

THE THIRD MORAN-CADMAN MAP
OF
BEAVER ISLAND
CHARLEVOIX COUNTY, MICHIGAN

LEGEND

PUBLIC ROADS **PRIVATE ROADS**

- | | | | |
|------------|--|---------|--|
| Highway | | State | |
| County | | County | |
| Municipal | | Private | |
| Unimproved | | | |

PUBLIC LAND **PRIVATE LAND**

- | | | | |
|------------|--|---------|--|
| State | | Private | |
| County | | County | |
| Municipal | | Private | |
| Unimproved | | | |



LAKE MICHIGAN
1899-1900

Beaver Island is a part of the Michigan State Lands System. The State Lands System is a collection of lands owned by the State of Michigan. The State Lands System is managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The State Lands System includes a variety of lands, including forests, parks, and other natural resources. The State Lands System is an important part of Michigan's natural heritage and provides many benefits to the people of Michigan.

LAKE MICHIGAN
1899-1900

- PUBLIC LANDS**
- 1. State
 - 2. County
 - 3. Municipal
 - 4. Unimproved
 - 5. Forest
 - 6. Park
 - 7. Other
- PRIVATE LANDS**
- 1. Private
 - 2. County
 - 3. Municipal
 - 4. Unimproved
 - 5. Forest
 - 6. Park
 - 7. Other



The Beaver Island
Lighthouse and Cemetery



Ed Wojan Realty

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Beaver Island Trail Map

-  **Around the Island**
-  **1/2 Way Around the Island**
Hannigan's Shortcut
-  **Greene's Lake Trail**
Johnny Martin's Trail
-  **Middie Perron's Trail**
-  **Camp Three Trail**
Doty's Camp Trail
North French Bay Rd
South French Bay Rd
-  **West Lake Trail**
Blue Trail
-  **North Lake Trail**
Buffalo's Camp Trail
-  **7 Bridges Trail**
Hannigan's to Wagner Campground

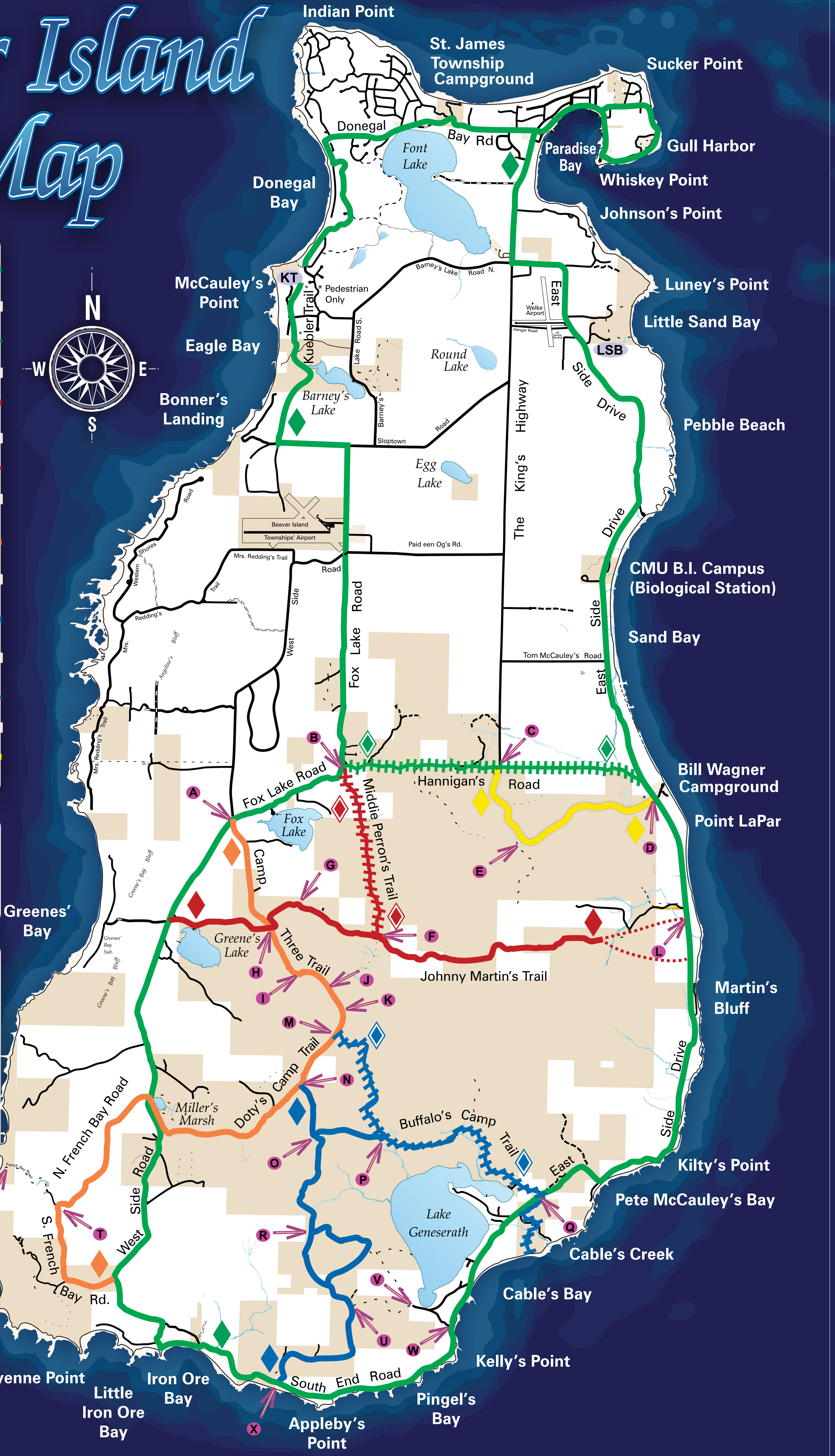
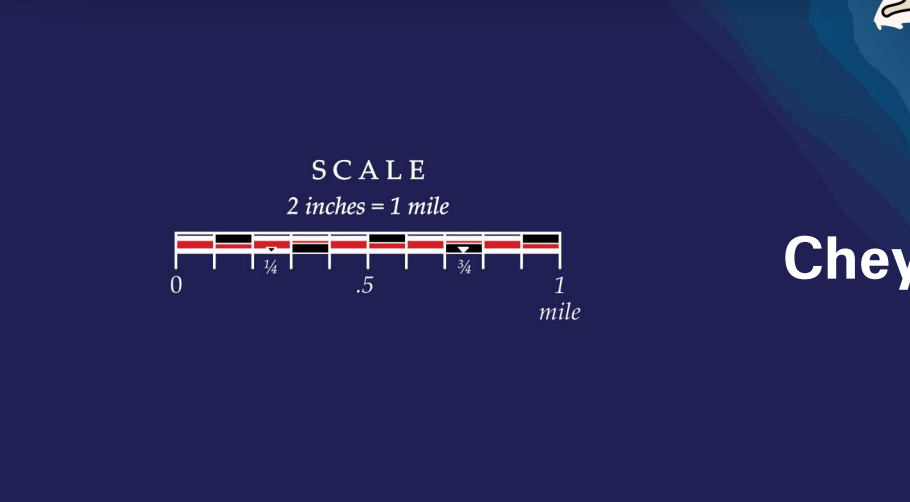
* Pedestrian Only

LSB Little Sand Bay
west end: 45° 39' 47.0"N/85° 31' 54.8"W

KT Kuebler Trail
* Pedestrian Only
north end: 45° 40' 24.2"N/85° 35' 11.8"W
south end: 45° 39' 05.0"N/85° 35' 26.2"W

GPS Coordinates

A	45° 39' 07.0"N/85° 34' 44.3"W
B	45° 39' 34.2"N/85° 33' 27.8"W
C	45° 39' 34.8"N/85° 31' 37.8"W
D	45° 39' 20.6"N/85° 29' 49.0"W
E	45° 39' 00.3"N/85° 31' 24.3"W
F	45° 38' 09.9"N/85° 33' 01.4"W
G	45° 38' 23.8"N/85° 34' 00.8"W
H	45° 38' 16.7"N/85° 34' 20.1"W
I	45° 37' 49.7"N/85° 33' 43.2"W
J	45° 37' 52.9"N/85° 33' 23.4"W
K	45° 37' 24.8"N/85° 33' 25.8"W
L	45° 38' 26.1"N/85° 29' 26.1"W
M	45° 37' 23.3"N/85° 33' 26.1"W
N	45° 36' 56.3"N/85° 33' 53.7"W
O	45° 36' 31.3"N/85° 33' 41.9"W
P	45° 36' 31.8"N/85° 32' 53.0"W
Q	45° 36' 04.7"N/85° 31' 03.4"W
R	45° 35' 44.1"N/85° 33' 43.5"W
S	45° 36' 13.9"N/85° 37' 21.1"W
T	45° 35' 55.5"N/85° 36' 42.3"W
U	45° 35' 08.1"N/85° 33' 15.4"W
V	45° 35' 08.7"N/85° 32' 33.2"W
W	45° 34' 58.9"N/85° 32' 06.5"W
X	45° 34' 31.2"N/85° 34' 15.6"W





LITTLE TRAVERSE CONSERVANCY'S

Beaver Island Nature Preserves & Trails



Since 1991 Little Traverse Conservancy has been working with the people of Beaver Island to conserve some of the most ecologically-significant island lands. Many privately-owned lands are now protected from future development with conservation easements. In addition, nearly 700 acres are available for public enjoyment as nature preserves or natural areas, as highlighted in this flyer.

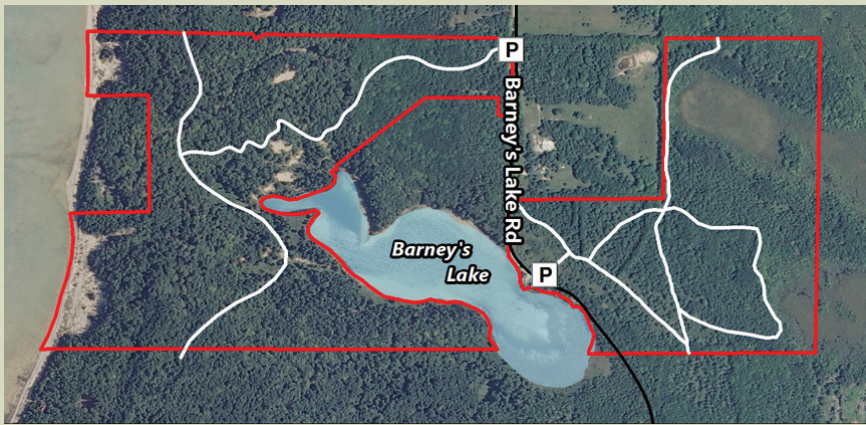
LITTLE TRAVERSE CONSERVANCY - 3264 Powell Road
Harbor Springs, MI 49740 - 231.347.0991 - www.landtrust.org

Download the app!

Our free nature preserve app provides users with accurate, detailed, and interactive maps and information about LTC preserves that are best suited for outdoor recreation.

The app is available on both Google Play and the Apple App Store by searching "LTC Explorer."





Barney's Lake Nature Preserve

The original 120-acre preserve was a gift to the Little Traverse Conservancy in 1990 by the heirs of Bernard and Margaret O'Donnell. Located about three miles southwest of St. James, the old O'Donnell homestead is east of the lake across from the lake viewing/access area. Once cleared fields are now a study in plant succession. Stones are piled along the old field and pasture boundaries. Wildlife commonly seen in the area include loon, great blue heron, whitetail deer, beaver, and snowshoe hare. In 2013, this preserve grew to 293 acres, 4,900 feet of Barney's Lake frontage, and 1,770 feet of Lake Michigan frontage. Features include open bog, sedge meadow, cedar swamp, and uplands with old logging trails that allow for hiking and exploring. Significant improvements - including boat racks - were made in 2011 and the trail was expanded to the west in 2013.

From St. James, take Kings Hwy. south 1 1/4 miles to Barney's Lake Rd. North and turn right. Go 2 1/2 miles and the preserve can be found on both sides of the road. Look for a preserve sign on the left. Parking is on the right.

Little Sand Bay Nature Preserve

Designated by a group of island residents as the number one priority for acquisition and preservation, the Conservancy purchased the original 60 acres in 1994. In 1999, LTC assisted the state in acquiring 30 acres to the north. And in 2011, LTC purchased a 28-acre addition to the preserve with funds from the J.A. Woollam Foundation. The preserve includes a mix of shrubs, cedar swamp, and sand dunes. A short trail (4 mile) and foot bridges allow visitors to access the shore without damaging the sensitive habitat. When added with adjacent state land, nearly 1 1/2 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline and a shallow swimming beach are now accessible.

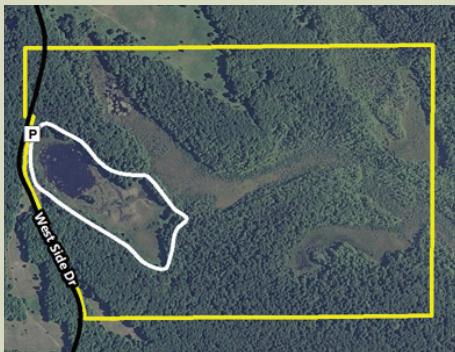
From the Welke's Airport, go south on East Side Dr. for approximately 200 yards. Look for a sign on the left side of the road.



CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY'S Miller's Marsh Natural Area

With 230 acres, Miller's Marsh is the largest and most diverse true marsh found on the island. This wetland's diversity consists of a combination of open shallow water, extensive sedge (to the west) and sphagnum mats (to the east) surrounded by a mature second growth beech-maple forest. The preserve is home to frogs, migratory birds, and waterfowl. A small parking area leads to a one mile trail providing easy access around the marsh. Purchased by Little Traverse Conservancy in 1997, this property was conveyed to the Central Michigan Biological Station in 1998.

From St. James, take the King's Hwy. south for 4 miles. Turn right (west) onto Paid Een Ogs Rd. Continue about 1 1/2 miles. At the four corners and airport turn left (south) onto West Side Dr. Continue on West Side Dr. approximately five miles to Miller's Marsh which will be on the left (east) side of the road.



KEY

- Bicycling
- Canoeing or Kayaking
- Fishing
- Hiking and Snowshoeing
- Horseback Riding
- Parking Area
- Scenic View/ Birdwatching
- Skiing
- Swimming Beach
- Signs and maps
- Geocache

George & Althea Petritz Nature Preserve

At the northeast end of Beaver Island, this preserve is walking distance from town. A trail takes you through the 27 acres to 500 feet of gorgeous Lake Michigan beach. The donor wrote: "People, animals, plants, and trees allowed. All other human-made structures or objects prohibited. I would like it to remain a place to quietly appreciate nature."

From Port of St. James, take Main Street .7 miles north out of town. Turn left onto Lake Drive and travel .2 miles to the preserve sign on your left.



Remember to download the smart phone app (over) or visit our website for interactive maps:
www.landtrust.org

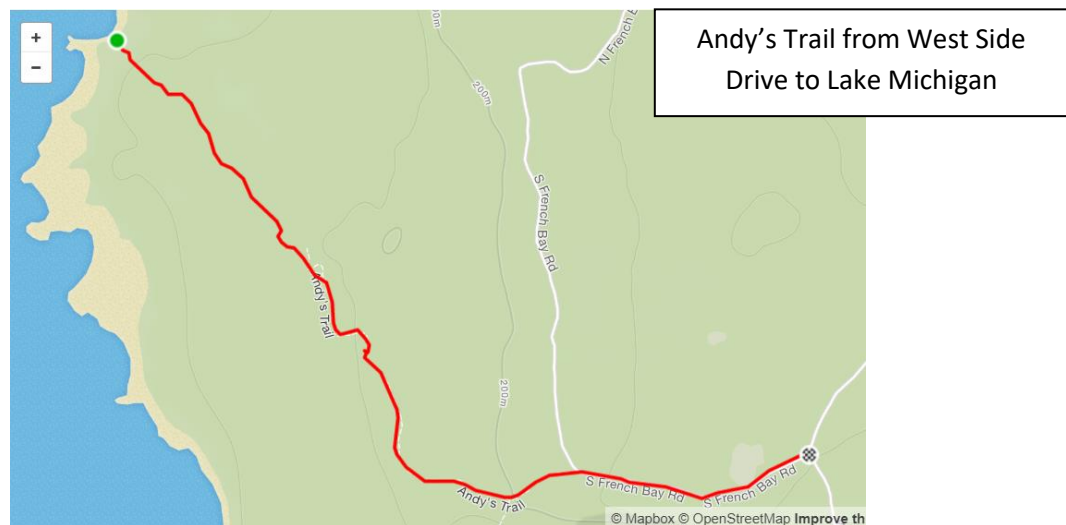
BEAVER ISLAND TRAILS

All of these trails are pretty well marked on the Fourth Wojan-Cashman Map of Beaver Island (2018). All maps are GPS tracks done with a Garmin Forerunner25, as recorded with Strava.

ANDY'S TRAIL

Andy's Trail originates from South French Bay Road and runs to Lake Michigan on the southwestern part of Beaver Island. Depending upon parking spot, the hike to Lake Michigan is 0.55 to 1.29 miles. All easy walking and dry.

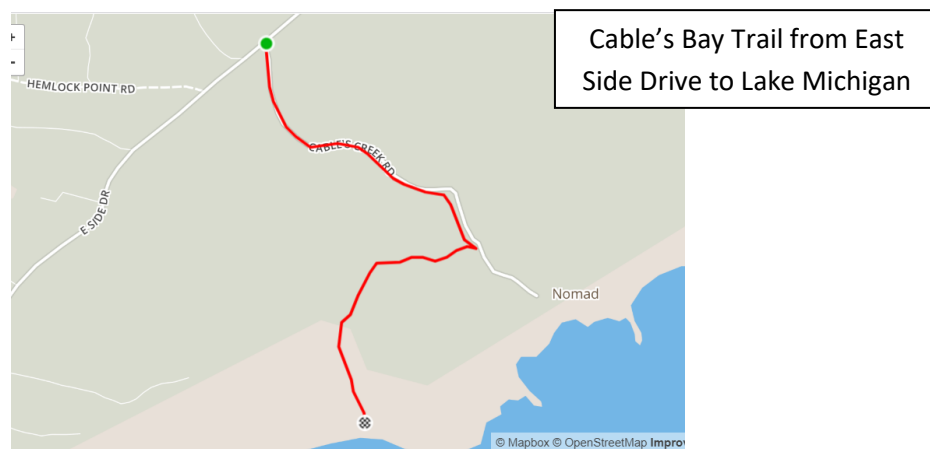
From West Side Drive, turn west onto South French Bay Road. This is a large road at this point, as it leads first past a large gravel pit on the north side of the road (0.12 mile). Continue on west past the gravel pit, and the road quickly reduces to a good two-track. The road begins to descend. At 0.44 mile South French Bay Road turns north, and Andy's Trail continues downhill and west. At 0.58 mile, another two-track turns south. This track quickly disintegrates into an indistinct trail going south-southeast. The turnoff is a good parking spot, and it is 1.29 mile to the Lake Michigan shoreline via Andy's Trail. Andy's Trail continues as a good driveable two-track west and then north. At 1.00 mile there is a loop that makes a good parking spot, 0.87 mile to shoreline. Andy's Trail continues north, and there is another more elongate loop at 1.22 mile. This is the absolutely last place to safely park. The main trail, now just a trail, bears left and immediately descends a bluff. The Lake Michigan shore is another 0.55 mile, or 0.87 mile from the first loop. The bay is rocky with a sand beach and lots of Great lakes Dwarf Iris, a federally threatened species. French Bay is the next bay to the north.



CABLE'S CREEK AND CABLE'S BAY

A short drive to parking at a bridge over Cable's Creek, then a short hike through forested dunes to the extensive sand beach of Cable's Bay.

Turn from East Side Drive at the blue sign for PUBLIC FOOT BRIDGE PICNIC AREA (township sign now CABLES CREEK ACCESS BEACH), 0.25 mile south of the Lake Geneserath North Arm road. Travel east 0.35 mile on a sand/dirt road to a small parking area. The trail begins immediately to the south with a wooden bridge over Cable's Creek. It is 0.31 mile through rolling forested dunes and then open sand to Lake Michigan at Cable's Bay. State land extends to the left (east) to Cable's Creek and to the right (west) until houses show up behind the beach on the dunes. The remains of the Wildwood Inn (1915-1916) concrete support pillars are to the east as you emerge from the tree line.

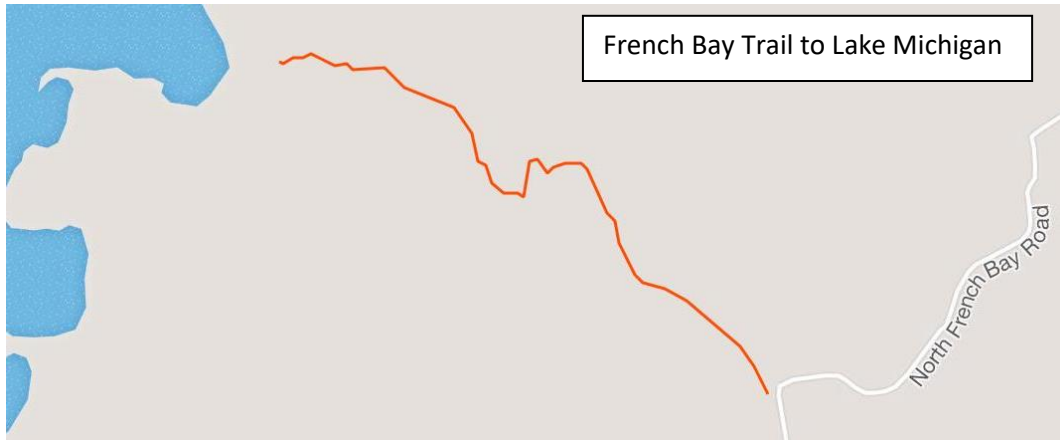


FRENCH BAY

The French Bay trail may be accessed from either end of the French Bay road.

Almost across from the entrance east into the Miller's Marsh viewing and parking area, 0.1 mile north of the main Miller's Marsh parking area, turn west (toward Lake Michigan) on a seasonal road (North French Bay Road on maps). The northern end of the marsh is directly across from this entrance. This road area was heavily logged in 2018 but the road has been repaired. In 1.7 miles, turn right at the green sign 27835. Pass through a cut-over area to a fork in 0.3 miles with a cabin/garage/outhouse to the left. Pull into the track to the right (north) and park. Walk down the track 0.25 mile, past a beaver pond/wet meadow and turn downslope across the face of the bluff and onward to the lakeshore at French Bay. About 30 minutes walking time each way. The walk is 0.50 mile each way.

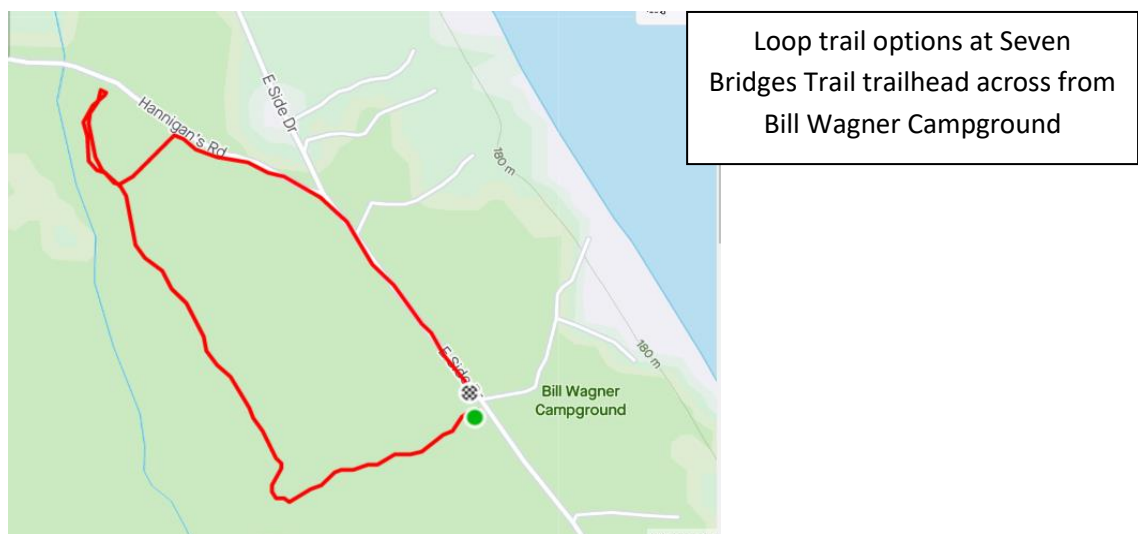
From the green sign 27835 south it is about 1.4 miles to West Side Road past the gravel pit on South French Bay Road.



BILL WAGNER CAMPGROUND TO HANNIGAN'S ROAD TO BILL WAGNER CAMPGROUND

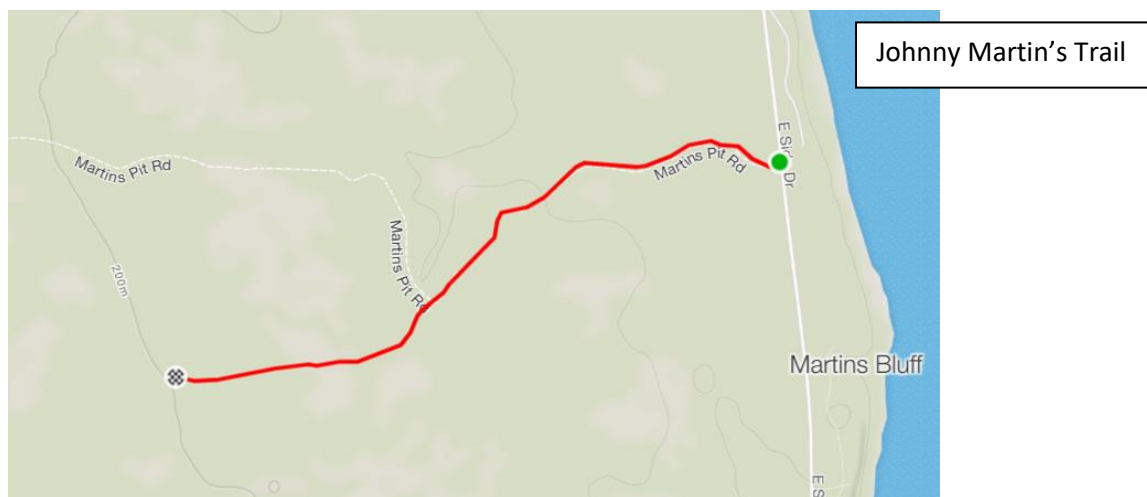
From the Bill Wagner Campground entrance, it is 0.2 mile north to Hannigan's Road. On Hannigan's Road coming from East Side Drive, there are three options for linking to the Seven Bridges Trail.

