



General Management Plan

Fisherman's Island State Park

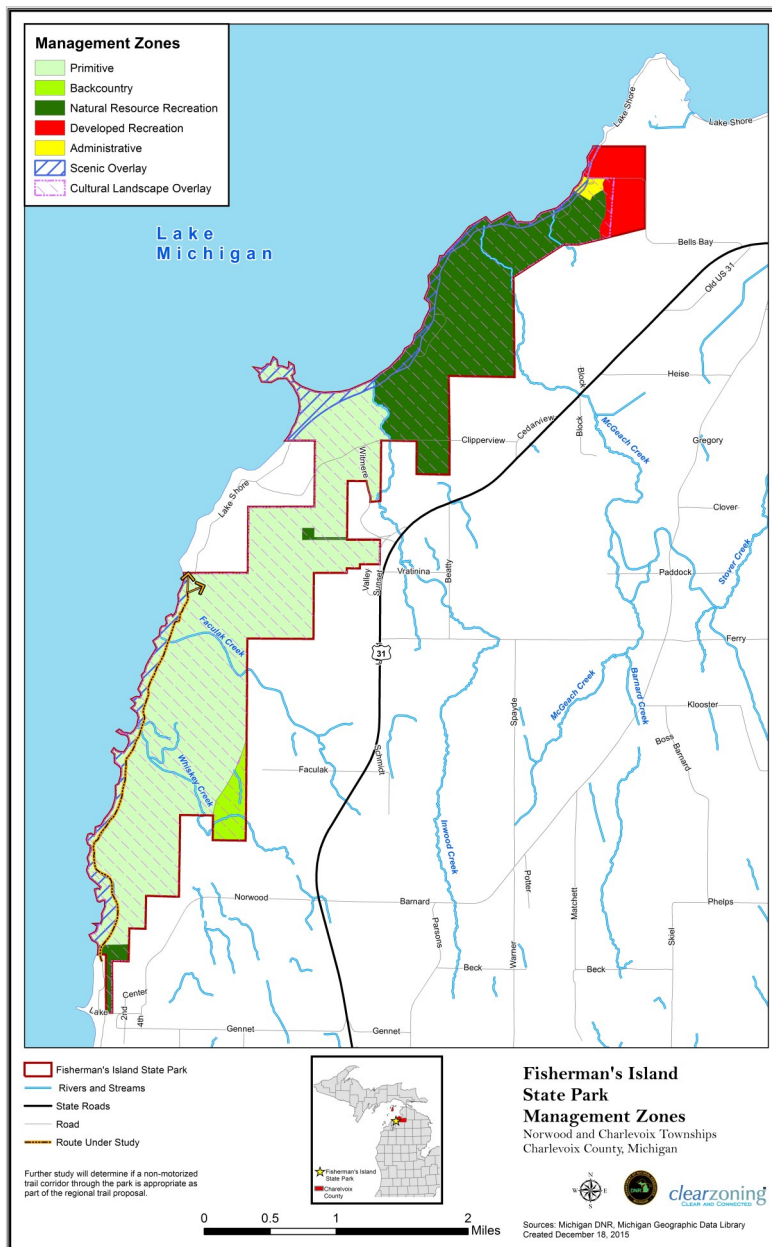


Approved May 18, 2016
Michigan DNR Parks and Recreation Division

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FISHERMAN'S ISLAND STATE PARK PLAN APPROVALS:

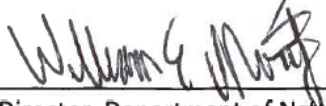
The project was directed by Deborah Jensen, Management Plan Administrator, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation Division with assistance from Clearzoning, Inc.


Chief, Parks & Recreation Division

5/6/16
Date


Natural Resources Deputy

5/18/16
Date


Director, Department of Natural Resources

5/18/16
Date

FISHERMAN’S ISLAND STATE PARK PLAN APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

PRD – SECTION CHIEFS:	<u>02/22/2016</u> Date
DNR – RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BUREAU:	<u>03/08/2016</u> Date
MSPAC – STEWARDSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE	<u>03/30/2016</u> Date
NRC – MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:	<u>04/14/2016</u> Date

Resolution No. 04-2016-1

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE “FISHERMAN’S ISLAND STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN”

ADOPTED: April 14, 2016

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

WHEREAS, the planning process reflects sensitivity to natural resource values, historic and cultural resource values, recreation and education opportunities, and is inclusive of all DNR programs and representative of eco-management; and

WHEREAS, the planning process was further inclusive of stakeholder, constituent, and public input; and

WHEREAS, the General Management Plan represents sound guidance for future planning phases that will be consistent with the mission of the DNR and the Parks and Recreation Division, and reflective of the purpose and significance of Fisherman’s Island State Park; and

WHEREAS, the General Management Plan is consistent with the recommendations of the Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel report submitted to Governor Rick Snyder; and

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

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

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

Submitted by: Chris Graham, Chair, MSPAC Stewardship Subcommittee

Motioned by: Commission Chair, Louise Klarr

Seconded by: Committee Member, Julie Clark

Yeas: 10

Nays: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: 4

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Executive Summary

Fisherman's Island State Park, with 2,678 acres, is located west of US-31, south of the city of Charlevoix, in the northwest of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The park has six miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, offering remote access for quiet exploration and enjoyment of the natural habitat and scenic views.

The park offers opportunities for camping, hiking, hunting, and fishing. There are eighty campsites available within the three rustic campgrounds, with fifteen located along the shoreline. There are 3.4 miles of foot trails that are utilized by hikers and cross-country skiers. Fisherman's Island is the largest state-owned hunting ground on the west side of mainland Charlevoix County, and is home to deer, grouse, coyote, squirrels, rabbit, and several other game species. Whiskey, McGeach, and Inwood Creeks are designated trout streams and can be accessed through the park.



Lake Michigan Shoreline at Fisherman's Island State Park

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

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

Significance of Fisherman's Island State Park

Each GMP developed by the PRD is built upon the park's significant features that make it distinct from other parks in the state's system. Fisherman's Island State Park was determined significant due to the following:

- **Archaeological Resources** – There are numerous archaeological sites located within Fisherman's Island State Park. Most of the currently known sites were once home to early Native Americans. These locations hold archaeological information about Native American life in this region over the course of thousands of years. An outcrop of Norwood chert within the park is particularly significant. This is one of the few places in Michigan where Native people extracted chert from a geological formation for use in stone tool-making. Within the state park system, Fisherman's Island State Park is particularly sensitive for the presence of significant archaeological sites and artifacts.
- **Lake Michigan Shoreline** – Fisherman's Island State Park provides six miles of remote, scenic Lake Michigan shoreline for quiet enjoyment and exploration, just minutes from downtown Charlevoix. The mostly rocky shore offers one of the finest locations in the state for Petoskey stone hunting.
- **Natural Resources** – Fisherman's Island State Park provides migratory bird stop-over and breeding habitat, including nesting habitat for the endangered piping plover. The park's combination of open dunes, interdunal wetlands, limestone cobble shorelines, and rich conifer swamps support rare Great Lakes endemic species such as Houghton's goldenrod, Lake Huron locust, and Pitcher's thistle.
- **Recreation** – Fisherman's Island State Park provides the largest intact area open to public hunting in mainland western Charlevoix County and fishing access on three trout streams. Rustic camping



McGeach Creek runs through Fisherman's Island State Park.

is available in designated areas on the shoreline and on wooded sites, providing a natural resource recreation experience. High quality undeveloped natural features, with hiking and cross-country skiing backcountry trails, are just around the corner from the developed Charlevoix area.

