

Birds and Animals

A variety of habitats provide excellent opportunities for year round bird watching. The site is recognized as an important migratory stop-over for warblers and other species. Birds found on the property include: snowy owl, bald eagles, sandhill cranes, egrets, and swans. Mammals include: black bear, white-tailed deer, bobcats, weasels, river otter, squirrels, raccoons and of course skunks. There are numerous species of reptiles, amphibians and turtles.

Plants

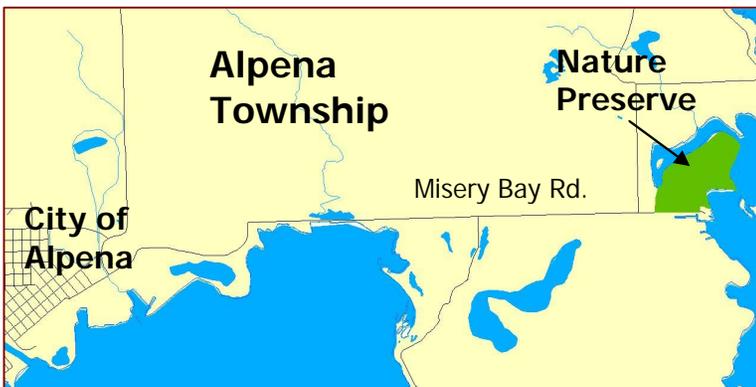
Over 150 species of plants have been identified on the property. Globally imperiled coastal fen, state special concern (Indian Plantain), and federal threatened and globally rare (Dwarf Lake Iris) are present. The plants are too numerous to list.

Other notable plants:

Pitcher Plant	Bunchberry
Sticky False Asphodel	Wood Lily
Canada Mayflower	Grass Pink
Yellow Lady's-slipper	Fringed Gentian
Indian Paintbrush	

Geology

Karst geology features are prominent in and around El Cajon Bay. El Cajon Bay and its two sink holes were formed by collapse of the bedrock. Minerals deposited by precipitation of limestone and salts were buried 800 feet below the surface some 400 million years ago. Salts dissolved over the last 100,000 years creating voids or weak caverns deep in the bedrock. Collapse of the bedrock to the surface probably occurred after the last glacial retreat. The large circular sinkhole in the bay is the outlet of an underground stream that flows year-round. Earth cracks, limestone outcrops, swallow holes and alvar shorelines can be found on the lands around El Cajon Bay.



Description of Property

The 133-acre tract of land has 9,632 feet of Lake Huron shoreline, coastal marshes, fens, old growth northern white cedar forests, karst geology, and rare plants. El Cajon Bay is shallow and during low water periods, there are large areas of fragile exposed bottomlands. The El Cajon sinkhole is an outlet of bedrock stream with a constant discharge of water into the eastern bay. The property has excellent examples of untouched northern fens and is a stronghold for the State's wildflower, the Dwarf Lake Iris, which blooms in mid-May.

Nature Preserve Rules

- Day use only
- Please stay on the designated trails
- No camping or open fires
- There are no trash receptacles , so please carryout your own trash
- Snowmobiles and ATV's are not permitted
- Motor vehicles not allowed along the shoreline
- Take only pictures and leave only footsteps

Careful!

There are many special plants on the property that would be harmed by over use. Please stay on trails.

Directions and Parking

Directions from Alpena Township Hall: US-23 North, turn east onto Hamilton Rd., south onto Wessel Rd., east onto Ford Rd., which becomes Misery Bay Rd. The entrance is off Misery Bay Road, east of North Point Road. Directions from downtown Alpena: drive north on N. 2nd Ave., turn right onto Wessel Rd., turn left onto Ford Rd., which becomes Misery Bay Rd.

Parking is only available on the roadside. Please be careful when parking and don't block driveways of adjacent landowners.

Preserve located in Section 15 of T.31N.-R.9E.

Latitude: N 45°07.847' Longitude: W 83° 32.226'

History of Preserve

Alpena Township acquired the property in 2004. The Nature Conservancy played a key role facilitating the property acquisition. Funding for the acquisition was provided by Alpena Township, Nature Conservancy, private donations, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, and the Michigan Coastal Management Program. A Nature Preserve Management Plan was developed in 2008 with funds provided by Alpena Township, Community Foundation of Northeast Michigan, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce and the Michigan Coastal Management Program.

Alpena Township
4385 U.S. 23 North
Alpena, Michigan 49707

To:

Alpena Township Nature Preserve



**Enjoy access to pristine
natural resources along
our quiet coast**

Preserve Activities

Hiking	Birding
Nature walks	Snowshoeing
Nature Photography	X-Country Skiing
Kayaking	Fishing
Hunting	Trapping
Mushroom Hunting	Scuba-diving

Located on Misery Bay, this 133-acre tract of land has 9,632 feet of Lake Huron shoreline with coastal marshes, fens and cobble beaches.

Alpena Township
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