

TRAP HILLS



The Trap Hills lie in the middle of the Gogebic Ridge of Michigan's Western Upper Peninsula.

The Trap Hills have been designated as a Special Interest Area (SIA) of the Ottawa National Forest. This SIA was developed to protect the scenery, vistas and cliffs; mining history; several rare plants; a history of peregrine falcon breeding; and other recreation opportunities. This SIA, along with the adjoining Semi-Primitive non motorized area, provides an attractive hiking corridor for outdoor enthusiasts.

This Special Place



The Trap Hills area has become a popular destination for backpackers and day hikers alike. In recent years, the area has been featured in numerous hiking magazines as a "must see."

Comprised of rocky cliffs, small streams, rolling forested hills and a variety of hardwoods, the Trap Hills area extends from M-64, just north of Bergland, east to Old Victoria, and southwest of Rockland on Hwy 45. There are numerous opportunities for some great views from many of the rock outcrops along the bluffs that dot the terrain.

Vegetation in the Trap Hills is predominantly northern hardwoods forest on glacial till, with sugar and red maples, basswood, yellow birch, and occasional eastern hemlock. On ridge tops, with thinner, drier soils, red oak, red and white pines, and white birch occur. Vernal ponds, lowland forest, alder thickets, wet meadows, and rock outcrop plant communities also occur. Several rare plants are known from the Trap Hills, including small blue-eyed Mary (*Collinsia parviflora*, state threatened), fairy bells (*Disporum hookeri*, state endangered), and male fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*, state special concern). The Hills are a good place to see lush spring ephemerals such as Dutchman's breeches, spring beauty, hepatica, and trout lily (mid-May to early June) as well as rock-associated ferns.

The North Country Trail



Conceived in the 1960's for linking northern-tier national forests, Congress designated the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT) in 1980. The trail ties New York's Adirondack Mountains to the Missouri River in North Dakota. It crosses nine national forests and two national parks and when complete the final length will approach 4,600 miles.

About 116 miles of the NCT cross the Ottawa National Forest. The trail is managed primarily for hiking and backpacking use. No changes are proposed to the management of the NCT, and the Forest will continue to manage the trail in cooperation with the National Park Service and the North Country Trail Association.

Four parts of the trail, the Black River, Bergland (Trap Hills), Victoria, and Sturgeon River Gorge segments, have been completed and are open for use. The trail extends from the eastern boundary of the Kenton Ranger District west to Copper Peak ski hill north of Ironwood, Michigan, on the Bessemer Ranger District.

Leaving a Good Impression



When visiting your national forests, we ask that you please TREAD LIGHTLY! to protect the environment you enjoy. Here is the TREAD LIGHTLY! challenge:

I PLEDGE TO TREAD LIGHTLY BY:

Traveling and recreating with minimum impact.

Respecting the rights of hikers, bikers, campers, skiers and others to enjoy their activities undisturbed.

Educating myself by obtaining travel information and regulations from public agencies, complying with signs and other barriers, and asking the owners' permission to cross private property.

Allowing for future use of the outdoors—I'll leave an area better than I found it.

Driving responsibly to protect the environment and preserve opportunities to enjoy my vehicle on wild lands.

General Information and Trail Descriptions

Most of the trails in the Trap Hills area are well marked with plastic confidence markers. However, deadfalls or other damage may have occurred which makes trail location difficult at times.

Trailside camping is allowed along all of the trails in the Trap Hills area. The Ottawa National Forest enforces a 16-day limit on camping sites. After 16 days, you must move to a new camping spot.

The Trap Hills are located in a non-motorized area. Other than the collector roads used to access the trails, motorized vehicles, including Off Highway Vehicles (OHV's) and motorcycles, are not allowed on any trails.

