

(Draft) PHASE 2 - LONG-RANGE ACTION GOALS PLAN

Long-range action plan providing specific action goals focused on the natural resources, historic-cultural resources, recreation opportunities, and the education-interpretation opportunities of each zone established in the "General Management Plan" for...



Prepared by:
Paul N. Curtis, Park Management Plan Administrator

PLAN APPROVALS:

Chief, Recreation Division

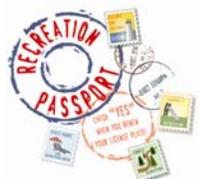
Date

Chief, Operations Section

Date

Chief, Planning Section

Date



PLAN APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Park Management Plan Administrator _____
Date

Stewardship Unit Manager _____
Date

Plainwell District Supervisor _____
Date

Plainwell District Planner _____
Date

Park Manager, Fort Custer Recreation Area _____
Date

METD Education Unit, Office of Marketing, Education, and Technology _____
Date

FOR INFORMATION:

NRC – MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: _____
Date

DNRE – STATEWIDE COUNCIL: _____
Date

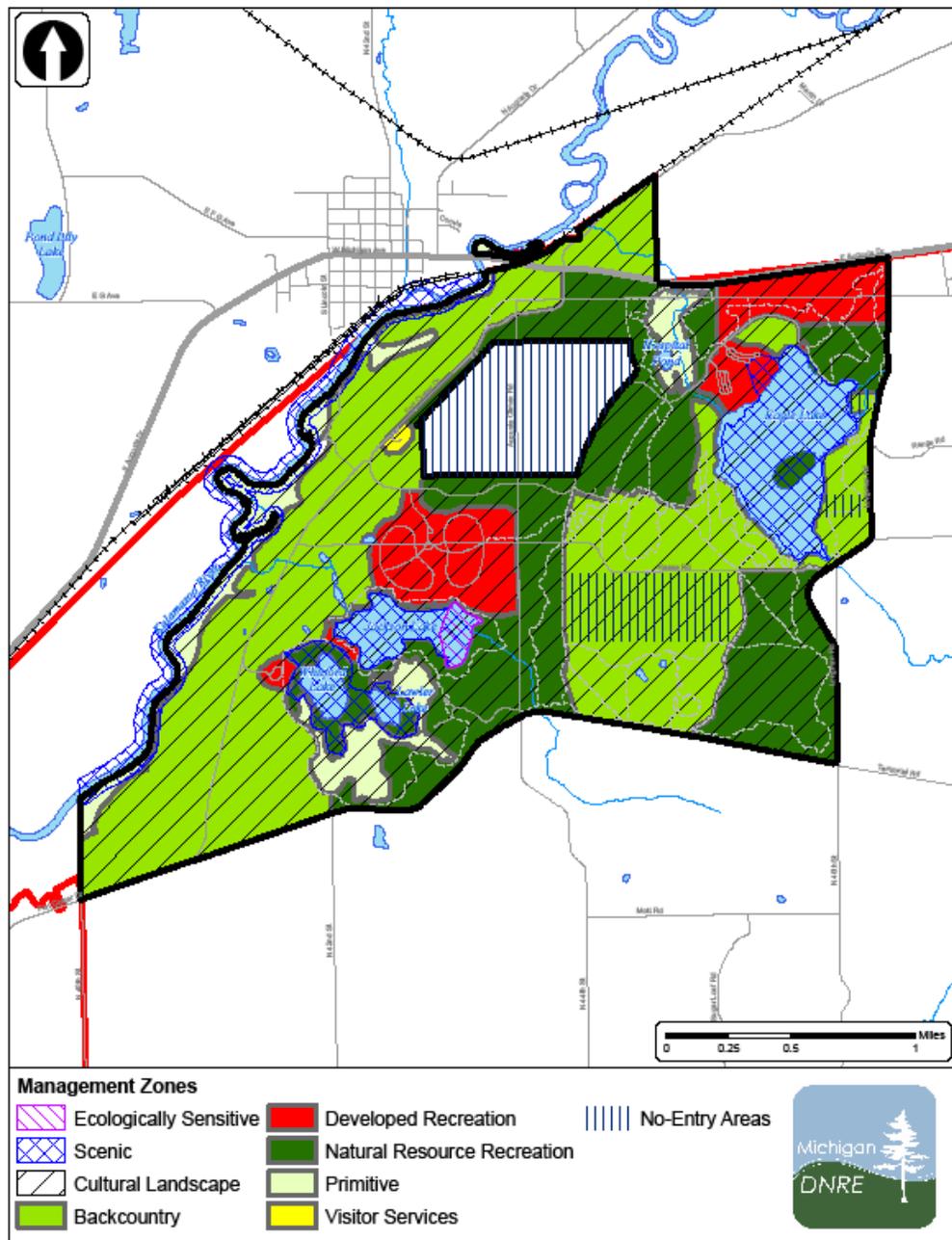
DNRE – SLP ECOTEAM: _____
Date

RD – SECTION CHIEFS AND MANAGEMENT TEAM: _____
Date

INTRODUCTION

This is "Phase 2", the 10-year 'Action Goals' phase of planning for Fort Custer Recreation Area. In this phase, the first action is to re-evaluate the General Management Plan (GMP) to assure that no conditions have changed that would cause a change in that overall guiding document. Having recently adopted the General Management Plan for this park, it stands as written.

PHASE 1 – GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN



June 4, 2010

PHASE 2 – LONG-RANGE ACTION GOALS

The second phase of management planning for Fort Custer Recreation Area (RA) establishes “General Action Goals” that apply to the entire park as well as long-range action goals for each of the management zones defined in the GMP.

Acronyms used:

- **RD** Recreation Division
- **METD** Marketing, Education, and Technology Division
- **MNFI** Michigan Natural Features Inventory
- **DOD** Department of Defense

GENERAL ACTION GOALS

The long-range action goals that apply to the park as a whole include:

- With public input, and in partnership with user groups, separate trails for mountain bike and equestrian users, resulting in a trail plan that meets user needs, complies with Phase 1 zoning, and is sustainable.

TARGET DATE: ASAP

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: User groups, Planning, Stewardship, Park, and Public

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District Planner and Park Manager

- Implement recommendations for trail separation, including improved trailhead parking for both user groups.

