



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



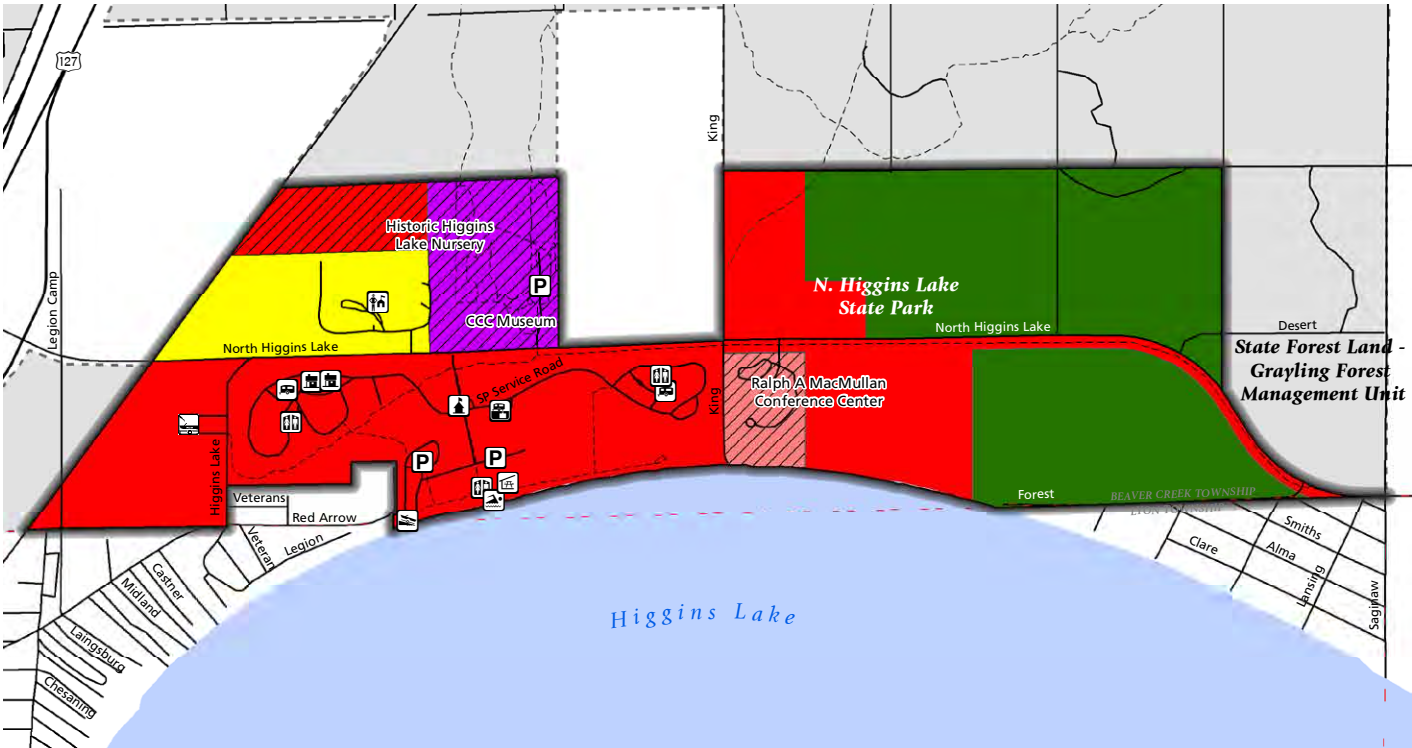
North Higgins Lake State Park Beach

North Higgins Lake State Park GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Approved June 4, 2019

Prepared with the assistance of

B R 
Beckett&Raeder
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N. HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Management Zones

Data Sources: Michigan CGI Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

- N. Higgins Lake State Park
- State Forest Land
- Municipal Boundaries
- Roads
- Trails
- Lakes

- Management Zones:
- Administrative Services
 - Developed Recreation
 - History Education
 - Natural Resource Recreation
 - Ralph A. MacMullan (RAM) Conference Center
 - Cultural Landscape Overlay

- Park Features:
- Mini Cabin
 - Modern Campground
 - Park Headquaters
 - Parking
 - Restroom
 - Sanitation Station


- Contact Station
- Beach
- Boat Launch
- Boat Wash
- Pavilion


Date: 4/26/2019

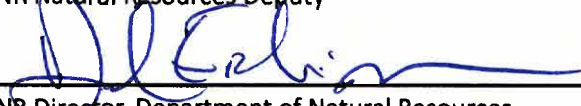
Beckett & Raeder

This project was directed by Deborah Jensen, Management Plan Administrator, Department of Natural Resources, DNR Parks & Recreation Division with assistance from Beckett & Raeder, Inc.

PLAN APPROVALS:


DNR Chief, Parks & Recreation Division


DNR Natural Resources Deputy


DNR Director, Department of Natural Resources


5/8/19
Date


5/9/19
Date


6/4/19
Date

PLAN APPROVALS

PLAN APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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

PRD- Section Chiefs	<u>1/7/2019</u> Date
DNR- Resource Management Bureau	<u>3/12/2019</u> Date
MSPAC- Stewardship Subcommittee	<u>3/19/2019</u> Date
NRC- Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee	<u>4/11/2019</u> Date

RESOLUTION NO. 04-2019-02**MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)****RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE
“NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN”****ADOPTED: April 11, 2019**

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division has completed the General Management Plan for North Higgins Lake 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 North Higgins Lake 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 former 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 North Higgins Lake 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 North Higgins Lake State Park;

Submitted by: MSPAC Stewardship Subcommittee

Motioned by: Commissioner Louise Klarr
Seconded by: Committee Member Tom Bailey

Yeas: 11
Nays: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: 3

This Resolution was adopted by the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee at their regular meeting on April 11, 2019 as Resolution No. 04-2019-02

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Higgins Lake Shoreline

General Management Plan Executive Summary

North Higgins Lake State Park, located in the northern Lower Peninsula on the north shore of Higgins Lake, offers 449 acres of lakeside recreation and camping in a natural wooded atmosphere. The park is situated on the site of what was once one of the world's largest seedling nurseries and features a museum dedicated to telling the story of that nursery, forestry in Michigan, and the Civilian Conservation Corp's efforts in Michigan. The Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center is also located within the park. The Westminster Church of Detroit has operated a camp for boys and girls on a parcel of the park east of the RAM center under a lease agreement since 1925.

The purpose of this general management plan (GMP) is to guide the future long-term management of North Higgins Lake State Park. Overall, this plan seeks to uphold the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks & Recreation Division's (PRD) Mission: "to acquire, protect, and preserve the natural and cultural features of Michigan's unique resources, and to provide access to land and water-based public recreation and educational opportunities." The management plan brings together DNR staff, stakeholders, and the public into a process that defines the following for the state park:

- Purpose and significance that captures the unique identity of North Higgins Lake State Park
- Twenty-year management zone plan reflecting the

resource protection goals and level of development appropriate for different areas of the park

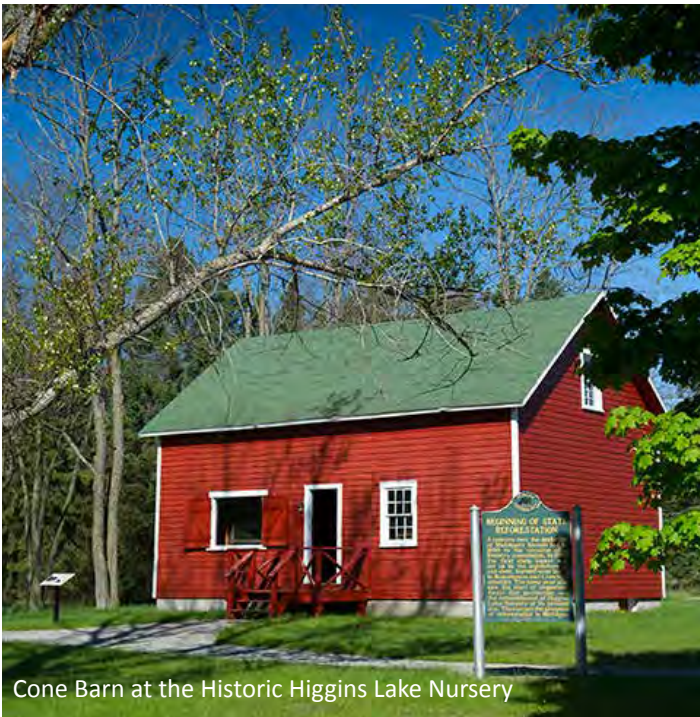
- Ten-year action goals that address the desired future condition within the park as a whole and within each of the designated management zones

The Supporting Analysis, included as Appendix A of this plan, provides important background information on North Higgins Lake State Park that informs this planning initiative. It includes a comprehensive review of the park setting, area demographics, history, land ownership, legal mandates, and cultural, natural, and recreation resources. Furthermore, several existing planning documents, including the Michigan State Parks Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel Report, the Managed Public Land Strategy, and the Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan were used as guiding references (see chapter one).

Significance of North Higgins Lake State Park

This general management plan developed by DNR-PRD is derived from the property's significant features that make it distinct from other parks in the state's system. Following is a summary of the features that were determined significant for North Higgins Lake State Park. The full statements of significance can be found in Chapter Three.

- The renowned natural beauty and abundant recreation opportunities of the Higgins Lake area have been a popular resort destination since the 1870s.
- The lake, park amenities, nearby state forest land, and adjacent trails offer recreation opportunities year-round.
- The park was the site of Michigan's first, and one of the world's largest, seedling nurseries that was integral to the reforestation of Michigan and the discipline of scientific forest management.
- The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Museum is located within the park, where the story of the forestry activities, impact on the park system, and life in the CCC can be discovered.
- One mile of shoreline on the picturesque Higgins Lake provides visitors with many recreation opportunities.
- The Ralph A. MacMullan (RAM) Conference Center, originally built in 1941 as a conservation education center and Department of Conservation training facility, is located within the park and is unique within the state park system.



Cone Barn at the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery

Management Zones

A key goal in the development of this general management plan is to continue to protect the park's natural and cultural resources, while providing recreation and education opportunities. 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 and one non-standard zone. The management zone plan and a thorough review of each management zone are found in Chapter 4 of this plan. A condensed description of each of the applied management zones is as follows:

Natural Resource Recreation Zone

The natural resource recreation zone allows for active recreation with medium to high density of use conducted in natural settings. There is an emphasis on resource quality over recreation. This zone makes up approximately 34% of the park. It includes the forested land at the east end of the park and is bordered by state forest land to the north and east. It also includes frontage on Higgins Lake and is bisected by North Higgins Lake Road and the Iron Belle Trail.

Developed Recreation Zone

This zone allows active recreation with a high density of use conducted in areas where the natural resources are not emphasized. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced as possible. The developed recreation zone is approximately 48% of the park land and includes the park's campgrounds, day use area, beach, boat launch, the Iron Belle Trail corridor, a shooting range, the boat wash, and the area currently leased to the Westminster Church.

History Education Zone

The emphasis of this zone is education, with cultural and historic resources restored and interpreted for visitor understanding. This zone is approximately 7% of the park and includes the area encompassing the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum.

Administrative Services Zone

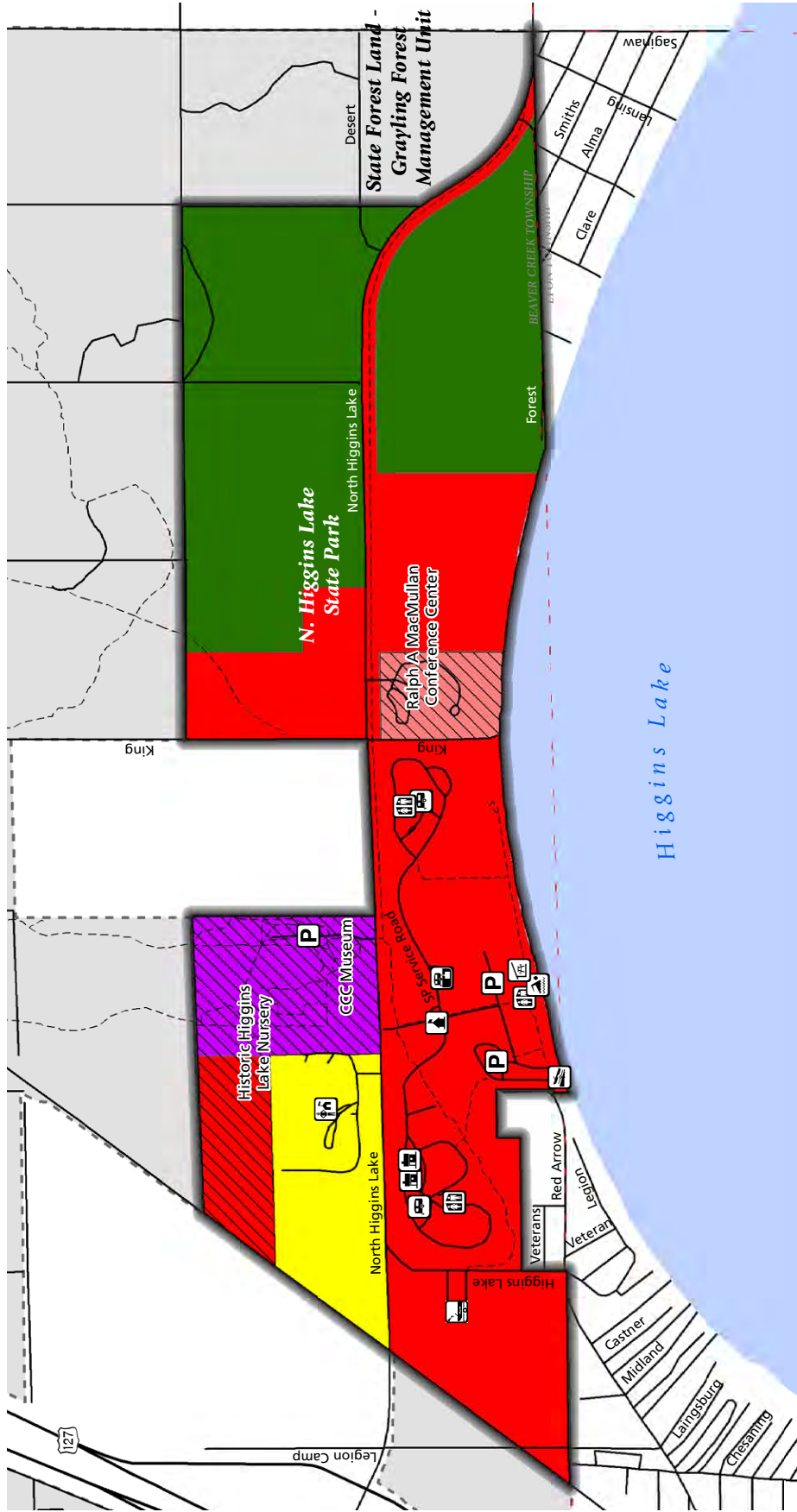
This zone encompasses areas required for the administration and operations of the park. It makes up 8% of the park and includes the park headquarters, maintenance facilities, and sanitation infrastructure.

Ralph A. MacMullan (RAM) Conference Center Zone

This non-standard zone is used to acknowledge the unique relationship between the Ralph A. MacMullan (RAM) Conference Center and North Higgins Lake State Park. It is approximately 3% of the park and includes the RAM Center facilities and grounds.

Cultural Landscape Overlay

The cultural landscape overlay is used to highlight not only historic structures, but also non-structural evidence of the traditions, beliefs, practices, arts, crafts, and social intuitions of any community. This overlay is approximately 11% of the park and includes the RAM Conference Center, the history education zone with the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum, as well as an area to the west where there are remnants of seed beds and artifacts from the historic nursery.



N. HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Management Zones

Data Sources: Michigan CGI Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources



Park Features:



Date: 4/26/2019

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Ten-Year Action Goals

Once the planning team has established management zones to guide North Higgins Lake State Park (NHLSP) for the next 20 years, a series of action goals are identified. The planning team has determined these actions as the items that can be accomplished in the next ten years. The action goals are broken down into categories pertaining either to park infrastructure and facilities or management, operations, and planning. Below is a summary of the action goals for the park. The full list of ten-year action goals can be found in Chapter Five.

Park Infrastructure and Facilities

Action goals for the campground and day use area focus on improving the recreational experience for visitors, including upgrades to the restrooms and showers, expansion of the sanitation station, expansion of the boat launch parking lot, improving overall accessibility, and exploring the possibility of additional overnight accommodations at the park and the RAM Conference Center.

Action goals for the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum focus on implementing an expansion of an adjacent Iron Belle trail segment, improving interpretive exhibits, and improving the structural soundness and historic integrity of historic structures at the site.

Management, Operations, and Planning

The RAM Center is managed separately from the park and has a plan for future improvements that is independent from the

rest of the park. However, the two are integrally linked, and so the RAM Center administration was involved throughout the general management plan process. The RAM Center's future goals include expansion of dining and conference facilities, improvement of the beach area with a pavilion and a dock, and exploring additional overnight accommodation opportunities.

The general management plan includes goals related to improving the park's management and operations as well as future planning needs. These goals relate to completing a stewardship plan for the park, fostering partnerships to develop a playground and community trail connections, acquiring land within the proposed project boundary, and continuing to work with existing partners such as the RAM Center and the lessee of a parcel of land within the park.

Implementation Strategy

The final chapter of this general management plan includes guidance for implementation of the action goals and maintaining the plan so it remains relevant in the long term. The guidelines also help the park align the action goals with the park, district, and statewide annual funding processes and annual tasks. It is the primary responsibility of the Unit Supervisor/Manager to oversee implementation of the plan.

This chapter provides a toolbox of strategies to consider when reviewing and prioritizing the implementation of action goals, guidance on documenting changes within the park since the approval of the general management plan, instruction for documenting accomplishments as action goals are completed, and the five-year review process.



Campsite at North Higgins Lake State Park



Ice on the Shore of Higgins Lake

Chapter One: Core Values & Guiding Resources

1.1 Mission Statements

Throughout the planning process, the core values of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) were the foundation of the planning team's decisions. These include the mission statement of the DNR, the five goals of the DNR, and the DNR Parks & Recreation Division (PRD). These values set the protection of natural and cultural resources and the provision of recreational and educational opportunities at the forefront of the plan.

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.

Five Goals of the DNR

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

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.

1.2 Guiding References

The general management planning process is guided and shaped by several resources developed to provide recommendations for managing Michigan's parks and recreation system. In particular, these resources have helped shape the ten-year action goals established in this plan.

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. Recommendations in the report include:

- Identify and protect important natural, cultural, historic, and prehistoric resources

- Diversify funding
- Prioritize development of statewide and regional systems of connected trail networks
- Connections between communities and their recreational assets to strengthen regional identities
- Integrate tourism and economic development marketing
- Prioritize investment in parks and recreation

Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2018-2022 (SCORP)

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 "Protect and manage Michigan's diverse and abundant natural and cultural assets to provide relevant, quality experiences that meet the fun, relaxation, and health needs of Michigan's residents and visitors, and support economic prosperity" by meeting the following objectives:

- Foster stewardship and conservation
- Improve collaboration
- Raise awareness
- Improve recreational access
- Provide quality experiences
- Enhance health benefits
- Enhance prosperity

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, trail experiences, 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

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 for each. These goals are to:

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

PRD Strategic Plan (2017-2022)

The PRD Strategic Plan is the overarching document that guides the Parks & Recreation Division in carrying out its mission. This plan establishes long-range goals, objectives, and strategies for Michigan's state parks and recreation system for the five-year period beginning in 2017. It identifies the most important issues facing the PRD and helps to define where resources should be focused for maximum benefit. The goals identified in the plan are:



Michigan Comprehensive Trail Plan

- Be exemplary stewards of Michigan’s natural and cultural resources
- Provide users with quality outdoor recreation experiences in balance with resource protection
- Continue to advance Michigan as the “Trail State”
- Provide a relevant gateway to connect people to nature and Michigan’s cultural heritage, and foster understanding and support for PRD’s mission among future generations
- Improve and maintain strong public, stakeholder and department communication, relationships and partnerships
- Engage in strategies to increase community and state economic prosperity
- Sustainably support PRD programs, operations, and facilities
- Foster and adopt effective and safe business practices

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 plan, park management, and park operations. For the DNR’s 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. The general and site specific legal mandates applicable to North Higgins Lake State Park are listed in Appendix A: Supporting Analysis.

The legal mandates that most directly impact planning and management at North Higgins Lake State Park focus on the following areas:

- Federal and state protected species, including the eastern massasauga rattlesnake
- Preservation of natural and cultural resources
- Water resources, wetlands, and inland streams protection
- Hunting area and shooting range control
- Requirement for a Recreation Passport for entry into the park
- Public health code requirements for campgrounds, swimming areas, and swimmers’ itch



Aerial View of the Higgins Lake Shoreline in Winter



Trails at the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum

Chapter Two:

Plan Process Overview

2.1 Planning Objectives

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has developed master plans in the past for many of Michigan's state parks; however, 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.

Development at North Higgins Lake State Park began with the establishment of a state forest campground on the north arm of Higgins Lake, which grew in popularity and was transferred to the Parks Division of the DNR. The Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the Ralph A. MacMullan Center in 1941 as a complex of buildings to teach conservation to large groups of students and as a training facility for the Department of Conservation. A master plan for the campground was approved in 1964, when it was still managed as a unit with what is now South Higgins Lake State Park. The two became separate parks, and a new master plan for North Higgins Lake State Park was approved, in 1974. This plan directed property acquisition as well as development of key features such as the boat launch, campers beach, and an interpretive site at the former Higgins Lake Nursery. Subsequent improvements include a storage building, mini cabins, wastewater

infrastructure, a beach shelter and restroom, campground upgrades including a shower building, a boat wash, and the construction of a segment of the Iron Belle Trail.

General management planning sets out a framework for protecting park resources while providing for meaningful visitor experiences. The long-range vision and management objectives for North Higgins Lake State Park (NHLSP) are derived from the mission of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Parks & Recreation Division (PRD), applicable legal directives, the purpose of the park, and the park's significant natural and cultural resources.

The objective of the general management plan (GMP) is to bring together PRD staff, staff from other resource divisions, stakeholders, and the public into a planning process that defines and clarifies the unique "Purpose and Significance" of North Higgins Lake State Park. Collectively, those attributes will be reinforced in the planning and management decisions that impact the park through the implementation of the 20-year management zone plan used to guide park planning decisions and 10-year action goals that establish specific action strategies for the park as a whole and within each of the management zones. Each GMP is reviewed every five years to ensure there have been no major changes that would warrant a revision to the approved plan.

2.2 Planning Process

The NHLSP planning team met periodically over a 11 month period to develop the general management plan, beginning in November 2017 and ending in October 2018. Throughout the process, the team sought the input of the public and stakeholders to guide the decisions made in the plan. A stakeholder workshop was held in April 2018 to gather insight from organizations tied to the park. In addition, an online public input survey was available for interested parties to comment on their current use of the park and their priorities for the future. Following the input sessions and survey, the team developed a list of action plan priorities and developed the draft plan.

2.3 Planning Team

This plan was developed with the direct assistance, input, and expertise provided by all members of the planning team.

PLANNING TEAM		
DIVISION	TITLE	NAME
PRD	Management Plan Administrator	Debbie Jensen
PRD	Unit Manager	Josh Pellow
PRD	District Supervisor	Bill Doan
PRD	Regional Planner	Scott Cook
PRD	Stewardship Unit Manager	Ray Fahlsing
PRD	N. Lower Trails Coordinator	Emily Meyerson / Greg Kinser
PRD	Trails Specialist	Amy Swainston
PRD	Unit Manager	Angela Morgan
FD (Fisheries)	C. Lake Michigan Unit Manager	Scott Heintzelman
FD (Fisheries)	Fisheries Management Biologist	Mark Tonello
FRD (Forestry)	Roscommon Unit Manager	Steve Anderson
FRD (Forestry)	Forester	Dale Ekdom
LED (Law)	District 5 Supervisor	Lt. Brandon Kieft
MOD (Marketing)	Park Interpreter	Craig Kasmer
OMM (Minerals)	Geologist	Peter Rose
WLD (Wildlife)	Wildlife Biologist	Mark Boersen
History Center	Museum Director	Suzanne Fischer
History Center	Northern Lower Peninsula Historian	Hillary Pine
MSHDA	State Archaeologist	Dean Anderson
PRD	Cultural Resources Analyst	Lisa Gamero



The Planning Team Tours the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum

2.4 Summary of Input Opportunities

Public input is a critical part of the planning for North Higgins Lake State Park. Below is a summary of the public and stakeholder input methods that were used to inform the development of the general management plan. Several different methods were used to ensure everyone had an opportunity for input. Full reports for each of the outreach methods are included in Appendix B of this plan.

Project Website

A public-facing website was maintained throughout the duration of the general management plan process. This website was updated with general information about the park and park maps, results of the public input survey, and the draft of the general management plan. The website contained a contact form so that the public could contact the planning team at any time with questions, concerns, and input.

Stakeholder Input Workshop

To gather targeted input from governmental, non-profit, and business/tourism entities, the planning team invited a group of stakeholders to participate in a facilitated input workshop held in April of 2018. This meeting was held jointly with South Higgins Lake State Park, as the stakeholders were similar. The stakeholders were given a brief overview of the park and the general management planning process. The stakeholders were divided into small-table discussion groups, which completed a series of exercises describing the park's context, the park itself, opportunities for partnerships, the park's potential benefit to the larger community, and the stakeholders' vision for the park's future. Each table then reported out to the larger group.

Online Public Input Survey

One of the methods the planning team used to gather input from park users was an online survey. This online approach provides a convenient way for those who have access to the internet to provide feedback and accurately transfers all responses for analysis. However, it is not designed to be statistically representative of North Higgins Lake State Park users or uses, as respondents self-select. Nevertheless, the on-line survey does provide valuable information about what certain individuals or groups (those who are motivated to comment about the park, those likely to receive DNR communication about the survey, and those who have easy access to the internet) hope to see in the park's future management.

This survey was advertised through a press release and an email to those who have registered for North Higgins Lake State Park overnight accommodations. Due to the survey advertisement to the camping reservation system email list, campers may be disproportionately represented in the responses as compared to day users.

Five hundred forty-three (543) individuals responded to the survey. Of the 543 respondents, 490 (90%) have visited North Higgins Lake State Park, the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery, or the Civilian Conservation Corps Museum in the last five years. Those who had not recently visited the park were screened from the remainder of the survey. The survey included questions on what activities the visitors participated in during their visit(s), their thoughts on the day use and overnight park amenities, their experience at the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum, special events and programs, trails, fishing and hunting at the park, their overall satisfaction with their experience, and their demographic information. The survey did not include questions about the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center, as this facility is separately managed and is undergoing a separate planning process.

Public Input Meeting

The DNR hosted a public input meeting to review the draft general management plan was held on September 24th, 2018, at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center in Roscommon, Michigan. This meeting was held jointly with the South Higgins Lake State Park General Management Plan process as the interested parties would have considerable overlap. The general public was notified about the meeting through a press release, internet postings, and email notifications. A total of 35 attendees were recorded on sign-in sheets.

The meeting included an overview of the general management plan process and plan contents, followed by an opportunity to provide input on the statements of significance, draft management zones, and ten-year action goals. Participants had the opportunity to affix comments directly onto the presentation boards, record comments on flip charts, and complete a comment sheet, as well as converse with planning team members. In addition, participants were given six dots for each park to prioritize their preferred actions from the ten-year action goals. Two copies of the complete draft general management plan were available to review.

Primary changes in response to the comments are as follows:

- Information about Camp Westminster was added to the executive summary and the supporting analysis.
- Information about current terrestrial and aquatic invasive species was added to the supporting analysis.

Tribal Communication

The department's Tribal Coordinator reached out to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians, the Gun Lake Band of Pottawatomi Indians, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe with a letter notifying them of the general management plan process and timeline and asking for any input.



The Planning Team Listens to Stakeholders at the Stakeholder Workshop



A Stream Outlets to Higgins Lake

Chapter Three: Purpose and Significance

3.1 Park Purpose

Park purpose statements are based on park legislation, legislative history, special designations and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) policies. These statements reaffirm the reasons for which North Higgins Lake State Park was included as part of the state park system.

- To be used as a public park, for the purposes of public recreation or the preservation of natural beauty or historic association in accordance with Act 218, Public Acts of 1919 that created the Michigan State Park Commission.
- To provide access to land and water based public recreational opportunities, particularly meeting the demand for access to and camping on Higgins Lake.
- To preserve and protect North Higgins Lake State Park's unique natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.
- To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflects the DNR mission and the unique qualities of North Higgins Lake State Park. The RAM Center was established specifically to "teach conservation to large groups of students."

3.2 Statements of Significance

Each general management plan (GMP) developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) is derived from the park's significant features that make it distinct from other parks in the state's system. North Higgins Lake State Park was determined significant due to the following:

Outdoor Recreation Destination

North Higgins Lake State Park is located on the shores of Higgins Lake in an area that has been enjoyed as a resort destination since the 1870's. The lake and surrounding area are renowned for stunning natural beauty, easy accessibility from two highway corridors, and a wealth of recreation opportunities including abundant nearby state forest land.

Four-Season Recreation

North Higgins Lake State Park offers recreation opportunities in all seasons including swimming, boating, fishing, ice fishing, color tours, four-season camping, lodging in mini cabins, and pavilion rental. The park acts as a trail hub with access to the Iron Belle Trail and a trail network popular for hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing on groomed trails that continue onto the adjacent state forest land.

Higgins Lake State Nursery

North Higgins Lake State Park was the site of a huge experimental reforestation effort that helped produce the forests that Michigan residents and visitors enjoy today. The Higgins Lake State Nursery, the first seedling nursery in Michigan and, in its heyday, one of the largest in the world. It changed Michigan's forests by jumpstarting both the reforestation of land impacted by logging and fires and the discipline of scientific forest management. Experimentation with different tree species is evident by the variety of trees, such as larch, tulip poplar, and walnut, planted by the nursery manager in North Higgins Lake State Park's East Campground.



Standing on Frozen Higgins Lake

Civilian Conservation Corps Museum

The story of the forestry and life at the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps can be discovered at the CCC Museum, located within North Higgins Lake State Park. The CCC boys, as they were known, helped replant Michigan's forests through their work here at the Higgins Lake State Nursery and across the state. Their efforts also built much of Michigan's state park infrastructure that remains in use by visitors today.



"CCC Worker" Statue

Higgins Lake

The state park boasts one mile of shoreline on the spring-fed Higgins Lake, the eleventh largest inland lake in the state. The lake, with its picturesque forested shoreline, is recognized for its natural beauty by state and national publications. It provides ample recreation opportunities including swimming, boating, and fishing, and is one of the most popular lakes in the state for ice fishing. The park is one of only two in the state park system providing a boat wash to help protect the lake ecosystem from invasive species.

Educational Conference Center

The Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center (RAM Center), originally built in 1941 as a conservation education center and Department of Conservation training facility, is located within North Higgins Lake State Park. This facility is one-of-a-kind within the state park system and provides a recreational retreat for non-profit, government, and education-based organizations, as well as private businesses with an outdoor or green-themed agenda. The facility is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district.

3.3 Public Affirmation of Significance

Stakeholder and public input assisted the planning team with affirming the significant features and opportunities at North Higgins Lake State Park. The feedback from the online survey confirmed that the beautiful and natural atmosphere, year-round recreation opportunities, and historical significance are key aspects of the park. Comments from survey respondents relating to those significant features are provided below.

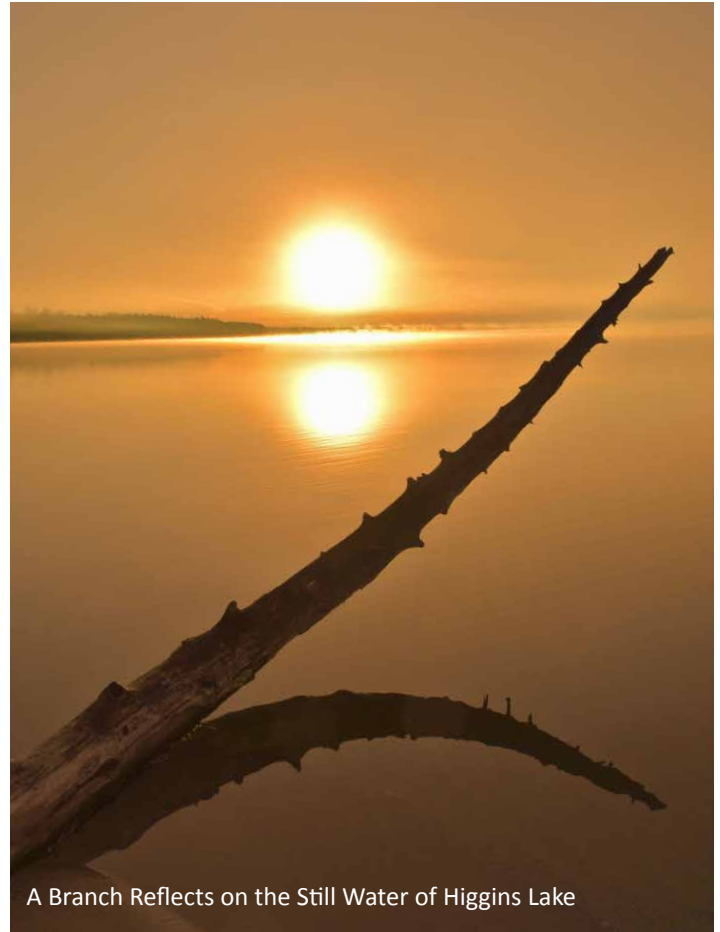
"I like the peaceful relaxing setting of the park. It is one of my favorite places to hike/bike."

"The park is beautiful, and not as crowded as South State Park. Nice, quiet place to enjoy nature."

"The more rustic condition of the beach area to the east of the main picnic area really gives an "up north" feel."

"Visiting the CCC museum is really a historic sensation because my Father used to talk about the CCC and the depression years."

"Learning how they harvested seeds, germinated them watered the small trees and how they transplanted them is rich history. Walking the trail and seeing what remains of the water storage tanks and the watering system is so interesting. And seeing examples of fire towers."



A Branch Reflects on the Still Water of Higgins Lake




3.4 Community Connection

The state park has hosted camping, recreation, and boating access on the picturesque Higgins Lake for generations. The park brings large numbers of visitors to the local area, not only to access the recreational opportunities at the park, but because the campground provides one of the few overnight accommodations in the vicinity. These visitors help provide economic impact to the community as they visit local businesses and attractions during their stay at the park. In addition, the park has worked with partners to create a boat wash as a method of aquatic invasive species prevention and education, helping to maintain the water quality of Higgins Lake, the community's central asset.

The park is also an important archive of the community's history, as it is the site of the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum. Visitors to this site can discover the importance of the nursery in the state's reforestation effort, and how the members of the Civilian Conservation Corps completed conservation projects in the Higgins Lake region and across the state.



Children are Leery of Worms During a Park Program

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	Active Management	Significant Use	Extensive Development
DEVELOPED RECREATION			
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES			

Chapter Four: Management Zones

The 20-year Management Zone Plan was developed in keeping with the park's purpose and significance. The primary goal in the development of the management zones is to protect and enhance the park's natural and cultural resources while also supporting outdoor recreation opportunities at the park. From a palette of nine management zones, the planning team studied the park and applied zones that best fit each area of the park. Management zones describe a variety of activities that may be appropriate within the zone and address the desired future condition for the following categories:

- Natural resources
- Historic/cultural resources
- Recreation opportunities
- Education/interpretation opportunities
- Visitor experience
- Management focus

The resource condition, visitor experience, and development level vary in each of the nine standard zones, as indicated in the figure above. North Higgins Lake State Park (NHLSP) was divided into the following five zones, including one non-standard zone, and one overlay:

- Natural resource recreation zone
- Developed recreation zone
- History education zone

- Administrative services zone
- Ralph A. MacMullan (RAM) Conference Center zone
- Cultural landscape overlay

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. Property is acquired on a willing buyer/willing seller basis. During the general management planning process, the planning team recommended a project boundary for the park that encompassed neighboring land possessing natural, cultural resource and/or recreational value to complement the existing park land. The proposed project boundary includes parcels that the DNR seeks to acquire in order to consolidate ownership and provide clear boundary delineation and ease of access and management (such as provided by road corridors). These areas include an inholding in the center of park which would complete ownership between the state park and state forest land, and a forest boundary correction needed on west end of the park. Conversely, some areas are proposed to be removed from the project boundary, such as the parcels known as Camp Curnalia, on the west side of the park along the southern border.

The current North Higgins Lake State Park boundary and the proposed project boundary are illustrated on the Proposed Project Boundary map that follows.



N. HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Proposed Project Boundary

Data Sources: Michigan CGI Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, ESRI Basemap

- N. Higgins Lake State Park Current Boundary
- GMP Proposed Project Boundary*
- NRC 2004 Approved State Park Project Boundary*
- Area recommended to be added to the NRC 2004 Approved Project Boundary
- Area recommended to be removed from the NRC 2004 Approved Project Boundary

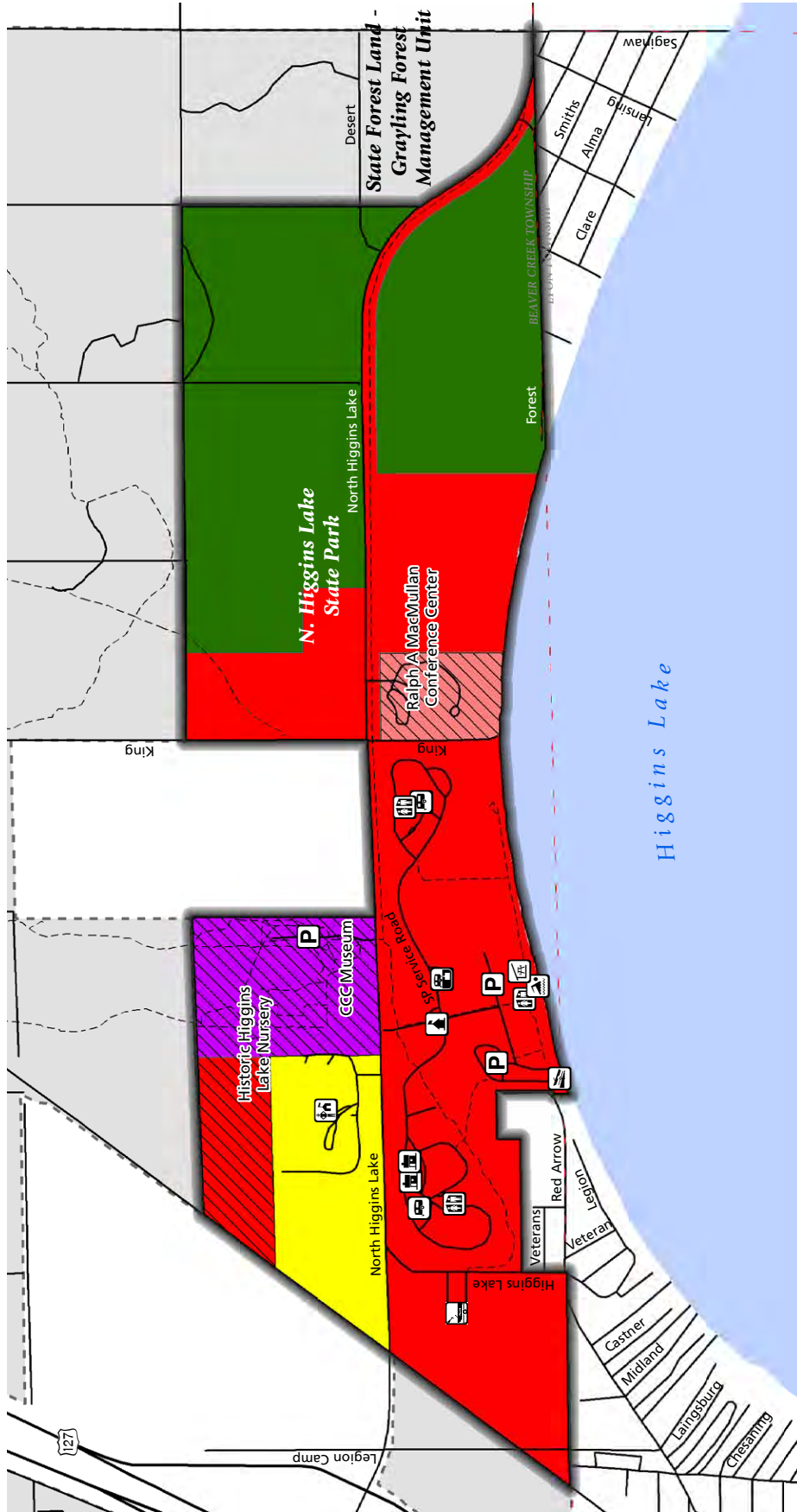
- State Forest Land
- Municipal Boundaries
- Roads

*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 / willing seller basis.



Date: 3/20/2019

B R I
Beckett&Raeder



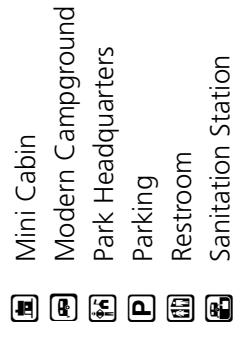
N. HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Management Zones

Data Sources: Michigan CGI Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources



Park Features:



Date: 4/26/2019

Beckett&Raeder

4.1 Natural Resource Recreation Zone

The natural resource recreation zone supports active recreation with medium to high density of use conducted in natural settings. There is an emphasis on resource quality over recreation. This zone contains 155 acres (approximately 34% of the park) and includes the forested land at the east of the park and is bordered by state forest land on two sides. It includes frontage on Higgins Lake and is bisected by North Higgins Lake Road and the Iron Belle Trail.

Natural Resources

In this zone, the natural resources may be managed or modified to support visitor activities with only moderate impacts, while being protected to the degree possible. This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and function. Vegetation may also be managed to facilitate recreational infrastructure.

Historic/Cultural Resources

Although no cultural resources have been documented in this zone, there is strong potential for prehistoric Native American sites. The Grand Traverse-Saginaw Trail passed through the park along the lakeshore (Hinsdale 1931).

Recreation Opportunities

Moderate to high levels of recreation compatible with the natural character of the zone are permitted. Visitors may be engaged in outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings. Activities that may be allowed in this zone include hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, rustic camping, nature observation, hunting, trapping, fishing and snowmobiling. This zone is largely undeveloped.



A Fisherman With His Catch

Education Opportunities

Interpretive signage may be provided at trailheads, on the trails, and at overlooks.

Visitor Experience

Visitors can expect high encounters with other visitors and moderate interaction with DNR staff. Visitors may be engaged in outdoor activities in diverse land and water settings for recreation and education. This zone requires a variable time commitment as well as variable challenge and adventure. There is a moderate noise tolerance in this zone.

Management Focus

The management focus is to maintain use of the zone appropriate to the PRD mission, to protect public safety, protect natural resources, and provide accessibility.

Development

A moderate level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities is acceptable, including vault toilets, concrete/asphalt/gravel trails and small parking lots, trails, benches, picnic tables, and shelters for recreation and educational opportunities. Site hardening including boardwalks, , and surfaced pedestrian paths is allowed as necessary to protect sensitive resources. A moderate level of accessibility should be expected in this zone.



Curing Bark on a Fallen Log

4.2 Developed Recreation Zone

This zone allows active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhancement as possible. This zone is 214 acres (approximately 48% of the park land) and includes the park's campgrounds, day use area, boat launch, beach, the Iron Belle Trail corridor, an agency-use shooting range, the boat wash, and the area currently leased to the Westminster Church.

Natural Resources

Natural resources may be actively managed and modified to support visitor activities. Vegetative management in this zone will facilitate development and recreational use and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape.

Historic/Cultural Resources

There is strong potential for prehistoric Native American sites. The Grand Traverse-Saginaw Trail passed through the park along the lakeshore (Hinsdale 1931). Remnants of the historic nursery operation may be found in this zone (including remnants of a dam and irrigation system).

Recreation Opportunities

High levels of recreation in a highly structured environment are found in this zone. Visitors may be engaged in recreation in diverse and modified land and water settings, such as hiking, modern and semi-modern camping, bicycling, boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, nature observation, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, swimming, picnicking, and other day-use activities such as disc-golf. Snowmobiling may be permitted on designated routes.



North Higgins Lake State Park Campsite

Education Opportunities

Interpretive signage is encouraged at trailheads and at gathering areas such as the campground, registration station and day-use areas. Active programming may also be provided.

Visitor Experience

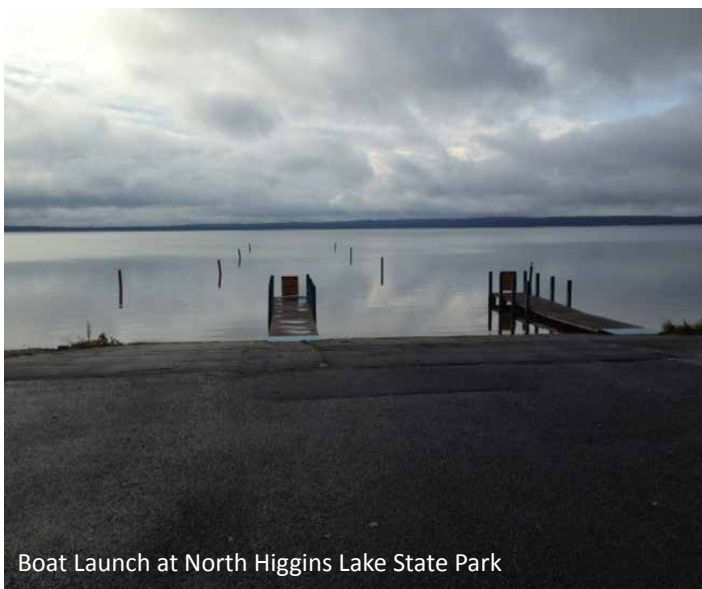
Visitors should expect a high frequency of encounters with other visitors and DNR staff. Visitors may be engaged in outdoor activities in diverse land and water settings for recreation and education. Activities in this zone may require a variable time commitment, variable levels of challenge and adventure, and low to moderate exertion. This zone has a high noise tolerance.

Management Focus

The management focus in this zone is to maintain use of the zone appropriate to the PRD mission, protect the park's resources, maintain public safety, effectively manage visitors, and provide universal access.

Development

A high level of development of facilities to support visitor activities is permitted in this zone, such as restrooms, walkways, boat launches, fishing piers, parking, campground facilities, trails, playgrounds, benches, picnic tables, and shelters for recreation and educational opportunities. Site hardening is allowed as necessary to facilitate activities, protect natural resources, and provide accessibility.



Boat Launch at North Higgins Lake State Park

4.3 History Education Zone

The emphasis of this zone is education and cultural resource preservation. Cultural and historic resources are restored and interpreted for visitor understanding. A high level of development is common in this zone for the management and control of people and traffic, protection of the resources, and historical interpretation. This zone is 32 acres (approximately 7% of the park land) and includes the area encompassing the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum.

Natural Resources

Natural resources that have been identified as important to the integrity of the historic (cultural) landscape are managed to perpetuate those qualities. This can include non-native species (those that are non-invasive) specific to the era and/or location. Vegetation may also be managed to enhance education/interpretation and may include non-native species specific to the era and/or location.

Historic/Cultural Resources

Cultural resources found in this zone, such as the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and associated structures, are preserved, restored, rehabilitated or reconstructed to the specific period of significance. The Secretary of the Interiors Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties are followed.

If essential for visitor access, comfort or education, buildings may be rehabilitated to support visitor and staff activities for in-depth interpretation of historic periods. The Michigan History Center and the State Preservation Office are often consulted.

Recreation Opportunities

Visitors may be engaged in sightseeing and educational activities in a cultural setting, such as visiting the historic structures at the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian

Conservation Corps Museum, walking trails in the adjacent forest, and viewing interpretive exhibits.

Education Opportunities

Structured interpretive/educational activities related to the historic resources, such guided or brochure tours, in-depth history exhibits, media, and programs may be found in this zone. Off-site interpretation may also be present.

Visitor Experience

High visitor encounters are accommodated in this zone. Visitors are engaged in structured interpretive/educational activities related to the historic resources. Visitors should expect a moderate time commitment, low exertion, high on-site interpretation and some off-site interpretation, moderate noise tolerance, high interaction with DNR staff, and a high level of accessibility.