- Coming from East Side Drive, in 0.12 mile stop at the first two-track to the left (south), well before the large log cabin to the right (north). Follow the high-and-dry ridge trail south until it hits the Seven Bridges Trail (0.39 mile). Turn left to East Side Drive (0.2 mile) and Bill Wagner Campground or right to continue on the Seven Bridges trail west. This shortest loop is under 1 mile in length.
- Continue west on Hannigan's Road until just past the log cabin. There is another two-track trail (0.2 mile from East Side Drive), also to the south (left). Follow this trail until it heads uphill and east and joins the more major two-track that becomes the ridge trail. These loops may be followed in either direction.



JOHNNY MARTIN'S TRAIL

From East Side Drive about 0.5 mile south of the Bill Wagner Campground, turn west on the county road Here's Thuja. This is a gravel two-track that lead to an older gravel pit area in 0.45 mile. Continue through this area southwest into woods on a smaller two-track. In 0.75 mile, in a large open area (formerly an extensive beaver pond) cross a large culvert. The trail, still a two-track size, reenters woods and is really wet, with water running down the road much of the year. The trail theoretically connects to the eastward extension of the Middie Perrin Trail. In 2019 there were many downed trees on the trail. It could theoretically connect through a lot of swampy ground to the Middie Perrin Trail. About 0.5 mile is pretty impassable.

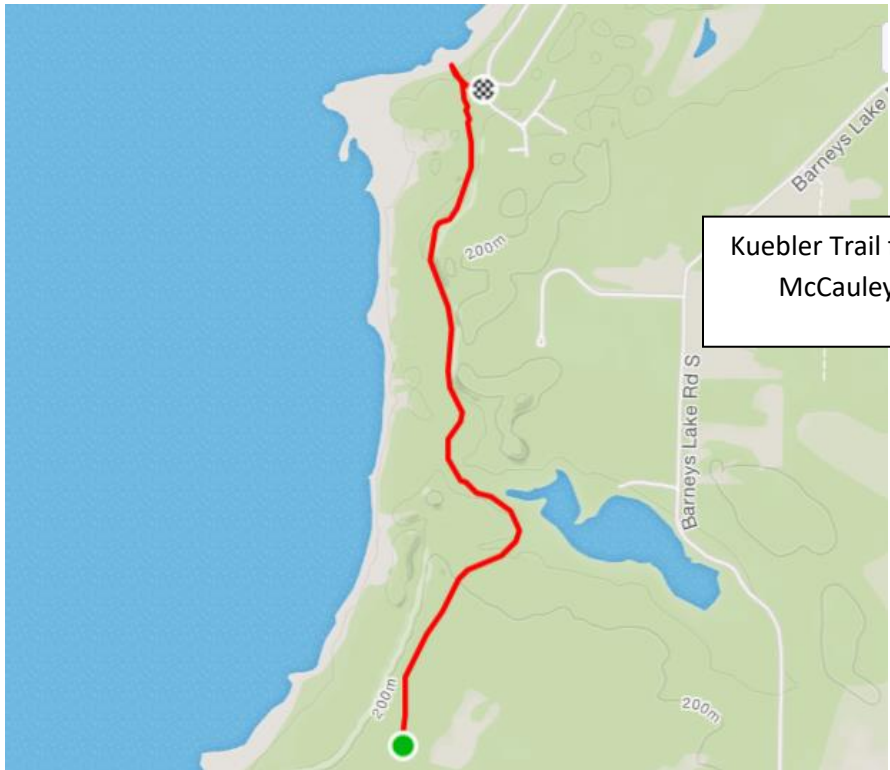


KUEBLER TRAIL: Protar's Tomb to McCauley Point Access

From Sloptown Road west of Protar's home, turn right (north) on Protar's Tomb Road 0.2 mile to Protar's Tomb and park. From the trail gate at Protar's Tomb, the trail proceeds north 1.81 miles to the McCauley Point trail, then 0.04 mile west to Lake Michigan or 0.04 mile east to Allen's Lakeview Road and the large wooden McCauley Point Access sign. The trail represents some of the narrow gauge railroad bed that once hauled Beaver Island lumber. This is a gentle and easy trail.

Kuebler Trail runs gradually downhill and passes the west end of Barney's Lake in 0.66 mile. The lake is visible to the east and several footpaths lead to the shore. The trail then connects to a marked trail to the east from Barney's Lake Road in another 0.2 mile (0.86 mile from origin). This connecting trail is 0.66 mile long, crosses the Deerwood Road, and comes out 0.35 miles north of the Barney's Lake parking area on Barney's Lake Road. There are map trailhead signs at each end and at the ends of the LTC connecting trail.

In only 0.04 mile from the junction of the trail from Barney's Lake Road (0.90 total), the Kuebler Trail crosses the paved road to Deerwood on the Lake Michigan shore. The Kuebler Trail next goes through a 6-foot high culvert under Eagle Bay Road in 0.37 mile (1.27 miles from Protar's). It then continues to pass beneath the Angeline Bluff to the east for another 0.54 mile (1.81 total) to a T junction, with the trail going 0.04 mile left to McCauley Point access or 0.04 mile right to Allen's Lakeview Road and the trailhead sign.



Kuebler Trail from Protar's Tomb to McCauley Point Access trail



Trail from Barney's Lake Road to Kuebler Trail

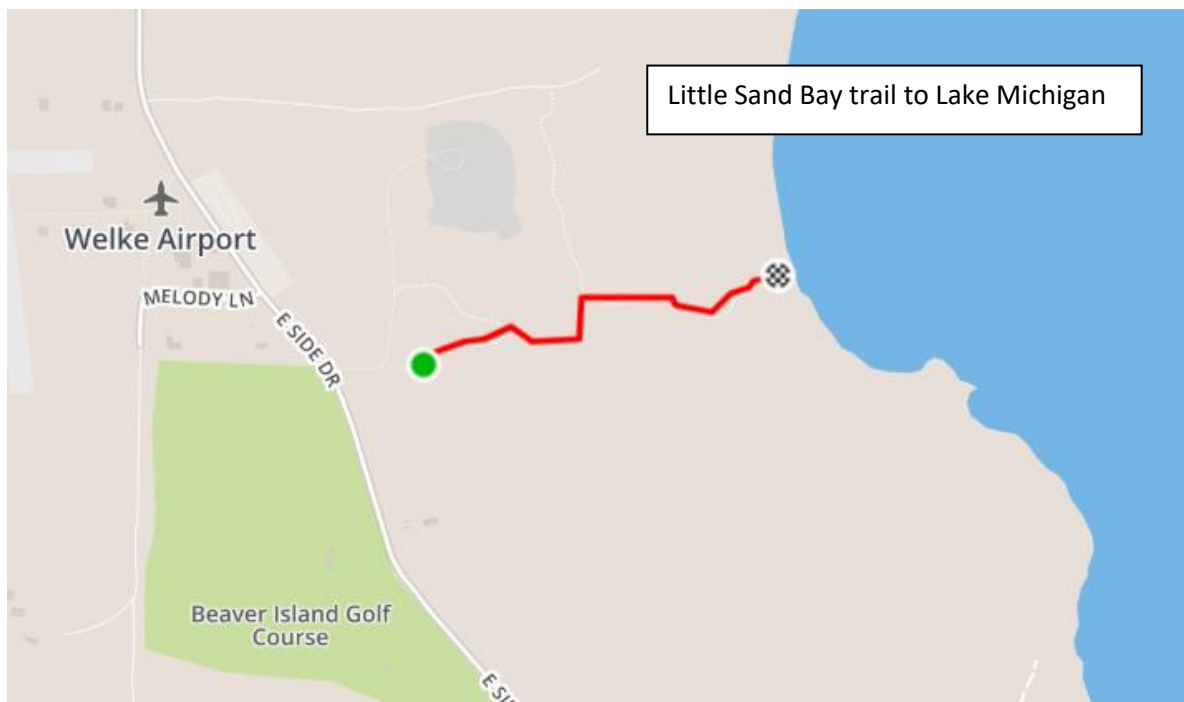
LITTLE SAND BAY TRAILS

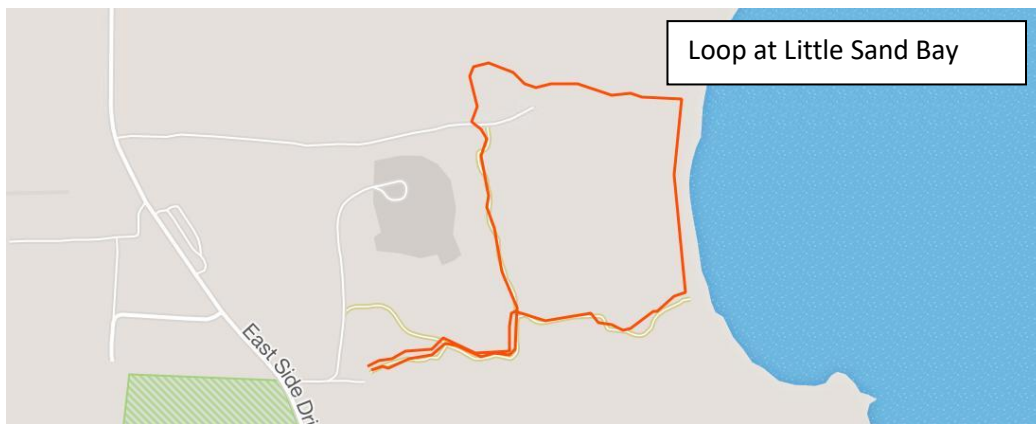
A less than ½ mile hike through old meadows and apple trees, through a cedar swamp to the Lake Michigan shore. This is a Little Travers Conservancy Nature Preserve.

Turn from East Side Drive 0.1 mile east at the Little Sand Bay sign and continue to the parking lot next to the old Gallagher house. From the gate at the parking area at the house, it is 0.42 mile to the beach at Little Sand Bay; 0.22 miles through old meadow and junipers and 0.2 miles through a cedar swamp with running springs, much of which is on boardwalk.

Alternately, to make a loop rather than return via the same path, follow the beach to the north for 0.23 mile, there is an obvious cut in the dune, and a two-track toward the interior (west). This is about 200 ft north of the LTC border post, on DNR land. It is about 0.23 miles to a split in the two-track: follow the track south along the base of the bluff and not north into a field. When the two-track turns west to go up the bluff, there is a faint but definite trail back to the south (left) that rejoins the original trail just before entering the cedar swamp. This trail stays about 100 feet east of the bluff, starting in woods but emerging into juniper meadow. It is 1.17 miles from parking lot to beach to two-track and back to the original trail. The total loop is 1.38 miles, parking lot back to parking lot.

The area can also be accessed by county road originating along the tree line just north of the Welke Airport (turning east). The road goes down the bluff to a couple of parking sites. The continuance of this road is what continues as a two-track/trail down to the Lake Michigan shore.





MILLER'S MARSH TRAILS

All Miller's Marsh trails may be partially submerged until at least mid-July. The primary trail is a 0.9 mile loop around the main marsh. Park in the parking area in front of the marsh. The trail may be taken either to the north or south. There is a folded brochure describing some of the features seen on the trail that may or may not be available at the beginning of the trail to the south. The trail may be very wet in the southeast corner, as well as along West Side Drive to the north. In 2019-2020 none of this was traversable due to high water. In 2021 it is dry, but the trail going south from the parking lot has not been maintained but CMU at all and is full of large downed dead beech. It is passable to the north despite lots of downed red maple.



At 0.29 mile, there is a connection trail with hiking diamonds going to the south. This soon joins an old two-track and ends up on Doty's Trail just east of the open south field. On the north side of the loop trail, there is a faint spur trail going north with white hiking markers that goes over forested rolling ground just west of the smaller north marsh, to the large open field and a two-track. This can be followed left (west) to West Side Drive or can be continued across the large meadow into the trees to the north, still following white hiking rectangles. This trail then turns east through the edge of the forest for at least a half mile until it contacts the same two-track that extends through the field and which can be followed back to the west and West Side Drive.

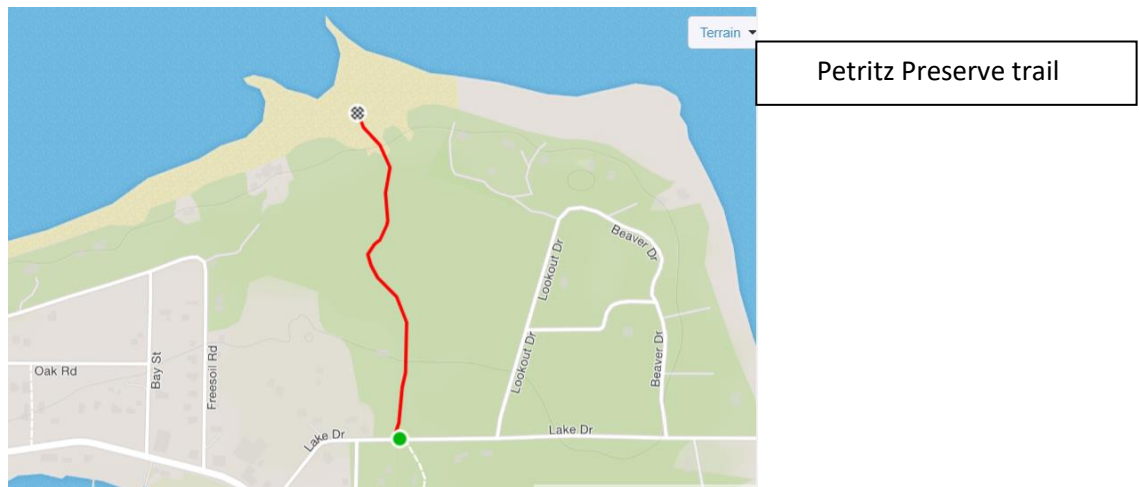
The north field two-track, called Big Field Road on the Wojan-Cashman map, originates 0.4 mile north of the main marsh parking area. It extends well past the open field staying on the south side of the field. Back on the high eastern ground there is a tenuous wet connection across the upper end of the marsh land. This connection extends then to the south all the way to the two-track through the south Miller's Marsh field which then can be followed left to Doty's Camp or right (west) to West Side Drive. The entrance to the north field is 0.4 mile north of the main marsh parking area.

