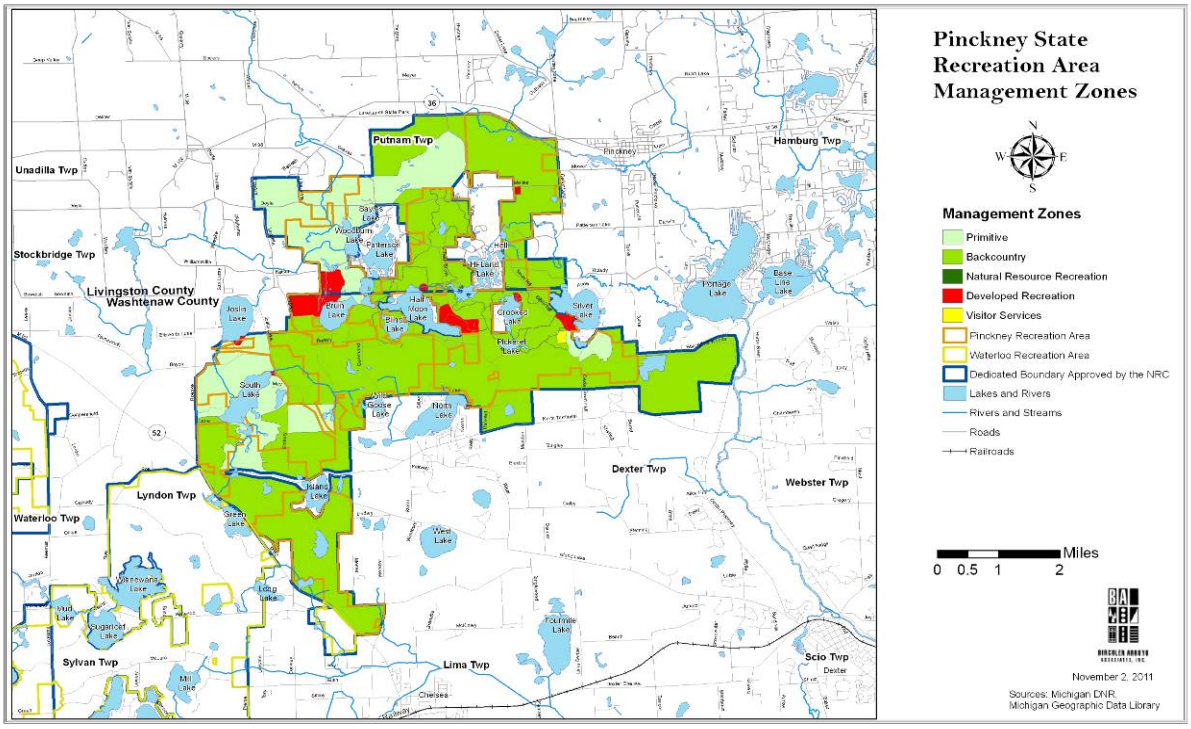
February 2013

PHASE 2 – LONG-RANGE ACTION GOALS PLAN

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

Pinckney Recreation Area



PLAN APPROVALS:

Chief, Parks and Recreation Division — Date 2/20/13

Chief, Operations Section — Date 2-12-13

Chief, Planning Section — Date 2-11-13

PLAN APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Park Management Plan Administrator	12/14/12 Date
Stewardship Unit Manager	12/14/12 Date
Rose Lake District Supervisor	12-20-12 Date
Southwest Region Planner	12.18.12 Date
Park Manager, Pinckney Recreation Area	12/20/12 Date

FOR INFORMATION:

NRC – MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:	2/7/12 Date

PINCKNEY RECREATION AREA PHASE 2 – LONG-RANGE ACTION GOALS PLAN

INTRODUCTION

A General Management Plan develops as a result of a series of planning steps. Each step builds upon the previous, and action decisions focus on the mission of the Parks & Recreation Division (PRD), and the specific Purpose and Significance of the park. Phase I GMP is the first of four phases of planning. This document, Phase 2 Action Plan, is directed by the Phase 1 plan and identifies goals to be attained over the next ten years.

In this phase, the first action is to re-evaluate the General Management Plan to assure that no conditions have changed that would cause a change in the overall guiding document. Having recently adopted the General Management Plan for this recreation area in 2012, it stands as written.

The second phase of management planning for Pinckney Recreation Area establishes long-range action goals for each of the management zones defined in the "General Management Plan" (GMP). For each management zone in the plan, action goals are recommended that address the following categories:

- Natural Resources
- Historic/Cultural Resources
- Recreation Opportunities
- Education/Interpretation Opportunities
- Management Focus
- Visitor Experience
- Development

BACKGROUND OF PINCKNEY RECREATION AREA AND OVERVIEW OF PHASE 1

Pinckney Recreation Area, with 10,413 acres is located primarily in Washtenaw County, Michigan, with some of the park located in Livingston County. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks & Recreation Division (PRD) completed the Phase I General Management Plan (GMP) process for Pinckney Recreation Area in 2012. The endeavor represents a new planning philosophy of the PRD. "Management Planning," a comprehensive, resource-based process is the PRD's adaptation of National Park Service planning methodology. Through the planning process, the Planning Team (made up of Natural Resource Department staff, government officials, stakeholders and the public), the Core Values for Pinckney Recreation Area were developed. Pinckney Recreation Area was determined to be significant for the following reasons:

1. The recreation area has an extensive, internal trail system that also provides external connections to the region via the Lakelands Trail State Park. There is a potential to connect to other regional trails, including those of the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority Metroparks (HCMA) and local townships.

2. The recreation area features a chain of lakes that creates a water trail for boaters.
3. The recreation area offers hunting, trapping, and fishing opportunities, which are unique within southeast Michigan.
4. The recreation area provides a large potential habitat area, unique geology, and wildlife corridors for threatened & endangered species. There are places within the recreation area that are exemplary natural habitats.
5. Archeological & pre-historic sites may be found within the recreation area, offering an educational opportunity to tell the story of early life in the region.
6. The recreation area offers a variety of camping opportunities, from rustic to modern sites, and includes the modern Glenbrook yurt overlooking Half Moon Lake.
7. The size of Pinckney Recreation Area is significant in relation to the regional population center, and is enhanced by its proximity to Waterloo Recreation Area. Both recreation areas offer an "up north" feel in southeast lower Michigan, due to their combination of land mass and natural features. The two recreation areas offer the largest public area for recreational hunting in southeast lower Michigan.
8. Pinckney Recreation Area is a destination for health and fitness group events and training, as well as recreation for individual users.
9. Pinckney Recreation Area hosts a great diversity of users – hunters, birders, trail runners, geo-cachers, equestrians, hikers, mountain bikers, fishermen/women.
10. One of the University of Michigan's biological research stations is within the NRC boundary of Pinckney Recreation Area. Given its proximity to the University of Michigan, the recreation area is frequently used for classes and research.
11. The University of Michigan's Stinchfield Woods property offers a potential trail connection to HCMA's Hudson Mills and Dexter-Huron metroparks.

Considering the identity and significance of Pinckney Recreation Area, the Planning Team, with stakeholder and public input, established appropriate Management Zones and the extent of influence on the property. From a palette of nine standard zones, five were applied to Pinckney Recreation Area. While the full descriptions of these zones are included in the Phase 1 document, a condensed review of the Management Zones follows:

- ❑ Primitive Zone comprises 1,968 acres, or 18.9%, and will reflect a desired condition that emphasizes the natural resources. The allowance of recreational uses should depend on attaining and maintaining a high quality natural resource condition.

- ❑ Backcountry Zone comprises 7,928 acres, or 76.1%, and emphasizes resource quality over recreation, but allows for modification of landscape to allow for moderate levels of active recreation uses. Most of park's extensive trail system is located in this zone.

- Natural Resource Recreation Zone comprises 43 acres, or 0.41%, and permits active recreation with medium to high density of use conducted in natural areas. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but in this zone, higher levels of use are allowed (e.g., high-use park trails are so designated).

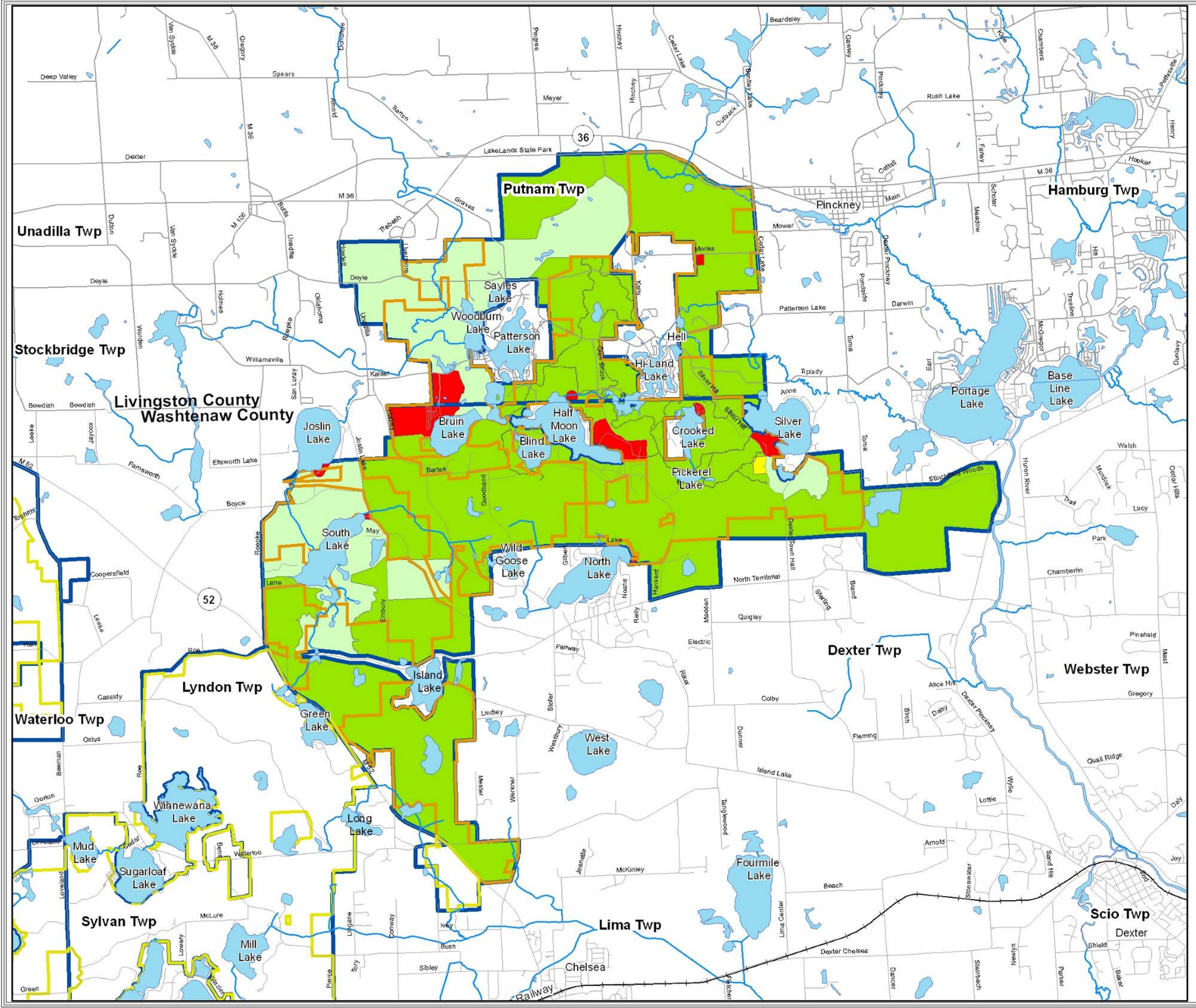
- Developed Recreation Zone comprises 454 acres, or 4.4%, and allows active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced where possible. The park's modern campgrounds, lake day-use beaches, boating access sites, and parking areas are found in this zone.

- Visitor Services Zone comprises 20 acres, or 0.19%, and encompasses those areas required for program administration and operations. This zone includes the office, contact station, and maintenance facilities that support the business of running a state park. The current headquarters for the park will be in the Visitor Services Zone.

In addition, to the Management Zones, the GMP recommends that other aspects of the Recreation Area be considered:

- Regional Consideration. The planning for Pinckney Recreation Area was performed in conjunction with the planning for Waterloo Recreation Area. The planning effort, supported by a consensus of the Planning Team, proposes to implement a direct connection between Pinckney and Waterloo Recreation Areas, as well as to other facilities in the region, such as Lakelands Trail State Park and nearby county and metroparks.

- Future Purchases. Part of the DNR's mission is to acquire lands with unique natural, cultural and historic resources for the purposes of public recreation and education. The Natural Resources Commission approved a dedicated boundary for Pinckney Recreation Area in 2004. The Planning Team's recommendation for expanding the project boundary is included in this GMP (see Section 2.5). Land within the dedicated boundary would be a priority purchase for the DNR, should the opportunity to purchase and funding become available. Major land purchases within the dedicated boundary would take on the zone designation illustrated in this GMP.



Pinckney State Recreation Area Management Zones

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Management Zones

- Primitive
- Backcountry
- Natural Resource Recreation
- Developed Recreation
- Visitor Services
- Pinckney Recreation Area
- Waterloo Recreation Area
- Dedicated Boundary Approved by the NRC
- Lakes and Rivers
- Rivers and Streams
- Roads
- Railroads

Miles
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BIRCHLER ARROYO ASSOCIATES, INC.

November 2, 2011

Sources: Michigan DNR,
Michigan Geographic Data Library

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PINCKNEY RECREATION AREA PHASE 2 – LONG-RANGE ACTION GOALS PLAN

These final goals were developed based upon input and discussion from the full Planning Team, Stakeholders, and the public.

PINCKNEY RECREATION AREA

1. General Action Goals (Applies to the whole park)

Natural Resources

Action Goal	Target Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Appropriate Zone(s)
1. Develop an Invasive Species Plan	5 Years	Stewardship	Stewardship Ecologist	All Applicable Zones
2. Develop (Phase 1) Stewardship Plan	5 Years	Stewardship, Huron River Watershed Council, Park Mgr	Stewardship Ecologist	All Applicable Zones
3. Implement (Phase 2) Stewardship Plan for the park	On-going	Stewardship, Volunteers	Stewardship and Volunteer Program Coordinator	All Applicable Zones
4. Implement the specific provisions of the Biodiversity Stewardship Plan (BSP)	On Hold			
5. Update Natural Features Inventory	On-going	MNFI, Stewardship, and Volunteers	MNFI	All Applicable Zones
6. Stewardship will continue to provide input into leased farm areas	On-going	Stewardship, Wildlife, and Park Manager	Stewardship	All Applicable Zones
7. Survey and manage the aquatic system within the recreation area to identify resources and access opportunities	On-going	Fisheries	Fisheries	All Applicable Zones
8. Refine survey of EMR* habitat and follow EMR management guidelines (in All Applicable Zones where CCAA** applies)	1 Year (survey) and On-going (guidelines)	Stewardship, Wildlife, Park Manager	Stewardship, Park Manager	All Applicable Zones With EMR Habitat
9. Preserve the quality of the known exemplary natural communities	On-going	Stewardship, Wildlife, Park Manager	Stewardship, Wildlife	All Applicable Zones

Historic/Cultural Resources

Action Goal	Target Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Appropriate Zone(s)
1. Develop a cultural resources inventory of the park for interpretation, protection and preservation	Completed But On-going Maintenance	Stewardship, SHPO	Cultural Resource Specialist	All Applicable Zones
2. Develop and conduct monitoring program for archeological resources	On-going	Park Manager and Stewardship	Cultural Resource Specialist and Office of State Archaeologist	All Applicable Zones
3. Protect archaeological/cultural resources identified by inventory	On-going	Stewardship, SHPO, and Park Manager	Cultural Resource Specialist and Park Manager	All Applicable Zones
4. Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources	On-going	Stewardship	Cultural Resource Specialist and Office of State Archaeologist	All Applicable Zones

*Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake; **Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances

PINCKNEY RECREATION AREA PHASE 2 – LONG-RANGE ACTION GOALS PLAN

Recreation Opportunities				
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Program Input From**	**Responsible Program Position**	**Appropriate Zone(s)**
1. Maintain park open to hunting	On-going	PRD and Wildlife Division	Park Manager and Wildlife Biologist	All Applicable Zones Where Hunting Permitted
2. Identify opportunities to improve connectivity within and beyond park boundaries; e.g. opportunities to connect Waterloo RA through Pinckney RA to Lakelands Trail, Hudson Mills Metropark, Park Lyndon	2 Years	Park Manager, Regional Planner, Local Recreation Partners	Regional Planner	All Applicable Zones
3. Consider ecotourism opportunities	On-going	Park Manager, Marketing and Outreach	Park Manager	All Applicable Zones
4. Identify water trail connections	2 Years	Park Manager, Regional Planner, Local Recreation Partners	Regional Planner	All Applicable Zones
5. Coordinate County and Local Recreation Partners interpretation activities into Recreation Area programs	On-going	Park Manager, Marketing and Outreach	Park Manager	All Applicable Zones
6. Develop ADA hunting opportunities	5 Years	Wildlife, Park Manager, Regional Planner	Wildlife	All Applicable Zones
7. Partner with neighboring communities to: (1) actively promote appropriate trail connections through and abutting the Recreation Area and (2) jointly develop trail routes that support the goals of the local partners, Pinckney and Waterloo Recreation Areas, and the PRD.	On-going	Park Manager, Local Recreation Partners, Reginal Planner, Marketing and Outreach	Park Manager, Local Recreational Partners	All Applicable Zones
8. Determine feasibility and identify potential route(s) for a mountain bike connection between and through both Recreation Areas that would: (1) respect the trail integrity and visitor experience for hikers on established Waterloo-Pinckney Trail, and (2) afford physical connections to partner communities' trail systems.	Up to 2 Years for Planning 5 Years for Development	Park Manager, Local Recreation Partners, Regional Planner, MMBA	MMBA, Park Manager, Regional Planner	All Applicable Zones
9. Evaluate opportunities for family-oriented loop trails near developed units.	5 Years	Park Manager, Local Recreation Partners, Regional Planner	Park Manager, Regional Planner	All Applicable Zones

PINCKNEY RECREATION AREA PHASE 2 – LONG-RANGE ACTION GOALS PLAN

Education Opportunities				
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Program Input From**	**Responsible Program Position**	**Appropriate Zone(s)**
1. Develop specific interpretation and education opportunities	On-going	Marketing and Outreach	Marketing and Outreach	All Applicable Zones
Management Focus				
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Program Input From**	**Responsible Program Position**	**Appropriate Zone(s)**
1. Land acquisition within dedicated boundary	On-going	Park Manager, Lands Manager, Stewardship	Lands Manager	All Applicable Zones
2. Modify NRC boundary per the Phase 1 plan recommendation	2 Years	Lands Manager, Park Manager, DNR Land Liasons	Lands Manager	All Applicable Zones
3. Prepare an Emergency Plan	Completed With Annual Update	Park Manager	Park Manager	All Applicable Zones
4. Complete "sign-off" of the Wildfire Plan	2 Years	Stewardship	Park Manager	All Applicable Zones
5. Explore and develop revenue generating opportunities that are sustainable	On-going	Park Manager, Marketing and Outreach	Park Manager	All Applicable Zones
6. Dedicate staffing and budget resources to address goals (including partnerships and volunteers as appropriate)	On-going	Park Manager, District Supervisor	Park Manager, District Supervisor	All Applicable Zones
7. Promote volunteer partnerships to meet resource goals	On-going	Stewardship, Park Manager	Park Manager	All Applicable Zones
8. Develop a marketing plan for this park based on natural and historic resources found within the park, as well as its relationship to Waterloo RA	5 Years	Marketing and Outreach	Park Manager, Program Assistant	All Applicable Zones
9. Utilize variety of old and new media, including audio and visual technologies, podcasts, and the like for interpretation	On-going	Park Manager, Marketing and Outreach	Park Manager, Marketing and Outreach	All Applicable zones
10. Develop plan for improving all types of navigation aids to major units, including on freeways, county road, internal roads/trails, GPS sources, park maps, and the like.	On-going	Park Manager, Marketing and Outreach	Park Manager, Marketing and Outreach	All Applicable zones
Development				
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Program Input From**	**Responsible Program Position**	**Appropriate Zone(s)**
1. Develop assessment of satellite parking areas to analyze need, location, and/or potential elimination	2 Years	Park Manager and Regional Planner, Wildlife, Review of Chuck Nelson's Study	Park Manager	All Applicable Zones

2. Primitive Zone			
Natural Resources (Primitive Zone)			
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Program Input From**	**Responsible Program Position**
1. Preserve/protect the native vegetation communities and habitat for species of special concern	On-going	Stewardship, Wildlife	Stewardship
Historic/Cultural Resources in Primitive Zone			
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Program Input From**	**Responsible Program Position**
1. See General Action Goals			
Recreation Opportunities in Primitive Zone			
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Program Input From**	**Responsible Program Position**
1. Maintain and enhance opportunities for low-impact hunting/fishing/gathering/ trapping, bird watching	On-going	Park Manager	Park Manager
Education Opportunities in Primitive Zone			
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Program Input From**	**Responsible Program Position**
1. Coordinate interpretation activities with Recreation Partners	5 Years	Stewardship, Marketing and Outreach, Park Manager	Stewardship and Park Manager
2. Develop interpretive messages for access points to the zone	5 Years	Stewardship, Marketing and Outreach, Park Manager	Park Manager and Marketing and Outreach
3. Continue operation of the Explorer Guides Program	On-going	Marketing and Outreach, Park Manager	Marketing and Outreach
Management Focus in Primitive Zone			
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Program Input From**	**Responsible Program Position**
1. Refine survey of EMR habitat and follow EMR management guidelines	1 Year (survey) and On-going (guidelines)	Stewardship, Wildlife, Park Manager	Stewardship, Park Manager
2. Address user conflicts	On-going	Park Manager, District Supervisor	Park Manager
Development in Primitive Zone			
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Program Input From**	**Responsible Program Position**
1. Repair or replace boardwalk on Waterloo Pinckney Trail (connecting to Park Lyndon)	2 Years	Park Manager, Regional Planner, District Supervisor	Park Manager
2. Identify location of yurt within the zone and recommend zone change	1 Year	Park Manager, Regional Planner	Park Manager

