



Brighton  
Recreation Area



## General Management Plan

## Brighton Recreation Area



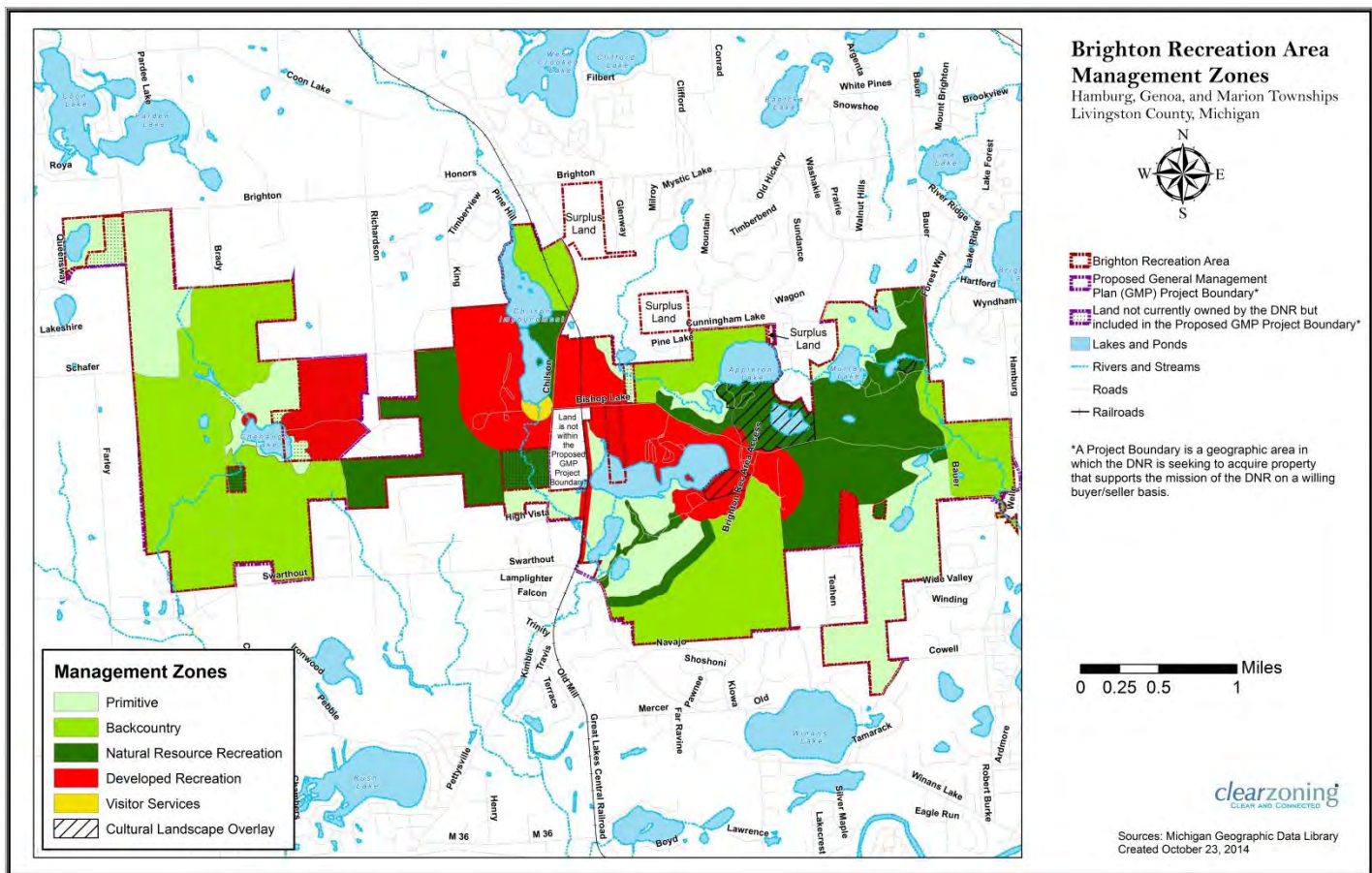
Approved January 16, 2015  
Michigan DNR Parks and Recreation Division

Prepared with assistance of:

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The project was directed by Deborah Jensen, Management Plan Administrator Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation Division with assistance from Clearzoning, Inc.

**Plan Approvals:**

Chief, Parks & Recreation Division

Natural Resources Deputy

Director, Department of Natural Resources

Date

Date

Date

## **PLAN APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

PRD – SECTION CHIEFS:

10/27/2014

Date

PRD – MANAGEMENT TEAM:

10/29/2014

Date

DNR – RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BUREAU:

11/13/2014

Date

MSPAC – STEWARDSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE

11/05/2014

Date

NRC – MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

12/11/2014

Date

# Resolution

## RESOLUTION NO. 12-2014-01

### MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

#### RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE “BRIGHTON RECREATION AREA GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN”

**ADOPTED: December 11, 2014**

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

**WHEREAS**, the General Management Plan is consistent with the recommendations of the Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel report; 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 Brighton 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 the Brighton Recreation Area.

Submitted by: Chris Graham, Chair, MSPAC Stewardship Subcommittee

**Motioned by:** Chris Graham  
**Seconded by:** Tom Bailey

<b>Yeas:</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Nays:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Abstained:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Absent:</b>	<b>3</b>

*This Resolution was adopted by the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee at their December 11, 2014, meeting as Resolution No. 12-2014-01.*

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# Executive Summary

Brighton Recreation Area, with 4,947 acres, is located west of US-23 and south of I-96, which allows for convenient access from Lansing, Ann Arbor, Detroit and Flint. Its key location within the state's most densely populated region makes the park a natural oasis.

The recreation area is a year-round playground for visitors with a variety of recreational interests. For camping enthusiasts, the park offers a 144-site modern campground, two rustic campgrounds that each offer 25 camp sites, an 18-site equestrian campground, two canoe-in island campsites, five rustic family/group cabins, and one organizational camp. The recreation area's trail system includes a combined 41 miles of hiking, mountain biking, equestrian and accessible trails. In particular, the recreation area offers 18 miles of designated equestrian trails. Brighton Recreation Area is a state park leader in providing accessible recreation, thereby allowing visitors with mobility limitations to access the park riding stable, campground, day use areas and beach. The recreation area provides extensive land open to hunting, except in designated safety zones, and provides ample fishing opportunities on its many lakes. Finally, the recreation area offers one of the largest complexes of connected fens and other wetlands in the region, and supports a diversity of native plant and animal species including the rare eastern massasauga rattlesnake and the Blanding's turtle.



*The park is home to a variety of plants and animals*

Future management of this recreation area is guided by the General Management Plan (GMP), which serves two primary purposes. First, it establishes a 20-Year Management Zone Plan that provides specific guidance for development, stewardship, public use, education & interpretation and park operations & management at Brighton Recreation Area. Second, the Plan provides 10-Year Action Goals that address the desired future condition within each Management Zone. Overall, this Plan seeks to uphold the Parks and Recreation Division's (PRD) Mission Statement: *to acquire, preserve, and protect natural and cultural resources while enhancing recreation opportunities and education opportunities.*

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) oversaw the planning process. The Plan was developed with significant and valuable input from the Planning Team, stakeholders, and the public. Additionally, several existing planning documents, including the Michigan Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the Michigan State Parks Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel Report, were used as guiding references (See Chapter 1 for additional information on guiding references).

## Significance of Brighton Recreation Area

Each GMP developed by the PRD is built upon the park's unique significant features that make it distinct from other parks in the state's system. Brighton Recreation Area was determined significant due to the following features and opportunities (refer to Chapter 3 for more detailed statements).



- **Location** – Brighton Recreation Area’s location west of US-23 and south of I-96 allows for easy access from the region’s largest cities and makes the park a natural oasis and hunting destination within a densely populated region.
- **Camping** – The recreation area offers a variety of year-round camping opportunities including a 144-site modern campground, two rustic campgrounds that each offer 25 camp sites, an 18-site equestrian campground, two canoe-in island campsites, five rustic family/group cabins, and one organizational camp.
- **Trail Network** – With a combined 41 miles of hiking, mountain biking, equestrian and accessible trails, Brighton Recreation Area is and has the potential to become an even more significant hub within the regional trail system.
- **Accessibility** – The recreation area is one of the state park system’s leaders in providing accessible recreation facilities including the park riding stable, campground, day use areas and beach.
- **Equestrian Opportunities** – The recreation area offers 18 miles of designated equestrian trails and equestrian facilities including day use parking, a riding stable and overnight equestrian camp.
- **Connected Prairie Fen Complex** – The recreation area is characterized by one of the largest complexes of connected fens and other wetlands in southeast Michigan and provides critical habitat for several rare plants and animals.
- **Quiet, Undeveloped Water Recreation Resources** – The shorelines of the recreation area’s interior lakes are undeveloped or sparsely developed providing a quiet, fishing and wildlife observation experience. Visitors and campers appreciate the serenity of the lakes, several of which have no-wake rules. There are carry-in boat access opportunities throughout the park.
- **Wildlife** – Natural features at the recreation area include rolling hills, wetlands, oak ridges, and undeveloped natural shorelines, which support a wide array of native plant and animal species including the eastern massasauga rattlesnake and the Blanding’s turtle, species of special concern.

## **Management Zones**

A key goal in the development of this General Management Plan is to continue providing the opportunities and features that attract so many visitors to the recreation area each year, while simultaneously protecting the park’s resources. Taking this into account, the Planning Team, with stakeholder and public input, established appropriate Management Zones for the recreation area. From a palette of nine standard zones, six zones (including one overlay zone) were applied to Brighton Recreation Area. 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 of the applied Management Zones is as follows:

- **Primitive Zone** comprises 26% of the recreation area and protects the park’s large complex of natural fens and wetlands. Management of the zone will reflect a desired condition that emphasizes the natural resources. Low impact recreational uses are permitted that are compatible with attaining and maintaining a high quality natural resource condition.
- **Backcountry Zone** comprises 37% of the recreation area and emphasizes resource quality over recreation, but allows for modification of landscape to allow for moderate levels of active recreation uses. Much of the park’s equestrian and hiking trails are located within this zone.
- **Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone** comprises 3% of Brighton Recreation Area. Management within the Cultural Landscape Zone focuses on preserving and protecting the historical and cultural resources.

- **Natural Resource Recreation Zone** comprises 22% of the recreation area and permits active recreation with medium to high density of use conducted in natural areas. The park's mountain biking trails are located within this zone.
- **Developed Recreation Zone** comprises 15% of the recreation area and allows active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. The campgrounds, day use areas, and beach areas are found within this zone.
- **Visitor Services Zone** comprises 0.4% of the recreation area and encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. The zone includes the park headquarters, maintenance facilities and all related land required to conduct the business of running the recreation area.

## **10-Year Action Goals**

The General Management Plan looks at each management zone and identifies 10-Year Action Goals that the Planning Team believes are necessary to guide management and development within the zones in order to achieve the desired user experience and natural resource protection. Action goals are categorized under General Action Goals if they pertain to the park as a whole or under the applicable management zone. Highlights from the Action Goals detailed in Chapter 6 include the following:

### **General Action Goals (apply park-wide)**

- Identify opportunities to improve trail connectivity between the recreation area, Lakelands Trail State Park, and downtown Brighton to support the mutual goals of PRD and the local partners
- Develop an Interpretive Plan that utilizes a variety of traditional and new media, including audio and visual technologies, podcasts, and other emerging technologies for interpretation opportunities

### **Primitive Zone**

- Protect and restore the Prairie Fen ecosystem
- Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping/birding

### **Backcountry Zone**

- Continue to employ management techniques that keep park users on the designated trails
- Add trail amenities for equestrians as appropriate to this zone

### **Natural Resource Recreation Zone**

- Work with local recreation partners to connect Lakelands Trail State Park to surrounding communities through Brighton Recreation Area
- Develop mountain bike beginner loop trail west of Appleton Lake Campground

### **Developed Recreation Zone**

- Evaluate opportunities to repurpose the Chilson Pond day use area
- Explore opportunities to modernize existing group cabins with electricity and water

### **Visitor Service Zone**

- Upgrade the appearance and function of the headquarters and visitor welcome area

# 1. Core Values & Guiding Resources

Core values are the foundation upon which the General Management Plan is based. Core values are derived from the mission statements of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Parks & Recreation Division (PRD), as well as the priorities of the Director, to ensure that the state will acquire, preserve, and protect 1) natural resources and 2) cultural resources, and continue to provide 3) public recreation and 4) educational opportunities throughout the state park system.

## 1.1 Mission Statements

### **DNR Mission Statement**

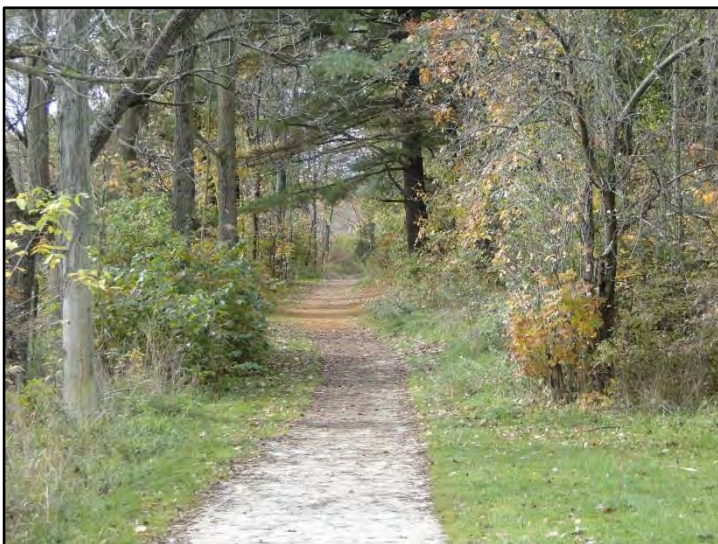
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

### **PRD Mission Statement**

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

### **Five Goals of the DNR**

1. Protect the natural and cultural resources
2. Ensure sustainable recreation use and enjoyment
3. Enable strong and natural resource-based economies
4. Improve and build strong relationships and partnerships
5. Foster effective business practices and good governance



*Brighton Recreation Area offers a 41-mile trail system*

“When you visit Michigan’s state parks and are surrounded with our forests, rivers, lakes and streams that have been here for thousands of years, it’s hard to imagine that changes ever occur here. As the world gets more hectic, we think Michigan residents will continue to turn to their state parks as a resource for rest and renewal.”

-Ron Olson (2013),  
DNR-PRD Division Chief

## **1.2 Additional Guiding Resources**

The General Management Planning process is guided and shaped by several resources developed to provide recommendations for managing Michigan's park and recreation system. In particular, these resources have helped shape the 10-Year Action Goals established in this Plan.

### **Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) (2013-2017)**

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 utilize Michigan's diverse and abundant natural assets to meet the fun, relaxation, and health needs of Michigan's residents and visitors, and the economic development needs of the state and local communities, by:

- Collaboration and cooperation
- Maintenance and continuous improvement of facilities
- Access to and connectivity between facilities
- Integration with economic development plans
- Effective marketing
- Protection and interpretation of natural resources



### **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. Some of the recommendations included 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
- Connections between communities and their recreational assets to strengthen regional identities
- Integrate tourism and economic development marketing
- Prioritize investment in parks and recreation



### **Michigan Comprehensive Trail Plan (2013 - 2018)**

The Trail Plan, developed by an 11-member committee appointed by Governor Snyder, includes eight priority recommendations with associated key actions that should be implemented to assist in achieving the vision of establishing a high quality, nationally-recognized, state-wide trail system. The eight recommendations are as follows:

- Trails are maintained to ensure a sustainable and quality trail system
- Expand trails and trail experiences and opportunities to ensure accessibility to trail systems, outdoor recreation opportunities and natural and cultural resources
- The Michigan Trails Advisory Council leads the effort to maintain and enhance Michigan's reputation as the trail state



- Link trails, trail users and adjoining towns to create memorable trail experiences and enhance economic prosperity
- Develop, enhance and celebrate partnerships and collaborations
- Implement a marketing plan including an electronic portal that allows citizens and visitors to be aware of all trails and related amenities
- Develop funding sources and mechanisms for trail maintenance, acquisition and development
- Ensure that the state's trail system compliments other plans and planning efforts

### **PRD Strategic Plan (2009-2019)**

The PRD Strategic Plan, approved in 2009, was developed to establish one cohesive plan for the division that spells out long-range goals, objectives, actions, and specific tasks for Michigan's state park and recreation system.

### **Managed Public Land Strategy (2013)**

The DNR-Managed Public Land Strategy provides a framework for the continued conservation, use and management of public lands to provide an enhanced quality of life for Michigan residents, create jobs and protect the essence of Michigan, its woods, waters, wildlife and other natural and cultural assets. The Strategy identifies three broad goals with desired outcomes, metrics, and measurable objectives identified for each goal. These goals are to:

- Provide quality outdoor public recreation opportunities
- Foster regional economic prosperity
- Protect natural and cultural resources for future generations

## **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 General Management Plan and subsequent Action Plans. For our planning purposes, the term "Legal Mandates" refers to not only state law, but also the administrative tools of "Policy" and "Directive" of the Natural Resource Commission, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Parks & Recreation Division. There are several general and site specific legal mandates applicable to Brighton Recreation Area listed in Appendix A: Supporting Analysis.

The legal mandates that most directly impact planning and management of Brighton Recreation Area focus on the following areas:

- Compliance with public health and safety regulations regarding campgrounds, wastewater systems, and discharge of pollutants to surface water and groundwater.
- Land Use Order of the Director prohibiting boats exceeding a slow, no-wake speed on Chilson Pond and Bishop Lake.
- Identification of the duties of the DNR in reinforcing its core values concerning preservation, protection and management.
- Requirement of a Recreation Passport for entry into the park.

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## 2. Plan Process Overview



*Disc golf is a new activity offered at the park*



*Group cabins are a popular overnight accommodation*

### 2.1 Why Plan?

Park planning is not a new concept. The DNR has developed Master Plans in the past for many of Michigan's state parks. Most of these plans are now 20-40 years old and do not reflect today's realities or desires of recreational users. Furthermore, past plans put a strong emphasis on development and did not often include stewardship of natural and cultural features or opportunities for education and interpretation.

The General Management Planning process provides a new way of planning for a park. The GMP 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.

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

- 1) **General Management Plan (GMP)** that presents 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 each management zone.
- 2) **5-Year Implementation Plan** outlines specific actions to implement.

- 3) **Annual Work Plan** addresses what will be done during a given year, and what progress was made throughout the previous year. In order for a plan to be successful it must allow for some degree of flexibility to adapt to changes that cannot be predicted 10-20 years out. The GMP will be reviewed every 5 years to ensure it is still meeting its intended purpose.

## 2.2 Planning Objectives

The objective of the General Management Plan is to bring together Parks & Recreation Division staff, stakeholders, and the public into a planning process that defines and clarifies the unique “Purpose and Significance” of Brighton Recreation Area. Collectively, those attributes will be reinforced in the planning and management decisions that impact the recreation area through the implementation of the Management Zone Plan and Action Goals.

Extensive input was sought throughout the planning process. An online survey was developed that solicited input from park users. Stakeholders and the public were invited to workshops where they could provide verbal and written comments regarding the General Management Plan. The draft plan was also available for review on the park website, and the public was invited to email, call or mail questions or comments concerning this initiative. The Planning Team discussed and collected input and refined the plan as appropriate.



*Team Members draft the Management Zone Map*



## 2.3 Planning Team

The General Management Plan would not exist without the valuable input and expertise provided by all members of the Planning Team. Please refer to the Appendix for summaries of all Planning Team meetings.

DNR Staff		
Division	Title	Name
PRD	Management Plan Administrator	Debbie Jensen
PRD	Planning Analyst	Matt Lincoln
PRD	Unit Supervisor	Mike Donnelly
PRD	Lead Worker	Kim Heckmann
PRD	Full Time Ranger	Debra Stuart
PRD	Regional Planner	John Terpstra
PRD	District Supervisor	Murdock Jemerson
PRD	Cultural Resource Analyst	Lisa Gamero
PRD	Resource Specialist	Glenn Palmgren
FD	Fisheries Biologist	Jeff Braunscheidel
FRD	Tree Improvement Nursery Supervisor	Richard Mergener
FRD	Forest Fire Officer	Bruce Miller
FMFM	Geologist	Tom Hoane
LED	Conservation Officer Supervisor (South Central)	Troy Bahlau
LED	Conservation Officer Supervisor	Daniel Prince
M&O	Park Interpreter	Karen Gourlay
WLD	SE Region Manager Wildlife Habitat Biologist	Tim Payne

### Clearzoning Consultants

David Birchler, AICP, PCP, Chief Executive Officer

Jill Bahm, AICP, Principal Planner

Susie Roble, Associate Planner

Sheila Starks, GIS Specialist



*The Planning Team tours the park*



*Mike Donnelly, Unit Supervisor, leads the park tour*

## **2.4 Summary of Public Input Survey**

Understanding the important role of the public in developing this plan, the Planning Team utilized a variety of methods to gather feedback and input from park users. In particular, the public input survey was developed to gather general information about park visitors, how they use the park, as well as recommendations for improving features and amenities offered at the recreation area. See Appendix B: Public Input Summary for more survey result information.

Section	Qn #s	Type of Questions
About You	1-5	Questions about respondent's age, travel distance, frequency of visit, season of visit
Activities	6-7	Questions regarding user's favorite park features and type of use (day user vs. camper)
Campers	8-10	Questions directed toward campers regarding length of stay, preferred campground, and why they enjoy camping at the park
Experience	11-14	Respondents asked to identify areas of the park they most often frequent, rate park facilities and recreational opportunities, and prioritize park improvements and additions. Finally, respondents were asked to describe the park in 3 words.
Chilson Pond Day Use Area	15-16	Respondents asked to identify the activities they participate in at Chilson Pond and recommend improvements to this area of the park
Equestrian Experience	17-20	Specific to equestrian users, respondents asked to identify how they access the park, travel distance, length of time spent in the park, and if existing campground meets their needs
Wrapping Up	21	Respondents asked to share additional comments/thoughts

### **About You**

Survey respondents of all ages completed the survey with approximately 60% of respondents above the age of 40. While Brighton Recreation Area welcomes visitors from around the country and state, the majority of the respondents come from southeast Michigan. The spring, summer and fall are all highly popular seasons for visiting the park and approximately 36% of respondents visit year-round. Over 35% of the respondents visit the park 11 or more times per year and 25% visit 3-5 times per year. These results indicate that the accessibility of Brighton Recreation Area undoubtedly encourages a high frequency of repeat visitors.

### **Activities**

The three favorite park features or recreational opportunities for users are mountain biking, hiking, and camping. Other popular activities include swimming, fishing, boating, horseback riding, and hunting. Over 80% of survey respondents are day users and 20% are campers.

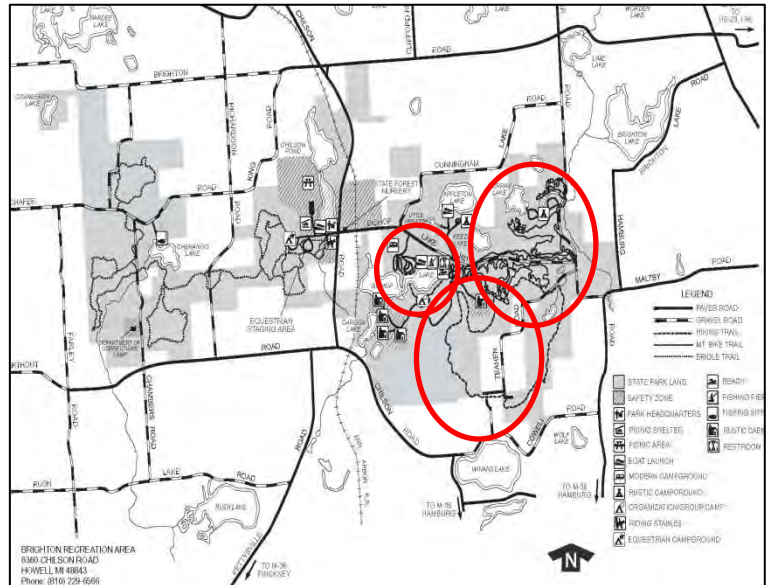
### **Campers**

Over half of respondents who camp at Brighton Recreation Area typically stay 1-2 nights, while 37% stay 3-6 nights. Bishop Lake Campground is the most popular campground (65%), followed by Appleton Lake Campground (12%), the equestrian campground (10%), and Murray Lake (7%). The top three factors, that influence why respondents choose to camp at the park are as follows: 1) proximity to where they live; 2) the park location and setting, and; 3) park features.

### Experience of Brighton Recreation Area

Respondents were asked to identify the area of the park in which they typically spend the most time. The mountain biking/hiking trails and Bishop Lake Day Use Area are the most frequented areas of the park (these areas are circled on the map on the next page). Given that these areas offer popular and desirable recreational opportunities, it is no surprise that they are the areas in which visitors enjoy spending their time.

Overall, respondents are very satisfied with their experience with most existing facilities and recreational opportunities at Brighton Recreation Area. Respondents are most happy with the mountain biking, hiking, and equestrian trails, as well as nature viewing opportunities. Respondents rated Chilson Pond Day Use Area and the equestrian campground as below average facilities. Additionally, respondents feel that hunting/trapping and snowmobiling opportunities could be improved. Additional park enhancements desired by respondents include trail connectivity, a mountain bike beginner loop, additional hiking trails and a pet friendly area. Finally, respondents were asked to choose three words to describe Brighton Recreation Area. Their responses are provided in the Wordle graphic below. The larger the word, the more times it was chosen to describe the park.



*The areas circled on this map are the main areas in which most survey respondents spend their time.*



*This “word cloud” illustrates the most commonly used words people use to describe Brighton Recreation Area. The more frequently a word is used, the bigger it appears in the graphic.*

### **Chilson Pond Day Use Area**

In recognition that Chilson Pond Day Use Area is an under-utilized facility at Brighton Recreation Area, the Planning Team asked for feedback from both users and non-users of this area in order to plan accordingly. Approximately 63% of respondents answered that they do not visit this area of the park. Of the respondents that do visit the Chilson Pond Day Use Area, they enjoy picnicking, nature viewing, dog walking, and walking/running on the trails. Suggested improvements to this area covered a wide spectrum of possibilities including a designated dog beach/area, improved fishing opportunities, reinstating the maintained beach area, a variety of trail uses, and enhanced day use amenities such as more picnic tables, new playground equipment, and updated restrooms.

### **Equestrian Experience**

As Brighton Recreation Area is a popular recreational resource for equestrians, this section of the survey was intended to solicit feedback from equestrian users. Over 75% of equestrian users access the park via a motor vehicle with a horse trailer, 23% enter the park via the riding stable, and 15% ride in on a horse (respondents could select more than one response). Approximately 70% of respondents spend a half day at the park, 20% spend a full day, and 10% stay overnight at the equestrian camp. As to whether the existing equestrian campground meets the needs of equestrians, the results were split with 50% of respondents answering yes and 50% answering no. Comments regarding the campground included difficulties in access for large rigs, uneven sites and the lack of water and electricity.

### **Wrapping Up**

Finally, respondents were provided the opportunity to share their thoughts about Brighton Recreation Area and/or the management planning process. Overall, respondents are happy with the recreational opportunities and facilities offered at the park. While there were several comments regarding the desire for additional and more technical mountain biking and hiking trails, respondents are satisfied with existing trail-based recreation opportunities. Respondents that use the park for hunting expressed the need for improved hunting opportunities. Several respondents also expressed a desire to keep the park quiet and undeveloped in order to protect the natural resources.



# 3. Purpose & 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 Brighton Recreation Area a significant asset to the state's park system.

## 3.1 Park Purpose

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

- To be used as a public park, pursuant to the intentions of the State Legislature when it created the recreation area and authorized its purchase, beginning in 1944.
- To preserve and protect Brighton Recreation Area's unique natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.
- To provide diverse intensive and extensive recreational opportunities, including hunting, fishing and nature observation.
- To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflect the DNR mission and the unique qualities of Brighton Recreation Area.

## 3.2 Statements of Significance

Brighton Recreation Area attracts visitors from both the local area and around the state. The park's unique geological, ecological, recreational, cultural, and historical features make the park an important asset to the people of the State of Michigan.

### Location

Brighton Recreation Area is nearly 5,000 acres and its location west of US-23 and south of I-96 allows for convenient access from Lansing, Ann Arbor, Detroit and Flint. Its prime location makes the park a natural oasis and hunting destination in the state's most densely populated region.

### Camping

Brighton Recreation Area offers a significant camping opportunity in southeast Michigan and a variety of unique, year-round camping options. There is a 144-site modern campground, two rustic campgrounds that each offer 25 camp sites, an 18-site equestrian campground, two canoe-in island campsites, five rustic family/group cabins, and one organizational camp. All camping accommodations within the park are either located on or in close proximity to a lake.



*The EZ Launch at Bishop Lake allows for easy lake access*

### **Trail Network**

The park has the potential to become a significant trail hub within the regional trail system. With a combined 41 miles of hiking, mountain biking, equestrian and accessible trails, Brighton Recreation Area is already a significant trail hub and is positioned to serve as a major link to nearby metroparks, state parks, and other municipal recreation facilities.

### **Accessibility**

Brighton Recreation Area is one of the state park system's leaders in providing accessible recreation. The park riding stable, campground, day use areas, kayak launch, and beach provide accommodations and features that allow persons of all abilities to enjoy Brighton Recreation Area.

### **Equestrian Opportunities**

Brighton Recreation Area offers 18 miles of designated equestrian trails and is a popular location for equestrian day use activities. Facilities include day use parking, a riding stable, and overnight equestrian camp.



*The prairie fen at Appleton Lake*

### **Connected Prairie Fen Complex**

The recreation area east of Chilson Road is characterized by one of the largest complexes of connected fens and other wetlands in southeast Michigan. This wetland complex provides critical habitat for a number of rare plants and animals. The park is unique because the wetlands are integrated with a large, mature oak forest.

### **Quiet, Undeveloped Water Recreation Resources**

The shorelines of the recreation area's interior lakes are undeveloped or sparsely developed providing a quiet, fishing and wildlife observation experience. Visitors and campers appreciate the serenity of the lakes, several of which have no-wake rules. There are carry-in boat access opportunities throughout the park.

### **Wildlife**

The diversity of the natural features including rolling hills, wetlands, oak ridges, and undeveloped natural shorelines, supports a wide array of native plant and animal species. The park plays an important role as a wildlife corridor and offers quality habitat to rare species including the eastern massasauga rattlesnake and the Blanding's turtle, species of special concern.

## **3.3 Public Affirmation of Significance Statements**

Stakeholder and public input assisted the Planning Team with identifying significant features and opportunities at Brighton Recreation Area. The feedback they provided via the online survey, the on-site workshops, and email affirmed that the park offers something for many types of user. Comments from survey respondents regarding the significance of the park are provided on the following page.

# What are people saying about Brighton Recreation Area?

Below are just a few of the comments from the online survey of park visitors:

**“Some of the best mountain biking trails in our area are at Brighton Recreation Area.”**

**“The natural setting and wildlife viewing are fantastic. Brighton Recreation Area is one of our favorite state parks.”**

**“I consider this my home park even though I use 5 others each year. The separation of biking, hiking, horse riding, camping, disc golf, and picnicking areas at the park are great!”**

**“Brighton Recreation Area is a pure gem in the highly populated southeast Michigan area. It needs to be maintained and preserved.”**

**“I appreciate having a place to camp and ride nice horse and mountain biking trails in the same location. It’s especially nice that the two don’t intersect and cause conflicts.”**

**“Close to home with an ‘Up North’ feel.”**

**“Wonderful location!”**

**“The lake is easy to access with paved trail.”**

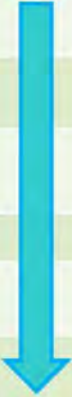

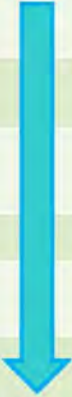
### **3.4 Relationship with the Local Community**

Brighton Recreation Area draws an estimated 650,000 visitors a year from across the region. The nearly 5,000 acre park is located in one of the most densely populated and fastest growing regions of the state. The recreation area has strong ties to the City of Brighton and surrounding communities, with the thousands of visitors helping to support local businesses, and the natural areas and recreational facilities providing an important asset for local residents. A basic economic impact assessment for this site estimates that direct spending attributable to Brighton Recreation Area accounted for \$18 million a year, with total spending, including secondary effects, of over \$28 million (see Appendix A for additional information on the analysis model). Brighton Recreation Area is fortunate to have many local partners, including the Potawatomi Chapter of International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA), Brighton Trail Riders, South East Livingston County Recreation Authority (SELCRA) and the Ann Arbor Disc Golf Association, who help to provide and maintain the facilities and recreation opportunities provided at the park. The park is host to a number of community events throughout the year, including a Native American Pow Wow, mountain bike race, triathlon and running events, orienteering, equestrian trail rides, dog shows, harvest festival and a family campout (see Section 9 of Appendix A for full list).



# 4. Management Zones

The 20-Year Management Zone Plan was developed in keeping with the recreation area's significance, identity, and purpose. The primary goal in the development of the management zones is to protect the recreation area's resources while also preserving the opportunities and features that attract so many visitors to the recreation area each year. From a palette of nine management zones, the Planning Team studied the recreation area and applied zones that best fit given the significant features of the recreation area. Management zones describe a variety of activities that **may be** appropriate within the zone. The resource condition, visitor experience, and development level varies in each zone, as indicated in the figure below.