There is an old two-track to the left (north) about 0.2 miles from West Side Drive in the south field. This joins the main Miller's Marsh loop trail in 0.2 mile. The trail forks and to the east is marked with orange arrow diamonds. It crosses above the main marsh and connects to the north field two-track in woods well east of the north field itself. This trail likely crosses water much of the year. The entrance to the south field (Doty's Camp Trail) is 0.2 mile south of the main Miller's Marsh parking and viewing area.

PETRITZ PRESERVE

This is a short hike through mature pine-oak forest to a dune overlook of Lake Michigan, then down to the shoreline. A Little Traverse Conservancy Nature Preserve.

From Main Street take Lake Drive just east of McDonoughs Market. At the end of the road bear right on Lake Drive and park along the road near the Petritz Preserve sign (past Jim McDonough's home). This trail goes straight for a few hundred yards and then bears to the right, then up the dunes to the left to an overlook (0.35 mile) and out over the top to the lakeshore (0.65 mile). There are a couple of internal trails marked by yellow or orange tape. These all eventually lead to either Island Drive or Lake Drive. There are three old entrances on the road, two east of the main one. Only the single trail is considered legal by LTC.

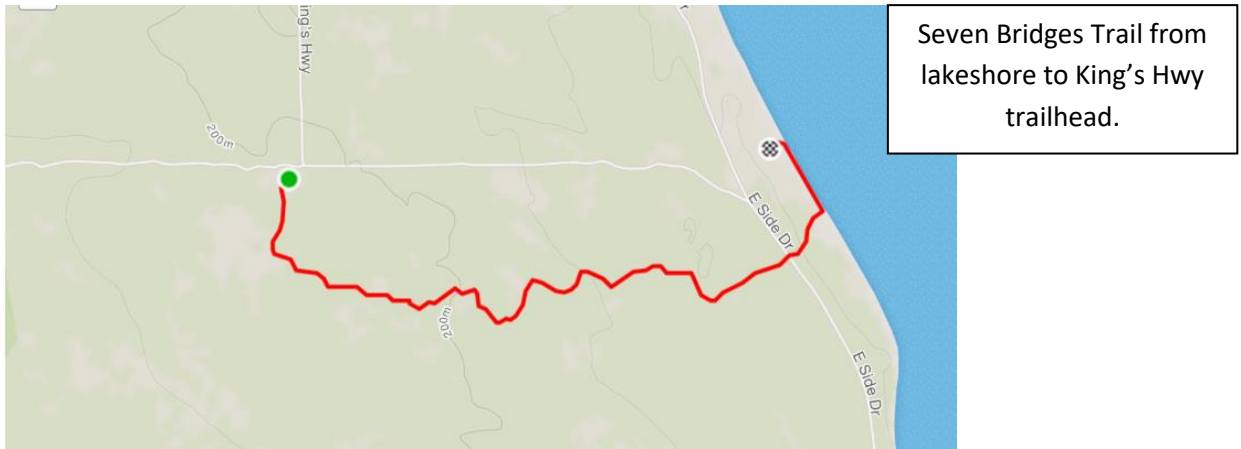


SEVEN BRIDGES TRAIL

This is 2.3 miles in length from either the trailhead across from the Bill Wagner Campground or from the south end of Kings Highway in the parking area/old oil well site. The Kings Highway end is under water due to beaver activity for the first 100 yards until at least early June. There really are seven bridges, all in the eastern pine forest part of the trail. More could be used.

Crossing East Side Drive from the Bill Wagner Campground, the walk is through dry mesic forest over many bridges. About 0.2 mile up the trail, there is a right-angle branch to the right (north). This large trail follows a ridge top and ends up on Hannigan's Road (0.39 mile) east of a large cabin on the north side of the road, 0.12 mile from East Side Drive. The main Seven Bridges trail does not follow this branch but continues straight (west). The trail emerges from the woods in 0.97 mile and continues straight west along the north edge of a large former clearing. There are many Eagle Scout signposts. After turning south through a wetter area, in another 0.2 mile the trail crosses open grass and joins a two-track under white pines. This tees at an opening in a few hundred yards. The trail to the right (north) goes to a large private field and Hannigan's Road. The real Seven Bridges Trail goes left (south) through a largely cut-over area 0.2 mile until it turns right (west-northwest) through a wet cutover to join the forest on a morrainal ridge. This last stretch in the woods is about 0.9 mile. The trail winds to the parking area, which is 0.1 mile south of King's Highway at the junction with Hannigan's Road. The entrance road is really deeply rutted and wet,

Walking time is about 1 ¼ - 1 ½ hours.



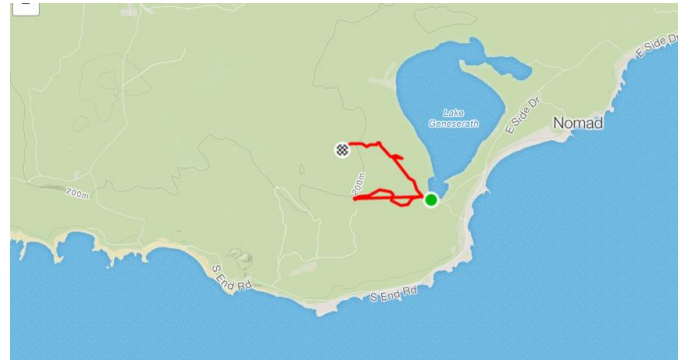
Seven Bridges Trail from lakeshore to King's Hwy trailhead.

SOUTH TRAILS, LAKE GENESERATH AROUND TO MILLER'S MARSH

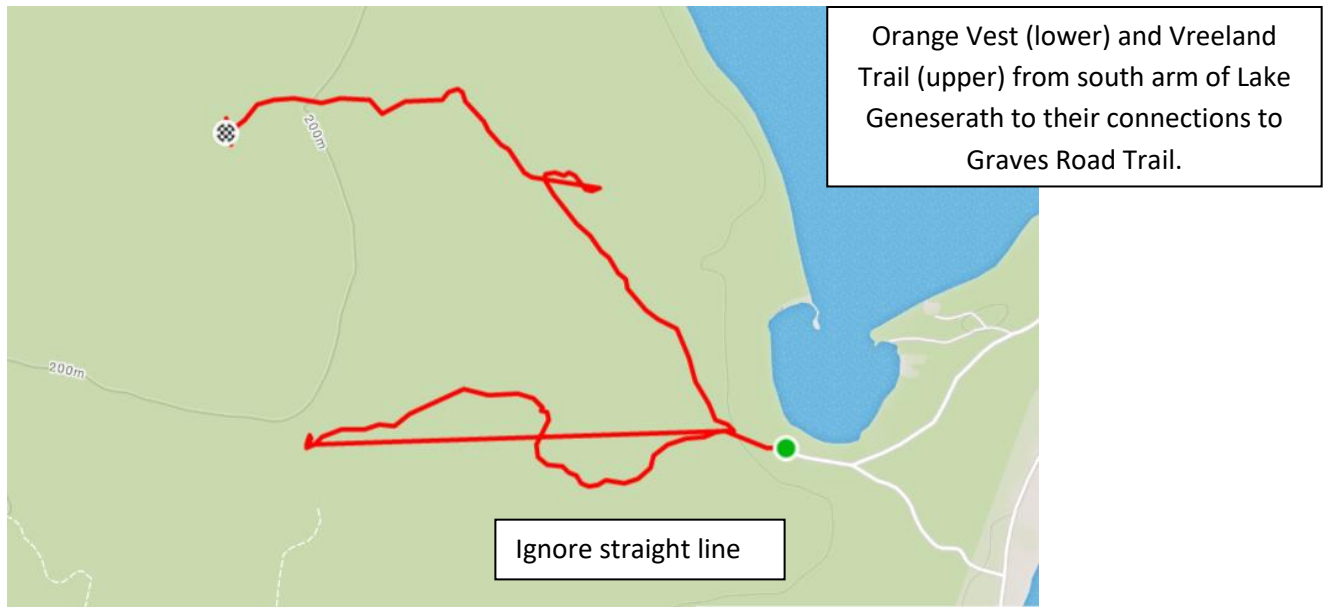
ACCESS POINTS:

Lake Geneserath, north arm. At the sign LAKE GENESERATH PUBLIC ACCESS BOAT LAUNCH, turn west from East Side Drive 0.25 mile to the Buffalo's Camp Trail sign. More parking may be found 0.2 mile further south at the boat launch area at the North Arm of Lake Geneserath. Buffalo's Camp Trail can connect through the MASH sign to the south end of the island or Doty's Camp and roads north and west, or directly north from the Y to Doty's Camp and Doty's Camp Trail. It is 5.20 miles to West Side Drive.

Lake Geneserath, south arm. From East Side Drive, turn west on South Arm Road and continue 0.55 mile to the end of the road. The common origin Orange Vest Trail and Vreeland's Trail begin to the west at the turn into the driveway of the last cabin. The Vreeland Trail turns north in just 0.1 mile up this common trail, while the Orange Vest Trail continues west. Either trail connects to Graves' Road and thus may go north to the MASH sign or south to South End Road. Both are well yellow flagging-taped at present. The Orange Vest Trail is 0.85 mile to Graves Road. The Vreeland Trail is 1.10 mile to the northeast part of the Graves Road loop. At 0.58 mile, the Vreeland trail turns west while a 0.3 mile spur goes east directly to Lake Geneserath.



Orang Vest and Vreeland Trails



Walking trail, just east of the Beaver Head lighthouse. From South End road, the turnoff is 0.21 mile east of the Beaver Head Lighthouse. A blue sign indicates “Walking Trail” and “parking .2 mile” Parking is 0.24 mile off South End Road. This begins the Graves’ Road trail which can go to Lake Geneserath or through to the MASH sign. It is 6.0 miles to Buffalo Camp trailhead through the MASH sign and about 6 miles to West Side Drive at Miller’s Marsh via Doty’s Camp Trail.

Doty’s Camp Trail, south field, Miller’s Marsh. South of the Miller’s Marsh parking lot and viewing area 0.2 mile is a two-track to the east (away from Lake Michigan) in a large open field. This is Doty’s Camp Trail, and Doty’s Camp is 2.0 miles east on this wide two-track. The walking trail from there then may be taken to the MASH sign, or Doty’s Camp Trail followed north to eventually connect to Camp Trail #3.

BUFFALO’S CAMP TRAIL THROUGH DOTY’S CAMP TO MILLER’S MARSH OR CAMP #3 TRAIL

Until the Johnny Martin’s Trail gets better developed and marked, this trail represents the only way across the center of the island from East Side Drive to West Side Drive.

From East Side Drive, turn onto the road to the north arm of Lake Geneserath (LAKE GENESERATH PUBLIC ACCESS BOAT LAUNCH blue sign). Park at the boat launch area and walk back north 0.2 mile to the Buffalo’s Camp Trail sign (0.25 mile from East Side Drive). Or park directly in front of the trail head. There is also a birding trail sign there. Take the trail west. It is an old logging road and mostly quite wide. In 0.85 mile, cross a large culvert under the trail. In another 0.1 mile, (0.93 m from start), cross a second culvert over an obvious stream. There are four 4x4 posts at the edges. At about 1.60 total miles, cross a wooden bridge (about 4 feet wide and long, at the bottom of a rise). Until this point, the trail has been a logging road and quite wide. Now it becomes a single-track. At the top of an immediate

steep rise is the Y (1.7 miles from beginning of trail), a branching point for this trail system. There is now a DNR "NO ORV" sign in front of the 4x4 post.

The signpost at the Y was until 2018 marked "Walking Trail" to the left. The right fork was relatively unmarked. This right fork is the North Lake Trail that gets very wet in 0.6 mile, standing water even in August. It joins Doty's Camp Trail coming from Doty's Camp in a total of 1.17 miles from the Y. Going south from this junction on Doty's Camp Trail, Doty's Camp is 0.82 mile. Doty's Camp Trail to the north eventually joins Camp #3 Trail and comes out onto Fox Lake Road. This right (northbound) trail from the Y is now copiously marked with orange diamonds and directional arrows. In just 0.13 mile from the Y it comes to a very large meadow, the trail going to the north around it. At least 0.3 mile of this trail close to Doty's Camp Trail is just black muck, even in August.

Take the left fork (formerly labelled "Walking Trail", now with a white-painted wooden marker), up a slope and then quickly down over a small wooden bridge and across a marshy creek, another tributary of Lake Geneserath. Continue on 0.75 mile through mostly swampy/marshy ground to the MASH sign in a small clearing. This sign indicates the connection to West Lake Trail that leads to the south end of the island and connection through Doty's Camp to Miller's Marsh and West Side Drive. In the past this trail was marked with blue swatches on the trees, but these are faded. The last 0.5 mile is wider, but shows degradation by past ORV abuse digging ruts.

