



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Campsites along the shore of the boat basin

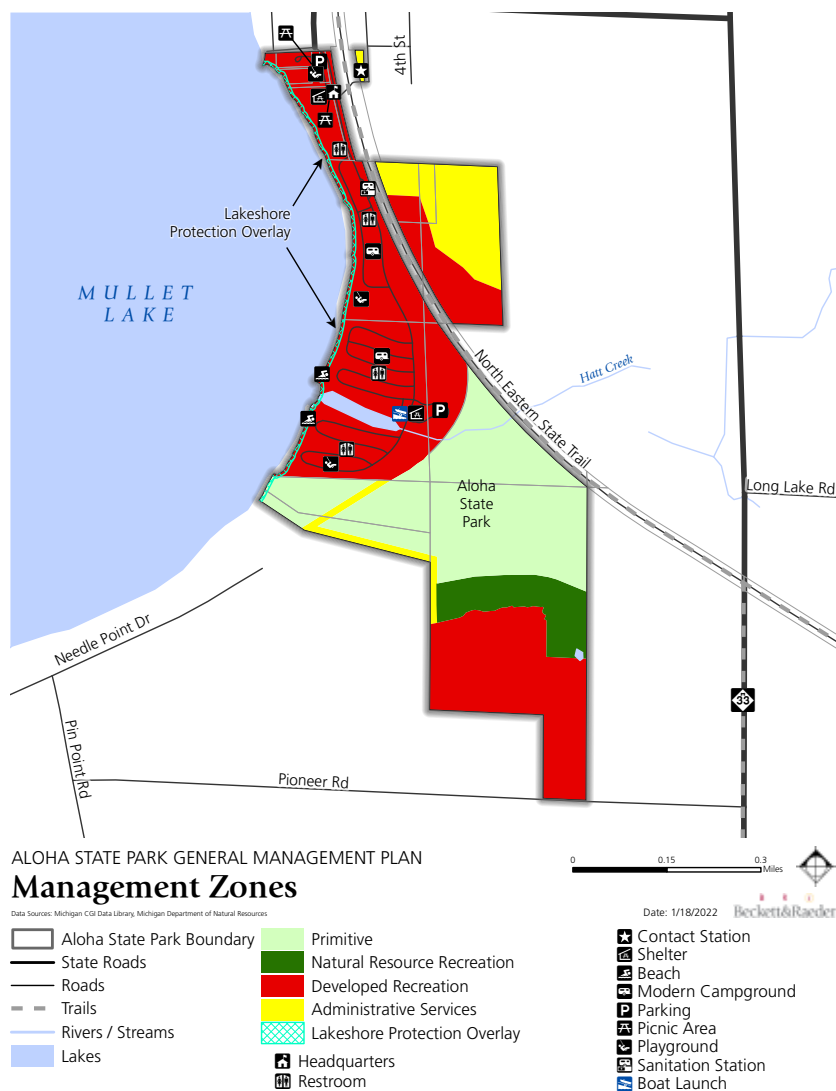
Aloha State Park

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

APPROVED JANUARY 10, 2023

Prepared with the assistance of Beckett & Raeder, Inc

B R 
Beckett&Raeder
www.bria2.com



This project was directed by Deborah Jensen, Management Plan Administrator, Department of Natural Resources, DNR Parks & Recreation Division with assistance from Beckett & Raeder, Inc.

PLAN APPROVALS:

 DNR Chief, Parks & Recreation Division

01/10/2023

 Date

 DNR Natural Resources Deputy

01/09/2023

 Date

 DNR Director, Department of Natural Resources

01/10/2023

 Date

PLAN APPROVALS

PLAN APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The following dates reference when the plans were presented for recommendation. In some instances, additional time was allotted for plan review following the presentation with subsequent approval received by email.

PRD- Section Chiefs	<u>11/01/2022</u> Date
DNR- Resource Management Bureau	<u>11/09/2022</u> Date
MSPAC- Stewardship Subcommittee	<u>11/22/2022</u> Date
NRC- Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee	<u>12/07/2022</u> Date

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

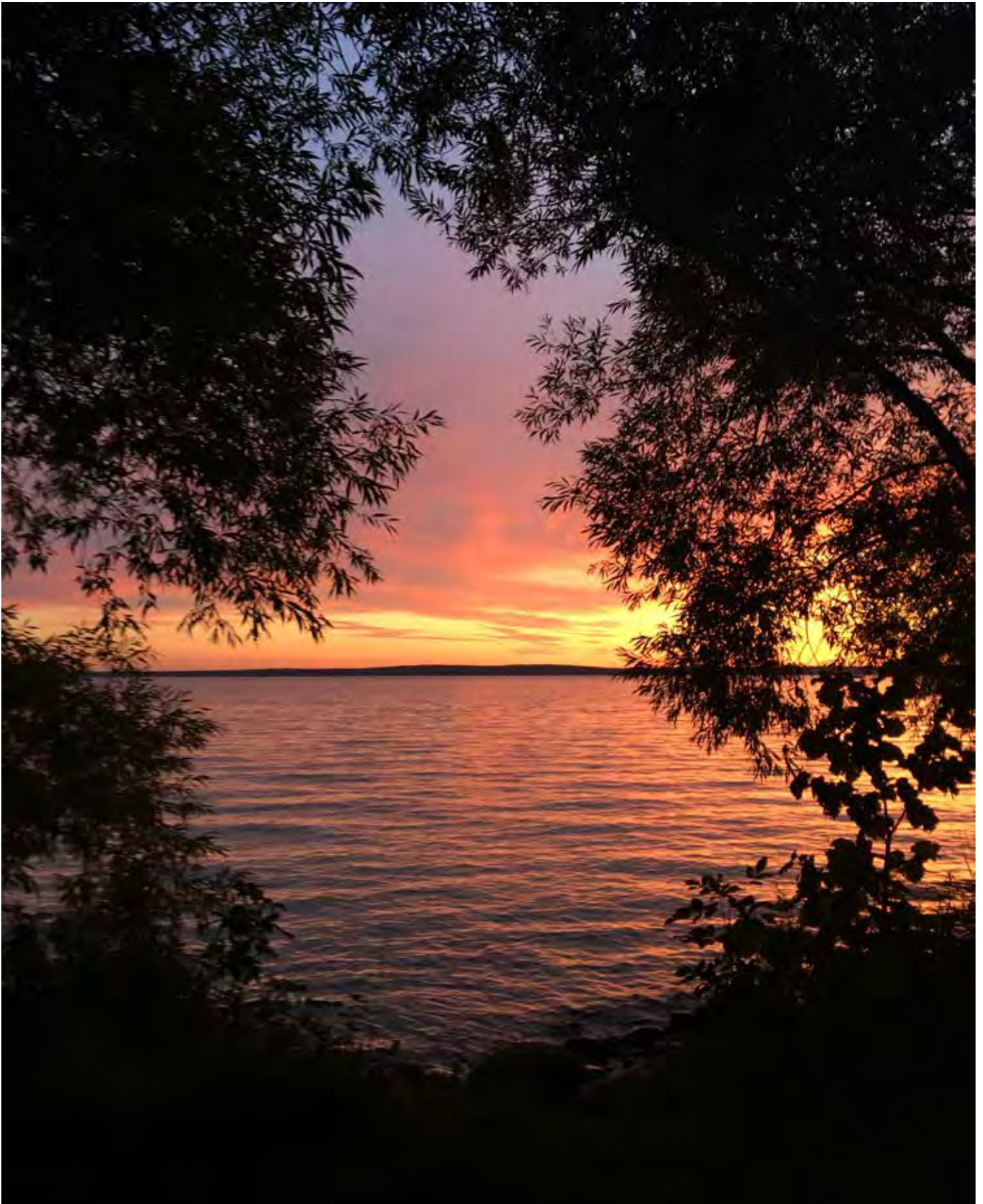
Absent: 3

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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Management Plan Executive Summary	1
Significance of Aloha State Park	2
Twenty-Year Management Zones	3
Ten-Year Action Goals	4
Chapter One: Core Values & Guiding Resources	5
1.1 Mission Statements	5
1.2 Guiding References	5
1.3 Summary of Legal Mandates	7
Chapter Two: Plan Process Overview	9
2.1 Planning Objectives	9
2.2 Planning Process	10
2.3 Planning Team	10
2.4 Summary of Input Opportunities	10
2.5 Climate Adaptation Planning.....	12
Chapter Three: Purpose and Significance	13
3.1 Purpose of Aloha State Park	13
3.2 Statements of Significance	13
3.3 Public Affirmation of Significance.....	14
3.4 Community Connection.....	15
Chapter Four: Management Zones.....	16
4.1 Project Boundary.....	16
4.2 Primitive Zone	19
4.3 Natural Resource Recreation Zone	20
4.4 Developed Recreation Zone	21
4.5 Administrative Services Zone	22
4.6 Lakeshore Protection Overlay.....	23
Chapter Five: Ten-Year Action Goals.....	25
5.1 Action Goals Summary	26
5.2 Aloha State Park Ten-Year Action Goals.....	26
Chapter Six: Implementation Strategy	31
6.1 Implementation Toolbox	31
6.2 Documentation of Changes	32
6.3 Documentation of Accomplishments	32
6.4 Five-Year Review Process.....	32

Appendix A: Supporting Analysis	A-1
A.1 Park Overview	A-1
A.2 Demographics	A-3
A.3 Regional Recreation Resources	A-4
A.4 History of Aloha State Park	A-9
A.5 Land Ownership	A-10
A.6 Legal Mandates	A-12
A.7 Landscape Context and Natural Resources	A-14
A.8 Recreational Resources	A-17
A.9 Historic and Cultural Resources	A-17
A.10 Park Use Statistics	A-19
Appendix B: Public and Stakeholder Input	B-1
B.1 Project Website	B-1
B.2 Summary of Public Input Survey	B-1
B.3 Summary of Stakeholder Input Workshop	B-7
B.4 Tribal Engagement.....	B-10
B.5 Public Input Survey Data	B-11
B.6 Summary of Draft Plan Public Input	B-27
Appendix C: Opinion of Probable Costs.....	C-1
C.1 State Park Funding.....	C-1
C.2 Estimated Cost of Proposed Developments	C-1



An orange and red sunset over Mullett Lake



A child plays with inflatable tubes at the Aloha State Park beach

General Management Plan Executive Summary

Aloha State Park covers 174 acres in Aloha Township (Cheboygan County) near the northern tip of Michigan's lower peninsula, five miles south of Cheboygan. It was originally established as a destination to draw railroad tourists at the end of the lumbering era in northern Michigan. Today, the park is known for its 4,000 feet of shoreline on the 17,000 acre Mullett Lake with many waterfront campsites, boat basin, and waterfront recreation opportunities that attract visitors and residents year after year. The day use area provides space for outdoor gatherings, active recreation, swimming, and shoreline fishing. In addition, a large undeveloped portion of the park provides natural habitat for many species as well as an opportunity for further park development.

The purpose of this general management plan (GMP) is to guide the future long-term management and development of Aloha State Park. Overall, this plan seeks to uphold the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks & Recreation Division's (PRD) Mission: "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 management plan brings together DNR staff, stakeholders, and the public into a process that defines the following for the state park:

- Purpose and significance that captures the unique identity of Aloha State Park.
- Twenty-year management zone plan reflecting the resource protection goals and level of development appropriate for different areas of the state park.
- Ten-year action goals that address the desired future condition within the state park as a whole and within each of the designated management zones.

The supporting analysis, included as Appendix A of this plan, provides important background information on Aloha State Park that informs this planning initiative. It includes a comprehensive review of the state park setting, area demographics, history, land ownership, legal mandates, and cultural, natural, and recreation resources. Furthermore, several existing planning documents, including the DNR Public Land Strategy and the Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, were used as guiding references (see Chapter One).

Significance of Aloha State Park

This general management plan was developed in consideration of the property's significant features that make it distinct from other parks in the state park system. Aloha State Park was determined significant due to the aspects that are summarized below. The full statements of significance can be found in Chapter Three.

- Aloha State Park's waterfront campsites, boat basin, and water recreation opportunities on the Inland Waterway draw a high volume of visitors.
- The park was originally developed as a northern resort destination to encourage rail travel after the decline of the lumber industry. Part of a 200-foot dock and remnants of the railroad depot exist as a reminder of this era.
- Aloha State Park has strong community presence and is frequented by local residents who enjoy the lively social atmosphere and seasonal events.
- The North Eastern State Trail (NEST), part of an expansive multi-use regional rail trail network, runs adjacent to the park.
- A large tract of undeveloped land with frontage on Pioneer Road presents an opportunity for future development and resource interpretation.
- Aloha State Park's swamps, forests, and water resources provide habitat and rustic beauty. A relic lake shoreline of Mullett Lake is visible in the southern portion of the park.



On a calm day, logs can be seen on the bottom of Mullett Lake as remnants of the lumber industry

Twenty-Year Management Zones

A key goal in the development of this general management plan is to continue to protect the park's natural and cultural resources, while providing recreation and education opportunities. Taking this into account, the planning team, with stakeholder and public input, established appropriate management zones for the park from a palette of nine standard zones. The management zone map and a thorough review of each management zone are found in Chapter Four of this plan. A condensed description of each of the applied management zones is as follows:

Primitive Zone

The primary purpose of the Primitive Zone is the protection of natural resources and natural processes. The zone is managed for low-impact recreational experiences in a primitive, natural landscape. Only dispersed, self-reliant, and low-frequency use is allowed. Attaining and maintaining a high-quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements or uses are allowed. This zone covers 30% of the park and includes the sensitive wetland areas in the center of the park.

Natural Resource Recreation Zone

The Natural Resource Recreation Zone supports active recreation conducted in a natural setting with medium- to high-density use. There is an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but moderate to high levels of use may be accommodated. This zone makes up approximately 6% of the park and includes forested areas that are not primarily wetlands.



Kayakers in the boat basin



Two adults relax at their campsite

Developed Recreation Zone

The Developed Recreation Zone supports 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. Examples of this zone include modern campgrounds, day use recreation areas, boating facilities, and other highly developed/high use areas. This zone is approximately 53% of the park land and includes the modern campground, boat basin, boat launch, day use area, and the southern portion of the undeveloped property off Pioneer Road.

Administrative Services Zone

This zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. Typically, it will include offices, contact stations, maintenance facilities and all related land base required to conduct the business of running a state park or recreation area. This zone covers 10% of the park and includes the park headquarters and shop area, the wastewater facility and surrounding area, and a corridor through the undeveloped southern portion of the park for a future management access.

Lakeshore Protection Overlay

This overlay is intended to bolster the protection of the existing natural resources along Mullett Lake. This may be achieved through best management practices such as no-mow zones, fostering native vegetation growth, use of interpretive signs to educate the public, or limiting development in this sensitive riparian zone. This overlay covers 4.8 acres that consists of a 25' corridor along the edge of the lakeshore. Developed swimming beach areas within this zone and specific areas for public access will remain.

Ten-Year Action Goals

Once the planning team has established management zones to guide Aloha State Park for the next 20 years, a series of action goals are identified that are desired to be implemented within the next ten-years. The action goals are broken down into categories pertaining either to an area of management and operations, infrastructure/development projects that require capital outlay, small infrastructure and development projects, or partner projects. Any future improvements will be considered in the context of efficiency, environmental sustainability, and resiliency, for example, Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations and solar energy infrastructure. Below is a summary of the action goals for the park. The full list of ten-year action goals can be found in Chapter Five.

Management and Operations

Goals for the management and operations of the park include park-wide goals such as to complete a natural resource stewardship plan and establish no-mow boundaries in the park. Goals related to the campground include carefully selecting and re-planting trees in the campground, monitoring the dump station for capacity and traffic congestion issues and considering improvements or alternate locations, designating locations for bike/hike/kayak campsites, studying ways to improve the boat basin, and improving pedestrian and bicycle circulation in the park. In addition, management will determine the use for the Pioneer Road property, investigate opportunities and feasibility for offering watercraft and/or houseboat rentals, and design and pilot strategies to enhance and naturalize the shoreline.

Infrastructure and Development: Capital Outlay

Other action goals include the use of capital outlay funds for studies requiring consultants and larger construction projects. In the northern area of the park, a day use and park entry development plan will be developed to improve the day use area, enhance circulation, create trailheads, and relocate the headquarters and contact station. In addition, construction projects will include resolving a standing water issue near Bathroom #7, replacing all toilet/shower buildings, designing and constructing improvements to the boat basin per the study, constructing a new cold storage building, and designing and constructing cabins or other lodging type. The connectivity between the North Eastern State Trail (NEST) and the park will be improved to encourage trail use by park visitors. In addition, a phase 1 archaeological survey will be completed in the upland portions of the Pioneer Road Property.

Infrastructure and Development: Small Projects

Smaller infrastructure and development projects involve monitoring and treating aquatic invasive species in the boat basin, implementing non-motorized pathways in the park per the circulation study, continuing to improve wet campsites, and adding additional interpretive signage to engage visitors with the history, natural features, and stewardship initiatives at Aloha State Park.

Partner Projects

The park will partner with the Friends of Aloha State Park to determine improvement initiatives, which may include beach cleanup, tetherball installation, and fundraising for new play equipment.



Families play and watch the sunset at the Aloha State Park day use area



Adults relax and watch the sunset over Mullett Lake

Chapter One:

Core Values & Guiding Resources

1.1 Mission Statements

Throughout the planning process, the core values of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) were the foundation of the planning team's decisions. These include the mission statement of the DNR, the DNR Evergreen Goals, and the DNR Parks & Recreation Division (PRD) Mission Statement. These values set the protection of natural and cultural resources and the provision of recreational and educational opportunities at the forefront of the plan.

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.

DNR Evergreen Goals

- **Protect** natural and cultural resources
- **Ensure** sustainable recreation use and enjoyment
- **Enable** strong natural resource-based economies
- **Foster** effective business practices and good governance
- **Improve** and build strong relationships and partnerships, internally and externally

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.

1.2 Guiding References

The general management planning process is guided and shaped by several resources developed to provide recommendations for managing Michigan's parks and recreation system. In particular, these resources have helped shape the ten-year action goals established in this plan.

Michigan State Parks & Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel Report (2012)

The Blue Ribbon Panel's report to Governor Snyder identifies a number of recommendations for system-wide changes to programs, management, infrastructure type, and investment strategies that set up the visionary framework for the next 30-50 years of park and outdoor recreation management in Michigan. Recommendations in the report include:

- Identify and protect important natural, cultural, historic, and prehistoric resources

- Diversify funding
- Prioritize development of statewide and regional systems of connected trail networks
- Encourage connections between communities and their recreational assets to strengthen regional identities
- Integrate tourism and economic development marketing
- Prioritize investment in parks and recreation

Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2018-2022 (SCORP)

SCORP is a five-year strategic plan that shapes investment by the state and local communities in priority outdoor recreation infrastructure and programming. The plan's overarching goal is to "Protect and manage Michigan's diverse and abundant natural and cultural assets to provide relevant, quality experiences that meet the fun, relaxation, and health needs of Michigan's residents and visitors, and support economic prosperity" by meeting the following objectives:

- Foster stewardship and conservation
- Improve collaboration
- Raise awareness
- Improve recreational access
- Provide quality experiences
- Enhance health benefits
- Enhance prosperity

DNR Public Land Strategy – The Power of Public Lands (2021-2027)

The public land strategy provides a framework for the conservation and management of DNR-managed public land to ensure the best use of the state's natural and cultural resources for the benefit of Michigan residents and visitors. The strategy sets priorities and guides actions for the best use of the 4.6 million acres of state forests, parks, trails, game and wildlife areas, and other public lands the Michigan DNR is entrusted to manage on behalf of the people. The plan identifies three broad goals with strategies and measurable objectives for each goal. These goals are to:

- Protect natural and cultural resources
- Provide access to outdoor public recreation opportunities
- Perform responsible natural resource management

PRD Strategic Plan (2017-2022)

The PRD Strategic Plan is the overarching document that guides the Parks & Recreation Division in carrying out its mission. This plan establishes long-range goals, objectives, and strategies for Michigan's state parks and recreation system for the five-year period beginning in 2017. It identifies the most important issues facing the PRD and helps to define where resources should be focused for maximum benefit. The goals identified in the plan are:

- Be exemplary stewards of Michigan's natural and cultural resources
- Provide users with quality outdoor recreation experiences in balance with resource protection
- Continue to advance Michigan as the "Trail State"
- Provide a relevant gateway to connect people to nature and Michigan's cultural heritage, and foster understanding and support for PRD's mission among future generations
- Improve and maintain strong public, stakeholder and department communication, relationships and partnerships
- Engage in strategies to increase community and state economic prosperity
- Sustainably support PRD programs, operations, and facilities
- Foster and adopt effective and safe business practices



A sculpture of a bald eagle catching a fish carved from a tree trunk

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trail Plan (2022-2032)

The 2022-2032 Michigan DNR Trails Plan guides the direction of more than 13,400 miles of Michigan’s diverse trail opportunities and lays out key goals to ensure these assets are sustained and remain relevant into the future. To further elevate Michigan’s national reputation as the Trails State, the DNR will pursue the following goals over the next ten years:

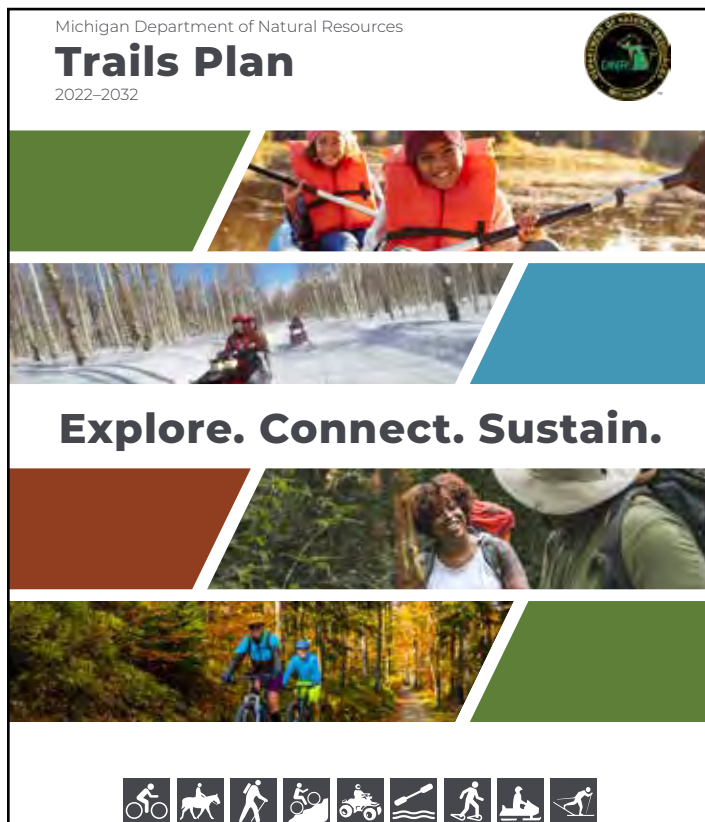
- Sustainable maintenance and development: Manage Michigan’s state-designated trails system to sustainably maintain and improve existing conditions while supporting the DNR’s long-term natural and cultural resource management goals.
- Funding: Develop and refine funding structures to ensure state-designated trails provide quality recreation and transportation experiences.
- Planning and collaboration: Model trail planning best practices to maintain and improve strong relationships and partnerships with the public, stakeholders and other governmental agencies.
- Marketing, promotion and education: Promote Michigan’s diverse trail opportunities to residents and visitors, accurately depicting experiences found throughout the state.

1.3 Summary of Legal Mandates

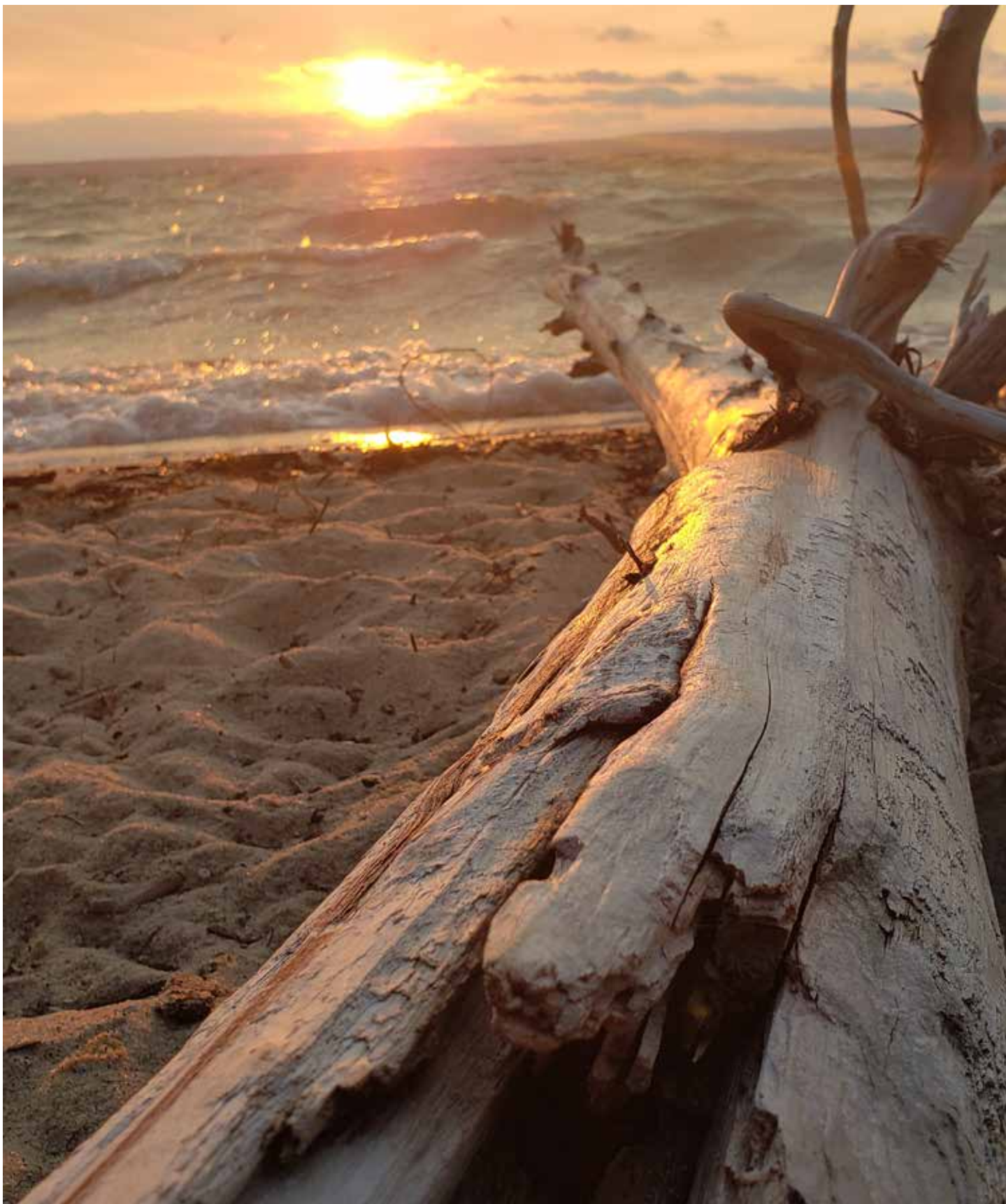
For all park general management plans, legal mandates are identified that serve to further guide the development of the plan, park management, and park operations. For the DNR’s planning purposes, the term “Legal Mandates” refers to not only state law, but also the administrative tools of “Policy” and “Directive” of the Natural Resources Commission, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Parks & Recreation Division. The general and site-specific legal mandates applicable to Aloha State Park are listed in Appendix A: Supporting Analysis.

The legal mandates that most directly impact planning and management at Aloha State Park focus on the following areas:

- Federal mandates to provide accessible facilities
- Preservation of natural and cultural resources
- Water resources protection
- Requirement for a Recreation Passport for entry into the park
- Public health code requirements for campgrounds, swimming areas, and swimmers’ itch



Michigan DNR Trails Plan Cover



Drift wood on the shore of Mullett Lake on a wavy evening



A shoreline campsite with a fire ring and picnic table

Chapter Two:

Plan Process Overview

2.1 Planning Objectives

A portion of Aloha State Park was once a park developed alongside a railroad depot to encourage tourism after the decline of the lumber industry. After rail travel declined, the park was abandoned, purchased by Cheboygan County, and transferred to the State along with 20 additional acres to qualify it as a state park. Over time, the park developed its campground, day use area, boat basin, boat launch, and toilet/shower buildings guided by the original 1950 master plan, and additional property was acquired to expand the park to its current size.

The park has remained largely unchanged since its original development, and as visitation has dramatically increased, issues with outdated infrastructure and problematic circulation have become apparent. Environmental impacts have also taken a toll on the park, from the emerald ash borer causing dramatic loss of canopy trees to increased heavy rainfall events causing ever more frequent flooding of low-lying campsites. The park's latest property acquisition on Pioneer Road also presents opportunities for relocation of some park administrative functions as well as expansion of recreation opportunities.

This general management planning process sets out a framework for protecting the park's resources while providing for meaningful visitor experiences. The long-range vision and management objectives for Aloha State Park are derived from the missions of the DNR and the Parks & Recreation Division (PRD), applicable legal directives, the purpose of the park, and the park's significant natural and cultural resources.

The objective of the general management plan (GMP) is to bring together PRD staff, staff from other resource divisions, stakeholders, and the public into a planning process that defines and clarifies the unique purpose and significance of Aloha State Park. Collectively, those attributes will be reinforced in the planning and management decisions that impact the park. Through this process, the team creates the 20-year management zone plan to guide park planning decisions, as well as 10-year action goals to establish specific action strategies for the park. Each GMP is reviewed every five years to ensure there have been no major changes that would warrant a revision to the approved plan.

2.2 Planning Process

The planning team met periodically over a 12 month period to develop the GMP, beginning in October 2021 and ending in October 2022. Throughout the process, the team sought the input of the public and stakeholders to guide the decisions made in the plan. A virtual stakeholder workshop was held in February 2022 to gather insight from organizations tied to the park. In addition, an online public input survey was available for interested parties to comment on their current use of the park and their priorities for the future. Following the input sessions and survey, the team developed a list of action goals and the draft plan.

2.3 Planning Team

This plan was developed with the direct assistance, input, and expertise provided by all members of the planning team. The planning process and document development was facilitated by Beckett & Raeder, Inc.

2.4 Summary of Input Opportunities

Public input is a critical part of the planning for Aloha State Park. Below is a summary of the public and stakeholder input methods that were used to inform the development of the GMP. Several different methods were used to ensure everyone had an opportunity for input. Full reports for each of the outreach methods are included in Appendix B of this plan.

Project Website

A public-facing website was maintained throughout the duration of the GMP process. This website was updated with general information about the park, park maps, results of the public input survey, and the draft of the GMP. The website contained a contact form so that the public could contact the planning team at any time with questions, concerns, and input.

Stakeholder Input Workshop

To gather targeted input from governmental, non-profit, and business/tourism entities, the planning team invited over 40 stakeholders to participate in a facilitated virtual input workshop held on February 23, 2022, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 p.m. Representatives of the DNR provided the stakeholders with a brief overview of Aloha State Park, including its natural features and recreational offerings. The stakeholders were also informed about the GMP process, timeline, and were given explanation of the plan elements that their input would inform: the statements of significance, the draft management zone map, and a draft list of action goals intended to be accomplished over the next ten years.

After a short question and answer period, the stakeholders engaged in a virtual input session with a real-time

Planning Team

DIVISION	TITLE	NAME
PRD	Management Plan Administrator	Debbie Jensen
PRD	Unit Supervisor	Kim Beck-Williams
PRD	Lands Liaison	Matt Lincoln
PRD	Regional Planner	Keith Cheli
PRD	Regional Planner	Ronda Osga
PRD	District Supervisor	Rich Hill
PRD	Stewardship Ecologist	Greg Norwood
PRD	Northern Lower Peninsula Trails Coordinator	Greg Kinser
PRD	Trails Specialist	Paige Perry
PRD	Cultural Resources Analyst	Lisa Gamero
PRD	Historic Architect	Robbert McKay
FD (Fisheries)	Fisheries Biologist	Tim Cwalinski
FRD (Forestry)	Forester	Shannon Harig
WLD (Wildlife)	Wildlife Biologist	Jennifer Kleitch
LED (Law)	Conservation Officer	Tim Rosachacki
FOD (Finance and Operations)	Geologist	Peter Rose
DNR	Archaeologist	Stacy Tchorzynski

questionnaire using the website Mentimeter. They completed a series of brainstorming exercises relating to the park's current state, opportunities for partnerships, the potential for the park to benefit the larger community, and the stakeholders' vision for the park's future.

Online Public Input Survey

One of the methods the planning team used to gather input from park users was an online survey. This online approach provides a convenient way for those who have access to the internet to provide feedback. However, it is not designed to be statistically representative of Aloha State Park users or uses, as respondents self-select. The online survey provides valuable information about what certain individuals or groups (those who are motivated to comment about the park, those likely to receive DNR communication about the survey, and those who have easy access to the internet) hope to see in the park's future management.

The survey was advertised to a diverse range of people through various means. A press release was sent out to subscribers of Boating, Michigan's Trails or Statewide DNR

News (press releases) for the northeast region of the state (29,133 subscribers) and an email sent to those who had registered to camp at the park within the last 3 years. It was also promoted on the Aloha State Park website, regional online news websites, and the DNR's Facebook page. The survey link was also sent to over 40 stakeholders the planning team had identified who were invited to share the survey.

Responses were collected from February 3, 2022, through March 3, 2022. During the collection period, 1,071 individuals responded to the survey. Of those respondents, 1,046 (98%) have visited the park in the last ten years and went on to answer the remainder of the questions in the survey. The survey included questions on what activities the visitors participated in during their visit, their thoughts on the day use and overnight park amenities, recreation opportunities, special events and programs, their overall satisfaction with their experience, and their thoughts on future improvement of the park.

Tribal Communication

The department's tribal coordinator reached out to the following tribes with a letter notifying them of the GMP process and timeline and asking for any input :

- Bay Mills Indian Community
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
- Hannahville Indian Community
- Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
- Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
- Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
- Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
- Gun Lake Tribe of Pottawatomi Indians
- Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi

- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Public Meeting

The public was invited to share their thoughts about the Aloha State Park Draft General Management Plan at a virtual public meeting that was hosted online by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on September 21, 2022, from 6:00- 7:30 p.m. The general public was notified about the meeting through a press release, internet postings, and email notifications. A total of 33 attendees were recorded.

The meeting began with a brief introduction of planning team members, followed by a short overview of the general management plan process, Aloha State Park, and the draft general management plan contents. Attendees were given an opportunity to ask questions of DNR staff. At the end of the meeting, attendees were asked to visit the interactive public input survey link to review and comment on the statements of significance, management zone plan, and ten-year actions goals. There was also a section for additional feedback on the management plan and the input process. A full report of the input received can be found in Appendix B.

