Fall & Winter Visitor's Guide 2023-2024

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

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Karon Ameluxen Assistant

For those seeking outdoor recreation during the autumn and winter seasons, the Grayling area has a lot to offer.

Velcome Grayling

If you like to hunt, hike, fish, snowmobile, downhill ski or cross-country ski – or you just want to get away Up North – Grayling has something to offer.

For hunters, the area has an abundance of public land open to those looking to harvest a white-tailed deer, and the popular buck pole event at Skip's Sport Shop helps kick off firearm hunting season every year.

Hanson Hills Recreation Area offers an extensive trail system for hiking and bicycling, two disc golf courses as well as downhill skiing, snowboarding and cross-country skiing, tubing runs, fat tire bike trails and several special events.

Miles and miles of groomed trails greet those who like to go snowmobiling. Crawford County also has a wide variety of lakes for anglers who like to fish through the ice.

Hartwick Pines State Park also offers cross-country skiing, in addition to snowshoe building workshops and guided snowshoe hikes during the winter months.

Enjoy your time in Grayling!

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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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October 27-29 Halloween Hayrides @ Wellington Farm, U.S.A.

October 28-29 Civil War Reenactment @ Wellington Farm, U.S.A.

November 11-25 Festival of Trees Grayling Mini Mall

November 15-16 Orange Coat Round-Up Buck Pole Event Skip's Sport Shop

November 18 Christmas Walk Downtown Grayling

December 26 Holiday Lantern Lit Snowshoe Hike Hartwick Pines State Park

January 6 Winter Wolf Skiathlon Hanson Hills Recreation Area

January 6 Snowshoe Building Workshop Hartwick Pines Stat Park

January 13 New Moon Lantern Lit Snowshoe Hike Hartwick Pines State Park

> January 20 Guided Snowshow Hike Hartwick Pines State Park

January 20 Cote Dame Marie Ski Loppet Hanson Hills Recreation Area

January 25 Full Moon Snowshoe Hike Hanson Hills Recreation Area

January 27 Guided Snowshoe Hike Hartwick Pines State Park

February 3 New Moon Lantern Lit Snowshoe Hike Hartwick Pines State Park

February 3-4 Blizzardfest Hanson Hills Recreation Area

February 10 Guided Snowshoe Hike Hartwick Pines State Park

February 18 Hanson Hills Classic Hanson Hills Recreation Area

February 17-18 Snowshoe Building Workshop Hartwick Pines State Park **February 24** Full Moon Snowshoe Hike Hartwick Pines State Park

March 1-3 Fred Bear Day Events

March 2-3 Snowshoe Building Workshop Hartwick Pines State Park

March 3 Wieland Tribute Ski Race Hanson Hills Recreation Area

March 9 New Moon Lantern Lit Snowshoe Hike Hartwick Pines State Park

> March 16 Guided Snowshoe Hike Hartwick Pines State Park

> April 13 Maple Syrup Day Hartwick Pines State Park

For information on upcoming events in Crawford County, visit:

Crawford County Avalanche | crawfordcountyavalanche.com

Grayling Chamber of Commerce | graylingchamber.com

Grayling Visitor's Bureau | grayling-mi.com

Grayling Main Street | www.downtowngrayling.com



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Golors Galore

Grayling and all of Crawford County are spectacular in the fall. The area offers plenty of opportunities for those seeking glimpses of Mother Nature's fall palette.

Wellington Farm, U.S.A., a 60acre historic farm located in the southwest corner of Crawford County on Military Road, not far from the I-75 Four Mile Road exit – not only offers a trip back in time to 1932, it also offers a lot of fun in the fall. From hayrides to Pumpkin' Chunkin', there is plenty to do. Visit www. wellingtonfarmusa.com for information.

Autumn Up North is a wonderful time of the year and a great time to come for a visit.



With the AuSable River running through it, Grayling has become known as one of the premiere paddling destinations as it is home to the AuSable River and the world-famous AuSable River Canoe Marathon.

Grayling is also becoming known for its local brews and food.

One of the popular spots is Paddle Hard Brewing, where guests can choose between a wide variety of beers and some delicious food offerings – with a nod to the AuSable River.

Inside Paddle Hard Brewing is a clock that counts down the time to the next marathon as owners Chad and Jenny Swander and their family members have been active with the race for many years as participants, volunteers and "feeders."