MASH sign. This 4x4 has several bright blue directional signs pointing out distant points. The post lists 2.7 miles south to south arm of Lake Geneserath; more to the lighthouse area down the same trail (3.6 miles) most of which is Graves Road (old logging road); 2.6 miles west/northwest to West Side Drive/Miller's Marsh; and 3.8 miles to Fox Lake Road- presumably via Doty's Camp and then straight north on the two-track (Doty's Camp Trail to Camp #3 Trail) to Fox Lake Road. At the bottom is the sign pointing back east to the north arm of Lake Geneserath, from which this trail originated (sign indicates 1.9 miles, but it is actually 2.5 miles to Buffalo's Camp Trailhead). Take the West Side Drive/Miller's Marsh trail direction on the West Lake Trail mostly northwest. This is also very wet and rutted from ORV attempts. Doty's Camp area is about 0.6 miles and is clearly a deer camp/drinking area with an outhouse, a huge stone fire pit, plastic chairs and a Weber grill. Just before reaching Doty's Camp the trail is so wet someone has placed many lengthwise logs in it.

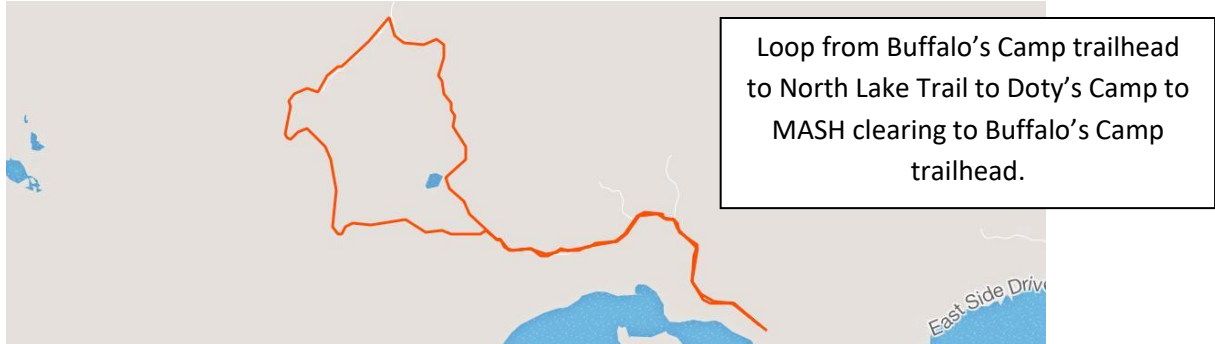
At Doty's Camp, take the left fork (west) – the right fork continues north on Doty's Camp Trail toward Camp #3 Trail (very passable as an old road). The rest (left fork) is open and an easy two-track road to the south field at Miller's Marsh and West Side Drive (1.5 miles). Buffalo's Camp trailhead to Doty's Camp through the MASH sign and on to West Side Drive at Miller's Marsh south field is 4.55 miles.

Most of this is easily bikeable. Walking is necessary from the Y through the MASH sign to Doty's Camp. A bike/walk/bike trip is about one hour.

This should be 2 hours walking time one-way.



A loop on Buffalo's Camp Trail to North Lake Trail, down to Doty's Camp, and back through the Mash Sign and up to the Y is 7.04 miles.



SOUTH END NEAR LIGHTHOUSE to MASH SIGN

There is a graveled two-track entrance from South End Road 0.21 mile east of the Beaver Head lighthouse (not the trail with the old cars). A sign indicates "Walking Trail" and 0.2 mile to trail parking. Parking area is at 0.24 mile and the trail begins to the right (east). Straight (north) is a locked gate to Applewoods (private). In 0.37 miles along the trail to the east is a collapsed culvert and a branch to the left (north) which also dead ends at another gate for Applewoods. The trail continues due east on high ground with a big dropoff to the right (south).

At about 0.72 mile the trail bends to the north, as a right fork going straight ahead and downhill is the Pingel private road. On the trail now going north it is 1.5 total miles (from start) to an old logging site, where a trail joins from the right, toward the south arm of Lake Geneserath (0.9 miles). This is the Orange Vest Trail (McAndrew Trail) which reaches South Arm Road on the south end of Lake Geneserath in 0.85 mile. It connects to the Vreeland Trail (Pat's Trail) 0.1 mile from the end of the South Arm Road at Lake Geneserath. The Vreeland Trail (Pat's Trail) heads north and reconnects to the east loop of the main trail (Graves' Road) 0.85 miles, or 1.78 miles to the main trail heading north. This area was logged by Patrick LaFreniere in the 1930's and 1940's.

The main trail, still logging-road width at this point, then continues north 2.0 miles to the MASH signpost. At 1.5 total miles there is a short left spur to a gate into Applewoods. In another 0.1 mile (1.83 miles from the beginning of the trail) a larger trail from the Lake Geneserath south arm joins from the right (east). This is the east part of Graves' Road which connects to Vreeland's Trail and also loops back west to the main trail. On a tree here is carved "L G" in large letters and an arrow beneath.

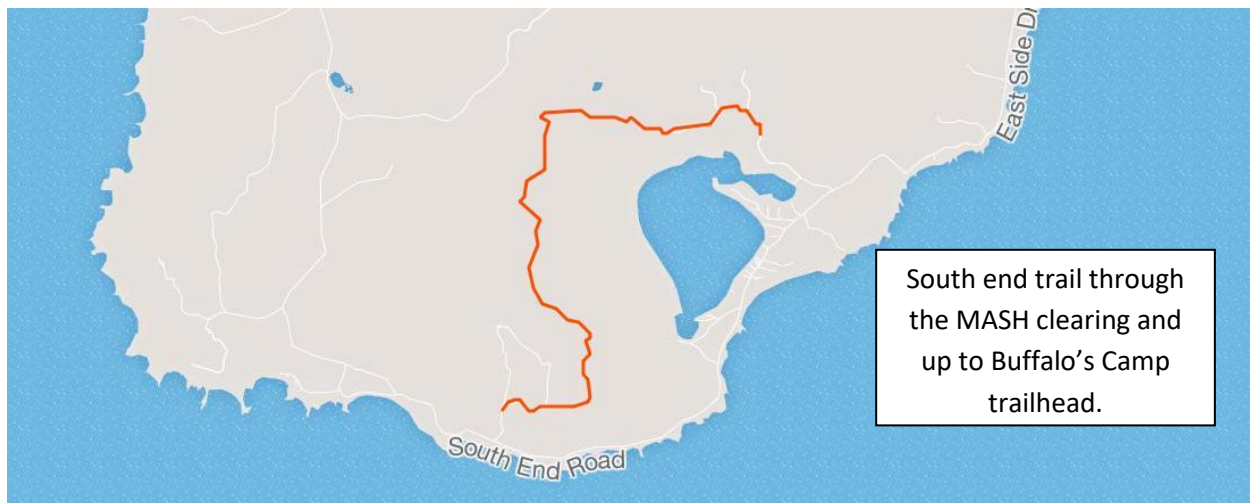
Taking the east loop results in coming back to the main trail (blue-marked) in 0.85 miles. In 0.27 miles down this loop, the Vreeland Trail (Pat's Trail) branches off to the right (south). This trail goes all the way to the south arm of Lake Geneserath in 0.92 mile. It also branches directly east to Lake Geneserath, 0.93 miles from the Graves Road. The cutoff branch is about 0.37 miles down the Vreeland Trail (Pat's Trail), then 0.45 mile to the connection with the Orange Vest Trail 0.1 mile from the South Arm Road.

In 0.78 mile (2.26 from the trail origin) the east loop of Graves Road returns to the main trail.

There is a long wooden bridge over Gorge Creek in 0.25 miles, then another 0.94 miles to the MASH sign. Almost all of this is bikeable. The wettest spot is just north of the bridge. By this time it is officially the West Lake Trail.

There are four apparent trails veering to the east from this trail. Pingel's Road continues east where the trail turns north. The first trail turning east after turning north is the Orange Vest Trail (McAndrew Trail) to the south arm of Lake Geneserath. It is not flagged or marked. The next (somewhat indistinct) should be Kurt's Road, a dead end. The third is the connection to the Vreeland Trail / east loop of Graves' Road, going back down to the south arm of Lake Geneserath or looping back to the northwest and rejoining the main trail further north, still well south of the bridge. The fourth trail junction (0.2 mile north of the bridge) is the return of the east loop of Graves' Road.

All of the main trail is marked with blue, either as diamonds or swatches on trees. The MASH sign has four signs: 3.8 miles to Fox Lake Road, 2.6 miles to West Side Drive at Miller's Marsh, 3.6 miles to Lighthouse, 2.7 miles to Lake Geneserath south arm, and 1.9 miles to the Lake Geneserath north arm (really 2.5 miles). The MASH sign itself is about 3.6 miles from the Lighthouse end parking lot. South end parking area to Buffalo Camp, up the west side of Graves Road and down through the MASH sign, is 5.64 miles.



HIDDEN VALLEY TRAIL

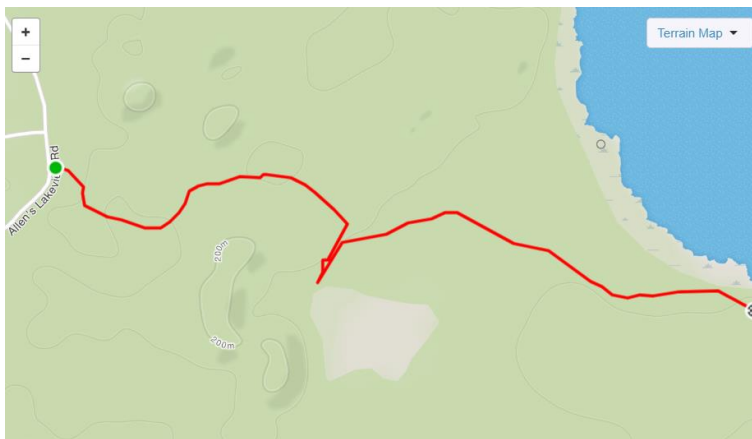
This is a trail through forested dunes, to an overlook of Font Lake, down along the Font Lake shore, and back on roads to the trailhead. All three entrances are well marked with PSJA signs.

From Allen's Lakeview Road, park at the trail head sign for Hidden Valley Trail. The large wood sign indicates .8 mile (0.8) - this is not the dune/lake loop but a branch east to Font Lake on private property. The smaller Port St. James trail sign shows the trail map. The trail begins in mature forested dunes. In 0.31 mile, the trail divides. The left fork, labeled there as Font Lake with an arrow, continues through high dunes to the Font Lake shore and emerges onto Font View Court in a total of 1.25 miles. This trail is copiously marked with circular aluminum arrow markers. At 0.6 mile from the trailhead, there is a great overlook of Font Lake from the top of a dune ridge. The trail descends to the lakeshore and continues for 0.6 mile until it hits private property (1.20 miles), then turns inward to a trailhead on Font Lake Court (1.25 miles). The trail may be continued to a second junction, on White Birch Road, in another 0.2 mile (1.42 total). The walk back to the trail head via Donegal Bay Road and Allen's Lakeview Road is 1.45 mile from White Birch Road trailhead or 1.75 miles from the Font Lake Court trailhead. The total loop is 2.87 miles.

The right fork at 0.31 miles continues eastward and at 0.37 forks again as it leaves the dunes. The left fork continues 0.5 mile and enters private property among paper birch trees on the shore of Font Lake. The right fork in only 0.06 mile enters a clearing at a seasonal marsh with thick and tall grass. Father Wren's cabin was to the left around the marsh. There is a faint beaten-down trail in the grass to the right as you enter the clearing. This lesser trail to the south goes around Sweeney's Swamp and back onto the end of a private two-track that will return to Allen's Lakeview Road about ¼ mile south of the trailhead.



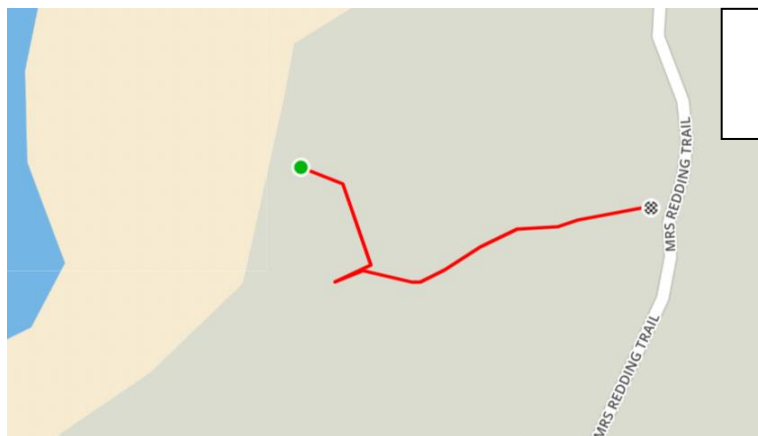
Hidden Valley Trail to Font Lake and back on roads.



Trail to Father Wren's cabin and east to Font Lake on private land

OLIVER POINT ACCESS

This is a short trail on DNR land that provides access to Lake Michigan on the west side of Beaver Island. In 2019, high Lake Michigan levels forced the trail to veer to the north to reach the lake. In 2019, there was no beach. It is several miles down Mrs. Redding's Trail. There is a sign.



