

5 Tips to Respect Private Property In The Keweenaw



#1

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Before you step foot on a trail or go somewhere new, make sure to look at DNR or US Forest Service maps or local plat books to determine what areas are public and private land. Sometimes roads or trails that appear to be public on navigation services or satellite maps are actually privately owned. Best practice is to stay on public land!



Depending on where you are in the Keweenaw, private landowners may allow backcountry hikers or regular hikers to cross their property. Make sure to contact the landowners directly to ask permission. If there is signage or rules posted or communicated by the landowner, be sure to follow them closely. If you are looking to explore local mining sites or other historical sites, make sure to contact the Keweenaw National Historical Park to secure permission, a tour, or other information about the site.

#2

Respect the Rules

#3

Practice Leave No Trace

Once you have permission to pass through private land or use private trails, make sure to practice Leave No Trace ethics. Think of engaging with natural spaces, especially private land, as walking into somebody's home. Leave what you find. Clean up after yourself. Stay on the trails or designated routes.



Sometimes when you arrive at a trailhead or destination that was labeled as public on maps or online, it ends up being private – consider preparing alternative routes or activities instead. If a trail is not well marked, users can sometimes find themselves on private land on accident or because they are lost. Be sure to carry a cellular device, a GPS, or a compass, and be aware of potentially tricky trails!

#4

Be Flexible

#5

Understand Beach and Shoreline Access

Be sure to access the Lake Superior shoreline or water using a public entry point or beach. Watch for signs such as "Private Beach Access" or "No swimming" signs before you jump in or cut down to the lake. Though you cannot access the shoreline through private property, the public reserves the right to walk anywhere along the shoreline between the water's edge and the high water mark.



Respecting private property helps build trust between residents and visitors. This way outdoor enthusiasts, local and visiting, can enjoy the spaces and activities the Keweenaw has to offer.



KEWEENAW

Visit Keweenaw

56638 Calumet Avenue, Calumet, MI 49913

(906) 337-4579

info@visitkeweenaw.com