



DNR website:
www.michigan.gov/dnr

Ludington State Park • (231) 843-2423
 8800 W. M116, Ludington MI 49431

Central reservations
 (800) 447-2757

Welcome to the improved Ludington State Park

BY LOIS TOMASZEWSKI
 EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The Ludington State Park has a fresh new look, thanks to improvements made over the last several months. The closure on September 3 was necessary because of park-wide improvements and regular visitors to the park will recognize the differences in the roads, entry booth and other buildings and grounds.

"All of us at the park are looking forward to opening back up," State Superintendent Jim Gallie said. "For many of our visitors, this park is an important part of their lives. They've camped here for years. Or regularly walk its trails.

"We'll be glad when we can welcome them back to see the new improvements to the park," he said. "I hope the improvements to pedestrian and bike traffic are appreciated. They will improve visitor safety and speed up access between the park's different areas."

Some of the improvements made create a safer environment to enjoy the park and all the activities that visitors and campers partake in. The park is always busy during the peak season, and traffic congestion has been one of the issues the improvements address.

"The fact that vehicles and non-motorized visitors will be better separated will be one of the biggest changes," Gallie explained. "No more sharing the roads. There will also be additional parking, so we're hoping that people won't be forced to sit in their cars waiting for parking places to open up on busy summer days."

Gallie said it had been a while since the park's roads were last paved. He said that the layer of asphalt on the roads had been "quite thin," and that there were numerous potholes on the roads and in the parking lots and cold patching had not been effective. These roads and surfaces have been replaced, down to the road

bed during this project.

In addition, many of the changes were made in the hopes of making the visitor experience that much more enjoyable.

"The popularity of the Lake Michigan beach has increased, and the lack of parking and non-motorized connector trails was obvious," Gallie explained. "We often had to turn away visitors from the beach. Pedestrians and bicyclists had to share a narrow entrance road to the beach with vehicles. Something needed to be done to fix these issues. It was a long time coming, but we're happy that we have all new parking lots and roads."

One noticeable difference that regular visitors may notice is that the gravel lots near the Hamlin dam have been paved and trees that were in really rough shape have been removed. "It looks quite different there," he said.

Another change will greet visitors as soon as they arrive at the



Entry booth

LUDINGTON STATE PARK PHOTO

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Hamlin Lake access area

LUDINGTON STATE PARK PHOTO

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

entrance kiosk, a safety barrier. The barrier addresses safety concerns as Gallie said the park entrance building has been struck multiple times in the past. “We are hoping that the barrier will protect the building and our staff if a vehicle threatens to strike the building,” he said. “The bridge will be striped differently. The lanes across the bridge and up to the

booth will be shifted to the east to accommodate a larger non-motorized path across the bridge to the south side of the Big Sable River. There will be a cross-walk south of the river to assist bicyclists from the west to east side of M-116. “North of the entrance has been changed to a four way stop to improve safety. A left hand turn lane has been added to the northbound lane to reduce

congestion at the entrance,” he said. “Non-motorized paths will help visitors navigate the entrance and access to the beach.” Gallie said during the closure, park staff have repaired campground road edges, painted vault toilets, refinished restroom doors, and repaired trails to complement the paving and other major projects at the park.

The park closure has not deterred those wanting to enjoy the summer at the park. Reservation for the campgrounds has been “steady” for the park’s reopening date and beyond, Gallie said. “There is a lot of excitement for our visitors to get back to the park,” he said. “Many of them have been camping here for decades.”

YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD BOARDING KENNEL!!

We offer both daycare and overnight boarding for cats and dogs of all kinds. Every pup gets exercised daily and gets to enjoy individualized time with our caring staff.

AND WE'RE JUST A SHORT DRIVE FROM THE STATE PARK!

(231) 843-8397

1042 S. Meyers Rd., Ludington, MI

ackfurbabies@gmail.com

ackfurbabies.wixsite.com/andersoncreekkennels

Contact us today for a tour or to make a reservation!

Welcome to Ludington State Park

On behalf of the park staff, I'd like to welcome you to the 5,300 acres of open dunes, jack pine barrens, and clear waters that make up Ludington State Park. We hope that you enjoy your stay, whether you are here for two weeks or two hours.

There is a lot to do at Ludington State Park and we encourage you to see as much as you can during your stay. If you have limited time, make sure to check out the beach, Hamlin Dam and at least one of the shorter trails – the Skyline or Island Trails are sure hits for good views. If you are here for a longer stay, you can explore the park at a more leisurely pace, exploring the longer trails or making the hike out to the Big Sable Point lighthouse.



Park Manager Jim Gallie

The historic Lake Michigan Beach House, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the mid-1930s, is a great start to your visit. The upper level of the beach house contains a wonderful 3D map that highlights the most interesting spots to visit in the park. Exhibits that focus on the Great Lakes, the park's flora and fauna, and the history of the park are displayed here. New Park Interpreter Brandon Griffith and his staff host programs in the beach house. Stop by to see them. Return in the evening to enjoy ice cream from the park concession and watch the sun descend into Lake Michigan.

Pet owners will want to check out the pet friendly beach north of the Big Sable River and south of the Lake Michigan beach house. Lower Lake Michigan water levels mean that this area has a larger beach than it has in the past few years. Make sure to follow the pet rules outlined in this newspaper.

If you have younger kids, Hamlin Lake is the place to be, with its friendly beach and accessible playground. This part of the park has a boat launch for powered watercraft and an accessible kayak and canoe launch for non-motorized craft. You can also rent watercraft from the park concessionaire if you visit the park without a boat.

While the park was shut down for the major construction project, staff were able to focus on maintenance projects that are often difficult to do while visitors are present. Sections of boardwalk on the Island Trail and Lost Lake Trail were replaced. All the west facing cedar shake on the Lake Michigan beach house was replaced, posts and beams were repaired, and the entire building was repainted. Weeks were spent inspecting the campgrounds for hazardous trees and branches, which were then removed. Road edges and campsites were repaired, trails were improved, and restroom doors and shower ceiling were replaced or painted. We've lost count of how many picnic tables were repaired! The crew has done a great job catching up on projects during the closure.

All of us at Ludington State Park welcome you back to the park after this 10 month closure. We missed seeing you and we hope you enjoy the upgrades!

State park entrance fees

All vehicles entering Michigan State Park and Recreation Areas and boating access sites are required to display a Michigan Recreation Passport.

SAVE MONEY AND TIME. PURCHASE YOUR PASSPORT AT THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The easiest way to purchase the Recreation Passport is to do so when renewing your vehicle registration at the Michigan Secretary of State.

Doing so also saves you \$5 off the at-park purchase price. Let

the SoS know that you want to purchase the passport and they will add the fee to your plate renewal.

PURCHASE AT THE PARK

If you didn't have the Recreation Passport added to your license plate when renewing it, you can still buy a Passport for your windshield at the park.

Non-Michigan residents can purchase a passport, to be displayed on the passenger's side of the windshield, at the park. Non-residents can purchase year-

ly or daily passports.

The Recreation Passports can be purchased at the park entrance or camper registration buildings during the busy seasons. During the slower seasons, passports are available at the park office.

To learn more about the Recreation Passport, visit www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport.

RECREATION PASSPORTS

- Resident Motor Vehicles: \$19
- Resident Motorcycles: \$12
- Non-resident annual: \$41
- Non-resident daily: \$11



HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF FOREST PESTS AND DISEASE!





Buy wood locally



Certified



Burn it all before you leave

DO YOUR PART: DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD!

Ludington's Campground Hosts

The campground hosts at Ludington are experienced campers who are motivated to share their knowledge of the park and area. Visitors with questions about the weather, favorite local eateries, rainy day activities and shopping opportunities would be well served by stopping at

the host site.

The host site keeps a stocked library of paperbacks for lending, provides shovels, rakes and brooms, and is the site of the Friends of Ludington State Park bottle and can return station.

Once a week, the host site also provides coffee for the park's

visitors. For the park's younger visitors, hosts will provide weekly activities. Check the bulletin board at the site for dates and times.

However long your stay, make sure that you stop by this hub of activity in the Cedar Campground and say hello.

Action Track Chairs

The Friends of Ludington State Park (FLSP) has now donated two Action Track Chairs to Ludington State Park, once again improving accessibility options for all visitors to the park. These motorized chairs can handle trails, gravel roads, and beach sand better than standard wheelchairs and mobility devices.

