



Porcupine Mountains Visitor

2020 Printed by the Friends of the Porkies

www.michigan.gov/porkies



THE ROAD TO THE PORKIES

The east entranceway to Porcupine Mountains is afforded via M-107, which has always been the first impression that many visitors experience on their first trip here. The long stretch of road leading into the park opens to a spectacular view of proud, standing Michigan mountains, cradled by the crystal-blue waters of Lake Superior. Last summer this unique view and eastern access became severely threatened.

High Great Lakes water levels continue to be a problem across the region, with erosion and flooding experienced all around Michigan. The Porkies is no exception.

Lake Superior is closer to M-107 than ever before, especially during storm events. The waves have been chipping away at the embankments for years. However, this past year we lost a significant amount of lakeshore that threatened safe passage and structure of the road.

The DNR Baraga crew teamed up with the Ontonagon County Road Commission to successfully execute an emergency plan of shoring up the most critical sections of shoreline by piling large rocks along the banks, over about half a mile in total length. This plan was a result of several public meetings and had the approval of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Then November brought high winds and 10 foot waves that smashed onto our shores, causing parts of the non-armored sections of shoreline to erode right up to the edge of the road, and in one location undermined over a foot of road base. However, the half mile of road that was armored previously was not impacted by this storm, proving its capability to hold off erosion.

To address areas still susceptible to damage, another emergency response plan was set in place for the new critical areas. The previously combined crews were called again and rebuilt the shoreline and armored until the snow set in.

Getting some extra help is the plan. For the first time since 2001 the Army National Guard will be teaming up with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The guard is expected to be in the park in early June to run their yearly drills that benefit the park. The guard will be working on graveling some roads, running electrical wires, fixing roofs and shoring up another stretch of M-107.

Meanwhile, the county road commission is still applying for federal grants that may one day implement a long-term solution to the erosion problem along M-107.

THE WILDERNESS VISITOR CENTER



The Wilderness Visitor Center is open through mid-October. Daily hours 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. EST.

The Wilderness Visitor Center is located along South Boundary Road, one quarter mile from the M-107 Junction. This should be your first stop when visiting the Porcupine Mountains. Here you can check trail conditions, register for backpacking, purchase fishing/hunting licenses, get directions to scenic sites and more.

During busy times of the day, please keep your party size within the building to a minimum. There is plenty of beauty outside to enjoy while you wait, including a 1-mile self-guided trail that winds through giant eastern hemlocks and over majestic streams.

WELCOME

This year, given the coronavirus pandemic, activities at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park will run a little differently. There will be changes in park daily operations, with more expected as the situation continues to evolve.

One protective measure that will persist is social distancing. It is understandable that first time visitors will want to experience the most popular places within the park. To help keep the busiest sites capable of 6 foot spacing, we challenge our returning visitors to get out and find someplace new to explore. The Porkies has 60,000 acres and almost 100 miles of hiking trails. Get out there and feed your adventurous side!

Suggestions on different places to visit are available at the Wilderness Visitor Center, campground offices and online at www.michigan.gov/PorkiesVC. In this time of crisis if we continue to remain patient and work together, unforgettable memories can still be created safely.



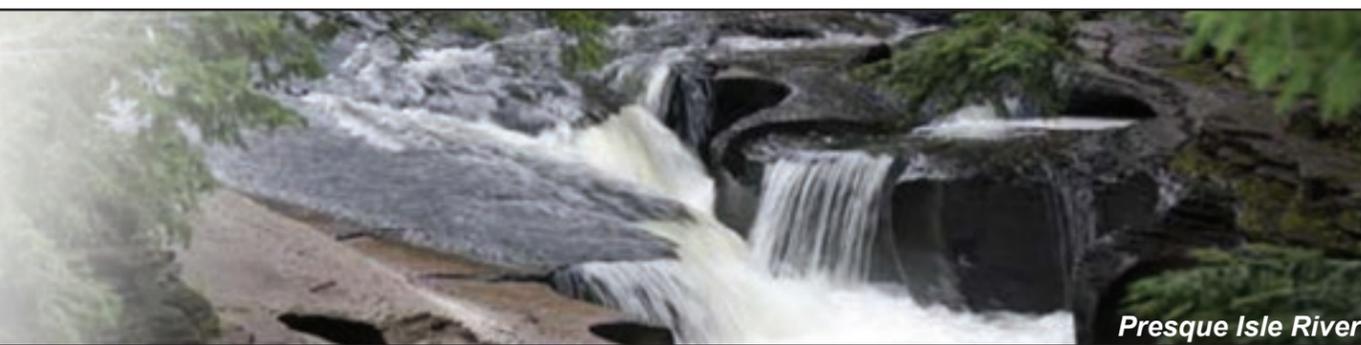
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The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the State's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

Scenic Areas



Lake of the Clouds

Standing along the top of the steep escarpment you look out over the beautiful Lake of the Clouds, surrounded by lush forests and dramatic mountains. On clear days, you can see over 20 miles away. It is easy to see why this is the most visited site in the park.

