



**M-119 Tunnel of Trees
Heritage Route Committee
&
Pure Michigan Byways**



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The Tunnel of Trees**

tunnel of trees

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Welcome to the Tunnel of Trees Fan Page! This iconic 27.5 mile stretch of road runs from Petoskey to Cross Village. We highlight local attractions, support nearby businesses, and share the best of this scenic drive's year-round beauty!

Tunnel of Trees, M119

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4.2 ★★★★★ (387)



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4.6 ★★★★★ (182)



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divingotter536

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1. Cross Village

The first town worth exploring along the Tunnel of Trees is Cross Village. It has a Heritage Museum in its old town hall, and features a giant white cross on a bluff overlooking the lake. The story of the cross has its roots back in the seventeenth century, when Jesuit missionary Jacques Marquette supposedly planted a white cross on the bluff before he died.

2. Legs Inn - **Cross Village**

The first thing you'll notice when you arrive at the Legs Inn is the incredible, rustic stone architecture... and things only get cooler from there. The inside is just as kitschy and lodge-like, and they serve up a wild menu of very authentic Polish cuisine (think pierogis, smoked whitefish, and stuffed cabbage.) Enjoy it all with a Polish beer or some Polish vodka, and, if you're there on the right evening, some live music. They also have cottages for rent if you want to make a whole night of it.

3. Three Pines Studio and Gallery – **Cross Village**

Another spot to pull off and stretch your legs is Three Pines Studio and Gallery. Hosting a huge variety of local crafts and art, you can admire the wares and purchase anything that strikes your fancy. You'll find anything from fiber arts pieces and jewelry to woodworked art, blown glass, and paintings here.

4. Good Hart

Stop in the tiny hamlet of Good Hart. Seriously, it's tiny. The downtown only has three businesses. The Good Hart General Store is one of the most iconic stops along the Tunnel of Trees. It's totally authentic. The store has been a central gathering spot for the people of Good Hart since the 1930s. It's the town's grocery, bakery, deli, real estate office, and post office. Stop in for snacks, one of their famous pot pies, souvenirs, or just a photo op with the red building.

5. Middle Village Park – **Harbor Springs**

Also along the route, you might want to take a quick dip in the lake at Middle Village Park's beach. The trail behind the Middle Village church features an observation deck and easy access to the quiet little public swim spot.

6. Harbor Springs

Harbor Springs has been a resort destination for decades, so it's a great place to visit on your journey. Located on Lake Michigan's Little Traverse Bay, Harbor Springs offers scenic beauty, stargazing, quaint historic sites, and, of course, one end of the Tunnel of Trees.

7. Pond Hill Farm – **Harbor Springs**

Pond Hill Farm is one of the main attractions along the M-119, and it's not hard to see why: There's something for everyone here. Kids will love exploring the working farm, petting the animals, and enjoying a sundae from the ice cream parlor, and adults will want to unwind with a wine tasting or nice sit-down meal at the Garden Cafe before picking up some farm-fresh fruits and veggies, locally made goods, and more.

8. Balsam and Cedar Trails – **Harbor Springs**

Thorne Swift Nature preserve is tiny, but that doesn't mean it isn't worth exploring. Take the short Balsam and Cedar Trails, and explore the dunes, swamplands, and ponds in addition to the stretch of beach and lake just off the Tunnel of Trees.

9. Petoskey Area

Petoskey is a rare gem. The town, famed for its Victorian architecture, has more than 500 historic places on the National Historic Register, as well as Petoskey's Historic Gaslight District and a postcard-worthy downtown. A visit here is almost like stepping back in time! Plus, Petoskey is the best place to find a Petoskey stone, which is the official state stone of Michigan. Petoskey stones are actually made of fossilized coral that was abundant in the area before the Ice Age. Glaciers rubbed these coral fossils into smooth stones, which are most easily recognized by the six-sided pattern that crisscrosses the surface.

10. Magnus Municipal Park – **Petoskey**

Petoskey's Magnus Park is one of the best places to go hunting for those Petoskey stones. It's right on the shore, and also has a nice campsite as well.

11. Bear River Valley Recreation Area – Petoskey

If all of the natural beauty along the M-119 has you eager to get exploring, then you'll definitely want to visit the Bear River Valley Recreation Area. It's home to one of the best whitewater courses in the Midwest, and is perfect for an epic excursion into the wilderness. The Northern Michigan Paddling Club frequently hosts classes and events, so if you don't have the gear or experience needed to hit the water, check out the club and see what they have going on.