The track chairs can be reserved by contacting the park office Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at (231) 843-2423. The chairs can also be reserved in person.

Reservations are highly recommended to ensure that the chair is available on the day you want to use it. The res-



PHOTO BY STEVE BEGNOCHE

ervation and use of the chair is free of charge.

On the day of the reservation, staff will provide a short orientation and safety talk to help you become familiar with the chair's operation and guidelines. Additional track chair information and a video orientation can be found at www.friendsofludingtonstatepark.org under the Track Chair header.



Fishing at the dam.

PHOTO BY STEVE BEGNOCHE

LAKESHORE AUTOMOTIVE & TIRE

231-425-3526



YOU ARE ENTITLED BY LAW TO THE RETURN OF ALL PARTS REPLACED, EXCEPT THOSE WHICH ARE TOO HEAVY OR LARGE AND THOSE REQUIRED TO BE SENT BACK TO THE MANUFACTURER OR DISTRIBUTOR BECAUSE OF WARRANTY WORK OR AN EXCHANGE AGREEMENT. YOU ARE ENTITLED TO THE PARTS WHICH CAN BE RETURNED TO YOU.

TRUST OUR PROFESSIONALS WITH:

- Alignments • Brakes • Tires
- Oil Changes • Tuneups
- Heating & A/C
- Steering & Suspension
- Engine Repair & Replacement
- Automatic Transmission Replacement

Open Mon. - Fri. 8 am - 5 pm
702 S. James St., Ludington, MI
231-425-3526

LAKESHORE MOTORS Sales & Service

231-292-5768



WE EXPANDED!

LAKESHORE MOTORS SALES & SERVICE

USED CAR SALES & AUTO REPAIR

4413 W. US 10 Across from Lowe's

NOW OPEN

Second Location To Serve You Better

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PROUDLY PROVIDING YOU THE VERY BEST MEATS FOR



100 Great Years

FAMOUS FAMILY RECIPES

HAMS • BACON • BRATS • HOT DOGS
CHEESE • BURGER • SAUSAGE • JERKY
SUMMER SAUSAGE • SMOKED MEATS
SNACK STICKS • RIBS

LOCATED IN CUSTER, MI

231-757-4768



www.sandersmeats.com

Be Tick Aware

Ticks are becoming more and more prevalent in the outdoors of Michigan. That doesn't mean you shouldn't enjoy getting out in nature. Safely enjoy Ludington State Park by following these tips.

WHILE OUTDOORS:

- Use a repellent. Deet and permethrin are the most effective. Use as directed.
- Walk down the center of trails to avoid vegetation where ticks hang out.
- Wear light colored clothing so that ticks are easier to spot.
- While not fashionable, long pants tucked into socks helps keep ticks on the outside of your clothes.

AFTER OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES:

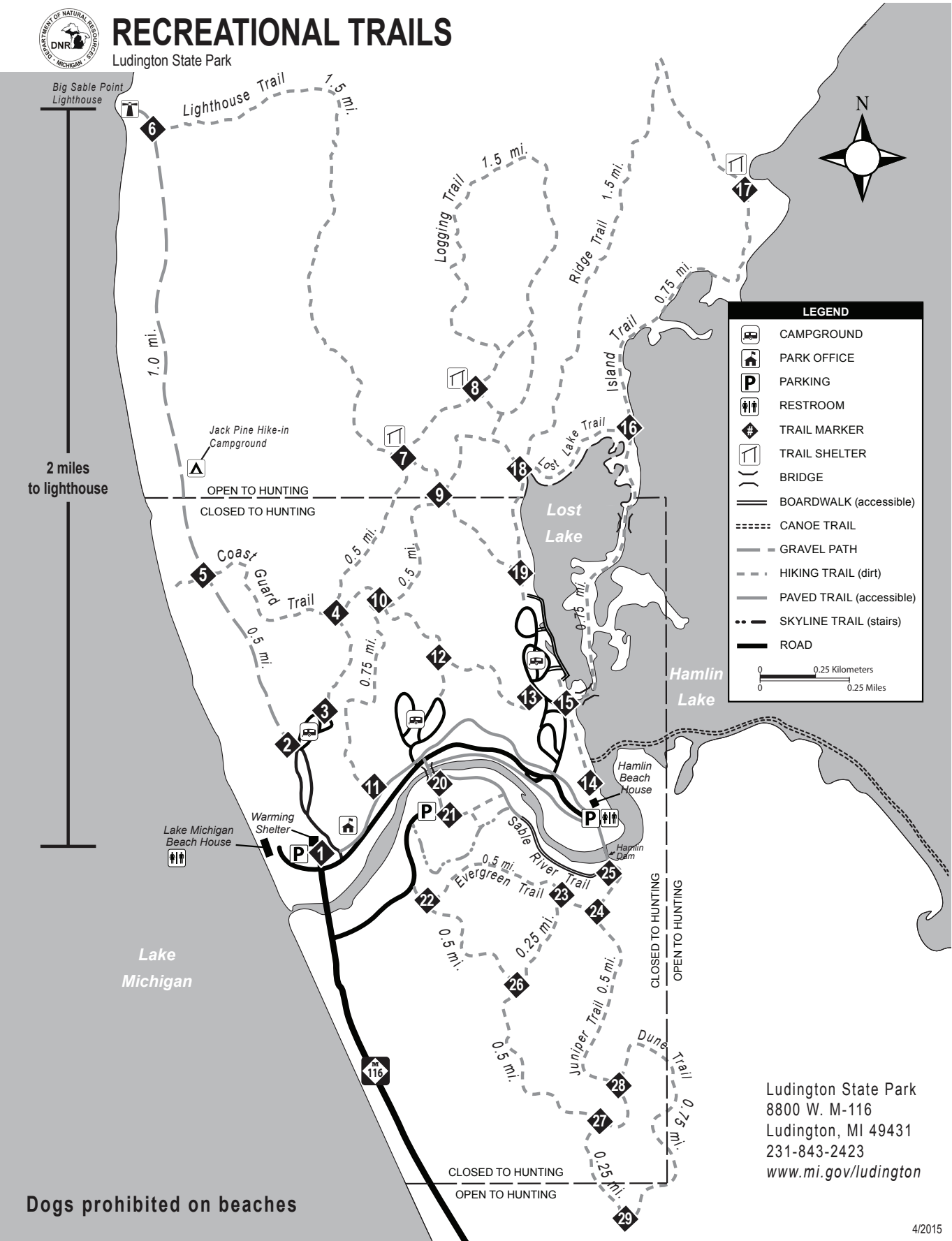
- Give yourself a tick inspection. Inspect under arms, around the waist, in or around hair, between the legs and around the ears.
- Check your clothing and equipment for ticks. A lint roller can help pick ticks from clothes.

IF BITTEN BY A TICK:

- Remove using tweezers or a tick removal tool
- Grasp tick as close to the skin as possible and slowly pull straight out
- Immediately wash the bite area with soap and water
- Keep the tick. Use a Ziplock or scotch tape or a small container to keep the tick. If you become ill, you can bring the tick to the doctor for testing.
- Keep an eye out for any signs of illness. If you become ill, visit a doctor.

Ludington State Park has black legged ticks, also known as deer ticks, which have been known to carry Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Be tick aware so that you can enjoy Ludington State Park safely.

To learn more about symptoms of Lyme disease or Rocky Mountain spotted fever and early detection, visit the Center for Disease Control's website at www.cdc.gov.



Ludington State Park
8800 W. M-116
Ludington, MI 49431
231-843-2423
www.mi.gov/ludington

Please help us recycle

Ludington State Park's staff recycles a lot of waste that is created while maintaining the park. Cardboard, paper, batteries, lightbulbs, oil, empty plastic containers, concrete and scrap metal are a few of the items recycled at the park.

You can help us reduce the amount of waste heading to landfills by using our recycling center. The recycling center is located next to the Cedar Campground store. Plastics, aluminum, clear glass and water bottles are accepted. Make sure containers are clean before recycling. This eliminates smells for campers and doesn't draw unwanted insects and animal pests to the recycling bins. Please do not put trash, such as food

waste, fishing line, plastic bags or returnable bottles and cans in the recycling bins; instead, use the dumpsters located near the recycling bins.