Management Zone Progression			
Management Zone	Resource Condition	Visitor Experience	Development Level
<b>Ecologically Sensitive</b> Enhance and protect the native community and natural resource process over and above any other uses that might be contemplated	<b>Pristine</b> Native species and natural processes maintained, restored and protected	<b>Restricted</b> None, unless classified as a "Seasonal Zone"	<b>None</b> No development, except as needed for resource protection
<b>Primitive</b> Attain and maintain a high quality natural resource condition			
<b>Backcountry</b> Maintain natural character while allowing for increased visitor use			
<b>Cultural Landscape</b> The zone addresses evidence and interpretation of historic and cultural resources			
<b>Scenic</b> Protect and preserve aesthetic qualities			
<b>Natural Resource Recreation</b> Protect natural resources while allowing medium to high density active recreation			
<b>Developed Recreation</b> Encourage active recreation with high density of use in areas not designated for natural resource significance	<b>Active Management</b> Natural resources actively managed and modified to support administrative and support activities	<b>Significant Use</b> Used for administration and operations; no recreational opportunities	<b>Extensive Development</b> High level of development of facilities for support of administrative activities
<b>Visitor Services</b> Develop areas for program administration and operation			

The recreation area's 2004 Project Boundary Approved by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) includes land owned primarily by private residential owners. 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/seller basis. During the General Management Planning process the Planning Team evaluated land within the 2004 Project Boundary to determine whether it still possessed both natural resource and recreational value, and would complement existing land within Brighton Recreation Area. As a result of this assessment, the Planning Team developed a revised boundary, identified as the 2014 Proposed General Management Plan (GMP) Project Boundary, which includes current DNR-owned property as well as land that should be considered for public purposes if and when it does become available. The 2004 Project Boundary Approved by the NRC, the 2014 Proposed GMP Project Boundary, and the current recreation area boundary are illustrated on the Proposed Boundaries Map.

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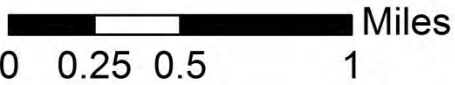
# Brighton Recreation Area Management Zones

Hamburg, Genoa, and Marion Townships  
Livingston County, Michigan

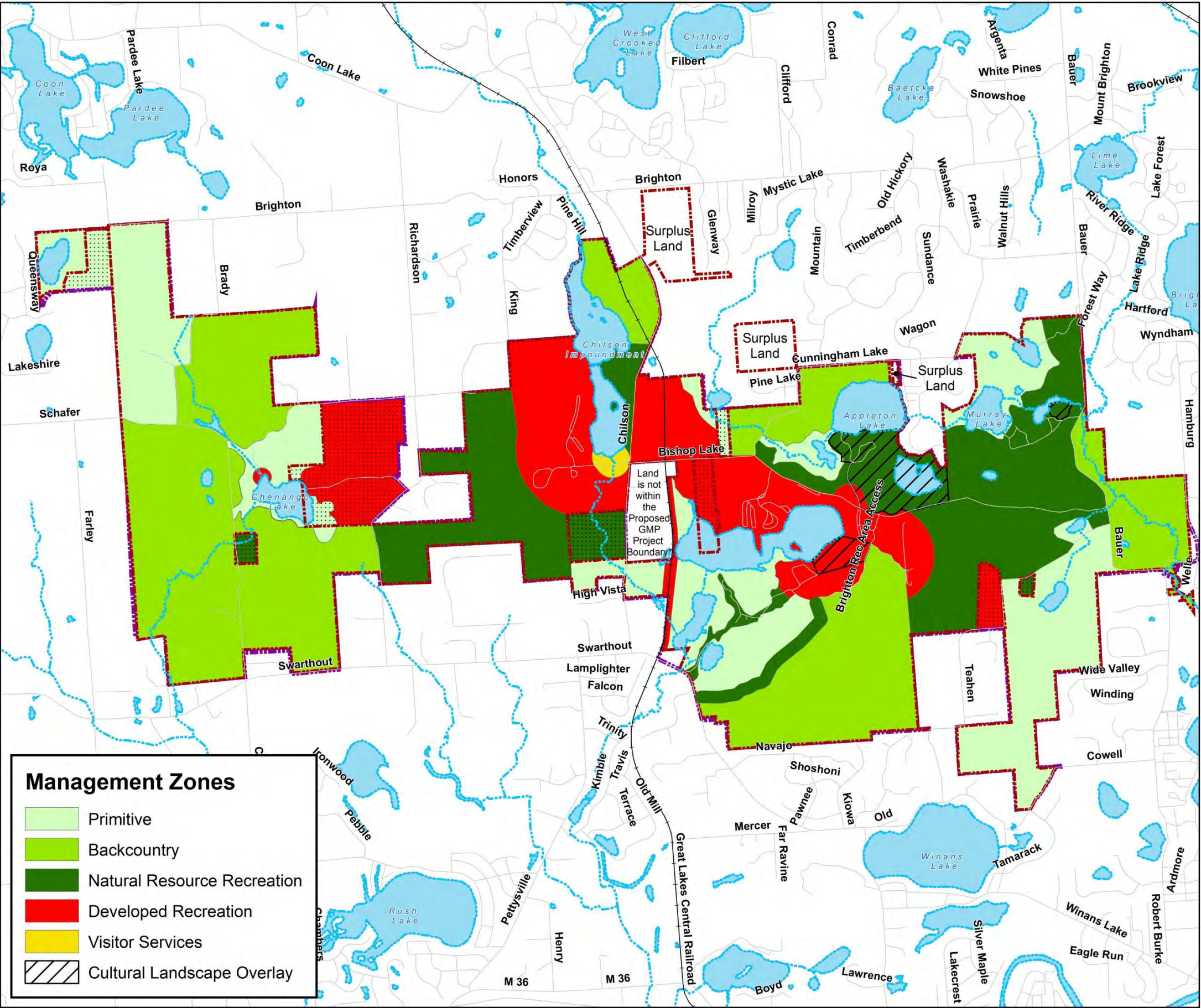


- Brighton Recreation Area
- Proposed General Management Plan (GMP) Project Boundary\*
- Land not currently owned by the DNR but included in the Proposed GMP Project Boundary\*
- Lakes and Ponds
- Rivers and Streams
- Roads
- Railroads

\*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/seller basis.



Sources: Michigan Geographic Data Library  
Created October 23, 2014

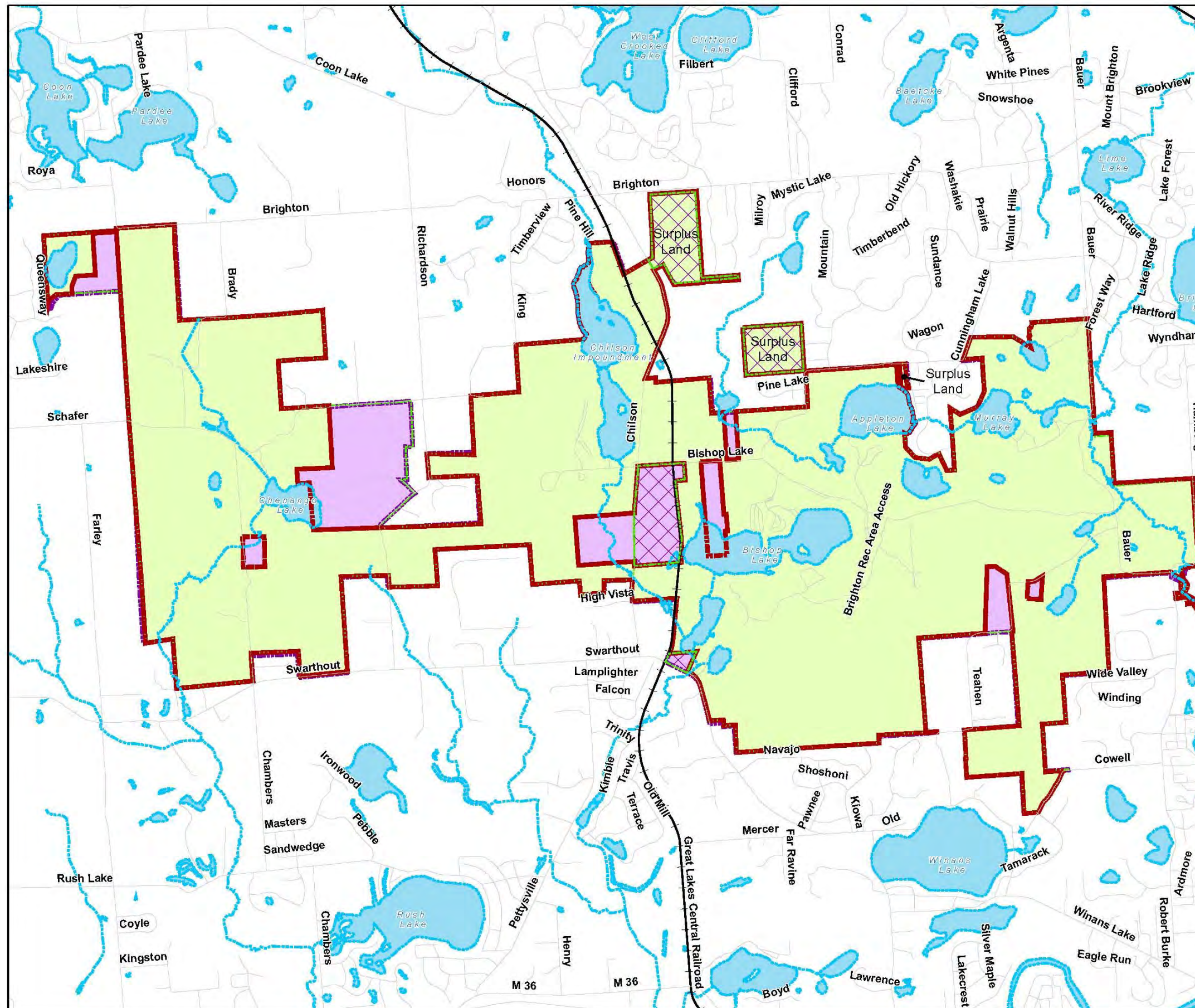


- ### Management Zones
- Primitive
  - Backcountry
  - Natural Resource Recreation
  - Developed Recreation
  - Visitor Services
  - Cultural Landscape Overlay



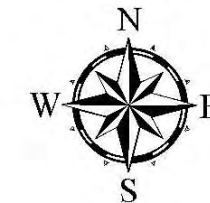
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# Brighton Recreation Area Proposed Project Boundary\*

Hamburg, Genoa, and Marion Townships  
Livingston County, Michigan



- Brighton Recreation Area
- Proposed GMP Project Boundary\*
- 2004 Project Boundary\* Approved by the NRC
- Area removed from the Proposed GMP Project Boundary\*

\*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/seller basis.

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

clearzoning  
CLEAR AND CONNECTED

Sources: Michigan Geographic Data Library,  
Created May 31, 2014



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The 5,000-acre Brighton Recreation Area was divided into the following five zones and one overlay zone:

- Primitive Zone
- Backcountry Zone
- Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone
- Natural Resource Recreation Zone
- Developed Recreation Zone
- Visitor Services Zone

#### **4.1 Primitive Zone**

Approximately 26% of Brighton Recreation Area is designated Primitive. This zone preserves and protects natural habitats within the recreation area. Only foot traffic will be allowed in this zone to ensure that the natural features are not damaged or compromised by recreation. The zone includes a segment of the hiking trail in the southeast region of the recreation area as well as areas with prairie fen wetlands.

##### **Natural Resources**

This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management allowed only where necessary to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Protection of native species (such as the Blanding's turtle and the eastern massasauga rattlesnake) and natural processes would take precedence over visitor accommodation.



*The prairie fen wetland at Appleton Lake*

##### **Historic/Cultural Resources**

There are no known historic or cultural resources within this zone.

##### **Recreation Opportunities**

With the focus of this zone being preservation, protection and enhancement of the natural communities present within the zone, recreational opportunities are limited to low-intensity uses. Low-intensity activities that typically occur in this zone are hiking, hunting, fishing and nature observation.

##### **Education Opportunities**

The significance of the natural habitat in this zone presents an excellent educational opportunity. Information can be relayed through the use of kiosks at trailheads and low frequency interpretive signage along trails and at other appropriate locations, along with new media for self-guided tours and the like. Signage within the zone will be mindful of the primitive zone designation.

##### **Visitor Experience**

Visitor experience in this zone will reflect a high degree of natural feel: a sense of solitude, and a lack of man-made improvements. Overall, relatively low interaction with other visitors is to be expected.

### **Management Focus**

Management will focus on maintaining the low-impact character of the zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality and maintaining and enhancing the opportunities for hunting, trapping, fishing and birding. Care will be taken to eliminate any detrimental impacts such as incursion of invasive species. Vegetation will be protected from human degradation by using management techniques to keep users on the designated trails.

### **Development**

The focus is to maintain as little evidence of human activity as possible. Trail improvements will be considered but will not include the addition of structures, except as needed to protect the natural resources.

## **4.2 Backcountry Zone**

Approximately 37% of the recreation area is designated Backcountry. A large portion of the equestrian and hiking trail network is located in this zone.

### **Natural Resources**

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



*The park offers an 18-mile equestrian trail*

### **Historic/Cultural Resources**

There are no known historic structures or cultural resources in this zone.

### **Recreational Opportunities**

Moderate levels of recreation are allowed in the Backcountry Zone, provided the activities are compatible with the natural character. Non-motorized outdoor activities could be permitted, including hiking, backpacking, backcountry camping, canoeing, kayaking, mountain biking, nature observation, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and hunting/trapping/fishing. Most of Brighton Recreation Areas equestrian trail system and a portion of the hiking trail system are found within the Backcountry Zone.

### **Education Opportunities**

The ecological significance of the resources in the park presents an excellent educational opportunity. Information can be relayed through the use of kiosks at trailheads and interpretive signage along trails and other appropriate locations. The Michigan State Park Explorer Program offers campers and day visitors the opportunity to learn about a wide range of topics including forests, insects, and lake studies.

### **Visitor Experience**

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

### **Management Focus**

Management will focus on maintaining the low-impact character of the zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality and maintaining and enhancing the opportunities for hunting, trapping, fishing and birding. Routine maintenance, including maintenance for trails or access routes, will be provided. Care will be taken to eliminate any detrimental impacts such as incursion of invasive species.

### **Development**

A low level of development is allowed to support visitor access to activities offered in the zone. Development will be unobtrusive and blend in with the natural environment.

## **4.3 Cultural Landscape Overlay**

Approximately 3% of land within Brighton Recreation Area is designated Cultural Landscape Overlay. The central focus of the Cultural Landscape Overlay is managing the area to preserve its historical and cultural features. The Cultural Landscape Overlay has been applied to the Natural Resource Recreation Zone and Developed Recreation Zone in recognition of important archaeological resources. While interpretation and education opportunities within the Cultural Landscape Overlay should be explored, the recommendations of the underlying Natural Resource Recreation Zone and Developed Recreation Zone are the primary focus.

### **Natural Resources**

Vegetation management will be in accordance with the underlying zone. Vegetation may also be managed to enhance education/interpretation uses which can include non-native species specific to the era and/or location, and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape that is sensitive to the historical resource and interpretation of the zone.

### **Historic/Cultural Resources**

Cultural resources within this zone will be protected and preserved. There are no historic structures present.

### **Recreation Opportunities**

Visitors may be engaged in recreation activities appropriate to the underlying zone and compatible with and sensitive to the setting.

### **Education Opportunities**

Education and interpretation should be explored in accordance with the recommendations of the underlying zone.

### **Visitor Experience**

Visitors engaged in recreational and educational activities in a cultural setting. Moderate on-site interpretation, off-site interpretation, noise tolerance, and interaction with DNR staff and volunteers.

### **Management Focus**

The management focus is to protect the cultural and historical character of the zone. The focus of the overlay is to ensure any development is sensitive to the cultural and historic resources while simultaneously employing the recommendations of the underlying Natural Resource Recreation Zone and Developed Recreation Zone.

### **Development**

Non-historic development and activities that do not conflict with the cultural landscape are appropriate. A moderate level of development compatible with the cultural landscape and the underlying zone designations is permitted such as interpretive media, walks, picnic areas, and restrooms to support visitor access and use.

## **4.4 Natural Resource Recreation Zone**

Approximately 22% of Brighton Recreation Area is zoned Natural Resource Recreation. This zone provides for active recreation with medium to high density of use conducted in natural areas. A portion of the equestrian trail network, the entire mountain bike trail system and the rustic campgrounds are designated Natural Resource Recreation. While the zone designation emphasizes resource protection, landscape modification is permitted to allow for moderate interaction and recreation, as well as more intensively used trail corridors. A Cultural Landscape Overlay is incorporated within this zone, but the recommendations of the underlying Natural Resource Recreation Zone receive priority.

### **Natural Resources**

This zone reflects natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed 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 maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape.

### **Historic / Cultural Resources**

Cultural resources could be preserved and interpreted as appropriate.

### **Recreational Opportunities**

Moderate to high levels of recreation compatible with the natural character of the zone are to be expected. Snowmobiling is permitted.

### **Education Opportunities**

Interpretive signage may be used at key viewing points, trailheads, or observation area(s). There may be opportunities for off-site interpretation as well.

### **Visitor Experience**

Visitors are engaged in outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings for recreation and education, with a variable time commitment, challenge and adventure. Moderate noise tolerance and interaction with DNR staff can be expected. Moderate to high visitor encounters can be accommodated.

### **Future Trail Development**

Brighton Recreation Area provides a combined 41-mile multi-use trail system. Between 14-16 miles are designated for mountain biking and 18 miles for equestrian use, making the park a popular destination for both user groups. The Planning Team also recognizes the need to maintain existing undeveloped, quiet regions of the park for hiking, hunting and nature observation opportunities. Future trail development will concentrate primarily on working with local recreational partners to connect the park to other local trail resources, including Lakelands Trail State Park, Island Lake Recreation Area and Pinckney and Waterloo State Recreation Areas.



### **Management Focus**

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

### **Development**

A moderate level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities is permitted in this zone. Examples of development include walkways and parking, trails, benches, cabins, and picnic tables. Site hardening is allowed as necessary to facilitate activities and protect natural resources.

## **4.5 Developed Recreation Zone**

Approximately 15% of Brighton Recreation Area is designated Developed Recreation. This zone allows active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. The Developed Recreation zone includes the Bishop Lake day use area, swimming beach and campground, the Chilson Pond day use area, the equestrian campground, and the riding stable. A 30 feet wide corridor either side of the railroad right-of-way, south of Bishop Lake Road, is zoned Developed Recreation to allow for possible future non-motorized trail development. Any future development in this corridor should stay within or as close to the existing railroad grade footprint as possible and minimize disturbance to the adjacent wetlands. A Cultural Landscape Overlay is incorporated within this zone, but the recommendations of the underlying Developed Recreation Zone receive priority.



*Bishop Lake Campground is within this zone*

### **Natural Resources**

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

### **Historic/Cultural Resources**

Resources in this zone could be preserved and interpreted as appropriate.

### **Recreational Opportunities**

High levels of recreation in a highly structured environment are found in this zone. Visitors engage in recreation activities in diverse and modified land and water settings: hiking, modern camping, bicycling, boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, nature observation, day-use beach, picnicking, and other day-use activities. Bishop Lake offers a variety of land and water recreation opportunities.



*Mountain biking is a popular trail activity*

### **Education Opportunities**

Interpretive signage and information could be provided at the campground, registration building, trailheads, and/or along trails and overlooks.

### **Visitor Experience**

A high level of visitor encounters can be accommodated. Activities for visitors to engage in could offer a variable time commitment, challenge and adventure. Visitor encounters will typically occur at the beach, along the trails, at the day use area, and in the campground. Moderate noise tolerance and moderate to high interaction with others can be expected.

### **Management Focus**

Management focuses on maintaining the use of the zone appropriate to the PRD's mission and to promote and support a diversity of facilities and activities. Public safety, protection of resources, and universal access are management priorities. This area includes the Tree Improvement Center which has been operated as a nursery by Forest Resources under a Special Use Permit since the 1950s.

### **Development**

A high level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities is permitted in this zone. Examples of development include restrooms, concrete/asphalt/gravel walkways and parking, trails, bike racks, benches, picnic tables, campsites, cabins, and shelters for recreation and educational opportunities. Site hardening is allowed as necessary to facilitate activities, protect natural resources, and provide universal access.

## **4.6 Visitor Services Zone**

This zone is 0.4% of total land and encompasses the developed areas required for program administration, operations, and the business of running the state recreation area. The Visitor Services zone in Brighton Recreation Area includes the park headquarters.

### **Natural Resources**

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



*The headquarters building at Brighton Recreation Area*

### **Historic/Cultural Resources**

No historic or cultural resources have been identified in this zone.

### **Recreational Opportunities**

There are no recreational activities in the Visitor Services zone.

### **Education Opportunities**

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

### **Visitor Experience**

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

### **Management Focus**

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

### **Development**

A high level of development of facilities for support of administrative activities is permitted in this zone. Development in this zone will typically entail updating the appearance and/or function of the park headquarters and visitor welcome area.



*The recreation area attracts many local equestrians*



*Fall is a great time to see changing leaves at the recreation area*

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## 5. 10-Year Action Goals Plan

The Action Goals proposed for Brighton Recreation Area were developed by the Planning Team in response to stakeholder and public input and in context with the core values and guiding resources discussed in Chapter 1 of this plan. One of the priorities identified in this plan is to work with partners to improve trail connectivity between Brighton Recreation Area, other trail networks and local communities. Connections between communities and recreational assets will strengthen the regional identity and enhance economic prosperity. This action is supported by the recommendations of all of the major planning efforts guiding recreation in Michigan, including the Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the Blue Ribbon Panel Report to Governor Snyder and the Michigan Comprehensive Trail Plan. The Governor's Economic Prosperity initiative is another illustration of the importance of planning regionally. In that document, Brighton Recreation Area is located in Economic Prosperity Region 9 (Southeast Michigan) with strong ties to Region 10, to the east. Other improvements proposed will continue to maintain, improve and expand the recreation opportunities available while protecting the natural resources of the park.

The Planning Team has developed 10-Year Action Goals that it believes are necessary to guide management and development within the five designated management zones and one overlay zone in order to achieve the desired user experience. For each management zone in the plan, action goals are recommended that address the following categories:

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

Management Plans do not guarantee future PRD funding to implement them. PRD will seek internal funding, alternative funding sources, partnerships and other potential mechanisms for implementing the desired future conditions defined in this plan.



*The Bishop Lake Campground is a popular destination*



*The cabins allow for family or group camping*



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Brighton Recreation Area 10-Year Action Goals			
General Action Goals			
<p>Many of the 10-Year Action Goals for Brighton Recreation Area are general in nature and apply within all of the management zones. These often deal with park-wide issues, such as invasive species control, universal access, developing Stewardship, Wildlife and Emergency plans, or marketing the park's many recreational opportunities to a wider audience of potential users. Many of the overall maintenance and operational issues of running a state park also result in the need for actions across all zone boundaries, such as law enforcement.</p>			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
<b>Natural Resources</b>			
1. Update Stewardship Plan (Natural Resource Plan)	3-5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship	Stewardship Ecologist
2. Implement Stewardship Plan for the park	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager Stewardship
3. Follow the requirements of the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) upon approval for the eastern massasauga rattle snake.	Ongoing	Park Manager Wildlife Stewardship	Park Manager Stewardship
3. Manage vegetation-consistent with the zone designation	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager
4. Implement invasive species control, with a strong emphasis on early detection and rapid response. Monitor roads, trails, and any new development sites for possible invasive species introductions.	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Fisheries	Park Manager
<b>Historic/Cultural Resources</b>			
1. Continue monitoring archaeological and cultural resources	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Cultural Resource Analyst Office of State Archaeologist
2. Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources	Ongoing	Stewardship Regional Planner	Cultural Resource Analyst Office of State Archaeologist
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>			
1. Identify opportunities to improve trail connectivity between the park, Lakelands Trail State Park, downtown Brighton and other communities to support the mutual goals of PRD and the local partners	2-5 Years	Park Manager Regional Field Planner Local Recreation Partners	Regional Field Planner
2. Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping/birding	Ongoing	Stewardship Wildlife Park Manager Fisheries	Park Manager
3. Identify additional fishing pier opportunities	2-5 Years	Fisheries Park Manager	Park Manager
<b>Education/Interpretation Opportunities</b>			
1. Continue to provide quality interpretation and education and explore opportunities to expand programming	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Marketing & Outreach Historical Center
2. Develop an Interpretive Plan that utilizes a variety of traditional and new media, including audio and visual technologies, podcasts, and other emerging technologies for interpretation opportunities	2 Years	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach
3. Implement the Interpretive Plan	3-5 Years	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach

General Action Goals (cont.)			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
<b>Management</b>			
1. Explore acquisition of property within proposed General Management Plan project boundary	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Lands Manager	Lands Manager
2. Explore opportunities for exchange of surplus lands for land within the GMP project boundary	Ongoing	Park Manager Lands Manager	Lands Manager
3. Review and update Wildfire Plan and Emergency Plan	Completed with Annual Update	Park Manager Stewardship Forest Resources	Park Manager
4. Continue to explore and develop revenue generating opportunities that are sustainable	Ongoing	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager
5. Continue to complete and comply with annual safety inspections and plans	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager
6. Continue DNR marketing effort at local level and within the park	Ongoing	Park Manager Recreation Programmer Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager
7. Review all concession contracts	Ongoing Annually	Park Manager Contracts and Lease Coordinator	Park Manager
8. Continue to collaborate with community partners to support the mutual goals of PRD and the local partners	Ongoing	Park Manager Local Partners	Park Manager Local Partners
9. Evaluate the safety of trail crossings at busy roads and improve where needed	2 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner Road Commission	Park Manager
10. Request Director's Order to prohibit snowmobiling where it is not appropriate within the management zone	1-2 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager
11. Continue to assess trails and make improvements as needed	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager
12. Continue to maintain and upgrade trail markers to improve confidence for hikers, bikers, trail riders and hunters and install boundary markers at key locations	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager
<b>Development</b>			
1. Make every reasonable effort to achieve universal access for development opportunities	Ongoing Annually	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
2. Improve gravel roads throughout the park	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager

### Primitive Zone

The Primitive Zone emphasizes the natural resources of the area. It is managed to allow only dispersed, low frequency and low impact recreational use in the zone. Maintaining a high quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements or users are allowed. For this reason, native species and natural processes take precedence over visitor accommodation. The following 10-Year Action Goals propose only very low levels of development, in order to protect the important habitat. Only foot traffic is allowed in this zone.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	
<b>Natural Resources</b>			
1. Manage vegetation consistent with this zone	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager
2. Protect and restore Prairie Fen ecosystem	Ongoing	Stewardship Park Manager	Stewardship
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>			
1. Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping/birding	Ongoing	Stewardship Wildlife Park Manager Fisheries	Park Manager
<b>Management Focus</b>			
1. Continue to employ management techniques that keep park users on the designated trails	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager
<b>Development</b>			
1. Maintain appropriate education/interpretation trail signs and viewing locations	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager

### Backcountry Zone

The character of the Backcountry zone is intended to be natural, with minimal evidence of human impact. While the Primitive Zone is highly restrictive for recreational use and human impact, Backcountry permits a slightly higher intensity of use. The Zone allows for increased activity including bicycle and equestrian use, and slight modifications of the landscape (trail development) to accommodate that use where it is consistent with protection of the resource. Tolerance for natural resource impacts is low in the Backcountry zone and the 10-year Action Goals for this zone focus primarily on improving existing facilities rather than new development.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
<b>Natural Resources</b>			
1. Manage vegetation and infrastructure consistent with this zone	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>			
1. Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping/birding	Ongoing	Stewardship Wildlife Park Manager Fisheries	Park Manager
2. Evaluate backcountry camping opportunities	5-10 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager
<b>Management Focus</b>			
1. Continue to employ management techniques that keep park users on the designated trails	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager
<b>Development</b>			
1. Maintain appropriate education/interpretation trail signs and viewing locations	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager
2. Add trail amenities for equestrians as appropriate to this zone	2-5 Years	Park Manager Equestrian Partners	Park Manager



## Natural Resource Recreation Zone

Active recreation, at medium to high density of use, conducted in a natural setting is the hallmark of the Natural Resource Recreation zone. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but in this zone, higher levels of use are allowed. Vegetation may be managed to facilitate recreational use and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape, as well as to address such things as hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. The 10-year Action goals are intended to promote moderate to high levels of recreation compatible with the natural character of the zone. The Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone is incorporated within this zone in recognition of historical and cultural resources. While interpretation opportunities within the overlay should be explored, the recommendations of the underlying Natural Resource Recreation Zone are the primary focus.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
<b>Historic/Cultural Resources</b>			
1. Protect and interpret historic and cultural resources	Ongoing	Stewardship Park Manager	Park Manager
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>			
1. Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping, bird watching	Ongoing	Stewardship Wildlife Park Manager Fisheries	Park Manager
2. Maintain and enhance opportunities for trail use and camping	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager
3. Work with local recreation partners to connect Lakelands Trail State Park to surrounding communities through Brighton Recreation Area	5-10 Years	Local Recreational Partners Regional Planner Park Manager	Regional Planner
4. Explore alternative lodging opportunities	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
<b>Management Focus</b>			
1. Continue to employ management techniques that keep park users on the designated trails	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager
<b>Development</b>			
1. Maintain appropriate education/interpretation trail signs and viewing locations	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager
2. Develop mountain bike beginner loop trail west of Appleton Lake Campground	1-2 Years	Park Manager IMBA	Park Manager
3. Explore opportunities to modernize existing group cabins with electricity and water	2-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager
4. Explore opportunities to provide day use parking at Murray Lake	2-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager

Developed Recreation Zone			
Active recreation with high density of use, conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance, is characteristic of the Developed Recreation Zone. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced where possible. Brighton Recreation Area's primary day-use and camping areas and swimming beaches are located in this zone. The 10-Year Action Goals direct management decisions and development projects designed to promote and support these diverse visitor activities. The Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone is incorporated within this zone in recognition of remnants from historic lakefront settlements. While interpretation opportunities within the overlay should be explored, the recommendations of the underlying Developed Recreation Zone are the primary focus.			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
<b>Historic/Cultural Resources</b>			
1. Protect and interpret historic lakefront settlements	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager
<b>Education/Interpretation Opportunities</b>			
1. Evaluate/update interpretive signage at Bishop Lake (day use area and campground)	2 Years	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach Fisheries	Park Manager
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>			
1. Evaluate opportunities to repurpose Chilson Pond day use area	5-10 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager
2. Determine location for equestrian campground and seek funding for implementation	1-2 Years	Local Equestrian Partners Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
3. Add/replace playground equipment at campground and day use areas	5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner Friends Group	Park Manager
4. Explore alternative lodging accommodations	3-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager
5. Explore opportunities to add "challenge" facilities, for example ropes course, zip line, and the like	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
6. Evaluate opportunities for a designated pet-friendly beach at Chilson Pond, in line with Park and Recreation Division system-wide standards	2 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner Local Partners	Park Manager
<b>Management</b>			
1. Execute new Memorandum of Understanding between Park & Recreation Division and other divisions and/or agencies for use of the Tree Improvement Center	1 Year	Stewardship Park Manager	Stewardship
<b>Development</b>			
1. Update campground electrical system	1-2 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager
2. Provide wifi at campground and day use areas	1-3 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
3. Add a second sewage holding tank for campground	1 Year	Park Manager	Park Manager
4. Improve Universal Accessibility for the water access at Bishop Lake and Chilson Pond	2-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager

### Visitor Service Zone

**This zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. It includes the headquarters offices and maintenance facilities with the associated land required to conduct the business of running Brighton Recreation Area.**

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
<b>Development</b>			
1. Upgrade the appearance and function of the headquarters and visitor welcome area	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager

# Appendix A – Supporting Analysis

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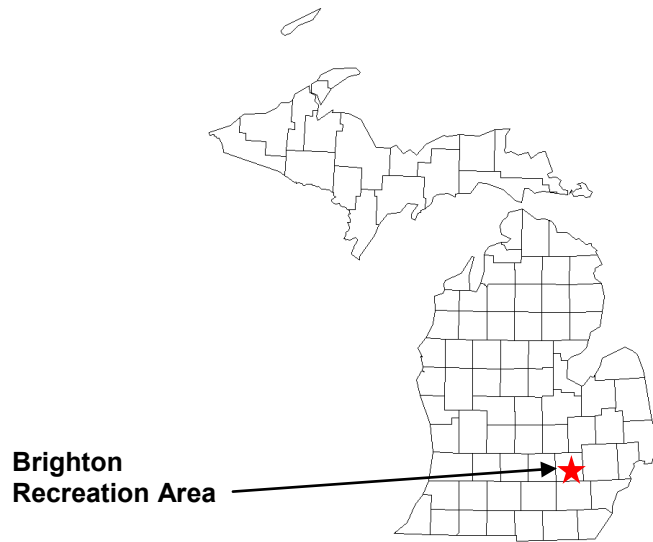
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## A.1 PARK SETTING

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### **Park Profile**

Area: 4,947 acres  
County: Livingston County  
Townships: Genoa, Hamburg, Marion  
Latitude: 42°30'24"N  
Longitude: 83°51'34"W  
Address: 6360 Chilson Road  
Howell, MI 48843  
Phone #: (810) 229-6566

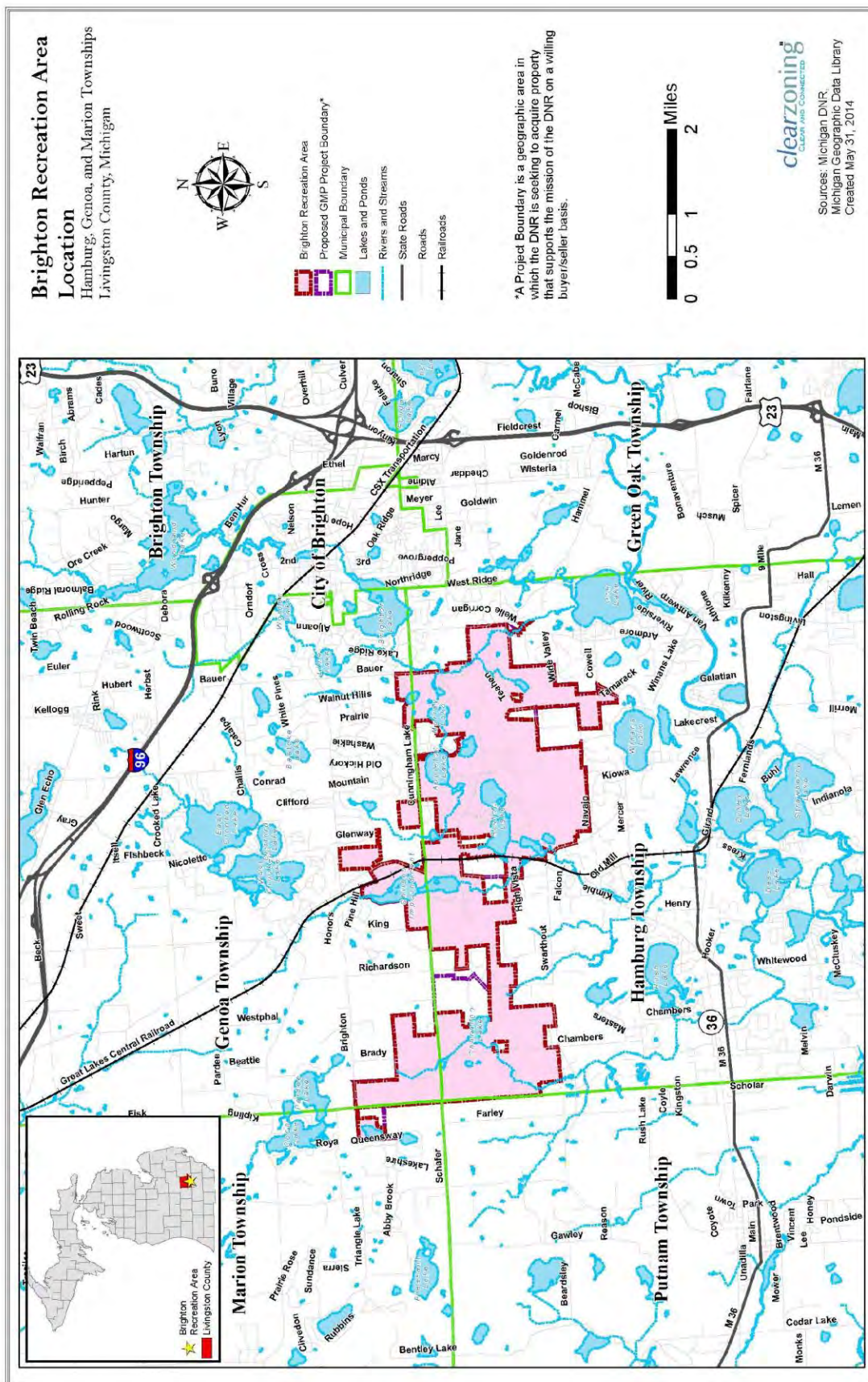


### **Location & Community**

Located 12 miles southwest of Howell, the county seat of Livingston County, Brighton Recreation Area offers year-round recreation within the park's 4,947 acres. The park is located in a rural residential area within the "Detroit-Ann Arbor" Metropolitan Area. The City of Brighton, with 7,400 residents, is just northwest of the park. Brighton Recreation Area is easily accessed from I-96 to the north, US-23 to the east and M-36 to the south. The Great Lakes Central Railroad runs north-south through the center of the park.

