

# LAUGHING WHITEFISH LAKE PRESERVE

## A Landmark of Photography

**LOCATION:**

Central Upper Peninsula



**SIZE:** 1,728 acres

**TRAIL LENGTH:**

1-mile loop



**DIFFICULTY:** Easy

**BECOME A COMMUNITY SCIENTIST:**

Help us keep track of the species at our preserves by using iNaturalist to record your observations. Learn more at [nature.org/miexplore](https://www.nature.org/miexplore).



Visitors to the preserve can enjoy views of Laughing Whitefish Lake, thanks to volunteers who helped build an observation platform along the trail. © Richard Baumer

**Walk in the footsteps of nature photography history.**

The Laughing Whitefish Lake Preserve, situated between Munising and Marquette a few miles from Lake Superior, is where renowned nature photographer George Shiras III took the first nighttime wildlife photos in the early 1900s. In 1906, National Geographic Magazine devoted an issue to his black-and-white images of whitetail deer, beavers, snowy owls and more, celebrating American wildlife at a time when many species were going extinct because of habitat loss and unrestrained hunting.

More than a century later, wildlife still thrive at the location where these groundbreaking photos were taken. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) acquired the Laughing Whitefish Lake Preserve in 1992 through a generous land donation from Phyllis Reynolds in honor of her late husband, Max Reynolds, Jr., a descendant of Peter White, one of the earliest founders of the city of Marquette.

Here on the banks of the Laughing Whitefish River, TNC ensures that the wetlands and hardwood forests continue to support the Upper Peninsula's flora and fauna. Visitors may spot species such as the bald eagle, common loon, black bear and a host of warblers, thrushes and woodpeckers that frequent the area. And, while skiing or snowshoeing the preserve trails during winter months, keep an eye out for snowshoe hare and whitetail deer.



*While TNC usually prohibits dogs on nature preserves, an exception is made for the **UP 200**, a qualifying race for the Iditarod. This annual dogsled race, a popular community event, runs right through Laughing Whitefish Lake Preserve, en route from Marquette to Grand Marais.*

**YOU SHOULD VISIT IF...****You love spring wildflowers!**

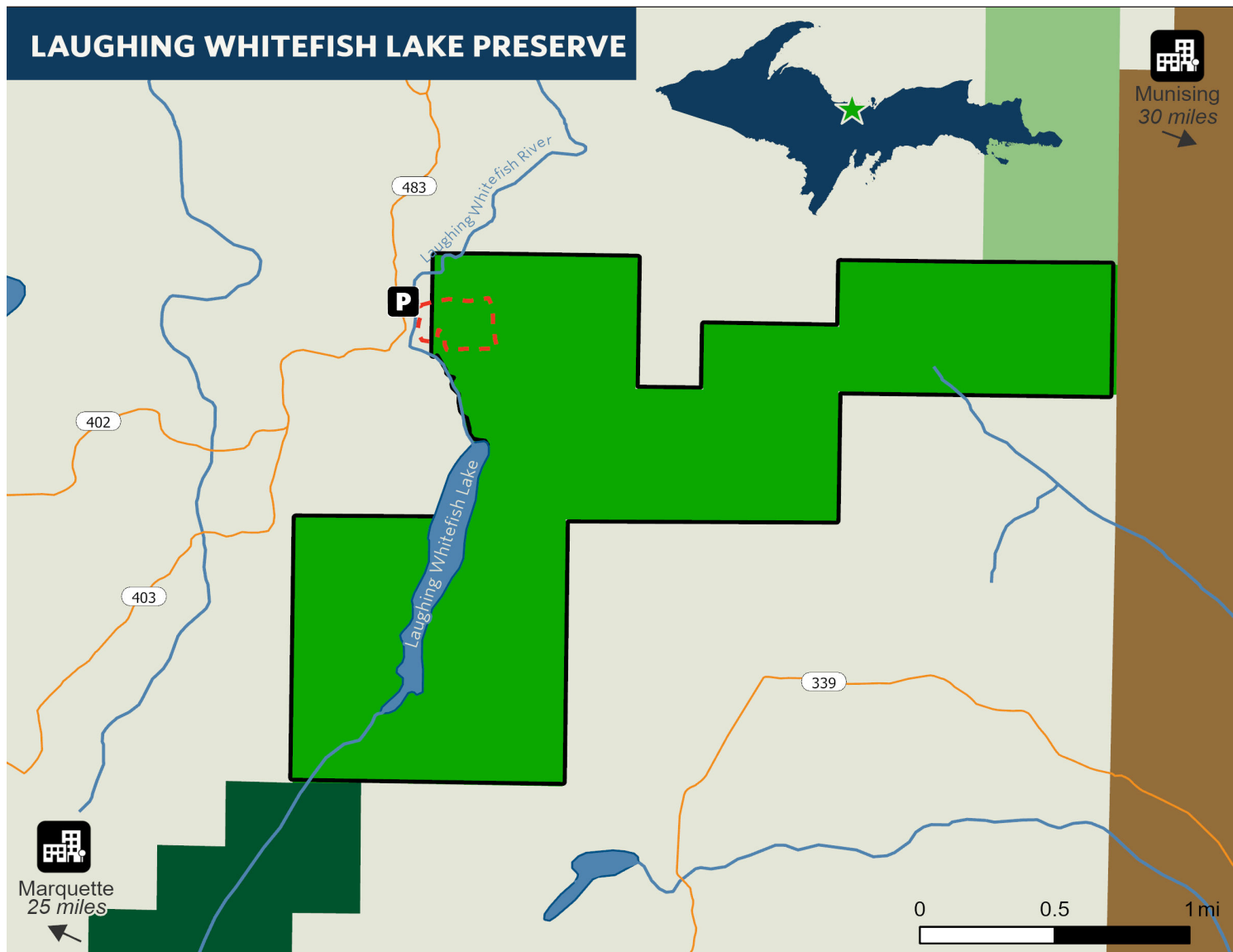
When spring comes to the Upper Peninsula, one of the first signs is the ephemeral blossoms that unveil their colors on the forest floor. Flowers with fanciful names such as yellow trout lily, spring beauty, squirrel corn and Dutchman's breeches emerge in shades of green, white, yellow, pink and violet, greeting the warming sun after a long winter.

