

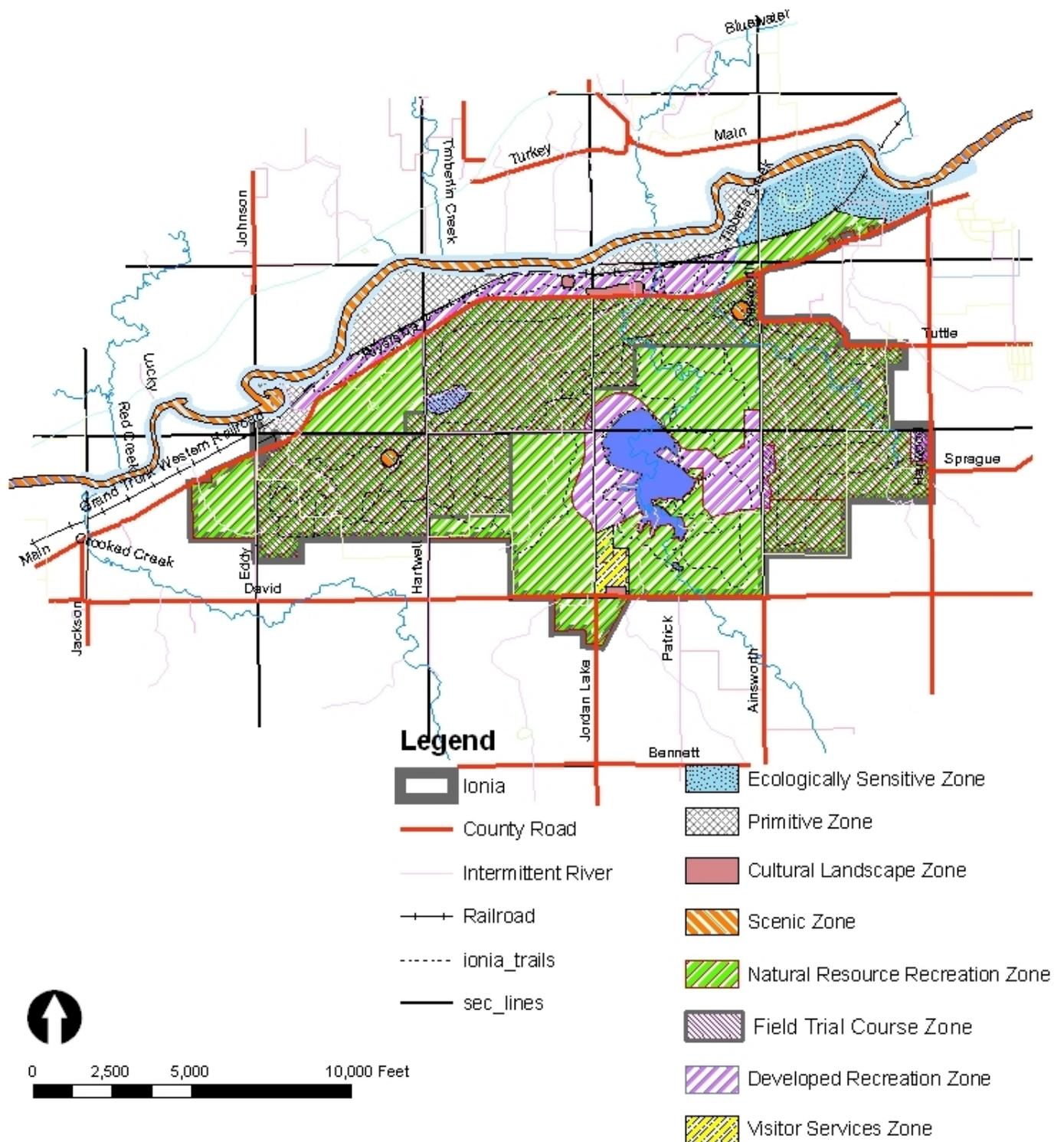
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

With guidance of the Ionia SRA Planning Team (inclusive Department participation) and input from our stakeholders and the public, the park [“Purpose and Significance”](#) statements were drafted and adopted. This established an identity for the park that highlights that; Ionia SRA was established for the purpose of providing a wide range of water based (with the manmade Sessions Lake) and general outdoor recreation opportunities in a “lakeless” part of the state. Ionia SRA provides a diversity and quality of water resource opportunities that is emphasized by (unique to southern Michigan) the designation of trout quality waters (Tibbets Creek), the quality of the natural landscape found in this park supports the federally and state protected bald eagle, Trumpeter Swan, and heron nesting habitat, and, of greatest resource and user impact, Ionia SRA is a designated (by the NRC) “Championship Field Trial Course”.

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 used, with special considerations highlighted in the descriptive narratives of management guidance for each zone of the park.

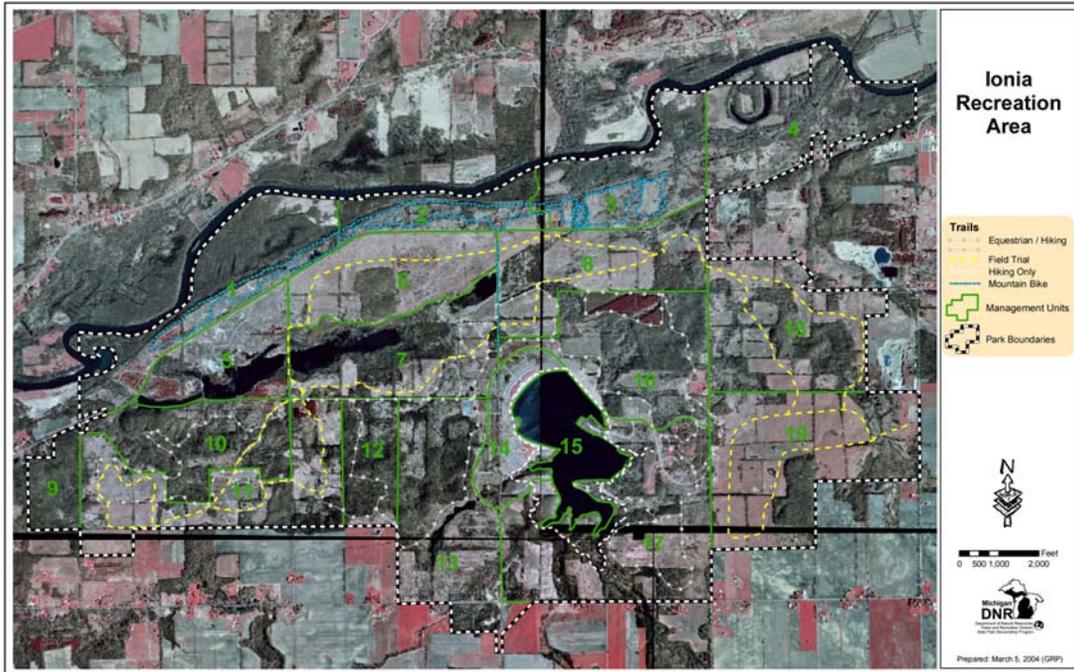
Ionia State Recreation Area

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN



The Stewardship program developed the [“Phase II Natural Resources Management Plan – Ionia State Recreation Area”](#), which was drafted in March of 2004 (Palmgren). This