"Grayling has become paddle central for the canoe racing world," Chad Swander said. He said Paddle Hard Brewing "plays into" the world of canoe racing with its Up North feel that pays homage to the sport so many love.

Jenny said when people come into Paddle Hard Brewing they will feel welcomed with eclectic decor and a warm greeting. Chad said all people, no matter their age, are welcomed at Paddle Hard Brewing, as it has become a place for not only paddlers, but also for families to gather.

Other local favorites include Bear's Den Pizzeria, Dead Bear Brewing Co., Frederic Inn, Goodale's Bakery & Deli, Gray Rock Pub & Grub, Grayling Restaurant, Lovell's Riverside Tavern, Mai Mai Asian Cuisine, Michigan Brew, Ray's BBQ, Brews & Blues, Rolling Oak Brewery, Spike's Keg 'O' Nails, Swamp II, Tinkers Junction, Westside Diner, Gallagher's Sport Bar and Grill and Wimpy's.

For a complete list of area restaurants, visit grayling-mi.com/where-to-sleep-eat-shop/local-restaurants.

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SUMMER VISITOR'S GU

Be a part of the next Grayling Visitor's Guide

Get your business, event or organization in front of thousands with an ad in the 2024 Summer Visitor's Guide. Simply call the Avalanche at 989-348-6811 or e-mail ads@crawfordcountyavalanche.com before March 10, 2024

Next Publication April 2024



According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the state "has a long, rich tradition of hunting. In Michigan, hunting contributes to wildlife management and conservation, provides a positive family experience and increased recreational opportunity, and is good for the economy."

Deer hunting seasons – archery and firearm – are busy times of the year for Grayling and Crawford County.

"With 70% of its property owned by the state and federal government and open to the

public, Crawford County is a hunter's dream," according to the Grayling Visitor's Bureau.

In Grayling, firearm deer season gets started with the annual Orangecoat Round-up event, a two-day competition conducted at Skip's Sport Shop on November 15 and 16. The buck pole event gives hunters a chance to win cash prizes in a variety of categories, including first deer, first female hunter, youngest hunter, oldest hunter, heaviest buck and biggest rack. A grand prize – usually a new scoped rifle or a new scoped crossbow – is awarded to the hunter whose buck has the largest rack over the course of the two-day competition.







Delicious Food!



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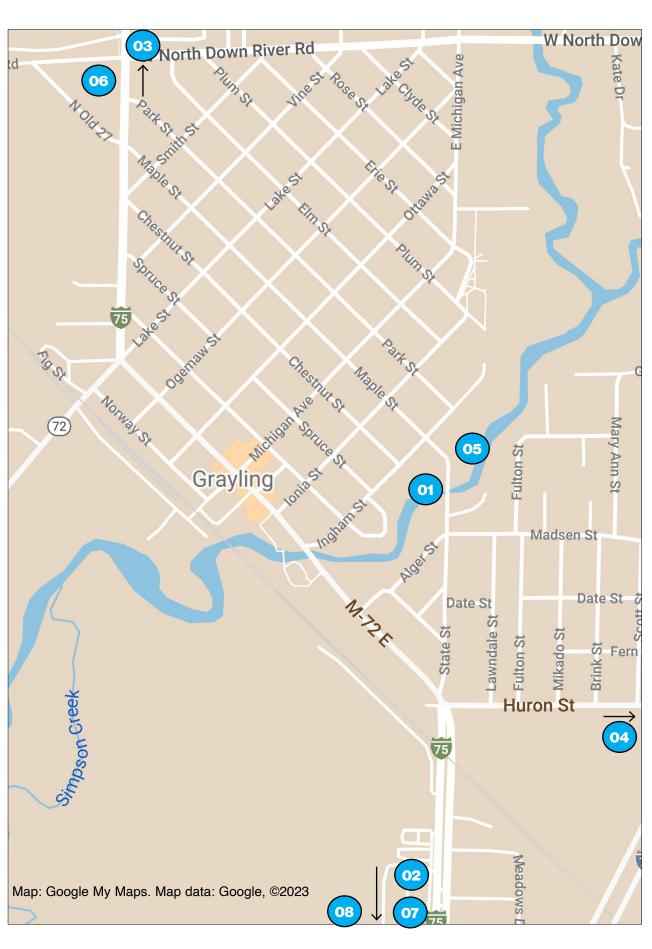
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Lodging Map