Oliver's Point Trail from Mrs. Redding's Trail

MIDDLE TRAILS: Middie Perron, Government Tower, Camp #3 Trail, Greene's Lake Road

These former functional roads are have large portions that can be driven with a high clearance vehicle if it has been dry. They make great hiking and even better biking trails and have new signs from the Trails Committee in 2019 marking major turns.

Middie Perrin: From the intersection of Fox Lake Road with Hannigan's Road, Middie Perron's Trail heads south. In 0.25 mile there is a private road to the east. The road continues as a mostly good two-track, with a few deep ruts and puddles. In 1.73 miles, Government Tower Trail junctions to the right (west). Middie Perron's Trail continues southeast, veering almost due east. The Trail continues to be a wide a cleared two-track. At 2.00 miles total (0.27 from the Government Tower intersection) there is a smaller trail heading south at a Y. At about 2.20 miles, there is a large turnaround in the trail. Somewhere in the next 0.5 mile the road becomes the Johnny Martin's Trail. At about 2.7 miles the trail goes through really swampy ground, with many logs having been added to attempt to allow vehicular passage, at this point only smaller ORVs. At about 3.1 the trail emerges into deciduous woods. All of this Trail past Government Tower intersection is marked with red paint on trees. It is all easily traversed on foot or by bicycle.

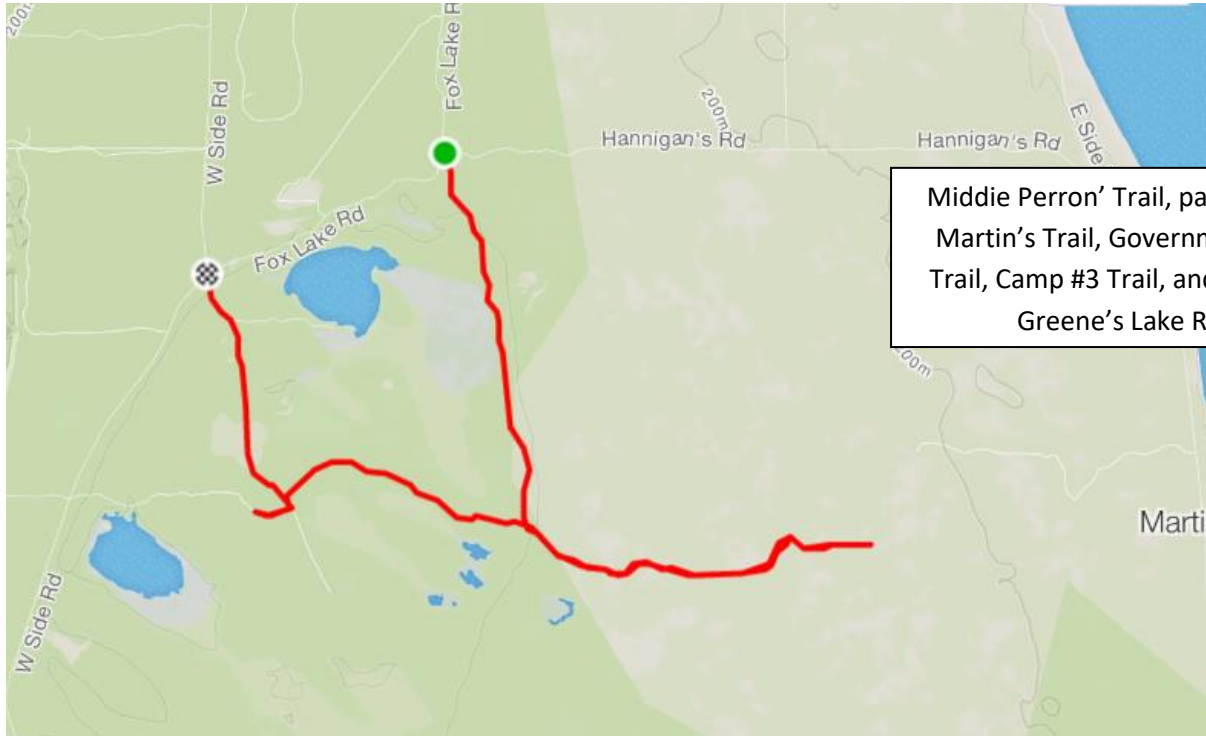
Government Tower Trail: This Trail connects Middie Perron' Trail to Camp #3 Trail. It is 1.25 miles in length. It is never truly passable for normal motor vehicles, with half a dozen deep holes usually full of water and soft mud as well. It is always bikeable and hikeable. The former fire tower lookout was on this road.

Camp #3 Trail: This trail runs from the intersection of West Side Drive and Fox Lake Road southward, connecting to Government Tower Trail (1.08 miles) and Greene's Lake Road (1.12 miles). It then continues generally southward, connecting eventually to Doty's Trail coming from Doty's Camp. The road is driveable at least past Greene's Lake Road, except for very loose sand emerging from the large clearing 0.75 mile from Fox Lake Road. It is 5.74 miles from West Side/Fox Lake to the connection with West Side Drive south of Miller's Marsh. South of the junction with Greene's Lake Road, the road has several water features. It is 1.38 miles south to the Y junction where North Lake Trail goes left (with orange diamonds) and Doty's Trail goes to the right. In another 0.5 mile, there is a false turn west and nearby two posts with blue paint that may be a link to the West Trail linking Doty's Camp and the MASH sign.

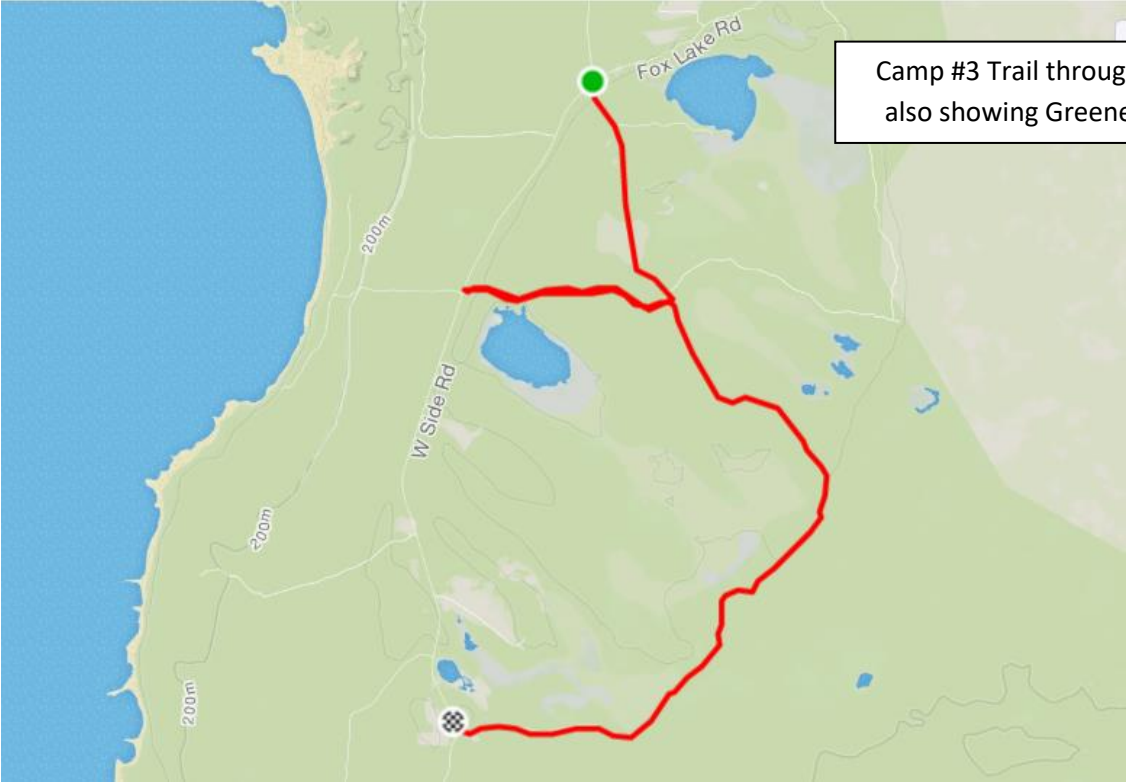
Greene's Lake Road: This may be accessed from West Side Drive or from Camp #3 Trail. It is 0.25 mile to Green's Lake itself from West Side Drive, then another 0.78 mile east to the junction with Camp #3 Trail (total 1.03 miles). It is generally driveable.

Doty's Trail: Doty's Trail originates in a field south of Miller's Marsh at West Side Drive. It is 1.5 miles to Doty's Camp itself. At about 1.15 mile there is a two-track turning north around Miller's Marsh to ignore. Following Doty's Trail to the north from Doty's Camp, it is 0.85 mile to the Y intersection with the North Lake Trail. Doty's Trail continues north and joins/becomes Camp #3 Trail, eventually reaching Fox

Lake Road/West Side Drive in 5.74 miles total. There are several major water holes preventing easy motorized access between Doty's Camp and Greene's Lake Road. Access from West Side Drive is generally good.



Middie Perron' Trail, part of Johnny Martin's Trail, Government Tower Trail, Camp #3 Trail, and the end of Greene's Lake Road.



Camp #3 Trail through Doty's Trail,
also showing Greene's Lake Road



Beaver Island Water Trail

WATERPROOF
PADDLING GUIDE



Photo: Uncommon Adventures

42 MILES OF WATER TRAIL ADVENTURES

The Beaver Island Water Trail Experience

Located about 30 miles offshore from the City of Charlevoix, Beaver Island is the largest island in Lake Michigan and the largest of the 14 islands that make up the Beaver Island Archipelago. At 56 square miles, Beaver Island is unique for many reasons, including a beautiful natural environment with plentiful sand dunes, beaches and wetlands, a distinctly diverse ecology, and a close-knit community with a proud Island heritage.

The Beaver Island Water Trail is a 42-mile (68 km) paddling trail that circumnavigates the entire Island. While some parts of the Island (such as Paradise Bay and inland lakes) are more family-friendly areas to paddle, most of the Water Trail is geared toward adventure paddlers who are comfortable paddling in the unpredictable conditions of Lake Michigan and accustomed to rustic access sites and overnight beach camping. If you are a novice paddler, consider a trip to the Island's harbor or inland lakes, or consider hiring a paddling guide.

WARNING

Canoeing and kayaking on Lake Michigan can be dangerous. Serious bodily injury and loss of life can and does occur. Varying water conditions and depths, fallen trees, rocks, currents, waves and other phenomenon of Lake Michigan create constantly changing conditions and hazards. This book is provided only as a general guide and is not to be relied upon to identify all hazards. All distances are approximate. Prior to any paddling trip on the Beaver Island Water Trail, paddlers are strongly encouraged to check in and register at the Beaver Island Community Center.



The Beaver Island Archipelago

Beaver Island is about 13 miles long and 6 miles wide. It is the only island in the archipelago home to a permanent population and scheduled ferry and airline services. The other islands are not part of the Water Trail, and it is highly recommended that paddlers do not attempt to reach other islands, as sight lines and actual distances can be deceiving on the big lake.



Beaver Island Road Map



Safety on Beaver Island

These basic safety tips will increase your chances of having a safe and enjoyable paddle on Beaver Island:

1. REGISTER AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER.

Prior to your paddle, all water trail users should register in the Community Center at 26215 Main Street, right across the street from the ferry dock. Your registration will alert public safety officers to your paddle. There is no cost to register. The Community Center also has useful information about all the amenities and natural features of Beaver Island.

2. ALWAYS PADDLE WITH THE PROPER EQUIPMENT.

Life vests are required by law. A whistle, a first-aid kit and a phone are standard equipment.

3. NEVER PADDLE ALONE.

Always paddle with at least one other person and do not become separated.

4. BE AWARE OF THE WATER TEMPERATURE.

Cold water is extremely dangerous. Take steps to protect yourself from hypothermia.

5. KEEP TO THE SHORELINE.

Paddling far from shore can result in becoming lost. Keep the shoreline in sight at all times.

6. UNDERSTAND THE RIGHT-OF-WAY.

The rules give priority first to self-propelled craft, including paddling boats, then to sailboats, and lastly to motorized craft.

7. BE AWARE OF THE WEATHER.

Conditions can change rapidly. Be aware of forecasts and do not go out during thunderstorms or other adverse weather events. Stay alert to changing weather conditions.

8. BE AWARE OF THE DAYLIGHT.

Make sure you leave enough daylight to comfortably finish your trip.

9. BRING A CHANGE OF CLOTHES IN A DRY BAG.

It is very likely you will get wet. Bring a change of clothes in a dry bag to avoid hypothermia.

10. KNOW HOW TO SWIM.

Make sure you know how to swim before paddling on Beaver Island.

11. KNOW HOW TO GET HELP.

To get help, dial **911**. Be advised that there is a 30-second delay when placing a call. Make sure you are aware of your surroundings and can communicate your position to emergency responders. Cell phone coverage is limited. Check with your service provider to confirm coverage.

12. CARRY A GPS UNIT.

Beaver Island continues to invest in signage and other access-site amenities. However, several access sites do not yet have signs, and amenities are minimal. Be sure to carry a working GPS unit and this Guide to locate access sites around the Island.



Paddling Etiquette

Understand the Right of Way

Prior to getting on the Water Trail, be sure you understand the right-of-way rules. In general, the rules give priority first to self-propelled craft, including paddling boats, then to sail-powered craft, and lastly to motorized craft.

Minimize Hazards

Stay close to the shore and away from recreational boating channels. When paddling close to the shore, watch for swimmers and be mindful of private property.

