

Big Trout Bay Nature Reserve

Closest town/city

Thunder Bay, ON (approximately 50 kilometres)

Contact

1-866-281-5331 ext. 0

ontario@natureconservancy.ca

Seasons

accessible year-round

(parking lots are not plowed in winter)



Property description

Located on the north shore of Lake Superior, just southwest of Thunder Bay, the Nature Conservancy of Canada's (NCC's) Big Trout Bay Nature Reserve is 1,000 hectares (2,471 acres) of breathtaking coastal forest and wetlands, spectacular cliffs and cobble beaches along 21 kilometres of Lake Superior shoreline. The area is home to a wide variety of plants and animals, including moose, black bear, peregrine falcon and Arctic-alpine plants that live in cold, harsh microclimates along the coast.

Parking lots are located at the conservation area trailhead and Memory Road trailhead.

Amenities

cell service (poor along the coast), lookouts, parking, wayfinding trail markers

Points of interest

cobble beach, fall colours, lookouts over Lake Superior, wetlands

What to bring

bear spray and air horn, binoculars, bug spray, camera, cell or satellite phone, first aid kit, food, hat, insect repellent, sturdy footwear, sunscreen, water

Safety alerts

Trails are rugged and remote, with several sections located along areas with steep cliffs. Due to the presence of ticks, wear long sleeves, long pants and light-coloured clothing. Bears are frequent visitors to the property.

Directions

North trailhead:

1. From Thunder Bay, drive south on Highway 61 to Little Trout Bay Road.
2. Drive east to the Little Trout Bay Conservation Area parking lot. Please support the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority by paying the day use fee.

The trailhead is located immediately north of the Little Trout Bay parking lot. The first approximately 500 metres of the trail is in the conservation area. Look for the signs indicating you are on the NCC trail. A larger map of the area's trails is located in the pavilion.

South trailhead:

1. From Thunder Bay, drive south on Highway 61 to Memory Road.
2. Drive east on Memory Road to the trailhead parking lot on the left. Look for the sign.

Trails

James Duncan Nature Trail

Type: linear

Difficulty: challenging

Round-trip distance 17.6 kilometres

(Note: one-way hike duration, between north and south parking lots, including spur trail, is 4 to 5 hours.)

Surface: earthen, cobble beach, some steep climbs and sections running above steep cliffs

Mount Mollie Spur Trail

(part of the James Duncan Nature Trail)

Type: linear

Difficulty: challenging

Round-trip distance: 2 kilometres

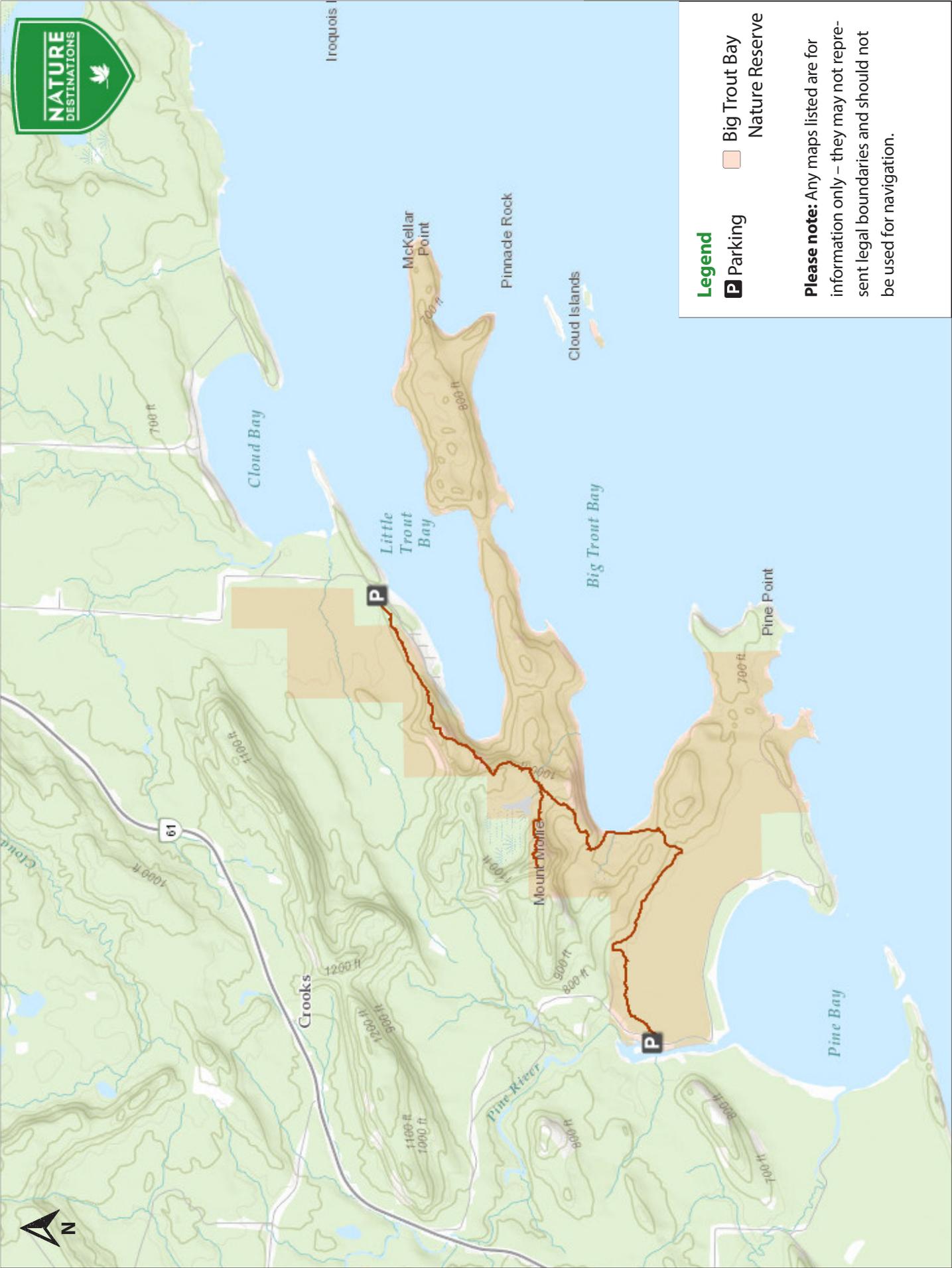
Surface: earthen, some steep climbs and sections running along steep cliffs

Species to spot

- Arctic butterbur
- black bear
- Canada warbler
- great blue heron
- moose
- peregrine falcon
- pileated woodpecker
- pink lady's-slipper
- red pine
- white pine
- wood lily



James Duncan joined NCC in 1995, beginning a career that would help shape the future of land conservation in Ontario. For more than 20 years, he was a force to be reckoned with, touching hundreds of land securement and stewardship projects through his various roles as director of land securement, program manager for southwestern and northwestern Ontario, and finally as regional vice-president. James's leadership led to the purchase and conservation of the Big Trout Bay Nature Reserve.



Legend

-  Parking
-  Big Trout Bay
-  Nature Reserve

Please note: Any maps listed are for information only – they may not represent legal boundaries and should not be used for navigation.