

A photograph of a person in a red canoe on a river. The person is wearing a purple tank top, a patterned sash, and jeans. Their hand is reaching into the water, which is clear enough to see rocks at the bottom. In the background, there are mountains and trees under a bright sky. The word "Grayling" is written in a large, teal, cursive font across the top of the image.

Grayling

Summer Visitor's Guide 2024

**A publication of the Crawford County Avalanche
in partnership with the Grayling Visitor's Bureau**

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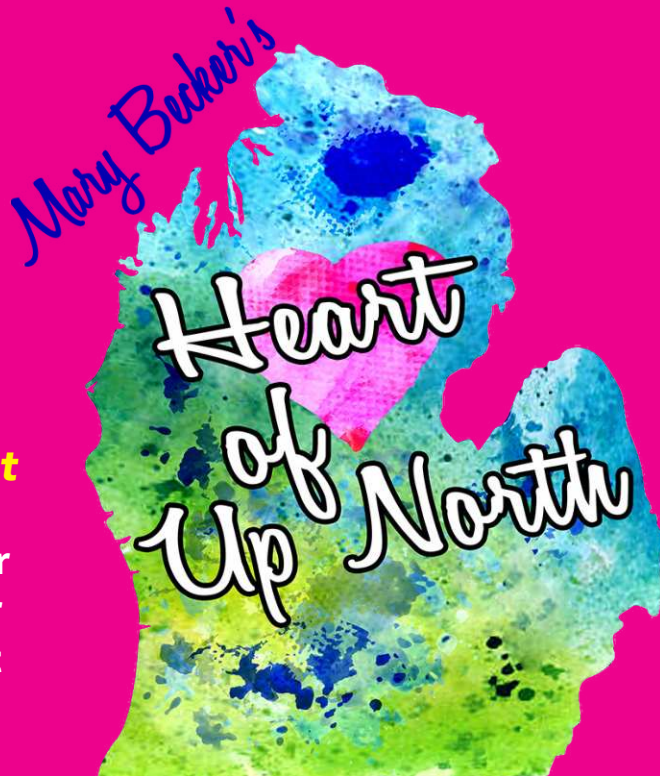
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Welcome to Grayling

Grayling is a wonderful place to be this spring and summer. A wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities exist and special events are planned throughout the summer months.

We have lakes and rivers to swim, fish and paddle. We have trails for hiking and bicycling. We have Hartwick Pines State Park, North Higgins Lake State Park, Wellington Farm USA, the Grayling Fish Hatchery and Hanson Hills. We have disc golf courses. We have museums, art galleries and playgrounds. We have canoe races, bike races and foot races.

And, don't forget our hotels, motels and campgrounds. Come enjoy meals at our restaurants. Enjoy drinks at our bars and breweries. Shop at our stores and galleries.

Grayling has a lot to offer and we hope you enjoy your time here.

Please use this Summer Visitor's Guide, a publication of the Crawford County Avalanche in partnership with the Grayling Visitor's Bureau, as your guide to a wealth of information about things to do during your visit to the Grayling area this summer.

Welcome!

Grayling

Summer Visitor's Guide 2024

A Publication Of The Crawford County Avalanche

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ABOUT THE CRAWFORD COUNTY AVALANCHE

The Crawford County Avalanche, Grayling's hometown newspaper, has been publishing since 1879.

The Avalanche is a weekly newspaper that provides information on local news and sports in Grayling and Crawford County in print and online editions.

CONTACT US

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Call the Avalanche at 989.348.6811 or email reine@crawfordcountyavalanche.com

Next Publication October 2024

Calendar

of Events

April 27

Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration
@ Hartwick Pines State Park

April 27

Opening Day of Trout Season

April 27

Crawford County Veterans Fair
@ American Legion Post 106

May 1

Hartwick Pines State Park Logging
Museum opens for the season

May 4

Kentucky Derby Gala
@ Camp Grayling

June 1

Hanson Hills Challenge 5-Mile
Trail Run
@ Hanson Hills Recreation Area

June 21-22

Ragnar Trail Relay
@ Hanson Hills Recreation Area

July 13

Black Bear Gran Fondo
@ Hanson Hills Recreation Area

July 20-21

Wood Shaving Days
@ Hartwick Pines State Park

July 20

Annual Classic Car & Truck Show
@ Michigan Avenue, Grayling

July 23

AuSable River Festival Kids Day
@ Grayling City Park

July 24-26

AuSable River Canoe Marathon
Time Trials

July 26

HUP Race
@ Grayling City Park

July 26-27

Arts & Craft Show
@ Grayling City Park

July 27

Duck Derby
@ Grayling City Park

July 27

AuSable River Festival 5k & 10k
@ Hanson Hills Recreation Area

July 27-28

AuSable River Canoe Marathon

August 3

A Tree Party!
@ Higgins Lake Nursery
and CCC Museum

August 10

Forest Fest
@ Hartwick Pines State Park

August 17

Lovells Bridge Walk

August 24-25

Black Iron Days
@ Hartwick Pines State Park

August 24-Sept. 8

Great Northern Art Explosion
@ AuSable Artisan Village

For information on upcoming events in Crawford County, visit:

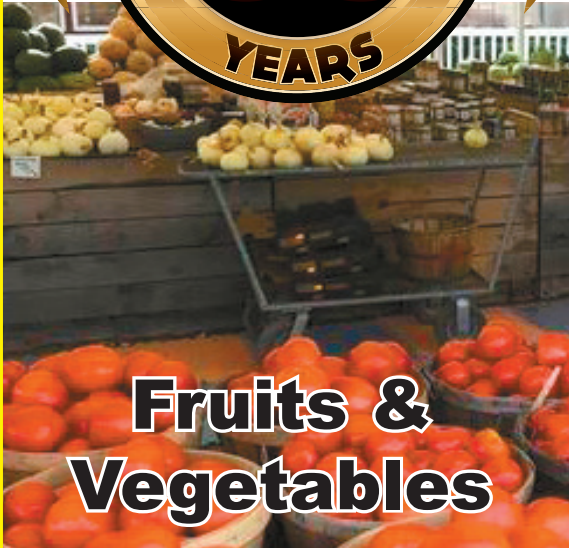
Crawford County Avalanche | crawfordcountyavalanche.com

