

# Hiking Kehl Lake Natural Area Trail

## Kehl Lake Natural Area

Drive north of Northport on M-201 Drive 2.5 miles, turn left on Snyder Road. Drive .5 miles, turn right on Sugarbush Road. Drive .7 miles to the corner of Kehl and Otis Roads; go straight on Kehl for .2 miles. You will see a sign for the Natural Area parking lot.



A small lake very close to the shore of Lake Michigan. The natural area trail takes you through a majestic white pine (some thought to be over 200 years old) and red maple forest. The land then gently slopes to wetter areas dominated first by an old-growth pine-hemlock forest, followed by birch, poplar and

cedar marsh. These wetlands provide food and cover for wildlife, particularly birds, and contribute to the lake's pristine water quality. Smallmouth bass and northern pike thrive in the lake. Along the property's 1,800 feet of undeveloped lakeshore, you might see herons, kingfishers, and loons; over 100 species of birds have been spotted here.

Native Americans also buried their dead here and gathered medicinal herbs from the wetlands. An ancient campsite sits right off the trail. Notice the "Marker Tree" off to the right of the trail near the lakeshore. When this white pine was a sapling, it was manipulated to grow with its distinctive kink, creating a striking landmark.