

HOW IT WORKS

1. Complete **five or more activities** in this Like to Hike log. Trail maps are available at the Nature Center, campground host sites and park headquarters. Activities can be modified for all ability levels.
2. Pins are sponsored by the Friends of Peninsula State Park. Those who complete five or more activities can purchase a pin for a reduced rate!
3. Record activities in this log. Bring it to the park headquarters or the Nature Center. Park staff will stamp the log so you can purchase the pin at a discount.
4. The Like to Hike program encourages silent sports (hiking, snowshoeing, biking, skiing, wildlife viewing, paddling and golfing) which promote health and park appreciation.

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LIKE TO HIKE

2024

PENINSULA STATE PARK ACTIVITY LOG



PENINSULA STATE PARK

9462 SHORE ROAD
FISH CREEK, WI 54212
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NIAGARA ESCARPMENT

The Peninsula Niagara Escarpment, designated a State Natural Area in 2018, is a key feature and a must-see at the Park. It is part of a 650-mile ridge that stretches from eastern Wisconsin through Upper Michigan, across Canada, and into New York. It began forming over 400 million years ago as layers of sediment settled at the bottom of an ancient sea. The Escarpment is composed of layers of hard rocks (Silurian dolomite) on top of soft rocks (slate and other sedimentary rock). Today, we see the result of uplift, weathering and erosion.

The highest ground point is 778 feet, about 600 feet south inland from Eagle Tower. Eagle Tower sits on top of the Escarpment and is 60 feet high. Arriving at the top observation deck, you will find yourself over 250 feet above the waters of Green Bay.

Glacial processes have also impacted the Escarpment, creating unique microhabitats that support many specialized species. It contains over 240 rare species and communities, including Dwarf Lake Iris and Hines Emerald Dragonflies. At the top of the Escarpment is a mixed upland forest dominated by northern white cedar, white birch, and sugar maple. Some cedar growing on the Escarpment can be hundreds of years old.

Best places to see the Escarpment? Along Sunset Bike Route, Eagle Trail, Sven's Bluff and many other trails and overlooks. Refer to the activities in this log for more information on some of those.

LAND SNAILS

Cold air and sometimes water move through fractured rock, creating habitats for a diverse group of rare terrestrial snails that have been present since the last Ice Age. The snails are limited in where they can thrive and have particular habitat requirements. They are vulnerable to changes in their environment, such as temperature, moisture and food supply.

Land snails are mollusks that feed upon a wide variety of organic material, mainly green or dead herbaceous plants, rotting wood, fungi, bark and algae. Many snails prefer moist climates and steep slopes, which are areas with rich calcium deposits, such as our Niagara Escarpment. During dry weather, they prefer to remain under leaf litter and forest debris but prefer cool, moist, shaded sites of cliffs.

They do not move far over their lifetime, so they can be excellent indicators of site history and conditions.



1. HIDDEN BLUFF TRAIL

Date: _____ 0.75 miles, one way. Easy-Moderate hardpacked gravel trail you can access from the Nature Center that will take you along the bottom of the Niagara Escarpment.

2. LONE PINE TRAIL

Date: _____ 0.5 one way. Moderate trail that connects to several loops. Ascend a dolostone bluff, then hike a forest dominated by beech, maple and oak trees. Access at the southeast corner of South Nicolet Bay campground.

3. EAGLE TRAIL or TERRACE OVERLOOK

Date: _____ 2-mile loop. Difficult trail traversing above and below the escarpment and along the lakeshore. 150-foot cliffs, several steep, rocky sections and forested terraces of trillium and thimbleberry make this trail a popular hiking destination. Sturdy footwear is recommended. For a shorter experience, climb down the historic stone staircase to the Terrace overlook, a former quarry and popular picnic area in the early 1900s.

4. GOLF COURSE

Date: _____ Grab your clubs (or rent a set from the clubhouse) and enjoy the scenic landscape with views of the Escarpment while you play a round at the 6-hole short course or 18-hole course. This activity will count as two activities if a golf cart is not used.

5. WHITE CEDAR NATURE TRAIL HIKE or SNOWSHOE

Date: _____ 0.5 mile loop. Easy self-guided nature trail for all ages along an abandoned 5,000-year-old shoreline. In the winter, follow the moderate 1.4-mile snowshoe loop up to the top of the Niagara Escarpment. Access at White Cedar Nature Center. Dogs are not allowed on the Nature Trail.

6. WHITE CEDAR NATURE TRAIL SCAVENGER HUNT

Date: _____ While on your hike or snowshoe from the White Cedar Nature Center, see how many items you can find below. Remember our “leave no trace principal” and refrain from gathering the items; instead, snap a photo or draw a picture to keep track of your finds.

- Evidence of the old toboggan run
- Round rock bigger than your hand
- Niagara Escarpment
- Chickadee
- Tree with a critter hole
- Birch bark
- Flat rock
- Lichen
- Scat
- Cedar tree
- Pine cone
- Nuthatch
- Shelf fungi
- Red squirrel
- Bird nest
- Critter track



7. SUNSET BIKE ROUTE

Date: _____ Pedal all or part of the Sunset Bike Route (10 miles). The trail traverses Weborg Marsh, State Natural Areas and along the Niagara Escarpment. Remember to use extreme caution on hills and curves and always ride single file. Bikers are required to follow all traffic laws. Safety gear is recommended.

8. EAGLE TOWER & RAMP – CANOPY WALK

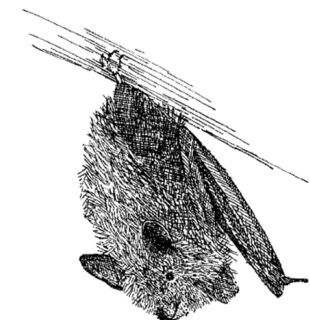
Date: _____ 20-45 minutes. Eagle Tower III, constructed above the Niagara Escarpment, opened in 2021. Meander up the 850 foot, fully accessible walkway that will wind above the tree line to the top of the tower. There you will experience a panoramic view of the park, surrounding islands and upper Michigan, 250 feet above Green Bay.

9. SVEN’S BLUFF OVERLOOK & SKYLINE TRAIL

Date: _____ 3-mile loop. Moderate. Change it up and start at Sven’s Bluff overlook atop the Niagara Escarpment. From there you will work your way down and over a rolling terrain mixed with forests and old meadows. Trailhead access can also be found at Skyline parking lot.

10. BATS AT WELCKER’S POINT

Date: _____ Many bats depend on the Escarpment’s caves for shelter during the day. Venture Welcker’s point on your own or with a naturalist to watch bats fly from their daytime roost to feast on mosquitos. Bats emerge from the east side of the shelter building about 30 minutes after sunset.



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