Located at the end of M-107, only a short 100-yard walk up a paved trail or accessible boardwalk will bring you to this amazing view.



© Sandy Richardson

Summit Peak

At 1,958 feet tall, Summit Peak is the highest point in the park. From the parking area, there is a half-mile packed dirt trail that winds through huge hardwood trees, with benches stationed along the route. The trail leads to wooden stairs and walkways that access two breathtaking panoramic views.

The turn-off for this site is located half-way down South Boundary Road. A turn-around and parking area is situated at the end of the entrance road. It is recommended visitors drop trailers and campers off in the designated lot located as you exit South Boundary Road before they head up the mountain.

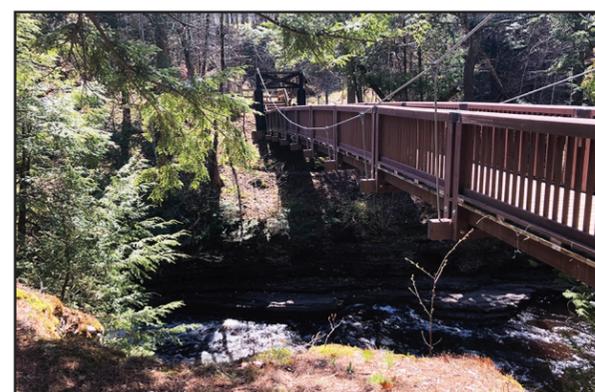


© Sandy Richardson

Presque Isle River

The Presque Isle River is located at the very west side of the park. Here, there is a rustic campground, pavilion in the day use area and three of the biggest waterfalls in the park. From the day use area, the hiking trail leads to wooden stairs and walkways that take you to the falls. At the river mouth, a beautiful suspension bridge goes over the fast-flowing water and the trail leads to Lake Superior and the perfect spot for sunsets.

Take the flat gravel trail behind the DNR's Presque Isle contact booth for the shortest and easiest access to view one of the waterfalls, Nawadaha.



ARMY NATIONAL GUARD TRAINING



Photo by Sgt. Jeremy Miller

This year at the Porcupine Mountains we are hosting the Army National Guard.

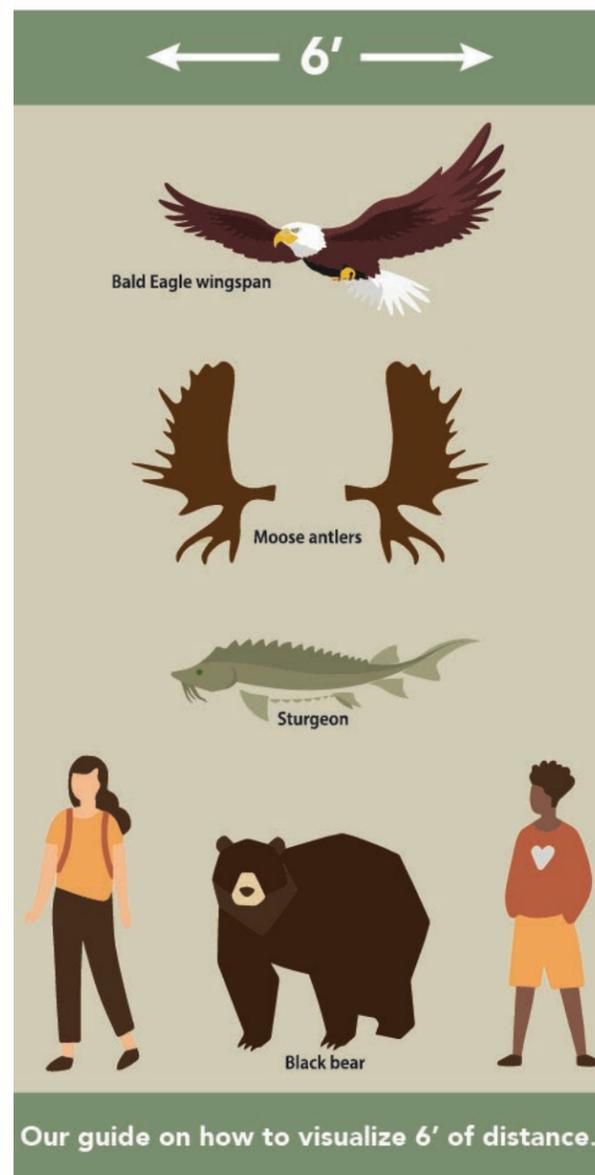
Members of the guard are required to partake in several trainings each year and this year will be doing so by completing several labor-intensive jobs within the park.

