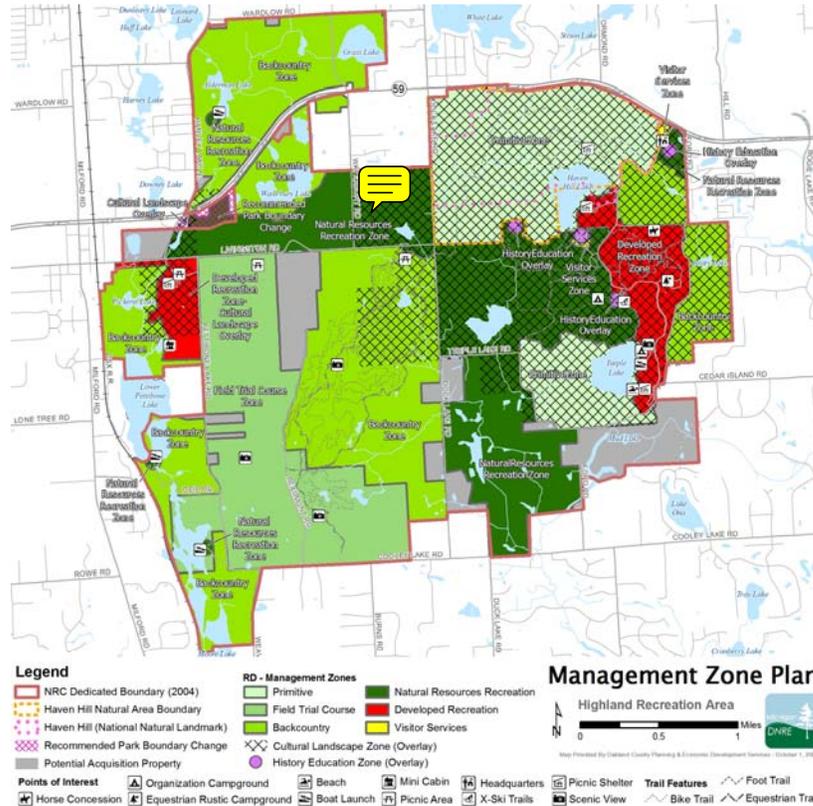


General Management Plan

Long-range management guidance focused on the specific natural resources, historic-cultural resources, recreation opportunities and the education-interpretation opportunities of...

Highland Recreation Area



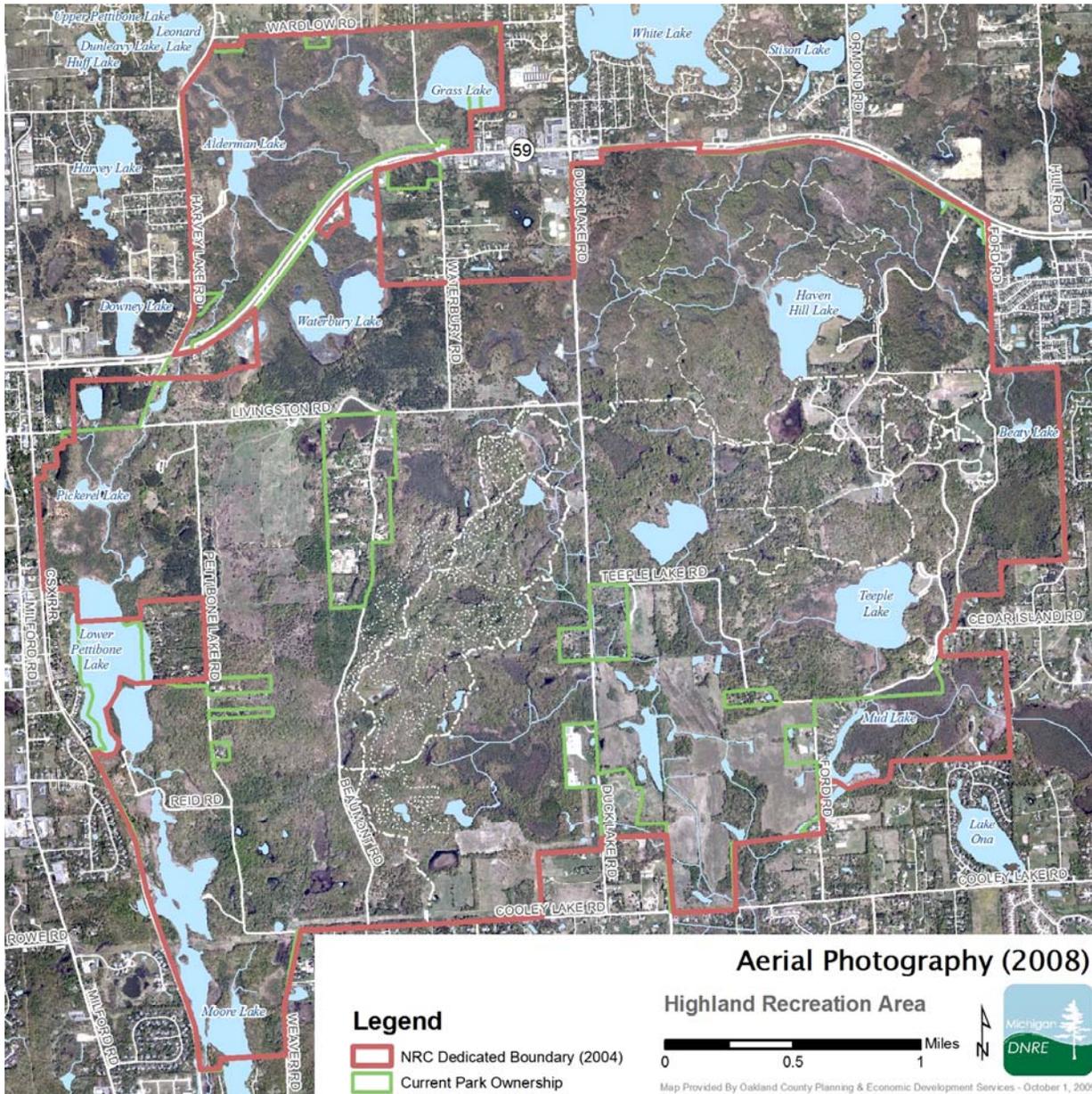
This project was directed by Paul N. Curtis, Management Plan Administrator, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Recreation Division; with assistance from Elizabeth J. Corwin of Highland Township; and from Larry Falardeau and Ryan Dividock of Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services.



PLAN APPROVALS:

| | |
|---|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| Chief, Recreation Division | Date |
| _____ | _____ |
| Deputy Director, Stewardship | Date |
| _____ | _____ |
| Director, Department of Natural Resources and Environment | Date |





Leave page for NRC-MSPAC Resolution

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Management Planning is a defined strategic process within the RD Strategic Plan (2009), reflecting the following Goals and Objectives:

- Goal 1, Objective 1.2: “Strengthen, update and implement Management Plans.”
- Goal 3, Objective 3.1: “Perform landscape level assessment of recreation opportunities in decision making.”
- Goal 8, Objective 8.1: “Continue to use the CCMSP (Citizen’s Committee for Michigan State Parks), MSWC (Michigan State Waterways Commission), NRC (Natural Resources Commission), SWC (Statewide Council), and Ecoregion Teams and partners to advise in PRD planning, policy development and issue resolution.”

“Management Planning”, a comprehensive resource based process, is the Recreation Division’s (RD) adaptation of National Park Service planning methodology. In this process we focus our attention on the four principles of the RD Mission Statement. To that end, we thoroughly inventory the (1) natural resource values of the park, establish its (2) historic/cultural resources, identify the (3) recreational opportunities, and develop the (4) educational and interpretation opportunities of the park. This plan provides guidance for management of park lands and development of recreational facilities, consistent with the RD mission statement.

In addition to providing a summary of natural, cultural, recreational, and educational resources located within the Highland Recreation Area (HRA), it also locates HRA in its regional context in terms of economics, other park resources, and local demographics.

With this base of knowledge and with input of the “Planning Team” (consisting of Department resource staff, Highland Township staff, stakeholders, and public), we established an ‘identity’ for the park. This identity is articulated through purpose and significance statements. Highland Recreation Area was established for the purpose of providing a wide opportunity of recreational opportunities to a highly populated area of the state, while preserving and protecting a unique natural resource base, including the Highland Haven designated Natural Area. A further purpose and significance of the park is to preserve and protect the unique cultural and historic resources associated with the Ford family’s use of the land, which is evidenced in the original gatehouse, foundation of the burned out family mansion, sheep barn, and caretaker’s house. HRA is significant due to its importance as a regional hub for green infrastructure in Oakland County and its linkage to miles of park land, open

space and trails throughout Oakland County. HRA is also a Natural Resource Commission (NRC) designated grounds for field trials, providing a unique opportunity for training and competition for field dog breeds.

In concert with this effort of establishing an identity for this park, the Planning Team also developed a Management Zone Plan for the park. From a palette of nine standard zones, we utilized seven and established an additional non-standard zone (Field Trial Course Zone) to address the field trial area and use of the park.

The Management Zone Plan is found on page 25, and a thorough review of all zones accompanies the graphic. A condensed review of all the zones applied at Highland RA is as follows: (note: acreages provided are approximate.)

Primitive Zone – The Haven Hill Natural Area and a large area west and south of Teeple Lake comprise 992 acres (17% of the park). The Haven Hill Natural Area (721 acres) represents all of southern Michigan’s principal forest types, and has remained undisturbed for the past 75 years. The Teeple Lake area (271 acres) represents prairie fen and southern wet meadow communities. Recreation use is limited to foot traffic only (no bicycle or equestrian use allowed), with developed foot trails found in the Haven Hill Natural Area. No designated trails currently exist in the Teeple Lake area.

Backcountry Zone – Totalling 2,285 acres (38% of the park), this largest of all zones is identified in four locations. These areas are ‘natural’ in character and suited for low to moderate density trail use, including bicycle and equestrian. The majority of all current trails in the park are found in this zone. The watercourses along the west park boundary are within this zone, and canoe/kayak use could be expanded.

Field Trial Course Zone – 929 acres of the park (15%) are a Natural Resources Commission (NRC) designated Field Trial Course. Field trial courses are managed for large contiguous open fields where the dogs can run to “objectives” for purposes of flushing target birds that have been set by the field trailers. Fields are managed as open grassland, interrupted by widely scattered and clumped oak trees and thin woods.

Field trialing is not an exclusive use. However, during the active times of the year for field trials (April-June and August-November), the experience of other users will be tempered by any field trial activities that may be taking place.

Natural Resource Recreation Zone – This is the second largest zone with 1358 acres (23% of the park). This zone is utilized for active recreation, including hunting, fishing, trapping, birding, snowmobiling (only in designated areas), and trail usage (biking, hiking, 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.

Developed Recreation Zone – Two primary areas total 383 acres (6% of the park). The largest of the two runs from Haven Hill Lake down to Teeple Lake, and takes in the current developed recreation components of the park, including day-use, campground, and horse concession areas. The second area with this zone designation is the Dodge Brothers #10 area of the park, near the west boundary. These areas are prescribed for high use.

The stakeholder groups identified a need for additional camping within the park. The Planning Team supports evaluation of overnight camping opportunities at Teeple Lake and at Dodge #10. The evaluation should also consider the costs and benefits of separating equestrian campers from other campers.

The areas along Livingston Road on the west edge of the park provide ties to the adjacent communities. An enhanced park entrance at this location should be considered, designed in keeping with the heritage of the adjacent Highland Station.

Visitor Services Zone – At two locations in the park totaling 12 acres (0.2%), this zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. Typically, it will include offices, contact stations, maintenance facilities, and all related land base required to conduct the business of operating a state park or recreation area.

History Education Zone (Overlay) – This zone is mapped only as an overlay across four locations within the Natural Resources Recreation Zone: The Haven Hill Lodge, the original gatehouse, the maintenance complex, and the historic sheep barn. Each of these locations is significant due to its prominence in the Ford family story.

This overlay zone recognizes unique opportunities to engage the visitor in a compelling story of our past. In managing these assets, the park staff should be sensitive to the prescribed values of the overlay as well the underlying zones.

Cultural Landscape Zone (Overlay) – This overlay zone reflects the land ownerships of the Ford family and the Dodge Brothers, as well as remnants of the early Spring Mills settlement. The purpose of this zone is to acknowledge the heritage of these past land owners and to respect that cultural impact still evident in the park.

INTRODUCTION

PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW

The Management Planning Process develops a series of planning steps, each built upon the previous, that keep all planning and action decisions focused on (1) the mission of the Recreation Division, and (2) the specific Purpose and Significance of the park.

There are four phases of planning, implemented in the following order:

- **Phase 1** – General Management Plan (GMP) – Long range (20 year) goals
- **Phase 2** – Long Range Action Goals Plan – Long range (10 year) goals to attain the GMP objectives (requires review of Phase 1)
- **Phase 3** – 5-Year Implementation Plan – specific actions to implement (requires review of Phase 1 and Phase 2)
- **Phase 4** – Annual Plan and Progress Report – what will be done this year and what progress was made on last year’s plan.

This is the **General Management Plan**; the first step in our planning process. In this phase of planning, we are defining what the park will look like in twenty years. What will be the condition of flora and fauna? How will we address historic and cultural resources? What recreational opportunities will be provided? What education and interpretation efforts will meet the visitor? What will guide the manager’s operational decisions? What will be the visitor’s overall experience?

A key tool of this plan is the identification of “Management Zones” which define specific characteristics of the land, addressing management for:

- Natural features
- Historic/cultural features
- Education/interpretation opportunities
- Recreational opportunities

These four elements represent the primary goals of the RD Mission Statement, and provide guidance for both planning and management decisions. Within the parameters of this guidance, “Purpose” and “Significance” statements are developed for the park that establishes its unique identity and focus. No two parks are the same, and this emphasis is directed at ensuring that the differences found from park to park are acknowledged, highlighted, and celebrated.

PLANNING OBJECTIVES

The objective of this General Management Plan is to bring together Department staff, impacted and impacting stakeholders, and the public who use the park in a planning process that will define and clarify the unique “Purpose” and “Significance” of Highland State Recreation Area. Collectively, we will reinforce those attributes in the planning and management decisions that impact the park through the implementation of the Management Zone Plan. Future action plans, whether focused on a development proposal, a resource improvement initiative, an interpretive program, or day-to-day management of the park will be guided by the General Management Plan.