RETURNABLE BOTTLES AND CANS

Michigan places a ten cent deposit on all carbonated beverage containers. By dropping off those containers at the Campground Host campsite, at dumpsters in Cedar, Pines, and Beechwood campground entrances, and at the park's beaches, you will be helping the Friends of Ludington State Park. The park's campground hosts and Friends members sort and return these "returnables" to area beverage distributors, funding the entertainment and education series held at the park's amphitheater each week.

Don't drop your returnables in the trash; donate them to the Friends group! Help the Friends of Ludington State Park continue this successful program.

Trail etiquette

While outdoors enjoying Ludington State Park's trail system, please follow these guidelines so the park remains enjoyable for all.

- **PACK** out what you pack in. Carry out and dispose of all of your trash, including cigarette butts and fruit peels.
- **PLEASE** leave wildflowers, wildlife and historic objects undisturbed so that all visitors may enjoy them.
- **PETS** must be leashed at all times. Please clean up after your pet using the provided pet clean-up bags located at trailheads.
- **BICYCLES** are only permitted on paved paths and the Lighthouse Road.
- **THE** soft, sandy soils of Ludington State Park erode easily. Please stay on designated trails and avoid taking shortcuts across steep slopes.
- **TO** avoid spreading seeds from invasive plants, please use the boot brushes provided at trailheads to clean your footwear before and after hiking on park trails.
- **HUNTING** is allowed in the park. During hunting seasons, wear bright orange clothing while in designated hunting areas.
- **HIKE** safely. Check the weather forecast before heading out and dress appropriately. Carry a trail map and let an acquaintance know your hiking plans.



Biking in Ludington State Park

At times it seems that there are more bikes in the park than cars. To have a safe and enjoyable biking experience, we ask that visitors:

- Avoid riding after dark. If you must, bike slowly and use a light.
- Yield to pedestrians. If approaching from the rear, slow down and let them know which side you will pass by them.
- Keep speeds down, especially on paved footpaths and boardwalks.

- Be alert for moving vehicles, especially in parking lots. Yield to all vehicles.
- Do not ride or leave bikes in breezeways or in front of doorways.
- Please use bike racks and lock up your bikes when left alone.
- Stay on paved areas, except for the Lighthouse Road and your campsite.
- Biking is NOT allowed off-road or on dirt or woodchipped trails.

Shopping and rentals at the Park Dune Grass Concessions

DUNE GRASS CONCESSIONS

There are three locations within the Ludington State Park that are operated by Dune Grass Concessions. For more information regarding Dune Grass Concessions call 231-843-1888 or visit www.dunegrassludington.com.

THE CEDAR CAMP STORE

Ice cream, wood, ice, groceries, toys, apparel, and souvenirs are all available at the Cedar Camp Store. Bicycles are available for rent by the hour or day.

Open mid-May through late October. Hours: 9 am – 9 pm

THE HAMLIN LAKE CONCESSION

At this Hamlin Lake location, visitors can rent canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddle boards, and inflatable tubes. Snacks and beverages are also available.

Open every day mid-June through Labor Day; weekends through October. Hours: 10 am – 7 pm

THE LAKE MICHIGAN BEACH HOUSE

The perfect place to treat yourself to a hand dipped ice cream cone while experiencing brilliant sunsets each night. The beach house offers pizza, subs, hot dogs, snacks, sun protection, clothing and souvenirs.

Open Memorial Day through Labor Day. Hours: 11 am – 9 pm

New park interpreter ready to create great visitor experiences

BY STEVE BEGNOCHE

SPECIAL TO THE LUDINGTON DAILY NEWS

New Ludington State Park interpreter Brandon Griffith is dipping his toes into what the 5,300-acre park offers.

His first impression?

"I love it," Griffith said. "It seems like it's a really active part of the community."

Griffith has noted tourism is a big part of the park, too, saying he looks forward to working with both segments of Ludington State Park users.

"The park is so gorgeous, and to interact with both will be good," the 25-year-old Michigan State University graduate and Novi native said.

Griffith joined the State Park staff in 2024 after long-time interpreter Alan Werette retired at the end of that year.

"We're really happy to have Brandon join the Ludington State Park team," Jim Gallie, Ludington State Park manag-



er, said. "It's a big task to take over the strong interpretive program that Alan has built up over the past 25 plus years, but Brandon brings a lot of energy and new

ideas. I think he is going to do well, and visitors will enjoy his programs."

Griffith comes to Ludington State Park from the Dunes Learning Center at Indi-

ana Dunes National Lakeshore where he worked as a community engagement coordinator. There, he developed and implemented nature-based educational programs that promoted community engagement and fostered learning, including interpretive programs in both English and Spanish, according to biographical information presented.

Since his hiring, Griffith went snowshoeing in the park and has walked the history trail along the north shore of the Big Sable River. In all, Ludington State Park boasts some 21 miles of marked trails, and other unmarked ones, too.

Griffith has also been smitten by the drive into the park along M-116.

"The drive in, oh my goodness, it is so gorgeous. The dunes on one side and

the water on the other side, it's so gorgeous. I've seen eagles, I've seen loons, I've seen kingfishers."

 Celebrating
Over
30 Years!

.....

**TWO GREAT STORES
IN ONE LOCATION**


**Boutique Clothing
& Toys**

**PURPLE
MONKEY**
CHILDREN'S BOUTIQUE

123 EAST LUDINGTON AVE., LUDINGTON

- Lazy One PJ's
- Mudd Pie
- Angel Dear
- Magnetic Me
- Little Me
- Quincy Mae
- Sweet Bamboo
- Copper Pearl

**Largest
Selection on
the Lakeshore!**

Clothing • Shoes

Sizes Boys
& Girls
Newborn
to 14/16


ABC KIDZ
CONSIGNMENT

843-3734



Enjoying Ludington State Park with your pet

Pets can be an important part of one's family and they are welcome at Ludington State Park. While visiting the park with your pet, be aware that there are rules in place for the safety and courtesy of park guests and other pets.

For all pets visiting Ludington State Park, the following rules apply:

- **PETS** must be always on a 6 foot leash
- **PET** owners must clean up their pet's waste

- **PETS** cannot be left unattended anywhere in the park

- **PETS** cannot be allowed to bark excessively, exhibit aggressive behavior or cause a disturbance

- **PETS** are not allowed on park beaches, unless designated as a "Pet Friendly" beach

It is the responsibility of pet owners to follow the park's rules regarding pets. Failure to comply with the rules may result in a warning, citation or the eviction of the pet from the park.



Pet Friendly Water Access in Ludington State Park

Many pets love playing in water. With so many miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, it seems that Ludington State Park would have plenty of places for pet owners to take their pets swimming. Unfortunately, it isn't so simple as to let pets swim anywhere along the shore. Endangered piping plovers nest along much of the shoreline and pets and plovers don't do well together. Most park beaches are closed to pets, but here are a few "pet friendly" water access points in the park, including the park's designated pet beach. Leash rules still apply and cleaning up after your pet is mandatory.

- **ALONG** Lake Michigan, north of the Big Sable River, as signed – may be subject to closure if piping plovers nest in the area
- **PINEY** Ridge Lake, one half mile north of Piney Ridge Road's intersection with M-116
- **LOST LAKE**, north of the Beechwood Campground
- **THE SANDY** shoreline of Hamlin Lake on the south side and east of the dam

Pet Friendly Locations in Ludington

- **THE CITY DOG** beach, near the Loomis St. boat launch, a short walk from downtown
- **CENTRAL BARK**, a leash free dog park located in Cartier Park, five miles south of LSP
- **MANY RESTAURANT** patios are pet friendly. Check out www.pureludington.com/pet-friendly for more recommendations.

LOCAL DAILY • WEEKLY

CAR RENTALS

Cars • Minivans
Sport Utilities
12 Passenger Van

**VANDERHAAG
CAR SALES**

1680 W. US-10, Scottville
231-757-2727
www.vanderhaagcarsales.com

Ludington State Park FAQs

WHERE ARE THE NEAREST GROCERY STORES?

Family-Fair Marketplace, Aldi, Wal-Mart and Meijer are all on U.S. 10, east of Ludington.

WHERE CAN WE GET OUR PROPANE TANK FILLED?

