

Why the name?- *The Upper Peninsula Hidden Coast Recreation Heritage Route*

After much thought and deliberation, the committee has decided to name the Heritage Route the U.P. Hidden Coast Recreation Heritage Route. This title has many meanings attached to it and can be interpreted in several different ways.



Natural vegetation obscures the view of Lake Michigan's bays throughout much of the U.P. Hidden Coast route. As US 2 traverses along the coast throughout the rest of the Upper Peninsula, the Lake is more visible. Along the U.P. Hidden Coast Route,

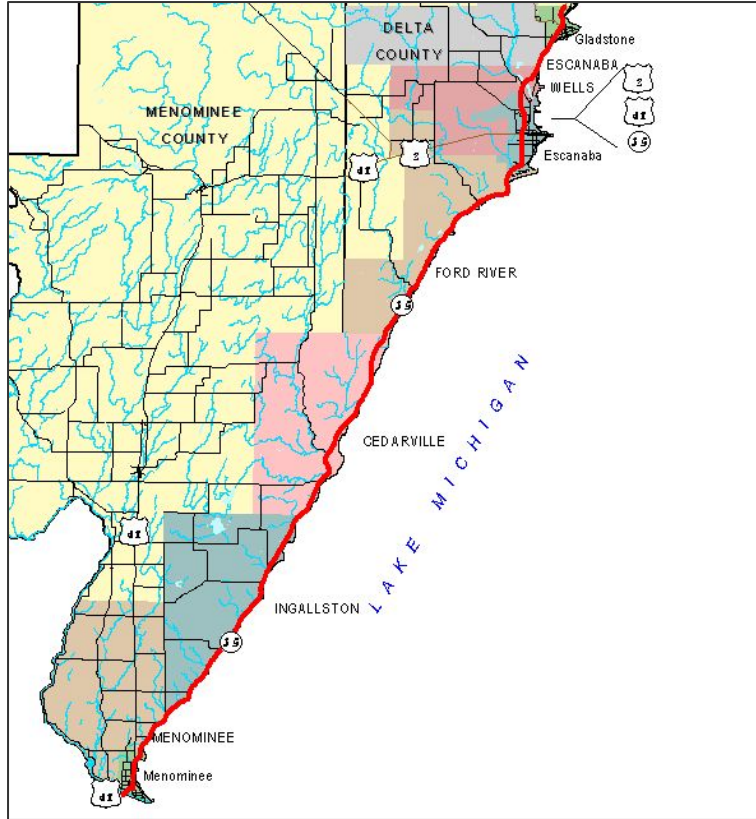


the best way to view the Lake is to exit the highway and pull into one of the several recreational areas identified in this management plan.

To many people the word "hidden" is intriguing, especially when traveling or planning a trip. It spurs the thought of adventure and excitement. It is believed that this word, coupled with "Upper Peninsula" and "recreation" will catch the eye of the planning traveler and in turn, convert that planning traveler into a U.P. Hidden Coast visitor.

## Description of Route

The U.P. Hidden Coast Recreation Route stretches sixty-four miles along the western shoreline of Lake Michigan in the central Upper Peninsula of Michigan. In its entirety, the route traverses in a south-north direction through Menominee and Delta counties. The two counties are home to Menominee, Escanaba and Gladstone cities, as well as Menominee, Ingallston, Cedarville, Ford River, Wells, and Escanaba townships. In all, the Heritage Route links nine jurisdictions, and several small communities, as it navigates between water and wilderness.



The southern beginning point of the Recreational Heritage Route is at the Michigan-Wisconsin border in the city of Menominee, the single largest entry point into the Upper Peninsula. It is at this location where the Menominee River, a river of historical significance from the fur-trading age to today's modern industry, divides the two states. The northern beginning point is the city of Gladstone's northern boundary; an area where, in the winter, visitors can witness thousands of fishing shacks nestled on the Little Bay de Noc.

In all, the U.P. Hidden Coast includes segments of three state trunklines: US 41, M-35, and US 2.

## *Nominating Committee*

For nearly a year, the U.P. Hidden Coast Recreation Route Nominating Committee has been meeting and working together in an effort to gain Recreational Heritage Route Designation for the U.P. Hidden Coast Route. This process includes preparing an application for the Michigan Department of Transportation's Heritage Program. A large component of the application is the management plan. The Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development (CUPPAD) Regional Commission has been solicited to help the committee in preparing the management plan and application for approval.

The Committee consists of a mix of dedicated citizens representing local communities, economic development, transportation and recreation, to name a few. This devoted group has spent countless hours inventorying the route, forming a vision of the future and educating the public about the Heritage Route Program. Once the U.P. Hidden Coast Recreation Route Nominating Committee becomes successful in obtaining Heritage Route Designation, the Committee will convert into the U.P. Hidden Coast Recreation Route Advisory Committee.

The following list is not inclusive or exclusive. Contributions have been received from many individuals and agencies throughout this process.

City of Menominee	Township of Ford River
City of Escanaba	Menominee Business Development
City of Gladstone	Menominee County Historical Society
Township of Menominee	Delta County Historical Society
Township of Ingallston	Westshore Fishing Museum
Township of Cedarville	J.W. Wells State Park
Township of Wells	Bays de Noc Convention & Visitors Bureau
Township of Escanaba	Michigan Department of Transportation
CUPPAD Regional Commission	

## *The Role of the Advisor*

Perhaps this is an opportune time to discuss the term “advisory”. It is critical that local units of government understand and are comfortable with the role that the *U.P. Hidden Coast Advisory Committee*, as well as this *U.P. Hidden Coast Recreational Heritage Route Management Plan* will play when official designation is achieved.

The advisory committee is a non-regulatory committee. Strictly advisory, the committee can only provide input and recommendations to local units of government. Throughout the process of creating a management plan, participants have become aware of the importance of long-term planning and thorough decision-making. They know that following such practices can benefit local communities in countless ways. Therefore, it is highly encouraged that local units of government seek input and participation from the U.P. Hidden Coast Advisory Committee as planning and decision-making events occur along the U.P. Hidden Coast Route.

This management plan serves as the Advisory Committee’s mechanism to achieve their U.P. Hidden Coast Recreation Route goals. Similar to the format of other planning documents, this Heritage Route Management Plan is a guide to assist local units of government and the advisory committee in preserving, maintaining and enhancing the recreational and natural aesthetics of the route, while addressing safety concerns as well as, marketing and promotional ideas.

Although through regulation, local units of government can achieve safer communities, improve aesthetic appearance and create a higher quality of life, little if any regulatory measures are addressed in this plan. This decision, made by the Advisory Committee, accentuates the truth that they and the management plan are non-regulatory.