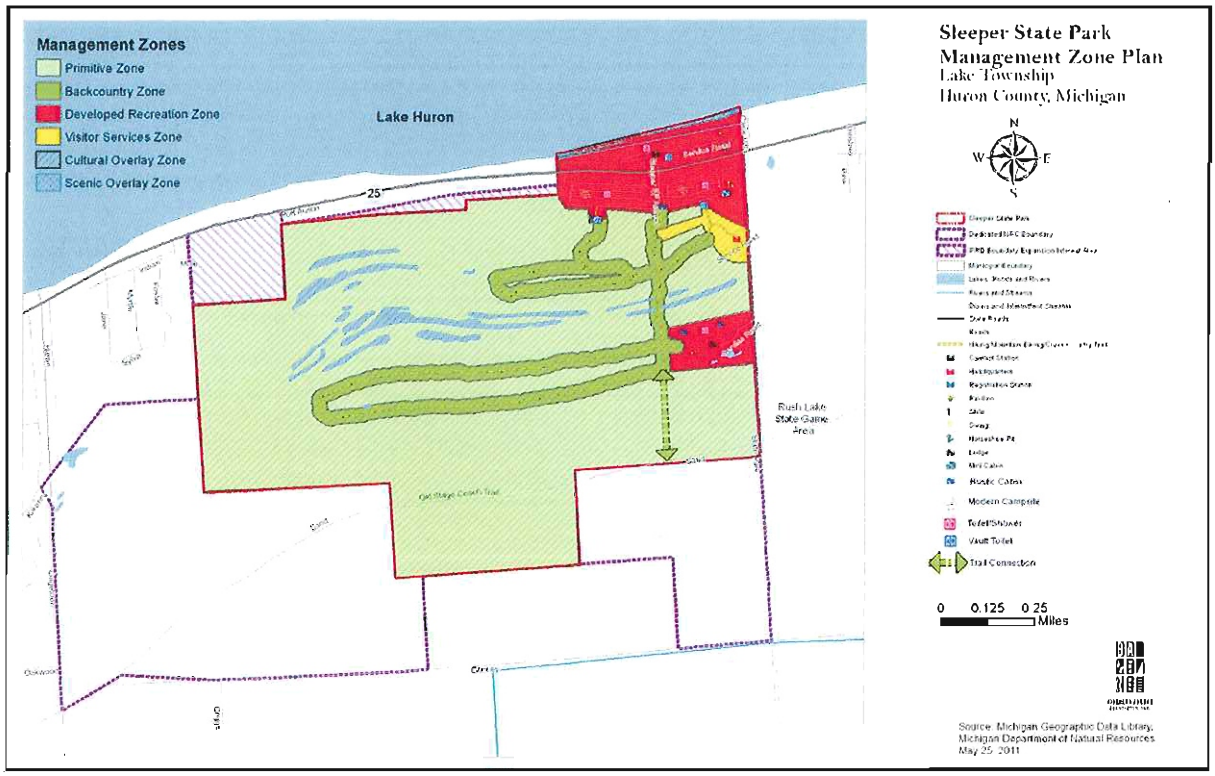
General Management Plan

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

Sleeper State Park

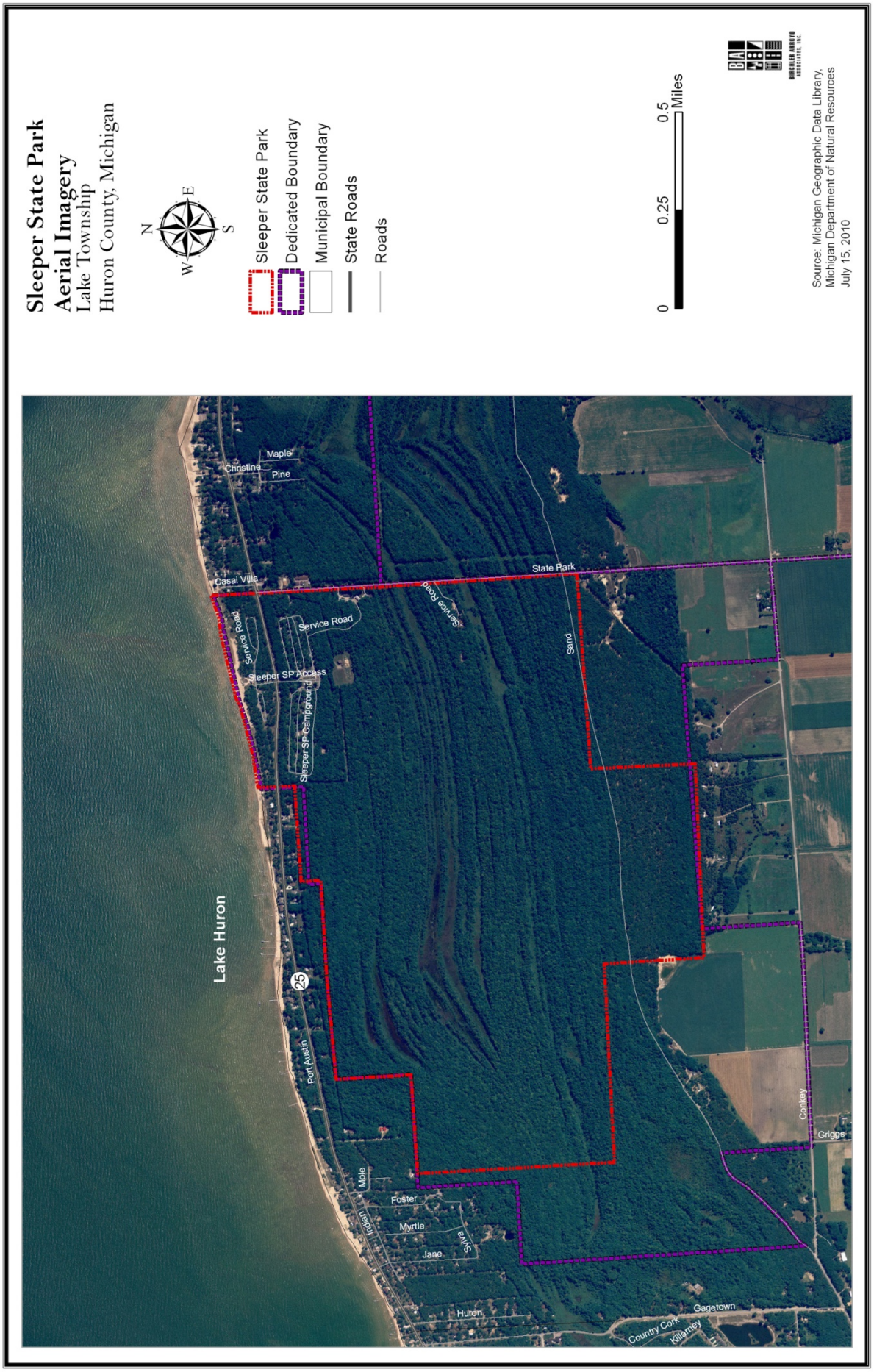


This project was funded, in part, by the Michigan Coastal Management Program, Department of Natural Resources, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration U.S. Department of Commerce.

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

PLAN APPROVALS:

Chief, Parks & Recreation Division	9/19/11 Date
Deputy Director, Natural Resources	9/21/2011 Date
Director, Department of Natural Resources	9/22/11 Date


Sleeper State Park
Aerial Imagery
Lake Township
Huron County, Michigan
N
E
S
W
Sleeper State Park
Dedicated Boundary
Municipal Boundary
State Roads
Roads
0
0.25
0.5
Miles
Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library,
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
July 15, 2010
Lake Huron
Maple
Christine
Pine
Casai Villa
Service Road
Service Road
Sleeper SP Access
Sleeper SP Campground
State Park
Service Road
Sand
25
Port Austin
Mole
Foster
Myrtle
Jane
Silva
Huron
Gagetown
Country Cork
Killarney
Conkey
Griggs

RESOLUTION NO. 08-2011-01

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE "SLEEPER STATE PARK – PHASE 1 - GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN"

ADOPTED: AUGUST 11, 2011

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Submitted by: MSPAC Operations and Stewardship Subcommittee

Motioned by:	**Mike McDonald**	**Yeas:**	**7**
Seconded by:	**Robert Hoffmeyer**	**Nays:**	**0**
		Abstained:	**0**
		Absent:	**7**

This Resolution was adopted by the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee at their August 11, 2011, meeting as Resolution No. 08-2011-01.

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Executive Summary

Sleeper State Park (SSP) is a 787-acre park located in Huron County, Michigan. The Phase I General Management Plan (GMP) process for SSP was made possible, in part, by funding provided by the Michigan Coastal Management Program. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks & Recreation Division (PRD) oversaw the planning process. The endeavor represents a new planning philosophy of the PRD. “Management Planning,” a comprehensive, resource-based process, is the PRD’s adaptation of National Park Service planning methodology. During Phase 1, the GMP focuses on the four principles of the PRD Mission Statement: to acquire, preserve and protect; (1) natural resources, (2) cultural resources, (3) provide public recreation, and (4) provide educational opportunities. The process includes a thorough inventory of Sleeper State Park’s natural and historic/cultural resources, recreational opportunities and educational and interpretation opportunities.

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

1. Sleeper State Park contains undisturbed wooded dune/swale complex and globally rare oak-pine barrens.

2. The park is adjacent to the 2,000-acre Rush Lake State Game Area making it feel like a larger 2,700 acre complex.

3. There is potential archaeological significance within the park.

4. The park serves as a stop for bird migration, notably for sand hill cranes, and birds of prey.

5. The Outdoor Center was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and provides unique recreation and retreat facilities, as well as an opportunity for interpretive activities related to the CCC.

6. The park features ½-mile shoreline and undisturbed beach ridges. The shoreline is an important part of the Tip of the Thumb Heritage Water Trail and presents significant opportunity for university shoreline research.

7. The park is uniquely situated such that visitors can view both sunrise and sunset during the peak season.

8. The park is five miles from the City of Caseville enjoys a mutually beneficial relationship with local festivals and events, such as the City's annual "Cheeseburger Festival."

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

- ❑ Primitive Zone comprises approximately 606 acres, or 77%, and reflects a desired condition that emphasizes the natural resources. This zone preserves and protects the unique dune/swale complex found in this park.

- ❑ Backcountry Zone comprises approximately 90 acres, or 11%, and emphasizes resource quality over recreation, but allows for modification of the landscape to allow for moderate levels of active recreation uses. This zone applies to the existing hike/bike trail system and to a future trail connection to Sand Road.

- ❑ Developed Recreation Zone comprises approximately 84 acres, or 11%, and allows active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced as possible. The campground, the Outdoor Center complex, and day-use swimming and picnic areas will be in this zone.

- ❑ Visitor Services Zone comprises approximately 8 acres, or 1%, and encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. This zone includes the park headquarters and maintenance facilities that support the business of running a state park. The current administrative and maintenance offices for the park will be in the Visitor Services Zone.

- ❑ Cultural Overlay Zone covers 1 acre, or .09%, and addresses the overall setting in which is found not only historic structures, but non-structural evidence of the traditions, beliefs, practices, lifeways, arts, crafts and social institutions of any community. The underlying management zones will still apply.

- ❑ Scenic Overlay Zone comprises approximately 9 acres, or 1%, and recognizes that there are aesthetic qualities to be preserved and protected in the park. This zone recognizes the scenic value of the lakeshore along Lake Huron. The underlying management zones also apply.

1.0 Plan Process Overview

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Visitor experience
- Management Focus
- Development

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

1.1 Planning Objectives

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

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

1.2 Planning Team

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

DNR STAFF

Paul N. Curtis	PRD	Project Manager
Ray Fahlsing	PRD	Stewardship Program Manager
Glenn Palmgren	PRD	Stewardship Ecologist
Lisa Gamero	PRD	Stewardship Cultural Specialist
Bob Clancy	PRD	Stewardship Ecological Restoration Specialist
Carl Lindell	PRD	District Supervisor
Kristen Bennett	PRD	District Planner
Elizabeth Kish	PRD	Park Manager
George Lauinger	PRD	Park Manager
James Baker	FD	Fisheries Unit Manager
Kathrin Schrouder	FD	Fisheries Biologist
Bruce Miller	FMD	Area Fire Supervisor
Tom Hoane	FMD	Geologist
Arnie Karr	WD	Wildlife Biologist
Don Bonnette	WD	Wildlife Technician
T. Scott Brown	LED	Conservation Officer

Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)

Dean Anderson	Archeologist
Wayne Lusardi	Marine Archeologist

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

Charmaine Benz	Tribal Council
Marcella Hadden	Public Relations Rep
Willie Johnson	Ziibiwing Center
Bonnie Ekdahl	Ziibiwing Center

Michigan Archeological Society

Don Simons

Consultants

David Birchler, Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.
Jill Bahm, Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.

1.3 Management Plan Planning Process

In 2009, Parks & Recreation Division of the DNR received a federal grant from the Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM) for the purpose of developing an individual long-range Management Plan for Sleeper State Park. Without the CZM grant, insufficient resources in staff or funding would have precluded these planning efforts.

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

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

2.0 Core Values

2.1 MISSION STATEMENTS

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

DNR Mission Statement

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

PRD Mission Statement

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

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

2.2 PARK PURPOSE

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

1. To be used as a public park, pursuant to the intentions of the park first being created in 1925 as a county park, and in 1927 as it was acquired by the State.
2. To preserve and protect Sleeper State Park's unique natural resources for current and future generations.
3. To provide diverse recreational opportunities to nearby populations.
4. To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflect the DNR mission and the unique qualities of Sleeper State Park

2.3 PARK SIGNIFICANCE

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

1. Sleeper State Park contains undisturbed wooded dune/swale complex and a quality example of oak-pine barrens.

2. The park is adjacent to the 2,000-acre Rush Lake State Game Area making it feel like a larger 2,700 acre complex.

3. There is archaeological significance within the park.

4. The park serves as a staging area and landfall for neotropical songbirds and birds of prey.

5. The Outdoor Center was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and provides unique recreation and retreat facilities, as well as an opportunity for interpretive activities related to the CCC.

6. The park features ½-mile shoreline and undisturbed beach ridges. The shoreline is an important part of the Tip of the Thumb Heritage Water Trail and presents significant opportunity for university shoreline research.

7. The park is uniquely situated such that visitors can view both sunrise and sunset during the peak summer season.

8. The park is five miles from the City of Caseville enjoys a mutually beneficial relationship with local festivals and events, such as the City's annual "Cheeseburger Festival."

2.4 LEGAL MANDATES

For all park General Management Plans, all legal mandates will be identified and will serve to further guide the development of the General Management Plan and subsequent Action Plans. For our planning purposes, the term "Legal Mandates" refers to not only state law, but also the administrative tools of "Policy" and "Directive" of the Natural Resource Commission, the Department, and the Parks & Recreation Division. Examples include Wildlife Conservation Orders, Orders of the Director, and all other laws, commission orders, and rules or directives that apply to the park. Specific to Sleeper SP, the following legal mandates have been identified:

PA 451 OF 1994, PART 741 - STATE PARK SYSTEM - NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT - This act is the recodification of law that established the Michigan State Park System and defined the powers and duties of same. Notable in this law is Section 324.74102 which identifies the duties of the department and reinforces those core values cited above.

This section reads:

(1) "The legislature finds:

(a) Michigan State Parks preserve and protect Michigan's significant natural and historic resources.
(b) Michigan State Parks are appropriate and uniquely suited to provide opportunities to learn about protection and management of Michigan's natural resources.
(c) Michigan State Parks are an important component of Michigan's tourism industry and vital to local economies.

(2) The department shall create, maintain, operate, promote, and make available for public use and enjoyment a system of state parks to preserve and protect Michigan's significant natural resources and areas of natural beauty or historic significance, to provide open space for public recreation, and to provide an opportunity to understand Michigan's natural resources and need to protect and manage those resources."

PA 451 of 1994, Part 303 - WETLANDS PROTECTION (formerly Act No. 203, P.A. 1979 Wetland Protection Act) Administered by the DEQ. In 1979, the Michigan legislature passed the Geomare-Anderson Wetlands Protection Act, 1979 PA 203, which is now Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has adopted administrative rules which provide clarification and guidance on interpreting Part 303. Some wetlands in coastal areas are given further protection under Part 323, Shorelands Protection and Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.

In accordance with Part 303, wetlands are regulated if they are any of the following:

- Connected to one of the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair.
- Located within 1,000 feet of one of the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair.
- Connected to an inland lake, pond, river, or stream.
- Located within 500 feet of an inland lake, pond, river or stream.
- Not connected to one of the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair, or an inland lake, pond, stream, or river, but are more than 5 acres in size.
- Not connected to one of the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair, or an inland lake, pond, stream, or river, and less than 5 acres in size, but the DEQ has determined that these wetlands are essential to the preservation of the state's natural resources and has notified the property owner.

The law requires that persons planning to conduct certain activities in regulated wetlands apply for and receive a permit from the state before beginning the activity. A permit is required from the state for the following:

- Deposit or permit the placing of fill material in a wetland.
- Dredge, remove, or permit the removal of soil or minerals from a wetland.
- Construct, operate, or maintain any use or development in a wetland.
- Drain surface water from a wetland. Michigan's wetland statute, Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, defines a wetland as "land characterized by the presence of water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances does support, wetland vegetation or aquatic life, and is commonly

referred to as a bog, swamp, or marsh." The definition applies to public and private lands regardless of zoning or ownership.