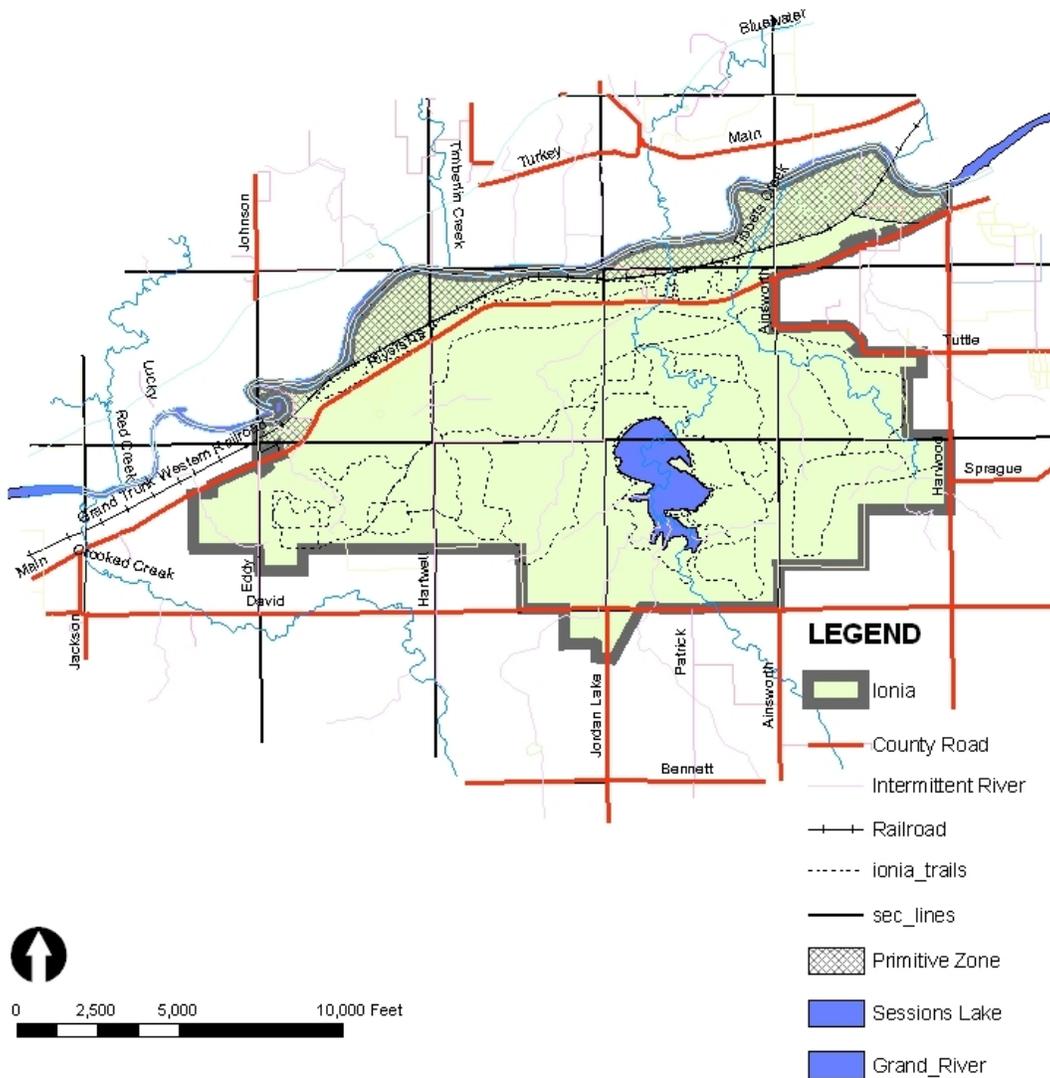
plan presents an overall assessment of the natural resources of the park and provides specific prescriptive recommendations for management of the recreation area. In general, it calls for long-term efforts to reduce fragmentation of cover-type, control invasive species, and attain large, contiguous blocks of pre-settlement vegetation. Reference will be made to this report in the following zone descriptions.



(Map of Vegetative Management Units from the “Phase II Natural Resources Management Plan – Ionia State Recreation Area”)

Primitive Zone

This zone is defined by the floodplain of the Grand River, bordered in general by the river to the north, and the Grand Rapids Eastern Railroad to the south.



In this 543 acre zone (12% of the park), it is not uncommon for spring floods to inundate the area with 5-10 feet of water every spring. The soils of the zone are highly organic silts, and easily subject to damage. Under the Primitive Zone designation, only foot traffic will be allowed...there will be no mountain bike or equestrian uses permitted.

The only exception to this is that an existing Grand River boat access carry-down site will be maintained for use on a seasonal basis (summer/fall). The Riverside Boating Access Site is located near the old Ionia County Infirmary area, with access from the Riverside Picnic Area parking lot. The site is well established and provides a relatively short gravel entrance road and a small parking area suitable for 2-3 cars at the river access point.

At the west end of this zone is another river access route that has been closed for two years. Known as 'Stevens Point', this access location requires a long entrance road exceeding ½ mile in length. Maintenance of this road and the access location had been shown to be a challenge, given the impacts of flooding and natural change in the floodplain. In fact, a portion of the old access road was taken out by this year's flooding. Continued closure of this access is recommended.

Finally, an Ecologically Sensitive Zone designation has been identified at the far east end of the Primitive Zone. Following are the prescribed qualities for the Primitive Zone:

- Natural Resources – Within this Primitive Zone, the guidance of the Stewardship Plan is to "...maintain and restore high-quality floodplain forest north of the railroad tracks...". This area is classified as a southern floodplain forest that is characterized by nutrient rich wet soils. The Stewardship plan points to the importance of this floodplain forest, which acts as a buffer to keep excess sediments and nutrients from entering the Grand River.

The Grand River, which forms the northerly boundary of the zone, has been identified as habitat to several State Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern fresh water mussels. These are:

- Snuffbox mussel (State Endangered)
- Elktoe mussel (State Threatened)
- Purple wartyback mussel (State Special Concern)
- Round pigtoe mussel (State Special Concern)

Additionally, there are several locations along the Grand River where pockets of emergent marsh occur. These are typified by cat-tail marsh, water lilies, etc. The Blanding's turtle, a State Special Concern reptile, is known to dwell in these types of habitat. The protected area established by Steven's Point at the west end of the zone is one such location, and it also has potential for nesting habitat for the Trumpeter Swan.

(NOTE...a portion of this zone has been identified as an Ecologically Sensitive Zone. (zone description follows)

- Historic/Cultural Resources – No known historic sites or cultural resources exist in the floodplain. It is known that Native Americans settled nearby.
- Recreational Opportunities – With the focus of this zone being to maintain and restore the high-quality floodplain forest, and to protect the aquatic and emergent marsh environment, only low impact recreation will be allowed in the zone. This is characterized by dispersed recreation (such as hunting, trapping, birding and fishing) and the opportunity to develop foot trails. No equestrian or mountain bike trails will be allowed in this zone.