Management Focus

The management focus is to maintain the historic/cultural integrity of the zone. Development should be kept consistent with the zone with a goal of a quality visitor experience of historic interests.

Development

Developments necessary for visitor understanding and/or staff support that are compatible with the historic periods are permitted or are accommodated off-site. Restored or rehabilitated areas include the necessary protection, security, and heating/cooling systems and visitor/staff support uses, such as restrooms and offices. Development, including interpretive media, is consistent with historic periods. Developments found in this zone include the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery exhibits and associated structures (both original and relocated), the Civilian Conservation Corps Museum, walking trails, interpretive signs, a shelter, vault toilets, and parking.



The Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum

4.4 Administrative Services Zone

This zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations, such as the park headquarters, maintenance area, sanitary infrastructure, and all related land base required to conduct the business of running the state park. This zone is 35 acres, or approximately 8% of the park.

Natural Resources

Natural resources may be actively managed and modified to facilitate administrative support activities. Vegetative management, primarily consisting of tree removal for safety, is allowed.

Historic/Cultural Resources

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

Recreation Opportunities

There are no recreational activities provided in this zone, except for hunting outside of the established safety zones.

Education Opportunities

Person to person contact occurs at park headquarters for general information, both verbally and written (brochures, maps, etc.). Informational kiosks and other informational signage may be found in this zone.

Visitor Experience

The visitor experience in this zone is related to park business and information only. A high level of noise is tolerated in this zone.

Management Focus

The management focus in this zone is the business of running the park. This includes safety for employees, universal public access to the office, and providing appropriate facilities for staff, equipment, and materials.

Development

This zone supports a high level of development of facilities for support of park infrastructure and administrative activities, such as office space, meeting rooms, an employee locker room, employee seating area, shop space, storage space, and other related spaces. A high level of accessibility is expected.



Park Headquarters Building

4.5 Ralph A. MacMullan (RAM) Conference Center Zone

This non-standard zone is used to acknowledge the unique relationship between the Ralph A. MacMullan (RAM) Conference Center and North Higgins Lake State Park. This zone is 13 acres, or approximately 3% of the park, and includes the RAM Center facilities and grounds.

Natural Resources

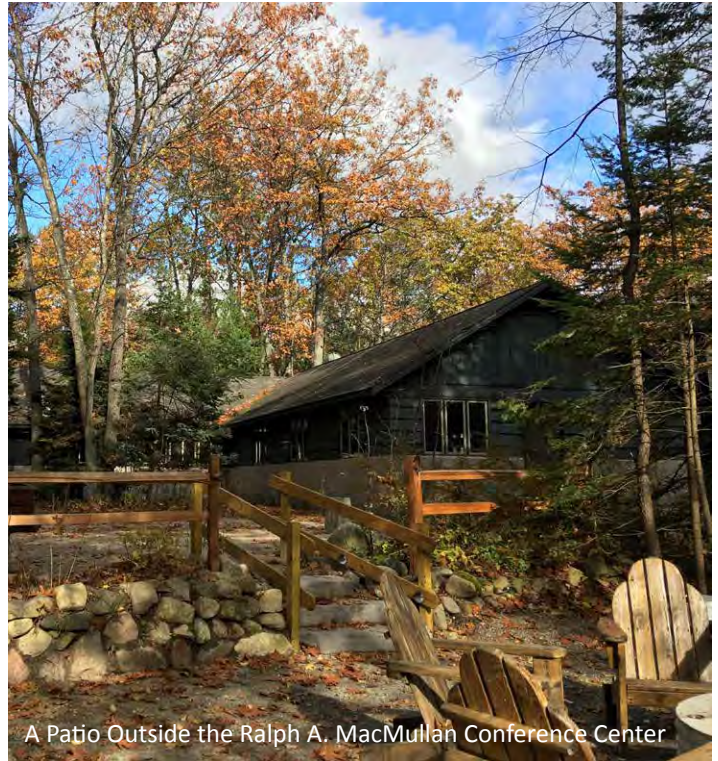
Natural resources in this zone may be actively managed and modified to facilitate conference and support activities, while maintaining the natural character of the landscape consistent with the center's conservation and education mission and National Register eligibility as a historic district. This may include removing invasive species and removing trees for safety.

Historic/Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are preserved or rehabilitated to support visitor activities or education opportunities. The RAM Center is considered eligible for listing as a Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places, and includes six buildings and landscape constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Recreation Opportunities

A high level of structured education and conference-based recreation is found in this zone, such as attending educational seminars and events, outdoor conference activities, staying overnight in the dormitories, outdoor dining, beachfront activities, walking on the campus pathways, conservation training exercises, and other associated activities.



A Patio Outside the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center

Education Opportunities

Conservation-based education is the main focus of this zone, through highly structured conferences and events held at the RAM Center facilities. Visitors may be engaged in educational seminars, conservation trainings, staff meetings, and other events.

Visitor Experience

High visitor encounters are accommodated in this zone. Visitors can expect a variable time commitment depending on the conference or activity they are engaged in. A moderate level of noise is tolerated in this zone. Visitors can expect high interaction with DNR staff, a high level of accessibility, and low exertion.

Management Focus

The management focus in this zone is to provide high-quality conservation-based trainings and events.

Development

Developments necessary for conference and support activities that do not conflict with the historic character and mission of the RAM Center are permitted. Developments such as conference facilities, offices, dormitories, conference-based recreation facilities, parking, and support infrastructure may be found. Site hardening (boardwalks, fencing, surfaced pedestrian paths) are permitted as necessary to protect sensitive resources and provide high accessibility.



Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center

4.6 Cultural Landscape Overlay

The Cultural Landscape Overlay is used to highlight not only historic structures, but also non-structural evidence of the traditions, beliefs, practices, arts, crafts, and social intuitions of any community. This overlay is approximately 11% of the park and includes the history education zone with the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum, as well as an area to the west where there are remnants of seed beds from the historic nursery.

Natural Resources

Vegetation management will be in accordance with the underlying zone (developed recreation and history education). Vegetation may also be managed to enhance education/interpretation uses which can include non-native species (non-invasive) 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 are the focus of this overlay and will be preserved for visitor education and understanding.

Recreation Opportunities

Visitors may be engaged in cultural education/interpretation, sightseeing, hiking, cross-country skiing, nature observation, and other activities compatible with and sensitive to the cultural setting.

Education Opportunities

Education opportunities in this zone are primarily found within the history education zone, such as historic buildings and interpretive exhibits, and are consistent with the underlying zones.

Visitor Experience

The visitor experience will be consistent with the underlying zone.

Management Focus

Management focuses on maintaining and preserving the cultural resources in the area consistent with the underlying zone.

Development

Development will be consistent with the underlying zone and will not negatively impact the cultural resources.





Playground Equipment Near the Beach

Chapter Five: Ten-Year Action Goals

The planning team has developed 10-year action goals that it believes are necessary to guide management and development within North Higgins Lake State Park (NHLSP) to achieve the desired resource protection and user experience. Action goals are recommended that address the following categories: natural resources, cultural resources, recreation opportunities, education/interpretation opportunities, and development. These goals apply either to the whole park or to specific locations within the park, as appropriate and according to the management zone. Refer to the zone descriptions in Chapter 4 for appropriate activities in each zone.

The Ralph A. MacMullan (RAM) Conference Center is managed separately from the park; however, the two are integrally linked, and so the RAM Center administration was involved throughout the general management plan process. The RAM Center's future goals include improved signage, expansion of dining, kitchen, and conference facilities, improvement of the beach area with a pavilion and a dock, and exploring additional overnight accommodation opportunities.

The Department of Natural Resources has been in discussions with the Higgins Lake Utilities Association and Beaver Township to connect North Higgins Lake State Park to the

sanitary wastewater service but has not currently been able to reach an agreement. This will continue to be considered in the future if a mutually acceptable fee structure can be agreed upon. Sewer system improvements in 2018 included replacement of (4) four of the (6) lift standard lift station pumps to Flight (programmable) pumps, flow meters, complete electrical service and component upgrades, new electrical panels, and a fully programmable/operational software for greater maintenance capability.

State park activities for the prevention, detection, and control of invasive species will be supported by Michigan's Invasive Species Program, which is a joint collaboration between the DNR, Department of Environmental Quality, and Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Information about the program can be found at www.michigan.gov/invasives. Park employees will continue to lower the risk of spreading aquatic and terrestrial invasive species to and from the park by following decontamination guidance, developing treatment plans, and educating park visitors about threats. Species on the state's Watch List will be the highest priority for state staff (Appendix A). The DNR will maintain collaboration and communication about invasive species with local partners, such as the Northeast Michigan Cooperative Weed Management Area, the Higgins Lake Foundation, and the

Higgins Lake Property Owners Association. Providing access to the park's natural resources while simultaneously protecting it from potential invaders is an important goal of the Parks and Recreation Division.

Management plans do not guarantee future funding to achieve the actions identified but are based on funding realities and sound investment policies. The Parks and Recreation Department (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.

The following 10-year action goals are ranked 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.

TEN-YEAR ACTION GOALS

The following 10-year action goals are ranked 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 bolded party within the Program Input column is the responsible program position.

MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS			
GOAL	PRIORITY	MANAGEMENT ZONE	PROGRAM INPUT FROM
Continue to work with local communities on developing trail connections as opportunities arise	Ongoing	All	Park Manager Trails Specialist
Continue to improve security of the park through addressing present and future trespass issues	Ongoing	All	Park Manager
Continue to work proactively to develop and implement measures to prevent, detect and control aquatic and terrestrial invasive species	Ongoing	All	Park Manager Stewardship Aquatic Invasive Species Biologist Boating Program
Continue to explore land acquisition of properties within the GMP Proposed Project Boundary.	Ongoing	All	Park Manager Lands Liaison
Work to improve the relationship with Camp Westminster under the terms of the lease	1	Developed Recreation	Park Manager Concession and Lease Manager
Complete a Natural Resources Stewardship Plan for the park, identifying targets for conservation and related natural resource management strategies	1	All	Stewardship Ecologist

MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS, CONTINUED			
GOAL	PRIORITY	MANAGEMENT ZONE	PROGRAM INPUT FROM
Explore the possibility of King Road abandonment south of North Higgins Lake Road with Crawford County Road Commission	1	Developed Recreation / Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center	Park Manager Lands Liaison RAM Center Manager
Explore opportunities to work with park Friends group or other partner to fund and develop a playground in the day-use area.	3	Developed Recreation	Park Manager
Continue cooperation and coordination between the park management and the Ralph A. MacMullan (RAM) Center	Ongoing	All	Park Manager RAM Center Manager
Consider expansion and redevelopment of the shooting/archery range for law enforcement agency and RAM Center program use	3	Developed Recreation	Park Manager Law Enforcement RAM Center Manager

INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT: CAPITAL OUTLAY			
CAMPGROUND AND DAY-USE AREA			
GOAL	PRIORITY	MANAGEMENT ZONE	PROGRAM INPUT FROM
Continue to implement accessibility improvements throughout the park	Ongoing	All	Regional Planner Park Manager
Design and develop the expansion and/or reconfiguration of the parking lot serving the boat launch to meet demand	1	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager
Design and construct a replacement toilet/shower building, per DNR prototype, in the east campground.	1	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager
Continue to explore options for additional overnight accommodation for both the park and the RAM Center	2	Developed Recreation / Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center	Development Planner Park Manager RAM Center Manager
Design and develop the expansion of sanitation dump station to meet demand	3	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager

INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT: CAPITAL OUTLAY, CONTINUED

HISTORIC HIGGINS LAKE NURSERY AND CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS MUSEUM

GOAL	PRIORITY	MANAGEMENT ZONE	PROGRAM INPUT FROM
Perform a structural assessment of historic structures at the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and make improvements for public access	Ongoing	History Education	Regional Planner Park Manager Historian
Implement the expansion of the Iron Belle trail segment, the “Cradle of Forestry Trail,” north of the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum	1	History Education	Trail Specialist Regional Planner Park Manager Historian
Improve the existing parking lot at the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum	2	History Education	Regional Planner Park Manager
Develop comprehensive interpretive displays at the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery Packing House	3	History Education	Michigan History Center

INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT: SMALL PROJECTS

HISTORIC HIGGINS LAKE NURSERY AND CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS MUSEUM

GOAL	PRIORITY	MANAGEMENT ZONE	PROGRAM INPUT FROM
Create a seed bed demonstration area at the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery	1	History Education	Historian Explorer Program
Update outdoor interpretive and wayfinding signage	1	History Education	Historian Michigan History Center Forestry Regional Planner Park Manager
Update the Civilian Conservation Corps Museum exhibits	1	History Education	Historian Michigan History Center Park Manager



Shelter at North Higgins Lake State Park

Chapter Six: Implementation Strategy

This chapter of the general management plan (GMP) provides guidance for implementation of the action goals and maintaining the plan so it remains relevant in the long term. These guidelines will also help the park align the action goals with park, district, and statewide annual funding processes and annual tasks outlined in the Parks and Recreation Division'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 to be responsive to changing circumstances or opportunities that cannot be foreseen. It is recognized that some goals 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.

6.1 Implementation Toolbox

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

Coordination/ Communication

- Meet regularly with the 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 action goals.
- Follow-up regularly on progress for action goals that are not the primary responsibility of the Unit Supervisor/ Manager with the responsible program position.

Funding

- Identify estimated cost for each capital improvement/ infrastructure project, with assistance from Regional Field Planner or other planning and infrastructure section staff as needed.
- Identify potential funding sources for each project/task. Liaise with PRD grants coordinator as appropriate.
- Align potential funding sources with the annual "call for projects" in July for capital outlay funding requests.
- Review action goals list and determine which projects can be requested to receive District Small Project funding through the District Supervisor.

Scheduling

- Further prioritize projects based on need, funding, staffing and other constraints and opportunities.
- Incorporate project/task assignments into annual staff performance objectives.

6.2 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 five-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 it. In reviewing the action goals for changes, documentation should be provided for goals that may become irrelevant or are no longer viable, as well as proposed new action goals, including justification.

The management zoning map should also be reviewed regularly. Any proposed changes to the map related to land acquisition or disposal, errors in the original zoning, or land management changes should be documented. Note that 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.



Campground Restroom and Shower Building

6.3 Documentation of Accomplishments

As action goals 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.

6.4 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 five-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 Five-Year Review Form will be used to record all changes to the plan within the past five 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 action goals, the planning team will complete the Five-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 complete GMP planning process led by the Park Management Plan Administrator. If changes to the action goals only are required, the Phase 2 GMP planning process will be implemented.



Mini Cabin

PARK PROFILE	
AREA	449 Acres
COUNTY	Crawford County
TOWNSHIP	Beaver Creek Township
LATITUDE	44.513490
LONGITUDE	-84.758920
ADDRESS	11747 N. Higgins Lke Drive Roscommon, MI 48653
PHONE	989-821-6125



Appendix A: Supporting Analysis

A.1 Park Setting

North Higgins Lake State Park is located on the north shore of Higgins Lake, on the site of what was once one of the world's largest seedling nurseries. Within the park's 449 acres is the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Museum, which documents the efforts "to put Americans back to work" after the Great Depression. The museum features three historic buildings from the nursery with historical interpretation provided by the Michigan History Center. Managed separately, but located within the park boundary, is the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center (RAM Center), which serves as an educational center for state and federal agencies, educational groups, and nonprofit organizations. The state park contains almost one mile of frontage on the 10,000-acre Higgins Lake. Park visitors can enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking, fishing, swimming, boating, cross-country skiing, bicycling, and year-round camping.

Location & Community

North Higgins Lake State Park is located in southern Crawford County, directly bordering Roscommon County, approximately 12 miles south of the city of Grayling. The area surrounding the state park is rural countryside with dispersed small towns, as well as a community of lake houses surrounding Higgins Lake. The main entrance to the park is off North Higgins Lake Drive, which can be accessed via US-127 to the west and I-75 to the east.

Roscommon is about nine miles east of the park, providing restaurant and grocery options for park visitors. The more developed community of Houghton Lake, just south of the park, offers many more shopping and dining options.

A.2 Demographics

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that the 2010 population of Crawford County was 14,074. The 2015 estimate was 13,801, illustrating a 1.9% decrease over a five-year period. Crawford County is mostly rural, with Grayling being the most populated community.

Crawford County is predominantly white (97.5% of the population). It has a high number of people age 65 or older (20.8% compared to the state average of 13.8%). The majority of the population consists of high school graduates but only 15.8% possess a bachelor's degree or higher compared to a state average of 26.4%. The three most common occupations in Crawford County are in the areas of sales, administrative, and food service.

The neighboring Roscommon County has a higher overall population, but is still largely rural in nature, and has also shown a slight decline in recent years. Roscommon County has a significantly higher percentage of people over 65 than the state, with 28% recorded in 2010, and a relatively low per capita income.

2010 U.S. CENSUS DATA FOR CRAWFORD AND ROSCOMMON COUNTIES			
POPULATION QUICKFACTS	CRAWFORD CO.	ROSCOMMON CO.	MICHIGAN
Population estimates, July 1, 2015	13,801	23,898	9,922,576
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	14,074	24,449	9,883,640
Persons under 5 years, percent, April 1, 2010	4.7%	3.9%	6.0%
Persons under 18 years, percent, April 1, 2010	19.9%	16.1%	23.7%
Persons 65 years and over, percent, April 1, 2010	20.8%	28%	13.8%
Female persons, percent, April 1, 2010	49.8%	50.1%	50.9%
White alone, percent, April 1, 2010	97.5%	97.3%	78.9%
Black or African American alone, percent, April 1, 2010	0.4%	0.4%	14.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent, April 1, 2010	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%
Asian alone, percent, April 1, 2010 (a)	0.4%	0.2%	2.4%
Hispanic or Latino, percent, April 1, 2010	1.3%	1.1%	4.4%
Veterans, 2010-2014	1,596	2,841	648,273
Foreign born persons, percent, 2010-2014	1.4%	2.1%	6.2%
Persons per household, 2010-2014	2.37	2.02	2.52
Living in same house 1 year ago, % age 1 year+, 2010-2014	84.5%	86%	85.3%
Language other than English spoken at home, % age 5 yrs+, 2010-2014	1.2%	2.1%	9.1%
High school graduate or higher, % age 25 years+, 2010-2014	85.8%	86%	89.3%
Bachelor's degree or higher, % age 25 years+, 2010-2014	15.8%	13.3%	26.4%
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16 years+, 2010-2014	21.0	22.6	24.1
Median household income (in 2014 dollars), 2010-2014	42,666	33,540	49,087
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2014 dollars), 2010-2014	21,964	23,074	26,143
Persons in poverty, percent	16.5%	20.7%	15.8%

The overall density of Crawford County is 25.3 persons per square mile, compared to 47.1 in Roscommon County and an average of 174.8 for the State of Michigan.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census Data, 40.9% (4,535) of houses in Crawford County and 46.8% (11,447) houses in Roscommon County are for seasonal use.

GEOGRAPHY QUICKFACTS	CRAWFORD CO.	ROSCOMMON CO.	MICHIGAN
Population per square mile, 2010	25.3	47.1	174.8
Land area in square miles, 2010	556.28	519.64	56538.90

A.3 Regional Recreation Resources

North Higgins Lake State Park is situated in an area with a large amount of public land and associated recreation opportunities. State ownership accounts for 50% of the land in Crawford County and 60% of the land in neighboring Roscommon County. Below is a list of the primary recreational resources within a 30-mile radius of the park.

National Forest

- **Huron-Manistee National Forest** consists of two separate units which were combined in 1945 for administrative purposes. The Huron National Forest portion is roughly nine miles east of North Higgins Lake State Park. It was established in 1909 and covers approximately 438,550 acres. The national forest has some unique features including nesting area for the threatened Kirtland's warbler. The forest also offers a number of lakes, streams, and rivers suitable for fishing and wildlife viewing. Users can camp throughout the forest in some areas without a fee (dispersed camping). Located 19 miles northeast of North Higgins Lake State Park, Wakeley Lake Area is a 2,000-acre tract of land with non-motorized access only for quiet recreation and wildlife viewing.



Hartwick pines Park Interpreter Leads a Group



South Higgins Lake State Park Boat Launch

State Parks

- **Otsego Lake State Park** is a small 62-acre site located 30 miles north of North Higgins Lake State Park. This park offers a modern campground and mini cabins for overnight lodging along with a boat launch providing direct access to the lake. Activities such as fishing, boating, paddling, and swimming may be enjoyed by visitors. The park also offers a designated pet-friendly section of the beach.
- **Hartwick Pines State Park** is about 20 miles north of North Higgins Lake State Park and comprises 9,700 acres of land offering a rich, scenic area for recreational activities. The park features a 49-acre forest of old growth pines and a logging museum, along with other recreational opportunities such as hiking, fishing, biking, wildlife viewing, and camping.
- **South Higgins Lake State Park** is 12 miles south of North Higgins Lake State Park, along the southern portion of Higgins Lake. South Higgins Lake State Park comprises 1,000 acres and contains almost one mile of shoreline and a large boat launch to access Higgins Lake, a great source for fishing. The park has a large modern campground consisting of 400 sites and has become a popular destination in the summer months.

State Forest

- State Forest Land** directly bordering North Higgins Lake State Park is part of the Grayling State Forest Management Unit. This forest management area encompasses 206,749 acres within Crawford County. The Higgins Lake Pathway provides hiking/ cross-country ski trails directly accessible from the North Higgins Lake State Park, which includes Beaver Creek Trail (6.5 miles), Bosom Pines Trail (3.8 miles), and Upland Nature Trail (1.5 miles). Portions of these trails will be improved to ASHTO bicycle standards for the Iron Belle bicycle route through southern Crawford County. The Mason Tract Pathway is another popular hiking and cross-country ski area within the state forest land. It is located 20 miles west of North Higgins Lake State Park and offers a 7.9-mile trail. The area south of the park is part of the Roscommon Forest Management Unit providing 203,425 acres of public land in Roscommon County, not including state parks. The forest contains many water resources for fishing, a number of campgrounds (see table below), and several trail systems for visitors to enjoy, including off-road vehicle (ORV) trails.

STATE FOREST CAMPGROUNDS WITHIN A 20-MILE RADIUS OF
NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK

STATE FOREST CAMPGROUND	NUMBER OF SITES	AMENITIES	MANAGEMENT
Lake Margrethe	37	fishing, boat launch	Hartwick Pines State Park
Au Sable River Campground & Canoe Camp	15	fishing, accessible by water	Hartwick Pines State Park
Burton's Landing	12	fishing, boat launch, accessible by water	Hartwick Pines State Park
Keystone Landing	18	fishing, boat launch, accessible by water	Hartwick Pines State Park
Houghton Lake	50	fishing	North Higgins Lake State Park
Reedsburg Dam	47	fishing, boat launch, accessible by water	North Higgins Lake State Park
Canoe Harbor	45	fishing, carry down launch, pathway access, accessible by water	North Higgins Lake State Park
4 Mile Road Trail Camp	200 individuals	group campground, equestrian only, horseback riding	Hartwick Pines State Park
Rainbow Bend	7	fishing, carry down launch, accessible by water	Hartwick Pines State Park

State Wildlife / Game Areas

- Backus Creek State Game Area** is 4,378 acres in size and is located about 20 miles southeast of the state park. This game area contains marshes, lakes, and forested areas which host a number of waterfowl species including wood duck, mallard, and scaup. Active habitat management also takes place for ruffed grouse, woodcock, white-tailed deer, and wild turkey.
- Houghton Lake State Wildlife Research Area** consists of 12,069 acres of land for habitat management. It is located about 14 miles south of the state park. Species management is focused on white-tailed deer, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, and woodcock.
- Wildlife Management Areas** managed by the Wildlife Division are located throughout the surrounding state forest. These areas are managed for a number of species including beaver, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, eastern massasauga rattlesnake, mallard, ruffed grouse, woodcock, and many others.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS IN THE VICINITY OF NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK

NAME	PROXIMITY
Reedsburg Flooding State Wildlife Management Area	10 mi S
Denton Creek Flooding State Wildlife Management Area	23 mi SW
Houghton Lake Flats North Flooding State Wildlife Management Area	9 mi S
Houghton Lake Flats South Flooding State Wildlife Management Area	11 mi S
Robinson Creek Flooding State Wildlife Management Area	13 mi SW

State and Regional Trails

- **The Iron Belle Trail** is currently under development and, when complete, will be the longest state-designated trail in the nation. The trail plan includes a 1,273-mile hiking route and a 791-mile bicycle route. These trails run between Belle Isle Park in Detroit and Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula. A two-mile segment of the Iron Belle Trail bicycle route runs through the park from West Higgins Lake Drive to Forest Avenue. This ten-foot-wide paved trail was completed in 2017. The next phase to be completed within the park is improvements to the existing Higgins Lake Pathway from the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum parking area north through the Grayling Forest Management Area to Fletcher Road. This will offer users an additional 2.5 miles of trail corridor separate from active roadways through actively managed pines, oaks, and other mixed upland tree habitats.

STATE DESIGNATED PATHWAYS NEAR NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK

PATHWAY NAME	LENGTH	ACTIVITIES
Mason Tract	11.5 miles	hiking, groomed cross-country skiing
Tisdale Triangle	10.1 miles	hiking, groomed cross-country skiing
Red Pine Natural Area	1.5 miles	hiking
Lost Twin Lakes	3 miles	hiking



A Segment of the Iron Belle Trail Runs Through the Park

- **Snowmobile trails** are abundant in the surrounding area. Local snowmobile clubs provide maintenance and grooming on the designated trails in the region through grant agreements. There are roughly 383 miles of trails open to snowmobiling in a 30-mile radius of the park that are maintained by six snowmobile clubs. Local and county ordinances permit operation of snowmobiles on the shoulder of roads in the county.

SNOWMOBILE CLUBS IN THE VICINITY OF NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK

SNOWMOBILE CLUB NAME	MILES GROOMED
Rosco Higgins Trail Cruisers	39 miles
St. Helen Snow Packers	56 miles
Missaukee Trailblazers	50 miles
Houghton Lake Snow Groomers	107 miles
Greater Grayling Snowmobile Club	69 miles
Kalkaska County Snowmobile Club	62 miles



- **The Shore-to-Shore Equestrian Riding/Hiking Trail** is a 204-mile trail stretching across the Lower Peninsula from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan. The trail runs just north of the state park and is open to equestrian and hiking uses. Approximately 55 miles of the Shore to Shore Equestrian occur within 30 miles of North Higgins Lake State Park.
- **Midland to Mackinaw Trail** is a primitive, 210-mile trail starting near the Kawkawlin Flooding Dam in northern Midland County then traversing north to downtown Mackinaw City. It follows a series of trade routes used by American Indians. The trail is maintained by scouts from the Water and Woods Field Service Council (Boy Scouts of America) for hiking and other recreational uses. The trail runs just east of the Roscommon County and Crawford County line near Meridian Road, about 31 miles from North Higgins Lake State Park.

- **Off-road vehicle (ORV) trails** are in the surrounding area of North Higgins Lake State Park. The trails on the surrounding state and national forest land offer a wide variety of off-road recreation opportunities for vehicles ranging from full-sized ORVs to motorcycles (e.g., the Michigan Cross Country Cycle Trail). The St. Helen Motorsport Area lies near the Ogemaw and Roscommon county line, providing a unique opportunity for ORV enthusiast for rock crawl and sand dune riding experiences. There are over 408 miles of designated trails with in a 30-mile radius of North Higgins Lake State Park. The four counties surrounding North Higgins Lake State Park (Crawford, Roscommon, Missaukee, and Kalkaska) have opened the county roads to ORVs through Public Act 240 of 2008. Recent legislation has expanded the area available to ORV use by allowing operation on state forest roads (Public Act 288 of 2016). Over 6,376 miles of forest roads are in the process of being mapped and inventoried in the northern Lower Peninsula. Once the inventory is complete, online maps will be published for the public to reference the roads open to ORV use.

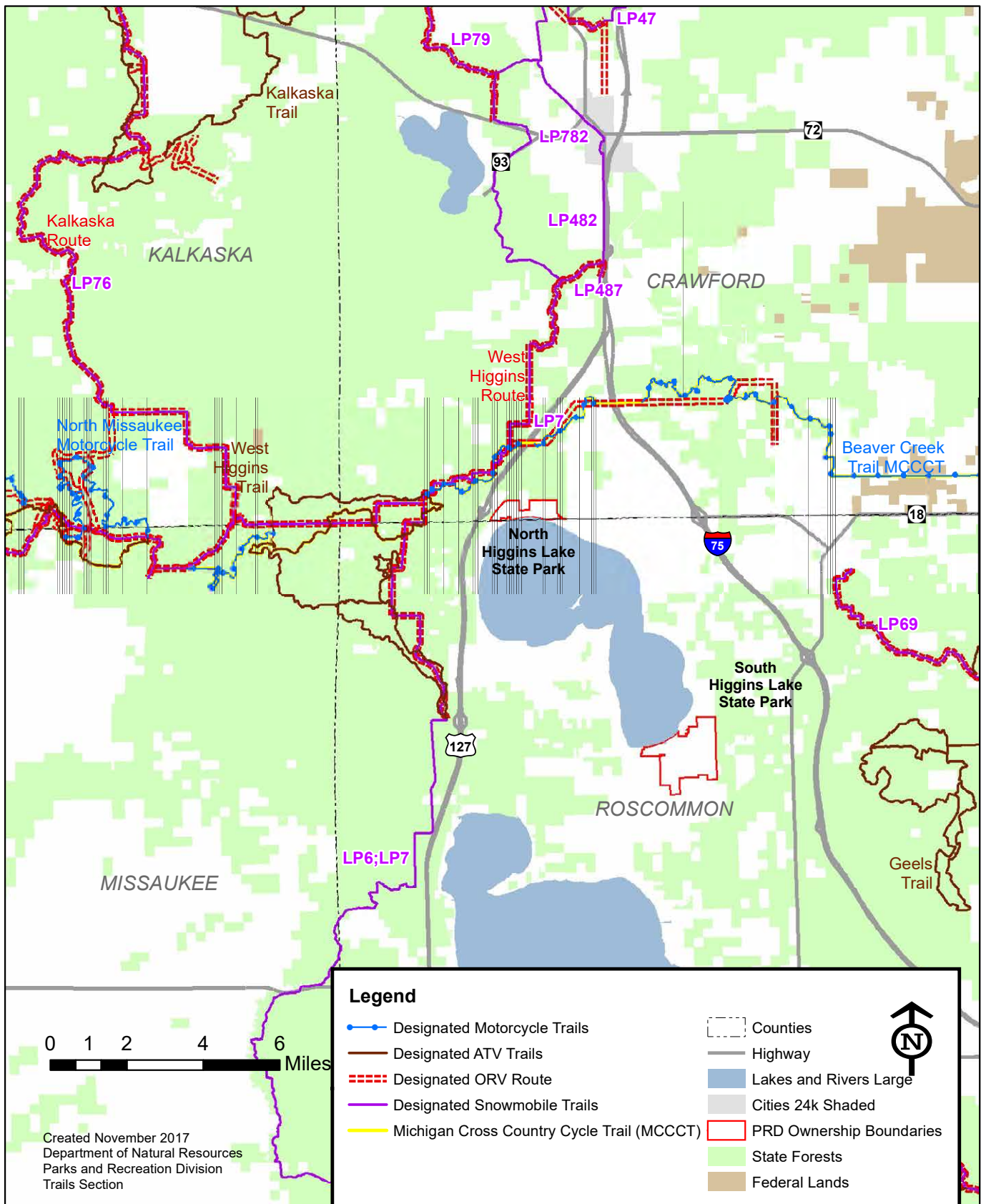
ORV TRAILS AND ROUTES NEAR NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK	
ORV TRAIL NAME	MILES
Beaver Creek MCCCT Trail	36 miles
West Higgins Trail and Route	75 miles
Kalkaska Trail and Route	170 miles
North Missaukee MCCCT, Motorcycle Trail and Route	122 miles
Geels to Roscommon Route	10 miles
Geels Trail	53 miles



Path Along the Higgins Lake Shoreline

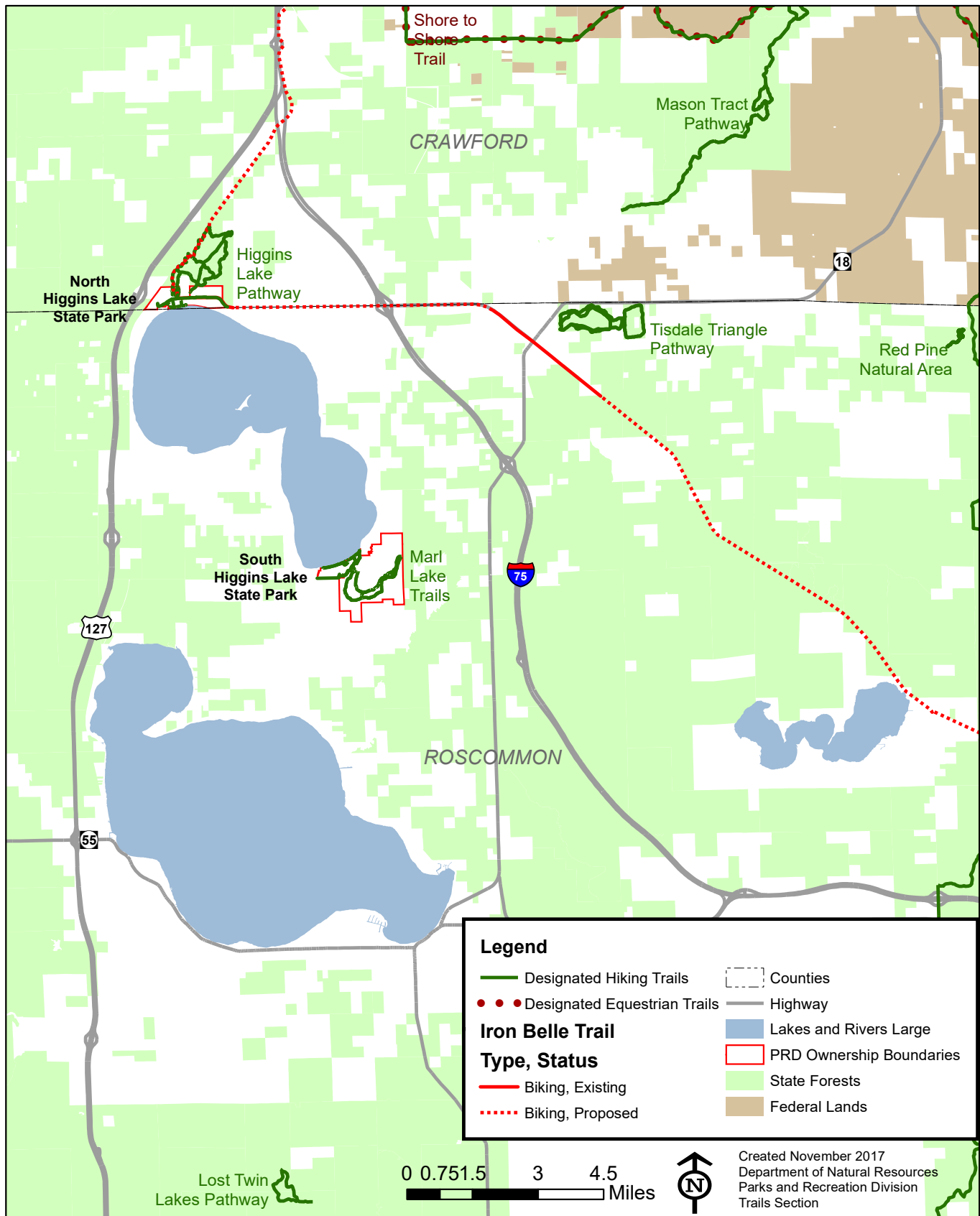


Motorized trails near North Higgins Lake State Park





Nonmotorized trails near North Higgins Lake State Park



Boating Access Sites

Below is a list of boating access sites (BAS) within a close proximity of North Higgins Lake State Park, excluding those that are located within previously listed facilities such as state forest campgrounds.

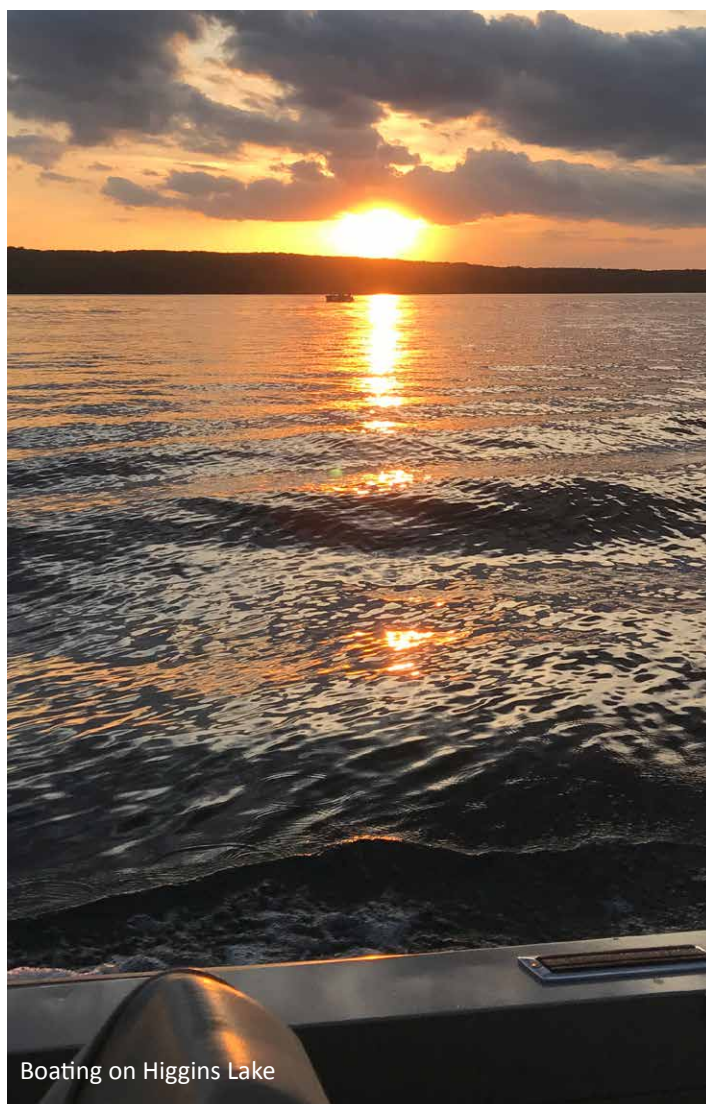
NAME	WATER BODY	ADMINISTRATION	RAMP TYPE
Steckert Bridge	S. Branch Au Sable	DNR – N.H.	gravel, 5 parking spaces
W. Higgins Lake	Higgins Lake	DNR – N.H.	paved, 82 parking spaces
Houghton Lake East	Houghton Lake	DNR – S.H.	paved, 42 parking spaces
Houghton Lake West	Houghton Lake	DNR – N.H.	paved, 89 parking spaces
South Houghton Lake	Houghton Lake	DNR – N.H.	paved, 153 parking spaces
St. Helen	Lake St. Helen	Richfield Township	paved, 90 parking spaces
Meads Landing	S. Branch Au Sable	DNR – N.H.	gravel, carry down
Chase Bridge	S. Branch Au Sable	DNR – N.H.	gravel, 5 parking spaces
Reedsburg Flooding	Muskegon River	DNR – N.H.	gravel, 15 parking spaces
N.H. – North Higgins Lake State Park S.H. – South Higgins Lake State Park			

Water Recreation

Rivers

- **The Au Sable River** is a major tributary to Lake Huron. It drains a north-south basin that includes 1,932 square miles in north-central lower Michigan. The main stream of the river is near the confluence of Kolka and Bradford Creeks in Crawford County and is approximately 138 miles long. The river is utilized for leisure recreation, motorized and nonmotorized boats, and a 120-mile-long canoe race. It is noted for its scenery, recreational opportunities, cold-water fishery, and historic and cultural significance. Besides being classified as a natural river, several portions of the river and tributaries are designated Michigan Blue Ribbon Trout Streams, and 23 miles is designated as a National Wild and Scenic River. The Au Sable River was the write-in winner of the Michigan DNR's 2015 "Michigan's Top Water Trails" contest.

- **The Muskegon River** begins in north-central Michigan from the drainage of Houghton Lake and incorporates over 2,350 square miles of land. The river is over 216 miles long and drains into Lake Michigan. As with most rivers, fishing, boating, canoe liveries, and camping are popular on and along the second largest river in the state. It has a slower current than some of the other river systems in the area making it enjoyable for beginner non-motorized recreation users. The southern portions near Big Rapids and the hydroelectric dams experience the greatest crowding between users.
- **Reedsburg Impoundment** was originally built in 1940s by the Civilian Conservation Corps out of lumber and then was upgraded to a concrete structure in 1938. It the last dam built on the main stream of the Muskegon River, but it differs from the other dams due to its purpose promoting flooding for wildlife instead of producing hydroelectric power. The 1,000-acre impoundment is full of stumps that promote habitat for bluegills and northern pike. Visitors can camp along the shore at rustic campsites while fishing, waterfowl hunting, or boating.



Boating on Higgins Lake



Tubing on Higgins Lake

Lakes

In addition to Higgins Lake, other major inland lakes in the area are:

- **Lake St. Helen** is a 2,400-acre all-sports lake with public access along the eastern shore. The public access site includes a fishing pier, an accessible kayak launch, and a swimming beach area. The lake is the headwaters for the South Branch of the Au Sable River.
- **Houghton Lake**, at 20,044 acres, is the largest inland lake in Michigan and one of the largest natural lakes in the world. The lake receives its water from Higgins Lake and the Cut River and is the headwaters of the Muskegon River. There are three DNR-designated boating access sites and several other community parks providing access. The all-sports lake is bordered by resort-style cottages and has a fishing community atmosphere. One of the most notable events is the annual winter carnival, Tip-Up-Town USA, which is held on two consecutive weekends in January and hosts various activities on the frozen lake surface. Local townships are working toward designating a water trail around the lake.

Municipal Parks and Recreation

Missaukee County Parks

- **Missaukee Lake Park** (33 acres) is located 25 miles southwest of the state park. The park offers a modern campground, beach access, day-use areas, and a boat launch.
- **Crooked Lake Park** (60 acres) is located 28 miles southwest of the state park. The park provides several miles of hiking trails, modern and rustic camping options, day-use areas, and beach access.
- **Ben D Jeffs River Park** (66 acres) is located 14 miles south of the state park. This park serves as a day-use area and provides access to the Muskegon River via a canoe launch ramp.

Richfield Township Parks

- **Richfield Township Park** (135 acres) is located 20 miles southeast of the state park and includes a campground, ball fields, restrooms, a pavilion, play equipment, and tennis courts.

Gerrish Township Parks

- **Gerrish Municipal Park** (25 acres) is located six miles southeast of the state park and includes a pavilion, picnic tables, grills, restroom facilities inside Township Hall, tennis courts, children's play equipment, playfields, a basketball court, tetherball, and paved parking. An adjacent 20 acres of land to the west of the developed park was recently obtained from the State of Michigan for parks and recreation purposes.

Lyon Township Parks

- **Park 27** (31 acres) is located two miles southwest of the state park and includes a dog park, trails, an ice rink, playground equipment, tennis courts, and pickleball courts.

Markey Township Parks

- **Markey Township Park** (31 acres) is located eight miles south of the state park and includes a dog park, a pavilion, ball fields, a fitness path, playgrounds, and a zip line.

Roscommon Township Parks

- **Skinner Park** (37 acres) is 14 miles south of the state park and offers softball fields, pavilions, a walking trail, a disc golf course, and soccer fields.

Land Conservancy

- **The Higgins Lake Land Conservancy**, a non-profit organization formed in 2001 to protect land within the Higgins Lake Watershed, purchased a 26 acre parcel of land in 2017 on the north side of the Cut River, contiguous with South Higgins Lake State Park land.

Private Recreation Facilities

- **Camp Westminster**, a lease holder within North Higgins Lake State Park since 1925, offers summer camp programs for youth. Programs include swimming, sailing, canoeing and kayaking as well as nature studies, hiking and wilderness trips.
- **Hanson Hills Recreation Area** is a winter sports facility located 15 miles north of North Higgins Lake State Park. This facility provides winter recreational opportunities including downhill skiing, snowboarding, tubing, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. The remainder of the year, these trail systems are open to bicycling, hiking, and disc golf.
- **Cross-Country Ski Headquarters** is a specialty cross-country ski shop. Established in 1974, it offers 18 kilometers of groomed trails for classic and freestyle or skate skiing, snowshoes, service, equipment, clothing, and facilities. The shop offers events nearly every weekend during the winter ski season.
- **Other recreation opportunities:** There are several golf courses in the area. Higgins Lake is surrounded by a number of private resorts, cottages, canoe liveries, campgrounds, and marinas that cater to recreational visitors. Additional private recreation resources such as amusement parks and go-carts can be found in the Houghton Lake area.



Replica Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Barracks at the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and CCC Museum

A.4 History of North Higgins Lake State Park

Although there is little documentation of early history for the park site proper, there is evidence that the general area served as Native American bear and deer hunting ground. A probable residence for these hunters is located along the Cut River connecting Higgins Lake and Houghton Lake. This stream is also part of the Muskegon-AuSable water route, which includes Houghton Lake, the Cut River, Higgins Lake, and Beaver Creek to the north. Native Americans were also known to use a trail along the east side of Higgins Lake connecting the Grand Traverse and the Saginaw regions.

In the 1860s, logging of the area's forests began. This was a prime logging location due to its proximity to waterways and large stands of white pine, which make it easy to transport logs down the Muskegon River. White pine was the main species logged in the 1860s and 70s, with other species logged later. Within a short time, most forests in the vicinity were logged or denuded by forest fire, leaving a wasteland with only scattered areas of second growth forest.

In 1876, Lakeside Camp was developed along the north shores of Higgins Lake, leading to recreational development in the area. Visitors were attracted by good hunting and fishing. While "resorting" uses thrived in the region, the agricultural industry did not. This resulted in a low population density of 3.8 persons per square mile.

In 1899, the Michigan Forestry Commission was established by the legislature. Soon after, close to 60,000 acres of tax-delinquent land in Crawford and Roscommon Counties was dedicated as a forest reserve to be managed by the Forest Commission, creating Michigan's first state forest. The land was formally dedicated as a state forest in 1902. Within these

lands, a forest nursery was established in 1903 to reforest the logged and burned land across the state. Under the direction of Marcus Schaaf, in 1913, the first fire tower in Michigan was erected on site. This tower is now part of the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Museum. This nursery grew over the years to a peak production of 22 million seedlings in 1931, making it one of the world's largest forest nurseries. The nursery was in operation until 1964

In 1925 the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Detroit entered into a 50-year lease with the Department of Conservation to operate a camp for girls and boys on the shores of Higgins Lake, in what was then the southeast corner of the Higgins Lake State Forest (now part of North Higgins Lake State Park). The camp has been operated at that location ever since, focusing on outdoor recreation and environmental education.

As Higgins Lake State Park (on the south shores of Higgins Lake) grew in popularity, a state forest campground was established on the north arm of the lake. This campground also became very popular, leading to the site being transferred to the Parks Division in 1963. A master plan for updating the campground was approved in October 1964. Initially managed as a unit of Higgins Lake State Park, the State Park Commission approved separating the parks into two units, North and South Higgins Lake State Parks, in 1966.

The Ralph A. MacMullan (RAM) Conference Center was established in 1941 when the first buildings of the complex were completed by the local camps of the Civilian Conservation Corps: the concrete block classroom building, the lounge/dining unit, and kitchen unit (Camp Higgins Lake of the CCC worked at the Higgins Lake Nursery). In 1957, a modern classroom building was added. Six of the eight original



Resource Lounge at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center

buildings still remain on site. The original purpose of the RAM Center was to “teach conservation to large groups of students coming from Michigan schools and colleges” and to serve as a training facility for the Department of Conservation.

