



Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: December 7, 2022

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Roll Call

Attending remotely:

Ann Conklin; Canton Township, Wayne County
Chris Graham; Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County
Mike McDonald; Lansing, Ingham County
Julie Clark; Traverse City, Traverse County
Shaun McKeon; Lansing Township, Ingham County
Mary Pitcher; Lake Township, Benzie County
Mike Foote; Ada, Kent County
Dave Nyberg (joined late)

Absent:

Bob Hoffmeyer
Jim Bradley

Present for the Department of Natural Resources:

Ron Olson, Chief
Jacklin Blodgett
Vicki McGhee
Jason Fleming
Tim Novak
Scott Pratt
Jim Gallie
Deb Jensen
Greg Kinser
Nick Van Bloem
Brittany Ruff
Andrew LundBorg
Pat Whalen
Barbara Graves

Opening Comments

Committee member Ann Conklin called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and asked for a roll call. Public comment was moved to the beginning of the agenda.

Public Comment

Bobby Pratt, Director of Education, Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project, spoke on their efforts to prevent drownings, from working with families of drowning victims to public education. The interest today is to introduce himself to the committee, provide some information, and to promote water safety on the Great Lakes.

Dave Paul Benjamin, CoFounder and Executive Director, Great Lakes Rescue Project wanted to make sure that everybody is well aware that the beach flag system is a tool for lifeguards to use and not a replacement for lifeguards and that there needs to be dedicated beach staff to manage and monitor the flag system.

Approval of the Minutes

Committee member Conklin asked for a motion for approval of the October 12, 2022 minutes. The motion was moved by Julie Clark, supported by Mike Foote, and passed unanimously.

It was agreed to move ahead with 2023 meeting dates in the same time format as last year. It was later suggested to try and hold one or two in-person meetings that include a tour of some facilities.

Action

Deb Jensen presented the Aloha State Park GMP. Aloha has a long history, dating back to 1920, lots of repeat visitors and a strong community connection. Public input was good, with a large response to the online survey with over 1,000 responses. Action goals include determining the use for recently acquired property along Pioneer Road, implementing a tree re-planting program, and to complete a natural resource stewardship plan. General Management Plan is attached.

Committee member Conklin asked for a motion of support for approval of Resolution No. 12-2022-04 to recommend approval of the Aloha State Park General Management Plan. Committee member Graham motioned, with

committee member Pitcher seconding. The resolution was passed unanimously.

Deb Jensen presented the Gete Mino Mshkiigan GMP. The property, a relatively small site at 147 acres north of Indian River, is located on the 17,000-acre Mullett Lake, with 1,500 feet of undeveloped lakeshore. The name was suggested by members of the Little Traverse Bay Band, which translates to “Ancient Good Wetlands.” General Management Plan is attached.

Committee member Clark thanked the team for working closely with the tribes, along with the stakeholders and different user groups, and getting their input for the plan.

Resolution No. 12-2022-05

Committee member Conklin asked for a motion of support for approval of Resolution No. 12-2022-05 to recommend approval of the Gete Mino Mshkiigan General Management Plan. Committee member Graham motioned, with committee member Clark seconding. The resolution was passed unanimously.

Information Only

Parks and Recreation, Ron Olson, Chief

Some cabinet changes were announced a few days ago, including the temporary moving of Director Eichinger to the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy. Deputy Shannon Lott will be stepping in as acting director in the interim. Changes will take place January 1.

The camping and recreation trends are leveling off and still well above 2019. The budget is well underway, and efforts are being made to add more positions and formalizing short-term worker pay, which hopefully helps with recruitment.

A Land and Water Conservation Grant for \$3M was secured for restoration of the Cheboygan Lock.

Committee member Conklin suggested that as budget talks commence, to consider someone on the beaches to monitor the flags.

Advisory Boards Public Meeting Format Protocol, Ron Olson, Chief

Committees that fall under statute or that follow OMA are required to hold in-person meetings. Non-OMA committees will be migrating to in-person as well, but a hybrid option will be offered. He asked the committee what their preference would be. Suggestions included no winter travel but perhaps a few summer in-person meetings with possible site-seeing/tours, and possibly holding some in conjunction with NRC meetings. It was also stated that virtual meetings are efficient as well.

Flint State Park Update, Ron Olson, Chief

The 130-acre land lease has been approved unanimously by the Flint City Council. The lease is for 30 years with an option for two 30-year extensions. Land donations – General Motors land parcel approved. Private parcel donation and the County land (Chevy Commons) in process. Park development plan in-river details is being finalized.

ARPA Projects

Brittany Ruff and Greg Kinser gave a general update on the ARPA project process. Nine projects are starting and actively in construction and a vast majority are in various stages of engineering. The complete report is attached. An online dashboard can be found at [Building Michigan Together Plan - State Parks Progress](https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/places/state-parks/arpa-funding) (or at <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/places/state-parks/arpa-funding>). Updates were also given on the ongoing progress, including trail section staff changes, progress tracking, and future planning.

Generator Policy

Jason Fleming updated the committee on the process that has been worked on while incorporating the state forest campgrounds from FRD to PRD. Workgroups were formed to look at the entire system and pull together an overview of what they were seeking to accomplish. Part of this process was surveying and coordinating with different groups. What was seen was a significant increase in state forest campground and rustic campground use and visitors bringing in their own amenities such as generators. A difficulty has been how to consistently manage generator use, so a Land Use Order will be drafted.

There was some discussion, and it was agreed to bring this before the Stewardship Subcommittee early next year to gather more input.

Summer Youth Employment – Postponed to the next meeting

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 12-2022-04

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE “ALOHA STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN”

ADOPTED: December 7, 2022

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division has completed the General Management Plan for Aloha 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 Aloha State Park; and

WHEREAS, the General Management Plan is consistent with the recommendations of the Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel and the Parks and Recreation Division’s strategic plan; and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Aloha State Park General Management Plan; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee further recommends that the DNR Director approve the General Management Plan for Aloha State Park;

Submitted by: Michigan State Park Advisory Committee

Motioned by: Chris Graham
Seconded by: Mary Pitcher

Yeas:	7
Nays:	0
Abstained:	0
Absent:	3

This Resolution was adopted by the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee at their regular meeting on December 7, 2022, as Resolution No. 12-2022-04.

RESOLUTION NO. 12-2022-05

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE “GETE MINO MSHKIIGAN GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN”

ADOPTED: December 7, 2022

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division has completed the General Management Plan for Gete Mino Mshkiigan; 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 Gete Mino Mshkiigan; and

WHEREAS, the General Management Plan is consistent with the recommendations of the Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel and the Parks and Recreation Division’s strategic plan; and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Gete Mino Mshkiigan General Management Plan; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee further recommends that the DNR Director approve the General Management Plan for Gete Mino Mshkiigan;

Submitted by: Michigan State Park Advisory Committee

Motioned by: Chris Graham
Seconded by: Julie Clark

Yeas:	7
Nays:	0
Abstained:	0
Absent:	3

This Resolution was adopted by the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee at their regular meeting on December 7, 2022, as Resolution No. 12-2022-05.



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA):
INVESTING IN MI STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
12/07/22



WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/STATEPARKSPROGRESS

Project breakdown by Program	Proposed Projects	Projects In Construction	Projects In Design/Engineering	Total Projects In Progress
American Rescue Plan - State Parks and Recreation Areas*	175	7	164	171
Parks Project Groupings	73	7	63	70
American Rescue Plan - Belle Isle	2	1	1	2
American Rescue Plan - Trails**	54	1	5	6
American Rescue Act total	231	9	170	179
* Parks projects have been grouped into bundles for efficiencies. The 179 individual parks projects were bundled into 81 larger projects				
**7 Large scale trail projects have been identified and are proceeding forward. The remaining non-motorized trails project list is still under development, though 47 projects have been identified to date.				
Funding breakdown by program	Funding Amount	(ARPA Profile) Program Budget	(ARPA Profile) Encumbrances	(ARPA Profile) Expenditures
American Rescue Plan - State Parks and Recreation Areas	\$ 162,857,125.00	\$ 100,589,414.06	\$ 5,539,051.67	\$ 1,097,620.31
New State Park in Genesee County	\$ 30,200,000.00	\$ 69,910.00	\$ -	\$ -
American Rescue Plan - Belle Isle	\$ 12,250,000.00	\$ 12,436,330.00	\$ 7,454,883.15	\$ 160,142.13
American Rescue Plan - Trails*	\$ 37,800,000.00	Pending	Pending	Pending
American Rescue Plan sub-total	\$ 243,107,125.00	\$ 113,095,654.06	\$ 12,993,934.82	\$ 1,257,762.44
American Rescue Plan Contingency	\$ 6,892,875.00	\$ -	\$ 0	\$ 2,400.44
American Rescue Act total	\$ 250,000,000.00	\$ 113,095,654.06	\$ 12,993,934.82	\$ 1,260,162.88

PROGRAM STATUS



Interlochen CG Electric Pedestal



Hartwick Pines Chapel Building Roof

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS: CONSTRUCTION

Interlochen State Park

- Electrical upgrades in the South campground loop; approximately 220 campsites

Hartwick Pines State Park

- Historic Bunkhouse & Chapel building roof replacements

Bay City State Park

- Saginaw Bay Visitor Center Renovations; focus on interior spaces, plumbing and electrical upgrades

Tawas Point State Park

- Repair of the brick masonry of the historic Tawas Point Lighthouse

Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park

- Paving remaining 29 miles



Saginaw Bay Visitors Center



Tawas Point Historic Lighthouse

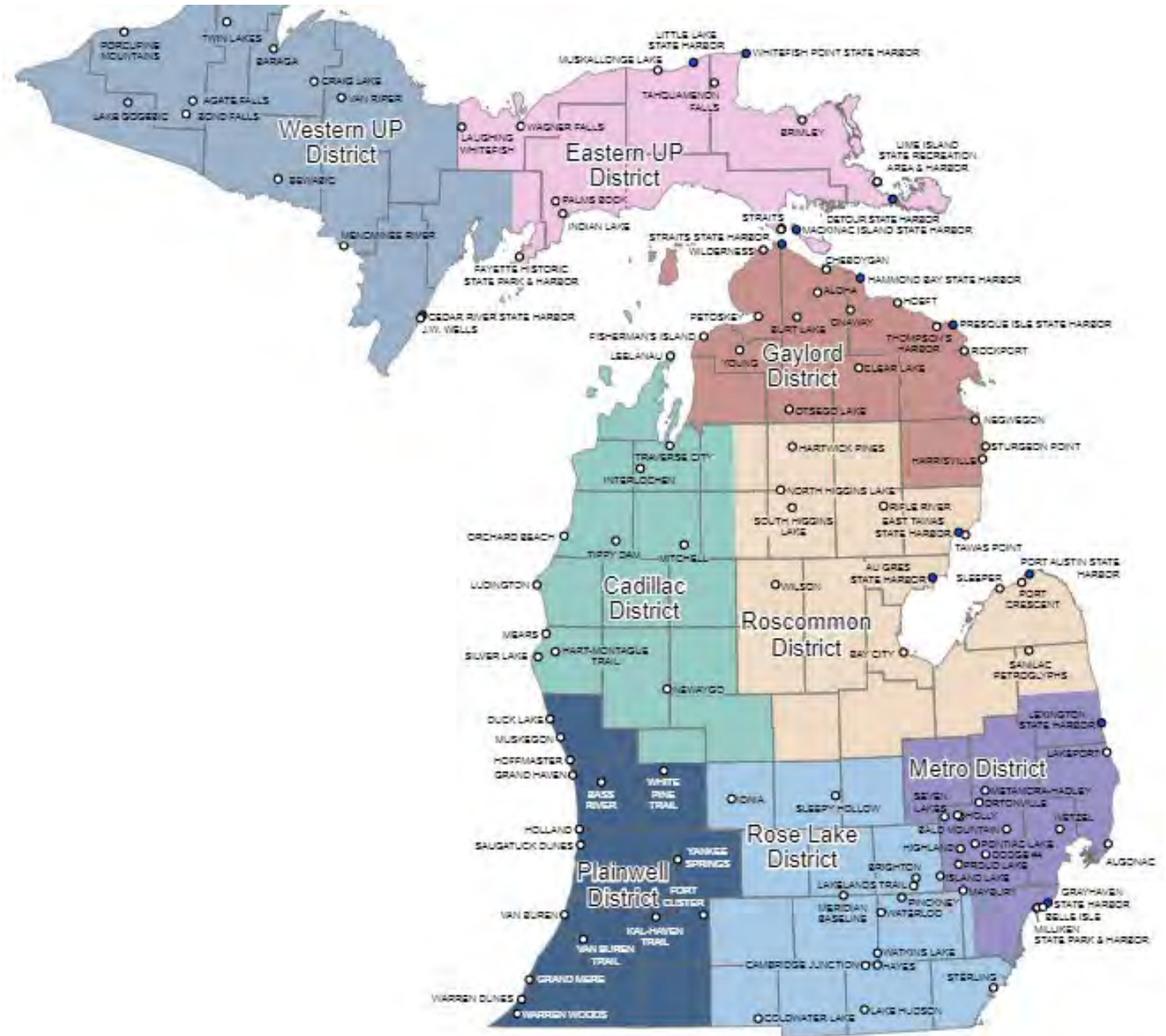
CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS

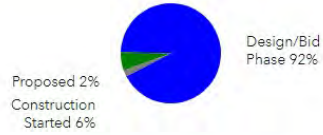
- CM Regions

- 1 – Upper Peninsula
- 2 – Gaylord & Roscommon
- 3 – Cadillac & Plainwell
- 4 – Rose Lake & Metro

- Status

- Next Steps & Timeline





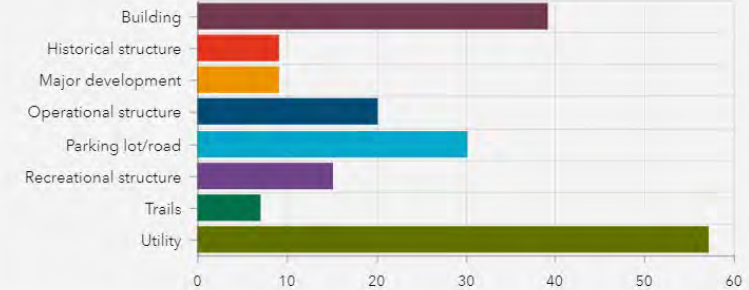
Project Location	Improvement Category	Status
Algonac State Park	Operational Structure	Design/Bid Phase
Algonac State Park	Major Development	Design/Bid Phase
Algonac State Park	Parking Lot/Road	Design/Bid Phase
Bald Mountain Recreation Area	Operational Structure	Design/Bid Phase
Bald Mountain Recreation Area	Operational Structure	Design/Bid Phase
Bald Mountain Recreation Area	Operational Structure	Design/Bid Phase
Bald Mountain Recreation Area	Operational Structure	Design/Bid Phase
Bald Mountain Recreation Area	Operational Structure	Design/Bid Phase
Bald Mountain Recreation Area	Utility	Design/Bid Phase
Bald Mountain Recreation Area	Building	Design/Bid Phase
Bay City State Park	Parking Lot/Road	Design/Bid Phase
Bay City State Park	Building	Construction Started
Bay City State Park	Utility	Design/Bid Phase
Belle Isle Park	Building	Design/Bid Phase
Belle Isle Park	Building	Construction Started
Betsie Valley Trail	Trails	Design/Bid Phase
Bewabic State Park	Utility	Design/Bid Phase
Bewabic State Park	Building	Design/Bid Phase
Bewabic State Park	Parking Lot/Road	Design/Bid Phase
Brighton Recreation Area	Operational Structure	Design/Bid Phase

Individual project details

Project Status	Construction Started
Funding Allotment	\$7.5 million
Improvement Category	Building
Project Description	Replace the glass and upper steel trusses that support the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory dome (also known as the Palm House). This project is the second and final phase of a comprehensive plan to revitalize one of the nation's oldest turn-of-the-century glass houses still in existence.
Recreation Search	View

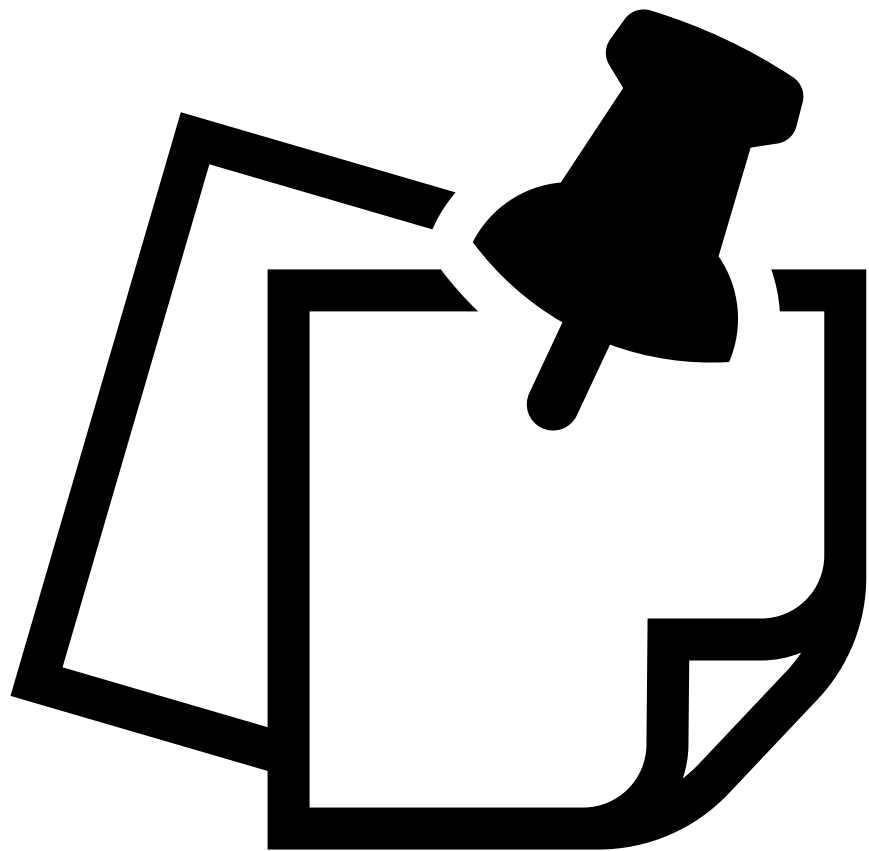


Project category



UPDATED INTERACTIVE MAP

BUILDING MICHIGAN TOGETHER PLAN - STATE PARKS PROGRESS



ONGOING

- **TRAIL SECTION STAFF**

- Northeastern Lower Peninsula Trail Specialist
- Southeastern Lower Peninsula Trail Specialist
- Non-Motorized Grants Coordinator

- **PROGRESSTRACKING**

- Internal project dashboard
- Scheduled SIGMA reports

- **FUTURE PLANNING**

- Needs analysis
- Funding projections

Thank you for your time!

WHAT QUESTIONS DO
YOU HAVE?