

A Day on the trails ...

Michigan is known as the Great Trails State with more miles of trails than any other state in the nation, and Alpena certainly plays its part in this offering. With more than 100 miles of groomed trails, there is something for every type of trail enthusiast. Whether you walk, hike, mountain bike, trail run, or watch migrating birds and photograph wildflowers, Alpena has a trail or park especially for you.



At Left: Native Americans worked with nature to assist their efforts. This tree on the south end of Long Lake was bent to serve as a trail marker. The tree was not hurt, continued to grow, and remains as a reminder of early life in Northeast Michigan. Photo courtesy Charlotte Hinks. Below: Birds and bugs leave markings on trees that can be spotted on trails.



Judy Hart hikes the Rim Trail at Rockport State Recreation Area. The 300-acre limestone quarry is in the background.

Trail Activity Icon Key

-  **Hiking or Walking**
-  **Beach for Swimming**
-  **Fishing**
-  **Nature and/or Bird Watching**
-  **Biking**
-  **Picnic Area**
-  **Cross-Country Ski (groomed)**
-  **Kayak/Canoe Launch Access**
-  **Snowmobile**
-  **Equestrian**



As the Sanctuary of the Great Lakes, Alpena truly embodies the haven from the stresses of everyday life. The culturally rich place to relax, rejuvenate, and inspire the happy, healthy, creative you!



Visitor Welcome Center & Tourism Office

420 N. Second Avenue
Alpena, MI 49707

Phone: 989-340-2288

Website: www.VisitAlpena.com

E-mail: info@visitalpena.com



Trails, Parks & Beaches



VisitAlpena.com

CITY PARKS/BEACHES

Duck Park and Island Park

Corner of US-23 and Long Rapids Road

Located on the city's 500-acre wildlife sanctuary.

Features hand-hewn wooden covered bridge and water tower. Island Park offers nature trails, fishing platforms, and 5 distinctly different ecosystems. Duck Park offers fishing and picnic areas and provides a great vantage point for viewing a large variety of bird species in the sanctuary area. Free public kayak launch. Paddlesport rentals available on-site through Performance Locker.

Watertower Park Rain Garden

Thunder Bay River at the Ninth Ave. Bridge

This rain garden helps the environment by absorbing runoff water that nourishes native plants and prevent sediment runoff. Features a skate park and fishing deck.

Bay View Park

State St. near Alpena's Boat Harbor

Includes a Fine Arts Band Shell, basketball and tennis courts, play area, picnic area and breakwall walking path with a beautiful view of Lake Huron.

Mich-E-Ke-Wis Park

State St./US-23 South

Swimming beach, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, bike park, children's playground, picnic area, and activity field.

Rotary's Island Mill Park

Thunder Bay River behind NOAA/Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary building.

Includes picnic area, gazebo, and fishing platform.

McRae Park

2nd Ave. & Hueber, adjacent to Nowicki's Sausage Shoppe

Includes ballfields, basketball and tennis courts, play area, picnic area, and shelter building.

Washington Avenue Park

Washington Ave. at 11th Ave. on Thunder Bay River

On the Bi-Path; includes picnic area, and view of the river.

Blair Street Park

End of Blair St. off State St.

Swimming, picnic area, and wooden boardwalk/pier into Lake Huron.

Starlite Beach

State St. on Lake Huron

Swimming, pavilion, picnic area, playground, indoor restroom and outdoor shower facilities.

Thomson Park

State St. on Lake Huron

Swimming, picnic area, shipwrecks (buoyed) just off shore.

Arthur E. Sytek Park

Thunder Bay River at the bridge on Bagley St.

Wildflower park with kayak/canoe launch site, barrier free fishing deck, picnic tables, and trailhead for the Bi-Path.

Smaller parks include LaMarre Park (fishing deck), Avery Park (resting benches), North Riverfront Park (picnic area and boat ramp), and South Riverfront Park (interpretive signage).

QUIET COUNTRYSIDE PARKS

Manning Hill Park

18 miles west of the City of Alpena, off M-32.

Beautiful view countryside, small pavilion, picnic area.

Sanborn Park/Ossineke Beach

On Lake Huron at the end of Lake St. in Ossineke

Swimming beach, playground, picnic area, pavilion.

Shingaba Shores

On Ossineke Rd. across from Dinosaur Gardens in Ossineke

Heritage inspired playground, totem pole, ADA accessible.

Long Rapids Township Park

Thunder Bay River off M-65

7 acres with picnic area and kayak/canoe launch.

Maple Ridge Township Park

End of LaComb Road, on Thunder Bay River

45 rustic acres, pavilion, trails, small river rapids.

