

Ottawa National Forest - Other Camping

Dispersed Camping

If your idea of camping is literally off the beaten trail, most of the Ottawa National Forest, outside of the Sylvania Wilderness, is open for dispersed camping with no permits or reservations needed. Campers should be prepared for remote and isolated conditions, to pack in necessary supplies and water, and pack out all trash. No waste disposal facilities or potable water are available in the general forested area. Please follow Leave No Trace Principles to make sure no evidence of your visit remains.

- Use of a current Forest Visitor map is advisable. These maps are sold at each Forest Office and on-line at: <https://store.usgs.gov/product/208345>
- Campers are responsible for knowing when and where they can ride or drive motor vehicles on Forest System roads and trails. Be sure to obtain a current copy of the Ottawa's Motor Vehicle Use Map, before you head out. These are the official travel management maps for motor vehicle use and are available free of charge from any Ottawa National Forest office. Parking motor vehicles or trailers is not allowed where it will impede traffic, harm vegetation, or harm soils.
- You may not construct any "improvements" at your camp, including trenches, or cut live trees. Disperse all signs of a campfire if you use one or use a camp stove.
- Limited to 16 consecutive days. After 16 days, camp and equipment must be either removed from National Forest System land; or moved to another location at least five miles away for an additional stay not to exceed another location at least five miles away for an additional stay not to exceed 16 days.



Campfires may be restricted or banned in dry weather, so bring a stove. Never leave campfires unattended. Be sure your fire is out before you leave the campsite

Be Bear Aware

Seeing a black bear is a rare and exciting experience. The very things that make bears fun to watch – their curiosity, acrobatic antics and large appetites – are the things that give bears the ability to ruin your camping trip.

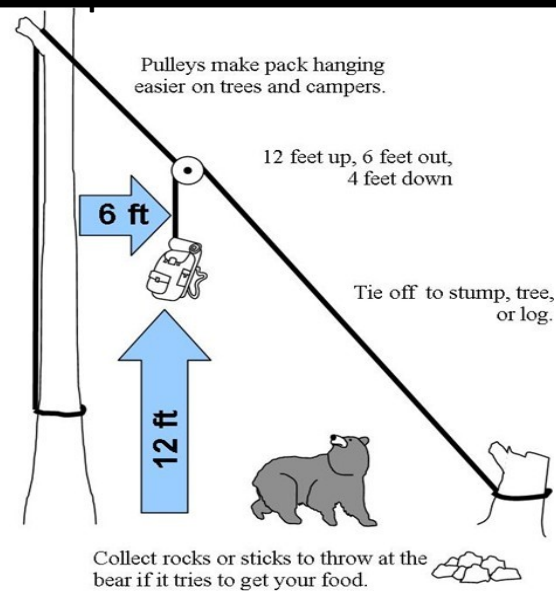
The following tips may help you minimize the possibility of negative encounters with bears:

Always keep a clean camp.

Keep sleeping areas free of food and odors.

Do not sleep in clothes worn while cooking or handling game or fish.

Store food, garbage, pet food and scented articles in bear proof containers or out of reach of animals, at least 12 feet from the ground and 6 feet out from a limb or trunk.



For more information, go to www.fs.usda.gov/ottawa on the web or contact:

| Ottawa National Forest Headquarters | Bessemer Ranger District | Watersmeet/ Iron River Ranger District | Kenton Ranger District | Ontonagon Ranger District |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| E6248 US-2 Ironwood, MI 49938 (906)-932-1330 | E6248 US-2 Ironwood, MI 49938 (906)-932-1330 | E23979 US-2 East Watersmeet, MI 49969 (906)-358-4551 | 4810 E M-28 Kenton, MI 49967 (906)-852-3500 | 1209 Rockland Road Ontonagon, MI 49953 (906)-884-2085 |

