



Porcupine Mountains Visitor

2011 Printed by the Friends of the Porkies

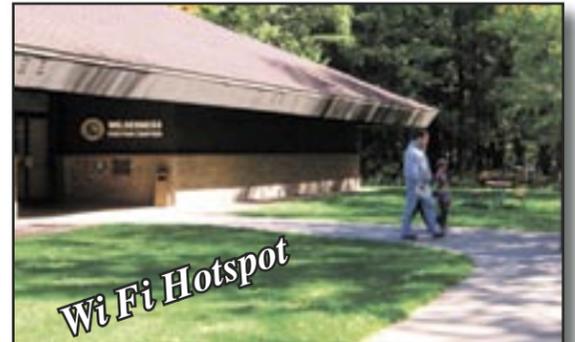
photo courtesy Sandy Richardson

Welcome to Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park

Photo by Sandy Richardson



Photo by Ron Strong



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 kag, the porcupine. The mountain range they called Kag-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.

Lake of the Clouds Scenic Area:

Take a 100-yard stroll to see the broad sweep of the Carp River Valley that includes the sheer cliffs of the escarpment, the lofty swell of the Porcupine Range and the blue expanse of Lake of the Clouds nestled 300 feet below. This is one of Michigan's premier scenic locations.

Summit Peak Scenic Area:

A boardwalk and a 40-foot observation tower take visitors to the highest point in the mountains and an overlook of the park's expansive wilderness interior.

Presque Isle Scenic Area:

Here the boardwalk provides a look at the awe-inspiring waterfalls and rapids along one of Michigan's wildest and most scenic rivers.

www.michigan.gov/porkies

Have you heard?

Since October 1, 2010 Michigan residents no longer need the traditional Michigan State Park Sticker.

Instead of spending \$24 for an annual motor vehicle permit or boating access permit, you will now be asked to support the Recreation Passport with a \$10 fee when renewing your vehicle registration with the Secretary of State.

When you **opt-in**, your \$10 will do so much more than get you into the state parks:

- **80%** will be used to rebuild and maintain your state parks and recreation areas.
- **10%** will be directed to your county, city and township parks through grant funding.
- **7%** will go toward your state forest campgrounds, pathways and non-motorized trails.
- **2.75%** will support your state park cultural and historic resources.
- **0.25%** will be used to educate and update you on the value of the Recreation Passport.

For more information ask any park staff or visit: www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport

Opt-in and preserve parks for generations to come!



Map on pages 4-5

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Emergency - 911 anywhere, any time, any phone

Welcome from the Park Supervisor

Thank you for visiting Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park.

Whether this is your first visit or you have been here many times before, I encourage you to stop at our visitor center, talk with our staff, watch the slide show presentation in the auditorium, and get the information you need to choose the activities that interest you most. Our staff is ready to assist you in making sure your experience is suited to your skills and abilities as well as ensuring you get the most out of the time you have with us.

If you only have a short time we may suggest a drive to Lake of the Clouds or Summit Peak scenic overlooks which will give you a snapshot of the vastness of this place we affectionately call the Porkies. The majority of the land you see from these scenic vistas is inside the boundary of the park and below you is more than 35,000 acres of the largest stand of virgin maple and hemlock forest east of the Mississippi River. If waterfalls are your thing, we also suggest a trip to the far west end of the park which will allow you to view the scenic

Presque Isle River and all its majestic wonder.

For those who have the time and an adventurous outdoor spirit, our visitor center staff can assist with planning trips into the wilderness of the park. They can help you understand what you are likely to experience while staying in one of our rustic cabins, yurts or camping. They can also help you be prepared for the rigors hiking the 90 miles of trails. Preparation is key to a safe and enjoyable visit.

The visitor center exhibits and multimedia presentations can ensure you understand the wilderness designation of the park and what role you play in protecting this unique wonderland.

A stop at the visitor center will save time, help you plan this trip and also provide ideas for your next visit.

Bill Doan
Park Supervisor



Trail Report

What's new on the trail?

One topic sure to provoke discussion is the new "moldering toilets" installed at several of the rustic cabins in the park's interior.

