

Cache in on Nature

can you fall in the gorge?



Sometimes a roadside park can be more than a place to stop and stretch your legs. As you travel north on US 41 there is one of these wonderful little parks that hold many hidden treasures just beyond the picnic tables. About half way between US 28 and the small community of Alberta is the Canyon Gorge Roadside Park. This is the site of a three stage multi-geocache that follows a trail into the largest box canyon in Michigan. The first two stages of this cache lead you along the Sturgeon River to the final stage where the actual cache container is located. But the cache creator states “The beauty of the area is what this cache is all about!”

As you leave the parking lot and start looking for the first stage (use coordinates N 46° 37.480 W 088° 28.470) you soon find yourself following the Sturgeon River as it rushes through a series of rapids and small waterfalls. Picking up speed the river drops straight into the mouth of the canyon creating the 15’ Canyon Falls. This first section of the trail is maintained by volunteers from the Michigan Technical University Forestry Program and is about one mile long. The trail continues beyond this point but it is not maintained. Leading along the edge of the canyon, and then down into what some people call “the Grand Canyon of Michigan” the trail takes you by two more

waterfalls. After hiking through thick stands of pine and fir and passing moss covered walls of stone, it brings you by a small 8’ waterfall and finally the 30’ Upper Falls.

More information about this cache location and clues to the different stages can be found at www.geocaching.com Search for “Can you fall in the Gorge?” 🗺️

–Gary O’Boyle