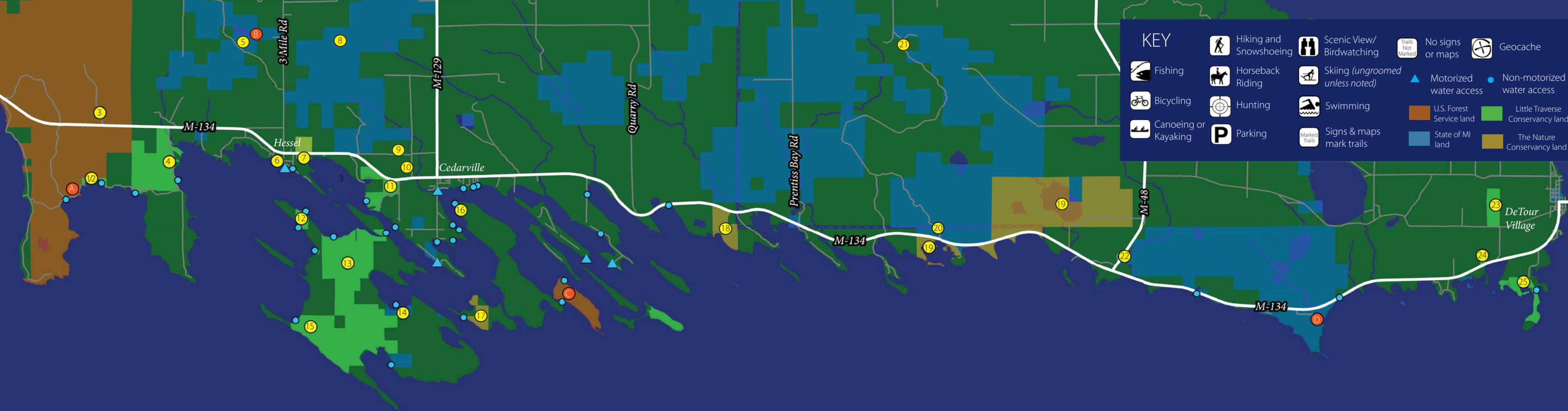


# Trails & Nature Preserves Les Cheneaux Region



KEY	
	Hiking and Snowshoeing
	Fishing
	Bicycling
	Canoeing or Kayaking
	Horseback Riding
	Hunting
	Parking
	Scenic View/Birdwatching
	Skiing (ungroomed unless noted)
	Swimming
	Signs & maps mark trails
	No signs or maps
	Motorized water access
	Non-motorized water access
	U.S. Forest Service land
	State of MI land
	Little Traverse Conservancy land
	The Nature Conservancy land
	Geocache



- 1 Search Bay Hiawatha National Forest
- 2 Search Bay Nature Preserve
- 3 Trefry Trail Hiawatha National Forest
- 4 Birge/Mertaugh/Nye Nature Preserve Complex
- 5 Bay City Lake Trail
- 6 CLARK TOWNSHIP'S Hessel Beach
- 7 Mackinac Bay and Young Montgomery preserves and Beaver Dam Sanctuary
- 8 Hessel Airport Trail
- 9 Les Cheneaux Outdoor Classroom/Nordic Ski Trail
- 10 Clark Township's Snow's Heritage Park
- 11 William B. Derby Nature Preserve

From Hessel, travel approximately 5 miles west on M-134 and take a left on Road #3436. Heading toward the lake, look for a small sign on the left side of the road noting "Ski Trail." Turn left and find parking spot at the beginning of the road. Hike the Forest Service's ski trail, or take gravel road to the lake (2.5 miles round trip). There are more trails off of the road for exploring. Take a compass or GPS. *Trails are not always clearly marked.*

non-motorized water access point

Purchased in 2008 with funds from the North American Wetland Conservation Act program, this 25-acre preserve includes 4,000 feet of Lake Huron frontage. It adjoins Hiawatha National Forest land. Drive to the east end of the campground and park at a big set of boulders and walk the beach. There is a mini LTC logo sign and LTC rules sign.

non-motorized water access point

Located about 3 miles west of Hessel on the north side of M-134, Road #3433. This is an easy, gravel, two-track road that heads about one mile north into maple woods and mixed conifer swamp. Various trails sprout off into the woods from the main road. However, use a compass or GPS to navigate as these trail spurs are not clearly marked.