PLANNING TEAM

Accomplishment of our planning objectives was and is dependent upon the valuable input provided by all members of the “Planning Team.” The following persons were participants in the planning process:

DNRE Staff

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Paul N. Curtis | RD, Management Plan Administrator |
| Ray Fahlsing | RD, Stewardship Program Manager |
| Paul Yauk | RD, Lands Program Manager |
| Luba Sitar | RD, Pontiac District Supervisor |
| Kristen Bennett | RD, Pontiac & Bay City Districts Planner |
| Bill Althoff | RD, Highland RA Manager |
| Jeff Braunscheidel | FD, Fisheries Biologist |
| Sgt. Art Green | LED, Conservation Officer |
| Julie Oakes | WD, Wildlife Biologist |
| Earl Cole | FMD, Fire Officer |
| Janet Canode | METD, Education Unit Manager – Southern MI |
| Earl Wolf | METD, Senior Interpreter |
| Rob Corbett | OLAF, Lands Specialist |
| Mark MacKay | SLP & WD, Southern Lower Peninsula Ecoteam and Wildlife Division Planner |

Local Planning Partners

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Patricia Pilchowski | Highland Township, Township Supervisor |
| Elizabeth Corwin | Highland Township, Planning Director |
| Jennifer Frederick | Highland Township, Planner |
| Larry Falardeau | Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services (OCPEDS), Principal Planner |
| Ryan Dividock | OCPEDS, Associate Planner/GIS |

Stakeholder Representatives

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Eugene H. Beach, Jr. | Highland Twp. Historical Society |
| Pam Sienkiewicz | Friends of Highland Recreation Area (FOHRA) |
| Robert Hoffmeyer | Highland Field Trial Grounds Association (HFTGA) |
| Bob Spleet | Michigan Mountain Bike Association (MMBA) |
| Jeff Muck | Huron Valley Schools (Rec/Ed) |
| Paula Weaver | Highland Equestrian Conservancy (HEC), Michigan Trail Riders Association (MTRA), Highland Trail Riders Association (HTRA) |
| Sharon Greene | Highland Downtown Development Authority (HDDA), FOHRA, HEC |
| Dick Russell | Boy Scouts of America/Clinton Valley Council (BSA), FOHRA |
| Caryn Robinson | White Lake Township Parks & Recreation |
| Jason R. Iacoangeli | White Lake Township Planning Department |
| Jim Lloyd | Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy (SRRLC), Highland Conservancy |
| Patricia Hamlin | Highland Township Parks Committee, Highland Township Planning Commission |
| Jack Gillies | HTRA |
| Jane Brown | HTRA |
| Dorothy Kane | Huron Valley Council for the Arts (HVCA) |
| Roscoe Smith | HDDA |
| Leah Ohmer | HVCA |
| John Gonway | MMBA |

CORE VALUES

Guidance for the General Management Plan stems from the mission statements of the department and the division, and the *purpose and significance statements* that have evolved through the planning process. The core values found in these statements must be reflected in this long-range General Management Plan for Highland Recreation Area and subsequently reflected in any shorter range action plans:

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MISSION STATEMENT

“The Department of Natural Resources and Environment is committed to the conservation, protection, management, and accessible use and enjoyment of the state’s environment, natural resources, and related economic interests for current and future generations.”

RECREATION DIVISION MISSION STATEMENT

“The Recreation Division’s Mission is to acquire, protect, and preserve the natural and cultural features of Michigan’s unique resources, and to provide access to land and water based public recreation and educational opportunities.”

The core values derived from these statements are that the Recreation Division will acquire, preserve, and protect:

- Natural resources
- Cultural resources
- Provide public recreation
- Provide educational opportunities

PARK PURPOSE

Highland Recreation Area (HRA) is an integral part of the state park system. It is important as a home for wildlife and aquatic species, its role in a diverse local ecosystem, and for its recreational opportunities for people. Park purpose statements are based on park legislation, legislative history, special designations and DNRE policy. HRA is designated as a *State Recreation Area*. Recreation areas are defined as large areas convenient to centers of dense population, with a diversity of intensive and extensive recreation, as well as a diversity of natural features and natural beauty. Recreation Areas specifically allow hunting unless closed to that activity by the Director. The following statements reaffirm the reasons why HRA is part of the state park system:

- A special legislative mandate, Section 3, Act 17, Public Acts 1921, authorized the establishment of state parks and state recreation areas in Michigan
- A special session of the Legislature in 1944 appropriated \$4,000,000 to begin acquisition of lands in southeast Michigan for state park and recreation areas.
- To preserve and protect the park's unique natural resources for current and future generations, particularly, the Haven Hill wetlands and forest complex, a designated "Natural Area."
- To preserve and protect the park's historic and cultural resources for current and future generations.
- To provide educational and interpretive opportunities to the public that reflect the mission of DNRE.
- To provide opportunities for recreational uses and experiences that are compatible with the park's resource base.
- To provide experiences and opportunities for recreational uses, including mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, field dog trial competition, hiking, fishing, swimming, and camping to a large urban population.

PARK SIGNIFICANCE

Highland Recreation Area contains many significant elements of Michigan's natural and cultural heritage. Its unique features allow park management to achieve park purposes. Park significance statements capture the essence of the park's importance to our state's natural and cultural heritage. These statements describe the distinctiveness of HRA. Understanding these distinctions help managers make decisions that preserve the resources and reflect the values necessary to accomplish the park's purpose:

- Provides large tracts of unfragmented resources, including prairie, woodland, wetlands, a riparian corridor, a variety of water resources as well as many *potential natural areas*, as defined by MNFI^{1,2}.

¹ Michigan Natural Features Inventory. *Oakland County Potential Conservation/Natural Areas Report*. 2004

² *Shiawassee & Huron Headwaters Resource Preservation Project*, March 2000

- Includes the Haven Hill wetlands and forest complex, which is a National Natural Landmark, a Natural Resources Commission designated natural area, and a State Natural Area (originally designated in 1952 and re-designated in 1972 under the Wilderness and Natural Areas Act).
- Includes several unique historical and cultural resources, including the foundation of the burned out Ford mansion (lodge), a unique sheep barn, and the original gate house. These structures, and others, are highly deteriorated due to damage from vandalism and the effects of age and weather.
- Offers a prime location for protection of endangered, threatened, and special concern plants and animals due to its large area of undeveloped land.
- Gives a home to a wide variety of wildlife and provides great opportunities for viewing.
- Affords year round park activity to the most populated region in the state: Southeast Michigan.
- Serves as an important regional hub for green infrastructure in Oakland County, linking miles of park land, open space, and trails throughout Southeast Michigan.
- Supplies public access to a large area for hunting.
- HRA is a Natural Resources Commission (NRC) designated grounds for field trials, providing a unique opportunity for training and competition for field dog breeds.
- Adds more than \$2.5 million to the local economy in direct spending.

LEGAL MANDATES

For all park General Management Plans, all legal mandates will be identified and will serve to further guide the development of the General Management Plan and subsequent Action Plans. For our planning purposes, the term *legal mandates* refers not only to state law, but also the administrative tools of *policy* and *directive* of the Natural Resource Commission, the Department, and Recreation Division. Specific to Highland Recreation Area, the following legal mandates have been identified:

[PA 451 OF 1994, PART 741](#)
[STATE PARK SYSTEM, NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT \(NREPA\)](#)

This act is a recodification of law that established the Michigan State Park System and defined its powers and duties. Notable in this law is the Section [324.74102](#), which identifies the duties of the department and reinforces those core values cited above.

This section reads:

- (1) “The legislature finds:
 - (a) Michigan State Parks preserve and protect Michigan’s significant natural and historic resources.
 - (b) Michigan State Parks are appropriate and uniquely suited to provide opportunities to learn about protection and management of Michigan’s natural resources.
 - (c) Michigan State Parks are an important component of Michigan’s tourism industry and vital to local economies.

- (2) The department shall create, maintain, operate, promote, and make available for public use and enjoyment a system of state parks to preserve and protect Michigan’s significant natural resources and areas of natural beauty or historic significance, to provide open space for public recreation, and to provide an opportunity to understand Michigan’s natural resources and need to protect and manage those resources.”

Within this law, 324.74101 (e), "state park" means a *state park* or *state recreation area* designated by the director.

[PA 57 of 1995 \(addition to NREPA\)](#)

DEDICATION OF FIELD TRIAL COURSES – There are 929 acres designated as the Highland Field Trials Area (HFTA) by the Natural Resources Commission under the authority of NREPA (section 324.42104 of the MCL) This land is dedicated for training, trialing and hunting with field dogs, and is under active stewardship through agreement with user groups to restore native ecosystems and wildlife habitat. The area is used for dog training, hiking, hunting, and other general recreation.

[PA 451 OF 1994, PART 351](#)

NREPA - WILDERNESS AND NATURAL AREAS

DEDICATION OF HIGHLAND HAVEN NATURAL AREA – 721 acres of the HRA are designated as State Natural Area under part 351 of NREPA of 1994. This legislation provides guidelines for the identification, management and protection of Wilderness, Wild and Natural Areas. The legislation prohibits

most cutting, gathering or other alteration of vegetation, extraction of minerals, establishment of commercial uses and easements, and most use of motorized vehicles.

[49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. sections 461-467](#)

HISTORIC SITES ACT OF 1932

FEDERAL REGISTRATION OF HAVEN HILL AS A NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK - Haven Hill was registered with the National Park Service in 1976 as a National Natural Landmark. This is a voluntary program, in which areas of high environmental significance are nominated for recognition. The designation is meant to raise public awareness and encourage conservation of areas important to understanding our natural history. It does not restrict specific activities within the designated area.

[PA 451 of 1994, PART 315](#)

NREPA – DAM SAFETY

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment is authorized to monitor dams over six feet high, or those resulting in five acre or greater impoundment after a 100 year design storm and further to review and permit construction or modification of such dams. The regulations require periodic inspection and reporting (every 3 to 5 years dependent upon the assigned dam hazard classification) to assess the dam's condition, capacity and structural integrity. Such inspections may be made visually by DNRE dam safety staff upon request; however a formal analysis by a professional engineer may be required. The Haven Hill dam is covered under the dam safety program.

[PA 451 of 1994, PART 115](#)

NREPA – SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

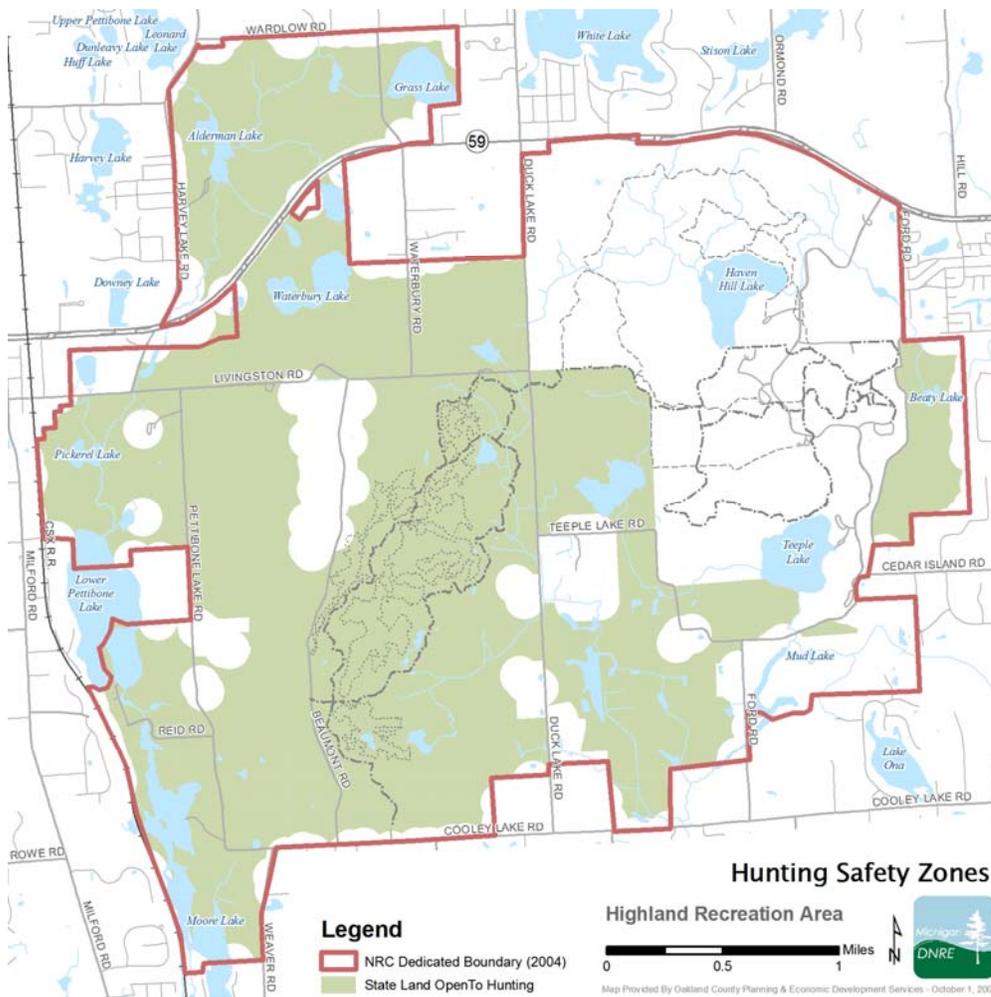
The lease area south of Teeple Lake Road which serves the needs of the remote control flying club was once a licensed landfill. As the site is currently utilized, the status as closed landfill has not created any special management issues. Any plans to intensify the use or for construction in the area should consider rules and regulations under the jurisdiction of the Solid Waste Management Division of the DNRE.

[PA 368 of 1978, ARTICLE 12 --ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PART 125 – CAMPGROUNDS](#)

-- Part 125 of the Public Health Code was established to protect and promote the public health by establishing health code requirements specifically addressing campgrounds. The DNRE Drinking Water and Radiological Protection Division is the administering agency that is responsible for the promulgation of the Administrative Rules for Campgrounds.

All public (including DNRE) and private campgrounds must meet these DNRE regulations.

[PA 451 of 1994, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT \(EXCERPT\) -- 324.41901 Regulation and prohibitions in certain areas; powers of department; area closures; hearings, investigations, studies, and statement of facts; regulations.](#) -- This part of PA 451 establishes the powers of the Department to establish safety zones for hunting. In accordance with the Administrative Rules established by Wildlife Division for hunting safety, a 450 foot "Safety Zone" is established around all occupied dwellings (which includes campgrounds). Under the State Land Rules, the Department also has the authority to expand the application of this 450 foot "Safety Zone" to encompass "Day Use Areas" such as beaches, picnic areas, boat launches and trail head parking areas, should the need arise. This is determined on a case-by-case basis. At Highland Recreation Area, the Hunting Safety Zones are represented below:

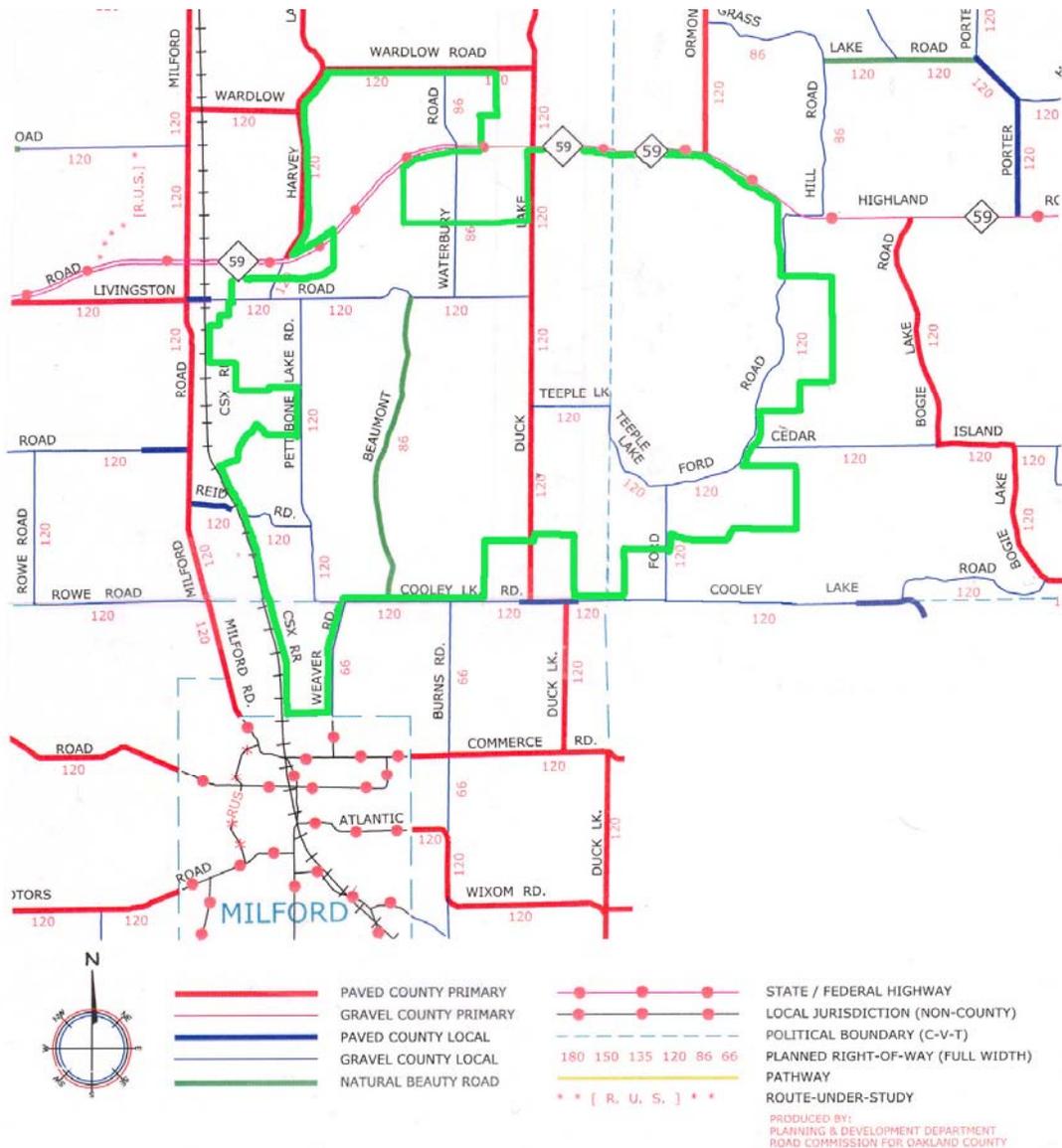


R.O.W. FOR M-59, HIGHLAND ROAD – The Right-of-Way for M-59 (Highland Road) is the only state trunkline impacting Highland RA. The ROW width is variable, ranging from approximately 120 feet to over 200 feet. The cross-section of the road also varies from a four or five lane road to a four lane divided boulevard. Any work within the M-59 ROW requires a permit from the Michigan Department of Transportation, Oakland Transportation Service Center (MDOT-OTSC).

R.O.W. FOR COUNTY ROADS – There are numerous county roads bordering and traversing the Highland RA. The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) maintains the county roads and has authority to require permits for any impacts to their ROW (i.e. crossings or new drives).

R.O.W. widths are typically 66 feet, although the RCOC Master R.O.W. Plan calls for greater widths (up to 120 foot wide for primary routes such as Duck Lake, Wardlow and Harvey Lake Roads). The RCOC has not proposed purchasing right-of-way and has not programmed any improvements for the County Roads within the Highland RA. DNRE staff are currently in discussion with the RCOC regarding the possibility of closing Waterbury Road between M-59 and Wardlow Road.

MASTER RIGHT-OF-WAY PLAN FOR OAKLAND COUNTY ROADS



R.O.W. FOR CSX RAILROAD – The CSX Railroad runs north/south along the west edge of Highland RA, approximately paralleling Milford Road. Any work within the railroad R.O.W. is subject to a permit from CSX. The Railroad and MDOT have stated goals to close many at-grade crossings, including pedestrian crossings. The Reid Road crossing in Highland Township was closed in 1999.

R.O.W. AND EASEMENTS FOR UTILITIES

There are several rights-of-way and easements in HRA. The proliferation of utility easements makes the protection of natural resources more difficult as well as damages the aesthetics. Therefore, current management practices discourage them. The number of easements running through the park provides a challenge when considering any new development of infrastructure or stewardship efforts. Knowing what is underground, overhead, and who holds rights to the land is crucial to the park's development. Ownership of land often is described as a bundle of sticks—one stick for mineral rights, one stick for trespass, one stick for ownership of buildings on the land, etc. In other words, there are numerous parties that hold rights to the land within HRA. There may be more easements than are known by the State of Michigan.

Many of the rights-of-way are located along roads and highways that run through or along the borders of the park. Some bisect the park and create natural boundaries. Most of the easements permit grantees to clear trees and vegetation within their easements, which has implications for stewardship efforts in the park. Also, it restricts what can be developed in the park; for example, buildings and structures cannot be placed on the easements.

Since HRA is an agglomeration of many parcels, individual parcels may contain specific easements or deed restrictions that are not identified here.

Known Easements at Highland Recreation Area

| # | Description | DOC # ** | Acres | Year Granted | Park Zones* | Township |
|----|----------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| 1 | Austin Field Pipe Line Co. | 1445 | N/A | 1948 | | |
| 2 | Consumer Powers Co. | 3519 | 0.28 A | 1962 | | Highland |
| 3 | Consumer Powers Co. | 6067 | 3.00 A | 1980 | | Highland |
| 4 | The Detroit Edison Co. | 1436 | N/A | 1947 | | Highland |
| 5 | The Detroit Edison Co. | 1495 | N/A | 1948 | | White Lake |
| 6 | The Detroit Edison Co. | 1544 | N/A | 1948 | | Highland |
| 7 | The Detroit Edison Co. | 1752 | N/A | 1949 | | Highland |
| 8 | The Detroit Edison Co. | 1775 | N/A | 1950 | | White Lake |
| 9 | The Detroit Edison Co. | 2479 | N/A | 1954 | | Highland |
| 10 | The Detroit Edison Co. | 2694 | N/A | 1956 | | White Lake |
| 11 | The Detroit Edison Co. | 2543 | N/A | 1955 | | Highland |
| 12 | The Detroit Edison Co. | 4558 | N/A | 1970 | | Highland |
| 16 | The Detroit Edison Co. | 1240 | N/A | 1946 | | Highland |
| 17 | General Telephone Co. | 2228 | N/A | 1952 | | Highland |
| 18 | General Telephone Co. | 4502 | N/A | 1970 | | White Lake |

Known Easements at Highland Recreation Area (cont)

| # | Description | DOC # ** | Acres | Year Granted | Park Zones | Township |
|----|-------------------------------|-------------|-------|-----------------|---------------|------------|
| 19 | MDOT | 4311 | N/A | 1968 | | Highland |
| 21 | MDOT | 4544 | N/A | 1970 | | Highland |
| 22 | Michigan Telephone Associated | 2071 | N/A | 1951 | | Highland |
| 23 | Michigan Telephone Associated | 1811 | N/A | 1950 | | White Lake |
| 24 | Michigan Telephone Associated | 1975 | N/A | 1951 | | White Lake |
| 25 | Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. | 1998 | N/A | 1951 | | Milford |
| 26 | Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. | 3122 | N/A | 1959 | | Milford |
| 27 | Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. | 8282 | N/A | 1996 | | Highland |
| 28 | Wolverine Gas and Oil Company | 7977 | N/A | 1996 | | Highland |

Source: State of MI, Land Information System

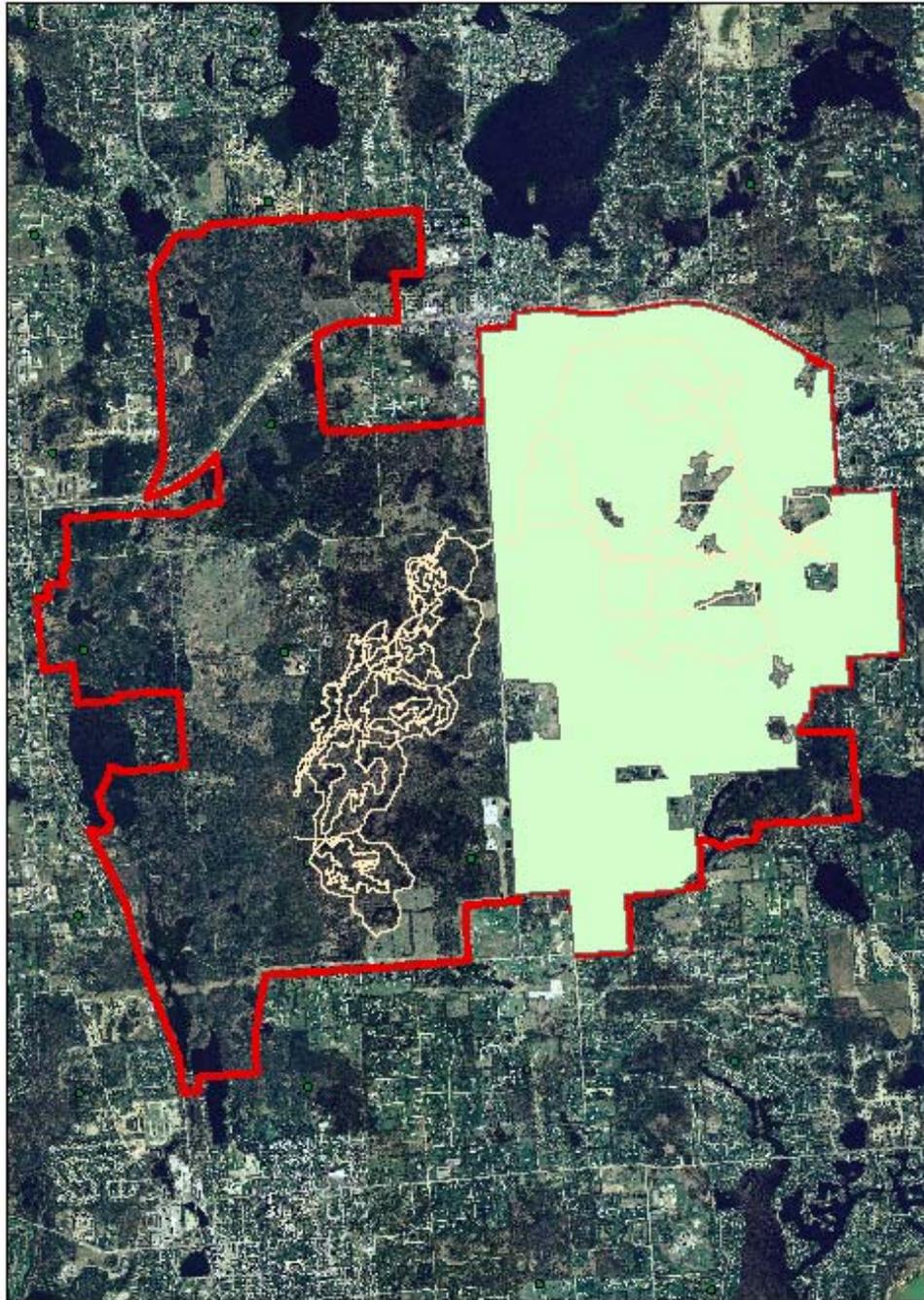
** The DOC # refers to its reference number through the State of MI Land Information System (Liber)

See the appendices for a map highlighting known easement locations.

STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN—The Stewardship program developed a management plan for the Field Trial areas, which was first drafted in January 2000, and later revised in April 2001. This document describes a program to restore the field trial areas to a high quality oak barren ecosystem, while accommodating continued use and enjoyment by field trial organizations. The Stewardship program has worked continually to implement the plan in conjunction with volunteers from the Highland Field Trial Grounds Association, and others. The management plan program was considered in developing the zone description for the subject area.

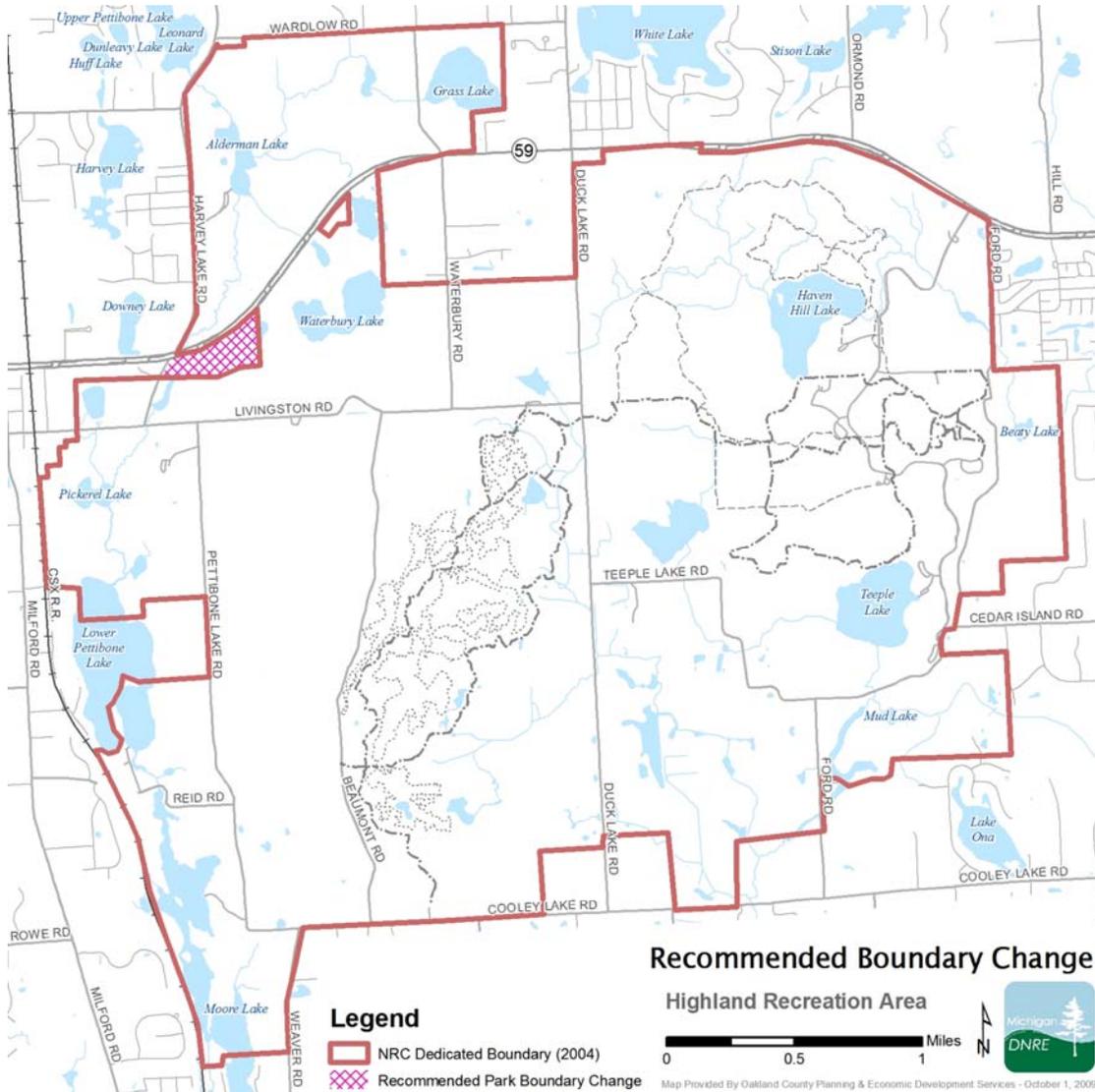
EASTERN MASSASAUGA RATTLE SNAKE HABITAT MANAGEMENT – The Massasauga Rattle Snake has been identified as a Federal “candidate species” under the Endangered Species Act. The Department is currently developing a proposal for habitat management and is expected to enter a Candidate Conservation Agreement (CAA) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The proposed management area covers much of the park east of Duck Lake Road, except for those areas most frequented by visitors, such as the day use areas at Teeple Lake and Goose Meadows, the horse stable concession area, and the campgrounds.