Some of the jobs the guardsmen and women will be working on include laying down gravel, running electrical wiring in buildings, putting

new roofs on old buildings, placing culverts and while working with DNR staff armor another large portion of M-107.

The Guard is staying periodically throughout the summer, not just doing repairs but are also practicing their combat training. Loud sounds may accompany these drills and park staff will have signs posted ahead of time to keep visitors informed.

SOCIAL DISTANCING MICHIGAN WILDLIFE EDITION



Our guide on how to visualize 6' of distance.

WHAT TO DO HERE

Less than 2 hours
Union Mine Interpretive Trail
Easy – 1.0 mile – Looped trail

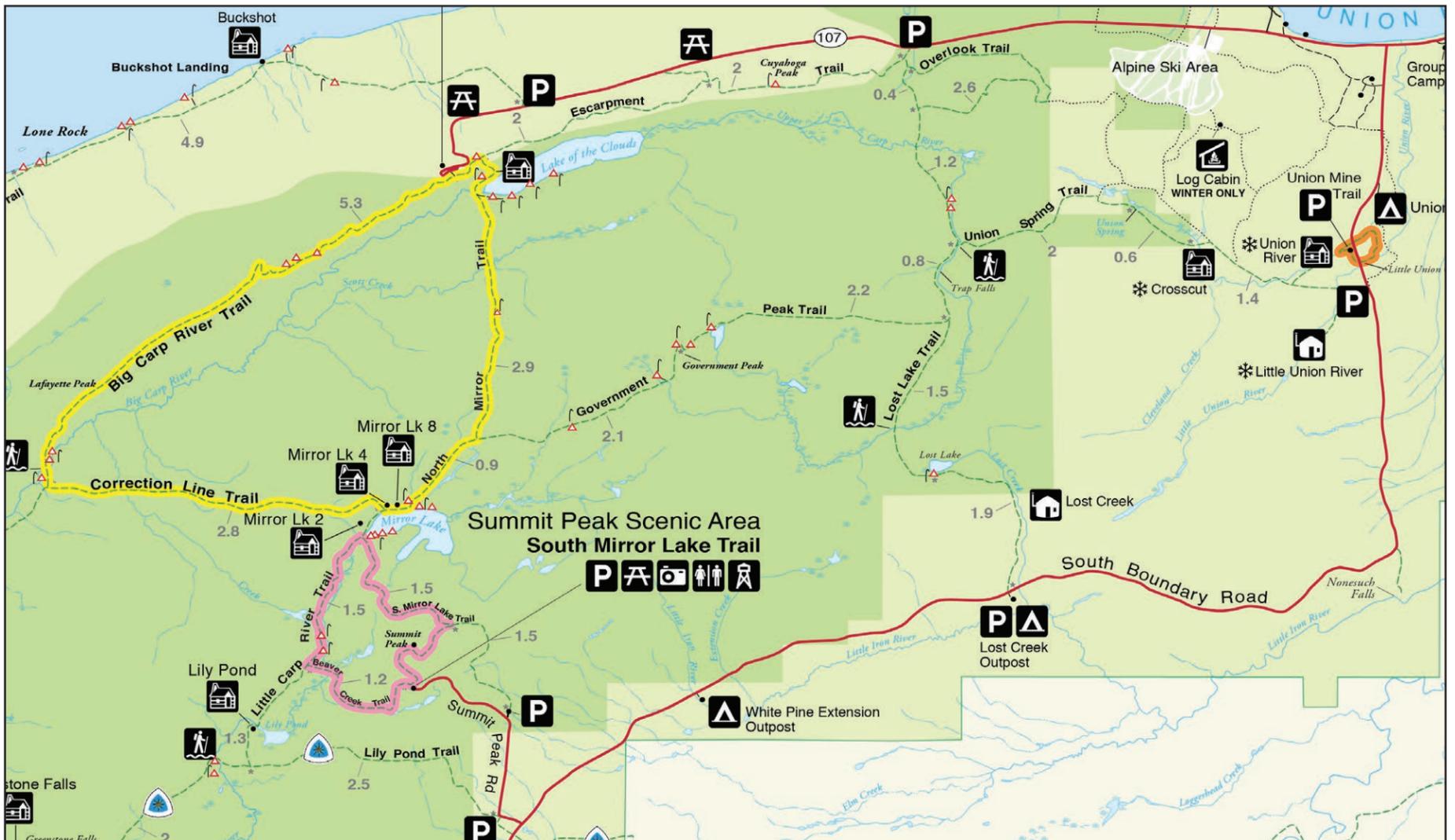
This short hike takes you through lush forests and follows the Union River, which produces many dramatic waterfalls. This is a self-guided tour that has informational panels along the trail telling the story of Union Mine. This loop contains un-even ground. Sturdy, closed-toe shoes are recommended.