PA 451 of 1994, PART 323 - SHORELANDS PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT (formerly Act No. 245, P.A. 1970 Shorelands Protection and Management Act) Administered by the DEQ, Part 323 is the key state statute providing consumer protection from the natural hazards of coastal erosion and flooding as well as environmental protection of our fragile coastal areas. Part 323 is closely integrated with Part 325, the Great Lakes Submerged Lands program and the Coastal Management Program which includes Part 353, Sand Dunes Management, as well as grants to state and local units of government. .

PA 451 OF 1994, PART 419 - HUNTING AREA CONTROL. Administered by the DNR. Regulation and prohibitions in certain areas; powers of department; area closures; hearings, investigations, studies, and statement of facts; regulations. – This part of PA 451 establishes the powers of the Department to establish safety zones for hunting. In accordance with the Administrative Rules established by Wildlife Division for hunting safety, a 450' "Safety Zone" is established around all occupied dwellings (which includes campgrounds). Under the State Land Rules, the Department also has the authority to expand the application of this 450' "Safety Zone" to encompass "Day-Use Areas" such as beaches, picnic areas, boat launches, and parking areas, should the need arise. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Hunting is available in roughly sixty percent of Sleeper State Park. Hunting Zones are located in more remote areas of the park. Safety zones are located near houses.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDERS - Wildlife is owned by all the people of the state of Michigan, and are administered and managed by the Michigan DNR. The DNR's authority is derived from the state Legislature and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). In Michigan the list of game species is established by the state Legislature. Hunting and trapping regulations including methods of take, bag limits, license quotas, and season dates are established by the NRC and are described in the Wildlife Conservation Orders.

Sec. 3.300a Wild turkey population, spring harvest quotas.
(3) All applicants for hunt number 234 (Open season begins 14 days after the Monday closest to April 20 and continues through May 31), shall be guaranteed a statewide hunting license valid on all land ownerships in spring turkey management units, except public lands in southern lower peninsula wild turkey management unit (unit ZZ). Applicants for hunt number 234 may hunt Fort Custer military land with permission.

Sec. 12.638. "Spring wild turkey management unit ZB" means all of Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties.

Sec. 12.641. "Southern lower peninsula wild turkey management unit ZZ" means all of Allegan, Barry, Bay, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Midland, Monroe, Montcalm, Muskegon, Oakland, Ottawa, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Tuscola, Van Buren, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties

3.300b Wild Turkey population, fall harvest quotas.
Sec. 12.669a. "Fall wild turkey management unit T" means all of Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties. History: Am, 6, 2003, Eff. May 10, 2003.

Sec. 3.412. The early September season for taking Canada geese shall be September l to September 15 in the Lower Peninsula and September 1 to September 10 in the Upper Peninsula, except as follows:
(7) Except as otherwise provided, all or portions of the following state parks, as described in chapter VII, shall be open from September 1 to September 10:
(a) Port Crescent State Park.
(b) Sleeper State Park.

Section 7.33. Sleeper State Park, hunting and trapping allowed; exception.
Sec. 7.33. Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during the established seasons on all state-owned lands in the dedicated boundary in section 17 and sections 19 to 22, T18N R11E, in sleeper state park except for all those state-owned lands in section 17 and the NE 1/4 of section 20, T18N R11E.
History: Eff. Mar. 31, 1989.

PA 451 OF 1994, PART 504 - STATE LAND USE RULES / LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR. Administered by DNR Law Division. 324.504 Department of natural resources; rules for protection of lands and property; certain rules prohibited; orders; violation as civil infraction; fine. The department shall promulgate rules for the protection of the lands and property under its control against wrongful use or occupancy as will ensure the carrying out of the intent of this part to protect the lands and property from depredations and to preserve the lands and property from molestation, spoilation, destruction, or any other improper use or occupancy.

DNR Policy 26.04-04 - Use of State-Owned Lands Administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (ISSUED: 02/01/2006)
It shall be the policy of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to manage State-owned lands in a manner that protects and enhances the public trust while providing for the use and enjoyment of those lands as outlined in the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. Applications to use State-owned lands will be considered and may be approved if the proposed use is consistent with other public interest and natural resource values.

PA 35 of 2010, Part 741 ("Recreation Passport")

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

PA 368 OF 1978, ARTICLE 12 - ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PART 125 – CAMPGROUNDS – Part 125 of the Public Health Code was established to protect and promote the public health by establishing health code requirements specifically addressing campgrounds. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Drinking Water and Radiological Protection Division is the administering agency that is responsible for the

promulgation of the Administrative Rules for Campgrounds. All public (including DNR) and private campgrounds must meet these DEQ regulations. Huron County annually inspects the campground.

Campground Wastewater Systems. Part 22 Rules of Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, took effect on August 26, 1999. These rules apply to all campground wastewater systems. The Water Division, Permit Section Groundwater Discharge Unit administers these rules. The Part 22 rules regulate discharges to groundwater. "Discharge" is broadly defined to encompass the direct or indirect discharge of a waste, wastewater, or pollutant to the ground or groundwater. The terms "waste" or "wastewater" are broadly defined. Both specifically reference sewage. The rules provide that a "person" may discharge provided the requirements of the Part 22 Rules are met. No discharge permit is needed at Sleeper State Park.

Michigan's Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, as amended, and the administrative rules adopted pursuant to the code, also contains standards and requirements for campground wastewater systems. The reader should recognize that a campground wastewater system must also meet the construction permit, design, and operation requirements under Michigan's Public Health Code. Water wells at Sleeper State Park must be annually tested.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, including Storm Water Runoff Discharge Authorization. The purpose of this permit is to control the discharge of pollutants into surface waters of the state to protect the environment. A permit is needed for any discharge of waste, waste effluent, or certain categories of storm water runoff into surface water, including wastewater stabilization lagoon effluent. Discharge permits must regulate discharges consistent with federal effluent limitation guidelines and other requirements of federal law and state water quality standards. The Water Division within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has responsibility for processing NPDES permits under the authority of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and Part 31 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.

ROADS

M-25, a state road, also called Port Austin Road, is the entrance road to the park, and it also goes through the park to provide access to a second contact station. Sand Road, a county road, bisects the park along an oak-pine barren.

R.O.W. FOR STATE HIGHWAYS - The Michigan Department of Transportation is responsible for maintenance on all state roads in Huron County. There is a 100-foot right of way along M-25. MDOT has the responsibility for managing the department's Statewide Right-of-Way boundaries pursuant to Act 200 of 1969 (Driveway, Banner and Parade act), 368 of 1925 (Encroachment Act) and 106 of 1972 (Highway Advertising Act, Section 252.311a Vegetation Removal). Right of way occupancy agreements are required when constructing something other than a driveway (i.e., a sanitary sewer or water line crossing within the right of way). Contact the appropriate region/TSC office before starting plans for any work within the right of way. A Right-of-Way Construction Permit may be needed for additional types of use.

DEDICATED BOUNDARIES - The Natural Resources Commission reviewed and rededicated boundary changes for Sleeper State Park in 2007.

EASEMENTS
DTE Electric owns a transmission line going through the park in an east-west direction. Consumers Energy Corporation owns a natural gas line along the highway that connects to the park headquarters and east and west toilet/shower buildings. There are telephone and cable lines going through the campground and connecting to the headquarters building.

OTHER RIGHTS - None currently.

ENCUMBRANCES UNDER GRANTS – Sleeper State Park is encumbered under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program with the National Park Service. This land must be kept in public outdoor recreation in perpetuity.

FORMAL AGREEMENTS
Annual firewood sales concession agreement.

INFORMAL AGREEMENTS - None currently.

CURRENT USE PERMITS
Recurring use permits have been for special events, such as the annual "Walk Through Time" and the School for the Deaf Day Camp.

LAND FUND SOURCES

Fund Source Map

Fund Source Legend

Funding Sources:
The following descriptions relate to the above fund source map and legend for A. Those lands were acquired by the state through a variety of funding sources and/or transactions. Often, conditions attached to the original funding source or other details of the property transaction encumber the future use or disposition of the land.

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

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

State Game Fund

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

Other Funds

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

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

2.5 STUDIES, REPORTS, and SPECIAL MANAGEMENT TEAMS

Saginaw Bay Water Quality Concerns, 1989

This report was prepared by the Institute of Water Research at Michigan State University and is a summary of historic reports and studies focusing on Saginaw Bay. Most involve water quality, as well as physical and biological elements.

2.6 LAND ACQUISITION

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

3.0 Management Zones

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

The Management Zone Plan, was developed in keeping with the park's unique Identity. Similar to the Purpose and Significance statements, the Management Zone Plan was also drafted with Planning Team, stakeholder and public support. The Management Zone Plan seeks to preserve and protect the park's natural resources, while creating opportunities for recreation, education and interpretation. To achieve this, the 787-acre park was divided into the following zones:

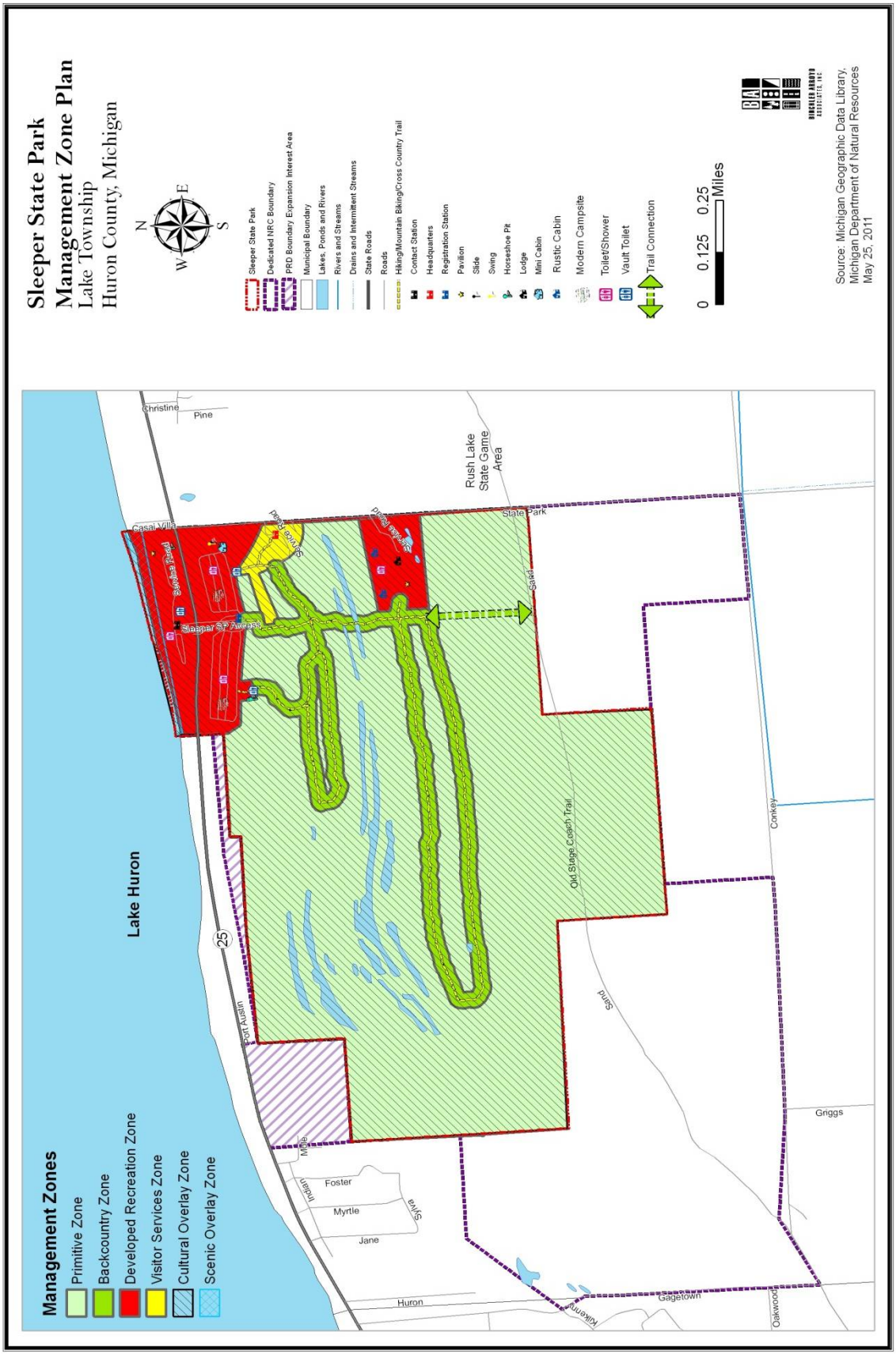
This is Phase I of the General Management Plan for Sleeper State Park. Phase I determines management zones for the parkland. Management zones describe a variety of activities that **may be** appropriate within that zone. Identifying specific activities that **will occur** is a function of Phase 2 general management planning, and not a component of this phase.

- Primitive Zone comprises approximately 606 acres (77%) and reflects a desired condition that emphasizes the natural resources. Land is managed to only allow dispersed and low frequency use for low impact recreational purposes. Attaining and maintaining a high quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements or uses are allowed. This zone preserves and protects the unique dune/swale complex and oak-pine barren found in this park.

- Backcountry Zone comprises approximately 90 acres (11%) and emphasizes resource quality over recreation, but allows for modification of the landscape to allow for moderate levels of active recreation uses. This zone applies to the existing hike/bike trail system and to a future trail connection to Sand Road.

- Developed Recreation Zone comprises approximately 84 acres (11%) and allows active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced as possible. The campground, the Outdoor Center complex, and day-use swimming and picnic areas will be in this zone.

- Visitor Services Zone comprises approximately 8 acres (1%) and encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. This zone will include the park headquarters, maintenance facilities and all related land required to conduct the business of running a state park.


Sleeper State Park
Management Zone Plan
Lake Township
Huron County, Michigan
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Sleeper State Park
Dedicated NRC Boundary
PRD Boundary Expansion Interest Area
Municipal Boundary
Lakes, Ponds and Rivers
Rivers and Streams
Drains and Intermittent Streams
State Roads
Roads
Hiking/Mountain Biking/Cross Country Trail
Contact Station
Headquarters
Registration Station
Pavilion
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Modern Campsite
Toilet/Shower
Vault Toilet
Trail Connection
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Miles
Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library,
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
May 25, 2011
Management Zones
Primitive Zone
Backcountry Zone
Developed Recreation Zone
Visitor Services Zone
Cultural Overlay Zone
Scenic Overlay Zone
Lake Huron
Christine
Pine
Casal Villa
Bayline Road
Sleeper SP Access
Sleeper Road
Rush Lake
State Game
Area
State Park
Sand
Old Stage Coach Trail
Conkey
Griggs
Oakwood
Gagetown
Kilkenny
Huron
Jane
Myrtle
Foster
Indian
Mills
Fort Austin
25

- Cultural Overlay Zone comprises approximately 1 acre and recognizes the park pavilion. The underlying management zone will apply.

- Scenic Overlay Zone comprises approximately 9 acres (1%) and recognizes that there are aesthetic qualities to be preserved and protected in the park. Examples in Sleeper State Park include the lake views along Lake Huron.

As illustrated on the map ("PRD Boundary Expansion Interest Area"), PRD field and planning staff recommend~~s~~ further study of expanding the NRC Dedicated Boundary to include the area between M-25 and the northern boundary of the park, as well as the northwest boundary west to Mole Road to provide better non-motorized access into the park.

3.1 Primitive Zone

Approximately 606 acres (77%) of the land comprising Sleeper State Park is designated Primitive Zone. This zone preserves and protects the undisturbed wooded dune/swale complex, which is mostly found in this zone. Only foot traffic would be allowed in this zone to ensure that the natural features are not damaged or compromised by recreation.

A. Natural Resources. This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. The management zone plan promotes the on-going maintenance and enhancement of these natural resources to ensure their success in the long-term. Native species and natural processes would take precedence over visitor accommodation.

