

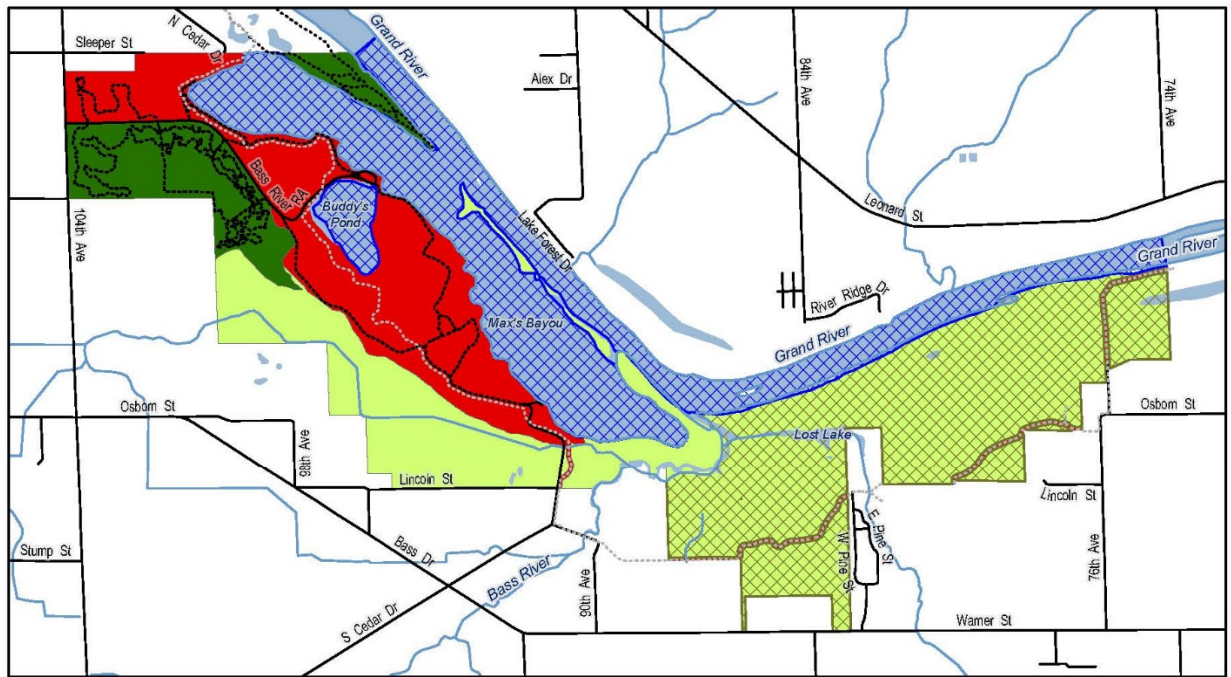
Bass River Recreation Area General Management Plan



Michigan Department of
Natural Resources, Parks and
Recreation Division
January 2024

Intentionally left blank

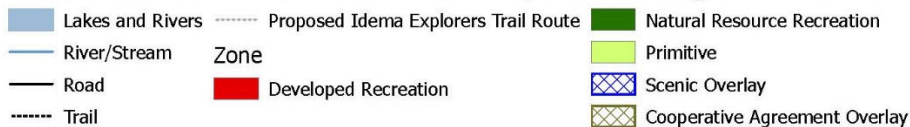
Plan Approvals



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Bass River Recreation Area - Draft Proposed Management Zones



This plan was prepared by Matt Lincoln, Lands Specialist,
Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation Division

DNR Chief, Parks & Recreation Division

1/12/2024

Date

DNR Natural Resources Deputy

1/17/2024

Date

DNR Director, Department of Natural Resources

1/17/2024

Date

**BASS RIVER RECREATION AREA
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN
PLAN APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS:**

PRD – SECTION CHIEFS:

August 8, 2023

DNR – RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BUREAU:

October 24, 2023

MSPAC – STEWARDSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE:

December 6, 2023

NRC – MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

December 20, 2023

Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 12-2023-06

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE “BASS RIVER RECREATION AREA GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN”

ADOPTED: December 20, 2023

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division has completed the General Management Plan for Bass River Recreation Area; 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 Bass River Recreation Area; 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 Bass River Recreation Area 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 Bass River Recreation Area;

Submitted by: MSPAC Stewardship Subcommittee

Motioned by: Chris Graham
Seconded by: Mary Pitcher

Yeas: 10
Nays: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: 2

This Resolution was adopted by the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee at their meeting on December 20, 2023, as Resolution No. 12-2023-06.

Intentionally left blank

Contents

Executive Summary	1
Significance of Bass River Recreation Area	2
Management Zones	2
10-Year Action Goals.....	3
1. Core Values & Guiding References	5
1.1 Mission Statements and Goals.....	5
1.2 Guiding References	5
1.3 Summary of Legal Mandates	7
2. Plan Process Overview	8
2.1 Planning Objectives.....	8
2.2 Planning Process	9
2.3 Planning Team.....	10
2.4 Planning for Climate Change.....	10
3. Purpose and Significance.....	12
3.1 Purpose	12
3.2 Statements of Significance.....	12
3.3 Relationship to the Community	13
3.4 Public Affirmation of Significance	14
4. Management Zones	15
4.1 Project Boundary	16
4.2 Management Zones	16
Primitive Zone	19
Natural Resource Recreation Zone	20
Developed Recreation Zone.....	22
Cooperative Agreement Overlay	23
Scenic Overlay.....	24
5. Ten-Year Action Goals	25
6. Implementation Strategy	29
6.1 Implementation Toolbox	29
6.2 Documentation of Changes	30
6.3 Documentation of Accomplishments	30
6.4 Five-Year Review Process.....	30
Appendix A: Supporting Analysis	
Appendix B: Stakeholder and Public Input	
Appendix C: Opinion of Probable Costs	
Appendix D: Cooperative Agreements	

Intentionally left blank

Executive Summary

Bass River Recreation Area is located near Allendale, between Grand Haven and Grand Rapids, in west Michigan. The 1,665-acre park features 3.75 miles of river frontage and over 10 miles of trails. The park also includes a boating access site on Max's Bayou, which connects to the Grand River. Historically, much of the land that is now Bass River Recreation Area was mined for gravel. The property was purchased by the state in 1994 for recreation purposes with an additional 550 acres purchased in 2002 for wildlife management purposes. Bass River Recreation Area is situated close to areas of high population density and where there is a strong demand for local and statewide recreation. In the context of Michigan's state park system, the terms recreation area and park are used synonymously in this plan.



Biking at Bass River Recreation Area

The purpose of this General Management Plan (GMP) is to guide the future long-term management of Bass River Recreation Area. This plan updates and replaces the Phase 1 GMP for Bass River Recreation Area which was approved in 2012. Overall, the GMP seeks to uphold the Parks and Recreation Division's Mission Statement: *"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 plan defines the following for the park:

- Purpose and Significance that captures the unique identity of Bass River Recreation Area
- 20-year Management Zone Plan reflecting the resource protection goals and level of development appropriate for each area of the park
- 10-year Action Goals that address the desired future condition within the park as a whole and each of the designated management zones

The Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) of the DNR oversaw the planning process, using the 2012 Phase 1 GMP as the foundation for this new plan. The plan was developed with significant and valuable input from the planning team, which included representatives from all DNR resource divisions, Ottawa County Parks, stakeholders, and the public. Furthermore, several existing planning documents were used as guiding references. Other plans referenced include the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Blue Ribbon Panel Report, DNR Parks and Recreation Division's Strategic Plan and the DNR Public Land Strategy. (See Chapter 1 for additional information on guiding references).

The Supporting Analysis, included as Appendix A of this document, provides significant background information to inform this planning initiative. It includes a comprehensive review of the park setting, area demographics, history, land ownership, legal mandates, and cultural, natural and recreation resources.

Significance of Bass River Recreation Area

Each GMP developed by the PRD is built upon the park's significant features that make it distinct from other parks in the state's system. Bass River Recreation Area was determined significant due to the following features and opportunities. The full statements of significance can be found in Chapter 3.

Geographic Location

- Convenient access from Allendale, Grand Rapids and Grand Haven

Land Conservation

- Preserved for recreation use and wildlife habitat
- Part of the Ottawa County Grand River Greenway

Water Resources

- Over 3 miles of frontage on the Grand River
- ¼ mile of frontage on Bass River
- Several lakes and ponds including 300-acre Max's Bayou provides boating and fishing

Trails

- Popular year-round destination for mountain bikers, equestrians and hikers, with over 10 miles of trails.
- Part of the Grand River Water Trail
- Part of the planned regional Idema Explorers Trail

Wildlife

- Largest area open for public hunting opportunities in Ottawa County
- Important stopover site for migratory birds
- Interdepartmental cooperative agreement of the 550-acre Bakale Tract east of the Bass River

Ottawa County Partnership

- Ottawa County Parks manages a portion of the recreation area as well as other properties adjacent to the park.

Management Zones

A key goal in the development of this General Management Plan is to continue to protect Bass River Recreation Area's natural and cultural resources while providing recreation and education opportunities. The planning team, with stakeholder and public input, reviewed the management zone plan for the park from the 2012 Phase 1 GMP and updated the plan to reflect current and future land use. From a palette of nine standard zones, three zones were applied with two overlay zones. The Management Zone Map

Significance of Bass River Recreation Area

Each GMP developed by the PRD is built upon the park's significant features that make it distinct from other parks in the state's system. Bass River Recreation Area was determined significant due to the following features and opportunities. The full statements of significance can be found in Chapter 3.

Geographic Location

- Convenient access from Allendale, Grand Rapids and Grand Haven

Land Conservation

- Preserved for recreation use and wildlife habitat
- Part of the Ottawa County Grand River Greenway

Water Resources

- Over 3 miles of frontage on the Grand River
- ¼ mile of frontage on Bass River
- Several lakes and ponds including 300-acre Max's Bayou provides boating and fishing

Trails

- Popular year-round destination for mountain bikers, equestrians and hikers, with over 10 miles of trails.
- Part of the Grand River Water Trail
- Part of the planned regional Idema Explorers Trail

Wildlife

- Largest area open for public hunting opportunities in Ottawa County
- Important stopover site for migratory birds
- Interdepartmental cooperative agreement of the 550-acre Bakale Tract east of the Bass River

Ottawa County Partnership

- Ottawa County Parks manages a portion of the recreation area as well as other properties adjacent to the park.

Management Zones

A key goal in the development of this General Management Plan is to continue to protect Bass River Recreation Area's natural and cultural resources while providing recreation and education opportunities. The planning team, with stakeholder and public input, reviewed the management zone plan for the park from the 2012 Phase 1 GMP and updated the plan to reflect current and future land use. From a palette of nine standard zones, three zones were applied with two overlay zones. The Management Zone Map

and a thorough review of each management zone are found in Chapter 4 of this plan. A condensed description of each management zone follows.

- **Primitive Zone** - This zone is approximately 821 acres (61% of the park), covering the southern and eastern end of the park, including the 550-acre Bakale Tract east of Bass River. No development is proposed in this zone, which is managed for natural resource protection and only permits foot traffic. This land is characterized primarily by wetlands and wildlife habitat.
- **Natural Resource Recreation Zone** – The Natural Resource Recreation Zone applies to the land occupied by much of the park’s trail systems and makes up 167 acres (12% of the park). The land cover is characterized by scattered woods and open areas. In this zone, more active recreation may take place with mountain bike and equestrian trail use.
- **Developed Recreation Zone** – This 367-acre zone (27% of the park) is located primarily along Max’s Bayou, which includes the trailhead parking area off 104th Avenue and the boating access site. Active recreation with a high density of use is typical of the Developed Recreation Zone, much of which was previously disturbed by past mining activities. A 20-foot-wide trail corridor for the planned Idema Explorers Trail is also shown on the east side of the park.
- **Cooperative Agreement Overlay** – This overlay, which covers the 550-acre Bakale Tract located east of the Bass River, allows for active wildlife management cooperatively between the Wildlife Division and the Parks and Recreation Division. This includes controlled burns, food plots and habitat restoration activities to manage wildlife habitat.
- **Scenic Overlay** – This designation protects the scenic qualities of the Grand River and connecting waterways.

10-Year Action Goals

The General Management Plan looks at the park as a whole and each management zone to identify 10-year action goals that the planning team believes are necessary to guide management and development to achieve the desired user experience and resource protection. Action goals are considered for each of six key considerations: natural resources, historic and cultural resources, recreation opportunities, education and interpretation opportunities, management and development.

The action goals are broken down into categories pertaining either to park management and operations, large infrastructure and development projects requiring capital outlay, small infrastructure and development projects and partnership projects. Below is a summary of the 10-year action goals developed for the property. The full list can be found in Chapter 5 of this plan and a guide to implementation in Chapter 6.

Management and Operations

Management and operation goals for the park include developing a natural resource stewardship plan, improving wildlife habitat, improving wayfinding signage and grading roads.

Infrastructure and Development (Capital Outlay)

Capital outlay action goals include expanding the boating access site, paving priority areas of parking lots and roads and developing a fishing pier.

Infrastructure and Development (Small Projects)

Highlights for small projects include trail crossing signage within the park and wayfinding signage to the park, exploring barrier-free hunter access and establishing identified access points on the Grand River Water Trail.

Partnership Projects

The main partnership project goal is to complete the regional non-motorized Idema Explorers Trail through the park in partnership with Ottawa County. The trail, which when complete will link Grand Rapids and Grand Haven, is currently in the planning and design stages. Adjustments to the proposed alignment will occur through the planning stages in consideration of nearby existing trails, natural resources and cultural resources.



An angler proudly displays their catch

1. Core Values & Guiding References

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 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.

1.1 Mission Statements and Goals

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 and 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. The following resources helped shape the 10-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 (SCORP) (2023-2027)

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 "ensure that Michigan's outdoor recreation assets are equitably distributed, developed and managed to provide convenient and welcoming access to the outdoors for healthful, outdoor physical activity; and while sustaining our lands, waters and wildlife for current and future generations, drive broad-based economic and quality-of-life benefits to people and communities," with the following strategies:

- Improve collaboration: Outdoor recreation stakeholders collaborate and cooperate to ensure that Michigan's recreation system meets the needs of residents and visitors.
- Improve and expand recreational access: Recreation opportunities are connected and accessible to residents and visitors of all backgrounds, abilities, means and geographic locations.
- Enhance health benefits: Outdoor recreation increases the physical activity and health of Michigan's residents and visitors.
- Enhance prosperity: Outdoor recreation advances economic prosperity and supports a high quality of life as well as talent retention in Michigan's communities.

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.

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

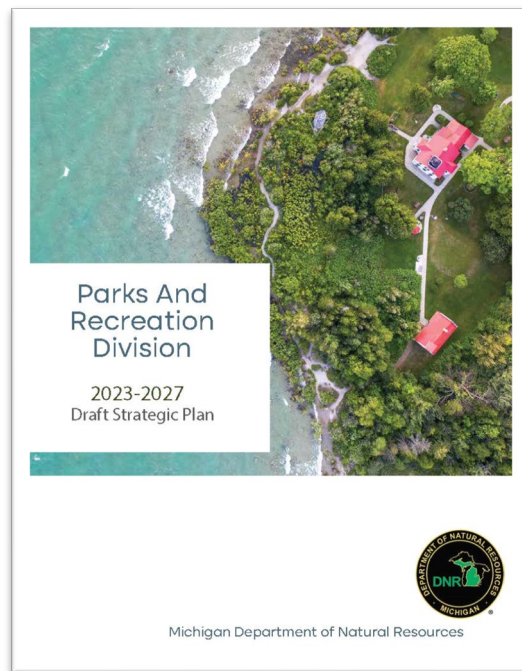
entrusted to manage on behalf of the people. The plan identifies three broad goals with strategies and measurable objectives for each goal. These goals are to:

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

PRD Strategic Plan 2023-2027

The PRD Strategic Plan is the overarching document that guides the Parks and 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 5-year period beginning in 2023. The goals identified in the plan are:

- Preserve, protect, maintain and restore Michigan’s natural and cultural resources on PRD administered lands.
- Foster appreciation for natural and cultural resources by providing inclusive and diverse recreation and education experiences.
- Sustainably fund PRD programs, operations, maintenance and facilities.
- Integrate environmentally sustainable practices into PRD culture.



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 our planning purposes, the term “Legal Mandates” refers to not only state law, but also the administrative tools of “Policy” and “Directive” of the Natural Resource Commission, the Department, and the Parks and Recreation Division. There are several general and site-specific legal mandates applicable to Bass River Recreation Area listed in Appendix A: Supporting Analysis.

The legal mandates that most directly impact planning and management at Bass River Recreation Area focus on the following areas:

- Identification of the duties of the DNR in reinforcing its core values concerning preservation, protection and management.
- Protection of threatened and endangered species
- Hunting area control
- Requirement for a Recreation Passport for entry into the park
- Water and wetland protection

2. Plan Process Overview

Bass River Recreation Area is one of the newer parks in the state's century old park system, established in 1994. Much of the land was mined for gravel beginning in the 1880's and continuing until 1976. When mining activity ceased, Construction Aggregates sold the land to Waste Management, Inc., which planned to convert the site into a landfill. Strong public opposition and subsequent court action prohibited Waste Management, Inc. from moving forward, eventually leading to the State of Michigan purchasing the property for recreational use. An additional 550 acres was purchased in 2002 with assistance from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Duck's Unlimited and other wildlife groups, with wetland management and wildlife-based recreation to serve as its primary focus.

A Phase 1 GMP for Bass River Recreation Area was approved in 2012 which identified the Purpose and Significance of the park and the 20-Year Management Zone Plan. Due to changes over the last ten years and proposed new recreation opportunities, the Phase 1 GMP was revised and incorporated into this new plan.

2.1 Planning Objectives

General management planning sets out a framework for protecting park resources while providing for meaningful visitor experiences. The long-range vision and management objectives for the park are derived from applicable legal directives, the purpose of the park, and the park's significant natural and cultural resources.

The objective of the General Management Plan (GMP) is to bring together Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) staff, staff from other DNR divisions, stakeholders, and the public into a planning process that defines and clarifies the unique Purpose and Significance of Bass River Recreation Area. Collectively, those attributes will be reinforced in the planning and management decisions that impact the park through the implementation of the Management Zone Plan and Action Goals.

A GMP develops as a result of a series of planning steps. Each step builds upon the previous, and action decisions focus on the PRD mission and the specific Purpose and Significance of the park. The GMP is a long-term plan, presenting a 20-Year Management Zone Plan used to guide park planning decisions and a 10-Year Action Goals Plan that establishes specific action strategies within the park as a whole and each management zone. The Implementation Strategy provides guidance for achieving the action goals, tracking progress and maintaining the plan so that it remains relevant in the long term and aligns with statewide planning documents, initiatives and funding processes.

2.2 Planning Process

The planning team began meeting in the summer of 2022 as part of the phase 2 GMP planning process, with the intent to build upon the 2012 Phase 1 GMP by developing 10-year Action Goals for the park. However, changes have occurred since 2012 necessitated a new GMP that encompassed both Phase 1 and Phase 2 components. The completion of forest inventory mapping for the recreation area provided additional information upon which to base zoning decisions that would protect the resources while allowing for the desired level of development. The Bass River Recreation Area planning team met periodically over a 12-month period to develop the GMP.

Extensive stakeholder and public input was sought throughout the planning process to ensure the plan was in line with park users' needs and desires.

- A public-facing website was maintained throughout the duration of the planning process. This website was updated with general information about the park and park maps, results of the public input survey, and the draft of the GMP. The website included contact information so that the public could contact the planning team at any time with questions, concerns, and input.
- A stakeholder meeting was held on September 21, 2022, in a virtual format using Microsoft Teams. Over 30 representatives of area businesses, local governments, non-profit organizations and recreation groups were invited to the meeting. Participants were asked to identify Strengths, Challenges and Opportunities relating to Bass River Recreation Area. This gave the planning team a baseline of information from which to begin their planning process.
- An online survey was also developed to solicit input from the public on their use of the park and future desires. This online approach provides a convenient way for those who have access to the internet to provide feedback and accurately transfers all responses for analysis. However, it is not representative of park use or users, as respondents self-select.
- The planning team reached out to tribal governments in the region with a letter notifying them of the General Management Plan process and time-line and inviting them to meet with the DNR to discuss the park or the planning process.
- A final public meeting was held on June 7, 2023 to present the draft plan for public comment. The draft plan was also made available for review on the department's website, and the public was invited to email, call or mail questions or comments concerning this initiative. The planning team discussed input received and refined the plan as a result. Specific revisions were made to include goals for trail wayfinding signage, a vault toilet at the boating access site and clarifying what portions of parking lots and roadways would be paved. Other revisions included clarifying the planning process for the Idema Explorers Trail and maps to indicate that no existing trails would be removed as a result of the regional trail development. Goals that have been completed since the planning process began were also removed.

Full reports for each of the outreach methods described above are included in Appendix B of this plan.

2.3 Planning Team

The Bass River Recreation Area GMP was developed with the valuable input and expertise provided by all members of the planning team.

Division	Title	Name
Parks and Recreation	Management Plan Administrator	Debbie Jensen
Parks and Recreation	Planning Analyst/Lands Specialist	Matt Lincoln
Parks and Recreation	Unit Manager	Melissa Vandervelde
Parks and Recreation	District Supervisor	Pat Whalen
Parks and Recreation	Regional Field Planner	Justin Gerould
Parks and Recreation	Stewardship Ecologist	Greg Norwood
Parks and Recreation	Trail Specialist	Jill Sell
Parks and Recreation	DNR Archaeologist	Stacy Tchorzynski
Parks and Recreation	Historical Architect	Robb McKay
Law Enforcement	Conservation Officer	Gerard Goulette
Law Enforcement	Sergeant	Jeff Rabbers
Ottawa County Parks	Coordinator of Park Planning & Development	Curt Terhaar
Fisheries	Fisheries Biologist	Addie Dutton
Finance and Operations	Geologist	Peter Rose
Wildlife	Wildlife Biologist	Nik Kalejs

2.4 Planning for Climate Change

Based on a recent study led by the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science¹ using ecosystem-based vulnerabilities, we anticipate that climate change could impact recreation and the natural environment at Bass River Recreation Area in the following ways.

- Temperatures will increase between 5.9°F and 9.5°F by the end of the century, with more warming during winter.
- The frequency and intensity of heat waves are expected to increase by the middle of the century.
- The frequency and intensity of cold waves are expected to decrease by the middle of the century.
- Drought risk is expected to increase by the end of the century.
- The annual frost-free season is expected to decrease by roughly 30 days by the end of the century.
- Intense precipitation events will continue to become more frequent.
- Surface water temperatures will continue to rise due to warming air temperatures.

¹ Fourth National Climate Assessment (2018), www.adaptationworkbook.org/explore-impacts.

- Many invasive species, insect pests, and pathogens in forests will increase or become more damaging by the end of the century.

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

- Flooding due to increased precipitation.
- More insect pests impacting visitors and vegetation.
- Increased frequency and intensity of storms, which could increase shoreline erosion and impact water quality.
- Higher temperatures affecting visitor comfort and safety and heightening the desire to be close to the water.
- Extended primary use season.
- Less snow could result in a shortened season of winter trail use.

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

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

At Bass River Recreation Area, managing and restoring the existing vegetation cover, wetlands and wildlife habitat, including invasive species management, and making wise decisions for sustainable recreation use will maintain the conservation value of this property and reduce vulnerabilities to climate change impacts. With frontage on the Grand and Bass rivers, the park is already prone to flooding, and with anticipated increases in frequency and intensity of storm events in the future, the frequency of flooding at the park is expected to increase. Flooding resiliency will be important with future management and development at the park.



Wetlands play an important role in filtering runoff and alleviating flooding

3. Purpose and Significance

There are over 100 parks in Michigan's state park system and each park has its own unique and defining characteristics. This chapter describes what makes Bass River Recreation Area a significant asset to the state's park system.

3.1 Purpose

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

- The westerly portion (1,115 Acres) of Bass River Recreation Area was established in 1994 resulting from an acquisition from Waste Management, Inc. At that time, Waste Management Inc. was obligated to offer this property "as first right of refusal" to the State of Michigan due to local opposition to the proposed planned use as a landfill and subsequent court action involving Ottawa County. It was recognized that Bass River Recreation Area was located close to areas of high population density and that there was a strong demand for outdoor recreation.
- The easterly portion (550 Acres) of Bass River Recreation Area, located east of Bass River, was acquired in 2002 for the purposes of wetland management, outdoor education, and wildlife-related activities. The funding sources came from Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Michigan Duck Hunters Association, and Macatawa Bay Waterfowl Association. This tract is managed by the Parks and Recreation and Wildlife divisions through a cooperative agreement.
- To preserve and protect the unique natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.
- To provide recreational opportunities and experiences, in an area lacking in same, that are compatible with the park's base.
- To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflects the mission of the DNR and the unique qualities of Bass River Recreation Area.

3.2 Statements of Significance

Park significance statements capture the essence of the park's importance to our state's natural and cultural heritage and recreation opportunities. These statements demonstrate the distinctiveness of Bass River Recreation Area. Understanding the park's significance helps managers make decisions that preserve those resources and values necessary to accomplish the park's purpose.

- The geographic location of Bass River Recreation Area provides convenient access from population centers including Allendale, Grand Rapids, and Grand Haven.
- Plans to turn a former gravel mine into a landfill sparked local interest in maintaining the property for recreation use and wildlife habitat. Due to successful protection, the recreation area

contributes to the Ottawa County Grand River Greenway, which preserves 9,000 acres of public land consisting of expansive floodplain, wetlands, marshes and forests.

- With over 3 miles of frontage on the Grand River, ¼ mile of frontage on Bass River and several lakes and ponds, the recreation area provides ample opportunities for a variety of water-based recreation. The 300-acre Max's Bayou, connected to the Grand River, provides a protected location to launch motorized boats and paddle craft, or to fish from the shore or the ice in winter.
- Trail usage is a large component of the park. Bass River Recreation Area is a popular year-round destination for mountain bikers, equestrians and hikers, with over 10 miles of trails. In addition, the park is used by paddlers on the Grand River Water Trail and will become part of the regional Idema Explorers Trail.
- Bass River Recreation Area provides the largest area open for public hunting opportunities in Ottawa County. In addition, the park provides important habitat and serves as a stopover for migratory birds. The DNR Wildlife Division manages the 550-acre Bakale Tract east of the Bass River for wildlife and hunting cooperatively with the Parks and Recreation Division and with assistance from Ducks Unlimited for wetland restoration work.
- Management of Bass River Recreation Area is supported by a unique partnership with Ottawa County Parks, which manages a portion of the recreation area adjacent to Riverside Park through a long-term lease. They also manage other county-owned properties adjacent to and across the river from the park.

3.3 Relationship to the Community

Bass River Recreation Area is centrally located between the cities of Grand Haven (to the northwest), Grand Rapids (to the southeast), and Holland (to the southwest). It is accessible from I-96 to the north or M-45 to the south. The Grand River, with over three miles of frontage in the recreation area, also provides access via water to Max's Bayou within the recreation area. The river is popular for boating and fishing, and there is a private marina just downstream from the park.

Ottawa County is known for its quality recreation and trails. Three Ottawa County Parks properties abut Bass River Recreation Area: Riverside Park to the northwest, Eastmanville Bayou to the east, and Robinson Forest opposite the recreation area entrance off 104th Avenue. Ottawa County Parks manages the northwest corner of Bass River Recreation Area, adjacent to the county's Riverside Park, through a lease with the DNR. The Grand River Greenway is a community vision to protect the natural and cultural features along the river corridor from Grand Rapids to Grand Haven, while providing for recreation, including the planned 36.5-mile Idema Explorers Trail, which is slated to be routed through Bass River Recreation Area.