TRAIL MILEAGES

- North Country Trail
 - M-64 to Old M-64 2.51 miles
 - Old M-64 to FR326 1.14 miles
 - FR326 to junction of Gogebic Ridge Trail . . 1.55 miles
 - Junction of Gogebic Ridge Trail to FR400 . . 7.76 miles
- Gogebic Ridge Trail
 - FR250 to M-64 5.80 miles
 - M-64 to Old M-64 2.56 miles
 - Old M-64 to North Country Trail69 miles
- Cascade Falls Trail Approx 1.0 mile
- Hacking Site Trail Approx 1.0 mile

TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL. There are just over 116 miles of this National Scenic Trail that crosses the Ottawa in the east-west direction. When completed, the North Country Trail will extend for about 4,600 miles and will link the Appalachian Trail in Vermont to the Lewis and Clark Trail in North Dakota. The North Country Trail is challenging. It traverses areas of very rugged topography and is often several miles from the nearest motor vehicle access point. Most stream crossings are without bridges. There are no developed campsites outside of the Black River Harbor Campground. However, trailside camping is permitted. This section of the North Country Trail that crosses the Trap Hills can be considered quite difficult with numerous changes in elevation.



Gogebic Ridge Trail. An interesting side trip from the Bergland portion of the North Country Trail is the Gogebic Ridge Trail. It begins from a point along Forest Road 250, one mile north of M-28 at Merriweather. The trail leads east from Forest Road 250 along the north and east shore of Weary Lake to a ledge overlooking Lake Gogebic, and then northward where it intersects M-64. The trail crosses M-64 and continues east over Cookout Mountain to Old M-64. After crossing Old M-64, the trail leads to Sandhill Creek, and finally ends at its junction with the North Country Trail. The Gogebic Ridge Trail is rated as moderate to difficult.

Cascade Falls Trail. Two trails lead to/from the falls. The main trail is the easiest, at 3/4 mile one way to/from the falls, with only moderate changes in elevation. The Bluff Trail, at 1 mile one way to/from the falls, leaves and rejoins the main trail and is quite challenging, requiring scrambling up rocks at times. This trail provides outstanding vistas. The main trail is moderately difficult due to its length, with slight elevation changes, rocks and roots on the path. This waterfall is well named as it cascades over the rocks. The trailhead for both trails can be found by traveling 7 miles northeast of Bergland on Forest Road 400 until reaching Forest Road 468.

Hacking Site Trail. This trail allows access to the Trap Hills escarpment. Although it has minimal trail markers, and there is no official trailhead, it may be accessed from Forest Road 326. It connects to the North Country Trail near the escarpment.