TARGET DATE: ASAP

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District Planner and Park Manager

- Complete the “Stewardship Plan” for the entire park (partially complete now) to be compatible with and supportive of the Management Plan:

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2010

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Stewardship and Wildlife Division

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Stewardship Ecologist

- Implement the specific provisions of the (new/updated) Stewardship Plan.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Park and Stewardship

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Park Manager

- Acquire land within the 2004 NRC Boundary:

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Lands Management and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Lands Manager

- Notify DOD (Department of Defense) that PRD is interested in acquiring their lands if/when they dispose of them:

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2010

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Lands Management

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Lands Manager

- Identify opportunities to improve connectivity within and beyond park boundaries by both land and water (e.g. opportunities with Kalamazoo Valley Trail and potential for a water trail connection, etc.):

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District Planner

- Conduct a feasibility study for a new park entrance, east of the current location, to more directly access the Eagle Lake Day-Use Beach area:

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2018

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District Planner

- Develop a marketing plan for the park based on natural and cultural resources, and recreation opportunities (including advertising of events):

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2020

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Park, Operations, and METD

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Marketing Specialist

- Develop a cultural resources inventory of the park for interpretation, protection, and preservation:

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2020

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Stewardship

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Cultural Resource Specialist

- Update the Natural Features Inventory and expand to include aquatic systems:

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2020

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Stewardship and MNFI

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Stewardship Ecologist and designated MNFI staff

- Complete “Wildfire Plan”:

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2010

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Stewardship and Park Manager

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Stewardship Ecologist

- Prepare an “Emergency Plan”:

TARGET DATE: Annually

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Park Manager

- Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources:

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Stewardship and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Cultural Resource Specialist and Park Manager

- Explore and develop revenue generating opportunities that are sustainable:

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Program Services, Operations, District, and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Funds Specialist

- Identify and develop expanded/upgraded trailhead parking to serve trail system and user needs:

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2020

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District Planner

- Develop a master “Site Development Plan” for the park, reflective of the approved PH2 Action Goals:

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2020

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District Planner

MANAGEMENT ZONE ACTION GOALS

The following long-range action goals are proposed for each Management Zone of the park. Zones applied to Fort Custer RA include:

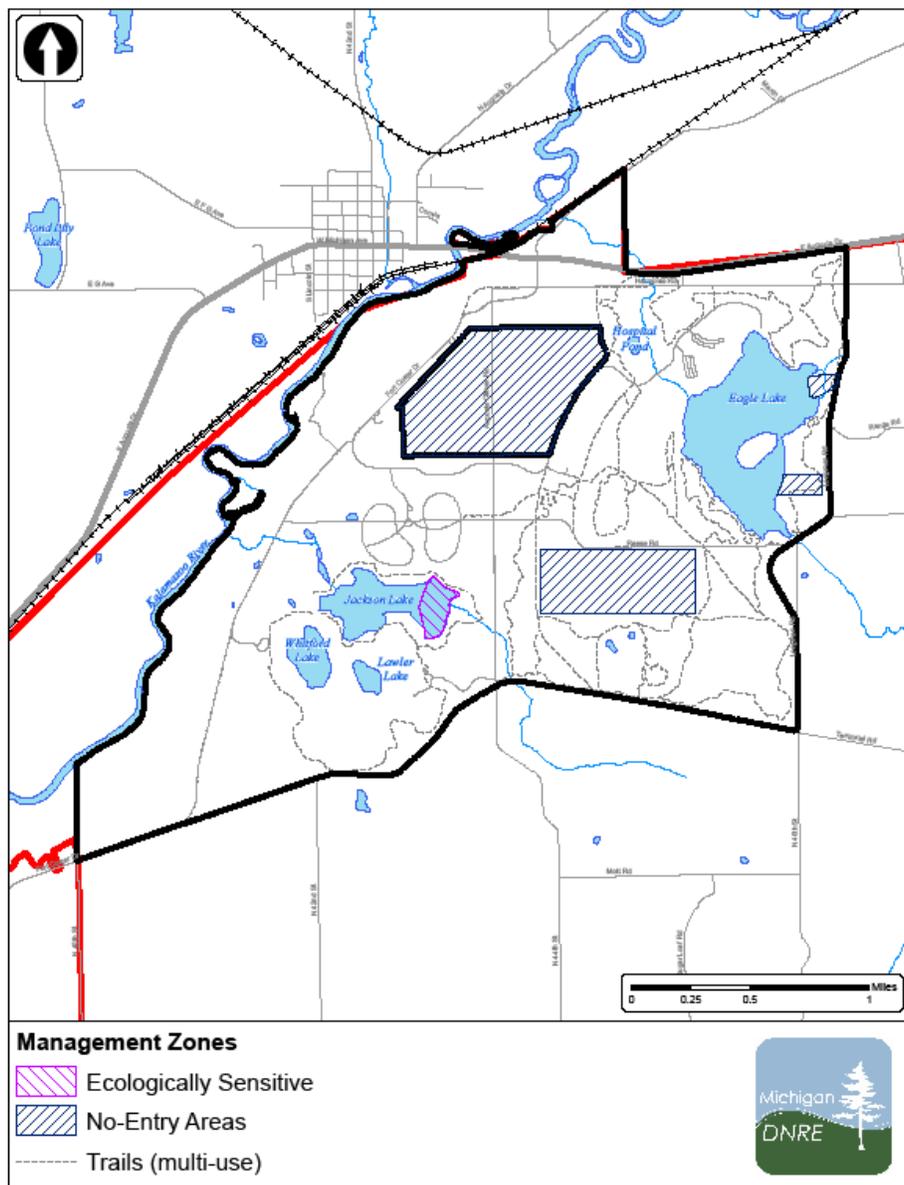
- Ecologically Sensitive Zone (Seasonal application)
- Primitive Zone
- Backcountry Zone
- Natural Resource Recreation Zone
- Developed Recreation Zone
- Visitor Services Zone
- Cultural Landscape Zone (Overlay)
- Scenic Zone (Overlay)

For each management zone in the plan, action goals are recommended that address the following categories:

- Natural Resources
- Historic/Cultural Resources
- Recreation Opportunities
- Education/Interpretation Opportunities
- Management Focus
- Visitor Experience
- Development

ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE ZONE (ES)

The purpose of this zone is enhancement and protection of the native community and natural process over and above any other uses. This zone identifies the nesting area(s) for trumpeter swans and is designated 'seasonal' to protect the nesting area(s). The restrictions would be in place only when the swans are actively nesting (February 1 to July 15). Historically, the swans have nested on the east side of Jackson Hole Lake. The Planning Team felt it was important to make note of this seasonal designation. There is an early hunt season for Canada Geese, which starts September 1st. The early hunt season should not affect the swans during nesting season. This zone (overlay) makes up 16 acres (less than 1%) of the park.



