



Interpretive Programming at Ludington State Park

Ludington State Park
8800 W. M-116
Ludington, MI 49431
231-843-9261

What does Interpretive Programming do for your students?

-  adds to the classroom experience
-  provides a fun, hands-on, non-traditional learning experience
-  brings out an individual's sense of wonder and curiosity
-  reveals the nature of interdependence in our world and the relevance of each and every aspect of nature to each and every other aspect
-  inspires "Instant Enlightenment" whereby cause and effect relationships are brought quickly and sharply into focus

Inside, you'll find information on making your reservation; an overview of the park's most popular features; park admission fees; fall, winter and spring programs for school groups, and a map of the park. Welcome! We look forward to your visit!

Planning Your Visit

- 1) Choose a program
- 2) Choose 2 or 3 dates that will work for your group
- 3) Make your reservation

Interpretive Programs (at the Park)



Fall Programs
Offered Sept. – Nov.
Signup begins in June

- Sand Dunes
- Great Lakes
- Autumn Changes
- Michigan Rocks
- Park History
- Park Ecology



Winter Programs
Offered Jan.-March
Signup begins in Oct.

- Snowshoeing
- Michigan Rocks
- Winter Birds



Spring Programs
Offered May-June
Signup begins in Feb.

- Sand Dunes
- Great Lakes
- Pond Discovery
- Michigan Rocks
- Park History
- Park Ecology

Outreach Programs (at your school)

Michigan Rocks!
Offered Oct. – April
Suggested for 2nd – 8th grades
Allow 45 minutes for this program

Michigan Trees: Sweet and Healthy!
Offered Oct. – April
Suggested for 1st – 12th grades
Allow 45 minutes for this program

Fall Interpretive Programs

Sand Dunes (3rd grade – adult)

Get set to discover the fascinating world of sand dunes at Ludington State Park! Ludington is home to one of the largest areas of fresh water sand dunes. Your students will learn first hand how the dunes were formed, the diversity of environments in the dunes, and why the dunes are protected. See some of the unusual plant and animal life that call the dunes home.



Great Lakes (4th grade – adult)

Come out to Ludington State Park and discover how Lake Michigan, one of our Great Lakes, plays an important part in our lives. We search out geological evidence to show us how these magnificent Lakes were formed. We will look at the changing lake levels and our impact on the lakes. Students will leave with a better understanding of lake ecology.



Fall Interpretive Programs (continued)

Autumn Changes (1st – 3rd grades)

It happens every fall. Animals and plants are busy preparing for the upcoming winter.

We will head out on an adventure hike to search out what seasonal changes are occurring in Ludington State Park. Students will discover numerous changes along the Sable River Trail. Birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, and plants will be our observation topics during our walk.



Michigan Rocks (4th grade – adult)

Michigan Rocks is a fun program that gets students to think about what a stone or rock means to them when they are outdoors. That rock they pick up or look at in their school yard or anywhere else holds a wealth of information. It is a science lesson and history lesson wrapped in this hard natural form.

You see rocks tell us stories just like science and history books do. I show the students the way to unlock those stories by observing and feeling the rocks. Students will discover that our Great Lakes State has not always looked like it does today.

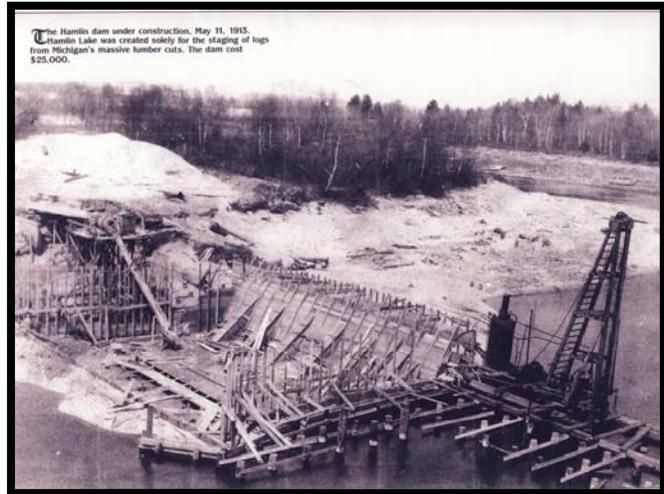
This program can be done either in the park or as an outreach program in your classroom.



