

APPENDIX A

Supporting Analysis

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A.1 PARK SETTING

Park Profile

Area: 400 acres
County: Branch County
Township: Kinderhook Township
Latitude: 41.799535
Longitude: -84.971867

Address: Coldwater, MI 49036
Phone #: (517) 780-7866

Location & Community

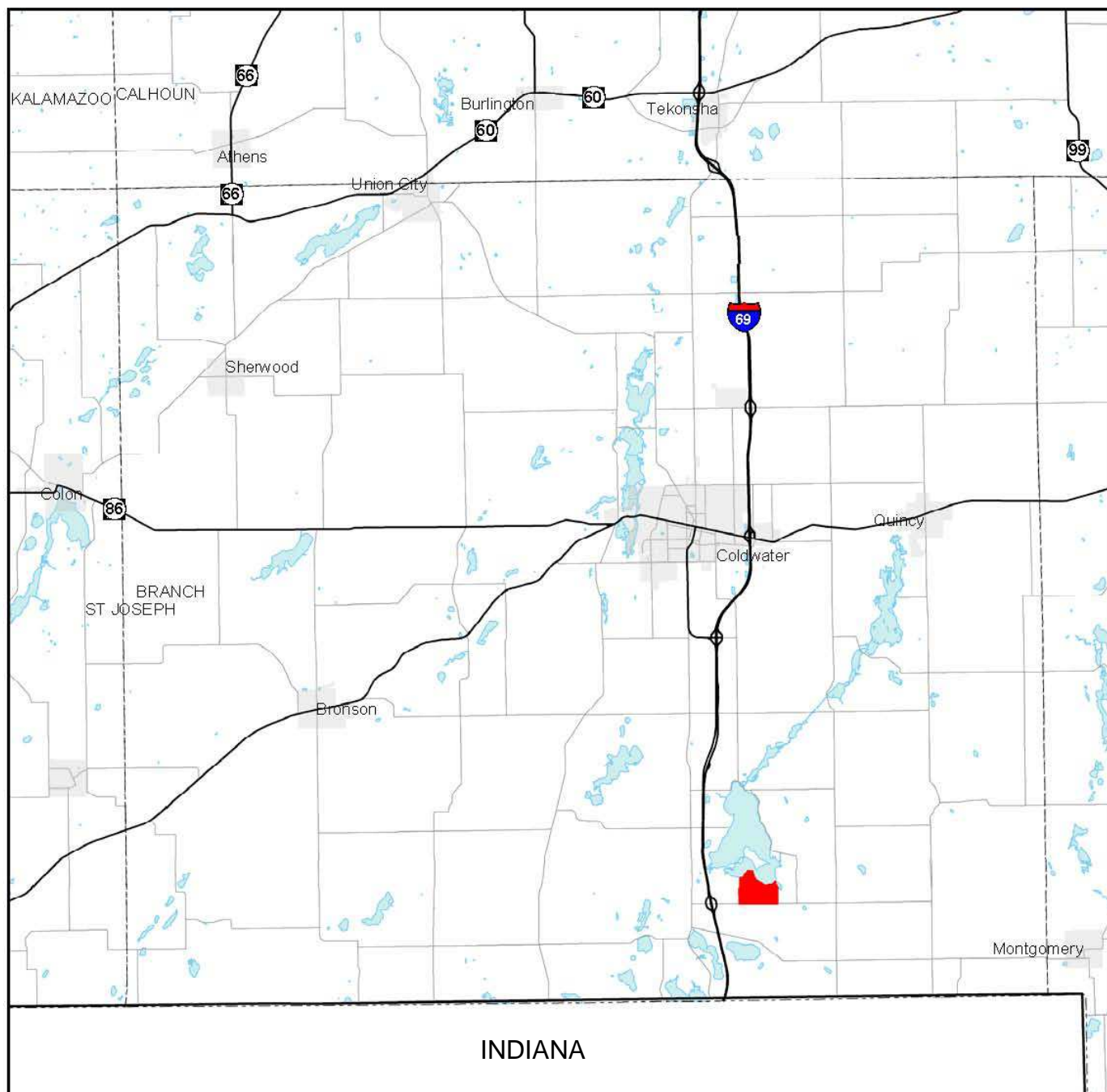
Coldwater Lake State Park is 400 acres of largely undeveloped park land in Branch County, seven miles north of the Indiana border. The park is located a half mile east of I-69 and nine miles south of the City of Coldwater. The park includes farmland, wetland and woodland with 6,600 feet of lake-frontage on the southern shores of Coldwater Lake. The 1,600 acre Coldwater Lake is connected to the largest chain of lakes in Branch County, consisting of a total 2,500 acres of water.



Rural Branch County is located half way between Chicago and Detroit along the Old Sauk Trail, also known as the U.S. 12 Heritage Route. I-69 runs north and south in the middle of the county, making Branch County easily accessible from either I-94 to the north or the 80/90 Toll Road to the south.

Branch County has two incorporated cities; Coldwater and Bronson, and three incorporated villages; Quincy, Sherwood, and Union City. The communities of Batavia, Girard, and Kinderhook are not incorporated; and there are several more small hamlets within the county.

LOCATION MAP



Legend

 Coldwater Lake State Park

0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles

A.2 DEMOGRAPHICS

Branch County was a primeval wilderness little more than one hundred fifty years ago, inhabited only by the Potawatomie Indians. In the year 1829 Branch County was laid out and named by the Territorial Legislature of Michigan. It was first attached to Lenawee County and later to St. Joseph for judicial purposes. The name was given in honor of John Branch of North Carolina, Secretary of the Navy in President Jackson's cabinet.

2010 U.S. Census Data for Branch County

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that the 2010 population of Branch County at 45,248. The population of this county has dropped by 1.18% since 2000.

People QuickFacts	Branch County	Michigan
Population, 2013 estimate	NA	9,895,622
Population, 2012 estimate	43,868	9,882,519
Population, 2010 (April 1) estimates base	45,248	9,883,701
Population, percent change, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013	NA	0.1%
Population, percent change, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2012	-3.0%	Z
Population, 2010	45,248	9,883,640
Persons under 5 years, percent, 2012	6.4%	5.8%
Persons under 18 years, percent, 2012	24.1%	22.9%
Persons 65 years and over, percent, 2012	15.8%	14.6%
Female persons, percent, 2012	48.5%	50.9%
<hr/>		
White alone, percent, 2012 (a)	95.4%	80.1%
Black or African American alone, percent, 2012 (a)	2.0%	14.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent, 2012 (a)	0.5%	0.7%
Asian alone, percent, 2012 (a)	0.6%	2.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent, 2012 (a)	Z	Z
Two or More Races, percent, 2012	1.5%	2.2%
Hispanic or Latino, percent, 2012 (b)	4.2%	4.6%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent, 2012	91.6%	76.2%
<hr/>		
Living in same house 1 year & over, percent, 2008-2012	87.3%	85.4%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2008-2012	2.6%	6.0%
Language other than English spoken at home, pct age 5+, 2008-2012	8.4%	9.0%

i High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2008-2012	87.0%	88.7%
i Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2008-2012	13.8%	25.5%
i Veterans, 2008-2012	3,270	692,582
i Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2008-2012	23.7	23.9
i Housing units, 2012	20,724	4,525,004
i Homeownership rate, 2008-2012	78.8%	72.8%
i Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent, 2008-2012	8.7%	18.0%
i Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2008-2012	\$104,700	\$128,600
i Households, 2008-2012	16,036	3,818,931
i Persons per household, 2008-2012	2.62	2.53
i Per capita money income in past 12 months (2012 dollars), 2008-2012	\$19,633	\$25,547
i Median household income, 2008-2012	\$42,995	\$48,471
i Persons below poverty level, percent, 2008-2012	17.3%	16.3%
Geography QuickFacts	Branch County	Michigan
i Land area in square miles, 2010	506.37	56,538.90
i Persons per square mile, 2010	89.4	174.8
i FIPS Code	023	26
i Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area	Coldwater, MI Micro Area	

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/26/26023.html>

The population growth rate is lower than the state average rate of -0.55% and is much lower than the national average rate of 9.71%. Branch county median household income is \$42,995 in 2008-2012 and has grown by 10.93% since 2000. The income growth rate is higher than the state average rate of 8.52%.

The area supports a large number of seasonal residents, attracted by the abundance of lakes and resulting recreation opportunities. The 2010 US Census indicates that 46% of the housing units in Kinderhook Township are seasonal, recreational or occasional use.

A.3 HISTORY OF COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK

The land that is currently Coldwater Lake State Park was farmed since the early 1800's and contained two farm houses prior to becoming a state park. Of the 400 acres, 221 acres are still being actively farmed.

Local supporters nominated the site in 1986 to be purchased through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for a park. The Department of Natural Resources recognized that this land offered an attractive, convenient location for a state park near I-69. Acquisition of this parcel represented a unique opportunity to provide a quality public recreation facility in southern Michigan, where public ownership was limited.

The acquisition application was submitted in 1986. The park was deeded over to the DNR in 1988 and the land park officially became a state park.

Soon after purchase of the park, the two farmhouses were demolished. A lease is in place to continue the farming of 221 acres. Signage and two small parking lots were developed to accommodate primarily hunters. In 2013, the parking lots were renovated and signage was added.

In late 2013, the Coldwater Country Conference and Visitors Bureau convened a meeting between the DNR and Branch County representatives to discuss the possible development of the property. This prompted the DNR to complete a general management plan for the site in order to get public input and provide a vision for the park.

The assets of the property cited when it was purchased include the lack of public land in this area of the state, the large frontage on Coldwater Lake and easy access from highway I-69. Documents relating to the purchase do not offer any specific plans for the property other than to open it for hunting, fishing and trapping following completion of the purchase and the potential to provide public recreation opportunities in southeast Michigan. After the purchase was made in 1986, the DNR experienced a decline in revenue and increasing costs associated with aging infrastructure; factors which help to explain the lack of development at the park.

A.4 LAND OWNERSHIP

Funding Source

In 1987, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) board recommended approval for the expenditure of up to \$900,000 for the purchase of 400 acres from the Fide Corporation located on Coldwater Lake for the purposes of providing access to public recreation land in southern Michigan. Those funds were appropriated by the Legislature and the purchase was completed in 1988.

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. Restrictions of this funding source include:

- Land must remain open for public recreation use in perpetuity
- All development on the site must be for public recreation purposes

Granted Easements

The park has one known granted easement that was part of the land transfer in 1988.

Consumers Power Company

- For right-of-way, recorded in Liber 193, pages 72,78,79, Branch County records as to Section 2 lands.

Leases

Wiler Farms

- A lease exists for 221 acres (55%) of the property for farming purposes in 2015 with 196 acres farmed in 2016. The contract is reviewed annually with an option to extend the contract up to a maximum of 7 years.
- Contract expires 11/30/2017

Use Permits

Kinderhook Riding Club

- A use permit exists for the Kinderhook Riding Club to ride horses on the property from January 1 to April 15 on two-tracks or along field boundaries.

A.5 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RECREATION RESOURCES

Coldwater Lake State Park is the largest public land site in Branch County. There are no State Parks in neighboring Hillsdale, Calhoun or St. Joseph Counties. Other recreation resources in the County are relatively small in size, with the biggest at 60 acres.

County Resources

The Branch County park system began with one park called Memorial Park, located on Behnke Road, in 1964. The system has grown to 5 parks on over 120 acres, as described below.

Memorial Park

- 30 acres located on Messenger Lake, west of downtown Coldwater
- Boat launch, parking, restroom, campground, picnic facilities, beach and athletic facilities.

Riverbend Park

- 25 acres located northwest of Coldwater on Union City Road.
- Picnic facilities, canoe access and parking

Gilead Lake Park

- 6 acres located 6 miles south of Bronson on Booth Road
- Boat launch, restroom, parking, picnic facilities

Quincy-Marble Lake

- 60 Acres on Lake Boulevard in Quincy
- Boat launch, restroom, parking, campground, picnic facilities, beach

Angel Cove Park

- 6 acres on US 12, west of Coldwater
- Boat launch, restrooms, parking, campground

Branch County has 107 lakes; two chains of lakes totaling 21 square miles, providing opportunities for fishing and recreational boating. The two beaches referenced above are not ideal due to frequent beach closings and water quality issues.

Municipal Resources

The City of Coldwater has 9 parks totaling 130 acres. Bronson has 4 public parks, Union City has 1 park, Quincy has 1 park, Sherwood Village has 1 park, and Ovid Township has 1 park. Highlighted parks are listed below:

Heritage Park (City of Coldwater) - Swimming, water slide, softball, sledding, skatepark, picnic pavilions

Linear Park (City of Coldwater) - Mountain Biking

Rotary Park (City of Coldwater) - Fishing, boat launch, restrooms on Messenger Lake

Waterworks Park (City of Coldwater) - Softball, restrooms, soccer, playground

South Lake Park (City of Coldwater) - Walking trails, wildlife viewing

Douglas Park (city of Bronson) - Picnic Pavilions

Greenwald Parks (City of Bronson) - Picnic Pavilions

Riverbend Park (village of Union City)

Commercial Campgrounds

- South Chain of Lakes:
 - o Butler Resort, Coldwater
 - o Coldwater Lake Camp, Coldwater
 - o Cottonwood Resort, Quincy
 - o Green Acres Campground, Coldwater
 - o Lakes End Campground, Quincy
 - o Sunset Cove Resort, Quincy
- North Chain of Lakes:
 - o Coldwater River Campground, Coldwater
 - o Kesas Cove Resort, Coldwater
 - o Narrows Campground, Coldwater
 - o Raymond's Landing, Coldwater
 - o Waffle Farm Campground, Coldwater
- Miscellaneous:
 - o Dove's Landing, Coldwater
 - o Honey Lake Campground, Bronson
 - o Huyck's Lake Campground, Coldwater
 - o Potawatomie Recreation Area, Union City
 - o St. Joe River Campground, Sherwood
 - o Butler Motor Speedway Campground, Quincy

Golf Courses

- Golf Club of Coldwater
- Bella Vista Golf Course
- Iyopawa Island Golf Course

State Resources

Fort Custer Recreation Area

Fort Custer Recreation Area is the closest Michigan State Park to Coldwater, located approximately 45 miles northwest. It includes the following:

- Cross Country Skiing
- Fishing
- Camping
- Hiking Trails
- Mountain Bike Trails
- Equestrian Trails
- Swimming Beach
- Hunting
- Boat Launch
- Modern Camping, Group Camping
- Cabins
- Picnic Pavilions
- Disc Golf Course

Boating Access Sites (BAS)

The State of Michigan has 16 public boat access sites totaling 39 acres in Branch County, including one located on the west side of Coldwater Lake.

Coldwater Lake Boating Access Site:

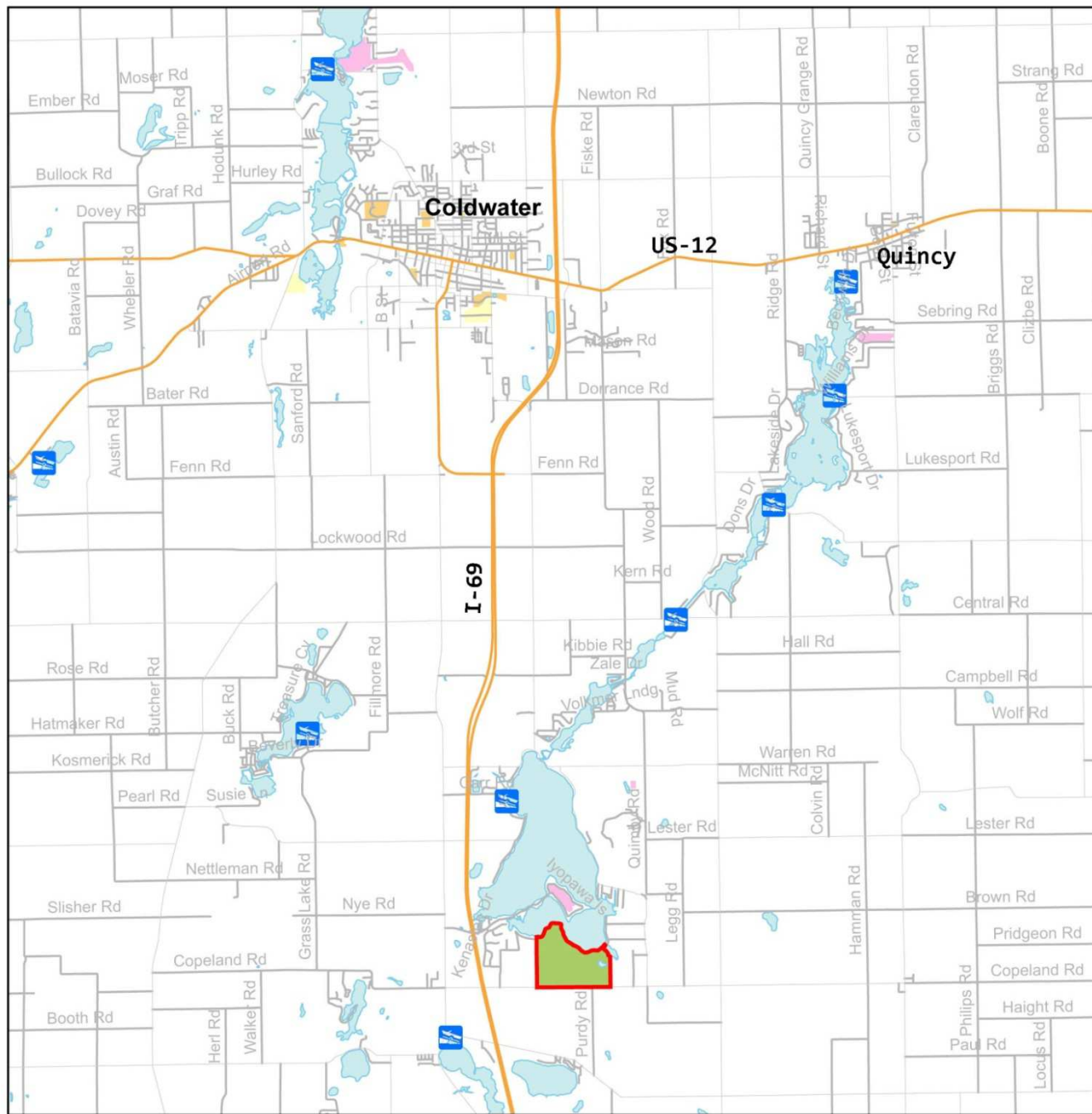
- Located on the northwest side of Coldwater Lake, accessed from Maple Knoll Beach.
- ADA accessible hard-surfaced ramp with skid pier.
- Paved 59 space parking lot with public restroom Very popular with boaters and fishermen.

