

SAUGATUCK HARBOR NATURAL AREA

THINGS TO DO

Beach—The site offers almost one mile of sandy beach along Lake Michigan, providing opportunities for “sun, sand and sea” activities. Most of this beach is part of the Natural Area, but a small portion is private and should be used for crossing only. Swimming in Lake Michigan is at your own risk. Swimming is not permitted in the Oxbow Lagoon.



Fishing—The beach provides the only land access to the piers along the channel of the Kalamazoo River. Fishing in the river is possible from the south pier.

Guided Talks—Every Saturday morning from Memorial Day through September, a volunteer docent will give a talk and answer questions about the Natural Area. The guided talks are an introduction to the natural and cultural history of this special place. The docent will lead you up a nearby dune where you can survey the landscape. He/She will then talk about its features, its past, its present, and its future. The talks will take place every Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. Meet at the north end of Oval Beach parking lot. The talks are

free, but parking costs \$6 during the summer season.

Hikes—There are well-marked trails throughout the Natural Area. Trail Guides are available at Oval Beach and at strategic trail heads. The trail system is designed to lead you to the important natural features of the area. Periodic guided hikes will be announced in the local area. Do not leave the marked trails. Dune grasses and other vegetation hold the sand in place, and off-trail tramping through them will destabilize the dunes. Special Hikes have also been scheduled. Look under resources ([CLICK HERE](#)).

Because of the increased prevalence of Lyme disease in West Michigan, it is also important that you inspect yourself for ticks after a hike in the dunes. Pay particular attention to the tiny deer ticks which can be carriers of the Lyme disease organism.