June 4, 2010

The following action goals will be attained in the Ecologically Sensitive Zone (ES):

- (ES) **Natural Resources**

- No vegetative management that would disturb historically active nesting areas will be allowed at any time of the year:

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Park and Stewardship

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Park Manager and Stewardship Ecologist

- During the zone season, vegetative management practices will not conflict with the purpose of the zone (protection of the nesting area from disturbance):

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Park and Stewardship

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Park Manager and Stewardship Ecologist

- Control invasive species, including mute swans, in the zone:

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Park and Stewardship

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Park Manager and Stewardship Ecologist

- (ES) **Historic/Cultural Resources** (NA)

- (ES) **Recreational Opportunities**

- During the zone season, recreational activities will not be allowed in the zone. During hunting season (early goose season starts September 1) there are no restrictions on access.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Park Manager

- (ES) **Education/Interpretation Opportunities**

- Provide information on trumpeter swans at appropriate locations away from the protected zone:

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: METD and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: METD
Education Unit

- Allow swan research with oversight by PRD-Stewardship:

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Stewardship

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Stewardship
Unit Manager

- (ES) **Visitor Experience** (No access to zone allowed during zone season)

- (ES) **Management Focus**

- Determine nesting activity and define (with marker posts or other means) a 450' protective buffer annually.

TARGET DATE: Annually by February 1

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Park
Manager

- Control the scheduling of work and park use activities so as not to cause disturbance to the zone.

TARGET DATE: February 1 to July 15 annually

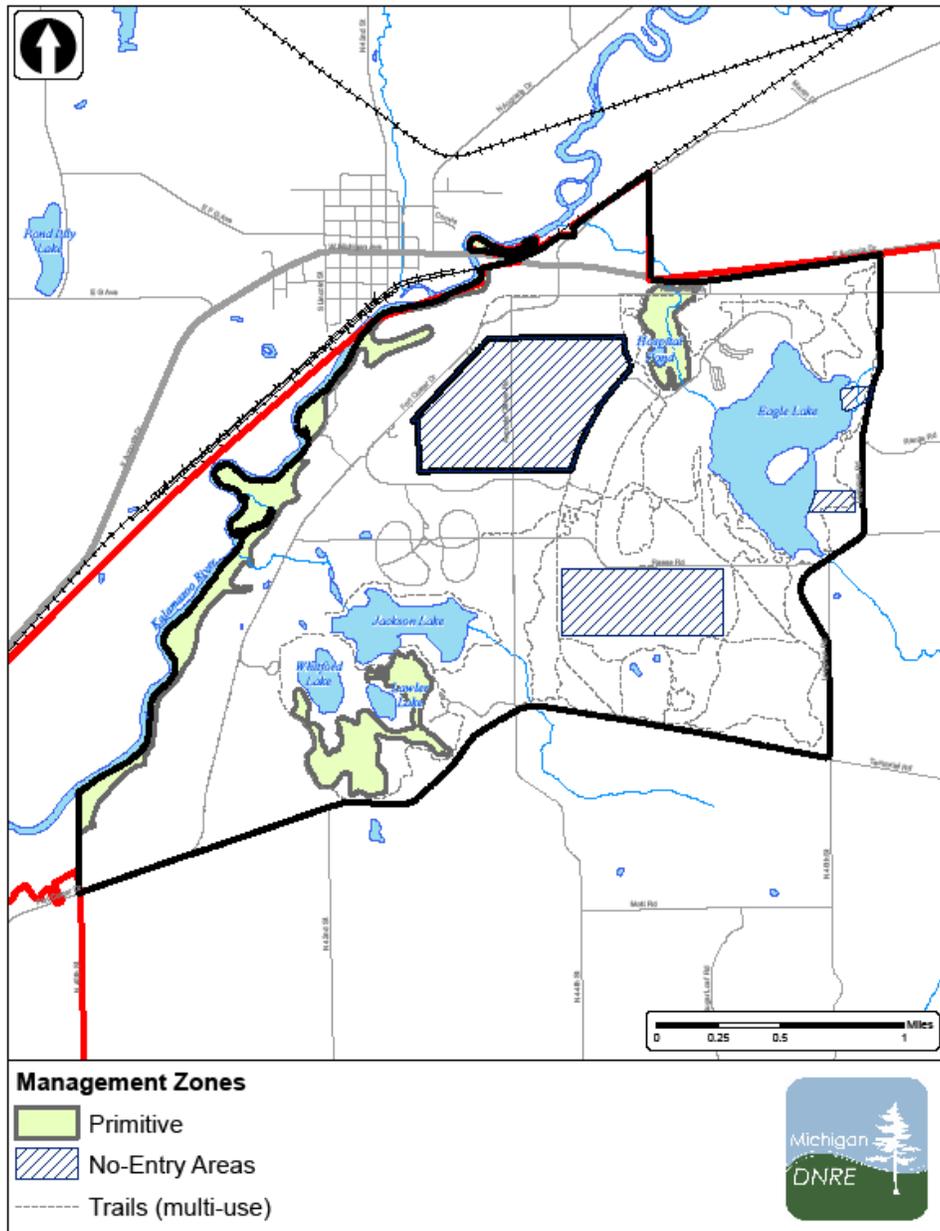
PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Park
Manager

- (ES) **Development** (NA)

PRIMITIVE ZONE (P)

Of the total 3,030 acres in the park, 237 acres (8%) of undeveloped land fall into this zone description. This zone emphasizes the park's high quality natural resources. The zone is defined by the floodplain of the Kalamazoo River, the emergent marsh located north of Eagle Lake, and the emergent marsh located south of Whitford Lake. Attaining and maintaining a high quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements or uses are allowed.



The following action goals will be attained in the Primitive Zone (P):

- (P) **Natural Resources**

- Conduct survey of emergent marshes and floodplain forests for non-native species.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Stewardship

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Stewardship Ecologist

- Consult with Wildlife Division and other experts (including MDOT) re. beaver impacts in wetlands north of Eagle Lake, with specific focus on potential safety concerns of flooding on Harmonia Road, and downstream impacts on existing infrastructure, should a beaver dam failure occur. Control beaver only if infrastructure or safety is threatened.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Stewardship

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Stewardship Unit Manager

- Restore the natural hydrology of the wetlands north of Eagle Lake.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning and Stewardship

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District Planner and Stewardship Unit Manager

- (P) **Historic/Cultural Resources** (NA)

- (P) **Recreational Opportunities**

- Continue group camp and boat access at the Kalamazoo River access location, continue use of the River Cabin in this same general location, and continue use of Harmonia Road as part of the trail system pending evaluation of roadbed integrity due to beaver dam flooding.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District Planner and Park Manager

- (P) **Education/Interpretation (E/I) Opportunities** - develop and provide information on the following:

- Kalamazoo River floodplain and emergent marshes.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: METD and Stewardship

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: METD
Education Unit and Stewardship Ecologist

- Invasive species impacts to the park, and control measures available/used.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: METD and Stewardship

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: METD
Education Unit and Stewardship Ecologist

- Rare and endangered species including the Trumpeter Swan.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: METD and Stewardship

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: METD
Education Unit

- Cultural resources.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: METD and Stewardship

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: METD
Education Unit

- (P) **Management Focus**

- Explore 'Universal Access' opportunities for hunting.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District
Planner

- Explore use of Harmonia Road for trail use. Assess integrity of roadbed (currently flooded from beaver pond) and make recommendation.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District
Planner

- Promote volunteer partnerships to meet the resource goals.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Stewardship and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Stewardship
Restoration Specialist and Park Manager

- Maintain a visitor experience that reflects a high degree of 'natural' feel, a significant sense of solitude, and a lack of man-made improvements.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Park
Manager

- Target the training of "Outdoor Explorers" to meet the above cited specific E/I needs for this zone.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: METD

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: METD
Education Unit

- (P) **Development**

- Install interpretive signage and trail route markers (Harmonia Rd.)