Presented by the Grayling Visitor's Bureau grayling-mi.com

	• •	—							
01	Borchers Bed & Breakfast Riverfront accommodations with on-site canoe and kayak rentals, wrap-around balcony overlooking AuSable River, family-style breakfast	(989) 348-4921 canoeborchers.com	4 rooms	On AuSable River, Grayling	A		(((-		
02	Day's Inn by Wyndham Refrigerators, microwaves, double vanities, next to snowmobile trail, free deluxe continental breakfast, conference room seats 60, jacuzzi suites	(989) 344-0204 daysinn.com	65 rooms	Off I-75, Grayling	*	Ą	-	0—0	(((-
03	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	(989) 348-7951 northbranchoutingclub.com	14 rooms	On AuSable River, 12 miles east of I-75	*	(((-			
03	River Country Motor Lodge Cozy rooms with microwaves and refrigerators, cabins and kitchenettes, picnic area, gas grills	(989) 348-8619 rivercountrymotorlodge.com	16 rooms	I-75 Business Loop, Grayling	*	æ	Ś	(((•	
03	Woodland Motor Lodge Wooded scenic surroundings, barbecue and picnic area, microwave, fridge & coffee pot in all rooms, ATV access, cabins, kitchenettes and jacuzzi rooms	(989) 348-9094 woodland-motel.com	20 rooms	I-75 Business Loop, Grayling	*	æ	×	(((1-	
04	Gates AuSable Lodge (April-Oct) Each attractive room features a river view, dining room and extensive take-out menu, fly shop, guide service	(989) 348-8462 gateslodge.com	17 rooms	On AuSable River, 7 miles east of Grayling	*	4	((1-		
04	Lake AuSable Lodge/Forest Dunes Nationally ranked golf resort featuring the Lake AuSable Lodge, golf villas and luxury cottages. Forest Dunes is home to two championship courses, a short and a putting course.	(989) 275-0700 forestdunesgolf.com	25 rooms	At Forest Dunes, 15 minutes off I-75	0—0	(((-		\bigcirc	
04	AuSable Riverview Resort Clean, comfortable cabins for 1-10 guests and 4,000 sq. ft. lodge for up to 20. Private kitchens, baths and AC. River views, landing access, on-site market & fly shop. Pet friendly	(989) 344-2164 ausableriverviewresort.com	6 units	On AuSable River, 16 miles east of Grayling	*	Ą	(((1-		×
05	Penrods Resort (April-Oct) Cabins located on 12 acres of the beautiful AuSable River mainstream, canoe, kayak and mountain bike rentals, quiet family atmosphere	(888) 467-4837 penrodscanoe.com	12 rooms	On AuSable River, Grayling	Ą		(([-		
06	Pointe North 'Country Inn' style, each room uniquely decorated, morning coffee and cookies, refrigerators and microwaves, two kitchens	(989) 348-5950 Pointe North Of Grayling Motel	21 rooms	I-75 Business Loop, Grayling	*	Ą	×	(((-	
07	Ramada Inn by Wyndham Full-service hotel & conference center, indoor recreation center including pool, next to snowmobile trails	(989) 348-7611 ramada.com	151 rooms	Off I-75, Grayling	*	0—0	æ.	(((-	
08	9 Oaks Inn A mom and pop motel located in the country, warm, inviting, quiet, clean & unique rooms, summer kitchens, grills, picnic tables & a fire pit with wood	(989) 275-9800 9oaksinn.com	8 rooms	5 miles south of Grayling	Ą	Ż	(((-		
08	Super 8 by Wyndham Indoor swimming pool, meeting areas, guest laundry, continental breakfast, truck stop across the street with fast food service, jacuzzi suites	989-348-8888 wyndhamhotels.com	60 rooms	Off I-75, 3 miles south of Grayling	*	æ	Þ	Â.	(((-
	Evolve Short-term rental homes located in Crawford County	www.evolve.com	5 homes	Crawford County					



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Christmas Walk

This year's Christmas walk is scheduled for November 18.

Hosted by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), Grayling Promotional Association and Grayling businesses, it is held the first Saturday after opening day of firearm deer season.