2-5 hours
Summit Peak
Medium – 5.2 miles – Looped trail

This loop takes you up to the viewing tower of Summit Peak to the highest point in the park. From there, go down the back side of the mountain through old growth hemlock groves toward sparkling Mirror Lake, stocked with splake. Following the creeks back toward the parking lot, there is plenty to hear and see on the trail. This trail may be muddy after rainstorms. Be prepared for large elevation changes.

5 hours or more
Big Carp/North Mirror Lake
Difficult – 12.2 miles – Looped trail

Starting at the Lake of the Clouds, take the Big Carp River Trail off the boardwalk and experience many vistas from 300-foot ledges. Going south towards the north side of Mirror Lake, you then head back north to Lake of The Clouds, the small foot path over the Big Carp River, with the looming escarpment above, is your sign you are almost at the end of the hike. Pack plenty of water, long sections on this trail have no source of water.



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

Before the parks creation, some viewed the forests of the Porcupine Mountains only as a resource to be harvested. Fortunately, there were a great deal of people, many of whom were passionate locals, that saw the true value of the Porcupine Mountains.

Spreading this passion and staying persistent, the Porcupine Mountains State Park was finally born in 1945. Now grown to include over 60,000 acres this park truly is a wilderness experience to be had.

This year, the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park has reached its 75th Anniversary, and the park is celebrating.

With combined efforts of our valued Friends Group we are finally able to add the Cotten Cabin property to our park. Located just East of Speaker's Cabin along Lake Superior on Tibel creek this new addition comes with a truly breathtaking rustic lodge and sauna.



The celebration continues into this summer as we share memories online and have fun. Check out the websites and Facebook pages for the park, as well as the Friends of the Porkies, to keep up on the action.

Years have passed, and much has changed, but the essence of the Porcupine Mountains lives on, let's make the next 75 as amazing as the last.

Recreation Passport Now Required



Vehicles entering the Winter Sports Complex must have a valid Recreation Passport.

