



Porcupine Mountains Visitor

2024 Printed by the Friends of the Porkies

Michigan.gov/Porkies

WELCOME TO THE PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS



Luke Miller's photo of the sunset near Presque Isle on the last night of their backpacking trip through the Porcupine Mountains.

Capturing the wilderness

Last year there was a photo contest to "capture the wilderness" at the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. Luke Miller did just that as he snapped this colorful photo with his Scout troop last summer along the beach near Presque Isle.

Wilderness is an important part of the Porcupine Mountains that can mean something different for each person who visits. Take time during your trip to find your own piece of wilderness.



Some members of Scout Troop 20 from Oak Park enjoying the falls at Presque Isle.

CHANGES TO COME

Welcome to the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. This beautiful place has been growing and changing on its own far longer than when it was officially adopted by the State of Michigan in 1945.

With nearly 60,000 acres of massive forests, wild animals and scenic waterfalls, there are many beautiful places to take in during your stay.

To make your future visits more comfortable the park is scheduled for some much-needed updates in the next few years. Be patient with us as we keep improving. Expect longer wait times at some locations, and portions of the park

may be closed while work is underway during the summer of 2024 and 2025.

Upgrades to look forward to:

- Electrical upgrades in Union Bay Campground.
- Sewage upgrades to the entire modern portion of the park.
- Remodel of the Visitor Center.
- Road and culvert repairs.

To learn more about the park, book your future stay or keep up with changes in the park, visit Michigan.gov/porkies.



Contents:

Map on pages 4-5

Welcomepage 1

Scenic Areas.....page 2

Waterfalls.....page 2

Unwelcome Visitors.....page 3

Education Opportunities.....page 3

Summer Programs.....page 6

Cabin and Yurt rentals.....page 6

Friends of the Porkiespage 7

Artist In Residencepage 8

Music Festival page 8

BE PREPARED FOR WILDERNESS

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 six to ten people to hike in and resolve the incident.

In previous years, we were able to rely on the local hospital to assist with medical emergencies that took place in the park. Unfortunately, over the winter the Aspirus Ontonagon Hospital and Emergency Department has closed.

Our main hospital is now in the Ironwood area. This significantly lengthens the response time of the ambulance services and drive times to the closest hospital.

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

Pack appropriately for your trip. Bring enough water and supplies for everyone in your group. 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.



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

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. ET



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, this amazing view is only a short 100-yard walk up a paved trail or accessible boardwalk. 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 halfway 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.

Overlooked Falls

Keeping its name in mind, the Overlooked waterfall is located on the Little Carp River, less than half a mile from the Little Carp River Road parking lot. Keep your eyes open for this waterfall just a short distance down river from the first bridge.



Manabezho Falls

The third waterfall on the Presque Isle River can be seen from several views along the trail. The 2-mile loop following the east and west side of the river will give you many views of the three biggest waterfalls in the park.



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, from views to 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 park's 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.

UNWANTED VISITORS

Each year the Porcupine Mountains welcomes visitors from all over the world. These people are excited to take in some of the best examples of pristine, old-growth forests and to experience the wilderness that goes with it.

Unfortunately, there are also a few pesky hitchhikers in the park that were not invited. We call them invasive species.

An invasive species is a plant or animal that is not native to the area and causes harm to the native species that do belong here.

Here are three invasive species that are currently in the Porcupine Mountains.



Emerald ash borer
Emerald ash borer has spread across most of Michigan but is new to the Porcupine Mountains. Targeting mainly ash trees, this green bug will feed under the bark of the tree, causing it to fall off and the tree to die.








Spongy moth
Renamed to represent the “spongy” eggs that get laid each fall, this caterpillar feeds on the leaves of many different types of trees. This infestation naturally collapses after a year or two.



Garlic mustard
This fragrant plant will take over the understory of native forests, choking out the growth of native plants. The tiny seeds can easily be spread, either washed down slopes in the rain or stuck in boot treads.

Help keep new invasive species from entering the park and current ones from spreading.

Follow these simple tips to protect our native species in our Michigan state parks, forests and waters.

-  Don't move firewood from one campground to another.
-  Purchase or collect firewood from the local area you are staying.
-  Brush off all bugs and debris from your gear before moving between sites.
-  Clean your boots after each hike, before you leave the trailhead.
-  Wash your boat or kayak before moving to a new water source.

To learn more about Michigan invasive species or to report a sighting, use this link.