(DRAFT) EASTERN MASSASAUGA CCAA MANAGEMENT ZONE



NRC BOUNDARY—The current park boundary was approved by the NRC in May, 2004.

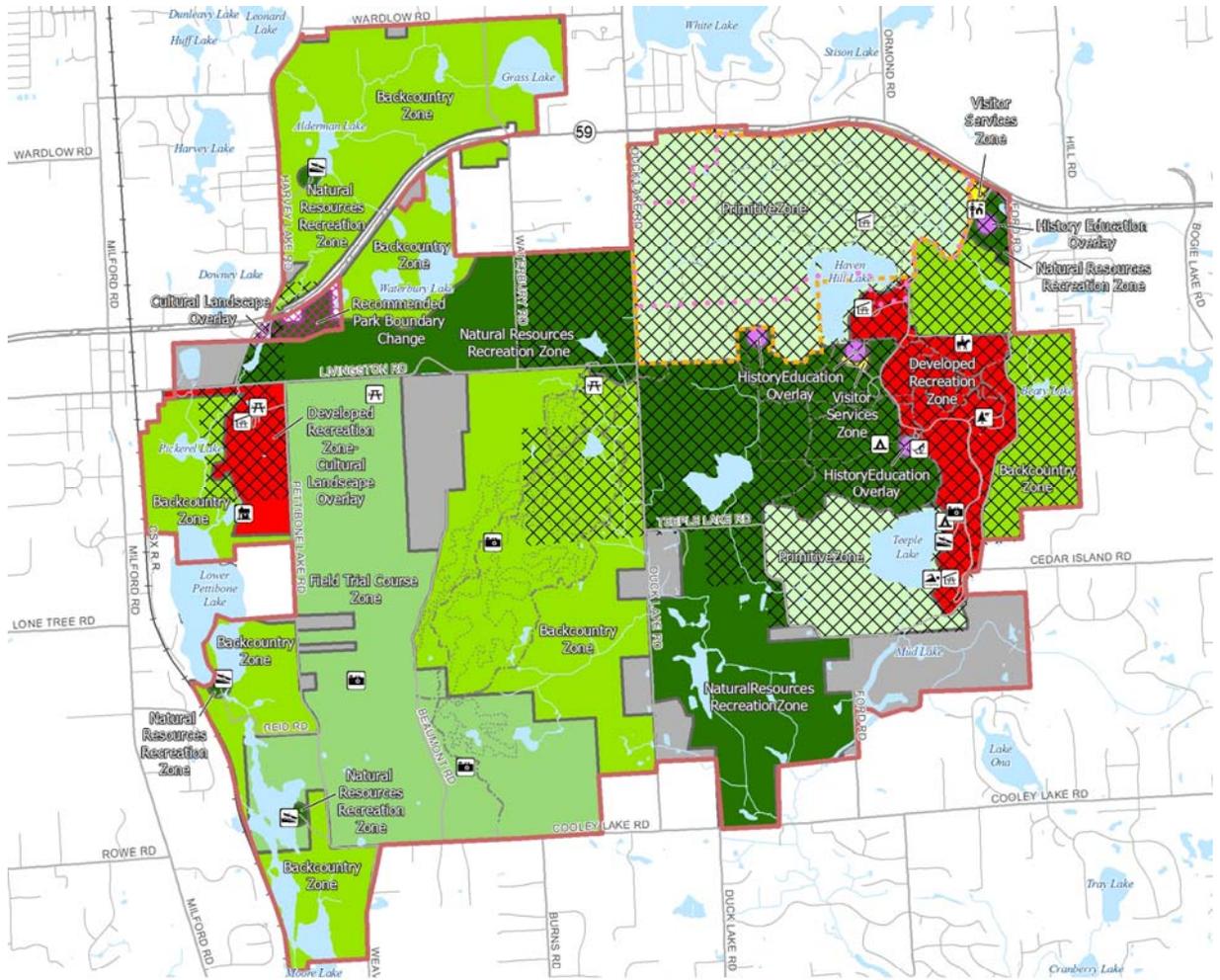
The Planning Team has reviewed the boundary designation and recommends that the boundary be altered to encompass a pocket of land near Pettibone Creek that lies south of M-59, north of Livingston Road, and east of Harvey Lake Road.



GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

With the guidance of the Highland RA Planning Team (consisting of Department Resource staff, planning partners from Highland Township and Oakland County, and the public), the park “Purpose and Significance” statements were drafted and adopted. These statements established an identity for the park that highlights its unique ecological importance due to the state and nationally designated Natural Area and the variety of unfragmented resources such as woodlands, prairies, wetlands and water resources; the significant historic and cultural assets which reflect the interaction of the Ford family and Dodge Brothers with the land; its importance as one of only two dedicated field dog trial areas in the state; its proximity to the most populated region of the state; and its capacity to support a wide variety of year round recreational activities.

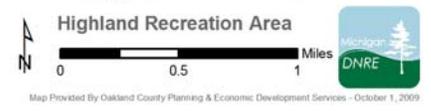
Based on this “identity” for the park, a “Management Zone Plan” was subsequently drafted and adopted with stakeholder and public support. The “Management Zone Definitions” apply to each zone designated on the map, with special considerations highlighted in the descriptive narratives of management guidance for each zone of the park.



Legend

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| NRC Dedicated Boundary (2004) | Primitive | Natural Resources Recreation |
| Haven Hill Natural Area Boundary | Field Trial Course | Developed Recreation |
| Haven Hill (National Natural Landmark) | Backcountry | Visitor Services |
| Recommended Park Boundary Change | Cultural Landscape Zone (Overlay) | History Education Zone (Overlay) |
| Potential Acquisition Property | | |
- RD - Management Zones**
- Points of Interest**
- | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|------------|------------------|
| Organization Campground | Beach | Mini Cabin | Headquarters | Picnic Shelter | Trail Features | Foot Trail | |
| Horse Concession | Equestrian Rustic Campground | Boat Launch | Picnic Area | X-Ski Trails | Scenic View | Bike Trail | Equestrian Trail |

Management Zone Plan

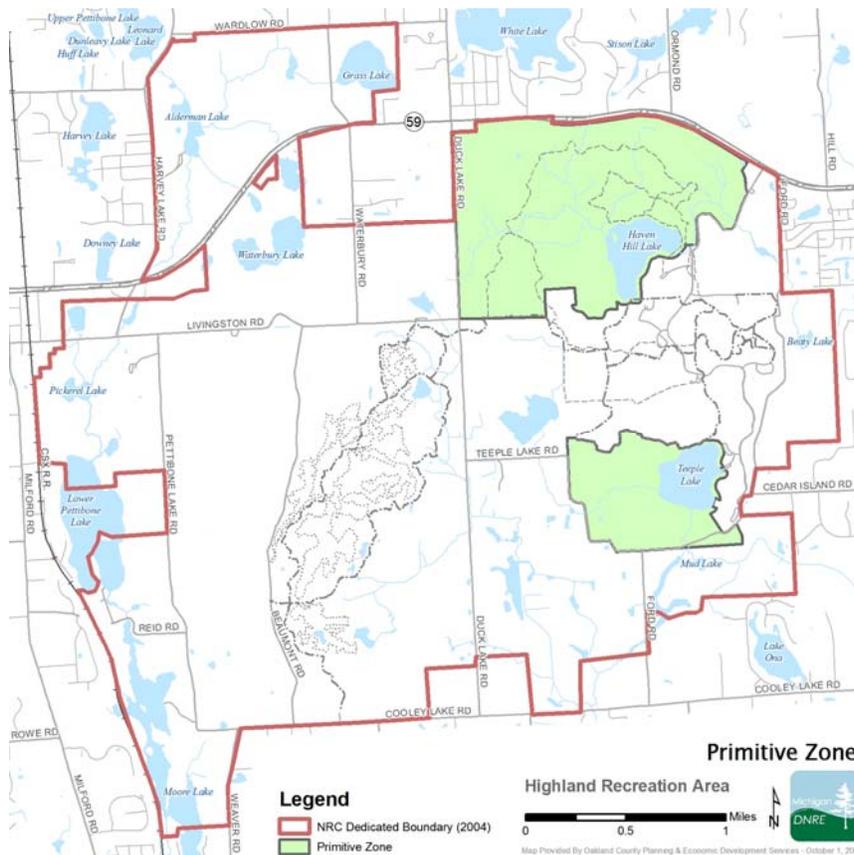


PRIMITIVE ZONE

The primitive zone emphasizes the park's high quality natural resources, including the area designated as the Haven Hill Natural Area (with the exception of the Goose Meadows day use area) and a second area bounded by Teeple Lake Road on the west, Ford Road on the south, and Teeple Lake on the east. Together these areas comprise 992 acres, or approximately 17% of the park.

The Haven Hill Natural Area has all of southern Michigan's principal forest types within one small area, including swamp forest of tamarack, cedar, beech-maple forest, oak-hickory forest, and mixed hardwood forest. The area has remained largely undisturbed for the past 75 years and has retained its natural character as well as some unusual flora and fauna. The area around Teeple Lake also includes an example of a prairie fen and southern wet meadow.

Attaining and maintaining a high quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements or uses are allowed. Under the Primitive Zone designation, only dispersed and low frequency use, such as foot traffic, will be allowed. No mountain bike or equestrian uses will be permitted.



Following are the prescribed qualities for the Primitive Zone:

Natural Resources - This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing invasive species like phragmites or prescribed burns), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease.

Historic/Cultural Resources –The Haven Hill Lake dam was constructed by the Ford family to create an impoundment for fishing and other recreational activities.

Recreational Opportunities – Since the focus of this zone is to maintain and restore the high-quality natural systems, only low impact recreational opportunities such as hiking, birding and fishing will be allowed in the zone. Hunting is not allowed within the Haven Hill portion of this zone. Hunting is also prohibited southwest of Teeple Lake as identified in the Hunter Safety Zone map.

Within the zone there is a network of marked footpaths and a boardwalk through the wetlands. No equestrian or mountain bike trails will be allowed.

Education Opportunities – Haven Hills Natural Area is recognized as an excellent educational opportunity which is used by universities and international organizations. Educational kiosks and off-site educational materials could be developed. Specific planning recommendations for education and interpretation will require input from the Marketing, Education, and Technology Division.

Visitor Experience - These areas will reflect a “natural” feel, a significant sense of solitude, and minimal man-made improvements.

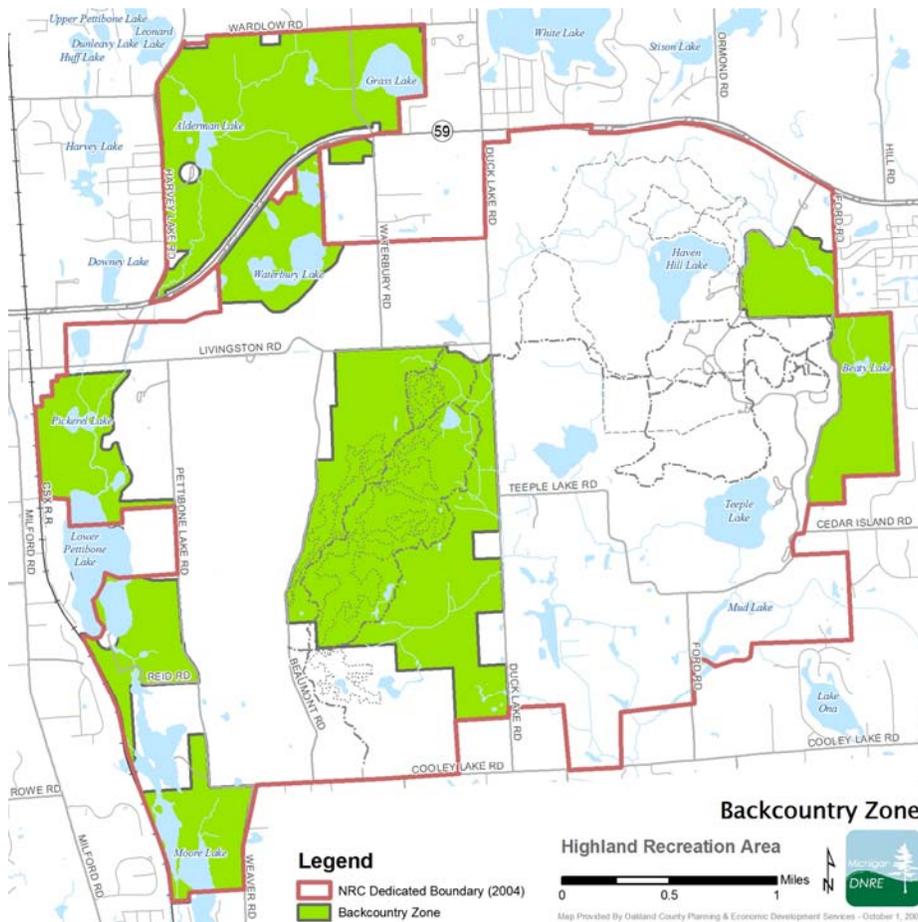
Management Focus - Management of this zone will be focused on maintaining the low-impact character of these areas with an emphasis on natural resources quality. All activities must comply with the legal mandates and protections afforded through its designation as a National Natural Area, and as a state designated Natural Area.

Development – Only trail improvements (which can include boardwalks and/or overlooks), the existing dam and educational or interpretative signage provide evidence of man-made elements in this zone. Any improvements needed for resource protection, such as erosion control, shall be “natural” in character. The focus is to maintain as little evidence of human activity as possible. Any proposed development in the designated Haven Hills Natural Area must comply with the Natural Areas Act. All development must meet the approval requirements of the planning process.

BACKCOUNTRY ZONE

The Backcountry Zone is the largest zone mapped in Highland RA, totaling 2285 acres or 38% of the park. This zone is designated in four locations, including the northwest corner of the park (all area north of M-59 and some area south of M-59, west of Harvey Lake Road), much of the park south of Livingston Road from the railroad on the west side of the park to Duck Lake Road (except for the Field Dog Trial Areas and the Dodge 10 unit); and much of the park lying east of the main park road.

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 trails, and slight modifications of the landscape (e.g. trail development) to accommodate that use. The Backcountry zone also allows for recreational access to watercourses, particularly for non-motorized boats such as canoes and kayaks. The majority of established trails within the park are found in this zone.



Following are the prescribed qualities for the Backcountry Zone:

Natural Resources -- In general, the natural resources can be modified to support visitor activities, provided the modification does not interfere with other identified values or disrupt significant natural communities.

The hilly region off Beaumont Road contains a significant Southern Mesic Forest Natural Community as identified by MNFI. This area is criss-crossed by a network of mountain biking trails, including unauthorized trails worn down through repeated user travel. Soil erosion control should be a focus in this area. Non-native shrubs and trees will be controlled throughout the zone.

This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease.

Historic/Cultural Resources –

A good portion of this zone is overlaid by a Cultural Landscape Zone. Within and adjacent to this zone are the remains of the historic Village of Spring Mill, including a mill pond and raceway (M-59 near Harvey Lake Road), and areas where remnants of the Ford family occupation of the land can still be seen.

The recorded history of the area also suggests that Native Americans may have frequently traveled along established trails within the current park boundary.

Any activity in this zone which requires earthwork must first be reviewed and approved by Stewardship to ensure that the project and methods are appropriate for the protection and preservation of any potential artifacts, foundations, or the like.

