

Draft

2008 – 2012 Michigan Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (Draft)

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

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INTRODUCTION

On September 3, 1964, Public Law 88-578 established the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The law created a federal funding source for both Federal acquisition of park and recreation lands and matching grants to states, and through states to local governments, for outdoor recreation planning, land acquisition and development.

It also set requirements for state outdoor recreation planning, requiring each participating state to have a state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (SCORP). The state administrator in Michigan for LWCF monies and the SCORP is the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The SCORP addresses the demand for and supply of outdoor recreation resources (local, state and federal) within a state, identifies needs and new opportunities for recreation improvements and sets forth an implementation program to meet the identified goals. Based on this plan, the LWCF program provides matching grants to the State and through it to local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The required match is 1:1. The primary federal funding sources are oil and natural gas leases and royalties from outer continental oil and gas extraction. At the federal level, the program is currently administered by the National Park Service, part of the cabinet level Department of the Interior.

The program has created a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities and has stimulated non-federal investments in the protection and maintenance of outdoor recreation resources across the United States, including in Michigan. Michigan also used this model in its creation of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), a state level, constitutionally protected program that provides grants to state and local government to acquire and develop lands for outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation using oil and gas leases and royalties on oil and gas extracted from state-owned mineral rights. The MNRTF was originally created as the Kammer Recreational Land Trust Fund by statute in 1976, subsequently protected further in the Michigan Constitution by voters in a 1984 referendum and renamed the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund with a cap of \$500 million. The MNRTF has awarded \$150 million for outdoor recreation and natural resources land and rights in land acquisition and the development of outdoor recreational facilities since its inception.

This plan updates and replaces the most recent Michigan SCORP (2003-07). During the period 2003 through 2006, Michigan has received \$12.6 million in LWCF appropriations from the federal government. The state has allocated 56% of these funds to local units and 44% to the state, all for the development of outdoor recreation facilities. No LWCF money was spent for land acquisition during this period (Judy Chamberlin, DNR pers. comm.). Coupled with the continual need to plan for the future, this capital funding provides strong incentive to update Michigan's plan and to identify and meet future outdoor recreation needs.

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This plan provides a discussion of the supply and demand for outdoor recreation. This is followed with the key Michigan outdoor recreation issues and goals to meet these needs and opportunities revealed through extensive public comment about demand and a review of supply data and recreational use information. Public input and the processes used to solicit it are then discussed. The plan also contains key appendices including:

Appendix A: Registered Voter Survey Instrument, Cover Letter and Additional Comments

Appendix B: Local Unit Survey Instrument and Cover Letter

Appendix C: Michigan Open Project Selection Process for Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants - 2007

Appendix D: SCORP Public Input Documentation

SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION IN MICHIGAN

Michigan's ten million residents and millions more visitors are blessed by the state's significant outdoor recreation resources and opportunities. Outdoor recreation provides them improved quality of life, economic opportunity and an abiding respect for the natural resources that sustain life on earth.

Michigan Land and Water Resources

Michigan's 36 million plus acres of land and a significant share of the Great Lakes provide a wide range of environmental, commercial and recreational benefits. Michigan's water-related resources include:

1. 3,288 miles of Great Lakes shoreline
2. 38,000 square miles of Great Lakes waters
3. 11,000 inland lakes
4. 36,000 miles of rivers and streams
5. 75,000 acres of sand dunes
6. 5.5 million acres of wetlands

Michigan's land base is 53% forest, about a quarter in agricultural crops and other uses connected with agriculture, 13% in other vegetation or non-forested inland wetlands and almost 10% is built environment. The built environment is predicted to significantly expand over the next four decades, while all other uses are expected to substantially decline. Based on current rates of population growth and development, the built environment is now expanding at a rate eight times faster than the population (Public Sector Consultants 2001).

This sprawling growth is directly coupled with increasing fragmentation of private lands, reducing available areas for dispersed outdoor recreation activities such as hunting. It is also breaking public snowmobile and other trail linkages established in the past with owners of large tracts of land through short-term leases. When lands are fragmented, additional transaction costs are generated to renegotiate leases with many owners instead of one. Further, when one owner is unwilling to enter into such an arrangement, significant re-routes occur, reducing recreational opportunity and management efficiency.

Michigan's Public Land Base and Outdoor Recreation

Michigan's public land base and outdoor recreation supply is divided into three sections: local government, state government and federal government.

Local Government

While local government has the smallest proportion (less than 3%) of Michigan's public land base of 7.7 million acres, local parkland is extraordinarily valuable. It is often located near major population centers, allowing easy and convenient access for many types of outdoor recreation by the full range of Michigan's population. Michigan's local government supply of outdoor recreation resources was assessed through examination of all local unit park and recreation comprehensive plans on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. This follows a baseline study done on this same data base in 2003 (Nelson et al. 2003).

A. The number and distribution of Michigan jurisdictions with in force community outdoor recreation plans (Tables 1 -3 and Figure 1)

As of June 1, 2007, the DNR had folders for 1,023 different local units of governments in its files. Of these folders, 247 were without a plan on file, indicating that the most recent plan expired before 2003. Of the 776 jurisdictions with plans that were on file, 467 were in force as of June 1, 2007 and 309 were no longer in force (Table 1). This means that about 60% of jurisdictions that had a community outdoor recreation plan in force within the past 4 years still had an in force plan. In the baseline study of local recreation

plans in 2003 (Nelson et al. 2003), 597 local units had plans in force. This decline of 130 or 22% of local units with plans in force is sizeable.

Table 1. Status of Michigan community outdoor recreation plans by type of governmental unit for those submitting a plan after 1999.

	Cities	Townships	Counties	Villages	Regional	Other	All
Number of Units	251 (100.0%)	467 (100.0%)	78 (100.0%)	138 (100.0%)	45 (100.0%)	44 (100.0%)	1,023 (100.0%)
In force	156 (62.2)	186 (39.8)	49 (62.8)	44 (31.9)	29 (64.4)	3 (6.8)	467 (45.7)
Expired	73 (29.1)	145 (31.0)	23 (29.5)	55 (39.9)	10 (22.2)	3 (6.8)	309 (30.2)
Not on file	22 (8.8)	136 (29.1)	6 (7.7)	39 (28.3)	6 (13.3)	38 (86.4)	247 (24.1)

Of the local units with folders for each type of jurisdiction, counties, cities and regional entities have more than 60% with plans in force. Conversely, less than 40% of townships, villages and “other” units of government (primarily school districts) have the plans in force. Compared to the 2003 baseline, the proportion of all types of local units with in-force plans has declined. This may be due to decreasing resources available to match state and federal capital improvement grants or a lack of local funds to maintain and operate recreation resources once acquired and developed.

One important increase in absolute numbers is the growth in regional plans. There are now 45 regional plans of which 29 are in-force. This is partially due to regional entities created under the Recreation Authorities Act of 2001 and partially due to intergovernmental agreements related to multi-jurisdictional trails, especially rail-trails, becoming more common. Often these regional plans are in addition to individual jurisdictional plans as local unit authorities may focus on meeting a specific multi-jurisdictional recreational need through an authority or intergovernmental agreement (e.g. trail) while maintaining traditional individual community facilities and plans to meet more local needs (e.g. township park).



Figure 1. Michigan planning regions.

Michigan is divided into 15 planning regions (Figure 1). Of those regions, the southern Metro Detroit region (1s) has the highest proportion of jurisdictions with plans (60%). Region 7 (Saginaw Bay) has the largest number of local units that have folders (147) and plans in force (76). The regions with the lowest proportion of local units with in-force plans are: Regions 2 (far south central Lower Michigan), 5 (Flint region) and 11 (Eastern Upper Peninsula), which all have less than 30% of their folders with in-force plans. This suggests that these three latter regions are the most likely to be experiencing an overall reduction of local government involvement in acquisition of land and development or major renovation for community outdoor recreation (Table 2).

Table 2. Status of Michigan community outdoor recreation plans by planning region for units submitting a plan after 1999.

Planning region	Plans in force as of 6/1/07	Plan expired as of 6/1/07	Folder with no plan on file as of 6/1/07	Folder on file
1n	62 (47.7%)	48 (36.9%)	20 (15.4%)	130 (100.0%)
1s	44 (60.3)	22 (30.1)	7 (9.6)	73 (100.0)
2	8 (23.5)	14 (41.2)	12 (35.3)	34 (100.0)
3	13 (31.7)	15 (36.6)	13 (31.7)	41 (100.0)
4	23 (43.4)	18 (34.0)	12 (22.6)	53 (100.0)
5	16 (29.1)	19 (34.5)	20 (36.4)	55 (100.0)
6	16 (34.8)	15 (32.6)	15 (32.6)	46 (100.0)
7	76 (51.7)	29 (19.7)	42 (28.6)	147 (100.0)
8	52 (50.0)	23 (22.1)	29 (27.9)	104 (100.0)
9	18 (32.7)	16 (29.1)	21 (38.2)	55 (100.0)
10	50 (54.9)	23 (25.3)	18 (19.8)	91 (100.0)
11	5 (26.3)	10 (52.6)	4 (21.1)	19 (100.0)
12	28 (47.5)	22 (37.3)	9 (15.3)	59 (100.0)
13	31 (53.4)	18 (31.0)	9 (15.5)	58 (100.0)
14	24 (42.1)	17 (29.8)	16 (28.1)	57 (100.0)
1n & 1s	1 (100.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (100.0)
All	467 (45.7)	309 (30.2)	247 (24.1)	1,023 (100.0)

Considering the 467 in force plans, the Detroit metropolitan area (Regions 1n and 1s) has 23% of the jurisdictional units with in-force community outdoor recreation plans and approximately half the state's population. Conversely, the rest of the state has 77% of the in-

force plans and about half the state’s population (Table 3). In assigning DNR grant coordinators, this can have repercussions on efficiency based on travel time, number of people served per plan, etc. For every local unit with a plan, a minimum amount of time is necessary to log the plan, make contacts and respond to inquiries. If distributed equally among the current four field grant coordinator positions, this amounts to 117 plans per coordinator. If the challenges of travel are incorporated, it becomes increasingly challenging to economically serve jurisdictions further from Lansing, such as the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula. Also, many northern community outdoor recreation entities have smaller tax bases and less funding for park and recreation personnel, often necessitating additional assistance by grant coordinators.

Table 3. Percentage of community outdoor recreation plans in force in each planning region by type of governmental unit.

Planning region	Cities	Township	Counties	Villages	Regional	Other	All
1n	31 (19.9%)	22 (11.8%)	2 (4.1%)	5 (11.4%)	1 (3.4%)	1 (33.3%)	62 (13.3%)
1s	23 (14.7)	15 (8.1)	2 (4.1)	2 (4.5)	1 (3.4)	1 (33.3)	44 (9.4)
2	3 (1.9)	1 (0.5)	1 (2.0)	3 (6.8)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	8 (1.7)
3	6 (3.8)	2 (1.1)	2 (4.1)	2 (4.5)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	13 (2.8)
4	5 (3.2)	9 (4.8)	1 (8.2)	5 (11.4)	3 (10.3)	0 (0.0)	23 (4.9)
5	6 (3.8)	3 (1.6)	2 (4.1)	1 (2.3)	3 (10.3)	1 (33.3)	16 (3.4)
6	7 (4.5)	6 (3.2)	1 (2.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (6.9)	0 (0.0)	16 (3.4)
7	21 (13.5)	32 (17.2)	10 (20.4)	10 (22.7)	3 (10.3)	0 (0.0)	76 (16.3)
8	22 (14.1)	14 (7.5)	6 (12.2)	4 (9.1)	6 (20.7)	0 (0.0)	52 (11.1)
9	4 (2.6)	7 (3.8)	5 (10.2)	1 (2.3)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	18 (3.9)
10	7 (4.5)	25 (13.4)	7 (14.3)	8 (18.2)	3 (10.3)	0 (0.0)	50 (10.7)
11	2 (1.3)	3 (1.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	5 (1.1)
12	8 (5.1)	17 (9.1)	3 (6.1)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	28 (5.9)
13	4 (2.6)	17 (9.1)	5 (10.2)	3 (6.8)	2 (6.9)	0 (0.0)	31 (6.6)
14	7 (4.5)	13 (6.9)	2 (4.1)	0 (0.0)	2 (6.9)	0 (0.0)	24 (5.1)
In & 1s	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.2)
Total (a)	156 (100.0%)	186 (100.0%)	49 (100.0%)	44 (100.0%)	29 (100.0%)	3 (100.0%)	467 (100.0%)

(a) Percentages may not add up to 100.0 due to rounding

B. Ratio of population to parkland acreage by jurisdictional type and planning region (Tables 4, 5 and 6)

Lancaster (1983) writing for the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) described the importance of setting standards for public parkland at the community level. He notes that a standard is a “minimum acceptable spatial allocation measure”(Lancaster 1983:37). He suggests that the population-ratio method is the most widely known and used method for setting such standards. Further, he goes on to suggest the following model standards while acknowledging that standards are flexible planning guidelines, not absolutes. For community-based parks, including mini-parks, neighborhood parks and community parks, he suggests from 6.25 to 10.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. For parks serving a more regional audience such as people from two or more communities, he suggests another 5 to 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.

Mertes and Hall (1995) in the next iteration of NRPA documents about open space and other recreation standards suggest that the approach to use is one characterized as Level of Service (LOS). The focus is on the individual community and clearly acknowledges that no two communities are alike. It does not advocate general standards. Rather by using 8 steps, they propose a community determine its individual LOS needs by:

1. Determine the type of parks to which LOS will apply (vest pocket, community, etc.)
2. Determine the typical activities/facilities for each park in the system (tennis on tennis courts, bicycling on paved trail, etc.)
3. Determine park size standards for each type of park to which LOS will apply (minimum size of vest pocket park, minimum size of community park, etc.)
4. Determine the supply/availability of each recreation activity choice
5. Determine the demand for each recreation activity choice by measuring current participation in those activities at community owned parks
6. Determine the minimum population service requirement for each recreation activity choice (how many need to be served)
7. Determine LOS needed for each park type
8. Aggregate LOS for each park type to a total LOS need

In reviewing the 467 in force Michigan community outdoor recreation plans, the authors found many that referenced the acreage per thousand people guidelines from the 1983 NRPA document. In addition, almost all plans discussed how the managing agency had worked to tailor those guidelines to distinct individual community needs by asking residents or a sample of them about future directions for the park system, not just measuring current use. Conversely, detailed LOS process application using the eight steps described above is rare.

Data regarding local park acreage and its relationship to population by planning unit is relatively straightforward. In total, the 757 agencies with a plan expiring in 2003 or later reported that they operated 5,289 parks covering almost 214,000 acres (Table 4). A total of 1,906 parks (36% of statewide total) and 69,875 acres (33% of the parkland acreage) are in the greater Detroit metropolitan area (Planning Regions 1n and 1s). This includes the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, who reports their 13 parks cover 23,682 acres and are found across both 1n and 1s. The largest local parkland acreage by region is in the Western Upper Peninsula (Region 13) as the Gogebic School Forest encompasses more than 50,000 acres and is open to public recreation. In total, this inventory shows 27,000 more acres than the 2003 inventory (Nelson et al. 2003). However, it also includes information from additional local units and is lacking information from other local units as their plans expired prior to 2003. Further, funds from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and local match have acquired additional acres. Appropriations of the MNRTF by the legislature from 2003, 2004 and 2005 for acquisition by local units totaled \$25,183,540 (pers. comm. Jule Stafford, MDNR). No Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars were used for local unit acquisition during the same period (pers. comm. Judy Chamberlin, MDNR).

Table 4. Number of parks and park acreage for local units of government with in force or recent community outdoor recreation plans by planning region. (a)

Planning region	Number of units reporting	Mean number of parks	Median number of parks	Total number of parks	Number of units reporting	Mean acres of parkland	Median acres of parkland	Total
1n	109	7.02	5.00	765	109	218.53	46.00	23,819.57
1s	64	17.63	7.00	1,128	64	349.59	93.49	22,373.98
2	22	6.14	3.00	135	22	110.35	28.30	2,427.62
3	27	8.11	6.00	219	27	288.91	54.50	7,800.50
4	41	5.05	3.00	207	41	58.30	25.50	2,390.47
5	33	11.45	4.00	378	33	566.22	35.40	18,685.17
6	31	9.19	6.00	285	31	205.67	28.26	6,375.77
7	105	4.70	3.00	494	105	99.38	35.00	10,434.80
8	75	7.48	4.00	561	75	227.46	73.40	17,059.23
9	33	4.30	3.00	142	33	60.01	36.90	1,980.45
10	70	5.14	3.00	360	70	169.68	48.95	11,877.92
11	14	1.71	1.00	24	14	54.01	14.92	756.14

Planning region	Number of units reporting	Mean number of parks	Median number of parks	Total number of parks	Number of units reporting	Mean acres of parkland	Median acres of parkland	Total
12	49	5.22	3.00	256	49	124.55	38.75	6,102.91
13	43	3.09	3.00	132	43	1258.69	45.00	54,123.47
14	40	4.73	3.00	189	40	101.81	34.88	4,072.27
1n & 1s	1	13.0	-	13	1	23,682	-	23,682
All	757	6.99	4.00	5,289	757	282.65	43.00	213,962.27

When park acreage by planning region is compared to population data readily available for each planning region from the year 2000 US Census, it suggests that minimum community park and recreation acreage to population ratio needs from the 1983 NRPA standards are well met in some parts of the state and poorly met in others (Table 5). All planning regions except regions 2 (far south central consisting of Jackson, Hillsdale and Lenawee counties) and 4 (far southwest consisting of Cass, Berrien and Van Buren counties) provide more than 10 acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents. The highest ratio is in the western Upper Peninsula where the Gogebic School Forests provide an extraordinarily large local public land base in a sparsely populated region. Otherwise, most regions provide from 13-42 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.

Table 5. Acres of local parkland per 1,000 people in Michigan's 14 planning regions.

Planning Region	Population (a)	Local Parkland Acres	Park Acres/capita	Local Parkland Acres/1,000 people
1 (1n & 1s)	4,833,493	69,875.553	.01446	14.46
2	303,839	2,427.62	.00799	7.99
3	541,552	7,800.5	.01440	14.40
4	289,820	2,390.47	.00825	8.25
5	595,732	18,685.17	.03137	31.37
6	447,728	6,375.77	.01424	14.24
7	796,595	10,434.804	.01309	13.09
8	1,104,848	17,059.23	.01548	15.48
9	141,199	1,980.45	.01403	14.03
10	281,468	11,877.916	.04219	42.19

Planning Region	Population (a)	Local Parkland Acres	Park Acres/capita	Local Parkland Acres/1,000 people
11	57,510	756.14	.01315	13.15
12	174,717	6,102.907	.03493	34.39
13	85,389	54,123.472	.63385	633.85
14	284,554	4,072.27	.01431	14.31
Total	9,938,444	213,962.27	.02153	21.53

(a) Population data from the 2000 Census, US Bureau of the Census.

In interpreting this data, a couple of cautions are important to consider. First, these figures are on a regional basis (planning region) and do not indicate that every local unit of government within the region has the same ratio of parkland to population. Rather, they are an average across the region from the local units with current or recent plans. Second, potential substitutes for some type of community recreation provision are possible. This is especially true in the northern two-thirds of Michigan for recreation provision that is more natural resource oriented. This is often provided by nearby state or federal lands and facilities. Across Michigan, non-profits in cooperation with schools and others provide facilities and programs that meet more developed community recreation needs such as sports leagues and athletic fields, especially in southern Michigan. However, it is noteworthy that on a regional basis there are two planning regions (2 and 4) where state and federal lands are unlikely to provide significant general outdoor recreation acreage and there is less than 10 acres of community outdoor recreation parkland per 1,000 residents.

In considering parks and parkland provided by type of community, cities provide 57% of the distinct community parks and 23% of the community parkland acreage in Michigan (Table 6). Townships provide 22% of the parks and 14% of the acreage. While these two types of government provide a total of 77% of the parks, the majority of the local parkland acres are provided by other forms of local government. Counties, regional entities and “other” entities (primarily school forests in Gogebic County) provide the majority of Michigan’s local parkland acreage. On average, parks managed by these entities are 10 times the size of city, township and village parks. These entities are in a unique position to acquire larger tracts of undeveloped land than other units as most encompass urban, suburban and rural landscapes. In addition they are likely to have a substantial tax base and the bureaucratic infrastructure that can manage lands for dispersed or more rustic recreation. Conversely, cities are often urban or suburban with little undeveloped land available. Townships with the wherewithal to support a significant community recreation program are often similar to cities in the developed nature of the landscape within their borders. Finally more rural townships and villages often lack the tax base or other sources of financing to acquire and manage significant tracts of parkland.

Table 6. Number of parks and park acreage by type of local unit with in force or recent community outdoor recreation plans.

	Cities	Townships	Counties	Villages	Regional	Other (a)	All
Number of units reporting	227	322	71	95	38	4	757
Number of parks							
Mean	13.32	3.53	5.38	3.31	6.89	42.5	6.99
Median	8.00	2.00	4.00	3.00	4.00	11.5	4.00
Total	3,023	1,138	382	314	262	170	5,289
Acres of parkland							
Mean	214.53	91.21	717.63	34.58	734.63	13,435.39	282.65
Median	72.50	28.26	2.50	16.00	62.50	1,862.77	43.00
Total	48,698.09	29,369.62	50,952.03	3,285.11	27,915.88	53,741.54	213,962.27
Mean acres of parkland/park	16.11	25.84	133.39	10.45	106.62	316.13	40.44

(a) Other includes school forests and school districts

C. Acreage of community parkland in comparison to the rest of Michigan's public land base

The Michigan public land base open for outdoor recreation, excluding local parklands, exceeds 7.5 million acres. This is comprised of 4.5 million acres of state lands (3.8 million acres of state forest, 340,000 acres of state game and wildlife areas, 270,000 acres of state parks and recreation areas and 57,000 acres of state water access sites) and 3.0 million acres of federal lands (2.7 million acres of national forest and the rest in national wildlife refuges and National Park Service areas). When coupled with the 213,962 acres of local parkland reported in community outdoor recreation plans, there are 7.7 million acres of public land in Michigan open for outdoor recreation.

While community parkland is only slightly more than 2% of the total acreage, its outstanding accessibility to the public and primary focus on recreation makes it especially valuable. Conversely, for state and national forests in Michigan, outdoor recreation is only one

of many uses. For other venues such as boating access sites, recreational use is limited by the orientation of the site to a specific user population (boaters and anglers) rather than general outdoor recreation. Finally, using a term coined in the early 1960's by the Federal Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (1962), local parks represent highly "effective" acres as they provide ready access to many people with minimal travel and time costs. This complements the more numerous, but also more remote state and federal acres, found primarily across the northern two-thirds of Michigan where about 15% of the state's population resides.

D. Trends in methods to assess public outdoor recreation (Table 7)

During the development of community outdoor recreation plans, public input must be sought, considered and documented. Although public hearings are supposed to be held and documented by each unit of government with a plan, the results of this study show that 78% of the 467 in force plans clearly documented their public meetings concerning the plan (Table 7). Some plans do not make it apparent what was done in the planning process regarding public input, therefore public meetings or hearings may have been held, but the action was not readily apparent in the plan on file.

Table 7. Use of selected public input strategies by type of governmental unit for plans in force.

	Cities	Townships	Counties	Villages	Regional	Other	All
Number of plans in force	156	186	49	44	29	3	467
Type of public input							
On-site visitor survey	0 (0.0%)	2 (1.1%)	5 (10.2%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	7 (1.5%)
General population survey	63 (40.4)	61 (33.0)	15 (30.6)	12 (27.3)	12 (41.4)	1 (33.3)	164 (35.1)
Focus groups/workshops	57 (36.5)	46 (24.7)	8 (16.3)	14 (31.8)	9 (31.0)	0 (0.0)	134 (28.7)
Public hearings	118 (75.6)	155 (83.8)	34 (69.4)	32 (72.7)	25 (86.2)	2 (66.7)	366 (78.4)
Other methods	39 (25.0)	41 (22.2)	12 (24.5)	12 (27.3)	9 (31.0)	1 (33.3)	114 (24.4)

In terms of methods used to obtain public input, just over 1/3 of the units included general population surveys during their planning process. These included mail surveys and telephone polls. Focus groups and workshops were used by three in ten (29%) of the jurisdictions with plans. Only 2% used surveys or interviews conducted on-site at park and recreation facilities. A quarter of units used other public input methods, often suggested by planning consultants. These include interviews with recreation providers in nearby jurisdictions, public comment at local jurisdictional meetings including city council and board of commissioner meetings,

discussion with recreation related opinion leaders in the community such as non-profit partners in sports leagues, the citation of recreation research from journals and the use of planning standards by professional organizations.

E. Relationship of in force plans to Michigan 2003-07 SCORP goals (Table 8)

The 2003-2007 Michigan SCORP has seven major issues/goals. They are:

1. Resource Conservation (with a special emphasis on wetlands)
2. Trails (including non-motorized, motorized and rail-trails)
3. Universal Access to Outdoor Recreation
4. Community Outdoor Recreation
5. Forest Recreation Infrastructure
6. State Park Infrastructure
7. Coordination and Communication (among outdoor recreation providers at all levels)

Congruence among these goals and those of community outdoor recreation plans provides a stronger, more integrated approach to successfully meeting these issues and accomplishing goals in support of improved outdoor recreation opportunity for all Michiganians and visitors. Of the seven goals, as expected, congruence is 100% for community outdoor recreation by communities with plans in force (Table 8).

Table 8. Percentage of in-force community outdoor recreation plans addressing 2003-2007 SCORP primary goals by type of governmental unit.

	Cities	Townships	Counties	Villages	Regional	Other	All
Number of plans in force	156	186	49	44	29	3	467
SCORP goals							
Resource conservation	19 (12.2%)	19 (10.3%)	7 (14.3%)	5 (11.4%)	4 (13.8%)	1 (33.3%)	55 (11.8%)
Wetland	9 (5.8)	14 (7.6)	7 (14.3)	2 (4.5)	2 (6.9)	0 (0.0)	34 (7.2)

	Cities	Townships	Counties	Villages	Regional	Other	All
Conservation							
Non-motorized trails	119 (76.8)	128 (69.2)	32 (65.3)	32 (72.7)	17 (58.6)	3 (100.0)	331 (70.9)
Rail-trails	7 (4.5)	5 (2.7)	6 (12.2)	3 (6.8)	2 (6.9)	1 (33.3)	24 (5.1)
Motorized trails	4 (2.6)	8 (4.3)	1 (2.1)	1 (2.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	14 (2.9)
Universal access	83 (53.2)	67 (36.2)	20 (40.8)	21 (47.7)	15 (51.7)	1 (33.3)	207 (44.3)
Community-based recreation	156 (100.0)	186 (100.0)	49 (100.0)	44 (100.0)	29 (100.0)	3 (100.0)	467 (100.0)
Integrate with state Parks	2 (1.3)	10 (5.4)	3 (6.1)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	15 (3.2)
Integrate with state forests	1 (0.6)	2 (1.1)	1 (2.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	4 (0.9)
Cooperation/ coordination with other units	52 (33.3)	50 (27.0)	18 (36.7)	10 (22.7)	10 (34.5)	0 (0.0)	140 (29.9)

For one other goal, non-motorized trails, a sizeable majority (71%) of plans directly state their support and detail actions to accomplish improvements. For trails, the majority of the community focus is on non-motorized opportunities. Rail-trails, which are a major issue/goal in some jurisdictions, are only discussed in 15% of the community outdoor recreation plans. Such focus is often limited by the location of abandoned railroad corridors. Motorized trails, which may be more controversial, were an issue/goal with action items in only 5% of plans. Universal access is mentioned by 1/3 or more units in each type of local government.

Resource conservation, a cornerstone of the establishment of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and of the enabling legislation for the DNR (Public Act 17 of 1921 as amended), is supported and detailed in the action plans of 12% of jurisdictions. Wetlands conservation, an LWCF and Michigan SCORP priority, is only mentioned in 7% of in force community plans. Considering the interconnectedness of resources (especially unique environments such as wetlands), this situation is not likely to greatly further the cause of conservation. While parkland of local units of government encompasses only about 0.5% of Michigan's landscape and 2.5% of Michigan's public land, these ownerships are often in critical environmental areas such as floodplains, shorelines, etc. Such

locations present outstanding opportunities for resource conservation and interpretation, especially wetland resources. These opportunities can be further enhanced if local efforts are coordinated with state and federal land and natural resource managers, which will provide access to state, federal and non-profit private grant dollars for acquisition and technical expertise for environmental restoration. A priority for resource conservation also recognizes the interconnectedness of ecosystems, such as the linkages throughout a watershed. Finally, more broadly integrating resource conservation into community outdoor recreation plans may also have positive impacts on environmental quality and land use decisions at the local level and may lead to better recognition of conservation tools such as purchase of development rights from willing sellers, establishments of greenways that serve as ecological as well as recreational corridors, etc.

Referencing and planning for positive recreational interaction with state outdoor recreation resources is relatively rare among Michigan local units. While many units of government are not near state forests, which are only located in the northern 2/3 of the state, state park and state recreation areas are significant landholdings and recreation providers across the state, including in the southern third where 85% of Michigan's population resides. Three percent of local unit plans in force show distinct integration with state parks and 1% with state forests recreation facilities. For those jurisdictions that include these lands and facilities, this lack of cooperation and coordination between the major providers of state owned outdoor recreation resources and local units limits the value of both local and state outdoor recreation provision to Michigan residents and visitors. For example, in planning trails and greenways to link recreation venues with communities, the public seeks the opportunity to enjoy the range of resources, not just those controlled by a single jurisdiction. This lack of reference to state forests is especially surprising in northern Lower Michigan and the Upper Peninsula, considering that local units of government now operate more than a dozen state forest campgrounds. However, a lack of cooperation may be a "two-way street" as local unit resources, needs and capabilities need to be considered in developing state plans and directions for individual state properties such as a state park or recreation area, as well as regional planning (e.g. regional trail network, "blue" water trails) and statewide planning such as updating Michigan's state forest and state park and boating strategic plans.

F. State and federal grant requests for acquisition and development (Tables 9 and 10)

In examining plans in force as of June 1, 2007, the annual requests across local units for state or federal grant dollars for acquisition and development varied by number and amount. However, in every year from 2007-2012, the number and amount of requests for development grants far exceeded the number and amount of requests for acquisition dollars. In no year did the amount of acquisition dollars requested exceed 3.5% of all state/federal funds requested by local units (Table 9). Considering that the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) is restricted to 25% or less of available funds for development, this has made development grants

highly competitive. Median requests for acquisition grants across the six years evaluated tend to be around \$200,000 for an acquisition or a development grant. However, the mean grant size in every year is higher than the median, suggesting a significant number of very large grant requests. While these requests in multi-year plans may be different from actual MNRTF and LWCF grant applications due to shifts in available match or other factors, this provides an indication of the strength, magnitude and continuing nature of local requests for state and federal grant funds that are dominated by the need for development funds.

Table 8. LWCF/MNRTF capital improvement grant funding requested in community outdoor recreation plans by type of governmental unit for years 2007-2012.

	Cities	Townships	Counties	Villages	Regional	Other	All
07 acquisition							
Number of units reporting	2	7	2	2	1	0	14
Mean	\$530,000	\$877,714.29	\$550,000	\$183,800	\$200,000	\$0	\$633,685.71
Median	\$470,000	\$300,000	\$550,000	\$183,800	\$200,000	\$0	\$225,000
Total	\$1,060,000	\$6,144,000	\$1,100,000	\$367,600	\$200,000	\$0	\$8,871,600
07 development							
Number of units reporting	112	117	33	31	22	2	317
Mean	\$1,132,380.05	\$357,148.92	\$1,443,751.42	\$402,401	\$832,798	\$171,250	780,426.77
Median	\$422,500	\$100,000	\$643,000	\$120,000	\$275,000	\$171,250	236,200
Total	\$126,826,565.50	\$41,786,424	\$47,643,797	\$12,474,431	\$18,321,567	\$342,500	247,395,284.5
% of 07 acquisition	0.8%	12.8%	2.3%	2.9%	1.1%	0.0%	3.5%
% of 07 development	99.2%	87.2%	97.7%	97.1%	98.9%	100.0%	96.5%
07 acquisition & development total	\$127,886,565.5	\$47,930,424	\$48,743,797	\$12,842,031	\$18,521,567	\$342,500	\$256,266,884.5
% of 07 total requests by unit type	49.9%	18.7%	19.0%	5.0%	7.2%	0.1%	100.0%

	Cities	Townships	Counties	Villages	Regional	Other	All
08 acquisition							
Number of units reporting	3	4	1	2	1	0	11
Mean	541,666.67	201,757.95	20,000	157,500	250,000	0	274,275.92
Median	575,000	215,000	20,000	157,500	250,000	0	245,000
Total	1,625,000	807,031.80	20,000	315,000	250,000	0	3,017,031.8
08 development							
Number of units reporting	92	83	23	30	21	2	251
Mean	938,460.26	339,922.30	687,660.26	216,668.77	1,051,022	176,250	364,629.90
Median	310,000	100,000	155,000	110,775	189,000	176,250	187,000
Total	86,338,343.50	28,213,551	15,816,186	6,500,063	22,071,462	352,500	159,292,105.50
% of 08 acquisition	1.8	2.8	0.1	4.6	1.1	0.0	1.9
% of 08 development	98.2	97.2	99.9	95.1	98.8	100.0	98.1
08 acquisition & development total	87,963,343.50	29,020,582.80	15,836,186	6,815,063	22,321,462	352,500	162,309,137.30
% of 08 total requests by unit type	54.2	17.9	9.8	4.2	13.8	0.2	100.0
09 acquisition							
Number of units reporting	2	4	0	1	1	0	8
Mean	187,500	201,757.95	0	45,000	5,000	0	154,003.98
Median	187,500	215,000	0	45,000	5,000	0	132,500
Total	375,000	807,031.80	0	45,000	5,000	0	1,232,031.80
09 development							
Number of units	69	57	17	20	12	1	176

	Cities	Townships	Counties	Villages	Regional	Other	All
reporting							
Mean	622,358.24	307,261.18	756,462.94	255,045.90	397,717.17	75,000	473,096.59
Median	330,000	153,672	140,000	128,775	250,000	75,000	233,100
Total	42,942,718.50	17,513,887	12,859,870	5,100,918	4,772,606	75,000	83,264,999.50
% of 09 acquisition	0.9	4.4	0.0	0.9	0.1	0.0	1.5
% of 09 development	99.1	95.6	100.0	99.1	99.8	100.0	98.5
09 acquisition & development total	43,317,718.50	18,320,918.50	12,859,870	5,175,918	4,777,606	75,000	84,497,031.30
% of 09 total requests by unit type	51.3	21.7	15.2	6.1	5.7	0.001	100.0
10 acquisition							
Number of units reporting	2	3	0	0	0	0	5
Mean	117,500	189,010.60	0	0	0	0	160,406.36
Median	117,500	190,000	0	0	0	0	190,000
Total	235,000	567,031.80	0	0	0	0	802,031.80
10 Development							
Number of units reporting	40	30	9	12	6	0	97
Mean	974,492.38	315,234.17	676,866.67	192,429.17	760,328	0	632,986.01
Median	404,750	77,350	400,000	130,500	465,500	0	240,000
Total	38,979,695	9,457,025	6,091,800	2,309,150	4,561,973	0	61,399,643
% of 10 acquisition	0.6	5.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3
% of 10 development	99.4	94.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.7

	Cities	Townships	Counties	Villages	Regional	Other	All
10 acquisition & development total	39,214,695	10,024,056.80	6,091,800	2,309,150	4,561,973	0	62,201,674.80
% of 10 total requests by unit type	63.0	16.1	9.8	3.7	7.3	0.0	100.0
11 acquisition							
Number of units reporting	2	4	0	0	0	0	6
Mean	75,000	284,257.95	0	0	0	0	214,505.30
Median	75,000	263,515.90	0	0	0	0	145,000
Total	150,000	1,197,031.80	0	0	0	0	1,287,031.80
11 development							
Number of units reporting	17	11	5	5	4	0	42
Mean	1,015,984.41	139,911.36	2,951,560	205,550	441,970.75	0	565,814.12
Median	263,742	90,000	600,000	100,000	280,500	0	210,750
Total	17,271,735	1,539,025	14,757,800	1,027,750	1,767,883	0	36,364,193
% of 11 acquisition	0.8	43.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4
% of 11 development	99.1	56.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	96.6
11 acquisition & development total	17,421,735	2,736,056.80	14,757,800	1,027,750	1,767,883	0	37,651,224.80
% of 11 total requests by unit type	46.3	7.3	39.2	2.7	4.7	0.0	100.0
12 acquisition							
Number of units	0	2	0	0	0	0	2

	Cities	Townships	Counties	Villages	Regional	Other	All
reporting							
Mean	0	115,000	0	0	0	0	115,000
Median	0	115,000	0	0	0	0	115,000
Total	0	230,000	0	0	0	0	230,000
12 development							
Number of units reporting	7	1	2	1	0	0	11
Mean	1,615,641.86	300,000	1,024,450	99,550	0	0	1,250,722.09
Median	732,993	300,000	1,024,450	99,550	0	0	490,000
Total	11,309,493	300,000	2,048,900	99,550	0	0	13,757,943
% of 12 acquisition	0.0	43.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6
% of 12 development	100.0	56.6	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	98.4
12 acquisition & development total	11,309,493	530,000	2,048,900	99,550	0	0	13,987,943
% of 12 total requests by unit type	80.9	3.8	14.6	0.7	0.0	0.0	100.0

Based on legislative appropriations the past four years, 2003-2006 (with 2006 still before the legislature at this writing), allocation to local development projects has not exceeded \$6.5 million annually (Table 10). Based on the 2007 local requests as expressed by the in-force community recreation plans, this appears to meet 2.5% of the annual need. However, of the development dollars available, local units have received the large majority (86%) of allocated development funds, while state projects have received 14%. Conversely, for acquisition, locals have received 40% of the available dollars, while the state has been allocated 60%. Over the past four year period, of the more than \$129 million that has been appropriated from the MNRTF, local units have received almost 50% of the total allocation (\$64.2 million).

Table 10. Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund legislative allocations 2003-2006 (a).

Year	Local Acquisition \$	Local Development \$	State Acquisition \$	State Development \$	Total Appropriation \$
2003	7,400,040	5,602,700	10,678,160	0	23,682,903
2004	9,149,300	5,629,700	16,894,000	511,000	32,186,004
2005	8,635,000	6,449,000	20,879,000	1,376,500	37,341,505
2006	15,130,800 (a)	6,261,900 (a)	12,715,800 (a)	2,039,600 (a)	36,150,106 (a)
Total	40,315,140	23,943,300	61,166,960	3,927,100	129,360,518

(a) 2006 monies are not yet allocated. The 2006 figures reflect legislation currently under consideration in the appropriation process by the Michigan legislature.

Source: Grants Program, DNR

Of federal LWCF allocations to Michigan during the same period, all the funds were spent on development projects (Table 11). Of those funds, local units received 56% of the expended dollars and the state used 44% to develop state-owned resources.

Table 11. Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund allocations 2003-2006.

Year	Local Development \$	State Development \$	Total Allocation \$
2003	2,135,286	1,372,000	3,509,289
2004	1,274,400	1,722,875	2,999,279
2005	2,823,500	1,316,200	4,141,705
2006	830,000	1,188,739	2,020,745
Total	7,063,186	5,599,814	12,671,018

Source: Grants Program, DNR

By region, based on requests stated in local comprehensive recreation plans, Region 1(N and S) accounts for 24% of all state and federal grant fund requests over the five years analyzed (Table 12).

Table 12. Annual acquisition dollar requests by planning region.

Planning Region	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	Total
1n	\$39,239,080.5	\$25,480,318.5	\$18,772,271	\$13,036,620	\$14,770,000	\$4,192,000	\$115,490,290

Planning Region	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	Total
1s	63,639,701	27,287,909	13,550,094	8,798,232	6,456,500	5,815,000	125,547,436
2	3,060,725	947,550	552,550	149,550	99,550	99,550	4,909,475
3	6,985,491	4,914,491	5,507,491	3,205,000	885,000	490,000	21,987,473
4	2,908,665	2,115,845	1,658,556	847,000	-	300,000	7,830,066
5	11,418,200	20,042,500	1,216,000	1,101,000	281,000	-	34,058,700
6	13,650,691	21,919,993	5,394,493	3,930,993	1,111,735	775,993	46,783,898
7	13,093,474	8,665,191	6,137,466	5,758,900	1,214,500	4,500	34,874,031
8	42,570,103	20,367,499.8	12,132,832	15,998,432	4,781,832	2,288,900	98,139,598
9	3,499,522	4,125,257	2,237,653	1,444,800	-	-	11,307,232
10	26,402,350	12,078,580	6,301,940	1,497,800	5,627,200	25,000	51,932,870
11	1,619,400	2,600,000	2,226,500	1,699,850	-	-	8,145,750
12	4,322,600	6,438,500	6,404,700	1,636,000	856,500	-	19,658,300
13	9,257,633	2,032,333	2,840,333	1,091,525	565,525	-	15,787,349
14	7,549,240	3,293,169	2,575,153	2,005,973	1,401,883	-	16,825,418
1n & 1s	7,050,000	-	-	-	-	-	7,050,000
Total	256,266,875.5	162,309,136.3	87,508,031	62,201,675	38,051,225	13,990,943	620,327,886

Summary

The data base and the analysis presented above provide the DNR many opportunities to more fully utilize community outdoor recreation plans in shaping outdoor recreation policy and management. Conversely, it also provides feedback to local units of government about state trends and assists them to better understand linkages with SCORP priorities. This tracking system of local unit plans can be readily maintained by the DNR or done by a vendor in an efficient manner. Updates should occur as each community five-year outdoor recreation plan is filed with the DNR. A checklist accompanying plan development guidelines listing the SCORP priorities and asking each local unit to address which of these are part of their plan would enhance congruency between the SCORP and local plans. This will result in a database that is useful to those representing a type of local government (e.g. townships), a planning region or those examining local government actions as a whole regarding outdoor recreation. It also provides and keeps current an important component of the SCORP and enhances the visibility of the role local units of government play in meeting

Michigan SCORP goals. Finally it helps forecast the future demand for state and federal grant funds and requires very little additional effort on the part of the DNR or local units while enhancing efficiency and creating additional value from local unit planning efforts.

State Resources

Michigan has an extensive public outdoor recreation land base and infrastructure. State land ownership is approximately 4.5 million acres (12% of the state) with the majority (3.9 million acres) being state forests.

State Forests

The six state forests accommodate dispersed recreational activities (e.g. hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, dispersed camping and picking wild edibles) and moderately developed recreational activities (e.g. hiking, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, off-road vehicle riding, state forest campground camping, mountain biking and equestrian use). In terms of recreation facilities, they tend to be rustic. The state forests provide 138 developed state forest campgrounds with almost 3,000 campsites. In addition, there are 116 developed boating access sites, an additional 485 undeveloped water access sites and 880 miles of non-motorized state forest pathways for hiking, cross-country skiing, bicycling and equestrian use.

In conjunction with other providers, the state forests are the hub for Michigan's motorized trail system of 6,216 miles of designated snowmobile trail and 3,193 miles of designated off-road vehicle (ORV) trail. Of the ORV trail miles, 40% have a treadway 18-24 inches for motorcycle only use, 43% have a treadway approximately 50 inches for motorcycle and all-terrain vehicle use and 17% have a treadway at least 72 inches for use by motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles and larger off-road vehicles such as four-wheel drive trucks, dune buggies, etc.

One important type of trail, rail-trails, are being developed from legally abandoned railroad corridors. In 2006, the State of Michigan had 1,145 miles of rail-trail with 845 managed by the DNR Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division, 198 managed by the DNR Parks and Recreation Division and 163 managed by local units of government and non-profit organizations. Depending on the management regime, regulations, surfacing, etc. these rail-trails provide non-motorized and may provide motorized trail opportunity.

The state forests also provide the largest single ownership public land base for outdoor recreation east of the Mississippi River. The Michigan Forest Recreation Act of 1998 mandates that Michigan state forests provide an integrated forest recreation system while remaining working, multiple use forests providing for wood, habitat, energy, recreational and environmental needs. The state forests are located in the northern Lower Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula.

In 2006, a draft 2006 State Forest Management Plan was developed and is currently out for public review at: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-30301_30505_30506-144977--,00.html. The plan details Michigan's state forest system, including its timber, recreation and other resources and charts a course for the future that highlights the use of best management practices. The purpose is to ensure sustainable forest management. This planning effort is one of the many steps that led to Michigan's state forest system being certified in 2006 under the standards of the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (two independent forest certification organizations) as practicing sustainable forestry.

The Forest Management Advisory Committee is a 19-member committee appointed by the DNR director. It includes those in the forest products industry, other public and private land managers, outdoor recreation interests, environmental interests and university representation. The committee assists the DNR in balancing environmental, social and economic issues regarding forest management. In addition, the ORV Advisory Committee, the Snowmobile Advisory Committee and the Pigeon River Country Advisory Committee provide important input on outdoor recreation within their purview.

State Game and Wildlife Areas

The state game system includes 66 state game areas, 6 wildlife areas and 4 wildlife research areas. It is approximately 340,000 acres. State game and wildlife areas are mostly located in the southern Lower Peninsula, close to 85% of the state's population. This makes them highly popular with a wide variety of recreationists and all who appreciate undeveloped land near urban centers. This also makes these areas vulnerable to outside development pressures impacting the resource quality and recreational opportunity inside game area boundaries. For example, hunting is restricted by a safety zone with a radius of 450 feet around any structure on adjacent private lands. Hence one acre of private lands (an inholding) in a state game area may remove up to 16 acres of public land from public hunting recreation. Acquisition of such inholdings provides additional habitat protection and DNR management authority and also protects outdoor recreation opportunities already purchased in existing state owned lands within the game or wildlife areas dedicated boundaries. The same challenge holds true for all other public lands where there is public hunting opportunity. In Michigan, taking into account public hunting available in state forests, federal lands, state park and recreation areas, state game and wildlife areas and Commercial Forest Act lands, you are never more than 30 minutes from a public hunting opportunity.

State Park and Recreation Areas

There are 80 state parks and 18 recreation areas with over 270,000 acres. The 17 recreation areas encompass 84,070 acres and are distinguished from state parks in that they are open to hunting unless posted closed, whereas state parks are closed to hunting unless posted open. State recreation areas typically have used funds generated by hunters to acquire some proportion of the property. In some

cases there are specific memorandums of understanding between DNR Park and Recreation Division and the DNR Wildlife Division about the management of the recreation. In other instances, management coordination tends to be more informal. The state park and recreation area system provides almost 100 boat launches, 880 miles of non-motorized trails and over 12,000 mostly modern campsites. Eight have major interpretive facilities and almost half have a seasonal interpretation program that highlights park area resources, activities, culture and history. Three parks in the Upper Peninsula focus on preserving wilderness resources and fostering wilderness recreation, Porcupine Mountains, Tahquamenon Falls and Craig Lake. The Mackinac Island State Park Commission (part of the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries) operates three major parks with a focus on the Straits of Mackinac's natural and cultural resources. This includes operating what was the nation's second national park (1875-1895) on Mackinac Island. In Michigan you are never more than an hour from a state park or recreation area.

In 2004, the Citizens Committee on Michigan State Parks was created by statute to provide regular citizen input on state park matters for the DNR. The committee includes representatives of tourism, outdoor recreation, cultural/historical and university interests and is appointed by the DNR director.

State Boating Access Sites and Harbors of Refuge

In addition, the state owns and manages 57,000 acres of designated public water access sites and boating access sites. This acreage includes 746 state operated developed boat launches (under the auspices of DNR Parks and Recreation Bureau the Forest, Minerals and Fire Management Division and the Wildlife Division) and 16 harbors of refuge on the Great Lakes. In addition, local units of government, partially through the Waterways grants-in-aid program for capital improvements, provide and operate 278 public boat launches and 61 harbors of refuge. Harbors of refuge are located approximately 30 miles apart on Michigan's Great Lakes shoreline, providing refuge for boaters during dangerous weather/water conditions, services such as fuel and convenient access to the Great Lakes for larger craft.

The Waterways Commission is responsible for the acquisition, construction, and maintenance of recreational harbors, channels and docking and launching facilities. In addition they administer the commercial docks in the Straits of Mackinac. Commission members are appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Underwater Preserves

Under the Great Lakes, there are 11 Michigan Underwater Preserves, established under the authority of Michigan Public Act 451 of 1994 as amended Part 761. The preserves encompass 2,450 square miles of Great Lakes bottomlands. In addition, the National Park Service manages bottomlands near Isle Royale National Park. Also, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the State

of Michigan jointly established in 2000 and administer the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve. It is the only National Marine Sanctuary in the Great Lakes and includes one of the Michigan Underwater Preserves (Thunder Bay). Within the confines of these areas, about 150 shipwrecks are known and discovered and another 300 are suspected to be present. For 10 of the 11 Michigan preserves, a maritime museum/interpretive center is located in a nearby coastal community, typically operated by a community-based organization (Vrana 2002).

Federal Resources

There are three million acres, 8% of Michigan, in federal ownership open to outdoor recreation. The largest ownership (2.7 million acres) is in the four national forests, two in the Upper Peninsula (Ottawa and Hiawatha) and two in the northern Lower Peninsula (Huron and Manistee). National forest recreation activities include camping, trail-based recreation and dispersed activities such as hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and picking edibles.

The National Park Service (<http://www.nps.gov/state/mi>) manages six units in the state, with the largest being Isle Royale National Park, located on an archipelago of 400 islands 50 miles north of the Keweenaw Peninsula in Lake Superior. In addition there are two national lakeshores (Pictured Rocks and Sleeping Bear Dunes) and the Keweenaw National Historic Park that commemorates the Copper Mining era in the Upper Peninsula. In addition, the new Motor Cities Heritage Area and the North Country Scenic Trail are under NPS management. A total of 748 miles of the North Country Scenic Trail in Michigan are hikeable, certified and located off the designated road system.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service operates three major refuges, Seney in the Upper Peninsula, Shiawassee near Saginaw and the Detroit River International National Wildlife Refuge along the Detroit River and western Lake Erie basin. Each is primarily focused on wetland habitats that serve migratory birds and a host of other wetland dependent plant and animal species. In addition, the Service manages many islands in the Great Lakes for colonial nesting birds and shorebirds, designated as the Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge and the Harbor Island National Wildlife Refuge (<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/>).

Challenge Across all Suppliers

One major challenge all public suppliers of outdoor recreation face is the need to accommodate mentally and physically challenged recreationists at these existing properties with the exception of federally designated wilderness areas. While all new facilities must comply with the requirements of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and all applicable state regulations for barrier-free accessibility, most recreation facilities pre-date those standards and requirements and are in need of significant renovation to become fully accessible. Others need renovation just because of age. Many facilities date back three, four, or even five decades. In many

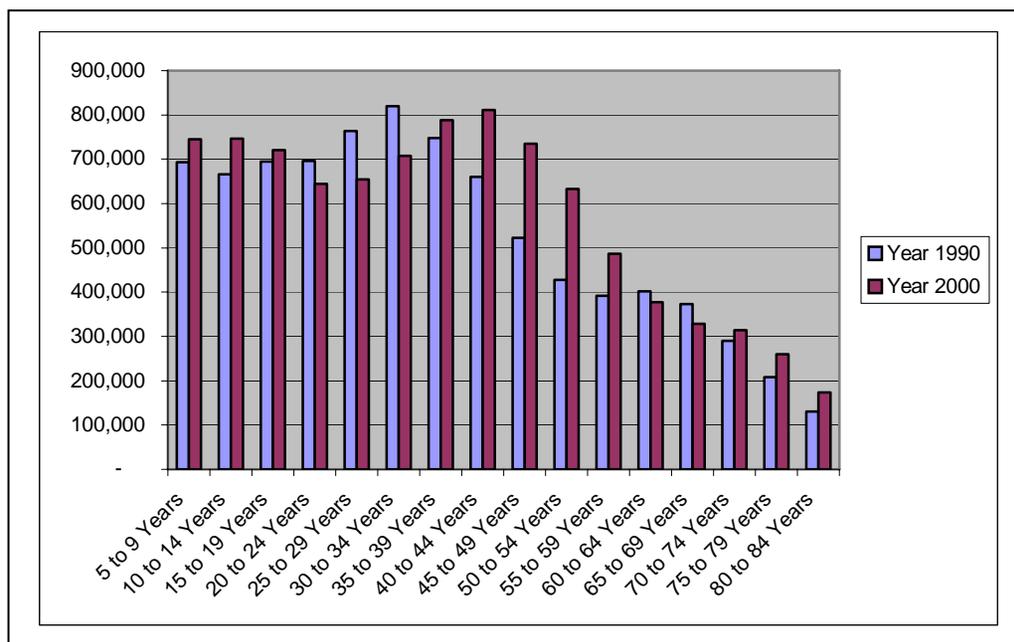
instances, a wise investment is to restore this valued infrastructure in such a way that it respects the traditions of the past, uses the technology of today in construction, accommodates the needs of persons with disabilities, and is flexible enough to adapt to the recreation demands of tomorrow.

Michigan's Population

The demand for outdoor recreation is influenced by the size, characteristics and geographic distribution of populations. Three important population subgroups are (1) the Michigan resident population, (2) seasonal populations with access to seasonal homes, and (3) tourists to the state.

Resident population

Michigan's population grew by 6.9% between 1990 and 2000, reaching 9,938,444 people in 2000 according to the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Slightly less than half of the population is under age 35, 30% are 35-54 years of age and 21% are 55 or older. The largest increase between 1990 and 2000 was in the 50-54 year age cohort (48% increase), followed by 45-49 (41% increase). Growth of more than 20 percent was also observed in the oldest age groups (75+) and the shoulder baby boom cohorts (ages 40-44 and 55-59). The age cohort from 25-34 declined by 14%. This and research by Nelson and Valentine (2002) suggests that many second homes, especially in the northern Lower Peninsula may be converted to permanent homes in retirement. It also suggests that planning needs to emphasize the full range of the life cycle. This may mean a wider range of facilities to meet community needs and special attention to providing for the needs of young and old alike.



Eighty percent of the population classified themselves as white in 2000, 14% as Black or African American and about 6% as other races. Hispanic/Latino populations (of any race) make up 3.3% of the population, but grew by 60% over 1990. As Michigan's population continues to diversify, understanding the increasingly complex makeup of communities is essential to identify and meet outdoor recreational needs. It is also important to provide positive opportunities to introduce people to outdoor recreation activities new to them.

The Census classified just over two thirds of households as "family households". Thirty-two percent of households are non-family households with 26% being householders living alone and 6% others. Across all households, 36% have at least one member under age 18 and 23% have at least one member 65 years or older. The average household size was 2.6 in 2000, while the average family size was 3.1. As the number of households expands while the average household size declines, security for recreators and opportunities to break social isolation become increasingly important. For example, security for the elderly or single parents with young children becomes increasingly paramount. This may be expressed in design through improved visibility and lighting or through management with better-trained and equipped recreation law enforcement personnel. For those living alone, more opportunities for socialization through outdoor recreation venues and programs can provide a positive link to the broader society.

Population trends differ by region. The fastest growing region of the state is the northern Lower Peninsula, where the population grew by 18% over the past decade. In contrast, the Upper Peninsula's population increased by only 1%. The metropolitan fringe or suburbs of Michigan's major cities was the other major growth area, increasing by 13%. In contrast, Michigan metropolitan areas experienced minimal population growth of 2%.

At the county level, Livingston County in the southeastern metropolitan fringe grew the fastest at 36% between 1990 and 2000. Nine northern Lower Peninsula counties experienced growth of more than 25% (Lake, Benzie, Otsego, Roscommon, Leelanau, Antrim, Emmett, Newygo and Clare). Counties in metropolitan regions that experienced declines were Wayne (Detroit) and Saginaw (Saginaw). Four Upper Peninsula counties also experienced population declines (Ontonagon, Marquette, Gogebic, and Iron). In some

respects, the state returned to growth patterns observed during the 1980's with considerable amenity migration increasing populations of northern counties. Retirement and seasonal home conversions to permanent residences appear to be contributing to these patterns.

Seasonal homes

Seasonal homes are an important part of the lifestyle of many Michigan residents and account for a considerable share of outdoor recreation. Michigan had 233,922 seasonal homes in 2000, accounting for 5.5% of all housing units in the state. The number of seasonal homes grew by 5% between 1990 and 2000, a rate slightly lower than Michigan's overall population growth. The rate of growth in seasonal homes is dampened somewhat by conversions of seasonal residences to permanent residences in many parts of the state.

While research on seasonal homes is limited, a profile of recreation activity patterns associated with seasonal homes may be gleaned from two studies in northern Michigan. Stynes et al. (1997) measured patterns of use from a sample of seasonal homeowners in six northern Lower Peninsula counties.

Almost half of seasonal homeowners cited outdoor recreation as an "extremely important" reason for owning the seasonal home. On average, seasonal homes were occupied 86 days in 1994. This was split 48 days during the summer, 17 in the fall, 13 in spring and 8 in winter. The most popular summer recreation activities at the seasonal home were swimming, followed by boating, hiking, sightseeing, fishing from boat, fishing from shore and bicycling. Water-based activities frequently occurred on the seasonal homeowner's property, while the majority of hiking, ORV use, bicycling, nature study and other activities took place on nearby public lands/facilities. In studies of state and national forest users, Nelson and Lynch (1995) noted adjacent residents and their guests accounted for the majority of dispersed recreation user hours on state and national forests in the northern Lower Peninsula. Key activities included hunting, fishing, nature observation, picking wild edibles and trail activities.

The importance of outdoor recreation activities to seasonal homeowners can also be seen in the kinds of equipment kept at the seasonal home. Three fourths of seasonal homeowners kept fishing gear at the home and 58% had a powerboat. Other popular equipment includes bicycles (53%), canoes/kayaks (47%), downhill/cross-country skis (30%), sailboats (27%), hunting gear (25%), snowmobile (15%), off road vehicles (11%) and personal watercraft (5%).

Extrapolating the survey results to all northern Lower Peninsula counties (summer activity only), Stynes et. al. (1997) estimate that seasonal homes (owners, family and guests) generated 5.8 million person days of swimming and 5.3 million person days of boating.

Other significant activities were 3.7 million person days of fishing (2.0 million from a boat and 1.7 million from shore), hiking (2.5 million), sightseeing (2.3 million), and bicycling (1.2 million).

The spatial distribution of seasonal homes significantly affects the demand for outdoor recreation and other services in different parts of the state. Seasonal homes account for over a quarter of all housing units in 29 of Michigan's 83 counties and over a third of housing units in 15 counties. The highest share of housing units that are seasonal is in Lake County (61%), followed by Keewenaw County (50%) and Oscoda, Roscommon, Alcona and Montmorency Counties all at 48%. Seasonal homes tend to be concentrated in high amenity areas and often around inland lakes or along Great Lake shoreline. Michigan has 147 townships with seasonal homes representing at least half of all housing units. As seasonal homes tend to be located in areas with lower density resident populations and limited development, they can have sizeable relative impacts on rural areas, both in terms of the economy and outdoor recreation demand.

Michigan's Tourism Industry

As background for the Michigan Tourism Industry Strategic Plan 2007-11, Dr. Don Holecek, former director of the Michigan Travel, Tourism and Recreation Resource Center at Michigan State University provided a summary of Michigan Tourism in 2006. He noted that in 2004, Michigan travel expenditures were \$17.5 billion. Of that, leisure travel accounted for 72% or \$12.6 billion. Resident expenditures constituted 53% of all travel expenditures. There were at least 210,000 jobs supported by travel in Michigan. Unfortunately, while there was sizeable travel spending in Michigan, Michiganians were spending even more on travel outside of Michigan. The net result is that in 2004 Michigan had a \$2.8 billion deficit in balance of trade for Michigan tourism.

Michigan tends to be a regional destination with 72% of Michigan travel by Michigan residents, another 18% by residents of other Great Lakes states and 10% from all other origins. Much of Michigan tourism is natural resource recreation related, as evidenced by the current Pure Michigan campaign. However, while it may be natural resource recreation related, there is little overt recognition of state, local or federal outdoor recreation resource providers or specific locations (e.g. Tahquamenon Falls State Park), even though they may be prominently featured in promotional efforts. Michigan has many world class tourism assets including the Great Lakes, forests, inland lakes and rivers, trails, campgrounds and parks. These are linked by an impressive transportation system and connect one to friendly people and communities. However, relatively little public money is invested in tourism promotion compared to other Great Lakes states and provinces. While tourism is a critical industry for the future of the state as we seek to diversify our economy, there are still significant informational and promotional challenges to overcome.

Outdoor Recreation Demand

The demand and needs for outdoor recreation in the SCORP are based on four major factors. First is an examination of some of the key outdoor recreation initiatives in Michigan. Second is data from a mail survey of a sample of 2,001 Michigan registered voters conducted in summer 2007 regarding their Michigan outdoor recreation habits, demand for outdoor recreation and suggestions to improve Michigan outdoor recreation. Third is a mail survey conducted in summer 2007 of all 773 Michigan local units of government with a current or recent community park and recreation plan that was on file with the DNR. Fourth is participation data for a selected set of outdoor recreation activities in Michigan. Information from the general public and local park and recreation providers will be strengthened as the draft SCORP is reviewed and five public meetings are held across the state in early October 2007.

Key Outdoor Recreation Initiatives

There are key outdoor recreation initiatives related to Michigan state parks, Michigan boating, trails and their uses, universal access and hunting recruitment and retention. In addition, there are initiatives such as the 2006 Michigan State Forest Plan that have important impacts on outdoor recreation as well as a variety of other sectors of the economy, ecosystem and public.

Michigan State Parks and Boating

The DNR, in conjunction with the Citizens Committee on Michigan State Parks and the Michigan State Waterways Commission are currently engaged in developing a new strategic plan that integrates state parks and boating, which are both managed by the DNR primarily through one division, the Park and Recreation Division. The new single plan would update existing separate plans for state parks and boating that are now out-of-date. A large quantity of information is posted on the DNR website concerning this planning effort at: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10365_45524---,00.html.

As part of that planning effort, from mid-May through mid-July 2007, the DNR distributed a brief 2 question survey on a business reply card. At all state park and recreation areas, selected visitors were asked what they most enjoyed about state parks and what one change they most wanted in state parks. Questionnaires were distributed 10 days over the two month period for one specified hour each distribution day to the driver of every vehicle that entered a state park or recreation area where a gate attendant was in place. A total of 701 were returned.

When asked what one thing state park visitors most enjoyed, good maintenance, a convenient location, natural resources/features and natural resource based recreation facilities/activities were the aspects most commonly mentioned (Table 13). This is closely in line with the mission of state parks.

Table 13. One thing most enjoyed about Michigan State Parks.

Factor most enjoyed	Percent
Well maintained/clean	24.1%
Convenient location	11.6
Water features (lake, Great Lakes, stream, river, falls, beaches)	11.3
Natural resources (general, overall)	7.8
Trails	7.5
Campsites/camping	6.9
View/scenery/beauty	6.2
Peace/solitude/relax	3.2
Friendly staff	3.1
Being outdoors	2.8
Water based activities (fish, swim, boat, sunbathe)	2.8
Everything/All things	2.6
Land based activities (hike, bike, hunt, etc.)	2.4
Low price/low fees/reasonable fees	1.8
Being with family/friends	1.6
Activities for kids/playgrounds	1.5
Vegetation/forests/trees	1.0
Good security	0.7
Other	1.0
Total	100.0%

When asked what one change they most wanted to see in Michigan state parks, infrastructure improvements related to restrooms and campsites were most commonly mentioned (Table 14).

Table 14. One change most wanted in Michigan State Parks.

Change wanted	Percent
Improved bathroom facilities	12.4%
Larger campsites/more privacy at campsites	8.5
Improve facilities (general)	8.5
Eliminate or reduce MVP/entry fees	8.0
More full hookup sites/water on every site	6.6
Improve campsite reservation system	6.4
Nothing/None/Keep up the good work	4.9
More/better trails, trail markers, trail maps	4.2
More activities/education	3.6
More dog friendly parks/dog beach use	3.4
Add playgrounds/improve playgrounds	3.1
Better security/more law enforcement	2.8
More restrictions on dogs/no dogs allowed/better control dogs	2.5
More MSP needed	2.5
More campsites	2.2
More campsites available without reservations	1.9
More sewer dump stations/more trash cans or bins	1.9
More funding	1.9
Cleaner bathrooms	1.3
Stores (with essentials)/laundry mats	1.3
Raise MVP/entry fees	1.2
Transferable annual passes	1.2
More friendly staff	1.0
Internet access	0.9
Recycling program/bins	0.7
No alcohol	0.6
No smoking	0.6
Eliminate/reduce alcohol bans	0.4

Change wanted	Percent
Open earlier	0.4
Reduce cancellation fees	0.3
No power boats	0.3
All other suggestions (each by 0.1% or less)	3.9
Total	100.0%

In particular, improved bathrooms and larger campsites (especially those with more amenities such as full hookups and more privacy) were most frequently mentioned. Other infrastructure suggestions include developing more trails, playgrounds, campsites and whole state parks. Besides these capital improvements, most other improvements focused on policy/fee issues such as reducing or eliminating motor vehicle permit fees or making the permits transferable (e.g. hang tag), improving the campground reservation system, reducing the number of sites that can be reserved, allowing more area for dogs off leash, further limiting dogs in state parks, improving law enforcement/security, additional educational programming and raising motor vehicle permit fees. This illustrates some issues with obviously opposing points of view well represented as well as some with more universal appeal (e.g. improved bathrooms, larger campsites, more trails and more playgrounds).

More than half (52%) of the respondents included their name, e-mail and/or address to be notified of future public meetings or other events in the state park strategic planning process.

A similar on-site survey conducted at state boating access sites and harbors of refuge (linked together hereafter as boating access sites or BAS) revealed key operational and capital needs. From mid-May through mid-July 2007, the DNR distributed a brief 2 question survey on a business reply card at 10% of the Park and Recreation Division's unstaffed boating access sites as well as all staffed BAS and the state's 16 harbors of refuge directly operated by the DNR. The questionnaire asked selected BAS users what they most enjoyed about Michigan BAS and what one change they most wanted in them. Questionnaires were distributed 10 days over the two month period for one specified hour each distribution day to the driver of every vehicle that entered a BAS except for unstaffed BAS where a roving maintenance crew distributed them on the same 10 days at each of their maintenance stops by leaving them on the vehicle windshield of vehicles parked at the sites during their maintenance activities. A total of 211 were returned by this writing.

When asked what one thing they most enjoyed, good maintenance, a convenient location, natural resources/features and ease of launching were the aspects most commonly mentioned (Table 15). These are closely in line with the mission of the state's boating program.

Table 15. One thing most enjoyed about state boating access sites (BAS).

Most enjoyable factor	Percent
Good maintenance/clean	33.0%
Convenient location	17.5
Easy to launch	9.3
Low price/low fee/free	8.2
Good facilities	8.2
Friendly employees	5.7
Lots of BAS/well distributed	5.2
Good fishing	3.6
Scenic/beautiful	3.1
Long hours/open round the clock	2.1
Marine safety education classes	1.0
Other	3.1
Total	100.0%

When asked what one change they most wanted to see in Michigan BAS, improved restrooms, more ramps/piers at a given BAS, more parking and dredging to provide sufficient water depth to launch and boat were most commonly mentioned (Table 16). Key operational issues that were raised include better maintenance, especially of bathrooms, better security/law enforcement and a more friendly staff. A policy issue that was approached in a number of different ways was that of a BAS vehicle sticker, required at a growing minority of BAS. A number suggested combining this with the Michigan State Park Motor Vehicle Permit so there would be only one permit. Another group wanted the BAS permit to be transferable among vehicles, such as a hang tag. A third group said they would like to have the BAS permit on the boat. A fourth set of respondents wanted to decrease or eliminate fees such as the BAS permit.

Table 16. One change most wanted in state boating access sites (BAS).

One change most wanted	Percent
Cleaner bathrooms/better maintenance in general	18.2%
More ramps/more docks at sites	15.8

One change most wanted	Percent
More parking at sites	13.8
Eliminate fees	10.3
Dredge/provide deeper water at launch	8.9
Better security/more law enforcement	5.4
More boating access needed	5.4
Nothing/none/keep up the good work	3.0
Combine state park MVP/BAS sticker	3.0
More friendly staff	2.5
Have BAS permit portable between vehicles (e.g. hang tag)	2.0
Have BAS permit on boat, not vehicle	1.5
Provide fish cleaning stations	1.5
More slips	1.5
Improve lighting	1.0
Maintain year round for ice fishing	1.0
Only allow cars with trailers in long parking spots	0.5
Remove geese/goose poop	0.5
Other	4.4
Total	100.0%

A total of 70 % of the respondents included their name, e-mail and/or address to be notified of future public meetings or other events in the planning process.

Trails

Two major state of Michigan and one collaborative effort led by a non-profit organization have been valuable to clarify need and demand regarding trails.

On July 18, 2006 Governor Granholm in her remarks celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund called for a future for Michigan “.. where access to trails and recreation is available to everyone.” Based on this vision, the DNR and the Michigan Department of Transportation developed **Michigan Trails at the Crossroads: A Vision for Connecting Michigan.**

The plan notes the many benefits of trails including economic, social, health and transportation, all while having fun based on a multitude of Michigan studies and those from other states. They also note that there is an array of trail advocates representing the motorized and non-motorized trail communities, economic development community, trail equipment manufacturers and retailers, the tourism industry, the health professions and federal, state and local park and recreation as well as transportation managers that are all working toward an expanded, connected and well maintained trail system across Michigan.

Key actions include:

1. Creation of a unified system of Michigan trails that connect natural, tourist, and urban destinations: “Discover Michigan Trails”. This could be accomplished by amending the scope and charge of the Michigan Trailways Act.
2. Designation of the initial set of “Discover Michigan Trails”.
3. Appointment of a “Discover Michigan Trails” Council, similar to the council enabled under the current Michigan Trailways Act, but expanded in scope across all trail types and in terms of the interests afforded a seat on the Council. They would:
 - a. Creation of a strategy and action plan to achieve the vision for the “Discover Michigan Trails” network.
 - b. Identification and adoption of guiding principles for public trail investments.
 - c. Coordination of public participation in, and serve as advising body in the creation of the statewide “Discover Michigan Trails” network plan.
 - d. Assessment of needs and development of recommendations to the Governor, Michigan Natural Resources Commission, and Michigan Transportation Commission legislative, administrative, and policy changes to enhance and streamline trail network development.
 - e. Annual reporting of the Council’s recommended projects to Michigan Natural Resources Commission and Michigan Transportation Commission priorities for trail improvements and connections.
4. Creation of a dedicated protected funding source for multi-use, non-motorized trail acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance.

This approach is seen to have many synergistic effects with other trail related initiatives, including those of the non-motorized umbrella group, the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance. Key outcomes envisioned from this “**Crossroads Vision**” include:

- Connections among population centers
- Ties to regional trail systems
- Links to state parks and state forest lands
- Connections to designated heritage routes

- Enhancements to tourism
- Enhancements to economic development
- Improved access to Michigan's Great Lakes shoreline and natural resources
- Synergy with the objectives of Cool Cities, Cities of Promise, Michigan Steps Up, Safe Routes to School, and other priority gubernatorial initiatives
- Engagement of stakeholders in decisions regarding priority trail corridor investments
- Sustainability (acquisition, development, operations and maintenance) of trail systems.
- Preservation of inactive railroad corridors for future railroad use with interim trail use

The full text is available at http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10365_16839---,00.html.

A companion initiative is **Connecting Michigan – A Statewide Trailways Vision and Action Plan** (2007). It was developed by the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance with federal, state and local government and private sector cooperators including the National Park Service and the Michigan Recreation and Park Association. The Plan has four primary goals which form a framework for many actions to create an interconnected trailway network which links all regions of Michigan:

- “Ensure that Michigan's trailway stakeholders have ready access to technical resources and best practices from Michigan and beyond, and across all the many facets of trailways planning, acquisition, development, maintenance, operations, and advocacy.
- Improve Michigan's financial, maintenance, and marketing resources necessary for developing, promoting, enhancing, and sustaining a statewide interconnected trailway system.
- Improve coordination and communication, encourage cooperation, foster new partnerships to support trailway planning, development, management, and programming that enhances the trailway experience.
- Provide Michigan's trailway stakeholders with a compelling statewide trailway vision and a tactical plan to achieve and market the vision.”

The full plan can be found at <http://www.connectingmichigan.org/>.

Third, the DNR is in the process of updating the Michigan Off-Road Vehicle Plan. Michigan's first and only plan was completed in 1979. Since then, the state's network of designated ORV opportunities has grown as has the complexity of ORV technology and

recognition of their influence on Michigan's economic, social and environmental fabric. A draft updated ORV plan was released in 2005 and is still in the process of revision and adoption. The basic goals of the plan were to improve the conditions of the existing trails system, to enhance its connectivity, to strengthen ORV safety education and enforcement and to restore environmental damage from illegal ORV use. The plan is available at http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-30301_30505_30506-144977--,00.html.

Universal Access

The DNR is committed to providing quality outdoor recreation opportunities for all, including people with disabilities. In 2004, the DNR Accessibility Team (AT) completed the **Strategic Plan for Accessibility** to help realize this goal. The major goals of this plan include:

- Accessibility training for DNR staff;
- An accessibility assessment of all existing DNR programs, services and facilities;
- Involvement by public disability advocacy groups in DNR's planning process;
- Development of an action plan to correct existing accessibility deficiencies;
- Development of inclusive new facilities, programs and services;
- A means to evaluate and document DNR efforts and progress toward accessibility;
- A proposed timeline for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Accessibility.

(http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10366_41825---,00.html).

Following the completion of the Strategic Plan, the AT was given the principal responsibility for carrying out its recommendations and to develop other recommendations and procedures for improving public accessibility to DNR facilities, programs, and services. To this end, the AT has accomplished or is in the process of completing the following tasks:

- In conjunction with the State of Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns, the team has developed two training courses: 1) accessible meeting and event planning and 2) assessment of buildings and structures for accessibility. As a result, approximately 200 DNR staff members, including those from both headquarters and field offices, have received training in one or both of these areas;
- Developing a checklist to be used to evaluate the accessibility of all DNR-owned facilities;
- Improved and is continuing to further improve the information (and the public's ability to access it) on the DNR website about the existing accessible opportunities for the public at DNR facilities, including state parks, forest campgrounds, and shooting ranges;
- Developed guidelines and criteria for evaluating the universal accessibility of proposed outdoor recreation facilities at both local and state parks and other recreation areas (see below);

- Reviewed proposed federal accessibility guidelines for outdoor recreation areas. In June 2007, these guidelines were proposed for adoption by the federal government under the Architectural Barriers Act, which applies only to federal facilities. The AT will be providing comments on the guidelines by October 2007 in response to the federal request for comments.

An important achievement of the AT towards implementing the Strategic Plan was the formation of the Accessibility Advisory Council (AAC) in 2007. The council is composed of citizens who represent a wide range of expert perspectives on accessibility, including representatives of the recreation and tourism industry, the medical community, and DNR staff. The purpose of the AAC is to make recommendations relevant to accessibility to the DNR on the development, management, and planning of facilities, programs, and services to better enable the public to enjoy Michigan's natural resources; inform and educate the public about the need for accessibility to the state's natural resources; strive to involve citizens in the planning and development of DNR facilities, programs, and services to ensure accessibility; evaluate the DNR's facilities, programs and services periodically to ensure that the council's goals on accessibility are being achieved; and recommend awards recognizing outstanding efforts to improve accessibility.

By implementing the goals of the Strategic Plan and using the guidance of the AAC, the DNR is actively working to achieve full compliance with accessibility requirements and to educate its staff about this important issue. At the same time, the DNR is looking beyond the existing legal requirements to the goal of providing universal access to public outdoor recreation opportunities. Universal access to outdoor recreation has been defined as creating environments that are usable by all people of all abilities, to the greatest extent possible, by enabling independent use and ensuring full inclusive participation in all aspects of the outdoor recreation experience. In other words, providing universal access means going beyond the minimal legal requirements of existing federal and state laws and regulations to create environments in which there is no separation or stigmatization of people with differing abilities.

In 2006, the DNR received a \$3 million *Access to Recreation* grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation to provide universally accessible public outdoor recreation in Michigan. The grant dollars will be used by the DNR and awarded to local units of government. The funds can be matched with other funding sources, thus further leveraging funds to improve universal accessibility. Since the initial grant, a number of Michigan state parks, recreation areas, and scenic sites have received universal access improvements supported in part by this funding. Proposals from local units of government, at this writing, are being evaluated by DNR staff for award recommendation.

Hunter Recruitment and Retention

In 2005 DNR Director Rebecca Humphries formed a Hunter Recruitment and Retention Work Group. This group was comprised of hunters from across the state, members of the Natural Resources Commission and key DNR staff persons. They were charged with developing 3-5 key initiatives to recruit more new hunters and retain existing hunters. In 2006 the Work Group recommended:

- Increase the amount of land open to public hunting in Michigan and provide better information/access to guide hunters to these lands
- Welcome a broader range of Michigianians and visitors to hunting through lowering the age when hunting is legal and involving more women, people of color and younger adults in training new hunters as certified hunter safety educators
- Further incorporate hunting, fishing, camping and other forms of outdoor recreation activity into local and state park and recreation programs across the state
- Partner with youth oriented mentoring organizations such as 4-H, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and others to infuse hunting into on-going youth mentoring programs (http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10366_46403_46404-138819--,00.html).

Following those recommendations, the DNR director thanked the initial group for their service and then formed the Hunter Recruitment and Retention Implementation Work Group. It included some members from the original work group and added more members with expertise in youth mentoring, legislative process, marketing and people with disabilities. Since those recommendations were made, by statute in 2006 the minimum age for hunting was lowered from 12 to 10 for small game and archery deer hunting and from 14 to 12 for firearm deer hunting on private lands. In addition, an apprentice license program was developed which allows new hunters under the direct supervision of licensed adult hunters to try hunting with an apprentice license which does not require completion of hunter safety. Legislation is currently under consideration that would provide internet available county maps clearly showing the location of the 26% of Michigan (9.5 million acres) open to public hunting. There are also efforts underway to develop a state-wide youth hunter mentoring program with a number of professional youth mentoring organizations.

Land Consolidation

In an effort to more efficiently manage state owned lands (state forests, state parks, state game areas, state recreation areas, state wildlife areas) the DNR is going through a three step process:

“Phase I – DNR Project Boundary Update

(Complete)

An important step for the Department in fulfilling that policy was the reevaluation of the dedicated boundaries of the Department’s land holdings. In order to help in specifically identifying those lands which are most desirable additions and those lands which are most appropriate for disposal from the State’s ownership, it was important that these boundaries be reviewed and revised in light of today’s needs for natural resource conservation and natural resource-related outdoor recreation. The dedicated boundaries for the State Forests, State Game and Wildlife Areas, State Parks, and State Recreation Areas were reviewed by Department staff and the Natural Resources Commission and adopted by the Director in May of 2004.

Phase II – Parcel Review

(In Process)

Now that Phase I has been completed, Department staff is reviewing all those lands lying outside the newly identified DNR project boundaries to determine which of those lands are not contributing sufficiently to the fulfillment of the Department’s conservation and outdoor recreation mission to warrant their continued ownership by the Department. All state-owned, DNR-managed parcels located outside the project boundaries will be classified as follows:

1. Retain under State ownership and DNR administration due to natural resource values, cultural resource values, and recreational opportunities and/or location.
2. Natural resource values, cultural resource values, and/or recreational values are such that the parcel should remain protected and/or accessible to the public but potentially owned/administered by an alternative conservation entity.
3. Natural resource, cultural resource, and/or recreational values are such that the parcel does not need to remain in DNR or alternative conservation ownership. The parcel can be exchanged or sold with proceeds used to obtain lands of greater natural resource, cultural resource, or recreational values that would help consolidate the DNR project areas. Properties may be conveyed with conditions when determined desirable by the DNR.

Public comment will be accepted for each county as the Department develops parcel recommendations. Each county will then be reviewed by the Department’s Land Exchange Review Committee, who will submit recommendations to the Natural Resources Commission and to the Director. This process will be repeated until all 83 counties have been reviewed.

Phase III – Parcel Conveyance Process

(In Progress)

Upon the completion of Phase II for each county, parcels that are classified as **Class 2 or Class 3** (see classifications listed above) will be considered for land exchange or possible land sale, as appropriate. Funds generated from land sales will be utilized for acquisition of high natural resource value and high outdoor recreation value lands. Governmental agencies and conservation organizations will be provided the first opportunity to acquire the lands identified for release.” http://www.michigan.gov/textonly/0,2964,7-153-30301_31154_33787-105227--,00.html.

Registered Voter Survey

During July and August of 2007, a mail survey of 2,001 registered Michigan voters was conducted by Michigan State University to better understand public outdoor recreation needs, preferences, activities and the use of Michigan’s public outdoor recreation resources. The list of all 7.1 million Michigan registered voters was obtained from the Michigan Secretary of State Bureau of Elections. A sample of 2,001 voters was randomly selected. Each received an initial mailing of the questionnaire, along with a cover letter and business reply envelope. The questionnaire was clearly identified on the cover as a “Michigan Outdoor Recreation Survey” and was mailed from Michigan State University and returned to Michigan State University. The questionnaire, cover letter (consent form) and the survey procedures were all approved by the Institutional Review Board of Michigan State University per University policy. Ten days after the initial mailing, non-respondents were mailed a reminder postcard encouraging their response. Two weeks after the postcard, those who had still not responded were sent a second mailing of the questionnaire with a revised cover letter and another business reply envelope. August 17 was the cutoff day for all survey responses. The survey, initial cover letter and written comments by respondents beyond answering the questions are provided in Appendix A.

Of the 2,001 addresses, 202 (10%) were invalid according to the US Postal Service for the person listed. Of the remaining 1,799 valid addresses, 460 (26%) responded with a completed questionnaire. In addition, 11 more mailed back a blank questionnaire with the explanation that they felt unqualified to complete the questionnaire since they were not active in outdoor recreation due to age, health or lack of interest. Of the respondents, 51% rated outdoor recreation as very important, 35% as moderately important, 10% as slightly important and 4% as unimportant.

Outdoor Recreation Participation

Respondents, besides generally rating outdoor recreation important, were also active participants. From a defined list of outdoor recreational activities, walking outdoors was the most common activity for respondent households (Table 17). While the list was not totally exhaustive of every potential type of outdoor recreation activity, it had a wide range. Unfortunately, mountain biking and paved trail biking were not included, which was an oversight. More than 50% of the respondents participated in one or more of eight

activities: walk outdoors, relax outdoors, drive for pleasure, swim in a lake, river or pond, sightsee, picnic, bicycle on a road/sidewalk or fish. When asked about which of the activities from the list was the first, second and third most important to their household, the top five is different than that for participation. The five activities with the highest percentage noting them as first, second or third most important to their household were walking outdoors, relaxing outdoors, fishing, hunting and swimming in a lake, river or pond. For only one activity, hunting, did more than half of the participants list it as a most important activity for their household.

Table 17. Michigan outdoor recreation activities in which one or more members of the respondent's household participated during the past 12 months and their relative importance.

Activity	Participating	1st Most Important Activity	2nd Most Important Activity	3rd Most Important Activity	1 st , 2 nd or 3 rd Most Important
Walk Outdoors	85.7%	25.7%	12.8%	5.7%	44.2%
Relax Outdoors	78.3	6.0	7.7	12.4	26.1
Drive for Pleasure	67.2	7.4	4.7	4.8	16.9
Swim in Lake, River or Pond	54.8	3.7	6.3	7.1	17.1
Sightseeing	53.5	1.6	1.0	5.7	8.3
Picnic	53.3	1.8	3.0	2.9	7.7
Bicycle on Road/Sidewalk	52.0	3.4	7.2	4.3	14.9
Fish	50.7	8.3	10.5	5.5	24.3
Play Outdoor Games/Sports	49.1	3.2	2.8	7.1	13.1
Swim in Outdoor Pool	45.9	0.9	2.8	3.8	7.5
Wildlife Viewing	44.6	2.1	4.4	6.2	12.7
Visit Outdoor Historic Site	42.0	-	1.9	2.6	4.5
Photograph Nature or Scenery	40.4	-	1.4	3.8	5.2
Camp	38.5	8.0	5.1	4.8	17.9
Motorized Boating	37.6	3.2	3.0	3.8	10.0
Golf	33.9	5.5	3.3	4.8	13.6
Hunt	30.4	9.2	7.0	3.6	19.8
Canoe/Kayak	28.7	0.7	3.7	2.9	7.3
Run/Jog Outdoors	24.3	3.2	1.2	0.7	5.1
Ride an Off-Road Vehicle	20.4	1.1	1.2	1.7	4.0

Activity	Participating	1st Most Important Activity	2nd Most Important Activity	3rd Most Important Activity	1 st , 2 nd or 3 rd Most Important
Day Hike	20.0	1.1	1.4	1.2	3.7
Outdoor Ice Skating	13.0	-	-	0.2	0.2
Snowmobile	12.8	1.1	2.1	1.0	4.2
Downhill Ski/Snowboard	12.2	-	0.2	1.0	1.2
Water Ski	11.3	0.2	0.5	0.5	1.2
In-line Skate	10.2	-	0.5	0.5	1.0
Horseback Ride	8.7	0.9	0.2	-	1.1
Cross-Country Ski	8.7	0.2	0.9	0.5	1.6
Volunteer for Outdoor Games/Sports	8.3	-	-	-	-
Volunteer for Habitat, Trails, Parks, Etc.	4.1	-	-	-	-
Overnight Backpack	3.9	0.7	-	-	0.7
Rock Climb	3.3	-	-	0.2	0.2
Scuba Dive	2.8	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6
Trap	2.6	-	-	0.7	0.7
Geocache	2.6	0.2	0.2	-	0.4

Most respondent households provided some funding support for conservation through the purchase of a license, permit, fee or registration related to outdoor recreation. The most commonly purchased was a fishing license, followed by a motor vehicle or entry permit to a local park or a state park (Table 18). In terms of the State of Michigan, purchase of any of the listed items other than a local or regional park permit result in the revenues being placed in a constitutionally protected restricted fund focused on DNR conservation work. For most local units of government, restricted funds have also been established to safeguard user fees from use not related to outdoor recreation and conservation of recreation resources.

Table 18. Outdoor recreation related licenses, permits, fees and registrations purchased by the respondent in the past 12 months

License, Permit, Fee or Registration	Percent
MI Fishing (any type)	44.1%
Motor Vehicle Permit/Entrance Fee to Local Park (e.g. city, twp, regional, county)	39.5
MI State Park Motor Vehicle (annual or daily)	32.8
MI Hunt (any type)	25.8
MI Watercraft Registration	23.8
MI State Park Nightly Camp Fee	21.0
MI Boat Access Site Motor Vehicle (annual or daily)	11.4
MI State Forest Campground Nightly Camp Fee	10.3
MI ORV license	9.2
MI Snowmobile Registration	8.1
MI Snowmobile Trail Permit	6.8
MI Junior Hunt (any type)	2.8
MI Apprentice Hunt (any type)	0.2

A total of 72.7% of respondents purchased one or more licenses, permits, registrations, camping or entrance fees related to outdoor recreation for their household in the past 12 months (Table 19). Two-thirds purchased some State of Michigan license, permit, registration, nightly camping fee or entrance fee. Almost half of all respondents (48.3%) purchased a Michigan hunting or fishing license and 48.0% purchased one or more Michigan hunting licenses.

Table 19. Purchase one or more licenses, permits, fees or registrations from selected groups in the past 12 months.

License, Permit, Fee or Registration Grouping	Percent
Any of the above licenses, permits, fees or registrations	72.7%
Any State of MI license, permit, fee or registration	66.8
Any hunt or fish license	48.3
Any hunt license	48.0
Any snowmobile or ORV license or permit	12.9

Respondent households reported median spending of \$40 per household over the past 12 months on outdoor recreation related fees, licenses, permits and registrations (Table 20). However, 26% spent more than \$100 over the past year.

Table 20. Amount spent on licenses, permits, fees and registrations in Michigan noted in Table 18 above during past 12 months.

Amount	Percent
\$ Less than 26	44.7%
\$26-50	14.5
\$51-75	5.5
\$76-100	9.3
\$101-199	9.7
\$200 and more	16.4
Total	100.0%

Respondent households reported ownership of a wide variety of recreation equipment when asked to respond to a close ended list of recreational items. More than two-thirds own one or more bicycles (Table 21). Rounding out the top five in ownership, are fishing equipment, firearms, tent or pop-up camper and motorized boats. One in seven owned a second home. Less common recreational equipment included motor homes, sail boats and scuba equipment. Slightly more than 3% owned a horse.

Table 21. Ownership of selected recreation equipment by respondent households

Type of Recreational Property	Percent
Bicycle	69.0%
Fishing Equipment	60.3
Firearm	40.8
Tent or Popup Camper	39.5
Motorized Boat	28.6
Hunting Equipment besides gun or bow	26.4
Archery Equipment	22.3
Canoe/Kayak	20.3
Cross-country Skis	17.9
Second Home	16.4
Off-road Vehicle	15.1
Downhill Skis	12.9
Travel Trailer/5th Motor Home	10.5
Snowmobile	10.3
Motor Home	5.2
Sail Boat	3.7
Horse	3.1
Scuba Equipment	3.1

Respondent households were active in visiting public outdoor recreation sites in Michigan. More than $\frac{3}{4}$ visited some Michigan outdoor recreation venue in the past 12 months (Table 22). Almost 6 in 10 visited a Michigan state park, recreation area, state forest, boating access site or wildlife area. Over half reported visiting a local public (city, county, township, village or regional) outdoor recreation venue and almost $\frac{1}{4}$ visited federal lands for outdoor recreation. More than a third of households reported more than 10 visits in the past 12 months to Michigan outdoor recreation venues with the median respondent household having five visits. The mean is less valuable here as the distribution is not normal due to a small number of households reporting a very high number of visits (e.g. more than 200 times annually). Over $\frac{1}{3}$ of the households reported that they had visited some combination of public outdoor recreation venues more than 10 times in the past 12 months.

Table 22. Percentage of respondent households who visited public outdoor recreation venues in Michigan during the past 12 months.

Outdoor Recreation Venues	Percent	% visiting venue more than ten times	Mean # of days visited	Median # of days visited
State of MI Park/Recreation/Forest/Game/Wildlife/Boating Access Sites/Harbors	59.5%	21.2%	7.3	0.000
County, city, township, village or Huron Clinton metro parks	53.4	16.8	6.4	0.000
National park, lakeshore, wildlife refuge, forests	23.3	3.8	2.6	0.000
Any public outdoor recreation venue	75.4	37.8	16.3	5.000

In addition to public lands, 55.7% of respondent households had access to private lands for outdoor recreation, either owned by the respondent's household or by another with their permission where they can enjoy outdoor recreation without a fee.

Actions to Improve Outdoor Recreation

When asked to rate their satisfaction with the amount of public outdoor recreation opportunities available in Michigan on a scale of 1 (highly dissatisfied) to 9 (highly satisfied), 69.8% responded that they were satisfied (rating 7-9), 27.5% were neutral (rating 4-6) and 2.7% were dissatisfied (rating of 1-3).

In response to the open ended question "What one action could the State of Michigan take to improve the amount of outdoor recreation opportunity in Michigan?", not increasing or reducing/eliminating fees was the most common suggestion (Table 23). In terms of capital improvements, acquisition of additional public land for parks, greenways and protecting sensitive areas such as wetlands, more and improved trails (non-motorized and motorized), additional outdoor recreation facilities and more access to outdoor recreation facilities were cited.

Table 23. One most important action the State of MI should take to improve amount of outdoor recreation opportunity.

Action	Percent
Reduce/eliminate/don't increase fees	16.9%
Acquire more land for parks/greenways/protected areas such as wetlands	13.5
None/nothing/keep up the good work	7.8
Acquire more waterfront land	6.8

Action	Percent
Better maintenance on public lands/facilities	6.8
More/better non-motorized trails	5.7
Improve surface water quality	4.7
More/better motorized trails	4.7
More outdoor recreation activities available	4.4
More outdoor recreation facilities	3.7
Increase funding	3.0
More outdoor recreation venues handicap accessible	3.0
More advertising/marketing about outdoor recreation venues/opportunities	2.0
Better/cleaner restrooms	2.0
Re-open closed parks/campgrounds	2.0
More bike lanes on roads	1.4
Improve roads	1.0
More swimming opportunities/facilities	1.0
More dog parks	1.0
More hunting land/permits to hunt	0.7
Protect the Great Lakes	0.7
Emergency improvements	0.7
More golf courses	0.3
Improve ORV trails	0.3
Other (mentioned by less than 0.3% each)	5.7
Total	100.0%

When asked to rate their satisfaction with the *quality* of Michigan public outdoor recreation opportunities, respondents were less satisfied than they were with the *amount* of public outdoor recreation opportunities. Again using a rating scale of 1 (highly dissatisfied) to 9 (highly satisfied), 42.4% were satisfied (rating 7-9), 38.9% were neutral (rating 4-6) and 18.7% were dissatisfied (rating 1-3). When asked an open-ended question to suggest one action the State of Michigan should take to improve the quality of public outdoor recreation opportunities, improved maintenance was the most common response (Table 24). Other operational suggestions by more than 5% of the respondents included improved security/enforcement, fees stable or declining and cleaner

restrooms. Major capital improvement related suggestions included better restrooms and more parks. Cleaner surface waters may fall into both an operational and a capital improvement category as it takes changes in management practices across the landscape to reduce non-point source pollution as well as targeted point source pollution reduction and control.

Table 24. Recommended actions the State of MI should take to improve the quality of public outdoor recreation opportunities

Action	Percent
Better maintenance	13.1%
None/nothing/keep up the good work	12.2
Other	7.2
More security/better law enforcement	6.8
Reduce/eliminate fees/keep same	6.8
More parks	6.3
Better/cleaner restrooms	5.9
Cleaner water	5.9
More funding	4.5
Better access/proximity	4.1
More information/advertising/marketing	4.1
More/better non-motorized trails	3.6
More/better motorized trails	3.2
More camping sites	3.2
More staff	2.7
More activities	2.7
Get more input from public	1.8
Better facilities	1.4
Lower gas prices	1.4
No smoking	1.4
Better roads	0.9
Dog Parks	0.5
More outdoor pools	0.5
Total	100.0%

When asked an open-ended question “What one action could the State of Michigan take to increase you household’s participation in Michigan outdoor recreation?”, the most common response was to reduce or eliminate fees (Table 25). However, the second most common response was nothing, often with a complement of keep up the good work. Other suggestions by more than 5% of the respondents included additional information about opportunities, acquiring more public land for outdoor recreation activities (with camping, parks and land open to public hunting most commonly mentioned), providing better and more non-motorized trails, more funding for outdoor recreation venues from the State of Michigan to improve quality and hold down fees and providing a wider range of activities.

Table 25. Most important action the State of MI should take to increase respondent’s household outdoor recreation participation.

Action	Percent
Reduce/eliminate fees	24.3%
None/nothing/keep up the good work	16.4
More information/marketing/advertising	8.0
More land (camping, parks, hunting)	7.1
Better/more non-motorized trails	5.8
More funding	5.8
More activities	5.3
Other	4.9
Better access	4.4
Better facilities	3.5
Lower gas prices	3.1
Preserve/conservate nature	1.8
Cleaner water	1.8
Better/more motorized trails	1.8
More beaches	1.3
Cabins/lodges at campgrounds	1.3
Education/Information	0.9
Areas for children	0.4
Boat rentals	0.4
Dog Parks	0.4

Action	Percent
More golf courses	0.4
Cross bow legalization during archery season	0.4
Better maintenance	0.4
Total	100.0%

Respondents were very supportive of all the major initiatives in the 2003-07 SCORP (Table 26). The strongest support was for the conservation, protection and restoration of natural resources in public outdoor recreation venues. For conservation 93% were supportive, 7% neutral and less than 1% opposed. However, for each of the seven initiatives at least 74% of the respondents were supportive and at the most 4% were in opposition.

Table 26. Rated support of the initiatives from the 2003-2007 SCORP.

Initiative	Strongly Support %	Moderately Support %	Neutral %	Moderately Oppose %	Strongly Oppose %
Conserve, protect and restore MI natural resources in public outdoor recreation venues	72.6%	20.1%	6.8%	0.5%	-
Expand and develop the system of land and water based trails in MI	50.1	28.6	17.4	2.7	1.2%
Provide appropriate access to enable all citizens to enjoy MI outdoor recreation, including those who are disabled	60.1	26.5	11.7	1.5	0.2
Improve community based outdoor recreation in MI	47.1	28.7	22.7	0.7	0.8
Improve the MI state forest recreation system	42.6	31.2	24.3	1.5	0.5
Improve the MI state park system	52.6	27.6	19.3	0.5	-
Improve cooperation among local, state and federal government and the private sector in the provision of outdoor recreation and sharing of comparable information	60.6	25.7	12.9	0.5	0.2

When asked in an open-ended question “What other broad initiative/direction would you propose to improve Michigan outdoor recreation over the next 5 years?”, 37% of the respondents provided suggestions. The most common responses were to improve maintenance of existing venues, reduce or eliminate user fees and keep things as they are (Table 27). Many of the additional initiatives proposed were very similar to the existing seven initiatives from the 2003-07 SCORP or could easily fit under them. For example, preservation/conservation/restoration is the most highly supported 2003-07 initiative. More non-motorized and motorized trails is already covered under another of the existing initiatives. Many other suggestions tend to focus on operational efforts (e.g. better maintenance, information/marketing/advertising, security/law enforcement, etc.). In summary, there does not appear to be a strong new direction in terms of capital improvements from these suggestions. Rather there appears to be additional confirmation that the goals/initiatives of the last SCORP were on target. Further, that many of the needs for public outdoor recreation focus on operational issues and the on-going funding needed to support operational activities. This is at odds with the desire of a number to reduce fees as general fund support for outdoor recreation and conservation at the state level has declined substantially over the past decade.

Table 27. One other broad initiative/direction to improve MI outdoor recreation over the next 5 years

Initiative/direction	Percent
Better maintenance	10.9%
Reduce/eliminate fees	10.3
Keep it as it is/nothing/not sure	10.3
More activities/programs	8.0
Preservation/conservation/restoration	7.4
Acquire more land	6.9
Clean water/control invasive species	6.3
Information/marketing/advertising	5.7
More/better non-motorized trails	5.1
Cooperation of agencies/stake holders	5.1
More funding	4.0
Better access	2.9
Better security/more law enforcement	2.3
More/better motorized trails	1.7
Better roads	1.1
More recycling	1.1

Initiative/direction	Percent
More playgrounds	0.6
Other (a)	10.3
Total	100.0%

(a) Many of the other responses tended to focus on a specific improvement at a specific place (e.g. dredge this boat launch, improve this campground, etc.)

Respondent Demographics

The distribution of the county of residence of respondents mirrors the Michigan's population distribution and the sample drawn from registered voters (Table 28). However, some counties with lower levels of population had very few or no respondents.

Table 28. Respondent's county of residence.

County	Percent	County	Percent	County	Percent	County	Percent	County	Percent
Alcona	-	Clinton	1.1	Isabella	1.9	Menominee	0.7	Saginaw	2.7
Alger	-	Crawford	0.2	Jackson	0.7	Midland	1.1	Sanilac	0.4
Allegan	0.9%	Delta	0.2	Kalamazoo	2.9	Missaukee	-	Schoolcraft	-
Alpena	0.7	Dickinson	0.7	Kalkaska	0.2	Monroe	0.9	Shiawassee	1.1
Antrim	0.7	Eaton	1.1	Kent	6.3	Montcalm	1.3	St. Clair	2.0
Arenac	-	Emmet	0.2	Keweenaw	-	Montmorency	-	St. Joseph	0.7
Baraga	-	Genesee	4.0	Lake	0.2	Muskegon	2.7	Tuscola	-
Barry	1.1	Gladwin	0.2	Lapeer	0.7	Newaygo	1.3	Van Buren	0.7
Bay	0.9	Gogebic	-	Leelanau	0.2	Oakland	12.8	Washtenaw	3.4
Benzie	-	Grand Traverse	1.3	Lenawee	1.1	Oceana	0.7	Wayne	12.6
Berrien	0.9	Gratiot	1.1	Livingston	2.7	Ogemaw	0.2	Wexford	-
Branch	-	Hillsdale	0.4	Luce	-	Ontonagon	0.2	Total	100.0%
Calhoun	1.3	Houghton	0.2	Mackinac	0.2	Osceola	0.2		
Cass	0.2	Huron	0.4	Macomb	8.7	Oscoda	0.2		
Charlevoix	0.4	Ingham	1.3	Manistee	0.4	Otsego	-		
Cheboygan	0.4	Ionia	1.1	Marquette	0.7	Ottawa	3.6		

County	Percent	County	Percent	County	Percent	County	Percent	County	Percent
Chippewa	0.2	Iosco	0.7	Mason	0.4	Presque Isle	0.2		
Clare	0.4	Iron	-	Mecosta	0.4	Roscommon	0.2		

The mean respondent has lived in the community where they are currently located for an average of 25 years. However, almost 30% have been in their current community for a decade or less (Table 29).

Table 29. Duration of respondent residence in their current community.

Years	Percent
0-10	29.8%
11-20	24.0
21-30	14.3
31-40	10.8
41-60	16.8
61-80	4.3
Total	100.0%

The average respondent to the survey was 51.7 years and the median age was 51, suggesting a normally distributed population of respondents (Table 30). While the 2000 Census includes those under the voting age, the proportions of respondents by age category indicates that respondents are generally similar to Michigan’s voting age structure, although older voters are slightly over represented by respondents and younger voters were slightly underrepresented.

Table 30. Age of respondents.

Age	Respondent Percent	2000 Census Percent
0-14	0.0%	21.8%
15-19	0.7	7.2
20-24	3.1	6.5
25-29	6.3	6.6
30-34	7.1	7.1
35-39	8.9	7.9

Age	Respondent Percent	2000 Census Percent
40-44	8.9	8.2
45-49	10.3	7.4
50-54	12.1	6.4
55-59	10.9	4.9
60-64	8.7	3.8
65-69	5.8	3.3
70-74	6.7	3.2
75-79	5.1	2.6
80-84	4.2	1.7
85 +	1.1	1.5
Total	100.0%	100.0%

The 2000 Census for Michigan indicates that 48.2% of Michigan residents over 18 are male and 51.8% are female. Respondents to the survey were very similar to those proportions, with 50.2% male and 49.8% were female. The 2000 Census also notes that 3.3% of Michigan's population is Hispanic, Latino or of Spanish origin. A total of 2.3% of survey respondents reported that they were Hispanic, Latino or of Spanish origin. The race of respondents corresponded closely to the racial make-up of Michigan based on the 2000 Census (Table 31). However, Whites and Native Americans responded in slightly higher proportion in comparison to their population, while Blacks and Asians responded in a somewhat lower proportion compared to their population levels.

Table 31. Race of respondents compared to Michigan's population from the 2000 Census.

Race	Respondent Percent	2000 Census Percent (a)
White	90.6%	81.8%
Black/African American	5.6	14.8
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2.7	1.4
Asian	1.1	2.1
Other	1.6	2.0

(a) Source: US Bureau of the Census http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/QTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=04000US26&-qr_name=DEC_2000_SF1_U_QTP5&-ds_name=DEC_2000_SF1_U.

The highest level of educational achievement by respondents was higher than reported for the Michigan population 25 and older by the 2000 Census (Table 32). In particular, there was a lower percentage of respondents who had not completed high school than the general population and a higher percentage of respondents who had completed a Bachelor's degree or higher.

Table 32. Highest degree or level of school respondent has completed

Level/degree	Respondent Percent	2000 Census Percent
Less than high school graduate	3.6 %	16.6 %
High school/GED	23.5	31.3
Some college, not yet graduated	21.9	23.3
Associate's college degree	12.2	7.0
Bachelor's college degree	23.3	13.7
Master's, PhD or Professional Degree (MD, DDS, JD, DVM)	15.6	8.1
Total	100.0%	100.0%

(a) Source: US Bureau of the Census http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/QTTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=04000US26&-qr_name=DEC_2000_SF3_U_QTP20&-ds_name=DEC_2000_SF3_U&-redoLog=false.

Compared to the 2000 Census for Michigan, respondents were more likely to live in two person households than Michigan's population in general and less likely to live in single person households (Table 33). Household sizes of three and higher were similar for respondents and Michigan's overall population. The mean Michigan household size from the 2000 Census was 2.6 persons and for the respondents it was 2.7.

Table 33. Number of individuals living in respondent and all Michigan households.

Number	Respondent Percent	2000 Census Percent
1	10.5%	26.3%
2	45.4	33.0
3	19.0	16.1
4	16.3	14.3
5	5.4	6.6
6 or more	3.4	3.7
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Slightly more than 30% of respondents lived in households where there were children under 18 years of age, in comparison the 2000 Census for Michigan where 35% lived in households with one or more children were under 18. A total of 19.1% of respondents lived in a household where one or more members was disabled in a way that significant impacts their ability to work or recreate. The 2000 Census for Michigan notes that 18.7% of the Michigan population over five is considered disabled.

Summary

In summary, the registered voter survey appears reasonably representative of Michigan's population as reflected in the 2000 Census. As a group the respondents tend to place strong importance on outdoor recreation and to be active in many forms of outdoor recreation. The most common outdoor recreation activities in order were walking outdoors, followed by relaxing outdoors, driving for pleasure, swimming in a lake, river or pond and sightseeing. When asked about how important activities were, the activity selected as most important were not all the same as the most participated in. The top five were walking outdoors, relaxing outdoors, fishing, hunting and camping. Hunting was the one activity in which more than half of the participants rated it as one of their three most important outdoor recreation pursuits.

Respondents were strongly supportive of the initiatives/directions in the 2003-07 SCORP. This support is the strongest for conservation of natural resources. The respondents provide considerable guidance in the types of capital and operational improvements they want in terms of public recreation opportunities. In particular they want continued public acquisition of lands for outdoor recreation with an emphasis on conservation, water access and trails. They also want to see better maintenance at public facilities and stable or reduced fees. To improve the quality of outdoor recreation, respondents were most likely to recommend improving maintenance, security, trail systems and environmental protection.

Local Park and Recreation Administrator Survey

A review of all community recreation plans on file with the Michigan DNR revealed that there were 773 distinct local units (townships, cities, counties, villages, school districts, regional authorities) with a plan that was in-force or had been as recently as 2003. Each of these local unit park and recreation administrators was sent a mail questionnaire by Michigan State University asking about their preferences for the 2008-12 SCORP, their ratings of the 2003-07 SCORP priorities and the trends regarding funding, land acquisition, development and employment by their agencies for the last five years and the next five. They received an initial mailing of the questionnaire, along with a cover letter and business reply envelope. The questionnaire was clearly identified on the cover as a "Local Park and Recreation Provider Survey" and was mailed from Michigan State University and returned to Michigan State University. The questionnaire, cover letter (consent form) and the survey procedures were all approved by the Institutional Review

Board of Michigan State University per University policy. Ten days after the initial mailing, non-respondents were mailed a reminder postcard encouraging their response. Two weeks after the postcard, those who had still not responded were sent a second mailing of the questionnaire with a revised cover letter and another business reply envelop. August 17 was the cutoff day for all survey responses. The survey and initial cover letter are found in Appendix B.

Of the 773 addresses, none were unreachable. A total of 250 (32%) responded with a completed questionnaire. More than four in ten local units with plans were townships, followed by cities which made up almost 30% of units with plans (Table 34). Responses by type of governmental unit were similar to their proportion of all local units with plans except that townships responded at a rate slightly higher than their proportion and cities and region entities at a rate slightly lower than their proportion.

Table 34. Proportion of local units with plans and their response by type of local government.

Type of governmental unit	Percent in sample	Percent of respondents
Township	42.8%	51.6%
City	29.6	21.4
Village	12.8	11.3
County	9.3	13.7
Regional	4.8	1.6
School district	0.8	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0

When considering the planning region of the local units with plans and those who responded, region 1 north had the most local units in the sample and the largest proportion of respondents (Table 35). Every planning region of the state is represented by the respondents.

Table 35. Proportion of local units with plans and their response by Michigan planning region.

Planning Region	Percent in sample	Percent who responded
1 N	14.2%	16.0%
1 S	8.5	3.2
2	2.8	4.0

Planning Region	Percent in sample	Percent who responded
3	3.6	4.8
4	5.3	2.8
5	4.5	5.2
6	4.0	6.4
7	13.5	15.6
8	9.7	12.0
9	4.3	3.6
10	9.4	8.8
11	1.9	2.0
12	6.5	6.8
13	6.3	3.6
14	5.3	5.2

Support for 2003-07 SCORP Initiatives

When asked about their level of support for each of the seven initiatives in the 2003-07 SCORP, strong support was expressed for all initiatives, with the strongest support for conservation of natural resources (Table 36). For every initiative, support was expressed by at least 78% of respondents and at most opposition to any given initiative was less than 3%.

Table 36. Rated support of the initiatives from the 2003-2007 SCORP.

Initiative	Strongly Support %	Moderately Support %	Neutral %	Moderately Oppose %	Strongly Oppose %
Conserve, protect and restore MI natural resources in public outdoor recreation venues	73.8%	21.7%	4.2%	0.4%	-
Improve cooperation among local, state and federal government and the private sector in the provision of outdoor recreation and sharing of comparable information	73.6	18.2	6.6	1.7	-
Improve community based outdoor recreation in MI	71.5	22.2	6.8	-	-
Expand and develop the system of land and water based trails in MI	68.6	20.2	10.3	0.8	-
Provide appropriate access to enable all citizens to enjoy MI outdoor recreation, including those who are disabled	67.6	22.4	9.1	0.8	-
Improve the MI state park system	46.1	32.8	18.3	2.9	-
Improve the MI state forest recreation system	40.4	38.3	18.3	2.5	0.4

When asked to suggest additional initiatives for the 2008-12 SCORP, 24% of the respondents provided suggestions (Table 37). They were often a reaffirmation of the existing seven directions (e.g. more trails, more non-motorized trails, more motorized trails, collaboration/cooperation, conservation, etc.). Some additional suggestions with capital improvement implications include more funding for capital improvements, additional parks and additional water access. Many suggestions focused on operations and included more programming, increased maintenance and more information/advertising/marketing.

Table 37. One other broad initiative/direction to improve MI outdoor recreation over the next 5 years.

Initiative	Percent
More funding	18.3%
Cooperation/collaboration	16.7
More advertising/marketing	8.3
More parks	6.7
More access to water	6.7
More trails (general)	5.0

Initiative	Percent
None/NA	5.0
Other	5.0
More motorized trails	3.3
More non-motorized trails	3.3
Increased maintenance of facilities	3.3
More information on funding	3.3
More education	3.3
Make it affordable	3.3
Increase programming/activities	1.7
Marinas	1.7
Cleaner water	1.7
Control of invasive species (on land)	1.7
Conservation/preservation/restoration	1.7
Total	100.0

When asked how their agency acted in support of the 2003-07 SCORP initiatives/directions, the highest percentage assessed that they had provided access to outdoor park and recreation venues (Table 38). Surprisingly, less than 2/3 reported that they had improved community based outdoor recreation during the previous five years. Relatively few reported actions that would improve state parks or the state forest recreation system. This was expected as relatively few local units adjoin these lands. Also, those two initiatives were targeted at DNR capital improvements.

Table 38. Agency’s assessment that their actions support specific 2003-2007 SCORP initiatives

Initiative	Percent
Provide appropriate access to enable all citizens to enjoy MI outdoor recreation, including those who are disabled	68.2%
Improve community based outdoor recreation in MI	65.4
Expand and develop the system of land and water based trails in MI	58.3
Improve cooperation among local, state and federal government and the private sector in the provision of outdoor recreation and sharing of	57.7

Initiative	Percent
comparable information	
Conserve, protect and restore MI natural resources in public outdoor recreation venues	51.9
Improve the MI state park system	7.6
Improve the MI state forest recreation system	6.0

In helping to meet these directions, local units took many actions. To improve access, agencies complied with updated guidelines for outdoor recreation facilities, with special emphasis on providing accessible recreation facilities such as paved trails and support facilities such as accessible restrooms. Actions to improve community outdoor recreation included day to day program operations, adding courts, fields and other outdoor sports facilities and reaching out to community members to understand their needs through planning. Key activities agencies noted to conserve natural resources were land acquisition, tree planting and cooperating with DNR in efforts to improve environmental quality. In regards to trails, most actions were to construct or improve non-motorized trails. For improved collaboration and cooperation important actions included extending trails to neighboring jurisdictions, entering into multi-jurisdictional authorities, jointly advocating for favorable policies and legislation and increased communications. Actions related to state parks and state forests included participating in litter cleanups, serving on advisory committees and exploring arrangements such as leases.

When asked about what they perceive to be the most significant barriers to greater citizen participation in outdoor recreation, local budget limitations, resulting in a lack of facilities and services were viewed as the greatest barriers (Table 39). Other major barriers to outdoor recreation included a lack of accessibility to opportunities, fees/prices and a lack of knowledge/awareness about opportunities.

Table 39. Perceived first and second most significant barriers to greater citizen participation in outdoor recreation.

Barrier	First Most Important Barrier	Second Most Important Barrier
Budget limitations/lack of funding	39.8%	18.8%
Lack of facilities/land/trails	20.4	20.3
Lack Accessibility	6.8	6.8
High cost/price	6.8	5.3
Lack awareness/knowledge/marketing	6.3	15.8
Lack interest	3.7	6.0

Barrier	First Most Important Barrier	Second Most Important Barrier
Limited water access	3.1	3.8
Time constraints	2.6	0.0
None/NA	2.6	0.8
Location of parks	2.1	0.0
Lack maintenance	1.0	5.3
Insufficient transportation	1.0	0.0
Vandalism/Dumping	1.0	2.3
Lack programs	0.0	6.0
Lack staff	0.0	2.3
Lack public support	0.0	2.3
Poor planning	0.0	1.5
Other	2.6	3.1
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Meeting 2008-12 Outdoor Recreation Needs and Demands

When asked to look ahead to the period of the updated SCORP (2008-12) regarding capital improvements needed in their jurisdiction, local units rated the importance of a variety of capital improvement projects on a scale of 1 (unimportant) to 5 (highly important).

Land based trails was the most highly rated type of project, with universal access, picnic areas and playgrounds close behind (Table 40). The least important was shooting ranges or hunting opportunity.

Table 40. Rated importance of selected outdoor recreation capital improvement options (a).

Category of outdoor recreation capital project	Mean importance
Land based trails	3.9
Universal access to outdoor recreation	3.6
Picnic areas	3.7
Playgrounds	3.7
Outdoor ball fields/courts	3.5
Open space, land conservation	3.3
Access to Great Lakes, lakes or rivers	3.2

Category of outdoor recreation capital project	Mean importance
Campgrounds	2.5
Shooting range or hunting opportunity	1.8
Other outdoor capital project (a)	3.3

(a) Rating scale: 1= unimportant to 5= highly important.

(b) Other projects include splash pad/spray park, shower/restroom building (type park unspecified), bike/skate park,

Slightly less than 1/3 of responding local units plan to spend something to acquire land within the next five years (Table 41). The funding needs for these projects for land acquisition were substantial, with an estimated \$ 167 million needed. Key acquisition needs include property for open space/land conservation, trails and surface water access. Considering that this survey response is a reflection of only a portion of the local agencies that are potentially able to apply for grants (LWCF and MNRTF), this is a very conservative estimate of total need over the period 2008-12.

Table 41. Projected land acquisition needs for responding local units 2008-12.

Category of outdoor recreation capital project	% planning on spending something	Mean	Sum
Land based trails	18.3%	\$125,522	\$25,355,421
Universal access to outdoor recreation	9.4	19,005	3,630,000
Picnic areas	6.1	3,212	636,000
Playgrounds	6.4	10,717	2,175,500
Outdoor ball fields/courts	8.0	28,302	5,632,000
Open space, land conservation	30.9	621,569	112,504,000
Access to Great Lakes, lakes or rivers	13.9	943,467	16,824,000
Campgrounds	6.9	21,509	3,721,000
Shooting range or hunting opportunity	0.6	60	10,000
Other outdoor capital project (a)	6.2	38,580	3,125,000
All	35.4	697,081	167,299,521

(a) Other includes land for splash pad/spray park, bike/skate parks, disc golf course, etc.

Two-thirds of responding local units plan to spend something on facility development during 2008-12 (Table 42). While estimated costs per projects are generally smaller, the greater number of development projects contemplated would require over \$304 million from 2008-12. Development of facilities for land based trails and supporting appropriate public use of general land conservation/open space comprise over half of the financial portion of the development need.

Table 42. Projected development needs for responding local units 2008-12.

Category of outdoor recreation capital project	% planning on spending something	Mean	Sum
Land based trails	48.5%	\$399,397	\$80,678,200
Universal access to outdoor recreation	44.2	139,432	26,492,000
Picnic areas	50.5	51,693	10,235,200
Playgrounds	57.1	88,266	17,918,000
Outdoor ball fields/courts	51.0	121,265	24,253,000
Open space, land conservation	32.6	437,889	79,258,000
Access to Great Lakes, lakes or rivers	30.0	162,588	2,925,804
Campgrounds	17.3	72,237	12,497,000
Shooting range or hunting opportunity	3.0	5,220	937,000
Other outdoor capital project (a)	12.9	64,100	15,961,000
All	68.3	1,269,890.6	304,773,754

(a) Includes:

In response to a list of selected funding sources for capital improvements, local units are most likely to include some level of general fund and MNRTF funds toward their planned capital improvements (Table 43). However, only slightly more than ¼ of the investment is likely to come from general tax dollars, while almost ¾ will come from grants, a sizeable portion of that from non-governmental sources. The source of grants is getting increasingly linked to a wide range of other endeavors including open space conservation, economic development and the generosity of individuals and charitable organizations.

Table 43. Anticipated capital funding sources and proportion of funding need met by source for 2008-2012.

Source	% using source	Mean % need met by source
Local government general fund dollars	81.9%	27.9
MNRTF	63.2	23.9
Individual donations	35.5	2.6
Corporate donations/grants	34.8%	4.3%
LWCF	34.2	6.8
Private foundation/conservancy grants	32.9	4.7
State/federal transportation grants	29.7	6.9
Parks/recreation/trail/other friends group(s)	21.3	2.3
Park/recreation/open space millage	20.6	8.6
Unmet needs/no source known or contemplated	20.0	7.7
Other (a)	16.1	4.1
Total	NA	100.0

(a) Other includes downtown development authority, transfers from units within region to the regional entity, fees places in restricted funds, etc.

Trends in Funding, Employees and Park Numbers and Acreage

For the 227 local units that reported on their operations budget situation in fiscal year 2007, the total budget for park and recreation operations was estimated to be \$152 million (Table 44). Funding levels varied widely by jurisdiction, not necessarily by type of government. Median funding levels suggest that county and regional park and recreation entities are most likely to have the highest levels of funding. This is logical since they typically represent a larger population and are also likely to have a larger tax base on which to draw.

Table 44. Local unit 2007 fiscal year operations budget for parks and recreation.

Type of Government	% budgeting something	Mean operations budget	Median operations budget	Sum of operations budget
Township	92.2%	\$147,256	\$23,000	\$17,081,722
City	100.0	1,148,580	220,500	59,726,159

Type of Government	% budgeting something	Mean operations budget	Median operations budget	Sum of operations budget
Village	100.0	41,892	34,000	1,005,408
County	96.7	1,379,405	375,000	41,382,164
Regional	75.0	8,155,100	375,200	32,620,400
School District	100.0	228,856	228,856	228,856
Total	95.2	669,800	50,000	\$152,044,709

The primary source of 2007 fiscal year operations funding for parks and recreation was local general fund dollars (Table 45). However, while general fund sources on average comprised almost 2/3 of operations funding across units, many large programs were more reliant on millages and user fees.

Table 45. Mean proportion of funding sources used by responding local units.

Funding Source	% of 2007 fiscal year operations budget
Local general fund	63.8%
User fees	16.1
Millage	8.7
Private gifts, grants, donations, in-kind labor	6.7
Other sources (a)	4.7
Total	100.0%

(a) Other includes concession sales, etc.

While local general fund dollars were most likely to be used to some extent as a park and recreation operations funding source across all types of local government, more than half of all cities, counties and regional entities reporting generating funds for park and recreation operations from user fees (Table 46). Volunteers, grants and donations are also important as more than 30% of every type of entity directly benefits from these efforts.

Table 46. Percent local units by type using selected funding sources to some extent for park and recreation operations funding, fiscal year 2007.

Funding sources for parks and recreation	All Units	Township	City	Village	County	Regional	School District
Local general fund dollars	83.1%	87.0%	82.4%	91.3%	63.3%	50.0%	100.0%
User fees (entrance, activity, etc.)	45.9	30.2	64.0	30.4	79.3	100.0	-
Private gifts, grants, donations, in-kind labor	35.9	35.4	38.0	30.4	34.5	50.0	100.0
Local millage for parks, recreation, open space	15.0	10.3	21.6	8.7	23.3	25.0	-
Other (a)	6.9	5.2	7.8	8.7	7.1	25.0	-

(a) Includes: Concession sales

Over the past five years, the proportion of agencies increasing their dependence on users fees, millages and private gifts and donations has risen across all types of local government (Table 47). For general fund dollars, townships and villages have been more likely to have increases in the amount of funding from general funds compared to other sources. Conversely, cities, counties and regional entities have seen more units with declines in general fund support than increases.

Table 47. Proportion of agencies with funding source increasing and decreasing compared to their other sources over past 5 years (2003-2007).

Type of Government	General Fund		User Fees		Millage		Private Gifts, Grants, Donations, Volunteers		Other Sources	
	Inc.	Dec.	Inc.	Dec.	Inc.	Dec.	Inc.	Dec.	Inc.	Dec.
Township	20.8%	9.7%	30.2%	4.7%	11.1%	-	21.6%	10.8%	8.3%	8.3%
City	5.3	23.7	37.1	2.9	18.2	4.5%	9.5	-	22.2	-
Village	10.0	5.0	23.1	-	9.1	-	92.9	7.1	20.0	-
County	18.2	27.3	30.4	8.7	18.8	6.3	28.6	7.1	-	-
Regional	-	50.0	66.7	-	100.0	-	50.0	-	100.0	-
School District	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Projecting out over the next five years, local units expect to further increase their dependence on user fees, millages, private gifts/volunteers and other sources and decrease their dependence on general fund dollars (Table 48). The only exception is townships, where slightly more think that there will be more money from general fund dollars in next five years than those who think there will be less.

Table 48. Anticipated proportion of agencies with funding source increasing and decreasing compared to their other sources over next 5 years (2008-2012).

Type of Government	General Fund		User Fees		Millage		Private Gifts, Grants, Donations, Volunteers		Other Sources	
	Inc.	Dec.	Inc.	Dec.	Inc.	Dec.	Inc.	Dec.	Inc.	Dec.
Township	18.6%	15.7%	34.1%	7.3%	10.7%	7.1%	31.4%	11.4%	81.8%	18.2%
City	2.8	27.8	41.9	-	10.0	-	15.8	10.5	12.5	-
Village	6.3	18.8	25.0	-	11.1	11.1	27.3	9.1	-	-
County	9.1	31.8	43.5	8.7	17.6	-	42.9	-	40.0	-
Regional	-	-	100.0	-	100.0	-	100.0	-	100.0	-
School District	-	100.0	100.0	-	-	-	100.0	-	100.0	-

Of responding local units, all types of local government were more likely to report increasing park and recreation operations budgets over the past five years than decreasing budgets except for cities (Table 49). For the next five years however, the picture is more pessimistic for all types except townships and regional entities.

Table 49. Proportion of local units by type recently experiencing and expecting increases or decreases in their park and recreation operations budgets.

Type of Government	2003-2007 Budget		Projected 2008-2012 Budget	
	% Increase	% Decrease	% Increase	% Decrease
Township	38.5%	16.2%	42.7%	12.0%
City	20.8	37.7	18.9	28.3
Village	44.0	12.0	48.0	24.0
County	33.3	27.3	33.3	33.3

Type of Government	2003-2007 Budget		Projected 2008-2012 Budget	
	% Increase	% Decrease	% Increase	% Decrease
Regional	50.0	-	50.0	-
School district	-	100.0	-	100.0

Of the local units reporting, townships, villages and regional entities were more likely to have increases rather than decreases in the number of permanent park and recreation employees over the past five years (Table 50). Conversely, cities and counties were more likely to suffer from a reduced number of permanent employees. Looking to the near future (2008-12), all types of government except cities project they will be hiring additional permanent park and recreation employees.

Table 50. Trends in park and recreation permanent employees and number of permanent employees for fiscal year 2007.

Type of Government	Mean # Permanent employees	% decreasing 03-07	% increasing 03-07	% expecting decreasing 08-12	% expecting increasing 08-12
Township	3.0	5.0%	13.8%	5.1%	21.8%
City	10.9	31.9	14.9	17.4	8.7
Village	4.9	-	13.6	4.5	18.2
County	10.0	23.3	13.3	13.3	23.3
Regional	65.5	-	25.0	-	25.0
School District	3.0	-	-	-	-

The proportion of local park and recreation entities with an increased number of temporary employees is greater than those who had fewer temporary employees over the past five years (Table 51). Looking to the future, respondents in all types of local government project that they will be more likely to have additional temporary employees than to have a decline in temporary workers.

Table 51. Trends in temporary employees and number of temporary employees.

Type of Government	Mean # Permanent 2007 employees	% decreasing 03-07	% increasing 03-07	% expect decreasing 08-12	% expect increasing 08-12
Township	7.0	6.8%	16.2%	2.8%	37.5%
City	29.8	12.5	20.8	13.0	17.4

Type of Government	Mean # Permanent 2007 employees	% decreasing 03-07	% increasing 03-07	% expect decreasing 08-12	% expect increasing 08-12
Village	2.8	10.0	5.0	-	20.0
County	36.6	15.4	30.8	11.5	42.3
Regional	223.0	-	33.3	-	66.7
School District	1.0	-	100.0	-	100.0

With the exception of cities, a higher proportion of all other local units anticipate that they will be establishing additional parks during 2008-12 than actually did from 2003-07 (Table 52). More than half of all regional entities responding felt they would be establishing new parks during the span of the 2008-12 SCORP.

Table 52. Trends in parks and number of parks.

Type of Government	2007 Mean	% increasing 03-07	% expect increasing 08-12
Townships	3.6	13.3%	26.0%
City	13.0	25.5	23.5
Village	4.2	13.0	22.7
County	5.7	25.8	31.3
Regional	8.3	-	66.7
School District	1.0	-	-

An even slightly higher proportion of local units feel they will be adding parkland acreage than feel they will be expanding the number of parks (Table 53). This is due to many expanding existing parks, rather than establishing new parks. Across every type of local government, more respondents project they will add parkland acreage from 2008-12 than they did from 2003-07.

Table 53. Trends in parkland acreage and number of parkland acres for fiscal year 2007.

Type of Government	Mean	Median	Sum	% increasing 03-07	% expect increasing 08-12
Townships	90.5	33	9,317.4	18.8%	29.5%
City	283.8	133	13,336.5	25.0	27.3

Type of Government	Mean	Median	Sum	% increasing 03-07	% expect increasing 08-12
Village	28.7	25	544.5	5.0	21.1
County	522.5	239.5	15,673.9	34.5	40.0
Regional	8,607.5	1,617.5	25,822.5	33.3	100.0
School District	300.0	300.0	300.0	-	-

Summary

In summary, local units, like citizens, are strongly supportive of all the 2003-07 SCORP goals. When asked to suggest additional SCORP goals, few were provided and many of those further emphasized their support of existing goals, especially those related to non-motorized trails. Their projected requests for grant money over the next five years appear to continue the trend seen in outdoor recreation capital improvement grant programs in Michigan that requests will far outstrip available funds. Over a five year period, the respondents to the survey detailed over \$460 million worth of needed capital improvements, with development needs exceeding acquisition needs by a 2:1 margin. This sub-set of local units who responded to the questionnaire appears to favor acquisition much more than the examination of all the community plans in force reported earlier. Considering trends in operations funding and employees, some local units, especially cities, project some very financially challenging times ahead for outdoor recreation provision. Nevertheless, many local units of all types expect to invest in additional parks, park facilities and parkland, emphasizing the importance of outdoor recreation to the general welfare of the citizens they serve. Many also expect to more heavily rely on sources of revenue for capital improvements and operations other than general fund monies, including more emphasis on user fees, dedicated millages, donations, volunteerism and private foundations. The importance of state and federal grants for capital improvements remains strong.

Outdoor Recreation Activity Participation

Examining participation in selected individual activities complements the Michigan registered voter survey of outdoor recreation in Michigan. It provides a more detailed picture about participation in and the economic aspects of a number of key outdoor activities. For activities where participants are licensed, registered or pay a fee, data is more readily available as there is a list of people to efficiently question and there is likely a restricted funding source provided by user fees to support the activity, including tracking participation, management concerns and spending of participants.

For hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing, the US Fish and Wildlife Service conducts a nationwide study of participation and economic impact every five years, with data also available at the state level. For 2006, Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that 756,000 people aged 16 and over hunted in Michigan in 2006. This accounted for 11.9 million hunter days. This is the fifth largest number of hunters of any state and third most hunter days. Hunters were estimated to have spent \$279 million on 2006 Michigan hunting trips and \$639 million on hunting related equipment in Michigan

Over 1.4 million people aged 16 and over fished in Michigan during 2006. Those anglers log almost 25.3 million angling days, with 9% (2.4 million) by non-resident anglers. Michigan is fifth in the nation in the number of anglers behind Florida, Texas, California and Minnesota. It is third in the nation in the number of angler days behind only Florida and Texas. Expenditures on Michigan fishing trips were \$585 million in 2006 and another \$1 billion is annually spent on fishing related equipment, including tackle and boats.

Distinct hunters and anglers in Michigan are counted by the DNR to provide data used by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to apportion federal excise taxes on sporting arms and ammunition, archery equipment and fishing equipment for state fish, wildlife and conservation law enforcement programs (Table 54). A distinct hunter is a person who buys one or more licenses. This may include as one distinct hunter a 12-year old who only purchases a junior small game license or as another one distinct hunter a 43-year old who purchases a small game, firearm deer, state waterfowl, archery deer, bear, spring turkey and fur harvester licenses.

Table 54. Number of distinct Michigan hunters and anglers, 1980-2006 (a).

Year	Distinct Hunters	Distinct Anglers
2006	814,643	1,166,739
2005	789,244	1,161,432
2004	832,835	1,171,742
2003	863,946	1,189,822
2002	870,432	1,233,739
2001	887,235	1,251,146
2000	897,916	1,271,245
1999	920,473	1,322,134
1998	957,264	1,346,910
1997	952,584	1,306,588
1996	964,531	1,348,107

Year	Distinct Hunters	Distinct Anglers
1995	934,430	1,464,027
1994	1,126,826	1,484,622
1993	1,140,700	1,505,862
1992	1,171,721	1,577,701
1991	1,156,422	1,564,494
1990	1,148,163	1,577,875
1989	938,503	1,619,485
1988	913,194	1,644,342
1987	926,328	1,566,589
1986	925,332	1,483,910
1985	900,266	1,414,914
1984	912,119	1,391,515
1983	890,519	1,390,981
1982	1,150,160	1,376,317
1981	1,135,265	1,457,495
1980	957,209	1,325,156

(a) A distinct hunter or angler is one individual regardless of the number of licenses purchased. The table does not include anglers under 17 who do not need to purchase a license to fish.

Wildlife viewing involves almost 3.2 million people annually in Michigan, with over 1.0 million involved in some travel to participate in wildlife viewing. It is estimated almost 10.0 million days were spent wildlife watching in Michigan on trips away from home. Wildlife viewing trip expenditures in Michigan are annually \$286 million with another almost \$1.3 billion spent on equipment according to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, 2007. (<http://training.fws.gov/library/pubs3.html>)

In the last statewide study of Michigan snowmobiling, more than 250,000 snowmobiles were used during the winter of 1997-98 in Michigan. They logged 2.4 million snowmobiling days. On trips 100 or more miles from home or those involving an overnight stay, snowmobilers spent \$110 million annually in Michigan and another \$235 million on snowmobiling equipment (Stynes et. al 1998).

Resident Michigan snowmobilers are required to have their snowmobile registered with the Michigan Secretary of State if it is used on public lands or rights of way. Anyone snowmobiling in Michigan on public lands or frozen waters unless for the sole purpose of ice fishing, must also have a Michigan DNR administered snowmobile trail permit. Snowmobile registrations were highest in the late 1970s, dropped dramatically in the 1980s, rose through the 1990s and peaked at around 300 thousand in 2001-02 (Table 55). Since then they have dropped slightly. Available records for snowmobile trail permit sales only go back to the 1999-2000 fiscal year, even though they were required in the late 1990s. Their sales have declined steadily over the past 7 years. This may be a reflection of fewer non-residents visiting Michigan to snowmobile during recent warm winters that had more limited snowmobiling opportunities, while registrations stayed more static as they are good for three years and apply to Michigan residents only.

Table 55. Michigan snowmobile registration and trail permit sales by fiscal year.

Year	Number of Michigan registered snowmobiles (a)	Number of snowmobiles with Michigan trail permit (b)	Year	Number of Michigan registered snowmobiles (a)	Number of snowmobiles with Michigan trail permit (b)
1977-78	420,418	NA	1993-94	179,098	NA
1978-79	451,719	NA	1994-95	199,273	NA
1979-80	467,036	NA	1995-96	211,219	NA
1980-81	368,421	NA	1996-97	219,307	NA
1981-82	386,619	NA	1997-98	230,150	NA
1982-83	282,402	NA	1998-99	236,291	NA
1983-84	271,221	NA	1999-2000	256,540	263,091
1984-85	287,524	NA	2000-01	278,473	269,862
1985-86	118,641	NA	2001-02	302,860	243,090
1986-87	126,637	NA	2002-03	296,551	257,442
1988-89	142,626	NA	2003-04	291,046	252,176
1989-90	130,199	NA	2004-05	292,644	225,676
1990-91	179,223	NA	2005-06	289,717	210,864
1991-92	180,340	NA	2006-07 (c)	279,295	200,533
1992-93	189,205	NA			

(a) Snowmobile registration data from Michigan Secretary of State

(b) Snowmobile trail permit sales from Michigan DNR

(c) Data not complete for FY 2006-07 for snowmobile registrations.

During the most recent statewide ORV study (1998-99), there were 125,000 state licensed ORVs. These vehicles logged over 4.2 million days in a one-year period with approximately 31% as public land trail riding, 25% as support for public and private land hunting and fishing (especially ice fishing) and 44% as private land use not involving hunting and fishing. Michigan trip expenditures on public land riding trips during a one-year period in 1998-99 exceed \$40 million annually and another \$134 million was spent in Michigan on ORVs and related equipment (Nelson et. al. 2000). ORV registrations rose to over 100 thousand for the first time in 1983-84 and remained over 100 thousand until the end of registration in 1992 (Table 56). From then until 1994, there is no available data. The first year of data available for annual ORV licenses (required of all who ride an ORV on public lands or frozen waters in Michigan) in 1994-95 showed a decline from the end of registration. However, since then ORV license sales have increased to levels approaching 200 thousand.

Table 56. Annual number of Michigan ORV Registrations and Licenses (a, b)

Year	Number	Year	Number
1975-76	16,003	1991-92	NA
1976-77	25,774	1992-93	NA
1977-78	67,779	1993-94	NA
1978-79	30,238	1994-95	78,060
1979-80	76,322	1995-96	97,931
1980-81	90,457	1996-97	81,918
1981-82	40,325	1997-98 (c)	104,745
1982-83	52,095	1998-99	124,469
1983-84	111,363	1999-2000	146,039
1984-85	81,283	2000-01	149,927
1985-86	139,411	2001-02	164,005
1986-87	184,715	2002-03	173,110
1987-88	146,266	2003-04	185,745
1988-89	175,538	2004-05	185,776
1989-90	179,834	2005-06	186,680

Year	Number	Year	Number
1990-91	105,555	2006-07 (d)	139,538
1991-92	NA		

(a) Registration data from the Michigan Secretary of State (1975-76 – 1990-91); No data available 1991-92 – 1993-94; DNR licensing data from 1994-95 – 2006-07). From 1975-76 through 1996-97, figures are for fiscal year (October 1 – September 30).

(b) Secretary of State changed method of reporting registrations in 1986-87. Prior to that time only 3 year registrations transacted within the license year were reported. For 1986-87 and beyond, all registrations in force were reported.

(c) Beginning with 1997-98, figures are based on the license year (March 1 – February 28), not the fiscal year.

(d) Incomplete data as license year was not completed/all sales reported when plan was drafted.

The Michigan Secretary of State reports that there were approximately 825 thousand registered boats in Michigan in fiscal year 2005-06 (Table 57). Boat registrations grew steadily from the mid-1970s through 2000. Since then they have been static. In 2003 it was estimated that Michigan registered boats accounted for 19.1 million boating days, with 13.2 million on inland waters and 5.9 million on the Great Lakes. This does not take into account the millions of boating days by the estimated hundreds of thousands of unregistered craft (non-motorized canoes, kayaks, rowboats, rafts and paddle boats). Many boating trips are also linked to fishing. Registered boaters spent an estimated \$1.4 billion on Michigan boating trips in 2003 (Great Lakes Commission 2004).

Table 57. Michigan boat registrations by fiscal year.

Year	Number	Year	Number	Year	Number
1977-78	615,069	1987-88	686,880	1997-98	818,637
1978-79	699,396	1988-89	771,731	1998-99	825,842
1979-80	735,444	1989-90	698,795	1999-2000	829,210
1980-81	662,952	1990-91	713,412	2000-01	827,555
1981-82	692,609	1991-92	725,733	2001-02	824,460
1982-83	626,196	1992-93	726,239	2002-03	825,736
1983-84	650,011	1993-94	746,614	2003-04	822,696
1984-85	731,230	1994-95	778,683	2004-05	821,703
1985-86	645,197	1995-96	786,030	2005-06	825,585
1986-87	652,251	1996-97	800,793		

State parks count visits in two ways. Campers are counted by registrations, while day visitors are estimated based on the number of vehicles entering parks and extrapolated by an average occupancy figure. Since 1999, state park use has been moderately declining from a high of over 27 million visits to slightly more than 22 million in 2006 (Table 58).

Table 58 . Michigan State Park visits 1994-2006 (a).

Year	Day Use	Camping	Total
1994	19,528,669	5,290,032	24,818,701
1995	19,190,088	5,101,869	24,291,957
1996	18,187,183	4,878,308	23,065,491
1997	18,660,605	4,721,695	23,382,300
1998	21,144,659	5,187,068	26,331,727
1999	22,518,259	5,299,644	27,817,903
2000	20,928,503	5,103,909	26,032,412
2001	20,454,686	5,112,462	25,567,148
2002	18,299,845	4,945,814	23,245,659
2003	18,159,736	5,300,372	23,460,108
2004	16,851,718	4,910,031	21,761,749
2005	18,210,884	4,684,201	22,895,085
2006	17,822,259	4,511,760	22,334,019

(a) Visit/use is one person using a park for any portion of a day. All campers are part of registered camping parties. Day use is estimated based on the number of vehicle entries and average occupancy of a vehicle. Day use does not include those entering a state park other than in a car, truck or RV (e.g. walking, riding a bicycle, etc.). It does not also fully account for use of state recreation areas with multiple entrances, exits, etc.

Source: Harold Herta, DNR Park and Recreation Division

Camp site nights have been more static than day visits or camper visits (Table 59). A campsite night is one registered campsite occupied for one night, regardless of the number of campers. Since 1979-80, only in the past year did they decline to below a million.

Table 59. Michigan State Park Camp Site Nights, Fiscal Years 1980 - 2006

Draft

Fiscal Year	Camp Site Nights
1979-80	1,103,518
1980-81	1,118,425
1981-82	1,134,958
1982-83	1,127,230
1983-84	1,117,798
1984-85	1,120,958
1985-86	1,121,427
1986-87	1,111,381
1987-88	1,158,261
1988-89	1,113,568
1989-90	1,096,935
1990-91	1,125,089
1991-92	1,022,641
1992-93	1,030,575
1993-94	1,051,632
1994-95	1,080,772
1995-96	1,059,570
1996-97	1,049,415
1997-98	1,143,392
1998-99	1,185,507
1999-2000	1,173,890
2000-01	1,146,956
2001-02	1,142,539
2002-03	1,156,130
2003-04	1,040,368
2004-05	1,005,437
2005-06	956,030
Total 1979-80 thru 2005-06	29,694,402

(a) 1995 – 14,860 campsites. Site reductions over several years (at popular parks) resulted in a reduction in sites system-wide to 13,844 by 2002.

Source: Michigan DNR, Harold Herta

Use of Michigan state forests besides hunting, fishing, boating, ORV riding, snowmobiling and wildlife viewing, includes camping in designated state forest campgrounds. State forest campground camping over the past 5 years has been relatively static (Table 60). During this time, some opportunities have been added to use cabins, while the number of campsites has decreased as a small number of state forest campgrounds have been closed.

Table 60. State Forest Campground and Cabin camp nights, 2000-2006.

Year	Number Camp Nights
2000	68,429
2001	89,732
2002	107,160
2003	108,738
2004	101,917
2005	106,290
2006	101,984

Source: DNR, Brenda Curtis, FMFM

There are many dispersed activities in state forests such as picking wild edibles (e.g. mushrooms, berries, etc.) in which it is difficult to measure participation. This was last done in Michigan state forests in the 1990s in the Lake Superior State Forest (eastern UP in 1993-94) AuSable State Forest (North Eastern Lower Peninsula 1992) and the Pigeon River Country State Forest (Northern Central Lower Peninsula 1997-98). These studies revealed that hunting was the most common dispersed use of state forest lands in all three state forests and that in two of the three, adjacent private landowners and their guests accounted for up to half the dispersed use of the public forest land. Further the private lands provided numerous gateways to the public lands beyond the designed public access points such as campgrounds, boating access sites and roadsides. Use levels ranged from over 10 hours per acre per year during snowfree months in the AuSable State forest to ¼ that level in the Lake Superior State Forest. Seasonally, activities such as picking edibles were very important (e. g. mushrooms in May, blueberries in July/August, etc.). Use levels declined the further north one went, suggesting

that distance from population centers is important in predicting future use (Nelson 1993, Nelson and Lynch 1995, Nelson et. al 1999). Across the entire state forest system, it was estimated in 1999 that there were over 23 million visits annually for all recreational purposes (Nelson 1999).

Michigan state game and wildlife areas are similar to state forests in that they have unlimited ingress and egress, are often not contiguous blocks of property containing many private in-holdings and are used for a wide variety of dispersed activities. In 2006 recreational use was assessed on 11 state game and recreation areas (undeveloped portions only) in Southern Lower Michigan. Unlike state parks, most game and recreation areas are located in southern Michigan, where 85% of the state's population resides and close to large populations in neighboring states. Dispersed use at game areas was higher than that recorded in state forests in the 1990s at 11.5 hours per acre from mid-March to mid-December. Of this use, 23.5% was by adjacent private landowners and their guests who did not park on the game area, but rather walked in from the neighboring private property. Eighty-six percent of the adjacent ownerships reported using the nearby game area for outdoor recreation without driving onto the public lands. Wildlife associated recreation (hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, exercising or training a dog and trapping) accounted for about half the use in spring and summer and 98% of the fall use. Of the recreational use hours, 22% were estimated to be spent on the areas in the spring, 15% in the summer and 63% in the fall (Nelson et al. 2007).

At the federal level, the National Park Service reports that their Michigan venues had 1,649,349 visitors in 2006. The USDA Forest Service had 2,897,000 people visit Michigan National Forests in 2004. The U.S Fish and Wildlife Services had 143,000 people visit national wildlife refuges and federal fish hatcheries in 2004.

For non-motorized trails at both the state and local level, recent research projects have provided credible estimates of use at these sites. The Michigan Department of Transportation has used non-motorized transportation monies to help fund research on rail-trails. This has led to a series of publications on the use as well as the economic, social and individual benefits of various rail-trails in Michigan. . For example, estimated use of the 22 mile segment of the paved Pere Marquette Rail-Trail in Midland County during snow-free months of 2001 is estimated at 177 thousand visits annually. Further, almost ¼ of visitors are not residents of Midland County, illustrating the value of trails as tourist attractions (Nelson et. al 2002). The 8-mile Paint Creek Trail in Oakland County is estimated to receive 90 thousand uses during May – September of 2005 (Vogt et al. 2005). The paved 13 miles of the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail in Kent County was estimated to receive 108 thousand visits from April – September in 2005 (Nelson et al. 2006). The TART trails system in the Traverse City Area received 156 thousand uses from May – September 2002 (Moufakkir-van der Woud et al. 2002). Finally, the Lansing River Trail, an 8-mile urban trail following the Grand and Red Cedar Rivers in Lansing was estimated to receive 72 thousand uses during May – September of 2004 (Nelson et al. 2004).

Another challenge in understanding the demand for outdoor recreation activities focuses on organized activities, such as team athletics, provided in large part by the private sector or local park and recreation agencies. Local units, non-profits or for-profit organizations often gather the data about participation in ways that are not comparable or that tend to be viewed as proprietary by the for-profits. This makes it challenging to assess the over all demand for these types of activities and the facilities they need on a state-wide basis.

Supply Summary

1. Michigan has a substantial public outdoor recreation land base at the state, federal and local level. However, with that land base come significant challenges. One is that much of the infrastructure that supports outdoor recreation is aging and in need of substantial renovation to meet needs of safety and security, universal access, greater longevity with reduced maintenance and flexibility to adapt to future shifts in outdoor recreation demand. Much of this infrastructure is also not energy efficient.
2. While there is a substantial public estate for outdoor recreation, land fragmentation, especially as manifested by development of in-holdings within dedicated public land management and acquisition boundaries, threatens outdoor recreation opportunities on public land investments already made. It also threatens the integrity of the natural resources that support outdoor recreation. Acquisition, either by fee simple or less than fee approaches is an important tool in select situations to protect existing public lands for recreation and habitat, and to acquire additional targeted public recreation land assets.
3. The supply of recreational lands and facilities is not always readily accessible for much of the state's population and visitors, with the majority of public land in the northern two-thirds of the state where 15% of the population reside. However, restoration of urban environments coupled with development/renovation of outdoor recreation facilities in or near population centers is feasible and can provide significant outdoor recreation opportunities for the majority of the state's population. Land acquisition by local and state agencies in and near urban areas also provides increasingly valued islands of green space. Linking such islands together with greenways and blueways provides outdoor recreation opportunity as well as ecologically important corridors and connectors for the host of plant and animal species.

Demand Summary

1. Demand for land and water trail recreation, motorized and non-motorized, appears to be increasing. This suggests a need to better link existing trail systems. It also suggests integrating trail systems with goods, services and key destinations in ways that promote social harmony through walkable communities and rail-trails for motorized users that allow safe, non-disruptive

access to businesses while not using surface streets, thereby promoting safety. Finally, properly integrating trail corridors, as part of greenways and green space, are critical to strategies to help protect sensitive environments such as floodplains and wetlands by appropriate facility location and through design and educational efforts.

2. Outdoor recreation activities that closely link with the earliest survival and recreation traditions of our country, hunting, fishing and trapping have declined over the past 20 years. In 2006, hunting and trapping showed a moderate increase while fishing remained steady. It is critical that we provide opportunities for those in urban environments and with traditions that don't involve these activities to have the opportunity to understand and participate in these activities that have contributed so much to our nation's tradition, economy and support of sound natural resource management. It is also critical that we provide information about the location of the supply of hunting and fishing opportunities, especially to new participants and visitors to Michigan.
3. Outdoor athletic activities continue to be popular, even as tastes shift among activities. Designing flexibility and multiple team sport uses into public outdoor athletic sport complexes will broaden the clientele served and lengthen the useful life of these facilities.
4. Better assessing demand and participation for the range of outdoor recreation activities on a predictable, systematic basis could improve planning processes. This is especially imperative for activities where participants do not register, purchase a license or obtain a permit, as often no baseline estimate of participation is available.
5. Population shifts to suburbs and northern Lower Michigan will increase demand for outdoor recreation facilities in these areas. However, urban environments, often with aging facilities, are also in need of facility renovation and new facilities and may struggle with stagnant tax bases.

STATEWIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION ISSUES/GOALS

Issue Identification

The planning process identified 9 key statewide outdoor recreation issues through:

1. A mail survey of 2,001 randomly selected registered Michigan voters concerning their outdoor recreation habits, preferences, demographics, support of potential SCORP initiatives (including an opportunity to suggest additional initiatives), and outdoor recreation needs. Of 1,811 valid addresses, a total of 460 (25.4%) were completed and returned.
2. A mail survey of all 773 local units of government with a current or recent community park and recreation plan on file with the Michigan DNR. The questionnaire focused on their support of potential SCORP initiatives including an opportunity to suggest

additional initiatives), their actions to meet the 2003-07 SCORP goals, their level of capital improvement and operations needs and funding over the past 5 years and the coming 5 years and trends in park and recreation employment, budgets and acquisition and development of outdoor recreation opportunities. Of the 773 local unit park and recreation administrators surveyed, 250 (32.3%) responded.

3. Review of all 773 community outdoor recreation plans (either in-force or recently in-force) on file with the Michigan DNR Office of Lands and Facilities. Detailed information is available in the Supply portion of this plan.
4. Review many key initiatives of the Michigan DNR and others that integrally effect outdoor recreation in Michigan.
5. Review of 2000 US Census data regarding Michigan demographics and trends.
6. Input from the DNR SCORP Steering Committee, chaired by Charles Nelson and supervised by Deputy Director Koch and including representatives of the Office of Lands and Facilities, the Parks and Recreation Division, Forest, Minerals and Fire Management Division, Office of Communications, Wildlife Division, Fisheries Division, and the contractor, the Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resources Studies of Michigan State University.
7. Input from five public information meetings to be held in Marquette, Grayling, Grand Rapids, Bay City and Detroit on October 4, 5, 9, 11 and 12 respectively. The public information meetings are likely to include representatives of local and regional government park, recreation and planning agencies, Native American tribes, the Michigan Recreation and Park Association and trails, conservation, preservation, hunting, fishing and parks advocates.

Each issue is coupled with a goal statement for statewide action to meet the challenges presented by the issue. It is important to note that the focus of the SCORP, per federal statute (PL 88-578), is outdoor recreation. This excludes community recreation not focused on the outdoors such as community centers and indoor sports facilities. However, it does not diminish the importance of such facilities and the programs they offer. Those opportunities are integral to the fabric of cities, towns and villages by providing venues for common social activity and endeavor, while also meeting individual recreational needs as noted by the Michigan Relative Risk Task Force Urban Recreation Plan in 1995. This community complement to outdoor recreation needs a targeted long-term capital funding grant source similar to the LWCF so the full range of public recreation needs can be met. While federal Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) grants are helpful to major municipalities, small cities and villages also have needs for indoor recreation facilities that are not addressed by UPARR.

ISSUES/GOALS

In the identification of issues/goals and actions proposed under each, the Michigan DNR is “committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the State’s natural resources for current and future generations” (Michigan DNR Mission Statement). This flows directly from the DNR’s organic act, Public Act 451 of 1994 as amended.

Resource Conservation

The goal is to protect, restore and, where appropriate, enhance natural resource quality related to public outdoor recreation venues. Priority actions include acquisition of in-holdings; development or renovation at recreation sites that results in cleaner surface waters through reductions in erosion and other sources of pollution; wetland conservation, restoration and enhancement; restoration of native communities of flora and fauna; and provision of fish habitat improvements at or near public access points on state waters.

Environmental quality is the bedrock on which all outdoor recreation is built. A healthy, productive environment sustains living resources such as fish, wildlife and plants and provides an attractive environment for leisure time activities. It is also central to the DNR's legal mandate (PA 451 of 1994 as amended) to "protect and conserve the natural resources of the state

Partnership Opportunities

It is then ironic that recreational facilities through their design, use and maintenance may contribute to reductions in environmental quality. Conversely, it is most fortunate that recreationists support environmental quality at recreation sites and that a number of entities including governmental agencies, non-profit organizations and for-profit contractors are skilled at protecting, restoring and enhancing environmental quality. Further, many have matching funds available to support such environmental improvement where it is most visible and valuable to outdoor recreationists.

Education Opportunities

Outdoor recreation venues also have the potential to educate citizens about resource conservation including land management practices that can be applied on the 79% of Michigan in private ownership. This can be done through interpretive displays and programs and through demonstration sites and land manager training. Again partnerships with the conservation community and other units of government further enhance funding possibilities and resource restoration expertise.

Urban Opportunities

An important case for targeted action is restoring or enhancing impaired outdoor recreation resources in urban environments. Urban residents have often borne the burden of pollution and nearby potential recreational environments such as urban waterfronts have been less than desirable recreation sites. The growing movement for greenways, walkable communities and restoration of degraded urban natural resources to provide quality outdoor recreation opportunities represents a priority resource conservation issue in Michigan's SCORP.

Wetland Opportunities

The 1986 Emergency Wetlands Resources Act (PL 99-645) amended the LWCF Act (PL 88-578) to require that SCORPs contain a wetland priority component that is consistent with the National Wetland Conservation Plan of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and a listing of those wetland types that should receive priorities for acquisition. Michigan has lost approximately half of the 11 million acres of wetlands found in the state in pre-settlement. In 1990, the Director of the DNR set an ambitious goal of increasing wetland acreage by 500,000 acres. The Michigan Wetlands Advisory Committee refined that goal in 1997 with the Michigan's Wetland Conservation Strategy. They sought to add 50,000 wetlands acres to Michigan's wetland base by 2010.

Recently, with approximately 5.5 million acres of remaining Michigan wetlands, there has been a more concerted effort to conserve, restore and enhance wetlands. In 1998 the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) Michigan Implementation Strategy adopted by Michigan set the following goals to be accomplished by 2013. These habitat goals are in addition to maintaining the estimated 1,830,000 million acres waterfowl production habitat estimated to be present in 1998.

1. Restore and/or construct over 30,000 wetland acres contiguous with grasslands lacking wetlands suitable for waterfowl production on private lands, existing public lands and newly acquired public lands
2. Establish over 60,000 acres of grassland acres contiguous with wetlands suitable for waterfowl production on private lands, existing public lands and newly acquired public lands.
3. Protect an additional 100,000 acres of wetland and associated upland valuable for waterfowl production by preventing naturally functioning wetlands and associated uplands from being negatively altered using current and new legislation, fee title acquisition and long-term easements. In addition, altered wetlands and uplands will be restored and enhanced.
4. Identify and exploit new management opportunities associated with human development including roadside grasslands, county drains and their riparian zones, capped landfills, retention/detention basins and wetland loss

- mitigation projects. Opportunities also exist working with utility companies; local, state and national parks; and local and regional planning agencies.
5. Develop conservation information/education initiatives to improve the public's knowledge of wetland values and functions, how to maintain these values and functions, wetland wildlife, wetland management and the control of aggressive exotic plants. Target audiences will include agricultural landowners, industrial landowners, drain commissioners and all landowners interested in wildlife management.
 6. Actions under this plan are prioritized for the far eastern Upper Peninsula in Chippewa County's Rudyard Clay Plain ecosystem and in the Lower Peninsula basically south of a line from Oscoda City to Muskegon.
 7. Wetland priority types for protection, restoration and creation include Great Lakes coastal marsh, emergent inland marshes and wet prairie.
 8. For other areas of Michigan, the goal is to emphasize the conservation/restoration of naturally functioning wetlands.

Key funding for wetland conservation comes from the federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) through a matching grants program. In 2006, nationwide NAWCA grants totaled slightly more than \$42 million. In Michigan, through a total of 24 funded NAWCA grants and matching state and private funds, a total of 29,742 acres of wetlands and associated uplands have been conserved from 1991 - 2004. Since that time, an additional NAWCA grant to a group of partners headed by Ducks Unlimited and including the Michigan DNR and 16 other partners have conserved or are in the process of conserving an additional four thousand acres of coastal related wetlands from Saginaw Bay through the western Lake Erie basin in Michigan. Key wetland conservation partners in NAWCA grants over the years have included the Natural Resource Conservation Service of the US Department of Agriculture, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the US Fish and Wildlife Service of the US Department of the Interior, Ducks Unlimited, the Nature Conservancy, Pheasants Forever, County Conservation Districts, the Audubon Society, the Michigan Duck Hunters Association, Waterfowl USA, Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy, the Michigan Nature Association, DTE Energy, CMS Energy, various Native American tribes and many other partners including regional and local land conservancies and local park and recreation providers (e.g. Kent County Parks).

A second key effort to meeting this goal is the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) of the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) done in partnership with the State of Michigan's Department of Agriculture and cooperation with the DNR and Department of Environmental Quality. CREP is based on voluntary agreements with private landowners to stop row cropping lands adjacent to surface waters to improve water quality (both surface and groundwater) by reducing erosion and by providing wildlife habitat. This includes wetland restoration and enhancement and planting of perennial upland grasses in place of row crops. In return farmers receive payments in excess of current land rent rates for a 15-year agreement.

There are also options to execute permanent conservation easements involving larger payments for sites focused on wetland restoration. Michigan's program has been implemented in three watersheds: the Saginaw Bay (Lake Huron), the River Raisin (Lake Erie) and the Lake Macatawa (Lake Michigan). A key partner in conservation, Pheasants Forever, received a \$4 million Clean Michigan Initiative grant in 2005, which has been used by the State of Michigan to match available federal CREP dollars. This has allowed additional signup and provided access to federal monies that are matched to state dollars at a rate of 4:1. As of September 30, 2006 the Michigan Department of Agriculture reported there were 47,800 upland grassland/upland acres enrolled or pending and 16,900 wetland acres for wetland restoration and creation enrolled or pending (www.michigan.gov/documents/mda/FY06_ESD_Annual_Report_color_189823_7.pdf - 2007-03-13).

A third important wetlands protection program is the NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). This voluntary program, which was first authorized in the 1995 Farm Bill, allows private landowners to enter into permanent or 30-year easements with the NRCS to protect defined wetland and associated upland resources on their property in exchange for a cash payment. It also provides funding and technical expertise to restore degraded wetlands and surrounding uplands through cooperation with Ducks Unlimited. Since the federal program's inception in Michigan in 1995, it has enrolled 353 different contracts covering more than 35,474 acres of wetlands and associated upland acres in conservation easements as of September 30, 2007. The program also has an unfunded backlog of 160 landowner requests to enroll an additional 17,697 acres as of September 30, 2006. Further information is available at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/>.

When combined, NAWCA grant funded projects, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and the Wetlands Reserve program have conserved a total of 82,116 acres of wetlands and associated uplands through 2006. This is substantial progress toward the Michigan North American Waterfowl Management Plan goals set in 1998. The Michigan North American Waterfowl Management Plan Steering Committee is committed to reaching its Michigan habitat goals by 2013 through cooperative effort, partnerships and aggressively seeking grants to acquire, protect and restore wetlands and associated upland across Michigan and especially in the focus areas of the southern Michigan half of Lower Michigan and the far eastern Upper Peninsula.

Other efforts complement this statewide thrust. For example, the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN), a non-profit organization supported by 13 area foundations dedicated to the environmental, social and economic health of the Saginaw Bay watershed (Michigan's largest watershed) developed a wildlife habitat conservation framework for the watershed in 2000. The highest conservation priority in the framework is Great Lakes coastal marshes, followed by river floodplains and inland wetlands. While Great Lakes coastal marshes comprise only 3% of the land area in the watershed, they are most biologically rich portion of the watershed

and directly and indirectly support a wide variety of outdoor recreation activities and a significant portion of the region's tourism economy.

At the local level, a number of governmental entities have put in place regulations and zoning protections to maintain wetlands. Local park and recreation agencies have increasingly embraced wetlands as important green space for acquisition and protection and as unique environments for interpretation. National conservancies, such as the Nature Conservancy, and regional conservancies have also made wetlands high priority habitat for protection through conservation easements or fee simple acquisition.

Recruitment and Retention of Hunters and Anglers

The goal is to reverse the trend in the decline of the number of hunters and anglers in Michigan over the past 20 year through the recruitment and retention of hunters and anglers. From 1986-2005 the number of distinct hunters declined almost 14% and the number of distinct anglers declined almost 22% to 789,244 and 1,161,432 respectively. Hunting and fishing license dollars provide 26% of the funding for the DNR's conservation mission directly through license revenue and another 12% through federal excise taxes on sporting arms and ammunition and fishing equipment. Based on the 2006 recommendations of the Hunter Recruitment and Retention Work Group, the Natural Resources Commission supported three key initiatives: provide more public hunting opportunity (including improving maps/public information identifying the 9.5 million acres of Michigan open to public hunting); provide opportunity for a wider spectrum of society to participate in hunting; create and expand opportunities to infuse hunting and related outdoor recreation into existing and emerging mentoring programs.

DNR Director Rebecca Humphries at the Conservation Summit February 7, 2007 emphasized the recruitment and retention of hunters and anglers as one of the four major challenges of long term conservation in Michigan. She noted that hunters and anglers provide the largest single source of funds for conservation in Michigan through their purchase of licenses and federal excise taxes generated for conservation through the purchase of sporting arms, archery equipment, sporting ammunition and fishing equipment. Based on the recommendations of the DNR Hunter Recruitment and Retention Work Group and others, legislation was introduced and passed that lowered the minimum age for small game and archery deer hunting from 12 to 10 and for firearm deer hunting on private lands from 14 to 12. In addition, an apprentice hunting license was established that allowed a new hunter who had not completed hunter safety to hunt under the direct supervision of a licensed adult hunter for up to two years prior to completing hunter safety. During 2007, the first year the reduced minimum hunting age and apprentice license laws were in place, the number of junior licenses sold (to those 16 and under) increased 24% for junior deer licenses, 12% for junior small game licenses and 22% for junior furbearer licenses. In addition there were over ten thousand distinct apprentice license holders, of which $\frac{3}{4}$ were junior hunters.

Legislation mandating the DNR to provide a set of internet maps at the county level showing the 9.5 million acres of Michigan open to public hunting has passed the Michigan Senate (SB 473) and is awaiting action in the House (August 2007). A Hunter Recruitment and Retention Implementation Work Group is now examining ways to better link hunting with specific youth mentoring programs and to retain hunters in hunting through more effective accommodation of those with disabilities, including those undergoing a gradual loss of physical abilities and stamina through normal aging.

Development of an approach similar to that used for hunting is likely to be implemented for fishing recruitment and retention. This will build on many past efforts and will link together diverse partners with a common goal to expand fishing participation in Michigan.

Trails

The goal is to expand and secure the system of land and water trails in Michigan to promote recreational, economic, transportation and health benefits. Expansion and security may include the use of partnerships or acquisition of fee simple ownership, perpetual easements or long-term leases for trails. In addition, targeted expansions should provide for safe, socially acceptable access for trail users to needed goods and services, connection of outdoor recreation sites and link existing trails to form a more cohesive network that includes more effective use of major transportation corridors for compatible non-motorized transportation.

The Connecting Michigan and Michigan Trails at a Crossroads initiatives, coupled with the strong interest demonstrated in trails by registered voter respondents and local park administrators make this an important priority.

Rail-Trail Opportunities

For example, as of 2006 there are 1,145 miles of rail-trail in Michigan. These venues have clearly demonstrated outdoor recreation, health, economic and transportation benefits through studies funded by MDOT and others. There are many hundreds of additional miles currently abandoned, but not in public ownership. A concerted effort needs to be made over the next five years to publicly acquire as many miles as possible of abandoned and soon to be abandoned rail-corridors. It is vital to maintain these important transportation links and potential recreational corridors.

One step in achieving an interconnected network of trails was the July 2007 approval by the Michigan Transportation Commission of the purchase by the Michigan Department of Transportation of abandoned rail corridors for non-motorized transportation.

Non-Motorized Trails Opportunities

Another set of valued trail opportunities includes those non-paved public trails serving hikers, mountain bikers, equestrian and cross-country ski enthusiasts. These include the 880 miles of state forest pathways, the 880 miles of state park trails and the North Country Scenic Trail as well as other trails on federal lands. Coupled with these are an unknown number of locally owned trails in local parks and public transportation rights of way. In total, these provide valued links between recreation venues and opportunities for physical fitness and wildlife viewing. They also can serve groups with unique needs such as the Michigan Shore-to-Shore Riding-Hiking trail, which targets the needs of equestrians with appropriate day use and overnight camping facilities. A major challenge faced by this existing system and a priority of this plan is the need for significant renovation of bridges, trailhead facilities and re-routing to protect environmental values.

Transportation Integration Opportunities

The integration of non-motorized trail opportunities into regional transportation planning and systems is a priority of this plan. This may include projects such as designing non-motorized transportation options into major new or renovated transportation corridors such as the new southern beltway expressway in the Grand Rapids area (M6) and planning to include non-motorized transportation near or along new US 127 in Clinton and Gratiot counties as the corridor is converted from a four lane unlimited access highway to a four lane limited access expressway with service roads. This may also be as small scale as developing non-motorized trails between neighborhoods and schools to facilitate safe and healthful passage by children on their way to and from school. The Safe Routes to Schools Program of the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness in cooperation with MDOT has launched a number of projects with individual school districts to better inform parents and students about physically active, enjoyable and safe ways for students and their parents to get to schools.

Motorized Trail Opportunities

Motorized trail recreation participation continues to increase from the depressed levels in the 1980s. Both ORV and snowmobile users note their number one need is additional trail mileage, as heard during the public meetings for the draft 2005 Michigan ORV Plan. User safety and social conflict reduction are key motorized trail challenges that can be met in part through additional, appropriate trails providing safer passage for trail users to goods and services. Securing long-term trail corridors through the lands of willing private owners, especially large landowners such as forest products companies, is a priority of this plan. This is likely to be through easements or long-term leases. Fortunately motorized trail users through snowmobile trail permits and ORV licenses contribute to restricted funds that can provide much of the money for such agreements.

Water Trail Opportunities

Water trails for paddle sports are increasing in importance as sales of canoes, kayaks and rafts climb. These trails provide close contact with natural resources as well as highlighting cultural and historic resources related to water travel. They also facilitate other outdoor recreation activities such as fishing and wildlife viewing. Additional water access sites, development of paddle sport specific facilities such as canoe slides, portages, etc. are needed capital improvements.

Universal Access to Outdoor Recreation

The goal is to provide Michiganians and visitors, including those of differing limitations and abilities, universal access to outdoor recreation venues. This includes evaluation of existing facilities and venues; renovation to address deficiencies; and the design, construction, and management of new facilities to meet and, wherever possible, exceed current accessibility standards and guidelines.

As the population continues to age, the proportion of Michiganians with disabilities is likely to increase. Further, moderate physical exercise for those with disabilities such as heart conditions and arthritis, as well as those more often considered disabled such as individuals in a wheel chair or with visual or auditory impairments, is vital to physical and mental health. Outdoor recreation venues such as trails, parks, wildlife areas and other sites provide excellent opportunities to maintain flexibility, cardio-vascular health and socialize while participating in life-long outdoor recreation activities.

For people with disabilities to successfully enjoy outdoor recreation, however, reasonable accommodation (per the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act and subsequent legislation, rules, and design standards and guidelines) needs to be provided. The 2004 MDNR Strategic Plan for Accessibility provides an important blueprint for action. The Access to Recreation grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation provides critical seed money to spur even greater investment in going beyond the minimum legal requirements to provide universally accessible outdoor recreation opportunities. The DNR Grants program has continually updated and integrated more sophisticated universal access considerations into requirements for community recreation plans and grant applications for MNRTF and LWCF funds.

One significant challenge is to modify existing facilities to make them accessible to people with disabilities, while maintaining the integrity of design (in some cases in historic structures) and in relatively new structures which are not near the end of their useful life.

Community Outdoor Recreation

The goal is to improve the range, quality and quantity of community outdoor recreation opportunities. This is focused on the development, restoration and renovation of facilities that support outdoor recreation at the local level.

With 467 communities with in-force outdoor recreation plans in July 2007, there is a strong interest in community outdoor recreation. It provides a valuable connection for all Michiganians with family, other members of the community and the environment. However, compared to the last inventory of all DNR Grants files in late 2002, there are almost 25% fewer communities with in-force plans than half a decade ago. The challenge of local units to meet park and recreation needs along with other needs in a climate of declining state revenue sharing and a weak economy has been significant. Yet local units are the closest outdoor recreation opportunities to many and a vital service in our state to promote the welfare of the public. We need to continue to have local units acquire land and develop, renovate and restore facilities for outdoor athletic fields, green space, trails, beaches, outdoor swimming pools, interpretive centers, arboretums and many other facilities and opportunities enhance the quality of life across Michigan. Local outdoor recreation opportunities directly serve community residents, thereby conserving energy, promoting health and fitness and improving the quality of life in neighborhoods.

Meeting Locally Identified Outdoor Recreation Needs

Each local outdoor recreation plan is unique in that it focuses directly on the needs of community residents and visitors, taking into account other outdoor recreation opportunities already provided, community traditions and shifts in preference and the stewardship responsibilities of maintaining resources and facilities once acquired and built. Hence, flexibility to meet the needs of diverse communities is critical. In the past few years, less than one dollar of every five requested by local communities from the LWCF for local projects has been available due to the extraordinary demand for grant dollars and the considerable amount of matching funds available at the local level. This reinforces that it is a priority of this plan to continue to develop, renovate and enhance community outdoor recreation opportunities.

Safety and Security Opportunities

Safety and security is a concern of many, especially in their own community. It was also one of the key ways to improve the quality of public outdoor recreation in Michigan identified by Michigan voters in the statewide survey. The elderly, single mothers with young children and the disabled often feel vulnerable. Using crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) can enhance one's sense of security, enhance their actual safety and security in recreational settings and can make community recreation facilities and opportunities more attractive. The core of CPTED is based on providing natural access control, natural surveillance and territorial reinforcement. These can be positively incorporated in the design of all public facilities, including park and recreation areas. Excellent

examples of the success of CPTED are available from Toronto Ontario, Knoxville Tennessee, and Houston Texas (National Crime Prevention Council 1997).

Natural Resource Based Recreation Opportunities

For many communities, opportunities for natural resource based outdoor recreation, such as fishing, swimming, hunting, shooting and wildlife viewing are often limited by a lack of public ownership, open space, experience, education, facilities or suitable natural resources due to pollution and impairment. The conservation of natural resources was rated as the most important of all the priorities of the 2003-07 SCORP plan by voters and local park and recreation agency administrators in our statewide surveys for the 2008-12 SCORP. Natural resource based recreation brings all into close contact with nature and provides a compelling rationale and commitment to conservation. These opportunities need to be expanded and given priority in urban areas. It is also important to couple local public acquisition of such lands or development of support facilities with programs that welcome newcomers to a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities. This may involve cooperation with a range of non-profit youth serving entities such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Boys and Girls Clubs, the Ys, Scouting, faith based organizations, etc. along with outdoor recreation oriented organizations such as the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, etc.

One example of creating such opportunity is the establishment in December 2001 of the first US/Canada international wildlife refuge, the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. This refuge is managed by the US Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with the DNR, and also involves many local partners. Congressman John Dingell of Southeastern Michigan was the principal sponsor of this groundbreaking trend in providing and enhancing urban outdoor recreation opportunity. The new refuge clearly recognizes the fish, wildlife and natural resource based outdoor recreation values of the Lower Detroit River and surrounding environs.

Forest Recreation Infrastructure

The goal is to fulfill the mandate of the Forest Recreation Act of 1998 to provide a quality integrated forest recreation system. The focus is to renovate and construct the appropriate low maintenance intensity rustic recreation facilities (state forest campgrounds, water access sites, trails, etc.) to support natural resource based outdoor recreation and safeguard the environment, while providing universal access.

The Michigan state forests are the property of all the people of the state of Michigan. They provide the largest public land base for outdoor recreation in the country east of the Mississippi River. Within the 3.9 million acres of state forests, approximately 140 designated campgrounds, 116 designated water access sites, 485 additional undeveloped water access sites, 880 miles of non-

motorized pathways, 2,500 miles of designated ORV trails and 1,500 miles of designated snowmobile trails facilitate outdoor recreation. In addition, a system of over 8,000 miles of forest roads provides access for dispersed recreation enthusiasts such as hunters, wildlife viewers, anglers, those who pick wild edibles and enjoy non-programmed nature appreciation.

Reducing Maintenance Costs

The forest recreation system has never received a system-wide renovation of its rustic outdoor recreation facilities, some of which date back to the Civilian Conservation Corps. These have high maintenance costs because they are not constructed of modern, more impervious materials. With an estimated 23 million annual recreational visits using state forest recreation venues/programs, the forest recreation system is an important asset in meeting public recreation needs as well as in helping positively shape Michigan's image for visitors and supporting the tourism industry. It also demonstrates that outdoor recreation can be enjoyed in a rustic setting as part of a multiple use working forest system along with the appropriate use and management of wood resources, oil and gas and habitat for fish and wildlife, while maintaining environmental integrity.

Environmental Protection and Universal Access Opportunities

Such a renovation and upgrade of facilities would also better protect environmental quality from negative recreation impacts at and near campgrounds, water access sites and trails while providing appropriate universal access.

State Park Infrastructure

The goal is to enhance the quality of Michigan State Park outdoor recreation opportunities by renovating and constructing appropriate facilities (campgrounds, water access sites, trails, etc.) to support natural resource based outdoor recreation, safeguard the environment and preserve, protect and interpret Michigan's outdoor recreation heritage while providing universal access.

The Michigan State Park system is the property of all the people of the state of Michigan. It has received support from voters for major bond programs and a constitutionally protected trust fund for state parks. It consists of 97 properties covering over 270,000 acres annually serves over 26 million outdoor recreation visits. Outdoor recreation is focused on camping, trail activities, boating, fishing, hunting and nature and cultural resource appreciation and observation. The state park system is an important asset in meeting public outdoor recreation needs as well as to Michigan's image and the tourism industry. It provides almost 13,000 campsites, the majority of public Great Lakes beachfront, 880 miles of non-motorized trails and almost 200,000 acres of land open to hunting. Finally it fills an important niche of providing an educational and informational gateway between the public to the DNR concerning natural resources and outdoor recreation. This is done through 8 major interpretive centers and through seasonal interpreters at another 40 parks.

Environmental Protection Opportunities

While Michigan State Parks have received considerable capital support from the Protecting Michigan's Future Bond (1988) and Clean Michigan Initiative (1998), and annually continue to receive \$5 million from Proposal P (1994) coupled with the constitutionally protected trust fund (Gillette Trust Fund established in 1994), there are still unmet infrastructure needs of millions of dollars annually for visitor facilities supporting outdoor recreation and those providing environmental protection from intense recreational use. Much of this focus is on protecting natural resource integrity, such as clean surface water, while serving the needs of 26 million visitors. Land acquisition to block in critical habitat and restoration of habitat within heavily used parks are additional needs.

Historical Preservation Opportunities

Another important aspect of Michigan state parks is protecting valued Michigan historic and cultural sites. Universal access within the context of historical and cultural sites presents special challenges that can be met through careful renovation and the use of technology.

Coordination and Communication

The goal is to expand systematic coordination, cooperation and information gathering among outdoor recreation providers such as federal, state, regional and local government agencies, schools, non-profit cooperators and willing private landowners. In conjunction, there should be an increase in communication with the public concerning outdoor recreation goals, needs and management.

Regular, systematic data collection and sharing of information about outdoor recreation participation, needs of outdoor recreationists and the influence of outdoor recreation on individuals, communities, the economy and the environment will promote more efficient and effective management. Further, enhanced communication with the public, especially the outdoor recreating public, will provide more meaningful opportunities for public involvement.

Integrating Local, State and Federal Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

This can promote efficiency, link facilities and resources and provide recreationists with better experiences where they don't have to worry about differential fees, permits and rules. Land and water trail networks, ecosystem health and access would all be substantially improved through increased cooperation. As the four national forest units in Michigan update their management plans, this would be an excellent time to expand such efforts. The current focus of such integration efforts is in the effort to implement ecosystem management in the eastern Upper Peninsula, but it could effectively be broadened to look at the interface between state and federal

lands across Michigan. Another valuable model of integration is in the management of long-distance trail networks through intergovernmental cooperation agreement, recreation authorities, memorandums of understanding, etc.

Systematic Data Collection and Information Sharing Opportunities

Regular studies of outdoor recreation in Michigan can provide a valuable analysis of trends and provide early warning of changes in public attitudes and preferences. Regularly assessing information from in-force community recreation plans and having that information reported in a fashion where data from different agencies can be compared and aggregated is vital.

Green Technology in Outdoor Recreation

The goal is to reduce the use of energy in the provision of outdoor recreation. This will be done by incorporation of environmentally friendly practices and technology in the design, development and renovation of outdoor recreation opportunities. This includes more efficient lighting including the more effective use of natural light, better use of solar, wind and other renewable sources of energy, use of renewable fuels (e.g. bio-diesel) to power operational equipment, improved recycling and reuse of items currently in the waste stream in outdoor recreation venues, etc.

Outdoor recreation providers have the opportunity to test and demonstrate to the public how to incorporate energy saving technology into everyday life. Their unique role as acknowledged environmental stewards and environmental educators who manage lands, resources and facilities, as well as providing valued outdoor recreation, creates an opportunity to reach many with important energy saving information.

The Michigan State Park system is a national leader in this movement with their Green Initiatives (http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10365_37783---,00.html). Those initiatives include:

- Product metering devices to limit use of products (e.g. cleaning solutions, fertilizer, etc.) to the appropriate amount
- Green buildings to reduce energy use in buildings with more efficient lighting, insulation, use of natural light, etc.
- Growing not mowing to reduce energy use and create better wildlife habitat and improve water quality
- Bio-products including use of bio-fuels to operate maintenance equipment
- Biological control of invasive species
- Cleaning green through the use of certified “green” cleaning agents to protect environmental and human health

- Stepping up recycling efforts

MICHIGAN SCORP PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

The public has been involved throughout the SCORP planning process. Their initial involvement was the response of 460 registered voters to a survey regarding the SCORP and their outdoor recreation activities, priorities, preferences and suggestions of how to improve outdoor recreation in Michigan. Second, all 773 local units of government with an in-force or recently in-force community outdoor recreation plan were surveyed (and 250 responded) to determine their preferences for the 2008-12 SCORP and to better understand the trends in their community in regards to park and recreation provision. Third, the draft 2008-12 SCORP will be available for public review on the internet as of September 25, 2007. Comments will be able to be conveniently sent using the internet at <https://www.commentmgr.com/PCS/PublicGUI/defaultcustom.aspx?pguid=71225432-3454-494e-8fda-a267da0ecbb8>. Fourth, a series of 5 public workshops regarding the draft SCORP will be held around the state (Marquette, Grayling, Grand Rapids, Bay City and Detroit) were held on October 4, 5, 9, 11, and 12 respectively. In addition, the SCORP draft plan will be presented at the Michigan Citizens Committee on State Parks meeting September 19, the Accessibility Advisory Council of the Michigan DNR on September 24, and the Michigan Waterways Commission meeting on October 19. Additional meetings are being scheduled as this is written. All these public meetings will be widely advertised, including through written notification to a large group of stakeholders. The list will be available in Appendix D as will be the meeting notices, press releases and other pertinent documentation. The input from those workshops coupled with the written comments received by the DNR will be incorporated into a final SCORP in early November 2007. It will then go before the Michigan Natural Resources Commission, the constitutionally empowered body that provides policy guidance to the Michigan DNR. Public testimony will be heard as the NRC considers formal adoption of the final SCORP. Then the SCORP will go Governor Jennifer Granholm for her signoff and approval and then be forwarded to the National Park Service.

At each meeting there will be a power point presentation concerning the SCORP planning process, key information from the community outdoor recreation plan review, the survey of registered voters and the survey of local park and recreation agency directors and draft issues and goals of the Michigan SCORP. Copies of the power point will be distributed. Dr. Nelson will facilitate the workshops and DNR personnel will act as scribes and resource persons in regards to technical questions. The facilitator will write bulleted items on a flip chart, posting them on the wall throughout the sessions. Another team member will take detailed notes of the meeting. One or more DNR SCORP Steering Committee members or staff from Grants Management are also hoped to attend the each meeting. The attendance records and the notes of each meeting and the written communications as a result of those meetings will be on file with DNR Grants Management.

Following those meetings, the draft SCORP document will be revised and a final draft completed for submission to the Natural Resources Commission. Comments at the public information meetings and from the communications received will be incorporated into the document and will be on file with the Grants Program, Michigan DNR. The Natural Resource Commission is scheduled to vote upon a final plan at either the November or December meeting. Upon their approval, the SCORP will be sent to Governor Jennifer Granholm for her approval and signoff. It will then be formally submitted to the National Park Service before January 1, 2008.

OPEN PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS (OPSP)

The Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) is an ongoing, integral part of Michigan's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant process. The selection criteria for each application cycle are clearly enumerated in the application materials that are provided to applicants. The OPSP uses a score based system, with all applications evaluated by Department of Natural Resources (Department) professional staff. Projects are ranked by descending score order and a list selected based on the available LWCF apportionment awarded to Michigan by the National Park Service (NPS). The recommended list is then submitted to the Department Director for approval. The approved projects are subsequently forwarded by the Department to the NPS for final approval. Once projects are completed, the sites are regularly reviewed in the field through a post completion project review by the Department, with follow up reporting to the NPS.

Given the amount of funding available for land acquisition through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, the relatively limited amount of Land and Water Conservation Funds and the demonstrated need for facility development and renovation for both the Department and local units of government, Michigan dedicates its entire apportionment to development grants. A portion of the State's apportionment is used for projects at Department owned and operated facilities and a portion as matching grants to eligible local applicants. These applicants include counties, townships, cities and villages, and combinations of the above with legal authority for providing public recreation. Recognized Native American tribes are also eligible. In order to be eligible to compete in a funding cycle, applicants must have a Department-approved, locally adopted five-year recreation plan on file by the application deadline.

Grantees must provide 50% of the project cost as local match. The match can be in the form of cash, donated goods/services or work performed by the grantee (force account). The only federal funds that can be used as match are Community Development Block Grant funds. Applicants must own the property they are proposing to develop; leased sites are not eligible for LWCF support.

CONCLUSION

In many instances, there will be projects proposed that will symbiotically meet more than one goal of this plan, providing significant efficiencies and benefiting a greater number of people than a project only targeted to meet one goal. For example, an urban waterfront project that focuses on reducing erosion and filtering storm runoff from parking areas through a wetland restoration, provides universally accessible river-side trails to promote fitness and transportation while also providing water access and adds accessible fishing piers and near shore fish habitat restoration will meet a number of goals. The innovation and partnerships that are involved in such projects further strengthen their capability to serve the needs of a diverse population and grow community support for long-term maintenance. In summary, Michigan's 2008-12 SCORP strives to maintain and grow the strong tradition of outdoor recreation and environmental integrity across the state. It builds on successes of the past, targets on-going and emerging needs and highlights universal access for all residents and visitors.

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Management.

Appendix A – Registered Voter Survey, Cover Letter and Additional Comments from Respondents

Registered Voter Questionnaire

State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Public Survey

1. Please check the one which best describes your household. For us, outdoor recreation is

Very important Moderately important Slightly important Unimportant

2. Please check each outdoor activity in which you or another member of your household participated during the past 12 months.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drive for pleasure | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunt | <input type="checkbox"/> Swim in outdoor pool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walk outdoors | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish | <input type="checkbox"/> Swim in lake, river or pond |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback ride | <input type="checkbox"/> Trap | <input type="checkbox"/> Scuba dive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle on road/sidewalk | <input type="checkbox"/> Canoe/kayak | <input type="checkbox"/> Photograph nature or scenery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day hike | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorized boating | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock climb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overnight backpack | <input type="checkbox"/> Water ski | <input type="checkbox"/> Geocache |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In-line skate | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf | <input type="checkbox"/> Play outdoor games/sports |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Run/jog outdoors | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife viewing | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer for outdoor games/sport |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-country ski | <input type="checkbox"/> Sightseeing | <input type="checkbox"/> Camp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobile | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic | <input type="checkbox"/> Downhill ski/snowboard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ride an off-road vehicle | <input type="checkbox"/> Relax outdoors | <input type="checkbox"/> Visit outdoor historic site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor ice skating | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer for habitat, trails, parks, etc. | |

3. Of those checked in Question 2 above, which activity is most important, 2nd most important and 3rd most important to your household?

1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____

4. During the past 12 months, please check each of the licenses, permits, fees or registrations for outdoor recreation which you or another in your household purchased.

MI fishing (any type) MI junior hunt (any type)

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- MI snowmobile registration MI hunt (any type)
- MI ORV license MI apprentice hunt (any type)
- MI snowmobile trail permit MI State Park motor vehicle (annual or daily)
- MI watercraft registration MI boat access site motor veh. (annual or daily)
- MI State Park nightly camp fee MI State Forest campground nightly camp fee
- Motor vehicle permit/entry fee to local park (e.g. city, township, regional, county)

5. In total, approximately how much did your household spend on these licenses, permits, fees and registrations during the past 12 months?
 \$ _____

6. Please check all the following types of recreation property your household owns?

- Motorized boat Off-road vehicle Fishing equipment
- Firearm Canoe/kayak Archery equipment
- Sail boat Motor home Travel trailer/5th Motor home
- Second home Snowmobile Tent or Popup camper
- Horse Scuba equipment Downhill skis
- Bicycle Cross-country skis Hunting equip. besides gun/bow

7. During the past 12 months, please check each of the following you and/or another member of your household visited in Michigan for outdoor activity and list the most important site visited to your household (e.g. most important state park to you).

Michigan Outdoor Recreation Place	Check if one or more visits in last 12 months	Number of days visited in last 12 months	Name of Most Important Park, Forest, Campground, Site or Trail of this type to your household	Nearest City/Town to this Most Important Site
Michigan State Park/Recreation Areas				
Michigan State Forests				
Michigan State Game/Wildlife				

Areas				
Michigan Public Boating Access Sites or Harbors				
City, township or village park				
County park				
Huron-Clinton Metroparks				
National Park/Lakeshores				
National Wildlife Refuges				
National Forests				

8. Do you have access to private lands, owned by your household or another with their permission, where you can enjoy outdoor recreation without a fee?

___ Yes ___ No

9. Please rate your household’s satisfaction with the amount of Michigan public outdoor recreation opportunity on a scale of 1 – 9 where 1 is highly dissatisfied to 9 highly satisfied.

Rating # _____

10. What one action could the State of Michigan take to improve the amount of public outdoor recreation opportunity in Michigan?

11 Please rate your household’s satisfaction with the quality of public outdoor recreation opportunity in Michigan on a scale of 1 – 9 where a 1 is highly dissatisfied to a 9 which is highly satisfied.

Rating # _____

12. What one action could the State of Michigan take to improve the quality of public outdoor recreation opportunity in Michigan?

13. What one action could the State of Michigan take to increase your household’s participation in Michigan outdoor recreation?

14. Please rate your support regarding the following outdoor recreation initiatives from the 2003-2007 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan considering your interests and those of your household about outdoor recreation in Michigan. Please check your level of support or opposition to each using the table below.

Outdoor Recreation Initiatives	Strongly Support	Moderately Support	Neutral	Moderately Oppose	Strongly Oppose
Conserve, protect and restore Michigan natural resources in public outdoor recreation venues.					
Expand and develop the system of land and water based trails in Michigan					
Provide appropriate access to enable all citizens to enjoy Michigan outdoor recreation, including those who are disabled.					
Improve community based outdoor recreation in Michigan.					
Improve the Michigan state forest recreation system.					
Improve the Michigan state park system					

Outdoor Recreation Initiatives	Strongly Support	Moderately Support	Neutral	Moderately Oppose	Strongly Oppose
Improve cooperation among local, state and federal government and the private sector in the provision of outdoor recreation and sharing of comparable information.					

15. What other broad initiative/direction would you propose to improve Michigan outdoor recreation over the next 5 years?

For statistical purposes, I need to ask you a few final questions about yourself. Please remember that all information is confidential.

16. What is your zip code? _____code

17. In which county do you live? _____county

18. How long have YOU lived in your current community, town or city? _____years

19. What is your age? _____ years

20. What is your gender? Male Female

21. Are you Hispanic, Latino or of Spanish origin? Yes No

22. Please check all that apply concerning what race or races you consider yourself to be.

- White Black/African American
- Asian American Indian or Alaska Native
- None of the above

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23. Please check the highest degree or level of school you have completed.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than high school graduate | <input type="checkbox"/> High school graduate/GED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some college, not yet graduated | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate's college degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's college degree | <input type="checkbox"/> Master's, PhD or Professional Degree
(MD, DDS, JD, DVM) |

24. Check all that apply concerning your current work status?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | <input type="checkbox"/> Part-time employed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retired | <input type="checkbox"/> Full-time employed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homemaker | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed |

25. Including you, how many people live in your household? _____ # people

25a. Of your household, how many are under 18? _____ # people

25b. Of your household, are any disabled in a way that significantly impacts their ability to work or recreate? Yes No

Please add any comments below regarding your opinions or those of your household about Michigan's outdoor recreation future. Thanks!

Registered Voter Cover Letter (on MSU stationary)

Draft

July 1, 2007

Dear Michigan Resident:

Every five years Michigan updates its state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. The plan provides direction for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation opportunities and also makes Michigan eligible to apply for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grants, part of which have typically helped fund local units of government such as counties, cities and townships providing parks.

As part of updating the 2003-07 plan, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Michigan State University (MSU) are cooperating in a mail survey of Michigan registered voters. Its purpose is to understand outdoor recreation in Michigan, including the use of public recreation lands/facilities and the directions the Michigianians want the state go regarding future recreation land acquisitions, facility development and management.

You are one of 2,000 registered voters randomly selected across Michigan to provide a valuable perspective on these issues. Your opinions are important and help accurately represent the collective views of Michigan residents. Please take the 10-15 minutes needed to complete the survey and then mail it to me in the postage paid envelope.

Your participation is voluntary and you indicate your agreement to participate in this study by completing the questionnaire and mailing it back. Your responses will be confidential and your name will not be connected with the results of this research. Your privacy will be protected to the maximum extent allowable by law. If you choose not to participate, to withdraw or not answer any particular question, you will not suffer any penalty.

If you have any questions or concerns about this survey, please contact me at (517) 432-0272 or my assistant Kristen Steger at (517) 432-0297 or me by e-mail at nelsonc@carrs.msu.edu. In case you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research participant, please feel free to contact Peter Vasilenko, Ph.D., Michigan State University's Director of Human Resource Protections. His contact information is: phone (517) 355-2180; fax: (517) 432-4503; email: irb@msu.edu; regular mail: 202 Olds Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1047.

Thanks for your help.

Draft

Sincerely,

Chuck Nelson, Associate Professor
Enc.

Additional Comments Verbatim from Registered Voter Survey Respondents regarding Michigan's Outdoor Recreation Future

- As gas prices increase, it's good to know there are plenty of places to enjoy the outdoors in Michigan, many of which are only a day's drive away. It should be an important goal to help our states economy and also to help residents of all ages to enjoy the outdoors by keeping vacation dollars in Michigan.
- At a minimum, we need to develop a stable funding source to protect and maintain the current assets that we have. We need to minimize expanding the system until we can take care of what we already built.
- Baiting should be a personal choice with limits set on how much; quality deer management should also be a personal choice.
- Budget more dollars toward advertisement of tourism to neighboring states; protect state lakes and waterways; keep bicycle trail development moving forward.
- Camp hosts need to offer more to all campers and kids.
- Cross bow hunting for seniors.
- Currently excellent. Increases in fees are discouraging. Cheap catch and release license. Multi-car discount for parking sticker. Free fishing for spouse.
- DNR enforcement is very rude and think they are above the law. Something needs to be done.
- Do not let hunters kill morning doves. They are songbirds, not food.
- Education and conservation are very important since finances will always be a problem.
- Enforce no alcohol rule, have law enforcement connect with people on peers, enforce the quite time (10PM) rule, have DNR not issue tickets if vehicle inches over the line.
- Fine-make sure Great Lakes are preserved.
- Fix the budget.
- Great study.

- Guarantee full funding of land and water fund.
- Have areas around water that are accessible with a wheelchair at water level, not above water.
- Have been pleased with the quality of the State Park system.
- Have heard that the new heritage trail proposed for Marquette County is being funded by grants and snowmobile fees. Yet it's to be use by hikers and bikers in summer.
- Household fees to those who don't use the outdoors, they still do. Recognition of those who put a lot of money into licenses.
- I believe people like me are going to have to stop fishing, hunting and camping as my children become of age for these outdoor outings I will not be able to pay for it. I also see you creating only for the rich to enjoy. Plus I dislike the closing of my favorite places, places I have enjoyed for over 25 years of my life.
- I consider the lakes and rivers to be Michigan's most important resources. We must find ways to protect this resource and allow Michigan citizens to use and enjoy them.
- I do not appreciate that the state sells or gives out information from my driver's license. The name of XXX only appears there.
- I feel that money is wasted on outdoor participation on things that common, moderate income people have no real interest.
- I highly value our Michigan parks and recreation. I do not mind putting money towards it.
- I hope we can protect our lakes from pollution and diversion.
- I support preserving and protection of Michigan forests and wildlife but not at the expense of negatively impacting the future of our snowmobile trail system.
- I think fees in State Park facilities that do not offer any type of modern plumbing or facilities should never be over \$5, this is ridiculous.
- I think if special interests have money our state government will sell out our public interest.
- I think Michigan needs to concentrate on outdoor recreation since most factory jobs are gone. More parks and public recreational activities may help the economy and Michigan's image.
- I think the park reservation system is very poor and should be abolished.
- I wish I could still enjoy Michigan outdoors, but at my age and handicap I am unable to be much help in your survey.
- I would like to be a part of any program that will enable our community to become a cleaner, better and safer place to live and enjoy.
- I would like to see more outdoor roller and ice skating rinks for my kids to play at.
- I would really like to see lake St. Clair cleaned up and see an end to dumping of waste into our waters from our Canadian neighbors.
- If fees for hunting/fishing and state/national parks were lowered more people would take advantage of opportunities to enjoy our beautiful state.

- If you're looking for a census report this is the wrong venue. If you're looking for making signage for none English speaking and reading purposes I would support it. Live in the USA, read, write and speak English. I question the randomness of 2000 with a counter of XXX on my street.
- Info on where to access the lands/water of Michigan would increase use and funding.
- Invasive species on our land and in our water are an enormous threat. Also, I don't have a problem with user fees but they are costly. When the budget is tight for the state the first job they cut are the service workers. Cut administration. Keep the people that are doing the work.
- It's important that we improve our land and water rights. Too many condos are taking our land.
- Keep our waters clean keep all parks open keep fishing/hunting licenses at a reasonable cost, keep gas prices down.
- Keep up the good work!
- Keep up the great parks and lakes. I enjoyed many of them for years with my family.
- Lighting always helps especially on the days where there is not much light after 6PM.
- Look forward to using more of our great recreation areas in the future!
- Lower taxes for beach front property owners if you're forcing them to welcome beach walkers on their property.
- Make more parks handicap accessible.
- Marketing in other states.
- Michigan has a lot of outdoor recreation opportunities on the Lake Michigan shoreline and is a great place to spend time but you almost feel like its all come to an end at the end of summer and of course with the harsh winters we understand why.
- Michigan has beautiful outdoor recreation. More use of U.P. resources would help the U.P. economy.
- Michigan is a beautiful outdoor recreation state. The hunting and fishing is great in Michigan. We have a lot to offer for recreation for both winter and summer.
- Michigan is an incredible place to live! We love going up north and exploring. We need to take better care of our water and keep the trees. We need another mall!
- Michigan is beautiful!
- Michigan needs to stop Asian carp from invading lakes, stop accepting out of country garbage from filling landfills and stop pollution in Michigan lakes.
- Michigan outdoor resources are precious. We need to do everything possible to maintain control of the great lakes.
- Michigan's future is excellent, many types of outdoor activities to please everyone including out of state visitors.
- Michigan's lively hood is largely tourism-we need to do something about gas prices to get people to travel again!
- More advertising.

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- More control on snowmobiles, too much drinking and driving plus inexperienced drivers. We must keep all our water safe from pollution. No more oil rigs in our forests.
- More funding for protection and maintenance of resources and facilities.
- More people aware of the game that Michigan has to offer.
- Need volunteer avenues to help manage facilities.
- Okay
- Our state has great outdoor recreation facilities that all people can enjoy.
- Outdoor recreation is extremely important and very worth its cost to the state. Increase opportunities!
- Parks have proper equipment for children to play on and keep them more clean.
- Paved areas for our son (wheelchair bound) to access boat ramps in parks and bike trails are the most important to use for our family.
- Please consider more activities where disabled can enjoy.
- Please keep up the parks, lakes, forests and campgrounds. Don't allow urban sprawl to use up virgin areas.
- Preserve our lakes, don't sell our water, it is our greatest natural resource.
- Protecting the environment is important but so is enjoying it. It has been very difficult to find places in southeast Michigan to use off-road vehicles.
- State has put enough money back into wildlife. Improve the fisheries!
- State should not sell off any land.
- Strong believer in support for local school and community, all of us agree we need crime intervention in order to be safe.
- Strongly concerned about maintaining the natural beauty and not losing land to development. Better management of what already exists.
- Tell the governor to reduce the fat, get the lazy people off their duffs and cut out full-time welfare cheaters of robbing appropriated moneys that could be better used for better activities.
- The land and water should be protected.
- The quality and quantity of the waters of the Great Lakes and invasive species must be addressed. Why spend time and money in other directions and allow our most important problems to increase and perhaps deteriorate further!
- The restroom facilities at Yankee Springs recreation area are excellent. All the State Parks should be upgraded to this level.
- The State Parks need to be improved and upgraded to continue to bring people to visit and spend their money.
- There has been improvement.
- There is a lot of improving to be done in the Macomb area.
- There is so much history in the state its a shame the state of Michigan keeps it a secret.

- Things are not looking good with the state budget cuts and unemployment rising in some areas, it is going to be difficult to maintain high quality until things turn around in Lansing.
- This is not a survey-it is a validation of preconceived, predetermined beliefs and proposed behaviors. This is an example of "you can prove anything with properly worded questions".
- To be honest I hope our state budget isn't increased in this concern. With the state economy as it is the last thing money should go in recreation. What good is it when no one has the money to go out? Create jobs, recreation will result in time.
- Trash and garbage removal could be more timely.
- Trash cans in State Parks.
- We don't stay in Michigan for the economy! We stay because of its natural beauty, don't sell it off!
- We enjoying walking at local city parks and walking trails. We fly to Mackinac Island but are upset about the fee to park and plus the overnight fees. We ride our bikes at the island; the county park is great for picnics. We travel quite a bit and love the national parks.
- We go to the UP every year and do most of our recreation and sightseeing there.
- We have to take guns with us on walks because of cougar sightings. We don't think it was necessary to introduce them.
- We just need to keep the cost of hunting/fishing licenses down so people can enjoy it, other wise if we raise the prices we're going to loose more money because people cannot afford it due to gas prices. Short on money, cheaper in other states.
- We love the Michigan State Parks, but the fees and pricing are becoming prohibitive to using them.
- We love to camp in State Parks. Increase in cost would greatly limit our participation in State Park camping and force us to resort to private parks.
- We need easier transportation to the outdoor areas or closer to the cities, access for younger or older citizens.
- We need more legislation that will help us clean and protect all of our recreation and wildlife refuges.
- We should focus on healthcare and education.
- We want to see it as the come back state, with so many leaving.
- Wetland restoration not destruction is very important to us. We are also very concerned about the invasion of foreign aquatic pests.
- What does Mexican have to do with outdoor recreation, or white, or black, male or female. Don't be insulting. All people in Michigan have the same opportunities.
- With prices going up for everything some of poor people won't be able to afford even fishing or hunting. We do enjoy the outdoors and would love to be able to afford to fish and hunt.
- With proper management and continuing to improve state recreation areas, keeping all facilities open instead of closing rustic areas with minimal savings to the state. Also, keep fees for recreation purposes instead of using monies for other purposes.

- With the economy as it is currently, it is important to maintain and protect what we currently have and improve and expand once our economy improves.
- Worried about water level drop of Great Lakes especially near Tawas.

Appendix B – Local Provider Survey and Cover Letter

Local Park and Recreation Provider Questionnaire

1. Check the one type of governmental unit you represent?

Township City Village County Regional School District

2. What is your jurisdiction’s population according to the 2000 Census? #_____people

3. In which state planning region is your agency located? _____#

4. Please rate your level of support for these initiatives from the 2003-2007 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan considering your agency’s interests. Please check your level of support or opposition to each using the table below.

Outdoor Recreation Initiatives	Strongly Support	Moderately Support	Neutral	Moderately Oppose	Strongly Oppose
Conserve, protect and restore Michigan natural resources in public outdoor recreation venues.					
Expand and develop the system of land and water based trails in Michigan					
Provide appropriate access to enable all citizens to enjoy Michigan outdoor recreation, including those who are disabled.					
Improve community based					

Outdoor Recreation Initiatives	Strongly Support	Moderately Support	Neutral	Moderately Oppose	Strongly Oppose
outdoor recreation in Michigan.					
Improve the Michigan state forest recreation system.					
Improve the Michigan state park system					
Improve cooperation among local, state and federal government and the private sector in the provision of outdoor recreation and sharing of comparable information.					

4. What other initiatives would you suggest for the 2008-2012 Michigan SCORP?

5. Considering the initiatives in the 2003-2007 SCORP, please describe your agency’s actions in support of those initiatives. Check if your agency was active in supporting a particular initiative and then briefly describe your agency’s actions. For example, for trails, you may note the development of a rail-trail or the on-going maintenance of one during the period.

2003-07 SCORP Initiatives	My Agency Took Action to Support Initiative during the period 2003-2007	If Yes, Briefly Highlight/Describe Your Agency’s Actions in Support of the Initiative

2003-07 SCORP Initiatives	My Agency Took Action to Support Initiative during the period 2003-2007	If Yes, Briefly Highlight/Describe Your Agency's Actions in Support of the Initiative
Conserve, protect and restore Michigan natural resources in public outdoor recreation venues.	___Yes ___No	
Expand and develop the system of land and water based trails in Michigan	___Yes ___No	
Provide appropriate access to enable all citizens to enjoy Michigan outdoor recreation, including the disabled	___Yes ___No	
Improve community based outdoor recreation in Michigan.	___Yes ___No	
Improve the Michigan state forest recreation system.	___Yes ___No	
Improve the Michigan state park system	___Yes ___No	
Improve cooperation among local, state and federal government and the		

2003-07 SCORP Initiatives	My Agency Took Action to Support Initiative during the period 2003-2007	If Yes, Briefly Highlight/Describe Your Agency's Actions in Support of the Initiative
private sector in the provision of outdoor recreation and sharing of information	___ Yes ___ No	

6. What are the two most significant barriers to greater citizen outdoor recreation participation, especially in your parks, in order of significance?

1st _____

2nd _____

7. For 2008-2012, please describe your agency's **capital funding needs**. This includes rating the importance of each project category. Use a rating scale of 1 (unimportant) – 5 (highly important). For those categories with no known capital improvement need in the next 5 years, leave blank for estimated costs in the appropriate categories. These results are only reported in the aggregate (e.g. all townships, all counties, etc.), are confidential with the MSU researchers and will not influence any grant request, including one where your priorities change.

Category of Outdoor Recreation Capital Project	Importance rating for capital imp. 2008-12 (1=unimportant to 5 highly important)	Estimated land acquisition costs 2008-12	Estimated facility development costs 2008-12
Open space, land conservation	Rating # _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Universal access to outdoor recreation	Rating # _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Access to G. Lakes, lakes or rivers	Rating # _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Outdoor ball fields/courts	Rating # _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Picnic areas	Rating # _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

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Campgrounds	Rating # _____	\$	\$
Shooting range or hunting opportunity	Rating # _____	\$	\$
Land based trails	Rating # _____	\$	\$
Playgrounds	Rating # _____	\$	\$
Other outdoor cap. proj. (_____)	Rating # _____	\$	\$
Total Outdoor Rec. Capital Needs	NA	\$	\$

8. Considering the **capital needs** noted for Question 7, what proportion of these needs do you plan to meet using the following sources? If a source is not expected to provide any money, leave blank. Total should equal 100% and may have a percentage of unmet needs/no source known.

Capital funding source	% capital need met
Park/recreation/open space millage	%
Local government general fund dollars	%
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund	%
Land and Water Conservation Fund	%
State/federal transportation grants	%
Private foundation/conservancy grants	%
Parks/recreation/trail/other friends group(s)	%
Corporate donations/grants	%
Individual donations	%
Other (_____)	%
Unmet needs/No source known or contemplated	%
Total	100%

The following set of questions is designed to better understand the recent past, current and likely near future **operations** funding situation of local outdoor recreation providers. Please characterize your agency’s situation over the current fiscal year, the past 5 years and the coming 5 years.

9. What is your fiscal year? Beginning of _____(month) to end of _____(month)

10. What is your park and recreation **operations** budget for FY 2007? \$_____

11. Please describe the funding sources for that **operations** budget below.

Operations Funding Sources for Parks and Recreation	% FY 2007 operations funding (0%=blank)	Is the proportion of this source increasing, decreasing or similar over the past 5 years?	What do you expect the proportion of this source to be over the next 5 years?
User fees (entrance, activity, etc.)	____%	<input type="checkbox"/> Inc. <input type="checkbox"/> Similar <input type="checkbox"/> Dec.	<input type="checkbox"/> Inc. <input type="checkbox"/> Similar <input type="checkbox"/> Dec
Local millage for parks, recreation, open space	____%	<input type="checkbox"/> Inc. <input type="checkbox"/> Similar <input type="checkbox"/> Dec	<input type="checkbox"/> Inc. <input type="checkbox"/> Similar <input type="checkbox"/> Dec
Local general fund dollars	____%	<input type="checkbox"/> Inc. <input type="checkbox"/> Similar <input type="checkbox"/> Dec	<input type="checkbox"/> Inc. <input type="checkbox"/> Similar <input type="checkbox"/> Dec
Private gifts, grants, donations, in-kind labor	____%	<input type="checkbox"/> Inc. <input type="checkbox"/> Similar <input type="checkbox"/> Dec	<input type="checkbox"/> Inc. <input type="checkbox"/> Similar <input type="checkbox"/> Dec
Other (list _____)	____%	<input type="checkbox"/> Inc. <input type="checkbox"/> Similar <input type="checkbox"/> Dec	<input type="checkbox"/> Inc. <input type="checkbox"/> Similar <input type="checkbox"/> Dec
Total	100%	NA	NA

12. From 2003-2007, taking into account inflation, has your **operations** budget:

Increased Stayed Similar Decreased

13. For 2008-2012, taking into account inflation, which is most likely for your **operations** budget:

Increase Stay Similar Decrease

14. In terms of employees for your agency, please complete the following chart.

Type of Position	FY 2007	Check trend 2003 to 2007	Check expected trend 2008 to 2012
Permanent employees	____ #FTEs	<input type="checkbox"/> More <input type="checkbox"/> Same <input type="checkbox"/> Less	<input type="checkbox"/> More <input type="checkbox"/> Same <input type="checkbox"/> Less
Temporary employees			

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	__#Positions	__More __Same __Less	__More __Same __Less
--	--------------	----------------------	----------------------

15. In terms of parks and parkland acres for your agency, please complete the following chart.

Category	FY 2007	Chuck trend 2003 to 2007	Check expected trend 2008 to 2012
Parks	____#parks	__More __Same __Less	__More __Same __Less
Parkland acreage	_____# acres	__More __Same __Less	__More __Same __Less

Please add any other comments/suggestions for the 2008-12 SCORP. Thanks!

Local Provider Cover Letter (on MSU Stationary)

July 1, 2007

Dear Park and Recreation Administrator:

Every five years Michigan updates its state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. The plan provides direction for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation opportunities and also makes Michigan eligible to apply for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grants, part of which have typically helped fund local units of government such as counties, cities and townships providing parks.

As part of updating the 2003-07 plan, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Michigan State University (MSU) are cooperating in a mail survey of all local government park and recreation providers that have a current or recent comprehensive community outdoor recreation plan on file with the DNR. Its purpose is to understand the situation, priorities and opinions of these providers, who are currently or have recently been eligible for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and state Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grants.

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Your agency is one of the 754 providers with a current or recent outdoor recreation plan on file with the DNR. Your opinions are important and will help accurately represent the collective views of local unit park and recreation providers. Please take the 10-15 minutes needed to complete the survey and then mail it to me in the postage paid envelope.

Your participation is voluntary and you indicate your agreement to participate in this study by completing the questionnaire and mailing it back. Your responses will be confidential and your name or agency will not be connected with the results of this research. Your privacy will be protected to the maximum extent allowable by law. If you choose not to participate, to withdraw or not answer any particular question, you will not suffer any penalty.

If you have any questions or concerns about this survey, please contact me at (517) 432-0272 or my assistant Kristen Steger at (517) 432-0297 or me by e-mail at nelsonc@carrs.msu.edu. In case you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research participant, please feel free to contact Peter Vasilenko, Ph.D., Michigan State University's Director of Human Resource Protections. His contact information is: phone (517) 355-2180; fax: (517) 432-4503; email: irb@msu.edu; regular mail: 202 Olds Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1047.

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

Chuck Nelson, Associate Professor
Enc.

Appendix C: Michigan Open Project Selection Process for Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants – 2008

To be added by Grants Management when available to park and recreation providers

Appendix D: SCORP Public Input Documentation

To be added after the public comment period.