

# Isle Royale Info

## Section 4: The Short Trails



### Overview:

These are descriptions for the shorter trails on the island. They vary in difficulty, but are typically harder going north to south versus east to west. They are typically very well marked, but can be hard to follow in the spring, before the trail crews have been out and the ground has been cleared by people walking on them.

At the beginning of each trail description is a chart with details of the trail as described below. There is a complete chart for all of the short trails available in Section Twelve: Reference Charts under "Chart of the Short Trails".

## **About my Notes and Descriptions:**

Rating: Trail difficulty is based on a scale of 1-10, a 1 difficulty being a walk on a paved flat road, to a 10 difficulty being the trail between Little Todd Harbor Trail to Lake Desor North Trail, in the rain. I consider this the most difficult trail section on the island. Difficulty will vary based on the season and the weather conditions. All of my ratings are based on what it would be like to walk in wet, slippery, cold or hot, i.e.; worst conditions.

Map Miles: Map miles are from the 1994 Trails Illustrated topographic map, which is based on USGS topographic maps modified and revised by Trails Illustrated.

GPS Miles: Are based on my actually walking the trail and usually averaged based on multiple readings.

Maximum (Max) and Minimum (Min) Elevation in feet: These are calculated using various sources based on the trail and the data I have accumulated. This data comes from my GPS, Suunto Watch, Maps, MyTopo Terrain Navigator™ and Google Earth™. This data has been analyzed and presented as my best guess.

Gain / Loss: Total amount of feet gained and lost over the duration of the trail. This has been calculated from MyTopo Terrain Navigator™ and/or Google Earth™ based on my tracks.

Elevation Difference: The difference between the Gain and Loss. This is, in effect, the amount of feet going up versus going down. If positive, there are more ascents than descents and, if negative, vice-a-versa.

Percent Maximum (% Max.) Grade: The maximum grade going up or down. A positive number represents uphill and the negative downhill. This has been calculated from MyTopo Terrain Navigator™ and/or Google Earth™ based on my tracks.

Percent Average (% Avg.) Grade: The average grade going up or down. The positive number represents uphill and the negative downhill. This has been calculated from MyTopo Terrain Navigator™ and/or Google Earth™ based on my tracks.

Overview: The general description of the trail.

Key Points: The highlights and/or landmarks on the trail.

Details: A detailed description of the trail with elevations, grade and miles.

Relative Campgrounds: A listing of the adjacent campgrounds to go to or come from.

Google Earth™ View: If listed, will link to a picture captured from Google Earth™.

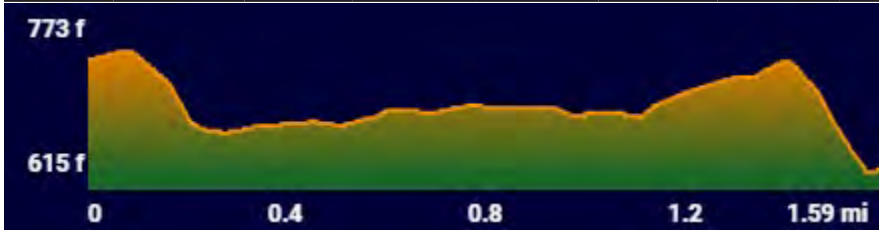
Note: The trails on the island are always changing and my descriptions are an accumulation of walking them several times with verification based on the last time I walked them. Keeping that in mind, they may be different in some way.

The Maps: The maps shown at the beginning of each section showing an overview of the full route are not to scale and are at different sizes to simply represent the route. The detail maps are captured from maps at 1:24000 scale and reduced to 60% unless indicated differently. When the detail map is selected, the link will bring up a detail map at 1:12000 scale. The only exception is the Tobin Harbor Trail which is at 1:24000 scale due to its size.

## Chickenbone East Trail

### South to North

Rating		Miles		Max. Elev.	Min. Elev.	Gain	Loss	Elev. Diff.	% Max. Grade	% Avg. Grade
Direction	Reversed	Map	GPS							
4	5	1.6	1.60	779'	614'	192'	-333'	-141'	26.1/28.4	4.3/-7.7



**Overview:** This trail is a relatively easy walk, with a nice wilderness feel. It can be done as a nice day hike, or as part of a full loop around Chickenbone Lake, without a problem. The area it passes, near Chickenbone Lake, is a great place for moose viewing.