Recreation Opportunities – This zone includes significant number of trails for bikers, hikers, and equestrians, and a water course that can be navigated by non-motorized boats. Boating access is available at Alderman Lake and Moore Lake. The zone also includes two popular rental cabins off Pettibone Lake Road which are available for an overnight or weekly stay.

Hunting, trapping and fishing is permitted throughout much of the backcountry zone.

Coordination will take place with various user groups to minimize potential conflicts, particularly at boundaries between the Field Trial Course Zone and Backcountry Zone. Some rerouting of trails or new signage may be beneficial.

Education Opportunities – Information regarding the cultural past and natural communities can be made available at areas of congregation and fortified through educational opportunities in the Backcountry Zones. Informational kiosks are one good way to disseminate this information.

Signed kiosks may also be used to teach “proper etiquette” when encountering different trail users, such as what should a biker do when he encounters a horse and rider? The trails are multi-use and also interface with the field dog trial area.

Visitor Experience – While the environment in this zone will seem “natural” or “wild” for the greater part, the visitor can expect to encounter others enjoying the park in any season. Greater solitude may be found along the water courses, with higher concentrations of visitors found along the trail areas and along County maintained roads.

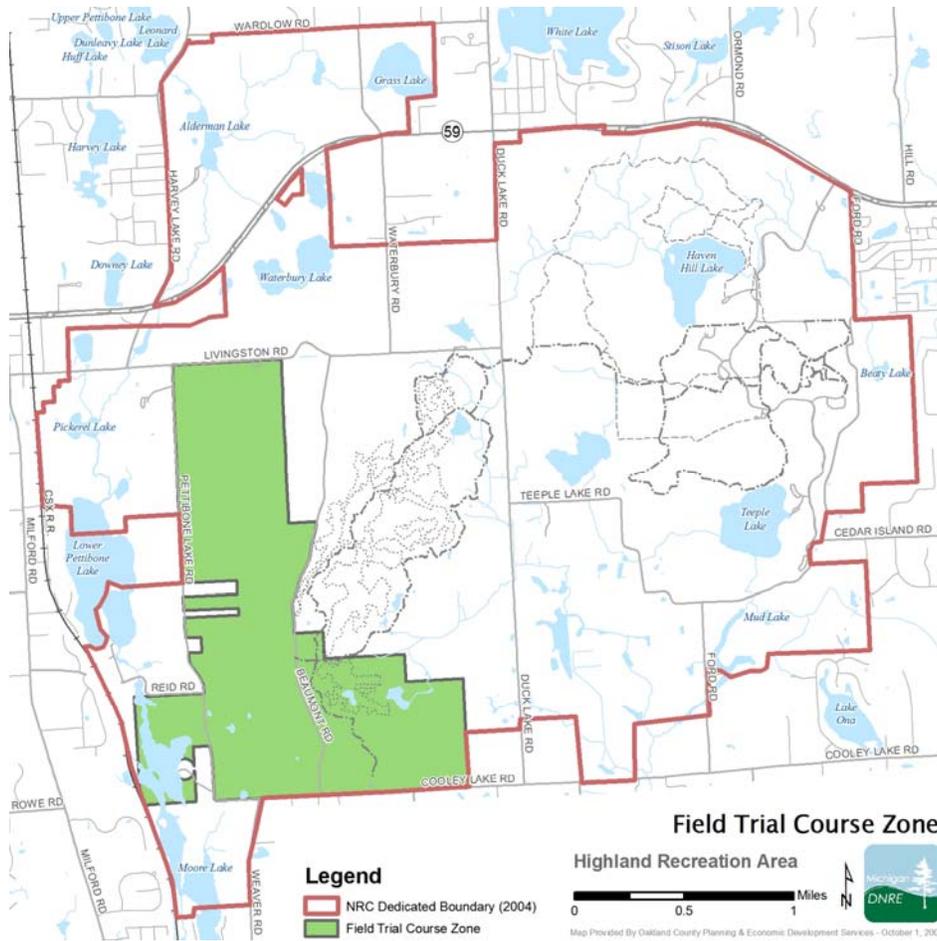
Management Focus –Management of this zone will be focused on maintaining the low-impact character of these areas, with an emphasis on natural resource quality.

Development – Low level of development activity will focus on any identified restoration/preservation needs, accommodating visitor access to the features, particularly the waterbodies, meeting universal access standards, and educational/interpretation needs. All development will meet the approval requirements of the planning process.

FIELD TRIAL COURSE ZONE

The Field Trial Course Zone covers 929 acres, or 15%, of the park, lying east of Milford Road and south of Livingston Road. This is a specific (non-standard) zone that recognizes the NRC designation of the Highland RA for 'championship' field trial purposes. The Highland Field Trial Course Zone consists of three courses: The Silo Field Trial Area, with parking off Livingston Road; the Barn Field Trial Area, with parking off Cooley Lake Road; and the Moore Lake Field Trial Area, with access off Reid Road from Pettibone Lake Road.

The Field Trial Course Zone is under active stewardship through agreement with user groups to restore a high quality oak barrens ecosystem for field trialing. The zone carries with it specific uses, natural resources and visitor use management focus.



Following are the prescribed qualities for the Field Trial Course Zone:

Natural Resources -- Specific to this zone, a Stewardship Management Plan was developed by Recreation Division staff in 2000 with input from the field trialers. In general, the premise of natural resource management in this zone is that it will meet the needs of field trialing.

Field trial courses are managed for large contiguous open fields where the dogs can run to “objectives” for purposes of flushing target birds that have been set by the field trialers. Fields are envisioned as open grassland, interrupted by widely scattered and clumped oak trees and thin woods. The vegetative cover of the fields will be managed in accordance with the “Stewardship Management Plan” referenced above, which includes restoration through prescribed burns, seeding disturbed areas with native prairie seed mix and through other mechanical means.

Other Stewardship guidance for this zone includes:

- Control of invasive species, such as autumn olive, honeysuckle, glossy buckthorn, garlic mustard, phragmites, purple loosestrife and various nonnative pines.
- Eco-system management that promotes the strengthening of native (natural) communities. As such, the habitat values for all endemic species will benefit.

Historic/Cultural Resources – Any activity in this zone which requires earthwork must first be reviewed and approved by Stewardship to ensure that the project and methods are appropriate for the protection and preservation of any potential artifacts, foundations, or the like.

Recreation Opportunities – The primary use of this zone is for field trial activities, including the conduct of organized trials and dog training. This is not an exclusive use; the zone is also open for general recreation, including: hunting, fishing, trapping, birding, and trail use for hiking, cross-country skiing, and equestrian use.

Coordination will take place with various user groups to minimize potential conflicts, particularly at boundaries between the field dog trial area and backcountry zone. Some rerouting of trails or new signage may be beneficial.

Education Opportunities – Information regarding the use of the field trial area can be made available at areas of congregation and fortified through educational opportunities in this and in other zones. Informational kiosks are one good way to disseminate this information. The Field Trial parking lots are the staging location for field trial events. Informational kiosks at these locations could benefit all.

Visitor Experience – There are two categories of visitor to this zone: the field trialer, and those who come to watch this activity. Their experience will be one of being able to conduct their sport/recreation at a field trial course of national caliber. The grounds will be maintained to establish and maintain the proper conditions for field trial activities.

The other category of visitor is the non-field trialer who utilizes this zone for other recreational pursuits. Field trialing is not an exclusive use. However, during the active times of year for field trials (April–June and August–November), the experience of other users will be tempered by any field trial activities that may be taking place. During these timeframes, they can expect encounters with field trialers, dogs, and horses. Conflicts impacting hunting, birding, trail and other uses can occur as a result, and are the basis for unique management challenges.

Management Focus –The management focus for this zone is to minimize the potential conflicts discussed above. Other areas of focus include implementation of educational efforts, oversight of the conduct of the Highland Field Trial Grounds Association in their management of the trial grounds and their obligations under the lease agreement for the parking areas, and support for the execution of the stewardship management plan.

Development – Development will focus on the reduction of conflict and increased suitability of the Field Trial Zone for that activity. One known need is to address points of conflict between the field trial course route and the existing equestrian and mountain bike trails, which may lead to relocation of some trail segments and/or new trail development. Appropriate signage should be placed cautioning users of the potential for contact with others. Another potential development activity is the placement of fencing to ensure the protection of the dogs.

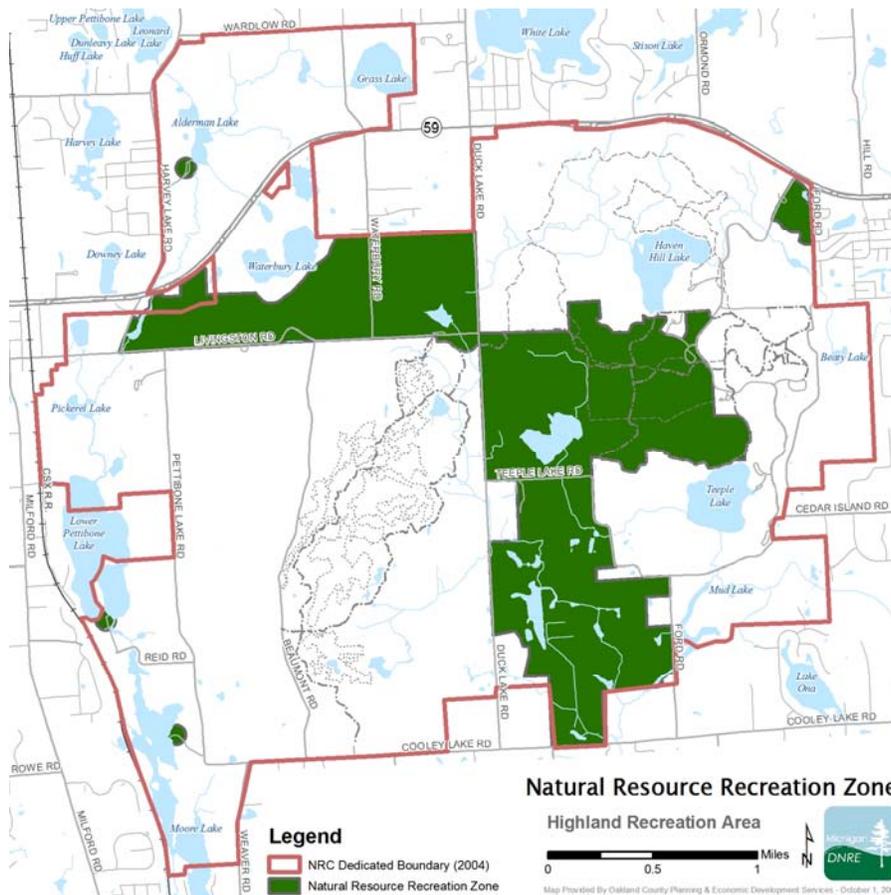
Other development needs include meeting universal access standards, and educational/interpretation needs. All development will meet the approval requirements of the planning process.

NATURAL RESOURCE RECREATION ZONE

The Natural Resource Recreation Zone (NRRZ) is the second largest zone with 1358 acres of the park, or 23 %

NRRZ is mapped in three locations: north of Livingston Road and west of Duck Lake Road, south of Livingston Road and east of Duck Lake Road, and near the park entrance at the northeast edge of the park. Significant portions of the NRRZ are also overlaid with the Cultural Landscape Zone. Within this zone the historic caretaker's cottage/gatehouse still stands, which has been subject of considerable volunteer effort to renovate and restore the structure to a useful purpose. The lease area for the United Flying Organization (UFO) is also within the NRRZ and the NRRZ also applies at each of the boat launch areas.

This zone is utilized for active recreation, including hunting, fishing, trapping, birding, snowmobiling, and trail usage (biking, hiking, 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.



Following are the prescribed qualities for the Natural Resource Recreation Zone:

Natural Resources – In general, the natural resources can be modified to support visitor activities provided the project is consistent with other identified values.

This zone will reflect natural processes with vegetative management primarily employed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to facilitate recreational use and to maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape.

Historic/Cultural Resources -- Within and adjacent to this zone are the remains of the historic Village of Spring Mill, including a mill pond and raceway (M-59 near Harvey Lake Road), and areas where remnants of the Ford family occupation of the land can still be seen.

This zone contains the burned out foundation of the Haven Hill Lodge, which is covered with a history/education overlay. The Friends of the Highland Recreation Area (FOHRA) have plans to restore or enhance this area, and provide interpretative displays to share the story of the Ford family on the land and their connections with the automotive industry, arts, and outdoor recreation. This zone also contains the original gatehouse and caretaker's cottage, which once greeted visitors to the park, which are also covered with a History/Education Zone overlay.

The recorded history of the area also suggests that American Indians may have frequently traveled along established trails within the current park boundary.

Any activity in this zone which requires earthwork must first be reviewed and approved by Stewardship to ensure that the project and methods are appropriate for the protection and preservation of any potential artifacts, foundations, or the like.

Recreation Opportunities – This zone is utilized for general recreation, including hunting, fishing, trapping, birding and trail usage (hiking, biking, equestrian, cross-country skiing, etc). Snowmobiling may be allowed in designated areas. Hunting is not allowed within 450' (Hunting Safety Zone) of campgrounds or buildings.

Education Opportunities – Information regarding the cultural past and natural communities can be made available at areas of congregation and fortified through educational opportunities in the NRRZ. Informational kiosks and

interpretative displays at historical/cultural landmarks are good ways to disseminate this information.

Signed kiosks may also be used to teach “proper etiquette” when encountering different trail users, such as what should a biker do when he encounters a horse and rider? The trails are multi-use and also interface with the field dog trial area.

Visitor Experience – The visitor can expect encounters with other park visitors during all four seasons. Hunting and fishing is popular, and the multi-use trails cover the majority of areas within the park.

Management Focus –Management of this zone will be focused on minimizing potential user conflicts.