3.4 Public Affirmation of Significance

Stakeholder and public input assisted the planning team with affirming the significant features and opportunities at Bass River Recreation Area. The feedback from the online survey confirmed that the recreation opportunities, natural resources and scenic beauty are key aspects of the park. Comments from survey respondents relating to those significant features are provided below.

"The volunteers who maintain the trail system are second to none. They always communicate trail conditions on social media, respond to questions people ask about the trail, offer encouragement to riders, and of course maintain the trail impeccably."

"I can only say this property is a gem. What a wonderful resource to have in our backyard."

"Bass River has a lot to offer--it truly has something for everyone."

"Love living so close that we can drive our boat upriver into the pits. We have family and friends that park at the end and walk down to meet us at our boat."

"We basically enjoy being able to wander and walk. We have certain areas that we visit regularly to see wildflowers and nature. We can spend the whole day observing nature which is mostly untouched."

"This area is one of my favorite places to visit. The variety of trails, the wild feel and the amount of shoreline access with trees for shade is fantastic!"

"The Bakale tract is very special. Preserving 2.5 miles of Grand River waterfrontage from inevitable loss to development is an astounding, visionary achievement."

"The entire park is great for fishing, be it shore, kayak or ice fishing from the bayou, Lake or ponds, there are a lot of options. We always catch fish there, which must mean it is a healthy fishery."



A winter hiker enjoys the trails

4. Management Zones

The 20-year Management Zone Plan was developed in keeping with the park's significance, identity, and purpose. The primary objective in the development of the management zones is to protect and enhance the park's natural and cultural resources while also supporting outdoor recreation opportunities at the park. From a palette of nine management zones, the planning team studied the park and applied zones that best fit different areas of the park. 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 development level varies in each zone, as indicated in the figure below.

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

Bass River Recreation Area was broken down into three zones with two overlays. The Cooperative Agreement Overlay was specially created for Bass River Recreation Area to recognize the management partnership with the DNR Wildlife Division on the 550-acre Bakale Tract.

- Primitive Zone
- Natural Resource Recreation Zone
- Developed Recreation Zone
- Cooperative Agreement Overlay
- Scenic Overlay

4.1 Project Boundary

During the planning process, the planning team evaluated the existing park boundary and the 2020 Natural Resources Commission (NRC) approved project boundary. A project boundary is a geographic area in which the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking to acquire property that supports the mission of the DNR on a willing seller/willing buyer basis or dispose of property that does not meet the mission of the DNR. For Bass River Recreation Area, the 2020 NRC project boundary omitted several parcels that are currently part of the park. The planning team determined that both of these parcels contribute to the park goals and that they should remain as part of the park. Thus, this plan recommends revising the project boundary to include these parcels.

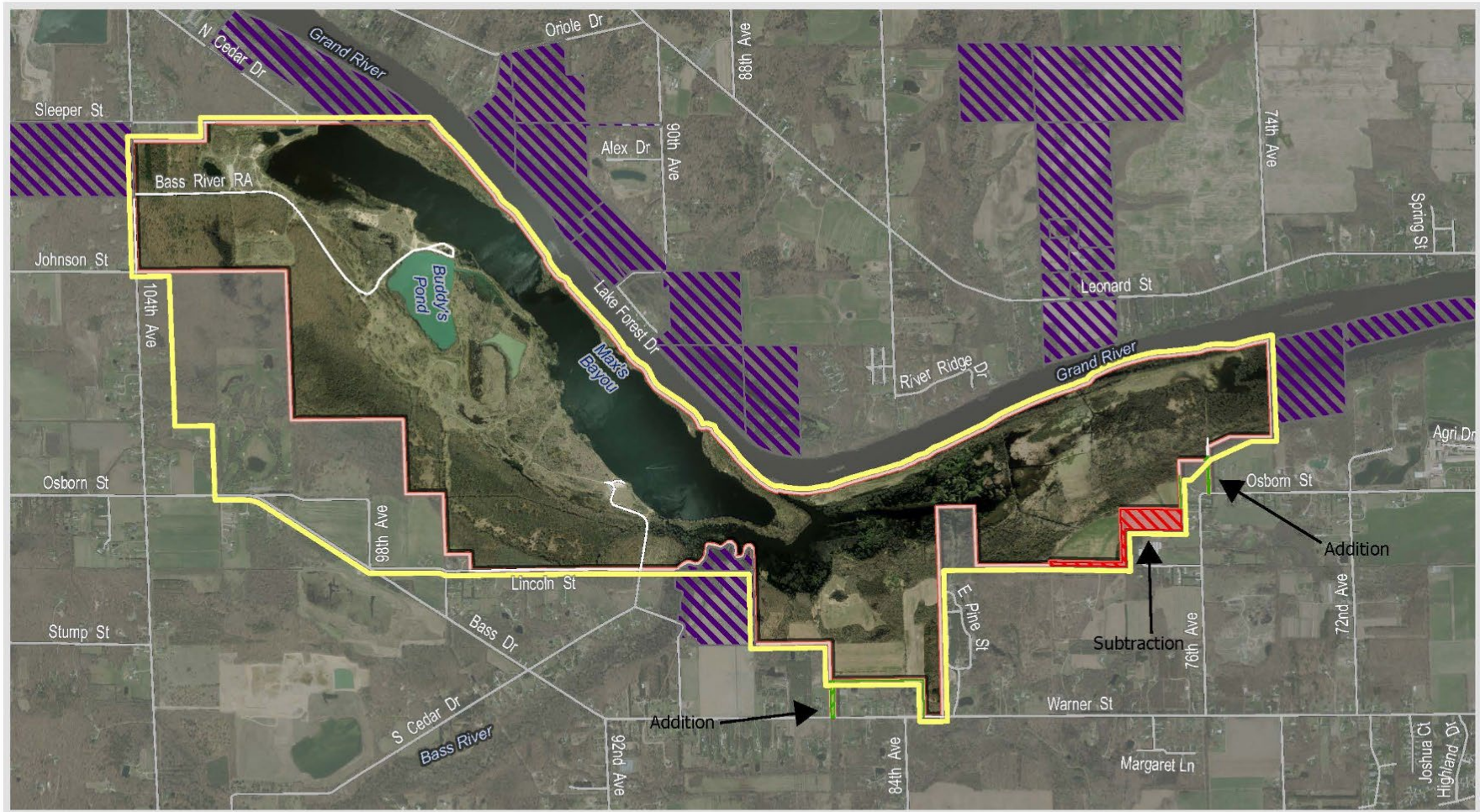
In addition, a parcel on the east side of the park was verified to not be owned by the State of Michigan. The planning team corrected the park boundary accordingly and recommends removal from the 2020 Project Boundary.

4.2 Management Zones

A Management Zone Map and detailed description of each management zone follows. All acreages given are approximate. 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.



Fishing is a popular activity at the park



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

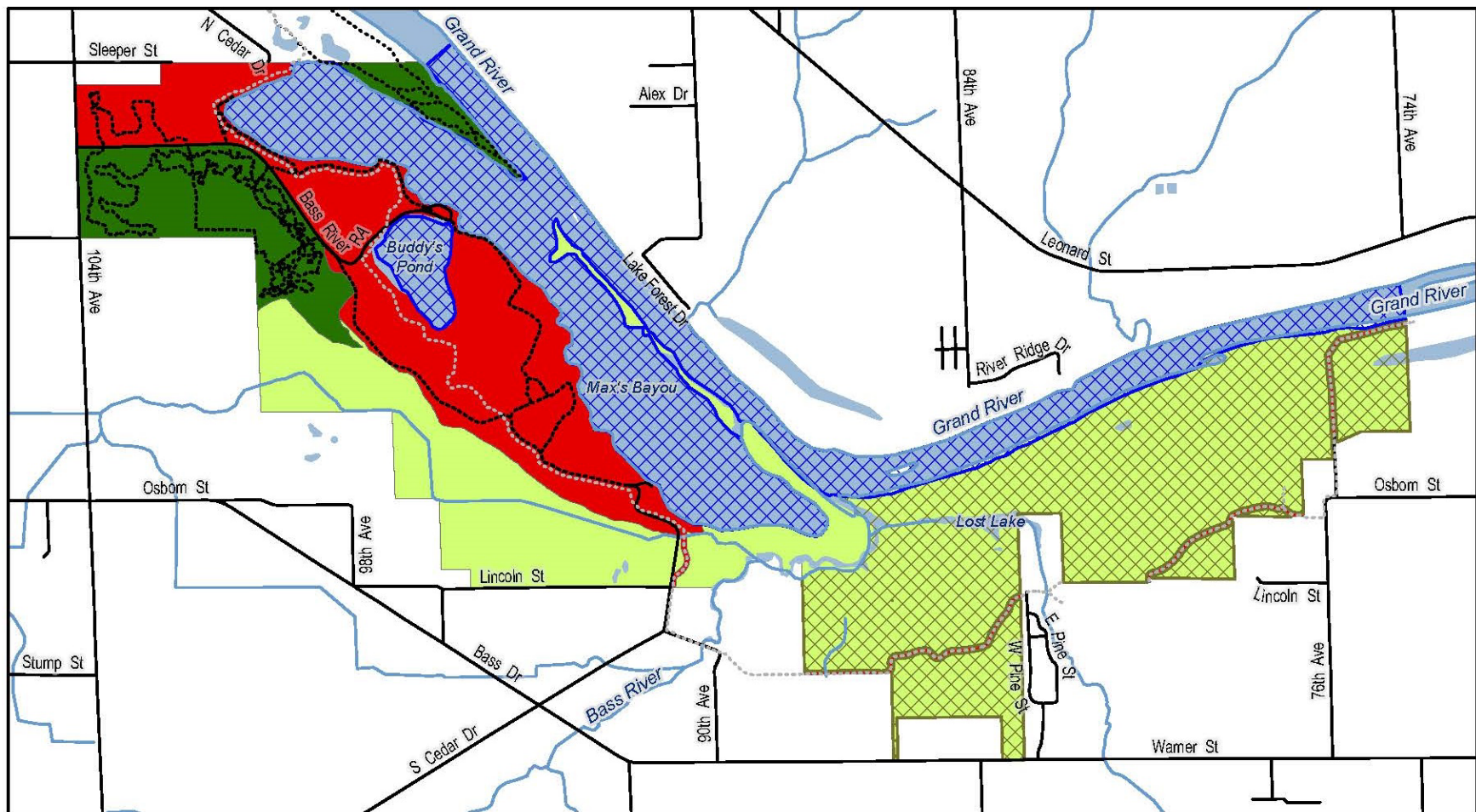
Bass River Recreation Area - Project Boundary Changes

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| State Recreation Area Boundary | Ottawa County Owned Land |
| NRC 2020 Approved Project Boundary* | Proposed Project Boundary Additions |
| Road | Proposed Project Boundary Subtraction |



Updated: 01/20/2023

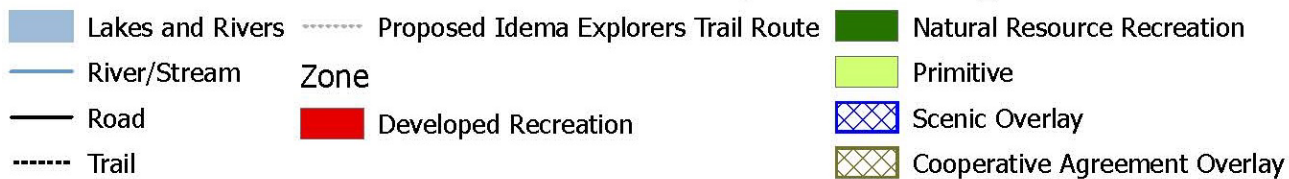
*A project boundary is a geographic area in which the DNR is seeking to acquire property that supports the mission of the DNR on a willing buyer / willing seller basis, approved by the Natural Resources Commission in 2020



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Bass River Recreation Area - Draft Proposed Management Zones



Primitive Zone

Approximately 821 acres (60.1% of the park) is within this zone. The majority of the Primitive Zone is comprised of various forested wetlands including hardwood and hardwood-conifer swamp, floodplain forest, inundated shrub swamp, and shrub-carr. The first two are represented by very high-quality occurrences. The 550-acre Bakale Tract east of the Bass River is a relatively large floodplain containing various wetlands that reflect a broad range of habitats important for many wetland species.

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.

1. 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 processes or control invasive species.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Education Opportunities:

- Primarily off-site.
- Interpretive signage is allowed at trail heads and at overlooks.

5. 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.

6. Management Focus:

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

7. 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.

Natural Resource Recreation Zone

The Natural Resource Recreation Zone is approximately 167 acres (12% of the park), encompassing the majority of the existing trail system within the park. This land is characterized by rolling terrain with scattered woods and open areas.

This zone supports active recreation with medium to high-density use conducted in a natural setting. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but higher levels of use may be accommodated.

1. 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.

2. Historic/Cultural Resources:

- Archaeological resources are preserved.
- Ethnographic resources are protected.
- Extant historic resources may be preserved, restored, allowed to molder in place, or adaptively used for operational or educational purposes.

3. 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.

4. Education Opportunities:

- Interpretive signage at trail heads, on the trail, and at overlooks.

5. 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.

6. Management Focus:

- Maintain use of zone in accordance with PRD's mission.

- Public safety.
- Protection of resources.

7. 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.

Developed Recreation Zone

This 367-acre zone (27% of the park) is located primarily in the southern portion of the park along Max's Bayou on land that was previously disturbed by gravel mining. It incorporates the trailhead parking area near 104th Avenue and the boat launch on Max's Bayou. This zone also includes a 20-foot-wide corridor through the east end of the park for the proposed Idema Explorers Trail. The Developed Recreation Zone corridor is intended to be aligned with the completed trail. Any changes to the trail alignment must be approved prior to construction.

The Developed Recreation Zone supports active recreation with high-density use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced as possible. Examples of facilities that MAY be included in this zone are day-use recreation areas, disc golf, boating facilities, and mountain bike trail areas.

1. 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.

2. Historic/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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.



Fat tire biking is a popular winter activity

6. Management Focus:

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

7. 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.

Cooperative Agreement Overlay

The Cooperative Agreement Overlay, within the context of the underlying Primitive Zone, recognizes wildlife management activities on the 550-acre Bakale Tract located east of the Bass River. These 550 acres are managed cooperatively by the Wildlife Division and the Parks and Recreation Division. This overlay also includes a 20-foot wide Developed Recreation Zone corridor for the proposed Idema

Explorers Trail. The corridor is intended to be aligned with the completed trail. Any changes to the trail alignment must be approved prior to construction.

Natural Resources

For natural resource management, the prescriptive description of the underlying zone will apply but this overlay allows for more active natural resource management including, but not limited to, planting food plots for wildlife habitat, constructing wetland control structures to improve wetland wildlife habitat, planting warm season grasses and prescribed fires to control invasive species.

Historic/Cultural Resources

For historic/cultural resources, the prescriptive description of the underlying zone will apply.

Recreation Opportunities

Visitors may be engaged in recreation opportunities as allowed by the underlying zone designation. The recreation opportunities shall not interfere with wildlife management activities associated with this overlay.

Education Opportunities

For education opportunities, the prescriptive description of the underlying zone will apply.

Visitor Experience

The visitor experience, interaction with others, time commitment and level of activity will be consistent with the underlying zone.

Management Focus

Management focus will be on wildlife management activities including but not limited to planting food plots for wildlife habitat, constructing wetland control structures to improve wetland wildlife habitat, planting warm season grasses and prescribed fires to control invasive species.

Scenic Overlay

At Bass River Recreation Area, a scenic overlay has been applied to the Grand River and connecting waterways to protect the scenic views found here. This covers approximately 500 acres of open water.

The Scenic Overlay recognizes that there are aesthetic qualities to be preserved and protected in our state park and recreation areas. Examples of this zone include scenic views, such as the overlook escarpment at the Lake of the Clouds in Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, or linear components such as a scenic road or a scenic river. Visitor use varies and is subject to the adjacent zoning found on the land. Management and development activities on the adjacent land is also subject to the underlying zoning. Management and development on the adjacent land must take into account existing viewsheds to the water. This may include managing vegetation to maintain viewsheds and orienting future park amenities such as signage, parking lots and restroom facilities in a manner that does not take away from the scenic views.

5. Ten-Year Action Goals

The planning team, with stakeholder and public input, has developed 10-Year Action Goals that it believes are necessary to guide management and development within the park in order to achieve the desired user experience. Action goals are recommended that address the following categories:

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

These goals apply either to the whole park (all management zones) or to specific locations within the park, as appropriate and according to the management zones. Refer to the zone descriptions in Chapter 4 for appropriate activities in each zone.

Action goals for Bass River Recreation Area focus on improving access to the river, improving wayfinding and informational signage, maintaining roads and parking lots and continuing wildlife habitat restoration and conservation. Completing the Idema Explorers Trail through the park is also a major goal in collaboration with Ottawa County Parks. The trail is currently in the planning and design stages. Adjustments to the proposed alignment will occur through the planning stages in consideration of nearby existing trails, natural resources and cultural resources.

Management plans are based on known needs, funding realities, and sound investment policies, but do not guarantee future Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) funding to achieve the actions identified. 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.

The action goals below are organized by management and operation decisions and capital outlay projects, which are further divided into major and small projects to correspond with PRD funding programs. 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 2-5 years. Priority Level 3 projects are desired but can be tackled in the next 5-10 years once funding has been identified. In the program input column, the bolded party is the program lead. 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.

Ten-Year Action Goals: Management and Operations

Action Goal	Priority	Management Zone	Program Input From
Complete a natural resource Stewardship Plan for the property, identifying targets for conservation and related natural resource management strategies.	1	All	Stewardship Ecologist Wildlife Biologist
Review existing trail layout and implement opportunities to reduce the number of crossings between trail uses.	1	Natural Resources	Park Manager Trail Specialist Trail Partners
Develop and install trail wayfinding signs including yielding and trail etiquette standards.	1	Developed Rec Natural Resource Rec	Park Manager Trail Specialist Trail Partners
Finalize cooperative agreement between Parks and Recreation Division and Wildlife Division for the Bakale Tract.	1	Cooperative Agreement Overlay	Regulatory Manager Wildlife Biologist Stewardship Ecologist
Control invasive species with emphasis on high quality areas	Ongoing	All	Stewardship Ecologist Park Manager Volunteers/Partners
Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources	Ongoing	All	DNR Archaeologist Regional Planner Park Manager
Continue to complete and comply with annual safety inspections and plans	Ongoing	All	Park Manager
Review and update Wildfire Plan and Emergency Plan	Ongoing	All	Park Manager Stewardship FRD Fire Officer Local Emergency Services
Coordinate annual volunteer clean-up, invasive species control and trail maintenance days	Ongoing	All	Park Manager Volunteers/Partners
Continue to improve wildlife habitat using prescribed burns, grass establishment, small food plots and other methods	Ongoing	Cooperative Agreement Overlay	Wildlife Biologist Stewardship Ecologist
Schedule reoccurring grading of roads and parking lots to reduce potholes and uneven surfaces	Ongoing	Developed Recreation	Park Manager Regional Planner

FRD – Forest Resources Division

Ten-Year Action Goals: Infrastructure and Development - Capital Outlay

Action Goal	Priority	Management Zone	Program Input From
Expand and improve existing boating access site by adding a ramp and vault toilet	1	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager
Selectively pave areas within parking lots and roadways to reduce maintenance costs, improve accessibility and address ongoing damage caused by illegal ORV's and other vehicles (No pavement in equestrian staging areas)	3	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager
Design and construct a fishing access dock	3	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager Fisheries

Ten-Year Action Goals: Infrastructure and Development - Small Projects

Action Goal	Priority	Management Zone	Program Input From
Install trail crossing signage for vehicles along the roadways	1	All	Park Manager
Establish a designated Lower Grand River Water Trail put-in/take-out point and install informational signage	2	Developed Recreation	Park Manager Trail Specialist Water trail council
Work with road commission to install wayfinding signage to the park	2	All	Park Manager Road commission
Explore barrier free hunting access opportunities	3	Cooperative Agreement Overlay	Wildlife Biologist Park Manager Regional Planner

Ten-Year Action Goals: Partnership Projects

Action Goals	Priority	Management Zone	Program Input From
Perform a Phase 1 Archaeological Study for the proposed Idema Explorers Trail corridor	1	Developed Recreation	Trail Specialist Ottawa County Regional Planner Archaeologist
Design and construct the Idema Explorers Trail (paved regional trail) through the park in partnership with Ottawa County, working with trail user groups to ensure integrity of existing trails	1	Developed Recreation	Trail Specialist Ottawa County Regional Planner
Improve wetlands on the Bakale Tract including the removal of existing culverts	2	Cooperative Agreement Overlay	Wildlife Biologist Stewardship Park Manager Ducks Unlimited
Explore the addition of a mountain bike changing facility	3	Developed Recreation	MEMBA Unit Manager Regional Planner

MEMBA - Michigan Edge Mountain Biking Association



Equestrians on a trail

6. 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 Manager to oversee plan implementation.

A long-range plan such as this must maintain a degree of flexibility 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 is 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 follow 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 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 Manager 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 Planner as design 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/ opportunities.
- Incorporate project/task assignments into annual staff performance objectives.

6.2 Documentation of Changes

The Unit Manager 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 5-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 the GMP. In reviewing the action goals for changes, document 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.

6.3 Documentation of Accomplishments

As action goals are completed, the Unit Manager 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 5-year review is made up of the Park Management Plan Administrator, Unit Manager, Regional Field Planner and District Supervisor, with other team members included as may be necessary. A 5-Year Review Form will be used to record all changes to the plan within the past 5 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 5-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 established 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.

APPENDIX A
Supporting Analysis

Table of Contents

Contents

1. BASS RIVER RECREATION AREA PROPERTY OVERVIEW..... 1

2. DEMOGRAPHICS 3

3. REGIONAL RECREATION RESOURCES 4

4. HISTORY OF BASS RIVER RECREATION AREA 8

5. LAND OWNERSHIP 9

6. LEGAL MANDATES..... 11

7. LANDSCAPE CONTEXT AND NATURAL RESOURCES 15

8. RECREATIONAL RESOURCES 19

9. HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES 20

10. RESOURCE MAPS..... 20

1. BASS RIVER RECREATION AREA PROPERTY OVERVIEW

AREA (acres)	1,665
COUNTY	Ottawa
TOWNSHIP	Allendale and Robinson
LATITUDE	43.01964681077712
LONGITUDE	-86.04578018188476
ADDRESS	13800 104th Ave Grand Haven, MI 49417
PHONE #	231-798-3711



Property Description

Bass River Recreation Area is located in both Allendale and Robinson townships within Ottawa County, in southwest Michigan. The northern boundary of the recreation area is formed by the Grand River. The Bass River, and several tributaries, flow through the recreation area, emptying into the Grand. The recreation area is managed by the Department of Natural Resources Park and Recreation Division out of P.J. Hoffmaster State Park. A portion (approx. 35 acres) of the property is leased to Ottawa County and managed as part of the adjacent Riverside Park.



Boat on Max's Bayou

The original 1,115 acres of the recreation area was a former gravel mine, purchased by the DNR in 1994 and as such, much of the natural landscape has been disturbed. An additional 550 acres, known as the Bakale Tract, was added to the eastern boundary of the park in 2002 and is jointly managed with DNR's Wildlife Division.

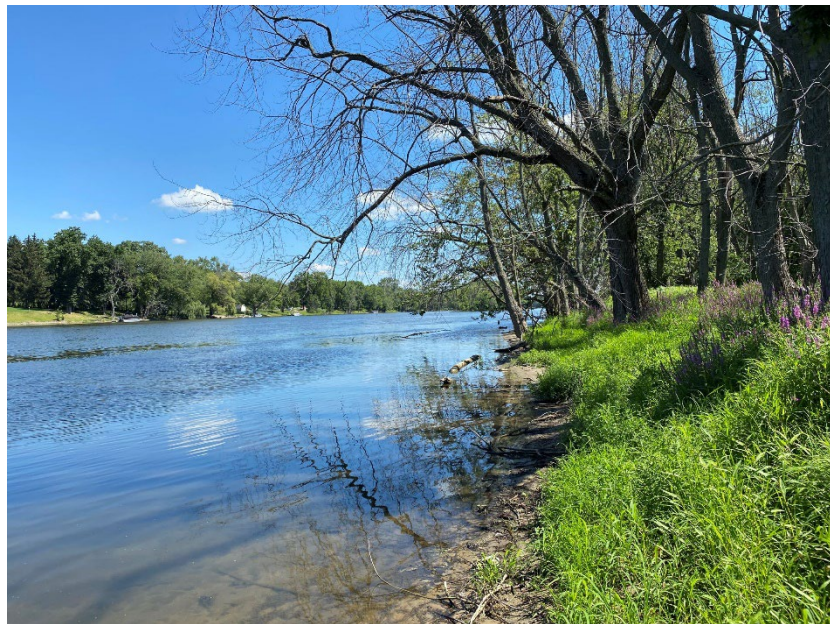
Bass River Recreation Area consists of open meadows, brush land, mature hardwoods, wetland, and open water, including over three miles of frontage on the Grand River and the 300-acre Max's Bayou. The park is used primarily for boating, fishing, hunting, hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding.

Location and Community

Bass River Recreation Area is located between the cities of Grand Haven to the northwest, Grand Rapids to the southeast, and Holland to the southwest. It is accessible from I-96 to the north or M-45 to the south. The Grand River, with over three miles of frontage in the recreation area, also provides access via water to Max's Bayou within the recreation area. The river is popular for boating and fishing, and there is a private marina just upstream.

Ottawa County is known for its quality recreation and trails. Three Ottawa County Parks properties abut Bass River Recreation Area: Riverside Park to the northwest, Eastmanville Bayou to the east, and Robinson Forest opposite the recreation area entrance off 104th Avenue. The Grand River Greenway is a community vision to protect the natural and cultural features along the river corridor from Grand Rapids to Grand Haven, while providing for recreation, including the planned 36.5-mile Idema Explorers Trail which is slated to be routed through the recreation area.

The east part of the recreation area is in Allendale Township. Most of the housing and development in the township is concentrated along the M-45 corridor, with agriculture an important part of the township's heritage and economy. It is one of the fastest growing townships in the region and home to Grand Valley State University, which enrolls approximately 25,000 students on the Allendale campus. The west part of the park is in Robinson Township, which features farmland and rural residential land uses, with few concentrations of population.



View of the Grand River from the recreation area

2. DEMOGRAPHICS

Ottawa County is continuing to show a small population growth, despite a decline in the state overall. The population is slightly younger than the state average, likely due to the influence of Grand Valley State University. It is generally a wealthy, well-educated community, with a median household income of \$72,418, significantly higher than in Michigan as a whole (\$59,234), and persons in poverty almost half the state level. Although the population is predominantly white, there is a significant Hispanic or Latino population, representing 10.4% of the population compared to 5.6% in the state of Michigan overall.