Among the highlights of the evening is a light parade and the lighting of the Christmas tree at the Crawford County Courthouse, which takes place at dusk (about 6 p.m.). Santa Claus is also expected to make his appearance in the parade and visit with children.

Josie Krupp, DDA volunteer, said businesses stay open late and run specials.

Traditionally, there has been a petting zoo and craft vendors, she said.

In conjunction with the Christmas Walk, Michelson Memorial United Methodist Church will host a cookie walk. In addition, a Christmas bazaar has been added to the church's activities, where handmade crafts will be sold.

The Christmas Walk, Krupp said, "is a nice, festive evening."



Festival of Trees

Grayling's annual Festival of Trees is a celebration of lights, color and Christmas giving. Hosted by the Grayling Promotional Association (GPA), this year's event will take place November 10-25 inside the Grayling Mini Mall, 2384 I-75 Business Loop, Grayling. Hours are Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; and Sunday, for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Festival of Trees Chairperson Gail Swope said money raised at the event goes back into the Grayling area, for things such as flowers, banners, lights and benches placed downtown and donations to Kirtland Community College, AuSable Artisan Village and Munson Healthcare Grayling Hospital.

"It's our biggest fundraiser," she said.

The GPA provides the Christmas trees, Swope said, and Grayling area businesses decorate them. Some businesses also make up gift baskets.

Festival of Trees visitors may purchase raffle tickets, then choose a favorite tree or basket and place a ticket stub in the corresponding container.

The drawing for the trees (about 60) and gift baskets (about 40) will be held November 26. Tree winners take home the trees and everything that is under them, Swope said. For information, visit www.graylingpromotional.org.



Whether looking for a challenging trek or a relaxing tour with family and friends, you'll find a casual adventure on over 75 kilometers of cross-country trails winding through incomparable scenery from the beautiful AuSable River to historic white pines. Start your day at Borchers with a hearty breakfast and then explore the trails.



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Grayling Promotional Association www.graylingpromotional.org



Festival of Trees & Christmas Shoppe Grayling Mini Mall November 10th - 25th, 2023 10 am - 6:30 pm Mon.- Sat. 11 am - 3 pm Sun.



Shop Grayling First Discount Cards ^{\$}20. Save hundreds of dollars at local businesses. Available through any GPA members, and at any GPA event. Ask about our specials.



Light Up Your Life Judging will take place Dec. 9th. An application is needed and available on GPA website and Facebook.



Drawing will take place Sun., Nov. 26th. Winners will be announced on Q100 starting at Noon.

Funforcfll

Bust out the mittens, snowpants, heavy jacket, wool socks, scarf and boots for a winter-filled day at Hanson Hills Recreation Area.

"You just need your gear," Hanson Hills Director of Operations Justin Andre said and Hanson Hills will provide the facilities and equipment.

Hanson Hills has 20 miles of Nordic ski trails that are groomed daily for both classic and skate-style skiing. There are also downhill runs for both skiing and snowboarding, as well as a T-bar and tow rope. He said the trails offer "wooded rolling terrain" that can be utilized by people of all skill levels.

Andre said both skiing and tubing are the main attractions, however, there are also opportunities for snowshoeing, fat tire biking and ski lessons.

"We cater to all," Andre said.

For those who need a break from the cold, Andre said Hanson Hills has a warming lodge complete with concessions, as well as open fire pits on the hill.

Andre said Hanson Hills has a long history as it was established in 1929 and is Michigan's first downhill ski area. Now, operated by the Grayling Recreation Authority, the group not only maintains and runs the ski operation, but also prioritizes year-round sporting programs for both youth and adults.

In the summer months, Andre said Hanson Hills offers two disc golf courses and hiking trails, as well as mountain biking trails. On site there is a pavilion, playground and a softball field.

"It's affordable family fun for the whole family," Andre said.

He said Hanson Hills is the place to go to try a host of outdoor activities at affordable prices.

For information on Hanson Hills call the Grayling Recreation Authority at (989) 348-9266 or visit www. hansonhills.org.





Step into Mature

Thousands of visitors flock each year to Hartwick Pines State Park, 3612 State Park Dr., Grayling, including cross-country skiers, snowshoe enthusiasts and nature lovers.

"Hartwick Pines State Park is a great place to get your fix of wintertime activity," Park Interpreter Craig Kasmer said.