PINCKNEY RECREATION AREA PHASE 2 – LONG-RANGE ACTION GOALS PLAN

3. Backcountry Zone

Natural Resources in Backcountry Zone

Action Goal	Target Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
1. See General Action Goals			

Historic/Cultural Resources in Backcountry Zone

Action Goal	Target Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
1. See General Action Goals			

Recreation Opportunities in Backcountry Zone

Action Goal	Target Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
1. Maintain and enhance opportunities for birding hunting/fishing/gathering/ trapping	On-going	Stewardship, Wildlife	Stewardship
2. Trail connection from Bruin Lake Campground to Waterloo-Pinckney Trail	5 Years	Park Manager, Regional Planner, Stewardship	Park Manager
3. Investigate feasibility and impacts of trail expansion proposals for equestrian and/or mountain bike use	On-going	Park Manager, Regional Planner, Recreation Partners	Regional Planner

Education Opportunities in Backcountry Zone

Action Goal	Target Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
1. Develop and install off-site directional information for kayakers to get to campsites	2 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager
2. Develop/install kiosks and displays appropriate to the zone	5 Years	Park Manager, Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager

Management Focus in Backcountry Zone

Action Goal	Target Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
1. Address user conflicts	On-going	Park Manager	Park Manager
2. Acquire Cunningham Property to fulfill PRD mission	On-going	Park Manager, Lands Manager	Lands Manager
3. Acquire MSU Foundation property	1 Year	Park Manager, Lands Manager	Lands Manager
4. Identify and promote the Education/Interpretation opportunities in the zone	On-going	Marketing and Outreach, Park Manager	Marketing and Outreach
5. Promote volunteer partnerships to meet resource goals	On-going	Park Manager, Stewardship, Volunteers	Park Manager, Stewardship

Development in Backcountry Zone

Action Goal	Target Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
1. Upgrade and/or re-route trails to accommodate use compatible with natural character of zone	On-going	Park Manager, Recreation Partners, Stewardship, Regional Planner	Park Manager and Regional Planner
2. Improve ADA accessibility compatible with the natural character of the zone	On-going	Regional Planner, Wildlife, Park Manager, Stewardship	Park Manager, Regional Planner
3. Acquire property from MSU Foundation to serve as a physical connection between the Northern and Southern property within Pinckney Recreation Area.	5 Years	Park Manager, Regional Planner	Park Manager, Regional Planner

4. Natural Resource Recreation Zone

Natural Resources in Natural Resource Recreation Zone

Action Goal	Target Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
1. See General Action Goals			

Historic/Cultural Resources in Natural Resource Recreation Zone

Action Goal	Target Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
1. Interpretive sign at the Root Cellar and chimney homestead residence on Crooked Lake Trail	5 Years	Stewardship Park Manager	Park Manager

Recreation Opportunities in Natural Resource Recreation Zone

Action Goal	Target Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
1. Investigate feasibility and impacts of trail expansion proposals	On-going	Park Manager, Regional Planner, Recreation Partners	Regional Planner
2. Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping, bird watching, trail use and camping	On-going	Stewardship, Wildlife	Stewardship

Education Opportunities in Natural Resource Recreation Zone

Action Goal	Target Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
1. See General Action Goals			

Management Focus in Natural Resource Recreation Zone

Action Goal	Target Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
1. Preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources	On-going	Park Manager and Stewardship	Park Manager and Stewardship
2. Address user conflicts	On-going	Park Manager	Park Manager

Development in Natural Resource Recreation Zone

Action Goal	Target Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
1. Restore and/or re-route unsustainable segments of trails	5 Years	Park Manager, Stewardship, Users, Regional Planner	Park Manager
2. Connect Pinckney RA through Stinchfield Woods to local metroparks (i.e. Hudson Mills, Dexter-Huron)	5 Years	Park Manager, Regional Planner	Park Manager, Regional Planner
3. Implement a phased approach to replace an estimated 1.5 miles of boardwalk within this zone	10 Years	Park Manager, Regional Planner	Park Manager, Regional Planner

5. Developed Recreation Zone

Natural Resources in Developed Recreation Zone

Action Goal	Target Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
1. See General Action Goals			

Historic/Cultural Resources in Developed Recreation Zone

Action Goal	Target Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
1. See General Action Goals			

Recreation Opportunities in Developed Recreation Zone

Action Goal	Target Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
1. Improve the Bruin Lake campground by correcting seasonal wet conditions of campsites	6 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager
2. Assess fishing piers for recreational and safety improvements	2 Years	Fisheries, Park Manager	Fisheries, Park Manager
3. Provide restroom and beach improvements designed to enhance visitor experience	6 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager

Education Opportunities in Developed Recreation Zone

Action Goal	Target Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
1. Improve outreach/education opportunities by partnering with local service providers and businesses.	On-going	Park Manager	Park Manager

Management Focus in Developed Recreation Zone

Action Goal	Target Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
1. Facilitate a visioning session to identify future day use development and programming needs to attract new users to Half Moon Lake day use area.	1 Year	Park Manager, Regional Planner	Park Manager and Regional Planner
2. Utilize the Bruin Lake Campground Study to make decision regarding restoration, improvements, and redevelopment	2 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager
3. Address user conflicts	On-going	Park Manager	Park Manager
4. Utilize Boat Access Sites (BAS) study to make improvements as needed	On-going	Park Manager	Park Manager

Development in Developed Recreation Zone

Action Goal	Target Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
1. Construct new bathroom facilities at Half Moon Lake	8 Years	Regional Planner and Park Manager	Park Manager and Regional Planner
2. Replace fishing pier at Silver Lake	5 Years	Regional Planner and Park Manager	Park Manager and Regional Planner
3. Restore Silver Lake beach and utilize erosion-prevention strategies	4 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager Regional Planner
4. Improve beach at Half Moon Lake	5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager

Action Goal	Target Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
5. Resurface Entrance Rd at Halfmoon Beach	5 Years	Regional Planner/Park Mgr.	Park Manager Regional Planner
6. Improvements to the Halfmoon Lake well house with shingle and pump replacement.	5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager
7. Boat Launch Ramp Improvements	2 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager
8. Playground and shoreline safety improvements at Silver Lake Unit	1 Year	Park Manager	Park Manager
9. Grill and picnic table repair/replacement	On-going	Park Manager	Park Manager
10. Improvements to Silver Lake Bathhouse with repair of roof, and partition and door replacement	2 Years	Park Manager Regional planner	Park Manager Regional Planner
11. Installation of handpump at Potawatomi Trailhead	3 Years	Park Manager Regional planner	Park Manager Regional Planner

6. Visitor Service Zone			
Natural Resources in Visitor Service Zone			
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Program Input From**	**Responsible Program Position**
1. Removal of Invasive species near Park Headquarters	On-going	Park Manager Park Supervisor	Park Manager Park Supervisor
Historic/Cultural Resources in Visitor Service Zone			
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Program Input From**	**Responsible Program Position**
1. Install Kiosk with History of Pinckney Recreation Area near park HQ entrance	8 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager Regional Planner
Recreation Opportunities in Visitor Service Zone			
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Program Input From**	**Responsible Program Position**
1. See General Action Goals			
Education Opportunities in Visitor Service Zone			
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Program Input From**	**Responsible Program Position**
1. Provide Natural Resource and other related park information at HQ.	On-going	Park Manager Park Supervisor	Park Manager Park Supervisor
Management Focus in Visitor Service Zone			
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Program Input From**	**Responsible Program Position**
1. Provide superior customer service.	On-going	Park Manager Park Supervisor	Park Manager Park Supervisor
Development in Visitor Service Zone			
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Program Input From**	**Responsible Program Position**
1. Finish ADA improvements to headquarter parking area and front counter	1 Year	Park Manager	Park Manager

Appendix A –Summary of Public Input

Public Participation

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

- **July 16-17, 2012 Stakeholder Workshop**

  The purpose of the workshop was to obtain comments on the draft Phase II Long-Range Action Goals Plan for Pinckney Recreation Area. With assistance from the Planning Team, approximately 50 people and/or organizations were identified as stakeholders. Invitations to the Stakeholder Workshop were sent by email and via post. Approximately 25 people attended the workshop. Stakeholders were invited to comment at the meeting. Stakeholders could also use sticky dots to elect the activities that they would like to see the DNR prioritize.

- **October 2, 2012 Public Input Open House**

  A public input open house was held to allow the public the opportunity to express their comments about the park. The above noted people were again contacted regarding the public input workshops by mail and email. A notice was published in the local paper. Flyers were posted in the Eddy Center. Stakeholders and others were encouraged to share this information with interested members of the general public. Approximately 100 people attended.

There were two opportunities to provide comments:

1) Comment at one of the workshops
2) Apply sticky dots to activities/goals that the DNR should prioritize

Meeting Summary
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Phase 2 Stakeholder Input Open House
Pinckney & Waterloo State Recreation Areas
July 16 & 17, 2012 from 6 – 8 p.m.
Eddy Discovery Center

1. **Introductions at 6:00 pm**

2. **Brief Presentation of Management Planning Process and Status (15 minutes)**

   a. Review Phase 1 Management Zone Maps

   b. Action Goal Development – Draft 10-year strategies to address Management Zone Map

   c. Pinckney Planning Team Draft Action Goals organized by:
   - ❑ General Action Goals
   - ❑ Primitive Zone
   - ❑ Backcountry Zone
   - ❑ Natural Resource Recreation Zone
   - ❑ Developed Recreation Zone
   - ❑ Visitor Service Zone

   d. Review of Waterloo Planning Team Draft Action Goals
   - ❑ General Action Goals
   - ❑ Primitive Zone
   - ❑ Backcountry Zone
   - ❑ Natural Resource Recreation Zone
   - ❑ Developed Recreation Zone
   - ❑ Visitor Service Zone
   - ❑ Scenic Overlay Zone
   - ❑ Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone

   e. Priority Exercise explained
   f. Action Goals input sheets described
   g. Questions and Answers

3. **Open House (1 hour 45 minutes)**
   a. You are invited to visit each of the stations and talk to Planning Team members
   b. Color dots are available for you to identify your priority actions (please limit yourself to 10 dots per Recreation Area)
   c. Action Goal input sheets are available for you to contribute additional suggested actions goals

4. **Adjournment at 8:00 pm**

General Action Goals		
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Responses**
Natural Resources		
1. Develop an Invasive Species Plan	5 Years	6
2. Develop (Phase 1) Stewardship Plan	5 Years	
3. Implement (Phase 2) Stewardship Plan for the park	On-going	
4. Implement the specific provisions of the Biodiversity Stewardship Plan (BSP)	On Hold	
5. Update Natural Features Inventory	On-going	
6. Stewardship will continue to provide input into leased farm areas	On-going	
7. Survey and manage the aquatic system within the recreation area to identify resources and assess opportunities.	On-going	
8. Refine survey of EMR habitat and follow EMR management guidelines (in All Applicable Zones where CCAA applies)	1 Year	
9. Preserve the quality of the known exemplary natural communities	On-going	1
Historic / Cultural Resources		
1. Develop a cultural resources inventory of the park for interpretation, protection and preservation	Complete But On-Going Maint.	
2. Develop and conduct monitoring program for archeological resources	On-going	
3. Protect archaeological/cultural resources identified by inventory	On-going	1
4. Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources	On-going	
Recreation Opportunities		
1. Maintain park open to hunting.	On-going	11
2. Identify opportunities to improve connectivity within and beyond park boundaries; e.g. opportunities to connect Waterloo RA through Pinckney RA to Lakelands Trail, Hudson Mills Metropark, Park Lyndon	2 Years	
3. Consider ecotourism opportunities	On-going	
4. Identify water trail connections	2 Years	3
5. Coordinate County and Local Recreation Partners interpretation activities into Recreation Area programs.	On-going	
6. Develop ADA hunting opportunities	5 Years	1
Education Opportunities		
1. Develop specific interpretation and education opportunities	On-going	
Management Focus		
1. Land acquisition within dedicated boundary	On-going	2
2. Modify NRC boundary per the Phase 1 plan recommendation	2 Years	
3. Prepare an Emergency Plan	Completed with Annual Update	
4. Complete “sign-off” of the Wildfire Plan	2 Years	
5. Explore and develop revenue generating opportunities that are sustainable.	On-going	
6. Dedicate staffing and budget resources to address goals (including partnerships and volunteers as appropriate)	On-going	1
7. Promote volunteer partnerships to meet resource goals	On-going	1
8. Develop a marketing plan for this park based on natural and historic resources found within the park, as well as its relationship to Pinckney RA	5 Years	
9. Utilize variety of old and new media, including audio and visual technologies, podcasts, and the like for interpretation.	On-going	

Development		
1. Develop assessment of satellite parking areas to analyze need, location and/or potential elimination	2 Years	

Primitive Zone		
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Responses**
Natural Resources in Primitive Zone		
1. Preserve/protect the native vegetation communities and habitat for species of special concern	On-going	3
Historic/Cultural Resources in Primitive Zone		
1.		
Recreation Opportunities in Primitive Zone		
1. Maintain and enhance low-impact opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping, bird watching, and trail use	On-going	5
Education Opportunities in Primitive Zone		
1. Coordinate interpretation activities with Recreation Partners	5 Years	
2. Develop interpretive messages for access points to the zone	5 Years	
3. Continue operation of the Explorer Guides Program	On-going	
Management Focus in Primitive Zone		
1. Refine survey of EMR habitat and follow EMR management guidelines	1 Year	
2. Address user conflicts	On-going	
Develop in Primitive Zone		
1. Repair or replace boardwalk on Waterloo Pinckney Trail (connecting to Park Lyndon)	2 Years	3
2. Identify location of yurt within the zone and recommend zone change	1 Year	

Backcountry Zone		
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Responses**
Natural Resources in Backcountry Zone		
1.		
Historic/Cultural Resources in Backcountry Zone		
1.		
Recreation Opportunities in Backcountry Zone		
1. Maintain and enhance opportunities for birding hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping	On-going	4
2 Maintain and enhance opportunities for birding hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping	On-going	1
3. Investigate feasibility and impacts of trail expansion proposals for equestrian and/or mountain bike use	On-going	6
Education Opportunities in Backcountry Zone		
1. Develop and install off-site directional information for kayakers to get to campsites	2 Years	1
2. Develop/install kiosks and displays appropriate to the zone	5 Years	

Management Focus in Background Zone		
1. Address user conflicts	On-going	1
2. Acquire Cunningham Property to fulfill PRD mission	On-going	2
3. Acquire MSU Foundation property	1 Year	2
4. Identify and promote the Education/Interpretation opportunities in the zone	On-going	
5. Promote volunteer partnerships to meet resource goals	On-going	
Development in Backcountry Zone		
1. Upgrade and/or re-route trails to accommodate use compatible with natural character of zone	On-going	2
2. Improve ADA accessibility compatible with the natural character of the zone	On-going	

Natural Resource Recreation Zone		
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Responses**
Natural Resources in Natural Resource Recreation Zone		
Historic/Cultural Resources in Natural Resource Recreation Zone		
1. Interpretive sign at the Root Cellar and chimney homestead residence on Crooked Lake Trail.	5 Years	
Recreation Opportunities in Natural Resource Recreation Zone		
1. Investigate feasibility and impacts of trail expansion proposals	On-going	4
2. Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping, bird watching, trail use and camping	On-going	4
Education Opportunities in Natural Resource Recreation Zone		
1.		
Management Focus in Natural Resource Recreation Zone		
1. Preserve and protect the cultural resources	On-going	
2. Address user conflicts	On-going	
Development in Natural Resource Recreation Zone		
1. Restore and/or re-route unsustainable segments of trails	5 Years	4
2. Connect Pinckney RA through Stinchfield Woods to local metroparts (i.e. Hudson Mills, Dexter-Huron)	5 Years	4
3. Establish physical connection between Pinckney RA and Waterloo RA through Backcountry Zone	5 Years	5
4. Implement a phased approach to replace an estimated 1.5 miles of boardwalk within this zone	10 Years	

Visitor Services Zone		
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Responses**
Natural Resources in Visitor Services Zone		
1. Remove invasive species near Park Headquarters	On-going	4
Historic/Cultural Resources in Visitor Services Zone		
1. Install Kiosk with History of Pinckney Recreation Area near HQ Entrance	8 Years	

Recreation Opportunities in Visitor Services Zone		
1.		
Education Opportunities in Visitor Services Zone		
1. Provide Natural Resource and other related park information at HQ	On-going	
Management Focus in Visitor Services Zone		
1. Provide superior customer service	On-going	
Develop in Visitor Services Zone		
1. Finish ADA improvements to headquarter parking area and front counter	1 Year	1

Developed Recreation Zone		
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Responses**
Natural Resources in Developed Recreation Zone		
1.		
Historic/Cultural Resources in Developed Recreation Zone		
1.		
Recreation Opportunities in Developed Recreation Zone		
1. Improve the Bruin Lake campground by correcting seasonal wet conditions of campsites	6 Years	
2. Assess fishing piers for recreational and safety improvements	2 Years	1
3. Provide restroom and beach improvements designed to enhance visitor experience	6 Years	
Education Opportunities in Developed Recreation Zone		
1. Utilize the Bruin Lake Campground Study to make decision regarding restoration, improvements, and redevelopment	2 Years	
2. Address user conflicts	On-going	
3. Utilize Boat Access Sites (BAS) study to make improvements as needed	On-going	1
Development in Developed Recreation Zone		
1. Construct new bathroom facilities at Half Moon Lake	8 Years	
2. Replace fishing pier at Silver Lake	5 Years	1
3. Restore Silver Lake beach and utilize erosion-prevention strategies	4 Years	1
4. Improve beach at Half Moon Lake	5 Years	
5. Resurface Entrance Rd at Half Moon Beach	5 Years	
6. Improvements to the Half Moon Lake well house with shingle and pump replacement.	5 Years	
7. Boat Launch Ramp Improvements	2 Years	
8. Playground and shoreline safety improvements at Silver Lake Unit	1 Year	1
9. Grill and picnic table repair/replacement	On-going	
10. Improvements to Silver Lake Bathhouse with repair of roof, and partition and door replacement	2 Years	
11. Installation of handpump at Potawatomi Trailhead	3 Years	1

PINCKNEY & WATERLOO RECREATION AREAS
10-YEAR ACTION GOALS

ADDITONAL ACTION GOALS TO CONSIDER:

ACTION GOAL	RECREATION AREA
Selective Clear cutting	Waterloo
More active clear cutting	Pinckney
Invasive issue: phragmites moving in quick. Will ruin many wetlands	Pinckney & Waterloo
Hike-in only campsites in Waterloo, like Blind Lake in Pinckney	Waterloo
X-C ski centers with a snow making machine for a small slope, like at HCMA	Waterloo
Expand Waterloo Horseman's campground to include water/electric sites	Waterloo
Possibility of a shower house @ horse camp	Waterloo
Expand horse use trails east of camp	Waterloo
Develop more watering holes for horses	Waterloo
Possible pavillion @ horse camp	Waterloo
Would like to have electricity at horse camp but would not be in favor of any changes that would jeopardize "year round" use of this camp	Waterloo
Would like to have access to running water at equestrian camp but not if it would jeopardize year round access. Wonder if running water could be turned off for winter (freezing conditions) but yet leave camp open	Waterloo
Develop day use parking areas other than at the main equestrian camp. Have outhouses at these areas.	Waterloo

Additional Comments:

- Probably 30 years ago we got our first kill permits for deer on our farm from Jeff Green and a discussion we had that day started by interest in getting agricultural crops into the interior of Pinckney and Waterloo Rec Areas. We had huge numbers of deer on our farm and hunters told me there were few on the state land. I said the DNR need crops on their land to pull and hold the deer into the interior of the rec area and Jeff thought hunter pressure was the reason for the difference.

  When we first planted corn across from the Boy Scout camp, there was very little damage for the 25% we left standing all winter. In a few years of cropping however, feeding on the 25% became severe, you could see more deer, the hunting stands appeared everywhere around the fields. There are only a few fields still open and cropping has kept them that way. Only like 1% of the total area is farmed, so to lose any fields would shorten the already short winter food supply….and be forever as the brush took over as it has everywhere else. I continue to believe that a crop food source is the limiting factor on deer populations in the Rec Area.

  To maintain even what you have will be a challenge. The soils are not the best and need erosion control with conservation tillage. Long term sustainability also needs careful attention to fertility and lime and eventually perimeter tree cutting or the fields will just close in. Competitive bids are the best but need to include consideration of lime and tree cutting. Thank you for hearing my thoughts.

  Lesser Farms – Dale Lesser

I will be unable to attend Monday's or Tuesday's meeting, but would like to comment. When I moved to Michigan in early 80's I hunted both waterloo and pinkney areas for grouse and

woodcock and did well. There were several areas of good production. Most of these areas have become overgrown with multiflora rose and autumn olive. A little olive and a little rose is good. A lot is sterile. For the last many years I have hunted, hiked, mushroom hunted, fished and enjoyed both areas. I would have to say that other than around the Potowotami trail, I have seen next to no non-hunter/fisher users. The area between Pickerel lake and Silver lake are usually occupied by hikers and bikers. The Waterloo area is essentially devoid of those people to my many hours/ days of observation. The Gorman lake area has been closed off for motor traffic now for a few years, and is becoming over grown such that the former hikers are gone. I was out there just a week ago, and only the first quarter mile of trail is used at all. I met a fellow birdwatcher then, and he had not gone but to the back if Island lake where the trail peters out. I was going to drag my canoe into the lake, but found the going impossible with even that small (12 ft) craft. I do not believe the area is being used by non-hunters or fishers, and doubt it is being used by anyone not a deer or turkey hunter. (that latter group includes me)

Management for the two areas for those groups who pay no excise taxes to support the management costs, nor buy use licenses (hunting/fishing) for the same seems to be unfair. Management of the areas for those who actually use them would make more sense to me. The Pinkney area is just fine left to the hikers and bikers, but the off trail areas could use some management in both units.

Thank you for holding these meetings.

Sincerely, James R. Gilsdorf

I'm an officer of SOLAR, the School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation. Although my comments below are not made on behalf of the organization, I believe they generally represent the interests of SOLAR members. SOLAR has over 400 members in southeast Michigan. SOLAR members use the Pinckney and Waterloo Recreation Areas in pretty much every way possible. In particular, at least four classes offered through the club each year rely on Waterloo. The Basic Backpacking and Winter Camping classes do an overnight trip from the Discovery Center to Green Lake, and the Basic Land Navigation classes use one of the Burns Cabins and the area around the headquarters twice a year. Aside from these classes, there are formal group activities (hikes, etc.) in these parks, and frequent individual visits as well. I personally have backpacked the Waterloo-Pinckney Trail end-to-end-to-end, enjoyed numerous day hikes in all seasons, led the navigation class, and spent well over a dozen nights in the parks. They are a fantastic asset, and I don't visit them nearly as often as I would like. To the best of my knowledge, these parks represent the only backpacking opportunities in southeast Michigan, which makes them uniquely valuable. Thus, I think protecting the quality of that attribute should be given the highest priority. Other priorities include making sure that existing amenities are well maintained, and expanding and consolidating park lands when the opportunity arises. Addition of new amenities is less of a priority.

Pinckney:
I question the benefit of the proposed new yurt in Pinckney, if the revenues it generates would not be used to subsidize other projects in PRA. Also, it was indicated that the location proposed for the yurt would need to be "rezoned", as such an activity would be incompatible with the area's current designation. What, then, is the value of the zoning, if activity incompatibilities are resolved by changing the zoning rather than the activity? The proposed addition of a handpump at the Potawatomi trailhead

would be valued by trail users. I don't recall whether this would be at the hiking trailhead or the mountain bike trailhead, if it was even specified. Since mountain bikers and hikers go in opposite directions it would only benefit one of those groups. A handpump might actually be more valuable somewhere else on the loop where both groups could use it for refills. A few more simple amenities (benches, picnic tables, etc.) along the loop would be nice, but not more than a few.
Specifically, I think Gosling Lake would be a great place for people to be able to stop, sit, and possibly even use an outhouse… Sadly, I do realize that such amenities impose an ongoing maintenance cost, are subject to vandalism, etc. I think the greatest potential user conflict is between mountain bikers and hikers, but as a hiker I feel that the vast majority of bikers are safe and courteous. I rarely encounter hunters. Both groups, however, seem to leave more than their share of trash behind - I pick up a lot of reflectors, water bottles, tear-off tabs from GU packets, and spent shells. ALL users could do a better job of cleaning up after themselves; perhaps some signage would help.

Waterloo:
I am skeptical that Aggregate Industries will remediate/revegetate the affected area to a high quality landscape. It will be essential to make sure that sufficient funds are set aside to do the job properly, and to monitor the process and enforce specifications as it is being done. More opportunities for loop hikes would be nice, as would a very few more opportunities for rustic or dispersed camping. I think the user conflicts in Waterloo are more challenging, due to the sharing of trails by hikers and equestrians. Though I've found the riders themselves to be friendly and courteous, I think the activities are inherently less compatible. It's been my experience that, compared to other uses, horseback riding has a disproportionate negative impact on trails. Unfortunately, I realize that there's no simple solution. Segregating the groups on separate trails might do the trick if each group clearly understood which trails to use (marking them well would be critical). I wonder where this would end, though - for example, if mountain bikers asked for it, would a dedicated trail system be created for them, too? More trails would mean more impact on the natural area and of course would not mitigate the impacts of horses.

In conclusion, I feel the biggest threat to both parks is overuse – being "loved to death". Thus, I fear that efforts to draw more visitors may be counterproductive, and diminish the experience of all users. Nonetheless, I understand that more users WILL come regardless, and planning for and managing that growth is preferable to ignoring it. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of that process.

Waterloo Hunt Club Phase 2 phone comment
August 8, 2012
Sally Stommen, Waterloo Hunt Club member
(She is dentist in Grass Lake and "lead rider" for past 20 years)

Property in question was purchased by Hunt Club members, then sold to DNR years ago, in order to prevent it from being lost to the Hunt Club for riding purposes. Louie Boone, who lives in Scio Township, was one of the buyers/sellers. Mr. Boone is now 80+ years old and no longer rides. Dr. Fred Traeger was the other buyer/seller and is now deceased. It is the Hunt Club's understanding, confirmed by Louie Boone, that DNR agreed to allow Hunt Club to continue riding the ridge trail. Trail has been in use for 65 years and is essential to connecting two of their riding areas. They are concerned that the Primitive designation will prevent them from continuing to obtain a use permit for the ridge trail. Members would be willing to take DNR staff out to review the trail location. Sally noted that she is in regular contact with Gary Jones.

Sally indicated that she spoke with one of us at a meeting preceding the July 17th Open House and that she was promised that we would look into this concern and evaluate the Primitive zone designation in the area of their ridge trail.

David Birchler's suggestion for discussion:
While this is a Phase 1 zone issue, perhaps a future amendment could be recommended in the Phase 2 Action Strategies for the Primitive Zone that would designate a Backcountry buffer for this ridge trail.

Sign-In Sheet

Name	Affiliation
Dana Farrell	Greater SE Ruffed Grouse Society
Gary J. Scypta	Greater S.E. Ruffed Grouse Society
Ati Tislerics	S.O.L.A.R.
Norm Roller	MMBA/Sierra Club
Jeff McWilliams	S.O.L.A.R.
Mike and Jack Casey	Aberdeen Bike
Deborah Kanks	Hiker
Barry Lonik	Sierra HRWC
Arlene Taylor	Waterloo Hunt Club
Dan DeVito	Greater SE Ruffed Grouse Society
Ron Sell	Sierra Club HVG
Chad Simpson	WHA
Jan Herrick	ETS
Stuart Rossman	WHA
Dale Lesser	
Jason Aric Jones	N/A
Greg Peter	Chelseas Rod & Gun
Charity Steere	Legacy Land Conservation and Waterloo Hunt
Becky Oufiu	WHA & MTRA
Sally Stommen	Waterloo Hunt
Jeff Stommen	Waterloo Hunt

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Phase 2 Public Input Open House
Pinckney & Waterloo State Recreation Areas
www.birchlerarroyo.com/Clients/DNR-RD.htm
October 2, 2012 from 6 – 8 p.m.
Eddy Discovery Center

1. Introductions at 6:00 pm

2. Brief Presentation of Management Planning Process and Status (15 minutes)

a. Review Phase 1 Management Zone Maps

b. Action Goal Development – Draft 10-year strategies to address Management Zone Map

c. Pinckney Planning Team Draft Action Goals organized by:

- ❑ General Action Goals
- ❑ Primitive Zone
- ❑ Backcountry Zone
- ❑ Natural Resource Recreation Zone
- ❑ Developed Recreation Zone
- ❑ Visitor Service Zone

d. Review of Waterloo Planning Team Draft Action Goals

- ❑ General Action Goals
- ❑ Primitive Zone
- ❑ Backcountry Zone
- ❑ Natural Resource Recreation Zone
- ❑ Developed Recreation Zone
- ❑ Visitor Service Zone
- ❑ Scenic Overlay Zone
- ❑ Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone

e. Priority Exercise explained
f. Action Goals input sheets described
g. Questions and Answers

3. Open House (1 hour 45 minutes)

a. You are invited to visit each of the stations and talk to Planning Team members
b. Color dots are available for you to identify your priority actions (please limit yourself to 10 dots per Recreation Area)
c. Action Goal input sheets are available for you to contribute additional suggested actions goals

4. Adjournment at 8:00 pm

General Action Goals		
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Responses**
Natural Resources		
1. Develop an Invasive Species Plan	5 Years	11
2. Develop (Phase 1) Stewardship Plan	5 Years	
3. Implement (Phase 2) Stewardship Plan for the park	On-going	1
4. Implement the specific provisions of the Biodiversity Stewardship Plan (BSP)	On Hold	
5. Update Natural Features Inventory	On-going	
6. Stewardship will continue to provide input into leased farm areas	On-going	
7. Survey and manage the aquatic system within the recreation area to identify resources and assess opportunities.	On-going	2
8. Refine survey of EMR habitat and follow EMR management guidelines (in All Applicable Zones where CCAA applies)	1 Year (survey) & On-going (guidelines)	
9. Preserve the quality of the known exemplary natural communities	On-going	2
Historic / Cultural Resources		
1. Develop a cultural resources inventory of the park for interpretation, protection and preservation	Completed But On-Going Maintenance	
2. Develop and conduct monitoring program for archeological resources	On-going	
3. Protect archaeological/cultural resources identified by inventory	On-going	
4. Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources	On-going	
Recreation Opportunities		
1. Maintain park open to hunting.	On-going	
2. Identify opportunities to improve connectivity within and beyond park boundaries; e.g. opportunities to connect Waterloo RA through Pinckney RA to Lakelands Trail, Hudson Mills Metropark, Park Lyndon	2 Years	33
3. Consider ecotourism opportunities	On-going	
4. Identify water trail connections	2 Years	4
5. Coordinate County and Local Recreation Partners interpretation activities into Recreation Area programs.	On-going	
6. Develop ADA hunting opportunities	5 Years	0
8. Partner with neighboring communities to: (1) actively promote appropriate trail connections through and abutting the Recreation Area and (2) jointly develop trail routes that support the goals of the local partners, Pinckney and Waterloo Recreation Areas, and the PRD.	On-going	29
9. Determine feasibility and identify potential route(s) for a mountain bike connection between and through both Recreation Areas that would: (1) respect the trail integrity and visitor experience for hikers on established Waterloo-Pinckney Trail, and (2) afford physical connections to partner communities' trail systems.	Up to 2 Years for Planning Development - TBD	60
Education Opportunities		
1. Develop specific interpretation and education opportunities	On-going	
Management Focus		
1. Land acquisition within dedicated boundary	On-going	7
2. Modify NRC boundary per the Phase 1 plan recommendation	2 Years	
3. Prepare an Emergency Plan	Completed with Annual Update	1

4. Complete “sign-off” of the Wildfire Plan	2 Years	1
5. Explore and develop revenue generating opportunities that are sustainable.	On-going	2
6. Dedicate staffing and budget resources to address goals (including partnerships and volunteers as appropriate)	On-going	
7. Promote volunteer partnerships to meet resource goals	On-going	7
8. Develop a marketing plan for this park based on natural and historic resources found within the park, as well as its relationship to Pinckney RA	5 Years	1
9. Utilize variety of old and new media, including audio and visual technologies, podcasts, and the like for interpretation.	On-going	2
Development		
1. Develop assessment of satellite parking areas to analyze need, location and/or potential elimination	2 Years	

Primitive Zone		
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Responses**
Natural Resources in Primitive Zone		
1. Preserve/protect the native vegetation communities and habitat for species of special concern	On-going	4
Historic/Cultural Resources in Primitive Zone		
1.		
Recreation Opportunities in Primitive Zone		
1. Maintain and enhance low-impact opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping, bird watching, and trail use	On-going	4
Education Opportunities in Primitive Zone		
1. Coordinate interpretation activities with Recreation Partners	5 Years	
2. Develop interpretive messages for access points to the zone	5 Years	1
3. Continue operation of the Explorer Guides Program	On-going	1
Management Focus in Primitive Zone		
1. Refine survey of EMR habitat and follow EMR management guidelines	1 Year (survey) & On-going (guidelines)	
2. Address user conflicts	On-going	3
Develop in Primitive Zone		
1. Repair or replace boardwalk on Waterloo Pinckney Trail (connecting to Park Lyndon)	2 Years	8
2. Identify location of yurt within the zone and recommend zone change	1 Year	

Backcountry Zone		
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Responses**
Natural Resources in Backcountry Zone		
1.		
Historic/Cultural Resources in Backcountry Zone		
1.		
Recreation Opportunities in Backcountry Zone		
1. Maintain and enhance opportunities for birding hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping	On-going	2
2 Trail connection from Bruin Lake Campground to Waterloo-Pinckney Trail	5 Years	15
3. Investigate feasibility and impacts of trail expansion proposals for equestrian and/or mountain bike use	On-going	57
Education Opportunities in Backcountry Zone		
1. Develop and install off-site directional information for kayakers to get to campsites	2 Years	1
2. Develop/install kiosks and displays appropriate to the zone	5 Years	
Management Focus in Background Zone		
1. Address user conflicts	On-going	
2. Acquire Cunningham Property to fulfill PRD mission	On-going	
3. Acquire MSU Foundation property	1 Year	6
4. Identify and promote the Education/Interpretation opportunities in the zone	On-going	
5. Promote volunteer partnerships to meet resource goals	On-going	2
Development in Backcountry Zone		
2. Upgrade and/or re-route trails to accommodate use compatible with natural character of zone	On-going	6

Additional Comments for Backcountry Zone:

1. More mountain biking trails. As a new biker, I am proof that this sport is growing!
2. Response to #3 under Recreation, does “on-going” imply there is no specific time frame associated with the goal? I’d like to see a more specific time frame.
   Agree with above comment – ambiguous!

Natural Resource Recreation Zone		
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Responses**
Natural Resources in Natural Resource Recreation Zone		
1.		
Historic/Cultural Resources in Natural Resource Recreation Zone		
1. Interpretive sign at the Root Cellar and chimney homestead residence on Crooked Lake Trail.	5 Years	
Recreation Opportunities in Natural Resource Recreation Zone		
1. Investigate feasibility and impacts of trail expansion proposals	On-going	24
2. Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping, bird watching, trail use and camping	On-going	7
Education Opportunities in Natural Resource Recreation Zone		
1.		
Management Focus in Natural Resource Recreation Zone		
1. Preserve and protect the cultural resources	On-going	
2. Address user conflicts	On-going	
Development in Natural Resource Recreation Zone		
1. Restore and/or re-route unsustainable segments of trails	5 Years	14
2. Connect Pinckney RA through Stinchfield Woods to local metroparts (i.e. Hudson Mills, Dexter-Huron)	5 Years	19
3. Implement a phased approach to replace an estimated 1.5 miles of boardwalk within this zone	10 Years	1

Additional Comments for Natural Resource Recreation Zone:

1. Would like to see how mountain bike trails would interact with this
2. Possibly add another equestrian trail south of Patterson Lake, west of Kelly

Visitor Services Zone		
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Responses**
Natural Resources in Visitor Services Zone		
1. Remove invasive species near Park Headquarters	On-going	3
Historic/Cultural Resources in Visitor Services Zone		
1. Install Kiosk with History of Pinckney Recreation Area near HQ Entrance	8 Years	5
Recreation Opportunities in Visitor Services Zone		
1.		
Education Opportunities in Visitor Services Zone		
1. Provide Natural Resource and other related park information at HQ	On-going	1
Management Focus in Visitor Services Zone		
1. Provide superior customer service	On-going	1
Develop in Visitor Services Zone		
1. Finish ADA improvements to headquarter parking area and front counter	1 Year	1

Developed Recreation Zone		
Action Goal	**Target Date**	**Responses**
Natural Resources in Developed Recreation Zone		
1.		
Historic/Cultural Resources in Developed Recreation Zone		
1.		
Recreation Opportunities in Developed Recreation Zone		
1. Improve the Bruin Lake campground by correcting seasonal wet conditions of campsites	6 Years	1
2. Assess fishing piers for recreational and safety improvements	2 Years	
3. Provide restroom and beach improvements designed to enhance visitor experience	6 Years	5
Education Opportunities in Developed Recreation Zone		
1. Improve outreach/education opportunities by partnering with local service providers and businesses.	2 Years	
Management Opportunities in Developed Recreation Zone		
1. Facilitate a visioning session to identify future day use development and programming needs to attract new users to Half Moon Lake day use area	I Year	
2. Utilize the Bruin Lake Campground Study to make decision regarding restoration, improvements, and redevelopment	2 Years	
3. Address user conflicts	On-going	
4. Utilize Boat Access Sites (BAS) study to make improvements as needed	On-going	1
Development in Developed Recreation Zone		
1. Construct new bathroom facilities at Half Moon Lake	8 Years	8
2. Replace fishing pier at Silver Lake	5 Years	
3. Restore Silver Lake beach and utilize erosion-prevention strategies	4 Years	
4. Improve beach at Half Moon Lake	5 Years	2
5. Resurface Entrance Rd at Half Moon Beach	5 Years	2
6. Improvements to the Half Moon Lake well house with shingle and pump replacement.	5 Years	2
7. Boat Launch Ramp Improvements	2 Years	
8. Playground and shoreline safety improvements at Silver Lake Unit	1 Year	2
9. Grill and picnic table repair/replacement	On-going	1
10. Improvements to Silver Lake Bathhouse with repair of roof, and partition and door replacement	2 Years	3
11. Installation of handpump at Potawatomi Trailhead	3 Years	14

Additional Comments for Developed Recreation Zone:

1. Integrate mountain biking into future improvements.
2. Provide changing areas/locker rooms.

PINCKNEY & WATERLOO RECREATION AREAS
10-YEAR ACTION GOALS

ADDITIONAL ACTION GOALS TO CONSIDER:

Action Goal	Recreation Area
1. Dispersed camping opportunities – plenty of room for it. Right now, someone can only do this up north in state designated natural forests	Both
2. Designated path for bike access to beach area at Silver Lake after ride/swimming	Pinckney
3. Look at the CAPT/DART regional transit path plan and coordinate with them. CAPT = Chelsea Area Planning; DART = Dexter Area Region Transit	Both
4. Explore better forest management, including opportunities for selective logging/harvesting as income stream and to improve health of forest	Both
5. Open more equestrian trails south of Patterson Lake, West of Kelley	Pinckney
6. Have access to trails for equestrians from Waterloo to Pinckney – maybe by special permit.	Both
7. In the description of the activities both 'bicycling' and 'mountain biking' are used. I asked one DNR person if that meant 'bicycling' is on pavement and 'mountain biking' is on trail. He said that they both mean 'mountain biking.' Please define the terms more clearly in your plan so it is clear what kind of activity you are referring to.	Both
8. Improve directional signage and welcoming character of entrances	Both
9. Improve maps, ID roads around lakes on maps. More details	Both
10. Improve signage regarding use of trails. Can they be used for bikes.	Both
11. Welcome center areas for backcountry camping registration.	Both
12. Goal regarding ongoing feasibility to study trail use needs to be redefined to be more specific as an action goal with deadlines	Pinckney
13. Incorporate the mountain biking trails to go by some of the scenic overlay zones.	Waterloo
14. Establish professionally designed bike trails which pass by interesting historic/natural areas	Waterloo
15. Inclusion/planning for mountain bike trails that can possibly connect to Pinckney RA.	Waterloo
16. Establish sustainable, world-class mountain bike trail in conjunction with MMBA/IMBA	Waterloo
17. Use aggregate industries land as site for MTB skills area, pump track, jump zone, etc.	Waterloo
18. Have short trails open to biking at Sugar Loaf – my kids used to ride some of the trails but last time we went there a "no bikes" sign was posted; no we camp elsewhere since my kids want to ride their bikes	Waterloo

Carlos Fetterolf
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2 Oct 2012

Comment to the MDNR re Pickerel Lake as part of the Long Range Planning for the Waterloo and Pinckney Recreation Areas

The MDNR made an excellent decision re Pickerel Lake some 5-plus years ago by removing the dock and NOT constructing an access for larger motorized boats , e.g. bass boats, thus preserving the quiet character of this geologic treasure. The public demonstrated it's love affair with Pickerel Lake at the public hearing and the Department responded well.

Looking to the future of this unique gem, the MDNR seems to be overlooking an opportunity for fishery management. The lake is listed as a trout lake, but has not been stocked for several years as far as I know. Rainbow trout provided a fishery not often found in southern Michigan, especially within striking distance of the Ann Arbor and Lansing urban areas.

Lake herring (ciscoes) had a self sustaining population in past years in Pickerel Lake. I'm no sure of the current status, but it could be reestablished/supplemented from St. Marys River stocks.

The current launching facility makes it difficult for handicapped folks (old age included) to drag a stable boat to the water from the parking area. With some modification an easier launch could be accomplished without compromising the swimming area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Let's all look forward.

I am responding to the 09/13/12 MDNR email re long range planning for the Waterloo and Pinckney Recreation Areas. I will not be able to attend the October 2 planning meeting and so am offering my written comments for your consideration.

