

WELCOME TO THE PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park is Michigan’s largest State Park at nearly 60,000 acres. This park, also known as “the Porkies,” has been adored by all who have taken the time to experience what this wilderness has to offer.

The Porkies is well known with its popularity growing readily since its establishment in 1945. Through the years, numerous improvements have been made and this year we are scheduled for some more.

Be prepared to encounter some construction delays this season. Many of the roads, parking lots and restroom facilities around the park are undergoing improvements.

The Visitor Center, where many of our visitors go to check into campsites and get their questions answered, is scheduled to have its parking area expanded and re-paved. This building, as well as Park Headquarters will be closed to the public for a good portion of the summer while construction is under way.

A temporary Visitor Center will be established at the Porcupine Mountains ski chalet, located just past Union Bay Campground on the way to the Lake of the Clouds.

Portions of the Summit Peak parking area and South Boundary Road are also on the list to be repaired this year.



Hiker enjoying the wilderness at Cloud Peak view.

Please be patient as we make upgrades to our park, Plan for extra time to move about the area and always feel free to contact park staff with any questions you may have this season.

To find out more about the park go to Michigan.gov/Porkies



#RecreateResponsibly

PLAY IT SAFE

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

PLAN AHEAD

LEAVE NO TRACE

BE PREPARED FOR WILDERNESS



Park staff and local Emergency Medical Services personnel heading out to a rescue.

The Porcupine Mountains are a beautiful but wild place.

Each year, there are multiple emergencies that happen in the park. From injuries to lost hikers, each response typically requires a team of 6-10 people to hike in and resolve the incident.

Some emergencies cannot be avoided, and accidents do happen, but there are several steps that can be taken before your trip to help avoid dangerous situations.

Pack appropriately for your trip. Bring enough water and supplies for everyone in your group, including your pets. Wear proper shoes and have a plan of where you are going before entering the woods.

Make your trip one to remember for the right reasons.

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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.

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



Lake of the Clouds

Standing along the top of the steep escarpment you look out over the beautiful Lake of the Clouds, surrounded by thick 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. Due to limited parking, it is recommended visitors drop trailers and campers off in the middle ski hill parking area, located off M-107, on summer and fall days.

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, walkways and a viewing tower 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 heading up the mountain.

Presque Isle River

The Presque Isle River is located on the far 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, a hiking trail leads to wooden stairs and walkways that take you to the falls. At the river mouth, a beautiful suspension bridge spans the fast-flowing water. The trail leads to Lake Superior, 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.



WONDERS OF WATERFALLS

Of all the beautiful views to behold in the Porcupine Mountains there is nothing quite like watching a waterfall that is tucked into its natural landscape. Enjoying a snack on the mossy bank while listening to the trickle of water over rocks or cooling your feet in the calm pools on a warm day, a waterfall visit can make your amazing trip unforgettable.

Check out one of these park favorite waterfalls during your stay.

Little Union Gorge Waterfall

This waterfall is located on the Union Mine Interpretive Trail about 2 miles south along South Boundary Road from M-107. This is an easy 1-mile hiking loop along the bubbling waters of the Union River.

Trap Falls

This waterfall is a nice destination for a 3.2 mile round-trip day hike that starts at the Government Peak Trailhead from M-107. This moderate hike can take between 2-5 hours. The base of this waterfall is a great place to soak your feet and take in the view.

Bathtub Falls

A challenging 18.4-mile round trip hike that is well worth the effort, The Big Carp River Trail has a bit of everything. Open views and spectacular waterfalls this hike starts from the Lake of the Clouds parking lot and will take most of the day.



⚠ Beautiful But Dangerous ⚠

Be sure to take extra caution while exploring the parks waterfalls. Slippery and uneven surfaces can cause a fall where it may take **several hours** to get rescue services on site.

Pay attention to your surroundings as well as warning signs. Keep your trip fun and safe.