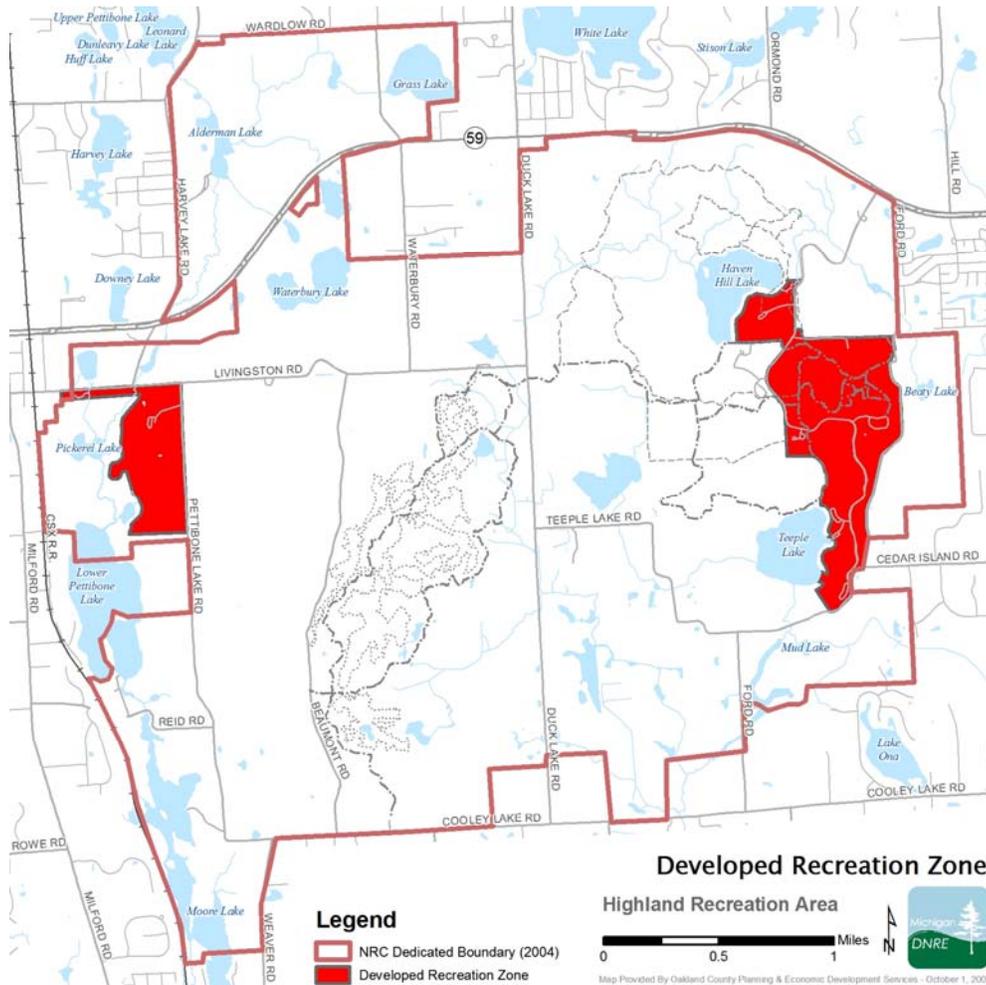
Development – The NRRZ on the west edge of the park abuts the Livingston Road entrance. Part of this area is also covered by a History/Education Zone overlay. Development in this zone should be designed to complement local history, and should focus on enhancing the visitor entrances to the park and improving trail connectivity to other parts of the park.

DEVELOPED RECREATION ZONE

The Developed Recreation Zone (DRZ) is mapped in two segments of the park, one along the park road on the east side of the park, and the second across the Dodge Brothers No. 10 Unit on the west side of the park. The DRZ is 383 acres, or 6% of the park.

The DRZ covers the most intensively used portions of the park, including Goose Meadows picnic area, Teeple Lake beach and boat launch, the equestrian stable, organizational camp and campground. The Sheep Barn is also included in the zone.

The “Dodge 10” unit is currently used primarily for the picnic shelter, which includes a modern kitchen and restrooms. The area has potential for increased use and a greater diversity of day uses. The area once included a campground and boat launch. The unit still includes a caretaker’s cottage and garage which might be rehabilitated for some use.



Following are the prescribed qualities for the Developed Recreation Zone:

Natural Resources – In general, the natural resources can be modified to support visitor activities provided the project is consistent with other identified values.

Vegetative management in this zone will address hazard trees, invasive species, and pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to facilitate recreational use and to maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape.

Historic/Cultural Resources -- A good portion of this zone is overlaid by a Cultural Landscape Zone, particularly those areas most utilized by the Ford family during their occupation of the land.

The Dodge Brothers Unit No. 10 includes a picnic shelter with stone fireplace which dates back to the 1920's.

The recorded history of the area also suggests that American Indians may have frequently traveled along established trails within the current park boundary.

Any activity in this zone which requires earthwork must first be reviewed and approved by Stewardship to ensure that the project and methods are appropriate for the protection and preservation of any potential artifacts, foundations, or the like.

Recreation Opportunities – This zone is utilized for general recreation including hunting, fishing, trapping, birding and trail usage (hiking, biking, equestrian, cross-country skiing, etc). The zone also includes a toboggan hill, boat launch and swimming area. Snowmobiling may be allowed in designated areas. Hunting is not allowed within 450' (Hunting Safety Zone) of campgrounds, buildings or areas where people congregate.

Education Opportunities – Stakeholders have suggested partnerships with educational institutions to develop "Artist in Residence" programs, or to host seminars at the park.

The vision of FOHRA for the sheep barn includes a pavilion as well as restoring the remaining sheep barn structure where feasible. This vision could include potential classroom or gathering places where educational activities might be scheduled.

A volunteer mentoring program designed to introduce youth and others to camping, hunting and/or fishing would be expected to increase the user base for this and other parks, and could be implemented in this zone.

Information regarding the cultural past and natural communities can also be made available at other areas of congregation and fortified through educational opportunities in the DRZ. Informational kiosks are one good way to disseminate this information.

Signed kiosks may also be used to teach “proper etiquette” when encountering different trail users, such as what should a biker do when he encounters a horse and rider? The trails are multi-use and also interface with the field dog trial area.

Visitor Experience – With the focus of this zone being the developed campgrounds, stable concessionaire and other attributes, the visitor will experience a high number of encounters with other park visitors throughout the year, especially during the summer.

Visitors can expect to enjoy a variety of public events and educational opportunities.

Management Focus –Management of this zone will be focused on maintaining the infrastructure that serves the intense public uses of this zone. Additional efforts should be focused on providing educational opportunities in this zone to complement the entire park, on developing universal access (ADA access) throughout the zone, and on maintaining public safety and good hospitality services.

Development – The stakeholder groups identified a need for additional camping within the park. The Planning Team supports evaluation of overnight camping opportunities at Teeple Lake and at Dodge 10. The evaluation should also consider the costs and benefits of separating equestrian campers from other campers.

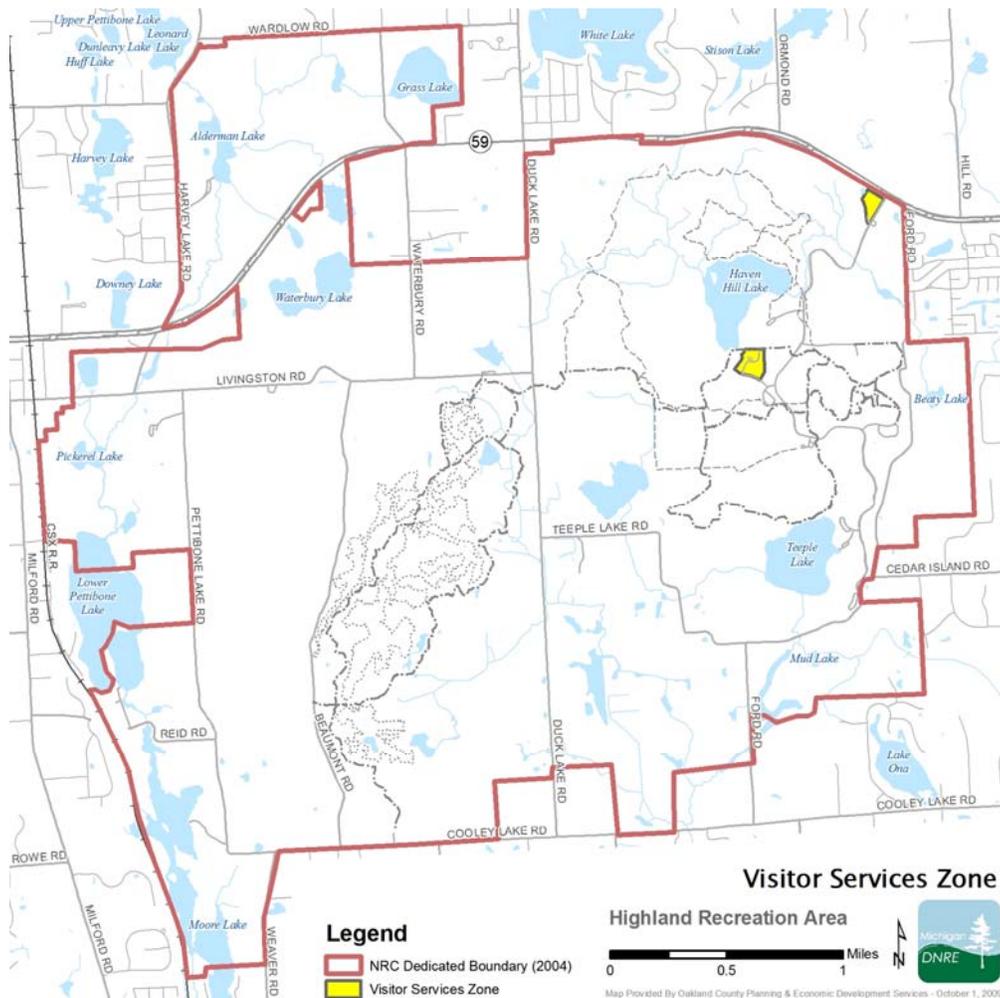
The Planning Team further supports evaluation of “resort” cabins at Teeple Lake, for overnight rental or to use in partnership with an “Artist in Residence” program that might be developed by higher educational institutions. Additional opportunities may exist for overnight rentals in Dodge 10, similar to the existing cabin at Bass Lake.

The DRZ areas along Livingston Road on the west edge of the park provide ties to the adjacent communities. An enhanced park entrance at this location should be considered, designed in keeping with the heritage of the adjacent Highland Station.

VISITOR SERVICES ZONE

The Visitor Services Zone (VSZ) is mapped in two locations in the park; one at the park entrance and offices, just south of M-59 on the east edge of the park, and the second at the maintenance shop, west of the park entrance road and south of Livingston Road. The VSZ is 12 acres, or only 0.2% of the park.

This zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. Typically, it will include offices, contact stations, maintenance facilities and all related land base required to conduct the business of operating a state park or recreation area.



Following are the prescribed qualities for the Visitor Services Zone:

Natural Resources – In general, the natural resources can be modified to support the administrative needs of the park.

Vegetative management in this zone will address hazard trees, invasive species, and pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to facilitate development and recreational use and to maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape.

Historic/Cultural Resources – The existing maintenance shop is part of a complex of buildings constructed by the Ford family and later converted to park use. The historical integrity of these structures should be maintained.

Recreation Opportunities – None

Education Opportunities –Educational materials are made available in the office “public space,” and office staff can provide further verbal information. There are opportunities to direct visitors to other educational opportunities throughout the park.

Currently, the State partners with the local school district to host a summer “latchkey” operation at the maintenance complex.

Visitor Experience – While the public is welcome at the office for administrative and informational purposes, most visitor interaction at the maintenance building complex is discouraged.

Management Focus –Provide public universal access to all administrative and maintenance buildings and parking areas. Assure security of offices, facilities and equipment (including outdoor equipment). Provide a safe working environment for park staff.

Development – Development in this zone will be for the purposes of complementing the administrative needs of the park, and meeting the needs for ADA compliance. All development will meet the approval requirements of the planning process.

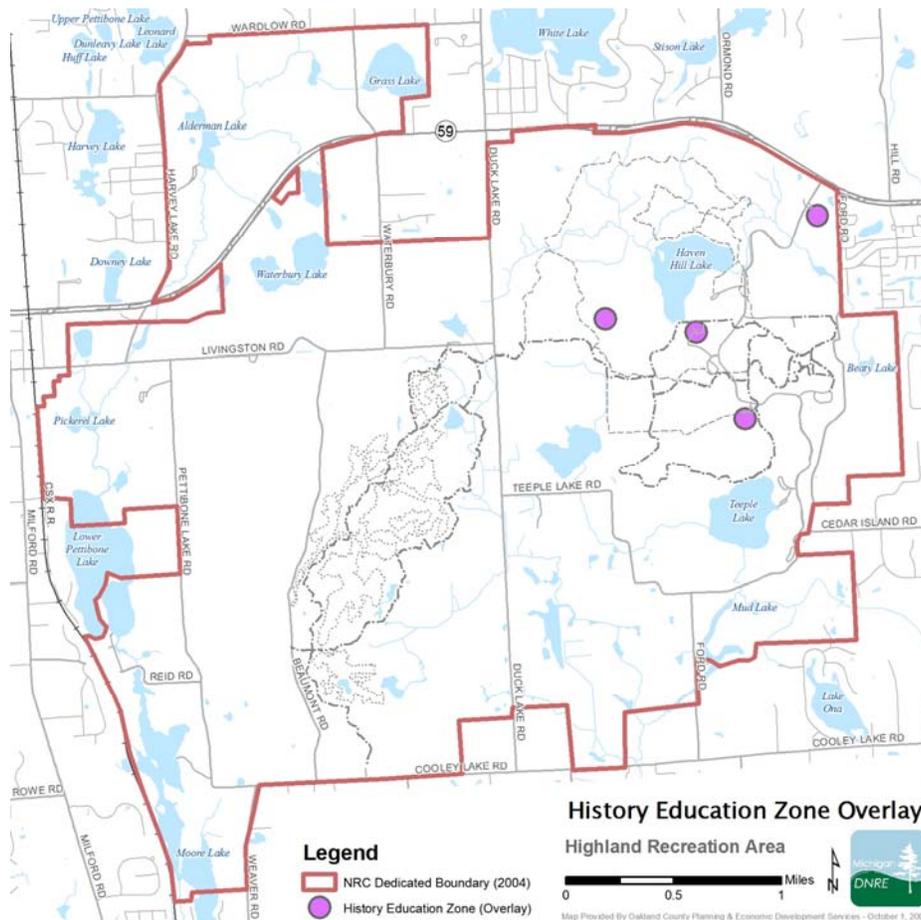
The Planning Team further supports evaluation of “resort” cabins at Teeple Lake, for overnight rental, or to use in partnership with an “Artist in Residence” program that might be developed by higher educational institutions. Additional opportunities may exist for overnight rentals in Dodge 10, similar to the existing cabin at Bass Lake.

The DRZ areas along Livingston Road on the west edge of the park provide ties to the adjacent communities. An enhanced park entrance at this location should be considered, designed in keeping with the heritage of the adjacent Highland Station.

HISTORY EDUCATION ZONE (OVERLAY)

The History Education Zone (HEZ) is mapped only as an overlay across four locations within the Natural Resources Recreation Zone: The Haven Hill Lodge, the original gatehouse, the maintenance complex, and the historic sheep barn. Each of these locations is significant due to its prominence in the Ford family story.

This overlay zone recognizes unique opportunities to engage the visitor in a compelling story of our past. In managing these assets, the park staff should be sensitive to the prescribed values of the overlay as well the underlying zones.



Following are the prescribed qualities for the History Education Zone:

Natural Resources – In general, the natural resources can be modified to support the visitor activities, provided the actions are sensitive to other identified values.

Vegetative management in this zone will address hazard trees, invasive species, and pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to facilitate development and recreational use and to maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape.

Historic/Cultural Resources –This overlay zone is designated over four of the highest value historic/cultural assets of the park. Many of the remaining structures and the grounds show the influence of renowned Landscape Architect Jens Jensen, who oversaw the development of the Ford estate. There are photographic records and some architectural plans for many of these buildings.

The Haven Hill Lodge foundation, with its standing stone fireplace and the associated carriage house, mark the location of the Ford family retreat and are located at one of the highest points of the land. Haven Hill was the sanctuary of Edsel Ford and his family during the 1920s and 1930s. Esteemed visitors to the estate included the Prince of Wales, Charles Lindbergh, and Thomas Edison.

The original gatehouse stands near the existing entrance to the park. This gatehouse was the point of entry and security for the Ford family estate, and later served as the park entrance until the widening and relocation of M-59.

The sheep barn is a “one of a kind” structure. Although it was partially destroyed in a windstorm in 2008, there is still a significant portion of the barn standing.

The shop area includes buildings that were originally part of the Ford Estate, and which now provide valuable space for park staff to stage their maintenance activities and complete woodworking and similar projects.

Recreation Opportunities – Potential for social activities, particularly at the sheep barn location.

