



General Management Plan

F.J. McLain State Park



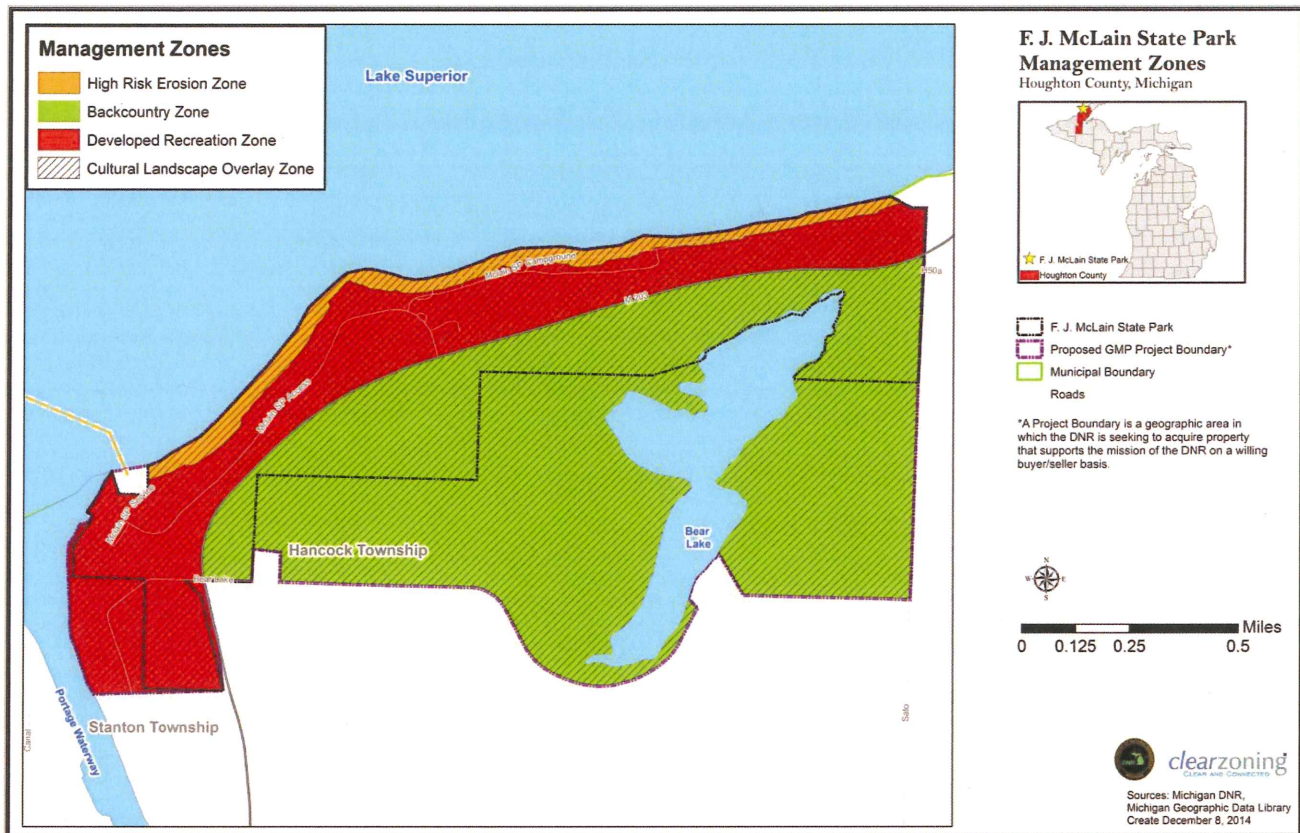
Approved March 27, 2015
Michigan DNR Parks and Recreation Division



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

Financial assistance for this project was provided, in part, by the Michigan Coastal Zone Management Program, Department of Natural Resources (DEQ), through a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce.

The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations in this plan are those of the DNR and do not necessarily reflect the view of the DEQ and the NOAA.

Plan Approvals:

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Chief, Parks & Recreation Division

3/11/15

Date

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3/26/15

Date

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3/27/15

Date

PLAN APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

PRD – SECTION CHIEFS:

01/05/15
Date

PRD – MANAGEMENT TEAM:

12/12/14
Date

DNR – RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BUREAU:

01/13/15
Date

MSPAC – STEWARDSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE

01/15/15
Date

NRC – MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

02/12/15
Date

Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 02-2015-01

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE “F.J. MCLAIN STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN”

ADOPTED: February 12, 2015

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division has completed the General Management Plan for F.J. McLain 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 F.J. McLain 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 F.J. McLain 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 F.J. McLain State Park.

Submitted by: Mike McDonald, Acting Chair, MSPAC Stewardship Subcommittee

Motioned by:	Mary Pitcher	Yeas:	11
Seconded by:	Mike McDonald	Nays:	0
		Abstained:	0
		Absent:	5

This Resolution was unanimously adopted by the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee at their February 12, 2015, meeting as Resolution No. 02-2015-01.

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Executive Summary

F.J. McLain State Park, with 443 acres, is located in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula and stretches along 2 miles of rocky Lake Superior shoreline. The majesty of Lake Superior attracts visitors from near and far. Park users can enjoy lakefront camping, swimming, sunset viewing, night-sky viewing, beach walking, wind surfing, nature viewing, bicycling and various other recreational activities. Additionally, numerous local organizations, schools, and groups use the park to host events including the annual Portage Canal Run, Michigan Technological University's K-Day, and Run the Keweenaw.



Furthermore, the park serves as an important recreational resource for visitors exploring the history and culture of the Keweenaw Peninsula, which is well-known for copper mining. The park's location between Calumet and Hancock provides easy access to attractions such as abandoned shafthouses, tram cars, "poor rock" piles and ghost towns.

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 F.J. McLain 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 Park and Recreation Division's Mission Statement: to acquire, preserve, and protect natural and cultural resources while providing recreation and education opportunities.

Financial assistance for this project was provided, in part, by the Michigan Coastal Zone Management Program, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), through a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations in this plan are those of the Michigan DNR and do not necessarily reflect the views of the DEQ and the NOAA. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks & Recreation Division (PRD) oversaw the planning process. The Plan was developed with significant and valuable input from the Planning Team, stakeholders, and the public. Two recent studies specifically guided the F.J. McLain State Park GMP; Geophysical Survey Report, Materials Testing Consultant (MTC), September 2014 and Bluff Recession Rate Analysis at F.J. McLain State Park, MDEQ, August 2014. A summary of each of these reports is included in the Appendix. Additionally, several existing planning documents, including the Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Michigan State Parks Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel Report and the Michigan Comprehensive Trails Plan were used as guiding references.