This 528-acre complex features beautiful wildflowers, excellent migratory bird habitat, and 1.5 miles of Lake Huron shore. A 2.2-mile trail follows the historic Wheel Road looping through the cedar forest and wetlands. A separate, short (.1 mile) trail takes visitors to scenic Loon Lake.

*From Hessel, take M-134 west 2.4 miles. Turn left on Pt. Brulee Rd. Go .7 miles to the trailhead parking on right; or go 1.1 miles to shoreline parking area (on left). The Loon Lake trailhead is about halfway between the two parking areas on west side of road.*

non-motorized water access point

A complex network of trails laces the woods throughout this section of the Lake Superior State Forest. Bay City Lake recreation area offers rustic campsites. Note outstanding cross-country skiing and snowshoeing routes.

*From Cedarville: Head west on M-134 toward Hessel to 3-Mile Road. Head north on 3-Mile ~ 3 miles, past Hessel Airport, to Bay City Lake Rd. (Dandelion Trail on some maps) on the west side of 3-Mile Rd. Turn left onto Bay City Lake Rd. and park in clearings along the road, or follow directions to the lake. Parking is at southeast end of lake.*

Since 1994, this township park offers free parking, a place to carry kayaks and canoes to the water, a sandy swimming beach, picnic tables and benches, and public restrooms. An excellent access point for paddlers who are headed out to the islands.

*From the corner of M-134 and S. Pickford Ave/3 Mile Rd, go south into downtown Hessel about two blocks until the street ends at the public marina. Turn right onto Lake St. Go about 600 feet. The township beach has street level parking on the left.*

non-motorized water access point

Just east of Hessel, directly off of M-134, is the Mackinac Bay Preserve's handicap-accessible ramp overlooking Great Lakes marsh. This marsh sustains many fish species for some period of their life cycles, as well as populations of migratory birds. Just to the east is the Young-Montgomery Preserve. And right across the road from the preserves is the Michigan Nature Association's Beaver Dam Sanctuary, protecting additional plant and wildlife habitat.

*From Hessel, head east on M-134 and the preserves are less than 1/2 mile on the right.*

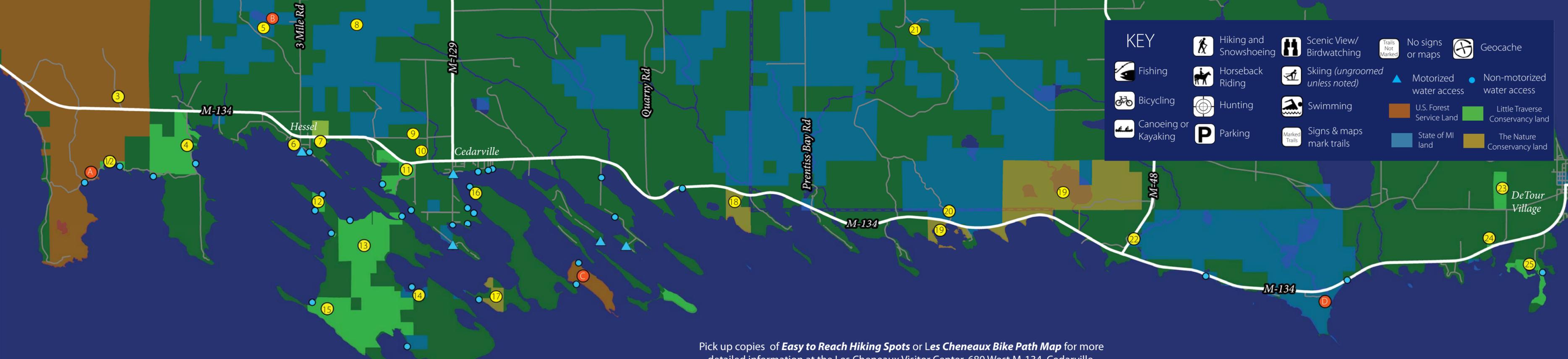
A multi-use two-track trail runs through the woods between Hessel and Cedarville. Cuts through more than 700 acres of state forest land. Sand, wet areas, and ruts can be challenging. *From Cedarville, head west on M-134 to 3-Mile Road. Turn north on 3-Mile Road. Turn right just past the airport onto a gravel road and take south branch of road to a ball diamond for parking. Avoid airport runway and tracks alongside airport. Trail picks up to the north of the ball diamond and winds through the woods around the airport runway and east toward Cedarville.*

A quarter mile interpretive trail hike and a three mile ski trail.