12. Lake Michigan Water Trail Northwest – Petoskey

For those who do have gear and want even more boating fun, the Lake Michigan Water Trail Northwest covers nearly 300 miles, and passes along the Tunnel of Trees region as it follows the entire Northwest Michigan coast.

13. Odawa Casino – Petoskey

On a hilltop above Petoskey, you'll find plenty of modern-day excitement at the Odawa Casino Resort. It's got games, luxurious accommodations, several different dining options, and a schedule full of performances and shows.

14. Horton Bay General Store – Boyne City

Did you know Ernest Hemingway spent almost every summer of his childhood in northern Michigan?? His family vacationed near Petoskey every year, and many of the spots he frequented as a young man are still open. Horton Bay General Store is one such Hemingway Haunt; opened in the mid-nineteenth century, the general store has remained a community hub of Horton Bay for decades. Hemingway mentioned the store in his short story "Up in Michigan" and used it as inspiration for Mr. Packard's store in "The Last Good Country." Pop in for a malted at the soda fountain or grab a beer in the garden patio after you check out the Hemingway memorabilia!

15. Tunnel of Trees

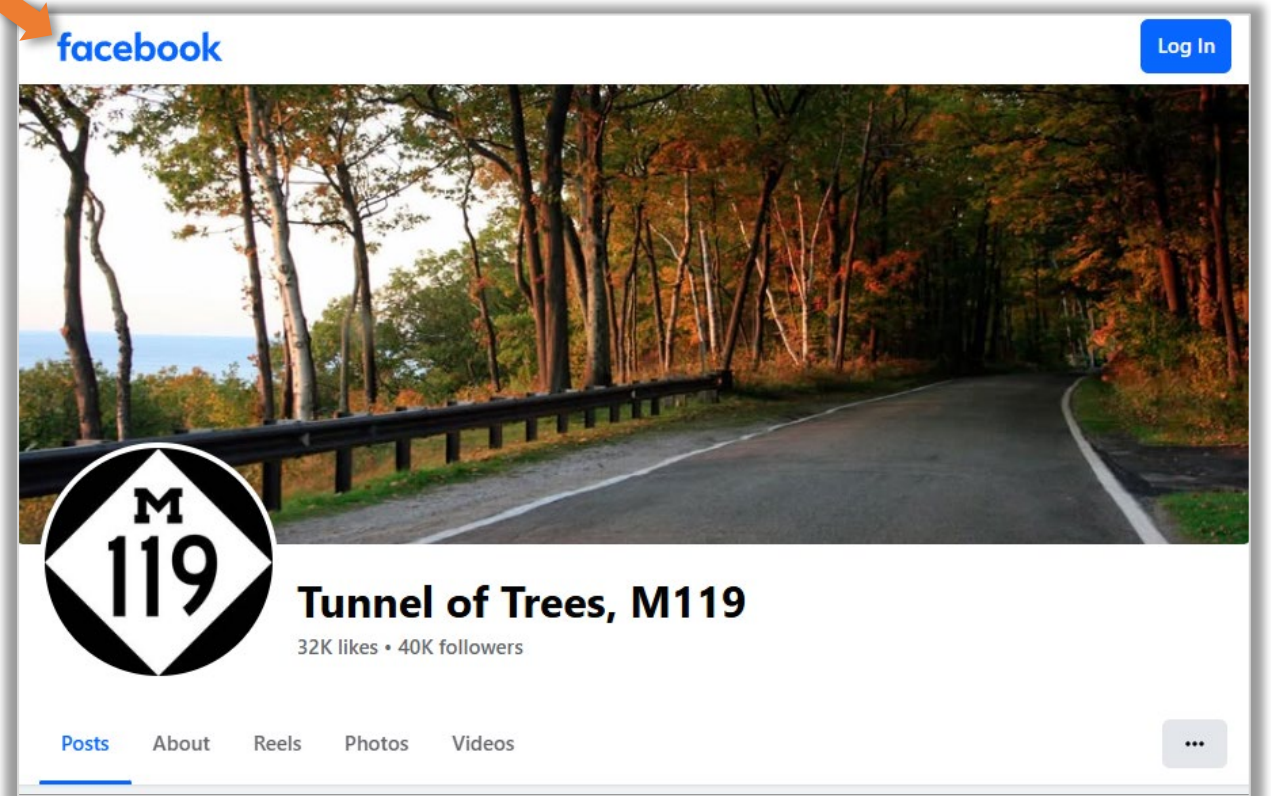
The Tunnel of Trees makes for a stunning scenic drive, but it's also worth cruising on a bike. The route is only about 30 or so miles, and experiencing the sounds of nature and the rush of the breeze as you peddle along really adds to the experience of the trip.