Significance of F.J. McLain State Park

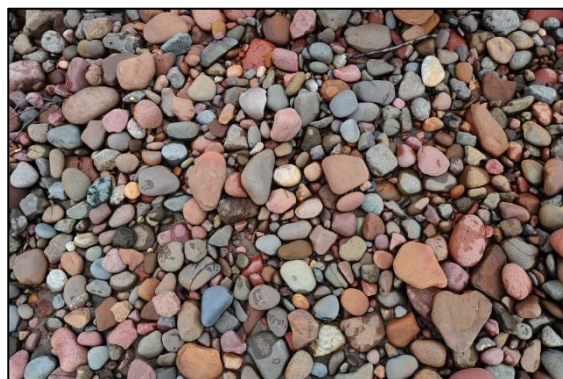
Each GMP developed by the PRD is built upon the park's unique significant features that make it distinct from other parks in the state's system. F.J. McLain State Park was determined significant due to the following features and opportunities (refer to Chapter 3 for more detailed statements).

- **Superior Location** - Located in the Keweenaw Peninsula, F.J. McLain State Park provides 2 miles of Lake Superior shoreline and offers visitors the opportunity of lakefront camping, swimming, sunset and lighthouse viewing, beach walking, and several other land and water activities. The park is easily accessible from M-203 and in close proximity to the historic, cultural and recreational resources of the Keweenaw Peninsula.
- **Shoreline Erosion** – The Lake Superior shoreline found within the park is designated by MDEQ as a High Risk Erosion Area. Shoreline erosion threatens to alter the recreational assets found at the park and, in particular, presents a significant challenge to the park in finding an appropriate, protected location for the campground and its infrastructure. The impact of erosion at the park also presents an education and research opportunity.
- **Cultural, Historical and Natural Resources** - F.J. McLain State Park serves as a base-camp for the exploration of the rich copper mining history and European culture of the Keweenaw Peninsula. The park has opportunities to further connect with regional cultural, historic, scenic, and, recreational resources throughout "Copper Country."

Management Zones

A key goal in the development of this General Management Plan is to continue providing the opportunities and features that attract so many visitors to the 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, three zones and one overlay were applied to F.J. McLain 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 Management Zones is as follows:

- **High Risk Erosion Zone** – approximately 19 acres (4%) of the park, including almost the entire length of the park's shoreline, is designated High Risk Erosion Zone in recognition of highly sensitive areas where active erosion has been occurring for at least 15 years.
- **Backcountry Zone** – approximately 162 acres (37%) of the F.J. McLain State Park is designated Backcountry Zone. While the Backcountry Zone allows for low-intensity recreational opportunities including hiking, cross-country skiing, hunting and nature observation, the character of the zone is intended to be natural with minimal evidence of human impact.



The park's rocky Lake Superior shoreline

- **Developed Recreation Zone** – approximately 262 acres (59%) of the park is designated Developed Recreation Zone. The zone includes land with limited natural resource significance. The campground and day use area are located in the Developed Recreation Zone.
- **Cultural Landscape Overlay**– the entire F.J. McLain State Park is designated Cultural Landscape Overlay due to the rich cultural, and maritime resources within the park. There are several archaeological sites located within the park.

10-Year Action Goals

The General Management Plan looks at each management zone and identifies 10-Year Action Goals that the Planning Team believes are necessary to guide management and development within the zones in order to achieve the desired user experience and natural resource protection. Action goals are categorized under General Action Goals if they pertain to the park as a whole or under the applicable management zone. Highlights from the Action Goals detailed in Chapter 5 include the following:

General Action Goals (apply park-wide)

- Develop a new Master Plan and Transition Plan for relocation of park infrastructure
- Relocate or maintain park facilities and infrastructure consistent with Master Plan and Transition Plan
- Continue to support the Keweenaw Water Trail

High Risk Erosion Zone

- Maintain lake viewing, swimming, beach walking, and like activities consistent with the zone
- Control access to beach in a way that protects the resource and minimizes further shoreline erosion
- Phased relocation of infrastructure and facilities out of the High Risk Erosion Zone consistent with the Master Plan and Transition Plan

Backcountry Zone

- Perform Phase 1 archaeological survey
- Evaluate opportunities for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and/or mountain biking trails

Developed Recreation Zone

- Pursue acquisition of Coast Guard property and evaluate suitability of Portage Canal for recreational opportunities
- Maintain and improve facilities and structures consistent with Capital Outlay priorities

Cultural Landscape Overlay

- Continue to protect cultural resources
- Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources



Aerial image of F.J. McLain State Park

1. Core Values & Guiding Resources

Core values are the foundation upon which the park management plan is based. Core values are derived from the mission statements of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Parks & Recreation (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



An opportunity for visitors to rest while overlooking Bear Lake

"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. Several of the recommendations included in the report include:

- Identify and protect important natural, cultural, historic, and prehistoric resources
- Diversify funding
- Prioritize development of statewide and regional systems of connected trail networks
- Encourage greater connections between communities and their recreational assets to strengthen regional identities
- Integrate tourism and economic development marketing
- Prioritize investment in parks and recreation



Michigan Comprehensive Trail Plan (2013 - 2018)

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

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

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

PRD Strategic Plan (2009-2019)

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

Managed Public Land Strategy (2013)

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

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

1.3 Summary of Legal Mandates

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

The legal mandates that most directly impact planning and management of F.J. McLain State Park focus on the following areas:

- Compliance with public health and safety regulations regarding campgrounds, wastewater systems, and discharge of pollutants to surface water and groundwater.
- 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.
- Designated High Risk Erosion Areas and requirements related to their use.

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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.

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

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

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

2.2 Planning Objectives

The objective of the General Management Plan is to bring together Parks & Recreation Division staff, staff from other resource divisions, stakeholders, and the public into a planning process that defines and clarifies the unique "Purpose and Significance" of F.J. McLain 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.