Brighton Recreation Area provides a combination of high, irregular ranges of hills interspersed with a number of attractive lakes, wetland areas, and connecting streams. The area has over 39 miles of trails available for equestrian riding, mountain biking, and hiking. The park also has over 200 campsites at four locations, including modern, rustic and a horseman's camp.





## A.2 DEMOGRAPHICS

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the 2010 population of Livingston County at 180,967, a 17% increase since 2000. The population density of the county is 320 people per square mile, far exceeding the state average of 175 people per square mile. Livingston County has consistently been ranked as the fastest growing county in the State since 2004 and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) forecasts that this population growth will continue at a similar rate over the next thirty years. Livingston County has one of the highest median household incomes in the state. Brighton Recreation Area is also easily accessible to residents of the Detroit and Lansing regions, via I-96, making it an attractive recreation area for over 3 million Michigan residents.

### **2010 U.S. Census Data for Livingston County**

<b>People QuickFacts</b>	<b>Livingston County</b>	<b>Michigan</b>
Population, 2013 estimate	184,443	9,895,622
Population, 2010 (April 1) estimates base	180,967	9,883,701
Population, percent change, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013	1.9%	0.1%
Population, 2010	180,967	9,883,640
Persons under 5 years, percent, 2013	5.1%	5.8%
Persons under 18 years, percent, 2013	23.7%	22.7%
Persons 65 years and over, percent, 2013	14.1%	15.0%
Female persons, percent, 2013	50.0%	50.9%
White alone, percent, 2013 (a)	96.8%	80.1%
Black or African American alone, percent, 2013 (a)	0.6%	14.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent, 2013 (a)	0.4%	0.7%
Asian alone, percent, 2013 (a)	0.9%	2.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent, 2013 (a)	Z	Z
Two or More Races, percent, 2013	1.3%	2.2%
Hispanic or Latino, percent, 2013 (b)	2.2%	4.7%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent, 2013	94.9%	76.1%
Living in same house 1 year & over, percent, 2008-2012	89.8%	85.4%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2008-2012	3.0%	6.0%
Language other than English spoken at home, pct age 5+, 2008-2012	4.1%	9.0%
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2008-2012	93.9%	88.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2008-2012	31.8%	25.5%
Veterans, 2008-2012	12,480	692,582
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2008-2012	31.8	23.9
Housing units, 2013	73,485	4,525,141
Homeownership rate, 2008-2012	85.9%	72.8%
Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent, 2008-2012	8.5%	18.0%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2008-2012	\$191,000	\$128,600
Households, 2008-2012	67,399	3,818,931

Persons per household, 2008-2012	2.68	2.53
Per capita money income in past 12 months (2012 dollars), 2008-2012	\$32,096	\$25,547
Median household income, 2008-2012	\$72,396	\$48,471
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2008-2012	6.3%	16.3%
<b>Business QuickFacts</b>	<b>Livingston County</b>	<b>Michigan</b>
Private nonfarm establishments, 2012	4,093	217,440
Private nonfarm employment, 2012	47,023	3,468,089
Private nonfarm employment, percent change, 2011-2012	1.3%	2.6%
Nonemployer establishments, 2012	14,154	687,629
Total number of firms, 2007	17,856	816,972
Black-owned firms, percent, 2007	0.3%	8.9%
American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms, percent, 2007	0.4%	0.7%
Asian-owned firms, percent, 2007	1.5%	2.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander-owned firms, percent, 2007	F	0.1%
Hispanic-owned firms, percent, 2007	S	1.3%
Women-owned firms, percent, 2007	29.1%	30.4%
Manufacturers shipments, 2007 (\$1000)	2,715,794	234,455,768
Merchant wholesaler sales, 2007 (\$1000)	1,293,290	107,109,349
Retail sales, 2007 (\$1000)	2,059,768	109,102,594
Retail sales per capita, 2007	\$11,260	\$10,855
Accommodation and food services sales, 2007 (\$1000)	180,995	14,536,648
Building permits, 2012	363	11,692
<b>Geography QuickFacts</b>	<b>Livingston County</b>	<b>Michigan</b>
Land area in square miles, 2010	565.25	56,538.90
Persons per square mile, 2010	320.2	174.8

(a) Includes persons reporting only one race.

(b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories.

FN: Footnote on this item for this area in place of data

NA: Not available

D: Suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information

X: Not applicable

S: Suppressed; does not meet publication standards

Z: Value greater than zero but less than half unit of measure shown

F: Fewer than 100 firms

Source: US Census Bureau State & County QuickFacts

### **A.3 HISTORY OF BRIGHTON RECREATION AREA**

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Historically, Livingston County was known agriculturally for its livestock and grain production. Early settlers were attracted to the county because of the opportunity to receive 160 acres of free land from the federal government if they were veterans of the war of 1812. Upon surveying the land and consequently discovering that it was well suited for agricultural uses, the federal government decided to sell the land for \$2-\$3 per acre. Prior to white settlers, the Potawatomi and Saginaw Chippewa Indians inhabited the area.

The territory was originally part of Shiawassee and Washtenaw counties until 1833 when an act of the state legislature provided for the establishment of Livingston County.

Brighton Recreation Area was established in 1944 and was one of eleven state recreation areas developed in the 1940s in southeastern Michigan through appropriations by the State Legislature. The park has grown steadily in size since its establishment.

In 1952, Camp Brighton, a Department of Corrections Prison Camp was established at the recreation area. Camp Brighton was moved to a new location within the recreation area during 1961 and 1962 to make way for an impoundment. Due to public opposition, however, the impoundment was never constructed. The camp closed officially in 2007.

The preliminary master plan for the Brighton Recreation Area was developed in 1955 and included areas for camping, swimming, picnicking, horseback riding, and winter sports. A subsequent MDNR planning document, dated 1969, recommended that the major use emphasis at Brighton should be camping, complimenting Island Lake which was recommended to be exclusively day use.

In the 1950's, the Forestry Division established an 80 acre tree nursery and a sign shop at the recreation area. The nursery produced seedlings to distribute to state lands for reforestation. Surplus seedlings were sold to private individuals. The sign shop produced wooden signs for all of the state parks and other state agencies. Prison labor was used at the sign shop. In the early 2000s, the sign shop closed and was consolidated to Hartwick Pines State Park. Seedling production still continues today at Brighton Recreation Area however the nursery has been converted into a Tree Improvement Center. The Tree Improvement Center grows seedling, mostly Jack Pine and Red Pine, to be planted on state land.

Today, Brighton Recreation Area amenities include camping, swimming, picnicking, hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, cross country skiing and mountain biking.



## A.4 LAND OWNERSHIP & FUNDING SOURCES

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The lands that comprise Brighton Recreation Area have been acquired by the State of Michigan through a variety of funding sources. Often, conditions attached to the original funding source or other details of the property transaction encumber the future use or disposition of the land.

### Funding Source

The Funding Source Map identifies the varieties of sources used in acquiring land within Brighton Recreation Area. In areas where small, fragmented parcels were aggregated, multiple funding sources may have been utilized. The following outlines in more detail each funding source as associated with Brighton Recreation Area.

#### Special Legislation

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

- 19 parcels totaling 383 acres were acquired by special legislation.

#### State Game and Fish Protection Fund

Act 17, P.A. 1921 established a funding source for land purchased through hunting license fees. The primary purpose of this land is for hunting and fishing purposes and the development of other recreation facilities is restricted. 8 parcels totaling 148 acres were purchased with revenue from a \$1.50 tax on deer hunting licenses.

#### Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

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

- 7 parcels totaling 64 acres were purchased through the MNRTF between 1991 and 2009.

#### Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (PR)

Established in 1937, Pittman Robertson created an 11-percent excise tax on guns, ammunition, bows, arrows and other hunting-related equipment. That money is apportioned to state wildlife agencies based on the land area and the number of licensed hunters of each state. These funds are matched by the states with their hunting license fees to help pay for wildlife restoration, hunter education and research. The act also ensures that money from hunting and fishing license sales can only be used for fish and wildlife management and this Federally funded land has specific restrictions for use

- 15 parcels totaling 437 acres were purchased with this fund.

#### Other Funds

Other funds used at Brighton Recreation Area include:

- 3,544 acres were purchased using 5/6 General Fund and 1/6 Game and Fish Fund
- Old Recreation Bond Fund, Act 257, P.A. State Park and Recreation Areas Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act 197.
- In total, 3,663 acres were purchased with these “other” funds.

# **Brighton Recreation Area** **Funding Sources** Hamburg, Genoa, and Marion Townships Livingston County, Michigan



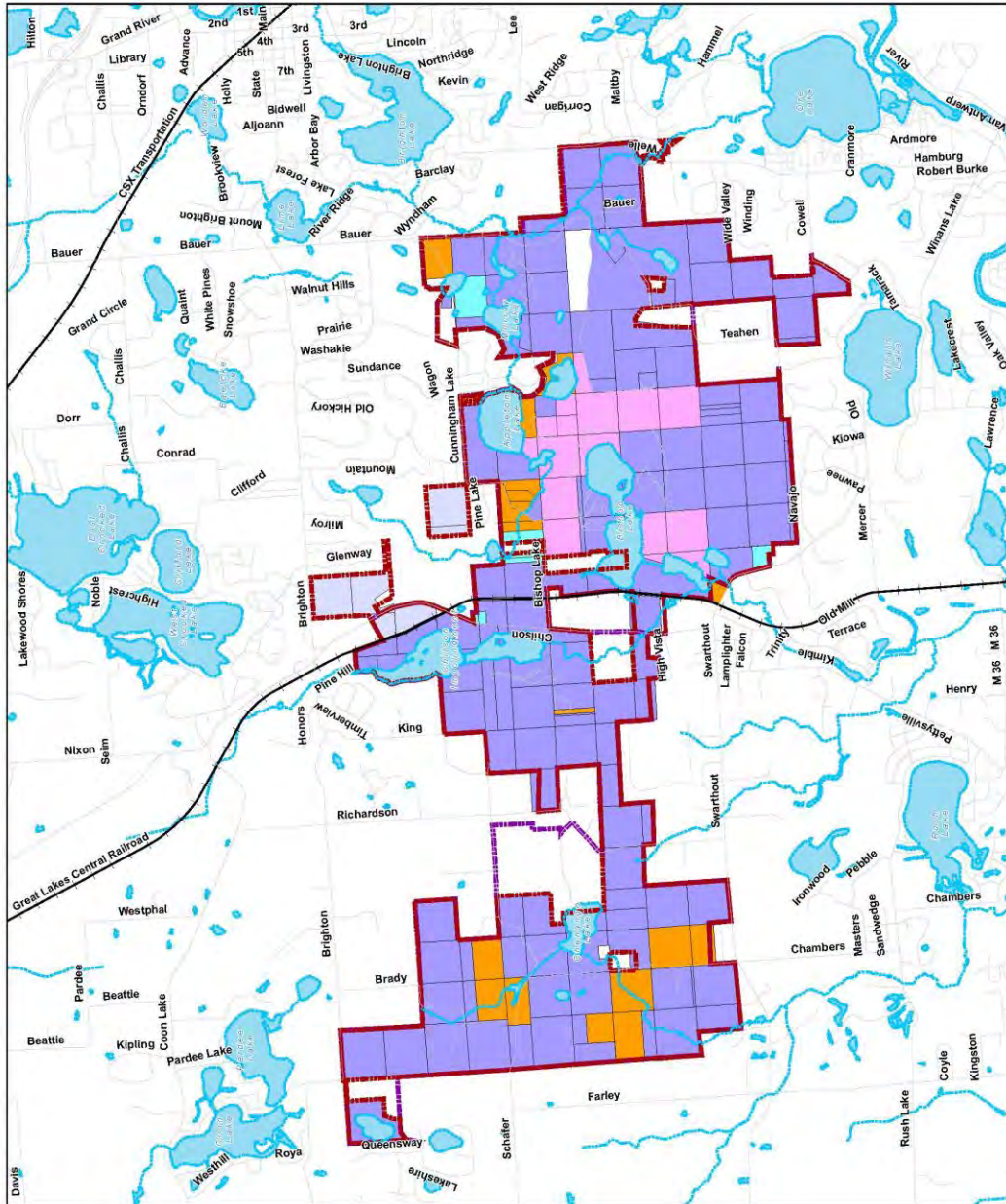
- MNRTF
- Pittman Robertson
- Special Legislation
- State Game Fund
- Other
- Brighton Recreation Area
- Proposed GMP Project Boundary\*
- Lakes and Ponds
- Rivers and Streams
- Roads
- Railroads

\*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/seller basis.



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Sources: Michigan DNR,  
 Michigan Geographic Data Library,  
 Created May 31, 2014





## **Granted Easements**

Brighton Recreation Area is impacted by both acquired and granted easements. A total of 23 easements have been granted since acquisition of the property. Highlighted easements granted include the following:

### **Livingston County Road Commission**

- 2003 easement for the purposes of reconstructing Hamburg Road between Welle and Bauer Roads
- Bishop Lake Road reconstruction in 1951

### **Detroit Edison Company**

- A number of easements were granted between 1945 and 1998 for the construction and maintenance of distribution lines, power lines, cables, poles to service park amenities and inholdings.

### **Consumers Power Company**

- Granted in 1970 to construct and maintain a gas pipeline between Brady and Schafer Roads

### **Michigan Department of Transportation**

- 1971 Chilson Road access

### **Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line**

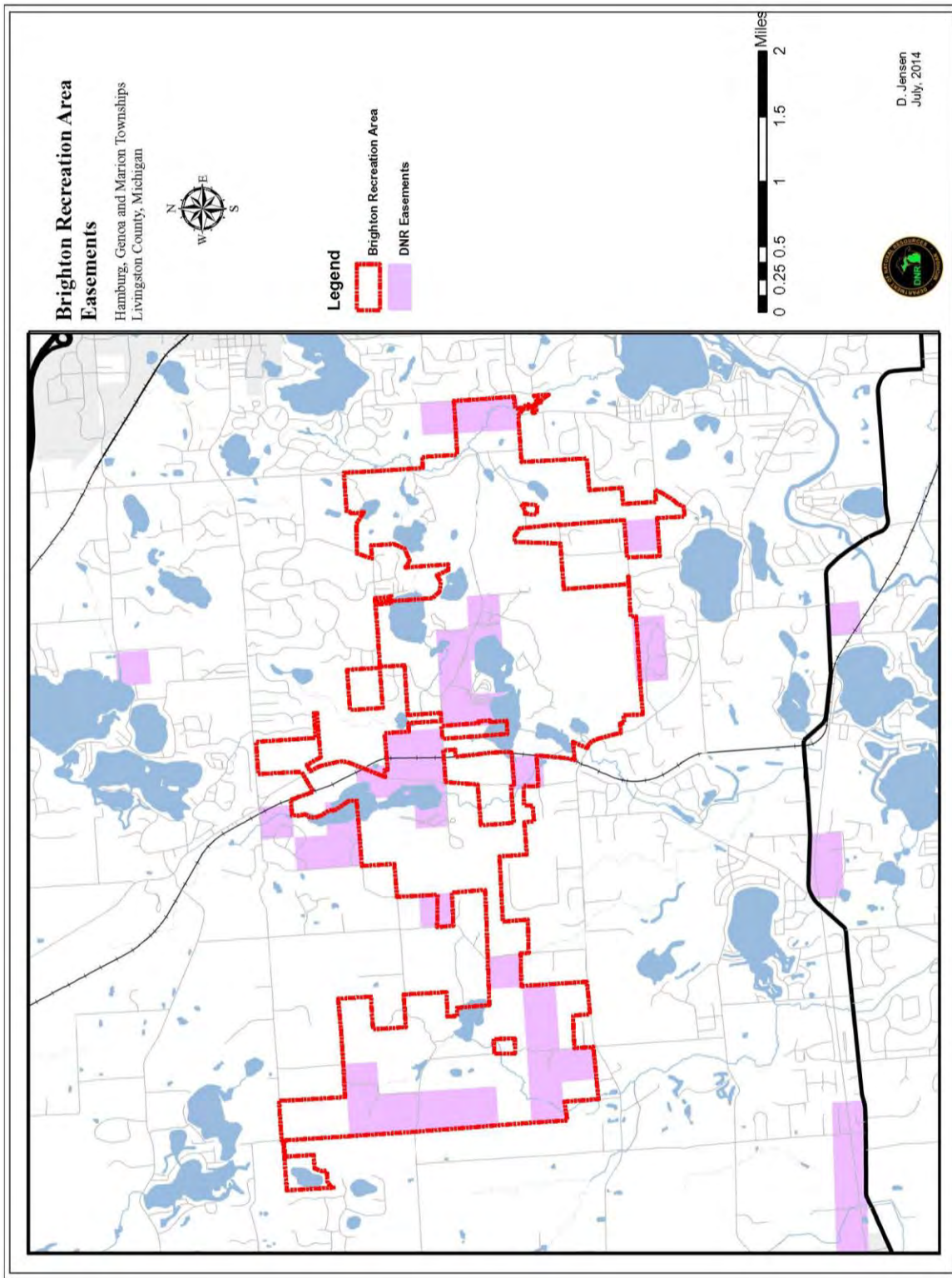
- Easement to construct and maintain a pipeline along the township boundary between R4E and R5E and Sections 31 and 36 granted in 1962.

### **Michigan Bell Telephone Company**

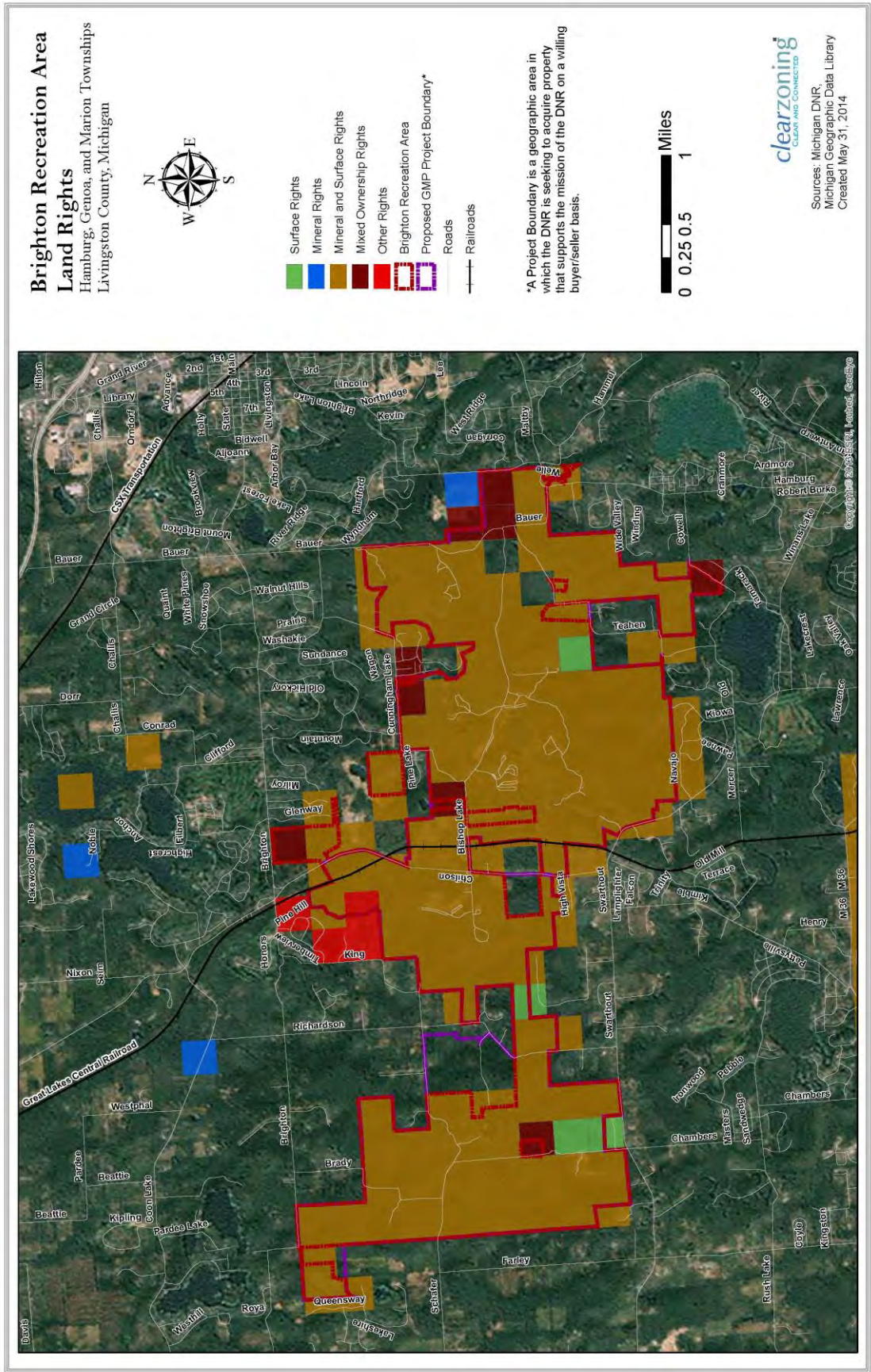
- 1958 to construct and maintain telephone lines along Chilson and Mercer Roads.

## **Acquired Easements**

An easement was acquired in 1958 to construct the Chilson Pond Dam.







## A.5 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RECREATION RESOURCES

There are a variety of regional, county and local park providers and facilities in the immediate vicinity of Brighton Recreation Area. Please see the Recreational Resources Map.

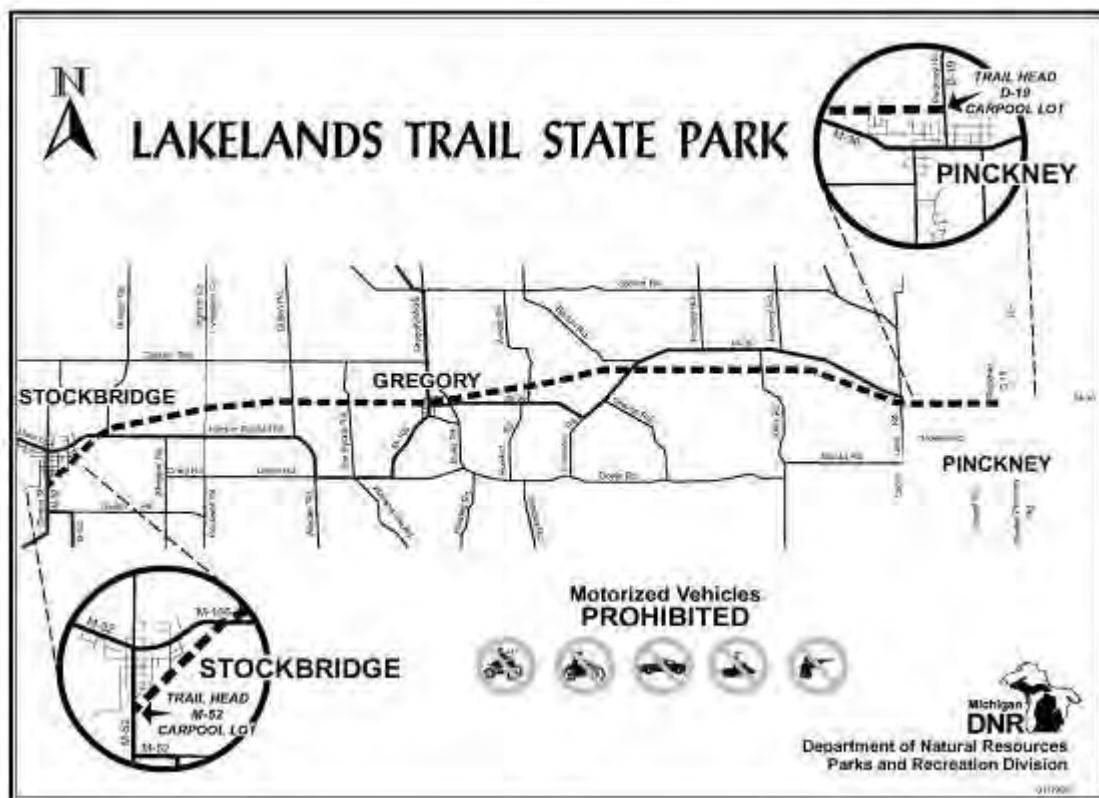
### State Resources

#### Island Lake Recreation Area

Located 12 miles east of Brighton Recreation Area, Island Lake is a 4,000-acre park located along the Huron River corridor. Island Lake is confined to the north by I-96 and to the west by US-23 and is easily accessible from both. The majority of the park is located in the southeastern corner of Livingston County, but a small section spreads west into Oakland County. The park offers a large variety of land and water recreational opportunities for visitors including a shooting/archery range, 19 miles of multi-use trails, fishing, swimming, canoeing/kayaking, biking, hunting, and wildlife viewing. The park is open year-round.

#### Lakelands Trail State Park

Located several miles south of Brighton Recreation Area, Lakelands Trail State Park is one of four linear state parks in the Michigan State Park system that have been converted from abandoned railroad corridors. This trail currently is completed between Stockbridge and Pinckney and passes through wooded areas and rolling farmland. It is approximately 13 miles long with a gravel surface. Lakelands is designed for hiking, bicycling, and wheelchair use on the north side and horseback riding on the south side of the trail. Cross-country skiing is popular in winter.



Source: [http://www.hamburg.mi.us/lakelands\\_trail\\_state\\_park/index.htm](http://www.hamburg.mi.us/lakelands_trail_state_park/index.htm)

## **Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority Resources**

### **Huron Meadows Metropark**

Located 5 miles southeast of Brighton Recreation Area, this 1,540-acre park offers a wide variety of activities for outdoor enthusiasts. Located just south of Brighton, available activities include cross-country skiing, hiking, biking, golf and geocaching. Small lakes provide boating and fishing. There are three picnic areas that can also be rented for private functions. This park is open year-round. A metropark motor vehicle entry permit (which is different from the Recreation Passport) is required to enter the park.

### **Kensington Metropark**

Located east of Brighton Recreation Area and adjacent to Island Lake Recreation Area, the 4,481-acre Kensington Metropark sprawls across wooded, hilly terrain, surrounds Kent Lake, and is home to an abundance of wildlife and waterfowl. The park offers a multitude of recreational year-round recreational opportunities including biking, swimming, cross-country skiing, boating, and picnicking. Kent Lake offers a variety of fun activities, including the Splash 'n' Blast water park. The park also offers a petting farm, nature center, and 18-hole golf course. A pedestrian/bicycle pathway that crosses beneath I-96 connects Kensington Metropark and Island Lake Recreation Area.

## **County Resources**

### **Lutz Park**

Located north of Brighton Recreation Area, this 320-acre Livingston County park offers picnicking, hiking, and nature viewing.

## **Municipal Resources**

### **Manly W. Bennett Memorial Park**

Located in Hamburg Township, the 384-acre park offers baseball diamonds, soccer fields, a model airplane runway/flying area, playgrounds, picnic areas, hiking and biking trails.

### **Mill Pond Park**

Mill Pond Park is located in downtown Brighton. A walking trail includes paved areas and a wooden boardwalk that crosses Mill Pond. A gazebo is the site of free community performances in warmer months. The park also includes a fenced-in wooden playscape, public restrooms, drinking fountains, benches, covered picnic pavilion and numerous public sculptures.

### **Genoa Township Recreation Area**

Located at the Township Hall, this park features 2 playgrounds, sled hill, walking path and 2 athletic fields.

## **The Southeastern Livingston County Recreation Authority (SELCRA) Resources**

### **Meijer Skate Park**

Located near downtown Brighton, Meijer Skate Park is the only supervised outdoor skateboarding and in-line skating park in Livingston County.

## **Private Resources**

### **Jackal Golf Club**

The par 71 Jackal course is located in Brighton and offers bent grass tees, fairways and greens, and state of the art irrigation system.

### **Lakelands Golf & Country Club**

Located in Brighton, the 18-hole course features tight fairways, elevated greens and challenging side-hill lies, and a PGA pro shop. The Club offers a banquet facility that can accommodate a maximum 300 people open March – December. The Club is adjacent to Winans Lake, which is a non-motorized lake that offers members year-round water sports opportunities including fishing and swimming. The club maintains a supervised beach between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

### **Mount Brighton Ski Resort**

The Mount Brighton Ski Resort features 26 trails on 130 acres, six lifts, night skiing and riding, as well as an 18-hole golf course. Mount Brighton is suited for ski enthusiasts of all abilities and ages. Lessons are available during open season.

### **Oak Point Country Club**

Oak Pointe Country Club is a private club located in Livingston County. It offers two 18-hole golf courses, a clubhouse with a golf pro shop, a fitness center, formal and informal dining areas, several banquet rooms, four lighted tennis courts, a junior Olympic pool, a full-size driving range and beach access with a play park.



# **Brighton Recreation Area** **Recreational Opportunities** Hamburg, Genoa, and Marion Townships Livingston County, Michigan



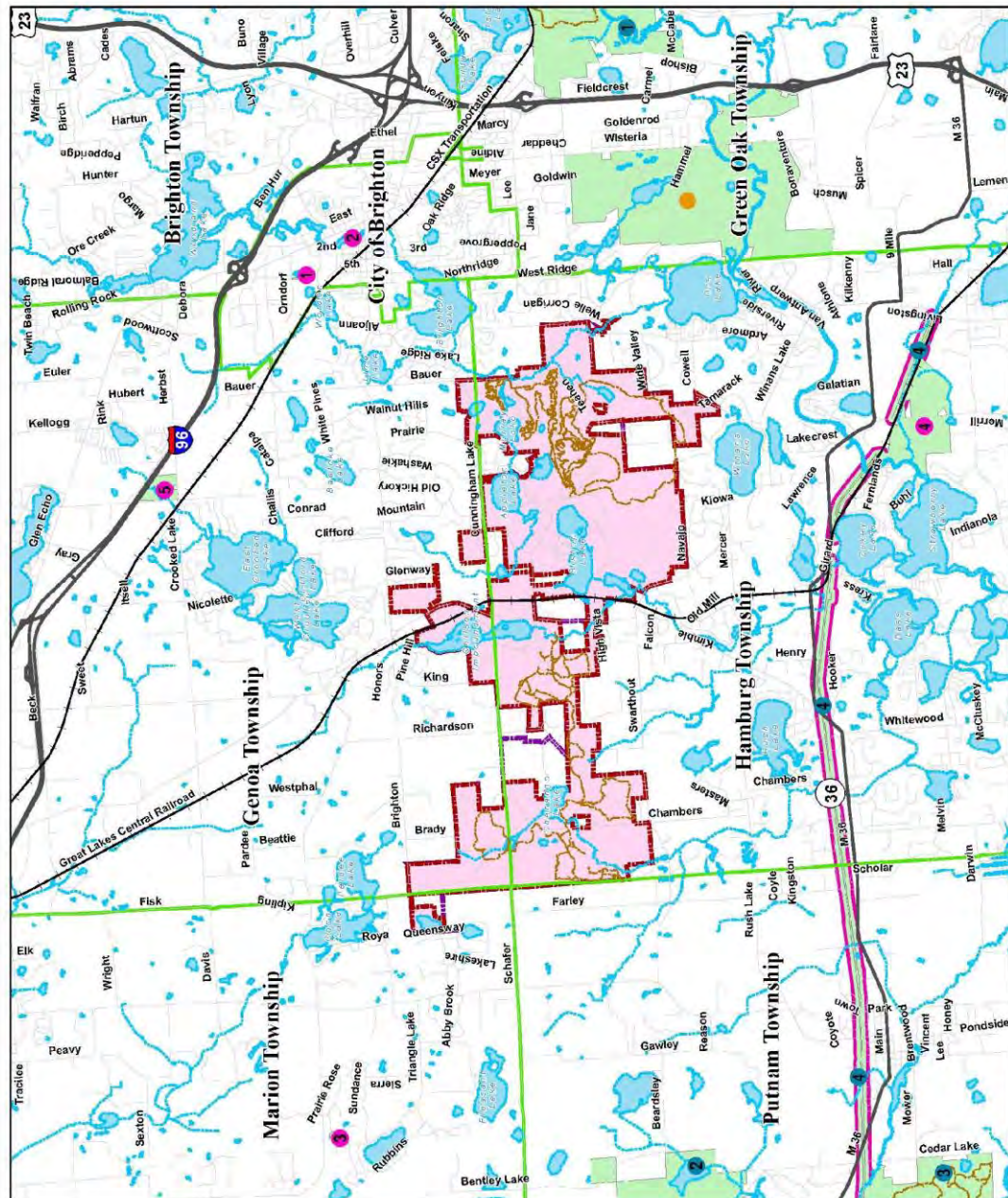
- Trails**
- Brighton Recreation Area
  - Proposed GMP Project Boundary\*
  - Other Recreational Opportunities
  - Lakelands Trail State Park
  - Municipal Parks
  - 1 Meier State Park - City of Brighton
  - 2 Mill Pond Park - City of Brighton
  - 3 Marion Township Park #1 - Marion Township
  - 4 Mary W. Bennett Memorial Park - Hamburg Township
  - 5 Genoa Township Fields - Genoa Township
  - Huron Metro Parks
  - Huron Meadows Metropark
  - State Parks
  - 1 Island Lake Recreation Area
  - 2 Gregory State Game Area
  - 3 Pinckney Recreation Area
  - 4 Lakelands Trail State Park

\*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/seller basis.