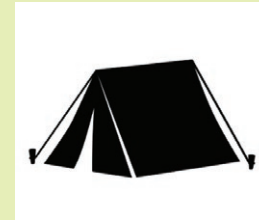
Friendly reminder from our park staff:



Throw all trash away, and help keep the park clean by picking up any litter you may pass along the trail.



Keep your pets on a 6-foot leash at all times and never leave them unattended.



Everyone needs a permit to camp in the Porcupine Mountains. Dispersed camping is not allowed.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Nature Awaits offers a new opportunity for children to experience Michigan's outdoors. All fourth grade classrooms are eligible for a FREE experiential field trip to select state parks to support their classroom learning!

Guided by environmental literacy best practices, the program aims to make sure Michigan's kids learn that our state parks are for everyone, and that a lifetime of spending time outdoors is good for our physical and mental health

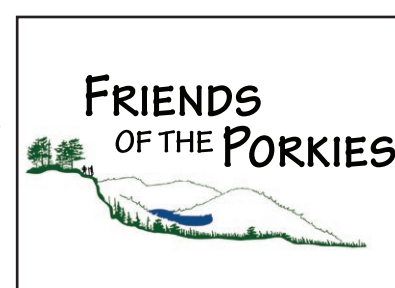
Teachers, book your trip online today at Michigan.gov/NatureAwaits.

Discovering Copper offers a choice between several copper-related programs where students can expect to enjoy hands-on education about the history of mining and geology.

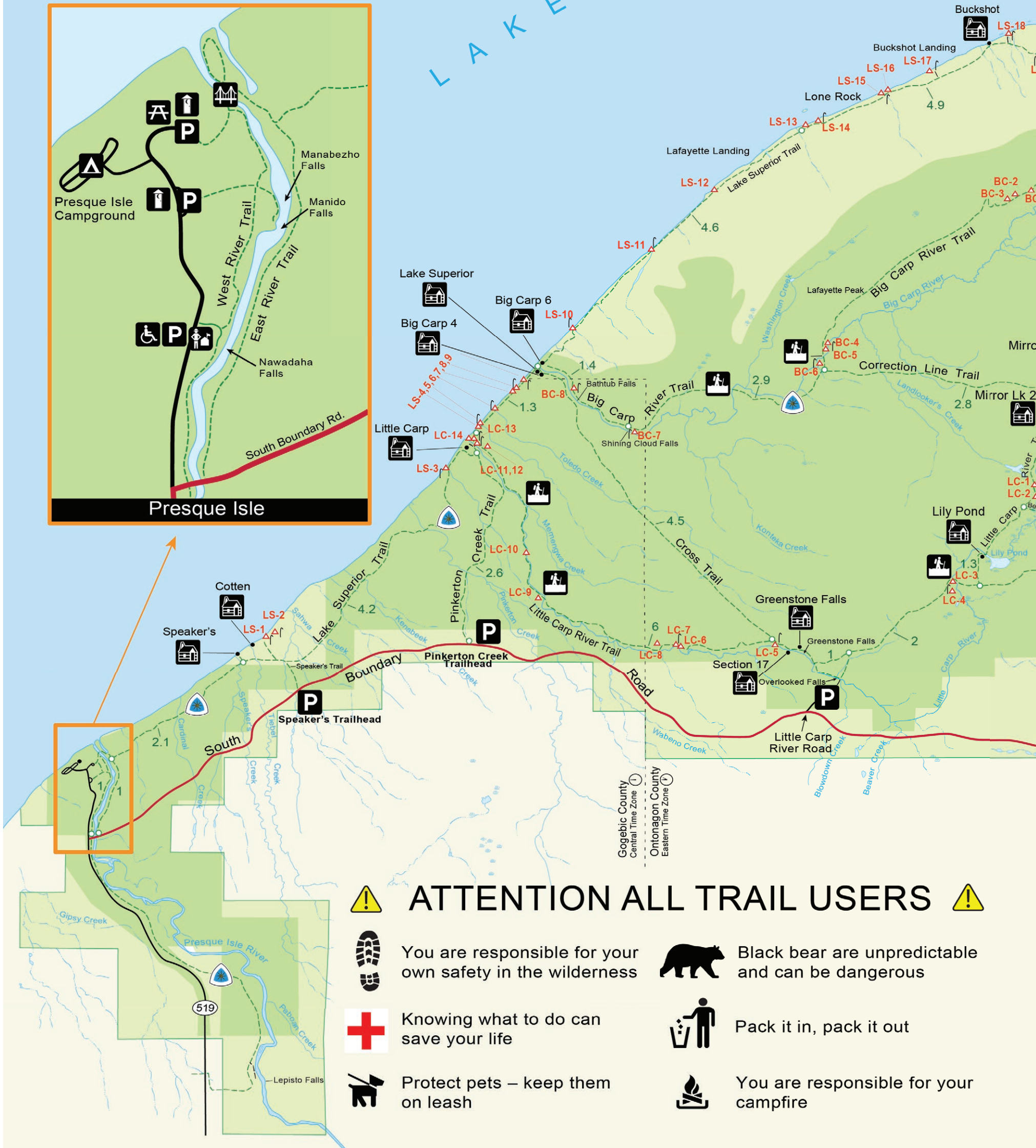
The Keweenaw National Historical Park Heritage Grant award, matched by the Friends of the Porkies, allows reimbursement for transportation to the park, a 13-year tradition.