Management Zones

A key goal in the development of this General Management Plan is to continue providing the opportunities and features that attract visitors to the park each year, while simultaneously protecting the park's resources. Taking this into account, the Planning Team, with stakeholder and public input, established appropriate Management Zones for the park. From a palette of nine standard zones, seven zones (including two overlay zones) were applied to Fisherman's Island State Park. The Management Zone Map and a thorough review of each Management Zone are found in Chapter 4 of this Plan. A condensed description of each of the applied Management Zones is as follows:

Primitive Zone comprises 62% of the park, and emphasizes the natural resources of the area. It is managed to allow only dispersed, low frequency and low impact recreational use in the zone. Maintaining a high quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements and recreational uses are allowed.

Backcountry Zone comprises 2.4% of the park and emphasizes resource quality over recreation, but allows for modification of landscape to allow for moderate levels of active recreation uses. This area contains interdunal land forms, and a portion of Whiskey Creek.

Natural Resource Recreation Zone comprises 30% of the park and permits active recreation with medium to high density of use conducted in natural areas. The park's campground and day use area are located within this zone.

Developed Recreation Zone comprises 5% of the park and allows active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. The zone is located at the northerly most portion of the park and includes the park's entrance and land north and south of Bells Bay Road.



View of Lake Michigan from the Park's entrance drive.

Administrative Zone comprises 0.5% of the park and encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. The zone includes the park camp office, maintenance facilities and all related land required to conduct the business of running the park.

Cultural Landscape Overlay has been applied over the majority of Fisherman's Island State Park (93%). Management within the Cultural Landscape Overlay highlights the preservation and protection of the cultural resources.

Scenic Overlay has been applied to 9% of Fisherman's Island State Park, encompassing the entire Lake Michigan shoreline in recognition of its natural beauty.

10-Year Action Goals

The General Management Plan identifies 10-Year Action Goals that the Planning Team believes are necessary to guide management and development of the park in order to achieve the desired user experience and natural resource protection. Action goals are categorized under General Action Goals if they pertain to the entire park or under specific zones, which are identified on the Management Zone Map. Highlights from the Action Goals detailed in Chapter 5 include the following:

General Action Goals (apply park-wide)

- Conduct a Phase I archeological survey of the park
- Develop and implement an education and enforcement plan for protecting cultural resources and artifacts to prevent damage/collecting
- Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping/birding
- Work with regional partners to identify potential for connectivity to community trails beyond the park boundary
- Study route options and analyze the impact of a non-motorized trail running through the park as part of the regional trail proposal
- Resolve ownership and public access rights at the south end of the park
- Evaluate and make recommendations for existing motor vehicles access and parking at the south end of the park

Primitive Zone

- Develop educational and interpretive signage for the cultural and natural features appropriate to the zone
- Evaluate and make recommendations for trail crossings over Inwood and Whiskey Creeks

Backcountry Zone

No action goals specific to this zone are proposed at this time. See Chapter 5.

Natural Resource Recreation Zone

- Conduct an engineering study to identify techniques to repair drainage and driving surface deficiencies on park roads
- Evaluate alternative lodging in the park; additional campsites or hike-in campsites; yurts, camper cabins, and similar options
- Evaluate potential for accessible campsites

Developed Recreation Zone

- Evaluate the need for a designated beach area

Administrative Zone

- Continue to explore options for electronic/communication connectivity
- Provide septic system and water for campground office

Cultural Landscape Overlay and Scenic Overlay

Actions within the overlay are directed by their underlying zone designation, while ensuring that the cultural and scenic qualities of these areas of the park are taken into account.



Scenic and Cultural Landscape Overlays recognize the cultural and natural beauty found in the park.

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1. Core Values and Guiding Resources

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

1.1 Mission Statements

DNR Mission Statement

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

PRD Mission Statement

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

Five Goals of the DNR

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



Camping site overlooking Lake Michigan.

“These assets provide a place to recreate and . . . help make our communities cohesive, connect people to their places and to each other, engender civic engagement, and remind us of our connection to the natural world and to our history.”

Blue Ribbon Panel
(2012)

1.2 Additional Guiding Resources

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

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

SCORP is a five-year strategic plan that shapes investment by the state and local communities in priority outdoor recreation infrastructure and programming. The Plan's overarching goal is to utilize Michigan's diverse and abundant natural assets to meet the fun, relaxation, and health needs of Michigan's residents and visitors, and the economic development needs of the state and local communities, by:

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



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

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

- Identify and protect important natural, cultural, historic, and prehistoric resources
- Diversify funding and use new criteria to target investments
- Prioritize development of statewide and regional systems of connected trail networks
- Encourage greater connections between communities and their recreational assets to strengthen regional identities
- Use parks and recreation areas as a key tool for revitalizing Michigan's core urban areas
- Integrate tourism and economic development marketing
- Prioritize investment in parks and recreation

Michigan Comprehensive Trail Plan (2013 - 2018)

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

- Maintain trails to ensure a sustainable & quality trail system
- Expand trails and trail experiences and opportunities to ensure accessibility to trail systems, outdoor recreation opportunities and natural and cultural resources
- The Michigan Trails Advisory Council leads the effort to maintain and enhance Michigan's reputation as the trail state
- Link trails, trail users and adjoining towns to create memorable trail experiences and enhance economic prosperity
- Develop, enhance and celebrate partnerships and collaborations
- Implement a marketing plan including an electronic portal that allows citizens and visitors to be aware of all trails and related amenities
- Develop funding sources and mechanisms for trail maintenance, acquisition and development
- Ensure that the state's trail system compliments other plans and planning efforts

PRD Strategic Plan (2009-2019)

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

Managed Public Land Strategy (2013)

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

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

1.3 Summary of Legal Mandates

For all park General Management Plans, legal mandates are identified that serve to further guide the development of the General Management Plan and subsequent Action Plans. For our planning purposes, the term “Legal Mandates” refers to not only state law, but also the administrative tools of “Policy” and “Directive” of the Natural Resource Commission, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Parks & Recreation Division. There are several general and site specific legal mandates applicable to Fisherman’s Island State Park listed in Appendix A: Supporting Analysis.

The legal mandates that most directly impact planning and management of Fisherman’s Island State Park focus on the following areas:

- Endangered species protection: Fisherman’s Island State Park has areas designated as critical habitat for piping plover. The piping plover nesting habitat is also addressed as a part of the Director’s Land Use Order.
- Critical Dunes: a portion of the lakeshore is designated as critical dune area and protected from certain uses unless a permit is obtained.
- Identification of the duties of the DNR in reinforcing its core values concerning preservation, protection and management.
- Requirement of a Recreation Passport for entry into the park.
- Aboriginal Records and Antiquities: the state reserves the exclusive rights to all aboriginal records and other antiquities found on state land. Fisherman’s Island State Park is closed to metal detecting under authority of this act.

2. Plan Process Overview

2.1 Why Plan?

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

The last park-wide planning document for Fisherman's Island State Park was completed in 1974, before the site became part of the state park system.

The General Management Planning (GMP) process provides a fresh approach to planning for a park. The GMP sets out a framework for protecting park resources while providing for meaningful visitor experiences. The long-range vision and management objectives for the park are derived from applicable legal directives, the purpose of the park, and the park's significant natural and cultural resources.



Planning Team members tour the park.

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

- 1) **General Management Plan (GMP)** that presents a 20-Year Management Zone Plan used to guide park planning decisions and a 10-Year Action Goals Plan that establishes specific action strategies within each management zone.
- 2) **5-Year Implementation Plan** outlines specific actions to implement based on the realities of staffing and funding opportunities.
- 3) **Annual Work Plan** addresses what will be done during a given year, and what progress was made throughout the previous year.

In order for a plan to be successful it must allow for some degree of flexibility to adapt to changes that cannot be predicted 10-20 years out. The GMP will be reviewed every five years to ensure it is still meeting its intended purpose.









