Holland State Park

General Management Plan
Phase 1

Approved March 29, 2010

General Management Plan

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

Holland State Park

This project was funded, in part, by the Michigan Coastal Management Program, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration U.S. Department of Commerce

The project was directed by Paul N. Curtis, Management Plan Administrator, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Recreation Division with assistance from Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc. and Jeff Johnson, Student Assistant.

DNRE

PLAN APPROVALS:

Chief, Recreation Division — Date 3/16/10

Deputy Director, Stewardship — Date 3/23/10

Director, Department of Natural Resources and Environment — Date 3/29/10

RESOLUTION NO. 12-2009-02

RESOLUTION OF THE CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR MICHIGAN STATE PARKS (CCMSP) TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE "HOLLAND STATE PARK – PHASE I – GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN"

ADOPTED DECEMBER 9, 2009

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division has completed Phase I of the General Management Plan for Holland State Park; 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 Holland State Park; and

WHEREAS, the General Management Plan has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Parks and Recreation Division Management Team and the CCMSP Stewardship Subcommittee.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks approves the Phase I – General Management Plan for Holland State Park; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks recommends and approves of the "Specific Provisions" attached hereto; and

THERFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks recommends approval of the Phase I – General Management Plan for Holland State Park by the DNR Director; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon DNR Director approval of the Phase I – General Management Plan for Holland State Park, the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks approves of the DNR Parks and Recreation Division initiating planning efforts for the Phase II – Long Range Action Plan for Holland State Park.

Submitted by: Ron Olson, Chief, DNR-Parks and Recreation, via the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks

Motioned by:	**Mary Pitcher**	**Yeas:**	**8**
Seconded by:	**Chris Graham**	**Nays:**	**0**
		Abstained:	**0**
		Absent:	**6**

This Resolution was adopted by the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks at their meeting held on December 9, 2009.

RESOLUTION NO. 12-2009-02

"HOLLAND STATE PARK – PHASE I – GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN"
SPECIFIC PROVISIONS

- That any necessary language improvements may be made by DNR Parks and Recreation staff prior to submitting the plan to the DNR Director for approval.

- That the DNR give high priority to in-holdings and other land acquisitions as proposed in the plan.

- That upon the DNR Director's approval, the approved plan be transmitted to local recreation partners and providers.

Holland State Park

Park Boundary

Dedicated NRC Boundary

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

BIRCHLER ARROYO ASSOCIATES, INC.

Sources: MDNR, Michigan Geographic Data Library

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Note: During the development process for this General Management Plan, the State of Michigan combined the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality, forming the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE).

Every effort has been made to insert the new department name into this document. Note that the extensive mapping created from then-DNR data will be available from the DNRE and is fully intended to represent the future general management plans for the DNRE.

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Executive Summary

Management Planning is a defined strategic process within the RD 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 CCMSP, MSWC, NRC, SWC, and Ecoregion Teams and partners to advise in RD planning, policy development, and issue resolution."

Holland State Park is located in Ottawa County, four miles west of the city of Holland. The park covers about 140 acres on the northern side of the channel connecting Lake Macatawa with Lake Michigan, and consists of two separate units. The Phase I General Management Plan (GMP) process for Holland State Park was made possible, in part, by funding provided by the Michigan Coastal Management Program. The Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) Recreation Division (RD) oversaw the planning process. The endeavor represents a new planning philosophy of the RD. "Management Planning," a comprehensive, resource-based process, is the RD's adaptation of National Park Service planning methodology. During Phase 1, the GMP focuses on the four principles of the RD Mission Statement: to acquire, preserve and protect; (1) natural resources, (2) cultural resources, (3) provide public recreation, and (4) provide educational opportunities. The process includes a thorough inventory of Holland State Park's natural and historic/cultural resources, recreational opportunities and educational and interpretation opportunities.

With this base of knowledge and input of the Planning Team (made up of DNRE Department staff, government officials, stakeholders and the public), the Core Values for Holland were developed. Holland State Park was determined to be significant for the following reasons:

1. Holland State Park offers visitors 1 mile of Lake Michigan shoreline and welcomes over 1 million day-use visitors and 143,000 campers every year.

2. Revenue from this park exceeds $1 million per year.

3. The inland portion of Holland SP lies within the designated critical dune area.

4. Archeological resources found in Holland State Park include remains of foundations from vacation cabins, golf course and hotel from the early 1880's, highlighting the historical draw of tourists to the area.

5. While much of the shoreline and beach area is free of vegetation, the back dunes remain forested with a similar composition to historical forests.

6. Boat access is provided near Holland State Park to Lake Macatawa, which connects to Lake Michigan.

7. Dunes within the park offer hiking opportunities and scenic views

Considering the identity and significance of Holland State Park, the Planning Team, with stakeholder and public input, established appropriate Management Zones and their extent of influence on the property. From a palette of nine standard zones, five were applied to Holland State Park. The Management Zone map and a thorough review of each Management Zone are found in Section 3 of this Plan. A condensed review of the Management Zones is as follows:

- ❑ Primitive Zone comprises 63 acres, or 45%, and will reflect a desired condition that emphasizes the natural resources. About half of Holland State Park, comprising the designated Critical Dunes area, will be Primitive Zone and will be managed to only allow dispersed and low frequency use for low impact recreational purposes.

- ❑ Natural Resource Recreation Zone comprises 3 acres (2%), and permits active recreation with moderate to high density of use conducted in a natural setting. The Natural Resource Recreation (NRR) Zone comprises a small amount of Holland State Park, along Lake Macatawa. The designation was applied due the desire to improve this beach area.

- ❑ Scenic Zone comprises 23 acres (17%) and recognizes that there are aesthetic qualities to be preserved and protected in the Park. While there are many, those identified during the planning process, and noted on the management zone plan, are along Lake Michigan and at two high points of the dunes.

- ❑ Developed Recreation Zone, comprises 72 acres (51%) and allows active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced as possible. The two designated campground areas will be in the DR zone.

- Visitor Services Zone comprises 2 acres (2%) and encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. Typically it will include offices, contact stations, maintenance facilities and all related land base required to conduct the business of running a state park or recreation area. The current administrative offices for the park will be in the Visitor Services Zone.

1.0 Plan Process Overview

A General Management Plan (GMP) guides the management of resources, visitor use, and general development at Holland State Park 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 resources.

The GMP process for Holland State Park was made possible, in part, by funding provided by the Michigan Coastal Management Program, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration U.S. Department of Commerce. The Department of Natural Resources and Environment Recreation Division (RD) oversaw the process and development of the Plan for the Park. A major component of the planning process was to ensure that extensive input was sought from DNRE professionals, community groups, stakeholders and the general public throughout the development of the plan.

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 Recreation Division (RD), 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 (20-year) goals.
- **Phase 2.** Long-range Action Plan that identifies long range (10-year) goals to attain the GMP (requires review of Phase 1)
- **Phase 3.** Five-Year Action 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 that 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 RD funding to achieve them. RD will seek internal funding, alternative funding sources, partnerships 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 RD 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 RD Department staff, stakeholders, and the public who use the park into a planning process that will define and clarify the unique "Purpose" and "Significance" of Holland State Park. 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.

Extensive input was sought throughout the planning process. The Planning Team

met several times to review and comment on the plan elements (see Section 1.2). In addition, the DNRE hosted a stakeholder workshop and two public participation workshops. Both the stakeholder and public participation workshops 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 of 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.

Name	**Representing**
❑ Mike Terrell	RD - Unit Manager (Warren Dunes, Warren Woods & Grand Mere)
❑ Andrew Montgomery	RD - Unit Supervisor (Warren Dunes, Warren Woods & Grand Mere)
❑ Kurt Maxwell	RD – Supervisor 2 (Saugatuck Dunes)
❑ Joyce Rhodes	RD – Unit Supervisor (Holland)
❑ Sherri Owsiak	RD – Supervisor 2 (Holland)
❑ Rollie Johnson	RD – Plainwell District Supervisor
❑ Paul Curtis	RD - Park Management Plan Administrator
❑ Paul Yauk	RD - Lands Manager
❑ Ray Fahlsing	RD – Stewardship Unit Manager
❑ Joe Strach	RD – Plainwell/Rose Lake District(s) Planner
❑ Jeff Johnson	RD – Student Intern (Management Planning)
❑ Carol Skillings	RD – Grants Coordinator
❑ Kim Dufresne	FMD – Forest Fire Supervisor
❑ Steve Cross	FMD – Forest Fire
❑ Tom Hoane	FMD – Minerals
❑ David Price	FMD - Planning
❑ David Vansumeren	LED – Plainwell District Lieutenant
❑ Brian Gunderman	FD – Biologist
❑ Kregg Smith	FD – Biologist
❑ Steve Chadwick	WLD – Acting Unit Supervisor
❑ Mark MacKay	WLD – Planner
❑ John Lerg	WLD – Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat Conservation Plan Coord.
❑ Janet Canode	OMET – Education and Outreach
❑ Rob Corbett	OLAF – Lands

DNRE – Coastal Zone Management Program

❑ Lynda Krupansky	CZM – Coastal Management Program

Planning Consultants

- David C. Birchler — Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.
- Jill Bahm — Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.

1.3 Management Plan Planning Process

Long-range planning for Holland State Park was conducted in 1998 and resulted in a Master Plan Proposals and Boundary Expansion for Holland State Park. Students at Calvin College conducted a detailed study of Mt. Pisgah in 2005. Their report included recommendations on management of this unique dune, including stairs, overlooks and plantings.

In 2007, Recreation Division received a federal grant from the Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM) of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) for the purpose of developing individual long-range Management Plans for Grand Mere State Park, Warren Dunes State Park, Holland State Park and Saugatuck Dunes State Park. Without the CZM grant, insufficient resources in staff or funding would have precluded these planning efforts.

2.0 Core Values

2.1 Mission Statements

Guidance for the General Management Plan stems from the Mission Statements of the Department and its 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 Holland State Park, and subsequently reflected in any shorter range action plans:

DNRE Mission Statement

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment is committed to the conservation, protection, management, accessible use and enjoyment of the State's environment, natural resources, and related economic interests for current and future generations.

RD Mission Statement

The 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.

The core values derived from these statements are that RD will acquire, preserve and protect; (1) natural resources, (2) cultural resources, (3) provide public recreation, and (4) provide educational opportunities.

2.2 Park Purpose

Statements of purpose for Holland State Park are based on park legislation, legislative history, special designations and DNRE policies. These statements reaffirm the reasons for which Holland State Park was identified as part of the State Park system. The purposes of Holland State Park are:

1. The park was created by the State of Michigan in 1926.

2. To provide opportunities for recreational uses/experiences that are unique to Holland State Park and compatible with the park's resource(s) base.

3. To preserve and protect the park's unique natural resources for current and future generations.

4. To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflect the DNRE mission and the unique qualities of Holland State Park

2.3 Park Significance

Park significance statements capture the essence of its importance to carry out the core values of our RD Mission. They recognize the natural and cultural heritage values of the park and the recreational and educational opportunities afforded. These statements describe the distinctiveness of Holland State Park. Understanding these distinctions helps managers make decisions that preserve those special resources and values necessary to accomplish the park's purposes. Holland State Park is significant because of many factors, including but not limited to those stated below.

1. Holland State Park offers the public 1 mile of Lake Michigan shoreline. The sandy beach welcomes over 1 million day users each year. 143,000 campers utilize the 312 campsites within two camping areas every year.

2. Revenue from this park exceeds $1 million per year.

3. The inland portion of Holland SP lies within the designated critical dune area, which is subject to statewide development restrictions pursuant to the Sand Dunes Protection Act of 1978.

4. Archeological resources found in Holland State Park include remains of foundations from vacation cabins, golf course and hotel from the early 1880's, highlighting the historical draw of tourists to the area.

5. While much of the shoreline and beach area is free of vegetation, the back dunes remain forested with a similar composition to historical forests; however, they are primarily second growth. In the immediate vicinity of the campground, the forest is quite fragmented, although much of the remaining forest retains nearly complete canopy coverage, encompassing a variety of microhabitats. The planted pine area represents native species.

6. Boat access to Lake Macatawa, which connects to Lake Michigan, is provided near Holland State Park.

7. The park offers recreational opportunities including hiking, camping, swimming, picnicking and fishing, and scenic views

2.4 Legal Mandates

For all park General Management Plans, legal mandates are identified and 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 Recreation Division. Specific to Holland State Park, the following legal mandates have been identified.

1. PA 451 OF 1994, PART 741 - STATE PARK SYSTEM - NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT - This act is the re-codification of law that established the Michigan State Park System and defined the powers and duties of same. Notable in this law is Section 324.74102 which identifies the duties of the department and reinforces those core values cited above. This section reads:
   (1) "The legislature finds:
      (a) Michigan State Parks preserve and protect Michigan's significant natural and historic resources.
      (b) Michigan State Parks are appropriate and uniquely suited to provide opportunities to learn about protection and management of Michigan's natural resources.
      (c) Michigan State Parks are an important component of Michigan's tourism industry and vital to local economies.
   (2) The department shall create, maintain, operate, promote, and make available for public use and enjoyment a system of state parks to preserve and protect Michigan's significant natural resources and areas of natural beauty or historic significance, to provide open space for public recreation, and to provide an opportunity to understand Michigan's natural resources and need to protect and manage those resources."

2. Public Act 451 of 1994, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Part 323, Shorelands Protection and Management. The key state statute providing consumer protection from the natural hazards of coastal erosion and flooding as well as environmental protection of the State of Michigan's fragile coastal areas.

3. Public Act 451 of 1994, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act Part 353 – Sand Dunes Protection and Management. Regulations to protect the critical dune areas of this state, allowing local units of government to exercise the primary role in protecting and managing critical dune areas in accordance with this part. The benefits derived from alteration, industrial, residential, commercial, agricultural, silvicultural, and the recreational use of

critical dune areas shall occur only when the protection of the environment and the ecology of the critical dune areas for the benefit of the present and future generations is assured.

4. PA 368 OF 1978, ARTICLE 12 - ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PART 125 – CAMPGROUNDS – Part 125 of the Public Health Code was established to protect and promote the public health by establishing health code requirements specifically addressing campgrounds. The Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) is the administering agency that is responsible for the promulgation of the Administrative Rules for Campgrounds. All public and private campgrounds must meet these DNRE regulations.

5. Act 229 of 1935: 3.481 Conveyance of land to United States coast guard service use; reversion to state.
   Sec.1. The director of conservation of the state of Michigan is hereby authorized and empowered to convey by quit claim deed or deeds for and in behalf of the state of Michigan such title to the following described lands as is vested in the state of Michigan to the United States of America for use in connection with the coast guard service: A parcel of land located in the Holland State Park in section 33, township 5 north, range 16 west, township of Park, county of Ottawa; said parcel having a frontage of approximately 450 feet on the north side of the channel between Black lake and Lake Michigan, and extending northerly approximately 160 feet to the state park road as now established. Any such deed shall contain a provision providing that the lands contained therein shall revert to the state of Michigan when the same shall cease to be used in connection with the coast guard service. History: 1935, Act 229, Imd. Eff. June 8, 1935 ;-- CL 1948, 3.481

6. DNR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER, 7/16/2007 14.5 (5) It shall be unlawful to dog train in state parks without permission of the land administrator.

7. LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR - By authority conferred on the Director of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment by Section 504 of Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, being section 324.504 of the Michigan Compiled Laws and in accordance with R 299.671 and R 299.922 of the Michigan Administrative Code, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment orders that the following order of the Land Use Orders of the Director shall read as follows: 5.2 Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages in certain state parks and recreation areas, prohibited conduct. A person shall not do any of the following: (7) Possess or consume an alcoholic beverage at any time within the following described locations: Holland SP - entire park. 5.12 Certain state parks and recreation areas, requirements for use, certain conduct prohibited.

Holland state park, prohibited conduct.

(14) A person shall not posses or use furniture designed or intended for indoor use within Holland SP from May 15 to July 15 unless the furniture is enclosed within a camping shelter. Furniture that is designed or intended for indoor use and is placed outside of a camping shelter may be removed at the discretion of the park manager.

8. R.O.W. FOR COUNTY ROADS – The right-of-way for Ottawa Beach Road is 66' wide (33' from center line), which transects the Macatawa portion of impacting Holland State Park. There is 66 feet of ROW (33 feet from the center of the road) in front of the Lake Macatawa campground. The ROW widens slightly at the end of Ottawa Beach Road (Lake Michigan campground and Day Use Area) to 100 feet (50 feet from the center of the road). The Ottawa County Road Commission has the authority to require permits for any impacts to their ROW (ie. crossings or new drives). Other local roads include 168th SE and North Shore Drive.

9. BOUNDARIES DEDICATED MAY 13, 2004 - The Natural Resources Commission reviewed and rededicated boundary changes for Holland State Park in 2004.

10. INVENTORY TO IDENTIFY SIGNIFICANT NATURAL FEATURES – A report to present an inventory of rare plants and wildlife at Holland State Park was completed by MSU Extension Service's Michigan Natural Features Inventory in November 2002. The document includes a discussion about management recommendations.

11. METAL DETECTING AREAS – See map in Appendix A

12. LEASES
    - Kayak service concession, they put up a little building in the summer on the beach
    - Snack service concession – leases and maintains park concession building
    - Ottawa Co Parks – leases land where they have built a boardwalk up Mount Pisgah sand dune. No charge, but will be maintained by county.

13. INFORMAL AGREEMENTS

    - Road access to private property, at one time handled with a use permit.
    - U.S. Corps of Engineers owns the pier head at the navigational channel where there is frequent park visitor access and use

14. ENCUMBRANCES UNDER GRANTS - Holland State Park is encumbered under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program with the National Park Service.

