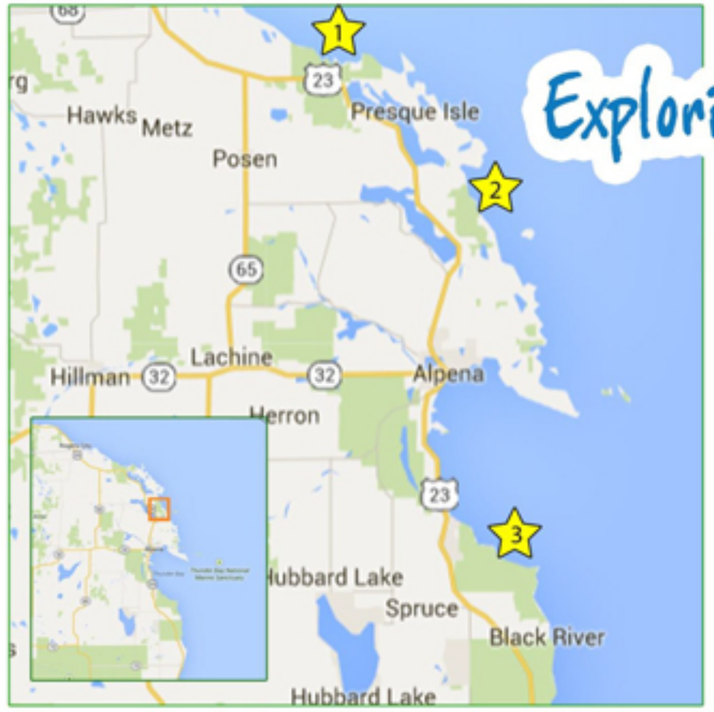


Exploring Dark Skies

1 - Thompson's Harbor State Park
GPS: 45.335465, -83.603988

2 - Rockport State Recreation Area
GPS: 45.202386, -83.384044

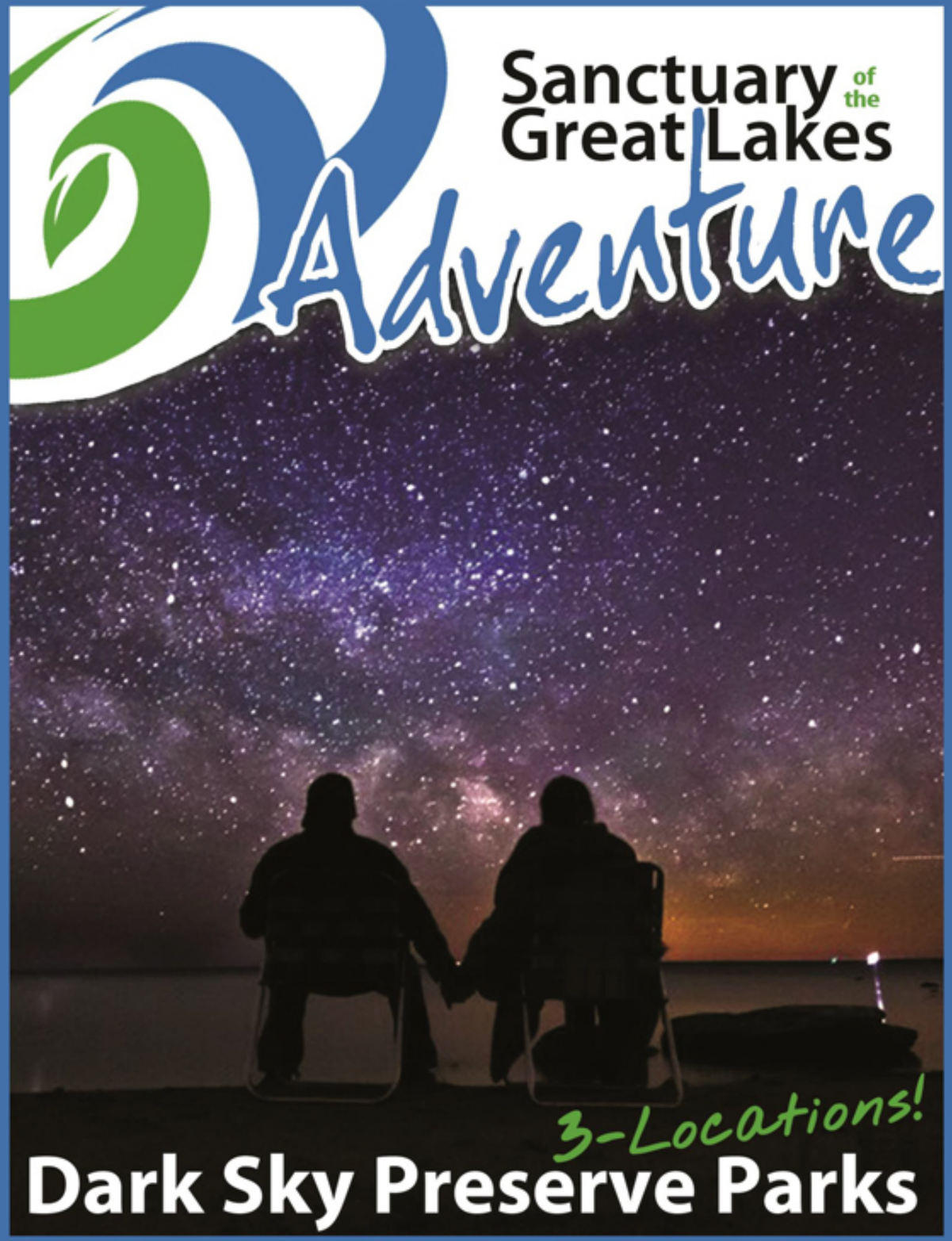
3 - Negwegon State Park
GPS: 44.865832, -83.327580

