

## 7.Kingsbury Creek Route



View from Lake Superior Zoo up to stone bridge

**Highlights:** The views from the bridges are spectacular. There are many beautiful areas to explore on Kingsbury Creek. Add on the Lake Superior Zoo for a full experience.

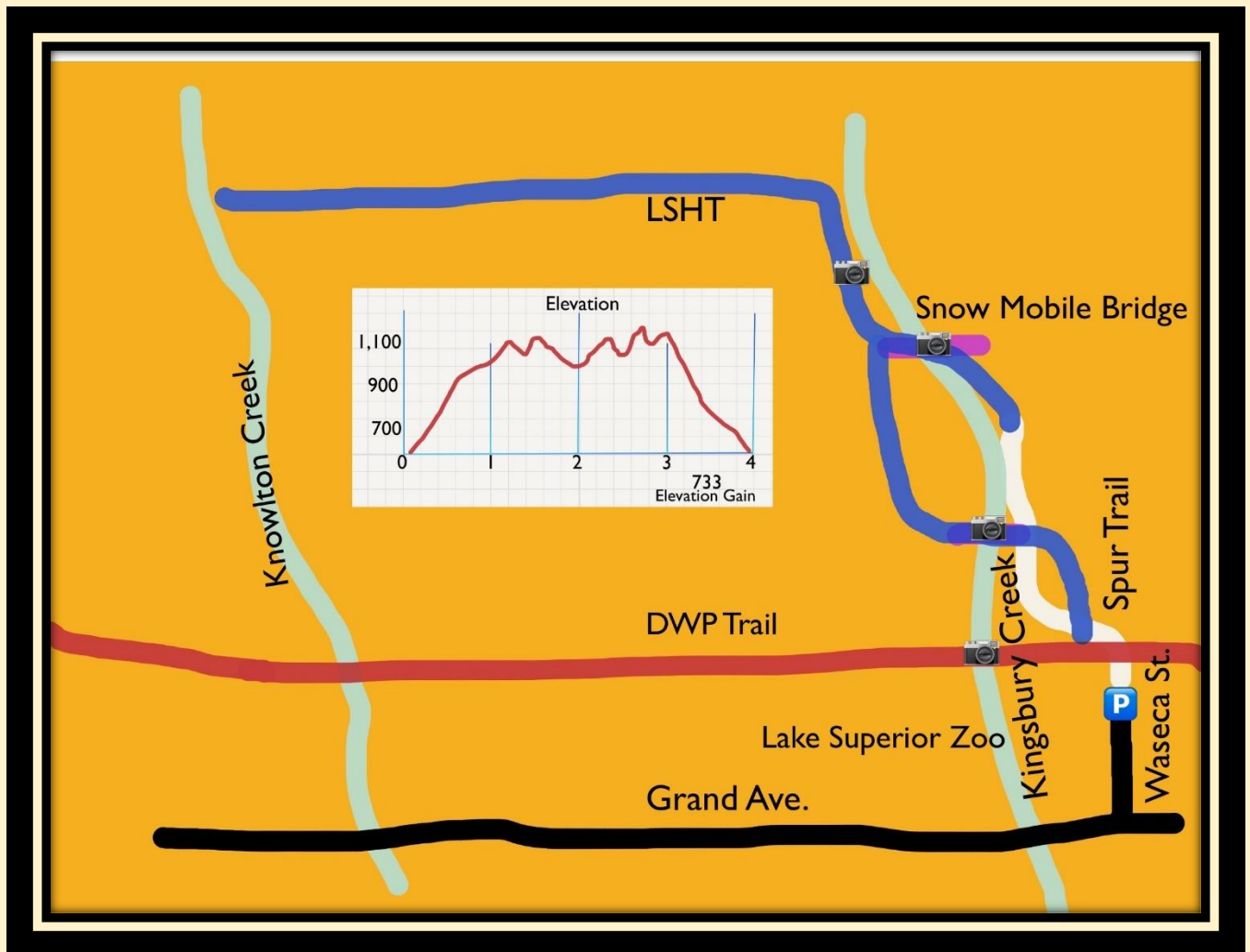
### **Parking and Directions:**

From 35W take the **Grand Ave Exit going west**. Drive west on Grand Ave. until you see the **Lake Superior Zoo sign and turn on Waseca Ave**. Parking is at the end of Waseca Ave. The **LSHT spur trail** is at the north end of the parking lot.

