
Caring for the Land and Serving the People™
FOOTE POND PRIMITIVE CAMPING

Foote Pond is located approximately 7 miles west of Oscoda/AuSable and 14 miles northwest of the Tawas between Bissonette and River Roads. It is a 1,824-acre impoundment behind Foote Dam on the mainstream of the AuSable River. The impoundment is 9.5 miles long and consists of two separate aquatic environments. The lower half is an urban lake environment surrounded by State of Michigan, Consumers Energy and privately owned lands with Old Orchard Park occupying about two miles of the southern shoreline. The upper half is bound by National Forest ownership and is representative of a wide river environment.

Reservations and camping permits are required from May 15 - September 30 of each year, prior to occupying a campsite. Camping is allowed outside of the established permit season of May 15 - September 30, but only designated campsites may be used. Reservations for permits can be made 240 days in advance of stay. Access to make reservations is available 24 hours/day on internet or through the toll free number listed above. The National Recreation Reservation Service call center hours of operation are as follows: **Day after Labor day through March 31:** 10 am – 7 pm EST M-F and 10 am- 5 pm EST Sat-Sun. **April 1 through Labor Day:** 8 am – midnight EST Mon-Fri; 8 am – 9 pm EST Sat-Sun. Payment methods accepted are Major Credit Cards, Certified Checks or Money Orders.

A separate permit is required for each campsite to be occupied. Sites may be reserved for up to a **fourteen day camping period**. Unless otherwise described, **ten persons, two camper units or three tents** are the **maximum** numbers allowed to occupy each site. There is a \$9 administration fee for each permit issued and a \$5 per night camping fee charged. **Permits cannot be issued and held until the total required fee has been paid.** Refunds are available for camping fees, **reservation fee is NOT refundable**, and service fees are applied for refund requests

CAMPING: Twenty-three sites are designated and posted for camping along the shoreline of Foote Pond on National Forest administered lands. These campsites are spread along both shorelines and the large island of Foote Pond; and are located as isolated and separate camping units. Thirteen sites are accessible only by motor vehicles with four-wheel drive and high ground clearance. Access roads are sandy, narrow with tight turns and large recreational vehicles are not recommended. There is limited turning space at all of the motor vehicle accessible designated campsites. Eleven sites are accessible by foot or boat. No facilities are provided at any of the sites.

SWIMMING: No swimming sites have been identified along Foote Pond. The waters at these camping areas have not been checked for possible hazards. Please remember that you swim at your own risk.

FISHING: Foote Pond contains good populations of Bass, Pike, Walleye, Perch, and Sunfish.

BOAT ACCESS: Carry-in of small watercraft is possible at some of these campsites. Large watercraft may be launched from Old Orchard Park's Day Use Area or the Township launch located just west of Rea Road. Ample parking, picnicking, and beach are available there. Consumers Energy maintains a launch area located just east of Cooke Dam on the south side of Foote Pond.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Camping supplies, food, and gasoline are available in Sid Town along Cooke Dam Road, at Foote Site Village and Old Orchard Park on River Road, and along Highway M-65.

PARTNERSHIP: Thanks to Consumers Energy for their financial support to help maintain these opportunities.

PLEASE IF YOU PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT

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