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



Planning Team members tour the park in May 2014

2.3 Planning Team

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

DNR Staff		
Division	Title	Name
PRD	Management Plan Administrator	Debbie Jensen
PRD	Planning Analyst	Matt Lincoln
PRD	Unit Supervisor	Jamie Metherringham
PRD	Unit Supervisor (Retired)	Leland VerBerkmoes
PRD	District Supervisor	Bill Doan
PRD	Ranger	John Codere
PRD	Regional Planner	Eric Cadeau
PRD	Cultural Resource Analyst	Lisa Gamero
PRD	Stewardship Unit Manager	Ray Fahlsing
FD	Fisheries Biologist	George Madison
LED	Western U.P. Supervisor	Lt Peter Wright
LED	Conservation Officer	Matthew Eberly
M & O	Park Interpreter	Bob Wild
WLD	Wildlife Ecologist	Sherry MacKinnon

Clearzoning Consultants

David Birchler, AICP, PCP, Chief Executive Officer

Jill Bahm, AICP, Principal Planner

Mardy Stirling, Senior 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 utilized a variety of methods to gather feedback and input from park users. In particular, the public input survey was developed to gather general information about park visitors, how they use the park, as well as recommendations for improving features and amenities offered at the park. See Appendix B: Public Input Summary for more survey result information. Over 420 individuals responded and provided input via the on-line survey.

Section	Qn #s	Type of Questions
About You	1-6	This section asked general questions about the respondent including age, zip code, number of park visits per year, preferred season of visit, and how they typically access the park
Activities	7-10	This section asked respondents to identify their favorite park activities, if they bring a bike with them to the park, the typical size of their group, and whether they are a day user or a camper
Campers	11-13	This section was specific to campers. Respondents were asked about their typical length of stay, why they choose to camp at the park, and their primary type of accommodation
Experience	14-16	This section asked respondents to rate existing park facilities and recreational opportunities and to identify additional opportunities or enhancements they would like to see
Wrapping Up	17	This section asked respondents to provide any additional comments they have about the park or General Management Planning process

About You

Survey respondents of all ages completed the survey; however, over 40% of all respondents were over 50 years of age. The summer (June-August) and fall (September-November) are the most popular seasons for visiting F.J. McLain State Park with approximately 30% of respondents visiting the park year-round. Close to two-thirds of all visitors access the park by car with just less than a one-quarter arriving by car with a camper trailer. The frequency of visits were similarly split between those that visited the park one to two times per year (31.7%) and those that visited the park more than six times per year (30.2%). These results indicate that the park supports those living/working in the vicinity of the park and those that are visitors to the area. The primary reason provided for not visiting the park was distance.

Activities

The top five favorite park activities within F.J. McLain State Park were ordered by respondents as walking the shoreline, camping, sunset viewing, hiking, and swimming. Other popular activities included rock picking, biking, picnicking, boating/canoeing/kayaking and attending special events held at the park. Approximately half of the respondents bring a bike to the park when they visit, with the largest portion riding on park roads. Over three-quarters of all respondents visit the park with a group of 2-6 people.

Campers

Approximately 40% of respondents reported that they are day users of the park, while 27% report camping and 31% report being both campers and day users. Over half (58%) of respondents who camp at F.J. McLain State Park stay between 3-6 nights, while 30% stay 1-2 nights. The top three reasons for choosing F.J. McLain State Park for their camping experience are its location in relationship to Lake Superior, the lake view campsites, and beach access. Other reasons for staying at the park include its local or regional attractions, campground amenities and reasonable drive distance. Most campers choose to stay in a 20'-35' trailer or recreational vehicle (40%) while a large percentage of campers (30%) choose to tent camp.

Experience of F.J. McLain State Park

Overall, respondents are very satisfied with the facilities and recreational opportunities offered at F.J. McLain State Park. Sunset viewing and walking along the shoreline were ranked the highest by survey respondents. Similarly, their experience with camping, picnicking, swimming, rock picking and biking are also ranked as good to very good. While respondents ranked walking the shoreline and sunset viewing the highest, there were several comments regarding the shoreline erosion and the desire to enhance accessibility to the beach.

Respondents would like to see the following additional facilities/features at F.J. McLain State Park: upgrade of the toilet and shower buildings, additional hiking trails, accessible beach access and regional trail connectivity. Conversely, the majority of respondents feel that ORV campsites, ORV trail connections (designated trailheads) and an organizational campground are not needed.

Finally, respondents were asked to choose three words to describe F.J. McLain State Park. Their responses are provided in the Wordle graphic below. The larger the word, the more times it was chosen to describe the park.



This “word cloud” illustrates the most commonly used words people use to describe F.J. McLain. The more frequently a word is used, the bigger it appears in the graphic.

3. Purpose & Significance

There are over 100 parks in Michigan's State Park system and each park has its own unique and defining characteristics. This chapter describes what makes F.J. McLain 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 F.J. McLain 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 in accordance with the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, PA 451 of 1994, specifically Parts 504 and 741.
- To preserve and protect F.J. McLain State Park's significant natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.
- To provide diverse public recreational opportunities.
- To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflects the DNR mission and the unique qualities of F.J. McLain State Park.
- To support Michigan's tourism industry and the local economy.

3.2 Statements of Significance

F.J. McLain State Park attracts visitors from both the local area and around the state. The park's unique geological, ecological, recreational, and cultural features make the park an important asset to the people of the State of Michigan.

Superior Location

Located in the Keweenaw Peninsula, F.J. McLain State Park provides 2 miles of shoreline and offers visitors a chance to experience the unpredictable majesty of Lake Superior, one of the largest fresh water lakes in the world. Visitors can enjoy lakefront camping, swimming, sunset viewing, beach walking, wind surfing, kayaking, and lighthouse viewing. State Highway M-203, which traverses through the park, provides easy access to the park as well as to the historic, cultural and recreational resources of the Keweenaw Peninsula. Nearby boating access to the historic Portage Canal waterway serves as the gateway to Lake Superior and has the potential to draw additional visitors to the park.



Sunset over Lake Superior

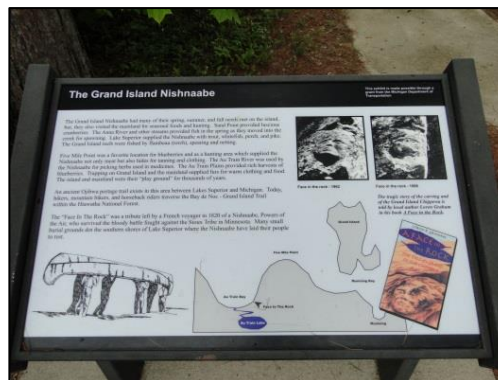
Shoreline Erosion

Much of the Lake Superior shoreline found within F.J. McLain State Park is designated by MDEQ as a High Risk Erosion Area. Shoreline erosion threatens to alter the recreational assets found at the park and, in particular, presents a significant challenge to the park in finding an appropriate, protected

location for the campground and its infrastructure. The impact of erosion at the park also presents an education and research opportunity.