A moldering toilet is different from a composting toilet. Moldering is a slow decomposition process where materials on the surface decompose through the actions of bacteria, fungi and microorganisms similarly to the way plants and leaves decompose on the forest floor.



This style toilet has been used successfully in other remote areas such as along the Appalachian Trail and in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

We anticipate this new style toilet will help reduce our impact in the backcountry.

See you on the trails!

Dave Merk
Lead Backcountry
Ranger



Interpretive Programs

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.michigan.gov/porkies.

Examples of programs for 2011: Nonesuch Hike

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

Geocaching

Do you geocache? Are you curious about this popular activity? Learn basic GPS use then go out and discover some hidden "caches." We can provide GPS's or bring your own for this 1-hour program.

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.

Archery in the Park

Come try out the park's archery equipment and learn the basics of shooting a bow and arrows. This program is for all ages and most ability levels. Meet at the Ski Hill middle parking lot. All equipment provided. 1 hour.

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.

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.

Our Pledge

The Michigan 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.



Because of park staff's dedication to the DNR mission and commitment to public service, here's a list of some of the changes you may notice this year:

- Increased efficiency at contact stations
- Increased public contact by park staff
- Extended hours of operation at the visitor center and Union Bay and Presque Isle campground offices
- Expanded partnerships and programming efforts to promote angler and hunter retention, conservation or stewardship initiatives and elevate involvement in outdoor recreation
- Increased web presence
- Free WI FI at the visitor center
- Increased backcountry presence for better protection of the resource
- Added a new emergency weather alert system to notify park users of pending severe weather events

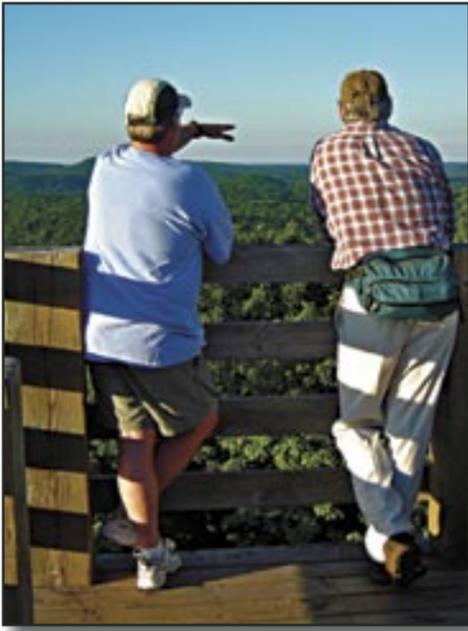
What To Do

Whether you are just passing through or this is your final destination, chances are you have traveled a long way to get here. Now what?

Make your first stop the Wilderness Visitor Center. Park staff can help you plan your visit.

The following can also help you decide what to see based on how much time you have.

1 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.

2 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.

3 Days or More



Discover 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 can take in more interpretive programs or try a ride on our mountain biking trails. Park staff can also provide information on other area attractions.

Stay With Us



Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park provides four-season lodging options to complement a variety of outdoor pursuits.

Stay in comfort at the fully furnished Kaug Wudjoo Lodge. Once the manager's residence, this modern lodge is now fully furnished, comfortably sleeps 12 and is complete with a full kitchen and linen service.

For a more adventurous experience, try one of the park's 19 rustic cabins or four yurts. Try combining lodging options; hike to different cabins or yurts each night of your stay to create a memorable vacation. For more park lodging information stop by the visitor center, call (906) 885-5275 or visit our webpage at www.michigan.gov/porkies

Winter

If you enjoy visiting the park in the summer, come back in the winter for a winter recreation experience you won't soon forget.

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park has abundant snowfall and breathtaking scenery. In addition to the numerous downhill runs at our winter sports complex, the park offers an extensive network of groomed cross-country ski trails ranging from easy to most difficult. Snowshoe between the set tracks of our cross-country ski trails or put down your own tracks and create your own adventure.

Groomed snowmobile trails take you through the majestic mountains we call the Porkies and connect to other routes that can take you all the way across the Upper Peninsula.

