

History OF WALLOON LAKE

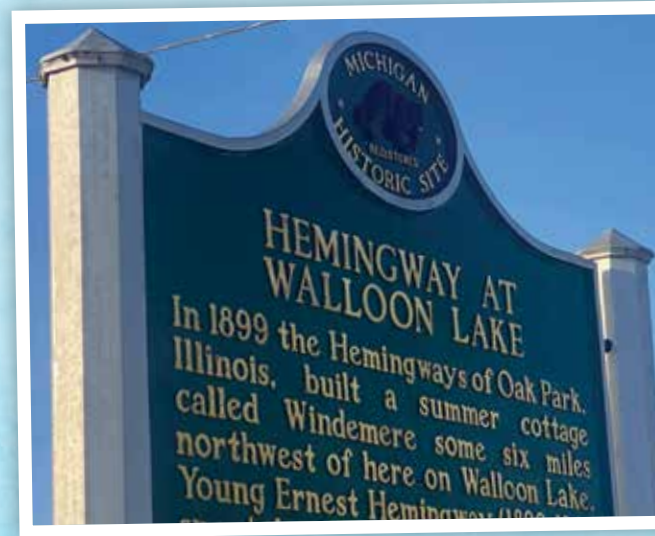
The first inhabitants of this region were Indians who called the lake Muqua (bear) Nebis (water). As early settlers arrived, they used the translated version of Bear Lake until the late 1800s when the name Talcott (or Tolcott) was briefly noted before Walloon Lake was ultimately chosen in September 1900.

Homesteaders arrived in 1872 and shortly thereafter the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railway completed its line of tracks which served those working in the logging industry. As that era came to an end, a new industry emerged: tourism. The railroad reached what would become Walloon Lake in 1891 with a spur line known as the "Dummy" which ran .07 miles from nearby Clarion, bringing passengers from around the Midwest to the crystal blue waters of Walloon Lake. Just as visitors today, they flocked here to soak up the fresh northern air and enjoy recreational activities like fishing, swimming and sailing.

Before long, the "downtown" area at the foot of the glacial spring-fed lake boasted three stores, a bowling alley, bath house and hotel. In the early 1900s, there were a dozen hotels and boarding houses around the lake as well as an increasing number of private cottages. To get there, residents and visitors alike boarded steamboats like the Tourist, Tempest and Outing, which delivered them and their seasonal belongings to their summer abodes.

The last passenger boat operated on Walloon Lake until 1915. Many of the lake's lodging establishments thrived for decades, but by the late 1920s most had closed as tourists were rapidly building their own homes on the lake. Only a handful still exist as private homes, while the former Fern Cottage remains open to the public as the Walloon Lake Inn (originally opened in 1891 and renovated in 2014). The train depot continued until 1928, when automobile transportation became more prevalent.

Walloon Lake remains a place where generations of families and travelers return to make memories – even during the cooler seasons. Much more than just a place to vacation, this is a timeless destination that in recent years has seen a resurgence with new restaurants, shops and a boutique hotel ready to welcome you. Downtown Circle Park now features a series of historical signs which shed more light on our earlier days. You can also read more by scanning the QR code here.



In 1899, the Hemingways of Oak Park, Illinois, built a summer cottage called *Windemere* on the North Shore of Walloon Lake. Young Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961) spent 22 summers exploring the woods and waters of this area, hunting, fishing, boating, reading and writing. In 1921, he and Hadley Richardson married at the nearby Horton Bay Methodist Church and honeymooned at *Windemere*.

Hemingway lived and traveled throughout the world, yet his boyhood experiences and the people he knew in this area of Michigan continued to inspire his writing — most notably the 1972 posthumously published work *The Nick Adams Stories*.

Ernest won both the Pulitzer (1953) and Nobel (1954) prizes in literature for *The Old Man and the Sea*.

This George Lundeen sculpture called "The Old Man and the Cat" was dedicated in downtown Walloon Lake in September 2021. Learn more about Hemingway in Michigan through the self-guided Michigan Hemingway Tour (MiHemingwayTour.com), an initiative of the Michigan Hemingway Society.



Discover WALLOON LAKE

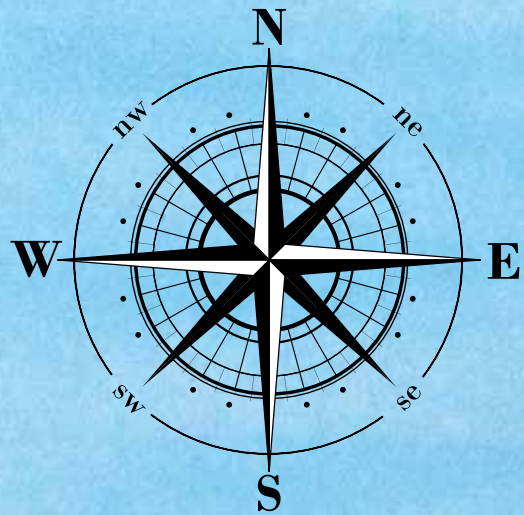
If you haven't visited Walloon Lake before (or in some time), we invite you to explore our quaint village and see for yourself how we have preserved our legacy while building for our future.



17 SQUARE METER Sailboat

In 1933, Bill Loughlin, one of the founders of the Walloon Yacht Club, designed the 17 square meter (named for the amount of coverage area in the sail), two-person wooden sloop which became part of the lake's sailboat racing legacy.

There are 42 17s still on Walloon Lake, including both old wooden models and newer fiberglass versions.



WALLOON LAKE



- ### Amenities
- › 22 Acre Park
 - › Public Beach
 - › Playground Equipment
 - › Nature Trails
 - › Bear River
 - › Trout Fishing
 - › Boat Launch
 - › Shoppers Dock
 - › Kayak/Canoe Launch
 - › Adequate Parking
 - › Shopping
 - › Antiques
 - › Restaurants
 - › Hotel
 - › Pavilion for Gathering
 - › Basketball Court
 - › Pickleball Court
 - › Sand Volleyball Court
 - › Public Restrooms
 - › Bathhouse
 - › Year-Round Annual Events

Walloon Lake VILLAGE



Melrose Township Park offers 22 acres of recreational opportunities. A charming public beach sits on the eastern shore of Walloon Lake at its "foot" and where stunning sunsets await. The public bathhouse, with restrooms, was renovated in 2021.

The Bear River gently rolls out of Walloon Lake and meanders through the park all the way to Little Traverse Bay in Petoskey. Near the park, it is well-suited for fishing (including fly fishing) and kayak/canoe paddling.

The large parking lot adjacent to Melrose Township Park provides easy access to downtown businesses, the beach, docks and year-round annual events.

The World War II Memorial honors WWII veterans with a second monument erected in 2015 denoting military veterans buried in nearby Melrose Township Cemetery.



[WalloonLakeMi](https://www.WalloonLakeMi.com)
www.WalloonLakeMi.com