Sign up today to bring your classroom or 4H, Scouting or youth group to Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. Your trip will be guided by the Park Interpreter Katie Urban.

Check out the program list at porkies.org Discovering Copper.



Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park



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

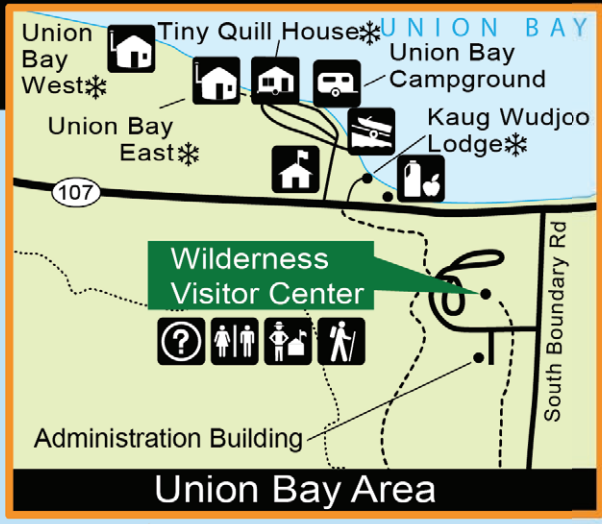
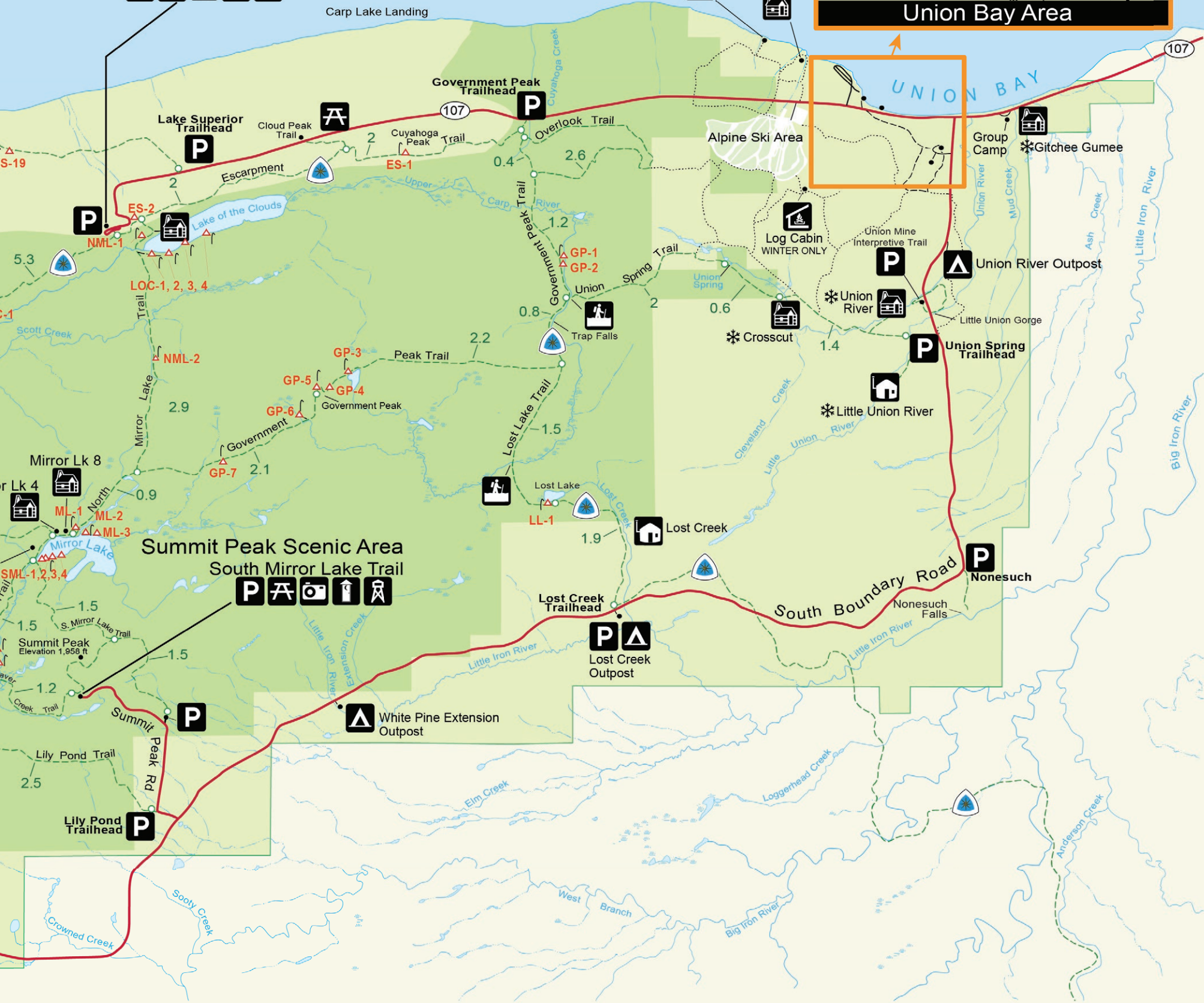
Plan ahead and prepare

