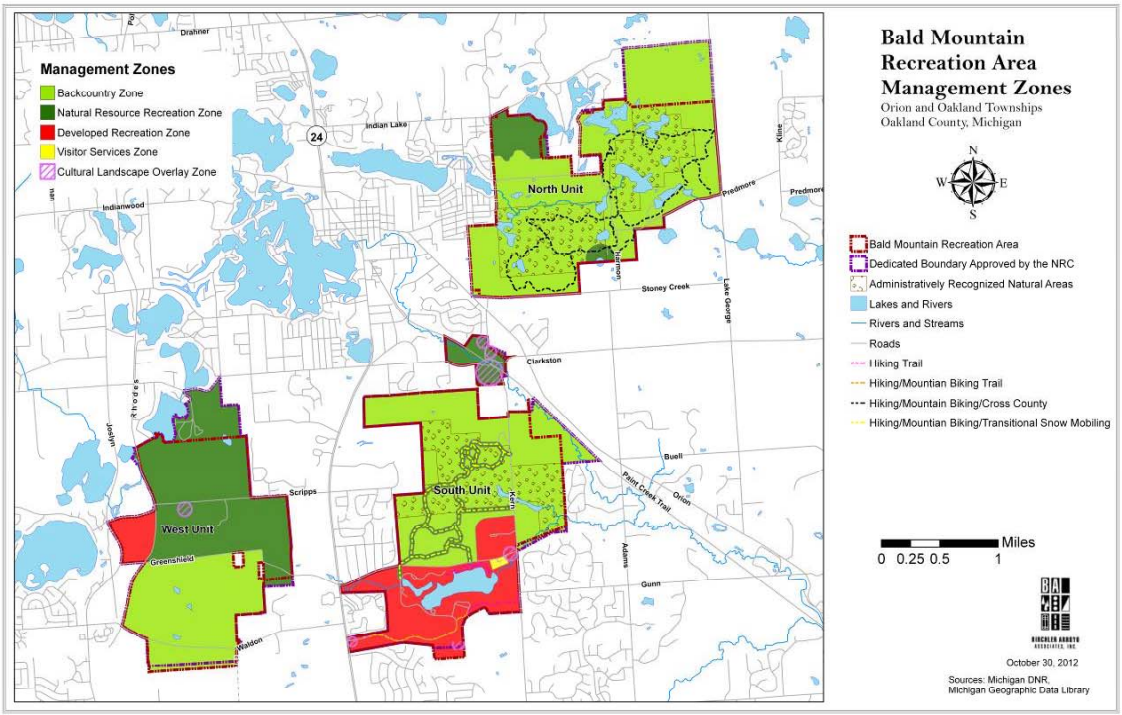
General Management Plan

Long-range management guidance focused on the specific natural resources, historic-cultural resources, recreation opportunities and the education-interpretation opportunities of…

Bald Mountain Recreation Area



The project was directed by Paul N. Curtis, Management Plan Administrator Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation Division with assistance from Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.;

PLAN APPROVALS:

Chief, Parks & Recreation Division — Date 1/8/13

Deputy Director, Natural Resources — Date 1/11/13

Director, Department of Natural Resources — Date 1/14/13

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RESOLUTION NO. 12-2012-01

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE "BALD MOUNTAIN RECREATION AREA – PHASE 1 GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN"

ADOPTED: DECEMBER 13, 2012

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division has completed Phase 1 of the General Management Plan for the Bald Mountain Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, the planning process reflects sensitivity to natural resource values, historic and cultural resource values, recreation and education opportunities, and is inclusive of all DNR programs and representative of eco-management; and

WHEREAS, the planning process was further inclusive of stakeholder, constituent, and public input; and

WHEREAS, the General Management Plan represents sound guidance for future planning phases that will be consistent with the mission of the DNR and the Parks and Recreation Division, and reflective of the purpose and significance of the Bald Mountain Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, the General Management Plan has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Parks and Recreation Division and the MSPAC Stewardship and Operations Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, the General Management Plan is consistent with the recommendations of the Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel report submitted to Governor Rick Snyder.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Bald Mountain Recreation Area – Phase 1 - General Management Plan; and

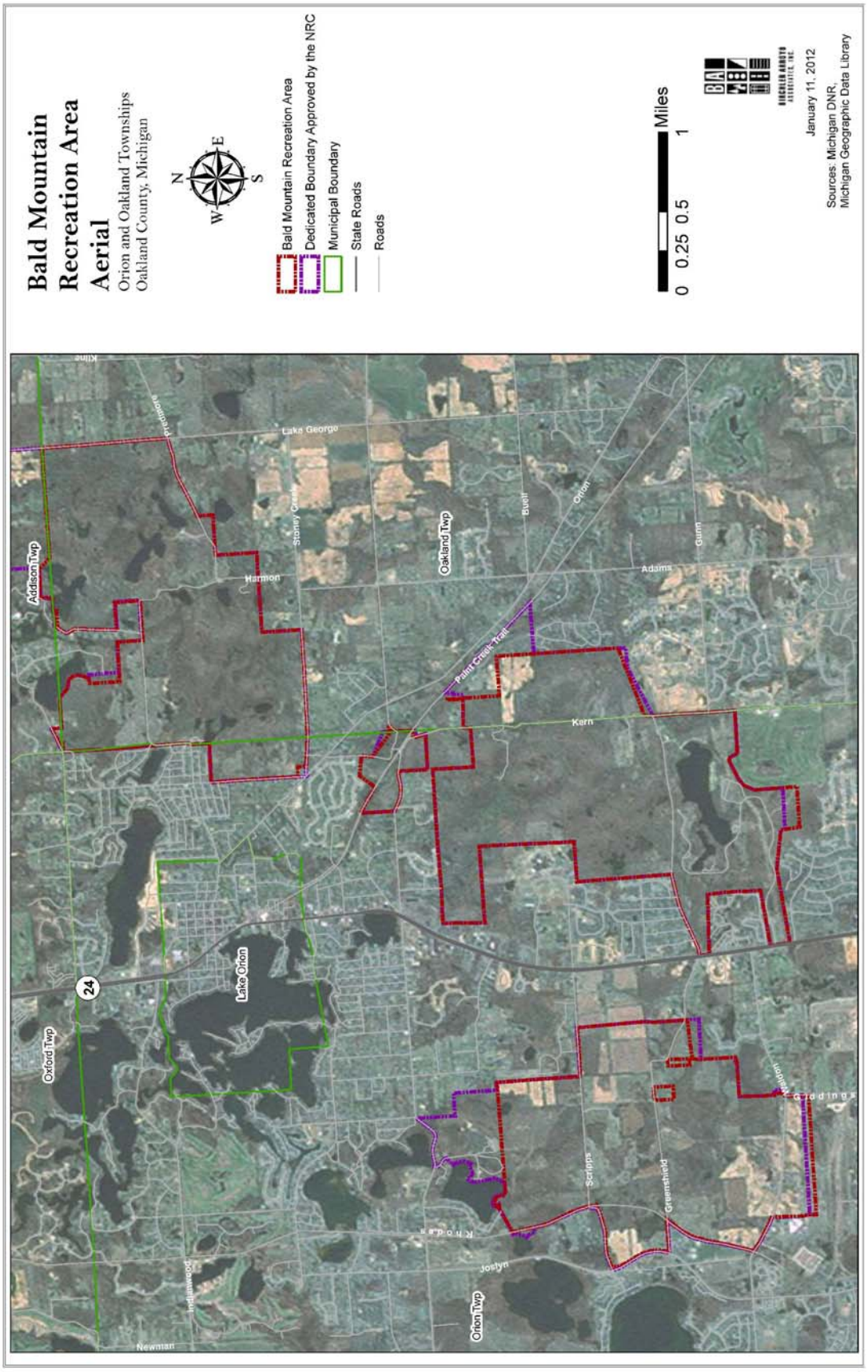
THERFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee further recommends that the DNR Director approve the Phase 1 – General Management Plan for the Bald Mountain Recreation Area; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the DNR Director's approval, the Parks and Recreation Division initiate the Phase 2 – Long Range Action Goals Plan for the Bald Mountain Recreation Area.

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

Motioned by:	**Chris Graham**	**Yeas:**	**10**
Seconded by:	**Mike McDonald**	**Nays:**	**0**
		Abstained:	**0**
		Absent:	**6**

This Resolution was adopted by the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee at their December 13, 2012, meeting as Resolution No. 12-2012-01.


Bald Mountain Recreation Area Aerial
Orion and Oakland Townships
Oakland County, Michigan
N
E
S
W
Bald Mountain Recreation Area
Dedicated Boundary Approved by the NRC
Municipal Boundary
State Roads
Roads
0 0.25 0.5 1
Miles
January 11, 2012
Sources: Michigan DNR,
Michigan Geographic Data Library
Addison Twp
Oxford Twp
Oakland Twp
Orion Twp
Lake Orion
24
Lake George
Harmon
Stoney Creek
Paint Creek Trail
Kern
Adams
Buell
Orion
Gunn
Joslyn
Scripps
Greenshield
Newman
Indianwood
Rhodes
Clarkston
Waldon
Goodings
Klint

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Executive Summary

View of Lower Trout Lake

Bald Mountain Recreation Area, with 4,637 acres spread across three separate units (North Unit, South Unit and West Unit), is located in Oakland County, Michigan. The Phase I General Management Plan (GMP) process for Bald Mountain Recreation Area was made possible by funding provided by Michigan's Park Improvement Fund. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks & Recreation Division (PRD) oversaw the planning process. The endeavor represents a new planning philosophy of the PRD. "Management Planning," a comprehensive, resource-based process is the PRD's adaptation of National Park Service planning methodology. During Phase 1, the GMP focuses on the four principles of the PRD Mission Statement: to acquire, preserve, and protect; (1) natural resources, (2) cultural resource, (3) provide public recreation, and (4) provide education opportunities. The process includes a thorough inventory of Bald Mountain Recreation Area's natural and historic/cultural resources, recreational opportunities and education and interpretation opportunities.

With this base of knowledge, the Core Values for Bald Mountain Recreation Area were developed by the Planning Team (made up of DNR staff) with meaningful input from government officials, recreation partners, stakeholders and the public. Bald Mountain Recreation Area was determined to be significant for the following reasons:

- Bald Mountain Recreation Area is a 4,637-acre day-use recreation and fitness park for the Southeast Michigan population that offers visitors a variety of year-round recreational opportunities with land area appropriate for expanding these activities.
- Bald Mountain Recreation Area features year-round fishing and its two trout streams make it one of the few places in southeast Michigan that offers this unique trout fishing opportunity.
- The park features a modern outdoor shooting range offering rifle, pistol, shotgun, and archery activities.
- Bald Mountain Recreation Area, home to 3,000 acres of public hunting land, constitutes a significant public hunting resource within the State's most populated region.
- There are 15 miles of marked, designated use trails within the park that also serve as a potential link between the Polly Ann and Paint Creek Trails. This inter-connected

regional trail system ties together surrounding communities such as Orion Township, Oakland Township, Lake Orion and Auburn Hills.

- The north unit of the park has an undeveloped and natural feel that provides visitors a glimpse of their natural heritage and the chance to get away from suburban life.
- Bald Mountain includes significant historic resources, featuring some of the earliest known development in Southeast Michigan, including Rudd Mill, one of Orion Township's first sawmills, and the Decker Settlement, the first settlement in Orion Township.
- Bald Mountain Recreation Area features diverse plant and animal life, and a wide variety of rare, exemplary or important natural species and habitats within the park. The terrain, wetlands, lakes, swamps, forests, prairie fens, flowers and plants allow for interaction with nature.
- Current and future utility easements cross much of the park, which may limit recreational opportunities in some areas or provide opportunities in others.

Arrowroot Cabin in the N. Unit

A key goal in the development of this General Management Plan is to establish a clear, recognizable and distinct identity for Bald Mountain Recreation Area. Formulating an identity for Bald Mountain Recreation Area allows the DNR to manage the park in a way that optimizes the user's experience, increases the chances of attracting new visitors, and generates more awareness of the importance of protecting the park's resources. Taking this into account, the Planning Team, with stakeholder and public input, established appropriate Management Zones. From a palette of nine standard zones, 5 were applied to Bald Mountain Recreation Area. The Management Zone map and a thorough review of each Management Zone are found in Section 3 of this Plan. A condensed view of the Management Zones is as follows:

- Backcountry Zone comprises 3,236 acres (63.8%) of the park and emphasizes resource quality over recreation, but allows for modification of the landscape to allow for moderate levels of active recreation uses. The Administratively Recognized Natural Areas within the recreation area are found in the Backcountry Zone. Much of Bald Mountain Recreation Area's extensive trail system is located in this management zone.
- Natural Resource Recreation Zone comprises 1,178 acres (23.2%) and allows active recreation with medium-high density of use conducted in natural areas. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but in this zone, higher levels of use are allowed. In Bald Mountain Recreation Area, this zone is mainly comprised of the rustic cabins in the North Unit, the Paint Creek Trail segment in the South Unit, and most of the West Unit north of Greenshield Road.
- Developed Recreation Zone comprises 653 acres (12.9%) and allows active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. The Upper and Lower Trout Lake day use and beach areas, the shooting range, and the model airplane flying field are found within the Developed Recreation zone.

- Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone comprises 58 acres (1.1%) of Bald Mountain Recreation Area. In this overlay/zone, preservation of the historical and cultural resources is the primary management focus. The Cultural Landscape Overlay allows the uses in the underlying zone but addresses the cultural and historical resources found within the park. The Decker's Settlement and Rudd's Mill are two important historical features found within this zone.
- Visitor Services Zone comprises 7 acres (0.1%) and encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. This zone will include the park headquarters, maintenance facilities and all related land required to conduct the business of running a state recreation area.

Park Information Kiosk

1.0 Plan Process Overview

A General Management Plan (GMP) guides the management of resources, visitor use, and general development at Bald Mountain over a 20-year horizon. The GMP provides the foundation for protecting park resources while providing for meaningful visitor experiences. The long-range vision and management objectives for the park are derived from applicable legal directives, the purpose of the park, and the park's significant natural and cultural resources.

GMPs develop as a result of a series of planning steps. Each step builds upon the previous, and action decisions focus on (1) the mission of the Parks & Recreation Division (PRD), and (2) the specific Purpose and Significance of the park. There are four phases of planning, implemented in the following order:

- **Phase 1:** General Management Plan (GMP) that presents long-range goals (20-year).
- **Phase 2:** Long-range Action Goals Plan that identifies 10-year action strategies to attain the GMP (requires review of Phase 1)
- **Phase 3:** Five-Year Implementation Plan, which outlines specific actions to implement (requires review of Phase 1 and Phase 2)
- **Phase 4**: Annual Action Plan and Progress Report to answer what will be done this year, and what progress was made on last year's plan.

This Plan represents **Phase I**. In this phase of planning, a 20-year vision for the park is defined, and critical questions are answered, such as: What will be the condition of flora and fauna? How will we address historic and cultural resources? What recreational opportunities could be provided? What education and interpretation efforts will meet the visitor? What will guide the manager's operational decisions? What will be the visitor's overall experience?

Phase I determines management zones, and describes a variety of activities that may be appropriate within each zone. Phase I does not determine specific uses. Identifying specific uses within each management zone is a function of Phase 2. **Management Plans do not guarantee future PRD funding to achieve them. PRD will seek internal funding, alternative funding sources, partnerships, grants and other potential mechanisms for implementing the desired future conditions defined in this plan.**

The tool used by this plan is the designation of “Management zones.” Management zones define specific characteristics of the land, addressing management for:

- Natural features
- Historic/cultural features
- Education/interpretation
- Recreational opportunities

These four elements represent the primary goals of the PRD Mission Statement, and provide guidance for both planning and management decisions. Appendix A presents a detailed account of each of these elements. In addition, management zones prescribe values for:

- Visitor experience
- Management Focus
- Development

Within the parameters of this guidance, “Purpose” and “Significance” statements are developed for the park that establish its unique identity and focus. No two parks are the same and emphasis is directed at ensuring that the differences found from park to park are acknowledged, highlighted and celebrated.

1.1 Planning Objectives

The objective of this General Management Plan was to bring together Parks & Recreation Division staff, stakeholders, and the public who use the park into a planning process that will define and clarify the unique “Purpose” and “Significance” of Bald Mountain Recreation Area. Collectively, those attributes will be reinforced in the planning and management decisions that impact the park through the implementation of the Management Zone Plan. Future action plans, whether focused on a development proposal, a resource improvement initiative, an interpretive program, or day-to-day management of the park will be guided by this General Management Plan.

Public Input Open House

Extensive input was sought throughout the planning process. The Planning Team met several times to review, develop, and comment on the plan elements (see Section 1.2). In addition, the DNR hosted two focus group meetings with recreation partners from the region, a stakeholder workshop and a public participation workshop. Both the stakeholder and public participation workshops involved solicited written and verbal comments. The draft plan was available for review on a website and the public was invited to email, call or mail questions or comments concerning this initiative. The results of the public participation program are provided in Attachment B.

1.2 Planning Team

Accomplishment of our planning objectives was and is dependent upon the valuable input provided by all members of the "Planning Team." The names listed below are those who were critical participants in this planning process. Agendas, meeting minutes and attendance at Planning Team meetings is provided in Appendix C.

DNR Staff

Paul N. Curtis	PRD	Park Management Plan Administrator
Paul Yauk	PRD	Lands Manager
Kristen Bennett	PRD	District Planner
Luba Sitar	PRD	Metro Detroit District Supervisor
Ray Fahlsing	PRD	Stewardship Unit Manager
Lisa Gamero	PRD	Cultural Resource Analyst
Andrew Cole	PRD	Bald Mountain RA Park Manager
Tim Payne	WD	Southeast Region Manager
Julie Oakes	WD	Wildlife Biologist
Jim Francis	FD	Fisheries Biologist
Liz Hay-Chmielewski	FD	Fisheries Supervisor
Tom Hoane	FMD	FMD – Geologist
Bruce Miller	FMD	Fire Officer
David Malloch	LED	Law Enforcement Lieutenant
Karen Gourlay	M&O	Park Interpreter
Aiden McLearon	MOD	Shooting Range Supervisor
Pat Lieske	MSC	Shooting Range Concessionaire

Consultants

David Birchler, Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.
Jill Bahm, Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.
Susan Roble, Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.
Sheila Starks, Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.

Planning Team at East Graham Lake

1.3 Recreation Partners

The input of regional Recreation Partners is also critical when evaluating the need for facilities and programs while avoiding unnecessary duplication of facilities and services. Bald Mountain Recreation Partners included: Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, Oakland County Parks & Recreation, Orion Township Parks & Recreation, Oakland Township Parks & Recreation, Auburn Hills Parks & Recreation, Lake Orion High School, Addison Oaks Park, Orion Oaks Park, Paint Creek Trailways Commission, Polly Ann Trailway Management Council, Inc., Clinton River Canoe and Kayak Rentals, Macomb County Parks Commission, Stony Creek Metropark.

1.4 Management Plan Planning Process

Management Planning is a defined strategic process within the Parks & Recreation Division Strategic Plan (2009), reflecting the following Goals and Objectives:

- Goal 1, Objective 1.2: Strengthen, update, and implement Management Plans.
- Goal 3, Objective 3.1: Perform landscape level assessment of recreation opportunities in decision making.
- Goal 8, Objective 8.1: Continue to use the MSPAC (Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee), MSWC (Michigan State Waterways Commission), NRC (Natural Resources Commission), SWC (Statewide Council), and Ecoregion Teams and partners to advise in Parks & Recreation Division planning, policy development, and issue resolution.

2.0 Core Values

Core values are the foundation upon which the park management plan is based. Core values are derived from the mission statements of the DNR and PRD, as well as the priorities of the Director to ensure that the State will acquire, preserve, and protect (1) natural resources and (2) cultural resources, and continue to provide (3) public recreation and (4) educational opportunities throughout the State park system.

2.1 Mission Statements

Guidance for the General Management Plan stems from the Mission Statements of the Department and its Parks & Recreation Division, and the Purpose and Significance Statements that have evolved through the planning process. The core values found in these statements must be reflected in this long-range General Management Plan for Bald Mountain Recreation Area, and subsequently reflected in any shorter range action plans:

DNR Mission Statement

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

PRD Mission Statement

The Parks & Recreation Division's Mission is to acquire, protect, and preserve the natural and cultural features of Michigan's unique resources, and to provide access to land and water based public recreation and educational opportunities.

DNR Priorities Related to State Parks

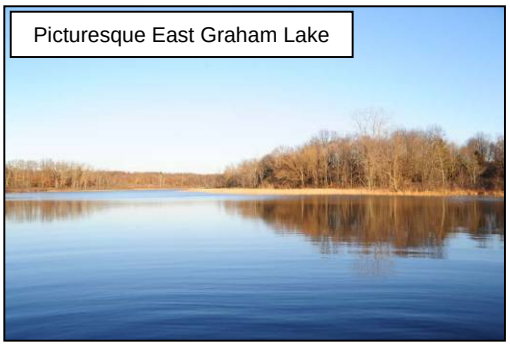
- Renewed emphasis on providing top-notch customer service
- Broaden the base of support for outdoor recreation by continuously promoting the Recreation Passport
- Increase participation in outdoor recreation in our state, and reverse the trend of declining participation in hunting and fishing
- Foster the growth of Michigan's resource-based economy and be recognized as the leader in trail-based recreation.

2.2 Park Purpose

Park purpose statements are based on park legislation, legislative history, special designations and DNR policies. These statements reaffirm the reasons for which Bald Mountain Recreation Area was identified as part of the state park system.

1. To be used as a public park, pursuant to the intentions of the State Legislature when it created the park and authorized its purchase, beginning in 1944.
2. To preserve and protect Bald Mountain Recreation Area's unique natural resources for current and future generations.
3. To provide diverse recreational opportunities to nearby populations.
4. To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflect the DNR mission and the unique qualities of Bald Mountain Recreation Area.

2.3 Draft Statements of Significance


Picturesque East Graham Lake

Park Significance statements capture the essence of the park's importance to our state's natural and cultural heritage. These statements demonstrate the distinctiveness of Bald Mountain Recreation Area. Understanding the park's significance helps managers make decisions that preserve those resources and values necessary to accomplish the park's purpose.

1. Bald Mountain Recreation Area is a 4,637-acre day-use recreation and fitness park for the Southeast Michigan population that offers visitors a variety of year-round recreational opportunities with land area appropriate for expanding these activities.
2. Bald Mountain Recreation Area features year-round fishing and its two trout streams make it one of the few places in southeast Michigan that offers this unique trout fishing opportunity.
3. The park features a modern outdoor shooting range offering rifle, pistol, shotgun, and archery activities.
4. Bald Mountain Recreation Area, home to 3,000 acres of public hunting land, constitutes a significant public hunting resource within the State's most populated region.
5. There are 15 miles of marked, designated use trails within the park that also serve as a potential link between the Polly Ann and Paint Creek Trails. This inter-connected regional trail system ties together surrounding communities such as Orion Township, Oakland Township, Lake Orion and Auburn Hills.
6. The north unit of the park has an undeveloped and natural feel that provides visitors a glimpse of their natural heritage and the chance to get away from suburban life.
7. Bald Mountain includes significant historic resources, featuring some of the earliest known development in Southeast Michigan, including Rudd Mill, one of Orion Township's first sawmills, and the Decker Settlement, the first settlement in Orion Township.
8. Bald Mountain Recreation Area features diverse plant and animal life, and a wide variety of rare, exemplary or important natural species and habitats within the park. The terrain, wetlands, lakes, swamps, forests, prairie fens, flowers and plants allow for interaction with nature.
9. Current and future utility easements cross much of the park, which may limit recreational opportunities in some areas or provide opportunities in others.

2.4 Legal Mandates

For all park General Management Plans, all legal mandates are identified that serve to further guide the development of the General Management Plan and subsequent Action Plans. For our planning purposes, the term "Legal Mandates" refers to not only state law, but also the administrative tools of "Policy" and "Directive" of the Natural Resource Commission, the Department, and the Parks & Recreation Division. Examples include Wildlife Conservation Orders, Orders of the Director, and all other laws, commission orders, and rules or directives that apply to the park. Specific to Bald Mountain Recreation Area, several legal mandates have been identified, which are listed below. Please refer to *Appendix A: Supporting Analysis* for a more detailed summary of these mandates.

<u>DNR Policy 26.04-04 - Use of State-Owned Lands Administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (ISSUED: 02/01/2006)</u>

- The NRC will manage state-owned lands in a manner that protects and enhances the public trust while providing for the use and enjoyment of those lands as outlined in the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act.
- Established to protect and promote the public health by establishing health code requirements specifically addressing campgrounds.
- All public (including DNR) and private campgrounds must comply with these regulations
- Mandates that a campground wastewater system must meet the construction permit, design, and operation requirements under Michigan's Public Health Code.

<u>National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, including Storm Water Runoff Discharge Authorization</u>

- The purpose of this permit is to control the discharge of pollutants into surface waters of the state to protect the environment; administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

<u>PA 35 of 2010, Part 741 ("Recreation Passport")</u>

- This act amended the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code to provide for a State Park and State-operated public boating access site "Recreation Passport" that a Michigan resident may obtain by paying an additional fee when registering a motor vehicle.
- The Recreation Passport is required for entry into all PRD administered facilities and takes the place of the Motor Vehicle Permit (MVP).

<u>PA 368 OF 1978, ARTICLE 12 - ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PART 125 – CAMPGROUNDS – Part 125 of the Public Health Code</u>

- Established to protect and promote the public health by establishing health code requirements and regulations that all public (including DNR) and private campgrounds must meet.
- Campground wastewater system must meet the construction permit, design, and operation requirements under Michigan's Public Health Code.

<u>PA 451 OF 1994, PART 22 – CAMPGROUND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS</u>

- These rules apply to all campground wastewater systems and regulates discharges to groundwater; administered by the Water Division, Groundwater Discharge Unit.

PA 451 of 1994, PART 303 - WETLANDS PROTECTION (formerly Act No. 203, P.A. 1979 Wetland Protection Act)

- Administered by the DNR and part of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, this legislation provides clarification and guidance on interpreting Part 303 by defining specific rules for the regulation of wetlands in Michigan.
- The law requires that persons planning to conduct certain activities in regulated wetlands apply for and receive a permit from the state before beginning the activity.

PA 451 OF 1994, PART 419 - HUNTING AREA CONTROL

- Administered by the DNR, this part of PA 451 establishes the powers of the Department to establish safety zones for hunting.

PA 451 OF 1994, PART 504 - STATE LAND USE RULES / LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR

- Administered by DNR Law Division.
- States that the department shall promulgate rules for the protection of the lands and property under its control against wrongful use or occupancy.

PA 451 OF 1994, PART 741 - STATE PARK SYSTEM - NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

- Notable in this law is Section 324.74102, which identifies the duties of the DNR and reinforces those core values concerning preservation, protection and management cited above.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDERS

- Established by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC).
- Describes hunting and trapping regulations including methods of take, bag limits, license quotas, and season dates are established by the NRC and are described in the Wildlife Conservation Orders.

PA 45 OF 2010 - NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

- Amendes the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (PA 451 of 1994) to require the DNR to establish a plan for a statewide trail network that includes Michigan trailways, pack and saddle trailways, and other recreational use trailways, and to permit pack and saddle animals on designated trailways managed by the DNR.

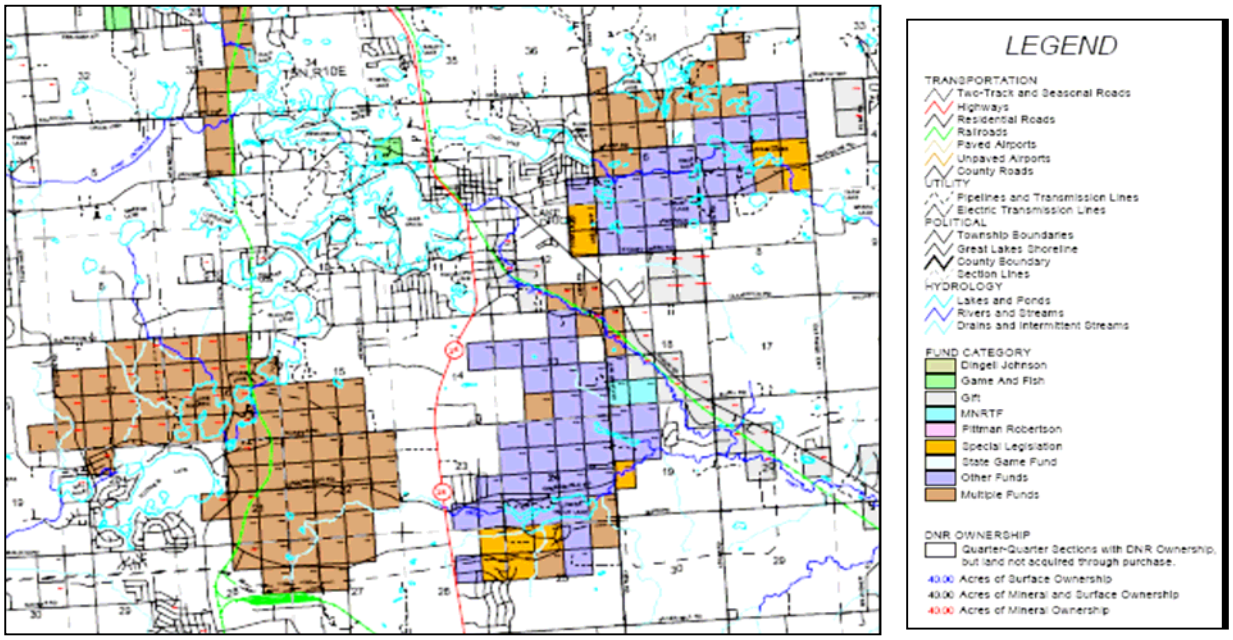
PA 46 OF 2010 - NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

- Amendes the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (PA 451 of 1994) with a finding that a statewide system of trails, trailways, and pack and saddle trailways is in the best interest of the state; requires the DNR to establish an “adopt-a-trail” program that allows volunteer groups to assist in maintaining and enhancing Michigan trailways, pack and saddle trailways, and rail-trails; and creates the Michigan snowmobile and trails advisory council within the department.

2.5 Land Acquisition & Funding Sources

Bald Mountain Recreation Area was obtained, piece by piece, over several years. Various funding sources have been used for acquisition of land in Bald Mountain Recreation Area. The following descriptions relate to the fund source map and legend below for Bald Mountain Recreation Area. Those lands were acquired by the state through a variety of funding sources and/or transactions. Often, conditions attached to the original funding source or other details of the property transaction encumber the future use or disposition of the land. Please refer to Appendix A: Supporting Analysis for a complete detailed list of all State Park funding sources.

Bald Mountain Recreation Area Funding Source



<u>Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)</u>
The trust fund was established in 1976 to provide a source of funding for public acquisition of lands for resource protection and public outdoor recreation. Funding is derived from royalties on the sale and lease of state owned mineral rights. It is utilized for general program purposes.

The State Constitution was amended in 1984 to provide for a "Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund" which was implemented in 1985. Most rentals, royalties, and other revenues derived from mineral, coal, oil, and gas interests on State-owned land are credited to the fund. Public Act 451 of 1994 redirected a portion ($10 million per year) of these revenues previously committed to this fund, to the Michigan State Parks Endowment Fund. Appropriations are used to fund grants to local units of government, as well as State agencies, to acquire or develop outdoor public recreation facilities.

<u>Game and Fish Funds (now known as the State Game and Fish Protection Fund)</u>
This fund was established in 1921 and is financed principally by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. The license fees are set by statute and their purpose is to support the conservation program for preservation and control of fish and wildlife. The fund also

receives revenues from the investment earnings of the Game and Fish Protection Trust Fund. The fund provides financial support for state-wide hunting and fishing programs, including resource management, research, enforcement of hunting and fishing laws, and acquisition of lands to be used for hunting and fishing purposes.

State Game and Fish Protection Trust Fund

The State Game and Fish Protection Trust Fund was created under the provisions of Public Act 73 of 1986. The Game and Fish Protection Fund provides revenues for the operation of the Fish, Wildlife, and Law Enforcement programs in the Department of Natural Resources. Management, research, enforcement of fishing and hunting laws and acquisition of lands to be used for hunting and fishing purposes are examples of uses of this fund.

Special Legislation

Acquisitions for park purposes through this source are tied to specific funding established by the legislature.

Other Funds

Included in this category are "General Fund," defined as properties that were purchased with monies from the state's General Fund, and not associated with a specific revenue stream or bond program. Also included in this category are "Exchanges." These land transactions result in acquisition of lands in return for disposition of land to the offering party.

Another fund source represented in this category is the "Recreation Bond Fund." This fund was established in 1988 and operates under Parts 196 and 715 of P.A. 451 of 1994, as amended. The fund was created from the proceeds and investment earnings of a bond package approved by the voters in November 1988 to finance state and local public recreation projects.

Multiple Funds

Often, more than one funding source is designated for successful completion of a real estate transaction. In those cases, this 'Multiple Funds' designation is made. Specific information for these must be investigated on a case-by-case basis.

Gift

These properties were provided to the state as a donation from private individuals or entities. In some cases, specific requirements may be associated with the gift of land (e.g. the land may be gifted to the state as a "Wildlife Viewing Area") which would lend certain guidance to the management of the gifted land. Specific information for these must be investigated on a case-by-case basis.

