

2.0 Core Values



2.1 Mission Statements

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

DNR Mission Statement

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

PRD Mission Statement

Acquire, protect, and preserve the natural, historic, and cultural features of Michigan's unique resources and provide public recreation and educational opportunities.

The core values derived from these statements are that PRD 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 Negwegon State Park are based on park legislation, legislative history, special designations and DNR policies. These statements reaffirm the reasons for which Negwegon was identified as part of the State Park system. The purposes of Negwegon are:

1. The Conservation Commission approved the acquisition of land in 1962 based upon a recommendation by the National Park Service (NPS). The NPS had recommended that the Lake Huron northeast shoreline be

targeted by the State for land purchases due to the unique natural resource values of the area.

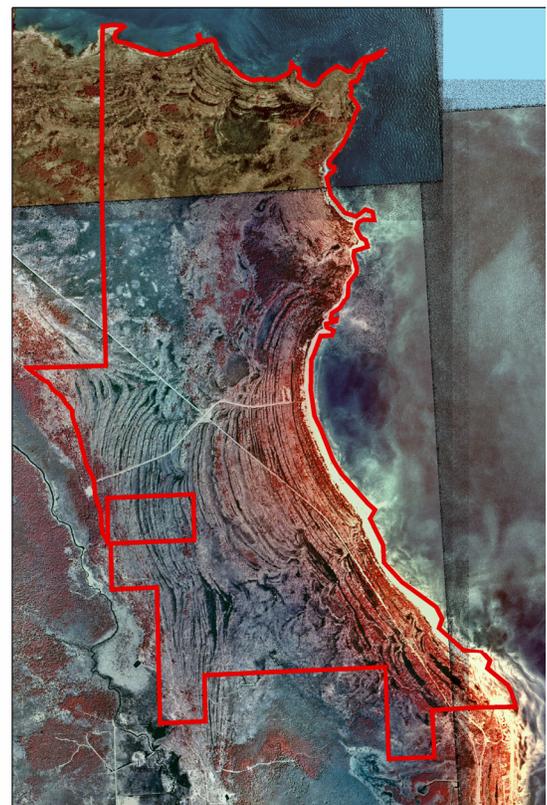
2. To preserve and protect the park's unique natural resources for current and future generations.
3. To preserve and protect the park's historic and cultural resources.
4. To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflect the mission of the DNR and the unique qualities of Negwegon State Park.
5. To provide opportunities for recreational uses and experiences that are unique to Negwegon, and compatible with the park's resource(s) base.
6. To ensure that the planning of Negwegon is part of a cohesive strategy for the region.

2.3 Park Significance

Park significance statements capture the essence of its importance to carry out the core values of our PRD 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 Negwegon State Park. Understanding these distinctions helps managers make decisions that preserve those special resources and values necessary to accomplish the park's purposes. Negwegon is significant because of many factors, including but not limited to those stated below.

11. Negwegon features undisturbed habitats. Its southern portion contains undisturbed forests and gentle undulations of the wooded dune-swale complex that parallels the coastline (see Figure 1). To the north is a completely different habitat, featuring lowland hardwoods and a variety of upland forest types.

Figure 1. Dune-Swale Complex



 Negwegon Park boundary

12. Negwegon is within the Lake Huron Flyway and provides a vital habitat for resident and migrating bird species. The site is included in the Hubbard Lake Christmas Bird Count sponsored by Michigan and National Audubon Society. Additionally, State and Federal agencies use the bird census data from this area as a litmus test of the health of Lake Huron and the shoreline environment.
13. Negwegon provides a habitat for species of special concern, threatened species and endangered species, such as Pitcher's thistle, Bald Eagles and Blanding's turtles.
14. Negwegon is part of a greater natural resource system. Negwegon is one of the forested coastal areas that offers a habitat that supports a great diversity of flora and fauna.
15. Negwegon is an exceptionally valuable resource in terms of commercial fisheries. Whitefish are Lake Huron's most important commercial species, and Thunder Bay / Negwegon is growing in recognition as a focal point for whitefish spawning. It hosts a variety of nongame species, as well, and would therefore be valuable for beach zone species composition and diversity. The fisheries value is also significant from a historical perspective, as some Alpena area settlers were attracted to the area for its commercial fishing resources.
16. Negwegon's sandy beaches are novel along the typically cobbled Lake Huron shoreline. Beach use is popular during the summer months.
17. Negwegon provides opportunities for recreation. Hiking and kayaking are available at Negwegon along the Lake Huron coastline.
18. Negwegon provides hunting opportunities. Waterfowl hunting occurs in Negwegon. Hardwood Point is an ideal known location for goose hunting and migrating. Similarly, South Point is known to be a prime area for duck and goose hunting.
19. Within Negwegon's boundaries are unique cultural and historic resources:
 - a. Native American artifacts point to a rich tribal history. Stone pits, a stone wall and burial ground are remnants that indicate occupation by ancient civilizations.
 - b. Farmstead remnants tell of a more recent era. A north-south trail through Negwegon is a segment of the Old Stage Coach Route.

- c. Shipwrecks like the WILLIAM H. STEPHENS at Scarecrow Island, and at least five others nearby Black River, are all shallow sites and entirely accessible from Negwegon's shoreline. They are a small portion of the 200 historic wreck sites under the jurisdiction of NOAA's Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Interpretation of notable but more distant offshore wrecks would also be appropriate.
20. Negwegon is a component of, or a stop along the route of several regional networks:
- a. Bluewater Trail. A proposed trailway, developed under NEMCOG, comprised of navigable waters. Negwegon would be part of such a network.
 - b. Great Lakes Circle Tour. The Tour was developed in the late 1980s and consists of a 6,500-mile road network connecting the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River. Information about the tour, including campgrounds, recreational areas and local attractions, is available to tourists on-line. Negwegon State Park could be a stop along the tour.
 - c. Huron Greenways: A NEMCOG project that applied greenways principals to specific environmental and recreational resources in the coastal portions of Northeast Michigan. The project inventoried available ecological and recreational resources, and explored ways in which they can be knit together into a cohesive, inter-connected system. Thompson's Harbor is a part of the system.
 - d. Lighthouse Trail: The Lighthouse Trail was the result of a sustained regional effort, in cooperation with the Department of History, Arts and Libraries, to designate a Maritime Heritage Trail from Au Gres in Arenac County, to the Mackinac Bridge.

Lighthouse Tour: There are many lighthouse sites in the northeast Michigan: Alpena Light (Alpena); Middle Island Keeper's Lodge (Alpena); Thunder Bay Island Lighthouse (Alpena); New Presque Isle Lighthouse Park and Museum (Presque Isle); Old Presque Isle Lighthouse (Presque Isle); Presque Isle Range Light Park (Presque Isle); Sturgeon Point Lighthouse (Harrisville); Forty Mile Point Lighthouse (Rogers City); and Tawas Point Lighthouse (East Tawas).

- e. NOAA's 448-square mile Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary extends from the north and south borders of Alpena County to West 83 degrees longitude. Based on the density and the historical, archeological and recreation significance of some 200 known shipwrecks, the Sanctuary's Advisory Council has recommended

expansion to a 3,662-square-mile area extending from Alcona County to Presque Isle County and east to the international border with Canada. This would include all of Negwegon State Park. The expansion is now pending.

- f. Sunrise Side Coastal Highway: Negwegon is a stop along the US-23 Heritage Route, from Standish to Mackinaw City. This was officially designated a Recreation Heritage Route on May 6, 2004.

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 Parks and Recreation Division. Specific to Negwegon, 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 recodification 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:
 - (A) “The legislature finds:
 - (i) Michigan State Parks preserve and protect Michigan’s significant natural and historic resources.
 - (ii) Michigan State Parks are appropriate and uniquely suited to provide opportunities to learn about protection and management of Michigan’s natural resources.
 - (iii) Michigan State Parks are an important component of Michigan’s tourism industry and vital to local economies.
 - (B) 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. Restrictions of Land Purchase Funding Sources. Funds used to purchase recreation land can come with stipulations as to how the land can or

cannot be used. The following are descriptions of the impacts of known funding sources (see Figure 2).

- State Game Fund: Approximately 240 acres of Negwegon land was purchased from the proceeds of a \$1.50 hunting license fee.
- MNRTF: Lands purchased using the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund. Approximately 560 acres were purchased and dedicated to Negwegon through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Any conversion of use for other than the granted project purpose must receive MNRTF Board approval.
- Special Legislation – Special legislation has funded more than 1,080 acres of land for the park.
- Other or Multiple Funds: This category of multiple funds is utilized for general program purposes. Only 80 acres of Negwegon was purchased in this category.

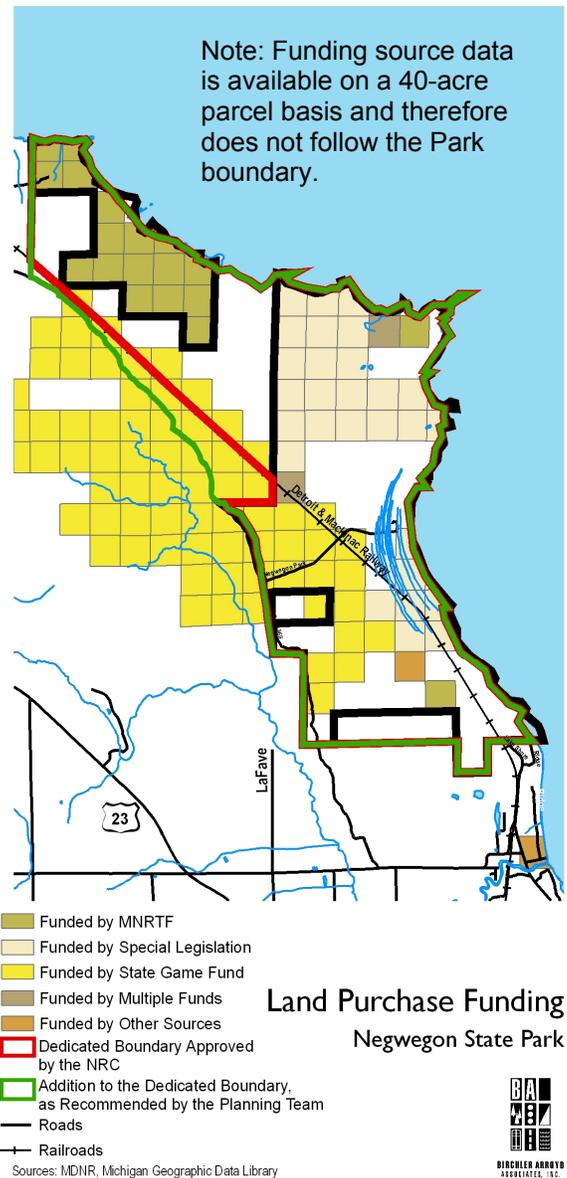
3. Easements:

- Ameritech Corporation
- Michigan Department of Transportation
- Alcona Road Commission
- Lake State Railway
- St. Sanborn and Wade 128-A Station: Two gas wells and pipeline are located on the Wade property.

4. DNR Right-of-Way: The DNR has an annual contract with Lake State Railroad to cross the ROW.

5. Prohibited Uses – From MCL 324.504 Order 5.1. A person shall not do any of the following in any state park or recreation area:
 (1) Possess or use fireworks in a manner prohibited by section

Figure 2. Purchase Funding



243a of Act No. 328 of the Public Acts of 1931, being § 750.243a of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

- (2) Without first obtaining proper written permission, peddle or systematically solicit business of any nature; distribute handbills or other advertising matter; post signs on any lands, waters, structures or property; or use any portion of a state park or recreation area for commercial operations.
 - (3) From R299.922, Unlawful Acts, (v) To ride or lead a horse, pack animal, or other riding animal, or any animal-driven vehicle on any area except on roads that are open to the use of motor vehicles, trails, bridle-paths and campgrounds designated for such use by the department and on state forest lands not posted closed to such use or entry.
6. Certain environmentally sensitive and piping plover nesting areas, prohibited conduct, exceptions: Order 5.7. (1) A person shall not do any of the following:
- b) Enter, use, or occupy any of the following described state-owned lands, as posted, from April 15 through August 31 except with proper written permission: viii) Negwegon SP - state-owned lands in sections 2, and 11-12, T28N R9E, Alcona county. **Note: There is not a listed federal habitat for Piping plover in Negwegon State Park. If Piping plovers are attempting to nest, only the area around the nest(s) would be closed, and only for that year's nesting season.**
7. Public Act 451 of 1994, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (Excerpt) – 324.41901. Regulation and prohibitions in certain areas; powers of department; area closures; hearings, investigations, studies, and statement of facts; regulations. This part of PA 451 establishes the powers of the Department to establish safety zones for hunting. In accordance with the Administrative Rules established by Wildlife Division for hunting safety, a 450 foot "Safety zone" is established around all occupied dwellings (which includes campgrounds). Under the State Land Rules, the Department also has the authority to expand the application of this 450 foot "Safety zone" to encompass "Day-Use Areas" such as beaches, picnic areas, boat launches, and parking areas, should the need arise. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.
8. Public Act 451 of 1994, Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act (Excerpt) – 324.76102. Aboriginal records and antiquities; right to explore, survey, excavate, and regulate reserved to state; possessory right or title to abandoned property. Sec. 76102 (1) The state reserves to itself the exclusive right and privilege, except as provided in this part, of exploring, surveying, excavating, and regulating through its authorized officers, agents, and employees, all aboriginal records and other antiquities, including mounds, earthworks, forts, burial and village sites, mines or other relics, and

abandoned property of historical or recreational value found upon or within any of the lands owned by or under the control of the state. (2) The state reserves to itself a possessory right or title superior to that of a finder to abandoned property of historical or recreational value found on the state owned bottomlands of the Great Lakes. This property shall belong to this state with administration and protection jointly vested in the department and the department of history, arts, and libraries.

9. Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 303 – Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act – Wetlands Protection. Wetlands are under the jurisdiction of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. Section 324.30305 prescribes activities not requiring a permit under the Act and uses allowed without a permit. This section reads:
- (1) Activities that require a permit under part 325 or part 301 or a discharge that is authorized by a discharge permit under section 3112 or 3113 do not require a permit under this part.
 - (2) The following uses are allowed in a wetland without a permit subject to other laws of this state and the owner's regulation:
 - (a) Fishing, trapping, or hunting.
 - (b) Swimming or boating.
 - (c) Hiking.
 - (d) Grazing of animals.
 - (e) Farming, horticulture, silviculture, lumbering, and ranching activities, including plowing, irrigation, irrigation ditching, seeding, cultivating, minor drainage, harvesting for the production of food, fiber, and forest products, or upland soil and water conservation practices. Wetland altered under this subdivision shall not be used for a purpose other than a purpose described in this subsection without a permit from the department.
 - (f) Maintenance or operation of serviceable structures in existence on October 1, 1980 or constructed pursuant to this part or former 1979 PA 203.
 - (g) Construction or maintenance of farm or stock ponds.
 - (h) Maintenance, operation, or improvement which includes straightening, widening, or deepening of the following which is necessary for the production or harvesting of agricultural products:
 - (i) An existing private agricultural drain.
 - (ii) That portion of a drain legally established pursuant to the drain code of 1956, 1956 PA 40, MCL 280.1 to 280.630, which has been constructed or improved for drainage purposes.
 - (iii) A drain constructed pursuant to other provisions of this part or former 1979 PA 203.
 - (i) Construction or maintenance of farm roads, forest roads, or temporary roads for moving mining or forestry equipment, if the roads

are constructed and maintained in a manner to assure that any adverse effect on the wetland will be otherwise minimized.

- (j) Drainage necessary for the production and harvesting of agricultural products if the wetland is owned by a person who is engaged in commercial farming and the land is to be used for the production and harvesting of agricultural products. Except as otherwise provided in this part, wetland improved under this subdivision after October 1, 1980 shall not be used for non-farming purposes without a permit from the department. This subdivision does not apply to a wetland that is contiguous to a lake or stream, or to a tributary of a lake or stream, or to a wetland that the department has determined by clear and convincing evidence to be a wetland that is necessary to be preserved for the public interest, in which case a permit is required.
- (k) Maintenance or improvement of public streets, highways, or roads, within the right-of-way and in such a manner as to assure that any adverse effect on the wetland will be otherwise minimized. Maintenance or improvement does not include adding extra lanes, increasing the right-of-way, or deviating from the existing location of the street, highway, or road.
- (l) Maintenance, repair, or operation of gas or oil pipelines and construction of gas or oil pipelines having a diameter of 6 inches or less, if the pipelines are constructed, maintained, or repaired in a manner to assure that any adverse effect on the wetland will be otherwise minimized.
- (m) Maintenance, repair, or operation of electric transmission and distribution power lines and construction of distribution power lines, if the distribution power lines are constructed, maintained, or repaired in a manner to assure that any adverse effect on the wetland will be otherwise minimized.
- (n) Operation or maintenance, including reconstruction of recently damaged parts, of serviceable dikes and levees in existence on October 1, 1980 or constructed pursuant to this part or former 1979 PA 203.
- (o) Construction of iron and copper mining tailings basins and water storage areas.
- (p) Until November 1, 2007, beach maintenance activities that meet all of the following conditions:
 - (i) The activities shall not occur in environmental areas and shall not violate part 365 or rules promulgated under that part, or the endangered species act of 1973, Public Law 93-205, 87 Stat. 884, or rules promulgated under that act.
 - (ii) The width of any mowing of vegetation shall not exceed the width of the riparian property or 100 feet, whichever is less.
 - (iii) All collected debris shall be disposed of properly outside of any wetland.
- (q) Until 3 years after the effective date of the amendatory act that added this

- subdivision, removal of vegetation as authorized under section 32516.
- (3) An activity in a wetland that was effectively drained for farming before October 1, 1980 and that on and after October 1, 1980 has continued to be effectively drained as part of an ongoing farming operation is not subject to regulation under this part.
 - (4) A wetland that is incidentally created as a result of 1 or more of the following activities is not subject to regulation under this part:
 - (a) Excavation for mineral or sand mining, if the area was not a wetland before excavation. This exemption does not include a wetland on or adjacent to a water body of 1 acre or more in size.
 - (b) Construction and operation of a water treatment pond or lagoon in compliance with the requirements of state or federal water pollution control regulations.
 - (c) A diked area associated with a landfill if the landfill complies with the terms of the landfill construction permit and if the diked area was not a wetland before diking.