Fact	Ottawa County	Michigan
Population Estimates, July 1 2021, (V2021)	299,157	10,050,811
Population estimates base, April 1, 2020, (V2021)	296,200	10,077,331
Population, percent change - April 1, 2020 (estimates base) to July 1, 2021, (V2021)	1.00%	-0.30%
Persons under 5 years, percent	5.70%	5.50%
Persons under 18 years, percent	23.50%	21.40%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	15.90%	18.10%
Female persons, percent	50.30%	50.40%
White alone, percent	92.30%	79.00%
Black or African American alone, percent	2.00%	14.10%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent	0.60%	0.70%
Asian alone, percent	2.90%	3.40%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent	0.10%	Z
Two or More Races, percent	2.10%	2.70%
Hispanic or Latino, percent	10.40%	5.60%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	83.00%	74.20%
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2016-2020	78.40%	71.70%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2016-2020	\$209,400	\$162,600
Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 years+, 2016-2020	8.20%	9.70%
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2016-2020	93.40%	91.30%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2016-2020	35.10%	30.00%
With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2016-2020	6.90%	10.20%
Median household income (in 2020 dollars), 2016-2020	\$72,418	\$59,234
Persons in poverty, percent	6.70%	12.60%
Population per square mile, 2020	525.6	178

3. REGIONAL RECREATION RESOURCES

Bass River Recreation Area is located on the western edge of the state, with ample recreation opportunities close by. The following is a list of the primary recreation opportunities within 40 miles of the recreation area.

State-Owned Resources

State Park and Recreation Areas

- *Grand Haven State Park* is a 48-acre Lake Michigan shoreline park, offering 174 modern campsites and a popular sandy beach. The park consists entirely of beach sand and provides scenic views of Lake Michigan and the Grand Haven pier and lighthouse.
- *P.J. Hoffmaster State Park*, located 8 miles north of Grand Haven, features over three miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, a 297-site modern campground, the Gillette Nature Center and 10 miles of scenic trails within the dunes.
- *Muskegon State Park*, 35 miles northwest of Bass River Recreation Area, is another Lake Michigan park with two modern campgrounds, day use beach, boat launch on Muskegon Lake, and hiking trails within the forested dunes. The park also features the Muskegon Luge Adventure Sports Park offering year-round adventures.
- *Holland State Park*, 25 miles southwest of Bass River recreation Area, is well known for its sandy beaches. The park has two modern campgrounds and views of the iconic “Big Red” lighthouse.
- *Saugatuck Dunes State Park* is a day-use park stretching 2.5 miles along the Lake Michigan shoreline in northern Allegan County. The 1,000-acre park features 13 miles of trails within the coastal dunes and the Patty Birkholz Natural Area.

State Linear Trails

- *Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park* is a 92-mile-long linear state park from Comstock Park on the outskirts of Grand Rapids to Cadillac. Over 50 miles of the trail surface is asphalt pavement, with the remainder natural ballast and hard packed gravel. The trail is open to hiking and biking, with snowmobiles allowed north of Cedar Springs. Trail maintenance is undertaken through partnerships with Friends of the White Pine Trail and local government agencies.
- *Musketawa Trail* runs 26-miles from southeast Muskegon to northwest of Grand Rapids. It traverses orchards, farmlands, and woodlands in Ottawa and Muskegon Counties, connecting to the Laketon Trail and the Muskegon Lakeshore Trail. The trail is open to hiking, biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling. The trail was developed and is maintained through a partnership between the DNR and Ottawa and Muskegon Counties.
- *Fred Meijer Berry Junction Trail* – a 12-mile trail running from Muskegon to the William Field Memorial Hart Montague Trail which connects from the north. The trail is open to hiking, biking, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.

State Game Areas

- *Muskegon State Game Area*: 15,345 acres in Muskegon and Newago Counties managed to provide quality habitat for mallard and wood duck, white-tailed deer, pileated woodpecker, Karner blue butterfly, and for recreational opportunities associated with these species
- *Grand Haven State Game Area*: 1,139 acres in Ottawa County along the Grand River. Managed to provide quality habitat for mallard, wood duck, marsh birds such as the American bittern, and for recreational opportunities associated with these species. The site includes a Wildlife Refuge which is closed to the public.
- *Olive Township and Blendon Township State Game Areas* consist of several small sites in south-central Ottawa County. The parcels were purchased primarily for pheasant and small game management.

Boating Access Sites

The following Grand River boating access sites in Ottawa County are operated by the DNR out of P.J. Hoffmaster State Park or by Ottawa County Parks (OCP).

SITE NAME	TWP.	MGR.	DESCRIPTION	AMENITIES
Indian Channel	Spring Lake	DNR	Hard surfaced ramp with limited size of craft capacity due to water depth or size of waterbody, 45 paved parking spaces	Skid pier and bathroom
Bruce's Bayou West	Crockery	DNR	A hard-surfaced ramp with limited water depth or size of waterbody. 30 parking spaces	Bathroom
Bruce's Bayou East	Crockery	DNR	A hard-surfaced ramp with limited water depth or size of waterbody. 6 parking spaces	Bathroom
Robinson	Robinson	DNR	A hard-surfaced ramp with limited water depth or size of waterbody. 58 parking spaces	Skid pier and bathroom
Deer Creek Park	Polkton	OCP	Gravel ramp with 6 parking spaces for medium sized boats	
Lloyd's Bayou	Spring Lake	DNR	Gravel surfaced ramp suitable for medium to small-sized boats with 25 parking spaces	Bathroom
Petty's Bayou	Spring Lake	DNR	A hard-surfaced ramp with limited water depth or size of waterbody. 20 parking spaces	Bathroom
Eastmanville Bayou	Robinson	OCP	Small boat launch on the bayou and canoe/kayak launch on the Grand River	
Riverside County Park	Robinson	OCP	Hard-surfaced ramp with limited water depth and paved parking	Bathroom
Deer Creek Park	Plockton	OCP	Gravel surfaced ramp suitable for medium to small-sized boats with 6 parking spaces	
Burr Oak Landing	Allendale	OCP	River access at road end	

Regional Trails

- *Muskegon Lakeshore Trail*: 12-mile-long hiking and biking trail along the southern shore of Muskegon Lake from Pere Marquette Beach to North Muskegon. The trail features a combination of paved surface and boardwalks.
- *Laketon Trail*: The 4-mile-long Laketon Trail is an important connector that links the Muskegon Lakeshore Trail to the Musketawa Trail. It was built on an abandoned rail bed that runs parallel to Laketon Avenue.
- *Lakeshore Trail*: 20-mile paved bicycle path connecting the communities of Grand Haven and Holland in Ottawa County. The trail is a separate non-motorized path running parallel to Lakeshore Drive and linking many recreational opportunities.

Water Trails

- *Lake Michigan Water Trail West* provides miles of paddling along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Lake Michigan provides access to 12 major river systems, including the Grand River (Michigan's longest) and the Muskegon River (Michigan's second longest).
- *Grand River Heritage Water Trail* runs the length of the Grand River in Ottawa County from Grandville to Lake Michigan at Grand Haven. It provides for paddling, exploration of parks and other sites, learning about the river's natural characteristics and the rich human story of Ottawa County tied to the river.

County Parks

Ottawa County Parks is an expansive and varied recreation system encompassing over 40 sites and 7,350 acres of park and open space. The following parks are in the immediate vicinity of Bass River Recreation Area and are part of the larger Grand River Greenway (except for Robinson Forest).

- *Riverside Park* – 95 acres, including 31 acres of the Bass River Recreation Area managed under a lease agreement with the state. Facilities include a boat launch on the Grand River, waterfront picnic shelter and a hiking trail system.
- *Bur Oak Landing* – 263 acres across the Grand River from Bass River Recreation Area. This site is minimally developed with a gravel parking lot, information kiosk and a small, marked trail system.
- *Eastmanville Bayou* – 157 acres of wooded floodplain at the east end of Bass River Recreation Area. Facilities include a boat launch on the bayou, canoe/kayak launch on the Grand River, and fishing access.
- *Eastmanville Farm* – 229 acres of rolling terrain, pasture, and forest land across the Grand River from Bass River Recreation Area. An historic barn and cemetery have been restored and a farm education center is part of the site's masterplan. Recreation opportunities include 5 miles of trails for hiking and equestrian use.
- *Deer Creek County Park* – a small 2-acre site with a small hard-surfaced boat launch at the mouth of Deer Creek on the Grand River.
- *Jubb Bayou* – 97 acres of minimally developed land with a small parking area and information kiosk. Good fishing location with informal unmarked trails accessing the riverfront.
- *Conor Bayou* – 142 acres of primarily floodplain and associated wetlands. Facilities include paved parking, paved trails, picnicking, kayak launch, fishing dock and hiking trails.

- *Crockery Creek Natural Area* – 334 acres. Diverse habitat with frontage on the Grand River and Crockery Creek. Minimally developed with 1.57 miles of trail
- *Stearns Creek Park* – 118 acres in Robinson Township, west of the recreation area, creek park features over a mile of creek frontage, diverse wetlands, ravines and old growth forest. A 2.1-mile natural surface hiking trail and parking is provided.
- *Robinson Forest* – 80 acres of pine plantation with roadside parking and an information kiosk.

The *Muskegon County Resource Recovery System* includes a Special Waterfowl Management Area and is located adjacent to the Muskegon State Game Area. The park is managed for wildlife, waterfowl and special hunt purposes by Muskegon County with assistance from the DNR Wildlife Division.

Municipal Parks

Local jurisdictions, including villages, cities and townships also provide more locally oriented recreation facilities including neighborhood and community parks and community centers. Allendale Township operates the 40-acre Allendale Community Park located behind the Township Offices, featuring a range of community recreation facilities. Robinson Township Park is a 42-acre community park located adjacent to the Robinson Township Hall. Grand Haven Township maintains 5 parks including the 120-acre Hofma Park south of Grand Haven and the adjacent 446-acre Hofma Preserve.

Natural Areas

The Land Conservancy of West Michigan maintains several preserves in Ottawa County including:

- *Palomita Nature Preserve* – 40 acres of critically important Great Lakes marsh ecosystem between Holland and Grand Haven.
- *DePersia South Highlands Nature Preserve* – 30 acres of forested dunes just south of Grand Haven along the Lake Michigan shoreline
- *Minnie Skwarek Nature Preserve* – 24 acres near Spring Lake
- *Kuker-Van Til Nature Preserve* – 51 acres just north of Holland

Private Recreation Facilities

Ottawa County has a wide range of private and semi-private recreation and cultural activities available for residents and visitors, including marinas, golf-courses and campgrounds. In the immediate vicinity, Olson's Southern Grand Marina is located adjacent to Ottawa County's Riverside Park and offers boat mooring and rental boats. Allendale/ West Grand Rapids KOA borders the Bakale tract of Bass River Recreation Area, offering RV sites, lodging, tent sites and extended stays. Conestoga Grand River Campground provides 100 sites for campers, RVs or tents, north of the Grand River.

4. HISTORY OF BASS RIVER RECREATION AREA

The county is named for the Ottawa, or Odawa, indigenous people, who inhabited the area around the Grand River for centuries prior to European settlement. The Indian word Ottawa means trader. The Ottawa Indians were hunters and fishermen, using the Grand River as transportation route into the interior of Michigan. The fur trade flourished in the Grand River Valley until the middle of the 19th century, when the lumber industry sprang up.

The small community of Bass River Landing, or Bass River Village, was located on a high bluff on the Grand River west of the mouth of the Bass River. The community included a general store, post office, school, and a number of houses and farms. The residents operated summer resorts for visitors from Grand Rapids, Chicago and beyond. However, over time, the area became known for its excellent gravel and sometime after gravel mining began in the 1880s the village disappeared. Construction Aggregates, initially called Construction Materials Corporation, began mining in the 1920s, bringing gravel on barges from the Bass River quarry to its screening plant in Ferrysburg, from where it was shipped. Mining continued until 1976.¹

In the 1960's, mining also yielded two fossils - a large fossil bone that was determined to be part of a prehistoric mammoth, and the tooth of a mammoth. The bone is currently at the Michigan State University Museum; the tooth is at the Grand Rapids Museum.

When mining activity ceased, Construction Aggregates sold the land to Waste Management, Inc., which planned to convert the site into a landfill. Strong public opposition and subsequent court action prohibited Waste Management, Inc. from moving forward, eventually leading to the State of Michigan purchasing the property in 1994.

In 1996, the Waterways Commission made a recommendation to review the possibility of a harbor development within Bass River Recreation Area, however, no formal study took place.

Also in 1996, the Bakale property was nominated for purchase through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund by Mr. Timothy Bureau of Resource Management Group, Inc. The Bakale tract was purchased in 2002, with a MNRTF grant and gifts from various organizations and individuals.

¹ BassRiver.org

5. LAND OWNERSHIP

The state acquired the lands encompassed by Bass River Recreation Area in two primary land transactions. Often, conditions attached to the original funding source or other details of the property transaction encumber the future use or disposition of the land.

Funding Sources

The funding source map at the end of Appendix A identifies the sources used in acquiring land within Bass River Recreation Area. The following outlines in more detail each funding source associated with the park.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

The MNRTF funded the initial 1,115-acre purchase in 1994 and provided the majority of funding for the Bakale tract purchase in 2002. The Trust Fund 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, Act 101). Land purchased using this fund must be used for public outdoor recreation opportunities in perpetuity.

Gift

Combined with Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund dollars, local governmental units, private citizens, and various wildlife constituencies have supported the subsequent acquisition of 550 acres for the recreation area. The monetary contributions came from Duck's Unlimited (\$50,000), Michigan Duck Hunter's Association (\$10,000), and Macatawa Bay Waterfowl Association (\$25,000). The purchase was made with the following recommendations: the tract be dedicated as part of Bass River Recreation Area with wetland management, outdoor recreation, and wildlife-based recreational opportunities serving as the primary focus, and that the Wildlife Division and Parks and recreation Division be assigned the responsibility of co-managers.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) – 30 acres of warm season grass project and Bakale Tract acquisition was used as match for a NAWCA grant located in another nearby area. The property used as match is intended to be managed and maintained in its natural state for wetland conservation purposes.

Easements

The following easements have been granted impacting parcel ID 1131832 (Bakale Tract) in T07, R14W.

- Great Lakes Energy: 10-foot-wide right of way to place and operate overhead and underground electric line
- Great Lakes Energy: 10-foot-wide easement for total distance of 4,265 feet for three-phase underground electric

The following easements were transferred when the initial 1,115 acres was purchased from Waste Management (see Waste Management Warranty Deed in LOTS).

- Consumers Power: a number of easements granted between 1937 and 1969
- Michigan Gas Utilities Company: for gas pipeline

Mineral Rights

The state does not own the mineral rights under the 550-acre Bakale Tract. There is low potential for oil and gas development in this area. While there is likely good potential for sand and gravel on the property, similar to what was historically mined in the west side of the park, the regulatory environment has evolved since then, and it would be far more difficult to permit a new mine in this location today. In addition, mining would not be consistent with the intended land use for these gifted lands.

Lease Agreement

The Department of Natural Resources has a lease agreement with Ottawa County Parks and recreation Commission to allow the county to develop and maintain a hiking and mountain bike trail on a portion of state land adjacent to Riverside Park (see agreement in Appendix D). The 25-year lease is in operation until April 30, 2033.

Cooperative Agreement

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Division cooperatively manages the 550-acre Bakale Tract with the DNR Parks and Recreation Division as stated in the 2002 Natural Resources Commission Memo. (See memo in Appendix D). A Memorandum of Understanding was developed in 2004 but was not signed.



Plaque acknowledging funding support for the Bakale Tract

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 Bass River Recreation Area the following legal mandates have been identified.

FEDERAL STATUTE

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT, 1973
This Act authorizes the determination and listing of species as endangered and threatened, and prohibits unauthorized taking, possession, sale and transport of endangered species
BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLE PROTECTION ACT, 1940 AND AMENDMENTS
This Act prohibits anyone, without a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior, from "taking" bald eagles, including their parts, nests, or eggs. The Act defines "take" as "pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb." "Disturb" includes actions that may result in injury to the eagle, a decrease in its productivity or nest abandonment.
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, 1990 AS AMENDED
This is the primary federal law governing access for persons with disabilities. The law establishes design standards for outdoor recreation access and developments.

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 351 Endangered Species Protection	The law governs those acts necessary for the conservation, protection, restoration and propagation of endangered and threatened species of fish, wildlife and plants in cooperation with the Federal Government.
PA 451 of 1994, Part 419 Hunting Area Control	Section 324.41901 establishes the powers of the Department to establish safety zones for hunting.
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.

ORDERS

The following Orders apply to Bass River Recreation Area.

Land Use Orders of the Director

Order 5.1 State parks and recreation areas, certain conduct prohibited.

Order 5.1 A person shall not do any of the following in any SP or RA:

- (2) Enter, use or occupy a designated mountain bike trail when posted closed except with written permission from an authorized representative of the department.
- (3) Operate an electric bike in conflict with MCL 324.72105.

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:

[6] Bass river RA, recreation area lands located in sections 1 and 12, T7N, R15W, in Robinson township; and in sections 7 and 8, T7N, R14W in Allendale township north and west of bass river and SW of grand river, Ottawa county.

Wildlife Conservation Orders

Wildlife is owned by all the people of the state of Michigan, and protection is administered and managed by the Michigan DNR. Hunting and trapping regulations including methods of take, bag limits, license quotas, and season dates are established by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and are described in the Wildlife Conservation Orders.

7.1 Hunting or trapping in state parks or game refuges; designating where permissible; permits; hunting or trapping in state recreation areas.

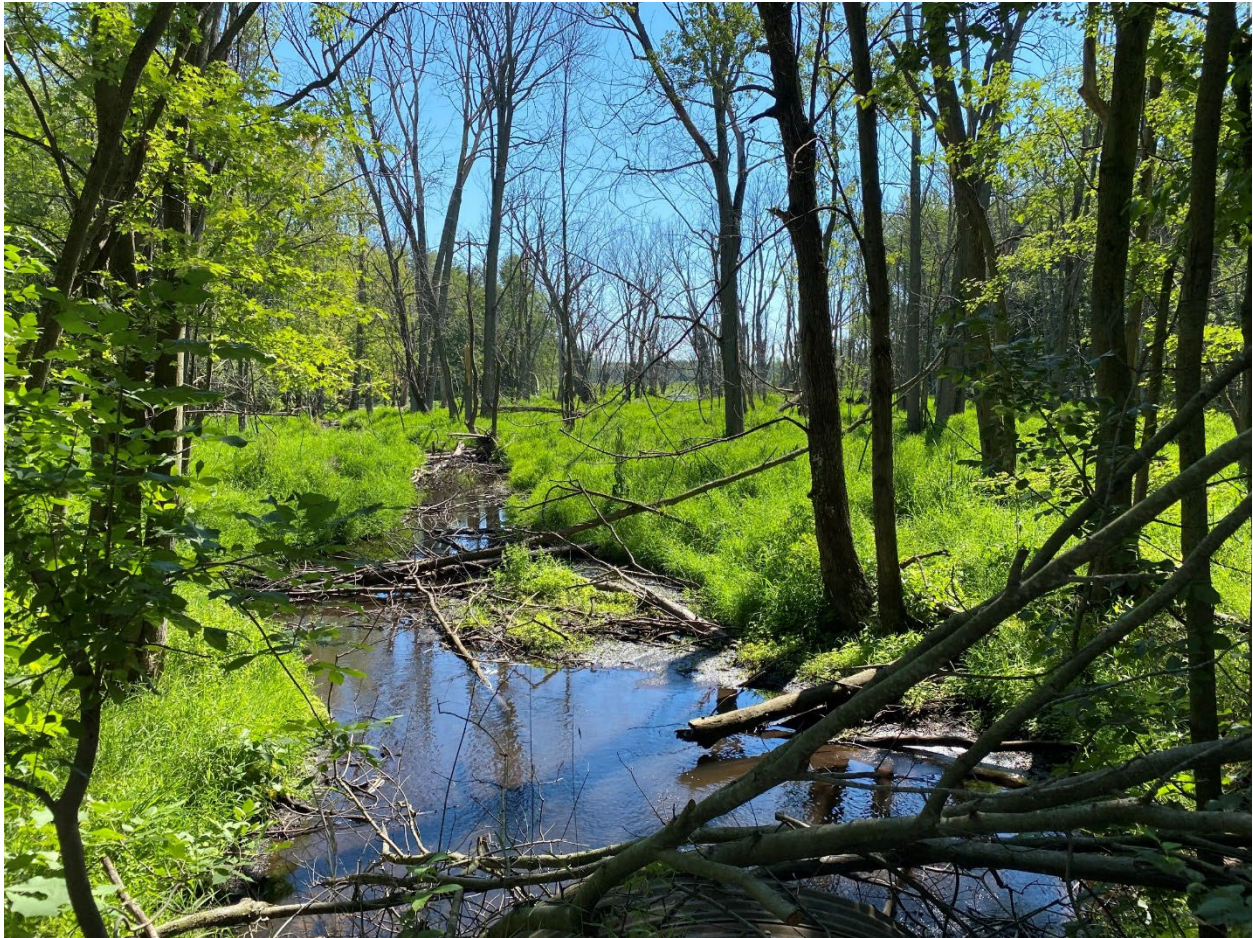
Sec. 7.1 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter or by permit issued by the director, no person shall trap or hunt with firearms or dogs or in any other manner in any state park, state game refuge, or other lands under the control of and dedicated by the department as a game refuge or wildlife sanctuary.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, state recreation areas shall be open to hunting and trapping during established seasons.

(3) Trapping in state recreation areas, except as otherwise provided in this chapter, and in state parks open to trapping, shall be limited to those areas at least 50 feet outside of the mowed portions of developed picnic areas, swimming beaches, parking lots, boat launches, children's playground structures, campgrounds or headquarters' areas. A duffer-type, egg-type, or similarly designed foothold trap for raccoon may be used within the exempted area only by written permission by the designated department representative.

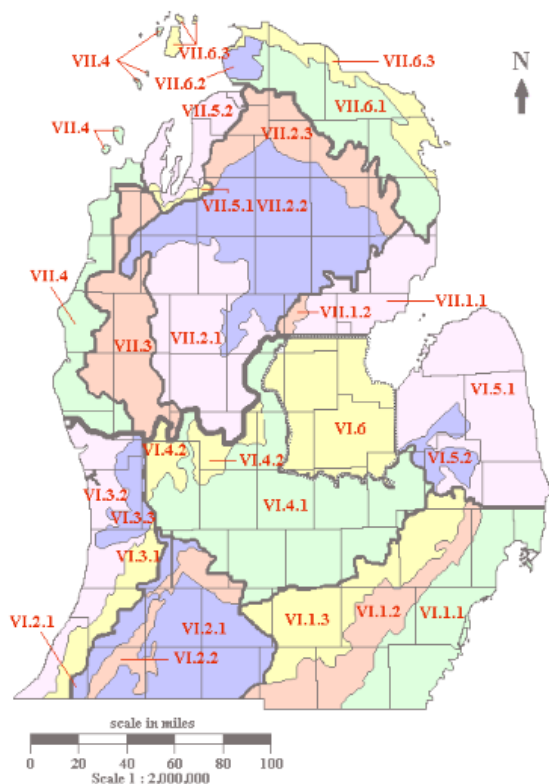
State Land Rules

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



A stream and surrounding wetlands in the recreation area

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. Bass River Recreation Area is located in sub-subsection VI.3.2 Southern Lake Michigan Lake Plain. This sub-subsection consists primarily of lacustrine deposits, but also contains fine-textured end and ground moraines. Large deltas are associated with the glacial Grand River.

Regional Ecosystems of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, Dennis A. Albert, 1995.

Climate

The region enjoys a moderate continental climate with between 170 and 150 frost-free growing days. Average annual precipitation ranges from 38 inches in the south to 32 inches in the north. Average snowfall ranges from 70 inches in the southern quarter of the subsection to as much as 100 inches farther north. The presence of Lake Michigan has a slight moderating effect on annual temperatures and results in increased snowfall along the coast. Extreme minimum temperature ranges from -22°F at the southern edge to -34°F at the northern edge.

Geology and Mineral Resources

The surficial geology within Bass River Recreation Area consists of glacio-lacustrine sands, gravels, and clays deposited between ~14,000 and ~10,000 years ago that have subsequently been reworked and redeposited by the Grand River in post-glacial time. The present-day Grand River follows a drainage valley that extends into bedrock and pre-dates the last Ice Age. A former delta, where the river emptied into

glacial lakes Chicago and Algonquin, which preceded Lake Michigan, occurs near Allendale and may have influenced past sediment deposition within the area of the park. As noted previously, the glacial sediments in much of the western half of the park were historically mined for construction aggregate, resulting in creation of the water bodies adjacent to and connected to the Grand River. Many other existing and former sand and gravel pits occur along the Grand River between Grand Rapids and Grand Haven.

Below the glacial drift, bedrock consists primarily of the Mississippian-age Marshall Sandstone and possibly minor amounts of limestone, shale, and sandstone of the overlying Michigan Formation. There has been past oil and gas production from Devonian carbonate formations in this part of the state, but nothing within one mile of the park.

Water Resources

Bass River Recreation Area features over 3 miles of frontage on the Grand River. The Grand River is the longest river in Michigan, flowing 252 miles from its headwaters in Hillsdale County to the mouth at Grand Haven at Lake Michigan. It was named O-wash-ta-nong, meaning Far-Away-Water, by Indigenous people who inhabited the area prior to European settlement. Bass River Recreation Area is in the Lower Grand River Watershed covering 430 square miles of the lower portion of the Grand River from Ionia County to Lake Michigan.

Bass River is part of a small watershed covering approximately 50 square miles. The surficial geology around the Bass River watershed is predominantly coarse textured lacustrine dune. This sub-watershed includes Bass River, Little Bass Creek, and Bear Creek. Little Bass Creek and Bear Creek are tributaries to Bass River. Bass River then flows north into the Grand River. The Bass River Recreation Area includes the furthest downstream 0.75 miles of Bass River prior to the confluence with the Grand River.

Max's Bayou and Buddy's Pond are manmade lakes created by the gravel extraction activity. Max's Bayou, approx. 300 acres in size, is open to the Grand River, allowing fish and boat movement between the two. Buddy's Pond, at approx. 50 acres, is self-contained. Lost Lake is a 2 acre pond is located on the east end of the park that is often used for fishing.

The landscape of Bass River Recreation Area has been substantially altered by gravel mining. Prior to this activity, much of the land along the Grand River was characterized by freshwater emergent and freshwater forested wetland. Much of this wetland remains intact outside of the mined area.

Topography

The topography of the western portion of Bass River Recreation Area has been substantially influenced by mining activities with excavated areas creating Max's Bayou and Buddy's Pond and banks and ridges along old roadways. The remainder of the recreation area is essentially flat, with an elevation of around 590 feet, except for a low bank along the Grand River.

Soils

The soils at Bass River Recreation Area reflect the landforms of one of the most significant glacial drainage features in all North America – the Grand River Valley. The valley was the primary connecting channel between glacial lakes in the Michigan, Huron, and Erie basins when ice blocked any outlet between the Huron and Michigan basins. This glacial outwash created significant sand and rock depositions in the valley. As a result, much of the Recreation Area was a former gravel and sand mine. The uplands, most notable at the far western end of the Recreation Area, are sand and loamy sand (e.g., Plainfield sand, Croswell sand, Covert-Pipestone sand, Granby loamy sand, Selkirk loam). There are various wetland soils (e.g., Adrian muck, Carlisle muck, Granby fine sandy loam), while the floodplain especially notable at the eastern end of the Recreation Area is Sloan loam and Glendora sandy loam.

Early 1800s Vegetation

The General Land Office mapping of the 1800s indicates the higher land in the west of what is now the recreation area featured mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland with white and red pine, beech, red maple, oak. The remainder of the property along the river valley was identified as wetland, with some northern hardwoods along the southern property boundary.

