

1. Hiking In the seasons

September is a great month to hike. There are fewer bugs with warm pleasant days and a hint of the color to come. There are also plenty of late season wild flowers to color the scene.

October is a spectacular month to hike and photograph the amazing color show. There is nothing like hiking on a crisp October day in full color.

November is a great time to discover the contours of the land. Without leaves to block your view, the hills and valleys literally jump out at you. (early November can be a time of freeze/thaw so check on conditions before hiking)

December can be great on sunny days, where the early snow levels out trails and makes hiking a bit easier.

January is a time to layer up and pick days when the sun makes it a bit warmer. On windy days, head to trails in valleys for a more comfortable hike.

February is when the sun is back on its way north and sunny days in the twenties can be very pleasant indeed. Trails, especially groomed bike trails are smooth and easy to hike on.

March means cold nights and warm afternoons. This means the best hikes are late morning or early afternoon. Be sure to bring your **Yaktraks** for any icy spots.

April is a month that usually means melting of the snow pack and **closing of natural surface trails**. Head to the **Lakewalk or DWP trails**.

May is an explosion of green. Blooms of apple and berry trees make for spectacular vistas. The creeks and rivers have wildflowers and plenty of water flow.

June is my favorite time to hike the creeks and rivers. The waterfalls and cascades are flowing, everything is bright green and the shorelines are dotted with beautiful wildflowers.

July is a time when creeks and river shores are transformed into seas of tall green grasses and spectacular-colored wildflowers. Wildflowers such as Michigan Lilies and wild orchids such as the Showy Lady Slipper can be found along trails for those in the know.

August is a time when the creeks are at their lowest flow but the late season wildflowers can be seen along creeks, rivers and trails. It can be a time of quiet hikes and reflection.