



2023 March/April Hiking Schedule

Hikes are on Thursdays

Hikers should be parked and ready to leave the trailhead promptly at 1:30

Registration is required. Call the Senior Center at (231) 922-4911 to register.

If misting, raining, or heavy snow that morning, there is a good chance the hike will be cancelled for safety even if it has stopped. Rain and snow can make the trails slippery or muddy. If the hike is cancelled, we will call and email **the registered participants** by 11:00 a.m. Hikes vary in length and might cover sidewalks, river walks, or dirt paths.

March 2, 2023

The Timbers - This 250-acre former girl scout property boasts nearly 9,000 feet of water frontage, with 2,000 feet of frontage on Long Lake and an entire 20-acre lake within its boundary (Fern Lake). The balance of the property is a combination of mesic northern hardwood forest, fields, and riparian wetlands. These environments offer a multitude of recreation opportunities, including fishing, hiking, kite flying, wildlife viewing and much more. The property currently has a network of marked and unmarked two-tracks and trails. Access to this property is via the parking area on Timbers Trail off North Long Lake Road only, please do not trespass by entering from other areas.

Facilitators- John & Nancy Morris 319-210-2137 or 319-551-4308

March 9, 2023

Pelizzari Natural Area- More than 3 miles of trail meander through wide open fields former orchards, quiet upland forests and cool lowlands with giant hemlocks. Visitors are likely to encounter several bird species and may even catch a glimpse of a resident fox. 6852 Center Rd. T.C. Go North on 37/Center Rd. Parking lot is on the right. No restrooms.

Facilitators- John & Nancy Morris 319-210-2137 or 319-551-4308

March 16, 2023

Ransom Lake Natural Area – (start at Lake Ann parking lot) This beautiful, wooded property includes 3,500 feet of Ransom Creek frontage and encompasses all of Ransom Lake. The Lake Ann Road parking area provides barrier-free parking and restrooms and a universally accessible trail along Ransom Creek to a deck overlooking the lake. Another hiking trail circles the lake. The park trails include a bridge, fishing dock and rest area. The property may be used for hiking, wildlife observation, fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, or snowshoeing.

Facilitators- John & Nancy Morris 319-210-2137 or 319-551-4308

March 23, 2023

Natural Education Preserve – 1450 Cass Road, Traverse City

The Boardman River is the central feature of the Reserve. In contrast to the impounded waters in the north section of the Reserve, the river in the south is free flowing and in its natural condition. It is here that the river is most dramatic as it falls in a series of rapids in part of its course through this part of the Reserve. Remnants of the old Keystone Dam that went out a number of years ago are still visible. The old berm wall and spillway are now being reclaimed by the forest, as the riverbanks have reverted to their natural and original flora.

Facilitators- John Chase

March 30, 2023

Green Point Dunes Natural Area - This preserve offers nearly three miles of trail winding through forest and meadow to stunning views of Lake Michigan and a beach of unparalleled beauty. The property is host to many native plant species and unique bird habitats, so be on the lookout for wildflower displays and many species of birds. This preserve is located two miles south of Elberta on Green Point Road (off of M-22). The parking area, kiosk and trailhead are very visible from Green Point Road, though Green Point Road itself is easy to miss from M-22 if you aren't looking carefully.

Facilitators- John & Nancy Morris 319-210-2137 or 319-551-4308

April 6, 2023

Medalie Park/Boardman Lake – 1910 S. Airport Rd, Traverse City

Medalie Park is a 15-acre park located on the south side of Boardman Lake. Medalie Park amenities include a picnic shelter/pavilion, indoor restrooms (May-October), paved walking path, 3 overlooks/fishing platforms along the Boardman River, and 1 canoe launch site accessing Boardman River/Boardman Lake.

Facilitators- Barb Bedbury 989-832-7532

April 13, 2023

Keystone Rapids/Beitner Park- The 5-acre Beitner Park is located on the southernmost edge of the Natural Education Reserve (NER). Approximately 1 1/2 miles of riverside hiking trails are accessible from the parking area on the west side of Beitner Road. The park includes a picnic area as well as a pit toilet restroom facility. Beitner Park is heavily utilized as a boat launch and takeout area for canoes, kayaks, and inner tubes. For inexperienced users, the Park serves as an exit off the Boardman River to avoid the Keystone Rapids located just downstream.

Facilitators- Kathie Wiley 231-409-8913

April 20, 2023

Lower Woodcock Lake Nature Preserve – Turn left onto M-72 W, Turn left onto S Cedar Rd/Goodrick Rd, Turn right onto Cedar Run Rd, Take Reynolds Rd to Ole White Dr, Turn left onto Ole White Dr, Drive to Burnt Mill Rd. Lower Woodcock Lake is a true gem within the Platte River watershed. It contains the entirety of undeveloped Lower Woodcock Lake, a picturesque 22-acre lake surrounded by beautiful forest. The conservation qualities of this preserve don't stop there. It also contains most of a small unnamed stream that flows from Upper Woodcock Lake to Lower Woodcock Lake, the entire stretch of another unnamed stream from the lower lake that feeds into the Platte River and a full half mile of frontage on the Platte River itself. And while not completely surrounded by state land, about 70 percent of the property – including portions of all four sides – borders state forest. Such contiguity is critical for wildlife corridors, recreation, and other factors.

Facilitators- John & Nancy Morris 319-210-2137 or 319-551-4308

April 27, 2023

Brown Bridge Quiet Area - Take S Garfield to Brown Bridge Rd Turn left onto E River Rd Continue onto Brown Bridge Rd. The Brown Bridge Quiet Area is located on the Boardman River — a state-designated “Natural River” — approximately 11 miles southeast of Traverse City. One of the largest natural areas that GTCD manages, enjoy more than 6 miles of trails, paddling on the Boardman River, and gorgeous views of the river from several different overlooks.

Facilitators- Barb Bedbury 989-832-7532