

- Camping is prohibited. There are no facilities for overnight camping on the Institute's property.
- Public campfires are only allowed with staff permission in the designated fire pit next to Prairie View.
- Recreational swimming and wading are prohibited.
- Picnic tables are available for public use outside Prairie View. Visitors may also picnic along the trails on the benches provided but are asked to properly dispose of their trash.
- Visitors must obey all local, state, and federal conservation laws.

Respect Wildlife

- Leave what you find and allow others an opportunity of discovery. The removal or disturbance of any plant, animal, or mineral is prohibited.
- No hunting except with written permission.
- No fishing, trapping, or plant collecting, except for authorized research purposes. Many of the animals that make their homes on the institute's property are rare or vanishing. Never feed wildlife. Keep our wildlife wild to ensure their survival!
- Do not release wildlife or domesticated animals on the property. Doing so may introduce disease to the property and may otherwise alter and negatively affect the balance of the ecosystem.

HOURS OF OPERATION:
TRAILS: DAILY FROM DAWN TO DUSK

VISITOR CENTER:
MONDAY – FRIDAY 9 AM – 5 PM
SATURDAY – SUNDAY 11 AM – 5 PM

Pierce Cedar Creek Institute
for ecological education

Call 269.721.4190

or visit

www.cedarcreekinstitute.org

701 W. Cloverdale Road, Hastings,
Michigan 49058 (located West
of M-37 and East of M-43)



Public Use & Safety Guidelines

The mission of Pierce Cedar Creek Institute is to protect and enhance our quality of life through ecological education, research, and stewardship of the natural world.

Public Use & Safety Guidelines

Safety Hazards

Poisonous plants on the property include: poison ivy, poison sumac, and stinging nettle. Stop by the Visitor Center for more information.

Potentially hazardous animals and insects on the property include: bees, wasps, ticks, and rattlesnakes.

The Institute is a preferred habitat for the growing population of massasauga rattlesnakes, Michigan's only venomous snake species. To avoid the likelihood of a snakebite, it is best to treat snakes with respect and observe from a safe distance. Any bite from a massasauga should receive prompt medical attention. Bites from massasaugas are rarely life threatening, and a full recovery is the common outcome.

Safety Suggestions

- Wear close-toed shoes (preferably hiking boots) and long pants.
- Avoid reaching into dense vegetation or underneath logs or rocks.
- Take care not to stumble upon sticks, rocks, and exposed roots on the trails.
- During summer months, hikers should carry and drink water to be adequately hydrated.

Rules & Regulations for Trail Use

Keep all pets on a leash. Dogs must be controlled in order to limit negative impacts on the environment and other visitors.

Clean up all pet waste on trails. In addition to being unappealing, animal waste left on trails increases the nitrogen in the soil around the trail, giving the advantage to weeds over the native plants that evolved in nitrogen-poor soils.

Respect the rights of adjacent property owners. Please do not trespass on property not owned by the Institute and keep noise levels down to a reasonable level.

No littering and/or dumping. Trash is unsightly and ruins others' outdoor experience. Studies have shown that trash discarded in the woods and prairies attracts scavenging birds and mammals that drive away or kill native birds. Let us all enrich everyone's outdoor experience and carry out our trash.

Do not interfere with research projects and equipment. The Institute serves as a research site for numerous university and professional research projects. The individuals working on these projects invest much time and effort into performing sound, accurate, and scientific research. Please make every effort not to interfere with their work.

Bikes, ATVs, and horseback riding are prohibited. This will help to limit erosion and costly trail maintenance and to reduce conflicts between trail users. Strollers and wagons are permitted to assist small children on the trails.

Use good judgment when hiking off the trails. Help us protect wildlife by limiting the damage caused by trampling and erosion.

Other Rules and Regulations

- Personal vehicles are allowed only on authorized roads and parking areas.
- Personal watercraft are prohibited on Brewster Lake and Cedar Creek.
- Smoking is prohibited on the entire property and in all buildings.
- The consumption of alcoholic beverages and possession of illegal drugs is strictly prohibited.
- Possession and/or discharge of firearms, weapons, fireworks, and/or explosives are prohibited with the exception of bows and rifles used strictly for the deer management program.