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

A group of approximately 15 people are seated around a large, rectangular wooden conference table in a well-lit meeting room. The participants, a mix of men and women of various ages, are focused on the discussion, with some looking at documents or laptops. The table is cluttered with papers, folders, and several plastic water bottles. In the background, an American flag stands to the left of a doorway, and a round wall clock is visible. Large windows on the right side of the room provide natural light, and a projector is mounted on the ceiling. The room's walls are a light yellow, and the overall atmosphere is professional and collaborative.

A large group of people are seated in a room with large windows, attending a presentation or meeting. A man in a green shirt stands at the front, addressing the group. The room has a high ceiling with recessed lighting and large windows with dark frames. Several informational displays are visible in the background.

Primitive Zone

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

Recreation Opportunities		
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers
Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping/berding.	Ongoing	
Education / Interpretation Opportunities		
Inform the public of the value of natural and cultural resources in the primitive areas.	Ongoing	 
Develop educational and interpretive signage for the cultural and natural features appropriate to the zone.	Ongoing	
Management		
Evaluate and make recommendations for trail crossings over Inwood and Whiskey Creeks.	1-2 Years	
Continue to control illegal motor vehicle use.	Ongoing	
Evaluate the need for land use order to control snowmobile use.	3 Years	
Development		
Implement the recommendations of the trail crossing evaluation for Inwood and Whiskey Creeks.	5-10 Years	

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2.3 Planning Team

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

DNR Staff		
Name	Title	Division
Debbie Jensen	Management Plan Administrator	PRD
Tom Copenhaver	Unit Supervisor	PRD
Rich Hill	District Supervisor	PRD
Annamarie Bauer	Regional Planner	PRD
Ray Fahlsing	Stewardship Unit Manager	PRD
Paul Yauk	Land Manager	PRD
Lisa Gamero	Cultural Resources Analyst	PRD
Kerry Wieber	DNR Regional Coordinator	Forest Resources
Heather Hettinger	Field Operations	Fisheries
Andrea Erratt	Conservation Officer	Law
Jon Spieles	Interpretive Manager	Marketing & Outreach
Jennifer Kleitch	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife
Joyce Angel	Gaylord Unit Manager	Forest Resources
Cynthia Watson	Property Specialist	Minerals Management
Peter Rose	Geologist	Minerals Management
Dean Anderson	State Archeologist	MSHDA

Clearzoning Consultants

David Birchler, AICP, Chief Executive Officer

Mardy Stirling, Senior Planner

Karen Zarowny, Staff Planner

Sheila Starks, GIS Specialist

2.4 Summary of Public Input Survey

Understanding the important role of the public in developing this plan, the Planning Team applied a variety of methods to collect feedback and input from Fisherman’s Island State Park users. In particular, the public input survey was utilized to gather general information about visitors, how they use the park, as well as recommendations for improving features and amenities offered. The survey was available for five (5) weeks beginning May 13, 2015. It was advertised by a DNR Press Release and an Email bulletin sent to nearly 13,300 individuals registered to receive state park news, as well as visitors known to have camped at Fisherman’s Island. Over 400 individuals responded to the survey and provided input. See Appendix B: Public Input Summary for more survey results.

The public input survey provided the following information to the Planning Team:

- The type of visitors using the state park (ex: age, distance traveled...etc.)
- The activities that visitors participate in the park and the surrounding community
- The tendencies of campers
- Additional amenities or improvements that visitors would like to see prioritized

Section	Qn #s	Type of Questions
About You	1-7	This section asked general questions about the respondent including age, zip code, number of visits per year, reasons for not visiting, how and where they enter the park, and the season of year that they visit.
Activities	8-11	This section asked respondents to identify their favorite activities.
Campers	12-15	Campers were asked about their typical length of stay and if they visit other destinations in the area.
General Comments	16	The section asked respondents to provide comments on the current condition of the park and if they would like to see any improvements.
Other State Parks Visited	17	Respondents were asked if they visited other state parks in the area, and to indicate which ones.
Wrapping Up	18	This section asked respondents to provide any additional comments they have about the State Park or General Management Planning process.

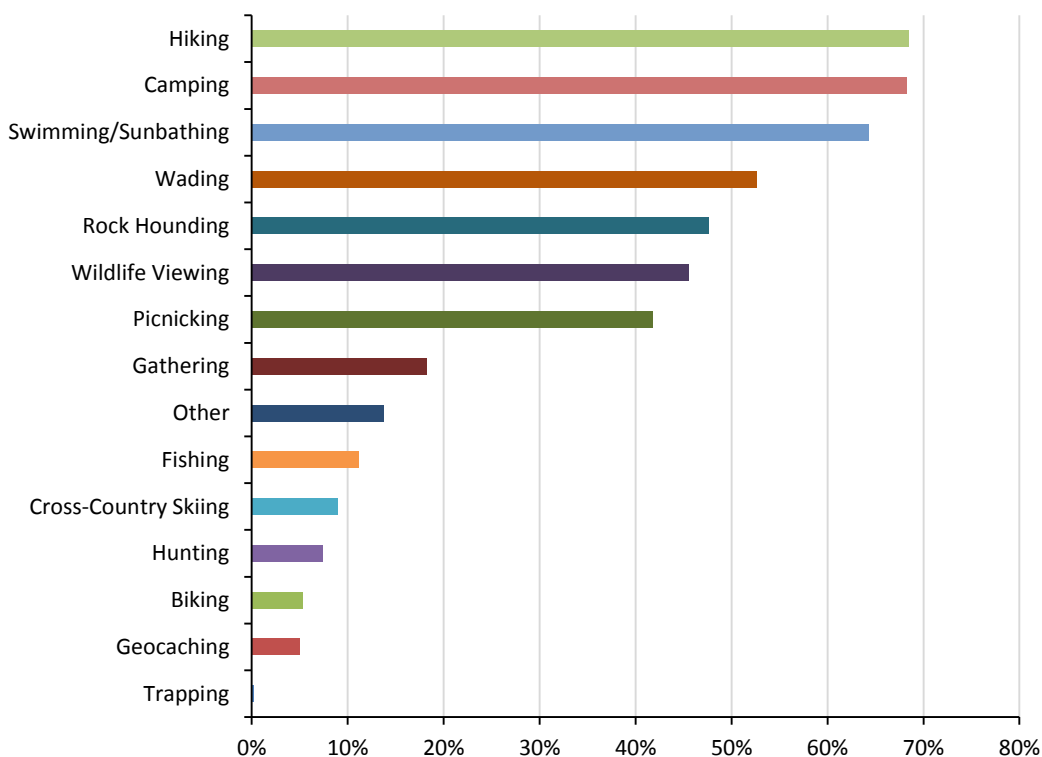
About You

Respondents of all ages completed the survey, with 50 to 64 year olds being the largest cohort (40%). Most visited the park one to two times a year, with summer (71%) and fall (36%) being the most popular seasons. Most entered the park through the northern access point (79%) and traveled by car (92%). The majority of respondents reside in the Charlevoix area.

Activities

The majority (84%) of survey respondents gave their support for a proposed regional trail initiative linking Charlevoix to Traverse City and extending the Little Traverse Wheelway south, with a portion of the non-motorized pathway running through Fisherman’s Island State Park. Respondents in favor of the trail expansion commented that it would attract more visitors, especially cyclists to the park, and would be a great connection to other regional destinations. Some stated their support for the trail was dependent on its location and suggested that there should be a connection between the park and the trail but that it should not run through the campground or the “wild” areas of the park. Those opposed to incorporating the trail wished the park to remain as undeveloped as possible to preserve its rustic beauty.