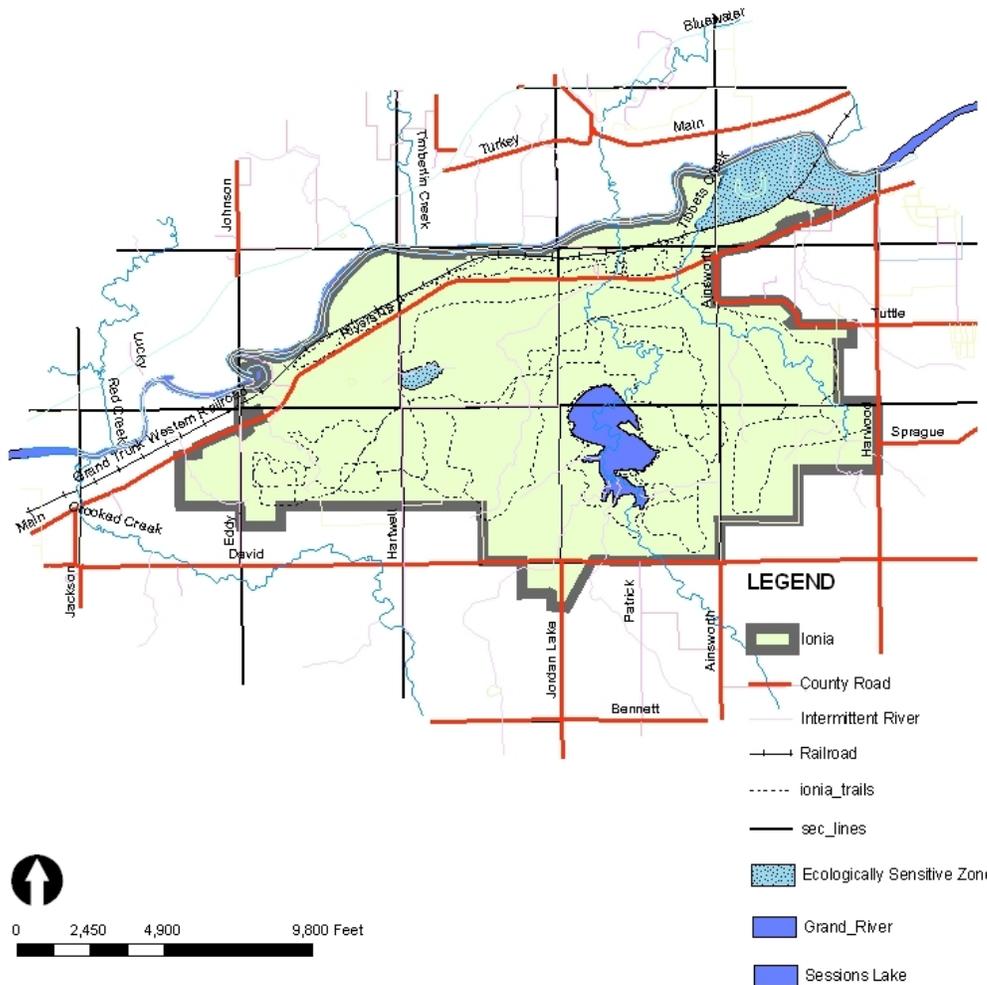
As noted in the general zone description, use and maintenance of the Riverside Boat Access Site will continue. The Steven's Point Access will continue to be closed, with its access route remaining in-place as a walking access down into the floodplain.

- Education Opportunities – The ecological significance of the southern floodplain forest, and the habitat that supports the rare aquatic and emergent marsh species, provides an excellent opportunity for educational kiosks at the points of entry to the zone (Steven's Point and Riverside). Additionally, off-site educational materials could be developed. Specific planning recommendations for education and interpretation will require input from the Office of Communications and others.
- Visitor Experience – This will reflect the high degree of 'natural' feel of the zone, a significant sense of solitude, and a lack of man-made improvements.
- Management Focus – Management of this zone will be focused on the Stewardship Plan recommendations for maintaining the low-impact character of the zone. Routine maintenance of any trails or routes of access will be provided, and care taken to eliminate any detrimental opportunities for erosion or sedimentation.
- Development - Only trail improvements (can include boardwalks and/or overlooks) and educational or interpretive signage will be the 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.

Ecologically Sensitive Zone

There are two areas in the park with this designation, and a third, more generic characterization of the grassland components of the "Field Trial Course Zone". The largest designated area is located in the Primitive Zone (in the northeast corner of the park). This tract of approximately 208 acres has been identified for purposes of protecting two active bald eagle nests and a heron rookery. The second designated area is located within the wildlife floodings found in the Field Trial Course Zone. It is

comprised of approximately 19 acres that have been the nesting location of trumpeter swans. This zone represents approximately 5% of the total park acreage. The third area is the grasslands of the field trial courses, that have found favor with protected upland birds, including the Henslow’s sparrow and the grasshopper sparrow, as well as species in decline, such as the bob-o-link and eastern meadowlark.



This zone designation carries with it a ‘Seasonal’ condition that protects the eagle, heron, swan and upland bird habitats during active nesting (February 1 to July 15). This ‘season’ impacts hunting in these specific areas. All of the values of the Primitive Zone and Field Trial Zone apply to these respective areas, and additionally, the following values will be attained:

- **Natural Resources – Maintaining the integrity of the natural habitat of the eagle nests, heron rookery, swan nesting area, and upland bird grassland habitat is the primary purpose of this designation.** While selective tree harvest and vegetative management (controlled burns or mowing) to address invasive

species or re-establish native systems or maintenance of the field trial grounds is allowed, no such measures will take place during the 'season' of this zone. Where field trial activities may conflict, those will be re-routed so as not to interfere with the nesting activities of the upland birds (ie. Henslow's sparrow).

- Historic/Cultural Resources – No known historic sites or cultural resources exist in the floodplain or wildlife floodings. It is known that Native Americans settled within the park.
- Recreation Opportunities – Public entry into this zone will not be allowed during the zone season, so that the eagles, herons, trumpeter swans, and Henslow's sparrows stay undisturbed during the time of nesting. During the hunting season (September 15 to April 1) access for hunting in this zone will only be allowed from September 15 to February 1. On February 1, the restrictions of the zone take place.

The potential exists for future use of the Grand Rapids & Eastern Railroad line as a linear trail. Should that progress to reality, management of that use would have to be addressed to respect the defined needs of the zone.

- Education Opportunities – Interpretation of the eagles, herons, trumpeter swans, and Henslow's sparrow can take place outside the zone, and can be incorporated in the materials for the Primitive Zone, Field Trial Zone and Developed Recreation Zone. Conflict between the protective measures of the zone and hunting and field trial opportunities also represents a good opportunity for education.
- Visitor Experience – During the zone season, no access will be allowed. When outside of the season, the visitor will experience the high degree of 'natural' feel of the zone, a significant sense of solitude, and a lack of man-made improvements.
- Management Focus – Management of this zone will be focused on the Stewardship Plan recommendations for maintaining the low-impact character of the zone. During the zone season, efforts will be made to keep human activity out of the zone.