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Sources: Michigan DNR,  
 Michigan Geographic Data Library  
 Ducks Unlimited, Livingston County  
 Created May 31, 2014



## A.6 LEGAL MANDATES

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For all park General Management Plans, all 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 to not only state law, but also the administrative tools of “Policy” and “Directive” of the Natural Resource Commission, the Department, and the Parks & Recreation Division. Examples include Wildlife Conservation Orders, Orders of the Director, and all other laws, commission orders, and rules or directives that apply to the park. Specific to Brighton Recreation Area, several legal mandates have been identified, which are listed below.

### DNR Policies and Procedures – Series 26 - State-Owned Lands

- General principles established by the Department that guide the administration of authorities delegated to the Department by the Legislature and the Governor.
- 26.04-04 - Use Of State-Owned Lands Administered By The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (ISSUED: 02/01/2006). The NRC will manage state-owned lands in a manner that protects and enhances the public trust while providing for the use and enjoyment of those lands as outlined in the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act.

### PA 368 OF 1978, ARTICLE 12 - ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PART 125 – CAMPGROUNDS – Part 125 of the Public Health Code

- Established to protect and promote the public health by establishing health code requirements and regulations that all public (including DNR) and private campgrounds must meet.
- Campground wastewater system must meet the construction permit, design, and operation requirements under Michigan’s Public Health Code.

### PA 451 OF 1994, PART 22 – CAMPGROUND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

- These rules apply to all campground wastewater systems and regulates discharges to groundwater; administered by the Water Division, Groundwater Discharge Unit.

### PA 451 of 1994, PART 31 – WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION

- Administered by the DEQ and part of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, this legislation defines specific rules for the regulation of permitted activities in a floodplain in Michigan.

### PA 451 of 1994, PART 303 - WETLANDS PROTECTION (formerly Act No. 203, P.A. 1979 Wetland Protection Act)

- Administered by the DEQ and part of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, this legislation provides clarification and guidance on interpreting Part 303 by defining specific rules for the regulation of wetlands in Michigan.
- The law requires that persons planning to conduct certain activities in regulated wetlands apply for and receive a permit from the state before beginning the activity.

PA 451 OF 1994, PART 504 - STATE LAND USE RULES / LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR

- Administered by DNR Law Division.
- States that the department shall promulgate rules for the protection of the lands and property under its control against wrongful use or occupancy.
- Covers rules on state land relating to camping, motorized vehicle use, control of animals, trail use etc.
- Land Use Orders of the Director
  - 5.4 Watercraft use in certain state parks, prohibited conduct  
Order 5.4, a person shall not do the following:
    - (1) Operate a vessel in excess of a slow, no-wake speed on any of the following described waters:
      - (b) Brighton RA – Chilson Pond
  - 5.2 Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages in certain state parks and recreation area, prohibited conduct  
Order 5.2, a person shall not do any of the following:
    - (2) Possess or consume an alcoholic beverage within the following described locations from April 1 through September 30, without authorization of the park manager:
      - (a) Brighton RA – Bishop Lake Day-Use Area
  - Special Local Watercraft Controls – Livingston County (Department of Natural Resources, Marine Safety Section)

Appleton Lake – WC – 47-01-001-Hours for high speed boating

On the waters of Appleton Lake, in sections 2 and 3, town 1 north, range 5 east, Hamburg Township, Livingston County, State of Michigan, it is unlawful between the hours of 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. of the following day to:

- (a) Operated a vessel at high speed
- (b) Have in tow, or shall otherwise assist in the propulsion of, a person on water skis, water sled, surfboard or other similar contrivance.

The hours should be 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 a.m. of the following day when Eastern Daylight Savings Time is in effect. “High speed boating” is defined to mean a speed at or above which a motorboat reaches a planing condition.

The boundaries of the area described immediately above shall be marked with signs and with buoys. All buoys must be placed as provided in a permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources and be in conformance with the State Uniform Waterway Marking System.

- Bishop Lake – R281.747.22 Slow—no wake speed  
22. On the waters of Bishop Lake, Sections 3, 4, 9 and 10, T1N, R5E, Hamburg Township, Livingston County, it is unlawful for the operator of a vessel to exceed a slow—no wake speed

PA 451 OF 1994, PART 741 - STATE PARK SYSTEM - NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

- Notable in this law is Section 324.74102, which identifies the duties of the DNR and reinforces those core values concerning preservation, protection and management cited above.

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

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

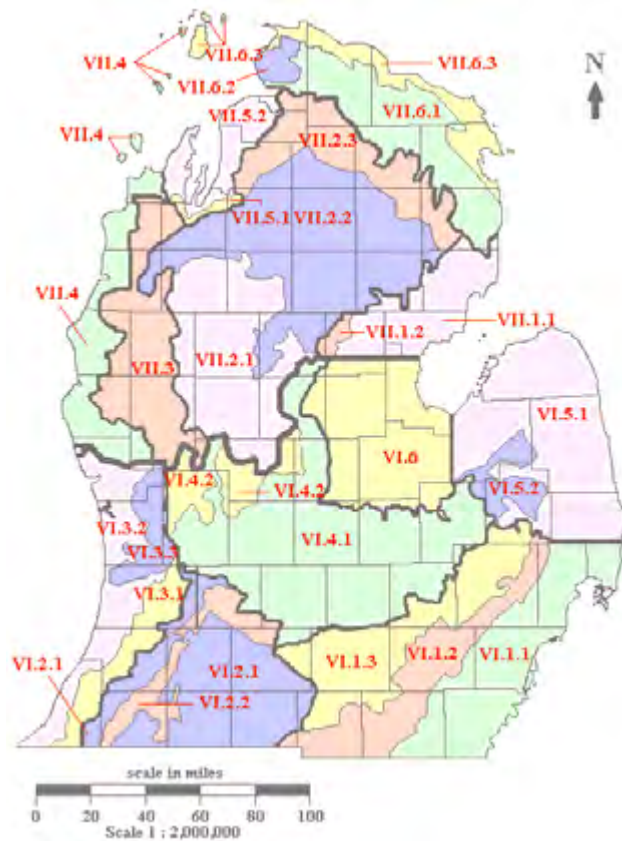
PA 45 OF 2010 - NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

- Amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (PA 451 of 1994) to require the DNR to establish a plan for a statewide trail network that includes Michigan trailways, pack and saddle trailways, and other recreational use trailways, and to permit pack and saddle animals on designated trailways managed by the DNR.



## A.7 NATURAL SYSTEMS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

### Ecoregional Context



Brighton Recreation Area is located in ecoregion section 6, subsection 1.3, known as the Jackson Interlobate. This region is characterized by rolling hills and flat lake plains, most of which have been modified by agricultural and urban developments. The sub-subsection is also characterized by relatively steep end-moraine ridges surrounded by pitted outwash deposits. Kettle lakes and wetlands are common within the outwash.

According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Brighton Recreation Area features textured end moraine and ice-contact topography, oak savanna and hickory forests, hardwood swamps, prairie fens and bogs.

*Source: Regional Landscape of Michigan and Wisconsin, A Working Map and Classification. Dennis Albert. September 20, 1995.*

### Climate

The growing season is 140 to 150 days. Late spring frosts often pose a danger due to numerous lowland depressions in the area. Annual snowfall is 40 to 50 inches and annual precipitation is 30 to 32 inches. Temperatures can be between -22 degrees to 110 degrees Fahrenheit.

### Geology

The geology of the Brighton Recreation Area consists primarily of glacial end moraines of course textured till. Other parts of the area consist of glacial outwash deposits of sand and gravel. Bedrock is located approximately 250 to 300 feet below glacial drift.

### Wildlife

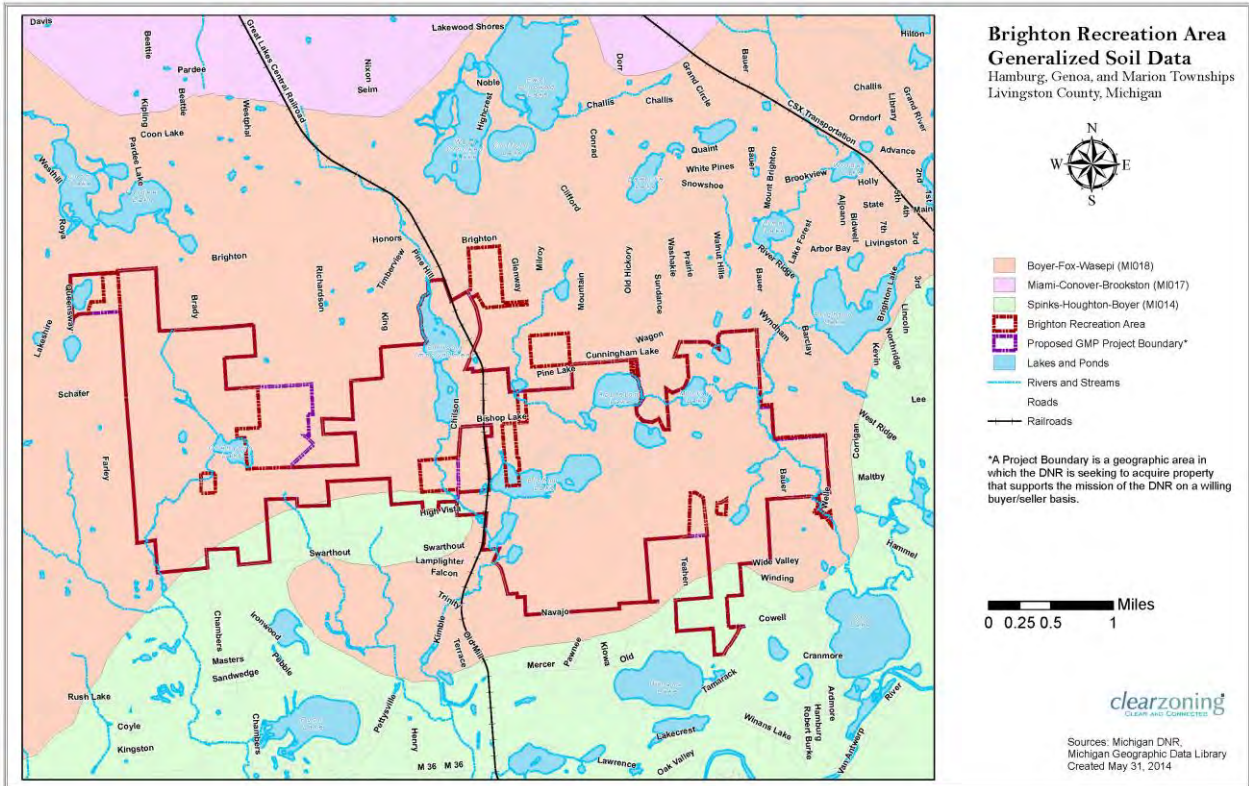
Wildlife at Brighton Recreation Area includes water fowl and sandhill cranes.

### Topography

The majority of the park consists of rolling hills. The most dramatic elevation changes occur through the northern and eastern sections of the recreation area where glacial moraines form rolling hills. The mid-section of the park is flat near wetlands and inland lakes.

## Soils

The most prevalent soil type at Brighton Recreation Area is Boyer-Fox-Wasepi. Other soil types include Miami-Conover-Brookston and Spinks-Houghton-Boyer. Please see the Generalized Soil Data Map.





## **Natural Areas**

There are currently no dedicated natural areas or other special conservation areas at Brighton Recreation Area.

### **Exemplary Natural Communities at Brighton Recreation Area:**

*Prairie fen* are a wetland community dominated by sedges, grasses, and other graminoids that occurs on moderately alkaline organic soil and marl in the glacial interlobate region of Michigan's southern lower peninsula. This community is present in several locations in the Recreation Area and is part of a large inter-connected wetland system. A community abstract is provided at [http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/abstracts/ecology/Prairie\\_fen.pdf](http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/abstracts/ecology/Prairie_fen.pdf).

*Oak barrens* are fire dependent savanna type dominated by oaks (5 and 60% canopy) and a predominately graminoid ground layer. Oak barrens are found on droughty soils and occur typically on glacial outwash in southern Lower Michigan. An abstract is provided at [http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/abstracts/ecology/oak\\_barrens.pdf](http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/abstracts/ecology/oak_barrens.pdf).

*Rich tamarack swamp* are groundwater-influenced, forested wetland dominated by tamarack (*Larix laricina*) that occurs on deep organic soils predominately in southern Lower Michigan. An abstract is provided at [http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/abstracts/ecology/Rich\\_tamarack\\_swamp.pdf](http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/abstracts/ecology/Rich_tamarack_swamp.pdf).

### **Rare Plants at Brighton Recreation Area:**

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>State Status</u>	<u>Federal Status</u>
<i>Scirpus clintonii</i>	Clinton's bulrush	Special Concern	
<i>Carex richardsonii</i>	Richardson's Sedge	Special Concern	
<i>Celtis tenuifolia</i>	Dwarf hackberry	Special Concern	
<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	Leadplant	Special Concern	
<i>Drosera anglica</i>	English sundew	Special Concern	
<i>Cypripedium candidum</i>	White Lady Slipper	Threatened	
<i>Eleocharis equisetoides</i>	Horsetail spike rush	Special Concern	

### **Rare Animals at Brighton Recreation Area:**

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>State Status</u>	<u>Federal Status</u>
<i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>	Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake	Special Concern	Candidate
<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	Cerulean Warbler	Threatened	
<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	Blanding's Turtle	Special Concern	
<i>Prosapia ignipectus</i>	Red-legged spittlebug	Special Concern	
<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	Marsh wren	Special Concern	

(Michigan Natural Features Inventory, 2013)

# Brighton Recreation Area Natural Communities Hamburg, Genoa, and Marion Townships Livingston County, Michigan



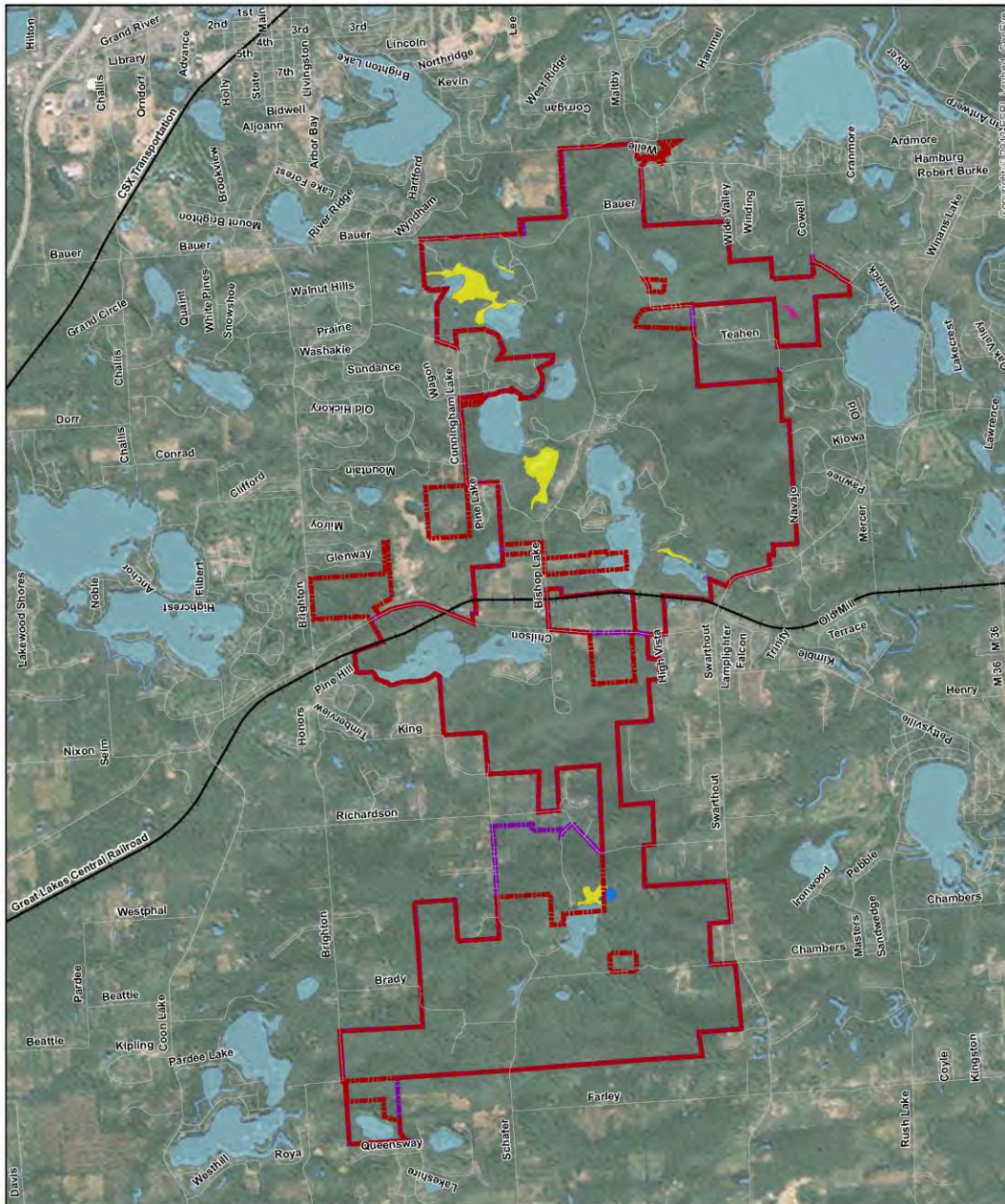
- Oak Barrens
- Prairie Fen
- Rich Tamarack Swamp
- Brighton Recreation Area
- Proposed GMP Project Boundary\*
- Roads
- Railroads

\*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/seller basis.

Miles  
0 0.25 0.5 1

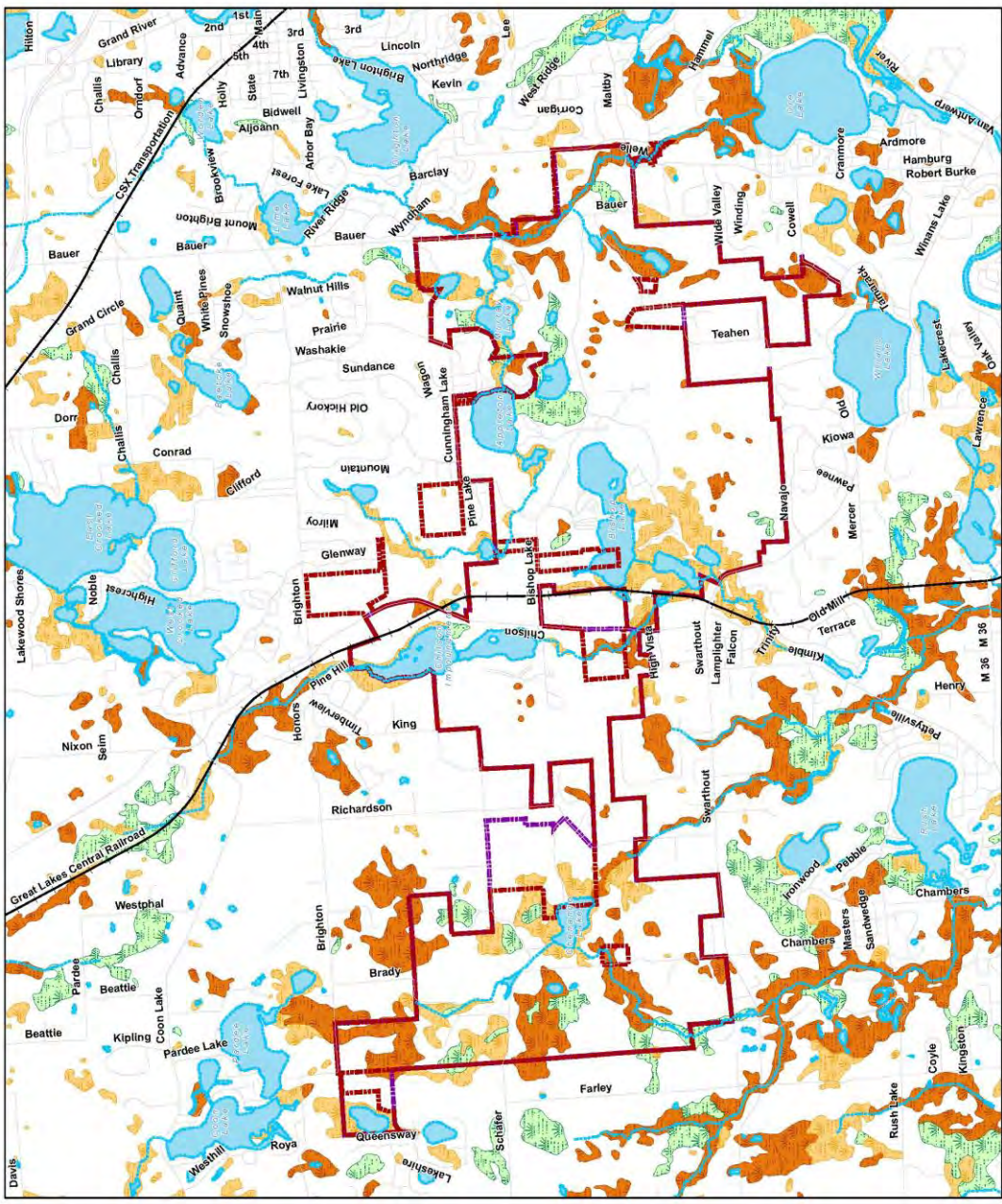
clearzoning  
CLEAR AND CONNECTED

Sources: Michigan DNR,  
Michigan Geographic Data Library  
Created May 31, 2014

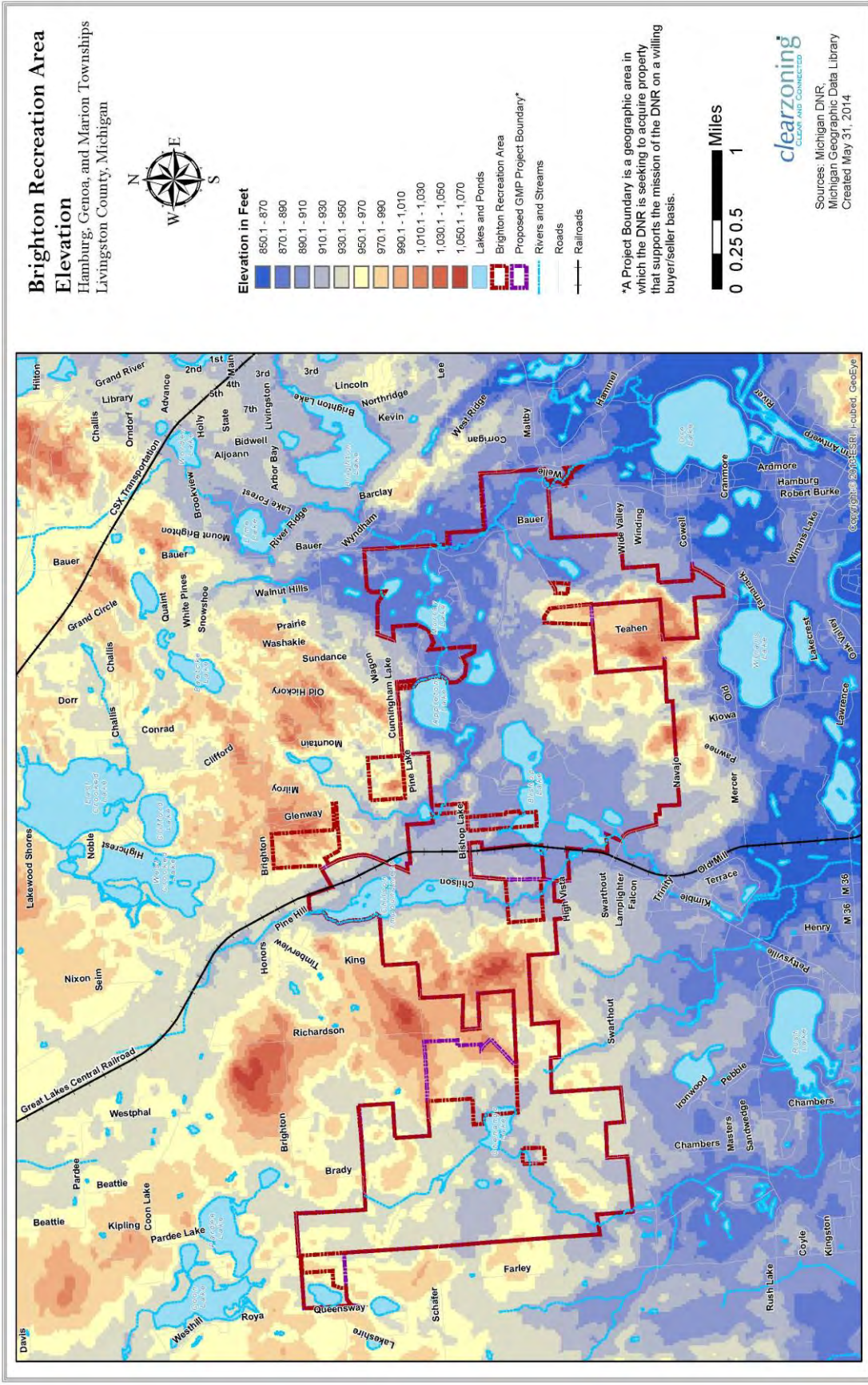




Sources: Michigan DNR,  
Michigan Geographic Data Library,  
National Wetlands Inventory  
Created May 31, 2014



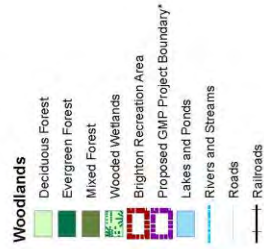






# Brighton Recreation Area Woodlands

Hamburg, Genoa, and Marion Townships  
Livingston County, Michigan

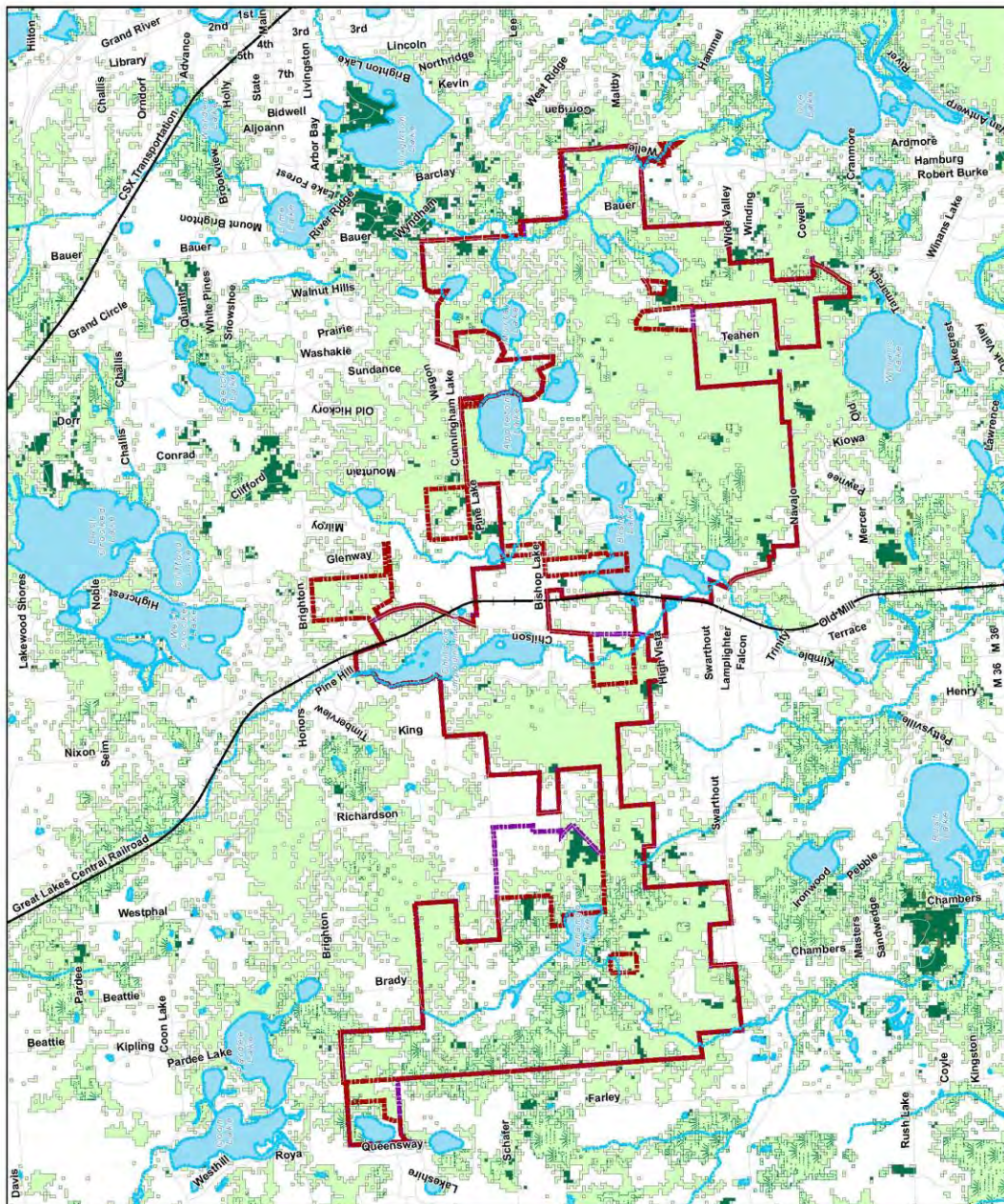


\*A Project Boundary is a geographic area in which the DNR is seeking to acquire property that supports the mission of the DNR on a willing buyer/seller basis.



clearzoning  
CLEAR AND CONNECTED

Sources: Michigan DNR,  
Michigan Geographic Data Library  
Created May 31, 2014





## **A.8 HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

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No structures exist within the Brighton Recreation Area that are eligible to be listed on the national registry. Most of the structures that were eligible were removed or relocated after Camp Brighton closed in 2007.

There are a number of historic and pre-historic sites known to be scattered throughout Brighton Recreation Area. The remnants of abandoned farm fields can be seen, including old stone fences from former property boundaries.


## A.9 EDUCATIONAL, INTERPRETATION AND EVENTS


### Michigan State Park Explorer Program

- Summer program offered at 41 Michigan State Parks to campers and day visitors. The program arms participants with field gear (animal skins, bug boxes and hands-on materials) and a guide for informal hikes and other programs. These activities cater to each parks' unique physical and cultural resources, targeting both children and adults.


**State Park Explorer Program  
Brighton Recreation Area**

**Week of July 13-19 2014**

TUESDAY JULY 15	WEDNESDAY JULY 16	THURSDAY JULY 17	FRIDAY JULY 18	SATURDAY JULY 19
<p><b>Let's Talk Turkey</b> 3:00 pm The turkey is a valuable animal to our ecosystem. Come learn about the turkey. Create our own turkey callers. <b>Explorer Cabin</b></p> <p><b>Owls, Owls, Owls</b> 2:00 pm Come explore the life of an owl. Learn something about their eating habits. Explore an owl pellet to find what owls eat. <b>Meet at the Explorer Cabin</b></p> <p><u><b>All programs start at the Explorer Cabin unless otherwise stated.</b></u></p>	<p><b>What is a Leaf?</b> 10:00 am Examine a leaf with Explorer Bob and find out why they are important to us. We will find leaves and discuss the various types. <b>Meet at Explorer Cabin</b></p> <p><b>Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!</b> 2:00 pm Let's go and find some bugs. What type of insects lives in our park? You will have a chance to collect bugs and study them. Can you name any of their body parts? <b>Meet at the Explorer Cabin.</b></p>	<p><b>Afternoon Family Hike And Talk Coyotes</b> 2:00 pm Join Explorer Bob along seldom used trails and discover some of the park's ecosystem. <b>Meet at the Swing Set at the Day Use Beach</b></p> <p><b>Hook, Line, &amp; Sinker Gone Fishing</b> 7:00 pm Come fishing with Explorer Bob. Learn to cast, bait a hook and fish like a pro. Bait and poles will be available or bring your own. <b>Meet at the fishing pier between the campground and the beach.</b></p>	<p> <b>Michigan Carnivores</b> 4:00 pm Come feel and see the mammals of Michigan. Join us as we learn which mammals are carnivores. <b>Meet at the Explorer Cabin.</b></p> <p><b>Brighton's Bats</b> Come on a Night Walk 9:30pm A night walk, without the use of flashlights. You will test your nighttime senses while on the trail. <b>Meet at the Explorer Cabin wearing walking shoes</b></p> <p><b>NO PROGRAMS ON SUNDAY AND MONDAY</b></p>	<p><b>Hook, Line, &amp; Sinker Fishing Frenzy</b> 10:00-12:00 am Learn to cast, bait a hook, and fish. Bait and limited number of poles will be available. Bring your own pole. Catch and Release bluegill and bass. <b>Meet at the fishing pier between the boat launch and beach.</b></p> <p><b>Family Bike Ride</b> 2:00 pm Come bike one of the parks back trails on a family friendly bike ride. <b>Meet at the swing set/wooden eagle on the beach.</b></p>



A Recreation Passport is required for entry to all Michigan State Parks and Recreation Areas. Check "YES" when you renew your license plate.  
Learn more at [www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport](http://www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport).

Brighton Recreation Area  
6360 Chilson Road  
Howell, MI 48843  
Telephone: 810 229 6566

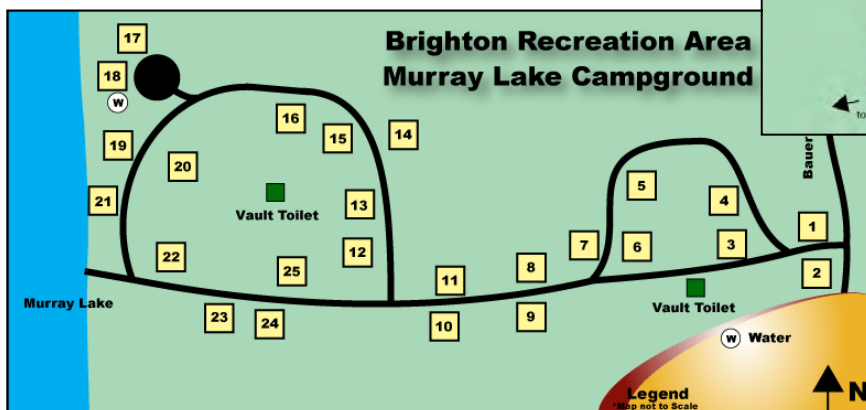
### Events Held at Brighton Recreation Area

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native American Pow Wow</li> <li>• Elite Endeavors Triathlon</li> <li>• Tailwinds Mountain Bike Race</li> <li>• Veteran's Appreciation Picnic</li> <li>• Low Brow Astronomy Club Night Sky event</li> <li>• Michigan Orienteering Club Competition</li> <li>• Hovercraft Racing</li> <li>• Heart of Michigan dog show</li> <li>• Michigamme dog show</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grand Equestrians Charity Ride</li> <li>• Brighton Trail Riders Distance Ride</li> <li>• Running Lab Trail Running event</li> <li>• SELCRA(SE Livingston Co Rec Agency) Family Campout</li> <li>• SELCRA 5K race</li> <li>• SELCRA Movie Night</li> <li>• Harvest Festival and Dance</li> <li>• 4<sup>th</sup> of July Bike Parade</li> </ul>
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## A.10 RECREATION RESOURCES

### Camping

- Bishop Lake Campground, 140-site modern campsites with electrical service and modern restrooms. The campground is divided into two main areas. The lower campground has 79 sites and the upper campground has 61 sites.
- The Appleton Lake Campground is a rustic campground on Appleton Lake consisting of 25 sites and vault toilets near the Bishop Lake beach entrance.
- Murray Lake Campground offers 25 rustic sites along Murray Lake off of Bauer Road. The campground is open weekends-only, Memorial Day through Labor Day.
- The Horseman's campground offers 20 rustic campsites for equestrian use on the west side of Chilson Road.

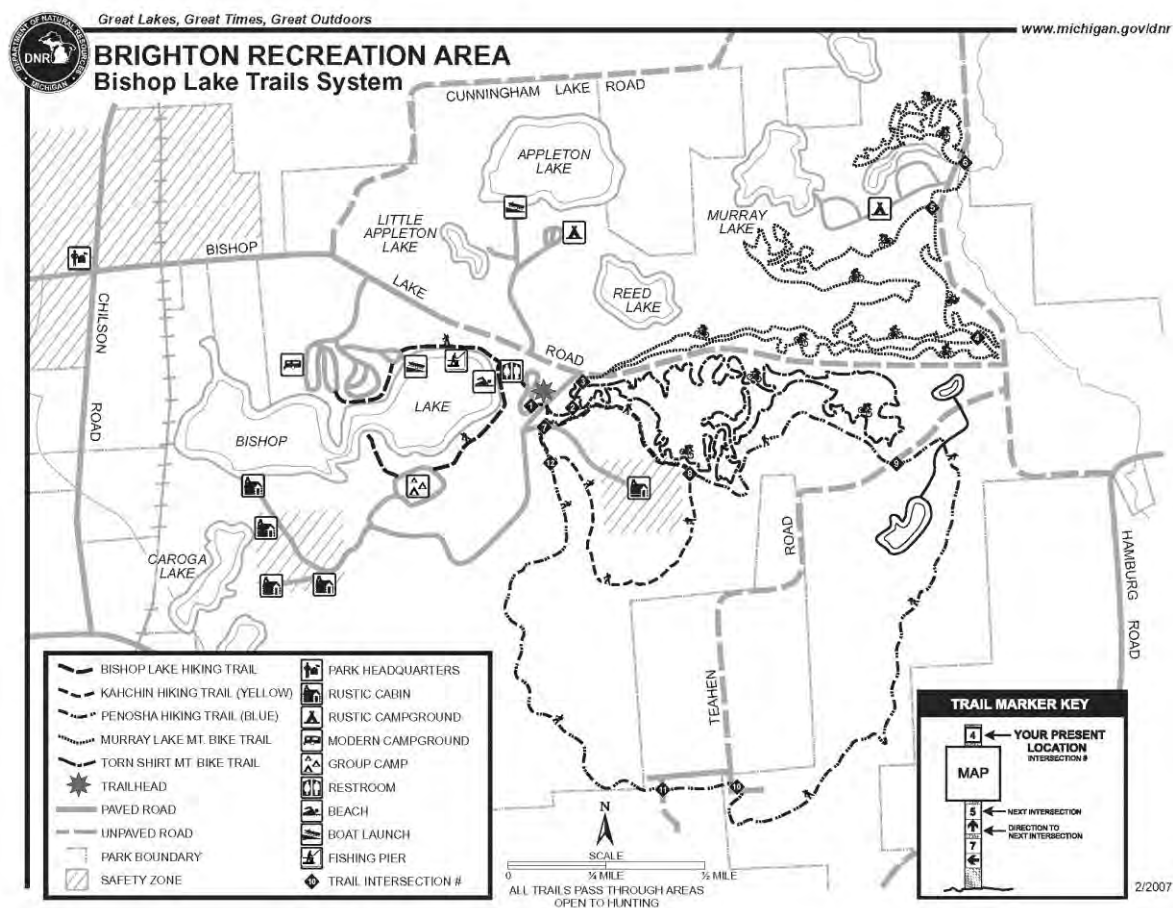


## Cabins

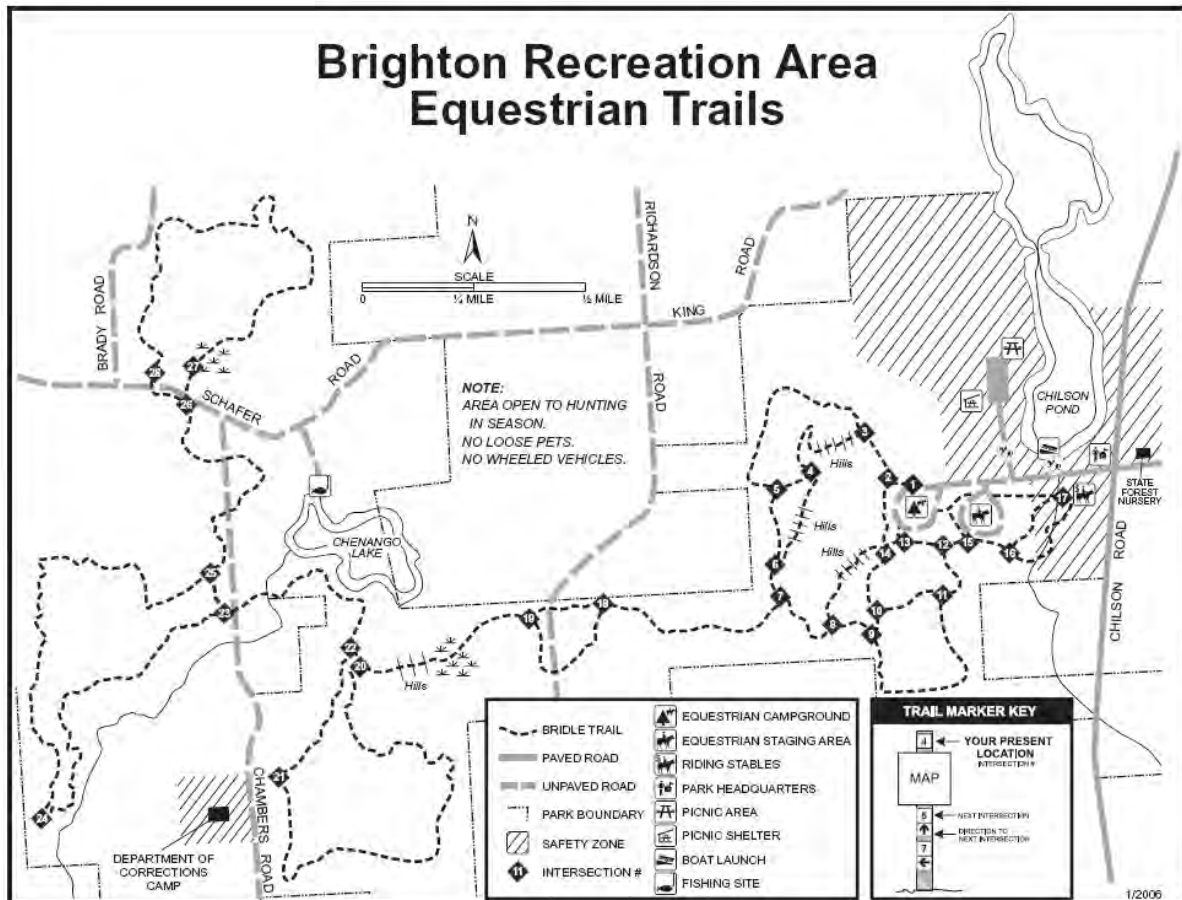
- Five rustic cabins are available within the park. Four are family-size cabins that sleep 8 people. One is a frontier cabin that sleeps 20 people.

## Trails

- Equestrian Trails – There are 18 miles of equestrian trails in the recreation area. These trails are also open to cross country skiing in the winter. An equestrian staging area is provided, with a shade shelter, vault toilets and water pump.
- Kahchin Trail – The Kahchin Trail is 2 miles long. It is open to cross country skiing and hiking. It has modern restrooms and vault toilet access.
- Murray Lake Trail – This is a 9 mile mountain bike trail.
- Penosha Trail – This 5 mile trail is open to cross country skiing and hiking.
- Torn Shirt Mountain Bike Trail – The Trail is a 5.1 mile long mountain bike trail.
- Bishop Lake Trail – The park offers a 1 mile long barrier-free trail.







### **Riding Stables**

- Brighton Recreation Area's riding stables is located on 40 acres within the park boundary, just south of the park headquarters. The stables, which are privately run, offers trail rides (with direct access to the state park trails), lessons, boarding, summer camp and other activities. The stable is ADA accessible and offers a mechanical device that helps riders mount horses. The facility also includes a competition size outdoor arena.

### **Boat Rental**

- Canoes, Kayaks, Paddleboats and Rowboats are available for rent. Rentals are available from May through September.

### **Geocaching**

- There are over a dozen geocaches hidden in Brighton Recreation Area.

### **Watchable Wildlife**

- Bird watching is a popular recreation activity at Brighton Recreation Area. 193 species of bird have been recorded in the park.

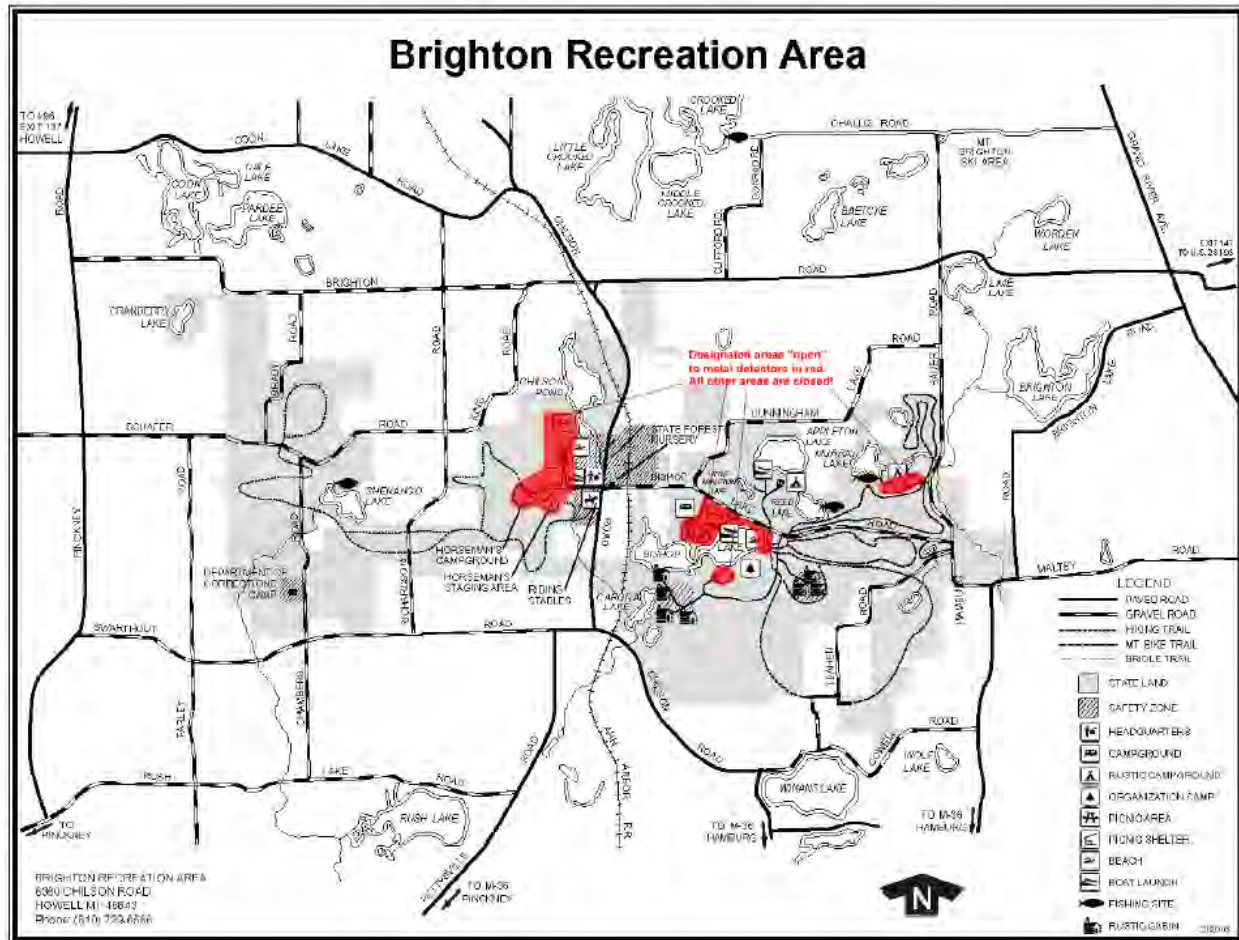
### **Pet-Friendly Area**

- There is a pet-friendly section of shoreline available on Chilson Pond. For more information, please contact the park. Pets must be on a six foot leash and under an owner's immediate control at all times. All pet waste must be properly disposed of in trash receptacles.



## Metal Detecting

- Metal detecting is considered a legitimate recreation activity, so long as no damage to cultural and natural resources occur, and no state statutes are violated. Designated metal detecting areas are available within this park(as shown in the map below); any items found must be reviewed by park staff.



## Hunting

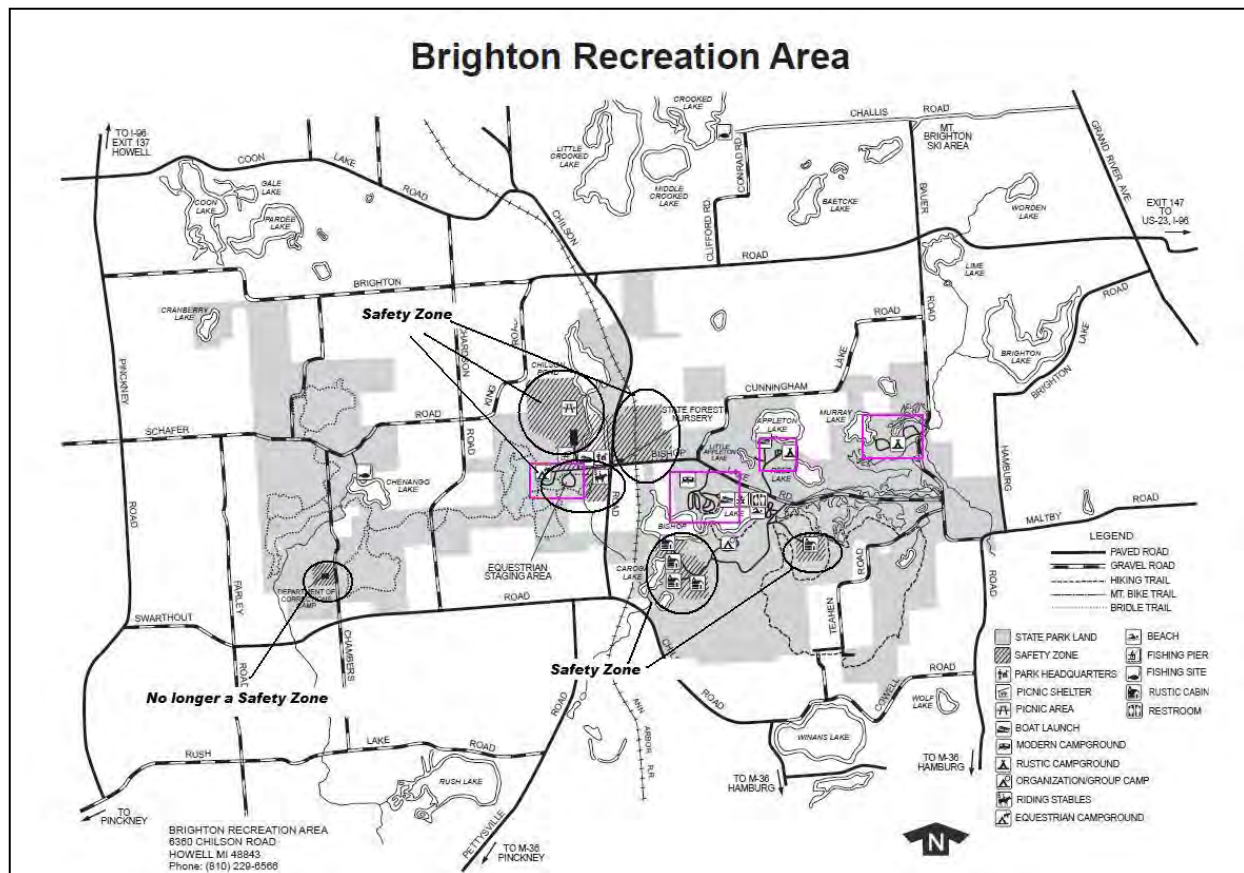
- Wildlife is abundant in the park, including waterfowl, and hunting is allowed during legal seasons. Safety zones prohibit hunting in high use areas and around occupied buildings. The map on the following page shows the safety zones within Brighton Recreation Area. Safety zones are all areas within 150 yards (450 feet) of an occupied building, house, cabin, or any barn or other building used in a farm operation. No person may hunt or discharge a firearm, crossbow or bow in a safety zone, or shoot at any wild animal or wild bird within a safety zone, without the written permission of the owner or occupant of such safety zone.

## Swimming

- Bishop Lake beach has been totally remodeled and is now universally accessible. Features include a beach house, beach area, picnic shelters, and a sand volleyball court. Vending machines are available at the beach house. Swimming is available at the Bishop Lake day-use facility located off of Bishop Lake Road.

## Fishing

- Shore fishing is available at all lakes where launches are located. An ADA fishing pier is accessible from the boat launch at Bishop Lake.



*Note: The safety zone around the Corrections Camp is no longer enforced.*

## Boat Launches and Lake Access

- Boat launches are located on Chilson, Appleton, Bishop and Chenango lakes. An EZ Launch Accessible Transfer system is also available on Bishop Lake. This system allows park guests to easily transfer from a wheelchair to a canoe or kayak. There are numerous unimproved access points for small water craft throughout the park.

## Boat Access

- Other small watercrafts, including kayaks and float tubes, can be walked into Chilson, Appleton, Bishop and Chenango lakes.

## Picnic Area

- There are two picnic areas, one at Bishop Lake which is ADA accessible, and one at Chilson Pond. Vending machines are located near the restroom facilities. Picnic tables and fire pits/grills are also available.

**Picnic Shelter**

- There are four picnic shelters available for reservation at Chilson Pond and two ADA shelters at the Bishop Lake day-use area. Shelters can be reserved up to one year in advance by calling 1-800-447-2757 or visiting [www.midnrrreservations.com](http://www.midnrrreservations.com).

**Playground**

- Limited playground equipment is provided at the modern campsite and Bishop Lake and Chilson Pond.

**Disc Golf**

- Brighton Recreation Area is in the process of constructing 30-hole disc golf course with 6 ADA accessible holes. The course is being designed as a challenge course.

## A.11 ISSUES & CHALLENGES

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- The Horseman's campground lacks adequate access to potable water and also includes severe erosion issues on the road, making it difficult for visitors to use this campground.
- Minor trespass issues by residents living on park boundary and accessing the park via –self-created trails. It is difficult to require these individuals to purchase a Recreation Passport.
- Erosion of the cabin roads
- Trails connecting to or crossing busy roads
- User-created trails

## **A.12 PARK USE STATISTICS AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS**

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### **Park Use**

The total number of day-use visitors for 2012 was 569,427. The total number of campers was 74,098. Total revenues (Camping Fees) generated by the park in 2012 was \$332,298.00

A characterization of park use is described as follows (based on 2012 MDNR-Park Attendance Statistics):

#### **Day-use**

- Summer Use Season – This is defined as the three-month period of June through August, when schools are not in session. This is the busiest season for the park, as 49% of all day-use takes place during these months.
- Fall Use Season – The fall season is defined by the months of September through November. An estimated 22% of all day-use takes places within this season.
- Winter Use Season – December through March marks a significant decline in park use, as only 12% of its day-use occurs during this time.
- Spring Use Season – April through May shows gradual increase in park use with day-use at 17%.

#### **Camping**

- Summer Use Season –This is the busiest season for the park, as 65% of all camping takes place during these months.
- Fall Use Season –An estimated 30% of all camping takes places within this season.
- Winter Use Season – Camping is closed from December through March so 0% of the park's camping occurs during this time.
- Spring Use Season – April through May shows gradual increase in park use with camping at 5%.

### **Economic Impacts**

Michigan State University (Dr. Dan Stynes) developed an economic analysis model known as “MGM2”. This model is an update of the MGM model developed by Dr. Ken Hornback for the National Park System in 1995. The purpose of the updated MGM2 model is to estimate the impact of park visitor spending on the local economy. These economic impacts are reflected in terms of sales, income, employment, and value added. This analysis tool relies on three primary factors in the common equation:

Economic Impact of Tourism Spending = Number of Tourists (x) Average Spending per Visitor (x) Multiplier (to estimate extended effects of direct spending).

For purposes of conducting a very basic review of impacts, the General Management Plan utilizes the “MGM2-Short Form” version of the program, which simplifies the extent of analysis required for input, and utilizes more generalized multipliers for spending outputs. For the non-economist, this provides an excellent tool for establishing a baseline assessment of the economic impacts of our parks.

Following are the relative economic impacts of Brighton Recreation Area to the economy of Livingston County.



### **Direct Economic Effects to the Community**

- Direct spending attributable to Brighton RA visitors totaled \$18,393,000 of which \$220,210 came from day-use, and \$ 18,172,620 from Camping.
- Jobs totaled 437, with 5 related to day-use activity and 431 to camping. (Note: jobs are not full-time equivalent. They include part-time and seasonal positions.)
- Personal Income total is \$6,627,000 with \$79,340 associated with day-use of the park and \$6,547,470 associated with camping.
- Value added (total income plus business taxes) totaled \$10,060,000. Day-use accounted for \$120,440 and camping accounted for \$9,939,160.

### **Total Economic Effects to the Community**

'Direct Effects' plus the 'Secondary Effects' of visitor spending on the local economy. Secondary Effects (sometimes called 'Multiplier Effects') capture economic activity that results from the re-circulation of money spent by the park visitors in the community.

Total spending = \$28,435,000

Jobs = 575

Personal Income = \$10,273,000

Value added = \$16,267,000

# Appendix B – Public Input Summary

Over the duration of the General Management Planning process, the Planning Team ensured a variety of opportunities for public input and feedback. These avenues included:

## **Overview of Public Input Opportunities**

- **Public Input Survey** – an online survey developed to gather general information about park visitors and their use of the park as well as recommendations for improving features and amenities offered at the park. The survey was made available for an 8-week period.
- **Brighton Recreation Area Website** – the public could post comments on the website, which also included additional resources about the General Management Planning process. The link for the website is: <http://www.clearzoning.com/brighton-recreation-area/>
- **Stakeholder Input Open House (May 29, 2014)** – located at the Brighton Community Center from 2 – 4 p.m., stakeholders had the opportunity to learn about the General Management Planning process and provide input regarding the Statements of Significance and the Draft 10-Year Action Goals. Approximately 50 stakeholders were invited to the open house; 25 stakeholders attended.
- **Public Input Open House (August 18, 2014)** – located at the Brighton Community center from 6-8 p.m., members of the public were invited to learn about the General Management Planning process and comment on the Statements of Significance and the Draft 10-Year Action Goals.

# DNR Stakeholder Open House

## Brighton Recreation Area



### We Want Your Input!!

You are invited to complete a 5-10 minute online survey, which can be found at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BRAPublicInputSurvey>

Your input will inform the Planning Team as they develop appropriate zones and action goals for the park!

You are encouraged to visit the project website at:

<http://www.clearzoning.com/brighton-recreation-area/>

For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Susie Roble at [susie@clearzoning.com](mailto:susie@clearzoning.com) or 248.423.1776 x 15

### DNR Stakeholder Open House

#### Review and discussion of Draft General Management Plan

The Parks & Recreation Division of the DNR is in the process of developing a Management Plan for Brighton Recreation Area. The Management Plan includes a 20-year management outlook for natural and cultural resources and educational opportunities at the park. In addition, the plan includes a set of 10-year action goals that will guide specific management decisions and enhance the visitor experience, while protecting the natural, cultural and historic resources for the enjoyment of future generations.

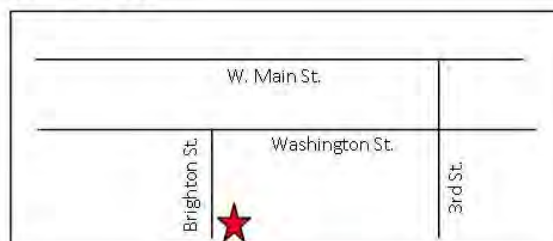
You and/or your group have been identified as a stakeholder, with active interests in Brighton Recreation Area. Using an open house format, the DNR will share its initial thoughts on the Draft General Management Plan and welcomes your input.

**You may drop in at any time during the scheduled open house.** However, we request that each stakeholder group limit itself to not more than 3 representatives, so that we may accommodate everyone based on meeting space and time constraints.

**Thursday, May 29, 2014**

**2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Brighton Community Center  
555 Brighton Street  
Brighton, MI 48116



**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
General Management Planning Process  
Stakeholder Input Workshop  
Brighton Recreation Area  
May 29, 2014  
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
Brighton Community Center**

- 1. Planning Team Introductions at 2:00 p.m.**
- 2. Brief Presentation of Management Planning Process and Status at 2:05 p.m.**
  - a. Significance Statements
  - b. Development of Management Zone Maps
  - c. Action Goal Development – Draft 10-year strategies to address the desired future condition of each zone
  - d. Brighton Recreation Area Planning Team Draft Action Goals organized by:
    - ☐ General Action Goals
    - ☐ Primitive Zone
    - ☐ Cultural Landscape Zone/Overlay
    - ☐ Natural Resource Recreation Zone
    - ☐ Developed Recreation Zone
    - ☐ Visitor Service Zone
  - d. Priority Exercise explained
  - e. Action Goals input sheets described
  - f. Questions and Answers
- 3. Open House at 2:30 p.m.**
  - a. You are invited to visit each of the stations and talk to Planning Team members
  - b. Sticky notes are available to comment on Management Zone Map
  - c. Color dots are available for you to identify your priority actions (please limit yourself to 10 dots)
  - d. “Additional Input” sheets are available for you to contribute additional suggested actions goals
- 4. Adjournment at 4:00 p.m.**

**For More Information:**

**Project Website:** <http://www.clearzoning.com/clearzoning-clients/brighton-recreation-area/>

**Survey:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BRAPublicInputSurvey>

**DNR Management Planning Website:** [www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans](http://www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans)

**Email:** [Susie@clearzoning.com](mailto:Susie@clearzoning.com) or [jill@clearzoning.com](mailto:jill@clearzoning.com)

**Phone:** 248.423.1776





General Action Goals		
Many of the 10-Year Action Goals for Brighton Recreation Area are general in nature and apply within all of the management zones. These often deal with park-wide issues, such as invasive species control, universal access, developing Stewardship, Wildlife and Emergency plans, or marketing the park's many recreational opportunities to a wider audience of potential users. Many of the overall maintenance and operational issues of running a state park also result in the need for actions across all zone boundaries, such as law enforcement.		
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers
<b>Natural Resources</b>		
1. Update Stewardship Plan	3-5 Years	
2. Implement Stewardship Plan for the park	Ongoing	1
3. Manage vegetation-consistent with the zone designation	Ongoing	
4. Implement invasive species control, with a strong emphasis on early detection and rapid response. Monitor roads, trails, and any new development sites for possible invasive species introductions.	Ongoing	3
<b>Historic/Cultural Resources</b>		
1. Continue monitoring archaeological and cultural resources	Ongoing	
2. Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources	Ongoing	
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>		
1. Identify opportunities to improve trail connectivity between the park, Lakelands Trail State Park, and downtown Brighton to support the mutual goals of PRD and the local partners	2 Years	6
2. Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping/birding	Ongoing	1
3. Identify additional fishing pier opportunities	2-5 Years	
<b>Education/Interpretation Opportunities</b>		
1. Continue to provide quality interpretation and education opportunities	On-going	
2. Develop an Interpretive Plan that utilizes a variety of traditional and new media, including audio and visual technologies, podcasts, and other emerging technologies for interpretation opportunities	2 Years	
3. Implement the Interpretive Plan	3-5 Years	

Attendees had the opportunity to prioritize the draft action goals using sticky dots

General Action Goals (Cont.)		
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers
<b>Management Focus</b>		
1. Explore acquisition of property within proposed General Management Plan project boundary	Ongoing	4
2. Explore opportunities for exchange of surplus lands for land within the GMP project boundary	Ongoing	3
3. Review and update Wildfire Plan and Emergency Plan	Completed with Annual Update	
4. Continue to explore and develop revenue generating opportunities that are sustainable	Ongoing	
5. Continue to complete and comply with annual safety inspections and plans	Ongoing	1
6. Continue DNR marketing effort at local level and within the park	Ongoing	
7. Review all concession contracts	Ongoing Annually	
8. Continue to collaborate with community partners to support the mutual goals of PRD and the local partners	Ongoing	4
9. Evaluate the safety of trail crossings at busy roads and improve where needed	2 Years	1
10. Request Director's Order to prohibit snowmobiling where it is not appropriate within the management zone	1-2 Years	
11. Continue to assess trails and make improvements as needed	Ongoing	6
<b>Development</b>		
1. Continue to ensure ADA accessibility for all development opportunities	Ongoing Annually	
2. Improve gravel roads throughout the park	5-10 Years	1

### Primitive Zone

<p><b>Primitive Zone</b></p> <p>The Primitive Zone emphasizes the natural resources of the area. It is managed to allow only high quality, low frequency and low impact recreational use in the zone. Maintaining a high quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements and precedents are allowed. For this reason, native species and natural resources take precedence over visit development. The following 10-Year Action Goals propose only minimal levels of development in order to protect the important habitat. Only foot traffic is allowed in this zone.</p>			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers	
<b>Natural Resources</b>			
1. Manage vegetation consistent with this zone	Ongoing		
1. Manage vegetation consistent with this zone	Ongoing		
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>			
1. Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping/birding	Ongoing		
hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping/birding	Ongoing	2	
<b>Management Focus</b>			
1. Continue to employ management techniques that keep park users on the designated trails	Ongoing		
designated trails	Ongoing		
<b>Development</b>			
1. Maintain appropriate education/interpretation trail signs and viewing locations	Ongoing		
Maintain appropriate education/interpretation trail signs and viewing locations	Ongoing	2	
		2	
<p><b>Backcountry Zone</b></p> <p>The character of the Backcountry zone is intended to be natural, with minimal evidence of human impact. While the Primitive Zone is highly restrictive for recreational use and human impact, Backcountry permits a slightly higher intensity of use. The Zone allows for increased activity including bicycle and equestrian use, and slight modifications of the landscape (trail development) to accommodate that use where it is consistent with protection of the resource. Tolerance for natural resource impacts is low in the Backcountry zone and the 10-year Action Goals for this zone focus primarily on improving existing facilities rather than new development.</p>			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers	
<b>Natural Resources</b>			
1. Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping/birding	Ongoing		
1. Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping/birding	Ongoing		
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>			
1. Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping/birding	Ongoing		
hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping/birding	Ongoing	2	
2. Evaluate backcountry camping opportunities	5-10 Years	2	
2. Evaluate backcountry camping opportunities	5-10 Years	2	
<b>Management Focus</b>			
1. Continue to employ management techniques that keep park users on the designated trails	Ongoing		
designated trails	Ongoing	3	
<b>Development</b>			
1. Maintain appropriate education/interpretation trail signs and viewing locations	Ongoing		
Maintain appropriate education/interpretation trail signs and viewing locations	Ongoing	1	
2. Add trail amenities for equestrians as appropriate to this zone	2-5 Years	1	
2. Add trail amenities for equestrians as appropriate to this zone	2-5 Years	2	
		2	
Additional Comments:			
1) Additional trail amenities (more trails) for mountain biking in the Backcountry Zone (this comment received one sticky dot)			
Additional Comments:			
1) Additional trail amenities (more trails) for mountain biking in the Backcountry Zone (this comment received one sticky dot)			

<b>Natural Resource Recreation Zone</b> Active recreation, at medium to high density of use, conducted in a natural setting is the hallmark of the Natural Resource Recreation zone. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but in this zone, higher levels of use are allowed. Vegetation may be managed to facilitate recreational use and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape, as well as to address such things as hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. The 10-year Action goals are intended to promote moderate to high levels of recreation compatible with the natural character of the zone. The Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone is incorporated within this zone in recognition of historical and cultural resources. While interpretation opportunities within the overlay should be explored, the recommendations of the underlying Natural Resource Recreation Zone are the primary focus.		
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers
<b>Historic/Cultural Resources</b>		
1. Protect and interpret historic and cultural resources	Ongoing	
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>		
1. Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping, bird watching	Ongoing	3
2. Maintain and enhance opportunities for trail use and camping	Ongoing	1
3. Work with local recreation partners to connect Lakelands Trail State Park to surrounding communities through Brighton Recreation Area	5-10 Years	4
4. Explore alternative lodging opportunities	5-10 Years	2
<b>Management Focus</b>		
1. Continue to employ management techniques that keep park users on the designated trails	Ongoing	1
<b>Development</b>		
1. Maintain appropriate education/interpretation trail signs and viewing locations	Ongoing	
2. Develop mountain bike beginner loop trail west of Appleton Lake Campground	1-2 Years	3
3. Explore opportunities to provide parking at Murray Lake	2-5 Years	1



Developed Recreation Zone		
Active recreation with high density of use, conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance, is characteristic of the Developed Recreation Zone. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced where possible. Brighton Recreation Area's primary day-use and camping areas and swimming beaches are located in this zone. The 10-Year Action Goals direct management decisions and development projects designed to promote and support these diverse visitor activities. The Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone is incorporated within this zone in recognition of remnants from historic lakefront settlements. While interpretation opportunities within the overlay should be explored, the recommendations of the underlying Developed Recreation Zone are the primary focus.		
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers
<b>Historic/Cultural Resources</b>		
1. Protect and interpret historic lakefront settlements	Ongoing	
<b>Education/Interpretation Opportunities</b>		
1. Add interpretive signage at Bishop Lake (day use area and campground) and Chilson Pond day use area	2 Years	1
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>		
1. Evaluate opportunities to repurpose Chilson Pond day use area	5-10 Years	3
2. Evaluate relocating Equestrian Campground to appropriate location within the zone	5-10 Years	8
3. Add/replace playground equipment at campground and day use areas	5 Years	
4. Explore alternative lodging accommodations	3-5 Years	2
5. Explore opportunities to add "challenge" facilities, for example ropes course, zip line, and the like	5-10 Years	1
<b>Development</b>		
1. Update campground electrical system	1-2 Years	3
2. Provide wifi at campground and day use areas	1-3 Years	
3. Explore opportunities to modernize existing group cabins with electricity and water	2-5 Years	
4. Add a second sewage holding tank for campground	3-6 Years	
5. Improve ADA water access at Bishop Lake and Chilson Pond	2-5 Years	
<b>Additional Comments:</b> 1) Move horse camp to Chilson Pond (this comment received one sticker) 2) Move equestrian campground to a better/bigger location (electricity included) 3) Grade horse camp road 4) Level horse camp sites 5) Add water to horse camp 6) Investigate possible winter use for snow shoeing and cross country skiing		

Visitor Service Zone		
This zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. It includes the headquarters offices and maintenance facilities with the associated land required to conduct the business of running Brighton Recreation Area.		
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers
<b>Development</b>		
1. Upgrade the appearance and function of the headquarters and visitor welcome area	Ongoing	1

ADDITIONAL ACTION GOALS TO CONSIDER:

Action Goal	Management Zone
Replace equestrian campground to allow larger, more modern rigs and provide electricity and water	
Surplus land on Brighton Road (southwest of Township wastewater plant) and northwest of Appleton Lake – sensitive to local residents. Sale to allow purchase of apartment building in-holding would be palatable – Mike Archibal (Twp. Manager, Genoa)	
Increase education of all users; increase signage to educate; add confidence markers	
The possibility of putting in tornado shelters throughout the park. One idea is to refurbish shipping containers as shelters. – Amy Carlson, Riding Stable	
Upgrade horseman campground with electricity	

**Welcome – Please Sign In!**  
**Stakeholder Input Workshop**  
**Brighton Recreation Area**  
**May 29, 2014**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone #</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Ashley Finkbeiner	Camp Talahi Retreat & Nature	6458 Richardson Road	810-844-1499	<a href="mailto:info@camptalahi.org">info@camptalahi.org</a>
Derek Smith	SELCRA	125 South Church Brighton, MI 48116	810-299-4141	<a href="mailto:dsmith@selcra.com">dsmith@selcra.com</a>
Douglas Brown	Genoa Township	2911 Dorr Road Brighton MI	810-22705225	<a href="mailto:doug@genoa.org">doug@genoa.org</a>
Gayle Pawl	BTRA Genoa Twp	5475 Brady Howell MI	734-878-6143	<a href="mailto:Gpawl428@aol.com">Gpawl428@aol.com</a>
Jean Ligon	MI Horse Council	6875 Farley Road Pinckney MI	810-623-0695	<a href="mailto:Jean.ligon@gmail.com">Jean.ligon@gmail.com</a>
Tim Nichols	NRC	624 Pine Meadows Land Williamston MI	313-530-0775	<a href="mailto:Tim_Nichols@gmail.com">Tim_Nichols@gmail.com</a>
Jay Carnevale	MMBA	8071 Boulder Ridge Ct. Brighton MI	810-229-7196	<a href="mailto:jcarnevale@valley.net">jcarnevale@valley.net</a>
Mike Donnelly	BRA – Park Supervisor		810-229-6566	<a href="mailto:donnellymi@michigan.gov">donnellymi@michigan.gov</a>
Rose Clarke	BTRA GLDRA & UMECRA	4200 Highscres	810-220-0974	<a href="mailto:rosehclark@att.net">rosehclark@att.net</a>
Carl Loomis	Poto-MBA	1541 Newport Creek Drive Ann Arbor MI 48103	734-395-6760	<a href="mailto:cloomis@comcast.net">cloomis@comcast.net</a>
Patti Nicholson	Livingston Land Conservancy	7222 Farley Rd Pinckney MI 48169	734-878-9137	<a href="mailto:pattinicholson@hotmail.com">pattinicholson@hotmail.com</a>
Mike Archival	Genoa Township	2911 Derr Road Brighton MI 48116	810-227-5225	<a href="mailto:mike@genoa.org">mike@genoa.org</a>
Matt Lincoln	DNR	525 W. Allegan Lansing MI	517-284-6111	<a href="mailto:lincolnm@michigan.gov">lincolnm@michigan.gov</a>
Jim Harvey	Camp Talahi	16454 S. Herwood Northville MI	734-546-5634	<a href="mailto:jharvey@umich.edu">jharvey@umich.edu</a>
Gabrielle Hume	Equine Trails Subcommittee BTRA	3395 LeValley Rd Columbiaville	810-705-0172	<a href="mailto:levalleyvista@earthlink.net">levalleyvista@earthlink.net</a>

**Welcome – Please Sign In!**  
**Stakeholder Input Workshop**  
**Brighton Recreation Area**  
**May 29, 2014**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone #</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Cooper Green	Southern MI Orienteering Club	7009 Wide Valley Dr Brighton MI	810-705-0172	<a href="mailto:Cgreen_cga@hotmail.com">Cgreen_cga@hotmail.com</a>
Orvin F. Rohloff	Livingston Horseman Association			<a href="mailto:Orvin.rohloff@gmail.com">Orvin.rohloff@gmail.com</a>
Amy Carlson	Brighton Riding Stable	3480 Mayberry Howell 48843	512-861-1526	<a href="mailto:brightonrecstables@yahoo.com">brightonrecstables@yahoo.com</a>
Debra McKenzie	Green Oak Twp	10001 Silver Lake Road Brighton MI	810-231-1333	<a href="mailto:Debra.mckenzie@twp.green-oak.mi.us">Debra.mckenzie@twp.green-oak.mi.us</a>
Glenn Palmgren	DNR-PRD	PO Box 30257 Lansing MI 48909	517-284-6121	<a href="mailto:palmgeng@michigan.gov">palmgeng@michigan.gov</a>
Karen Gourlay	DNR-MOD	20145 Beck Road Northville MI	248-349-3858	<a href="mailto:gourlayk@michigan.gov">gourlayk@michigan.gov</a>
Lisa Gamero	DNR – PRD	525 W. Allegan Lansing MI	517-284-6100	<a href="mailto:gamerol@michigan.gov">gamerol@michigan.gov</a>
Debbie Jensen	DNR – PRD			



# DNR Public Open House

## Brighton Recreation Area



### We Want Your Input!!

Your input will inform the Planning Team as they develop appropriate zones and action goals for the park!

You are encouraged to visit the project website at:

[http://  
www.clearzoning.com/  
brighton-recreation-area/](http://www.clearzoning.com/brighton-recreation-area/)

For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Mardy Stirling at [mardy@clearzoning.com](mailto:mardy@clearzoning.com) or 248.423.1776 x 15

### DNR Public Open House

#### Review and discussion of Draft General Management Plan

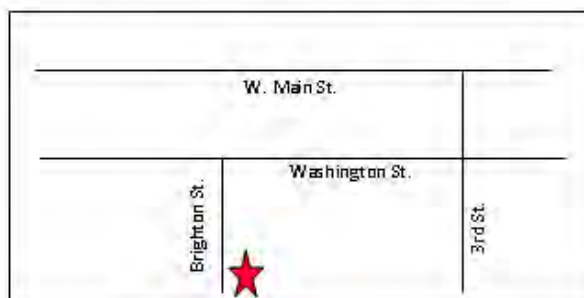
The Parks & Recreation Division of the DNR is in the process of developing a Management Plan for Brighton Recreation Area. The Management Plan includes a 20-year management outlook for natural and cultural resources and educational opportunities at the park. In addition, the plan includes a set of 10-year action goals that will guide specific management decisions and enhance the visitor experience, while protecting the natural, cultural and historic resources for the enjoyment of future generations.

Using an open house format, the DNR will share its initial thoughts on the Draft General Management Plan and welcomes your input. **You may drop in at any time during the scheduled open house.**

**Monday, August 18, 2014**

**6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Brighton Community Center  
555 Brighton Street  
Brighton, MI 48116




Contact DNR

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Key Topics

DNR Mobile Apps

MI.gov



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Department of  
Natural Resources

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OPEN MICHIGAN

DNR > PRESS RELEASES, MAPS & PUBLICATIONS > PRESS RELEASES

Public invited to provide input on updated management plan for Brighton Recreation Area

Contact: [Debbie Jensen](#), 517-284-6105 or [Ed Golder](#), 517-284-5815

Agency: Natural Resources

July 31, 2014

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources will host an open house Monday, Aug. 18, to invite public input on a new draft General Management Plan for Brighton Recreation Area in Livingston County. The open house will take place 6-8 p.m. at Brighton Community Center, 555 Brighton St., in Brighton, Michigan.

The General Management Plan for Brighton Recreation Area defines a long-range planning and management strategy. This plan will assist the Parks and Recreation Division in its mission to protect and preserve the site's natural and cultural resources and to provide access to land- and water-based public recreation and educational opportunities. The draft plan is available for review online at [www.clearzoning.com/clearzoning-clients/brighton-recreation-area](http://www.clearzoning.com/clearzoning-clients/brighton-recreation-area).

Additional information on the DNR's General Management Plan process is available at [www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans](http://www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans).

[Brighton Recreation Area](#) provides nearly 5,000 acres of high, irregular ranges of hills, interspersed with a number of attractive lakes, wetlands and connecting streams. The park provides a variety of camping opportunities and a 41-mile trail system for equestrian riding, mountain biking and hiking.

Anyone seeking more information about this open house or the proposed plan or needing accommodations to attend this open house should contact Debbie Jensen, DNR park management plan administrator, at 517-284-6105 (TTY/TDD 711 Michigan Relay Center for the hearing-impaired) at least five business days before the open house.

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. For more information, go to [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

Related Content

- Free tours offered at three northern Michigan weirs during fall egg-take efforts
- Hunter education class available on Belle Isle Sept. 27-28
- Sept. 24 Equine Trails Subcommittee meeting canceled
- DNR Managed Waterfowl Hunt Areas to host open houses; Hunters can get information on this year's Wetland Wonders Challenge
- Arraignment set for Oct. 6 for Sanilac County poaching suspects
- Second annual ladies' guided pheasant hunt set for Oct. 12 in Belding
- Surplus salmon available to the public again this fall
- Michigan Iron Industry Museum to host Civil War encampment Oct. 4; See award-winning documentary about Michigan Native American sharpshooters
- Gov. Snyder celebrates successful conservation project at Maple River State Game Area
- Michigan Historical Museum seeks volunteers to help share state's history
- Michigan Trails Advisory Council subcommittees to meet in Lansing
- DNR holds free bass fishing clinic Wednesday, Sept. 17 at Escanaba Pocket Park
- DNR conservation officers to receive online training through partnership with

General Management Plan – Brighton Recreation Area  
Appendix B – Public Input Summary

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**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
General Management Planning Process  
Public Input Open House  
Brighton Recreation Area  
August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
Brighton Community Center**

- 1. Planning Team Introductions at 6:00 pm**
- 2. Brief Presentation of Management Planning Process and Status (15 minutes)**
  - a. Review Phase 1 Management Zone Maps
  - b. Action Goal Development – Draft 10-year strategies to address the desired future condition of each zone
  - c. Brighton Recreation Area Planning Team Draft Action Goals organized by:
    - ☐ General Action Goals
    - ☐ Primitive Zone
    - ☐ Backcountry Zone
    - ☐ Natural Resource Recreation Zone
    - ☐ Developed Recreation Zone
    - ☐ Visitor Service Zone
  - d. Priority Exercise explained
  - e. Action Goals input sheets described
  - f. Questions and Answers
- 3. Open House (1 hour 45 minutes)**
  - a. You are invited to visit each of the stations and talk to Planning Team members
  - b. Sticky notes are available to comment on the Management Zone Map
  - c. Color dots are available for you to identify your priority actions (please limit yourself to 10)
  - d. Comment sheets are available for you to suggest additional action goals
- 4. Adjournment at 8:00 pm**

**For More Information:**

**Project Website:** [www.clearzoning.com/clearzoning-clients/brighton-recreation-area/](http://www.clearzoning.com/clearzoning-clients/brighton-recreation-area/)  
**DNR Management Planning Website:** [www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans](http://www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans)  
**Email:** [JensenD1@michigan.gov](mailto:JensenD1@michigan.gov) [Mardy@clearzoning.com](mailto:Mardy@clearzoning.com) or [Dave@clearzoning.com](mailto:Dave@clearzoning.com)  
**Phone:** 517.284.6105 (Debbie Jensen, DNR-PRD Management Administration) or 248.423.1776 (Clearzoning)



*clearzoning*

Public Input Open House Attendees	
Name	Affiliation
Katie Leoni	
Jason Musson	Neighborhood Property Owner
Connie Gask	Neighborhood Property Owner
Sarah Jean Meyer	Society for Creative Anachronism
Kay Koch	
Mark Delaney	BTRA – Board
Marilyn Meyer	Society for Creative Anachronism
Gayle Paul	Brighton Trail Riders
Vickie Barner	

**Brighton Recreation Area  
Draft 10-Year Action Goals**

General Action Goals				
Many of the 10-Year Action Goals for Brighton Recreation Area are general in nature and apply within all of the management zones. These often deal with park-wide issues, such as invasive species control, universal access, developing Stewardship, Wildlife and Emergency plans, or marketing the park's many recreational opportunities to a wider audience of potential users. Many of the overall maintenance and operational issues of running a state park also result in the need for actions across all zone boundaries, such as law enforcement.				
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Priority Stickers
<b>Natural Resources</b>				
1. Update Stewardship Plan	3-5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship	Stewardship Ecologist	
2. Implement Stewardship Plan for the park	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager Stewardship	
3. Manage vegetation-consistent with the zone designation	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager	3
4. Implement invasive species control, with a strong emphasis on early detection and rapid response. Monitor roads, trails, and any new development sites for possible invasive species introductions.	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Fisheries	Park Manager	4
<b>Historic/Cultural Resources</b>				
1. Continue monitoring archaeological and cultural resources	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Cultural Resource Analyst Office of State Archaeologist	
2. Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources	Ongoing	Stewardship Regional Planner	Cultural Resource Analyst Office of State Archaeologist	
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>				
1. Identify opportunities to improve trail connectivity between the park, Lakelands Trail State Park, and downtown Brighton to support the mutual goals of PRD and the local partners	2 Years	Park Manager Regional Field Planner Local Recreation Partners	Regional Field Planner	5
2. Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping/birding	Ongoing	Stewardship Wildlife Park Manager Fisheries	Park Manager	
3. Identify additional fishing pier opportunities	2-5 Years	Fisheries Park Manager	Park Manager	1
<b>Education/Interpretation Opportunities</b>				
1. Continue to provide quality interpretation and education opportunities	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Marketing & Outreach Historical Center	1 (Outdoor Ed School)
2. Develop an Interpretive Plan that utilizes a variety of traditional and new media, including audio and visual technologies, podcasts, and other emerging technologies for interpretation opportunities	2 Years	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	
3. Implement the Interpretive Plan	3-5 Years	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	



General Action Goals (Cont.)				
Management Focus				Priority Stickers
1. Explore acquisition of property within proposed General Management Plan project boundary	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Lands Manager	Lands Manager	
2. Explore opportunities for exchange of surplus lands for land within the GMP project boundary	Ongoing	Park Manager Lands Manager	Lands Manager	
3. Review and update Wildfire Plan and Emergency Plan	Completed with Annual Update	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager	2
4. Continue to explore and develop revenue generating opportunities that are sustainable	Ongoing	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager	
5. Continue to complete and comply with annual safety inspections and plans	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager	
6. Continue DNR marketing effort at local level and within the park	Ongoing	Park Manager Recreation Programmer Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager	
7. Review all concession contracts	Ongoing Annually	Park Manager Contracts and Lease Coordinator	Park Manager	1
8. Continue to collaborate with community partners to support the mutual goals of PRD and the local partners	Ongoing	Park Manager Local Partners	Park Manager Local Partners	
9. Evaluate the safety of trail crossings at busy roads and improve where needed	2 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner Road Commission	Park Manager	1
10. Request Director's Order to prohibit snowmobiling where it is not appropriate within the management zone	1-2 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager	
11. Continue to assess trails and make improvements as needed	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager	3
12. Continue to maintain and upgrade trail markers to improve confidence for hikers, bikers, trail riders and hunters and install boundary markers at key locations	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager	4
Development				
1. Continue to ensure ADA accessibility for all development opportunities	Ongoing Annually	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager	2
2. Improve gravel roads throughout the park	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager	1

<b>Primitive Zone</b>  The Primitive Zone emphasizes the natural resources of the area. It is managed to allow only dispersed, low frequency and low impact recreational use in the zone. Maintaining a high quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements or users are allowed. For this reason, native species and natural processes take precedence over visitor accommodation. The following 10-Year Action Goals propose only very low levels of development, in order to protect the important habitat. Only foot traffic is allowed in this zone.				1
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Priority Stickers
<b>Natural Resources</b>				
1. Manage vegetation consistent with this zone	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager	
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>				
1. Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping/birding	Ongoing	Stewardship Wildlife Park Manager Fisheries	Park Manager	1
<b>Management Focus</b>				
1. Continue to employ management techniques that keep park users on the designated trails	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager	2
<b>Development</b>				
1. Maintain appropriate education/interpretation trail signs and viewing locations	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager	

<b>Backcountry Zone</b>  The character of the Backcountry zone is intended to be natural, with minimal evidence of human impact. While the Primitive Zone is highly restrictive for recreational use and human impact, Backcountry permits a slightly higher intensity of use. The Zone allows for increased activity including bicycle and equestrian use, and slight modifications of the landscape (trail development) to accommodate that use where it is consistent with protection of the resource. Tolerance for natural resource impacts is low in the Backcountry zone and the 10-year Action Goals for this zone focus primarily on improving existing facilities rather than new development.				
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Priority Stickers
<b>Natural Resources</b>				
1. Manage vegetation and infrastructure consistent with this zone	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager	3
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>				
1. Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping/birding	Ongoing	Stewardship Wildlife Park Manager Fisheries	Park Manager	
2. Evaluate backcountry camping opportunities	5-10 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager	
<b>Management Focus</b>				
1. Continue to employ management techniques that keep park users on the designated trails	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager	2
<b>Development</b>				
1. Maintain appropriate education/interpretation trail signs and viewing locations	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager	
2. Add trail amenities for equestrians as appropriate to this zone	2-5 Years	Park Manager Equestrian Partners	Park Manager	3


Natural Resource Recreation Zone				
<p>Active recreation, at medium to high density of use, conducted in a natural setting is the hallmark of the Natural Resource Recreation zone. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but in this zone, higher levels of use are allowed. Vegetation may be managed to facilitate recreational use and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape, as well as to address such things as hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. The 10-year Action goals are intended to promote moderate to high levels of recreation compatible with the natural character of the zone. The Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone is incorporated within this zone in recognition of historical and cultural resources. While interpretation opportunities within the overlay should be explored, the recommendations of the underlying Natural Resource Recreation Zone are the primary focus.</p>				
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Priority Stickers
<b>Historic/Cultural Resources</b>				
1. Protect and interpret historic and cultural resources	Ongoing	Stewardship Park Manager	Park Manager	
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>				
1. Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping, bird watching	Ongoing	Stewardship Wildlife Park Manager	Park Manager	
2. Maintain and enhance opportunities for trail use and camping	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager	
3. Work with local recreation partners to connect Lakelands Trail State Park to surrounding communities through Brighton Recreation Area	5-10 Years	Local Recreational Partners Regional Planner Park Manager	Regional Planner	2
4. Explore alternative lodging opportunities	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager	1
<b>Management Focus</b>				
1. Continue to employ management techniques that keep park users on the designated trails	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager	1
<b>Development</b>				
1. Maintain appropriate education/interpretation trail signs and viewing locations	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager	
2. Develop mountain bike beginner loop trail west of Appleton Lake Campground	1-2 Years	Park Manager IMBA	Park Manager	3
3. Explore opportunities to provide parking at Murray Lake	2-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager	
<b>Comments:</b>				
Paved trail of Bishop; connecting park from far east to far west. East at Bauer where boardwalk trail ends.				
Development #3: Need lake access to Murray Lake for campers				

Developed Recreation Zone				
<p>Active recreation with high density of use, conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance, is characteristic of the Developed Recreation Zone. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced where possible. Brighton Recreation Area's primary day-use and camping areas and swimming beaches are located in this zone. The 10-Year Action Goals direct management decisions and development projects designed to promote and support these diverse visitor activities. The Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone is incorporated within this zone in recognition of remnants from historic lakefront settlements. While interpretation opportunities within the overlay should be explored, the recommendations of the underlying Developed Recreation Zone are the primary focus.</p>				
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Priority Stickers
<b>Historic/Cultural Resources</b>				
1. Protect and interpret historic lakefront settlements	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager	
<b>Education/Interpretation Opportunities</b>				
1. Add interpretive signage at Bishop Lake (day use area and campground) and Chilson Pond day use area	2 Years	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach Fisheries	Park Manager	1
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>				
1. Evaluate opportunities to repurpose Chilson Pond day use area	5-10 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager	2
2. Evaluate relocating Equestrian Campground to appropriate location within the zone	5-10 Years	Local Equestrian Partners Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager	3
3. Add/replace playground equipment at campground and day use areas	5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner Friends Group	Park Manager	1
4. Explore alternative lodging accommodations	3-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager	
5. Explore opportunities to add "challenge" facilities, for example ropes course, zip line, and the like	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager	2
6. Evaluate opportunities for a designated pet-friendly beach at Chilson Pond.	2 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner Local Partners	Park Manager	1
<b>Development</b>				
1. Update campground electrical system	1-2 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager	
2. Provide wifi at campground and day use areas	1-3 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager	
3. Explore opportunities to modernize existing group cabins with electricity and water	2-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager	
4. Add a second sewage holding tank for campground	3-6 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager	
5. Improve ADA water access at Bishop Lake and Chilson Pond	2-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager	
<b>Comments:</b>				
<b>Education Interpretation Opportunities #1: Add interpretative programming outdoors.</b>				
<b>Recreation Opportunities #1: Future lakefront campground.</b>				
<b>Development #3: These should stay rustic</b>				
<b>Note: Cabins are in Natural Resources Rec. Zone which would not allow for "modern" rezone or stay rustic. -Debbie Jensen</b>				



Visitor Service Zone				
This zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. It includes the headquarters offices and maintenance facilities with the associated land required to conduct the business of running Brighton Recreation Area.				
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Priority Stickers
<b>Development</b>				
1. Upgrade the appearance and function of the headquarters and visitor welcome area	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager	3
Pursue outdoor education opportunities with schools overnight - 3 day.				

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## DNR seeks public input on new General Management Plan for Brighton Recreation Area

Contact: [Debbie Jensen](#), 517-284-6105 or [Debbie Munson Badini](#), 906-226-1352  
Agency: Natural Resources

April 25, 2014

The Department of Natural Resources is developing a General Management Plan to guide the future of [Brighton Recreation Area](#), a state park that offers a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities to southeastern Michigan residents and visitors.

Public input is an important part of the planning process, and there are several upcoming opportunities for people to share their opinions and ideas. The first is through an online survey, available through June 6, 2014, at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BRAPublicInputSurvey>. Survey results will provide valuable information to the planning team. Also, the DNR will host an open house later this summer (date and time yet to be determined), providing another chance for public input and information sharing.

"If you are a visitor to Brighton Recreation Area or live in the area, we want to hear from you to understand why you like spending time at the park and what amenities and offerings you might like to see in the future," said Debbie Jensen, DNR park management plan administrator.

Brighton Recreation Area is comprised of 5,000 acres of parkland, conveniently located in Livingston County between Lansing and Detroit. The park's prime location in the most densely populated region of the state makes Brighton Recreation Area a convenient getaway for campers and day-users alike.

Jensen said the DNR uses General Management Plans to define long-range planning and management strategies for state parks and recreation areas. This General Management Plan will assist the DNR Parks and Recreation Division in meeting its responsibilities to 1) protect and preserve Brighton Recreation Area's natural and cultural resources and 2) provide access to quality land- and water-based public recreation and education opportunities. Learn more about the DNR's General Management Plan process at [www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans](http://www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans).


For more information about the Brighton Recreation Area survey or the proposed plan, contact Debbie Jensen at 517-284-6105 (TTY/TDD711 Michigan Relay Center for the hearing impaired).

Vehicles entering Brighton Recreation Area must have a Recreation Passport.

The Recreation Passport is an easy, affordable way for residents to enjoy and support outdoor recreation opportunities in Michigan. By checking "YES" for the \$11 Recreation Passport (\$5 for motorcycles) when renewing a license plate through the Secretary of State (by mail, kiosk, online at [www.expresssos.com](http://www.expresssos.com) or at branch offices), Michigan motorists get access to state parks, recreation areas, state forest campgrounds, nonmotorized state trailhead parking and state boat launches. The Recreation Passport is valid until the next license plate renewal date. Nonresidents can purchase the Recreation Passport (\$31.10 annual; \$8.55 daily) at any state park or recreation area or (annual passes only) through the Michigan e-Store at [www.michigan.gov/estore](http://www.michigan.gov/estore).

Learn more about this creative way of sustaining Michigan's outdoor recreation and natural resources at [www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport](http://www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport).

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. For more information, go to [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

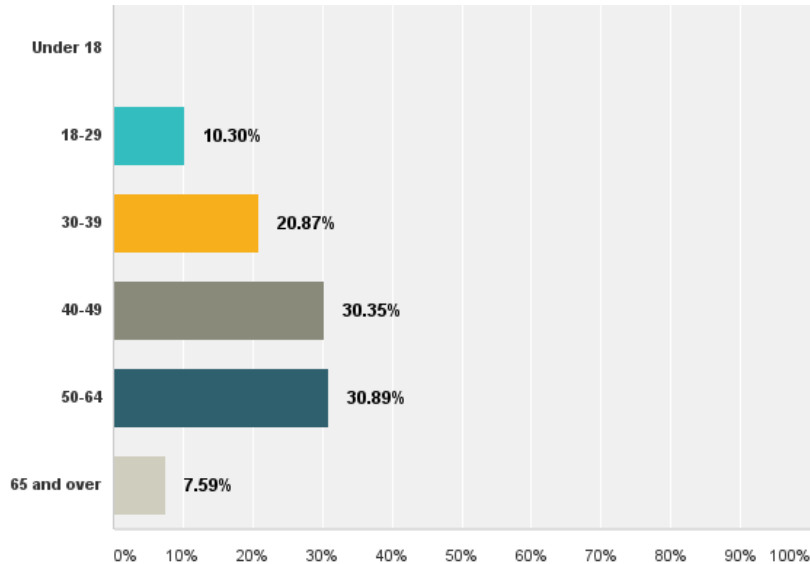
[Sign up for email from the DNR](#)


# Public Input Survey Results

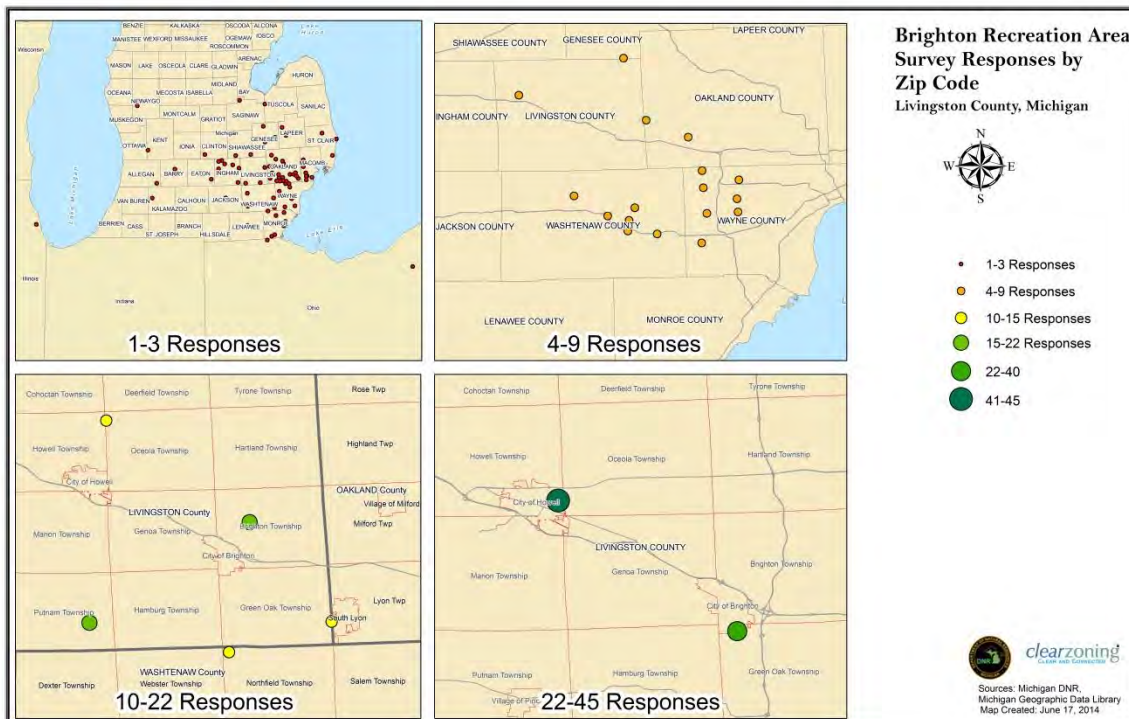
Please refer to the full survey summary report available on the project website

## Q1: What is your age?

Answered: 369 Skipped: 3

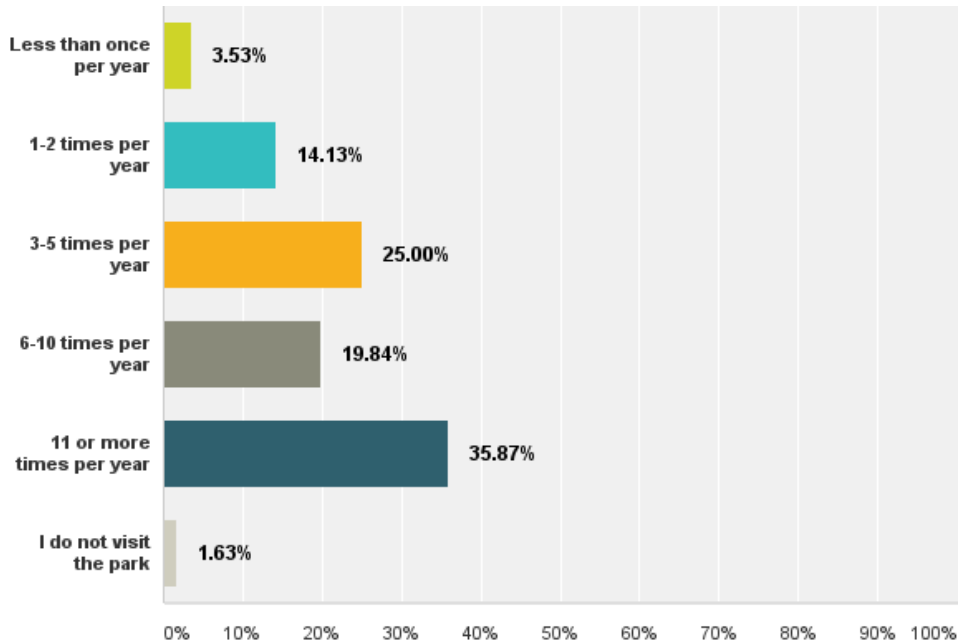


## Q2: What is the zip code of your primary address?



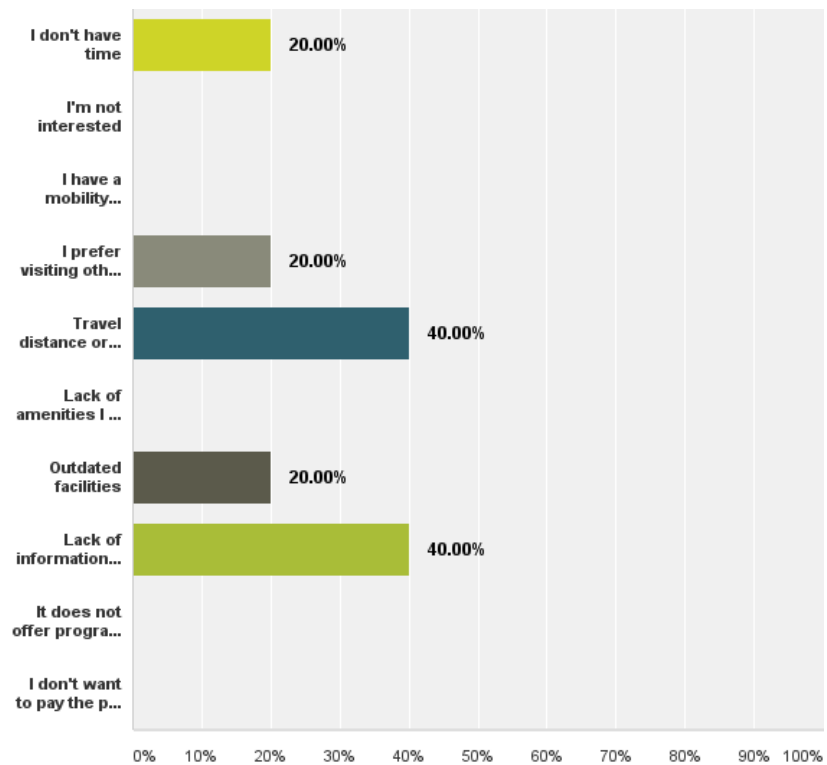
### Q3: How many times per year do you visit Brighton Recreation Area?

