



Grass River Natural Area  
6500 Alden Highway  
Bellaire, MI 49615

# Trail Map

In an emergency, call 911  
Grass River Center - (231) 533-8576  
GRNA Admin Office - (231) 533-8314  
[www.grassriver.org](http://www.grassriver.org)



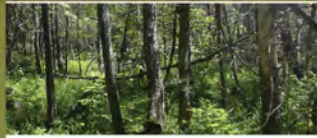
### Emergent Marsh

An herbaceous wetland with shallow water, found where Grass River meets Clam Lake. A variety of sedges and cattails provide shelter for other plants like pond-lilies, waterlily, whorled loosestrife, and the carnivorous bladderwort.



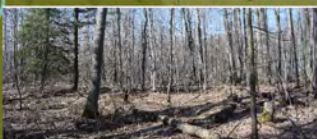
### Northern Fen

An open wetland meadow with a variety of sedges, rushes, wildflowers, and some shrubs. Incredibly rich in species, this habitat has rare orchids and carnivorous plants. GRNA has one of the largest fen habitats in northern lower Michigan.



### Rich Conifer Swamp

A forested wetland rich in nutrients, dominated by northern white cedar, balsam fir, and tamarack. Mosses and a wide variety of wildflowers form a carpet in this habitat including trailing arbutus, marsh marigold, goldthread, and fringed polygala.



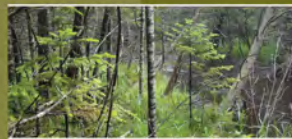
### Mesic Northern Forest

A northern upland forest of balanced moisture, with red and sugar maple, beech, cherry, red oak, and hemlock, with some white spruce, white pine, and cedar.



### Northern Wet Meadow

An open wetland meadow usually bordering streams, rivers, and lakes with sedges, grasses, and small shrubs, like sweet gale and shrubby cinquefoil, along with small northern white cedar and tamarack.



### Hardwood Conifer Swamp

A forested wetland with both hardwoods and conifers bordering Finch Creek, with a mix of northern white cedar and deciduous trees like yellow birch, big-tooth aspen, balsam poplar, and speckled alder. Look for large old growth white pine stumps that were logged and then charred in a forest fire in the early 1900s. They now serve as nursery stumps.



Dogs are allowed on-leash on the Rail Trail and Algonquin Trail only.



Bicycles are allowed on the Rail Trail and Entrance Road only.



The natural area is open year-round. In winter, the Chippewa, Nipissing, Algonquin, and Rail Trails are groomed for cross-country skiing.



Established in 1969, GRNA is a 1,492-acre nature preserve with a mission to manage the natural area, conserve and protect its watershed, and provide opportunities that increase knowledge, appreciation, and community-wide stewardship of the natural environment.

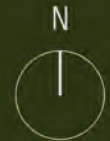
[www.grassriver.org](http://www.grassriver.org)

ALDEN HIGHWAY

# LEGEND

- Boat Launch (Barrier Free)
- Boat Launch (Developed)
- Boat Launch (Carry-in)
- Camping
- Dining
- Hiking
- Kayak Rack
- Launch Fee
- Parking
- Parking (Trailer)
- Picnic Area
- Picnic Shelter
- Potable Water
- Restrooms
- Trash
- Wildlife Viewing
- Advanced Level Route
- Intermediate Level Route
- Trailhead
- Alternate Access
- Emergency Access
- Hazard

Mileage estimates are based on following close to shore.



# TRAIL GUIDE



# YOURS TO EXPLORE. YOURS TO PROTECT.

Photo by Libby White