The Field Trial Courses, having been managed as a grassland habitat for field trialing, are also favorable for protected and declining species of upland birds, including:

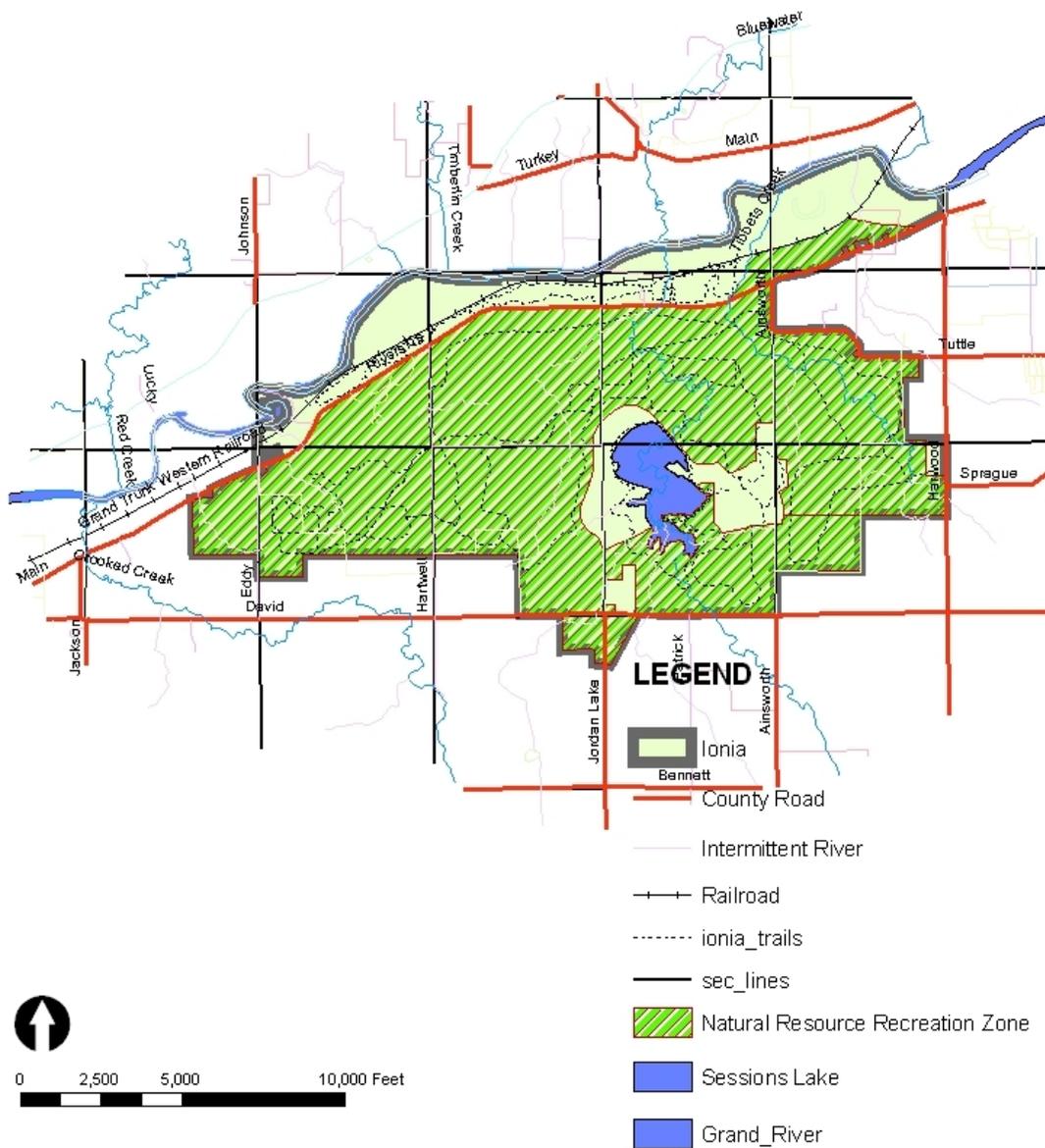
- Henslow's sparrow (State Threatened)
- Grasshopper sparrow (Special Concern)
- Bob-o-links (in decline)
- Eastern meadowlark (in decline)

The specific management guidance for these birds will be addressed in the “Field Trial Grounds Management Plan”, but it should be expected that there will be some impact on the management regime for the field trial courses, and the running of events.

- Development - Any improvements needed for resource protection, such as erosion control, shall be ‘natural’ in character. If implemented, these types of improvements will be made during the off-season of the zone.

Natural Resource Recreation Zone

The Natural Resource Recreation Zone is the largest zone in the park, with 3,113 acres comprising 70% of the total.



It is utilized for general recreation, including hunting, fishing, trapping, birding, and trail use for hiking, cross-country skiing and equestrian use. Also within this zone is a special use for field trials. A ‘non-standard’ zone (Field Trial Course Zone) has been established to address the specific management needs for this use. The Natural Resource Recreation Zone is described as follows:

- Natural Resources – In general, the natural resources can be modified to support visitor activities, provided it still falls within the guidance of the Stewardship Plan. Much of this zone is what the Stewardship Plan refers to as ‘Mesic

Southern Forest' (Beech – Sugar Maple). The majority of the recreation area was mesic southern forest in the 1800's, prior to European settlement and subsequent clearing for agriculture.

Cited in the Stewardship Plan is the following notation..."In the state park system, only Warren Woods still has an exemplary example of beech-maple forest, but it is less than 200 acres and surrounded by private land on all sides. Only Ionia State Recreation Area and possibly Maybury State Park have the potential to restore larger blocks of this forest in the foreseeable future." (Palmgren, 2004).

The primary long-term goal for this zone, outside of the Field Trial Course sub-Zone, is restoration of large contiguous blocks of beech-maple forest. In general, this will happen naturally, but it can be augmented with the planting of local genotype beech and sugar-maple trees.

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 non-native 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 – If any activity in this zone requires earthwork, it must first be reviewed and approved by Stewardship.** It is known that there are cultural resources from historic European settlements scattered throughout this recreation area.
- **Recreation Opportunities –** This zone is utilized for general recreation, including; hunting, fishing, trapping, birding, and trail use for hiking, cross-country skiing and equestrian use.

Also within this zone is a special use zone for field trials. Continuation of these recreational opportunities, in concert with the special impacts of the Field Trial Course Zone will be the focus of future action plans.

