

EDWARD E. HARTWICK PINES STATE PARK

PHASE 2 GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN LONG-RANGE ACTIONS

Ten-year action plan to protect the natural and cultural resources and provide access to recreation and educational opportunities at Hartwick Pines State Park.

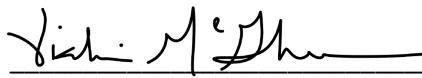


Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Parks and Recreation Division
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Hartwick Pines State Park Phase 2 General Management Plan Approvals:



Chief, Planning & Infrastructure Section

01-23-2025

Date



Chief, Field Operations Section

1-23-2025

Date



Chief, Parks & Recreation Division

1-23-2025

Date



Pine Forest Winter Scene

PLAN APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

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Reviewed and approved by:

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Presented for information to:

MSPAC – STEWARDSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE

NRC – MICHIGAN STATE PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Iconic logging wheel

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1. Introduction

Hartwick Pines State Park is located in the northern part of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula, just north of the City of Grayling in Crawford County. The park land was gifted to the State of Michigan in 1927 for the purposes of preserving and protecting a pristine white pine forest prior to their targeting by the logging industry and as a memorial to Edward E. Hartwick. The park offers a visitor center and a museum complex interpreting the early logging era in Michigan. Hartwick Pines State Park is 9,335 acres with convenient access from I-75. The park is home to a seasonal modern campground, year-round rustic cabin, group-use area, boat launches, a picnic area and 21 miles of year-round trails, including the paved 1.25-mile Old Growth Forest Trail. Hartwick Pines is a great destination for learning about logging history, hiking, paddling, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hunting, fishing, birding and exploring Michigan’s great outdoors.

The General Management Plan (GMP) guides the future long-term management of Hartwick Pines State Park and is based on the mission of the Parks and Recreation Division (PRD): “to acquire, protect and preserve the natural and cultural features of Michigan’s unique resources, and to provide access to land and water public recreation and education opportunities”.

1.1. Planning Objectives

The objective of the GMP is to bring together PRD staff, representatives from other divisions of the Department of Natural Resource (DNR), stakeholders and the public into a planning process that directs management decisions and implementation strategies for the park.

The [Phase 1 GMP for Hartwick Pines State Park](#), approved in 2012, established a 20-year management zone plan and defined the purpose and significance of the park. The supporting analysis included in the Phase 1 GMP provides important background information on the park such as park setting, area demographics, history, land ownership, legal mandates, and existing cultural, natural and recreation resources. This Phase 2 GMP builds upon the previous phase 1 planning effort by identifying actions the DNR desires to accomplish in the park as a whole and in each of the management zones over the next ten years. These are implementation items for park staff and partners, addressing infrastructure, park management, and operations that impact resource protection and visitor experience at the park.

1.2. Planning Process Overview

The Hartwick Pines State Park planning team met periodically over a 12-month period, beginning in fall of 2023. For this phase 2 plan, the first step was to review the Phase 1 GMP to ensure that no conditions have changed that would result in the need to amend the overall guiding document.

Input was sought from stakeholders and the public during the planning process to ensure the DNR is responsive to its partners and visitors. Stakeholders were invited to provide input early in the planning process through a workshop designed to identify strengths, challenges, and opportunities at Hartwick Pines State Park. The planning team used this information to guide the development of the draft Phase 2 GMP. The public was invited to review and comment on the draft plan through the project website or at a public

meeting. The planning team reviewed all the comments received before recommending the final plan for adoption. Some changes made to the plan as a result of public input included changing language in action items for clarification and adding an additional action item to address trail confidence markers.

1.3. Planning Team

This Phase 2 GMP was developed with valuable input and expertise of the planning team, which included the individuals listed below.

NAME	TITLE	DIVISION
Mike Signorello	Unit Supervisor	Parks and Recreation Division
Debbie Jensen	Management Plan Administrator	Parks and Recreation Division
Matt Lincoln	Lands Program Manager/Plan Administrator	Parks and Recreation Division
Ray Fahlsing	Stewardship Unit Manager	Parks and Recreation Division
Josh Pellow	Roscommon District Supervisor	Parks and Recreation Division
Scott Cook	Regional Field Planner	Parks and Recreation Division
Blake Gingrich	Trail Specialist	Parks and Recreation Division
Robb McKay	Historical Architect	Parks and Recreation Division
Tom Barnes	Grayling Unit Manager	Forest Resources Division
Lori Green	Lease and Regulatory Unit Specialist	Parks and Recreation Division
Brian Piccolo	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Division
Peter Rose	Geologist	Minerals Management
Craig Kasmer	Park Interpreter	Marketing and Outreach Division
Hillary Pine	Historian	Michigan History Center
Wayne Lusardi	Archaeologist	Michigan History Center
Brian Bury	Fisheries Biologist	Fisheries Division

1.4. Stakeholder and Public Input Overview

Stakeholder Meeting

A stakeholder meeting was held on January 24, 2024, at the DNR Grayling Field Office, to guide the Phase 2 GMP for Hartwick Pines State Park. Participants were invited to provide their input, identifying strengths, challenges and opportunities related to the park. A total of 10 participants represented government, business and tourism, non-profit organizations and the Hartwick family. The meeting began with a short presentation of the Phase 1 GMP that was completed in 2012 and a review of the planning process for this phase 2 plan. A full report of the meeting is provided in Appendix B.

Strengths identified by stakeholder representatives in attendance included the park location, trails, history education opportunities, the old growth forest, Hartwick family history, and a strong friends group.

Challenges for the park identified at the meeting included I-75 cutting through the park, condition of the Memorial Building, lack of funding, bicycle/pedestrian/vehicle conflicts, beech bark disease and old growth pine die-off.

Opportunities identified included construction of Lyle's blacksmith building, land acquisition, increased interpretation and education opportunities and improved media outreach.

Public Meeting

A public meeting was held at the Hartwick Pines State Park Visitor Center on August 6, 2024, to review the draft Phase 2 GMP and solicit comment on the 10-year action plan. The draft phase 2 plan was also posted on the DNR's website and comments were invited via e-mail and an online survey. A press release went out three weeks in advance of the meeting to 34,579 subscribers of the GovDelivery system, including stakeholders associated with the park. Six people attended the public meeting and provided comments on the draft plan. An additional 86 people provided comments via the online survey. In response to the comments received, some of the actions were reworded to better explain the intent and an action was added to improve confidence markers on the trails.

Tribal Outreach

The department's tribal liaison reached out to the twelve federally recognized tribes in Michigan with a letter notifying them of the GMP process, the timeline, and inviting input. No comments were received.

2. Phase 1 General Management Plan Review

The Phase 1 GMP for Hartwick Pines State Park was approved on July 17, 2012. The following information summarizes the significance statements and management zones for the park, which were defined in the plan.

2.1. Significance Statements

Hartwick Pines State Park was determined to be significant for the reasons listed below. These statements contain minor corrections made by the phase 2 planning team without changing the original meaning or intent.

- Hartwick Pines Visitor Center is one of only six visitor centers in the state park system and provides interpretation and education on the history and evolution of forest management and forest recreation in the State of Michigan. It also serves as the base for the Park Interpreter, Historian for the northern Lower Peninsula, Friends of Hartwick Pines Bookstore and several annual educational programs and events.
- The land was gifted to the state by Karen Hartwick to protect old growth forest and memorialize Edward E. Hartwick. A 86-acre stand of white pines was not cut during the 1880's logging boom and today it serves as a living example of Michigan's landscape prior to white pine logging.
- The park provides a range of natural communities supporting a variety of wildlife species and vegetation. The East Branch of the Au Sable River, which runs through the park, is a designated Michigan Natural River.

- The logging museum and white pine logging era cultural resources, including railroad grades, an 1896 logging camp, small townsites, stump fields, the 1953 chapel in the woods and the Edward E. Hartwick Memorial Building provide historical context, interpretation and education of the early logging industry in Michigan.
- The park is conveniently located off I-75 in the north-central area of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. It is one of the largest state parks in the Lower Peninsula and is surrounded by state forest land. This makes the park a hub for diverse recreational activities including camping, hiking, cross-country skiing, wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing.
- The Friends of Hartwick Pines State Park was one of the pioneering friends groups in the state park system. They provide support for educational programs and events at the park.
- A paved regional bicycle trail along Hartwick Pines Road connects the park to the City of Grayling, the Iron Belle Trail and the Forest Heritage Trail.
- The Michigan National Guard Camp Grayling training grounds is located nearby. This offers park visitors the opportunity to learn about military training at select viewing areas provided by the Michigan National Guard.

2.2. Management Zones

The Phase 2 GMP planning team reviewed the zoning map developed in the Phase 1 GMP and recommended a few changes be made. The park land located west of I-75 (omitted from the phase 1 plan) was zoned Backcountry to be consistent with adjacent land use and zoning. A 5-acre portion of the Natural Resource Recreation Zone located east of Hartwick Pines Road and South of Bobcat Trail is recommended to be changed to Developed Recreation for potential future campground and alternative lodging development. In addition, the Edward E. Hartwick Memorial Building location is recommended to be zoned History Education. A condensed review of the management zones, along with the zoning map, follows. A thorough description of each management zone can be found in the Phase 1 GMP.

- Backcountry Zone: This 5,137-acre zone (55% of the park) makes up the north and west sections of the park. It is characterized by a natural, wooded habitat, with minimal evidence of human impact through recreational use. This zone will maintain an emphasis on natural communities and processes and low-impact recreation, including hiking and biking trails and hunting.
- Natural Resources Recreation Zone: Totalling 2,717 acres (29% of the park), this zone includes most of the park land east of Hartwick Pines Road and land between the campground and I-75. The zone is characterized by pine tree forests and two small lakes. More active recreation with medium- to high-density use takes place here, with hunting and trail use for hiking and biking. There remains an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but higher levels of recreational use are allowed.
- Developed Recreation Zone: This 865.5-acre zone (9.3%) consists of the south-central section of the park, including the modern campground and primary day-use areas. The zone includes the Hartwick

Pines Visitor Center, the Hartwick Pines Logging Museum, the Memorial Building and the Old Growth Forest Trail. This zone features active recreation with higher density use than in the Natural Resources Recreation Zone.

- Visitor Services Zone: This 73-acre zone (less than 1% of the park) covers the east-central portion of the park where the headquarters is located. This zone encompasses the developed areas required for park administration and operations. It includes offices, contact stations, maintenance facilities, and all related land base required to conduct the business of operating the park. In this zone, natural resources are generally modifiable to support administrative needs of the park.
- Natural River Zone: Established to focus on the specific needs of the Au Sable River Natural River Plan, the 543.7 acres (5.8% of park) in the zone will be managed in a natural condition. Man-made intrusions are limited, and the goal is to maintain natural vegetative cover and high water quality.
- History Education Zone (Overlay): This overlay zone, totaling just over 4.9 acres (less than 1% of the park) of park land, includes the Hartwick Pines Visitor Center, the Hartwick Pines Logging Museum and the Edward E. Hartwick Memorial Building. Education opportunities are plentiful here, and this aspect provides the focus of the overlay. Cultural and historic resources are restored and interpreted for visitor understanding and enjoyment.
- Cultural Landscape Zone (Overlay): This overlay zone identifies unique cultural resources within the park. Remnants of the 19th century lumber industry, occupation of this land by settlers, and several CCC-era features are scattered throughout the park, allowing the park boundary line to serve as the identifying boundary for the zone. As an overlay, this zone designation serves to preserve these resources, while the underlying zones provide the management guidance.
- Scenic Zone (Overlay): This 2,783-acre zone (29.8% of the park) highlights areas of the park significant for their scenic value. As an overlay, this zone designation serves to preserve these special viewsapes. The underlying zones provide overall management guidance.

2.3. Changes Since Phase 1 General Management Plan

Infrastructure Improvements/Planning

The following projects have been completed since the original Phase 1 GMP was approved in 2012:

- (2014) Department of Corrections buildings removed – Camp Lehman
- (2017) Memorial Building fumigated and exhibits removed
- (2017) Visitor Center skywalk structural analysis performed
- (2015) land acquisition (gift)
- (2019) Memorial Building Volunteer Host Program established
- (2022) Blacksmith roof replaced
- (2022) Campground playground removed
- (2023) Memorial Building, chapel, bunkhouse and pavilion roofs replaced
- (2023) Beech bark hazardous trees removed

Project Boundary

A project boundary is a geographic area reflecting the future desired park boundary and may not follow the existing park boundary. The DNR has an interest in acquiring property within this boundary on a willing seller/ willing buyer basis in order to better align the park with the DNR mission. The planning team reviewed and concurred with the 2020 project boundary, which was determined through a statewide effort with input from the public and approved by the Natural Resources Commission.