Following the public meeting, the planning team met to discuss the input received and make any necessary changes to the plan. Changes made to the plan following the meeting included adding an action goal to address standing water near bathroom #7, re-ordering the statements of significance, and adding detail to the goal under Partner Projects to show that the Friends of Aloha State Park's initiatives may include beach cleanup, tetherball installation, and fundraising for a new playscape.



Visitors pose near the Aloha State Park entrance sign

2.5 Climate Adaptation Planning

Aloha State Park is located on Mullett Lake, which is part of the Inland Waterway – a chain of lakes and rivers that stretches from Petoskey to Cheboygan, outletting at Lake Huron. Many of the recreation opportunities at Aloha State Park center on Mullett Lake, such as boating, fishing, and beachgoing. Local groups such as the Mullett Lake Area Preservation Society and the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council work to monitor and improve the quality of this critical natural resource. However, the lake and the park are still under threat from the impacts of climate change. The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council summarizes some of the impacts of climate change on Michigan's waterways:

“The changes in climate will have a significant impact on water resources, including the Great Lakes, rivers, streams, lakes, groundwater, and inland and coastal wetlands. Climate change is resulting in the decline in both the quantity and quality of Michigan’s waters. The most recent National Climate Assessment highlights the expected effects of climate change on the Great Lakes, including changes in the range and distribution of certain fish species, increased invasive species and harmful algal blooms, declining beach health, and more.”

<https://www.watershedcouncil.org/climate-change.html>

The following anticipated climate change impacts drawn from ecosystem-based vulnerabilities led by the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science have been identified that could impact recreation and the natural environment at Aloha State Park. Source: Fourth National Climate Assessment (2018).

www.adaptationworkbook.org/explore-impacts

Northern Michigan temperatures will increase between 4°F and 10°F by the end of the century, with more warming during winter.

- Northern Michigan's winter snowpack will be reduced by 30-80% by the end of the century
- Northern Michigan will have 30-50 fewer days of frozen ground during the winter by the end of the century.
- Northern Michigan's growing season will increase by 30 to 70 days by the end of the century.
- Intense precipitation events will continue to become more frequent in northern Michigan.
- Climate conditions will increase fire risks in northern Michigan by the end of the century.
- Many invasive species, insect pests, and pathogens in northern Michigan forests will increase or become more damaging by the end of the century.
- Surface water temperatures are expected to rise due to warming air temperatures.

Some of the potential impacts of the changes to park use and management include:

- Extended use season, which could have both benefits in terms of revenue and challenges in terms of staffing
- Shoreline erosion
- Flooding due to increased precipitation/high waters
- More insect pests impacting visitors and vegetation
- Increased frequency and intensity of storms
- Higher temperatures affecting visitor comfort and safety, desire to be close to and access to the water and higher demands on electricity for camper cooling systems
- Warming of the lake and increased runoff impacting water quality and fish populations

A variety of adaptation strategies, approaches and tactics will be considered to address these impacts in both the short- and long-term park management and development decisions.

Approaches include:

- Resistance: Improving defenses against change and disturbance to retain a relatively unchanged condition
- Resilience: Accommodating some degree of change to allow return to prior condition following disturbance
- Transition: Intentionally facilitating change to align a system to new conditions.

Adaptation planning is critical for communities and facilities, including Aloha State Park, that encounter risks such as those identified above. Increasing resilience and mitigating hazards will continue to be an important goal for the park management staff and will be considered as part of all action goals moving forward. Specifically at Aloha State Park, actions will focus on improving the wet campsites, implementing best management practices along the shoreline, and increasing the tree species diversity in the campground.



Flooded campsites



Boats anchored in the shallow water

Chapter Three:

Purpose and Significance

3.1 Purpose of Aloha State Park

Park purpose statements are based on park legislation, legislative history, special designations and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) policies. These statements reaffirm the reasons for which Aloha State Park was included as part of the state park system.

- To be used as a public park, for the purposes of public recreation or the preservation of natural beauty or historic association in accordance with Act 218, Public Acts of 1919, which created the Michigan State Park Commission.
- To preserve and protect Aloha State Park's unique natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.
- To provide access to land and water based public recreational opportunities.
- To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflect the DNR mission and the unique qualities of Aloha State Park

3.2 Statements of Significance

Each general management plan (GMP) developed by the Michigan DNR Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) is built upon the foundation of the park's significant features that make it distinct from other parks in the state's system. Aloha State Park was determined significant due to the following:

Waterfront Camping and Recreation

Aloha State Park's expansive waterfront and large number of lakeside campsites draw a high volume of visitors. The boat launch gives access to the Inland Waterway, a popular water recreation destination, while the protected boat basin provides campers with a unique amenity. Visitors enjoy a shallow shoreline, many waterfront activities, and take in the beauty of the sunset.

Park History

Aloha State Park was originally developed as a northern resort destination along the Detroit and Mackinac Railway to encourage rail travel after the decline of the lumber industry. Part of a 200-foot dock stretching into the lake and footings of the former railroad depot provide reminders of this by-gone era.

Community Connection

Aloha State Park has strong community presence that keeps visitors coming back year after year. Aloha State Park is frequented by local residents all season long who enjoy the lively social atmosphere, especially during the Harvest Festival, the park's most popular event.

North Eastern State Trail

The North Eastern State Trail (NEST) runs adjacent to Aloha State Park, with a trailhead and informational kiosk near the park entrance. The NEST is part of an expansive regional rail-trail network and is open to all non-motorized uses and snowmobiles.

Park Enhancement Potential

A large tract of undeveloped land with frontage on Pioneer Road presents an opportunity for operational efficiencies and resource-based recreation, including trails and educational interpretation at Aloha State Park.

Natural Resources

Aloha State Park's natural features, such as the rich conifer swamp, mesic northern forest, large cedar trees, and large inland lake, provide habitat for a wide range of species as well as rustic beauty. In the southern portion of the park, visitors can see evidence of a relic lake shoreline from a period of higher lake level.



A child performs a handstand along the sandy shoreline

3.3 Public Affirmation of Significance

Stakeholder and public input assisted the planning team with affirming the significant features and opportunities at Aloha State Park. The feedback from the online survey confirmed that the waterfront location, water recreation amenities, and community atmosphere are key aspects of the park. Comments from survey respondents relating to those significant features are provided below.

"I love the water, I love the people, the sunsets, the ice cream, it's my home away from home. Aloha has a special place in my soul."

"The beach is natural and breathtaking. The boat canal offers such a convenient place to park boats and water toys. We love how grassy and clean the park is. The park store is a total gem. The owners are friendly and the donuts are just insanely good."

"This park is a hidden gem but very popular to the families that know about it."

"We love being able to get on our boat from the campground."

"[My favorite thing about Aloha State Park is] the fond memories. I lived two doors down from the beach as we had two lots on the lakefront. I grew up playing baseball in the park, on the swings, swimming all day at the waterfront beach, riding bikes through the park going to Tenny's and Aloha store for bubble gum strings and hanging out at the depot playing pinball and playing the jukebox. I've brought my daughter up camping and I've taken my grandchildren to the beach in the park. That park is very deeply ingrained into the memories of my life."

"We enjoy the lake access, walking the paved roads, the nearby NEST, and the picnic area."

"I have been going to Aloha State Park for over 40 years. My family and friends camp there for two weeks over the 4th of July time frame. Our group gets bigger and bigger every year. We have roughly 85 of us now. We boat the inlet waterways every day weather permitting."

"Aloha is family. Aloha is tradition. It is a great place to go camping and boating. Plus, it has its own store, which is very convenient. It is not far from town or other activities in the Cheboygan area."

3.4 Community Connection

Aloha State Park has always been near the heart of the Aloha community, since the land was originally developed as a park adjacent to the former local train depot. While the trains are long gone, the corridor that connected Aloha and the park to nearby towns such as Cheboygan remains as the North Eastern State Trail, which is used by locals as well as visitors. Aloha State Park also enjoys a close connection to local businesses such as the Aloha Camp Store; many campers see the tradition of sampling their freshly made doughnuts as a quintessential part of the park experience. Through the stakeholder workshop and the public input survey, the planning team heard of wonderful family traditions of returning to the park year after year to enjoy the lakeside camping and community atmosphere.

Park management staff can collaborate with several local groups to further the park initiatives. The newly formed Friends of Aloha State Park group will provide support to the

park and its goals and initiatives will be determined soon. As a part of the Mullett Lake watershed community, Aloha State Park must continue to be thoughtful stewards of the natural environment while providing access to water recreation. The park staff can work with Mullett Lake Area Preservation Society and local environmental groups to implement best management practices along the shoreline. The Top of Michigan Trails Council can help to promote the NEST and regional trail connections

During the stakeholder workshop, attendees were asked how Aloha State Park could benefit the wider community, now or in the future. Stakeholders offered suggestions like hosting community stewardship or educational events, encouraging more campers to use the North Eastern State Trail to access the City of Cheboygan, improving the day use area for locals, and engaging the youth of the community in park initiatives and opportunities.



Children enjoy doughnuts near a local shop

Management Zone Progression Table

MANAGEMENT ZONE	NATURAL RESOURCE IMPACTS	VISITOR USE	DEVELOPMENT LEVEL
ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE	None	Restricted	None
PRIMITIVE	Very low	Low (dispersed)	Very low
BACKCOUNTRY	Low	Low to moderate	Low
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE	Low to moderate	Moderate	Moderate
NATURAL RESOURCE RECREATION	Moderate	Moderate to high	Moderate
SCENIC	Moderate	Moderate to high	Moderate
HISTORY EDUCATION	Moderate to high	High	Moderate to high
DEVELOPED RECREATION	High	High	High
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES (FORMERLY VISITOR SERVICES)	High	High (primarily staff)	High

Chapter Four: Management Zones

The 20-year management zone plan was developed in keeping with the park's purpose and significance. The primary goal in the development of the management zones is to protect and enhance the park's natural and cultural resources while also supporting outdoor recreation and education opportunities. From a palette of nine management zones, the planning team studied the park and applied zones that best fit distinct areas of the park based on existing and desired future conditions. Management zones describe a variety of activities that may be appropriate within the zone and address the desired future condition for the following categories:

- Natural resources
- Historic/cultural resources
- Recreation opportunities
- Education/interpretation opportunities
- Visitor experience
- Management focus

The resource condition, visitor experience, and level of development vary in each of the nine standard zones, as indicated in the figure above. Aloha State Park was divided into the following four standard zones and one custom overlay:

- Primitive Zone
- Natural Resource Recreation Zone

- Developed Recreation Zone
- Administrative Services Zone
- Lakeshore Protection Overlay

Sections 4.2 through 4.5 are standard management zone descriptions for zones applied to Aloha State Park, with section 4.6 detailing the non-standard overlay zone. Examples of recreation activities and development that may be allowed in each zone are general and may not necessarily be appropriate or allowed at this location.

4.1 Project Boundary





Project boundaries are geographic lines that help define the state's public lands acquisition and disposal strategy (land strategy). These boundaries contain a majority of state ownership, as well as privately owned lands that, should they ever become available for sale, would be a priority for the DNR to pursue acquiring. The DNR undertook a comprehensive statewide project boundary review in 2020. The GMP planning team reviewed the project boundary for Aloha State Park and supports the 2020 Project Boundary approved by the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the DNR.

The approved project boundary includes portions of the former railroad right-of-way, now occupied by the North Eastern State Trail, that passes through the park. This property is already owned by the State of Michigan.



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

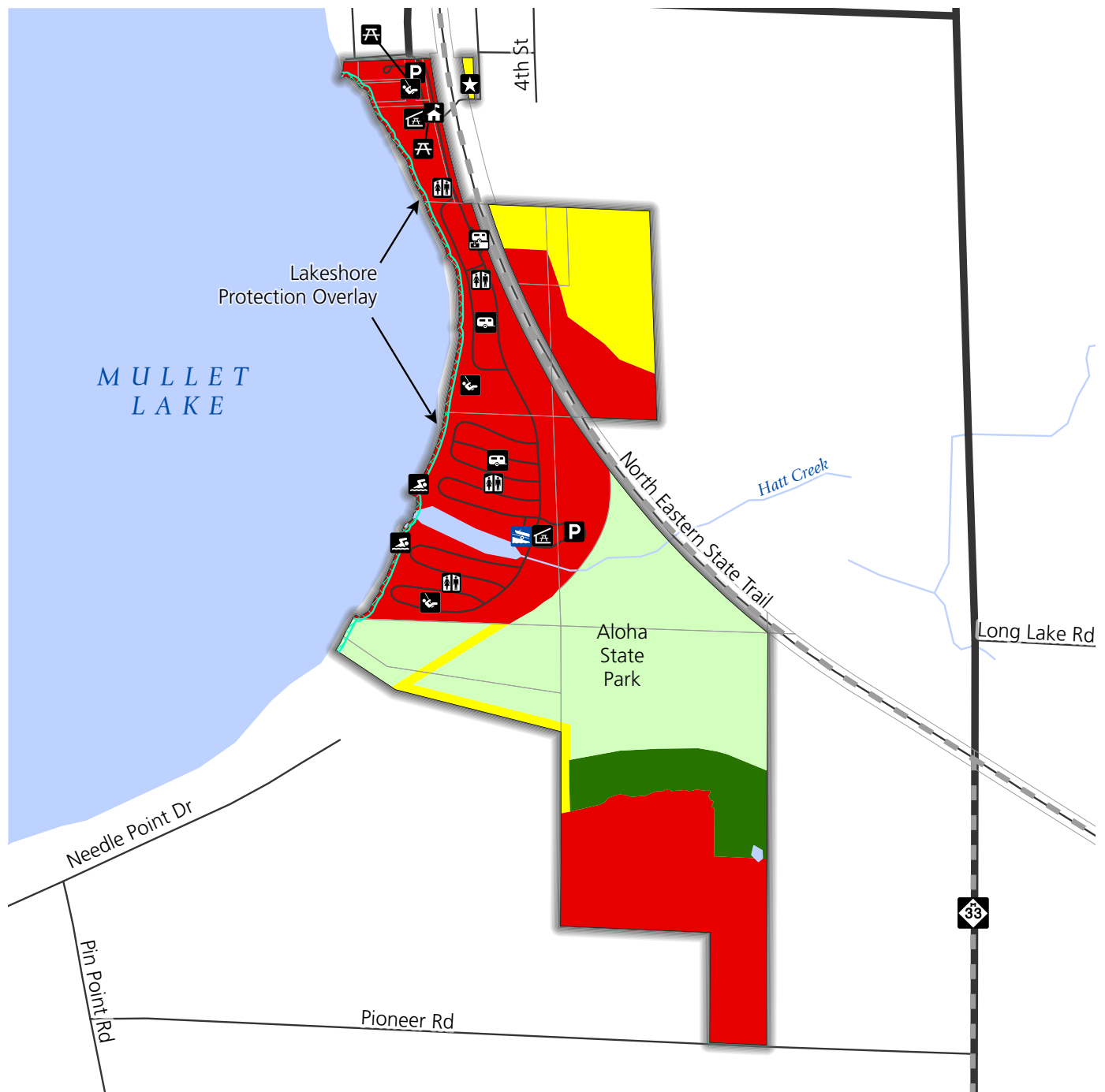
Aloha State Park - Park Boundary

-  State Park Boundary
-  NRC 2020 Approved Project Boundary*
-  Road
-  Regional Trail



Updated: 08/11/2021

*A project boundary is a geographic area in which the DNR is seeking to acquire property that supports the mission of the DNR on a willing buyer / willing seller basis, approved by the Natural Resources Commission in 2020



ALOHA STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Management Zones

Data Sources: Michigan CGI Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Aloha State Park Boundary | Primitive |
| State Roads | Natural Resource Recreation |
| Roads | Developed Recreation |
| Trails | Administrative Services |
| Rivers / Streams | Lakeshore Protection Overlay |
| Lakes | Headquarters |
| | Restroom |

0 0.15 0.3 Miles



Date: 1/18/2022

Beckett&Raeder

- Contact Station
- Shelter
- Beach
- Modern Campground
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Playground
- Sanitation Station
- Boat Launch

4.2 Primitive Zone

The primary purpose of the Primitive Zone is the protection of natural resources and natural processes. The zone is managed for low-impact recreational experiences in a primitive, natural landscape. Only dispersed, self-reliant, and low-frequency use is allowed. Attaining and maintaining a high-quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements or uses are allowed. This zone covers 30% of the park and includes the sensitive wetland areas in the center of the park.

Natural Resources

- Native species and natural processes take precedence over visitor accommodation.
- Native Michigan natural communities/ecosystem components and processes are maintained, restored and protected.
- Human-caused habitat fragmentation is eliminated.
- Non-native species are controlled or eliminated.
- Natural hydrology is maintained or restored.
- Vegetative management is only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removal of invasive species), and to manage pests and disease.
- Where agricultural fields currently exist, a strategy should be developed to bring these areas into compliance with the intent (nature/character) of the zone.
- New agricultural fields may be allowed but only as a specific and limited phase of an Ecological Restoration Plan or as a critical component of a plan for managing species of greatest conservation need.
- Haying may be used as a short-term vegetation management treatment.
- Prescribed fire is allowed to mimic natural disturbance or control invasive species.

Cultural Resources

- Archaeological resources are preserved.
- Ethnographic resources are protected.
- Extant historic structures may be preserved, but more often are removed or allowed to molder in place.

Recreation Opportunities

- Recreation is dispersed.
- Self-reliant, non-mechanized (no bicycle, horse, or motorized use) outdoor activities (e.g., hiking, backpacking, primitive camping, cross-country skiing, hunting/trapping/fishing, nature observation).
- Trail density is low. Trail routes are point to point and not sinuous in design. Trails are single track and natural surface (except as needed to protect the resource), although existing two-tracks may be allowed to remain.

Education Opportunities

- Primarily off-site.
- Interpretive signage is allowed at trail heads and at overlooks.
- Visitor Experience
- Low visitor to visitor encounters.
- Visitors are engaged in high solitude, off-trail or trailed, self-reliant outdoor activities.
- High time commitment.
- High challenge and adventure.
- Discovery area with minimal on-site interpretation.
- Low noise tolerance.
- Low interaction with DNR staff.

Management Focus

- Maintain low-impact character of the zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality.

Development

- Very low level for visitor accommodation (e.g., foot trails).
- Site hardening only allowed to protect sensitive resources (e.g., boardwalk).
- Little evidence of human activity



Wetlands in the undeveloped areas of the park

4.3 Natural Resource Recreation Zone

The Natural Resource Recreation zone supports active recreation conducted in a natural setting with medium to high-density use. There is an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but moderate to high levels of use may be accommodated. This zone makes up approximately 6% of the park and includes forested areas that are not primarily wetlands.

Natural Resources

- Natural resources support visitor activities with only moderate impacts.
- Natural resources are managed or modified to support visitor activities but protected to the degree possible and appear natural.
- Human-caused habitat fragmentation is minimized.
- Non-native species are controlled or eliminated.
- Natural hydrology is maintained or restored.
- This zone will reflect native Michigan natural communities/ecosystems and natural processes, with vegetative management to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to facilitate recreational use and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape.
- Where agricultural fields currently exist, a strategy should be developed to bring these areas into compliance with the intent (nature/character) of the zone.
- New agricultural fields may be allowed in the zone but only as a specific and limited phase of an 'Ecological Restoration Plan' or as a critical component of a plan for managing species of greatest conservation need.
- Agricultural haying may be used as a long-term vegetation management treatment.

Historic/Cultural Resources

- Archaeological resources are preserved.
- Ethnographic resources are protected.
- Extant historic resources that are consistent with operational and educational objectives may be preserved, restored or adaptively reused.

Recreation Opportunities:

- Moderate to high levels of recreation compatible with the natural character of the zone.
- Visitors engaged in outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings (e.g., hiking, backpacking, backcountry and rustic camping, bicycling, horseback riding, boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, hunting/trapping, nature observation, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling).
- Except in areas with Exemplary Natural Communities, trails may be sinuous to provide for recreational

challenge. Multi-use linear trails may be permitted in this zone.

Education Opportunities

- Interpretive signage may be provided at trail heads, on the trail, at overlooks and in campgrounds.

Visitor Experience

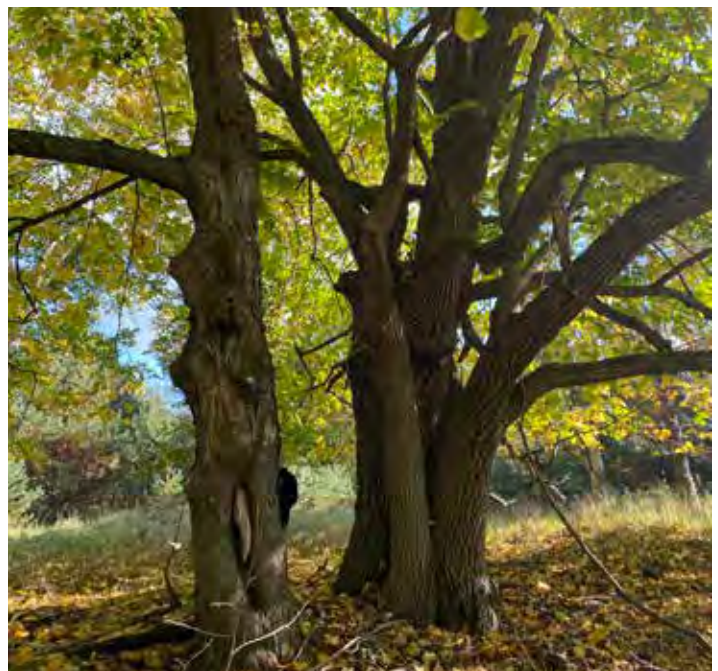
- Moderate to high visitor-to-visitor encounters accommodated.
- Visitors engaged in outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings for recreation and education.
- Variable time commitment.
- Variable challenge and adventure.
- Moderate noise tolerance.
- Moderate interaction with DNR staff.
- Moderate accessibility.

Management Focus

- Maintain use of zone in accordance with PRD's mission.
- Public safety.
- Protection of resources.

Development

- Moderate level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities (e.g., vault toilets, concrete/asphalt/gravel walkways and parking, trails, benches, picnic tables, rustic campsites, rustic cabins and shelters) for recreation and educational opportunities.
- Site hardening (e.g., boardwalks, fencing, surfaced pedestrian paths) as necessary to protect sensitive resources and provide accessibility.



Mature trees within the Pioneer Road property

4.4 Developed Recreation Zone

The Developed Recreation Zone supports 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. This zone is approximately 53% of the park land and includes the modern campground, boat basin, boat launch, day use area, an area of undeveloped land east of the rail-trail, and the southern portion of the undeveloped property off Pioneer Road. The developed recreation zone may also support administrative functions if deemed appropriate through development planning initiatives.

Natural Resources

- Natural resources may be actively managed and modified to support visitor activities.
- Water quality is maintained or restored.
- Vegetative management will address hazard trees, invasive species, and pests and disease, and will also be allowed to facilitate development, recreational use, and to maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape. Native vegetation is still emphasized. PRD's tree planting standards should be followed in this zone.

Cultural Resources

- Archaeological resources are preserved.
- Ethnographic resources are protected.
- Extant historic resources may be preserved, restored, or adaptively used to support visitor activities, operational or educational purposes.

Recreation Opportunities

- High levels of recreation activity in a highly structured environment.
- Visitors engaged in activities in diverse natural and modified land and water settings (e.g., hiking, modern and semi-modern camping, bicycling, horseback riding, boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, hunting/trapping, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, day use beach, swimming, picnicking, disc golf, and other day use activities where people congregate).
- Except in areas with Exemplary Natural Communities, trails may be sinuous to provide for recreational challenge. Multi-use linear trails are allowed in this zone.

Education Opportunities

- Interpretive signage may be provided at campgrounds, day use facilities, boating facilities, registration buildings, trail heads, on the trail, and at overlooks.
- Active programming at campgrounds and other areas where people congregate.

Visitor Experience

- High visitor to visitor encounters accommodated.
- Visitors engaged in activities in diverse land and water settings for recreation and education.
- Variable time commitment.
- Variable challenge and adventure.
- Variable level of exertion.
- High noise tolerance.
- High interaction with DNR staff.
- High accessibility.

Management Focus

- Maintain use of zone in accordance with PRD's mission.
- Management of people.
- Public safety.
- Protection of resources.
- Public accessibility.

Development

- High level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities (e.g., modern restrooms, walkways and parking, trails, benches, picnic tables, picnic shelters, modern and semi-modern campgrounds, modern cabins and shelters) for recreation and educational opportunities.
- Site hardening (e.g., boardwalks, fencing, surfaced pedestrian paths) as necessary to protect sensitive resources and provide accessibility.
- Strive for universal access in all new developments.



A family dressed in costume for the annual Harvest Festival

4.5 Administrative Services Zone

This zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. Typically, it will include offices, contact stations, maintenance facilities and all related land base required to conduct the business of running a state park or park. This zone covers 10% of the park and includes the park headquarters and shop area, the wastewater facility, and a corridor through the undeveloped southern portion of the park for a future management access. Should the headquarters location be moved in the future, this zone would also be compatible with developed recreation.

Natural Resources

- Natural resources may be actively managed and modified to support administrative and support activities.
- Vegetative management (primarily tree removal for safety) is allowed.

Cultural Resources

- Cultural resources and structures are preserved, adapted, or rehabilitated to support administrative activities.
- Historic structures should be re-purposed before new construction where possible.
- Non-utilized or non-stabilized structures may be removed.

Recreation Opportunities

- None

Education Opportunities

- Person-to-person contact at park headquarters for general information, both verbally and written (brochures, maps, etc.).
- Informational kiosk.

Visitor Experience

- Business and information only.
- High noise tolerance.
- High accessibility.
- Management Focus
- The business of running a park.
- Appropriate facilities for staff, equipment and materials.
- Employee safety.
- Public access to office.

Development

- High level of development of facilities for support of administrative activities (e.g., office space, meeting rooms, employee locker room, employee eating area, shop space, storage space and related)
- Provide maximum level of accessibility for public.



The current Aloha State Park headquarters and shop area

4.6 Lakeshore Protection Overlay

The Lakeshore Protection Overlay in Aloha State Park runs the extent of the 4,000 feet Mullett Lake shoreline for a width of 25 feet. This overlay is intended to protect the natural resources along the shoreline through best management strategies, while also recognizing the need to continue to provide access and recreation in line with the underlying Developed Recreation Zone and to protect the viewshed. This may be achieved through establishing a no-mow zone, fostering native vegetation growth, controlling invasive species, and fostering education and interpretation of nature resources and processes.

Natural Resources

- Native vegetation will be restored and protected.
- Natural resources are managed to preserve water quality and reduce shoreline erosion.
- Invasive species will be controlled.
- Vegetation may also be selectively managed to enhance viewscapes.

Cultural Resources

- Cultural resource protection and management will be in line with the underlying zone designation.

Recreation Opportunities

- Recreation opportunities consistent with the underlying zone.

- Recreation may be limited/restricted in some areas to preserve the natural shoreline vegetation.

Education Opportunities

- Education and interpretation of the purpose and benefits of the natural lakeshore buffer is encouraged.
- Interpretation will generally be outside the boundaries of the overlay.

Visitor Experience

- Consistent with the underlying zone.

Management Focus

- Management will focus on developing and maintaining a natural, vegetated buffer to protect the shoreline.
- Demonstrate good stewardship that can serve as an education tool for lakeshore owners.
- Controlled access to reduce human induced impacts will be explored.
- The quality of the lakeshore viewscapes and public safety will be maintained and upheld.

Development

- Level of development varies from those areas already developed for beach access and camping, consistent with the underlying zone, to areas set aside for restoration.
- Any proposed new development will consider stewardship and best management practices.



Sunlight sparkles on Mullett Lake



A hammock hung up on the shore of Mullett Lake



A meadow area of the undeveloped Pioneer Road property

Chapter Five:

Ten-Year Action Goals

The planning team has developed 10-year action goals that it believes are necessary to guide management and development within Aloha State Park to achieve the desired resource protection and user experience. Action goals are recommended that address natural resources, cultural resources, recreation opportunities, education/interpretation opportunities, and development. These goals apply either to the whole park or to specific locations within the park, as appropriate, and according to the management zone. Refer to the zone descriptions in Chapter Four for appropriate activities in each zone.

Management plans do not guarantee future funding to achieve the actions identified but are based on funding realities and sound investment policies. PRD will seek internal funding, alternative funding sources, partnerships and other potential mechanisms for implementing the desired future conditions defined in this plan. On an annual basis, PRD districts determine priorities for project planning and project capital outlay. Each district's top projects are then evaluated at a state-wide level for available funds.

Action goals are prioritized based on health, safety, and welfare, as well as ease of implementation (cost, ability to implement with own staff, partnerships, etc.). Priority Level 1 projects indicate those that should be addressed within the next 2 years. Priority Level 2 projects include those that should

be addressed within 3-5 years. Priority Level 3 projects are desired but can be tackled in the next 6-10 years once funding has been identified. Some goals are intended to continue throughout the plan time frame and are an "ongoing" priority. Opinion of probable costs have been developed for each capital outlay action goal identified (see Appendix C), and these projects will be included in the statewide master project list.

In 2021/2022 DNR Parks and Recreation Division completed a major infrastructure project at Aloha State Park that included comprehensive replacement of the campground water distribution and sewer distribution systems. Approximately 81 sites in the south campground loop were upgraded to "full hook up" sites that include gravel pads, water, sewer and electric service on each campsite. The aged south campground toilet shower building was removed and not replaced with the assumption that with full hook up service all campers in this section will use recreational vehicle amenities. Four new campsites were added within the footprint of the old building space. In addition, gravel pads were added to historically low and wet campsites in the north campground loop, while the south campground loop received an improved surface drainage system to address ponding and slowing moving stormwater. The total infrastructure investment for this project was \$2.5 million.

5.1 Action Goals Summary

Goals for the management and operations of the park include park-wide goals such as to complete a natural resource stewardship plan and establish no-mow boundaries. Goals related to the campground include carefully selecting and re-planting trees in the campground, monitoring the dump station for capacity and traffic congestion issues and considering improvements or alternate locations, designating locations for bike/hike/kayak campsites, studying ways to improve the boat basin, and improving pedestrian and bicycle circulation in the park. In addition, management will determine the use for the Pioneer Road property, investigate opportunities and feasibility for offering watercraft and/or houseboat rentals, and design and pilot strategies to enhance and naturalize the shoreline.

Other action goals include the use of capital outlay funds for studies requiring consultants and larger construction projects. In the northern area of the park, a day use and park entry development plan will be developed to improve the day use area, enhance circulation, create trailheads, and relocate the headquarters and contact station. In addition, construction projects will include resolving a standing water issue near Bathroom #7, replacing all toilet/shower buildings, designing and constructing improvements to the boat basin per the study, constructing a new cold storage building, and designing and constructing cabins or other lodging type. The connectivity between the North Eastern State Trail (NEST) and the park will be improved to encourage trail use by park visitors. In addition, a phase 1 archaeological survey will be completed in the upland portions of the Pioneer Road property.

Smaller infrastructure and development projects involve monitoring and treating aquatic invasive species in the boat basin, implementing non-motorized pathways in the park per the circulation study, continuing to improve wet campsites, and adding additional interpretive signage to engage visitors with the history, natural features, and stewardship initiatives at Aloha State Park.

Finally, the park will partner with the Friends of Aloha State Park to determine improvement initiatives, as the group has recently formed. Initiatives may include beach cleanup, tetherball installation, and fundraising for new play equipment.

Any future improvements will be considered in the context of efficiency, environmental sustainability and resiliency, for example, electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and solar energy infrastructure.

5.2 Aloha State Park Ten-Year Action Goals

The following 10-year action goals are ranked in terms of priority based on health, safety, and welfare, as well as ease of implementation (cost, ability to implement with own staff, partnerships etc.). Priority Level 1 projects indicate those that should be addressed within the next 2 years. Priority Level 2 projects include those that should be addressed within 3-5 years. Priority Level 3 projects are desired, but can be tackled in the next 6-10 years, once funding has been identified. Some goals are intended to continue throughout the plan time frame and are an “ongoing” priority. In the program input column, the first party listed is the program lead.