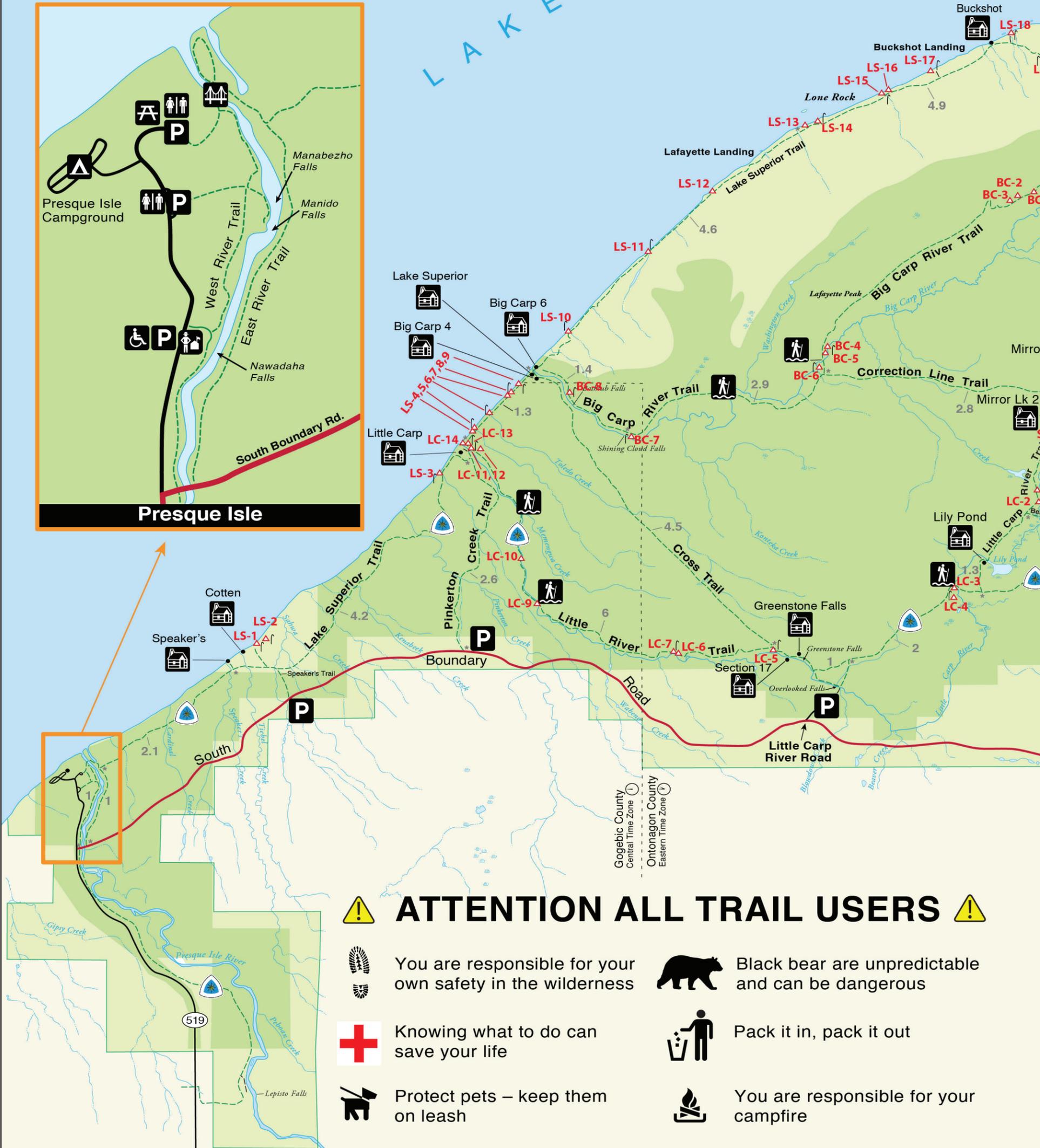
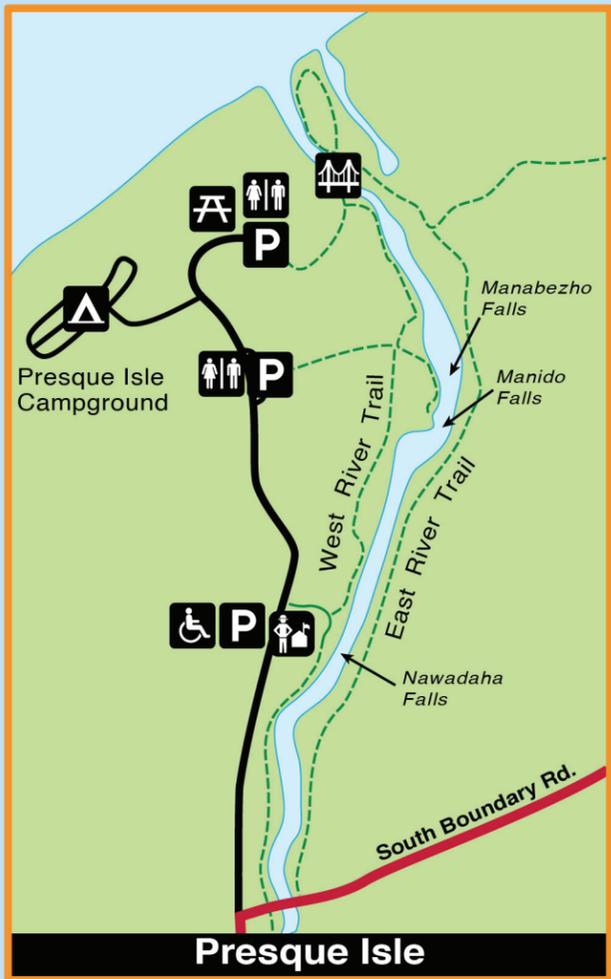
This includes the Ski Hill, Music Festival, chalet programs, and Snowburst Winter Carnival

Purchase yours at the park headquarters or when renewing your plate with Secretary of State.

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park



LAKESUPERIOR



ATTENTION ALL TRAIL USERS

- 
- 
- 

You are responsible for your own safety in the wilderness
- 

Black bear are unpredictable and can be dangerous
- 

Knowing what to do can save your life
- 

Pack it in, pack it out
- 

Protect pets – keep them on leash
- 

You are responsible for your campfire

Plan Ahead and Prepare
Know the rules for the area and always be prepared.

Be Considerate of Others
Respect other visitors by maintaining appropriate noise levels.

of the Clouds Scenic Area
Escarpment Trail



- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Accessible area | Lookout tower | Scenic area | Cross country ski trail |
| Backcountry cabin | Modern campground | Suspension bridge | Hiking trail |
| Backpack campsite | Parking | Toilets | North Country Trail |
| Bear pole location | Picnic area | Warming shelter | Primary forest |
| Boat launch | Ranger station | Winter lodging | Park land |
| Hiking trailhead | River crossing | Yurt | |
| Information | Rustic campground | | |

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.