Fisherman’s Island State Park Activities By Popularity



Campers

Two-thirds of all respondents camp at Fisherman’s Island (68%), with over half staying one to two nights (52%), followed closely by three to six nights (40%). Campers indicated they visited other nearby attractions when traveling to the park, with Young State Park, Wilderness State Park, Petoskey State Park, and Traverse City State Park being the most popular neighboring destinations for park-goers. Campers also visited Downtown Charlevoix, Petoskey, Traverse City, Harbor Springs, and Boyne.

General State Park Comments

Half of respondents agreed they would like to see changes at Fisherman's Island State Park. The most popular suggestions were road and entrance improvements, the addition of a non-motorized trail, more bike trails, and modern bathroom facilities for campgrounds. However, it was reiterated that the rustic nature of the park is key to its identity (and a desire amongst the patrons for it to remain preserved).

Wrapping Up

Finally, respondents were asked to choose three words to describe Fisherman's Island State Park. Their responses are provided in the graphic below. The larger the word, the more times it was offered.



3. Purpose and Significance

There are over 100 parks in Michigan's State Park system and each park has its own unique and defining characteristics. This chapter describes what makes Fisherman's Island State Park a significant asset to the state's park system.

3.1 Park Purpose

Park purpose statements are based on park legislation, legislative history, special designations and DNR policies. These statements reaffirm the reasons for which Fisherman's Island State Park was identified as part of the state park system.

- To be used as a public park, pursuant to the intentions of the State Legislature when it created the park and authorized its purchase, beginning in 1974.
- To preserve and protect Fisherman's Island State Park's significant natural resources and areas of natural beauty or historic significance.
- To provide open space for public outdoor recreation.
- To provide an opportunity to understand Michigan's natural resources and the need to protect and manage those resources.

3.2 Statements of Significance

Archaeological Resources

There are numerous archaeological sites located within Fisherman's Island State Park. Most of the currently known sites were once home to early Native Americans. These locations hold archaeological information about Native American life in this region over the course of thousands of years. An outcrop of Norwood chert within the park is particularly significant. This is one of the few places in Michigan where Native people extracted chert from a geological formation for use in stone tool-making. Within the state park system, Fisherman's Island State Park is particularly sensitive for the presence of significant archaeological sites and artifacts.



Expansive Lake Michigan shoreline.

Lake Michigan Shoreline

Fisherman's Island State Park provides six miles of remote, scenic Lake Michigan shoreline for quiet enjoyment and exploration, just minutes from downtown Charlevoix. The mostly rocky shore offers one of the finest locations in the state for Petoskey stone hunting.

Natural Resources

Fisherman's Island State Park provides migratory bird stop-over and breeding habitat, including nesting habitat for the endangered piping plover. The park's combination of open dunes, interdunal wetlands, limestone cobble shorelines, and rich conifer swamps support rare Great Lakes endemic species such as Houghton's goldenrod, Lake Huron locust, and Pitcher's thistle.

Recreation

Fisherman's Island State Park provides the largest intact area open to public hunting in mainland western Charlevoix County and fishing access on three trout streams. Rustic camping is available in designated areas on the shoreline and on wooded sites, providing a natural resource recreation experience. High quality undeveloped natural features, with hiking and cross-country skiing backcountry trails, are just around the corner from the developed Charlevoix area.



Campsite on the shoreline of Lake Michigan

3.3 Public Affirmation of Significance Statements

Stakeholder and public input assisted the Planning Team with identifying significant features and opportunities at Fisherman's Island State Park. The feedback they provided via the online survey, the on-site workshops, and email affirmed the value of the park. Comments from stakeholders and the public further affirmed the unique characteristics of Fisherman's Island and its significance within the State Park's recreation system. Below are just a few comments from the online survey:

What are people saying about Fisherman's Island?

"The best part about Fisherman's Island is that it is rustic and undeveloped, it truly is a nature lover's paradise. There is nowhere else like it in the state of Michigan."

"It is a beautiful, quiet little gem. We were there over 4th of July weekend, and even though the park was completely full, it was serene. We enjoyed the beach and close access to Lake Michigan. Please keep it rustic!"

"There are so few places left like this."

"Great place to hike and jog. Thank you!"

"I value the solitude and feeling of wilderness that the park provides. The long stretches of undeveloped shoreline are priceless, but I also treasure hiking through the woods."

"A lot of the appeal of Fisherman's Island State Park is its seclusion. It's hard to find a quiet state park that offers campsites a stone's throw from Lake Michigan - I'd like to keep it that way."

"It's so beautiful and the park gives you the experience of being 'away from it all.'"

3.4 Relationship with the Local Community

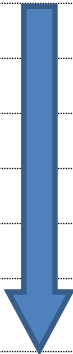
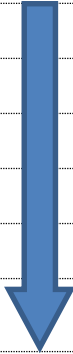
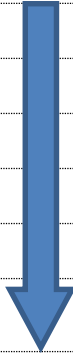
Fisherman's Island State Park draws an estimated 30,300 visitors a year and generates approximately \$94,000 in direct revenues annually (2014 data). The nearly 2,678 acre park is located just south of the City of Charlevoix. Commonly referred to as "Charlevoix the Beautiful", the city is renowned as a tourist destination, featuring beaches, boating, parks, orchards and seasonal activities and events catering to a variety of tastes. The online survey undertaken as part of this Management Plan indicated that the vast majority of visitors camping at the park frequent the stores and restaurants of Charlevoix, as well as the nearby cities of Petoskey, East Jordan and Boyne City, and further afield to Traverse City or Mackinac City.

Many local residents have a strong sense of ownership and connection to the park, beginning with the development of the campground in the 1960's (then known as Bells Bay State Forest campground) with assistance from Charlevoix Township and local community volunteers. Fisherman's Island is also important to the Native American Tribes, including the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, not only due to the historic use of this area of the shoreline, but also for the lake access and trout fishing opportunities that continue today.

With the recent completion of the Charlevoix Lake to Lake multi-use trail connecting Bells Bay Road to Lake Charlevoix, the Little Traverse Wheelway from Charlevoix along the shoreline to Harbor Springs, and planning for the Traverse City to Charlevoix Trail underway, the park will continue to be a major feature in the connectivity of this area.

4. Management Zones

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

Management Zone Progression			
Management Zone	Resource Condition	Visitor Experience	Development Level
Ecologically Sensitive	Pristine	Restricted	None
Primitive			
Backcountry			
Cultural Landscape			
History Education			
Scenic			
Natural Resource Recreation			
Developed Recreation	Active Management	Significant Use	Extensive Development
Administrative			

Park Boundary

The 2004 Project Boundary approved by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC), includes approximately 2,500 acres of land currently in private ownership. The Project Boundary is a geographic area in which the DNR has an interest in acquiring property on a willing seller/willing buyer basis.

Land acquisition of this scale over the life of this Management Plan is likely unrealistic and may not be in the best public interest. The Planning Team recommends that the land within the Project Boundary should be considered for acquisition on a case-by-case basis, if and when it becomes available, based on the ability to support the mission of the DNR/PRD. Department-wide boundary reviews occur periodically for all DNR properties, and at that time the Project Boundary for Fisherman's Island State Park should be reconsidered. The 2004 Project Boundary includes a unique geological feature (drumlin field) in the south, designated trout streams, land with a high potential for important natural communities and cultural

resources and as a stop-over for migrating birds: all factors that should be taken into consideration in any boundary review.

