

Conduct and Ethics

- Dogs must be leashed.
- Hiking and foot travel on trails only.
- Do not pick or remove wildflowers.
- No bikes or pack animals allowed.
- Use only dead and down wood for fires.
- Build fires in fire rings and grills only.
- This area is open to hunting.

A Recreation Enhancement Act Fee is required at this site.

Recreation fees help pay for the facilities and services at this site. Contact a Forest Service Office or visit our website to learn more about recreation fees and passes.

Wild Columbine



Pitcher Plant

GPS Coordinates

W: 85.83088 N: 43.638028

Directions from White Cloud -

- Travel north on M-37 for 7 miles.
- Turn left and travel west on 5-Mile Rd.
- Turn right and travel north on Felch Rd. for 1 mile.
- The site is located on the right side.

Contact Information

Toll Free: 1-800-821-6263
Website: www.fs.usda.gov/hmnf/

Baldwin Ranger Station

Phone: (231) 745 - 4631
TTY: (231) 745- 8297
Address: PO Box Drawer D
Baldwin, MI 49304

Supervisor's Office

Phone: (231) 775 - 2421
TTY: (231) 775 - 3183

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USDA United States Department of Agriculture



Forest Service

Loda Lake

A National Wildflower Sanctuary



Pink Lady's Slipper



American Goldfinch



Sweet Scented Water Lily

Witness the Wonder of Wildflowers

Huron-Manistee National Forests

History of Loda Lake

Loda Lake was once a virgin pine forest. In the late 1890's the Pere Marquette Railroad harvested the timber before selling the land to the Hansons, railroad stockholders.

Full of stumps and logging debris, Mr. Hanson felt the land was worthless. Thomas Hunt, a family friend, convinced him that it could be successfully farmed using scientific methods.

The Hunt family farmed the area for several years. Mr. Hanson later built a substantial summer home with several outbuildings on the other side of the lake. The remains of the farm buildings and the Hanson dwellings are highlighted on the Cultural trail.

The land was declared "sub-marginal" in 1937 and sold to the U.S. Forest Service. At that time, the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan, now Michigan Garden Clubs, were looking to establish a wildflower sanctuary in the state. A cooperative agreement was signed in 1949, a partnership that continues to this day.

Amenities

- Self-guided, 1.2-mile wildflower trail.
- Cultural Trail.
- Pollinator Garden.
- Birders Check List.
- Picnic Area with grills and a fire ring.
- Gravel, back-in boat launch.
- No drinking water.



Opportunities

- Cultural trail, identifying past structures from Hanson/Hunt era.
- Scrapbook style photo/historical time line display of Loda Lake at old farm site.
- Inquire at the Baldwin District Office about:
 - Docent-led cultural history/ wildflower walks available for groups of 5 or larger with advance registration.
 - Teacher and youth leaders; Natural and Cultural History Interpretive CD and Guide.
 - Special Tours and coordination with environmental curriculum available on a limited basis.