Tanks can be filled at AmeriGas, 2985 W. US 10; Ponchos's Pond RV Park, 5335 W. Wallace Road (behind McDonald's); Vacation Station RV Park, 4895 W. US 10; and at Hamlin Grocery, 3611 N. Jebavy Drive. Tank exchanges are also offered at several businesses in the area.

IS ALCOHOL ALLOWED IN THE PARK?

Yes, in Michigan you must be over 21 to possess or consume alcoholic beverages. General state laws concerning possession/consumption apply in Ludington State Park. No glass bottles are allowed on beaches. Some state parks may have other restrictions posted.

NOW THAT MARIJUANA IS LEGAL IN MICHIGAN, CAN I USE IT IN THE PARK?

No. The Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act, which legalizes the consumption of marijuana in Michigan, prohibits the consumption or smoking of marijuana in public places. If park staff become aware of the consumption

or smoking of marijuana in the park, appropriate law enforcement action will be taken.

ARE FIREWORKS ALLOWED IN THE PARK?

It is unlawful to use or ignite fireworks in Ludington State Park.

WHERE CAN WE RENT A BOAT?

Canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddle boards can be rented at the Hamlin Lake concession and Cedar Campground Store. To find out about other boat rentals on Hamlin Lake, pick up a brochure from the campground registration station. For Lake Michigan charter boat trips, check with the Ludington Convention and Visitors Bureau at www.pure-ludington.com

MAY WE GATHER DEAD WOOD ON THE GROUND FOR OUR FIRE?

No, dead wood provides food and homes for wildlife, helps prevent erosion and creates valuable topsoil in the forest. Campfire wood can be purchased at the park store.

CAN WE COLLECT SNAKES, FROGS AND TURTLES?

No. It is illegal to collect frogs, snakes, turtles or any other wild creatures in the state park. Many of these animals are de-

clining in population. You can help protect them by keeping leaving them in the wild.

AFTER I CHECK OUT, CAN I LEAVE MY VEHICLE ON THE CAMPSITE WHILE I VISIT THE BEACH?

No. All equipment and vehicles must be off your site by the 1 p.m. check-out time. If you want to spend time at the beach, after check-out, try to clear your site before 11 a.m. This will give you a better chance of finding a double length parking space in one of the day use lots designed for motorhomes and cars pulling trailers. You may also park on the west side of M-116. We do not allow large camping units to park in areas not designated for them.

WHERE IS THE SANITATION STATION?

The sanitary dump station is located at the campground registration office, two miles south of the park entrance booth. There is a \$10 dump fee for non-campers. There are also sanitation stations for portable waste tanks located in the Pines, Cedar and Beechwood campgrounds.

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO MY CAMPSITE BEFORE I LEAVE?

To leave a clean and safe site for the next campers, put out your fire in the fire ring with water, pick up any litter on the site and clean and wipe down the picnic

table. Remember to always leave the site cleaner than when you arrived.

WHERE CAN I CONNECT TO WIFI?

Unfortunately, Ludington State Park does not have WIFI available and connectivity to cell networks can be spotty. If you need a network connection, we recommend visiting one of the local coffee shops in Ludington. Cell service may also be available at the Hamlin beach and south of the river along M-116.

WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR E-BIKES AND ELECTRIC SCOOTERS?

Only Class 1 e-bikes are allowed on the park's paved bicycle trails. Class 1, 2 and 3 e-bikes are allowed on park roads and parking lots. Electric scooters, one wheels, powered skateboards, golf carts and other unlicensed motorized and electric vehicles are prohibited on park roads and trails. These can only be ridden on the owner's campsite.

WHERE ARE THE RECYCLING BINS IN THE PARK?

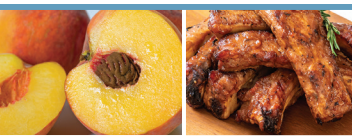
The recycling center is located next to the Cedar Campground Store. Plastics, aluminum, and clear glass are accepted if clean. Please use general waste bins for garbage and food waste. And don't forget to donate your 10 cent returnables to the Friends of Ludington State Park – see Returnable Bottles and Cans article.



WEST SHORE MARKET
DISCOUNT FOODS



TO STRETCH YOUR BUDGET



Deli Specials • Bulk • Freezer
Bakery • Cooler • Grocery
and much more

HOURS:
Mon.-Fri. 9 AM-6 PM
Sat. 9 AM-5 PM

850 W. US 10, SCOTTVILLE MI
757-9130



LUDINGTON MEAT COMPANY

Yes, we are a Meat Company, but we're also so much more than that...

SMOKEHOUSE & BAR
DELI • MARKET
CATERING & GRAZING TABLES
DEER PROCESSING
WINE & CHEESE SELECTION
BEER CAVE • BUTCHER • BBQ

3815 W. US Highway 10
Ludington, MI 49431
ludingtonmeatcompany.com
231-425-3797

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Wondering where to start for your visit to Ludington State Park? Here are eleven must see places & attractions

1. Lake Michigan

Enjoy swimming, sunbathing and sunsets along seven miles of sugar sand beaches that line the Lake Michigan shoreline in Ludington State Park. More than three miles of these beaches are but a short walk from your vehicle, providing easy access to Lake Michigan's waters.

2. Big Sable Point Lighthouse

A two mile hike or bike-ride north of the park entrance, this iconic structure stands watch over Lake Michigan and the freighters that ply its waters. Tour the museum or climb to the top for breathtaking views of the park's dunes and waters.

3. Skyline Trail

An elevated boardwalk guides visitors for a half mile along the ridge of a large sand dune south of the Big Sable River. South facing vistas overlook the southern half of the park, its dunes and jack pine barrens, and the community of Ludington.

4. Big Sable River

Gently gliding through the park for a mile from Hamlin Lake to Lake Michigan, this short stretch of tree-lined river is home to some of the best wildlife viewing in the park. Fishing is a popular activity on the Big Sable and tubing the river is a wonderful way to spend a hot summer day.

5. Lost Lake

Shallow Lost Lake is separated from Hamlin Lake by a series of islands and peninsulas. The Lost Lake and Island Trails circumnavigate this kayak friendly lake, allowing hikers to experience its serenity. Fishing can be good, so bring along a pole!

6. Hamlin Dam

Holding back the waters of Hamlin Lake, this popular location is an excellent place to begin a short kayak or tubing trip downstream during the summer. Boardwalks below the dam are fine fishing spots and the walkway across the top of the dam provides a great view of salmon

on fishing action in the fall.

7. Canoe Trail

Want to get away and discover one of the quieter areas of the park? This four mile trail takes paddlers along Hamlin Lake and into the wetlands, ponds and marshes that line its shore. Signs guide paddlers through the waterways and over four short portages. Wildlife abounds!

8. Amphitheater

After a day spent enjoying the park's beaches and trails, unwind during the evening while enjoying programs at the park amphitheater. Musicians, magicians, storytellers and wildlife rehabilitators provide entertainment for visitors of all ages at this outdoor stage set in the pines on the south side of the river.

9. Trail Shelters

Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps as the park's trails were being created, these stone structures provide visitors with a sheltered place to rest while

exploring the park's interior.

Three shelters remain of the original seven. Can you find them all?

10. Lake Michigan Beach House

In 1935, Camp Ludington Civilian Conservation Corps members built the Lake Michigan beach house just north of the Big Sable River outlet using Mason County lumber and repurposed bricks from the old Morton Salt factory in Ludington. Their work has stood the test of time, as this beautiful building continues to provide views of Lake Michigan sunsets at the end of the day.

11. Historic Town of Hamlin

Before there was Ludington State Park, there was the small lumber town of Hamlin. Founded by lumber baron Charles Mears, this community thrived along the Big Sable River before floods destroyed it in the early 1900s. Remnants of the town are still present. Join up with one of the park's guided hikes through this area to learn about the town's fascinating history.



HOWIE DEALS

FLAVOR THAT FITS ANY BUDGET

\$6⁹⁹



**Small
2-topping
pizza**

\$11⁹⁹



**Large 2-topping
round or thin
crust or Large
1-topping deep
dish pizza**

\$20⁰⁰



**2 Medium,
1-topping
pizzas and
Howie Bread®
with dipping
sauce**

\$30⁰⁰



**2 Large
2-topping
pizzas,
3 cheese
Howie Bread®
with dipping
sauce and a
2 liter of Pepsi**

PROUDLY SERVING LUDINGTON FOR 20 YEARS!