Left photo: Sunset kayak adventure, courtesy Paul Gerow; Top Right photo: Rockport State Recreation Area sky at dusk, courtesy Paul Gerow; Bottom Right photo: New Presque Isle Lighthouse near Rockport State Recreation Area, courtesy Pure North Photography.

Alpena MICHIGAN
Sanctuary of the Great Lakes

Alpena Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
420 N. Second Ave., Alpena, MI 49707
www.VisitAlpena.com | 989-340-2288

Sanctuary of the Great Lakes Adventure



3-Locations!

Dark Sky Preserve Parks

3-Location Dark Sky Destination: Alpena, MI

Above: The aurora borealis mesmerizes the Northeast Michigan night sky, courtesy Paul Gerow. Below: Rockport State Recreation Area is engulfed by the Milky Way as friends enjoy a campfire, courtesy Paul Gerow.

Rural isolation has its benefits. Being miles away from any major metropolitan area gives Alpena a unique advantage for those who enjoy the mysteries revealed in the night sky. Our lack of concentrated light pollution makes the cosmos appear crisp and clear. With Alpena as your base camp, dark lands exploration abounds at our three designated Dark Sky Preserves: Rockport State Recreation Area, Thompson's Harbor State Park, and Negwegon State Park. Light pollution at these parks are among the lowest measured in the Great Lakes. Stars, aurora borealis, meteors, planets and moons await your discovery.

Eat, Sleep & Fuel-up in Alpena

Alpena, MI 49707

24-Hour Alpena Stores and Gas Stations:

- **Arco:** 2520 US23
- **BP Station:** (989) 356-2928, 1035 W. Chisholm St.
- **Marathon:** (866) 462-7284, 906 W. Washington Ave.
- **Meijer Gas Station:** (989) 884-6100, 1241 M-32
- **Shell Corner Depot/Ez Mart:** (989) 354-2512 999 Long Rapids Rd.

Early Morning Restaurants:

- **Cabin Creek Coffee:** (989) 356-5613, 201 N. Second Ave., Hours: 6:30 am-7:30 pm
- **Big Boy:** (989) 354-4131, 400 S. Ripley Blvd., Hours: 6 am – 10 pm
- **J.J.'s Steak and Pizza House:** (7 am-2 am Mon-Sat, 7 am-12 am Sun): (989) 356-1666, 411 N. Second Ave.
- **McDonalds:** 1115 W. Chisholm St. and 1424 M-32 and 2241 US23. Hours 5 am - 12 am (Chisholm) 11 pm (M32 and US23 locations)

Late Night Alpena Restaurants:

- **J.J.'s Steak and Pizza House** (7 am-2 am Mon-Sat, 7 am-12 am Sun): (989) 356-1666, 411 N. Second Ave.
- **McDonalds:** 1115 W. Chisholm St. and 1424 M-32 and 2241 US23. Hours 5 am - 12 am (Chisholm) 11 pm (M32 and US23 locations)
- **Taco Bell** (7am - 3am.): (989) 354-7991, 111 Paddington Ct.

Rockport State Recreation Area

GPS: 45.202386, -83.384044
Distance from Alpena: 11 miles north of Alpena via US-23 N. to Rockport Road. Follow Rockport Rd to the end.
On-site facilities: Vault toilet, picnic area.

Rockport is Michigan's 100th State park and includes an abandoned limestone quarry, more than a dozen sinkholes, 400+ million-year-old Devonian Period fossils, a bat hibernaculumn, historic ghost village, deep water port and pier, and a portion of Middle Island. The blink of Middle Island Lighthouse on the island can be seen from the mainland.