15. STUDIES and REPORTS
    A. April 1998 Master Plan Proposals and Boundary Expansion for Holland State Park
    B. In summer of 2005, dune researchers from Calvin College were retained by the Parks Commission to complete a detailed study of Mt. Pisgah to determine how the parabolic dune can best be managed to preserve this special natural feature. The study results show strong support for the master plan recommendations, including dune stairs, overlooks and plantings.
    C. February 8, 1977 Environmental Impact Statement for development of recreational facilities at Holland State Park.

14. LEGAL OPINIONS

July 19, 2001 Attorney General Memorandum from James Piggush regarding difficulties for potential transfer of Ottawa County parkland in the West Michigan Park Subdivision.

15. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Brief: Case No. 02-42179-CH Ottawa County Circuit Court, West Michigan Park Association of Ottawa Beach vs DEQ, DNR, and Ottawa County, regarding title claim for the "Pump House Property" as private or public land.

File No. 02-42682-CH 20th Judicial District Circuit Court, Affidavit of Paul Yauk, regarding the Rosy Mound property and its availability to Ottawa County for public recreation.

Lawsuit: November 2000 - filed in Kent County circuit court surrounding the August 3, 2000 drowning death of a teen at Holland State Park. The lawsuit claims the death was due to the negligence of the teen's chaperones who allowed a group of teens to swim despite the park posting red flags that warned of hazardous conditions.

16. LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS

Upon recommendation of the DNR and approval of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust fund the legislature authorized the transfer of Rosy Mound to Ottawa County for consideration of one dollar by passage of HB5456 and HB 5465 for SB616, passed on December 13, 2002.

17. DOCUMENTED PUBLIC CONCERNS

October 2000: Holland State Park neighbors concerned that approximately 70 cottonwood trees had been removed to make room for more parking at Holland State Park. The DNR responded by redesigning campsites in order to save 19 trees planned for removal
.

2.5 Land Acquisition

Imbedded in its mission statement and core values is the acquiring of land with unique resources, or natural, historic, and cultural features. Land is to be acquired for the direct purposes of preserving and protecting natural and historical / cultural features and providing public recreation and educational opportunities.

3.0 Management Zone Plan

With guidance of the Planning Team and input from our stakeholders and the public, the park's "Purpose and Significance" statements were formulated. This established an identity for Holland State Park as a place to be valued for its unique ecological features, Lake Michigan shoreline, recreational trails, camping and opportunity for natural resources education.

The Management Zone Plan, Figure 1, 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, stakeholder and public support. The Management Zone Plan seeks to preserve and protect the resources, while creating appropriate recreational uses, and educational and interpretation opportunities. To achieve this, the park was divided into the following zones:

This is Phase I of the General Management Plan for Holland State Park. Phase I determines management zones for the park land. 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.

- Primitive Zone, approximately 63 acres (45%), reflects a desired condition that emphasizes the natural resources. Land is managed to only allow dispersed and low frequency use for low impact recreational purposes. Attaining and maintaining a high quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements or uses are allowed

- Scenic Zone, approximately 23 acres (17%), recognizes that there are aesthetic qualities to be preserved and protected in the park. Examples in Holland State Park include the lake views and views from the high points of the dunes.

- Natural Resource Recreation Zone, approximately 3 acres (2%), permits active recreation with moderate to high density of use conducted in a natural setting. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but higher levels of uses are allowed

- Developed Recreation Zone, approximately 71 acres (51%), allows active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced as possible. The two designated campground areas and the Lake Michigan beach will be in the DR zone.

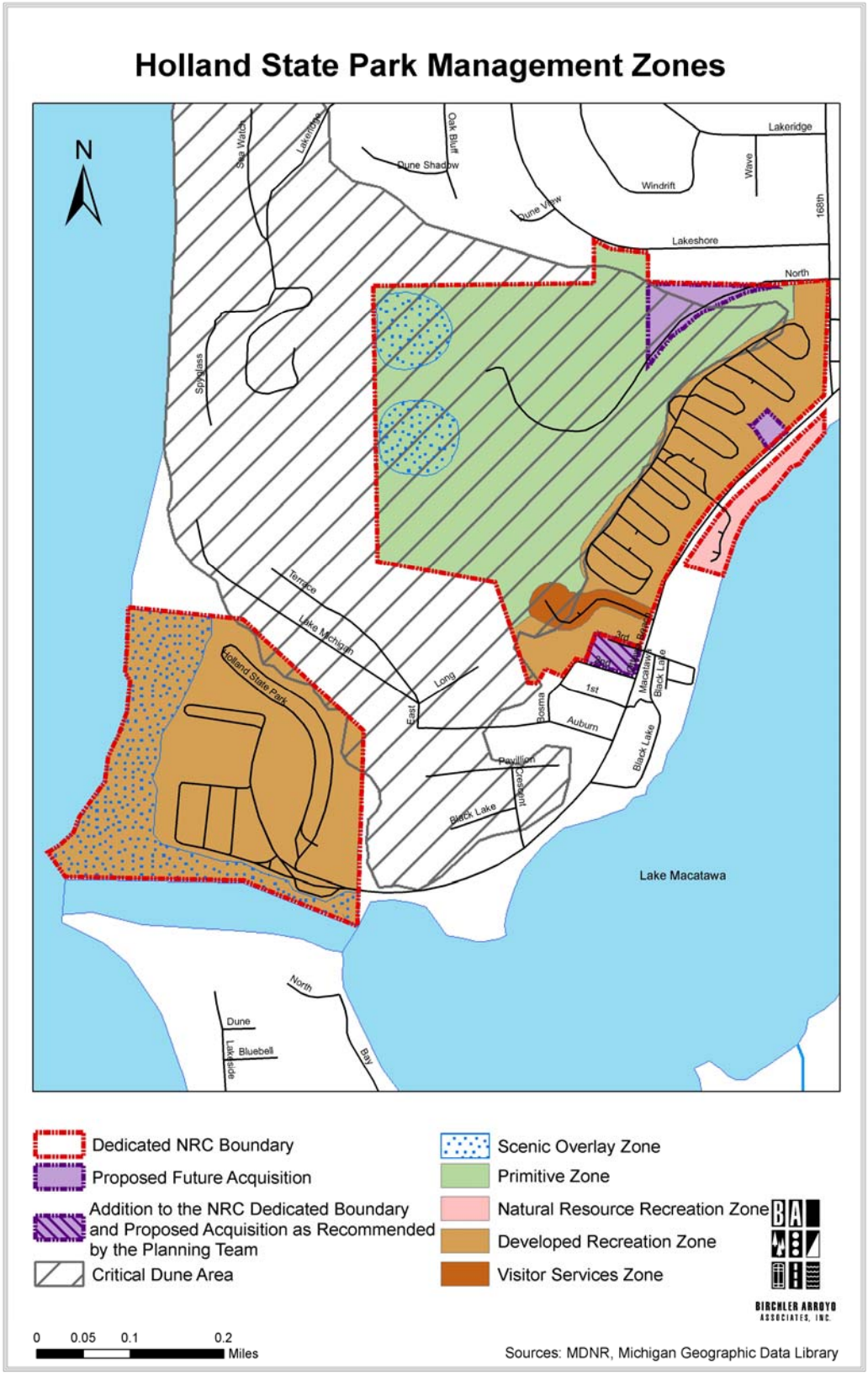
- Visitor Services Zone, approximately 2 acres (2%), encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. Typically it will include offices, contact stations, maintenance facilities and all related land base required to conduct the business of running a state park or recreation area. The current administrative offices for the park will be in the Visitor Services Zone.

- Proposed Future Expansion. The Planning Team recommends acquisition of those properties within the 2004 NRC Boundary as shown on the map. Additionally, this plan recommends expanding the boundary at the southwest corner of the Lake Macatawa section of the park to include the property bounded by 2nd and 3rd Streets, north of Ottawa Beach Road.

Other Considerations / Features of the Management Zone Plan

Regional Consideration. Ottawa County owns and operates County Parks adjacent to Holland State Park. Plans for these park areas include improvements aimed at adding parking spaces along Ottawa Beach Road and improving access to Lake Macatawa for recreational opportunities including picnicking and fishing. Efforts at improving non-motorized pathways are ongoing.

Access/parking: Traffic is a big issues along Ottawa Beach Road. The County, DNRE and local neighbors continue to develop plans that will address access and parking issues. This report establishes appropriate land use parameters, with the understanding that the parking issue will need to be assessed more fully during Phase II of the management planning process.


Holland State Park Management Zones
N
Lakeridge
Sea Watch
Oak Bluff
Dune Shadow
Windrift
Wave
Dune View
168th
Lakeshore
North
Spyglass
Terrace
Lake Michigan
Holland State Park
Long
East
Bosma
1st
Auburn
Macatawa
Black Lake
Pavillion
Crescent
Lake Macatawa
North
Dune
Bluebell
Lakeside
Bay
Dedicated NRC Boundary
Proposed Future Acquisition
Addition to the NRC Dedicated Boundary and Proposed Acquisition as Recommended by the Planning Team
Critical Dune Area
Scenic Overlay Zone
Primitive Zone
Natural Resource Recreation Zone
Developed Recreation Zone
Visitor Services Zone
BIRCHLER ARROYO ASSOCIATES, INC.
0 0.05 0.1 0.2
Miles
Sources: MDNR, Michigan Geographic Data Library

3.1 Primitive Zone

Approximately 63 acres (45%) of the land comprising Holland State Park is designated Primitive Zone, representing that portion of the park containing regulated Critical Dune Areas. Only foot traffic would be allowed in this zone to ensure that the natural features are not damaged or compromised by 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. Land would be managed to preserve and protect the second growth forest of the back dunes. Preserving this land is important because:

   - The dunes in Holland State Park are an important ecological resource that supports a diversity of flora and fauna.

   - The forested area retains nearly complete canopy coverage, encompassing a variety of microhabitats.

   The management zone plan promotes the on-going maintenance and enhancement of these natural resources to ensure their success in the long-term. Native species and natural processes would take precedence over visitor accommodation.

B. Historic / Cultural Resources. Resources in this zone would be preserved, removed or allowed to waste away.

C. Recreational Opportunities. With the focus of this zone being preservation, protection and enhancement of the natural communities present within the zone, recreational opportunities are limited to low-intensity uses. Any uses must be dispersed, low intensity, off-trail or trail, self-reliant, outdoor activities. Typical activities that could occur in this zone are hiking, back-packing, cross-country skiing, and nature observation. No hunting/trapping is allowed in the park.

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.

E. Visitor Experience. Visitor experience would reflect a high degree of natural feel: a significant sense of solitude, and a lack of man-made improvements. There would be low interaction with others.

Holland State Park Primitive Management Zones
N
Sea Watch
Lakeridge
Oak Bluff
Dune Shadow
Dune View
Windrift
Wave
Lakeridge
168th
Lakeshore
North
Skyglass
Terrace
Lake Michigan
Holland State Park
Long
East
Bosma
Auburn
1st
2nd
3rd
Macatawa
Black Lake
Black Lake
Pavillion
Crescent
Black Lake
Lake Macatawa
North
Bay
Dune
Bluebell
Lakeridge
Dedicated NRC Boundary
Proposed Future Acquisition
Addition to the NRC Dedicated Boundary and Proposed Acquisition as Recommended by the Planning Team
Critical Dune Area
Primitive Zone
BIRCHLER ARROYO ASSOCIATES, INC.
0 0.05 0.1 0.2
Miles
Sources: MDNR, Michigan Geographic Data Library

F. Management Focus. Management would focus on maintaining the low-impact character of the zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality. Routine maintenance would be provided. Care would be taken to eliminate any detrimental impacts such as erosion, sedimentation or incursion of invasive species. Other management strategies would be based on recommendations in a future Stewardship Plan.

G. Development. The focus is to maintain as little evidence of human activity as possible. Only trail improvements, which can include boardwalks and/or overlooks.

3.2 Natural Resource Recreation Zone

Approximately 3 acres (2%) of Holland State Park is Natural Resource Recreation (NRR). This zone encompasses the existing lakeshore area of Lake Macatawa, across from the Lake Macatawa campground.

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. Resources in this zone could be preserved, rehabilitated, removed or allowed to waste away. Historic structures could be adaptively used for operational uses or educational purposes.

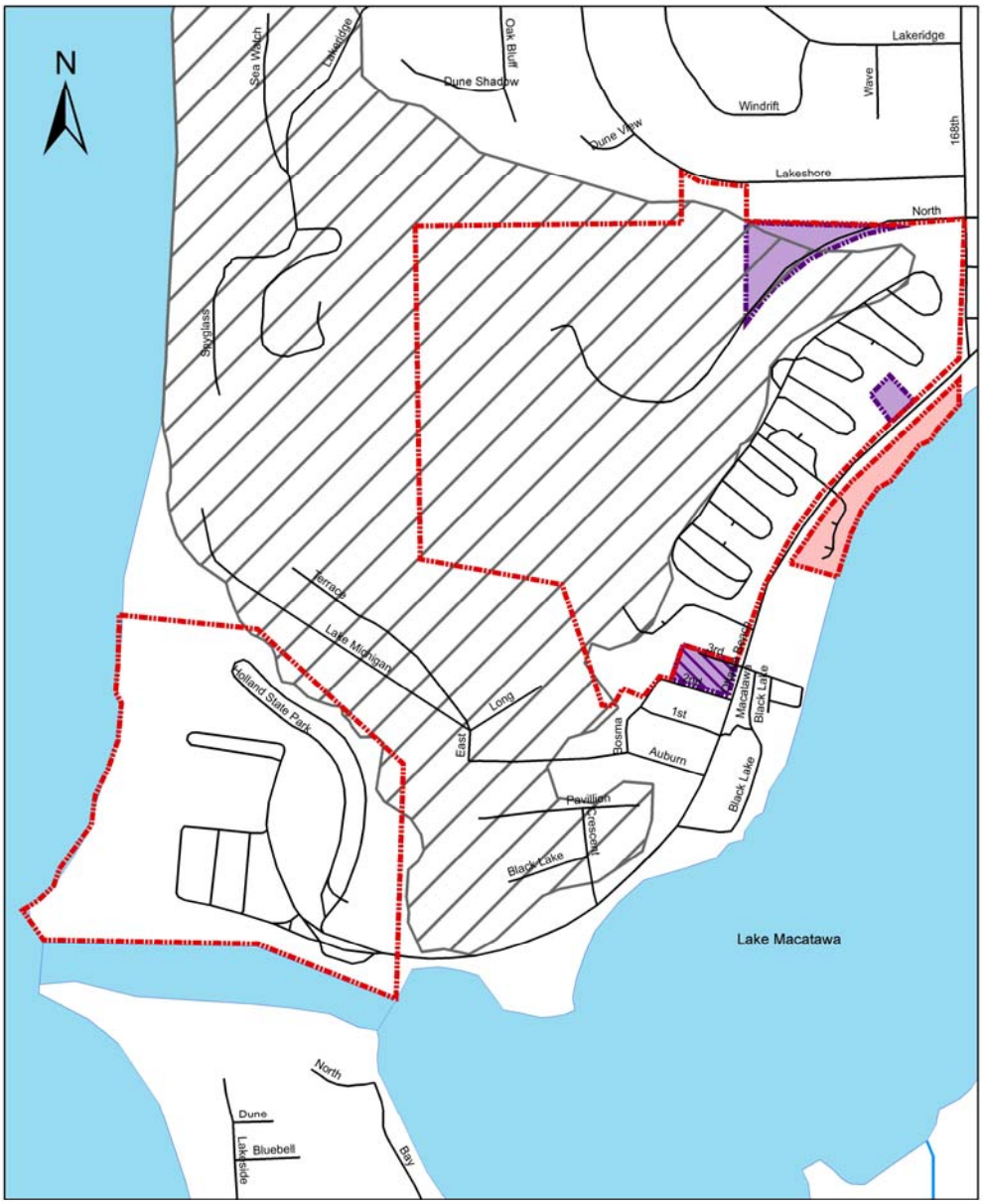
C. Recreational Opportunities. Moderate to high levels of recreation will be permitted in this zone only. This will accommodate visitors engaged in diverse land and water activities including swimming, sunbathing and kayaking. Fishing is allowed in designated areas. No hunting/trapping is allowed in the park.

D. Education Opportunities. Information can be relayed through the use of kiosks or interpretive signage at trailheads, along trails or overlooks.

E. Visitor Experience. Moderate to high visitor encounters are accommodated in the Natural Resource Recreation Zone. Activities for visitors to engage in could offer a variable time commitment, challenge and adventure. Moderate noise tolerance and moderate interaction with others can be expected.

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

Holland State Park Natural Resource Recreation Zones



Dedicated NRC Boundary

Proposed Future Acquisition

Addition to the NRC Dedicated Boundary and Proposed Acquisition as Recommended by the Planning Team

Critical Dune Area

Natural Resource Recreation Zone

BIRCHLER ARROYO ASSOCIATES, INC.

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

Sources: MDNR, Michigan Geographic Data Library

G. Development. A moderate 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, trails, benches, picnic tables, and shelters for recreation and educational opportunities. Site hardening is allowed as necessary to facilitate activities and protect natural resources.

3.3 Scenic Zone

The Scenic Zone, approximately 23 acres (17%), is established for scenic viewscapes. Those identified during the plan process are noted on the plan: the park's entire Lake Michigan and channel shoreline and two high spots within the forest at the northwest portion of the park.

A. Natural Resources. This zone will follow the guidelines of the underlying zone(s). Vegetation may also be managed to enhance the viewscapes of the zone.

B. Historic / Cultural Resources. Cultural resources would be preserved, rehabilitated or removed. Historic structures could be adaptively used for operational uses or educational purposes.