Pickerel Lake in the Pinckney Recreational Area is an ecological gem that deserves special attention in any MDNR long range planning effort. Keeping the lake and surrounding watershed in an undisturbed natural condition while allowing reasonable public use should be of high priority.

I have enjoyed fishing Pickerel Lake since the mid-1950s for warm water fishes and somewhat more recently for stocked rainbow trout. Unfortunately trout stocking has been discontinued and boating access to the lake has been made more difficult for the elderly (but not yet quite legally handicapped) by altering the access site to prevent launching of trailered boats. Canoes and Kayaks are great vessels, I have owned and used both, but we elderly who still wish to "boat" tend to gravitate, for safety sake, to something with a bit more stability. Car-top boats are stable, but even the smallest tend to be a challenge to those of us who are not weight lifters. I firmly support a ban on the use of outboard motors on the lake, but would favor modification of the launch area to again allow angler access of trailered boats that are propelled by rowing. A simple, graveled ramp like the one that existed previously would be adequate and would blend with the natural setting. Providing 3 or 4 near-site parking spaces for use only by vehicles with boat trailers would limit such use to reasonable levels and the parking area could be located in the woods away from the lake and so screened from lakeside view to maintain the natural condition of the lake and immediate surrounds.

Resumption of trout stocking in Pickerel Lake would also a restore an interesting lake fishery that presently exists nowhere in Washtenaw County and in few areas in southern Michigan. Aquatic insect hatches are good in spring and trout rise readily to dry flies. The lake stratifies thermally in summer and the cold thermocline provides a thermal refuge that will support over-summer survival of trout.

The lake historically supported a population of native ciscoes (Coregonusartedi, a glacial relict species which like trout requires cold water habitat. I suspect that ciscos persist in the lake and a management plan for the lake should strive to ensure their continued presence. Fishing regulations for cisco in the lake should allow only hook and line fishing (gill netting was once allowed) and should limit catch to levels consistent with maintaining a healthy, self-sustaining population.

Thanks for your attention and the opportunity to comment on this matter. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Thomas A. Edsall
Fishery Scientist

Bikers and horses: Don't just let them.

Rork Kuick [rork@umich.edu]

Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 10:13 AM

To: David Birchler

Dear David Birchler, and managers of the Waterloo and Pinckney recreation areas,

Thanks for the presentation and other information at the Discovery Center on Oct1. I want to write the rec area managers to ask them not to give the horse and bike people everything they want. I have many other priorities, but am most worried about them. I'd also ask that the horses not be allowed their special days to use trails normally restricted to foot traffic. It's not fair to the rest of us to have our trails chewed up in a single day. It's quite upsetting.

The goals of I and my friends when visiting the Waterloo and Pinckney recreation areas is to hunt deer and turkeys, fish, study (and sometimes collect) mushrooms and berries, botanize, walk, swim, and just see beautiful scenery, plants, and animals. I particularly value the incredible diversity of wetlands, and also the forest areas with the oldest trees which I think might be undervalued, since people I take there are surprised to see some of the best big-tree forests in all of Michigan, here, down south. I'm very concerned about invasive plants, particularly autumn olive and alien buckthorns and honeysuckles that have made some areas I once found beautiful to be impenetrable, or ghastly. I kill such plants and many others regularly as a volunteer steward for the DNR at both these rec areas and several others. I hope to do more stewardship work directly for the rec areas.

A main reason I write is that I'm very concerned that the mountain bikers and horse people are very over-represented in this process, and they have worked hard to insure that. They may figure that by coming out in force they will have influence beyond their actual numbers or their cost/benefit. I hope that's not true since their wishes are opposed to mine, and I think many other people as well, who are not coming to give feedback at these meetings. I hope that instead that the interests of all the users, present or not, is what matters, and that there are estimates of that use. For example, it wasn't a good day to get hunters out to a meeting outside their tree-stands since it was Oct 2. A meeting about such a detailed local matter doesn't make it on the radar of the average hunter, birder, or mushroom hunter. We mostly just depend on you to not screw the area up too badly.

I am asking for no expansion, or very limited expansion, of horse or bike trails. Ideally for me, there would be none at all, but I understand about multiple uses and some fairness and that I'm not the only user. They should get some space, the question is how much. I ask it not be too much, perhaps no more than now, because the truth is they do ruin it to some extent for the rest of us. Even a single bike trail through a block of land can mean there are few or no remaining circular walks one can take and not have to use a bike or horse trail in that area. I live near Silver Lake and used to walk there very often but now almost never, and that switch is entirely about bikers. These folks will try very hard to expand their opportunities, while those opposed, though perhaps legion, are not as motivated to try and stop them for asking for a bit more here or there. Hunters will just move to use other blocks of land, or other public land entirely, as will other users who find the experience of the horse and bike trails diminishes the area. We've done it before. I'm not a birder, but have not noticed the birders impact me in a negative way that is a hundredth of the impact of the horses and bikes.

Please don't expand their trails too much, since it is a loss for me, and very many other people.

Rork Kuick
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Proposal from the

Communities Surrounding the Waterloo-Pinckney Trail

Supporting Community members: Township Supervisors: Grass Lake Twp. - Jim Stormont, Waterloo Twp.- Doug Lance, Lyndon Twp. - John Francis, Chelsea Major-Jason Lindauar, Chelsea Wellness Foundation - Amy Heydlauff , Fitness Council of Jackson– Scott TenBrink, Community cycling advocates: Mike Casey, Ruth Riediman State Rep- Mike Shirkey

Proposing:

Allow mountain bikers access to the Waterloo & Pinckney Recreation Areas.

There are many wonderful uses of the Waterloo- Pinckney Trail; hiking, horseback riding, hunting, bird watching, snow shoeing, cross country skiing as well as other outdoor activities. The goal of this committee is to allow access of bicycles to the sections of the trail that are currently prohibited. This area is west of the Potawatomi Trail.

Our overall goal is creating a trail system or loop that would extend from Portage Lake in Jackson County to the Pinckney Recreation Area.

There are four short term goals of mountain biking for the Waterloo Pinckney trail.

1. Allow immediate access to existing trails that are not utilized by horses.
2. Be allowed to repair and reroute sections of the Trail that are damaged or in disrepair.
3. Develop and Design a trail loop with the help of the MDNR.
4. Hold an annual mountain bike race to help promote the trail system.

Our vision is to design and build an epic trail system that would attract users from all over the Midwest and beyond. This proposal already offers the natural beauty and terrain for the intended use. The proposed trail will also offer local community's additional options to promote healthier life styles. We hope to create a long term solution so that the local community's can be provided a trail system for bike riders and hikers while keeping in mind all user groups. We hope to utilize as much existing trail as possible. We do see the need to add new return trails to complete a loop and to bypass the existing horse trail system between Mt. Hope Rd. and Sugarloaf Horseman's Campground.

The proposed trail will be a long term project that will be done in stages but to be completed in 5 years or less. We will be able to do this project utilizing several local and regional organizations such as MMBA, IMBA, the Chelsea Wellness Foundation, and the MDNR. We plan to request additional chapters of the MMBA as well as the creation of our own local nonprofit group which will be known as "Friends of Waterloo-Pinckney Trail." They will help coordinate the maintenance and building the trail. We will utilize the expertise of IMBA and the MDNR for designing and building of the trail. We will also provide funding for materials needed that are unable to be provided by the MDNR.

We plan to hold an annual mountain bike race to help promote the area and raise funds to help maintain the trail. We would enlist a regional race promoter to help manage the race. The race, as we see it, will be a point to point race which would start at one end, possibly Portage Lake and finish at the end of the trail in Pinckney.

Advantages in allowing biking on the Waterloo Pinckney trail:

1. Financial impact to local communities by regional visitors using the trail system. This will benefit all retailers and bring great exposure to the surrounding communities.
2. Offer additional reasons to access trail system and healthy use of public land.
3. Increased usage will increase purchases of Michigan State Park Passports.
4. Development of a more user friendly and better maintained trail system.
5. Increase the health of surrounding community members by offering additional outdoor activities.
6. Decrease of illegal activity on public land.

As seen throughout the State of Michigan, when bicycle accessible trails are made available they get used. Our surrounding communities are committed to cycling and an active life style as seen by the growing use of the Fallingwater Trail in Jackson County and the Lakelands Trail in Hamburg County. Projects are being proposed to connect the two trails. Both trails have had great success for businesses and overall community support, and we hope to have the same success. We hope to expand on the success and add additional options for bike riders. Currently there is not a mountain bike trail system for community's west of highway M52. Bikers want to have access to the natural beauty of the Waterloo- Pinckney Trail. Adding mountain biking to this area would help make the Waterloo & Pinckney Recreation Areas a true destination in our state.

Waterloo Area Mountain Bikers (WAMB)
Trails Working Group

BACKGROUND

Since mountain biking first came on the scene as an outdoor activity in the mid- to late-1980s, Michigan mountain bikers have been trying to secure trail access at Waterloo Recreation Area (RA), the largest State RA in Southern Michigan, located in Eastern Jackson and Western Washtenaw Counties. While neighboring Pinckney RA management was an early adopter in accommodating off-road bicycling on its Potawatomi Trail, Waterloo Area management was never receptive to accommodating the needs of cyclists despite being managed by the same State of Michigan Agency – the Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). Recently, as a result of a new MDNR Master Planning Phase for Waterloo RA and associated stakeholder input, the MDNR has moved to create access for mountain bikers at Waterloo, deciding it "*will support a separate (new) mountain bike trail (at Waterloo RA) that does not conflict with the hiking trail experience*".

In an August 6, 2012 letter to various stakeholders, Paul N. Curtis, Park Management Plan Administrator with the MDNR Parks and Recreation Division wrote the following:

We will look at (proposal for mountain bike trail) in a broader context, with the following desired outcomes (action goals) that do not pre-suppose use of any one particular existing trail:

- *Connection of Pinckney RA and Waterloo RA by mountain bike trail and development of mountain bike trail loop(s) within Waterloo RA by development of a separate trail that does not conflict with other park users including Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA), equestrians, hikers/runners, and other trail users.*
- *Specific mountain bike trail route plans to be developed by mountain bike interests in collaboration with all impacted user groups and the MDNR.*
- *Seek collaborative funding sources to help develop and maintain mountain bike trails.*
- *Promotion/marketing of mountain bike trail opportunities, including the holding events, to help support operation and maintenance of the mountain bike trail system.*
- *Promotion of neighboring communities' trail connections to/from Waterloo and Pinckney RA.*
- *Establishment of a mountain bike trail support group.*

Subsequent to this letter, Jason Aric Jones, the current Potowatomi Mountain Biking Association (PMBA) Trail Coordinator at neighboring Pinckney Recreation Area who acts as a liaison between the MDNR Pinckney RA Manager and the mountain bike community, initiated discussions with various area mountain biking related stakeholders regarding the August 6, 2012 MDNR letter. The resulting general consensus of the discussion participants was that it would be beneficial to assemble a working group with the mission of facilitating a feasibility study of Waterloo with an end goal of coming up with a tangible plan for a new mountain bike trail system.