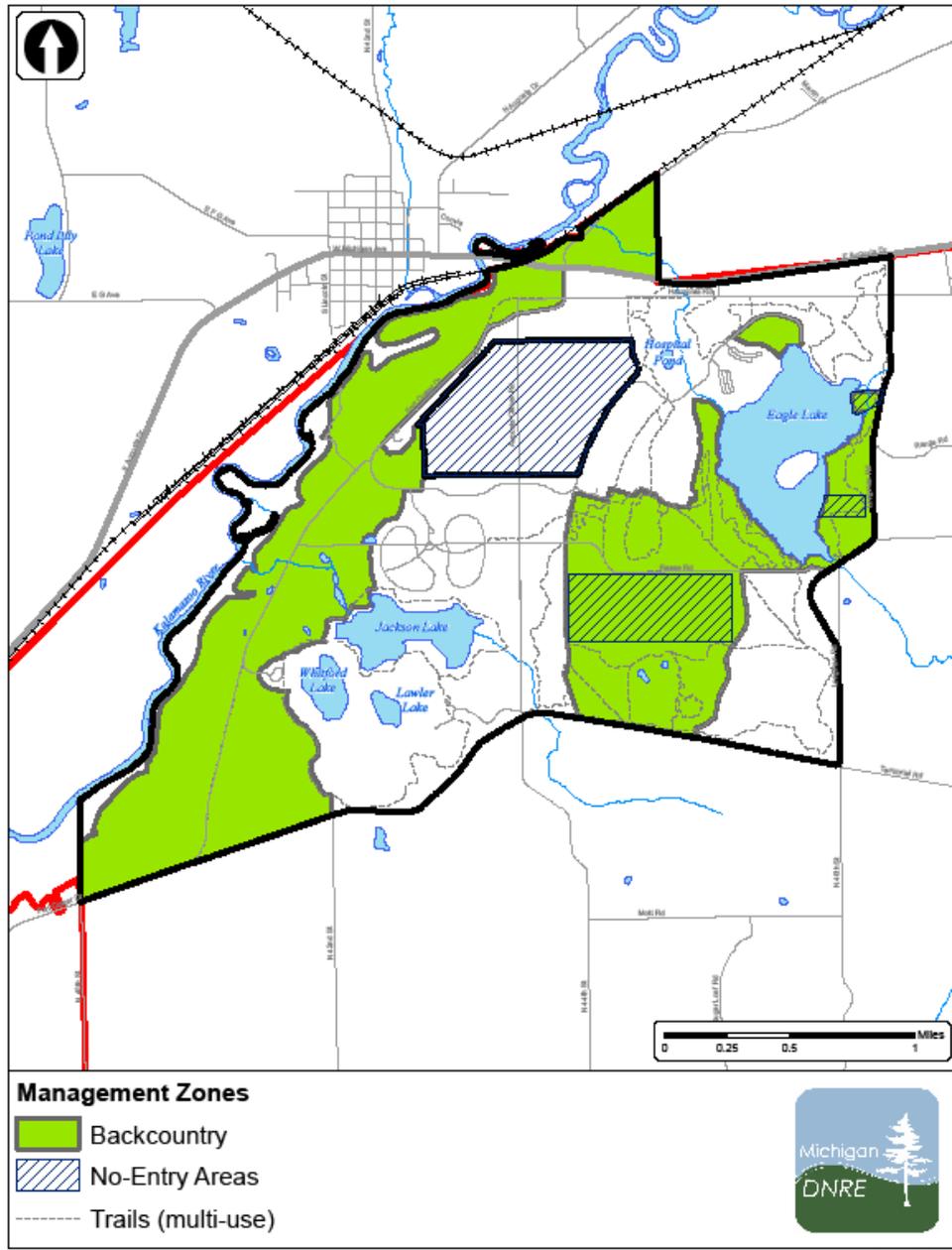
TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Park
Manager

BACKCOUNTRY ZONE (B)

The character of this zone is natural with minimal evidence of human impact. The Backcountry Zone allows for low density trail usage, including bicycle and equestrian and slight modifications of the landscape (i.e. trail development) to accommodate that use. The delineated 'Backcountry Zone' areas within the park were identified to contain higher value natural resources and are actively being maintained/restored by Stewardship. The Backcountry Zone is the largest zone with 1,353 acres of the park (45%).



The following action goals will be attained in the Backcountry Zone (B):

- (B) **Natural Resources**

- Retain farming of 157 acres as Stewardship transitions this land from farming to prairie.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Stewardship and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Stewardship Unit Manager and Park Manager

- (B) **Historic/Cultural Resources** (NA)

- (B) **Recreational Opportunities**

- A designated snowmobile trail (Natural Resource Recreation Zone) impacts this zone.

TARGET DATE: NA

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District Planner and Park Manager

- (B) **Education/Interpretation (E/I) Opportunities** - develop and provide information on the following: (Note...post at park office, campground office, entrance booth, and on web site.)

- Trail users and trail etiquette.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Trail users, METD, and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: METD Education Unit and Park Manager

- The Department of Defense 'closed areas'

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: DOD, METD, and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: METD Education Unit and Park Manager

- (B) **Management Focus**

- Identify ‘Universal Access’ opportunities for all forms of outdoor recreation.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District
Planner

- Coordinate with the Department of Defense to “clear” the military ‘No-Entry’ zones in this Backcountry Zone and open them to public use.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2020

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Park
Manager

- Promote volunteer partnerships to meet the resource goals.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Stewardship and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Stewardship
Volunteer Specialist and Park Manager

- Maintain a visitor experience that reflects a high degree of ‘natural’ feel, a significant sense of solitude, and a lack of man-made improvements.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Park
Manager

- Target the training of “Outdoor Explorers” to meet the above cited specific E/I needs for this zone.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: METD

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: METD
Education Unit

- (B) **Development**

- Implement recommendations for Universal Access improvements and cabin location.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2020

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District
Planner and Park Manager

- Replace bridge (the one w/broken phone poles) on Yellow and Green Trails near the two cabins.