WHAT ABOUT WILDERNESS

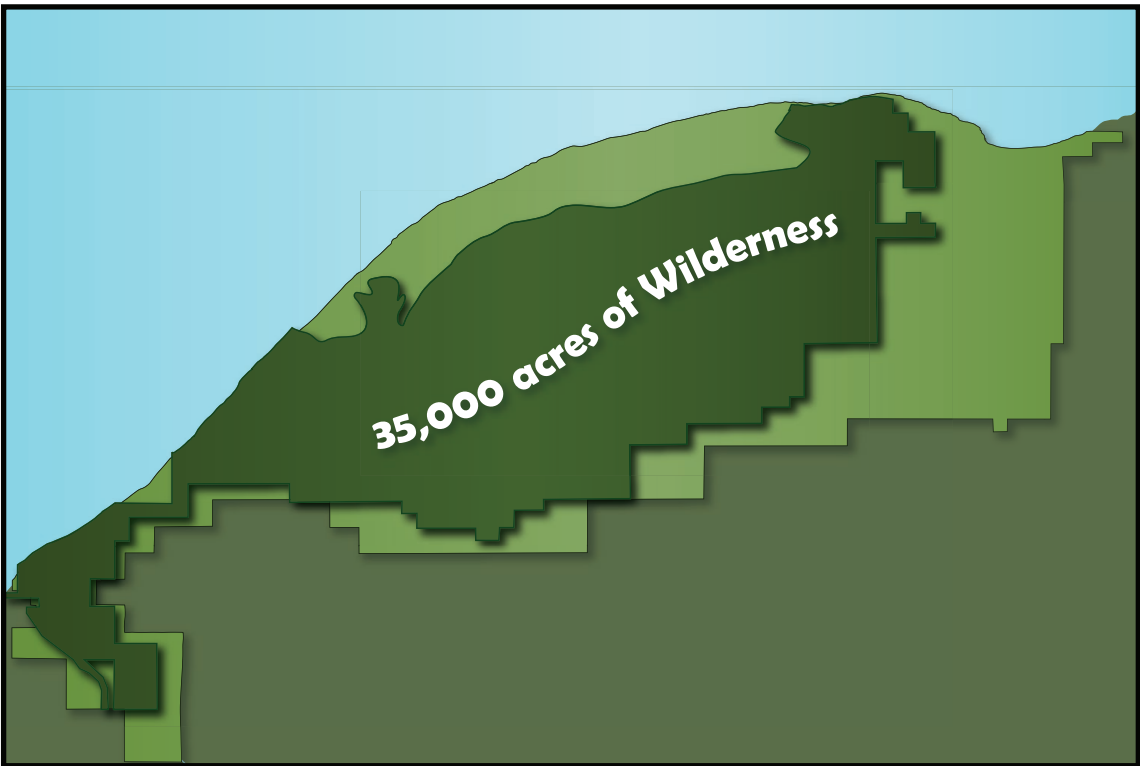
Through the inspiration, dedication and perseverance of the local community, Porcupine Mountains State Park was created in 1945. Through its formation, the plan was simple: to help protect the amazing beauty that is the Porcupine Mountains.

It wasn't until 1972 when the title of "wilderness" was added to the park to put a stronger hold on all that we love here in this wild space. Being the only state park in Michigan that has a dedicated wilderness area is one more reason the Porkies is a unique and special place.

Wilderness is an abstract concept, Each person seems to have their own definition.

"Wilderness" is something that must be experienced.

Take time on your trip. Find a spot to tuck away among the ferns and the birds and see if you can get a taste of what wilderness means to you.



A total of 35,000 acres of the 60,000 acres in the Porcupine Mountains are designated as a wilderness areas.

Managing For Wilderness



A group of backpackers taking in the view.