For those who like cross-country skiing, there are three-mile, five-mile and seven and a half-mile loops that are regularly groomed (depending on snowfall), he said.

"The terrain is relatively flat, but there are a few stretches that are quite hilly," he said. "Folks can also snowshoe on those trails, but we ask that you be respectful and don't not walk in the tracks that are used by the skiers."

The Old Growth Trail (one and a half miles), Mertz Grade Trail (two miles) and the AuSable Trail (three and a half miles) are not groomed for skiing and are more readily used for snowshoeing, Kasmer said.

"These trails are mostly level, but an occasional hill, especially on the Old Growth Trail, will be encountered," he said.

In addition, multiple lantern-lit snowshoe and guided snowshoe hikes, as well as three snowshoe building workshops, are scheduled from December through March.

Hartwick Pines is also home to a year-round, fully accessible visitor center, which serves as "a gateway to the towering pine forest and the Hartwick Pines Logging Museum."

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



Church Service Directory



Abundant Life Tabernacle 211 Shellenburger St., Grayling, MI 989-348-5325 Sunday 11 a.m.

Assembly of God

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

Bear Lake Christian Church

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

Calvary Baptist

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

Community of Christ

1030 Glenn Rd., Grayling, MI 989-348-8362 Sunday 11 a.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. & 12:15 p.m.,Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Grayling Baptist

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 Free Methodist

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

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

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

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

Mount Hope Lutheran

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.

Seventh Day Adventist Church

2470 Camp Ausable Rd., Grayling, MI 989-348-2501 Sunday 11:00 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, Grayling, MI 989-348-5224 Sunday 10:30 a.m.

St. Mary's Catholic Church

708 Peninsular Ave., 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

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The 2024 Cote Dame Marie Ski Loppet – an annual series of cross-country ski races – is scheduled for January 20 at Hanson Hills Recreation Area. The event usually draws between 100 and 200 competitors each year.

The Cote Dame Marie Ski Loppet features a Michigan Cup Men's Division, a Michigan Cup Women's Division, a Junior Division and Citizen Division races.

"This exciting Nordic skiing adventure will take you through the scenic hardwood trails of Hanson Hills Recreation Area," according to event organizers. "A rolling course with outstanding grooming."

For information about the Cote Dame Marie Ski Loppet visit www.hansonhills.org or runsignup.com/ Race/MI/Grayling/CoteDameMarieSkiLoppet.

Incredible area to ski

Northern Lower Michigan is home to some of the best cross-country skiing terrain in the nation. With majestic pine and hardwood forests spread across thousands of acres of rolling, glacially formed hills, valleys, rivers and meadows, the Grayling/ Roscommon area boasts an incredible array of trails that are especially magical in wintertime. Rich in scenic beauty, this "Heart of Michigan" region offers abundant opportunities for experiencing the quiet splendor of a Northern Michigan winter. Grayling is at the heart of snowmobiling trails in Northern Michigan.

Easily accessible from I-75, M-72 or US-127, the trails can take snowmobilers across northern Michigan to places like Lovells, Lewiston, Frederic, Gaylord, Roscommon and Houghton Lake, according to the Grayling Visitors Bureau.

One of the largest trail networks in the State of Michigan, is groomed by the AuSable Valley Snowmobile Association (AVSA). A crew of about eight groomers maintains 73 miles of trails, said Trail Manager Keith Miles, a 24-year trail groomer.

"From a groomer's perspective, we can be out any time...be prepared for the unexpected," Miles said. If it's a blind corner, please slow down. Enjoy the trails and ride safely."

Grayling Visitors Bureau Executive Director Ilene Wilson said the Department of Natural Resources is in the process of mapping a new trail from Grayling to Lovells.

Miles said Trail 47 has been moved to the north to avoid the Military Safety Fan area. (A September, 2023, YouTube video by the AVSA shows the progress made on building a new snowmobile trail from Grayling to Lovells.)

Miles said the Grayling area has three trailheads.

He said the main parking lot is on M-72 west, about two miles west of town.

There is a parking lot at Lewiston Grade Road and Wilcox Bridge Road, located east of Grayling. This lot is convenient for snowmobilers traveling to points east, he said.

There is also a parking lot in Frederic on Co. Road 612 east of Old 27.

