



Welcome to Island Park.

This island is a part of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary. The sanctuary is approximately 500 acres of wetlands and waterways that have been set aside to protect the animals, plants and other special things that are found there. As you explore the island, please remember to stay on the main trail, and try to leave everything as you discovered it, so others can discover it too.

Go back in time.. The river, teeming with fish and fowl, was a source of wild game and food plants for the American natives that lived along the shores of the sanctuary for several thousand years. Many of the artifacts collected from this area are on display at the Jesse Besser Museum-just a few blocks from Island Park.

Exploring Island Park

The plants and animals that live within the 1200 square miles of the Thunder Bay River Watershed make this freshwater ecosystem one of the most productive natural communities in northern Michigan. Using your knowledge of geography, see if you can answer the questions below:



1) Name the Great Lake that this river flows into.



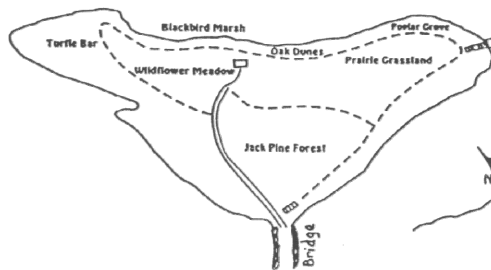
2) Draw a star on the map below to show where you are as you complete this activity.



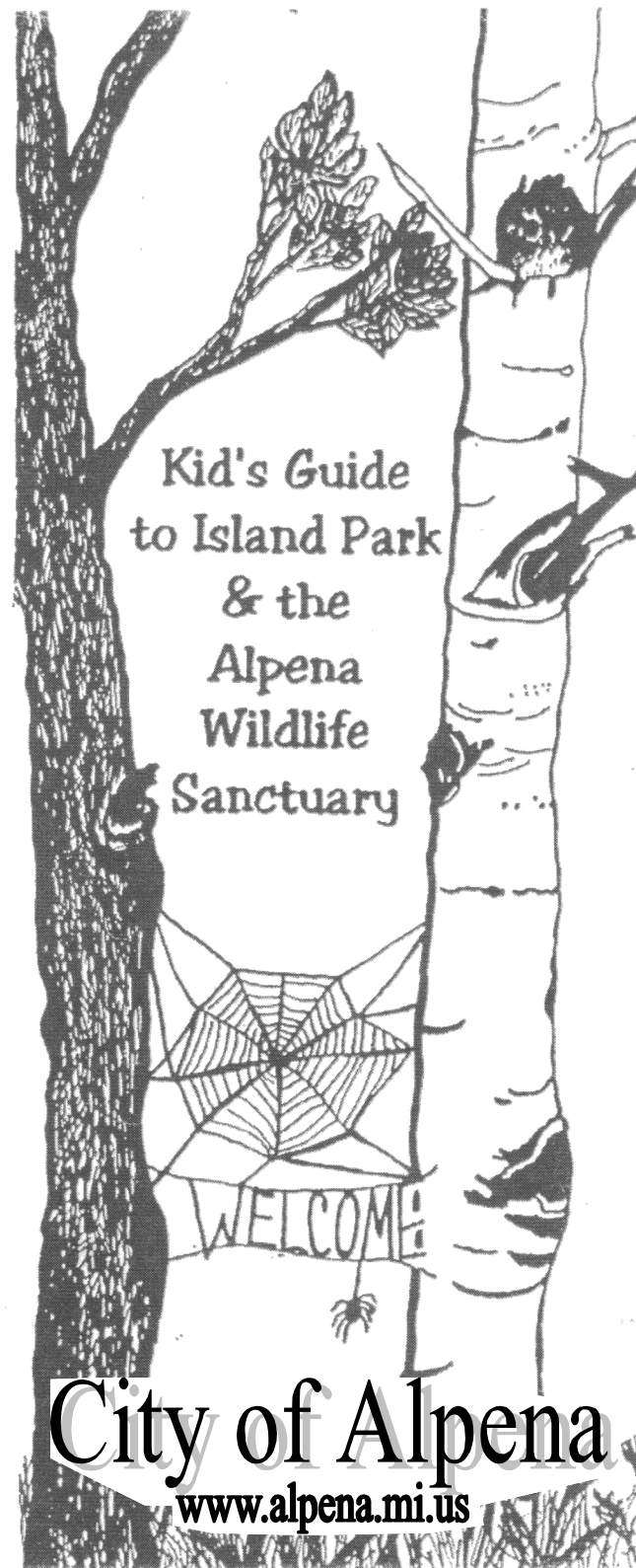
3) Look at the map & find the compass rose. Use it to determine the direction (north, south, east, west, southwest, northeast, etc.) of: Blackbird Marsh, the bridge, and the Turtle Bar (named after the snapping turtles that use this sandy area to lay their eggs in early June.)



4) Go to an area where you can view the water. In which direction is the current flowing? Draw arrows to show which way the current flows as you walk around the island.



City of Alpena
Wildlife Sanctuary Board
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Island Park Nature Watch Bingo When you see or hear something in the boxes, you can "x" that box. Find four in a row, and you win!

A wildflower:



What does it smell like?

A litter critter: Look under leaves for bugs, slugs, & worms.



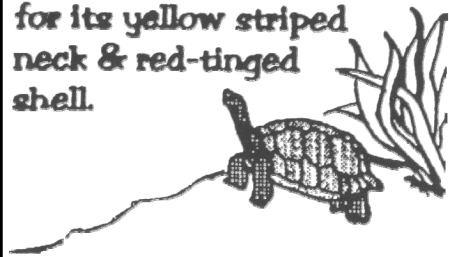
Snails: Can you find at least 3 kinds?



Waterfowl: A Canada Goose, duck, or Mute Swan.



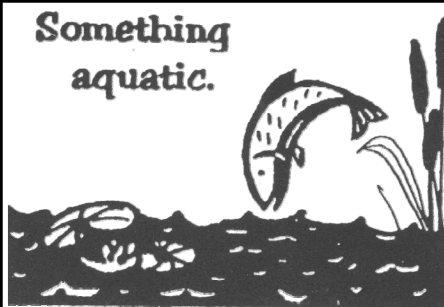
A painted turtle: Look for its yellow striped neck & red-tinged shell.



Animal signs: A feather, tracks, or droppings.



Something aquatic.



A nectar collector: A butterfly, moth, or bee.



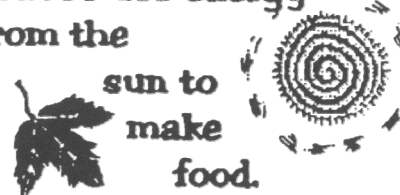
A seed: an acorn, pine cone, thistle-down, or pod.



A minibeast: For each one of us, there are 200 million bugs!



A sun catcher: Leaves use energy from the sun to make food.



Listen! Can you hear at least 3 different natural sounds?



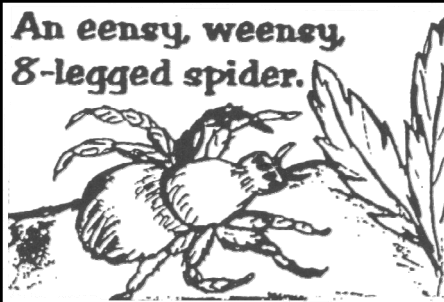
Find something that doesn't belong on Island Park.



An animal home: In a tree, the ground, or under a stump or stone.



An eensy, weensy, 8-legged spider.



Find 2 different habitats: A meadow, Jack pine forest, sand dune, marsh, or cedar swamp.

