

Practice water safety

If in doubt, don't go out.

Always wear a life jacket and learn to spot rip currents. Keep children within arm's reach. Avoid floats and toys that the wind can take. Put out beach fires with water. Do not bury. Leave glass containers at home.

In an emergency, bystanders remain on shore.

Call 911 and throw something that floats.

Share the sand

Give piping plover nest areas space. Obey closure signs. Know where dogs can go and always keep them leashed. Plovers consider pets to be predators. Their presence can lead to the loss of eggs, chicks, or adults.

The Great Lakes piping plover is federally protected by the Endangered Species Act.

Failure to follow rules will result in a fine.

Plan for success

Take at least 2 liters of water per person when hiking in the dunes. Have sun protection, a map, and footwear.

Always bring a buddy and tell someone your plans.

From the Dune Climb, it is a 3.5-mile, 2-4 hour, strenuous hike to Lake Michigan and back. Know your limits, it's ok to turn back.

Steer clear of ticks and poison ivy by walking in the center of trails.

Arrive before 10 am or after 4 pm to avoid crowds.

Watch your step

Stay on designated trails. This protects plants like the threatened Pitcher's thistle.

Clean, drain, dry...

all watercraft, gear, and beach toys before moving to a new body of water. This helps slow the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Keep waters wild

Do not divert water, dig, or stack rocks at the outflow of streams and rivers. Doing so harms ecosystems upstream.

Pet-friendly areas