Cultural, Historical, and Natural Resources

F.J. McLain State Park serves as a base-camp for exploration of the rich history and culture of the Keweenaw Peninsula. The peninsula's unique and abundant copper deposits were discovered by the Native Americans 6,800 years ago. European exploration led to a 19th Century mining industry that attracted many migrant workers from Europe, most notably from Finland, whose descendants remain in the area to this day. The park serves as a recreational amenity for visitors exploring the history and culture of the logging and mining industry on the development of the western Upper Peninsula. The landscape resulting from the geographical features and geological processes help to create a unique natural resource experience. The park has opportunities to further connect with regional cultural, historic, and recreational resources throughout "Copper Country."



Interpretive panels at the park provide historical information

3.3 Public Affirmation of Significance Statements

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

What are people saying about F.J. McLain State Park?

"Great park with awesome views. I have stayed at dozens of Michigan State Parks and the camp site I had here was memorable because of the view."

"Keep it just like it is!"

"A wonderful resource that needs to be protected and enhanced."

"We are so fortunate to have this gem in our area. It's a wonderful opportunity for people to share healthy quality time."

"Love McLain's!!!!"

"McLain is going to eventually fall into Lake Superior. Excellent park, but endangered."

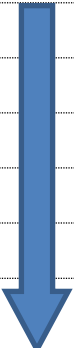
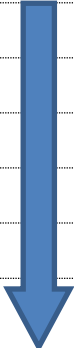
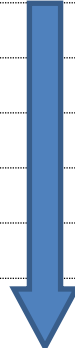
3.4 Connection to the Community

The initial vision for the park in the early 1930's was a joint state and county initiative, led by Frederick J. McLain, a Houghton County Commissioner. The local community maintains a strong connection with the park today, as evidenced by the large percentage of both day users and campers visiting from the Houghton, Hancock and Calumet area. F.J. McLain State Park also attracts visitors from across the Upper and Lower Peninsulas of Michigan and from other states, especially Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois. It is clear that many visitors are return customers, developing a strong affinity with the natural beauty of the park and the opportunity to camp on the Lake Superior shoreline; forming lasting family traditions and memories. In addition, the park is home to a number of annual events which attract thousands of visitors from the community. Its location, surrounded by the Keweenaw National Historical Park Heritage Sites, the spectacular Lake Superior shoreline, and more adventurous activities such as mountain biking and lake kayaking, provide unlimited options for visitors of all ages and interests. The Keweenaw Peninsula has developed a clear and unique identity as "Copper Country." There are numerous government and private non-profit organizations working to promote the many activities Keweenaw has to offer: partnerships, communication and collaboration with these entities will be important in maintaining and enhancing F.J. McLain State Park's connection to the community.

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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 so many 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. In addition, a new "High Risk Erosion Zone" was developed to cover the unique situation found at McLain State 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.

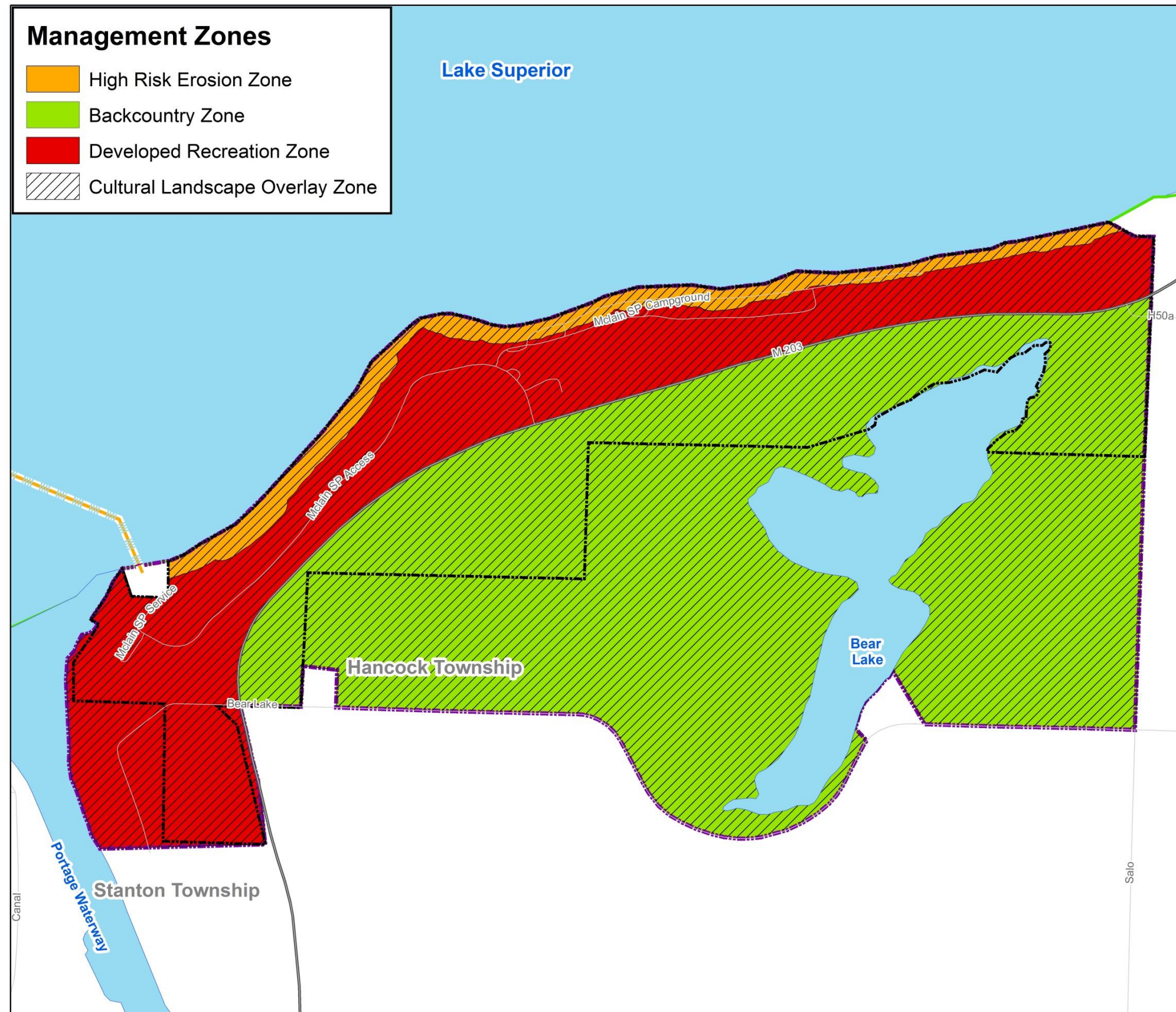
Management Zone Progression			
Management Zone	Resource Condition	Visitor Experience	Development Level
Ecologically Sensitive	Pristine	Restricted	None
Primitive			
Backcountry			
Cultural Landscape			
History Education			
Scenic			
Natural Resource Recreation			
Developed Recreation	Active Management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

During the General Management Planning process, the Planning Team evaluated the 2004 NRC approved project boundary. A project boundary is a geographic area in which the DNR is seeking to acquire property that supports the mission of the DNR on a willing buyer/seller basis. The 2004 project boundary includes extensive land both south of the park and on the west side of the Portage canal. The Planning Team felt that the land west of the canal was not necessary for the park purpose and would create difficulties in management. In addition, much of the land is currently in public ownership. The Planning Team developed the 2014 Proposed General Management Plan (GMP) Project Boundary, which includes the undeveloped land around Bear Lake and a parcel owned by the U.S. Coastguard on the Portage Canal. Both of these areas are seen as important additions to the park for both passive and active recreation opportunities and habitat protection should they become available. The 2014 Proposed GMP Project Boundary and the current park boundary are illustrated on the Proposed Project Boundary Map. Appropriate zoning has been applied to the land within the Proposed Project Boundary, which would apply only if the land comes into DNR ownership.

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Management Zones

- High Risk Erosion Zone
- Backcountry Zone
- Developed Recreation Zone
- Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone



F. J. McLain State Park Management Zones

Houghton County, Michigan



- F. J. McLain State Park
- Proposed GMP Project Boundary*
- Municipal Boundary
- Roads

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



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles



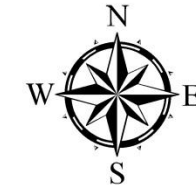
clearzoning
CLEAR AND CONNECTED





Sources: Michigan DNR,
Michigan Geographic Data Library
Create December 8, 2014

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E. J. McLain State Park Aerial

Houghton County, Michigan



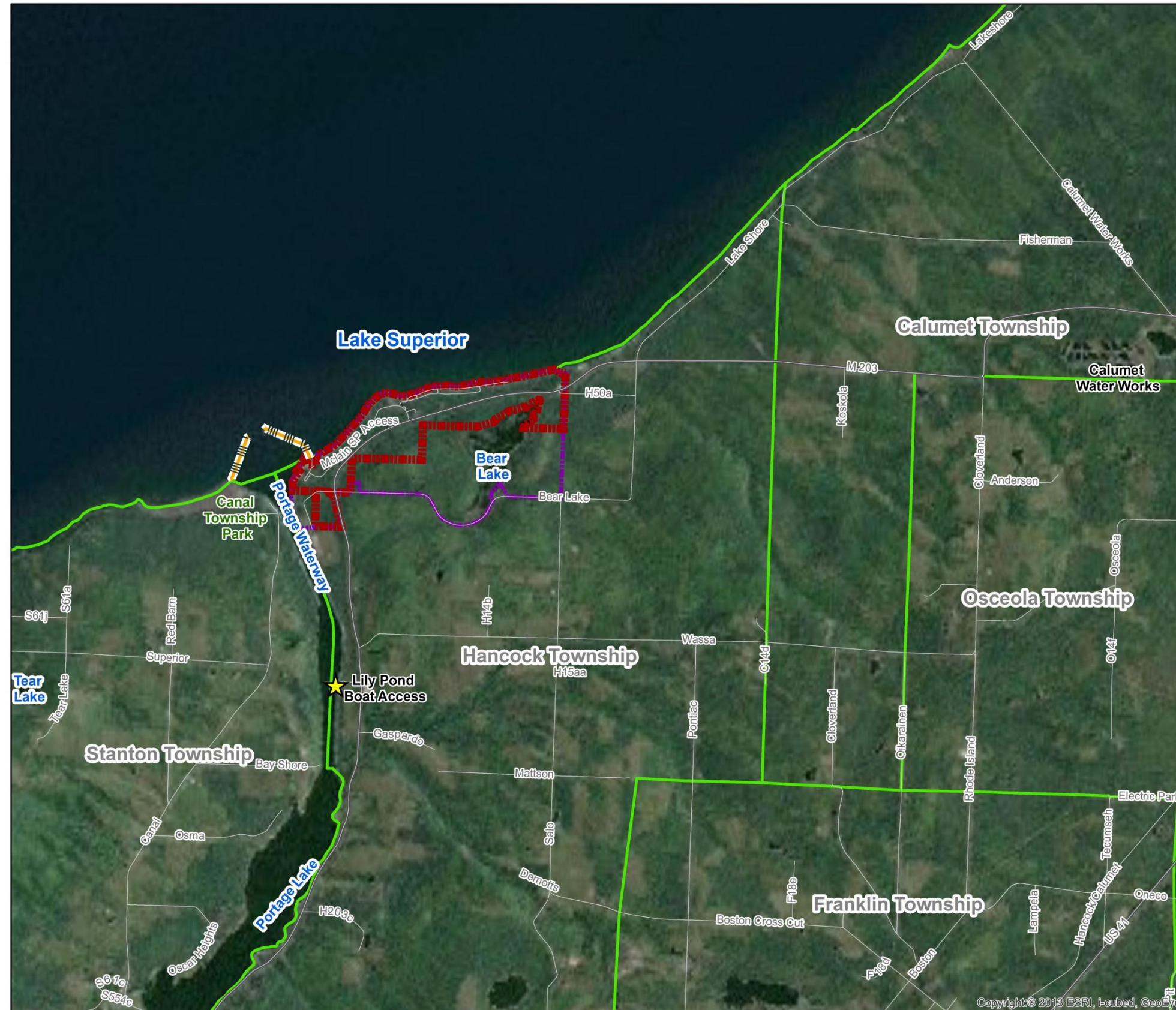
-  F. J. McLain State Park
-  Proposed GMP Project Boundary*
-  Municipal Boundary
-  Roads