An interactive snowmobile trails map is available at Michigan.gov/DNRTrails (click on snowmobile trail maps, then choose from the interactive trails map, snowmobile maps in a list format or a map of snowmobile trails in state parks).

In addition, the Michigan Snowmobile Association (MSA) publishes a monthly magazine, "Michigan Snowmobile News," from September through March that is mailed to members and read by the snowmobiling community.

For information on the Grayling snowmobile network, visit the AuSable Valley Snowmobile Association website, www.GoSledGrayling.org, or the Grayling Visitors Bureau website, www. grayling-mi.com.



On the Tee

Why wait for the lakes to thaw? Enjoy the sport of fishing on the ice at one of many lakes in the Crawford County area. Ice fishing is a popular winter pastime in Northern Michigan. People of all ages and experience levels will venture out onto frozen-over bodies of water this winter in search of perch, smelt, walleye, trout, pike and other fish.

"There's no need to wait indoors for the ice to thaw so you can enjoy your favorite sport of fishing. Grayling offers numerous lakes where the fish bite all year round as is evident by the ice shanties that pop up on the ice covered lakes each winter. There's nothing more calming and serene than spending the day out in the clear cool air surrounded by the camaraderie of dozens of others who share the same love of fishing," according to the Grayling Visitor's Bureau.



Finley's Riverside Cabins

Outdoorsman's Paradise on the AuSable River



Northern Michigan rental cabins offer the best of both worlds situated on 16 wooded acres with 1,000 feet of private AuSable River frontage, and located on a bustling stretch of M-72.



Easy access to fishing, hunting, hiking, snowmobile trailheads, cross-country ski trails, snowshoeing, Hanson Hills fat tire bike and mountain bike trails and downhill skiing. Close to state and federal hunting land and ATV trails.



Pavilion with seating up to 80 people for: Weddings, Graduation, Family & Class Reunions, Corporate Meetings/Retreats Pavilion comes equipped with: Tables and Chairs, Charcoal Grill and Griddle, Private Parking, Pergola,

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https://www.vrbo.com/•finleysriversidecabin@gmail.com 5973 West M-72 HWY • Grayling, MI 49738 In honor of one of the "greats" of archery, Fred Bear Day will celebrate the famous archer and his legacy of hunting.

Fred Bear Day President John Wejrowski said Fred Bear Day 2024 will take place March 1-3 in honor of Fred Bear's birthday which is March 5 – and also Fred Bear Day in Grayling.

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He said the celebration is meant "to remember, honor and pay tribute" to Fred Bear and his legacy.

The events of the celebration will begin with a "meet and greet" event that has been planned for Friday, March 1 at 5:30 p.m. at a yet-to-be-determined location.

Then on Saturday, March 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., a sportsman trade show will take place at Kirtland Community College, located at 4800 West Four Mile Rd., Grayling. To reserve a table for the show email info@fredbearday.org.

Following the trade show, a "pre-glow get together," will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. at a yet-to-be-determined location.

The celebration will end Sunday, March 3 with a 21 whistling arrow salute to take place at the Old Bear Archery Ground. Registration for the salute will begin at 10:15 a.m. and the shoot will take place at 11 a.m.

Also, on March 3, the "Fred Bear Day" event will be held at Kirtland Community College from noon to 6 p.m. The event will feature a luncheon, guest speakers, raffles and a live auction.

For information on the event visit, www.fredbearday.org.

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This Summer

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Don't forget to plan your trip Up North during the summer months for more outdoor recreation and special events, including camping, canoeing, golfing, boating, fishing, bicycling, disc golfing, swimming and more.

During the spring and summer, visitors can enjoy fly fishing or canoeing on the AuSable River or Manistee River, or fish or swim on a variety of area lakes. The Grayling area has a bicycle trail network that runs from Hanson Hills Recreation Area to Grayling High School to Hartwick Pines State Park. The area has several public and private campgrounds and is home to the Grayling Fish Hatchery, a historic site in which visitors can view and feed live trout. The county also has three golf courses. Other attractions include Wellington Farm, U.S.A., the Crawford County Historical Museum, the Lovells Museum and Hanson Hills Recreation Area. Hanson Hills hosts several bike races and foot races throughout the summer months and has two disc golf courses.