Managing wilderness can be tricky. Some may think it is as simple as just not doing anything, letting nature be nature. But it is a bit more involved than that. To manage wilderness, we are not really controlling nature, but more managing the people using it. On top of all the normal state park rules, we have a few others to keep the wilderness wild:

1. No motorized vehicles are allowed in the park.
2. No wheeled vehicles are allowed in the wilderness trails of the park such as: bicycles, wagons, baby strollers, coolers with wheels, etc.
3. We no longer allow dispersed camping spring through fall.
4. Chainsaws are not allowed in the park.

Do Your Part

Other than following the wilderness rules, you can also do your part to help keep the Wilderness pristine.

Be sure to pack out all of your garbage from your trip. We also appreciate you packing out any other trash you may find along the trail.

Fires should only be created in a designated fire ring. Collect firewood that is dead and on the ground. Do not cut live trees or standing dead trees.

When backcountry camping, be sure to bury your waste at least 6 inches deep and 70 paces off the trail, away from a water source.

Respect all wildlife. Do not feed or approach a wild animal. Keep your food, garbage and other scented items locked inside your vehicle, in a bear locker or hung from a tree or bear pole.

By working together, we can keep this wilderness experience as wild as it was in 1945.



North American porcupine hanging out on a tree trunk.

Calling all photographers!



At the core of the Porcupine Mountains is the beating heart of its Wilderness. Join in as we call on all photographers, amateur to professional as we host a photo contest.

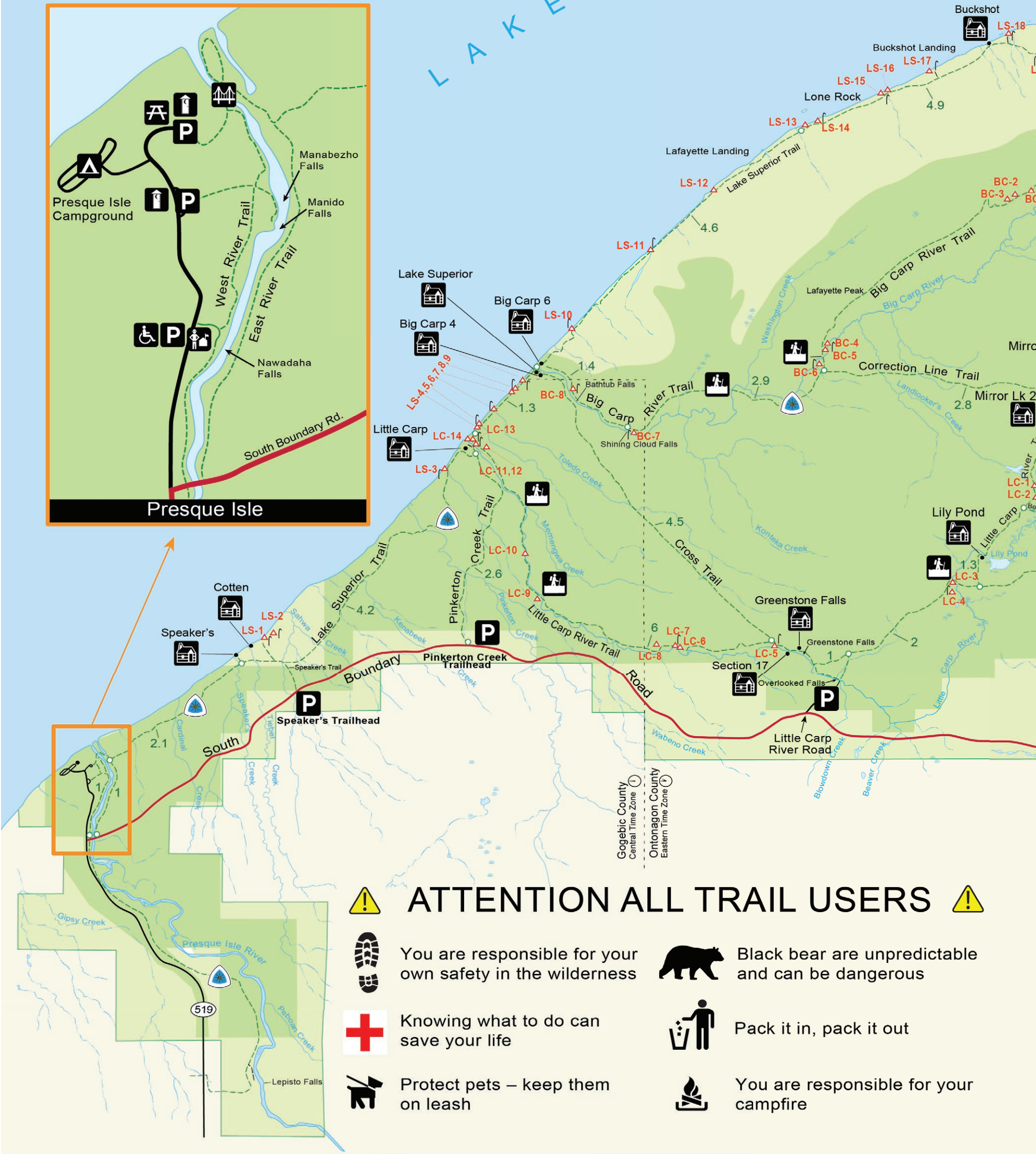
We want to see your best try at capturing the Wilderness!
Share your photos with us by messaging our Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park Facebook page or posting on Instagram with the tag #WildPorkies.