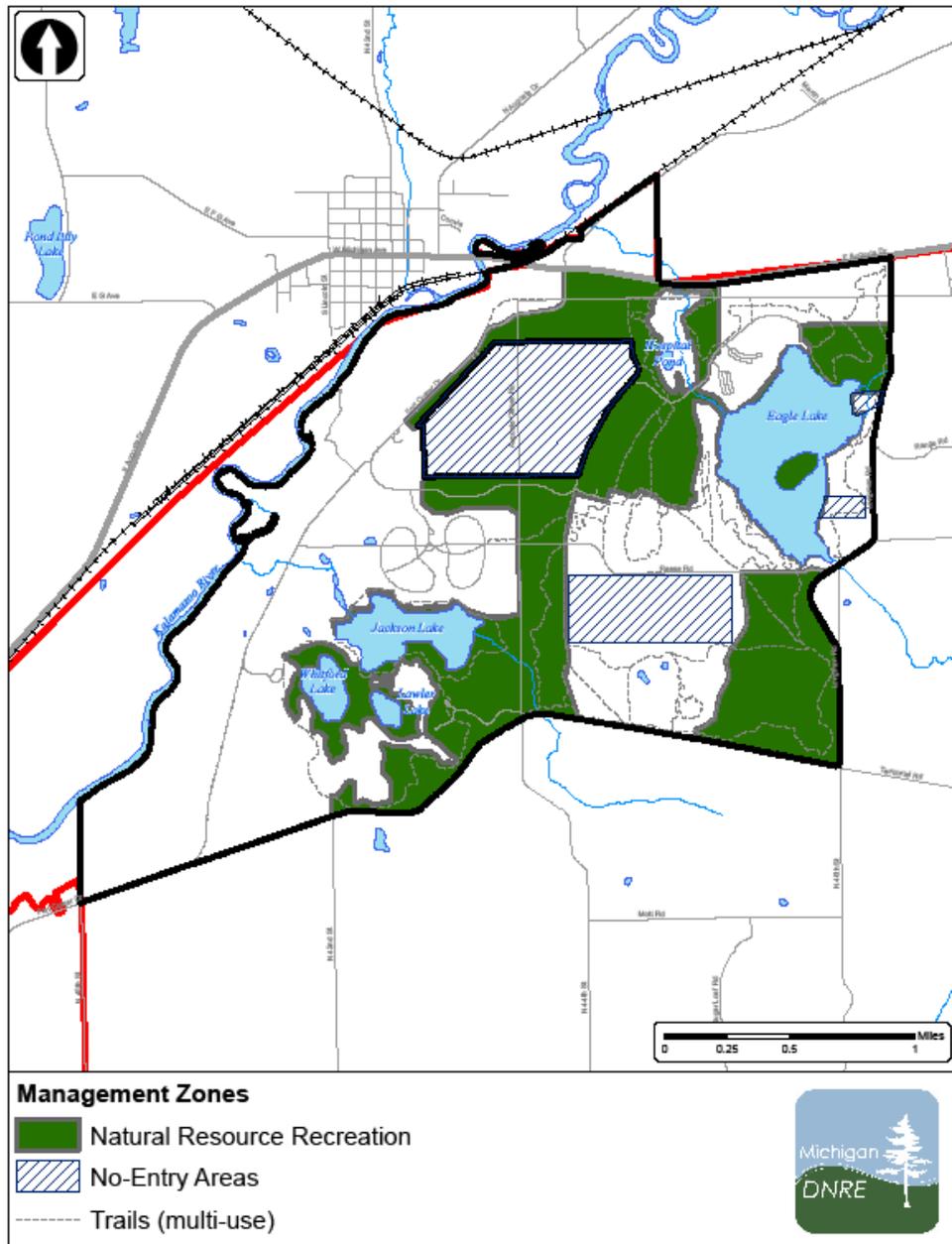
TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Park
Manager

NATURAL RESOURCE RECREATION ZONE (NRR)

The Natural Resource Recreation Zone is the second largest zone with 1,135 acres of the park (37%). This zone is utilized for active recreation, including hunting, fishing, trapping, birding, snowmobiling, and trail usage (biking, hiking, mushing, equestrian, cross-country skiing, etc.). There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but in this zone higher levels of use are allowed. The 'Lakeview' and 'Trailside' cabins exist within this zone and overlook Jackson Hole Lake. The park's three lakes also fall under this zone classification.



June 4, 2010

The following action goals will be attained in the Natural Resource Recreation Zone (NRR):

- (NRR) **Natural Resources**

- Work with Fisheries Division on a muskie stocking plan for Eagle Lake.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Stewardship and Fisheries

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Stewardship Ecologist and Fisheries Unit Biologist

- Investigate need for development of aquatic weed control plans for all three lakes in the Recreation Area.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Stewardship, Fisheries, and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Stewardship Ecologist

- (NRR) **Historic/Cultural Resources** (NA)

- (NRR) **Recreational Opportunities**

- Layout and build new designated snowmobile trail.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2011

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning, Stewardship, and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District Planner and Park Manager

- (NRR) **Education/Interpretation Opportunities**

- Trail users and trail etiquette.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: METD, Trail users, and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: METD Education Unit and Park Manager

(NRR) **Management Focus**

- Promote the educational/interpretive opportunities in the zone.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Park
Manager

- Identify 'Universal Access' outdoor recreation opportunities.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District
Planner

- With stakeholder input, assess need for and use of designated snowmobile trail.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District
Planner

- (NRR) **Development**

- Implement recommendations for Universal Access outdoor recreation opportunities.