*From downtown Cedarville, head north on Blindline Rd. Continue until pavements ends, then turn left on State Rd. Continue to a metal gate on the right side of the road. If closed, park in driveway. School track is behind the gate and the Outdoor Classroom and trail head is to the right. Trail does not loop, so return the way you came.*

This park is situated right behind Clark Township Hall on Blindline Road in Cedarville. Includes a picnic pavilion, ball diamonds, horseshoe pits, and a natural area. Located on the way to the Les Cheneaux Outdoor Classroom, making it a convenient stop for families. Park entrance is south of township hall and marked with signs.

This 200-acre preserve includes a three-mile figure eight trail loop available through all seasons. The trail meanders through rock gardens, forest, and along the rugged Lake Huron shore. Head south on Four Mile Road off of M-134 to Club Road. Look for signs and parking area on the left.



KEY			
	Fishing		Scenic View/Birdwatching
	Hiking and Snowshoeing		Skiing (ungroomed unless noted)
	Horseback Riding		Swimming
	Bicycling		Hunting
	Canoeing or Kayaking		Signs & maps mark trails
	Parking		U.S. Forest Service Land
	Trails Not Marked		State of MI land
	No signs or maps		Little Traverse Conservancy land
	Geocache		The Nature Conservancy land
	Motorized water access		
	Non-motorized water access		

Pick up copies of **Easy to Reach Hiking Spots** or **Les Cheneaux Bike Path Map** for more detailed information at the Les Cheneaux Visitor Center, 680 West M-134, Cedarville. More area information online at [lescheneaux.org](http://lescheneaux.org) or [lescheneaux.net](http://lescheneaux.net).

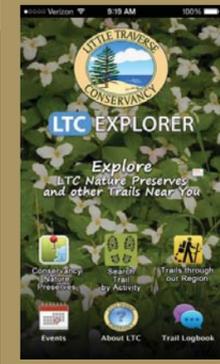
This publication was printed as a collaborative effort between community volunteers and local government and non-profits organizations.