Answered: 368    Skipped: 4



### Q4: What is your reason(s) for not visiting Brighton Recreation Area?

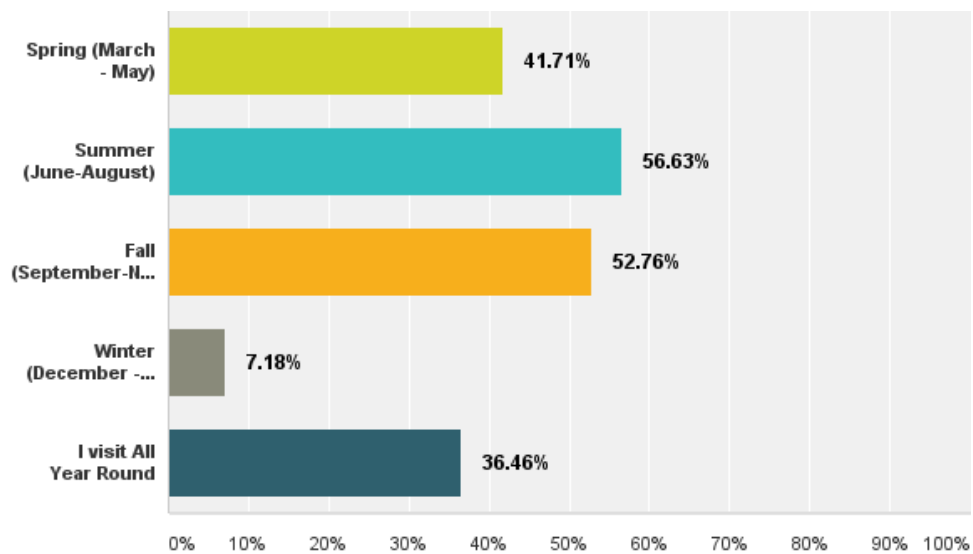
Answered: 5    Skipped: 367





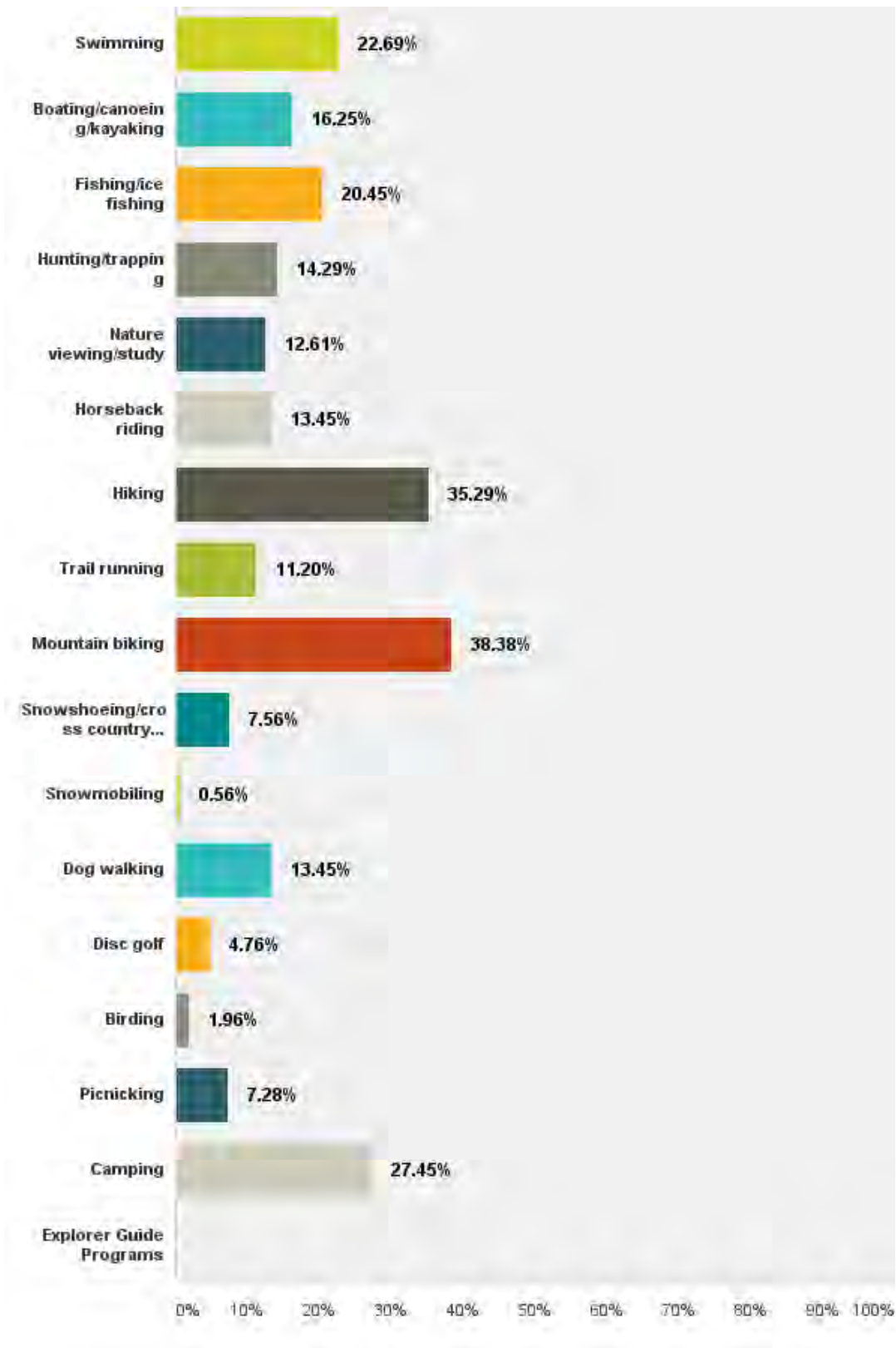
## Q5: During what season do you visit Brighton Recreation Area?

Answered: 362 Skipped: 10



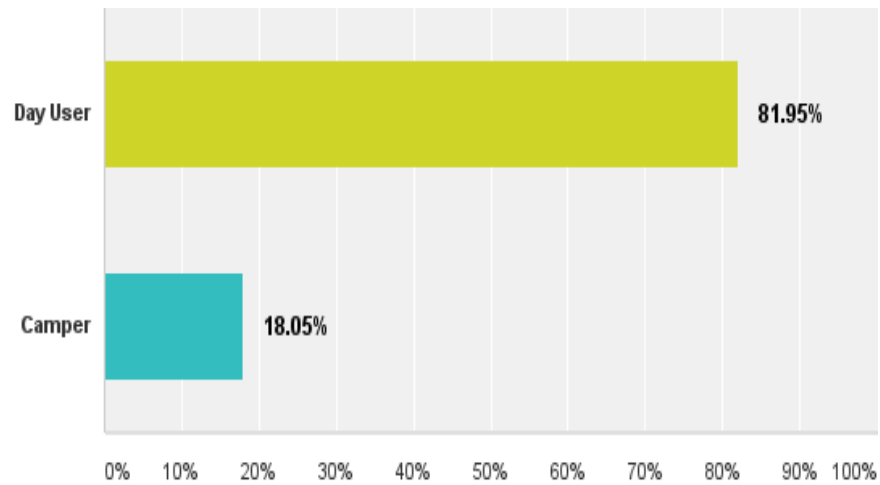
**Q6: What are your three favorite activities within Brighton Recreation Area? Please check only 3 choices.**

Answered: 357 Skipped: 15



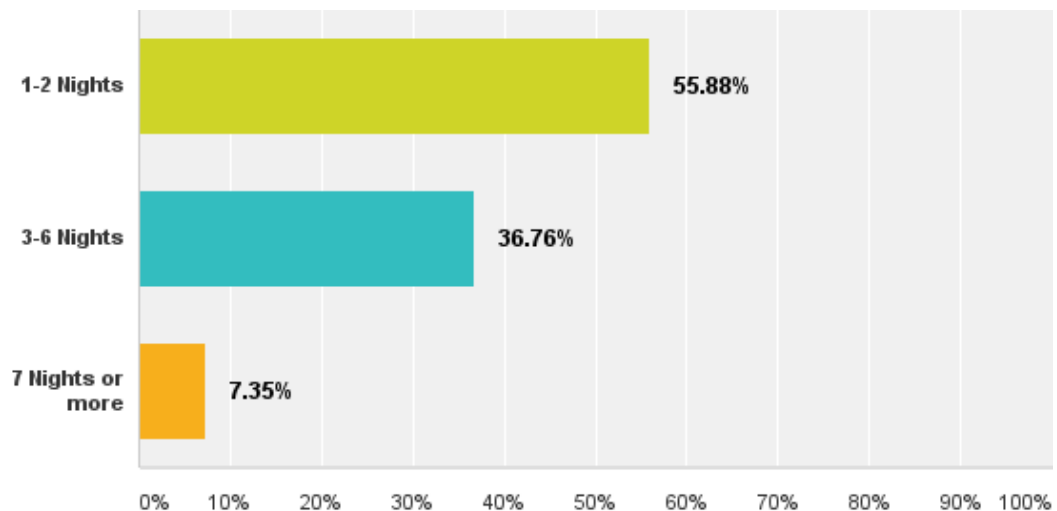
### Q7: Do you typically visit Brighton Recreation Area as a day user or overnight camper?

Answered: 349 Skipped: 23



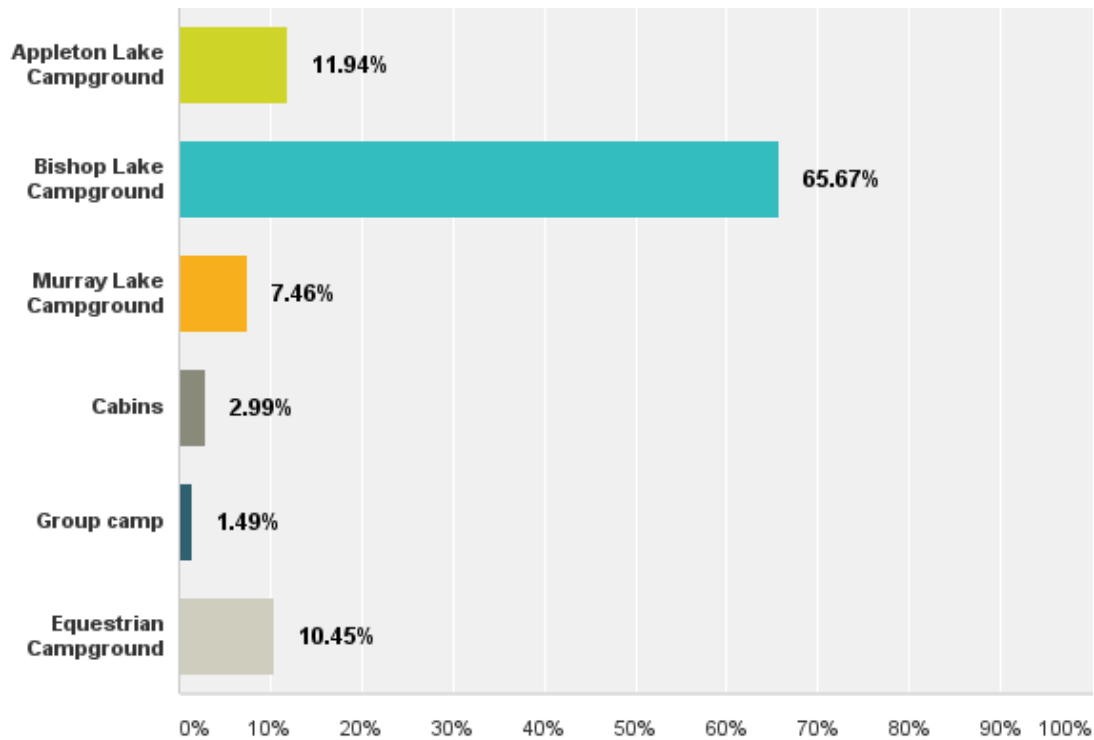
### Q8: As a Camper, what is your typical length of your stay?

Answered: 68 Skipped: 304



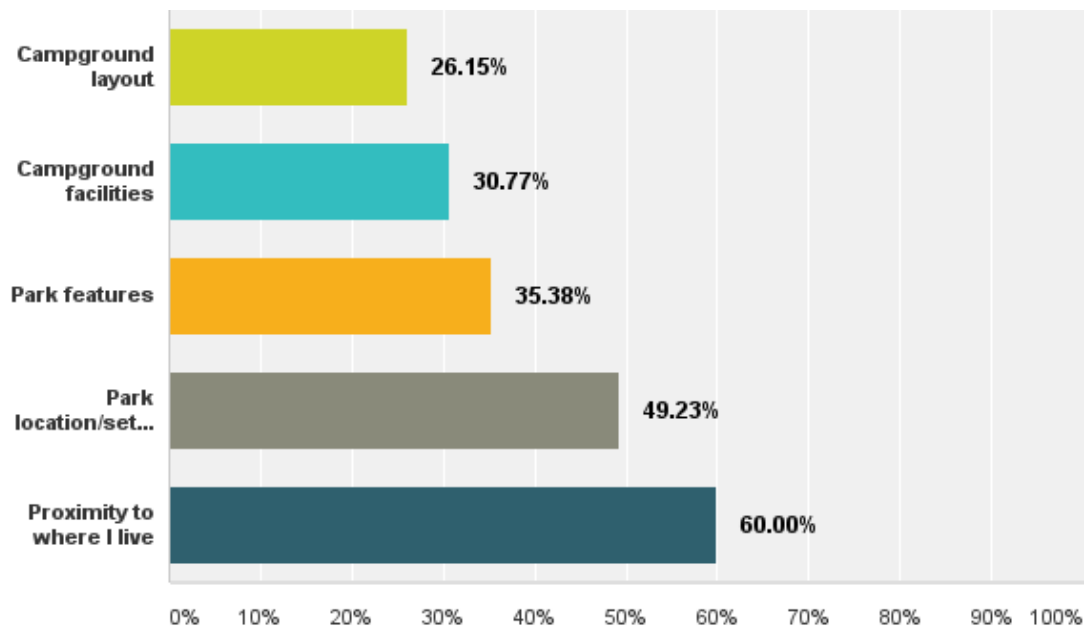
### Q9: Where do you primarily camp?

Answered: 67 Skipped: 305



### Q10: As a Camper, why do you camp at Brighton Recreation Area?

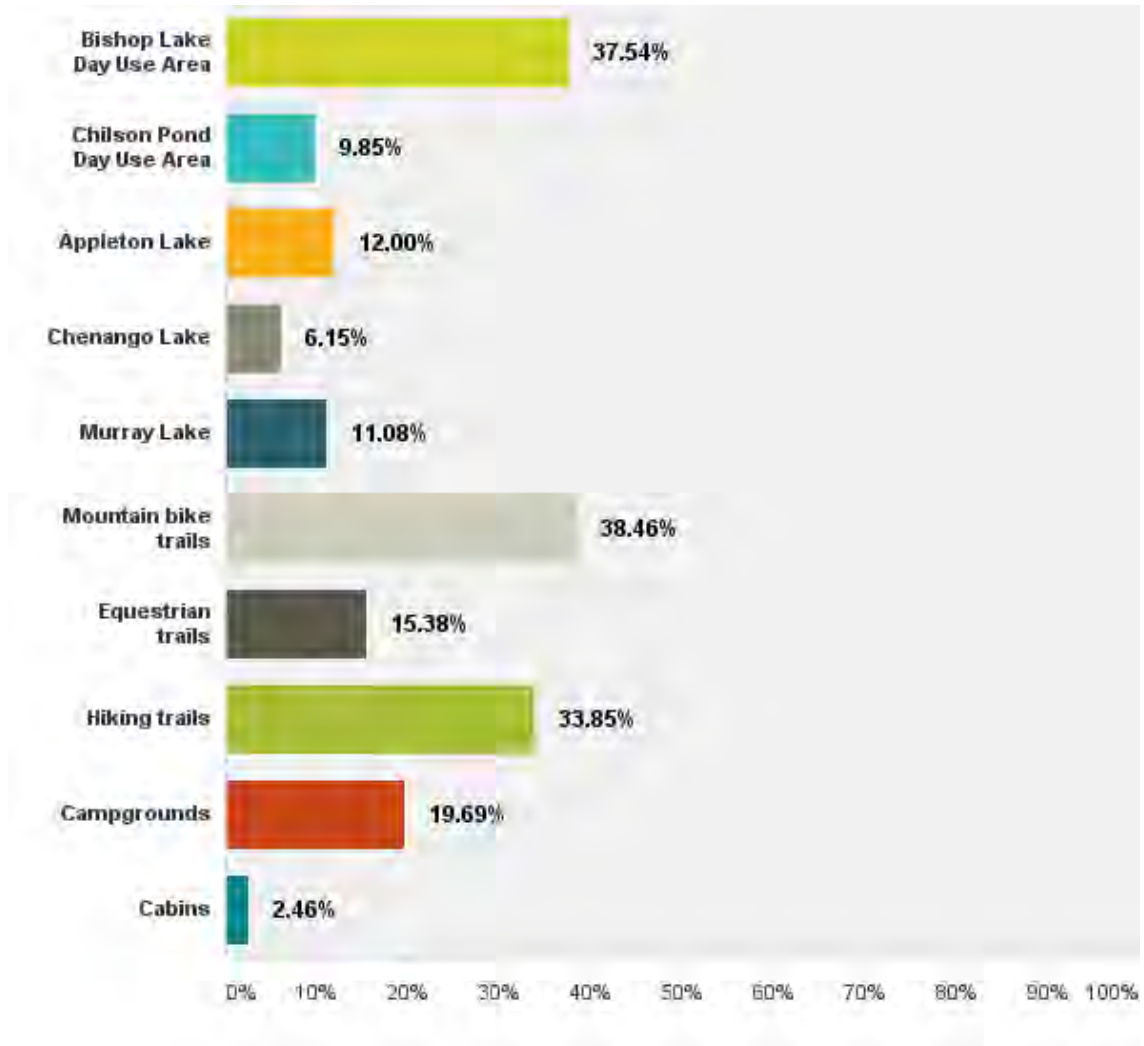
Answered: 65 Skipped: 307





### Q11: In which area(s) of the park do you spend the most time?

Answered: 325 Skipped: 47



**Q12: How would you rate the following facilities and recreational opportunities at Brighton Recreation Area? You may leave choices blank if you have no opinion.**

Answered: 322 Skipped: 50

	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Total
Equestrian Campground	17.07% 14	75.61% 62	7.32% 6	82
Bishop Lake Beach	2.62% 5	61.78% 118	35.60% 68	191
Bishop Lake Day Use Area	2.25% 4	63.48% 113	34.27% 61	178
Chilson Pond Day Use Area	17.17% 17	67.68% 67	15.15% 15	99
Appleton Lake	6.10% 5	73.17% 60	20.73% 17	82
Chenango Lake	9.09% 5	85.45% 47	5.45% 3	55
Murray Lake	2.78% 2	76.39% 55	20.83% 15	72
Boating/canoeing/kayaking	7.02% 8	62.20% 71	30.70% 35	114
Fishing/ice fishing	6.00% 6	73.00% 73	21.00% 21	100
Hunting/trapping	18.18% 14	70.13% 54	11.69% 9	77
Nature viewing/study	4.72% 5	54.72% 58	40.57% 43	106
Hiking trails	1.74% 3	53.49% 92	44.77% 77	172
Mountain biking trails	1.22% 2	37.80% 62	60.98% 100	164
Equestrian trails	3.66% 3	52.44% 43	43.90% 36	82
Snowshoeing/cross country skiing	18.46% 12	64.62% 42	16.92% 11	65
Snowmobiling	21.62% 8	72.97% 27	5.41% 2	37
Dog walking	4.17% 4	70.83% 68	25.00% 24	96
Disc golf	17.02% 8	70.21% 33	12.77% 6	47
Birding	5.66% 3	71.70% 38	22.64% 12	53
Picnicking	1.23% 1	74.07% 60	24.69% 20	81
Camping (non-equestrian)	5.50% 6	55.96% 61	38.53% 42	109
Explorer Guides	7.69% 3	74.36% 29	17.95% 7	39

### Q13: What, if any, additional opportunities or enhancements would you like to see at Brighton Recreation Area?

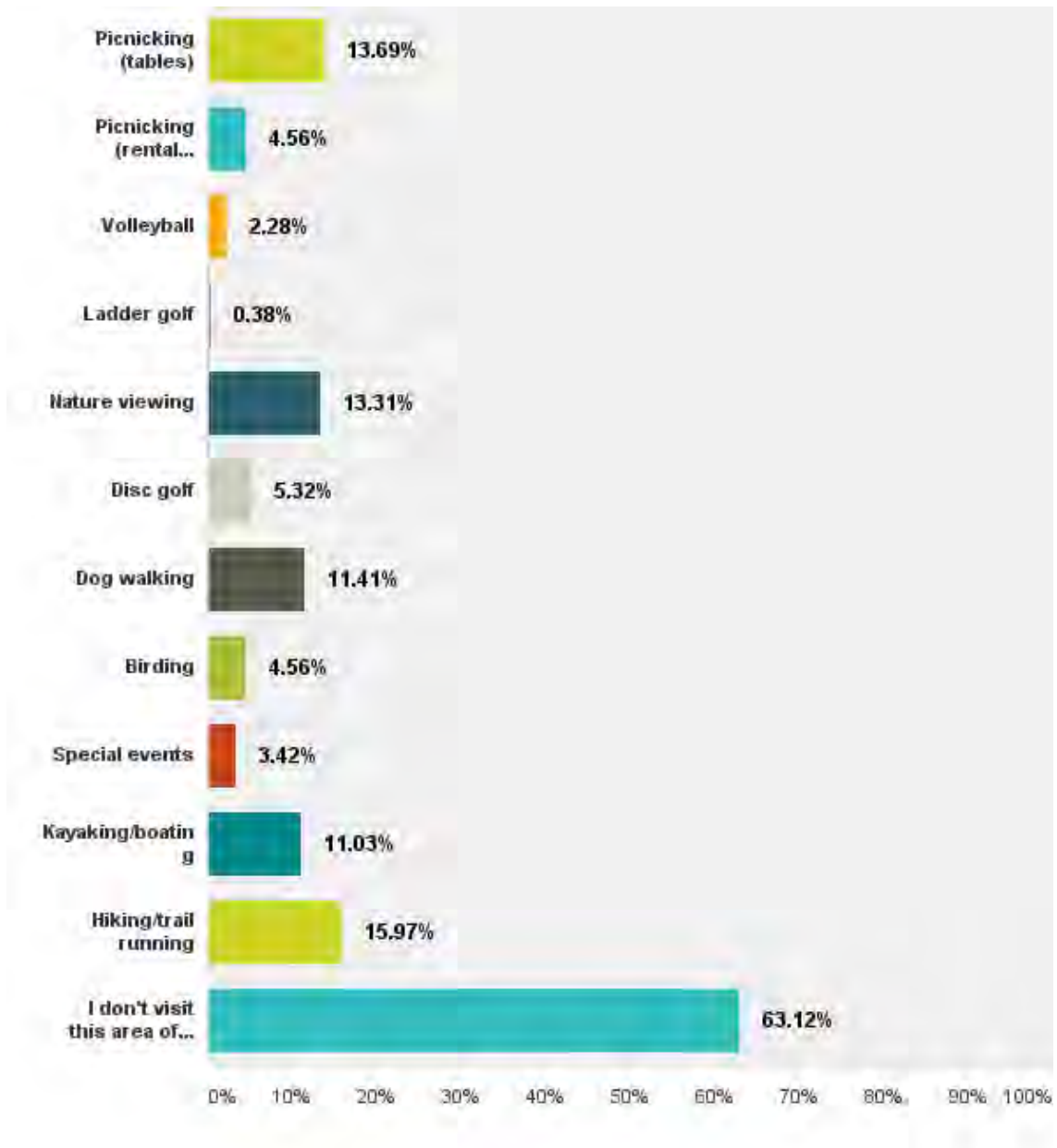
Answered: 297 Skipped: 75

	No Need	Would be nice	A Must	Total	Average Rating
Alternative lodging (ex: yurts, camper cabins)	40.00% 50	51.20% 64	8.80% 11	125	1.69
Additional campsites, backcountry	28.26% 39	55.80% 77	15.94% 22	138	1.88
Additional hiking trails	16.25% 26	64.38% 103	19.38% 31	160	2.09
Playground equipment	26.15% 34	53.08% 69	20.77% 27	130	1.95
Designated pet-friendly beach areas	22.15% 35	43.04% 68	34.81% 55	158	2.13
Angler access at Murray Lake	30.51% 36	50.85% 60	18.64% 22	118	1.88
Mountain biking beginner loop	16.93% 32	51.85% 98	31.22% 59	189	2.14
Additional fishing piers	33.06% 40	52.07% 63	14.88% 18	121	1.82
Improved equestrian facilities (campground, staging, trails)	49.21% 62	26.98% 34	23.81% 30	126	1.75
Challenge amenities (ex: zip line, ropes course)	27.61% 37	61.94% 83	10.45% 14	134	1.83
Wi-Fi	38.82% 59	43.42% 66	17.76% 27	152	1.79
Electrical service in cabins	50.43% 58	40.00% 46	9.57% 11	115	1.58
Regional trail connectivity	7.65% 13	59.41% 101	32.94% 56	170	2.25



### Q15: If you visit the Chilson Pond Day Use Area, what activities do you participate in?

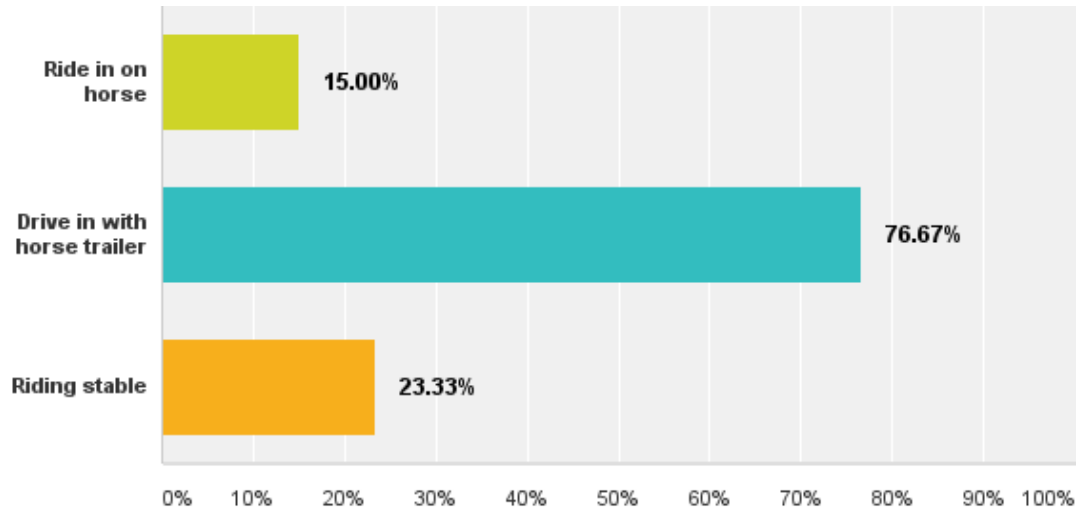
Answered: 263 Skipped: 109





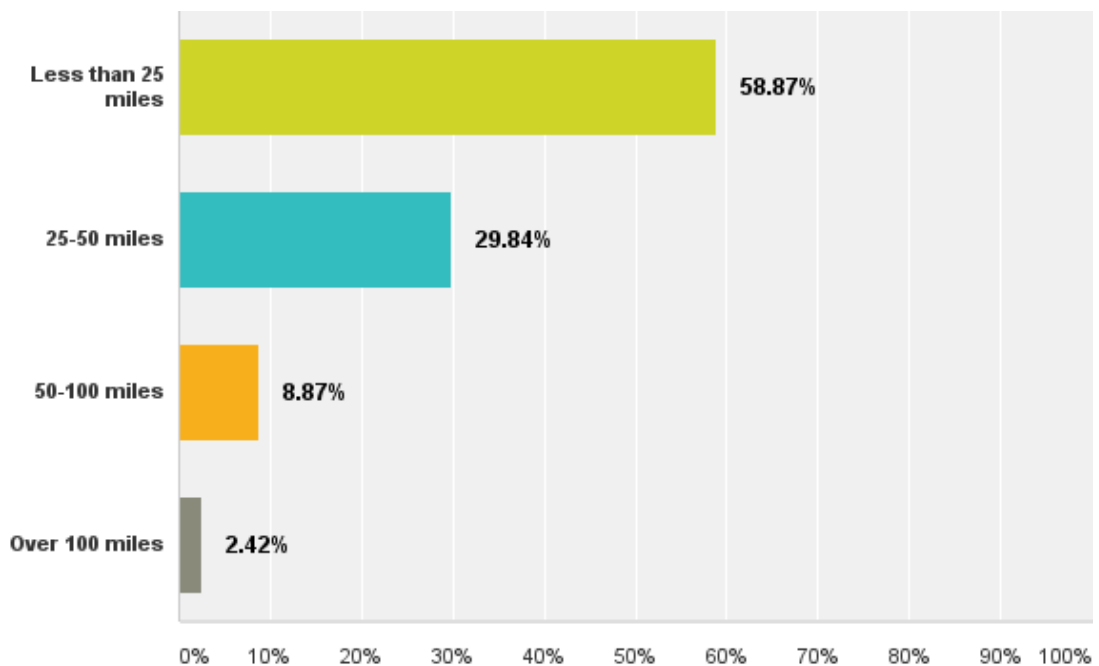
### Q17: As an equestrian user, how do you access the park?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 312



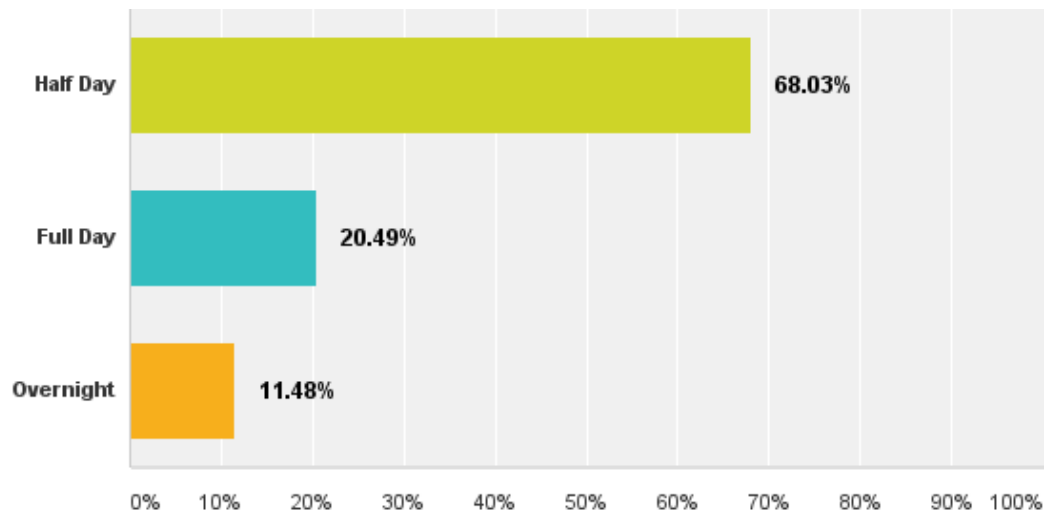
### Q18: On average, how far do you travel to access the park?

