



County Road Association
OF MICHIGAN

101 S. WASHINGTON SQUARE, STE. 200
LANSING, MI 48933

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 25, 2026

CONTACT: Dustin Earley

517.482.1189

dearley@micountyroads.org



County road agencies release 2026 “don’t miss” list of local roads for fall colors

LANSING, MI – Michigan in the fall paints a masterpiece for all to see, with residents as its observers. And what better way to appreciate the colors than with a leisurely drive along a scenic county road?

“There’s something special about taking the long way down a county road when the leaves are changing,” said Denise Donohue, CEO of the County Road Association (CRA) of Michigan. “Michigan’s colors are among the best in the country, making fall the perfect opportunity to go out and enjoy the state’s natural beauty.”

“This list of ‘don’t miss’ fall color drives reflects the best suggestions from over 30 county road agencies who know their own best fall color vistas,” she said. The list may be found on CRA’s website at micountyroads.org/mibackroads.

According to the 2026 Pure Michigan fall color map, peak viewing conditions are expected from October 3 to November 5.

Drivers are invited to share photos on CRA’s Facebook page (facebook.com/micountyroads) to let everyone know the best local road spots for Michigan’s fall colors. Be sure to indicate an intersection, the county and the closest city/village in your post and include #MiBackroads. A safety reminder: Never take photos while driving. Find a designated parking area, then snap away!

The following regions are listed in order of expected leaf coloring dates starting from the Upper Peninsula and moving south.

Upper Peninsula (Oct. 3-18)

Chippewa County

- North and South Caribou Lake Roads in the DeTour Village area
- Gogomain Road from Goetzville to Pickford
- Lakeshore Drive from Brimley to M-123
- Salt Point Road from M-28 to Lakeshore Drive

Dickinson County

- Kramer Drive on the north side of the city of Iron Mountain
- Metropolitan Road near Felch

Gogebic County

- Black River Road to Black River Harbor
- Lake Road from Ironwood to Little Girls Point and Superior Falls
- Black River Road from Bessemer to Copper Peak and Black River Harbor
- Wolf Mountain Road from US-2 to Wolf Mountain
- County Road 519N from Wakefield to the mouth of the Big Presque Isle River and Porcupine State Park
- Thousand Island Lake Road from US-2 to Sylvania Wilderness Park

Houghton County

- Covered Drive Road
- Freda Road
- Calumet Waterworks Road

Iron County

- Ottawa Lake Road/Hagerman Lake Road loop
- Pentoga Trail (County Road 639) to County Road 424 along Chicagon Lake and Pentoga Road from County Road 424 to Brule River
- Bates-Amasa Road (County Road 643) US-2 to US-141 by Paint River and Hemlock River
- Gibbs City Road and Ponozzo Road

Keweenaw County

- Brockway Mountain Drive
- Lac La Belle Road
- Gratiot Lake Road
- Mohawk-Gay Road
- Eagle Harbor Road
- Cliff Drive
- Five Mile Point Road

Marquette County

- Triple A off County Road 510 in Big Bay
- M-35 from County Road 480 to Gwinn

Ontonagon County

- South Boundary Road from Presquile to Ontonagon

Northern Lower Peninsula (Oct. 12 – Oct. 29)***Alpena County***

- Bolton Road to Long Lake Road
- Nicholson Hill Road
- Scott Road
- Long Rapids Road

Antrim County

- Deadmans Hill Road from US-131, Deadmans Hill Overlook viewing Jordan Valley
- Eddy School Road between Bellaire and M-66
- Alba Hwy between M-66 and US-131
- “The Breezeway” C-48 Atwood Road between US-31 in Atwood and Boyne Falls in Charlevoix County

Crawford County

- County Road 101 looking north from County Road 100 (“Pioneer Hill”)

Emmet County

- Pleasantview Road north of Boyne Highlands to Robinson Road
- Robinson Road from State Road to Pleasantview Road
- State Road from Harbor Springs to Cross Village
- Brutus Road from Pleasantville Road to US-31
- Mitchell Road from Fletcher Road to Cheboygan County line

Grand Traverse

- Supply Road
- Hobbs Highway
- J Maddy Parkway

Leelanau County

- North Eagle Highway
- Newman Road
- Port Oneida Road
- Gills Pier Road
- Schomberg Road

Mason County

- Lakeshore Drive from Oceana Drive to Iris Road
- Hawley from Pere Marquette Highway to Walhalla Road
- South Masten Road to Washington Road and the Ruby Creek area
- North Lakeshore Drive along Hamlin Lake
- Custer Road from Hogue Road to US-10

Montmorency County

- Pleasant Valley Road
- Farrier Road
- Carter Road
- Meridian Line Road

Oceana County

- (Start in Claybanks Twp) Scenic Drive from Webster north to 16th Avenue, north to Buchanan, then east to 18th, then north to Silver Lake Road. Continue on Silver Lake Road., north to N Shore Drive to 24th, 24th to Fox to Ridge, and Ridge north to Longbridge, then Longbridge east to US-31 BR Monroe (Pentwater Twp).
- (Start in Ferry Twp) 154th north from M-20 to Loop Road, Loop Road west to 148th Avenue, 148th Avenue north to Pierce Road, Pierce Road west to 144th Avenue and 144th Avenue north to Crystal Valley (Madison Road, Crystal Twp).

Osceola County

- 80th Avenue from River Road to 20 Mile Road
- 20 Mile Road from 80th Avenue to 180th Avenue

Presque Isle County

- Long Lake Highway from M-65 into Alpena County
- E-634 Highway from Polaski Road west to Lake May Road
- W-638 Highway Ocqueoc Road from Walker Highway to North Allis Highway from Ocqueoc Road west to M-211.