Pokagon State Park

Pokagon State Park is one of the premier Indiana State Parks located just south of the border with easy access off of I-69 on Lake James. The park is approximately 20 miles from Coldwater Lake State Park. The park is also adjacent to the Beechwood Nature Preserve, a 74 acre parcel owned by the ACRES Land Trust. Pokagon State Park includes the following:

- 1,260 acres, established in 1925
- 12 miles of Hiking Trails
- Equestrian Trails
- Modern Camping, Group Camping, Rustic Camping
- Potawatomi Inn
- Toboggan Slide
- Nature Center
- Swimming Beach
- Picnic Pavilions
- Boating And Boat Rental

COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK AREA RECREATION OWNERSHIP



Legend

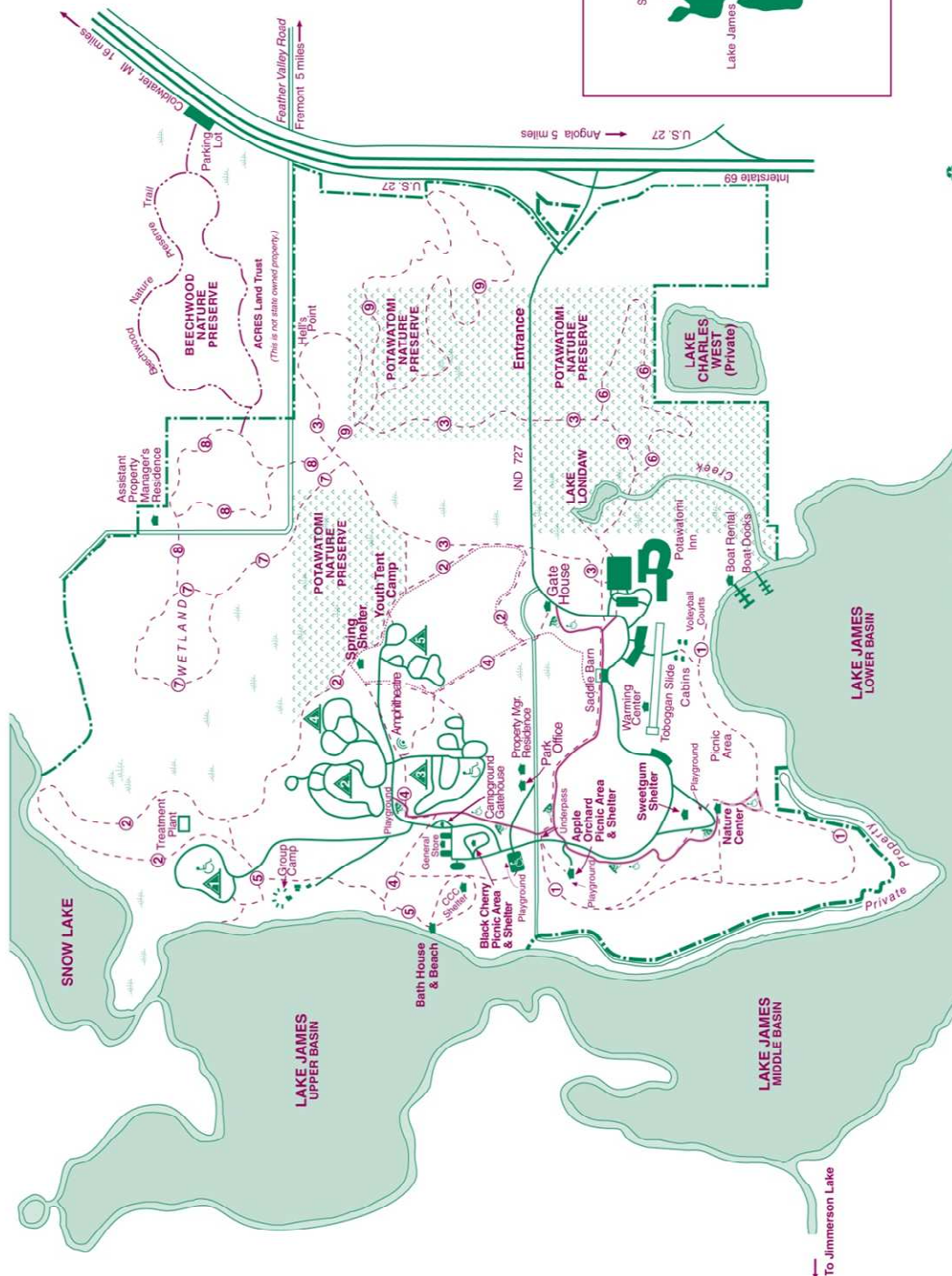
- Coldwater Lake State Park Boundary
- County
- Local
- Non-Governmental Organization
- Other
- Private
- State Land
- State Boat Access Sites

1 0.5 0 1 Miles



POKAGON STATE PARK

450 Lane 100 Lake James • Angola, Indiana 46703 • 260-833-2012
1,260 Acres Established 1925



Beechwood Nature Preserve - Along the east edge of the park, Trail 8 crosses the border and enters the 88-acres, Beechwood Nature Preserve, a unit of the ACRES Land Trust. Here a 1.5 mile loop continues over rolling hills of old meadows now sporting thickets of gray dogwoods and remnants of an old apple orchard. From the loop, a short section of the trail continues to the Beechwood parking lot at State Road 127. A boardwalk traverses a lowland swamp featuring rare yellow birch, red maple, blue beech, and skunk cabbage.



TRAIL	MILEAGE	TRAIL TYPE
1	2	Moderate
2	2.2	Moderate
3	1.4	Moderate
4	1.4	Moderate
5	7	Easy
6	7	Moderate
7	1.8	Moderate
8	1	Moderate
9	1.7	Moderate

LEGEND	Nature	Trail	Access	Ground
Road	Hiking Trail	Horse Trail	Bicycle Trail	Boundary
Marsh				

LOCATION MAP



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A.6 LEGAL MANDATES

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 Coldwater Lake State Park, several legal mandates have been identified, which are listed below.

PA 451 of 1994, Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Act (NREPA), Article 1, Part 5
Section 324.504: This law describes the DNR’s authority to make rules that support its mission.

- (1) “The department shall promulgate rules to protect and preserve lands and property under its control from depredation, damage, or destruction or wrongful or improper use or occupancy.”

The rules relate to camping, motorized vehicle use, control of animals, trail use etc.

PA 451 of 1994, Part 303 - Wetlands Protection, of NREPA, as amended.

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

- Deposit or permit the placing of fill material in a wetland.
- Dredge, remove, or permit the removal of soil or minerals from a wetland.
- Construct, operate, or maintain any use or development in a wetland.
- Drain surface water from a wetland.

PA 451 of 1994, Part 419 - Hunting Area Control (NREPA)

Section 324.41901 establishes the powers of the Department to establish safety zones for hunting.

PA 451 of 1994, Part 741 - State Park System (NREPA)

Sec. 74102:

- (1) The legislature finds:
 - (a) Michigan state parks preserve and protect Michigan's significant natural and historic resources.
 - (b) Michigan state parks are appropriate and uniquely suited to provide opportunities to learn about protection and management of Michigan's natural resources.
 - (c) Michigan state parks are an important component of Michigan's tourism industry and vital to local economies.
 - (d) A holistic, integrated park system that reflects the unique value of both state and local parks is a goal of this state.
 - (e) State and local park planners should work in concert for a coordinated Michigan park and recreation plan.

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

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

This act amended the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code to provide for a State Park and State-operated public boating access site "Recreation Passport" that a Michigan resident may obtain by paying an additional fee when registering a motor vehicle. The Recreation Passport is required for entry into Coldwater Lake State Park.

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.

PA 46 of 2010 - Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act

Amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (PA 451 of 1994) with a finding that a statewide system of trails, trailways, and pack and saddle trailways is in the best interest of the state; requires the DNR to establish an "adopt-a-trail" program that allows volunteer groups to assist in maintaining and enhancing Michigan trailways, pack and saddle trailways, and rail-trails; and creates the Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Council within the department.

DNR Policy 26.04-04 - Use of State-Owned Lands Administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (ISSUED: 02/01/2006)

It shall be the policy of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to manage State-owned lands in a manner that protects and enhances the public trust while providing for the use and enjoyment of those lands as outlined in the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. Applications to use State-owned lands will be considered and may be approved if the proposed use is consistent with other public interest and natural resource values.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit

The NPDES permit process was initiated by The Federal Water Pollution Control Act amendments of 1972. The purpose of the program is to control the discharge of pollutants into surface waters by imposing effluent limitations to protect the environment. Authority for NPDES permit issuance rests with the MDEQ.

COLDWATER LAKE - R281.712.21 - Slow--no wake speed zone.

21. On that part of the waters of Coldwater lake located along and within a distance of 200 feet either side of a line drawn from the southernmost point of Iyopawa island southwesterly to the nearest point of land, located in section 2, T8S, R6W, Kinderhook township, Branch county, it is unlawful for the operator of a vessel to exceed a slow--no wake speed.



Coldwater Lake “slow, no wake” speed zone

A.7 LAND COVER

Land Cover Circa 1800

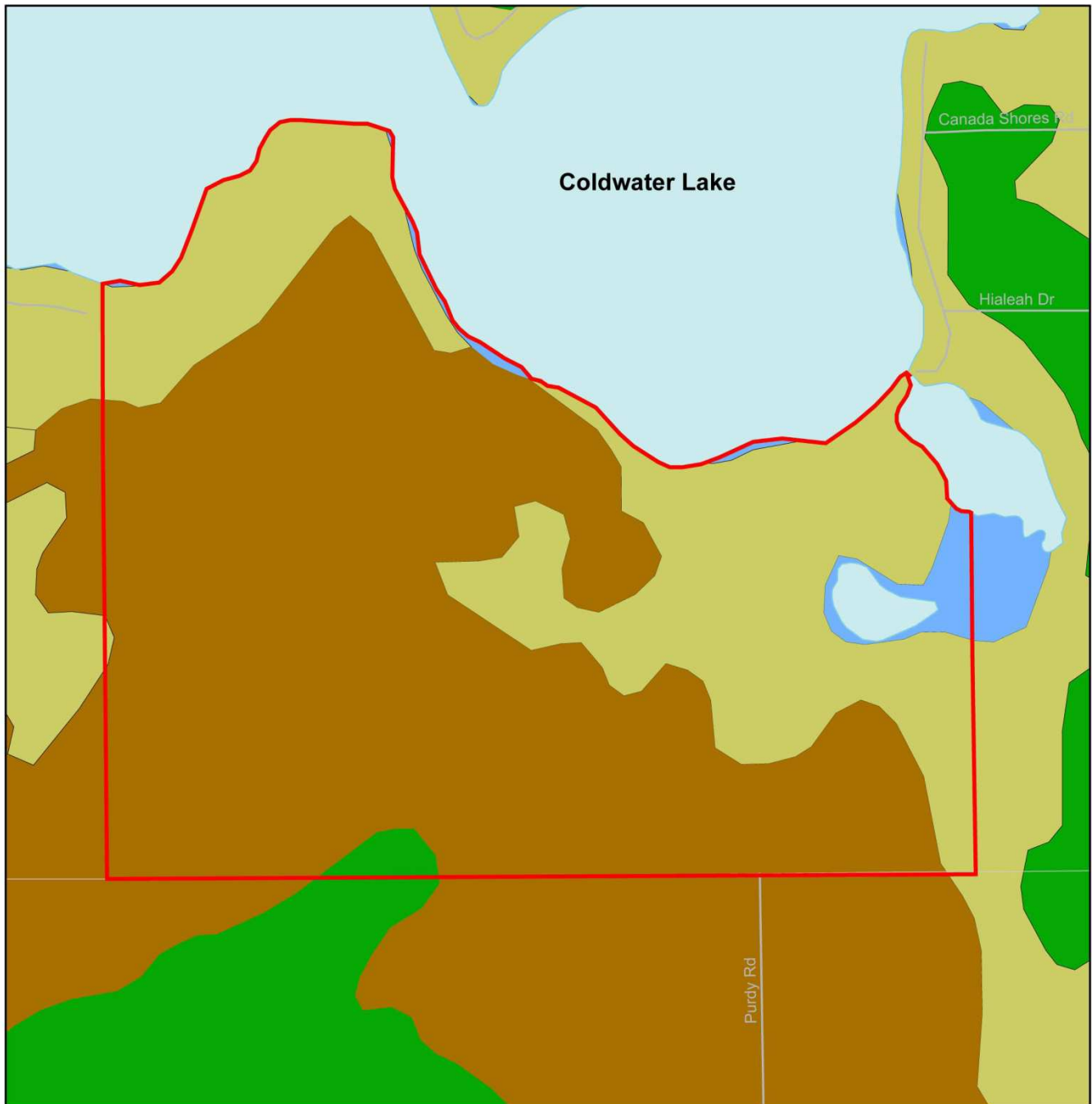
Prior to permanent settlement, the Coldwater Lake area consisted of primarily oak barrens (savanna), with pockets of more closed-canopy oak forest and mesic (tallgrass) prairie in the uplands. Wetlands were primarily emergent marsh and hardwood-conifer swamp.

Current Land Cover

Most of the uplands and large areas of wetland in this area have been converted to agriculture. Drainage has allowed wetlands to be planted to row crops. Many wetlands are used as pasture, especially the grasslands along streams. Many of the large wetlands occupying glacial drainageways and ice-block depressions remain dominated by native vegetation. The shorelines of many of the kettle lakes are being developed for either recreational or residential use.

Within the park, nearly all uplands are currently leased agricultural fields, and the wetlands remain a mix of emergent marsh, sedge meadow, and forested swamp.

COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK LAND COVER 1800's



Legend

- Coldwater Lake State Park Boundary
- Oak Barrens
- Wetland
- Water
- Open Water
- Oak

0.1 0.05 0 0.1 Miles



A.8 NATURAL SYSTEMS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

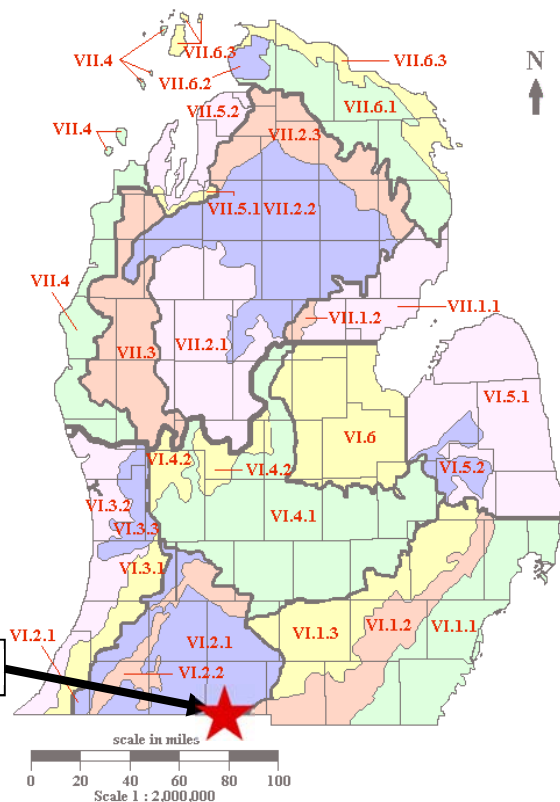
Eco-Regional Context

Coldwater Lake State Park is located in ecoregion section 6, subsection 2.1, known as the Battle Creek Outwash Plain. This region is characterized by outwash deposits of sand and gravel with slopes of 0 to 6 percent. Ground moraine is concentrated in the southeast portion of this subsection, where Coldwater Lake State Park is located.

Numerous lakes and wetlands are located in this area formed in ice-block kettles or abandoned channels.

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

Coldwater Lake State



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 Coldwater Lake State Park consists of flat, outwash plain. The subsection is entirely underlain by Mississippian (Paleozoic) shale (Dorr and Eschman 1984, Milstein 1987). Glacial drift is shallow in the east where there are local exposures of shale, but it is as much as 350 feet thick in the west and southwest (Akers 1938).

Topography

Topography of the park consists of gently rolling hills on the west and southern portions of the property with flat areas in the wetland portions of the property. The shoreline consists of a gentle ridge varying in height from 0 to 20 feet.

Soils

The majority of the soil at Coldwater Lake State Park is made up of Fox sandy loam and Edwards muck in the low, wetland areas.

Wildlife

Coldwater Lake State Park has diverse habitat, which includes lake frontage, wetlands, wooded fencerows, a small woodlot and agricultural fields. Even though it is a small state park, these diverse habitats provide food and cover to an array of wildlife species. Wetland species that can be found here include muskrat, raccoon, mallards, Canada geese, blue winged teal, wood duck, red-winged black birds, American coots, great blue heron, American woodcock, sandhill cranes, green frogs, spring peppers, wood frogs, painted turtles, salamanders, garner snakes, black rat snakes, and Northern water snakes. The agricultural fields, fencerows and thick brush around the wetlands provides habitat to woodchucks, deer mice, red fox, white-tailed deer, red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, American robin, gray catbird, ring-necked pheasant, eastern bluebird, killdeer, mourning dove, northern cardinal, and song sparrow. The small woodlot provides habitat to fox squirrel, great horned owl, tree swallow, white-breasted nuthatch, tufted titmouse, black-capped chickadee, and several different woodpeckers.

Fish

Coldwater Lake is one of the best fishing lakes in southern Michigan. Fisheries Division stocks walleye in the lake, and this system supports self-sustaining populations of bluegills, pumpkinseeds, red ear sunfish, black crappies, yellow perch, northern pike, largemouth bass, and smallmouth bass. Many bass tournaments occur on the lake and a tip-up festival is held on the Coldwater chain of lakes each winter.

The state threatened cisco historically inhabited Coldwater Lake. The last documented capture of ciscoes occurred in 1967. No ciscoes have been collected during recent surveys conducted by Fisheries Division. The spotted gar (a state special concern species) is present in Coldwater Lake.

Natural Areas

There are currently no dedicated natural areas or other special conservation areas at Coldwater Lake State Park.

Rare Plants

There are no rare plants known to occur at Coldwater Lake State Park. However, the open wetlands on the east side of the property have not been extensively surveyed and have the potential to contain rare plant species associated with wet meadow or prairie fen communities.

Rare Animals

There are no rare animals known to occur at Coldwater Lake State Park. However, the state threatened Blanchard's cricket frog (*Acris crepitans blanchardi*) was historically known to occur in the vicinity of Coldwater Lake (ca. 1918-1919) and may or may not have been found in what is now the state park. Also, the open wetlands on the east side of the property have not been

extensively surveyed and have the potential to contain rare animal species associated with wet meadow or prairie fen communities. In particular, the Federal endangered Mitchell's satyr butterfly (*Neonympha mitchellii mitchellii*) occurs in a prairie fen within a mile of the park.

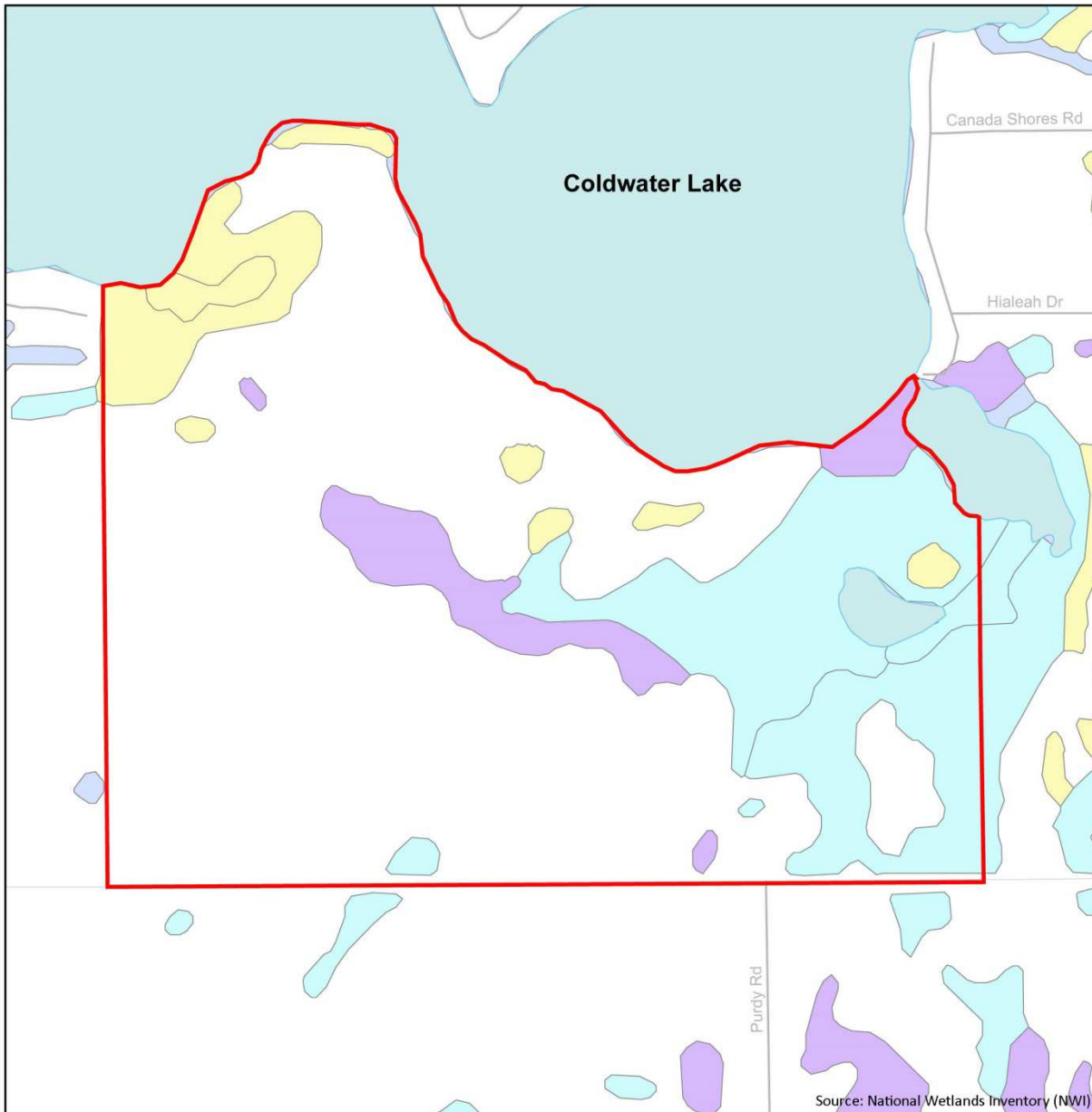
Natural Communities

There are no known exemplary natural communities at Coldwater Lake State Park. However, the wetlands have not been extensively surveyed and assessed for quality. Based on soil type and geographic location, this park may have supported the very rare mesic prairie natural community prior to agricultural use. There would be potential for restoration of mesic prairie or oak savanna in the uplands of this park.

Lake Bottom Conditions

According to the lake bottom conditions map from the Institute for Fisheries Research, the lake bottom directly adjacent to the park consists of Sand and Marl with Marl and Pulpy peat in the deeper part of the lake.

COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK WETLANDS MAP



Legend

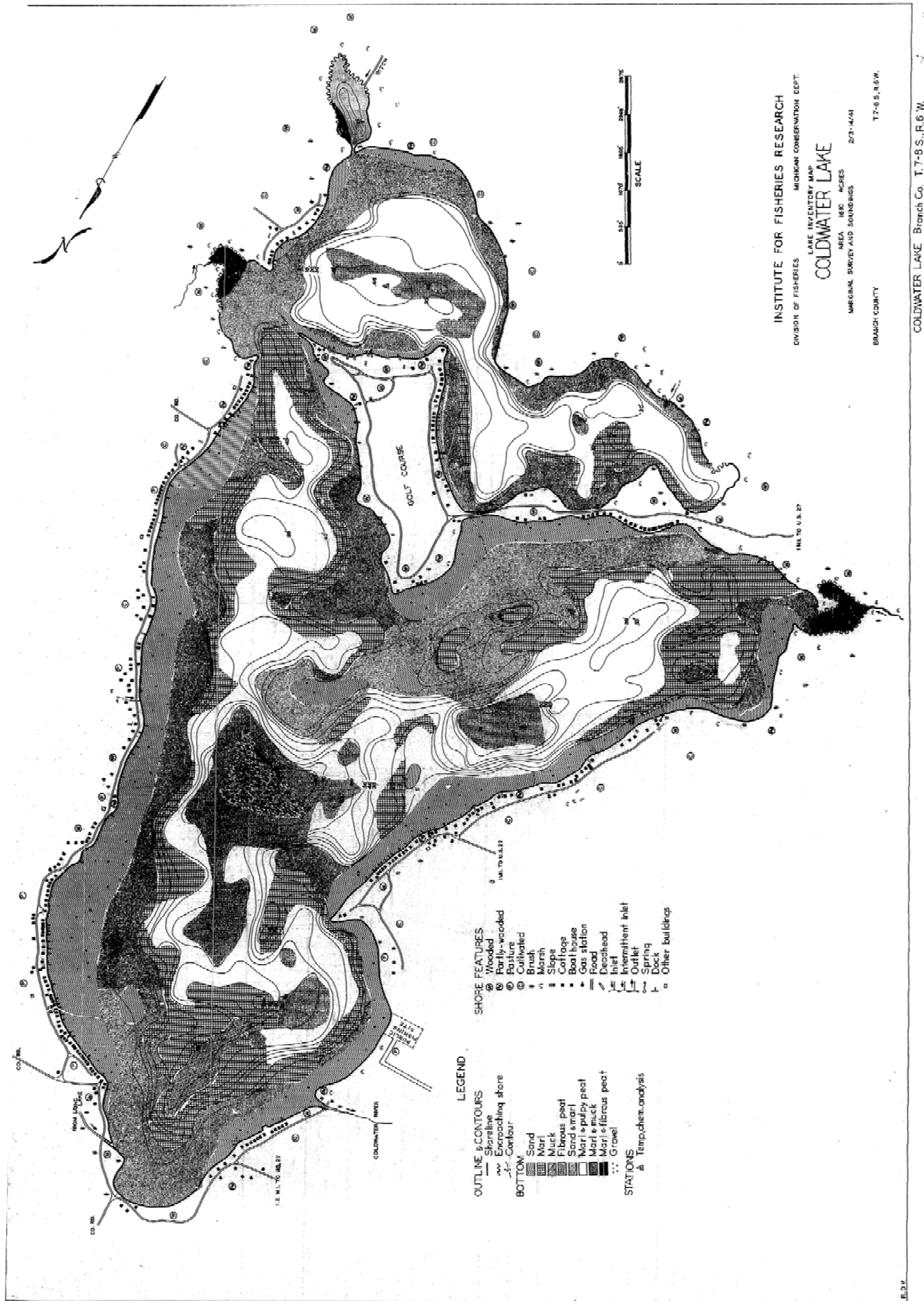
- Coldwater Lake State Park Boundary
- Emergent
- Scrub-Shrub
- Forested
- Open Water

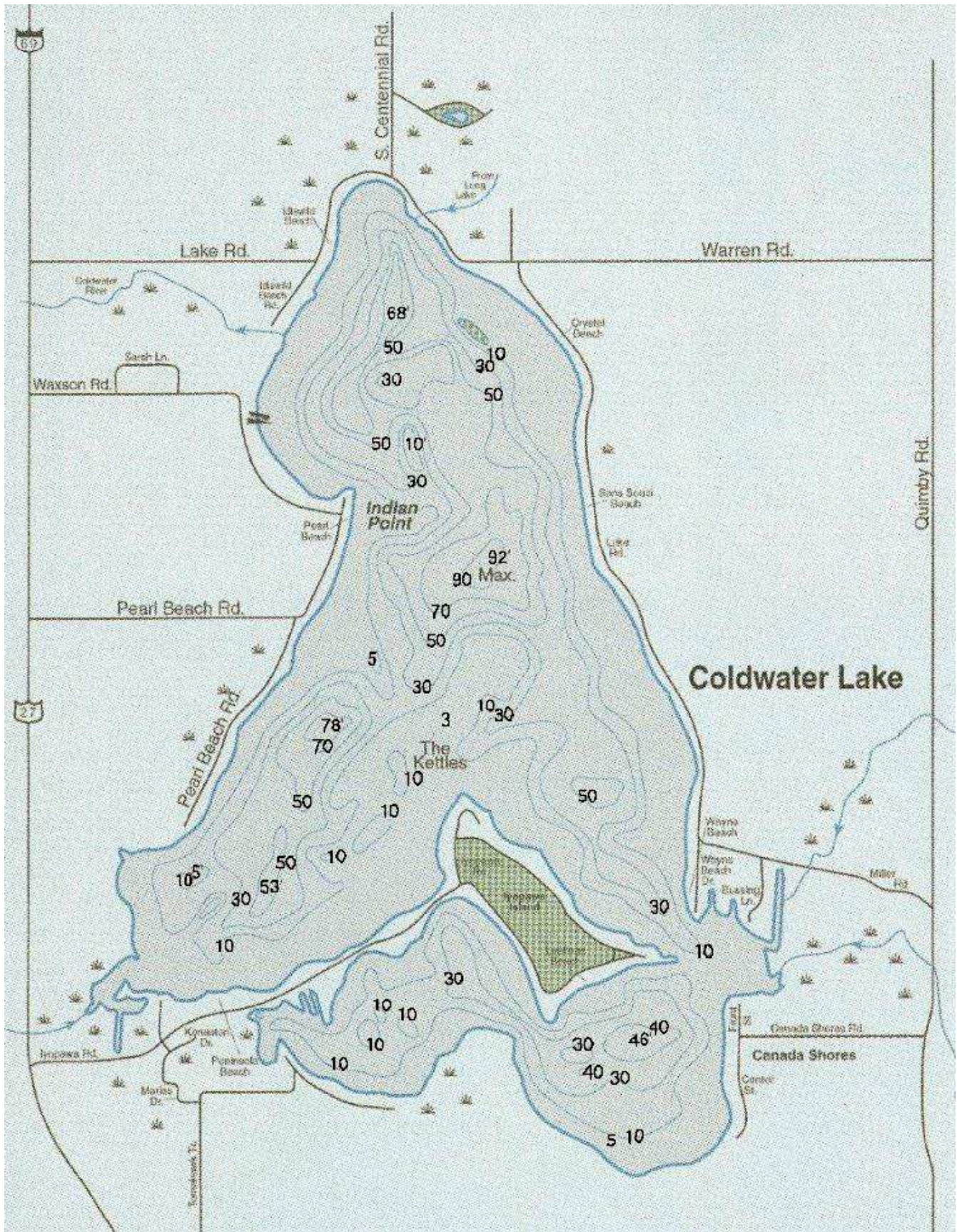
0.1 0.05 0 0.1 Miles



Source: National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)







Source: www.coldwaterlakecottage.com

A.9 HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

No structures currently exist within Coldwater Lake State Park that are eligible to be listed on the national registry. Two farmhouses once existed on the property, but were removed shortly after the state acquired the property.

There is potential for Native American occupation in the upland areas along the lakeshore.

A.10 RECREATION RESOURCES AT COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK

Fishing

Coldwater Lake is a warm water fishery consisting of pan fish, red ear sunfish, blue gills, walleye, black crappy, largemouth bass, northern pike, smallmouth bass and yellow perch. Shoreline fishing is available on the 1,600 acre Coldwater Lake, although access to the lakeshore from the park is limited. Fishing is a popular activity for boaters immediately offshore from the park.

Hunting

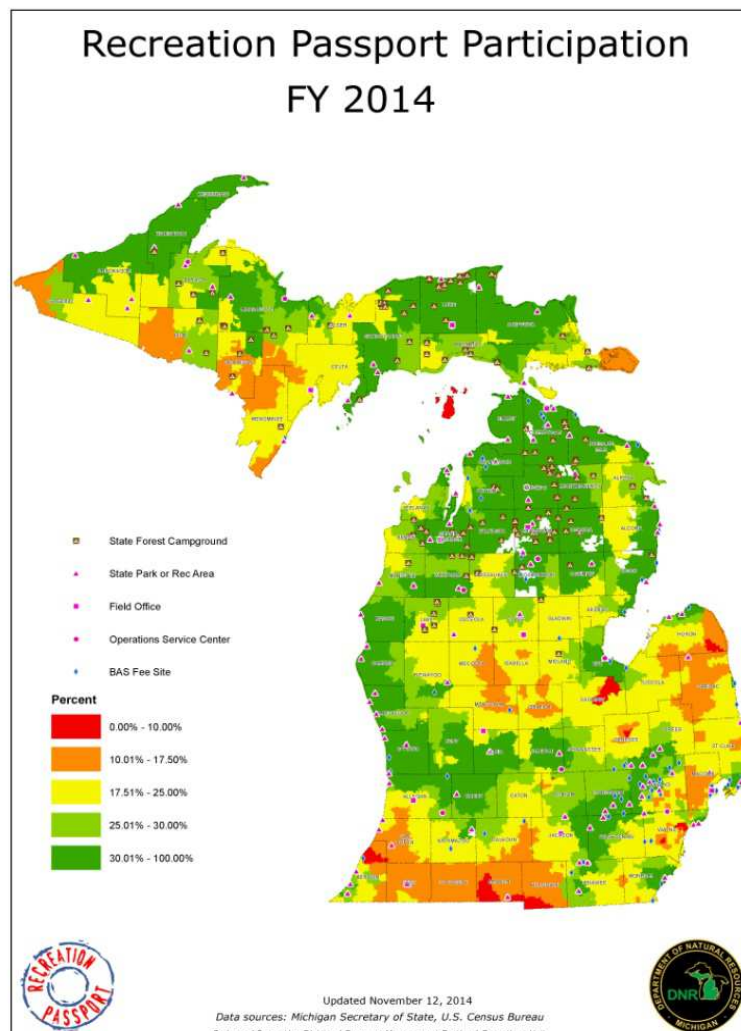
The park is open to hunting via Director's Order. All hunting must follow seasonal restrictions. The park is popular for small game, turkey, waterfowl and deer. The park is the only public land open to hunting in Branch County and one of only a few sites in the tri-county area of Branch, Calhoun and St. Joseph counties.

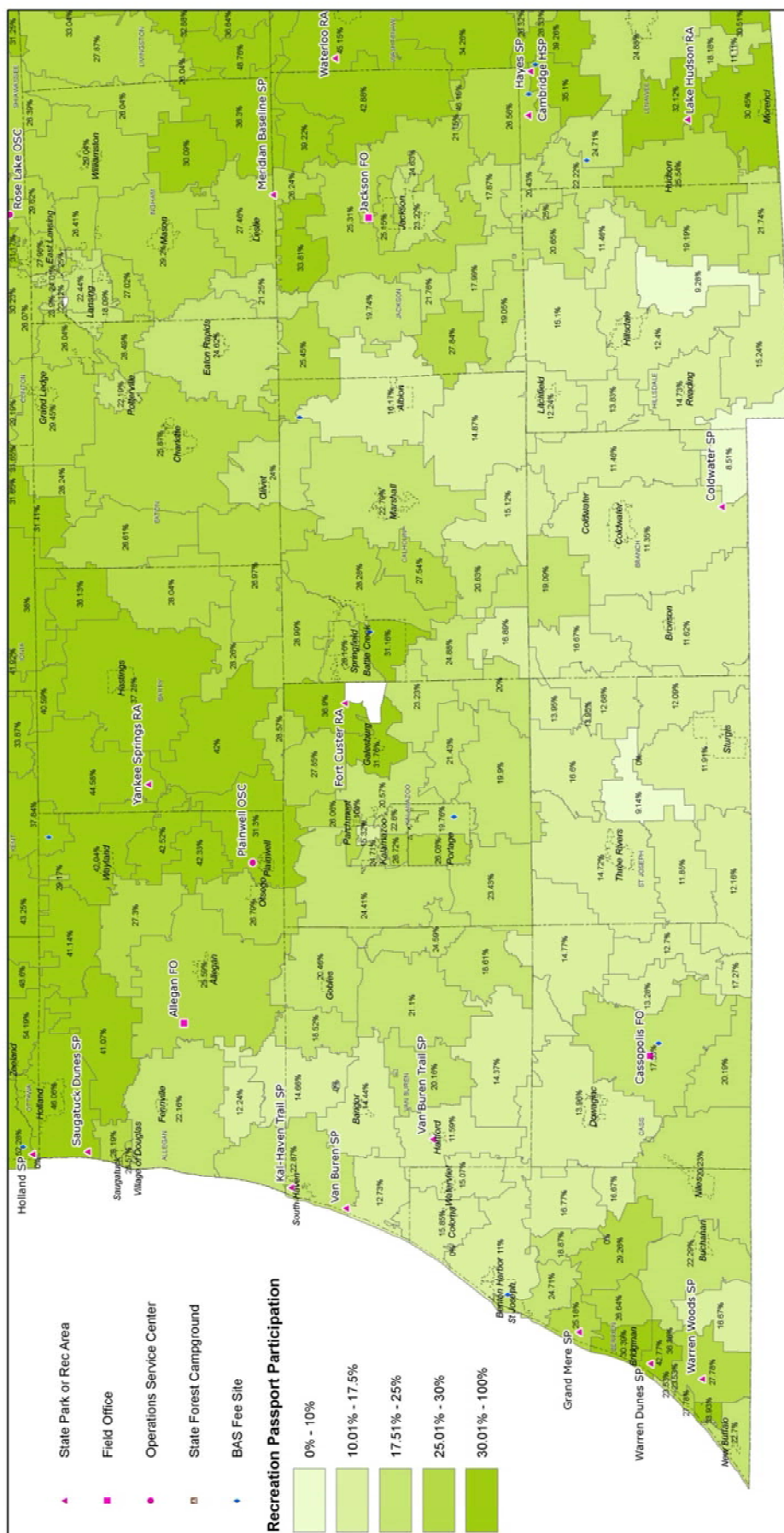
Equestrian

A use permit exists for the Kinderhook Riding Club to ride horses on the property from January 1 to April 15. There are no designated trails on the park property.

A.11 ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Purchase of Recreation Passport- Michigan residents can purchase a Recreation Passport through the Secretary of State by checking “yes” when renewing their license plate through the web, mail, kiosk or Coldwater branch office. Recreation Passports (Resident and Non-Resident) for Coldwater Lake State Park can also be purchased at W.J. Hayes State Park or Fort Custer Recreation Area. Non-Residents are unable to purchase a Recreation Passport at the Secretary of State but do have the option of purchasing one online. Upon completion of the Management Plan, Recreation Passports may be made available at Coldwater Lake State Park through a self-registration process.
- Branch County has the lowest Recreation Passport participation rate in the state (10.8% compared to the state average of 28.5% in FY 2014). Participation has also shown a steady decrease since 2011. See maps that follow.
- The land is currently being managed out of Jackson Field Office, which is over 30 miles away.
- Irrigation across the County is believed to be depleting the water table.





Updated June 9, 2014

Data sources: Michigan Secretary of State, U.S. Census Bureau
Parks and Recreation Division | Resource Management Section | Operations Unit

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 Workshop (June 17, 2014)** – located at Coldwater High School from 6-8pm, members of the public were invited to participate in a workshop session and share their vision for the park with the DNR.
- **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.
- **Coldwater Lake State Park 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.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10365_31399_64604-330754--,00.html
- **Stakeholder Input Open House (November 10, 2014)** – located at the Coldwater Hampton Inn 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, zoning map, and the Draft 10-Year Action Goals. Approximately 50 stakeholders were invited to the open house; 30 people attended.
- **Public Input Open House (January 27, 2014)** – located at the Browne Recreation Center, Heritage Park, in Coldwater, members of the public had the opportunity to learn about the General Management Planning process and provide input regarding the Statements of Significance, zoning map and the Draft 10-Year Action Goals. A press release was sent out January 14, 2015 inviting the public to the open house; 35 people attended.

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 2014

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

DNR invites public to attend June 17 workshop on future management of Coldwater Lake State Park

The Department of Natural Resources recently announced a public input workshop has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 17, to solicit public ideas and comments about the future of [Coldwater Lake State Park](#), in Branch County. This 400-acre state park, with 1 1/4 miles of frontage on the south end of Coldwater Lake, was purchased in 1988 and is currently used primarily for hunting. The meeting is scheduled for 6-8 p.m. at the Coldwater High School cafeteria, 275 N. Fremont St., in Coldwater. The meeting is being held in partnership with the Coldwater Country Conference and Visitors Bureau, which is assisting the DNR with this planning initiative.

The meeting will include a brief presentation on the history of the park and the current planning initiative, followed by group activities that will help to formulate a future vision for Coldwater Lake State Park. The input received at this meeting will guide the development of a General Management Plan for the property. This plan will define a long-range planning and management strategy that will assist the DNR Parks and Recreation Division in meeting its responsibilities to protect and preserve the site's natural and cultural resources and to provide access to land- and water-based public recreation and education opportunities.

Additional information on the DNR's General Management Plan process is available at www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans.

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/TDD711 Michigan Relay Center for the hearing-impaired) at least five business days before the open house.

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 or at branch offices), Michigan motorists get access to state parks, recreation areas, state forest campgrounds, nonmotorized state trailhead parking and state boat launches. In addition, Recreation Passport holders can enjoy real savings at businesses and retailers that participate in the Passport Perks discount program.

The Recreation Passport is valid until the next license plate renewal date. Nonresidents can purchase the Recreation Passport (\$31 annual; \$9 daily) at any state park or recreation area or through the Michigan e-Store at www.michigan.gov/estore.

Learn more about this creative way of sustaining Michigan's outdoor recreation and natural resources at 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.

**Coldwater Lake State Park
Public Input Workshop
June 17, 2014
6:00 to 8:00PM
Coldwater High School Cafeteria**

This public workshop is an opportunity to gather ideas and comments on people's vision for the future of the Coldwater Lake State Park property.

Agenda

6:00-6:30PM Welcome and Opening Feedback

1. Opening Remarks
2. Public Introductions; Guidelines and Logistics
3. Group Activity, Part One

6:30-6:45PM Overview of Current Planning

4. DNR Presentation with Q&A

6:45-7:45PM What's Our Vision for the Park?

5. Group Activity, Part Two

7:45PM Closing Comments

6. Closing Survey
7. Closing Remarks

8:00PM Adjourn

Contact: Debbie Jensen, Park Management Plan Administrator
Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division
517-284-6105; JensenD1@michigan

MDNR Coldwater Lake Public Input Workshop
June 17, 2014
Meeting Summary

1. Overview

The meeting was held to solicit public ideas and comments about the future of Coldwater Lake State Park, in Branch County. This 400-acre state park, with 1¼ miles of frontage on Coldwater Lake, was purchased in 1988 and is currently used primarily for hunting. The input received from the public will be used to guide the development of a General Management Plan for the property.

The meeting agenda included: 1) a brief presentation on the history and the current planning project for the park: and 2) two group activities focused on gathering citizens' thinking about a future vision for Coldwater Lake State Park.

The meeting was held in partnership with the Coldwater Country Conference and Visitors Bureau, which is assisting the DNR with this planning initiative.

2. Opening Question and Feedback

- The meeting opened with individual introductions at the tables and identification of the types of groups and community perspectives represented in the room. Based on the collected name cards, 50% of the participants (16) have been residents of the area for 50 years or more; 25% (8) for 25 to 47 years; and 25% (8) for 22 years or less.
- Participants were asked to complete the statement: ***“What matters most to me about Coldwater State Park is”*** The general response themes are noted in *italic* with verbatim feedback from participants listed below each theme. Where applicable, feedback given by more than one person is noted by a number in parenthesis.