Closest late-night/early-morning conveniences and distance from park. Call to confirm operation hours as they may change seasonally.

Dinner:

- **Mountain Hideaway Bar & Grill (4 miles):** (989) 595-6787, 1085 US 23 N., Alpena, MI 49707
- **The Sandbar & Grill (7 miles):** (989) 595-0009, 9027 Long Lake Road, Alpena, MI 49707

Breakfast:

- **The Parker House (6 miles):** (989) 595-6484, 24732 US23 Presque Isle, MI 49777
- **Seymours Long Lake (4 miles):** (989) 595-6714, 8943 US 23 N. Alpena, MI 49707

Gas Station/Convenience Stores:

- **Opechee's (2 miles):** (989) 595-6776, 9621 Hwy US 23 N, Alpena, MI 49707
- **Forward Convenience Store (10 miles):** (989) 354-5524, 1141 US 23 N. Alpena, MI 49707
- **Seymours Long Lake (4 miles):** (989) 595-6714, 8943 US 23 N. Alpena, MI 49707

Thompson's Harbor State Park

GPS: 45.335465, -83.603988
Distance from Alpena: 26 miles North of Alpena on US-23 N.
On-site Facilities: Parking area. Vault toilet.

Primitive, marked hiking trails weave through Thompson's Harbor State Park's varying terrain. Second growth forest with more than 7 miles of Lake Huron shoreline of limestone cobble beaches, and deep sand dunes await adventures. The park is home to Michigan's state wildflower, the Dwarf Lake Iris, which is under special protection.

Dinner:

- **Kelly's Venture Inn (11 miles):** (989) 734-2865, 3090 US 23 S, Rogers City, MI 49779, Hours: 4-10 pm
- **Sand Bay Trading Co. & Woody's Grand Lake (4 miles):** (989) 595-0242, 14313 E Hwy #638 Presque Isle, MI 49777

Breakfast:

- **McDonald's (15 miles):** (989) 734-7131, 290 S. Bradley Hwy, Rogers City, MI 49779, Hours: 6 am -11 pm

Negwegon State Park

GPS: 44.865832, -83.327580
Distance from Alpena: 20 miles South of Alpena on US-23. US-23 S to Black River Rd. Follow Black River Rd East 1.5 miles, turn North on Sand Hill Rd. and go 2.5 miles, turn East at Negwegon State Park sign and go 1.5 miles to the day use parking area.
On-site facilities: Vault toilet, back-country camping, artesian well.

At Negwegon you can transport yourself back in time and hike through the wilds of Michigan, just as rugged and pristine as when the first settlers arrived in Northeast Michigan.

Dinner:

- **The Mountain Bar & Grill (5 miles):** (989) 471-2066, 5495 US-23 S, Black River, MI 48742
- **The Wagon Wheel (8 miles):** (989) 471-1125, 2030 E. Nicholson Hill Road, Ossineke, MI 49766
- **Rosa's Lookout Inn (9 miles):** (989) 471-2118, 6808 US-23 S, Spruce, MI, 48762

Breakfast:

- **Connie's Café (8 miles):** (989) 471-5415, 11585 US-23 S, Ossineke, MI 49766

Gas Station/Convenience Stores:

- **Chippewa Point Grocery (8 miles):** (989) 471-9159, 6575 US-23 S. Spruce, MI 48762
- **BP Ossineke (8 miles):** (989) 471-2676, 11596 US-23 S, Ossineke, MI 49766
- **Francis Service Station (8 miles):** (989) 471-2356, 11923 US-23 S., Ossineke, MI 49766

Harrisville Locations (Harrisville is 15 miles South of Negwegon)

Breakfast:

- **Theresa's Diner (15 miles):** (989) 724-3043, 105 S. State St. Harrisville, MI 49740

Dinner:

- **Shotmakers Sports Bar (15 miles):** (989) 724-7247, 49 E. Main St., Harrisville, MI 49740

Gas:

- **Harrisville Shell Station (15 miles):** (989) 724-6159, 217 S. State St., Harrisville, MI 48740

- **Kortman's Restaurant (16 miles):** (989) 734-3512, 481 N. Bradley Hwy, Rogers City, MI 49779, Hours: 6 am - 8 pm
- **Subway (15 miles):** (989) 734-4903, 285 S. Bradley Hwy, Rogers City, MI 49779, Hours: 6 am -9 pm

Gas Stations/Convenience Stores:

- **Citgo (15 Miles):** (989) 734-7133, 153 S. 3rd Street, Rogers City, MI 49779
- **Sunoco/Bayport food Store (15 miles):** (989) 734-4903, 285 S. Bradley Hwy, Rogers City, MI 49779