Wexford County

- Fall Color Scenic Routes, all starting from downtown Cadillac:
 - Route 1: Cadillac Lakes (20 miles)
 - Route 2: Hudenpyl Dam (70 miles)
 - Route 3: Pine River (65 miles)
 - Route 4: Lake Missaukee (35 miles)

Mid-Michigan (Oct. 17 – Oct. 30)

Barry County

- West State Road from Hastings to Middleville
- Gun Lake Road from M-179 (near Gun Lake) to M-179 (near Hastings)
- Yankee Springs Road from M-37 to Delton Road South of Middleville

Clinton County

- Maple Rapids Road from Harris Road to Tallman Road
- Tallman Road from Maple Rapids Road to Stone Road
- Stone Road from Tallman Road to Wacousta Road
- Wacousta Road from Stone Road to Hyde Road
- Peacock Road from M-78 to Cutler Road
- Clark Road from Upton Road East

Jackson County

- Seymour Road from North Elm Avenue to Trist Road
- Kimmel Road from Thorne Road to Draper Road

Shiawassee County

- Grand River Road from Laingsburg to the Village of Byron

West Michigan (Oct. 23 - Nov.4)

Berrien County

- Blue Star Memorial Highway along Lake Michigan from Van Buren to M-63
- M-63 south to St. Joseph
- Red Arrow Highway from Stevensville to Lakeshore Road in New Buffalo
- Red Arrow Highway to Union Pier then back to Warren Woods Road
- Red Arrow Highway to Madron Lake Road in City of Buchanan

Kalamazoo County

- Route 1: East Kalamazoo County – Starting from the intersection of 29th Street and Q Avenue (51 Miles)
- Route 2: North Kalamazoo County – Starting from the intersection of 33rd Street and G Avenue (45 Miles)
- Route 3: South Kalamazoo County – Starting from the intersection of 8th Street and O Avenue (73 Miles)

Kent County

- Honey Creek Avenue from Pettis Avenue to Cannonsburg Road
- Bailey Drive from Vergennes Street to Lincoln Lake Avenue
- Fallasburg Park Drive from Lincoln Lake Avenue to Gavin Lake Avenue
- 5 Mile Road from Lincoln Lake Avenue to Gavin Lake Avenue
- Gavin Lake Road from 5-mile Road to Belding Road
- Wabasis Avenue from Belding Road to 12 Mile Road

- Ramsdell Drive from 5 Mile Road to 11 Mile Road

Muskegon County

- Scenic Drive from Memorial Drive to Michillinda Road
- Along Lake Michigan shoreline and Duck Lake

Ottawa County

- Lakeshore Drive from Grand Haven city limits to Ottawa Beach Road/Holland State Park
- Hayes Street from M-11 intersection to Berlin Fair Drive/the Berlin Fairgrounds in Marne
- Leonard Street from intersection on Leonard Street/S. Lake Avenue in Village of Spring Lake to Lamont
- Mercury Drive/Green Street/N. Cedar Drive from Grand Haven to Riverside County Park

Southeast Michigan (Oct. 24 – Nov. 5)

Macomb County

- 24 Mile Road between Van Dyke and Shelby Road
- Tillson Street between Sisson Street and South Main Street
- M-53 between 28 Mile Road and 32 Mile Road
 - Along the route, there are apple orchards for travelers to get a taste of Macomb County pies, donuts and cider along with fall vegetables at the local produce stands
- Lakeshore Drive between 8 Mile Road and Marter Road
- Macomb Orchard Trail
- Campground Road between 29 Mile Road and 31 Mile Road
- Mt. Vernon Road between Dean Road and 31 Mile Road

Oakland County

- Independence Township:
 - Rattalee Lake between Ellis and M-15
 - Hadley Road between M-15 and Shappie
 - Shappie Road between Hadley and Perry Lake Road
 - Pine Knob Road between Sashabaw and Clarkston Road
- Commerce Township:
 - Wixom Road – Charm to Sleeth/Duck Lake intersection
 - Richardson Road – Martin Parkway to Newton
 - Wise Road – Canal to Carrol Lake
- White Lake Township:
 - Porter Road
 - Pontiac Lake Road to Cuthbert to White Lake Road (This route you see beautiful foliage, White Lake and Ruggles Farm)
 - Gale Road
 - McKeachie Road

- Orion Township:
 - Scripps Road between M-24 and Joslyn Road
 - Greenshield Road Joslyn Road to Kern Road (both sides of M-24 and it is a Natural Beauty Road)
 - Kern Road Silverbell to Clarkston Road
- Oxford Township:
 - Delano Road (from Ray Road to Davison Lake Road) – Natural Beauty Road
 - Ray Road (0.65 mile east of North Oxford Road to Lake George Road in Addison Township) – Natural Beauty Road
- Southfield Township:
 - Beverly Road from 13½ Mile to 14 Mile Road that passes by the Evans Nature Preserve

Washtenaw County

- Huron River Drive between Mast Road and US-23
- North Territorial Road between US-23 and M-52

Wayne County

- Edward N. Hines Drive between Telegraph Road and M-14 Highway

“Don’t miss” fall drive recommendations are brought to you by the County Road Association of Michigan, whose 83 local road agency members represent the unified voice for a safe and efficient county transportation infrastructure system in Michigan, including appropriate stewardship of the public’s right-of-way in rural and urban Michigan. Collectively, Michigan’s county road agencies manage 75% of all roads in the state, including 90,500 miles of roads and 5,900 bridges. County road agencies also maintain the state’s highway system in 63 counties. Michigan has the nation’s fourth-largest local road system.

###