C. Recreational Opportunities. Moderate levels of recreation would be allowed, compatible with the surrounding Primitive or Developed Recreation zone. Non-motorized activity only would be allowed in the trail and observation point.

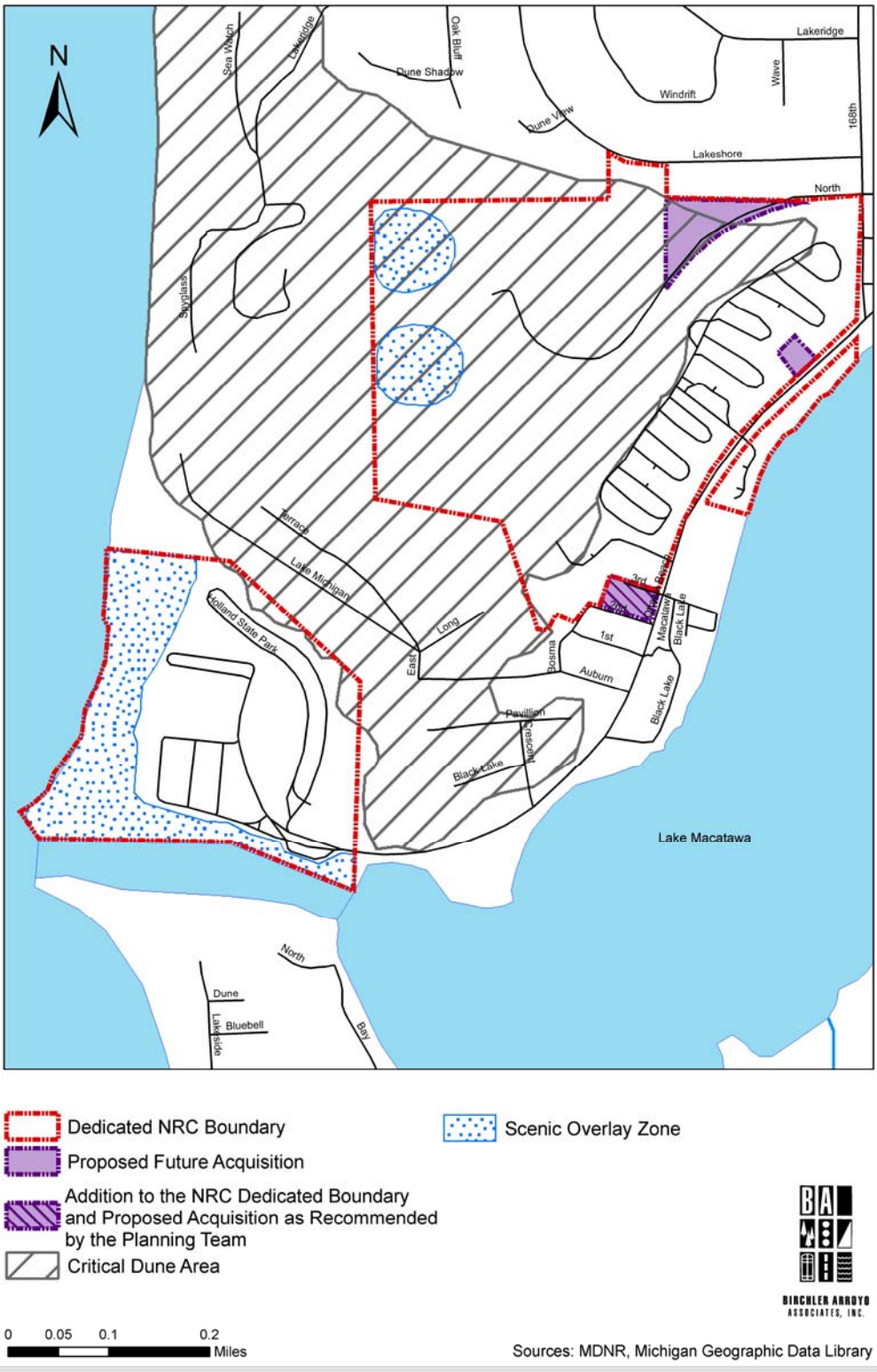
D. Education Opportunities. Interpretive signage may be used at key viewing points, trailheads, overlooks or the parking area. There may be opportunities for off-site interpretation as well.

E. Visitor Experience. High encounters are expected in Scenic Zones. Visitors would be engaged in sightseeing activities by hiking. A moderate time commitment, off-site interpretation and noise tolerance would be expected.

F. Management Focus. Management focuses on maintaining the quality of the viewscape. Public safety, and ensuring that other activities and/or development within the Scenic Zone are compatible with the overriding purpose of the view quality are other management concerns.

G. Development. A moderate level of development is expected to support visitor access, interpretive activities and sightseeing. Trails, parking, and overlook structures are some of the development options that would be allowed in a Scenic Zone

Holland State Park Scenic Overlay Zones



3.4 Developed Recreation Zone

Approximately 72 acres (51%) of Holland State Park is Developed Recreation (DR). Land in this zone is currently developed as beach and campgrounds: the Lake Michigan Beach unit (99 sites) and Lake Macatawa unit (212 sites).

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 stabilized structures are removed.

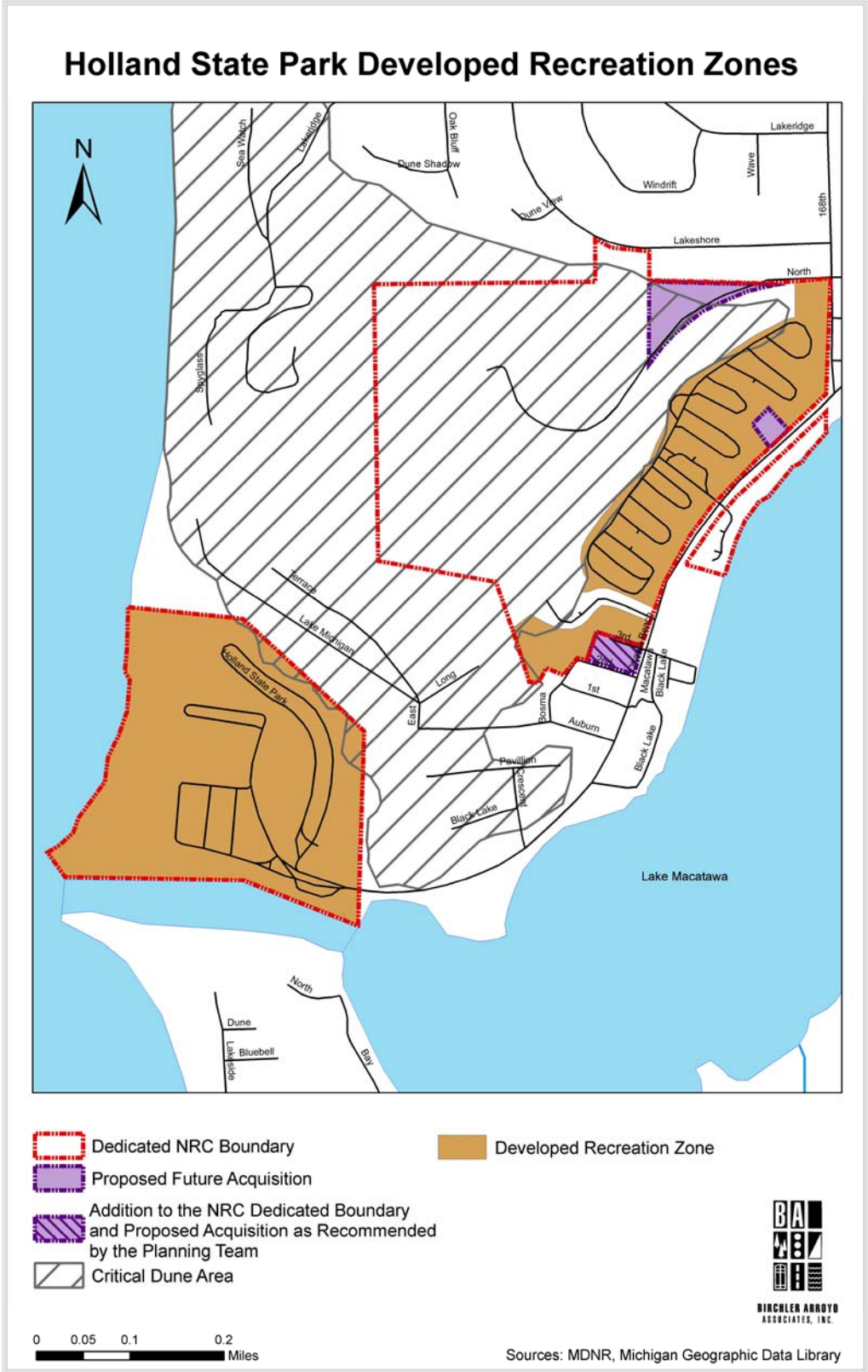
C. Recreational Opportunities. High levels of recreation in a highly structured environment are found in this zone. Visitors engage in recreation activities in diverse and modified land and water settings: hiking, modern and semi-modern camping, bicycling, boating, canoeing, kayaking, nature observation, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, day-use beach, picnicking, and other day-use activities. Fishing is permitted in designated areas. No hunting/trapping is allowed in the park.

D. Education Opportunities. Interpretive signage and information could be provided at a day-use facility, boat launch, campground, registration building, trail head, 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 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 RD'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, trails, benches, picnic tables, campsites, cabins and shelters for recreation and educational opportunities. Site hardening is allowed as necessary to facilitate activities and protect natural resources


Holland State Park Developed Recreation Zones
N
Sea Watch
Lakeridge
Oak Bluff
Dune Shadow
Dune View
Windrift
Wave
Lakeridge
168th
Lakeshore
North
Skyglass
Terrace
Lake Michigan
Holland State Park
Long
East
Bosma
1st
Auburn
3rd
4th
Macatawa
Black Lake
Black Lake
Pavillion
Crescent
Black Lake
Lake Macatawa
North
Bay
Dune
Lakeside
Bluebell
Dedicated NRC Boundary
Proposed Future Acquisition
Addition to the NRC Dedicated Boundary and Proposed Acquisition as Recommended by the Planning Team
Critical Dune Area
Developed Recreation Zone
BIRCHLER ARROYO ASSOCIATES, INC.
0 0.05 0.1 0.2
Miles
Sources: MDNR, Michigan Geographic Data Library

3.5 Visitor Services Zone

Approximately 2 acres (2%) of Holland State Park is Visitor Services Zone (VS). Land in this zone contains the management offices and maintenance facilities for the park.

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

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

C. Recreational Opportunities. None.

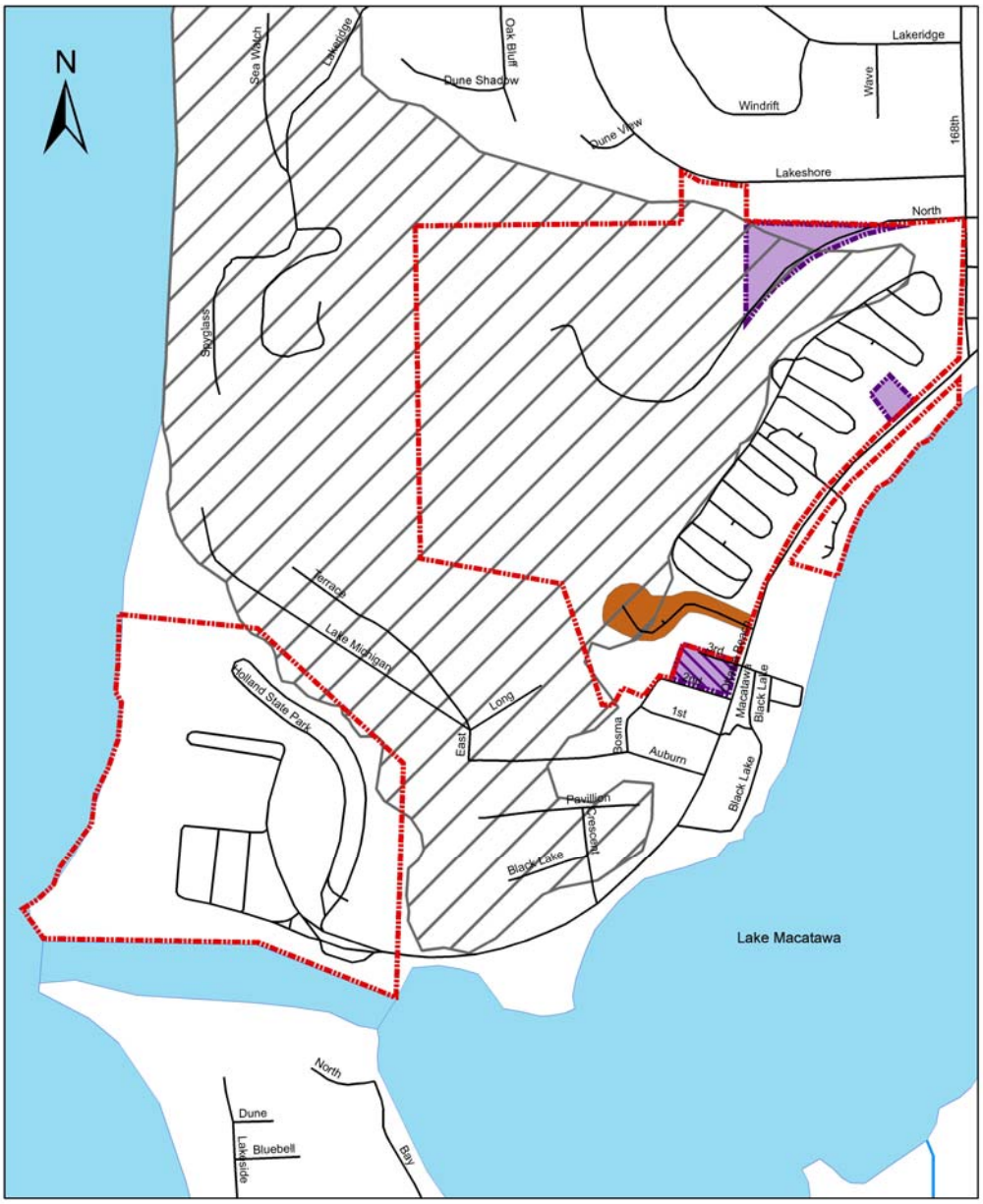
D. Education Opportunities. Person to person contact at park headquarters for general information; informational kiosk may be available.

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.

Holland State Park Visitor Services Zones



Dedicated NRC Boundary

Proposed Future Acquisition

Addition to the NRC Dedicated Boundary and Proposed Acquisition as Recommended by the Planning Team

Critical Dune Area

Visitor Services Zone

BIRCHLER ARROYO ASSOCIATES, INC.

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

Sources: MDNR, Michigan Geographic Data Library

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 Action Plan (LONG-RANGE ACTION GOALS TO ATTAIN GMP): Phase 2 of the Management Planning Process. Includes review and update of General Management Plan.

5-Year Action Plan (SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT): 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, and
- ❑ Park Infrastructure data.

APPENDIX A
Supporting Analysis

Table of Contents

A1. Location _____ A-1

A2. Demographics _____ A-3

A3. General History of the Park _____ A-5

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A7. Education and Interpretation _____ A-24

A8. Recreational Resources _____ A-25

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A1. Location

Location
Holland State Park is located in Ottawa County, four miles west of the city of Holland. Ottawa County is 174 miles west of Detroit and 150 miles northeast of Chicago. The park covers about 140 acres on the northern side of the channel connecting Lake Macatawa with Lake Michigan, and consists of two separate units. The Lake Macatawa unit features an extensive campground, a beach on Lake Macatawa, and a public boat launch. The Lake Michigan unit features a smaller, paved campground, a pavilion with a snack bar, bathhouse, and a broad sandy beach along Lake Michigan.

Lake Michigan borders the park on the west. Lake Macatawa lies to the south and east. Residential neighborhoods, farms, and forests are located north of the park.

The park was acquired by the state from the City of Holland in December 1926. Since then it has been intensively used for its great beach and excellent campgrounds. In 2007, more than 1.2 million visitors came to Holland State Park, making it the most visited park in the Michigan State Park system.

Holland's pristine white sand beach, boat access to Lakes Michigan and Macatawa, and freeway access to large population centers such as Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Lansing, Detroit, and Chicago have contributed to its popularity.

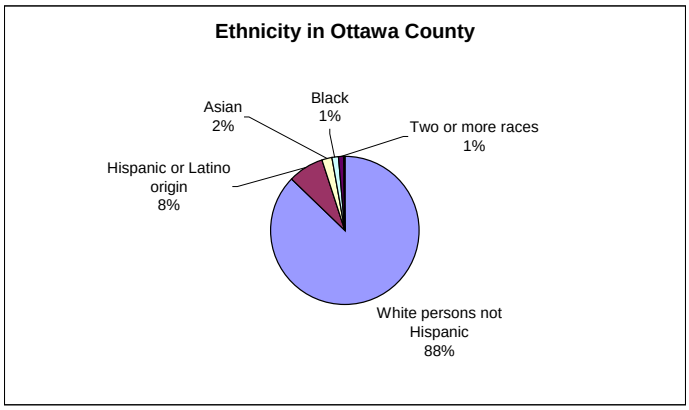
Map 1: Location Map

A2. Demographics

Population

The 2006 US Census population estimate for Ottawa County is 257,671, making it the tenth most populous county in the state. Between 1990 and 2000, the population in Ottawa County grew at a rate of nearly 27%, a much faster pace than the State of Michigan (6.9%). Projections by the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission (WMRPC) indicate Ottawa County's population will continue to grow. By 2020 the population of Ottawa County may reach 393,642. The current population is largely comprised of white, non-Hispanics (88%), followed by those of Hispanic or Latino origin (8%).

