

2023 Trails Fest Spectator Guide

We welcome spectators of all flavors at the 30th Annual Copper Harbor Trails Fest. Our racers need some encouragement out there on the course, whether you're banging a gong or sounding off with a didgeridoo (true story). Gather some friends and come provide a fun atmosphere for our racers! As long as you keep it clean and don't actually impact our racers, you're welcome to be as goofy as you want out there. We love to see what people come up with!



Here are some good spots to watch the race from and the times to be there.

Saturday, September 2nd

- **XC Race, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM** ([Short & Long course map](#), [Super Short](#))
 - **Summer School:** Short and Long XC racers hit Summer School with fresh legs around 10:15 AM and will be moving FAST! There are plenty of opportunities to watch racers through this trail, which is easily accessed off of the East Bluff access road (walking or biking only, no driving). Park along Mandan Road on the right hand side and hike or bike in.
 - **Dueling Banjos (upper portion):** On their way down East Bluff, all Short and Long XC racers will rip down Flo'Rion before turning onto the upper portion of Dueling Banjos beginning around 10:30 AM. There are a couple of rollable jumps that many riders will probably get air on, as well as a few big berms that will look impressive at speed. Park along Mandan Road (right side) and hike up the driveway. Be aware of downhill racers on the road!
 - **Paul's Plunge:** All racers descend the lower portion of Paul's Plunge beginning around 10:40 AM and continue consistently for another ~2.5 hours. This is THE signature place to watch as racers traverse the unimaginable hellscape of this chunky, rooty, and often muddy trail. Access the trail from the two-track off of Manganese Road or carefully along the Keweenaw Point Trail if Super Short XC racers are finished racing (don't get in the way of racers!).
- **Downhill Race, 3:00 - 5:00 PM**
 - The race will be held on our biggest, baddest trail, Overflow. There are spectator spots throughout the course. The Gap Jump near the top is a signature spot as riders fly over the Flow trail at top speed. Access this location via Brockway Mountain Drive (do not park near the race start). Speedy berms and rock rolls can be found in the middle stretches of the trail, best accessed via the Flow trail. Near the bottom, Dinosaur Rock and Manpants/Ladypants are the biggest draws and see huge crowds. Watch as riders careen over lengthy rock slabs before jettisoning off a literal cliff! Park along the road to Hunter's Point and hike in via the spectator trails or The Flow.
- **Junior XC, 4:00 - 5:30 PM**
 - Our youngest racers need a boost! They'll be zooming around the Orchard Trail at the Trails End Campground. The trails here are easy crushed gravel routes with minimal elevation change. It's easy to pop over here during the Downhill race (above) to give some whoops to our young rippers.

Sunday, September 3rd

- **10k Trail Run, 8:30 - 10:30 AM ([course map](#))**
 - Runners will begin climbing uphill on the lower part of Paul's Plunge around 8:35 AM. Prepare to watch some epic scrambling and mud-dodging! This trail is steep, rugged, and full of chunky roots and rocks. Access this area off of Manganese Road or the Keweenaw Point Trail.
 - After zooming around our newly reopened trails Kamikaze and Black Bear, runners will hoof it back along a couple miles of the Keweenaw Point Trail from 9:00 AM onwards. The trail is rocky and meandering, with plenty of scenic spots to watch with Fort Wilkins in the background.
- **Enduro Race, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM ([course map](#))**
 - In this race, riders are only timed during the downhill portions. Uphill riding to each stage (listed below) is not timed like in the XC race. Position yourself in an exciting place and watch some of the fastest action around!
 - **Overflow**, 10:00 AM - 11:45 AM (*Expert class only*)
 - The same spectator points as the Downhill race apply here. We close the Gap Jump and Manpants during this race as our racers aren't quite as crazy here.
 - **East Woopidy Woo**, 10:40 AM - 12:25 PM (*Expert class only*)
 - Racers will tackle the rooty East Woopidy trail on Brockway Mountain in blazin' fashion. A great place to watch racers' technical prowess!
 - **Red Trail**, 11:15 AM - 1:00 PM (*Sport & Expert classes*)
 - Our most technical trail in the Harbor! Numerous rock rolls, drops, rooty climbs, and more can be found here. Give our racers a confidence boost! Hike in carefully from Dancing Bear or Manganese Road.
 - **Whipsaw**, 10:15 AM - 2:55 PM (*All classes*)
 - One of the fastest trails on East Bluff! Nearly all berms point down on this trail which will make for some blistering high speeds. There are several rollable jumps that people may get air on.
 - **Flo'Rion**, 10:40 AM - 12:25 PM (*Beginner & Sport classes*)
 - Rock rolls, optional jumps, and high speeds make this a fan favorite for spectating. Access is tougher though because it's a long hike into some of the best spots from the East Bluff driveway.
 - **Citrus Tech**, 12:25 - 2:10 PM (*Expert class only*)
 - A huge trail with loads of features to watch for! Technical rock stretches lie near the top, fast, flowy berms and jumps in the middle, and enormous rock rolls lie near the bottom. The big rock rolls of this trail are ideal for spectating. Hike in a short distance from the East Bluff driveway to access the best locations.
 - **Loam Rider & Eh Horizon**, 12:30 - 3:25 PM (*Sport & Expert classes*)
 - The roughest trails at East Bluff! These two trails were built as rake & rides just a few weeks ago and are still being broken in. Line choices will be all over the place as racers try to find the fastest way through a long series of tough challenges. Sport racers stay on the entirety of Loam Rider, while Expert racers take Loam Rider into Eh Horizon for an even more difficult finish. Hike in via Flo'Rion and the East Bluff driveway.

