

The Leelanau Conservancy

An Accredited Organization

The Leelanau Conservancy was awarded accreditation status in September, 2008. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission awards the accreditation seal to community institutions that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. Learn more at the Land Trust Alliance website: www.landtrustaccreditation.org.



Map of Natural and Preserves



Conserving Leelanau's Land, Water, and Scenic Character

Who We Are

We're the group that, since 1988, has worked to protect the places that you love and the character that makes the Leelanau Peninsula so unique. Our organization has earned accreditation and a reputation as one of the premier land trusts in the country, with projects touching lives and saving land in each of Leelanau's 11 townships. We have preserved over 7,000 acres and 22 miles of shoreline and created 24 natural areas, preserves or transfer and assist projects. Some of the best views, most sensitive wetlands, and biggest working farms have been protected because of our work. With over 4,000 donors backing us up, the Conservancy is making a very real difference in the future of Leelanau.



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A Common Commitment

Preserving Leelanau for Future Generations

The People Behind the Mission

Board of Directors: This group of committed individuals brings their hearts, minds and resources together around the table to preserve the best of Leelanau. They carry on the legacy of many who have come before them and accomplished great things.

Staff: A first-class crew of professionals works day in and day out to find ways to save our Leelanau landscapes, rural character, and pristine waters.

Landowners: Over 110 landowners have worked with our staff, either by donating land or a conservation easement, or through other creative methods, to fulfill goals and dreams of preserving their lands for future generations.

Docents: Knowledgeable volunteers lead hikes and spread our message at our preserves and natural areas.

Donors: Annually, over 4,000 people make a donation to the Conservancy to help preserve a cherished view, save an old-growth forest from development, create a new natural area, or support the staff doing this important work.

Volunteers: Dozens of people lighten our load by helping with mailings, manning our information booth, taking photographs, working at our Annual Picnic and Auction and so much more. Our stewardship network creates and maintains the trails and viewing platforms you'll enjoy.



How We Save Land

Working Together to Find Solutions

A Good Conservation Transaction Must be Good for Both the Land and the People Involved

Stewardship Activities on Conservation Easement Properties

The Conservancy works with private landowners, farmers, communities, businesses, and all levels of government to preserve Leelanau's environmentally sensitive areas, to sustain and enhance the local economy. In addition, we conduct a full schedule of educational programs and advance our mission by researching Leelanau County's water quality and land-use trends. Our most common land protection methods are listed below. The approach we take towards a property depends on the character of the land and the individual landowner's wishes:

Conservation Easements

The Conservancy works with private landowners to permanently protect the natural features of their land for future generations by creating individualized legal agreements that place certain development restrictions on the property. Often conservation easements may result in significant tax benefits for donors. Land under conservation easements is not open to the public, but provides public benefit by protecting water quality, wildlife habitat, and scenic character.

Land Acquisition

Generous landowners who agree with our mission may present land to the Conservancy as a gift. Sometimes, though, the Conservancy pulls together the money to buy land of particular ecological importance, usually with fundraising help from dedicated citizens.

Purchase of Development Rights (PDR)

This technique is often used to protect working farms and forest land. The Conservancy purchases the development rights to these environmentally or culturally significant lands, conserving them in their natural and/or working state in perpetuity. PDR uses multiple funding sources, including matching gifts from landowners.

Transfer and Assist

When a government agency wants to acquire and protect certain threatened property but can't obtain immediate funding, the Conservancy pre-acquires the land. We hold the property until our project partner obtains funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund or other sources of acquisition dollars.

Get Out There!

Recreational Opportunities

Visit Our World of Wonder!

We hope you'll find the time to visit many of our properties. Each is different and magical in its own way. Some areas are more fragile than others. A "Natural Area" is managed not only to protect its unique natural features, but to provide quiet recreational opportunities such as hiking and bird watching. Many of our natural areas contain marked trails which are detailed in this guide. A "preserve" normally contains more fragile ecosystems and is managed primarily to protect these features. When possible, we create opportunities for the public to view these preserves, normally through docent-led hikes. Detailed directions may be accessed on our website which features a Google mapping tool (www.theconservancy.com).



fragile ecosystems threatened by the slightest human impact. Therefore, access is limited or not allowed.

Open to the Public

Come see this property on your own year round. You'll find trails and kiosks to guide you. Or, join a tour led by our knowledgeable docents.

Best Seen on a Guided Hike

This indicates a preserve is ecologically sensitive or hard to find with no trail system. Going with one of our docents is the best way to experience it.

Critical Area

Some preserves are better left alone, with

Yellow:

Houdek Dunes Natural Area

Open to the Public

Green:

Belanger Creek

Best Seen on a Guided Hike

Blue:

Soper Preserve

Critical Area

Important Information

Be a Good Steward

Setting a Good Example on Conservancy Owned Lands

Preserves and natural areas are gifts we pass on to future generations. You play a critical role in protecting this gift. **Please take time to practice the minimum-impact techniques to preserve these places for years to come.**

Hunting on Conservancy Owned Natural Areas

The hunting status, including restrictions or prohibited actions, is established in the management plan for each natural area owned by the Leelanau Conservancy. This decision is based on the location of the natural area with regard to residential areas, recreational infrastructure (trails, overlooks, etc.), the size of the natural area and if hunting in the natural area will not detract from its natural and/or aesthetic attributes. No hunting is allowed on preserves.

How Do I Get Permission to Hunt?

Hunters must obtain a signed permit from the Leelanau Conservancy office in Leland, Michigan. Each and every hunter must carry a signed current permit in order to hunt Leelanau Conservancy property and acknowledge that he or she understands the additional regulations included in the Leelanau Conservancy Hunting Permit, which are above and beyond the Michigan DNR Hunting and Trapping Guide.

Stewardship Activities on Conservation Properties

Land protected by conservation easements is privately owned, and not open to the public. The Conservancy works closely with conservation easement landowners to help them understand the ecology of their land, as well as the terms of their individual conservation easement which is intended to preserve the land's unique features. In addition, we provide technical expertise in areas such as control of invasive species.



What to Expect

Easy Hike: trail is flat and easy to navigate.

Moderate Hike: trail sometimes slopes and may provide challenges to novice hikers.

Challenging Hike: trail is steep and is best enjoyed when you are in good physical condition.

Practice Minimum-Impact Techniques

Know Before You Go

Please Respect these Special Places

We are dedicated to the responsible enjoyment and active stewardship of the outdoors by all people. Just think of all of the activities you can enjoy in the outdoors... maybe it's hiking, picnicking, fishing, birding or snowshoeing. Each year, outdoor recreation allows thousands of people to unwind, challenge themselves or just take in the scenery. Yet all this heavy use has a significant impact on our natural resources. **So learn to practice minimum-impact techniques to preserve the fun for years to come:**



Know Before you Go

Planning ahead is the easiest way to protect outdoor places and enjoy a safe visit. Use a map, wear good shoes and always bring a leash for your pet. Carry plastic bags that can you use to pick up your pet's waste.



Stick to Trails

Traveling on a trail leaves room for wildlife and their homes. Short-cutting trails causes erosion. Be ready to get muddy and step right through puddles. Boots dry overnight; plants take years to recover.

Protect Our Waters

Riparian areas are vital to the health and diversity of animal and plant life. These areas are often the sole habitat for many plants and animals species that need wet conditions.



Practice Minimum-Impact Techniques

Know Before You Go

Trash Your Trash

Please take out all trash, yours and others. Even “biodegradable” materials such as orange peels, apple cores and food scraps can take years to break down and attract scavengers that harm other wildlife.