Our favorite photo will be shown off on November 1st AND be featured on the cover of next years park newspaper.

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park



L A K E S U P E R I O R



**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

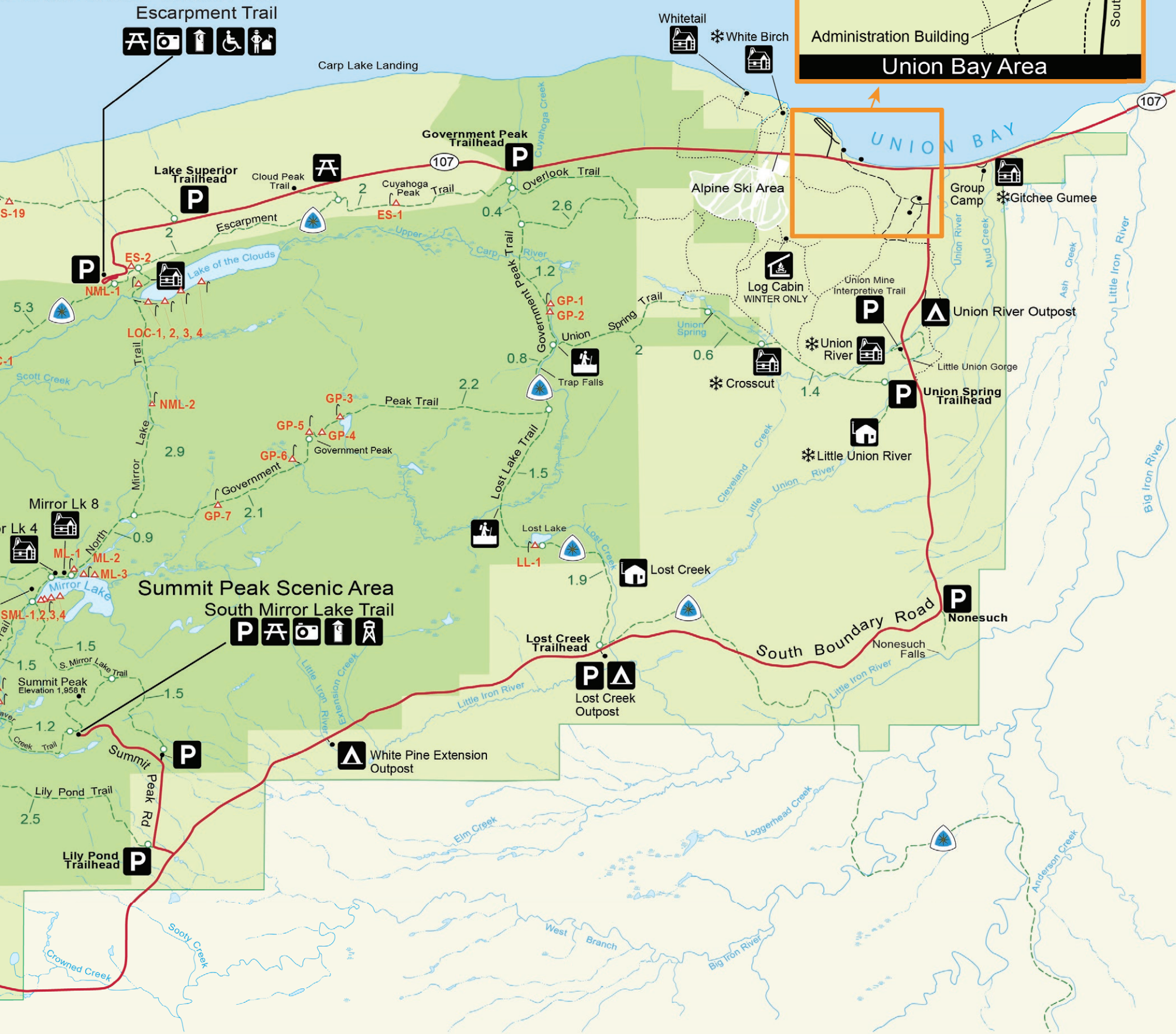


You are responsible for your campfire

Plan Ahead and Prepare
Check your gear and fill your waterbottles at the Visitor Center.

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

of the Clouds Scenic Area



Accessible area	Lookout tower	Scenic area	Cross country ski trail
Backcountry cabin	Modern campground	Suspension bridge	Distance in miles
Backpack campsite	Modern toilets	Tiny house	Hiking trail
Bear pole location	Parking	Un-bridged river crossing	North Country Trail
Boat launch	Picnic area	Warming shelter	Primary forest
Camp store	Ranger station	Winter lodging	Park land
Hiking trailhead	Rustic campground	Yurt	
Information	Rustic toilet		

- Respect Wildlife**
Never feed or approach any wild animal.
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces**
Stay on the trail and camp at designated campsites.
- Leave What You Find**
Never move natural or historic objects.

Summer Nature Programs

During your stay at the Porcupine Mounatins don't miss out on the fun programs that go on all summer long. Learn to shoot a bow, collect aquatic insects, take part in a guided hike, find a constellation or tell stories around a campfire and much more.



Check out the weekly schedule at the Visitor Center, Campground office or online at Michigan.gov/PorkiesVC