2.6 Easements

Bald Mountain Recreation Area is significantly impacted by easements that favor the following:

- Michigan Department of Transportation
- Michigan Gas Storage
- Consumers Power
- Detroit Edison Company
- GTE Telephone Company
- The Buckeye Pipeline Company
- Michigan Bell Telephone Company

3.0 Management Zones

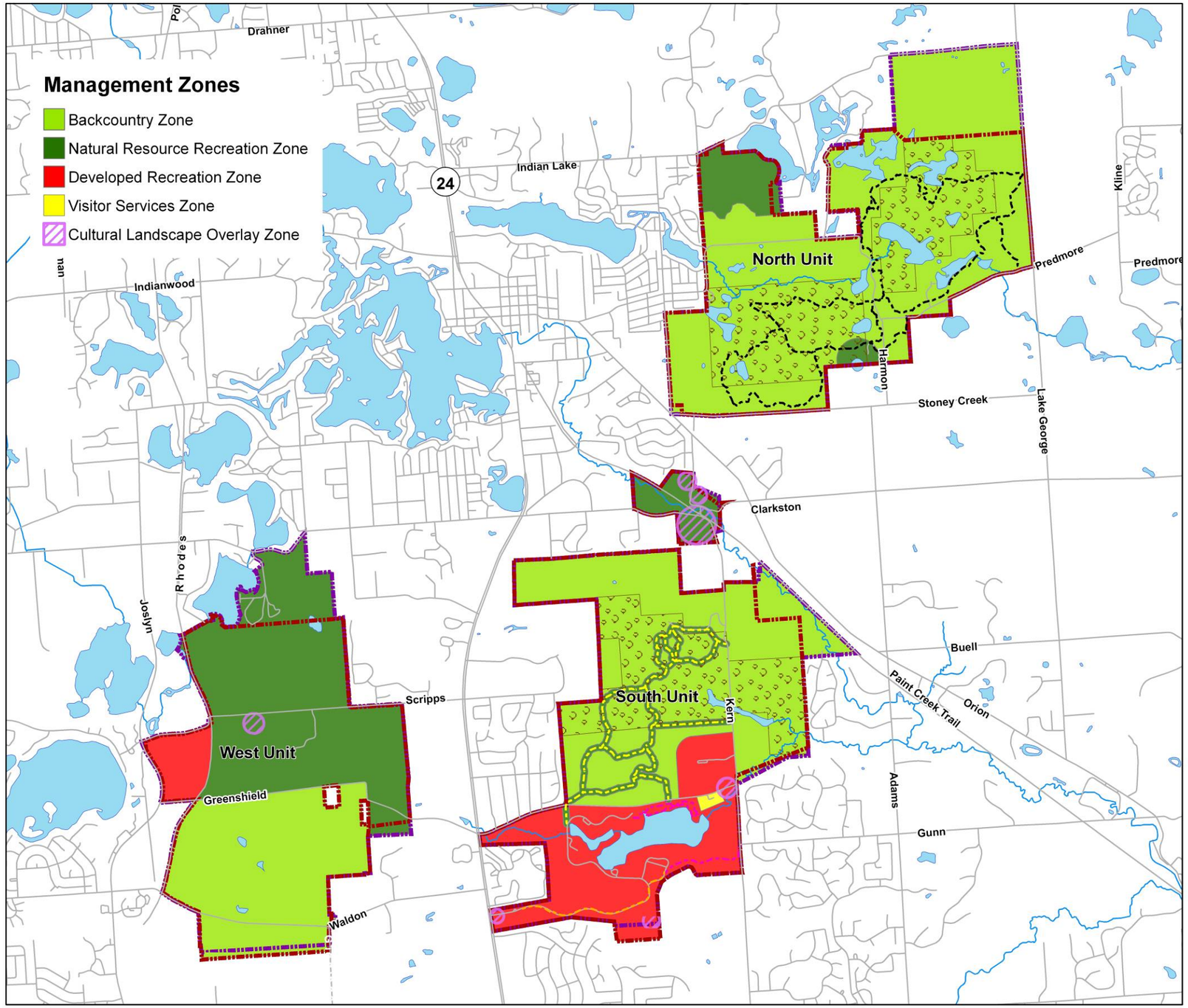
With guidance of the Planning Team and input from the park's stakeholders and the public, the "Purpose and Significance" statements were formulated for Bald Mountain Recreation Area. This established an identity for Bald Mountain Recreation Area as a place to be valued for its unique natural features, multi-use recreational trails, and opportunity for natural resources education.

The Management Zone Plan was developed in keeping with the park's unique Identity. Similar to the Purpose and Significance statements, the Management Zone Plan was also drafted with Planning Team, recreation partners, stakeholder and public support. The Management Zone Plan seeks to preserve and protect the park's natural resources, while creating opportunities for recreation, education and interpretation. To achieve this, the 4,637-acre park was divided into the following zones:

This is Phase I of the General Management Plan for Bald Mountain Recreation Area to determine management zones for the parkland. Management zones describe a variety of activities that **may be** appropriate within that zone. Identifying specific activities that **will occur** is a function of Phase 2 general management planning, and not a component of this phase.

- Backcountry Zone comprises 3,236 acres (63.8%) and emphasizes resource quality over recreation, but allows for modification of the landscape to allow for moderate levels of active recreation uses. Much of Bald Mountain Recreation Area's extensive trail system is located in this management zone.
- Natural Resource Recreation Zone comprises 1,178 acres (23.2 %) and allows active recreation with medium-high density of use conducted in natural areas. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but in this zone, higher levels of use are allowed. In Bald Mountain Recreation Area, this zone is mainly comprised of the rustic cabins in the North Unit, the Paint Creek Trail segment in the South Unit, and most of the West Unit north of Greenshield Road.
- Developed Recreation Zone comprises 653 acres (12.9%) and allows active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. The Upper and Lower trout Lake day use and beach areas, the shooting range, and the model airplane flying field will be found within the Developed Recreation zone.
- Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone comprises 58 acres (1.1%) and encompasses the natural, cultural, historical resources within the park that are protected and interpreted for visitor understanding. The Decker's Settlement and Rudd's Mill are two important historical features found within this zone.
- Visitor Services Zone comprises 7 acres (0.1%) and encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. This zone will include the park

headquarters, maintenance facilities and all related land required to conduct the business of running a state recreation area.



Bald Mountain Recreation Area Management Zones

Orion and Oakland Townships
Oakland County, Michigan

N
W E
S

- Bald Mountain Recreation Area
- Dedicated Boundary Approved by the NRC
- Administratively Recognized Natural Areas
- Lakes and Rivers
- Rivers and Streams
- Roads
- Hiking Trail
- Hiking/Mountian Biking Trail
- Hiking/Mountain Biking/Cross County
- Hiking/Mountian Biking/Transitional Snow Mobiling

Miles
0 0.25 0.5 1

BIRCHLER ARROYO ASSOCIATES, INC.

October 30, 2012

Sources: Michigan DNR,
Michigan Geographic Data Library

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3.1 Backcountry Zone

North Unit Backcountry Trail

Approximately 3,236 acres (63.8%) of Bald Mountain Recreation Area will be designated Backcountry Zone. This zone allows for modification of the landscape to allow for moderate levels of active recreation uses. Most of the North Unit is zoned Backcountry along with a significant portion of the South Unit and half of the West Unit.

A. Natural Resources: This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Within the Backcountry Zone, natural resources may be modified slightly to support visitor use, but the tolerance for natural resource impacts is low. This zone is home to the recreation area's Administratively Recognized Natural Areas.

B. Historic/Cultural Resources: There are several historic structures or resources in this zone including historic dam locations, farmsteads, and cemeteries.

C. Recreational Opportunities: Moderate levels of recreation are allowed in the Backcountry Zone, provided the activities are compatible with the natural character. Non-motorized outdoor activities could be permitted, including hiking, backpacking, backcountry camping, canoeing, kayaking, mountain biking, nature observation, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and hunting/trapping/fishing. Most of Bald Mountain Recreation Area's extensive trail system, which includes biking and hiking trails, are found within the Backcountry Zone. However, due to the intensive events that periodically take place on trails in the South Unit, these trails are zoned Natural Resource Recreation.

D. Education Opportunities: The ecological significance of the resources in the park presents a tremendous educational opportunity. Information can be relayed through the use of kiosks at trailheads and interpretive signage along trails and other appropriate locations. The Michigan State Park Explorer Program (also known as the Outdoor Explorer Program) offers campers and day visitors the opportunity to learn about a wide range of topics including forests, insects, and pond studies.

E. Visitor Experience: A moderate level of visitor encounters can be accommodated in the Backcountry Zone. Visitors will engage in self-reliant, non-motorized outdoor activities that may require a fairly high time commitment. Low noise tolerance and low interaction with others can be expected.

F. Management Focus: Management will focus on maintaining the low-impact character of the zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality. Routine maintenance, including maintenance for trails or access routes, will be provided. Care will be taken to eliminate any detrimental impacts such as incursion of invasive species.

G. Development: A low level of development is allowed to support visitor access to activities offered in the zone. Development would be unobtrusive and blend in with the natural environment.

3.2 Natural Resource Recreation Zone

Inside of the Morel Cabin

Approximately 1,178 acres (23.2%) of the land comprising Bald Mountain Recreation Area is designated Natural Resource Recreation Zone. The zone allows for active recreation with medium to high density of use conducted in natural areas. The rustic cabins of the North Unit, as well the entire northern half of the West Unit are zoned Natural Resource Recreation.

A. Natural Resources: This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to facilitate recreational use and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape.

B. Historic/Cultural Resources: Cultural resources preserved, rehabilitated, removed or allowed to waste away. Historic structures could be adaptively used for operational uses or educational purposes.

C. Recreation Opportunities: In this zone, visitors engage in *outdoor activities* in diverse land and water natural settings (i.e. hiking, backpacking, back-country and rustic camping, bicycling, canoeing, kayaking, nature observation, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing). Hunting/trapping/fishing are permitted in designated areas. Snowmobiling is permitted on designated routes. Moderate to high levels of recreation compatible with natural character of the zone. However, due to the intensive events that periodically take place on trails in the South Unit, these trails are zoned Natural Resource Recreation. The South Unit trails have been designated for snow mobile use for a transitional period of time. It is the intent of this General Management Plan that a sustainable area and/or new network of sustainable snow mobile trails will be designated at an alternative location with the Bald Mountain Recreation Area.

D. Education Opportunities: Interpretive signage at trail heads, on the trail, and at overlooks.

E. Visitor Experience. Visitors engaged in outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings for recreation and education. Hunting/trapping/fishing permitted in designated areas. Snowmobiling permitted on designated routes. Variable time commitment. Variable challenge and adventure. Moderate noise tolerance. Moderate interaction with DNR staff. High visitor encounters accommodated.

F. Management Focus: Management focuses on maintaining the use of the zone appropriate to the PRD's mission. Public safety, protection of resources, and universal access are management priorities.

G. Development: A moderate level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities is permitted in this zone. Examples of development include walkways and parking, trails, benches, and picnic tables. Site hardening is allowed as necessary to facilitate activities and protect natural resources.

3.3 Developed Recreation Zone

Approximately 653 acres (12.9%) of Bald Mountain Recreation Area is designated Developed Recreation. This zone allows active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. This zone includes the Lower Trout Lake day use and beach area, Upper Trout Lake day use and beach area, and the shooting range, which are all located in the South Unit. Furthermore, the area used primarily by the model airplane enthusiasts in the West Unit is also zoned Developed Recreation.

A. Natural Resources: Vegetative management in this zone will address hazard trees, invasive species, and pests and disease, and will also be allowed for purposes of facilitating development and recreational use and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape. Natural resources are actively managed and modified to support visitor activities. Water quality is maintained or restored.

B. Historic/Cultural Resources: Resources in this zone could be preserved, adapted or rehabilitated. Non-utilized or non-stabilized structures are removed.

C. Recreational Opportunities: High levels of recreation in a highly structured environment are found in this zone. Visitors engage in recreation activities in diverse and modified land and water settings: hiking, bicycling, boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, nature observation, cross-country skiing, shooting and archery, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, day-use beach, picnicking, and other day-use activities.

D. Education Opportunities: Interpretive signage and information could be provided at the campground, registration building, trailheads, and/or along trails and overlooks.

E. Visitor Experience: A high level of visitor encounters can be accommodated. Activities for visitors to engage in could offer a variable time commitment, challenge and adventure. Moderate to high noise tolerance and moderate to high interaction with others can be expected.

F. Management Focus: Management focuses on maintaining the use of the zone appropriate to the PRD's mission. Public safety, protection of resources, and universal access are management priorities.

G. Development: A high level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities is permitted in this zone. Examples of development include restrooms, concrete/asphalt/gravel walkways and parking, fishing piers, trails, benches, picnic tables, rustic campsites, cabins and shelters for recreation and educational opportunities. Site hardening is allowed as necessary to facilitate activities, protect natural resources, and provide universal access.

3.4 Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone

Approximately 58 acres (1.1%) of land within Bald Mountain Recreation Area is designated Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone. The management focus of the Cultural Landscape Overlay is the preservation of the historical and cultural resources. The Overlay allows the uses in the underlying zone but addresses the cultural and historical resources found with the area.

A. Natural Resources: This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management focused to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to enhance education/interpretation uses which can include non-native species specific to the era and/or location, and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape that is sensitive to the historical resource and interpretation of the zone.

North Unit Water Pump

B. Historic/Cultural Resources: Includes historic buildings, structures, and other landscape characteristics and features, which represent the evolution of the cultural resource, temporal change, and the continuum of time. Bald Mountain Recreation Area's historic resources include the Decker Settlement and Rudd's Mill, among others.

C. Recreation Opportunities: Visitors engaged in sightseeing, recreational, and educational activities in a cultural setting (i.e. automobile, bicycle, walking, hiking tour), compatible with and sensitive to the setting.

D. Education Opportunities: Interpretive signage at trail heads, on the trail, overlooks and other points of interest. Off site interpretation as well.

E. Visitor Experience: Visitors engaged in sightseeing, recreational, and educational activities in a cultural setting (i.e. automobile, bicycle, walking, hiking tour). Moderate time commitment. Moderate on-site interpretation, off-site interpretation, noise tolerance, and interaction with DNR staff.

F. Management Focus: The focus of this zone is to maintain the cultural character of the zone, and the underlying zone, which is mainly Natural Resource Recreation and Developed Recreation.

G. Development: Non-historic development and activities that do not conflict with the cultural landscape are tolerated. Moderate level of development to support visitor access and use (i.e. interpretive media, walks, trails, small picnic areas, and restrooms). Development compatible with the cultural landscape.

3.5 Visitor Services Zone

This zone is 7 acres (0.1%), and encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. It includes offices, contact stations, maintenance facilities and all related land required to conduct the business of running a recreation area. The Visitor Services zone is located in the South Unit of Bald Mountain Recreation Area and includes the park headquarters.

A. Natural Resources: Natural resources are actively managed and modified to support administrative and support activities. Vegetative management is allowed (primarily tree removal for safety).

B. Historic/Cultural Resources: Resources in this zone could be preserved, adapted or rehabilitated to support administrative and support activities.

C. Recreational Opportunities: There are no recreational activities permitted in the Visitor Services zone.

D. Education Opportunities: Person to person contact at park headquarters for general information; informational kiosk may be available.

E. Visitor Experience: Business and information only. High noise tolerance and moderate to high interaction with others can be expected.

F. Management Focus: Management focuses on the business of running the park, appropriate facilities for staff, employee safety. Universal access will be provided to the offices.

G. Development: A high level of development of facilities for support of administrative activities is permitted in this zone. Examples of development include office space, meeting rooms, employee locker room, eating area, shop space, and storage space

4.0 Future Plan Inserts

The following are items that will be added to this General Management Plan (GMP) as they are developed. The GMP serves as a guide for each subsequent plan.

10-Year Long Range Action Goals Plan: (Plan to attain the GMP): Phase 2 of the Management Planning Process. Includes review and update of General Management Plan.

5-Year Implementation Plan: (Specific actions to implement the Long Range Action Goals Plan): Phase 3 of the Management Planning Process. Includes review and update of GMP and Phase 2 Plan.

Annual Action Plan and Progress Report: Phase 4 of the Management Planning Process.

Operational/Management Resources: The following categories are established as a guide for the park manager to use to supplement this working document. Other categories can be added as needed.

- Annual Work Plan (This report ties in with Phase 4 – Annual Report of Management Planning)
- Stewardship Plan
- Staffing
- Budget
- Equipment
- Training
- Public Relations / Marketing / Outreach
- Programming (ie. special events, MCCC, volunteers, etc.)
- Public Health, Safety, and Welfare
- Water system
- Wastewater system
- Electrical system
- Law enforcement
- Emergency Access Plan
- Wildfire Management Plan
- CRS
- FOIA
- Raster Image Index
- Raster Images of historic park plans
- Park Infrastructure data

APPENDIX A
Supporting Analysis

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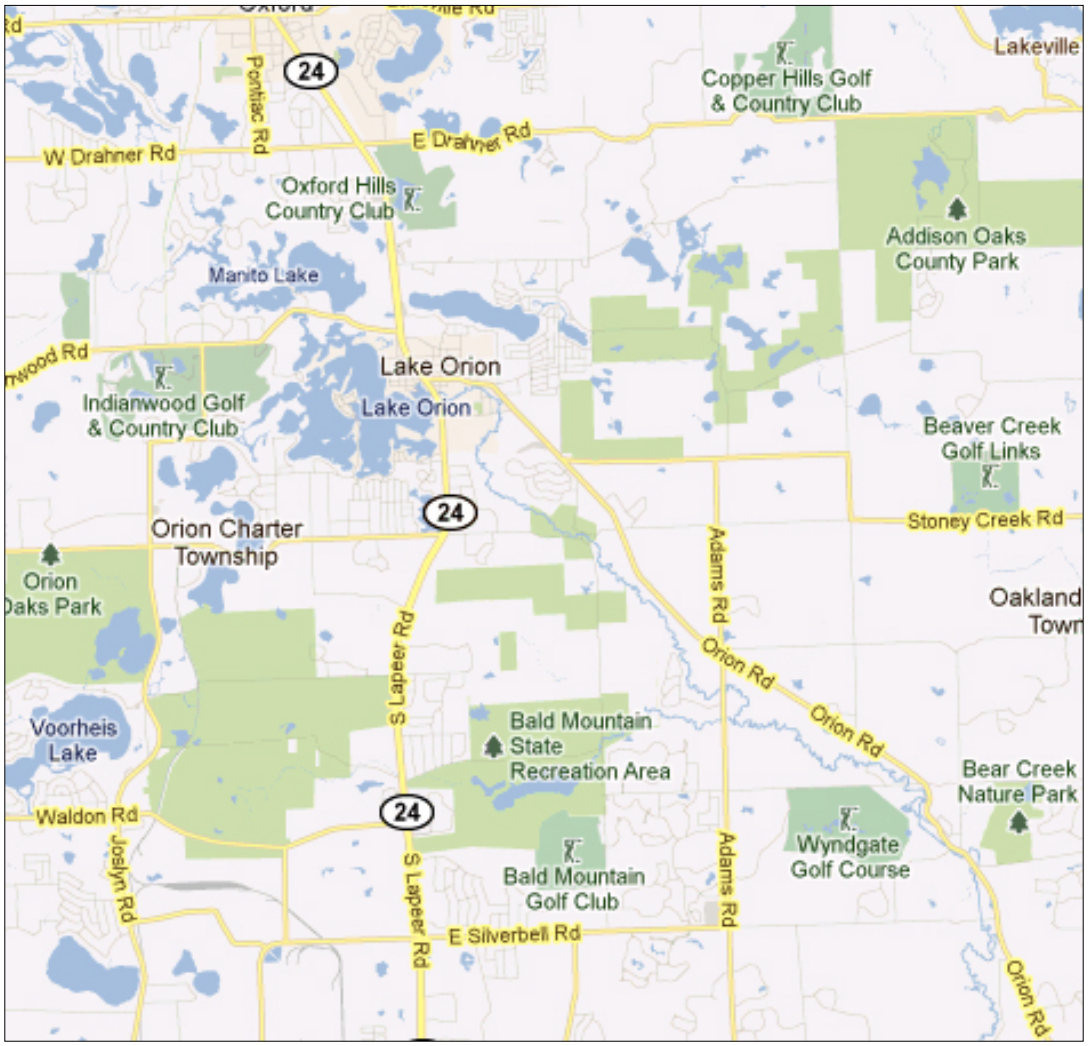
A.1 Park Setting

Location and Surrounding Community

Bald Mountain Recreation Area was created in 1944 when the State Legislature appropriated General, as well as Fish and Game Funds, towards the purchase of large parcels of property throughout Michigan. These recreation areas were created to provide recreation opportunities for a growing urban population. Bald Mountain Recreation Area has some of the steepest hills and most rugged terrain in southeastern Michigan. Camping is limited to rustic cabins, but the extensive trails, inland lakes, trout streams and wild game provide recreation opportunities all year long.

Bald Mountain Recreation Area is situated in Orion Township, which is located in the northwest portion of Oakland County. Its geographic coordinates approximate 42˚74” latitude and 83˚22” longitude.

Bald Mountain Recreation Area is located north of I-75 and directly east and west of M-24, otherwise known as S. Lapeer Rd. The park is easily accessible from I-75 via M-24.



A.2 Demographics

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the 2010 population of Oakland County as 1,202,362, a 0.7% increase since the 2000 census. The population density of Oakland County is 1,385.7 people per square mile. The county population far exceeds the state average of 175 people per square mile.

2010 U.S Census Estimates for Oakland County

People QuickFacts	Oakland County	Michigan
Population, 2010	1,202,362	9,883,640
Population, percent change, 2000 to 2010	0.7%	-0.6%
Population, 2000	1,194,156	9,938,444
Persons under 5 years, percent, 2010	5.7%	6.0%
Persons under 18 years, percent, 2010	23.5%	23.7%
Persons 65 years and over, percent, 2010	13.2%	13.8%
Female persons, percent, 2010	51.5%	50.9%
White persons, percent, 2010 (a)	77.3%	78.9%
Black persons, percent, 2010 (a)	13.6%	14.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent, 2010 (a)	0.3%	0.6%
Asian persons, percent, 2010 (a)	5.6%	2.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent, 2010 (a)	Z	Z
Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2010	2.2%	2.3%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2010 (b)	3.5%	4.4%
White persons not Hispanic, percent, 2010	75.1%	76.6%
Living in same house 1 year & over, 2005-2009	86.7%	85.4%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2005-2009	11.3%	6.0%
Language other than English spoken at home, pct age 5+, 2005-2009	14.4%	9.0%
High school graduates, percent of persons age 25+, 2005-2009	91.8%	87.4%
Bachelor's degree or higher, pct of persons age 25+, 2005-2009	41.6%	24.5%
Veterans, 2005-2009	74,946	751,248
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2005-2009	26	23.7
Housing units, 2010	527,255	4,532,233
Homeownership rate, 2005-2009	75.5%	74.6%
Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent, 2005-2009	22.0%	17.8%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2005-2009	$214,600	$147,500
Households, 2005-2009	479,376	3,860,160

	Oakland County	Michigan
Persons per household, 2005-2009	2.48	2.53
Per capita money income in past 12 months (2009 dollars) 2005-2009	$36,318	$25,172
Median household income, 2009	$62,626	$45,254
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2009	9.7%	16.1%
Business QuickFacts		
Private nonfarm establishments, 2009	38,614	221,682
Private nonfarm employment, 2009	614,878	3,383,615
Private nonfarm employment, percent change 2000-2009	-22.3%	-16.9%
Nonemployer establishments, 2009	95,534	632,618
Total number of firms, 2007	128,040	816,972
Black-owned firms, percent, 2007	8.3%	8.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native owned firms, percent, 2007	0.5%	0.7%
Asian-owned firms, percent, 2007	4.7%	2.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander owned firms, percent, 2007	0.0%	0.1%
Hispanic-owned firms, percent, 2007	1.0%	1.3%
Women-owned firms, percent, 2007	28.6%	30.4%
Manufacturers shipments, 2007 ($1000)	25,885,162	234,455,768
Merchant wholesaler sales, 2007 ($1000)	29,825,742	107,109,349
Retail sales, 2007 ($1000)	18,183,680	109,102,594
Retail sales per capita, 2007	$15,131	$10,855
Accommodation and food services sales, 2007 ($1000)	2,284,814	14,536,648
Building permits, 2010	1,230	9,075
Federal spending, 2009	8,049,501	91,316,137
Geography QuickFacts		
Land area in square miles, 2010	867.66	56,538.90
Persons per square mile, 2010	1,385.7	174.8
FIPS Code	125	26

Source: US Census

A.3 General History of Bald Mountain Recreation Area

In 1943, the Department of Conservation developed a program to provide for new state recreation areas in southeastern Michigan. The program designated 16 large land areas that would offer a variety of recreational opportunities for the people living in nearby largely populated areas. Bald Mountain received its name because of a prominent hill to the south (called Bald Mountain), which was originally included in the project, but was never acquired. At the time, the land was owned by a man named Ball, and the denuded hill's name was later changed to Bald Mountain.

In 1944, three million dollars was appropriated by the legislature to begin acquiring land for southeast Michigan recreation areas (which included Bald Mountain). The Conservation Commission added $600,000 from the Game Protection Fund to include hunting as a park activity.

In 1946, the original 2,406 acres of land was dedicated to the recreation area.

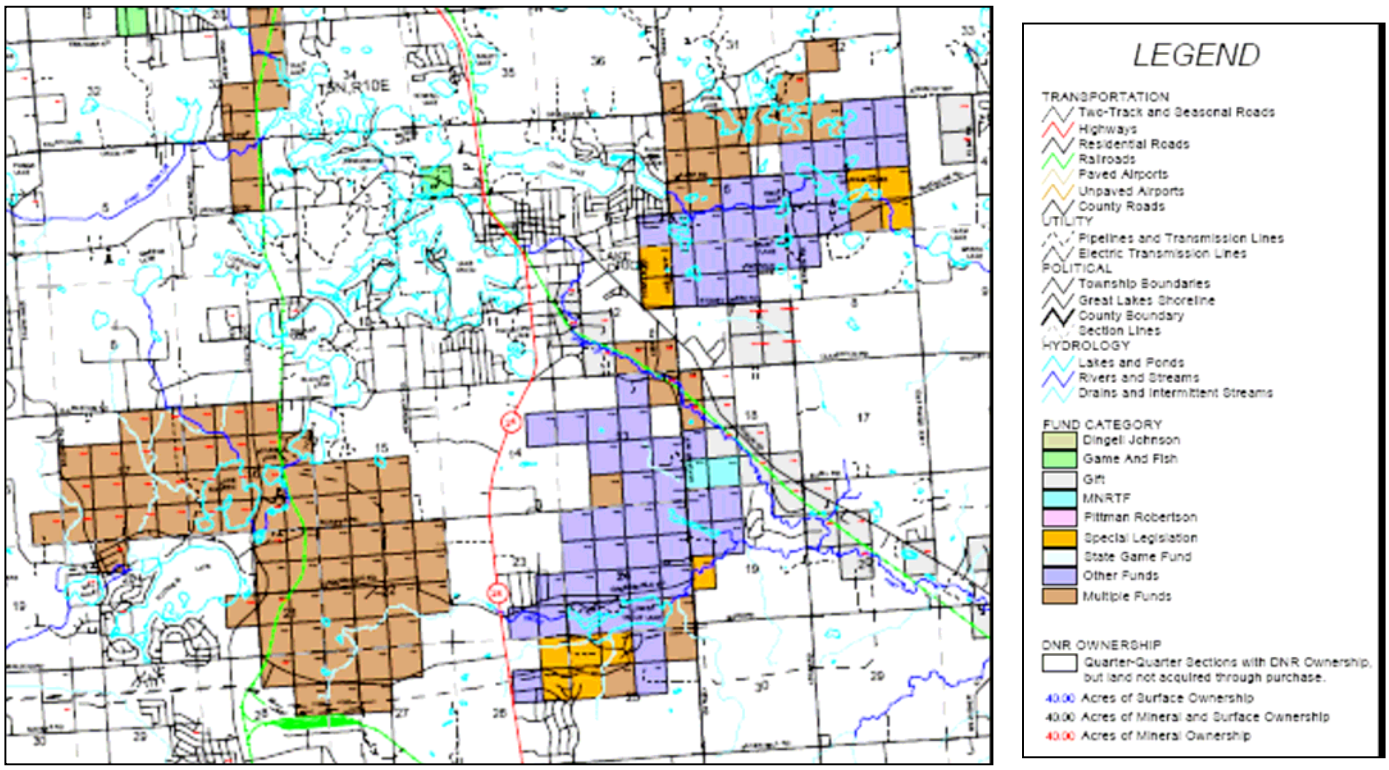
In 1981, an estimated 1,500 acres of land, formerly owned by Chrylser, were added to the recreation area, providing access to Tommy's Lake, and including property west of Lapeer Road.

In 2005, an exchange of 87 acres along Lapeer Road was made to obtain 92 acres, which provided access to Indian Lake in the northern section of the park. This addition allowed the North Unit of the recreation area to expand.

In 2006, the DNR purchased the 62-acre Beraud Property, allowing for access to Paint Creek Trail. This acquisition was significant since it allowed for contiguous access between the Trail and trails of the South Unit without the installation of a bridge.

A.4 Land Acquisition & Funding Sources

Bald Mountain Recreation Area was obtained piece by piece over several years. Various funding sources have been used for acquisition of land in Bald Mountain Recreation Area. The following descriptions relate to the fund source map and legend below for Bald Mountain Recreation Area. Those lands were acquired by the state through a variety of funding sources and/or transactions. Often, conditions attached to the original funding source or other details of the property transaction encumber the future use or disposition of the land. Please refer to Appendix A: Supporting Analysis for a complete detailed list of all State Park funding sources.



Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

The trust fund was established in 1976 to provide a source of funding for public acquisition of lands for resource protection and public outdoor recreation. Funding is derived from royalties on the sale and lease of state owned mineral rights. It is utilized for general program purposes.

The State Constitution was amended in 1984 to provide for a "Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund" which was implemented in 1985. Most rentals, royalties, and other revenues derived from mineral, coal, oil, and gas interests on State-owned land are credited to the fund. Public Act 451 of 1994 redirected a portion ($10 million per year) of these revenues previously committed to this fund, to the Michigan State Parks Endowment Fund. Appropriations are used to fund grants to local units of government as well as State agencies to acquire or develop outdoor public recreation facilities.

Game and Fish Funds (now known as the State Game and Fish Protection Fund)
This fund was established in 1921 and is financed principally by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. The license fees are set by statute and their purpose is to support the conservation program for preservation and control of fish and wildlife. The fund also receives revenues from the investment earnings of the Game and Fish Protection Trust Fund. The fund provides financial support for state-wide hunting and fishing programs, including resource management, research, enforcement of hunting and fishing laws, and acquisition of lands to be used for hunting and fishing purposes.

State Game and Fish Protection Trust Fund
The State Game and Fish Protection Trust Fund was created under the provisions of Public Act 73 of 1986. The Game and Fish Protection Fund provides revenues for the operation of the Fish, Wildlife, and Law Enforcement programs in the Department of Natural Resources. Management, research, enforcement of fishing and hunting laws and acquisition of lands to be used for hunting and fishing purposes are examples of uses of this fund.

Special Legislation
Acquisitions for park purposes through this source are tied to specific funding established by the legislature.

Other Funds
Included in this category are "General Fund," defined as properties that were purchased with monies from the state's General Fund, and not associated with a specific revenue stream or bond program. Also included in this category are "Exchanges." These land transactions result in acquisition of lands in return for disposition of land to the offering party.

Another fund source represented in this category is the "Recreation Bond Fund." This fund was established in 1988 and operates under Parts 196 and 715 of P.A. 451 of 1994, as amended. The fund was created from the proceeds and investment earnings of a bond package approved by the voters in November 1988 to finance state and local public recreation projects.

Multiple Funds
Often, more than one funding source is designated for successful completion of a real estate transaction. In those cases, this 'Multiple Funds' designation is made. Specific information for these must be investigated on a case-by-case basis.

Gift
These properties were provided to the state as a donation from private individuals or entities. In some cases, specific requirements may be associated with the gift of land (e.g. the land may be gifted to the state as a "Wildlife Viewing Area") which would lend certain guidance to the management of the gifted land. Specific information for these must be investigated on a case-by-case basis.

Easements for a variety of utility and road purposes:
Michigan Department of Transportation
Consumers Power
The Buckeye Pipeline Company
Detroit Edison Company
GTE Telephone Company
Michigan Bell Telephone Company
Michigan Gas Storage

A.5 Relationship of Bald Mountain RA to Other Park Resources

There are a variety of regional, county and local park providers and facilities in the immediate vicinity of Bald Mountain Recreation Area. A partnership team was assembled to review existing resources, discuss needs, and evaluate ways to avoid duplication of facilities and programs. The members of the partnership team and the facilities they manage in the immediate area are described briefly below. The matrix which follows this discussion includes a more comprehensive listing of other recreation facilities near Bald Mountain but beyond the local area.

Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority is a regional special park district encompassing Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and Livingston counties. HCMA operates a system of 13 metroparks serving the five -county region. Within the immediate vicinity of Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Stony Creek Metropark provides a wide variety of facilities. These include: hiking, biking, mountain biking, cross country skiing and nature trails; bike rentals; a golf course, driving range and a disc golf course; boat launch, boat rental, fishing and swimming beach; and 10 picnic areas with parking, shelters, and access to restrooms.

Oakland County Parks

Oakland County operates a system of 13 county parks. Both Orion Oaks and Addison Oaks county parks are within the immediate area of Bald Mountain. Orion Oaks, located in Orion Township just west of Bald Mountain, includes an accessible dock and boat launch and a beach on Lake Sixteen, an extensive system of natural trails, several scenic overlooks, picnic areas, restrooms, and a dog park. Orion Oaks is open for seasonal archery deer hunting.

Addison Oaks County Park, located just east of Bald Mountain across Lake George Road, also features an extensive system of trails available for hiking, biking, rollerblading, mountain biking, and equestrian use. The park offers mountain bike rentals, a disc golf course, an overnight campground with restrooms, a remote-control flying field, and a conference and wedding center.

Orion Township Parks

Orion Township operates a system of 4 township parks, all within bicycling and/or walking distance of the westerly and central units of Bald Mountain. Civic Center Park adjoins Bald Mountain on the west side of the Polly Ann Trail. All Orion Township parks are connected to Bald Mountain by the township's safety path system. Orion Township's Civic Center Park features and amphitheater among its recreation offerings.

Oakland Township Parks

Neighboring Oakland Township operates a system of 13 parks and recreation facilities in the immediate vicinity of Bald Mountain Recreation Area. These include a number of nature parks and a blue heron rookery, in addition to lakefront parks and parks that feature river frontage and marsh access.

Auburn Hills Parks

The City of Auburn Hills, just south of Bald Mountain Recreation Area, operates a system of 10 city parks and recreation facilities. These include the Fieldstone Golf Club on Taylor Road at Giddings, and the 90-acre E. Dale Fisk Hawk Woods Nature Center on Bald Mountain Road.

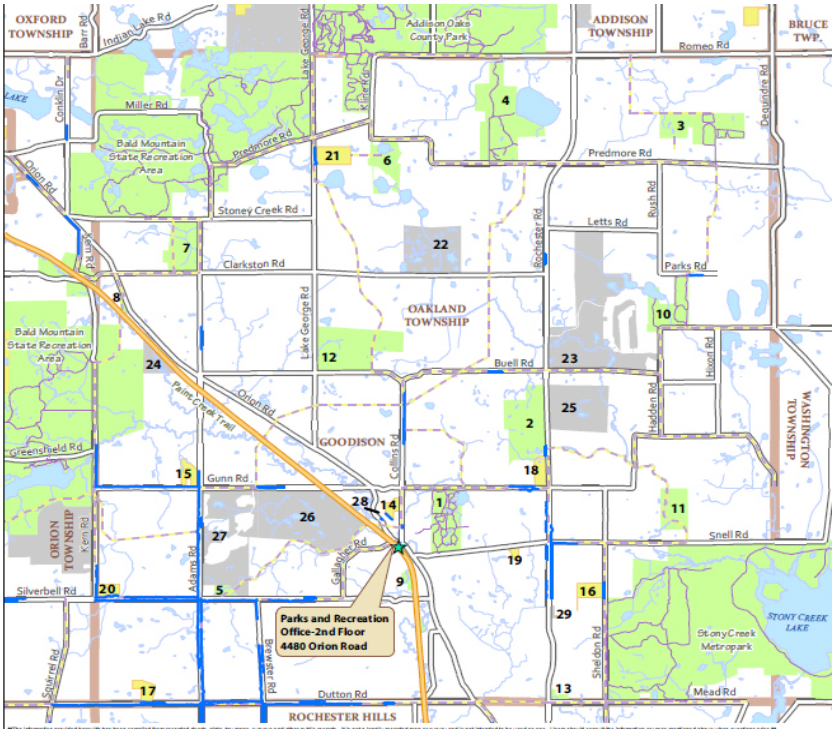
Regional Trails

Two regional trail systems provide direct connection to portions of Bald Mountain Recreation Area. The Paint Creek Trail, overseen by the Paint Creek Trailways Commission, connects the City of Rochester to Lake Orion through Rochester Hills, Oakland Township, and Orion Township. The commission is composed of representatives of all five communities. The trail features hiking, biking and equestrian use year-round.

The Polly Ann Trail is a 14.2 mile long, non-motorized trail located in Oakland County. The trail connects the communities of Orion Township, Oxford Township, the Village of Oxford, Addison Township, and the Village of Leonard. The Polly Ann Trail currently connects Orion Township's Civic Center Park and Bald Mountain Recreation Area to the Village of Oxford and Oxford Township to the north. Future pathways connections are proposed to Lake Orion and the larger region beyond. In Oakland County the Polly Ann Trail is managed by the Polly Ann Trailway Management Council, Inc. based at the Lake Orion DPW building. Future connections to the Lapeer County segment are planned between Friends of the Polly Ann Trail Lapeer County and the Polly Ann Trailway Management Council, Inc.

City of Auburn Hills Parks and Facilities

Recreational Opportunities in Oakland Township



Recreational Opportunites in Orion Township

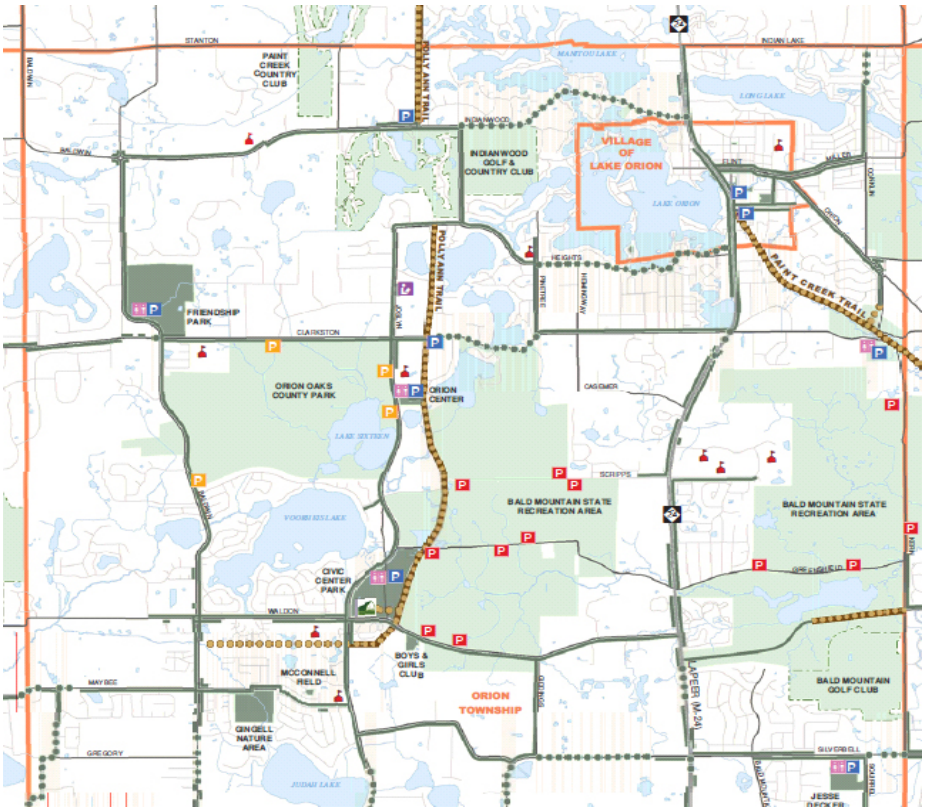


Table #1: Summary of Regional Recreational Resources
Sources: Oakland County, State of Michigan

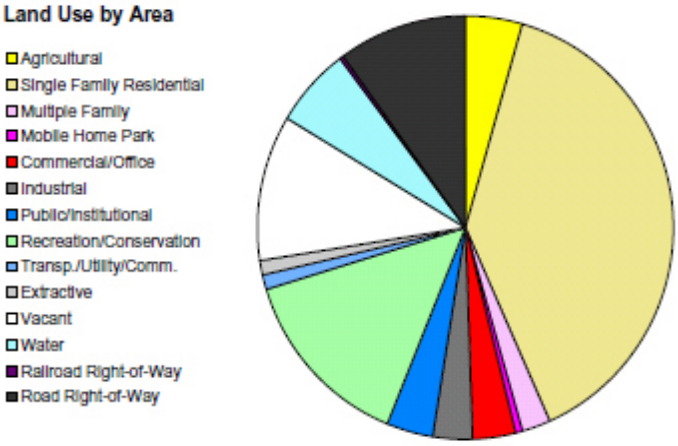
Recreational Resource	County	Municipality	Features																	
			Picnic Area	Hiking	Hunting/ Trapping	Biking	Play-ground	Equestrian	Swimming	Boat Launch	Snow Mobile	XC Skiing	Concession/ Vending	Camping	Drinking Water	Rest Rooms	Showers	Sport Field/Ct	Fishing	Wildlife Viewing
State Resources																				
Dodge #4 State Park	Oakland	Waterford	X	X			X		X	X		X	X			X			X	X
Highland Recreation Area	Oakland	White Lake	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X			X	X
Holly Recreation Area	Oakland	Holly	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X			X	X
Ortonville Recreation Area	Oakland	Ortonville	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X					X	X
Seven Lakes State Park	Oakland	Holly	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X			X			X	
Pontiac Lake Recreation Area	Oakland	Waterford	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X			X	X
Proud Lake Recreation Area	Oakland	Commerce Twp	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X			X	X
County Resources																				
Addison Oaks	Oakland	Addison Twp	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Orion Oaks	Oakland	Lake Orion	X	X	X	X				X						X			X	X
Independence Oaks	Oakland	Clarkston	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	Youth Group	X	X		X	X	X
Municipal Resources																				
Civic Center Park	Oakland	Orion Twp.	X	X			X									X		X	X	
Polly Ann trail	Oakland	Orion Twp.	X	X		X		X				X			X					
Boys and Girls Club	Oakland	Orion Twp.																		
Jesse Decker Park	Oakland	Orion Twp.																X		
Friendship Park	Oakland	Orion Twp.					X											X		

Recreational Resource	County	Municipality	Features																	
			Picnic Area	Hiking	Hunting/ Trapping	Biking	Play-ground	Equestrian	Swimming	Boat Launch	Snow Mobile	XC Skiing	Concession/ Vending	Camping	Drinking Water	Rest Rooms	Showers	Sport Field/Ct	Fishing	Wildlife Viewing
Gingell Nature Center	Oakland	Orion Twp.																		
Paint Creek Trail	Oakland	Rochester, Orion	X	X		X		X							X					
Fieldstone Golf Course	Oakland	Auburn Hills																X		
E. Dale Fisk Hawk Woods Nature Center	Oakland	Auburn Hills	X				X							X						X
Bear Creek Nature Park	Oakland	Oakland Twp.	X	X			X													
Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park	Oakland	Oakland Twp.																		X
Mill Race Trail	Oakland	Oakland Twp.		X																X
Lost Lake Nature Park	Oakland	Oakland Twp.	X	X						X					X	X			X	X
Royal Oak Archers	Oakland	Oakland Twp.																		
Cranberry Lake Park	Oakland	Oakland Twp.	X	X		X		X											X	
Watershed Ridge Park	Oakland	Oakland Twp.																		
Marsh View Park	Oakland	Oakland Twp.		X		X										X				X
Green's Park	Oakland	Village of Lake Orion	X				X		X							X	X	X		
Metroparks																				
Indian Springs Metropark	Oakland	White Lake	X	X		X	X	X				X			X	X				
Stony Creek Metropark	Macomb	Shelby Twp	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X

A.6 Current Land Use

Region

Land use patterns across Oakland County vary greatly and are influenced by factors including local government decision-making, geography, topography, population growth, and existing infrastructure. Currently, single-family residential makes up about 39% of land cover in Oakland County. Agricultural land covers about 4.5% of land in the county and recreation/conservation land makes up 14%.



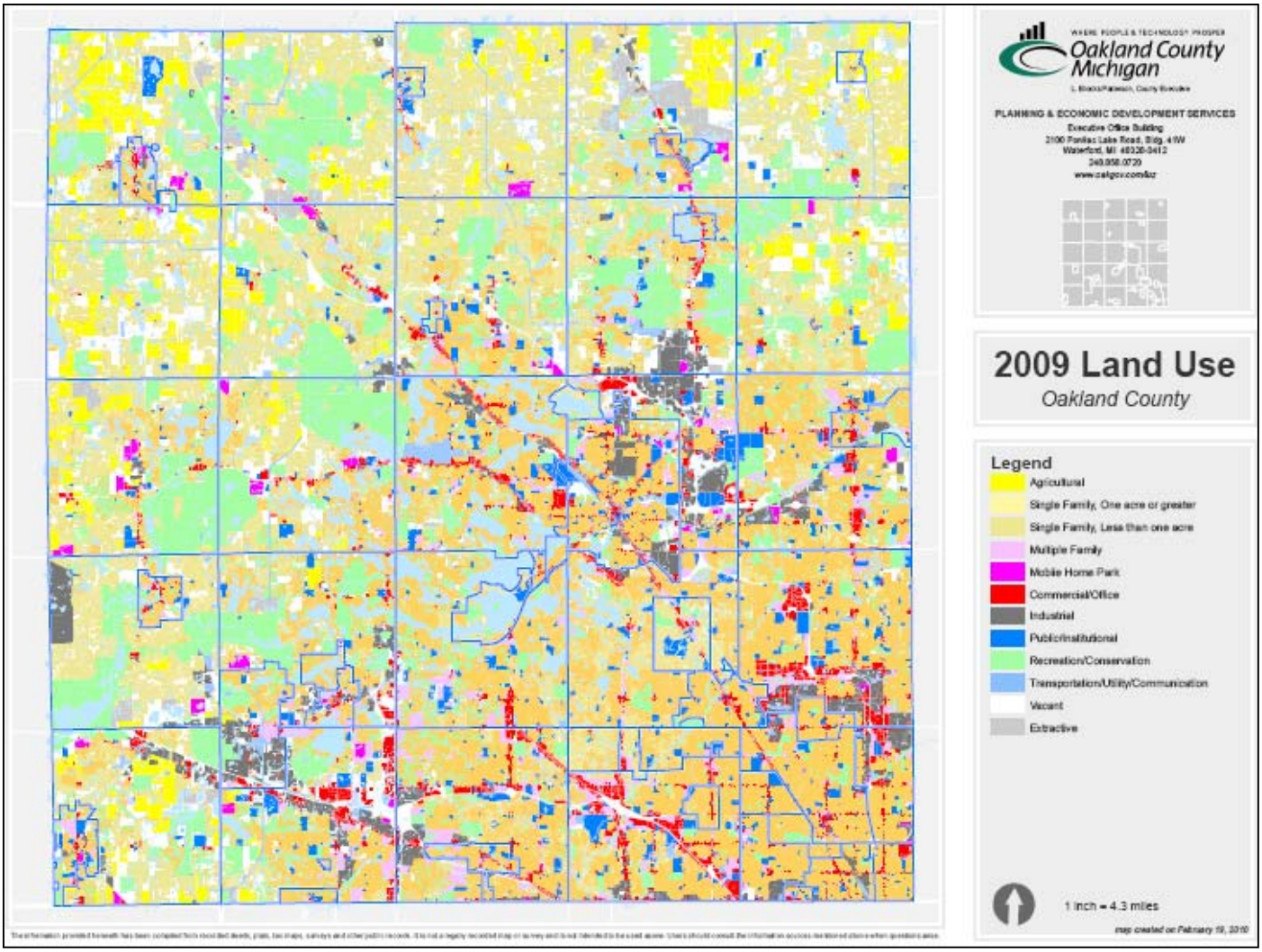
It is projected that by the year 2040 the built environment in Oakland County will continue to grow. As a result, agricultural lands and vacant land will likely decline. For this reason it is important to maintain state parks in areas where they may be the only natural landscape available for recreational purposes.

Source: Oakland County Government

Park

Bald Mountain Recreation Area is a multi-use park with a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities including camping, day-use areas, hunting, fishing, and use of the trail system. One of the most important features of Bald Mountain is its untarnished natural state in a region that is primarily suburban and urban. Thus, development has been restricted and concentrated into a few areas of the park. The two most developed recreational areas are the Graham Lakes in the northern region of the park and Lower Trout Lake in the south region of the park. In addition, recreational opportunities include fishing, swimming, archery and shooting, and use of an extensive multi-use trail. More information regarding developed recreation areas within the park is provided in Section A.10 Recreational Resources.

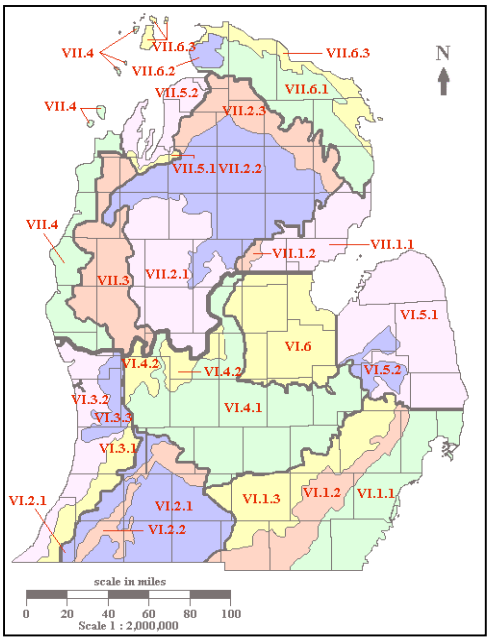
Oakland County Land Use Map



Source: Oakland County (www.oakgov.com)

A.7 Natural Resources

Information contained in this section was obtained from: Regional Landscape of Michigan and Wisconsin, A Working Map and Classification. Dennis Albert. September 20, 1995.



Bald Mountain Recreation Area is located in section 6, subsection 1.3, known as the Jackson Interlobate. The interlobate was formed approximately 13,000 to 16,000 years B.P and is more than 150 miles long. The sub-section consists of most of the northeastern two-thirds of the interlobate, which is characterized by relatively steep end-moriane ridges surrounded by pitted outwash deposits. Additionally, kettle lakes and wetlands are commonly found within the outwash.

Geology and Topography

The terrain of this region varies considerably. Farmland, forests, swamps, ridges, lakes, and wetlands are all common geological and topological features of this area.

The soils of the moraines are typically well-drained, while soils of the outwash are more variable depending on the size of the deposits. Thick outwash deposits are usually characterized by excessively well-drained conditions, where as shallow outwash deposits, which are underlain in some places by bedrock or fine textured till and lacustrine deposits, are characterized by very poor drainage conditions. On ice-contact topography soils are typically well-drained on the uplane kames and eskers and poorly drained in the kettles and outwash channels.

Soil textures range from sand to clay, but the most common soil textures are sandy loam on the moraine ridges and sand on the outwash plains.

Climate

Growing season for this region is 140 to 150 days, generally decreasing to the north. Late spring frosts often pose great danger to numerous lowland depressions (outwash and kettle lakes). Average snowfall is 64.7 inches with the greatest accumulations in the extreme north and extreme south. Annual precipitation is 33 inches, with highest amounts in the south. Average minimum temperature ranges from 17F to 30F, with coldest values in the north. Average maximum temperature ranges from 66F to 85F.

Water Resources

Bald Mountain Recreation Area has many kettle lakes and ponds located on the its pitted outwash, end moraines, and ice-contact topography. Extensive wetlands surround many of the lakes and, in some areas, occupy entire ice-block depressions.

Fishing, small boating and canoeing are popular activities on the recreation area's 11 different lakes and two trout streams. Anglers will find pan fish, northern pike, and largemouth bass in all lakes. The Graham Lakes in the north unit draw the most fishing activity. Lake Orion, East Graham Lake, Prince Lake, Chamberlain Lake, and Lakeville Lake all have access sites. Trout

Creek and Paint Creet are designated trout streams. Ice fishing is permitted on all bodies of water within the park.

Flora

Rare Plant Communities: Oak savannas, once prevalent within the landscape, have been destroyed by agriculture or degraded by fire exclusion.

Rare Plants Potentially Found Within BMRA
Baptistia lactea (Prairie False Indigo)
Baptisia leucophaea (Cream Wild Indigo)
Cacalia plantaginea (Prairie Indian-Plantain)
Celtis tenufolia (Dwarf Hackberry)
Cypripedium candidum (White Lady's-Slipper
Eleocharis caribaea (Spike-Rush)
Eryngium yuccifolium (Rattlesnake-Master)
Eupatorium sessilifolium (Upland Boneset)
Filipendula rubra (Queen of the Prairie)
Gentiana puberulenta (Downy Gentian)
Muhlenbergia richardsonis (Mat Muhly)
Sporobolus heterolepis (Prairie Dropseed)
Valeriana ciliate (Edible Valerian)

Fauna

Rare Animals Potentially Found Within BMRA
Ammocrypta pellucida (Eastern Sand Darter)
Ammodramus henslowii (Henslow's Sparrow)
Cryptotis parva (Least Shrew)
Dendroica discolor (Prairie Warbler)
Dendroica cerulea (Cerulean Warbler)
Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta (Copperbelly Water Snake)
Neonympha mitchelli mitchelli (Mitchell's Satyr)
Oarisma poweshiek (Poweshiek Skipper)
Oecanthus laricis (Tamarack Tree Cricket)
Papaipema beeriana (Blazing Star Borer)
Sistrurus catenatus catenatus (Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake)
Tachopteryx thoreyi (Greyback)

See the following table for additional information regarding flora and fauna species in Oakland County.

Michigan Natural Features in Oakland County

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status
Acris crepitans blanchardi	Blanchard's cricket frog		T
Agalinis gattingeri	Gattinger's gerardia		E
Alasmidonta marginata	Elktoe		SC
Alasmidonta viridis	Slippershell		T
Ammocrypta pellucida	Eastern sand darter		T
Ammodramus henslowii	Henslow's sparrow		E
Ammodramus savannarum	Grasshopper sparrow		SC
Amorpha canescens	Leadplant		SC
Angelica venenosa	Hairy angelica		SC
Arabis missouriensis car. Deamii	Missouri rock-cress		SC
Aristida longespica	Three-awned grass		T
Asclepias sullivantii	Sullivant's milkweed		T
Asio otus	Long-eared owl		T
Astragalus canadensis	Canadian milk vetch		T
Baptisia lactea	White or prarie false indigo		SC
Bog			
Bouteloua curtipendula	Side-oats grama grass		E
Buteo lineatus	Red-shouldered hawk		T
Calephelis mutica	Swamp metalmark		SC
Carex richardsonii	False hop sedge		T
Carex richardsonii	Richardson's sedge		SC
Castanea dentata	American chestnut		E
Catinella protracta	A land snail (no common name)		E
Cirsium hillii	Hill's thistle		SC
Clemmys guttata	Spotted turtle		T
Coregonus artedi	Lake herring or Cisco		T
Cryptotis parva	Least shrew		T
Cyperus acuminatus	Cyperus, nut grass		X
Cypripedium candidum	White lady slipper		T
Dendroica cerulea	Cerulean warbler		T
Dendroica cerulea	Prairie warbler		E
Dichanthelium microcarpon	Small-fruited panic-grass		SC
Drosera anglica	English sundew		SC
Dry Southern Forest	Well Drained Forest, Central Midwest Type		
Dry-mesic Southern Forest			
Emergent Marsh			
Emydoidea blandingii	Blanding's Turtle		SC
Epioblasma toruloas rangiana	Northern riffleshell	LE	E
Epioblasma triquetra	Snuffbox	C	E
Erynnis baptisiae	Wild indigo duskywing		SC
Euonymus atropurpurea	Wahoo		SC
Eupatorium fistulosum	Hollow-stemmed Joe-pye weed		T
Flexamia huroni	Huron River leafhopper		T
Floodplain Forest			
Fraxinus profunda	Pumpkin ash		T
Fuirena pumila	Umbrella-grass		T
Glearis spectabilis	Showy orchis		T
Gavia immer	Common loon		T
Gentiana puberulenta	Downy gentian		E
Great Blue Heron Rookery	Great Blue Heron Rookery		
Hardwood-Conifer Swamp			
Hieracium paniculatum	Panicled hawkweed		T
Hybanthus concolor	Green violet		SC
Hydrastis canadensis	Goldenseal		T
Jeffersonia diphylla	Twinleaf		SC
Lampsilis fasciola	Wavyrayed lampmussel		T
Lepyronia angulifera	Angular spittlebug		SC
Ligumia recta	Black sandshell		E
Linum sulcatum	Furrowed flax		SC
Linum virginianum	Virginia flax		T
Liparis liliifolia	Purple twayblade		SC
Meropleon ambifusca	Newman's brocade		SC
Mesic Sand Prairie	Moist Sand Prairie, Midwest Type		

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status
Mesic Southern Forest	Rich Forest, Central Midwest Type		
Microtus pinetorum	Woodland vole		SC
Morus rubra	Red mulberry		T
Muhlenbergia richardsonis	Mat muhly		T
Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta	Copperbelly water snake	LT	E
Nicrophorus americanus	American burying beetle	LE	X
Notropis anogenus	Pugnose shiner		E
Notorus miurus	Brindled madtom		SC
Oak Barrens	Barrens, Central Midwest Type		
Oarisma poweshiek	Poweshiek skipperling		T
Oecanthus laricis	Tamarack tree cricket		SC
Oechanthus pini	Pinetree cricket		SC
Panaz quinquefolius	Ginseng		T
Panthreophis spiloides	Gray ratsnake		SC
Papaipema beeriana	Blazing star borer		SC
Platanthera ciliaris	Orange- or yellow-fringed orchid		E
Platanthera leucophaea	Prairie white-fringed orchid	LT	E
Pleurobema sintoxia	Round pigtoe		SC
Poa paludigena	Bog bluegrass		T
Polemonium reptans	Jacob's ladder		T
Poor Conifer Swamp			
Potamogeton vaseyi	Vasey's pondweed		T
Prairie Fen	Alkaline Shrub/herb Fen, Midwest Type		
Prosapia ignipectus	Red-legged spittlebug		SC
Prosartes maculata	Nodding mandarin		X
Ptychobranchus fasciolaris	Kidney shell		SC
Pyrgulopsis letsoni	Gravel pyrg		SC
Rhynchospora scirpoides	Bald-rush		T
Rich Conifer Swamp			
Rich Tamarack Swamp	Forested Bog, Central Midwest Type		
Scirpus clintonii	Clinton's bulrush		SC
Scleria triglomerata	Tall nut rush		SC
Sistrurus catenatus catenatus	Eastern massasauga	C	SC
Southern Hardwood Swamp			
Southern Wet Meadow	Wet Meadow, Central Midwest Type		
Speyeria idalia	Regal fritillary		E
Sporobolus heterolepis	Prairie dropseed		SC
Submergent Marsh			
Terrapene carolina carolina	Eastern box turtle		SC
Toxolasma lividus	Purple lilliput		E
Trichostema dichotomum	Bastard pennyroyal		T
Trillium sessile	Toadshade		T
Utterbackia imbecillis	Paper pondshell		SC
Valeriana edulis var. ciliata	Edible valerian		T
Villosa fabalis	Rayed bean	C	E
Villosa iris	Rainbow		SC
Viola pedatifida	Prairie birdfoot violet		T
Wet-mesic Prairie	Tallgrass Prairie, Central Midwest Type		
Wilsonia citrina	Hooded warbler		SC

http://web4.msue.msu.edu/mnfi/data/cnty_dat.cfm?county-Oakland
*Current as of 12/10/2010 according to the Michigan Natural Features Inventory Website.

State Protection Status Code Definitions
E = Endangered
T = Threatened
SC = Special concern
X = Presumed extirpated
(legally 'threatened' if rediscovered)

Federal Protection Status Code Definitions
LE = Listed endangered
LT = Listed threatened
LELT = Partly listed endangered and partly listed threatened
PDL = Proposed delist
E(S/A) = Endangered based on similarities/appearance
PS = Partial status (federally listed in only part of its range)
C = Species being considered for federal

A.8 Historic/Cultural Resources

There are two local historically significant sites located within Bald Mountain Recreation Area:

- Decker's Settlement was the first European community in Orion Township. This settlement centered around a sawmill, which was built in 1825, and was named by pioneer Jesse Decker. Over the next ten years, the community grew to include a tavern, post office, general store, blacksmith shop, school and cemetery. The relocation of the post office and the construction of a railroad bypass in 1837 led to the community's decline. The only remnants of the Decker settlement are traces of the dam and cemetery. A historic site identification sign is located at the intersection of Greenshield and Kern Roads in the Recreation Area.

- Rudd's Mill was a nineteenth century mill powered by the Paint Creek waters. Built in 1825, Rudd was one of the first sawmills in Orion Township. In 1835, the sawmill was purchased and converted into a complex including a blacksmith shop, grist mill, cooper shop, and a school. In 1926, the mill was shut down and demolished. The creek dam lasted for another twenty years until it was washed away by a storm in 1946. The foundation for Rudd's Mill still remains and is located north of the Decker Settlement at the intersection of Kern and Clarkston Roads in the RA.

A.9 Education and Interpretation

Only passive interpretation is offered at Bald Mountain in the form of trailside signage and interpretive kiosks at several locations.

A.10 Recreational Resources

Bald Mountain Recreation Area offers a diverse array of recreational opportunities with both day-use activities and camping. The two most developed recreational areas are the Graham Lakes in the northern region of the park and Lower Trout Lake in the south region of the park. Other recreational opportunities within the park include:

- Canoeing/Kayaking: Canoeing and kayaking are popular activities on the smaller lakes in the northern section of the park. These lakes are not conducive to powerboats.

- Cross Country Skiing: There are eight miles in the northern section of the park groomed for cross country ski use in the winter.

- Fishing: With 11 lakes and two trout streams in the park, fishing is a popular recreation activity. The Graham Lakes in the north draw the most activity. Trout Creek and Paint Creek are designated trout streams. There are two universally accessible boating access sites to make fishing available to all visitors, one located on East Graham Lake and the other on Lower Trout Lake. Pan fish, northern pike, and largemouth bass are dominantly found throughout the park. In the winter, ice-fishing is permitted on all bodies of water within park boundaries.

- Hiking: The park provides close to 15 miles of hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiling and cross country ski trail. The hiking trails are some of the steepest and rugged terrains in Southeast Michigan. Snowmobiling and cross country skiing are only permitted on designated trails.
  - North Unit Trail – 8 miles (hiking, mountain biking, cross country skiing)
  - South Unit Trail – 7 miles (hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiling)

- Hunting: Approximately 90% of the park is open to hunting during regular seasons from September 15 to March 31. Common species found within the park are goose, deer, rabbit, squirrel, woodcock, duck, raccoon and woodchuck. Some success in trapping for muskrat, mink and beaver has been reported. Typically little success is reported for partridge, pheasant and turkey seasons.

- Boat Launch: Boating access sites within the park are located at East Graham Lake, Lower Trout Lake, Prince Lake, Chamberlain Lake, and Shoe Lake.

- Camping: Camping within the park is limited to the available rustic cabins. There are 2 rustic sites located within park boundaries.

- Mountain Biking: There are nearly 15 miles of mountain biking trail available to visitors. Permitted on all marked trails, mountain biking is discouraged during peak winter season. Access to Paint Creek Trail is available within the park as well. In the northern section of the park, the Green, White, Blue and Orange trails are shared with hikers and are accessible from Lake George, Premore, Miller and Harmon oads. Red, Yellow, Orange, Blue, Green and White trails in the southern section are also shared with hikers and are accessible from Greenshield and Kem roads.

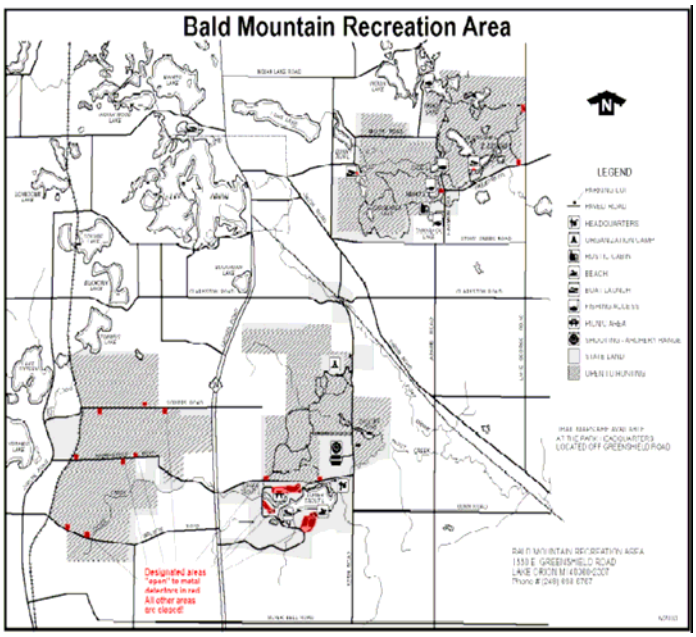
- Picnic Areas: All picnic areas within the park include tables, fire pits and/or grills. There are two picnic shelters within the recreation area can be reserved. Visitors should contact the park for more details.

- Shooting Range: The recreation area includes a modern, supervised shooting range. The range is open year round, Thursday-Monday, 10AM-5PM, although hours sometimes change throughout the year. The range also supports a 25-position sporting clays course.

- Snowmobilng: There are 7 miles of trail for winter snow mobiling that are designated within the southern section of the park.

- Swimming: This activity is permitted on all lakes within the park. The beach at Lower Trout Lake was honored in 1986 as Detroit Monthly's "Best of Detroit"

- Metal Detecting: Designated metal detecting sites exist within the park - this recreation is limited to these identified areas. All findings must be reviewed by park staff. The staff has the right to retain all findings for further investigation. Such recreational activity is allowed so long as natural and cultural resources are not put at risk within Michigan State Parks. See the map below for designated areas.



- Skymasters R/C Model Flying Field: The Skymasters Club offers a variety of activities for model airplane enthusiasts at the designated field located in the West Unit.

History of Trail Recreation at BMRA

Trail recreation at BMRA was not a planned, designed, nor engineered trail system. The trail system in this park germinated from the original hunter pathways and the paths were simply widened with increased use. As recreation activities on these pathways changed and intensified, the DNR began to separate use on the trails to provide for better resource protection and greater safety. Parks and Recreation Division recognizes that many of the trails pass through sensitive or fragile ecological areas that will need to be looked at in this Management planning process. The history of trail development is generally described by user groups as follows:

- Hikers and hunters have full use of the trails, with appropriate safety zones where needed and required by law for hunting activities.

- Mountain biking, which became noticeable in the 1980's, has been restricted to trails in the north and south units.
- Snowmobile use is restricted to the south unit trails, day use scramble areas and the west unit scramble areas, due to the larger established parking areas for the transport vehicles and trailers. Additional attention is needed to protect the sensitive ecological areas in the south unit that may be impacted by snowmobile activities.
- Cross country skiing is recommended to occur in the north end of the south unit or the north unit to avoid the snowmobile activities in the south end
- Equestrian trails have not been designated in BMRA in the past. The former riding stable adjacent to the park, as well as nearby farms and the surrounding rural landscape, satisfied many equestrians between the 1950's to 1980's. However, most of the farms and the riding stable have been replaced with residential development, increasing the desire for equestrians to ride within BMRA. In addition, it is recognized that connecting equestrian opportunities throughout the county will create a varied recreation experience for equestrians. The adjacent county park currently offers many equestrian opportunities, as well as several other County and State parks in the County and region.

A.11 Areas of Conflict

Areas of conflict within or around the park include:

- Three dams at Prince Lake, Trout Lake and Upper Trout Lake
- Stealing deer blinds
- Hunter harassment
- Noise at the range
- Model airplane – harassment
- Snowmobiling
- Dumping of trash

A.12 Park Use Statistics and Economic Impacts

Park Use

Bald Mountain Recreation Area is within an hour of metropolitan Detroit where 45% of Michigan's population lives. Its close proximity to the I-75 corridor helps to account for why there were more than 225,000 visits to the park in 2010. Of these, 99% were day-users. Total revenues (Motor Vehicle Permits and Camping Fees) generated by the park in 2010 was $133,692.

A characterization of park use is described as follows (based on MDNR-Park Attendance Statistics):

- Summer Use Season – This is defined as the three-month period of June through August, when schools are not in session. This is the busiest season for the park, as 31% of all day-use takes place during these months.
- Fall Use Season – The fall season is defined by the months of September through November. An estimated 28% of all day-use takes places within this season.
- Winter Use Season – December through March marks a significant decline in park use, as only 15% of it's day-use occurs during this time.
- Spring Use Season – April through May shows gradual increase in park use with day-use at 26%.

Economic Impacts

Michigan State University (Dr. Dan Stynes) developed an economic analysis model known as "MGM2". This model is an update of the MGM model developed by Dr. Ken Hornback for the National Park System in 1995. The purpose of the updated MGM2 model is to estimate the impact of park visitor spending on the local economy. These economic impacts are reflected in terms of sales, income, employment, and value added.

This analysis tool relies on three primary factors in the common equation:

> Economic Impact of Tourism Spending = Number of Tourists (x) Average Spending per Visitor (x) Multiplier (to estimate extended effects of direct spending).

For our purposes of conducting a very basic review of impacts, we have utilized the "MGM2-Short Form" version of the program, which simplifies the extent of analysis required for input, and utilizes more generalized multipliers for spending outputs. For the non economist, this provides an excellent tool for establishing a baseline assessment of the economic impacts of our parks.

Following are the relative economic impacts (based on 2008 data) of Bald Mountain RA to the economy of Oakland County

Direct Economic Effects to the Community

- Direct spending attributable to Bald Mountain RA visitors totaled $2,268,000 of which $2,246,000 came from day-use, and $22,000 from Camping.

- Jobs totaled 72, with 71 related to day-use activity and 1 to camping. (Note…jobs are not full-time equivalent. They include part-time and seasonal positions.)

- Personal Income total is $771,000 with $764,000 associated with day-use of the park and $7,000 associated with camping.

- Value added (total income plus business taxes) totaled $1,164,000. Day-use accounted for $1,153,000 and camping accounted for $11,000.

Total Economic Effects to the Community

(NOTE…this reflects 'Direct Effects' plus the 'Secondary Effects' of visitor spending on the local economy. Secondary Effects (sometimes called 'Multiplier Effects') capture economic activity that results from the re-circulation of money spent by the park visitors in the community.

- Total spending = $2,998,000

- Jobs = 83

- Personal Income = 1,014,000

- Value added = 1,614,000

Appendix B –Summary of Public Input

Public Participation
The Department of Natural Resources Parks & Recreation Division (DNR-PRD) emphasizes that comments on the general management plans are accepted at any time during the process. Two structured approaches to gathering public input are included in the general management plan process. The participation initiatives are summarized below, and the results are presented in this Appendix.

- **March 29, 2012 Stakeholder Workshop**
  The purpose of the workshop was to obtain comments on the draft General Management Plans for Bald Mountain Recreation Area. With assistance from the Planning Team, approximately 50 people and/or organizations were identified as stakeholders. Invitations to the Stakeholder Workshop were sent by email and via post. Approximately 25 people attended the workshop.