Education Opportunities – Oakland County PEDS and Friends of Highland Recreation Area (FOHRA) have expressed interest in developing an interpretative program at the foundation of the Ford family lodge and sheep barn. The vision includes panels describing the history of the Ford family on the land, and ties to the automotive industry. The sheep barn is envisioned as an area where events and classes could be held.

Educational materials are made available in locations where the public gathers. There are opportunities to direct visitors to other educational opportunities throughout the park.

Currently, the State partners with the local school district to host a summer “latchkey” operation at the maintenance complex.

Visitor Experience – The historic and cultural features in this zone are unique to the area and to the Ford family story, and would be appreciated by visitors with an interest in history. Given the vision of an ever evolving interpretative display, and the development of a pavilion at the sheep barn, the visitor should be pleased to participate in a variety of entertaining, educational and social activities.

Management Focus –Preserve and protect historic and cultural assets in the zone. Provide universal access where feasible. Foster partnerships with FOHRA and other committed user groups to leverage resources and promote the park.

Provide a safe working environment for park staff.

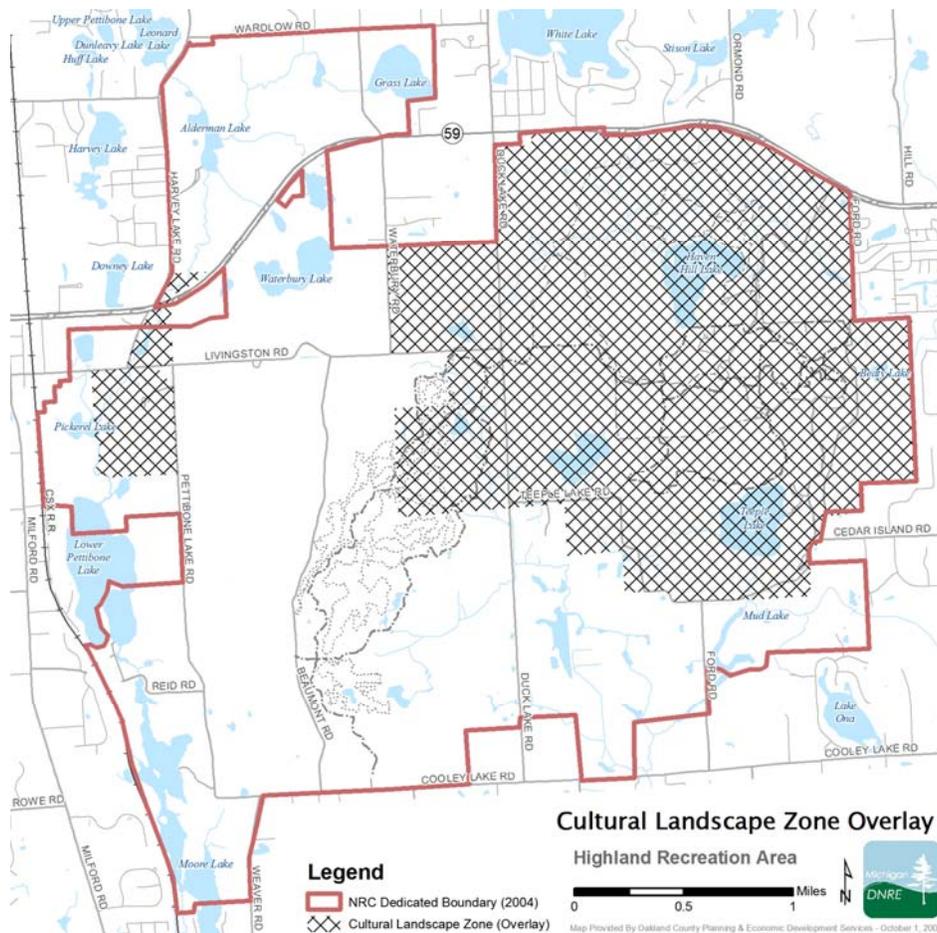
Development –All development will meet the approval requirements of the planning process.

The Planning Team supports continued partnership with FOHRA in order to preserve and protect historic assets, and to further goals of making history education accessible to all visitors. Possible projects include restoration of the sheep barn to provide classroom space, warming house and event pavilion and restoration of the gatehouse to provide opportunities for a camp store or gift shop, offices for the Friends group, or as a location to offer classes. Any development of these structures should respect principles of historic preservation and universal accessibility.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ZONE (OVERLAY)

The Cultural Landscape Zone (CLZ) is mapped as an overlay at two locations crossing numerous zones: much of the park east of Duck Lake Road to reflect the Ford family ownership of the land, and a smaller area near Livingston Road and Pettibone Lake Road to reflect the Dodge Brothers ownership on the west end of the park as well as the remnants of the Spring Mills settlement.

This overlay zone is intended to acknowledge the heritage of these land owners and to respect the cultural impact that is still evident in the park. In managing these assets, the park staff should be sensitive to the prescribed values of the overlay as well the underlying zones.



Following are the prescribed qualities for the Cultural Landscape Zone:

Natural Resources – In general, the natural resources can be modified to support visitor activities, provided the actions are sensitive to other identified values.

Vegetative management in this zone will address hazard trees, invasive species, and pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to facilitate development and recreational use and to maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape where the underlying zone would allow such activity.

Historic/Cultural Resources –This overlay zone encompasses not only the four historic landmarks identified in the History Education Zone, but also the surrounding land, which comprised the working farm that supplied the Ford family retreat. While much of the land has reverted to forest cover, one can still find subtle signs of former agricultural activity, of recreational assets developed by the former owners, and even remnants of park amenities that are no longer used or maintained, such as the Dodge 10 Unit campground.

Recreation Opportunities – Recreational opportunities within this overlay zone vary in accord with the underlying zones, providing a large range of possibilities, ranging from passive trails and wildlife observation to swimming, camping and developed trails.

Education Opportunities – While those areas specifically designated with the History Education Zone overlay may provide the focus for more highly developed interpretative and educational opportunities, there are many opportunities throughout the Cultural Landscape Zone to identify and mark the impacts of prior landowners and visitors, and lead the visitor to a greater appreciation of our heritage in Southeast Michigan.

Educational materials are made available in locations where the public gathers. There are also numerous potential locations for interpretative activities.

Visitor Experience – The cultural resources of this area should appeal to those with an interest in history, or even nostalgia. Within this overlay zone are opportunities to experience solitude in a natural setting or to take part in organized social and recreational activities.

Management Focus –Preserve and protect historic and cultural assets in the zone. Provide universal access where feasible. Foster partnerships with FOHRA and other committed user groups to leverage resources and promote the park.

Provide a safe working environment for park staff.

Development –All development will meet the approval requirements of the planning process.

Development opportunities have been discussed in each of the underlying zones. The Planning Team supports continued partnership with FOHRA in order to preserve and protect historic and cultural assets.

FUTURE PLAN INSERTS

Phase 2 - Long Range Action Goals Plan (10-Year) - Includes review and update of General Management Plan.

Phase 3 - Implementation Plan (5-Year) – Includes review and update of Phase 1 - General Management Plan and the Phase 2 Plan.

Phase 4 - Annual Action Plan and Progress Report

Operational/Management Resources - The following categories are established as a guide for the park manager to use to supplement this working document. Other categories can be added as needed.

- Annual Work Plan (NOTE...this should tie-in with Phase 4 – Annual Report of Management Planning)
- Phase III Natural Resources Management Plan
- Staffing plan
- Budget plan
- Equipment inventory and needs
- Training (required and desired)
- Public relations/marketing/outreach
- Programming (Special events, MCCC activities, volunteers, etc.)
- Public Health, Safety and Welfare
 - Water system
 - Wastewater system
 - Electrical system
 - Law enforcement
 - Emergency access plans
 - Wildfire management plan
 - Dam safety reports
- CRS
- FOIA
- Infrastructure inventory (when available)
- Raster Image Index
- Raster Images of historic park plans
- Parcel mapping of land ownership
- Other...

SUPPORTING ANALYSIS

PARK SETTING

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

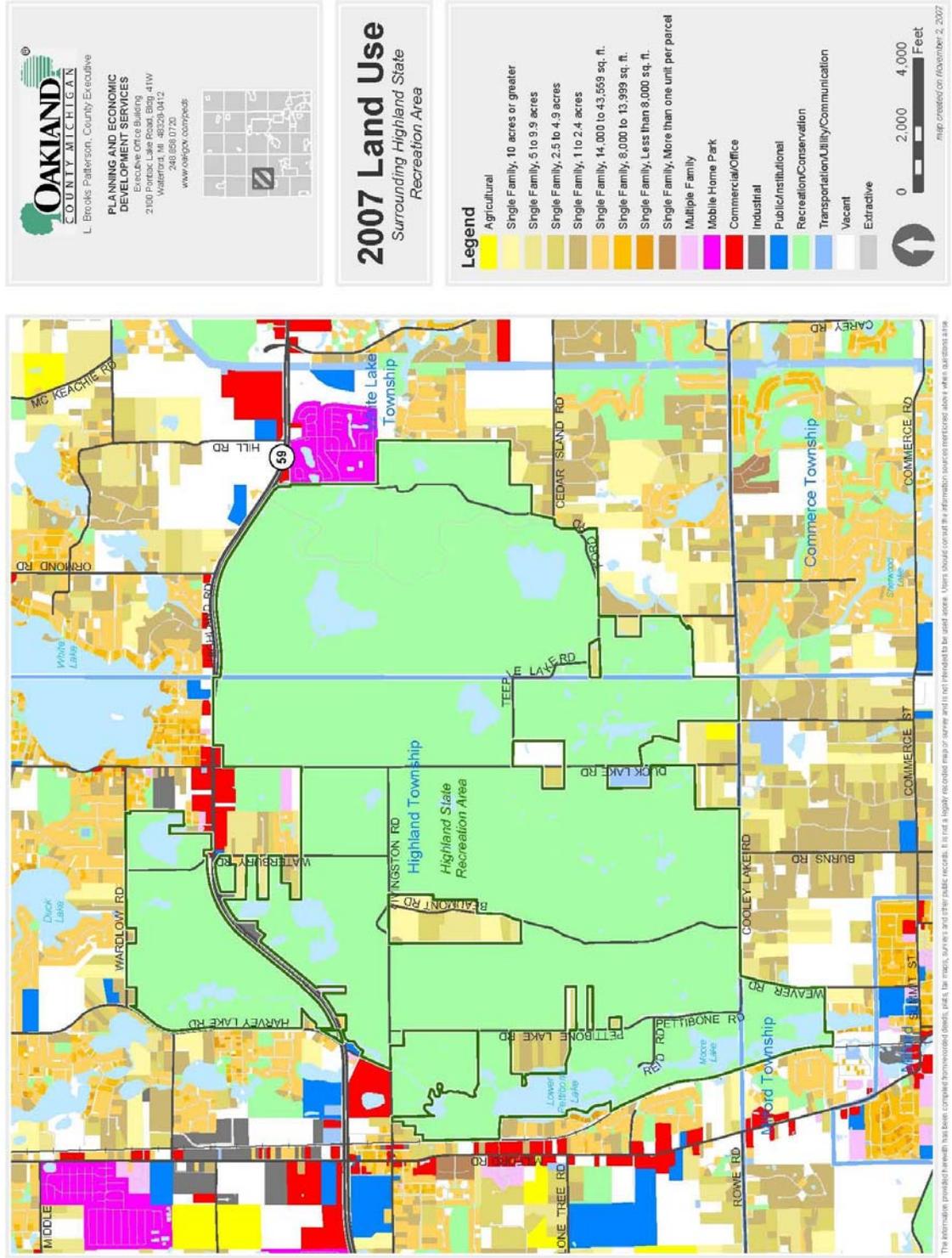
Highland Recreation Area (HRA) lies in the northwest section of Oakland County in Southeast Michigan. Oakland County's current population is over 1.2 million and continues to grow, along with other outlying counties in the Detroit area. The park lies within close proximity to several large urbanized regions. It lies approximately 30 miles north of Detroit, 30 miles south of Flint, 15 miles west of Pontiac, and 50 miles east of Lansing.

The park is roughly bordered by M-59 to the north, Cooley Lake Road to the south, Ford Road to the east, and Milford and Harvey Lake Roads to the west. The park is approximately 5,900 acres in size. Although the park lies within an urbanizing county, it maintains many significant natural resources, including the Haven Hill wetlands and forest complex, covering approximately 721 acres. Haven Hill is a National Natural Landmark, and an NRC-designated natural area, and a State Natural Area. The park also includes several lakes and manmade impoundments including Moore Lake, Lower Pettibone Lake, Pickerel Lake, Waterbury Lake, Grass Lake, Alderman Lake, Teeple Lake, Haven Hill Lake, Bass Lake and others.

The park has unique topography due to the recession of glaciers. Mount Kanzer, located in the southwest quadrant of HRA (off Pettibone Lake Road) is one of the highest elevations in Oakland County, at 1150 feet, whereas Teeple Lake has a base flood elevation of about 946 feet. Vegetation ranges from upland oak-hickory forests and grasslands to tamarack swamp forests and lowland bogs. Much of the acreage has been cultivated in the past, and there is an active stewardship effort underway to restore natural ecological processes such as fire, control invasive non-native plants, and re-establish native vegetation to support wildlife habitat.

Neighboring land uses include low-density residential uses on all sides. There is a large manufactured housing community on the east boundary of HRA at Ford Road. Relatively small scale commercial and office land uses lie to the east, north and west. An 80 acre tree farm lies along the northwest boundary line at M-59. Livingston Road and the Dodge 10 Park are considered a gateway to the Highland Station commercial district in Highland Township.

EXISTING LAND USE MAP



Population

All of the surrounding communities have grown steadily in the past 40 years. Most of the surrounding townships have grown by over 100 percent. Highland Township has contained growth in the last decade. The area around the rest of HRA is still becoming increasingly populated. This increases the chance for more users as well as for more user conflicts.

Population Comparison, 1960-2000 Surrounding Communities of Highland Recreation Area

| Community | 1960 | 1970 | % Change, 1960-1970 | 1980 | % Change, 1970-1980 | 1990 | % Change, 1980-1990 | 2000 | % Change, 1990-2000 | % Change, 1960-2000 |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|
| White Lake Township | 8,381 | 14,311 | 70.8% | 21,870 | 52.8% | 22,608 | 3.4% | 28,219 | 24.8% | 236.7% |
| Commerce Township | 9,608 | 14,556 | 51.5% | 18,789 | 29.1% | 22,228 | 18.3% | 34,764 | 56.4% | 261.8% |
| Highland Township | 4,855 | 8,372 | 72.4% | 16,958 | 102.6% | 17,941 | 5.8% | 19,169 | 6.8% | 294.8% |
| Independence Township | 10,121 | 16,327 | 61.3% | 20,569 | 26.0% | 23,717 | 15.3% | 32,581 | 37.4% | 221.9% |
| Milford Township | 5,871 | 7,255 | 23.6% | 10,187 | 40.4% | 12,121 | 19.0% | 15,271 | 26.0% | 160.1% |
| Springfield Township | 2,664 | 4,388 | 64.7% | 8,295 | 89.0% | 9,927 | 19.7% | 13,338 | 34.4% | 400.7% |
| Waterford Township | 47,008 | 59,123 | 25.8% | 64,250 | 8.7% | 66,692 | 3.8% | 73,150 | 9.7% | 55.6% |
| Oakland County | 690,259 | 907,871 | 31.5% | 1,011,793 | 11.4% | 1,083,592 | 7.1% | 1,194,156 | 10.2% | 73.0% |

Source: U.S. Census 1960-1990

Future Population in Surrounding Communities of Highland Recreation Area

| Community | 2000 | May 2006 | % Change, 2000-2006 | 2030 | % Change, 2006-2030 |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| White Lake Township | 28,219 | 30,597 | 8.43% | 34,313 | 12.14% |
| Commerce Township | 34,764 | 35,936 | 3.37% | 41,019 | 14.14% |
| Highland Township | 19,169 | 19,972 | 4.19% | 21,681 | 8.56% |
| Milford Township | 15,271 | 16,223 | 9.52% | 17,923 | 10.48% |
| Independence Township | 32,581 | 34,707 | 6.53% | 38,103 | 9.78% |
| Springfield Township | 13,338 | 14,364 | 7.68% | 20,326 | 41.53% |
| Waterford Township | 73,150 | 70,771 | -3.25% | 72,863 | 2.96% |
| Oakland County | 1,194,156 | 1,217,372 | 1.94% | 1,333,573 | 9.55% |

Source: SEMCOG

Growth is expected to continue over the next 25 years. This will likely bring pressure to develop more infrastructure in the area to accommodate new residents. This could include widening roads, water, sewer, utilities, waste treatment, etc. There could be pressure in the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) to allow more utility easements on HRA. Currently, there are few sewer lines that run north of M-59 in White Lake and south through Milford Township. Lack of sewers has been a principal impediment to more intense growth.