Leave It As You Find It

Picking flowers, collecting rocks or taking arrowheads may not seem like a big deal, but it means others won’t have a chance to enjoy them. With thousands of people visiting Conservancy properties, the less impact we each make, the longer we will enjoy what we have.

Keep Wildlife Wild

Natural areas are home to wildlife. As a visitor, you should respect wildlife by observing them from a distance and not feeding them.



Protect Private Property

Respect “no trespassing” signs. If property boundaries are unclear, do not disturb the area. Treat another’s property as you would treat your own.

Manage Your Dog

Keeping your dog in control keeps people, dogs, livestock and wildlife safe. Others may not appreciate your dog’s company; therefore, ask before allowing your dog to approach them. Keep your dog nearby and under control. Carry and use a leash as required. Pack a pick-up bag and always pick up your dog’s poop—wherever it’s left.



Houdek Dunes

330 Acres - Open to the Public - Preserved in 1998



Looking for a lesson in the origin of dunes? It's here in our largest, most diverse natural area.

About the Trail

3/4 & 1- 1/2 mile loops
2 hours, moderate hike
sand, stairs, and slopes
benches at ancient maple

Spring Specialties

pink lady's slippers
birdwatching

Summer Surprises

monarchs on milkweed
flowering pin, choke,
and black cherry trees

Fall Fun

colorful aspen and birch
birds migrating

Winter Wonders

snowshoeing on
winding paths
animal tracks in snow

100-year-old birches, a fragile creek and dunes

Houdek Dunes' signature is its stands of bright, healthy white birches—many over a century old. Their advanced age is highly unusual for this transition species. Woodland pockets created by dips in the dunes shelter the birches.

Note that the stands of quaking aspen at the top of the stairs near the kiosk are clones. One of several aspen groupings throughout the property, they share a root system and identical genetic makeup. The tree takes its name from the spinning movement of its leaves. In a breeze some leaves show pastel and others expose green tops. The stem shape causes this flip-flopping—a design that likely evolved to limit the leaves' sun exposure.

Along the dune's southeast boundary flows Houdek Creek, a spring-fed stream which is the primary tributary flowing into

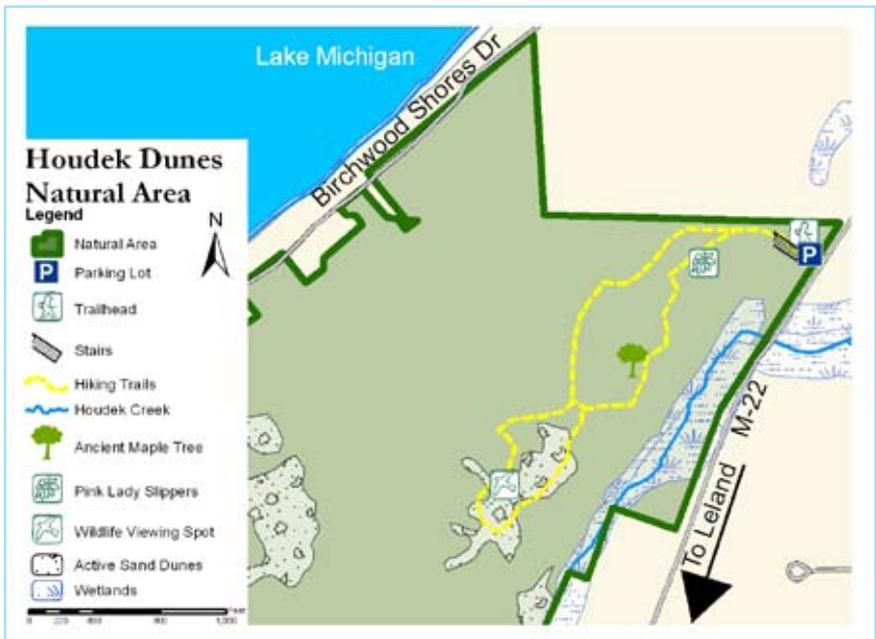
Houdek Dunes

Lake Leelanau. This creek is not accessible from the trail because disturbances along its fragile, sandy shore would compromise its health.

Dunes of All Types

But these wetlands are just a part of what's here. A quarter mile inland from Lake Michigan, the dunes form a border between Houdek Creek and a nearby hardwood forest. This barrier includes active and stabilized dunes including open, pitted, and perched sand dunes. There are even blowout dunes—where all the sand is blown out around a large clump of vegetation, leaving a green island in a sea of sand.

Cottonwood, red pine, white birch, red-osier dogwood, and sand-reed grass flourish in these open spaces. Among the hardwoods, you'll find aspen and red oak, with beech and maple in the sheltered valleys. Note the striped maple's large leaves and white striped bark (thus its nickname, the "Michigan State" tree). You might see as many as 150 pink lady slippers along the trail in spring!



Houdek Dunes



Shifting Sands

Clearcutting in the 1800s and constant buffeting by Lake Michigan's wind and waves never gave these barrier dunes and their forest a chance to stabilize. Most of the sand continues to shift with the elements, much as it has since the dunes' formation during the Lake Nipissing era.

Visitor information

Visit on your own, or see our website: www.theconservancy.com for a schedule of hikes.

Limited hunting is allowed at Houdek Dunes—by permit only, call Conservancy office 256-9665. Please use caution when hiking during hunting season and wear orange.

Getting there

Take M-22 five miles north of Leland. One mile past CR 626, look for a Conservancy sign and parking on left.

Clues From the Past

The land was owned and partially farmed by the Houdek family over a century ago. Duneside apple trees remain from an old orchard and fence posts indicate that the Houdeks probably grazed cattle here.

The Conservancy acquired Houdek Dunes from a developer who considered building a golf course here. With the help of many, the Conservancy was able to preserve forever these 330 acres that include a mile of frontage on scenic M-22 and 4,500 feet along Houdek Creek.



DeYoung Natural Area

144 Acres - Open to the Public - Preserved in 2006



This historic farmstead on Cedar Lake has it all: a mile of shoreline, hiking trails, a fishing pier - just minutes from Traverse City!

About the Trail

1/4 mile to Cedar Lake
access from parking
area or TART trail:
easy, flat and winding

Spring Specialties

bird watching
horsetail plants in the
stream valley

Summer Surprises

flowers in the northern
fen along Cedar Lake
fishing from the pier

Fall Fun

fall colors in the upland
raptors circling

Winter Wonders

cross-country skiing
snowshoeing

A Rich Agricultural History

The 145-acre Louis DeYoung farm is a multi-faceted property. Traverse City residents can bike here in minutes via the TART trail, which runs through part of the land on the lake side. You'll find a beautiful quarter-mile trail, which winds through mature cedars near the shores of Cedar Lake. It leads down to a fishing and wildlife observation pier on the lake. Many species of birds thrive here. Trails are also planned for the upland in the coming years. Keep an eye out as we actively restore the stream.

The property sits in the middle of a rapidly developing residential area. From the property's highest vantage points there are views of west Grand Traverse Bay. The land became available when Louis DeYoung, Sr. passed away in 2005 at the age of 104. His son, Ted, says it was his father's dream to see the land forever preserved.

