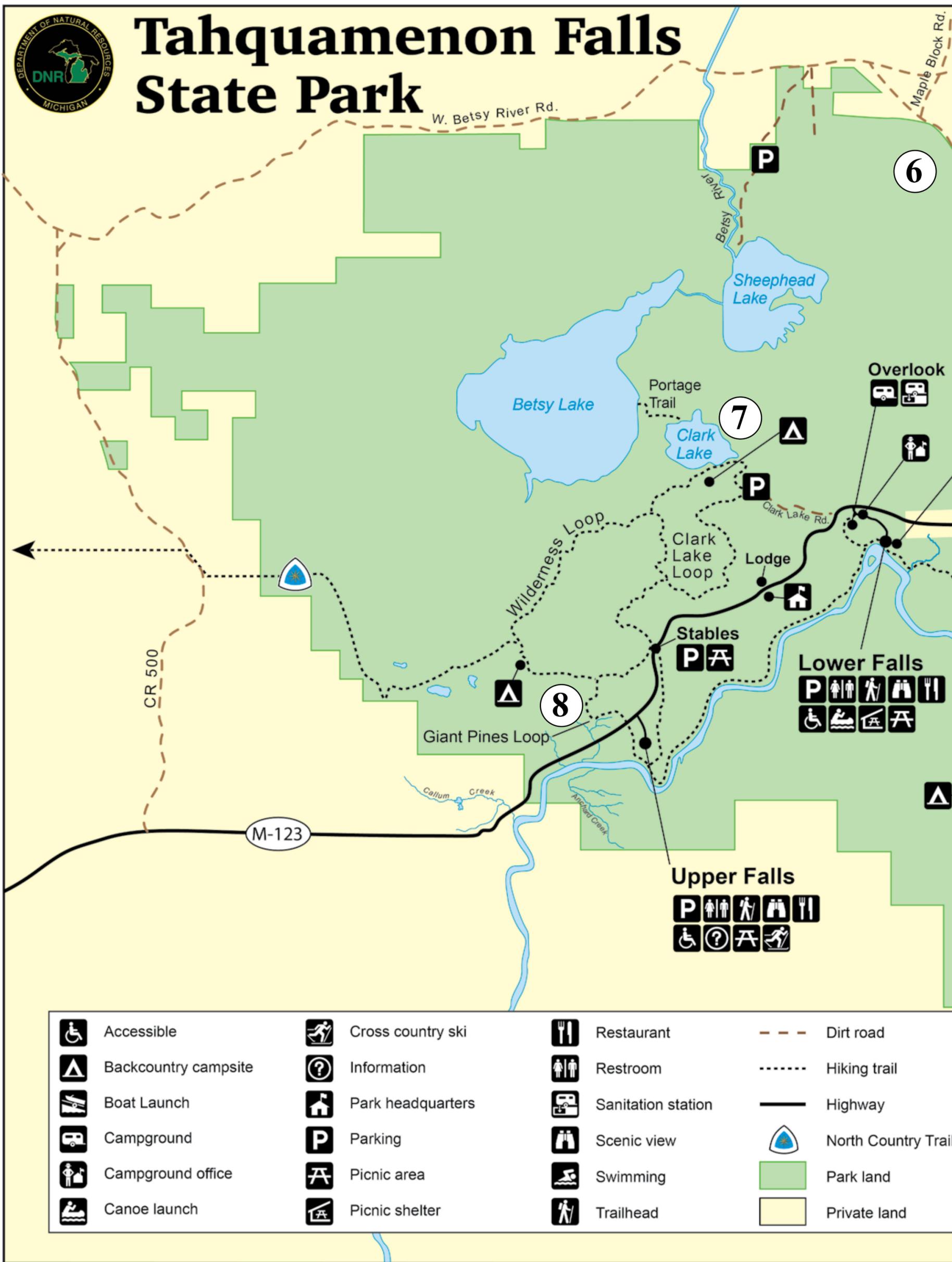


A group of lady adventurers from the Chicago area took a motorcoach to the eastern Upper Peninsula for a weekend of winter fun. They spent one day at the Upper Falls for a snowshoe and cross-country ski excursion. These burly women braved the -40-degree windchill without complaint, and vowed to come back next year!