Future Population for Neighboring Counties of Highland Recreation Area

| County | 1990 Census | 2000 Census | January 2000 SEMCOG | 2030 Forecast |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Livingston County | 115,645 | 156,951 | 185,097 | 282,552 |
| Macomb County | 717,400 | 788,149 | 835,357 | 930,420 |
| Monroe County | 133,600 | 145,945 | 154,947 | 196,554 |
| Oakland County | 1,083,592 | 1,194,156 | 1,220,487 | 1,333,573 |
| St. Clair County | 145,607 | 164,235 | 173,342 | 203,255 |
| Washtenaw County | 282,937 | 322,770 | 345,207 | 448,020 |
| Wayne County | 2,111,687 | 2,061,162 | 2,003,724 | 2,013,975 |

Source: SEMCOG

Oakland County has undergone sustained growth from 1960 to 2000. Population continues to migrate from Wayne County out to the surrounding counties around Detroit. Oakland County has the second largest population in metro Detroit. HRA lies in the middle of that growth.

Oakland County Population by Race and Hispanic Origin, 1990-2000

| Race | 1990 Census | 2000 Census | 2000 Census Alone or Combined |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| White | 970,674 (90%) | 988,194 (83%) | 1,007,744 (83%) |
| Black | 77,488 (7%) | 120,720 (10%) | 126,811 (10%) |
| American Indian | 3,948 (0%) | 3,270 (0%) | 9,324 (1%) |
| Asian | 24,967 (2%) | 49,402 (4%) | 54,764 (4%) |
| Pacific Islander | 136 (0%) | 295 (0%) | 858 (0%) |
| Other Race | 6,379 (1%) | 10,064 (1%) | 18,204 (1%) |
| Multi-Racial | n/a | 22,211 (2%) | n/a |
| Total Population | 1,083,592 | 1,194,156 | 1,217,705*** |
| Hispanic Origin | 19,630 (2%) | 28,999 (2%) | n/a |
| Not of Hispanic Origin | 1,063,962 (98%) | 1,165,157 (98%) | n/a |

Source: SEMCOG

***2000 total here will exceed total population as those persons marking more than one race are counted in each race category they marked.

The majority of Oakland County residents are white: 83 percent. The black population has increased to 10 percent between 1990 and 2000. Also, the Asian population increased by 2 percent for a total of 4 percent. The new category, multi-racial, was included on the 2000 census. It accounts for 2 percent of the population in the county.

Income

Income in the Surrounding Area of Highland State Recreation Area

| Geographic Area | Median Income | Households in Poverty | Total Households |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Oakland County | \$61,907 | 25,607 (5%) | 471,115 |
| Southeast Michigan* | \$49,979 | 183,181 (10%) | 1,845,218 |
| White Lake Township | \$65,894 | 293 (8%) | 10,092 |
| Highland Township | \$62,805 | 310 (5%) | 6,786 |

Source: SEMCOG (2000 Census)

*SEMCOG's 7-county region (Oakland, Wayne, Macomb, Livingston, Washtenaw, St. Clair, Monroe Counties)

Oakland County is a wealthy county in the metro Detroit Area. Its median income is over \$10,000 more than the Southeast Michigan region. Its poverty rate is half that of the rest of the region. White Lake Township has a much higher than average median income that is over \$15,000 more than the rest of the region. Likewise, Highland Township also has an average median income exceeding that of the region and of Oakland County. The level of income in this area affects the lifestyles of people who visit the park and their type of recreational interests.

Employment

Top Five Employers in Oakland County

| Firm | Location | Employees | Product |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Chrysler Technology Center | Auburn Hills | 7,000 | Minivan, sm & lg car eng & prd |
| General Motors Corp | Lake Orion | 4,600 | Automobile assembling |
| General Motors Corp | Pontiac | 4,000 | Truck assembly |
| General Motors Corp | Milford | 4,000 | Testing, research & dvlpt: autos |
| Ford Motor Co | Wixom | 3,700 | Automobile assembly |

Source: Michigan Economic Growth Corporation (1998 data) www.medc.michigan.org

Manufacturing jobs continue to be lost in southeast Michigan. In January 2006, Ford Motor Co. announced the closing of its Wixom assembly plant. This meant the loss of 3,700 jobs to the immediate area of HRA. The economic downturn of 2008-2010 has led to unemployment rates topping 15% in Southeast Michigan. Job losses continue to alter the demographics of this area.

Employment by Industrial Class in Oakland County

| Industrial Class | 1990 | 2000 | 2030 Forecast |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Agriculture, Mining, and Natural Resources | 8,397 (1%) | 9,565 (1%) | 11,625 (1%) |
| Manufacturing | 116,987 (17%) | 131,353 (14%) | 119,175 (11%) |
| Transportation, Communication, and Utility | 30,089 (4%) | 32,793 (4%) | 37,723 (3%) |
| Wholesale Trade | 46,746 (7%) | 62,864 (7%) | 71,940 (7%) |
| Retail Trade | 130,230 (19%) | 150,971 (17%) | 184,394 (17%) |
| Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate | 70,704 (10%) | 98,237 (11%) | 104,053 (10%) |
| Services | 268,006 (39%) | 407,625 (45%) | 535,892 (49%) |
| Public Administration | 9,878 (1%) | 16,955 (2%) | 22,597 (2%) |
| Total Employment | 681,037 | 910,363 | 1,087,399 |

Source: SEMCOG

A decrease in agriculture and manufacturing are the biggest trends in employment for Oakland County. Also, there is an increase in service related employment. The service category includes both skilled and unskilled workers. For example, unskilled food preparation workers are included in this category, as well as skilled health care workers.

Household Size

Household Size in Highland Recreation Area's Surrounding Area

| | 1990 Census | 2000 Census | May, 2006 SEMCOG | 2030 Forecast |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|
| White Lake Township | 2.87 | 2.77 | 2.70 | 2.50 |
| Highland Township | 3.02 | 2.82 | 2.70 | 2.50 |
| Southeast Michigan* | 2.66 | 2.58 | 2.51 | 2.35 |
| Oakland County | 2.61 | 2.51 | 2.44 | 2.26 |

Source: SEMCOG

*Southeast Michigan includes SEMCOG's 7-county region—Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair, Monroe, Livingston, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties.

Another trend taking place throughout the country is the shrinking household size. Despite the fact that the total number of households continues to increase, overall size decreases. This has been attributed to many things: divorce, couples deciding to wait to have children, alternative families, two-income families, people living longer, and today's economy, which may affect the number of workers that are necessary to fill today's jobs. For example, an agricultural economy requires families to have many children to help on the farm. The manufacturing economy of the 20th century required many workers to do labor-intensive work. The information-based economy of today requires fewer workers overall, but highly skilled ones. As these changes have taken place, the family size has continued to decrease and is predicted to continue to do so.

Recreational Land Use in Oakland County (1990-2000)

| Cultural, Outdoor Recreation, and Cemetery | 1990 acres | 2000 acres | Change | Pct Change |
|--|------------|------------|----------|------------|
| Public Assembly/Cultural or Sport Facility | 681.2 | 685.9 | 4.7 | 0.70% |
| Outdoor Recreation | 15,582.80 | 20,432.00 | 4,849.30 | 31.10% |
| Cemetery | 1,614.70 | 1,668.80 | 54.2 | 3.40% |

Source: SEMCOG

Recreational Land Use in Southeast Michigan* (1990-2000)

| Cultural, Outdoor Recreation, and Cemetery | 1990 | 2000 | Change | Pct Change |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Public Assembly/Cultural or Sport Facility | 1,358.30 | 1,351.50 | -6.8 | -0.50% |
| Outdoor Recreation | 53,716.40 | 67,611.60 | 13,895.20 | 25.90% |
| Cemetery | 6,013.90 | 6,177.40 | 163.5 | 2.70% |

Source: SEMCOG

*Southeast Michigan includes SEMCOG's 7-county area—Macomb, Oakland, Wayne, Washtenaw, Livingston, Monroe, and St. Clair counties.

Between 1990 and 2000, there was a 31 percent increase in land used for outdoor recreation in Oakland County. In southeast Michigan the increase in outdoor recreation land was 25.90 percent. It is helpful to compare the

amount of land being developed for other uses with the amount of land set aside for outdoor recreation. The category *outdoor recreation*, according to SEMCOG, is determined by aerial photography, not by property ownership. The outdoor recreational use most often discerned by aerial photography is that of a golf course. This means that there has likely been an increase in the number of golf courses in Oakland County, rather than passive recreation land.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PARK

Highland Recreation Area was officially designated as part of the state park system in 1943. The state incorporated its Dodge #10 unit into the park, a 78-acre parcel donated by the Dodge Motor Company in 1922. Other farm and woodland parcels were acquired through funds made available by a special session of the state legislature in 1944. The most significant single purchase was the Edsel Ford Estate, consisting of 2,422 acres purchased for \$300,000. The property value was estimated at \$3,000,000. Other parcels were tax reverted properties. Today, the park totals approximately 5900 acres.

GENERAL HISTORY OF THE PARK

The history of state parks in Michigan mirrors that of the U.S. Department of Interior's National Park Service. As the country has developed so have its parks. Over time, the agencies charged with overseeing the park system have developed according to public needs, administrative efficiency, and political climate. The parks movement has been closely related to the growth of cities and the growth of railroads and highways.

The National Park system was created in 1872, when Yellowstone National Park was placed under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of the Interior. This marked the first time that the federal government acted to preserve a large area of land as a park. The growing preservation movement sought to preserve cultural landmarks, national monuments, as well as to preserve nature and promote tourism. The National Park Service was officially designated in 1916 as a part of the Department of the Interior.²

Many states, including Michigan, followed this trend. In 1915, Michigan authorized a newly-created Public Domain Commission to accept gifts, grants, and devises of real property to be used for park purposes. One of the first purchases was a 200 acre stand of virgin pine near Interlochen.

Act 218 of 1919 established the Michigan State Park Commission. The commission was created to establish a comprehensive statewide system of parks, rather than a few scattered ones. Act 17 of 1921 created the Department of Conservation, overseen by the Michigan Conservation

² National Park Service website. <http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/hisnps/NPSHistory/adminhistory.htm>

Commission. The Department of Conservation was designated as the single state agency to administer and plan the park system. There were 23 parks in 1921 when the Department of Conservation succeeded the Michigan State Park Commission. Between 1921 and 1956, the state park system grew to a total of 73 parks and recreation areas, totaling 176,991 acres.

Between 1927 and 1931, the Department of Conservation began a survey of the entire Southeast Michigan area, a radius of approximately 35 to 65 miles of downtown Detroit. Their goal was to determine the possibilities of acquiring land for parks and recreation purposes. Again in 1941, the Department of Conservation surveyed land in Southeast Michigan. In general, the plan proposed to acquire 100,000 acres of land in Southeast Michigan, divide into 16 different areas, including Waterloo, Pinckney, Brighton, Island Lake, Highland, Proud Lake, Pontiac Lake, Holly, Ortonville, Metamora, Bald Mountain, and Rochester-Utica State Recreation Areas.

A special session of the Legislature in 1944 appropriated \$4,000,000 to begin acquisition of lands. The Conservation Commission added \$600,000 from the Game Protection Fund. The Regular Session of 1945 appropriated \$1,000,000 for development in all state parks, a majority of which was spent in Southeast Michigan parks. The Special Session of 1946 appropriated \$750,000 for further parks development. In addition, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) pressed the Michigan state legislators to preserve farms, fields, wetlands, and woodlands around southeast Michigan by establishing state recreation areas. The land was acquired by various means over a long period of time. Some of the property was tax-reverted property. Other property was purchased through the Pittman-Robertson Fund, a fund established by hunters, which paid for the acquisition of certain lands to be set aside as public hunting property or as a shooting range.

The Department of Conservation officially defined state park policy in 1954.³ This policy created different classes of park lands, state parks, state recreation areas, and historic sites. State recreation areas were defined as large areas convenient to centers of dense population, with a diversity of natural features and impressive natural beauty. They are suitable for many types of intensive and extensive recreation, including swimming, picnicking, camping, group camping, boating, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, nature study, enjoyment of scenery, and even hunting.

Most state parks are centered around a dominant feature or a limited number of attractions. State Recreation Areas are not; they are diverse.

³ Michigan Department of Conservation. *State Parks of Michigan: A Report of the Past, A Look to the Future*. 1957

Time Line of Events at Highland Recreation Area

- 1921 A land survey is undertaken by the Department of Conservation of potential recreational land in Southeast Michigan
- 1922 Dodge Motor Company donates the 78-acre Dodge #10 unit to the State of Michigan. The parcel provides access to a little stream and Pickerel Lake.
- 1925 Major park development in the Dodge #10 State Park included a park roadway, campgrounds, two toilet buildings and the Caretaker's Residence. 450 small deciduous trees were planted.
- 1927 A group camp building was added and the park was opened for winter sports, including a toboggan slide and a junior ski jump. Playground equipment, tables, benches, and outdoor stoves were installed. 2000 Jack and Norway pine seedlings were planted.
- 1933-38 The Civilian Conservation Corps invested 5000 man-days of labor into improvements including repair and remodeling of the Caretaker's Residence and construction of the Garage and Workshop. The men planted extensively and installed a boat dock at Pickerel Lake. Other improvements included a wading pool, and combination stone and hewn timber shelter and toilet building.
- 1941 Continuation of land survey begun in 1921.
- 1943 Edsel and Eleanor Ford Estate was acquired. Existing structures included a family lodge and garage, a gate house, several tenants' dwellings, a farm complex, a sheep barn, a swimming pool, a wading pool, a tennis court, a ski tow and toboggan run. The lodge was constructed between 1924-26, and was located atop a hill overlooking the country side and Haven Hill Lake, a 62-acre impoundment built by Edsel Ford. The property consisted of approximately 2,422 acres, and was originally used by the family as a country retreat.
- 1949-63 State operates the lodge as a self-supporting convention center, separately from the management of the Highland Recreation Area. The lodge was closed in 1963 due to political pressure and perception that lodge was used as an exclusive retreat.