ORDER ONLINE

 **Hungry Howie's Ludington**

Hungry Howie's
FLAVORED CRUST PIZZA

LUDINGTON
5485 US-10 Next to Walgreens
(231) 843-6363
We Deliver • Open Late • Open for Lunch

Prices and participation may vary. Prices are subject to change without notice. Additional toppings, delivery and tax extra. All stores are independently owned and operated. Hungry Howie's and its related marks are trademarks of Hungry Howie's Pizza & Subs, Inc. Pepsi, the Pepsi logo and related marks are trademarks of PepsiCo.



Happy Campers

The Sand Bar is Ludington's Best-Kept Secret

(just not the quietest one)

Behind a fresh new look is a bar that knows how to party.

From Cocktails to Karaoke to Trivia nights and Top-Tier bands, the Sand Bar is the place where locals gather and tourists become regulars

Sand Bar

MUSIC MEETS MEMORIES

203 S. JAMES ST., LUDINGTON, MI

231-425-3093

NO COVER. EVER.



THE VIBE IS HERE ...ARE YOU!

Your next night out starts here - follow us!




Camping at Ludington State Park

WHAT IS THE COST FOR CAMPING?

Rates vary based on amenities.

Base Rates When restrooms are open:

50 amp sites: \$50

20/30 amp sites: \$45

Tent Loop: \$40

Weekends and Holidays:
Add \$3

Jack Pine: \$20

Mini-cabins: \$80

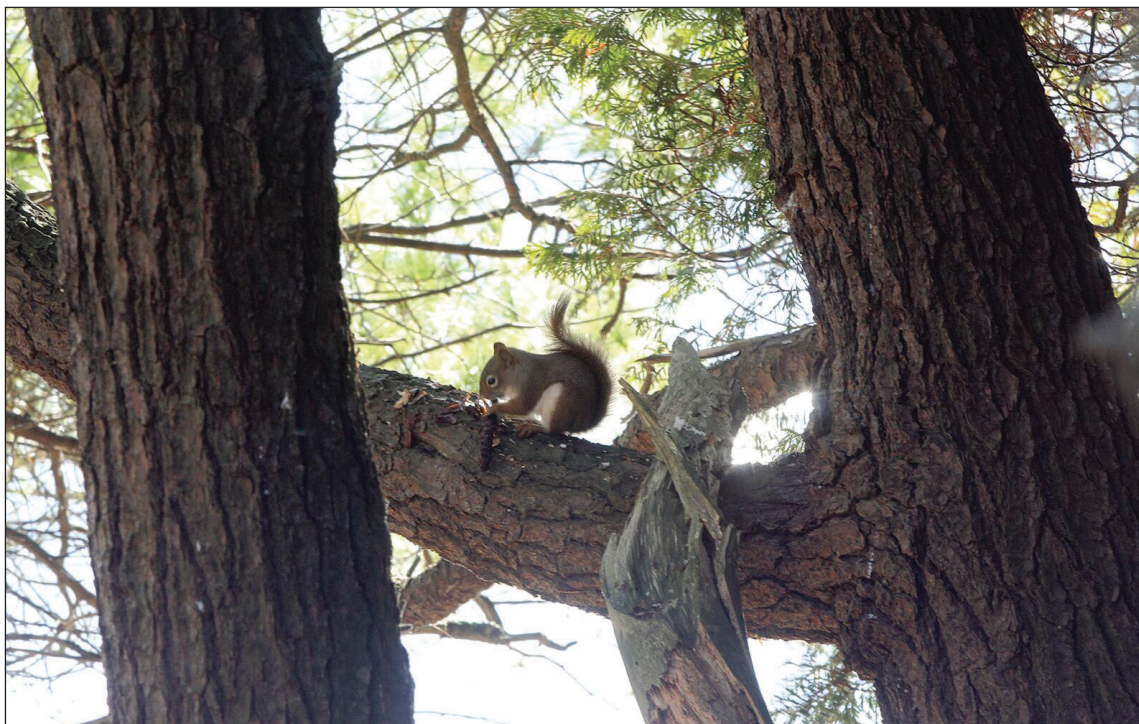
When restrooms are closed:

20/30 amp sites: \$40

Tent Loop: \$20

Jack Pine: \$20

Mini-cabins: \$60



HOW MANY VEHICLES MAY WE HAVE PARKED ON OUR SITE?

You may have two full-size vehicles in addition to your camping units. Motorcycles count as half-size vehicles, so two motorcycles take the place of one full-size vehicle.

WHERE CAN I PARK MY BOAT TRAILER OR EXTRA VEHICLES?

The park has very limited overflow parking for extra vehicles or equipment that won't fit on your site.

If these spaces near the amphitheater are full, you will have to find a location outside of the park to park

extra vehicles or trailers that don't fit on your site.

We recommend that you limit the number of vehicles brought to the park. Please note, overflow parking is not allowed in the loop closest to the amphitheater.

MAY OUR FRIENDS VISIT?

Yes, as long as they visit between the hours of 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. Remember, you can't have more than two vehicles on your site, so your friends may need to park in one of the day use lots outside of the campground.

WHEN IS QUIET TIME IN THE STATE PARK?

To avoid disturbing neighboring campers, quiet time is all the time. Official quiet hours are from 10 p.m. until 8 a.m. During these hours, rangers will be particularly strict about loud voices, electronic devices, motor vehicles and late-night camp set-up that may disturb the peaceful atmosphere other campers expect to enjoy.

HOW DO I MAKE A RESERVATION?

Reservations can be made for all Michigan State Parks by calling the Central Reservation System (CRS) at (800) 44 PARKS or going online to www.midnr-reservations.com.

HOW MANY SITES ARE RESERVED?

At Ludington State Park, 100 percent of the sites may be reserved in advance. It is very important to make reservations in advance.

HOW EARLY CAN I MAKE MY RESERVATION FOR NEXT YEAR?

You can make reservations six months in advance for campsites and the park's mini-cabins.

HOW MANY NIGHTS CAN I STAY?

You may stay up to 15 consecutive nights.

WILL I LOSE MY RESERVATION IF I DON'T GET THERE ON TIME?

We will hold your site for 24 hours beyond check-in time, which is 3 p.m. on the date you are due to arrive.

Arrival after that time will result in a "no-show," resulting in the loss of the first two nights' and reservation fees, a \$10 cancellation fee and a percentage of unused nights.

Requests to the park to hold the sites beyond this time will be denied. If you plan on arriving more than 24 hours after the check-in time, you must contact CRS to modify your reservation to avoid the loss of your site.

HOW OLD DO YOU HAVE TO BE TO REGISTER A CAMPSITE?

At least one member of the camping party must be 18 years of age or older.

IS THERE WATER AVAILABLE AT THE CAMPSITES?

There are no water hook-ups on the

sites. Water is available within walking distance at several locations throughout the campground or at the park sanitation station located at the campground registration building.

WHAT TIME IS CHECK-OUT?

Campers must be packed up and off of their campsite by 1 p.m.

CAN I GET A REFUND IF I LEAVE EARLY?

After staying the minimum required nights, you can get a refund for unused nights. You must clear your campsite and be at the reservation office before 1 p.m. to receive a refund for that night and all subsequent nights, minus cancellation fees and penalties.

IF I DECIDE TO STAY LONGER, CAN I GET AN EXTENSION?

Due to the park's popularity, it is very difficult to extend your stay. To see if sites are available and to extend your stay, contact CRS at (800) 44 PARKS or go online to www.midnrreservations.com

Lake Michigan Water Safety

Each year, Ludington State Park’s visitors are drawn to the coastal dunes and sandy beaches of Lake Michigan. On a hot summer day, there is nothing better than jumping into this wonderful, unsalted sea to cool off.

The big lake can be dangerous. Conditions can change with little notice. Throughout the day, all summer, park staff monitors the lake conditions and fly flags indicating the swimming hazard. These flags are located at the park entrance and on the beach side of the Lake Michigan

beach house.

In addition to the beach flags, a large LED sign broadcasts current swimming conditions at the entrance to the Lake Michigan parking lot. This sign is updated as beach flags are changed.

When conditions get particularly dangerous, park staff may close the main designated beach and the Big Sable Rivermouth.