Building (*also in winter)	Number of Occupants	Trailhead Parking	Route	Distance	Distance in Winter	Pet Friendly
Big Carp 6 Cabin	6	Pinkerton	Pinkerton to Lake Superior Trail East	4 mi		
Big Carp 4 Cabin	4	Pinkerton	Pinkerton to Lake Superior Trail East	4 mi		
Buckshot Cabin	4	Lake Superior	Lake Superior Trail	3 mi		
Cotten Cabin	8	Speakers	Speakers Creek Trail	1 mi		
Crosscut Cabin*	2	Union Spring	Union Spring Trail	2 mi	3 mi	Yes
Gitche Gumees*	8	Gitche Gumees	East of South Boundary on M107	Drive in	Drive in	Yes
Greenstone Falls Cabin	4	Little Carp River Road	Little Carp River Trail	1 mi		
Kaug Wudjoo Modern Lodge*	12	Kaug Wudjoo Lodge	West of South Boundary on M107	Drive in	Drive in	Yes
Lake of the Clouds Cabin	4	Lake of the Clouds Overlook	Escarpment Trail to North Mirror Lake Trail	1 mi		
Lake Superior Cabin	4	Pinkerton	Pinkerton to Lake Superior Trail East	4 mi		
Lily Pond Cabin	4	Summit Peak Parking	Beaver Creek to Little Carp Trail South East	1.5 mi		
Little Carp Cabin	4	Pinkerton	Pinkerton to Lake Superior Trail Intersection	3 mi		
Little Union River Yurt*	4	Union Spring	Little Union River Yurt Trail	1 mi	3 mi	Yes
Lost Creek Yurt	4	Lost Lake Trail	Lost Lake Trail	1 mi		
Mirror Lake 2 Cabin	2	Summit Peak Parking	Beaver Creek to Little Carp Trail North West	2.5 mi		
Mirror Lake 4 Cabin	4	Summit Peak Parking	Beaver Creek to Little Carp Trail North West	2.75 mi		
Mirror Lake 8 Cabin	8	Summit Peak Parking	Beaver Creek to Little Carp Trail North West	2.75 mi		
Quill 4 Tiny House*	4	Union Bay Campground	West end of Union Bay Campground	Drive in	250 yds	
Section 17 Cabin	4	Little Carp River Road	Little Carp River Trail	1 mi		
Speakers Cabin	4	Speakers	Speaker Creek Trail	1 mi		
Union Bay East Yurt*	4	Union Bay Campground	West end of Union Bay Campground	Drive in	250 yds	Yes
Union Bay West Yurt*	4	Union Bay Campground	West end of Union Bay Campground	Drive in	250 yds	Yes
Union River Cabin*	8	Union Spring	Union Spring Trail	1 mi	3 mi	Yes
White Birch Cabin*	2	Whitetail Parking lot	Deer Yard Ski Trail	1 mi	1 mi	Yes
Whitetail Cabin*	8	Whitetail Parking lot	Deer Yard Ski Trail	1 mi	1 mi	Yes

RUSTIC LODGING

If you are looking to stay at one of the park's 25 backcountry cabins or yurts there are a few things you should know.

The rustic lodging is spread out throughout the park. Use the chart above to find a place to stay that is located at an appropriate distance for your group.

The park is open year-round and so are some of our rustic lodging options. Renters enjoy snowshoeing or cross-country skiing to their lodging in the winter.

Trees that are dead and laying on the ground can be collected for firewood. In the winter months (December-March), firewood is provided for the use of heating the cabins only, not for outdoor fires.

Check-in must occur during regular business hours and at designated check-in stations:

- May 15- Oct. 14:
Check in at the Visitor Center, open every day 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. EST.
- Oct. 15 - May 14:
Check in at Park Headquarters, open everyday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. EST.



New Tiny House on Lake Superior

Pet friendly cabins are now available

For an additional \$10/night you can bring your pets into several of the park cabins.



Check the chart to plan your next pet friendly trip.

Bear Encounter

Here in Michigan we only have one type of bear, the Black Bear.

Normally bears are afraid of humans and will run away if they see, hear or smell you.

If you do happen to run into a black bear and it does not immediately run away follow these tips:

- DO NOT RUN
- Stand your ground
- Make lots of noise
- Back away slowly
- Never feed a bear

Bear Behavior

A bear may be studying you if it...



- stands on its hind legs to see better.
- waves its nose around smelling the air.

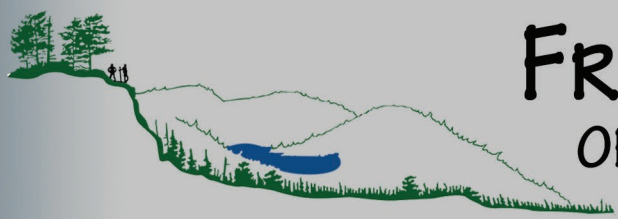
A bear may be getting upset if it...

- clicks its teeth.
- makes loud blowing sounds.

A bear is telling you to leave when it...