**Distance:** 4-mile up and back

**Difficulty:** strenuous in spots but moderate

**Recommended for:** most hikers



## The Route:

**Mile 1:** (Read these directions carefully because there are many confusing signs on the beginning of this route) From the trailhead head up the hill on the **LSHT spur trail** (white rectangles). When reaching the **DWP bike trail** turn left and look for the **LSHT markings** that lead down to the creek. Once on the trail, you will see a path to your left leading to the creek. This leads to a beautiful spot where you can look down the creek to see a historic stone bridge. **This is photo spot #1.** After going back to the main trail head up the creek. You will come to the LSHT bridge (**however, do not cross it now and ignore the trail signs heading east**). Rather **head up the snowmobile trail** (Old Thompson Hill Road) and look for a beautiful spot down on the creek about a quarter mile from the start. **This is photo spot #2.** Continue up the snowmobile road and you will soon reach another beautiful spot with paths heading down to the creek. **This is photo spot #3.** Just up the hill you will see a path off to your left leading up

**the hill with LSHT markings. This leads up to the snowmobile trail and bridge. As soon as you cross the bridge look to your right and you will see the LSHT markings heading up a rock and into the woods.** This is a really beautiful cedar covered section of the LSHT. About halfway up this section, look for an open area with access to the creek. This is **photo spot #5. The trail heads up and away from the creek.** The trail follows the ridge through a variety of mixed forest.

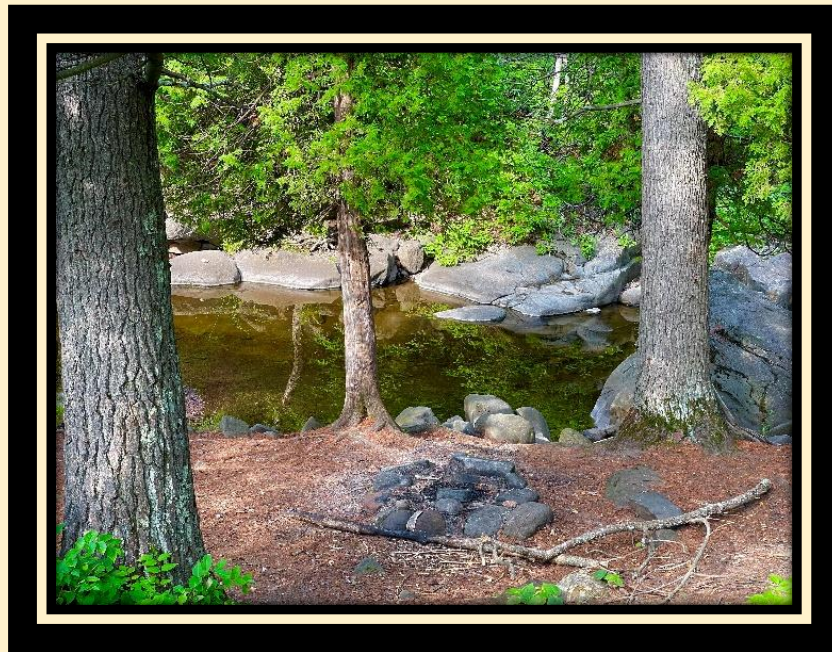
**Mile 2:** Just after the one-mile mark, you come to a wooden bridge of the **82 Ave. Creek.** From here on you come to a beautiful hardwood forest area. At the one and one-half mile mark you come upon a huge valley with a narrow trail heading down hill. This valley is part of the Knowlton Creek watershed and is very pretty in summer. At the bottom of the valley, you will come to a branch of Knowlton Creek and the trail follows along the creek. Eventually you will find yourself back on the snowmobile road. (**Watch the trail makers carefully**). When you get to the **second snowmobile bridge, it is time to turnaround if you are doing the regular route.**

**Mile 3:** Once you turn around, you will be of course heading back to that deep valley you came through. The way back is a bit easier once you climb back out of the valley. Make sure to enjoy the beautiful wooded areas.

**Mile 4:** Once you climb down through the upper creek area and reach **the first snowmobile bridge, head straight across the road and look for the LSHT markers** heading down the hill. This is another beautiful stretch of trail that follows the creek from up on top of hills. Follow the trail markings down the hill and cross the bike trail to **the LSHT bridge.** This bridge is **photo spot #6. Once you cross the bridge, look quickly to your right for the sign that leads back to the parking area. Follow the white trail markings down the hill until you get to the point where the trail turns left. Head up the short path straight instead to the DWP trail. Turn right on the trail to get views from the top of the bridge. Finally, head back to the east and look for the trail heading downhill to the parking lot.**