Cabin/Yurt (*available for rent in winter)	Number of Occupants	Trailhead Parking	Route	Distance	Distance in Winter	Fee/night
Big Carp 6	6	Pinkerton Creek	Pinkerton to Lake Superior Trail East	4 mi		\$68
Big Carp 8	4	Pinkerton Creek	Pinkerton to Lake Superior Trail East	4 mi		\$68
Buckshot	4	Lake Superior Trailhead	Lake Superior Trail	3 mi		\$68
Cotton	8	Speakers Creek	Speakers Creek Trail	1 mi		\$125
Crosscut*	2	Union Spring	Union Spring Trail	1 mi	4.5 mi	\$68
Gitche Gumees*	8	Gitche Gumees	East of S. Boundary Rd. on M-107	Drive in	100 yds	\$68
Greenstone Falls	4	Little Carp River Rd	Little Carp River Trail	1 mi		\$68
Lake of the Clouds	4	Overlook at Lake of the Clouds	Escarpment Trail to North Mirror Lk Trail	1 mi		\$68
Lake Superior	4	Pinkerton Creek	Pinkerton to Lake Superior Trail East	4 mi		\$68
Lily Pond	4	Summit Peak Parking	Beaver Creek to Little Carp Trail S.E.	1.5 mi		\$68
Little Carp	4	Pinkerton Creek	Pinkerton to Lk Superior Trail intersection	3 mi		\$68
Little Union River*	4	Union Spring	Little Union River Yurt Trail	1 mi	3 mi	\$68
Lost Creek	4	Lost Lake Trail	Little Union River Yurt Trail	1 mi		\$68
Mirror Lake 2	2	Summit Peak Parking	Beaver Creek to Little Carp Trail N.W.	2.5 mi		\$68
Mirror Lake 4	4	Summit Peak Parking	Beaver Creek to Little Carp Trail N.W.	2.75 mi		\$68
Mirror Lake 8	8	Summit Peak Parking	Beaver Creek to Little Carp Trail N.W.	2.75 mi		\$68
Section 17	4	Little Carp River Trailhead	Little Carp River Trail	1 mi		\$68
Speakers	4	Speakers Creek	Speakers Creek Trail	1 mi		\$68
Tiny House*	4	Inside Union Bay Campground	West end of Union Bay Campground	Drive in	250 yds	\$100
Union Bay East*	4	Inside Union Bay Campground	West end of Union Bay Campground	Drive in	250 yds	\$68
Union Bay West*	4	Inside Union Bay Campground	West end of Union Bay Campground	Drive in	250 yds	\$68
Union River*	8	Union Spring	Union Spring Trail	1 mi	3 mi	\$68
White Birch	2	Deer Yard	Deer Yard Trail	0.75 mi		\$68
Whitetail*	8	Deer Yard	Deer Yard Trail	1 mi	1 mi	\$68

NEWS FROM THE BAT CAVE

Researchers installed solar panels at the entrance to the Mead Mine, located along the road to Lake of the Clouds. The solar panels operate fans designed to keep the mine a few degrees cooler than usual. Scientists think that cooler temperatures will inhibit the growth of white-nose syndrome, a disease that has already killed over 70% of bats in North America.



White-nose syndrome on a little brown bat.

Places where bats hibernate, such as caves or underground mines (known as hibernacula), are ideal environments for this fungus, as it thrives in cold, damp conditions.

The fungus disrupts hibernation, causing bats to prematurely and repeatedly awaken, quickly depleting their fat reserves and diminishing their body condition, often resulting in their death.

Bear Behavior

Black bears are normally 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.

A bear is studying you if...



- 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.



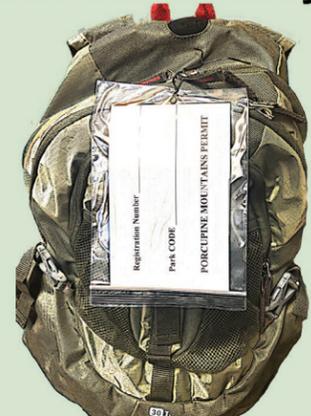
The park spans two different time zones

West of Pinkerton Trail is Central Time, while the rest of the park operates in Eastern Time.



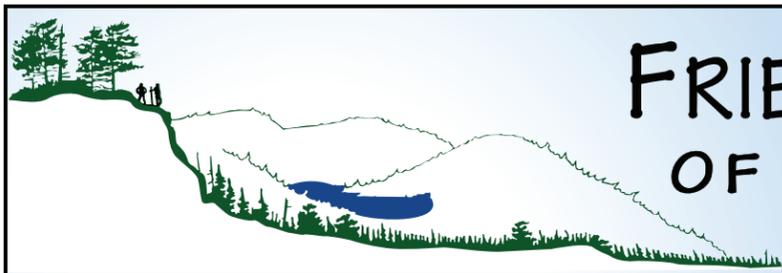
Keep this in mind while planning your daily activities.

