

# THE EVER-CHANGING LUDINGTON STATE PARK



Photos by Todd and Brad Reed

No visit to Ludington is complete without heading a few miles north to the magnificent Ludington State Park. It's a magical place where recreation meets history—and it's unlike any other park in Michigan. Here you can explore 5,300 acres of sand dunes, hardwood forests, and marshlands. Tube down the Sable River, take a relaxing canoe ride, or grab some water toys and frolic in the waters of Lake Michigan and Hamlin Lake. The park is truly a water wonderland for the entire family!

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## New in 2019!

Never one to rest on its laurels, the Ludington State Park is always growing and evolving. The park has just acquired 100 acres of Sargent Sand land, including 60 acres that have not been altered.

Located near the southern part of the park, this new section of land will protect more sand dunes, as well as the plants and animals that inhabit it.

Within the state park at the Hamlin Lake Beach, a new accessible playground awaits children of all ages. Officially dedicated in September 2018, this playground features an area for ages two through five and one for ages five through 12.



Photo by Steve Begnoche

You find a variety of equipment and ramping so that children of all abilities can play. A poured-in-place surface provides safety and accessibility.

If you're visiting in the summer, be sure to take advantage of the weekly programs that feature musicians, speakers, tours, and hands-on events that open your eyes to the hidden treasures of the park. ☺

The following two pages highlight the trails and approximate walking times, which vary from 30 minutes to 3 hours, depending on your pace. See our website for more in-depth details about the trails.

[VisitLudington.com/StatePark](http://VisitLudington.com/StatePark)

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# LUDINGTON STATE PARK TRAIL MAP



Photo by Todd and Brad Reed

## THE SCENIC TRAILS...

**Skyline: .5 miles, 30 minutes walking.**  
This completely elevated trail features an extensive boardwalk system. From the top of the trail, view Lake Michigan and miles of sand dunes.

**Sable River: 1 mile, 30 minutes walking.** This relaxing walk goes across the Hamlin Dam and can accommodate people in wheelchairs. Interpretive panels point out historic sites.

**Lost Lake: 1.5 miles, 1 hour walking.** Circling a watery cove off Hamlin Lake, it loops around, beginning and ending at Hamlin Lake Beach Concessions. Wildlife is seen in abundance so keep your eyes open!

**Coast Guard: 1.5 miles, 1 hour walking.** Winding through the wooded dunes from the Lake Michigan Beach, this trail has one of the earliest Life Saving Stations on Lake Michigan.

**Lighthouse: 3 miles, 2 hours walking.** Starting at the Beechwood Campground, walk through rolling sand dunes and end at Big Sable Point Lighthouse. The Lighthouse Road is a shorter, 1.8 mile walk from the main entrance parking lot and can be traversed in about 40 minutes.

**Logging: 3 miles, 2.5 hours walking.** This historic trail loops around, beginning and ending at the north end of the Pines Campground and features plenty of shade.

**Ridge & Island: 4 miles, 3 hours walking.** The Island Trail follows the sandy shoreline of Hamlin Lake, and the Ridge Trail follows the top of a tall wooded sand dune.

**South End Ski: 6 miles, 3 hours walking.** Located in the southern part of the park, these are actually three looped trails tied together. They weave through sand dune valleys of thick jack pines and wetlands.

**Canoe: 2-4 hours.** Enter Hamlin Lake near the beach area. Traveling close to the south shore, enjoy swampy areas, marshlands, and wildlife.

**Dune Grass Concessions**  
**Hamlin Lake**  
**Watercraft Rentals**

**Canoes ~ Kayaks**  
**Tandem Kayaks**  
**Paddle Boats ~ Tubes**  
**Row Boats**  
**Stand Up Paddleboards (SUPs)**

**Located in the Cedar Camp Store**  
**Ludington State Park 231-843-1888**  
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