Cross Cautiously and Quickly

When the need arises to cross a commercial or recreational boating channel, do so with caution by checking in all directions for approaching vessels.

Stay Starboard and Pass Port to Port

If you alter your route in response to an approaching vessel, steer to your right (starboard). This is standard boating procedure.

Avoid Private Property

In many cases, the shorelands are private property. Plan to only exit the Water Trail at public access points. Private property should only be used in emergency situations.

Be Helpful and Respectful

Offer assistance if another person is in distress! Remain aware of your surroundings and respectful of others' right to also enjoy the water and shoreline.

LEAVE NO TRACE

Leave No Trace is an international program designed to empower outdoor enthusiasts to reduce their impact on the environment when hunting, paddling, camping, picnicking, fishing, skiing, or climbing. The program strives to educate all those who enjoy the outdoors about the nature of their recreational impacts, as well as techniques to prevent and minimize such impacts. Leave No Trace is best understood as an educational and ethical program, not as a set of rules and regulations.

The 7 Principles of Leave No Trace:

1. Plan ahead and prepare. Know your route, weather and wind conditions, and your own capabilities.
2. Travel and camp on established surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly. Bring your trash with you when you leave, and clean up more if you can!
4. Leave what you find.
5. Minimize campfire impacts.
6. Respect wildlife. Do not attempt to harass or feed wildlife, and give wildlife a wide berth.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.



Transportation to Beaver Island

Beaver Island can be accessed by both boat (private or ferry) and airplane (private or commercial).

BEAVER ISLAND BOAT COMPANY

Ferry service providing travel for passengers, vehicles and freight (e.g., kayaks) between Charlevoix and Beaver Island. 888-446-4095 or (231) 547-2311.

www.bibco.com

FRESH AIR AVIATION

Air service from the Charlevoix Airport to Beaver Island Township Airport. 888-FLY-RGHT (359-7448) or (231) 237-9482.

www.freshairaviation.net

ISLAND AIRWAYS

Air service from the Charlevoix Airport to the private Welke Airport. 800-524-6895, Charlevoix local (231) 547-2141, or Beaver Island local (231) 448-2071.

www.islandairways.com



Other Recreational Opportunities

Beaver Island is home to an ever-expanding interconnected system of trails and pathways, providing for unique hiking and mountain biking experiences. In addition, the Island's gravel, uncongested roadways are idyllic for family bike rides and long peaceful walks. Expect to exchange a friendly wave with Islanders as you pass!

Beaver Island's unique geographic placement within the Great Lakes Basin also makes it a great destination for sailing, birding and fishing. In addition, the Island's remote location and relatively small development footprint make it an ideal location for gazing at the night sky.

SUGGESTED GEAR

1. Extra paddle tied to your craft
2. Insect repellent
3. This Guide and a compass, GPS, and other navigational tools
4. Emergency equipment like radios, whistles, and repair kits
5. First-aid kit
6. Extra ropes
7. Pocket knife
8. Flashlight
9. Waterproof matches
10. Cell phone (keep in a dry bag)
11. Extra drinking water and food
12. Waterproof bags
13. Clothing for bad weather (even if the forecast looks good!)
14. Sun protection (sunscreen, wide brim hat, light-colored long-sleeve shirt and pants)



Accommodations on Beaver Island

There are two formal campsites along the coastline that paddlers can use (see below). Rustic campsites with a small tent platform and fire pit are still under development at other locations around the Island.

The Emerald Isle Hotel offers shower facilities to campers for a fee; (231) 448-2376 or www.emeraldislehotel.com.

St. James Township Campground

Located on the north end of Beaver Island. Overlooks Lake Michigan and Garden Island, with views of Squaw and Whiskey Islands. Twelve rustic campsites, pit toilets and hand pumps. No showers or electricity.

Bill Wagner Memorial Campground

Located on the east side of Beaver Island on the shore of Lake Michigan with a view of the west coast of mainland Michigan. Twenty-two rustic campsites, pit toilets and hand pumps. No showers or electricity.

Other Accommodations

Beaver Island has other lodging accommodations, including motels, B&Bs, rental homes and inland campgrounds. Accommodations fill up quickly during the summer, so be sure to call ahead of time.

Eating on the Island

Restaurants and bars are clustered in and around St. James, offering a range of menu items and drinks. Groceries and other wares can be purchased at McDonough's Market, a full-service grocery store.

Supplies and Other Provisions

Supplies (e.g., batteries, tarps, rope, etc.) can be purchased at the hardware store located just south of the ferry dock.

Outfitters

Happy Paddle

At Jewell Gillespie Park. (630) 488-2949.
www.happypaddle.com

Lakeside Sports

26250 Main Street, adjacent to the ferry dock.
(231) 448-2166.

BEAVER ISLAND FUN

Beaver Island has a number of fun and interesting events and festivals throughout the paddling season:

Beaver Island's **St. Patrick Day** and **Fourth of July** holidays both offer festive parades and activities. The Fourth of July weekend is widely regarded as the busiest weekend on the Island.

The **Beaver Island Music Festival** is held at the Beaver Island Hideaway Campground. The Music Festival draws thousands of people to come hear bands and musicians over three days in July each year.

July's **Museum Week** features presentations on nature, oral history and Native American culture, live music, nature walks, a pet show and an art show.

Baroque on Beaver is a musical festival and concert series that draws thousands of visitors and musicians from Michigan and beyond. The event is held in various locations throughout the Island during the last week of July and first week of August.

Homecoming is an Island-wide event held each August with a festival, food, music and a softball tournament.

For all events on the Island, visit the Beaver Island Community Calendar at www.biccenter.org/calendar.



Other Points of Interest

Marine Museum

The Beaver Island Marine Museum is in an old net shed originally built in 1905 and first used as a museum in 1976. The museum has two floors of exhibits that tell stories of shipwrecks, Coast Guard rescues, ship building, Island vessels, and even diving. The museum is staffed and maintained by volunteers from the Beaver Island Historical Society.



Historical Society

The Mormon Print Shop was built in 1850 by the Island's Mormon settlers. The building is now used as the Beaver Island Historical Society's main museum, with exhibits on important historical figures as well as diaries and other artifacts. As of this writing, the Beaver Island Historical Society is fundraising for an expansion of this museum, which will be renamed the Museum of Island Life.



The Protar Home

The Protar Home is one of two sites on Beaver Island registered on the National Register of Historic Places. Maintained by the Beaver Island Historical Society, the historic home and tomb of Feodar Protar draw visitors interested in learning more about this cherished philanthropist and important figure in Beaver Island's history. Photo credit: News on the 'Net.



Heritage Park

Heritage Park is maintained by the Beaver Island Historical Society and located on Donegal Bay Road. The park features several historical items, including the generator that first provided power to the Island as well as an old tilt-wheel grader. These outdoor exhibits are easily seen from the bike path and the library.



Beaver Island Birding Trail

As the largest Island in Lake Michigan, Beaver Island is a critical stopover site for migratory birds. Some of the bird species found on Beaver Island are familiar residents like chickadees, woodpeckers and grouse, while others visit the archipelago as part of their annual cycle. In the winter, northern visitors



such as snowy owls, horned larks, snow buntings and long-tailed ducks can be found. However, the greatest diversity of species can be seen during spring and fall migration, as well as

during the summer breeding season. Large flocks of warblers, vireos, sparrows and thrushes feed along the coastal forests and dunes as they migrate in spring. Many of these birds take advantage of a plentiful food source in May: the large swarms of non-biting midges that emerge from Lake Michigan. The Island's 35 birding locations can be easily located by the bright Birding Trail signs along the road.

www.beaverislandbirdingtrail.org

BIRDING ETIQUETTE

Out of respect for Island property owners and to protect migrating and nesting birds, please observe the following rules of birding etiquette:

1. Access private property only with express permission by owner.
2. Do not approach bird nests under any circumstances.
3. Keep all pets on leashes during breeding season.
4. Do not use taped or smartphone bird calls or songs during breeding season (May 1 - July 15).
5. Please stay on trails to protect ground-nesting birds.



RESPECT PLANT AND ANIMAL WILDLIFE

Stay away from nesting sites and birds with their young. Many shorebirds and loons use shorelines and interior lakes to raise their young, and disturbance leads to predation. Photograph flowers but do not remove.

Invasive Species

Unfortunately, invasive species are a common problem in many Great Lakes communities. One benefit of living on an island is that it can be more difficult for invasive species to establish colonies. However, once invasives are established, it is more expensive and sometimes impossible to remove them. Therefore, even a few invasive species can cause significant disruptions to the ecological integrity of an island.



Clean off vegetation and dry all water from boats and gear before transferring between waterways on Beaver Island. Observations of invasive species can be reported at the Beaver Island Community Center in St. James.

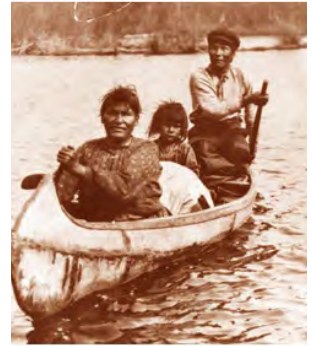
A Unique History

Oral accounts show that Native American tribes passed through Beaver Island on journeys through the Great Lakes, leaving many archaeological artifacts behind. In the mid 1700s, the Odawa migrated westward and permanently settled on Beaver Island. European settlers arrived on the Island in the early 1800s and trapped, fished, and logged on the Island. By 1850, settlers were flourishing on the Island.

In 1848, Mormon leader James Strang formed a colony on the Island. The colony contributed to the Island's infrastructure by building roads and homes and cultivating ground. James Strang became the self-proclaimed King of Beaver Island and caused disputes between the Native Americans and other European settlers on the Island. In 1856, this unrest erupted; James Strang was killed and the Mormon colony collapsed.

Irish fishermen and their families began to settle the Island in the mid 1800s. The population of the Island began to grow steadily. Calling the Island "America's Emerald Isle," these families created an Irish culture that still exists today. Fishing and logging remained the mainstays of the Island's economy while the Island accepted new groups of immigrants and entered the industrial age.

Today, the Island remains among Michigan's most beloved and unique communities. The Island community is mix of newcomers and long-standing families, each bringing a unique perspective.



Above: The Beaver Island Lighthouse in 1930 and today. Photos Courtesy of the US Coast Guard and Networks Northwest



At left: A historic Island barn.

Beginning Your Adventure

This Guide provides information to help you plan your trip along the Beaver Island Water Trail. All Water Trail users are encouraged to register at the Community Center prior to beginning a trip.





Mile 0 is located two blocks south of the Community Center at Jewell Gillespie Park. A table of approximate geographic coordinates and distances between access points is provided in the back of this Guide.

The Map Index on the next page provides an overall view of the coastal Water Trail and the corresponding map pages. Note that the map directions will change beginning on Map 6 to indicate the western side of the route. The key below shows Water Trail features and amenities.








NOTE: Beaver Island continues to invest in signage and other access-site amenities. However, several access sites do not yet have signs, and amenities are minimal. Be sure to carry a working GPS unit and this Guide to properly locate access sites.



Map Features and Trails

-  River / Stream
-  Lake / Pond
-  State or Local Parklands
-  Ferry Crossing












Water Trail

-  North
-  Access Site
-  Birding Site
-  Coastal Trail Distances
-  Caution / Boat Traffic
-  Coastal Trail
-  Community Center
-  Emergency Call Station

45.74387, -85.50016

GPS Coordinates, Lat/Long (approximate)

Amenities

-  Parking
-  Restrooms
-  Rustic Launch
-  Food
-  Rustic Camping
-  Camping Fee
-  Picnic
-  Outfitter
-  Beach
-  Hand Pump
-  Fishing