Chapel in the Woods



Paved non-motorized trail from the park to Grayling



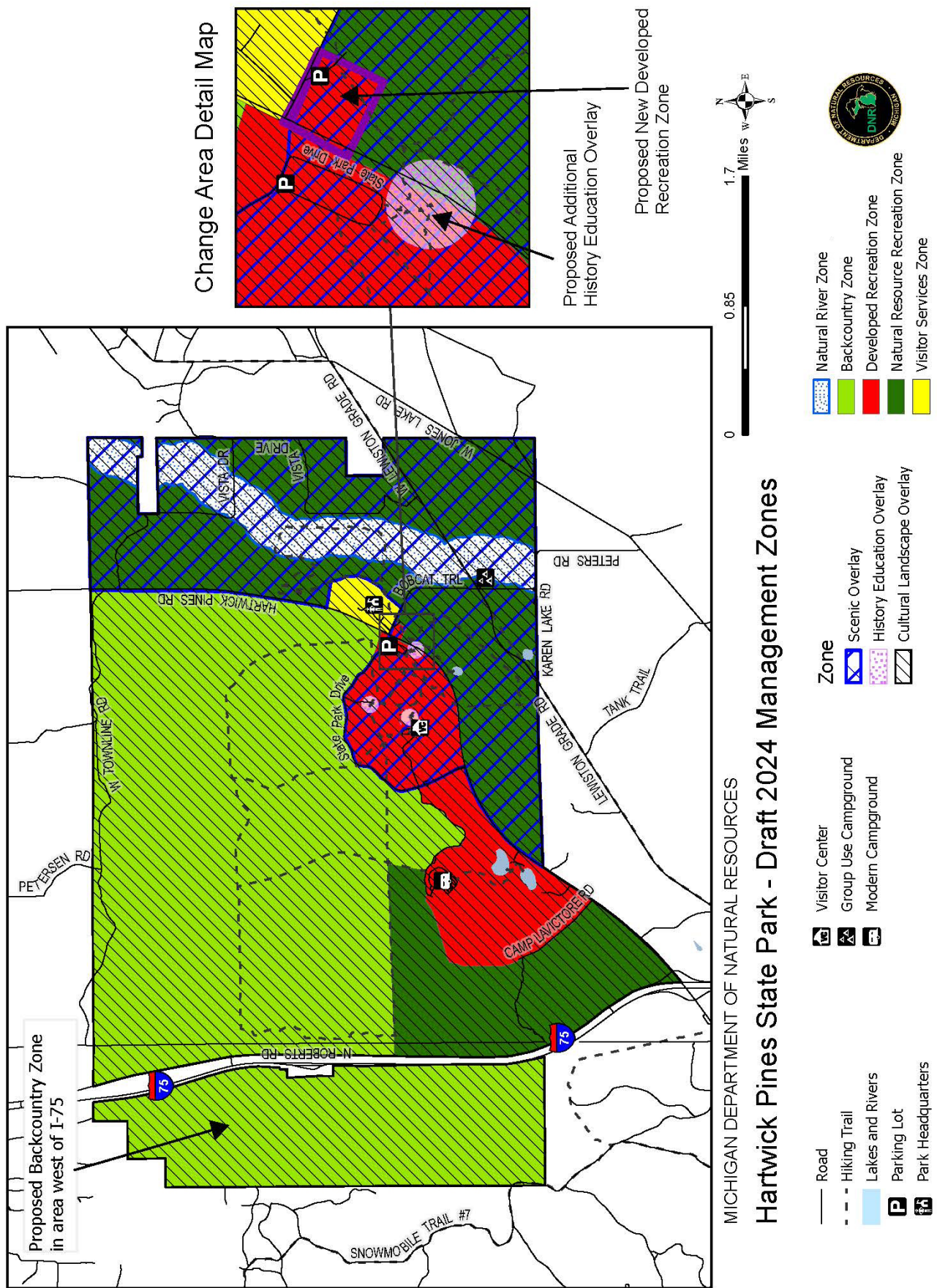
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Hartwick Pines State Park - Park Boundary



Updated: 01/08/2024

*A project boundary is a geographic area in which the DNR is seeking to acquire property that supports the mission of the DNR on a willing buyer / willing seller basis, approved by the Natural Resources Commission in May 2004



2.4. Supporting Analysis Updates

A complete supporting analysis is included in the Phase 1 GMP. Below are updates or additional information to supplement information provided in 2012 and provide context to this park planning process.

Land Donation

The 8,236.5 acres originally donated by Karen Hartwick to the State of Michigan includes deed restrictions to ensure that the timber on the property be properly protected and that the Department erect and maintain a building in memory of Edward E. Hartwick on the premises. The deed also includes provisions to name the park Edward E. Hartwick Pines Park. If the terms of the deed are not met, the land shall revert back to Karen Hartwick, her heirs, executors and administrators.

Water Recreation

Crawford County has an abundance of lakes and streams. Nearly all the lakes and streams in the county boast ample opportunity for fishing and other recreational activities. Many of the lakes provide public access and a limited few offer state forest campgrounds on their shores. The world famous Au Sable and Manistee rivers cross Crawford County. The Au Sable is the largest river in the county and has a mainstream length of 129 miles by the time it reaches Lake Huron. The river's cool, oxygen-rich water supports consistent and, at times, prolific insect hatches providing ideal conditions for trout. The Au Sable River has been designated a Natural River and is considered one of the premier trout streams in the Midwest.

The Manistee River, also considered a high-quality trout stream and designated a Natural River, runs for 232 miles before reaching Lake Michigan.. The upper section of the river in Crawford County is known for its brook and brown trout fishing. Both the Au Sable and Manistee rivers are popular fishing areas. Crawford County also has a rich heritage of canoe and riverboat use and paddle and float craft remain popular on the rivers. There are few circumstances within Crawford County where visitors are more than three miles from a waterbody, a result of the prevalence of lakes, streams, and rivers here.

Leases, Concessions and Operating Agreements

The park relies on several partners for the operations and maintenance of the park and park programs. The following are descriptions of the partnership agreements associated with the park.

- Forbush Corner Inc. provides maintenance and grooming of the trails in the park through an Operating Agreement.
- McGaw YMCA Camp Echo provides guiding services at several parks, including Hartwick Pines State Park through an Operating Agreement.
- The visitor center bookstore is contracted through the DNR Marketing and Outreach Division and the Friends of Hartwick Pines State Park.
- Friends of Hartwick Pines State Park provides support for education, events and projects at the park through a formal Memorandum of Understanding.

Geology and Mineral Resources

With thicknesses that can reach upwards of 1,000 feet in places, Crawford County has some of the thickest accumulations of glacial sediments in the state, providing an extensive record of Michigan's glacial history as well as significant potential for groundwater storage and aggregate resources. The bedrock directly underlying the glacial sediments consists of Paleozoic sedimentary rocks. These rock units are part of what is known as the Michigan Basin and were primarily deposited in nearshore and shallow marine environments when what is now Michigan was near the equator and covered by a shallow sea. Elsewhere in the state, many of these formations are significant sources of oil and natural gas production. However, beneath Hartwick Pines State Park, the potential for production of oil and gas from those known producing formations is considered low. In addition, surface use of the lands within the park is not permitted for mineral exploration and development activities.

General History

Encouraged by Michigan naturalist Genevieve Gillette, Karen, (Michelson), Hartwick, daughter of logging tycoon Nels Michelson, purchased 8,236 acres of land in 1927, including 86 acres of old growth white pine, red pine, and eastern hemlock from the Salling and Hanson Logging Company of Grayling. On October 3, 1927, Mrs. Hartwick deeded the land to the State of Michigan as a memorial park for her husband, the late Major Edward E. Hartwick of Grayling. Edward Hartwick died in France during World War I after contracting cerebrospinal meningitis. Karen also wished to commemorate the white pine logging era of the late 1800s. The deed required the Department of Conservation (predecessor to the Department of Natural Resources) to protect the land from logging and fire, construct a building dedicated to Edward's memory, construct a lumbering museum, and construct a roadway connecting M-27 (now old-27), to the park.

Hartwick Pines State Park opened to the public in May 1928 and the Memorial Building, manager's residence, and a barn/office were built in 1929. In 1933-35 and 1938, a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp was located within the park. The CCC enrollees built two log structures to house the Logging Museum and completed the interior furnishings of the Memorial Building. They also built the first campground, constructed trails, picnic tables and restrooms. Today, the Logging Museum recreates the atmosphere of an 1890s logging camp and tells the story of Michigan's white pine logging era. Karen Hartwick also put together one of the park's first exhibits – a room in the Memorial Building, dedicated to Edward Hartwick's life and military career.

Karen Hartwick was involved in the naming of two of the park's four lakes. She requested the Alexander Lakes be renamed in honor of her father's team of oxen used in his logging days – Bright and Star. The state board of geographic names said there were too many Star Lakes in Michigan, so they settled on Glory instead. The other two lakes were named Karen and Hartwick, in honor of Karen Hartwick.

On November 11, 1940, a windstorm, now known as the Armistice Day Storm, struck the park and knocked down nearly half of the old growth forest. It is believed that the winds hit the pines at a hurricane force, due to a funneling effect by a path of little resistance along M-93. Today, only 49 acres of the original 86 acres remain standing.

Since the 1930s, several modern facilities have been constructed, such as a Visitor Center, new park entrance, new campground, and a rustic cabin available for rent.

In the 1980s, the Old Growth Trail was paved, creating a more accessible trail and protecting the trees' root systems.

Park Use Numbers

Day use visitation averages just over 100,000 per year. The park is busiest in the summer months but is also popular in the fall.

The following table illustrates camping reservations for the last five years.

	FY 2019	FY 2020*	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023**
Camp Nights	12,376	10,914	14,841	14,187	14,195
Campers	33,407	27,676	35,829	32,653	31,528

**FY 2020 impacted by COVID 19 closure*

***FY2023 impacted by campground closure*

Shelter reservations average just over 800 persons per year.

Education and Interpretation

- Wood Shaving Days – This annual festival is offered the 3rd full weekend in July and is sponsored by the Friends of Hartwick Pines. It highlights the historic woodworking crafts of the Nineteenth Century. Craftspeople demonstrate woodcarving and other skills such as blacksmithing, rope making, woolspinning and weaving. The festival also includes a musical band that plays traditional folk songs and blue grass music. The park's historic sawmill and steam engine also operate during the festival.
- Forest Fest – This summer event has children's activities and games, exhibits and displays on various forest and natural resource-related subjects, information on the current status of the health of Michigan's forests and where to get natural resource management assistance.
- Black Iron Days – Sponsored by the Friends of Hartwick Pines, this annual festival occurs in August. It is considered to be the largest gathering of blacksmiths in Michigan. A variety of crafts-people gather their work, a band is present offering the sounds of traditional folk music and blue grass, and the historic sawmill is in operation throughout the duration of the festival.
- Maple Syrup Days – During this annual event in April, visitors can view tree taping demonstrations and watch as maple syrup is boiled. Area foresters are usually on hand to give tips and advice to anyone who wants to try their own hand at tapping trees and making maple syrup. Children's activities are held in the center's classroom and Michigan maple syrup and maple sugar candy are for sale in the center's bookstore.
- Living History Interpretive Programs – During the summer season, interpreters in period clothing from the 1890's present the history of Michigan's white pine logging era. Activities take place at the park's Logging Museum. Events include hands-on activities, such as using the crosscut saw and cant hook, laundry, blacksmithing and cooking. Visitors gain a firsthand understanding of what life was like in a northern Michigan logging camp.
- Lantern Lit Snowshoe Hikes – On three to four Saturdays throughout the winter, this program allows visitors to snowshoe or hike the lantern-lit Old Growth Trail. Visitors can borrow snowshoes from the Visitor Center and a bonfire at the Logging Museum allows visitors to warmup.

- Snowshoe Lacing Workshops- This program consists of three snowshoe making workshops that occur in the winter at the Visitor Center. While lacing their shoes, participants will learn about the history of snowshoes and why their popularity is growing.
- Guided Snowshoe Hikes – Saturdays during January, February and March of every year boast guided snowshoe hikes through Hartwick Pines' Old Growth Forest. At various points, the Park Interpreter and Historian stop to discuss animal signs and tracks, as well as historical facts and stories about winter logging done during Michigan's White Pine Logging Era. The hike ends, allowing participants to warm by a campfire and have a cup of hot cider while listening to logging camp stories.
- Full Moon Snowshoe Hike – Once a winter during a full moon, attendees walk the road to the campground and back, a roundtrip distance of two miles.
- Other Activities – Several special guests are scheduled to provide additional programs to the public throughout the summer. Also, staff at Hartwick Pines State Park offer daily programs at the Logging Museum, guided tours of the Old Growth Forest Foot Trail, and evening campground programs on the weekends.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Below is a list of rare species found within Hartwick Pines State Park.

