

KEWEENAW PENINSULA'S BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN

Expanding MNA's Brockway Mountain Protected Areas to 708 Acres



Brockway Mountain's stunning views of Lake Superior, the largest freshwater lake on Earth, attracts visitors from around the world. But Brockway Mountain is much more than just a pretty view. Its northern location, high elevation, unique geological features and exposure to the harsh winter winds off the lake create alpine-like micro-habitats that vary according to elevation levels and harbor rare plants and animals. For some of these rare species, the unique characteristics of Brockway Mountain are critical to their survival.



Connecting 1,700 Acres of Public and Private Land on Brockway Mountain

For years MNA has been part of a collaborative effort among public and private conservation groups to protect thousands of acres along the Keweenaw Peninsula as a permanent wildlife corridor, with the centerpiece being Brockway Mountain. With the acquisition of an additional of 160 acres, MNA will expand its Brockway Mountain protected areas to more than 728 acres, ranging from the base of the mountain to near the summit. Coupled with lands protected by partners, MNA's latest acquisition will bring the combined protected areas on Brockway Mountain to more than 1,700 acres.

Preserving Part of the Greenstone Ridge, One of the Largest Lava Flows on Earth

The volcanic rock outcrop that creates Brockway Mountain is part of the Greenstone ridge—one of the largest lava flows in the world. A combination of the Keweenaw Peninsula's volcanic history, cold northern winters, thin soils and gale force winds off Lake Superior create unique “semi-alpine”, bedrock-oriented micro-habitats on Brockway Mountain. A number of rare animals and plants can be found there, including small blue-eyed mary, heart leaved arnica, purple cliff brake, and wild lilac.



Protecting a Haven for Raptors, Owls, and Other Birds During Migration

Because the Keweenaw Peninsula juts into Lake Superior, thousands of raptors, owls, and other birds during migration use the peninsula as a flyway as they make their way toward their summer nesting grounds in the north. The cliffs on Brockway Mountain provide an extraordinary opportunity to watch these raptors and other birds during spring and fall migration. The dramatic topography and rising warm air along the bluff help the birds to gain altitude, and bring them within close proximity of observers.

A Natural Wonder Worth Saving

Brockway Mountain is a true natural wonder. A designated Michigan Wildlife Viewing Area, the bare rock peaks provide for prime bird-viewing during peak migration between April and June, and captivating sunrises and sunsets all throughout the year. Featuring the highest above sea-level road between the Rockies to the west and the Alleghenies in the east, visitors come from around the world to experience its wild beauty and unforgettable sunsets over Lake Superior.



Scan the QR code at left or visit youtube.com/c/michigannature for a brief video tour of this incredible area by the award-winning videography team of Fauna Creative.

