

## Nature Preserves

**Antrim Creek Natural Area** (152 acres) From Traverse City, take U.S. 31 north to Eastport. Approximately one mile north of Eastport, turn left (west) on Old Dixie Hwy. Follow Old Dixie Hwy. for approximately four miles. Look for the Antrim City Cemetery on the east side of the road. Just north of the cemetery, turn left on Rex Beach Rd. (a narrow dirt road). Follow Rex Beach Rd. through the center of the Natural Area down to the beach. No formal trail system exists.

**Bauer Nature Preserve** (235 acres)/**Pamela L. Polaczyk Preserve** (Five acres) To reach Bauer Nature Preserve from Traverse City, take US 31 N. to Eastport and turn right (east) on M-88. Follow M-88 to Central Lake and then turn east on 624

(Old State Rd.). Continue on 624 approximately five miles. Less than one-half mile past Six Mile Lake Rd., turn left on Wilson Rd. (a dirt road). The preserve is at the end of Wilson Rd. From Bellaire, head north on 620 for approximately five miles. Turn east on 624 and go approximately three miles. Features a large parking area and a loop trail, approximately one mile long, located to the right of the kiosk. To the left of the kiosk, Polaczyk Preserve features a quarter-mile, wood-chipped path, which leads to a viewing platform on the Dingman River.

**Bullhead Lake Natural Area** (28 acres) From Traverse City, take Front St. west (becomes North Long Lake Rd.). Follow North Long Lake Rd. around the north end of the lake, to Edgewood Ave. (just past Gilbert Park Beach) and turn left. Go one-quarter mile

and the preserve is on your right. There is a short trail system.

**Carter Strong Bird Sanctuary** (Six acres) From Traverse City, head south on US 31. At 14th St. turn right (west) on Silver Lake Rd. Follow Silver Lake Rd. and turn right on Secor Rd. (follow the signs to Boones Long Lake Inn). Secor turns into S. Long Lake Rd. and runs southwest along the lake. Continue around the lake about two miles. Turn right onto West Long Lake Rd., go approximately one mile, and watch for the preserve sign on the right side of the road. There is no formal parking area and no trails exist.

**Cosner Nature Preserve** (131 acres) Located approximately one hour from Traverse City and 20 minutes from Charlevoix. To get there from Traverse City, take US 31 N. to Atwood. In Atwood, turn right (east) on C-48. Follow C-48, then C-65 to Ellsworth. In Ellsworth, take C-48 east to East Jordan. In East Jordan, take M-66 south for three miles. The preserve is located across from the Wagbo Peace Center (one-quarter mile south of the Antrim/Charlevoix county line). Look for a kiosk and large parking area on the east side of M-66. This preserve has a .8 mile loop trail. A second loop is currently under construction.

**Deepwater Point Natural Area** (15 acres) From Traverse City, take US 31 N. to Acme. Just north of Acme, turn left (west) on Shore Rd. The preserve is on the left-hand side, kitty corner from Bertha Vos Elementary School. A short trail leads down to the water.

**Golden Days Loon Preserve** (16 acres) Located on the northernmost

shore of the North Arm of Lake Bellaire. By boat: The closest public boat launch is the MDNR's Noteware Landing. The launch site is located about two miles south of Bellaire. From M-88, turn west on North Lakes Rd. and follow it to the end, staying to the right. By car: From Bellaire, take Bellaire Hwy. (County Rd. 620) two miles west. Look for the old two-track on your left and park here. You can also view the loon nest on the property from the DNR access site, which forms the eastern boundary.

**Grass River Natural Area** (1143 acres) From Traverse City, take M-72 east. Turn left on Hill Rd. Turn left on Rapid City Rd. (County Rd. 597). When Rapid City Rd. becomes Torch Lake Dr. (County Rd. 593), turn left to stay on Torch Lake Dr. Go straight to get on to Alden Highway. Entrance is on Alden Highway one-half mile west of Comfort Rd.

**Kewadin Wetlands Nature Preserve** (41 acres) The best way to view this preserve is by boat. It is located along the northernmost shore of Elk Lake just south of Kewadin, not far from the Milton Township Park boat launch. To get to Milton Township Park from the Elk Rapids, take a right on Cairn Hwy. (Ames Rd.), which will take you around the tip of Elk Lake to Kewadin. Cairn Hwy. then turns into Cherry Ave. The Milton Township Park is located off of Cherry Ave. in Kewadin.

**North Skegemog Nature Preserve** (37 acres) Located at the northwestern tip of Skegemog Lake, just north of the Elk/Skegemog narrows and is best viewed by boat. The closest public launch sites are Whitewater

Township Park on Elk Lake and the MDNR launch site on Lake Skegemog. To get to Whitewater Township Park from Traverse City, take U.S. 31 N. to Acme. In Acme, turn right (east) on M-72. Take M-72 to Williamsburg and turn left on Elk Lake Rd. (County Rd. 605). Follow Elk Lake Rd. to Park Rd. and turn right. The park and boat launch are at the end of Park Rd. To get to the MDNR launch site, take M-72 east from Acme. Turn left on Baggs Rd. At the end of Baggs Rd. turn left on Lakeside Terrace.

**Palastra-Holm Nature Preserve** (19 acres) This preserve is best viewed by boat. You cannot access it from the road without crossing private property. It is located along one of the last stretches of undeveloped shoreline on Elk Lake, south of Whitewater Township Park, where there is a public boat launch. To get to Whitewater Township Park from Traverse City, take U.S. 31 N. to Acme. In Acme, turn right (east) on M-72. Take M-72 to Williamsburg and turn left on Elk Lake Rd. (County Rd. 605). Follow Elk Lake Rd. to Park Rd. and turn right. The park and boat launch are at the end of Park Rd.

**Palmer-Wilcox-Shah Nature Preserve** (35 acres) From Traverse City, take U.S. 31 north to Elk Rapids. At the stop light in Elk Rapids, turn left and then take an immediate right on N. Bay Shore Dr. The preserve is approximately two miles up on the left-hand side, where there is a sign and pull-off. There is a short trail from the parking area to the beach.

**PLEASE SEE PAGE 37**



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## Grass River FROM PAGE 35

brought in \$22,000 for Grass River.

“(We) hope to make that much or more this year. Each year has been more successful than the last ... since more people hear about the preserve,” Ludwa said.

The auction is not the only Grass River event this summer.

Children can participate in a full set of classes taught by Grass River's naturalists. Although all ages are welcome, they are split up into the “Nature Nuts”

(ages 4-6) and “Explorers” (ages 7-12).

Another event, open to adults as well as children, is Arts Week, July 21-25.

A different art project will be done each day. The goal of the projects, which include nature sketches, photography and writing poetry, is to “tie nature into art,” said Ludwa.

Those who attend the entire Arts Week will spend the final day making a book out of their various projects.

A unique feature of the preserve is the Sensory Trail for the visually impaired.

In certain parts of the preserve, a guide wire is available to help people along the path. At points along the trail, there are signs written in Braille that explain what the person is touching or smelling. “It’s a one-of-a-kind exhibit,” said Ludwa.

The Sensory Trail is just one of many features of the Grass River Natural Area. The preserve is open from dawn until dusk during the summer, and staff naturalists are available every day.

*For more information on Grass River Natural Area, call 533-8314 or go to [www.grassriver.org](http://www.grassriver.org).*