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

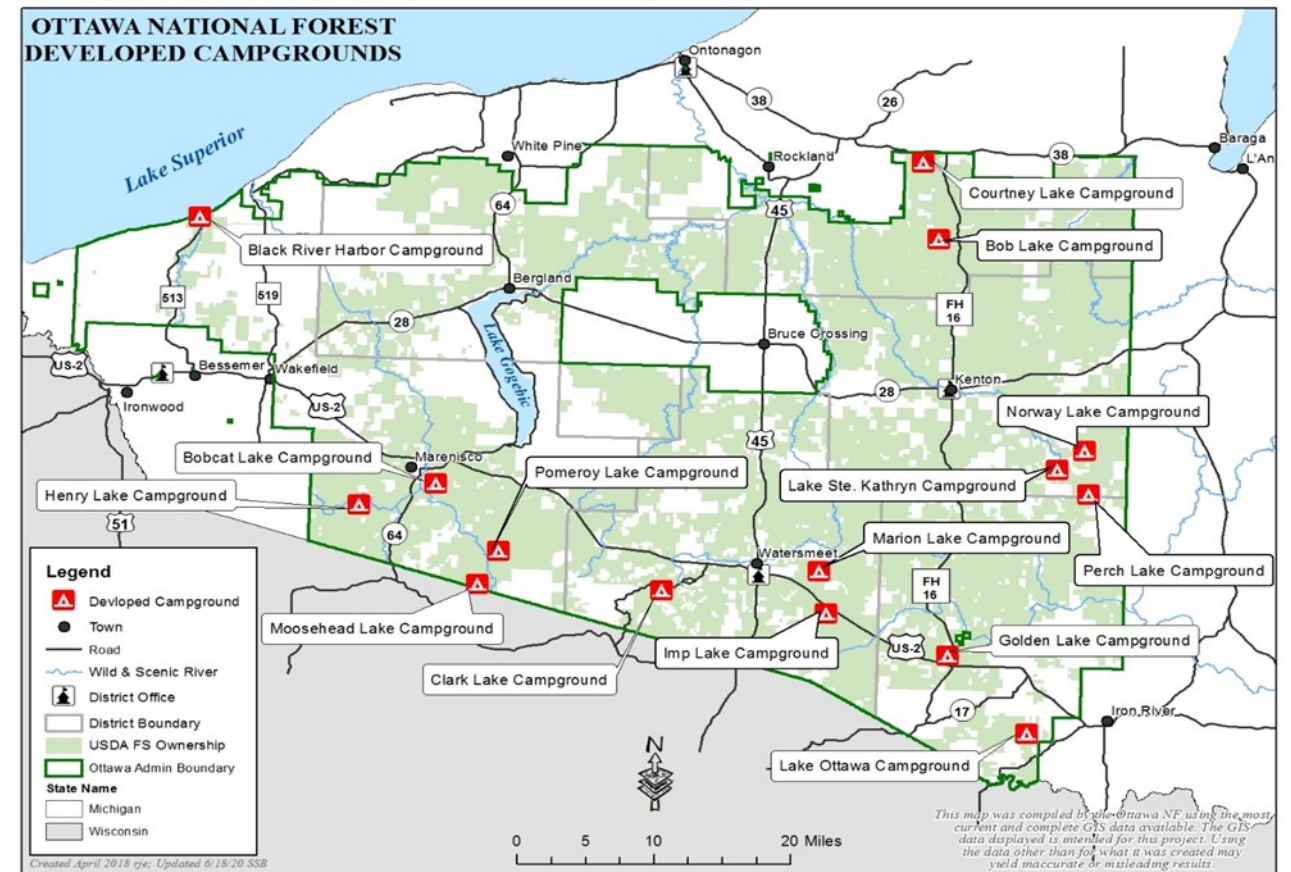


Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OTTAWA NATIONAL FOREST | JULY 2021

CAMPING

The Ottawa National Forest provides a variety of opportunities. Whether you're in a tent or recreational vehicle (RV), one is right for you!



Developed Campgrounds

Developed campgrounds can accommodate tents and RVs. Campgrounds have vault toilets, potable water, garbage receptacles; some have trails, fishing piers, boat launches, picnic areas, beaches, showers, and electricity. Each campsite has a fire ring and picnic table. You will find fees and additional information for each campground on the following page.

- Self-service pay stations are located at the campground entrance and are available 24- hours per day.
- Reservations can only be made by visiting www.recreation.gov, or by calling 1-877-444-6777. You may register and pay on-site, or on-line if you reserve a site.
- You must occupy the site the first night.
- Camping in a developed recreation site is limited to 14 days, unless otherwise posted. After this time, you must move to another campground or dispersed site for at least 24 hours.
- Interagency Senior and Interagency Access Passes are honored for 50% discount on camping fees.