  Stakeholders were invited to comment at the meeting. Stakeholders could also comment by completing a survey. The surveys were provided at the workshops to complete in person or submit by mail.

- **May 1, 2012** A public input open house was held to allow the public the opportunity to express their comments about the park. The above noted people were again contacted regarding the public input workshops by mail and email. A notice was published in the local paper. Stakeholders and others were encouraged to share this information with interested members of the general public. Approximately 35 people attended.

There were two opportunities to provide comments:

1) Comment at one of the workshops
2) A hard-copy survey available at the workshops - for completion on site or submitted via mail

Michigan DNR

Stakeholder Workshop

Bald Mountain Recreation Area

March 29th 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Addison Oaks Conference Center (Buhl Estate)

AGENDA

---

1. Introductions and Background

2. Brief Presentation Purpose of General Management Plan
   - ❑ Plan Process
   - ❑ Overview of Draft Plans(this presentation slideshow will be running throughout the evening)

3. Questions and Answers

4. Open House
   - ❑ You are invited to visit each of the map stations and talk to Planning Team members
   - ❑ Post-it notes are available for you to add any comments you may have to the Draft Management Zone maps and/or Statements of Significance
   - ❑ Please be sure to fill out a survey!

Draft plan, the survey, and today's presentation may be viewed at:

www.birchlerarroyo.com/Clients/DNR-RD.htm

Bald Mountain Recreation Area
Workshop Survey Results
March 29, 2012

1. Do you agree with the above statements? Would you add anything to the above statements?
   - ❑ Yes
   - ❑ Yes
   - ❑ Yes, connection with adj. rec. opps.
   - ❑ Define / clarify point 1
   - ❑ Yes, very well written, I would consider adding a reference to enabling increased physical activity to improve on promoting better health.

2. Do you agree with the above statements? What else makes Bald Mountain Recreation Area significant to you?
   - ❑ Yes, Trout Creek
   - ❑ Would like to be able to connect to Addison Oaks & other trails.
   - ❑ Yes.
   - ❑ Yes.
   - ❑ Yes, any desire to highlight or develop if not existence educational programs when may be in existence with students (K-12) & Colleges?

3. What natural resources are important?
   - ❑ Streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands
   - ❑ Trees & definitely a rural setting with wetlands.
   - ❑ Lakes, wetlands (fens), habitat for rare species (Massasauga)
   - ❑ Mature forest, vernal pools
   - ❑ Trails: walking, hiking, biking. Fresh/clean waterways for fishing, canoeing and archery.

4. What cultural resources are important?
   - ❑ Interpretation and education
   - ❑ Historical (any Indian paths?)
   - ❑ Tai Chi in the park, Outdoor recreational classes in the park, Yoga in the park.

5. What are the education and interpretation opportunities?
   - ❑ Programs and workshops
   - ❑ Natural resources history pre-1944
   - ❑ Partnerships with K-12 schools within the county = biology project support field days, fun outdoor days also introduction to career opportunities relate to nature, ex: forestry, etc.

6. What are the recreation opportunities?
   - ❑ Fishing, hunting, x-country ski, hike, bike, etc.
   - ❑ Hiking, dog walking, equestrian use.
   - ❑ Trails! Water use (boating, fishing, swimming)
   - ❑ Need to provide large, unrestricted area for off-leash dogs – not a dog park.

- ❑ Endless races (walking, running, biking, canoeing), Father and Son Fish Day (Father's Day), Star gazing, Walking tours, snowmobile snow shoeing horseback riding, skeet shooting, ice skating.

7. What should be the visitor experience?
   - ❑ Enjoyment of natural settings and resources
   - ❑ Friendly – co-exist in harmony with all groups.
   - ❑ Natural areas near an urban area, fishing.
   - ❑ Friendly relaxed, resources available to help, secure/ safe, clean, fun.

8. Are there any known user conflicts or issues?
   - ❑ Seems to be conflicts between bikers & equestrian I ride the Polly Ann Trail and it seems to work well with the bikes – common courtesy.
   - ❑ Bikes/hikers, hunters/passive users potential future equestrians w/ hikers/bikers.
   - ❑ Intersection between pedestrian & mounted & motorized.
   - ❑ Potential conflicts with hand guns, target shooting etc. Can be a sensitivity issue.

9. What should be the identity of Bald Mountain Recreation Area?
   - ❑ Preservation / conservation
   - ❑ Nature close to home.
   - ❑ Undeveloped rec. opportunities – plenty of facilities exist on other public and private properties. Focus on and enhance natural systems & features.
   - ❑ User-friendly / hands-on nature.

10. Other Comments:
    - ❑ Volunteer Stewardship – number in core group? Any monitoring – long term to guide management connection between sites.

Sign In Sheet from DNR Stakeholders Workshop
Bald Mountain Recreation Area
March 29, 2012

Name	Organization	Phone	Email
Jon Noyes	Oakland County Parks	248-858-4624	Noyesj@oakgov.com
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Kathleen Dougherty	Oakland County Parks & Rec.	248-858-0704	Doughertyk@oakgov.com
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Senator Jim Marleau	12th District	248-724-2442	
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Barbara Barber		586-703-3933	Schwillbab@aol.com
Luba Sitar	DNR		

DNR Public Input Open House

Bald Mountain Recreation Area

May 1st from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The Orion Center

AGENDA

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1. Introductions and Background

2. Brief Presentation Purpose of General Management Plans
   - ❑ Plan Process
   - ❑ Overview of Draft Plans (this presentation slideshow will be running throughout the evening)

3. Questions and Answers

4. Open House
   - ❑ You are invited to visit each of the map stations and talk to Planning Team members
   - ❑ Post-it notes are available for you to add any comments you may have to the Management Zone map, Statements of Significance, or Pure Michigan Ad
   - ❑ Please be sure to fill out a survey!

Draft plans, the survey, and today's presentation may be viewed at:

www.birchlerarroyo.com/Clients/DNR-RD.htm

Bald Mountain Recreation Area
Public Input Workshop Survey Results

1. Do you agree with the above statements? Would you add anything to the above statements?
   - ❑ Yes
   - ❑ Yes, more public knowledge/notice of future planning.
   - ❑ Yes, and I'd be willing to pay for its use and help with "work bees".
   - ❑ Yes, provide area for horse back riding; to provide a link for horseback riders from the Polly Ann and Paint Creek Trails.
   - ❑ Yes.
   - ❑ I agree
   - ❑ Yes.
   - ❑ Yes, to proving equestrian endeavors for trail riders.
   - ❑ Maintain bridle trails exclusively at the west end unit. Bikes and riders have difficulty negotiating trails together.
   - ❑ Yes
   - ❑ Yes
   - ❑ I agree.
   - ❑ Yes, Is this a waste of my time, like what they did to us with the Macomb Orchard Trail? Does the DNR actually want horses at Bald Mountain again?
   - ❑ Yes.

2. Do you agree with the above statements? What else makes Bald Mountain Recreation Area significant to you?
   - ❑ Yes, the special natural areas in the park. Tie in Geocaching with interpretive sites so they can be islands off trail.
   - ❑ Significant and unique geographical topography, unique glacial morains etc. creating the unique park geography/environment especially in the north unit.
   - ❑ Yes.
   - ❑ Yes, vast area of open land.
   - ❑ Yes, 1st place my husband went horseback riding as a child in the 60's.
   - ❑ I agree. Bald Mountain Rec area fairly close to home – easily accessible.
   - ❑ Bald Mountain Recreation Area is an excellent location for equine trails and is central to large populations of horse enthusiasts. Nearby Metamora is one of the oldest and largest horse communities in Michigan.
   - ❑ Yes
   - ❑ Bridle trails that hook up to several other trail systems making riding much safer and enjoyable.
   - ❑ Agree, yes, I am hoping to be able to trail ride with my horses.
   - ❑ Yes
   - ❑ It's a nice oasis in a growing community, that might otherwise encroach on nature in a very negative way.
   - ❑ That it might be open for horses again. Riding on the road is not safe. There are so few places to ride in SE Michigan.
   - ❑ I agree. Items 5 and 8 are important to me.

3. What natural resources are important?
   - ❑ The lakes, Fens & Wetlands within & connecting to the park. The variety of plant zones within the park.
   - ❑ Diverse wildlife, geography
   - ❑ All of them!
   - ❑ Open land; green spaces, safe watersheds
   - ❑ Water, plants (natures) and animal habitats
   - ❑ The woods, the streams, vegetation.
   - ❑ All important, water, trees, plant life and so forth.
   - ❑ Don't know much about the park since horses were banned. Didn't know bikes were allowed (I live in Lapeer County). It was beautiful 30 years ago.
   - ❑ Forests, open land, streams and lakes and our ability to preserve and enjoy these resources.
   - ❑ Creek for swimming with horses would be nice seeing wildlife, different plants and bushes.
   - ❑ H2O, flora, fauna; soil erosion.
   - ❑ Scenic views, preservation of rec area.
   - ❑ Use of open land, scenic views, experience of trail riding with my horses.
   - ❑ All – water, trees, plant life, waterfowl, all wildlife.

4. What cultural resources are important?
   - ❑ Old Mill, Rail station from peat moss farm.
   - ❑ Anyone who brings an open mind and anything that brings preservation and progress, simultaneously.
   - ❑ Areas for camping, hiking, biking.
   - ❑ Michigan related, Indian use and settlement should be incorporated where signs are.
   - ❑ Offer wide variety of activities in a natural environment for everyone to access and appreciate.
   - ❑ Horsemanship and trail riding.
   - ❑ Just getting back to nature.
   - ❑ Multi-use for hiking, biking, horses; camping.
   - ❑ Scenic
   - ❑ Do you or will you provide camping area?

5. What are the education and interpretation opportunities?
   - ❑ The variety of habitat within the park provide a wonderful opportunity to educate people of the importance in the ecological chain.
   - ❑ Wildlife, Birding.
   - ❑ Infinite – limited only by laws/rules & imagination.
   - ❑ Bringing school groups in to teach why natural areas are necessary for the future.
   - ❑ Historical sites that are existing on the property.
   - ❑ Land / natural resources appreciation.
   - ❑ Many equestrian trail groups gather at state park horse trails to learn safer riding practices and also how to navigate miles of trails.

- ❑ Learning about animals in their natural environment.
- ❑ Education of wide use of rec area by many people with multiple interest such as trail riding.
- ❑ Many, to help educate our youth to be more in tune to nature.

6. What are the recreation opportunities?
   - ❑ Allowing horses on trails, developing more horse trails & facilities, bring back the camping area.
   - ❑ Re-open the park(s) to horseback riding.
   - ❑ Horseback riding.
   - ❑ Hiking, fishing, horseback riding, x-country skiing.
   - ❑ Trails that can be used for equestrian riders that appear to have the opportunity to connect or link to Polly Ann and Paint Creek Trail System. This would be wonderful opportunity for horsemen to have a trail system available that has many miles to it. Riders from out of state would come and use the trail system also. It would also be nice to offer equestrian camping.
   - ❑ Multitude of activities.
   - ❑ 30 years ago the trails were used by horses. Bicycle riders use these trails and it is time to let the horse riders either share or get half of them back. By the parks own definition "To provide diverse recreational opportunities to nearby populations".
   - ❑ Trail riding on horseback.
   - ❑ Hunting, fishing, horseback riding archery and shoot sports.
   - ❑ Bridle trails exclusively to west end.
   - ❑ Hiking and trail riding.
   - ❑ Trail Riding.
   - ❑ Swimming, hiking, biking, hunting and my favorite "Horse Back Riding" Oh, forgot fishing.

7. What should be the visitor experience?
   - ❑ Ex to me there is these unique experiences north unit, is back to nature, south unit is forest and lake fun, the west unit is the hunting, open rec area.
   - ❑ North unit, mainly statement #6
   - ❑ Nature, history
   - ❑ Well marked trails & information centers.
   - ❑ Nature at it's best.
   - ❑ Should be an opportunity to enjoy nature, see wildlife, enjoy the aroma of the woods, wildflowers, enjoy floating down a stream if they chose to go canoeing, ongoing trail system for both equestrians, bikers and walkers.
   - ❑ Appreciate our natural resources.
   - ❑ To enjoy looking at, feeling, hearing and touching nature and experience the good effect it has on the mind and body. Visitors should come away with a feeling of respect and appreciation for the land and with a desire to protect it for all to share.
   - ❑ Ease of access, the splendors of nature, opportunity to meet and share with others, manicured trails.
   - ❑ Calm and peaceful surroundings.
   - ❑ Life, scenic views, peace and quiet.
   - ❑ Peaceful experience.
   - ❑ Beauty – safety.

8. Are there any known user conflicts or issues?
   - ❑ Hunting – some poaching, parking, safety with other park users.
   - ❑ The same that are present in other state and/or county parks (trail etiquette, "right of way", etc) – Nothing that can't be worked around, however, especially with proper management.
   - ❑ To preserve the natural flora and wildlife of the area.
   - ❑ The walkers and the bikers do not want to share the trail with the equestrian riders. Macomb county made sure to asphalt the trail that was supposed to be multi use for equestrian riders, just to insure we won't want to go on it.
   - ❑ None known.
   - ❑ Bikes and horses use the same type of terrain and need to cooperate with each other. If this is possible out west there is no reason we can't achieve cooperation here.
   - ❑ Mountain bikers & horses.
   - ❑ The use of 4 wheeler motor vehicles – if this exists, than have a specific area for safety.
   - ❑ Bikes & 4-wheeler – need a designated area away from horses.
   - ❑ I don't know why there isn't more of an effort to accommodate both biking and trail horses.

9. What should be the identity of Bald Mountain Recreation Area?
   - ❑ "Up North without the drive". Accessible rare natural resources.
   - ❑ Natural gem! Again statement 6.
   - ❑ Multi-use (satisfy many interest groups) (non-motorized).
   - ❑ An area of open land in a country which is losing it's natural open areas due to development for living and shopping areas.
   - ❑ That Bald Mountain offers opportunities that is diverse for all to enjoy it not just certain groups.
   - ❑ Offer activities to support appreciation of our natural resources, protect those resources for all.
   - ❑ A multi-recreational park with connectivity to additional trails.
   - ❑ Southeast Michigans best multi-use recreational area.
   - ❑ Multi use; education; scouting.
   - ❑ That it serves everyone that wishes to use it.

10. Other Comments:
    - ❑ I would like to see the scout camping returned and look to returning camping to the park as a revenue enhancer. Horseback riding could drive visitor & possible extra revenue. The Graham Lakes Fen would be a great education overlay.
    - ❑ If horse trails / use go in, should be managed use.
    - ❑ Potential for placement of a designated recycling center? (in /around Developed Rec. Area) oh, and try and speed up the process so I might actually be able to ride the trails before I am 65.
    - ❑ Most riders would be willing to pay an annual fee for access.
    - ❑ It would be nice to offer equestrian camping as well as camping for the general public. Also, want to reiterate as an equestrian rider, we are able to travel many miles. We need a trail system that is long enough to make it worthwhile to travel there, gas is expensive. Pontiac Lake as well. Elba Equestrian Center, offers many hours of enjoyable riding it would be so nice to have somewhere at the east edge of Oakland County to enjoy the trails.

- ❑ I would love to see horseback riding trails added to the Rec area. Equestrian groups would provide financial support to the area by using the park system. It would add appeal to the local equestrians to utilize the area. Please add equestrian trails to your Rec area!
- ❑ I would love to have a place that I can go with my friends to ride where we can go as far as possible in one day.
- ❑ As an equestrian, I would love to see horseback riding return to Bald Mountain. I am old enough to remember a riding stable used to be there. I have a trail horse of my own, I would love to be able to trailer over and ride at Bald Mountain. Most of us riders are very respectful of hikers and bikers and would even be ok with sharing some trails. It seems the bikers are getting more and more places to ride, we would also like that. Thank you for any consideration.
- ❑ Horses don't really destroy the area except for the trail itself. They are quiet unlike dirt bikes and snowmobiles. I understand the West aera is where they are considering having horse trails again.
- ❑ I am concerned that the potential T & E habitat, prairie fens, and other important natural habitats are not designated as ecologically sensitive zones. I would not think that the MDNR would want to bring trails across these areas as they can introduce invasives. It appears that the current proposed zoning would allow for trail development anywhere.

DNR Public Input Workshop
Bald Mountain Recreation Area
March 29, 2012

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Appendix C –Planning Team Meeting Summaries

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
General Management Plan - Phase I
Bald Mountain Recreation Area

Team Meeting #1
December 7, 2011 - 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Park Headquarters

1. **Welcome and introductions**

   Paul Curtis, PRD Management Planning; Lisa Gamero, PRD Stewardship; Tom Hoane, FMD; Aiden McLearon, MOD; Pat Lieske, MSC, LLC Shooting Range Concessionaire; Kristen Bennett, PRD Planning; Tom Bissett, PRD Park Manager; Luba Sitar, District Supervisor; Karen Gourlay, Marketing/Outreach; Ray Fahlsing, PRD Stewardship; Jim Francis, Fisheries; Dave Malloch, Law Enforcement; Liz Hay-Chmielewski, Fisheries; Jill Bahm, Susie Roble and David Birchler from Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.

