



Negwegon State Park

Backcountry Guide

Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors

Harrisville State Park

P.O. Box 326

Harrisville, MI 48740

989-724-5126

www.michigan.gov/dnr

Introduction

Backcountry camping is available in Negwegon State Park from April through November. This type of camping can be a very rewarding experience as some of Negwegon State



Park's most scenic areas are accessible only by hiking, kayaking or canoeing along the Lake Huron shore. The remoteness and serenity of backcountry camping draws many people; however, those same reasons necessitate careful planning and preparation. **You are responsible for your own safety.** Please carefully read the following information before venturing into the backcountry.

*On the Shores of
Lake Huron*

Trip Planning

- Read this brochure carefully to make an honest determination of your abilities.
- Camping season is from April 1 through November 30.
- Pre-registration is required prior to setting up camp.
- Backcountry campsites may be reserved by calling Harrisville State Park 989-724-5126 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. summer season, Monday through Friday during the off season. You may also register in person at Harrisville State Park.
- Road conditions for Sand Hill Trail can vary based on weather and other environmental factors. Conditions can be confirmed by calling Harrisville State Park 989-724-5126.
- Driving directions - Take US-23 12 miles north of Harrisville to Black River Rd, Go east on Black River Rd for 1.5 miles, Drive North on Sand Hill Trail for 2.5 miles, Go east on the gravel park road 1.25 miles to the parking area.
- If traveling by kayak or canoe, the portage distance from the parking lot to the beach is about 1/8 mile. There are signs along the shore to indicate the location of each camp site. GPS coordinates are available below to assist in locating the sites from the land or water.
- Before leaving, always tell a relative or friend where you are going, your route and when you plan to return.

Camp Rules

- Camping is permitted at the four designated campsites only: Site #1 Blue Bell (1.1 mi.) **44 52.033 N x -83 19.003 W**, Site #2 Twin Pines (1.6 mi.) **44 52.310 N x -83 19.180 W**, Site #3 Pewabic (1.8 mi.) **44 52.437 N x -83 19.175 W**, Site #4 South Point (2.2 mi.) **44 52.875 N x -83 18.957 W**.
- Maximum group size is 4 persons per camp site **or** a family consisting of parents/guardian and unmarried children.
- Check-in is after 3 p.m. and check-out is before 1 p.m.
- Campfires are allowed only in designated fire rings at **the** established camp sites.
- Campfire wood gathered on site may only be from trees and branches that are "dead and down".

- Do not burn trash or food scraps in the campfire.
- State Park Motor Vehicle permits are required for each vehicle. They are available at any Michigan State Park or on-line at <http://apps.michigan.gov/MichiganeStore/public/Home.aspx>.
- Place your camp registration receipt on your vehicle dashboard and park your vehicle in the designated parking area at the northwest end of the parking lot.
- Pets must remain on a leash that is not longer than 6 feet, be under your control at all times and may not be left unattended at any time.
- Please clean up after your pets and dispose of all waste.
- Wheeled motorized vehicles as well as mountain bikes and equestrian use are prohibited in all areas of Negwegon State Park. *Exception: motorized wheelchairs.*
- Temporary pit toilet structures are located near each site for human waste. **Please note: Bring your own toilet paper.**
- Carry out what you carry in, including all food scraps.
- Trash from your trip can be disposed of at Harrisville State Park.
- Please pack out any diapers and other hygiene products.
- Fireworks of any kind are illegal.
- Hunting is allowed and all state game laws apply in Negwegon State Park.
- Discharging a firearm is prohibited within 150 yards of a campsite, cabin, or occupied area; in unsafe manner or at any location that places people or property at risk.
- Potable water is available at the flowing well located between the parking lot and the beach.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and the well head and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.
- Water from the park well is safe for drinking. Water taken from streams or lakes should be boiled, filtered or treated with a safe approved commercial chemical before drinking.
- Do not carry glass bottles into the backcountry.
- Vessels (including canoes and kayaks) must be equipped with one Type I, II, III or IV PFD for each person on board.
- Michigan law requires all children under 6 years of age to wear a USCG approved Type I or II PFD when riding on the open deck of any vessel.

The Negwegon Experience

As you enjoy the beauty and scenery of your backcountry camping experience, take the following into consideration and plan for an adventure:

- Foot trails are rugged.
- You may encounter wet areas and streams to cross (with or without a bridge), along with obstacles that may block the trail.
- Always carry a map and compass and know how to use them.
- Trails are marked, but nighttime travel is not recommended.
- Be considerate of other people on the trail.
- Let nature's sounds prevail by traveling in small groups, and avoid making excessive noise.
- Sound travels much farther across water.
- Pick up any litter you may drop or find, pack out what you pack in and leave no trace.
- Minimize trail impact by staying on designated trails.
- Do **not** make new trails or switchbacks to avoid standing water.

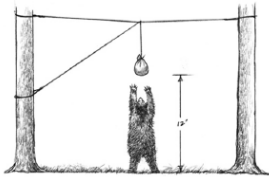
- Expect plenty of insects. Repellents, head nets and protective clothing may help.

Black Bear

Historically, black bear have not been a problem at Negwegon State Park; however a healthy black bear population does exist. Bear country protocol should be followed:



- Most bear are secretive and shy by nature, but will tolerate contact with people in an attempt to feed on human food or garbage.
 - Black bear have enormous appetites and an excellent sense of smell.
 - Give bears with cubs plenty of room.
 - Do not confront or feed any bear.
- To minimize any bear encounters, keep all food and scented products stored in an appropriate bear-proof container and use the bear poles provided.
 - Although bear poles are provided, you may have additional items to store in bear bags that must be suspended at least 12 feet above the ground and far enough from the tree to prevent an animal from reaching or jumping on it.



- Bear bags can be hung from a single tree, suspended between two trees, or by using multiple rope combinations Practice before entering the backcountry.
- Keep a clean site – minimize food odors and waste.

- Store waste as you would food – burning or burying waste will attract bears.
- If a bear comes into a camp or is encountered while hiking, first try to scare it off by hollering – leaving a clear unobstructed escape route for the bear.
- If a bear stands its ground, makes threatening sounds, or bluff charges, you are too close – take slow steps backwards.
- In the rare event of an attack, fight back with a pan, backpack, stick or even your bare hands – black bears have retreated in similar situations.

Weather

Weather conditions can vary, typical summer temperatures range from 50 ° F to 80° F. Plan for all types of weather, including rain. Do not underestimate the danger of wet, cold, windy weather. Hypothermia, the dangerous chilling of the human body, can be a threat any time of the year. Whenever possible, canoe close to shore. If in water during a lightning storm, get to shore. National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration weather radio may be received on the frequency of 162.550 or 162.400 MHz.

Safety

Medical assistance is not available at the park and may be hours away. In case of an emergency, call 911 and if possible contact the park headquarters at 989-724-5126. Cell phone service may be unreliable. When calling for help, be prepared to provide the following information:

- A detailed list of the injuries
- How the injuries occurred, if known
- An exact location of where rescuers can meet the injured party
- Other personal information about the injured party (allergies, age, physical condition, known ailments, etc)

Use care and common sense while in the backcountry. Always carry an up-to-date, well-stocked first aid kit and be knowledgeable on how to use it. Most importantly, never take unnecessary risks and think through your actions. **Remember, you are responsible for your actions. Stay safe and enjoy!**

