

## Directions

To reach the Keweenaw Shore Nature Sanctuary, follow M-26 six miles north of Eagle Harbor, past Brockway Mountain Drive, to Esrey Park—a well-marked picnic area along the shore where visitors can stop, relax, eat lunch, and enjoy a Lake Superior sunset. The trail begins on the south side of M-26, across from Esrey Park.

## Sanctuary Manners

This wilderness tract is open to foot traffic only, pets must be leashed. No horses, wheeled vehicles, fires, or camping are allowed. *Leave No Trace* should be practiced. Everything packed in, must be packed out.

*Leave only footprints, take only pictures.*



Photo by Joan Chadde

## The Michigan Nature Association

The Michigan Nature Association (MNA), established in 1952, is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to protecting examples of Michigan's unique natural habitats and rare or endangered species. The MNA's mission is not only to preserve exceptional land and native flora, but also to provide conservation education and conduct scientific study. With the support of people like you, the MNA now protects 164 nature sanctuaries in 54 counties throughout Michigan—more than 8,500 acres in the Upper and Lower Peninsulas! Please consider becoming a member and lending your support to this worthwhile effort. MNA sanctuaries are open to the public to enjoy today and for the future.

### Michigan Nature Association

326 E. Grand River Ave.  
Williamston, MI 48895  
[www.michigannature.org](http://www.michigannature.org)

Annual membership dues: \$35

### Credits

Charles Eshbach and Joan Chadde  
contributed to this brochure.

## Keweenaw Shore Nature Sanctuary



Photo by Joan Chadde

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326 E. Grand River Ave.  
Williamston, MI 48895

Tel: (517) 655-5655

[michigannature@michigannature.org](mailto:michigannature@michigannature.org)  
[www.michigannature.org](http://www.michigannature.org)

## Welcome to Keweenaw Shore Nature Sanctuary

Keweenaw Shore is a unique nature sanctuary with one of the most interesting short trails in the Keweenaw. The ¾ mile trail starts on the south side of M-26, across from Esry Park picnic area—look for a Michigan Nature Sanctuary (MNA) sign along the road. The trail offers a sampler of **four** different plant communities, as well as interesting examples of Keweenaw geology. The trail crosses the backbone of the Keweenaw and ends at Brockway Mountain Drive, or one can continue hiking into the Upson Lake Nature Sanctuary. This sanctuary is ideal for families and offers a worthwhile educational hike for students!

### Diverse Plant Communities

The trail passes through the following four plant communities.

#### Northern Boreal Forest



Photo by Joan Chadde

Look for *Usnea* lichen (Old Man's Beard) draped over the balsam fir and white spruce of the boreal forest. Heart-leaved arnica is the ground cover on this rocky, dry soil.

#### Northern Bog



Photo by Joan Chadde

Enjoy this small sampler of a northern bog complete with sphagnum moss ground cover, along with bog laurel, pitcher plants, leatherleaf shrubs, black or white spruce, and labrador tea.

#### Cedar Swamp



Plants that you will see on your hike through the cedar swamp include white cedar, balsam fir, alder and a dense ground cover of sedges.

#### Dry Northern Forest



Photo by Joan Chadde

Plants that are common in the dry northern forest plant community include white pine, arnica, bracken fern, aster and thimbleberry. Note the carpet of pine needles on the dry rocky soil.

### Geology of the Keweenaw Shore

The geology of this area dates back to the forming of the Lake Superior basin. The Copper Harbor conglomerate beds—reddish gray and black rounded pebbles cemented together by tremendous heat and pressure, rise out of Lake Superior. The angle that they make dipping toward the lake is called the “angle of the Keweenaw.” The hiker will cross these beds as the trail climbs away from Lake Superior.