



# Nature Preserves

of the  
Little Traverse Conservancy





## DEDICATION

When a group of concerned and energetic northern Michigan residents gathered in living rooms and kitchens in 1972 to form the Little Traverse Conservancy, they shared a common vision of an organization which would protect the scenic beauty and natural integrity of the North through direct ownership of land. They foresaw the phenomenal growth and development that would soon take place across the North, and they sought a means of helping to maintain a healthy balance between land developed and land kept in its natural state for the benefit of our children and many generations to follow.

Thirty years later, the Little Traverse Conservancy is a respected institution in its five-county operating area of northern Michigan. More than 17,000 acres of natural land have been protected through the Conservancy's efforts, with more than 6,200 acres held in trust as nature preserves. Thousands of school children have learned about the outdoors on these precious preserved acres, and many area residents and visitors seek out Conservancy preserves in order to observe wildlife, walk our beautiful woods and shores, or simply enjoy a quiet moment.

Included within this guide are also some publicly owned lands. These are properties that have been protected with Conservancy assistance, and include some of the most visitor-friendly lands in our region.

This guide to the Conservancy's nature preserves, re-published in the year of our 30th anniversary, is dedicated to the vision and perseverance of our founders: John Fischer, David Irish, Edward Koza, Earl Larson, Seberon Litzenburger, Frank Pierce, and John Tanton.

*This guide is also dedicated to you: our members and supporters who make it possible for us to protect the natural integrity and scenic beauty of the North. We hope that its maps and photographs will help you to discover, explore, and enjoy our largest, most popular preserves as well as some of the small, neighborhood natural areas that dot the North Country. This guide, like our preserves, is for you. We hope that you enjoy the natural beauty that our founders and all of our trustees, staff, and volunteers have worked hard to protect for you.*

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# GUIDELINES

## *When visiting*

### *Little Traverse Conservancy Nature Preserves...*

The Conservancy works hard to balance the public uses offered on our preserves with protection of their natural integrity and scenic beauty for future generations. Recreational, educational, and scientific use of the preserves is encouraged, as long as it does not interfere with our primary goals of preservation and protection. We welcome you to explore and enjoy our beautiful preserves, keeping in mind that you are a temporary visitor to the homes of many plants and animals.

**Please enjoy:** Hiking, birdwatching, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, fishing, and similar low-impact activities.

**Please refrain from:** Camping, fires, dumping or littering, removal of vegetation, off-road vehicles.

### **Please remember:**

- Hunting is allowed only on designated preserves and with written permission only. Contact the office for more information.
- State law requires that all dogs must be on a leash while visiting preserves.
- Bicycling is allowed only on established two-track roads.

Please help us keep our preserves in good condition. Contact the Conservancy office at (231) 347-0991 if you notice any inappropriate activity on a preserve or if trails, parking areas, or signs need attention. Preserves and trails require a good deal of management and maintenance. We appreciate the assistance of the many individuals who help monitor and provide stewardship for our preserves and trails. Please contact our office if you are interested in participating in the Conservancy's stewardship program.

*Public parks* are generally established to handle more intensive use than our preserves and are maintained by the state and local governments across the North. Those parks which have been established with help from the Conservancy are identified in this guide. Please refer to the rules and regulations of the appropriate authorities when visiting these properties.

**Little Traverse Conservancy**  
**3264 Powell Road**  
**Harbor Springs, MI 49740**  
**(231) 347-0991**  
**email: [ltc@landtrust.org](mailto:ltc@landtrust.org)**  
**web: [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org)**