The Philip Hart Nature Trail is a 12-kilometer (7.6-mile) loop motorcar road that goes through forests and over the dunes. Scenic overlooks offer magnificent views of Glen Lake, the Sleeping Bear, the Lake Michigan shoreline, and the Manitou Islands. A quiet, more intimate look at the countryside is yours if you drift down the Platte River in a canoe. As you slip along on the smooth current past several miles of undeveloped riverbank, the natural wilderness, now mostly gone, is seen again for the span of 2 to 3 hours.

Some 48 kilometers (30 miles) of marked cross-country ski trails invite you to use this winter wonderland. There is usually sufficient snow cover by mid-December, and it generally lasts into March. These trails are also enjoyable in the other seasons of the year.

Within your reach, too, are the essentials for many moments of quiet reflection. Crush some hemlock needles and smell their north woods fragrance. Let the crystalline sand sift through your fingers. Dangle your feet in cool flowing streams. Peer down through clear, sunlit water at the pattern of the sandy bottom below. Breathe deeply of the clean air.

A LARGE ESTATE FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

When all authorized lands have been acquired, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore will contain some 25,490 hectares (63,000 acres). Of this, the Manitou Islands comprise about one-third. The park will include 48 kilometers (30 miles) of Lake Michigan shoreline. Land is still in private ownership. PLEASE RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF THE PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS.

A north-south 48-kilometer (30-mile) scenic corridor, providing spectacular views from the tops of the high glacial ridges, will tie the three mainland sections of the Lakeshore together. Portions of this corridor may be used for a low-speed scenic roadway; other segments are suitable for hiking, bicycling, and cross-country skiing. The land within the corridor is being acquired at this time.

In addition to the existing facilities, new lookouts, trails, picnic areas, visitor centers, and beach facilities will be developed. Provision will be made for hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, swimming, canoeing, and sailing. The National Park Service recognizes the important recreational value of existing private resorts and cottages. This value, largely dependent on the natural charm of the region, will be enhanced by the existence of the park.

A SAFETY NOTE

Steep lakeshore bluffs are hazardous to climb and descend because of landslides and slumpage. On Lake Michigan, weather conditions can change drastically in a short time. If you are boating, be aware of the weather forecast and carry appropriate safety equipment.
The earth's atmosphere continued to warm up, and the ancestors of our Great Lakes. Upon this Michi­
tal glaciers assaulted this area, conquered and water to create the ridges and hills, the lowlands
ward during the great thaw, which is still in prog­
rock ledges along the lake. All this happened be­
lakes, clearly identified by the wave erosion on
sheets perhaps a mile thick. They made and un­
these dunes lacks in legendary charm, it more than
Old shorelines of the stages of the ancestral lakes
seum.
features make this park an excellent outdoor mu­
and lakes of the present park landscape. Pick a

FOOTPRINTS OF THE GLACIERS
What the scientific explanation for the origin of
dunes lacks in legendary charm, it more than
makes up in awesome drama. Four times continen­
glaciers assaulted this area, conquered and
in its retreat northward. The edge of the ice
sheet was scalloped and consisted of a series of
lobes. A great amount of rock material accumula­
ted between lobes and became today's ridges.
Where the ridges run into the lake they form points
faceted with steep sandy bluffs. These high head­
lands are the battleground of the continuous strug­
gle between land and water. The action of waves
against the masses of sand can be spectacular.
In 1971 wave action caused tons upon tons of
sand to slump off the end of Sleeping Bear Dune
into the lake.
THE EVER-CHANGING DUNES
Wind is an agent of change, too. The prevailing
southwest wind sweeps unobstructed across Lake
Michigan building up tremendous speed and force
as it crosses miles of open water. Striking the
steep shoreline bluffs, the wind erodes sand grains
from the glacial material and carries them inland
over the edge of the bluffs where the sand fina­
ly comes to rest, accumulating into dunes. During
this process, vegetation is sometimes buried and
large rocks are polished by the abrasive action of
blowing sand as the dunes advance inland.
Walk along the edge of the steep bluff when the
wind is blowing. Stinging sand thrown into your
face shows the power of the wind to transport
sand grains. A climb to the top of the Sleeping
Bear Dunes takes you to a desert of sand dunes
of all sizes and shapes. High up in the dune country,
everything appears to be sand—ahead of you, be­
hind you, and also beneath your feet. In fact, how­
ever, the sand is only a relatively thin blanket cov­
ering the buried glacial material.
Occasionally sparse clumps of cottonwood trees
punctuate the scene. These trees began life as
seedlings that germinated far below today's sand
dune surface. They survive because they grow
faster than the sand is piling up. Far out on the
dunes, near the bluff's edge, are "ghost forests" of
bleached tree trunks. These once living trees, a
part of an ancient forest, were buried by blowing
sand. Today, they have been exposed as the sand
moves elsewhere.
A LIVING LANDSCAPE
The variety of landforms—dunes, ridges, valleys,
plains, streams, and lakes—supports a rich divers­
ity of interrelated plant habitats. The sand dune
deserts contrast strikingly with the hardwood for­
est. In autumn a glowing tapestry unfolds the yel­
low of beech and basswood, the bronze of oaks,
and the flaming scarlet of maples. Elsewhere are
stands of green and aromatic pines, dense cedar
swamps, and even a few secluded quaking bogs of
sphagnum moss. Against this green background
are stands of chalk white birches.
A VARIETY OF WILDLIFE
The Lakeshore's diverse habitats, in a natural and
healthy condition, can support life of many differ­
ent kinds. More than 220 species of birds can be
seen here.

Where there are trees, there are apt to be porcu­
pines, and with a little luck you may come across
one eating the green inner bark of a young tree.
You may also startle a deer in an aspen thicket,

A FISHERMAN'S PARADISE
Fishing is good. Beginners are soon rewarded with
panfish like rock bass, bluegill, or perch. Bass,
pike, and rainbow trout test the skill of those in
search of gamefish. It is during the autumn coho
salmon run, however, that fishing fervor reaches a
peak. The coho is an aggressive saltwater species
introduced into Lake Michigan in the 1960s. Lake
trou, steelhead, and brown trout also provide a
challenge. A Michigan fishing license is required.

CAMPING
The Platte River and D.H. Day campgrounds are
operated by the National Park Service. Camping is
limited to 14 days and campgrounds are usually
filled to capacity during the summer. Backcountry

camping, by permit, is allowed only in designated
areas on the mainland and on the Manitou Islands.
Backcountry campers should bring camp stoves
with them.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS
These programs, scheduled from mid-June through
Labor Day, offer you the opportunity to enjoy and
better understand the park. There are conducted
walks, self-guiding trails, evening campfire pro­
gams, and publications dealing with the natural
and cultural history of the area. Schedules of all
activities are available at campground ranger sta­
tions, the visitor center, and Lakeshore headquar­
ters in Frankfort.

THE PRESENT-DAY PARK
Before you start exploring the park, stop at the vis­
itor center where you'll find information and exhi­
bits about the many land and water features of
the region. Then begin your visit, perhaps by climb­ing
Sleeping Bear Dunes. From the top, you can see a
magnificent panorama of Glen Lake and the sur­
rounding countryside or you can hike the 3.2 kilo­
meters (2 miles) across rolling sand to the high
overlooks rising 137 meters (450 feet) above Lake
Michigan. You can also reach the dunes and over­
looks by riding in a commercially operated dune
mobile.