

WELCOME TO BLACK RIVER HARBOR

GENERAL AREA INFORMATION

BLACK RIVER HARBOR DAY USE AREA

Tall hemlock and pine surround the Black River Harbor day use area. A boat launch, picnic tables, grills and an accessible vault toilet are available to visitors, as well as an enclosed pavilion which can be reserved for special events. Tables, a fireplace and flush toilets are also available in the pavilion. Access to the beach and North Country Scenic Trail are made by crossing a suspended foot bridge. Highlights of the area, this pavilion and foot bridge were built by the Civilian Conservation Corp in the late 1930's. A daily use fee is charged per vehicle. Payments are made at the self-service fee registration stations.



CAMPGROUND FACILITIES

The Black River Harbor campground is located just a short distance south of the picnic area, on the west side of County Road 513. The campground offers vault toilet facilities and a pressurized water system. Thirty-nine campsites can accommodate tents, trailers, and motor homes. Seven campsites provide an overlook to Lake Superior. Each campsite is bordered by vegetation providing privacy for a quite, enjoyable experience. A daily camping fee is charged. Payments are made at the campground self-service fee registration station.

DOCKING FACILITIES

The Harbor offers one of the area's few access points to Lake Superior, with boating a major summertime activity. Parking for trucks and trailers is ample. Visitor docking is available on the far north side of the dock. A daily docking fee is charged according to boat size. Payments are made at the docking self-service fee registration station.



OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Black River Harbor Suspension Bridge Original construction of the Black River Harbor suspension bridge began in 1938 and was completed one year later in 1939. The construction of this truly unique feature was completed by the Norrie CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) Camp in Ironwood—this group also worked on the roads and facilities for the day use area and pavilion. In order to build the bridge, a sawmill was set up on-site. The best possible lumber was selected for the bridge. Each anchor for the suspension cables consists of 44 tons of concrete (which was transported in wheelbarrows). The bridge was re-constructed in 1968 and was upgraded once again in 2009.

History In 1884, land surveyor William A. Burt completed a survey of the land area containing what we now know as the Black River Recreation Area. His findings included a "wagon road" going south, from the mouth of the Black River, to the Chippewa Mining Company location at Chippewa Hill, which is now known as Copper Peak. By 1904 the State of Michigan constructed a "wagon road" from Bessemer, Michigan to Lake Superior. A portion of this road is now The Black River National Byway.

Once a small commercial fishing village, Black River Harbor was home to many adventurous fishermen who would prepare their nets, fire their engines, and set out on one of the most treacherous of the Great Lakes. Fishing was an integral part of the local community and it's economic welfare until the 1950's.

Lake Superior Lake Superior is the largest fresh water lake in the world and encompasses 32,000 square miles (approximately 5% of all of the fresh water on earth). The white sandy shores invite swimmers, sunbathers, campers, rock collectors, fisherman and more. The sunsets on Lake Superior can be beautiful!



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For more information, contact: Ottawa National Forest, GIS Coordinator, E6248 US2, Ironwood, MI 49938 906/932-1330



BLACK RIVER HARBOR



OTTAWA NATIONAL FOREST

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Known for its spectacular waterfalls, idyllic beaches, scenic hiking trails and tranquil campground, the Black River Harbor area is a popular recreation destination any time of year.

Black River Harbor is composed of three major recreational areas: the campground; the harbor and adjacent picnic grounds; and, the waterfall observation facilities. The Black River flows through areas of large pine, hemlock, and hardwood trees and has a series of scenic waterfalls as it drops to meet Lake Superior. The Harbor has one of the area's few access points to Lake Superior, with boating a major summertime activity. Feeling adventurous? Check out the North County Scenic Trail with its picturesque vistas and scenic waterfalls—an excellent way to experience the woods, river, and waterfalls up close.

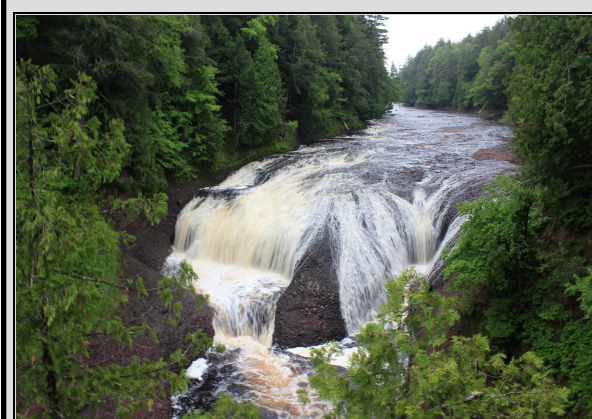
Just a short drive from the Ottawa National Forest headquarters, the Harbor is approximately 14 miles northwest of Ironwood, Michigan, at the mouth of the Black River. From Ironwood, Michigan, travel east on US Hwy 2 to Powderhorn Road (approximately 3 miles west of Bessemer, Michigan), turn north onto Powderhorn Road and travel 3 miles to County Road 513, turn north onto County Road 513 and in approximately 11 miles you will arrive at Black River Harbor: the guide signs will lead you there! On September 19, 1992, the Black River area was officially dedicated as a National Scenic Byway in recognition of its exceptional beauty and recreational opportunities. This National Scenic Byway begins on County Road 513 at its intersection with County Road 204 and continues north to Black River Harbor.

