

Nature preserves

FROM PAGE 42

right. The trail at Railroad Point Natural Area consists of a two track leading to the bluff.

George and Ada Reffitt Nature Preserve (83 acres) In Traverse City, turn south on Three Mile Rd. Then turn right on Parsons Rd. (at the light) and park immediately on the left. There is a 1.7-mile loop trail and boardwalk around the preserve.

Sagaser Nature Preserve (20 acres) From Traverse City, take U.S. 31 south toward Beulah. Just before Beulah, turn right (west) on Crystal Dr. (County Rd. 704), which follows the northern shore of Crystal Lake. Approximately 1.5 miles along 704, turn right (northeast) on Nichols Rd. (before Warren Rd.). Go to the end of Nichols Rd. and park at the side of the road here. There are no trails at this preserve.

Seven Bridges (314 acres) From Traverse City, take U.S. 31 north to Acme. In Acme, take M-72 east to Hill Rd. and go left. Take Hill Rd. to Rapid City Rd. Turn left on Rapid City Rd. and continue to the town of Rapid City. In town, turn right on Valley Rd. Follow Valley Rd. approximately three miles. There are currently two pathways at this preserve.

St. Clair Lake: Six Mile Lake Natural Area (191 acres) A one hour drive from Traverse City. To get there, take U.S. 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 two miles to South Arm Township Park and a small parking area on the right (south) side of the road. This one mile stretch of undeveloped shoreline is also excellent for canoeing.

Skegemog Lake Wildlife Area (3,300 acres) To get to the SLWA main entrance from Traverse City, take U.S. 31 north to Acme. In Acme turn right on M-72. Take M-72 east eight miles to Hill Rd. and go left. Follow Hill Rd. to Rapid City Rd. Turn left on Rapid City Rd., go 2.3 miles and look for the sign. Turn left on Baggs Rd. At the end of Baggs Rd. turn left on Lakeside Terrace. There are four miles of trails.

South Elk Lake Wetland Nature Preserve (30 acres) 750 feet of frontage on the southeast shore of Elk Lake. No trails or improvements are planned for this ecologically sensitive area. Accessible by boat only. Whitewater Township Park is the

closest public boat launch. To get to Whitewater Township Park from Traverse City, take U.S. 31 N. to Acme. In Acme, turn right on M-72. Take it to Williamsburg and turn left on Elk Lake Rd. (County Rd. 605). Follow Elk Lake Rd. to Park Rd. and turn right.

South Island Nature Preserve (14 acres) Accessible by boat only. Crescent Shores is the closest public boat launch. To get there from Traverse City, take

Front St. west (which becomes North Long Lake Rd.). Follow it past Gilbert Park beach. Turn left on Crescent Shores Rd. A self-guided nature walk can be followed in a loop trail, which is less than a mile long.

Trapp Farm Nature Preserve (124 acres) Located just a short distance from downtown Beulah. To reach the main entrance from Traverse City, take U.S. 31 S. approximately 32

miles to Beulah. Just past the Cherry Hut, turn left on Narrow Gauge Rd. Follow the road less than one-quarter mile. There is a boardwalk and trail.

Torch Bay Natural Area (39 acres) From Traverse City, take U.S. 31 N. 10 miles north of Elk Rapids turn left (west) on Traverse Bay Rd. (the dirt road directly across from Torch Crest Village.) The preserve is located at the end of the road, on the

right. There is a small parking lot and a short trail loop.

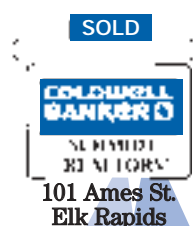
Upper Herring Lake Nature Preserve (163 acres) Five miles south of Elberta. From Traverse City, take U.S. 31 to Benzonia. Just south of Benzonia, turn right on Grace Rd. (County Rd. 606). Follow Grace Rd. until you hit M 22. Turn south and continue for a few miles. One mile past Herron Rd., you will see the sign for the preserve on your left.

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