

FOREST COUNTY

RECREATIONAL TRAILS AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

100 Mile Snow Safari Trail: The 100 Mile trail has approximately 150 miles of marked and groomed trails through the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest linking all the localities of Forest County. Maps, food, etc. are available at pit stops throughout the system.

Lumberjack Memorial Trails: The Lumberjack Memorial Trails club grooms and maintains over 90 miles of trails in central and southern Forest County. These trails link to the 100 mile trail as well as to the trails in the Lakewood area.

Brule River Trails: The Brule River Trails system has over 40 miles of groomed trails in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, linking northern Forest County to Florence, Vilas, and Oneida Counties as well as upper Michigan trails.

Three Lakes Trails: the Three Lakes trail system has over 40 miles of groomed trails in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, linking Forest and Oneida Counties in the western half of the county.

Tombstone-Pickerel Trails: The Tombstone-Pickerel Trails include over 120 miles of groomed trails in southwestern Forest County, with numerous pit stops and resorts, as well as provide a link to the Langlade county trail system. www.tombstonepickerel.com

Black Bear Sportsmen's Club: The Black Bear club has over 40 miles of groomed trails, linking the Crandon area North and West to trails in Oneida County.

Sokaogon Chippewa Community Trails: Starting West of Crandon along Hwy 8 and South to Mole Lake and continuing and connecting with the Tombstone-Pickerel Trail system.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: You can visit www.visitforestcounty.com or call 715-478-2024

CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAILS

Ed's Lake Trail: This trail is located on County Hwy W between Wabeno and Crandon. The trail is groomed. There is a 2.3 mile loop trail suitable for beginners, with the intermediate trail offering a 2.7 mile loop as well as a 3.5 mile loop.

Nicolet North Trail: To reach the trail go 10.5 miles East of Eagle River on Hwy 70 to Forest Road 2460 then South 2 miles to the trailhead. There are 13 miles of groomed trails with several loop opportunities.

Anvil Trail: The Anvil Trail is located 8.5 miles East of Eagle River on Hwy 70. There are 12 miles of groomed loop trails ranging from gently rolling to hilly.

Otter Springs Trail: This trail is located 4 miles East of Crandon off Hwy 8 on Forest Road 2378. This trail has a parking area and ski shelter available. It offers a 1.25 mile loop and a .75 loop suitable for beginners. The intermediate trail is a 3 mile loop. Groomed for Classic and Skate skiing.

Hemlock Lake Ski Trail: The trail is located 1 mile East and 4 miles South of Crandon off County Hwy W on Hemlock Lake Road. This is a 2 mile loop trail with parking area. The trail is groomed for Classic skiing only.

Lakewood Ski Trails: This trail system has 20km of trails and loops and several access points with parking. The main parking area is located at McCauslin Brook Country Club which is off of Hwy F East of Lakewood. The trails are groomed in accord with snow conditions. There are trails for beginner through expert. These trails are in Oconto County but not too far from Pickerel.

MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS

The **Ed's Lake Trail, Nicolet North Trail, Anvil Trail** and **Otter Springs Trail** are all open to mountain biking in season.

In addition to designated trails, all logging roads and undesignated/unmarked trails within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest are open to mountain bikes unless otherwise posted. Additional information can be obtained at the Forest Service office in Laona. They can be reached at 715-674-4481.

Pickerel Lake Walking and Biking Trail: There is a 4 mile paved biking trail near Pickerel Lake. Turn off Hwy 55 at Pickerel Lake road; (next to Hills Still Supper Club) the trail is located next to the road.

HIKING, NATURE AND BIRDING TRAILS

Franklin Lake Trail: Take Hwy 70 nine miles East of Eagle River to Forest road 2178 then South 3 miles to Forest road 2181 then East 5 miles to the campground and trailhead. This is a 1 mile interpretive loop that goes thru Hemlock, Tamarack swamp and 300 year old White pines.

Hidden Lakes Trail: This trail is a 4 mile (one way) trail which begins at the Franklin Lake Trail and eventually joins the Luna-White Deer Trail.

Knowles Creek Interpretive Trail: Take Hwy C 9.5 miles East from Wabeno to forest Rd 3132 then South for ½ mile. This is a 1/3 mile barrier free access interpretive trail which follows the North shore of the Knowles Creek impoundment. This is also a state designated Watchable Wildlife viewing area.

Halley Creek Bird Trail: Take Goodman Park Road 5 miles East of Blackwell to forest Road 2103 then South to the trailhead. This is a 1 mile loop with bird viewing opportunities in four different habitat types.

Michigan Rapids Trail: Take Hwy 8 three miles North of Laona to Forest road 2131 then East for 13 miles to Forest road 2134 then 1.5 miles South to the trailhead. This is a 1 mile each way hike along the Peshtigo River to the rapids and back.

Argonne Forest Trail: Take Hwy 32 East from Hiles 1.5 miles to Forest road 2184 then South 1.5 miles to the trailhead. This self-guided loop trail give the hiker a chance to learn more about the Northern hardwoods and forest management. The trail features 17 stops along an easy 3/4 mile walk which takes about 1 hour.