Wolf Creek Park

Off Wolf Creek Road

Walking bridge, hiking trail, kayak launch, and pavilion.

Ocqueoc Falls

North of Alpena in Presque Isle Co., off M-68

The largest falls in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. This falls system includes the rejuvenating waterfall, trails, and is ADA accessible.

CITY SERENITY TRAILS

Alpena Bi-Path

18.5 miles long, the path travels through several of Alpena's scenic city parks and beaches along the Thunder Bay River and Lake Huron. Walk, bike, roller skate.

Maritime Heritage Trail

Begins at S. Riverfront Park, behind Armory, Water Street

Historically-oriented walking tour along Thunder Bay River in downtown Alpena.

TRANQUIL COUNTRY TRAILS

Besser Natural Area

20 minutes north of Alpena, off E. Grand Lake Road

Hiking trail winds through former Village of Bell. Find remains of historic buildings, virgin stand of white pine, a lagoon and secluded sandy beach. Shipwreck off shore.

Norway Ridge Pathway

5 miles south of Alpena off Werth Rd.

10 miles of forgiving, groomed forest trails. Multiple loops.

Chippewa Hills Pathway

20 miles s.w. of Alpena, corner of Nicholson Hill & Kissau Rd.

Over 14-miles of hilly, heavily wooded, trail loops.

STATE PARKS & DARK SKY PRESERVES

Negwegon State Park

Mysterious, remote and undeveloped, a hidden treasure with 10 miles of hiking trails and sandy beach on Lake Huron. Negwegon is located on US-23, 12 miles north of Harrisville. To get to the park, take Black River road off of US 23 to the east 1.5 miles, turn north on Sand Hill Rd. and go 2.5 miles, turn right or east at the Negwegon State Park sign and go 1.5 miles to day use parking area. No services, back country camping available. A Dark Sky Preserve.

Rockport State Recreation Area

Over 4,237 acres on the shores of Lake Huron north of Alpena at the end of Rockport Road. Includes a deep-water harbor, old 300-acre limestone quarry, series of sinkholes, Stargazing, fishing, rugged trails and fossil hunting (each person allowed to take up to 25 pounds of fossils per year for personal enjoyment). A Dark Sky Preserve.

Thompson's Harbor State Park

24 miles north of Alpena off US-23, this natural area encompasses 5,000 acres including sand dunes, upland and marsh habitat. Includes one of the largest known populations in the world of the federal and state-threatened dwarf lake iris, Michigan's state wildflower. 7 1/2 miles of Lake Huron shoreline, 6 miles of trails, unique wildflower species (do not pick flowers). A Dark Sky Preserve.

UNIQUE PARKS & NATURAL ASSETS

Alpena Township Nature Preserve

North of City of Alpena, at end of Misery Bay Road

133-acre tract of land with 9,632 feet of Lake Huron shoreline. Includes coastal marshes, fens, old growth northern white cedar forests, karst geology, and rare plants. To protect unique plant species, stay on trails and do not pick flowers.

Bruski & Stevens Twin Sinkholes

Take M-65 North, veer left onto Leer Road as M-65 bends, and drive north 4 miles (just before Maple Lane Rd intersection). Sinks are to the left and right of the road.

The 2.5-acre Bruski Sink property includes a 112-foot deep sinkhole with trail. The Stevens Twin Sinks property is a 31-acre parcel which includes two sinkholes separated by a fragile saddle ridge, each about 200 feet in diameter and 85 feet deep; trails and cracks in the earth. Unique karst geology; flora in the bottom of sinkholes differs from surrounding flora due to climate difference at bottom of sinks. Do not attempt to descend into the sinkholes without approval from the Thunder Bay Area Karst Preserve. Be careful near the edges as they may be unstable.

NEST (Northeast Michigan State Trail)

A Michigan-DNR multi-use rail-trail that runs 70 miles from Alpena to Cheboygan. The trail has a 10' wide packed crushed limestone surface and is open to non-motorized users year-round, and snowmobiles from Dec. 1 through March 31. The trail head is on Woodward Ave, in Alpena, just past Northern Lights Arena, and adjacent to soccer fields.

Anishinaabe Trail

Old & New Presque Isle Lighthouses, end of E. Grand Lake Rd. This bike path along Grand Lake Road connects the Old and New Presque Isle lighthouses. Also explore hiking trails along the Lake Huron shore. A paved side path along Grand Lake Trail that connects the southwest side of Grand Lake (Whiskey Point Road) to Presque Isle. Lighthouses, Grand Lake, Lake Huron, historic features, and a quiet ride awaits. Great family adventure.