Current Vegetation

Uplands at Bass River Recreation Area include the former gravel pits, old farm fields and dry-mesic southern forests – all with varying land use histories. The highest integrity upland forests on sandy soils have canopies dominated by white and black oak while common understory species are witch-hazel, musclemwood, sassafras, black cherry, and red maple. Wetlands include the hardwood swamps, floodplain, and inundated shrub swamp, some of which are exemplary occurrences. Canopies in the swamps are dominated by silver and red maple. Associates are bur oak, bitternut hickory, basswood, spicebush, American elm, cottonwood, black willow and black cherry. Even yellow birch and eastern hemlock are represented in at least one of the highest quality swamps, indicating ground-water influence in that area.

Rare Flora and Fauna

Animals		
Common Name	Scientific Name	State Status
bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	special concern
Blanchard's cricket frog	<i>Acris blanchardi</i>	threatened
Blanding's turtle	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	special concern
deertoe	<i>Truncilla truncata</i>	special concern
dune cutworm	<i>Euxoa aurulenta</i>	special concern
fawnsfoot	<i>Truncilla donaciformis</i>	threatened
hickorynut	<i>Obovaria olivaria</i>	endangered
purple wartyback	<i>Cyclonaias tuberculata</i>	threatened
river redhorse	<i>Moxostoma carinatum</i>	threatened
round pigtoe	<i>Pleurobema sintoxia</i>	special concern
threehorn wartyback	<i>Obliquaria reflexa</i>	endangered

Plants		
<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>State Status</i>
rock cress	<i>Boechera dentata</i>	threatened

Wildlife

The emergent wetlands, lowland brush pockets, floodplain forests, warm-season grass openings, and mixed northern hardwoods of the Bass River Recreation Area (BRRRA) support a wide variety of local and migratory wildlife species. Over three miles of Grand River frontage help to maintain this habitat corridor and provide many hours of both game and non-game species wildlife recreation in the area. Waterfowl, deer, woodcock, and fox squirrels are among the most popular game species using the BRRRA while wildlife viewing opportunities for migrating warblers, raptors, sandhill cranes, great blue and green herons, and other species can be found throughout the area. The wetland areas of the BRRRA provide critical habitat for amphibians, reptiles, furbearers like river otters and muskrat as well as waterfowl nesting sites. In a rapidly growing area like Ottawa County where habitat fragmentation and development pressures are growing issues, the importance of these public lands for wildlife habitat cannot be overemphasized.

Fisheries

The Grand River boasts a diverse array of fish species including numerous gamefish species. The area around Bass River Recreation Area has year-round fishing opportunities for Bluegill, Black Crappie, Pumpkinseed, Largemouth Bass, Rock Bass, and Channel Catfish. During the fall, Chinook Salmon and Coho Salmon migrate from Lake Michigan upstream through the Grand River. Additionally, Steelhead (Rainbow Trout) also migrate from Lake Michigan upstream through the Grand River starting in late fall and continuing through early spring.

Max's Bayou has similar fish species as the Grand River, given the connection to the open river system. Typically, salmon and steelhead do not travel into bayous, but the other fish species listed above will travel between the main river channel and off channel bayous.

Buddy's Pond and Lost Lake are both small ponds that are not connected to the Grand River. These systems are much smaller and have warm water fish communities dominated by Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, and Largemouth Bass.



Winter sunset

8. RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

Bass River Recreation Area remains largely undeveloped but provides for a range of day use activities as described below.

Trails

The trail system is confined to the western portion of the recreation area and includes single track mountain bike/hiking trails, equestrian/hiking trails and a shared non-motorized trail down an old roadbed in the center of the recreation area. The mountain bike trails are also groomed by the mountain bike organization for fat-tire biking when there's at least 4 inches of snow. Trail maintenance assistance is provided by the Michigan's Edge Mountain Bike Association and equestrian trail users.

Equestrian/Hiking Trail: 3.8 miles

Biking/Hiking Trail: 4.8 miles

Multi-use Trail: 1.3 miles

Trailhead

The trailhead off 104th Avenue includes ample parking, along with trailhead signage, hitching rails, well with hand pump and mounting blocks for equestrian use.

Fishing

Shore fishing is available from the parking areas alongside Max's Bayou. In addition, anglers have access to Buddy's Pond, Lost Lake, Grand River and Bass River as well.

Boat Launch

A hard-surfaced boat ramp with skid pier on Max's Bayou is provided off the Cedar Drive entrance. A carry-down launch for paddle craft is available off Bass River Road.

Hunting

The recreation area is open to hunting in accordance with state regulations.

Metal Detecting and Off-Road Vehicles

Bass River Recreation is closed to metal detecting and off-road vehicle use.

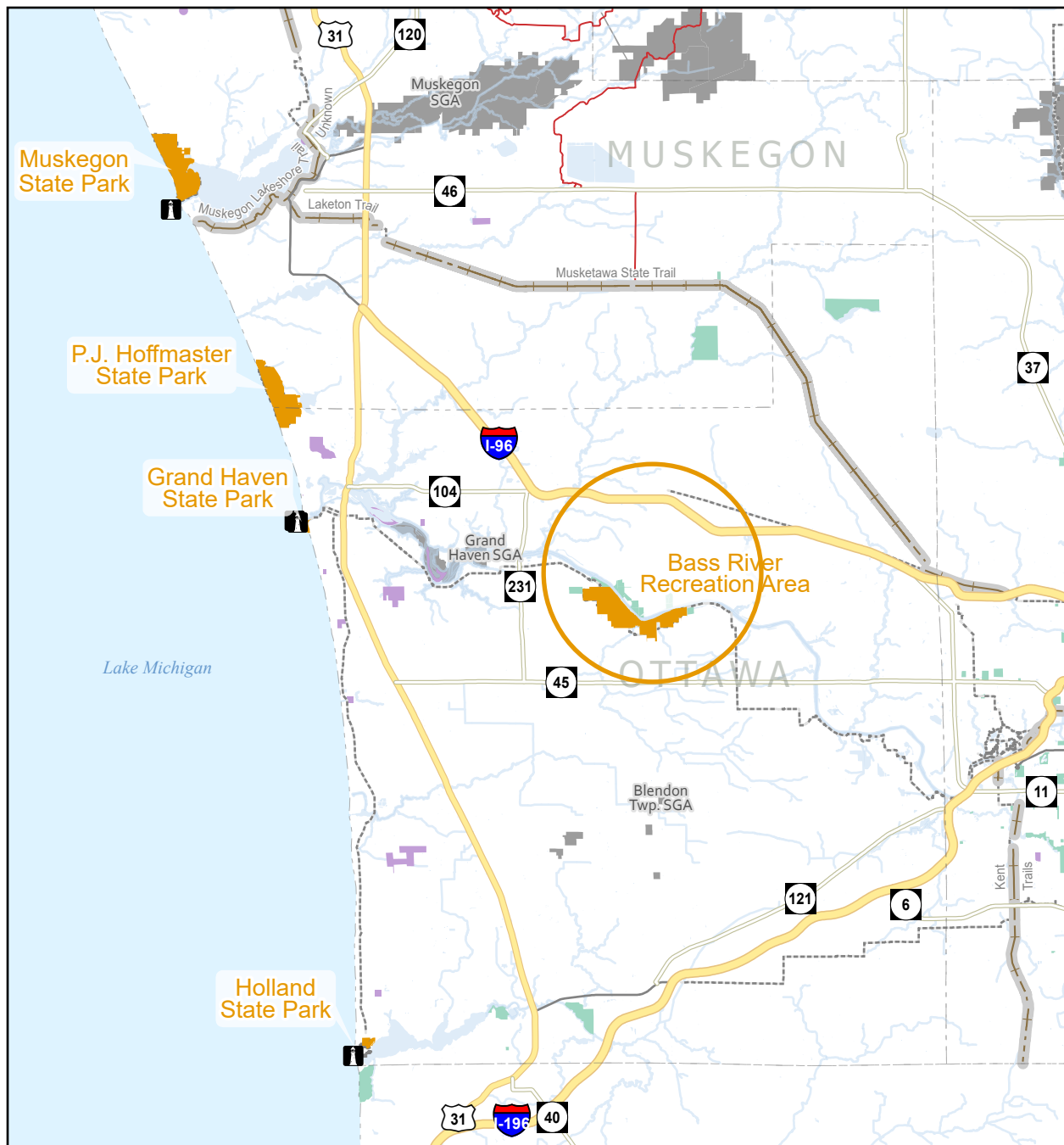
9. HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Ottawa, or Odawa, indigenous people were known to inhabit the Grand River valley area, using the Grand River as a transportation route. While much of the land within the recreation area has been disturbed by mining, it is possible that upland areas not mined, may be sensitive for early Native American and historic period resources. A complete archaeological survey of Bass River Recreation Area has not been undertaken, although a survey by Richard Flanders in 1981 showed no findings.

There are no historic structures in the recreation area. A map drawn by Russell Lowing in 1918 of the Bass River area identifies several structures on the land that is now the recreation area, including farmsteads, homes, a school and store. Although some remnants of past buildings may be present, most were destroyed as gravel was mined.

10. RESOURCE MAPS

- Regional Recreation
- Funding Sources
- Management
- Land Cover 1800s
- Land Cover
- Flood Hazards
- General Park Map
- Trail



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Regional Recreational Resources

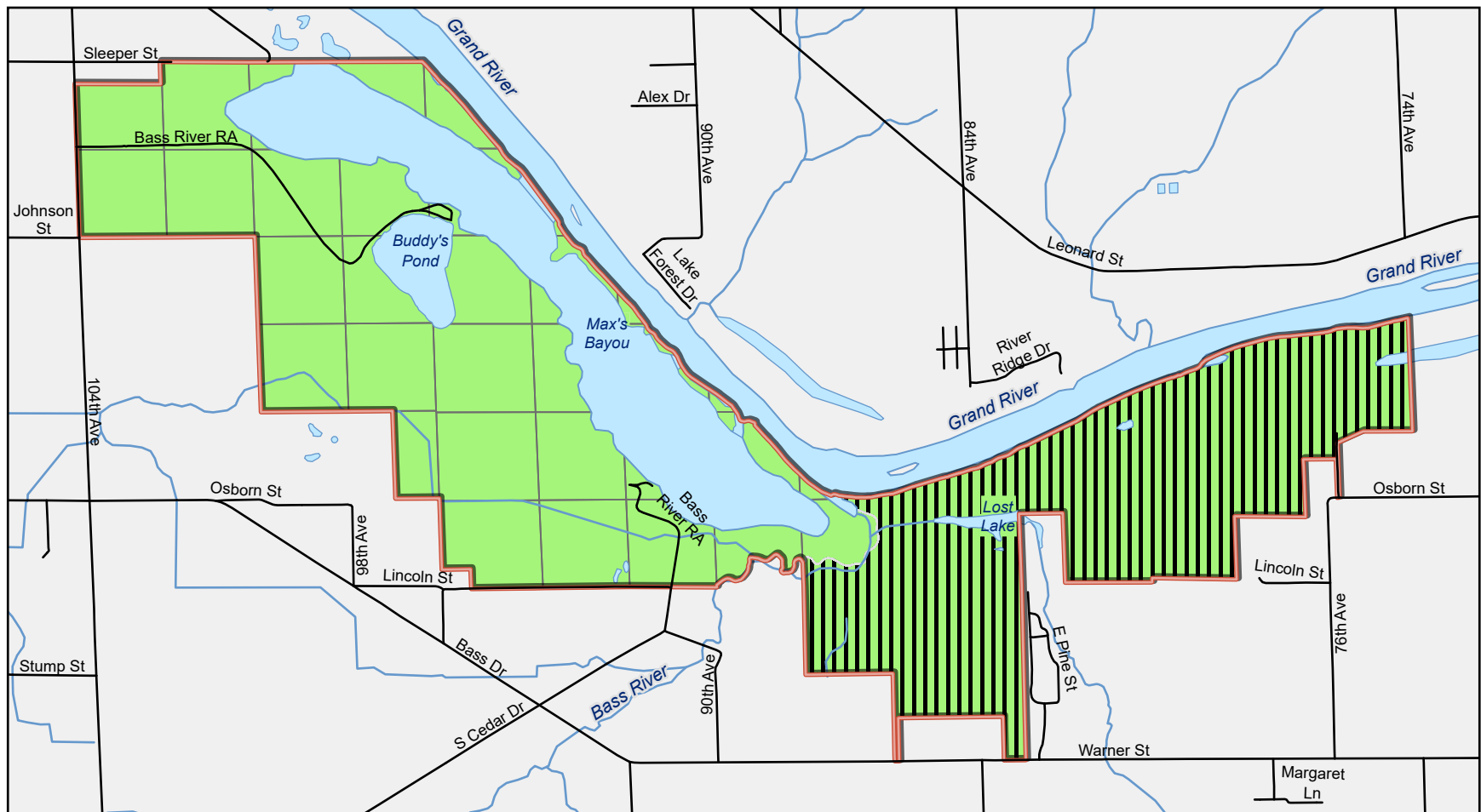


Updated: 11/17/2022

- County Boundary
- State Park/Recreation Area/Historic Park
- State Game/Wildlife Management Area
- Municipal/County Park

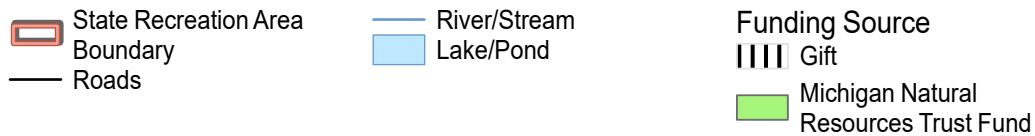
- Other Conservation Lands
- Lighthouse
- Non-motorized Trail
- Motorized Trail
- Railtrail



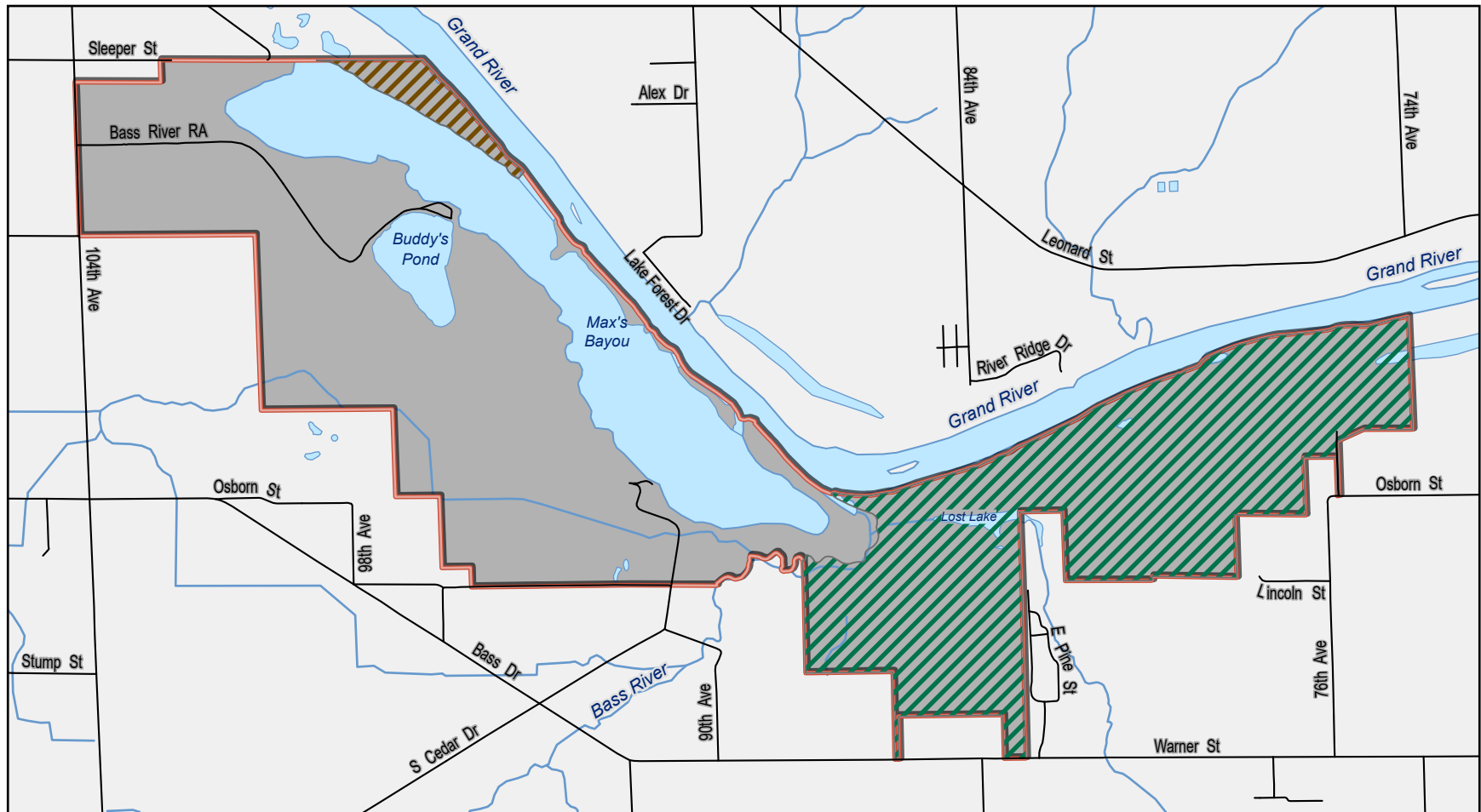


MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Bass River Recreation Area - Funding Sources









Updated: 11/16/2022



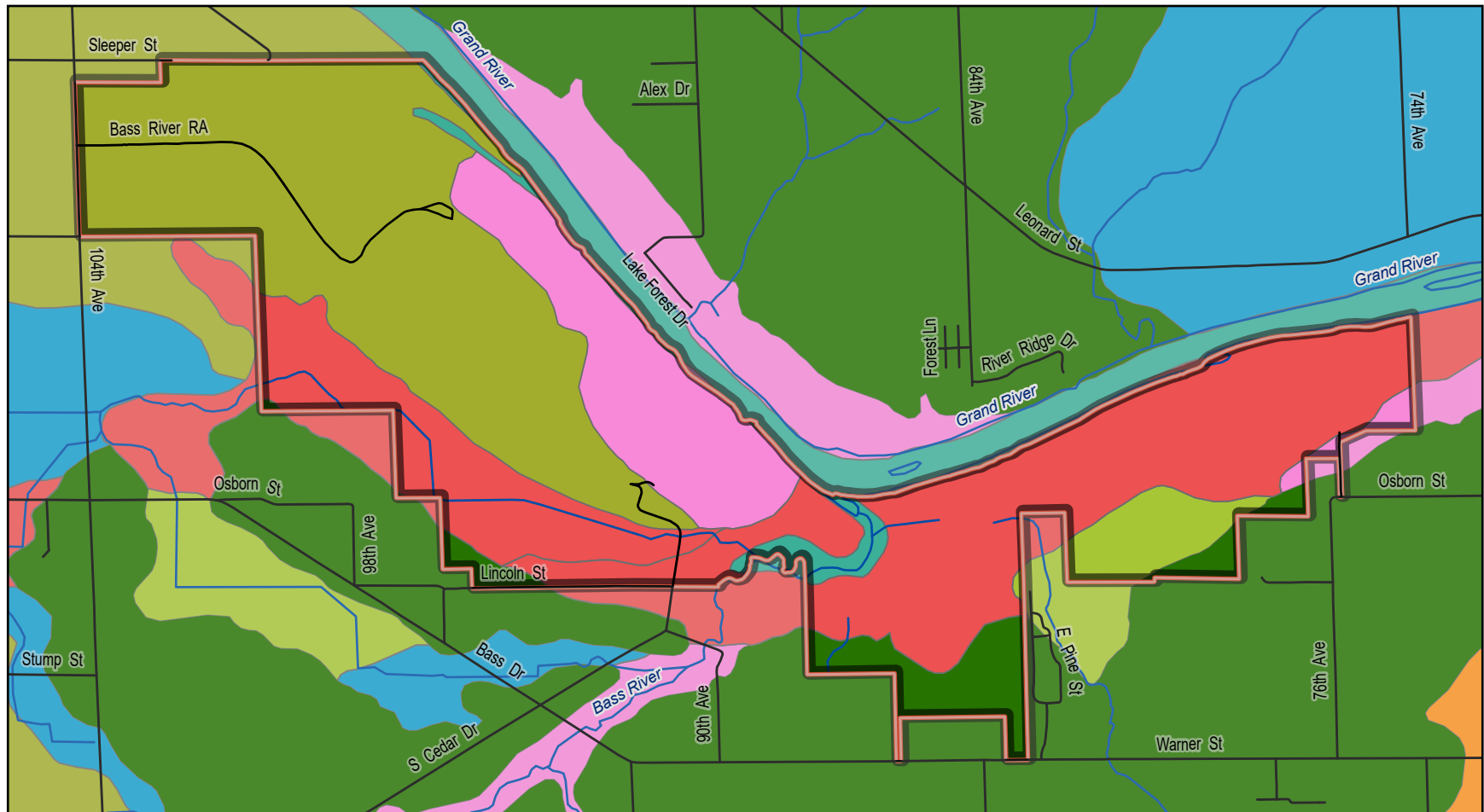
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Bass River Recreation Area - Management Agreement Areas

-  State Recreation Area Boundary
-  Road
-  River/Stream
-  Lake/Pond
-  Leased to Ottawa County Parks
-  Jointly Managed with Wildlife Division Through a Cooperative Agreement



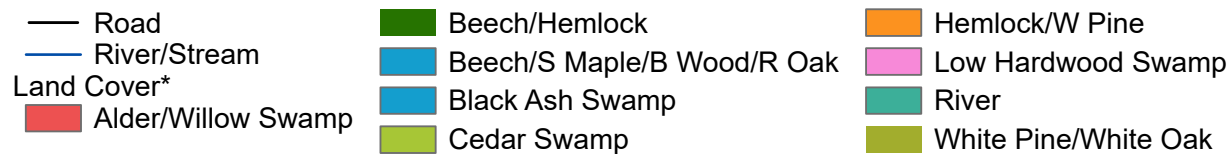
Updated: 12/06/2022



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



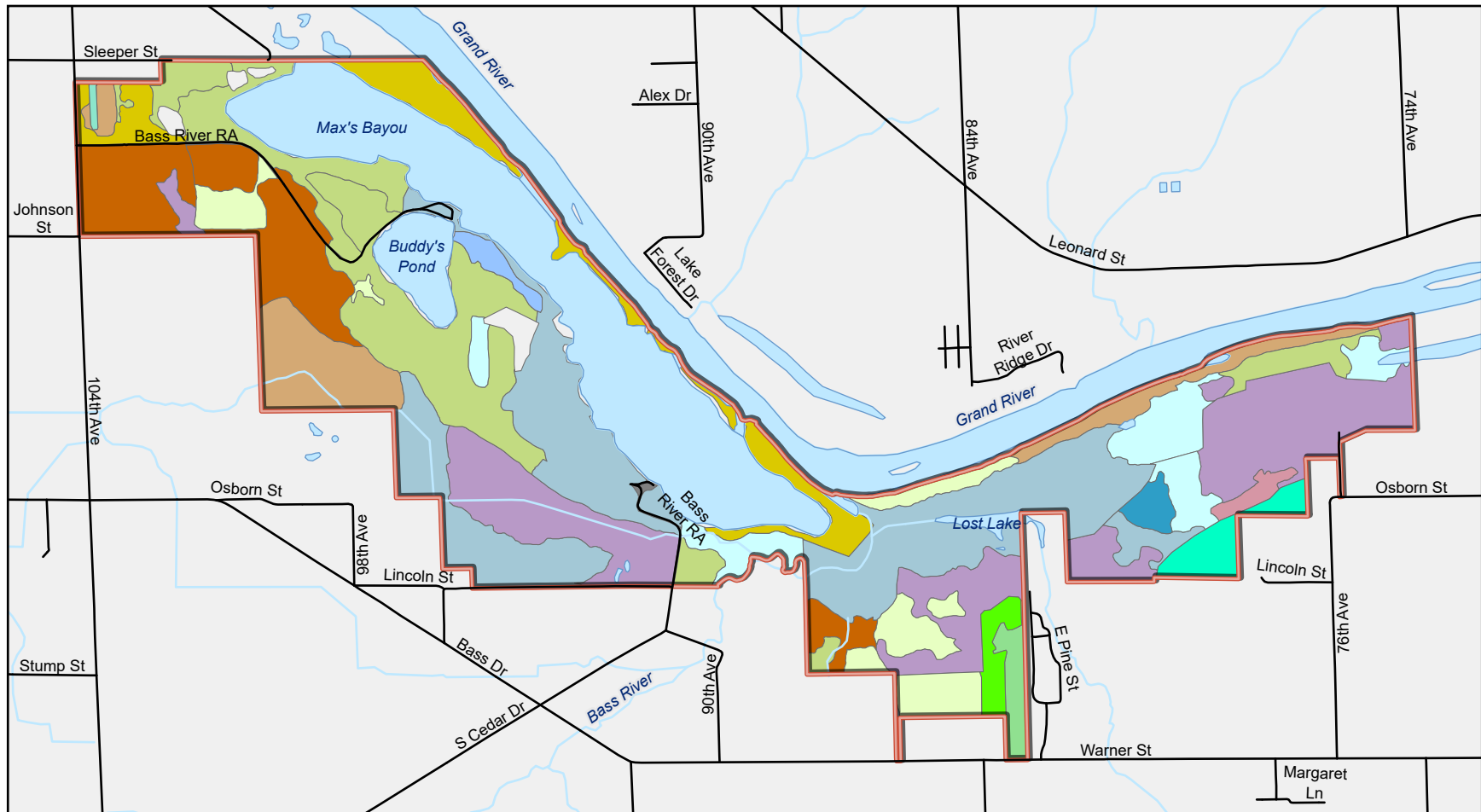
Bass River Recreation Area - Land Cover, 1800s