Tahquamenon Falls State Park



	Accessible		Cross country ski		Restaurant		Dirt road
	Backcountry campsite		Information		Restroom		Hiking trail
	Boat Launch		Park headquarters		Sanitation station		Highway
	Campground		Parking		Scenic view		North Country Trail
	Campground office		Picnic area		Swimming		Park land
	Canoe launch		Picnic shelter		Trailhead		Private land

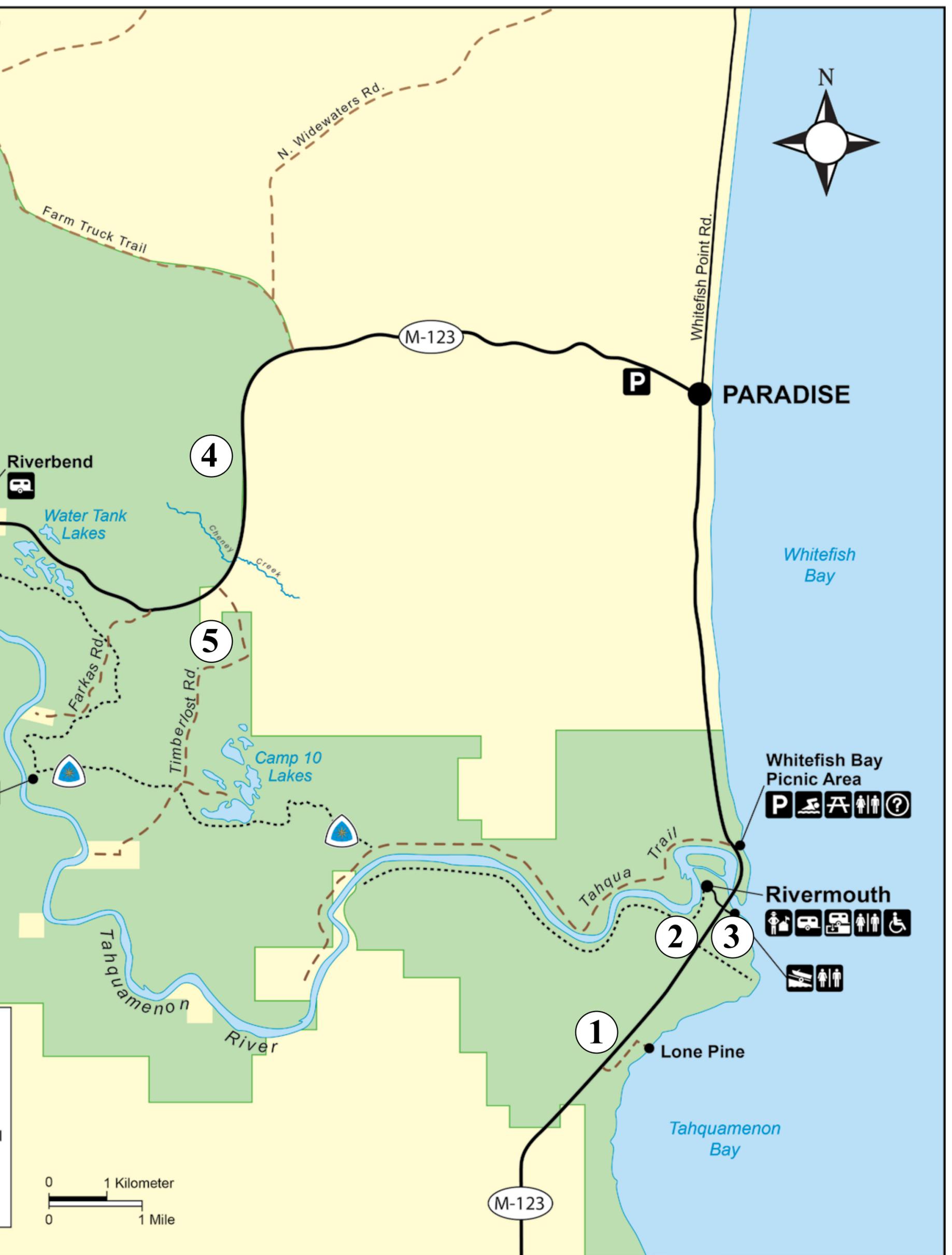
① **Lone Pine Access Site:** From the end of the access road, overlooking Tahquamenon Bay, you can see Emerson Island. The island was the site of a large sawmill from 1882 to 1912. This is a great place to play in the warm, shallow waters of Whitefish Bay. Early morning and late evening are the best times to look for moose in this area.

② **Emerson Foot Trail:** This trail passes through black spruce and shrub swamp habitat following the road that leads to the abandoned sawmill town of Emerson. It is 1 mile to Tahquamenon Bay.