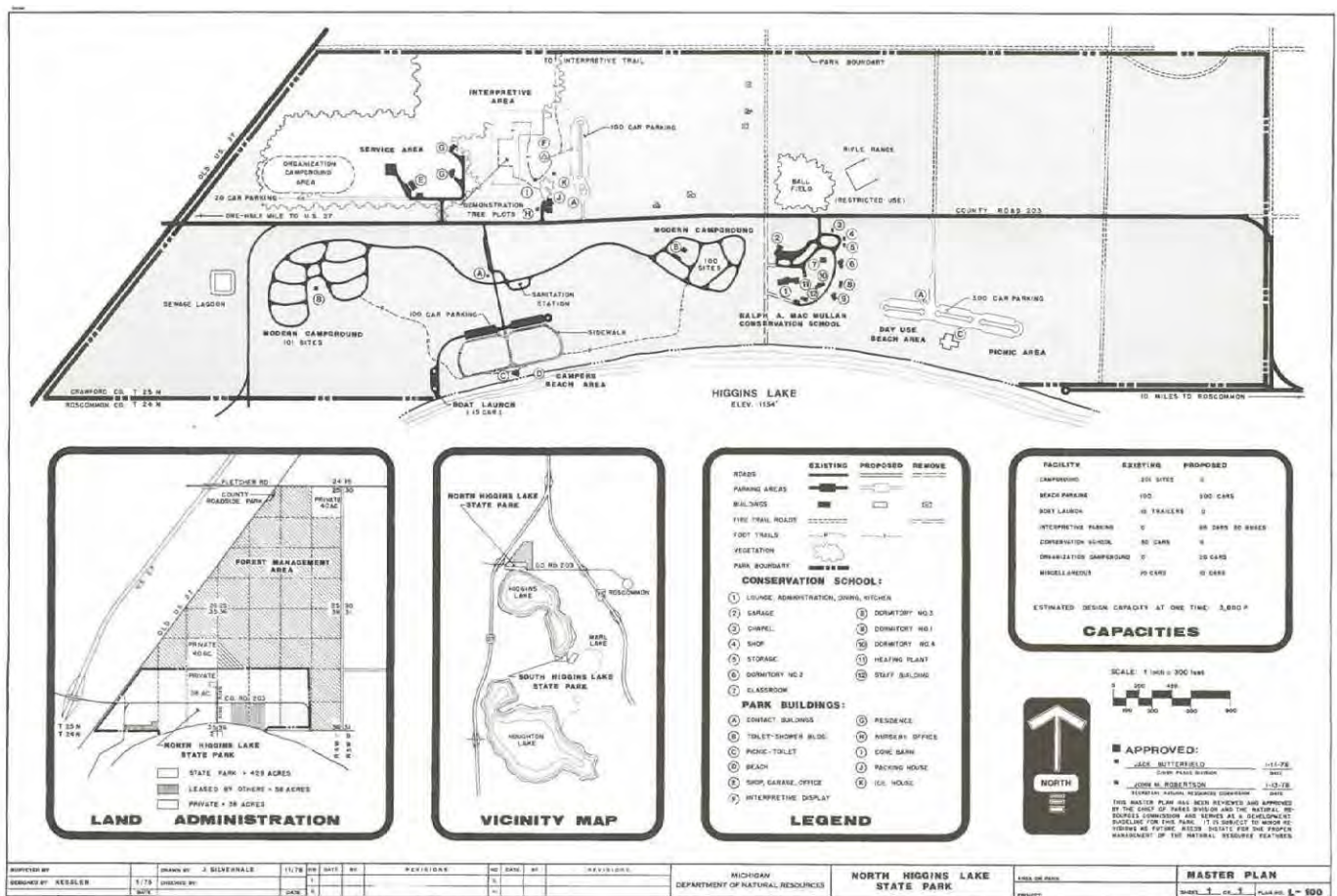
A master plan was adopted for North Higgins Lake State Park in December 1974. Key recommendations of the plan included property acquisition, the abandonment of King Road south of County Road 200, the termination of the lease of the Westminster Church Camp and use of the land for a day-use beach (not realized), a campers’ beach, a boat launch, and an interpretive area at the site of the former Higgins Lake Nursery. The current park headquarters building was constructed in 1975. A copy of the master plan follows.

The Civilian Conservation Corps Museum, constructed by CCC Alumni and Michigan CCC enrollees, opened in June 1986 through a partnership between the Michigan Department of State’s Bureau of History and the Department of Natural Resources. A replica of a 1935 CCC barracks was created, and the Michigan Historical Museum collected artifacts and veterans’ recollections at CCC reunions, which were then incorporated into the museum. CCC Alumni reunions took place for many years at the museum, most recently in the early 2000s.

Today, the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum contains three original nursery structures. These include the packing house in its original location, as well as the cone barn and ice house, which were both moved from near Higgins Lake in the East Campground. Also, the ram pump, originally located at the concrete dam, is now within the interpretive complex.

A bronze CCC statue on site, dedicated on June 3, 1995, was the first of its kind. A fund-raising effort spearheaded by Rev. William Fraser of Grayling generated \$38,000 to commission an artist and cast the life-sized CCC worker. Dozens of replicas now dot the United States.

Through the 1980s and ‘90s park development and improvements continued with the construction of a new cold storage building, contact station, mini-cabins #1 and #2, a wastewater treatment plant, and the beach shelter. The campgrounds underwent significant improvements in 2002, with electrical upgrades, well upgrades to both bathroom buildings, and a new toilet/shower building in the west unit. A new beach bathroom building was constructed in 2004. In 2008, a boat wash was built in partnership with the Higgins Lake Association at the west end of the park. In 2017, nearly two miles of the Iron Belle Trail was constructed within the park.



A.5 Land Ownership

Funding Sources

The lands that comprise North Higgins Lake State Park have been acquired by the state through a variety of funding sources. Often, conditions attached to the original funding source or other details of the property transaction encumber the future use or disposition of the land.

The funding source map at the end of Appendix A identifies the sources used in acquiring land within North Higgins Lake State Park. The following outlines in more detail each funding source associated with the park.

State Game Fund

Act 17, P.A. 1921 established a funding source for land purchased with revenue from a \$1.50 tax on hunting licenses. The primary purpose of this land is for hunting and fishing, and the development of other recreation facilities is restricted. Approximately 190 acres of North Higgins Lake State Park was purchased with this fund in 1904 and 1914.

Tax Reversion

The state acquired the balance of the land through tax reversion due to non-payment of taxes. These lands are identified as unshaded areas on the Funding Source map. These tax reversions occurred 1896 and 1902 and make up about two-thirds of the park.

Easements

The following easements have been documented as impacting the property.

- Consumers Power Company: multiple easements to construct and maintain electrical distribution line and to construct, operate, maintain, and repair overhead lines and fixtures and underground lines and fixtures
- Crawford County Road Commission: 66-foot easement for highway purposes (1955), and a 66-foot ROW for North Higgins Lake Drive curve relocation (2001)
- Michigan Transportation Commission (currently MDOT): 10- to 50-foot easement for US-27 improvements (Old US-27) and 200-foot easement for highway purposes (1946)
- Sun Oil Company: 25-foot easement to lay, maintain, operate, repair, replace, and remove a 4" gas line (1957)
- Leonard Crude Oil Company: 25-foot-wide easement and right to lay, construct, operate and maintain a 6" crude oil pipeline (1960)
- State Highway Commission: easement for US-27 relocation (1964)

Leases

- Higgins Lake Property Owners: construct and maintain boat wash; current agreement ends May 31st, 2018.
- The Westminster Church: for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a camp for boys and girls. The State entered into a lease in 1925 with the Westminster Church of Detroit for sole use of a parcel of land east of the RAM Center for a period of 50 years and thereafter from year to year. A copy of the lease and a 1982 Court of Appeals Ruling can be found in Appendix C



A Stream Flows
Through the Park

A.6 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 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.

Specific to North Higgins Lake State Park the following legal mandates have been identified.

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.	
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 Department of Natural Resources (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 the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) 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 (DEQ) 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 (DEQ) to undertake certain activities in regulated wetlands, such as, dredging, fill, construction or drainage.
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.
PA 288 of 2016, ORV system and operation (Amends PA 451 of 1994)	Provides specific requirements for inventory of state forest roads and ORV use on forest roads and other state-owned land. This law also contains provisions for cross-country retrieval of certain big game species using ORVs and horses.
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.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (EXCERPT)

ACT 451 OF 1994
324.509B MACMULLAN CONFERENCE CENTER; RESTRICTIONS ON AVAILABILITY.
SEC. 509B.

The MacMullan conference center shall be available only to the following:

- (a) The department.
- (b) Federal, state, and local government agencies.
- (c) Education institutions.
- (d) Nonprofit corporations or associations organized pursuant to the nonprofit corporation act, 1962 PA 162, MCL 450.2101 to 450.3192.
- (e) Community service clubs.
- (f) Groups of persons with disabilities.
- (g) Members of the legislature for purposes related to the business of the legislature.
- (h) Entities and organizations that wish to use the conference center to host an event that has a natural resources or environmental agenda.

County Ordinance: Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Ordinance

Under Crawford County ORV Ordinance, an ORV may be operated on the far right of the maintained portion of the road within the county, except ORVs may not be operated on any state or federal highway within the county. The City of Grayling has their own ORV Ordinance within the city limits.

Orders

The following Orders apply to North Higgins Lake 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:

(57) North Higgins Lake State Park, Crawford County.

5.10 SHOOTING RANGES AT STATE PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS, DESIGNATION BY DIRECTOR; PROHIBITED CONDUCT AT CERTAIN RANGES.

(3) A designated shooting range is established in the SW 1/4 of section 36, T25N, R4W, Crawford County, at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center. In addition to other provisions regulating the use of shooting ranges on state owned lands, a person shall not discharge a firearm at the shooting range designated in this subsection unless each of the following conditions are met:

- (a) A range use permit has been issued by the manager of the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center.
- (b) The person is a law enforcement officer, a student with a certified law enforcement officer training institution, or a member of a conference center group having firearms instruction as part of their agenda.

Wildlife Conservation Orders

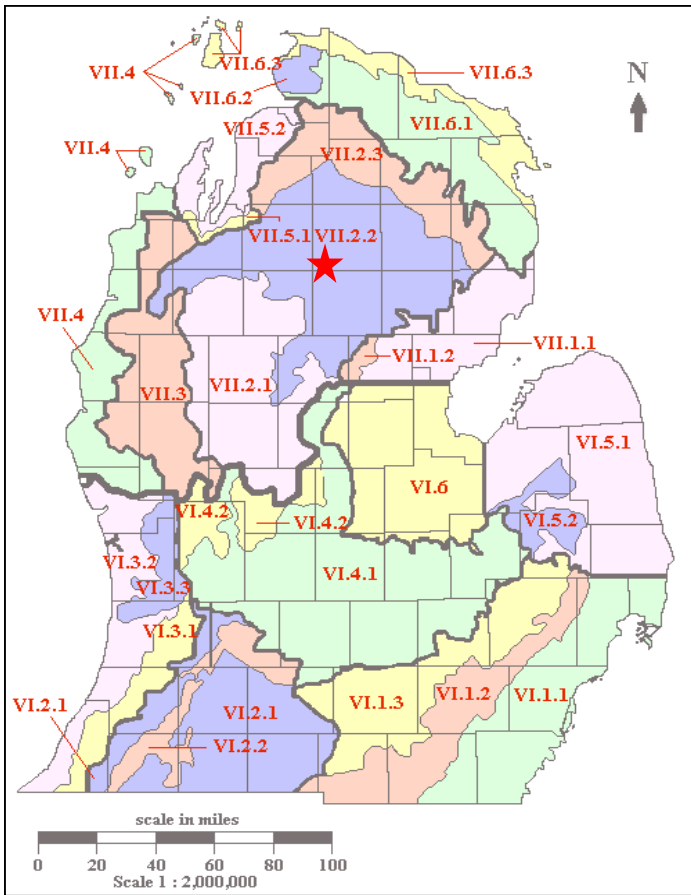
Wildlife is owned by all the people of the state of Michigan, and protection is administered and managed by the Michigan DNR. Hunting and trapping regulations including methods of take, bag limits, license quotas, and season dates are established by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and are described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

7.22 NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK, HUNTING AND TRAPPING ALLOWED.

Sec. 7.22 Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during the established seasons on all state-owned lands within the dedicated boundary of North Higgins Lake State Park north of County Road 200 in sections 35 and 36, T25N R04W.

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.



A.7 Natural Resources

Regional Landscape

The following information was obtained from the Regional Landscape Ecosystems of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin prepared by Dennis Albert in 1995. North Higgins Lake State Park is located in the central part of ecoregion VII.2.2, Grayling Outwash Plain. Sub-subsection VII.2.2 is a high outwash plain with several large lakes and rivers. Within the plain are several steep ridges surrounded by flat outwash. The climate is the most continental within the section, with extremely low winter temperatures and frosts throughout the summer. This 4,061 square mile sub-subsection has elevations ranging from 900 to 1,580 feet and contains some of the thickest glacial drifts (250 to 800 feet) in the state.

Climate

The growing season ranges from 80 to 130 days, and frost danger is high throughout the growing season. The following information was obtained from US Climate data on Grayling, MI: annual snowfall for the area averages 105 inches, and precipitation averages 33 inches annually; the average annual low temperature is 31.1°F and the average annual high temperature is 53.6°F.

Water Resources

This region has several large lakes occupying the outwash plains including Houghton Lake, Higgins Lake, Lake Margrethe, and Lake St. Helen. Higgins Lake is the headwaters of the Muskegon River. Higgins Lake is a large (10,000 acre) spring-fed lake known for its deep, clear waters, which reach 135 feet in the deepest areas. There is also an area of wetland identified near the lake.

Topography

Most of the flat outwash plain is at an elevation of 1,050 to 1,300 feet. Within the state park, elevation ranges from 1,148 feet along the lake coast to 1,230 feet to the northeast corner of the property.

Soils

Slopes in the zero to three percent or zero to six percent classes are most common but slopes as steep as six to 18 percent occur within the park. Drainage classes range from excessively drained to very poorly drained; somewhat excessively drained soils are most prevalent. Most of the soils are sand with one loamy sand soil and two muck textures. The most common soil type is Graycalm sand, but Croswell sand is also found throughout the park.

Geology and Mineral Resources

Higgins Lake, like most of Michigan's inland lakes, is a kettle lake that formed after the last of the continental glaciers receded from Michigan at the end of the last glacial period.

The surface geology of the area surrounding Higgins Lake consists of sand and gravel from ice-contact drift, glacial outwash, and postglacial alluvium. The glacial drift in this region is in the range of 200 to 400 feet thick. The coarser glacial sediments are frequently quarried across the state for sand and gravel, primarily for use in road construction and maintenance. Several active sand and gravel mining operations are located in the vicinity of the lake, including a pit immediately south of South Higgins Lake State Park. Bedrock underlying the Quaternary sediments in the park consists of the Mississippian-age Michigan Formation. The Michigan Formation is not considered to have economic value in this part of the state.

Large producing oil fields are located to the north and west of Higgins Lake. These are older fields that are currently undergoing secondary recovery, or enhanced oil recovery (EOR), operations. All of the state-owned land around the lake has been subject to recent oil and gas leasing activity. The majority of the state acreage within North Higgins Lake State Park is no longer under lease. All of the state land within the park has been classified as "leasable non-development,"

indicating that, while leasing is permitted, construction of drill sites on the surface will not be allowed. The state does not own all of the land or mineral rights within the park. Where the state is not the mineral rights owner, the state is required to provide the mineral rights owner reasonable access to the surface for the purpose of mineral exploration and development if the owner of the mineral estate elects to develop their interest in the property.

1800s Land Cover

According to the General Land Office records of the early 1880s, the wetland area of the park was primarily hardwood conifer swamp consisting of white pine, trembling aspen, paper birch, balsam poplar, and red maple. Low conifer swamps were found near Higgins Lake shoreline. The abiotic conditions and vegetation were very similar to those found on lacustrine deposits in Upper Michigan. The upland of the park was dominated by red pine and oak.

Current Land Cover

The majority of the current land cover consists of dry-mesic northern forest. There is a large area of hardwood conifer swamp near the lake shore.

Rare Fauna

Below is the list of rare animals occurring in the park as of the 2015 survey period for North Higgins Lake State Park. There are no known rare plant species at this time.

FAUNA: RARE ANIMALS PRESENT AT NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK		
SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STATE/FEDERAL STATUS
<i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>	eastern massasauga rattlesnake (EMR)	special concern / threatened
<i>Appalachia arcana</i>	secretive locust	special concern

The Eastern massasauga rattlesnake (EMR) is protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act. Because there is only a single EMR occurrence record for North Higgins Lake State Park, the park was enrolled as unmanaged habitat in the EMR Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA). While construction projects may still require United States Fish and Wildlife Service review, operations and management are not constrained by the EMR CCAA.

Fisheries

Higgins Lake is about 10,000 acres in size and 135 feet in depth. Higgins Lake is an extremely popular lake for fishing, particularly ice fishing in the winter. Higgins Lake has self-

sustaining populations of lake whitefish, lake herring, northern pike, rainbow smelt, smallmouth bass, rock bass, and yellow perch. The lake is also stocked with lake trout and rainbow trout. Higgins Lake is designated as a Type E trout lake. Type E regulations allow year-round fishing, with minimum size limits of 15 inches for all trout species and a catch limit of three trout per day. North Higgins Lake State Park provides excellent access for anglers to launch boats or access the lake for ice fishing.

Wildlife

Higgins Lake is a popular stopover location for migrating waterfowl. Species observed include mallard, black duck, wood duck, northern pintail, bufflehead, canvasback, common merganser, goldeneye, redhead, red-breasted merganser, old squaw, scaup, and Canada geese. Common resident nesting species include mallard, wood duck, common merganser, and red-breasted merganser. Common loons, which are listed as a state threatened species, are frequently observed on Higgins Lake with documented nesting and reproduction. Bald eagles and osprey can be observed feeding at Higgins Lake and typically nest within one to three miles of the Higgins Lake shore. Muskrat are occasionally seen within Higgins Lake. White-tailed deer, fox, raccoon, bobcat, skunk, various species of squirrels, and the infrequent black bear are all visitors to North Higgins Lake State Park. Many species of song birds abound throughout the parks, given the variety of upland and wetland habitats that are found within the park boundary.



Minnows Swim in a Stream Near The Higgins Lake Outlet

A.8 Recreational Resources

Recreation resources and facilities within North Higgins Lake State Park are described below.

Boat Launch

Located along the shore of Higgins Lake a concrete boat launch for visitor use with plenty of parking for trailers. Higgins Lake allows both non-motorized and motorized boating.

Boat Wash

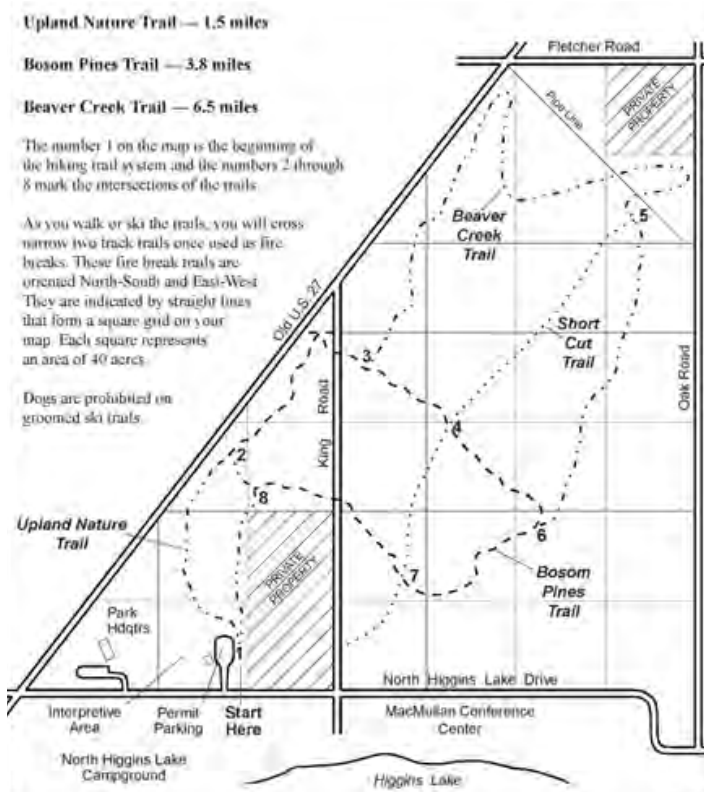
A boat wash is available for boat launch users to help protect against the spread of invasive species.

Paddling

Paddle boards and kayaks are available for rent. The stand-up paddle boards can be rented through the park's concessionaire and kayaks can be rented from the park's contact station, located at the park entrance.

Beach

North Higgins Lake State Park contains a designated beach area allowing for swimming. There is a shelter near the beach, picnic areas, and bathroom facilities.



Fishing

Access to Higgins Lake provides for ample fishing opportunities.

Trails

In the main area of the park, there are hiking trails from both campgrounds to the beach. To the northeast, there is a system of trails leading to the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum from the connecting foot trails. More than 11 miles of marked hiking, biking, and cross-country ski trails are adjacent to the park on state forest managed land. Trails are groomed in the winter for skiing. A nearly two-mile section of paved trail, the biking route of the Iron Belle Trail, is located within the park.

Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum

The Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Museum at North Higgins Lake State Park documents the efforts to “put Americans back to work” during the Great Depression. The nursery was established in 1903 and produced millions of pine seedlings every year, which were planted across the state and nation by the CCC. Two historic nursery structures (which were moved to their current location from elsewhere within the park) are part of the museum’s exhibit. The CCC enrolled more than 100,000 young Michigan men to perform a variety of a conservation and reforestation efforts. Between 1933 and 1942, the Michigan CCC planted 484 million trees, spent 140,000 days fighting forest fires, and constructed 7,000 miles of truck trails, 504 bridges, and 222 buildings. The DNR state park system carries many examples of their work still in use today.

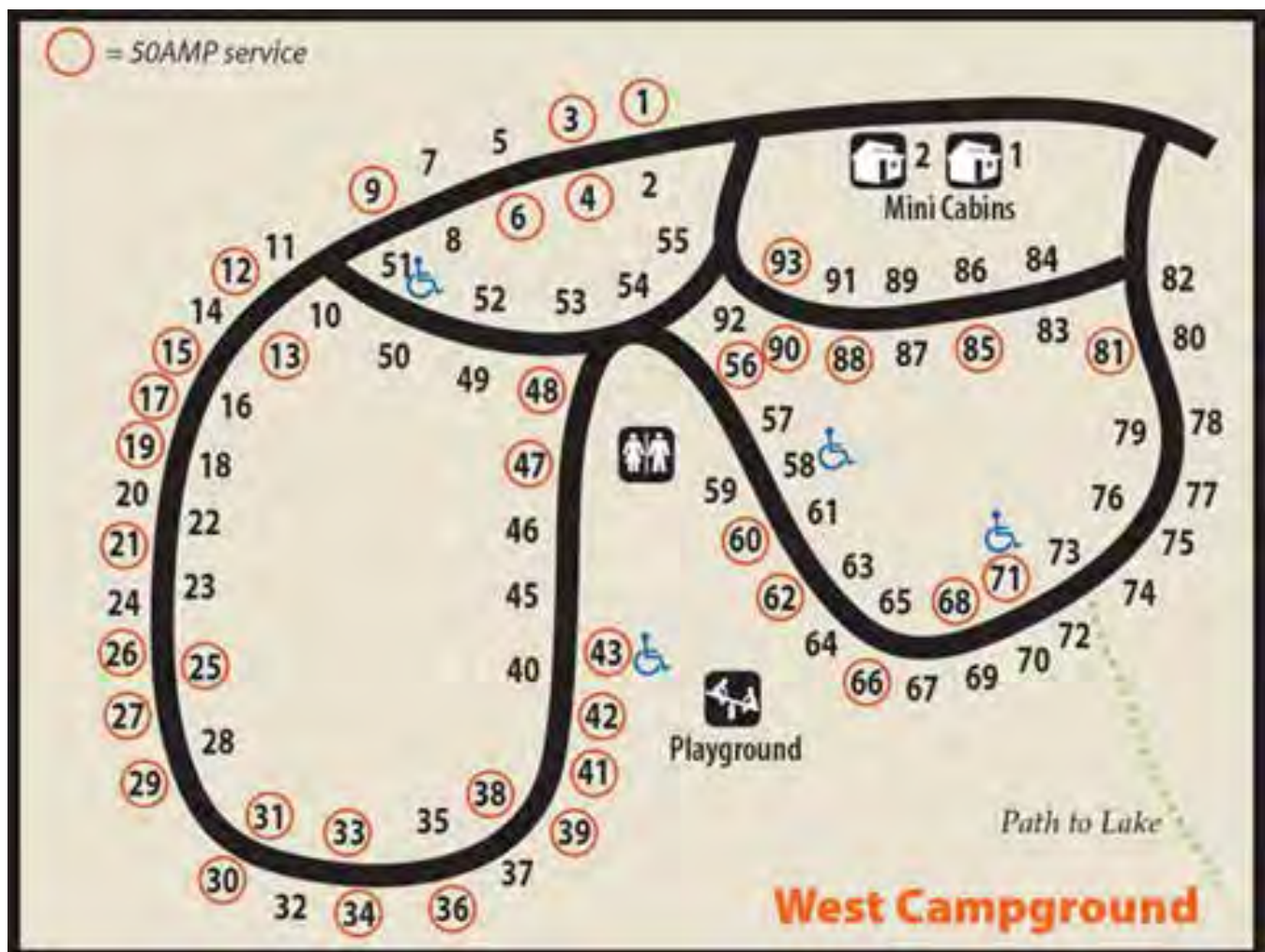
Ralph A. MacMullan (RAM) Conference Center

The RAM Conference Center is located within the boundaries of the state park, but it is managed separately and has its own budget. This educational center provides a recreational retreat for non-profit, government, and educational-based organizations, as well as private businesses with an outdoor or green-themed agenda. It is not rentable by non-affiliated parties.

Camping

North Higgins Lake State Park provides year-round camping at two campgrounds within the state park. The West Campground contains 93 campsites and two mini cabins. The East Campground has 82 campsites. Both are modern campgrounds with electrical hook-ups and 50-amp services available, as well as modern restrooms. A sanitation station is available within the park. Visitors can also rent a pop-up camper.





A.9 Historic and Cultural Resources

There are three historical structures within the park boundary associated with the historic nursery landscape. All of the resources are a part of the nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) history. The cone barn and ice house were moved to their current location from the original forestry complex across the road. These two buildings were constructed in 1912, whereas the packing house was constructed in 1928. The nursery landscape consists of old planting beds which are notable and provide a great resource for interpretation.

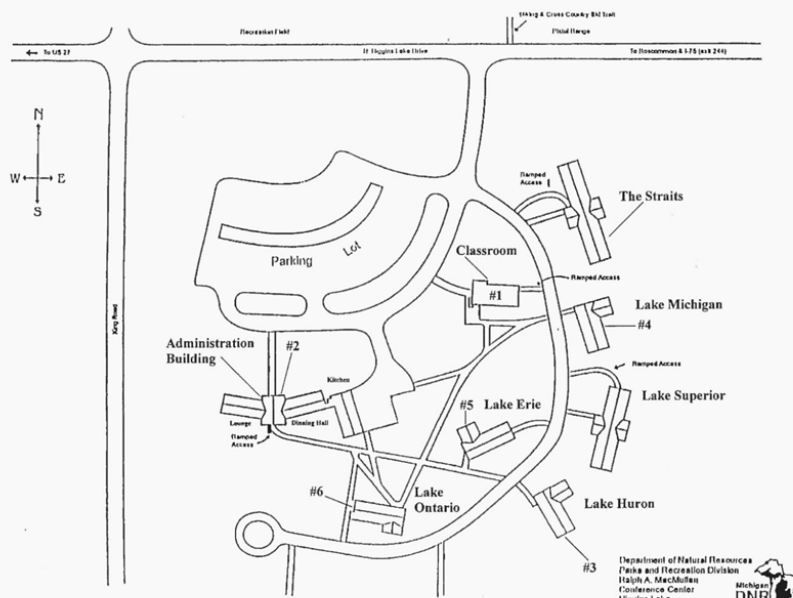
STRUCTURES	DMB#
Ice House	81632
Cone Barn	81633
Packing House	81629

The Ralph A. MacMullen (RAM) Center is considered eligible for listing as a Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. Six of the original eight buildings constructed by the CCC remain on the site as indicated on the following map. The RAM Center was established in 1941 with the completion of the Administration Building; the other

structures were added shortly after. The buildings were sited to take advantage of the natural landscape. The lounge/dining hall was built in the rustic style and has two fire places made of stone taken from a farm in Roscommon. Though a wing was added, it still retains its historic integrity. The original furnishings were made by Cross Village Indians from the Petoskey area, and some of these items are still in use today. The interiors of the dormitories have been altered. The RAM Center is historically significant for its role as an education center for Michigan's conservation movement and the buildings are significant examples of park architecture.

According to the state archaeological site file, no sites have been recorded in North Higgins Lake State Park. Site file records also indicate that no archaeological survey has been conducted in the park, so it is possible that as yet unidentified sites are present in the park. In 1903, the state's first seedling nursery was established on property that became part of the state park; elements of the nursery operation can still be seen. Hinsdale's Archaeological Atlas of Michigan (1931) depicts the route of the Grand Traverse – Saginaw Trail running just north of Higgins Lake, suggesting the trail may have passed through the park.

Ralph A. MacMullen Conference Center



Extant Historic Structures – Historic District – Department of Conservation School

Rank	Park	Structure	DMB #	RHV	Map #
5	R.A.M. Conference Center	Classroom	81648	45	1
5	R.A.M. Conference Center	Administration Bldg (dining hall & kitchen)	81649	69	2
5	R.A.M. Conference Center	Lake Huron Dormitory	81652	64	3
5	R.A.M. Conference Center	Lake Michigan Dormitory	81653	64	4
5	R.A.M. Conference Center	Lake Erie Dormitory	81655	64	5
5	R.A.M. Conference Center	Lake Ontario Dormitory (staff dorm)	81659	72	6

A.10 Programming and Events

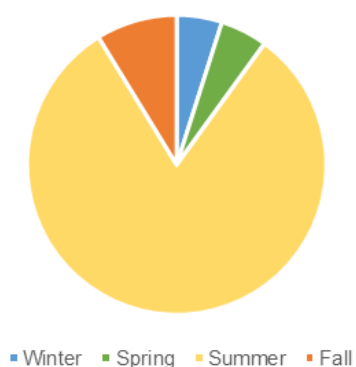
North Higgins Lake State Park offers programming each summer, from Memorial Day through Labor Day, through the State Park Explorer Program. State park explorer guides offer a variety of educational and recreational programs and hikes that feature the park's unique natural and cultural resources. Programs offered include Smokey Bear/Forest Resources fire prevention education, Meteors and S'mores, hiking, and various programs on Michigan wildlife. Other special events and programs include:

- Story Time in the park through a partnership with the Houghton Lake Public Library and Roscommon Area District Library
- Michigan Ski for Light – an annual event that has taken place at N. Higgins Lake since 1980 in association with the Michigan Ski for Light non-profit organization that pairs visually impaired skiers with sighted guides.
- Start of the Higgins Lake Sunrise Run Half-Marathon
- Home of the Higgins Lake Roscommon Chamber of Commerce Winterfest
- Fall Festival

A.11 Park Use Statistics

In 2017, North Higgins Lake State Park had an estimated 123,566 visitors (day-use and campers). The number of campers was derived from camp nights recorded in the reservation system multiplied by the average party size (3.0 for the campsites and 2.8 for the cabins). Day-use numbers are estimated by car counts in the park. These statistics do not take into account visitor's to the Ralph A. MacMullan (RAM) Center (see separate statistics below). Camping data indicates that the park caters both to local residents and those travelling from east, central and southeast Michigan.

2017 Day-Use Visitors by Season



2017 RAM Center Statistics

In Fiscal Year 2017 (October 2016- September 2017), there were 9,172 guests at the RAM Center programs and events.

2017 Park Use Statistics

FISCAL YEAR	NUMBER OF CAMPERS	DAY-USE VISITORS
2017	32,773	90,793
2016	28,343	101,900
2015	26,244	100,074

Fiscal Year 2017 (October 2016-September 2017):

- Campsite nights: 10,665
- Day-use Visitors: 32,773
- Campers: 90,793
- Shelter rentals: 23 days
- Pop-up camper rental: 64/nights
- Mini cabin(s) rental: 279/nights
- Volunteer hours (friends group and Michigan Cares for Tourism): 2,011
- Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum visitors: 1,976 (up 21% from 2016)

TOP CITIES FOR CAMPING RESERVATIONS 2016

CITY & STATE	RESERVATIONS	NUMBER OF NIGHTS
MIDLAND, MI	92	286
ROSCOMMON, MI	74	236
SAGINAW, MI	71	244
BAY CITY, MI	51	183
GRAND RAPIDS, MI	51	156
LANSING, MI	44	112
HOWELL, MI	37	110
JACKSON, MI	29	90
BRIGHTON, MI	28	93
WEST BRANCH, MI	28	89

Michigan's Invasive Species Watch List

The following information is presented as a guide for reporting occurrences of select invasive species of concern in Michigan.

Invasive Species “Watch List”

The invasive species included on the watch list are priority species that have been identified as posing an immediate and significant threat to Michigan's natural resources. These species have either never been confirmed in Michigan or have very limited distribution, or are localized. Early detection and timely reporting of occurrences of these species is crucial for increasing the likelihood of stopping an invasion and limiting negative ecological and economic impacts. Species are listed below by category. The invasive species below should be reported immediately and directly to staff. Please use the contacts below each category to report a possible detection of a watch list species.

Insects and Tree Diseases (Tree diseases list the scientific name for the pathogen or fungus associated with the disease)

- Asian longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*)
- Balsam wooly adelgid (*Adelges piceae*)
- Hemlock wooly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*)
- Thousand cankers disease (*Geosmithia morbida*)
- Spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*)

Report the species above to John Bedford – MDARD Plant Industry Section,
bedfordj@michigan.gov, 517-284-5650

Mammals

- Nutria (*Myocastor coypus*)

Report the species above to Greg Norwood – DNR Wildlife Division,
norwoodg@michigan.gov, 517-342-4514

Terrestrial Plants

- Asiatic sand sedge (*Carex kobomugi* Ohwi)
- Chinese yam (*Dioscorea oppositifolia* L.)
- Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*)
- Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum* (Trin.) A. Camus)
- Kudzu (*Pueraria montana* var. *lobata*)
- Mile-a-minute weed (*Persicaria perfoliata*)
- Japanese chaff flower (*Achyrantes japonica*)

Report the species above to Greg Norwood – DNR Wildlife Division,
norwoodg@michigan.gov, 517-342-4514



Aquatic Plants

- Parrot feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)
- Yellow Floating Heart (*Nymphoides peltata*)
- European frog-bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*)
- European Water-clover (*Marsilea quadrifolia*) – *This species is currently allowable for sale and possession. Please contact the DEQ if these plants are observed outside of cultivation.*
- Brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*)
- Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)
- Water chestnut (*Trapa natans*)
- Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) – *This species is currently allowable for sale and possession. Please contact the DEQ if these plants are observed outside of cultivation.*
- Water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*) – *This species is currently allowable for sale and possession. Please contact the DEQ if these plants are observed outside of cultivation.*
- Water soldier (*Stratiotes aloides*)

Report the species above to Aquatic Nuisance Control Program – DEQ Water Resources Division, DEQ-WRD-ANC@michigan.gov, 517-284-5593

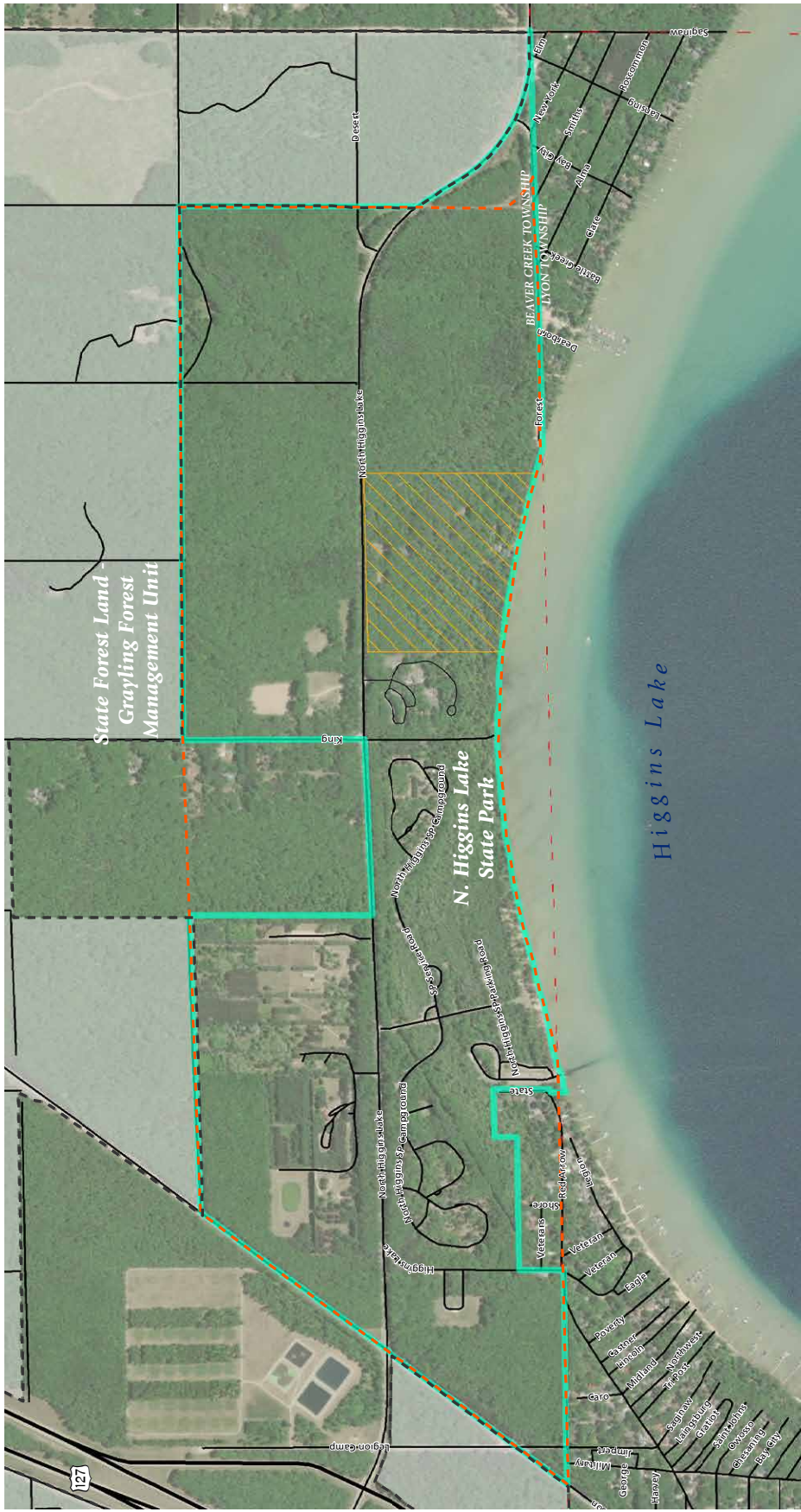
Fish and other Aquatic Animals

- Invasive carps
 - Silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*)
 - Bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*)
 - Grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*)
 - Black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*)
- Northern snakehead (*Channa argus*)
- Red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*)
- New Zealand mud snail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*)

Report the species above to Seth Herbst – DNR Fisheries Division, herbstS1@michigan.gov, 517-284-5841 or for invasive carp report electronically at www.michigan.gov/asiancarp

For more information, please visit:
www.michigan.gov/invasives





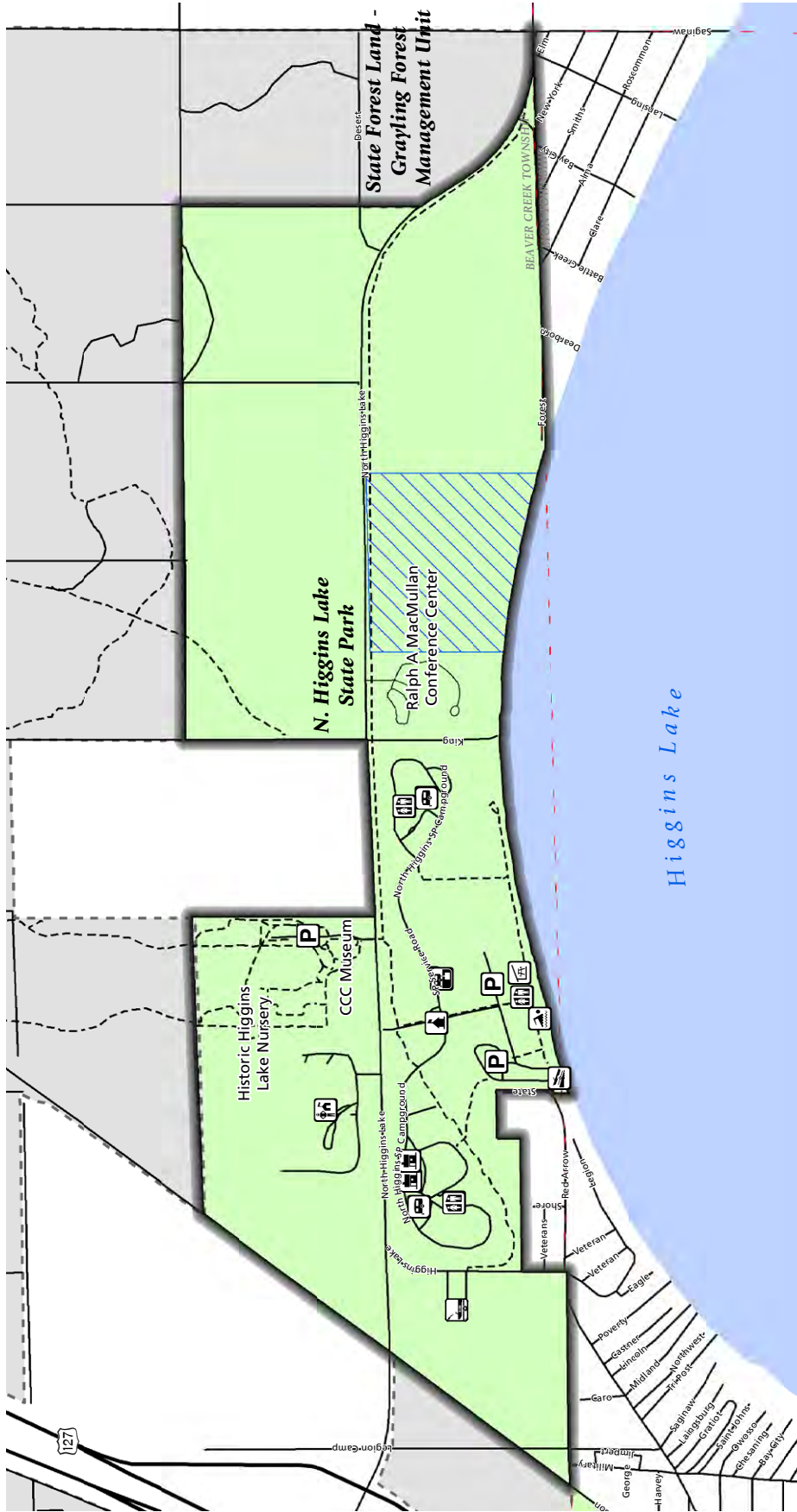
N. HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Park Boundary

Data Sources: Michigan CGI Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, ESRI BaseMap

- N. Higgins Lake State Park
- NRC 2004 Approved State Park Project Boundary*
- State Forest Land
- Municipal Boundaries
- Westminster Church Lease
- 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 / willing seller basis.



N. HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

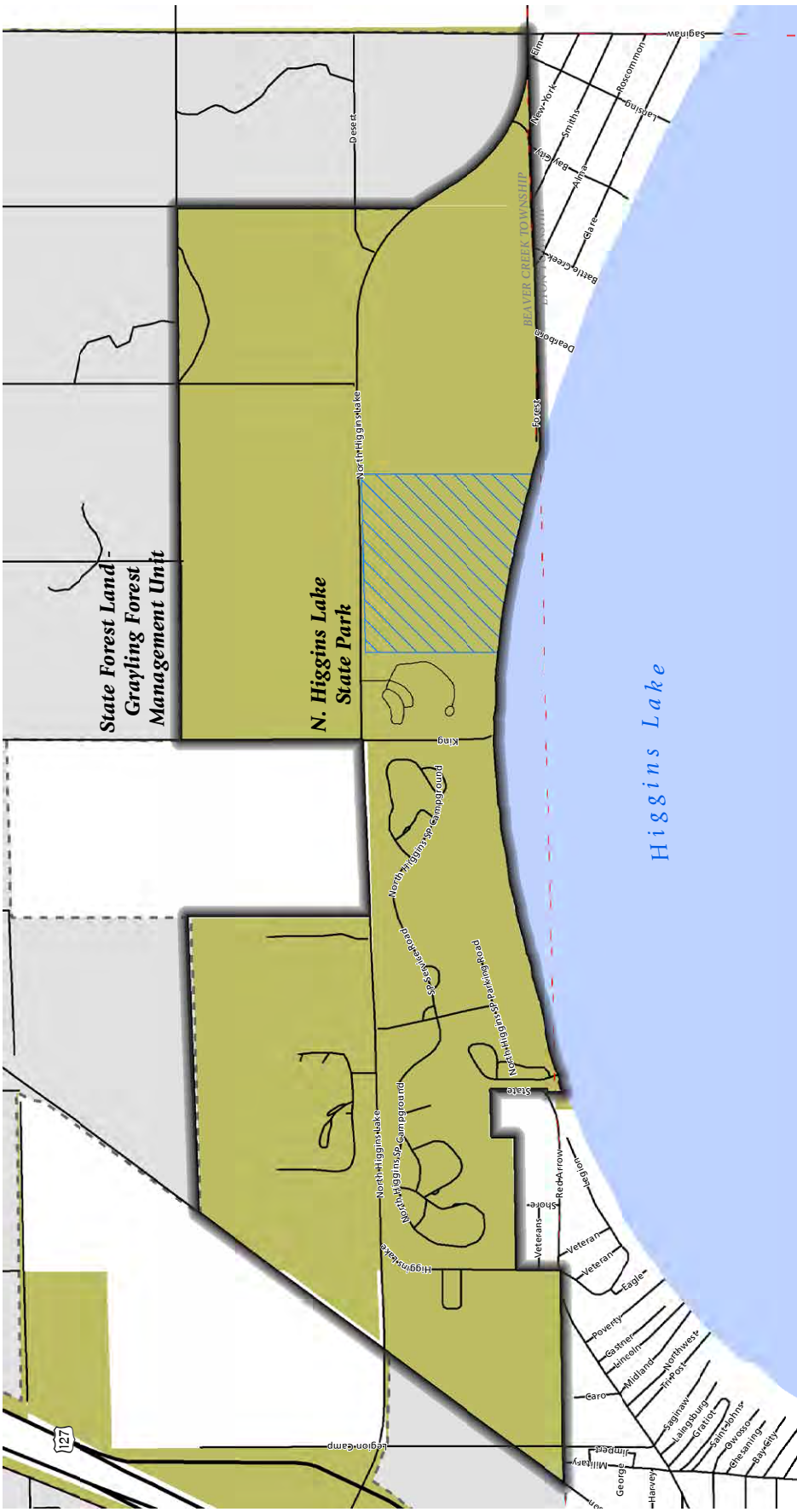
Park Amenities

Data Sources: Michigan CGI Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

- | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|--------------------|--|-----------------|
| | N. Higgins Lake State Park | | Mini Cabin | | Contact Station |
| | State Forest Land | | Modern Campground | | Beach |
| | Municipal Boundaries | | Park Headquarters | | Boat Launch |
| | Westminster Church Lease | | Parking | | Boat Wash |
| | DNR Lands | | Restroom | | Pavilion |
| | Trails | | Sanitation Station | | |
| | Lakes | | | | |

Date: 7/9/2018


B R I
Beckett & Raeder





N. HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN


DNR Ownership Rights


Data Sources: Michigan CGI Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources


-  N. Higgins Lake State Park



 State Forest Land

 Municipal Boundaries

 Westminster Church Lease

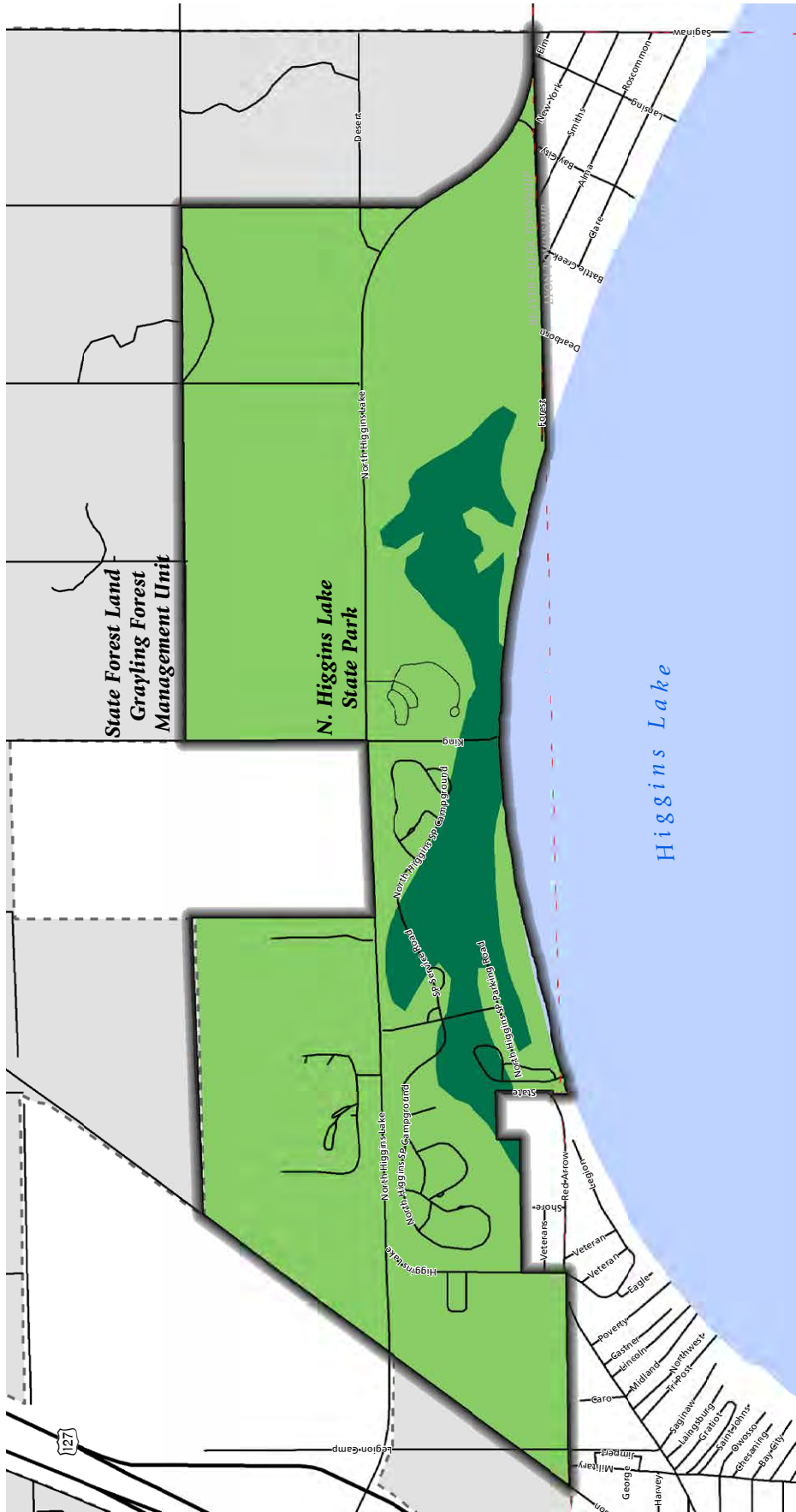
 Roads

 Rivers / Streams

 Lakes
-  Ownership Rights: Mineral and Surface Rights



Date: 7/3/2018



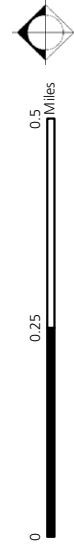
N. HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Land Cover, 1800s

Data Sources: Michigan CGI Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

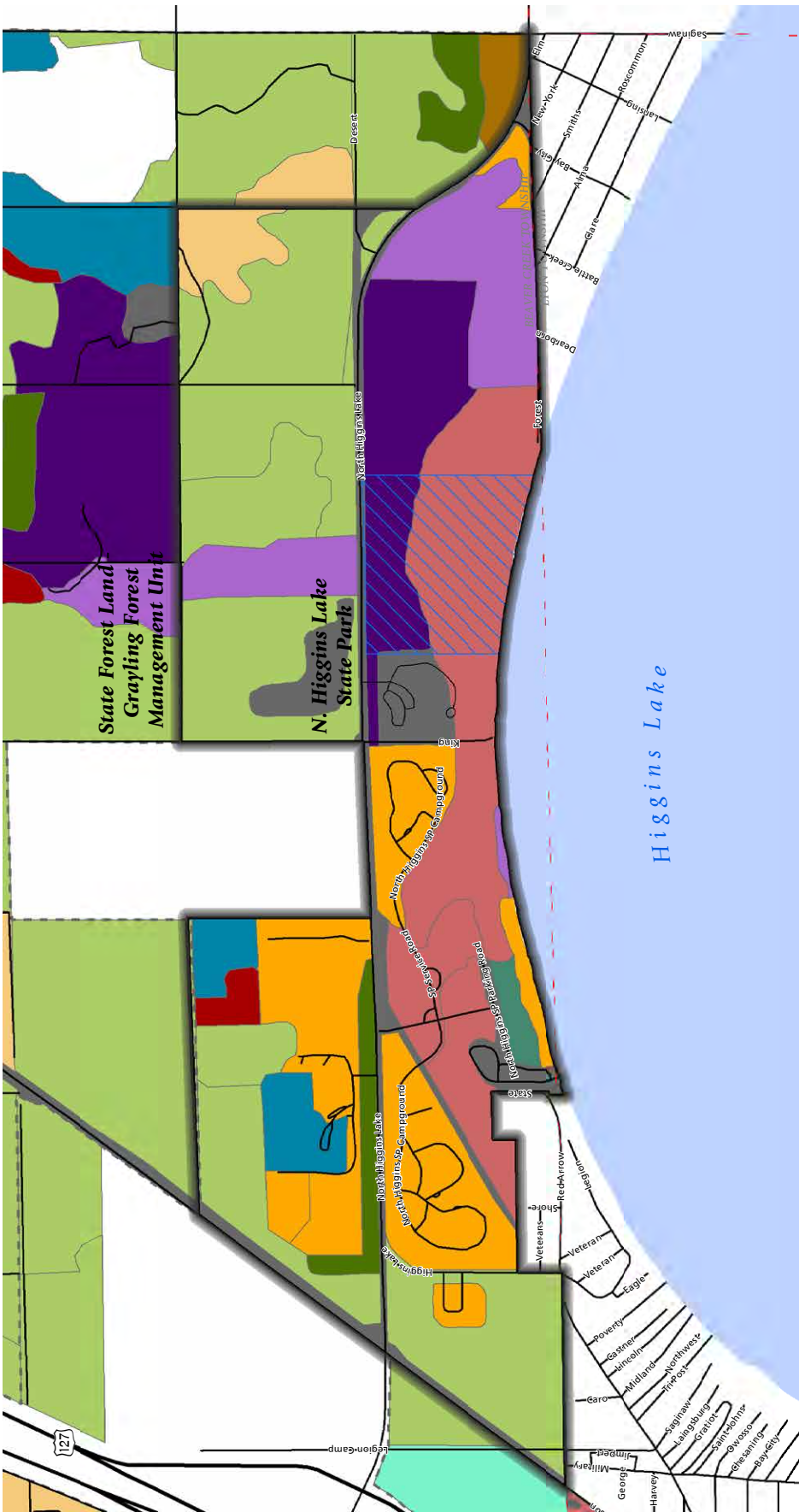
- N. Higgins Lake State Park
- State Forest Land
- Municipal Boundaries
- Roads
- Rivers / Streams
- Lakes
- Low Conifer Swamp
- Red Pine / Oak Pine

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



Date: 7/3/2018

Beckett & Raeder



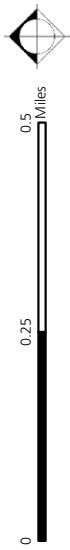
N. HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Forest Types

Data Sources: Michigan CGI Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

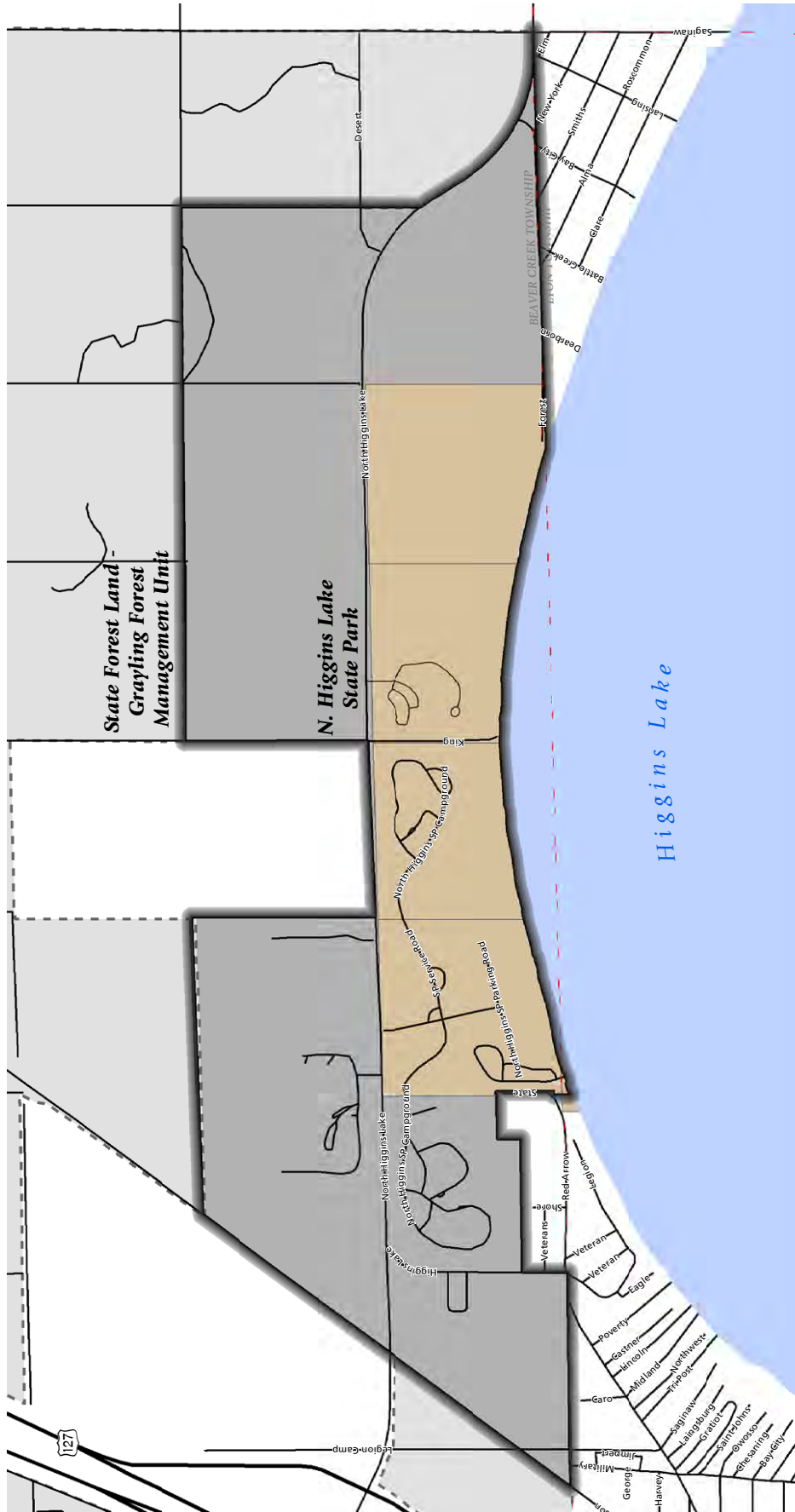
- N. Higgins Lake State Park
- State Forest Land
- Municipal Boundaries
- Westminister Church Lease
- Roads
- Rivers / Streams
- Lakes

- Aspen
- Cedar
- Herbaceous Openland
- Mixed Upland Deciduous
- Oak
- Natural Mixed Pines
- Planted Mixed Pines
- Red Pine
- White Pine
- Lowland Conifers
- Upland Conifers
- Upland Mixed Forest
- Urban



Date: 11/21/2018

Beckett & Raeder



N. HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

DNR Funding Sources

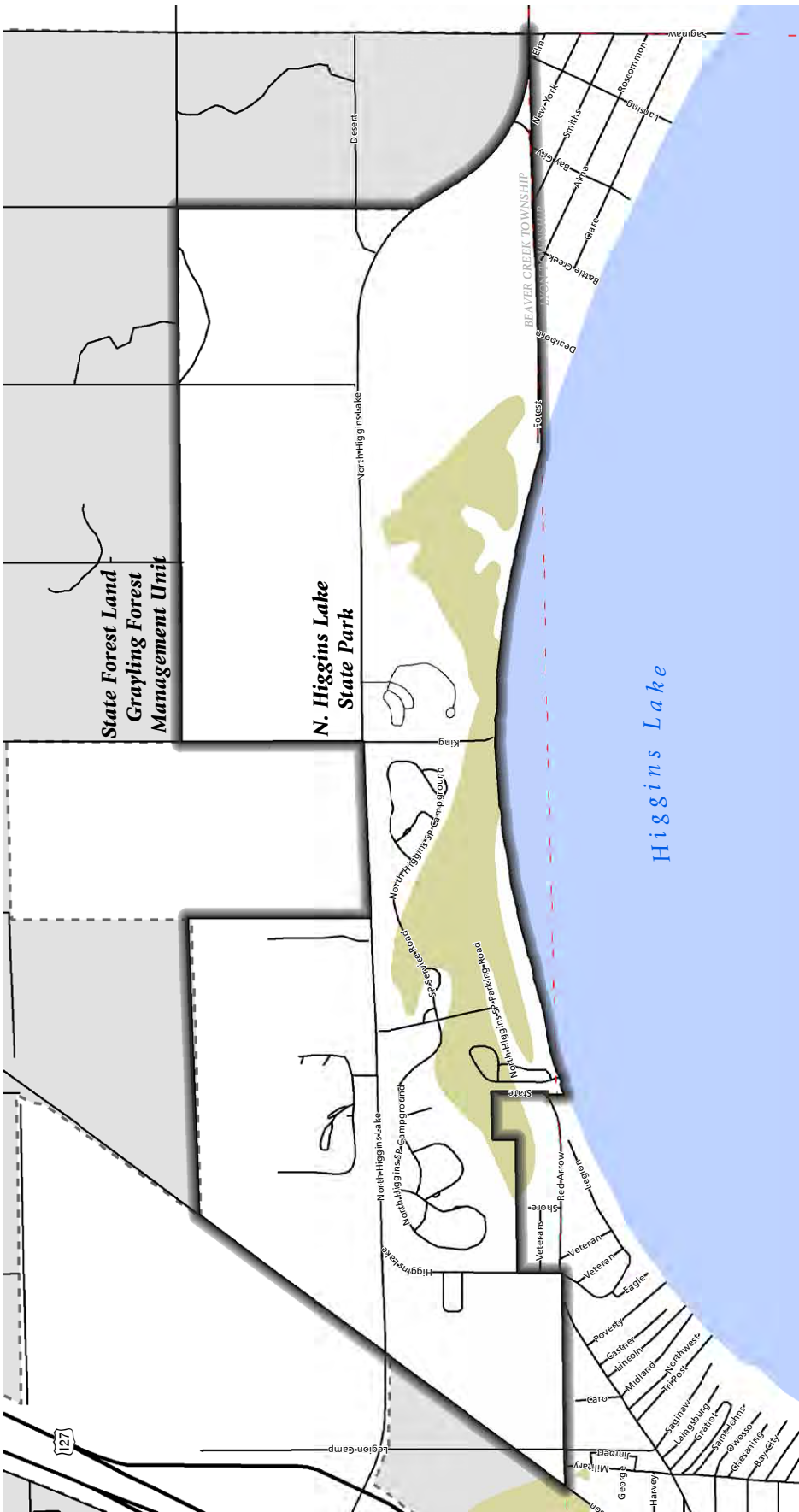
Data Sources: Michigan CGI Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

- N. Higgins Lake State Park
 - State Forest Land
 - Municipal Boundaries
 - Roads
 - Rivers / Streams
 - Lakes
-
- State Game Fund
 - Tax Reverted Land

Funding Sources for Lands:



Date: 7/3/2018



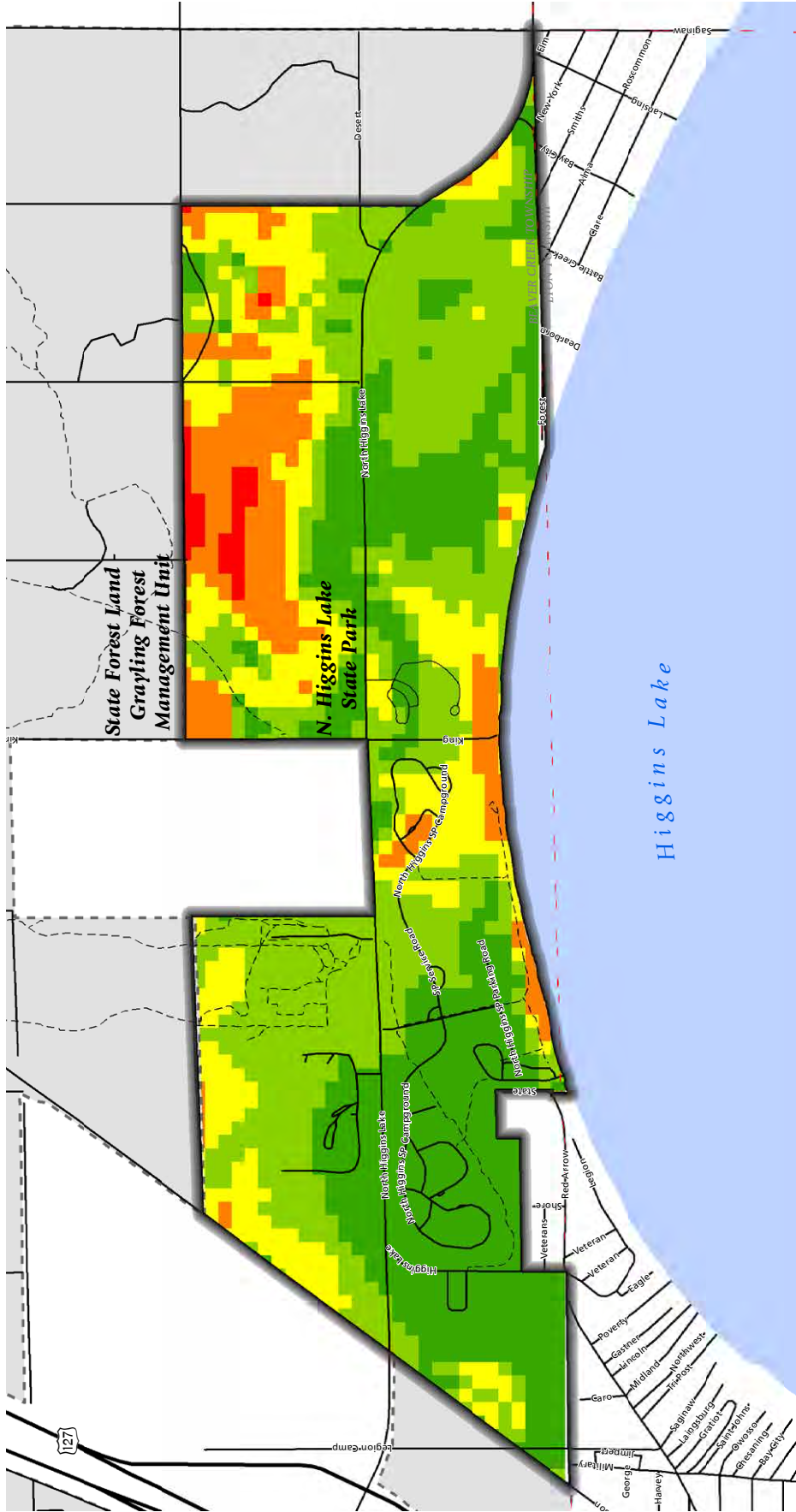
N. HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sensitive Features

Data Sources: Michigan CGI Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (NW1 2015)

- N. Higgins Lake State Park
- State Forest Land
- Municipal Boundaries
- Roads
- Rivers / Streams
- Lakes
- Freshwater Forested / Shrub Wetland

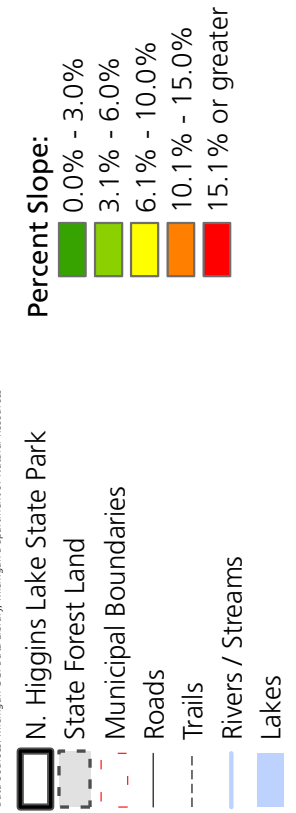
Date: 7/3/2018



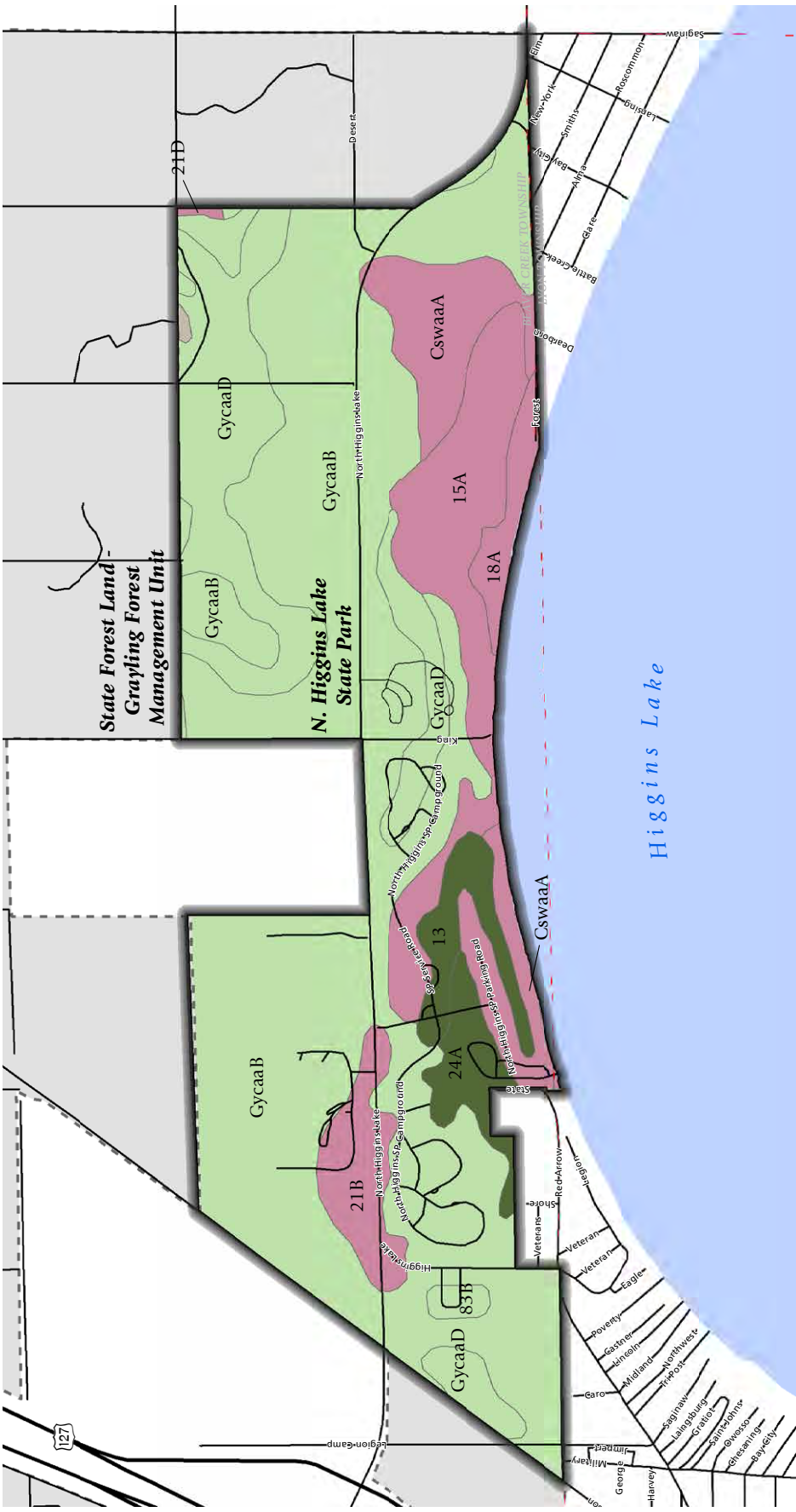
N. HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Slopes

Data Sources: Michigan CGI Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources



Date: 7/3/2018



N. HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Soil Texture

Data Sources: Michigan CGI Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, ArcGIS Online Soil Center SSURGO Download

N. Higgins Lake State Park

State Forest Land

Municipal Boundaries

Roads

Rivers / Streams

Lakes

Sand

83B: Udiplasmments, nearly level and undulating

GycaaB: Graycalm sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes

GycaaD: Graycalm sand, 6 to 18 percent slopes

Muck

13: Tawas and Lupton mucks, 0 to 1 percent slopes

24A: Kinross-Au Gres complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes

Moderately Decomposed Plant Material

15A: Croswell-Au Gres sands, 0 to 3 percent slopes

18A: Au Gres sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes

21B: Graycalm-Klacking complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes

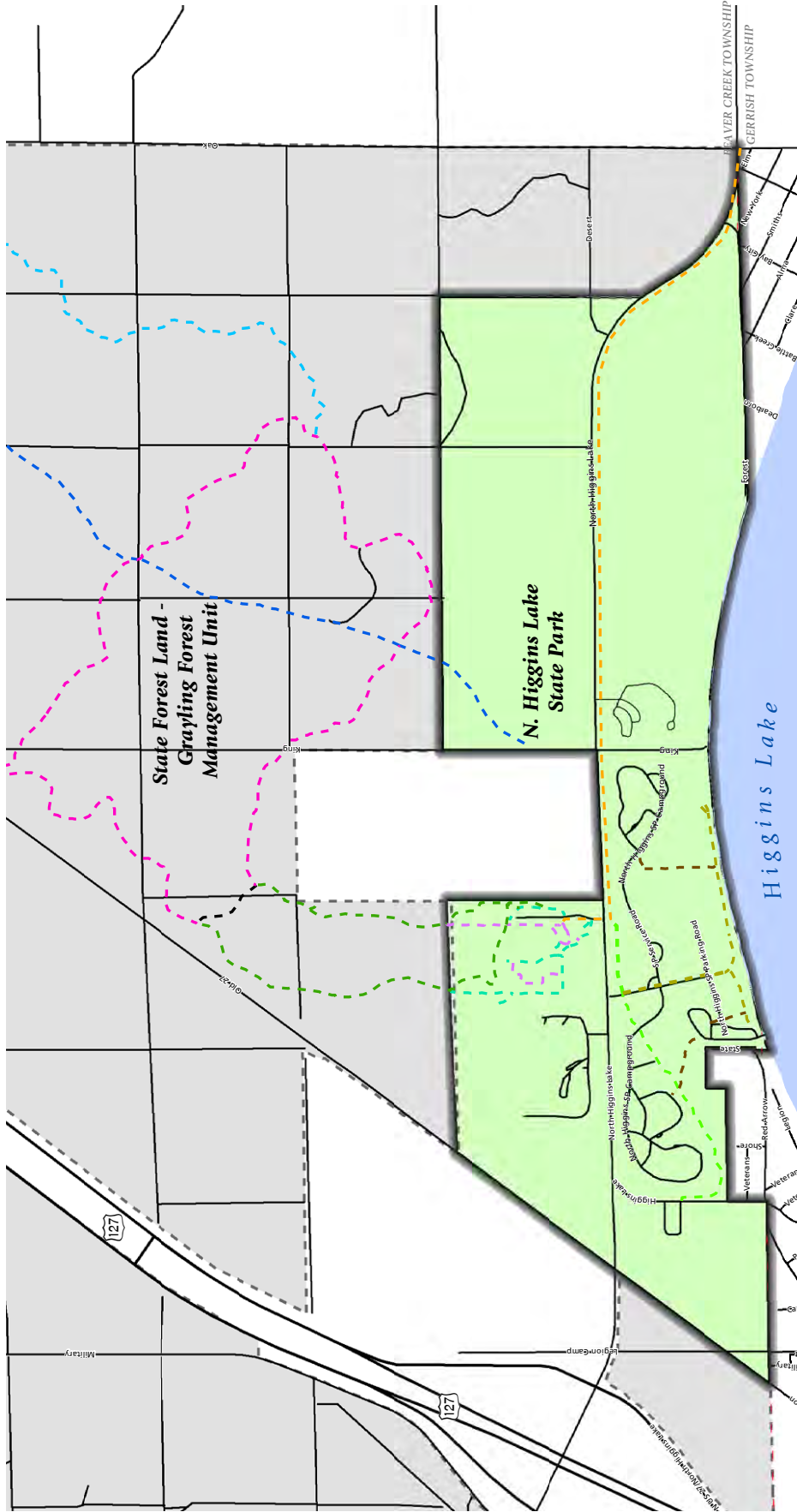
21D: Graycalm-Klacking complex, 6 to 18 percent slopes

Cswaaa: Croswell sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes

Pits, Borrow

Date: 7/3/2018

Beckett & Raeder



N. HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

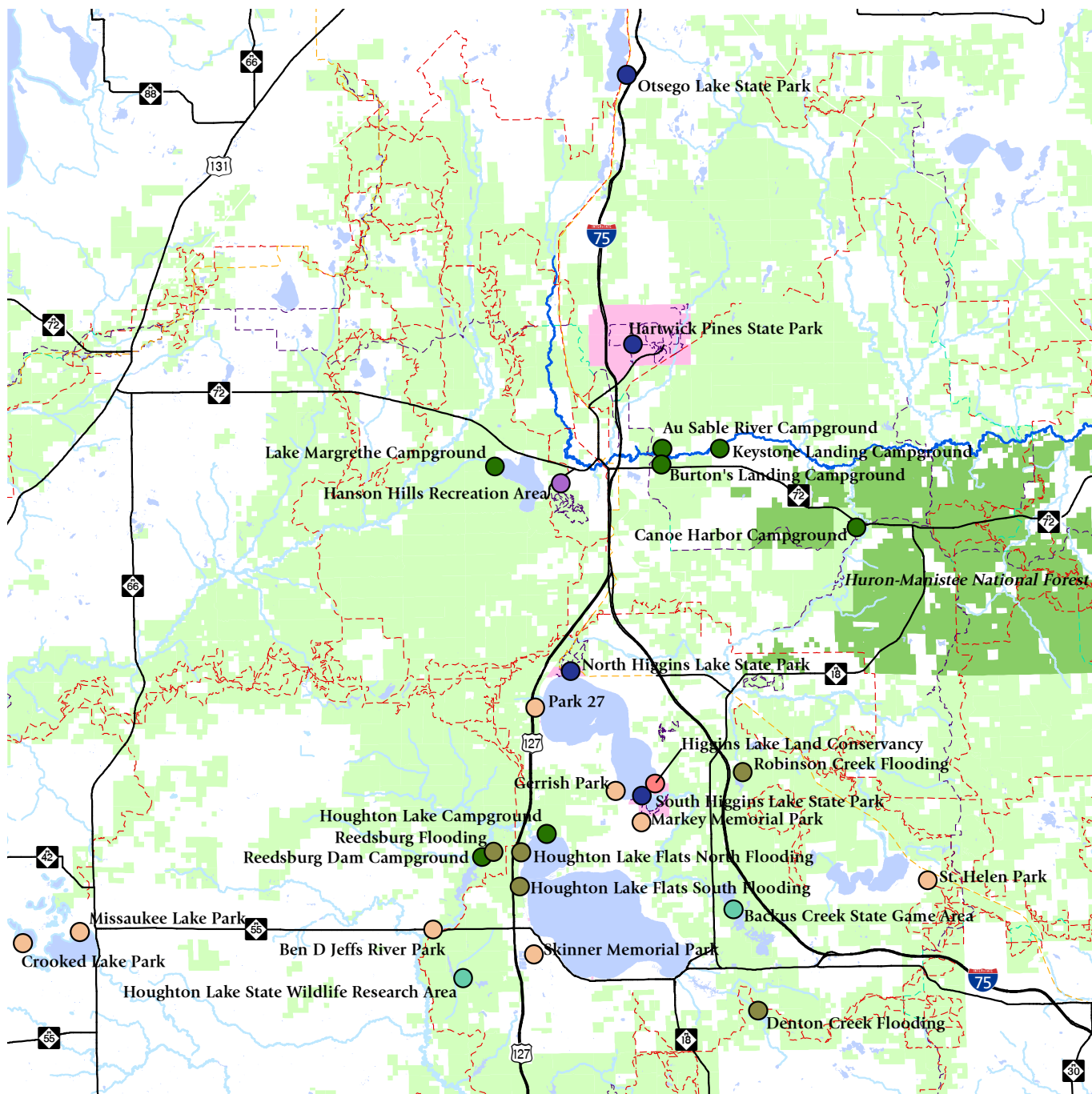
Trails

Data Sources: Michigan CGI Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

- N. Higgins Lake State Park
- State Forest Land
- Municipal Boundaries
- Roads
- Beach Trail
- Campground to Beach Trails
- Beaver Creek Trail
- Bosom Pines Trail
- Short Cut Trail
- Uplands Nature Trail
- Iron Belle Trail (Existing)
- Foot Trails
- Museum Trail
- State Forest Pathway Loop
- Regional Trail Connector

Date: 11/21/2018

B R i
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N. HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Regional Recreation Resources

Data Sources: Michigan CGI Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Date: 11/26/2018

— Roads

— Rivers

— Au Sable River

— Lakes

— State Park Land

— State Forest Land

— National Forest Land

Regional Resources:

● State Forest Campground

● State Parks

● State Wildlife / Game Areas

● State Wildlife Management Area

● Municipal Parks

● Private Recreation Facilities

● Land Conservancy

Local and Regional Trails:

--- Motorized

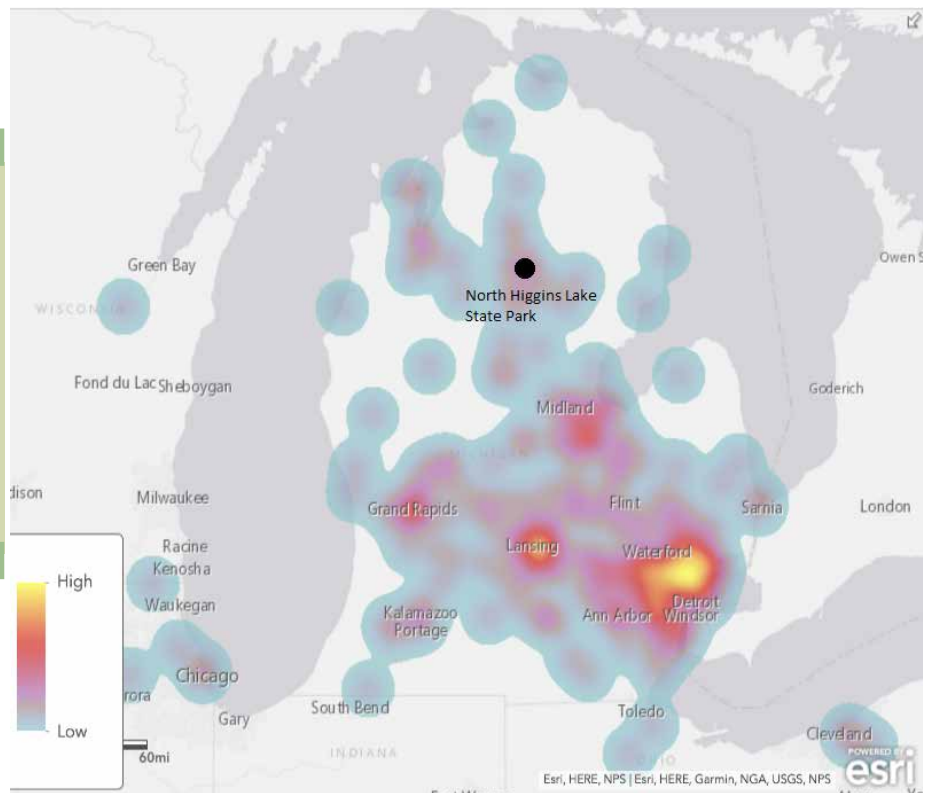
--- Non-Motorized

--- Both

--- Iron Belle Trail (Existing)

B R I
Beckett & Raeder

Map depicting the zip code of survey respondents' primary residence. Brighter colors indicate a greater concentration of respondents.



Appendix

B: Public and Stakeholder Input

B.1 Project Website

On the adjacent page is a snapshot of the project website at www.mdnrmanagementplans.org/north-higgins-lake. The website was available for public viewing throughout the duration of the planning process and was updated with maps, survey results, and the draft plan. Members of the public could contact the planning team through the website contact form.



B.2 Online Public Survey

Summary of Survey Results

The DNR recognizes that public input is a critical component of park planning, thus input is sought through multiple venues to gather the opinions of a variety of users. One of the methods the Planning Team used to gather input from North Higgins Lake State Park users was an online survey. This survey was advertised through a press release and an email to those who have registered for the park's overnight accommodations in

the last 12 months. The survey link was also shared on social media. Responses were collected from March 29th, 2018, through April 30, 2018.

Five hundred and forty-three individuals responded to the survey. Of the 543 respondents, 490 (90%) have visited North Higgins Lake State Park, or the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery, and the Civilian Conservation Corps Museum in the last five years. Eleven of the 53 people who responded that they have not visited North Higgins Lake State Park reported that they do not visit because they have a nearby cabin/cottage. The majority of users were between 50 and 64 years old (40%), and most respondents were from southeast Michigan, as seen on the above map, with some respondents throughout central Michigan. A very small number of respondents were located outside of Michigan and are not shown on this map.

NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

MORE ABOUT THE PARK

- ☐ North Higgins Lake State Park (MDNR)

MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT

- ☐ Presentations and Meetings
- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Documents

MORE ABOUT MDNR MANAGEMENT PLANS

- ☐ Park Management Plans (MDNR)
- ☐ Planning Process (MDNR)

CONTACT US


Fields marked with an * are required

Name *

Email *

Park *

Message *



About the Park

North Higgins Lake State Park is located on the north shores of Higgins Lake, on the site of what was once considered the world's largest seedling nursery. Located within the park's 429 acres is the Civilian Conservation Corps Museum (CCC Museum), which documents the efforts "to put Americans back to work" after the Great Depression. The museum features three historic buildings from the nursery, with historical interpretation provided by the Michigan History Center. Managed separately, but located within the park boundary, is the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center, which serves as an educational center for state/federal agencies, educational groups, and nonprofit organizations. The state park contains almost one mile of frontage on the 10,000 acre Higgins Lake. Park visitors can enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking, fishing, swimming, boating, cross-country skiing, and year-round camping.

About the Plan

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks & Recreation Division (PRD) is in the process of developing a General Management Plan for North Higgins Lake State Park. The General Management Plan will define a long-range planning and management strategy that protects the resources of the site while addressing recreation needs and opportunities. Stakeholder and public input will be incorporated as a critical component of the planning process.

The public input survey for North Higgins Lake State Park is now closed. Thank you for your participation!

Presentations and Meetings

A combined stakeholder input workshop for both North and South Higgins Lake State Parks was held on April 24, 2018 at the Ralph A. MacMullan Center in Roscommon, Michigan. [Click here to view the workshop summary.](#)

A public meeting will be held to solicit public comment on the park and the General Management Plan. Please check back here for information!

Maps

A Project Website was Updated Throughout the Planning Process

The survey was broken down into several categories to gather targeted input:

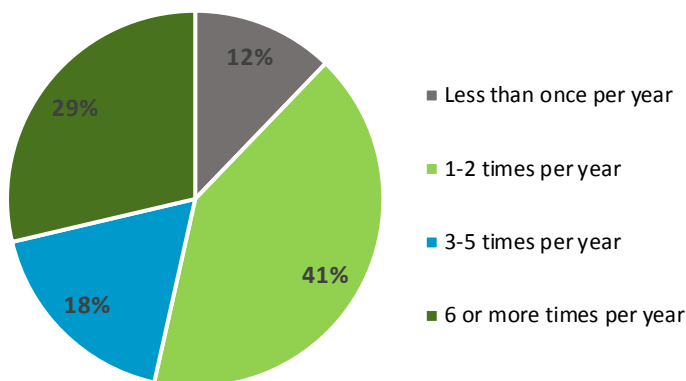
CATEGORY	INPUT RECEIVED
Your Visit	General information about when and how frequently users visit, and how they travel to the park
Activities	Questions pertaining to activities users participate in at the park
Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum	Gauging user's awareness, interest, and comments about the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum
Overnight Accommodations	Whether the overnight accommodations meet the needs of users, and what was liked most and least
Day Use	Whether the day use facilities meet the needs of users and any other comments about the day use facilities
Special Events and Programs	What activities users participate in, and their opinions of them
Trails	Questions about trails in and around the park
Fishing	Preferred fishing location and method, targeted fish species, and any other comments about fishing
Hunting	Targeted species for trapping and hunting, and any other comments about hunting
User Satisfaction and General Comments	A rating of overall satisfaction with a recent visit and an explanation, how users describe the park, what changes could be made, and any other comments about the park or the plan process
Tell Us About Yourself	Demographic data

Your Visit

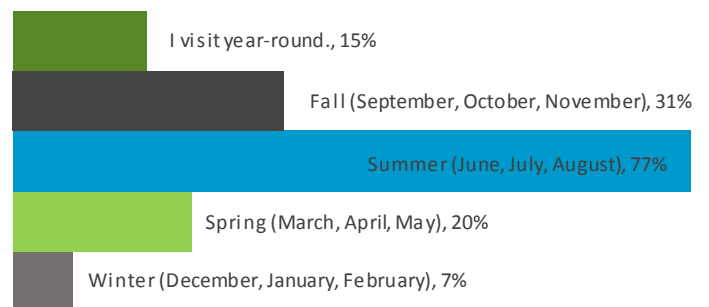
The survey responses indicate that visitors to North Higgins Lake State Park tend to most frequently visit the park one to two times per year (41%) or six or more times per year (29%), with some respondents visiting the park three to five times per year (18%). This shows that the park is a place that people visit several times a year as opposed to being a once-a-year destination. Respondents visit most frequently in the summer months (77%), though some respondents reported using the park in the spring and fall months (20% and 31%). Fifteen percent of respondents reported visiting the park year-round, while a small group of respondents enjoys using the park in the winter months (7%).

The planning team was interested in knowing how visitors travel to North Higgins Lake State Park. The majority of users reported using a motorized vehicle (83%) which was defined as a car, truck, RV, or motorcycle. Thirty percent of respondents also said they travel to the park by motorized boat (30%). Of the 444 visitors that responded, five respondents reported using other means of transportation such as using snowmobiles to travel to the park.

How many times per year do you visit the park?



In what seasons do you typically visit the park?



Respondents were asked what three words they would use to describe the park to someone who had never visited. The top ten most common words were beautiful, clean, quiet, peaceful, nice, relaxing, natural, fun, wooded, and beach. The word cloud below shows the words that were mentioned three or more times, with the increasing size of the word designating a more frequent response.

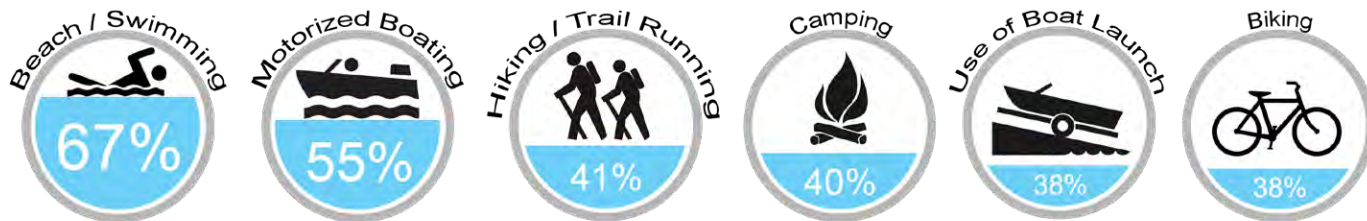


Word most frequently used to describe the park. More frequently mentioned words appear larger.

Activities

Visitors participate in a range of activities at North Higgins Lake State Park (multiple answers could be selected by participants), with beach/swimming (67%) being the most common. Motorized boating (55%), hiking/trail running (41%), camping (40%), use of boat launch (38%), and biking (38%) were of the top six most common activities that visitors participate in. Other notable activities that visitors participate in when they visit the park include visiting the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and the Civilian Conservation Corps Museum (31%), picnicking (29%), fishing (26%), nature viewing/study (26%), and dog walking (25%).

In which activities did you participate during your most recent visit to the park?



Of these activities, respondents were asked to choose one activity that makes them choose to visit North Higgins Lake State Park. Overall, camping (25%) was the top activity that makes respondents choose to visit the park, with motorized boating (17%), beach/swimming in Higgins Lake (15%), and hiking/trail running (6%) also bringing visitors to the park.

When visitors stay at North Higgins Lake State Park, many like to leave the park to visit nearby attractions. The most frequently mentioned items include restaurants and breweries, nearby towns and shops, Hartwick Pines State Park, South Higgins Lake State Park, ice cream shops, the AuSable River, trails (hiking, biking, and ORV trails), and their own cottage or a friend's cottage.



A Tumbler Used to Release Seeds from Pinecones

Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum

When asked if they are aware or familiar with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), 81% of respondents were familiar with the CCC. Of those respondents who recorded their age in the demographics section, familiarity with the CCC increased with age. About 60% of those between 18 and 29 were familiar with the CCC, compared to 90% of those 65 and older. Sixty percent of respondents had visited the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps museum in the past. When those respondents were asked how likely they were to recommend it to a friend on a scale of one to ten, with ten being the most likely, 85% of respondents answered a seven or above. The average response was an 8.4. Respondents were asked the reason for their rating; most who would recommend the site to a friend said it was interesting, informative, and an important piece of Michigan's history. Those who answered a six or below stated reasons such as that it was not a primary attraction, a lack of personal interest in the subject, or that there was a lack of information available. Other comments left about the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum include:

"Visiting the CCC museum is really a historic sensation because my father used to talk about the CCC and the Depression years."

"It is very user friendly with nice walking trails as well. It is relatively unknown, however, and has potential to be a wonderful site for all."

Considering the site and exhibits, respondents were most interested in the history of Michigan forestry (68%) and the Civilian Conservation Corps / Great Depression era heritage (64%).

Overnight Accommodations

Fifty-three percent of respondents reported that they have used the overnight accommodations available at the park, and the other 47% of respondents implied that they have not used the overnight accommodations. Most respondents that used the overnight accommodations typically stay for 2-3 nights (62%).

When asked to rate the overnight facilities on a scale of one to ten, with ten being the most favorable, 58% of respondents answered an eight or a nine, with the average rating of eight. Positive comments include that the campground is in a beautiful location, and that it is clean and well-kept with complete facilities, especially the West Campground bathrooms. Other comments suggested that improvements are needed in the East Campground bathrooms, that campsites would be more highly rated if they had more grass cover or were larger, that full hook-up sites are desired, and that there is traffic noise.

The survey asked respondents who are not involved in overnight camping at Higgins Lake State Park, where they stay when they visit the park. Most respondents reported that they stay at their second home (46%) or in their principal home (37%). The remaining number of respondents indicated that when they visit the park they stay at another's home (9%), another state park (2%), state forest campground (2%), a private campground (1%), or a hotel/motel/rental property (2%).

