



Fellow Michiganders,

Michigan is nationally recognized for the abundance of natural resources that are available to you and your family all year round.

The Michigan Trails system, state parks, campgrounds and waterways offer endless opportunities to enjoy physical activity outdoors and promote a healthy, active lifestyle. The outdoor experiences available here in our state give us all a sense of connection with nature and provide a chance to appreciate our state's heritage.

I hope the information included here helps guide you to a fun, safe and educational journey this year throughout the Great Lakes State.

Get outside and enjoy all that Pure Michigan has to offer!



Sincerely,

AARON MILLER

State Representative, 59th District

(877) 262-5959 • AaronMiller@house.mi.gov
www.RepAaronMiller.com

CAMP GREEN!

While enjoying your time at one of Michigan's 677 parks, campgrounds and trails, be sure to follow these guidelines to ensure that today's forest and campground resources are available to tomorrow's users:

- **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:** Recycle materials like paper, clean cardboard, metal, and plastic food containers. If recycling is not available, take materials home to recycle.
- **Water:** Use water sparingly by taking shorter showers and not leaving faucets running while brushing teeth or shaving.
- **Fire:** Keep fires small, have water available to extinguish the fire properly, and never leave a fire unattended.
- **Energy:** Make sure lights and appliances are turned off when not in use and don't leave doors and windows open when the air conditioner is operating.



Most state parks, state forest campgrounds, state trailhead parking lots, and boating access sites managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources require a Recreation Passport for entry. To purchase, check "YES" for the Recreation Passport when you renew your license plate at a Secretary of State branch office or you can bring your registration to a Secretary of State office at any time to receive a tab. You can also purchase a window sticker for \$11 at a state park.

The proceeds from the purchase of a Recreation Passport are used to fund state parks, recreation areas, state forest campgrounds, non-motorized trailheads, and boat launches, support historic sites within state parks, and provide grants to communities to improve neighborhood parks.



BIG GREEN GYM

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association and local fitness instructors have teamed up to offer resident outdoor workouts. Pilates, yoga, strength training and cardio activities in the fresh air are available locally. For more information, please visit www.mi.gov/dnr.

Want to start planning your next Michigan getaway?



Contact my office to receive a **FREE TRAVEL GUIDE**

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MICHIGAN

OUTDOOR RECREATION GUIDE



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FREE FISHING WEEKEND

JUNE 11-12

All fishing license fees will be waived for two days. Residents and out-of-state visitors may enjoy fishing for any species on any inland or Great Lakes waters for free.

All fishing regulations will still apply.

LEARNING TO FISH WITH THE DNR

The Hook, Line and Sinker Program offers folks the option to learn how to fish. This is a weekly fishing program conducted by the DNR at more than 30 state parks and fish hatcheries in Michigan. Visit www.mi.gov/dnr for more information.

IN MICHIGAN THERE ARE **154** SPECIES OF FISH

Michigan has the most diverse and highest quality freshwater fishery in the United States.

Lake Michigan is known for excellent chinook, coho salmon and steelhead.

LIFEJACKET SAFETY

Whether you are enjoying Michigan's waterways for the first time or you've been doing it for years, it is always important to remember to stay safe by staying afloat.

Michigan law requires all watercraft to have appropriately sized personal flotation devices (PFD), also known as lifejackets, for each person on board. Sizes are designed to accommodate individuals based on body weight and chest size.



TYPE II



TYPE III

ADDITIONAL LIFEJACKET REQUIREMENTS:

- ▶ Children less than 6 years of age must wear a Type I or Type II PFD when riding in the open deck area of a boat.
- ▶ Each person less than 12 years of age riding or being towed behind a personal watercraft (jet ski) must wear a Type I or Type II PFD.
- ▶ Each person 12 years of age or older operating, riding on or being towed behind a personal watercraft (jet ski) must wear a Type I, Type II or Type III PFD that is not an inflatable device.



Lake Superior is known for lake trout and whitefish.

Lake St. Clair is home to the highest catch rate of muskellunge in the world.

Lake Erie is known for walleye, large- and smallmouth bass and yellow perch fishing.

1.4 MILLION Michigan residents & **347,000** non-residents fished in state waters in 2011.

It is estimated that these anglers contributed an overall annual value of \$4.4 billion to Michigan's economy.

