

Ludington State Park

The #1 State Park in the Midwest

Ludington has so much to offer its residents and visitors, but our most popular draw is the 5,300 acres that lie just north of town, known as the Ludington State Park. This wonderful area of land is not just for camping... it's a haven for hikers, fishermen, bikers, or anyone who loves what nature has to offer. Here you'll discover sand dunes with spectacular views, hardwood forests, marshlands, and nearly seven miles of Lake Michigan shoreline. The state park is a vacation within itself, with special programs offered in the summer.

The best way to truly enjoy the park is by hiking one or all of the **eight marked trails** that cover 18 miles. Be sure to take note of the variety of trail markers and information kiosks along the way which provide some fascinating historical and natural facts about the park. A description of the individual trails and the estimated walking time for each is detailed on the pages following this article. A hard surface walkway provides

handicapped access across the Hamlin Dam and along both sides of the river. Other areas in the park that are barrier free are the Hamlin Beach concession building, certain campsites and all restroom buildings in the Pines and middle Beechwood campgrounds.

If you'd rather view the park from the water, a **boat launch** area provides easy access into the lake for boats up to 22 feet, with convenient



parking for trailers. Or launch a canoe at the Hamlin Lake Beach and meander along the eastern shore through shallow bayous rich with wildlife and waterfowl. You can rent paddleboats, rowboats, canoes, kayaks, and aqua cycles from the **Hamlin Lake**

Concession Stand. The most leisurely activity at the park, and popular with young and old alike...is spending a lazy afternoon floating down the Big Sable River on a tube. What a way to relax!

You have your choice of two beaches within the Ludington State Park. The swimming is