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

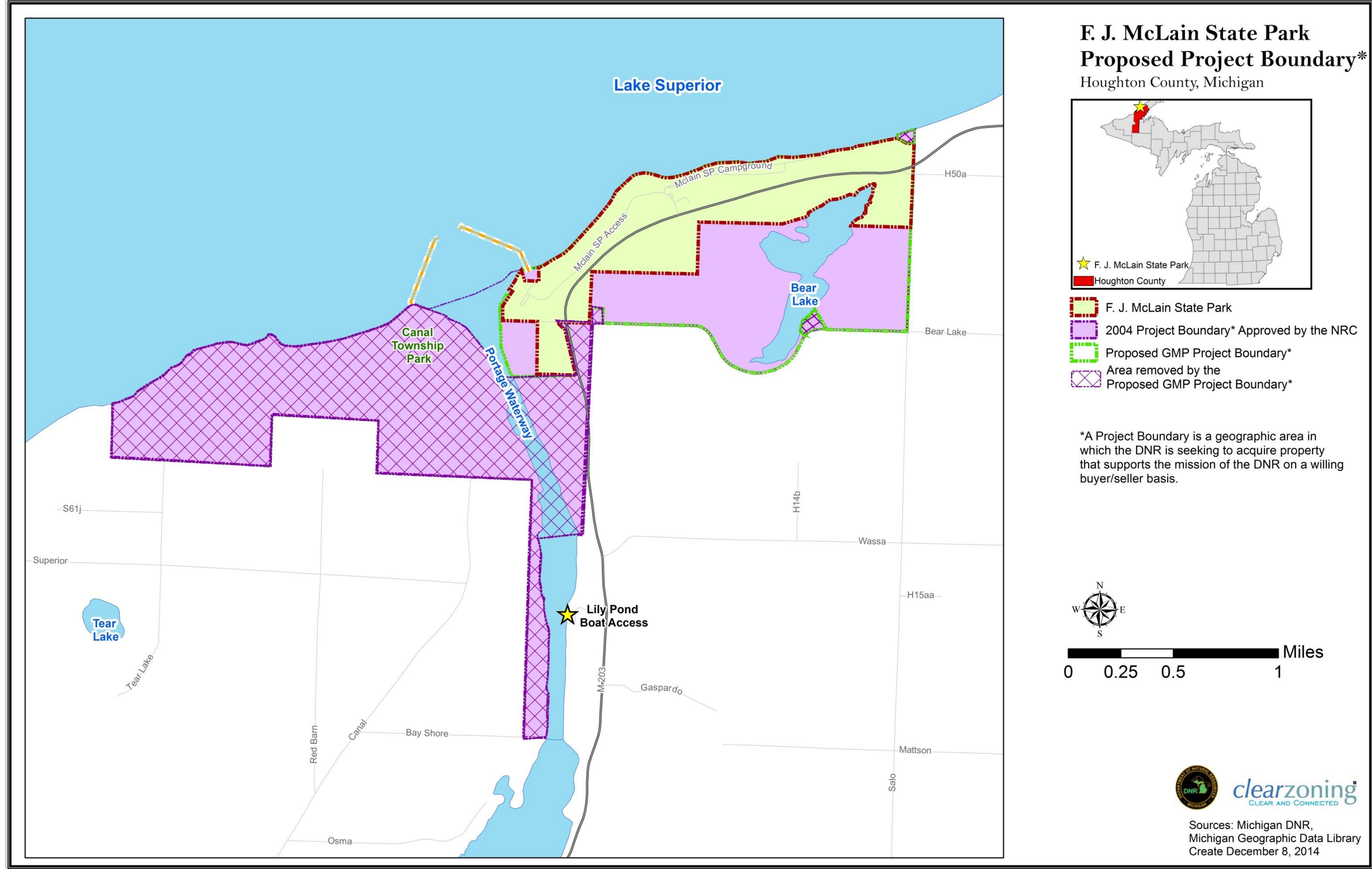


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Sources: Michigan DNR,
Michigan Geographic Data Library
Create August 22, 2014



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The 443-acre F.J. McLain State Park was divided into the following three zones and with one overlay:

- High Risk Erosion Zone
- Backcountry Zone
- Developed Recreation Zone
- Cultural Landscape Overlay

4.1 High Risk Erosion Zone

The High Risk Erosion Zone in F.J. McLain State Park runs the extent of the almost 2-mile coastline and varies from 45 feet to 155 feet in width. The High Risk Erosion Zone recognizes the high rate of active erosion that has been occurring long-term along the Lake Superior shoreline within the park. This zone takes into account the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ's) High Risk Erosion Area, which sets appropriate setback distances for coastal construction, and the DEQ Bluff Recession Rate Analysis (see Appendix). The primary focus of this zone is to manage the area in recognition of the continued rate of coastal recession. While some park infrastructure is currently located within this zone, the intent is to remove the infrastructure over time and allow only very limited development in the future.

Natural Resources

This zone will generally reflect natural processes, but will allow for active vegetative management techniques focused on protecting the shoreline from erosion. Vegetation may also be managed to maintain the views of the zone, but only if this will not exacerbate the rate of erosion (i.e. root systems should remain intact).

Historic/Cultural Resources

Cultural resources will be preserved as far as possible. Resources threatened by erosion may be removed with the appropriate approvals. There are no historic structures in this zone.

Recreation Opportunities

Low levels of recreation compatible with the purpose of viewing and beach access is permitted. Public access within the zone will be restricted for safety reasons and to reduce human induced erosion. This zone will transition over time to foot traffic only.

Education Opportunities

Education and interpretation of the shoreline processes should be explored. Interpretation will generally be outside the boundaries of the zone.

Visitor Experience

Due to the desire for park visitors to walk on the beach, swim, pick rocks, and take in scenic vistas, there may be a moderate level of visitor encounters in this zone. Additionally, due to its close proximity with the developed recreation zone, a moderate amount of interactions with DNR staff can be expected.



The High Risk Erosion Zone is intended to protect the park's shoreline

Management Focus

All activities or developments in this zone must be compatible with the High Risk Erosion Area designation. A DEQ permit is required prior to any construction in the High Risk Erosion Area. Management will include the phased removal of infrastructure from the zone in response to the threat of bluff recession. Controlled access to reduce human induced erosion will be expected. Low-impact management techniques to reduce the rate of erosion will be employed. The quality of the coastal viewscapes and public safety will be maintained and upheld.