③ **Rivermouth Boat Launch:** This site offers boat access into Whitefish Bay, where you may spot waterfowl, bald eagles, river otter and other wildlife. The sandy shoreline is a great place to hike and wade in the water. A paved walkway and benches provide a nice place to sit and enjoy the view.

④ **Northern Peatlands:** Sphagnum moss dominates the wetlands in this part of the park, creating what is termed a northern peatland. Moose are often seen here, along with spruce grouse, black-backed woodpeckers, pine martens and black bears.





⑤ **Timberlost Road:** This sandy forest road offers some of the park's best blueberry picking and wildlife watching. This road has loose sand, encroaching brush and two-way traffic. Drive at your own risk.

⑥ **Farm Truck Trail:** For those looking to immerse themselves into true wilderness, look no further than Farm Truck Trail. Exploring the many side-roads and two-tracks branching off Farm Truck Trail will give you the sense of being in the middle of nowhere! Make sure to bring a compass, GPS and a full tank of gas before beginning your adventure.

⑦ **Clark Lake:** The 1-mile, two-track road to Clark Lake is the only road access into the Tahquamenon Natural Area. This road has loose sand and two-way traffic. Drive at your own risk. From the end of the road, follow the foot trail for ½ mile to access Clark Lake.

⑧ **Giant Pines:** Two of the largest white pines in the park are found along the Giant Pines Trail. Estimated at over 125 years old, these are true relics of Tahquamenon. Listen for the sound of the pileated woodpecker and the sweet song of the wood thrush as you walk through the old-growth forest.



The search is on for the Asian longhorned beetle

The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) is an invasive species that poses a serious risk to hardwood trees, including maples, horse chestnut, elms and aspen. The beetle larvae chew tunnels through tree trunks, weakening the tree and making it more susceptible to storm damage and disease. ALB damage also impacts the economy, since the infested hardwood has no value as commercial timber.

Summer is the time of year to be on the lookout for the beetle and signs of its presence. Although ALB has not been detected in Michigan, it has been found as close as Chicago and Ohio.

ALB was first discovered in Brooklyn in 1996, entering the U.S. in infested wooden pallets and crates. It has been found in five states, including Illinois, Ohio, New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts. The insect has been responsible for the removal of over 80,000 trees. With the help of citizen responders, ALB was eradicated from Illinois and New Jersey. You too can help keep ALB out of Michigan by looking for a few telltale signs.

The beetle itself

ALB is very similar in appearance to the native white-spotted sawyer beetle. They are both large, about 1½ inches, with very long striped antennae. However the presence of a white dot along the back, between the second set of legs, identifies the native white-spotted sawyer. The ALB does not have this identifying spot.

Other ALB signs

The beetle lays its eggs just under the bark, and will leave behind **chew marks in trees**. There may also be a **pile of sawdust** at the base of a host tree, where the larva has eaten a path deep into the tree.

Pencil-size holes may indicate ALB presence, where the adult has emerged from deep within the tree.



The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) is an invasive species that has not yet been found in Michigan.

How you can help

Learn how to identify the beetle and its look-alikes. Adult beetles are active June – October. Capture ALB specimens and bring to the nearest DNR office, or report your finding at BeetleBusters.info.

Keep a close eye on trees for signs of ALB. Pencil-diameter holes or beetle chew marks could be indicators.

When planting trees, use a wide range of species to increase diversity. This will help reduce the chance of complete devastation if an invasive forest pest is found.

Tahquamenon Falls has park rangers on staff that are trained to detect ALB. If you suspect ALB is present in the park, or have questions about identification or signs of the insect, talk to the nearest park ranger. You can also contact the park at 906-492-3415 or visit BeetleBusters.info for more information.

LOOK-ALIKES

NATIVE White-spotted sawyer



One white spot at top of wing covers

Rough textured wing covers

NATIVE Northeastern pine sawyer



Mottled brown-white coloration, no distinct spots

INVASIVE Asian longhorned beetle



No spot at top of wing covers

Shiny, smooth wing covers

PART 1: IDENTIFYING THE ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE

The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) is an invasive insect from Asia that has the loss of thousands of trees in the United States. Protect the trees in your backyard or favorite park by knowing what to look for.

Asian longhorned beetle physical characteristics:

- 1 This beetle has two long, black-and-white antennae.
- 2 It's shiny, with a black body and white spots.
- 3 It has six legs.
- 4 Body is 1 inch to 1.5 inches.

Signs the beetle is present:

- 1 Dime-sized exit holes can be found on trunks and branches.
- 2 Shallow chew marks in bark where it lays one egg.
- 3 Dead branches or limb loss.
- 4 Sawdust-like material found around tree.