Attention Backcountry Users



Backpackers and cabin/yurt users are expected to have their camping pass on display while hiking.

Once set up, the pass is transferred to the tent or door for duration of the stay.



FRIENDS OF THE PORKIES

PO Box 221
Ontonagon, MI 49953
906-884-7443 • Porkies.org

SUPPORTING THE PARK

Happy 75th Anniversary Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park! The Friends is working with park interpreter Katie Urban on celebrating this milestone. Friend's board member Sarah Anderson designed the 75th anniversary logo. We're posting tales of park history on a Blog posted at porkies.org, and we will be posting information about other celebrations on the website, Facebook and Instagram pages.



The Friends group is coordinating with park personnel to increase opportunities for you to volunteer on trails and park improvement projects. We will have our regular trail-clearing day in October, and we are also developing plans to improve the cross-country ski/bike trails using volunteers. Watch for announcements on our website and Facebook page to stay up to date on trail work opportunities.

The most exciting thing the Friends is starting in this anniversary year is an annual "Trails Supporter" decal. With the majority of park visitors using the hiking, skiing and biking trails, we think this is the most important way we can provide direct support. If you love the trails at the Porkies, buy an annual Trails Supporter decal and share the love. One hundred percent of the funds raised by from decal sales will go to trail projects.

One of the best ways you can support the park is to become a member and donate to the Friends of the Porkies. You can become a member, donate, and keep up with Friends happenings, volunteer opportunities and events at www.porkies.org.

FriendsOfThePorkies 

WHAT WE'RE UP TO

We began the year by successfully completing our drive to raise \$20,000 for an inclusive playground at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. This made us eligible to apply for a Partnership Match Grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. In March, we received word that we received the grant. The Friends will be installing the playground in the fall, with site prep work donated by Pestka Construction and the equipment installed by volunteers as a community build project.



Concept playground will be installed in the Union Bay Campground.

The mini-grant program will be getting kids and their teachers from 11 classrooms and seven schools into the woods this fall. With the guidance of the park interpreter, students and teachers will investigate the copper mining and cultural history, geology and ecology of the park. The Friends and Keweenaw National Historical Park partner to fund this program.

Our fourth year of planting a pollinators' garden as part of a service-learning project with a local school had to be delayed until next spring. The annual planting of the garden is an important part of our education and interpretation initiative funded by your donations.

The Friends and park plan to continue the Outdoor Adventure Program during the 2020-21 school year. This partnership among the Friends and Ontonagon Area and Ewen-Trout Creek schools is funded through our education and interpretation program.

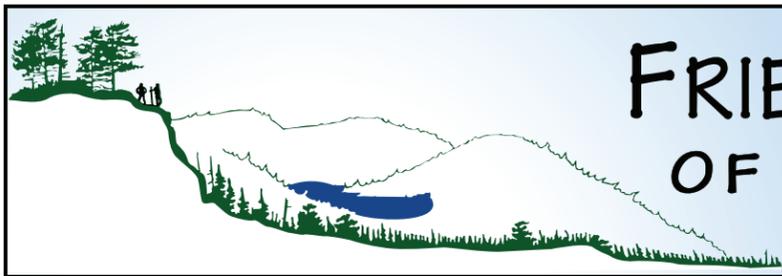
	Individual	\$25
	Household	\$40
	Business	\$50
	Lifetime	\$300
	Pet**	\$10
<i>**owner must be a member</i>		
Membership includes:		
• Subscription to the monthly <i>E-Quill</i> and the <i>Quill Annual Report</i> featuring Friends' yearly accomplishments and plans for the future.		
• Invitation to the annual membership meeting.		
• A collective voice with park users to express your ideas.		

One of the world's most popular nature apps, iNaturalist is happening in the Porkies. This app will help you identify the plants and animals found in the Porkies while connecting you with a community of over a million scientists and naturalists who can help you learn more about nature!

Take a look at the "Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park Project" in iNaturalist and join the fun at www.inaturalist.org



Local school kids plant a pollinator garden in the park.



