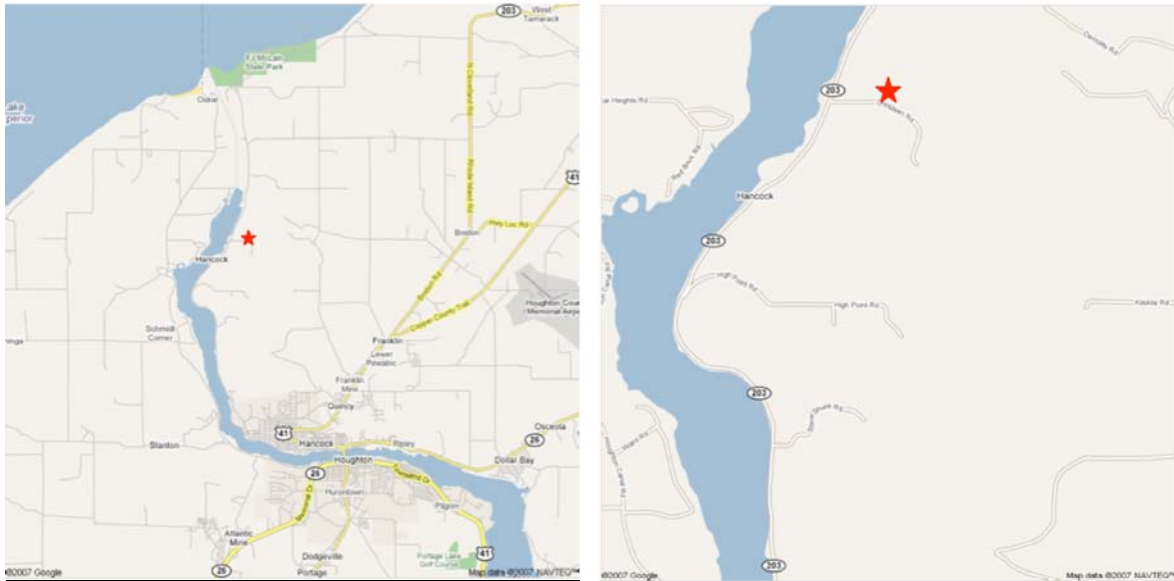


# Churning Rapids Trails

## Getting There

The trails at Churning Rapids Trails can be accessed from Hwy M203 about 4 miles north of Hancock, or 4 miles south of McLain State Park, with parking available along Christensen Road. The Maki Trail may be accessed from the 90-degree bend near the end of High Point Road off M203 about 3 miles north of Hancock. The trails can also be accessed from the Maasto Hiihto trails in Hancock with signed trail heads near the Houghton County Arena (top of Birch Street) or near the Hancock City Garages on Tomasi Drive. More information and trail maps are available at <http://www.keweenawtrails.com/trails/churning.html>.



## Trail Description

**Description:** Miles of single and two-track trails at Churning Rapids are open to the non-motorized public year round with several groomed for cross-country skiing (striding only) in winter. Snowshoeing, mountain biking, trail running and hiking are also popular. The scenery on these trails is exceptionally varied with vistas of Portage Lake, Ruby Marsh, mature forests and pleasant meadows. Several bridge crossing traverse streams and wetlands.

**Terrain:** Highly variable with steep, narrow-bottomed ravines and gently rolling meadows.

**Distance:** An extensive looped trail system with trail maps posted at intersections and trailheads.

**Size:** The Churning Rapids trails wind through the John Christensen wildlife preserve covering about 900 acres with 770 acres permanently protected as working forest and recreational land by a conservation easement held by the Keweenaw Land Trust.

**Features:** This large tract of undeveloped land offers exceptional scenery and a diversity of wildlife habitat. A 15-foot high observation tower provides views of Lake Superior and a scenic meadow trail leads to a beaver pond.

**Ownership:** Private land with 770 acres under conservation easement held by Keweenaw Land Trust. Enjoy the trails of Churning Rapids in all seasons for low-impact, non-motorized activities – and please respect this private property by following trail signs.

**Trail Contact:** (906) 482-0820

## Churning Rapids Description

This large tract of undeveloped land consists of a unique mosaic of mixed hardwood, aspen,

spruce-fir, and lowland swamp forests interspersed with open fields, successional edge areas, and wetlands, over a rolling topography traversed by Spring and Finney Creeks, along with unnamed seasonal tributaries. The mature forests in the northern portion contain diverse native species including an uncommon number of large diameter red oak and small stands of old growth hemlock. Ruby Marsh dominates the southern portion of the property, traversed by a 400-foot boardwalk. This area provides significant wildlife habitat for a diversity of plants and animals, including large roaming mammals.