Check your gear and fill your water bottles at the Visitor Center.

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 | 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 Mountains, 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 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 lying 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.

Pet-friendly cabins are now available at the park. For an additional \$10/night/pet you can bring your furry friends into several of the park cabins (up to 2 pets allowed at one time). *Modern lodge \$15/night/pet. Check the chart above to plan your next pet-friendly trip.

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. ET.

Oct. 15 - May 14:

Check in at Park Headquarters, open everyday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. ET.



Greenstone Falls cabin

Cabins changes are coming!

Effective Dec. 1, 2024 the DNR will only supply these items in our backcountry cabins and yurts:

- water boiling pot
- wash basin
- cooking pot and pan
- can opener
- water gathering bucket
- bow saw
- ash bucket and scoop
- broom and dustpan

*Axes will no longer be provided May 15 - Nov. 30.

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.

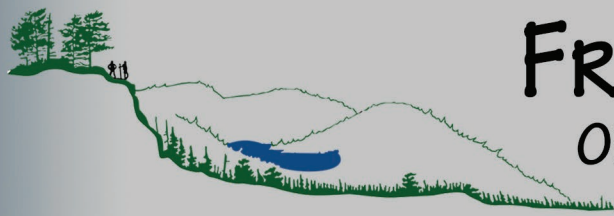
A bear may be getting upset if it...

- 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 2024

The Friends of the Porkies is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote, support and enhance Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. With help from visitors and others dedicated to supporting the park we can provide funding to the park via donations and grants through the Friends programs.

The Friends programs include the Artists-in-Residence Program, Folk School, Porcupine Mountains Music Festival and Trails Committee. We also support the Park's Outdoor Skills Academy by providing archery and other outdoor equipment for kids to use. Our Discovering Copper grant program teaches school groups about our rich copper history. Check out these programs in the Visitor and on our website at porkies.org.

All of our programs are run by volunteers. Watch for announcements on our website and Facebook page to stay up to date on volunteer opportunities, including trails maintenance and clearing days, the Porcupine Mountains Music Festival and other events.

You can support the park via the Friends in several ways – become a member, donate or volunteer. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to get up-to-date information and volunteer opportunities.



Enjoy the park!

Joanie Hawley
President, Friends of the Porkies



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



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Lake of the Clouds escarpment



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

**Owner must be a member.

Membership includes:

- Subscription to the bimonthly *E-Quill* and the *Quill Annual Report* featuring accomplishments and future plans.
- Invitation to the annual membership meeting in October.
- A collective voice with park users to express your ideas.

porkies.org P.O Box 221, Ontonagon, Michigan 49953

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

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

Their creative impressions have been captured in their medium, and each artist 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 online gallery at porkies.org.