DeYoung Natural Area

The farm has a rich agricultural history. The aging mustard colored farmhouse there is where Louis and his wife, Esther, raised two children and, early on, tended a dairy cattle herd. After morning milking, Louis herded the cows to pasture, sometimes leading them over railroad tracks to graze on the shores of Cedar Lake. Louis drove his milk into Maxbauer's Creamery on Traverse City's West Front in a one-seat Ford pickup. The DeYongs weathered the Depression, nearly losing their farm. He was the first in the area to bring electricity into his home by rigging a car generator to a water wheel on a stream that ran beneath his workshop. He was also one of the first to plant cherries. The land will continue to be farmed by a neighbor leasing the land.

Visitor information

Visit on your own, or see our website: www.theconservancy.com for a schedule of hikes. Limited hunting is allowed —by permit only, call Conservancy office 256-9665. Please use caution when hiking during hunting season and wear orange.

Getting there

From Traverse City and the intersection of M-72 and M-22 (Tom's West Bay) go north on M-22 1.2 miles, turn left onto Cherry Bend Rd. Go 2 miles down Cherry Bend Rd.; look for the barn, sign and parking area on your right.



DeYoung Natural Area



Kehl Lake Natural Area

227 Acres - Open to the Public - Preserved in 1990



A tip-of-the-peninsula jewel, nearly 3/4 of Kehl Lake's shoreline is protected!

About the Trail

3 loops of varying lengths
kiosk
easy hiking on winding trails

Spring Specialties

wildflowers
birding

Summer Surprises

sparkling lake
cardinal flowers

Fall Fun

mushrooms

Winter Wonders

cross-country skiing
snowshoeing

A Wealth of Nature

Kehl Lake combines the best of Leelanau, with everything from shoreline to towering mixed forest to important wetland habitat. Stewardship volunteer Chuck Whetsel tells us he has caught bluegills and bass in the lake, seen snowy owls, eagles, loons, mallard ducks, deer and coyote. He has seen the presence of black bear and bobcat via their tracks. Small mouth bass and northern pike thrive in the lake. You might see herons, kingfishers, and loons. Over 100 species of birds have been spotted here and wildflowers are abundant in the spring.

A Landscape in Flux

A closer look around the open field reveals remnants of the Kehl family's farmstead: juniper, blueberries, honeysuckle, strawberries, and remnants of a pear orchard.

The oldest trail leads into the rich eco-system of virgin forest. The trees are not giants, though. Fluctuating water never allowed any one species to dominate the landscape long-term. Nonetheless, some of the eastern white pines you see

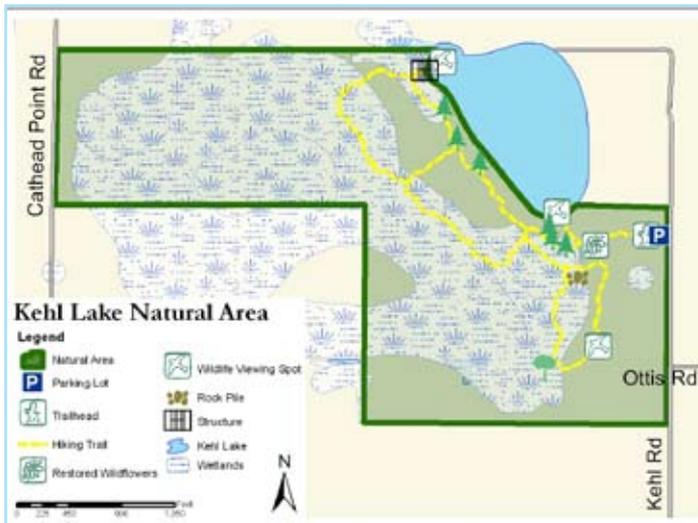
Kehl Lake Natural Area

from the trail are thought to be over 200 years old. White pine adapt to a variety of growing conditions and soil types, which is why the species has existed since the days of the dinosaurs. Docent Marsha Buehler says, “This is a peaceful place and its bounty of mushrooms, wildflowers, and animal signs are best discovered at a leisurely pace. However, it’s also great for a vigorous hike or cross-country ski.”



Don't Miss the Viewing Platform!

At the far end of the trail loop is a viewing platform that keeps you dry and suspended over a dynamic wetland ecosystem. Watch for waterfowl from this picturesque spot where water levels fluctuate from season to season.



“Each season at Kehl Lake has its own enthusiasts - from birders and wild flower lovers of the spring to the mushroomers of the fall as well as those who simply love the stillness there on a day in winter.” — Mary Lyons, Docent

Kehl Lake Natural Area

Native Roots

Thousands of years ago, Kehl Lake's trail was 20 feet underneath the great Lake Nipissing. The waters receded to form Kehl Lake. Ojibway called it "Midassaigan," meaning "Legging Lake," perhaps because the lake used to be shaped like an Indian leg covering. Or perhaps deer skins used to make such leggings were soaked in Kehl's calm waters.

Visitor information

Visit on your own, or see our website: www.theconservancy.com for a schedule of hikes. Limited hunting is allowed —by permit only, call Conservancy office 256-9665. Please use caution when hiking during hunting season and wear orange. No boat access from KLNA, public access is on north side of lake at end of Kehl Road. Motorless boats only, please!

Getting there

Take M-201 north out of Northport. After about 2.5 miles, go left on Snyder Road. After .5 miles, go right on Sugar Bush Road. After .7 miles is the corner of Kehl and Ottis; go straight on Kehl for .2 miles; see Conservancy sign and parking area on left.



Marker Tree a Clue to the Past

Native Americans gathered medicinal herbs from the wetlands. An ancient campsite sits right off the trail. Notice the "Marker Tree" off to the right of the trail near the lakeshore (see photo above). When this white pine was a sapling, it was manipulated to grow with its distinctive kink, creating a striking landmark and indicator of an old canoe portage route.

Since 1990, thanks to hundreds of donors who care about this area, the Kehl Lake Natural Area has grown from 100 to 227 acres, adding protection to this fragile portion of the tip of our peninsula.

Lighthouse West Natural Area

45 Acres - Open to the Public - Preserved in 2004



640 feet of
Lake Michigan
shoreline at
the Tip of the
Peninsula

Visitor Information

Visit on your own, or see our website: www.theconservancy.com for a schedule of hikes.

Getting there

From Northport, head north on M-201 through the Village and out of town. M-201 becomes Co. Rd. 640/Woolsey Lake Rd. Continue as Co. Rd. 640/Woolsey Lake Rd. becomes Co. Rd. 629/Woolsey Lk.Rd. for approx. 5 miles. Turn left on Cathead Bay Drive. Parking is approx. 0.1 mile on right.

Hunting is not permitted.

Wildlife Corridor

For the thousands of beautiful songbirds and majestic raptors that migrate to nesting grounds in the Upper Peninsula, our Lighthouse West Natural Area at the Tip of the Peninsula is a godsend. Here, 42 acres and 642 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Lake Michigan provide a place to rest before crossing the big water. This locale hosts over 120 species of our feathered friends.

The cobble beach here features wetland vegetation that, depending on water levels, feeds wading birds and waterfowl. Off-shore, you'll find open, shrubby land with wetland pockets ideal for sparrows, indigo buntings, waxwings and other birds. Finally, further from shore is a terraced slope with boulders deposited by receding glaciers and hardwoods like beech and maple. This land is home to wood warblers, woodpeckers, chickadees, jays, cardinals and many other birds that depend on seeds, buds and nesting sites that hardwoods provide.

Lighthouse West Natural Area

This land is part of a larger wildlife corridor we have long been working to protect. All told, the Conservancy has protected more than 600 acres north of Northport. Lighthouse West abuts 23 acres and 1,000 feet of shoreline on private land already permanently protected by a conservation easement. It is also near the newly-expanded Leelanau State Park, which takes in 51 acres and 1,400 feet of shoreline.