16. Hiking Trails

There are also some great hikes along the route as well: the North Western State Trail, which features seven miles of paved trail and another 20 or so of unpaved path, is worth checking out. Like the developed part from Spring Lake Park, just off the M-119, to Alanson or keep going down the trail from Alanson until you reach Mackinaw City.

15. Tunnel of Trees

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4.2 ★★★★★ (387)



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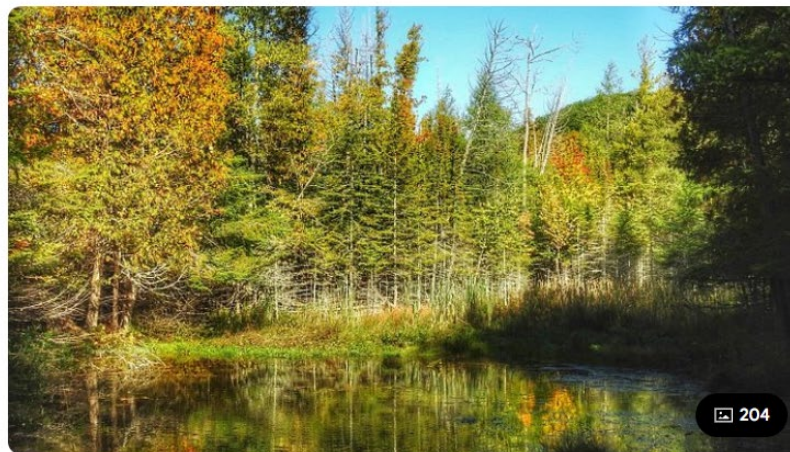
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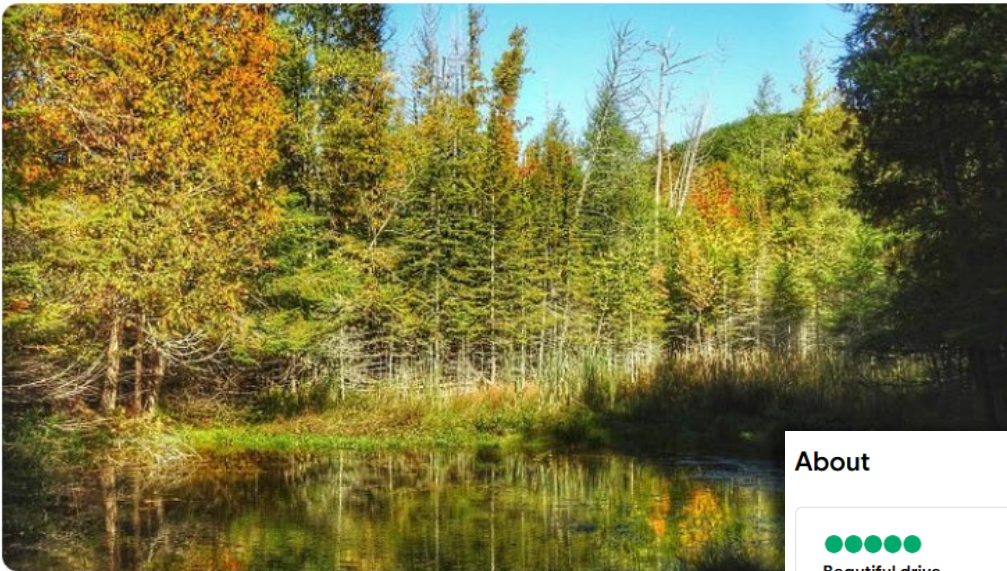
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4.2 ●●●●○ (387 reviews) #2 of 17 things to do in Harbor Springs



About



Oct 2024

Beautiful drive

Mid-October would be a perfect time to enjoy the foliage.