Management and Operations

GOAL	PRIORITY	MANAGEMENT ZONE	PROGRAM INPUT FROM
Determine use for recently acquired property along Pioneer Road, considering administrative and recreational opportunities.	Ongoing	Primitive Zone Natural Resource Recreation Developed Recreation Administrative Services	Park Manager Regional Planner District Supervisor Stewardship
Continue to monitor the dump station capacity and congestion and consider ways to improve traffic flow. Consider alternative locations for the dump station within the park.	Ongoing	Developed Recreation	Park Manager Regional Planner
Develop a tree re-planting plan for the campground and day use areas of the park, emphasizing increasing species diversity and selection. Determine funding and implementation strategy.	1	Developed Recreation	Park Manager Stewardship PRD Landscape Architects

Management and Operations, Continued

GOAL	PRIORITY	MANAGEMENT ZONE	PROGRAM INPUT FROM
Complete a natural resource stewardship plan for the state park, identifying targets for conservation and related natural resource management strategies, including invasive species management.	1	All	Stewardship Park Manager
Evaluate and identify mow and no-mow boundaries for park staff to reduce maintenance costs, operational efforts, carbon emissions, and nuisance wildlife, and to improve habitat diversity.	1	Developed Recreation	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner Mullet Lake Preservation Society
Conduct an internal study on the boat basin use, mooring, and shore treatment, including pedestrian connection to the park and pedestrian use of the breakwall.	2	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager
Determine locations for designated bike-hike-kayak camping to support the NEST trail and water trail.	2	Developed Recreation	Park Manager Regional Planner Trails Specialist
Develop an internal pedestrian/bicycle management plan to improve safe non-motorized circulation among uses.	2	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager
Design and pilot shoreline naturalization, protection, and enhancement treatments along the lake frontage. Educate park users on these initiatives.	2	Developed Recreation Lakeshore Protection Overlay	Stewardship Regional Planner Park Manager Mullett Lake Preservation Society
Investigate opportunities and feasibility for offering watercraft and/or houseboat rentals at the park.	2	Developed Recreation	Park Manager Regional Planner Concessions

Infrastructure & Development: Capital Outlay

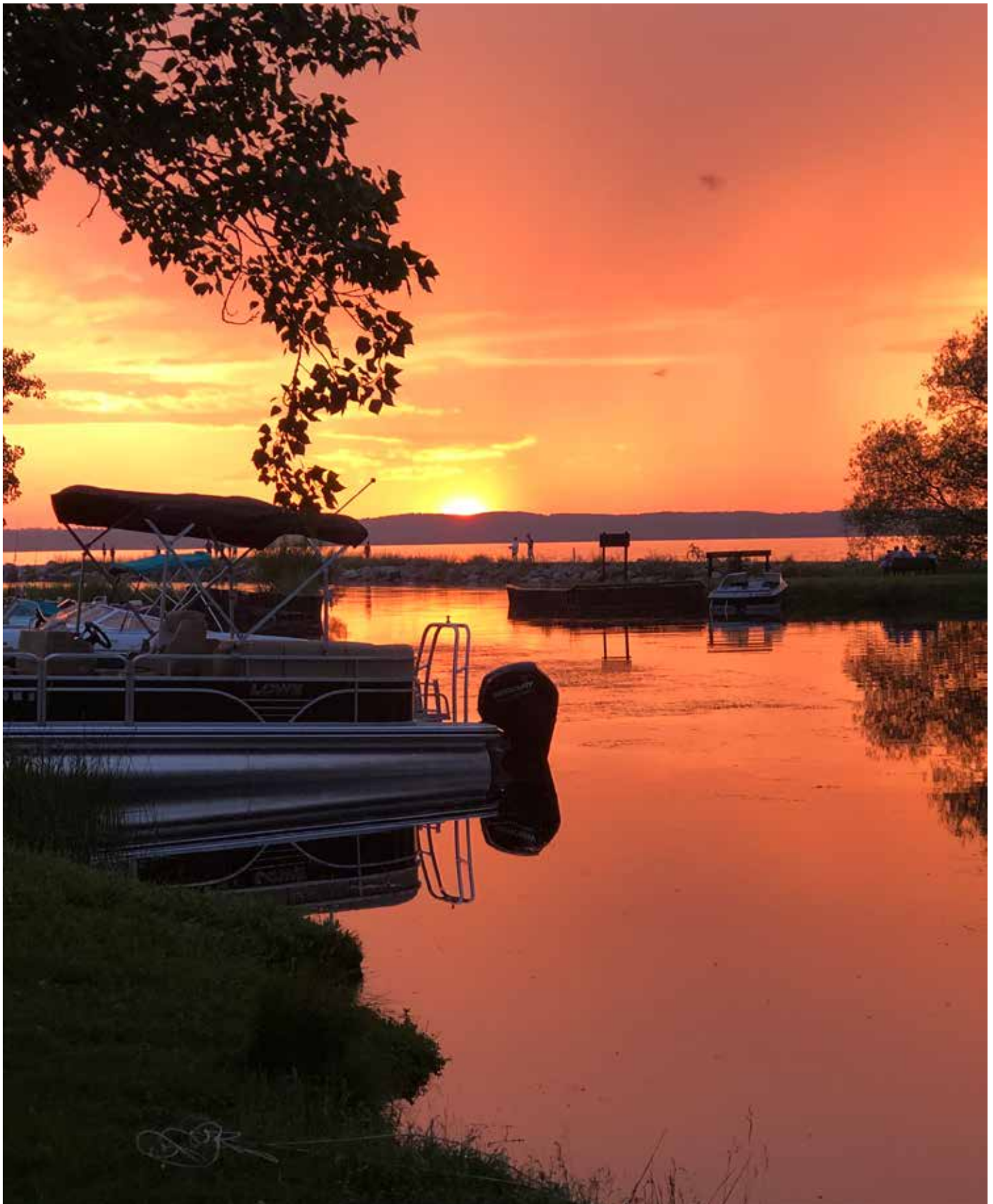
GOAL	PRIORITY	MANAGEMENT ZONE	PROGRAM INPUT FROM
Develop a day use and park entry development plan for the northern area of the park, including redevelopment of the day use area, vehicular and non-motorized circulation at the existing park entrance, improvements to the NEST trailhead, the addition of a water trailhead, and headquarters relocation.	1	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager Trails Specialist
Resolve standing water issues around Bathroom #7.	1	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager
Complete a phase 1 archaeological survey on the upland portions of the Pioneer Road Property.	2	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Stewardship
Replace all the toilet/shower buildings. Consider relocating the northern toilet/shower building closer to the day use area.	2	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager
Design and implement improvements to the NEST trail through the park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide multiple connection points between NEST and park • Identify clear parking facilities for NEST users • Improve signage for trail awareness and wayfinding • Consider paving the trail within the park boundaries while also considering equestrian use 	2	Developed Recreation	Park Manager Trails Specialist Regional Planner
Design and construct the improvements to the boat basin as determined in the study.	3	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager
Design and construct cabins or other lodging type in the underutilized area south of the day use area.	3	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager
Relocate and replace the headquarters, shop, and contact station.	3	Developed Recreation Administrative Services	Regional Planner Park Manager
Construct a new cold storage building.	3	Developed Recreation Administrative Services	Regional Planner Park Manager

Infrastructure & Development: Small Projects

GOAL	PRIORITY	MANAGEMENT ZONE	PROGRAM INPUT FROM
Continue to evaluate and improve wet campsites with added gravel and topsoil.	Ongoing	Developed Recreation	Park Manager Regional Planner
Interpret history, natural features, and stewardship initiatives of the park through signage.	Ongoing	All	Park Manager Stewardship Michigan History Center Marketing and Outreach Local Partners
Monitor and treat invasive aquatic plants in the boat basin as needed.	Ongoing	Developed Recreation	Park Manager Stewardship
Implement non-motorized pathways per the non-motorized circulation study.	2	Developed Recreation	Park Manager Regional Planner

Partner Projects

GOAL	PRIORITY	MANAGEMENT ZONE	PROGRAM INPUT FROM
Work with the Friends of Aloha State Park to determine improvement initiatives. Initiatives may include beach cleanup, tetherball installation, and fundraising for new play equipment.	Ongoing	All	Park Manager Friends of Aloha State Park



The sun sets behind boats in the boat basin



A relic shoreline of Mullett Lake from a period of higher lake levels can be seen in the undeveloped Pioneer Road property

Chapter Six:

Implementation Strategy

This chapter of the general management plan (GMP) provides guidance for implementation of the action goals and maintaining the plan so it remains relevant in the long term. These guidelines will also help the park align the action goals with park, district and statewide annual funding processes and annual tasks outlined in the Parks and Recreation Division's Strategic Plan or other planning documents. Although the implementation of the GMP will require commitment from staff at every level, it will be the primary responsibility of the Unit Supervisor/Manager to oversee plan implementation.

A long range plan such as this must maintain a degree of flexibility in order to be responsive to changing circumstances or opportunities that cannot be foreseen. It is recognized that some goals may be accomplished in a short time frame, while others may carry over through multiple years. It will be important to track progress so that the plan remains a relevant park management tool. The GMP will be reviewed every five years to ensure it remains viable.

All proposed changes in the park should be reviewed to ensure they are in compliance with the approved Management Zones.

6.1 Implementation Toolbox

The following is a list of items to consider when reviewing and prioritizing the implementation of action goals identified in the GMP.

Coordination/ Communication

- Meet regularly with the Regional Field Planner and District Supervisor to coordinate and prioritize large capital projects for capital outlay requests.
- Maintain an open dialogue with local partners and stakeholders to coordinate community-related projects as identified in the action goals.
- Follow-up regularly on progress for action goals that are not the primary responsibility of the Unit Supervisor with the responsible program position.

Funding

- Estimated costs for capital outlay projects are included in the Opinion of Probable costs section. These costs should be refined and adjusted by the Regional Field Planner as designs and studies are completed.
- Identify potential funding sources for each project/task. Liaise with PRD grants coordinator as appropriate.
- Align potential funding sources with the annual capital outlay funding requests.
- Request District Small Project funding through the District Supervisor for small projects identified in the 10-year Action Goals.

Scheduling

- Further prioritize projects based on need, funding, staffing and other constraints and opportunities.
- Incorporate project/task assignments into annual staff performance objectives

6.2 Documentation of Changes

The Unit Supervisor should keep a record of any major changes to the park since approval of the GMP and note potential updates that may be required in the future. Documenting these changes will assist in the five-year plan review or when the GMP is updated. Changes may include:

- New user requests or conflicts
- Emerging recreation, funding or partnership opportunities
- Changes in land management
- Land transactions or changes to the Approved Project Boundary
- Major infrastructure projects or removal of structures

Changes may be documented by marking up the park's copy of the GMP or maintaining a log that is kept with it. In reviewing the action goals for changes, documentation should be provided for goals that may become irrelevant or are no longer viable, as well as proposed new action goals, including justification.

The management zoning map should also be reviewed regularly. Any proposed changes to the map related to land acquisition or disposal, errors in the original zoning, or land management changes should be documented. Note that the park zoning is intended to be a long-term document: changes will only be considered with adequate justification and are subject to a formal review and approval process.



The remnants of the original pier from the early 1900s

6.3 Documentation of Accomplishments

As action goals are completed, the Unit Supervisor should mark them as such in the park's copy of the GMP, including the completion date. This will also help to maintain a log of accomplishments for district and division-wide reporting purposes, including PRD's strategic plan.

6.4 Five-Year Review Process

General management plans are reviewed every five years from the date of approval of either the Phase 2 plan or the complete GMP. The planning team for the five-year review is made up of the Park Management Plan Administrator, Unit Supervisor, Regional Field Planner and District Supervisor, with other team members included as may be necessary. A Five-Year Review Form will be used to record all changes to the plan within the past five years. Upon reviewing the GMP and the documented changes, the planning team will determine whether the changes warrant a complete update of the plan.

If there are no major changes required in either the zoning or the action goals, the planning team will complete the Five-Year Review Form and attach it as a supplement to the existing GMP. If zoning changes are needed, the GMP will be revised or updated following the complete GMP planning process led by the Park Management Plan Administrator. If changes to the action goals only are required, the Phase 2 GMP planning process will be implemented.



An angler displays their catch

PARK PROFILE	
AREA	174
COUNTY	Cheboygan
TOWNSHIP	Aloha
LATITUDE	45°31'29.8"N
LONGITUDE	84°27'55.6"W
ADDRESS	4347 Third Street
PHONE	Cheboygan MI, 49721
	231-625-2522



Appendix A: Supporting Analysis

A.1 Park Overview

Aloha State Park is located on the northeast shore of Mullett Lake in Cheboygan County, near the northern tip of Michigan's lower peninsula. The 174-acre park features 4,000 feet of lake frontage. Mullett Lake is Michigan's fifth largest inland lake and the central point for the Inland Waterway, a navigable route that links approximately 40 miles of lakes and rivers across northern Michigan. The park includes a modern campground, swimming beach, boating access site and a protected boat basin where registered campers may leave their boats during their stay. The park also provides access to the North Eastern State Trail (NEST), a 70-mile rail-trail between Alpena and Cheboygan, that is open to all non-motorized uses year-round and to snowmobiles seasonally. It intersects with the North Central and North Western State trails in the City of Cheboygan.

Location & Community

Aloha State Park is in Aloha Township, a sparsely populated township of approximately 1,000 people according to the 2010 U.S. Census. The park is five miles south of the City of

Cheboygan, accessed via County Road 212, just one mile west off M-33. Aloha is conveniently located close to the many popular attractions in the Straits of Mackinac region.

Mullett Lake is a resort area which boomed after the railroads provided easy access from the cities of south and east Michigan in the early 1900s. It is renowned for its excellent fishing and boating opportunities on one of the largest inland lakes in Michigan with connections to the Inland Waterways route. The small unincorporated community of Aloha is adjacent to the park. A village store is open seasonally (closed in winter) and supports both residents and park visitors. The township has rich farmlands including orchards and a small vineyard.

Zoning and Surrounding Land Use

Aloha State Park borders the community of Aloha to the north with the North Eastern State Trail occupying the former Detroit and Mackinac rail corridor along the eastern park boundary. South and east of the railroad is predominantly farmland. Single family lakeshore homes occupy the shoreline south of the park.

APPENDIX A

According to the 2019 Cheboygan County zoning map, Aloha State Park is within 500 feet of the ordinary high-water mark of Mullett Lake as well as Hatt Creek. This area is zoned Lake and Stream Protection District (P-LS), which protects the water and waterways from excessive structural encroachment, promotes high water quality by encouraging natural vegetation strips along waterways, protects wildlife habitat and promotes the general welfare of the county. The land east of the shoreline is zoned Agriculture and Forestry Management District (M-AF) which is designated for the preservation and encouragement of farming, forestry operations and other rural activities. Low-density single family and two-family dwellings are allowed. Land to the north of the park in the Aloha community is zoned Residential Development District (D-RS).



A smiling family gathers for a picnic at their campsite



Cheboygan County Zoning Map, 2019

A.2 Demographics

The U.S. Census Bureau reports the 2010 population of Cheboygan County at 26,152 with an estimated population of 25,413 in 2018, showing a slight decline in line with statewide general trends. However, the county's population has more than doubled in size in the past 70 years and Mullett Township shows ongoing growth. The mean age in Cheboygan County is 47.1 and the average household size is 2.31. The census shows that the percentage of people in Cheboygan County over the age of 65 is 23.9%, which is higher than the 15% average for the State of Michigan. There is also a smaller percentage of young people under the age of 18 in Cheboygan County, making up 18.4% of the population compared to 22.7% in Michigan as a whole. Since 2000, the population between age 60 and 64 has risen by 30.9%, while the population between 25 and 34 has decreased by 22.6%.¹

Cheboygan County is predominantly rural, averaging 36.6 persons per square mile, while the state average is 174.8. Seasonal homes make up approximately 30% of all houses in Cheboygan County, which has a large impact on the community.

The median household income in the county is reported at \$42,876, about \$10,000 lower than the State of Michigan average. The top five industries in the City of Cheboygan include: retail trade (21%), construction (20%), manufacturing (12%), accommodations and food services (10%), and wholesale trade (6%).

The population of Cheboygan County is predominantly white (93.1%). However, the percentage of American Indian and Alaska Native alone is 3.1%, which is significantly higher than the state average of 0.70%.

¹ Cheboygan County Master Plan, January 14, 2014

GEOGRAPHY QUICKFACTS		
	CHEBOYGN CITY	MICHIGAN
Population per square mile, 2010	36.6	174.8
Land area in square miles, 2010	715.26	56,538.9
POPULATION QUICKFACTS		
	CHEBOYGAN CITY	MICHIGAN
Population estimates, 2018	25,413	9,995,915
Population estimates base, April 1, 2010	26,152	9,884,129
Population, percent change- April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018	4.0%	1.1%
Population, Census, 2010	16.4%	9,883,640
Persons under 5 years, percent, 2019	27.3%	5.7%
Persons under 18 years, percent, 2019	50.1%	21.7%
Persons 65 years and over, percent, 2019	93.1%	17.2%
Female persons, percent, 2019	0.7%	50.8%
White alone, percent, 2019	3.0%	79.3%
Black or African American alone, percent, 2019	0.4%	14.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent, 2019	0.1%	0.7%
Asian alone, percent, 2019	2.8%	3.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent, 2019	1.5%	<0.1%
Two or More Races, percent, 2019	92.0%	2.5%
Hispanic or Latino, percent,	2,414	5.2%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent,	18,614	74.9%
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2013 – 2017	81.7%	71.0%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2013 – 2017	\$116,900	\$136,400
Persons per household, 2013 – 2017	90.6%	2.49
Living in same house 1 year ago, percent age 1+, 2013 – 2017	68.4%	85.4%
High school graduate or higher, percent age 25+, 2013 – 2017	14.3%	90.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent age 25+, 2013 – 2017	26.8	28.1%
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2013 – 2017	\$42,876	24.3
Median household income (in 2017 dollars), 2013- 2017	\$24,956	\$52,668
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2017 dollars), 2013 – 2017	14.3%	\$28,938
Persons in poverty, percent	7.8%	14.2%

A.3 Regional Recreation Resources

Cheboygan County and the surrounding area is recognized as a northern Michigan outdoor recreation destination. Below is a description of the primary recreation resources in the vicinity (within a 30-mile radius) of Aloha State Park.

State Parks

- **Cheboygan State Park** is a 1,250-acre park located east of the City of Cheboygan on the shores of Lake Huron, 14 miles north of Aloha State Park. It features a modern campground, lakeshore rustic cabins available year-round, a fully furnished modern lodge, swimming beach, and nearly seven miles of hike/bike trails. A carry-in boat launch provides access to Duncan Bay with excellent fishing opportunities.
- **Burt Lake State Park** is located on the southern shore of Burt Lake, approximately 17 miles southwest of Aloha State Park by road. The park features 2,000 feet of sandy beach, a pet-friendly beach area, a 306-site modern campground, a boat launch, picnic facilities, and a one-mile foot trail.
- **Onaway State Park** is in neighboring Presque Isle County, 20 miles to the southeast of Aloha State Park, and includes 158 acres with frontage on Black Lake. Facilities include an 82-site modern campground, camper cabin, swimming beach, canoe and kayak access and rental, and a three-mile nature trail.

Mackinac State Historic Parks

Mackinac State Historic Parks is a family of living history museums and nature parks in northern Michigan's Straits of Mackinac.

- **Mackinac Island State Park** was established in 1895. Over 80 percent of Mackinac Island is state park property, featuring historic landmarks, spectacular rock formations and scenic views.
- **Fort Mackinac** is located on a bluff overlooking the City of Mackinac Island. Fourteen buildings of the historic fort, founded in 1780, are restored and open to the public. Exhibits provide information on military training and battles as well as family life within the fort.
- **Colonial Michilimackinac** is a reconstruction of an 18th century fort and fur trading village based on historic maps and archaeological records. The fort is located on the shore of the Straits of Mackinac in Mackinaw City and features period-themed exhibits, live programs, and tours from May through October.
- **Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park** is the site of the Straits of Mackinac's first industrial complex, situated 3.5 miles east of Mackinaw City. The 600-acre site features a reconstructed 18th century water-powered sawmill and other buildings, as well as nature trails, a tree-top adventure tour, zip line, and climbing wall.

- **Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse** in Mackinaw City helped passing ships navigate the Straits of Mackinac for 65 years. Today, visitors can tour the lighthouse grounds, restored keeper's quarters, and climb the tower.

State Forest

State forest land in the northern lower peninsula of Michigan totals approximately 2 million acres of public land. State forest land in Cheboygan and surrounding counties is managed by the Gaylord, Atlanta and Pigeon River Country State Forest Management Units and covers 377,261 acres. The land supports recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, gathering, and wildlife viewing, and can be accessed by many trails and forest roads. Specific recreation areas within the management units are described below:

- **Black Mountain State Forest Recreation Area:** Located in Cheboygan and Presque Isle Counties, centered between Cheboygan, Onaway and Rogers City, Black Mountain State Forest Recreation Area provides access to hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, off-road vehicle riding and snowmobiling in a state forest setting. The recreation area includes multiple state forest campgrounds and various types of trails, including:
 - 30 miles of non-motorized pathways open to hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing and equestrian use. A local volunteer group grooms the trails for both skate and classic skiing as weather permits.
 - 80 miles of groomed snowmobile trails.
 - 60 miles of ORV trails and 15 miles of ORV routes.
 - 65-acre Black Mountain ORV scramble area open for 50" or smaller ATVs or motorcycles.
- **Pigeon River Country State Forest:** is a special management unit located in southern Cheboygan County and northern Otsego County. Now home to one of the largest free-roaming elk herds east of the Mississippi, Pigeon River Country offers abundant opportunities to explore the outdoors. At 12 miles wide and 20 miles long, it is the largest block of contiguous state forest land in Michigan's Lower Peninsula.
- **State forest campgrounds:** The state forest campgrounds shown on the following page in the vicinity of Aloha State Park are administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division.
- **State forest pathways:** The state forest pathways in the vicinity, in addition to those mentioned above, are also administered by the Parks and Recreation Division and are shown on the following page.

State Forest Campgrounds

SITE NAMES	NO. OF SITES	DESCRIPTION	MANAGING UNITS
Black Lake	52	11 miles N. of Onaway, on the N. shores of Black Lake. 17 designated for ORV use	Cheboygan SP
Black Lake Trail Camp	5	Dedicated for equestrian use	Cheboygan SP
Maple Bay	35	W. side of Burt Lake with boat access site and sand beach	Burt Lake Sp
Haakwood	18	On the Sturgeon River 2 miles N. of Wolverine	Burt Lake SP
Pine Grove	6	12 miles E. of Wolverine	Otsego Lake SP
Stoney Creek Trail Camp	10	12 miles east of Indian River. Dedicated for equestrian use	Aloha SP
Twin Lakes	11	On Twin Lake close to Black Mountain Recreation Area	Cheboygan SP
Weber Lake	18	On Weber Lake, NW of Wolverine, with access to Lost Tamarack Pathway	Burt Lake SP
Ocqueoc Falls	13	12 miles west of Rogers City, on the Ocqueoc River	Hoelt SP

State Forest Pathways

NAMES	MILES	DESCRIPTION	MANAGING UNITS
Wildwood Hills Pathway	9.3	6 miles SW of Indian River	Burt Lake SP
Lost Tamarack Pathway	4.75	Located at Weber Lake state forest campground	Burt Lake SP

State Wildlife Management Areas

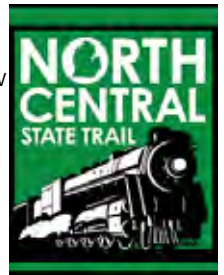
Co-managed by the DNR Wildlife and Forest Resources Divisions, the following State Wildlife Management Areas are located in Cheboygan County.

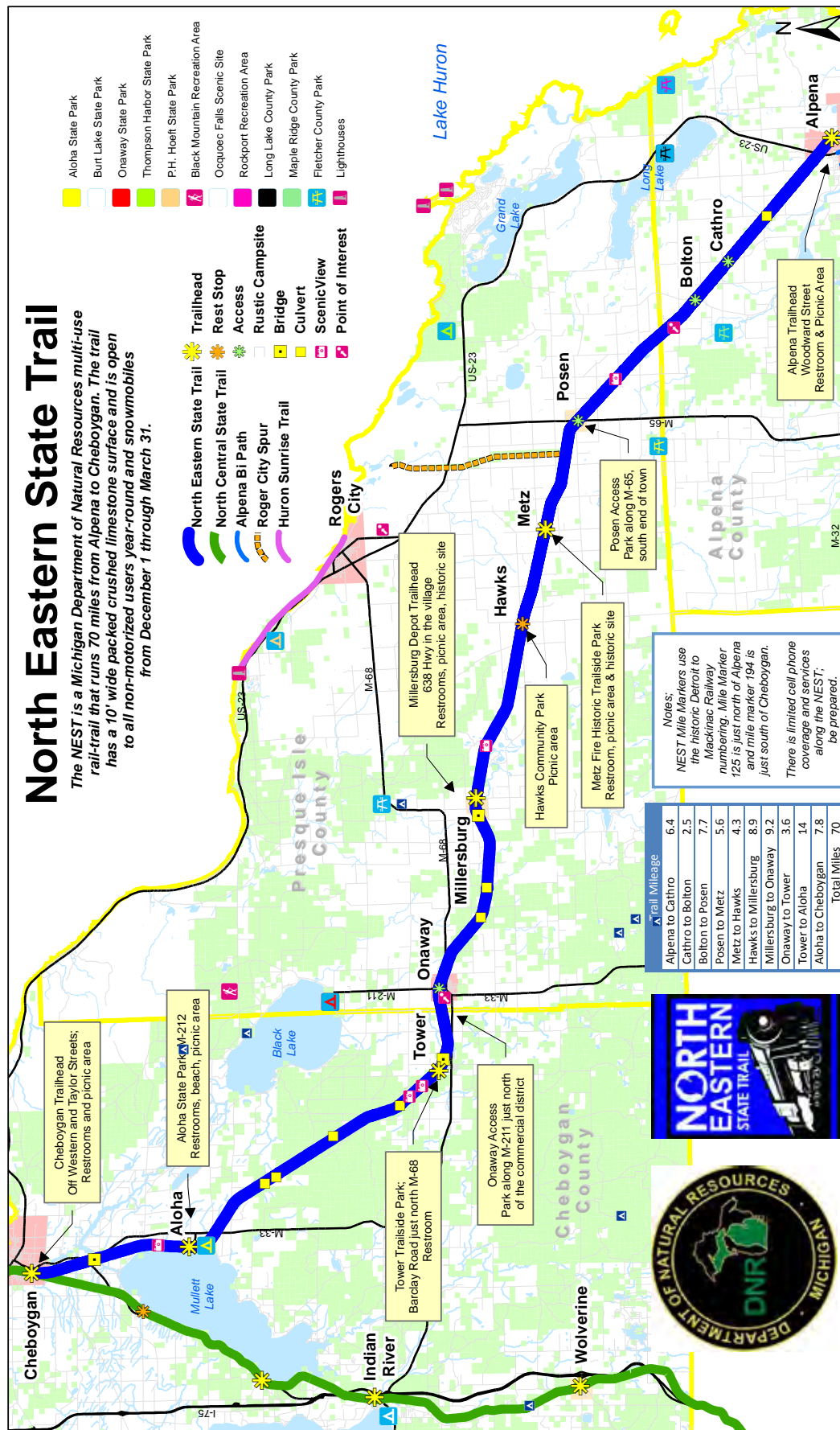
- Dingman Marsh Flooding State Wildlife Management Area** encompasses over 4,000 acres located in northern Cheboygan County between Mackinac City and Cheboygan. Dingman Marsh is a stop along the Sunrise Coast Birding Trail and primarily managed for waterfowl production and stopover sites. Many common and rare bird species can be observed using the flooding at various times of year.
- Stoney Creek Flooding State Wildlife Management Area** is located off M-33 south of Cheboygan and east of Mullett Lake in Cheboygan County. The Shore-to-Shore Trail traverses the area and is used by horseback riders and hikers. The flooding itself features a mix of open water and marsh providing habitat for waterfowl like mallard and trumpeter swan and aquatic mammals like beaver.
- Lee Grande Ranch Grouse Enhancement Management Site** was purchased by the state in 2007 and established as a Grouse Enhancement Management Site (GEMS) in 2014. The area is located just north of Stoney Creek Flooding along M-33 south of Cheboygan and east of Mullett Lake. This property, formerly a bison ranch, consists primarily of open land, aspen, and mixed forest managed for various age classes with a focus on providing quality ruffed grouse and woodcock habitats. A group of elk frequents the area throughout the year.

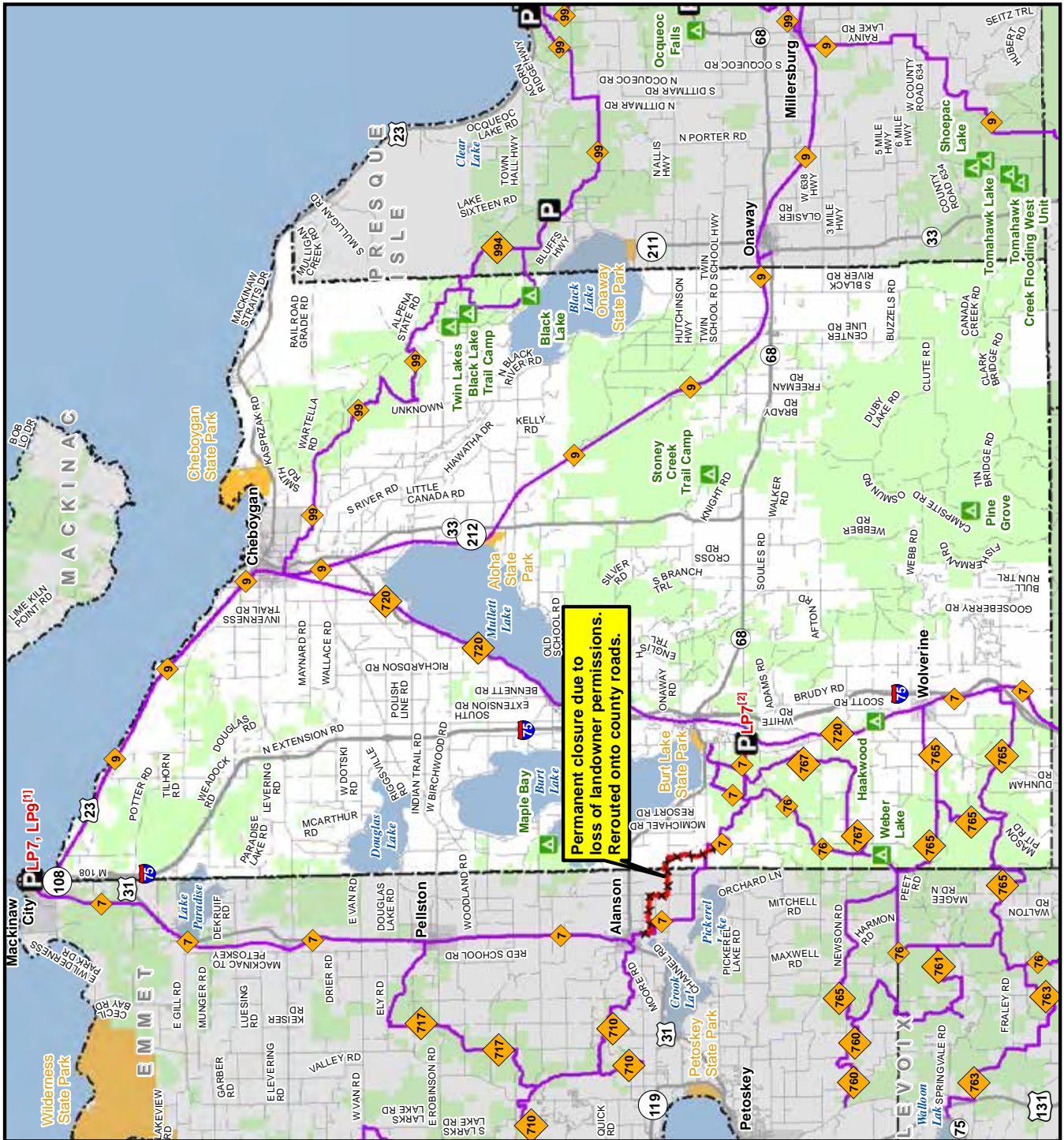


State Trails

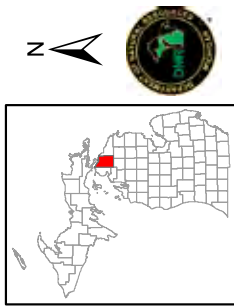
- North Eastern State Trail (NEST)** – The NEST is a Michigan DNR multi-use rail-trail that runs 71 miles from Alpena to Cheboygan, where it joins the North Central State Trail. The trail has a ten-foot-wide packed crushed limestone surface and is open to all non-motorized users year-round and snowmobiles from December 1 through March 31. Part of the trail is also designated as the Midland to Mackinaw Trail.
- North Central State Trail (NCST)** – This 75-mile long rail trail runs from the south Otsego County Line to Mackinaw City, through Gaylord, Vanderbilt, Wolverine and City of Cheboygan. It is part of the bicycle route of the Iron Belle Trail, a 791-mile route from Belle Isle in Detroit to Ironwood in the western Upper Peninsula. It is open to all non-motorized users year-round and snowmobiles from December 1 through March 31.
- Cheboygan County Snowmobile Trails** – The NCST and NEST, both open to snowmobile use in winter, link up in Cheboygan and connect to Trail 99, which heads southeast out of Cheboygan, primarily through state forest land. To the south, the NCST links to a snowmobile trail network south of Burt Lake and west of Wolverine. There are over 100 miles of trails in the region that are groomed by volunteers under an arrangement through the Snowmobile Trail Improvement Fund.
- Tomahawk Trail System** – This interconnected state designated ORV trail system has trail designed for motorcycles, 50" ATV's, as well as side-by-sides and







Michigan
Department of
Natural Resources
**Designated
Snowmobile Trails**
Cheboygan County
Updated: 2/7/2022



- Parking lot
- State forest campground
- Permanently closed trail
- Designated snowmobile trails
- Highway
- Paved road
- Gravel or dirt road
- State park boundary
- State forest land
- Federal land
- Lakes and rivers
- City or village boundary
- County boundary

Parking LP7, LP9^[1] Mackinaw City parking located eastside of Nicolet St east of intersection with Mackinaw Crossings Drive

LP7^[2] Indian River parking located east of intersection of South State Highway and White Rd



full size ORV's. The 100+ mile ORV trail system extends into neighboring Emmet and Charlevoix counties and is managed by the DNR as dictated by the ORV Trail Improvement Fund in partnership with volunteer ORV organizations.

Regional Trails

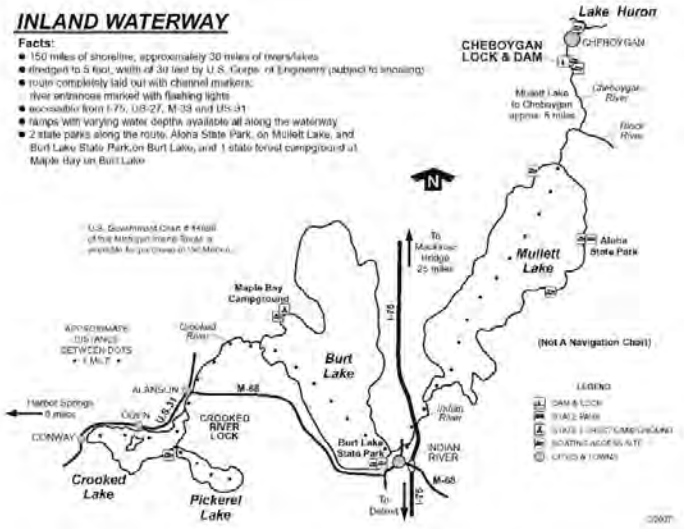
- **Shore-to-Shore Trail** - This 420-mile long linear trail system is open to horseback riding and hiking. It stretches west to east from Empire on Lake Michigan to Oscoda on Lake Huron with two additional northern and southern spur trails. There are multiple campgrounds and group trail camps along the trail system which are managed by either the Michigan DNR or the Huron Manistee National Forest. The northern spur begins in Oscoda County, joining the NEST just south of Aloha State Park, and continuing north to Mackinaw City.

Water Recreation

- **The Inland Waterway** is a unique northern Michigan resource, consisting of a 38-mile navigable route connecting three rivers and three lakes. Starting at Lake Huron in Cheboygan, the route travels up the Cheboygan River to the 12-mile-long Mullett Lake, then through the Indian River into Burt Lake and Crooked River to Crooked Lake. The route passes through many communities providing docks, accommodation and dining opportunities for travelers.
- **The Sturgeon River** between Wolverine and Burt Lake is the fastest river in the Northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan and provides a wilderness white water (Class I/II) experience.
- **Boating Access Sites:** See the table below. In addition, there are county and township access points to the Inland Waterway, such as road ends and township recreation areas.