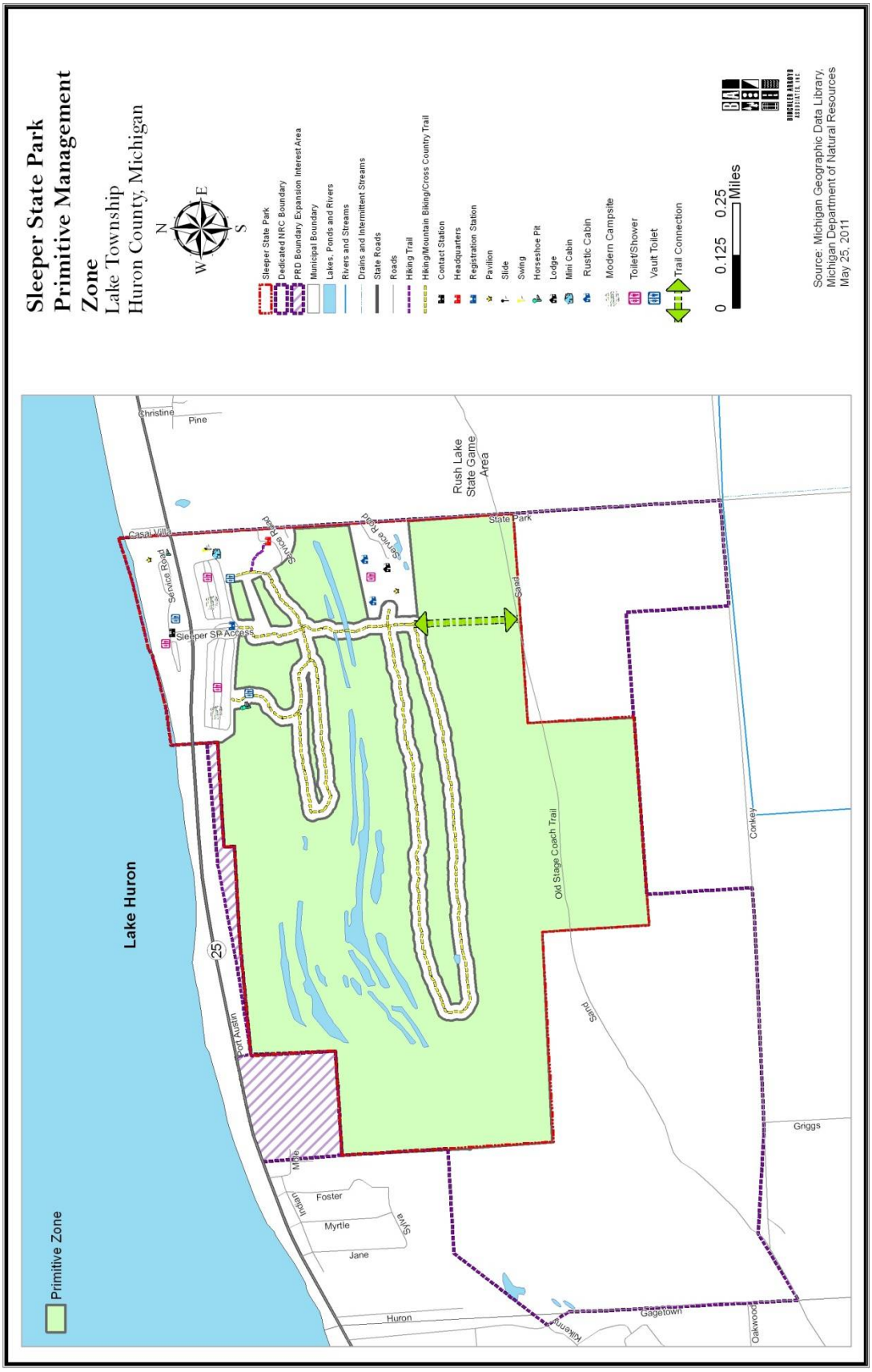
B. Historic / Cultural Resources. There are no known historic structures in this zone, but both historic and prehistoric resources are present, and management and interpretation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

C. Recreational Opportunities. With the focus of this zone being preservation, protection and enhancement of the natural communities present within the zone, recreational opportunities are limited to low-intensity uses. Any uses must be dispersed, low intensity, off-trail or trail, self-reliant, outdoor activities. Activities that could occur in this zone are hiking, back-packing, primitive camping, cross-country skiing, nature observation, hunting, trapping, and fishing.

D. Education Opportunities. The ecological significance of the resources in the park presents a tremendous educational opportunity. Information can be relayed through the use of kiosks at trailheads and interpretive signage along trails and other appropriate locations.

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

F. Management Focus. Management would focus on maintaining the low-impact character of the zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality. Routine maintenance would be provided. Care would be taken to eliminate any detrimental impacts such as incursion of invasive species. Vegetation will be protected from human predation.


Sleeper State Park
Primitive Management
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Rustic Cabin
Modern Campsite
Toilet/Shower
Vault Toilet
Trail Connection
0 0.125 0.25 Miles
Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library,
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
May 25, 2011
Primitive Zone
Lake Huron
Christine
Pine
Casal Villa
Service Road
Sleeper SP Access
Service Road
Service Road
Rush Lake
State Game
Area
State Park
Canal
Old Stage Coach Trail
Serna
Conkey
Griggs
Oakwood
Gagetown
Kilgenny
Huron
Jane
Myrtle
Foster
Sylva
Indian
Mine
Fort Austin
25

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

3.2 Backcountry Zone

Approximately 90 acres (11%) of Sleeper State Park is designated Backcountry. The existing 3 ½ mile hiking trails fall within this zone. This zone applies to the existing hike/bike trail system and to a future trail connection to Sand Road.

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

B. Historic / Cultural Resources. There are no known historic structures in this zone (the existing trail), but both historic and prehistoric resources are present, and management and interpretation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

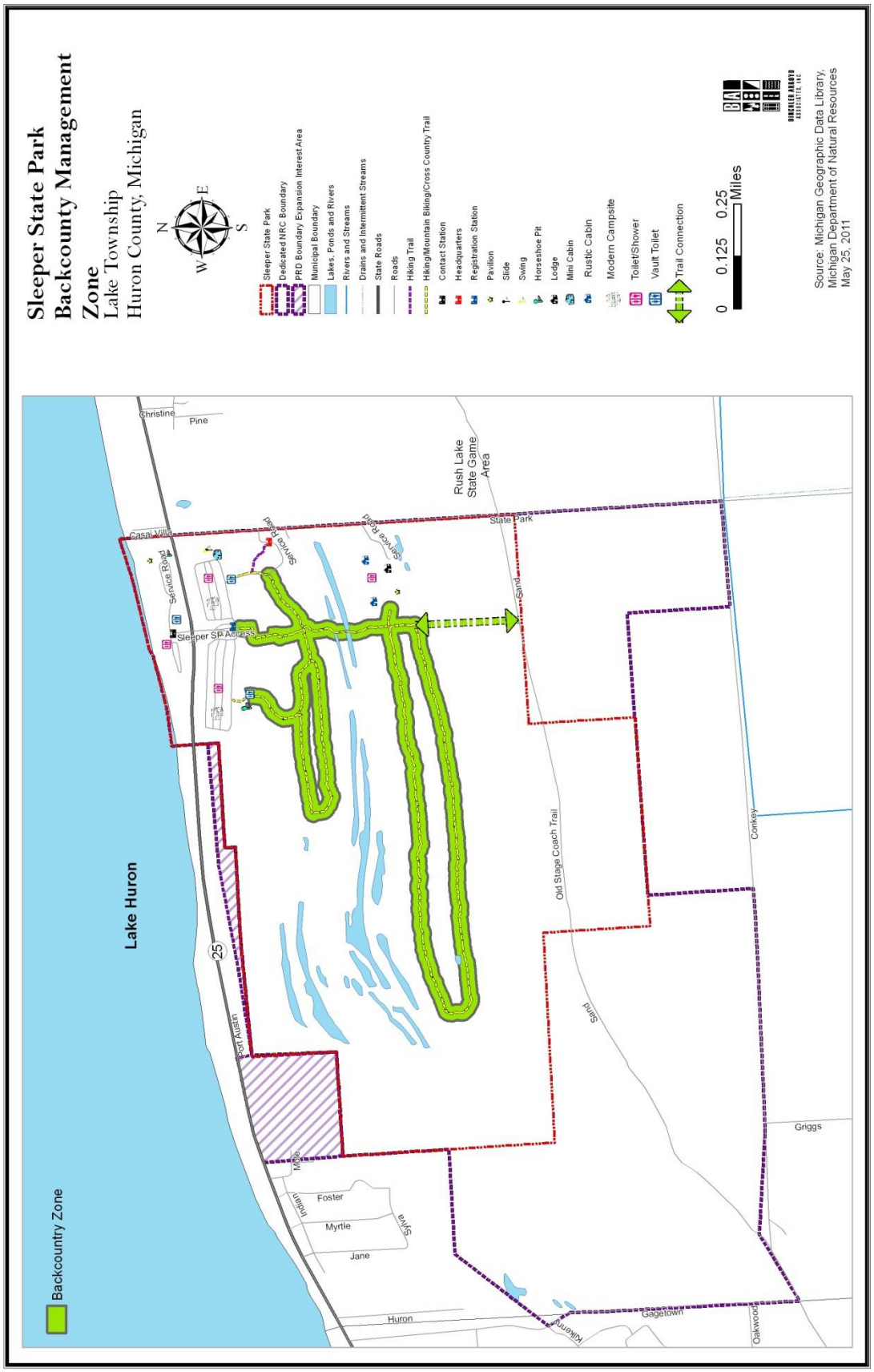
C. Recreational Opportunities. Moderate levels of recreation are allowed in the Backcountry Zone, provided the activities are compatible with the natural character. This zone applies to the trails. Non-motorized outdoor activities permitted include hiking, backpacking, mountain biking ,and cross-country skiing. Connection of the existing trails to Sand Road is a goal.

D. Education Opportunities. Similar to the Primitive Zone, the Backcountry Zone offers a great opportunity to communicate the site's unique and regional significance. Information can be relayed through the use of kiosks at trailheads and interpretive signage along trails and other appropriate locations.

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

F. Management Focus. Management will focus on maintaining the low-impact character of the zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality. Routine maintenance, including maintenance for trails or access routes, will be provided. Care will be taken to eliminate any detrimental impacts such as hazard trees and the incursion of invasive species (per Parks & Recreation Division hazard tree guidance).

G. Development. A low level of development is allowed to support visitor access to activities offered in the zone. Development would be unobtrusive and blend in with the natural environment. Future connection of existing trails to Sand Road is a goal.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Municipal Boundary
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Mini Cabin
Rustic Cabin
Modern Campsite
Toilet/Shower
Vault Toilet
Trail Connection
0 0.125 0.25 Miles
Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources May 25, 2011
Backcountry Zone
Lake Huron
Christine
Pine
Casal Villa
Service Road
Sleeper SP Access
Rush Lake State Game Area
State Park
Sand
Old Stage Coach Trail
Conkey
Griggs
Port Austin
25
Mole
Foster
Indian
Myrtle
Jane
Silva
Huron
Kilgore
Gagetown
Oakwood

3.3 Developed Recreation Zone

Approximately 84 acres (11%) of Sleeper State Park is designated Developed Recreation (DR). Land in this zone is mainly comprised of the campground, Lake Huron day-use beach and associated parking areas, and the Outdoor Center and associated campground.

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

B. Historic / Cultural Resources. Resources in this zone, including the CCC shelter in the picnic area, could be preserved, adapted or rehabilitated. Non-utilized structures that do not contribute to the historic resources of the zone are removed.

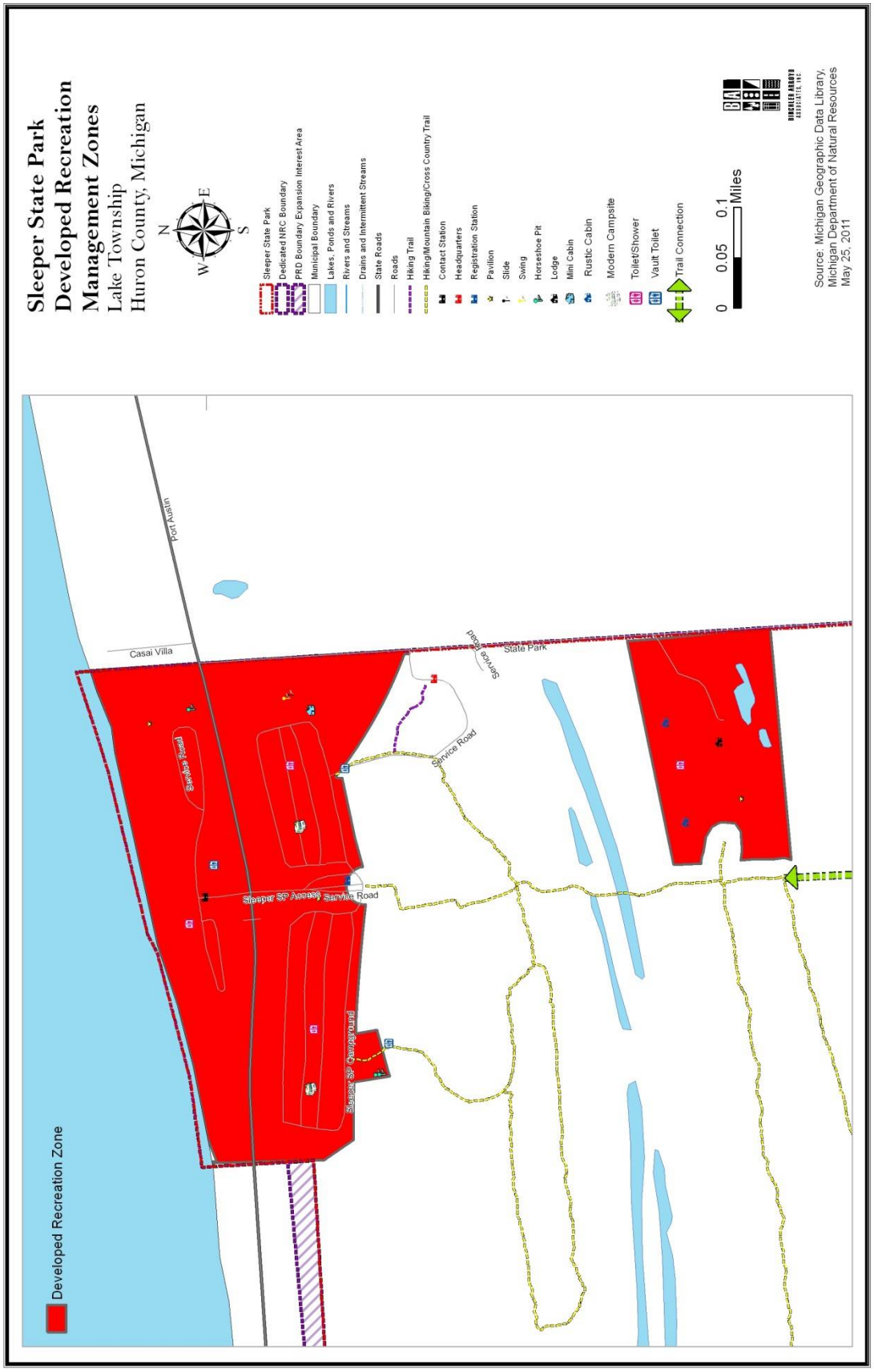
C. Recreational Opportunities. High levels of recreation in a highly structured environment are found in this zone. Visitors engage in recreation activities in diverse and modified land and water settings: modern and cabin camping, boating, canoeing, kayaking, nature observation, day-use beach, picnicking, and other day-use activities.

D. Education Opportunities. Interpretive signage and information could be provided at a day-use facility, campground, registration building, trailheads, and/or along trails and overlooks.

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

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

G. Development. A high level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities is permitted in this zone. Examples of development include restrooms, concrete/asphalt/gravel walkways and parking, trails, benches, picnic tables, modern campsites, cabins and shelters for recreation and educational opportunities. Site hardening is allowed as necessary to facilitate activities, protect natural resources, and provide universal access.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Lodge
Mini Cabin
Rustic Cabin
Modern Campsite
Toilet/Shower
Vault Toilet
Trail Connection
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Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library,
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
May 25, 2011
Developed Recreation Zone
Port Austin
Casai Villa
Service Road
Sleeper SP Access Service Road
Sleeper SP Campground
Service Road
State Park

3.4 Visitor Services Zone

This zone is approximately 8 acres (1%), and encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. It includes the park headquarters, maintenance facilities and all related land required to conduct the business of running a state park. The VS zone in Sleeper State Park includes the existing park office and maintenance facilities.

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

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

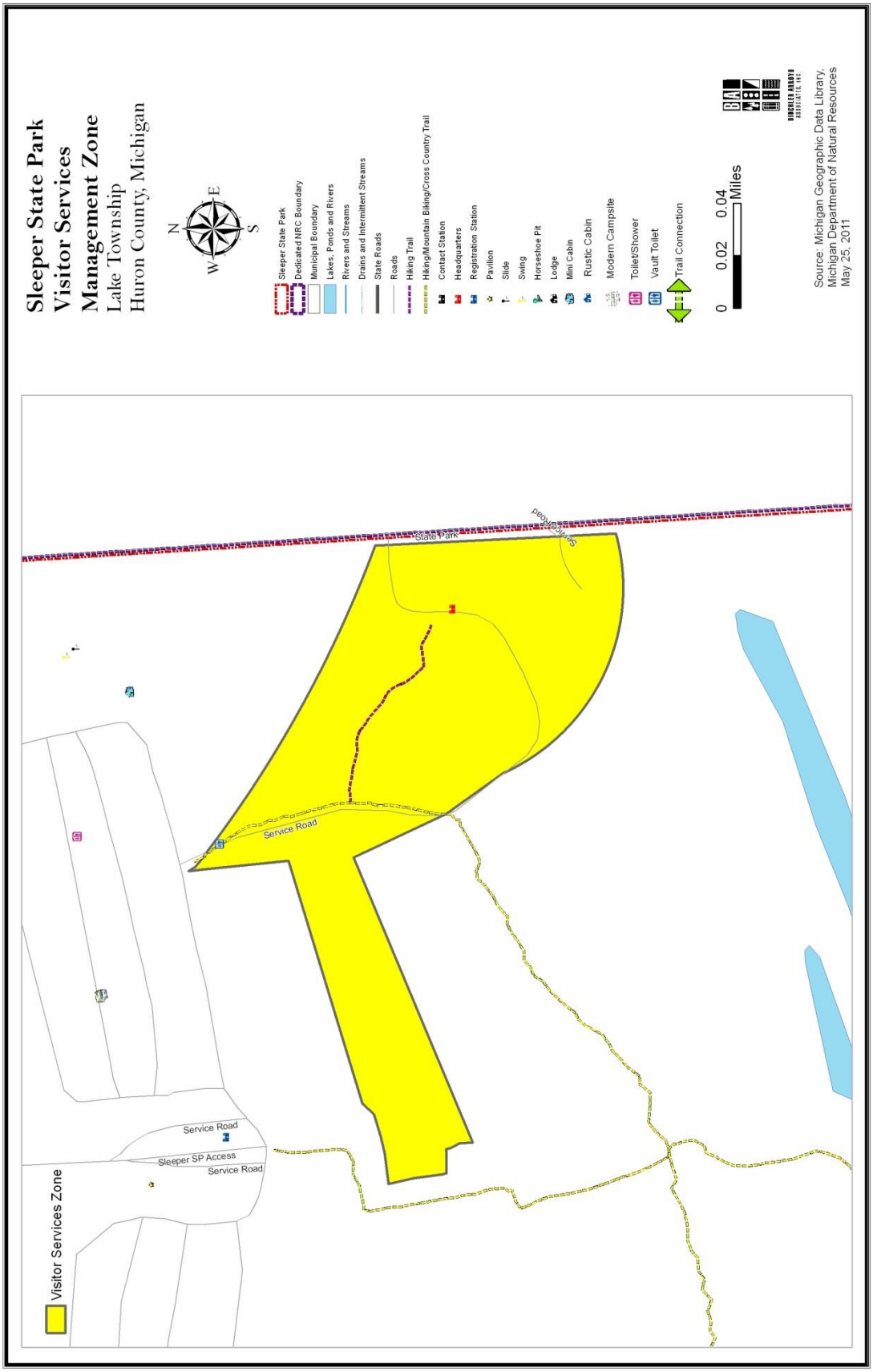
C. Recreational Opportunities. None.

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

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

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

G. Development. A high level of development of facilities for support of administrative activities is permitted in this zone. Examples of development include office space, meeting rooms, employee locker room, eating area, shop space, and storage space. It will be highly accessible.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Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library,
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
May 25, 2011
Visitor Services Zone
Service Road
Sleeper SP Access
Service Road
Service Road
State Park
Service Road

3.5 Cultural Overlay Zone

The Cultural Overlay Zone applies to entire park.

A. Natural Resources. This zone will manage vegetation as part of the cultural resource to enhance education/interpretation uses and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape that is sensitive to the historical resource and interpretation of the zone. Where there is no cultural landscape, management will reflect natural processes to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease.

B. Historic / Cultural Resources. Both historic and prehistoric resources are present, and management and interpretation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Structures, remnants, and other landscape characteristics and features which represent the evolution of the resource, temporal change and the continuum of time will be preserved, protected and enhanced. Rehabilitation or adaptive re-use for operational or education purposes are permitted.

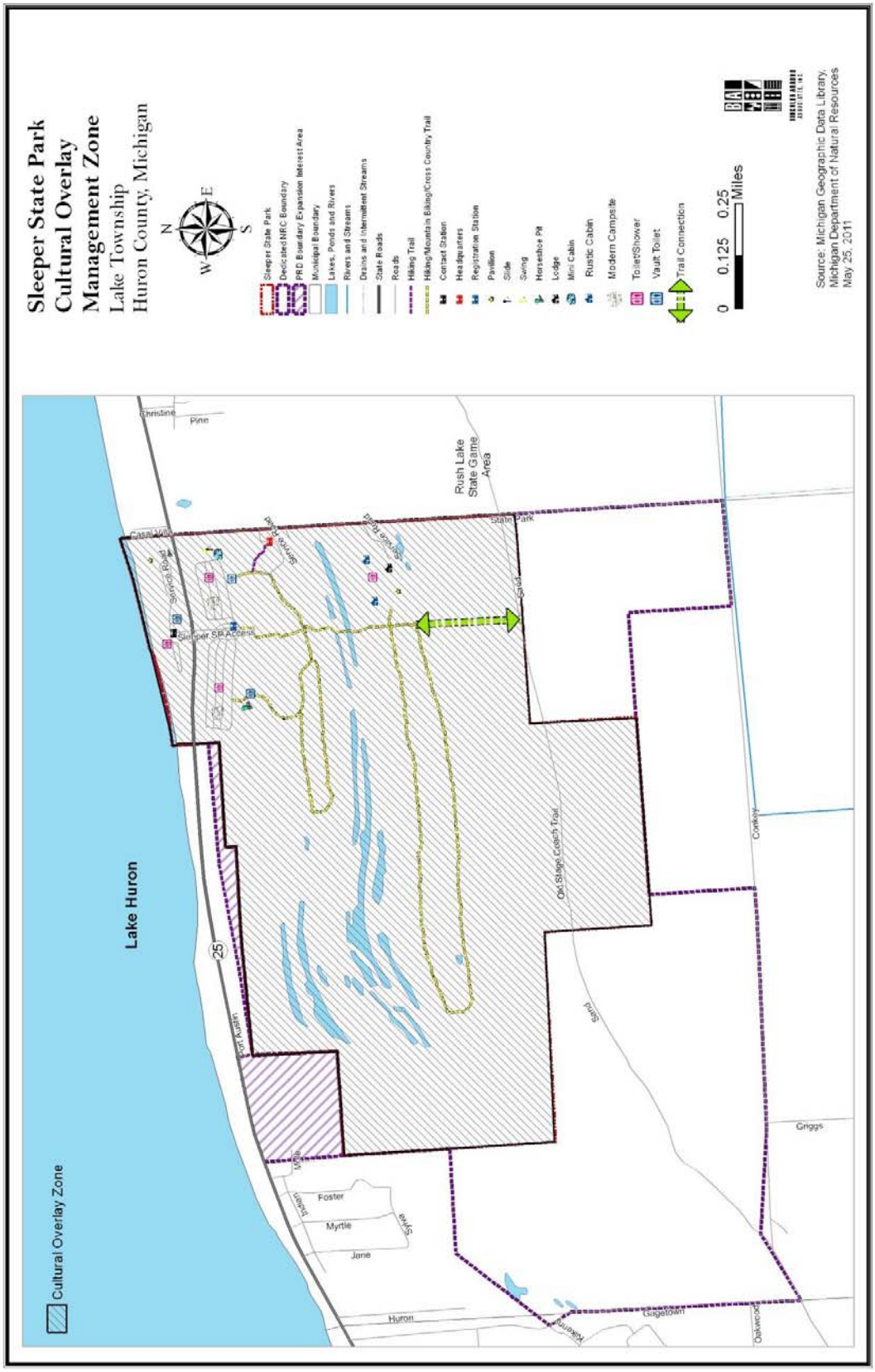
C. Recreational Opportunities. Visitors could be engaged in sightseeing, recreational and education activities in a cultural setting compatible with and sensitive to the setting and the underlying zone requirements.

D. Education Opportunities. The story of how this area was settled and used by prehistoric peoples and Native Americans could be conveyed, sensitive to the underlying management zone.

E. Visitor Experience. For resources available to public viewing and/or use, moderate visitor encounters are accommodated. Visitors engage in sightseeing, recreational, and education activities in a cultural setting. Moderate noise, time commitment and interaction with others can be expected.

F. Management Focus. Management focuses on maintaining the cultural character of the zone, with emphasis on developed recreation opportunities. Any earthwork activities require a Work Item Proposal to allow cultural resources concerns to be reviewed.

G. Development. Non-historic development and activities that do not conflict with the cultural landscape are tolerated in this zone.


Sleeper State Park
Cultural Overlay
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Trail Connection
0 0.125 0.25 Miles
Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources May 25, 2011
Cultural Overlay Zone
Lake Huron
Christine
Pine
Casal Mile
Service Road
Sleeper SP Access
Rush Lake State Game Area
State Park
Sand
Old Stage Coach Trail
Conkey
Griggs
Port Austin
25
Main
Foster
Myrtle
Jane
Shore
Huron
Kilkenny
Gagetown
Oakwood

3.6 Scenic Overlay Zone

The Scenic Overlay Zone, approximately 9 acres (1%), is established for scenic viewscapes. Those identified during the plan process mainly highlight the view of Lake Huron.

A. Natural Resources. This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to enhance the viewscapes of the zone.

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

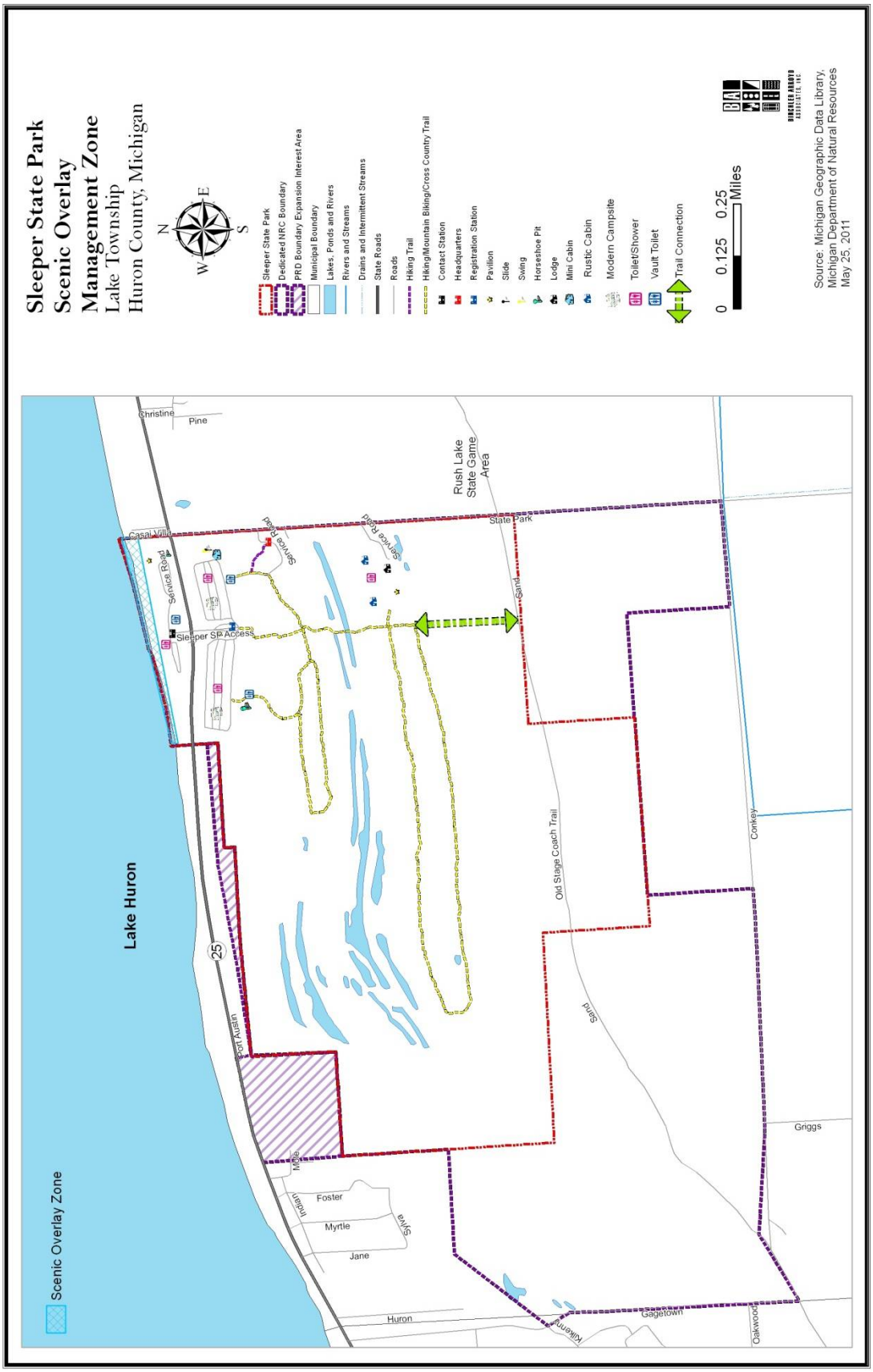
C. Recreational Opportunities. Moderate levels of recreation would be allowed, compatible with the underlying zone (Developed Recreation). The area consists of a day-use beach that provides access to swimming and sunbathing areas

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

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

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

G. Development. Development is expected to support visitor access, interpretive activities and sightseeing. Roads, restrooms, trails, parking, observation platforms, picnic areas and kiosks are some of the development options that would be allowed in a Scenic Overlay Zone, where appropriate.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Trail Connection
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Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library,
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
May 25, 2011
Scenic Overlay Zone
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Sleeper SP Access
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State Park
Sand
Old Stage Coach Trail
Conkey
Griggs
Port Austin
25
Moore
Indian
Foster
Myrtle
Jane
Sylva
Huron
Kilarney
Gagetown
Oakwood

4.0 Future Plan Inserts

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

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

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

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

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

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

APPENDIX A
Supporting Analysis

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A.1 PARK LOCATION

Park Setting

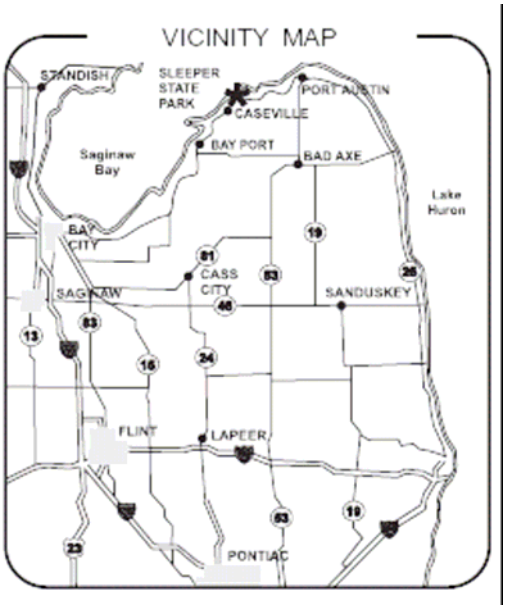
Sleeper State Park is 787 acres of forest, wetlands, sandy beach and dunes located on the Saginaw Bay of Lake Huron. Due to its location in Michigan's "thumb," visitors can watch both sunrises and sunsets on the bay, relax in the shade and seclusion of the campground, or roam the trails of the ancient dune forests.

Sleeper State Park is located within Lake Township, in Huron County. The closest town is Caseville, located 5 miles away. The county's largest town, Bad Axe, is 21 miles from the park. The nearest population center is Bay City, 53 miles west of the park. Detroit is 128 miles south. The nearest highways to the park are M-25 and M-53.

The Sanilac Petroglyphs Historic State Park is within the same unit, however, a separate plan will be developed for that unique location.

Surrounding Community

Sleeper State Park is located within Lake Township, in Huron County. The closest town is Caseville, located 5 miles away. The county's largest town is Bad Axe, about 21 miles from the park. The nearest population center is Bay City, 53 miles west of the park.



M-53 provides north-south county access while M-142 provides east-west access. M-19 originates at M-142 and runs south.

Huron County enjoys seasonal tourism from large cities such as Detroit, Flint, and Saginaw. Huron County has over 90 miles of beaches, between White Rock on Lake Huron to Sebewaing on the Saginaw Bay. Resorts, motels, marinas, restaurants, museums and attractions stretch across the coastline. Huron County has more shoreline parks than any other county.

The county has a land area of 824 square miles, which is 139 square miles greater than the average for the other 82 counties in the state. The county seat is Bad Axe. The Lake Huron shoreline makes several of the county's townships irregular in size, ranging from one square mile (Pointe Aux Barques Township) to 58 square miles (Sherman Township).

Huron County ranks as one of the top agricultural counties in Michigan, based on agricultural farm income. Rich farmland inland produces beans, sugar beets and grain, including most of the world's supply of navy beans. Huron County ranks seventh in the

nation for sugar beet production. Major enterprises include dairy, livestock, poultry production, and commercial fishing.

Huron County enjoys seasonal tourism from large cities such as Detroit, Flint, and Saginaw, due to its natural beauty, ideal topography and sandy beaches. Resorts, motels, marinas, restaurants, museums and attractions stretch across the coastline. Huron County has more shoreline parks than any other county in Michigan. The County is home to two State Parks – Sleeper State Park and Port Crescent State Park. Huron County maintains nine county parks along the shoreline.

In addition to small industry, tourism, and agriculture, new industries are being launched in Huron County, due to its location. The Harvest Wind Farm in northern Huron County is a project of John Deere Wind Energy and Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative. The State of Michigan is actively encouraging wind technology as a growth industry.

A.2 DEMOGRAPHICS

Population

The population of Huron County, according to the US Census Bureau, is estimated at 32,236 people in 2009. This represents a nearly 11% decrease since 2000. The populations for the communities within the County have not been updated since the 2000 US Census. At that time, Port Austin Township had a population of 1,591, Caseville had a population of 888, and Bad Axe had a population of 3,462. Given Michigan's economic downturn of the last few years, it is likely that the populations in these communities have decreased. The County is rural in nature, with 43.1 persons per square mile reported in 2000, compared to the state average of 175 persons per square mile.

The population of the county showed a continuous increase from the first census period until 1920 when it reached 34,758 people. In common with the majority of counties of the state, the population declined from 1910 to 1930. Since then, there has been a gradual increase in population to 36,459 people at its peak in 1980.

Age & Race

The 2009 estimated median age of persons living in the county was 44.7, up from 41 years in 2000. The racial make-up of persons within the county is 98 percent white.

In 2000, there were 14,597 households out of which 29% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 58.6% were married couples living together, 7.4% had a female householder with no husband present, and 30.5% were non-families. 27.3% of all households were made up of individuals and 14.10% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.42 and the average family size was 2.9.

The County's population in 2000 fell fairly evenly by age. 24.2% was under the age of 18, 6.5% from 18 to 24, 25.1% from 25 to 44, 24.8% from 45 to 64, and 19.4% who were 65 years of age or older.

Employment & Income

In 2007, the manufacturing sector provided most of the employment at about 22.5%. The next largest industry sector is health care, closely followed by retail trade and service related businesses.

The median income for a household in the county was $35,315, and the median income for a family was $42,436. Males had a median income of $31,950 versus $21,110 for females. The per capita income for the county was $17,851. About 7.3% of families and 10.2% of the population were below the poverty line, including 12.2% of those under age 18 and 9.8% of those age 65 or over.

People QuickFacts	Huron County	Michigan
Population, 2009 estimate	32,236	9,969,727
Population, percent change, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009	-10.7%	0.3%
Population estimates base (April 1) 2000	36,079	9,938,492
Persons under 5 years old, percent, 2009	4.9%	6.2%
Persons under 18 years old, percent, 2009	20.6%	23.6%
Persons 65 years old and over, percent, 2009	21.4%	13.4%
Female persons, percent, 2009	50.3%	50.8%
White persons, percent, 2009 (a)	97.7%	81.2%
Black persons, percent, 2009 (a)	0.3%	14.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent, 2009 (a)	0.4%	0.6%
Asian persons, percent, 2009 (a)	0.6%	2.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent, 2009 (a)	Z	Z
Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2009	0.9%	1.6%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2009 (b)	2.0%	4.2%
White persons not Hispanic, percent, 2009	95.8%	77.4%
Living in same house in 1995 and 2000, pct 5 yrs old & over	69.0%	57.3%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2000	1.4%	5.3%
Language other than English spoken at home, pct age 5+, 2000	4.4%	8.4%
High school graduates, percent of persons age 25+, 2000	78.3%	83.4%
Bachelor's degree or higher, pct of persons age 25+, 2000	10.9%	21.8%
Persons with a disability, age 5+, 2000	6,802	1,711,231
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2000	20.6	24.1
Housing units, 2009	21,400	4,541,693
Homeownership rate, 2000	83.4%	73.8%
Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent, 2000	6.5%	18.8%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2000	$78,000	$115,600
Households, 2000	14,597	3,785,661
Persons per household, 2000	2.42	2.56
Median household income, 2008	$40,927	$48,606
Per capita money income, 1999	$17,851	$22,168
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2008	13.1%	14.4%
Business QuickFacts	Huron County	Michigan
Private nonfarm establishments, 2007	1,028	235,422
Private nonfarm employment, 2007	10,531	3,687,441
Private nonfarm employment, percent change 2000-2007	-6.9%	-9.5%
Nonemployer establishments, 2007	2,292	648,573
Total number of firms, 2002	3,203	735,531
Black-owned firms, percent, 2002	F	6.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native owned firms, percent, 2002	F	0.7%
Asian-owned firms, percent, 2002	F	2.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander owned firms, percent, 2002	F	0.0%
Hispanic-owned firms, percent, 2002	F	1.3%
Women-owned firms, percent, 2002	20.5%	29.6%

Manufacturers shipments, 2002 ($1000)	683,077	221,433,262
Wholesale trade sales, 2002 ($1000)	179,192	165,958,945
Retail sales, 2002 ($1000)	293,080	109,350,139
Retail sales per capita, 2002	$8,279	$10,889
Accommodation and foodservices sales, 2002 ($1000)	30,630	12,248,269
Building permits, 2009	44	6,884
Federal spending, 2008	288,833	82,933,158
Geography QuickFacts	Huron County	Michigan
Land area, 2000 (square miles)	836.52	56,803.82
Persons per square mile, 2000	43.1	175
FIPS Code	63	26
Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area	None	
(a) Includes persons reporting only one race.		
(b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories.		
Z: Value greater than zero but less than half unit of measure shown		
F: Fewer than 100 firms		
Source: US Census Bureau State & County QuickFacts		

A.3 GENERAL HISTORY OF SLEEPER STATE RECREATION AREA

1925 - The park first opened as a county park

1927 - The state acquired the property and called it Huron State Park.

1944 - The park was renamed in honor of Albert E. Sleeper, governor of Michigan (1917-1920) and resident of Huron County, who signed into law the statute that created the state park system.

1946-1947 - The construction of the Outdoor Center Camp at Sleeper. Thanks to the continued efforts of a local 4-H leader, Mrs. Hal (Christine) Conkey, the camp buildings were remodeled CCC buildings. Most of these buildings are today still being used as sleeping cabins. A new modern kitchen/dining hall was constructed in 1975 after the old facility was completely destroyed by fire in December, 1970. The Outdoor Center Camp will accommodate 120 people.

1980's - Through the years Sleeper has grown. The park had consisted of 1,003 acres, but in the late 1980's the park was reduced to 787 acres, when the park land on the east side of State Park Road, nearly 300 acres, was transferred to Wildlife Division for the State Game Area. In the late 1970's, the picnic area gained a modern change court building with restroom facilities, and a deck overlooking the beach and beautiful Saginaw Bay. The old park store/apartment building in the picnic area was remodeled during 1981 into a picnic shelter facility which is rentable by groups for family reunions, etc.

1990's – Up through this time, the campground had grown to 280 modern campsites, with 3 modern toilet/shower buildings, paved roads and a sanitation dump station. The spring of 1993 saw the construction of the "Mini Cabin", the first of possibly more. In 1997, the number of campsites was reduced from 280 to 226, increasing the average campsite size to accommodate larger recreational vehicles.

2002 to 2004 - the campground's infrastructure went through many major improvements such as the installations of a campground toilet-shower building (requiring the demolition of the two existing buildings in the west campground), aerated wastewater system, sanitation station, and electrical system for all the campsites.

In 2003, the Michigan Natural Features Inventory included the area of the park south of Sand Road as oak-pine barrens, a globally rare natural community (habitat). Prescribed burns were conducted in 2007 and 2009 to preserve the integrity of this habitat. In 2009, many of the park's ash trees succumbed to the Emerald Ash Borer.

A.4 LAND OWNERSHIP AND ISSUES

For all park General Management Plans, all legal mandates will be identified and will serve to further guide the development of the General Management Plan and subsequent Action Plans. For our planning purposes, the term "Legal Mandates" refers to not only state law, but also the administrative tools of "Policy" and "Directive" of the Natural Resource Commission, the Department, and the Recreation Division. Examples include Wildlife Conservation Orders, Orders of the Director, and all other laws, commission orders, and rules or directives that apply to the park. Specific to Sleeper SP, the following legal mandates have been identified:

- PA 451 OF 1994, PART 741 - **STATE PARK SYSTEM** - NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT - This act is the recodification of law that established the Michigan State Park System and defined the powers and duties of same. Notable in this law is Section 324.74102 which identifies the duties of the department and reinforces those core values cited above.

  This section reads:

  (1) "The legislature finds:

  (a) Michigan State Parks preserve and protect Michigan's significant natural and historic resources.
  (b) Michigan State Parks are appropriate and uniquely suited to provide opportunities to learn about protection and management of Michigan's natural resources.
  (c) Michigan State Parks are an important component of Michigan's tourism industry and vital to local economies.

  (2) The department shall create, maintain, operate, promote, and make available for public use and enjoyment a system of state parks to preserve and protect Michigan's significant natural resources and areas of natural beauty or historic significance, to provide open space for public recreation, and to provide an opportunity to understand Michigan's natural resources and need to protect and manage those resources."

- Act 451 of 1994, Part 303 - **WETLANDS PROTECTION** (formerly Act No. 203, P.A. 1979 Wetland Protection Act) Administered by the DEQ. In 1979, the Michigan legislature passed the Geomare-Anderson Wetlands Protection Act, 1979 PA 203, which is now Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has adopted administrative rules which provide clarification and guidance on interpreting Part 303. Some wetlands in coastal areas are given further protection under Part 323, Shorelands Protection and Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.

In accordance with Part 303, wetlands are regulated if they are any of the following:

- Connected to one of the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair.
- Located within 1,000 feet of one of the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair.
- Connected to an inland lake, pond, river, or stream.
- Located within 500 feet of an inland lake, pond, river or stream.
- Not connected to one of the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair, or an inland lake, pond, stream, or river, but are more than 5 acres in size.
- Not connected to one of the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair, or an inland lake, pond, stream, or river, and less than 5 acres in size, but the DEQ has determined that these wetlands are essential to the preservation of the state's natural resources and has notified the property owner.

The law requires that persons planning to conduct certain activities in regulated wetlands apply for and receive a permit from the state before beginning the activity. A permit is required from the state for the following:

- Deposit or permit the placing of fill material in a wetland.
- Dredge, remove, or permit the removal of soil or minerals from a wetland.
- Construct, operate, or maintain any use or development in a wetland.
- Drain surface water from a wetland. Michigan's wetland statute, Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, defines a wetland as "land characterized by the presence of water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances does support, wetland vegetation or aquatic life, and is commonly referred to as a bog, swamp, or marsh." The definition applies to public and private lands regardless of zoning or ownership.

- Act 451 of 1994, Part 323 - **SHORELANDS PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT** (formerly Act No. 245, P.A. 1970 Shorelands Protection and Management Act) Administered by the DEQ, Part 323 is the key state statute providing consumer protection from the natural hazards of coastal erosion and flooding as well as environmental protection of our fragile coastal areas. Part 323 is closely integrated with Part 325, the Great Lakes Submerged Lands program and the Coastal Management Program which includes Part 353, Sand Dunes Management, as well as grants to state and local units of government. .

- **PA 451 OF 1994, PART 419 - HUNTING AREA CONTROL**. Administered by the DNR. Regulation and prohibitions in certain areas; powers of department; area closures; hearings, investigations, studies, and statement of facts; regulations. – This part of PA 451 establishes the powers of the Department to establish safety zones for hunting. In accordance with the Administrative Rules established by Wildlife Division for hunting safety, a 450' "Safety Zone" is established around all occupied dwellings (which includes campgrounds). Under the State Land Rules,

the Department also has the authority to expand the application of this 450' "Safety Zone" to encompass "Day-Use Areas" such as beaches, picnic areas, boat launches, and parking areas, should the need arise. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Hunting is available in roughly sixty percent of Sleeper State Park. Hunting Zones are located in more remote areas of the park. Safety zones are located near houses.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDERS **- Wildlife is owned by all the people of the state of Michigan, and are administered and managed by the Michigan DNR. The DNR's authority is derived from the state Legislature and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). In Michigan the list of game species is established by the state Legislature. Hunting and trapping regulations including methods of take, bag limits, license quotas, and season dates are established by the NRC and are described in the Wildlife Conservation Orders.**

Sec. 3.300a Wild turkey population, spring harvest quotas.
(3) All applicants for hunt number 234 (Open season begins 14 days after the Monday closest to April 20 and continues through May 31), shall be guaranteed a statewide hunting license valid on all land ownerships in spring turkey management units, except public lands in southern lower peninsula wild turkey management unit (unit ZZ). Applicants for hunt number 234 may hunt Fort Custer military land with permission.

Sec. 12.638. "Spring wild turkey management unit ZB" means all of Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties.

Sec. 12.641. "Southern lower peninsula wild turkey management unit ZZ" means all of Allegan, Barry, Bay, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Midland, Monroe, Montcalm, Muskegon, Oakland, Ottawa, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Tuscola, Van Buren, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties

3.300b Wild Turkey population, fall harvest quotas.
Sec. 12.669a. "Fall wild turkey management unit T" means all of Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties. History: Am, 6, 2003, Eff. May 10, 2003.

Sec. 3.412. The early September season for taking Canada geese shall be September l to September 15 in the Lower Peninsula and September 1 to September 10 in the Upper Peninsula, except as follows:
(7) Except as otherwise provided, all or portions of the following state parks, as described in chapter VII, shall be open from September 1 to September 10:
(a) Port Crescent state park.
(b) Sleeper state park.

Section 7.33. Sleeper state park, hunting and trapping allowed; exception.
Sec. 7.33. Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during the established seasons on all state-owned lands in the dedicated boundary in section 17 and sections 19 to 22, T18N R11E, in sleeper state park except for all those state-owned lands in section 17 and the NE 1/4 of section 20, T18N R11E.
History: Eff. Mar. 31, 1989.

- **PA 451 OF 1994, PART 504 - STATE LAND USE RULES / LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR**. Administered by DNR Law Division. 324.504 Department of natural resources; rules for protection of lands and property; certain rules prohibited; orders; violation as civil infraction; fine. The department shall promulgate rules for the protection of the lands and property under its control against wrongful use or occupancy as will ensure the carrying out of the intent of this part to protect the lands and property from depredations and to preserve the lands and property from molestation, spoilation, destruction, or any other improper use or occupancy.
- 5.16 Entry, use and occupancy of certain state parks recreation areas and scenic sites, motor vehicle permit requirement.

  Order 5.16. A person shall not do any of the following:
  (1) Enter any of the following state-owned lands with a motor vehicle, unless a valid Michigan state park motor vehicle permit has been purchased and affixed to the vehicle windshield in accordance with the printed instructions on the permit:
  (ooo) Sleeper SP, Huron County

- **DNR Policy 26.04-04 - Use of State-Owned Lands Administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources** (ISSUED: 02/01/2006)
  It shall be the policy of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to manage State-owned lands in a manner that protects and enhances the public trust while providing for the use and enjoyment of those lands as outlined in the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. Applications to use State-owned lands will be considered and may be approved if the proposed use is consistent with other public interest and natural resource values.

- **Public Act 33 of 2010 - Amendment to PA 451/ Recreation Passport.** The Recreation Passport replaces Department of Natural Resources (DNR) state park motor vehicle permits with a Recreation Passport issued by Secretary of State branch offices. As of October 1, 2010 the new $10 Recreation Passport ($5 for motorcycles) are issued in place of these permits. Payment of the recreation passport fee allows entry into all state parks and state-operated public boating access sites.

- **Boating Access Site/Launch Permits**: Permits are required for entrance into marked fee sites. If a launch site is located within a state park or recreation area, a motor vehicle permit is required.

- **PA 368 OF 1978, ARTICLE 12 - ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PART 125 – CAMPGROUNDS** – Part 125 of the Public Health Code was established to protect

and promote the public health by establishing health code requirements specifically addressing campgrounds. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Drinking Water and Radiological Protection Division is the administering agency that is responsible for the promulgation of the Administrative Rules for Campgrounds. All public (including DNR) and private campgrounds must meet these DEQ regulations. Huron County annually inspects the campground.

- **Campground Wastewater Systems.** Part 22 Rules of Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, took effect on August 26, 1999. These rules apply to all campground wastewater systems. The Water Division, Permit Section Groundwater Discharge Unit administers these rules. The Part 22 rules regulate discharges to groundwater. "Discharge" is broadly defined to encompass the direct or indirect discharge of a waste, wastewater, or pollutant to the ground or groundwater. The terms "waste" or "wastewater" are broadly defined. Both specifically reference sewage. The rules provide that a "person" may discharge provided the requirements of the Part 22 Rules are met. No discharge permit is needed at Sleeper State Park.

- **Michigan's Public Health Code**, 1978 PA 368, as amended, and the administrative rules adopted pursuant to the code, also contains standards and requirements for campground wastewater systems. The reader should recognize that a campground wastewater system must also meet the construction permit, design, and operation requirements under Michigan's Public Health Code. Water wells at Sleeper State Park must be annually tested.

- **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit**, including Storm Water Runoff Discharge Authorization. The purpose of this permit is to control the discharge of pollutants into surface waters of the state to protect the environment. A permit is needed for any discharge of waste, waste effluent, or certain categories of storm water runoff into surface water, including wastewater stabilization lagoon effluent. Discharge permits must regulate discharges consistent with federal effluent limitation guidelines and other requirements of federal law and state water quality standards. The Water Division within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has responsibility for processing NPDES permits under the authority of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and Part 31 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.

- **ROADS**

M-25, a state road, also called Port Austin Road, is the entrance road to the park, and it also goes through the park to provide access to a second contact station. Sand Road, a county road, bisects the park along an oak-pine barren.

- R.O.W. FOR STATE HIGHWAYS - The Michigan Department of Transportation is responsible for maintenance on all state roads in Huron County. There is a 100-foot

right of way along M-25. MDOT has the responsibility for managing the department's Statewide Right-of-Way boundaries pursuant to Act 200 of 1969 (Driveway, Banner and Parade act), 368 of 1925 (Encroachment Act) and 106 of 1972 (Highway Advertising Act, Section 252.311a Vegetation Removal). Right of way occupancy agreements are required when constructing something other than a driveway (i.e., a sanitary sewer or water line crossing within the right of way). Contact the appropriate region/TSC office before starting plans for any work within the right of way. A Right-of-Way Construction Permit may be needed for additional types of use.

DEDICATED BOUNDARIES - The Natural Resources Commission reviewed and rededicated boundary changes for Sleeper State Park in 2007.

A.5 RELATIONSHIP OF SLEEPER STATE PARK TO OTHER PARK RESOURCES

Federal

State

- Minden City State Game Area
- Deford State Game Area
- Verona State Game Area
- Wild Fowl Wildlife Area

Local Parks

Huron County Parks:

- Jenks County Park a highway pull-off with vault toilet and beach access
- Philip County Park - a highway pull-off with vault toilet and beach access
- Grindstone County Park
- Huron County Nature Center
- Lighthouse County Park
- Stafford County Park

Sanilac County Parks:

- Evergreen Park
- Forester Park
- Lexington Park
- Delaware Park

Municipal Parks:

- North Park
- Waterworks Park
- Bathing Beach Park
- Whitney Township Park
- Tom Dillon Park
- Gateway Park
- Dewey Durant Park
- AuSable River Park

Outdoor recreation pursued in the Saginaw Bay area include viewing beautiful scenery, camping, cabin lodging, hiking and biking, fishing, swimming, and an assortment of other water-oriented sports such as sailing. The winter season brings skiing, ice fishing, and snowshoeing.

Saginaw Bay is an outdoor paradise. From walleye harvests in Saginaw Bay to salmon and steelhead rewards in Lake Huron, anglers find success year-round. One of the best birding locations in Michigan is found in the region, the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. Here visitors can enjoy observing a great variety of bird life including white ibis,

white pelican, snowy egret, black-neck stilt, buff-breasted sandpiper, marbled godwits and many more.

Seven state boating access sites, one state dock and several public fishing piers are located within a short drive from the park. Saginaw Bay provides excellent perch, walleye, salmon and lake trout fishing. The nearby Pigeon and Pinnebog Rivers and the shoreline of Saginaw Bay are available for paddle sports.

Those using the hiking and cross-country trails also have access to 2,000 acres of the adjacent Rush Lake State Game Area, an area of forests and wetlands populated by many types of wildlife. Many rustic trails course through the Game Area for the more adventurous visitor. A large portion of the State Game Area was originally part of the State Park. It was transferred in the 1960's to the Wildlife Division.

Five miles to the west is the small resort town of Caseville which has a variety of entertaining diversions as well as a busy schedule of special events. Boat charters, horseback riding, canoe and kayak rentals are also located near the park.

Many interesting rock formations, caves and stacks can be found less than two miles both east and west of Port Austin's Veterans Waterfront Park and harbor area. Other nearby launch sites include Grindstone City harbor, Jenks Park and Port Crescent State Park. Launch sites in and near Harbor Beach include those at the Trescott Street Pier, at Wagener County Park, and just north of the city at the Train Station Motel and at Forest Bay Cottages. A complete map of the access points can be found on the Water Trail website at www.thumbtrails.com.

Table 5: Summary of Regional Recreational Resources
Sources:

Recreational Resource	County	Municipality	Features																
			Picnic Area	Hiking	Hunting/ Trapping	Biking	Play-ground	Equestrian	Swimming	Boat Launch	Snow Mobiling	XC Skiing	Concession/ Vending	Camping	Drinking Water	Rest Rooms	Showers	Sport Field/Ct	Fishing
Federal Resources																			
State Resources																			
Port Crescent State Parks	Huron	Port Austin	X	X	X		X		X			X		X		X			X
Deford State Game area	Tuscola	Ellington Township			X														
Wild Fowl Bay State Game Area	Huron	Bay Port			X														
Minden State Game Area	Sanilac				X														
Gagetown State Game Area	Huron				X														
Rush Lake State Game Area	Huron				X														
Verona State Game Area	Huron				X														
Cass City State Game Area	Tuscola				X														
Fish Point State Wildlife Area	Tuscola				X														
Murphy Lake State Game Area	Tuscola				X														
Quanicassee State Wildlife Area	Tuscola				X														
Tuscola State Game Area	Tuscola				X														
Vassar State Game Area	Tuscola				X														
Sanilac State Game Area	Sanilac				X														
County Resources																			
Philip County Park	Huron	Caseville	X						X							X			
Grindstone County Park	Huron																		
Huron Nature Center	Huron	Hume	X	X												X			
Lighthouse County Park	Huron	Huron City	X				X			X				X					X
Jenks Count Park	Huron	Port Austin							X							X			
Stafford County Park	Huron	Port Hope					X							X					
Evergreen Park	Sanilac	Cass City		X			X							X		X	X		X
Forester Park	Sanilac	Carsonville	X	X			X		X				X	X		X	X	X	X
Lexington Park	Sanilac	Lexington	X				X		X							X		X	
Delaware Park	Sanilac	Carsonville		X					X										X

Recreational Resource	County	Municipality	Features																
			Picnic Area	Hiking	Hunting/ Trapping	Biking	Play-ground	Equestrian	Swimming	Boat Launch	Snow Mobiling	XC Skiing	Concession/ Vending	Camping	Drinking Water	Rest Rooms	Showers	Sport Field/Ct	Fishing
Municipal Resources																			
North Park	Huron	Harbor Beach	X			X	X							X			X	X	
Tom Dillion Park	Iosco	East Tawas	X			X										X		X	
Waterworks Park	Huron	Harbor Beach	X				X												
Bathing Beach Park	Huron	Harbor Beach	X				X		X							X		X	
Dewey Durant Park	Iosco	East Tawas	X				X											X	
Gateway Park	Iosco	Tawas City																	
AuSable River Park	Iosco	Oscoda																	
Privately Owned Resources																			

A.6 CURRENT LAND USE

Albert E. Sleeper State Park comprises 787 acres of forest, wetlands, and sandy beach and dunes located on the Saginaw Bay of Lake Huron. Visitors can watch sunsets on the bay, relax in the shade and seclusion of the campground, or roam the trails of the ancient dunes forest.

The park has 226 modern campsites, all located in a heavily wooded area of oak, birch, and pine. There is a wide range of lot sizes, accommodating those with the largest RV's as well as those with the smallest tents. A mini-cabin is located in the campground that sleeps up to four persons. The cabin is furnished with a heater, lights, electrical outlets, and outside fire circle. Two modern toilet/shower facilities within the campground are open from mid-April through mid-October. One modern toilet/shower at the outdoor center is open May 1st through October 30th. Sanitation stations and a fish cleaning station are located in the campground.

The day use area is accessed from the campground by way of an overhead pedestrian walkway that crosses the highway. There, the park visitor will find 1,000 feet of sandy beach stretching along the Saginaw Bay. A toilet building is located at a central point. The day use area also includes a shaded picnic area adjacent to the beach and a pavilion that may be rented for group occasions.

An outdoor center is available for school groups and other organizations that wish to provide young people an outdoor learning experience. It has a kitchen / dining hall building as well as several cabins and a toilet/shower building.

More than four miles of maintained trails are available to those who wish to hike or ski. These trails pass through a variety of habitats, and are directly accessible from the campground. Vault toilets are available along the trails. Trails are groomed in the winter if there is sufficient snow.

Hunting is permitted in a remote area of the park that is well posted for such use. Those using the trails also have access to 2,000 acres of the adjacent Rush Lake State Game Area, an area of forests and wetlands populated by many types of wildlife. Many rustic trails course through the Game Area for the more adventurous visitor.

Six state boating access sites, one State Harbor, and three public fishing piers are located within a short drive from the park. Saginaw Bay provides excellent fishing for perch, walleye, salmon, and lake trout. The nearby Pigeon River, as well as the shoreline of Saginaw Bay, is available to canoeists.

A.7 NATURAL RESOURCES

Eco-Regional Context

(*Michigan Natural Features Inventory*). Albert E. Sleeper State Park is located within the Southern Lower Michigan Section, the Huron Subsection, and the Sandusky Lake Plain Sub-subsection. This sub-subsection consists of broad expanses of lake plain along its margins and narrow till plains and ridges of end moraine that run parallel with Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron.

There are two large steams, many small streams, and no large lakes within the sub-subsection. Most of the small streams begin on the moraines and form relatively straight, shallow trenches across the lake plain before entering Saginaw Bay or Lake Huron. Two large streams, the Cass River and Black River, flow several miles between parallel moraines before crossing the lake plain.

Because most air flows across the Huron Subsection from the west, the subsection experiences less lake moderation than subsections to the west, resulting in cooler temperatures than most of the rest of southern Lower Michigan. The growing season is 120-160 days. Average annual precipitation ranges from 28 to 34 inches and annual snowfall averages 40-80 inches. The highest rainfall and snowfall occurs along Lake Huron in the northeast edge of the subsection, where lake-effect precipitation occurs when winds are from the north and east.

Geology and Topography

(*Michigan Natural Features Inventory*). The vast majority of the park lies within an extensive wooded dune and swale complex. The community is composed of alternating, raised sand ridges and low, flat swales. This unique shoreline feature occurs in several places along the Great Lakes where former beach ridges were left stranded as water levels receded. There is a complex series of high dunes along the southern edge of the wooded dune and swale. The Lake Huron shoreline consists of open sand beach and abuts a low wooded beach ridge.

A study was completed by the Huron Intermediate School District in about 2007 reviewed the age of the beach ridges. The study determined the age of the ridges to have been formed 2500-4300 yeas ago, formed by a receding lake shoreline. The park has the data.

Water Resources

Huron County, located in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan in the thumb area, is made up of 27 townships and an area of about 480,000 acres. Its location is good, as it is surrounded on three sides by water, Lake Huron and the Saginaw Bay on each side, then meet at the north; to its south are Sanilac and Tuscola

Counties. The Cass, Pinnebog, Shebeon, and Pigeon Rivers all head toward the center of the county and empty into the Saginaw Bay. Willow Creek, farther on the east-side of the county, empties into Lake Huron, and Cass River empties into the Saginaw River.

Saginaw Bay is a bay within Lake Huron located on the eastern side of Michigan. It forms the space between Michigan's Thumb region and the rest of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. Saginaw Bay is 1,143 square miles in area. The Saginaw Bay watershed is the largest drainage basin in Michigan, draining approximately 15% of the total land area. The watershed contains the largest contiguous freshwater coastal wetland system in the United States.

Outdoor recreation pursued in the Saginaw Bay area include viewing beautiful scenery, camping, cabin lodging, hiking and biking, fishing, swimming, and an assortment of other water-oriented sports such as sailing.

With about 1,000-foot of fine sand on beautiful Saginaw Bay, the Sleeper State Park swimming beach is a great place for swimming and sunbathing. The shallow warm waters make the beach attractive. The swimming beach reaches just 5-foot depth with a relatively sandy bottom. Water depth in the lake stays shallow for over 100 yards. The beach/day use area is open from 8am to 10pm daily, and features a modern beach house, rentable shelter, play areas, grills, and picnic tables. Children in particular love Sleeper State Park where comfortable campground, and beach facilities make for a memorable visit.

Water quality at the beach is monitored weekly by the Huron County Health Department during the swim season. During the 2009 use season, there was no beach closure at the park due to elevated bacteria levels.

The beach and water quality has been affected by increasing amounts of muck, and it is a common complaint from area residents. Ongoing regional studies and initiatives address specific agricultural and industrial activities that contribute to muck accumulation.

Water Trails

The Tip of The Thumb Heritage Water Trails is a nonprofit citizen organization working with the Huron County Parks to establish and maintain a Water Trail along Michigan’s Lake Huron’s shoreline. The Water Trail, which is best utilized via sea kayaks, consists of camp sites and rest areas spaced out along the shore. One stop along Saginaw Bay is in the state park at the swimming beach.

The Tip of the Thumb Heritage Water Trail extends over 100 miles along the Lake Huron Shoreline - from White Rock, north to Harbor Beach, then up to the “tip of the thumb” at Port Austin, then southwest all the way to Quanicassee. Since the opening of the Water Trail in 2007, kayaking has increased tremendously in the area. The mapped water trail extends 110 miles along the

Thumb's shoreline and features 34 launch/landing markers. The trail is still being developed, so there are several large sections with no public landing sites.

Interdunal wetlands

An interdunal wetland is a rush-, sedge-, and shrub-dominated wetland situated in depressions within open dunes or between beach ridges along the Great Lakes, experiencing a fluctuating water table seasonally and yearly in synchrony with lake level changes.

The wetland plant communities of Saginaw Bay evolved under constantly fluctuating water levels. Saginaw Bay's persistent emergent wetland vegetation displays a cyclical pattern of growth that reflects changing water levels. For the past 30 years or so, the Great Lakes have been at very high levels. The high water continually inundated near-shore portions of Saginaw Bay and gradually thinned out the above-water portions of vast beds of bulrushes and cattails in the 1970s.

Since 1998, the water levels of the Great Lakes dropped significantly. The low-water conditions were responsible for changing formerly open-water areas along Saginaw Bay's shoreline into a mosaic of exposed sand and mud flats and shallow water areas . The plants that were unable to germinate during the many years of inundation are rapidly sprouting and growing in these flats and shallow water areas. Low-water conditions allowed for the reemergence of vegetated marshes along much of Saginaw Bay's shoreline.

Since the last low-water period, environmental laws, such as the 1977 Clean Water Act, have been enacted requiring a Department of the Army permit for all discharges in navigable waters of the United States and their adjacent wetlands. Prior to enactment of laws, individuals, as well as municipalities, freely and frequently maintained swimming areas by clearing away vegetation and muck.

Climate

The warmest time of the year at Albert E. Sleeper State Park comes with high temperatures in the 70's. When the night sets in temperatures descend down into the 50's. The wintertime brings highs down to the 20's while the cold winter nights at Albert E. Sleeper State Park are in the teens.

MONTH	**AVG. MIN TEMP**	**AVG. MAX TEMP.**
January	13F./-11C.	28F./-2C.
July	57F./14C.	81F./27C.
PRECIPITATION	**RAINFALL**	**SNOWFALL**
Average Annual	29in./74cm.	54in./137cm.
GROWING SEASON	**DAYS ABOVE 90F/32C**	**DAYS BELOW 0F/-18C**
144	8	11
Source: NOAA Climate Summary, 1995		

Soils

(*Michigan Natural Features Inventory*). The lake plain is nearly flat, with slope gradients generally 0-2%. Its parent material is mostly lacustrine clay, and much of the soil is poorly drained or very poorly drained. Along the inland margin of the clay lake plain is a broad sand channel that formed where glacial meltwater streams deposited sand into proglacial lakes. Due to the underlying clay, drainage conditions on the sand channel are poor, except for low dunes and sand spits that are excessively drained. The till plain is also nearly flat and difficult to distinguish from the lake plain. In the center of the sub-subsection, an end moraine forms a low ridge several miles wide with gentle to moderate slopes, generally in the 2-6% class, and better drainage conditions than those of the adjacent lake plain. The glacial deposits in most of the sub-subsection are underlain by Paleozoic bedrock, including Mississippian shale, sandstone, gypsum, and limestone, with Devonian shale along the St. Clair River and Pennsylvanian sandstone, share, limestone, and coal along the western edge of the sub-subsection. Bedrock is not exposed except on the lower reaches of some streams and along small portions of the shoreline of Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron.

Flora

(*Michigan Natural Features Inventory*). Prior to European settlement, extensive Great Lakes marshes occurred along the entire coast of Saginaw Bay and locally along the shore of Lake Huron southeast of Saginaw Bay. The marshes were 1-2 miles wide in places, and they extended into water 4-5 feet deep. Inland of the marshes there was typically a broad zone of swam forest, dominated by red ash, silver maple, and American elm. Broad expanses of wet prairie, up to 3 miles wide, occurred adjacent to the marshes in portions of Saginaw Bay, primarily in Tuscola and Huron Counties. Low beach ridges and sand spits within the coastal marshes and wet prairies supported scattered white oak and black oak trees. In some embayments along Saginaw Bay, including the Sleeper State Park and Rush Lake State Game Area, there are expansive bands of parallel beach ridges and swales that formed along old, abandoned shorelines of Saginaw Bay. The wettest swales near Saginaw Bay were emergent marshes that were occasionally ¼ - ½ mile wide. Swales further inland supported swamp forests dominated by northern white cedar, tamarack, red ash, or black ash

In the early 1800's, almost the entire clay lake plain was forested. Most of the forests were dominated by eastern hemlock. Species such as American beech, sugar maple, northern white cedar, American elm, balsam fir, paper birch, eastern white pine, white ash, basswood, black ash, red maple, and trembling aspen, were often present. The forests of the clay lake plain were generally not considered swamps, but much of the soil was probably somewhat poorly drained and high spring water tables were probably common. Lowland hardwood forests, dominated by either black ash or red ash, often occurred on the wettest portions of the clay lake plain. The gently to moderately sloping end moraines and portions of the clay lake plain with slope gradients greater than 2% supported

forests dominated by beech and sugar maple, with a lesser component of basswood and white ash. In these forests, hemlock was considerably less abundant than it was on the flatter terrain with more poorly drained soil. A linear band of lowland conifer forest, dominated by tamarack and occasionally northern white cedar typically occurred along the border between the moraines and the clay lake plain. Broad wetlands located at the foot slope of morainal ridges supported conifer swamps dominated by northern white cedar. Additional species of these swamps included tamarack, balsam fir, hemlock, white pine, paper birch, trembling aspen, and other lowland hardwoods. Upland portions of the flat sand lake plain and low dunes supported conifer forests dominated by hemlock and white pine, or scattered white oak and black ok trees closer to the shoreline. Wetlands within the sand lake plain were typically dominated b black ash or red ash.

The Lake Huron shoreline supports dense patches of marram grass with wormwood and beach pea scattered throughout the beach. Numerous invasive species occur within the open sand beach and adjacent wooded beach ridge, including spotted knapweed, bounding bet, smooth brome, Canada bluegrass, quack grass, chicory, and goat's beard. The open sand beach contains several invasive species. Efforts should be made to remove these species, especially spotted knapweed, and prevent their spread to other areas of the park.

Today, as in the past, the abandoned sand beach ridges and low swales are primarily forested. The ridges are currently dominated by red oak, black oak, big-toothed aspen, red maple, paper birch, and red pine. Although white pine was abundant on these ridges in the early 1800's, it was not recorded during MNFI ecological surveys, likely due to historical logging activities. Dominant tree species in the swales include black ash, red maple, and big-toothed aspen. Other abundant species within the swales include speckled alder, red-osier dogwood, lake sedge, blue joint grass, pond sedge, and marsh fern.

The high dunes support oak-pine barrens. Oak-pine barrens is a type of community with widely spaced trees and a rich ground flora that was maintained by frequent fires. The patchy overstory of the oak-pine barrens is comprised of black oak, white oak, jack pine, red maple, and occasionally white pine. Common shrub species include amelanchier and huckleberry. The ground layer is dominated by patches of blueberry, sedge, bracken fern, bearberry, and little bluestem. Other ground layer species include June grass, hair grass, cow-wheat, false Solomon's seal, butterfly weed, and hairy puccoon.

Both the wooded dune and swale complex and oak-pine barrens are recognized as exemplary natural communities. The wooded dune and swale complex stretches over 2,100 acres, with Sleeper State Park occurring near the center of the occurrence. The community has been somewhat degraded by changes in the surrounding area and within the community itself. For example, State Park Road dissects the community and blocks the flow of surface water within swales. Another road and several parking lots and numerous houses separate the wooded dune and swale complex from the Lake Huron shoreline. However, the community remains very much intact and supports at least 129 plant species, making it one of the more diverse dune and swale complexes in Michigan. The only non-native species recorded within the community was bittersweet nightshade, a vine that typically does not reach high levels of abundance. Dune and swale complexes are considered rare, both globally and locally, and in Michigan, 70 occurrences of the community have been documented.

An occurrence of oak-pine barrens occurs along the southern border of the wooded dune and swale complex on a series of high dunes that stretch beyond the park's borders. Like the wooded dune and swale complex, only a portion of the oak-pine barrens occurs within the park. The remainder of the community is located in or adjacent to Rush Lake State Game Area, east of State Park Road. The community is one of the better examples of oak-pine barrens within the state. Invasive species that occur within the community include Canada bluegrass, which is common in some areas, and white sweet-clover, which was observed occasionally. ORV trails have caused significant erosion in portions of the community, and if these areas are not revegetated, they may facilitate a major blowout during a heavy windstorm. In all, only 16 occurrences of this community have been documented in Michigan, and it is considered rare both globally and locally.

Pitcher's thistle, a rare plant species, was documented along the Lake Huron shoreline in the vicinity of Sleeper State Park in the late 1800's and early 1900's. However, recent have failed to relocate the species within the park, though it does occur along the shore several miles to the east.

Fauna

The quiet trails of Sleeper State Park carry the user through mixed forests, open meadows, and across beautiful sand dune ridges. With the location of the park on the Saginaw Bay, its 723 acres is a natural magnet for wildlife and bird life. Found here are an abundance of animals and birds common to eastern temperate forests. Typical woodland species, such as deer, raccoon, red and fox squirrel, opossum, chipmunks, and mice inhabit the area. There have been occasional sightings of fox and coyote. There is also a large bird population. Gulls, terns, and shore birds are plentiful. Pheasants and turkey can be found in the park. Thrushes, woodpeckers, flycatchers, hawks, eagles, and a wide variety

of warblers can be found in the wooded sections. Other species in the park include box turtle, snapping turtle, and hognose snake.

Sleeper State Park offers a good view of Saginaw Bay, but is seldom birded for waterfowl. Some of the more interesting birding takes place on the south side of M-25 near the campground. A series of trails cut through the largely oak uplands that are found along this entire sand ridge area that follows the Saginaw Bay shore. These trails are undoubtedly good for migrants but are seldom checked.

Those using the hiking and cross-country trails also have access to 2,000 acres of the adjacent Rush Lake State Game Area, an area of forests and wetlands populated by many types of wildlife.

No rare animals were documented for the park, but the park does provide critical stop-over habitat for migrating neo-tropical song birds. *(Stewardship file, March 2003)*

NATURAL FEATURES INVENTORY[1]

State Protection Status Code Definitions
E - Endangered
T – Threatened SC - Special concern

Federal Protection Status Code Definitions
LT - Listed threatened

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status
Acella haldemani	Spindle lymnaea		SC
Acipenser fulvescens	Lake sturgeon		T
Adlumia fungosa	Climbing fumitory		SC
Ammodramus henslowii	Henslow's sparrow		E
Appalachina sayanus	Spike-lip crater		SC
Asclepias hirtella	Tall green milkweed		T
Botaurus lentiginosus	American bittern		SC
Cacalia plantaginea	Prairie indian-plantain		SC
Charadrius melodus	Piping plover	LE	E
Circus cyaneus	Northern harrier		SC
Cirsium pitcheri	Pitcher's thistle	LT	T
Cistothorus palustris	Marsh wren		SC
Coregonus artedi	Lake herring or Cisco		T
Cypripedium candidum	White lady slipper		T
Dorydiella kansana	Leafhopper		SC
Emergent Marsh			
Emys blandingii	Blanding's turtle		SC
Epioblasma triquetra	Snuffbox		E
Fontigens nickliniana	Watercress snail		SC
Great Blue Heron Rookery	Great Blue Heron Rookery		
Great Lakes Marsh			
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald eagle		SC
Interdunal Wetland	Alkaline Shoredunes Pond/marsh, Great Lakes Type		
Lakeplain Oak Openings			
Lakeplain Wet Prairie	Alkaline Wet Prairie, Midwest Type		
Lakeplain Wet-mesic Prairie	Alkaline Tallgrass Prairie, Midwest Type		
Lanius ludovicianus migrans	Migrant loggerhead shrike		E
Oak-Pine Barrens			
Pantherophis gloydi	Eastern fox snake		T
Percina copelandi	Channel darter		E
Percina shumardi	River darter		E
Platanthera leucophaea	Prairie white-fringed orchid	LT	E
Pycnanthemum muticum	Mountain mint		T
Pycnanthemum verticillatum	Whorled mountain mint		SC
Sander canadensis	Sauger		T
Sistrurus catenatus catenatus	Eastern massasauga	C	SC
Sterna forsteri	Forster's tern		T
Sterna hirundo	Common tern		T
Trimerotropis huroniana	Lake Huron locust		T
Wooded Dune/Swale Complex			
Woodsia obtusa	Blunt-lobed woodsia		T

[1] current as of 12/17/2009 according to the Michigan Natural Features Inventory website: http://web4.msue.msu.edu/mnfi/data/cnty_dat.cfm?county=Huron

A.8 HISTORIC/CULTURAL RESOURCES

Physical Environment

(Stewardship file, July 1995). The Outdoor Center was built in the 1940's by the Civilian Conservation Corp. There were originally 18 cabins built off-site and moved onto the property, of which 13 still exist. Five of these remaining cabins are condemned and scheduled for demolition. A stone foundation in the day use area is still functional. There is a former homestead foundation in the park.

Cultural Environment

Michigan guitarist, Ted Nugent, ran a program at the Outdoor Center for about 5-10 years for at-risk youth.

Archaeological Resources

(Stewardship file, July 1995). The potential exists for prehistoric sites in the park. Similar land formations have proven to be sensitive in the Rush Lake State Game Area, where 36 sites have been recorded. These include prehistoric sites, as well as nineteenth and twentieth century historic sites. Three more sites exist west of the park. One of these sites is a large multi-component site and it would be expected that smaller sites related to this large site are located in the park. These sites will probably be similar to the sites in the state game area to the east.

Preservation Concerns and Recommendations

The park should be considered archaeologically sensitive. Given the high potential for sites within the park, it is recommended that prior to any earth movement a survey be conducted in the area to be impacted. This recommendation extends to minor improvements such as scraping of existing dir roads or trails. Sites in settings like that of the park tend to be shallow and occur on the surface such that any soil disturbance will impact them.

A.9 EDUCATION / INTERPRETATION / VISITOR SERVICES RESOURCES

Fishing in the Parks

Between June and August, Sleeper State Park offers to help people of all ages learn fishing basics like knot-tying, setting up your pole, casting, selecting and using bait, and removing fish from the hook. Equipment is available at the park.

State Park Explorer Program

Each summer, state park explorer programs are offered to campers and day visitors at SSP.

Armed with field guides, animal skins, bug boxes and other hands-on materials, state park explorer guides lead informal programs and hikes that feature each location's unique natural, cultural and historic resources.

Program topics include forests, insects, night hikes, pond studies and other topics covering the variety of plants, animals and natural features found within each park. These programs are designed for children and adults, often in a family setting.

Visitor Services

Campground Host Program. The primary responsibility of a Campground Host is to assist campers by answering questions and explaining rules in a pleasant and helpful manner. As a representative of the Michigan state park the Volunteer Campground Host will provide the following kinds of services:

- Greet new campers.
- Distribute interpretative information
- Answer questions about the local area
- Arrange campground activities such as camper coffee hours, kids fishing derbies, campfire sing-a-long and berry picking.
- Perform other services depending on capabilities and the campground facilities where assigned.
- Volunteer Campground Hosts take no law enforcement measures other than being observant and notifying park staff of problems. Volunteer Hosts are easily recognizable by their official vests, shirts, hats and nametags.

Volunteer Campground Hosts are selected by state park managers. Managers may require an interview or request additional information on prospective volunteers. Selection is based on familiarity with the Michigan Campground System, camping experience, special skills, availability, and knowledge of the surrounding area and needs of the park.

Weekly Camper Coffee Hour. The park manager meets weekly with campers for informal discussions in order to provide positive interactions, gain camper perspectives, and better understand camper needs and issues.

A.10 RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

Activities

Cross Country Ski

The trail system is also popular for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

Hiking

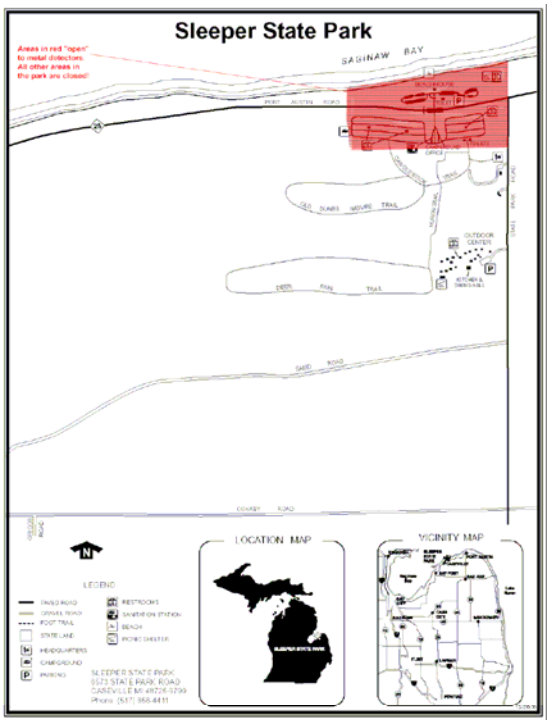
More than four miles of maintained trails are available to those who wish to hike. These trails pass through a variety of habitats and are directly accessible from the campground. Vault toilets are available along the routes.

Hunting

Hunting is allowed in a remote area of the park that is well posted for such use.

Metal Detecting

Metal detecting is recognized as a legitimate recreation activity when it is conducted in ways that do not damage the natural and cultural resources in Michigan State Parks nor violate applicable state statutes. A map shows where this activity may take place. Any items found must be reviewed by park staff and may be retained for further investigation.



Mountain Biking

Deer Run, Candlestick, Huron and Old Dunes trails provide about four miles of trails for mountain bikes and hikers. These trails pass through a variety of habitats and are directly accessible from the campground. Vault toilets are available along the routes.

Swimming

1,000 feet of sandy beach stretching along the Saginaw Bay of Lake Huron provides visitors with swimming and sunbathing recreation.

Facilities

Beach House

Outdoor Center

The outdoor center, comprised of 13 cabins, a 120-seating capacity dining hall with well-equipped kitchen, toilet/shower building, and picnic pavilion, is located in a highly secluded and wooded portion of the park. Nearby hiking trails provide

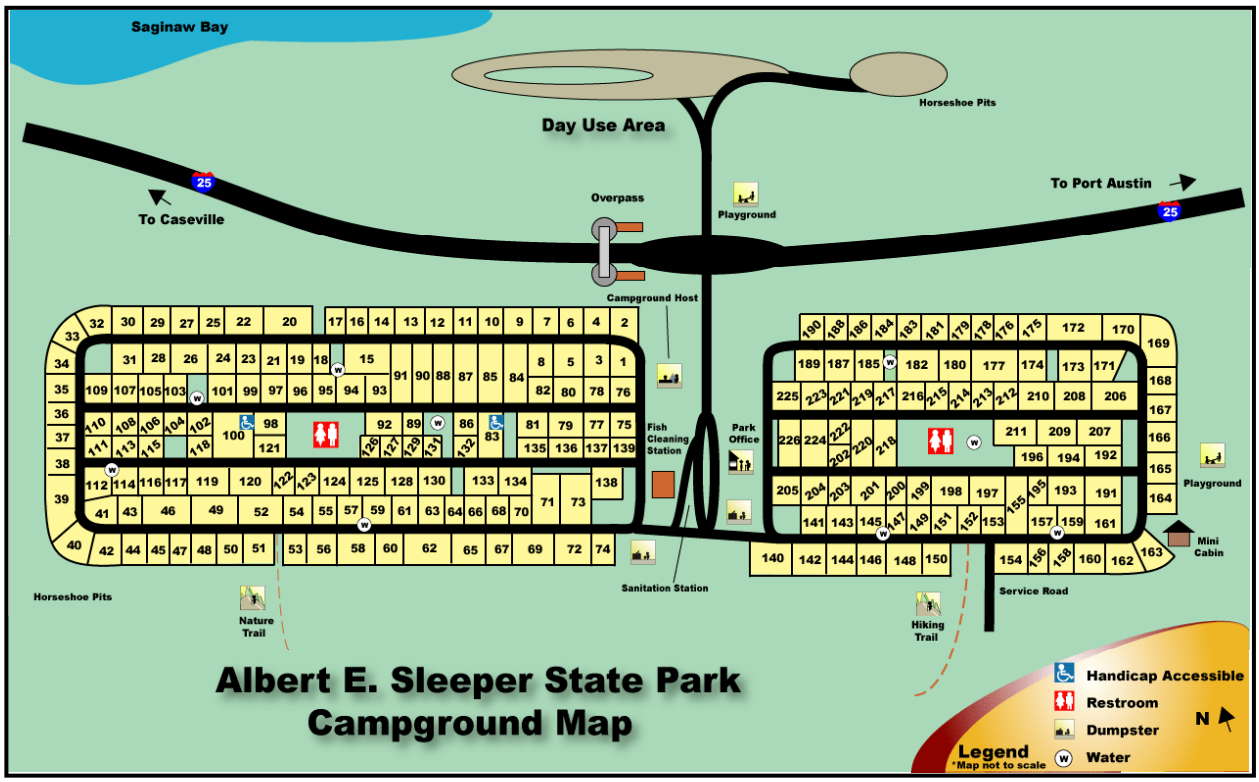
miles of multi-use recreational opportunities. Lake Huron may be reached by hiking trail or a short drive. The entire facility may be rented for a single use or individual vacant cabins may rented by a family or smaller group who do not require the dining Hall. From late-October to late-April, both the dining hall and the restroom building are closed, but vault toilets are available. Throughout the year, renters may take advantage of a variety of discounts.

Picnic Area
The day use area is a quick walk from the campground and includes a shaded picnic area adjacent to the beach and a pavilion that may be rented for group occasions. Fire pits/grills available.

Picnic Shelter
The picnic shelter may be reserved.

Camping
Modern Campground
Outdoor Center Cabins

SLEEPER STATE PARK - SLEEPER CAMPGROUND



Trails

Four easy hiking trails provide 5 miles of Lake Huron scenery. Candlestick Trail is a .63-mile point-to-point horseshoe-shaped trail between each end of the campground. Old Dunes Trail, a .65-mile loop adjoins Candlestick Trail. Huron Trail starts at the Candlestick Trail and travels due south to meet the 2- mile Deer Run Trail. Several trails are track set for cross-country skiing. The quiet trails of Sleeper State Park carry the user through mixed forests, open meadows, and across beautiful sand dune ridges. With the location of the park on the Saginaw Bay, its 1,000+ acres is a natural magnet for wildlife and bird life.

Trail Name	Length (Miles)	Activities
Huron Trail	0.20	Cross Country Ski, Hiking, Mountain Biking
Candlestick Trail	0.63	Cross Country Ski, Hiking, Mountain Biking
Old Dunes Trail	0.65	Cross Country Ski, Hiking, Mountain Biking
Deer Run Trail	2.0	Cross Country Ski, Hiking, Mountain Biking

Recurring Special Events

Fall Harvest Festival. This takes place on 4 weekends, starting the last weekend in September, and continuing for the first 3 weekends in October. The campground is 95% full during these events.

Walk Through Time. This takes place the first weekend in June. This event highlights pre-Civil War era history, and includes frontier reenactments, such as a Traders Tents.

Caseville Cheeseburger Festival. This event occurs for 10 days in mid-August. People come to Caseville once a year for a Jimmy Buffett extravaganza. Tourists and locals alike review flamingo merchandise and buy cheeseburgers and margaritas from the street vendors. The campground is full during this event.

A.11 AREAS OF CONFLICT

Occasionally, there are noise conflicts between campers, and although not constant, it has been the number one law enforcement issue. The second most frequent law enforcement issue is dealing with the offense of minors in possession of alcohol. Dogs on the beach is the third most frequent problem. There has been some dumping of bags of trash.