[Read more](#)



Oct 2024

Beautiful

Quirky twisted **narrow road** with fabulous tree canopy!



By BrianandFaithFalkowski

[Read more](#)

Hours



Open now

Tuesday

12:00 AM - 11:59 PM



mittens2018

Jackson, MI • 8 contributions

👍 0 ...



The Tunnel of Trees Isn't

Oct 2023 • Solo

It's not a "tunnel" of trees, it's a twist 1 and a half lane road with WAY too much traffic during tour. It's a great road to take on a motorcycle when it's not October and is no more than a parking lot jam packed with tourists.

Written May 27, 2024

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norm m

20 contributions



Beautiful Drive

Oct 2023 • Friends

Very serene and peaceful! Not something you won't be disappointed.

Written November 16, 2023

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BrianandFaithFalkowski

Spring Lake, MI • 47 contributions

👍 0 ...



Beautiful

Oct 2024 • Couples

Quirky twisted narrow road with fabulous tree canopy! We enjoyed it very much! Views of Lake Michigan at times. Be careful of the deer crossing! We saw several. Would highly recommend the drive!



Teaveling

San Diego, CA • 399 contributions

👍 0 ...



That's a lotta trees

Sep 2024 • Family

I wished to avoid lots of cars so we went south on the tunnel of trees after an early dinner at Legs Inn. It was dusk when we were done. However almost no traffic at all. **More residences than I imagined which must be a bummer for them to have cars in front of their houses all season(s).** Anyway beautiful trees saw several deer and one jumped across the road in front of our car. The roads out to M119 from US31 were just as beautiful I have to say. The whole area is beautiful. Well worth the drive.

Written October 8, 2024

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Guide to Michigan's Iconic Tunnel of Trees on M-119

by Marty Hair | May 3, 2017




Photo by Connor Gray

Guide to M-119 Tunnel of Trees, a premiere Michigan attraction, including Northern Michigan restaurants, shopping, lodging from Petoskey to Harbor Springs.

Northern Michigan's Tunnel of Trees on M-119 is one of the state's most iconic attractions. The scenic road winds from Harbor Springs, north of Petoskey, to Cross Village, and takes about an hour without stops (see [facebook](#)).


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Gorgeous golf course views

Open concept main floor layout

Gas fireplace

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Tunnel of Trees, M119

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M-119 Tunnel of Trees Scenic Heritage Route

Learn

The Tunnel of Trees Scenic Heritage Route continues to work to ensure the residents of Emmet County the character of the region and will be managed in a manner that protects the "Tunnel of Trees."

Resources

Please see the 2025 Pure Michigan Byways Spring Coordinators Call Presentation below:

- [Pure Michigan Byways Spring Coordinators Call 2025](#)

Please see the 2024 Pure Michigan Byways Workshop Presentations below:

- [Managing the Byway PMB Workshop 2024](#)
- [NSBF Grant Applications PMB Workshop 2024](#)
- [Marketing the Byway PMB Workshop 2024](#)

[View All Resources](#)

[2022 Tree Health Assessment](#)

[M-119 Management Plan Brochure](#)

[M-119 Management Plan Guidebook](#)

[Management Plan \(2018 Update\)](#)

[Management Plan \(2022 Update\)](#)

[Share the Road Bike Brochure Etiquette](#)

Map of the M-119 Tunnel of Trees

The M-119 Tunnel of Trees Scenic Heritage Route runs along the northwestern coast of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, north of Harbor Springs and south of Cross Village.





Pure Michigan Byways



Pure Michigan Byways offer a rich taste of all the grandeur and diversity the Great Lakes State has to offer. Outstanding natural beauty and many sites of historical, scenic, recreational and cultural significance have earned Michigan its place at the top of the list of travel destinations. Whether you're an outdoor enthusiast, a history buff or merely enjoy a relaxing drive in the country, Pure Michigan Byways will take you there. So, take the road less traveled and discover the wonders of Michigan's Byways.

