

Huron River Water Trail Trip Description

Portage Lake (Mile 69.3) – Flat water option, not on Water Trail

Launch at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources launch on McGregor Road. Paddle around (Big) Portage Lake with the option to enter Little Portage Lake.

TRIP DESCRIPTION:

This pear shaped lake is the last in a chain of lakes on the Huron River and is located in both Washtenaw and Livingston counties. Though Portage Lake is not included as part of the Huron River Water Trail route, it does provide a flat-water paddling experience. Public access to the lake is available at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources ramp located on McGregor Road just north of Dexter Pinckney Road.

During weekends in the summer months, the parking lot fills very early in the day. There are approximately 21 parking spaces available. When the parking is full, the ramp generally becomes gated to bar additional entry.

This hard surface launch is geared more towards motor-boats, but you can launch a canoe here. The public access ramp is located on a short channel with a moderate current. Strong paddling may be required to clear the channel (about 100 feet) into the lake.



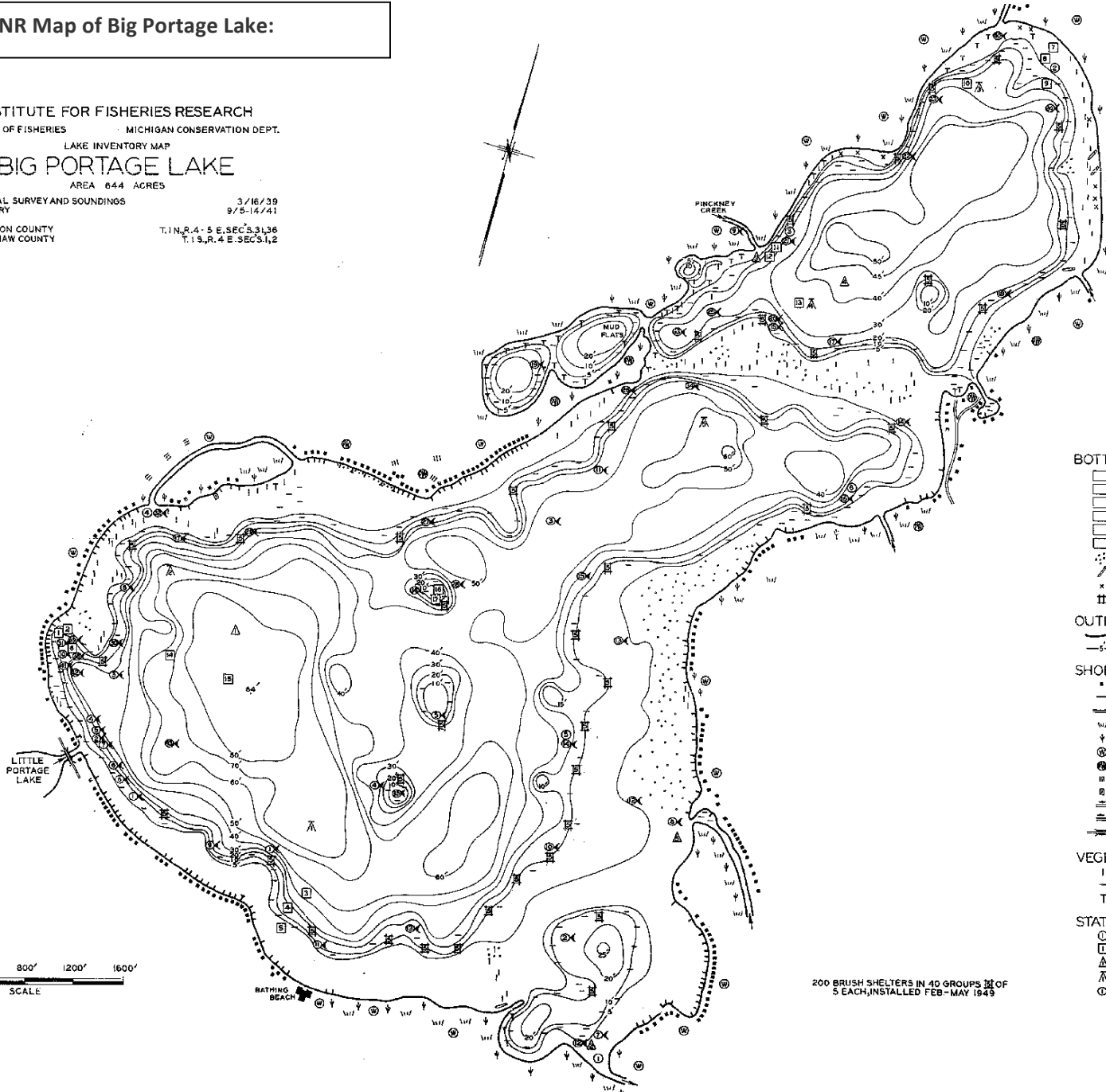
MDNR Launch at Portage Lake. Photo credit: sailmichigan.org

While paddling on the lake, be aware of motorized boats and sailboats. Also, paddling may be difficult when brisk winds sweep across the lake. You can paddle along the western shore to seek inlet to Little Portage Lake, by crossing under Dexter-Pinckney Road.

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MDNR Map of Big Portage Lake:

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH
 DIVISION OF FISHERIES MICHIGAN CONSERVATION DEPT.
 LAKE INVENTORY MAP
BIG PORTAGE LAKE
 AREA 644 ACRES
 MARGINAL SURVEY AND SOUNDINGS 3/16/39
 INVENTORY 9/5-14/41
 LIVINGSTON COUNTY T.1N.,R.4 S.5 E.,SEC.5,3,1,36
 WASHTENAW COUNTY T.1S.,R.4 E.,SEC.5,1,2



LEGEND

BOTTOM

- Sand
- ▤ Marl
- ▥ Pulpy peat
- ▧ Fibrous peat
- ▨ Muck
- ▩ Muck and Clay
- ⋯ Gravel
- ⋈ Deadhead
- × Trash
- ⊥ Brush shelter

OUTLINE & CONTOURS

- Shoreline
- - - Contours

SHORE FEATURES

- Cottage
- ⊥ Dock
- Road
- W Marsh
- ∨ Brush
- ⊕ Wooded
- ⊙ Partly wooded
- ▨ Slope
- ⊕ Bathhouse
- ≡ Inlet
- ≡ Outlet
- ≡ Bridge

VEGETATION

- | Emergent
- Submergent
- T Floating

STATIONS

- Vegetation
- Bottom sample
- △ Temp. chem. analysis
- ⊥ Plankton sample
- ⊗ Fish sample

200 BRUSH SHELTERS IN 40 GROUPS OF 5 EACH, INSTALLED FEB-MAY 1949