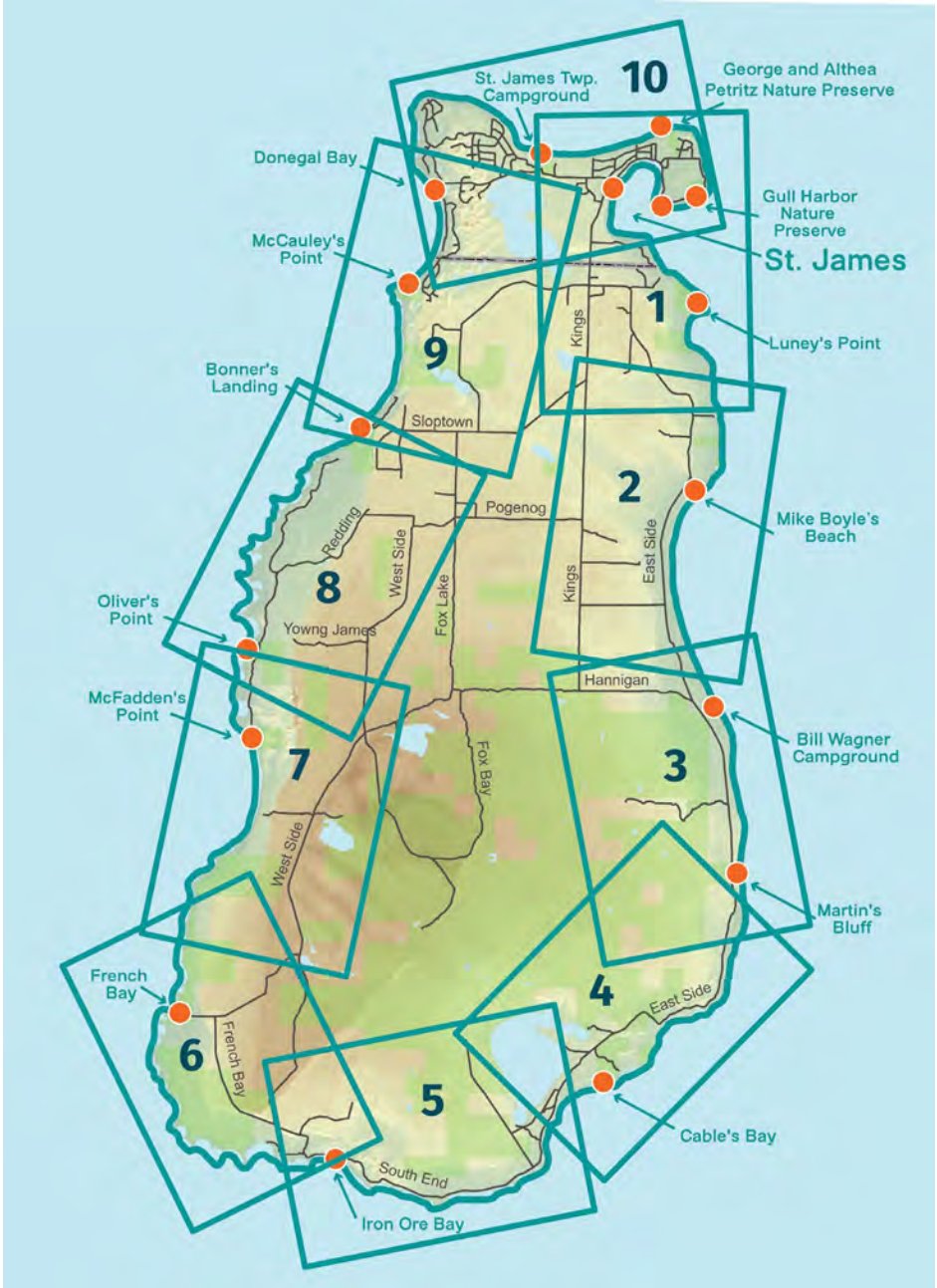
**For Emergencies
Dial 9-1-1**

Note: Cell phone communications and emergency rescue services may be limited in the southern half of the Island.

Be advised that there is a 30-second delay when placing a call.

Map Index

The map pages are numbered to correspond to the sections shown below. The North symbol indicates the page position relative to due north.



DOWNTOWN ST. JAMES



Grocery Store

Marine
Museum

41 mi

St. James Twp.
Hall and Harbor
Light Park

FERRY TO CHARLEVOIX - 32 Miles

Beaver Island
Yacht Dock

FERRY
DOCK

Jewell Gillespie Park/
St. James Twp. Beach



0 mi

Beaver Island
Community Center

Hardware Store

38 mi

Paradise
Bay



Little Sand Bay Nature Preserve

Just south of Luney's Point, Little Sand Bay Nature Preserve is a 28-acre mix of conifer forest, cedar swamp and sand dunes with 1,300 feet of Lake Michigan frontage. Michigan monkey-flower, Lake Huron tansy and other threatened or endangered plant species thrive here. A short trail with foot bridges allows visitors to explore without damaging the sensitive habitat. The preserve provides public access to Lake Michigan and to a shallow, marshy beach. Parking is off of East Side Drive southeast of Welke Airport.





Spotting History

As your paddle takes you south along the Island, you may see old net stakes from early Irish fisherman, or remnants of docks that transported lumber, wool, cattle and crops to the mainland. The access site at Mike Boyle's Beach is currently marked by a large spool buried in the sand.



Mike Boyle's Beach

45.69383, -85.49947



5 mi

Sand Bay

Paula Simpson
Trail / CMU /
Old Burke Farm



6 mi

CMU Biological Station

You'll also pass the Central Michigan University Biological Station, a base for researchers studying the Great Lakes and the unique biology of Beaver Island.

7 mi



Hannigan's Road



Bill Wagner Campground

The Bill Wagner Campground contains 22 primitive camping sites and a water pump set among a dry mesic forest type. This is an extremely rare natural community, and this location is one of the top seven ranked dry mesic northern forests in the State of Michigan. The Seven Bridges Trail is across the road from the campground.

7 mi

Bill Wagner Campground

45.65708, -85.49423



Seven Bridges Trail

Point LaPar

DNR

8 mi

Martins Pit

Johnny Martin's Trail

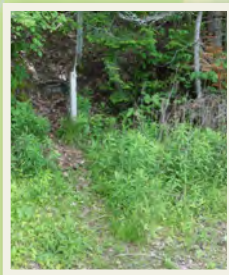
East Side

9 mi

Kilty's Pt.

Martin's Bluff

In the early 1990s, a portion of Martin's Bluff fell into Lake Michigan, leaving a steep sandy cliff. This cliff is now undergoing succession. The Wicklow Beach Access Road runs along the top of the sandy cliff, affording easy access. It is also the highest viewpoint of Lake Michigan on the east side of the Island, overlooking the village of Goodhart in Emmett County. The bluff can be accessed from the beach via a steep staircase with a rope railing.



Martin's Bluff

45.62885, -85.48800



10 mi





MARTIN'S BLUFF TO CABLE'S BAY

MILES 10 TO 14





Beaver Head Light
 Massive boulders forming reefs can be viewed in this area. The Beaver Head Light and Signal Station was built in 1851. The Beaver Head Light marks the west side of the approach used by most vessels passing from Lake Michigan into the Straits of Mackinac.



Beaver Head Lighthouse

Iron Ore Creek
 An electric cable that supplied the Lighthouse can be viewed near the mouth of Iron Ore Creek. A series of cribs can be viewed to the west of the creek near the point. The cribs are the remains of an old dock that was used to transport virgin timber during the Island's early logging boom.



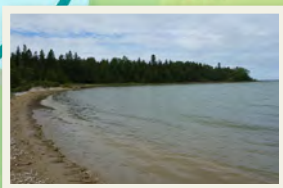
Iron Ore Bay
 45.57922, -85.58446





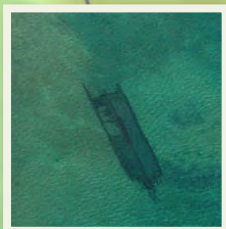
French Bay

45.60371, -85.62281



French Bay

The French Bay area features many small bays with narrow sand and gravel beaches. Due to the undeveloped landscape in this corner of the Island, this area is known for white pelican sightings as well as a number of bald eagle nests. The threatened dwarf lake iris also grows in this area; feel free to photograph, but please do not disturb!



The Wreck of the Bessie Smith

45.57597, -85.59639

In the middle of Little Iron Ore Bay lies a three-masted schooner, the Bessie Smith (1873-1874). The ship broke in two pieces while carrying iron ore and lies in 10-15 feet of water.

18 mi

19 mi

Cheyenne Point

Iron Ore Bay

Iron Ore Bay

DNR

French Bay

West Side

DNR

DNR

DNR

DNR

23 mi

22 mi

21 mi

20 mi

South End

Little Iron Ore Bay

McFadden's Point

45.65075, -85.60630



Unique Dunes

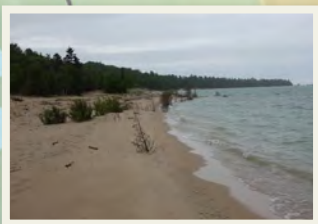
This area contains the largest dune system on the Island. Parabolic dunes are a rare natural feature because they require a special combination of wind, sand and water action. Numerous blowouts give these dunes their characteristic shape. Numerous piping plovers, a critically endangered shorebird species, have been known to nest in this area.





OLIVER'S POINT TO BONNER'S LANDING

MILES 27 TO 31



Donegal Bay Beach

45.74437, -85.56378



34 mi



McCauley's Point

45.72830, -85.56974



33 mi



32 mi



31 mi

Bonner's Landing

45.70192, -85.58239



Font Lake



Font Lake

McCauley's Point

McCauley's Point contains a system of dunes subject to continual wind and wave erosion.

Kuebler Trail

The Kuebler Trail is the last intact stretch of the former railroad bed and runs behind the Barney's Lake Nature Preserve, with a trailhead at Protar's Tomb.

Protar's Tomb

Russian immigrant Feodor Protar was a self-taught healer who served as the Island's unofficial doctor from 1893 until his death in 1925. His historic house and a tomb built in his honor can still be viewed.

Barney's Lake Preserve

Barney's Lake



Microwave Tower on Sloptown Road

Protar's Tomb / Kuebler Trail

Sloptown

Bonner's Landing

Bonner's Landing

Protar's Tomb

Fox Lake





The St. James Campground

Located up a steep bluff, but can be accessed from a footpath at the shore. Here, the night sky puts on a brilliant show undimmed by mainland light pollution. During times of active sunspot activity, the aurora borealis — the famous “Northern Lights” — provide a dramatic display.

St. James Twp Campground

45.75078, -85.53821



Donegal Bay Beach

45.74437, -85.56378

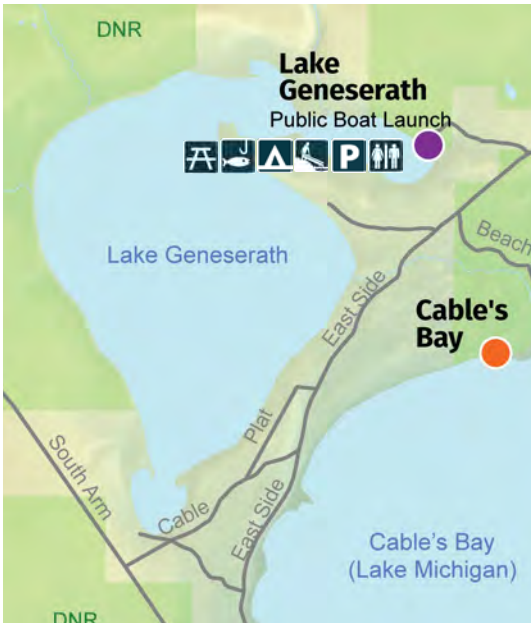




Font Lake is approximately 382 acres and is the Island's second largest lake. Part of its western shore is dotted with homes, while a publicly-accessible boat launch is available on the north end. The "floating islands" near the south edge of the lake are vegetative mats that move and are used as nesting sites by loons and other waterfowl.



Photo of a family of common mergansers on Font Lake submitted by Tom Hawkins.

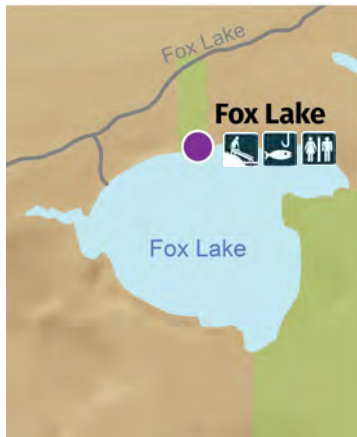


Lake Geneserath is the largest of the Island's inland lakes. With depths reaching 55 feet, the lake provides fishing opportunities for species such as bass, northern pike, perch and bluegill, and the lake has been stocked with walleye. A public access site and boat launch are available on the north arm of the lake. Some old cottages and new residential homes dot the shoreline, primarily along the eastern side.





Barney's Lake is about 45 acres in size. The lake has been stocked in the past with largemouth and smallmouth bass and continues to provide habitat for bass, northern pike, and even one reported sturgeon in 2014! An access site is available on the northeastern shore, and hiking trails are being developed around the lake.



Fox Lake is 75 acres in size and is located in the southwestern interior of the Island. Fox Lake supports a variety of fish and features a small walking trail. Fox Lake's public access site is well known for successful fishing and its proximity to "Big Birch," one of the oldest birch trees in Michigan.



Greene's Lake is 62 acres in size and is located in the southwestern interior of the Island. Greene's Lake is shallow and freezes totally most winters. Many rare insects and other animals live in the rich wetlands and extensive bog system surrounding the lake.



Table of Distances Between Access Points (in miles) and Approximate GPS Coordinates (decimal degrees)

All Paddlers Must Register at the Community Center Prior to Beginning Trip

Access Site	Miles from Previous	Latitude	Longitude
Jewell Gillespie Park/St. James Township Beach	0.0	45.74511	-85.52044
Luneŷ's Point	2.4	45.72177	-85.50239
Mike Boyle's Beach	2.3	45.69383	-85.49947
Bill Wagner Campground	2.7	45.65708	-85.49423
Martin's Bluff	2.1	45.62885	-85.48800
Cable's Bay	3.5	45.59295	-85.51971
Iron Ore Bay	4.3	45.57922	-85.58446
French Bay	4.3	45.60371	-85.62281
McFadden's Point	3.7	45.65075	-85.60630
Oliver's Point	1.3	45.66568	-85.60781
Bonner's Landing	3.9	45.70192	-85.58239
McCauley's Point	2.2	45.72830	-85.56974
Donegal Bay Beach	1.2	45.74437	-85.56378
St. James Township Campground	3.0	45.75078	-85.53821
George and Althea Petritz Nature Preserve	1.5	45.75498	-85.50785
Gull Harbor Nature Preserve	1.4	45.74387	-85.50016
St. James Township Hall and Harbor Light Park	0.6	45.74303	-85.51015
Jewell Gillespie Park/St. James Township Beach	1.0	45.74511	-85.52044
Distance Around Island	41.4		



Beaver Island Water Trail

WATERPROOF PADDLING GUIDE



Photo: Uncommon Adventures

CONTACT:

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Beaver Island, Michigan 49782

231-448-2022

www.biccenter.org

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