Boating Access Sites

SITE NAMES	WATER BODY	DESCRIPTION	MANAGING UNIT
Aloha State Park	Mullett Lake	Hard surfaced ramp with limited depth, 35 paved parking spaces, skid pier, restroom	Aloha SP
Black Lake SFCG	Black Lake	A hard-surfaced ramp with limited water depth. 20 parking spaces and skid pier	Cheboygan SP
Burt Lake SP	Burt Lake	Hard surfaced ramp, 58 parking spaces, bathrooms and skid pier	Burt Lake SP
Forks	Cheboygan River	Hard surfaced ramp, 73 parking spaces, 2 skid piers and restroom	DNR Gaylord Management Unit
Jewell Road	Mullett Lake	Hard surfaced ramp, 50 paved parking spaces, 2 skid piers and restroom	Cheboygan Field Office
Long Lake	Long Lake	Hard-surfaced ramp with limited water depth, 10 parking spaces, skid pier and restroom	DNR Cheboygan Field Office
Maple Bay SFCG	Burt Lake	Hard surfaced ramp with limited depth, 7 parking spaces	Burt Lake SP
Mullett Lake Village	Mullett Lake	Hard surfaced ramp, 18 paved parking spaces, skid pier and restroom	Cheboygan Field Office
Onaway State Park	Black Lake	Hard-surfaced ramp, 19 parking spaces and skid pier.	Onaway SP
Garfield Road	Cheboygan River	Single ramp, 10 parking spaces, gravel surface.	Cheboygan Field Office
Cheboygan Dam	Cheboygan River	Hard surfaced ramp, 80 parking spaces, 1 skid pier, fishing pier, restroom. Fully accessible.	PRD



A map of the Inland Waterway

Municipal Owned Recreational Land

Cheyboygan County

County, city and township recreational land is limited in Cheboygan County, although state recreational resources are abundant. Cheboygan County owns the County Fairgrounds, the Soccer Fields, and the County Marina in the City of Cheboygan. Township parks are generally small, neighborhood parks, several of which provide rest stops along the rail-trails.

Nature Preserves

The Little Traverse Conservancy manages many nature preserves open to the public in Cheboygan County. These sites are primarily undeveloped and include:

- **Needle Point**- 40.5 acres in Aloha Township, south of Aloha State Park with 1,000 feet of frontage on the east shores of Mullett Lake.
- **G.C.**- 20 acres in Aloha Township, two miles east of Mullett Lake. Donated by the Crittenden Family in honor of "Grandma Crittenden."
- **Cain's Creek Swamp**- 25 acres in Grant Township. Adjacent to state land with 2,300 feet of Black Lake frontage.
- **Reed's Alverno**- 160 acres in Benton Township, east of Aloha State Park.
- **Hildner-Bearce/Waubun** – 27 acres combined. A short trail is found on this property dominated by oak, maple and beech and upland bluff habitat close to Burt Lake.
- **Sturgeon Bay** – 40-acre property to protect the water quality of Burt Lake.
- **Boyd B. Banwell** - 400 acres east of Indian River. The land is characterized by oak/pine forests and steep bluffs above the Pigeon River and features over five miles of trail (including the adjacent Agnes S. Andreae Nature Preserve) and is open to hunting.
- **Vivian VanCampen Memorial** - 30 acres, adjacent to the Banwell Preserve, with 1,150 feet Pigeon River frontage.

Private Recreational Resources

The region supports many recreation-based businesses, including campgrounds, resorts, cabin and cottage rental, marinas, boat rentals, guiding services and the like. Mullett Lake marina, in Mullett Lake village, provides transient and seasonal boat slips, winter storage, boat repairs, refueling, boat sales and rentals. Indian River Marina, between Mullett Lake and Burt Lakes, provides similar services. There are also several golf courses in the vicinity, including Mullett Lake Country Club, Indian River Golf Club and Rippling Rapids. Camp Walden is a coed overnight camp for campers 2nd through 11th grade located on Long Lake, just six miles east of Aloha State Park.

A.4 History of Aloha State Park

Native Americans have lived along the Inland Waterway for millennia. In addition to abundant natural resources that supported daily life, the waterway provided inland passage between Lakes Huron and Michigan, avoiding maritime hazards associated with the Straits and Waugoshance Point on Lake Michigan. The waterway landscape remains important to the life ways, traditions, beliefs and heritage of contemporary Anishinaabek (Odawa/Ottawa, Ojibwe/Chippewa, and Bodewadmi/Pottawatomie) living locally and regionally today.

The Inland Waterway was important in the early development of Cheboygan County. The name Cheboygan is derived from the Anishinaabemowin word Cha-boia-gan meaning the "place of entrance, a portage or harbor", probably referring to the mouth of the Cheboygan River, which provided a sheltered harbor from the winds of Lake Huron. The mouth of the Cheboygan River was an important area for trade among the local Odawa and Ojibwe tribes, and later, Europeans. Contact between fur traders and the native population at the mouth of the river is documented as far back as the 1770's.

The lumbering era began in Cheboygan County in the mid-1800s, as the supply of white pines was rafted down the rivers. Mills were built along the Cheboygan River and as far south as Mullett Lake in the 1850s, at which time the area of present-day Aloha State Park was logged. Robert Patterson was the last to log these lands and passed the land on to his son, Dr. James B. Patterson. The plat of the Village of Aloha, was recorded in 1903 by Dr. Patterson, who named it after the Hawaiian word meaning "welcome", inspired by a trip taken to Hawaii.

In response to the vast timber resources, the Detroit and Mackinac (D&M) Railway expanded its rail line northward from Alpena to Cheboygan in the late 1890s/early 1900s. The company established a depot in Aloha and constructed a 250-foot long pier extending into Mullett Lake to encourage boat travel. This was one of many parks and recreation areas developed along the rail line to bolster traffic after the decline of the lumber industry, inciting people to travel north to locations such as Aloha from urban areas in the south for rest and relaxation. Post-World War 1 industrialization and the increased use of the automobile impacted rail travel and many resorts closed. The land of the railroad park, between the station and Mullett Lake, was abandoned. Cheboygan County then purchased it, along with an additional 20 acres of land, to qualify the area as a state park, donating it to the state in 1923.

Aloha State Park remained largely undeveloped until 1925, when wells were added for drinking water, picnic and toilet facilities were developed and the beach was cleaned up. In 1929, an additional three acres was acquired by the

state through non-payment of taxes, and another 12 acres acquired through quit claim deed from the D&M Railway to Cheboygan County and then to the state. At this time, significant improvements occurred, including site clearing, grading and drainage, the construction of a combination bathhouse/office/caretakers' residence and a playground. In 1940, the Federal Works Program Administration program made entrance improvements, constructed a parking area, developed a campground and rehabilitated the dock. At the same time, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) reportedly did some work in the park, although it is not recognized as a CCC camp. Modern campsites (65) with electricity and a new toilet/shower building were established in the 1950s. In 1955 a new park manager's residence was constructed just outside of the park boundary on Third Street, and the old combination building removed. The remains of the railroad depot that was on the site were removed in the 1960s.

At the time of the 1958 Master Plan Report for Aloha State Park, the park had 6 acres developed for day use, with a pier extending 250 feet into the lake for mooring boats, and 50 campsites. The master plan proposed significantly expanding the camping area and excavating a boat basin. The campground expansion, which included a substantial amount of fill obtained by hydraulically dredging the lake bottom and pumping it onto the park lands, and the construction of a new toilet shower building, took place in the early 1960s. The boat launch was completed in 1972. Further improvements and expansion of the park ownership continued. Although the 250-foot dock had survived for almost a century, in the mid-1990s a portion damaged by ice was removed, and the remainder 130 feet repaired. By 1997, the park had grown to 106 acres and had 287 campsites. A Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant facilitated acquisition of an additional 5.77 acres of land in the south of the park in 1995 as a buffer to the adjacent residential development and in 2008 a 64-acre parcel with frontage on Pioneer Road to the south was purchased.



D&M Railroad Depot, Aloha (Pre-1947)

Funding Sources

The state acquired the lands that comprise Aloha State Park through a variety of funding sources. Often, conditions attached to the original funding source or other details of the property transaction encumber the future use or disposition of the land. The funding source map at the end of Appendix A identifies the sources used in acquiring land within Aloha State Park. The following outlines in more detail each of those funding sources.

- **Gift** - The initial 28 acres was gifted to the state from Cheboygan County in 1923. An additional three-acre parcel was gifted to the state in 1957.
- **Recreation Bond Fund** - State park sites acquired under Old Recreation Bond Fund, P.A. 257 of 1968. A ten-acre parcel was acquired using this funding source in 1977
- **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)** - The MNRTF was created by a state constitutional amendment in 1984, which required that oil, gas, and other mineral lease and royalty payments be placed into the Trust Fund, with proceeds used to both acquire and develop public recreation lands. To implement the constitutional amendment, the Legislature passed the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Act of 1985 (P.A. 101 of 1985). Just under six acres of land on the southern park boundary with 100 feet of Mullett Lake frontage was purchased using MNRTF.
- **Special Legislation** - Acquisitions for park purposes through this source are tied to specific funding established by the legislature under P.A. 27 of 1944 and P.A. 50 of 1944. A total of 43.8 acres were purchased using this fund from private landowners between 1955 and 1976. This includes the bulk of the land now developed as the campground.
- **Land Exchange Facilitation Fund (LEFF)** - Purchase of land with non-game sub-fund under Part 21, Subpart 10 P.A. 451 of 1994, as amended. Two parcels totaling 16.2 acres on the east side of the former railroad were purchased using LEFF in 1993. Sixty-four acres in the south of the park were purchased using this fund in 2008.
- **Tax Reversion** - The state acquired the balance of the land through tax reversion due to non-payment of taxes. These lands are identified as unshaded areas on the Funding Source map.
- **Exchange Acquisition** - 16.36 acres of land between the D and M Railroad and the Old Spur Railroad was acquired through an exchange with Yankee Springs Township (Barry County) in 1991.

Mineral Ownership

The state does not own all the mineral rights within the park: approximately 32 acres in the vicinity of the campground are not owned by the state. Where the state is not the mineral rights owner, the state is required to provide the mineral

rights owner reasonable access to the surface for the purpose of mineral exploration and development, if the owner of the mineral estate elects to develop their interest in the property.

Acquired Easements

As part of a land exchange with Yankee Springs Township, a 66 foot access easement was acquired between the D and M Railroad and M-33.

Granted Easements

The following easements grant access or construction rights on Aloha State Park land to third party entities. The documentation was obtained through the Michigan Land Ownership Tracking System and may not be complete.

- Taft Cable Partners, DBA Sun Cablevision – 25-foot easement to construct and maintain cablevision line
- Consumers Energy – 30-foot easement and right to place, construct, operate, repair and maintain underground electric line.

Lease/ Concessions

A contract and concession for firewood vending is held by Hudson Wood and Propane, dated April 2018, and expires in March of 2025. Prior to the 2026 season, the contract will be posted for public bid, per Act 451, P.A. of 1994, Part 741. This contract cannot be renegotiated.

Grants

The following grants were used to fund development at Aloha State Park and have implications on future land management.

GRANT NUMBER	YEAR	GRANT TITLE	GRANT AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
26-00473	1973	Aloha State Park Day Use Area	\$21,213.86	Develop 5 acres to include construction of 36 spaces parking lot, paved waiting lane at park entrance and picnic shelter



An interpretive sign displayed near the former railroad depot describing the history of Aloha

A.6 Legal Mandates

For all park general management plans, legal mandates are identified that serve to further guide the development of the general management plan and subsequent action plans. For our planning purposes, the term “Legal Mandates” refers not only to federal and 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 Orders of the Director, Park and Recreation Areas State Land Rules and all other laws, commission orders, and rules or directives that apply to the park. Specific to Aloha State Park the following legal mandates have been identified.

Federal Statute

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT, 1966 AS AMENDED
This is the primary federal law governing the preservation of cultural and historic resources in the United States. The law establishes a national preservation program and a system of procedural protections which encourage the identification and protection of cultural and historic resources of national, state, tribal and local significance. Projects that receive federal support in any form may be subject to compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA to ensure that impacts on historic properties are considered and that any adverse effects are avoided, minimized or mitigated.
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990, AS AMENDED
This federal civil rights legislation prohibits discrimination and guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities to participate in the mainstream of American life. It includes standards for accessible design that sets the minimum requirements for newly designed or altered State and local government facilities, public accommodations, and commercial facilities to be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

State Statute - Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) and Amendments

PA 451 OF 1994, PART 5	Gives the DNR authority to make rules to support its mission. This includes State Land Rules, Land Use Orders, Wildlife Conservation Orders, Fisheries Orders and Watercraft Control.
PA 451 OF 1994, PART 31 WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION	Provides authority to EGLE to require a permit for any occupation, construction, filling, or grade change within the 100-year floodplain of a river, stream, drain, or inland lake.
PA 451 OF 1994, PART 301 INLAND LAKES AND STREAMS	Requires a permit from the state (EGLE) to undertake certain activities relating to inland lakes and streams, such as dredging, fill, marinas, structures, alteration of flow, etc.
PA 451 OF 1994, PART 303 WETLANDS PROTECTION	Requires a permit from the state (EGLE) to undertake certain activities in regulated wetlands, such as, dredging, fill, construction or drainage.
PA 451 OF 1994, PART 365 ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION	Allows for acts necessary for the conservation, protection, restoration, and propagation of endangered and threatened species in cooperation with the federal government pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
PA 451 OF 1994, PART 741 STATE PARK SYSTEM	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 the need to protect and manage those resources.
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.
PA 451 OF 1994, PART 761 ABORIGINAL RECORDS AND ANTIQUITIES	The state reserves the exclusive right and privilege to all aboriginal records and other antiquities including those found on the bottomlands of the Great Lakes.

Public Health Code

PA 368 OF 1978, PART 125, CAMPGROUNDS, SWIMMING AREAS AND SWIMMERS' ITCH	Established to protect and promote the public health by establishing health code requirements and regulations that all public (including DNR) and private campgrounds must meet. Includes permitting, licensing, inspections and rules regarding sanitation, safety standards and public health. Also covers testing and evaluating quality of water at bathing beaches, safety, and rescue equipment.
--	--

Orders

The following Orders apply to Aloha State Park.

LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR

5.16a Entry, use and occupancy of certain state parks, recreation areas and scenic sites, prohibited conduct.

Order 5.16a (1) A person shall not do any of the following:

- (a) Enter any of the following state-owned lands with a motor vehicle unless a valid Michigan recreation passport has been purchased and affixed to the vehicle:
- (3) Aloha SP, Cheboygan County.

5.18 Designation, management and administration of rail trail corridors

Order 5.18 Designation, management and administration of rail trail corridors identified below including the associated trailheads and parking areas shall be undertaken consistent with mcl 324.74101(g). this designation, management and administration shall require that a motor vehicle accessing the related trailheads and developed parking areas, where such access is allowed, possess a valid Michigan recreation passport for entry. On the lands of these rail trail corridors that are adjacent to the state forest land and outside 10 – 30-foot-wide actively utilized and managed for recreation rail trail corridor the historic management practice of co-management will continue. These rail trail corridors and related trailheads and developed parking areas consist of the following:

- (30) North Eastern State Trail
 - a. Alpena to Mackinaw Trail (Alpena to Hawks portion)
 - b. Mackinaw to Hawks Trail (Cheboygan to Hawks portion)

STATE LAND RULES

Parks and Recreation Areas – State Land Rules are issued by authority conferred on the Michigan DNR by Section 504 of PA 451 of 1994 MCL 324.504. The rules cover entry, use and occupation of state lands and unlawful acts.

A.7 Landscape Context and Natural Resources

A regional landscape ecosystem classification has been developed for Michigan, which distinguishes major landscapes based on macroclimate, physiography, soil and vegetation. Aloha State Park is located in the Onaway sub-subsection of the Presque Isle subsection, within the Northern Lacustrine-Influenced Lower Michigan ecoregion (VII.6.1).

The Onaway sub-subsection is characterized by drumlin fields on coarse-textured ground moraine, vegetated by northern hardwood forest and conifer swamp.

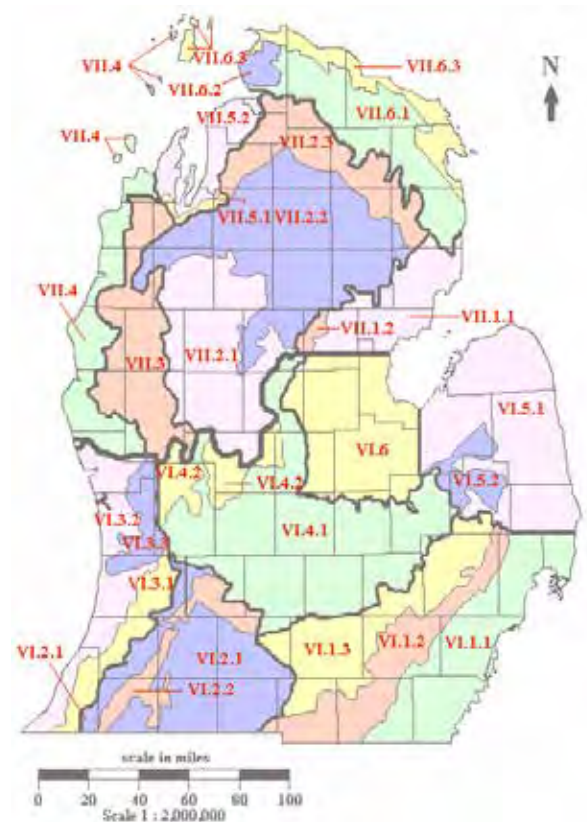
Climate

The average growing season ranges from approximately 100 days inland in the south to 130 days in the north along Lake Huron. Extreme minimum temperatures inland reach -46°F. Average annual rainfall is 30 to 32 inches. Annual snowfall is 140 inches in the west near Lake Michigan and 70 inches on the eastern edge of the sub-subsection. of Natural Resources by Part 487 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.48701.

Geology and Mineral Resources

The origin of Mullett Lake, as well as some of the other lakes of the "Inland Waterway" that stretches from Crooked Lake to Lake Huron in Cheboygan, was at least partially controlled by the pre-glacial bedrock topography. These inland lakes, including Burt and Mullett Lakes, occupy an area of low bedrock topography, with some of the deepest parts of the lakes overlying distinct bedrock valleys. During the last Ice Age, the continental ice sheets that moved across northern Michigan were typically thicker in these lowlands, resulting in the accumulation of greater volumes of glacial sediment compared to more upland areas. The glacial sediments are in the range of 200 to 400 feet thick in the area of the park compared to less than 10 feet thick in some areas just seven miles south. After ice retreated from this area for the last time, around 11,500 years ago, these lakes were likely all connected as one, large proglacial Great Lake. As the land surface began to rebound following retreat of the thick and heavy ice sheet, the shallower portions of the waterway emerged as dry land and the deeper areas became a chain of separate inland lake basins.

Aloha State Park sits on the eastern shore of Mullett Lake today. At the end of the last glacial period, lake levels would have fluctuated considerably, and the site would have been inundated multiple times. The surficial sediments of the property consist of glacial moraine and lake deposits, which are a mix of gravel, sand, and clay that have been partially sorted and stratified by moving water. Michigan's glacial sand and gravel deposits are frequently quarried for construction



Source: Albert, Dennis A. 1995. Regional landscape ecosystems of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin: a Working Map and Classification.

aggregate. Numerous active sand and gravel mining operations exist in this region.

Bedrock underlying the glacial sediments in the park consists of the Devonian-age Traverse Formation. The Traverse Limestone, the most prominent unit of the Traverse Formation, is mined for aggregate and cement products in other parts of the state, including in the southern part of Cheboygan County, where bedrock is near the surface.

There is no known significant potential for oil and gas in the area of Aloha State Park. There was some past interest in the Collingwood Formation in southern part of the county, and some exploration and production did occur. However, the formation was found to be uneconomical to produce at the time. It is possible that, if oil prices rise significantly in the future, there may be renewed interest in hydrocarbon exploration and production in this area.

Water Resources

Aloha State Park is located on the shores of Mullett Lake within the Cheboygan River Watershed, with 4,000 feet of lake frontage. Drainage from the Cheboygan River Watershed flows into the Cheboygan River and empties into Lake Huron in the City of Cheboygan. Mullett Lake is the fifth largest inland

lake in Michigan, covering approximately 17,000 acres and measuring ten miles in length (north to south) and about four miles wide at the widest point. It has a depth of 120 feet at its deepest. Major inflows to the lake are the Indian River, which connects with nearby Burt Lake, Pigeon River, Little Pigeon River and Mullett Creek. The Cheboygan River flows out of the northeast end of the lake. The lake level is controlled by the Cheboygan Dam, targeting a summer elevation of 593.1 feet and a winter elevation of 592.15 feet.

The park also features Hatt Creek, a perennial stream which drains into the boat basin, and a substantial area of forested/shrub wetland south and east of the campground.

The property is in an area of “minimal flood hazard” according to National Flood Hazard mapping by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Topography

The park land is primarily low-lying and generally flat, with most of the land below 607 feet (compared to the summer lake elevation of 591.3 feet). The land rises to a high of approximately 675 feet in the far south of the property, at Pioneer Road.

Soils

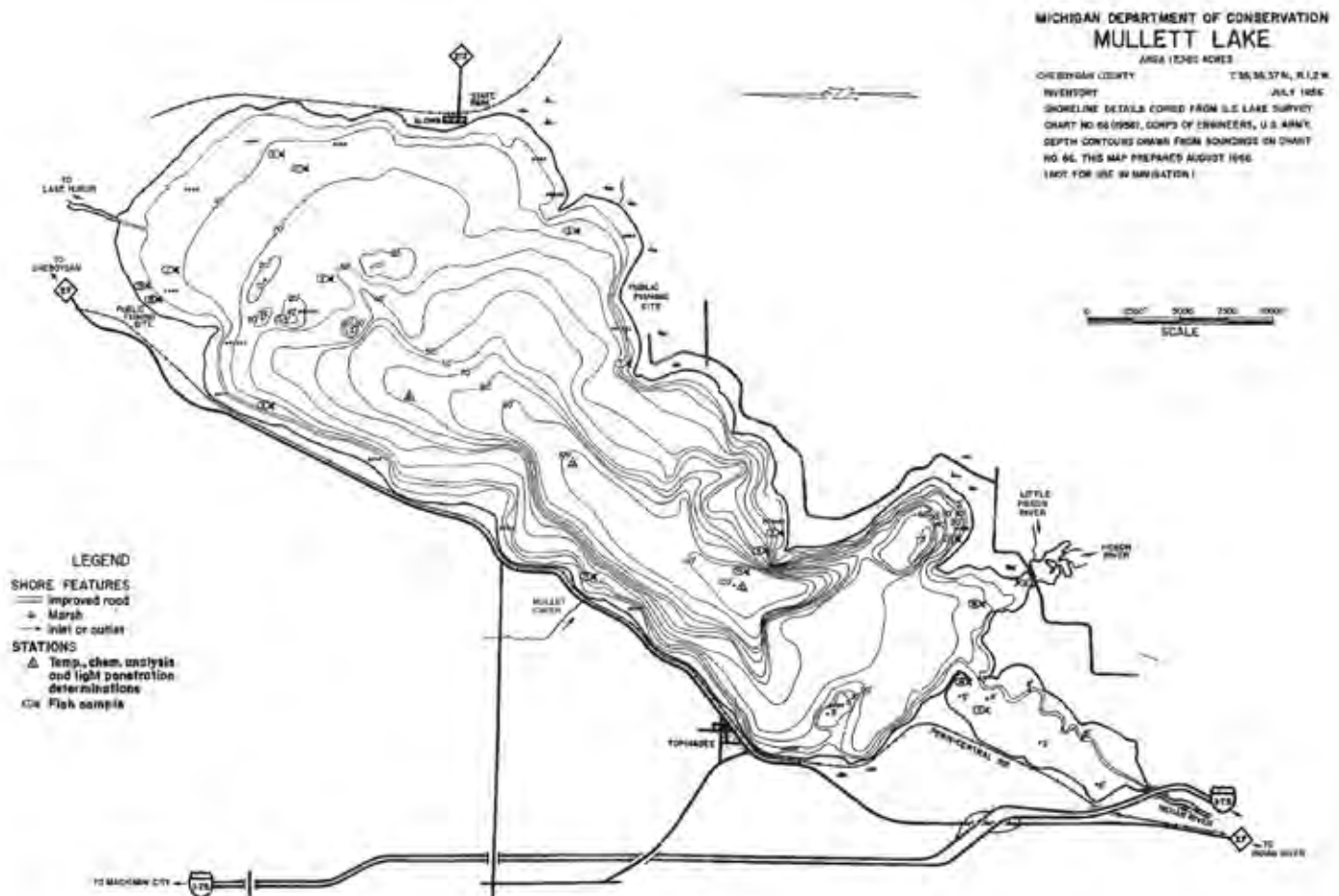
Sandy loam is present along much of the lakeshore and is well-drained, although much of Aloha State Park was filled prior to development. The day-use area in the north of the park is characterized by sand. Elsewhere in the park is loamy sand, mucky sand and an area of poorly-drained peat, east of the former railroad.

Early 1800's Vegetation

The General Land Office mapping was completed in 1841 and indicated that both sides of Hatt Creek was dominated by rich conifer swamp (cedar swamp). The upland areas were northern mesic forest (beech, sugar maple, and hemlock).

Current Vegetation

Most of the park day use area and campground was built within rich conifer swamp which required draining the wetland and adding substantial amounts of fill material. The relatively old white cedars that are still present in these developed areas are a relic of this former swamp. Some areas are still relatively poorly drained and still support wetland vegetation which provides an opportunity to restore native vegetation where appropriate in the future.



Over half of the park remains undeveloped which lies to the south and east of the campground. This includes about 30 acres of rich conifer swamp and another 30 acres to the east that is about 10 ft higher in elevation and consists of hemlock, spruce, and balsam fir. The land abruptly rises 40 ft. in elevation to the south at a former shoreline of Mullett Lake (non-bedrock escarpment). This area contains a linear band of 14 acres of northern mesic forest dominated by sugar maple. At the top of this “shelf” is a grassy open area that is former agricultural land. It contains an east-west directional line of relatively old sugar maples and a few sizeable basswood trees. The remaining field has various pines, both planted and naturally regenerating.

Rare Flora and Fauna (From MNFI report and/or GIS)

There are no documented occurrences of threatened or endangered species in Aloha State Park; however, a detailed survey has not been conducted. The state threatened red shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) has been documented to nest in the vicinity of the park historically, and bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) can be seen around the lake. Mullett Lake has also been identified as habitat for the common loon (*Gavia immer*), a state threatened species. Mullett Lake also has a population of cisco (*Coregonus artedii*) and lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*), both of which are state threatened.

Wildlife

Wildlife species found in the vicinity of Aloha State Park at various times of year include mammals like white-tailed

deer, bear, beaver, bobcat, snowshoe hare, cottontail rabbit, and various squirrel species. Bird species likely to be found in the area range from wetland species such as wood duck, red-winged blackbird, and common yellowthroat, to upland species like wild turkey, ovenbird, and black-throated green warbler. Amphibians and reptiles such as painted, snapping, and Blanding’s turtles, eastern hognose snakes, northern water snakes, spring peepers, leopard frogs, and various salamander species may also be found in the area.

Fisheries

Mullett Lake has a history of fisheries management activities dating back to 1887. This large lake is well known for its sport fishing, with opportunities to catch brown trout, rainbow trout, whitefish, northern pike, muskellunge, yellow perch, walleye, smallmouth bass, and largemouth bass. Lake sturgeon is a threatened species in Michigan and has been regularly stocked in Mullett Lake since 2003. Other past fish stocking efforts, including walleye and lake trout, have been halted pending ongoing fish survey results.

Known invasive species to the Mullett Lake environment are sea lamprey, round goby, zebra mussels, quagga mussels, rusty crayfish, and Eurasian water milfoil. The mussel species are thought to have a profound impact on the lake through their ability to reduce the amount of food (plankton) in the water column through filter feeding.¹

1 Mullett Lake State of the Fisheries Report, Tim Cwalinski, 2017



A bench offers a place to watch the sunset glow over Mullett Lake

A.8 Recreational Resources

Aloha State Park offers modern camping and a day-use beach area with supporting amenities as described below. It is adjacent to, and provides direct access to, the 71-mile North Eastern State Trail (NEST). Specific activities and facilities are described below.

Modern Camping:

283 total campsites are divided into a north, middle, and south section, with both 20/30 amp and 50-amp electrical service. Many sites have frontage either on Mullett Lake or on the boat basin. The campground is open from May to October.



Designated Beaches:

There are three designated swim areas on Mullett Lake, one in the day-use area by the park entrance, and one either side of the entrance to the boat basin. Beaches have sandy bottoms and are gently sloped.



Boat launch/boating:

Part of the Inland Waterway, Mullett Lake is at the heart of the 38-mile water trail. A hard-surfaced ramp with limited water depth, a skid pier, and gravel parking for 35 trailers is provided in the center of the park. The basin around the launch site provides a protected harbor for boats.



Fishing:

Anglers may find walleye, smallmouth bass, pike, bluegill, yellow perch, lake trout and sturgeon in Mullett Lake. A fish cleaning station is provided in the boat trailer parking area. The park also provides access to ice fishing opportunities.



Trail Access:

The NEST rail-trail runs through Aloha State Park. The primary surface of the trail is gravel. During the summer this trail is non-motorized and used for hiking, horseback riding and biking. During the winter months the trail is groomed for snowmobiling.



Metal Detecting:

Metal detecting is recognized as a legitimate recreation activity when it is conducted in ways that do not damage natural and cultural resources in Michigan state parks nor violate applicable state statutes. The park map that follows clearly shows where this activity is allowed. Areas located within the campground are limited to registered campers only.



Paddling:

The shallow waters off the shores of the park are conducive to paddle sports.



Sanitation Station:

A sanitation station is provided for use by campers.



Picnic Shelter:

A picnic shelter located in the day-use area can be reserved up to a year in advance.



Playground:

Three play areas contain a softball field, horseshoe pits, a volleyball court and a basketball court.

Programming and Events:

Harvest Festival is a popular annual event.

A.9 Historic and Cultural Resources

Small Native American villages and camps are known to have existed along the Inland Waterway. Cheboygan County is historically significant to the Burt Lake Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, and Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, among other regional Tribes.

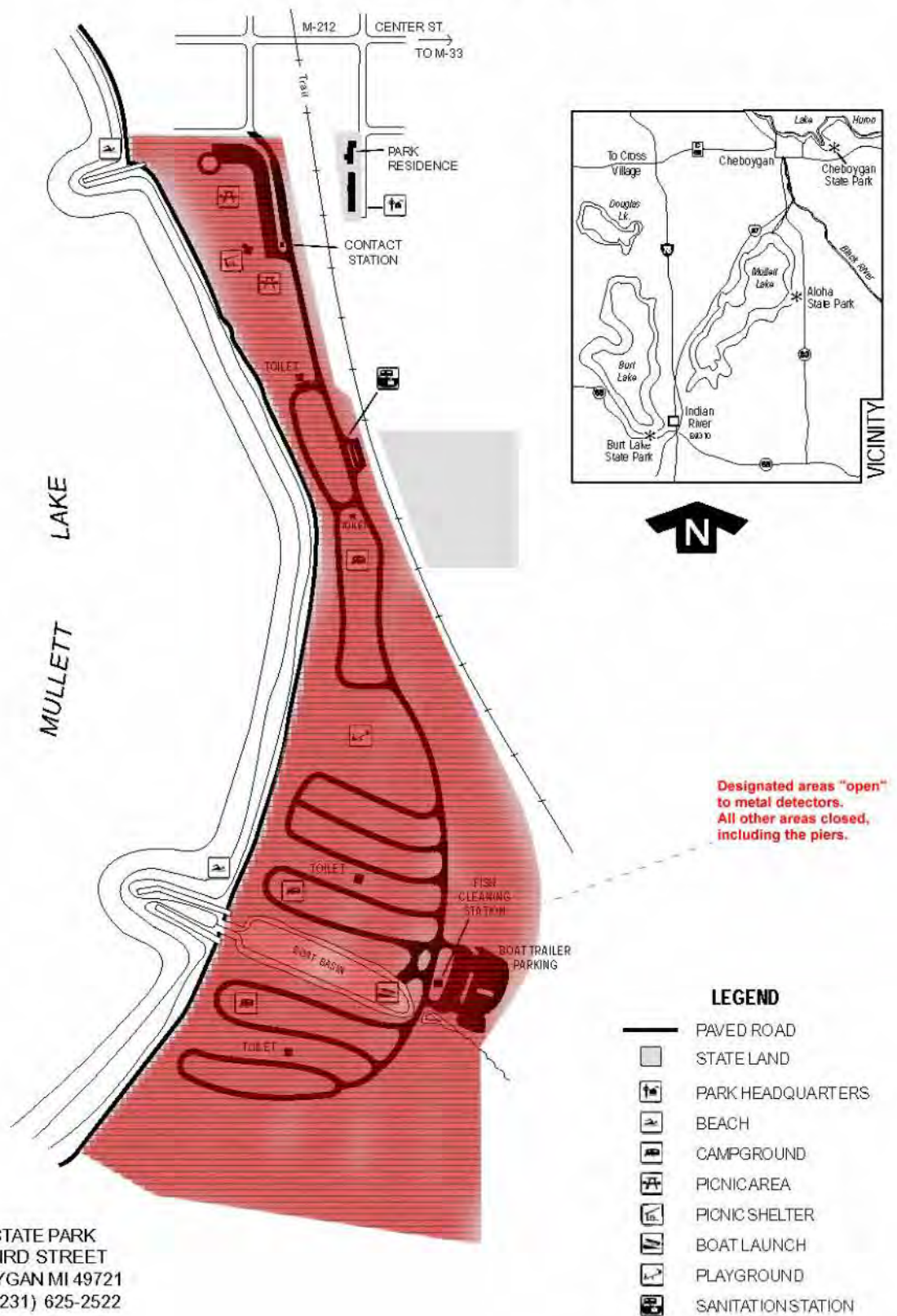
Portions of the landscape of the park were historically low and wet, with dredged sediment later spread to fill these areas. These areas have low archaeological sensitivity. Upland natural soils may be sensitive for early Native American and historic period resources, including areas in the original park site as well as later land acquisitions. An archaeological survey has not been conducted in Aloha State Park.

The principal surviving cultural resource in the park is approximately half the length of the original dock into Mullett Lake constructed by the Detroit and Mackinac Railroad in the early 1900s.

Within the North Central State Trail property, immediately adjacent to the park, the foundations remain of the Aloha Railroad Depot, which was removed in 1960. This was an elaborate station with a log-cabin themed interior and exterior designed to attract visitors to the area. The site of a Freight House associated with the railroad has also been documented just outside the park boundary.

The park manager's house on the east side of the railroad was demolished in 2009. There may be remains of the originally caretakers' cabin in the day-use area.