▸ ***Limiting overall development; preservation***

- Let it remain as is (5)
- Limited access; more of a wildlife preserve/habitat (4)
- Have walking trails (3)
- Prairie establishment/restoration and maintenance (3)
- Public access to hunting(2)
- Maintain natural beauty (2)
- Put the park in natural vegetation or recreation areas, not in cropland (2)
- Keep it primitive
- Little to no disruption of wildlife (plants and animals)
- Better hunting; no development
- No camping

- Not be commercialized
- Maintain rural farm community character
- Community is interested in preservation
- ***Providing safe public recreation***
 - Swimming access (2)
 - Fishing access
 - Lake access
 - Be available to the people in the community
 - Be a place for families to use outdoor recreational facilities – trails, picnic areas, cross-country skiing
 - Day use; enjoy a day on Coldwater Lake – picnic, swim, enjoy the water
 - Overnight camping
 - Remain environmentally safe for people who use it
 - Be a safe place for families to enjoy
 - If someone can rescue swimmers e.g. if someone can rescue Jon Huzz when he goes swimming
- ***Minimizing the access to/impact on the lakes***
 - No boat ramps/launch (4)
 - No more boat traffic
 - Limit the boating. Don't add more boating to lakes already overloaded with boats
 - Amount of people impacting the lake area
 - No swimming
- ***Funding and management***
 - Not using *any* county resources (2)
 - Amount of money to make it a *qualified* area
 - If you want to use the lake and do not pay property taxes (which are very high), then you must pay for it
 - Maintenance/cleanliness
 - Proper management
 - How is it going to be paid for/maintained
- ***Other comments***
 - Be used for something other than growing corn and weeds
 - Increase in student teaching
 - Find out if it (park) is really needed

3. Planning to Date and Moving Forward

MDNR staff provided brief remarks on the State Park planning process, including the steps to be involved and timetable for developing a property Management Plan. Background information was provided on the park land topography, terrain, and the types of activities currently taking place on the property.

4. Identifying the Local Vision

4a. Vision Question and Corresponding Images. Following the presentation, participants were asked to consider the question, *“How would you imagine Coldwater Lake State Park in 2024 as compared to what it is today?”* After reflecting on the question, participants were invited to select a Visual Explorer (VE) Card to represent their individual image and then to explain to the other participants at their table why they selected that card. The cards selected by participants are shown in Figures 1 and 2 below.



4b. Ideas about the Park's Future. After sharing their cards images, each table group identified up to five key words or phrases to describe their group's images. The collective key words or phrases *from all groups* to describe their vision are summarized and highlighted in the following word cloud:



Verbatim terms identified by the table groups and included in the word cloud are listed in the table below:

Table 2: Compiled Key Words and Phrases

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep natural/back to nature (5) • Leave/use as-is/let it alone (3) • Keep native • Nature conservancy • Natural preservation • Conservation • Prairie restoration • Wetland • Good environmental conditions • Secluded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple day use facilities • Passive recreation • Swimming • Bike trails • Nature trails • Nature trails • Rustic walking • Hunting • Family-friendly • Scout camps • Educational opportunities
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Undisturbed · Peaceful tranquility · Preserve wildlife (2) · Wildlife friendly · Limited swim/public access · Public access · Recreation access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · No off road vehicles · No boat launch · No camping · No swimming · No added pollution · Limited commercial development
---	---

4c. Key Planning Considerations. Based on written feedback from the table discussion groups, key elements for future planning consideration are: 1) primarily leaving the park site “as is”; 2) maintaining an overall natural effect; and 3) preserving nature. Two table groups expressed interest in some development i.e. 1) having a parking area at the edge of woods and 2) allowing family-friendly passive recreation *provided that* nature preservation remains the primary guiding focus for property usage.

5. Exit Survey Feedback

Thirty-four (34) exit surveys were collected. The feedback is summarized below:

1. How satisfied are you with today’s meeting (Very satisfied; Satisfied; Neutral; Dissatisfied; Very Dissatisfied)

The range of responses was as follows:

Very Satisfied – (0); Satisfied – (15; 44%); Satisfied/Neutral – (1; 3%); Neutral – (6; 18%); Dissatisfied – (7; 20%); Very Dissatisfied – (5; 15%)

2. Are you interested in participating in future planning activities/meetings?

Yes – 20; No – 9; Maybe – 2; No preference - 3

87% of participants who reported being satisfied or neutral regarding the meeting are interested in future participation; 42% of participants who were dissatisfied are interested in future participation.

3. Please note any other ideas, ideas, issues, or concerns about the Park’s future that were not identified during today’s workshop.

- Funding?
- Revenue back to the community would be nice
- Assess fee on bass tournament boats; (use for) lake clean
- When people pay property taxes, they can swim there

- State or county management?
- Deed restrictions as to what development can occur?
- I have heard that there are restrictions on the land from the prior owner
- Have you checked the original trust on how the local land was to be used? Will it go back to closest living relative?

- NO one cares about opinions; you have decided already
- Seems as if this is a “done” deal. What if people aren’t in favor of this being commercialized? What about land protection and flood plain?
- Seems predetermined; management plan
- State has a plan – please inform the public
- Give us a plan and let us give input
- Tell us something; not justify peoples’ jobs
- There was no opportunity for public concerns or comments; true pulse of the public was not taken; absolute waste of time

- Leave it as is; do not develop (4)
- Support for walking (3) i.e. rustic walking/natural; natural walking trails; people do not want it developed past walking trails
- Good place to hunt (2); takes pressure off of farmland; state has no other hunting in the area
- How about reserving even a little cropland for restoration? Pheasants Forever would be happy to fund planting and maintenance for prairie restoration in the next three years
- Unlock the gates
- (Issues with) pollution
- Regional recreation resource
- No other state park in close proximity to Branch/South Central MI

- Pretty good way to handle a lot of people
- Would have liked more Q&A and sharing of options the planning committee is considering
- Would have liked information to take to other community meetings. This may help in the design but did not offer a clear picture

- Group discussion too long; one hour would have been long enough (2)
- Too much time spent at first; should get information out
- Poor format; childish format
- Why have a meeting in December – most people leave for winter

Notes compiled by Jan Urban-Lurain/Session Facilitator



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 11, 2014

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

DNR seeks public input on new General Management Plan for Coldwater Lake State Park

The Department of Natural Resources is seeking public input on a new General Management Plan to guide the future of [Coldwater Lake State Park](#), located on the south shores of Coldwater Lake in southern Branch County.

Interested parties are invited to complete a short online survey which will be available through Sept. 14 at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ColdwaterLake>. Survey results will provide valuable information to the planning team. This is the second opportunity for public input on the long-term future of Coldwater Lake State Park. A public workshop was held June 17, providing an opportunity for people to share their opinions and ideas at the beginning of the planning process. The DNR will host a second open house later this year (details yet to be determined) to share and take comments on the draft plan.

“The public workshop held in June provided some valuable information regarding what local residents do and don’t want to see at Coldwater Lake State Park,” said Debbie Jensen, DNR park management plan administrator. “With this online survey, we hope to reach out to a wider cross-section of potential park users to further guide our planning for the park.”

This 400-acre state park, with 1¼ miles of frontage on the south end of Coldwater Lake, was purchased in 1988. It is currently undeveloped and used primarily for hunting.

The DNR uses General Management Plans to define long-range planning and management strategies for state parks and recreation areas. This plan will assist the DNR Parks and Recreation Division in meeting its responsibilities to protect and preserve Coldwater Lake State Park’s natural and cultural resources and to 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.

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

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 or at branch offices), Michigan motorists get access to state parks, recreation areas, state forest campgrounds, non-motorized state trailhead parking and state boat launches. In addition, Recreation Passport holders can experience real savings at businesses and retailers that participate in the Passport Perks discount program.

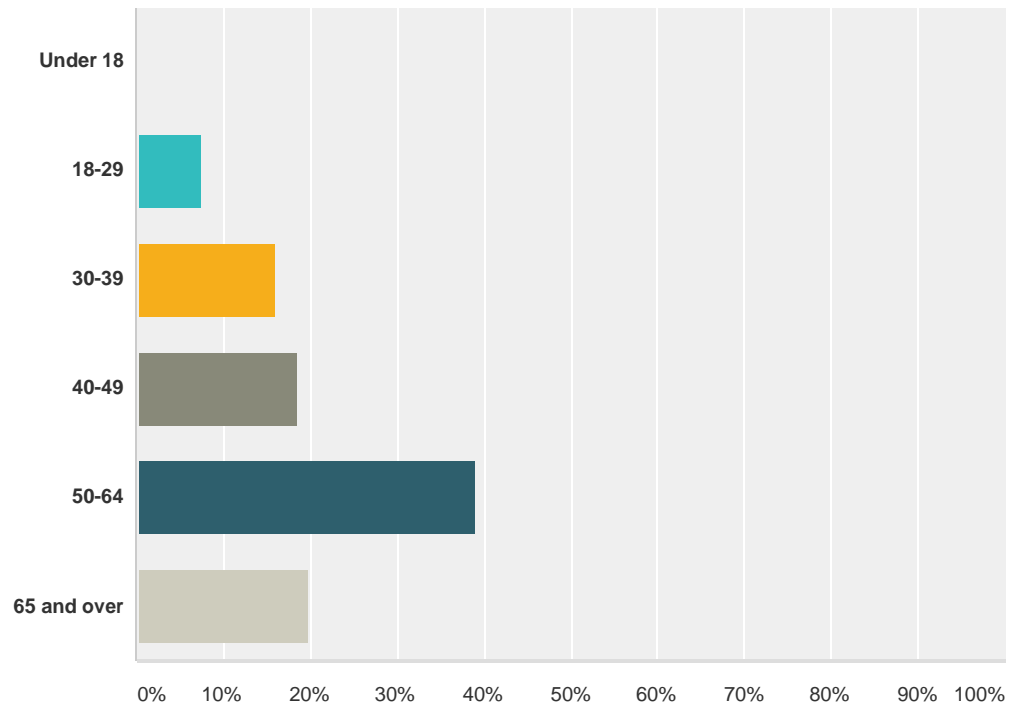
The Recreation Passport is valid until the next license plate renewal date. Nonresidents can purchase the Recreation Passport (\$31 annual; \$9 daily) at any state park or recreation area or (annual passes only) through the Michigan e-Store at www.michigan.gov/estore.

Learn more about this creative way of sustaining Michigan's outdoor recreation and natural resources at www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport. For information on Passport Perks shopping discounts or how businesses and retailers can enroll in the program, visit www.michigan.gov/passportperks.

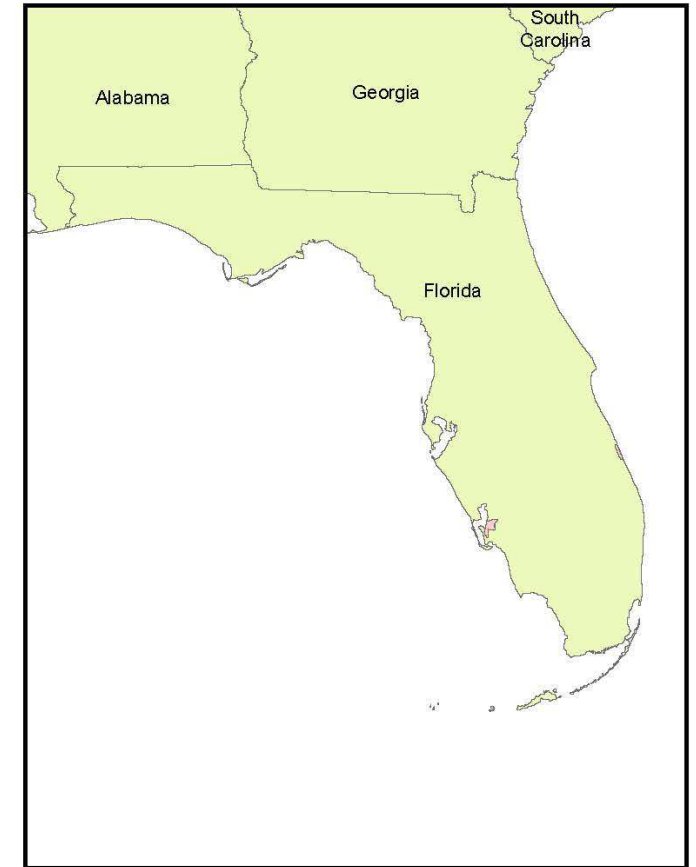
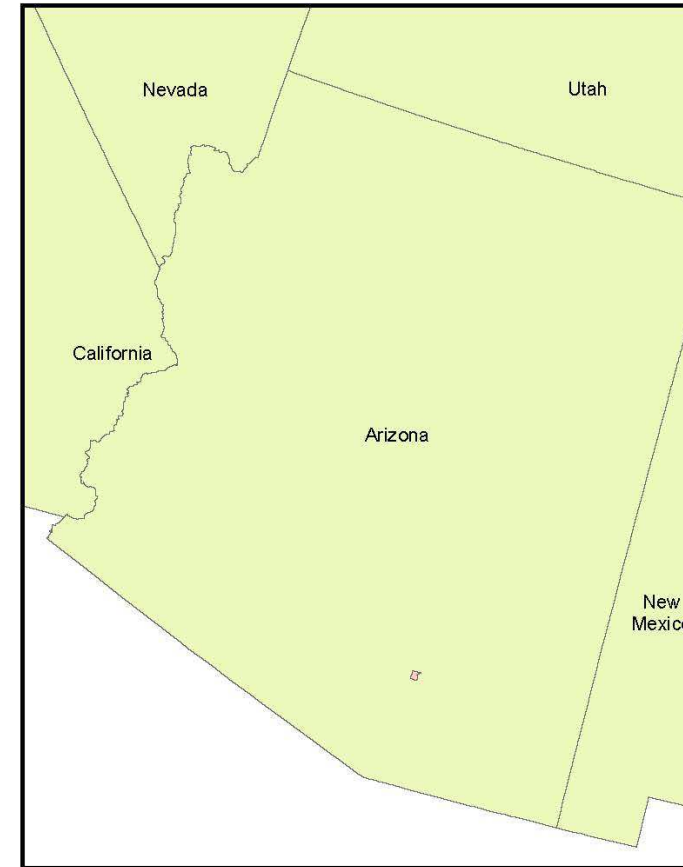
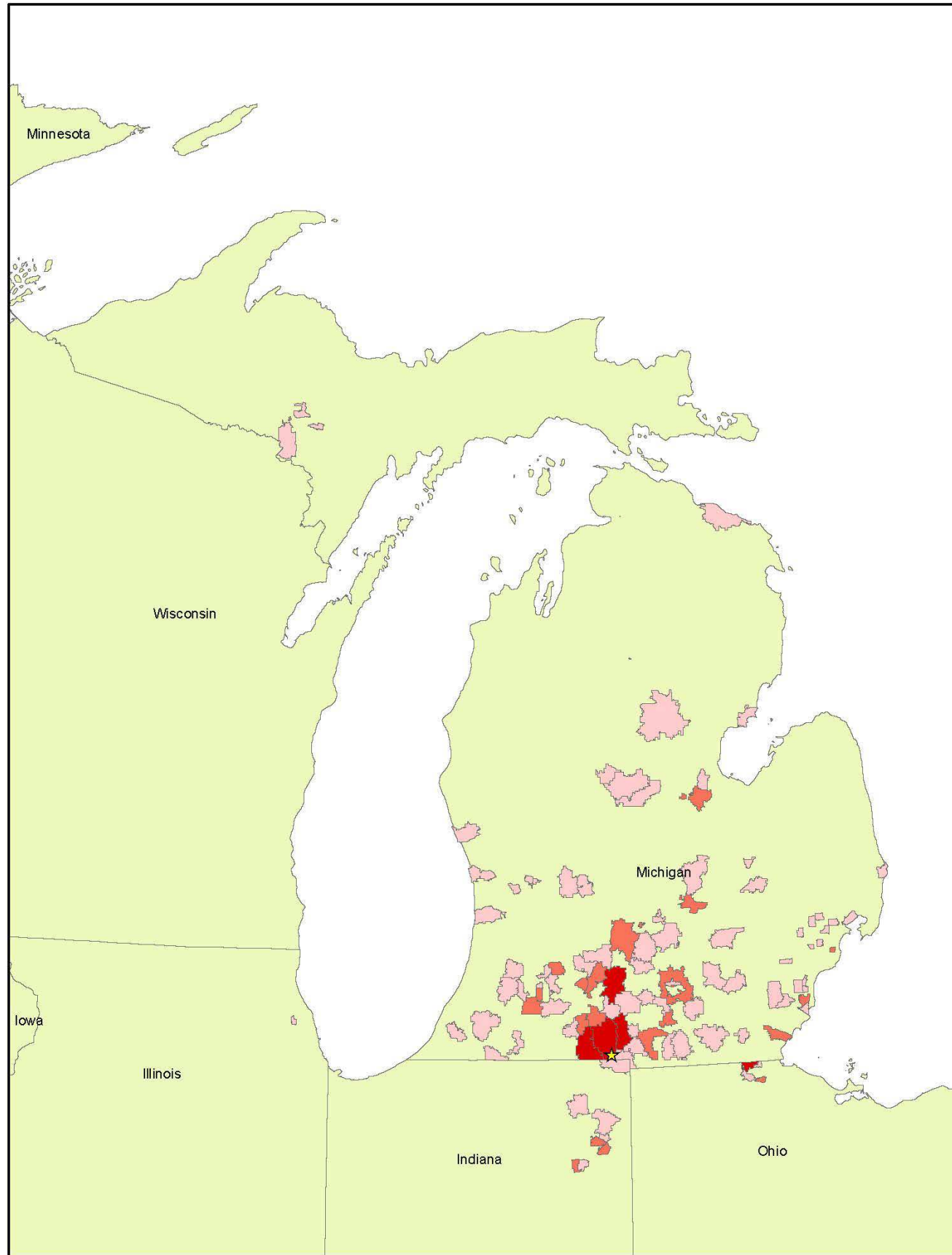
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state’s natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Q1 What is your age?

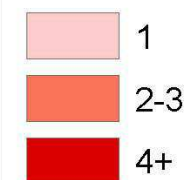
Answered: 245 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses
Under 18	0.00% 0
18-29	7.35% 18
30-39	15.92% 39
40-49	18.37% 45
50-64	38.78% 95
65 and over	19.59% 48
Total	245



Total Responses



Coldwater Lake State Park Survey Responses by Zip Code

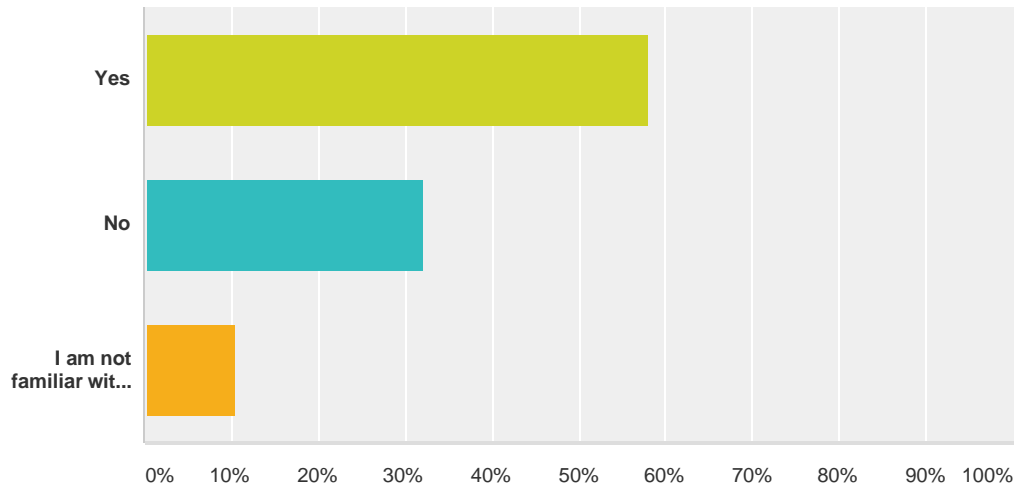
Prepared by: MI DNR, Parks and Recreation Division, Resource Management Section

Date: 09/26/2014



Q3 Do you currently have a Michigan DNR Recreation Passport?