Updated: 11/10/2022

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

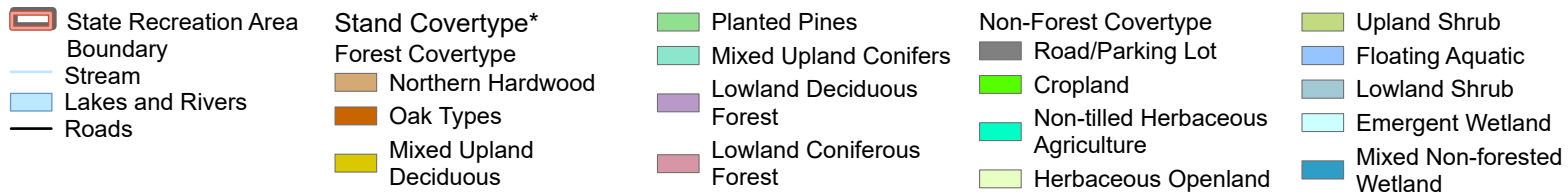




MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

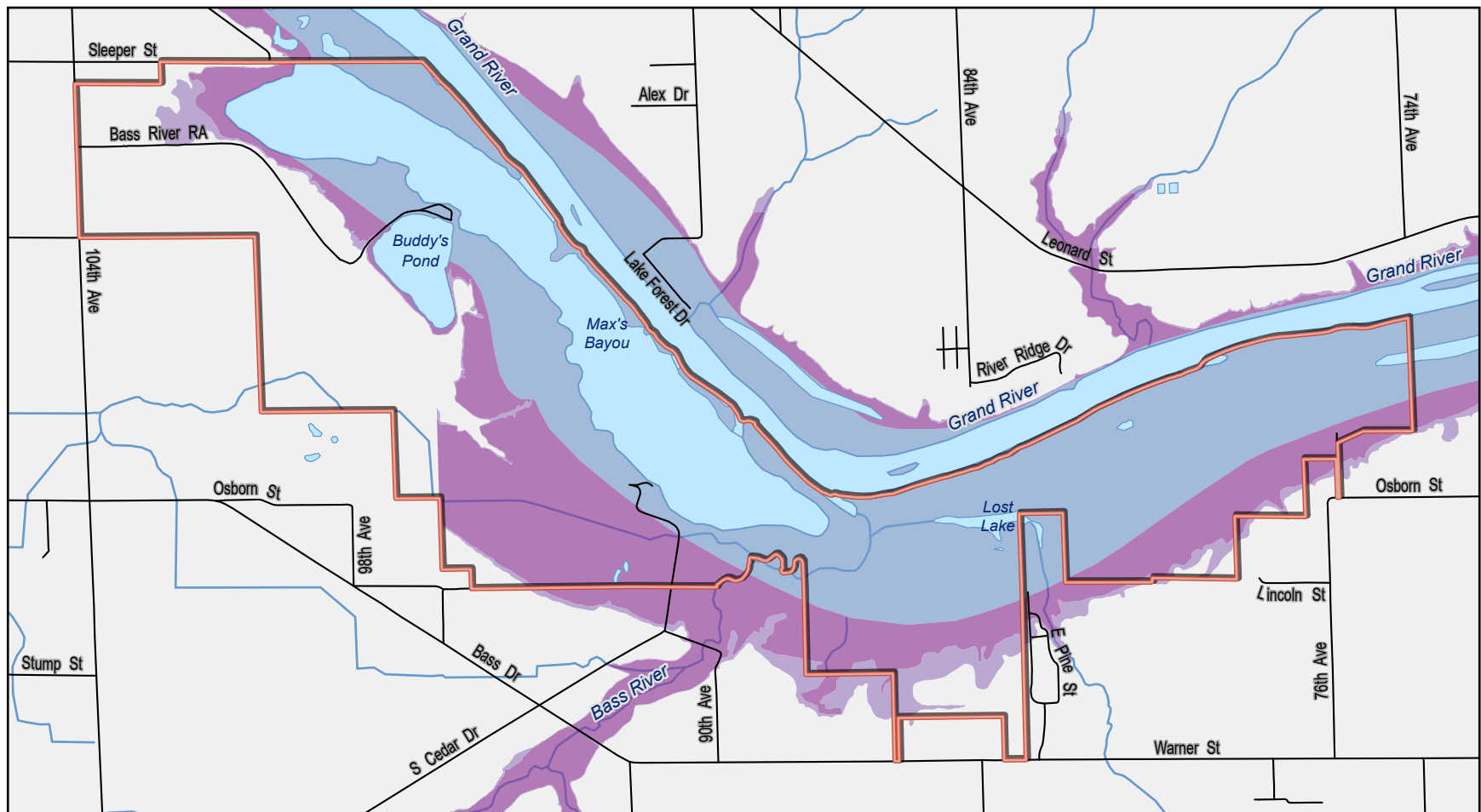


Bass River Recreation Area - Forest Stands and Land Cover



Updated: 11/09/2022
*Michigan Forest Inventory

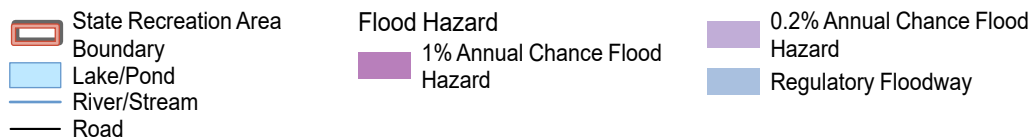




MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



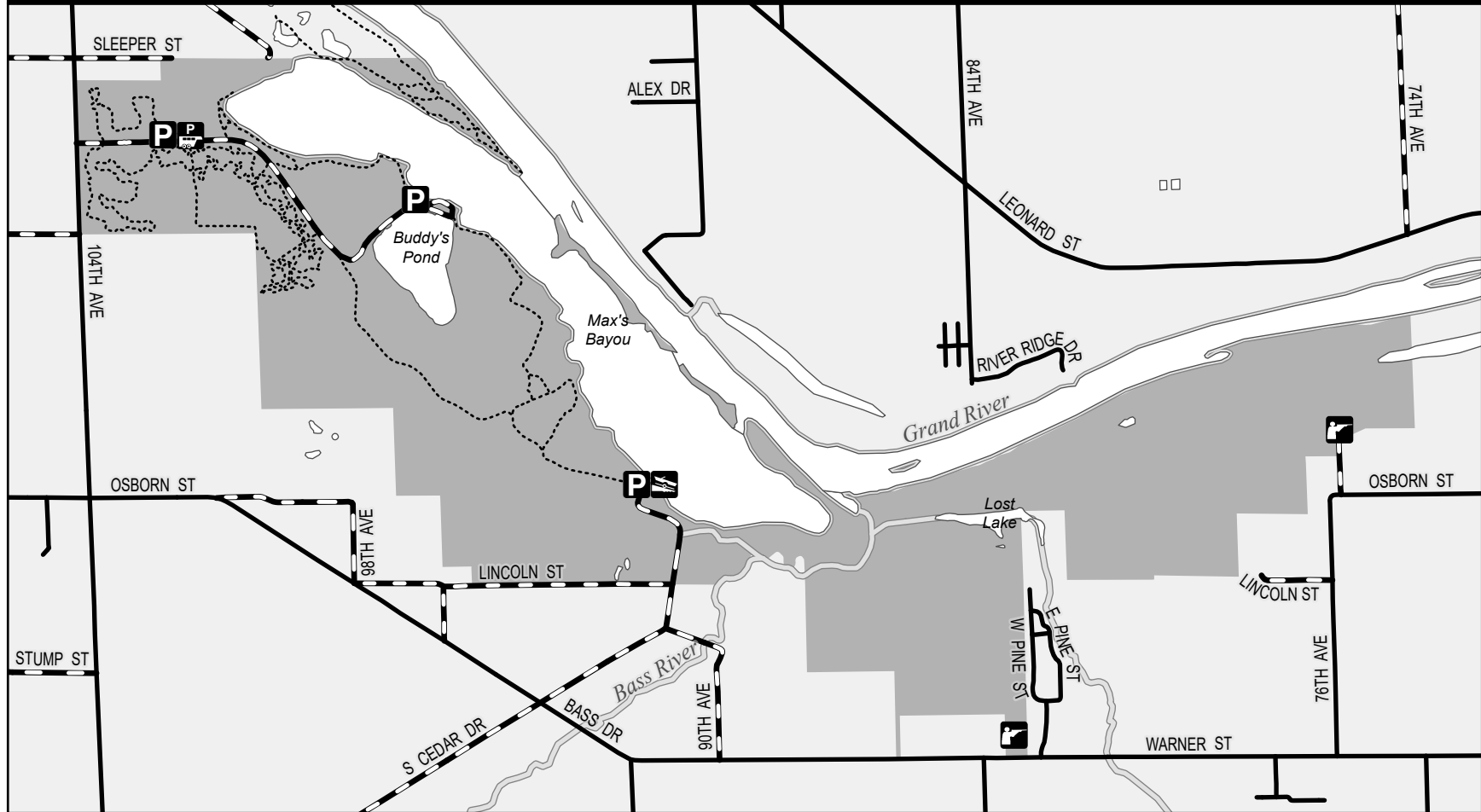
Bass River Recreation Area - Flood Hazards



Updated: 11/10/2022



Bass River Recreation Area



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

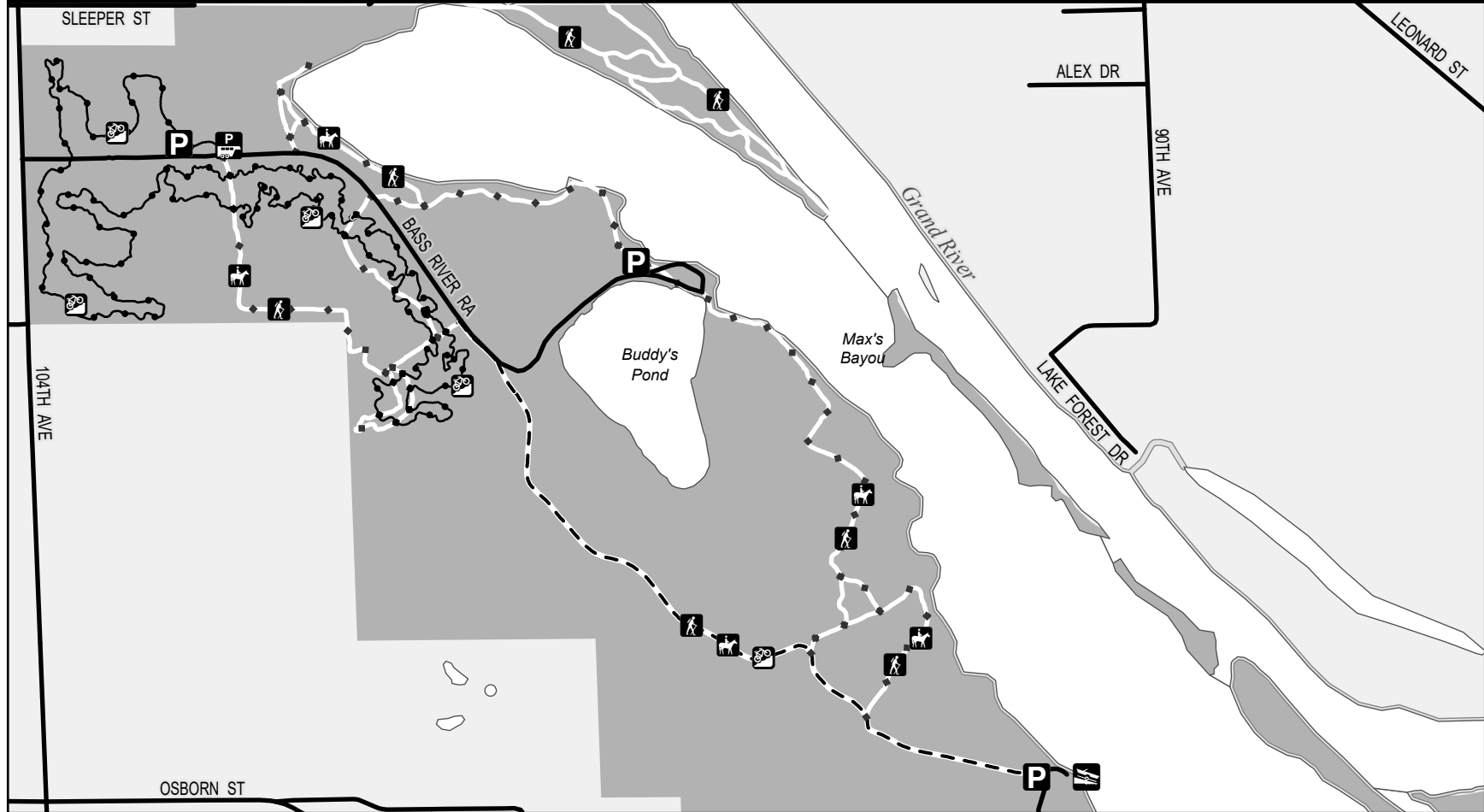


- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Paved Road | Parking |
| Gravel or Dirt Road | Horse Trailer Parking |
| Trail | Boating Access Site |
| State Land | Hunting Access Point |

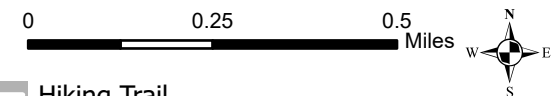
Updated: 11/17/2022



Bass River Recreation Area - Trails



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



State Land	Roads	Hiking and Equestrian Trail	Hiking Trail
Parking	Hiking	Multi-use Trail	Lake/Pond
Horse Trailer Parking	Mountain biking	Mountain Biking Trail	River/Stream
Boating Access Site	Horse trail		

Updated: 11/10/2022



APPENDIX B

Stakeholder, Tribal and Public 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, stakeholder meeting presentation and summary, and the draft plan. Contact information was provided for members of the public to submit comments or ask questions.

B.2 Stakeholder Input Meeting Summary

A stakeholder meeting was held on September 21, 2022, in a virtual format using Microsoft TEAMS, to guide the management plan for Bass River Recreation Area. Participants were invited to provide their input, identifying strengths, challenges and opportunities related to the park. A total of 7 participants represented government, business and tourism, and non-profit organizations from around the region. The meeting began with a short presentation of the phase 1 general management plan that was completed in 2012 and a review of the planning process for the GMP. The proposed alignment of a new multi-purpose trail through the property to be developed in partnership with Ottawa County Parks was also presented.



Help shape Bass River Recreation Area management plan at Sept. 21 virtual stakeholder meeting

To help us best gather valuable insights from key stakeholders, you're invited to help shape a new general management plan for Bass River Recreation Area at a virtual meeting 1-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21.

The virtual meeting will include an overview of the planning process and draft general management plan, followed by interactive online exercises to gather additional input. *A maximum of two representatives from your organization or department is requested, so all attendees can actively participate.*

We're also collecting visitor feedback through Sept. 30 via an [online public input survey](#) available at Michigan.gov/BassRiver. Please share the survey link with any who may be interested.

Please RSVP to [Matt Lincoln](#) by Sept. 16. We'll send you a calendar invite with the meeting link.

[Email your confirmation ►](#)

We recently launched a new website, and we'd love to hear what you think via this brief survey. Thanks for helping us improve our site for all users!

Input received at the stakeholder meeting is summarized below.

STRENGTHS

- Good relationship between mountain bikers and equestrians
- All user groups respect each other
- Separate equestrian trails for safety
- Horses have access to fresh water
- Floodplain/wetland areas
- Connectivity to Grand River
- Location in relation to Allendale and Grand Haven
- Variety of fishing opportunities throughout the year – salmon, steelhead, muskie, bass and walleye
- Opportunities for waterfowl hunters and other game
- Exceptional woodcock habitat
- Osprey and eagle viewing opportunities

CHALLENGES

- Signage – main parking lot is signed primarily for equestrians
- Right to Ride Act/ trail rights bill amendment
- Guardrails can be hazardous for horses
- Trail with sharp drop-off (may not be on designated trail section)
- Issue with vehicles tearing up gravel parking lots and roads
- Changing the perception of the property due to it's past use as a gravel pit
- Trail crossing across entrance drive lacking signage – speed of vehicles in this area
- Seasonal roads – no maintenance in winter
- Lack of trail trimming
- Vandalism

OPPORTUNITIES

- Equestrian trail from the east
- Bathrooms (sponsorship potential)
- Changing rooms (sponsorship potential)
- Autumn Olive management
- Volunteer days
- Add elements to mountain bike trails
- Lower Grand River water trail
- Remove old pump system and replace with different system
- Include horses on new regional trail
- Equestrian safe passing plan – signage, crossings, trailhead and kiosks
- Other opportunities for improving wildlife habitat

- Historic interpretation – Interpretive themes developed along trail
- Accessibility for disabled hunter access with new trail
- E-bike designation (certain classes) for mountain bike trails
- Develop trail yielding standards

Planning Team Attendees: Matt Lincoln (Park Planner/Land Liaison), Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), Melissa Vandervelde (Unit Supervisor), Justin Gerould (Regional Field Planner), Greg Norwood (Stewardship Ecologist), Pat Whalen (District Supervisor), Stacy Tchorzynski (Archeologist), Jeff Rabbers (Sergeant), Jill Sell (Trail Specialist), Curt TerHaar (Ottawa County Parks), Robb McKay (Historical Architect), Brian Gunderman (Fisheries Unit Manager), Gerard Goullett (Conservation Officer)

Stakeholder Meeting Attendees

Name	Stakeholder Affiliation
Kali Rush	Ducks Unlimited, Michigan Regional Biologist
Elizabeth Butler	The Chamber of Grand Haven, Spring Lake and Ferrysburg
Jeff Williams	President of Ducks Unlimited chapter
Tami Vroma	Trail user and park neighbor
Tim Lampen	Michigan Edge Mountain Bike Association
Jenny Cook	Equestrian Trails Subcommittee member
Jeff Harmsen	Michigan Edge Mountain Bike Association

A letter was sent to all tribes in Michigan to inform them about the process and to invite them to share their input for the plan. The Gun Lake Tribe replied with their desire to see wild rice restored in the area that may include portions of the Bakale Tract at Bass River Recreation Area. They plan to reach out to park staff once their regional analysis is completed.

Dear Tribal Leaders:

The Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is in the process of developing a general management plan for Bass River Recreation Area in Ottawa County.

The 1,665-acre recreation area features a three and a half-mile stretch of the scenic Grand River frontage popular for fishing, paddling and boating. More than 8 miles of trails traverse varied habitats and are open to hiking and cross-country skiing with specific trail designated for mountain biking and horseback riding. The recreation area is open to hunting in accordance with state and local regulations with a portion of the park managed by Ottawa County Parks in conjunction with their adjacent Riverside Park. The western side of the park features a large manmade 300-acre lake. The eastern end of the park is co-managed with the DNR Wildlife Division for wildlife conservation and recreation activities.

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 has met regularly to develop the draft GMP for this site. For additional information on our management plan process, please visit our website at www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans

The planning process includes several opportunities for input. An on-line survey is currently available following the link here: <https://www.research.net/r/BW2R9FL>. An online stakeholder focus group is also scheduled for Wednesday, September 21 from 1pm to 2:30pm. Please RSVP to lincolnm@michigan.gov if you would like to attend and a link will be sent to you.

We would like to give the Tribes the opportunity complete the online survey, attend the online stakeholder focus group or to meet with us independently to discuss the management plan process and any thoughts you may have in relation to Bass River Recreation Area. Additional park details can be found via a link at www.michigan.gov/bassriver.

Please contact Mr. Matt Lincoln, PRD Management Plan Assistant, at lincolnm@michigan.gov, or myself if you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,

Trevor J. VanDyke, J.D.

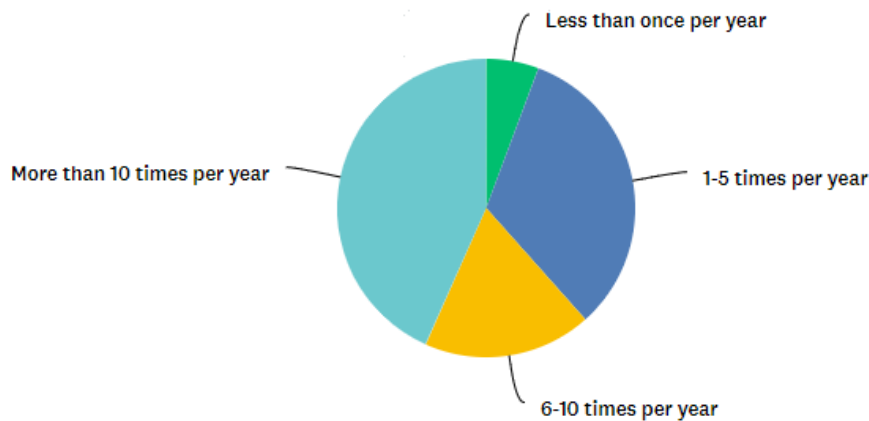
*Director, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office & Tribal Liaison
Executive Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Constitution Hall, 525 West Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30028
Phone: 517.284.6243
vandyket1@michigan.gov*

B.3 Public Input Survey

An online public survey was available from August 30, 2022 to September 30, 2022 to gain insights into how people use Bass River Recreation Area and their wants and desires. The survey was advertised via a press release that was emailed to 26,557 people who had signed up to receive notifications from the DNR and by fliers posted within the recreation area. Emails were also sent directly to stakeholders associated with Bass River Recreation Area. A total of 1,167 people completed the survey. Of those, 1,121 had visited the recreation area. For those that had never visited, about 25% indicated that they were unaware of it or the amenities it had to offer, while others cited that the property was too far away, or they intend to visit in the future. Non-visitors were screened out of the remainder of the survey. The survey included questions on site visitation, activities that visitors participate in, level of satisfaction and demographics.

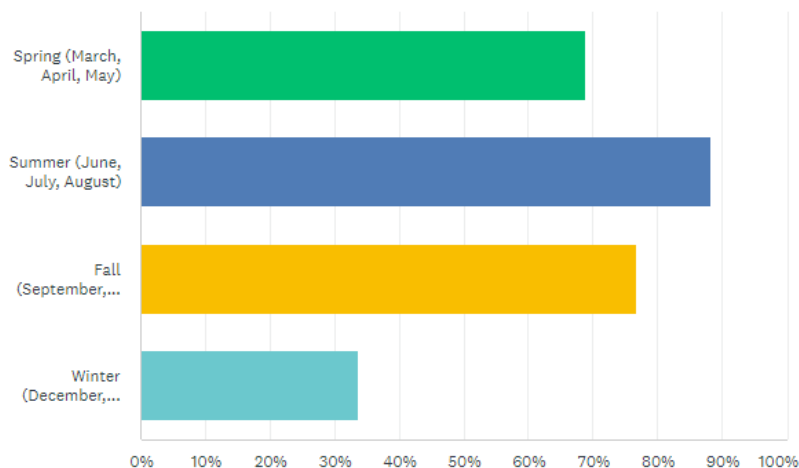
Site Visitation

Most survey respondents were repeat visitors, with many visiting the recreation area more than ten times per year.



How often do you visit?

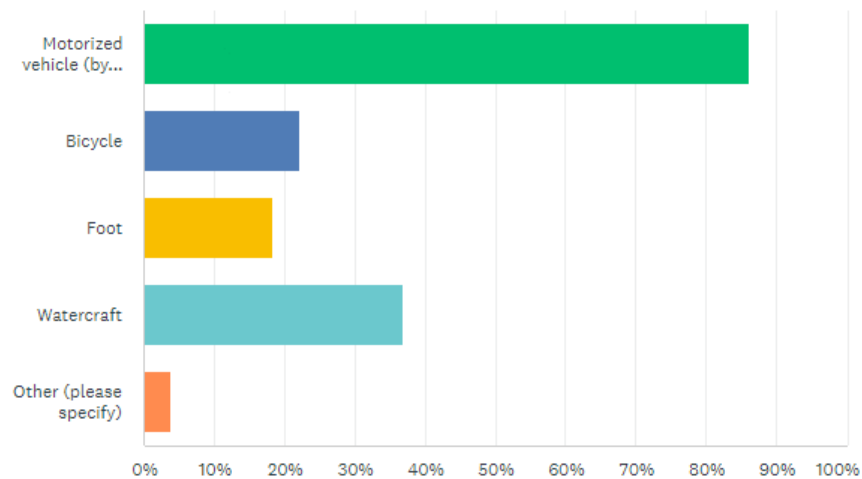
When asked what season they visited, although summer was the most popular month, the recreation is used year-round and enjoys high spring and fall use.



What season do you typically visit? (Select all that apply)

Bass River Recreation Area General Management Plan

Appendix B – Stakeholder Tribal and Public Input



How do you travel to the recreation area? Select all that apply

When asked to describe Bass River Recreation Area to someone who has never visited, the top results are shown below. The larger the word, the more times it was used.



Word Cloud illustrating words used to describe Bass River Recreation Area

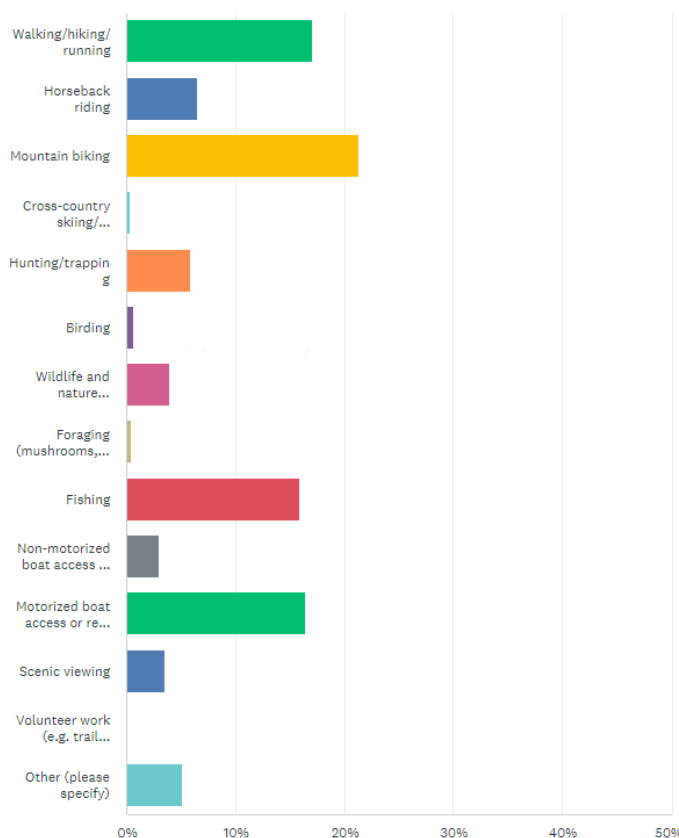
The survey asked people to rank how important certain factors were in their choice to visit Bass River Recreation Area, from very unimportant to very important. Using a weighted average, natural features was the most important factor, followed by amenities offered (such as trails and water access), a positive experience from previous visit(s), wildlife, and convenience/close to home, in that order. Safety and enforcement of park rules and recommendations from others had a more neutral response.

Activities

Visitors participate in a variety of recreation activities at Bass River Recreation Area. When asked to select all activities they participate in from a pre-populated list the top six activities were as follows:

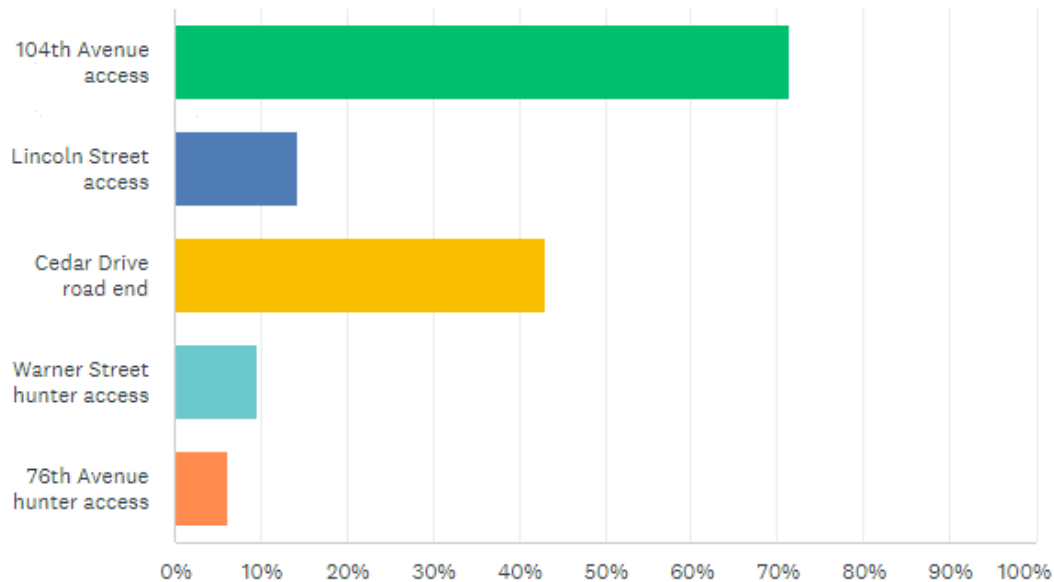
1. Walking, hiking, running: 62%
2. Fishing: 53%
3. Scenic viewing: 50%
4. Wildlife and nature viewing: 43%
5. Motorized boat access or rest stop: 42%
6. Mountain biking: 41%

Respondents were then asked to select their primary activity. Walking, mountain biking, fishing and motorized boating were still amongst the top activities, with scenic viewing and wildlife/nature viewing being more of a secondary activity. Horseback riding and hunting/trapping were also popular. Approximately 5% of participants chose to write in a different option that was not on the list; the most popular being swimming and visiting the beach.



What is your PRIMARY activity at the recreation area? (Select one)

The majority of park visitors access via the recreation area via the 104th Avenue entrance (71%). However, over 43% reported accessing via the Cedar Drive road end, which is especially popular with those walking or hiking. A smaller percentage of users accessing off Lincoln Street or via the hunter access points.



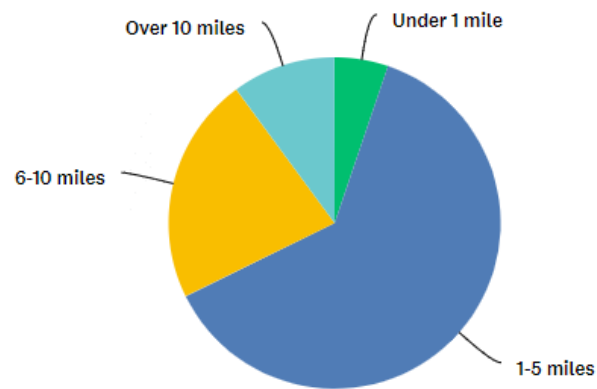
Where do you typically access the park? (Check all that apply)

People visit Bass River Recreation Area in a variety of social groups, with most visiting with family (24%) followed by family and friends (22%) and spouse/partner (19%). A significant number of visitors visit alone (16%) or with friends (14%). Many (33%) report having a dog or dogs with them when they visit, especially those walking or hiking.

When asked how long they spent in the recreation area on their last visit, most responded that they spent 1-2 hours at the property (34%). The next highest responses were 2-3 hours (26%) and 3-4 hours (15%). Less than 6% of responses indicated that they spent less than one hour on site, while 10% and 8% respectively stay more than 5 hours or 4-5 hours. The amount of time spent in the recreation area depended on their primary activity. Equestrians and those hunting or boating were more likely to stay longer, with many boaters indicating that they stayed over 5 hours.

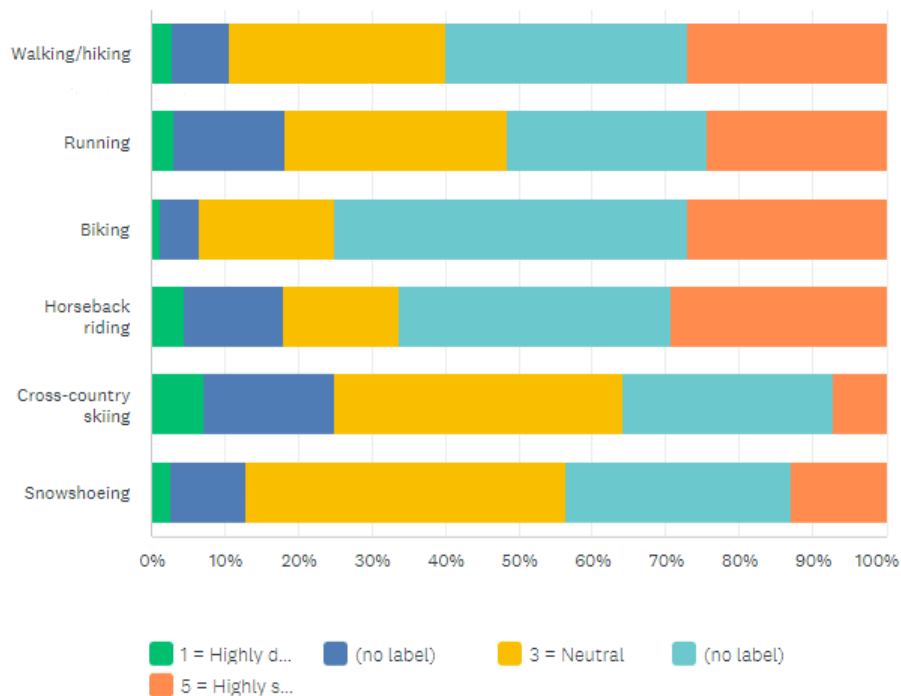
Trails

A specific set of questions was related to trail use. Over 78% of respondents indicated that they use the trails, with walking/hiking being the most popular activity, followed by biking and horseback riding. On a typical visit, most walk/ride between one and five miles (62%). However, those indicating that their primary activity was horseback riding or mountain biking typically rode between 6 and 10 miles.



On a typical visit, how far do you walk/ride?

Most respondents ranked the trails as satisfactory or highly satisfactory, with the mountain bike trails receiving the highest weighted average rank of 3.94, followed by walking/hiking and horseback riding (both 3.73). Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing were ranked less favorably, likely due to the dependence on good snow.



Rate your level of satisfaction with your trail experience (1=highly dissatisfied, 3=neutral, and 5=highly satisfied)

When trail users were asked what they liked about the trails, common themes were as follows:

- water access for horses
- twisty technical nature of the mountain bike trails with little elevation change
- well-maintained
- convenience/close to home
- peaceful and not too busy
- woods, water and variety of natural surroundings.

When asked if there is anything that could be done to improve visitors' trail experience, 48% of respondents said that no changes were needed. Of those that proposed changes, common themes were:

- more trails (especially mountain biking)
- maps and trail markers
- outhouse and changing facilities
- features to make mountain bike trails more challenging
- trimming of vegetation and poison ivy control
- trash cans

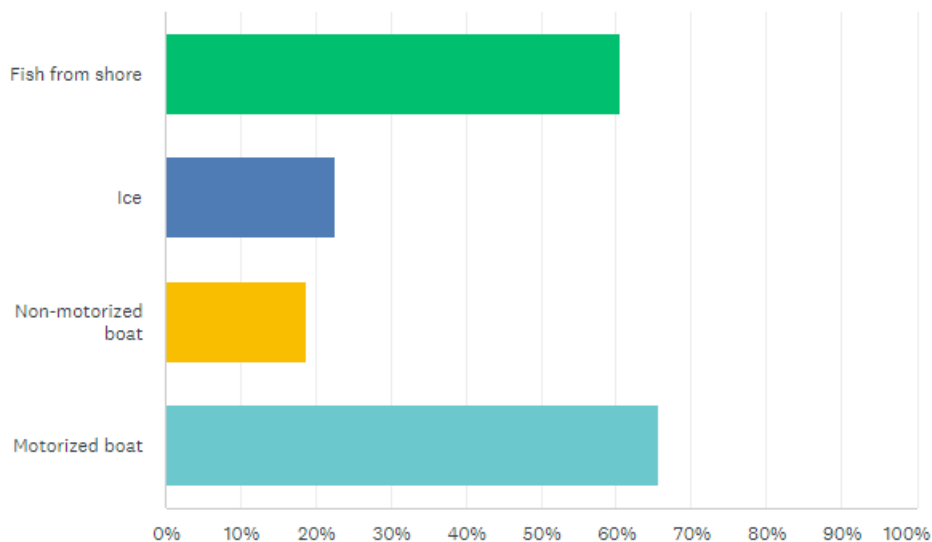
There were also some conflicting opinions on allowing ORVs in the recreation area or making sure ORVs are kept off the trails.

Hunting and Trapping

Just over 20% of survey respondents reported hunting or trapping on the property. Of those, the primary target was white-tailed deer (70%), followed by small game (58%) and waterfowl (37%). Positive comments included good access for duck hunting, plentiful waterfowl, prime habitat for woodcock, and general appreciation of the natural land close to home. Problems cited include hunter harassment, too many hunters or other recreationalists (trail users), and low wildlife population. Some suggested that the trails should be closed during deer hunting season or that there should be increased signage/awareness that the property is open to hunting. Other comments suggested various habitat improvements.

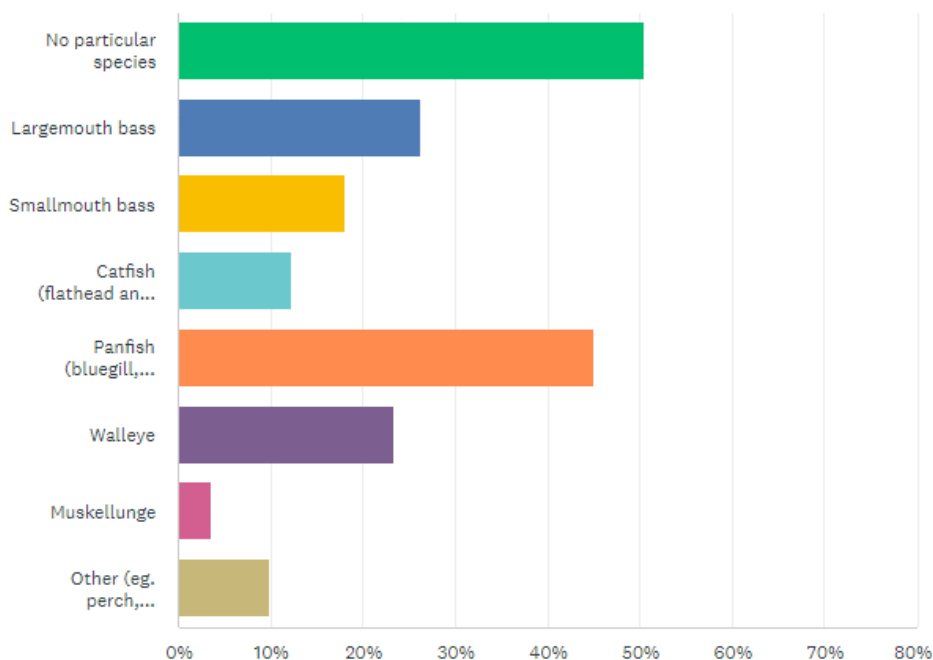
Fishing

More than half of the visitors responding to the survey indicated that they participated in fishing at Bass River Recreation Area. Most fish from motorized boat, but a significant number also fish from shore.



How do you typically access the water to fish?

People fish for a variety of species as shown by the table below and many commented on a positive experience. Suggestions for improvement include a fishing dock, trash cans and site clean-up. People voiced their frustration at the sale of the land off Cedar Drive by the Ottawa County Road Commission, which is a popular access point for shore fishing. Other problems cited include large numbers of boats and jet skiers, and water skiers close to the boat launch making launching difficult.



What do you typically fish for? (Select all that apply)

Other Thoughts

Respondents were asked to rate their overall level of satisfaction with Bass River Recreation Area on a scale of 1 (highly dissatisfied) to 5 (highly satisfied). Most were satisfied, or highly satisfied, with a weighted average of 3.91.

When asked “what is ONE thing that should NOT change at Bass River Recreation Area” many respondents mentioned that nothing should change and they like the recreation area the way it is, particularly the rustic character, natural features and lack of development. Many commented that the area should remain open, free of charge (note that the Recreation Passport is required for vehicle access) and accessible to the existing uses; particularly the water access, trail uses with separate equestrian and mountain bike trails, and hunting access. Concerns were cited over the future loss of access and residential development off N. Cedar.

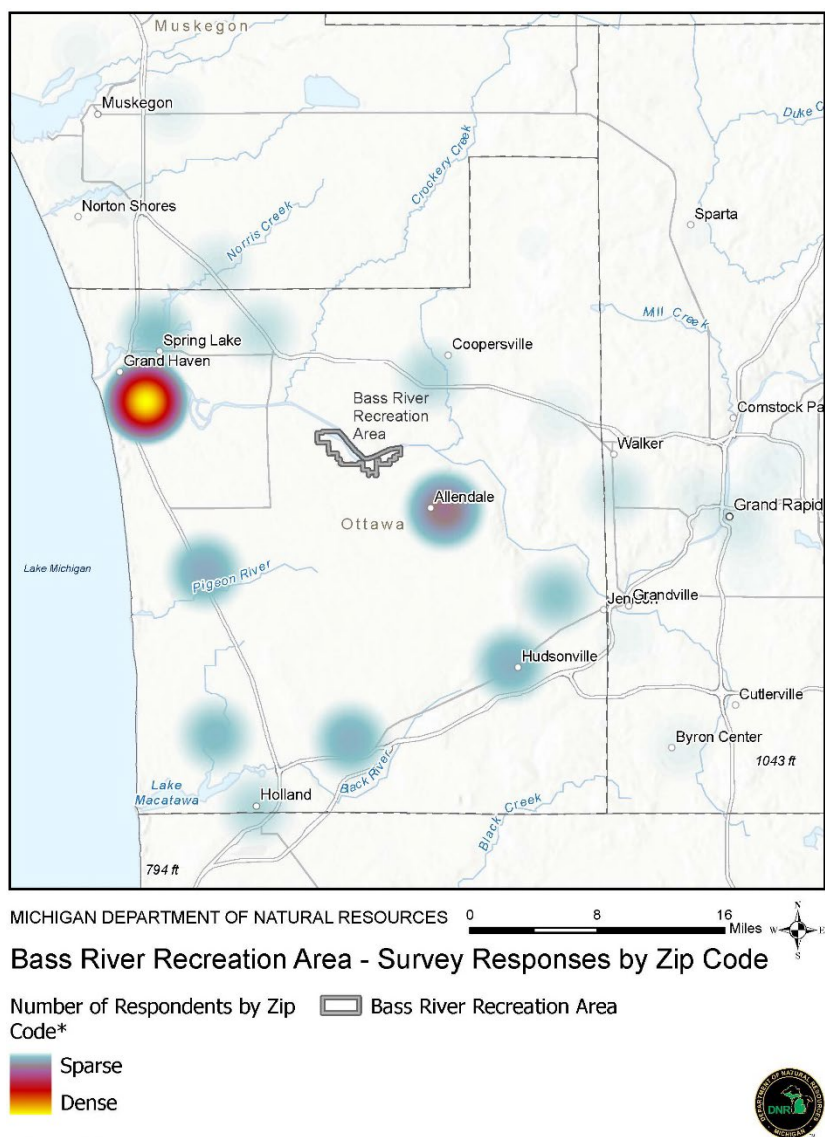
Many different ideas were received regarding potential improvements when asked “what is ONE change you would recommend”. Most of the comments were related to the roads, parking areas and trails. Common requests were for increased road and parking lot maintenance, more trails (especially mountain bike), and improved trail signage and mapping. Adding bathrooms or vault toilets was also a popular

request. While some wanted to see more law enforcement and control to keep ORVs off trails, others would like to see some areas opened to motorized vehicle use, citing a lack of opportunities in the area. Improvements to the water access were also mentioned, including improved boat launch, an expanded and improved beach area and amenities such as benches, docks and overlooks at the shoreline. Park clean-up and more trash cans was also suggested.

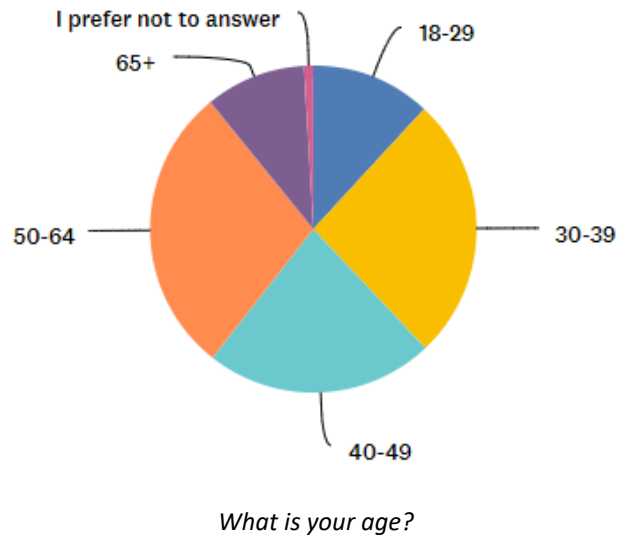
Additional comments recounted many positive experiences and memories and appreciation for Bass River Recreation Area offering a variety of activities and natural resources close to home.

Demographics

Finally, the survey captured some demographic information from respondents.



The age of respondents was almost equally distributed between the following age groups: 30-39 (26%), 40-49 (22.64%) and 50-64 (28.53%), with a smaller percentage being under the age of 29 or over the age of 65.





Michigan Department of Natural Resources

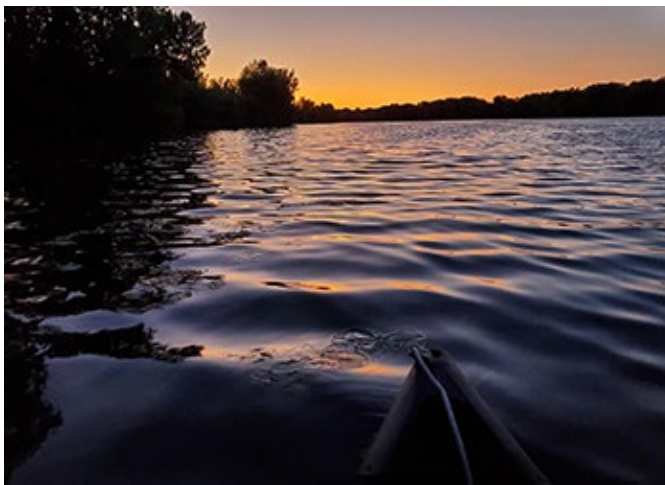
Caring for Michigan's outdoor places and stories since 1921

DNR News

Aug. 31, 2022

Contact: [Matt Lincoln](#), 517-881-3492

Bass River Recreation Area management plan survey available online through Sept. 30



To help guide future planning for the Bass River Recreation Area in Ottawa County, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is asking for public input on a new general management plan for the park.

Visitors, community members, stakeholders and others interested in sharing their opinions, ideas and experiences are encouraged to participate in an [online survey](#), open through Friday, Sept. 30. Links to both the online survey and the project website and available at Michigan.gov/BassRiver.

The DNR uses general management plans to define a long-range planning and management strategy that protects the resources of the park while addressing recreation and education needs and opportunities.

"Public input is a critical component of the planning process, and this survey is one of several opportunities for the public to get involved," said Debbie Jensen, DNR park management plan administrator.

Jensen said that the DNR will host a public open house next year, which will provide an opportunity for people to review and comment on the draft general management plan that will be developed in response to this phase of the public input process.

Bass River Recreation Area is located along the Grand River between Grand Rapids and Grand Haven. The park features 3.5 miles of river frontage and offers opportunities for boating, hiking, hunting, mountain biking and horseback riding.

Additional information on the DNR's general management plan process is available at Michigan.gov/ParkManagementPlans.

For more information about the Bass River Recreation Area survey or the proposed plan, contact Matt Lincoln at LincolnM@Michigan.gov.

B.4 Public Input

The Bass River Recreation Area Draft General Management Plan was available for public review and comment from May 18 to June 14 2023. The draft plan was available on the project website and the public was invited to learn about the plan and share their thoughts at a public open house at the Ottawa County Administration Office on June 7th from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. The public and stakeholders were notified about the meeting and other opportunities to comment on the plan through a press release and internet postings.

A press release went out 3 weeks in advance of the meeting to 52,394 recipients of the government-delivery system, including stakeholders associated with the park.

The press release for the meeting, analytics gathered at the meeting, a list of attendees, comments received, as well as survey results are provided in the following pages.

A total of 35 people attended the meeting. A short presentation about the general management plan process was followed by a presentation of the draft GMP. After the presentation, a question-and-answer session was facilitated and attendees were invited to record their comments and talk to DNR staff members.

Public Meeting Attendees

Michelle Wellman	Kelly Lynch	Tami Vroma
Eric Meadows	Louisa Norris	Jenny Cook
Lisa Lynch	George Merrill	Nicole Ruble
Nancy Vandenbrink	Mike Smith	Brock Rodgers
Denny Sturtevant	Wendy Coon	Matt Krotewicz
David Barnosky	Scott Coon	Alfred Lutz
Tanya Nevms	Carmen Dahlhoff	Chuck Moll
Lisa Wagasky	Mindi Harmon	Karisha Carter
Ron Uplinger Jr.	Hogan Harmon	Phil Whitten
Greg Dykema	Wil Malski	Doug Putnam
Karen Dykema	Philip Kuyers	Jodi Vanderzwaag
James Schoth	Chip Francke	Amy Stewart

DNR/ Ottawa County Employees Present

Matt Lincoln	Pat Whalen
Debbie Jensen	Melissa Vandervelde
Greg Norwood	Nik Kalejs
Addie Dutton	Curt Terhaar



Michigan Department of
Natural Resources
Caring for Michigan's outdoor places and stories since 1921

DNR News

May 18, 2023

Contact: [Matt Lincoln](#), 517-881-3492

DNR seeks public input on Bass River Recreation Area planning



Join the Michigan Department of Natural Resources at a public meeting 6-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 7, to learn about a new draft general management plan for the [Bass River Recreation Area](#).

The meeting will be held in the main conference room of the Ottawa County Fillmore Complex, 12220 Fillmore St. #310 in West Olive. It will begin with a short overview of the draft plan, proposed

improvements and planning process, followed by an opportunity for people to share feedback and questions with DNR staff.

The DNR uses general management plans to define long-range planning and management strategies that protect the resources of state parks, while addressing recreation and education needs and opportunities. The updated plan will replace the park's phase 1 general management plan completed in 2012.

The Bass River Recreation Area is located along the Grand River between Grand Rapids and Grand Haven in Ottawa County. The park is popular for mountain biking, boating, hunting, fishing and horseback riding. It features 10 miles of trails and several bodies of water including over 3 miles of river frontage on the Grand and Bass rivers. A portion of the 1,665-acre park is managed specifically for wildlife management, and an area adjacent to Riverside Park is managed by Ottawa County through a lease agreement.

Survey, project website

Links to the draft plan and an interactive public input survey – open through June 14 – for those who can't attend the meeting can be found at Michigan.gov/BassRiver. Comments also can be shared via email with DNR Parks and Recreation Division land specialist Matt Lincoln at LincolnM@Michigan.gov. He also can field questions about the draft park plan and the June 7 meeting.

Additional information on the DNR's general management plan process is available at Michigan.gov/ParkManagementPlans.


Note to editors: Accompanying photos are available below for download. Caption information follows.







- [Bass River lilies and paddle](#)
- [Bass River open field](#)
- [Bass River lake](#)

Download the new Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app!

Licenses, permits, regulations and more, all in the palm of your hand.

[Learn more ►](#)





Comments Collected During Meeting

- Keep horse trails along the lakeshore and put the paved trail behind that.
- No fishing docks in the area where horses go in the water (west side of lake)
- Tires have been found in the water and should be removed on the west side of the lake
- Do not pave our pits
- Separate horse trail from paved trail (Update maps)
- Add signage "Horses have right-of-way"
- I am a strong advocate for multiple uses of this area and I understand the planning needed for wildlife, mountain biking, road biking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, etc. The Idema Greenway is especially vital as a connector between Grand Rapids and Grand Haven. I believe it will fuel broader interest in all users for the park and become a significant economic driver connecting communities, GVSU And urban and rural.
- I believe a paved trail will be an improvement to the area.

- Roads and parking lots need to be maintained better
- A sign to report littering may help reduce litter
- Parking accessible year round. Winter roads are at your own risk when it snows
- Will equestrians be able to utilize the access easement between N. Cedar/Riverside and Bass River? We would love to please.
- If there are bikes on the Bakale Tract that is a special use why can't horses?
- We currently ride horses on the two-track path on the east side of the park. If this becomes a paved bike path, would equestrians still have a path? (This was answered)
- Put adjacent equestrian trail in at the same as the bike path.
- Please don't pave the parking lot. It is very slippery for loading and unloading horses.
- Please keep the horse trails.

Ten Year Action Goals - Management and Operations

Action Goal	Priority	Priority Stickers/Comments
Complete a natural resource Stewardship Plan for the property, identifying targets for conservation and related natural resource management strategies.	1	1
Establish trail yielding standards and wayfinding to inform park visitors via trail signage and kiosks	1	17
Finalize cooperative agreement between Parks and Recreation Division and Wildlife Division for the Bakale Tract.	1	2
Control invasive species with emphasis on high quality areas	Ongoing	9
Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources	Ongoing	3
Continue to complete and comply with annual safety inspections and plans	Ongoing	1
Review and update Wildfire Plan and Emergency Plan	Ongoing	
Coordinate annual volunteer clean-up, invasive species control and trail maintenance days	Ongoing	18

Continue to improve wildlife habitat using prescribed burns, grass establishment, small food plots and other methods	Ongoing	4
Schedule reoccurring grading of roads and parking lots to reduce potholes and uneven surfaces	Ongoing	19

FRD – Forest Resources Division

Ten Year Action Goals - Capital Outlay

Action Goal	Priority	Priority Stickers/Comments
Expand existing boating access site by adding a ramp	1	5
Pave parking lots and roads in selective areas to reduce maintenance costs, improve accessibility and address ongoing damage caused by illegal ORV's and other vehicles	3	5, 3 – Paving costs a lot and destroys habitat, paved roads and structures will not be usable within 1-3 years due to flooding.
Design and construct a fishing access dock	3	6

Ten Year Action Goals - Small Projects

Action Goal	Priority	Priority Stickers/Comments
Install a vault toilet at the trailhead parking lot off the 104th Avenue entrance	1	3
Modify guardrail ends to be more horse-friendly	1	7
Install trail crossing signage for vehicles along the roadways	1	6

Establish a designated Lower Grand River Water Trail put-in/take-out point and install informational signage	2	1
Work with road commission to install wayfinding signage to the park	2	4
Explore barrier free hunting access opportunities	3	3

Ten Year Action Goals – Partnership Projects

Action Goals	Priority	Priority Stickers/ Comments
Develop the Idema Explorers Trail (paved regional trail) through the park in partnership with Ottawa County.	1	12, 12 – flooding will make the trail unusable in 1-3 years, No paved trail! Separate existing horse trails, where is the funding coming from for this?, Paving will destroy the environment and habitat, Prioritize existing users (Mtn bikers and equestrians) I don't know how you will provide enough distance to keep equestrians safe from the bike path, No paved. Preserve the "natural", Disrupts wildlife, Unpaved.
Perform a Phase 1 Archaeological Study for the proposed Idema Explorers Trail corridor	1	1
Improve wetlands on the Bakale Tract including the removal of existing culverts	2	5
Explore the addition of a mountain bike changing facility	3	1, 1

MEMBA - Michigan Edge Mountain Biking Association

Comments Received from Online Draft Plan Public Input

An interactive survey (Storymap) was available during the public comment period, designed to solicit input from those unable to attend the public input meeting. The Storymap provided information on the draft plan and opportunities to comment on the statements of significance, zoning map and action goals. The Storymap received 121 views during the public comment period.

Statements of Significance

Geographic Location

- Very convenient to ride my horses there
- Prime location

Land Conservation

- The gravel pits is a nice place to go. You can walk your dog ride a bike hunt fish ride horses enjoy the natural beauty of bass river
- The vision of the Grand River Greenway has allowed people to understand how land use affects their quality of life. Preserving these special places and important ecosystems will be more and more important and development pressures and desires for additional recreational opportunities close to home increase.

Water Resources

- Often go with the kayaks
- The implementation of the Lower Grand River Water Trail is being planned in coordination with the Grand River Heritage Trail in Ottawa County. Being able to brand this section of the river as part of the larger Lower Grand River Water Trail and eventually the entire Grand River Water Trail will bring more attention to the area and potentially the need for additional amenities at future access sites. Wayfinding signage will also be important to tie into existing signage.

Trails

- We ride the trailer 2 or 3 times per week
- I haven't hiked the trails in the park, but from some of the public comments in the plan, it sounds like more signage is needed and possibly the addition of a loop.