THE BLACK RIVER HARBOR WATERFALLS

You won't want to miss out on the Black River waterfalls—some for the majesty or beauty of the falls itself or for others, just the experience of getting there. There are five distinct and picturesque waterfalls within the Black River Harbor recreation area. All are accessible by traveling County Road 513 or by hiking the North Country National Scenic Trail. The North Country Scenic Trail provides a unique opportunity to view the river from above as you walk through a majestic hemlock forest. Observation platforms and a boardwalk trail system are located from trailheads off of County Road 513 and offer spectacular views of the falls. Whichever route you choose, hiking the trails to the falls can be both challenging and rewarding.

Great Conglomerate Falls Located 11.5 miles north of Highway US-2, off of County Road 513, this 3/4-mile hiking trail will drop steadily as you near the riverbank. At the falls, the river separates into two sections, falling 40 feet around an island of conglomerate rock, giving the falls its name. Old growth hemlock and hardwoods add to the natural beauty of the area.

Gorge and Potawatomi Falls can also be reached from Great Conglomerate Falls, by hiking north 1/3-mile via the North Country Scenic Trail.



Potawatomi Falls

Potawatomi and Gorge Falls are located just over 12 miles north of Highway US-2, off of County Road 513. A 600 foot trail from the **Potawatomi Falls** parking lot, takes you to the Potawatomi Falls viewing platform, where you can also walk along the trail as you view the river and falls. Gorge Falls is only a short distance north of Potawatomi Falls.

A 500 foot asphalt surface trail, located at the south end of the Gorge Falls parking area, will also connect you to the Potawatomi Falls viewing platform. This trail, a vault toilet, and viewing platform are all accessible, providing a unique opportunity for all to view one of our area's most beautiful waterfalls. A 400 foot hiking trail to **Gorge Falls** is also located at the north end of the Gorge Falls parking lot.

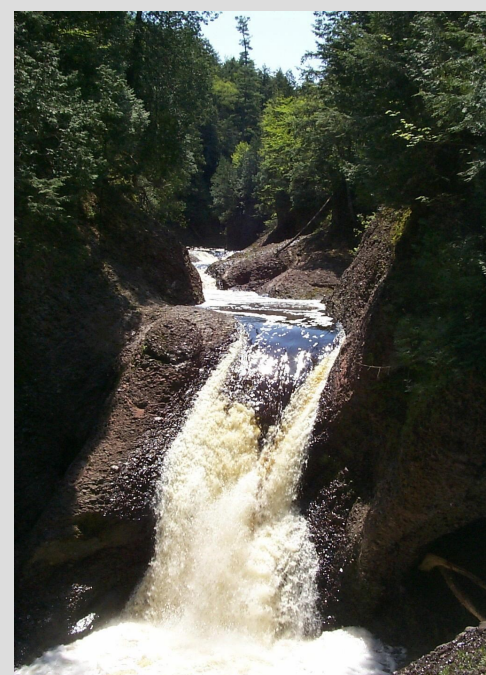
Great Conglomerate Falls can be reached from Potawatomi Falls, by hiking south 1/3-miles via the North Country Scenic Trail. Sandstone Falls can also be hiked to going north 1 mile, via the North Country Scenic Trail and a short spur trail.

Sandstone Falls is located 13 miles north of US Highway 2, off of county Road 513. Although Sandstone is not a large waterfall, the varied rock formations and hollows carved out of sandstone and conglomerate rock by stream erosion over centuries makes this little falls well worth the 1/4-mile hike. The trail will take you from a paved parking lot down a series of steps to the falls.

Rainbow Falls can be hiked to from Sandstone Falls going north 1.4 miles, via a short spur trail and the North Country Scenic Trail. Potawatomi Falls can also be reached by traveling south 1 mile from Sandstone Falls.

Rainbow Falls Located 13.5 miles north of Highway US-2, off of County Road 513, this 1/2-mile hiking trail will take you from a paved parking lot to a stairway, dropping down to an observation platform overlooking the scenic Black River and Rainbow Falls. The falling water creates a mist and sometimes, with the right angle of sunlight, produces a rainbow effect, which gives the falls its name.

From this Rainbow Falls location, Sandstone Falls can be reached by hiking south 1.4 miles, via the North Country Scenic Trail and a short spur trail. Rainbow Falls can also be viewed from the east side of the Black River, via the North Country Scenic Trail. Access this section of trail by crossing the suspended foot bridge, located at the Black River Harbor picnic area, and hiking 3/4-miles.



Gorge Falls