Developed Campgrounds-Fee Schedule

| Ranger District | Campground | Dump Station | Reservations | Electricity | # of Sites | | Additional Features Beach, Picnic, Boat Launch, Rental Pavilion, Trail | Campsite Fees | | Fish* | Winter Status |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------|---|---------------|-------|----------|---------------|
| | | | | | Single | Group | | Single | Group | | |
| Bessemer | Bobcat Lake | | | | 11 | | BPL | \$13 | | NBaCB | Open |
| ** | Henry Lake | | | | 7 | | L | \$13 | | BaB | Open |
| | Moosehead Lake | | | | 8 | | L | \$13 | | NBaCB | Open |
| ** | Pomeroy Lake | | | | 11 | | L | \$13 | | NWBaMCB | Open |
| ** | Black River Harbor | | ■ | | 39 | | BPLR T | \$16 | | T | Closed |
| Iron River | Lake Ottawa** | ■ | ■ | | 32 | | BPLR T | \$18 | | NWBaP | Closed |
| Kenton | Perch Lake** | | | | 20 | | L | \$14 | | NWCPerch | Open |
| ** | Lake Ste. Kathryn | | | | 24 | | LT | \$14 | | NWBaP | Open |
| ** | Norway Lake | | | | 27 | | BPL | \$14 | | WBaP | Closed |
| Ontonagon | Courtney Lake | | | | 21 | | BPLT | \$14 | | T | Closed |
| | Bob Lake | | | | 17 | | BPLT | \$14 | | WP | Open |
| Watersmeet | Clark Lake | ■ | ■ | ■ | 48 | | BPLR T | \$18 | | BaT | Loop 1 Open |
| | Marion Lake | | ■ | | 37 | 1 | BPL | \$16 | \$75 | WBaMP | Loop 2 Open |
| | Imp Lake | | | | 22 | | PLT | \$16 | | TP | Loop 2 Open |
| | Sylvania Backcountry Sites | | ■ | | 50 | | | \$15 | | WT BP | Open |

*Fish codes: Walleye, Northern Pike, Perch, Trout, Bass, Musky, Crappie, Bluegill, Panfish

**These campgrounds are open to OHV's. OHV's must stay on the roadway or camping spur.

Electric: Clark Lake Campground: Additional \$5 fee. Campsites 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 33, 45, 46, and 47 have electric available. These campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis for up to 3 days, if not previously reserved.

Campsites: There is an 8 person maximum at each campsite. You are allowed 2 vehicles and one RV or camping trailer and two tents per campsite, or 2 vehicles and three tents per campsite.

Marion Lake Group site: This site is suitable for multiple tents/RVs. This site must be reserved in advance through www.recreation.gov, or by calling 1-877-444-6777.

Sylvania Backcountry Sites: A maximum of six people per campsite is allowed. A fire ring and a wilderness latrine are provided at each site. Sites can be reached by water or by trails. Tent camping only.

