

NOTE:
Pathway not suitable for cross country skiing.
Motorized vehicles prohibited on pathway.



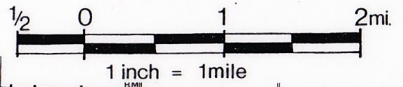
Graves Crossing State Forest Campground

Pinney Bridge Hike-in Campground

Starting Point & Parking
Dead Mans Hill Rd.

FOLLOW THE BLUE MARKERS

North



HAPPY HIKING

DO TAKE TIME TO LOOK AROUND YOU

The numbered posts along the trail correspond to the following information:

Stop 1: Trail begins here for both the 3-mile Deadman's Hill Loop and the full 18-mile path.

Stop 2: The forest that surrounds you is the northern hardwoods timber type. The main species that make up this type are sugar maple, basswood, American beech, white ash and American elm. The elm is dying off because of Dutch elm disease.

Stop 3: When you left the hillside, you entered an aspen timber type. This type is made up of aspen (popple), white birch and red maple. Aspen is valuable, both as a species for making paper and as a source of wildlife food.

Stop 4: This is the river study area. Informative signs at this location will help you understand the ecology of the watershed system. The Jordan River watershed contains 101,800 acres, of which approximately 22,000 are state owned.

Stop 5: If you are on a day hike, take the left fork, which returns to the parking area. If you are hiking further, take the right fork. This is the beginning of the wild river segment of the pathway — length: 2.3 miles.

Stop 6: You are now standing on an old logging railroad, built by the White Lumber Company about 1910. Notice the beaver flooding and dam adjacent to this grade. The beaver is the largest rodent in North America, and is seldom found far from water. Favorite foods include bark and twigs of aspen trees and herbaceous plants. Gnawed trees and branches stripped of bark are evidence of the beaver.

Stop 7: You are looking at the site of a commercial timber harvest in 1976. The mature aspen stand was cut by local loggers and processed by local mills into paneling, pallets and chip board. The tops that were left will break down and return to the soil, acting as fertilizer. Aspen is a species which reproduces well only in full sunlight. After clearcutting, new trees sprout up to 4 or 5 feet the first year. Aspen grows rapidly and reaches mature size in about 50 years.

Stop 8: You are viewing the famous Jordan River, dedicated in 1972 as Michigan's first Natural Scenic river. The river and its tributaries, which derive 90% of their flow from springs, are the predominant natural features in the valley. The dominant fish species is the Eastern Brook Trout, which is numerous but generally of small size. The river also supports a spring spawning run of steelhead trout.

Stop 9: Begin Pinney Bridge segment — length: 5 miles. This leg leads to the campground.



Stop 10: This railroad grade was built about 1918 by the East Jordan Lumber Company. The timber was cut by crosscut saws, hauled to this grade by teams of horses, loaded on flatbed railroad cars and shipped to East Jordan. There it was processed into lumber to be shipped to Chicago and other points west.

Stop 11: At this point, you are 900 feet above sea level. Below you, to the south, flows the Jordan River, which is 700 feet above sea level. The Wisconsin Glacial Age, which ended 10,000 years ago, formed the rolling hillsides, which you see along the southern horizon. The highest hill you see is 1,130 feet above sea level.

Stop 12: This is Pinney Bridge Campground. In 1915 the clearing was Logging Camp #2 for the East Jordan Lumber Company. The 60 men who worked in the camp included loggers, a blacksmith, cooks and teamsters who drove the 8 or more teams of horses. These men bunked in barrack-type homes mounted on 60-foot-long flatcars. Storage buildings and barns were constructed on the ground.

Much of the timber in this area was scorched or killed in the big fire of 1909, just prior to the East Jordan Lumber Company purchase of the land from the David Ward estate. The timber harvested here was mostly hardwoods and hemlock, with white pine making up less than 10% of the total volume. The East Jordan Lumber Company was quite responsive to the wild fire problem, and fire control was a high priority even after the forest was logged. All loggers, mill hands, cooks and clerks were expected to fight fire until it was dead out.

Stop 13: Begin Cascade Road segment — length: 2 miles.

Stop 14: This opening was created by the Forestry and Wildlife Divisions of the Department of Natural Resources, with funds derived from the sale of hunting licenses. The purpose is to benefit wildlife. The grasses are the first of the food chain to green up in the spring and the last to die in the late fall.

After leaving this opening, you will come to another in just a couple of hundred yards. The very quiet hiker may observe deer.

Stop 15: In 1976 this area received both a commercial and non-commercial timber harvest, employing a selective harvest technique. Only those scattered trees that were mature, dead, diseased or poorly formed were cut. The well formed, healthy, remaining trees now have room to grow, whereas before the cut growth had stagnated.

Stop 16: Begin Landslide Overlook segment — length: 1.8 miles.

Stop 17: The source of this creek is just above the small waterfall. The careful observer will notice that the wood damming up the water has been cut by man. The loggers used the pond to draw water to ice down the logging skid roads that you are standing on and as a watering pond for horses.

Stop 18: A splendid scenic view of the western part of the Jordan Valley. The creek you left before starting the long climb to the point begins at the base of this hill. Landslide Creek bubbles out of the ground in several locations, and a good-size stream with high water volume is formed in a very short distance.

Stop 19: Begin Jordan River Road segment — length: 3.1 miles.

Stop 20: Begin White Spruce segment — length: 2 miles.

Stop 21: Fifty thousand white spruce seedlings were hand planted in this area in 1975, by the Department of Natural Resources. The planting covers more than 100 acres.

Stop 22: Jordan River Federal Fish Hatchery is a half-mile down the road to the left. Visitors are welcome.

Stop 23: This is the Deadman's Hill Loop. Take the trail to the right. It is 1.1 mile to Deadman's Hill Road.

Stop 24: Apparently the sawyer broke his crosscut saw and put both pieces in the crotch of this tree. The tree has continued to grow, encasing the blade. The maple is 55 years old. The blade was left about 40 years ago.

Stop 25: Follow road to the right to parking lot.

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME