STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

DR. WILLIAM E. MORITZ
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: July 18, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Order to designate Watkins Lake as a Michigan State Park, Jackson County
Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 8 of 2016
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, authorizes the Director to issue orders to implement land use rules.

Discussion and Background:

The intent of this order is to:

- Officially designate the Trozl tract as outlined in Land Transaction Case #20120036 as a state park **"Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve."**

The Trozl tract is a 717 acre parcel located in Jackson County, Norvell Township, T4S, R2E Sections 12, 13 and 14. The property consists of rolling land covered in a mixture of open meadows, mixed hardwoods and low wet areas, including in part, Watkins Lake.

The acquisition was made possible through a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant. Increasing outdoor recreation areas in Southern Michigan is a priority of the Department and this property has unique features making it well suited for multiple outdoor recreational opportunities. This new park and county preserve provides an opportunity for the Department to combine this acquired property with Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission's 405 contiguous acres to establish the state's first jointly managed state and county park and allows for the sharing of resources over the whole of the property.

This property provides additional public recreation opportunities and wildlife habitat including fishing, hunting and trail-based activities. Watkins Lake is a significant stop-over for waterfowl and other water based birds and currently draws large number of watchable wildlife enthusiasts each year. The Division will be seeking a future Wildlife Conservation Order to open portions of the property to hunting and trapping as other portions of the property, including Watkins Lake will be closed to hunting as a seasonal waterfowl refuge. In addition, passing east-west within the property, an abandoned rail corridor well suited for trail development continues onto land in Washtenaw County being purchased by Washtenaw County Parks thus creating a 4.5 mile corridor as the beginning of a regional trail connection between the Villages of Brooklyn and Manchester.

The property also includes historical and cultural significance attached to the original owners of the property and their involvement with the Underground Railroad.

Both Norvell Township and Jackson County support the Department's efforts to acquire and designate this property for public recreation. Additional support for this designation comes from the Villages of Brooklyn and Manchester, and the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.

The property will be managed and maintained as the Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve, and administered out of the W.J. Hayes State Park in collaboration with Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Recommendation:

This order is being submitted for information and consideration. This item appeared on the Department's August 2016 calendar and may be eligible for approval on August 11, 2016.

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division

Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Debbie Begalle, Acting Chief
Forest Resources Division

Russ Mason, Ph. D., Chief
Wildlife Division

James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division

William O'Neill
Natural Resources Deputy

LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR

Amendment No. 8 of 2016

By authority conferred on the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by Section 504 of the Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.504, and in accordance with R 299.921 to R 299.933 , the Director of the Department of Natural Resources orders the following:

5.16a Entry, use and occupancy of certain state parks, recreation areas and scenic sites, prohibited conduct.

Order 5.16a (1) A person shall not do any of the following:

(a) Enter any of the following state-owned lands with a motor vehicle unless a valid Michigan recreation passport has been purchased and affixed to the vehicle:

(1) Agate falls scenic site, Ontonagon county.

(2) Algonac SP, St. Clair county.

(3) Aloha SP, Cheboygan county.

(4) Bald mountain RA, Oakland county.

(5) Baraga SP, except off-road recreation vehicles regulated under Part 811 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.81101 to 324.81150, Baraga county.

(6) Bass river RA, recreation area lands located in sections 1 and 12, T7N, R15W, in Robinson township; and in sections 7 and 8, T7N, R14W in Allendale township north and west of bass river and SW of grand river, Ottawa county.

(7) Bay city RA, Bay county.

(8) Belle Isle SP, Wayne county.

(9) Bewabic SP, Iron county.

(10) Bond falls scenic site, Ontonagon county.

(11) Brighton RA, Livingston county.

(12) Brimley SP, Chippewa county.

(13) Burt lake SP, Cheboygan county.

(14) Cambridge Junction Historic State Park, Lenawee county.

(15) Cheboygan SP, Cheboygan county.

(16) Clear lake SP, except off-road recreation vehicles regulated under Part 811 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.81101 to 324.81150, Montmorency county.

(17) Coldwater lake SP, Branch county.

(18) Craig lake SP, all state park designated lands located in sections 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 28, 27, 26, 25, 21, 22, 23

and 24, T49N, R31W, Baraga county.

(19) Dodge #4 SP, Oakland county.

(20) Duck lake SP, Muskegon county.

(21) Fayette SP, Delta county.

(22) Fort Custer RA, Kalamazoo county.

(23) Fort Wilkins SP, Keweenaw county.