**Area just north of the DWP bridge on Kingsbury Creek, photo spot#1**



**Beautiful creek spot, just north of LSHT bridge, photo spot #2**



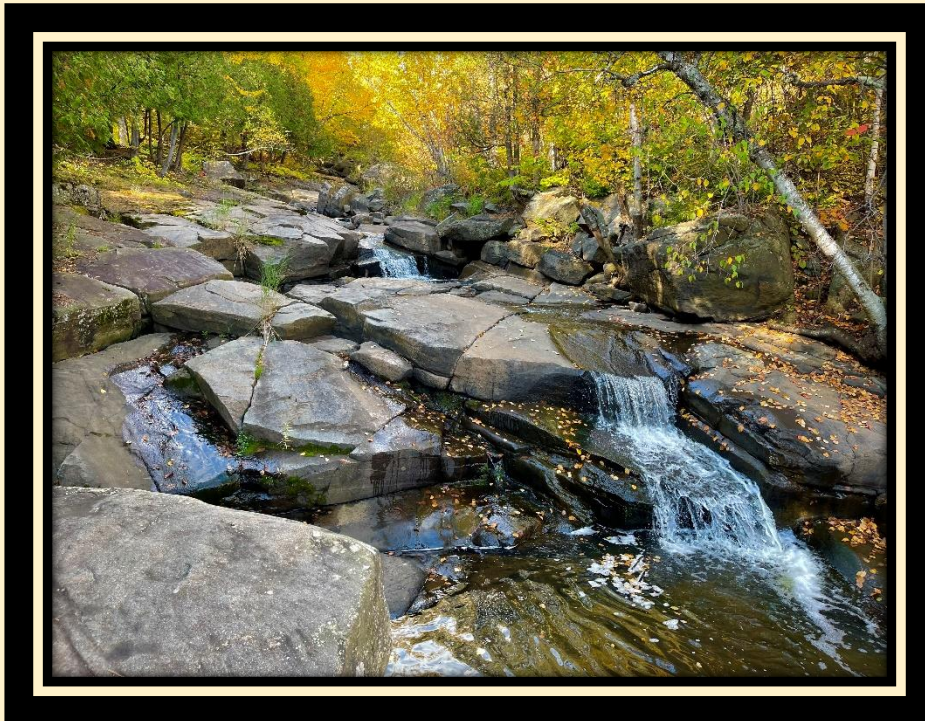
**Photo spot #3**



**LSHT heading left of road**



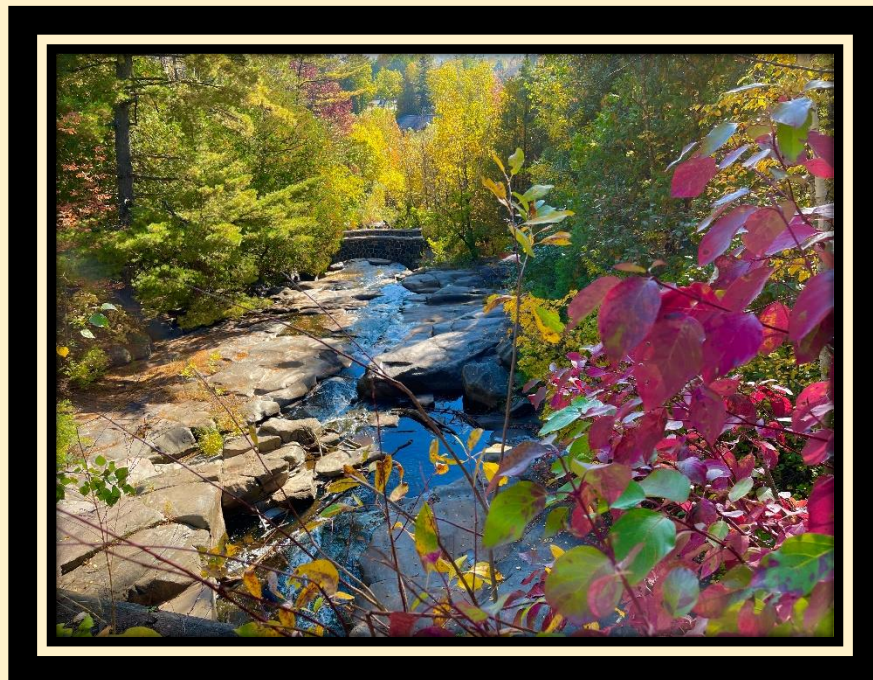
Beautiful creek spot north of snowmobile bridge, photo spot #4



Looking north from the LSHT bridge, photo spot#5



**LSHT Spur Trail sign leading back to DWP Trail**



**View looking south from the DWP bridge, photo spot #6**

**Extended Route:** Continue on the LSHT until you get to the **second snowmobile bridge** and **head downhill using the LSHT along Knowlton Creek to the Spirit Mt lower chalet.**

**Family Friendly Route:** The **zoo provides an easy way to see Kingsbury Creek** and have fun seeing all the animals. There are play grounds, picnic areas, food concessions, and a little train that takes kids around the park. Hike up to the **DWP Bridge** and let the kids explore all the rocks and water. This is a great family area.

## **After the hike:**

This is a great place to hike because it is not too steep and there are great views from the many bridges. For a cold beverage head across Grand Ave. to the **Tapa Keg**. [Tappa Keg Inn Menu, Reviews and Photos - 7036 Grand Ave 55807-2146, \(food96.com\)](#)

**Strava Link** <https://www.strava.com/routes/3171564588620813450>