Three of the rustic cabins and four yurts are open in the winter. Ski yurt to yurt or snowshoe your way into a rustic cabin. Maybe a relaxing stay at the Kaug Wudjoo Lodge is what you need after a day of skiing.

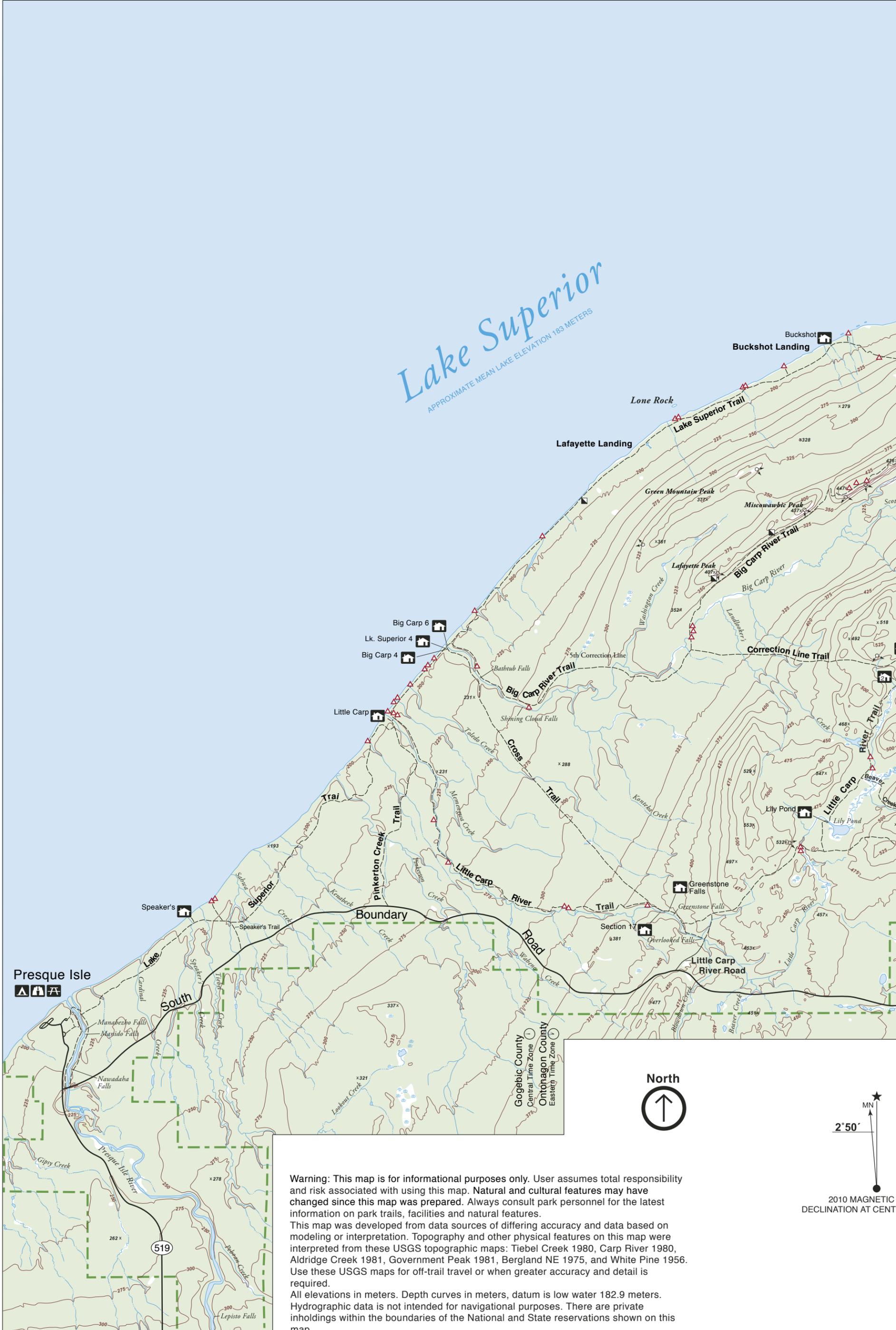
Whatever your winter recreation preference, there is an adventure waiting for you.