Grayling Chamber of Commerce | graylingchamber.com

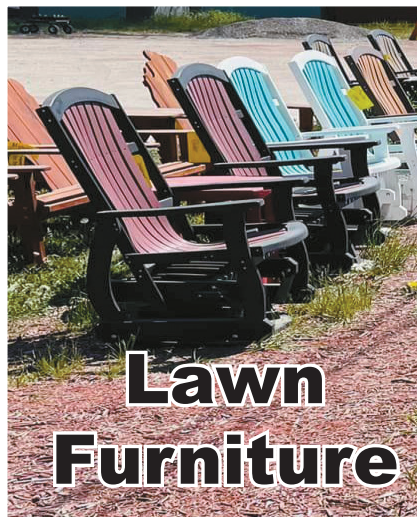
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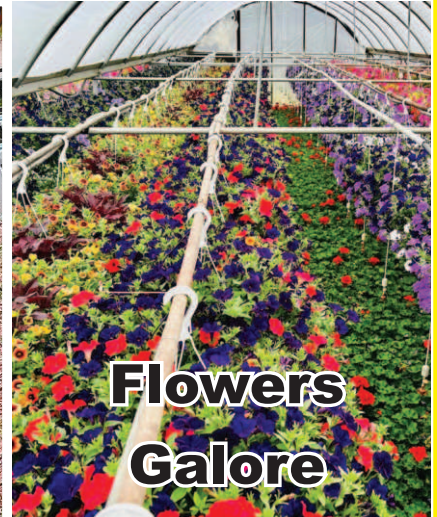
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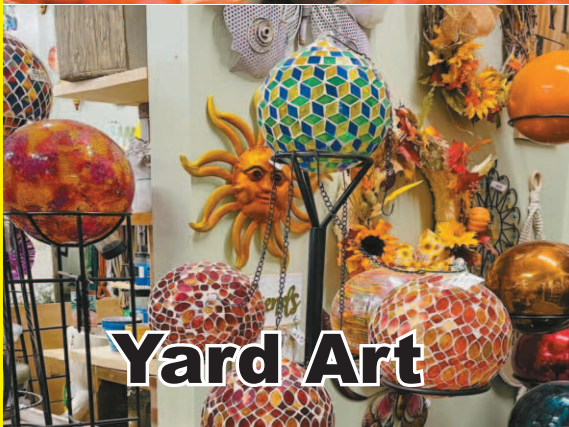
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Vegetables**



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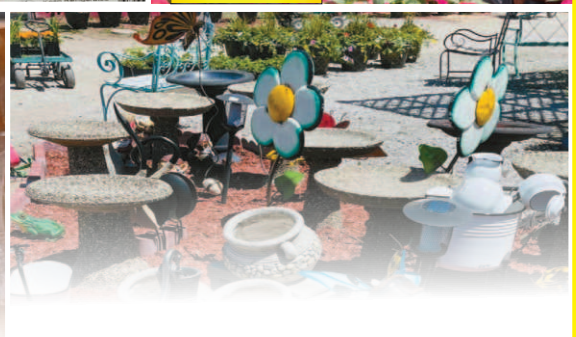
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Arts Scene

Showcasing the works of more than 60 Michigan artists, the AuSable Artisan Village, located in downtown Grayling, has a mission to “initiate and support art and creative activities that enrich lives and fuel cultural and economic development of the Grayling community and Northern Michigan region.”

AuSable Artisan Village (AAV) Assistant Director Radel Rosin said the AAV is a space for “creativity” in the form of not only visual arts, but also performing and musical arts as well.

AAV has a gallery space featuring the work of Michigan artists who have a flare for nature. It’s also a space for musical performances, as well as theater, as concerts and performances are regularly held on the AAV stage.

AuSable Artisan Village also offers an array of classes in pottery, photography, jewelry making, watercolor and acrylic painting, among other media. Rosin said classes are geared not only toward adults, but also to children, as it is important to expose children to the arts.

AAV brings art to the community through the annual Great Northern Art Explosion, which will be held Aug. 24 through Sept. 8. During this time, artists from across the United States and Canada will look to win prize money through a juried art competition, as well as through people’s choice voting.

Rosin said events held at the AAV, including the concerts, theatrical performances and special events like Great Northern Art Explosion, bring people to the already vibrant downtown area of Grayling. He said when people come for the art, they can also check out the downtown shops and restaurants.

AuSable Artisan Village
112 Michigan Ave., Grayling
www.artisanvillage.org

Main Branch Gallery, LLC
208 Michigan Ave., Grayling
www.mainbranchgallery.com





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With places like Rolling Oak Brewing Co., and Paddle Hard Brewing, as well as their place, Dead Bear Brewing Co., owners Travis and Jean Krebs said Grayling is an Up North spot to get great food and even better beer.

“People tend to hop,” Travis said of the people checking out Grayling’s brewery scene. “We try to send them to other places.”

Jean said Grayling’s breweries tend to send people to the others in town so they can check out what other brewmasters are creating.

At Dear Bear Brewing Co., Jean said they offer an “experience,” with not only “boutique batches” of beer and high-quality homemade food, but with fun. The brewery has arcade games, shuffleboard, board games and art (including Dead Bears) on the walls.

“You get the good stuff,” Jean said of experiencing Dead Bear Brewing. “We want people to have an experience. We want them to feel like long-lost family members, who feel welcomed and respected.”

She said the two most popular beers at Dead Bear Brewing Co. are the Hefeweizen and the Escanaba River Amber Ale. Travis said one of the best compliments he’s ever received was when a German customer asked if he had learned to brew in Germany because his Hefeweizen was so good.

Travis, who actually started home brewing in Kalamazoo, said “you know it’s good,” when somebody from Germany thinks your Hefeweizen is good.