**Other plant and wildlife species to watch for include:**







- Marsh marigold
- Bloodwort
- Wood duck
- Fisher
- River otter
- Northern leopard frog
- Beaver
- Red-shouldered hawk

**SQUIRREL CORN****MARSH MARIGOLD**

# LAUGHING WHITEFISH LAKE PRESERVE



## LEGEND

-  Laughin Whitefish Lake Preserve
-  Hiawatha National Forest
-  Preserve Trail (1 mi)
-  Protected Land: Privately Owned
-  Laughing Whitefish Falls State Park
-  Parking Area

## HOW TO GET THERE

**Directions from Marquette, MI:** Head south on US Hwy 41 for 4.5 miles. Turn east (left) onto M-28 E and continue about 15 miles. Turn south (right) on Deerton Rd in Onata Township and follow it until it ends in about 1.5 miles. Turn west (right) on Deerton Onata Rd, and then take the first left (just after a small bridge) onto Peter White Rd. Go 2 miles, then turn left to stay on Peter White Rd. Continue just under 1 mile to the small parking area you will see on the left, with a steel gate. Park here and walk around the gate and cross the river. The trail begins on the east side of the river.

## MAKE TODAY A NATURE DAY!

Nearby points of interest include:

- Chocoley Bayou Nature Preserve, 20 mi: [uplandconservancy.org](http://uplandconservancy.org)
- Presque Isle Park, 27 mi: [marquettetmi.gov](http://marquettetmi.gov)
- Echo Lake Nature Preserve, 36 mi: [nature.org/miexplore](http://nature.org/miexplore)
- Lodging, food and more: [travelmarquette.com](http://travelmarquette.com) or [exploremunising.com](http://exploremunising.com)

## TIPS FOR A GREAT VISIT

- The Laughing Whitefish Lake Preserve is open for foot access and activities such as hiking, snowshoeing and birdwatching.
- If you visit during the deer hunting season (**early September to early January**), wear **bright colors and exercise caution**. All hunters must have a TNC permit and state license.
- Please leave pets at home.
- No camping or fires permitted.
- Please follow the rules posted at the preserve and online at [nature.org/miexplore](http://nature.org/miexplore).

**Thank you for protecting the land, water and wildlife of this place!**