

About Keith Charters

Keith Charters was appointed to the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) in 1994 and was reappointed in 1999, 2002 and 2006. Charters was appointed chair of the NRC in 1996, and served in that role until he retired from the commission in 2010.

A longtime conservationist, hunter, angler and steward of the land, Charters also serves on the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board. He was first appointed in 1992 and served until he resigned in 2003. He was then again appointed to board in June 2006 then resigned September 2006, served for the last few years as the NRC representative to the board, and was eventually reappointed by the Governor in 2010. He was chair of the board February 1995 through December 1995.

Charters recently retired as a consultant specializing in land use growth management. Prior to being a land use consultant, he was a restaurateur in Acme and Mt. Pleasant for more than 32 years. He has always been active in community organizations. Some past involvements include his work as chair of the Traverse City Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Mt. Pleasant Chamber of Commerce, and the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce. He has served as a board member of the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce and as a commissioner on the Isabella County Board of Commissioners.

He has received many awards related to his public and community service, including the prestigious "Traverse City Chamber of Commerce 2003 Distinguished Service Award," the Michigan United Conservation Clubs Conservationist of the Year Award in 2005; and the 2007 Conservationist of the Year Award from the Michigan Senate.

Charters taught in the Lincoln Park school system after graduating from Whittemore-Prescott Area Schools and from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science degree.

Charters and his wife, Carolyn, have two children: Elizabeth (Michael), an attorney in New Jersey; and Jeffrey (Kim), an aerospace engineer in Laurel, Maryland. He also has two grandsons, John (Jack) Michael and Kyle Jeffrey and two granddaughters Ella Kate and Mia Rose.

About Keith J. Charters Traverse City State Park

The Keith J. Charters Traverse City State Park was established in 1920 on about 16 acres of land after the logging industry in the area began to wane. Parcels

were added in 1921 and 1939 to increase the park to its present size of 47 acres, including a quarter-mile of shoreline on Grand Traverse Bay.

Located two miles from downtown Traverse City, the Keith J. Charters Traverse City Park is convenient for special events, such as the National Cherry Festival. The park features 343 campsites, a cottage to rent, mini-cabins and a teepee. The park's day use area features a "mobi-mat" to make the beach area accessible to everyone. There is also a beach house, paved recreational trails and a playground.

The original habitants of the land that is now the park were the Ottawa branch of the Algonquin Indians.