Dead Bear Brewing Co.
2552 South I-75BL, Grayling

Rolling Oak Brewing Co.
509 Norway St., Grayling

Paddle Hard Brewing
227 Michigan Ave., Grayling

For a complete list of area restaurants, visit graylingmichigan.org/food-and-drink

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Hartwick Pines State Park

One of the largest state parks in the Lower Peninsula, Hartwick Pines State Park is home to natural beauty and a variety of habitats.

“Walk amongst Michigan’s largest remaining stand of old growth white pine, experience life in a recreated 1890s logging camp, birdwatch or hike the trails,” Northern Lower Peninsula Historian Hillary Pine said. “It doesn’t matter if you have an hour or all day, you’ll find something to do at Hartwick Pines State Park.”

Visitors may explore the 49-acre old-growth pine forest and 21 miles of trails, visit the

Logging Museum or camp in the modern campground. The park also features the Visitor Center that has a 1,500-square-foot exhibit hall.

The year-round, accessible Visitor Center is a gateway to the towering pine forest and the Hartwick Pines Logging Museum.

Inside, find hands-on exhibits and a talking “living tree” that tells the story of “Michigan’s Forests...Past, Present and Future.” The Visitor Center also has an auditorium and classroom.

The Logging Museum opens for the season

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events, visit our
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May 1. Daily summer programming begins June 10, including daily tours of the Old Growth Trail and historical programs at the Logging Museum. Events include Wood Shaving Days, a reptiles and amphibians presentation, a musical tribute to Michigan's lumberjacks, a "tree party" at the Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum, a celebration of Smokey Bear's 80th birthday, a touch-a-truck event and Black Iron Days.

Throughout the summer, the Hartwick Pines Memorial Building is open Thursday through Monday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., when volunteer hosts are available. Hartwick Pines State Park is located at 3612 State Park Dr., Grayling. A Recreation Passport is required for entry to the park.

For information, call the Visitors Center at (989) 348-2537 or visit www.michigan.gov/hartwickpinesvc or www.michigan.gov/loggingmuseum.



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Crawford County Historical Museum

Crawford County's two museums offer visitors an opportunity to learn about the Logging Era, railroads, fishing and hunting, as well as the military.

The Crawford County Historical Society's Crawford County Historical Museum is located at 97 East Michigan Ave., Grayling.

CCHS Acting President Gail Thomas said the museum is expected to open for the season May 24. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission is free, but donations are accepted.

There is much to learn, including the history of downtown Grayling and Crawford County. The main building is the original train depot, Thomas said, built in 1862-63. Inside can be found a Fred Bear room and a Native American room, as well as a model railroad collection.

"We have a wonderful railroad collection," Thomas said.



Also featured are the AuSable River, fish hatchery, depot and railroad construction, historic homes, the Army Air Field and prominent families like the Hansons and Stephans. The complex also has a separate veterans building.

"It is absolutely beautiful," Thomas said. "We refurbished the building inside and out."

A fire department building, log cabin, outdoor farm display and train caboose are also on the property.

"Kids love the caboose," Thomas said, adding that people can get aboard the railroad car.

"There's no way to see everything that's there in one visit," she said. "We're always adding to our displays."

For information, call the Crawford County Historical Museum at (989) 745-3493 or visit crawfordcountyhistoricalsociety.com.

Lovells Museum

Lovells Township Historical Society's Lovells Museum is located at 8405 Twin Bridge Rd., Lovells Township. The village of Lovells is located on the North Branch of the AuSable River.



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The Lovells Museum is open starting April 27, through the last Saturday in September, Saturdays, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"We encourage all visitors to stop by Michigan's only trout fishing museum," Lovells Township Historical Society President John Porteous said.

The Lovells Township Historical Society was founded through the Heritage Days Celebration in August, 1990, according to the society's website, www.lthsmuseums.org. The museum features yearly themed displays, a tribute to the Unsung Heroes of the AuSable and a reproduction of Art Newman's Wanigas fly shop.

The Lone Pine Schoolhouse, the community's original one room school, will feature displays and programs relating to local wildflowers and local bird life. There will be a season-long checklist contest, with opportunities for some nice prizes.

The Museum of Trout Fishing History will feature a salute to conservation.

This season's festivities will all kick off April 27, at 9 a.m., at the Lovells Township Complex. Artists and vendors will be in attendance and local conservation groups will offer presentations in the township hall. Later that morning, the annual Leaky Wader 1K will be held. This is a globally acknowledged event where contestants don chest waders and run a 1K for prizes and fame. The winner of the 50/50 will be drawn after the Leaky Wader 1K is held.

For information on the Lovells Museum or the Lovells Township Historical Society, visit www.lthsmuseums.org or its social media, or email LTHSMuseums@gmail.com.





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Spend some time on the water

Floating down a river is a great way to relax, whether alone or with family and friends.

In Grayling, paddlers can immerse themselves in nature on the AuSable and Manistee rivers, both known as “Class I” rivers, meaning they have few obstructions and small waves.

Paddlers should bring some sunscreen, water (glass is discouraged) and a snack. Some liveries operate year-round. Overnight camping at state forest campgrounds is also an option.

Summer weekends can get busy on the rivers, so reservations are recommended.

According to the Grayling Visitors Bureau, the AuSable River and Manistee River have “crystal clear water and no rocks or rapids, just an easy 3-5 mile per hour current. Canoeing or kayaking through beautiful forests of pine, birch and cedar on rivers perfect for beginners, couples, families or large groups is the ideal way to enjoy a warm summer day...”

Penrod’s Canoe Rental owner Jim Humes said the AuSable River is quiet and peaceful and advises people to leave their radios at home (or bring their earbuds).

“It’s a beautiful river and Michigan treasure,” he said.

Most people come from southeast Michigan, he said, but also from Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and “all over the country.”

Humes advises paddlers to dress appropriately for the weather. Some people bring picnic supplies, while others bring just water and a granola bar, he said.

Paddlers are shown a map and told where the landing site will be. While there is a set pick-up time, he said,



paddlers can call the livery when they arrive.

Paddlers can choose how long they want to be on the river. Trips from Penrod's, for example, are two and a half or four hours long.

"It's a beginners type of river," he said, and the equipment provided to paddlers is geared toward beginners. "It's a great river to get started."