The AuSable River Canoe Marathon – a 120-mile canoe race that starts in Grayling, ends in Oscoda and draws thousands of fans – happens in late July and the AuSable River Festival leading up to the marathon offers a car show, craft show, parade and much more.

artwick Pines State Park

Come visit nearly 10,000 acres of beautiful century old trees preserved in calm serenity

2023 - 2024 WINTER PROGRAMS and Events Schedule

DECEMBER

December 16th: <u>HOLIDAY LANTERN LIT SNOWSHOE HIKE</u>, Meet @ Visitor Center and walk the Old Growth Trail lit by lanterns. Warm up by the Logging Museum bonfire or in the Visitor Center. Caroling encouraged! Hike anytime 5:30-8:30pm.

JANUARY

January 6th & 7th: <u>SNOWSHOE BUILDING WORKSHOP</u>, Reserve your spot and learn how to build/ lace your own pair of Bear Paw-style snowshoes. This is a highly popular program and fills up fast. This is a two-day program and costs \$185/pair of snowshoes. Go to <u>www.michigan.gov/outdoorskills</u> to register/pay.

January 13th: <u>NEW MOON LANTERN LIT SNOWSHOE HIKE</u>, Meet @ Visitor Center and walk the Old Growth Trail lit by lanterns. Warm up by the Logging Museum bonfire or in the Visitor Center. Hike anytime 5:30-8:30pm.

January 20th: <u>GUIDED SNOWSHOE HIKES</u>, Meet @ Visitor Center. Hikes depart 10:00am & 1:00pm. Reservations required – <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F45AFAE22A2FE3-45065590-hartwick</u> January 27th: <u>GUIDED SNOWSHOE HIKES</u>, Meet @ Visitor Center. Hikes depart 10:00am & 1:00pm. Reservations required – <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F45AFAE22A2FE3-45065590-hartwick</u>

FEBRUARY

February 3rd: <u>NEW MOON LANTERN LIT SNOWSHOE HIKE</u>, Meet @ Visitor Center and walk the Old Growth Trail lit by lanterns. Warm up by the Logging Museum bonfire or in the Visitor Center. Hike anytime 5:30-8:30pm.

February 10th: <u>GUIDED SNOWSHOE HIKE</u>, Meet @ Visitor Center. Hike departs 10:00am & 1:00pm. Reservations required - <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F45AFAE22A2FE3-45065590-hartwick</u> **February 17th & 18th:** <u>SNOWSHOE BUILDING WORKSHOP</u>, Reserve your spot and learn how to build/lace your own pair of Bear Paw-style snowshoes. This is a highly popular program and fills up fast. This is a two-day program and costs \$185/pair of snowshoes. Go to <u>www.michigan.gov/outdoorskills</u> to register/pay.

February 24th: <u>FULL MOON SNOWSHOE HIKE</u>, Meet @ Contact Station. A 2-mile roundtrip hike to the campground and back. First come, first served shoe fitting at 7:30pm. Hike departs 8:00pm.

MARCH

March 2nd & 3rd: <u>SNOWSHOE BUILDING WORKSHOP</u>, Reserve your spot and learn how to build/ lace your own pair of Ojibwe-style snowshoes. This is a highly popular program and fills up fast. This is a two-day program and costs \$185/pair of snowshoes. Go to <u>www.michigan.gov/outdoorskills</u> to register/pay.

March 9th: <u>NEW MOON LANTERN LIT SNOWSHOE HIKE</u>, Meet @ Visitor Center and walk the Old Growth Trail lit by lanterns. Warm up by the Logging Museum bonfire or in the Visitor Center. Hike anytime 5:30-8:30 pm.

March 16th: <u>GUIDED SNOWSHOE HIKES</u>, Meet @ Visitor Center. Hikes depart 10:00am & 1:00pm. Reservations required – <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F45AFAE22A2FE3-45065590-hartwick</u>

April April 13th: <u>MAPLE SYRUP DAY</u>, Tree tapping demonstrations, sap boiling, information on how to start your own sugarbush, kids' activities. 10am-4pm



Hartwick Pines State Park •3612 State Park Drive • I-75 Exit 259, Grayling, MI For more information call 989-348-2537 • michigan.gov/hartwickpinesvc or michigan.gov/loggingmuseum

All events are FREE

Recreation Passport

needed to enter

park.

Friends of

State Park

Hartwick

Pines

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