Management Zones

The Fisherman's Island General Management Plan identifies management zone boundaries which reflects the resource protection goals and recreation development opportunities for different areas within the park. The following descriptions for each management zone describe the existing and future conditions in relation to each of the following:

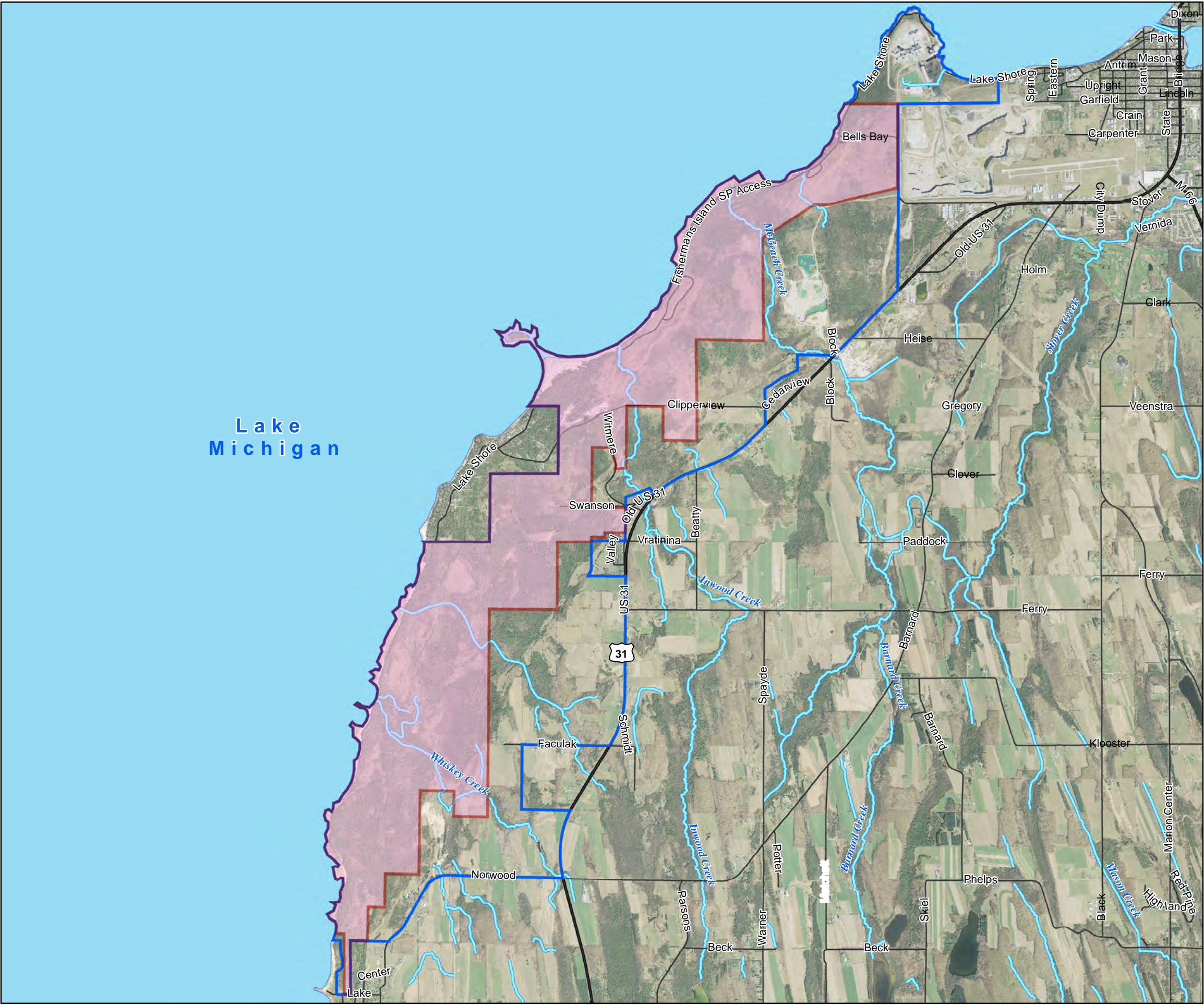
- Natural Resources
- Historic/Cultural Resources
- Recreation Opportunities
- Education Opportunities
- Visitor Experience
- Management Focus
- Development

Any revisions to the zoning map will require public notification and the same review and approval process as the General Management Plan.

In addition to the five management zones and two overlays, the Planning Team identified the old Lakeshore Drive roadbed between Norwood and the Clipperview subdivision as a "Route Under Study". Action Goals have been developed that will study the appropriate use of this corridor in the future, in relation to existing vehicular use, a proposed regional non-motorized trail initiative from Charlevoix to Traverse City, and emergency and maintenance access needs. The recommendations of this study will determine the appropriate future use of the former Lakeshore Drive through the park.





Trailhead at Fisherman's Island State Park.

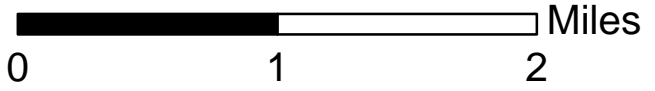


**Fisherman's Island
State Park
Boundary Aerial**
Norwood and Charlevoix Townships
Charlevoix County, Michigan



-  Fisherman's Island State Park
-  2004 Project Boundary* Approved by the NRC

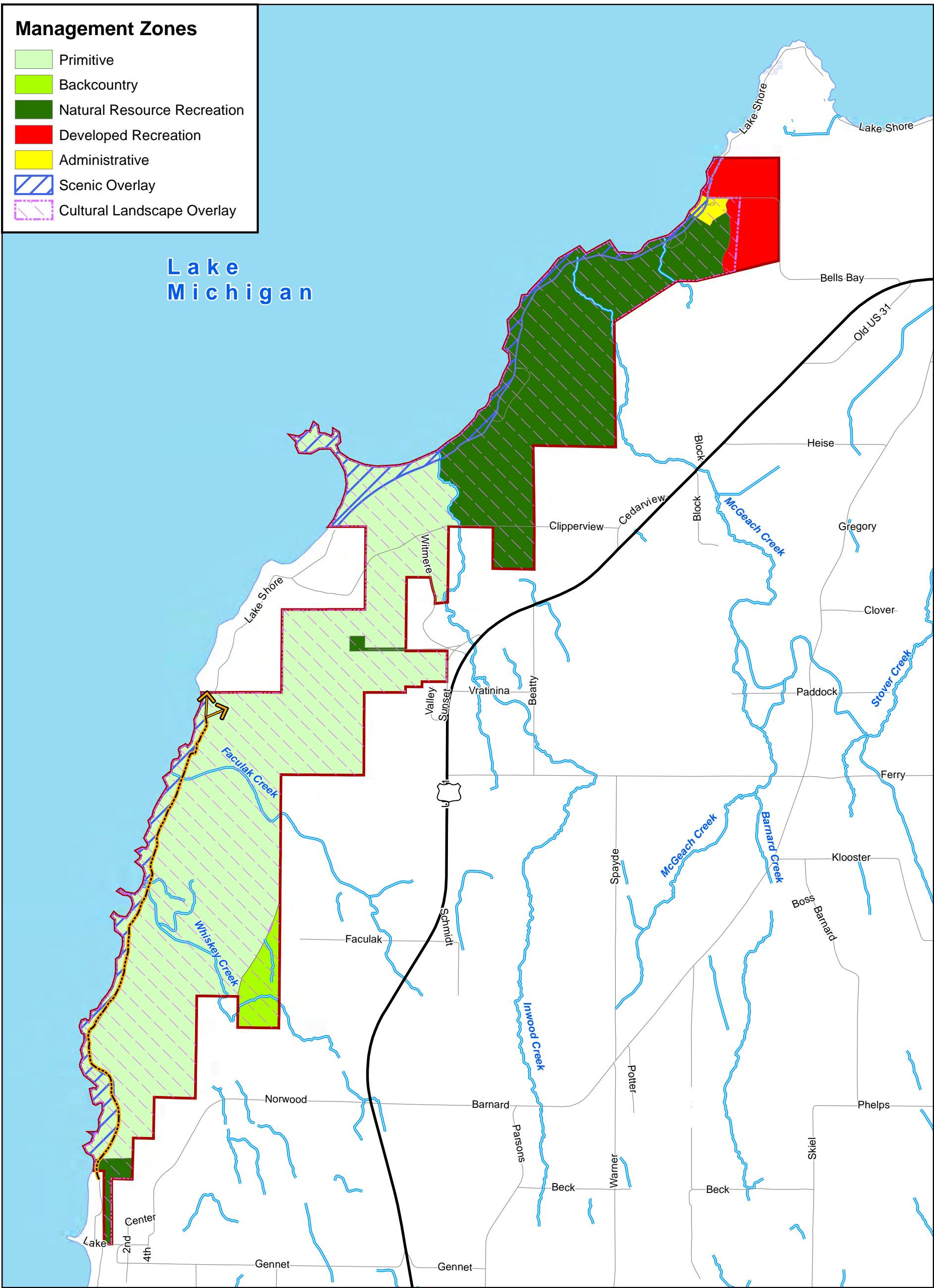
*A Project Boundary is a geographic area in which the DNR is seeking to acquire property that supports the mission of the DNR on a willing buyer/seller basis.