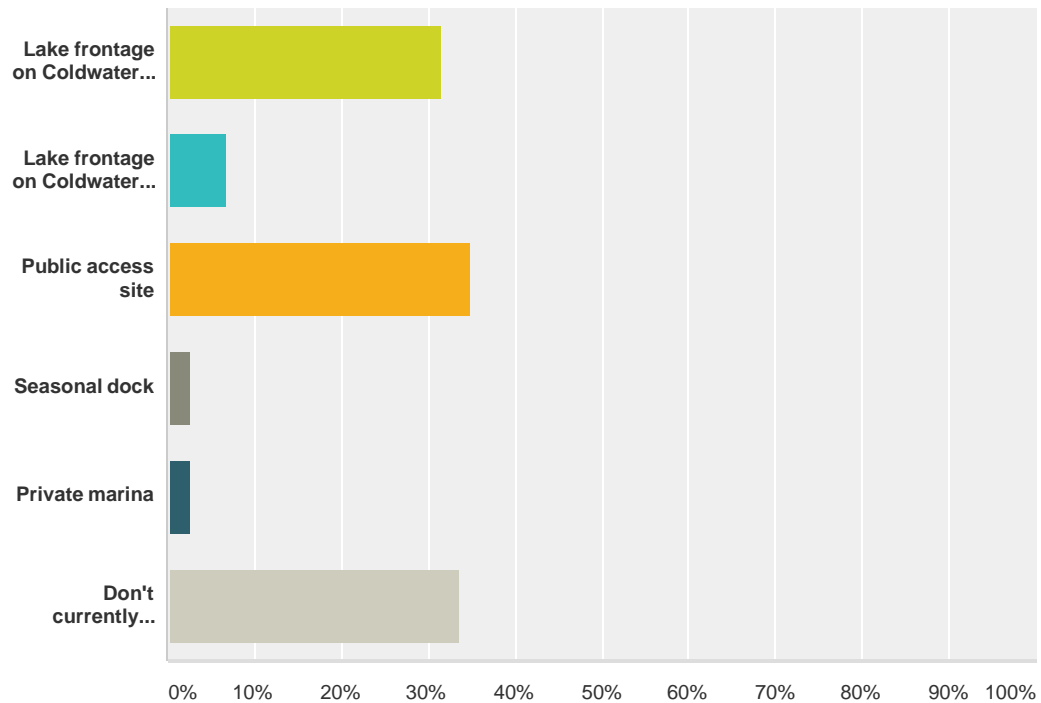
Answered: 244 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	57.79%	141
No	31.97%	78
I am not familiar with the Recreation Passport	10.25%	25
Total		244

Q4 How do you currently access Coldwater Lake? (You may choose more than one)

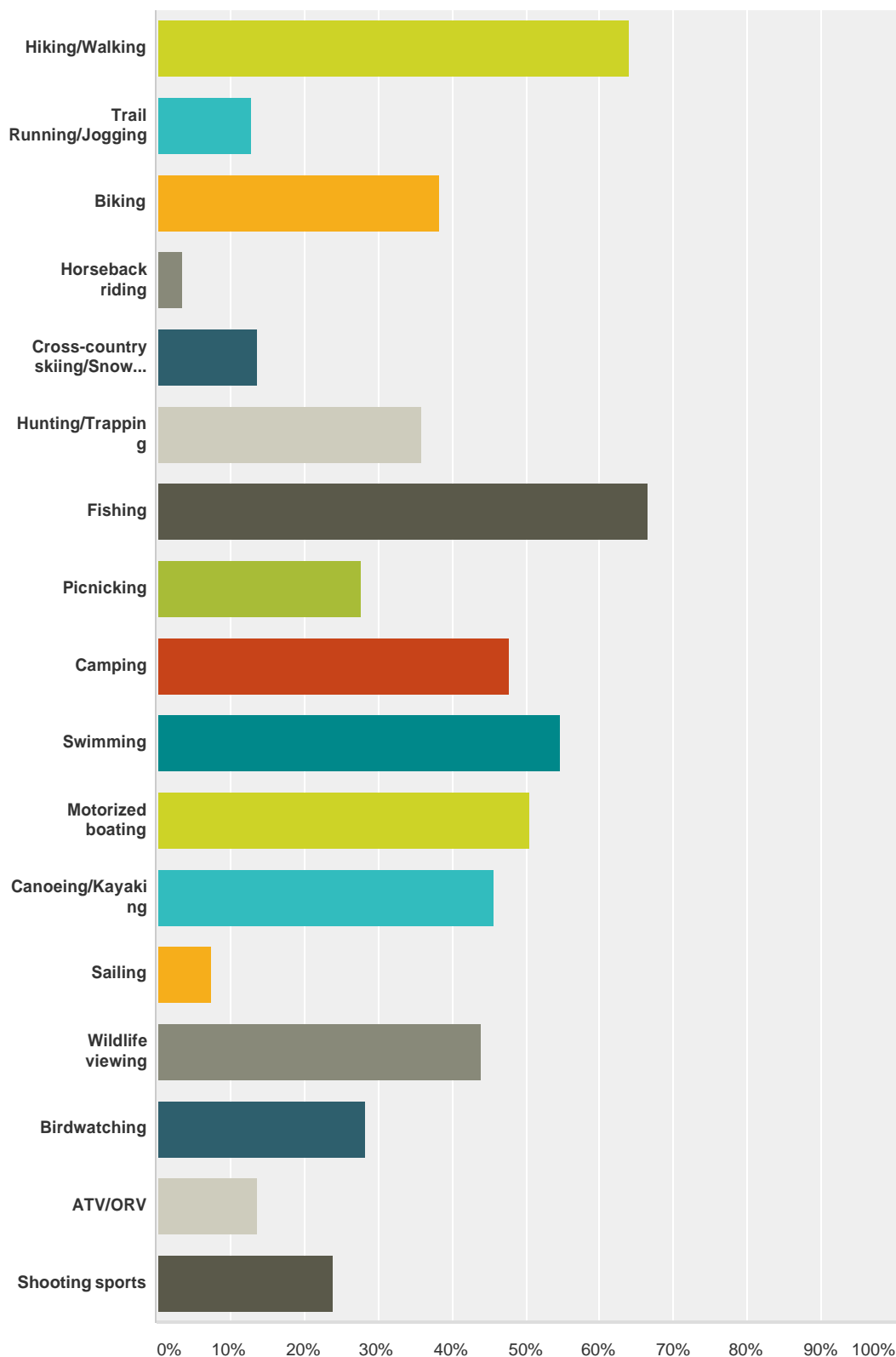
Answered: 242 Skipped: 5



Answer Choices	Responses	
Lake frontage on Coldwater Lake	31.40%	76
Lake frontage on Coldwater chain of lakes	6.61%	16
Public access site	34.71%	84
Seasonal dock	2.48%	6
Private marina	2.48%	6
Don't currently access	33.47%	81
Total Respondents: 242		

Q5 What types of outdoor recreation activities do you frequently participate in? (in general)

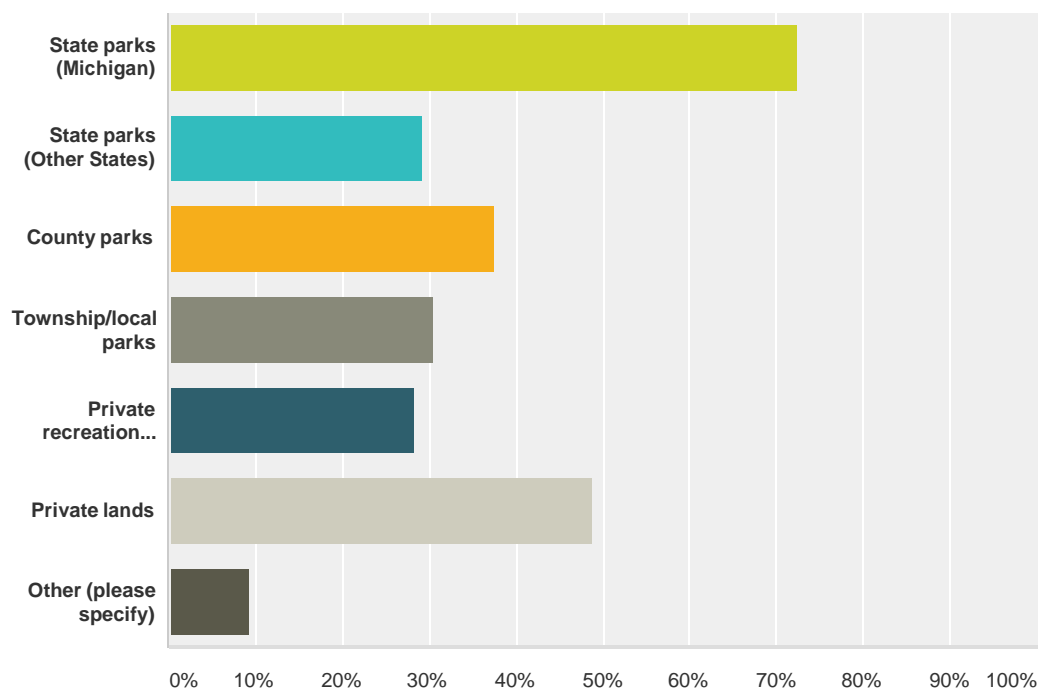
Answered: 244 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses	
Hiking/Walking	63.93%	156
Trail Running/Jogging	12.70%	31
Biking	38.11%	93
Horseback riding	3.28%	8
Cross-country skiing/Snow shoeing	13.52%	33
Hunting/Trapping	35.66%	87
Fishing	66.39%	162
Picnicking	27.46%	67
Camping	47.54%	116
Swimming	54.51%	133
Motorized boating	50.41%	123
Canoeing/Kayaking	45.49%	111
Sailing	7.38%	18
Wildlife viewing	43.85%	107
Birdwatching	28.28%	69
ATV/ORV	13.52%	33
Shooting sports	23.77%	58
Total Respondents: 244		

Q6 Where do you currently recreate? (You may choose more than one)

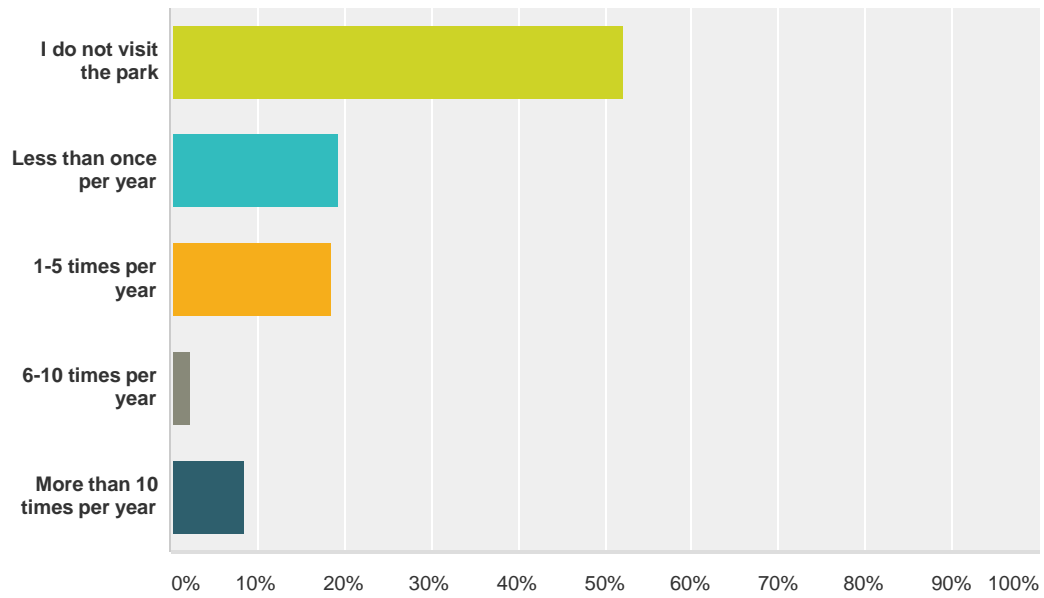
Answered: 238 Skipped: 9



Answer Choices	Responses	
State parks (Michigan)	72.27%	172
State parks (Other States)	28.99%	69
County parks	37.39%	89
Township/local parks	30.25%	72
Private recreation facilities	28.15%	67
Private lands	48.74%	116
Other (please specify)	9.24%	22
Total Respondents: 238		

Q7 How often do you visit Coldwater Lake State Park?

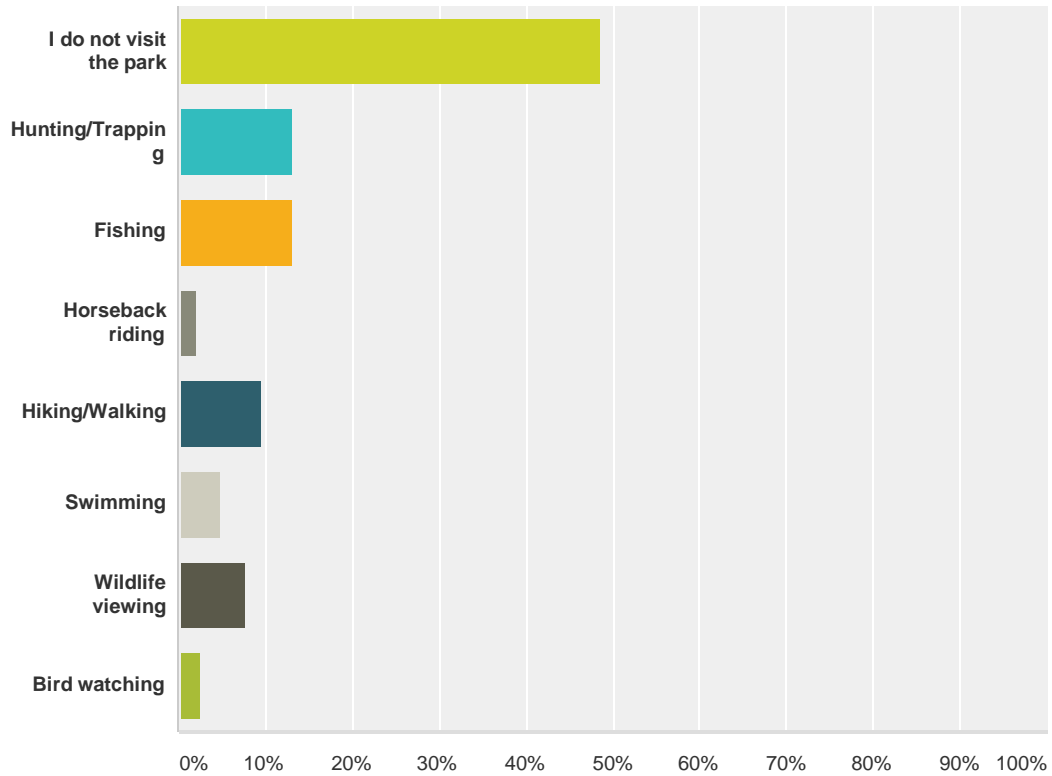
Answered: 229 Skipped: 18



Answer Choices	Responses	
I do not visit the park	51.97%	119
Less than once per year	19.21%	44
1-5 times per year	18.34%	42
6-10 times per year	2.18%	5
More than 10 times per year	8.30%	19
Total		229

Q8 What is your primary reason for visiting Coldwater Lake State Park? (Choose only one)

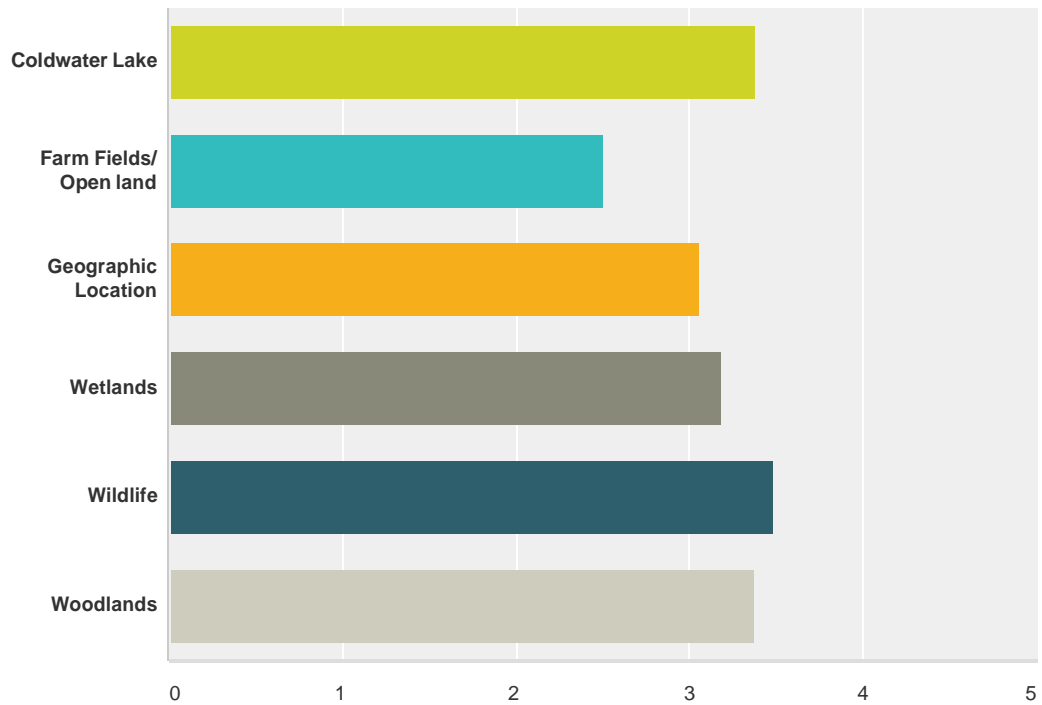
Answered: 215 Skipped: 32



Answer Choices	Responses	
I do not visit the park	48.37%	104
Hunting/Trapping	13.02%	28
Fishing	13.02%	28
Horseback riding	1.86%	4
Hiking/Walking	9.30%	20
Swimming	4.65%	10
Wildlife viewing	7.44%	16
Bird watching	2.33%	5
Total		215

Q9 Please rate the current park features in terms of how important they are to you.

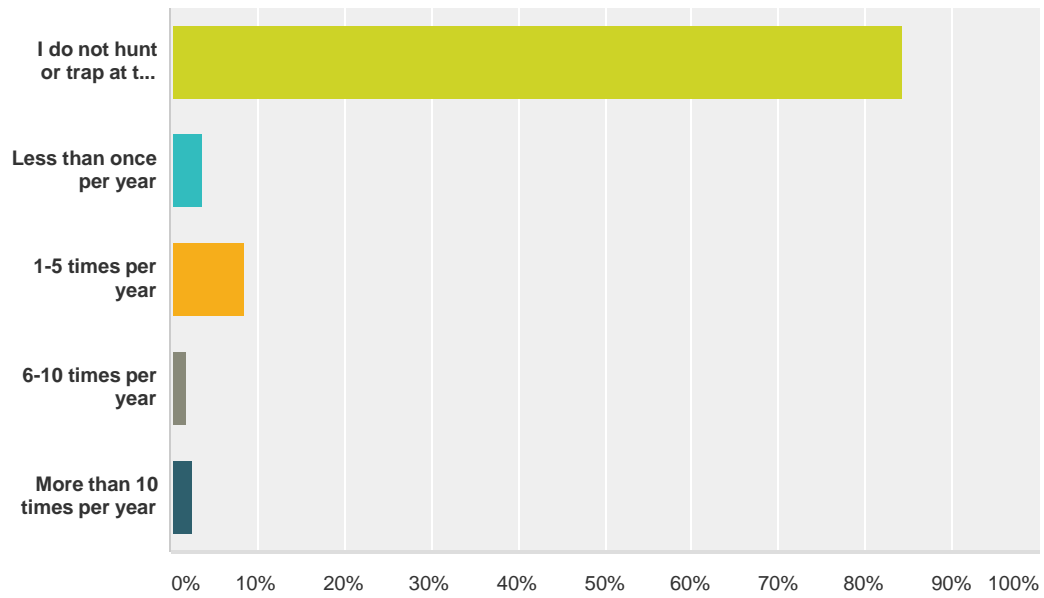
Answered: 214 Skipped: 33



	Not important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important	Total	Average Rating
Coldwater Lake	7.21% 15	8.17% 17	25.48% 53	59.13% 123	208	3.37
Farm Fields/ Open land	28.35% 55	20.10% 39	25.26% 49	26.29% 51	194	2.49
Geographic Location	7.69% 15	17.44% 34	36.92% 72	37.95% 74	195	3.05
Wetlands	8.46% 17	12.94% 26	31.84% 64	46.77% 94	201	3.17
Wildlife	4.88% 10	4.88% 10	27.32% 56	62.93% 129	205	3.48
Woodlands	5.03% 10	8.54% 17	31.66% 63	54.77% 109	199	3.36

Q10 Do you hunt or trap at Coldwater Lake State Park? If so, how often?

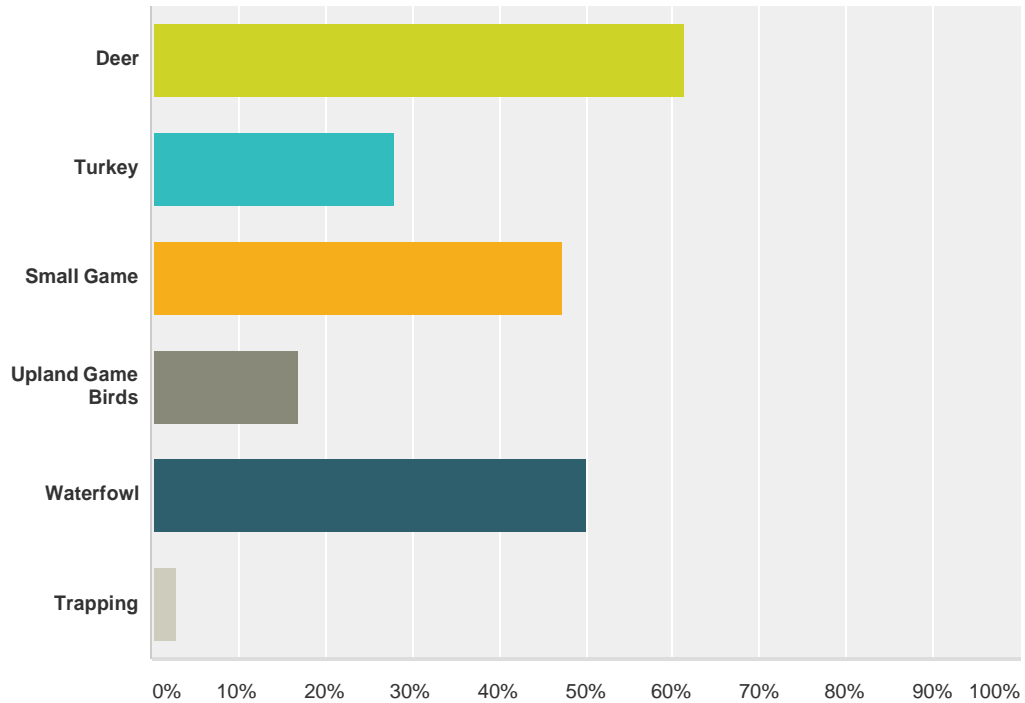
Answered: 226 Skipped: 21



Answer Choices	Responses	
I do not hunt or trap at the park	84.07%	190
Less than once per year	3.54%	8
1-5 times per year	8.41%	19
6-10 times per year	1.77%	4
More than 10 times per year	2.21%	5
Total		226

Q11 If you hunt/trap at the park, what game do you hunt? (You may choose more than one)

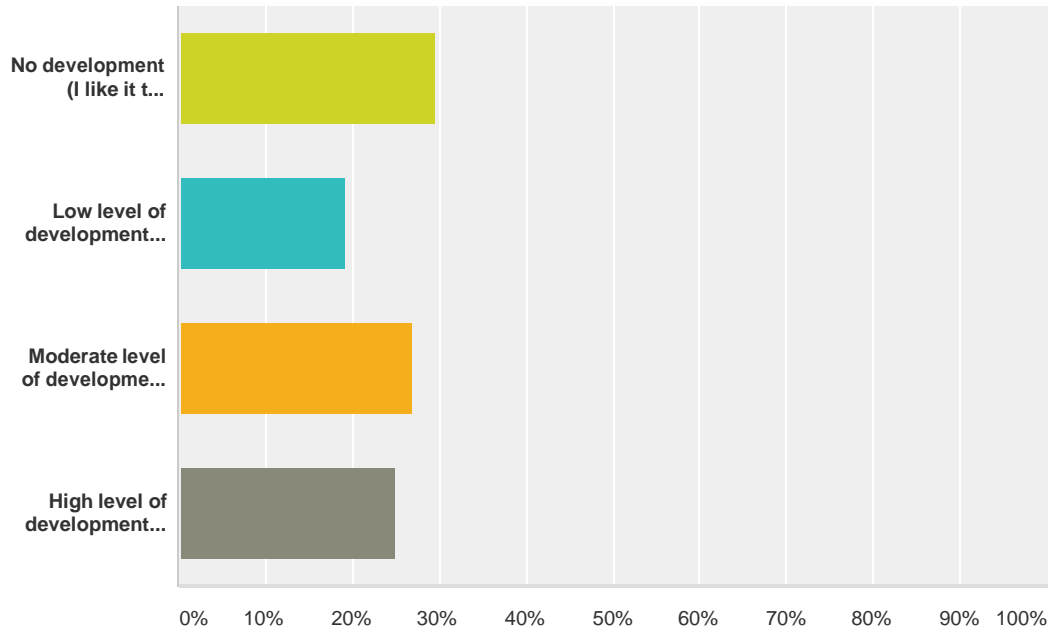
Answered: 36 Skipped: 211



Answer Choices	Responses	
Deer	61.11%	22
Turkey	27.78%	10
Small Game	47.22%	17
Upland Game Birds	16.67%	6
Waterfowl	50.00%	18
Trapping	2.78%	1
Total Respondents: 36		

Q12 What level of development would you like to see at Coldwater Lake State Park in the future?

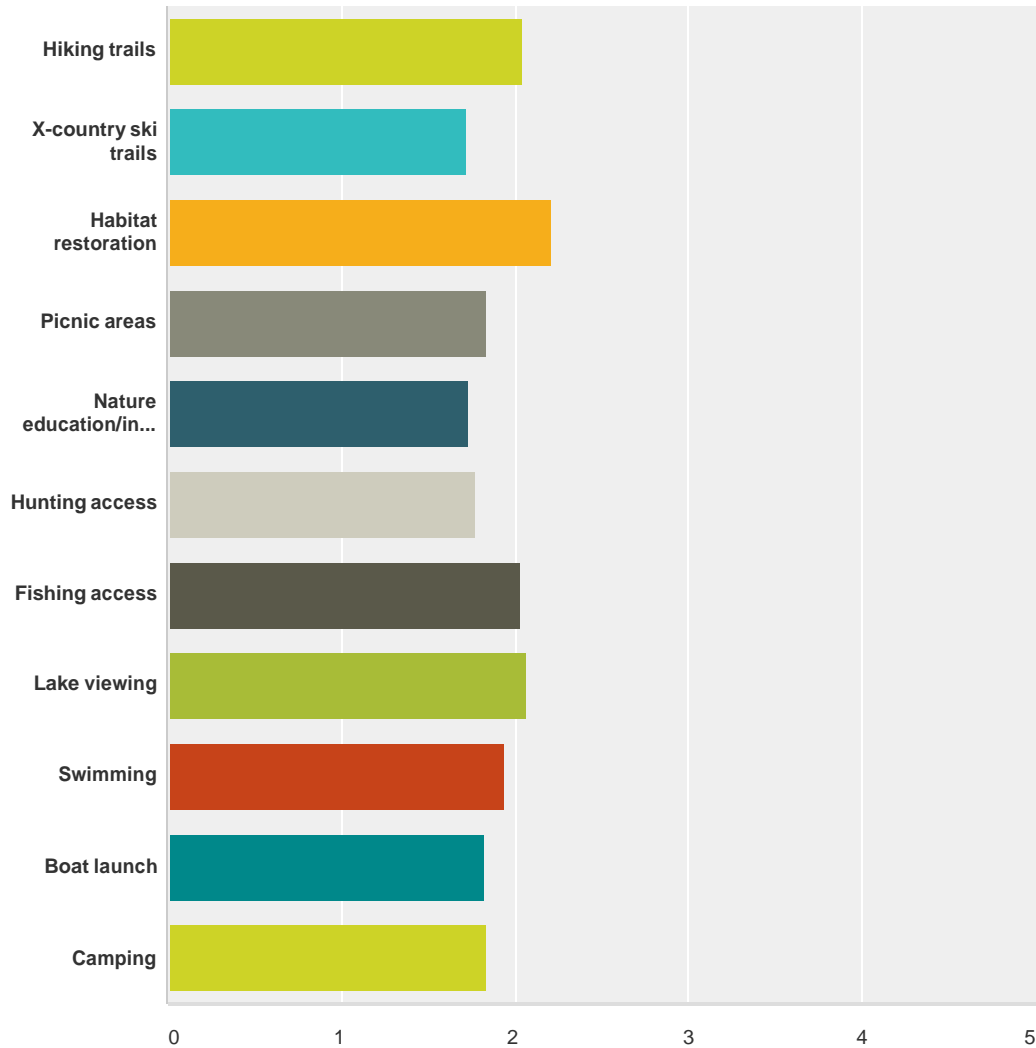
Answered: 221 Skipped: 26



Answer Choices	Responses	
No development (I like it the way it is)	29.41%	65
Low level of development (hunting and foot trails only)	19.00%	42
Moderate level of development (trail system, fishing access, picnic area etc)	26.70%	59
High level of development (modern camping, designated swimming beach, motorized boat launch etc.)	24.89%	55
Total		221

Q13 What specific enhancements or facilities would you like to see at Coldwater Lake State Park in the future?

Answered: 217 Skipped: 30



	No need	Would be nice	A must	Total	Average Rating
Hiking trails	28.00% 56	39.50% 79	32.50% 65	200	2.04
X-country ski trails	42.78% 80	43.85% 82	13.37% 25	187	1.71
Habitat restoration	22.45% 44	35.20% 69	42.35% 83	196	2.20
Picnic areas	42.49% 82	31.61% 61	25.91% 50	193	1.83
Nature education/interpretation	44.68% 84	38.30% 72	17.02% 32	188	1.72

Hunting access	48.97% 95	26.29% 51	24.74% 48	194	1.76
Fishing access	33.99% 69	29.56% 60	36.45% 74	203	2.02
Lake viewing	34.20% 66	25.39% 49	40.41% 78	193	2.06
Swimming	42.27% 82	22.68% 44	35.05% 68	194	1.93
Boat launch	45.69% 90	26.90% 53	27.41% 54	197	1.82
Camping	44.10% 86	29.23% 57	26.67% 52	195	1.83



The Parks & Recreation Division of the DNR, in association with the Coldwater Country Conference and Visitors Bureau, is in the process of developing a General Management Plan for Coldwater Lake State Park located on the south shores of Coldwater Lake in southern Branch County. The DNR uses General Management Plans to define a long-range planning and management strategy that protects the resources of the site while addressing recreation needs and opportunities. This 400-acre state park is currently undeveloped and used primarily for hunting.

You and/or your group have been identified as a stakeholder with active interests in Coldwater Lake State Park. The meeting will begin with a 15-minute presentation on the Draft General Management Plan followed by questions and answers and an opportunity for you to review the planning material and provide input on the proposed plan.

Meeting Date: Monday, November 10, 2014, 2 to 4 p.m.

Location: Hampton Inn, 391 N. Willowbrook Rd., Coldwater, MI 49036

This General Management Plan will assist the Division in meeting its responsibilities 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. Additional information on the DNR's General Management Plan process is available at www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans.

For more information about this meeting please contact [Debbie Jensen](mailto:jensend1@michigan.gov), DNR Park Management Plan Administrator, at 517-284-6105.

Please RSVP to jensend1@michigan.gov by November 3, 2014. 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.

Coldwater Lake State Park
Stakeholder Workshop
Monday November 10, 2014
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Brief Presentation of General Management Plan
 - ☐ Plan Process
 - ☐ Overview of Draft Plan
3. Questions and Answers
4. Open House
 - ☐ You are invited to visit each of the map stations and talk to Planning Team members
 - ☐ Post-it notes are available for you to add any comments you may have to the Draft Management Zone maps and/or Statements of Significance
 - ☐ Sticky dots will be provided to prioritize the draft action items
 - ☐ Complete the comment sheet to provide additional information
5. Group Discussion
 - Share your ideas with the planning team and other stakeholders

Additional information may be viewed at:

www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans

Contact: Debbie Jensen, DNR Park Management Plan Administrator

Email: Jensend1@michigan.gov

Phone: 517-284-6105

Draft Action Goal	Target Date	Priority Stickers
Natural Resources		
Create a Stewardship Plan (natural resource management plan)	3 years	3
Implement Stewardship Plan including the phasing out of farming	Ongoing	1
Implement land based invasive species control	Ongoing	4
Manage lakeshore vegetation to protect the lakeshore and scenic views	Ongoing	4
Historic/Cultural Resources		
Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources	Ongoing	
Recreation Opportunities		
Identify opportunities to improve physical connectivity beyond the park boundaries (land and water)	Ongoing	
Identify hiking/cross country ski trail opportunities in conjunction with the Stewardship Plan and Concept Plan.	1-3 years	4
Explore and identify the feasibility of shore fishing access opportunities in conjunction with the Stewardship Plan and Concept Plan.	1-3 years	3
Explore and identify non-motorized access to the lakeshore	1-3 years	1, 1
Identify locations for views in conjunction with the Stewardship Plan and Concept Plan.	1-3 years	2
Education/Interpretation Opportunities		
Evaluate and identify opportunities for interpretation, programming, and environmental education.	Ongoing	1

Draft Action Goal	Target Date	Priority Stickers
Management Focus		
Pursue land acquisition within the Proposed GMP Project Boundary.	Ongoing	3 , 2
Promote volunteer partnerships to meet park goals.	Ongoing	1
Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/gathering/trapping and wildlife viewing.	Ongoing	
Review Use Permit for equestrian use at this park.	Annually	1
Work in cooperation with Marketing and Outreach to develop specific marketing goals for the site	3-10 years	
Explore and develop revenue generating opportunities	Ongoing	1
Identify potential funding sources for future park projects	Ongoing	
Development		
Prepare a phased Concept Plan for park improvements.	1-3 years	
Develop hiking/cross-country ski trail opportunities as identified in the Concept Plan.	3-10 years	6
Improve parking and vehicular access to the park	5 years	1, 1
Implement phased-in recreation elements as identified in the Concept Plan	3-10 years	

Stakeholders had the opportunity to prioritize action goals by placing sticky dots

Green = Agree

Orange = Disagree



Coldwater Lake State Park

Stakeholder Workshop comment sheet

Name:

Organization:

1. Do you agree with the park Significance statements? Would you add or change anything to the statements?

I LIKE IT

2. Do you agree with the Draft Management zones? If not, what would you change?

LIKE IT

3. Are there any additional actions you would like to propose?

NO

4. Are there any proposed actions you don't think should be included? If so, please explain.

NO

5. Other Comments:

THANK YOU!!



Coldwater Lake State Park
Stakeholder Workshop comment sheet

Name:

Organization: *Branch Conservation District*

1. Do you agree with the park Significance statements? Would you add or change anything to the statements?

Yes

2. Do you agree with the Draft Management zones? If not, what would you change?

Yes, however I think the Primitive zone might need to be larger.

3. Are there any additional actions you would like to propose?

Planning for Prevention of Invasive Species Introduction would be a priority to assess and use.

4. Are there any proposed actions you don't think should be included? If so, please explain.

I will let you know.

5. Other Comments:

This is long overdue as long as it does not majorly impact sensitive areas. We are very much in need of additional environmental education, which Branch Conservation ^{Interpretation} has tried to provide, locally.

Stakeholder Meeting

Additional Comments:

- Keep the area agricultural
- No additional boating on the lake
- Do you have a plan for invasive species at the park?
- What is the criterion used for identifying stakeholders?
- Adjacent landowners need to be notified
- Signs should be posted for hikers on proposed trails to watch for hunters
- Park signage needed to identify the site from the road

**COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN
STAKEHOLDER OPEN HOUSE November 10, 2014
SIGN IN SHEET:**

Name	Organization/Interest	Address	Email
Trina Fantauzyo	President, Shawnee Shoals Assoc.	748 Tomahawk Trail	FantomFireman@Charter.net
Steve/Elaine Lewis	Owner	626 Tomahawk Trail	siwel1039@gmail.com
Wayne Barnes	Kinderhook Township	894 Walker Road	no email provided
Janet Herriman		620 Tomahawk Trail	janherriman@hotmail.com
Dennis Babjack	Coldwater Lake Assoc.	544 Lake Dr., Coldwater	dennis@adyawater.com
Kathy Worst	Branch Conservation District	387 Willowbrook Rd. Suite F	Kathy.Worst@mi.nacdn.net
Pam Bentley	Property Owner	658 Tomahawk Trail	pbentley4131@gmail.com
Bob Wilkie	Property Owner	654 Tomahawk Trail	bob.wilkie@yahoo.com
Polly Locke	Property Owner	13992 Iyopawa Isl, Coldwater	pollylocke@aol.com
Alan McLellan	Quincy Township	830 Rawson Rd	truetime1989@gmail.com
Eric Zuzga	Village of Quincy	47 Cole St., Quincy	eric.zuzga@quincy-mi.com
Matt Stritzinger	Business Owner	141 E. Chicago St.	MattStritzinger@gmail.com
Jim O'Brien	MDNR	1220 Wamplers Lake Rd. Onstead	obrienj4@michigan.gov
Lloyd Walrack	Property Owner	741 Lake Drive	Lloyd_741@hotmail.com
Mary Fisher	Coldwater Lake Association	751 Lake Drive	littlecomfort1@hotmail.com
Barney Brauker	Branch County Sportsman's Club	304 Fenn Road	barney_brauker@yahoo.com
Jim Strock	Quincy Township Trustee	339 Pleasant Ridge, Quincy	jimstrock@charter.net

Name	Organization/Interest	Address	Email
Shane Perfect	Acres	1802 Chapman Rd., Hometown, IN 46748	sperfect@acreslandtrust.org
Tom Locke	Property Owner	13992 Iyopawa Isl, Coldwater	tslockeesq@aol.com
Dale Woodward	Kinderhook Riding Club	478 Iyopawa Isl, Coldwater	dwoodward@charter.net
Debra Yee	Coldwater Country CVB	no address provided	dyee@discover-michigan.com
Ray Conley	Quincy Township	874 Williams Drive	rcconley22@gmail.com
Harold Hornish	526 Warren Road	no address provided	no email provided
Tasha Hickey	Citizen	5 Alandale Drive, Coldwater	hickeytasha@gmail.com
Norman/Doris Heinemann	Shawnee Shoals	723 Kenaston Drive, Coldwater	Heinemann@charter.net
Susan Magols	CCCVB-President	117 W. Chicago Rd., Coldwater	sue@capridrive-in.com



DNR to hold open house Jan. 27 to get input on draft General Management Plan for Coldwater Lake State Park

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

Agency: Natural Resources

Jan. 14, 2015

The Department of Natural Resources will host an open house Tuesday, Jan. 27, to invite public input on a new draft General Management Plan for [Coldwater Lake State Park](#). The open house will run 6 to 8 p.m. at the Dr. Robert W. Browne Recreation Center located at Heritage Park, 1776 Heritage Drive in Coldwater, Michigan.

Coldwater Lake State Park contains 1¼ miles of frontage on the south shore of Coldwater Lake in southern Branch County. This undeveloped 400-acre state park was purchased by the DNR in 1988 and currently is used primarily for hunting.

The General Management Plan for Coldwater Lake State Park defines a long-range (10- to 20-year) planning and management strategy that will assist the DNR Parks and Recreation Division in meeting its responsibilities 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. A link to the Coldwater Lake State Park draft plan can be found at www.michigan.gov/coldwaterlake.

Additional information on the DNR's General Management Plan process is available at www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans.

"This draft plan has been developed in response to the public and stakeholder input we have received to date," said DNR park management plan administrator Debbie Jensen. "It recognizes the need for improved public access to the park and to the lakeshore while maintaining the quiet, natural feel of the property."

This meeting is being held in partnership with the Coldwater Country Conference and Visitors Bureau, which is assisting the DNR with this planning initiative. The public input meeting will begin with a short presentation of the draft plan, but members of the public are welcome to attend at any time during the two-hour period to review the planning material, provide comments and talk to DNR staff. Comments also can be made via email until Feb. 13 to Debbie Jensen at Jensend1@michigan.gov.

For more information about the open house or the draft General Management Plan, contact Debbie Jensen at 517-284-6105 (TTY/TDD711 Michigan Relay Center for the hearing impaired) or via email at Jensend1@michigan.gov. Persons with disabilities who need accommodations for the meeting should contact Debbie Jensen at least five business days before the meeting.

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.