The park’s beaches do not have life guards and all visitors swim at their own risk. Rescue throw buoys and life jackets are located at points along the designated

swim beach in the event of an emergency. A limited number of loaner life jackets are also available for use by visitors. In 2024, an EMILY (Emergency Integrated Lifesaving Lanyard) rescue robot was generously donated to Ludington State Park. This is an additional rescue tool for professional rescuers.

Days when waves are large can be fun, but they come with the possibility of long-shore or rip currents being present. Before entering the water, visitors should learn how to react to getting caught in one of

these currents. Signs located along the beach and at life-saving equipment kiosks explain the best methods for getting out of rip or long-shore current. See sidebar for more details.

To learn more about Great Lakes beach safety, visit www.dangerouscurrents.org and to learn the latest beach forecast for Ludington State Park, visit the beach forecast page of the Grand Rapids National Weather Service Office.

Have an enjoyable and safe beach season!

Great Lakes flag warning system at state-designated swim beaches

Red



Double red flags = water access closed

Do not enter the water, dangerous conditions. Respect the new law (find info below) that prohibits water access and do not enter the water.

Red

Red flag = high hazard

High surf and/or strong currents. It's recommended that you stay on the beach.

Yellow

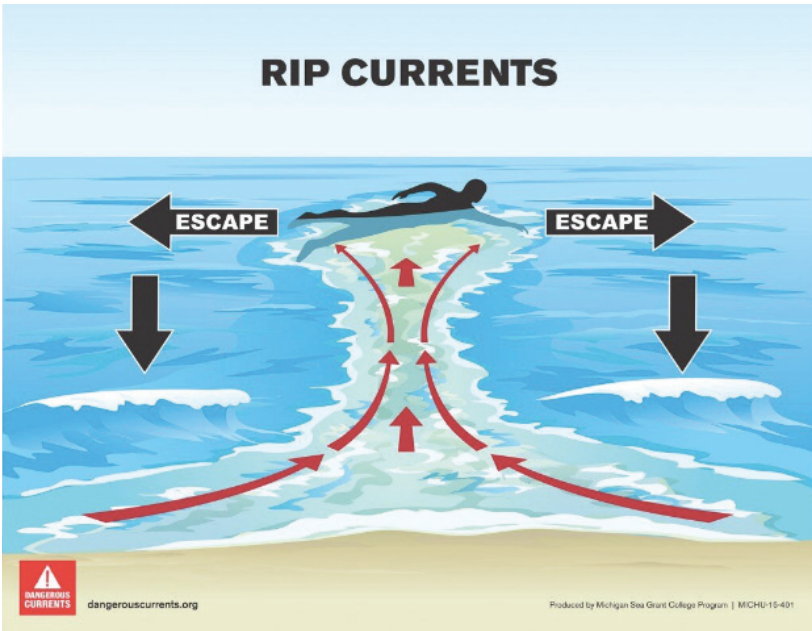
Yellow flag = medium hazard

Moderate surf and/or currents. Watch for dangerous currents and high waves.

Green

Green flag = low hazard

Calm conditions. Enter the water, but exercise caution.



If caught in a rip current

- STAY CALM:** Don’t panic. Focus on breathing and keeping your head above water.
- SWIM TO** the side, parallel to shore, then back to the shore: If tired, switch between swimming and floating until you reach shore.
- If in danger: Face the shore and call for help.
- IF SOMEONE** else is caught in a rip current, call 911 and use the rescue equipment to assist them. Wear a life jacket if you must enter the water.

Know the Rules: E-Bike Use at Ludington State Park

With the growing popularity of electric bicycles, or e-bikes, Michigan has updated its regulations to guide their use in state parks. At Ludington State Park,



these rules are being implemented as part of a statewide initiative to expand trail access while preserving natural resources and ensuring safety for all users.

Under Michigan law, e-bikes are categorized into three classes. Class 1 e-bikes

provide assistance only while the rider is pedaling and stop assisting at 20 mph. Class 2 e-bikes have a throttle and also stop assisting at 20 mph. Class 3 e-bikes are pedal-assist only but provide power up to 28 mph. All e-bikes must have a motor no more than 750 watts and a clearly visible classification label.

As of July 2024, Class 1 e-bikes are permitted on both improved and natural-surface non-motorized trails within Michigan State Parks, including Ludington State Park. This means riders can use their Class 1 e-bikes on the park's designated 2-mile bicycle trail as well as other qualifying multi-use pathways.

Class 2 e-bikes are allowed only for in-

dividuals with mobility disabilities and require a free permit issued by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). With a valid permit, these riders are granted the same trail access as those using Class 1 e-bikes.

Class 3 e-bikes, however, are not permitted on any non-motorized trails in state parks. At Ludington State Park, this means Class 3 riders are limited to paved park roads and cannot use the bicycle trail or any hiking or boardwalk paths.

The goal of these rules is to balance increased accessibility with environmental stewardship and trail preservation. According to the DNR, early studies suggest that Class 1 e-bikes cause similar trail impact as traditional bicycles. The department has launched a one-year pilot program to monitor e-bike usage and gather public feedback through trail signage and surveys.

Park visitors should note that all e-bike riders under the age of 18 must wear a

helmet when operating a Class 3 e-bike, and those under 14 are not allowed to operate a Class 3 e-bike at all.

To ride responsibly at Ludington State Park, visitors are encouraged to:

- Confirm their e-bike's class and ensure it is properly labeled.
- Apply for a Class 2 permit if needed for mobility access.
- Use only designated trails and park roads according to their e-bike classification.
- Follow posted trail signage, observe safe speeds, and yield to pedestrians.

For more information on e-bike rules or to obtain a Class 2 permit, visit the Michigan DNR website or contact the park directly.

As e-bike use continues to grow, understanding and following these regulations ensures a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone exploring Michigan's parks and trails.

LMC Lake Michigan
CARFERRY
an Interlake Maritime Services company

FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR THE BADGER!

Explore the Midwest aboard the historic Badger, the largest cross-lake passenger service on the Great Lakes—an authentic steamship experience.

Scan for Tickets



(800) 841-4243
ssbadger.com



Friends of Ludington State Park

Friends of Ludington State Park (FLSP) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization established in 1992 and dedicated to promoting wise use and conservation of the gem that is Ludington State Park.

FLSP works to support and improve the park through the funding of projects, recreational equipment, interpretive programs, and by volunteering to assist park staff on projects and trail clean-up. FLSP funded and helped build the accessible playground at the Hamlin Lake Beach House and the new kayak / canoe launch on Hamlin Lake. Additional FLSP funded projects include:

- The accessible beach walkway and wheelchairs;
- The park warming shelter and repairs to the trail shelters;
- Snowshoes and cross-country ski trail groomer;
- Interpretive signage throughout the Park.

FLSP ongoing activities include:

- Funding the summer entertainment programs held on Wednesday and Saturday evenings as well as interpretive programs throughout the year;
- Purchasing and helping with the planting of trees to replace ones destroyed by invasive species;
- Coordinating the recycling of MI returnable bottles and cans;
- Hosting virtual educational sessions during the winter;

Support the programs and volunteer activities provided by the Friends of Ludington State Park by becoming a member or making a donation today via our website www.friendsofludingtonstatepark.org. Memberships or donations can also be made by visiting the Park Office or mailing a check to FLSP, PO Box 123, Ludington, MI 49431.



The Wait is Over—Ludington State Park Returns!



Your Success Is Our Success,
We Belong To You.

SAFEHARBORCU.ORG
5511 W US-10 LUDINGTON
(231) 843-2323





Wetting a line at Ludington State Park

Ludington State Park offers many fishing opportunities for people of all ages. Three water bodies in the park provide a variety of fish species to go after. Fishing licenses are required and the Big Sable River does have a special regulation regarding what type of fishing gear can be used.

Read the DNR fishing guide for guidance.

Hamlin Lake

Access: Hamlin Lake fishing platforms, boat launch or four miles of shoreline

Target species: Crappie, bluegill, sunfish, large and smallmouth bass, pike, muskies, perch and walleye

Lake Michigan

Access: Boat launches in City of Ludington, seven miles of surf fishing

Target species: Chinook and Coho salmon, brown trout, lake trout

Big Sable River

Access: Shoreline, Hamlin Dam boardwalks, river mouth

Target species: Coho and Chinook salmon, steelhead, perch

Hunting and trapping in Ludington State Park

Did you know that almost two-thirds of Ludington State Park is open to hunting and trapping? The park boasts opportunities for deer, small game and waterfowl hunting. Standard hunting

regulations and seasons apply. “No hunting/Hunting” areas are clearly posted throughout the park. Visit the park office for maps that show the areas open to hunting and trapping.