Answered: 124 Skipped: 248



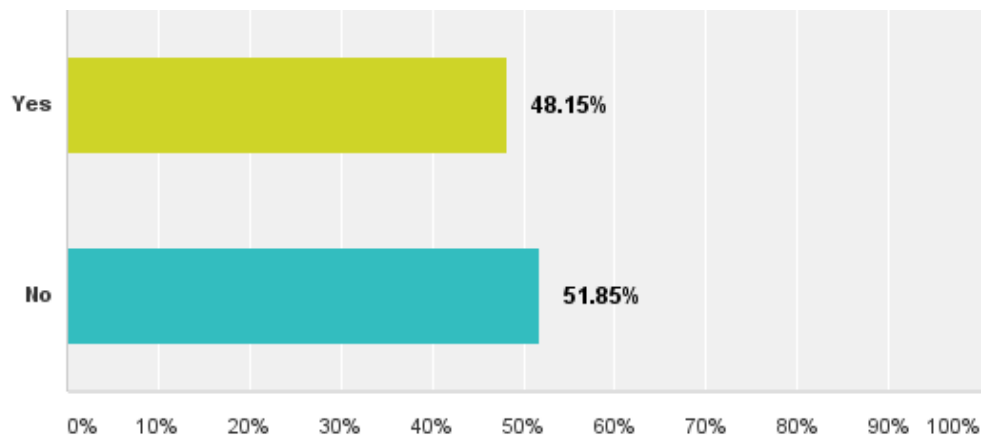
### Q19: How long do you typically spend at the park?

Answered: 122 Skipped: 250



### Q20: Does the existing equestrian campground meet your needs? If no, please comment.

Answered: 54 Skipped: 318



# Appendix C – Planning Team Meeting Summary

Over the duration of the General Management Planning process, the Planning Team held three on-site team meetings and three virtual meetings. These meetings were critical to the development of the General Management Plan and particularly the creation of the 20-Year Management Zones and the 10-Year Action Goals. Additionally, the meetings were an opportunity to review input received from stakeholders and the public.

## **Overview of Planning Team Meetings**

- **Team Meeting #1 (October 15, 2013)** – Located at Brighton Recreation Area, the kick-off meeting was an opportunity for Planning Team members to introduce themselves to one another, review the General Management Plan schedule, tour the park (led by Mike Donnelly) discuss the park and its significance, and review the Supporting Analysis.
- **Team Meeting #2 (December, 2013)** –The Planning Team reviewed significance statements and developed draft 20-year management zones. The Team also discussed appropriate questions for the public input survey. Additionally, the Planning Team began brainstorming 10-year action goals for the park.
- **Team Meeting #3 (February 5, 2014)** – The Planning Team reviewed the Significance Statements, Management Zone Map, and Action Goals as well as the draft public input survey. The Planning Team discussed various methods for distributing the online survey link to park visitors.
- **Team Meeting #4, Go-To-Meeting (April 24, 2014)** – The Planning Team reviewed and finalized the Significance Statements and Action Goals in preparation for the May 29<sup>th</sup> Stakeholder Input Open House.
- **Team Meeting #5, Go-To-Meeting (June 23, 2014)** – The Planning Team reviewed input and comments received at the May 29<sup>th</sup> Stakeholder Input Open House. The Planning Team discussed the input and revised the draft action goals as needed in preparation for the August 18<sup>th</sup> Public Input Open House.
- **Team Meeting #6, Go-To-Meeting (September, 23, 2014)** – The Planning Team reviewed input and comments received at the August 18<sup>th</sup> Public Input Open House. The Planning Team revised the 10-Year Action goals as deemed appropriate and discussed next steps for finalizing the General Management Plan.

## Brighton Recreation Area

**Agenda – Kick-Off Meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**9:00 - 4:00 PM**

Park Headquarters: 6360 Chilson Rd., Howell, MI 48843

- 1) Welcome and Introductions – 5 minutes
- 2) Overview Management Planning Process – Debbie Jensen, 15 minutes
- 3) Review Brighton RA Management Plan Schedule – Dave Birchler, 5 minutes
- 4) Park Tour and Overview—led by Park Manager, Mike Donnelly and Staff, 2-2.5 hours
- 5) Lunch and Tour Debrief—Planning Team, 1 hour
- 6) Significant Features Exercise—Planning Team, 1 hour
- 7) Supporting Analysis Review Exercise—Planning Team, 1 hour
- 8) Stakeholder WIN Activity—Susie Roble, 45 minutes
- 9) Schedule Team Meeting #2—Susie Roble, 15 minutes



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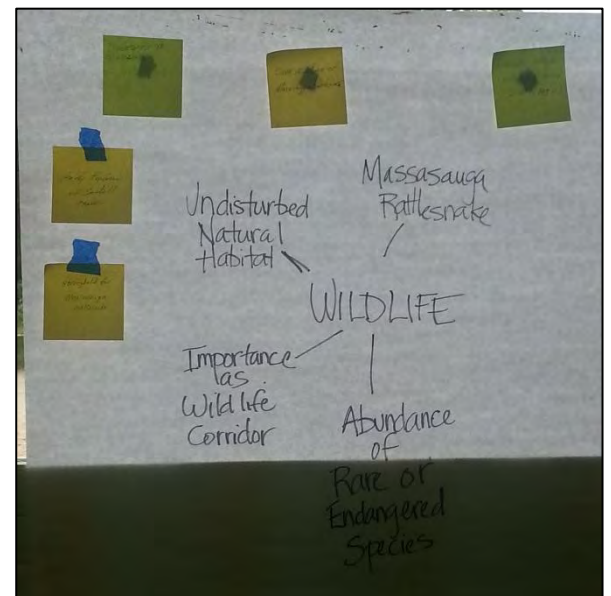
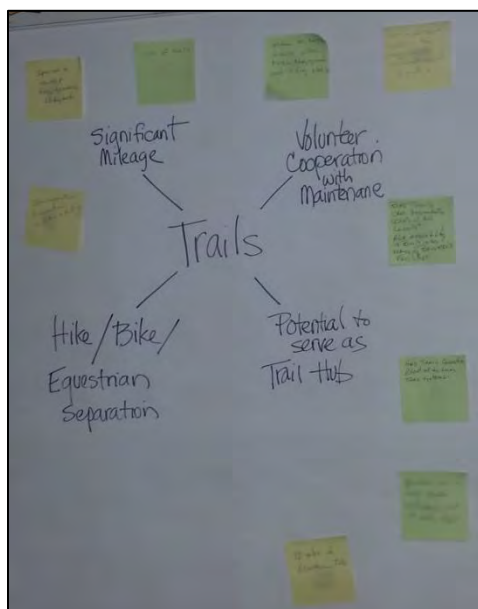
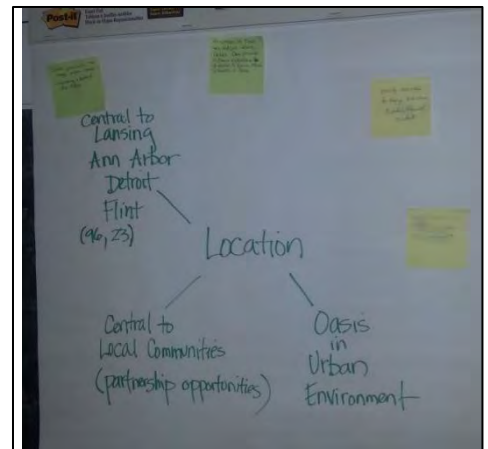
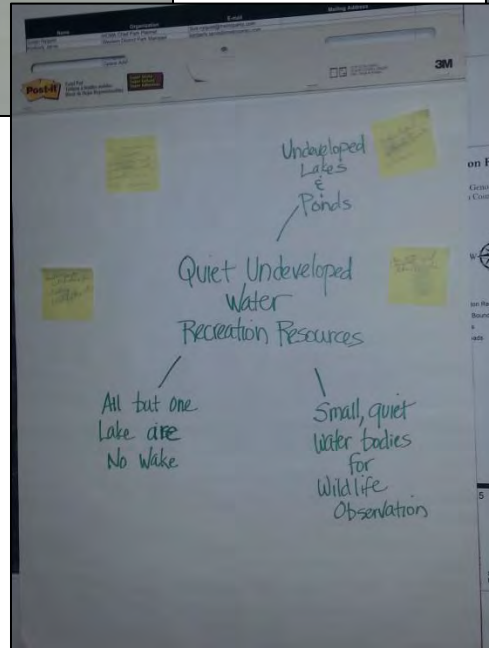
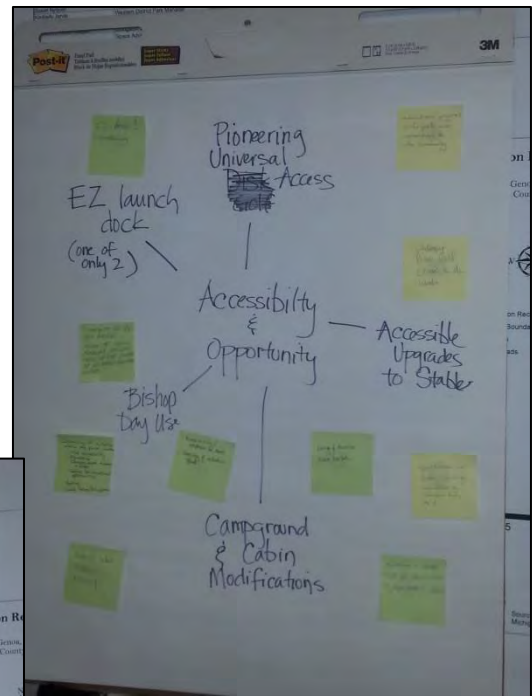
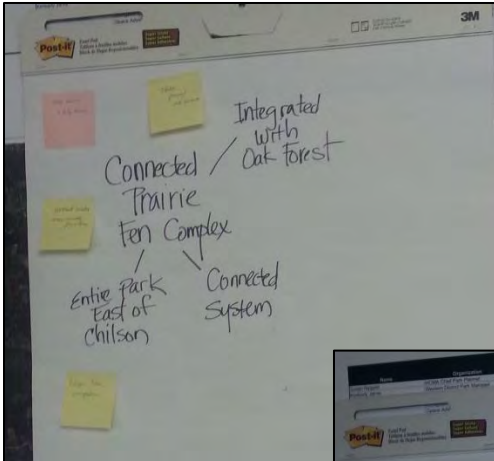
Lunch will be provided. Please bring money for lunch!

**Team Meeting #1**  
**Brighton Recreation Area**  
**October 15, 2013**  
**9 AM – 4 PM**  
**Location: Brighton Recreation Area**

1. Meeting Attendees – Mike Donnelly, Kristin Bennett, Murdock Jemerson, Rich Mergener, Daniel Prince, Glenn Palmgren, Karen Gourlay, Matt Lincoln, Lisa Gamero, Debbie Jensen, Jeff Braunscheidel, Susie Roble, Jill Bahm
2. Park Overview Presentation by Mike Donnelly
3. Park Tour
  - a. Chilson Lake – pan fish; boat access; two impoundments; one spillway
  - b. Equestrian Use and Camping – there are 18 equestrian camp sites. The camp sites are not regularly used (3-4% usage on monthly basis). Access is difficult due to topography, steep drive, and erosion issues. There are water quality issues with the well but they still meeting health department standards. Mike would like to relocate the campsites. Even when campsites aren't being used, the area still needs to be maintained which costs money. The Planning Team discussed whether there is a regional need for horse camping study. Many trail riders at Brighton Recreation Area own homes that border the park. The day use area is busy with equestrians; more parking would be useful. There is 18 miles of equestrian trails provided at the park. The Brighton Trail Riders do most of the trail maintenance.
  - c. Chilson Day Use Area – 4 picnic shelters, all have running water and electric. There was some thought at one time to moving the horse camp to this area, but this would have required vault toilets and a well. Also, there was concern regarding the proximity to the lake. Mike would like to see more development in this area. Some ideas include playground, fitness equipment, and a museum. Besides shelter rentals, this area does not get used a lot. A disc golf course is being constructed. There is a beach house and unused concessions stand at the lake. The team also discussed the potential for converting lesser used picnic shelter(s) to group cabin(s). Chilson has a much larger parking area than is typically needed.
  - d. Bishop Lake Campground – this is a modern campground. The lower campground is located on the lake and always full on the weekends and 30-40% full on weekdays. A bath and shower house was recently built. There is a EZ Launch Dock located on Bishop Lake.
  - e. Appleton Campground Unit – a rustic campground with an unimproved boat launch at the lake. There are 25 campsites. There are soil erosion issues within the unit.
  - f. Little Appleton Lake – Fen surrounds the lake. Glenn commented that Brighton Recreation Area contains one of the largest complexes of connected fens and other wetlands in southeast Michigan. Eastern Massasauga rattlesnakes are often found in this area. There was a recent burn prescribed by the DNR at the lake, and the native vegetation grew back quickly.
  - g. Bishop Lake Complex – a 3-D archery range is planned for this area. There are family cabins and an organizational campground as well. The property around Chenango Lake is owned by the church. Bishop Lake Day Use offers good swimming opportunity with newer restrooms completed in mid-2000s with Clean Michigan Initiative.



- h. Most of the park is open to hunting
  - i. There is a boat launch on Chenango Lake. Most of the property around the lake is owned by the state/park, however a portion is owned by the church.
- 4. Overview of General Management Planning Process by Debbie Jensen
- 5. Discussion of the history and current status of the Tree Improvement Center by Rich Mergener
- 6. Significance Statements Exercise
  - a. Prairie Fen System – special in this area due to connectivity of complexes
  - b. Wildlife/Natural Features
    - i. Rolling hills, wetlands
    - ii. Park plays role in habitat corridor
    - iii. Threatened, endangered and special concern species are present at the park
  - c. ADA Accessibility
    - i. EZ Launch (canoe/kayak) – 1 of only 2 currently in operation state-wide
    - ii. The park was one of the pioneers for accessibility
    - iii. Examples – cabin modifications, EZ launch, fishing pier, camping and day use modifications
  - d. Camping
    - i. The park offers a variety of camping accommodations including island camping, equestrian camping, modern and rustic, cabins
  - e. Trails
    - i. 41 miles total
    - ii. Separate equestrian, mountain biking and hiking trails
    - iii. User groups help maintain the trails
    - iv. There is potential for partnering with neighboring communities to connect the trails to the regional network
    - v. Hamburg Township wants to build share road path along Chilson to Connect Lakelands Trail with Brighton Recreation Area
    - vi. 1 ½ mile ADA trail provided
  - f. Location
    - i. Close to Lansing, Ann Arbor, Detroit, Flint, rural communities
    - ii. Many visitors come from Canada and Ohio
    - iii. Pow Wow event (3rd weekend of May) is getting bigger and bigger and is a huge draw to the park
  - g. Quiet Water Resources
    - i. Undeveloped water recreation resources
    - ii. All but one lake is no-wake
    - iii. Good for wildlife viewing
- 7. Review of Supporting Analysis – the team provided comments based on their area of expertise. Susie will make the necessary revisions and then email to team. Mike Donnelly's slide presentation had many significant elements that should be added to the Supporting Analysis.
- 8. Susie will send out a doodle poll to schedule the next Planning Team Meeting.



## Brighton Recreation Area

**Agenda –Team Meeting #2**  
**Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**9:00 - 3:00 PM**

Park Headquarters: 6360 Chilson Rd., Howell, MI 48843

- 1) Welcome – 5 minutes
- 2) Statements of Significance Review Exercise – Dave Birchler, 45 minutes
- 3) Draft Management Zone Activity – Planning Team, 2 hours
- 4) Review Stakeholder List – Susie Roble, 15 minutes
- 5) Lunch – Planning Team, 1 hour
- 6) Action Goals Wish List Activity – Dave Birchler, 45 minutes
- 7) Public Input Survey Brainstorming Exercise – Planning Team, 45 min
- 8) Schedule Team Meeting #3—Susie Roble, 15 minutes



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Lunch will be provided. Please bring money for lunch!

## Brighton Recreation Area

**Team Meeting #2**  
**Brighton Recreation Area**  
**December 17, 2013**  
**9 AM – 3 PM**

**Location: Brighton Recreation Area**

1. Meeting Attendees: Debbie Jensen, Glenn Palmgren, Jeff Braunscheidel, Kristen Bennett, Matt Lincoln, Lisa Gamero, Mike Donnelly, Kim Heckman, Deb Stuart, Karen Gourlay, Murdock Jemerson, David Birchler, Susie Roble, Chris Visser
2. Review of Team Meeting #1 Summary - the Planning Team reviewed the meeting summary from the October 15<sup>th</sup> Kick-Off Meeting. Several revisions were identified. Susie will revise the meeting summary and email to the team with other Appendix documents.
3. Review of Significance Statements – the Planning Team reviewed the statements and suggested the following revisions:
  - a. Connected Prairie Fen Complex –replace the second sentence with the following sentence, “This wetland complex provides critical habitat for a number of rare plants and animals.”
  - b. Location – change the last sentence to read as follows, “Its prime location makes the park a natural oasis and a hunting destination in the state’s most densely populated region.
  - c. Equestrian Trails – change the heading to Equestrian Opportunities. Specify that equestrian trails are designated. Add final sentence, “Facilities include day use parking, a riding stable, and an overnight equestrian camp.”
  - d. Trail Network – 45 miles of trails should be 41 trails. Add mountain biking.
  - e. Camping – add 1 organizational campground
  - f. Quiet, Undeveloped Water Recreation Resources - Add fishing as an experience. Replace “all but one of which have no-wake rules” to “several of which...”. Also add, “There are carry-in boat access opportunities throughout the park.”
  - g. Wildlife – Switch the first and second sentence. Delete the word, “endangered.” Change “complete shorelines” to “undeveloped natural shorelines.” Add the word “native” in front of plant and animal species.
  - h. Accessibility – Delete the last two sentences and replace with, “The park riding stable, campground, day use areas and beach provide accommodations and features that allow persons of all abilities to enjoy Brighton Recreation Area.”
4. Draft Management Zone Activity – the Planning Team was divided into two separate teams. Each team was tasked with developing appropriate management zones for the park. After drafting the zones, each team presented their map and described their reasoning for allocating specific zones for different areas of the park. The results of the exercise will be used to formulate a draft Management Zone Map that reflects the consensus of the Team.
5. Review of Stakeholder List – the team reviewed the stakeholder list. The team added missing contact names for organizations. Susie will revise the stakeholder list per the input of the team.
6. Action Goals Wish List Activity – the Planning Team developed a “wish list” of items that they would like to see implemented at the park.
  - a. Update Stewardship Plan
  - b. Update Wildfire Plan
  - c. Upgrade campground electrical system
  - d. Modernize cabins

- e. Add alternative overnight accommodations
  - f. Regional Equestrian Facilities Demand Study to drive BRA improvements
  - g. Expand/Improve day use amenities for equestrian users
  - h. Regional trail connectivity especially to Lakelands Trail SP and downtown Brighton
  - i. Rare species, cultural resources interpretive signage/panels
  - j. Angler accommodations at Murray Lake
  - k. Second septic holding tank for campground
  - l. Could Chilson Pond development be re-established (buildings, fishing, concessions, etc.)
  - m. Connect two segments of ADA Trail to create a loop
  - n. Upgrade/repair gravel road base and surface
  - o. Examine safety issues for trails crossing busy roads
  - p. Wifi at campgrounds
  - q. Repair or relocate equestrian camp (based on outcomes from Equestrian Facilities Demand Study)
  - r. Additional playground structures
  - s. "Challenge" structures (zip lines, ropes course, etc.)
  - t. Improve ADA access to water
  - u. Explore collaboration opportunities between equestrian campground and stable concession
  - v. Mountain biking beginner loop
  - w. Trail assessment—potential re-route of problem areas
  - x. Additional fishing pier possibilities
7. Public Input Survey Exercise – the team discussed what we hope to learn from the public input survey
- a. Should we reach out to stakeholders to help publicize the survey?
  - b. Wilderness format is a good model
  - c. Ask if campers enjoy existing facilities as well as ask if they want improvements
  - d. Chilson Pond day use area – probe how visitors use the area, what would make it more interesting. Show a map of lakes at BRA – ask which ones they are familiar with it and what would encourage them to use them more frequently.
  - e. Equestrian user questions
    - i. Camp or day user
    - ii. Ride in or trailer in
    - iii. Length of typical visit
    - iv. Number of miles ridden/day
    - v. Where else do you camp? Ride?
  - f. Mike asked if we can get an email database of millennials, and noted this is the most difficult user group to reach
  - g. Lake user question – show map of parks with lakes. fishing, boating, paddle boarding, canoe/kayak
  - h. Programming questions
    - i. Are you familiar with BRA programs?
    - ii. Do you participate?
    - iii. Which programs?
    - iv. What type of programs would bring you to BRA?
8. The team discussed potential meeting dates for Team Meeting #3; Susie will send out a doodle poll for this meeting. Susie will try to schedule the meeting at Hamburg Township Library in late January/early February.



## Brighton Recreation Area

**Agenda –Team Meeting #3**  
**Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
**Brighton Community Center**  
**9:00 - 3:00 PM**

- 1) Review Meeting #2 Summary – Susie Roble, 15 minutes
- 2) Review Statements of Significance– Jill Bahm, 20 minutes
- 3) Draft Management Zone Review – Planning Team, 40 minutes
- 4) Review Public Input Survey – Planning Team, 45 minutes
- 5) Stakeholder List – Susie Roble, 15 minutes
- 6) Lunch – Planning Team, 45 minutes
- 7) Draft Action Goals Activity – Planning Team, 2.5 hours
- 8) Schedule Team Meeting #4, Discuss Stakeholder Workshop—Susie Roble, 15 minutes



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Please Bring a Bag Lunch!

## **Brighton Recreation Area**

### **Team Meeting #3**

#### **Brighton Recreation Area**

**February 5, 2014**

**9 AM – 3 PM**

**Location: Brighton Community Center**

1. Meeting Attendees: Debbie Jensen, Glenn Palmgren, Matt Lincoln, Lisa Gamero, Mike Donnelly, Chris Visser, Jill Bahm, Susie Roble (weather conditions made it difficult for several members of the Planning Team to attend)
2. Review of Team Meeting #2 Summary - the Planning Team reviewed the meeting summary from the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Minor text and format revisions were identified. Susie will revise the meeting summary before inserting into the Appendix.
3. Review of Significance Statements (Version #2) – the Planning Team reviewed the statements. Minor revisions were suggested.
4. Draft Management Zone Activity – the Planning Team reviewed the draft Management Zone Map. The following revisions were discussed:
  - a. Fade out management zone colors for areas within NRC project boundary but not currently DNR ownership
  - b. Send shape files to Debbie to verify all GPS boundaries are correct
  - c. The team pointed out some boundary discrepancies with the shape file that will need to be reviewed
  - d. Planning Team members will go on site when weather warms up (March/April) to review the areas of zoning in question
  - e. Debbie suggested that Paul Yauk review the boundaries
5. Review of Stakeholder List – the team reviewed the stakeholder list. The team added missing contact names for organizations. Team members wrote their initial next to specific individuals and organizations that they will personally invite to the stakeholder input workshop. Susie will revise the stakeholder list and send out to Planning Team to continue selecting specific stakeholder contacts.
6. Public Input Survey Review – the Planning Team reviewed the draft survey. The following revisions were suggested:
  - a. Shorten the introduction to the survey and provide project website link
  - b. Add a disqualification page for respondents that do not visit the park stating that the rest of the survey is geared toward park visitors
  - c. Allow respondents to choose more than one season when they typically visit the park
  - d. Allow those who identify themselves as campers to choose day use activities that they participate; delete separate “As a camper, what are your favorite park activities” question

- e. Add question, “Why do you camp at BRA?”
  - f. Add dog walking as an activity
  - g. Additional day use activities added to Chilson Pond question
  - h. Allow text response for question, “What improvements they want to see at Chilson Pond day use area?”
  - i. Revise answer choices (half-day, full day, overnight) for equestrian’s length of time at park?
  - j. Allow equestrians to comment on improvements to equestrian facilities.
7. Draft Action Goal Discussion – the Planning Team reviewed the draft 10-Year Action Goals for the park. Several revisions were suggested. The following list includes some but not all of the revisions/suggestions:
- a. Change “on-going” to “ongoing”
  - b. Several draft action goals were added to the Developed Recreation Zone
  - c. General Action Goals that do not apply to the park were removed
  - d. Team members revised the target completion date and responsible program positions as needed
  - e. Addition of interpretative signage at Bishop Lake and Chilson Pond day use areas
  - f. Team suggested adding the following General Action Goal, “Request Director's Order to prohibit snowmobiling as appropriate to management zones

## Brighton Recreation Area

**Team Meeting #4**  
**Brighton Recreation Area**  
**April 24, 2014**  
**1 PM – 4 PM**  
**Go-To-Meeting**

- 1) Review Meeting #3 Summary
- 2) Review Statements of Significance (Version #3)
- 3) Draft Management Zone Review
- 4) Review Public Input Survey
- 5) Confirm Stakeholder List
- 6) Draft Action Goals Activity
- 7) Discuss Stakeholder Open House



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## Brighton Recreation Area

**Team Meeting #4  
Brighton Recreation Area  
April 24, 2014  
1 PM – 4 PM  
Go-To-Meeting**

1. Meeting Attendees: Debbie Jensen, Glenn Palmgren, John Terpstra, Jeff Braunscheidel, Matt Lincoln, Mike Donnelly, Dave Birchler, Susie Roble
2. Review of Team Meeting #3 Summary – the team suggested minor revisions to the summary.
3. Review of Significance Statements (Version #3) – the Planning Team reviewed the statements. No revisions were made.
4. Draft Management Zone Activity – the Planning Team reviewed the draft Management Zone Map, which has been revised with the new shape file provided by Debbie. The following points were discussed:
  - a. Debbie discussed the areas that were studied during on-site survey and the results of this survey
    - i. The Primitive-zoned area in the northwest section of the park should remain as Primitive
    - ii. An old road bed corridor has been zoned Natural Resource Recreation in recognition of its future potential as a non-motorized trail link for surrounding communities
  - b. Any areas within the 2004 proposed boundary but not state owned should be faded out on the Management Zone Map
  - c. Debbie identified several areas on the map where the 2004 proposed boundary should be shifted to align with the state owned park boundary
  - d. Debbie would like Clearzoning, Inc. to create a separate map showing the proposed GMP boundary compared to the current state owned boundary
5. Survey – the press release will be sent out tomorrow (4/25/2014). The survey should be closed on June 6, 2014. The team discussed other avenues for publicizing the survey. Mike mentioned that SELCRA sends out an email blast to the entire region. We could ask SELCRA to include the survey link on a future email blast.
6. Review of Stakeholder List – Susie will send a pdf version of the stakeholder workshop invitation to Debbie
7. Draft Action Goal Discussion – the Planning Team reviewed the draft 10-Year Action Goals for the park. Several revisions were suggested. The following list includes some but not all of the revisions/suggestions:
  - a. Change “on-going” to “ongoing”
  - b. Continue to provide quality interpretation and education opportunities



- c. Add placeholder for action goal related to surplus land (Debbie will discuss with Paul Yauk)
  - d. The team discussed specific trail improvements – Mike sees these occur on an ongoing basis
  - e. No updates to the Primitive Zone
  - f. Add equestrian use to Backcountry Zone description
  - g. Add goal, “Maintain and enhance opportunities hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping/birding” to zones where appropriate
  - h. Add Natural Resource Recreation action goal, “Work with local recreation partners to connect Lakelands Trail State Park to surrounding communities through Brighton Recreation Area”
  - i. Mike commented that interpretive signage at the Chilson Pond day use area will focus on fish and water fowl
  - j. Matt suggested revising the action goal relating to the Chilson Pond day use area to “Evaluate opportunities to repurpose Chilson Pond day use area”
8. The Stakeholder Input Workshop will be on Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 p.m. at the Brighton Community Center

## Brighton Recreation Area

**Team Meeting #5**  
**Stakeholder Input Review Meeting**  
**June 23, 2014**  
**10 AM – 12 PM**  
**Go-To-Meeting**

- 1) Review of Input Received from Action Goals Priority Activity
- 2) Review of Public Input Survey Results
- 3) Review of Statement of Significance
- 4) Announcement and Discussion of Public Input Open House: August 18, 2014 at the Brighton Community Center



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## Brighton Recreation Area

**Team Meeting #5  
Stakeholder Input Review Meeting  
June 23, 2014  
10 AM – 12 PM  
Go-To-Meeting**

1. Meeting Attendees: Debbie Jensen, Glenn Palmgren, Jeff Braunscheidel, Lisa Gamero, Mike Donnelly, Murdock Jemerson, Karen Gourlay, Dave Birchler, Susie Roble
2. Review of Input Received from Action Goals Priority Activity
  - a. Discussion about future trail connection to Brighton Recreation Area. Green Oaks Township is working to connect Brighton Recreation Area to Island Lake Recreation Area. Mike stated that the 2-year time frame for a paper concept plan is appropriate.
  - b. The Planning Team discussed snowmobiling within the park. The intent of the General Action Goals/Management Focus #10 is to prohibit snowmobiling from areas of the park where it shouldn't be allowed.
  - c. In recognition of comments regarding the need for more trail and boundary markers, the Team added the following General Action Goal/Management Focus, "Continue to maintain and upgrade trail markers to improve confidence for hikers, bikers, trail riders and hunters and install boundary markers at key locations." (Ongoing, Park Manager is responsible). Confidence markers are already provided on hiking and equestrian trails.
  - d. Mike clarified that signs prohibiting hunting are only erected within safety zones. There are no signs within the park that say an area is open to hunting. Mike will email Susie the Safety Zones Map to put in the Appendix.
  - e. The Planning Team discussed the addition of mountain biking trails at the park. It was noted that the park currently has 14-16 miles of mountain bike trails. Although several survey comments focused on the desire for additional mountain biking trails, the Planning Team feels that this would take away from quiet, undisturbed areas of the park. Also, Mike pointed out that future connection to other parks and local/regional trail systems will provide more mountain biking opportunities.
  - f. The Planning Team discussed comments related to Chilson Pond Day Use Area. Mike clarified that the DNR has previously offered to relocate the equestrian camp to the Chilson Pond Day Use Area, but the equestrians turned it down citing the lack of shade and limited number of campsites (15 would be provided vs. 20 requested/needed). The existing equestrian campground road is currently being graded.
  - g. David Birchler shared his conversation with Mike Archibald, the Genoa Township Manager regarding the selling of surplus land. The Planning Team determined that this doesn't appear to be an issue.
  - h. Debbie commented that she and Derek Smith (SELCRA) discussed future programming opportunities. Mike commented that he has a good relationship with SELCRA.
  - i. Mike described the procedure for notifying park users about bad weather. He doesn't think that shipping containers would be good shelters due to lack of space and light.

3. Review of Public Input Survey Comments
  - a. The Planning Team recognized that a number of comments received related to improving trail resources for hiking, biking, hunting, equestrians...etc.
  - b. The Team noted that respondents generally seemed pleased with the recreational opportunities and facilities provided at the park.
4. Review of Statements of Significance
  - a. The Planning Team determined that the Trails statement should be revised to indicate that the park is currently an important trail hub/destination.
5. The Public Input Open House will be on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m. at the Brighton Community Center

## Brighton Recreation Area

### AGENDA

**Brighton Recreation Area  
Public Input Review Meeting Summary  
Tuesday, September 23, 2014  
1:00 pm-4:00 pm  
Go-To-Meeting**

1. Review of Planning Team Meeting #5 Summary of June 23, 2014
2. Review comments received at the August 18, 2014 Public Input Open House
3. Review of 10-Year Action Goals for final General Management Plan
4. Review of Draft Plan
5. Next Steps



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## Brighton Recreation Area

**Planning Team Meeting #6  
Public Input Review Meeting  
September 23, 2014  
1-4 PM  
Go-To-Meeting**

1. Meeting Attendees: Debbie Jensen, Matt Lincoln, Glenn Palmgren, John Terpstra, Mike Donnelly, Murdock Jemerson, Jeff Braunscheidel, Karen Gourlay, Dave Birchler, Mardy Stirling
2. Review of Planning Team Meeting #5 Summary of June 23, 2014. The minutes from the June 23, 2014 meeting will be sent to the Planning Team for review.
3. Public Input Review/Action Goal Finalization
  - a. CCAA Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, moving to finalization. Include a new General Action Goal "Follow the requirement of the CCAA for EMR upon approval." Planning Team commented that this may impact development or management goals, i.e. mowing frequency.
  - b. Planning Team discussed the railroad right-of-way and the connection to Lakeland Trails. M. Donnelly is meeting with MDOT and Township Manager to discuss needs. Possible consideration of joint effort by MDOT, DNR and local partners to enhance trail connectivity.
  - c. Discussed the location of the right-of-way and how it skirts the edge of the Brighton Recreation Area (BRA). Discussion regarding the Lakeland Trail location and its relation to the BRA.
  - d. Planning Team discussed other rail/trail systems, noting that the Howell rail system goes through to Shiawassee County and has a non-motorized trail running to Ann Arbor.
  - e. PRD will conduct feasibility study that evaluates options to relocate campground to a location that is sustainable and meets user needs. M. Lincoln noted that there was a Pontiac Lake workshop scheduled to assess equestrian user needs.
4. Review of Action Goals
  - a. Discussion regarding comment on Murray Lake campground. M. Donnelly noted that this was a weekend only campground. Public comment was regarding the need for access to Murray Lake when the campground is closed. Discussion regarding current access and future consideration. No action taken to amend the action goals.
  - b. Planning Team discussed the equestrian use and campground. Discussed the limited options for alternate campsite location. D. Jensen commented that the equestrians had been waiting for a plan to be put in place and there was a need to move forward with developing a plan to resolve the current issue. The Planning Team modified the goal to read "Conduct feasibility study to evaluate options for relocation of Equestrian Campground." The Target Completion Date was changed to 2-3 years.
5. Review Draft Plan
  - a. Clearzoning will post the latest plan on the website.
6. Next Steps. D. Jensen reviewed the steps in the approval process and anticipates having the final plan at the beginning of November and submitting to the State Park Advisory Committee in December.