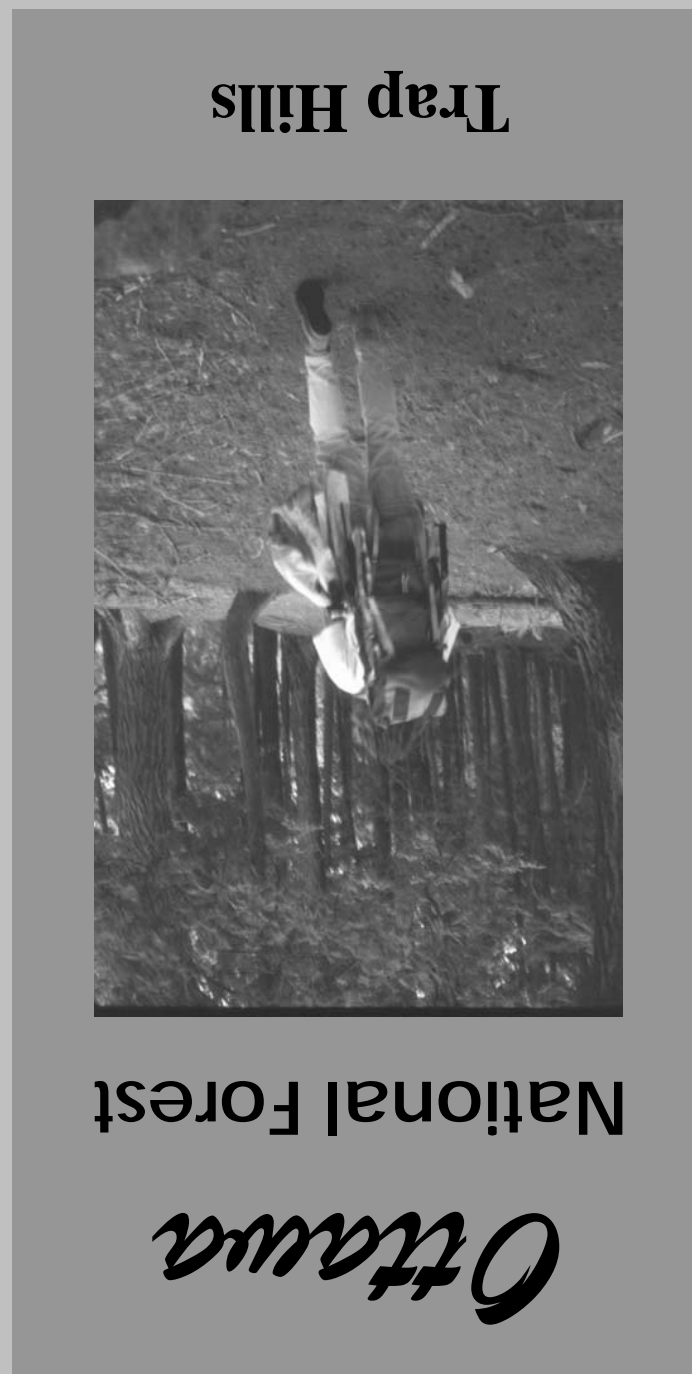
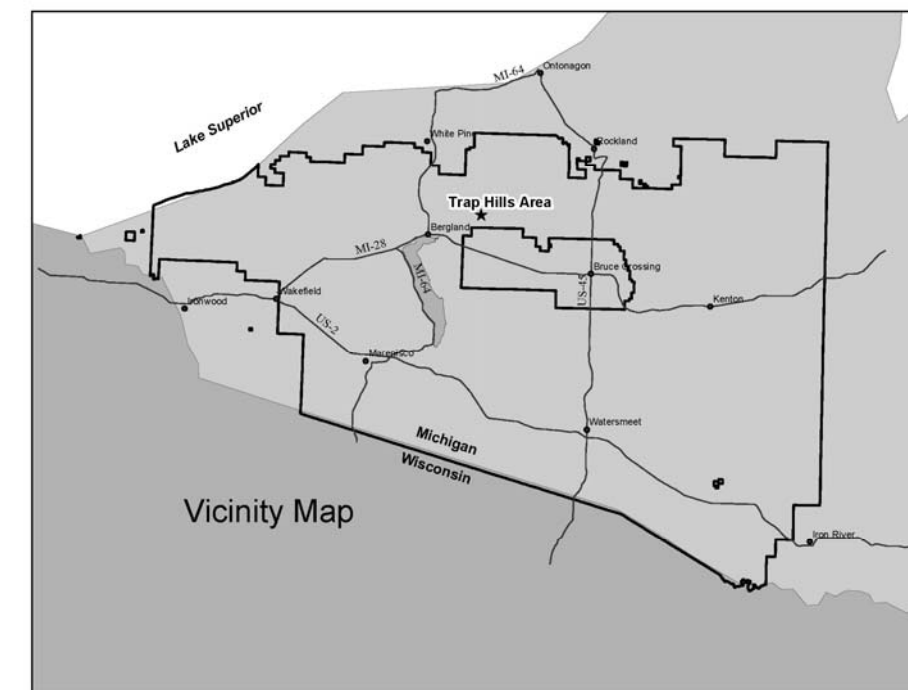


Other Local Amenities

The closest town to the Trap Hills area is Bergland, Michigan. Businesses there include a gas station, grocery store, restaurant, bar, post office, Laundromat and motel.

The Bergland Cultural & Heritage Center. Operated by the Friends of the Bergland Cultural & Heritage Center (a non-profit organization), the Center is located in the Historic Bergland Ranger Station. The Center is open part-time during the summer season with variable hours. Area information, a walking trail and picnic tables are available..

Camping. Several campgrounds are located on the shores of Lake Gogebic. These sites include private campgrounds, State, County and township campgrounds. Some are full-service and some are partial- or limited-service campgrounds. Camping is also available at the Porcupine Mountain Wilderness State Park located along the shore of Lake Superior.



FOR MORE INFORMATION www.fs.fed.us/r9/ottawa

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