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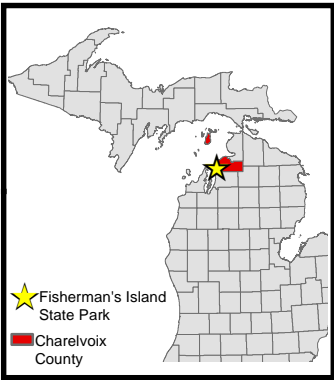
Management Zones

- Primitive
- Backcountry
- Natural Resource Recreation
- Developed Recreation
- Administrative
- Scenic Overlay
- Cultural Landscape Overlay



- Fisherman's Island State Park
- Rivers and Streams
- State Roads
- Road
- Route Under Study

Further study will determine if a non-motorized trail corridor through the park is appropriate as part of the regional trail proposal.



Fisherman's Island State Park Management Zones

Norwood and Charlevoix Townships
Charlevoix County, Michigan



Sources: Michigan DNR, Michigan Geographic Data Library
Created December 18, 2015

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4.1 Primitive Zone

Approximately 62% of Fisherman's Island State Park is designated Primitive. This zone preserves and protects natural habitats within the park. Only foot traffic will be allowed in this zone to ensure that the natural features are not damaged or compromised. The Primitive Zone is located south of Inwood Creek and Clipperview Road. Fisherman's Island and a large proportion of the Lake Michigan shoreline are included within this Zone. A small portion of the rocky shoreline between Inwood and Whiskey Creeks is also identified within the Primitive Zone; a prime nesting condition for piping plover. The Primitive Zone is rich in natural and cultural resources. The land area is characterized by Lake Michigan shoreline, wetlands, interdunal land formations, and Whiskey Creek and Inwood Creek. This Zone is home to many archaeological sites, including an outcrop of Norwood chert. The development and management of this area is bound by the knowledge that these rich resources need to be protected and preserved while still providing public access. Much of this zone is characterized by wetlands. A large proportion of the area between Inwood Creek and Clipperview Road is designated Piping Plover Critical Habitat and Critical Dunes (refer to maps in Appendix A of this report).



Natural Resources

Native species and natural processes take precedence over visitor accommodations. This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management allowed only where necessary to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. The maintenance and restoration of natural communities will be a priority in this zone, including protection of state threatened species such as Lake Huron tansy and Lake Huron locust.

Historic / Cultural Resources

There are no known historic structures within this zone. The area of the park is rich in archeological sites which should be preserved and protected.

Recreation Opportunities

Dispersed, low density off-trail or trailed, self-reliant outdoor activities, such as hiking, back-packing, cross-country skiing, hunting/trapping/fishing and nature observation are typical of the Primitive Zone. This area of the park offers a large intact undeveloped area for hunting and includes Whiskey Creek, a designated trout stream. The Primitive Zone permits only non-motorized use and bicycle and equestrian trails are not permitted. The old Lakeshore Road bed traverses parallel to the lakeshore through this zone. This is identified as a “Route Under Study” on the zoning map in recognition of the current vehicular use and the potential as a non-motorized trail corridor.

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

Informing the public of the value of natural and cultural resources located within the Primitive Zone is valuable. However, in recognition of the undeveloped nature of this zone, interpretive signage should be primarily off-site or at trailheads.

Visitor Experience

Visitor experience is focused on the significant natural character of the zone, along with a sense of solitude, and a lack of man-made improvements. Overall, there will be relatively low interaction with other visitors.

Management Focus

Management will focus on maintaining the low-impact character of the zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality and cultural resource protection. An evaluation of the old roadbed and access from the south, as well as control over illegal motor vehicle and ORV use will be a primary management focus of this area.

Development

A very low level of development is allowed to support visitor access. The focus is to maintain as little evidence of human activity as possible. Trail and creek crossing improvements will be considered to protect sensitive resources.



Lake Michigan shoreline with natural habitats.

4.2 Backcountry Zone

Approximately 2.4% of Fisherman's Island State Park is designated Backcountry Zone. This small area located in the southeast quadrant of the park follows the interdunal land forms, extending east to the park boundary. The Backcountry Zone includes a portion of Whiskey Creek. This zone calls for the land to be maintained as natural, with minimal evidence of human impact. It allows for a low level of development to support visitor access, including unobtrusive paths which allow non-motorized use. Uses could include hiking, bicycling, equestrian use, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. Due to the small area within the current park boundary, the Planning Team has not identified action goals for the Backcountry Zone.

Natural Resources

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

Historic / Cultural Resources

There are no historic structures in this zone. Any cultural resources will be preserved and protected.

Recreational Opportunities

Moderate levels of recreation are allowed in the Backcountry Zone, provided the activities are compatible with the natural character. Recreational opportunities in this zone will be determined in the future should sufficient acreage be acquired to support those activities.

Education Opportunities

There are no plans for education or interpretive activities within this zone at this time.

Visitor Experience

Visitors may engage in diverse outdoor activities including those that offer interaction with a variety of natural resources. Variable time commitment, challenge and adventure; moderate noise tolerance and interaction with DNR staff; and, moderate visitor encounters can be accommodated.



Management Focus

Management focuses on maintaining the low-impact character of this zone, with an emphasis on natural resource quality.

Development

A low level of development to support visitor access to outdoor activities (i.e. trailheads, trailhead parking) and education opportunities are appropriate in the Backcountry Zone. Any development should be unobtrusive and blend into the natural environment.

4.3 Natural Resource Recreation Zone

Approximately 30% of Fisherman's Island State Park is zoned Natural Resource Recreation. This zone provides for active recreation with medium to high density use conducted in natural areas. The Natural Resource Recreation area is located south of Bells Bay Road to Inwood Creek and includes an area at the far south end of the park. Many of the camp roads and rustic campsites and the day use area are located within this zone. While the zone designation emphasizes resource protection, landscape modification is permitted to allow for moderate interaction and recreation, as well as more intensively used trail corridors. A portion of the lakeshore within this zone is designated as Critical Dune and Piping Plover Critical Habitat (refer to Resource Maps in Appendix A). In addition, there are some significant natural communities and rare plants and animals along the lakeshore that are protected under the Endangered Species Act



Natural Resources

Natural resources support visitor activities with moderate impacts. This zone reflects natural processes, with vegetative management focused on restoring and maintaining natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to facilitate recreational use and to maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape.