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ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

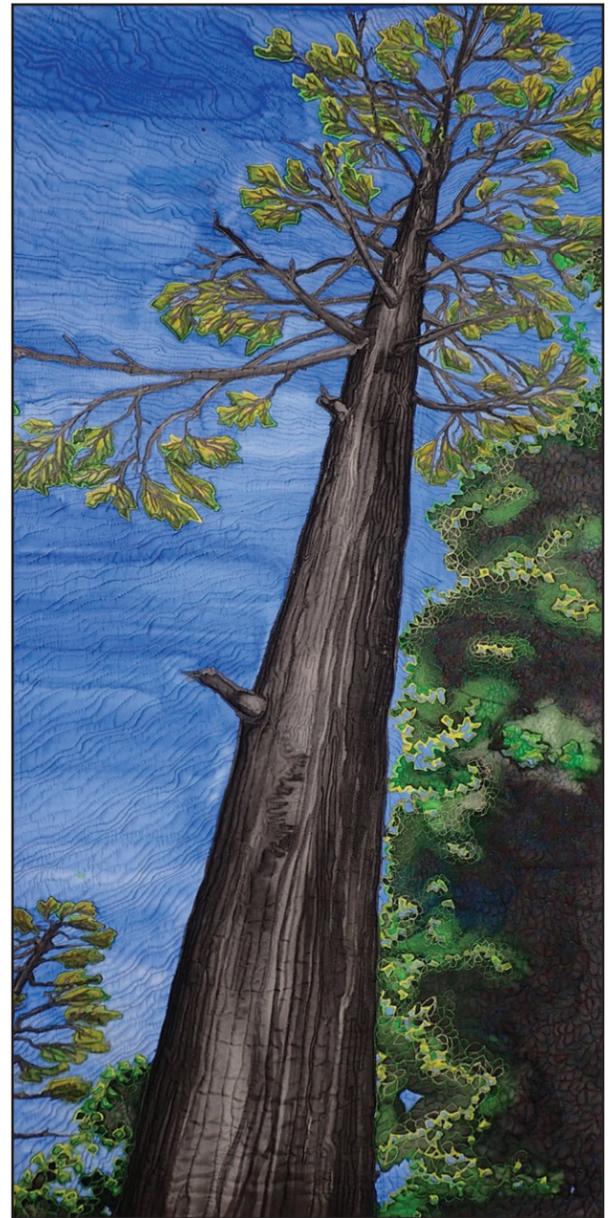
Where art celebrates the Porkies.

The first Michigan state park Artist-In-Residence Program (AIRP) was started here by the Friends of the Porkies in 2007. Since then, AIRP has given artists from around the world the opportunity to share their Porkies wilderness experience through artistic expression. The 2020 artists are:

Vincent Brady Charlotte, MI - Photography
John Highlen Deerton, MI- Writing-Non-fiction
Lee LaVanway Van Nuys, CA-Singer-Songwriter
John Miller Madison, WI-Screen printing
Ken Reif Berwyn, IL - Oil paint
Victoria Rummeler Paris, France - Music- songwriting
Emily Tuszynska Fairfax, VA - Poetry

While in residence, artists give back to the park visitors by presenting a program or workshop that is free to the public. Each artist also donates a piece of art, inspired by their stay, to the Friends of the Porkies AIRP collection. Each year about a dozen of the works are displayed at the Wilderness Visitor Center. You can enjoy the full collection including films, writings, and musical pieces at the ARIP online gallery at www.porkies.org.

Thanks to the generosity of the artists, sale of the reproductions helps support future artists in residence. The Friends sells high quality giclee prints of seven of the art pieces. This year we are excited to add Martha Kotter's "Giant Hemlock". A beautiful piece we think is appropriate for the 75th anniversary of the Porkies. The art prints can be purchased at the Back to Nature shop in the visitor center and online at <http://porkies.org/merchandise/art-prints/>



Giant Hemlock, by Martha Kotter

2020 EVENTS CANCELED

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to cancel several events planned at the park for this year.

Porcupine Mountains Folk School will be back in the summer of 2021, offering many of the great workshops scheduled for 2020. Our blacksmithing instructors, Payne Ann and Bill, are already on board for September, 2021. Hope to see you next summer!

The 16th Annual Porcupine Mountains Music Festival on August 27-29, 2021 will be a fantastic reunion of people, nature and music in the beautiful Porcupine Mountains, a great celebration of community. Visit porkiesfestival.org to keep up-to-date on Porcupine Mountains Music Festival 2021.

Like everyone, the Friends of the Porkies is adjusting to life during a pandemic. We are focusing on opportunities to keep you in touch with the Porkies. The annual Conservation Film Series has switched to on-line showings, the 75th anniversary of the Park will be celebrated with virtual events, and the Friends of the Porkies Facebook page and website are becoming more interactive. Keep in-touch with the place you love by exploring www.Porkies.org

Out of respect for the safety and the well-being of all, the Friends of the Porkies has cancelled the following events in 2020:

- Porcupine Mountains Music Festival
- Porcupine Mountains Folk School Workshops
- Celebrate Lake Superior
- Summer Solstice Celebration



Folk School Workshops feature many hands-on creations.



Blacksmith instructors Payne Ann and Bill.



The Porcupine Mountains Music Festival will be back in 2021.