Aloha State Park



A map of areas open to metal detecting at Aloha State Park

The toilet shower building at the north end of the campground was constructed in 1954. However, it is not considered to be of historic significance and is slated for removal and replacement. Other toilet/shower buildings and the park headquarters were constructed in the 1960s.

Although few historic or cultural resources remain, the origin of Aloha State Park is unique, and the story of the Detroit and Mackinac sponsored resort provides a good interpretation opportunity.

A.10 Park Use Statistics

Aloha State Park has approximately 29,600 camp nights (61,500 guests) and over 50,000 day use visitors per year. These numbers have been increasing steadily over the last five years. The most popular months for both campers and day-users are July and August. Although weekends are booked more frequently, the campsites are also often occupied during the weekdays in the peak summer months.

Shelter reservations are popular in the summer months and typically accommodate over 500 guests per year.

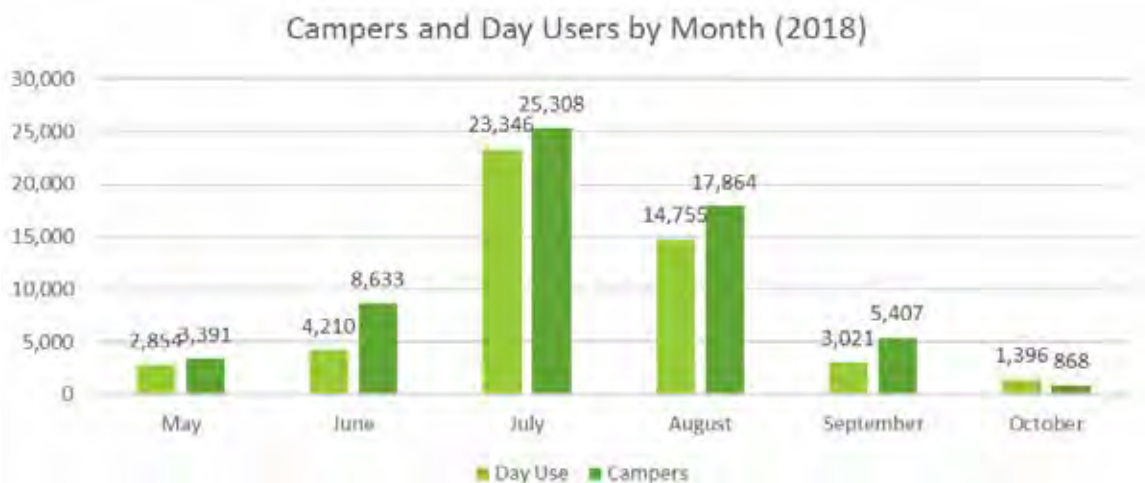
Top cities for camping reservations for Aloha State Park (2021) are illustrated in the following table, indicating the park draws primarily from northern Michigan, as well as the Bay City and Saginaw areas.

CITY & STATE	CUSTOMERS
CHEBOYGAN	235
GRAND RAPIDS	107
MIDLAND	91
BAY CITY	77
GAYLORD	71
TRAVERSE CITY	64
ALPENA	58
PETOSKEY	55
SAGINAW	54
HUDSONVILLE	44

Camper and Day Use Visitation Data

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Campers	58,105	59,541	61,497	63,254	64,902	62,452*	69,629
Day Use Visitors	40,777	46,422	50,566	70,564	Incomplete	Incomplete	Incomplete

*Decreased due to COVID closures






MONTH	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
Campers	3,391	8,633	25,308	17,864	5,407	868
Day Use Visitors	2,854	4,210	23,346	14,755	3,021	1,396



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Aloha State Park - Regional Overview



Updated: 08/16/2021





-  County Boundary
-  Aloha State Park
-  Waterbody





MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

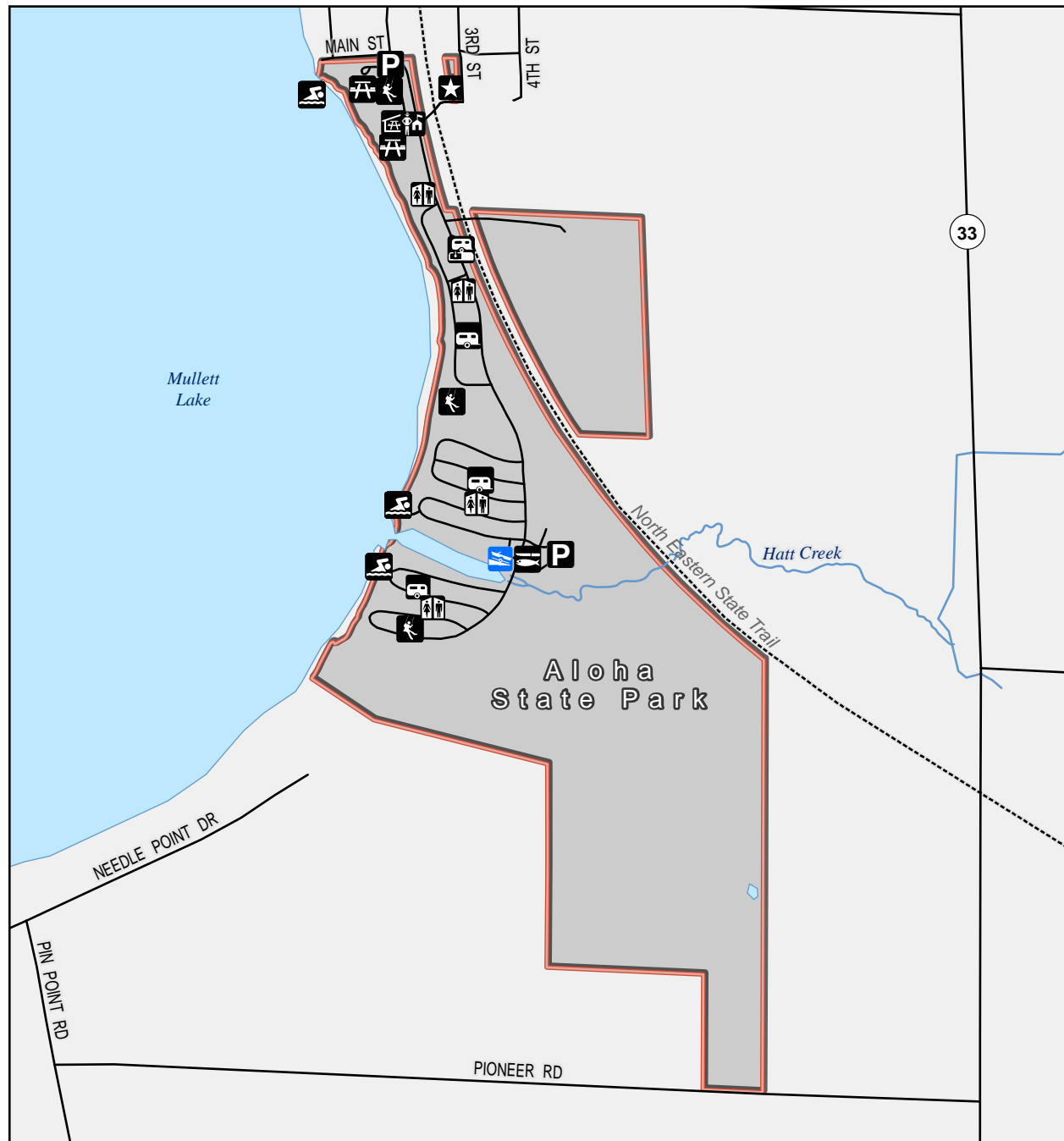
Aloha State Park - Park Boundary

-  State Park Boundary
-  NRC 2020 Approved Project Boundary*
-  Road
-  Regional Trail



Updated: 08/11/2021

*A project boundary is a geographic area in which the DNR is seeking to acquire property that supports the mission of the DNR on a willing buyer / willing seller basis, approved by the Natural Resources Commission in 2020



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Aloha State Park - Park Amenities

- State Park Boundary
- Road
- River/Stream
- Lake/Pond

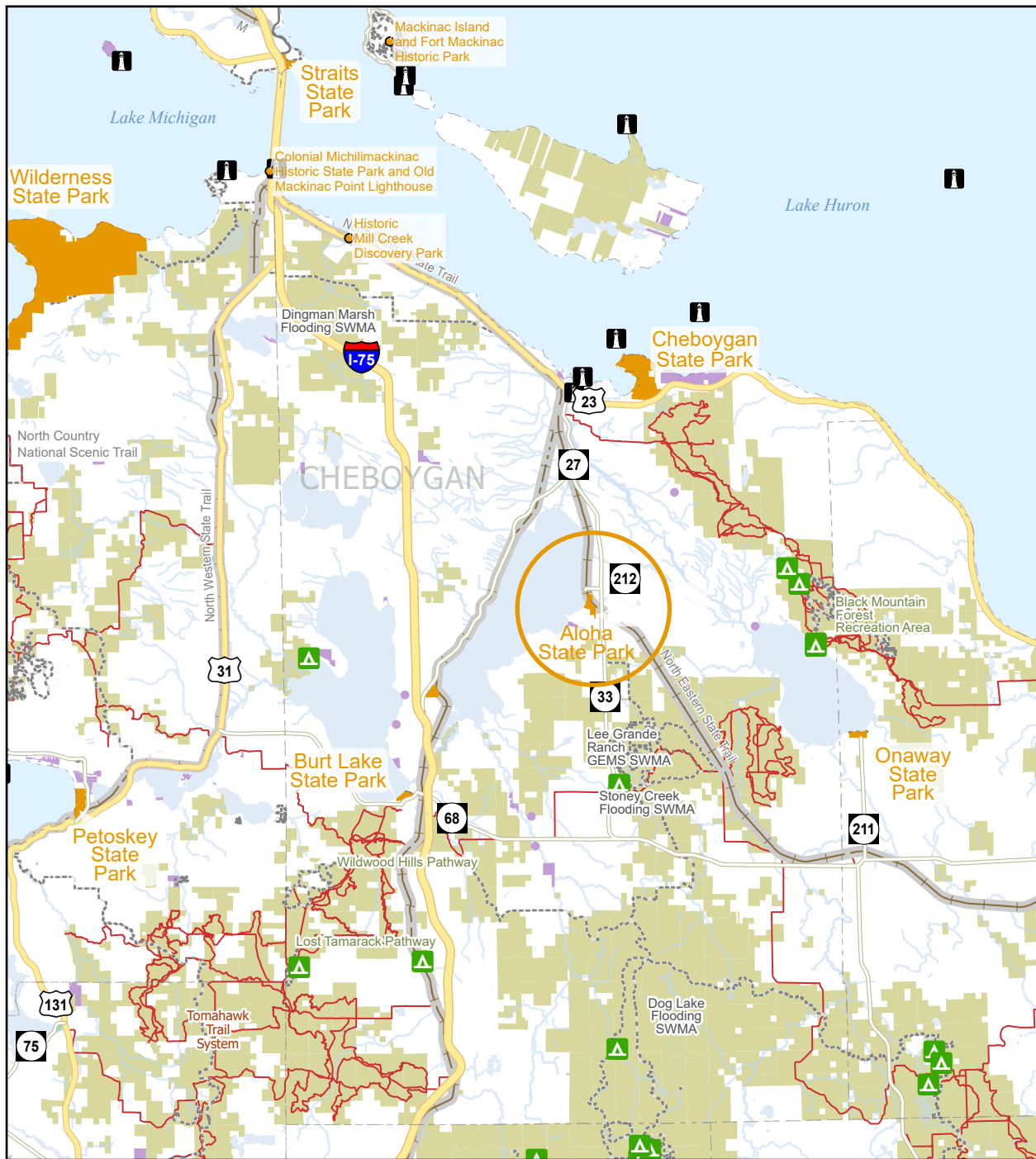
- Regional Trail
- Boating Access Site
- Modern Campground
- Sanitation Station

- Parking
- Beach
- Playground
- Picnic Area
- Picnic Shelter

- Park Headquarters
- Contact Station
- Fish Cleaning Station
- Toilet/Shower



Updated: 02/27/2020



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

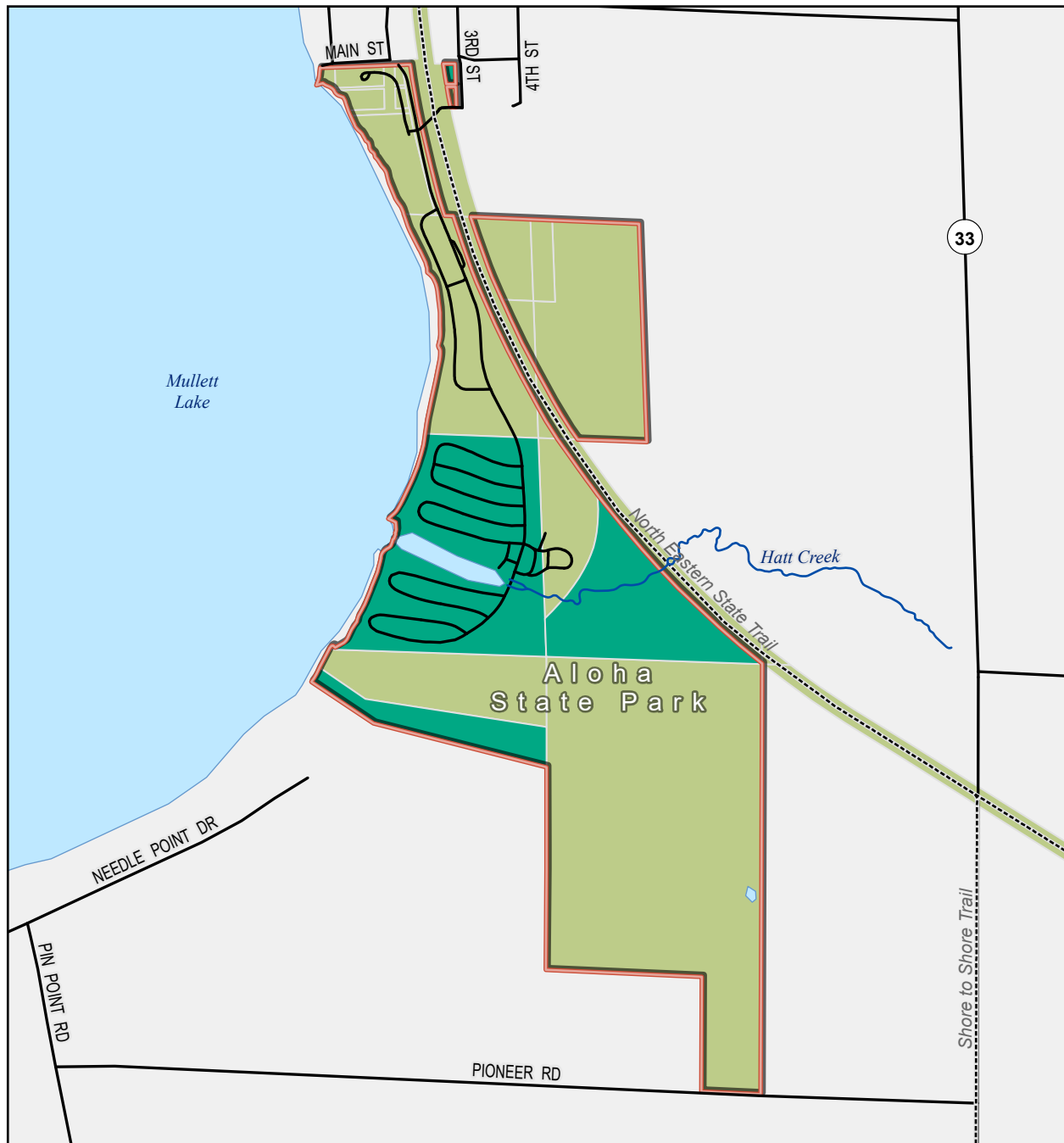
Regional Recreational Resources



Updated: 10/20/2021

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| County Boundary | State Forest Campground |
| State Park/Recreation Area/Historic Park | Lighthouse |
| State Forest | Non-motorized Trail |
| Municipal/County Park | Motorized Trail |
| Other Conservation Lands | Railtrail |





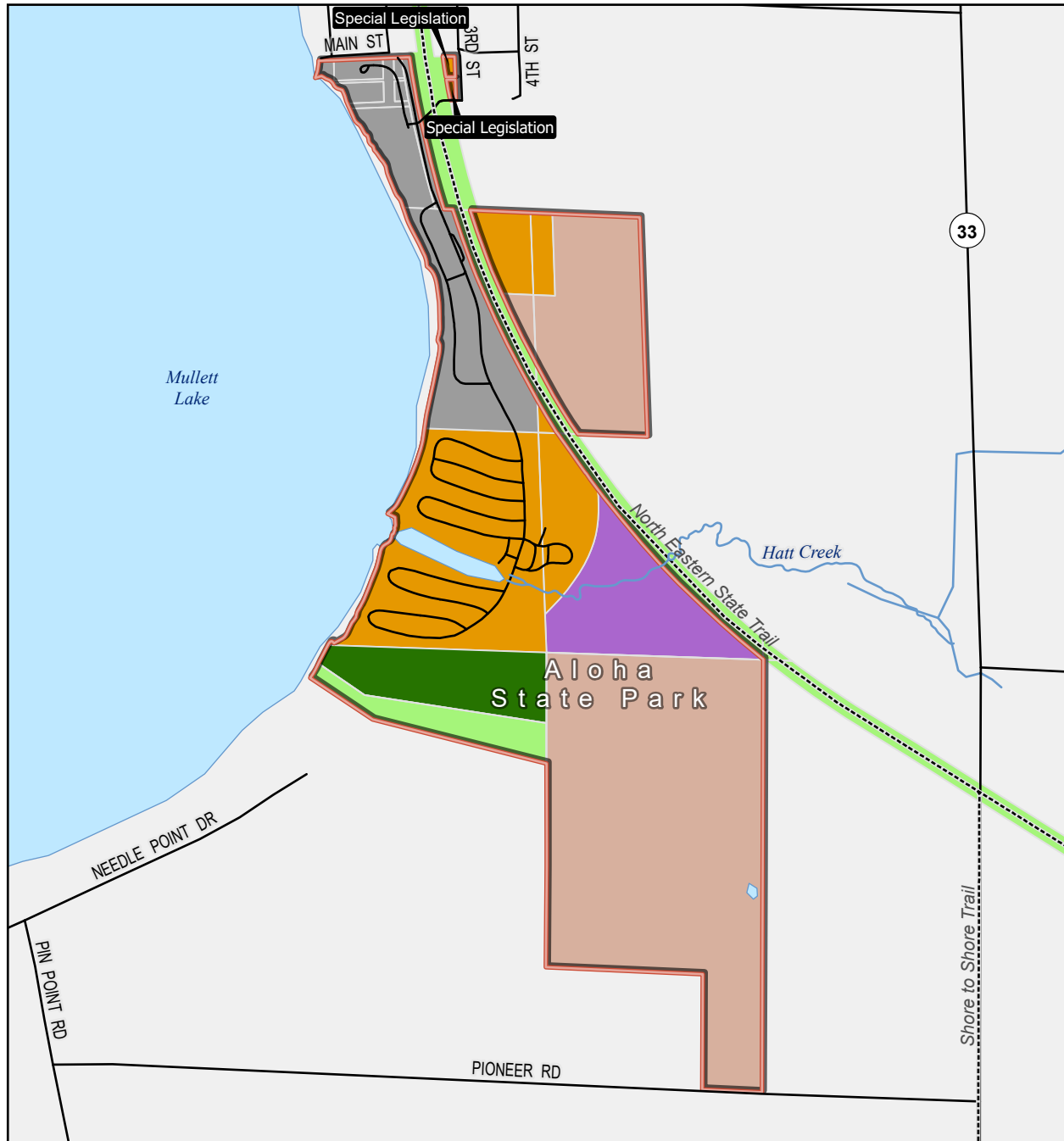
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Aloha State Park - Ownership Rights

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| State Park Boundary | Regional Trail |
| Road | Ownership Rights |
| River/Stream | Surface and Mineral Rights |
| Lake/Pond | Surface Rights |

Updated: 08/11/2021





MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Aloha State Park - Funding Sources



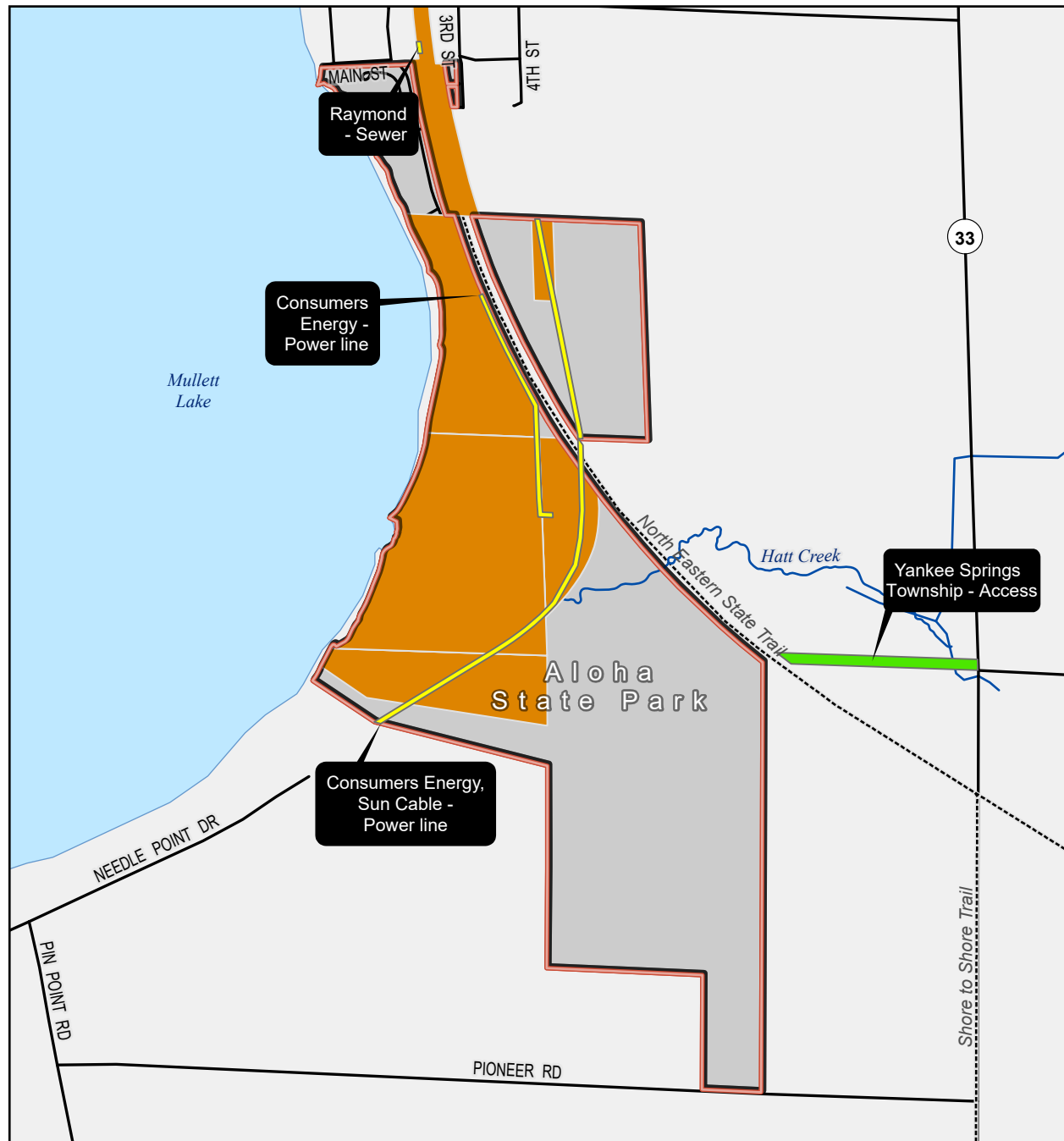
- State Park Boundary
- Road
- River/Stream
- Lake/Pond
- Regional Trail

- Funding Source
- Gift
 - Land Exchange Facilitation Fund

- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
- Recreation Bond Fund
- Special Legislation
- Land Exchange



Updated: 08/11/2021



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



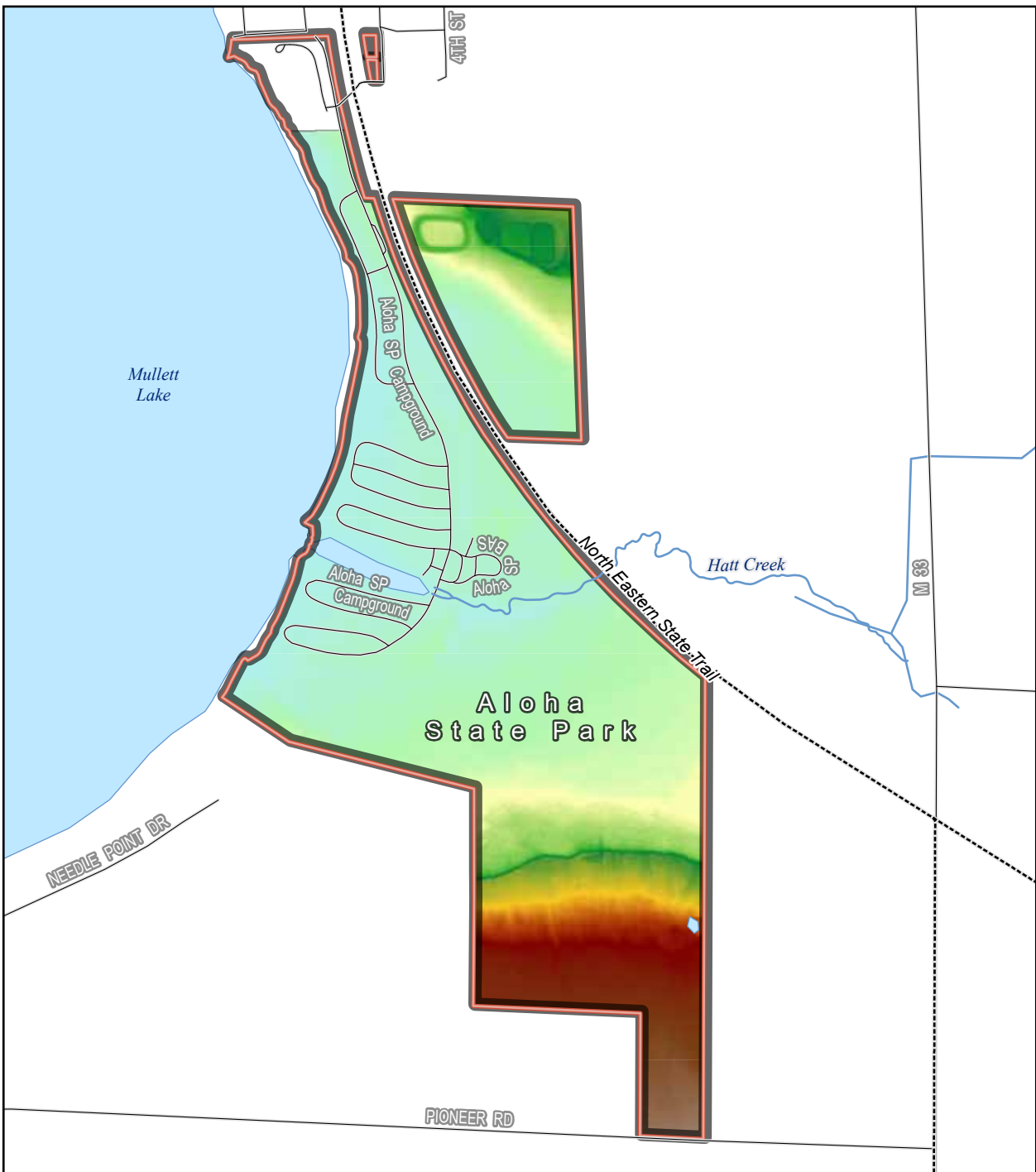
Aloha State Park - Easements*

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| State Park Boundary | Regional Trail |
| Road | Acquired Easement (Mapped Legal Description) |
| River/Stream | Granted Easement (Mapped Legal Description) |
| Lake/Pond | Parcel with Documented Granted Easement (Legal Description not Mapped) |



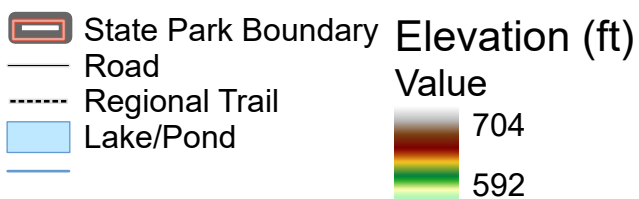
Updated: 10/27/2021

*Easement mapping is not complete as documentation and geographic descriptions vary in availability. Geometry is an approximation based on legal description



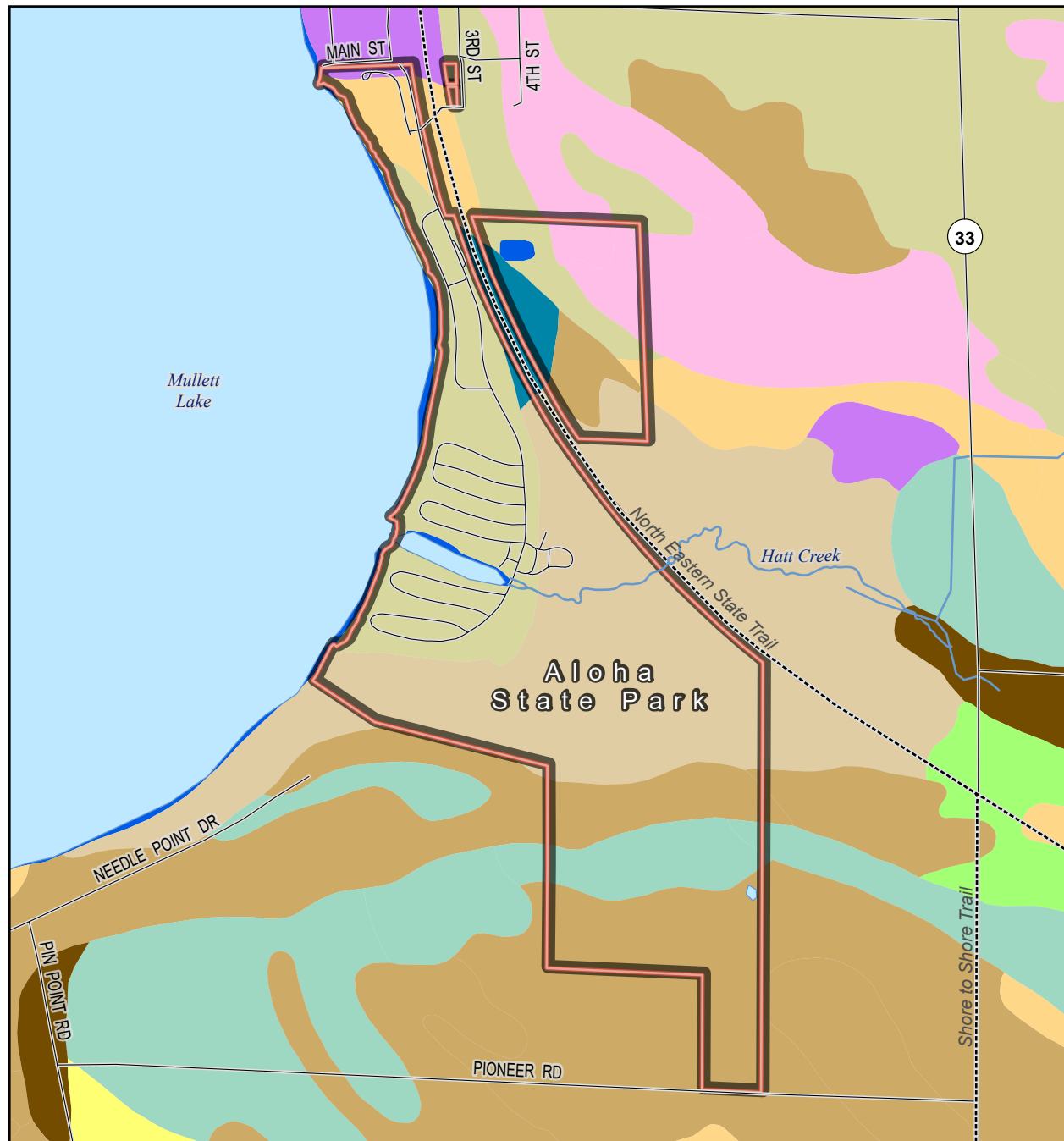
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Aloha State Park - Topography



Updated: 01/05/2022





MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Aloha State Park - Soils

State Park Boundary

Road

River/Stream

Lake/Pond

Regional Trail

Dominant Soil Texture*

Sand

Fine sand

Mucky sand

Loamy sand

Sandy loam

Fine sandy loam

Very fine sandy loam

Loam

Silty clay loam

Muck

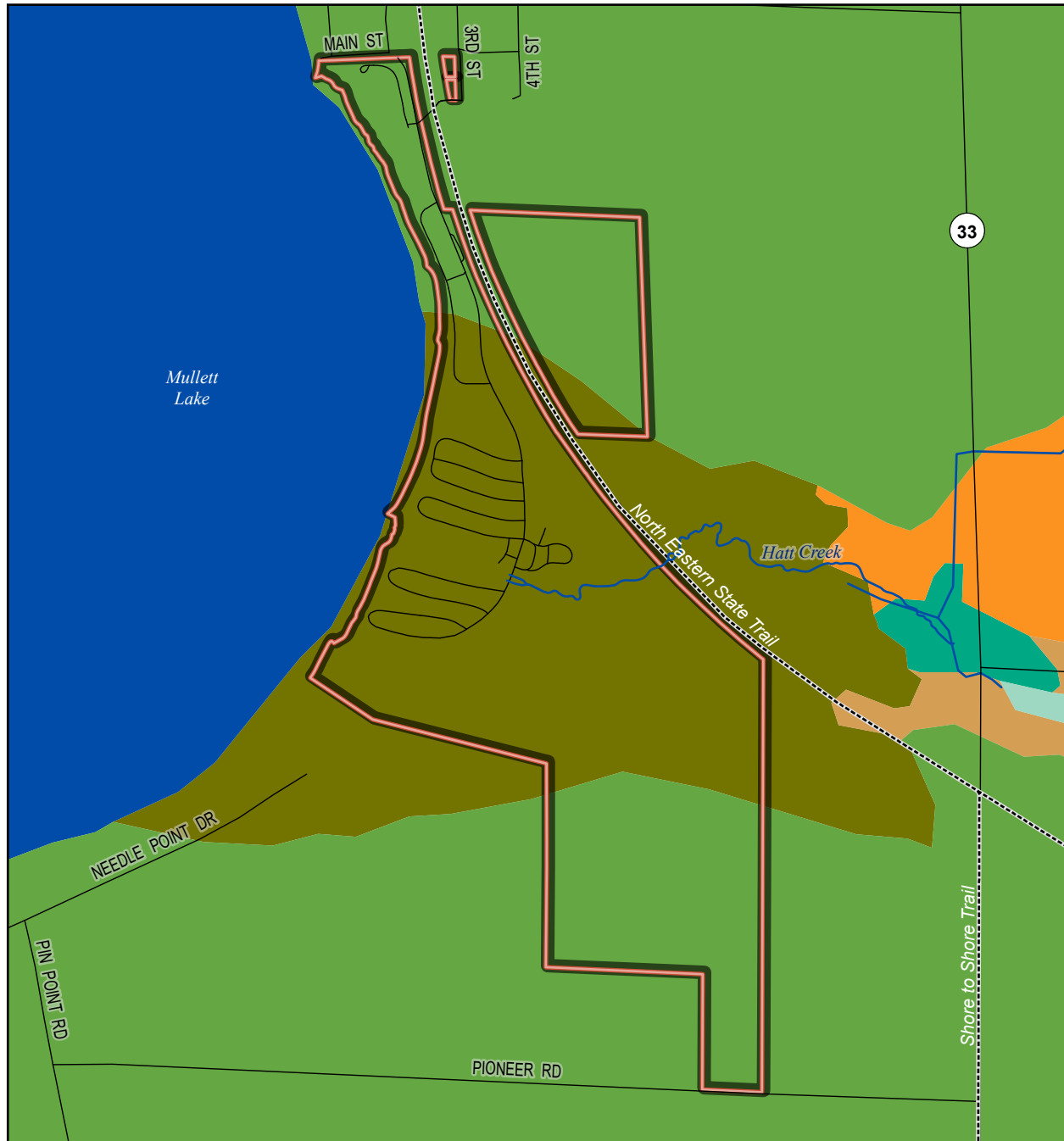
Peat

Water (no soils data available)

