

Family Fun in Northern Michigan This Summer

Beaches, Splash Pads and Parks:

See a full list at <https://www.traversecity.com/outdoors/beaches/>
<https://cadillacmichigan.com/explore/parks-and-beaches/>

- **Blair Splash Pad and Park:** 2121 Co Road 633, Grawn
- **Bronson Memorial Park:** 205 S Bronson Ave, Kingsley
- **Bryant Park:** 1101 Peninsula Dr, Traverse City
- **Cadillac Sound Garden Park:** 398 Chestnut St, Cadillac
- **Clinch Park Beach and Splash Pad:** 111 E. Grandview Pkwy, Traverse City
- **The Plaza at Cadillac Commons:** 190 W. Cass St, Cadillac



Books:

- **Blue Vase Used Book Store:** 2048 J Maddy Pkwy, Interlochen
 - www.bluevasebooks.com
- **Cadillac Library:** (locations in Buckley, Cadillac, Manton, Mesick and Tustin)
 - Attend a library program this summer
 - <https://www.cadillaclibrary.org/childrens/cadillac-programs>
- **Horizon Books:** 243 E. Front St Traverse City, 115 S Mitchell St Cadillac
<https://horizonbooks.com/>
- **Interlochen Public Library:** 9411 10th St, Interlochen
<https://interlochenpubliclibrary.org/>
- **Traverse City Area District Library** (locations in , East Bay, Fife Lake, Kingsley, Old Mission Peninsula, Traverse City)
 - Check out their calendar for fun and free summer events!
 - <https://www.tadl.org/events/upcoming>
 - Register for Summer Reading Challenge
 - <https://www.tadl.org/summerreading>

Creative Classes:

- **Botanic Gardens**
 - Create fairy gardens, attend a story in the garden and more.
<https://thebotanicgarden.org/events/>

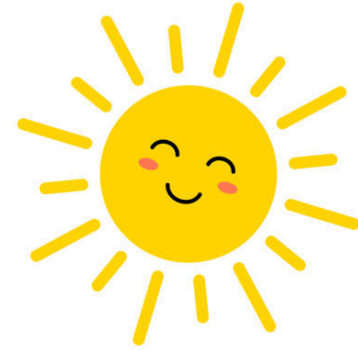
- **Clay Space TC**
 - Attend a monthly community clay or summer camp class.
<https://www.clayspacetc.com/>
- **Crooked Tree Arts Youth Classes**
 - Attend an art class for elementary aged students.
<https://www.crookedtree.org/classes/traverse-city/youth>
- **Handz On Art**
 - Decorate your own pottery keepsakes
<https://www.clayspacetc.com/>
- **Home Depot Kids Workshop**
 - Complete a free hands on project the first Saturday of every month 9-12pm
<https://www.homedepot.com/c/kids-workshop>
- **Lowes Kids Workshop**
 - Complete a free hands on project the third Saturday of each month 10-1pm
<https://www.lowes.com/diy-projects-and-ideas/workshops>
- **Michaels Kids Club**
 - Create a featured craft for free every Saturday 1-3pm
<https://www.michaels.com/events>
- **NMC College for Kids**
 - Explore fun weekly themed classes for students aged 4-17yrs old.
<https://nmc.augusoft.net/info/landing/youth-programs>
- **Surfaces**
 - Youth and family classes along with many art supplies for purchase.
<https://www.surfacesartsupplies.com/>



Entertainment/Fun Things to See

- **Adventure Island Family Fun Park**
 - Enjoy mini golf, go-karts, batting cages or the arcade.
<https://www.aicadillac.com/>
- **Boardman Nature Center, Traverse City**
 - Attend a camp, event or create your own visit.
<https://natureiscalling.org/boardman-river-nature-center>
- **Cherry Bowl Drive In, Honor**
 - Watch 2 movies Thursday-Sunday starting at dusk, Adults \$12, kids 5-11 \$5
<https://www.cherrybowldrivein.com/>
- **Cognition Science and Discovery Center, Beulah**
 - Discover hands-on activities and exhibits.
<https://www.discovercognition.org/>