Development

Low level of development to support controlled beach access and sightseeing is permitted. Development will blend with the natural environment and may include limited site hardening (ie. beach access stairways, barriers and fencing).

4.2 Backcountry Zone

Approximately 162 acres (37%) of the park is designated Backcountry Zone. The zone encompasses land located south of M-203 and recognizes the natural character of this region of the park. A segment of the park's hiking trail traverses through this zone.

Natural Resources

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



Nature observation is a popular activity in the Backcountry Zone

Historic/Cultural Resources

There are no known historic structures in this zone. Cultural resources will be protected and preserved.

Recreational Opportunities

Moderate levels of recreation are allowed in the Backcountry Zone, provided the activities are compatible with the natural character. Non-motorized outdoor activities could be permitted, including hiking, cross-country skiing, hunting, and nature observation.

Education Opportunities

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

Visitor Experience

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

Management Focus

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

Development

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

4.3 Developed Recreation Zone

Approximately 262 acres (59%) of F.J. McLain 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 campground, the day use area, and the swimming beach.

Natural Resources

Natural resources are actively managed and modified to support visitor activities. 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.



The annual K-Day event occurs in this zone

Historic/Cultural Resources

Resources in this zone could be preserved, adapted or rehabilitated to support visitor and educational opportunities. Non-utilized or unstable structures may be removed.

Recreational Opportunities

High levels of recreation in a highly structured environment are found in this zone. Visitors engage in recreation activities in diverse and modified land and water settings: hiking, camping, bicycling, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, nature observation, day-use beach, picnicking, and other day-use activities. Hunting is not permitted in the Developed Recreation Zone at F.J. McLain State Park.

Education Opportunities

Interpretive signage and information could be provided at the campground, trailheads, along trails and overlooks, and along the shoreline.

Visitor Experience

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

Management Focus

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

Development

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

4.4 Cultural Landscape Overlay

The entire F.J. McLain State Park is designated Cultural Landscape Overlay. The goal of the Cultural Landscape Overlay is managing the area to preserve its historical and cultural features. The Cultural Landscape Overlay has been applied to the entire park in recognition of its rich cultural resources. While interpretation and education opportunities within the Cultural Landscape Overlay should be explored, the recommendations of the underlying High Risk Erosion Zone, Backcountry Zone and Developed Recreation Zone take priority.

Natural Resources

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

Historic/Cultural Resources

Cultural resources within this zone will be protected and preserved. There are no above ground structures at the park that are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. There are two prehistoric sites, two historic period sites, two historic period isolated find locations, one pre-World War II location, and a historic period shipwreck site at the park. Please see Appendix A for additional information.

Recreation Opportunities

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

Education Opportunities

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

Visitor Experience

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



The Keweenaw Waterway Lighthouse

Management Focus

The management focus is to protect the cultural and historical character of the zone. The focus of the overlay is to ensure any development within the park is sensitive to the cultural and historic resources while simultaneously employing the recommendations of the underlying zones.

Development

Non-historic development and activities that do not conflict with the cultural landscape are appropriate. The level of development will be compatible with the underlying zone designation.

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5. 10-Year Action Goals

F.J. McLain State Park is an integral part of the region's economic and tourism industry. Ongoing collaborative efforts with the local communities, National Park Service, U.S. Coast Guard, universities and other organizations will continue to strengthen its position as a regional attraction. One of the key concerns at F.J. McLain State Park is the ongoing erosion of the shoreline. Addressing this concern will require a collaborative effort with federal, state, regional and local partners. The designation of and response to the High Risk Erosion Zone were informed by two recent studies; Geophysical Survey Report, MTC, September 2014 and Bluff Recession Rate Analysis at F.J. McLain State Park, MDEQ, August 2014. A summary of each of these reports is included in the Appendix. Additionally, several existing planning documents, including the Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and the Blue Ribbon Panel Report to Governor Snyder helped provide guidance for this Plan. F.J. McLain State Park has a key role to play in supporting the regional identity of the Keweenaw Peninsula, with its Lake Superior frontage and its long history of being a primary outdoor recreation resource.

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

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

Management Plans do not guarantee future PRD funding to implement them. PRD will seek internal funding, alternative funding sources, partnerships and other potential mechanisms for implementing the desired future conditions defined in this plan. The 10-Year Action Goals address the desired future condition at the park, and serve as a blueprint for management decisions. They are based upon the guidance of the 20-Year Management Zones and informed by the policies of the PRD, DNR and the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel.

Development Priorities in the Developed Recreation Zone

A critical component of current and future planning and management of F.J. McLain State Park is the impact of shoreline erosion on the Park's infrastructure and its recreational assets. It is likely significant portions of the park's infrastructure, including significant portions of the existing campground, will eventually be relocated to a more suitable area away from the potential impacts of erosion. The Planning Team has immediate plans to develop both a Master Plan and a Transition Plan for the relocation of park infrastructure in response to shoreline erosion. Additionally, the Planning Team is

exploring the acquisition of the Coast Guard site located along the Portage Waterway. Thus, future development and improvements within the Developed Recreation Zone are dependent upon these action steps. In addition to the Action Goals that follow, the Planning Team has identified several opportunities to be considered in the future, once the more immediate concerns have been addressed and pending acquisition of the Coast Guard property.

Campground:

- Ensure campground continues to have lakeview campsites
- Replace existing toilet and shower buildings with new facilities
- Explore emerging, new ideas for overnight accommodations
- Implement a long range goal of no net loss in campsites
- Update campground electrical system
- Provide wi-fi at campground
- Add 50 amp service and pull-through sites at campground
- Modernize existing cabins or construct new cabins with water/sewer

Coast Guard property:

- Evaluate use of boathouse by Law Enforcement Division
- Identify accessible fishing opportunities along Portage Canal
- Review potential for mooring facilities
- Evaluate feasibility of accessible canoe/kayak launch
- Evaluate feasibility of organizational camp and ORV camp (separated from the main campground)

Other:

- Add new ADA-compatible playground equipment
- Add or improve non-motorized multi-use trails within the park
- Evaluate opportunities for accessible beach access