Coldwater Lake State Park
Public Input Workshop
Tuesday January 27, 2015
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

AGENDA

6. Introductions

7. Brief Presentation of General Management Plan

- ☐ Plan Process
- ☐ Overview of Draft Plan

8. Questions and Answers

9. Open House

- ☐ You are invited to visit each of the map stations and talk to Planning Team members
- ☐ Post-it notes are available for you to add any comments you may have to the Draft Management Zone maps and/or Statements of Significance
- ☐ Sticky dots will be provided to prioritize the draft action items
- ☐ Complete the comment sheet to provide additional information

10. Group Discussion

- Share your ideas with the planning team and other stakeholders

Additional information may be viewed at:

www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans

Contact: Debbie Jensen, DNR Park Management Plan Administrator

Email: Jensend1@michigan.gov

Phone: 517-284-6105

Draft Action Goal	Target Date	Priority Stickers
Natural Resources		
Create a Stewardship Plan (natural resource management plan)	3 years	5
Implement Stewardship Plan including the phasing out of farming	Ongoing	2
Implement land based invasive species control	Ongoing	2
Manage lakeshore vegetation to protect the lakeshore and scenic views	Ongoing	2
Historic/Cultural Resources		
Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources	Ongoing	
Recreation Opportunities		
Identify opportunities to improve physical connectivity beyond the park boundaries (land and water)	Ongoing	2, 2
Identify hiking/cross country ski trail opportunities in conjunction with the Stewardship Plan and Concept Plan.	1-3 years	3
Explore and identify the feasibility of shore fishing access opportunities in conjunction with the Stewardship Plan and Concept Plan.	1-3 years	1
Explore and identify non-motorized access to the lakeshore	1-3 years	1
Identify locations for views in conjunction with the Stewardship Plan and Concept Plan.	1-3 years	1
Education/Interpretation Opportunities		
Evaluate and identify opportunities for interpretation, programming, and environmental education.	Ongoing	3

Draft Action Goal	Target Date	Priority Stickers
Management Focus		
Pursue land acquisition within the Proposed GMP Project Boundary.	Ongoing	5
Promote volunteer partnerships to meet park goals.	Ongoing	3
Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/gathering/trapping and wildlife viewing.	Ongoing	6, 6
Review Use Permit for equestrian use at this park.	Annually	12
Work in cooperation with Marketing and Outreach to develop specific marketing goals for the site	3-10 years	2, 1 – As a hunter, I enjoy serenity of the park the way it is. I use the park year round for hunting and hiking or just walking my dog. I like that not many people know about it. I would hate to see it crowded.
Explore and develop revenue generating opportunities	Ongoing	3
Identify potential funding sources for future park projects	Ongoing	4
Development		
Prepare a phased Concept Plan for park improvements.	1-3 years	2
Develop hiking/cross-country ski trail opportunities as identified in the Concept Plan.	3-10 years	3
Improve parking and vehicular access to the park	5 years	
Implement phased-in recreation elements as identified in the Concept Plan	3-10 years	1 – Would not like to see a boat launch. This lake is already dangerous at times with many recreational vehicles, especially on weekends

Stakeholders had the opportunity to prioritize action goals by placing sticky dots

Green = Agree

Orange = Disagree



Coldwater Lake State Park
Public Input Workshop comment sheet

Name: *Jim Bentley*
Organization:

1. Do you agree with the park Significance statements? Would you add or change anything to the statements?

2. Do you agree with the Draft Management zones? If not, what would you change?

3. Are there any additional actions you would like to propose?

create partnerships w/ Pheasants Forever and Ducks Unlimited to restore farmland to natural habitat.

4. Are there any proposed actions you don't think should be included? If so, please explain.

5. Other Comments:

Restrict all commercial development

Public Input Workshop

Additional Questions and Comments:

- Does the State qualify for national restoration programs? *Currently no plans to use Federal dollars, although funding may become available from time to time.*
- How much revenue does the farm lease bring back to the State? *Currently approximately \$30,000 annually.*
- Why do you want to expand the park by 200 acres? *To effectively manage the wetland complex, including invasive species control. Roads form a clear boundary to the park, improving access and helping to curb any trespass issues.*
- Burrs Nature Area in Calhoun County is a good example of how public land increases land value
- Is a boat launch in the plan? *No, not a motorized launch. A carry-in canoe/kayak launch may be considered.*
- Where does the \$30,000 in farming revenue go? *It goes into state park funds (Improvement Fund) and is distributed throughout the system.*
- Can put this money back into Coldwater Lake State Park? *It may be possible to develop a fund for future improvements at the park, but we need a plan first.*
- When did the farm lease begin? *The current lease was just renewed, but farming has been going on here since we bought the land...objective is to restore the land back to a pre-farming landscape.*
- How much goes back to Branch County? *PILT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) goes back to the Township via Branch County.*
- Is there anyone on the planning committee from the lake association? *No, but Dennis Babjack (Coldwater Lake Association President) has been well informed of the process.*
- Being a state park, will there be any county obligation going into the park? *We are not expecting any, but we always welcome partners.*
- What are your views on equestrian use at the park? *This park does not meet the recommended minimum size in acres for equestrian trails. However, equestrian use will continue to be part of the discussion as we move forward (currently under a seasonal use permit). We haven't ruled anything out.*
- Is there a fee to use the park? *The only fee collected is an \$11 vehicle permit, the Recreation Passport.*
- Will the park be fenced? *No, we don't typically do this unless we have trespass issues.*
- Are you planning any vehicular access off of other roads other than Copeland? *No.*

COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN
PUBLIC INPUT OPEN HOUSE January 27, 2015
SIGN IN SHEET:

Name	Organization/Interest	Address	Email
Gary Stetler	Kinderhook Trust	373 E. Copeland Rd	
Keith Bildner	Property Coldwater Lake	661 S. Angela Rd.	kbildner@frontier.com
Don Reid	Coldwater reporter		dwreid@aol.com
Gary Johnson	Kinderhook	465 Quincy Rd.	
Elaine Schultz	Kinderhook Riding Club	120 S. Centennial	
Tom Shea	self	15241 Iyopawa Isle	tpshea1@charter.mi.net
Jackie Harris	599 Copeland, Coldwater		Jackiesgreyhound@yahoo.com
Norbert Drust	Bethel Township	461 W Hatmaker, Bronson	DJDrust@yahoo.com
Cheryl Downs	Ovid Twp.	685 E. Central Rd	dddwns2002@yahoo.com
Tom Locke	Lake owner	13992 Iyopawa	TSLockeesq@aol.com
Jim O'Brien	MDNR		obrienj4@michigan.gov
Jim Bentley	Lake homeowner	658 Tomahawk Tr., Coldwater	jbentley4131@charter.net
Jim Tanner	PF	551 N. Briggs, Quincy	tannerjb@dmci.bb
Paul Meredith	Kinderhook Res	1055 Flint Rd., Coldwater	meredithmi@aol.com
Pat McCurley	Lake property owner	132 Division , Coldwater	N/A
C J Apel	Branch Co. Sheriff Office	580 Marshall Rd., Coldwater	capel@countyofbranch.com
Kathy Worst	Branch Conservation District	387 N. Willowbrook, Coldwater	kathyworst@mi.nacdn.net
William Green	ARVC Michigan/Waffle Farm Camp	346 Jonesville Rd.	billgreen@mail.com
Peg Woodward	Kinderhook Riding Club	478 Iyopawa Rd.	pwoodward@charter.net
Dale Woodward	Kinderhook Riding Club	478 Iyopawa Rd.	dwoodward@charter.net

COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN
PUBLIC INPUT OPEN HOUSE January 27, 2015
SIGN IN SHEET:

Name	Organization/Interest	Address	Email
Larry Lamontagne	Bethel Township	528 Snow Prairie Rd., Bronson	lamontagneLarry@yahoo.com
Jean Cornish		230 Fairfield Dr.	N/A
Polly Locke	Homeowner on lake	13992 Iyopawa Isl	pollylocke@aol.com
Mel & Ann Boltz	Homeowner	701 Pearl Beach Dr.	N/A
Stephen Lewis	Homewoner	626 Tomahawk	siwel456@gmail.com
Randy Herriman	Homeowner	620 Tomahawk	rkherriman@gmail.com
Doris Heinemann	Homeowner	723 Kenaston Dr.	Heinemann@charter.net
Marsha Stetler	Homeowner	373 E. Copeland Rd.	N/A
Keith Harris	Homeowner	599 E. Copeland Rd	keithharris@truckcounty.com
Joe & Helen Spencer	Homeowner	765 Marias Dr.	spencerjc@chartermi.net
Jim & Sandy Risner	Homeowner	503 Beechwood	sisner@charter.net
Dennis Downs	Homeowner	685 E. Central, Coldwater	N/A
Jim Coury	Friends of the St. Joseph River	712 Gorham St., Marshall	coury.james@yahoo.com
Michael McDonald	Meridian Twp Park Comm	5616 Wood Valley	macmeridian@comcast.net
Murdock Jemerson	MDNR	Rose Lake	JemersonM1@michigan.gov
Debbie Jensen	MDNR	Lansing	JensenD1@michigan.gov
Matt Lincoln	MDNR	Lansing	LincolnM@michigan.gov
Russ Hickey	CCCVB board member/ Hampton Inn		Russ.Hickey@hilton.com
Debra Yee	CCCVB		DYee@discover-michigan.com

The following is a record of the Email comments received in response to the Draft Plan. Addresses have been removed for confidentiality but otherwise the comments are as submitted.

I have read the Draft Plan and I have one question: Under the Draft Action heading, subheading Recreation Opportunities, one of the entries is "Explore and identify non-motorized access to the lakeshore."

This is vague and seems to include anything that doesn't have a motor, including swimming, diving, etc. Perhaps this language needs to be more specific in order to satisfy the property owners of this already crowded lake. We have much access to the entire chain with at least four public access points within 20 miles for boats of all sorts. This lake is often a destination for boats from all along the chain, and on weekends, both sandbars and the lake in general are packed full of locals and accessors, to the point that people who live along the lake only take their kids and grandkids tubing, skiing, wakeboarding and etc., during the week days when it is safer. To add any more access at the State Park would greatly degrade the enjoyment of the lake by the landowners along its shores and the current level of visitors; it is unfortunate but true that overuse spoils the experience for all of us. The general tenor of the Draft Plan seems to recognize this concept, but I would like to hear more about this particular item and any plans for lake access as well. Sincerely,

Christine Forrister

Dear Ms. Jensen,

We spoke a couple weeks ago about the possibility of including a mountain bike trail in the plans.

You would be surprised at how much trail can be put in just 40 acres or less. The trail could run the periphery. Plus when switchbacks (opposite direction turn) are added a long trail can be developed. Only one section would need to go through a wooded area and of course variety is nice.

If you have any questions, please email me.

Thank you for the concern and listening!
Barry

To whom it may concern:

As property owners and tax payers who live on Coldwater Lake, the state land must remain as is. The lake does not need more boat traffic, nor does it need to be possibly exposed to anymore species that threaten the integrity of the water. Unfortunately, there are already too many boaters who should not be operating a watercraft due to a lack of knowledge. We love Coldwater Lake and have chosen this as our home. Please keep the land undeveloped. If someone wants to enjoy the lake, then one should buy a place and pay taxes to take advantage of what it has to offer as we do. We are blessed to live here and do not want it to become a free for all lake. Thank you,

Ron and Laura Lapland

My name is Medford Smith and we have a cottage on Coldwater Lake. We have had this cottage since July 1975. The SLOW/NO Wake zone on the South West corner of the Island was not designated for about ten years then the DNR posted marker buoys posting the zone. Since that time there have been very few times that the Sheriff has stopped violaters. I have even told the patrol that they could park by my pier to observe the many boaters who ignore the no wake zone. The drivers of Personal Water Craft are the worst violaters.

This past summer the northern most marker buoy was missing the last two months of the boating season. Needless to say that many boaters then never slowed through the zone even though one buoy was plainly visible.

If you place a launch site in the park, boat traffic through this zone will greatly increase. Many boaters now tow skiers and small children on tubes in the wrong direction and too close to shore. My grand children swim and play in front of our cottage and some boaters come within twenty feet or so of the end of our pier.

On the Fourth of July week I will not even allow my children or grand children to ski or go tubing because of the boaters who have no idea of the rules of safe boating. I realize that the Sheriff has limited patrol officers and many lakes to patrol. If the lake traffic increases incrementally with the addition of another boat launch site at this end of Coldwater Lake, I fear there will be a fatal boating accident in the near future without the addition of additional patrol officers being available. This past summer there were many week ends when I didn't observe any patrol boats. I can't remember seeing a patrol boat through the week more than two or three times.

Keep your plans for the park for vehicle access only with NO boat launch, PLEASE.

Good morning, Debbie Jensen,

My compliments on your meeting last night. I believe the people understood that you had listened to their concerns. So to answer some of the input questions from the worksheet.

1 yes

2 Most. The long range plan of acquiring more property may be a problem. My past experience tells me it will take another generation to get approval for much change or expansion. I recall a statement from a DNR agent several years ago. This park is too small for the state to really get excited.

I believe Pokagon Park in Indiana is another reason for resistance to development of the Kinderhook land. Everything you covered is already available there and more. Many Branch county residents and their visitors visit the park.

3 I would not phase out the farm land totally. My suggestion would be work a trade with the farmer. Lower his rent in exchange for feed plots for wildlife. The problem is deer will migrate to the adjoining farms and ruin crops if you take all the grain food source away. Even then you may need to set up a lottery for deer kill to keep population in check.

4 no

Paul Meredith, former Kinderhook Twp supervisor

Hello, I was in attendance at the meeting last night. I attended because I was very concerned about the development of the park. I, as many others, would like to see it remain natural and serene. I will say that your presentation was somewhat comforting. When I first heard the word "development" I automatically assumed that there was going to be a road going back to the lake with a parking lot, a boat launch, and a public beach. I enjoy the park and have for many years. I was raised hunting, fishing, trapping, and camping (real camping, on the ground, under the stars). Since the recent passing of a great man, friend, and landowner, I haven't had permission to hunt any more private land. I turned to the park to help with my passion for the outdoors, as many others do. As far as the management of the property goes, I think reducing the farming is a great idea. I wouldn't fade it out completely as a lot of the game in the area rely on crops as a major food source, but if there were maybe 4 or 5 small fields of 10 acres or less and lots of grass, brush, and other cover, it would be an ideal paradise for all animals, game animals or otherwise.

Okay, now the real reason why I am emailing you: I don't know if you are familiar with the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northern Minnesota or not but it is gorgeous. Virtually untouched wilderness. There are portage trails there as well as campsites. The trails are narrow, roughly the width of a canoe, more or less game trails, and the campsites are few and far between. The campsites consist of a fire pit with a cooking grate and a small vault about 100-150 feet from the fire pit. The vault is nothing more than a box on the ground with a toilet seat on it, that's it. Privacy comes in the form of natural vegetation. This is very low impact camping, in fact they call it LNT (leave no trace) camping. There are many rules in place to preserve the wilderness given the thousands of people that visit it every year. Such rules as,, there are no disposable food or drink containers, no cans or glass bottles, if you pack it in you pack it out. That sort of thing. Campsites are probably 1/4 to 1/2 mile apart. The BWCAW is over 1 million acres, CWLSP is not. However, if you were considering putting camping on the list of activities, having very few of these super primitive sites may be the way to do it. Maybe 5 or 6 at most, scattered around the north end of the property, with 200 yards or more between them with limited access. Walk from Copeland Rd. Some of the portages I have done in BWCAW are twice that far and a lot more physically demanding. Coldwater Lake State Park is basically flat. It would be a piece of cake to carry a canoe from Copeland Rd to the lake while wearing a backpack. Being able to drive to within a few hundred feet of your campsite would take away from the wilderness experience of hiking, backpacking, and portaging. If I were designing the layout I would not put the campsites right on the beach but still be close enough that collecting water is not a major chore. This would take away the need for a well. Lake water can be boiled, filtered, or chemically altered to be safe drink and not getting it from a modern well, even a hand pump well, adds to the experience.

I could ramble on for days but I will leave with saying that I think it's great that Branch County has its own wilderness much like a miniature Boundary Waters and I would hate to see it become developed to even textbook "primitive camping". It would take away the true wilderness experience, instead, let's enhance it.

Justin Patterson

February 8th, 2015

Debbie Jensen
Park Management Plan Administrator
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Parks and Recreation Division
Constitution Hall, 525 W. Allegan
Lansing, Michigan, 48909

Regarding: The Coldwater Lake State Park Draft General Management Plan

Dear Ms. Jensen and the Planning Team

Thank you for investing your time and energy in to the thoughtful and well-prepared Coldwater Lake State Park Draft General Management Plan. Your attention to the needs of the community is evident and will benefit both the natural resources of the park and its visitors. Please consider the Potawatomi Resource Conservation and Development Council as a future partner moving forward. We are dedicated natural resource professionals and the Michigan State Parks hold a high place in our esteem. We would be eager to engage in future discussions and work.

I have had the opportunity to read through your draft twice now and I respectfully submit my comments which follow below. Some comments note simple formatting or typographical errors, while others address the content. Some comments may not need to be addressed in the final copy of the General Management Plan, but may (or may not) provide some fodder for discussion at your final planning meetings. Some comments are likely more appropriate for subsequent Stewardship or Concept plans.

My major comments on content can be summarized below with explanation following:

- the undeveloped waterfront is the most valuable and visible natural resource in the park and maintaining it as a natural shoreline with a minimum amount of appropriate development and access is imperative;
- the Scenic Overlay Zone likely comprises the most complicated management zone;
- I support greater Primitive versus Natural Resource Recreation zone coverage in the northwest section of the park;
- maintain conditions that supports public hunting;
- sunset agricultural activities at an appropriate pace;
- pursue ecological restoration on former agriculture lands to pre-settlement vegetation communities and
- prioritize a natural resource inventory for park lands

The undeveloped lakeshore likely constitutes the most valuable resource in the park. Coldwater Lake has a highly developed shoreline outside the park making the length of natural shoreline within the park absolutely invaluable. There is no other place in the area that can allow the public to enjoy an undeveloped shoreline. Development along this waterfront should place a priority on maintaining the natural character.

The Scenic Overlay Zone will likely be the most complicated zone to manage because it traverses 3 different zones; the end product being two management prescriptions for each section of waterfront. While they are not entirely incompatible prescriptions, resolving conflicts in those zones could be more challenging.

With regard to the management zoning in the northwestern corner of the park: I would be curious to know what drove the boundary delineation between the Primitive and the Natural Resource Recreation zones on the forested point of land in the northwest section of the park. I did not find any guidance in the plan that outlined the zone boundary criteria. Historic aerial imagery (1992 – present) seems to show an intact forest along that lobe of shoreline. Without knowing the drivers for that delineation, I would argue for the Primitive Zone designation for the entire forested area. I realize the delicate balance that must be struck between access and protection, but I will always argue for greater protection of a quality or intact resource, like the forested point of land. An increased Primitive Zone also gives greater protection to the shoreline and could protect hunting resources for the public and wildlife as noted in Appendix A page 19 under the Wildlife heading.

Please see the map below that shows a larger Primitive Zone. The area of zoning change is highlighted by the red box. Note that this increases the Primitive Zone total acreage by approximately 10 acres and reduces the Natural Resource Recreation Zone by the same amount.

I include this rezoning idea because the Natural Resource Recreation Zone has approximately 2,000' of shoreline access directly adjacent to the current agricultural field (exclusive of the shoreline length along the forested point). By enlarging this Primitive Zone, we give greater protection to the shoreline and forest. I would argue that this particular Natural Resource Recreation Zone inherently has less natural resource value than the forested area because it is currently agriculture. Therefore, keeping the development opportunities confined to this refined zone involves less impact to an intact forest.

Please note that the acreages may not match your official acreages. This is likely due to my georeferencing of your management zone maps in my GIS.



Public hunting land was cited as one of the significant features of the park and one of the reasons for the establishment of the park. Maintaining habitat for hunting is important and likely to be strongly supported by the local community. The quality hunting may be positively influenced by the persistence of agricultural land.

Sunset the agricultural uses of the park in a timely manner. The gradual retirement of agricultural use can be timed to take advantage of ecological restoration funding or blossoming partnerships that support the vision for the park. Agriculture can be phased out at a pace that minimizes disruption to the party leasing the land, and also prioritized to support management of designated zones, i.e. next to the wetlands. Retiring the agricultural use could possibly impact the quality of hunting and create a challenging management conundrum. See comment above to commit Catch-22.

Restoring the retired agricultural lands to pre-settlement vegetation communities should become a priority in the Stewardship Plan. There has been terrific success with similar restoration activities in nearby areas e.g. Brooks Nature Area (City of Marshall, Calhoun County) and the Tallgrass Prairie at Kalamazoo Nature Center (Kalamazoo County).

Finally, I support a thorough natural resource inventory prior to the Stewardship Plan. Appendix A – Supporting Analysis, pages 19-20 allude to the importance of a thorough survey. The wetland areas of the park are likely the habitat that harbors any rare animals or plants, especially if prairie fen communities are prevalent in the park and region. Mitchell's satyr (Federally listed butterfly) has been found in a nearby area (Appendix A, top of page 20) then the park wetlands could be a potential source population or re-introduction opportunity. Of note is the recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service / MDNR award to the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy for Mitchell's satyr habitat preservation and re-introduction. Partnering on endangered species management is likely to bring positive funding and notoriety to park.

The following comments relate to either clarity, typographical, grammatical or conversion (MS Word to PDF) errors. I last accessed the plan on 14, January, 2015, so if there is a more recent version with corrections, I apologize for the redundancy.

- GMP: page 2; Management Zones. It could be useful to describe any zones that are discontinuous. For example, the Developed Recreation Zone has two distinct areas and sizes. Though I can clearly see that they are separate units on the maps, a description in the narrative would further clarify this. The same for the two Primitive zones.
- GMP: page 2; Management Zones. If I tallied up all the acreages for each zone, I end up with ~432 acres. I understand that the Scenic Overlay Zone is double counting the area from the zones that it overlaps, but the public may or may not understand why it differs from the stated 400 acres in the introduction.