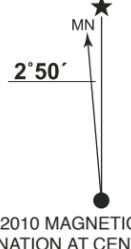
This paper is 100% recycled from magazines and books and printed with soy-based ink.

Porcupine Mountains V

Ontonagon and Gogebic



Lake Superior
APPROXIMATE MEAN LAKE ELEVATION 183 METERS



Warning: This map is for informational purposes only. User assumes total responsibility and risk associated with using this map. Natural and cultural features may have changed since this map was prepared. Always consult park personnel for the latest information on park trails, facilities and natural features.

This map was developed from data sources of differing accuracy and data based on modeling or interpretation. Topography and other physical features on this map were interpreted from these USGS topographic maps: Tiebel Creek 1980, Carp River 1980, Aldridge Creek 1981, Government Peak 1981, Bergland NE 1975, and White Pine 1956. Use these USGS maps for off-trail travel or when greater accuracy and detail is required.

All elevations in meters. Depth curves in meters, datum is low water 182.9 meters. Hydrographic data is not intended for navigational purposes. There are private inholdings within the boundaries of the National and State reservations shown on this map.

Plan Ahead and Prepare

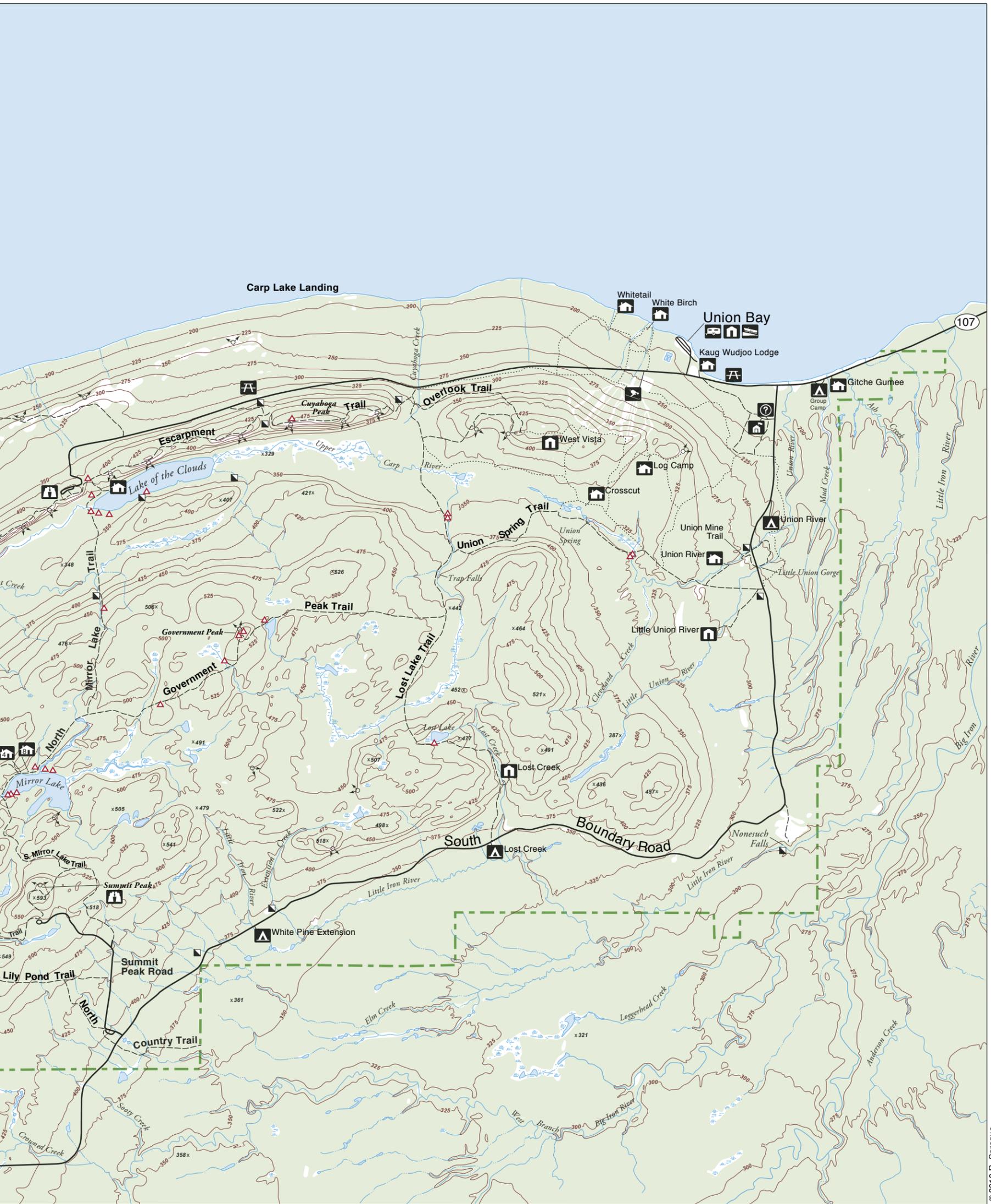
Know the rules for the area and always be prepared for the unpredictable