2. **Overview by Paul Curtis**

- Highlights of the General Management Planning process
  - Purpose for developing a GMP for BMRA is because, while there is a wide variety of recreational opportunities found in this park, it has no real identity.
  - Additional involvement from other recreation providers and stakeholder groups will help the Planning Team formulate the GMP for this park.
  - The current Unit Map needs to be amended to reflect the boundaries of BMRA (the map still includes the southwest portion on land that was sold off)

3. **Management Plan Schedule** – David Birchler reviewed the timeline and emphasized the importance of maintaining a schedule in the development of the GMP

4. **Bald Mountain Overview** – Tom Bissett presented portions of a training slideshow with general park information
   - Park created in 1944

- 4,637 acres today
- Rated best beach in Detroit area in 1986, but is no longer as desirable for swimming for a variety of reasons
- 2 developed picnic areas, 11 lakes and 2 trout streams
- Parks in need of ADA updates
- 3 inland Boating Access Sites
- One of best shooting ranges in entire State
- 15 miles of marked, multi-use trails. Recently implemented $18,000 grant for new trail signs
- Equestrian is not allowed in the park
- 3,000 acres of park is open to hunting
- North Unit has 2 rustic cabins
- Historic features include the Rudd mill site and the Decker Settlement – oldest in Oakland County and first in Orion Township
- North Unit trails are groomed for cross-country skiing; Headquarters Unit trails are not because it is open to snowmobiles
- Graham Lake fen is being restored
- Chamberlain Lake (kettle hole lake) used by the high school for hockey rink in winter
- Two natural Beauty Roads within park: 1) Kern Road (from Clarkston to Orion Roads), and 2) Clarkston Road (from From Kern Road to 0.16 mile west of Kern Road)
- West Unit hosts Skymasters model airplane club, who are very active volunteers that have re-roofed one building and installed new windows in another
- Cherry Ridge Picnic area is very popular on weekends
- Tom Bissett has been charged with updating the park's tired image and unifying the various regions of the park under one identify

District Perspective (Luba Sitar):

- Beaver intrusion in North Unit has been a problem and trappers have been helpful in controlling
- Many users on the trails
- Need to focus on natural resource protection
- Much of the park was purchased with hunting funds
- It is a tough park to manage without a plan; much of current and past management is over resolving problems

- There is no co-management here with Wildlife Division
- Nutrient runoff is a problem with impoundment areas due to potential for weed generation. The impacts of impoundment removal should be discussed.
- Current farming operation is organic
- There is an EPA site, a former land fill that is adjacent to the park boundary, which surrounds the site on three sides.
- Shooting range was in a good location until residential development occurred over the past twenty years. It is important to keep this use at the park.
- There is pressure to keep hunting and shooting out of the park and area.
- Other pressures exist to bring city water through park to serve adjacent areas
- Utility easements criss-cross the park
- There used to be two campgrounds that existed until the early 1970's. With the opening of the nearby Palace of Auburn Hills, more lodging opportunities could be added.
- Group or organizational camping should be evaluated through this process
- It will be important to look at BMRA in context with other recreational resources throughout the Oakland County and into Macomb County.

Law Enforcement (David Malloch)

- Conflicts between user groups – good that there is no equestrian use
- Hikers and mountain bikers frequently complain about hunting in the rec area
- There has been trespass issue between adjacent property owners and hunters regarding encroachment
- Much conflict from ORV use
- There has been some sign damage by hunters
- There is some illegal dumping by neighbors who put waste and construction debris in park

Cultural Resources (Lisa Gamero)

- This is one of the earliest developed areas in SE Michigan and there are many historic and cultural resources in and around the park
- Rudd's Mill and Decker Settlement
- 9 known archeological areas – 4 are on state land, 3 may be, and 2 are not
- Historic resources scattered throughout park – foundations,
    - There will be a study in summer 2012 to create a historic district in a portion of the park where the "mushroom" or "round house" buildings are located. These are really not significant for reuse by the park. They are the biggest collection of such structures in the state park system.

- State Archeologist office approved construction in the park (with an easement) of a new trail spur from Paint Creek Trail that will connect Orion Township's sidewalks to Trail along Clarkston Road
- Old railroad stop
- Cemetery; settlers graves near Scripps Road may have been relocated
- On behalf of Stewardship Unit, Lisa provided the following stewardship information for BMRA:
    - 1999 memo – history of BMRA from 1946-1984
    - 1969 document – history of BMRA from Miss Lee Tuttle – Baldwin Public Library
    - 2002 – Bald Mountain historical locations and map
    - 2003 – Report on historic resources in unsurveyed Michigan SP&RA – by Lisa; Michigan's Historic Sites online – sites near BMRA that are listed in NRHP or state listed
    - 1996 – Archaeological Inventory Report – 9 known archaeological sites in area; 4 are o state lands; 3 may be on state lands; 2 are not on state lands
    - 1953 – Report to accompany Preliminary Master Plan for BMRA
    - 1993 – Archaeological files
    - 1999 – State marker for the Decker Settlement
    - 1908 – Plat map for Orion Twp.
    - 1944 – plat map/base map for BMRA
    - 2001 – Michigan Historic Marker for Carpenter-Rudd Mill
    - 1976 – History of Orion 1776-1976 by Paul M. Scott
    - 1995 – Information about Decker Settlement and Rudd's Mill from the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm

Stewardship (Ray Fahlsing)

- This park has a really significant amount of natural resources that are rare, exemplary or important. 9 examples of exemplary communities
- Inventory work was completed in 2001; subsequent to that, the MNFI has updated this information and a new report will be completed in January 2012.
- Significant number of rare species: eastern massasauga rattlesnake, American chestnut trees (best thing for these trees is to keep them isolated)
    - Candidate conservation agreement (CCAA) – the State agrees to do certain conservation activities without complying with every restriction and requirement of the Endangered Species Act. There are habitat maps for all the parks that have eastern massasauga snakes as a first step towards the CCAA.

    - Ray and Lisa will provide a map showing where the eastern massasauga rattlesnake resides within the park.
- Four significant prairie fens – Graham Lake complex, near high school, and near headquarters
    - The Graham Lake prairie fen is quite special due to its size and quality
- The farm fields are being cash-rented; we should consider the long-term plan for these farm fields. Should they be restored to an appropriate community? Maintain farm fields as appropriate in the interim.
- Issue with beaver intrusion; park management must attend to moving water through and out of the park. Trapping is encouraged.
- Aquatic systems should be addressed within park
- Nuisance Canada geese are a problem that should be addressed with wildlife division
- He would like to see a survey or other mechanism for gauging the demand for camping at BMRA

Fisheries (Jim Francis)

- Good fishing opportunities; winter/ice fishing very popular
- Trout streams offer good fishing opportunities
- There have been concerns in the past over vegetation in lakes; do not have a good grasp on the type of vegetation in the lakes. If invasives, that will be a concern to address.

Interpretation/Education (Karen Gourlay)

- Cherry Beach used twice/week for "urban outreach" during summer 2011. Not sure if that will continue
- No other regular interpretive activities on site
- Lake Orion HS and others do water quality monitoring for science classes

Geology (Tom Hoane)

- High school is deeply involved in park property for educational purposes and due to the trail system that connects the park to the high school. The cross-country team uses the park for training.
- Oakland University uses the north end for study; this should be addressed from a permitting standpoint for resource protection as well as to accommodate multiple groups who may wish to study in the park
- Area becoming important for drilling for regional natural gas accumulation. There may be MOU's that allow drilling under, but no impact on surface in park.

- Several exploratory companies are interested in drilling for natural gas beneath BMRA
- There is an EPA Superfund site on Kern Road the State does not own (but park surrounds on three sides)
- Not sure if there are any significant geological features.

Shooting Range (Aiden McLearon)

- Explained the co-management of shooting range – world-class facility with Pat Lieske as vendor for 20 years
- Pat would like to expand building to provide a classroom for hunter safety and other training opportunities
- Range provides many different shooting opportunities: pistols, shotgun, rifle, muzzle loading, clays, etc. It would be nearly impossible to build such a facility today.
    - Issues include noise pollution, lead mitigation

Pat Lieske

- They would like shooting ranges to be expanded through education, hunters safety, introductory classes, merit badges, junior youth shooting camps. A new marketing person will be promoting shooting in schools and through scouting. A new building for these activities is desired.
    - It is hoped that more education will help with user conflicts and perception of these activities.

Regional Planning Perspective (Kristen Bennett)

- Because there has not been a lot of planning over the years, everything is old and in poor shape. Now is the time to reinvent what we want this park to be
- While camping opportunities may not be needed, given other campgrounds in the area, perhaps there is an opportunity to offer other types of accommodations, including lodges, cabins, and the like.

DNR-PRD (Paul Curtis)

- New “Blue ribbon committee” just getting started that will be working on the vision of what parks should be in the state of Michigan.
- Consider how working with other non-traditional groups may impact our vision for the park.
- Would like to meet with a focus group of area young people, in particular

5. **Stakeholder list development**: The group is asked to consider groups or individuals who should be included
6. **Planning Team Meeting #2 dates**: The second team meeting will be Wednesday January 25. The location will likely be the Southfield DNR office.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
General Management Plan - Phase I
Bald Mountain Recreation Area

Team Meeting #2
January 25, 2012 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
DNR Southfield Office

1. **Attendees**

   Paul Curtis, PRD Management Planning; Lisa Gamero, PRD Stewardship; Aiden McLearon, MOD; Kristen Bennett, PRD Planning; Luba Sitar, District Supervisor; Karen Gourlay, Marketing/Outreach; Ray Fahlsing, PRD Stewardship; Dave Malloch, Law Enforcement; Susie Roble and David Birchler from Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.

2. **Welcome and Summary of BMRA Team Meeting #1**

3. **Statements of Significance Exercise**

   - David Birchler gave each team member sticky notes upon which they wrote ideas about what is significant about BMRA. Team members shared ideas for significance statements and discussed merits with the full team. Statements were grouped with similar ideas and related to the draft statements on the wall. Statements are listed below and new ideas are coded in red text:

     - Paul – 1) Strong physical connection between park and schools and potential for programmatic connection; 2) Importance of trail connectivity; 3) Park is highly impacted by utility corridors (this is more of a negative characteristic of park).; 4) North unit has "up north" feel
     - Lisa – 1) Park has a historic element with historic elements scattered across the three units; 2) BMRA serves as a "community or backyard park" for local residents with multiple trail connections; 3) The park lends itself to promotion using modern technology (podcast education & interpretation; map-click highlights); 4) The park is a day-use recreation area.
     - Karen – 1) BMRA has diverse natural features that present opportunities for passive or active recreation and has signage and interpretive potential; 2) Strong opportunity to coordinate with local communities, parks and other partners; 3) Multi-use recreation close to southeast Michigan population
     - David – 1) Public hunting and shooting sports opportunity
     - Kristen – 1) BMRA has large developed area with potential to be a Regional Recreation Hub; 2) Trails ties the surrounding communities (ex: Auburn Hills and Orion Twp) together
     - Luba – 1) BMRA has a winter wonderland of outdoor winter activities; 2) BMRA is a fitness park for urban population (similar to Pinckney-Waterloo)
     - Aiden – 1) Hunting provides an economic opportunity

- ♦ Ray – 1) Trout fishing is a rarity in southeast Michigan; 2) Over 4,000 acres of natural land that exists within a developed, urban landscape – it's an "island of habitat surrounded by development.";

  *Ray pointed out the inconsistency between the trail use and length of trails (refer to statements of significance and supporting analysis)

  **Ray also discussed the CCAA in more detail and stated that the eastern massasagua is "a federal candidate species."

4. Review of Partners Meeting (on January 20, 2012)

- David Birchler gave a summary of which partners attended the meeting and the topics discussed (see Jill Bahm's minutes from this meeting)
- Luba reminded the team that no money has been spent on BMRA in 30 years

5. Management Zones Brainstorming Exercise

- Team divided into two groups and given 30 x 40 Recreational Resource Opportunity Map of BMRA. Each group drew management zones on the map and then discussed zones with the whole group.

Additional Notes:

- Lisa – Day use area on Trout Lake is eligible for National Register of Historic Places as a historic district. Building were designed by Gunnar Birkerts – architect NR Nomination to be prepared by SHPO in Summer 2012 Mission 66 Buildings.

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Team Meeting #3
February 15, 2012 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Go-To-Meeting

4. Attendees

Paul Curtis, PRD Management Planning; Lisa Gamero, PRD Stewardship; Kristen Bennett, PRD Planning; Luba Sitar, District Supervisor; Ray Fahlsing, PRD Stewardship; Sheila Starks, Jill Bahm, Susie Roble and David Birchler from Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.

5. Draft Statements of Significance

- We need to pare the list down to about 6-8 statements, but save the remaining excellent ideas as a narrative expansion of the statements.
- Ray Fahlsing suggested that we post the statements of significance at the stakeholder meeting and provide stakeholder's the opportunity to determine which statements are most significant as one of the facilitated exercises.
- Kris Bennett mentioned that BMRA has a lot of open land that can be developed without negatively impacting the natural resources, but also contains areas that should be protected.
- Following the Team exercise to revise the language of draft significance statements, Birchler Arroyo agreed to revise the Statements of Significance and post on team website.

6. Draft Management Zones. Below is the list of the key items discussed. Sheila Starks will revise the draft management zone map to show all changes discussed during the meeting and consolidate them into a single draft zone map.

<u>Area 1 in North Unit</u>

- Boundary between Natural Resource Recreation and Backcountry on parcel recently acquired should follow wetland boundary. Backcountry is compatible with massasauga habitat.
- Cabin/pond are okay to show as Natural Resource Recreation in order to add cabins, bring in electrical, add parking and similar improvements. The high hill near the boat launch may be a better location for cabins and might be a better replacement for the two existing cabins. Paul Curtis, Luba Sitar, Ray Fahlsing and Kris Bennett will revisit this. Area of existing cabins will be designated Natural Resource Recreation for now.

<u>Area 2 in West</u>

- Use Team 2 Developed Recreation option on the west side of Rhodes Road.

Area 3 in Main Unit

- Use Team 2 Natural Resource Recreation with Team 1 Education Overlay (interpretation of historical and cultural resources) for the small island of BMRA land along Paint Creek Trail.

Area 4 in Main Unit

- Large rectangle at north end (near high school) should be Backcountry, with a note that wetlands may impact manner of use – no high-density trails. The Planning Team will need to revisit the Natural Resources Commission's Natural Area designation and flag it for the legal mandates section.

Area 5 in West Unit

- Cemetery on Scripps Road should have Education Overlay (interpretation of historical and cultural resources)

Area 6 in West Unit

- Full Team determined that Backcountry was appropriate for this entire section

Area 7 in Main Unit

- Use Team 1's smaller Developed Recreation designation for the shooting range, with Team 2 Backcountry to the west of shooting range. Respect the adjacent wetlands areas when establishing the zone boundaries.
- Add park headquarters as Visitor Services
- Add Team 1 Education Overlay (interpretation of historical and cultural resources) where indicated.

7. Stakeholders List

- Birchler Arroyo will research area historical societies (Lake Orion, Orion Township, Auburn Hills, Oakland Township, Oakland County).
- Birchler Arroyo will share a more robust list with the Team on the website – please add to the list or e-mail other suggestions to Birchler Arroyo. Birchler Arroyo will also post a revised version of the statements of significance and draft management zone map on the website.

The Go-To-Meeting for Bald Mountain was completed shortly after 11:00 AM and the Team took a 10 minute break before beginning the Island Lake meeting.

Bald Mountain Recreation Area

Team Meeting #4
April 4th from 10 am – 11 am
Go-To-Meeting

8. Attendees

Paul Curtis, PRD Management Planning; Lisa Gamero, PRD Stewardship; Kristen Bennett, PRD Planning; Ray Fahlsing, PRD Stewardship; Andrew Cole, Park Manager; Susie Roble and David Birchler from Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.

9. Review of Draft Management Zone Map Comments

- *Equestrians want a connection to surrounding parks and trails* **–** this would be a Phase 2 Action Goal issue that we should reference in the Backcountry zone description. Kriss said that there is a possibility of equestrian use on regional trail link in the future, but the recreation area as a whole will probably never been open to equestrians. Ray said that the concept of connecting equestrian trails through the park is one the DNR can support, however, keeping horses off sensitive areas (North Unit of Park) may be difficult to enforce. Paul suggested that we mention in the GMP that equestrian trails/connectivity will be examined in Phase 2. We will also put the results of the stakeholder meeting in the appendix of the GMP.
- *Dog training areas* – two dog-training areas currently exist in the park system. Any area of the park that is open to hunting is open to training hunting dogs (only hunting dogs). These areas can be used at any time of the year except during quiet period of April 15 – July 15. Ray will send a memo to Birchler Arroyo including the administrative rules for dog training.
- *Old stone ruins* – we need to build inventory of historical/cultural resources within the park; there are some that have not been captured.
- *Use of term "multi-use" trails* – this term implies that equestrians can use the trail, so we will use "marked, designated trails" where appropriate instead of multi-use
- *Multi-use trail easement on busy roads* – this should be a partnership activity for Phase 2. There may already be segments in place as part of the local safety path network.
- *Massassauga habitat map* – Ray is updating the map to show the recent land acquisition in the north section of the park and will share the map with the Team for inclusion in the GMP.
- *Connection between Polly Ann Trail and Paint Creek Trail* – Birchler Arroyo will create a resource map that shows the local and county pathways that could serve as connections between the two trails in conjunction with Bald Mountain trails.
- *Flying field* **–** We will designate the field as Developed Recreation and indicate in the text that termination of flying field use would cause reversion back to the underlying zone.

- *Change Education Overlay* – re-designate as Cultural Landscape Overlay since in reality active education doesn't occur here.
- *Link to stewardship opportunities – this link,* www.michigan.gov/dnrvolunteers*, will be provided on the website and in the General Management Plan.*

10. Review of Statements of Significance Comments

- Most of the comments pertained to Phase 2 activities
- Statement #1 – Remove the term 'urban'
- Statement #3 – Change to "offers a modern outdoor shooting range offering rifle, pistol, shotgun and archery activities.
- Statement #5 – Remove "multi-use" since equestrians aren't allowed right now; change to "There are 15 miles of marked, designated use trails within the park that also serve as a potential link between…"

The Pure Michigan ad ideas will be included in the Appendix of the GMP. The majority of the survey comments pertained to Phase 2 – related activities.