Justin Davis, owner of Borchers AuSable Canoe & Kayak and Riverside Bed & Breakfast, said a good rule of thumb on the AuSable River is "take plenty of pictures, make many memories, but leave only footprints."

The upper stretch of the AuSable consists of mostly shallow and navigable water which makes for an enjoyable paddle, Davis said.

"It is still a body of water, so being responsible is paramount," he said.

If paddlers plan on drinking on the river, they should do so responsibly, wear a life jacket or have a personal flotation device on hand.

"And last but not least, enjoy all of the natural beauty," he said.

Davis said the AuSable River Homeowners Association, along with the Department of Natural Resources, "do an excellent job keeping the rivers as clear as they can."

He said the area is also a popular fly fishing stretch so clearing things completely out is not the goal.

"They leave what some paddlers may feel like are obstructions, but they provide shade for the fish," he said. "However, paddlers are very rarely put in a position where they would have to portage over anything. There is typically a clear path through."

Wildlife is abundant on the AuSable River, Davis said. "It's not unusual to see ducks, geese, cranes, river otters, a plethora of different small and medium sized birds, turtles and the occasional beaver," he said. "In the past, spotting a bald eagle was rare, but as the species is making a comeback, paddlers are seeing more and more of them as they often follow the river."

According to the Shel-Haven Canoe Rental website, "The Manistee River is great for all – from beginners to experienced. The current is very calm so therefore it's a great place to learn. There is no age limit, whatever the parent/guardian is comfortable with we can accommodate."

Open year-round, Shel-Haven drops off paddlers at the Long's launch site and they float back to the livery. Canoeists and kayakers may take two to three hours, while people floating in tubes may take up to four hours. There are sand bars along the way where paddlers can stop for a break.

"While paddling and fly fishing may bring folks of all ages to Grayling," Davis said, "there's so much more to offer whether it's cross country skiing, fat tire biking, hiking. Grayling is the gateway to the true north. We're lucky enough to be within an hour of so many great attractions including Traverse City and Mackinac Island. Visitors will find many affordable lodging options in Grayling and the ease of taking day trips to nearby tourist attractions."

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Wellington Farm Park

A large black steam locomotive is the central focus, emitting a thick plume of white steam from its tall smokestack. The front of the locomotive features the word 'ECLIPSE' in yellow lettering, and a circular emblem below it reads 'ERICK CO' and 'WAYNESBORO PA'. A man with white hair and glasses is visible in the cab, operating the engine. The locomotive is set against a backdrop of lush green trees.

Wellington Farm USA is a 60-acre living history complex that depicts life as it was lived in a Midwestern farming community during the Great Depression. Located at 6944 South Military Rd., Grayling, it is just west and south of exit 251 off of I-75.

Events are scheduled throughout the season and Wellington is a unique place to hold weddings, reunions and picnics.

Several special events are held throughout the season, such as Sticky Buns Day or Civil War Re-Enactments. (Fall events include Pumpkin Chunkin' and often a challenging corn maze.)

Wellington was a farming community that was formed as farmers began settling there in the late 1870s. Many of the farmers were Civil War veterans.

Wellington Farm opened in 1996 with one storage building, a sawmill and an outhouse. The first historic building to be moved to Wellington was the Stittsville Church, in 2005. The building is occasionally used for weddings, and a regular church service is held every Sunday during peak season.

Among the 26 structures currently on the property are the Wellington Farm USA Museum (built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps), summer kitchen, sawmill, Perry Lamkin Broom Handle Factory, grist mill, livestock barn and the Annis House and Farmstead.

Down Crafters Alley, visitors will find the Basket Weaver's Shop, Loom House (built by the Pioneer Log Cabin Company in 1930 as the Toboggan House for the former Pioneer Hills Ski Resort), Broom Shop, Lapidary Shop, Blacksmith Shop and Carpenter Shop.

Wellington is typically open Thursday through Sunday – visit www.wellingtonfarmusa.com or call (989) 348-5187.

Admission is \$12 for adults and \$8 for seniors 60 and older. Students pay \$7 and preschoolers (under the age of five) get in for free.



BUYING FRESH

Summertime in Grayling also means fresh produce and flowers. From local shops and stores to the Grayling Farmers Market, there are plenty of places to pick up your favorite summertime items, as Shelia Krayes of Grayling did last August.

Spikes-
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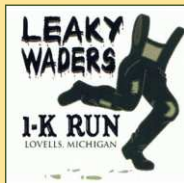
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www.spikes-grayling.com • manager@spikes-grayling.com

Lovells Township Historical Society



THE LOVELLS TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPERATES BOTH THE LONE PINE SCHOOLHOUSE WHICH SHOWCASES OUR LOCAL HISTORY AND THE MUSEUM OF TROUT FISHING HISTORY. WE ARE HOME TO MICHIGAN'S ONLY TROUT FISHING MUSEUM.



WE HAVE A NUMBER OF GREAT PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2024. WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR THE FUN! PLANS INCLUDE THE LEAKY WADER 1-K, CELEBRATING CONSERVATION, LOCAL BIRD LIFE AND WILDFLOWERS ALONG WITH THE RETURN OF THE BELOVED BEAVER, BEER & BANJO EVENT AND LOTS MORE!

GO TO LTHSMUSEUMS.ORG FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENT DATES AND/OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND, SOON ON INSTAGRAM.

You may find us at 8405 Twin Bridge Road in Lovells, MI 49738.
Not far from the banks of the North Branch.
We're open Saturdays during Michigan's Trout Season.



Lovells Bridge Walk



The 33rd Annual Lovells Bridge Walk brings people together for a walk across the AuSable River to raise money for the Lovells Fire and EMS Department.

Last year's event raised more than \$16,000. "It's a tradition," Lovells Bridge Walk committee member Joan Petroff said. "[People] just come to be a part of it and enjoy a nice day."

The walk is held the third Saturday in August, this year Aug. 17.

Petroff said the day starts with a breakfast cooked by Lovells Township firefighters at the fire hall.

A noon parade, usually featuring fire trucks – with their lights and sirens on – as well as

the Grayling High School Marching Band, takes place on Co. Road 612, starting near the corner of F-97. The parade leads the short walk across the Lovells bridge.