(24) Fisherman's island SP, Charlevoix county.

(25) Grand haven SP, Ottawa county.

(26) Grand Mere SP, Berrien county.

(27) Harrisville SP, Alcona county.

(28) Hartwick pines SP, Crawford county.

(29) Hayes SP, Jackson, Lenawee, and Washtenaw counties.

(30) Highland RA, Oakland county.

(31) Hoeft SP, Presque isle county

(32) Hoffmaster SP, Ottawa and Muskegon counties.

(33) Holland SP, Ottawa county.

(34) Holly RA, all recreation area land in sections 20, 21, 27, 28, 29, 32, and 33 T5N, R8E north and east of highway M-54 (Dixie highway), west of Wildwood road and south of grange hall road. Recreation area land in sections 13, 14, 23, 24, 25 (remote control aircraft flying field only) and 26 (north of grange hall road only), T5N, R7E west of I-75, Oakland county.

(35) Indian lake SP, Schoolcraft county.

(36) Interlochen SP, Grand Traverse county.

(37) Ionia RA, Ionia county.

(38) Island lake RA, Oakland and Livingston counties.

(39) Keith J. Charters Traverse City SP, Grand Traverse county.

(40) Lake Gogebic SP, Gogebic county.

(41) Lake Hudson RA, Lenawee county.

(42) Lakeport SP, St. Clair county.

(43) Laughing whitefish falls scenic site, Alger county.

(44) Leelanau SP, Leelanau county.

(45) Lime Island RA, Chippewa county.

(46) Ludington SP, Mason county.

(47) Maybury SP, Wayne county.

(48) McLain SP, Houghton county.

(49) Mears SP, Oceana county.

(50) Menominee river RA, Menominee county.

(51) Metamora-Hadley RA, Lapeer county.

(52) Mitchell SP, Wexford county.

(53) Muskallonge lake SP, except off-road recreation vehicles regulated under part 811 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.81101 to 324.81150, Luce county.

(54) Muskegon SP, Muskegon county.

(55) Newaygo SP, Newaygo county.

(56) Negwegon SP, Alcona and Alpena counties.

(57) North Higgins lake SP, Crawford county.

(58) Onaway SP, Presque isle county.

(59) Orchard beach SP, Manistee county.

(60) Ortonville RA, Oakland and Lapeer counties.

(61) Otsego lake SP, Otsego county.

(62) Palms book SP, Schoolcraft county.

(63) Petoskey SP, Emmet county.

(64) Pinckney RA, Washtenaw and Livingston counties.

(65) Pontiac lake RA, Oakland county.

(66) Porcupine mountains wilderness SP, Ontonagon and Gogebic counties.

(67) Port crescent SP, Huron county.

(68) Proud lake RA, Oakland county.

(69) Rifle river RA, Ogemaw county.

(70) Rockport RA, Presque isle and Alpena counties.

(71) Saugatuck SP, Allegan county.

(72) Seven lakes SP, Oakland county.

(73) Silver lake SP, Oceana county.

(74) Sleeper SP, Huron county.

(75) Sleepy Hollow SP, Clinton county.

(76) South Higgins lake SP, Roscommon county.

(77) Sterling SP, Monroe county.

(78) Straits SP, Mackinac county.

(79) Tahquamenon falls SP, Luce and Chippewa counties.

(80) Tawas point SP, Iosco county.

(81) Thompson's harbor SP, Presque isle county.

(82) Tippy dam RA, Manistee county.

(83) Twin lakes SP, except vehicles regulated under part 811 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.81101 to 324.81150, Houghton county.

(84) Van Buren SP, Van Buren county.

(85) Van riper SP, Marquette county.

(86) Wagner falls scenic site, Alger county.

(87) Warren Dunes SP, Berrien county.

(88) Warren woods SP, Berrien county.

(89) Waterloo RA, lands in Jackson and Washtenaw counties, with the exception of section 2, 3, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, T1S, R2E, Jackson county.

(90) Watkins Lake SP and County Preserve, Jackson county.

~~(90)~~**(91)** Wells SP, Menominee county.

~~(91)~~**(92)** Wetzel RA, Macomb county.

~~(92)~~**(93)** Wilderness SP, Emmet county.

~~(93)~~**(94)** Wilson SP, Clare county.

~~(94)~~**(95)** Yankee springs RA, Barry county.

~~(95)~~**(96)** Young SP, Charlevoix county.

This amended order shall be posted on or after the 12th day of August, 2016.

Issued on this 11th day of August, 2016.

Keith Creagh
Director