Species	Scientific Name	State Protection	Federal Protection
Secretive locust	<i>Appalachia arcana</i>	Special Concern	
Dusted skipper	<i>Atrytonopsis hianna</i>	Special Concern	
Yellow banded bumble bee	<i>Bombus terricola</i>	Special Concern	
Red-shouldered hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Special Concern	
Blanding's turtle	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	Special Concern	
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Special Concern	
Cobweb skipper	<i>Hesperia metea</i>	Special Concern	
Grizzled skipper	<i>Pyrgus wyandot</i>	Threatened	
Eastern massasauga	<i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>	Threatened	Listed Threatened
Hill's thistle	<i>Cirsium hillii</i>	Special Concern	
False violet	<i>Dalibarda repens</i>	Threatened	
Rough fescue	<i>Festuca altaica</i>	Special Concern	

Below are the element occurrence natural communities (8 occurrences) found within the park:

1. (1) Dry Northern Forest
2. (2) Dry-mesic Northern Forest
3. (2) Northern Shrub Thicket
4. (1) Poor Conifer Swamp
5. (1) Poor Fen
6. (1) Rich Conifer Swamp

Climate Change

The following climate change impacts and vulnerabilities have been identified that could impact recreation and recreation infrastructure at Hartwick Pines State Park. *Source: Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science summary of vulnerability assessments – www.adaptationworkbook.org/explore-impacts.*

- Northern Michigan temperatures will increase between 4°F and 10°F by the end of the century, with more warming during winter.
- Northern Michigan's winter snowpack will be reduced by 30-80% by the end of the century.
- Northern Michigan will have 30-50 fewer days of frozen ground during the winter by the end of the century.
- Intense precipitation events will continue to become more frequent in northern Michigan.
- Climate conditions will increase fire risks in northern Michigan by the end of the century.
- Many invasive species, insect pests, and pathogens in northern Michigan forests will increase or become more damaging by the end of the century.
- Surface water temperatures are expected to rise due to warming air temperatures.

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

- Extended use season, which could have both benefits in terms of revenue and challenges in terms of staffing
- Less snow could result in a shortened use season for winter trail use
- Trail erosion
- Flooding due to increased precipitation
- More insect pests impacting visitors and vegetation
- Increased frequency and intensity of storms
- Higher temperatures affecting visitor comfort and safety, desire to be close to and access to the water and higher demands on electricity for camper cooling systems.

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

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

Legal Mandates

Legal mandates that impact Hartwick Pines State Park have been updated and are included in Appendix A of this plan for reference.

3. 10–Year Action Plan

The actions proposed for Hartwick Pines State Park have been developed by the planning team in response to stakeholder and public input and in context of the core values and guiding resources discussed in the Phase 1 GMP. The actions for Hartwick Pines State Park generally focus on improving the park’s infrastructure, protecting the park’s natural and cultural resources and improving interpretive and education opportunities. In addition, the actions also focus on improving resiliency to potential climate change impacts, including trail improvements to prepare for increased rainfall and flooding events and protections against wildfire risks. These actions are supported by the recommendations of the major planning efforts guiding recreation in Michigan, including the Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

The planning team has developed 10-year actions that it believes are necessary to guide management and development within the designated management zones in order to achieve the desired user experience. Actions are categorized under two types: Management and Operations or as Infrastructure and Development, which is further broken down to small projects and capital outlay projects. These categories align with the PRD Strategic Plan as well as the annual Capital Outlay funding process. Actions are recommended to address the following criteria:

- Natural resources
- Cultural resources
- Recreation opportunities
- Education/interpretation opportunities
- Management focus
- Development

A separate draft Natural Resource Stewardship Plan is in the process of being updated to identify conservation targets, goals and threats to those conservation targets for the park. The Stewardship Plan will also identify and define strategies to reach the goals for Hartwick Pines State Park.

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

As future improvements are evaluated, resiliency, sustainability, and efficiency will be considered. Specifically, at Hartwick Pines State Park, opportunities may exist to incorporate sustainable trail management practices and alternative energy solutions.

The following 10-year actions are categorized in terms of priority based on health, safety, and welfare, as well as ease of implementation (cost, ability to implement with own staff, partnerships, etc.). Priority Level 1 projects indicate those that should be addressed within the next 2 years. Priority Level 2 projects include those that should be addressed within 2-5 years. Priority Level 3 projects are desired, but can be tackled in the next 5-10 years, once funding has been identified. The “Program Input From” column identifies the project coordinators for each action with a project lead identified in bold. Opinion of probable costs have been developed for each capital outlay action identified (see Appendix C) and these projects will be included in the statewide master project list.

Management and Operations

Action	Priority	Management Zone	Program Input From
Continue to implement park Interpretive Plan.	Ongoing	All	Park Interpreter Michigan History Center
Actively pursue land acquisition within dedicated project boundary.	Ongoing	All	Land Liaison Unit Supervisor
Finalize the draft natural resource Stewardship Plan for the park, identifying targets for conservation and related natural resource management strategies, including invasive species management.	1	All	Stewardship Ecologist
Develop wildfire management plan.	1	All	Stewardship Ecologist Unit Supervisor FRD
Nominate the Salling and Hanson Lumber Camp in the National Register of Historic Places.	1	Backcountry	DNR Archaeology Michigan History Center Stewardship
Create educational materials on cultural resources stewardship and archaeological site protection/anti-looting.	1	All	Michigan History Center Stewardship DNR Archaeology Park Interpreter
Update park maps to include land west of I-75.	1	All	Unit Supervisor MOD
Improve WiFi connection at Visitor Center.	1	History Education	Unit Supervisor DTMB
Investigate potential for the addition of alternative lodging, rustic camping and/or a small smokeless campground.	2	Developed Recreation	Field Planner Unit Supervisor
Research and document provenance of large logging artifacts (e.g. Big Logging Wheel) and develop a plan for sustainable maintenance.	2	History Education	Michigan History Center Friends Group

Action	Priority	Management Zone	Program Input From
Complete archaeological assessment of park to determine archaeological stewardship priorities, including, but not limited to, field surveys, resource evaluations, resource monitoring, historic designations, interpretative signage and addressing resource damage or loss due to illegal artifact collection.	2	All	DNR Archaeology
Explore potential for limited harvesting of planted pines to restore oak pine barrens and oak barrens communities that could be hauled and skidded out by horse/oxen to demonstrate historic logging methods.	3	All	Stewardship Ecologist Regulatory Unit Michigan History Center Park Interpreter

MOD – Marketing and Outreach Division

DTMB – Department of Management, Technology and Budget

FRD – Forest Resource Division

Infrastructure and Development: Capital Outlay Projects

Action	Priority	Management Zone	Program Input From
Renovate Edward E. Hartwick Memorial Building exterior and building structure. (ARPA)	1	History Education	Field Planner Unit Supervisor Historic Architect
Upgrade campground electrical service including electric vehicle charging stations. (ARPA)	1	Developed Recreation	Field Planner
Replace lift station and upgrade sanitary sewer system.	1	Developed Recreation	Field Planner
Develop natural playscape at campground.	1	Developed Recreation	Promotion Specialist Field Planner Unit Supervisor
Replace exhibits in visitor center including interpretation of indigenous peoples and potential space for Edward E. Hartwick artifacts.	1	History Education	Michigan History Center Park Interpreter Field Planner
Rehabilitate Edward E. Hartwick Memorial Building interior for future use including electrical and plumbing.	2	History Education	Field Planner Unit Supervisor Michigan History Center MOD
Install new well for park headquarters and sign shop.	2	Visitor Services	Field Planner Unit Supervisor
Design and construct new boardwalks on the Au Sable River Trail.	2	Natural Resource Recreation	Trail Specialist Field Planner Unit Supervisor

Action	Priority	Management Zone	Program Input From
Design and construct an ADA accessible route between visitor center parking lot and visitor center.	2	History Education	Field Planner
Install solar panels at park headquarters and campground lift station.	2	Visitor Services	Field Planner
Replace Glory Lake and Bright Lake fishing piers.	3	Natural Resource Recreation	Field Planner Unit Supervisor
Resurface Old Growth Forest trail.	3	History Education	Field Planner
Develop a bicycle transportation circulation plan to improve safety between bicycles, vehicles and pedestrians within the developed areas of the park.	3	Developed Recreation	Field Planner Trail Specialist Unit Supervisor

MOD = Marketing and Outreach Division

ARPA = American Rescue Plan Act

ADA = Americans With Disabilities Act

Infrastructure and Development: Small Projects

Action	Priority	Management Zone	Program Input From
Add additional interpretive information panels for Edward E. Hartwick artifacts and land gift at Memorial Building.	1	History Education	Michigan History Center
Install ADA accessible hunting blinds.	1	Backcountry	Unit Supervisor Field Planner Wildlife
Improve trail wayfinding by installing confidence markers.	2	All	Unit Supervisor Trail Specialist
Renovate old park manager house for staff offices.	3	Visitor Services	Unit Supervisor
Replace visitor center parking lot lights.	3	History Education	Unit Supervisor Field Planner

ADA = Americans With Disabilities Act

Partnership Projects

Action	Priority	Management Zone	Program Input From
Continue to engage with Northern Michigan Veteran Connection Through the Outdoors Coalition to provide volunteer opportunities.	Ongoing	All	Unit Supervisor
Work with DNR staff to improve trail maintenance in partnership with Forbush.	Ongoing	All	Unit Supervisor
Continue operating partnership for bookstore in the visitor center.	Ongoing	History Education	Michigan History Center MOD Friends Group
Support local efforts to improve area cell service.	2	All	Unit Supervisor FRD
Install Lyle's Cabin blacksmith shop at the logging museum in partnership with friends group.	2	History Education	Unit Supervisor Friends Group Field Planner Historical Architect

MOD = Marketing and Outreach Division



Aerial picture of modern campground.

Photo credit Tyler Leipprandt and Michigan Sky Media LLC

4. Implementation Strategy

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

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

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

4.1. Implementation Toolbox

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

Coordination/ Communication

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

Funding

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

Scheduling

- Further prioritize projects based on need, funding, staffing and other constraints and opportunities.

- Incorporate project/task assignments into annual staff performance objectives.

4.2. Documentation of Changes

The Unit Supervisor/Manager should keep a record of any major changes to the park since approval of the GMP and note potential updates that may be required in the future. Documenting these changes will assist in the 5-year plan review or when the GMP is updated. Changes may include:

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

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

The park zoning is intended to be a long-term document. Changes will only be considered with adequate justification and are subject to a formal review and approval process.

4.3. Documentation of Accomplishments

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

4.4. Five-year Review Process

General management plans are reviewed every five years from the date of approval of either the Phase 2 plan or the complete GMP. The planning team for the 5-year review is made up of the Park Management Plan Administrator, Unit Supervisor/Manager, Regional Field Planner, and District Supervisor, with other team members included as may be necessary. A 5-Year Review Form will be used to record all changes to the plan within the past 5 years. Upon reviewing the GMP and the documented changes, the planning team will determine whether the changes warrant a complete update of the plan.

If there are no major changes required in either the zoning or the actions, the planning team will complete the 5-Year Review Form and attach it as a supplement to the existing GMP. If zoning changes are needed, the GMP will be revised or updated following the established planning process led by the Park Management Plan Administrator. If changes to the actions only are required, the Phase 2 GMP planning process will be implemented.

APPENDIX A – LEGAL MANDATES UPDATE

For all park general management plans, legal mandates are identified that serve to further guide the development of the general management plan and subsequent action plans. For our planning purposes, the term “Legal Mandates” refers not only to federal and state law, but also the administrative tools of “Policy” and “Directive” of the Natural Resource Commission, the Department, and the Parks & Recreation Division. Examples include Orders of the Director, Park and Recreation Areas State Land Rules and all other laws, commission orders, and rules or directives that apply to the park.

Legal Mandates were listed in the phase 1 plan. However, due to omissions and updates, a complete updated list of legal mandates impacting Hartwick Pines State Park follows.

FEDERAL STATUTE

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT, 1973
This Act authorizes the determination and listing of species as endangered and threatened, and prohibits unauthorized taking, possession, sale and transport of endangered species
BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLE PROTECTION ACT, 1940 AND AMENDMENTS
This Act prohibits anyone, without a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior, from "taking" bald eagles, including their parts, nests, or eggs. The Act defines "take" as "pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb." "Disturb" includes actions that may result in injury to the eagle, a decrease in its productivity or nest abandonment.
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT, 1966 AS AMENDED
This is the primary federal law governing the preservation of cultural and historic resources in the United States. The law establishes a national preservation program and a system of procedural protections which encourage the identification and protection of cultural and historic resources of national, state, tribal and local significance.

STATE STATUTE

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (NREPA) AND AMENDMENTS	
PA 451 of 1994, Part 5	Gives the DNR authority to make rules to support its mission. This includes State Land Rules, Land Use Orders, Wildlife Conservation Orders, Fisheries Orders and Watercraft Control.
PA 451 of 1994, Part 31 Water Resources Protection	Provides authority to EGLE to require a permit for any occupation, construction, filling, or grade change within the 100-year floodplain of a river, stream, drain, or inland lake.
PA 451 of 1994, Part 301 Inland Lakes and Streams	Requires a permit from the state (EGLE) to undertake certain activities relating to inland lakes and streams, such as dredging, fill, marinas, structures, alteration of flow, etc.
PA 451 of 1994, Part 303 Wetlands Protection	Requires a permit from the state (EGLE) to undertake certain activities in regulated wetlands, such as, dredging, fill, construction or drainage.
PA 451 of 1994, Part 305 Natural Rivers	Authorizes the DNR to develop a system of Natural Rivers in the interest of the people of the state and future generation, for the purpose of preserving and enhancing a river's values.
PA 451 of 1994, Part 351 Endangered Species Protection	The law governs those acts necessary for the conservation, protection, restoration and propagation of endangered and threatened species of fish, wildlife and plants in cooperation with the Federal Government.
PA 451 of 1994, Part 419 Hunting Area Control	Section 324.41901 establishes the powers of the Department to establish safety zones for hunting.
PA 451 of 1994, Part 741 State Park System	The department shall create, maintain, operate, promote, and make available for public use and enjoyment a system of state parks to preserve and protect Michigan's significant natural resources and areas of natural beauty or historic significance, to provide open space for public recreation, and to provide an opportunity to understand Michigan's natural resources and the need to protect and manage those resources.
PA 35 of 2010, Part 741 Recreation Passport	This act amended the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code to provide for a State Park and State-operated public boating access site "Recreation Passport" that a Michigan resident may obtain by paying an additional fee when registering a motor vehicle.
PA 451 of 1994, Part 761 Aboriginal Records and Antiquities	The state reserves the exclusive right and privilege to all aboriginal records and other antiquities including those found on the bottomlands of the Great Lakes.

PUBLIC HEALTH CODE	
PA 368 of 1978, Part 125, Campgrounds, Swimming Areas and Swimmers' Itch	Established to protect and promote the public health by establishing health code requirements and regulations that all public (including DNR) and private campgrounds must meet. Includes permitting, licensing, inspections and rules regarding sanitation, safety standards and public health. Also covers testing and evaluating quality of water at bathing beaches, safety and rescue equipment.

ORDERS

The following Orders apply to Hartwick Pines State Park.

Land Use Orders of the Director

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

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

(a) Enter any of the following state-owned lands with a motor vehicle unless a valid Michigan recreation passport has been purchased and affixed to the vehicle:

(28) Hartwick pines SP, Crawford county.

Wildlife Conservation Orders

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

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

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

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

7.17 Hartwick pines state park; hunting and trapping allowed; exceptions; posting required.

Sec. 7.17 (1) Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during the established seasons on all state-owned lands lying within the dedicated boundary of Hartwick pines state park in sections 2 to 11 and sections 14 to 18, T27N R3W, except for the following areas:

(a) All state-owned lands in the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of section 9 lying south and east of the 40-foot fire line; all that portion of the S 1/2 of the S 1/2 of section 10 lying south of the 40-foot fire line and east of state highway M93; all that portion of the NE 1/4 and all that portion of the NW 1/4 of section 15 lying north of state highway M93; and all that portion of the NE 1/4 of section 16 lying east of the 40-foot fire line; all in T27N R3W.

(b) All lands within the right-of-way of interstate highway I-75 in sections 6, 7 and 18, T27N R3W.

(c) the modern campground and day use areas.

(2) Signs containing the hunting closure shall be posted in such a manner and at such locations as will provide reasonable notice of the closure to the public.

State Land Rules

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

APPENDIX B – STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

Over the duration of the Phase 2 General Management Plan development process, the planning team ensured a variety of opportunities for stakeholder and public input and feedback.

Stakeholder Meeting

A stakeholder meeting was held on January 24, 2024, at the DNR Grayling Field Office, 2:00pm to guide the phase 2 general management plan for Hartwick Pines State Park. Participants were invited to provide their input, identifying strengths, challenges and opportunities related to the park. A total of 10 participants represented government, schools, and non-profit organizations from around the region. The meeting began with a short presentation of the phase 1 general management plan that was completed in 2012 and a review of the planning process for this phase 2 plan. Input gathered at the meeting is listed below:

STRENGTHS

Location/Awareness

- I-75
- Trail connections to community and school

Recreation

- “Off the grid” – no internet/phone
- Different experiences

Education

- Classroom for history
- Classroom for environmental studies
- Logging museum
- Hartwick Pines Memorial Building

Natural Resources

- Public appreciation of pines

Stakeholder

- Hartwick family history
- Support of Friends of Hartwick Pines group

CHALLENGES

Location

- I-75 cuts through the park cutting off a large chunk from the rest of the park

Facilities/Amenities

- Lack of cell service/wi-fi
- Condition of memorial building

Management/Maintenance

- Funding
- Large historic artifacts – no provenance/upkeep
- Cost and knowledge of provenance and upkeep
- Emergency access
- Access conflicts – cars/bikes/pedestrians on park roads

Natural Resources

- Tree damage from beech bark disease
- Die-off of pines

OPPORTUNITIES

Facilities/Amenities

- Bring back major Hartwick exhibits
- Lyle's blacksmith building
- Land acquisition – Robinsons Mill

Education

- Indigenous history/knowledge
- Interpretation of forest community types
- Timber management interpretation
- Phase 1 archaeological survey
- Interpretation of Section 4 logging camp
- Opportunity for education on beech bark disease

Communication

- Publicity and media

Natural Resources

- Natural resource restoration using traditional techniques

Recreation

- Trail system use for interpretive programs
- Artist in residence

Additional Meeting Notes

- Major Hartwick artifacts could be returned from Detroit Historical Museum
- Major Hartwick went to war in 1945 and died in France
- Karen Hartwick philanthropist, businesswoman, and mother
- Genevieve Gillette connection
- Proposed for oil drilling in park in the past (how can we prevent this in the future?)
- Wildfire management plan in progress
- General interest/publicity
- Stewardship plan for park in progress (incorporate in Phase 2 plan?)
- Discussion about how trails used to be groomed for cross-country skiing but aren't anymore

Planning Team Attendees: Matt Lincoln (Park Planner/Land Liaison), Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator) Scott Cook (Regional Field Planner), Ray Fahlsing (Stewardship Unit Manager), Josh Pellow (Park Manager), Craig Kasmer (Park Interpreter), Jason Fleming (Resource Management Section Chief), Mike Signorello (Park Supervisor), Hillary Pine (Michigan History Center), Blake Gingrich (Northeast Lower Peninsula Trail Specialist)

Stakeholder Meeting Attendees

Name	Stakeholder Affiliation
Jim Pearson	Representing Claire Hartwick Connor (Grandchild of Edward and Karen Hartwick)
Rob Pallarito	Senator Hoitenga
Julie Crick	Grayling MSU Extension Office
Deborah Carbeno	Friends of Hartwick Pines
Dennis Carbeno	Friends of Hartwick Pines
Alan Hartwick	Family Member (Grandchild of Edward and Karen Hartwick)
Ed Goscicki	Frederic Fire Department, Crawford County Board of Commissioners
Larry Damic	Forbush Corner Nordic
Lisha Ramsdell	Huron Pines
Bryant Eddy	Huron Pines

Tribal Outreach

The department's tribal liaison reached out to the twelve federally recognized tribes in Michigan with the following letter notifying them of the GMP process and timeline and inviting input. No comments were received.

Dear Tribal Leaders:

The Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is in the process of developing a Phase 2 General Management Plan (GMP) for Hartwick Pines State Park located just north of Grayling on Hartwick Pines Road.

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

The planning process includes several opportunities for input, including a stakeholder meeting and online survey. In addition, the draft plans will be available for review and comment prior to adoption.

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

We would like to give the Tribes the opportunity to meet with us to discuss the management plan process and any thoughts you may have in relation to any of these properties.

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

Sincerely,

Craig Brunet

*Legislative & Legal Affairs Office, Tribal Liaison
Executive Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Constitutional Hall, 525 West Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30028
Phone: 517.331-5350
Fax: 517.335.4242
brunetc@michigan.gov*

cc. Ms. Nicole Hunt
Ms. Debbie Jensen
Mr. Matt Lincoln

Public Meeting and Online Survey

A public meeting was held at Hartwick Pines State Park Visitor Center on August 6, 2024 at 6:00pm to review the draft Phase 2 General Management Plan and comment on the draft 10-year actions. The phase 2 plan was also posted on the DNR's website and comments were invited via e-mail and an online survey. A press release was issued 3 weeks in advance of the meeting to 34,579 recipients via the government-delivery system, including 38 stakeholders associated with the park. A total of 6 participants attended the meeting.

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



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

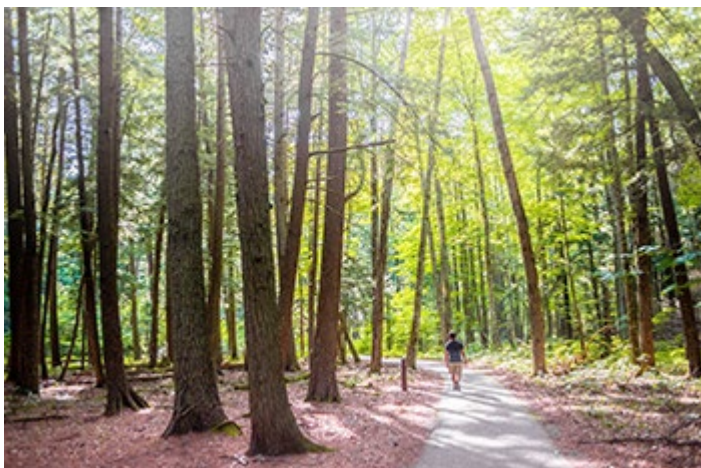
DNR News

July 19, 2024

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

DNR seeks public input on Hartwick Pines State Park planning

Online survey to capture additional feedback is available through Aug. 16



Those interested in long-term planning for [Hartwick Pines State Park](#) in Crawford County are invited to a Michigan Department of Natural Resources-hosted public meeting 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6.

It's an opportunity for people to learn about the new draft Phase 2 general management plan, proposed improvements and planning process, followed by time for feedback and questions with DNR staff.

The meeting will take place at the [Hartwick Pines Visitor Center](#), located at 2833 Monarch Drive, Grayling, inside the park.

The DNR uses general management plans to define long-range planning and management strategies that protect the resources of state parks, while addressing recreation and education needs and opportunities.

This 9,752-acre park, easily accessed from I-75, is named for its 49 acres of majestic, old-growth pine forest and the family that gifted the land to create the park. It is home to four small lakes, a modern campground, two undeveloped boating access sites, a rustic cabin, picnic areas and 21 miles of trails, including the accessible, 1.25-mile, paved Old Growth Forest Trail.



The Hartwick Pines Visitor Center immerses visitors in the story of one of Michigan's last stands of old-growth pine forest, and the [Hartwick Pines Logging Museum](#) brings the state's 19th-century logging era to life.

Survey, project website

A copy of the draft plan and a [public input survey](#) – open through Aug. 16 – are available on the project website for those who can't attend the meeting. Find links at [Michigan.gov/HartwickPines](#).

Comments and questions about the park, draft plan and meeting also can be shared via email with DNR Parks and Recreation Division land specialist Matt Lincoln at LincolnM@Michigan.gov.

Additional information on the DNR's general management planning process is available at [Michigan.gov/ParkManagementPlans](#).

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

- [Bird's-eye view of lake](#): Bright Lake, one of four small lakes visitors can enjoy at Hartwick Pines State Park in Grayling.
- [Old-growth pine forest](#): A visitor walks along the accessible, 1.25-mile, paved Old Growth Forest Trail in Hartwick Pines State Park in Grayling.



The public meeting began with a presentation of the primary components of the phase 1 GMP approved in 2012 and the action plan proposed in this phase 2 GMP. The presentation was followed by a brief question and answer period.

Participants were given several optional methods to express their comments, thoughts, and opinions. These methods included “sticky notes” for affixing comments directly onto the presentation boards, stickers for prioritizing their top actions, and a comment sheet. Two copies of the complete draft plan were available to attendees during the meeting for review.

Public Meeting Attendees

Steven Townsend
Jim Pearson
Eva Pickell
Donna Schuetter
Wayne Koppa
Michael Wilson

Planning Team Attendees

Hillary Pine, Park Interpreter
Mike Signorello, Unit Supervisor
Matt Lincoln, Park Planner

Questions and Answers

Question: Can you talk about the time when they were looking at getting rid of the park?

Answer: That was on nearby Forest Resources Division land. The park was never considered for closure and, in fact, is protected through deed restrictions.

Question: Is the Edward E. Hartwick Memorial Building the old visitor center?

Answer: Yes

Written Comments

Provide more educational/interpretive examples of how work was done during the logging days

Meeting Exercise and Online Survey Results

Each meeting attendee was given 6 green dots to prioritize the actions they considered to be the most important. Red dots were also available to indicate an action that was opposed. The online survey also gave respondents the opportunity to prioritize their top six actions. The table below records the number of people prioritizing actions at the meeting in green and those prioritizing actions via the online survey in blue. Comments collected that were associated with the actions are also recorded.