Historic / Cultural Resources

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

Recreational Opportunities

Moderate to high levels of recreation compatible with the natural character of the zone are to be expected. Visitors may be engaged in outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings, including hiking, rustic camping, bicycling, canoeing, kayaking, nature observation and hunting/trapping/fishing. Snowmobiling is permitted in the Natural Resource Recreation Zone.

Education Opportunities

Interpretive signage may be used along trails and at specific points of interest along the shoreline.

Visitor Experience

Visitors may be engaged in outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings for recreation and education. Variable time commitment, challenge and adventure; moderate noise tolerance and interaction with DNR staff; and, moderate to high visitor encounters can be accommodated.

Management Focus

Management focuses on maintaining the use of the zone appropriate to the PRD's mission. Public safety, protection of resources, and improved visitor accessibility are management priorities. The camp roads are in poor condition with ongoing drainage issues and general deterioration. An engineering study to identify techniques to repair drainage and driving surface deficiencies is part of the 10-year action goals. In addition, an evaluation of alternative lodging in the park is needed, and consideration of the need and feasibility of ADA campsites.

Development

A moderate level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities is permitted in this zone. Examples of development include walkways and parking, trails, benches, rustic cabins, and picnic tables. This zone allows site hardening as necessary to facilitate activities (such as ADA compliance) and protect natural resources.



Campsites at Fisherman's Island State Park are rustic.



Many campsites are located along the Lake Michigan shoreline.



Drainage issues exist along park roads - making access difficult in the winter/spring seasons.

4.4 Developed Recreation Zone

Approximately 5% of Fisherman's Island State Park is designated Developed Recreation. This zone allows active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. The Developed Recreation Zone includes the area north and west of Bell's Bay Road.

Natural Resources

Natural resources are actively managed and modified to support visitor activities, but at this park it is recognized that the wooded setting is an important component to the park's success and currently provides a buffer to adjacent land uses. Vegetative management in this zone will address hazard trees, invasive species, and pests and disease, and will also be allowed for purposes of facilitating development and recreational use and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape.

Historic / Cultural Resources

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

Recreational Opportunities

High levels of recreation in a highly structured environment may be found in this zone. Visitor's engage in recreation activities in diverse and modified land and water settings, which could include modern or semi-modern camping, boating, day-use areas, trails and support facilities such as parking areas and bathrooms.

Education Opportunities

Interpretive signage and information could be provided at campgrounds, day-use facilities, trailheads or along trails. Active programming would be appropriate in areas where people congregate.

Visitor Experience

A high level of visitor encounters can be accommodated. High noise tolerance and high interaction with DNR staff and other users can be expected.



Management Focus

Management focuses on maintaining the use of the zone appropriate to the PRD's mission, promoting and supporting a diversity of facilities and activities and providing a high level of accessibility. Evaluating the need for a designated beach area, dump and fill station, and alternative options for lodging in the park are management priorities.

Development

A high level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities is permitted in this zone.



Entrance to Fisherman's Island State Park.



Bench donated to the park provides a seating area overlooking Lake Michigan.

4.5 Administrative Zone

This zone is 0.5% of total land and encompasses the developed areas required for program administration, operations, and the business of running the state park. The Administrative zone in Fisherman's Island State Park includes the campground contact station.



Natural Resources

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

Historic / Cultural Resources

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

Recreational Opportunities

There are no recreational activities provided in the Administrative Zone.

Education Opportunities

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

Visitor Experience

Visitors typically access the zone for business and information only. High noise tolerance and high interaction with others can be expected.

Management Focus

Management focuses on the business of running the park, appropriate facilities for staff, employee safety and the like. The park will focus on identifying electronic and communication connectivity within the park and upgrading the staff facilities.



Camp Contact Station

Development

A high level of development of facilities and high levels of accessibility are expected in this zone. Proposed development in this zone includes providing septic and water for campground offices, as well as the construction of an equipment storage building.

4.6 Cultural Landscape Overlay

Approximately 93% of Fisherman’s Island State Park is included within the Cultural Landscape Overlay with a focus on preserving and protecting the historical and cultural resources. The Cultural Landscape Overlay addresses the overall setting in which is found not only historic structures, but all non-structural evidence of the traditions, beliefs, practices, life ways, arts, crafts and social institutions of any community. This Overlay has been applied over the majority of Fisherman’s Island State Park in recognition of the cultural resources known to be present in this area, as well as those not yet

Activities, management and development within this overlay shall be sensitive to the cultural resources and provide opportunities for visitor understanding and education. Management shall focus on maintaining the cultural character of the zone and allowing development and activities that do not conflict with the cultural landscape.

Because the overlay crosses the boundaries of one or more management zones, refer to the underlying zone for planned actions at specific locations.



4.7 Scenic Overlay

Approximately 9% of Fisherman's Island State Park is included within the Scenic Overlay. The overlay has been applied to the entire Lake Michigan shoreline in recognition of its natural beauty.

Management within the overlay will focus on maintaining the quality of the viewsapes on which the zone is based and all activities and developments in the Scenic Overlay must be compatible with the overriding purpose of view quality. Natural resources may be modified, to the level permitted in the underlying zone, to support both visitor use and viewing.

Because the overlay crosses the boundaries of one or more management zones, refer to the underlying zone for planned actions at specific locations.



Viewsapes along the Lake Michigan

5. 10-Year Action Goals

The Action Goals proposed for Fisherman’s Island State Park were developed by the Planning Team in response to stakeholder and public input and in context with the core values and guiding resources discussed in Chapter 1 of this plan.

One of the priorities identified in this plan is to work with partners to improve trail connectivity between Fisherman’s Island State Park, other trail networks and local communities. Connections between communities and recreational assets will strengthen the regional identity and enhance economic prosperity. This action is supported by the recommendations of all of the major planning efforts guiding recreation in Michigan, including the Blue Ribbon Panel Report to Governor Snyder and the Michigan Comprehensive Trail Plan. The Governor’s Economic Prosperity initiative is another illustration of the importance of planning regionally. Fisherman’s Island State Park is located in Economic Prosperity Region 2.

The proposal from the Charlevoix to Traverse City trail planners to route part of the non-motorized linear trail through Fisherman’s Island State Park was the focus of much discussion during this planning process. While supporting the initiative and wishing to connect Fisherman’s Island to the proposed trail, the planning team felt that additional analysis is needed before a final decision can be made regarding the ability of the park to support a trail of this nature and the route it might take. This evaluation is one of the primary General Action Goals included in the list that follows.

Other improvements proposed will continue to maintain, improve and expand the recreation opportunities available while protecting the natural and cultural resources and maintaining the rustic nature which many visitors value in the park.

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

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

Management Plans do not guarantee future PRD funding to implement them. PRD will seek internal funding, alternative funding sources, partnerships and other potential mechanisms for implementing the desired future conditions defined in this plan. The 10-Year Action Goals address the desired future condition at the park, and serve as a blueprint for management decisions.