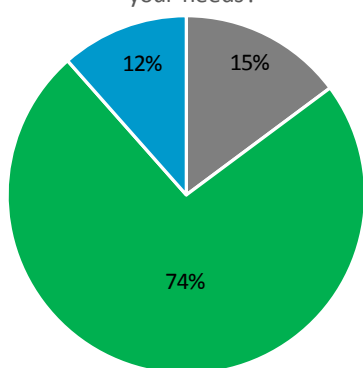


Interpretive Signage at the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum

Day Use

When asked if the day-use facilities at North Higgins Lake State Park meet their needs, 74% of respondents said yes, while 11% said no, the facilities do not meet their needs, and the remaining 15% of respondents do not use the facilities. The most common response as to why the day-use facilities do not meet visitors needs include updating the existing playground equipment, installation of a hot water boat wash to prevent invasive species from entering the lake, expanding the size of the boat launch, and incorporating a park store similar to the store at South Higgins Lake State Park.

Do the day-use facilities at North Higgins Lake State Park meet your needs?



■ I do not use these facilities. ■ Yes ■ No (please explain):

Special Events and Programs

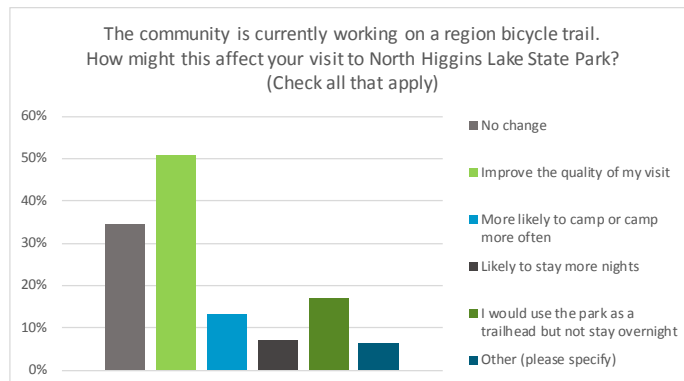
Twenty-three percent of survey respondents have participated in an event or program at the park. Those that have participated were asked which program they attended and about their impressions of the event. Winterfest, the Sunrise Run, and Harvest Festival were the top mentioned events, as well as Explorer Guide programs. Comments about the programs were generally positive, that they were fun, entertaining, and family friendly. However, some noted that they wished there were more activities not specifically for families and children. Participants had many suggestions for additional events, including boater's safety classes; lake conservation and water quality education programs; additional runs; biking events; paddling, sailing, and swimming lessons; children's nature programs; and more.

Trails

The survey asked participants if the trails at North Higgins Lake State Park meet their needs. Seventy-one percent of respondents indicated that the trails meet their needs, while 24% do not use these facilities, and 6% reported that the trails do not meet their needs. Comments about the trails indicated that existing trails are not long enough, that they wished there were additional trails, and that respondents wish the cross-country ski trails were groomed. Some respondents reported

that the trails are undefined or hard to find.

When asked if the work regarding the regional bicycle trail would affect participants visit to North Higgins Lake State Park, many participants reported that it will improve the quality of their visit (50%), while some reported that it will not affect their visit (34%). Respondents indicated that due to the addition of the regional bicycle trail they would use the park as a trailhead but not stay overnight (16%), while others indicated that they would be more likely to camp or camp more often (13%).



Fishing

Twenty-seven percent of respondents report fishing at the park in the past. Those that do most commonly fish from a motorized boat (75%), followed by ice fishing (31%) and shoreline fishing (25%). The most commonly sought species is yellow perch (50%) followed by no specific species (36%) and lake trout (34%). Comments received about fishing at the park were mixed; about a third of the comments were positive, saying that the lake was good for fishing and the experience was enjoyable. About a third of the comments were negative, citing crowding on the lake, a decreasing number or size of fish in the lake, concerns about invasive species, and a desire for different fish to be stocked. The remaining comments were neutral or suggestions for improvements, such as a safety light and dredging at the launch ramp, a program to prevent invasive species from entering the lake, the implementation of transient docks, additional shore fishing access points, and an extension of the dock when ice is still present in the lake.

Hunting

Only five respondents reported using North Higgins Lake State Park as a basecamp for hunting. However, this small number of respondents does not reflect the use of the area for hunting, but instead the distribution method of the survey. The most frequent species hunted was white-tailed deer. Only two comments were left regarding hunting: one asking for showers to be kept open regardless of the number of people staying at the park, and one asking for a small overhang at the cabins to store bagged game during their stay as well as a ledge to clean fish.

User Satisfaction and General Comments

When asked to rank their most recent visit to the park on a scale of one to ten, with ten being most favorable, 81% of respondents rated their visit an eight or higher. Some examples of comments, both positive and negative, include:

"We all enjoyed our trip; got to hike the CCC exercise trail, swam at the beach and play at the playground."

"We love Higgins Lake and value the boat launch and the campground for our friends. I also take my bike there to ride."

"Beautiful park, but some facilities need updated."

"Outdated bathroom & shower facilities. Campsite was adjacent to bike trail and they left no trees for privacy."

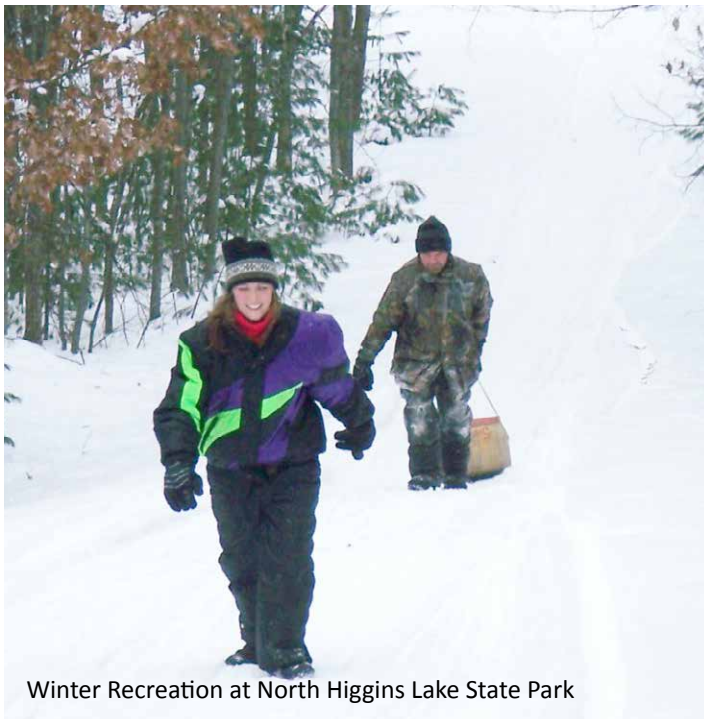
When asked what, if any, changes or improvements could be made to the park, the most frequent comments related to the boat wash; some visitors may not understand that the boat wash is already located in the park, and suggested one be added, or that it should be moved closer to the launch ramp. Others suggest that the boat wash be mandatory, staffed, or utilize heated water. The second most common suggestion was to improve the restrooms in the East Campground. Other common suggestions include continuing the efforts to reduce swimmer's itch, to add a park store or additional concessions, improve or add playground equipment, add a pet-friendly beach area, add full hook-up campsites, and continue to fight invasive species in the lake.



A Child Enjoys the Slide



A Family of Hikers



Winter Recreation at North Higgins Lake State Park



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF

NATURAL RESOURCES**- DNR NEWS -**

March 29, 2018

Contact: [Debbie Jensen](#), 517-284-6105

DNR seeks public input on North and South Higgins Lake state park general management plans



The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is seeking public input on new general management plans for both North Higgins Lake and South Higgins Lake state parks.

The public is invited to share their opinions and ideas via an online survey that is available through April 30. Links to the online survey will be available for South Higgins Lake State Park at michigan.gov/southhiggins and North Higgins Lake State Park at michigan.gov/northhiggins.

The general management plan will guide the future of the parks and will define a long-range (10- to 20-year) planning and management strategy that will assist the DNR in meeting its responsibilities to 1) protect and preserve the sites' natural and cultural resources, and 2) provide access to land- and water-based public recreation and educational opportunities.

The online surveys are one of several opportunities for the public and stakeholders to be involved in the planning process. The DNR will also host a public open house later this year, providing an opportunity for review and comment on the draft plan.

North Higgins Lake State Park is located on the northern shore of Higgins Lake in Crawford County, approximately 12 miles south of the city of Grayling. The park is home to year-round camping, mini-cabins, a swimming beach and a boat launch, as well as land open to hunting, hiking, biking and cross-country skiing. The trails extend into the adjacent state forest land. A nearly two-mile section of paved trail for the biking route of the Iron Belle Trail was recently completed in the park. The park's 429 acres are also home to the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum as well as the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center.

South Higgins Lake State Park is located on the southern shore of Higgins Lake in northern Roscommon County. The park features nearly a mile of shoreline of the park's popular 10,000-acre lake, nearly 400 campsites (including some full hook-up sites), a boat launch, a swimming beach and two pet-friendly areas along the water. In addition, Marl Lake provides more recreation opportunities, including paddling, boating, hunting and more than five miles of hiking trails that surround the lake.

Additional information on the DNR's management plan process can be found at michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans.

For more information about the management plan process, contact Debbie Jensen, DNR park management plan administrator, at 517-284-6105 (TTY/TDD711 Michigan Relay Center for the hearing impaired) or via email at JensenD1@michigan.gov.

/Note to editors: An accompanying photo is available below for download. Caption information follows.

HigginsLake: Both North Higgins Lake and South Higgins Lake state parks are located on Higgins Lake in Crawford and Roscommon counties. The public is invited to share their opinions and ideas via an online survey that is available through April 30./

- [HigginsLake.JPG](#)

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

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This email was sent to phillipsk@michigan.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Michigan Department of Natural Resources · Constitution Hall, 525 W. Allegan St., PO Box 30028 Lansing MI 48909 · 1-800-439-1420



North Higgins Lake State Park - General Management Plan

Your Visit

*** 1. Have you visited North Higgins Lake State Park, which includes the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum, in the past 5 years?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If no, what keeps you from visiting the park?

2. How many times per year do you visit North Higgins Lake State Park?

- ☐ Less than once per year
- ☐ 1-2 times per year
- ☐ 3-5 times per year
- ☐ 6 or more times per year

3. In what seasons do you typically visit the park?

- ☐ Winter (December, January, February)
- ☐ Spring (March, April, May)
- ☐ Summer (June, July, August)
- ☐ Fall (September, October, November)
- ☐ I visit year-round.

4. How do you travel to the park?

- ☐ Motorized vehicle (car/truck/RV/motorcycle)
- ☐ Bicycle
- ☐ Motorized Boat
- ☐ Non-motorized Boat
- ☐ Walk

Other:

5. What three words would you use to describe North Higgins Lake State Park to someone who has never visited the park?

First Word

Second Word

Third Word

Activities**6. Please check ALL the activities in which you participated at North Higgins State Park during your most recent visit.**

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating (motorized) | <input type="checkbox"/> Beach/swimming in Higgins Lake | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog walking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paddling (canoeing/kayaking/etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter/pavilion rental | <input type="checkbox"/> Biking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use of boat launch | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting/trapping | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking/trail running |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use of boat wash | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature viewing/study | <input type="checkbox"/> Interpretive/nature/historical programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Birding | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking | <input type="checkbox"/> Ralph A. MacMullan Center program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camping | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Special events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mini cabin rental | <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-country skiing | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pop-up camper rental | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowshoeing | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | | |

7. What ONE activity makes you chose to visit North Higgins Lake State Park?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Boating (motorized) | <input type="radio"/> Beach/swimming in Higgins Lake | <input type="radio"/> Dog walking |
| <input type="radio"/> Paddling (canoeing/kayaking/etc.) | <input type="radio"/> Shelter/pavilion rental | <input type="radio"/> Biking |
| <input type="radio"/> Use of boat launch | <input type="radio"/> Hunting/trapping | <input type="radio"/> Hiking/trail running |
| <input type="radio"/> Use of boat wash | <input type="radio"/> Nature viewing/study | <input type="radio"/> Interpretive/nature/historical programs |
| <input type="radio"/> Fishing | <input type="radio"/> Birding | <input type="radio"/> Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum |
| <input type="radio"/> Ice fishing | <input type="radio"/> Picnicking | <input type="radio"/> Ralph A. MacMullan Center program |
| <input type="radio"/> Camping | <input type="radio"/> Photography | <input type="radio"/> Special events |
| <input type="radio"/> Mini cabin rental | <input type="radio"/> Cross-country skiing | |
| <input type="radio"/> Pop-up camper rental | <input type="radio"/> Snowshoeing | |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify) | | |

8. What other attractions do you visit in the area when you visit the State Park?

Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum

9. Are you aware of or familiar with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

*** 10. Have you visited the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Museum?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

11. How likely are you to recommend the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum to a friend (rank from 1-10, with 10 being the most likely)?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. Please explain the PRIMARY reason for your rating.

13. Please provide any comments you may have regarding your experience of the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum.

*** 14. Considering the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum, what are you most interested in (top 3 only):**

- ☐ CCC / Great Depression era heritage
- ☐ History of Michigan forestry
- ☐ Historic buildings
- ☐ Outdoor exhibits/interpretive signs
- ☐ Indoor exhibits
- ☐ Programs and tours

Type of Use

*** 15. Have you used North Higgins Lake State Park for overnight accommodations?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Overnight Accommodations

16. How many nights do you typically stay?

- ☐ 1 night
- ☐ 2 - 3 nights
- ☐ 4 - 6 nights
- ☐ 7 or more nights

Comments:

17. Please rank the overnight facilities at this state park on a scale from 1 to 10, with 10 being the most favorable.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐**18. What is the PRIMARY reason for your rating?**

Non-Camper Overnight Accommodations

19. On your recent visit, where did you stay when you visited the park?

- ☐ Own principal home
- ☐ Own second home
- ☐ Another's home/second home
- ☐ Another state park
- ☐ State forest campground
- ☐ Dispersed camping on state forest land
- ☐ Another public campground (federal, county, township, etc)
- ☐ Private campground
- ☐ Hotel/motel/rental property/B&B
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Day-Use

20. Do the day-use facilities (boat launch, picnic pavilion, grills, beach, playground equipment, parking, etc.) at North Higgins Lake State Park meet your needs?

- ☐ I do not use these facilities.
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (please explain);

Special Events and Programs

21. Have you participated in a program or special event at North Higgins Lake State Park in the past? (For example, nature programs, Sunrise Run, Fall Festival)

☐

No

☐

Yes (please describe which programs or events you attended):

22. What was your opinion of the program you attended?

23. What additional programs or events would you like to see, if any?

Trails

24. Do the trails at North Higgins Lake State Park meet your needs?

☐ I do not use these facilities

☐ Yes

☐ No (please explain):

25. The community is currently working on a regional bicycle trail. How might this affect your visit to North Higgins Lake State Park? (Check all that apply)

☐ No change

☐ Improve the quality of my visit

☐ More likely to camp or camp more often

☐ Likely to stay more nights

☐ I would use the park as a trailhead but not stay overnight

☐ Other (please specify)

Fishing

*** 26. Do you use North Higgins Lake State Park for fishing access?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

27. How do you typically access the water for fishing? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Shoreline
- ☐ Ice
- ☐ Motorized boat
- ☐ Non-motorized boat
- ☐ Other (please specify)

28. What do you fish for at North Higgins Lake State Park? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ No specific species
- ☐ Lake trout
- ☐ Rainbow trout
- ☐ Lake whitefish
- ☐ Lake herring
- ☐ Rock bass
- ☐ Yellow perch
- ☐ Smelt
- ☐ Northern pike
- ☐ Other (please specify)

29. Please provide any comments you may have regarding your fishing experience at North Higgins Lake State Park.

Hunting

*** 30. Do you use North Higgins Lake State Park as a base camp for hunting/trapping?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

31. What do you hunt/trap? (Check all that apply)

☐ White-tailed deer

☐ Black bear

☐ Wild Turkey

☐ Small-game

☐ Upland birds

☐ Waterfowl

☐ Fur harvesting

☐ Other (please specify)

32. Are there any improvements you would make regarding your use of the park as a basecamp for hunting/trapping?

User Satisfaction and General Comments

33. Using the scale below, please share how satisfied you were with your most recent visit to North Higgins Lake State Park, with 10 being the highest satisfaction.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

34. Please explain the PRIMARY reason for this rating.

35. What, if any, changes would you make to improve your experience at North Higgins Lake State Park?

36. Please share any other thoughts you may have on North Higgins Lake State Park and/or the management planning process.

37. (Optional) Share a photo of your experience at North Higgins State Park! By uploading a photo, you grant permission to the DNR to use the photo.

No file
chosen

Tell Us About Yourself

This section will help the planning team understand who uses the park.

38. What is the ZIP code of your primary residence?

ZIP:

39. What is your age?

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18-29
- ☐ 30-39
- ☐ 40-49
- ☐ 50-64
- ☐ 65 or older
- ☐ I prefer not to answer.

40. What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ I prefer not to answer.

41. (Optional) If you would like to be informed with further information about the General Management Plan process and future meetings, please leave your contact info below:

Name

Email

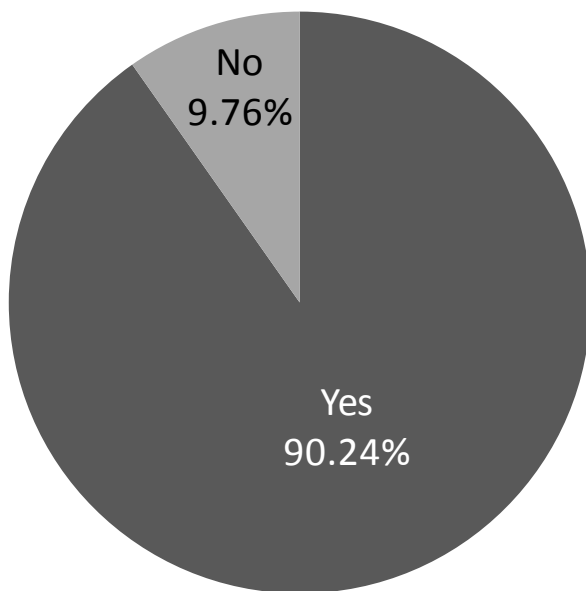
Thank you!

Thank you for participating in the North Higgins Lake State Park General Management Plan survey! Your input is appreciated. Visit <http://mdnrmanagementplans.org/north-higgins-lake/> for more information!

B.3 Public Input Survey Results

Q1: HAVE YOU VISITED NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK, WHICH INCLUDES THE HISTORIC HIGGINS LAKE NURSERY AND CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS MUSEUM, IN THE PAST 5 YEARS?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE PERCENT	RESPONSE COUNT
YES	90.24%	490
NO	9.76%	53
IF NO, WHAT KEEPS YOU FROM VISITING THE PARK?		39
ANSWERED QUESTION		543
SKIPPED QUESTION		0



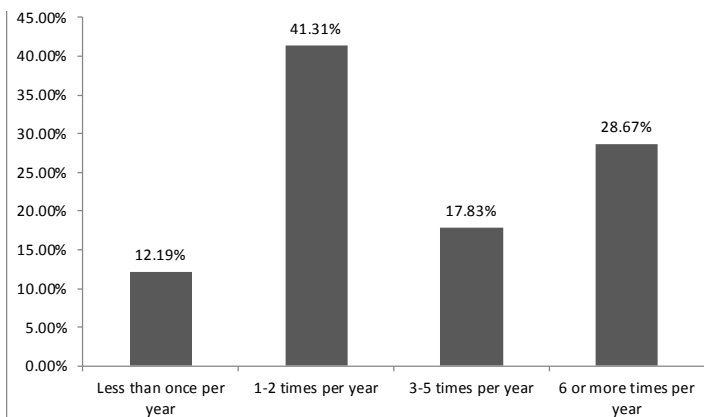
If no, what keeps you from visiting the park?

1. Haven't made time, and usually go to South Higgins
2. At 90, living too far away.
3. too far from our cottage
4. I own a cottage in the area.
5. We have a cottage on the lake.
6. have a cottage on west side of Higgins Lake
7. I use the DNR launch. I keep my boat in a hoist all season.
8. Personal time constraints
9. Cottage owner, visit by boat
10. busy doing other lake activities

11. At our cottage.
12. Stay on lake front cottage.
13. We have a cottage right next to the park.
14. I own property on the lake.
15. To busy playing in the lake
16. We live on Treasure Island
17. I am a riparian and visit frequently
18. Camp on the south side. But will visit next time
19. Just haven't gone yet.
20. We Normally visit outdoor adventures parks, but a couple of times per camping season we visit other campgrounds as well.
21. Distance
22. Currently unaware of mountain biking opportunities.
23. Swimmers itch!
24. Recovering from bad car accident almost 4 years ago
25. Went to south Higgins Lake state park
26. Distance & Transportation | Would be all about a bus trip from UM/Ann Arbor
27. No time
28. We live in Florida now, but originally from Michigan and used to camp at both parks.
29. I'm in the south camp
30. I like South Higgins better
31. Just not enough time
32. was there a number of times in 20 yrs- don't need to visit it again
33. I've been visiting a variety of parks
34. I am a lakefront owner near the North end ; I launch a boat occasionally at the North State Park
35. Cabin nearby. Overflow
36. Lot sizes
37. Swimmer's itch has made the lake unusable for our family.
38. most sites are rustic
39. No full hookups

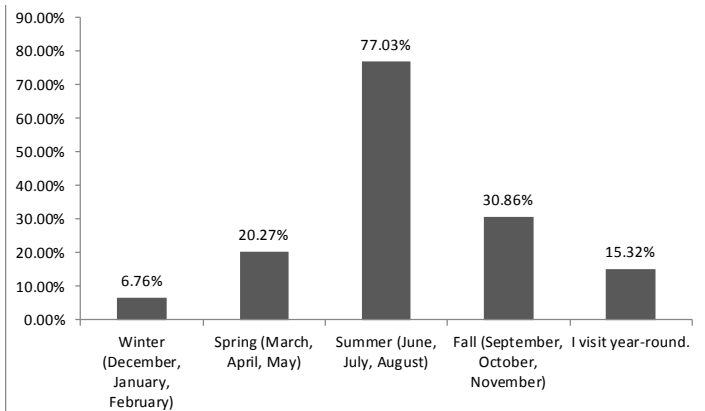
Q2: HOW MANY TIMES PER YEAR DO YOU VISIT NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE PERCENT	RESPONSE COUNT
LESS THAN ONCE PER YEAR	12.19%	54
1-2 TIMES PER YEAR	41.31%	183
3-5 TIMES PER YEAR	17.83%	79
6 OR MORE TIMES PER YEAR	28.67%	127
ANSWERED QUESTION		443
SKIPPED QUESTION		100



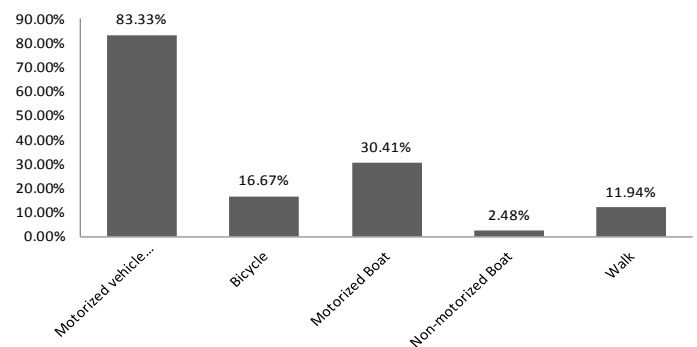
Q3: IN WHAT SEASONS DO YOU TYPICALLY VISIT THE PARK?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE PERCENT	RESPONSE COUNT
WINTER (DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY)	6.76%	30
SPRING (MARCH, APRIL, MAY)	20.27%	90
SUMMER (JUNE, JULY, AUGUST)	77.03%	342
FALL (SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER)	30.86%	137
I VISIT YEAR-ROUND.	15.32%	68
ANSWERED QUESTION		444
SKIPPED QUESTION		99



Q4: HOW DO YOU TRAVEL TO THE PARK?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE PERCENT	RESPONSE COUNT
MOTORIZED VEHICLE (CAR/ TRUCK/RV/ MOTORCYCLE)	83.33%	370
BICYCLE	16.67%	74
MOTORIZED BOAT	30.41%	135
NON-MOTORIZED BOAT	2.48%	11
WALK	11.94%	53
OTHER:		5
ANSWERED QUESTION		444
SKIPPED QUESTION		99



Others

1. Snowmobile
2. Snowmobile
3. Snowmobile
4. My residence is at the North West side of Higgins Lake-the park is only 1 mile away.
5. by boat.

Q5: WHAT THREE WORDS WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK TO SOMEONE WHO HAS NEVER VISITED THE PARK?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
FIRST WORD	100.00%	396
SECOND WORD	98.23%	389
THIRD WORD	94.95%	376
ANSWERED		396
SKIPPED		147



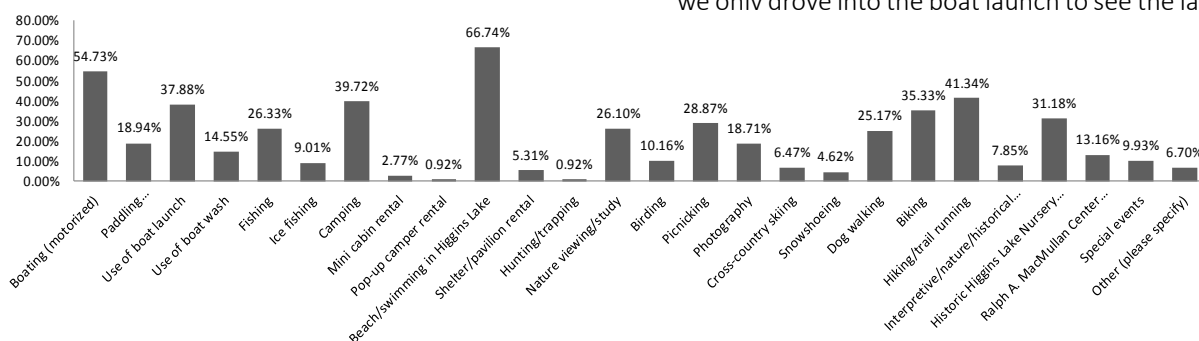
Q5: Word most frequently used to describe the park. More frequently mentioned words appear larger.

Q6: PLEASE CHECK ALL THE ACTIVITIES IN WHICH YOU PARTICIPATED AT NORTH HIGGINS STATE PARK DURING YOUR MOST RECENT VISIT.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
BOATING (MOTORIZED)	54.73%	237
PADDLING (CANOEING/KAYAKING/ETC.)	18.94%	82
USE OF BOAT LAUNCH	37.88%	164
USE OF BOAT WASH	14.55%	63
FISHING	26.33%	114
ICE FISHING	9.01%	39
CAMPING	39.72%	172
MINI CABIN RENTAL	2.77%	12
POP-UP CAMPER RENTAL	0.92%	4
BEACH/SWIMMING IN HIGGINS LAKE	66.74%	289
SHELTER/PAVILION RENTAL	5.31%	23
HUNTING/TRAPPING	0.92%	4
NATURE VIEWING/STUDY	26.10%	113
BIRDING	10.16%	44
PICNICKING	28.87%	125
PHOTOGRAPHY	18.71%	81
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING	6.47%	28
SNOWSHOEING	4.62%	20
DOG WALKING	25.17%	109
BIKING	35.33%	153
HIKING/TRAIL RUNNING	41.34%	179
INTERPRETIVE/NATURE/HISTORICAL PROGRAMS	7.85%	34
HISTORIC HIGGINS LAKE NURSERY AND CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS MUSEUM	31.18%	135
RALPH A. MACMULLAN CENTER PROGRAM	13.16%	57
SPECIAL EVENTS	9.93%	43
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	6.70%	29
ANSWERED		433
SKIPPED		110

Other (please specify):

- winterfest-chili cook off
- We walk the park for exercise and feel safe there
- Used the restrooms
- Walking on new trail
- we have a summer cottage close by and like to come to the park every so often to kayak and view the wildlife
- we have a summer cottage close by and like to walk around the park
- Volleyball
- walking around in the snow
- We have a home on the lake, but put the boat and jet ski in and out each year.
- It is very important that we protect Higgins Lake from invasive species, so please ensure that there are hot water boat washes at all three major launch sites on the lake - both the South and North parks and the Westside boat launch. Thank you
- a program which prevents new aquatic species from entering Higgins Lake must be put in place now.
- A prewash of boats necessary prior to entering Higgins Lake to prevent new aquatic species entering lake
- Mountain Biking
- J
- many meetings at education center
- We have participated in the Fitness Trail.
- Take R.O.O.C Consumers to work or for Outing and Lunch
- visiting other campers
- stars and asteroids
- Work
- Summer work picnic at the pavilion
- Enjoying The outdoors and scenery
- RV
- Drone flying
- RAM winter pgm "Teachers of Environmental Science"
- Enjoy hiking with dog, will be checking out CCC and Nursery area this year
- 4x4 throughout the area
- ORV trail riding
- Last visit was in late January and we're not ice fishers, so we only drove into the boat launch to see the lake.

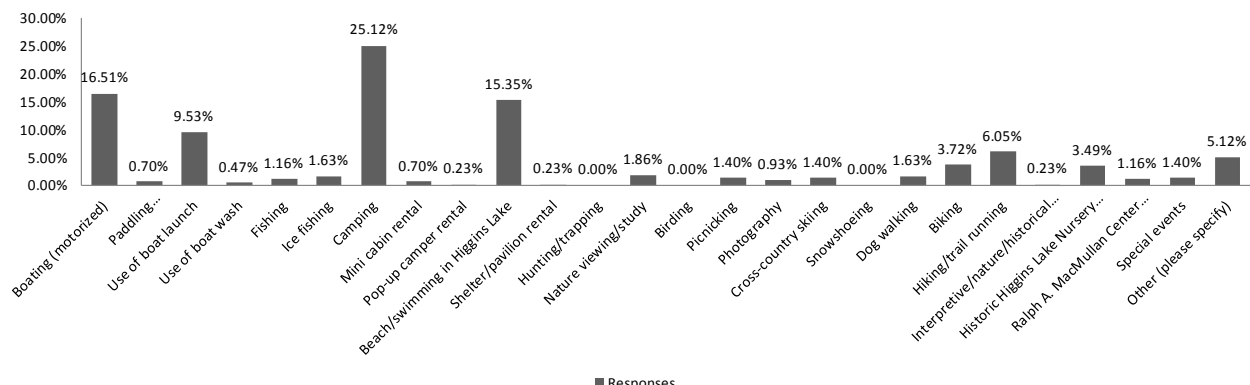


Q7: WHAT ONE ACTIVITY MAKES YOU CHOSE TO VISIT NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
BOATING (MOTORIZED)	16.51%	71
PADDLING (CANOEING/KAYAKING/ETC.)	0.70%	3
USE OF BOAT LAUNCH	9.53%	41
USE OF BOAT WASH	0.47%	2
FISHING	1.16%	5
ICE FISHING	1.63%	7
CAMPING	25.12%	108
MINI CABIN RENTAL	0.70%	3
POP-UP CAMPER RENTAL	0.23%	1
BEACH/SWIMMING IN HIGGINS LAKE	15.35%	66
SHELTER/PAVILION RENTAL	0.23%	1
HUNTING/TRAPPING	0.00%	0
NATURE VIEWING/STUDY	1.86%	8
BIRDING	0.00%	0
PICNICKING	1.40%	6
PHOTOGRAPHY	0.93%	4
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING	1.40%	6
SNOWSHOEING	0.00%	0
DOG WALKING	1.63%	7
BIKING	3.72%	16
HIKING/TRAIL RUNNING	6.05%	26
INTERPRETIVE/NATURE/HISTORICAL PROGRAMS	0.23%	1
HISTORIC HIGGINS LAKE NURSERY AND CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS MUSEUM	3.49%	15
RALPH A. MACMULLAN CENTER PROGRAM	1.16%	5
SPECIAL EVENTS	1.40%	6
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	5.12%	22
ANSWERED		430
SKIPPED		113

Other (please specify):

1. proximity to Camp Westminster, I attend alumni events at the camp but like to stay at NH park
2. Fitness trail in the woods, please do not make it part of the Iron Belle.
3. swimming
4. visit friends in camper
5. we have a summer cottage close by and like to walk around the park and look at the view and the wildlife
6. Just being there.
7. walking thru the snow
8. RV storage
9. a program which prevents new aquatic species from entering Higgins Lake must be put in place now.
10. clean water
11. Mountain Biking
12. museum ccc site
13. Supporting people with disabilities to lead independent lives in their community
14. Proximity
15. availability when South Higgins is full
16. Family tradition
17. Close to Orv trails
18. Work
19. I can't pick just one. State parks have numerous things that attract me.
20. Relaxing
21. Less boat traffic
22. It is more available than s Higgins state park. Assuming it is because it is run down feeling



Q8: WHAT OTHER ATTRACTIONS DO YOU VISIT IN THE AREA WHEN YOU VISIT THE STATE PARK?

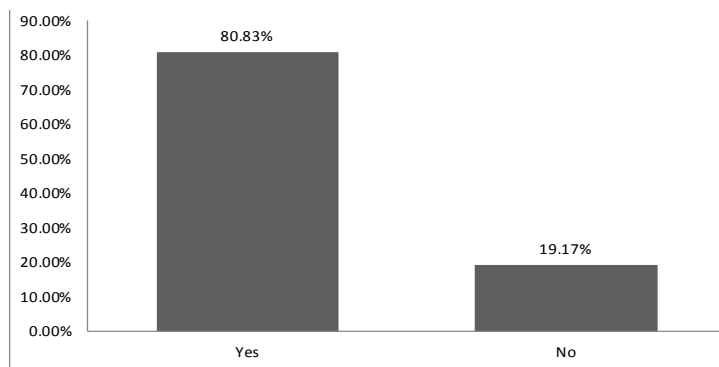
ANSWERED	250
SKIPPED	293



Q8: Most frequently visited area attractions. More frequently mentioned attractions appear larger.

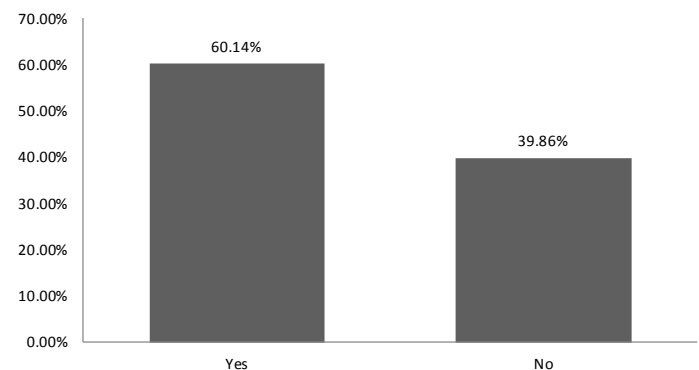
Q9: ARE YOU AWARE OF OR FAMILIAR WITH THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS (CCC)?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
YES	80.83%	350
NO	19.17%	83
ANSWERED		433
SKIPPED		110



Q10: HAVE YOU VISITED THE HISTORIC HIGGINS LAKE NURSERY AND CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS (CCC) MUSEUM?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
YES	60.14%	261
NO	39.86%	173
ANSWERED		434
SKIPPED		109



PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT

Q11 & 12: HOW LIKELY ARE YOU TO RECOMMEND HISTORIC HIGGINS LAKE NURSERY AND CIVILIAN CORPS MUSEUM TO A FRIEND (RANK 1-10 WITH 10 BEING MOST LIKELY) PLEASE EXPLAIN THE PRIMARY REASON FOR YOUR RATING.

RATING	RESPONSE	RESPONSE COUNT
10	40.34%	48
9	14.29%	17
8	18.49%	22
7	12.61%	15
6	5.88%	7
5	6.72%	8
4	0.84%	1
3	0.84%	1
2	0.00%	0
1	0.00%	0
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	8.43	
ANSWERED		119
SKIPPED		424

RATING	PRIMARY REASON
10	A great local resource
10	Beautiful Lake, clean camp grounds, many activities available to the visitor
10	brings history alive
10	Documentation of historic conservation methods.
10	Educational
10	Everyone needs to see a bit of history.
10	Everyone should know our history
10	Good signage
10	Great historical learning experience
10	Great place
10	Great place to get some history & hike/bike
10	Great place to visit and hike
10	great place, has great history.
10	Have seen the decline in the health of the lake I am concerned
10	Historic value.
10	Historic value.
10	Historical
10	Historical significance
10	Historically interesting, well maintained.
10	I think it is interesting
10	Informative
10	interesting displays
10	Interesting history
10	It is an important part of Michigan History

10	It is part of our history
10	It's History! It helps to connect with nature.
10	I've visited it many times, and I always learn something new.
10	Just so informative/easy to explore.
10	Lake
10	Learn more about ccc
10	Learning about the museum and sharing with guests
10	My dad worked in the CCC!
10	Not busy and well kept
10	Part of Michigan's important history
10	Part of the areas history.
10	To gain insight into the CCC in Michigan
10	To teach my grandkids how thing's were done back them
10	To understand our history
10	Unique museum
10	VERY INFORMATIVE
10	Very educational.
10	very informative about the history and natural resources in the area
10	Very interesting
10	We need more history of our area
10	Well presented area
10	(no response)
10	(no response)
10	(no response)
9	Educational
9	Educational
9	Enjoyable
9	Enjoyable
9	History
9	Informative, historic, well maintained
9	Interesting
9	Interesting displays
9	It is an unknown part of Michigan history.
9	It's a great place to learn about the area and it's history
9	Its the history and lives of people during hard economic times and the rebuilding of a country.
9	Not a lot to do
9	Offers significant history of the area
9	Very historical and informative
9	(no response)
9	(no response)
9	(no response)
8	Excellent presentation of Michigan history
8	Historic interest
8	Historically interesting

8	historically significant, and important reminder as to our states fragile forestry resources
8	History is worth preserving- so is a good price on planting
8	Important history
8	Interesting
8	It's very interesting, historically significant, and easy to visit.
8	Limited experince- not a 'full day trip'
8	Mostly, I would have friends on the beach or water.
8	Needs some maintenance
8	Nice to visit
8	Not all my friends would enjoy that venue
8	Not sure everyone has enough time to visit if just spending a week vacation.
8	Very historical
8	Very interesting
8	Very interesting local history
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
7	Education
7	Fair rating
7	Histort
7	Important part of history
7	important to know the history of the region.
7	Interesting
7	Interesting history
7	Interesting. Beautiful setting.
7	It may not be as interesting to the majority of park visitors as you might hope.
7	its ok
7	knowledge
7	nice history
7	(no response)
7	(no response)
7	(no response)
6	Good for a rainy day activity, not necessarily a primary attraction (unlike Hartwick Pines)
6	Interest
6	(no response)
6	(no response)
6	(no response)
6	(no response)
6	(no response)
5	Its not of great interest to me.
5	Just not something I really into

5	launch too crowded
5	Not very exciting for people I know
5	Save the lake
5	(no response)
5	(no response)
5	(no response)
4	Lack interest
3	It is self guided with very little information available

Q13: PLEASE PROVIDE ANY COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE REGARDING YOUR EXPERIENCE OF THE HISTORIC HIGGINS LAKE NURSERY AND CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS MUSE-UM.

ANSWERED	42
SKIPPED	501

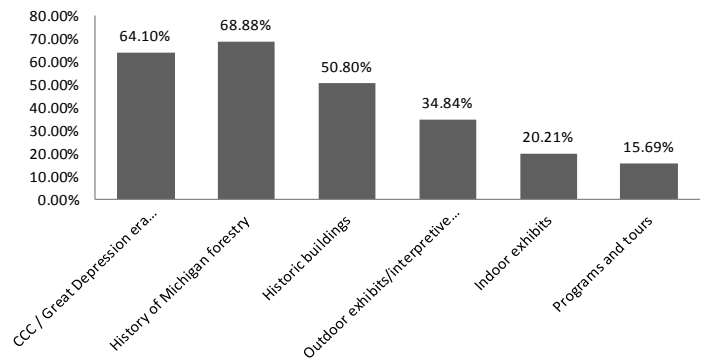
Responses

1. interesting
2. Interesting history
3. This is history that needs to be showcased
4. Historical perspective of the area
5. I am comforted that people understood for decades what a beautiful and important resource we have, and how important it has been to protect its fragility.
6. Enjoy having it for my grandchildren
7. informative.
8. Well laid out for self guidance.
9. Took my father-in-law there. He worked in the CCC after WWII
10. Beginning to be neglected
11. I love the history. I don't know much about the nursery. I need to check it out:)
12. good relationship between government and environment
13. Visiting the CCC museum is really a historic sensation because my Father used to talk about the CCC and the depression years.
14. was nice
15. too many trees taken down
16. very informative
17. We are lucky to have it
18. Educational
19. I love it, especially all the signs describing the trees and native landscaping.
20. Interesting hx of the area
21. Good trip for the kids top learn about the lake
22. Peaceful and clean

23. Surprisingly fun and well maintained
24. Learning how they harvested seeds, germinated them watered the small trees and how they transplanted them is rich history. Walking the trail and seeing what remains of the water storage tanks and the watering system is so interesting. and seeing examples of fire towers ,
25. Very clean
26. I have lived on Higgins lake for over 50 years. I learn something new every year.
27. Above
28. Imagine the life-style of the CCC men working in the woods
29. Most enjoyable
30. Enjoy it mostly because of its historical importance.
31. strongly encourage the adoption of programs to prevent invasive aquatic species from entering Higgins Lake. The zebra mussel populations are a nuisance and additional invasive species will harm the lake's ecological balance.
32. Wonderful informative guides
33. Grandfather attended CCC camp. Enjoy the ecological significance and history of Roosevelt's tree army.
34. Was a good experience
35. Important part of Michigan history. Educational activity to do with family & friends
36. Great learning experience for youngsters
37. I'm happy that this part of Michigan history is being preserved. However the overall display is very small and not very informative.
38. We had relatives in the CCC working on Higgins Lake taking depth soundings.
39. Good docent
40. Because my wife's uncle was a member of the CCC in his youth, we both found it very interesting.
41. It is very user friendly with nice walking trails as well. It is relatively unknown, however, and has potential to be a wonderful site for all.
42. I would like to build an app that highlights the interpretive and CCC exhibitions, and provides an interactive tour.

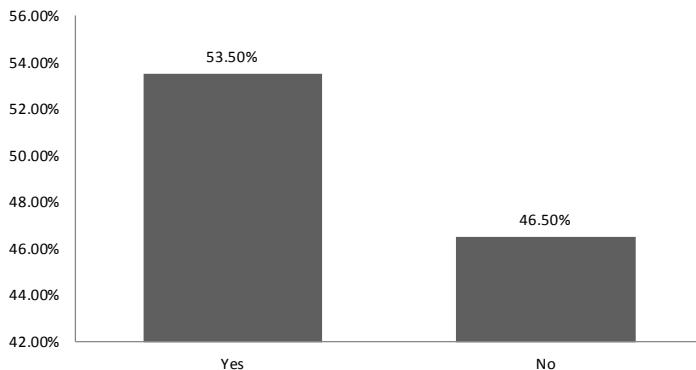
Q14: CONSIDERING THE HISTORIC HIGGINS LAKE NURSERY AND CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS MUSEUM, WHAT ARE YOU MOST INTERESTED IN (TOP 3 ONLY):

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
CCC / GREAT DEPRESSION ERA HERITAGE	64.10%	241
HISTORY OF MICHIGAN FORESTRY	68.88%	259
HISTORIC BUILDINGS	50.80%	191
OUTDOOR EXHIBITS/ INTERPRETIVE SIGNS	34.84%	131
INDOOR EXHIBITS	20.21%	76
PROGRAMS AND TOURS	15.69%	59
ANSWERED		376
SKIPPED		167



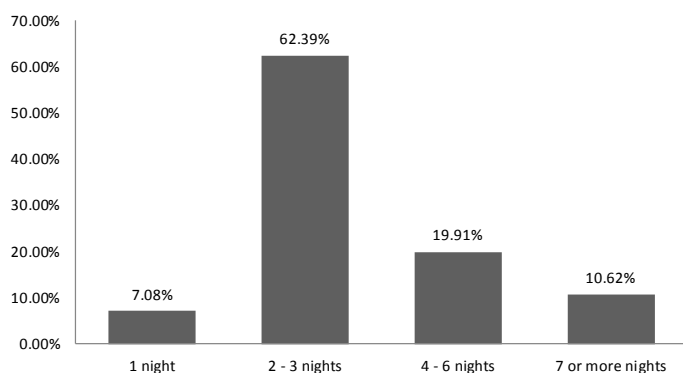
Q15: HAVE YOU USED NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK FOR OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
YES	53.50%	229
NO	46.50%	199
ANSWERED		428
SKIPPED		115



Q16: HOW MANY NIGHTS DO YOU TYPICALLY STAY?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
1 NIGHT	7.08%	16
2 - 3 NIGHTS	62.39%	141
4 - 6 NIGHTS	19.91%	45
7 OR MORE NIGHTS	10.62%	24
COMMENTS:		18
ANSWERED		226
SKIPPED		317



1. Our friends stay frequently
2. years ago there were tent camping sites right on the water, too bad they were removed.
3. Have not stayed in the park for some years now since we have a cottage at the lake now.

4. We stayed at the park but that was 10 years ago, before purchasing a cottage in the area
5. Well managed
6. good campsite- I can remember when it was much smaller
7. Family stays there
8. only 3 times- have used the park to camp- have been in area since 1964, cabin of of lake
9. Hope their still letting us bring own wood this year
10. sometimes 7 nights too.
11. It is getting too expensive to stayperhaps a weekly rate....?
12. Haven't stayed in a few years but typically stay 2-3 nights when I do.
13. Never again
14. Since you constructed that walking path, it has destroyed the quiet. The traffic noise is so loud I will not come back. I hear less traffic where I live.
15. Need full hookups!
16. Can only take the pit toilet at 13 degrees for so many days :(
17. Have had family camping trips at either N. or S. Higgins parks for 40+ years!
18. North Higgins Lake is one of our favorite places to camp in Michigan

Q17 & 18: PLEASE RANK THE OVERNIGHT FACILITIES AT THIS STATE PARK ON SCALE OF 1-10 WITH 10 BEING THE MOST FAVORABLE WHAT IS THE PRIMARY REASON FOR YOUR RATING?