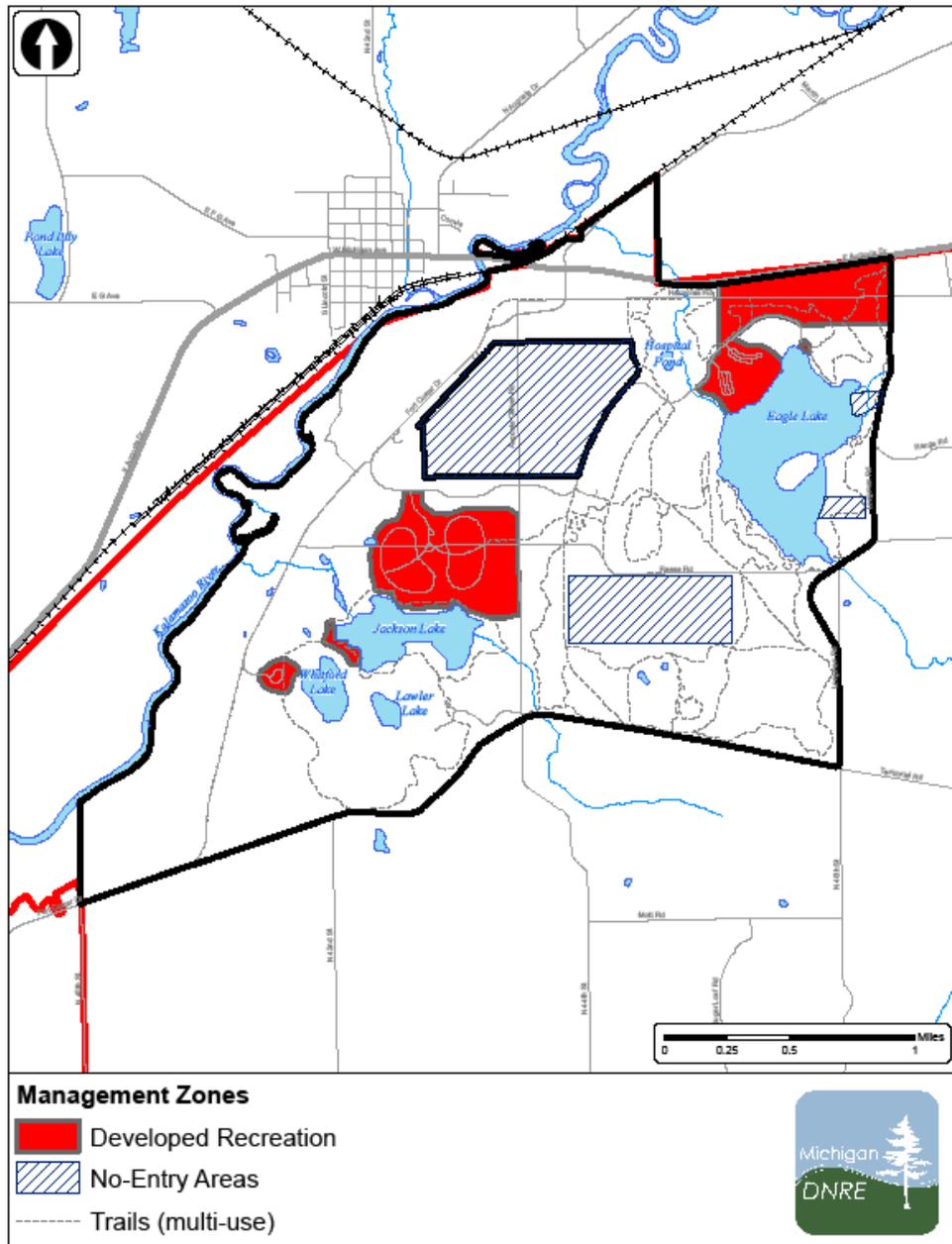
TARGET DATE: 12/31/2020

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Park
Manager

DEVELOPED RECREATION ZONE (DR) (DR)

There are six areas with this designation. In this zone, active recreation takes place in areas not designated for natural resource significance. The total area of the zone is 299 acres (10%), which includes a modern campground, two day-use and beach areas, and four boating access sites (two at one location).



June 4, 2010

The following action goals will be attained in the Developed Recreation Zone (DR):

- (DR) **Natural Resources**

- For the entire zone, but with a focus on the campground, remove non-native invasive shrubs and trees (black locust, autumn olive, honeysuckle, pine, glossy buckthorn, etc.). Replace with native plants to retain the desired vegetative buffer between campsites.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Stewardship Unit and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Stewardship Unit Manager and Park Manager

- For the entire zone, survey and map protected plants.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Stewardship Unit and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Stewardship Ecologist and Park Manager

- (DR) **Historic/Cultural Resources** (NA)

- (DR) **Recreational Opportunities**

- Overnight event camping.

TARGET DATE: Annual

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District Planner and Park Manager

- (DR) **Education/Interpretation Opportunities**

- Trail users and trail etiquette in signage/kiosk and programming messages.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: METD, Trail users, and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: METD Education Unit and Park Manager

- Interpretive programming and telling the story of Fort Custer.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: METD, DOD, and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: METD
Education Unit and Park Manager

(DR) **Management Focus**

- Promote the educational/interpretive opportunities in the zone.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Park
Manager

- Identify 'Universal Access' opportunities (facilities and programming) in the zone.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District
Planner

- Review disc golf after first five-year period of this plan, and adjust zone designation if needed.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District
Planner

- Define area for overnight event camping and develop plan for that use.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2011

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District
Planner

- Conduct a feasibility study for a new park entrance that will come into the park in the vicinity of the Eagle Lake Day-Use Area.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2020

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District
Planner

- Identify location for future camper cabins (look at area off of Kalamazoo River access road).

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District
Planner

- (DR) **Development**

- Expand/upgrade the sanitary dump station and drain fields that serve the campground.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District
Planner

- Upgrade the electrical system in the campground, and include back-up generator.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District
Planner

- Implement Universal Access recommendations for the zone.

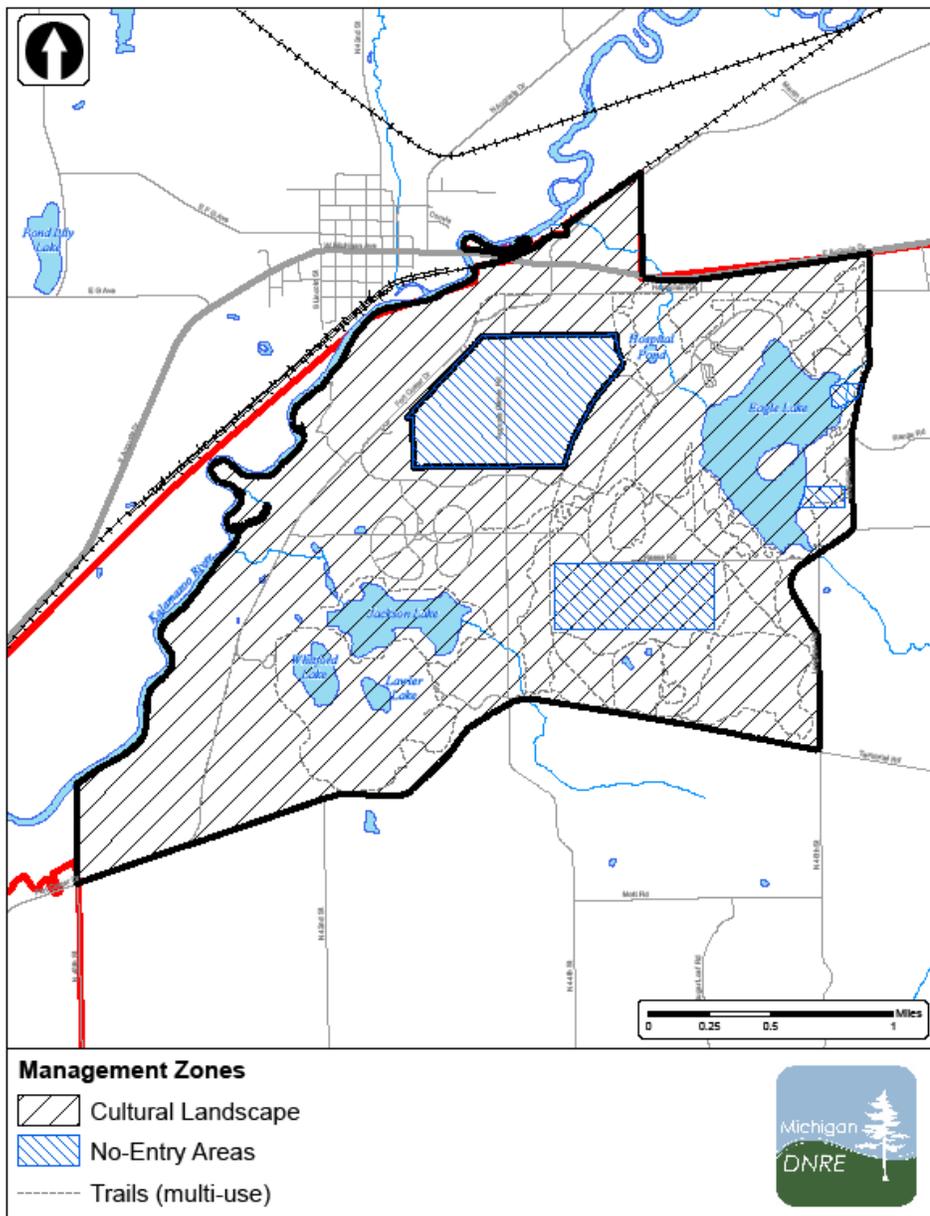
TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District
Planner and Park Manager