Snowmobiles are not allowed on trails, and generally, they have not been a source of conflict. There is a serious trespass issue with ORVs in the oak-pine barren south of Sand Lake Road as an unintended consequence of the Huron County ordinance that allows ORV use on County roads.

A.12 PARK USE STATISTICS AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

2009 Park Use

Sleeper State Park is a little over an hour's drive from greater metropolitan Bay City and Saginaw, a Combined Statistical Area that had a combined nearly 185,000 people visited the park in 2008. Of these, 37% were campers and 63% were day-users. Attendance was down 8.6% in 2009, with a total of about 169,000 visitors.

The campground will fill up on July and August weekends if the weather is warm, and most often full in mid-August. The day use area has about a 50% chance of being full on the July 4th weekend. On other summer weekends, there is a 25-50% chance of the parking lot being full if the weather is warm.

Characterization of park use is described as follows: (based on 2007-2008 DNR-Park Attendance Statistics)

- Peak-Use Season – By far, the highest use period occurs during the warmer summer months of June, July, and August. During this time in 2008, Sleeper State Park averaged about 48,560 visitors per month over the three months. May shows a total visitation number of over 9,700, while September shows total visitation numbers of over 11,200 people. No data exists for October 2008, however, in October 2007 there were 5,199 day users and 8,539 campers for a total of 13,738 visitors.

- Moderate-Use Season – April and November show less use, with about 1,580 visitors in April 2008 and roughly 1,290 visitors in November 2007. Winter use drops off sharply but remains steady with an average of about 338 visitors per month from December through March.

2008 Economic Impact Analysis

(MSU Dr. Stynes' economic analysis model; Money Generation Model – Version2 "MGM2") This model is an update of the MGM model developed by Dr. Ken Hornback for the National Park System in 1995. The purpose of the updated MGM2 model is to estimate the impact of park visitor spending on the local economy. These economic impacts are reflected in terms of sales, income, employment, and value added.

This analysis tool, like others, relies on three primary factors in the common equation: Economic Impact of Tourism Spending = Number of Tourists (x) Average Spending per Visitor (x) Multiplier (to estimate extended effects of direct spending).

Direct Economic Effects to the Community

Following are the relative economic impacts (based on 2004 data) of Sleeper State Park to the economy of the surrounding county:

- Direct spending attributable to Sleeper State Park visitors totaled $5,476,000 of which $1,340,000 came from Day-Use, and $4,137,000 from Camping.

- Direct Jobs totaled 144 with 35 related to Day-Use activity and 109 to Camping. (Note…jobs are not full-time equivalent. They include part-time and seasonal positions.)

- Personal Income total is $1,901,000 with $465,000 associated with Day-Use of the park and $1,436,000 associated with Camping.

- Value Added (total income plus business taxes) totaled $2,881,000. Day-Use accounted for $705,000 and Camping accounted for $2,176,000.

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

- Total spending = $7,905,000 (44.9% over direct spending)
- Jobs = 181 (25.7% over direct job impacts)
- Personal Income = $2,778,000 (46% over direct spending)
- Value added = $4,396,000 (52.6% over direct value added)

For purposes of updating economic values, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is often used to adjust values over time. At the following site, http://www.bls.gov/home.htm, a CPI Inflation Calculator is located in the category of "Inflation and Consumer Spending".

Appendix B –Summary of Public Input

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

- **January 18, 2011 Stakeholder Workshop**
  The purpose of the workshop was to obtain comments on the draft General Management Plans for Port Crescent, Sleeper, and the Sanilac Historic Petroglyphs State Parks. With assistance from the Planning Team, approximately 65 people and organizations were identified as stakeholders. Invitations to the Stakeholder Workshop were sent by email and via post. Sixteen people attended the workshop. The attendee list is included below.

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

- **March 30, 2011** A public input open house was held to allow the public the opportunity to express their comments about the park. The above noted people were again contacted regarding the public input workshops by mail and email. A notice was published in the local paper. Stakeholders and others were encouraged to share this information with interested members of the general public. Approximately 15 people attended.

There were two opportunities to provide comments:

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

Meeting Summary

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION
Sleeper State Park | Port Crescent State Park
Sanilac Petroglyphs Historic State Park
General Management Plans – Stakeholder Meeting

DATE: January 18, 2011
TIME: 6:30 – 8:00 PM
PLACE: Franklin Inn, Bad Axe MI

Planning Team members in attendance (Division or Firm):

Paul Curtis	RD Management Plan Administrator
Kristin Bennett	RD District Planner
Ray Fahlsing	RD Stewardship
Scott Brown	DNRE – LED
Betsy Kish	DNRE – Port Crescent State Park Manager
George Lauinger	DNRE – Sleeper State Park Manager
Jill Bahm	Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.
David Birchler	Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.

Stakeholders in attendance (Group Represented):

Joe & Lynn Finan	Frank's Party Store
Marv Kuziel	Port Austin Harbor Commission
Carol Osentoski	Huron EDC
Dan McCole	MSU
Kerry Bennett	MAS
Kenneth Piechette	Hume Township
Don Simons	Michigan Arch Society
Shannon Martin	Ziibiwing Center Saginaw Chippewa
R. Sally Moldwin	(none listed)
Cary Rouse	MDOT
Bill Moldwin	Sanilac Watershed Council
Nancy Moss	City of Caseville
Pamela Kladzyk	Colfax Township
Scott Whipple	Huron ISD
Ken Merckel	MSSFA
Chris Boyle	(none listed)

1. Introductions and Background
   All Team members and Stakeholders introduced themselves and identified the DNRE Division, stakeholder group, or issue they represented.

2. Presentations:
   - ❑ Paul Curtis (RD) - General Management Planning Process & Overview of Draft Plan process for Sanilac Petroglyphs

- ❏ David Birchler (Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.) - Overview of Draft Plan process for Sleeper and Port Crescent State Parks

3. Questions & Answers/Comments Session
   The Planning Team members fielded questions and heard comments from the stakeholders present.

4. Open House / Stakeholder Survey Session
   - ❏ Open house format was explained, as well as resource maps and materials available for review
     - ☑ Progression of Management Zone Objectives
     - ☑ Aerial Photos
     - ☑ Recreational Resources Maps
     - ☑ Draft management Zones Maps
     - ☑ Detailed Description of Management Zones
     - ☑ Stakeholder Survey

   - ❏ Team members and Stakeholders engaged one another in discussions about each park's resources and its importance to the greater Thumb region
   - ❏ Stakeholders who did not return a completed survey promised to send them to Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc. via mail

5. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM after all Stakeholders had departed.

Michigan DNR
Public Input Workshop

Sleeper State Park | Port Crescent State Park

Sanilac Petroglyphs Historic State Park

March 30, 2011 • 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Franklin Inn
1070 E. Huron Avenue
Bad Axe, Michigan 48413

AGENDA

1. Introductions and Background (6:30 – 6:40 p.m.)

2. Presentation (6:40 – 7:30 p.m.)
   - ❑ Purpose of General Management Plans
   - ❑ Plan Process
   - ❑ Overview of Draft Plans for:

- Sanilac Petroglyphs Historic State Park
- Sleeper State Park
- Port Crescent State Park

3. Work Shop (7:30 – 8:30 p.m.)

   You are invited to visit each park's Map Station. Planning Team members will be available to answers questions, discuss your ideas, and receive your input. Please be sure to fill out a survey and offer us your comments for any one or all three of the parks. Your input is important to the process of developing a general management plan for these parks.

Appendix C –Planning Team Meeting Summaries

PLANNING TEAM MEETING #1 - 9/30/10

Sleeper SP, Port Sanilac SP, and Sanilac Petroglyphs HSP

Meeting Overview

The first planning team meeting was well attended by DNRE resource programs staff (Fish Division, Forest Management Division, Wildlife Division, Law Enforcement Division, and Recreation Division). Also participating on our planning team: the State Archaeologist, the Michigan Archaeological Society, and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. David Birchler and Jill Bahm of Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc. (BA) are assisting the DNRE with the GMP for Sleeper and Port Crescent State Parks.

Paul Curtis presented a presentation of the management planning process, which was followed up by a BA overview of features and attributes of each park. The team found no corrections were needed to the park overviews.

The planning team was split into two groups to consider and discuss those things that make each park special and unique. The following comments were presented by the teams:

Port Crescent SP

- Contains remnants of the Village of Port Crescent (European)
- Native American presence near Pinnebog River and along shoreline
- Pinnebog River has broad and dynamic river mouth (causing relocation of man-made elements)
- Migrating songbirds and birds of prey
- Wooded dune/swale complex
- The water itself (Lake Huron and Pinnebog River)
- 3-miles of shore/dune
- Part of the Lake Huron Kayak Trail
- Specific archaeological features
- Steelhead plan for the Pinnebog River
- Rare pitchers thistle population
- Large area protected from development include- mouth of river

- History – mining town / dock / lumber industry
- Largest dunes East side of Michigan
- Specific archaeological features
- Proximity to local, rural communities
- Oak – Pine barren
- Camping & Recreation draw on the lake
- Natural features of the park.
- Shoreline Trail is important back to pre-history
- Could day-use area return to Ecologically sensitive in next 100 years due to natural changes.

Sanilac Petroglyphs HSP

- Sacred site for Native Americans
- Whole park has cultural impact (also area surrounding the park)
- Spiritual significance
- Other archaeological significance in park (e.g. logging camp and cabin)
- Active site for cultural practices (Saginaw Chippewa Tribe)
- Potential for revegetation of native plants for tribal cultural practices
- Big white pine (dates back to the big fire…)
- Pristine natural character outside Petroglyphs
- Opportunity for interpretive trail for its educational significance
- Opportunities for strong mutual education partnerships between Native Americans / DNRE / Archeological society.
- Cass River
- Park is surrounded by State Game Area and serves as a hunting oasis for wildlife
- Exposed bedrock is unique
- Physical record of past.
- Condition of the glyphs, need for stewardship is common concern.
- It is apparent that a unique technology was used to cut the petroglyph images into the rock.

Sleeper SP

- 5-miles from the annual “Cheeseburger Festival”
- Undisturbed Wooded dune/swale complex
- Oak-Pine Barrens
- Adjacent to Rush Lake Game Area (2000 acres +/-)
- Undisturbed beach ridges
- Potential archaeological significance
- Part of the Lake Huron Kayak Trail
- University shoreline research done here
- Bird migration not as significant here as at Port Crescent, but include Sand Hill Cranes, Raptors
- Outdoor Center (old CCC cabins in rustic setting)
- ½ mile shoreline
- Sunrise to sunset

Management Zone Plans:

Each team created a conceptual 'Management Zone Plan.' These maps will be discussed and refined at the next team meeting. Generally, the teams identified the following zones:

Port Crescent SP: The Natural Resource Recreation Zone will cover the footprint of the old sand mine, currently the parking area, the observation platform, and hiking trails by the access road. The Backcountry Zone will cover the old town site, currently the eastern park trails, and the Developed Recreation Zone will apply to the campground and the Visitor Services Zone will apply to the park office. The remainder of the park will be zoned Primitive. A Scenic overlay zone will apply to the entire shoreline, and a Cultural overlay will apply to the entire park.

Sleeper SP: The hiking trails and surrounding area will either be zoned Primitive or Natural Resource Recreation. The 80 acres mostly south of Sand Road will be zoned Primitive; the campground will be zoned Developed Recreation. The park office will be zoned Visitor Services. The beach will either be zoned Developed Recreation or Natural Resource Recreation. One team suggested a Scenic overlay at the shoreline and a Cultural overlay at the Outdoor Center, given its link to the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Sanilac Petroglyphs:

- Primitive Zone – Much of the park is impacted by wetlands. This zone would apply to the whole park except for the parking area, path to the petroglyphs, and the petroglyphs area. It was noted that the existing loop trail offers natural resource education/interpretation and that zoning should not conflict with upgrading the trail for accessibility.
- History Education Zone - Parking area, path to petroglyphs, and the petroglyphs area. This would allow for improvements for protection of the petroglyphs and expansion of education/interpretation improvements.
- Cultural Landscape Zone – would apply to the whole park reflecting not only Native American occupation, but also later European influences reflected in the old logging camp and cabin.

Stakeholders

Team members were asked to come to the next Planning Team Meeting (#2) with names and contact information for "Stakeholders" to invite to the Stakeholder Workshop.

Paul Curtis and David Birchler attended the Sea Grant meeting "Charting the Course for the Bluewater Coast – Southern Lake Huron Assessment" the next day (Oct.1, 2010 at Sleeper SP). Those attendees were advised of planning

efforts that had just started, and asked for anyone interested in participating in our Stakeholder Workshop to contact Paul. Following are those who have expressed that interest:

Name	Representing
Joyce Staner	Executive Director, Greater Port Austin Area Chamber of Commerce (989) 738-7600 pacofc@airadv.net
Christopher J. Boyle	Owner, Kayak business (989) 269-9276 cboylelaw@yahoo.com
Chuck Frost	Executive Director, Thumb Area Tourism Council, Inc. (248) 880-2485 chuck@thumbtourism.org
Carl Osentoski	Executive Director, Huron County Economic Development Corporation (989) 269-6431 carl@huroncounty.com
Marv Kuziel	Harbor Commissioner, Port Austin and Grindstone Area (989) 738-7708 mkuziel@shortlineins.com
Doug Wilson	MDOT, Cass City (989)872-3007 Wilsond@michigan.gov

PLANNING TEAM MEETING #2 - 11/3/10

Sleeper SP, Port Sanilac SP, and Sanilac Petroglyphs HSP

Meeting Overview

The second planning team meeting was attended by DNRE resource programs staff including Paul Curtis, Betsy Kish, George Lauinger, Jeff Johnson, Glenn Palmgren, Lisa Gamero and Kriss Bennett. Don Simons of the Michigan Archeological Society and David Birchler of Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc. (BA) were also present.

The planning team discussed the draft management zones and made the following comments:

Sleeper SP:

- The dune-swale complex warrants Primitive designation for the majority of the park.
- Add scenic and cultural overlays
- Designate Outdoor Center as Developed Recreation Zone
- The Outdoor Center was originally part of the CCC camp; the original dining hall burned down and was rebuilt.
- Historic picnic pavilion needs cultural overlay
- Expand visitor services to include the former residence that is scheduled for demolition

Port Crescent SP:

- Visitor Services is all on the east side of M-25
- Area north of Port Crescent Road is being purchased for park
- Make Scenic Overlay a cross-hatch in darker blue
- There is area of trail missing from the map

Sanilac Petroglyphs:

- Parking and Petroglyph should be History Education to permit buildings
- The entire remainder should be Primitive and Cultural Overlay
- Future structure to protect the resource should be in harmony with the primitive character of the park

Stakeholders

Team members agreed to invite attendees of the Bluewater Coast initiative and will consider other potential stakeholders.

PLANNING TEAM MEETING #3 - 12/16/10

Sleeper SP, Port Sanilac SP, and Sanilac Petroglyphs HSP

Meeting Overview

The third planning team meeting was attended by DNRE resource programs staff including Paul Curtis, Betsy Kish, George Lauinger, Kim Kauffman, Jim Baker, Dean Anderson, Mark Sine, Ray Fahlsing, Jeff Johnson, Lisa Gamero and Kriss Bennett. David Birchler and Jill Bahm of Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc. (BA) were also present.

The planning team discussed the draft management zones and made the following comments:

Sleeper SP:

- The boundary line on the north should be checked
- Add Cultural Overlay to the entire park
- Add description of the Recreation Passport program in place of the permit system in plan document
- There was discussion about historic structures and the potential for archeological resources in and around the park

Port Crescent SP:

- Both plans need a wide angle view of the entire park boundary
- Both plans should reflect that there are “no designated equestrian trails, therefore no equestrian use is allowed.”

- Check the acreage of the park

Sanilac Petroglyphs:

- Hunting, fishing, trapping technically violate the deed restriction at this park
- Petroglyphs refer to “carving or inscriptions in rock.”

Stakeholders

Team members identified additional stakeholders for the upcoming meeting.

PLANNING TEAM MEETING #4 - 4/21/11

Sleeper SP, Port Sanilac SP, and Sanilac Petroglyphs HSP

Meeting Overview

The final planning team meeting was attended by DNRE resource programs staff including Paul Curtis, Betsy Kish, George Lauinger, Kim Kauffman, Don Bonnette, Dean Anderson, Carl Lindell, Lisa Gamero, John Terpstra, and Kriss Bennett. David Birchler and Jill Bahm of Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc. (BA) were also present.

The planning team discussed the public input meeting and draft management zones and made the following comments:

Sleeper SP:

- The zone around the campground should extend about 50 ft south of the road loop
- The sewage plant lagoon is dry now, remove the blue from the map
- Include the playground equipment in the Developed Recreation zone
- The team discussed the dedicated NRC boundary and agreed to continue studying an extension west to Mole Road and north to the power line easement
- Align the dedicated boundary with the existing park boundary where they meet
- Recommend studying boundary expansion west to the County Road.
- Remove dedicated boundary line from Wildlife Area in the SE corner of the map
- Change the trails to headquarters to hike/bike (yellow)

Port Crescent SP:

- Add the trail that parallels the scenic overlay area
- All trails should be yellow (hiking/cross country skiing)

- The team discussed cultural overlay areas in both parks and how they might apply to parcels as acquired. Paul noted these plans are reviewed every five years.

Sanilac Petroglyphs:

- Wildlife is looking at purchasing 140 acres to the south, but no formal recommendation to expand beyond dedicated boundaries is proposed with this plan.