RATING	RESPONSE	RESPONSE COUNT
10	0.00%	0
9	1.33%	3
8	2.21%	5
7	1.33%	3
6	2.21%	5
5	6.19%	14
4	11.50%	26
3	29.20%	66
2	29.20%	66
1	16.81%	38
WEIGHTED AVERAGE		8.08
ANSWERED		178
SKIPPED		365

PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT

RATING	PRIMARY REASON
10	(no response)
10	accommodating
10	We're going by our memories now, but I'm sure it's still the same.
10	Beautiful park with very nice facilities
10	clean
10	very well kept
10	Cleanliness/quietness
10	It was a great experience
10	cleanliness
10	Clean
10	Complete facilities
10	Always have had an excellent experience
10	Has everything I need
10	I grew up camping at the state park. I love going every year.
10	Love the beach
10	(no response)
10	(no response)
10	nice
10	Awesome park
10	I love Higgins lake state park
10	(no response)
10	Updated/renovated showers & bathrooms on the West loop.
10	I just love it there..
10	We like the campground. The sites are large and wooded.
10	Nice sites
10	Clean and convenient
10	Wooded and large sites.
10	It was our first time out with the new camper. Very friendly camp hosts and staff.
10	Area
10	Availability of sites
10	(no response)
10	Beautiful park, clean, quiet, family-friendly, great beach
10	Clean mini cabin-accommodating staff- proximity (access to lake)
10	Clean bathroom, well maintained sites
10	We love it there.
10	The bathrooms were clean and functioned properly.
10	Always fun with friends and vacation. Nice boat ramp also.
10	I have never had any issues at this park.
9	Clean with good facilities
9	(no response)
9	Nice facility

9	Nice but very strict on normal voice noises but not about motor home running electrical ac or generators
9	quiet, clean, campground with beautiful mature trees
9	I love the campsite and beach.
9	Always room for improvement
9	at the time, the showers needed some attention- we are told that they are now good
9	accessible and clean
9	(no response)
9	(no response)
9	Clean
9	(no response)
9	It's Higgins Lake silly.
9	(no response)
9	convenient showers
9	Cleanliness
9	Family friendly
9	amenities
9	(no response)
9	Just a beautiful, natural location
9	We find the North State Park preferable to the South State Park for its smaller size and quieter atmosphere.
9	nice camp sites, clean facilities
9	Nice park..need better traffic control at RV dump
9	much better with new accommodations
9	It's clean and well maintained
9	Overall cleanliness of park and facilities
9	Nice, clean facilities, and finally the last 2 years the showers have been consistently warm, unlike in the past when a hot shower was hit or miss
9	Comfortable nice sized sites with well kept restroom facilities
9	(no response)
9	Campground has nice layout
9	Large sites, setting
9	(no response)
9	It's mostly little things from time to time- unclear sites or bathrooms, noisy neighbors, etc
9	Modern bath house
9	Clean camp
9	Great camping
9	The bathroom in the east campground needs to be updated.
9	Good restroom facilities
9	camp sites are spaced nicely, clean, peaceful surrounding, bathrooms are clear & well kept, even when camp ground is very busy, people that typically camped when we did are fun but not "party crowd"

9	park has generally been quiet and is located in a beautiful setting
9	West Campground has very nice, clean restrooms/showers. But the East Campground restrooms/showers really need replacing. The toilets don't flush properly, there are too few showers, and they lack privacy.
9	Campsites near the road
9	facilities are usually clean and functional
9	(no response)
9	Very nice mini cabins.
9	(no response)
9	(no response)
9	Love the campground
9	Clean and well maintained
9	Spacious campground and nice facilities
9	Clean and neat. Only downside is that the amount of showers were close based on the amount of people that were staying at the park. Have all the showers open and available regard list of the amount of people that are staying at the park. Not everybody is considerate of other people when it comes to how long they take showers.
9	(no response)
9	Flat roomy campsites
9	We love that their are grassy tent friendly sites, that are asphalt free. It is becoming difficult to find these sites. We hope they are kept.
9	Location
9	Love the park but crowded
9	Campsite size and cleanliness of bathrooms
9	Nice lake
9	Comparable to other state parks in Michigan
9	Great camping, large sites.
9	Mini cabins are so clean and the bathroom facilities are some of the best. Kids activities at the park host are always a treat as well. LOVE N HIGGINS
9	(no response)
9	(no response)
9	Clean, not too far to walk to.
9	I would rate a 10 if the sites had a bit more grass
8	restroom buildings could use upgrade
8	Love the mini cabins, but the bathrooms need updates. The beach had too many weeds in it last time I was there. The phone service was very poor last time I was there...worry about accidents.
8	Traffic noise lowers this rating to an 8.
8	(no response)
8	Quiet
8	Enjoy being there
8	All around good facilities
8	(no response)

8	(no response)
8	Location
8	Some very good campsites
8	Availability
8	Noisy neighbors
8	I enjoy the small quiet setting.
8	(no response)
8	nice lots
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	The high number of people degrade the experience with noise and pollution
8	We would like to see the addition of a dog friendly beach.
8	Wooded setting
8	No full hook ups
8	One is a 10 (west) the other is more like a 5 (east) I like having a individual shower with a door instead of the men's and women's individual. Makes it hard with small children.
8	Bathrooms could be updated
8	Tight camping. Difficulty parking camper
8	There can always be improvements made!
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	Need more bathroom/showers. The rest of the facilities are top notch
8	Cleanliness
8	(no response)
8	Would like more private sites with more hiking trails.
8	Nice campground but needs dog swim areas like south Higgins
8	This Park has shown many improvements for all stakeholders but has room for continued upgrades (east camp loop restrooms)
8	Road noise.
8	East Campground restrooms need to be replaced. The toilets don't flush and the showers aren't very private. West Campground restroom is very good!
8	(no response)
8	size of lots and spacing
8	Generally not overpacked
8	Compared to South Higgins, as a camper you're packed-in like sardines; sites bigger. Bathrooms always clean in all State Parks we've stayed.
8	Most campsites are relatively level & large enough for our 5th wheel
8	Could use a little bit more privacy between campsite
8	HLSouth is so much nicer to camp at.
8	Everything is clean and the staff is very friendly.

PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT

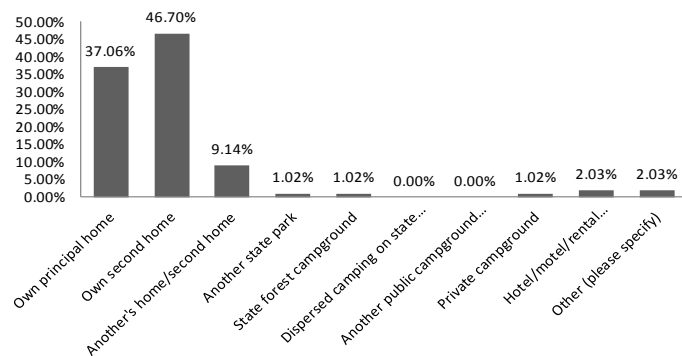
8	Restrooms need updating
8	Up keep
8	Love the lake, great campsites
8	(no response)
8	Lack of privacy in campsites
8	Campsite size is based on the tents and campers used back in the 1970's or earlier vs modern camping vehicles
8	facilities were clean
8	Park accommodations
8	Clean, modern
8	Out dated bathroom/showers
8	(no response)
8	Nice sites
8	8 Is good. Great would be a more spacious lot. I like state parks because they belong to all of us.
8	Updated bathroom/shower house and woodsy sites.
8	I wish there was full hook up at the campground but it is my favorite park to camp.
8	North is more peaceful and private than South. The camping sites are too close and the people too rowdy in the South portion.
8	The playground and bathhouse has a real run down feeling compared to south Higgins lake. Clean facilities, just worn down looking.
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	location and the fact is open year round.
8	We have a RV, having our own toilet, shower and water supply. However, during our first stay last summer the bike path had just finished completion and there was lots of leave and tree litter on our site (our site was butt up against the bike trail). It would be nice to have a groomed site without all the limbs and leaf litter.
8	Bathrooms
7	(no response)
7	It is ok
7	(no response)
7	Haven't been there in awhile
7	Clean, quiet, needs a better playground
7	(no response)
7	Little tight for large tailer
7	(no response)
7	(no response)
7	(no response)
7	No full hook up
7	Nice and quite
7	Quiet

7	It's fall, so it's cold and the bugs come in at the restrooms. Part of the showers are always closed then too, which makes no sense when there's a fair number of people there.
7	Clean bathrooms
7	Crowded
7	Would give a '10' rating, but no full hookups in the campground.
7	Bathroom & Shower facilities need to be updated
7	(no response)
7	based on comparison to other state parks
7	It is a nice campground but does not have full hook-ups for water and electricity at enough sites.
7	(no response)
7	(no response)
7	Pretty sites, some facilities outdated
7	Rest rooms need updates
7	(no response)
6	Busy Campground- often noisy, crowded
6	(no response)
6	they were adequate
6	Been going to Higgins lake for over 30 years
6	Bathrooms are terribly out dated
6	No need for bike path through park
6	(no response)
6	(no response)
6	Campsites are inconsistent and facilities poor in the East loop, and the West loop is a distance from the lake.
6	This campground is in need of some TLC and bathhouse upgrades. East campground sites are mostly dirt, have seen some improvement in west campground.
6	Difficult to park trailer, lack of pads
6	cost
6	The bathroom in the West campground area is nice and new enough but the bathrooms on the East campground end desperately need updating!
6	(no response)
5	Bathrooms need updated
5	Poor showers and electrical hookup didn't work. I do not like the fact they cut all the trees down, no privacy from the highway
5	Small camp sites
5	No full hook up sites.
5	Need more improvement on sites
4	Old bathrooms
4	Crowded
4	The bathrooms are very outdated and not very good.
3	Need more grass in camping area
3	Swimmers Itch

3	Rustic & not overcrowded
3	I was not happy they locked the one men's bathroom our second day there and all the men had to use the women's bathroom. Homeless people came to use the facilities. No one was stationed at the entrance. Could not get any response from DNR folks I talked to on the phone. Loved the park itself, but hate the terrible management of the park.
3	Noisy at night and not particularly clean
2	(no response)
2	Clean, friendly helpful rangers, water quality
2	TRAFFIC NOISE, especially since you removed the tree and brush buffer after the walking path was put in.

Q19: ON YOUR RECENT VISIT, WHERE DID YOU STAY WHEN YOU VISITED THE PARK?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
OWN PRINCIPAL HOME	37.06%	73
OWN SECOND HOME	46.70%	92
ANOTHER'S HOME/SECOND HOME	9.14%	18
ANOTHER STATE PARK	1.02%	2
STATE FOREST CAMPGROUND	1.02%	2
DISPERSED CAMPING ON STATE FOREST LAND	0.00%	0
ANOTHER PUBLIC CAMPGROUND (FEDERAL, COUNTY, TOWNSHIP, ETC)	0.00%	0
PRIVATE CAMPGROUND	1.02%	2
HOTEL/MOTEL/RENTAL PROPERTY/B&B	2.03%	4
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	2.03%	4
ANSWERED		197
SKIPPED		346

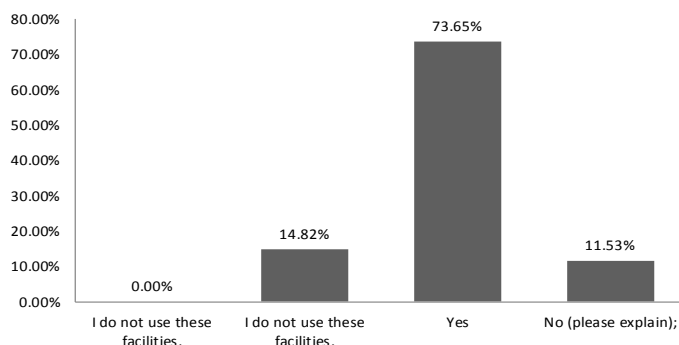


Others

1. Visited friends
2. Work in Roscommon
3. North Higgins Lake State Park
4. South Higgins Lake

Q20: DO THE DAY-USE FACILITIES (BOAT LAUNCH, PICNIC PAVILION, GRILLS, BEACH, PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, PARKING, ETC.) AT NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK MEET YOUR NEEDS?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
I DO NOT USE THESE FACILITIES.	0.00%	0
I DO NOT USE THESE FACILITIES.	14.82%	63
YES	73.65%	313
NO (PLEASE EXPLAIN);	11.53%	49
ANSWERED		425
SKIPPED		118



No (please explain);

1. would like a park store like the South Park
2. They meet the needs but could be improved
3. We use the west launch
4. Boat launch too crowded
5. Bathroom by boat horrible. Parking for boat trailers very limited. Expand trailer parking around back circle parking lot. Overflow lot inconvenient.
6. I will not risk swimming there in summer months due to past experience with swimmer's itch, and the beach is in need of maintenance- sand needs to be cleaned of debris and growing grass.
7. need better boat cleaning to help prevent invasive species
8. A program which prevents new aquatic species from entering Higgins Lake must be put in place now. It is essential that this program include boat washes that use hot water at ALL three state boat launch sites
9. Is the boat launch doing EVERYTHING it can to protect the lake? Are boats REQUIRED to be washed before entering the lake? We are already dealing with zebra mussels and do not need any more aquatic invasion species.

10. I would like a Park store.
11. need better staffed, hot-water boat wash
12. Unless it runs out of parking
13. Need a larger boat launch
14. Wish the boat wash was closer a lot of people don't even know its there
15. I am located closer to the South end
16. It is imperative to have a program to prevent new aquatic species from entering the lake. We need boat washes that use hot water at all 3 boat launch sites.
17. I want to make sure boats are cleaned properly that are going into the lake
18. a program which prevents new aquatic species from entering Higgins Lake must be put in place now.
19. I think the boat launch must have on-site hot wash station to prevent invasive species, I think more effort must be made to prevent merserngers on the lake in order to reduce swimmers itch. I think the concessions needs to be greatly expanded during July and August
20. I appreciated the small store that used to be there with basics and ice cream.
21. Please install a hot water boat wash to keep invasive species out of Higgins.
22. The remote located boat wash is inconvenient-- it should be relocated within the park itself, near the boat launch ramp.
23. I think that every boat from other lakes that is launched should be washed effectively prior to entering the lake.
24. Could have at least 2 more boat launches and Kayak ramp like Lake St. Helen
25. always wprried about hanicapped access to lake
26. Boat launch too small, too congested, beach is dirty, swimmers wash deck always dirty and slippery, should update playground equipment
27. Boat launch is washed out a lot, and hard to launch without bringing vehicle into water
28. Wish the sand was racked clean like before
29. We visit for the year end picnic and multiple beach days during the summer for our year round school. There are not enough swings and no special needs accommodations or equipment for most of our students.
30. The playground could use and update
31. They meet "needs" but all could be updated
32. Not enough handicap parking @ boat launch
33. Boat parking needs to be expanded and keep the boat launches trenched out.
34. Need for updated play ground equipment
35. Would like to see the North Park add an ice cream stand similar to the South's.
36. There really isn't much of a playground

37. Facilities were locked up for the year.
38. i don't own a boat
39. They meet every need except I have NO area to have my dog at the lake shore. It is a long beach area with NO opportunity to work with my dog in the water.
40. We were camping. We did enjoy the trails.
41. It rained the entire time I was there and was unable to use anything.
42. I wish there were better playgrounds for my daughter, there use to be so much more at them when I was a child
43. The beach area facillities were not open when we were there, the beach was very nice, we were concerned about "swimmer's itch" but didn't contract this during our stay
44. No fishing spots. Dirty beach (cigarette butts, overgrown vegetation). Old playground equipment.
45. Not enough playground equipment for kids.
46. Cabin, launch, info from staff
47. Could use more playground equipment
48. Need the boat wash on the launch site
49. I really wanted to let my dog swim as she is a lab and loves this, but animals are not allowed along the shoreline.

Q21 & 22: HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN A PROGRAM OR SPECIAL EVENT AT NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK IN THE PAST AND WHAT WAS YOUR OPINION OF THE PROGRAM YOU ATTENDED?

ANSWERED	103
SKIPPED	440

EVENT OR PROGRAM ATTENDED	OPINION OF EVENT
5K-10K	Good
All of them	Very nice community events
Archery	Good for kids. Busy
Archery at the CCC museum	The person running the children's archery program was fantastic
asteroids and windsurfing demo	loosely organized, had enough staff and supplies
Bald eagle program	Good
Bear workshop	Great and informative
Becoming outdoor woman	Fun
Boat wash days	Too few boats, none, washed first
But I should!	
Call Festival	Great

APPENDIX B

ccc events special meeting programing	excellent specially meals
Earth worm program	Outstanding. Held the attention of my grandchildren.
explorer guide programs	
Fall	Low attendance
Fall fest	very good
Fall fest, nature programs	Very organized
Fall Festival	Fun and entertaining
fall festival	good
Fall festival	Very good. Interesting
Fall festival	Very nice kids loved it
Fall Festival	We love it. Have been coming to it for years.
Fall festival	Wish they had more activities. Hay ride
Fall festival, runs,	they were fine for what they were
Fall Harvest	Loved it
Fall Festival	
Halloween festival	Fun
Halloween, weekend crafts with campground host	So sweet
Haloween	Ok
Higgins Lake Awareness Day	
Higgins lake festifal	Great
HLF fund raiser	great
HLPOA Annual Event	
Kids activities	Fun
lecture	good
Lol	
McClellan Center events	Always excellent
Meteor, bats	Goof
Nature Program	Good
Nature Program	Intersting
Nature programs	Fun/ Interesting
nature programs	good
nature programs	great
Nature programs - I enjoy the night gazing and s'mores ones	Excellent
nature programs with grand children	very good considering the varied ages attending
Nature programs, tours at the museum, Sunrise Run, Winter Fest	Positive
outdoor	Good
Shooting stars	Ok
Start of sunrise half marathon	Was a fun event
Sunrise	Great
Sunrise run	GREAT
Sunrise run	Loved it

Sunrise run	nice run
Sunrise Run	
Sunrise Run	
Sunrise Run	
Sunrise Run 1/2 Martahon	Facility was very accomodating and worked well for the start of event.
Sunrise run and winterfest	Both great
Sunrise Run, Fall Festival, winterfest	It seems as if the programs are growing each year and are family friendly, which is nice. And when the weather cooperates, they're even more fun.
Sunrise Run, Winterfest	Fun, Organized
Swim lessons	Very well run
Swimming classes	Excellent
The meteor shower	Great
watched childrens activiteis & games	fantastic, well run
West Campground Host activities, Campground Story Time, Smokey Bear, Meteors & S'mores, and other Explorer Guide programs, Fall Festival.	All were excellent! The kids really enjoyed the childrens craft activities and bingo. The West Campground Host was excellent! Very patient with the kids and had great activities.
We've gone to the Fall Festival but found that it was pretty well for kids, or families with kids.	Was hoping for something more.
Wine & Beer festiv	Great
winter event	geared for small children
Winter events	Great
Winter Fest	A lot of fun
Winter Fest	Beautiful
winter fest	fun
winter fest	good mix of locals and out oft towners
winter fest	great fun
winter fest	ok
winter fest	ok
Winter fest	
Winter festival	Fun for kids
Winter festival	Good, something for everyone
Winter festival	Nice for families
Winter festival	Nice for kids
winter festival	O.K.
Winter Festival	Very nice
Winter festival, mid Feb	OK
Winterfest	Good
Winterfest	great
Winterfest	Great

winterfest	great!
Winterfest	It was nice, but very cold right on lake.. kids activities would be better in sheltered camp-ground area.
Winterfest	Loved it
Winterfest	Ok. Could be larger with more to do
Winterfest	Very good
Winterfest...does that count?	Love it, weather permitting.
Winterfest; harvestfest	Excellent- both programs, well planned & fun family events
WinterFrst	Loved it
No response	Good presentation

Q23: WHAT ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS OR EVENTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE, IF ANY?

ANSWERED	85
SKIPPED	458

Responses

- CHECK BOATS BEING LAUNCHED ! & LIMIT THE NUMBER PER DAY
- Group biking or hikes for families or adults
- More runs
- kayak and paddle board demos
- Saving the lake from invasive species
- Events at the museum, maybe a tree planting day
- Kids programs
- Nature oriented tours
- educational
- N/A
- N/a
- Kids educational programs
- NA
- Hot water boat launch
- Birding
- happy with present status
- Information on preserving the lake.
- things related to help kids
- Trail 5k run/walk or color run.
- a program which prevents new aquatic species from entering Higgins Lake must be put in place now. It is essential that this program include boat washes that use hot water at ALL three state boat launch sites
- n/a
- not sure
- hiking trail in the back woods- with map
- none
- N/A
- Ranger availability late at night
- More races
- The state to shop local.
- Boater's Safety
- none
- Boater safety
- A triathlon would be fun
- n/a
- Family activities
- Water quality education
- Just about everything you have to offer. Struggle finding the "happenings "
- invasive species education
- Lake conservation
- I use to cross country sky. Great place to do this.
- Fireworks, biking or walking events, paddle board race
- Uncertain
- Make boat/trailer washing mandatory for all boats launching at the North (and South) state parks.
- Not sure
- Higgins Lake Winterfest- MUST include a Pond Hockey tournament- Look up St Ignace and you will realize the magnitude of economic positive impact. Broomball is so..... 1970's
- life to ccc volunteers need support
- more nature/educational
- fourth of july fireworks would be nice
- Wider promotion of programs and events.
- photography groups, yoga on beach, holistic health events, kids nature hunts, art on the beach,
- An event that takes advantage of the fitness trail....trail run/walk
- Kid centered nature programs for visitors besides campers
- Halloween event
- Classes: photography, fishing (ice too) , nature walks
- Didnt
- Easter egg hunt.
- More archery and summer programs and please advertise them better to the public
- Swimming lessons and sailboat lessons
- DNR sponsored shooting range for rifle and handgun. Indoor and Outdoor
- None
- Children's nature programs
- I'm not aware of any programs held at the North Sate. Just south state
- Wet t

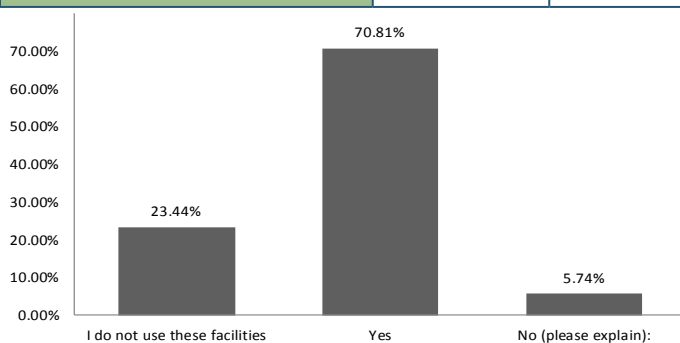
63. More for kids
64. Maybe a bike race would be nice to have?
65. Fishing programs explaining about Higgins Lake itself
66. Information on Aquatic Invasive Species
67. Campground sing-along with s'mores.
68. n/a
69. ?
70. More running events on the trail system or newly built Iron Belle Trail.
71. Local musicians play in beach concerts
72. Ongoing Ranger programs for the visiting campers.
73. Guided nature walks (plants or birding tours), fall foliage tours — basically themed walks or neighborhood gatherings
74. ski/snowshoe classes/outings; winter parties; summer parties
75. ?
76. metal detecting
77. na
78. N/A
79. Craft fair/festival
80. None
81. More programs
82. Snowshoeing-cross country skiing
83. Boating safety, swim instructions, Adult nature sessions aimed at teaching adults little known current facts effecting the lake.
84. New boat wash
85. Don't know

No (please explain):

1. Would be nice to have more
2. Very nice but afraid to use alone
3. are they wheelchair accessible?...
4. never really figured out where they were...or they were very short
5. Love the fitness trail. Heard rumors it would be eliminated or made part of Iron Belle, please Scrap this idea and retain this as a stand alone trail
6. Need more trails.
7. too many trees taken down
8. Please groom the XC trails more frequently.
9. The trails need to be regularly groomed for cross country skiing.
10. More variety/choices would be great
11. Not well defined or maintained
12. The trail just goes down the road. So I don't see the point of it
13. Tree branches cleared off the paths would make for nicer walkinh
14. I wish the cross country ski trails were groomed, and no walkers/dogs allowed.
15. yes; but, could be longer adding additional trails.
16. Rather limited.
17. I would like more trails
18. Too noisy. The paths are right next to the road. My own neighborhood north of Detroit is quieter.
19. I'd like to see more hiking trails
20. No ORV trail off of the campsite to reach the road and ORV trails.
21. It would be nice if the trails were graded and widened for handicapped or physically impaired people.
22. Need more trails
23. The trails on the north side of N. Higgins Lake road with the interactive stations is very nice. The new paved trail was a very big expense for what it is.

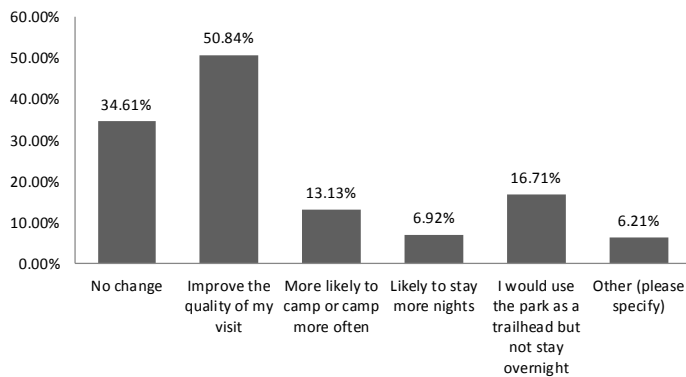
Q24: DO THE TRAILS AT NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK MEET YOUR NEEDS?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
I DO NOT USE THESE FACILITIES	23.44%	98
YES	70.81%	296
NO (PLEASE EXPLAIN):	5.74%	24
ANSWERED		418
SKIPPED		125



Q25: THE COMMUNITY IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON A REGIONAL BICYCLE TRAIL. HOW MIGHT THIS AFFECT YOUR VISIT TO NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
NO CHANGE	34.61%	145
IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF MY VISIT	50.84%	213
MORE LIKELY TO CAMP OR CAMP MORE OFTEN	13.13%	55
LIKELY TO STAY MORE NIGHTS	6.92%	29
I WOULD USE THE PARK AS A TRAILHEAD BUT NOT STAY OVERNIGHT	16.71%	70
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	6.21%	26
ANSWERED		419
SKIPPED		124



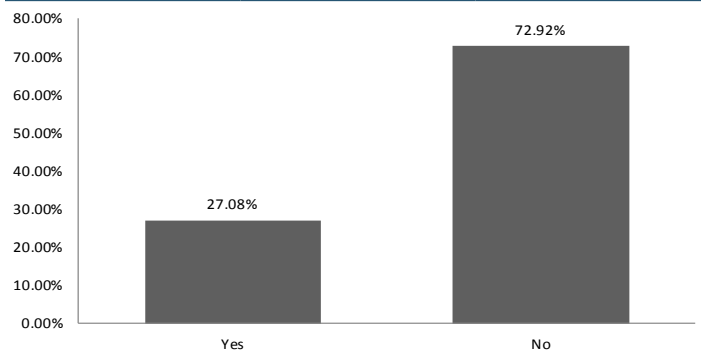
Other (please specify):

1. I feel more families will come
2. would like more walking trails
3. Nice addition for walkers and bikers!
4. Offer to our guests as a recreational option.
5. I live at Higgins Lake so do not use the camping facilities but would certainly use the trails
6. Prefer no trail to reduce traffic on the lake
7. Ride my bike there more often
8. Although I wouldn't use it myself, I think its a great idea and offering for the public's use!
9. Awesome!!
10. If the trail goes somewhere instead of just down the road.
11. Super excited about this!! Would likely not change frequency of camping because we live here.
12. I would likely bike anywhere I go in Higgins with more trails
13. Don't care for the openness due to all of the removal of the trees

14. We'll bring our bikes along this summer.
15. Depending on where it is, it might affect the local homeowners that own property on the lake.
16. Ride baby
17. Have a cabin not far from this Beautiful park
18. Biking is our primary camping activity and would make the park more appealing for us to keep coming back.
19. Use the park as a trailhead AND stay overnight.
20. Bicycling is an important activity for me.
21. I already use the IronBelle trail that is there
22. I think this is a great idea
23. I'd stay away--bike riders don't respect other's rights, and don't obey traffic laws.
24. We occasionally bike but the paved trail now is very short. If it connected to more, I probably would not use it much as we don't go for really long bike rides.
25. I fear this will only result in more people riding their bikes on the roads as the trail won't follow exactly the route they want to go. This will inhibit traffic, and with all the RVs and trailers this is a recipe for disaster, as inevitably more vehicle/bicycle accidents will occur.
26. Less likely to camp there due to increased bicycle traffic

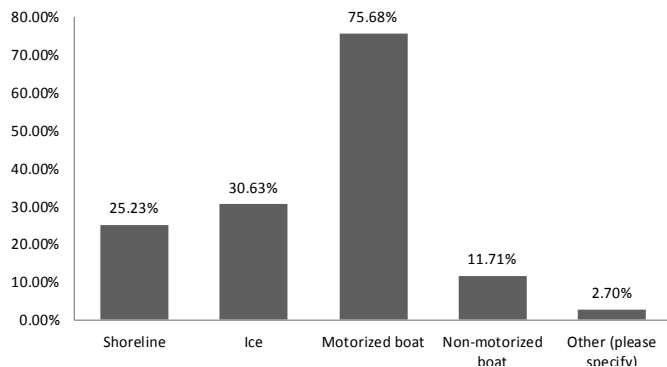
Q26: DO YOU USE NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK FOR FISHING ACCESS?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
YES	27.08%	114
NO	72.92%	307
ANSWERED		421
SKIPPED		122



Q27: HOW DO YOU TYPICALLY ACCESS THE WATER FOR FISHING? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
SHORELINE	25.23%	28
ICE	30.63%	34
MOTORIZED BOAT	75.68%	84
NON-MOTORIZED BOAT	11.71%	13
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	2.70%	3
ANSWERED		111
SKIPPED		432

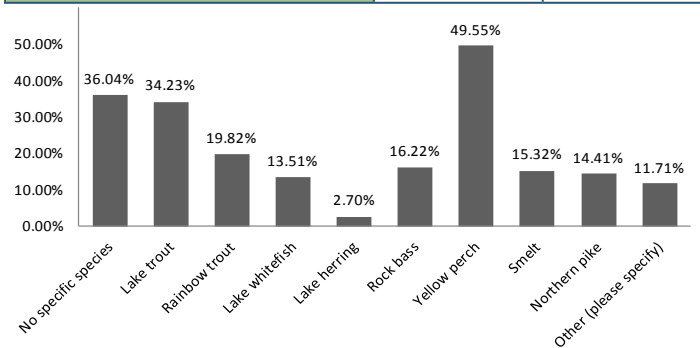


Other (please specify)

1. off a dock just so the little ones get a line wet
2. Friends boat
3. Airboat, quad

Q28: WHAT DO YOU FISH FOR AT NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
NO SPECIFIC SPECIES	36.04%	40
LAKE TROUT	34.23%	38
RAINBOW TROUT	19.82%	22
LAKE WHITEFISH	13.51%	15
LAKE HERRING	2.70%	3
ROCK BASS	16.22%	18
YELLOW PERCH	49.55%	55
SMELT	15.32%	17
NORTHERN PIKE	14.41%	16
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	11.71%	13
ANSWERED		111
SKIPPED		432



Other (please specify):

1. anything i can catch
2. bass
3. Would like to see you plant some Walleye and other species of pan fish that can survive in the lake..Also, Salmon
4. I wish we had Walleye
5. Small mouth bass
6. smallmouth bass
7. Just for fun
8. gotta get them to catch their first fish. Then its hooked fer life.
9. Smallmouth bass
10. Panfish
11. walleye
12. all of the above, what ever bites
13. Large mouth bass

Q29: PLEASE PROVIDE ANY COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE REGARDING YOUR FISHING EXPERIENCE AT NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK.

ANSWERED	31
SKIPPED	512

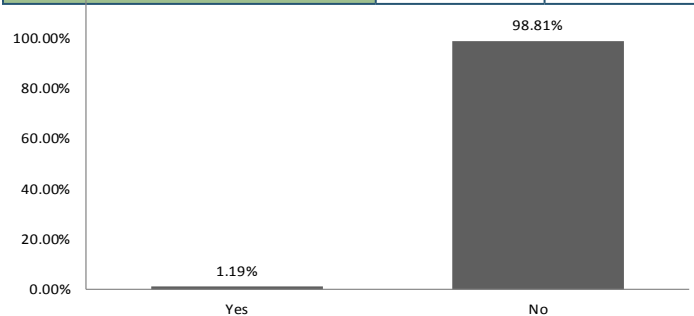
Responses

- GREAT FISHING LAKE
- Overall good
- seems like there used to be More fish in previous years
- Really don't catch many, usually release
- good fish
- It used to be a better fishery
- Enjoy it, but would like you to hold class on proper safety by pleasure boaters to fisherman...
- hard to read the lake and find the fish
- fair to good fishing results
- A program preventing new aquatic species from entering Higgins Lake should be a priority.
- Clarity of the water and the depth of the water
- Need to plant some brown trout
- Best before Memorial day and after Labor Day
- Launch area could use a good dredging more often to make the most use of docks that are available.
- Haven't learn to fish the deep sand bottom water yet. Moved to area from buffalo ny recently
- Nice access point.
- The average size of the lakers has dropped the past five years, although there is still a great fishery for eater size trout
- Usually an easy boat launch. It would be nice to have 10 minute or 15 minute docks to use for bathroom or needing to retrieve people later in the day.
- As I age my time on the ice is dwindling. Boating on the lake was once enjoyable. Crowds have ruined that pastime.
- Perch are to small
- Great fishery most times
- Overall great.
- Need shore fishing access for people without boats.
- I would like to see a parking lot light installed near the ramp. We often ice fish a mile or more out, and it can be difficult to pick out the ramp at night, and I am a local. It's probably worse for visitors. This should be considered a safety issue. Also at times the parking can be congested. Some of the overflow being plowed would help.
- Appreciate the stock of fish you feed into the lake.
- Fun with the family

- Can be kind of difficult with all the activity
- where are the brown trout? used to be good fish! now you stock rainbow? to hard to catch!
- We had fun catching rock bass but were not able to catch a lake trout.
- An ice ramp spanning 30' off launch would make access better when ice near shore thins and it's still 12"- 30' out
- Concerned about lake health due to Zebra mussel infestation

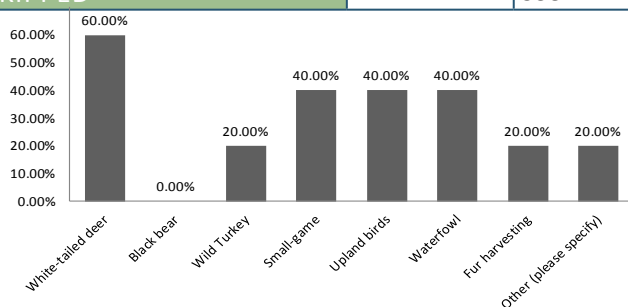
Q30: DO YOU USE NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK AS A BASE CAMP FOR HUNTING/ TRAPPING?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
YES	1.19%	5
NO	98.81%	414
ANSWERED		419
SKIPPED		124



Q31: WHAT DO YOU HUNT/TRAP? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
WHITE-TAILED DEER	60.00%	3
BLACK BEAR	0.00%	0
WILD TURKEY	20.00%	1
SMALL-GAME	40.00%	2
UPLAND BIRDS	40.00%	2
WATERFOWL	40.00%	2
FUR HARVESTING	20.00%	1
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	20.00%	1
ANSWERED		5
SKIPPED		538



Other (please specify)

1. Mushrooms

Q32: ARE THERE ANY IMPROVEMENTS YOU WOULD MAKE REGARDING YOUR USE OF THE PARK AS A BASECAMP FOR HUNTING/TRAPPING?

ANSWERED	2
SKIPPED	541

Responses

1. Keep all the showers open regardless of the amount of people staying at the park.
2. Small overhang at cabin to hang/store bagged game for duration of trip. Ledge to clean fish to meet possession requirements if prolonged stay

Q33 & 34: PLEASE SHARE HOW SATISFIED YOU WERE WITH YOUR MOST RECENT VISIT TO NORTH HIGGINS LAKE (1-10) WITH 10 BEING THE HIGHEST SATISFACTION. PLEASE EXPLAIN THE PRIMARY REASON FOR THIS RATING.

RATING	RESPONSE	RESPONSE COUNT
10	0.00%	0
9	0.74%	3
8	0.98%	4
7	0.74%	3
6	4.17%	17
5	3.92%	16
4	8.58%	35
3	26.72%	109
2	25.49%	104
1	28.68%	117
WEIGHTED AVERAGE		8.42
ANSWERED		296
SKIPPED		247

RATING	PRIMARY REASON
Didn't answer	Bike riding there and enjoying to park...sitting ,picnic. Parking the boat and walking in the water and shoreline
10	Convenient and organized boat launch
10	Beautiful
10	We love the ease to reach the state park via boat. When our kids were younger they loved the shallow waters to play and swim and the play ground.
10	Quiet and clean
10	Easy access & beautiful surroundings
10	Fitness trail thru the woods is a unique experience
10	Well maintained beautiful setting
10	(no response)
10	Everything was great
10	(no response)
10	I walk the trails and love them.
10	Great park, clean, great beach, not crowded, close to our house on the lake
10	A beautiful lake and well kept park
10	park is a great place.
10	Clean beaches.
10	It's a great place to take the family
10	Its beautiful
10	We love the lake !!! And picnicking at the park.
10	Love everything about Higgins Lake.
10	Love the lake

PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT

10	beautiful park with great facilities
10	Beautiful setting
10	(no response)
10	It was quiet and clean with wildlife here and there
10	Easy to moor the boat off shore, sit on the beach while grandchildren play, beach is clean, the swimmers itch issues have been reduced significantly.
10	Beauty
10	The North State Park is a great place to build lasting memories and traditions.
10	I like the peaceful relaxing setting of the park. It is one of my favorite places to hike/bike.
10	friendly
10	(no response)
10	It's well organized and patrolled.
10	It's one of the most beautiful places in the world and very well maintained!
10	(no response)
10	hiking trails
10	(no response)
10	(no response)
10	Removing boat for the season ran efficiently
10	Beautiful
10	(no response)
10	(no response)
10	the park in general
10	(no response)
10	I love Higgins Lake
10	Like to show out of town guests
10	The new Iron Belle trail is fantastic. I can't wait for it to be longer!
10	I appreciate the beauty and seclusion of the hiking trail.
10	Swimming/Boating (Note: I am less concerned about getting swimmers itch due to recent efforts to eradicate it)
10	Like the area now that the are working on getting rid of swimmers itch. Great place to gather with friends camping there,
10	new bike path is awesome. access to Dairy Queen and surrounding trails.
10	(no response)
10	The setting, the lake
10	(no response)
10	(no response)
10	(no response)
10	(no response)
10	I really enjoyed the interpretive area.
10	Bike trail...both of them.....the newly paved one & the one across the street at the CCC
10	(no response)

10	Exactly what I expected
10	rented the pavilion- great support from the staff for our family reunion
10	We like the beach
10	Has everything I need
10	(no response)
10	late fall found several eagle feathers near museum , small but thrilling must have been on their way fishing...
10	We all enjoyed our trip; got to hike the CCC exercise trail, swam at the beach and play at the playground.
10	The park is beautiful, and not as crowded as South State Park. Nice, quiet place to enjoy nature.
10	Wonderful beach
10	The beach
10	Love the park! Hidden Gem but bath houses need updating, terribly.
10	Employees were friendly and helpful, everything was clean
10	(no response)
10	(no response)
10	(no response)
10	The spur of the Iron Belle Bike Trail.
10	Everyone is kind and helpful when needed.
10	Love the beach
10	It is a great park and is taken care of
10	It is a beautiful park to visit
10	(no response)
10	nice
10	Awesome lake and park
10	It met my expectations
10	Very well kept park. Family oriented, wonderful staff, beautiful scenery
10	N Higgins Lake is a great park
10	Well maintained/updated.
10	Staff is always helpful and area is well keep up
10	(no response)
10	We enjoy the fall festival.
10	Easy access on/off ice
10	We had a very nice camping experience
10	The Lake
10	Great facilities
10	I visited last fall for two nights and all my needs and expectations were met.
10	West Campground Host was outstanding. Liked the new "Dual Dump" provisions at the dump station. Host was very helpful at directing traffic.
10	Have enjoyed the park for many years. Love the new paved trail.
10	Quiet

APPENDIX B

10	Love the nature and privacy aspects 8n the campground. Too many campgrounds no longer have trees or privacy.
10	(no response)
10	Just love higgins lake so peaceful and beautiful
10	(no response)
10	Camp sites, quiet, bike path, biking in house area.
10	It's just beautiful
10	Clean lake, great sites
10	(no response)
10	Excellent park. Clean, quiet.
10	Staff- access
10	BEST PARK IN MICHIGAN
10	Favorite park to visit
10	Kids and I had fun campin last year. There was not much traffic when we stayed and they enjoyed the beach
10	(no response)
10	Loved the Harvest Festival
10	Love camping here. Quit and large lots
10	We had a great time. We felt safe laying our 4 year old on the playground.
10	(no response)
10	location and lake
10	We had no issues at the park and the park was clean. The bath houses were also kept clean.
10	Very pleased with the park, we come every year.
9	BEAUTIFUL PARK
9	(no response)
9	We love Higgins Lake and value the boat launch and the campground for our friends. I also take my bike there to ride.
9	(no response)
9	(no response)
9	Clean low wait time, good parking
9	The boat launch is well managed
9	(no response)
9	(no response)
9	(no response)
9	Always room for improvement Educate
9	Beaches and restrooms were clean.
9	We enjoyed the beach and picnic facilities
9	(no response)
9	PARK IS CLEAN AND EMPLOYEE's ARE FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL
9	Enjoyed hiking
9	Went for a walk in the snow and it was wonderful.
9	Beautiful
9	Love the natural springs
9	Zebra mussels and weeds at launch

9	We typically ride our bikes to the state park with the grandchildren to play on the beach, swim, use the play equipment and to eat a picnic lunch.
9	fun event
9	Nice park for taking the family
9	(no response)
9	Beautiful
9	coming to this area for years
9	It met my needs
9	(no response)
9	Accommodating
9	Ease of access
9	(no response)
9	(no response)
9	If the boat wash facility were relocated inside the park, my rating would have been a 10.
9	The more rustic condition of the beach area to the east of the main picnic area really gives an "up north" feel.
9	nice campground
9	Lakefront enjoyment without the tax payment nor investment to be a lake fronter!
9	(no response)
9	Not crowded
9	Nobody is a ten! There's always room for improvement.
9	We have always enjoyed the park, and now with the added bike trails opening, will enjoy those as well.
9	It is a local resource that provides opportunities to access the lake, the woods and the trails.....
9	nice park and lake. Available activities at and near the park
9	(no response)
9	We like the campground and it's proximity to the lake.
9	It's handy
9	Visited this past weekend. Enjoyed being able to walk through the park and enjoy the outdoors. Just love the beauty of the park, and the calm of this season.
9	(no response)
9	Nice park for camping. Would love to stay longer to access more features
9	My children love the walking trails around the CCC museum.
9	Was able to ride my bike in from a trail and ride back to my cabin
9	(no response)
9	Nice boat ramp
9	Campsite, clean facilities, lots of recreation options.
9	(no response)

PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT

9	Love trail running have to learn to fish lake
9	I like the improved dump station
9	We were able to camp at adjacent campsites with family and had a wonderful visit!
9	Winterfest was great
9	Clean campground
9	Great camping
9	Friendly
9	Lack of an ice cream stand in the summer. I love the North Park but my spoiled grandchildren love that ice cream at the South one!
9	(no response)
9	(no response)
9	We had 8 sites all family members together
9	went at sunset when all was quiet and peaceful
9	Road noise
9	friendly ang out in the woods
9	(no response)
9	Clean; nice sized campsites; nice beach with great bathroom; staff has always been friendly & courteous
9	This community is proud of, and greatly appreciate the MDNR facilities here. You do a wonderful job!
9	Muddy when it rained
9	We had a very pleasant time camping with our church group. Bicycling around the lake is great.
9	Facility is very well taken care of by passionate DNR staff.
9	Fun place to walk around, good beaches & clean restroom
9	Pleasant childhood memories
9	Been going here since childhood. Great park, beautiful lake views from beach
9	Good access to lake
9	(no response)
9	Love it but do wish the east loop bathrooms would be updated like the west loop.
9	Love the closeness of the lake to the campground
9	N. Higgins is a great park but like most MI State Parks, the trees are dying faster than being replaced (if replaced at all). the second issue is the Goose Droppings closing the beach.
9	Great campgrounds
9	(no response)
9	I would have given it a 10 if it weren't for the risk of swimmers itch.
9	Location
9	Enjoyed my time camping there.
9	Was construction on the new foot trail.
9	Nice place

9	The lake was beautiful and enjoyable for fishing and boating and there wasn't too much traffic at the park.
9	I didn't experience any problems, however the dump station really needs to be a quicker process and more easily accessible such as removal of some trees around it.
9	Would be a 10, but it was frustrating not knowing when/if the shop would be open to rent paddle boards. Wound up going to the local marina instead.
9	It would have been perfect except for the power outage in the campground (bathhouse) when we were there and the worry about swimmers itch.
9	(no response)
9	Best beach
9	Clean, well-maintained and location/destination from home.
9	Clean and well kept facility
9	I love it
9	Again my most recent visit was in January, middle of Winter & nothing going on. But it was nice to drive into the boat landing and see the lake & ice fishers.
9	Would be a 10 but the campground was very full so it was a little loud and not much privacy
9	(no response)
9	Peaceful, clean, beautiful.
9	the iron bell bike trail and having a 50+ year history of visiting the park
9	Older bathrooms in camping area
8	nice boat launch & park
8	There is no fishing access for people without boats.
8	It is a very well taken care of State Park
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	need for the concession stand
8	Enjoy the park access to lake.
8	Beach, trails, family
8	Grounds and property seem to be cared for
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	nice camping, but not real happy with beach
8	feels natural
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	Its convenient and works well
8	(no response)
8	Nice camp sites
8	was good
8	too many trees taken down

APPENDIX B

8	clean
8	Quite a walk to picnic area from parking lot
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	very nice beach, but no Park Store
8	got swimmers itch
8	meets my needs
8	Easy access to the lake
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	appreciated new bike trails
8	(no response)
8	Had a lot of fun
8	I never give a 10 when I'm sober and only threes and fours on I'm drinking
8	Great boat launch
8	Getting redundant in your questions and boring
8	I use the boat launch once in the spring and once in the fall. It's not often terribly crowded.
8	Great location
8	clean quiet campsite
8	Great Beach
8	Boating
8	It's a nice park to walk around.
8	I used to get swimmer's itch whenever I went to the North State Park and that's changed in the last year or so.
8	(no response)
8	beautiful beach area, good place to anchor
8	Serves my purpose
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	too many people- noisy and trash everywhere
8	A dog friendly beach would be an asset to the park.
8	Somewhat easy access for Wheel Chair accessibility.
8	Lots of skunks. Swimmers itch although was warned by the rangers ?? Stolen cooler once can't blame the park for that. It is a nice park. Less negative than positives.
8	cold wind off lake made enjoying winterfest activities a little tough. It is a great park overall, nice and quiet. It is a real gem.
8	(no response)
8	decent overall

8	(no response)
8	wasnt trashed. not a million people just short of end of boating season. Dock still in and decent bathrooms
8	(no response)
8	This lake is beautiful and the park is clean. Even without ammenities that other parks have cleanliness is most important thing.
8	Enjoying the lake
8	busy in summer
8	(no response)
8	Concerned about swimmers itch
8	(no response)
8	nobody is perfect
8	Decent boat launch, good access to trail systems, quieter than the South end of the lake.
8	Great camping. Had problems with neighbor with a dog the last couple days.
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	It's a nice park to use.
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	Would like more private sites with increased hiking.
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	Not enough showers available.
8	I love the hike to the store at HLSouth...gives me a destination
8	walking access to beach/boating is rough prefer lagoon at South for overnight boat storage
8	restrooms need updating
8	Too many people at the beach
8	We stayed at the park for the fist time in 2017- we enjoyed both of our visits. We think that expanding the bike trail is a good idea. We do worry about swimmer's itch. We enjoyed our interaction with the host(west campground).
8	well maintained
8	Still needs improving
8	Not right on the water
8	Outdated Bathroom & Shower facilities. Camp Sight was adjacent to bike trail and they left no trees for privacy.
8	love it, but had swimmers itch in the past
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	(no response)

PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT

8	(no response)
8	Ease of use
8	Love this campground but the recent installation of the bike trail has resulted in loss of the remoteness of some of the sites. There was still a lot of clean up that needed to be done including stumps of trees, downed branches, and saw dust.
8	(no response)
8	The boat launch worked, but some discourteous people blocked the launch while they yakked away.
8	Camp sights, bike trails
8	(no response)
8	swimmers itch
8	would rate higher if there was no swimmers itch
8	(no response)
8	(no response)
8	Quality of the CCC displays.
7	(no response)
7	(no response)
7	there was a power failure, had to use porta potties
7	(no response)
7	Would like the docks a little longer for the pontoon boats and would like showers available at the park to shower off kids re: swimmer's itch , and a few more garbage cans people don't always pick up after themselves
7	I typically use the park during the summer while boating. It has good facilities and beach.
7	i like it
7	Setting. Nature. Isolated. Beautiful.
7	I like visiting the parks but at times they are crowded
7	(no response)
7	(no response)
7	No park store
7	I watch people launch boats for entertainment, needs to be enforcement on the drunks.
7	Worried about swimmers itch.
7	(no response)
7	Swimmers itch
7	It's beautiful but sometimes there are way too many boats and campers there and they can be very disruptive and loud
7	(no response)
7	No full hook up concerns about swimmers itch
7	(no response)
7	My RV is tall, and there are too many low hanging branches. I had a tough time parking my RV
7	the bathrooms are pretty bad
7	It rained a lot
7	Crowded