Ten Year Actions - Management and Operations

Action	Priority	Management Zone	Priority Stickers/Comments
Continue to implement park Interpretive Plan.	Ongoing	All	10
Actively pursue land acquisition within dedicated project boundary through letters to landowners.	Ongoing	All	25
Finalize the draft natural resource Stewardship Plan for the park, identifying targets for conservation and related natural resource management strategies, including invasive species management.	1	All	1, 32
Develop wildfire management plan.	1	All	2, 43
Nominate the Salling Hanson Lumber Camp in the National Register of Historic Places.	1	Backcountry	1, 15
Create educational materials on cultural resource stewardship and archaeological site protection/anti-looting.	1	All	15
Update park maps to include land west of I-75.	1	All	26
Improve WiFi connection at Visitor Center. (starlink)	1	History Education	11
Investigate potential for the addition of alternative lodging and/or a small smokeless campground where old campground was located.	2	Developed Recreation	12
Explore cell service improvements within the park with local entities.	2	All	20
Complete archaeological assessment of park to determine survey priorities.	2	All	9
Explore potential for harvesting a stand of trees that could be cut and skidded out by horse/oxen to demonstrate historic logging methods.	3	All	8

Ten Year Actions - Capital Outlay

Action	Priority	Management Zone	Priority Stickers/Comments
Renovate Edward E. Hartwick Memorial Building exterior and building structure. (ARPA)	1	History Education	5, 9
Upgrade campground electrical service to 50 amp including installation of electric vehicle charging stations. (ARPA)	1	Developed Recreation	16
Replace lift station and upgrade sanitary sewer system.	1	Developed Recreation	21
Develop natural playscape at campground.	1	Developed Recreation	1, 15
Replace exhibits in visitor center including potential space for Edward E. Hartwick artifacts.	1	History Education	4, 6
Rehabilitate Edward E. Hartwick Memorial Building interior for future use including electrical and plumbing.	2	History Education	4, 10
Install new well for park headquarters and sign shop.	2	Visitor Services	9
Design and construct new boardwalks on the Au Sable River Trail.	2	Natural Resource Recreation	34
Design and construct accessible route between visitor center parking lot and visitor center.	2	History Education	1, 7
Install solar panels at park headquarters and campground lift station.	2	Visitor Services	12
Replace Glory Lake and Bright Lake fishing piers.	3	Natural Resource Recreation	1, 14
Resurface Old Growth Forest trail.	3	History Education	2, 7
Develop a bicycle transportation circulation plan.	3	All	10

Ten Year Actions – Small Projects

Action	Priority	Management Zone	Priority Stickers/Comments
Add additional interpretive information panels for Edward E. Hartwick artifacts and land gift in Memorial Building.	1	History Education	3, 6
Install accessible hunting blinds.	1	Backcountry	2
Install gate at parking area west of I-75.	2	Backcountry	
Renovate old park manager house for staff offices.	3	Visitor Services	6

Ten Year Actions – Partnership Projects

Action	Priority	Management Zone	Priority Stickers/Comments
Continue to engage with Northern Michigan Veteran Connection Through the Outdoors Coalition.	Ongoing	All	9
Continue partnership with Forbush for trail maintenance.	Ongoing	All	17
Continue operating partnership for bookstore in the visitor center.	Ongoing	History Education	13
Install Lyle's Cabin blacksmith shop at the logging museum in partnership with friends group.	2	History Education	3, 13

The following are ten-year actions online survey participants and meeting attendees wanted to see added to the list.

- Park personnel had previously groomed ski trails with MDNR equipment. That should be resumed. Fore bush Corners only grooms a very small portion of the trails within the park. Forbush Corners grooms the very small portion at the northwest corner of the park so that a loop to/from Forbush Corners can be skied. But the balance, and vast majority, of the trail system within the park is no longer groomed. MDNR has the personnel and the equipment - why is the grooming no longer done? (2)
- Actual cell phone service that works in the campground
- WIFI in the campground
- Access to weather warnings/ tornado siren at campground
- wildfire warning system for the campground
- emergency telephone at the campground (2)

- larger visitor parking area at campground(to access back trails from campground in off season) plus it's very tight
- parking for a pickup truck
- Mountain bike single track (6)
- Long term expansion of the old growth acreage at Hartwick. The old growth stand at Hartwick is amazing and a glimpse of the spectacular nature of Michigan's forests before too many of them were cut down. Hartwick should prioritize adding to the acres of old growth forest over time because the small stand of less than 50 acres is vulnerable, and because a much larger stand would give people an even greater opportunity to experience the magnificence of Michigan's forests.
- Handicap access to all doors and bathrooms in building. Put in handicap buttons to open doors
- With regard to electric vehicle charging stations - in addition to electrical upgrades at the campsites, installing level 1 or level 2 chargers in the day use\trail head parking areas would be great. When visiting for day use, slower chargers would be more that sufficient to plug in to while using the trail system. Personally I spend 2-3 hours on the trails when I visit, and a low speed charger would be perfect. Plus they are way cheaper to install than a level 3 charger.
- Coordinate and collaborate with Michigan Indian tribes on education and cultural materials that could better educate the public on the history and use of this local and general land and water in pre-history and early historical periods (plus today).
- Add a primitive campsite loop with zero hookups for tents, pop-ups, and self-contained RVs. Not everyone needs or wants to pay for electricity. (2)
- Enhance wayfinding signage at the park - I always am not sure where I am and how to get back to my car. (2)
- Additional educational dioramas, geological education materials/mineral examples. Overnight experience for youth groups that allow them to experience the loving and lifestyle of loggers.
- Prioritize protection of stand of mature (old growth?) hemlock trees along the Ausable River Trail from the invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.
- Enlarge the campground! Need more camp sites!!
- I'd like to see greater emphasis for land conservation, stewardship and acquisition.
- Increase full hookup campsites in the modern campground. As more and more people camp and campers are getting larger, the use of full hookup will help to elevate morning and bedtime congestion in the restroom facilities.
- Make trails to Karen Lake and the other lake and install fishing piers.
- As you know State Park camping has exploded in the past 3 years. The single hole dump station is outdated. Great improvements have been made over the years at Ludington at South Higgins. It's time to invest at Hartwick.
- Importance of maintaining pristine area and history while updating campground for convenience of campers. Playground update very important.

The following are ten-year actions online survey participants and meeting attendees wanted to see removed from the list.

- Installation of electric vehicle charging stations. (ARPA) 99% OF PEOPLE DON'T HAVE ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND THIS WOULD BE A WASTE OF MONEY"
- Install accessible hunting blinds - I am not a hunter so this one catches me off guard. Why promote hunting in this particular park. I see Hartwick as my favorite park to hike in. Let them hunt elsewhere. (3)
- Create educational materials on cultural resources stewardship and archaeological site protection/anti-looting.
- Complete archaeological assessment of park to determine survey priorities.
- We just used the old growth trail with the track chair and it seems fine so I think it should be removed for now.
- Install solar panels at park headquarters and campground lift station.
- Explore potential for harvesting a stand of trees that could be cut and skidded out by horse/oxen to demonstrate historic logging methods. (4)
- The actions that only an employee would identify and value should not be included in a general public survey. It dilutes the actions that apply to citizens and non-employees.
- Don't spend money on cell service. Its camping. People did and still can, survive without service for two weeks or less. (5)
- Yes mostly everything on your list of upgrades and living here in Roscommon I see it first hand all the trails that use to be shaded with forest trees are now chopped up is not worth seeing
- Star link for use in wifi upgrade. I think a more dependable and durable method could be employed. If cell service is improved wifi problem could be corrected. Exploring these options as partners with providers may also benefit community access. Maybe fed funds for infrastructure could be used. (2)
- Investigate potential for the addition of alternative lodging and/or a small smokeless campground where old campground was located. (2)
- Demonstrating traditional logging techniques is great — but cutting trees in the state park is inappropriate. Better to partner with local landowners planning a harvest.
- I do not understand v Design and construct accessible route from visitors center parking lot to visitors center. There are already 2 paths now, I do not feel that there needs to be additional paths or that the paths now need to be reconstructed. Maintained - yes.
- Develop a bicycle transportation circulation plan.
- Add additional interpretive information panels for Edward E. Hartwick artifacts and land gift in Memorial Building.
- Renovate old park manager house for staff offices.
- Continue to engage with Northern Michigan Veteran Connection Through the Outdoors Coalition.

Additional Comments Received

- Change whole park to a no hunting or trapping area
- Control smokey fire burning campers, very bad for lungs! Lots of smoldering fires, either burn or put it out!
- More ranger presence in the campground for dog control(kids walking unfriendly dogs they cannot control alone)
- Fix ancient sewer outlets and electric pedestals, fix leaking water spigots(one water spigot is always running)
- Make check in times earlier, when temperatures are cooler so RVs A/C will cool the camper.
- Even offer a higher price for early check in? or offer a lower price for early check out?
- More ranger presence in the campground for safety. They used to stop and chat with you, say hello, etc. Not anymore.
- Maintain the natural wonders as much as possible. Protect it
- Leave the Woods and Tree's Alone stop trying to modernize things every time man touches nature its ruined
- Continue with any and all programs that teach and educate people of all ages about our local history.
- Teach the public about invasive species.
- Over the past several years I believe I have seen an increase in interest about foraging and using the natural resources around us. I would love to see guided park tours that teach visitors about edible plants. Even tours that talk about uses of plants to make crafts and household items. These may already exist; if so they need to be advertised about more. This would most likely involve volunteer help as money is hard to come by as we all know.
- Key - Maintain the primitive unique old growth forest atmosphere.
- No hunting or trapping allowed in park. Create a State Park preserve so the land and waters and forest are permanently protected.
- Watch for dangerous leaning trees on walking path through old forest.
- I'm pleased to see a format for discussion on Aug. 6th. Obviously, as Major Hartwick's grandson I'm interested in the State honoring the terms of my grandmother's deed for the park property by maintaining a renovated Memorial Bldg. I would expect a \$ estimate would be developed for each option as I'm sure the available funding limitations.
- I believe the mix of Michigan history and environmental experiences make the Pines a truly unique setting for visitors of all ages.
- If upgrading the Memorial Bldg. is considered, I'd be willing to donate some items , I'm aware of other items that could be made available.
- Finally, I hope the partnership with the park bookstore is maintained. Spreading the story of Michigan's logging history, and the efforts to care for its natural resources is vital to their preservation for future generations. - Alan Hartwick

Project Website

A webpage was maintained through the duration of the planning process and was updated with maps, meeting information and the draft plan. Contact information was provided for members of the public to submit comments or ask questions.

Satisfaction with public input opportunities

The online survey was completed by 86 individuals and the responses received are incorporated above. Respondents were also asked to rate the level of satisfaction with the options provided to review and comment on the draft plan. , an average rating of 3.8 out of 5 was received from 81 respondents. Reasons for their ratings varied, with many commenting that they appreciated the different opportunities for providing input and that the plan covered a wide-range of topics. Others felt that some of the actions required further explanation and that the plan should focus on items that impact park visitors rather than park management.

APPENDIX C

Capital Outlay Projects Opinion of Probable Cost

State Park Funding

The primary funding sources for state park improvement and development projects are Recreation Passport sales (motor vehicle registration fee), the Park Endowment Fund (generated from royalties from oil, gas and mineral extraction on public land) and the Park Improvement Fund (from camping and other state park user fees). From these sources, the annual capital outlay budget for state parks varies from year to year and has averaged approximately \$14 million per year over the past few years.

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

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

Estimated Cost of Proposed Developments

The following table provides an estimate of probable cost for each capital outlay development project proposed at Hartwick Pines State Park over the next ten years. Management and operations actions, small projects, which are funded out of district or park funds, and those lead by partners, are not included in this list but may have additional financial implications. The costs are based on information available at the time and will be refined as conceptual and detailed designs are completed. Where noted, the costs may only include studies or project planning, which will provide direction for development costs if determined appropriate. The costs are based on 2024 prices and should be adjusted according to the consumer price index and the market at the time of implementation.

The following actions are ranked in terms of priority based on health, safety, and welfare, as well identified need and ease of implementation (cost, ability to implement with own staff, partnerships etc.). Priority Level 1 projects indicate those that should be addressed within the next 2 years. Priority Level 2 projects include those that should be addressed within 2-5 years. Priority Level 3 projects are desired but can be tackled in the next 5-10 years once funding has been identified. Actions that are currently funded but are not yet completed were not listed below.

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

Infrastructure and Development: Capital Outlay

Action	Priority	Opinion of Probable Cost
Renovate Edward E. Hartwick Memorial Building exterior and building structure. (ARPA)	1	\$1,300,000
Develop natural playscape at campground.	1	\$200,000
Rehabilitate Edward E. Hartwick Memorial Building interior for future use including electrical and plumbing.	2	\$1,300,000
Install new well for park headquarters and sign shop.	2	\$450,000
Design and construct new boardwalks on the AuSable River Trail.	2	\$325,000
Design and construct an ADA accessible route between visitor center parking lot and visitor center.	2	\$600,000
Install solar panels at park headquarters and campground lift station.	2	\$300,000
Replace Glory Lake and Bright Lake fishing piers.	3	\$800,000
Resurface Old Growth Forest trail.	3	\$500,000
Develop a bicycle transportation circulation plan to improve safety between bicycles, vehicles and pedestrians within the developed areas of the park.	3	\$50,000
	Total	\$ 5,625,000

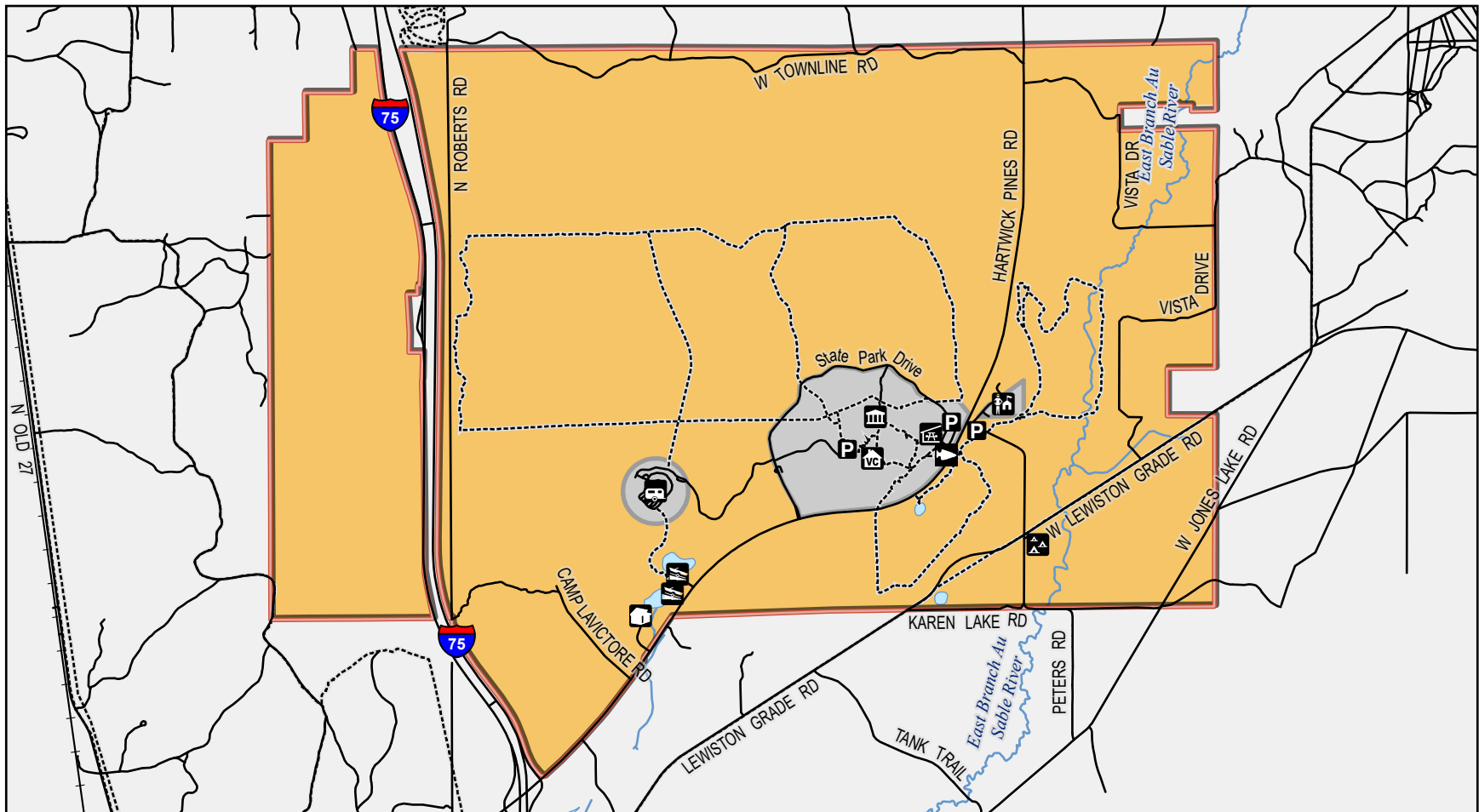
** Does not guarantee funding.*

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

APPENDIX D

Resource Maps

1. Park Amenities
2. Park Boundary
3. Management Zones
4. Funding Sources
5. Land Cover
6. Land Cover, 1800s
7. Exemplary Natural Communities
8. Soils
9. Topography
10. Wetlands



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Hartwick Pines State Park - Park Amenities

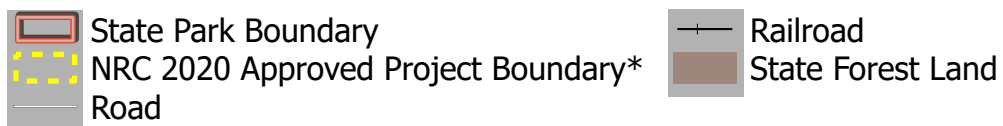
- | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| State Park Boundary | Lake/Pond | Boating Access Site | Park Headquarters | Group Use Campground |
| Road | Open to Hunting | Picnic Shelter | Logging Museum | Modern Campground |
| Railroad | Closed to Hunting | Historical Memorial Building | Visitor Center | |
| Trail | Parking Lot | | Camper Cabin | |
| River/Stream | | | | |





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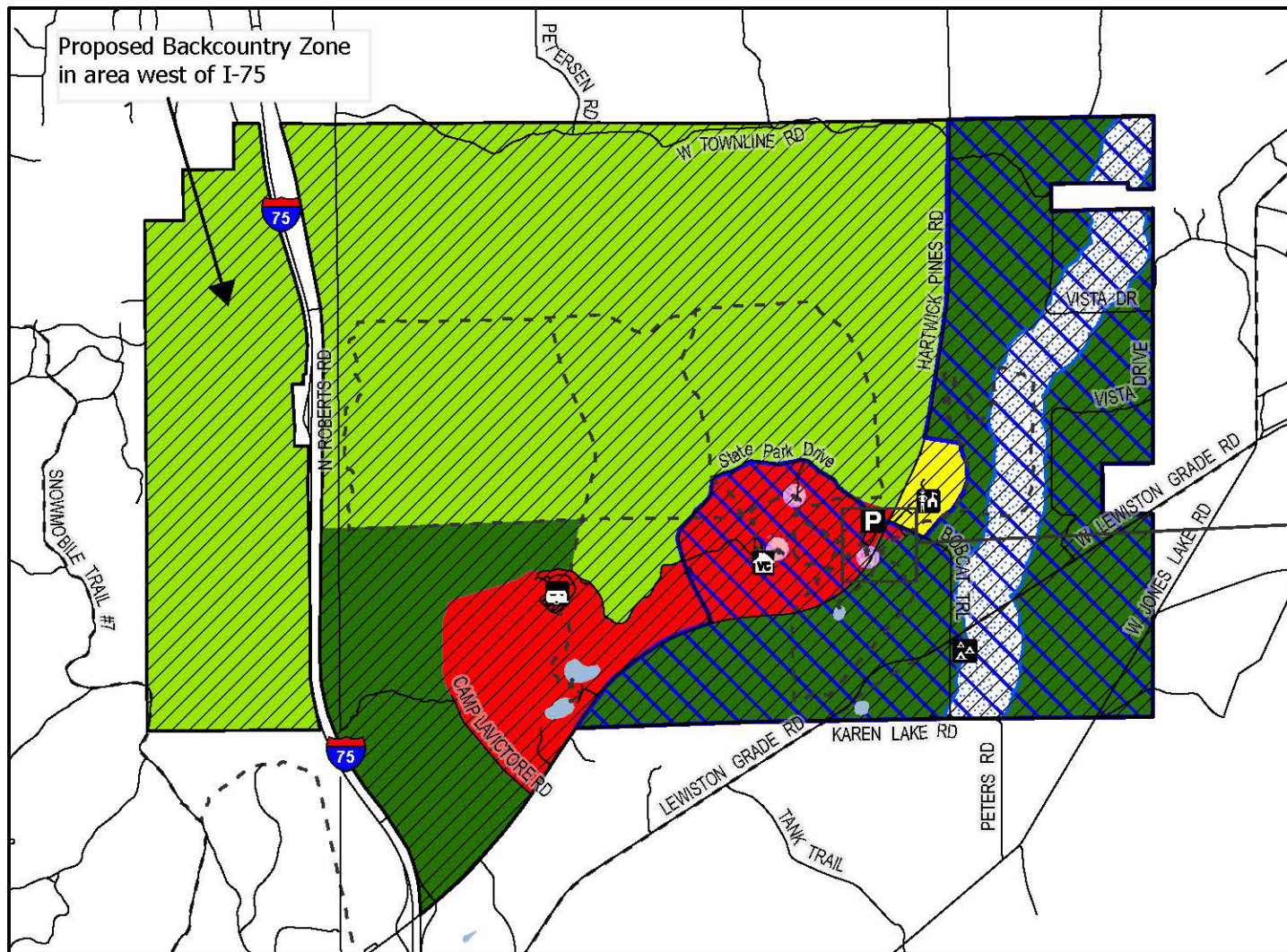
Hartwick Pines State Park - Park Boundary



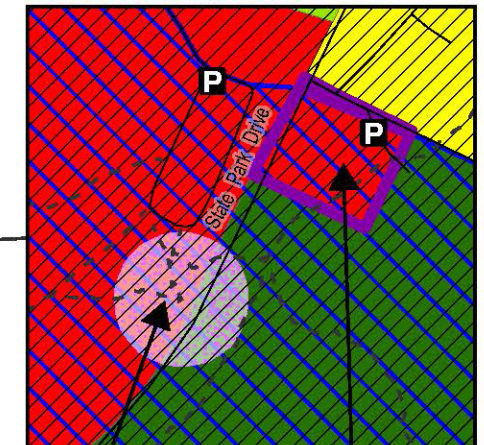
Updated: 03/11/2024

*A project boundary is a geographic area in which the DNR is seeking to acquire property that supports the mission of the DNR on a willing buyer / willing seller basis, approved by the Natural Resources Commission in May 2004





Change Area Detail Map



Proposed Additional
History Education Overlay

Proposed New Developed
Recreation Zone

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Hartwick Pines State Park - Draft 2024 Management Zones



- Road
- - - Hiking Trail
- Lakes and Rivers
- P Parking Lot
- PA Park Headquarters

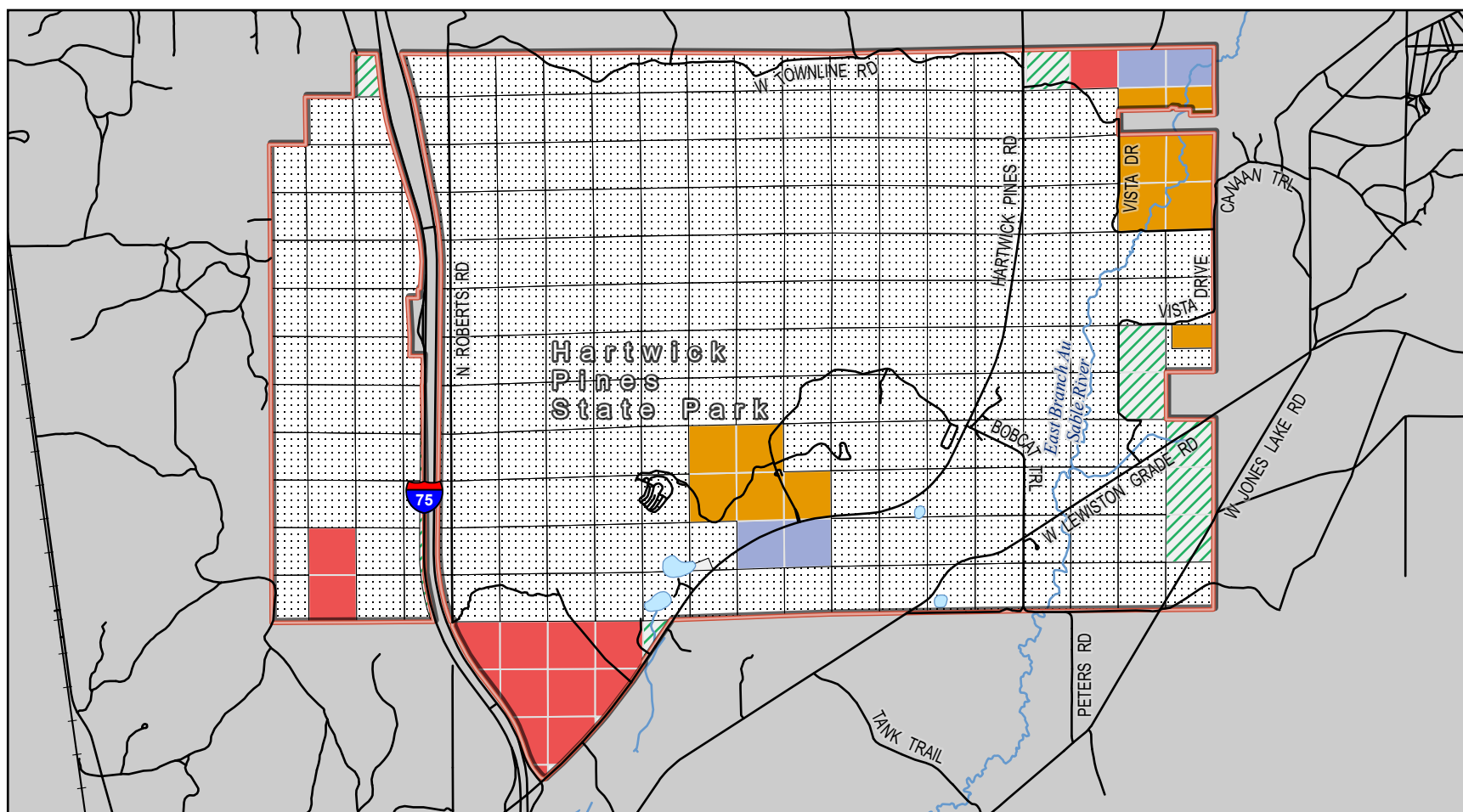
- PA Visitor Center
- AA Group Use Campground
- CA Modern Campground

Zone

- Scenic Overlay
- History Education Overlay
- Cultural Landscape Overlay

- Natural River Zone
- Backcountry Zone
- Developed Recreation Zone
- Natural Resource Recreation Zone
- Visitor Services Zone













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Hartwick Pines State Park - Funding Sources