Plans are in the works to create trails for birding opportunities and other public access that are compatible with protecting its natural features.

About the Trail

two hours

3/4 mile flat, easy trail

800 feet rigorous trail -
steep bluff to Lk Michigan

Spring Specialties

migratory birds and
raptors

Summer Surprises

Lake Michigan cobble
stone beach
boulder hardwood forest
blackberries

Fall Fun

raptors migrating
fall colors in the
hardwoods and aspen

Winter Wonders

snowshoeing
wildlife tracking



Lighthouse West Natural Area

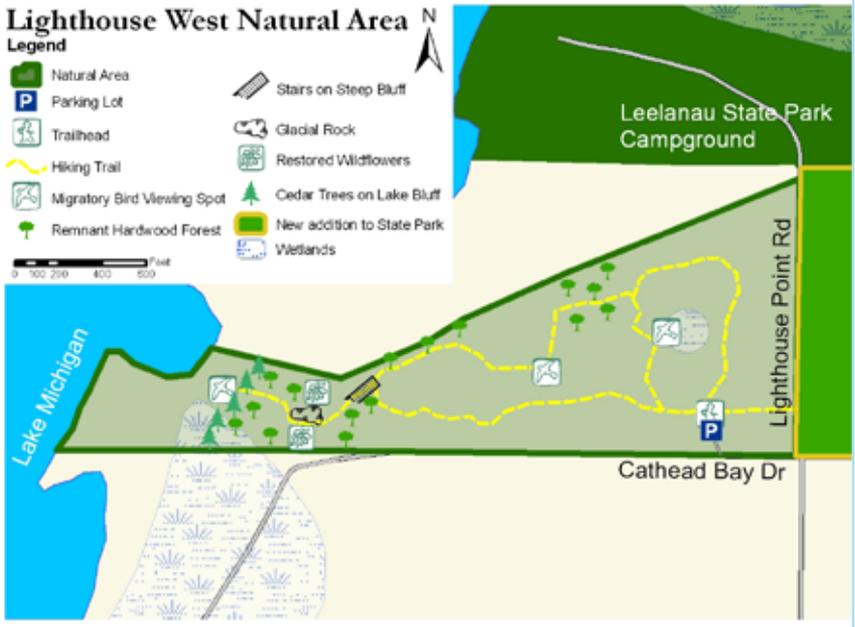


Lighthouse West Natural Area

Legend

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Natural Area |  Stairs on Steep Bluff |
|  Parking Lot |  Glacial Rock |
|  Trailhead |  Restored Wildflowers |
|  Hiking Trail |  Cedar Trees on Lake Bluff |
|  Migratory Bird Viewing Spot |  New addition to State Park |
|  Remnant Hardwood Forest |  Wetlands |

0 100 200 400 500 Feet



Whaleback Natural Area

40 Acres - Open to the Public - Preserved in 1996



Hike this bluff and claim your reward: a spectacular Lake Michigan view that brings visitors back again and again.

About the Trail

1.5 hours
challenging hike
steep access trail to
flat 3/4 mile hilltop
loop
info kiosk at trailhead
benches along steep
trail

Spring Specialties

thimbleberries
birdwatching

Summer Surprises

monarchs on milkweed

Fall Fun

brilliant colors

Winter Wonders

snowshoeing

An Ice-Age Legacy

The dictionary defines a moraine as an accumulation of earth and stones carried and finally deposited by a glacier. This 10,000-year old geologic wonder has all the attributes that made its preservation a must--spectacular views from its towering bluffs, a varied terrain which hosts unusual communities of plants and wildlife, and it's within walking distance of the village of Leland.

This is a very pretty hike with a gradual ascent for 1/3 mile through hardwoods to the entrance of Whaleback Natural Area. In the fall Whaleback provides an excellent color tour hike.

As you walk north along the top of the bluffs, look left for a patch of thimbleberries (their leaves resemble those of the maple). A very common plant near Lake Superior, thimbleberries only grow in this one stretch of the natural area, and they are extremely uncommon in Leelanau County.

Whaleback Natural Area

Before reaching the overlook, notice how tall hemlocks and hardwoods create a cathedralesque canopy. These trees shelter bald eagles: look for them flying above the observation deck as well as out over the water.

A Delicate Bluff

From the viewing platform, you'll see just how fragile this bluff is. On its western-most face, erosion has caused plants to lose their footing. Here, gravel and sand rumble down the slope into the lake. If vegetation does maintain a foothold in these exposed areas, what grows is usually ash, birch, pine, and hemlock. Don't guess these trees' ages from their size. Poor soil on steep slopes has stunted the growth of some real old-timers!



“Whaleback offers hikers the perfect opportunity to view the work of glaciers that carved out this area thousands of years ago.” — Jim Vachow, Stewardship.

Whaleback Natural Area

A Well-Loved Landmark

Mariners have relied on this distinctive whaleback-shaped silhouette as a navigational aid for centuries. Not only is the hill easily visible from Lake Michigan, but you can also see it from nearly anywhere on the western shore of Leelanau County or from high vantage points in the northern half of the county.

Of course Whaleback did not escape the attention of 19th-century loggers either. Photos from the early 20th century show the profile of Whaleback with hardly a tree standing. Virtually the entire forest, including the huge old oaks, consists of second-growth trees.



Visitor information

Visit on your own, or see our website: www.theconservancy.com for a schedule of hikes. Don't climb, or snowshoe down the bluff face! Slopes are delicate and dangerous.

Getting there

Take M-22 one mile north from M-204. There is a sign on left/west side of M-22. Turn onto paved road; parking lot on right. Follow the marked trail through private property to the natural area. Hunting is not permitted.

A Plan For Protection

It was an early goal of the Leelanau Conservancy to safeguard this special landmark. In 1996, the Conservancy bought 40 acres right on top of the Whaleback. Surrounding the natural area are private properties protected by conservation easement. (When you visit, realize that the land on both sides of the access trail is private and is not open to the public.) Whaleback Natural Area now boasts Leelanau County's largest undeveloped tract of shoreline on a single property outside of State and National Parks.

Cedar River Preserve

380 Acres - Open to the Public - Preserved in 1990



Wetlands are wondrous places to watch nature in action. Grab a kayak or a canoe, and immerse yourself in Leelanau's finest wetland complex!

Finding Your Way

There is no trail system at this preserve. You can only reach the property via boat on the Cedar River.

Spring Specialties

nesting loons
blue flag iris

Summer Surprises

canoe & kayak tours
pitcher & sundew
plants

Fall Fun

colorful tamaracks

Winter Wonders

ice formations
snowshoeing

Cedar River Natural Features

A paddle through the Cedar River Preserve is the perfect place to view stunning yellow pond lilies, see a mink slip into the water or watch an osprey dive for its dinner. The wetlands here provide not only a home for a vast array of wildlife, they also filter water entering Lake Leelanau and are a crucial hedge against pollution.

A kayak or canoe ride through the Cedar River twists dramatically through four ecosystems and many microhabitats, giving rise to a rich collection of rare wetland plants and animals. Two shallow lakes (see map) are accessible by canoe or kayak. Loons often nest in the larger of the two lakes. Cedar swamp occurs in the northwest stretch. Dominant trees here are white cedar, yellow birch, balsam fir, black ash, and tamarack. Most of the area, however, is fen, which is a "quaking mat" of tight vegetation over open water.