- makes short lunges.
- hits the ground or nearby objects.
- runs a bluff charge that stops short of you.



FRIENDS OF THE PORKIES

P.O. Box 221
Ontonagon, MI 49953
906-884-7663 • porkies.org

SUPPORTING THE PARK

In 1999, the Friends of the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park incorporated for the purpose of “user support for Porcupine Mountains State Park.” A Friends group, as defined by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in its “Friends of the State Park Toolkit,” are nonprofit organizations that play an invaluable role in helping to preserve Michigan state parks and recreation areas.

The toolkit suggests that the Friends group and the management of the associated state park collaborate to identify how the Friends can help the Park. Park staff articulates what the Park needs and why those needs exist. The friends group uses its creativity and connections to help meet those needs.

Here is one example of how the Friends of the Porkies filled a Park need.

In June, the Michigan DNR unveiled specially adapted scenic viewers at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park that offer people who are colorblind a tool to enjoy the full spectrum of colors at the park for the first time. Park Manager Mike Knack heard about the viewers at a conference and knew he needed to get them for the Porkies.

In 2021, the Friends raised \$17,000 to purchase five viewers with mounts for adult standing and wheelchair height. In 2022 we ordered the viewers and mounts for installation at Lake of the Clouds (2), Summit Peak (1), and Nawadaha Falls (2). The viewers, made by SeeCoast Manufacturing, have filters produced by EnChroma, a company that manufactures eyewear containing lenses that enable people who have red- green colorblindness to see color more clearly, distinctly and vibrantly.

At the unveiling of the viewers in June, three guests with colorblindness came to the Porkies to check them out. They also had the chance to try on EnChroma glasses that use the same technology as the viewers. The first word each of them said when looking through the viewer was “Wow!” Here are some additional comments.

Justin Farley, a 43-year-old Porkies park ranger: “The colors are a lot more pronounced. Without the glasses, everything just appears green. The oaks and maples are a certain green color. The pines and cedars are a lot darker.”

Joshua Smith, 43, an artist from Marquette: “I was teased growing up when I couldn’t see colors correctly.” Searching for the right colors when doing art is hard.

Patty Steinberg, 66, a retiree from Crystal Falls: Steinberg said of looking through the viewers, “It was awesome. I saw colors and hues I’ve never seen before.”



A color blind visitor trying out the new viewers at the Lake of the Clouds.

Sally Berman, President
Friends of the Porkies



[FriendsOfThePorkies](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfThePorkies)



What is the Kids Outdoor Skills Academy?



This program offers expert instruction, gear and hands-on learning for snowshoeing, orienteering, backpacking and archery.

Groups can come from both schools and youth organizations from the region.

If you would like to book a program contact Park Interpreter Katie Urban 906-885-5206



Individual	\$25
Household	\$40
Business	\$50
Lifetime	\$300
Pet**	\$10

**owner must be a member

Membership includes:

- Subscription to the bi-monthly *E-Quill* and the *Quill Annual Report* 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.

HELP THE TRAILS!

Buy an annual Trails Supporter decal and help the Friends build our Trails Fund. For a donation of \$25 or more, supporters will receive a 2023 Trails Supporter decal.

All funds raised are used to repair and maintain hiking, skiing, interpretive and biking trails and improving accessibility where possible.

Purchase your 2023 Trail Supporter decal at Porkies.org or mail a check to Friends of the Porkies.

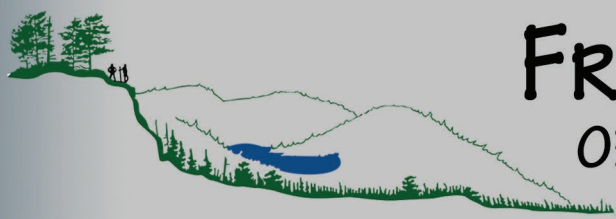


Friend of the Porkies: Conservation Film Series

Friends of the Porkies sponsors a Conservation Film Series at the Folk Schoolz at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park in the summer months.