7	Campsites were kind of tight, and noise could be a problem at times, loud music and occasionally some loud people around the campfires
7	Nice park, needs full hookups in the campground.
7	(no response)
7	Had to load ATV's in a truck and haul them 1 at a time to trail head wasting time and gas.
7	(no response)
7	Relaxing but not a lot to do with the kids. Like the CCC museum.
7	compared to other state parks
7	(no response)
7	Beautiful park, but some facilities need updated.
7	Rode the Iron Belle trail in the park. There is too much stopping at driveways and access roads.
7	(no response)
6	It needs a place to buy lunch for visiting boaters.
6	Swimmers itch
6	(no response)
6	(no response)
6	everything was great except my daughter got swimmer's itch
6	inadequate dump site for size of park
6	We bike through on our trips around the lake. We do not use facilities of the Park.
6	The State of Michigan does not take the issue of invasive species and swimmers itch seriously enough.
6	(no response)
6	(no response)
6	Great lake, but camping facilities and boat facilities are limited.
6	park needs some tlc and upgrades.
6	The construction of the new bike trails in the morning was a bit disruptive
6	Great park
6	(no response)
6	Bathrooms were not good.
5	ramp too crowded
5	(no response)
5	Nice beach but actually haven't gone there in the last few years due to all the swimmers itch
5	The park could use some tender loving care and clean up.
5	(no response)
5	Dirty beach. It's not sand on the beach it's actual dirt! Bathrooms were messy. Need to clean the beach, like garbage emptying and bathrooms way more times a day.
5	Disappointed in all the logging in the running/ biking trails
5	Swimmers itch on the beach :(

5	Small camping lots, crowded
5	Poor showers no water pressure
5	I think there should be a mandatory boat wash at all launches.
5	No good place to fish from shore
5	Average state park
5	Swimmer's itch way too often
5	(no response)
5	Long walk to beach from campgrounds
5	Launched Kayak. Parking for Cars-only is too far from water.
4	To crowded with boating...
4	Swimmer's Itch concerns, lack of special needs accommodations
4	Young Rangers unreasonable. God complex
3	(no response)
3	See previous comments about men's bathroom being locked and no one on duty, as well as no DNR personnel on the phone that could/would do anything about the situation.
3	noisy at night and not particularly clean
3	I noticed no one used the boat wash before launching
2	The water quality is certainly not as good as it was years ago, and invasive species seem to be getting worse.
2	Only use it to launch boat
2	Noise from the road and lack of a staff person on
Q35: WHAT, IF ANY, CHANGES WOULD YOU MAKE TO IMPROVE YOUR EXPERIENCE AT NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK?	
ANSWERED	232
SKIPPED	311

Responses

1. MAKE ALL BOATS USING THE LAUNCH DO A CLEANING . TO REMOVE ANY CHANCE OF BRINGING INVASIVE SPECIES ! ALSO LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF BOATS. BEING LAUNCHED ON A GIVEN DAY. SOME HOLIDAYS THE LAKE BECOMES DANGEROUS . BECAUSE OF TOO MANY BOATS. AND ALCOHOL BEING CONSUMED
2. Mandatory Boat Washing
3. No changes needed
4. I enjoy the less crowded feeling there compared to the South Higgins SP
5. Install a boat wash to keep the lake free of invasive species
6. Park store....also, regarding visiting boats, we have a Fresh Water Lake....we should protect this lake at great effort....how many clean fresh water lakes do you know, that are clean and beautiful as Higgins....swimmers itch was a bad enough issue...we do Not need any more complications with our Lake....
7. I would like to see a long fishing dock put out and the bathrooms updated
8. The ammenities could be improved.
9. Bike trails
10. More ramps
11. Install and staff a hot water boat washing facility!
12. Do not obliterate fitness trail. Put Iron Belle alongside it so it can retain its interpretation & fitness opportunity.
13. None other than bike paths
14. None
15. Boat launch should require washing to reduce likelihood of further aquatic invasive species being introduced into Higgins Lake.
16. Hook up to septic system to improve water quality
17. see above
18. Can't think of any
19. More staff at the boat launch, there is too much traffic with people at the launch, sometimes could use a hand when really windy conditions with the pontoons, kids walking around there, neighbors walking across, maybe a few more boat trailer parking, passes to buy to keep your boat in water over night (way to generate revenue)
20. Better launch bathrooms. Another boat launch dock. More boat launch parking.
21. A program which prevents new aquatic species from entering Higgins Lake must be put in place now. It is essential that this program include boat washes that use hot water at ALL three state boat launch sites.
22. Unable to comment at this time
23. bathrooms close to entrance.
24. Probably improve the boat wash area so as to keep invasive species out of HL.
25. Clean up and maintain the beach's sandy areas. Such a beautiful lake has much more potential for a pristine beach at this park than what's currently there.
26. Hot water boat washing station
27. Allow less boaters
28. A complete concession.
29. better boat bottom cleaning
30. Boat wash in the park
31. Provide food for purchase like you use to have.
32. Not sure, we're pretty happy as is!
33. Requirements for boat cleaning
34. a program which prevents new aquatic species from entering Higgins Lake must be put in place now. It is essential that this program include boat washes that use hot water at ALL three state boat launch sites
35. Make certain invasive aquatic plants don't enter Lake by installing hot water boat washes
36. Stop invasive species. Boat wash. Hot water

37. n/a
38. leave it alone
39. Educate visitors on the importance of good conservation about picking up their trash and importance of not throwing cans and plastic bottles in the lake while using it.
40. decrease the number of campers
41. i would not make changes and goof it up
42. Continue the swimmers itch elimination programs, and protect the lakes water and species from diseases and aquatic invasive species.
43. More emphasis on boat washes at the launch, hot water washes for invasive species.
44. Larger beach area.
45. They need a general store like the south park. More playground equipment for kids.
46. I would appreciate mandatory supervised, hot water boat washing to prevent additional new aquatic species from entering Higgins Lake.
47. None
48. One thing. While walking the beach, someone was sitting at the end of the park near the Conservation School, and was holding/restraining a pit bull. It was on a leash, but was straining to lunge at us. Uncomfortable situation. We walked into the water, we were barefoot, to avoid them.
49. Mandate, and staff, a boat wash that uses hot water to keep invasive species out.
50. Increase presence of staff to monitor and identify at-risk boats from entering the lake. More monitoring should be done to wash down at-risk boats from entering the lake as to decrease the possibility of spread of invasive species.
51. BOAT LAUNCH IS SMALL AND TOUGH TO NAVIGATE AT TIMES
52. Park Store
53. Better marking of trails
54. Less people
55. Mandatory HOT water boat and trailer washes to keep our lake pristine and free of invasive species.
56. Extend bike trails. upgrade boat wash.
57. Develop a program which prevents new aquatic species from entering Higgins Lake . This needs to be accomplished ASAP
58. Just getting rid of the swimmers itch
59. Require all boats to be washed prior to launching. This would help to keep Higgins Lake natural and clean
60. Need to add more docks to the boat launch. Should bring back the store.
61. Work on swimmers itch. Greatly improved but hope they can remove it completely.
62. Boat wash at park
63. Have a restaurant on the water that serves burgers and beer. A nice deck with tables and umbrellas and fish tacos.
64. More privacy for campers along bike trail, tents-only region in the park
65. The park, as it is, serves us quite well.
66. Let folks camp back on the shore.
67. Move. The boat wash closer so more people would use it
68. none
69. Please improve the boat wash in any way that will help protect our beautiful lake from invasive species.
70. get rid of swimmer's itch
71. The water quality is not as good as it used to be. I'm VERY concerned about the invasive species coming into the lake from other lakes.
72. I am not a fan of change
73. None
74. Staffed boat washes with hot water at all 3 launch sites to prevent invasive species. Regularly groomed cross-country ski trail.
75. Stop invasive species coming into Higgins lake from boats from other waters.
76. Need a boat wash
77. A program which prevents new aquatic species from entering Higgins Lake must be put in place now. It is essential that this program include boat washes that use hot water at ALL three state boat launch sites
78. More bathrooms and a family one for handicap people to use with helper.
79. mandatory boat washing
80. None
81. A program which prevents new aquatic species from entering Higgins Lake must be put in place now. It is essential that this program include boat washes that use hot water at ALL three state boat launch sites.
82. reduce swimmer's itch by supporting efforts to remove messengers. reduce invasive species by supporting efforts to add a hot boat wash at the launch site. add more beach concessions
83. hot water boat wash
84. increase size of waste site dump!!!
85. Make boaters use boat wash
86. Relocate the boat wash facility inside the park near the boat launch ramp.
87. see above
88. Get rid of swimmers itch
89. On site boat wash facility for boats foreign to the lake or not normally kept at this lake.
90. Have the bike trail extended....both of them....in the woods & around the lake connecting with South Higgins

- lake park.
91. 2 more boat launches and a kayak ramp
92. Maybe signs posted around..... "Enjoy..... Leave plants alone...Leave just your footprints behind...
93. Nothing
94. Put in a park store
95. Control traffic at RV dump better on holiday weekends during check out.
96. Nothing
97. active docent program
98. to prevent the lake from being polluted by overused bathrooms and too many people, improve the septic system and add trash and recycle stations
99. A convenience store serving ice cream would be nice.
100. Sometimes the camp host on the west end looks quite messy.
101. Wheel chair access to Picnic Tables.Only a Couple
102. The playground on the left campground was minimal. Even just adding a slide would be nice for our kids.
103. More signage as boats enter the lane stating that only space available for 2 boats at a time. A place maybe to tie off boat would be nice so you could go get your vehicle instead of taking up the SMALL docking area while you have to hike across the road to pick up vehicle do to small amount of trailer parking available
104. Updated camping restrooms at the east side.
105. Fishing boat rental would be nice.
106. More playground equipment is always nice. The concessions are a nice option, but healthier choices would be even better.
107. Not sure
108. update bathrooms, and boat launch
109. Limit areas where pets are allowed. Have a non-pet dedicated area.
110. More handicap access and accommodations.
111. A wheelchair ramp down to the lake on the beach, changing table big enough for our students who are ages 4-18, more swings in day use area.
112. Camp sites are too close to the road for me and little kids. need to have an open shoot range.
113. Require boat washing to head off aquatic invasive species. More law enforcement.
114. Manage swimmers itch, add more nature walks and or classes
115. Improve the restrooms refreshments. On serve things that will degrade if left on the ground.
116. Splash pad, better playground.
117. More space for campers
118. None
119. Updated bathroom/bath house in campground
120. Make sure you send Simone qualified to fix the electrical that didn't work and also turn u the water pressure the showers are awful
121. Please have a large visible sign that is visible from the road so more people can find the CCC museum. Also, have bigger signs where walking trails start. List all trails on Google Maps streetview, so you can look at them before walking them to help judge the terrain.Fund someone to take 360 degree still shots of all of your hiking trails.
122. Just the bathrooms and showers need major improvement
123. More parking for. Trailers
124. Fix the swimmers itch problem
125. Better assure no exposure to swimmers itch
126. Bouy rental for campers boats
127. I think there should be a mandatory boat wash at all launches. The swimmers' itch problem should also be addressed.
128. No pets. Or only certain sites
129. Additional dock space (not for launching) with 10 or 15 min time limit. Extended docks for launching. Better boat launch parking flow.
130. Update the old bath house at the Eastern side
131. Campsites on water
132. More handicap parking @ boat launch area
133. Ease up on the timber harvests.
134. Open museum more often
135. Improved playground sites on water would be nice
136. None
137. Make sure there is enough parking, clean beach and bathrooms.
138. Just build that ice cream stand. ??
139. Park store
140. Have on-site management of the park who would actually tend to the campers.
141. Handicapped access
142. It would be nice to have a dog accessible beach area with picnic tables.
143. Update the east bathroom building. Put in overflow parking, a dog beach, update campground playground equipment,
144. None. Maybe a little more single track for the trails.
145. Somehow clean up the water
146. A area/trail to access/park at N Higgins lake from a ATV
147. We like both loops of the park, but the East loop looked like the bath houses were in pretty rough shape. This limits us to staying only on one side of the park for now.
148. none
149. Need to add more dump stations...yes...

150. Create more private camp sites.
151. Dog swim area
152. Expand the boat ramp and facilities. A sheltered area to overnight and tie up boats would be great.
153. Trim low hanging branches, and adding more pads for RV's
154. Dog swim areas
155. Control swimmers itch
156. put in an updated restroom/bath house
157. A dock dedicated just for fishing with children would be helpful.
158. reseed east campground sites and upgrade bath houses.
159. More tree's between campsites and the road.
160. FIX THE EAST CAMPGROUND RESTROOMS/SHOWERS!
161. With ATV trails near by, make park an ATV trail head access point
162. The lake water quality (swimmers itch)
163. None. Let the trees grow, so not make more campsites.
164. None
165. More night patrols to ensure safety and quiet
166. The bathrooms could use an update, and it would be amazing to have another couple cabins available.
167. With more and more self-contained camping units, full-hook-up sites might be nice.
168. Full camping hookups with water and sewer but don't want to see trees removed either
169. I would like to see a pet friendly area incorporated into the beach area. Pets are family also.
170. Would not change anything
171. Improve camping sites.
172. Bathroom near the boat ramp, beach
173. Have a dog friendly beach
174. None, one of my favorite Michigan State Parks.
175. restrooms need updating
176. Campsites on the water don't make it too "modern"
177. More food options? Healthy ones
178. update the campground for RV's to get in easier and make sites more level and not so crowded.
179. Get seasoned rangers
180. More available sites
181. Patrol the campground to ensure noise is kept within peoples own campsites. Just because someone next to you doesn't mind, that doesn't mean the people on the other side of you don't. Kill all the Mosquito's!
182. Just a bathroom update for the east loop and some more playground equipment in the camping loops.
183. Need a noise buffer from the highway.
184. Limit people
185. Improve the bathrooms in campground . The east?? The loop with the lower numbers
186. Add full hookups in the campground!
187. put some money into the CCC museum and have a full time guide there/ sell some books too
188. Stated in 23
189. Allow ride in and out ATV/ORV privledges like clear lake state park.
190. Improve the Swimmers itch issue.
191. None
192. boat wash, like south sp
193. Nothing
194. Have a cars only parking closer to the water.
195. Expand Boat Launch to accommodate more boats. More Docks.
196. Make some full hookup sites. and you need an overflow parking area
197. Pier fishing spots. Clean the beach
198. Up grade restrooms and showers
199. Extend bike path
200. Enforce noise ordinance and guest hours.
201. clean bathrooms, quiet campground at night
202. More playground equipment
203. Work on the CCC museum and update and maintain the grounds more.
204. The boat launch needs to be monitored every day during peak months but especially on the weekends. Way too many visitors not following basic rules and boating etiquette. I've witnessed physical altercations at the boat launch that could have been prevented had DNR officials been present.
205. Expand the trails
206. Make more dog friendly beach space available.
207. Consistent, DAILY access to paddle boards and kayaks. Less people in the cedar forest and people treating it with respect!!
208. More camping sites with full hook-up for campers.
209. Improve the water filling/dumping station access.
210. Heated bathrooms
211. People would pay for full hook up and WiFi. If you invest in the infrastructure, it will pay off.
212. None
213. Definitely improve the East campground bathroom. Try to accommodate more boat trailer parking on the campground side of N. Higgins Lake Drive- maybe utilize the campers' boat trailer parking area more since that is hardly used for unattached empty trailers. etc.
214. I think the only reason there would be issues is the bad reviews in the past because of swimmers itch from

uneducated people You have the signs and education, and I did my part by posting a rave review on Trip Advisor. so I am not sure how much more you can do.

- 215. Full hookups at all sites
- 216. NONE
- 217. Bathroom/ Shower updates and more play equipment.
- 218. None
- 219. Separation of campsite from the county road. Child safety issue
- 220. Update the restroom/showers and the playground next to it.
- 221. swimmers itch
- 222. no change
- 223. Camp fees are too high
- 224. Build another boat ramp, very congested area.
- 225. New boat wash at launch site
- 226. Like to see a boat basin. So you don't have to moar your boat off shore or pull it out every time.
- 227. Overnight boat parking needs gravel or something to keep boats and vehicles from sinking in
- 228. Let the dogs swim. They're an integral part of our camping experience, and this is our dog's favorite activity. You should see how excited our adorable mutt gets when she sees the water.
- 229. Larger showers
- 230. New bathrooms with more shower stalls and larger hot water tank.
- 231. Expand on the outdoor exhibits
- 232. Modernize the bath/shower facilities.
- 233. dog friendly off leach beach area.

Q36: PLEASE SHARE ANY OTHER THOUGHTS YOU MAY HAVE ON NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK AND/OR THE MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS.

ANSWERED	122
SKIPPED	421

Responses

1. ASK THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE HOMES. ON THE LAKE FOR INPUT.
2. better ramps, more queing room
3. bring back the lakeside camping spots
4. insist on boat wash
5. We love the beauty of Higgins Lake in general. So very thankful for the Swimmers Itch Association that battled this plague on the lake. We also do not want any invasive species entering our lake. I think the DNR needs to act soon to prevent this from happening.
6. Place a boat wash there
7. Keep a tight reign on boat washing to keep lake from being destroyed by non native elements
8. Boat wash is very important to keep Higgins lake beautiful and keep out invasive species. As a summer resident for 63 years I am interested in keeping Higgins lake pristine & clean, & so should the state of Michigan
9. Continue the boat wash
10. Maintain the camp showers to best degree
11. Boat washes should be operational at all access sites. There should be enforcement of noise ordinances. There are too many "go-fast" boats with above water unruffled pipes creating excessive sound around the whole lake.
12. Volunteer weekend clean up for people that care about the park.
13. Enjoy using and supporting our parks.
14. Provide hot water boat wash to ensure new aquatic species don't enter the lake
15. A program which prevents new aquatic species from entering Higgins Lake must be put in place now. It is essential that this program include boat washes that use hot water at ALL three state boat launch sites.
16. As a frequent swimmer and boater at Higgins Lake, I think that a program which prevents new aquatic species from entering Higgins Lake must be put in place now. It is essential that this program include boat washes that use hot water at ALL three state boat launch sites.
17. Any program that prevents new aquatic species from entering HL must be put in place now.
18. Is there ANY study underway to determine if there is a means to control swimmers itch there in summer months? I avoid Higgins Lake in Jul/Aug because of swimmer's itch...

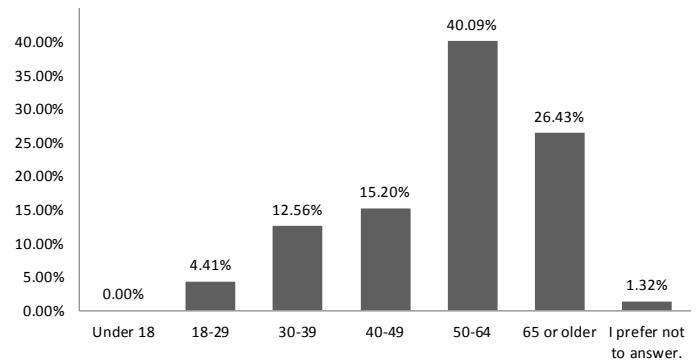
19. Maintain a hot water boat cleaning station and required its use by boaters
20. Do not consider Lake Residents enough
21. Swimmers swimming in the boaters area make me nervous!
22. support the merganser catch and relocate program
23. Please help to keep the Lake clean and free from aquatic species from entering the lake!!
24. Continue to prevent infection of lake
25. Keep boat wash going to prevent invasive species. Figure out if hooking up to the sewer system is best for the lake quality and work to
26. a program which prevents new aquatic species from entering Higgins Lake must be put in place now. It is essential that this program include boat washes that use hot water at ALL three state boat launch sites
27. n/a
28. Would like for you to hook up to the sewer system to help the water quality of the lake.
29. need boat wash with attendant to require boats to be washed. No more aquatic invasions!
30. The camping part is too big for the neighbors
31. none
32. a program which prevents new aquatic species from entering Higgins Lake must be put in place now. It is essential that this program include boat washes that use hot water at ALL three state boat launch sites.
33. More emphasis on hot water washes for invasive species on boats
34. None
35. If campers have a dog that barks, invest in a muzzle.
36. Great place to spend the day.
37. Love North Higgins State Park
38. Worried access could bring unwanted plants and animals in lake.
39. Like to see continued work on swimmers itch and invasive species
40. a program which prevents new aquatic species from entering Higgins Lake must be put in place now. It is essential that this program include boat washes that use hot water at ALL three state boat launch sites.
41. More rangers to supervise the campers and boulders
42. State to Shop local and support your local Community .
43. Make sure people are using the boat washes to keep our lake free of invasive species and clean.
44. We must have mandatory hot water boat washes for any visiting boats to control invasive species! These additional costs could be shared by taxpayers and boating visitors.
45. Just the boat wash closer
46. I hope you start enforcing the boat washes
47. I believe it is the responsibility of the DNR to reduce prevent the spread of invasive species.
48. Boat wash is important
49. I'm very concerned about invasive species in our lake, which are just finally being gotten control over. I would like to see the boat-wash facilities more heavily advertised and somehow 'pushed' as an important part of keeping Higgins Lake clean and refreshing for everyone's use, including swimmers.
50. see above
51. Implement a mandatory boat wash for any boat coming from other michigan waters. Keep Higgins Lake Clean!
52. As someone who has been enjoying the beauty and nature found at Higgins Lake both in and out of the water, my primary concerns are two: continue with the swimmers itch program to eliminate this problem. The past couple of years have made a huge difference. The other issue is that of invasive species. We already have a huge problem with zebra mussels and we need to prevent any further invasive issues that seem to make their way from Lake to Lake. I desperately seek to keep Higgins Lake free from these things both for my family as well as others. It is vitally important that we address the issues now before it is too late and problems are too big. One solution I understand is to maintain a boat wash station at the various launches. I support this effort. There is so much to enjoy at the Higgins Lake area, please help keep it this way for everyone to enjoy. Thank you.
53. strongly encourage the adoption of programs to prevent invasive aquatic species from entering Higgins Lake. The zebra mussel populations are a nuisance and additional invasive species will harm the lake's ecological balance.
54. Its a great public facility and a huge asset to "Pure Michigan".
55. The importance and of the boat wash to prevent invasive species
56. Please keep encouraging that boats are washed before entering!! It has completely changed my experience at the North State Park, made it much more enjoyable!
57. Lake conservation. Boats being cleaned properly. No invasive species coming in from any boat launches. No swimmers itch.
58. a program which prevents new aquatic species from entering Higgins Lake must be put in place now. It is essential that this program include boat washes that use hot water at ALL three state boat launch sites.
59. It feels like the North state park takes a hands off approach to the environment and the water quality of the lake. They should be supporting efforts to reduce swimmers itch and invasive species. Protect our water please.
60. Put staff at boat wash
61. Aquatic Invasive Species, as well as aging septic systems and fertilizer run-off, are significant threats to the long

term health and well being of Higgins Lake and it's water quality. Too few people truly understand this. We consider any and all education and preventative programs which result in preventing any new invasive species from entering Higgins Lake must be adopted immediately. It is critical that an comprehensive, ecologically focused program include mandatory and conveniently placed boat washes that use hot water at every state boat launch site: the North and South State Parks and the DNR Launch site on the west end of the north basin.

62. I understand that boats launched at the park are a leading source of invasive species. Zebra mussels, for example, have radically changed our experience of Higgins Lake. Preventive measures should be obligatory for boats launched into Higgins Lake.
63. I share the concern over invasives and strongly support mandatory boat washing, not just for "high risk" boats.
64. see above
65. Having an off site boat wash is detrimental to the effort to reduce invasive species entering the lake. It should be on site and mandatory for non Higgins lake boats
66. Like the volley ball nets and play areas
67. FYI- submitted a pic- on the November morning of that pic- A 'bear' was within 30' of me- did not see, hear, smell it. have pics of paw prints. Site would not allow to upload it. Though it's interesting to know that bear exist in the swamp/forest area there
68. Have restrictions on # of campers and boats
69. good luck on planning
70. This is 1 of the few beaches that has shady trees- a very desirable feature. Please preserve them and add more
71. Please don't expand. It will lose its rustic, natural character.
72. Love the east side of the park
73. More trailer parking or a shuttle type service to get across the road quicker to get vehicle. Schedule a few more cleanings throughout the day more signs explaining the boat wash purpose at the launch. Please please put actual sand on the beach!
74. An additional dump station, or even a Y so that both sides could dump at the same time would make the wait time shorter.
75. no issues
76. set up a horse camp in the north section of the park
77. Landscaping
78. Get rid of swimmers itch.
79. Fix my concerns listed above
80. You have great people running your events, why not advertise them?
81. More kids activities. There is lots to explore there
82. Really enjoy the variety of recreation options
83. Eliminate swimmers itch from the lake
84. See above responses
85. A shooting range similar to island lake would do great near the north state park. Add an indoor range and you'd pull people from all over.
86. I think you're doing a great job, the paved walking bicycle path is nice
87. Cottages with atv's disregard the rules for trail use. Clamp down on them.
88. I would love to be able to stay on the lake longer than 10pm without being ticketed. I would really love to take my kids on a night cruise
89. Keep same parking lot distance to the lake.
90. I think I've covered that already.
91. This park has always been my favorite park to camp at!
92. We've only stayed once so far and are looking forward to the bike trail development!
93. none
94. Liked the dog swimming area, could remove the sand with hard surface for dogs.
95. Better access to the lake from the West loop would be great.
96. Install Boat Wash at launch to protect lake from Aquatic Invasive Species
97. I am grateful as user to be able to have input.
98. We love the nature trails.
99. Other than the East restrooms, KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!
100. It is a great campground. If a little busy sometimes.
101. Looking forward to returning this summer
102. Thanks for asking our opinion
103. It's one of our favorite state parks in Michigan
104. Please add a dog friendly beach area
105. Staff take very good care of this place.
106. Well maintained trails always good
107. If you don't continue to update and maintain our campgrounds people will quit camping.
108. Please allow ORV ride in/out. The proximity to many riders is far greater than clear lake state park. So many responsible riders are missing out simply because we have to trailer in and out. If you own a toy hauler like I do there is no real convenient way to get ATV in and out of the park. Nearest trail head is 5 miles away but rATVs can travel on the shoulder of the road.
109. None
110. N/A
111. Change the cleaning times of the bathrooms to be after check out and before check in. During my last visit the bathroom was closed for cleaning before i checked out and had to stop someplace else.
112. Fix some of the other foot trails with new mulch.

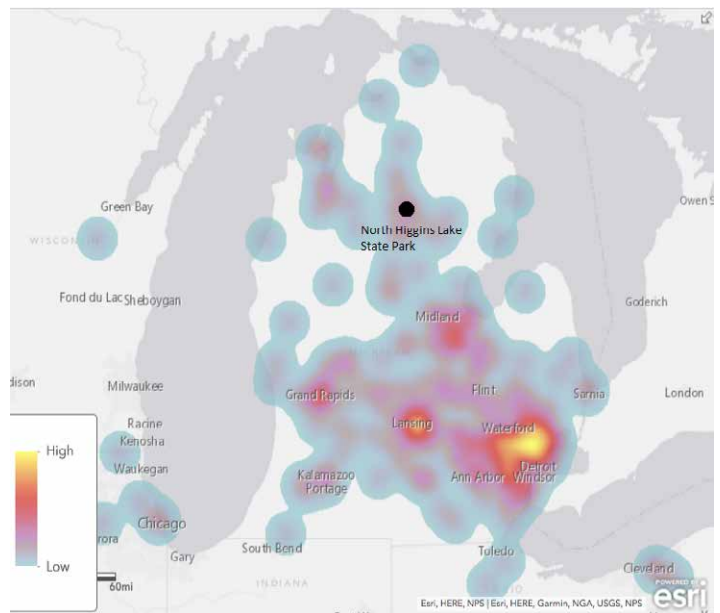
113. It would be great if there were two lanes entering the park. One for seasonal pass holders and one for day or new passes. Also, it would keep traffic flowing off the main road if visitors were required to park and purchase passes instead of holding up the line at the drive up window.
114. None
115. Put in sewer and water.
116. It's a nice place to use--needs a bit more rules enforcement though.
117. The general management of the boat ramps during boating season needs some consideration. There seems to be 2 schools of thought 1) you tie your boat up at the dock plugging that launch site for however long it takes to go maybe as far as across N. Higgins Lake Dr to get your boat trailer and the order of who drops offs or picks up is dictated by this parking activity OR 2) people drop off one of their parties to go get the boat trailer while the other holds the boat off to the side or at the non-ramp dock space allowing continual access to the boat ramps to others and order of process is dictated by the line of vehicle with boat trailers coming down to the launches, including any of those boats needing to be put in also. As another comment, while your representatives help in maintaining order to the boat launch is appreciated, they need to adhere to the same method(s) from ranger to ranger and they need to refrain from handling other peoples boats & equipment without being told it's OK to do so.
118. Concerns are minimal, but interest is high
119. Camp fees are too high!
120. I like the park. Hopefully we'll be back this year or next.
121. we go to relax, swim, kayak, walk the dogs, ride/walk the iron bell trail

WHAT IS YOUR AGE?		
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
UNDER 18	0.00%	0
18-29	4.41%	20
30-39	12.56%	57
40-49	15.20%	69
50-64	40.09%	182
65 OR OLDER	26.43%	120
I PREFER NOT TO ANSWER.	1.32%	6
ANSWERED		454
SKIPPED		89



Q37: (OPTIONAL) SHARE A PHOTO OF YOUR EXPERIENCE AT NORTH HIGGINS STATE PARK! BY UPLOADING A PHOTO, YOU GRANT PERMISSION TO THE DNR TO USE THE PHOTO.

ANSWERED	26
SKIPPED	517



Map depicting the zip code of survey respondents' primary residence. Brighter colors indicate a greater concentration of respondents.

WHAT IS THE ZIP CODE OF YOUR PRIMARY RESIDENCE?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
ANSWERED		450
SKIPPED		93



Michigan
Department of
Natural Resources



You're invited!

What

North and South Higgins Lake State Parks
General Management Plans
Stakeholder Input Meeting

When

Tuesday, April 24th
2:00 - 4:30 pm

Please RSVP to:

Plan Administrator Debbie Jensen
JensenD1@michigan.gov
517-284-6105

Where

Education Building - Main Branch Room
Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center
104 Conservation Dr, Roscommon, MI 48653

About the plans

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks & Recreation Division (PRD) is in the process of developing General Management Plans for both North and South Higgins Lake State Parks. The DNR uses General Management Plans to define a long-range planning and management strategy that protects the resources of the site while addressing recreation needs and opportunities. Public and stakeholder input is a critical component of the planning process.

About the meeting

The planning teams cordially invite you to attend a stakeholder input meeting! This is a combined meeting to solicit input for each of the two parks' respective plans. You may share thoughts for one or both parks. The team hopes to gather valuable insights from your organization and other key players. This session will include a brief presentation from the DNR on the planning process and progress, followed by individual and group exercises to gather input to inform the plans. We request that your organization send a maximum of three representatives so we may accommodate everyone. We hope to see you there!

Input survey

In addition, we are collecting input from park users via an online survey. You may share this link with any who may be interested.

North Higgins Lake State Park: <https://goo.gl/dHNbez>

South Higgins Lake State Park: <https://goo.gl/3XX5DB>

Project websites

www.mdnrmanagementplans.org/north-higgins-lake/
www.mdnrmanagementplans.org/south-higgins-lake/

For more information and to RSVP, please contact:

Plan Administrator Debbie Jensen
JensenD1@michigan.gov
517-284-6105



B.4 Summary of Stakeholder Input Workshop

Summary of Stakeholder Input Workshop

To gather targeted input from governmental, non-profit, and business/tourism entities, the planning team invited over 70 stakeholders, both individuals and community groups, to participate in a facilitated input workshop held on April 24, 2018, from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center in Roscommon, Michigan. This meeting was held jointly with South Higgins Lake State Park as there was considerable overlap in the stakeholders. Representatives of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provided the stakeholders with a brief overview of North Higgins Lake State Park, including its natural features, cultural resources, and recreational offerings. The stakeholders were also presented the General Management Plan process, timeline, and an explanation of the plan elements that their input would inform: the Statements of Significance, the Management Zone map, and a list of Action Goals intended to be accomplished over the next ten years.

The stakeholders were divided into small-table discussion groups, which completed a series of exercises describing the park's context, the park itself, opportunities for partnerships, the park's potential benefit to the larger community, and the stakeholders' vision for the park's future. Each table then reported out to the larger group. The results of the table exercises are outlined below.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT WORKSHOP ATTENDEES	
NAME	REPRESENTING
Bruce Rendon	Rep. Daire Rendon and Self
Sue Jock	Roscommon Metropolitan Recreation Authority
Shon Chmielewski	Crawford County Sheriff
Greg Semack	Higgins Lake Property Owners Association
Vicki Springstead	Higgins Lake Foundation
Fred Swinehart	Higgins Lake Property Owners Association
Suzanne Bates	Camp Westminster
Charlene Cornell	Higgins Lake Property Owners Association
Barb Selesky	Civilian Conservation Corps Chapter 129
Steve Sendek	Citizen at Large
Glenn Haight	Glenn Haight
Joan Skuta	Higgins Lake Foundation
William Sylvester	Friends of North Higgins
Tracy Smith	Higgins Lake Roscommon Chamber of Commerce
Brent Cryderman	Concessionaire – R.O.O.C.

PLANNING TEAM ATTENDEES	
NAME	REPRESENTING
Debbie Jensen	DNR: Management Plan Administrator
Josh Pellow	DNR: N. Higgins SP Unit Manager
Rachel Roberts	DNR: S. Higgins SP Unit Supervisor
Casey Gwisdala	DNR: N&S Higgins Lake SP Accounting Assistant
Scott Cook	DNR: Regional Planner
Bill Doan	DNR: District Supervisor
Amy Swainston	DNR: Trails Specialist
Lisa Gamero	DNR: Cultural Resources Analyst
Hillary Pine	DNR: Northern Lower Peninsula Historian, Michigan History Center
Lt. Brandon Kieft	DNR: District 5 Supervisor
Christy Summers	Planning Consultant
Caitlin Jackson	Planning Consultant

Icebreaker Question

When the stakeholders introduced themselves, they were asked to describe what matters most to them about either North and/or South Higgins Lake State Park. Their responses that pertain to North Higgins Lake State Park are below.

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO ME ABOUT NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK IS...
Continue easy access (maintain). Maintain the integrity of our natural resources. Maintain the history of the parks & the natural resources.
Controlling swimmer's itch! The north park is considerably used less because of this issue.
Use of boat wash, aquatic invasive species prevention
Waste treatment tie-in to Beaver Creek / Lyon Ponds
Wilderness areas; boat wash & launch; quiet
Heated water staffed boat washes on site to guard against introduction of new aquatic invasive species
Connection with CCC legacy. 4th or 5th grade nature training camp.
Boat access to lake – fishing. Ice access to lake. Winter fishing.
Trail use roads, speed limits on N. Higgins Lake Rd. Trail ID signs for N. Higgins ski / hiking trails...ALERT signs on King Rd. Logging of property.
Continued accessibility, positive long term environmental upkeep and impact on the lake.
Benefits the area
Accessibility; willingness to work with community groups
Beach front

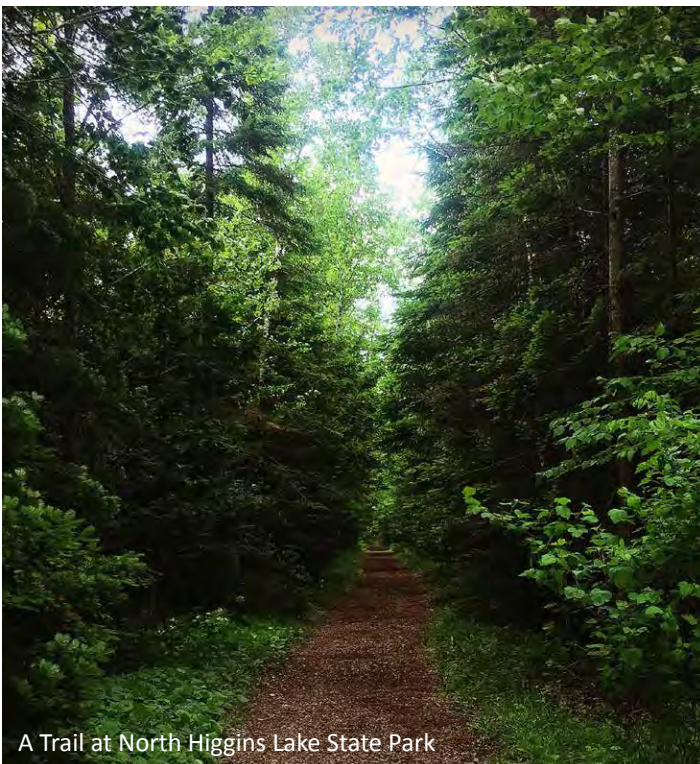


The Planning Team Presents to the Stakeholders

Exercise 1: Say one word or phrase that describes the Higgins Lake area.

Stakeholders' impressions of the Higgins Lake area include many positive attributes. Fishing, history, trails, natural beauty, and the year-round nature of the recreation opportunities were mentioned at two tables each. The area was described as peaceful, a treasure, a place for family, and a place for recreation. Negative characterizations describe crowding, development, and traffic congestion on the roads and the water.

ITEMS	MENTIONED AT TABLE #
Trout; fishing – year around	1 & 2
History; historic	1 & 2
Year around recreation; year around destination – all-inclusive / accessible	1 & 2
Hiking trails are very scenic; hiking – XC ski;	1 & 2
Pristine; beautiful/clear	1 & 2
Sailing	1
Crowded – developed	1
Sunsets	1
Destination	1
Family – grandkids!	1
Accessible	2
Undeveloped/natural/old growth trees	2
Noisy/boat traffic – road congestion	2
Swimmers itch	2
Highway – too fast	2
Proximity to other recreation/ parks	2
Peaceful	3
Clean water/clear	3
Aging	3
Treasure	3
Overgrown	3
Charming	3



A Trail at North Higgins Lake State Park

Exercise 2: Say one word or phrase that describes the state park right now.

The current North Higgins Lake State Park was described as a quiet, historical, family friendly park. The park's boat wash was mentioned at two tables, but at one table it was characterized as "less accessible." The park was characterized as being both well-maintained with very nice facilities, but also neglected and under-used. The quiet and primitive atmosphere, the CCC history, and the boat wash were all mentioned at two tables.

ITEMS	MENTIONED AT TABLE #
Boat wash; boat wash – less accessible	1 & 2
Quiet; quiet/primitive	1 & 2
CCC; CCC museum	1 & 2
Historical	1
Rustic	1
Well maintained	2
Swimmers itch (less)	2
Facilities very nice	2
Playground updates – universal access	2
Lack of knowledge, cultural – amenities	2
Under used	2
Neglected	3
Lack of signage	3
Family friendly	3
Great lake access – fishing	3
Diversified	3



Exercise 3: Say one word or phrase that you want to describe the state park in the future.

Phrases that were mentioned at more than one table included "clean" and the inclusion of a heated, staffed boat wash on site or mandatory boat wash. Other items mentioned include additional overnight lodging options; an improved boat launch, beach, and playground; and additional programs for kids and others. The stakeholders also wanted the park's history to be preserved, for the park to be safe, not overdeveloped, and have good fishing and forest health. Stakeholders also desired the elimination of pit toilets and for ski trails to be groomed.

ITEMS	MENTIONED AT TABLE #
Clean	1 & 3
Heated, staffed boat washes on site; mandatory boat wash	1 & 2
Lodging/yurts/cabins	2
Universal access playgrounds	2
Preserved culture/history	2
Enhance explorer kids (ranger) programs	2
Groomed trails	2
MacMullan – market area programming –artist in residence	2
No over develop – keep primitive areas	2
Eliminate pit toilets	3
Improved beach (lower lake level)	3
Improve launch	3
Forest health	3
Fishing access	3
Safe	1
Pristine	1



The first customer at the North Higgins Lake State Park wash, opened in 2009 (Photo Higgins Lake Foundation)

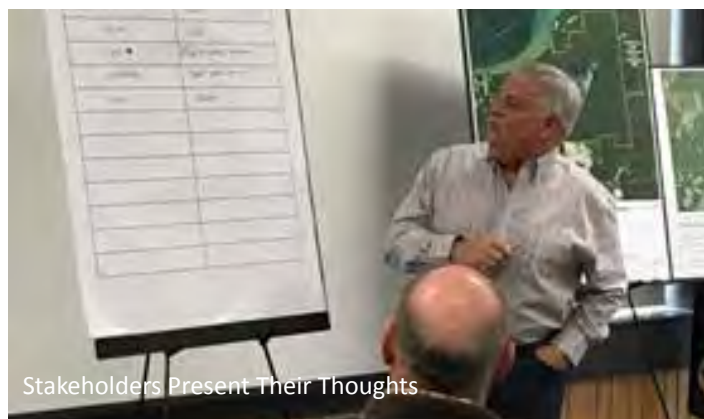
Exercise 4: How can the state park benefit the wider community?

Stakeholders were asked to think about how the park could focus outward and benefit the community. Many of the suggestions centered around events and programs that the park could host for the community.

ITEMS	MENTIONED AT TABLE #
Educational programs (boat wash, walking tour technology, marine division/safety)	1
Connect to local sanitation system	1
Marine patrol/increase funding	1
State funding for economic development with park system	1
Engaging in kids activities – kids camping – swimming	2
Partnership schools – camps	2
Partner with area recreation group (we want groomer) XC skiing	2
One universal July fourth celebration	2
(MDNR) be more accessible to public (perception)	2
Open areas – controlled access – shooting range	2
Senior access or recreation/ideas “walk a park”	2
Stay humble	3
More events	3
Targeted events for community	3
Targeted events- historical	3
Targeted events- cultural	3
Easy access	3
Network with other rec. opportunities in area	3



Stakeholders Engage in Discussion



Stakeholders Present Their Thoughts

Exercise 5: What are some collaboration & partnership opportunities that the state park presents for local communities and stakeholders?

The next exercise asked stakeholders to think about their own organizations and others and how they could offer partnership opportunities for the parks. The stakeholders had many ideas for organizations that could potentially partner with the parks, such as school districts, area chambers of commerce, non-profit organizations, and volunteer groups. Some potential collaborations and partnerships they present are employment opportunities for the community as well as events and educational activities.

ITEMS	MENTIONED AT TABLE #
Local school districts (Rosco & Grayling schools)	1, 2 & 3
Area chambers (Rosco. chamber, Grayling chamber)	2 & 3
Summer work crews (MRS)	1
Americorps	1
Local environmental associations/foundation	1
District health dept.	1
Soil conservation district	1
CISMA	1
Employment opportunities (MI WORKS, for example)	1
Collaboration/local accommodations	2
Area recreation authorities	2
Gahagan Nature Preserve – kids activities	2
Disseminate information public programs (swim, boating)	2
Local medias – newspapers- social media	2
Preservation associations (HLPCHA)	2
Higgins Lake Foundation	3
Sunrise Run – “Rotary”	3
COOR	3
Kirtland Community College	3
Winter fest.	3

Exercise 6: What improvements or changes would you like to see at the state parks? What things would stay the same?

The stakeholders had diverse ideas on what should change and what should stay the same. For items that should change, the only ideas that were mentioned at more than one table was that there should be a heated, staffed boat wash on site, that the Civilian Conservation Corps museum should be modernized. Other ideas for improvements include infrastructure such as a sanitary system connected to the local municipality and a larger sand beach area.

For items that should stay the same, the idea that was mentioned more than once was that the Civilian Conservation Corps focus / historical atmosphere should remain.

IMPROVEMENTS OR CHANGES		
ITEMS	MENTIONED AT TABLE #	TOTAL VOTES
CHANGE		
Heated, staffed boat wash on site	1 & 3	7
Interactive electronics at museum / modernize CCC museum	2 & 3	4
Hooked in sanitary system with local townships	1	4
Increased sand beach area – lower lake level	3	3
Trees – plants identification species – heightened protection	2	2
Groomed trails	2	2
Lodging opportunities – yurts/cabins	2	2
Collaboration group area opportunities	2	2
Improve boat launch	3	2
Gazebo/more flowers	3	2
Dam of spring to fish pond	3	1
Wake boat – ban launching	1	1
Area wi-fi	2	1
Updated signage state wide	2	1
Pavilions	2	1
Improve winter parking – ice fishing	3	1
More targeted events	3	0
STAY THE SAME		
CCC / maintain historical atmosphere	1 & 2	4
Maintain ecologically sensitive areas	1	1
“Atmosphere” – keep natural appearance	2	1
Josh	1	1
Family atmosphere	3	0
Creek/dam/spring area	3	0

Final Exercise: Collective Priorities

The top two items from each table in the previous exercise were carried over into the “collective priorities” exercise. This allowed anyone to vote on ideas that came from tables other than their own. The idea that was prioritized the highest was to connect the park’s sanitary system with the township’s system. This input was considered by the planning team when creating a 10-year action plan.

ITEMS	VOTES
Connect sanitation with townships	12
Heated, staffed boat wash	8
Modernize CCC museum	8
Maintain historical atmosphere	7
Groomed trails	6

B.5 Tribal Communication



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

March 29, 2018

To: Chairman McClellan, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians
Mr. Berry, Natural Resources Department Manager of Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians
Chairman Sprague, Gun Lake Band of Pottawatomi Indians
Ms. Binoniemi-Smith, Environmental Director of Gun Lake Band of Pottawatomi Indians
Ogema Romanelli, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Mr. Beaver, Natural Resources Director of Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Chair Gasco Bently, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Mr. Craven, Natural Resources Director of Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Chairman Stuck, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians
Mr. Rodwan, Environmental Director of Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians
Chairman Warren, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
Dr. Kanine, Director of Natural Resources for Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
Chief Cloutier, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
Mr. Seal, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe

The Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is in the process of developing general management plans for North Higgins Lake State Park, in Crawford County, Michigan and South Higgins Lake State Park in Roscommon County, Michigan.

North Higgins Lake State Park is located on the northern shores of Higgins Lake, approximately 12 miles south of the city of Grayling. The park provides year-round camping, including two mini-cabins, a swimming beach and boat launch on Higgins Lake, land open to hunting, and hiking, biking and cross-country ski trails that extend into the adjacent state forest land. The park's 429 acres are also home to the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum as well as the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center.

South Higgins Lake State Park is located on the southern shore of the 10,000-acre Higgins Lake. The park features almost a mile of shoreline on the lake and provides nearly 400 campsites (including some full hook-up sites) a boat launch, swimming beach, and two pet-friendly areas along the shoreline. Marl Lake is included in the park's 1,000 acres and provides non-motorized/ electric motor boating opportunities, land open to hunting, and over five miles of hiking trails surrounding the lake.

North and South Higgins Lake
General Management Plans
Page 2
March 29, 2018

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

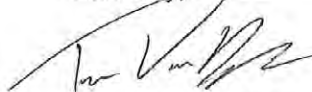
The planning process includes several opportunities for input to help guide the plan. An on-line survey for each park is currently available by following a link on the North and South Higgins Lake State Park webpages at www.michigan.gov/southhiggins and www.michigan.gov/northhiggins. A stakeholder focus group meeting has been scheduled for April 24, 2018, at the Main Branch room of the Education Building at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center, 104 Conservation Drive, Roscommon, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. In addition, the draft plan will be available for review and comment via the department's website and an open public meeting prior to adoption later this year.

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 independently of the larger group to discuss the management plan process and any thoughts you may have in relation North and/or South Higgins Lake State Parks. In addition, you are welcome to send representatives to the stakeholder focus group meetings, or the public meetings, which will be advertised later this year.

Please contact Ms. Debbie Jensen, PRD Management Plan Administrator at 517-284-6105, or myself if you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,



Trevor VanDyke
Tribal Coordinator
517-284-6237

cc. Ms. Debbie Jensen
Mr. William Doan
Ms. Rachel Roberts
Mr. Josh Pellow

B.6 Summary of Draft Plan Public Input

The public was invited to share their thoughts about the North Higgins Lake State Park Draft General Management Plan at a public meeting that was hosted by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on September 24th, 2018, from 6:00- 8:00 p.m. at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center in Roscommon, Michigan. This meeting held jointly with the South Higgins Lake State Park General Management Plan process as the interested parties would have considerable overlap. The general public was notified about the meeting through a press release, internet postings, and email notifications. A total of 35 attendees were recorded on sign-in sheets. The majority of the meeting attendees were members of an interest group concerned with the water quality of Higgins Lake and did not necessarily represent the interests of all park users. Many attendees were interested in discussing water quality concerns in lieu of the breadth of topics covered in the draft general management plan.