Ludington’s Winter Wonderland

Winter is a wonderful time to experience the park’s beauty and recreational opportunities. Wildlife congregate along the Big Sable River, ice mounds form on the Lake Michigan shoreline and sunsets come early. There are many activities to participate in during the winter and the park’s warming shelter is a great place to relax once you get back out of the woods. Check out these opportunities to enjoy Michigan’s unsung season.

Guided Snowshoeing

Each weekend, the park interpreter guides visitors through the snowy forests and dunes along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Afternoon and evening hikes are available, so come prepared with a headlamp if you plan on joining an evening hike. Complimentary snowshoes are provided.

Lantern Lit Trail

On select nights, the park lights over 75 kerosene lanterns and invites snowshoers and skiers to enjoy a self-guided tour along a mile long trail. Fires are maintained at two locations along the trail and hot beverages are available to help keep visitors warm as they chat with park staff. Complimentary snowshoes are available on a first come, first served basis.

Snowshoeing

One of the great things about snowshoeing is that you don’t need trails or special events to lead you to a destination; you can go anywhere! The over 5,000 acres of Ludington State Park are perfect for snowshoe exploration. Wander through tranquil forest or over wind-

swept dunes and enjoy the winter splendor of Ludington State Park.

Cross Country Skiing

Each winter, some of the park’s hiking trails are prepared for cross country skiing. Park staff groom and set tracks to create nearly 10 miles of ski trails. The Logging Trail heads north out of the Pines Campground through a hardwood forest, while the trails south of the Big Sable River take skiers through rolling dunes and jack pine barrens. For the more adventurous, back country skiing knows no bounds.

Bird Watching

You might not think of bird watching as a winter activity, but with some of the only open water in Mason County during the winter, the Big Sable River is a great place to watch waterfowl. Buffleheads, goldeneyes, scoters, and bald eagles can all be seen in the park. Make sure to stop by the park’s warming shelter to view the songbird feeder and record your sightings.

Winter Camping

Getting a campsite at Ludington can be difficult during the summer months, but during the winter, you can almost have the place to yourself. Plowed campsites in Cedar are available for visitors, as are the park’s three mini-cabins. Water and electricity are available in Cedar, but restroom amenities are limited to vault toilets.

Exploring Pure Ludington

Known for its magnificent natural resources, sugar sand beaches, small-town charm and fun festivals events, Ludington and surrounding Mason County make a popular vacation destination offering something for everyone.

Outdoor recreation

Mason County is a popular destination for outdoor recreation pursuits, including biking, hiking, golf, fishing and paddle sports. Ludington's parks – from 5,300-acre Ludington State Park to in-town Cartier Park with a one-mile paved loop and access to 10 miles of single-track – supply miles of trails for hiking and biking. For a more rustic experience, picturesque Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area in Huron-Manistee National Forest affords hiking solitude and scenery. Golfers also will love the three public golf courses in the immediate vicinity – Hemlock Golf Club, Lakeside Links and Lincoln Hills Golf Club. If you're more into disc golf, Mason County has seven disc golf courses within a 15-minute radius – including Mason County Park with three 24-hole courses (including Goliath, the third largest course in the world), Leviathan at Ludington School Forest, The Edge at Scottville Riverside Park, Labyrinth at West Shore Community College and the Tinderbox short course at Mason County Campground.

Beaches and waterways

If a day on the water is your idea of the perfect vacation, then you're set! Mason County boasts 28 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, including seven miles within Ludington State Park's boundary – including a small dog-friendly section. Those who want a beach walkable from downtown will enjoy Stearns Park Beach, offering a family-friendly atmosphere perfect for playing in Lake Michigan or building a sandcastle. The park also boasts a grassy area with picnic tables and grills, a playground, skate park, mini-golf, volleyball and shuffleboard. Mason County also has 2,000 miles of streams, three rivers and more than 40 inland lakes, making pad-



dling and fishing a top activity. Ludington is the #1 salmon fishing port on Lake Michigan, with more than 25 licensed charters leading excursions. Fishing on the Pere Marquette River also is popular, and outfitters can help you enjoy a day on the river – whether you need a river guide or a kayak rental.

Camping

Ludington State Park is the place to camp in Mason County. But if you want to camp while the park's campgrounds are closed during the park improvement project, Mason County offers 11 other public and private campgrounds. The Ludington Area CVB can assist visitors looking for alternative recreation amenities in Mason County during this partial closure, or you can visit pureludington.com/camping for more information.

Cultural attractions

When it comes to cultural attractions, Ludington has it in spades. Visit the Port of Ludington Maritime Museum and Sandcastles Children's Museum – each offering interactive exhibits to spark imaginations (also ideal for rainy days). Outside the maritime museum is the Maritime Heritage Trail along Ludington's harbor. Waterfront Park, with its collection of nine bronze sculptures, playscape area and

grassy picnic grounds, is another crowd pleaser that educates about the region's history as the primary home of the Mason County Sculpture Trail. It also makes an ideal spot to watch the S.S. Badger, the last coal-fired steamship in the United States, cross Lake Michigan daily to Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Ludington also boasts two historic lighthouses – Big Sable Point Light in Ludington State Park accessible via a two-mile/one-way trail, and Ludington North Breakwater Light in Stearns Park Beach, reachable via a half-mile walkable pier (also celebrating its centennial anniversary in 2024 marked by a series of events). Both are open for tower climbs in the summer. Art lovers can take in exhibits at the Ludington Area Center for the Arts or shop the gift shop stocked with artisan-made wares. Further afield is Historic White Pine Village, an interactive historical experience that lets visitors wander among more than 30 buildings depicting what life was like more than 100 years ago in Mason County. Learn more and buy tickets at the Mason County Historical Society office in downtown Ludington (130 E. Ludington Ave.).

Downtown scene plus food & drink

Looking for a fun downtown scene? Ludington's vibrant downtown district features boutique shops, art galleries, lo-

cal eateries and fun drink spots – including two microbreweries that also serve food (Jamesport Brewing, Ludington Bay Brewing). You can also get a caffeine pick-me-up at Red Rooster or Humani-TEA. And don't forget dessert – favorite stops include Kilwin's for fudge and ice cream, KRAVE for frozen yogurt, and third-generation family-owned House of Flavors for its legendary ice cream (plus tasty breakfast, lunch and dinner). You can also enjoy takeout, watch live music or shop the Friday Farmers Market at Legacy Plaza at the intersection of Ludington Avenue and James Street in the heart of downtown. Or grab an adult beverage from participating establishments and enjoy it outside in the Ludington Outdoor Social District (LOSD) in designated downtown areas. Looking for a dining spot closer to the state park? Try STIX Ludington – a two-story, fine dining restaurant featuring an outdoor rooftop, beer garden with bocce and corn hole green plus stage for live entertainment, and a covered patio with fireplace. Park Lanes bowling alley also features 12 state-of-the-art lanes.

Festivals

Providing entertainment for the whole family, Ludington hosts a number of festivals and events all year long. Highlights include the July 4th Freedom Festival, Sunset Beach Bonfires, West Shore Art Fair, Offshore Classic Fishing Tournament and Suds on the Shore craft beer festival. Free, open-air concerts such as Rhythm & Dunes and the Summer Live Music series at Legacy Plaza produce music, dancing and fun.

More information

Visitors of all ages will find plenty to do while visiting the Ludington area. For Ludington news, events and points of interest, visit pureludington.com or call 800-542-4600. Or stop by one of Ludington's visitor information centers at 119 S. Rath Ave. (year-round) or 226 W. Ludington Ave. (Memorial Day to Labor Day) for brochures or to speak to a visitor liaison.



Big Sable Point Light Station - Summer 2025 Schedule

Shoreline Keepers, previously known as the Sable Point Lighthouse Keepers Association, preserves, promotes, and educates the public and gives access to Big Sable Points Lighthouse in the Ludington State Park.

The Shoreline Keepers will have Big Sable Point Lighthouse open on Monday from 11:00 am-4:00 pm and Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm through September 7. After September 7, hours at Big Sable will be Thursday to Sunday from 10:00 am-5:00 pm.