Fall Interpretive Programs (continued)

Park History (3rd grade – adult)

Ludington State Park has a rich history dating back to the Ice Age. In this program students are shown locations and artifacts that tell the story of what this park was like before it was a State Park. From those who built and lived in the logging village called Hamlin up to the time where the men of the C.C.C. Camp built this park during the Great Depression the story unfolds in front of the students during this historic walk back in time.



Park Ecology (7th grade – adult)

Students learn first hand the ecology of Ludington State Park during an extensive guided walk. The dunes, river, forest, and lake ecology are areas of observation throughout the walk. See and learn how the tree diseases both past and present are dramatically changing the forest and its habitats. We look at the aquatic invasive species and see how they continue to affect the lakes and river in the park. Human imprint on the resources and how do we best protect the resources are subjects observed and discussed throughout the program. This program is directed for older students in the arena of biological studies.



Winter Interpretive Programs

Snowshoeing (3rd grade – adult)

Experience what it is like to walk in snowshoes! Students will learn how snowshoes have been an important part of survival through thousands of years, especially in the Great Lakes Region. Students will be fitted in a pair of snowshoes for an exciting walk in the Park.

During the snowshoe walks the unique natural and historic resources of Ludington State Park are shown and discussed.

The program begins at the Warming Shelter which is heated and has space for group meals along with an outdoor fire pit for cooking.



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Winter Interpretive Programs (continued)

Winter Birds (1st – 3rd grades)

The Sable River in Ludington State Park becomes a winter home for large populations of birds. Students discover why birds find this area such a popular spot to spend the whole winter season. It is their chance to see some birds up close and other birds that are not present during the summer. Students learn why these birds don't freeze their feet in the icy cold river.

Starting at the Warming Shelter, students get a brief introduction to winter birds using mounted specimens. The highlight of this program is a walk along the river to see the birds.

Sorry, but please don't feed these wild birds. We will explain to the children why it is better not to feed the birds people food.



Spring Interpretive Programs

Sand Dunes (4th grade – adult)

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Spring Interpretive Programs (continued)

Pond Discovery (1st – 3rd grades)

Students have fun discovering and examining the abundance of animals that live in the pond and river! From birds to fish to the small microscopic animals that call the river home, this program shows the children how these living organisms need each other. This program is specially designed to be hands-on. Experience the excitement that Spring brings in! Come get your hands wet!



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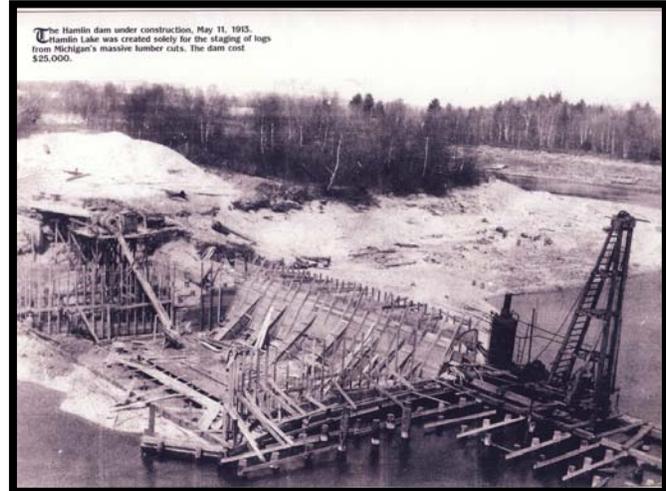
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Ludington State Park

Interpretive Program SITES

BIG SABLE Lighthouse
Historic Site

Lake Michigan

U.S. LIFE-SAVING SERVICE
Historic Site

LOGGING TRAIL

Hamlin Lake
Lost Lake
Lost Lake Fork Trail

GUIDED INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM MEETING PLACE

WAYSIDE INTERPRETIVE SELF-GUIDED WALKS

-  SAND DUNES series
-  WETLANDS series
-  VILLAGE OF HAMLIN series
-  TREE ID series
-  FISHERIES/RIVER series
-  CCC SITE

BEACH HOUSE
Historic Site

PINES CAMPGROUND

WARMING SHELTER

AMPHITHEATER

CEEDAR CAMPGROUND

BEECHWOOD CAMPGROUND

FOOTBRIDGE

HAMLIN Historic Site

Skyline Trail

Riverwalk

OPEN PICNIC PAVILION

DAM



Ludington State Park's Outreach Programs

Outreach programs are developed to reflect the resources found at Ludington State Park. These resources--both historical and natural--tie in with other resources found throughout the Great Lakes Region.