USDA U.S. Department of Agriculture

PART 2: IDENTIFYING ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE HOST TREES

The Asian longhorned beetle can attack many deciduous, leafy trees. Use this sheet to learn which of these trees live in your area.



USDA U.S. Department of Agriculture

One of the many groups that came to Tahquamenon Falls State Park last year was a group of students and their families from the Detroit area. These families were participating in the Our Global Kids program, which exposes students to a broad array of global diversity found in people, traditions and the environment around the world. The program helps kids and their families realize that the world is so much larger than their immediate neighborhoods.

One of the young people on the trip was Charity Jones, then a third-grader from Gallimore Elementary in Canton, Michigan. Charity wrote a story based on the color of Tahquamenon Falls, and brought it with her to share.



Jack and Root Beer Falls

by Charity Jones
3rd grade, Mrs. McNulty's class
Gallimore Elementary

There once was a giant man named Jack and his friend, Jim. When Jack turned to an adult, he wanted to have a hiking trip with Jim in Michigan. As a drink, he packed a whole pack of Root Beer and started out on his hiking trip with Jim.

On their way they crossed a wetland and a swamp. "Hey Jim, don't ya love nature," said Jack.

"I'd love it more if the bugs weren't here," said Jim.

Jack didn't know it, but as he talked to Jim, a root sprang from the ground and tripped Jack.

"Whoa!" cried Jack, as he plumeted forward and made a solid THWACK!

"Hey!" cried Jim, "Get OFF of me, Jack!"

As Jack got off, he noticed that he stepped on Jim's hand. "What was that for?!?"

"Uh...it...um..." replied Jack.

"I'm not your friend anymore!" proclaimed Jim. "Unless you make something AMAZING for me by tomorrow."

Then Jack got an idea. Maybe, just MAYBE, Jack could make a fountain! But that didn't happen because as Jack walked towards his fountain, carrying his beloved root beer, he came to the place where he fell and dropped his root beer.

He thought it was pretty amazing so he ran to tell Jim....and he LOVED it!!! That's how we have Root Beer Falls!

THE END

The Rivermouth

Five miles south of Paradise, the Tahquamenon River empties into Whitefish Bay, combining tannin-stained water with the cold, clear water of Lake Superior. The Rivermouth is an area filled with outdoor enthusiasts, including boaters, anglers, bird watchers, cyclists, hikers, photographers and paddlers.

The Rivermouth features a campground with 72 modern campsites (electric included), 36 rustic campsites (no electricity) and a well-maintained shower building. Campers love the Rivermouth for its river-front location, sunset views and wildlife viewing opportunities. It is common to hear the howl of coyotes in the distance, the screech of a great horned owl or the cooing of sandhill cranes at the campground.

Kayaks are available to rent from the Rivermouth campground office for \$25/day. Paddling is a great way to explore the hidden coves and marshy areas, where wood ducks, turtles and beaver can be seen. The slow-moving Tahquamenon River is perfect for beginners, as paddlers can easily go up or downstream. More advanced paddlers can head out to explore the shallows of Whitefish Bay.

Historically, the Rivermouth was the collection point for logs harvested during the late 1800s that were sent down the Tahquamenon River. These logs were held within large booms, then separated using identifying logging marks before being sent further downriver to the sawmill at Emerson. The southern channel around Marsh Island was originally excavated to allow passage around the booms during spring drives.

Remnants of the logging era can still be seen today. Logs with perfectly straight cut ends stick out of the Tahquamenon River during low water, and occasionally wash up on the shore of Whitefish Bay. Visitors walking the shoreline may come across these logs, and a few even have visible logging marks.

Looking for a good place to fish? The Rivermouth boat launch is a great location to cast a line for yellow perch, smallmouth bass and walleye. Anglers can also try their luck along both shorelines of the Tahquamenon River, either through the campground or down Tahqua Trail.

The North Country National Scenic Trail traverses through this area, including a trailhead parking area off Tahqua Trail. The 4,600-mile trail stretches from New York to North Dakota, with the majority of the trail in Michigan. Hikers can start at the Rivermouth, and hike all the way to the Upper Falls along this scenic trail.

One of the most picturesque areas within Tahquamenon Falls State Park, the Rivermouth offers excellent camping opportunities combined with beautiful views and a peaceful setting. Make sure to check out this hidden gem during your visit!



Satellite image of the Rivermouth area, where the Tahquamenon River empties into Whitefish Bay.



Sunset view from the fishing platform in the Rivermouth Rustic Pines Campground.