Be Considerate of Others

Respect other visitors by keeping noise levels appropriate

Wilderness State Park

Counties, Michigan



© 2010 R. Sprague

- Park Headquarters
- Visitor Center
- Scenic Area
- Boat Launch
- Picnic Area
- Modern Campground
- Rustic Campground
- Ski Area
- Cabin
- Yurt
- Backpack Campsite
- Mine Site
- Scenic View
- Park Boundary
- Hiking Trail
- Cross Country Ski Trail

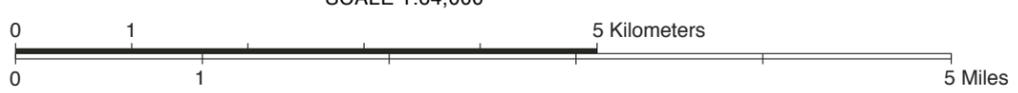
- Index contours, in meters; intermediate contours
- Spot elevation, in meters
- U.S. Public Lands Survey: range, township; section
- Depth curve, in meters
- Perennial lake and stream
- Intermittent stream
- Marsh

CONVERSION TABLE (rounded to nearest foot)	
Meters	Feet
25	82
200	656
250	820
300	984
350	1148
400	1312
450	1476
500	1640
550	1804
575	1888

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

NORTH
CORNER OF SHEET

CONTOURS IN METERS
SCALE 1:64,000



Respect Wildlife
Never feed or approach any wild animal

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
Stay on the trail and camp at designated camp sites

Leave What You Find
Never move natural or historic objects



Natural Features

Mirror Lake

Geology



USGS photograph C.R. Thornber

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

The highlands of the park were created during catastrophic volcanic periods beginning more than a billion years ago. Glaciers later 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 a lack of wildlife. On the contrary, there is a rich diversity of animal species in the park. Hundreds of species of birds and mammals, such as white-tailed deer, moose, black bear, the gray wolf, bobcat, fisher, marten, river otter, fox and coyote all reside in the park.

To find wildlife, avoid areas popular to humans, seek out relatively wild and remote locations. Also consider natural food availability and periods of activity. During the wild berry season, for example, look for bears in berry patches in early morning or late evening when bear are more active. Try hiking into the old-growth forest for some of the more unusual warblers and other songbirds. For a variety of wildlife, hike Lost Lake Trail and Union Spring Trail.

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

Flora



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

Unusual flowers, plants and ferns grow in the park. 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...



Adapted

- 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



Wipe your feet.



Before you enter the woods, clean your boot soles of all dirt and organic material. This simple act can help stop the spread of invasive plant species like Garlic Mustard.



Carp Lake Mine lives again.

About five miles up 107 heading toward Lake of the Clouds, you will find a small inconspicuous picnic area. Directly across from the picnic area is an entrance to one of the areas many copper mines. Locally known as the Meade Mine, this entrance is actually an adit or a horizontal entrance into a larger mine network known as the Carp Lake Mine.