Scheduled film dates are (all Wednesdays) June 14, July 19, August 16, and September 13 at 3p.m. EDT. The one-hour films focus on conservation of natural resources and indigenous cultures.

They are suitable for all ages and are free, while a donation is welcome. There is a time for discussion afterwards. Any Park protocols for health and safety will be observed.



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ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

The Friends of the Porkies Artist-In-Residence Program, established in 2007, hosts artists for two or three-week residencies. While living in Dan's Cabin in a secluded wilderness, artists have an opportunity to explore and absorb the vast wilderness of the park.

Artists capture their creative impressions in a variety of mediums, and each resident donates a completed piece of art to the Friends' permanent collection. Enjoy a glimpse of the varied seasons and hidden treasures of the Porkies found in the selection of artwork displayed in the Visitor Center and in the complete collection found in the on-line gallery at Porkies.org/Artist

The generosity of artists makes possible the sale of giclee art reproductions, books and other Porkies merchandise which supports future residencies. Merchandise can be found on-line at Porkies.org/Merchandise/Art-Prints

Selected for 2023

Lorraine Bubar, paper cutting, Los Angeles, California

Mick Grochowski, oil painting, Williamsburg, Virginia

Ken Reif, oil painting, Berwyn, Illinois

Kelly Meredith, painting, Butternut, Wisconsin

Alison Young, audio narrative, Brimley, Michigan

Simon Vansteenwinckel, photography, Belgium, Europe



Finding Harmony at Dan's Cabin by
David Kapszukiewicz
2018

THE PORKIES FOLK SCHOOL: COME TO MEET, GROW, HAMMER, STITCH, CRAFT AND BE INSPIRED



These ladies enjoyed the whisk broom class at the Folk School in 2022.

What is the Porkies Folk School?

The Folk School is a cooperative environment encouraging lifelong learning and community building while promoting traditional knowledge, arts, skills and culture from the Lake Superior region.

What kind of classes are offered?

The Folk School offers a variety of classes from June through October. This year, try your hand at watercolor painting, glass fusion, beadwork, fiber arts, basketry, broom making, sewing, knitting, crafting a kayak paddle, making a cutting board, building a Leopold bench, or blacksmithing.

How do I register for a class?

Register online at Porkies.org/Events or call 906-884-7663. Classes fill up quickly so early registration is recommended.

Can I register on the day of the class?

Most classes have a registration deadline of one week prior to the class but there are a few classes that will accept in-person registration on the day of the class. Check the website for details.

Who teaches the Folk School classes?

Classes are taught by very talented instructors from near and far who are passionate about their work and teaching it to their students.

Are there classes for children?

Some classes are applicable for children or teens. The minimum age requirement is located in the details of the class offering on the website.

Folk School Alliance:

The Porkies Folk School is a member the Folk Education Association of America. For more information on other Folk Schools go to: FolkSchoolAlliance.org



PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Porcupine Mountains Music Festival returns for its 17th year

The Porcupine Mountains Music Festival, presented by the Friends of the Porkies will be held Aug. 25 and 26, 2023. This activity is supported in part by an award from the Michigan Arts & Culture Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Festival made state history in 2005, as the first music festival held in a Michigan state park. Performers bring to the Porkies' stage a diverse selection of musical styles: blues, country, bluegrass, rock, folk and more. The outdoor Peace Hill Stage will host six national performing artists daily, and the festival also includes the all-acoustic "Busking Barn" stage, a calm oasis with a magic all its own—including a daily open-jam session, and the indoor Chalet Stage, featuring performances and artist workshops. The colorful "Kid's Tent" located on the festival grounds is always bustling with crafts and activities for the young audience members.

For tickets, how to volunteer, and more info visit PorkiesFestival.org



The highly anticipated music festival returned from a 2-year Covid related hiatus in 2022 to total attendance of 1,567.