REMEMBER TO BE SAFE WHEN OUT ON THE WATER!

Michigan offers a free boating handbook to give boaters valuable information on being safe and responsible when on the water.

Download the handbook at: boat-ed.com/michigan/handbook/book.html

INVASIVE SPECIES: YOU CAN HELP

Boaters and anglers, you can help our state keep our waters clean and free of invasive species by following some basic guidelines:

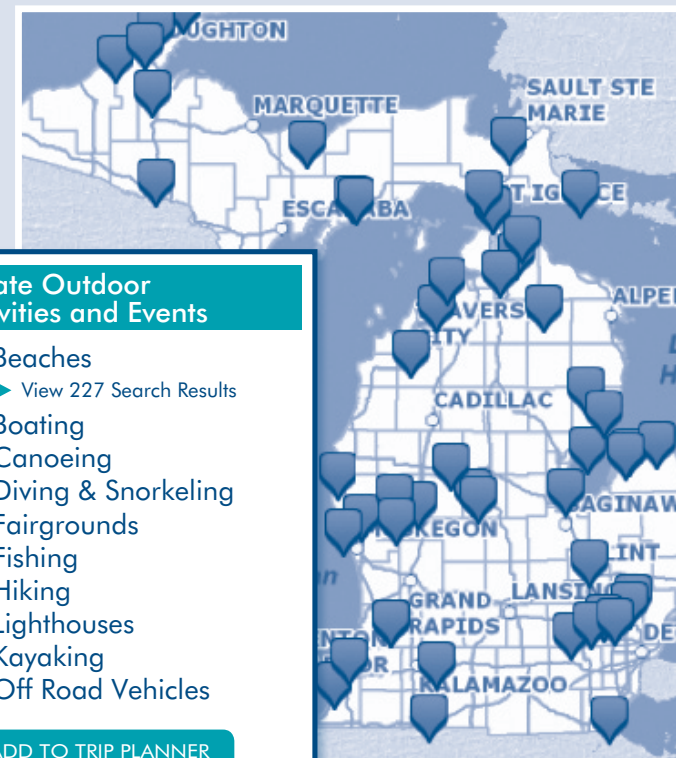
- ▶ **CLEAN** boats, trailers and equipment
- ▶ **DRAIN** live wells, bilges and all water
- ▶ **DRY** boats and equipment
- ▶ **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait in the trash

To find out more information on how you can help keep our waters clean and free of invasive species visit www.michigan.gov/invasives.

BOATING, HIKING, FISHING AND MUCH MORE!

Michigan residents are never more than a half-hour away from a state park, state forest campground, state recreation area or state trail system. Check out the Pure Michigan interactive map to find nearby outdoor activities and events.

EXPLORE THE PURE MICHIGAN INTERACTIVE MAP



▼ Locate Outdoor Activities and Events

- Beaches
 - ▶ View 227 Search Results
- Boating
- Canoeing
- Diving & Snorkeling
- Fairgrounds
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Lighthouses
- Kayaking
- Off Road Vehicles

ADD TO TRIP PLANNER

www.michigan.org/interactive-map



DIVER DOWN FLAGS

Scuba divers and snorkelers must display a diver down flag to mark their diving area. Divers must stay within 100 feet of the vertical position of their flag, and vessels must remain at least 200 feet away from the flag.

STATE REP. AARON MILLER

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THE TRAILS STATE

Michigan is the national leader in trails

- 12,000** miles of State Designated Trails
- 6,407** miles of snowmobile trails
- 5,500** miles of local trails
- 3,627** miles of off-road vehicles (ORV) trails
- 2,626** miles of rail-trails
- 1,600** miles of National Park Service (NPS) Trails
- 1,150** miles of North Country National Scenic Trail
- 900** miles of United States Bike Routes
- 590** miles of designated equestrian trails
- 560** miles of forest looped trails

BENEFITS OF TRAILS IN MICHIGAN

- ▶ An increase in physical activity helps prevent heart disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, obesity, colon cancer, stress and depression.
- ▶ Trails improve communities by attracting tourists that put money into local economies.
- ▶ Social engagement and volunteer opportunities through trail construction and maintenance.
- ▶ Meaningful recreational experiences with friends, family, community groups, and organizations to explore the wilderness and promote environmental conservation while appreciating all Mother Nature has to offer.