You can walk into the mine entrance a short distance (bring a flashlight) and you will come to a retaining wall with a bat friendly enclosure. During the winter months, bats migrate to this mine to hibernate. In fact the Meade Mine is Michigan's 4th or 5th largest bat hibernaculum.

This year's survey counted 19,263 bats, mostly little brown bats. The population has steadily increased during the past fifteen years of the survey. But for how long?

As you may already be aware, there is an emerging disease devastating bat populations in the eastern US. White-nose Syndrome (WNS) is a contagious fungal disease of hibernating colonial North American bats. It was first recognized outside of Albany, NY in 2006, and since that time has spread as far west as Oklahoma. The disease is estimated to have killed over a million bats with death rates in infected hibernacula approaching 90% in some cases. There is currently no effective treatment or vaccine. The disease is quite close to Michigan, but at the time of printing, not yet here.

How can you help? Don't spread WNS. The United State Fish and Wildlife Service has established mine/cave decontamination protocol for all clothing and gear used.

Visit www.fws.gov/whitenosesyndrome/



Hibernating bats, Meade Mine

Under no circumstances should clothing, footwear or gear that was used in a WNS-affected state or region be used in a WNS-unaffected state or region.

Porcupine Mountains Music Festival

World Music in the spotlight at 7th Annual Porcupine Mountains Music Festival

The 7th Annual Porcupine Mountains Music Festival will take place August 26 - 28, 2011 at the Winter Recreation Area (Ski Hill/Chalet).

Organizers have been hard at work making preparations for this year's event. Between 20-25 acts will be selected. The festival's website will be undergoing frequent updates as the bookings are made. As of this publication's printing, the following acts are booked: Up and coming Philadelphia-based band Hoots & Hellmouth, described as an "must see act" at this year's South by Southwest (SXSW) Festival and Rita Hosking, from California, winner of Best Country Album in the 2010 Independent Music Awards.

Seth Bernard and Daisy May and Charlie Parr will also be making return appearances.

World music will be represented this year by the multi-cultural Guy Mendilow Band.

Guy Mendilow, photo by Craig Harris



Photo Robert Corwin.



The Guy Mendilow Band will bring their exciting blend of multi-cultural music to the Porkies stage this August.

Led by Israeli performer Guy Mendilow, the quintet makes this ancient music relevant to today's audiences by recasting it through the lens of modern migrations. Drawn from the places Mendilow and his musicians have called home, from Israel and Brazil to Japan and the United States, the resulting music is a blend of haunting Sephardi, driven with Brazilian street beats and tempered with blues. It is vibrant musical storytelling awash with warm vocal harmonies, intricate textures and spellbinding rhythms

Once again, what has now become the festival's 3rd stage- the 'Busking Barn' will be open, providing a welcome and cozy structure hosting numerous acoustic performances, some scheduled and some spontaneous- including the daily 'open jam session.'

Photo by Sandy Richardson



Always popular is the children's area, designed to entertain our young festival goers with various colorful activities. The children of the Porcupine Mountains are the future of music. They cap their festival experience each year by performing on the festival's Peace Hill Stage.

Visit www.porkiesfestival.org for more information including ticket pricing, discounts, schedules and links to the festival's Facebook and Myspace sites. For information and tickets, call 1-800-344-5355 or 906-884-2653.



The Friends Artist-In-Residence Program (AIRP)