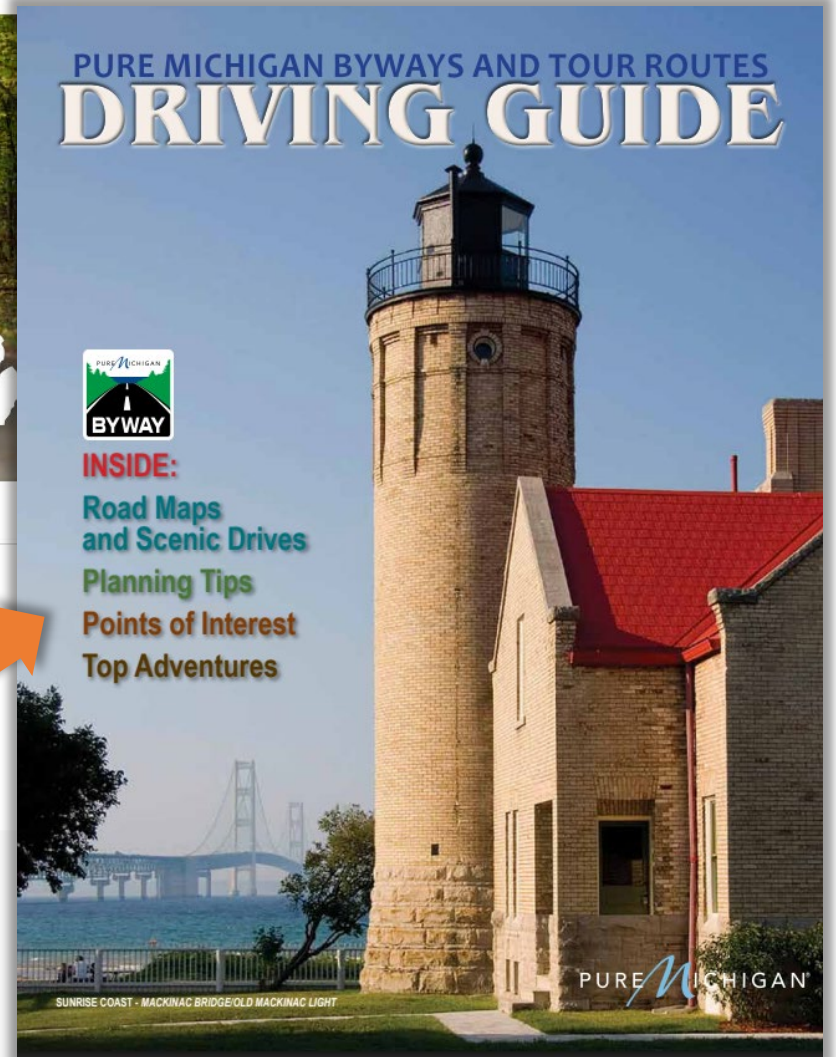
Learn more about it [MDOT's Byways Program](#)



Pure Michigan Byways and Tour Routes Driving Guide

Michigan's wonders are easily accessible from the collection of 22 state and National Byways and Tour Routes. Each byway description in the driving guide highlights scenic, natural, historical, cultural, and archaeological attractions along the route. Maps and information regarding availability of services, time needed to drive and enjoy each byway and tour route, and best times of year to travel are included. The routes are categorized by their designations. Hard copies can be obtained at your nearest [MDOT welcome center](#).

[View the Driving Guide](#)



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TOP ADVENTURES LEGEND

Look for these symbols in each byway's planning tips.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Natural Beauty | Bicycling |
| Hiking, Trekking and Mountain Climbing | Boating, Canoeing, Kayaking and Rafting |
| National and State Parks and Recreation Areas | Camping |
| Sand Dunes or Mountains | Fishing |
| Island Experiences | Winter Sports |
| Lakes, Rivers and Waterfalls | Family Fun |
| Beaches | Wine and Cuisine |
| Indian Country | Theatre, Arts, Culture and Heritage |
| Wildlife and Bird Watching | Sports, Festivals and Events |
| Photography | Museums and Galleries |
| | Breweries |



NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

Designated by the United States Secretary of the Interior, National Historic Landmarks possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting America's heritage. These landmarks are shown in **Green** throughout this guide.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

This National Register is an official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation. The program coordinates and supports public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources. These places are shown in **Blue** throughout this guide.

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The Michigan State Police Office of Highway Safety Planning would like to remind you that, while enjoying Pure Michigan's Byways and tour routes, always buckle up and have a safe, sober driver.