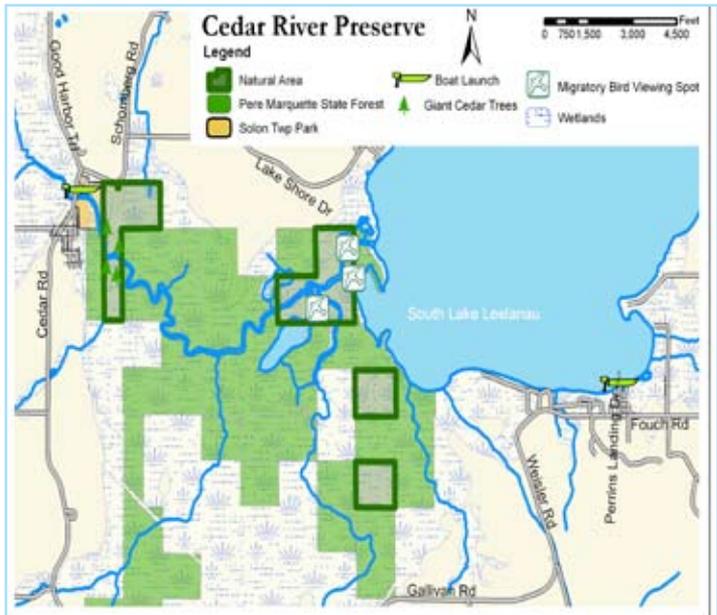
Cedar River Preserve



Lakes and Loons

Fortunately for kayakers and canoeists, the current on the Cedar is almost nil. Noticable plants here are cattails, bog lady's tresses, sundews, bladderworts, and the insect-eating pitcher plants. In more open water, fish, turtles, and whirligig beetles live among pond lilies and the burping echos of green frogs. Note male frogs by their bright yellow throats. Whirligig beetles are the tiny manic insects carving loops in the river's surface. They hunt for food with one set of eyes scanning above the water and one looking below.

In the future there may be trails at the area outlined in red. The rest of this preserve is accessible only by boat from the Cedar River.



Cedar River Preserve

An Undisturbed Past

Most of the Cedar River Preserve is in the Solon Swamp, near the southwest corner of South Lake Leelanau. This extensive wetland complex is key to the health of Lake Leelanau. The area has sustained no observable human impact, except for some cedars that were cut over 100 years ago. Including our 2008 addition, this area comprises over 1200 feet of Lake Leelanau shoreline.



Visitor information

If you put in a canoe or kayak at the Solon Township Park, allow 3 hours for a round trip to the farthest reaches of the preserve, depending on prevailing winds. Sun gear, rain poncho suggested.

Note that hunting is allowed—by permit only. Contact the office at 256-9665 for more information. Please use appropriate caution if you visit during hunting season.

Compelling Creatures

Few deer live along the river, because fen won't support their weight. But mink and muskrats thrive here. Upright dead tree trunks make perfect perches for ospreys or kingfishers, and you can recognize the swamp sparrow's calls by listening for the sound of an old fashioned sewing machine. Also on the wing are rare Saturniid moths, famous for their large wing spans (as much as five inches) and dramatic eye spots. They cannot survive under artificial night lighting, which distrupts their life cycles. They thrive in Solon Swamp, where only moonlight cuts the night blackness.

Finton Natural Area

35 Acres - Open to the Public - Preserved in 2000



For an easy, magical walk in the woods, Finton can be just the place!

About the Trail

1/2 hour
easy hike
smooth, level two-track that connects
Northport to Woolsey
Road

Spring Specialties

trillium in bloom

Summer Surprises

cool, cathedralesque
canopy

Fall Fun

spectacular colors

Winter Wonders

snowshoeing
cross-country skiing

A Land Link for Wildlife

This natural area is part of a critical wildlife corridor that spans the Leelanau Peninsula. Finton, along with the Conservancy's Kehl Lake Natural Area, Lighthouse West, the Leelanau State Park and private conservation easements make up a transpeninsular corridor that shelters and feeds wildlife traveling from Northport Bay to Cathead Bay.

Like most of northern Michigan, the land here has been logged at least twice. Regeneration likely began after 1880, and now majestic hardwoods flank the trail. Max and Mary Finton donated this land in 2000 because they enjoyed walking here and wanted to ensure it retained its natural beauty forever.

Finton's beeches and maples form a tight canopy; sun filtering through in patches here and there makes it all the more lovely. As a result of the low light, there is little ground cover and few wildflowers other than spring ephemerals. This shallow understory makes the tall tree trunks all the more dramatic.

Finton Natural Area

Along with its majestic hardwoods, Finton also contains a touch of cedar swamp. You'll find mushrooms, an important component of a healthy ecosystem. Listen for the many warblers that call Finton home. Look for boulders deposited by retreating glaciers and the raised ridges running along the ground that indicate past lake levels of Lake Michigan.



A Place of Purity

Look up to the tips of the tall cedars and notice the many white birches. They are relatively free of cankers, those black, textured whorls that denote ill health. In fact, many of the Finton birches are covered with lichen. Lichen are sensitive to air pollution, so an abundance of lichen indicates clean air. All these elements contribute to excellent wildlife habitat.

Visitor information

Visit on your own, or see our website: www.theconservancy.com for a schedule of hikes.

Getting there

From Northport, take 201 north (changes to CR 629). Turn right on Northport Point Rd (CR 640). Look for the sign and property across from Paradesia Road. Hunting is not permitted.



Chippewa Run Natural Area

110 Acres - Open to the Public - Preserved in 2000



Four separate ecosystems, a birder's paradise and a scenic buffer that protects Empire's small-town character.

About the Trail

1.25 miles of trail
one trail is easy terrain;
one trail climbs a
moderate hill
benches by pond

Spring Specialties

birdwatching
spring wild flowers

Summer Surprises

cardinal flower
lily pads in beaver
pond

Fall Fun

monarchs
colors along creek

Winter Wonders

snowshoeing

Natural Wonders

On a spring morning, you might hear 47 bird species singing, from the melodious meadow lark to the raucous red-winged blackbird, in this diverse, 110-acre natural area. Deer and turkey winter in in the old apple orchard; the sand pit is home to a turtle nursery and brook trout live in the stream that runs through the property. In times of high water, beaver dams here have entertained generations of children.

The trail leads visitors through and around some of the most interesting and beautiful natural features. The six biological communities present are: red pine plantation, wetlands, old apple orchard, old agricultural field, spruce/fir forest, and lowland deciduous forest. Along the stream corridor are native dogwood, black cherry, ash, maple, and poplar. The wildflowers found at Chip Run are among some of nature's most dramatic: blue flag iris, cardinal flower, and water lilies.

Chippewa Run Natural Area

Nearly 100 rescued wildflowers were planted beneath the hardwoods along the stream, adding diversity, by the Wildflower Rescue Volunteers.

The ecology of this area has changed over time. Ten years ago, the land around the stream and pond was submerged and hosted an active beaver community. There are few beavers now, but they may return. Meanwhile, enjoy the mallards in the cattail marsh. Coyotes cruise this natural



Visitor information

Visit on your own, or see our website: www.theconservancy.com for a schedule of hikes. Check the kiosk in the parking lot for the trail map and directions.

Getting there

From the intersection on M-72 and M-22 in Empire, head north on M-22 about 0.7 mi. The parking lot is located on the left, just south of the creek.

