



**Trails Legend**

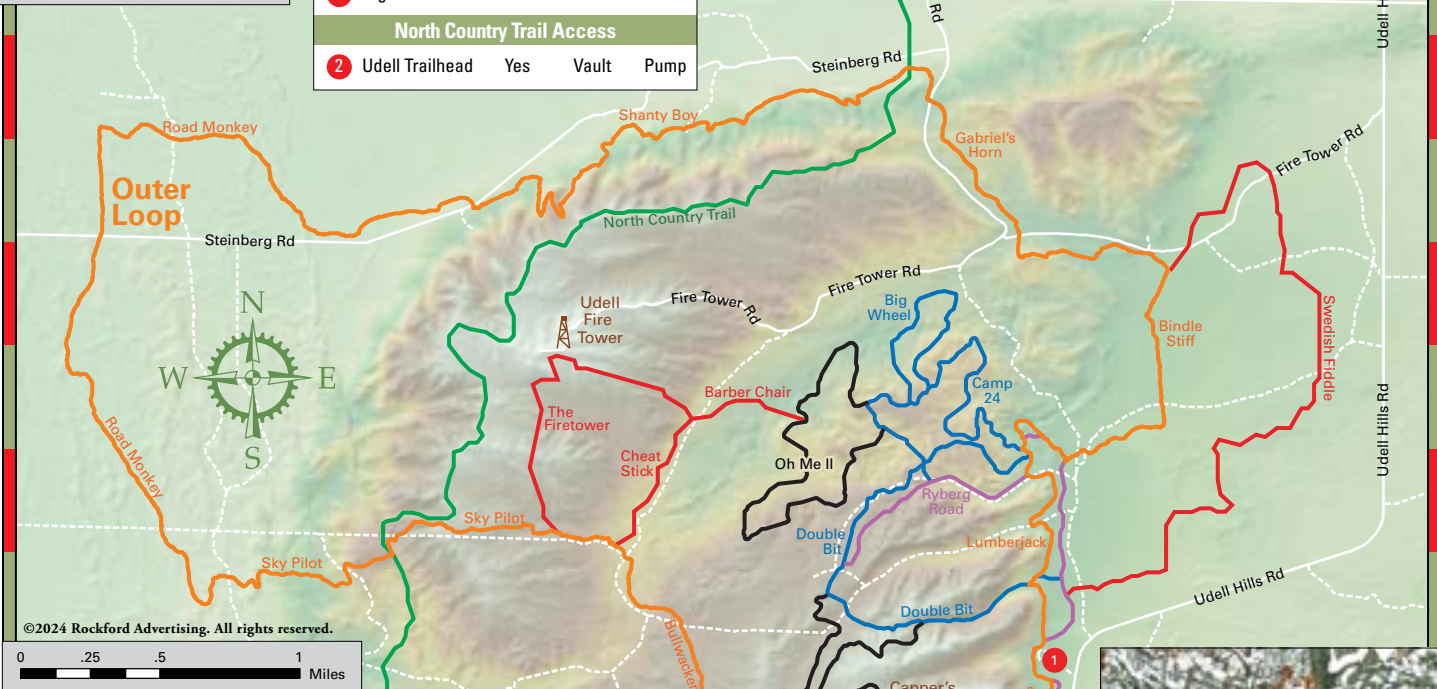
- Hike/Bike/Ski Trails
- Big M Outer Loop
- North Country Trail
- Highways
- Paved and Gravel Roads
- Primitive/Two-Track Roads

**Big M Trail Access**

Access Site	Parking	Restrooms	Water
1 Big M Trailhead	Yes	Vault	No

**North Country Trail Access**

2 Udell Trailhead	Yes	Vault	Pump
-------------------	-----	-------	------



The Big M is groomed for crosscountry skiing and fat tire biking during the winter season.

The Big M Trails • Wellston Arboretum Trail

### The Big M Trails

The Udell Hills tower above the second growth canopy of Manistee National Forest. In the mid 1950s, the Manistee Ski Area was established on the steep eastern slopes of the Udell Hills. It was renamed “The Big M” in the 1960s, and faded into history sometime in the early 1970s. Now part of Manistee National Forest, the Big M recreation area boasts over 40 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails that are groomed by local volunteers for cross-country skiing and fat tire biking during the winter months. The trailhead, shelter and many of the trail loops were built on the site of the former ski resort.

The 15.6-mile **Big M Outer Loop Trail** is considered one of Michigan’s top 10 mountain biking trails, and the main attraction for most cyclists. Locals recommend riding The Loop in a clockwise fashion. You’ll encounter challenging climbs and thrilling downhills on the south and north slopes and a fun twisty romp through hardwood forest and pine groves on the remote western side of The Loop. The **North Country Trail** passes along a ridge through the Big M with a trailhead just off M-55.

### Wellston Arboretum Trail

This 1.27-mile trail loop passes along Pine Creek and through the remnants of the Wellston Arboretum. The 40-acre Arboretum was developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps from nearby Camp Wellston. Between 1940 and 1943, 30 species of native and exotic trees were planted on 68 lots, designed to introduce the public to various types of trees from around the world. Open to hiking and mountain biking, the trail takes you on a scenic tour through the various tree plantings, where you’ll notice some species were more successful than others. At the trailhead, an informational kiosk tells the history of the arboretum and Chittenden Nursery.