This log, washed up on the shore of Whitefish Bay, still has a visible 'circle P' logging mark.



Northern lights seen from Rivermouth Campground.

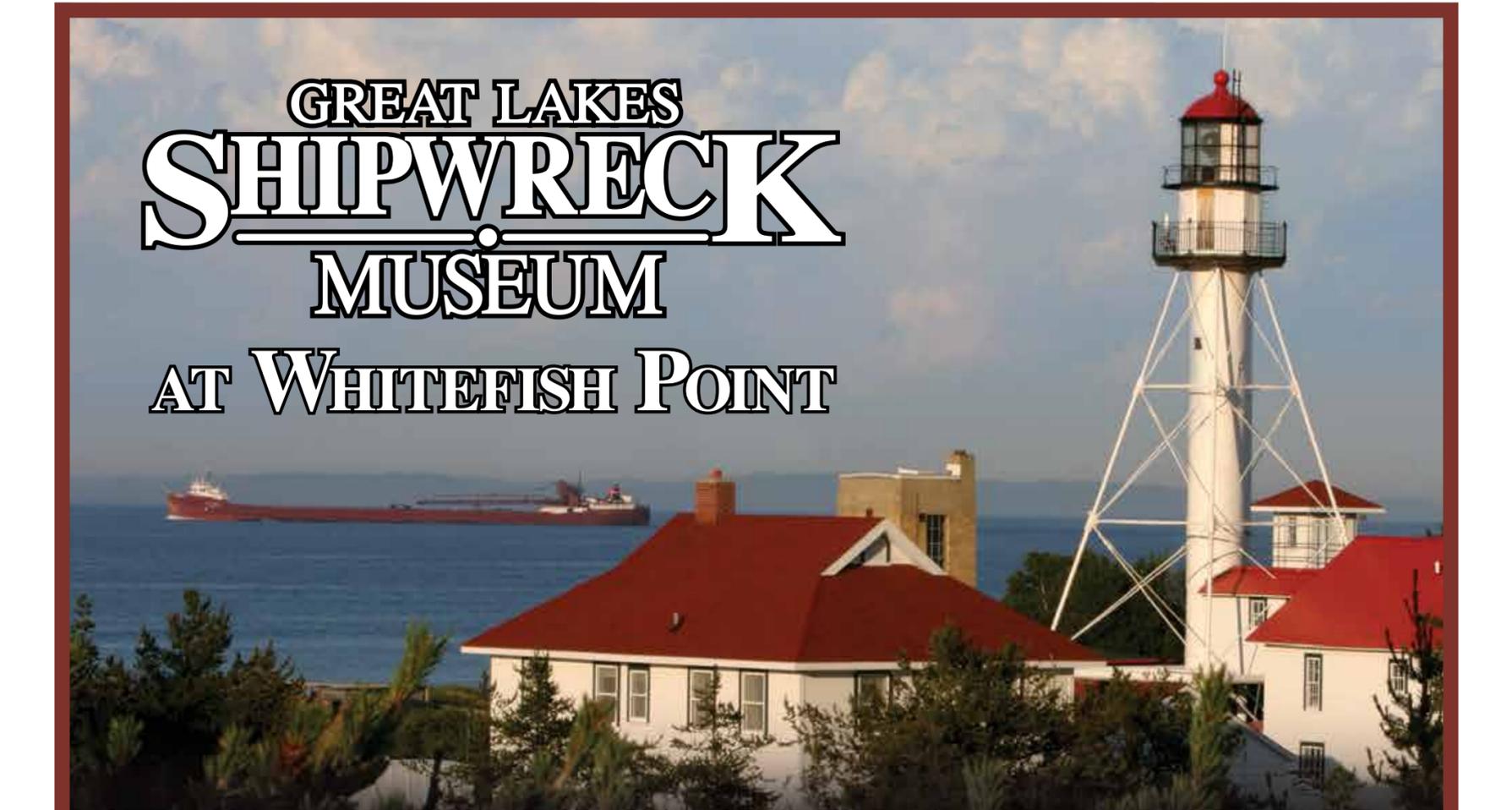
Tahquamenon Attendance

Year	Day Use Visitors	Camp Nights	Total Attendance
2013	369,147	21,207	483,436
2012	366,196	21,242	481,355
2011	328,124	20,526	438,234
2010	351,694	21,187	466,579
2009	327,216	16,972	411,762
2008	293,220	18,450	394,509
2007	229,022	19,624	337,860
2006	253,679	17,748	351,779
2005	303,250	20,215	416,848
2004	323,775	20,230	436,848



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