Hunting is not permitted.

area too. Note the “The Great Milkweed Patch,” a magnet for monarchs, just off the east side of M-22. Also near M-22, but on the west side, is a patch of non-native black locust. These trees regenerate by sprouting from their roots, so felling one tree would give rise to many more saplings.

Green herons nest in the pines at the property’s south end. These trees were planted in 1953 when pine plantations were widely established to prevent erosion and start the reforestation process. The pine plantations on the east side of the road, though not native, are majestically aligned in rows. The Leelanau Conservancy is sustainably managing the trees to convert this monoculture to a more wildlife-friendly habitat over the next fifty years.

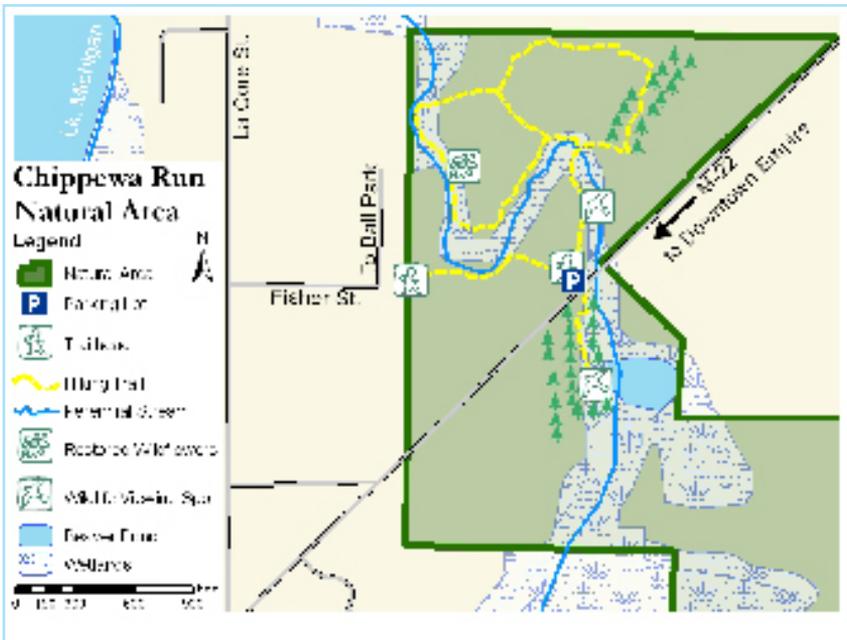
Chippewa Run Natural Area

A Storied History

The creek here flows into South Bar Lake, a rich hunting and fishing ground with a history of Chippewa Indian encampments. Later, settlers planted orchards on both sides of the creek, as evidenced by cherry stumps in the old meadow and an apple orchard north of the creek.

The property has since passed through many hands. In the 1960s, Bill Dowsett created a beaver pond from what was originally a wetland. Scraps of wood in the field next to the parking area are remnants from when Jerry Decker processed camp wood here and sold it at D.H. Day Campground.

Originally known as the “Gateway to Empire,” this natural area was established in 2000, when it was at risk of becoming a housing development. Concerned citizens teamed up with the Conservancy to preserve this longstanding local treasure.



“Chippewa Run has many different habitats, so it supports a wide variety of birds.” - Alice VanZoeren, Docent

Sutton's Bay 45th Parallel Park

51 Acres - Open to the Public - Preserved in 2007



A quintessential partnership project for the community good.

A New Park on the Bay

In 2007, the Conservancy pitched in to help complete Suttons Bay Township's new 45th Parallel Park. We provided a funding shortfall so that the project could be completed. The new park will be jointly owned by the township and MDOT. It takes in 435 feet of frontage on the bay, and the township's 46 acres will one day feature hiking trails and scenic overlooks.

"We're glad to help preserve this beautiful piece of land for the public to enjoy," says Brian Price, Conservancy Director. "Suttons Bay Township is to be commended for having a vision for this park and working so hard to make it happen."

The new park is a culmination of years of work and coordination between local, state, and federal public officials, the Conservancy, the Leelanau Scenic

Heritage Route Committee, Rotary Charities, Northwest Council of Governments and ordinary citizens serving on township committees. "It's a great example of what can happen when people have a vision and are willing to work together," said Tom Nixon, chair of the Heritage Route Committee and a member of the township's parks and recreation committee.

Township Board Trustee Dick Catton said "It was great to see how the private community and all levels of government can work together for the public benefit. It was a team effort and we all win."

At this time, there is a roadside pull-off area on M-22. More improvements are planned.

Narrows Natural Area

66 Acres - Open to the Public - Preserved in 2001



Citizen action led to the permanent protection of this important wetland complex.

About the Narrows

Best viewed from the water and the Lake Leelanau Bridge on M-204

Spring

marsh marigolds
spring peepers

Summer

wood ducks
cedar waxwings
cardinal flowers

Fall

woodcock
fall colors

Winter

river otter
eagles

Wetland Complex Extraordinaire

Located in the heart of Lake Leelanau Village, the Narrows is an integral part of the town's character. When an 80-slip marina was proposed here, the community rallied to preserve these precious wetlands.

In 2001, Lake Leelanau riparians and others who wanted to preserve the quality of the lake came together to raise enough money for the Conservancy to purchase 21 acres. Two years later, an additional 45 acres were protected.

A total of 2,350 feet of shoreline has been forever protected, along with one of the finest remaining emergent wetland complexes along Lake Leelanau. The ecological value of this land is immense: raptors nest here, numerous grasses provide abundant wild-life habitat, and the filtering wetlands are integral to the overall health of this vast lake.

Now, as the many boaters pass through the Narrows between North and South Lake Leelanau, they can be assured that part of this shoreline is preserved forever.

Narrows Natural Area



Crystal River

108 Acres - Open to the Public - Preserved in 2002



The Leelanau Conservancy was a key partner in forever preserving the river, now a part of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

About the River

This area is owned by Sleeping Bear Dunes National lakeshore

Spring Specialties

purple-fringed orchid
ferns and wildflowers

Summer Surprises

canoe & kayak tours
red cardinal flowers

Fall Fun

spawning salmon
wood ducks

Winter Wonders

white-tailed deer
playful otters

A Collaborative Effort

For generations, thousands of people have enjoyed a paddle down the beautiful Crystal River near Glen Arbor. The shallow river is gentle and slow, and its meandering route takes canoeists and kayakers around one beautiful bend after another. Ideal for families with small children, the river can be traversed in a couple of hours, depending on how hard you work. Every season brings something wonderful to see, from turtles sunning on rocks, to bright red cardinal flowers on shore, to spawning salmon congregating in the fall. Much of the river and its surrounding lands is sensitive “dune and swale” topography. The area has been recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as “globally rare habitat.”

The journey to ultimate protection of the Crystal River took nearly 20 years and had as many twists and turns as the river itself. When the Homestead Resort proposed building a golf course along the river back in 1986, a group called Friends of the Crystal River formed. The group would tenaciously oppose the course for

Crystal River

nearly two decades. Many other individuals and groups joined in the effort to save the river, from politicians to units of government to the Leelanau Conservancy.

We played many roles, from bridge-builder to financier. In 2004 the Homestead decided not to build the course and offered 104 acres for sale. The Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore wanted to acquire this ecologically wonderful land. But first park boundaries had to be altered by Congress and funds appropriated to buy the land. The Park purchased 45 acres, but could not secure enough appropriations from Congress to buy all of the land at once. The Leelanau Conservancy stepped in to buy and hold 59 acres until federal appropriations were available. That meant taking out \$4.85 million in loans—not an easy task, and not without substantial risk.