ABOUT THIS TOUR GUIDE

The byways are broken down into four tiers: the All-American Road, the National Scenic Byway, the state's Pure Michigan Byway and the National Forest Service's own Scenic Byway program. To learn more, please refer to the Byway Designations on page 68.



This centuries-old
its can

Native people (Odawa) life trails created foot and followed the wind looking Lake Michigan Springs and Cross Village called Waganakising, is bent." When the Fr arrived, they gave it to Croche because of a that stood on the cre was visible for many used as a landmark t by canoe on Lake M American camps we all along the Lake M at various points, in Springs, Seven Mile Village (Good Hart),

Following the voyag missionaries, logge grantees came to t immense virgin har lost to logging and decline of that ind rail and passenger tourists to this are 1880s. In 1936, Mrs via her statewide r initiated a grassro and preserve the f eral hundred peop protecting the co to other plans bei would have modl commodate grow successfully petit

Middle Village to Good Hart

East of the byway are two conservancy nature preserves. The 685-acre **Goodhart Farms Nature Preserve** on Robinson Road is a mix of meadows, hay fields, and a maple, beech, and ash forest with old orchards and pine plantations, and rolling scenic fields that offer views of Lake Michigan. There are 6.5 miles of marked trails with 3.5 miles groomed in winter that are ideal for hiking, horseback riding, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. The 220-acre **Elmer Johnson Nature Preserve** on Church Road is a mix of meadowlands and rolling hardwood forest dominated by beech, sugar maple, and red oak. There are 2 miles of trails with hilltops that offer magnificent views of Lake Michigan and Beaver Island.

The area now known as Good Hart was also called **Middle Village** after its location halfway between Harbor Springs and Cross Village. This area is also home to the first Jesuit mission, set in 1741. **St. Ignatius Church** was later built in the same vicinity as the mission in 1833 and is located west of the byway on Lamkin Road. The present building was built in 1889 with the tall steeple. There is a pathway that leads to the **Middle Village Beach**, a popular spot for swimming in Lake Michigan. The **Good Hart General Store**, built in 1934, was a general grocery, butchery, and gas station and is still in operation as a general store that hosts the post office. It has many of the original features still intact.

About 4 miles north of Good Hart is the **Area of the Old Council Tree**, which was in close proximity to the byway. In this area, beneath a large tree, tribal chiefs of the Menominee, Ojibwe (Chippewa), and Odawa held many councils in the late 1700s. The tree was also used as a navigational tool during seasonal migrations.

Good Hart to Cross Village

Stop by the conservancy's 62-acre **Woolam Family Nature Preserve** that has Lake Michigan frontage with mature beech-maple hardwoods near the byway to mixed upland conifers near the water. The half-mile trail takes you through the hilly woods to the Lake Michigan shoreline.

The byway ends at Cross Village, which sits high on a bluff overlooking Lake Michigan. The first known settlers of Cross Village were members of the Odawa Tribe, who picked the area near Cross Village because of its suitable terrain to grow corn. They established a small village in the late seventeenth century and called the settlement Waganakisi. The first Europeans to arrive in Cross Village were French Jesuit missionaries, who set up a mission in the early eighteenth century and likely placed a white cross on the bluff, as was their custom. Later, Cross Village was known for its lumber and commercial fishing.

The Conservancy's 0.4-acre **Shurtleff Preserve** is located on the bluff between the byway and Lower Shore Drive and provides magnificent views of Lake Michigan. Visit the **L'Arbre Croche Museum**, which features information beginning with the Odawa through present day. There are separate rooms dedicated to the Native Americans and the lumber industry with artifacts and displays showcasing the rich history of the village over the past several

TUNNEL OF TREES

hundred years. There is also a research room containing many books on the village. **Legs Inn** restaurant was built in 1921 and was named for the stove legs that adorn the roofline of the unusual and artistic structure. This Michigan Historical Site sits on the bluff overlooking Lake Michigan and is known for its unique atmosphere and authentic Polish cuisine. The 9-acre **Port of Cross Village Park** on Lake Michigan provides beach access, a boat launch and picnic tables.



8

PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: The route begins in Harbor Springs and follows northern Emmet County's Lake Michigan shore, traveling through the village of Good Hart and ending at Cross Village.

GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: Food establishments are available in Harbor Springs, Good Hart, and Cross Village. Cottage, cabin rentals, resorts, hotels, motels, and B&B lodging are available in the Harbor Springs and Petoskey areas.

BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: Sunrise Coast, US-2 Top of the Lake Scenic Byway, North Huron Recreational Trail

LOCAL RESOURCES

M-119 Tunnel of Trees

www.m119tunneloftrees.org/

Harbor Springs Chamber of Commerce

www.harvorspringchamber.com

Emmett County

www.emmettcounty.org

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| DRIVING DISTANCE | 20.5 MILES |
| DRIVE TIME | 1 HOUR |
| PLAN TO SPEND | 3-5 DAYS |
| BEST SEASONS | YEAR-ROUND |
| TOP ADVENTURES | |

M-119 Tunnel of Trees Scenic Heritage Route

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Photo © Paul Horgan Photograph

preserving and enhancing the scenic, natural, and cultural integrity of the M-119 corridor

Preserve



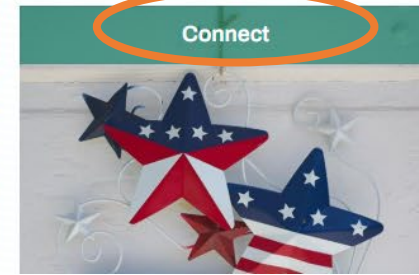
Protect



Learn



Connect



Preserve

Mrs. C. F. (Alice) Irwin, an early preservationist and naturalist living in Harbor Springs was able, via her state-wide newspaper column, to initiate a grass roots effort to protect and preserve the corridor.



The initiative to protect and preserve the M-119 corridor originated in 1936. Mrs. C. F. (Alice) Irwin, an early preservationist and naturalist living in Harbor Springs was able, via her state-wide newspaper column, to initiate a grass roots effort to protect and preserve the corridor. At that time several hundred people met to consider protecting the corridor as opposed to other plans being entertained that would have significantly modified the route to accommodate growing usage. Mrs. Irwin successfully petitioned the State legislature to protect and preserve the road in its natural state. Based on a desire to control soil erosion and preserve the natural beauty the preservationists carried the day. That movement continues to the present day.

In 1993, the Michigan Heritage Route Program was created by Public Act 69 of 1993, giving the State of Michigan the authority to designate heritage routes. Under the Heritage Route Program administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation, local communities have the opportunity to apply to have routes designated under one of three categories: scenic, recreation, or historic. Essentially, route designation enables local communities to preserve or market the corridor.

In June 2001, the M-119 Heritage Route Committee was formed to develop the M-119 Heritage Route Management Plan. The Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG) staff members worked with a dedicated group of representatives from Cross Village, Friendship, and Deadwood Townships and the Emmet County Lakeshore Association to develop the Management Plan. The



M-119 Tunnel of Trees Scenic Heritage Route

Preserve Protect Learn Connect

Protect

The Committee is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the scenic, cultural, natural, and historic characteristics of the M-119 Corridor

Goals of the M-119 Tunnel Of Trees Scenic Heritage Route Committee

The Committee is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the scenic, cultural, natural, and historic characteristics of the M-119 Corridor.

- Balancing growth and development with preservation and conservation

Future land use along the corridor will be influenced by a variety of factors: individual land owners' decisions, regulations, the state of the economy, land costs, and pressures resulting from changing demographics and recreational and travel patterns.

- Balancing roadside safety with aesthetics

Safety is of primary importance along the roadway. Preserving and protecting the natural, cultural, and scenic character of the corridor is an equally important goal.

- Maintaining steep slope integrity

Township residents along the corridor have expressed concern regarding shoreline development. The M-119 Management Plan supports efforts to minimize the disruption of steep slopes that could damage the integrity of the roadway and undermine the safety and character of the corridor.

- Preventing intrusions to scenic character



Messaging for Visitors to The Tunnel of Trees

Possible next steps:

Short Term

- Request Pure Michigan change links from Facebook fan page to MDOT feature.

Long Term

- Request funding from Pure Michigan Byways to work with a marketing consultant to help improve messaging.
 - **Visitors Guide** that promotes the beauty, history, and local points of interest, but also communicates how to visit the TOT safely and respectfully.
 - **Website content** organized by target audience. For example:
 - Plan Your Visit
 - Landowner Resources
 - Byway Committee