Music, a quilt raffle and a silent auction add to the hometown feel of the event. Petroff said area businesses donate items for the auction and a live band performs under a tent. She said the Lovells Historical Society buildings are also open.

Following last year's walk, lunch was served to more than 225 people at the township hall.

Funds raised during the annual walk event help the firefighters purchase auxiliary equipment, such as new radios and pagers.

For information, visit lovellstownship.com.



Grayling Promotional Association

GRAYLING PROMOTIONAL ASSOCIATION

WWW.GRAYLINGPROMOTIONAL.ORG
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UPCOMING EVENTS



August: Garden Walk • September: Junque in the Trunk

October: Arts & Crafts Fair

November: Festival of Trees, Christmas Shop & Light Up Your Life



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Find Your Fairway

Northern Michigan – Crawford County included – offers a wide variety of opportunities for playing golf. Crawford County has three public golf courses within its limits: The Patriot, Grayling Country Club and Forest Dunes Golf Club.

“Grayling is located in the heart of Northern Michigan and is easily accessible by freeways, earning it the nickname, ‘Gateway to the North.’ For golfers, it is also considered the gateway to Northern Michigan’s golfing. With three of the top-rated, award-winning courses in the United States, and located within an hour’s drive of another 30 courses, Grayling is unsurpassed in providing the ultimate in golfing

adventures that will please even the most serious golfers,” according to the Grayling Visitor’s Bureau.

The Patriot (formerly Fox Run Country Club), Grayling Country Club and Forest Dunes Golf Club contain golf courses which are playable for all levels of golfers.

The three golf courses also have some challenging hazards to make each round interesting. Grayling Country Club features standard bunkers and water. Fox Run’s hazards include marshes and ponds. The Forest Dunes course is edged by pine forest on several holes and includes exposed sand and underbrush.

The Patriot

(989) 348-4343

thepatriotgolfcourse.com

Grayling Country Club

(989) 348-5618

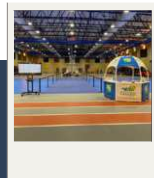
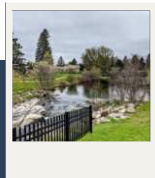
graylingcountryclub.com

Forest Dunes Golf Club

(989) 275-0700

forestdunesgolf.com

2024 SPRING & SUMMER EVENTS



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WWW.AUSABLERIVERFEST.COM

MAY

- 3 Community Coffee Hour
- 16 Business After Hours: AuSable River Canoe Marathon Kick Off at Paddle Hard Yard

JUNE

- 14 Community Coffee Hour
- 20 Business After Hours: Uncommon Ranch Lavender and Herb Farm

JULY

- 4 Support the 4th Fireworks Show
- 12 Community Coffee Hour
- 19 Cruise Night
- 20 Car Show
- 22 Wellness Evening
- 23 Kid's Day
- 24 HUP Race
- 25-27 AuSable Main Stage & Brew Ave., Street Eats
- 26-27 Arts & Crafts Show, Michigan Ave Vendors
- 27 Duck Derby & Cornhole Tournament



AUGUST

- 9 Community Coffee Hour
- 22 Business After Hours

SEPTEMBER

- 13 Community Coffee Hour
- 26 Business After Hours: Home Waters Real Estate, Union Home Mortgage and Farm Bureau Insurance
- 27 Empowering Women Luncheon at Camp Grayling Officer's Club



Lodging Map

Presented by the Grayling Visitor's Bureau
graylingmichigan.com

Borchers Bed & Breakfast

Riverfront accommodations with on-site canoe and kayak rentals, wrap-around balcony overlooking AuSable River, family-style breakfast

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canoeborchers.com

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On AuSable River,
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daysinn.com

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Business Loop,
Grayling



North Branch Outing Club

(April-Oct) Historic lodge overlooking the North Branch of the AuSable River, living room with fireplace & large dining room, fly shop, guide service

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northbranchoutingclub.com

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On AuSable River,
6122 East County Rd.
612, Grayling



River Country Motor Lodge

Cozy rooms with microwaves and refrigerators, cabins and kitchenettes, picnic area, gas grills

(989) 348-8619
rivercountrymotorlodge.com

16
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Business Loop,
Grayling



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woodland-motel.com

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Business Loop,
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Gates AuSable Lodge

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gateslodge.com

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Grayling



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A Race Like No Other

One hundred twenty miles - one...two...zero.

That's how many miles the 70 to 95 two-paddler teams will travel from Grayling to Oscoda in the 76th Annual AuSable River Canoe Marathon.

A test of skill, physical conditioning, strategy and endurance, the AuSable River Canoe Marathon, which will be held Saturday, July 27 and Sunday, July 28, has been described as a “grueling” race.

The AuSable Marathon features several portages (the paddlers have to pull their canoes out of the water to get past hydroelectric dams on the river). It has a prize pool of more than

The AuSable River Canoe Marathon

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The Beachbillies





\$50,000. Due to a variety of potential issues – injury, illness, fatigue, equipment damage, failure to meet timing checkpoint requirements – several teams that start the AuSable Marathon each year do not finish the race. The unique timing of the event, 14 to 19 hours through the dark of night, makes it one of the most demanding endurance races in sporting competition. On average, during recent Marathons, approximately four out of five teams that start the race reach the finish line before the 19-hour cutoff.

The Marathon has also served as the second leg of the North American Triple Crown of Canoe Racing, which also includes races on New York's Susquehanna River and Quebec's St. Maurice River.

Another unique aspect of the AuSable Marathon – and one of the best parts of the race for spectators – is the event's running start. The AuSable River Canoe Marathon doesn't start in the water; it starts in the streets of Grayling. Teams must run with their canoes to the water at the Old AuSable Fly Shop, giving hundreds of spectators



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a chance to see the paddlers carry their boats, get in the river and start their journey toward Oscoda.

How does the AuSable Marathon determine where teams line up for the running start? Time trials, also known as “sprints for position.” It’s a three-day event slated for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, July 24-26, this year. The looped sprint course is located between Penrod’s and the Old AuSable Fly Shop.