General Action Goals

Many of the 10-Year Action Goals for F.J. McLain 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			
Develop Stewardship Plan (Natural Resource Plan)	3-5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship	Stewardship Ecologist
Implement Stewardship Plan for the park	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager Stewardship
Implement early detection and rapid response to invasive species control	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Fisheries	Park Manager
Historic/Cultural Resources			
Continue to protect cultural resources	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship State Historic Preservation Office Regional Planner	Park Manager Stewardship Office of State Archaeologist
Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources	Ongoing	Stewardship State Historic Preservation Office Regional Planner	Cultural Resource Analyst Office of State Archaeologist
Review all projects involving historic structures, existing or acquired	Ongoing	Stewardship State Historic Preservation Office Regional Planner	Cultural Resource Analyst State Historic Preservation Office
Recreation Opportunities			
Refer to individual management zones			
Education/Interpretation Opportunities			
Develop specific interpretation and education opportunities	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Marketing & Outreach Historical Center
Develop an interpretive plan that utilizes a variety of traditional and new media, including audio and visual technologies, podcasts, and other emerging technologies for interpretation opportunities, in conjunction with regional partners	3 Years	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach Regional Partners	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach
Implement the Interpretive Plan	3-5 Years	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach

General Action Goals			
Management Focus			
Develop new Master Plan and Transition Plan for relocation of park infrastructure	1-3 Years	Regional Planner Park Manager	Regional Planner Park Manager
Explore acquisition of property within the General Management Plan Proposed Boundary as opportunities present themselves	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Lands Manager	Lands Manager
Review and update Wildfire Plan and Emergency Plan	Completed with Annual Update	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager
Continue to support PRD and local initiatives to explore and develop revenue generating opportunities that are sustainable	Ongoing	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Historical Center
Continue to complete and comply with annual safety inspections and plans	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager
Implement PRD marketing effort at local level and within the park	5 Years	Park Manager Recreation Programmer Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach
Review concession contracts	Ongoing Annual Review	Park Manager Contracts and Lease Coordinator	Park Manager
Continue to collaborate with community partners to support the mutual goals of PRD and the local partners	Ongoing	Park Manager Local Partners	Park Manager Local Partners
Transition park lighting to be dark-sky compliant	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager
Continue to support the Keweenaw Water Trail	Ongoing	Park Manager Recreation Specialist Local Partners	Park Manager Local Partners
Continue to plan and support connections to non-motorized trail systems throughout the region by engaging with our local recreation partners.	Ongoing	Park Manager Recreation Specialist Local Partners	Park Manager
Development			
Relocate or maintain park facilities and infrastructure consistent with Master Plan and Transition Plan	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Strive to achieve universal accessibility compatible with the character of the zone	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager

High Risk Erosion Zone

Over 50% of F.J. McLain State Park's shoreline is designated as a High Risk Erosion Zone. This zone takes into account the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ's) High Risk Erosion Area, which sets appropriate setback distances for coastal construction, and the 2014 DEQ Bluff Recession Rate Analysis. While some park infrastructure is currently located within this zone, the intent is to remove the infrastructure over time and allow only very limited development in the future. A permit is required to construct any permanent structure in the High Risk Erosion Area and the only structures permitted in the zone will be designed to minimize shoreline erosion. This zone will generally reflect natural processes, but will allow for active vegetative management techniques focused on protecting the shoreline from erosion.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Natural Resources			
Continue to follow shorelands management program regulations as administered by the DEQ for the designated High Risk Erosion Area	Ongoing	MDEQ Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Recreation Opportunities			
Maintain lake viewing, swimming, beach walking, and like activities consistent with the zone	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Management Focus			
Control access to beach in a way that protects the resource and minimizes further shoreline erosion	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Continue to develop and implement management strategies that minimize erosion	Ongoing	Regional Planner Park Manager	Park Manager
Phased relocation of infrastructure and facilities out of the High Risk Erosion Zone consistent with the Master Plan and Transition Plan	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner PRD Development Unit	Park Manager Regional Planner PRD Development Unit

Backcountry Zone

The character of the Backcountry Zone is intended to be natural, with minimal evidence of human impact. Backcountry allows for various low-intensity, non-motorized recreational opportunities such as hiking, cross-country skiing, hunting, and nature observation. Furthermore, the Backcountry Zone allows for slight modifications of the landscape (trail development) to accommodate a use where it is consistent with the protection of the resource. At F.J. McLain State Park, the area south of M-203 is designated as Backcountry Zone.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Natural Resources			
Perform threatened and endangered species survey on newly acquired parcels	Ongoing	MNFI Stewardship Ecologist	MNFI
Historic/Cultural Resources			
Perform Phase 1 archaeological survey	10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner Stewardship Office of State Archaeologist	Stewardship
Recreation Opportunities			
Evaluate opportunities for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and/or mountain biking trails	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner Stewardship	Park Manager
Management Focus			
Provide management which facilitates low intensity non-motorized recreational opportunities in a natural environment	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager
Development			
Strive to achieve universal accessibility compatible with the natural character of the zone	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager

Developed Recreation Zone			
Active recreation with high density of use, conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance, is characteristic of the Developed Recreation Zone. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced where possible. More than half of the park is designated as Developed Recreation Zone. F.J. McLain State Park's day-use and camping area are located in this zone.			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Education/Interpretation Opportunities			
Determine appropriate location and add interpretive elements about local/regional features, geological process, history, and the like	1-3 Years	Stewardship Park Manager Marketing & Outreach	Stewardship
Recreation Opportunities			
Evaluate the need and appropriateness of an ORV trail connection to Hancock/Calumet Trail and support facilities at the park appropriately separated from non-motorized activities	5-10 Years	Park Manager Recreation Specialist District Supervisor Recreational Partners Local Partners	Park Manager
Pursue acquisition of Coast Guard property and evaluate the suitability of canal for recreational opportunities	3-10 Years	Regional Planner Land Manager District Supervisor	Land Manager
Management Focus			
Maintain and improve facilities and structures consistent with Capital Outlay priorities	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager
Development			
Relocate or maintain park facilities and infrastructure consistent with Master Plan and Transition Plan	3-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager

Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone

The Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone 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 Zone has been applied over the entire F.J. McLain State Park in recognition of cultural resources known to be present in this area. Yet while interpretation opportunities within the overlay should be explored, the recommendations of the underlying Developed Recreation Zone and Backcountry Zone are the primary focus.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Education/Interpretation Opportunities			
Refer to General Action Goals and the underlying zones			