The transfer of the river was a complicated transaction that took nearly two years to negotiate and complete. Now, 104 acres and 6,300 feet of river frontage are forever under the wing of the park.

Visitor Information

The best way to see and appreciate the Crystal River is from a canoe or kayak. There are two outfitters in Glen Arbor who will drop you off at the put-in site. Or, if you have your own equipment, one of the best places to launch is on Fisher Road, just off Dunns Farm Road. For a map and more info, contact the Glen Arbor Chamber of Commerce: 334-3238 or visit their website: www.visitglenarbor.com



Leland Village Green

Open to the Public - Preserved in 1990



Sit a spell in the midst of these lovely gardens and watch Leland life go by.

A Community Gathering Place

An important element to the small town feel of Leland, the Village Green provides a lovely oasis at the end of the shopping district. Here, visitors and residents read their mail, wander through the beautiful perennial gardens, or simply take a moment to relax in this picturesque little village.

A cobblestone walkway leads to a large maple in the center of this locally funded community open space. The magnificent Adelia Ball Morris Memorial Garden was created by the volunteer Village Green Gardeners (a.k.a. Leland Dirt Club). Be sure to see the Leelanau Preservers tile wall that surrounds the big maple tree.

Each Memorial Day weekend, the Wildflower Rescue team holds a plant sale on the Village Green. Many of the plants they have rescued are sold and thrive in new garden homes. All proceeds support the work of the Wildflower Rescue team and the maintenance of the Village Green gardens.

Village Green Access

In Village of Leland, on Main St., across from the Leland Post Office.



Hall Beach

Open to the Public - Preserved in 1996



Crashing waves,
blue sky,
sugar-fine sand.
What could be
better?

Hall Beach Access

In the village of Leland, turn west at Cedar Street (Look for Van's Garage, the only gas station in town.) Follow Cedar St. to parking area. Trail to beach leads from parking area.

Please do not park in front of people's homes.

Please help us keep the beach safe and clean.

An In-Town Gem

Hall Beach protects both Leland's community character and its scenic view of Lake Michigan. The beach is Leland's first public beach on Lake Michigan since the harbor was constructed in 1970. It lies at the base of the south breakwall of the harbor and was originally owned by the Hall family. A favorite place for watching Lake Michigan sunsets, Hall Beach also protects historic Fishtown from future commercial development.

The Leelanau Conservancy and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund provided over 90 percent of the funding for its purchase by Leland Township.



Nedows Bay

Open to the Public - Preserved in 1999



Dig your toes into the sand at this calm, family-friendly beach on beautiful Lake Leelanau.

Enlarging a Popular Waterfront Park

In 1998, the Leelanau Conservancy assisted Leland Township in a project which doubled the size of Bartholomew Park (a.k.a. Nedows Bay), a popular park and swimming area on Lake Leelanau in the village of Leland.

It was a cooperative effort. By successfully negotiating a bargain sale from the owner, receiving a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, and

raising private donations, the Conservancy added 163 feet of Lake Leelanau frontage to this park for the future enjoyment of residents and visitors.

Nedows Bay Access
Bartholomew Park is located at the end of Pearl Street in Leland. To get to Pearl Street, turn east at the Leland Post Office.



Whittlesey Preserve

20 Acres - Preserved in 1991



Less than one-fourth mile from Belanger Creek, this pretty, rolling parcel helps to protect open space near Suttons Bay.

A View Preserved

This preserve was gifted to the Conservancy by Mrs. Connie Whittlesey, who wanted to share her love of this land with future Suttons Bay area residents. Her 1991 donation is near other Conservancy properties protecting the wetlands along Belanger Creek.

Whittlesey's uplands are dominated by hardwood forest. Rolling hills provide great views of Grand Traverse Bay. In the lowlands live wetland-dependent birds and uncommon ferns, such as interrupted, maidenhair, and rattlesnake fern.

This property may be seen on guided hikes only as it is surrounded by private lands and is not accessible.



Belanger Creek Preserve

68 Acres - Preserved in 1992



An ecological powerhouse, with 2,800 feet of stream corridor.

Habitat Extraordinaire

One of the Conservancy's most diverse properties, Belanger Creek Preserve is not to be missed. Because it has no trail system it is best seen on a docent-led hike.

Bubbling springs emerge to join Belanger Creek along its course through this preserve. Brown and brook trout swim under a lowland canopy of hemlock, cedar, and white pine. There are yellow birches, too, whose bark yields a sharp wintergreen taste. Upland you find hardwood climax forest, including ash, sugar maple, and basswood.

Huge stands of aspen in these woods are clones, sharing a root system and identical genes. As natural forest succession occurs, aspen will die leaving no viable offspring, because the canopy will not allow enough sun in for the saplings to survive.

Creatures such as weasels, badgers, mink, porcupines, ruffed grouse, and snowshoe hares revel in the shady understory. Higher up, a lucky observer might see indigo buntings or barred owls. One hike may turn up 30 species of wildflowers, from the yellow lady slipper to the innocuous goldthread, which hides its thin, bright roots underground. You'll also find the so-called "striped trillium" in abundance. The stripes are a result of infection by bacteria.



Mebert Creek & Greeno

174 Acres - Preserved in 1993



This rich swamp forest shelters rare and reclusive animals and plants and is key to protecting the health of Lake Leelanau.

A Lush Mosaic of Ecology

Along the shores of Lake Leelanau lies a tapestry of wetland habitats where Mebert Creek discharges into Lake Leelanau. One of the region's most diverse wetland complexes, with 174 acres and over a mile of shoreline, this preserve provides undisturbed habitat for rare and threatened plants. It also filters and removes excess nutrients, thereby protecting the water quality of the lake.

The lowland forest contains birch, ash, basswood, red maple, white pine, tamarack, and cedar. Understory thrives where light breaks the canopy. A variety of ferns, wild roses, and yellow lady slippers provides shelter for otter and bobcat. Ecologist Glen Goff told the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, "the fen located along the shoreline of Lake Leelanau. . . is an exemplary natural feature of a type that is presently rare in northern Michigan." We purchased this 140-acre preserve, then helped Bingham Township to acquire it with the help of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. A second 13-acre parcel was added to this preserve in 2003. Subsequently, John Greeno donated 21 acres and 1600 feet of adjacent shoreline. He explains, "This land has been in my family since we established a fishing camp there in 1905, and we always wanted to keep it as natural as possible."



This property is not easily accessible and best seen from the water or on a guided hike.

Teichner Preserve

41 Acres - Preserved in 1996



Given in honor and love, this fragile, forested wetland is a gift to all who cherish Nature's intricate web.

A Natural Gift

CBS Sunday Morning News Correspondent Martha Teichner has been all over the world. But there is no more important place to her than the cedar-and-tamarack-tangled shores of Lime Lake where she spent the first 10 years of her life. In 1996, she donated

20 acres near the lake in honor of her parents, Hans and Miriam. In 2005 she helped to double the amount of land protected.

The new addition to the Preserve includes 200 feet of natural shoreline and wetlands critical to the health of Lime Lake that had been slated for residential development. Another 10 acres connecting the two parcels was donated by Jean Raymond of Grand Rapids and Lime Lake.

Visitor information

Call the office for a schedule of guided hikes: 256-9665.

Getting there

From Leland, take M-22 south 8 mi. and turn left on South Lime Lake Rd. It is about a mile to the Preserve. Park by the fence on the right.