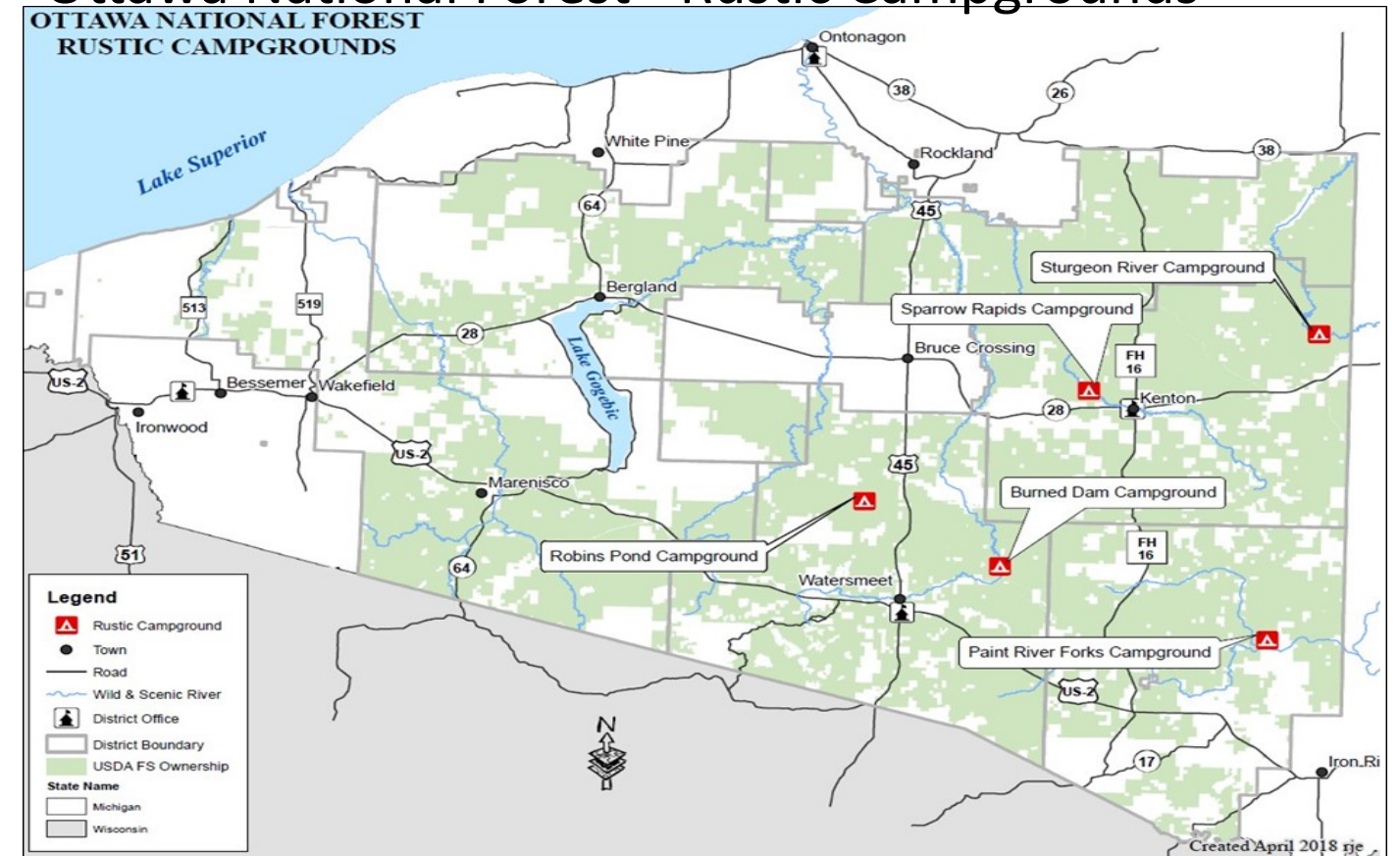
Fees: Fees are collected when services are provided. During the early spring and late fall, when no services are provided, fees are not charged.

Open for Use: Campgrounds are open with full services from the Friday before Memorial Day weekend through September, however, they may open as early as mid-May and extend into October, weather permitting. Open for use dates and fee dates are subject to change and are dependent upon weather conditions.

Additional Information: In the winter, many of the campgrounds are inaccessible because of unplowed roads, and toilet facilities may be locked or unavailable.

| Bessemer Ranger District | Iron River and Watersmeet Ranger Districts | Kenton and Ontonagon Ranger Districts |
|---|--|--|
| Randi Ellsworth Ottawa Recreation Planner 906-358-4020(p) / 906-250-6131(c) randi.ellsworth@usda.gov | Northwoods Property Management Chase Erickson 906-396-5428 chase@wildriversrealty.com | Calderwood Services Fred Sliger 906-852-3232 fredsliger@jamadots.com |

Ottawa National Forest - Rustic Campgrounds



| Ranger District | Campground Name | Number of Sites | Fish* | Winter Status |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|-------|---------------|
| Iron River | Paint River Forks** | 4 | T | Open |
| Kenton | Sturgeon River** | 7 | T | Open |
| | Sparrow Rapids | 6 | WTBa | Open |
| Watersmeet | Burned Dam | 5 | WTBa | Open |
| | Robbins Pond | 3 | T | Open |
| *Fish codes: Walleye, Northern Pike, Perch, Trout, Bass, Musky, Crappie, Bluegill, Panfish | | | | |
| **These campgrounds are open to OHV's. OHV's must stay on the roadway or camping spur. | | | | |

Rustic Campgrounds

Rustic campgrounds have only 1-7 campsites and there is no charge for camping, as there is no water or garbage facilities available. Facilities include outhouses, tables, and fire rings. Sites are generally for tents, but some will accommodate a small RV or camping trailer.

- Maximum group size of 8 per campsite. You are allowed 2 vehicles and one RV or camping trailer and two tents per campsite, or 2 vehicles and three tents per campsite.
- Only use the facilities that are provided for fires, tents, and waste. Do not make additional fire rings, tent pads, trenches, or cat holes.
- You will need to pack out your garbage.
- In the winter, many of the campgrounds are inaccessible because of unplowed roads, and toilet facilities may be locked or unavailable.