Scott Lake Trail and Shelp Lake Trail: Take Hwy 32 South from Hiles to Forest road 2174. Go North on 2174 for 5.5 miles to Forest road 2183 then go East on 2183 for 6 miles to the trailheads. The 1/3 mile Scott Lake Trail is located on the South side of 2183. You can walk among some larger diameter Eastern white pines, hemlocks and hardwoods. The boardwalk to Shelp Lake is located on the North side of 2183. This short walk will take you out over a floating bog.

Giant White Pine Grove State Natural Area –Three Lakes: Take Hwy 32 East from Three Lakes 4.7 miles to Julia Lake road. Go East of Julia Lake road .6 miles to Scott Lake road. Go 3.1 miles Southeast to Giant Pine Road and continue Northeast 1.6 miles to the parking area. This area is located in the Forest Service’s Headwaters Wilderness Area comprising 30 acres of large Hemlock, White Pine, Maple and Yellow Birch. Hiking trails loop around a wetland and through the site.

Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program Cathedral Pines: Take Hwy 32 North from Lakewood 1 mile to Archibald Lake road (Forest road 2121) South 1.5 miles to Cathedral lane. Go North .3 miles to the parking area. This is one of the finest stands of old growth forest in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. There are hiking trails through the forest and an active Great Blue Heron rookery along the trail.

Laura Lake Walking Trail: Take Hwy 8 from Laona 14 miles Northeast then left on Forest road 2163. Continue for 5 miles to Laura Lake Campground. This trail located on Laura Lake is a 2.25 mile loop. It is of moderate difficulty with rocks and roots and can be narrow and uneven. The trail is located between the swim area and the boat ramp.

Pickerel Lake Walking and Biking Trail, Otter Springs Trail, Ed’s Lake Trail and the Nicolet North Trail: These trails are also open for hiking in season. See the section on Snowmobile and Biking trails for directions to these trails.

PUBLIC ATV TRAILS

There are many, many miles of ATV trails in Forest County. Many of them are multi-use trails depending on the season. It would be impossible to list them all so the best way to get information is from the Forest County ATV association. www.forestcountyatv.com The Forest County Forestry Department also has information and can be contacted at 715-478-3475 as well as the Forest County Chamber of Commerce at 715-478-3450

We will list just two of them.

Nicolet State Trail: This trail is 32 miles long and connects Forest County to trails in Oconto and Florence Counties and to trails in Upper Michigan. It is a multi-use trail built on old railroad right of ways.

Augustyn Springs ATV Trail: This trail has several trailheads but the closest is just off the intersection of Hwy A and Hwy TT. There are also entrance spots along Hwy A heading South towards Antigo from Hwy TT. This trail is actually in Langlade County, but it is very close to Pickerel

CANOE & KAYAK ROUTES

Brule River: Put in below Brule Lake Dam. Take out at Hwy 139 bridge. Length 18 miles. 2 rapids, water should be medium high.

Peshtigo River: Put in at Big Joe Canoe Landing and float to the CCC bridge for 7.5 miles. This is a nice quiet stretch of water good for novices.

Put in at the CCC bridge and float to Burnt Bridge. Length 9.5 miles. Intermediate some rocky rapids.

Put in at Burnt Bridge and float to Burton Wells. Length 5.75 miles. Class II, III and IV rapids, 1 portage.

Put in Burton Wells and float to Goodman Park. Length 6.25 miles. Class II, III and IV rapids, 1 portage.

Pine River: Put in at Forest Road 2182 near Haystack Corners to Forest Road 2168. Length 20 miles. Slow and winding to Hwy 55 then faster with a few difficult rapids. Trout Fishing

Put in at Forest Road 2168 to Chipmunk Rapids. Length 18 miles. Several rapids, 1 portage. Trout fishing.

Popple River: Put in at Hwy 55 ten miles north of Argonne to town of Popple River. Length 15 miles. Water must be high. 1 portage, few rapids, Trout Fishing.

Wabikon and Riley Lakes Canoeing Path: Take Hwy 8/32 5.5 miles East of Crandon then South on Potawatomi Trail 0.2 miles to boat landing. 1000 acre natural area with wild rice, brook trout. From Riley Lake you can paddle up the Indian River to Indian Springs. Lake paddling, wild life viewing, fishing.

Wolf River: Put in at Pine Lake to Little Rice Lake Dam. Length 10 miles. Small stream, water should be high. There are a few riffle rapids and beaver dams. Secluded area.

Put in at Little Rice Dam to Hwy B Bridge. Length 15 miles. Small winding stream. Water should be medium high. Numerous beaver dams, wild rice beds, railroad artifacts, rocky shallows, very secluded.

Wolf River Rafting: Langlade County South of Pickerel on Hwy 55 around White Lake there are many Rafting and Kayaking rental places as this is a very popular stretch of river. We have more information on this in the points of interest section.

Caution: Before starting out on any of these river trips make sure to get more in depth information about the stretch of river that you are thinking of canoeing. This is just a quick overview. Water levels can be very important and some stretches of river can be very dangerous if rapids or other things like falls are on an otherwise calm stretch of water. Make sure you are capable of making the trip.

Most of this information was obtained from the Forest County Visitors Guide and www.forestcountywi.com depending on what your interests are we suggest that you explore these resources for updated information. We cannot guarantee the accuracy of all the information above and suggest that you research potential trips before you start out. **Note:** That during certain times of the year trails maybe closed to one sport or another due to trail conditions.