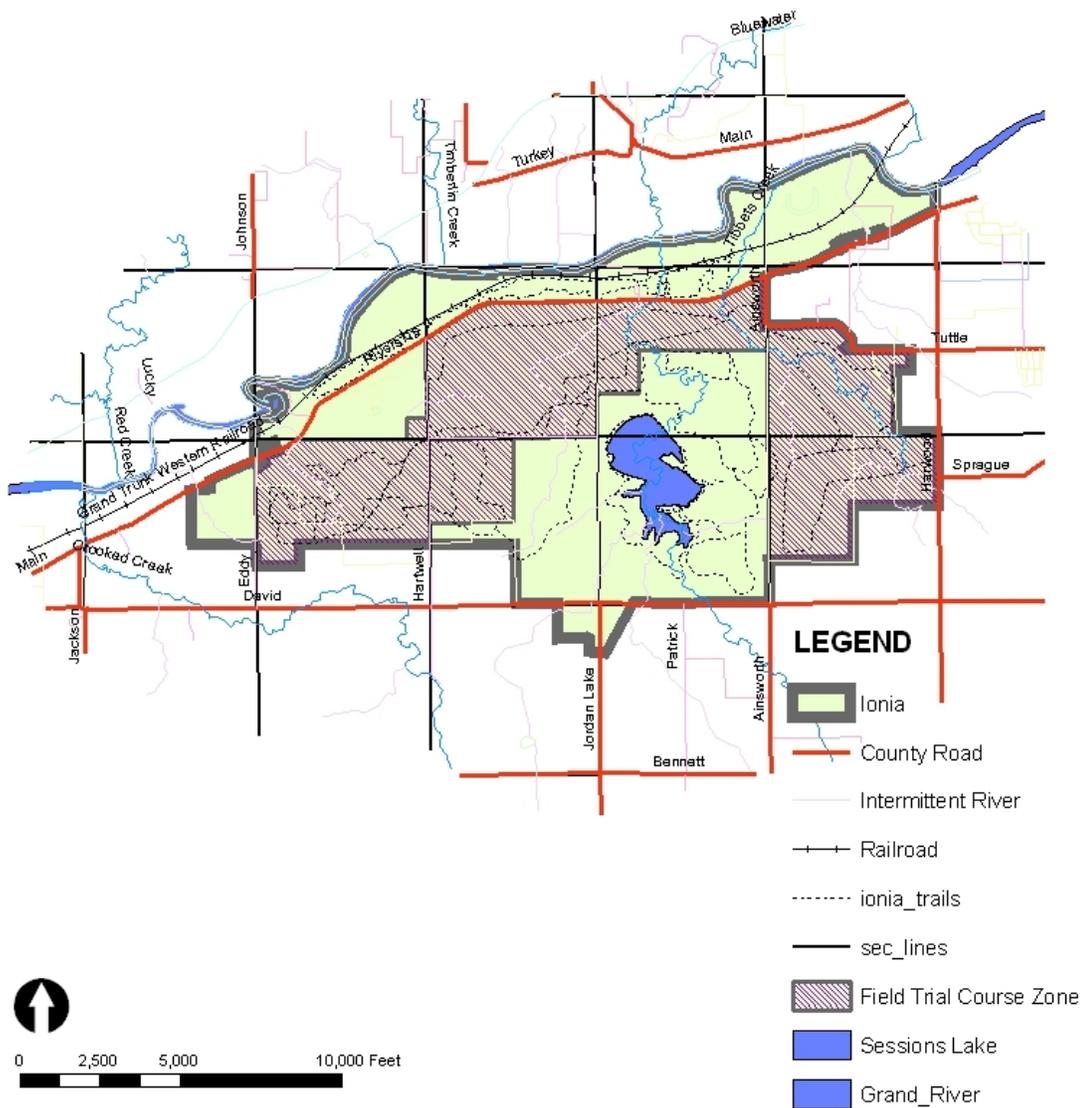
- **Education Opportunities –** As identified in the Executive Summary, there is a well supported need for education of park users as to the various impacts in the park, not the least of which are the field trial activities. The primary means of user access is by the various trails that extend throughout the zone. Informational kiosks at trail heads and along the trails at critical locations is appropriate. Also appropriate is the education of park visitors to the Developed Recreation Zone, and specifically the campground users.

In concert with this is the need to provide the same types of information and education to park visitors whose purpose of being at Ionia SRA is the use of the Field Trial Course Zone. The Field Trial Headquarters and the parking lot for Course #2 are the staging locations for all field trial activities. Informational kiosks at these locations would benefit all.

- Visitor Experience – Given the significant impacts of the Field Trial Course Zone, the visitor can expect encounters with other park visitors (field trialers, dogs and horses) during the prime field trial use period of April – June and August – November. Conflicts impacting hunting and trail uses can occur as a result. Outside of the Field Trial Course Zone, the overall character of the visitor experience will be one of relative solitude.
- Management Focus – Do everything possible to minimize potential conflicts discussed above. Implement educational efforts.
- Development – Development activity will focus on complimenting the educational efforts to reduce conflict. One known need is to address points of conflict between the field trial course route and the existing equestrian trails, which will likely lead to relocation of some trail segments and/or new trail development.

Field Trial Course Zone

The “Field Trial Course Zone” is a (substantial) subset of the Natural Resources Recreation Zone. It encompasses 1,969 acres representing 45% of the park. This is a specific (non-standard) zone that recognizes the NRC designation of Ionia SRA for ‘championship’ field trial purposes.



The Field Trial Course Zone carries with it specific uses, natural resource management, and visitor use management. Within Course #2 of the Zone is the potential for designation of an Ecologically Sensitive Zone in the wildlife flooding areas (noted above). This designation will be made only if the occurrence of nesting trumpeter swans takes place. Activation of an Ecologically Sensitive Zone has the potential of impacting field trial activities. Retriever trials would not be allowed in the zone if so applied. Pointer trial activities would not be affected by this designation.

The Field Trial Courses, having been managed as a grassland habitat for field trialing, are also favorable for protected and declining species of upland birds, including:

- Henslow's sparrow (State Threatened)
- Grasshopper sparrow (Special Concern)
- Bob-o-links (in decline)
- Eastern meadowlark (in decline)

The specific management guidance for these birds will be addressed in the "Field Trial Grounds Management Plan", but it should be expected that there will be some impact on the management regime for the field trial courses, and the running of events.

- Natural Resources – Specific to this zone, the 'Ionia Field Trial Grounds Management Plan' is being developed with input from the field trialers and Wildlife Division. In general, the premise of natural resource management in this zone is that it will meet the needs of field trialing. The new plan will identify specific use areas within the zone for active field trial course management. In so doing, it will also identify areas within the zone where the Stewardship goals for expansion of beech-maple forests can be met.

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 defined by woods/shrub growth that is routinely maintained to prevent encroachment into the trial field, and/or by fencing.

The vegetative cover of the fields will be identified in the final "Ionia Field Trial Grounds Management Plan" referenced above.

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 non-native 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 – **If any activity in this zone requires earthwork, it must first be reviewed and approved by Stewardship.** It is known that there are cultural resources from historic European –American settlements scattered throughout this recreation area.
- 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.

- Education Opportunities – As identified in the Executive Summary, there is a well supported need for education of park users as to the various impacts in the park, not the least of which are the field trial activities. The primary means of user access is by the various trails that extend throughout the zone. Informational kiosks at trail heads and along the trails at critical locations is appropriate. Also appropriate is the education of park visitors to the Developed Recreation Zone, and specifically the campground users.

In concert with this is the need to provide the same types of information and education to park visitors whose purpose of being at Ionia SRA is the use of the Field Trial Course Zone. The Field Trial Headquarters and the parking lot for Course #2 are the staging locations for all field trial activities. Informational kiosks at these locations would benefit all.