The City of Holland, the largest city in Ottawa County, has a 2006 estimated population of 34,245, down approximately 2.3% from 2000 (US Census Bureau). Twenty miles from Holland State Park is Grand Haven, the next largest city with a population of 11,168.



Education, Income and Employment.

Most people over the age of 25 living in Ottawa County have graduated from high school; 27.6% have at least a Bachelors Degree. The median income earned per household is $52,347, higher than the US median household income of $41,994. In 2000, 5.5% of families in the area lived below the poverty level.

139,828 persons in Ottawa County are in the labor force. The unemployment rate is currently 7.2% (2008 Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth).

Table 1: Employment by Occupation

Occupation	Percent Employed
Management, professional and related occupations	31.8%
Sales and Office	24.7%
Production, transportation and material moving occupations	21.7%

The manufacturing industry and educational, health and social services make up most of the Ottawa County employment, followed by the retail trade and arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services.

Table 2: Employment by Industry

Industry	Percent Employed
Manufacturing	29%
Educational, health and social services	18%
Retail Trade	11.9%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	6.3%

85.9% of Ottawa County residents who commute to work drive alone. Others carpool (7.2%) or walk 2.6%. Very few take public transportation (0.5%). The average commute time is 19.4 minutes.

A3.
General History

History

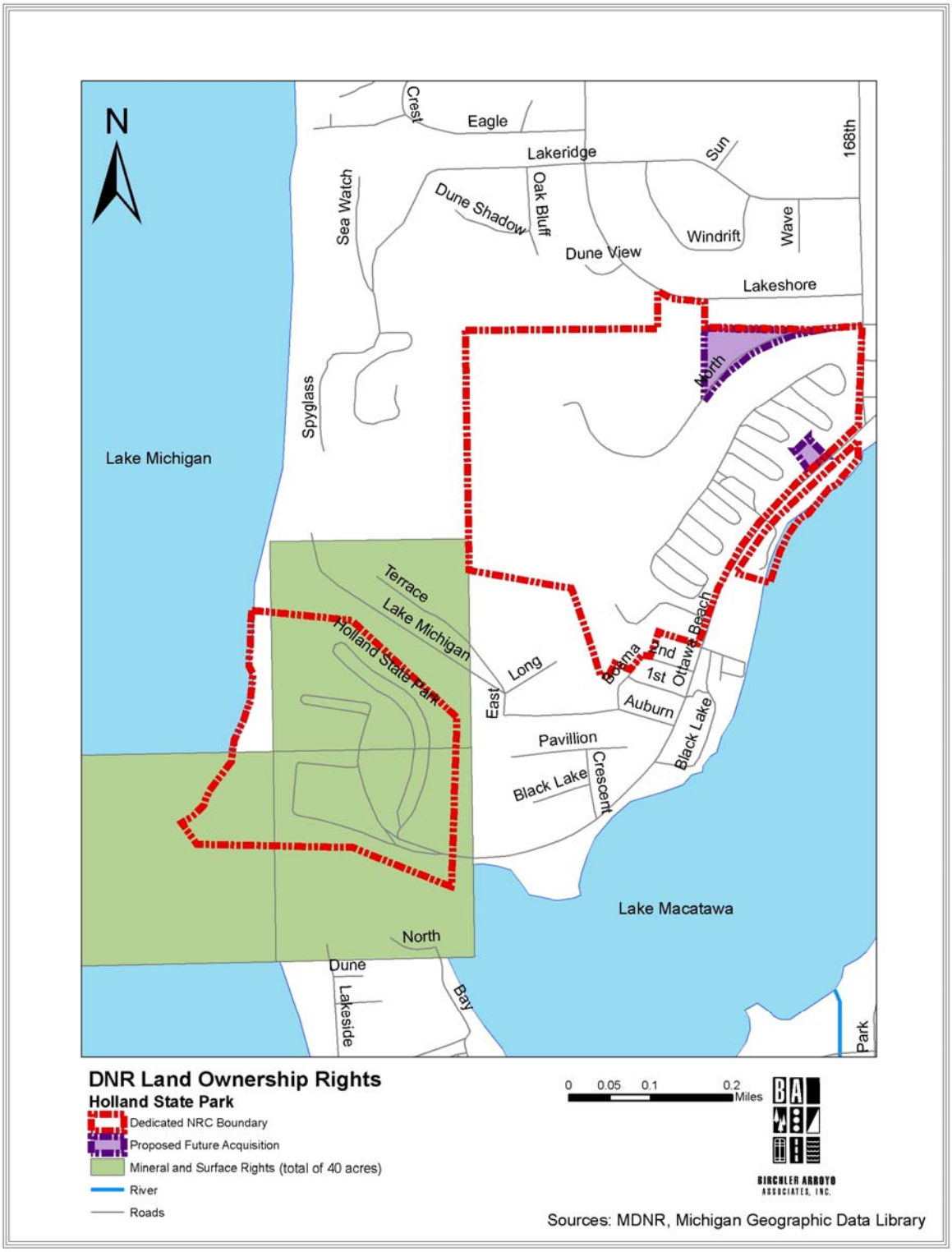
Tourism became a significant industry for the City of Holland in the early 1900's. In the 1920's tourism flourished as the beaches of Lake Michigan drew thousands of people. The Ottawa Beach Hotel, then the largest resort on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan, burned to the ground on November 6, 1923. Seeing the benefits of keeping access open to the Lake Michigan shoreline, the Michigan State Parks Board bought the property and developed it into Holland State Park in December 1926. Over the years it has become one of the most popular of the Michigan state parks.

Old Postcard of Holland State Park

Land Ownership

Map 2 shows the ownership status of Holland State Park. 33 acres are mineral and surface ownership with an additional 18 acres of mineral ownership.

Map 2: Land Ownership



A4. Existing Land Use, Zoning and Future Uses

Land Use

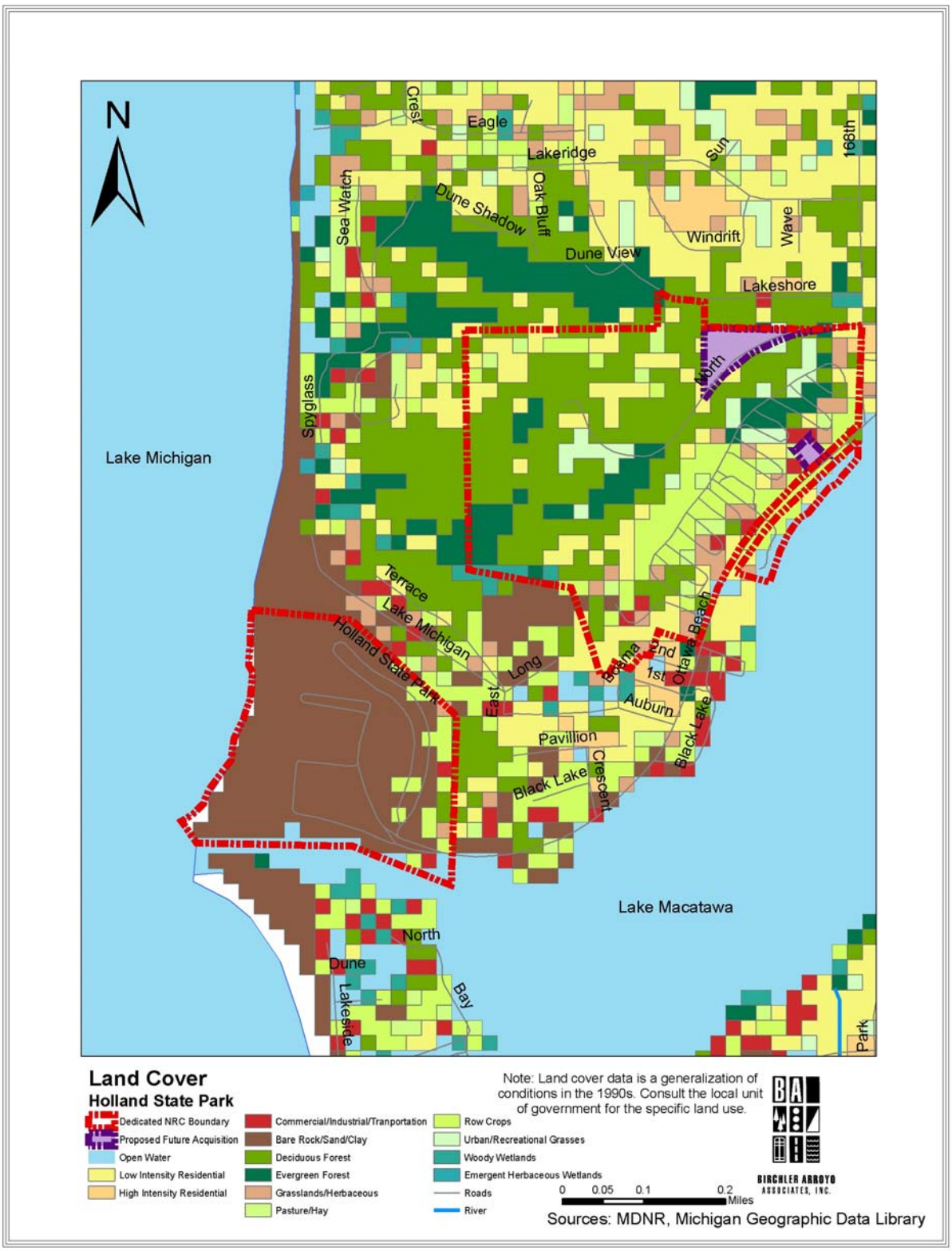
Existing land use, zoning district and future land use data for this section is based on information obtained from Park Township. The data has been generalized for the purposes of this discussion. For exact representation, consult the local unit of government. A summary of the discussion that follows is provided on Table 3, and illustrated on Maps 3, 4 and 5.

Land use around Holland State Park consists of low-intensity development, mainly single family residential and resort commercial uses. Map 3 illustrates the existing land cover for the area. The land cover categories generally correspond to the existing land uses.

Table 3: Summary of Existing Land Uses, Zoning Districts and Future Land Uses for Land Surrounding Holland State Park

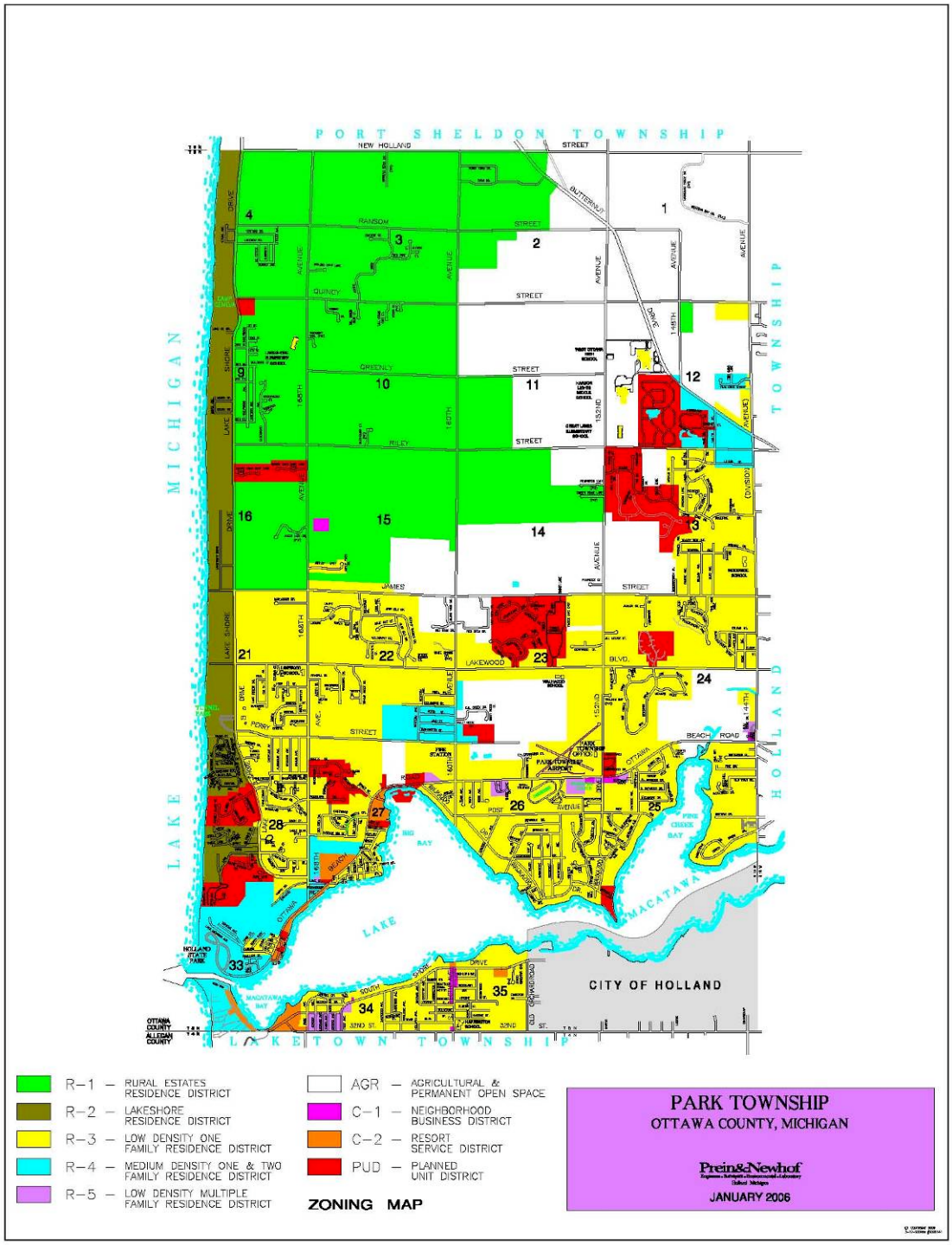
	Existing Land Uses	Zoning Districts	Future Land Uses
Holland State Park	Recreational uses	R-4 Medium Density One & Two Family Residence District	Public/Quasi-Public
Land to the North	Residential	PUD	Medium Density Residential and Lakeshore Residential
Land to the Northeast	Residential	R-3 Low Density One Family Residence District	Low Density Residential
Land to the South	Lake Macatawa; City of Holland	R-1 Single Family Residential	Low Density Residential
Land to the East	Lake Macatawa	N/A	N/A
Land to the West	*NA - Bordered by Lake Michigan to the West*		

Map 3: Land Cover

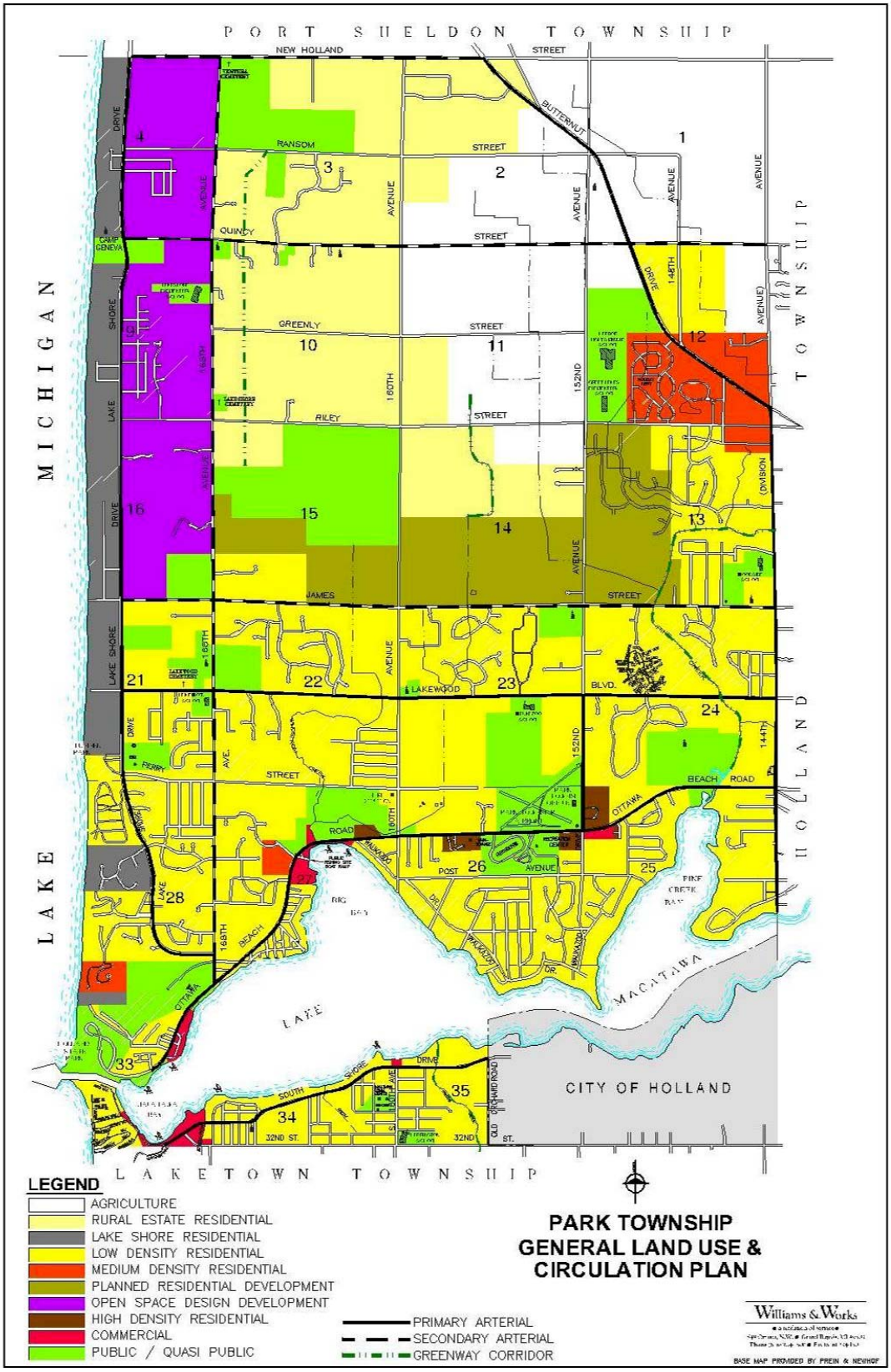


Zoning districts for the area are shown on Map 4. Zoning dictates how landowners may or may not use their property. The Park and most of the surrounding land is zoned.

Map 4: Zoning Districts



Map 5: Future Land Uses



A5. Natural Features Assessment

Understanding the physical conditions of Holland State Park is critical to designating management zones. Management zones must ensure that activities are compatible with the land's capacity, and sensitive areas are preserved and protected. This section reviews the ecological context of Holland State Park, including climate, soils, water bodies, wetlands and areas prone to ponding and flooding, woodlands, and threatened and endangered species, or species of special concern.

A5.1 Ecoregional Context

Holland State Park is located in the VI.3.2 Southern Lake Michigan Lake Plain Ecoregion, according to the *Regional Landscape of Ecosystems of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin: A Working Map and Classification General Technical Report NC-178 (Fourth Revision: July 1994)* (Map 8).

Michigan's most unique and fragile sand dunes are protected by minimizing the impacts of development within designated critical dune areas along the Great Lakes shoreline. Earthmoving, vegetation removal, and construction activities within a critical dune area are regulated through a permit program. The inland portion of Holland SP lies within the designated critical dune area, which is subject to statewide development restrictions.

<u>Water Resources</u>
Holland State Park lies along the sandy shoreline on Lake Michigan. Lake Michigan is the third largest of the Great Lakes, covering a surface area of approximately 22,300 square miles. The average depth of Lake Michigan is 279 feet and the maximum depth reaches 923 feet. The water quality of Lake Michigan is excellent for such recreational activities as swimming, fishing, sailing, and boating.

The 1,780-acre Lake Macatawa lies across Ottawa Beach Road from Holland State Park, where a campers beach is provided. The lake is about 6 miles long with a maximum width of 1.2 miles. The average depth of the lake is variable but generally less than 10 feet, excluding a navigation channel that crosses the lake to allow boats access to the City of Holland.

<u>Climate</u>
The climate of the section is strongly influenced by the Maritime Tropical air mass, with some lake-effect snows and moderation of temperature from Lake Michigan (Albert et

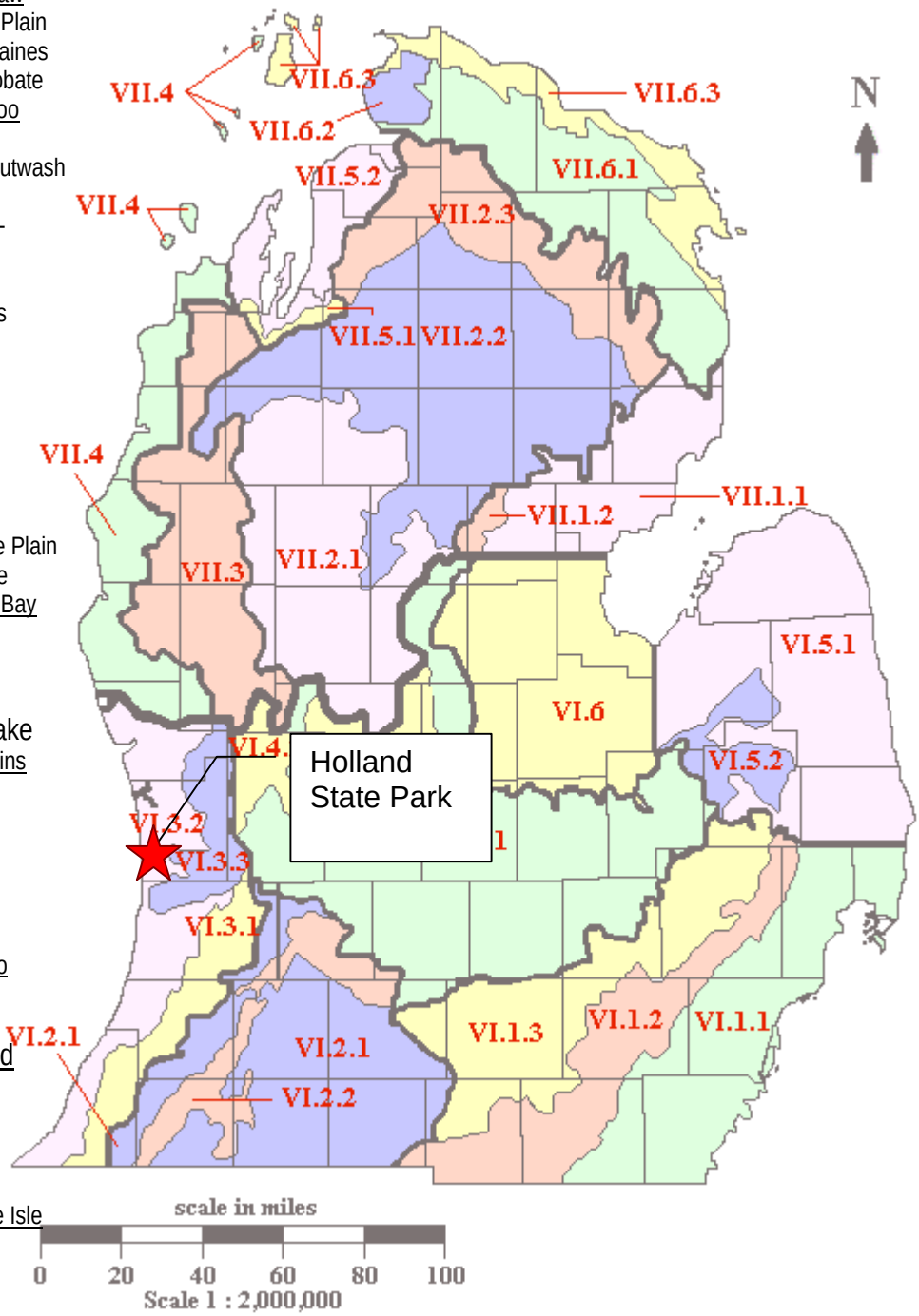
al. 1986, Denton 1985, Eichenlaub 1979, Eichenlaub et al. 1990). Compared to the rest of the study area, the southern Lower Peninsula of Michigan has more warm humid air masses from the Gulf of Mexico and fewer cold dry air masses of continental origin. Winter precipitation is higher (7 to 10 inches; 23 to 26 percent of annual precipitation) and more of it falls as rain than in Wisconsin's Section V to the west or Michigan's Section VII to the north. The growing season is longer and warmer than that of Sections VII to XI and similar to that of Sections I to V.

- ❑ Mean daily temperature during winter months (Dec, Jan, Feb): 26.6ºF
- ❑ Mean daily temperature during spring months (Mar, Apr, May): 46.3ºF
- ❑ Mean daily temperature during summer months (Jun, Jul, Aug): 69.3ºF
- ❑ Mean daily temperature during fall months (Sept, Oct, Nov): 51.3ºF
- ❑ Mean annual precipitation: 36.25 inches
- ❑ Average annual total snow fall: 75 inches

Source: Weather.com and Holland.org

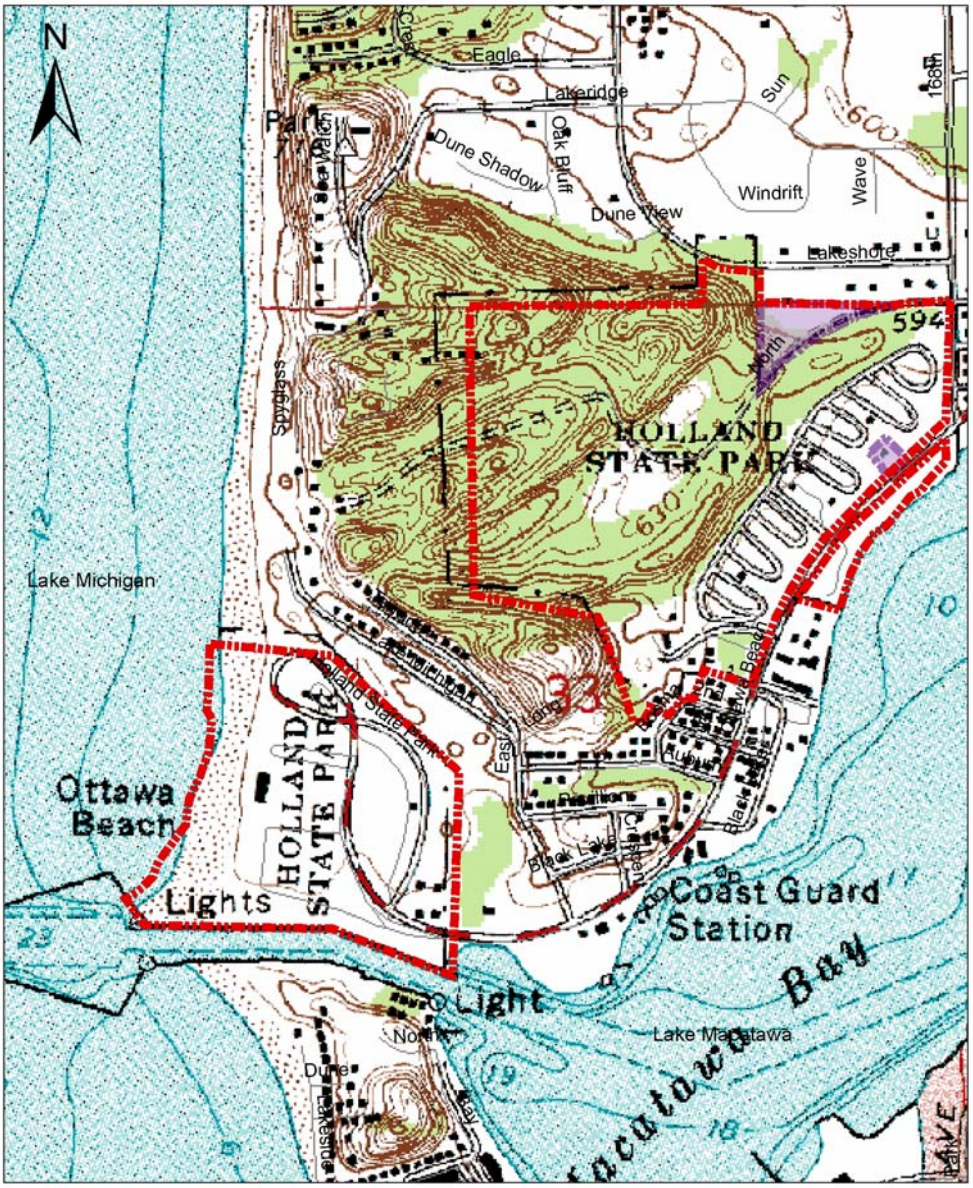
Map 6: Ecoregional Context

Section VI.1 Washtenaw
VI.1.1. Maumee Lake Plain
VI.1.2. Ann Arbor Moraines
VI.1.3. Jackson Interlobate
Section VI.2 Kalamazoo Interlobate
VI.2.1. Battle Creek Outwash Plain
VI.2.2. Cassopolis Ice-Contact Ridges
Section VI.3 Allegan
VI.3.1. Berrien Springs
VI.3.2. Southern Lake Michigan Lake Plain
VI.3.3. Jamestown
Section VI.4 Ionia
VI.4.1. Lansing
VI.4.2. Greenville
Section VI.5 Huron
VI.5.1. Sandusky Lake Plain
VI.5.2. Lum Interlobate
Section VI.6 Saginaw Bay Lake Plain
Section VII.1 Arenac
VII.1.1. Standish
VII.1.2. Wiggins Lake
Section VII.2 High Plains
VII.2.1. Cadillac
VII.2.2. Grayling Outwash Plain
VII.2.3. Vanderbilt Moraines
Section VII.3 Newaygo Outwash Plain
VII.4. Manistee
VII.5. Leelanau and Grand Traverse Peninsula
VII.5.1. Williamsburg
VII.5.2. Traverse City
Section VII.6 Presque Isle
VII.6.1. Onaway
VII.6.2. Stutsmanville
VII.6.3. Cheboygan



Source: Regional Landscape of Ecosystems of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin: A Working Map and Classification General Technical Report NC-178 (Fourth Revision: July 1994).

Map 7: Topography



Topography Map
Holland State Park

Dedicated NRC Boundary
Proposed Future Acquisition
Roads

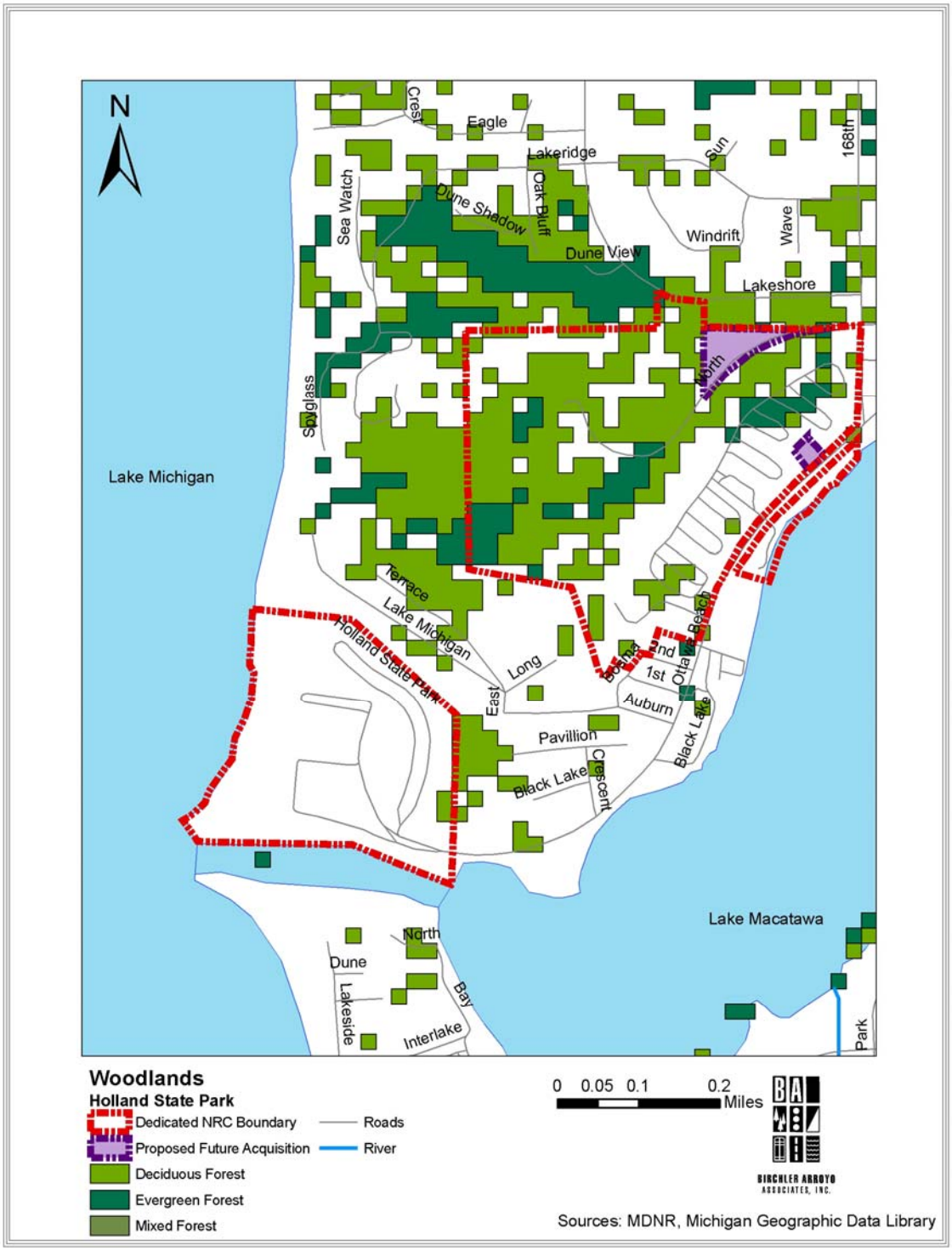
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

BIRCHLER ARROYO ASSOCIATES, INC.

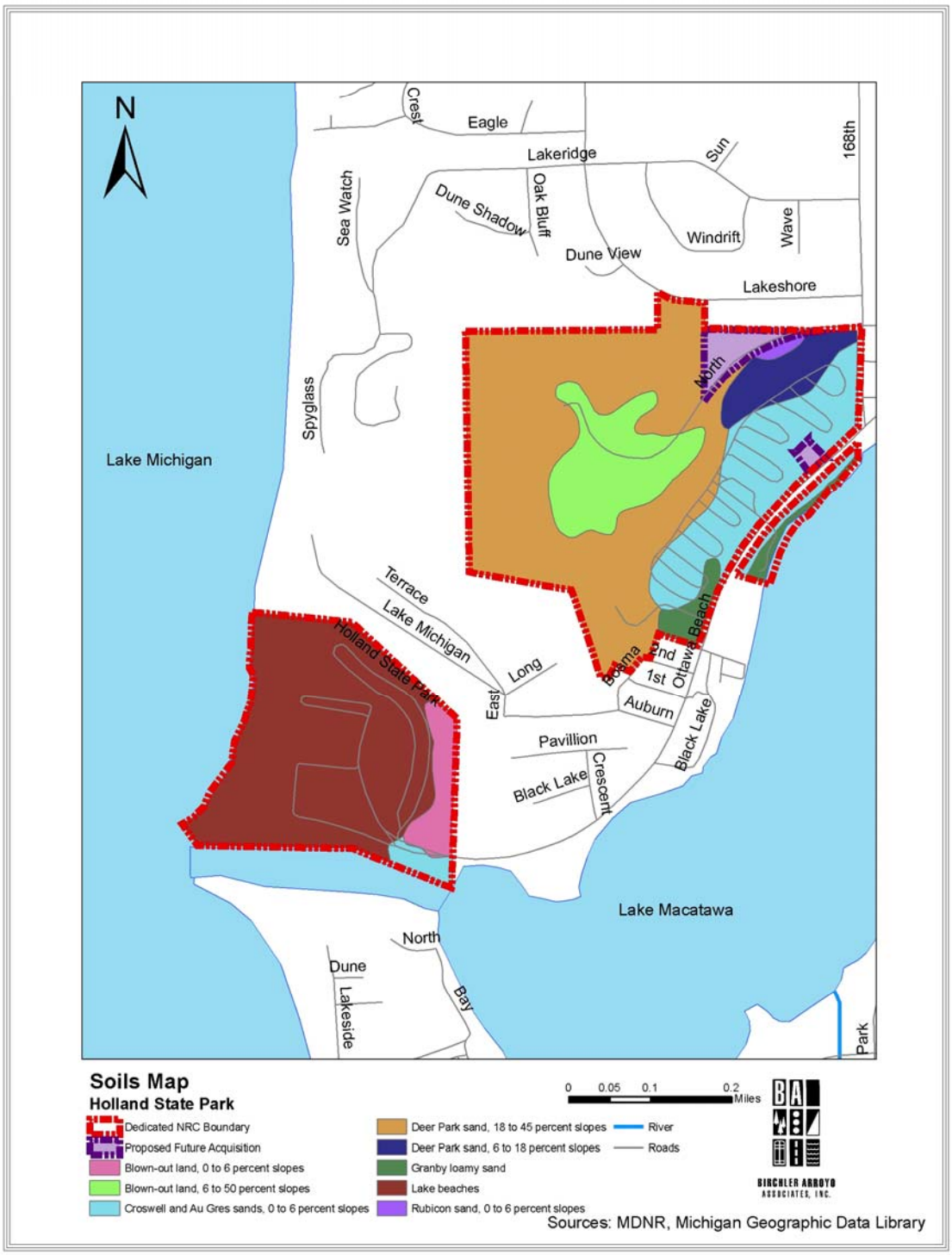
Sources: MDNR, Michigan Geographic Data Library

Map 8: Wetlands

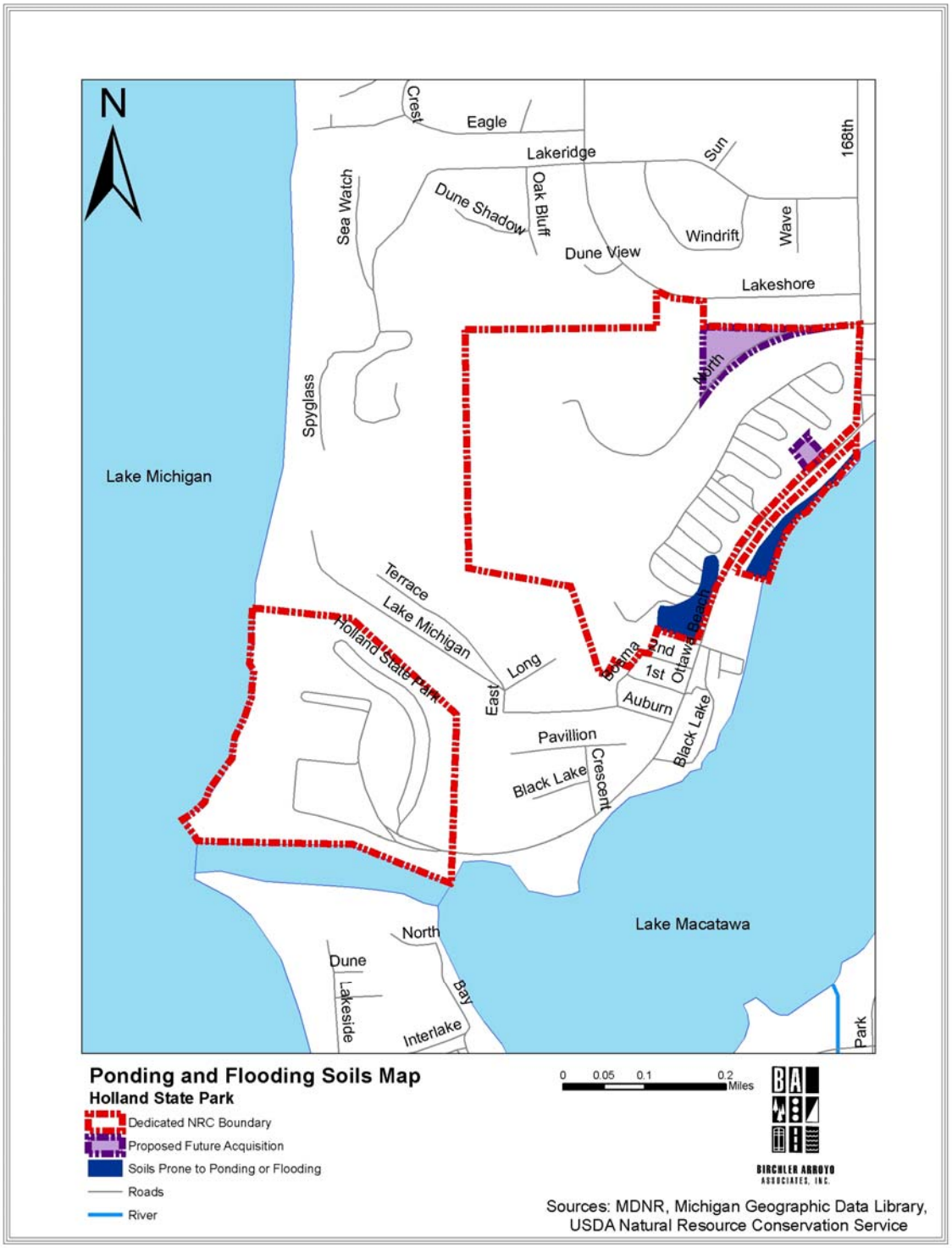
Map 9: Woodlands



Map 10: Soils


N
Crest
Eagle
Lakeridge
Sun
168th
Sea Watch
Dune Shadow
Oak Bluff
Windrift
Wave
Dune View
Lakeshore
Spyglass
North
Lake Michigan
Terrace
Lake Michigan
Holland State Park
Long
East
Beach
Ottawa
1st
Auburn
Black Lake
Pavillion
Black Lake
Crescent
Lake Macatawa
North
Dune
Lakeside
Bay
Park
Soils Map
Holland State Park
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles
Dedicated NRC Boundary
Proposed Future Acquisition
Blown-out land, 0 to 6 percent slopes
Blown-out land, 6 to 50 percent slopes
Croswell and Au Gres sands, 0 to 6 percent slopes
Deer Park sand, 18 to 45 percent slopes
Deer Park sand, 6 to 18 percent slopes
Granby loamy sand
Lake beaches
Rubicon sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes
River
Roads
BIRCHLER ARROYO ASSOCIATES, INC.
Sources: MDNR, Michigan Geographic Data Library

Map 11: Special Flood Hazards



Flora

Prior to European settlement, mesic southern forests of American beech, sugar maple, and hemlock covered much of the barrier dunes. Low numbers of sassafras, red oak, and red maple were also noted in these forest by the early surveyors. The understory was probably quite varied with numerous microhabitats providing a range of conditions depending upon the topography and aspect of the slope. (Natural Features Inventory and Management Recommendations dated November 2002)

Much of the sandy delta is completely free of vegetation and where vegetation is present, exotic species such as spotted knapweed and Kentucky bluegrass, hoary alyssum, common St. John's-wort, and autumn olive are well established. The back dunes remain forested with a similar composition to historical forests; however, they are primarily second growth. In the immediate vicinity of the campground, the forest is quite fragmented, although much of the remaining forest retains nearly complete canopy coverage, encompassing a variety of microhabitats. (Natural Features Inventory and Management Recommendations dated November 2002)

There is little remaining undisturbed habitat for Pitcher's thistle, which has been highly degraded due to the intense use of the park by campers and visitors. Ginseng (Panax quinquefolius) was collected in 1914 from dunes in the vicinity of the park. It has not been reported since. (Natural Features Inventory and Management Recommendations dated November 2002)

A5.2 Threatened, Endangered and Special Concern Species

The Michigan Natural Features Inventory has identified species of special concern (SC), threatened (T), endangered (E), and extirpated (X) species as identified by the State of Michigan in Ottawa County, and would likely be found in Holland State Park. Some species have federal protection status and are noted as listed endangered (LE) or listed threatened (LT). Species identified as being considered for protected status are noted by (C).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status
Accipiter cooperii	Cooper's Hawk		SC
Acris crepitans blanchardi	Blanchard's Cricket Frog		SC
Adlumia fungosa	Climbing Fumitory		SC
Anodonta subgibbosa	Lake Floater		T
Bog			
Buteo lineatus	Red-shouldered Hawk		T
Carex davisii	Davis's Sedge		SC
Cirsium pitcheri	Pitcher's Thistle	LT	T
Cistothorus palustris	Marsh Wren		SC
Clemmys guttata	Spotted Turtle		T
Clonophis kirtlandii	Kirtland's Snake		E
Coregonus artedi	Cisco or Lake Herring		T
Dendroica dominica	Yellow-throated Warbler		T

Dry-mesic Southern Forest			
Eleocharis tricostata	Three-ribbed Spike-rush		T
Emergent Marsh			
Emys blandingii	Blanding's Turtle		SC
Euphorbia commutata	Tinted Spurge		T
Euxoa aurulenta	Dune Cutworm		SC
Falco peregrinus	Peregrine Falcon		E
Fontigens nickliniana	Watercress Snail		SC
Galearis spectabilis	Showy Orchis		T
Great Blue Heron Rookery	Great Blue Heron Rookery		
Great Lakes Barrens	Barrens, Upper Midwest Type		
Great Lakes Marsh			
Gymnocladus dioicus	Kentucky Coffee-tree		SC
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle		T
Hybanthus concolor	Green Violet		SC
Hypericum gentianoides	Gentian-leaved St. John's-wort		SC
Ictiobus niger	Black Buffalo		SC
Interdunal Wetland	Alkaline Shoredunes Pond/marsh, Great Lakes Type		
Lithospermum latifolium	Broad-leaved Puccoon		SC
Lycopodium appressum	Northern Prostrate Clubmoss		SC
Mertensia virginica	Virginia Bluebells		T
Mesic Northern Forest			
Mesic Southern Forest	Rich Forest, Central Midwest Type		
Morus rubra	Red Mulberry		T
Moxostoma carinatum	River Redhorse		T
Nelumbo lutea	American Lotus		T
Notropis dorsalis	Bigmouth Shiner		
Notropis texanus	Weed Shiner		X
Open Dunes	Beach/shoredunes, Great Lakes Type		
Panax quinquefolius	Ginseng		T
Poa paludigena	Bog Bluegrass		T
Proserpinaca pectinata	Mermaid-weed		E
Pterospora andromedea	Pine-drops		T
Pycnanthemum verticillatum	Whorled Mountain-mint		SC
Rallus elegans	King Rail		E
Ranunculus ambigens	Spearwort		T
Rhexia mariana var. mariana	Maryland Meadow-beauty		T
Rhexia virginica	Meadow-beauty		SC
Rotala ramosior	Tooth-cup		SC
Sisyrinchium atlanticum	Atlantic Blue-eyed-grass		T
Strophostyles helvula	Trailing Wild Bean		SC
Terrapene carolina carolina	Eastern Box Turtle		SC
Trillium nivale	Snow Trillium		T
Wilsonia citrina	Hooded Warbler		SC
Zizania aquatica var. aquatica	Wild-rice		T

Most *Species of Special Concern* are noted as such because of their declining populations in the state. Should these species continue to decline, they would be

recommended for Threatened or Endangered status. The goal is protection of 'Special Concern' species before they reach dangerously low population levels. A "threatened" species is one that is likely to become endangered in the near future. An endangered species is one that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

A6.
Cultural and Historic Resources

History of the Area

The shores of Lake Macatawa, originally charted as Tuscarora Bay, Black River Lake, were inhabited by the Ottawa Indian Tribe. Their main encampment was located on the Ox-Bow Bend of the Kalamazoo River near Saugatuck, but their hunting and fishing grounds extended as far north as the Grand River and included Lake Macatawa.

There were many lost cities--towns that were platted and registered by speculators from the East but never passed the platting stage. One of these was Macatawa, located on the south shore of Lake Macatawa near the outlet to Lake Michigan. It was originally divided into more than a thousand lots surrounding a village square, but it never developed as a city. On this site in 1882, the first building, a hotel, was erected. Fifteen years later, a larger hotel was built, and the original was used as a dining room. Another city that never developed was Portsmouth, located just across the channel from Macatawa near the present location of Holland State Park.

This Area known as Ottawa Beach was in fact a microcosm of last 19th Century developmental factors that provided the impetus for the early 20th Century economic growth. This area, although in close proximity, should not be confused with the Dutch heritage and development of Holland Michigan which is interesting but far more focused and localized.

In this space designated by West Michigan Park Association there were six areas of activities and use:

1) Private residences among the trees and forests of the dune area
2) The beach along Lake Michigan that picked up the label of the "Michigan Riviera" for sun bathing
3) The operations of the Hotel for transient guests
4) The railroad terminal that unloaded hundreds of visitors per day during the season
5) The Lake Macatawa (or Black Lake as it was known then) water front that provided most of the summer activity of small boating, fishing and sail boat racing and was the principal center of water activity. A Clipper ship loading and unloading dock for visitors to the Hotel that came by Great Lakes Clipper ship was located in this area (passenger use of clipper ships were declining in the late 1800's as people favored railroad trove)

6) Certain infrastructure developments were necessary for this remote residential park, including the Hotel golf course, which has now become the State Park camp ground along Ottawa Beach Road. Utilities included the residences' own water plant and pumping house that remains today and is future site of the Ottawa Beach Historic Museum

Source: West Michigan Park Association

The harbor came into existence in the early 1900s. Prior to that time, the waters of Lake Macatawa were connected to Lake Michigan by a stream that wound its way northwest until it entered the lake at the north end of the State Park. In 1837, a steamship, "Governor Mason," entered through this stream in four feet of water. In 1847, it was navigable only by canoes and rowboats. In the early years of the Dutch colony, a pier was built out into Lake Michigan so small freighters could unload. Construction of the converging piers began in 1899 and was completed in 1909. The lighthouse built in 1907 was remodeled in 1936 and today stands as a landmark for the area.

Source: USGenWeb – Ottawa County

Occasionally logs from the logging era wash up on the beach or become visible in the blowing sands. There is an old residence foundation below the sand northeast of the permit booth at the beach. Other remnants of past building include the foundations of a clubhouse associated with a golf course that existed 1900 to approximately 1915, foundations for historic vacation cabins from the early 1900s. There is also evidence of the former Ottawa Beach Hotel, including annex foundations, dump site, and pilings from its pier.

A7.
Education and Interpretation

Explorer Program
Holland State Park is one of the State of Michigan's 41 parks that offers the State Park Explorer program, in which guides lead informal programs and hikes that feature the park's unique natural, cultural and historic resources

Campground Host Program provides information and services to the campers.

Volunteer programs – Kandu, a non-profit organization that provides opportunities for people with barriers to employment, visits the park monthly to pick up litter.

Other - Research Weather station being installed near the pier by the National Weather Service.

A8.
Regional Recreational Resources

This section presents the recreational resources available at Holland State Park as well as recreational facilities in the southwest Michigan region.

A8.1 Recreational Resources - Current Land Use within the Park

Holland State Park offers a large beach with several dune areas and campgrounds in two units. The shore of Lake Michigan provides a great area for swimming and a beautiful beach for sun bathing and viewing sailboats and sunsets. At the Lake Michigan Unit, a Beach House provides restrooms and a changing area for swimmers. There are 99 campsites at this unit that include 31 full hook-ups (water/electricity). The Lake Macatawa unit also features a beach on Lake Macatawa (across the street from the park) and 212 campsites.

The park features several dune areas, nature trails, picnic areas with shelters, tables and fire pits/grills, and playgrounds offering a variety of equipment for children. Park activities include camping, swimming, biking, rollerblading, sun bathing, photography, interpretive activities, people-watching, socializing, beach activities and metal detecting (in specific areas). A new boardwalk and stair system offers a great view of the lakes.

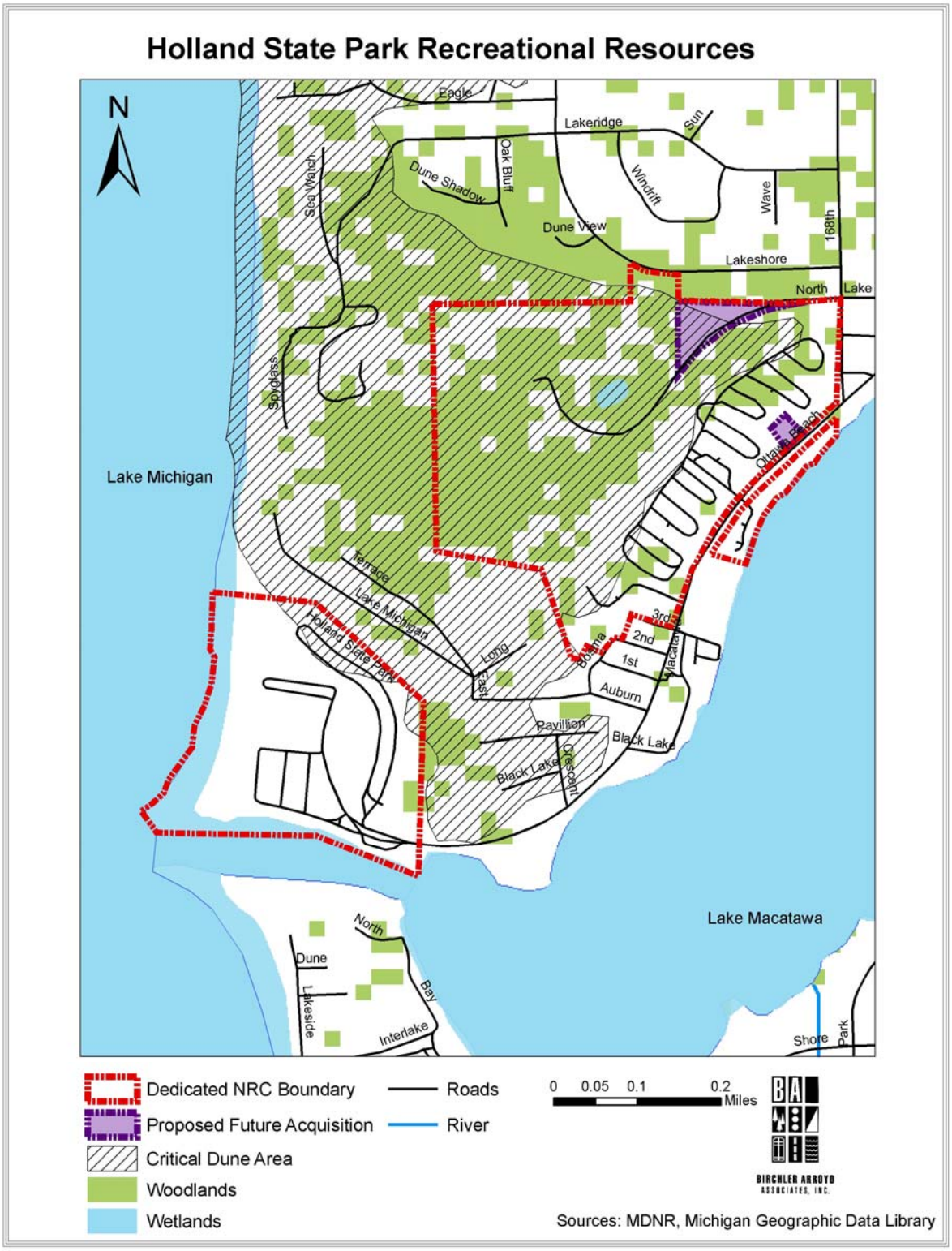
There is no boating access at the park directly into Lake Michigan. A boat launch is available one mile east, providing access to Lake Macatawa and through the channel to Lake Michigan. These waters offer a wide variety of fishing and boating opportunities. The pier along the north side of the channel provides an excellent place for shore fishing. Lake Michigan charter boat services are available in the area. Ice fishing is a popular activity during the winter months. A new fish cleaning station is complete and in operation from April 15 – October 15.

MiWiFi provides wireless Internet access in the day-use area of this park. The access point is located near the concession area and radiates about 150 feet from this location in all directions. This service is also available in other parks and harbors throughout Michigan.

<u>Areas of Conflict</u>

Conflicts may occur between personal watercraft and swimmers within the buoy area. Neighbors have complained about park hours, park improvements, and public fishing when park is closed. Campsites occasionally remain occupied after due out time. Many campers want to stay longer than the 15-night limit.

Map 12: Park Resources



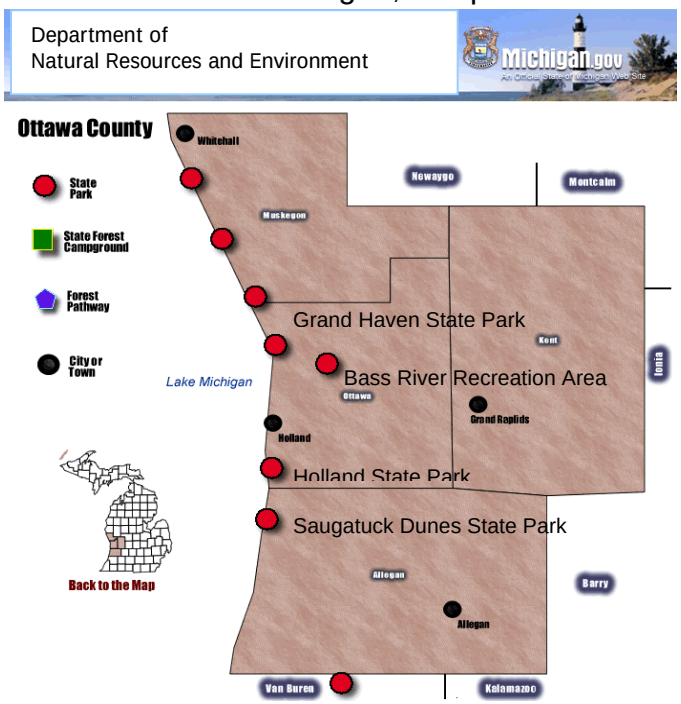
8.2 Regional Recreational Resources - State Parks

Saugatuck Dunes State Park is approximately 7 miles south of Holland State Park along Lake Michigan. This park offers hiking, wildlife viewing, picnicking, boating and fishing. There is no camping at this park.

Grand Haven State Park is located approximately 20 miles from Holland State Park. It is on the shores of Lake Michigan and has a variety of activities, including 182 sites for camping.

Bass River Recreation Area, about 23 miles from Holland State Park is a 1,665-acre site, consists of open meadows, open brush land, mature hardwoods, small ponds and 300-acre Max Lake. It has approximately three miles of frontage on the Grand River. The park is used primarily for boating, hiking, mountain biking and horse back riding.

PJ Hoffmaster State Park is located approximately 31 miles from Holland State Park. This 1,200 acre park offers 293 campsites and 10 miles of hiking trails. Excellent location to see and learn about Great Lakes sand dunes and the plants and wildlife that live on them. Hoffmaster has some of the finest dune formations and wooded dune complexes along the western Michigan shore. The park features 3 miles of pristine beaches on Lake Michigan, a spectacular dune overlook perched atop a towering forested dune, and the famous Gillette Visitor Center known throughout the Midwest for its outstanding educational programs and attractions.



Muskegon State Park is located about 37 miles from Holland State Park. More than 1,000 acres of scenic natural area are nestled between Muskegon Lake and Lake Michigan. This site contains dunes, interdunal ponds, forests, fields, lakefront, and a rare coastal plain marsh. 247 campsites are located in this park. Bicycling is prohibited on all trails due to Protected Dune status of the park. A future cooperative "bike route" is planned which would run along the north side of Muskegon Lake, through Muskegon State Park, then north along the Lake Michigan shoreline to Duck Lake State Park.

8.3 Regional Recreational Resources - State Forest Lands/Federal Lands

There are no State forests or Federal lands in the nearby area of Holland State Park.

8.4 Regional Recreational Resources - State Game Areas:

Muskegon State Game Area: The scenic Muskegon River and its tributaries crisscross this 10,000-acre natural area near downtown Muskegon, approximately 37 miles from Holland State Park. The site is primarily forested, with river floodplain and wetland areas spread throughout the interior. Most of the area is not accessible by vehicles, so hikers and canoeists can enjoy an excellent wilderness experience.

Allegan State Game Area: Approximately 35 miles from Holland State Park. Wonderful wildlife viewing opportunities abound in this 50,000-acre state game area. Allegan is a showcase for oak-pine barrens (also called oak-pine savanna)—a unique community of plants and animals adapted to life on the dry, sandy soils of this area. Allegan also features lowland hardwood and oak-pine forests, wetlands, ponds and open fields.

8.5 Regional Recreational Resources - Local Recreation Opportunities

A summary of the local recreation opportunities in the City of Holland, Holland Township, Park Township, Ottawa County and Allegan County is listed in Table 5.

The DeGraaf Nature Center is located across Lake Macatawa from Holland State Park. This small but unique nature center of approximately 18 acres in the city of Holland provides a close look at several of Michigan's natural communities, including forest, wetland, pond, creek, and meadow. The Helen O. Brower Interpretive Center contained within DeGraaf describes and interprets the communities and the animals that live here. A barrier-free trail winds throughout the nature center grounds. In early May, 25-30 kinds of warblers can be seen here during their migration to northern breeding grounds. The DeGraaf Nature Center is a designated Watchable Wildlife Site.

The Holland Harbor Lighthouse is a familiar west Michigan landmark, owned by the US Coast Guard. It was built in 1907 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is located on the south side of the channel, across from the park.

Trails

There are plentiful opportunities for bicycling with trails that run in and around the area. A 20-mile trail connects Holland and Grand Haven on Lake Michigan. Another 15-mile trail circles Spring Lake in Grand Haven. In addition to bicycling, several cross-country ski trails can be found in the area.

Boat Launches/Marinas

There are several marinas at Lake Macatawa, providing over 100 transient slips in addition to reserved slips.

Table 5: Summary of Regional Recreational Resources

Recreational Resource	County	Municipality	Features																
			Picnic Area	Hiking	Hunting/ Trapping	Biking	Play-ground	Equestrian	Swimming	Boat Launch	Snow Mobiling	XC Skiing	Concession/ Vending	Camping	Drinking Water	Rest Rooms	Showers	Sport Field/Ct	Fishing
State Resources																			
Holland State Park	Ottawa	Park Township	X	X		X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Saugatuck State Park	Allegan	Lake Township	X	X		X						X							X
Grand Haven State Park	Ottawa	Grand Haven	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Bass River Recreation Area	Ottawa	Lamont		X	X	X		X				X							X
Allegan State Game Area	Allegan	Allegan	X	X	X					X				X					X
PJ Hoffmaster State Park	Muskegon	Muskegon	X	X					X				X	X	X	X	X		X
Muskegon State Park	Muskegon	North Muskegon	X	X	X		X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Muskegon State Game Area	Muskegon		X	X	X														X
County Resources																			
Deer Creek Park	Ottawa		X							X									X
Grand River Park	Ottawa		X	X		X	X			X		X							X
Grose Park	Ottawa		X		X		X		X										
Hager Park	Ottawa		X	X								X	X						
Hemlock Crossing/ Pine Bend Park	Ottawa		X	X								X							
Kirk Park	Ottawa		X	X			X		X			X							
Musketawa Trail	Ottawa		X	X		X		X											
North Beach Park	Ottawa		X				X		X				X						
Pigeon Creek Park	Ottawa		X	X		X						X	X	X					
Riverside Park	Ottawa		X							X									X
Rosy Mount Natural Area	Ottawa		X	X					X										
Spring Grove Park	Ottawa		X				X												
Tunnel Park	Ottawa		X						X				X						
Bysterveld Park	Allegan		X				X									X			X
Dumont Lake Park	Allegan		X						X	X						X			X
Ely Lake Campground	Allegan			X					X	X		X		X					X
Gun Lake	Allegan		X				X		X	X						X			
Littlejohn Lake	Allegan		X	X			X		X							X			
Pine Point Park and Campground	Allegan			X					X			X		X		X			X
Silver Creek Park and Campground	Allegan		X					X						X					X
West Side Park	Allegan		X				X		X							X			

Recreational Resource	County	Municipality	Features																
			Picnic Area	Hiking	Hunting/ Trapping	Biking	Play-ground	Equestrian	Swimming	Boat Launch	Snow Mobiling	XC Skiing	Concession/ Vending	Camping	Drinking Water	Rest Rooms	Showers	Sport Field/Ct	Fishing
Municipal Resources																			
Bouws Pool		City of Holland							X										
Centennial Park		City of Holland														X			
College Avenue Park		City of Holland	X				X									X		X	
Columbia Avenue Park		City of Holland														X		X	
DeGraaf Nature Center		City of Holland	X	X												X			
Holland Civic Center		City of Holland					X									X			
Holland Aquatic Center		City of Holland							X										
Holland Heights Park		City of Holland	X				X									X		X	
Kollen Park		City of Holland	X				X			X						X			
Lakeview City Park		City of Holland	X	X			X												
Lincoln Park/ Skate Park		City of Holland					X									X			
Maplewood Youth Complex		City of Holland	X				X									X		X	
Joseph Moran Park		City of Holland	X				X									X		X	
Paw Paw Park		City of Holland		X															X
Prospect Park		City of Holland	X				X												
Riverview Park		City of Holland																X	
Smallenburg Park		City of Holland	X				X									X		X	
Van Bragt Park		City of Holland	X																X
Van Raalte Park		City of Holland	X	X			X									X			
Matt Urban Sports & Rec Complex		City of Holland	X				X									X		X	
Window on the Waterfront		City of Holland		X														X	
Beechwood Park		Holland Twp																X	
Brookwood Park		Holland Twp	X				X												
Dunton Park		Holland Twp	X				X			X									X
Helder Park		Holland Twp	X				X											X	
Quincy Park		Holland Twp	X															X	
Airport Soccer Fields		Park Township																X	
Ashwood Reserve		Park Township							X	X Canoe/ kayak									
Brookside Bike Park		Park Township	X			X													

Recreational Resource	County	Municipality	Features																
			Picnic Area	Hiking	Hunting/ Trapping	Biking	Play-ground	Equestrian	Swimming	Boat Launch	Snow Mobiling	XC Skiing	Concession/ Vending	Camping	Drinking Water	Rest Rooms	Showers	Sport Field/Ct	Fishing
Chief Waukazoo Park		Park Township	X																
Cooper-Van Wieren Park		Park Township		X				X											
Keppel Forest		Park Township	X	X								X							
Park Township Community Center		Park Township	X	X														X	
Pine Creek Trail		Park Township	X	X															
Ransom Street Park		Park Township	X	X								X						X	
Virginia Park/Maatman Center	`	Park Township	X	X														X	
Wendt Park		Park Township	X	X			X											X	
Winstrom Park		Park Township	X	X			X											X	
Winstrom Preserve		Park Township		X		X													

A9.
Park Use and Economic Impact

A9.1 Park Use

Holland State Park has a beautiful location on Lake Michigan, providing an opportunity for many visitors to experience the majesty of this Great Lake. This draw brings approximately 1,344,000 people annually (2007 data). Activity peaks with the summer camping season, which runs from April 1 – October 31 at the Lake Macatawa campground, and from May 1 - Labor Day at the Lake Michigan campground.

A9.2 Economic Impact

To determine the park's economic value to the community, the Money Generation Model Version 2 (MGM2 Short Form) was applied. Dr. Dan Stynes of Michigan State University developed this economic analysis tool. The MGM2 Short Form is an update of the MGM model developed by Dr. Ken Hornback for the National Park System in 1995. The purpose of the 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 MGM2 Model uses three factors for determining economic impact or tourism spending: *number of visits* multiplied by the *average spending per visitor* multiplied by a *multiplier,* which estimates the extended effects of direct spending. The formula produces a very basic analysis that is ideal for the non-economist and an excellent tool for obtaining a base-line assessment of the economic impacts of Holland State Park.

<u>Direct Economic Effects to the Community</u>
The MGM2 Model results indicate that Holland State Park is contributing to the local economy (based on 2005 data):

- <u>Direct Spending</u> attributable to Holland State Park totaled $27,165,000.
- <u>Jobs</u> created totaled 716 (Note: jobs may include full-time, part-time and seasonal employment).
- <u>Personal Income</u> totaled $9,429,240

- Value added (total income plus business taxes) totaled $14,288,000.

Total Economic Effects to the Community

Total economic effects reflect '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. Based on 2005 data, the estimated total economic effects for the Holland State Park area are:

- Total Spending: $39,210,000
- Jobs: 899
- Personal Income: $13,778,000
- Value Added: $21,804,000

Appendix B
Stakeholder & Public Input Workshop Results

Public Participation

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment Recreation Division (DNRE-RD) emphasized that comments on the general management plans would be accepted at any time during the process. The formal public participation program included an extensive public participation component in the general management plan process. The participation initiatives are summarized below, and the results are presented in this Appendix.

- **February 12, 2009** Stakeholder Workshops: The purpose of the two workshops was to obtain comments on the draft General Management Plans for 1) Holland State Park and Saugatuck Dunes State Park, and 2) Grand Mere State Park, Warren Dunes State Park and Warren Woods State Park. With assistance from the Planning Team, approximately 138 people and organizations were identified as stakeholders. Invitations to the Stakeholder Workshops were sent by email, mail and phone. Thirty-five people attended the two workshops. The sign-in sheet is included in this Appendix.

  Stakeholders were invited to comment at the meeting. Stakeholders could also comment by completing a survey. The surveys were provided at the workshops and were also available on-line.

- **April 29, 2009** Public Input workshops for Holland State Park and Saugatuck Dunes State Park. The above noted people were again contacted regarding the public input workshops by mail and email. Stakeholders and others were encouraged to share this information with interested members of the general public. Two sessions, one from 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. and the second from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., provided opportunities for the public to attend, learn about the process and comment on the draft plans. Approximately 20 people attended the two sessions.

  There were three opportunities to provide comments:
  1) Comment at the workshop
  2) A hard-copy survey available at the workshop
  3) The survey was available online

Comments provided in response to February 12, 2009 Stakeholder Workshop (Holland State Park)

Holland State Park

- ❑ Significant historic opportunities and cultural opportunities require further evaluation & development.
- ❑ Holland State Park has need for wayfinding signage to permit better enjoyment of the natural, historic & cultural resource (visitor from Montana example).
- ❑ Old pumphouse proposed for renovation as museum
- ❑ Better management needed for parking & traffic –perhaps with combo of off-site parking & shuttle service.
- ❑ Current Holland State Park infrastructure is sized for the on-site parking (may be health issues related to improving access without increasing capacity)
- ❑ Traffic/auto speed/pedestrian conflict requires at least seasonal reduction in speed limit.
- ❑ Recently proposed on-street parking on Ottawa Beach Road may cause conflicts with bicycles
- ❑ Consider special parking to facilitate kayakers (perhaps with special sticker for kayak launching).
- ❑ Separate pedestrian path has missing link near general store – opportunity for State/County/Local partnership to resolve this safety issue.
- ❑ Keeping public on designated trails is issue with private owners that requires educational efforts (and perhaps better wayfinding signs).
- ❑ Organizing an active Friends Group could benefit Holland State Park.
- ❑ The Ottawa Beach Road corridor is one of the busiest recreational corridors in Michigan, with the state's busiest state park at the end of the road. Users need safe separated walkway along this road. The DNRE and Ottawa County should work together to make this happen.
- ❑ Invasive species is a significant concern in this park and surrounding lands. Staff should be more aware of these threats.
- ❑ A considerable number of activities and educational opportunities exist at this park, including birding.

Comments provided in response to April 29, 2009 Public Input Workshop (Holland State Park)

- ❑ Land Macatawa shoreline grills are nice but don't get used due to lack of parking at this site.
- ❑ Need additional parking along road for users who are attending for reasons other than Lake Michigan beach.

Survey responses:

- ☐ **Statements of Purpose**
  - Promoting principles of stewardship to neighborhoods or zones, both natural or manmade, including the Ottawa Beach Historic District and the Ottawa County Park 12 parcels

- Develop and implement safety procedures to insure the well-being of park uses and the public, particularly residents.
- Emphasize the historical and educational dimension surrounding the park

☐ **Statements of Significance**

- Consider adding to statements of significance to include the proximity to City of Holland with its varied and numerous cultural and culinary experiences as well as proximity to Ottawa Beach Historic District and Ottawa County Parks & Recreation and Park 12 Parcels.
- Include the importance of viewing "Big Red" - the lighthouse.
- Note other recreational opportunities nearby including bike paths, blueberry farms, scenic views and fishing spots (from shore).
- Note opportunities for small, non-motorized boating like kayaks for fishing

☐ **Natural Resources**

- Lake Michigan, Lake Macatawa, Holland Channel, Beachfront Dunes, dune grasses, some tree species, animal & bird activity

☐ **Cultural Resources**

- Historical background of property
- Native American history, Historic resort community with focus on architecture, community planning, notable visitors.
- Creation of art including photography, paintings, prose or verse that focus on the area

☐ **Education and Interpretive Opportunities**

- Awareness of historical events including founding of area (city and beach area), lighthouses, life-saving and Coast Guard activity in area, maritime commerce, fisheries (commercial and recreational), flora and fauna, geology of region, formation of lakes and dunes, weather, dune ecology, shipwrecks, historic sporting events (sailing, water skiing)
- Attractive waterfront along northern part of Lake Macatawa

☐ **Recreational Opportunities**

- Boating, swimming, fishing, water skiing, surfing, walking, biking, beach volleyball, sand castle-building, kite-flying, artistic pursuits, family gatherings, picnicking
- Non-motorized boating, hiking, small boat sailing

☐ **Visitor Experience**

- Positive, stress-free, healthful, heartfelt and educational if appropriate
- A wonderful summer experience, could take a visitor back to the simplicity and natural serenity of the 1880's

☐ **User Conflicts/Issues**

- Public v private property (trespassing)

- Litter
- Abuse of natural features, lack of respect
- Traffic congestion, parking for day users
- “Graduation week”
- Protecting native species

☐ **Identity for Holland State Park**

- Unique destination
- Model for stewardship
- Reflects history of area

☐ **Other comments**

- An emphasis on stewardship and education of park users & cooperation between governmental units, with an opportunity to air grievances and seek resolution would create an optimum environment –perhaps an ombudsman would be effective
- Encourage beach access on Lake Michigan for kayaks as well as kite surfers in spring and fall

Appendix C
Planning Team Meeting Summaries

A G E N D A

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
RECREATION DIVISION
Holland State Park/Saugatuck Dunes State Park
General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: July 23, 2008
TIME: 1:15 - 4:30 pm
PLACE: Park Township - 52 152nd St., Holland, MI

1. Introductions
2. Project Overview
3. Exercise
   - Your interests
   - First impressions of each park's significance
   - First impressions of each park's purpose
4. Summary: What was heard
   Summary Report to be emailed - please provide your email address on the sign-in sheet.
5. Planning Team Meeting Schedule
6. Local Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

1. Project Overview

- Paul Curtis, DNRE-RD Management Plan Administrator, began the meeting by providing an overview of the General Management Plan process.

2. Exercise:

- Birchler Arroyo Associates led an issues / solutions exercise. A brief description of each park was given, after which participants were asked to identify issues and solutions, as well as the significance and purpose of Saugatuck Dunes and Holland State Parks. This meeting followed a tour of both parks, which took place earlier in the day.

A. Saugatuck Dunes State Park

- Issues/Opportunities
- Mapped boundaries
- Needs utilities, parking
- Resolve land exchange issues (in favor of the State)
- Resolve land acquisition issues south & east
- Explore resolution / solutions with private owners
- Work with private owner on trespass issues resolution
- Character: most passive on Michigan's west coast
- Low use but profitable
- Non-natives removal not an operating cost – considered improvement
- Natural Area management should be part of park budget
- In-holdings / relations
- Access road goes through sensitive area
- Saugatuck has revenue potential
- High-activity RV-type camping with utilities may or may not be appropriate at this park
- Maybe more rustic camping
- Is more control possible with cabins
- What is the user capacity consistent with resource preservation and restoration
- Users come to Saugatuck Dunes because of the long, difficult walk to shore.
- Natural Area boundary was drawn based on original ownership not ecological resource
- Interaction between Department / Holland / Laketown Township
- Potential for negotiation on Dennison property – density for resource protection, including fisheries interests
- Army Corp. dredging may threaten the resource
- Popular Spring/Summer for school nature trips – no staffing available
- White Tail population too high (over browsing) – no hunting allowed
- Open hunting would create problems with neighbors
- Develop "exclosure" to demonstrate amount of damage from deer
- Plant poaching – unknown what scale might be

- ❑ Herbal remedies drive poaching
- ❑ Orchids are poached for commercial use
- ❑ Commercial dune ride – opportunity to develop educational partnership
- ❑ NRC boundary recommendation includes Dennison
- ❑ Stewards of the Future – should Trust Fund monies be re-directed?
- ❑ Marketing potential related to the unique natural features
- ❑ Can we do sustainable improvements like the Felt Mansion approach?
- ❑ Development should utilize Township Park, not fragile area
- ❑ Protect Felt Mansion viewshed
- ❑ Joint educational opportunities with future Felt Mansion improvements
- ❑ Local economic enhancement may be an issue
- ❑ MNFI had suggestions in their report.

B. Holland State Park

- ❑ Issues/Opportunities
- ❑ Cash cow – need bigger budget for improvements
- ❑ More investment in improvements and maintenance might increase the positive return to State system
- ❑ Shuttle service from downtown Holland & county bike path bring users
- ❑ Parking shortage results in users voluntarily paying parking fines to gain access
- ❑ Coordinate with Ottawa County Parks Plan
- ❑ Potential for pitchers thistle
- ❑ Army Corp pier accessed through park – problems are jurisdictional
- ❑ Fishermen frequently request additional launch facilities (there are 3-4 other agencies' access sites)
- ❑ Fishermen add $2.5 million to local economy
- ❑ Former Lake Mac boat access could become a barrier-free viewing, parking, fishing site
- ❑ Park personnel have to treat injuries on Corp's pier but have no authority to prevent unsafe activity.
- ❑ Many near-drownings from rip currents in posted no swim areas
- ❑ Some trespass issues between park/county/neighbors
- ❑ No playground equipment to meet demand
- ❑ Traffic / traffic pattern that results from dead-end –exacerbated by parking shortage
- ❑ RV campers "pre-staging" take multiple spaces (only 5 designated spaces)
- ❑ Access fees for different vehicle types don't reflect true "value" of their parking spot
- ❑ Electronic advisory sign at 168th for full parking lot

3. Attendance: Members of the Management Planning Team for Saugatuck Dunes and Holland State Parks:

Paul Yauk, RD Lands Program Mgr
Joe Strach, District Planner
Jeff Johnson, Student Assistant

Ray Fahlsing, RD Stewardship Unit Mgr
Roland Johnson, RD Plainwell District Manager
Jill Bahm, Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc
David Birchler, Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc
Rob Corbett, OLAF, lands
Kregg Smith, Fisheries Mgmt Biologist
Tom Hoane, FMD, Mineral Geologist
Mark MacKay, WLD DNR Planner
David Price, FMD, Planning
Joyce Rhodes, Supervisor Holland St. Park
Kurt Maxwell, Saugatuck Dunes St. Park
Paul Curtis, RD Park Mgt. Plan Admin.

A G E N D A

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
RECREATION DIVISION
Holland State Park – Saugatuck Dunes State Park
General Management Plans – Planning Team Meeting #2

DATE: September 30, 2008
TIME: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 pm
PLACE: Park Township Hall (52 152nd St. Holland)

1. Brief Review of Background Analysis for HSP/SDSP

2. Discussion of Core Values & Preliminary Identification of Management Zones

- Holland State Park
- Saugatuck Dunes State Park

3. Group Reports to Planning Team

Results from group exercise to be compiled into GMP statements of purpose and significance and will be distributed after meeting.

MEETING SUMMARY

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
RECREATION DIVISION
Holland State Park – Saugatuck Dunes State Park
General Management Plans – Planning Team Meeting #2

DATE: September 30, 2008
TIME: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
PLACE: Park Township Hall (52 152nd St., Holland)

Attendees: David Price, Rob Corbett, Paul Curtis, Joe Strach, Jeff Johnson, Paul Yauk, Carol Skillings, Janet Canode, Joyce Rhodes, Kurt Maxwell, Ray Fahlsing, David Birchler, Jill Bahm

1. Brief Review of Background Analysis for HSP & SDSP

David Birchler summarized the background analysis to date. Paul Yauk noted parcels adjacent to SDSP that are available or may be available in the near future. David Price asked for the Natural Area boundary to be included on all park maps.

2. Discussion of Core Values & Preliminary Identification of Management Zones

Attendees were divided into two groups and discussed each of the two parks. Their ideas and observations resulted in the suggestion of specific management zones for the parks.

3. Group Reports to Planning Team

Holland State Park

- HSP is one of the first state parks providing a great opportunity to access the shoreline of Lake Michigan.
- The groups agreed that the critical dune area should be marked as Primitive to protect the dunes, while still allowing low-impact use
- With the high use of the two campgrounds at this park, those areas should be marked as Developed Recreation to encourage future visitor enhancements
- The shoreline of the park offers a unique opportunity for enjoying views of Lake Michigan, including spectacular sunsets, and should be identified as a Scenic Zone. Additional Scenic zone overlays should be noted at Mt. Pisgah, as it is a high point.
- The park office is well-situated within the park and should be classified as Visitor Services
- The Lake Macatawa beach is less developed than the Lake Michigan beach, and is restricted by the number of parking spaces. With its more moderate use, it should be labeled Natural Resource Recreation

Saugatuck Dunes State Park

- SDSP is a rustic, undeveloped day-use park with considerable shoreline access to Lake Michigan
- With the majority of the park land identified as a critical dune area and natural area, the sandy soils and interdunal wetland communities found within the park, the bulk of the property should be identified as Primitive
- The Felt Mansion property is an area that is more appropriate for development. It has significant history for the area, including a history of environmental stewardship. The groups were not settled on whether the classification in this area should be either Developed Recreation or Natural Resource Recreation. In addition, a Cultural Overlay zone may be appropriate in this area
- Future consideration will need to be given to the Holland community's water needs, how this can be accommodated within the framework of the management zones and stewardship of the resources, and the possibilities for park expansion that could result from a partnership

Wrap Up: The management zone maps will be drafted based on the comments from today's meeting. At the next planning team meeting, the zones will be reviewed along with statements of Core Values for the parks.

A G E N D A

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
RECREATION DIVISION
Grand Mere State Park – Warren Dunes State Park
Warren Woods State Park
General Management Plans – Planning Team Meeting #3

DATE: December 11, 2008
TIME: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm
PLACE: Plainwell Operations Center
621 N. 10th Street , Plainwell, MI 49080

Lunch will be available at noon with Holland & Saugatuck staff

1. Review & Finalize the Management Zones for each park

Please review the attached map composites prepared from your comments at the September Team Meeting

2. Discussion of Statements of Purpose and Significance for each park

Please review the first few pages of the attached draft chapter

3. Identification of Key Stakeholders

Please bring names and contact information of those you would recommend and help us brainstorm other that should be invited into the management planning process

4. Review of Warren Woods – Paul Curtis

Meeting Summary
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
RECREATION DIVISION
Holland State Park – Saugatuck Dunes State Park
General Management Plans – Planning Team Meeting #3
DATE: December 11, 2008
TIME: 9:00 – 12:00 pm
PLACE: Plainwell Operations Center
621 N. 10th Street, Plainwell, MI 49080

In attendance: David Price (FMD), Jeff Johnson (RD), Carol Skillings (RD), Janet Canode (OMET), Kurt Maxwell (RD-SDSP), Kim Dufresne (FMD), Kayla Krajniak (student), Glenn Palmgren (RD), Mark MacKay (WLD), Joyce Rhodes (RD-HSP), Paul Curtis (RD), Jill Bahm, David Birchler

1. Review & Finalize the Management Zones for each park

Comments from the team
Holland State Park:

- Joyce Rhodes indicated that fishing pier and small shelters proposed for the area of the park identified currently as Natural Resource Recreation Zone is compatible. Outside of the developed features, reestablishment of natural communities should be encouraged where they can be enjoyed & interpreted by users from the viewing locations.
- It was noted that many people would like to put kayaks and small canoes in at the northeast area of the park along Lake Macatawa. This information will be included within the text of the plan along with a note that "where this activity does not occur, the property will be allowed to revert to a more natural state, especially along the shoreline."
- Joyce expressed a need for additional parking, especially to support park activities along Lake Macatawa shore; the team discussed designating a Developed Recreation Zone behind the former residence between Second and Third Street, allowing cars to enter from Third Street. This will present a challenge because park staff will have to monitor another access point. The vacant residence could be reused as a nature center, camp center, or museum for campers/visitors. All areas now shown as Visitor Services should be marked Developed Recreation if not currently used for administrative purposes.
- It was decided that the property on which the hot dog restaurant is located be designated as future park property, should it become available
- It was noted that the boundary map included in the Core Values section needs to be updated for current ownership and topography.
- A change is needed to the leases section for Lake Macatawa Beach to note that the snack services leases and maintains concession. Also, the boardwalk has been built by Ottawa County and should be so noted in the report.

Saugatuck Dunes State Park:

- ❑ The team recommends the expansion of the dedicated natural area to include the mesic southern forest, open dune and interdunal wetlands area; except private property. Text will highlight that maintenance of existing trails by park staff is permitted.
- ❑ It was decided to note all inholdings as future park expansion
- ❑ The team discussed the primitive and ecologically sensitive zones and decided to use the primitive zone designation for the bulk of the park area
- ❑ Paul Curtis will clarify additional future expansion with Paul Yauk
- ❑ The text will include a note that the adjacent dune ride attraction adds a type of interpretation of which visitor to the park can take advantage
- ❑ Kurt raised the issue of people asking for easier access to the lake. The team reached consensus that easy access to the lakeshore should be provided within a region, but not necessarily at each park. For this park, part of its significance is the rugged and remote terrain.
- ❑ The team stressed the importance of clear signage within the park and at trailheads. Text in the plan should discuss the great opportunity for interpretive signage that could highlight significant natural features found at this park.
- ❑ SDSP staff will be constructing emergency vehicle turn-outs on inholdings access road; R-O-W should be excluded from Natural Area.

2. Discussion of Statements of Purpose and Significance for each park

- ❑ Holland State Park: The statements will be revised to include comments from the team: Holland State Park has 1 mile of shoreline; the planted pine area will also be added to the statement of park significance.
- ❑ Saugatuck Dunes State Park: Some wording will be changed to highlight the opportunities for year-round recreation, education and enjoyment of the natural setting found within the park. Access to beach requires effort on part of users, while other nearby facilities have easier access. Wording on the Felt example of environmental stewardship will be clarified. Information will be added on the three elements that occur within the park: open dunes, mesic southern forest, and interdunal wetland. Add separate statement for the Natural Area. Best example of open dunes in Southern Lower Peninsula. Add discussion about specific expansion areas designed to protect the critical dune.

3. Identification of Key Stakeholders

- ❑ The team brainstormed a list of stakeholders for both parks; additional research into contacts will be completed by the team.

Recommendations to Approve

- November 30, 2009 RD Section Chiefs
- Dec. 9, 2009 Citizen's Committee for Michigan State Parks
- Dec. 15, 2009 Southern Lower Peninsula – Ecoteam
- Dec. 15, 2009 RD Management Team
- February 2, 2010 Statewide Council