CHEBOYGAN COUNTY

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10 Reed’s Alverno
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12 Sturgeon Bay
**Size:** More than 500 acres combined

**Frontage:** More than 4 miles along the Pigeon River combined

**Land Description:** Set along the lower Pigeon River, the Andreae Preserve contains oak/pine forests set above the river on steep bluffs.

**Trails:** More than five miles of trails can be explored between both preserves.

In 1983, Agnes S. Andreae donated 27 acres of land with frontage on the Pigeon River to the Little Traverse Conservancy. The donation included a small cabin built upon a bluff overlooking the river. The cabin is available for use (at no charge) by non-profit or community groups. Reservations are required by calling 231.347.0991.

In 2000 and 2001, the Conservancy acquired additional 33-acre, 21-acre, and 30-acre parcels, extending trails and protecting an additional mile of river frontage. The Banwell Preserve was officially available in 2011.

**Directions to Andreae Preserve:**
From Indian River (exit 310 off I-75) take M-68 east 4½ miles. Turn left onto Old Onaway Rd. (Look for “Cochrane Lake Public Access” sign). Go north on Old Onaway Rd 1.7 miles to Riverwood Rd and turn right. At the T intersection with Big Sky Trail, the preserve sign is ahead of you. Park in front of split rail fence.

**Directions to Banwell Preserve:**
From Indian River, go East on M-68 for about 6 miles. In Afton, turn left (north) onto Quarry Road, a gravel road. Go about ½ mile and turn left (west) on Dunn Rd, a seasonal gravel road. Go about ½ mile. The preserve entrance, a gated two-track road - is on the left just past where Dunn Rd. turns to the north.
Size:
Colonial Point Memorial Forest (UMB): 290 acres
Chaboiganing Nature Preserve: (LTC) 194 acres

Land Description: Entirely wooded, Colonial Point includes the largest old growth red oak stand in the northern Lower Peninsula with trees up to 150 years old. The Chaboiganing Preserve is a mixture of both open fields and woodlands.

Trails: More than 2½ miles of easy trails for hiking and skiing.

In 1985, the Colonial Point Forest was purchased by a sawmill and slated for heavy logging. A grassroots group spearheaded by conservationist Wendy O’Neil expressed great concern for this treasured area because of its red oak forest, one of the most significant in the Midwest. In response, LTC coordinated efforts to purchase the property with a significant grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Partners included the University of Michigan Biological Station, the Michigan chapter of The Nature Conservancy, local property owners, and citizens all joining to raise the needed funds. Colonial Point is now owned by the Biological Station. In 1993, LTC used donated funds to purchase 192 acres adjacent to Colonial Point to form the Chaboiganing Preserve. An adjacent two acres were donated by the Pieniozek family in 2012.

Directions: Take US-31 north from Petoskey 14 miles to Brutus Road. Turn right (east) and travel 4 miles on Brutus Road. Parking lot for the Chaboiganing Preserve is across from the old Burt Lake Market. Colonial Point Forest is located on the first road on the right past the preserve. The trailhead/entrance is ¼ mile east on Indian Point Road.
Size: 38 acres

Land Description: So close to Lake Huron's shore, this land offers habitat for species ranging from fox, deer, coyote, grouse, woodcock, a multitude of songbirds, and migratory bird species including eagle and osprey.

Trails: Combine a hike to this in-town preserve with a hike to the nearby city of Cheboygan trails (which include a boardwalk and an overlook tower) for an enjoyable outing along the shore of Lake Huron.

In the early 1900s, this land was used for storing and transporting lumber for a local saw mill. In 2005, owner Dawn Hambly sold it at a significant bargain sale to ensure its long-term protection. Her grandfather - Adolph Gauthier - had purchased it in the 1930s and grew Christmas trees there in the 50s. The preserve is situated adjacent to a large block of land owned by the City of Cheboygan, creating many possibilities for educational field trips.

Directions: From Main Street in Cheboygan, turn left onto US-23 N (also known as “Mackinaw Ave”). In about .7 miles, turn right onto Todd Street. Look for the sign on the left near the trail.
CHEBOYGAN COUNTY
Helmer’s Dam/Robert D. VanCampen

Size: 200 acres

Frontage: 1¼ miles Pigeon River

Land Description: Mostly wooded, the primary feature of this property is the river. Before its protection, the property was the largest remaining private undeveloped stretch along the Pigeon River. Because the river becomes very wide at this point, the stretch is well-loved by anglers.

Trails: A two-track pullout is available with a short walk to the river.

When the property became available for purchase, a year-long fundraising campaign resulted in its acquisition as a nature preserve. The preserve is partly named for an old dam that used to exist at the site. John Woollam, a primary donor to its protection, named the preserve in honor of his father-in-law, Robert D. VanCampen of Harbor Springs, an avid hunter, fly angler, and outdoorsman.

Directions:
From Indian River, take M-68 west to Afton Road. Turn right and travel 1.3 miles to the preserve on the right where Cut Off Road branches to the left.