Wildlife

- There are several sets of swans out there
- The recently published Grand River Coastal Corridor study by Audubon Great Lakes highlighted the importance of the region for migratory bird habitat. A current study is ongoing to investigate the feasibility of creating a landscape-scale conservation plan that could help identify management strategies, priority acquisitions and increased protection of certain areas. The Bass River management plan will be reviewed and integrated into this regional conservation plan to identify common goals.

Ottawa County Partnership

- Ottawa County Parks are the jewels of this region. They created the vision of preserving the ecosystem along the Grand River and other important ecological features in adjacent areas.

Additional Comments

- Establishing permanent protection for all parks, green spaces, and open lands is of utmost importance due to the changing political climate in the region.

Prioritize your top five actions for Bass River Recreation Area



Should any action goals be added to the list?

- The road that you can launch off Cedar Drive/River Road needs major HELP! No one knows how to park, kids are always doing donuts. This need to be improved. Even if you start making everyone have an Ottawa County park pass would help! We can only launch at riverside park now. Parking lot needs to be in order.
- Post large maps with designated trails – horse/hike/bike. Perhaps colored flags to designate each trail.
- Please do not include a campground or day use playground. Bass River is a beautiful place the way it is. The additional improvements and trails will change and apply and increase traffic. Just ask your local law enforcement.
- If vault toilets are added they should be added near the boat launch area, not just the trailhead.
- Definitely grading the parking lot and drive. The gravel is great for biking and horses and adding pavement would just feel too new and unnatural.

Should any action goals be removed from the list?

- Please do not pave Bass River – we absolutely love the outdoors, getaway feeling of the dirt.
- Nothing particular but one of the things I like about Bass River is that its not overly organized with a lot of rules. Its nice that you can kind of wander and do whatever. I'm a big fan of the Ottawa County Open Spaces. It is a nice way to enjoy the outdoors.
- All improvements. Just plow Bass River in the winter.

Additional Comments

- We love riding our horses at Bass! Please don't take away our access to the water! It's one of the few places that we can swim with our horses!
- This park, the equestrian trails, are what draw me to the area. I love that there is an area that allows us to not only ride extensive trails but water as well that we can enjoy.
- I really appreciate Bass River Rec Area, it is off the beaten path and not overly organized. I think it can use a few things but it is nice the way it is. The main thing that can use improvement is halting erosion caused from ORV use, which shouldn't be there anyway if folks would follow the rules.
- I am an equestrian and appreciate the equestrian trails and the efforts to maintain them. I am and will be respectful of this natural resource.
- I am a member of the West Shore Water Ski Club. Our club had access to use Buddy's pond prior to the establishment of the Bass River recreation area and for many years after. At some point it was determined that Buddy's pond should be returned to its natural state. Since it is now in the developed recreation zone I would like to see this use be again allowed. Our club has for many years hosted the Meijer Games at a site we lease out at considerable expense. We are always at

risk of losing this site at any time if the owner wishes to do something with the property. Having a public site for competitive water skiing would be unique in the state. Thank you for your time.

- I attended the June 7th public meeting in Ottawa County and was surprised by some of the "not-so positive" comments regarding the Idema Trail. Most of the concerns came from a few equestrian users and hunters who were fearful that a paved trail will have a negative impact on their access. In a tract this large, there should ample opportunity to accommodate all of the proposed recreation uses, including a non-motorized, paved multi-use pathway. As a nearby resident who bikes, hunts, hikes and kayaks, I see the potential for a non-motorized bike and pedestrian pathway between Grand Haven and Grand Rapids as a significant asset that will connect communities and reap major benefits for the region, attracting interest from thousands of people who, to date, have never heard of the Bass River Recreation Area. Finally, as someone who uses this area frequently and knows the terrain, I believe the Idema Trail truly represents the best hope for ensuring access to persons with disabilities.

Satisfaction with online survey

Those that completed the online survey to provide feedback on the draft plan rated the experience favorably, with an average rating of 4.8 out of 5.

E-mailed/Mailed Comments

Hello all,

I am sending this to all of you who are involved in the Bass River RA Management Plan. I filled out the DNR's on-line survey but I never received confirmation that it was sent. So I don't know if it was received or not.

Basically, I wanted someone to have these 2 PDFs that I created from eBird data. These are all the birds reported at the BRRA. There are two lists (one from the east parking lot and one from the west parking lot). Combined, these lists show about 170 species that have been reported at the site. These documents show when each species was seen month-by-month. The reason I created these lists is that the draft management plan mentions the importance of migratory birds, but nothing about nesting birds and the importance of protecting and managing for them.

Let me know if you have any questions. Please feel free to pass these documents along to others involved. Ignore the yellow bands on these lists (my mistake when copying - they don't mean anything).

Hi Matt,

I am part of Memba, the Michigan's Edge Mountain Biking Association that helps maintain the Mountain Bike multi use trails at Bass River Rec Area. Will see you later tonight.

Just a heads up about the BRRA public feedback meeting tonight. I am seeing local social pages saying they want people to show up around the adjacent parcels at the end of North Cedar to let their voice

known about not developing that area. So, you may get some non-related BRRA questions like that. Many are unaware that is adjacent property and was sold by Ottawa County Road Commission.

It would be great to have a few picnic tables scattered around by the waters edge. Even a couple large logs laid flat for some sitting spots. Maybe consider putting in a handful of in ground charcoal grills in safe spots near the water? You could remove the grates during extremely dry times like right now if fire hazard is a concern?

Also posting a board up with the the rules and maybe a map to the bathroom would be helpful for those who use enjoy the property by water? Something large enough to be noticed from the water.

In addition to the information I sent you (and sent to Greg Norwood) on the management and protection of nesting birds at the BRRA, I also wanted to give some input on the trail signs.

As you know, the BRRA is riddled with trails. Some are designated as trails and others are volunteer trails (made by hikers/bikers etc.) Unless you are someone that visits the site often, it is really hard to navigate at the site. The problem is compounded when you have to designate certain trails as horse only, mountain bikes only, hiking only, cross-country skiing, etc. After deciding what uses are compatible on the same trails (ie, will hiking be allowed on horse trails, etc.) it will be a challenge to mark the trails so visitors know where they can and can't go. This may be further complicated if you have one-way trails for bikes or other users.

I recommend that the trailheads and trail markers are simple and easy for users to navigate throughout the site. A good trail map at trailheads is important. It is also important that the trailhead maps show north going up on the map (like most maps do) and that the trail heads with the maps are also oriented north. It is very difficult for many people to look at a map if they are actually standing looking south (or another direction).

From the trailheads, I think a very simple (and inexpensive) series of posts with numbers and/or colors works well to navigate the trails. For example, if the trailhead map shows an orange trail that is 1.2 miles in length, then a user can just follow the orange dots on the trail markers to navigate on that trail. Numbers can also be used with each intersection being designated a different number. There are lots of variations of these types of signs and I'm sure that some DNR staffers are familiar with these trail signs.

In addition to marking designated trails, I hope that any undesignated or volunteer trails will be closed off to avoid confusion for users. The best way I've found is to hide the trail entrances with brush piles, then scatter some brush periodically along the trail.

To summarize, I hope that a simple but effective trail sign system can be installed on all the trails so different users can easily navigate the trails. If I can be of any help in discussing the trails, I would be glad to do so.

Thanks for your time and good luck on the project.

I hope this letter finds you well. As a concerned taxpayer and regular user of the park, I feel compelled to express my deep reservations regarding the proposed plan to pave the trails where I ride my horse regularly. The gradual reduction of designated areas for horse riding has left us with limited options to provide our equine companions with the exercise they require for their well-being. I strongly believe that natural areas should be preserved in their original form rather than altered for unnecessary purposes.

While I understand the need to accommodate various recreational activities, it seems that there are already ample places designated for bikes and strollers within the park. I fail to comprehend the necessity of paving yet another park, especially one that is currently utilized by horse riders. It is crucial to consider the needs and health of all park users, including equestrians who rely on these trails for their horses' exercise and overall well-being.

One of my concerns revolves around the financial aspects of this proposal. **Who will bear the initial cost of this development project, and more importantly, who will assume responsibility for the ongoing maintenance?** It is essential to clarify the budget allocation for this initiative to ensure that taxpayers' money is being spent judiciously and in the best interest of all park users.

Moreover, **I would like to inquire whether a thorough study has been conducted to determine the usage of the current stretch of bike path on 231 and North Cedar, which the proposed paved bike trail aims to connect with.** It is vital to assess the existing volume of usage before embarking on a project that might not yield a significant increase in the number of cyclists. Instead, I propose that a more direct bike path through Bass River would serve as a less disruptive alternative, avoiding the frequently used horse and mountain bike trails.

In 2011, the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation and open space plan conducted an accessibility analysis, which rated 12 out of the 20 assessed parks as completely accessible. This assessment included features such as barrier-free bathrooms, picnic areas, and pathways with hard surfaces or crushed gravel. I believe the residents of Ottawa County already have ample opportunities for individuals with different abilities, as well as those using strollers and wheelchairs, to enjoy the beautiful parks and nature surrounding them. Therefore, the addition of more paved recreational areas appears unnecessary.

https://miottawa.org/Parks/pdf/plan/2011/ch7.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0TLqILe_pdhsFqyFGAIeIPoCBPxuMWNK8hixMVXWgjoqcu1Gu9K1kkhTM

I also find it perplexing that the survey received responses from over 1600 individuals, yet it failed to include a question as fundamental as, "Does anyone want a paved or developed trail that runs through Bass River Recreation Area?" The opinions and desires of the park users should be given utmost consideration and not disregarded in decision-making processes. **Why wasn't that question on the survey?**

Another pressing concern is the potential impact on hunting activities within the pristine part of the park. Hunting serves as an essential means for many residents in our area to acquire their food sources. I request clarification on whether hunting will be banned in the affected area after the trail is paved, as this could significantly disrupt traditional practices and adversely affect local communities. **Is there a plan to ban hunting?**

Additionally, considering the frequent flooding and marshy conditions experienced in this area every spring and summer, I question the durability of pavement in such an environment. **Will the proposed paved trail be constructed to withstand these conditions, or will it succumb to damage and maintenance issues? Or are they going to use additional natural resources to build bridges?** I also worry about the potential removal of trees in order to prevent their roots from damaging the pavement. Preserving the natural beauty of the park, including its trees and waterways, should be a priority in any development plan.

Mr. Lincoln, I kindly request that you thoroughly reconsider the proposed paving and developing of the trails in Bass River Recreation Area. I urge you to prioritize the preservation of natural areas and the diverse recreational needs of all park users.

True transparency regarding the project's financial aspects, maintenance responsibilities, and thorough studies on existing usage patterns are crucial for making an informed decision. I don't understand why we weren't allowed to continue to ask questions during the meeting. Many of my friends felt like this was a fake meeting and that all the decisions have already been made without actual input from the park users and taxpayers. **Why was the meeting set up to silence us?**

Furthermore, I would like to draw your attention to the pristine Bakale tract within the park, which was specifically designated for hunting, trapping, and birding activities. **Has a study been conducted to see if any protected flora or fauna is involved?** It is deeply troubling to learn that the proposed paving project would encroach upon this unique and ecologically important area. The Bakale tract not only provides a sanctuary for wildlife but also serves as a cherished space for hunters, trappers, and birding enthusiasts. Paving through this untouched habitat would not only disrupt these traditional activities but also threaten the delicate balance of the ecosystem.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will take these concerns into account and act in the best interest of the park and its users. I look forward to hearing your response and the actions taken to address these issues.

It was good to meet you (I have met Curt and Melissa before) and the whole team last week 6-7-23 for the Bass River Rec Area feedback for 10-year GMP. The meeting was good and the 9-10 equestrians are now aware of paved bike path.

My Additional Comments:

I just want to exclaim my approval of the GMP 2023. I also approve of the Idema Grand River Explorer Trail. I do understand that most of the horse trail is okay but some of it may have to be moved to accommodate the bike path. I do not think most of the equestrians understood that. I assume the point on the 94-page GMP where it mentioned improvements to "Better Maintain Trail" it was talking about horse trails..?? Mountain bike / hike trails are maintained by Memba (Michigan Mountain Bike Assoc) and do not need additional maintaining.

Just letting you know, there will be a petition coming your way as seen attached here. Started by the woman in the audience back left, Wendy Coon.

[Petition · Stop The Proposed Idema Trail To Cut Through Michigan's Bass River Recreation Area · Change.org](#)

Mountain bike trails are maintained by the local chapter of Mountain Bike Association called Memba. Bass River has always had a pretty good collaboration between the two groups, especially since the perspective trails are formally separated. It appears the equestrians have not been able to mobilize a volunteer group to consistently maintain there trails, and ask for MDNR assistance. Mountain bike trail only ask for assistance for troublesome downed trees. During the mdnr meeting it became clear that many of the equestrians have not been aware of a bike path which will connect Grand Haven to Grand Rapids and has been in the news for many years. Covid delayed the Bass River segment until now. This is not a mountain bike trail and does not add to mountain bike/hiking singletrack trails. It is also not part of the M-231 Spoonville Trail that some people brought up. I appreciate the improvements the MDNR has done at Bass River and will continue to help where I can.

What if? They rented mountain bikes and all terrain strollers and wheelchairs and promoted Bass River Recreation Area as one of the last pristine parks in the state? They rent skiis and snowshoes at other parks. They have all terrain wheelchairs at other parks. If they still have the need to pave, why not pave next to roads that are already paved?

Thank you.

<https://www.change.org/SaveBassRiverRecreationArea>

APPENDIX C

Capital Outlay Projects Opinion of Probable Cost

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). From these sources, the annual capital outlay budget for state parks varies from year to year and has averaged approximately \$14 million per year over the past few years.

One-time appropriations from the state General Fund may also be ear marked for specific needs but are not guaranteed. In 2022, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was approved by the Michigan legislature which directed \$250 million towards state park infrastructure, trails and a new state park in Flint. Although this funding is welcomed, the amount of need is still estimated to be in the hundreds of millions due to the amount of aging infrastructure in the state park system.

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

Estimated Cost of Proposed Developments

The following table provides an estimate of probable cost for each capital outlay development project proposed at Bass River Recreation Area 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 Goal	Priority	Opinion of Probable Cost
Expand existing boating access site by adding a ramp	1	\$ 75,000
Perform a Phase 1 Archaeological Study for the proposed Idema Explorer's Trail corridor	1	\$ 20,000
Develop the Idema Explorer's Trail (paved regional trail) through the park in partnership with Ottawa County	1	\$ 2,600,000
Pave parking lots and roads in selective areas to reduce maintenance costs, improve accessibility and address ongoing damage caused by illegal ORV's and other vehicles (Main drive to trailhead and trailhead parking lot)	3	\$ 1,750,000
Design and construct a fishing access dock	3	\$ 250,000
	Total	\$ 4,695,000

**Does not guarantee funding.*

***Excludes costs yet to be identified by studies to determine best way to proceed and costs associated with projects that are already funded.*

APPENDIX D

Cooperative Agreements



Michigan Department of Natural Resources

RECEIVED

JUL 28 2008

Cheboygan Mgmt. Unit

LEASE **L-9968**

BETWEEN

THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, AS LESSOR

AND

OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, AS LESSEE

This Lease is entered into by the State of Michigan through its **Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**, hereinafter called "DNR" and/or "Lessor," and **Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission**, hereinafter called "Lessee," whose address is 12220 Fillmore Street, West Olive, MI 49460.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 503(1) of Public Act 451 of 1994 (1994 PA 451), as amended, MCL 324.503(1), the DNR is required to: protect and conserve the natural resources of the State; provide and develop facilities for outdoor recreation; prevent the destruction of timber and other forest growth by fire or otherwise; promote the reforestation of forest lands belonging to the State; prevent and guard against the pollution of lakes and streams within the State and enforce all laws provided for that purpose with all authority granted by law; and foster and encourage the protection and propagation of game and fish.

WHEREAS, the Purpose of this Lease is to allow Lessee to develop and maintain a pedestrian path upon a designated portion of State Lands. The DNR feels the leased parcel of land has a more natural connection to the adjacent Riverside Park than it does to Bass River Recreation Area. Therefore, the DNR has determined the County is best suited to develop and maintain this parcel of land.

WHEREAS, the Director of the DNR, or his or her lawful designated Representative, has determined that the purpose of this Lease is necessary to implement Part 5 of 1994 PA 451, as amended, because development and maintenance of a pedestrian path upon a designated portion of State lands will help protect and conserve the natural resources and provide facilities for outdoor recreation.

WHEREAS, Lessee is willing to develop and maintain a pedestrian path upon a designated portion of State Lands, which are located within the Bass River Recreation Area, in Robinson Township of Ottawa County.

____ INIT

THEREFORE, Lessor and Lessee, for consideration specified in this Lease, agree to the following terms and conditions:

1. DESCRIPTION OF PREMISES - Lessor hereby leases to Lessee the Premises, described as:

- Commencing just west of the corner intersection of Cedar Street and Sleeper Street. Continue in an easterly direction, which follows the centerline of Sleeper Street. Once you reach the Grand River shoreline, continue in a SE direction to where the land comes to a point. Then continue along the bayou shoreline in a NW direction back to the northerly border line, which parallels Sleeper Street.
(see **Attachment B**)
- Five (5) feet buffer area, on either side of the constructed pathway.
(Buffer area is to allow for maintenance of the constructed infrastructure.)

1002368
1002366
1002363

Including land owned by the State of Michigan and/or the DNR that is located within the Bass River Recreation Area, County of Ottawa, State of Michigan.

This Lease is subject to the DNR's public notice process.

2. USE OF PREMISES

- A. Lessee hereby acknowledges that the use and occupancy of the Premises shall be subject to the provisions of 1994 PA 451, as amended, and confined to the following specific uses:
- 1) To facilitate the development and improvement of a pedestrian pathway, as detailed on **Attachment A**, including excavation, trail construction, invasive plants control, and signage. Any tree or woody vegetation to be removed must be approved on site by DNR Representative.
 - 2) Trail location must be staked by the Lessee and approved by the DNR Representative prior to the start of any construction and must be kept away from the wetland margin.
 - 3) Any other use which is agreed to in writing by both parties.
- B. Lessee shall obtain Lessor's prior consent, in writing, signed by the DNR Representative, to use the Premises for any purpose not listed in this Section. Lessor may terminate this Lease, as provided in Section 23A(3), if at any time, Lessee uses the Premises, without express written permission by Lessor, for purposes other than those enumerated in this Section.
- C. **PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES** - The following activities on the Premises are prohibited:
- 1) Authorizing public use of Premises in violation of any State law, order or regulation.
 - 2) Use of non-native species in any re-vegetation effort on the Premises.

- 3) Storage of equipment, placement of signs, or use of camping trailers or tents without prior written approval of the DNR Representative. All supplies and equipment must be stored safely and inside.
 - 4) Any clearing activity outside the Premises.
 - 5) Dumping or disposal of garbage/trash, spare parts, hazardous material, scrap metal and other waste onto the Premises.
 - 6) Disposal of trees, tree tops, branches, roots, stumps, and other vegetative debris onto the Premises.
 - 7) Authorization of "Naming Rights" for any portion of the Premises without prior Department approval.
- D. Lessor may terminate this Lease, as provided in Section 23A(3), if prohibited activities occur on the Premises at any time during the term of this Lease.
3. **WASTE** - Lessee agrees not to commit, or allow to be committed, any waste or nuisance on the Premises and will not use, or permit to be used, the Premises for any unlawful purpose.
 4. **LESSOR'S OPERATIONS** - Lessee covenants that its use of the Premises shall, at no time, interfere with the uses or operations of Lessor or the Public on the Premises. Lessee covenants that its use of the Premises shall, at no time, interfere with the Public's use of any State land that may be adjacent to the Premises. Lessee shall not prevent Lessor, its agents, or the public from crossing the Premises to access the adjoining State lands.
- As this area remains a popular waterfowl hunting area, Lessee agrees that the DNR maintains authority to regulate hunting, trapping, and fishing activities on the Premises.
5. **ADMINISTRATION** - The Plainwell PRD District Supervisor, or his/her designated representative, is the DNR Administrator of this Lease (collectively, DNR Representative). The Lessee shall designate in writing to the DNR Representative one(1) person and one(1) alternate person responsible to be the contact person for the Lessor regarding the administration of the Lease. This person shall be authorized to make decisions regarding the maintenance and operation of the Premises.
 6. **CONDITION OF PREMISES** - Lessee stipulates, represents and warrants that Lessee has examined the Premises, and that it is taking possession of the Premises in "as is" condition. Lessee acknowledges that it has not made an independent environmental assessment of the Premises, and agrees to maintain the Premises in its present condition.
 7. **TERM** - Lessor shall lease the Premises to Lessee for a twenty-five(25) year initial term of possession beginning upon actual possession at 12:01 a.m. on **May 1, 2008**, and ending at midnight on **April 30, 2033**, or such later date as provided in Section 9. The beginning and ending Lease term dates may be altered by mutual written consent to reflect the actual date of occupancy. If the occupancy date is changed, Section 7 shall also be changed accordingly.

____ INIT

8. **RENT** - Lessee shall pay rent, and/or goods or services, to Lessor in the amount of **\$0.00** per annum. In lieu of cash payment, Lessee will be responsible for the cost of all development, maintenance, operations, and renovations to the site.
- Failure to perform maintenance or improvements to the site as necessary will be grounds for the Department to terminate the Lease.
9. **OPTION TO RENEW** - reserved
10. **SERVICES BY LESSEE** - Lessee shall furnish the following services at its own expense:
- A. Lessee will operate and maintain the Premises as provided for in Section 2A above at its sole expense.
 - B. Prior to beginning any site preparation or construction taking place on the Premises, Lessee will be responsible for providing construction drawings and details, and securing Lessor written approval.
 - C. Lessee responsible for any permits and inspections required, and Lessee must provide copies of permits and inspections to Lessor within five(5) days of receipt.
 - D. Lessee will be responsible for the enforcement of all state laws and local ordinances on the property.
 - E. Lessee shall maintain standards of cleanliness that will reflect favorable public opinion on the Lessee and the DNR. If the DNR Representative determines that the Lessee has failed to maintain an acceptable standard of cleanliness, and, if after forty-eight (48) hours or two(2) working days, following verbal and written notification by the Lessor, the problem is not rectified to the satisfaction of Lessor, Lessor may perform or have the duties of the Lessee performed by others at Lessee's sole expense.
 - F. Lessee is responsible to immediately investigate and report to the Lessor all instances of suspected trespass.
11. **FEES** - Lessee may charge a fee or request donations in connection with Lessee's use of the Premises.
- All fees shall have prior approval of the DNR Representative, if permitted. Differences in admission or use of the Premises may not be instituted on the basis of residence. Any fee that might be charged will be used to operate, restore, maintain and enhance the Premises.
- Furthermore, where snowmobiling is permitted, trails will continue to be operated under a separate snowmobile maintenance and grooming agreement. Lessee may not charge any fee for snowmobile use of the trails.
- Lessee shall keep accurate books, records and accounting of its operations under this Lease distinctly separate and apart from Lessee's other operations. Lessee shall make all reports concerning the operation available to the Lessor at such time as the Lessor may require.
- Lessor, upon thirty (30) days notice, shall have the right to audit books, records and accounting of Lessee's operations for this Lease.
12. **ASSIGNMENT AND SUBLEASE** - Lessee shall neither assign, sublet, nor grant any license for use of the Premises, or any part thereof. Lessee may,

____ INIT

however, enter into maintenance agreements with third parties to fulfill Section 10 above.

13. **ALTERATIONS** - No alterations, modifications, or improvements shall be made to the Premises without the prior written consent of the DNR Representative, which Lessee shall request at least thirty(30) days in advance of such alteration, modification, or improvement. At the expiration or cancellation of the Lease, all alterations, modifications, and improvements to the Premises shall become the property of Lessor unless otherwise agreed in writing by Lessor. In the event that the parties agree that Lessee may remove Lessee improvements, Lessee shall restore the Premises to its original condition.
14. **LAWS, CODES AND PERMITS** - Lessee shall comply with all applicable federal, state or local regulations, including, but not limited to, all environmental laws, and codes and will obtain any necessary permits in connection with its use of the Premises.

Furthermore, Lessee shall comply with all acquisition and development grant obligations existing at the time of this Lease.
15. **DAMAGE and REPAIRS** - Lessee shall make repairs to the Premises resulting from damage that exceeds the normal wear and tear expected from the lawful and proper use of the Premises.
16. **INSPECTION of PREMISES** - Lessor and Lessor's agents and employees shall have the right at all reasonable times during the term of this Lease, and any renewal thereof, to enter the Premises for the purposes of making any inspections, repairs, additions, or alterations as may be deemed appropriate by Lessor for the preservation of the Premises.
17. **INDEMNIFICATION** - Lessee hereby covenants and agrees to indemnify and save harmless, the State of Michigan, its departments, officers, employees and agents, from any and all claims and demands, for all loss, injury, death or damage, that any person or entity may have or make, in any manner, arising out of any occurrence related to (1) issuance of this Lease; (2) the activities authorized by this Lease; and (3) the use or occupancy of the Premises which are the subject of this Lease by the Lessee, its employees, contractors, or its authorized representatives.
18. **LIABILITY** - Lessee hereby releases, waives, discharges and covenants not to sue the State of Michigan, its departments, officers, employees and agents, from any and all liability to Lessee, its officers, employees and agents, for all losses, injury, death or damage, and any claims or demands thereto, on account of injury to person or property, or resulting in death of Lessee, its officers, employees or agents, in reference to the activities authorized by this Lease.

Lessee shall report to the Lessor any incident that may result in personal injury or property damage. Lessee shall make complete reports in writing to the DNR Representative on forms provided by the DNR (attached) or such other form approved by the Lessor within 24 hours of any such incident. Incidents resulting in serious personal injury, death, or property damage estimated to exceed \$100.00 are to be reported to the DNR Representative immediately, by telephone or in person. A written report is to follow as described above.

19. **INSURANCE:** Lessee shall provide certificates of insurance listing the State of Michigan, its departments, boards, agencies, commissions, officers, and employees as additional insureds, to Lessor within thirty(30) calendar days following the execution and delivery of this Lease to Lessee, and every year thereafter, for the following insurance coverage. The insurance policies shall provide that they may not be modified, canceled, or allowed to expire without thirty(30) days' prior written notice given to Lessor.
- A. Lessee shall obtain General Liability Insurance, naming Lessor, its officers and employees as additional insureds and protecting against all claims, demands, suits, actions or causes of action and judgments, settlements or recoveries, for bodily injury or property damage arising out of a condition of the Premises, or arising in connection with or as a direct or indirect result of the Lessee's use and occupancy of the Premises or its exercise of the right and privileges granted in the Lease. Lessee agrees to maintain a minimum policy limit, in the amount of:
 - \$ 500,000 per occurrence for property damage
 - \$1,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury
 - \$2,000,000 aggregate
 - B. Lessee covenants that it will, during the continuance of the term of this Lease, keep the buildings and improvements now or hereafter located on the Premises, insured by an insurance company or companies that has a rating of A- (A minus) or better, as listed by AM Best Co., against loss or damage for all risks as are currently embraced in the standard extended coverage endorsement in the State of Michigan, and in an amount equal to the full replacement value of said buildings and improvements.
 - C. Lessee shall obtain Workers' Compensation Insurance for Lessee's employees' claims under Michigan Workers' Compensation Act or similar employee benefit act or any other state act applicable to an employee, along with Employer's Liability Insurance for claims for damages because of bodily injury, occupational sickness or disease or death of an employee when Workers Compensation may not be an exclusive remedy, subject to a limit of liability of not less than \$100,000 each accident.
 - D. Lessee shall maintain automobile no-fault coverage as required by law.
 - E. Lessor reserves the right to reassess the minimum policy limits requirement set forth above every five(5) years, or as determined necessary by Lessor.
20. **NON-DISCRIMINATION -** Lessee, its agents, employees and subcontractors shall comply with the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, 1976 PA 453 as amended, MCL 37.2101 *et seq.*; MSA 3.548 (101) *et seq.*; the Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act, 1976 PA 220, as amended, MCL 37.1101; MSA 3.550 (101) *et seq.*, and all other federal, state and local fair employment practices and equal opportunity laws and covenants that it shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment, to be employed in the performance of this Lease, with respect to his/her hire, tenure, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, or any matter directly or indirectly related to employment, because of his/her race, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, marital status, or physical or mental disability that is unrelated to the individual's ability

____ INIT

to perform the duties of a particular job or position. Lessee agrees to include in every subcontract entered into for the performance of this Lease, this covenant not to discriminate in employment. A breach of this covenant is a material breach of this Lease. This covenant is cross-referenced in Section 23.