During the start of the Marathon, teams line up on Peninsular Avenue by the Grayling Post Office, five canoes per row, based on sprint times, giving the teams with the best times shorter paths to the river.

For information on the AuSable River Canoe Marathon, visit the event’s official website, www.ausablecanoemarathon.org.

The AuSable Canoe Marathon Race Week Events

DA\$H For CA\$H
Tuesday, July 23

Time Trial Sprints Day 2
C-1 Express Race
Thursday, July 25

Time Trial Sprints Day 3
AuSable River Challenge 120
Friday, July 26

Time Trial Sprints Day 1
Wednesday, July 24

AuSable River Canoe Marathon
Start - Saturday, July 27 | Finish - Sunday, July 28

Photo by Brian Preuss, Consumers Energy





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AuSable River Festival

Hosted by the Grayling Regional Chamber of Commerce, the AuSable River Festival is held in conjunction with the annual AuSable River Canoe Marathon.

This summer's festival will kick off with a Car & Truck Show July 20 held in downtown Grayling. The festival will continue into the week with a Well Being Evening July 22 at Grayling City Park, where wellness vendors, classes and demonstrations will be held.

Kids Day 2024 will then take place July 23 at Grayling City Park, where children will partic-



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ipate in a “Superhero Spectacular” theme event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The AuSable River Festival “HUP Race” will take place at 6 p.m. at Grayling City Park and will feature boats created by the paddlers. The boats will be made of minimal materials including Lauan, two boards, nails and duct tape. Awards will be given to paddlers in various humorous categories including the “Sinker Award” and the “Almost Not Quite First Place” award.

The Street Eats Food Court will be held July 25-27 and will transport Michigan Avenue in downtown Grayling into a food court with a variety of vendors. Also taking place July 25-27 will be Brew Ave. The Arts and Crafts Show will take place July 26-27 at Grayling City Park. The MI Ave Booths event will also take place July 26-27 along the 100 block of Michigan Avenue.

Bags will fly for the July 27 Cornhole Tournament, which will take place at 10 a.m. at the AuSable Main Stage Area. The Main Stage will also have live performances throughout the festival including the Miss AuSable River Festival program at 11 a.m. July 27.

The festival will end with the July 27 Duck Derby, when rubber ducks will be dumped into the AuSable River at 3 p.m. at Grayling City Park. The first-place winner will receive a prize of \$500.

For information on the AuSable River Festival, visit www.ausableriverfest.com.

AuSable River Festival
Saturday, July 20 - Saturday, July 27
ausableriverfest.com



Church Service Directory



Bear Lake Christian Church

221 E. Bear Lake Rd. NE, Kalkaska, MI 231-258-6107
Sunday 10 a.m.

Calvary Baptist Church

6504 W. M-72 Hwy., Grayling, MI 989-348-9220
Sunday 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. / Wednesday 6 p.m.

Evangelical Free Church of Grayling

1636 Hartwick Pines Rd., Grayling, MI 989-390-5078
Sunday 10 a.m.

First Baptist Church of Frederic

6536 Manistee St., Frederic, MI 989-348-8126
Sunday 11 a.m., Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Grayling Assembly of God

701 N. I-75 Business Loop, Grayling, MI
989-348-8885
Sunday 10:30 a.m., Wednesday 7 p.m.

Grayling Baptist Church

705 Madsen St., Grayling, MI 989-745-6551
Sunday 11 a.m., Sunday School 10 a.m.

Grayling Church of Christ

7540 S. Old 27, Grayling, MI 989-745-6097
Sunday 11 a.m.

Grayling Community of Christ

1030 Glenn Rd., Grayling, MI 989-348-8362
Sunday 11 a.m.

Grayling Free Methodist Church

6352 W. M-72 Hwy., Grayling, MI 989-348-9093
Sunday 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
AWANA 6:30 p.m.

Grayling Lighthouse of Hope

501 E. Michign Ave., Grayling, MI 989-348-1278
Sunday 11 a.m.

Heritage Baptist Church

1841 Hartwick Pines Rd.
Grayling, MI 989-348-5558
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. / Service 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Higgins Lake Baptist Church

7461 W. Higgins Lake Dr., Roscommon, MI
989-821-5464
Sunday School 10:00 a.m. / Service 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wednesday 7 p.m.

Michelson Memorial United Methodist Church

400 E. Michigan Ave., Grayling, MI 989-348-2974
Sunday Traditional 9 a.m.
Sunday Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m.

Mount Hope Lutheran Church

905 N. I-75 Business Loop, Grayling, MI 989-348-5921
Sunday 11 a.m.

Resurrection Life Center

2640 W. M-72 Hwy., Grayling, MI 989-348-1000
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Grayling Seventh-day Adventist Church

2470 Camp AuSable Rd., Grayling, MI 989-348-2501
Sunday 11:00 a.m. / Sabbath School 9:45 a.m.

St. Francis Episcopal Church

6441 W. M-72 Hwy., Grayling, MI 989-348-5850
Sunday 9:30 a.m.

St. John Lutheran Church

710 Spruce St., Grayling, MI 989-348-5224
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

St. Mary Catholic Church

707 Spruce St., Grayling, MI 989-348-7657
Saturday 4:00 p.m., Sunday 8:30 a.m.

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Grayling's Hometown Newspaper Since 1879

A photograph of a large outdoor fish hatchery. In the foreground, a man in a gray shirt and dark shorts is crouched on a concrete walkway, looking into a large, rectangular concrete tank filled with water. The water is dark blue with some ripples. In the background, there are several more similar tanks, some with yellow mesh covers. A concrete wall with stone pillars and a metal railing runs across the middle ground. Behind the wall, there are green trees and a clear blue sky. A black and blue bucket is on the concrete walkway to the right.

Grayling Fish Hatchery

Grayling Fish Hatchery

The historical Grayling Fish Hatchery is a place where people not only have the opportunity to view more than 1,000 rainbow trout, they can also enjoy nature in a variety of ways.

The trout, which are provided by the Department of Natural Resources, can be fed in the hatchery's raceways and people can visit the marsh raceway, which is home to several turtles and frogs.