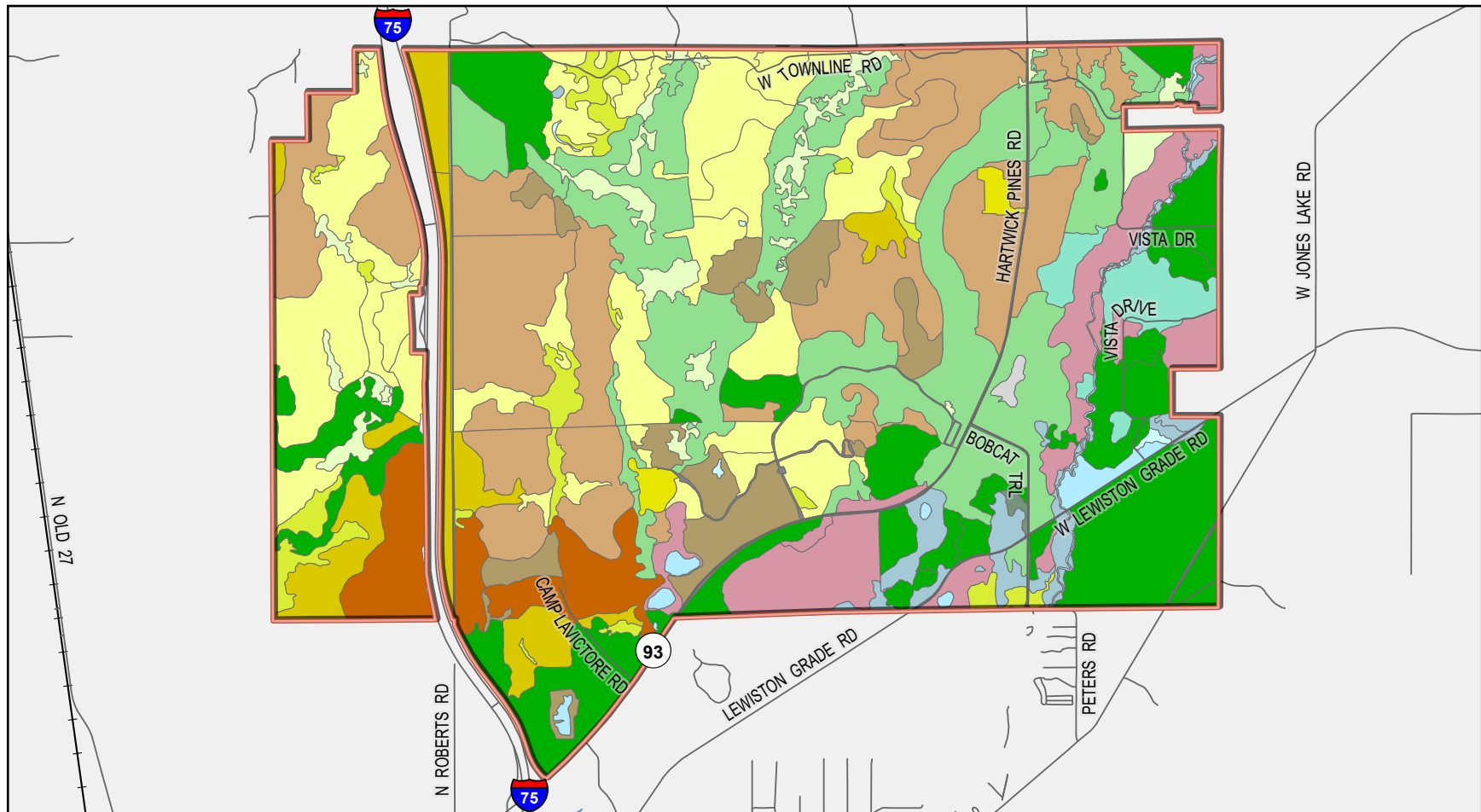
-  State Park Boundary
-  Road
-  Railroad

- Funding Source**
-  Gift
 -  Special Legislation

-  State Game Fund
-  Tax Reverted Land
-  Exchange Acquisition

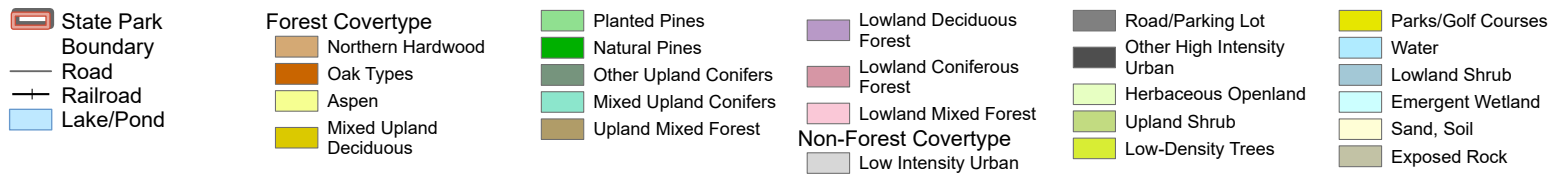
Updated: 03/13/2024





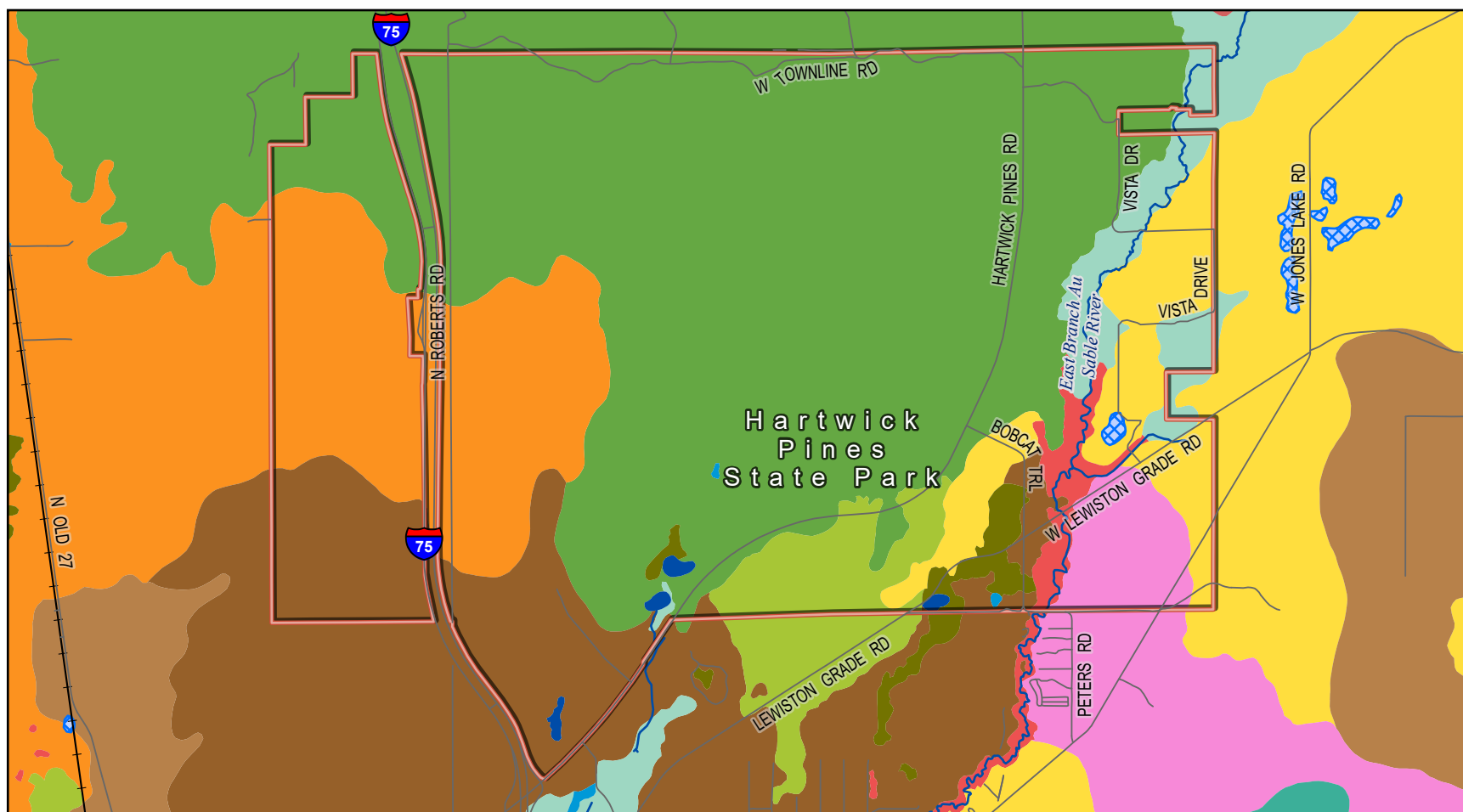
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Hartwick Pines State Park - Land Cover



Updated: 11/17/2023

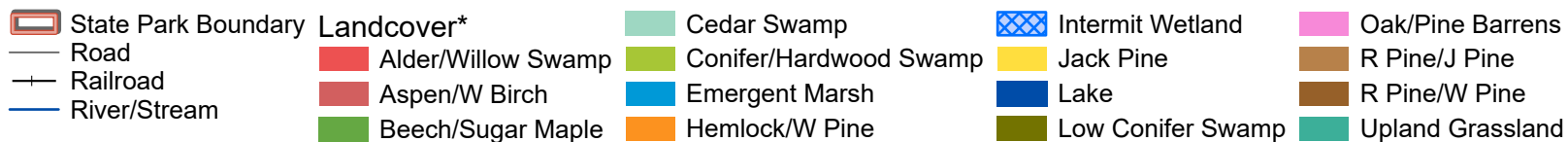
*Michigan Forest Inventory, Michigan DNR



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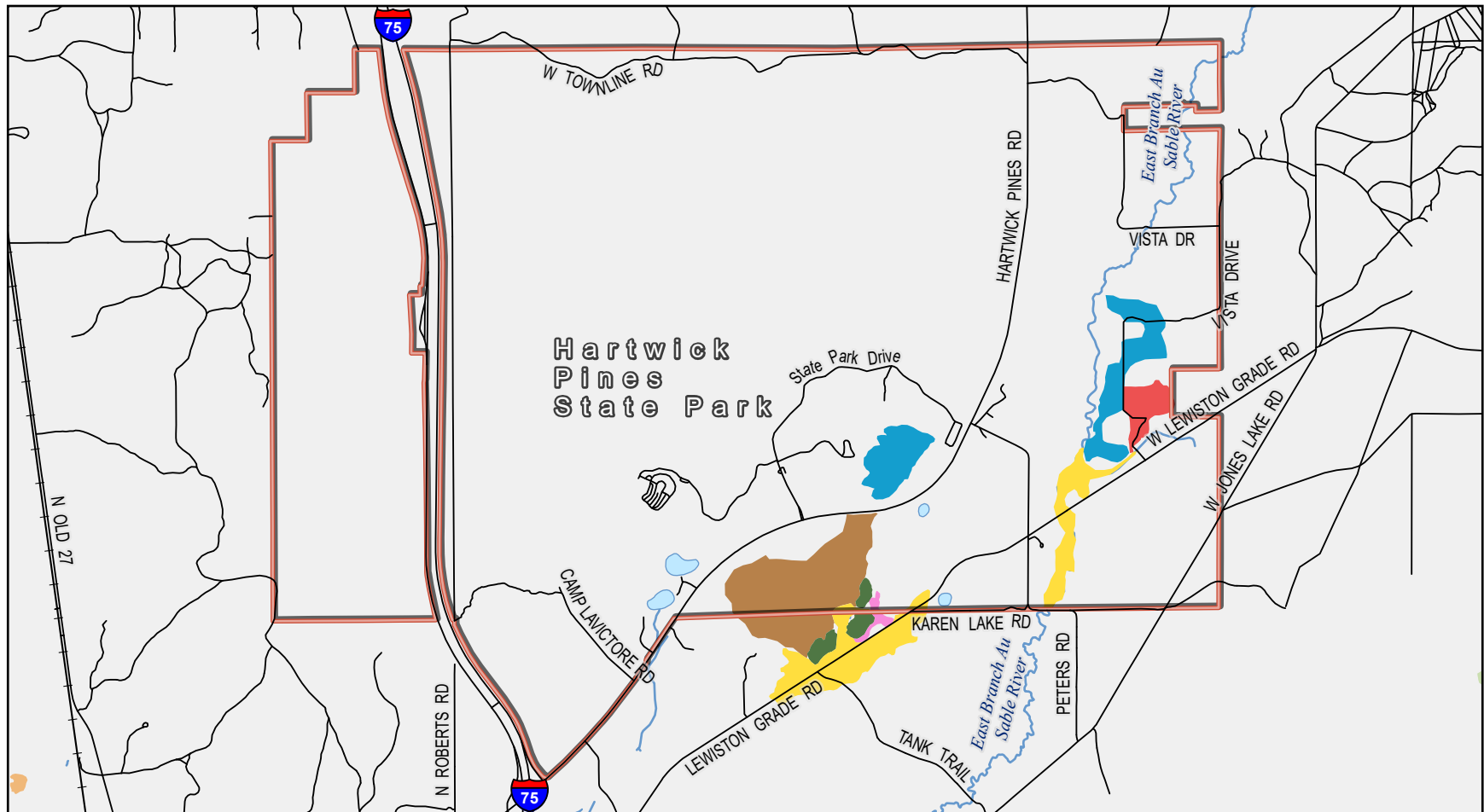
Hartwick Pines State Park - Land Cover, 1800s