General Action Goals

Many of the 10-Year Action Goals for **Fisherman's Island State Park** are general in nature and apply within all of the management zones. These often deal with park-wide issues, such as invasive species control, universal access, developing Stewardship, Wildlife and Emergency plans, or marketing the park's many recreational opportunities to a wider audience of potential users. Many of the overall maintenance and operational issues of running a state park also result in the need for actions across all zone boundaries, such as law enforcement.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Natural Resources			
Create Phase I Natural Resource Stewardship Plan.	3-5 years	Regional Planner Stewardship Park Manager	Stewardship Ecologist
Implement invasive species control, with a strong emphasis on early detection and rapid response. Monitor roads, trails, and any new development sites for possible invasive species introductions.	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Fisheries	Park Manager
Protect piping plover nesting areas during the breeding season.	Ongoing	Stewardship Wildlife Park Manager Volunteers USFWS	Park Manager Stewardship
Continue to follow the administrative regulations for the critical dunes protection.	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager
Continue to protect the exemplary natural communities and legally protected species.	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship DEQ	Park Manager
Complete the Michigan Forest Inventory cover type mapping for the park.	5-10 Years	Stewardship	Stewardship
Historic/ Cultural Resources			
Review all proposed ground disturbing activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources.	Ongoing	Regional Planner Stewardship SHPO	Cultural Resource Analyst State Archaeologist
Conduct a Phase I archeological survey of the park.	10 Years	Stewardship SHPO	Cultural Resource Analyst Park Manager
Evaluate the condition and extent of known archeological sites.	5 Years	Stewardship SHPO	Cultural Resource Analyst Park Manager
Develop and implement an education and enforcement plan for protecting cultural resources and artifacts to prevent damage/collecting.	1-2 Years	Stewardship SHPO Law Enforcement Marketing & Outreach Park Manager	Cultural Resource Analyst Park Manager
Develop a monitoring program for cultural resources.	1-2 years	Park Manager Stewardship SHPO	Cultural Resource Analyst Park Manager

General Action Goals			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Recreation Opportunities			
Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering /trapping/birding.	Ongoing	Stewardship Wildlife Park Manager Fisheries	Park Manager
Work with regional partners to identify potential for connectivity to community trails beyond the park boundary.	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner Recreation Partners Trails Coordinator	Regional Planner
Work with partners to evaluate and identify appropriate Lake Michigan Water Trail access and amenities.	Ongoing	Regional Planner Park Manager Recreation Partners Trails Coordinator	Regional Planner
Evaluate existing park trails for appropriate use.	1-3 Years	Regional Planner Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager
Collaborate with key stakeholders to study route options and analyze the impact of a non-motorized trail running through the park as part of the regional trail proposal.	1-2 Years	Regional Planner Park Manager Recreation Partners	Regional Planner
Education/Interpretive Opportunities			
Develop an Interpretive Plan that considers a variety of traditional and new media, including audio and video technologies, podcasts, and other emerging technologies for interpretation opportunities.	TBD by state-wide priority	Park Manager Stewardship Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Marketing & Outreach Historical Center Park Manager
Implement the Interpretive Plan.	TBD by state-wide priority	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach
Implement strategies to include PRD field staff in interpretive programs.	1-2 Years	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach
Management			
Resolve ownership and public access rights at south end of the park.	1-2 years	Park Manager Regional Planner Real Estate	Regional Planner
Evaluate and make recommendations for existing motor vehicle access and parking at south end of the park.	1-2 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Regional Planner
Continue to explore strategic land acquisition within the park's project boundary.	Ongoing	Land Manager Park Manager	Land Manager
Define park boundaries with appropriate markers.	5 Years	Land Manager Park Manager	Park Manager

General Action Goals			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Development			
Continue efforts to achieve greater visitor accessibility in all development opportunities.	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Resolve ownership and public access rights at the south end of the park.	TBD by study	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager

Primitive Zone			
<p>The Primitive Zone emphasizes the natural resources of the area. It is managed to allow only dispersed, low frequency and low impact recreational use in the zone. Maintaining a high quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements are allowed. For this reason, native species and natural processes take precedence over visitor accommodation. The following 10-Year Action Goals propose only very low levels of development, in order to protect the important habitat. The Cultural Landscape and Scenic Overlays are used in recognition of cultural resources and the scenic lakefront.</p>			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Recreation Opportunities			
Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping/birding.	Ongoing	Stewardship Wildlife Park Manager Fisheries	Park Manager
Education / Interpretation Opportunities			
Inform the public of the value of natural and cultural resources in the primitive areas.	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Historical Center	Park Manager
Develop educational and interpretive signage for the cultural and natural features appropriate to the zone.	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager
Management			
Evaluate and make recommendations for trail crossings over Inwood and Whiskey Creeks.	1-2 Years	Stewardship Manager Regional Planner	Regional Planner
Continue to focus on control of illegal motor vehicle use and evaluate and implement measures to prevent illegal use.	Ongoing	Park Manager Law Enforcement	Law
Evaluate the need for land use order to control snowmobile use.	3 Years	Stewardship District Supervisor Park Manager	District Supervisor
Development			
Implement the recommendations of the trail crossings evaluation for Inwood and Whiskey Creeks.	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner District Supervisor Stewardship	Park Manager

Backcountry Zone

This zone emphasizes resource quality, but allows for limited modification of the landscape to accommodate a moderate level of non-motorized recreational use. At Fisherman's Island State Park, the Backcountry Zone follows the interdunal land forms and extends east to the park boundary. The Backcountry Zone also includes a portion of Whiskey Creek and other tributaries to Lake Michigan. The Cultural Landscape Overlay is overlaid in recognition of historic and cultural resources.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
<i>Since much of this land is not currently in state ownership, no actions specific to this zone are proposed at this time. Refer to General Action Goals.</i>			

Natural Resource Recreation

Active recreation at a medium to high density of use conducted in a natural setting is the hallmark of the Natural Resource Recreation Zone. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but in this zone higher levels of use are allowed. Vegetation may be managed to facilitate recreational use and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape, as well as address such issues as hazard trees and to manage pests and disease. The 10 year Action Goals are intended to promote and enhance diverse recreation opportunities. The Cultural and Scenic Overlay are overlaid in recognition of historic and cultural resources and the scenic lakefront.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Management			
Evaluate alternative lodging in the park: additional campsites or hike-in campsites; yurts, camper cabins, and similar options.	5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Evaluate potential for accessible campsites.	1-2 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Development			
Improve campsites for accessibility compliance based on evaluation.	3-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager
Conduct an engineering study to identify techniques to repair drainage and driving surface deficiencies on park roads.	2-3 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Evaluate appropriate recreational and access opportunities for the recently acquired 5-acre parcel at the end of Swanson Road.	1-5 Years	District Supervisor Regional Planner Park Manager	Park Manager

Developed Recreation

Active recreation with high density of use, conducted in areas not identified as having natural resource significance is characteristic of the Developed Recreation Zone. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced where possible. An area north and west of Bells Bay Road has been identified as an area where a higher density of use may occur. Although few action goals have been identified for the upcoming 10 year planning period, the zoning allows for more intensive recreation development should it be deemed appropriate in the future. The Scenic Overlay runs along the shoreline of Lake Michigan.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Management			
Evaluate the need for a designated beach area.	5-10 years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Evaluate demand and feasibility of a dump and fill station.	5-10 years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Evaluate alternative lodging in the park – modern campsites, yurt and/or camper cabin.	5-10 years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager

Administrative Zone

This zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration, operations, and the business of running the state park. The Administrative zone at Fisherman's Island includes the park contact station/office and service yard.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Management			
Continue to explore options for electronic/communication connectivity.	Ongoing	Park Manager District Supervisor	Park Manager
Development			
Provide septic system and water for campground office.	3 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Construct an equipment storage building.	3 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Provide modern bathroom/shower facilities for campers in the zone.	5-10 years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager

Cultural Landscape Zone

The Cultural Landscape Overlay addresses the overall setting in which is found not only historic structures, but all non-structural evidence of the traditions, beliefs, practices, life ways, arts, crafts and social institutions of any community. A Cultural Landscape Overlay has been applied over the majority of Fisherman's Island State Park in recognition of the cultural resources known to be present in this area.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Refer to General Action Goals.			

Scenic Zone

The Scenic Overlay is applied to the entire Lake Michigan shoreline in recognition its scenic value. The priority in this overlay is to maintain the natural beauty of the lakeshore for quiet enjoyment.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Refer to General Action Goals.			