Hunting is not permitted.

These gifts have kept this fragile forested wetland intact for wildlife. Also on the property are an enormous elm tree and a chestnut tree, unique among all Conservancy properties. The swampy lowlands here are full of wildflowers in May. This is a wonderful tribute to the Teichner family, and we are grateful to all who made it possible.

Frazier-Freeland Preserve

13 Acres - Preserved in 2001



A dense thicket, where deer and other critters roam, rich with food and shelter for wildlife.

A Stream Corridor Protected

Frazier-Freeland Preserve protects the wetlands and water of Weaver Creek, an important stream that flows into Grand Traverse Bay near Omena. Wildlife and numerous bird species make their homes in this preserve.

Ross and Marilyn Smith donated this land to the Conservancy in 2001. Their family has owned and nurtured this land for many years. Ross Smith says, “I remember as a very young youth riding on a hay wagon, pulled by the draft horses of Lester Southwell, when this property was used as a hayfield. It subsequently became a strawberry field, and then went fallow. . . and now Mother Nature has taken over, and native grasses have established their presence, and so shall remain forever.”

This property is located on Freeland Road in Omena, but has no trails and its dense thicket makes it largely inaccessible. There is a sign that marks its location. The sign is visible from the road.



Jeff Lamont Preserve

40 Acres - Preserved in 2008



Scenic stands of old maple, beech and hemlock, delightfully dense wetlands replete with cattails over six feet high!

Getting there

From Northport, take M-201 north. M-201 ends and CR 640 begins. Take CR 640 .3 mi. Turn left at N. Kilcherman (antique apple farm w/windmill). Go .9 mi., road curves left and becomes Christmas Cove Rd. Take Christmas Cove Rd. .6 mi., stay right as you pass Scott Rd. Preserve is .15 mi. down the hill on your right.

Access

A small parking lot and simple trail are planned.

The entire preserve is closed during hunting season.

Family Creates a Preserve to Remember a Loved One

“The story of Jeff Lamont and his family is pretty incredible,” says Brian Price, executive director. “The preserve that will honor Jeff’s memory is a reflection of his and his family’s deep love for Leelanau County and the natural world. It is this sort of emotional response that has fueled the work of the Conservancy for nearly 20 years now.” (Read the full story on our website.)

The land has all the qualities that Jeff loved and that the Conservancy looks for when prioritizing land projects: excellent wildlife habitat and a wide variety of trees, flora and terrain. Its locale also makes it a part of a transpeninsular wildlife corridor at the tip that extends from Cathead Bay to Northport Bay.

Krumwiede Forest Reserve

110 Acres - Preserved in 2007



A prime example of the northern hardwood forest ecosystems found near the Great Lakes shorelines of the Upper Midwest.

Dramatic Topography

Located in the western part of Cleveland Township the Krumwiede Forest Reserve is part of the magnificent range of wooded hills visible to travelers as they look south from M-22 while passing through the Historic Port Oneida district.

This beech-maple forest also includes white ash and red oak which are less numerous in Leelanau forests. In the spring, trillium, trout lily, and Dutchmen's breeches are followed by sweet cicely and wild sassaparilla. The rich forest provides a broad array of cover for wildlife and includes a "wet meadow" with seasonally variable water levels and an important "edge" habitat. This area presents new opportunities for plants and animals

not well-suited to take advantage of the deep shade and high canopies of a mature forest.

With over 2,000 feet of frontage along Wheeler Road, passers-by can easily view the diverse forested hills and the emergent wetland. These wetlands retain vast amounts of spring floodwaters and slowly re-supply underground aquifers.

With this gift, Robert and Geraldine Krumwiede have truly expressed their commitment to helping assure the protection of land and natural resources special to Leelanau County.

Access to Krumwiede at this time will be primarily through guided hikes.

Soper Preserve

80 Acres - Preserved in 1991



Edna Soper donated this land in honor of her late husband, James, to ensure the survival of the lady slippers that can be prolific on this land.

A Fragile Wetland

In 1995, observers counted at least 1,000 showy lady slippers at Soper Preserve near Northport. In 2002, only six flowers bloomed. We are fairly sure that changes in the water table determine the comings and goings of this treasured spring beauty. Meanwhile, a wealth of other wildflowers live in Soper's cedar swamp: twinflower, toothwort, and trailing arbutus. Local trees include red maple, birch, willow, and the blister-barked balsam fir.

The Conservancy is actively managing this preserve to restore the showy lady slipper population. During this management period, we ask that you respect the fragile nature of this area and not visit.

In 2008, 38 acres were added. Plans for trails on the new property are in the works.



Gull Island Preserve

7 Acres - Preserved in 1995 - No Public Access



Gull Island has been preserved as a sanctuary for the Herring Gull colony. Nesting places such as Gull Island, free from predators and human interference, are rare.

Distinguishing Gulls

Gull Island, which sits just off the coast in Northport Bay, is home to thousands of herring gulls which nest on the island from April to June. Herring gulls are scavengers that remove dead fish from shorelines and cull weak fish from the population. Don't confuse them with the smaller, pesky ring-billed gulls, which would easily become even more ubiquitous were the herring gulls not around to keep them in check. Other water fowl at Gull Island include the blue-winged teal, mute swan, cormorant, and red-breasted merganser.

Gull Island has also been an important educational and scientific resource. Scientists have conducted groundbreaking studies in population ecology, toxicology, and animal behavior here.

For the Birds...only

No mammals are allowed on Gull Island, including humans. Herring gulls mate for life and are very sensitive to disturbance, especially during nesting season. Birds may abandon their nests at the slightest provocation. Boat noise—especially the whine of personal water craft—are fatally disruptive to nesting gulls.

The island holds its own dangers for people. Cottage ruins seen from the lake pose dangers of rusty nails and the like. Falling feces or, more seriously, the beak of a diving gull, are a given with so many birds on site. There is also a risk of inhaling the fungal spore Histoplasmosis, which causes a potentially fatal lung disease.

Acknowledgements

Thank You!

Your membership support and extra donations to our project funds make it all happen. We are grateful!

Special thanks to David Edelstein and Jennie Berkson for underwriting the cost of this guide. We are grateful to them for helping us translate, through this publication, the great work we are doing together!

Cover photo by Jeff Ripple of Empire, who has photographed most of our natural areas and allows us to use his images in our work. Thank you. See more of his great work at www.jeffripple.com. Keith Burnham of the Leland Report is also a longtime generous donor of photography and helps us in many ways to get the word out. See www.lelandreport.com.



Striped maple

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Eli VanZoeren

And to everyone who has shared a photo on our Why Leelanau? website page. www.theconservancy.com/blog2

Please Give

Help Us Protect More Land

Leelanau is a gorgeous place that is growing rapidly. The pressures to develop our lovely landscapes, working farms, and pristine wetlands are increasing every year. Our unique peninsula needs all of our best efforts to preserve what we love most about it. By donating to the Conservancy, you can be a part of ensuring that Leelanau's beauty and quality of life is forever protected.



As a donor you'll receive:

- Our Conservancy newsletter
- Early notification about hikes and events
- An invitation to our Annual Friends Picnic
- A Conservancy decal for your car
- Up-to-the-minute developments on land protection projects via email if you desire
- The knowledge that you are making a difference in what Leelanau will become

How to join:

Join online at our secure website www.theconservancy.com

Call us: 231-256-9665

Make a check payable to: Leelanau Conservancy, PO Box 1007, Leland, MI 49654