Parking Access

Parking for many spectating areas can be a challenge. Prepare to walk a long distance! Or, this being an event celebrating trails in Copper Harbor, we encourage you to just ride your bike everywhere you go. It'll save you time and space in the parking areas for people who need it.

Here are details about parking near some of the more congested areas.

XC Race @ Paul's Plunge: Park along Manganese Road uphill of the waterfall pull off. Hike in via the Keweenaw Point Trail or the access road that leads to the bottom of the "Plunge" portion of the trail. Be aware of racers coming down Manganese Road towards the finish line!

Downhill @ Overflow: Park along Harbor Coast Road leading to Hunters Point, at the Trails End Campground, or near the State Harbor complex. There is no parking on M-26! Hike in via the spectator paths in the woods or on The Flow.

All Events on East Bluff: The parking area at East Bluff is not nearly big enough for all of the racers and spectators that will want to park here. We need to keep access open for ambulances in case of emergency. To accommodate more people, please park along the right (south) side of Mandan Road as you head out to East Bluff. Do not park on both sides of the road or vehicles may not be able to pass each other, causing traffic jams.

- OR, hop on your bike and ride from town! A new section of the Keweenaw Point Trail connects to East Bluff directly from town and will be open on Sunday during the Enduro. It will be closed for the XC race, however.
- All spectating points on East Bluff will require a hike to reach. You may ride your bike on the East Bluff driveway as long as you stay out of the way of oncoming racers. You may not ride your bike on trails we are using in the races themselves.

When Will the Trails Be Closed?

During our races we close some trails for the safety of our racers and visitors. At these times, you will not be able to hike or bike in any direction on the following trails. **All other trails during our races will be open unless otherwise noted!** Intersections will also be closed, as racers will be speeding through and unable to stop if you are in the way.

XC Races: Saturday, September 2, 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM (or earlier, see below)

Trail	Expected Opening	Trail	Expected Opening
All trails on East Bluff	2:00 PM	Kamikaze	2:30 PM
Highlands	12:00 PM	Black Bear	2:30 PM
Keweenaw Point Trail (East Bluff to High Rock)	1:30 PM	Paul's Plunge	2:30 PM
Keweenaw Point Trail (Town to East Bluff)	2:30 PM		

Downhill Race: Saturday, September 2, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

The Downhill race will close the trails Overflow and The Flow for the entire time window.

10k Trail Run: Sunday, September 3, 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM (or earlier, see below)

Trail	Expected Opening	Trail	Expected Opening
Keweenaw Point Trail (Manganese Rd. to Kamikaze)	10:30 AM	Black Bear	10:00 AM
Kamikaze	10:00 AM	Paul's Plunge	10:30 AM

Enduro Races: Sunday, September 3, 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM (or earlier, see below)

Trail	Expected Opening	Trail	Expected Opening
Overflow & The Flow	12:00 PM	Flo'Rion	2:30 PM
East Woopidy Woo	12:30 PM	Whipsaw	3:00 PM
Red Trail	1:00 PM	Citrus Tech	2:15 PM
Loam Rider & Eh Horizon	3:30 PM	Dueling Banjos (upper)	2:30 PM