The artists' generosity makes possible the sale of art reproductions, books and other Porkies merchandise, which supports future residencies. Find merchandise for sale at porkies.org/merchandise.

Each artist will perform a public presentation. The schedule for this year's AIRP public presentations can be found at porkies.org, or at [Facebook.com/FriendsofthePorkies](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofthePorkies).

Selected for 2024

- Laura Annis, acrylic painting, Baraboo, Wisconsin
- Justin David Gustafson, oil painting, Ludington, Michigan
- Tracy Frizzell, painting, Fridley, Minnesota
- David M. Mills, photography, Berkley, Michigan
- Molly Carroll, watercolor, Maumee, Ohio
- Lisa Boerema, hard shell gourd, Belding, Michigan
- Jessica Bohus, sculpture, wire art, Fennville, Michigan
- John Dempsey, landscape painting, Hillsborough, North Carolina



Trap Falls
Miller
2020



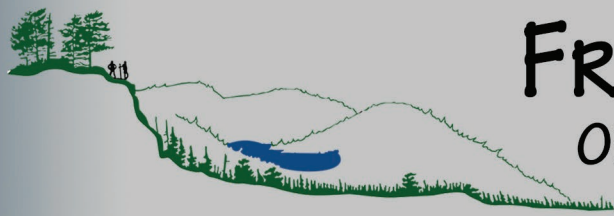
What is the Kids' Outdoor Skills Academy?

Funded by money raised by the Friends of the Porkies, this program is dedicated to helping kids improve or learn outdoor skills and encouraging them to unplug and connect with the outdoors.

Join in on the fun at a public program this summer: archery, fire building, compassing and more!

Teachers, Scout groups and others, if you would like to get your group outside and learning, book a free private program by contacting Park Interpreter Katie Urban at

906-885-5206 or UrbanK1@Michigan.gov.



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



Excited students from last year's Aldo Leopold bench class assembling their project.

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?

We have many classes that are appropriate for students age 12 and up, such as fused glass, basketry and fiber arts classes. The minimum age requirement is located in the details of the class offering on the website.

HELP THE TRAILS!



Buy an annual trails supporter decal and help the Friends build our Trails Fund.

All funds raised through sales of decals will be used for projects to repair and maintain hiking, cross-country skiing, interpretive and biking trails. The funds will be used to improve accessibility where possible.

Purchase your 2024 decal for \$25 at porkies.org or mail a check to the Friends.

We are looking for ways for volunteers to help report needed trail repairs or maintenance. Look for upcoming volunteer trail maintenance days to be posted at porkies.org.

PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Porcupine Mountains Music Festival releases 18th lineup.

The Porcupine Mountains Music Festival, presented by the Friends of the Porkies, will be held on Aug. 23 and 24. This activity is supported in part by an award from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council.

The festival made state history in 2005 as the first music festival held in a Michigan state park. Performers arrive from all over the country and abroad to bring to the Porkies' stage a diverse selection of musical styles: Americana, blues, country, bluegrass, rock, folk and more.

This year's main stage lineup includes: Miko Marks, The Brevet, Chris Pierce, Ruen Brothers, The Arcadian Wild, Bywater Call, John Németh, Colby T. Helms & the Virginia Creepers, Joy Clark, Roosevelt Diggs, The Stillhouse Junkies and Joyann Parker.

The indoor chalet stage will feature the B-Side Growlers and an Indigenous song and dance workshop by Migiziikwe Eagle Spirit Dancer, and there will be 10 additional chalet stage performers.

The all-acoustic "Busking Barn" stage will host its first songwriter's workshop featuring Joy Clark, and approximately 30 additional performers, including daily jam sessions for anyone to join in the fun.

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.

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?

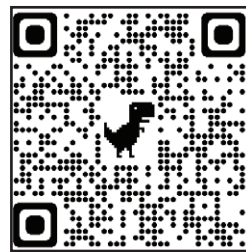
The Folk School offers a variety of classes from June through October. Try your hand at watercolor painting, sketching, glass fusion, fiber arts, basketry, broom making, woodworking, or snowshoe lacing.

How do I register for a class?

Register online at porkies.org/events, scan the QR code, 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 **Ice Dying 100% Cotton Fiber** and **Handmade Sketchbooks & Sketching** will accept in-person registration on the day of the class. Check the website for details.



**Join us at our open house
Sunday, July 7, from 5 to 7 p.m.**



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Not a bad seat in the house as attendees spread out on the Ski Hill grounds.