The hatchery is also home to a Kid's Fishing Pond, a pollinator garden and picnic area. Visitors can also take self-guided tours, visit the Bug Spot to learn about insects at the hatchery, take photos at three photo stations and view various species of waterfowl.

History

Rasmus Hanson founded the hatchery in 1914 and the Grayling Fish Hatchery Club was formed in 1916 to reinforce natural trout reproduction in the AuSable River. At that time, the goal was to hatch and grow fish in ponds for restocking the river and also save the near-extinct grayling. The effort to save the grayling failed, however, brook and brown trout were planted in the river.

In 1926, the hatchery was sold to the State of Michigan, however, operation ceased in the late 1960s and remained inactive until the early 1980s. Around 1983, the Grayling Fish Hatchery committee restarted the operation.

Then, about five years ago, the Anglers of the AuSable leased the hatchery from Crawford County.

The hatchery is currently operated by Grayling Fish Hatchery, Inc., a volunteer board that works in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources, as well as with Crawford County and other groups.

During the summer months, from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, the hatchery is open Friday through Sunday, as well as holiday Mondays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Entry to the hatchery is free, however, fish food can be purchased for a minimal fee.

The hatchery is located at 4890 West North Down River Rd., Grayling.

Lotto Tickets • ATM • Money Orders • Hot Food • Pizza

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Beginning at Hanson Hills Recreation Area, the 2024 Black Bear Gran Fondo offers cyclists with three long-distance challenges.

The Black Bear Gran Fondo, to be held July 14, provides cyclists with a 100-mile “century ride,” or two smaller loops which are 62 miles or 45 miles, respectively.

“A gran fondo is a mass participation cycling event that got its start in Italy in the early 1900s,” the event’s website states. “Loosely translated, it means everything from ‘great foundation,’ ‘great distance’ or ‘great endurance.’ Some cyclists ride for the satisfaction and pride of just making it to the finish line. Others want to improve upon their previous times and to challenge themselves, their friends, their teammates. Some ride to win.”

Online registration for the 2024 Black Bear Gran Fondo can be completed by visiting blackbeargranfondo2024.itsyourrace.com.

Black Bear Gran Fondo

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Hanson Hills Recreation Area

Hanson Hills Recreation Area, operated by Grayling Recreation Authority, offers a host of recreational opportunities for the spring and summer months.

Visitors of the area can explore mountain biking and hiking trails, as well as play a round of disc golf. There is also a softball field, pavilion for picnics and a kids' fishing pond.

Hanson Hills also hosts several events during the spring and summer months including bicycle and foot races on scenic trails.

Hanson Hills Recreation Area is located at 7601 Old Lake Rd., Grayling, and can be contacted by calling (989) 348-9266.

Hanson Hills Challenge 5-Mile Trail Run - June 1

The Hanson Hills Challenge offers a three-mile-ish trail run which features two-track trails on relatively flat ground with one uphill climb. It also offers a five-mile trail run featuring two-track trails on a hilly course.

Ragnar Trail Relay - June 21-22

Over the course of two days and one night, teams will run a relay-style race on three smooth, single-track trails. Participants will run through trees and over hills and at night under the stars with a headlamp lighting their way.

Black Bear Gran Fondo - July 13

In its 23rd year, the Black Bear Gran Fondo, is a cycling event that offers a 100-mile loop, as well as a 62-mile and 45-mile loop. All three options begin and end at Hanson Hills.

AuSable River Festival 5k & 10k - July 27

Part of the AuSable River Festival, Hanson Hills will offer the AuSable River Festival 5k & 10k races. Awards will be given to overall male and female winners, participation medals will be given, as well as custom t-shirts to the 150 participants.

**For information or to register
for any of these events, visit
hansonhills.org/summer-activities.**

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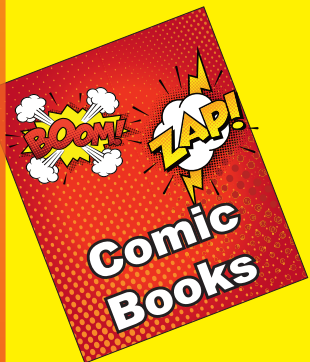
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North Higgins Lake State Park and CCC Museum

North Higgins Lake State Park and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum offers both recreational and historical opportunities for visitors.

Located on 449 acres on the shore of Higgins Lake, the state park offers biking on the Iron Belle Trail, paddle sport opportunities, fishing, hiking, swimming and pet-friendly areas. There are also several facilities at the state park including a beach house, boat launch, mini cabins, modern restrooms, a picnic area and picnic shelter, a playground, campsites with 50-amp service and water access.

The trail system includes the 6.5-mile North Higgins-Beaver Creek Trail, the 3.8-mile North Higgins-Bosom Pines Trail and the 1.6-mile North Higgins-Upland Nature Trail.


Just across North Higgins Lake Drive from the North Higgins Lake State Park are the historical Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Museum.

The Higgins Lake Nursery, which was operated from 1903 to 1965, became one of the world's largest pine nurseries. As part of the federal Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps, more than 100,000 Michigan men performed conservation and reforestation projects around the state.

By the time the CCC program ended in 1942, 484 million trees had been planted by CCC workers.

Now the Higgins Lake Nursery and CCC Museum is a place to see how CCC workers lived and worked as there are many personal items from CCC men on display. The grounds also have several historical buildings, as well as trails for recreation.

A Department of Natural Resources Recreation Passport is required for entry into North Higgins Lake State Park and CCC Museum. North Higgins Lake State Park is located at 11747 North Higgins Lake Dr., Roscommon.



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Biking and Hiking

Connecting Grayling with Grayling High School and Hartwick Pines State Park, the Grayling Bicycle Turnpike is a paved trail that is separated from the road in most areas. The trail is used for walking, jogging and bicycling. Leading to the AuSable River, the Rayburn Estate trail includes a picnic spot and a foot bridge. Hanson Hills Recreation Area also provides a variety of trails for hiking and biking.

Canoeing and Kayaking

Quiet water sports like canoeing and kayaking can be enjoyed on not only the Au Sable River, but also Lake Margrethe, KP Lake, Shupac Lake and Jones Lake.