Trails Not Marked
CHEBOYGAN COUNTY - STATE OF MICHIGAN
Lee Grande Ranch

Size: 2,400 acres

Frontage: Includes 4,781 feet frontage on Stony Creek; 8,040 feet on M-33 Highway.

Land Description: A former buffalo ranch, this vast property includes a wide variety of habitats within its borders including open fields to creeks, ponds, and woods.

Trails: A network of criss-crossing non-motorized trails allow for low-impact recreation including cross-country skiing, horseback riding, and hunting.

The protection of this spectacular property was a collaboration between landowners Harry and Madelene Petersen, the State of Michigan, and LTC. Through a unique conservation easement held by LTC, the Lee Grande Ranch was protected and originally in Conservancy ownership in 2007. Since then, the land has been transferred to the State and is under State management. This was the first such transaction of its kind in Michigan.
Size: 53 acres

Frontage: 2,200 feet along Burt Lake

Land Description:
Numerous springs along the shore provide habitat for endangered species. Beautiful upland forest graces this preserve’s upper portions while dense forested wetlands can be found below the dramatic bluff that runs across the property just back from the water’s edge. The wave-swept shore consists of cobble beaches and beds of emergent rushes providing good habitat for fish and other aquatic life.

Trails: A local favorite for great views and light hiking. The parking area leads to 1.2 miles of trails and a lake overlook.

The Conservancy acknowledges the Harris and Weiss families of Columbus Beach who initiated this land’s protection. These families partnered to fund its purchase, and coordinate fundraising efforts which brought additional support from Columbus Beach families and many Burt Lake residents and resorters.

Directions: From Hwy. 27/75 in Indian River, turn west onto Prospect Road, just north of the bridge. Continue straight onto Chippewa Beach Road 1.1 miles which curves north. Look for the preserve sign about ¼ mile past the curve.
**Size:** 56 acres

**Frontage:** 3,960 feet of frontage along Pigeon River.

The Pigeon River is designated by the State of Michigan as a Natural River and a Blue Ribbon Trout Stream.

**Trails:** A short trail will take you along the banks of the Pigeon River. The river runs swiftly at this location making it especially beautiful and popular for trout fishing. This is also a common paddling destination.

Most of the funding for this preserve was provided by the J.A. Woollam Foundation.

*Located just downstream from the Helmer’s Dam/Robert Van Campen Preserve.*

**Directions:** From Indian River, head east on M-68 for 5.9 miles. Turn right at Afton Road and travel .8 mile. Turn right at Haz Dr. and go .6 miles to the preserve on the right.
The following are Conservancy nature preserves not featured in the first portion of the county’s description. See the Cheboygan County map on p. 48 for general location of these properties or visit www.landtrust.org to view interactive, printable trail maps.

**Bear Saw Creek**  17 acres  2002  
*Burt Township.* Scenic property with frontage on Bear Saw Creek near Burt Lake.

**Bessey Creek** .5 acre  1989  
*Munro Township.* Two lots with 300 feet frontage on Douglas Lake, including the mouth of a creek.

**Cain’s Creek Swamp**  25 acres  2007  
*Grant Township.* Adjacent to State land. 2,300 feet of Black Lake frontage.

**Fergus**  16 acres  2000  
*Tuscarora Township.* Purchased by his family in memory of Robert Fergus.

**Giauque**  1 acre  1991  
*Mullett Township.* Donated by Mary Catherine Bingham. Located just south of Topinabee, not far from Mullett Lake.

**Eva and Vern Hanel, Jr.**  20.3  2009  
*Nunda Township.* Significant bargain sale. Located adjacent to Wolverine Schools providing for education opportunities.

**Hildner-Bearce**  11 acres  2008  
*Tuscarora Township.* Donated by Gretchen Bearce and her son David. A bluff-top property near Burt Lake.

**Judson Pike Marsh**  56 acres  1986  
*Munro Township.* Gift from Darrell Judson in memory of his grandparents, John and Georgianna Judson who homesteaded the land. 300 feet frontage on Douglas Lake.

**Michigan Wildlife Foundation**  40 acres  2011  
*Ellis Township.* Donated in 2011 by the Michigan Wildlife Foundation. 1,320 feet on I-75. Includes gazebo and memorial plaques.

**Needle Point**  40.5 acres  1990+  
*Aloha Township.* The initial 20 acres were donated by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Ziegler. 1,000 feet of frontage on Mullett Lake.

**Wendy O’Neil Memorial**  204 acres  1999-2008  
*Inverness Township.* Purchased in memory of Wendy O’Neil, a passionate northern Michigan conservationist. Includes 2,600 feet of frontage on Mud Lake Bog.

**Pigeon River Wildlife**  40 acres  1982  
*Walker Township.* Donated by George and Joann Jury. Frontage on both the Pigeon River and Little Pigeon River.

**Reed’s Alverno**  160 acres  2008  
*Benton Township.* Originally donated by Lois Ann Reed to Chippewa Nature Center who donated it to LTC.

**Sturgeon Bay**  40 acres  1995  
*Burt Township.* Largely funded by Burt Lake residents to protect the water quality of Burt Lake. Two-track roads provide hiking.