Updated: 08/11/2021

*Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Map Sheets, Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) Database, 2000





MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

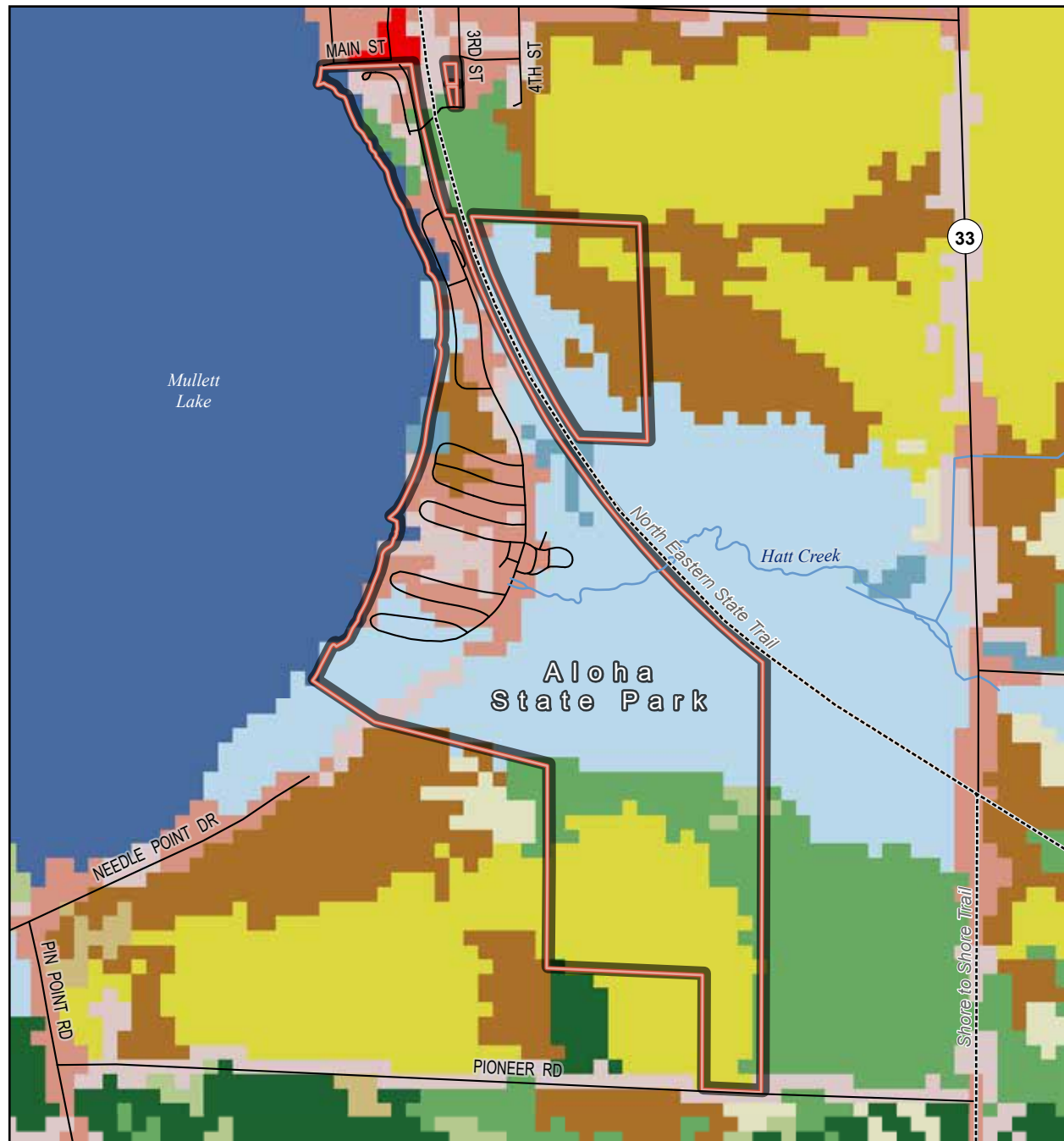
Aloha State Park - Land Cover, 1800s

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| State Park Boundary | Land Cover* | Hemlock |
| Road | Beech/Sugar Maple | Lake |
| River/Stream | Cedar Swamp | Low Conifer Swamp |
| Regional Trail | Elm Swamp | Wet Meadow |



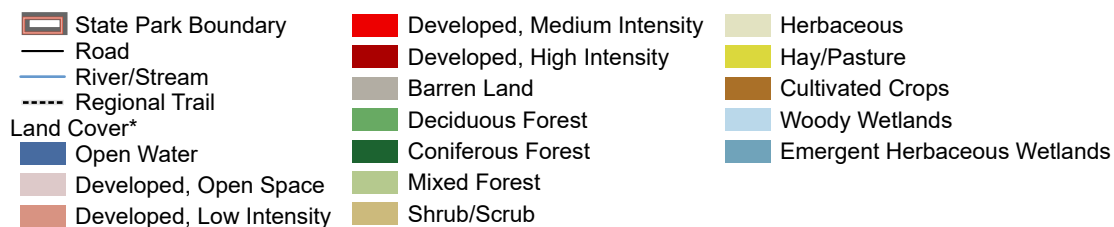
Updated: 08/11/2021

*Mapping derived from original notes of the State of Michigan General Land Office Survey conducted in the early to mid-1800s



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Aloha State Park - Land Cover



Updated: 08/11/2021
 *National Land Cover Database 2011





MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Aloha State Park - Wetlands

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| State Park Boundary | Regional Trail |
| Road | Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland* |
| River/Stream | Freshwater Pond |
| Lake/Pond | |

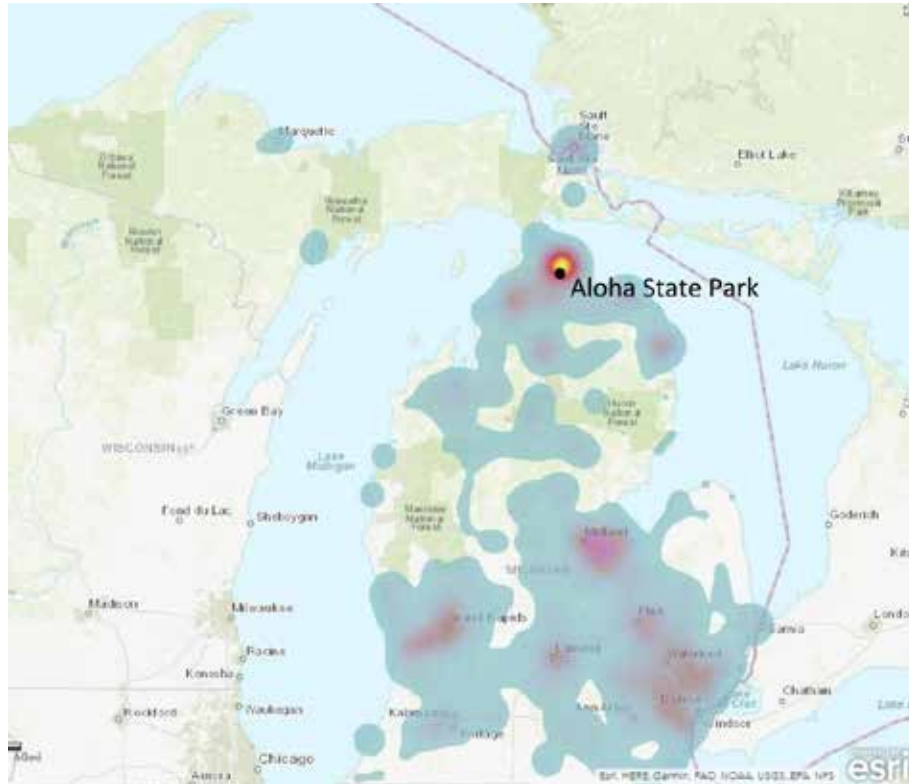
Updated: 08/11/2021

*The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) dataset (2012)





Participants in the Aloha State Park public input survey could submit photos of their experience.



Map depicting the zip code of survey respondents' primary residence. Brighter colors indicate a greater concentration of respondents. A small number of respondents were located outside of the map area.

Appendix

B: Public and Stakeholder Input

B.1 Project Website

A project website was available for public viewing throughout the duration of the planning process and was updated with maps, survey results, and the draft plan. Members of the public could contact the planning team through the website contact form.

B.2 Summary of Public Input Survey

One of the methods the planning team used to gather input from state park users was an online survey. This online approach provides a convenient way for those who have access to the internet to provide feedback. However, it is not designed to be statistically representative of Aloha State Park users or uses, as respondents self-select. The survey was advertised to a diverse range of people through various means. A press release was sent out to Subscribers of Boating, Michigan's Trails or Statewide DNR News (press releases) for the northeast region of the state (29,133 subscribers) and an email sent to those who had registered to camp at the park within the last 3 years. It was also promoted on the Aloha State Park website, regional online news websites, the

DNR's Facebook page. The survey link was also sent to over 40 stakeholders the planning team had identified who were invited to share the survey.

Responses were collected from February 3, 2022, through March 3, 2022. During the collection period, 1,071 individuals responded to the survey. Of those respondents, 1,046 (98%) have visited the park in the last ten years and went on to answer the remainder of the questions in the survey. Of those that did not visit the park in the last ten years, the top reasons were that they intend to visit the park soon but have not, that the park doesn't have the amenities they're looking for. The highest number of respondents were between 50 and 64 years old (38%), and most respondents were located primarily throughout the lower peninsula of Michigan, with the most frequent zip code of 49721 (Cheboygan area). A small number of respondents were located outside of this regional area and are not shown on this map.

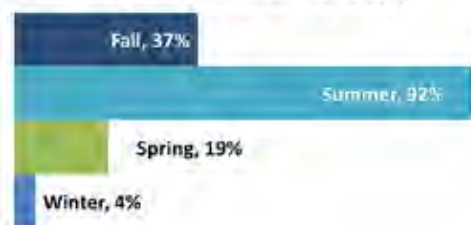
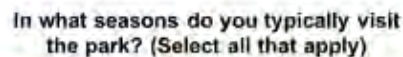
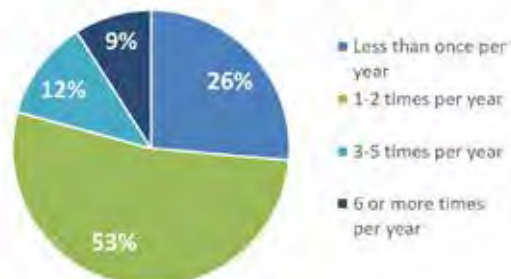
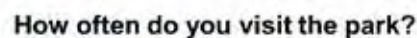
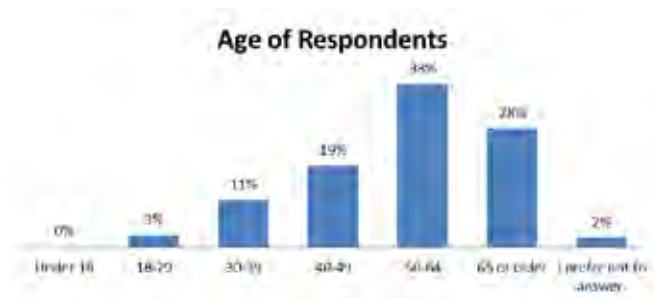
General Satisfaction

Aloha State Park is a much-loved destination for those that live close by as well as across the state. Fifty-three percent of respondents visit the park one or two times per year. Survey respondents were most likely to visit in the summer and fall seasons; only 3% of the respondents indicated that they visit the park in all four seasons. They travel to the park mainly by personal vehicle (95%), but some respondents travel to the park using watercraft (13%), a smaller number on bicycle (8%), and on foot (7%). Twenty-one percent of respondents said they use the North Eastern State rail trail (NEST) to access the park, and they usually travel less than 10 miles to reach the park (72%).

Respondents were asked what three words they would use to describe the park to someone who had never visited. The top ten most common words were beautiful, clean, fun, lake, relaxing, nice, busy, water, peaceful, and friendly. The word cloud below shows the words that were mentioned five or more times, with the increasing size of the word indicating a more frequent response.

Visitors participate in a range of activities at Aloha State Park. The most common activities respondents reported participating in are camping (89%) and swimming/wading (75%). The next most common activities were socializing (57%), biking (53%), motorized boating (51%), and fishing (50%).

On the visitors' last visit, they were typically accompanied by a spouse/partner (87%), friends (39%), children over 12 (33%) and young children under 12 (32%). Many also mentioned that their extended family joined them as well.



Words most frequently used to describe the park. Words that were used five or more times are included. Larger word size indicates a more frequent response.

Next, survey respondents were asked what they liked most about visiting Aloha State Park. With over 850 responses to this question, the answers were unique and varied, but trends did emerge. A great number of respondents mentioned the beautiful lakefront setting and water recreation opportunities, large grassy campsites, visiting the camp store and enjoying the doughnuts, and traditions of visiting with family and friends. Below are five randomly selected responses:

What do you like most about visiting the park?

- Being by the water
- Walking
- Our camp site, sandy bottom beach shore line, clear lake, location, trail
- Large waterfront sites
- Spending time with friends

Camping

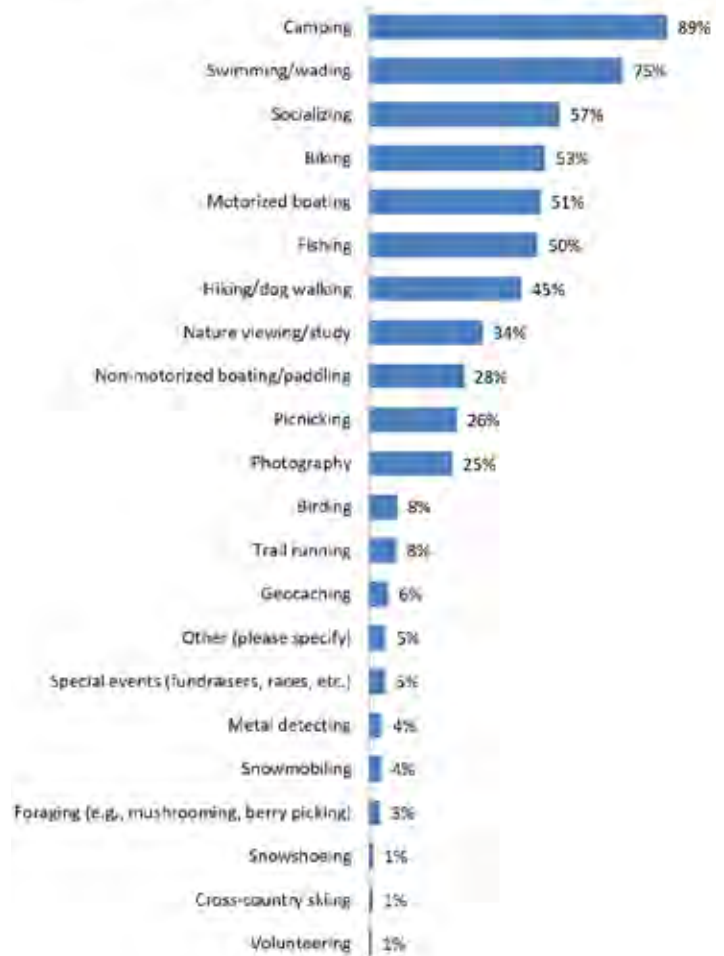
Nearly all survey respondents (91%) have camped at the park. On average, their typical length of stay was very evenly split between 2-3 nights (33%), 4-6 nights (33%) and 7 or more nights (32%) with only 2% staying for one night. When asked to rank their satisfaction with their camping experience on a scale of 1 (highly dissatisfied) to 9 (highly satisfied) with 5 being neutral, most respondents were satisfied with their experience with an average rating of 7. Those that rated their experience highly mentioned that they love the lakeside location and the cleanliness of the park. Those that rated their experience poorly mentioned flooding of the campsites, outdated facilities, and crowds. When asked what they liked most about their camping experience, respondents again mentioned the lakefront experience, relaxed and friendly atmosphere, camp store, and size of the park and sites. Below are five randomly selected responses:

What did you like most about the experience?

- The size of the place
- Beautiful area to relax and spend time with family and friends. Bringing our dogs is a must.
- Camping with family
- We were able to get a site with no one behind us
- Location

Respondents were also asked what, if anything, could be done to improve the camping experience. Seventy-eight percent of respondents had a suggestion, which ranged from updating the bathrooms, adding another dump station, improving campsite drainage, additional amenities for children, planting more trees, and others. Below are five randomly selected responses:

Please check ALL the activities in which you participate at Aloha State Park. (Select all that apply)



Is there anything that could be done to improve your camping experience?

- More trees, shrubs, etc. to separate the campsites.
- Beaches raked to keep debris away and the jetties need to be cleaned up appearance from the weeds etc
- Enforce noise curfews
- Clean sites, dry sites
- Pump out station needs to be farther away from the campsites and modernized for faster disposal. Trash was very underattended, needing pick up more frequently.

When campers were asked if they also frequently visit other destinations in the area during their stay, 68% of people said yes. Many visit Cheboygan, Mackinaw City, Mackinac Island, lakes on the Inland Waterway, Petoskey, Indian River, local restaurants and breweries, and many more.

Rail Trail Use

Campers were also asked if they used the North Eastern State Trail rail trail (NEST) that runs through the park while they were camping, and 44% said yes. Eleven people commented that they are unaware of the NEST. Those that use it were primarily biking (85%) and walking (58%), and most who specified another use were snowmobiling. Users of the trail were generally satisfied with their experience, and commented that it was easy to access, wide, and an enjoyable experience. Some commenters wished it were completely paved, that it were easier to access from the middle of the park, and that they had issues with mosquitoes and poison ivy. When asked what they liked most about the trail, many comments mentioned the ease of access and convenience of the trail, that it is peaceful and doesn't cross many busy roads, that it is well maintained, and the natural scenery. Below are five randomly selected responses.

What do you like most about the North Eastern State Trail rail trail (NEST)?

- Quiet
- Direct access to locations I want to visit with little disruption.
- Biking ease
- Beautiful scenery
- Good Terrain

Rail trail users were also asked what, if anything, could be done to improve their satisfaction with the NEST. Though 75% of respondents said that no changes were needed, the 25% that did suggest changes mentioned ideas like paving more of the trail, adding additional access points in the park or points of interest, providing restrooms for trail users at the park, improving maps and signage, and general trail maintenance. Below are five randomly selected responses.



The North Eastern State Trail can be accessed from the park

Is there anything that could be done to improve your satisfaction with the North Eastern State rail trail (NEST)?

- Pavement
- A walking/running paved lane next to the trail
- Black top the surface
- Pave
- Better maps on the trail

Most trail users said that they do not use the NEST to travel to or between other parks or communities from Aloha State Park while camping (76%). Those that do travel to other destinations using the trail most frequently mentioned Cheboygan and the towns nearest to the park.

Day Use Facilities

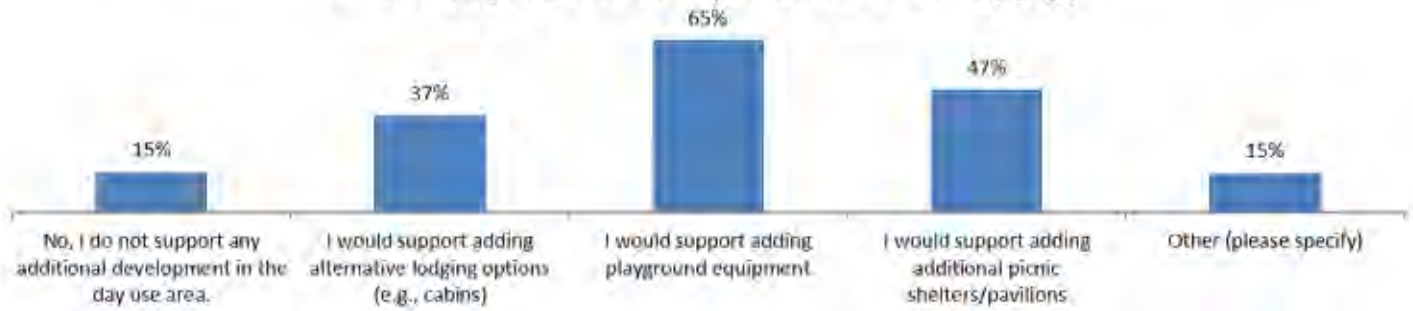
Fifty five percent of respondents have used the parks day use facilities (picnic area, beach, pavilions). Most respondents were satisfied, with a weighted satisfaction score of 7 on a scale of 1 (highly dissatisfied) to 9 (highly satisfied) with 5 being neutral. Those that rated the day use area highly spoke of it's easy accessibility, large space for gatherings, and beach access. Those that rated the day use poorly commented on issues with geese, that the beach area was not large enough or unclear, and that there could be improvements like updated picnic amenities and play equipment. When asked what they liked the most about the day use facilities, respondents again mentioned the access to the lake and the camp store, the availability of the large grassy space, the cleanliness, and the picnic facilities. Below are five randomly selected responses.

What did you like most about the day use facilities?

- Love the large size of the day use area. Like that picnic tables set by waters edge.
- Swimming... large area.
- Looking at the water
- Clean and grassy
- Easy bathroom access, friendly people

About half of respondents suggested that improvements could be made to improve the experience at the day use area. Responses included improving the maintenance and cleanliness of the facilities, updating the picnic amenities, having an updated restroom closer to the day use area, adding updated playground equipment, managing the geese population, and some went as far as to say that the entire area needed an upgrade and re-design.

Would you support incorporating additional developed facilities in the day use area? (Check all that apply)



Is there anything that could be done to improve your experience at the day use area?

- A more conveniently placed bathhouse.
- Updating
- A playscape for young children.
- I'd like for the beach area to be cleaned up
- Add more beach area. Clean up and repair dock. Update playground equipment it's over 40 years old. Clean up goose droppings. Clean up beach area.

Respondents were asked if they would support various changes to the day use area, including adding alternative lodging options (e.g., cabins), adding playground equipment, adding additional picnic shelters/pavilions, or no additional development. There was the most support for playground equipment (65%), followed by picnic shelters (47%), followed by alternative lodging (37%). Only 15% said that they do not support any additional development. Fifteen percent of respondents had other ideas, ranging from restrooms, bike-in campsites for bike camping, adding family restrooms, recreation courts, a kayak launch, and shoreline improvements.

Fishing

Forty-seven percent of survey respondents said that they fish from the park. They most frequently fish from a motorized boat (61%) or from the shoreline (33%), rather than a nonmotorized boat (6%). The most frequently targeted species is walleye (49%) followed by no particular species (42%), yellow

perch (39%), and smallmouth bass (25%).

Comments left by anglers suggested various improvements, such as dredging the boat launch area, improving the boat basin water quality, adding a fish cleaning station near the boat basin, or even simply a posted fishing report would be a helpful addition. Others noted that having a fishing pier would be helpful. Some noted that they enjoyed fishing in this area but that it can be difficult.

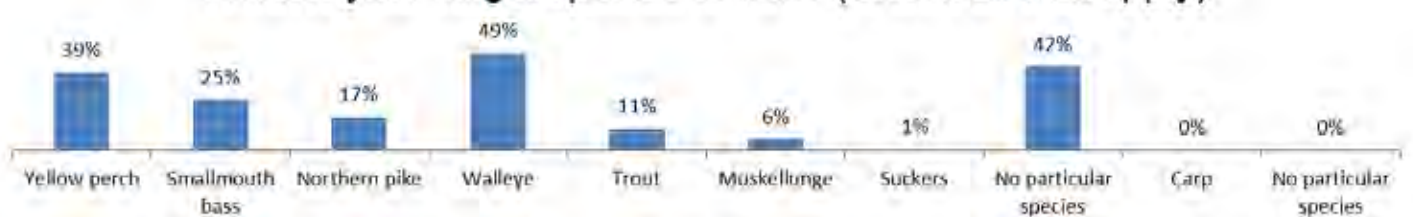
Please enter any comments you may have about fishing at the park.

- Love the fish cleaning station and launch area. The ample parking for boat trailers is also a big plus.
- Channel is way too weedy to fish.
- Cleaning station is nice. Kids enjoyed fishing off the jetty when they were younger and we could give them some freedom to venture out while we watched them from our campsite. We absolutely love Aloha.
- The channel needs to be dredged near the boat ramp
- Enjoy using the boat launch.

Special Events or Programs

Most survey respondents (79%) have not participated in a special event or program at the park. Those that did participate left positive comments and noted how much they enjoyed the events they participated in. Visitors enjoy a variety of camp host activities and the Fall Festival is a visitor favorite. Five random comments are listed below.

What is your target species of fish? (Check all that apply)



Please enter any comments you may have on the special events or programs in which you participated.

- The host activities are always fun
- Open houses, last day of school gatherings, just camping and having friends visit
- We enjoyed it
- Halloween weekend really fun and organized
- Grand kids join the camp host activities.

Respondents were asked for ideas of other events or programs they would like to see at the park. A wide variety of suggestions were given, ranging from nature programs, youth activities, cornhole tournaments, food truck rallies, live music, outdoor movies, a hay ride, and more! Below are five randomly selected responses.

What, if any, additional programs or events would you like to be available at the park in the future?

- Concerts, history programs, nature and birding activities.
- Concert in mid park area or up front.
- I'd like it to be kept small in size to keep its allure
- Events for kids.
- Live music in the park

Other Thoughts

Finally, respondents could share any other comments they had about the park, and optionally submit a photograph of

their experience. Three hundred and seventeen comments were submitted, ranging from additional suggestions to lovely memories. They included mentions of the park needing to improve flooded campsites, crowded conditions, the need for updated and additional restrooms, adding cabins, improved and expanded beach, updated play equipment, more tree cover, and other general updates. Five randomly selected comments follow:

Please share any other thoughts you may have on the park.

- A playground in the park that more than just broken swings would be nice. The playground area is large and beautiful and could accommodate this nicely. Leveling sites so that complete areas don't flood would be nice.
- A number of the sites have problems with water and the bathrooms would benefit from being upgraded to the newer design with showers like Mitchell SP, but not the ugly bathrooms that were just built at Wilderness SP.
- I heard they lost many trees since our visit. I hope replanting is happening.
- Love this park. Don't change it.
- It is my favorite state park! My family has been camping there for 65+ years!

Survey participants could leave a photo of their experience at Aloha State Park, and 143 images were submitted. These photographs will be used to bring the General Management Plan to life! The DNR appreciates everyone who took the time to participate in the survey.



Additional photos of Aloha State Park visitors enjoying their stay

B.3 Summary of Stakeholder Input Workshop

To gather targeted input from governmental, non-profit, and business/tourism entities, the planning team invited over 40 stakeholders, both individuals and community groups, to participate in a facilitated virtual input workshop held on February 23, 2022, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 p.m. Representatives of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provided the stakeholders with a brief overview of Aloha State Park, including its natural features and recreational offerings. The stakeholders were also informed about the general management plan process, timeline, and were given explanation of the plan elements that their input would inform: the statements of significance, the draft management zone map, and a draft list of action goals intended to be accomplished over the next ten years.

After a short question period, the stakeholders engaged in a virtual input session with a real-time questionnaire using the website Mentimeter. They completed a series of brainstorming exercises relating to the park's current state, opportunities for partnerships, the potential for the park to benefit to the larger community, and the stakeholders' vision for the park's future. The results of the exercises are described below.

PLANNING TEAM ATTENDEES	
NAME	REPRESENTING
DEBBIE JENSEN	DNR: Management Plan Administrator
KIMBERLY BECK-WILLIAMS	DNR: Unit Supervisor
ROBERT MCKAY	DNR: Cultural Resources Analyst
SHANNON HARIG	DNR: Forestry
RICH HILL	DNR: District Supervisor
PAIGE PERRY	DNR: Trails Specialist
KEITH CHELI	DNR: Regional Planner
TIMOTHY ROSOCHACKI	DNR: Conservation Officer
STACY TCHORZYNSKI	DNR: Archaeologist
RONDA OSGA	DNR: Field Planner
LISA GAMERO	DNR: Cultural Resources Analyst
GREG NORWOOD	DNR: Stewardship Ecologist
CHRISTY SUMMERS	Planning Consultant
CAITLIN JACKSON	Planning Consultant

STAKEHOLDER INPUT WORKSHOP ATTENDEES	
NAME	REPRESENTING
RENEE WYATT	Aloha Historic Society, Aloha Camp Store
POLLY SCHNEIDER	Cheboygan Chamber of Commerce
JOHN WALLACE	Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners Chairman
ROBERTA MATELSKI	Cheboygan County Commissioner, District 5
CAM CAVITT	Cheboygan County Drain Commissioner
MICHAEL TURISK	Cheboygan County Planning & Zoning
JEREMY RUNSTROM	Cheboygan Office of Emergency Management
BRANDON SCHROEDER	Michigan Sea Grant
HERM BOATIN	Mullett Lake Area Preservation Society
LAUREN DEY	Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
BRENT BOLIN	Top of Michigan Trails Council
JIM CONBOY	Top of Michigan Trails Council

Exercise 1: Say one word or phrase that describes the park right now.

Stakeholders described both the beauty and character of the park and its crowded nature in this first exercise. The park is a popular destination for camping and water recreation that has been enjoyed year after year for many visitors.

WORD OR PHRASE	MENTIONS
Busy	3
Popular	2
Beach	1
Beautiful	1
Bicycle destination	1
Boating	1
Coastal Lake Huron access	1
Congested	1
Crowded	1
Dated	1
Historic	1
Lakeshore	1
Nostalgic	1
Overused	1
Recreation	1
Trail access	1
Unique	1
Water	1
Valuable	1
Versatile	1
Water	1

Exercise 2: Say one word or phrase that you want to describe the park in the future.

In this exercise, stakeholders identified both the desire to improve and modernize the park facilities while also retaining the natural, wooded and relaxing atmosphere of the park.

ITEMS	MENTIONS
Bikepacking	2
Natural	2
Access to water	1
Bucket list visit	1
Cabins	1
Experience Lake Huron	1
Family destination	1
Great stop on the NEST	1
Improved	1
Modern	1
Naturalized	1
Relaxing	1
Updated	1
Water recreation	1
Wooded	1

Exercise 3: What things should stay the same about Aloha State Park?

Stakeholders made it clear that public access to the lake and to waterfront recreation is of the utmost importance, in addition to other unique characteristics of the park such as having nearby private business that is symbiotically connected to the park.

ITEMS	MENTIONS
Access to water	3
Access to water recreation	1
Donuts	1
Multiple values/uses	1
Partnerships with the Chamber, Visitors Bureau, Trails Council to encourage NEST use to access the city through events, cross promotion, kiosks etc.	1
Public access to Lake Huron	1
The ability to have the park store nearby in the village of Aloha and have it be a private business	1
The character of the park	1

Exercise 4: What improvements or changes would you like to see at Aloha State Park?

Ideas for improvements and changes ranged from park facility modernization, reorganizing the vehicular circulation to improve traffic flow, adding additional recreational and education activities, environmental stewardship, and more.

ITEMS	MENTIONS
Cabins / Cabins with easy access from the NEST	2
Plant more trees	2
Continue to provide an outstanding public recreational access to Mullett Lake and the inland water route for day use and overnight visitors	1
Day use area updates	1
Dedicated non-motorized route within developed campground and day use areas	1
Destination trailhead	1
Diversified visitor recreation opportunities on south parcel	1
Environmental stewardship/learning opportunities for visitors/users	1
Improved access to and parking/amenities for NEST users in and out of the campground	1
Improved shoreline stewardship	1
Improved traffic flow. Reroute main end to end access away from campsites	1
Less congested entrance	1
Modernization of park infrastructure	1
More activities for kids	1
Youth involvement? School/youth group engagement	1

Exercise 5: How can Aloha State Park benefit the wider community, now or in the future?

Stakeholders suggested a range of stewardship, educational, and economic development opportunities to leverage the park's assets for the benefit of the wider community.

ITEMS	
1.	Community stewardship or learning events
2.	Encourage more campers to use NEST to access the City of Cheboygan
3.	Educational and experience opportunities for local youth
4.	Engagement of youth in development of Park initiatives/opportunities
5.	Leveraging coastal tourism networks and partnerships
6.	Improved day use area for locals
7.	On the water access and experience for locals

Exercise 6: How can local groups and stakeholders collaborate and partner with Aloha State Park?

Stakeholders named several area groups to partner with, including non-profits, educational entities, and tourism groups that could help promote the park, host programs and events within the park, or partner on park improvements.

ITEMS	
1.	Friends of Aloha State Park Group!!
2.	Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative network- engaging schools, educators, youth locally
3.	Invite Mullett Lake associations to have events at an improved day use area.
4.	Top of Michigan Trails Council can continue to promote the park with their maps and brochures.
5.	US 23 Heritage Route- coastal tourism partnerships, marketing, etc.
6.	Educational and experiential opportunities with outdoor rec businesses
7.	An event that brings all these groups together in the park?
8.	Michigan Water Trails? https://www.michiganwatertrails.org/
9.	Michigan Sea Grant / MSU Extension- always willing to collaborate in local research, education and outreach opportunities!