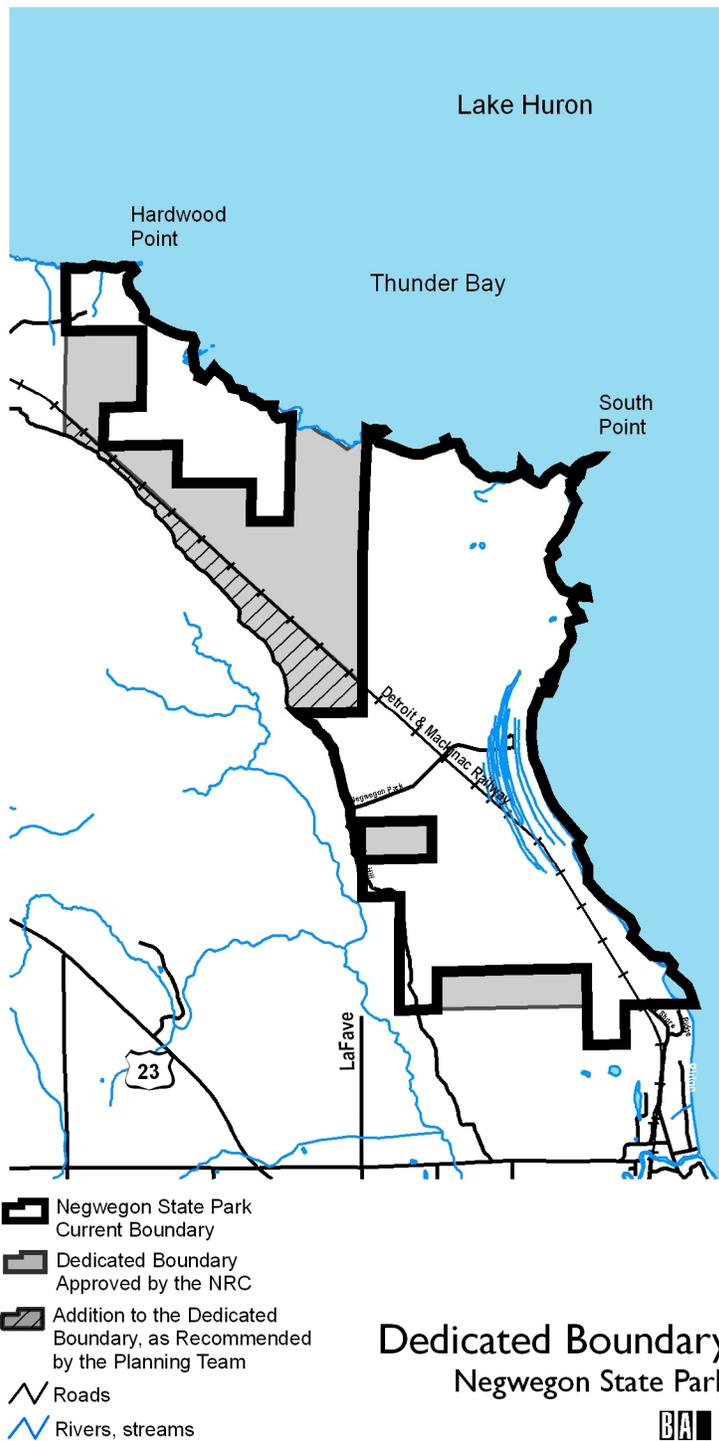
2.5 Land Acquisition

Acquisition of land that would expand and/or connect the two distinct components of Negwegon State Park is of high priority for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division (PRD). 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.

The PRD has targeted land in (privately-owned 'inholding' parcel) and around Negwegon State Park for future purchase, should there be an opportunity to do so. Figure 3 illustrates the existing boundary for Negwegon, and the *dedicated* or *project* boundary for the Park. The dedicated boundary was approved by the Natural Resources Commission in 2004. The DNR would like to acquire any private lands within the *dedicated* or *project* boundary as they become available, and as funding allows. For Negwegon, priority purchases would include land that would connect the two pieces of the Park, and the in-holding parcel.

Part of the Phase I General Management Plan process was to evaluate the dedicated boundary and determined whether revisions are required or necessary. The Planning Team reached a consensus with regard to expanding the boundary as shown on Figure 3. In general the recommended boundary would follow Sand Hill Road rather than the railroad grade, and include lands that would connect the two pieces of the park and any inholding parcels.

Figure 3: Dedicated Boundary



Source: MDNR