#### Key Points:

- 0.00 - Post marking Greenstone Ridge trail junction
- 0.09 - Chickenbone East Campground
- 0.15 - Side trail to water for campground
- 0.25 - Chickenbone Lake
- 1.40 - Steep descent to stream
- 1.56 - Chickenbone River
- 1.60 - Indian Portage Trail junction



**Details:** The trail leaves the post on the Greenstone Ridge Trail, crosses some boards, then climbs a steep 3 to 4 step ridge, and seems to come to the Chickenbone East Campground sign out of nowhere at 0.09 miles. Leaving the campground, the trail immediately descends 135' over the first 0.25 miles, with grade ranging from 15% to 60% until arriving at Chickenbone Lake. On the way down, there is a side trail (the source of water for the campground) at 0.15 miles. Once reaching the lake, the trail levels out with a lot of boards and follows along the lake in a low wet area as it wraps around the east end of the lake until crossing a creek that can be flowing at various rates at 0.35 miles. There are nice views of the lake in here and it is a good place to see moose. After leaving the creek, the trail goes up slightly as it goes away from the lake and comes to another smaller creek or wetland at 0.6 miles, and continues in a wet area going slightly up, then back down and coming to a swamp and/or lake, depending on season and current beaver activity at 0.9 miles, which it follows before beginning a mild ascent of 50' at 1.08 miles to 1.4 miles. It then begins a steep descent of 130' over 0.16 miles, as it makes its way down to the Chickenbone stream/drainage bridge at 1.51 miles. This can be a slow flowing stream to a roaring river, depending on the time of year. After crossing this area, the trail immediately goes up 20' and ends at the Indian Portage Trail at 1.6 miles.

LAKE FROM THE TRAIL.



CHICKENBONE STREAM IN THE SPRING.



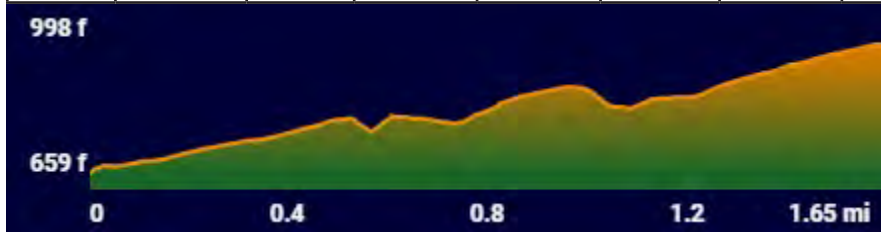
**Relevant Campgrounds:** Chickenbone East, McCargo Cove

[Google Earth™ View](#)

## Daisy Farm Trail

### South to North

Rating		Miles		Max. Elev.	Min. Elev.	Gain	Loss	Elev. Diff.	% Max. Grade	% Avg. Grade
Direction	Reversed	Map	GPS							
6.6	5.4	1.7	1.65	1003'	658'	494'	-172'	322'	28.9/-30.6	7.3/-8.3

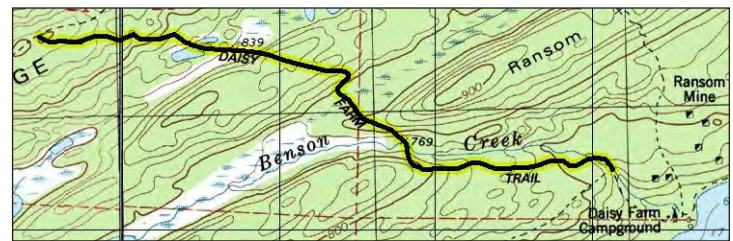


**Overview:** This trail is usually done going into or out of Daisy Farm Campground, as part of a connector to another trail. But if staying in the campground, it is an easy walk and worth taking in the evening, if not going up the Greenstone, as part of your trip. This combined with Mount Ojibway Trail back down, makes for an excellent loop trail.

At one time, the Rock Harbor Trail went through the campground and continued straight. It has since been re-routed, to go up at the campground, and take in some of the original Daisy Farm Trail, before cutting off. This description, considers the trail to run from the cut to Moskey Basin (Rock Harbor Trail), to its end on the Greenstone Ridge.

#### Key Points:

- 0.00 - Post marking Rock Harbor trail junction
- 0.59 - Benson Creek with a bridge
- 1.33 - Name less lake on the west
- 1.65 - Greenstone Ridge trail junction



**Details:** Leaving the post that marks the trail to Moskey Basin Campground, the trail crosses Benson Creek twice within the first 330' while slightly ascending. It then levels off a bit until beginning an ascent of 110' at 0.21 miles, onto a rock outcropping until 0.59 miles. It looks like it follows the rock outcropping for a ways, but it does not, it actually cuts down to the right where it crosses a bridge over the Benson Creek again with wetlands to the west. It then begins a 20' descent to a swampy area at 0.79 miles, where there is a section of boards for about 400' and it goes into a balsam forest before starting up a 90' ascent at about a 10% grade until 1.08 miles, where it begins a steep but short descent of 40' until 1.18 miles, where it levels out in wetlands with a board section for 300'. It leaves the boards and wetlands to cross a couple of hills and come to an unnamed lake to the west at 1.33 miles. This lake has varied in water level through the years, most likely due to beaver activity. From here, the trail begins a long and almost continuous uphill approaching the Greenstone Ridge, gaining 100' over 0.32 miles, at between a 5% and 15% grade before leveling out and coming to the Greenstone Ridge Trail at 1.65 miles.

**Relevant Campgrounds:** Daisy Farm

[Google Earth™ View](#)