Exercise 7: What are the most important things to stay the same Aloha State Park? (Choose 3)

The ideas in exercise 3 were summarized into 6 choices, of which the stakeholders could select their top three items. The stakeholders voted most frequently for preserving public access to the lake and waterfront recreation.

WHAT SHOULD STAY THE SAME?	VOTES
Public access to the Lake	7
Water Access & Recreation	7
Multiple Values / Uses	4
Park Character	4
Donuts	3
Park Store Nearby in Village (Private Business)	2

Exercise 8: What are the most important improvements or changes to make Aloha State Park? (Choose 3)

Out of the choices given of potential improvements or changes to the park which were summarized from Exercise 4, the stakeholders voted most frequently for adding more trees to the park, park infrastructure modernization, and environmental stewardship education.

WHAT SHOULD BE CHANGED OR IMPROVED?	VOTES
More Trees	5
Park Infrastructure Modernization	5
Environmental Stewardship Education	4
Cabins (Including with Easy Access from the NEST)	3
Day Use Area Updates	3
Improved Shoreline Stewardship	3
Less Congested Entrance / Improved Traffic Flow	3
Nonmotorized Route Within Campground & Day Use Area	3
Access to Parking / Amenities for NEST users	1
Activities for Kids / Youth	1
Destination Trailhead	1
Diversified Recreation Opportunities (South Parcel)	1

B.4 Tribal Engagement

The following letter was sent via email to:

- Bay Mills Indian Community
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
- Hannahville Indian Community
- Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
- Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
- Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
- Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
- Gun Lake Tribe of Pottawatomi Indians
- Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi
- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Dear Tribal Leaders, Natural Resources Directors, and Environmental Directors:

The Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is in the process of developing general management plans for two properties on Mullett Lake in Cheboygan County – Aloha State Park and an undeveloped parcel on the southwest side of the lake referred to as the Mullett Lake South property.

Aloha State Park features waterfront campsites, boating access and beaches on Mullett Lake at the central point of the Inland Waterway. The North Eastern State Trail, which runs from Alpena to Mackinaw City, borders the park. In addition, the park includes a 64-acre undeveloped parcel to the south that features meadows and woodland.

The 147-acre Mullett Lake South property, located approximately 1 mile south of Topinabee in Mullet Township (T36N, R02W, S31), was purchased by the DNR in 2013. The property features diverse cover types including mixed deciduous and coniferous mature northern forest, wetlands and 1,500 feet of frontage on Mullett Lake. The 75-mile-long North Central State Trail runs along the lakeshore through the property. This property contains significant Indigenous cultural resources that require protection and appropriate stewardship. We encourage your Tribal Historic Preservation Officer or Tribal Cultural Representative, to participate in park planning.

The DNR uses general management plans (GMPs) to define a long-range planning and management strategy that will protect the natural, cultural and historic resources of the site, while considering education and recreation opportunities. A planning team, representing various specialties within the DNR, has been established and is meeting regularly to develop the GMP for these sites.

The planning process includes several opportunities for input. The first of these is an online stakeholder focus group to discuss the Mullett Lake South property scheduled for February 2, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. A similar meeting for Aloha State Park will be scheduled in the early spring, together with an online survey. In addition, the draft plans will be available for review and comment prior to adoption in the summer or fall of 2022.

For additional information on our management plan process, please visit our website at www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans

We would like to give the Tribes the opportunity to meet with us independently of the larger group to discuss the management plan process and any thoughts you may have in relation to either of these properties. In addition, you are welcome to send representatives to the stakeholder focus group on February 2 by registering here.

Please contact Ms. Debbie Jensen, PRD Management Plan Administrator, at Jensend1@michigan.gov, or myself if you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,

Trevor J. VanDyke, J.D.

Director, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office, Tribal Liaison

Executive Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

B.5 Public Input Survey Data

Q1: Have you visited Aloha State Park in the last ten years?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
YES	97.67%	1046
NO	2.33%	25
ANSWERED		1071
SKIPPED		0

Q2: What keeps you from visiting the park more often? (Select all that apply)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
THE PARK IS TOO FAR AWAY FROM MY HOME.	8.70%	2
I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME.	0.00%	0
I INTEND TO VISIT THE PARK SOON, BUT HAVEN'T YET.	39.13%	9
THE PARK DOES NOT HAVE THE AMENITIES I'M LOOKING FOR.	21.74%	5
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET A CAMPING RESERVATION FOR MY DESIRED DATES.	13.04%	3
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	21.74%	5
ANSWERED		23
SKIPPED		1048

Other (please specify):

- 1 We live across the lake in Mullett Lake Village but have friends who enjoy Aloha Park.
- 2 Live nearby
- 3 I haven't been able to get a campsite that is big enough for my fifth-wheel.
- 4 I didn't know it existed.
- 5 Our family went there for many years, but things in life have gotten in the way. We would like to return, some day.

Q3: How often do you visit the park?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
LESS THAN ONCE PER YEAR	26%	272
1-2 TIMES PER YEAR	53%	545
3-5 TIMES PER YEAR	12%	121
6 OR MORE TIMES PER YEAR	9%	93
ANSWERED		1031
SKIPPED		40

Q4: In what seasons do you typically visit the park? (Select all that apply)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
WINTER	4%	43
SPRING	19%	193
SUMMER	92%	945
FALL	37%	377
ANSWERED		1031
SKIPPED		40

Q5: How do you travel to the park? (Select all that apply)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
MOTORIZED VEHICLE (CAR/ TRUCK/RV/MOTORCYCLE/ SNOWMOBILE)	95%	984
BICYCLE	8%	86
ON FOOT	7%	68
WATERCRAFT (BOAT, KAYAK, CANOE)	13%	132
OTHER:	1%	9
ANSWERED		1031
SKIPPED		40

Other (please specify):

- 1 Snowmobile
- 2 Pulling travel trailer
- 3 Motor Home

Q6: Do you use the North Eastern State rail trail (NEST) to access the park?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
YES	21%	215
NO	79%	820
PLEASE ENTER ANY COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE.		89
ANSWERED		1035
SKIPPED		36

Comments:

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 2 A great way to access the park!
- 5 Trail system used while at the park.
- 9 If there was a docking area we would come by boat to the camp store and visit friends camping.

APPENDIX B

- 13 Only entrance to park is by exiting at Rangers Station or
at 212. Could use another exit near boat trailer parking
area.
- 15 None
- 16 Keep the small and quaint size of the park the same!!
- 20 No, but I use it for hiking daily when there
- 21 Great walking / bike trail
- 22 Snowmobile
- 25 Park should make trail access more obvious and
promote trail use.
- 29 Not sure
- 30 We don't use the trail to access the park, but we do use
it to ride our bikes into Cheboygan while staying at the
park.
- 34 The trail was very nice.
- 35 Not familiar with what this is.
- 38 No
- 41 But we have ridden the trail while staying at the park.
- 42 We run the trail while staying at the park
- 44 use trail when staying at the park, do not use the trail
otherwise
- 46 Campground needs water and sewer hook ups for rv
campers. Along with another dump station thats not by
the exit/entrance
- 58 I would like to but not sure of trail and would be alone

- 64 I don't know what the NEST is.
66 Didn't know this existed! We will look for it next time!
71 Great trail
72 No, but I use the trail while i am staying at the park.
74 Walk the trail
80 Unsure of what this is
81 Halloween Event is our favorite
82 I do not know what this is
86 Need to make a way to the trail front m the middle
section of the park .
88 Nice to have the trail access

Q7: If you have used the North Eastern State rail trail (NEST) to access the park, how many miles do you travel to reach the park via the trail system?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
LESS THAN 10 MILES	72.14%	145
10-25 MILES	17.41%	35
25-50 MILES	5.47%	11
50-100 MILES	2.99%	6
MORE THAN 100 MILES	1.99%	4
ANSWERED		201
SKIPPED		870

Q8: What three words would you use to describe Aloha State Park to someone who has never visited?



Words most frequently used to describe the park. Words that were used five or more times are included. Larger word size indicates a more frequent response.

Q9: Please check ALL the activities in which you participate at Aloha State Park. (Select all that apply)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
VOLUNTEERING	1%	8
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING	1%	10
SNOWSHOEING	1%	13
FORAGING (E.G., MUSHROOMING, BERRY PICKING)	3%	32
SNOWMOBILING	4%	35
METAL DETECTING	4%	36
SPECIAL EVENTS (FUNDRAISERS, RACES, ETC.)	5%	45
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	5%	46
GEOCACHING	6%	55
TRAIL RUNNING	8%	77
BIRDING	8%	80
PHOTOGRAPHY	25%	238
PICNICKING	26%	252
NON-MOTORIZED BOATING/PADDLING	28%	272
NATURE VIEWING/STUDY	34%	327
HIKING/DOG WALKING	45%	437
FISHING	50%	484
MOTORIZED BOATING	51%	491
BIKING	53%	507
SOCIALIZING	57%	547
SWIMMING/WADING	75%	726
CAMPING	89%	853
ANSWERED		962
SKIPPED		109

- 192 Watching the sunset over the water
- 223 Old friends, fond memories, beautiful view
- 224 Coming here since I was a child. It's a beautiful park with many things to do and is close to other attractions.
- 236 The lake!!!
- 241 Very nice grassy areas.
- 254 Camping
- 292 We were camping here for a long weekend for the first time last year. Also did some hiking and boating and geocaching. Nice park with decent sized sites. Can't wait to see the improvements.
- 302 We love a lake view spot. So relaxing!
- 330 Mullett
- 350 Easy to get to; Great place for car camping.
- 361 Our kids love the donuts at the general store. We also love the trail
- 378 Day swimming
- 444 boat access to the lake
- 469 Good for kids
- 558 Grassy lakefront sites
- 581 It has the jetty and the lovely trees, shallow water, and everything for families to really enjoy a simple stay in camping.
- 583 lake
- 593 The boat basin.
- 627 I have been coming for over 60 years. It holds many precious memories for me.
- 658 The lake
- 723 Mullett Lake
- 753 Water, large sites, quiet, play area
- 784 that its on a large lake with chain to other lakes, easy access, the small grocer with pizza and donuts
- 832 Swimming at the beach & camping

Q10. What do you like most about visiting the park?

RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
ANSWERED	858
SKIPPED	213

Responses:

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 36 Location, fishing, swimming, boating, people, family vacation, friends
- 80 the lake
- 110 It's not overly big
- 112 The views and lake access
- 158 I love the little party store, large campsites, paved roads, the lake / beach area.
- 167 visiting with our friends who also camp at same time.

Q11: On your last visit, who came with you? (Select all that apply)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
JUST ME	5.52%	53
SPOUSE/PARTNER	86.98%	835
YOUNG CHILDREN (12 AND UNDER)	31.46%	302
OLDER CHILDREN (OVER 12)	33.13%	318
FRIENDS	38.85%	373
ORGANIZED GROUP OR CLUB	1.35%	13
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	13.96%	134
ANSWERED		960
SKIPPED		111

Other (please specify):

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 1 our dog
- 4 Sisters and nieces family
- 8 Additional family
- 11 Dog
- 15 Family from Seattle fly in every year for this camping trip and family from Indiana also come up.
- 16 Family (siblings Nieces nephews cousins aunts uncles grandparents) 20 people give or take
- 24 Cousins
- 34 Elderly mother.
- 38 Extended family
- 43 Family. my Boyfriend's Sister and brother in-law.
- 48 parent.
- 50 Other family was on multiple lots
- 51 family camping event with adult children and grandchildren
- 54 Pet family (dogs)
- 55 Son's family
- 57 Sister
- 61 adult children and grandchildren who live a distance away
- 64 Other family members
- 66 other family
- 69 Dogs
- 72 Mom
- 73 Older children came for a day.
- 84 Grandchildren
- 86 Pets
- 93 Sister and bil
- 101 Family
- 118 other family members
- 120 Parents
- 127 Family (Parents)
- 131 Family camping trip

Q12: Have you ever camped at the park?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
YES	91.31%	883
NO	8.69%	84
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	0.00%	0
ANSWERED		967
SKIPPED		104

Q13: On average, what is your typical length of stay?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
1 NIGHT	2.12%	18
2-3 NIGHTS	32.86%	279
4-6 NIGHTS	32.86%	279
7 OR MORE NIGHTS	32.16%	273
ANSWERED		849
SKIPPED		222

Q14: Please rate your level of satisfaction with your camping experience. (1 = Highly dissatisfied, 5 = Neutral and 9 = Highly satisfied)

RATING	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
9 = HIGHLY SATISFIED	23.32%	23.32%
8	25.91%	220
7	24.15%	205
6	8.13%	69
5 = NEUTRAL	5.30%	45
4	2.36%	20
3	3.18%	27
2	3.06%	26
1 = HIGHLY DISSATISFIED	4.59%	39
ANSWERED		849
SKIPPED		222

Please describe what most influenced your rating:

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below, with the rating followed by the description of what most influenced the rating. Full results available upon request)

- 9 Everything was great!
- 9 Site on the water I'm the canal by the boat launch and having boat by the campsite
- 8 Love the campground and lake, donuts at local store an location of campground.
- 8 Cleanliness
- 8 We all really enjoyed the stay
- 8 Location on the lake
- 8 Great sites
- 8 It would have been a perfect score except for the goose poop.
- 8 Quiet campground, decently spacious sites
- 8 Availability
- 8 Price, large lot size, and generally clean
- 8 Family tradition
- 8 Aloha is our favorite park
- 8 The location

- 8 Everything that is easily available to do!
- 7 The lake access and campground
- 7 Family
- 7 Walking along the roads feels dangerous because of speeding traffic
- 7 Bathrooms need work.
- 7 Wet sites
- 7 some sites are very wet
- 6 Heavy traffic in/out of park along main road
- 6 Outdated bathrooms. Could have a better beach, lots of gross sticks and dirt no where to really sit
- 6 I would have rated higher but would like to see up dated bath houses and.
- 4 No beach, extremely weedy boat launch
- 3 Outdated bathroom
- 3 The last couple of visits flooding in the sites has been an issue. We luckily stayed dry but many others had very muddy sites.
- 2 Beach needs to be raked more often
- 1 The campsites were below grade so were muddy & wet.
- 1 It was clean, quiet, and the weather was great

Q15: What did you like most about the experience?

RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
ANSWERED	849
SKIPPED	222

Responses:

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 5 Family and the lake, donuts for breakfast
- 18 Easy access to the lake. The sites are clean.
- 32 Big grassy lots the beach, swimming area, and I can take my dog
- 58 clean and lake access
- 75 I've been coming for 40 years
- 88 Access to swimming, boating, picnic areas
- 95 Nice big sites
- 98 Relaxing and enjoyable biking and walking
- 113 Lots to do, play ball in the open area, kayak, fish, trail
- 122 camping with family
- 133 Sun sets
- 153 We love being able to camp right on the lake.
- 193 Having a site that is right on the water. It's peaceful hearing the water.
- 215 Relaxing!
- 234 Proximity to water
- 240 Love the location and accessibility to water activities

and fishing.

- 252 Boat canal area is great for fisherman
- 266 Great place to kick back and relax with friends and family
- 267 Camping and boating.
- 295 social and swimming
- 329 Being with family and friends in a park that is well maintained except for some of the low wet spots
- 391 Our camp site on the lake
- 408 So many activities and close to Cheboygan
- 486 Biking water activities
- 548 fun
- 618 There is something for all age groups to do. Whether it's biking or hiking or swimming or fishing, everyone in our group has something they enjoy.
- 666 Boating
- 671 The Lake
- 673 Boat access to Mullett Lake
- 690 Nothing

Q16: Is there anything that could be done to improve your camping experience?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE	RESPONSE COUNT
NO CHANGES ARE NEEDED	22.00%	180
YES (PLEASE DESCRIBE THE CHANGES YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE)	78.00%	638
ANSWERED		818
SKIPPED		253

Yes (Please describe the changes you would like made):

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 32 Upgrade the bath houses.
- 38 Little stricter on rules for those that don't follow. Update bathrooms. Fix flooding lots. Add full hook ups
- 60 The park feels more and more like a crowded parking lot; too many large luxury RVs with large toys and satellite dishes and not enough trees.
- 75 Better, cleaner showers, cleaner beach with amenities for young.
- 79 I'd like to see the shower and restroom facilities modernized. Imagine walking into a stall for a shower or to use the toilet and for the floor to have been rinsed before you enter. I've seen self cleaning floors at facilities in California and it was quite nice.
- 89 New and larger bathhouses. Better campsite drainage and rule enforcement. Number of vehicles and tents

on site should be better regulated like they were in the past.

- 111 Wi Fi, tanker to empty holding tanks onsite
- 124 Do something about the goose poop on the beaches, especially the main one at the picnic area. No place to spread a blanket or towel with all the excrement.
- 206 Full hookups or at least water and electric at each site
- 221 maybe a dog park and an area for the dogs to swim
- 224 Fix the sites so they don't flood
- 251 campground updates
- 254 plant more trees in the north section
- 261 Water and sewer for rv spots, updated electrical for campers, another dump station. Campground is clean and well maintained though
- 267 I know the park is updating, but not having water hookup is a challenge. Update the whole park would be great.
- 292 I believe a stronger park ranger presence would help suppress some of the issues we've experienced.
- 302 More pull in sites...water hook up...more level sites that don't flood when it rains
- 317 Attempt to raise some of the sites that are lower than others.
- 388 Proper drainage when it rains heavy.
- 396 Lots...some get to wet.....bathrooms..keep clean
- 413 wifi. Limit the number and size of dogs one camper could have on their site
- 421 party campsites need to evict
- 425 Add a nice beach area and improve the boat launch
- 511 Improve some campsite drainage & or add more slabs on wet sites, ground held water & felt squishy for many days after rain. Garbage pick-up was super loud too early in the morning .Woke everybody up hearing dumpsters slamming.
- 573 An off leash dog park
- 580 Add additional dump station. Geese management. Address ppl smoking marijuana while camping (last 3 times we have camped have had to smell it)
- 595 Cleaner beach
- 603 Update the bathrooms
- 620 Someone to control the campers
- 625 Looking forward to full hookups!

Q17: Do you also frequently visit other destinations in the area during your stay at Aloha State Park? If so, which ones do you frequent?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE	RESPONSE COUNT
No	32.05%	266
Yes (please describe)	67.95%	564
ANSWERED		830
SKIPPED		241

Yes (please describe)

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 9 The camp store. Love the donuts!
- 73 Mackinac
- 86 Cheboygan and mackinaw
- 88 I grew up with my best friends at Aloha. Aloha has always been my home and my center.
- 106 Visit relatives, trip to Mackinaw,
- 108 Rogers city
- 148 Pizza places
- 150 Cheboygan stores
- 151 City of Cheboygan, Cheboygan State Park (beach and nature trails)
- 154 mackinaw city
- 160 Mackinaw..Cheboygan..St Ignace
- 172 Ice Cream shops
- 177 Store, Indian River
- 191 Restaurant
- 234 We often do day trips to places in the area, such as Mackinaw and near by falls.
- 265 Boating to Cheboygan and to Inland waterways
- 274 We kayak on nearby rivers
- 282 Burt lake
- 289 inland waterway
- 329 Mackinac Island, Cheboygan State Park and family reunions.
- 343 Local brewpubs and restaurants
- 357 Indian river and Cheboygan, mackinaw bridge
- 388 All around the area
- 469 By boat
- 512 Cheyboygan
- 518 Burt Lake
- 540 Family
- 542 Mackinac City
- 543 Indian river
- 556 wherever the geocaches are

Q18: Have you used the North Eastern State rail trail (NEST) that runs through the park while you were camping?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
Yes	44.01%	375
No	55.99%	477
ANSWERED	Answered	852
SKIPPED	Skipped	219

Q19: How do you use the North Eastern State rail trail (NEST)? (Select all that apply)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
Walking/Running	58.18%	217
Biking	84.99%	317
Other (please specify)	4.83%	18
ANSWERED	Answered	373
SKIPPED	Skipped	698

Responses:

- 1 Snowmobiling
- 2 snowmobiling

- 3 Snowmobile
- 5 Dirt bike
- 6 Snowmobile to Mullett Lake. Park should be made available for ice fishing access point with bathrooms
- 7 Snowmobiling
- 8 Snowmobile
- 9 The point of our trip was a bikepacking trip on the NEST. Went from Mackinaw city, to Aloha, to black lake, to PH Hoeft state park
- 10 Dog walking
- 11 geocaching
- 12 Dog walk
- 13 Snowmobiling
- 14 Fig walking
- 15 Snowmobiling in winter?????
- 16 Walking the dog
- 17 snowmobiling
- 18 Dog walking

Q20: Please rate your level of satisfaction with the North Eastern State rail trail (NEST) in the ways you use it. (1 = Highly dissatisfied, 5 = Neutral and 9 = Highly satisfied)

RATING	WALKING/ RUNNING PERCENTAGE	WALKING/ RUNNING COUNT	BIKING PERCENTAGE	BIKING COUNT	OTHER PERCENTAGE	OTHER COUNT
9 = HIGHLY SATISFIED	47.94%	93	40.13%	93	55.56%	10
8	17.53%	34	18.39%	55	11.11%	2
7	16.49%	32	17.73%	53	5.56%	1
6	3.09%	6	5.02%	15	5.56%	1
5 = NEUTRAL	7.22%	14	11.71%	35	22.22%	4
4	0.52%	1	2.34%	7	0.00%	0
3	0.52%	1	0.33%	1	0.00%	0
2	1.34%	1	0.52%	4	0.00%	0
1 = HIGHLY DISSATISFIED	6.19%	12	3.01%	9	0.00%	0
ANSWERED	365					
SKIPPED	706					

Please describe what most influenced your rating.

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 7 Nice scenic trail
- 10 To much poison ivy
- 11 Rocks. Hard to run and bike on at times
- 12 Could take it or leave it

- 28 Paving. Please maintain, add paving on 100% of Michigan trail trails, the gravel sections can be dangerous to youth and older bicyclists without mountain biking tires
- 29 Paved or groomed trail
- 38 It's a great trail
- 50 The mosquitos were awful. The gravel want well maintained for biking
- 55 I can ride it to Mackinaw City.
- 56 We haven't used it a lot and don't have much to compare it to.
- 63 Nice and flat, good signage
- 64 I like smoother trailers to run on- the rocks aren't my favorite
- 66 Short distance to Cheyboygan
- 68 Well groomed trail
- 72 Clean and general nice walking surface
- 73 It is nice and easy to traverse
- 75 Something else to do when biking
- 76 It is a nice place to get away from the crowded campground
- 89 smooth, quiet, and not crowded
- 94 Having a wide path for walking is good with the tick issues
- 98 Great trail well maintained
- 102 Hard packed beautiful nature trail on the water.
- 130 Large and well kept
- 137 Close proximity to park
- 143 Not paved
- 145 Well maintained
- 159 Not paved
- 160 Trial Grooming
- 163 No way to get on or off the trail around the middle section of the park .
- 166 Its a beautiful ride and trail!

Q21: What did you like most about the North Eastern State rail trail (NEST)?

RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
ANSWERED	255
SKIPPED	816

Responses:

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 5 Nice trip through nature
- 6 Nice
- 8 Good Terrain
- 14 Biking
- 18 Level grading of trail, location of the trail, width of the trail
- 38 Beautiful scenery
- 50 Quiet
- 73 access
- 74 It goes to Cheboygan. The stop on the bridge is beautiful over the Cheboygan River.
- 97 It goes a long way and connects to businesses.
- 101 Trail is good for our level of biking. Nice scenery.
- 102 Not busy
- 106 It's destinations
- 111 Direct access to locations I want to visit with little disruption.
- 112 A nice place to ride.
- 123 Easy to access from the park
- 129 the scenery
- 137 Easy walking
- 138 Through the forest
- 144 views of the lake
- 155 Biking
- 158 Wide and open
- 162 Gravel good, cleared edges by park nice
- 176 Level trail to ride on
- 197 Accessibility
- 200 Biking ease
- 221 Scenery
- 229 We'll maintained
- 242 Access from park
- 250 Location to the park

Q22: Is there anything that could be done to improve your satisfaction with the North Eastern State rail trail (NEST)?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
No, no changes are needed.	74.47%	248
Yes (Please describe the changes you would like made):	25.53%	85
ANSWERED		333
SKIPPED		738

Yes (Please describe the changes you would like made):
(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 2 Asphalt to Cheboygan. More points of interest on the trail like overlooks and interpretive signs would be nice
- 4 It be nice if the whole thing was paved in to Sheboygan but I'd rather see bathrooms upgraded first
- 9 A walking/running paved lane next to the trail
- 17 better maps on the trail
- 18 distance markers/signage
- 20 Keep it groomed
- 21 Make aloha a bathroom and rest area for trail users. Beach is disgusting and only one garbage can that's never emptied and seagulls spreading trash and crapping all over tables and dock.
- 22 Easy access from park
- 27 Keep up on tree removal
- 28 Bike racks to lock your bike up to, Tool/pump stations and benches are always a great way to improve any rail trail.
- 36 Just keep it maintained, so we can all enjoy.
- 38 if it was paved
- 39 I've been on many laptop trails that would really improve this one
- 42 lake access points with picnic table
- 43 I don't know.
- 44 Better signage from park
- 45 Build a trail system along Lake Huron US 23 corridor from Cheboygan to Ocqueoc
- 46 better paving
- 48 A lot of mosquitos
- 51 Black top the surface
- 59 Keep the horses off the trail, or make them clean up after their animals.
- 61 Improve surface
- 66 Improve entrance from the park and more signage of trail inside of the park

- 70 Blacktop?
- 72 Better signage to point out where the path takes you.
- 76 Better paving
- 80 it would be nice if the path was paved or even had crushed and compacted gravel to make for an easier and more enjoyable bike ride
- 82 Maintain the trail better
- 84 A way to get to the trail from the middle section of the park .
- 85 Make a trail at the south end of the park for campers.

Q23: Do you use the North Eastern State rail trail (NEST) to travel to or between other parks or communities from Aloha State Park while you are camping?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE	COUNT
No	75.85%	267
Yes (please describe)	24.15%	85
ANSWERED		352
SKIPPED		719

Yes (please describe):

- 5 Cheboygan
- 6 Cheboygan
- 8 Cheboygan to Aloha
- 9 biking to cheboygan
- 10 Cheboygan
- 11 Cheboygan
- 15 Biking
- 16 Cheboygan
- 17 Cheboygan
- 18 Cheboygan, Mac City
- 19 Local attractions
- 22 Cheboygan
- 23 Cheboygan
- 24 Aloha to cheboygan and Mackinaw
- 26 Biking
- 35 Cheboygan
- 36 Bicycle to town
- 39 Biked into Cheboygan
- 47 cheboygan
- 48 Cheboygan
- 50 Cheboygan ,
- 52 Cheboygan
- 53 Cheboygan
- 54 Cheboygan
- 57 Cheboygan

- 63 Cheboygan
- 75 Cheboygan SP
- 79 Cheboygan
- 83 Aloha to Cheboygan
- 85 Cheboygan

Q24: The day use facilities at Aloha State Park include picnic areas, beach, and pavilions. Have you used any of these facilities?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE	COUNT
Yes	54.68%	508
No	45.32%	421
ANSWERED		929
SKIPPED		142

Q25: Thinking of only the day use facilities which you have used, please rate your level of satisfaction. (1 = Highly dissatisfied, 5 = Neutral and 9 = Highly satisfied):

RATING	PERCENTAGE	COUNT
9 = HIGHLY SATISFIED	20.12%	492
8	21.75%	107
7	22.56%	111
6	8.74%	43
5 = NEUTRAL	14.43%	71
4	4.07%	20
3	3.66%	18
2	2.03%	10
1 = HIGHLY DISSATISFIED	2.64%	13
ANSWERED		492
SKIPPED		579

Please describe what most influenced your rating:

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 1 Not crowded, good location, nice view.
- 5 Nothing really
- 6 Lots of goose poop, but not sure there's much that can be done about that!

- 12 Experience
- 26 Worked well for our event
- 47 The Beach
- 55 Love the lakefront tables but lots goose poop around them unfortunate
- 63 Need total make over and redesign
- 68 Picnic area. Aloha camp store
- 80 The day use beaches are covered in goose excrement. No place to spread a blanket or towel. Seems this park caters more to the campers, then the day use people. Up keep on the grounds has been lax.
- 103 The fact the bathrooms are far from the area
- 117 Playground needed.
- 119 bottom is rocky
- 120 Grassy areas and picnic table conditions
- 131 Large area, accommodates lots of friends.
- 136 the accessibility
- 138 could use more drinking water access another bathhouse/ storm Shelter
- 151 Needs a beach area, playground, more picnic tables, and trash containers
- 172 Goose droppings excessive
- 180 They could be bugger or better located and more of them.
- 187 There could be better beach access by the picnic tables.
- 204 Clean and well maintained
- 206 nice and clean
- 210 Open area and quiet same as
- 211 Favorite park
- 216 access
- 219 Bordering lakeside, beautiful mature trees for shady spots plus large open areas for kite flying sports etc..
- 223 Very clean
- 242 Good facility / could use updating
- 257 Grassy, not sandy

Q26: What did you like the most about the day-use facilities?

RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
ANSWERED	332
SKIPPED	739

Responses:

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 8 Easy access from campsite
- 13 Everything from the camp host to the picnic facilities are always clean and tidy.
- 18 Ease
- 44 Having them to go hang out
- 70 Well maintained, always opened.
- 92 It was a good fun area to hang out with family
- 95 Swimming
- 99 They are well taken care of
- 102 They were kept clean
- 103 Picnic tables and garbages
- 104 Plenty of parking
- 110 Having a good time with granddaughter.
- 115 Volleyball, and great swimming
- 116 Plenty of room
- 130 Beach
- 139 Clean and plenty of tables and space
- 140 Nice covered pavilion
- 175 n/a
- 193 easy bathroom access, friendly people
- 194 The trees at the beach are nice
- 202 Looking at the water
- 217 Lots of space for kids to play or adults to play frisbee
- 218 Swimming... large area.
- 243 Swimming at the beach and walking around the campground.
- 244 Clean and grassy
- 250 Open and trees
- 261 ease of use
- 276 Nice area
- 280 Fun, cleanliness, not too crowded
- 314 Wide open space
- 327 Love the large size of the day use area. Like that picnic tables set by waters edge.

Q27: Is there anything that could be done to improve your experience at the day use area?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE	COUNT
No changes are needed.	51.47%	228
Yes (Please describe the changes you would like made):	48.53%	215
ANSWERED		443
SKIPPED		628

Yes (Please describe the changes you would like made):

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 6 Raked beach
- 33 Expand the beach area
- 47 chase the geese away
- 69 Better control of goose population and better cleanup of goose droppings.
- 70 Larger beach.
- 74 Weeds and brush at shoreline, goose droppings also are a nuisance
- 78 Needs modern bathroom
- 81 Update boat launch
- 84 Limited usage, better patrolling to keep rowdiness down
- 88 Picnic Area needs to look nicer and the beach area
- 90 Bathrooms need upgrades
- 95 Eliminate the goose population all over the park. stepping in goose goop is not fun
- 96 Closer bathrooms, its a long walk with children
- 103 It would be great to have boat docks. The Jetty is gross and needs treated
- 107 Bathrooms closer the the swimming area. Bigger swimming area and more trees
- 110 Closer restrooms.
- 115 Baseball field needed some repair
- 120 Clean beaches
- 131 minimize day use and expand camping in that area
- 132 Clean up the beach, make more sand space for kids to play or to set chairs
- 136 better fishing access, boating
- 138 Play ground for the younger children
- 144 Make a better beach area for swimming with a larger sand beach. Update all of the kids playground equipment in all 3 playground areas.
- 151 Update
- 160 See above.
- 175 Improved beach area, dog access to beach area

- 185 don't allow organizations to hassle boaters at the boat launch
- 203 Upgrades
- 210 restrooms
- 213 Updated play structure.

Q28: Is there anything that could be done to improve your experience at the day use area?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE	COUNT
No, I do not support any additional development in the day use area.	15%	72
I would support adding alternative lodging options (e.g., cabins)	37%	173
I would support adding playground equipment	65%	309
I would support adding additional picnic shelters/pavilions	47%	220
Other (please specify)	15%	70

Other (please specify):

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 29 Enlarging the beach
- 51 Hook-ups for longer stays
- 61 Just walking paths. Needed for just unwinding and looking at lake. need to keep open and not congested.
- 15 I would support better maintenance of all beach area.
- 55 Do not not not add cabins
- 62 Boat launch outside of the park by the parking lot.
- 18 Closer bathroom to public beach.
- 1 Cabins would be great!
- 41 beach
- 58 Better beach area
- 12 I would support making the beach access more accessible to those with mobility issues
- 4 As long as not to disrupt the amount of camp spaces that already exist, it's already difficult to get reservations
- 57 non powered sites for boondock camping
- 14 Other games, courts etc
- 27 Campsites and more trees
- 36 Build some pickle ball courts
- 11 Moving things closer to the beaches
- 50 My family appreciates the day use facilities for the peaceful, relaxing experience that they offer. If

additional facilities creates a crowded atmosphere, an overall negative effect is the result.

- 2 Fish cleaning station
- 68 Drinking water spigot
- 33 Fix dock. It used to extend way out.
- 23 improvements to the beach area repairs to dock
- 34 A larger picnic shelter would be nice, possibly a second shelter if there is demand for one.
- 67 BATHROOMS
- 32 I would support a plan to have the geese away from the beach like the previous manager Duke used to do. Can't hire lazy kids
- 16 All would be nice as long as it's not cluttered
- 9 Water trail facilities and rentals. Signs regarding the water trail.
- 43 I would like to see a camp store
- 10 Make the swimming area more clearly designated
- 45 please do not put up cabins and/or yurts while removing camping sites as other parks have done

Q29: Do you fish from the park?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE	COUNT
Yes	46.67%	428
No	53.33%	489
ANSWERED		917
SKIPPED		154

Q30: How do you typically access the water for fishing?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE	COUNT
Shoreline	33%	141
Motorized boat	61%	256
Non-motorized boat	6%	26
ANSWERED		423
SKIPPED		648

Q31: What is your target species of fish? (Check all that apply)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
YELLOW PERCH	39%	164
SMALLMOUTH BASS	25%	107
NORTHERN PIKE	17%	70
WALLEYE	49%	206
TROUT	11%	46
MUSKELLUNGE	6%	24
SUCKERS	1%	3
NO PARTICULAR SPECIES	42%	177
CARP	0%	0
NO PARTICULAR SPECIES	0%	0
ANSWERED		423
SKIPPED		648

Q32: Please enter any comments you may have about fishing at the park.

RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
ANSWERED	143
SKIPPED	928

Responses:

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 10 Amazing sun set
- 20 another fishing pier is great for anglers.
- 25 a fishing pier would be awesome as the cement piers are difficult to fish off of
- 29 Always enjoy fishing here
- 38 Add lighting at the boat launch. Dredge canal too many weeds. Make sure cars without boat trailers do not take up boat parking spaces.
- 40 Basin could be flushed and dredged out.
- 53 A family tradition for over 35 years
- 55 A dock/pier in the north part of the campground
- 56 Always a good time. Usually catch something. Fish cleaning station is great
- 63 Channel is like a swamp. Unable to clean algae from boat and trailer. Possibly transporting items to other lakes
- 71 Best fishing in the lower peninsula. The fish cleaning station is very good and highly used.
- 74 Caught nothing
- 75 Annual trip my son's and I make in early June. 9-10 days of fishing. Walleyes can be tricky, but are in there, inland

steelhead are also available. Perch need to grow but are also a available

- 76 Be nice to have a better ramp
- 82 Been fishing Mullett Lake and camping at Aloha 25 yrs. I hope the fishery continues to thrive on this lake.
- 85 A fishing platform would be awesome. Especially for kids.
- 89 A fishing report on the lake posted at the entrance would be a good touch for tips on catching fish
- 95 Because we have a canoe with an electric motor we can't go far so we have not had good luck fishing.
- 99 Channel is way too weedy to fish
- 102 A fishing platform in the boat basin area would be nice
- 103 All is well
- 105 Boat launch water area needs improvement
- 108 Boat entrance area is a nice area should be developed for fishing but gross with bird poop but still want dogs allowed to walk thru. changing that would destroy family setting.
- 110 Boat basin gives you great access to be able to fish day or night without having to take your boat out of the water every time.
- 113 canal could be cleaned out, deeper, make it better for pulling up your boat shore
- 116 Any way to get rid of all the weeds at the launch? My boat trailer is covered with em when I launch and retrieve my boat.
- 122 being able to buy bait on site would be nice.
- 126 Boat launch is helpful
- 128 Better fishing dock would be helpful
- 134 Be nice if the host or front desk had like information on whats biting- or maybe even a photo/screen for pictures to showcase catches. I do like the fish cleaning station that was put in in recent years. I approve of that. Wash station for boats- keep the pests out of out lakes!

Q33: Have you participated in a special event or host program at the park?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE	COUNT
Yes	21.06%	190
No	78.94%	712
ANSWERED		902
SKIPPED		169

Q34: Please enter any comments you may have on the special events or programs in which you participated. Leave blank if you have not participated in any programs or events.

RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
ANSWERED	172
SKIPPED	899

Responses:

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 15 Birthday party at the pavilion
- 22 Don't particularly care for camp host. Not sure what the purpose of them is or why they are needed.
- 26 Coffee
- 29 Fishing Tournament
- 36 4th of July bike parade
- 42 Class reunion breakfast near Check in pavilion
- 44 did not know that they were any events there
- 46 Aloha harvest fest
- 47 For many, many years we attended the kid oriented projects that Verna (campground host) provided. We have fun memories of the crafts that our kids made there. We also go to the coffee/donuts time that the campground host provide on Labor Day Weekend.
- 50 Autumn harvest festival is great!
- 55 Chili cook off, Halloween weekend, family reunions
- 60 Camp host events and Halloween events
- 67 Fall harvest (Halloween) weekend
- 79 Coffee hours, children's crafts
- 81 Fourth of July activities are wonderful for the kids
- 87 Camp Host kids events. Yoga in the park
- 92 4th of July parade was fantastic!
- 98 Fall festival.
- 110 Coffee time and crafts.

- 113 Fall fest
- 114 Enjoyed the coffee and donut mornings
- 123 Fall festival is a wonderful time for all ages.
- 124 Camp hosts do a pretty good job with the funds available and could use more support to provide the activities.
- 136 Coffee hour at host site very nice
- 139 Borrowed books from host site.
- 151 All events have been wonderful. We especially love the tie dye
- 153 A wedding was held here.
- 154 Childrens DNR events
- 165 Always enjoyed
- 167 Again camp hosts were fantastic

Q35: What, if any, additional programs or events would you like to be available at the park in the future?

RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
ANSWERED	172
SKIPPED	899

Responses:

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 3 Again perhaps programs on the parks rich history.
- 5 More spring/fall events
- 10 Wilderness education for visitors
- 11 Console tournament
- 21 Halloween anything. Nothing seems to ever happen in park
- 27 We are not special event persons
- 28 None
- 37 Nature walks, Bird watching, bicycling events
- 38 Focus on boat use activities
- 43 Limited access
- 61 No charge to dump my camper tanks
- 64 Kids activities
- 68 Guided nature walks.
- 70 Educational wildlife or other events like how to paddle board, etc.
- 78 None
- 79 nature activities
- 81 OK as is
- 97 Help stock the lake with perch and walleye day.
- 99 WiFi

- 100 I'm not sure if they're offered, but activities for younger kids are always appreciated.
- 101 Any sort of live music event
- 106 None
- 107 Educational programs about birds. Fish, wildlife, watershed issues
- 118 Halloween camping
- 123 We enjoy the star gazing, and some times visit during the august perseids meteor shower. That could be a pretty good event i suppose.
- 124 Star party to identify stars and planets.
- 131 Inexpensive band shell, area for nature programs and music groups with audience participation
- 132 More things for younger children. Better planning with numbers...they ran out of supplies often.
- 135 More for the kids
- 146 Coffee in the morning

Q36: Please share any other thoughts you may have on the park.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE
ANSWERED	317
SKIPPED	754

Responses:

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 15 Bathrooms/showers need updating really badly!
- 29 Aloha is part of the family!!
- 52 Aloha has been our favorite park for many years. But last year we seriously thought about not coming back. The seemed to be large groups on many of the sites and they were not regulated. Campers parked their units very close to the road not in a traditional position that makes it very difficult to back into a sight from them. Even though there are signs stating no pets at the beach people still had them at the beach and were not cleaning up after them. The bathrooms\showers are old, small and in dire need of upgrading. Other state parks I have visited have upgraded their bathrooms\showers over the last few years and I am not sure why Aloha has not. The dump stage could be larger so that units waiting to dump do not block the road.
- 56 Awesome park
- 73 As I stated earlier, I grew up in a lower and I love the park. I swam all summer, and I snowmobile the winter.
- 79 Absolutely love this state park, our favorite destination. Restroom facilities could use an upgrade and the playground equipment needs to be updated.
- 88 19 years and counting (if you can get in this summer)
- 93 Adding a nice playground for kids would be amazing! The old swings don't offer much for little kids.
- 94 Aloha is a wonderful park, it just needs updating.
- 98 All the grass should be cut at one time. Running around from lot to lot is just a lot of wasted time and gas. Often the playground hasn't been cut before a big weekend. Bathrooms need updating in middle section and more showers need to be added in the update.
- 99 A playground in the park that more than just broken swings would be nice. The playground area is large and beautiful and could accommodate this nicely. Leveling sites so that complete areas don't flood would be nice
- 112 Beautiful location for the park, but in real need of renovation. Too muddy, wet and campsites in poor condition.
- 124 Among the best state parks. We will be back
- 140 Beach area at the campground was badly litter and I saw no one picking up the trash.

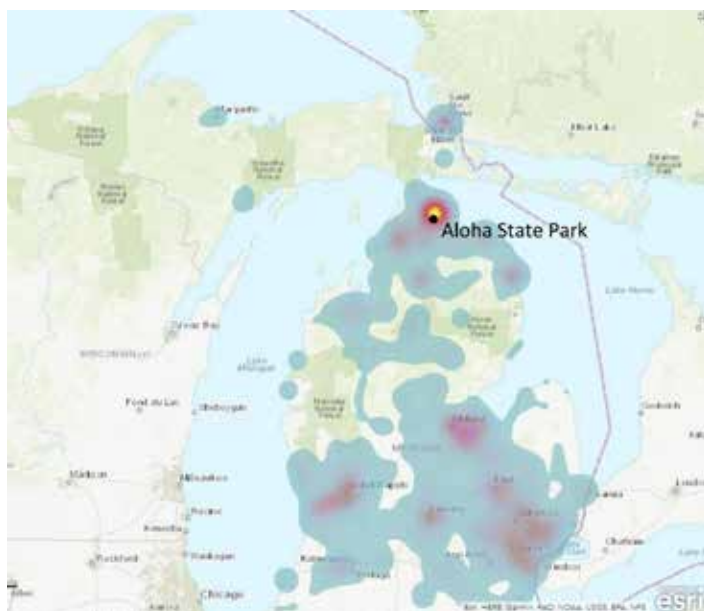
- 142 As always DOGS are a problem and I would like to see better stated rules cover inconsiderate campers.
- 159 Adding full hookups would be nice
- 174 Aware that updates are being made. Don't understand why no bathroom facility is being planned for the south end.
- 186 a larger beach area would be nice.
- 191 Anxious to see the improvements. Have needed camper pads raised for awhile. Appreciate the baseball field.
- 212 As I said, we really like the park in general, and hopefully, the full hookup sites will be large enough to get a 42ft fifth wheel on it easily. The pads should be on a good angle so that you don't need a wide turning angle to back in. Also, the road should be wide enough to give you a good back in turning radius. Also, I would like to see more pull through sites even if they cost a little more per night.
- 216 Aloha is family. Aloha is tradition. It is a great place to go camping and boating. Plus, it has it own store, which is very convenient. It is not far from town or other activities in the Cheboygan area.
- 227 Always enjoy coming in the off-season, it's a forty minute drive from home.
- 230 A bike / kayak rental vendor would be nice to have on site. Its a great park but if it became too busy from adding too many improvements I don't think I would come here anymore. Ive camped at this park for 35 years and I like it the way it is. Modernizing bath facilities and a bigger waste dump are the only things Id change
- 241 Many campsites need to be filled in when it rains they flood
- 245 Adequate number of bathrooms from the 2 sites we have stayed, but updates to bathroom area would be great
- 248 A number of the sites have problems with water and the bathrooms would benefit from being upgraded to the newer design with showers like Mitchell SP, but not the ugly bathrooms that were just built at Wilderness SP.
- 265 Access to park employees is hit and miss. It would be nice to know times they are available
- 284 Aloha used to be a beautiful park, please give it the attention that it deserves.
- 294 Awesome location, could be updated though.
- 303 A great place to camp as a destination or as an in-between when traveling across Michigan.

Q37: (Optional) Share a photo of your experience at Aloha State Park! By uploading a photo, you grant permission to the DNR to use the photo.

RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
ANSWERED	143
SKIPPED	928

Q38: What is the ZIP code of your primary residence?

RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
ANSWERED	895
SKIPPED	176



Map depicting the zip code of survey respondents' primary residence. Brighter colors indicate a greater concentration of respondents. A small number of respondents were located outside of the map area.

B.6 Summary of Draft Plan Public Input

The public was invited to share their thoughts about the Aloha State Park Draft General Management Plan at a virtual public meeting that was hosted online by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on September 21, 2022, from 6:00- 7:30 p.m. The general public was notified about the meeting through a press release, internet postings, and email notifications. A total of 33 attendees were recorded.

The meeting began with a brief introduction of planning team members, followed by a short overview of the general management plan process, Aloha State Park, and the draft general management plan contents. The presentation was followed by a short question and answer period. Topics discussed included the recent campground construction project, future improvements at the day use area, relocation of the headquarters, improvements to trail access, and others. The answers to the questions can be viewed on the following pages.

At the end of the meeting, attendees were asked to visit the interactive public input survey link to review and comment on the statements of significance, management zone plan, and ten-year actions goals. There was also a section for additional feedback on the management plan and the input process. The survey link was posted to the project website, along with a recording of the meeting and the report of the questions and answers from the meeting. The survey link was open through October 4, 2022. Comments could also be submitted during that time via email.

Survey participants were asked to prioritize their top five action goals from the ten-year action goals list. The top priority goals were:

- Replace all toilet/shower buildings. Consider relocating the northern toilet/shower building closer to the day use area.
- Continue to evaluate and improve wet campsites with added gravel and topsoil.
- Implement a tree re-planting program in the campground and day use areas of the park, emphasizing increasing species diversity and selection.
- Determine use for recently acquired property along Pioneer Road, considering administrative and recreational opportunities.
- Continue to monitor the dump station capacity and congestion and consider ways to improve traffic flow. Consider alternative locations for the dump station within the park.

Within the following pages is a listing of all comments received through the interactive public input survey as well as via email. These items, along with other input from the public, will be considered as the planning team finalizes the general management plan.

Input Received via Email

Email Comment #1, Received 9/7/2022

Unfortunately we will not be able to listen to the meeting on Sept 21st as we will be camping at Burt Lk State Park. However, we did visit Aloha St Park and made reservations for Oct 5th- 10th for the full hookup section which we were very happy to see this available in our state parks. However, I must say, whoever designed each site layout must never have gone camping with a large unit. Most and I say most sites are not good for backing a unit into the site. All sites should have been places on an angle for easy back in. Many sites are directly perpendicular to the road and many are actually on an angle directly opposite to the direction of the flow of traffic. Both making it extremely difficult to back in if not impossible especially when the park is full. Whoever designed this and approved this should be fired as they should know better, especially when you had a clean slate to work with. Also, not putting 50amps on each site while you had the chance is beyond me. Both, typical government operating procedures. Such a good and wonderful idea and then screwed up. If you think that you can back into these sites without going on the grass and making a mess after all of this wonderful work was done you are sadly mistaken. I was so happy to hear of the improvements that were to be done and now that I have seen the finished product in person, I am more than disappointed. You can personally contact me if you want either by e-mail or by telephone.

Email Comment #2, Received 9/8/2022

Aloha state park. 50+ geese are way too many. Goose droppings everywhere unhealthy leaves your lot and trailer a mess. They must be controlled!

Email Comment #3, Received 9/22/2022

Thank you for putting together the informative meeting on plans for Aloha State Park yesterday evening. We attended the meeting and were very surprised by the additional property acquired and see that it may be a great location for the entrance, new administration, day use, and dump/fill station. I have several small concerns about the current station requiring so much time to fill. It is a very slow process. We have determined that it would be much faster to go to the new side of the park to fill and dump. Much faster process and cleaner. I have some concerns about the park and the current care of it. Please let me know if I need to take these concerns to someone else. I have filled out several surveys with these issues and have not received any answers.

The park has a problem with water near the first bathroom. The road is continually wet and the camping lots surrounding the bathroom are always flooded. This situation did not

exist until the last updates were made to the dump station. This leads me to the current problem in most lots of low spots creating puddles and flooding on the lots. This needs attention and could be fixed with sand, gravel, and dirt brought in to these lots. My other concerns involve the designated beach area. It is my understanding that the Aloha friends "cleaned" these areas early in the season. This is something that needs to be done a lot more often and should be done by the staff. When we camped in June, during a may fly hatch, it was literally impossible to sit on the beach with the stacks of dead flies and the stink that was created by them. There should be no reason that staff cannot take time to clean this up when necessary. Designated beach areas should be kept up at all times. Raking of the "beach" should be at minimum a weekly task. There is a tree on the beach area that has had a low branch, dead branch, sticking out and is a hazard to anyone walking through the area. It is head level and I am surprised that no one has run into it, creating a suit to the state. I told staff earlier this year and they did remove some of the branch but failed to see or correct the branch that I was talking about.

The middle section womens bathroom has had a shower head that has been leaking for about 3 years. Think of the conservation that could have been done if this was fixed. The showers here are also not very warm. I actually prefer to go to the oldest bathroom in the park for a warm shower. Lastly, there are branches that need to be trimmed in the boat basin so there will be more room for boat parking. A couple of the best advantages to this park are the boat basin and the large grassy lots. Although I understand the planting of trees to be important I do not want to see the nice grassy lots become a dirty mess with dead leaves and the grass not able to grow.

I appreciate anything that can be done about these concerns. Most are things that can be done currently to make the park just that much better. We stay in the park several weeks throughout the season and have been coming to Aloha for more than 50 years, since we were camping as children. We are now camping here with children and grandchildren. There is so very much good about this park and don't want the basics of the park to change. It truly is a great place to get away and continue family traditions.

Thanks for listening and considering

Email Comment #4, Received 9/23/2022

I grew up in Aloha State Park, I also lived in the Village. I've seen a lot of Park Managers come and go, but when I was at that park in the summer of 2020 I was introduced to the manager that was also the manager at the Onaway State Park. I was so upset to see how the young people that worked at Aloha State Park, they all had attitudes and didn't care at all about the history of the park. As a former resident I tried to explain to them some history of previous managers that lived at the park and these kids acted like I was bothering them. At that time I was there we had a reunion at the park and the kids came and gave us a hard time about our pets and we were making too much noise. First of all take these kids and get somebody that has interest about the area, and also tell that Manager to get that chip off his shoulder. He is not god, he needs to have more respect for people and instead of writing tickets for frivolous stuff talk to people. From what I've seen as a previous resident of Aloha which I spent close to 30 yrs. there and my family as a whole had 60 plus years in Aloha. So the final word of the day is don't physically change anything at the Aloha State Park, if anything put it back to its former glory of the 70s and 60s, and 50s. Thank you.

Virtual Public Input Meeting Questions and Answers

The following questions were asked by members of the public during the Aloha State Park online public review meeting and answered by the planning team.

General Questions

- Q. I've traveled and camped all over Michigan and the Midwest, and Aloha is truly a great park. The playground equipment/swings are the main exception to that. Are there any plans to replace/ improve anything in that aspect?
- a. Yes, the Friends of Aloha State Park group has included playground renovation/enhancement as one of their action items. However, the cost of these improvements are often a barrier, along with the fact the Friends of Aloha State Park group is still in it's infancy. Playground improvements are one of fundraising efforts for the friends group.
- Q. Are there any efforts in making the park a "Dark Sky Park"?
- a. Meeting the national designation requirements to be named a Dark Sky Park is quite difficult. Although we do have a few state parks designated a Dark Sky Park, we're not sure Aloha State Park would qualify due to the town nearby. The state designation must be submitted and approved by state legislators. However, even if the park cannot be designated, there are steps we can take with our lighting design to ensure that we are not polluting the sky to promote dark sky viewing.
- Q. Simple things such as cleaning up, raking and creating a baseball diamond would be a great improvement to the day use areas. Same with fixing volleyball courts and horseshoe pits. Is there any funding for redevelopment of the day use area?
- a. In terms of funding some of those smaller projects, one of the things that we do with our Friends of Aloha State Park group is create partnership match programs. These are cost share programs that we do with the group, where they pay for a portion of the project and we would pay the other portion. We do have a small pot of money that can be used for those types of projects, so, that is certainly something that we could coordinate with the Friends of Aloha State Park.
- Q. Where can I find information on the Friends of Aloha State Park group?
- a. The Friends of Aloha State Park group has a Facebook page and are in the process of creating a web page. There are also pamphlets available in the contact station that explains more about the friends group and what they do.
- Q. Do you think that the administrative areas will eventually be moved to the south property to open the trail area for more user access? This may also provide more room for the entrance road, bikes and pedestrians.
- a. Yes. The current headquarters, shop and parking area is embedded within the residential community in the Village of Aloha, which is unique because there is usually a higher degree of separation. Our agency takes pride in being good neighbors, and our Aloha staff does a great job of providing park connections with the limitations they have. However, such a small, developed envelope really limits our ability to make improvements and effectively serve the park from an operational standpoint. So, we have discussed relocating headquarters to the south portion of the park, off Pioneer Road, where we have more room to create some separation and foster that good neighbor relationship. The existing administrative area would then be repurposed as recreation and visitor-based services to enhance the evolving elements at Aloha State Park and potentially provide some flexibility with the entrance redevelopment. We do see the potential for trail enhancements and better connectivity to the waterfront.
- Q. Are there any plans for maintaining the beach area? There are many roots that are causing trip hazards. Is there anything begin done about the goose population? Are there any plans to enlarge the beach area and add sand?
- a. The Friends of Aloha State Park provided maintenance and a major cleanup to the beach area last spring as one of their community service initiatives. We do realize that there are other maintenance needs in the beach area. The goose population got out of control this year because the park was closed and the geese had a lot of hatchings.
- Q. Why tear down the bath house? Isn't that a place to go in the event of a storm?
- a. As part of our utility improvements, we implemented full hookup services that granted RV users electricity, water and sewer in the south campground loop. This is a very popular amenity for visiting public parks in today's terms, as visitors prefer to use their own onboard amenities. Due to these improvements, the need for a toilet/shower building diminished. Demolishing the bathhouse also helps reduce our day-to-day and annual operational costs and requirements. The park still has two existing shower buildings in the central and north campground loops that serve as more traditional campsites. So, these improvements were opportunities to provide more desirable user amenities and move toward more sustainable infrastructure.
- Q. Is there concern that tent camping fees will rise due to the new utility hookup services and cabins?
- a. That's a fair question. In our state park system, we provide a lot of different opportunities and facilities to cater to different user groups and provide various experiences. At Aloha State Park, there are nearly 400 campsites. More than two-thirds of the campsites will remain as more

of a traditional camping experience, without full hookups. The full hookup sites are isolated at the south campground loop and are somewhat unique because only a handful of state park facilities offer full hookup services. This was certainly an opportunity to meet some interest in visitor amenities, while preserving most of the more traditional, primitive campsites at Aloha.

- Q. How soon would you be looking into replacing the restrooms? Within the next 2 years?
- a. We hope to replace the toilet shower buildings within the next three to five years. It's going to be a few years before we can get another big project like that done, but, hopefully, the buildings will be replaced within the next five years.
- Q. Could a couple of pickle board courts be added to the play area?
- a. That would all be looked at as part of the day use area planning so its good to get these ideas out now and see what people are looking for.
- Q. Relating to the planning of trail and park usage, we ride our bikes from the store to the area by the overflow parking to keep the children off the road. There is no exit to the rear of the park. Would this be included in upcoming designs?
- a. Yes. We are looking at building connections from the south end of the park to the trails. We are looking at creating more than one connection to the trails.
- Q. It is often very difficult to launch a boat cleanly and to get a boat out of the water. What can be done to keep the boat launch clean and clear of weeds?
- a. The boat basin is part of the Hat Creek tributary system. As the creek widens due to the break wall system in the mouth of Mullet Lake, the water flow slows down, creating an environment that's conducive to vegetative growth. Due to these conditions, it is unlikely that we can rid the boat basin completely of this vegetation. However, we will take this into consideration as we look deeper into our plans for the boat basin area.
- Q. Are there any plans to repair or improve the steel sheet pile by the boat launch?
- a. Yes, we do have some short-term plans to shore that up.
- Q. Any thoughts given to making the oldest campsites on the water primitive tent camping only? This could stop the erosion from trailers moving on and off the grounds. Would the proposed cabins take sites out of the current park, or would they go somewhere else?
- a. There are some areas where cabins can be placed that are differentiated from the campground, so, they would not replace existing campsites. However, there may be a few other areas where additional amenities could be practical from a master plan perspective. As for the waterfront campsites, it would be difficult to make them primitive camping only because of the existing

CAMIS system and reservation process.

- Q. Any idea how much funding may be directed to Aloha over the next 10 years? Was any coronavirus relief money given to help complete these projects?
- a. The total capital outlay of Aloha State Park is estimated to be just under 5 million dollars. For some of the projects, that only includes design as we don't know how much implementation will cost until after the design has been completed. By far, the highest cost items include replacing the toilet shower buildings, headquarters, and contact stations. Funding is organized when each state park district evaluates projects across their district and sets priorities. Priorities are then evaluated on a statewide level. We don't have any COVID relief funds going to projects in this park, but funds are going to be used to make a dent in our infrastructure backlog, which will, hopefully, help some of these other projects receive funding through the traditional means.
- Q. Is it possible to fix the flooding from the diverted underground spring?
- a. Yes, we are working on developing a plan of action. We had a small plan of action as part of the utility improvement there and we decided to take a step back and look at a potentially broader study area in order to develop a more confident plan to address that situation.
- Q. Where is the Aloha State Park Headquarters office currently located?
- a. Headquarters are located in the northern portion of Aloha State Park, to the east of the North Eastern State Trail. It is located on a small parcel near the northern park entrance. The headquarters could potentially be relocated to the Pioneer property as discussed earlier, or to another area east of the NEST trail.
- Q. Could there be opportunities at Aloha State Park to rent kayaks, like that of Otsego State Park?
- a. We are looking into seeing if we can do some type of rentals for kayaks and canoes. I know that there were kayaks and canoes purchased for Onaway State Park and they were under-utilized for the summer, but, that doesn't mean that we can't look at some other form of rentals for Aloha.
- Q. Is there any intention of moving the trash from its current location?
- a. That is something that we are looking at for the master plan. We don't have an answer right now because everything is cramped, but we do realize that it's less than ideal and we hope to find a more suitable location.

Statements of Significance Comments

Park History

Aloha State Park was originally developed as a northern resort destination along the Detroit and Mackinac Railway to encourage rail travel after the decline of the lumber industry. Part of a 200-foot dock stretching into the lake and footings of the former railroad depot provide reminders of this by-gone era.

Comments:

1. Would be nice if the dock was once again usable. Back in the '70s and '80s the beach area was always busy.

Waterfront Camping and Recreation

Aloha State Park's expansive waterfront and large number of lakeside campsites draw a high volume of visitors. The boat launch gives access to the Inland Waterway, a popular water recreation destination, while the protected boat basin provides campers with a unique amenity. Visitors enjoy a shallow shoreline, many waterfront activities, and take in the beauty of the sunset.

Comments:

1. A wonderful asset for campers.

Community Connection

Aloha State Park has strong community presence that keeps visitors coming back year after year. Aloha State Park is frequented by local residents all season long who enjoy the lively social atmosphere, especially during the Harvest Festival, the park's most popular event.

Comments:

1. Local residents enjoy camping throughout the entire season. Camping sites are in high demand.

North Eastern State Trail

The North Eastern State Trail (NEST) runs through Aloha State Park, with a trailhead and informational kiosk near the park entrance. The NEST is part of an expansive regional rail-trail system and is open to all non-motorized uses and snowmobiles.

Comments:

1. Great bike and walking trail.

Park Enhancement Potential

A large tract of undeveloped land with frontage on Pioneer Road presents an opportunity for operational efficiencies and resource-based recreation, including trails and educational interpretation at Aloha State Park.

Comments:

1. Would be wonderful to expand use of the park.

Natural Resources

Aloha State Park's natural features, such as the rich conifer swamp, mesic northern forest, large cedar trees, and large inland lake, provide habitat for a wide range of species as well as rustic beauty. In the southern portion of the park, visitors can see evidence of a relic lake shoreline from a period of higher lake level.

No comments received.

Should any significance statements be added?

1. Many of the campsites become muddy during periods of rain. Would be helpful to have this remedied.

Management Zone Comments

1. New/Additional playground equipment (Developed Recreation Zone, between north and central campground loops)
2. Please continue to offer walk-in (non-reservable) sites. My family was unable to camp at Aloha this year as reservations were full and the construction eliminated the walk-in sites. (Developed Recreation Zone)

Action Goal Priorities

To assist with action goal prioritization, survey respondents were asked to select their top five action goals from the list below. Each time an item was selected is considered one "vote" for that item, and all votes for each action item are totaled below. The list is sorted with the action goals receiving the most votes positioned at the top of the list.

ACTION GOALS	VOTES
Replace all the toilet/shower buildings. Consider relocating the northern toilet/shower building closer to the day use area.	7
Continue to evaluate and improve wet campsites with added gravel and topsoil.	6
Implement a tree re-planting program in the campground and day use areas of the park, emphasizing increasing species diversity and selection.	5
Determine use for recently acquired property along Pioneer Road, considering administrative and recreational opportunities.	4
Continue to monitor the dump station capacity and congestion and consider ways to improve traffic flow. Consider alternative locations for the dump station within the park.	4
Develop an internal pedestrian/bicycle management plan to improve safe non-motorized circulation among users.	3
Develop a day use and park entry development plan for the northern area of the park, including redevelopment of the day use area, vehicular and non-motorized circulation at the existing park entrance, improvements to the NEST trailhead, the addition of a water trailhead, and headquarters relocation.	3
Conduct an internal study on the boat basin use, mooring, and shore treatment, including pedestrian connection to the park and pedestrian use of the breakwall.	2
Investigate opportunities and feasibility for offering watercraft and/or houseboat rentals at the park.	2
Design and construct cabins or other lodging type in the underutilized area south of the day use area.	1
Complete a natural resource stewardship plan for the state park, identifying targets for conservation and related natural resource management strategies, including invasive species management.	1
Evaluate and identify mow and no-mow boundaries for park staff to reduce maintenance costs, operational efforts, carbon emissions, and nuisance wildlife, and to improve habitat diversity.	1
Determine locations for designated bike-hike-kayak camping to support the NEST trail and water trail.	1
Design and implement improvements to the NEST trail through the park including connection points, parking, signage and considering surface improvements.	1
Design and construct the improvements to the boat basin as determined in the study.	1
Relocated and replace the headquarters, shop, and contact station.	1
Work with the Friends of Aloha State Park to determine improvement initiatives.	1
Design and pilot shoreline naturalization, protection, and enhancement treatments along the lake frontage. Educate park users on these initiatives.	0
Construct a new cold storage building.	0
Interpret history, natural features, and stewardship initiatives of the park through signage.	0
Monitor and treat invasive aquatic plants in the boat basin as needed.	0
Implement non-motorized pathways per the non-motorized circulation study.	0

Action Goal Comments

Should any goals be added to the list?

1. Updated playground in the campground (by the horseshoe and basketball pad)
2. Speed limit really needs to be lowered in the park. People drive way too fast, most state parks are 5 mph that we have gone to. I worry about the safety of kids there.

Should any action goals be removed from the list?

No comments received.

Additional Comments

Question 1: Please provide any additional comments you may have on the Aloha State Park general management plan.

1. The new full hookups in the south section (over the bridge) are nice, but the removal of the bathhouse will make it unusable for our family since many of our kids/ grandkids camp in tents or popups and the remaining bathhouses are too far away to be convenient. We hope that a new bathhouse is planned for this area, but if not we must object to its removal. It will make the south section into what is basically an exclusive gated community which can only be used by those wealthy enough to afford big rigs. This is not a "good look" for a park funded by all taxpayers.

Question 2: Did you attend the virtual public meeting (webinar)?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
YES	2
NO	1

Question 3: Rate your experience with this virtual public open house format.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
VERY DISSATISFIED	0
DISSATISFIED	0
NEITHER SATISFIED NOR DISSATISFIED	0
SATISFIED	1
VERY SATISFIED	0

Question 4: If you did not attend the public meeting, what was the reason?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
INCONVENIENT TIME	0
I DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT THE MEETING	1
CONFUSING REGISTRATION PROCESS	0
TECHNICAL ISSUES	0
I PREFER TO READ THE PLAN AND COMMENT IN MY OWN TIME	0
OTHER	0

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix C:

Opinion of Probable Costs

C.1 State Park Funding

The primary funding sources for state park improvement and development projects are Recreation Passport sales (motor vehicle registration fee), the Park Endowment Fund (generated from royalties from oil, gas and mineral extraction on public land) and the Park Improvement Fund (from camping and other state park user fees). One-time appropriations from the state General Fund may also be ear marked for specific needs but are not guaranteed. The annual capital outlay budget for state parks varies significantly from year to year, as illustrated by the table below. The state park system is 100 years old and much of the infrastructure is aging. Identified infrastructure needs across the state park system (excluding Belle Isle Park, trail infrastructure, and state waterways infrastructure) is currently estimated to be over \$278 million.

FISCAL YEAR	TOTAL ANNUAL CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT BUDGET**	IDENTIFIED INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS
FY21	\$ 14,945,000	\$ 258,482,050
FY20	\$ 15,845,000	\$ 278,159,950
FY19	\$ 18,925,000	\$ 273,498,836
FY18	\$ 14,520,000	\$ 264,089,912
FY17	\$ 10,400,000	\$ 285,513,487
FY16	\$ 8,661,000	\$ 312,594,557

**Capital Outlay funds dedicated to funding state park projects; excluding funds for Belle Isle Park, major emergency repairs, District Major Maintenance Projects, etc.

With such a large gap between financial need and budget, all projects are carefully analyzed to look at innovative solutions to increase efficiencies or downsize assets.

C.2 Estimated Cost of Proposed Developments

The following table provides an estimate of probable cost for each capital outlay development project proposed at Aloha State Park over the next ten years. Management and operations actions, small projects, which are funded out of district or park funds, and those lead by partners, are not included in this list but may have additional financial implications. The costs are based on information available at the time and will be refined as conceptual and detailed designs are completed. Where noted, the costs may only include studies or project planning, which will provide direction for development costs if determined appropriate. The costs are based on 2022 prices and should be adjusted according to the consumer price index and the market at the time of implementation.

The following action goals are ranked in terms of priority based on health, safety, and welfare, as well identified need and ease of implementation (cost, ability to implement with own staff, partnerships etc.). Priority Level 1 projects indicate those that should be addressed within the next 2 years. Priority Level 2 projects include those that should be addressed within 2-5 years. Priority Level 3 projects are desired but can be tackled in the next 5-10 years once funding has been identified.

PRD will seek future internal funding, alternative funding sources, partnerships and other potential mechanisms for implementing the desired future conditions defined in this plan. Costs listed below do not guarantee funding. On an annual basis, PRD districts determine priorities for project planning and project capital outlay. Each district's top projects are then evaluated at a state-wide level for available funds.

Infrastructure and Development: Capital Outlay

ACTION GOALS	PRIORITY	OPINION OF PROBABLE COST
Develop a day use and park entry development plan for the northern area of the park, including redevelopment of the day use area, vehicular and non-motorized circulation at the existing park entrance, improvements to the NEST trailhead, the addition of a water trailhead, and headquarters relocation.	1	\$35,000
Resolve standing water issues around Bathroom #7.	1	To be determined by study
Complete a phase 1 archaeological survey on the upland portions of the Pioneer Road Property.	2	\$35,000
Replace all the toilet/shower buildings. Consider relocating the northern toilet/shower building closer to the day use area.	2	\$2,750,000
Design and implement improvements to the NEST trail through the park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide multiple connection points between NEST and park • Identify clear parking facilities for NEST users • Improve signage for trail awareness and wayfinding • Consider paving the trail within the park boundaries while also considering equestrian use 	2	\$30,000 (Design Only)
Design and construct the improvements to the boat basin as determined in the study.	3	To be determined by study
Design and construct cabins or other lodging type in the underutilized area south of the day use area.	3	\$125,000
Relocate and replace the headquarters, shop, and contact station.	3	\$1,950,000
Design and Construct a new cold storage building.	3	\$95,000
TOTAL*		\$5,020,000
*EXCLUDES COSTS YET TO BE IDENTIFIED BY STUDIES TO DETERMINE BEST WAY TO PROCEED AND COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PROJECTS THAT ARE ALREADY FUNDED.		