



Wisconsin, naturally

ST. PETER'S DOME STATE NATURAL AREA

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Notable: On a clear day, hikers to the summit of St. Peter's Dome are rewarded with an expansive view of Lake Superior and the Apostle Islands, 16 miles to the north. The dome, the highest point on the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest, rises some 1,000 feet above the lake plain. Water flowing off the dome coalesces into several small creeks, one of which — Morgan Creek — follows a fracture in the Keweenaw granite and forms the scenic 70-foot Morgan Falls in a narrow gorge. Cool, shaded cliffs and large, moss-covered boulders provide habitat for a wide variety of ferns, including the delicate maidenhair fern. Cloaking the natural area is an unfragmented block of northern mesic forest dominated by sugar maple and basswood along with hemlock, yellow birch and white pine. Canada yew, a low-growing evergreen shrub decimated in most Wisconsin forests by deer over-browsing, is present here in stable populations. In spring, the forest floor is a rich tapestry of wildflowers, including wild ginger, spring beauty, blue cohosh, red baneberry and trillium. St. Peter's Dome is owned by the U.S. Forest Service and was designated a State Natural Area in 2007. This site is also recognized by the Forest Service as a Research Natural Area.

How to get there:

From the junction of Highways 13 and C just south of Marengo (Ashland County), go west on Highway C for 4.6 miles, then continue west on Wildcat Road for 1.2 miles. Next, go south on Ashland Bayfield Road for 3.8 miles to a parking area on the east side of the road. This is the trailhead for Morgan Falls (1.2 miles round trip; accessible to the disabled) and St. Peter's Dome (3.6 miles round trip). Visit dnr.wi.gov and search "St. Peter's Dome" for a map and more information.