- GMP: page 2; Backcountry Zone: currently reads (with my emphasis added) “This zone emphasizes resource quality over recreation, but allows for limited modification of the landscape to accommodate a moderate level of recreational use such as ecological restoration.” Should it read “...a moderate level of recreational use and ecological restoration.”? I haven’t yet thought of ecological restoration as a recreation.
- GMP: page 22; Section 4.2 Backcountry Zone header. There is mention of an ‘Ecological Restoration Plan.’ Will this be a separate plan from the Stewardship Plan or a component of the Stewardship Plan? I don’t see an Ecological Restoration Plan mentioned in Section 5: 10-year Action Plan.
- GMP: page 22; Section 4.2 Natural Resource header. There is mention of low tolerance for invasive species in other parts of this section, but none in this specific header. It might be redundant to mention it again here, but it seems to be the appropriate section to state it.
- GMP: page 22; Section 4.2 Development header. Mention of a future park road permitted through this zone. Presumably this road would lead from one of the current access areas (Developed Recreation Zone) to the Natural Resource Recreation Zone along the shore. Are these typically decided on in subsequent plans (Stewardship or Concept?) Is it worthwhile to indicate what this park access road leads to or from?
- GMP: page 24; Section 4.4 Recreational Opportunities header. Mention of park management /operations buildings. These kinds of facilities are specifically mentioned in the Visitor Services Zone type.
- GMP: page 24; Scenic Overlay header. It currently reads as “4.4 Scenic Overlay.” It should read “4.5 Scenic Overlay.”
- GMP: page 28; Draft Action Goals, Natural Resources. No mention of an ‘Ecological Restoration Plan’ as mentioned in Section 4.2. See comments above. Comment moot if a part of a Stewardship Plan.
- Appendix A: page 5. Awkward sentence fragment at the very bottom of the page below the Census data. “The area a [sic] number of seasonal residents, attracted by the large number of lakes and [sic]”
- Appendix A: page 18; Eco-Regional Context map. Callout box and arrow are misplaced / point to wrong area. Might be a Word to PDF conversion error.
- Appendix A: page 19; Wildlife header. Second sentence is incomplete. “Even though a small state park these diverse habitats provide food and cover to an array of wildlife species.” Missing a verb: ‘Even though it is a small state park, ...’
- Appendix A: page 20; Lake Bottom Conditions header. It would be great to know the year on that data if it is known.

- Appendix A: page 22; Lake depth map. Same comment as above. Actual hyperlink source URL is: http://coldwaterlakecottage.com/?page_id=141 (last accessed on 2/10/2015).
- Appendix B: page 15; Survey Response by Zip Code maps. The maps did not transfer well to my PDF version. There are many blank spaces in the maps that obscure the data. Could just be a simple conversion error or an outdated PDF reader on my machine.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the Coldwater Lake Draft General Management Plan. You and your team have done a terrific service to the park, to Branch County and surrounding communities. Let me restate our organizations commitment to partnership in current and future natural resource management issues at Coldwater Lake State Park. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding these comments.

Thank you once again for the opportunity and for your hard work and attention.

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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 (April 9, 2014)** – Located at the Coldwater Hampton Inn, 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 Jim O'Brien) discuss the park and its significance, and review the Supporting Analysis.
- **Team Meeting #2 (July 29, 2014)** – Located at the Coldwater Hampton Inn, the Planning Team reviewed significance statements, reviewed the public input meeting outcomes, reviewed the current farming contract, reviewed the Supporting Analysis and developed draft 20-year management zones. The Team also discussed appropriate questions for the public input survey.
- **Team Meeting #3 (September 4, 2014)** – Located at the Coldwater Hampton Inn, the Planning Team reviewed the Supporting Analysis, discussed the park's boundary, reviewed the Management Zone Map, and brainstormed Action Goals.
- **Team Meeting #4, (October 2, 2014)** – Located at the Coldwater Hampton Inn, the Planning Team reviewed and finalized the Significance Statements, Supporting Analysis and the Management Zone Map. The 10-year Action Goals were reviewed and revised in preparation for the November 10th Stakeholder Input Open House.
- **Team Meeting #5, (November 10, 2014)** – Located at the Coldwater Hampton Inn immediately following the Stakeholder Input Open House, the Planning Team reviewed input and comments received. The Planning Team discussed the input and revised the draft action goals as needed in preparation for the January Public Input Open House.
- **Team Meeting #6, Go-To-Meeting (March 16, 2015)** – Located at the Coldwater Hampton Inn, the Planning Team reviewed input and comments received at the Public Input meeting and via Email. Minor changes and corrections were made to the plan.



COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

KICK-OFF MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday April 9, 2014, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Hampton Inn, 391 N. Willowbrook Rd., Coldwater

- 1) Welcome and Introductions – 5 minutes
- 2) Review of Management Planning Process – Debbie Jensen, 15 minutes
- 3) Review of Management Plan Schedule – Debbie Jensen, 10 minutes
- 4) Coldwater Lake State Park Overview – Jim O'Brien, 15 minutes
- 5) Supporting Analysis Review – Planning Team, 1 hour
- 6) Significant Features Exercise – Planning Team, 45 minutes

Lunch and stakeholder discussion, 1 hour

- 7) Planning for Public Meeting – 30 minutes
- 8) Park Tour – 2-2.5 hours



COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

MEETING #1 NOTES Wednesday April 9, 2014, 9-3pm Hampton Inn, Coldwater

Attendees: Debbie Jensen, Matt Lincoln, Jim O'Brien, Ray Fahlsing, Brian Gunderman, Sgt. Joe Kellam, Mark Sargent, Russ Hickey. (Debra Yee and Bud Norman were present for the introductions)

Welcome and Introductions

- Introductions and titles were shared – see attached Planning Team list

Review of Management Planning Process

- Debbie gave a review of the process used to develop management plans.
- Explained that this one will be slightly different since we will be inviting the public to participate in a visioning workshop early in the process.

Park Overview and Background

- Jim presented background information on the park including location, park purchase history, current uses (including hunting, fishing, equestrian) and details of the farming lease.
- Discussed challenges associated with Recreation Passport enforcement at this location.
- It was noted that this is the only public land open to hunting in Branch County and there is none in neighboring Calhoun County.

Supporting Analysis Review

Matt presented the supporting analysis. Specific discussions included:

- Park Setting
 - Part of the chain of lakes which is around 2,500 acres of water in the St. Joseph River Watershed
 - 7 miles from the Indiana State Line
 - 9 miles from the City of Coldwater
- Park History
 - 2 farmhouses were demolished shortly after acquiring the property
 - Parking lots are in approximate locations of the farmsteads and were renovated/improved in 2013
- Land Ownership
 - Add paragraph about MNRTF restrictions
 - Verify location of easement from Consumers
 - Farm Lease
 - Current contract expires November 2014 – new terms need to be confirmed.
 - Discussion on long term goal to phase out farming.
 - The farmer would like to add irrigation - water draw issues in the watershed
 - Use Permit
 - Kinder Hook Riding Club has a use permit to ride horses on 2-tracks or along the field boundaries between January 1 and April 15. Renewed annually.



- Area Recreation Resources
 - Details of BAS on Coldwater Lake discussed
 - Fort Custer is the closest State Park to Coldwater, still over 30 miles away.
 - Pokagon State Park is 20 minutes away; has a lodge that sells out quickly.
 - Discussion of water quality at area beaches - improves as you go north on the chain of lakes.
- Natural Resources
 - Input needed from Stewardship, Wildlife and Fisheries
 - Fishing in the County is a draw for out of state visitors
- Historic/Cultural
 - Add Native American occupation potential in upland areas along the lakeshore
- Mapping
 - Check dedicated boundary for expansion opportunities
 - Add park boundary to lake bottom map. Brian to look into a getting a better map (or GIS data).
 - Include map that illustrates the development around the lake shoreline

Discussion on Park Potential

- Russ shared his vision for the park including trail development and trail shelters
- Discussion of possible beach activities at the park and incorporating the BAS
- Other possibilities discussed: fishing pier, dispersed camping, interpretation, carry-down canoe/kayak launch
- Discussion on expansion of the park boundary to the east
- Discussion of farm lease and possible phasing it out
- Potential for party spot if easily accessible from the water

Significance Statement

- Debbie lead the discussion on what makes the park significant
 - Diverse wetland with native plants and habitat for wetland species
 - 6,600 feet of undeveloped shoreline on the largest chain of lakes in the county (boat and shore fishing)
 - Only public land open to hunting within a 45 mile radius
 - Easy access from I-69
 - Low amount of invasive species provides an opportunity for re-establishing an ecosystem in partnership with Wildlife

Stakeholder List

- The stakeholder list was reviewed
- Russ to get local municipality contacts for the list

Public Meeting Planning

- Public Visioning workshop scheduled for Thursday, May 15 from 6 to 8pm (*note, this has since been rescheduled for June 17th*).
- Russ to find a venue and confirm
- Debbie is coordinating a facilitator



Site Visit

The meeting was followed by a site visit. Items noted included the following:

- Potential for trail development
- The lake bottom along the park shoreline is generally firm
- Limited opportunities for good shore fishing (shallow water)
- Hunting blinds and tree stands are on the property
- Some unapproved maintenance (grass cutting/clearing)
- Evidence of “partying” in the woods (beer cans)



COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

MEETING #2 AGENDA

9 am to 2 pm

9) Review of Kick-off Meeting Minutes – 5 minutes

10) Supporting Analysis follow-up – 15 minutes

11) Public Input Meeting Summary discussion – 20 minutes

12) Significance Statements review – 30 minutes

13) Management Zoning activity – 1 hour

14) Review of online survey – 45 minutes

Lunch 12:00 - 1:00pm

15) Brainstorm Action Items – 1 hour



COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

MEETING #2 NOTES Tuesday July 29, 2014, 9-1pm Hampton Inn, Coldwater

Attendees: Debbie Jensen, Murdock Jemerson, Joe Strach, Jim O'Brien, Ray Fahlsing, Brian Gunderman, Debra Yee.

Review of April Meeting Notes

- No comments or corrections were made
- Some follow-up items were noted related to mapping

Farming Contract Update

- The farming lease has been rebid on a 3 year term with possible 1 year extensions
- 20 acres has been removed from the contract beginning in 2016. The DNR is working with Pheasants Forever on planting these 20 acres to native grassland. If this does not happen the land can return to farming. Atrazine will not be used on this land in 2015.
- Native grassland establishment will take 2-3 years

Supporting Analysis Review

Team members were asked to review the revised Supporting Analysis.

The following comments/additions were made:

- Fishing
 - Fisheries has been stocking Coldwater Lake with walleye. However, these have not been showing up in the fishing surveys and stocking habits may be adjusted in the future.
 - Pike and bass are popular fish species.
 - Tip-up festival in January
- Debra reported that there is a new privately run equestrian park off 86
- Information on the number of seasonal residents in the area should be incorporated

Public Input Meeting Summary

The Summary from the public input workshop was reviewed. It was noted that the attendees represented a narrow demographic (mostly over 50). The survey will attempt to reach out to a wider cross-section of the community.

Significance Statements Review

- Additional information should be added to the Park Purpose relating to the MNRTF purchase of the land
- It was noted that there is other hunting land in the tri-county area – Leidy Lake Game Area in St. Joseph County. This statement will be corrected.
- The scenic, undeveloped shoreline statement should be moved up above the wetlands.
- Accessibility/location should be incorporated into the other statements.
- The final statement regarding "undeveloped land" should be deleted.



Review of Draft online Survey

The draft online survey was reviewed and many edits were made. New questions were added regarding:

- Do you currently have a Recreation Passport?
- Where do you currently recreate the most?
- How do you currently access Coldwater Lake?
- What level of development would you like to see at the park?

Advertising for the survey was discussed. The DNR will issue a press release. Debra offered to put a link to the survey on the CVB website.

Management Zone Activity

The planning team divided into two groups and developed draft zoning maps for the park. These maps will be drawn up and discussed at the next meeting. The possibility of presenting two alternatives to the public was discussed.

Action Items

The following action items were discussed:

- Partnerships (Pheasants Forever, Birders)
- Habitat restoration plan
- Accessible hunting opportunities
- Trail system

It was determined that this discussion would continue once the preliminary survey results are available for review.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday September 4 from 9:30am to 12pm at the Hampton Inn



**COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN
MEETING #3 AGENDA**

Thursday September 4, 2014
9:30 am to 12:30 pm
Hampton Inn, 391 N. Willowbrook Rd. Coldwater

- 1) Review of July Meeting Minutes – 5 minutes
- 2) Supporting Analysis Follow-up – 10 minutes
- 3) Purpose and Significance Statements Review – 15 minutes
- 4) Online Survey Summary Discussion – 20 minutes
- 5) Management Zone Review – 1 hour
- 6) Brainstorm Action Items – 1 hour
- 7) Stakeholder/Public Meetings – 10 minutes



COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

MEETING #3 NOTES

**Thursday September 4, 2014, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
Hampton Inn, Coldwater**

Attendees: Debbie Jensen, Murdock Jemerson, Jim O'Brien, Matt Lincoln, Ray Fahlsing, Brian Gunderman, Mark Sargent, Debra Yee, Russ Hickey.

Review of July Meeting Notes

- Typo under Supporting Analysis, Fishing: "However, these have **NOT** been showing up....."
- Need to follow up on number of seasonal residents in the County

Supporting Analysis Review

- Debbie will e-mail out supporting analysis
- Jim provided information on the new farm lease
 - 3 year contract with a renewal option for up to 4 years
 - 241 acres total will be farmed for first year
 - 25 acres will be removed from contract for native grass restoration if it becomes an opportunity after that first year
 - Current lessee will work with DNR in phasing out farming.
- Campgrounds: Debra Yee will e-mail Debbie a list of private campgrounds
- Golf Course: **Iyopawa** spelled wrong
- Marinas: Debra will e-mail Debbie a list
- DNR Boating Access Sites: elaborate on what the Coldwater Lake BAS offers, including parking. 5 of the 16 state owned BAS in the County are on the Chain of Lakes.
- State Game Areas: list for adjacent Counties, including acreage.(St. Joseph, Hillsdale) but note that there is none in Branch County
- Land Cover: clarify if wetlands have been drained in the park or in the area.
- Wildlife: Mark will provide information for paragraph on p 18.
- Mute swan control is taking place in two twps. – include if the park is within either of these twps. DNR is also actively controlling mute swans.
- Issues and Opportunities: Rec. Passport purchase opportunities needs clarification. Jim to suggest new verbage for this item
- Fishing: Change to "Coldwater Lake is one of the **most popular** fishing lakes in the region." "Redear" should be one word.
- Lake bottom conditions should be lowercase.
- Team members were asked to review the supporting analysis and let Debbie know if there are any other corrections/ gaps.



Purpose and Significance Statements Review

Change “....to provide **an outdoor** recreation facility....” under Park Purpose

Online Survey Summary Discussion

The preliminary online survey results were reviewed.

- Again, participants represent an older demographic
- It was suggested that moderate and low level development could probably be combined when looking at the examples listed
- Further analysis will be undertaken once the survey has been closed
- It was noted that the survey generally reflects what was gathered at the public meeting

Acres Land Trust Meeting Recap

Jim discussed a meeting with Acres Land Trust that occurred last week. The organization is based out of Indiana. They are interested in acquiring the adjacent property on the east side of Coldwater Lake State Park and partnering with the DNR on this purchase and/or the management of the park.

Boundary Discussion

A discussion was held regarding the proposed park boundary. It was explained that this is a 20 year outlook based on a willing buyer/ willing seller.

- The boundary should include all undeveloped land to the east of park, around Little Coldwater Lake and up to Quimby Road.
- Expanding the project boundary to include undeveloped land to the west was also discussed.
- PRD will communicate with adjacent landowners (Land Liaison to send letters) before project boundaries are publically released.

Management Zone Review

The planning team reviewed the 2 maps created at the last meeting. Option 1 was modified and zoning will be added to the land within the proposed project boundary.

Brainstorm Action Items

Action goals were identified and will be refined again at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

Thursday October 2nd, 2014, at 9:30am at the Hampton Inn.

Stakeholder/Public Meetings

The Stakeholder Meeting will be scheduled for the end of October or early November at the Coldwater Executive Suites.



COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

MEETING #4 AGENDA

Thursday October 2, 2014

9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Hampton Inn, 391 N. Willowbrook Rd. Coldwater

- 1) Review of September Meeting Minutes – 5 minutes
- 2) Supporting Analysis follow up – 5 minutes
- 3) Purpose and Significance Statements Review – 5 minutes
- 4) Online Survey Summary Discussion – 15 minutes
- 5) Management Zone Review and Project Boundary discussion – 1 hour
- 6) Review Action Items – 1 hour
- 7) Planning for Stakeholder meeting – 30 minutes



COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

MEETING #4 NOTES

Thursday October 2, 2014, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
Hampton Inn, 391 N. Willowbrook Rd. Coldwater

Attendees: Debbie Jensen, Murdock Jemerson, Jim O'Brien, Matt Lincoln, Ray Fahlsing, Brian Gunderman, Mark Sargent, Debra Yee, Russ Hickey, Kelly Shinabargar (PRD student intern)

Review of September Meeting Notes

- No corrections or changes were made

Supporting Analysis follow up

- Additional information has been collected on supporting analysis, but has not yet been incorporated
- Ray will look into whether the farm land is tiled

Purpose and Significance Statements Review

- This will be presented as written at the upcoming stakeholder meeting.

Online Survey Summary Discussion

- Survey analysis was presented and discussed.
- Zip code map will be circulated. It showed a diverse area of where people live.
- The team was asked to review the analysis within the next week and forward any comments to Debbie so she can make changes before posting on the project website.

Management Zone Review and Project Boundary discussion

- The width of the Scenic Zone was discussed. It was determined to leave it as shown.
- The zoning of the upland "island" within the wetland was discussed and it was determined to leave it as primitive to keep the integrity of the wetland area. Potential exists for viewing opportunities outside of this area.
- Revisit the zoning within the proposed project boundary.
- Consider taking the proposed boundary to the Copeland and Quimby corner.
- Include in the report that if adjacent land becomes available, DNR would be open to acquiring the land to expand the size of the park due to the lack of public land in the area and the park's small size.
- Have a separate map that shows the proposed boundary for the public meetings.

Review Action Items

The Action Goals were reviewed and changes made.

Planning for Stakeholder meeting

- Stakeholder invitations will be sent out, along with personal calls to ensure that the key stakeholders will be there.
- Stakeholder Meeting at Hampton Inn
- Date: Nov. 10th. 2pm-4pm, debriefing team meeting afterwards.
- Public meeting will be in January with a back-up date determined because of weather.



COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

MEETING #5 NOTES

Monday November 10, 2014, 5:00 p.m.
Hampton Inn, 391 N. Willowbrook Rd. Coldwater

Attendees: Debbie Jensen, Murdock Jemerson, Jim O'Brien, Ray Fahlsing, Brian Gunderman, Mark Sargent, Debra Yee, Russ Hickey, Kelly Shinabargar (PRD student intern)

Review of Stakeholder Comments

- A discussion was held regarding the sentiment expressed by some individuals at the meeting that they had not been kept well informed of the planning process. Publication of the Public Meeting and Draft Plan review will be very important.
- The priority stickers were reviewed and no changes were made
- Comments were reviewed and no changes were made
- Include no-wake map in Supporting Analysis.

Presentation Discussion

- It was suggested that the presentation be adjusted to show the evolution of the plan in response to the public input received.
- Include a pie-chart regarding state park funding.

Public Input Meeting

- The meeting will be scheduled in January
- Debra will look for a location

Next Steps

- The team was asked to review the draft plan and supporting analysis and get all comments to Debbie ASAP.
- Debbie will present the plan to PRD Section Chiefs prior to full public review.



COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

MEETING #6 NOTES

Monday March 16, 2015, 1:30 p.m.
Hampton Inn, 391 N. Willowbrook Rd. Coldwater

Attendees: Debbie Jensen, Murdock Jemerson, Jim O'Brien, Ray Fahlsing, Matt Lincoln, Debra Yee, Russ Hickey,

Review of Stakeholder Meeting Notes

- Some corrections and additions were made to the Public Input Open House notes to more accurately reflect the conversations at the meeting.

Review of Stakeholder Comments

- The Action Goal priority stickers were reviewed. It was noted that those with an equestrian interest each put multiple stickers on the equestrian trail item.
- Negative stickers that did not include an explanation were not considered.
- Written comments were reviewed. It was determined that a statement would be added to the plan to make it clear that a motorized boat launch is NOT included in the plan since this accounts for a large number of public concerns.

Review of Action Goals

- Some minor adjustments were made to clarify/ refine the action goals.

Next Steps

- The plan will be presented to DNR management staff and the Michigan State Park Advisory Committee before going to the Director for his signature.
- Development of a park concept plan and a stewardship plan will be the next steps in guiding the future of the park.