The purpose of this document is to layout the objectives, action steps and timelines of the Waterloo RA Mountain Bike Trails Working Group (WWG). This document will be shared with area mountain bike stakeholders in the Greater Waterloo Area with an established record of involvement in mountain bike trails advocacy, construction and maintenance in an effort to solicit their involvement with and membership on the WWG.

OBJECTIVE

The objectives of the WWG with respect to establishing new mountain bike trail at Waterloo RA will be as follows:

1. **Analyze Feasibility**

   Action Steps:

   A. Desk Review

   - Use layered .pdf maps provided by MDNR Consultant Birchler-Arroyo that indicate Park boundaries, management zones and topography to assess "best options" for mountain bike trail in each area of the RA. The RA will be divided into several different sections, with sub-groups of the main WWG taking on the responsibility of assessing each section.

B. Field Review

- Building on the findings of the Desk Review, the Field Review will confirm and validate "best options" for each section by walking the areas identified during the desk review.

C. Aggregation of Findings

- Each sub-group assessing various "best options" for trail during the Desk and Field Review phases will come together with the stated goal of piecing together section review findings in an effort to assemble several potential options for a complete mountain bike trail plan.

D. Prepare Report for MDNR

- The several identified options for a complete mountain bike trail will be assembled in a written report and provided MDNR Parks and Recreation Division Planners for review.

2. **Recommend Trail Options to MDNR**

Action Steps:

A. Submit Report to MDNR

- The aforementioned report will be submitted to MDNR Parks and Recreation Division Planners for review. This report will also be provided, at the discretion of the MDNR, to other RA stakeholder groups and the public for comment.

B. Receive Feedback on Options

- Feedback and input from the MDNR and other stakeholders will be assessed.

C. Work with MDNR to Select Options and Finalize a Plan

- New trails plans for use by mountain bikers will be solidified.

3. **Complete Implementation of Plan and Development of Trail**

Action Steps:

A. Formation of permanent Waterloo Area Mountain Bike Association 501(c)(3)

B. Determine Best Options to Realize Trail Plan

i. Assess Potential Use of Professional Trail Builder & Volunteer Labor

iii. Assess and Actualize Fundraising Needs for Initial Construction

iv. Assess and Actualize Fundraising Needs for On-Going Maintenance

C. Exercise Completion Options and Create Trail

ACTION STEP TIMELINE

Mid-September 2012 through October 2012

- Email pre-identified WWG members and communicate WWG plan, objectives, action steps and timeline.
- Have initial meeting to:
  Introduce members and initiate Desk Review process, including the explanation of use of consultant provided digital maps and sectional divisions, formation of sectional sub-groups and distribution of map materials via DropBox.
- Commence and complete Desk Review

October through December 2012

- Sub-groups commence Field Review after leaves fall and sightlines clear to validate desk review findings and confirm/establish general (not specific) best trail route options. Sub-groups may meet in-person or virtually to discuss findings as they deem necessary.
- Sub-groups will plot out best trail options with generalized accuracy on either on GIS Topo or consultant provided digital maps for each of their respective sections

January through February 2013

- The totality of the WWG will meet in-person as necessary in order to compile best trail options routes to be presented to the MDNR. Detail to be compiled will include not only trail plotting on maps, but also qualitative narrative highlights to be included in the written report/plan for the MDNR.

March 2013

- Report will be compiled by members of the WWG to be determined and presented to the MDNR by the end of March.

March 2013 through August 2013

- Plan review and feedback, followed by finalization with the MDNR.

September 2013 – December 2013

- Trail construction phase initiates, full completion date TBD

Appendix B –Planning Team Meeting Agendas & Summaries

A G E N D A

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION
Pinckney & Waterloo Recreation Areas
General Management Plan – Phase 2 Kick-Off Meeting
April 10, 2012
Eddy Discovery Center
Waterloo Recreation Area

Planning Team Meeting: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

1. Introductions
2. Review Phase 1 Management Plans
    - Management Zone Maps
    - Summary Sheet of Approved Management Zones
    - Review and Discuss Management Zones with Planning Team
3. Timelines & Milestones
4. Outcomes of Phase 2
5. Identify responsibilities of resource program team members
6. Identify additional stakeholders
7. Identify known conflicts/unresolved issues
8. Next Meeting Date

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Phase 2 Stakeholder Input Review Meeting
Pinckney & Waterloo State Recreation Areas
April 10, 2012 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
GoToMeeting

1. Meeting Attendees: Paul Curtis, PRD; Gary Jones; Lisa Gamero; Katie McGlashen; Chuck Dennison; Joe Strach; David Birchler; Susie Roble

2. The purpose of the meeting was to review how the stakeholder's prioritized the long-term action goals, and additional stakeholder comments.

3. All Action Goal revisions were inserted directly into plan

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Phase 2 Planning Team Meeting #2
Pinckney & Waterloo State Recreation Areas
May 15, 2012 from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Eddy Discovery Center

1. Meeting Attendees: Paul Curtis, PRD; Kristen Bissell, Wildlife Division; Jeff Braunscheidel, Fisheries Division; Matt Lincoln, PRD; Lisa Gamero, PRD; Greg Byce, PRD – Waterloo; Chuck Dennison, PRD – Pinckney; Ray Fahlsing, PRD; Bill Boik, Paul's Boss; Gary Jones, PRD-Waterloo; David Birchler, BA; Susie Roble, BA

2. Review of Legal Parameters Summary

   - Land Acquisitions
     - LWCF strings attached to entire park, if not limited in the original grant application
     - Jeff recommended we assemble a more comprehensive description of what the funding source limitations are; contacts include Earl Flegler – Wildlife, Public Land Coordinator; Christine Hannaburg – Federal Aid Coordination – Wildlife; Paul Yauk - PRD

3. Worked on Draft Phase 2 Long-Range Action Goals Plan for Pinckney RA and Waterloo RA
   - See revised draft

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Phase 2 Stakeholder Input Review Meeting
Pinckney & Waterloo State Recreation Areas
August 9, 2012 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
GoToMeeting

1. Meeting Attendees: Paul Curtis, PRD; Gary Jones; Lisa Gamero; Katie McGlashen; Chuck Dennison; Joe Strach; David Birchler; Susie Roble

2. The purpose of the meeting was to review how the stakeholder's prioritized the long-term action goals, and additional stakeholder comments.

Pinckney Comments

- We discussed how to handle the time frame of certain action goals that received higher priority by stakeholders. We decided that we should keep the assigned time frames so that the goal can be met in a realistic period of time.
- Paul commented that Ray and Glenn will need to determine how to handle the invasive species plan (ex: could be broken down into smaller action goals; Dave will follow up with Ray/Glenn
- Hand pump Location comment – Chuck commented that the existing hand pump is at an key location because it is a water source for when the bathrooms are closed for the season
- Yurt Location comment – Paul commented that the Phase I GMP identifies a yurt as appropriate for the Primitive Zone (it's accessible via hiking or canoeing)

In general, we decided that we will respond to comments via a general thank-you letters stating that their comments were reviewed and acknowledged during this meeting.

Waterloo Comments

- We revised the goal concerning establishing a physical connection between Waterloo and Pinckney…etc.; this goal was moved to the Backcountry Zone and now reads, "Establish additional physical connection between Pinckney RA and Waterloo RA through Backcountry Zone by acquisition of property from MSU Foundation to re-route mountain biking trail around Park Linden." (This same change was made in the Pinckney Action Goals Plan)
- Chuck commented that the DNR is close to establishing a connection between Waterloo and Pinckney via the MSU Foundation property; this would re-route mountain bikers around Park Linden since they are currently not permitted through Park Linden
- Mike Casey's "epic trail system" proposal – Dave discussed his conversation with Amy from the Chelsea Wellness Foundation. Paul gave a brief overview of Mike Casey's proposal and Paul's response letter. We will develop general action goals that are applicable for both Pinckney and Waterloo: 1) one action goal will focus on potential improved connection between Pinckney and Waterloo for bikers; 2) another goal will focus on promotion of neighboring communities' trail connections to/from/through Waterloo and Pinckney RA.
    - Paul commented that the proposed bike trail cannot conflict with the experience of hikers using the hiking trails
    - Chuck noted that there's a need to repair/reroute unsustainable section of Poto trail before building a new trail. Also, 7-8 miles of PW Trail is on Poto and he doesn't support mountain bike race on the Poto PW segment.

- Paul and DB will take a shot at a new Action Goal, share with team for input. Paul will take the goal to Section Chief's meeting on Aug. 27th.
    - Waterloo is currently limited in ability to provide loop trails; only loop trail is located at Eddy Discovery Center (comment from Mr. Tislerics) – we made this a general action goal for Waterloo
    - The DNR is already working to identify additional, dispersed, rustic camping opportunities - we made this a general action goal for Waterloo
    - Waterloo Hunt Club – ridge line trail around the fen, directly across from the Waterloo Hunt Club. Gary mentioned that the trail is not on any trail map b/c it's not a designated trail. This needs to be worked out in the lease agreement as a recognized trail route. Leave will preserve the historical use, possibly by a Backcountry Corridor designation.
    - Equestrian Campground – relocate and expand the Action Goal regarding assessment

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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Phase 2 Planning Team Meeting
Review of Public Input Comments
Pinckney & Waterloo State Recreation Areas
October 26th, 2012
GoToMeeting

1. Meeting Attendees: Paul Curtis; Chuck Dennison; Dustin Corr; Gary Jones; Jeff Braunscheidel; Lisa Gamero; Joe Strach; Matt Lincoln; Dave Birchler; Susie Roble
2. Purpose of meeting was to review comments received at the public input meeting.
3. Review of "Additional Comments"

   A. We determined that several of the comments are already embodied in Phase 2 action goals

   B. New goals:

   a. Coordinate with user groups, neighboring communities, and other local and state agencies to determine feasibility of a connection from Waterloo RA to Lakelands Trail SP. (added to Waterloo General Recreation Opportunities)

   b. Develop a plan for improving all types of navigation aids to major units of both recreational areas, including on freeways, county road, internal roads/trails, GPS sources, park maps, and the like. (add under General Management Goals for both parks)

   c. Evaluate opportunities for family-oriented loop tails near developed units (add under General Recreation Opportunities for both parks)

   d. Evaluate and assess transitioning Green Lake Campground to an overnight lodging areas with a combination of cabins, yurts, and 5 rustic campsites. (under Recreation in Developed Recreation Zone for Waterloo)

   e. Dave will draft a goal pertaining to the identifying sustainable routes for an equestrian trail east of the current Equestrian Campground for Waterloo.

   C. Review of Action Goal Poster Activity Results

   a. We decided to delete the second goal under General Management Focus for Waterloo since it didn't have any merit

   D. Review of Emailed Comments