Goals for the interpretive educational outreach programs are to provide and promote optimal learning experiences within the subject boundaries laid out by the teacher or group leader.

Objectives are to: inspire, illuminate, develop observation skills and imagination, and be enjoyable. I want participants to be interested in what is happening in nature around them whether it is in the school yard, in a park setting, or just in their yard at home and have fun during their adventures of discovery!

MICHIGAN ROCKS!

Suggested Grades 2nd -- 8th

Program time of 45 minutes

Program dates are Oct. - April



Michigan Rocks is a fun program that gets students to think about what a stone or rock means to them when they are outdoors. That rock they pick up or look at in their school yard or anywhere else holds a wealth of information. It is a science lesson and history lesson wrapped in this hard natural form. How was it made? When was it made? Was it a part of a bigger form? Where did it come from? Is that place and area where it was formed still here today? How did it get here? What good are rocks to us?

You see rocks tell us stories just like science and history books do. I show the students the way to unlock those stories by observing and feeling the rocks. Students will discover that our Great Lakes State has not always looked like it does today. Before the "mitten" shaped state we all know of today there was a warm ocean here teeming with coral and other salt water plants and animals! Also, they will learn of the mountains that were just north of us that towered into the sky as high as our present day Rocky Mountains do and some of those mountains exploited and boiled over their volcanic lava! We know this because all the rocks around us here in Michigan tell us this story! And of course, what happened to change all of this will be part of the story. We end our presentation with reasons why we need rocks.

This hands on program will hopefully change how students look at their environment whether it be locally or half way around the world because the planet Earth is an unique orbiting rock that is ever changing before our eyes! Remember that this is both a science and history program that should not be separated. The geological sciences combine to create our natural history.

Outreach Programs (continued)

MICHIGAN TREES: SWEET AND HEALTHY!

Suggested Grades 1st - 12th

Program time of 45 minutes

Program dates are Oct. through April



Students put on their coats and hats and head outdoors to hear from the trees themselves who they are and why they are growing here. They discover how hard it is to become a tree that we can climb on and relax under on a hot sunny summer day. Students learn a hand full of common tree names, what is the most common tree that grows around them, how to identify these trees, what kind of things do the trees need to live here, why do trees change throughout the year and as they get older, what the trees offer to us and other animals in nature, are all trees equal, and what hurts trees.

Science, history, and math all join together to help make students better understand the trees that grow around them. It is a science of how a tree grows combines with the history of where a tree comes from and the mathematics of calculating how fast or slow a tree grows. Students discover the soil, weather, and location all factor in a tree's existence. So, they need an understanding of all of these to put the tree puzzle together.

Between the short time outdoors and some in classroom time the student's get hands-on learning. They feel the bark, leaves, soil, and count the growth rings.

I finish with what trees have given us through thousands of years. In some cases keeping us healthy and alive! What changes have occurred through human history that has changed our forest by our unintentional and intention acts? Before that what drastic changes has our planet put on the forest?

The students need to know that trees are not only for cleaning the air we breathe but help us live our lives everyday. The trees are living natural organisms that are similar to us in more ways than we want to think about. Trees teach us about a past when we were not born yet and the natural environment around us.

Make a Reservation

Once you have made your program selection and chosen 2 or 3 dates that will work for your group, call the Ludington State Park's Interpreter Office at 231-843-9261 to make your reservation. All programs are reserved in two-hour blocks. We suggest that groups of more than 45 students be divided into two separate groups.

Payment

There are no program fees. However, a STATE PARK MOTOR VEHICLE PERMIT is required for all vehicles entering Ludington State Park. Fees are \$6 for a daily pass (per school bus).

While You're Here...

While at the park, be sure to explore:

- Miles of foot trails, beaches, dunes and forest
- Picnic areas at Hamlin Lake Beach and along the Sable River
- Hamlin Lake Dam on the Sable River
- Great fishing and canoeing
- Big Sable Point Lighthouse
- Year-round camping
- Guided snowshoe walks and groomed ski trails
- Heated trail shelter with picnic tables inside

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment is committed to the conservation, protection, management, accessible use and enjoyment of the state's environment, natural resources and related economic interests for current and future generations. Learn more at www.michigan.gov/dnre.