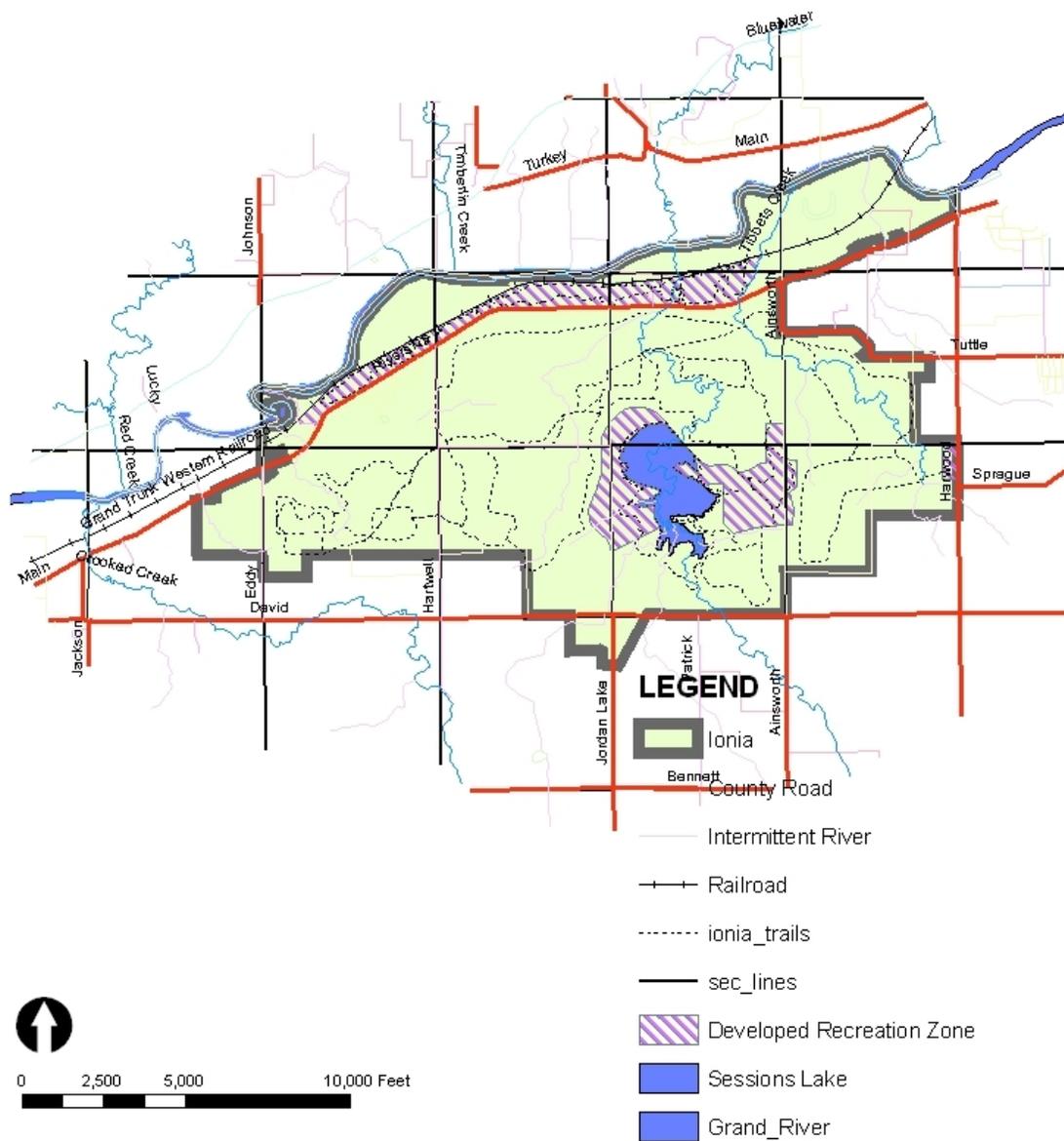
- Visitor Experience – There are two categories of visitor to this zone. One is the field trialer and those who come to watch this activity. Their experience will be one of being able to conduct their sport/recreation at a field trial course of national caliber. The grounds will be maintained to establish 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 – Do everything possible to minimize potential conflicts discussed above. Implement educational efforts. Oversee the conduct of the Ionia Field Trial Grounds Committee in their management of the trial grounds and their obligations under the lease agreement for the headquarters and parking area for Course #2.
- 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 trails, which will likely lead to relocation of some trail segments and/or new trail development. To augment this need to reduce conflict, in areas that cannot be corrected by trail separation, appropriate signage will 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.

Developed Recreation Zone

There are three separate areas with this designation. It totals 492 acres, or 11% of the total park.



The first and largest is 249 acres that incorporate all of the modern campgrounds, equestrian campground, day-use areas, boat launch and equestrian staging area. These are all well defined use areas centered on Sessions Lake, and developed for intensive recreational use.

The second is the mountain bike trail that is bounded by the Grand Rapids & Eastern Railroad line to the north and Riverside Drive to the south. As an old gravel pit/borrow area, the natural resource condition of this 229 acre zone is low, and opportunity for trail expansion high. Day-use access to this area is primarily from the Riverside Drive Picnic Area parking lot. Campers gain access to these trails by way of the old Jordan Lake Road

trail that begins at a small parking area near the entrance to the beach, and goes due north to the Posse House (and access to the Chief Cob-Moo-Sa Trail).

The third segment of Developed Recreation Zone is a subset of the Field Trial Course Zone. At the Ionia Field Trialers Headquarters, approximately 14 acres of land at the far east end of the park are developed for administration of field trials with a headquarters building, barn with stables, large parking area, and facilities for overnight stays by field trial participants. It is intensively used during the field trial 'season' of March through June and September through October.

- Natural Resources –In general, the natural resources can be modified to support visitor activities, provided it still falls within the guidance of the Stewardship Plan. Where opportunities are available to enhance the mesic southern forest (beech-maple) within this zone, it will be a priority.

There are non-native plantings of pine in this zone that will be ultimately removed from the landscape. Other Stewardship guidance for this zone includes:

- Control of invasive species such as autumn olive, honeysuckle, glossy buckthorn, garlic mustard, phragmites, and purple loosestrife.
 - 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 – **If any activity in this zone requires earthwork, it must first be reviewed and approved by Stewardship.** It is known that there are cultural resources from historic European settlements scattered throughout this recreation area.
 - Recreation Opportunities – This is the focus of this zone. Camping, picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming and other general recreational activities are provided and encouraged. Hunting is not allowed within 450' (Hunting Safety Zone) of the campgrounds or buildings.

Consolidation of services for improved management and improved visitor experience, is a serious possibility that merits equal consideration. Access to the camping areas requires the traverse of a long route around Sessions Lake to get to a campground that is located away from the lake. The lake is one feature of Ionia SRA that most visitors come to see, use and appreciate, yet in the current configuration, this becomes a real effort. Located east of the lake and up on a wooded hill, the lake is visible to a handful of campsites, and then only marginally (and with the aid of pruning).

The long-range (10-year) Action Plan should evaluate alternatives to the existing configuration of 'Developed Recreation' facilities in this park to provide better

access to the key feature (Sessions Lake) that made this park possible. This evaluation should look at:

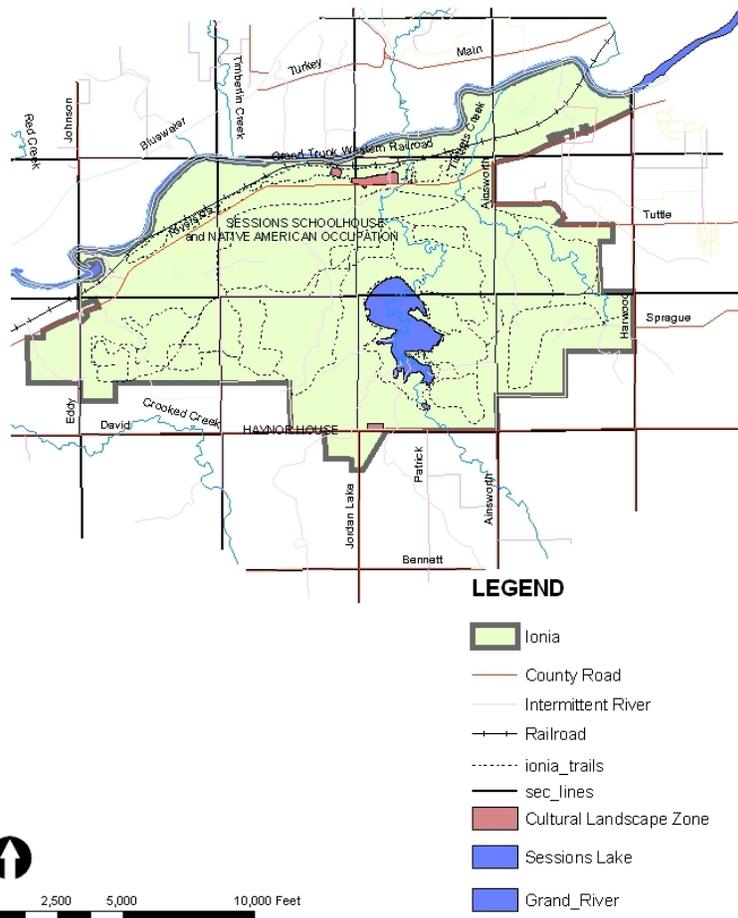
- Modern Campground
 - Equestrian Campground
 - Equestrian Staging Area
 - Organization Campground
 - Field Trial HQ and Staging Area
- Education Opportunities – In this most populated and visited of zones in the park is the most opportunity for education and interpretation. The ‘State Park Explorer Program’ takes advantage of this in recruiting interest from campers for their interpretive programming, and this can be expanded upon. This program to date has focused on the ‘Learn to Fish’ program, interpretation of park flora and fauna, and exploration of the history of the park.