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ZONE (CL)

This zone identifies the entire recreation area as within the Cultural Landscape Zone. Recognition needs to be given to the fact that the recreation area was originally a military training base dating back to World War I. Prior to early European settlement, Native American Indians were present in this area. Territorial Road, which defines the southern border of the park, was originally an old Indian trail. The trail later grew to an east/west route for pioneers and later became a stage coach route. Over time, several old farmsteads were constructed throughout the park as the area eventually became settled. In 1917, Camp Custer was built for a military base. The State of Michigan acquired 2,899 acres in 1971 and an additional 96 acres in 1973.



June 4, 2010

The following action goals will be attained in the Cultural Landscape Zone (CL):

- (CL) **Natural Resources** ...(Same as underlying zones)
- (CL) **Historic/Cultural Resources** ...(Same as underlying zones)
- (CL) **Recreational Opportunities** ...(Same as underlying zones)
- (CL) **Education/Interpretation Opportunities** ...(Same as underlying zones) plus...

- Tell the story of the Fort Custer, from time of Native American influence through its military training period of World War I and II.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: METD and Stewardship

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: METD
Education Unit and Cultural Resource Specialist

- (CL) **Visitor Experience** ...(Same as underlying zones)
- (CL) **Management Focus** ...(Same as underlying zones) plus...

- Implement education and interpretation recommendations.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

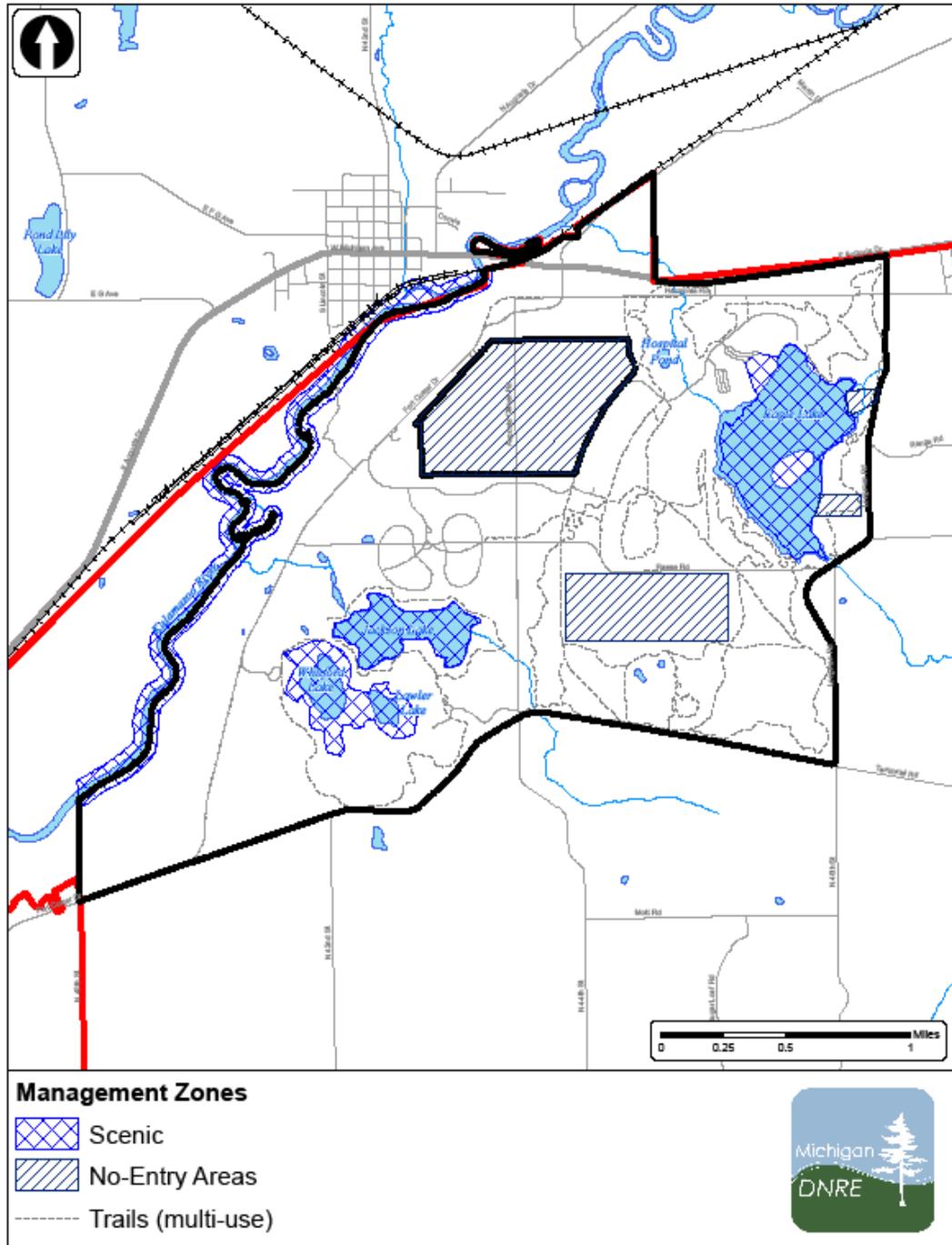
PROGRAM INPUT FROM: METD and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: METD
Education Unit and Park Manager

- (CL) **Development** ...(Same as underlying zones)

SCENIC ZONE (S)

This zone recognizes that there are aesthetic qualities to be preserved and protected in the park. The Scenic Zone incorporates the Kalamazoo River frontage of the park, Eagle Lake, Whitford-Lawler Lake, Jackson Hole Lake and the hilltop picnic shelters on the north side of Eagle Lake. The total overlay acreage is 289 (9.5%) of FCRA.



