



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT  
LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES  
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: November 9, 2010

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Naming the 291-acre Natural Area at Saugatuck Dunes State Park  
the "Patricia Birkholz Natural Area" – Allegan County

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, in Section 324.74126(3) directs the Department (Department of Natural Resources and Environment) to establish criteria for naming state lands. That criterion, set forth in Natural Resources Commission (Commission) Policy #2407, has been applied to this proposed action. The policy authorizes the Commission to approve the naming of a Department facility in perpetuity. The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, in Section 324.35102 also authorizes the Department to dedicate and administer natural areas.

Discussion and Background:

On November 4, 2010, Director Rebecca Humphries informed the Michigan Natural Resources Commission, Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee (MSPAC) that she planned to pay tribute to Senator Patricia Birkholz for more than thirty years of strong commitment to Michigan's environment, Michigan state parks, and the Great Lakes. More specifically, Director Humphries wants to honor Senator Birkholz for her long-term, exceptional contributions to Saugatuck Dunes State Park and her role in preserving the 291-acre natural area by naming it the "Patricia Birkholz Natural Area." The MSPAC then adopted the attached resolution in support of this naming opportunity.

Recommendation:

Based on the resolution of the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee, adopted by unanimous vote, and compliance with Department naming criteria and Natural Resources Commission Policy #2407, the Natural Resources Commission intends to name the 291-acre parcel designated as a natural area within the Saugatuck Dunes State Park as the "**Patricia Birkholz Natural Area.**" This naming designation is to take immediate effect.

**Issued on this ninth day of December, 2010:**

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Timothy L. Nichols, Chairman  
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries  
Director

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-2010-01**

**MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)**

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT NAMING THE NATURAL AREA AT  
SAUGATUCK DUNES STATE PARK THE  
“PATRICIA BIRKHOLZ NATURAL AREA”**

**ADOPTED: November 4, 2010**

**WHEREAS**, Senator Patty Birkholz has served the people of Michigan, the counties of Allegan, Barry and Eaton, and her home Township of Saugatuck in elected offices, with great distinction, over three decades;

**WHEREAS**, throughout her more than 30-year career, Patricia Birkholz has shown a sustained and focused concern and interest in the affairs of Saugatuck Dunes State Park, located in her home township;

**WHEREAS**, in the early 1980's, Patricia Birkholz also supported a major shift in natural areas management policy, an early recognition and then acceptance that invasive, non-native plant species should be removed from valuable natural areas;

**WHEREAS**, in 1985, serving as Chair of a 12-member Saugatuck Dunes Citizens Advisory Committee, Patricia Birkholz led the efforts in acquiring 291 acres of prime natural area, commonly known as the “Uhl” property;

**WHEREAS**, in 1988, the 291 acres were subsequently dedicated as a natural area, under the provisions of the Wilderness and Natural Area Act;

**WHEREAS**, Patricia Birkholz was a key sponsor or very instrumental in establishing significant legislation in the last decade, including Public Act 148 of 2003 to inventory and map statewide water uses, Public Act 33 of 2008 to regulate water withdrawals, Public Act 190 of 2008 adopting the Great Lakes Water Resources Compact, and Public Act 35 of 2010, establishing the Recreation Passport;

**WHEREAS**, Patricia Birkholz was one of the key bi-partisan sponsors of the innovative Recreation Passport legislation that addressed a long-standing challenge of sustainable funding for the Michigan State Parks system, state forest recreation and support for local parks, in a time of tight budgets and declining revenues;

**WHEREAS**, Patricia Birkholz is founder and Chair of the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus, working to gain greater protection and policy influence for the Great Lakes;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee recognizes Patricia Birkholz for her exceptional contributions to Michigan's environment, Michigan state parks, the Great Lakes, and the Saugatuck Dunes; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee supports the DNRE Director Rebecca Humphries' intention to name the natural area at Saugatuck Dunes State Park the “*Patricia Birkholz Natural Area*.”

Submitted By: Chris Graham, MSPAC Operations and Stewardship Subcommittee Chair

<b>Motioned by:</b>	Chris Graham	<b>Yeas:</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Seconded by:</b>	Robert Hoffmeyer	<b>Nays:</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>Abstained:</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>Absent:</b>	<b>6</b>

***This Resolution was adopted by the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee at their meeting held on November 4, 2010.***