Disc Golf

Disc golfers have two course options at Hanson Hills Recreation Area. One course is a mostly flat shorter course, while the other is longer and includes a hilly terrain.

Horseback Riding

A spur of the Shore-to-Shore Riding and Hiking Trail goes from the Frederic/Grayling area into the Pigeon River State Forest near Indian River and Mullet Lake.

Playgrounds

Spots to picnic and play include:

Beaver Creek Township - picnic tables, restrooms

Frederic Township Park - picnic tables

Grayling City Park - located on the AuSable River, it includes picnic tables, pavilion, restrooms.

Grayling Township Park - located across from the Grayling Fish Hatchery

Hartwick Pines State Park - picnic tables, pavilion and restrooms

Skateboarding

The Grayling Skate Park is a 20,000 sq. ft. facility located next to Grayling City Hall, 1020 City Blvd.

Swimming

Crawford County offers a variety of swimming and beach options. Lake Margrethe, at the State Forest Campground, offers swimming and beach areas, as does Higgins Lake, located in the southern end of the county. Smaller public beaches are located at Jones Lake, Kneff Lake and Shupac Lake.

Trail Riding

Off-road vehicle riders have several options within Crawford County including the 29-mile long Frederic Loop ORV Trail. The Frederic trail system connects into the Kalkaska system with more than 100 miles available to riders. ORVs can also ride on the shoulder of many county roads.

**Find information on these activities and more at
GraylingMichigan.org**

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Fishing regulations vary between sections on the rivers with some areas designated as “flies only” and several miles of the AuSable River being “catch and release.” The majority of the waters, however, are open to any type of fishing, including flies, hardware and bait.

Hatch activity generally begins in early March with the onset of spring and the emerging black-stones. Hendricksons are usually hatching by the opening day of trout season which is April 27 this spring.

Afternoon hatches make early to mid-May a popular time for many fly fishers. By mid-May, most hatches and spinner falls occur in the late afternoon. The sulfur match begins in late-May and lasts about two weeks. The first week of June is a popular time on area streams with the brown drake hatch.

Hatches continue through May and June, generally culminating with the “Hex” hatch, which is the big Michigan mayfly, the *Hexagenia Limbata*. The hatch brings fly fishers in large numbers as it is the time when trophy fish regularly surface feed.

August brings terrestrials including grasshoppers, ants and crickets. The warm sunny days are an ideal time to fish brown trout lying along the grass banks waiting for grasshoppers. As fall approaches, anglers can enjoy the solitude of a quiet day and cool evening with brown and brook trout becoming active.

Crawford County also has numerous lakes, which offer excellent fishing. Lake Margrethe and Higgins Lake offer a variety of fishing. North of Grayling and west of Lovells, lie smaller lakes like KP Lake, Jones Lake and Hargrove Lake.

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2024 SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMS and Events Schedule

Weekly Activity Program Schedule can be found at www.michigan.gov/hartwickpinesvc

APRIL

April 13th: MAPLE SYRUP DAY 10am - 4pm Tree-tapping demonstrations, information on how to start your own sugarbush, kids activities.

April 27th: EARTH DAY/ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION 10am - 3pm Guided Tours of the Old Growth Trail, Discovery Table of Forestry Tools at the Visitor Center.

MAY

May 1st: LOGGING MUSEUM OPENS FOR THE SEASON

May 25th: KIRTLAND'S WARBLER TOURS BEGIN Tours offered May 25th - June 30th. Pre-registration required at www.michiganaudubon.org.

JUNE

June 10th: DAILY SUMMER PROGRAMMING BEGINS Daily Tours of the Old Growth Trail, Historical Programs at the Logging Museum and other daily programming begin this week. Visit www.michigan.gov/hartwickpinesvc to see weekly activity schedule.

JULY

July 20th & 21st: WOOD SHAVING DAYS 10am - 4pm, Logging Museum. Wood carvers, blacksmiths and other artisans demonstrate how they make their crafts; steam-powered sawmill will be operating.

July 26th: LIVE ANIMAL PROGRAM WITH JIM AND CAROL McGRATH FROM NATURE DISCOVERY 7pm, Campground Amphitheatre. The McGraths bring their collection of Michigan reptiles and amphibians.

July 27th: SNAKES ALIVE! WITH JIM AND CAROL McGRATH FROM NATURE DISCOVERY 1pm, Visitor Center Auditorium. The McGraths bring their collection of Michigan snakes.

AUGUST

August 2nd: IT'S DAYLIGHT IN THE SWAMPS! BILL JAMERSON'S MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO MICHIGAN'S LUMBERJACKS 7pm, Campground Amphitheatre. Journey back to the days of the lumberjack camps with true stories, tall tales and toe-tapping songs!

August 3rd: A TREE PARTY! HIGGINS LAKE NURSERY & CCC MUSEUM

North Higgins Lake State Park 10am - 3pm. Smokey Bear bounce house, celebrate Smokey's 80th birthday with cake (while it lasts) touch-a-truck with a DNR Fire Officer, CCC re-enactors, and more!

BILL JAMERSON'S DOLLAR-A-DAY BOYS musical tribute to the CCC. 11am - 12pm. Email PineH@Michigan.gov for an updated list of Tree Party event offerings.

August 10th: FOREST FEST, 10am - 4pm. Celebrate the beauty and serenity of Michigan's forests: Meet Smokey Bear, learn about Michigan's forests, engage in activities and make some cool crafts. A fun-filled day for people of all ages!

August 24th & 25th: BLACK IRON DAYS, 10am - 4pm, Logging Museum. Watch blacksmiths and other artisans demonstrate how they make their crafts; steam-powered sawmill will be operating.

Throughout the Summer, Hartwick Pines Memorial Building is open Thursday-Monday, 11am to 4pm when volunteer hosts are available.

All programs are free unless otherwise noted, however a Recreation Passport is required for entry to the park.

For more information, call (989) 348-2537 or visit www.michigan.gov/hartwickpinesvc, www.michigan.gov/loggingmuseum, www.facebook.com/HartwickPinesStatePark