Updated: 03/12/2024

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





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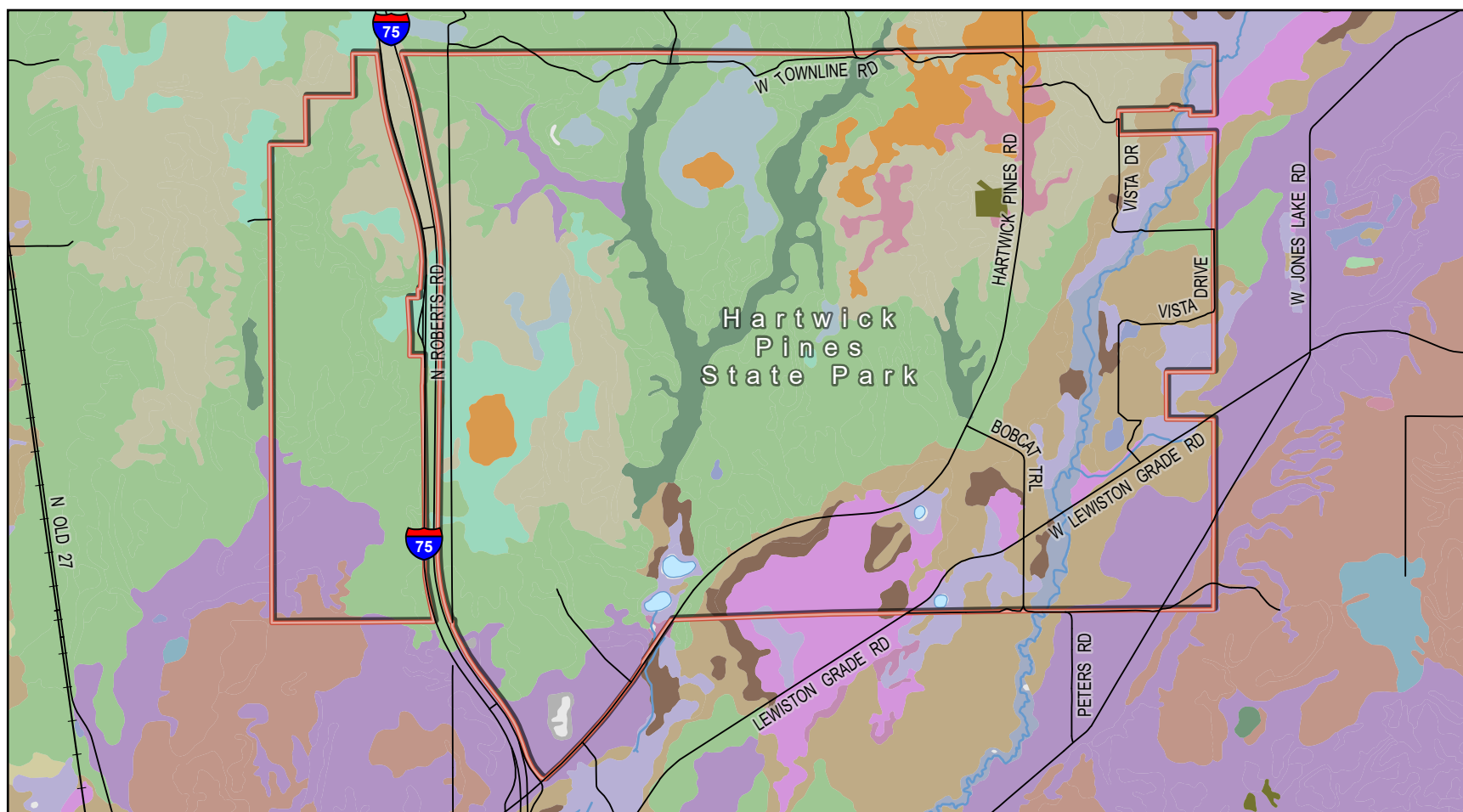
Hartwick Pines State Park - Natural Communities



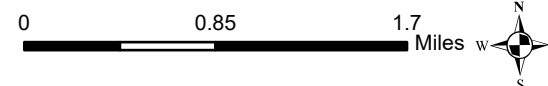
Updated: 11/28/2023

*Natural Communities of Michigan (Michigan Natural Features Inventory)





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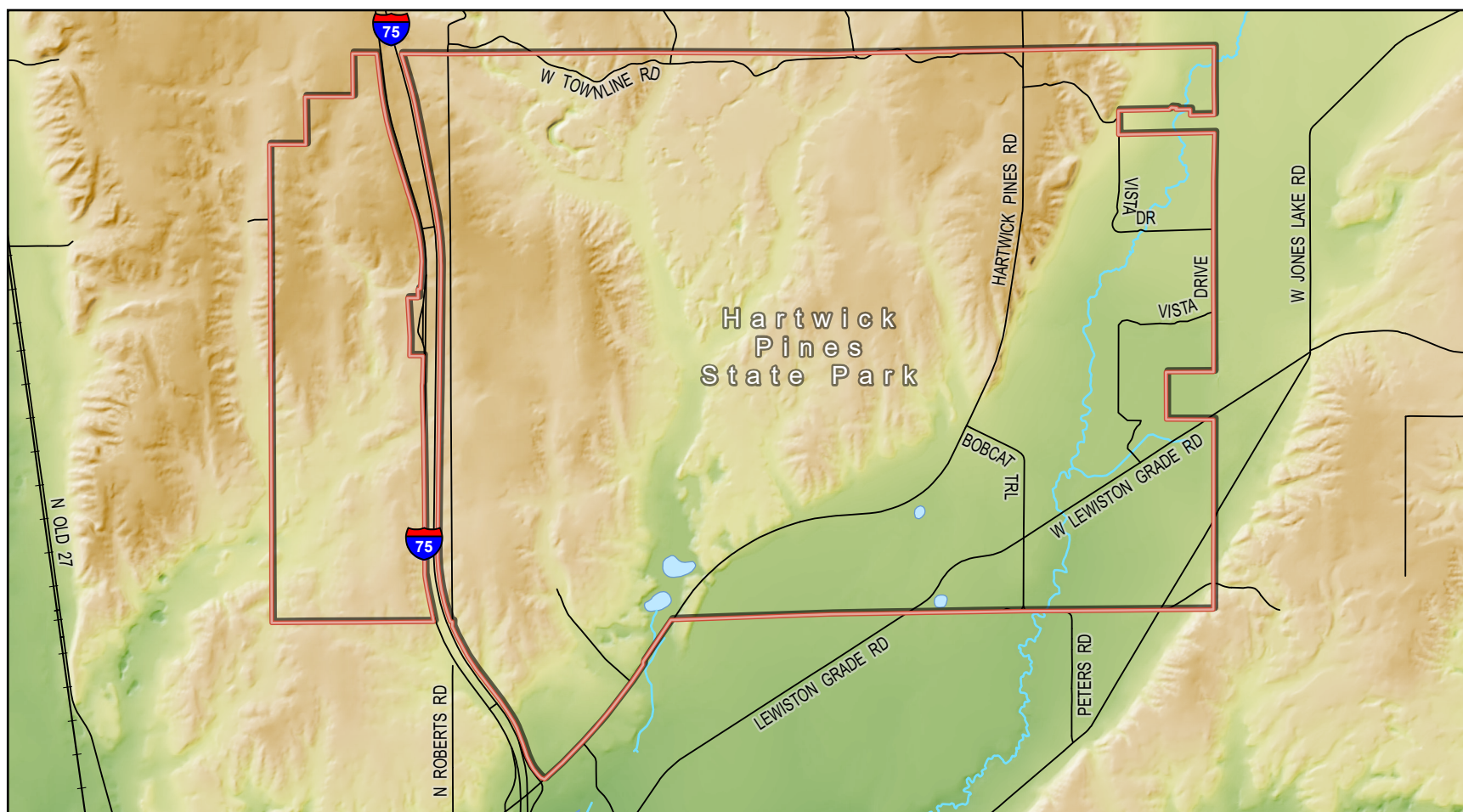
Hartwick Pines State Park - Soils

State Park Boundary	Soil Composition*	Croswell sand	Hartwick sand	Leafriver muck
Road	Au Gres muck	Dawson peat	Histosols muck	Montcalm loamy sand
Railroad	Au Gres sand	Feldhauser fine sandy loam	Kalkaska sand	Pits, borrow
Lake/Pond	Ausable muck	Graycalm loamy sand	Kellogg sand	Rubicon sand
River/Stream	Blue Lake loamy sand	Graycalm sand	Kinross muck	Tawas muck
	Grayling sand	Klacking loamy sand	Udipsamments sand	

Updated: 03/18/2024

*Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Map Sheets, Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) Database, summarized and symbolized by esri





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Hartwick Pines State Park - Topography

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

Elevation (feet)

1425

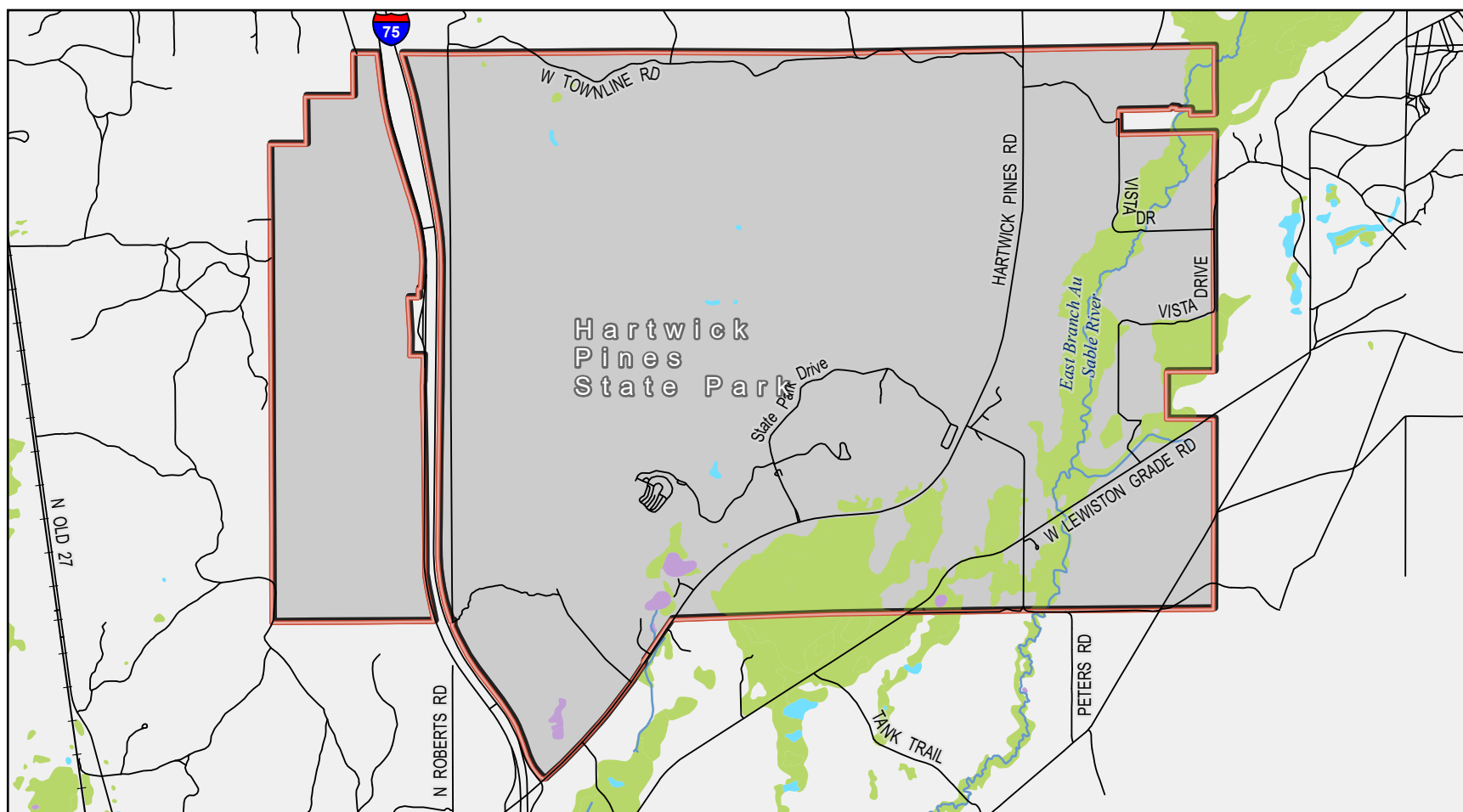
1153



Updated: 11/22/2023

*Elevation Calculated from USGS National Map 3D Elevation Program (3DEP). May 16, 2023.





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Hartwick Pines State Park - Wetlands

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| State Park Boundary | Wetlands* |
| Road | Freshwater Emergent Wetland |
| Railroad | Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland |
| River/Stream | Freshwater Pond |

Updated: 11/22/2023

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