The following action goals will be attained in the Scenic Zone (S):

- (S) **Natural Resources** ...(Same as underlying zones) plus.

- Manage vegetation to enhance viewscales of the zone.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Park
Manager

- (S) **Historic/Cultural Resources** ...(Same as underlying zones)
- (S) **Recreational Opportunities** ...(Same as underlying zones)
- (S) **Education/Interpretation Opportunities** ...(Same as underlying zones)
- (S) **Visitor Experience** ...(Same as underlying zones)
- (S) **Management Focus** ...(Same as underlying zones) plus...

- Develop and maintain viewscales of the zone.

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Park
Manager

- (S) **Development** ...(Same as underlying zones) plus...

- Any development in the zone must complement the viewing opportunities.

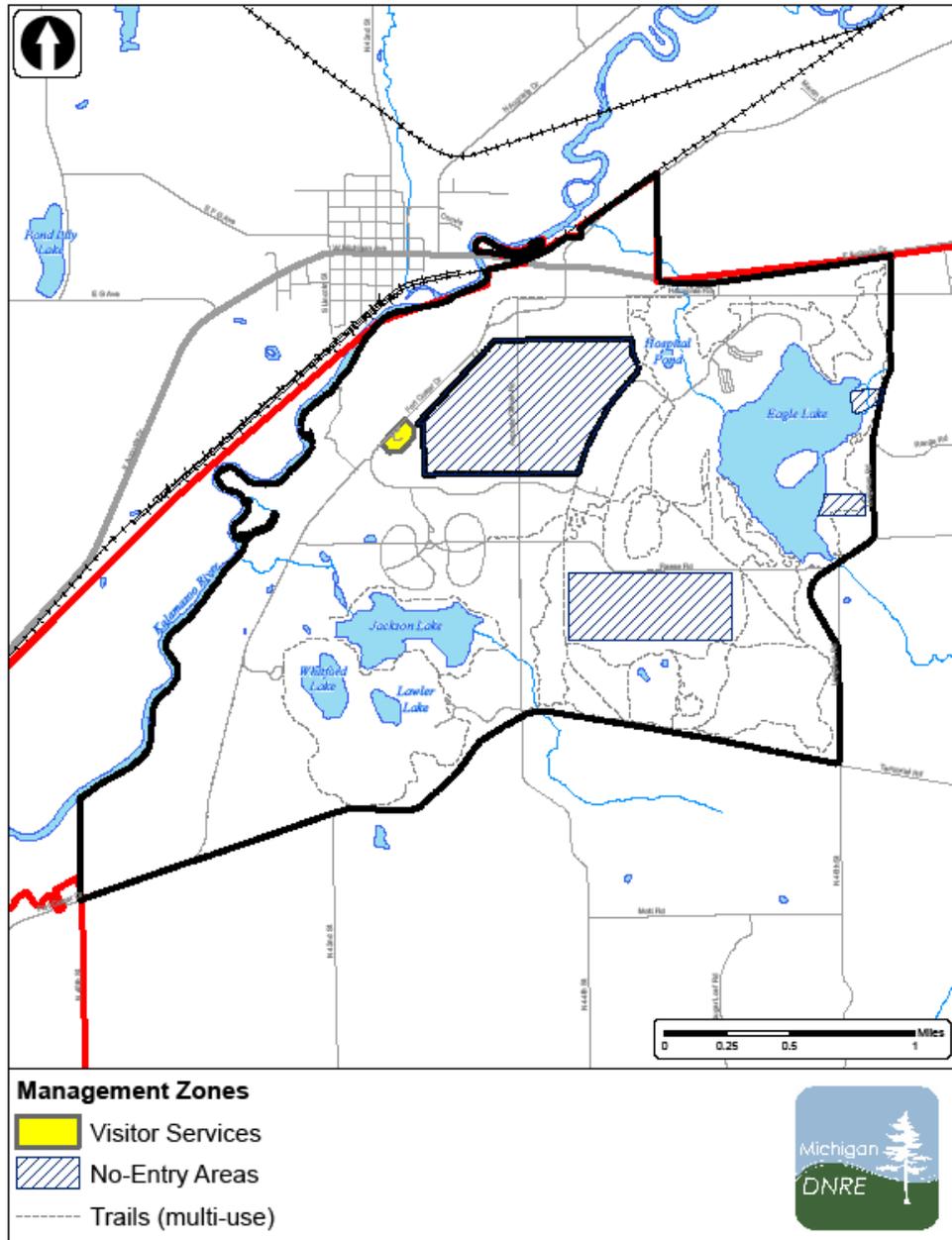
TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District
Planner and Park Manager

Visitor Services Zone (VS)

This zone is located about 1 mile south of the park entrance. It consists of 6 acres (less than 1%) of the park. Included in the zone are the park headquarters building, contact station, old manager's residence, and shop yard behind the headquarters building.



June 4, 2010

The following action goals will be attained in the Visitor Services Zone (VS):

- (VS) **Natural Resources** (NA)
- (VS) **Historic/Cultural Resources** (NA)
- (VS) **Recreational Opportunities** – (NA)
- (VS) **Education/Interpretation (E/I) Opportunities**
 - All park educational and interpretive materials to be available in the office ‘public space.’

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2010

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Park
Manager

- (VS) **Management Focus**

- Provide ‘Universal Access’ to the office from the parking lot and within the building.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District
Planner and Park Manager

- Assure security of offices, facilities and equipment (including outdoor equipment).

TARGET DATE: Ongoing

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Park
Manager

- Define adaptive re-use of old manager’s residence (requires HVAC and restoration of water supply) or remove. (Note...re-use could include: meeting space for park staff and user groups, conference area, etc.)

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District
Planner and Park Manager

- (VS) **Development**

- Install screen fence around outdoor storage area for equipment security and improved visual impact.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: Park
Manager

- Construct cold storage building.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2020

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District
Planner and Park Manager

- Implement needed Universal Access upgrades.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District
Planner and Park Manager

- Restore HVAC and water supply for old manager's residence, and address other required upgrades for defined adaptive re-use, or remove.

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District
Planner and Park Manager

- Install solar or wind turbine to power the contact booth (make highly visible to promote use of 'green' energy and as an education tool).

TARGET DATE: 12/31/2015

PROGRAM INPUT FROM: Planning and Park

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION: District
Planner and Park Manager