The opportunity exists for an expanded educational focus in this zone on the activities associated with Field Trials.

- Visitor Experience – With the focus of this zone being the developed campgrounds and other attributes, the visitor will experience a high level of encounters with other park visitors during the summer months. As with many parks, early and late season use is greatly diminished. Hunting is not allowed within 450’ (Hunting Safety Zone) of the campgrounds or buildings. Note...the Sheriff’s Posse House shooting range operation is located in close proximity to the mountain bike trails, and represents an incompatible use with the trail use of this area.
- Management Focus – Maintain the infrastructure that serves the intense public uses of this zone. Provide educational opportunities in the zone for the entire park, develop and maintain ADA access in the zone, and maintain public safety and good hospitality practices.
- Development – Provide ADA improvements as needed to attain ‘program’ accessibility. Improve facilities to compliment education. All development will meet the approval requirements of the planning process.

Cultural Landscape Zone

This zone identifies known cultural resources within Ionia SRA. Approximately 21 acres of the park have been so designated. The primary areas within this zone are located along Riverside Drive, and encompass the Posse House, the Sessions Schoolhouse, the County Cemetery, and an area anecdotally attributed to Native American occupation. Two other distinct locations include the Haynor House along David Highway, just east of the park entrance, and the foundation remnants of an old mill site on Sessions Creek, upstream of the lake. Of note is the fact that throughout the park are scattered remnants of old farmsteads.



- Natural Resources – In general, the natural resources can be modified to support visitor activities, provided it still falls within the guidance of the Stewardship Plan, and does not interfere with the cultural values identified.

These cultural sites impact both the Natural Resource Recreation Zone and the Developed Recreation Zone, and as such, the guidance for these zones will apply to the Cultural Landscape elements found within them.

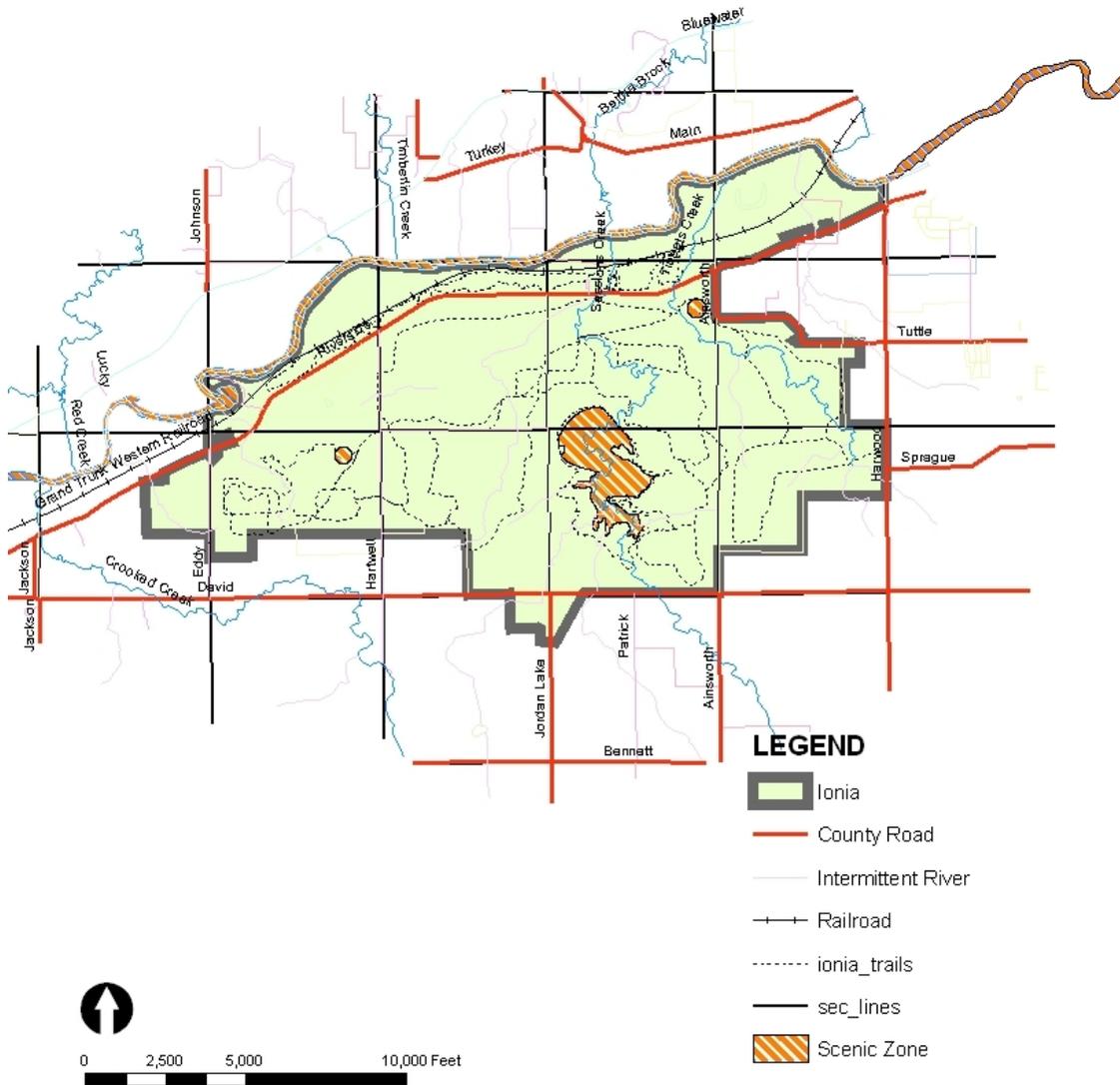
- Historic/Cultural Resources – **If any activity in this zone requires earthwork, it must first be reviewed and approved by Stewardship.** It is known that there are cultural resources from historic European settlements scattered throughout this recreation area.
- Recreation Opportunities – This zone is established to highlight the historic and cultural qualities of times past. The recreation opportunities afforded in this zone will not interfere with nor hinder the appreciation of the cultural landscape being

preserved. Note...the Sheriff's Posse House shooting range operation is located at the old school house, and represents an incompatible use with the historic/cultural qualities of the site.