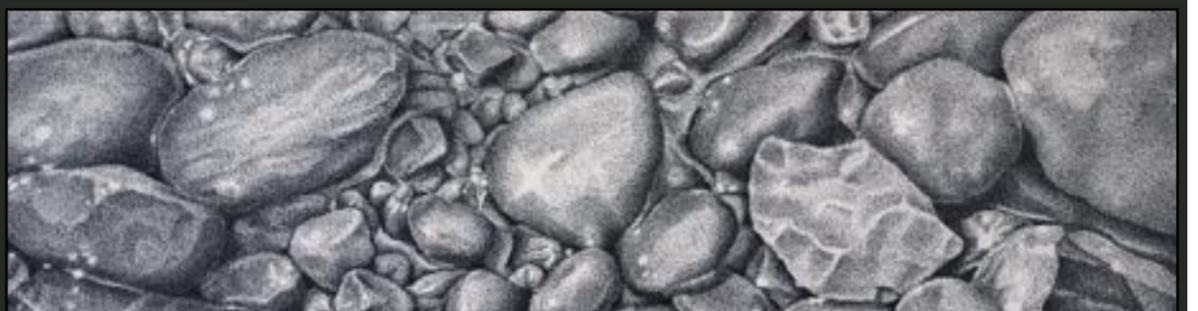
The program hosted six artists in 2010. They are Michigan watercolorists Alan Adsmond from Grand Rapids and Karen Lenhart from Watersmeet, Becky Kobos, fiber artist from Iowa City, Iowa, Ali Rogan, glass artist from Newport News, Virginia and Wisconsin artists Carol Seago, photographer from Mason, and Sandra Starck, block print artist from Eau Claire. As always, each artist resided in Dan's Cabin, which gave them a secluded wilderness setting in which to immerse themselves while they explored and discovered the park and its treasures.

Each will be donating an art piece representative of their residency within one year of their stay in the park. Through these donations, the Friends of the Porkies permanent collection of art continues to grow. Please be sure to visit the Wilderness Visitor Center and enjoy the exhibit as it is updated and changed each season.

Some of the artists' creations have been reproduced on tiles, apparel and prints and are available through the Friends of the Porkies online web store. New this year are T-shirts imprinted with cartoons created by Joe Heywood (AIRP 2008) author and artist, who kept a journal of his residency and gifted it to the program. Go to porkies.org and click on "Merchandise" to view these products and to visit the store. All profits from web store merchandise help support the Friends programs.

Artist-in-Residence applications are always available online. The application deadline is in March of each year and jury selections are announced in April. If you are an artist, love the wilderness and are interested in this opportunity for creative inspiration, please download an application at www.porkies.org/artist.html

Carol Seago's "Waterfall" (top), encaustics artist Michael Breakiron's "Sunset in the Porkies" (left) and Victoria Hussey's pen and ink "Presque Isle Cobblestones" (below) .



Friends of the Porkies



Friends of the Porkies

Welcome Friends,

We hope your visit to the Porkies this summer will be long and enjoyable.



As you explore the lakes, forest, and shoreline that are the Porkies you will realize that this vast wilderness requires a closer look. To truly appreciate our park

you must plan a week or two of vacation. If you are with us for only a short time, plan a return visit this summer to renew your spirit. Take the time to make your visit to the Porkies a memorable one for you and your family.

If you enjoy what you see and experience in the Porkies this summer plan a return visit in a different season. Fall and winter provide unique experiences you may not have imagined. The Friends of the Porkies support the park and its staff, provide funding and expand the wilderness experience for visitors through its various programs. Your financial support

contributes to our mission to assist, support and enhance Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park.

The Friends of the Porkies is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions to the Friends are tax deductible. Our increasingly successful programs are very popular with supporters of, and visitors to, Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. If you would like to learn more about the Friends and become a contributing member; visit us at www.porkies.org

All the best, Jim Bradley
President, Friends of the Porkies

Folk School

The Porcupine Mountains Folk School is gearing up for a busy summer planning another Timberframe class to complete the chalet stage roof project begun last year.

Also in early stages are plans to improve the accessibility of the folk school building. A grant to the National Environmental Education Foundation was submitted requesting financial and consulting expertise for the project. Folk School volunteers have been in contact with community leaders and local businesses to partially fund the new access ramp and new bathroom facility.



Other classes include a series of four writing workshops taught by authors Henry Kisor and Deborah Abbott. For more information: www.porkies.org/folkschool

Left and below, folkschool class participants learn the traditional craft of timberframe construction.



Support the Park

Join the Friends

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/Organization	\$50.00
Lifetime	\$300.00
Pet (owner must be a member)	\$10.00

Membership application cards are available at the visitor center