Bus Days will be offered throughout the season, allowing guests to ride a shuttle from Ludington State Park to the Light Station. Adults can take the shuttle for \$6.00 for a roundtrip ticket or \$3.00 for a one-way ticket. Students (17 and under)

can take the shuttle for \$4.00 roundtrip or \$2.00 one-way. Guests should purchase shuttle tickets at the tent located near the Park Main Office. Last roundtrip tickets will be sold at 4:00 pm and last shuttle will leave Big Sable at 5:00 pm. Dates include:

- July 12
- July 24
- August 2
- August 14
- August 30

New this year, the Lakeshore Keepers, with assistance from the Friends of the Ludington State Park, will offer a live-camera feed from the top of Big Sable Point Light Station. Guests will be able to check the weather conditions of Lake Michigan or see the view for the first time if they haven't before. This camera feed will be

available to the public on July 1 at Big Sable Point : Our Lights : What We Do : Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association.

Big Sable Point Light Station was constructed in 1867 to improve safety on Lake Michigan for mariners. At the start of Michigan's lumbering era, Michigan became well known for shipwrecks and loss of life. In 1900, Big Sable's iron cladding was added to the tower to help protect the structure from sand abrasion and winters on the lake shore. The last lighthouse keepers served at the Light Station in 1968.

The US Coast Guard still maintains the light at Big Sable, and it is an Active Aid to Navigation for mariners on Lake Michigan.

Lakeshore Keepers welcomes you to take a tour of this historic shoreline landmark on your visit to the Ludington State Park.



3 Spots. 1 Mission. To Be *Eat'n Good*.

Cluck Bucket

102 W. Ludington Ave
(Legacy Plaza),
Ludington MI



The Coffee Coop

102 W. Ludington Ave
(Inside Cluck Bucket),
Ludington MI



PITBowls

88 S Pere
Marquette Hwy,
Ludington MI

One Family. Three Stops. *Eat'n Good!*



Rin Tarsy, folk-pop vocalist-songwriter



The Smokin' Dobroleles, Americana mash-up

2025 FLSP Summer Series begins with Ludington State Park reopening

Friends of Ludington State Park and Ludington State Park 2025 Summer Series begins on the night of the park's scheduled reopening and continues through August.

The free Tuesday and Saturday programs, funded by FLSP through a sponsorship from Safe Harbor Credit Union, donations and in partnership with the park's interpretive program, are free to the public. Programs begin at 7 p.m.

The opening concert, Tuesday, July 1,

features a group new to the long-running series, the Smokin' Dobroleles, an Americana group from Hart with a sound described as a mash up of bluegrass, country, hip-hop, reggae, blues, funk, jazz, rock and roll, and Americana. The evening celebrates the park reopening after completion of construction projects. This event will take place at the Lake Michigan Beach House

. The remainder of the series takes place at the park amphitheater south of the Big

Sable River. Access the amphitheater either by the amphitheater road off M-116 just south the bridge over the river or by foot across the walking bridge near the park store.

"We are looking forward to kicking off our Summer 2025 Concerts and performance Series at Ludington State Park beginning on the reopening of the park on Tuesday, July 1. This year's performances will include some popular musical groups, the birds of prey, reptiles and amphibians,

a magic show," Gary Hearing, chair of the FLSP Summer Series, said. "This year we are excited to have dancers and drummers from the Little River Band of the Ottawa Indians join us to share elements of their story, their culture and the meaning expressed in their dress and drumming presentations."

"I'm really excited about this year's Summer Series," Brandon Griffith, Ludington State Park interpreter said. "We've got a great mix of fan favorites coming back

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

*Open Roads. Open Trails.
Welcome Back, Ludington State Park!*

Proudly Serving Our Community For 83 Years

**Benedict's
Auto Center**

- Expert Collision Repair
- Lifetime Warranty
- Undetectable Color Matching
- Rental Cars Available On Site
- Insurance Claims Welcome

1742 W. US 10 • Scottville **231.613.4111**

**COME OR CALL IN ANYTIME
FOR A FREE WRITTEN ESTIMATE**





FRIENDS OF LUDINGTON STATE PARK

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

and some exciting new additions.”

“The summer series is all about sharing the richness of Michigan’s both cultural and natural resources,” Griffith said. “You can come watch a performance from groups across the state or come learn about Ludington State Park’s wildlife. What makes this series so unique and impactful is the diversity of our lineup. I couldn’t think of a better way to celebrate the park re-opening.”

“We’re thrilled to kick off the 2025 FLSP Summer Series and welcome everyone back to the stunning Ludington State Park,” Patrick O’Hare, FLSP president said. “With the park fully reopened this summer, it’s the perfect backdrop for another season of music, memories, and magic. Whether you’re coming to see a favorite

performer or discover a new act, there’s truly something for everyone. So, grab your friends and get ready for a summer of unforgettable (and free!) fun. A huge thanks to Safe Harbor Credit Union for once again sponsoring the series.”

All programs at 7 p.m. in the Amphitheater unless otherwise noted.

In case of bad weather, programs move to the Lake Michigan Beach House.

Follow Friends of Ludington State Park on Facebook at Friends of Ludington State Park or visit <https://friendsofludington-statepark.org> for more information about the Summer Series, FLSP happenings, volunteer opportunities, membership or to make a donation.

A State of Michigan Recreation Passport is required on vehicles entering the park.

The 2025 FLSP Summer Series schedule

TUESDAY, JULY 1 The Smokin’ Dobroleles, Americana mash-up, Lake Michigan Beach House

SATURDAY, JULY 5, Michigan Reptiles: live frogs, turtles and snakes Nature Discovery
Afternoon at Lake Michigan Beach House, evening program at the Amphitheater

TUESDAY, JULY 8, Canopy Space, Americana and spirited covers

SATURDAY, JULY 12, Nimkee-Mukwa, dancers, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

TUESDAY, JULY 15, Celtic music, The Langford Lads

SATURDAY, JULY 19, Nick Veine, folk, blues and soul

TUESDAY, JULY 22, 80 Cows, acoustic Americana

SATURDAY, JULY 26, Blue Water Ramblers

TUESDAY, JULY 29, Live Birds of Prey from Outdoor Discover Center – eagles, owls, falcons, hawks

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, Uneven Ground, traditional Celtic music

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, Ruth and Max Bloomquist, rootsy acoustic Americana folk

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, Plain Jane Glory, Americana

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, Miller and Merchant: The Guitars of Dutch Henry

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, The Magic of Kevin, a family favorite

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, Rin Tarsy, folk-pop vocalist-songwriter

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, Eric Engblade, “folk rock with teeth”

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, Salt City Dixie Jazz Band, a crowd pleaser

BREAKFAST & LUNCH made fresh all day!



Order Online @
Ludington.OrderBigAppleBagels.com



Something *big* is always baking.®

5487 W. U.S. Hwy 10, Ludington
231-843-9111

www.BigAppleBagels.com



Take a trip to the past!

Behind-the-Scene Tours Available



**Come learn how Mason County
history is saved**

Summer Hours (May-Oct)

Tues-Thurs 10am-5pm; Fri & Sat 10am-6pm



130 E. Ludington Ave.
Downtown Ludington
231-843-4808



**Come
and
meet
the
pioneers!**



1687 S. Lakeshore Dr.
Ludington
Michigan



**Pilot a
carferry
across
Lake
Michigan!**



217 S. Lakeshore Dr.
Ludington
Michigan

Visit our website for events at MasonCountyMiHistory.org
231-843-4808



130 S. Main St., Scottville, MI

Elevate Your Experience!

Discover why we’re West Michigan’s
favorite spot for quality cannabis.



For use by individuals 21 years of age or older only. Keep out of reach of children. It is illegal to drive a motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana. National Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222.

SOME MAJOR CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDED PAVING PARKING LOTS AND TRAILS



PHOTOS COURTESY LUDINGTON STATE PARK



SILVERBACK
OFFROAD RENTAL

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE RENTALS!

JOIN US FOR
OUR GUIDED
SUNSET TOURS

Register by 6 pm
the day of
your tour

231-923-2455

Explore the Silver Lake Sand Dunes with us and enjoy the views of Lake Michigan!



1931 N. 24th Ave., Mears, MI 49436 | silverbackoffroad.com