- 21. UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES** - Lessee shall comply with the Employers Engaging in Unfair Labor Practices Act, 1980 PA 278, as amended, MCL 423.321 et seq.; MSA 17.458(21) et seq. This covenant is cross-referenced in Section 23.
- 22. DISPUTES** - Except as otherwise provided for in this agreement, any dispute among any multiple Lessees that have executed Leases with the DNR to maintain and operate portions of the contiguous Premises, that concern obligations and benefits arising under this agreement, which is not disposed of by this agreement, shall be decided by Parks and Recreation (PRD) Chief, who shall make a written decision and mail or otherwise furnish a copy of the decision to all of the parties.
- A. The written decision of the PRD Chief provided for above shall be binding upon the parties and shall constitute a final decision of the agency.
- B. This "Disputes" clause does not preclude consideration of questions of law in connection with decisions provided for in the dispute subparagraph above. Nothing in this agreement, however, shall be construed as making final the decision of any administrative official, representative or board on the question of law.
- 23. CANCELLATION** -
- A. Lessor may cancel this Lease provided Lessee is notified in writing at least thirty(30) days prior to the effective date of cancellation and any one of the following occur:
- 1) The Premises are no longer being used for the purposes identified in this Lease.
 - 2) Lessee provided the DNR with information, in its application for this Lease or at any time during the Lease term, that was false or fraudulent.
 - 3) Lessee fails to perform any of its obligations under this Lease, and such failure is not cured within ninety(90) calendar days after written notice of default to Lessee.
 - 4) Lessee or any subcontractor, manufacturer or supplier of Lessee appears in the register compiled by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, pursuant to 1980 PA 278, as amended, MCL 423.321 et seq.; MSA 17.458(21) et seq. (Employers Engaging in Unfair Labor Practices Act). This covenant is cross-referenced in Section 21.
- B. Lessor may cancel this Lease provided Lessee is notified, in writing, at least ninety(90) days prior to the effective date of cancellation, if the DNR deems cancellation is in the best interest of the State of Michigan.
- 24. QUIET ENJOYMENT** - Upon payment of the rent and the performance of the conditions outlined herein, Lessee may peacefully and quietly have, hold, and

enjoy the Premises, provided that the use of the Premises by Lessee is maintained open to the general public.

25. **RESERVATION** - Lessor reserves the right to grant rights-of-way and easements of any kind and nature over and across said Premises and to grant or exercise all other rights and privileges of every kind and nature not herein specifically granted.
26. **HOLDOVER TENANCY** - If Lessee remains in possession of the Premises after the natural expiration of this Lease, with the consent of Lessor but without a renewal of this Lease, pursuant to Section 9, a new tenancy from year-to-year shall be created between Lessor and Lessee. The new tenancy shall be subject to all of the terms and conditions of this Lease, except that such tenancy shall be terminable upon fifteen(15) days written notice served by either party.
27. **NOTICES** - Any notice(s) to Lessor or to Lessee required by this Lease shall be complete if submitted in writing and transmitted by personal delivery (with signed delivery receipt), or certified or registered mail, return receipt requested. Unless either party notifies the other in writing of a different mailing address, notices to Lessor and Lessee shall be transmitted to the addresses listed below:

To LESSOR:

Land Administering Division (LAD)

State of Michigan
Department of Natural Resources
Chief, Parks and Recreation Division
P.O. Box 30257
Lansing, Michigan 48909

and LAD Administrator

State of Michigan
Department of Natural Resources
Plainwell Operations Service Center
621 N. 10th Street
Plainwell, MI 49080
Attn: PRD District Supervisor
(269) 685-6851

To LESSEE:

Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission
12220 Fillmore Street
West Olive, MI 49460
Attn: John Scholtz, Director
(616) 738-4810

and Lessee Alternate

28. **NOTICES – EFFECTIVE TIME/DATE** - Notices shall be deemed effective as of 12:00 noon, Eastern Standard Time (EST) on the third(3rd) business day following the date of mailing, if sent by mail. Business day is defined as any day other than a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. A receipt from the U.S. Postal Service, or comparable agency performing such function, shall be conclusive evidence of the date of mailing.
29. **INTERPRETATION** - This Lease shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan.

____ INIT

30. **NO UNNAMED ENTITIES/ PARTNERS** - Lessee covenants that there are no unnamed entities or partners having authority over the operation or management of the Premises and further represents that Lessee is the only entity responsible for carrying out Lessee's responsibilities.
31. **SEVERABILITY** - Should any provision of this Lease, or any addenda thereto, be found to be illegal, or otherwise unenforceable by a court of law, such provision shall be severed from the remainder of the Lease, and such action shall not affect the enforceability of the remaining provisions of the Lease.
32. **REQUIRED APPROVALS** - This Lease shall not be binding or effective on either party until executed (and witnessed and notarized as necessary) by Lessor and Lessee.
33. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND ENCLOSURES** - This Lease constitutes the entire agreement between the parties with regard to this transaction and may be amended only in writing and executed in the same manner as this Lease was originally executed.

LESSOR

WITNESS TO LESSOR

Witness

Yolanda Taylor
(please print)

Yolanda Taylor
Witness Signature

8/6/08
Date

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Director or Designee**

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
DNR Parks and Recreation
(please print)

Ronald A. Olson
Signature

8/6/08
Date

Witness

Cheri Lee
(please print)

Cheri Lee
Witness Signature

8/6/08
Date

State of Michigan, County of Ingham

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on this 6th day of August, 2008, by Ronald A. Olson, for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Diane Munson

Diane Munson, Notary Public

State of Michigan,

County of:

Oakland

My Commission

expires:

July 4, 2011

Acting in the County of: Ingham

DIANE M. MUNSON
NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
My Commission Expires July 4, 2011
Acting in the County of Ingham

LESSEE –

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties to this Lease subscribe their names on the date set forth below:

WITNESS TO LESSEE

Witness

John Scholtz
(please print)
[Signature]
Witness Signature
7/22/08
Date

Lessee

Donald G. Disselkoen, Chair
(please print)
[Signature]
Lessee Signature
7-22-08
Date

Title: Chairman

Federal ID No. 38-6004883

Witness

John Scholtz
(please print)
[Signature]
Witness Signature
7/22/08
Date

Lessee

Daniel C. Krueger
(please print)
[Signature]
Lessee Signature
7-22-08
Date

Title: County Clerk

Federal ID No. 38-6004883

State of Michigan, County of Ottawa

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on this 22nd day of July, 2008, by Donald Disselkoen, for Lessee.

Daniel Krueger

Sherrell S. Costello

, Notary Public

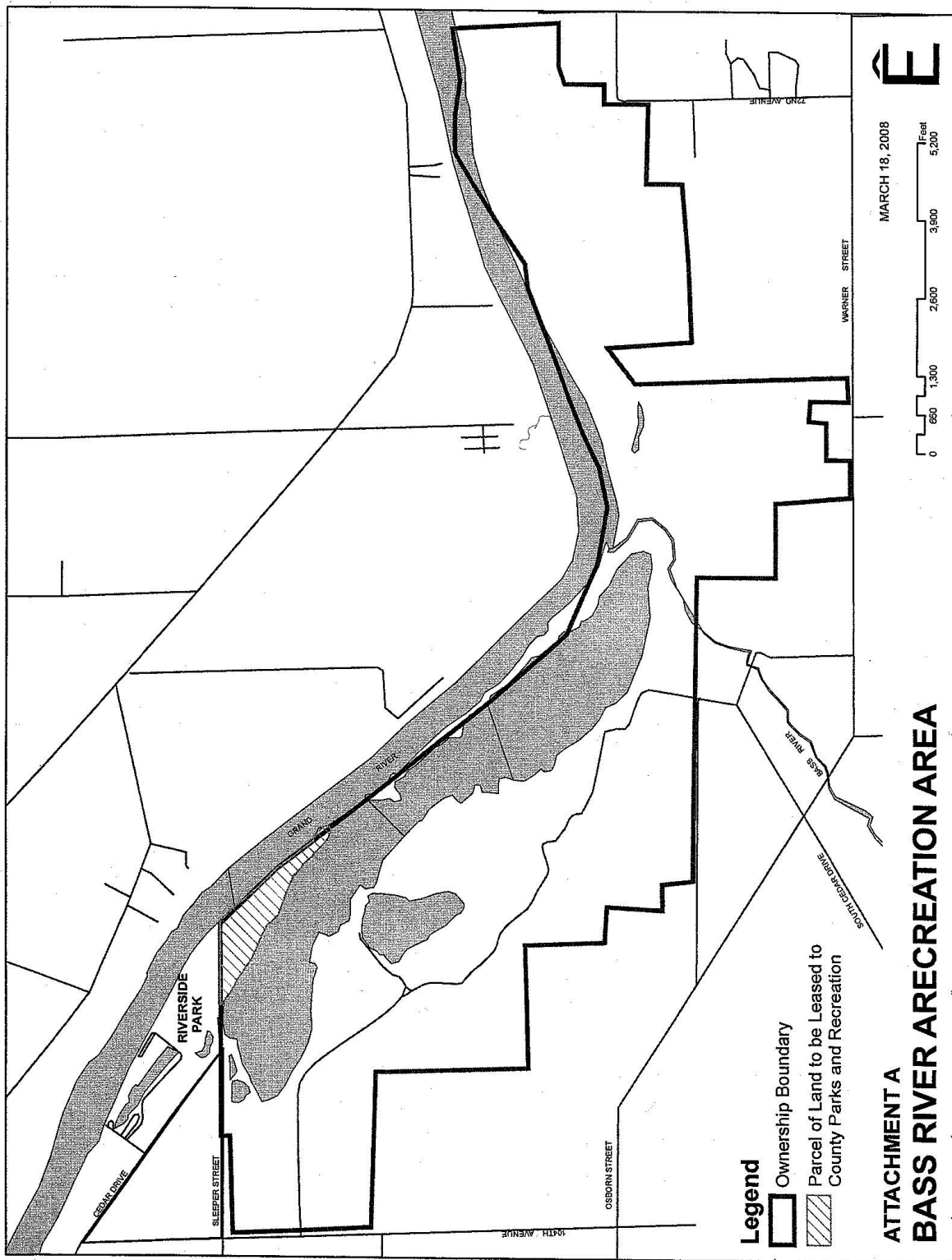
SHERRELL S. COSTELLO
NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF OTTAWA
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 9-11-2013
ACTING IN THE COUNTY OF OTTAWA

State of Michigan, County of Ottawa

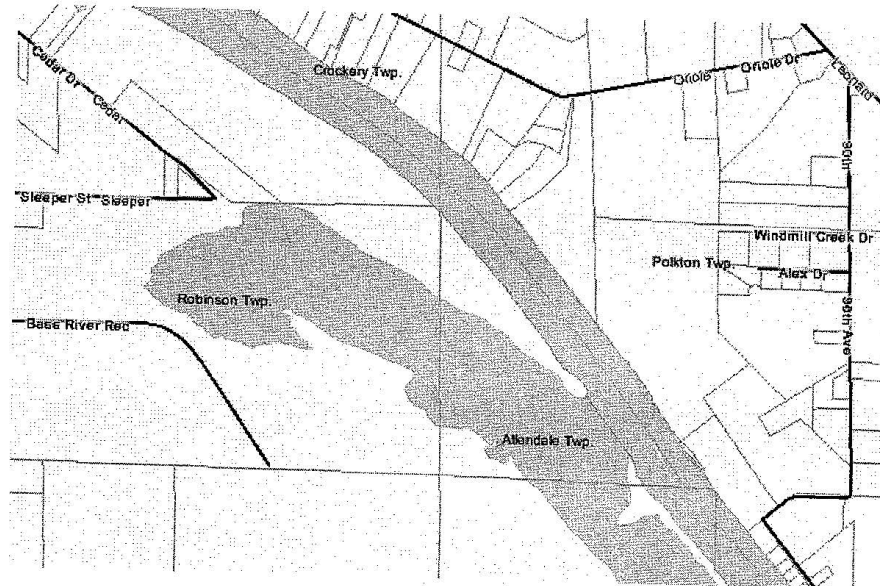
My Commission expires: 9-11-2013

Acting in the County of Ottawa

INIT



**ATTACHMENT B
BASS RIVER RECREATION AREA**





STATE OF MICHIGAN
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
LANSING



May 13, 2002

TO: K. L. Cool, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

Transaction: Joint Wildlife and Parks and Recreation Land Acquisition
and Boundary Dedication
Bass River Recreation Area – Ottawa County

Purchase: 550 acres - \$3,000,000.00
(1 ¼ miles of water frontage along the Grand River)
(2,400 feet of water frontage along Bass River)
(Optioned at 13.85 per cent over appraisal)

Description: Part of Sections 8, 9, and 17 further described in "Attachment A", T7N,
R14W – Ottawa County

Seller: Myrtle-Jean Bakale as Trustee of the Myrtle J. Bakale Trust, West Olive,
Michigan

Option Expires: July 24, 2002

Stipulation: Vendor consents to a sale of these premises at \$3,000,000.00, however, it is
understood that said premises may in fact have a monetary worth in excess
of that amount, in which case any value in excess thereof is considered to be
a gift to the State of Michigan.

Reservation: Vendor reserves (1) hunting rights and the right to occupy the premises until
December 31, 2002, and (2) the right to comply with existing third-party
agreement relative to the harvest of Christmas trees on less than 10 acres in
the E ½ of NW ¼ of Sec. 17, T7N, R14W, until December 31, 2003, that
date being the expiration of the said third-party agreement.

Appraisal: Land and timber \$2,635,000.00; Improvements \$0; Total \$2,635,000.00

Relocation Costs: None

Authority: Part 21 of Act 451, Public Acts of 1994 as amended.

Notice: This item appeared on the Department's May 28, 2002 Calendar and is
eligible for approval on June 4, 2002.

44

Keith J. Charters-Chair • Jim Campbell • Nancy A. Douglas • Paul Eiselo • Bob Gamer • William Parlat • Frank C. Wheatlaka

STEVENS T. MASON BUILDING • P.O. BOX 30028 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7528
www.michigan.gov • (517) 373-2329

Comments:

The offered private parcel is located in the north-central part of Ottawa County, equidistant between the cities of Grand Haven on the west, and Grand Rapids, on the east. The parcel adjoins the easterly boundary of 1,115 acres of State-owned land, purchased in 1994 and which is now administered as the Bass River Recreation Area.

The offered private parcel contains 550 acres with over 1 ¼ miles of water frontage along the Grand River and nearly 2,400 feet of water frontage along the Bass River. This unique, undeveloped, large-acreage tract is characterized by a level to gently rolling topography exhibiting a variety of soil drainage conditions. Mixed northern hardwoods and scattered conifers dominate the forest cover and limited areas are utilized for agricultural purposes. The parcel contains an unusually diverse and especially productive wildlife habitat which provides a home for a myriad of wildlife species including deer, turkeys and other upland game birds, songbirds, migrating sandhill cranes, heron rookery, raptors, local and migrant bald eagles, various waterfowl, reptiles, amphibians and is also the location of the first confirmed river otter sightings on the lower Grand River in recent decades. In addition, frontage along the Grand River and the Bass River provides exceptional fishing opportunities and boating opportunities at this site, as well as direct access to the waters of Lake Michigan located approximately 15 miles to the west.

A 100 horsepower water pump and small system of channels, drainage ditches and small berms constitute the only major improvement evident on this tract and allows for some manipulation of water levels on portions of agricultural land near the Grand River. Access is provided by frontage along Osborn Street and Warner Street, both county maintained roadways. Trail roads provide good interior access throughout this tract. State-owned land managed as the Bass River Recreation Area adjoins along the west edge of this parcel and provides an additional 1,115 acres and 1½ miles of frontage along the Grand River at this location.

Support for acquisition of this riverine corridor has been received from local governmental units, private citizens, and various wildlife oriented constituencies. Pledges of monetary support to utilize toward purchase have been received from Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (\$50,000.00), Michigan Duck Hunters Association (\$10,000.00), and Macatawa Bay Waterfowl Association (\$25,000.00). Ottawa County has purchased several parcels of property along the Grand River in this locale, which are dedicated for public recreation purposes and will serve to compliment this acquisition effort by the State.

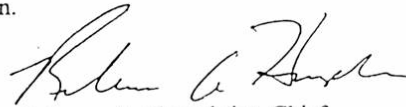
Acquisition of this tract will expand and consolidate State ownership, secure valuable wildlife habitat and significantly increase public recreational opportunities in an area adjacent to major population centers of Michigan.

45

- Recommendations:
- (1) That this tract be approved for purchase with payment to be made from funds appropriated for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Bass River Recreation Area, as contained in Act 120, Public Acts of 2001, and from funds pledged by Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Michigan Duck Hunters Association, and Macatawa Bay Waterfowl Association.
 - (2) That this tract be dedicated as part of the Bass River Recreation Area with wetland management, outdoor education, and wildlife-related recreational opportunities serving as the primary focus.
 - (3) That Wildlife Division and Parks and Recreation Bureau be assigned the responsibility of co-managers of the site upon completion of the purchase and expiration of the use reservation.



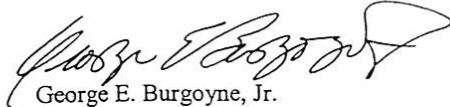
Lowen Schuett, Chief
Property Management



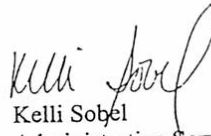
Rebecca A. Humphries, Chief
Wildlife

George Bob
FOR

Rodney A. Stokes, Chief
Parks and Recreation



George E. Burgoyne, Jr.
Resource Management Deputy



Kelli Sobel
Administrative Services Deputy

I approve the staff recommendations.



K. L. Cool
Director

6-7-02

Date Approved

46

"Attachment A"

Legal Descriptions
for the
Myrtle-Jean Bakale Tract

Government Lot 1, also the Southeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4, also Government Lot 2, except the South 32 acres, also Government Lot 3, North of Bayou and Bennett's Creek, also Government Lot 4, North of Bennett's Creek and East of Bass River, all in Section 8, Town 7 North, Range 14 West.

That part of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 and that part of Government Lot 2 lying West of the North and South River Road so-called, also the Southwest 1/4, except the South 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4, Section 9, Town 7 North, Range 14 West, also except that part of the South 1/2 of Section 9, Town 7 North, Range 14 West, Allendale Township, Ottawa County, Michigan, being described as: Commencing at the South 1/4 corner of said Section 9; thence North 665.72 feet along the North and South 1/4 line of said Section to the Point of Beginning; thence West 333.03 feet along the South line of the North 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of said Section; thence North 300.00 feet; thence East 333.03 feet; thence South 300.00 feet along the North and South 1/4 line of said Section to the Point of Beginning.

And also except that part of the South 1/2 of Section 9, Town 7 North, Range 14 West, Allendale Township, Ottawa County, Michigan, being described as: Commencing at the South 1/4 corner of said Section 9; thence North 1031.79 feet along the North and South 1/4 line of said Section to the Point of Beginning; thence West 333.03 feet parallel with the South line of the North 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of said Section; thence North 873.29 feet; thence East 489.84 feet; thence South 580.99 feet; thence West 156.99 feet along the South line of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of said Section; thence South 299.65 feet along the North and South 1/4 line of said Section to the Point of Beginning. Also Government Lot 3, all in Section 9, Town 7 North, Range 14 West.

Also, the Northwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4, also the West 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4, also the Southeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4, except the Southeast one square acre thereof, also except that part of the NW 1/4, Section 17, Town 7 North, Range 14 West, Allendale Township, Ottawa County, Michigan, described as: Beginning at a point on the East and West 1/4 line of said Section which is South 89 degrees 54'08" East 1809.20 feet from the West 1/4 corner of said Section; thence South 89 degrees 54'08" East 633.29 feet to a point which is North 89 degrees 54'08" West 208.71 feet from the center of said Section; thence North 1 degree 03'28" West 208.71 feet parallel with the North and South 1/4 line of said Section; thence South 89 degrees 54'08" East 208.71 feet to the North and South 1/4 line of said Section; thence North 1 degree 03'28" West 101.72 feet along said North and South 1/4 line; thence North 89 degrees 54'08" West 842.00 feet; thence South 1 degree 03'28" East 310.43 feet to the Place of Beginning.

And Also except that part of the Southeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 17, Town 7 North, Range 14 West, Allendale Township, Ottawa County, Michigan, described as: Beginning at a point on the East and West 1/4 line of Section 17, distant South 89 degrees 22'42" East 1391.54 feet from the West 1/4 corner of Section 17 and proceeding thence North 00 degrees 20'48" West 656.96 feet along the East line of the West 66.0 feet of the Southeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 17; thence North 89 degrees 22'42" West 1257.44 feet; thence South 00 degrees 31'53" East 345.61 feet along the North and South 1/4 line of Section 17; thence North 89 degrees 22'42" West 842.00 feet; thence South 00 degrees 31'53" East 310.43 feet; thence North 89 degrees 22'42" West 417.52 feet along the East and West 1/4 line of Section 17 to the point of Beginning, all in Section 17, Town 7 North, Range 14 West.

47

"Attachment A"

Legal Descriptions
for the
Myrtle-Jean Bakale Tract

The West 1/2 of the South 32 acres of Government Lot 2, also all that part of Government Lot 3 lying South of Bayou and Bennett's Creek, also all that part of Government Lot 4 lying South of Bennett's Creek and East of Bass River, all in Section 8, Town 7 North, Range 14 West.

The East 3/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4, also the West 1/2 of the West 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4, except the West 1/2 of the South 1/4 thereof, all in Section 17, Town 7 North, Range 14 West.

Part of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4, Section 9, T7N, R14W, Allendale Township, Ottawa County, Michigan, except the West 190 feet thereof, and Government Lot 2, except the West 190 feet thereof, Section 9, T7N, R14W, which lies North of a line described as: Beginning at a point distant North 00 degrees 04'56" West 1331.45 feet along the North and South 1/4 line and South 88 degrees 46'29" East 190.00 feet and North 00 degrees 04'56" West 832.75 feet from the South 1/4 corner of Section 9 and proceeding thence North 65 degrees 35'04" East 425.62 feet; thence South 88 degrees 46'29" East 761.49 feet to the point of ending.

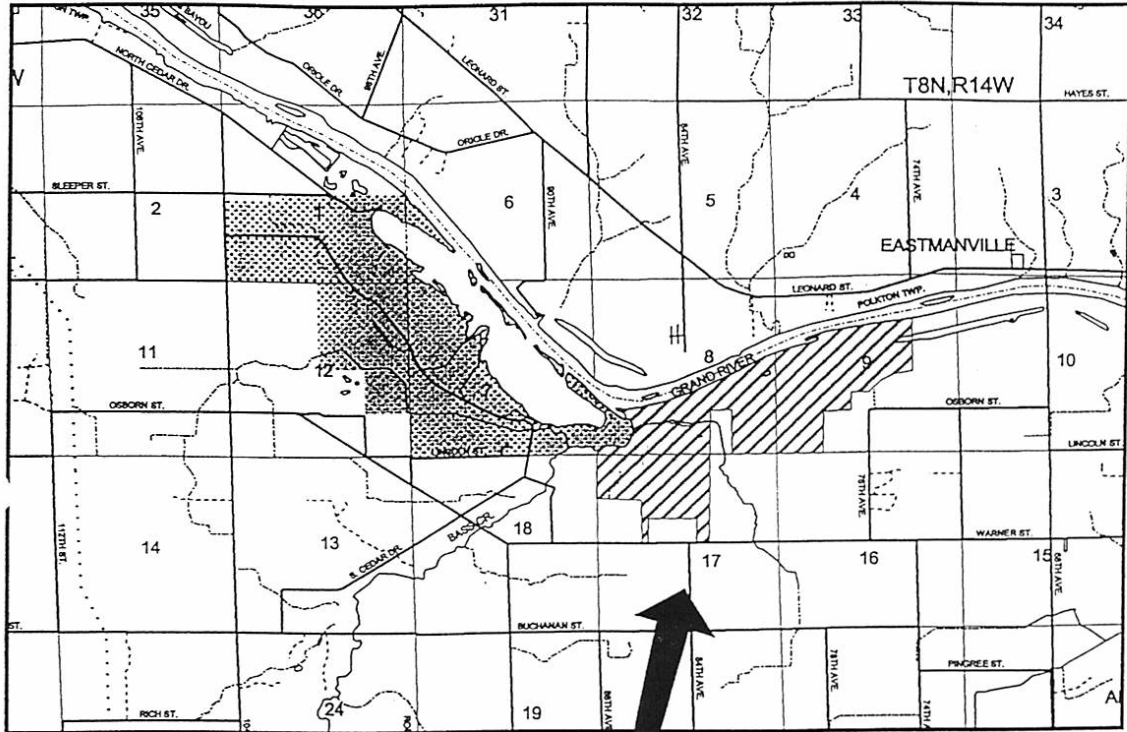
Except that part thereof described as follows:





Part of the SW 1/4 of Sec. 9, T7N, R14W, Allendale Township, Ottawa County, Michigan, described as: Commencing at the South 1/4 corner of said Section; thence North 965.72 feet along the N-S 1/4 line of said Section to the Point of Beginning for this Description; thence West 333.03 feet along a line being 300.00 feet North of and parallel with the South line of the North 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of said Section; thence South 300.00 feet parallel with said N-S 1/4 line; thence West 1018.33 feet along the South line of the North 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of said Section; thence South 657.96 feet along the West line of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of said Section; thence West 1352.85 feet along the South line of said Section; thence North 67.08 feet along the West line of said Section; thence East 1285.65 feet along a line being 67.0 feet North from and parallel with the South line of said Section; thence North 956.49 feet along a line being 67.0 feet West from and parallel with the West line of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of said Section; thence East 1416.80 feet parallel with the South line of the North 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of said Section; thence South 66.07 feet along said N-S 1/4 line to the Point of Beginning.

Subject to Highway Rights-of-way for 76th Avenue, Osborn Street, and for Warner Street.


48

The BAKALE Tract Containing 550 Acres Bass River Recreation Area Ottawa County



-  Land to be Purchased
(550 Acres - \$3,000,000.00)
-  Bass River Recreation Area
-  State Land
-  Private Land



SOURCE
 MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 FOREST, MINERAL AND FIRE MANAGEMENT DIVISION
 NATURAL RESOURCE INFORMATION SERVICES
 P:\YMAP\Commission_Memo\for\new_projects\Bass_river_18
 05-06-02