- Education Opportunities – Information regarding the key elements in this zone can be made available at the individual sites, and fortified through educational opportunities in the Developed Recreation Zone as well. The placement of informational kiosks is appropriate.
- Visitor Experience – The cultural features highlighted in this zone are representative of some of the earliest settlement activity in Ionia County. This rich heritage will be appreciated by visitors with an interest in history. The visitor can expect encounters with other park visitors (mountain bikers and field trialers, dogs and horses) during the spring, summer and fall seasons of the year.
- Management Focus – Preserve the historic integrity of the zone elements identified, and implement educational efforts.
- Development – Development activity will focus on any identified restoration/preservation needs, accommodating visitor access to the features, and meeting ADA and educational/interpretation needs.

Scenic Zone

This incorporates the Grand River frontage of the park, Sessions Lake, and several scenic vista locations within the interior of the park.



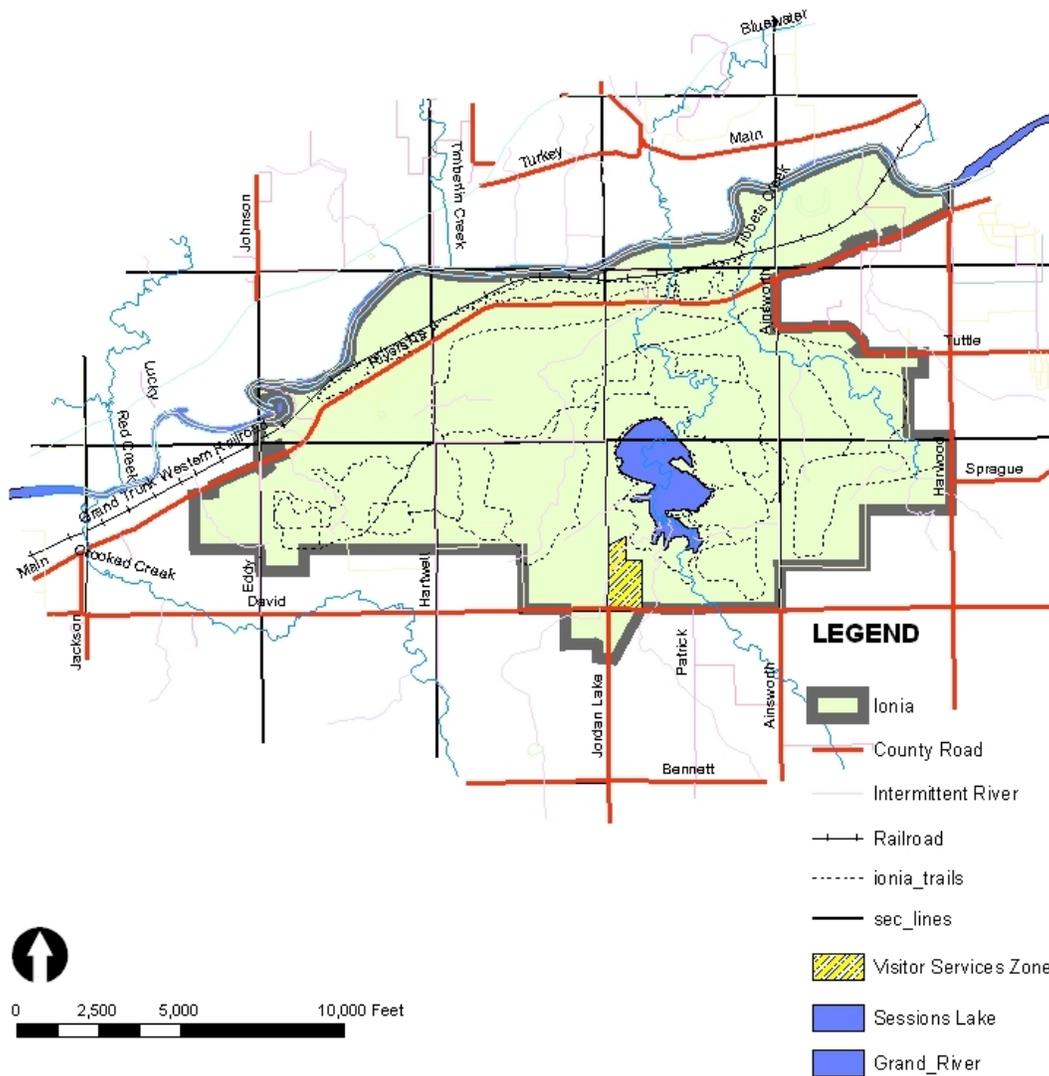
The Grand River frontage is approximately five miles in length and is bordered by the floodplain of the Primitive Zone. The shore is natural and undeveloped on both sides of the river. The scenic views within the park take advantage of the elevation change and offer long lines of site to the river valley, the surrounding wooded ridgelines, and Sessions Lake.

- Natural Resources –In general, the natural resources can be modified to support visitor activities, provided it still falls within the guidance of the Stewardship Plan, and it does not hinder the scenic opportunities provided.

- Historic/Cultural Resources – **If any activity in this zone requires earthwork, it must first be reviewed and approved by Stewardship.** It is known that there are cultural resources from historic European settlements scattered throughout this recreation area.
- Recreation Opportunities – Trail access to these scenic areas will provide viewing opportunities. The riverfront portion can be viewed from the water by passing boaters, or from shore at the boat access site or the trail at Steven's Point. The scenic vistas are adjacent to the equestrian trail at the west end of the park, and the field trial trail in Course #2. Various viewing locations of the lake exist from the campground and from the circulation routes around the lake.
- Education Opportunities – There is a great opportunity for interpretive signage along the trails and at the view points. Education today is focused on what happens inland. There are certainly opportunities to provide additional focus on the Grand River and its floodplain, as well as the development of the lake.
- Visitor Experience – The scenic view locations are in areas of low visitor impact. The general experience will be one of solitude.
- Management Focus – Management must focus on maintenance of the views, and protection of the resource. The westerly view point is currently degraded by ad hoc horse trails.
- Development – Any development in this zone must compliment the viewing opportunities. Educational kiosks and improvements to augment educational opportunities are desirable actions. All development will meet the approval requirements of the planning process.

Visitor Services Zone

This zone is well defined, located just north of the entrance to the park. It has 43 acres, just less than 1% of the park.



The 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 running a state park or recreation area. At Ionia, additional land immediately north of the current office/shop area has been included in this zone for purposes of future expansion or relocation.

- Natural Resources – In general, the natural resources can be modified to support the needs for administration of the park.
- Historic/Cultural Resources – There are no known H/C Resources in this zone.
- Recreation Opportunities – Part of this zone is outside of the Hunter Safety Zone (450' from buildings), and is open for hunting.

- Education Opportunities – Educational materials can be made available in the office ‘public space’, and office staff can provide verbal information. There is a great opportunity to direct visitors to other informational locations in the park.
- Visitor Experience – Visitor access at the office is limited to informational purposes. Part of this zone is outside of the Hunter Safety Zone (450’ from buildings), and is open for hunting.
- Management Focus – Provide public access (ADA) to the office from the parking lot, and (ADA) access within the building. Assure security of offices, facilities and equipment. Provide a safe working environment for staff.
- Development – Development in this zone will be for purposes of complimenting the administrative needs of the park, and meeting the needs for ADA compliance. All development will meet the approval requirements of the planning process.