## Nature Preserves and Trails

- 12 Sheppard-Hardy Nature Preserve**  
 This 21-acre preserve includes a quarter mile of Lake Huron frontage. *This preserve is only accessible by water. A powerline trail is found on the preserve, but not easily accessible from water.*
- 13 Aldo Leopold Nature Preserve**  
 The largest preserve owned by Little Traverse Conservancy, the Leopold Preserve includes 1,683 acres of Marquette Island along with 3.8 miles of Lake Huron shoreline. Plans are to create a contiguous trail from the north to the south end of the preserve to connect with the township park (see #14). Visit [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org) for updates or download the nature preserve app (see info far right). *Only accessible by boat.*
- 14 Clark Township Park on Marquette Island**  
*proposed*  
 State land was recently transferred to Clark Township offering a dock and access to the southeast end of the Aldo Leopold Preserve. *This park is accessible by water or from preserve.*
- 15 Seiberling Stewart Nature Preserve**  
 This 192-acre preserve includes 4,200 feet of Lake Huron shore. A half-mile trail goes from Marquette Bay to the south side of the preserve and the island. *This preserve is only accessible by water.*
- 16 Cedarville Bay Nature Preserve**  
 This five-acre preserve includes 1,000 feet of Lake Huron frontage. *No developed trails. This preserve is only accessible by water.*
- 17 Little LaSalle Preserve**  
 This scenic, 96-acre preserve is owned by The Nature Conservancy. Due to limited access, please request a Conservancy staff-led tour to visit here by calling 517.316.0300. *Only accessible by water.*
- 18 John Arthur Woollam Nature Preserve**  
 Owned by The Nature Conservancy, this 186-acre preserve features a 1.25 mile trail that leads you to 4,300 feet of Lake Huron frontage and includes a forested loop trail. The month of May is one of the best times of the year to visit this preserve to see and hear multitudes of migratory songbirds. *From the intersection of M-134 and M-129, travel east on M-134 6.3 miles to the preserve sign on the right (south side of the highway). A small parking lot is available at the trailhead.*
- 19 Carl A. Gerstacker Nature Preserve at Dudley Bay**  
 Owned by The Nature Conservancy, this 1,615-acre preserve features 2.7 miles of hiking trails to Big and Little Trout Lakes, five miles of Lake Huron shoreline, and two small islands. *From Cedarville, head east on M-134 roughly 13 miles to a large pull-off on the south side of the highway next to the Conservancy sign.*
- 20 Low Springer Trail logging roads**  
 Low and Springer roads are rough dirt roads with many exposed rocks and ruts, for moderately challenging riding. Historic logging and navigation routes. The area is characterized by hardwoods, mixed conifer forest, mature aspen and maple stands, and sandy, rolling landscape. *Low Road is 9.4 miles east of the M-129/M-134 intersection on the north side. Low Road heads north and intersects Springer Road which goes all the way to M-48.*
- 21 Ziegler Trail**  
 This network of historic logging roads provides an interesting, scenic link between M-134 to the south and M-48 to the north. The roads wind through Lake Superior State Forest and some private acreage, so please note "no trespassing" signage when visiting this area. Low, Springer, and Ziegler roads are rough dirt roads used by loggers, but shared by recreational users. A map of the roads is available at the Les Cheneaux Visitor Center.
- 22 Cranberry Lake Trail**  
 This trail is roughly 10 miles west of DeTour Village and 15 miles east of Cedarville. Trail heads are on M-48 (just north of M-134 on the right side of M-48) or on the north side of M-134, (just west of the DeTour State Forest Campground Road.) Trail network includes an 8-mile multi-use trail that travels through state forest lands and along scenic Cranberry Lake. A DNR map of the trail is available online or at the Les Cheneaux Visitor Center.
- 23 James V. Foster Hartley Lake Nature Preserve**  
 Donated to Little Traverse Conservancy in 2012, this 120-acre preserve features the 25-acre Hartley Lake. Two tracks allow for access to the preserve, but no developed parking area or trails at this time. *From DeTour, take S. Caribou Lake Road west for 1.4 miles. Look for preserve sign on the right.*
- 24 Seymour Bay Nature Preserve**  
 A 27-acre scenic wetland preserve owned by Little Traverse Conservancy. No developed parking or trails at this time.
- 25 DeTour Peninsula Nature Preserve**  
 Jutting down into Lake Huron, this preserve includes the rich diversity that typifies northern Lake Huron: sand and gravel beach, limestone cobble shore, boreal forest, rich conifer swamp, emerging marsh, and coastal fen. Parking is at Point Road from where you can walk down to the thin tip of the peninsula where you can get to the beach. *From DeTour, head south one mile on M-134. Turn left onto Point Road and drive .6 mile to parking area.*

- ### Public Camping in the Les Cheneaux Area
- shown from west to east on map*
- A Search Bay** (*Rustic camping in the Hiawatha National Forest*)  
 About 4 miles west of Hessel, on Road 3436 off M-134, take the road south to the lake and turn either left or right at the end of the road to the camp sites. Almost all are on the water and have fire rings. No outhouses. Beaches and calming views of the lake and shoreline. Fairly private - chances are there will be no one else there in the fall.
  - B Bay City Lake Campground** (*in the Superior State Forest*)  
 About 3 miles north of Hessel, off Three-Mile Road, turn left just past the airport. Sandy trails and camp sites, with many sites situated around the secluded Bay City Lake. Lots of trail to explore, and Hessel's business district is right down the road. The casino and a bar are just north of Bay City Lake Road.
  - C Government Island** (*Rustic camping; part of Hiawatha National Forest; accessible only by boat*)  
 Many sites around the edge of the wooded island, on the water. Beaches, wooded pathways, breathtaking views of Lake Huron on the outer shore of the island. Two outhouses, and fire rings at some of the sites. There may also be picnic tables at some sites. Closest to Cedarville launch ramp.
  - D DeTour State Forest Campground**  
*Rustic camping.*  
 About 21 miles east of Cedarville, along M-134 and one mile east of the DeTour Roadside Park rest area. Camp sites with fire rings, outhouses, and a scenic sandy beach along Lake Huron.

This Fall 2015 printing was underwritten by **The Nature Conservancy**. Visit [nature.org/preserves](http://nature.org/preserves) for more details and information.



### Download the app!

The Little Traverse Conservancy's nature preserve app provides users with accurate, detailed information and interactive maps about LTC preserves that are best suited for outdoor recreation. Regional trails and other useful resources are being added on an ongoing basis. **Search "LTC Explorer" on both Google Play and the Apple App Store.**

**NOTE:** The most updated information about Little Traverse Conservancy preserves can be found at: [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org).