- **Crystal Mountain, Thompsonville**
 - Check out activities such as the climbing wall, Alpine Slide, pools and more.
<https://www.crystallmountain.com/>
- **Dennos Museum, Traverse City**
 - Explore museum exhibits including a hands on kids area.
<https://www.dennosmuseum.org/>
- **ELEV8 Climbing Gym, Traverse City**
 - Test your climbing skills on large indoor rock climbing walls
<https://www.elev8climbing.com/>
- **GT Butterfly House and Bug Zoo, Williamsburg**
 - Learn about interesting bugs and critters, check out the butterfly garden
<https://www.gtbutterflyzoo.com/>
- **Great Lakes Children’s Museum: Curiosity Place, Traverse City**
 - Explore hands-on exhibits and activities.
<https://greatlakeskids.org/>
- **Incredible Mo’s: Kids Bowl Free, Traverse City**
 - Bowl for free (shoes not included) every day with Kids Bowl Free pass
https://www.kidsbowlfree.com/center.php?alley_id=6188
- **J.H. Rogers Observatory, Traverse City**
 - Explore the night sky from the observatory
<https://www.nmc.edu/resources/observatory/index.html>
- **Norte, Traverse City**
 - Join a family ride, sign up for a camp, see what else Norte has to offer
<https://www.norteyouthcycling.org/>
- **Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City**
 - Explore camps, programs and performances for young thespians
<https://www.oldtownplayhouse.com/young-company/young-company.html>
- **Pirates Cove, Traverse City**
 - Enjoy mini golf, bumper boats and more
<https://www.piratescove.net/locations/michigan/traverse-city/>
- **Pit Spitters Baseball, Traverse City**
 - Come watch a baseball game and join in on the Pit Spitter fun. Don’t forget to redeem your free reading tickets.
<https://northwoodsleague.com/traverse-city-pit-spitters/>
- **Rainbow Valley Family Farms, Traverse City**
 - Visit an alpaca farm and make new friends
<https://www.rainbowvalleyfamilyfarms.com/>



- **River Club, Glen Arbor**
 - Enjoy mini golf and live music
<https://rcglenarbor.com/>
- **State Theater, Traverse City**
 - \$1.00 movies Saturdays at 10am.
<https://stateandbijou.org/homepage/kids-matinees/>

Farmer's Markets:

- **Cadillac Farmer's Market**, 11978 W, Watergate Rd, Cadillac
 - Saturdays 9-11am starting July 11, 2026
 - <https://www.cadillacfarmermarket.org/>
- **Interlochen Farmer's Market**, 2112 J. Maddy Pkwy, Interlochen
 - Thursdays 2-7pm, Sundays 9-2 starting May 3, 2026
- **Sara Hardy Farmer's Market**, Parking Lot B Southwest Corner of Grandview Pkwy and Cass St, Traverse City
 - May Saturdays 7:30am-12, June-Oct Wed 8am-12pm, Saturdays 7:30am-12pm
<https://dda.downtowntc.com/farmers-market/>

Fairs, Festivals and Special Events

- **Cadillac Freedom Festival**, Cadillac Commons
 - July 2-4, 2026
 - <https://cadillacfreedomfestival.com/>
- **Greatest 4th in the North**, Lake City
 - July 3-5, 2026
 - <https://missaukee-chamber.com/greatest-4th-in-the-north/>
- **National Cherry Festival**, Traverse City
 - July 4-11, 2026
<https://www.cherryfestival.org/>
- **Harrietta Blueberry Festival**, Harrietta
 - August 1st, 2026
<https://harriettamichigan.com/blueberry-festival/>
- **Friday Night Live**, Traverse City
 - August 7 and 14, 2026 downtown Traverse City
<https://www.downtowntc.com/friday-night-live/>
- **Northwestern Michigan Fair**, Traverse City
 - August 9-15, 2026
<https://www.northwesternmichiganfair.net/>



- **Buckley Old Engine Show**, Buckley
 - August 13-16, 2026
<https://www.buckleyoldengineshow.org/>
- **Cedar Polka Fest**, Cedar
 - August 27-30, 2026
<https://www.cedarpolkafest.org/>

Trails to Explore

See a full list of ideas at:

<https://cadillacmichigan.com/explore/hiking-trails/>

<https://www.traversecity.com/outdoors/hiking/>

- **Boardman Lake Trail**, Traverse City
 - <https://traversetrails.org/trails/boardman-lake-loop-trail/>
- **Cadillac Pathway**, Cadillac
 - <https://cadillacpathway.org/>
- **Fairy Trails**, 1490 Red Drive, Traverse City
 - <http://www.lifeandwhim.com/fairy-trails>
- **Heritage Trail at the Mitchell State Park**, Cadillac
 - <https://cadillacmichigan.com/project/heritage-trail-at-the-mitchell-state-park/>
- **Keith McKellop Walkway**, Cadillac
 - <https://cadillacmichigan.com/keith-mckellop-walkway/>
- **Michigan Legacy Art Park**: Thompsonville
 - <https://michlegacyartpark.org/>
- **Sleeping Bear Dunes**, Empire
 - <https://www.nps.gov/slbe/index.htm>
- **Tart Trails**, Traverse City
 - <https://traversetrails.org/>

You can find additional information and events at:

- <https://cadillacmichigan.com/family/>
- <https://www.myupnorthkids.com/traversecityevents>
- <https://www.traversecity.com/things-to-do/kids-activities/>