The meeting began with a brief introduction of planning team members, followed by a short overview of the general management plan process, North Higgins Lake State Park, and its draft General Management Plan contents. The presentation was followed by a short question and answer period. One question related to the purpose of the general management plan, and then many questions and comments related to the DNR's approach to aquatic invasive species in Higgins Lake. After the question and answer period, attendees were asked to review the presentation boards that included the following excerpts of the draft General Management Plan: statements of significance, management zone plan, and ten-year actions goals.

Participants were presented with 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 action goals, and a comment sheet that included six questions pertaining to the draft General Management Plan contents. Two copies of the complete draft General Management Plan were available to attendees during the meeting for review and attendees were also advised of the project website, <http://mdnrmanagementplans.org/north-higgins-lake>, where they could access the draft plan at their leisure and submit comments via e-mail. Online commenting was available until October 5th. Most attendees used the sticky note method of commenting as well as the comment sheet and email comments. Most email comments related to controlling invasive species in Higgins Lake through prevention and mitigation.

Participants used six stickers to prioritize their top action goals from the ten-year action goals list. Some of the top priority goals were to prevent, detect and control invasive species, continue to improve the relationship with Camp Westminster, complete a Stewardship Plan for the park, implement the expansion of the Iron Belle trail segment, and expand the sanitation dump station. Below is a list of all action goals, their number of votes, and all sticky note comments that attendees wrote. These items, along with other input from the public, will be considered as the planning team finalizes the General Management Plan.



The draft plan is presented to attendees



Attendees and planning team members discuss the plan

PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT

PUBLIC INPUT MEETING ATTENDEES

Name
James Bates
Suzanne Bates
Mariah Frye
Lauren Lutz
Mark Lutz
Patti Haight
Randon Haight
Bill Baker
Karen Ehinger
Herb Weatherly
Greg Douglas
Anne Meeks
Connie Price
Nancy Perry
Mark Atherholt
Matt Salesky
Dianna Wagner
Vicki Springstead
Marlene Cohen
Kenneth Dennings
Rick Meeks
Wayne Brooks
Greg Semack
Barb Costello
Charlene Cornell
Mike Briggs
Jane Case
William Case
Mary Hall
Dave Hall
Wayne Hall
Nick Erusberger
John Ogren
Tony Barnard
Leonard Calbert

STAFF ATTENDEES

Name	Representing
Debbie Jensen	DNR-PRD
William Doan	DNR-PRD
Ray Fahlsing	DNR-PRD
Josh Pellow	DNR-PRD
Hillary Pine	DNR-History Center
Lisa Gamero	DNR-PRD
Amy Swainston	DNR-PRD
Brandon Kieft	DNR-LED
Rachel Roberts	DNR-PRD
Christy Summers	Beckett & Raeder, Inc.
Caitlin Jackson	Beckett & Raeder, Inc.

NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS

Outdoor Recreation Destination

North Higgins Lake State Park is located on the shores of Higgins Lake in an area that has been enjoyed as a resort destination since the 1870's. The lake and surrounding area are renowned for stunning natural beauty, easy accessibility from two highway corridors, and a wealth of recreation opportunities including abundant nearby state forest land.

Four-Season Recreation

North Higgins Lake State Park offers recreation opportunities in all seasons including swimming, boating, fishing, ice fishing, color tours, four-season camping, lodging in mini cabins, and pavilion rental. The park acts as a trail hub with access to the Iron Belle Trail and a trail network popular for hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing on groomed trails that continue onto the adjacent state forest land.

Higgins Lake State Nursery

North Higgins Lake State Park was the site of a huge experimental reforestation effort that helped produce the forests that Michigan residents and visitors enjoy today. The Higgins Lake State Nursery, the first seedling nursery in Michigan and, in its heyday, one of the largest in the world. It changed Michigan's forests by jumpstarting both the reforestation of land impacted by logging and fires and the discipline of scientific forest management. Experimentation with different tree species is evident by the variety of trees, such as larch, tulip poplar, and walnut, planted by the nursery manager in North Higgins Lake State Park's East Campground.

Civilian Conservation Corps Museum

The story of the forestry and life at the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps can be discovered at the CCC Museum, located within North Higgins Lake State Park. The CCC boys, as they were known, helped replant Michigan's forests through their work here at the Higgins Lake State Nursery and across the state. Their efforts also built much of Michigan's state park infrastructure that remains in use by visitors today.

Higgins Lake

The state park boasts one mile of shoreline on the spring-fed Higgins Lake, the eleventh largest inland lake in the state. The lake, with its picturesque forested shoreline, is recognized for its natural beauty by state and national publications. It provides ample recreation opportunities including swimming, boating, and fishing, and is one of the most popular lakes in the state for ice fishing. The park is one of only two in the state park system providing a boat wash to help protect the lake ecosystem from invasive species.

Educational Conference Center

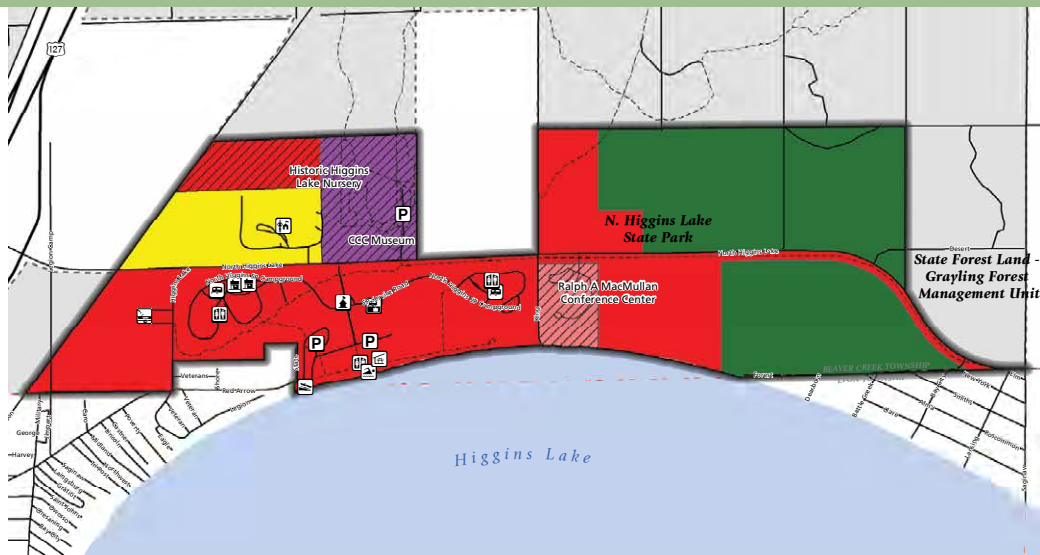
The Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center (RAM Center), originally built in 1941 as a conservation education center and Department of Conservation training facility, is located within North Higgins Lake State Park. This facility is one-of-a-kind within the state park system and provides a recreational retreat for non-profit, government, and education-based organizations, as well as private businesses with an outdoor or green-themed agenda. The facility is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district.

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS COMMENTS

Significance Statement	Comment
Civilian Conservation Corps Museum	Please include Camp Westminster as part of your significant statements. "Changing lives since 1925."
Higgins Lake	Move boat wash to within campground at launch site.
Higgins Lake	Make boat washing mandatory.
Higgins Lake	Move boat wash on site, even use waterless – cheaper.
Educational Conference Center	Maintain character of RAM, rustic, natural

NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK

DRAFT MANAGEMENT ZONE MAP



N. HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

DRAFT Management Zones

Data Sources: Michigan CGI Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

- N. Higgins Lake State Park
- State Forest Land
- Municipal Boundaries
- Roads
- Trails
- Lakes

Management Zones:

- Administrative Services
- Developed Recreation
- History Education
- Natural Resource Recreation
- Ralph A. MacMullan (RAM) Conference Center
- Cultural Landscape Overlay

Park Features:

- Mini Cabin
- Modern Campground
- Park Headquarters
- Parking
- Restroom
- Sanitation Station

- Contact Station
- Beach
- Boat Launch
- Boat Wash
- Pavilion

Date: 7/9/2018

Beckett&Raeder

MANAGEMENT ZONE	COMMENT
Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center	Please show defining boundaries of Camp Westminster.

NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK

TEN-YEAR ACTION GOALS

The following 10-year action goals are ranked 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 bolded party within the Program Input column is the responsible program position.

MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS

ACTION GOALS	PRIORITY	VOTES
Continue to work with local communities on developing trail connections as opportunities arise	Ongoing	●
Continue to improve security of the park through addressing present and future trespass issues	Ongoing	● ●
Continue to work proactively with partners to develop and implement measures to prevent, detect and control aquatic and terrestrial invasive species	Ongoing	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●● ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●
Continue to explore land acquisition of properties within the GMP Proposed Project Boundary.	Ongoing	
Work to improve the relationship with Camp Westminster under the terms of the lease	1	●●●● ●●●●
Complete MiFi forest inventory mapping for the park	1	
Complete a Natural Resources Stewardship Plan for the park, identifying targets for conservation and related natural resource management strategies	1	●●●● ●●●●
Explore the possibility of King's Highway abandonment south of North Higgins Lake Road with Crawford County Road Commission	1	●
Explore opportunities to work with park Friends group or other partner to fund and develop a playground in the day-use area.	3	
Continue cooperation and coordination between the park management and the Ralph A. MacMullan (RAM) Center	Ongoing	●
Consider expansion and redevelopment of the shooting/archery range for law enforcement agency and RAM Center program use	3	●

NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK

TEN-YEAR ACTION GOALS

The following 10-year action goals are ranked 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 bolded party within the Program Input column is the responsible program position.

INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT: CAPITAL OUTLAY

ACTION GOALS	PRIORITY	VOTES
CAMPGROUND AND DAY-USE AREA		
Continue to implement accessibility improvements throughout the park	Ongoing	●
Design and develop the expansion and/or reconfiguration of the parking lot serving the boat launch to meet demand	1	
Remove existing and construct new toilet shower building in the east campground loop	1	●
Design and develop the replacement of the East Campground restroom/shower facility	2	●
Continue to explore options for additional overnight accommodation for both the park and the RAM Center	2	
Design and develop the expansion of sanitation dump station to meet demand	3	●●●●
HISTORIC HIGGINS LAKE NURSERY AND CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS MUSEUM		
Perform a structural assessment of historic structures at the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and make improvements for public access	Ongoing	●
Implement the expansion of the Iron Belle trail segment, the "Cradle of Forestry Trail," north of the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum	1	●●●●●
Improve the existing parking lot at the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum	2	
Develop comprehensive interpretive displays at the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery Packing House	3	

NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK

TEN-YEAR ACTION GOALS

INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT: SMALL PROJECTS

The following 10-year action goals are ranked 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 bolded party within the Program Input column is the responsible program position.

INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT: SMALL PROJECTS

ACTION GOALS	PRIORITY	VOTES
HISTORIC HIGGINS LAKE NURSERY AND CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS MUSEUM		
Create a seed bed demonstration area at the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery	1	●
Update outdoor interpretive and wayfinding signage	1	
Update the Civilian Conservation Corps Museum exhibits	1	●●●●

ACTION GOALS COMMENTS	
ACTION GOAL	COMMENT
Continue to work with partners to develop and implement measures to prevent, detect and control aquatic and terrestrial invasive species	Take responsibility for bringing invasive species to our lake
	Please be the LEADER on immediately STOPPING the spread of Starry Stonewort.
	More leadership from DNR & ownership of the problems related to aquatic invasive species (AIS)
Consider expansion and redevelopment of the shooting/archery range for law enforcement agency and RAM Center program use	Reverberations from shooting range negatively impact children and youth at Camp Westminster and campers at N. Higgins Lake State Park.
Infrastructure & Development: Capital Outlay	
Implement the expansion of the Iron Belle Trail segment, the "Cradle of Forestry Trail," north of the historic Higgins Lake Nursery and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum.	Add stanchions to the bike trail to prevent auto/truck traffic from crossing into this new trail.
(None)	Please require MANDATORY boat washes.
(None)	Hook up to Lyon township sewers

COMMENT SHEET RESPONSES

1) DO YOU AGREE WITH THE PARK SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS? WOULD YOU ADD OR CHANGE ANYTHING TO THE STATEMENTS?

Agree? Meeting became a one topic affair. Boat washes.

Include mention of Camp Westminster

Follow up with budgets. Money talks!

Agree

Yes (2 responses)

2) DO YOU AGREE WITH THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT ZONES? IF NOT, WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?

This was difficult to understand initially to me – after you got rolling, I got up to speed. Still NOT what is our greatest concern.

Include Camp Westminster in History Education Zone

Agree

Yes (3 Responses)

3) ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL ACTION GOALS YOU WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE?

High priority for boat washes

Mandate boat washing for boats going into the lake and out.

Add a remediation for invasive species.

Mandatory boat wash. Mandatory boat inspection. Eradication efforts to remove starry stonewort (SSW)

Please put as top priority, an action now of preventing the spread of SSW

Pass out information on boat wash at campground check in.

4) ARE THERE ANY PROPOSED ACTION GOALS YOU DON'T THINK SHOULD BE INCLUDED? IF SO, PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Boat washes – weed control

Expansion of parking lots. Expansion of sanitation dump station.

No.

5) OTHER COMMENTS:

On your graphs – please make roads clearly marked – orientation so much easier.

Need all DNR speakers to be in front of audience and use microphone. Couldn't hear answers to questions.

THANK You for paving the trailway through your owned land! HUGE improvement & vastly more safe!!

Mandatory boat wash – charge \$\$ for each launch

OPEN COMMENTING BOARD

WHY SPEND ANY MORE TIME AND MONEY ON THE PARKS IF
WE LET THE LAKE GO TO HELL?

IN 10 YEARS IT WON'T MATTER HOW
MANY SWING SETS YOU HAVE IF THE LAKE
IS REPLACED BY A BED OF WEEDS!

Move boat wash on site using waterless-chaper units

Online Comment 1 Received 09/25/2018

Hi Debbie,

Thank you for organizing the Sept. 24th meeting for comments on the North and South Higgins Lake State Park Management plans. As always, we learned quite a lot! Here is a copy of the comments that I made last night to be included in the public record of the meeting.

“Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake has been providing character building recreational and environmental education opportunities for the children and youth of the State of Michigan every year since 1925. It has been providing training and jobs for college age students to serve as program leaders and camp counselors as well as jobs for local residents who work in the kitchen and support services year round. Campers arrive for at least one week of life changing experiences. Many stay for two to four weeks. Campers learn to swim, sail, canoe and kayak and to appreciate and protect the environment during nature studies, hiking and the many wilderness trips organized by the camp throughout MI. Many of the traditional camp programs enjoyed today were developed as a result of Camp Westminster’s early involvement in replanting the forests of MI. (See The Touch of Influence)

Camp Westminster is one of the oldest Presbyterian camps in the country. Many of its alumni credit their time at Camp Westminster as being formative in their distinguished careers in science, education, industry and other fields. In addition to being an early member of the American Camp Association, Westminster has received many awards for its environmental education programs.

After 93 years on Higgins Lake it is mind-boggling to calculate the economic impact that Camp Westminster has had on the local economy with parents coming and going and with the expenses of maintaining a property with over 40 historic buildings.

It is important also to recognize the 1982 Court of Appeals ruling that affirms that the lease has a valid perpetual renewal clause.” https://www.courtlistener.com/opinion/1800022/dnr-v-board-of-trustees-of-westminster-church/?q=&type=o&order_by=score+desc&case_name=

Thank you again for all of your work on this plan and your gracious acceptance of public comments last night.

Online Comment 2 Received 09/25/2018

Good Morning,

Thank You for the information at last evenings meeting.

I had to leave early because of an important Rotary meeting that started at 6pm as well.

First, I was embarrassed by the bombardment the DNR received regarding the evasive species comments, while yes, I agree with a lot of what they were saying, but I realize that it is only a portion of your Management Plan and you should have been given the respect to finish your presentation!

Here are my comment sheets, and if you were ever able to get to the dots (I left at 7:10 when I saw they were going to keep hounding on the one topic for a long time) all my dots would have been on the South State Park paving of the Trailway as MOST important goal to complete asap!

Please keep us informed as to the plan and forecast for completion.

Online Comment 3 Received 10/01/2018

The DNR has not been responsible in how they allow launching of boats at their launch sites, taking little care to protect our lake from invasive species being brought in as hitchhikers from other lakes. We now have a new invasive species, Starry Stonewort that has recently been identified in our lake and many signs point to the DNR launch sites as to where the Starry Stonewort was introduced. We are asking the DNR to clean up the South Park lagoon and the other places known to us in order to eliminate the

Starry Stonewort and stop their launch sites from spreading it throughout the lake. We also feel that mandatory boat washing is one of the best tools to protect our lake from future such invasions. The DNR has been resistant to helping us. We need you to act with urgency to stop the spread of Starry Stonewort and also have mandatory boat washing at all DNR launch sites in the future.

Online Comment 4 Received 10/01/2018

Ms. Jensen: I tend to support the HLPOA with regard to the removal of the SSW from Higgins Lake. It is far easier to remove the small amount present right now rather than wait until it devours the entire lake. I recommend immediate and swift action to remove the starry stonewort. As I see it, the DNR is responsible for its very presence owing to the multiple boat launches around the lake provided by the DNR. Also, as I see it, without the removal of SSW, there will be a large tendency for folks not to use the lake, and this immediately impacts the local economy.

Online Comment 5 Received 10/01/2018

Hi Deborah,

I send you this as a concerned property owner at Higgins Lake.

I strongly urge the DNR to enforce more strongly the launch sites that now have brought another invasive species to our Lake.

The evidence of the infestation is overwhelming.

Monies were spent to build boat washing facilities on the North and South sides of the lake.

Let's make it mandatory in order to launch a boat and stop this from recurring...

We also need to clean up the South State Park Lagoon which is now loaded with Starry Stonewort ...and spreading...

Thank you for your consideration...

Online Comment 6 Received 10/01/2018

We now have Starry Stonewort in our Higgins Lake. Since the areas that are affected are the DNR launch sites, it is apparent that the DNR has provided the access for this invasion. I am asking that you shut down these sites until you can remove the threat. The "experts" have said once this weed gets a good start there is no way to stop it, so something needs to be done now!

Online Comment 7 Received 10/01/2018

I am a homeowner on Higgins Lake and have become aware that our boat access sites have become infected with a new invasive species- Starry Stonewort. Boats entering the lake from these sites drag this environmentally dangerous plant into the rest of the lake.

When will the DNR take responsibility for this and clean it up before it is too late? And when will the DNR protect the lake from further infestation by requiring all boats to be washed before entering the lake?

The DNR has previously stated this is a "complicated" matter. What is so complicated about cleaning this up and preventing boats from introducing additional invasive species to the lake?

You have asked for comments on your plan so please take these under consideration for inclusion in you plan.

Online Comment 8 Received 10/01/2018

Dear Deborah-

My family have been either vacationing or owned on Higgins Lake for close to 85 years and I hope my children will continue. I am 66 and have experienced a lake with more and more water issues. I'd like to think the DNR puts lakes and their water quality first.

Over the years the DNR has become more involved in providing boat access to the lake. With your assistance to these boat owners comes the responsible to ensure no damage the lake's water quality. Please own up to your responsibility and clean up the boat access sites.

Online Comment 9 Received 10/01/2018

Ms. Jensen,

The DNR must act to stop the spread of Starry Stonewort, and the introduction of other invasive species at Higgins Lake. The DNR is responsible for the clean up of Starry Stonewort at their launch sites. Mandatory boat washing must be enforced at all access sites on Higgins Lake. Any launch sites that are not equipped with a wash station, and staff to enforce, must be shut down/deemed illegally to launch from. This includes the unregulated boat launching at road ends. The health of Higgins Lake is in your hands!

Online Comment 10 Received 10/01/2018

Dear Ms. Jensen

The purpose of this email is to express my grave concerns regarding the manner in which the MDNR is operating the state parks referenced above.

A little background is, I believe, in order so that you may judge the credibility of my comments. I am a life long resident of Higgins Lake. My mother and father established a resort on Higgins Lake in 1946. I was born at the resort in 1955. I have lived at Higgins Lake continuously since my birth. It is not inaccurate to say that Higgins Lake helped put me (and three siblings) through college and graduate school.

I have practiced law since 1980 and specialize in environmental legal issues. I have represented the Higgins Lake Property Owners Association for at least 30 years. The HLPOA has been a strident advocate in the environmental protection of Higgins Lake.

Higgins Lake has suffered with the invasion of zebra mussels and milfoil. Both of these aquatic invasive species were introduced into the lake through the careless and thoughtless launching of infected watercraft. Accordingly, in the last ten years, the HLPOA has made it a priority to work with the local state park managers, and their supervisors, to prevent the launching of watercraft into Higgins Lake without first having the watercraft inspected, and when necessary, washed. Notwithstanding these efforts, the North State Park and South State Park have clearly not prioritized their efforts to preclude the introduction of yet another AIS into the lake.

This August past, HLPOA sadly discovered that Starry Stonewort, a most destructive AIS, has now "found" its way into Higgins Lake. It seems scientifically obvious that the boat basin at the South State Park is at least one major point of introduction. The introduction of Starry Stonewort is a crushing blow for all who love Higgins Lake.

Amazingly, HLPOA has now learned that when management at both of Higgins Lake's state parks drafted their 2018 multi-year management plans, they have barely considered devoting a portion of the plans toward combatting the spread of Starry Stonewort. Nor has management given real thought to preventing the introduction of the "next" AIS to hit Michigan's waters.

The thought process of improving the park systems at Higgins Lake needs to be substantially reorganized. Without a pristine

lake, the state parks will become footnotes in history because no one will care to use them. Let's do what is right. Put the protection of the lake first, not last, on the state park priority list.

Online Comment 11 Received 10/01/2018

Deborah,

Just writing to support the DNR parks on Higgins Lake for boat cleaning to reduce invasives coming into the lake. Currently there are no boat washing requirements. Also, many people are launching boats with extremely large engines (noisy and super fast). Some control on the HP and noise would be nice. Regarding the invasives, we would like the newest invasive (Starry Stonewort) removed from the lake before it becomes too big a problem (like zebra mussels). Any help is appreciated.

Online Comment 12 Received 10/01/2018

Dear Ms. Jensen,

Invasive species control is important in the preservation of Michigan's beautiful lakes and waterways so vital to Michigan's economy and to the quality of life the people of Michigan deserve. It seems so logical to me that the DNR spend its money up front by requiring boat wash stations at all of its park ramps. At Higgins Lake in particular, the launch area and man made lagoon need to be completely cleaned of the species that are growing there so that they are not transported into the lake wrapped in boat propellers. Up front, preventive measures are always less expensive than clean up measures that are required when lakes are infested with invasive species. It is past time for preventive action to be taken in this regard. Our Michigan lakes are our greatest resource and must be protected.

Online Comment 13 Received 10/01/2018

I would like to express my concern about the introduction of invasive species into Higgins Lake through the DNR launches, particularly at the South State Park as well as your other boat launches. I understand that Starry Stonewort has now made its way into our lake. These invasive species have and will dramatically alter the ecosystem of Higgins Lake. As numerous other states have done, I urge the DNR to make boat washes mandatory before boats from other bodies of water are launched into Higgins and all Michigan lakes. Thank you for your consideration of this request. I trust the DNR will take its stewardship of Higgins Lake and all the inland lakes in Michigan seriously and enact this policy.

Online Comment 14 Received 10/01/2018

As a seasonal resident of Higgins Lake for over 50 years, I am heartbroken over the invasive species that have taken over our beautiful waters. Please, please do what you can to help protect Higgins Lake from further issues, seemingly brought in via launch sites.

Online Comment 15 Received 10/01/2018

Dear Ms. Jensen: Please help preserve our beautiful Lake. We request that the DNR help us preserve this natural beauty by urgently helping to stop the spread of Starry Stonewort invasive species and by having mandatory boat washing at all DNR launch sites. Thank you.

Online Comment 16 Received 10/01/2018

Mandatory boat washing is a MUST. I can't believe that the DNR opposes this incredibly simple yet necessary action to protect our beautiful Higgins. Thank you for your efforts.

Online Comment 17 Received 10/01/2018

Dear Deborah, As a property owner and member of a family that has been enjoying and supporting conservation practices on Higgins Lake for 5 generations I believe the least we should require is thorough boat washing at every launch site. There are potentially numerous invasive species that are yet to be revealed.

Online Comment 18 Received 10/01/2018

Hi Deborah, I am but one of many riparian owners at Higgins Lake that have grown weary of this beautiful natural resource that the DNR has allowed to come under attack from invasive aquatic species. The fix was simple but would have been met by an outcry from the general population...no access to any lake unless your watercraft has been certified washed and bilge areas emptied. This should be true for any lake in Michigan. But, rather, than upset the general population, those that have a vested interest in Higgins Lake must pay for the DNR's lack of intestinal fortitude. The DNR is allowing our lake among many others in the state to be destroyed. What can be done to save the lakes? Maybe it's too late? I know one thing for certain if the DNR continues allowing watercraft carrying invasive species to travel from lake to lake unchecked we will lose this battle, the lakes themselves, and the tax base that the state so desperately needs. So what is the DNR going to do? Perhaps there will be movement from ineptitude to action. It's our only hope!

Online Comment 19 Received 10/01/2018

My name is Alvan Carr and my family celebrated 100 years at Higgins lake this past summer. Over the years I have seen the lake deteriorate (milfoil, zebra mussels, swimmers itch etc.) I think most of the blame goes to the DNR for not inspecting the boats entering the state parks. I have contributed over \$50,000 to try and correct the problems created by the DNR. Now we have Starry Stonewort. I think I should give up, I can't keep up with the short sightedness of the DNR. Does it bother you that your organization is destroying one of Michigan's jewels. Inspection and boat washes, that is how other states protect their lakes.

Online Comment 20 Received 10/01/2018

Please institute mandatory boat washing at DNR sites, now at Higgins Lake, and expanded state wide in the future. I feel this is the best program for stopping invasive species, like the recently discovered Starry Stonewort, being introduced to our Michigan lakes. The program must be mandatory, routing boats thru washes, staffed with trained personal, to insure proper washing. Possibly lake organizations, like HLF and HLPOA could support this effort.

Online Comment 21 Received 10/01/2018

Greetings!

My name is [name] and I am a resident at Higgins Lake. We are blessed to have this beautiful resource, but to save it for future generations, we must be good stewards! I won't go on and on, but I am quite dismayed by the perceived lack of concern coming from your agency. We are all aware of the impact of invasive species on our lakes. I would expect your agency to partner with various lake associations in the State to address these issues! I certainly hope there will be more cooperation in the future!

Online Comment 22 Received 10/01/2018

Yes, I believe the DNR should be leading the charge to ensure that ALL invasive species DO NOT enter Higgins Lake. Please do what you need to do up to and including mandatory boat washes, etc.

I can't believe I need to email this note.

Online Comment 23 Received 10/01/2018

Ms. Jensen,

I write to request your help in protecting Higgins Lake from the further spread or introduction of invasive species.

My family has owned property on Higgins Lake for 20+ years, and before that, we camped the State Parks beginning in the 1970's. We feel a great sense of stewardship toward this beautiful lake and we are committed to protecting it for generations to come: we maintain a natural shoreline, we participate in clean-up events, we are quiet and respectful boaters, we are considerate of our neighbors and wildlife, and we do our best to promote the lake as a family destination. Over the past few years, we've dealt with various threats to our lake, including: Eurasian Milfoil, Zebra Mussels, Lake Itch, and now Starry Stonewort. Each time, we have witnessed negative impact on local tourism, on area businesses, on property values (and tax base), and most importantly, to the aquatic species native to our lake. Each time, we have had to band together as homeowners and bear the burden and expense to address these problems. Three of these problems were avoidable-- caused by the careless and unmonitored introduction of aggressive non-native species into our lake -- likely via an unwashed boat or PWC at one of the state-run boat launches. It's troublesome to us that any watercraft may enter the lake each day without any effort to verify it is mechanically sound (not leaking gas or oil), and that it has been properly washed clean of invasive species. Also, there seems to be no effort to control the quantity of boats that you permit to enter the lake, which raises safety, noise and pollution concerns. THIS MUST CHANGE!! urge the DNR to require mandatory boat washes at every Higgins Lake launch and to monitor the quality and quantity of boats you permit to enter the lake. And, until such time as these controls are instituted, it only makes sense to temporarily restrict launches at all state-controlled sites. I would appreciate a response that identifies the DNR's specific plan of action and timeline. If you think this matter requires further study, then I would ask you to first review the aerial photographs that provide clear proof of this problem and its source. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at the numbers or addresses listed below. I look forward to your response!

Online Comment 24 Received 10/01/2018

We who own lake property as well as all users of Higgins Lake need the State to step up efforts to protect the clarity and overall health of this great Michigan resource! In my 40 years on Higgins I have already seen the quality of the lake deteriorate. With the two State Parks and multiple launches the DNR needs to quickly step up their overall vigilance to protect the lake and the entire watershed. The economy of the entire area is totally dependent upon the health of Higgins Lake.

Online Comment 25 Received 10/01/2018

I am a long time owner of property on Higgins Lake. I am concerned about the discovery of another invasive species on Higgins Lake. Since we have boat washes available it seems that they should be made mandatory to all boaters.

Online Comment 26 Received 10/01/2018

HLPOA has requested that we inform you of our concern for the invasive species which is now invading our lake. HLPOA has spent many time and money in fighting other invasive species with perhaps no help from the DNR. Now is the time to fight this new species and with your help it can be accomplished. Whether the DNR has helped in the past or not it is important to assist now in cleaning up the South Park lagoon and other places on the lake before Starry Stonewort takes over.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Online Comment 27 Received 10/01/2018

The south state park lagoon is disgraceful. Aerial photos show the trail of invasive plants species leading out of the boat passageway. Starry Stonewort is now in the lake. Please help protect this Michigan gem before we pass the point of no return. Thank you. Earl Townsend, a property owner on the lake who has gone there for 55 years of my 61 on earth

Online Comment 28 Received 10/01/2018

where this problem is of such a magnitude that out state reputation for clean lakes is going to drop quickly!!!

Online Comment 29 Received 10/01/2018

We own a home on Higgins Lake and have seen that another invasive species has been found in the lake. Please inforce the laws that require all boats be washed prior to being put in the lake. I am looking into volunteering in the clean boats clean waters program. I would like to help. We believe that people are mostly lazy not deliberately introducing invasive species into the lake. Please help protect such a beautiful lake.

Online Comment 30 Received 10/01/2018

Please support the protocols such as boat washing to preserve the beauty of Higgins Lake.

Online Comment 31 Received 10/01/2018

Hello, This email is asking the DNR to please act urgently and help prevent the spread and further invasion of Starry Stonewart in Higgins Lake. Also, please enforce boat washes at all state parks on Higgins Lake.

Online Comment 32 Received 10/01/2018

Dear Ms. Jensen,

I am a member of the Higgins Lake Property Owners Association (HLPOA) and live on the southeast portion of Higgins Lake, near the South Higgins Lake State Park. I understand that the Department of Natural Resources is considering improvements to its parks on Higgins Lake. While I appreciate the concept of improving parks and the experience of lake users, any improvements should include consideration of the potential impacts of the users of DNR parks on Higgins Lake water quality.

An August 2018 draft study by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Water Resources Division, contains results from an aquatic invasive species early detection surveillance for Higgins Lake. Dense patches of the invasive species, starry stonewort, were detected near the south and west boat launches. The South and North Higgins Lake State Parks currently have boat washes available to boaters and signage to encourage use of the washes to prevent introduction or the spread of invasive species. My understanding is that some of the DNR launches on Higgins Lake have no boat wash facilities and nothing at these sites to educate users about boat washing and invasive species. With starry stonewort already present at the west boat launch, it appears likely that it was introduced to this location by launching a boat that had starry stonewort present. We know that boat washing can be an effective method to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in inland lakes. Mandatory boat washing at all DNR boat launch sites could greatly reduce the potential impact of invasive species on Higgins Lake water quality.

In the DNR's process for improving parks on Higgins Lake, I am hoping that DNR will consider the following before improving their parks.

1. What is the amount of use currently at the boat launch facilities maintained by DNR?

2. What has been the effect on the water quality in the area of the boat launches (oil, gas, trash, invasive species, etc.)
3. What improvements are currently planned for the parks and boat launch locations?
4. What issues will DNR address in the improvements to the boat launches? This should be based on the understanding of the current impacts of the boat launch users on the water quality.
5. How will DNR work with the park users to prevent the introduction of invasive species into Higgins Lake? This falls within DNR's protect and preserve natural resources responsibilities.
6. What will be added to the parks to address water quality issues, including invasive species?
7. What are the planned improvements, schedule and budget for park improvements?
8. Will there be a public review of the work plan before commencing improvements? This would be a good opportunity for collaboration among lake residents and the DNR to determine a workable solution to address potential impacts from the public accessing the lake from DNR parks.

I am sorry I was unable to attend the September 24th meeting and hope that there will be something available on DNR's website that can bring me up to date on progress with the planned improvements. Thanks for any information you can share with me. I appreciate your consideration of my concerns, and I look forward to working with the DNR to protect and preserve Higgins Lake while providing public access.

Online Comment 33 Received 10/01/2018

Dear Ms Jensen,

We have owned our wonderful cottage on the lake for more than 40 years. The lake has always been pristine. In recent past we have struggled with swimmers itch and now Starry Stonewort.

We acknowledge that our public launch sites offer the opportunity for many non residents and residents alike to enjoy what we have had the privilege for many years.

We just want to make sure that they are launching Clean Water vessels.

Please establish the practice of washing all boats prior to launch. Please make this mandatory and enforce the law.

The South Park has a lot of transient vessels. It seems that special attention should be addressed to this location also.

We would love to be able to ensure that Higgins Lake remain one of the most beautiful bodies of water in the country. Our children and all of the generations that will follow look forward to enjoying the lake forever without invasive species.

Online Comment 34 Received 10/01/2018

As Higgins Lake property owners, we believe that mandatory washing of boats prior to launching will help in the prevention of invasive weeds and aquatic life entering our lake. Since most out of area boats enter the lake at DNR launch sites, those are the critical areas where boat washing should be mandatory and monitored.

We would also support closing non DNR ramps if this would help in solving the problem.

Please help keep Higgins Lake pristine.

Online Comment 35 Received 10/01/2018

Dear Ms. Jensen,

I implore you to help keep Higgins Lake safe from all these invasive species, like starry stonewort that boats are bringing into our beautiful, fish loving lake. The DNR must help clean up the South Park Lagoon, and help prevent more invasive species from coming in to Higgins Lake.

My husband and I take much delight in kayaking and paddle boarding near our property on the lake, and especially love seeing all the different type of fish in our wonderful lake. It would be a travesty to see the lake's quality diminish.

Online Comment 36 Received 10/01/2018

Dear DNR,

I am a lakefront property owner at Higgins Lake and request that the Michigan DNR invest some interest, time and money into the invasive species problem we now have at our VERY ACTIVE lake.

We are the ONLY lake in Michigan with two state parks and have huge attendance at each park. Because the boat washes are not presently mandatory, we have invasive plants being dragged into our lake. We have airborne photos of the damage already occurring at the South State Park.

I feel the protection of this valuable lake is YOUR responsibility and we need an uptake in your involvement before it's too late.

Online Comment 37 Received 10/04/2018

Folks, you need to enforce mandatory boat washing at boat ramp at Higgins lake.

Please stop this invasive species

Native Range: Europe and western Asia

U.S. Distribution: Michigan, northern Indiana, southeastern Wisconsin, Minnesota, and the northeast United States

Local Concern: Starry stonewort forms dense mats in lakes and can significantly reduce the diversity of other aquatic plants. Dense mats of vegetation can also impede movement of fish, spawning activity, water flow, and recreational activities.

Online Comment 38 Received 10/05/2018

Dear Ms. Jensen,

As a resident of Higgins Lake, I read with interest the management plans for both the north and south state parks at Higgins Lake. I also attended the public input meeting on Sept. 24, 2018.

I would like to commend you and your staff for the considerable effort that went into preparing these plans and for the opportunity to allow citizens to voice their opinions.

As you could tell at the meeting, area residents and visitors are passionate about protecting Higgins Lake. We long-time residents (and for many of us, the generations of family members before us) have witnessed firsthand the deterioration of Higgins Lake. My husband and I- and many in attendance at the meeting- have volunteered countless hours over decades doing water testing, AIS education and eradication, serving on boards, attending meetings, and approaching local units of government for help with ordinances to address issues such as septic tank maintenance, boat noise levels, AIS control, greenbelt incentives, fireworks enforcement, etc.

We have also generously donated to the Higgins Lake Foundation which paid for the boat washes on Higgins Lake, bought the

DASH boat to control Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) and now Starry Stonewort, and pays for the operation of the boat throughout the summer. (It was sad to note at the meeting that when asked who was partnering with the DNR on Higgins Lake, not a single DNR employee mentioned the HLF.)

Obviously, the control of AIS is paramount for the health of Higgins Lake, and a pilot Mandatory Boat Wash program should be put in place for the 2019 boating season. Collaborative meetings do nothing to address the problem at hand.

In addition, when looking at a ten-to-twenty year plan, it is necessary to acknowledge the changing fabric of our society. Higgins Lake, like most wild and wonderful places, used to attract those who love the outdoors. More and more it is attracting people looking to hook up with others who just want to party. The South State Park is notorious for this. The comments from people who took the online survey reflect this. Many said it was no longer a place to bring a family. Others noted that the crowds, noise, drunkenness, lewd behavior, obscene music, jet ski speeds, public urination and boat noise were out of control.

Between the two state parks on Higgins Lake, nearly 423,000 people visit Higgins Lake in a year. We are being invaded by both aquatic and human species. Something has to be done to mitigate their impact.

Thank you for your time, and good luck in your future endeavors to protect Higgins Lake.

Online Comment 39 Received 10/05/2018

Hello. Please accept this as a request for DNR to clean up the lagoon, the channel and West launch of aquatic invasives at Higgins Lake in Roscommon County. We really need your help on this. Thank you.

Online Comment 40 Received 10/05/2018

I heard that you will be making changes to the two Higgins Lake state parks. I believe that the changes should include mandatory boat washings prior to launching a boat into Higgins Lake. This would greatly improve/reduce the invasive species which are entering the lake and ruining the environment. Please make this a requirement for launching boats and a top priority for improving the State Parks.

Online Comment 41 Received 10/05/2018

Dear Deborah Jensen,

I hope this finds you well. I just wanted to write to add my voice to those encouraging the DNR to keep Higgins Lake as free from invasives as possible-- in particular, by cleaning up the launches, especially Starry Stonewort. My family has had property on the lake since the late 19th century. We love it more than we can say. It is truly my heart's home. In my lifetime, I've seen the arrival of several invasive species, which have totally transformed the lake's ecosystem. It's still the most beautiful lake in the world to me, and I just hope we can keep it as clean and pure as possible for the many generations to come who will fall in love with it, just as I have.

Online Comment 42 Received 10/05/2018

Deborah,

My name is Brad Gibson. My wife Becky and I have owned property on Higgins Lake for 30 years. When your Department requested public input regarding the State Parks I reviewed the DNR's mission statement. Included in that statement is the phrase "... is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. "

As the mission statement clearly identifies the Parks Department has an obligation to protect our spectacular natural resources. With the recent invasion of Starry Stonewort (SSW) into Higgins Lake, particularly heavy at the South State Park launch site and

lagoon, the DNR must shut down that site, drain it, excavate the bottom and place a liner in the launch area. This will be the most effective way to stop the spread of the invasive species around the lake. This can be done without significantly limiting Lake access as Higgins has two additional State operated launch sites, as well as two marinas, and 80 roads ends that provide access to the water.

Furthermore, I strongly advocate for mandatory boat washing at each of the three state launch sites. It is the least the state can do.

Online Comment 43 Received 10/05/2018

Dear Ms. Jensen and everyone at the Michigan DNR:

I am writing this letter to request that the DNR prioritizes cleaning up the lagoon, channel, and boat launch of aquatic invasives, especially Starry Stonewort, since it is tragically spreading into Higgins Lake from the DNR launches.

Our inland lakes are Michigan's greatest treasure and the DNR should REQUIRE boat washes of every boat entering the state parks in every lake in the state. It is a minimal time commitment for boaters for the privilege of accessing Michigan's amazing lakes and would greatly reduce the spread of invasive species. I see the workers already hired and boat washes in place at state park launches but these washes, for no good reason, are OPTIONAL, which makes no sense! The DNR is paying to have the labor and boat washes in place but not requiring them to be utilized! I have visited and swam in lakes from California to Vermont—and none compare to the beauty and sandy bottom of Higgins Lake.

Once invasive species like Starry Stonewort take hold at Higgins Lake there is no going back. The sandy bottom, spring-fed gem of a lake will eventually succumb to being weed infested, similar to what the South State park lagoon looks like.

Thank you for sharing the sense of urgency to clean up the Higgins Lake state park lagoon, channel and boat launch immediately and for pushing for required boat washes at every Michigan state park launch. I appreciate your service to the state of Michigan and commitment to preserving our state's greatest treasure and setting a goal of clean, beautiful and invasive-species free inland lakes.

Online Comment 44 Received 10/05/2018

It has come to my attention that the lagoon at the South State Park is filled with invasive species that are expanding into Higgins Lake. As a lake front resident on the south end of the lake I am extremely concerned about this encroachment and contamination of our beautiful, clear water.

It is my request and that of many others that the DNR take immediate action to halt the invasion and clean up the mess by shutting down the launch and lagoon.

Thank you for hearing the concerns of those who love and treasure Higgins Lake.

Online Comment 45 Received 10/05/2018

You have a responsibility to protect our environment from pollution of aquatic species.. It appears that you have not protected Higgins Lake from the Starry Stonewort that is coming into Higgins Lake. Please clean up the lagoon, channel and West launch.

Online Comment 46 Received 10/05/2018

As a concerned resident, I find it almost amusing that for years you (the DNR) have talked about removing dams and otherwise returning things to their "natural" state, while constructing man made lagoons and launches. To make matters worse, these projects have been completed with little foresight and no controls. And now, it seems, the chickens are coming home to roost.

Invasive species such as millfoil and Zebra muscles have been introduced to Higgins Lake, arguably as a direct result of the DNR's mismanagement. The new threat of starry stone wart is direct evidence of your contribution to decline of our precious lake. I implore you to stop turning a blind eye to this problem and to take the drastic steps necessary to eradicate this problem before it becomes too overwhelming to solve.

Drain the lagoon at the South State Park and close it until such time that you do so. To use another cliché, drastic times require drastic measures.

Online Comment 47 Received 10/05/2018

I was surprised to see the weed growth at the South State Park lagoon and channel. It was far more than I have seen in the past 50 years. When I learned that some of this situation was caused by the introduction of a new invasive weed I have become very concerned. I am insisting that the DNR clean up the site and take steps to mandate boat washing to reduce future instances of this type. A concerned riparian

Online Comment 48 Received 10/05/2018

Hi Ms. Jensen

Thank you for the link to the general management plans (GMPs) for the North and South Higgins Lake State Parks (NHLSP, SHLSP). I have several comments for your consideration in finalizing this document. I appreciate the format and content of the plan and its appendices. I found the documents very easy to read, and the appendices provided sufficient background to support for the plan.

1. Invasive Species

It appears from the public responses to the GMP surveys and the public workshop that invasive species is an important issue for Higgins Lake users. Each GMP includes the goal to "Continue to work proactively with partners to develop and implement measures to prevent, detect and control aquatic and terrestrial invasive species." I don't think this goal is measurable as it could be more specific about what proactive steps will be taken with partners. I understand that DNR is holding monthly meetings with the Higgins Lake Foundation and the Higgins Lake Property Owners Association regarding invasive species. This sounds like a great start to working together to understand impacts on Higgins Lake and to develop actions for managing invasive species. I think that the GMP could be improved by being more specific about what needs to be done to prevent, detect and control invasive species that may be introduced by boaters using DNR launch facilities at both state parks and the additional DNR launch site outside of the state parks. Based on public responses, a hot water boat wash that is staffed and mandatory boat washing are possible mitigation measures to reduce invasive species in the lake and that at least some public will support. Investigating or planning to implement the facilities upgrade and personnel assignment for these specific actions could be mentioned in the goals of the GMPs to address invasive species.

This partnership could do the deeper dive by reporting on the current invasive species conditions in Higgins Lake, identifying additional data sources (e. g., agency or university studies), identifying species specific management options, determining effectiveness of current practices, and recommending changes to education, facilities, and management practices. They could provide cost estimates that would then be available to DNR for requesting funding or to one of the Higgins Lake organizations for grant consideration. Some of the questions that they could address include: Does DNR need to add or improve signage regarding invasive species and boat washing? Can park visitors with boats be given information when entering the park requesting them to wash their boats before entering lake? Is there an incentive we could give to boaters for washing boats? (nice designed hat?). What would it take to make boat washing mandatory?

The plans could also include control of starry stonewort and eurasian milfoil that already occurs at DNR boat launch sites. Working with your partners, you can determine the appropriate methods for control and implement these measures to reduce the occurrence and spread of these invasive species.

2. Plan zones

It appears that neither GMP includes the near shore waters adjacent to DNR managed facilities. This is the area where introduction of invasive species is most likely and therefore needs effective management. I recommend that each GMP include the near shore area in the developed recreation zone so it is considered in the GMP goals. This would allow the DNR to meet its mandate to preserve and protect Michigan's significant natural resources and areas of natural beauty, which I believe includes Higgins Lake waters.

3. West Higgins Lake Boat Launch

My understanding is that there is a third DNR managed boat launch on Higgins Lake outside of the state parks. This launch has no boat wash or any educational effort to encourage boaters to prevent introducing invasive species into Higgins Lake. It appears this is the W. Higgins Lake Boating access site that is part of NHLSP management listed on page 37 of Appendix A of the NHLSP GMP. Why is this location and its potential for introduction of invasive species not addressed in NHLSP GMP? If this location is part of the management of the NHLSP, it should be described and included in the GMP and should be included in any planning on the prevention, detection, and control of invasive species.

4. Goal Priorities in NHLSP GMP and boat parking lot expansion

The number 1 priority is for expansion of the boat parking lot. How will that impact the introduction and control of invasive species? What will be done to mitigate this impact from the increased boat launch use? The GMP should be clear that providing prevention, detection and control of invasive species is a higher priority than increasing the use of the boat launch facility while current invasive species mitigation efforts are not effective.

In expansion of the parking lot, PA 451 of 1994, part 301 requires a permit from DEQ to undertake certain activities relating to inland lakes and streams, such as dredging, fill, marinas, structures, alteration of flow, etc. How will DNR work with DEQ to mitigate potential impacts of the parking lot expansion and the future impact of increased boating activities. Will DNR or DEQ have a public review process for the proposed work before issuing the permit or before commencing work?

5. Educational Component to GMP Goals

In PA 451 of 1994, Part 741 among other things, DNR is required to "...provide an opportunity to understand Michigan's natural resources and the need to protect and manage those resources."

In the public survey of the draft GMPs, of the survey respondents for N and S HLSP, less than half of those using the boat launch also used the boat wash. There should be an analysis to determine why the wash is not being used and how to improve the frequency of boat washing. This appears to be a potential lack of education on the importance of boat washing. Informing all boat launch users of the need to wash their boats and to prevent the spread of invasive species would allow DNR to meet this educational mandate. Adding a clear goal in both GMPs to educate the park users to prevent the spread of invasive species would ensure both GMPs are consistent with this mandate. I appreciate that the invasive species partnership in 2018, initiated an enhanced outreach program on the lake, which trained lake users to clean their boats, drain their live wells and bilges, and dispose their unused bait in the trash. DNR's continued support of this effort should be mentioned in the goal.

In addition, there is no mention in the Appendix A.6 of boat licensing requirements or program. Is there a way to educate those receiving license on the need to wash boats before entering an inland lake to reduce the potential for spreading invasive species? This information could be added to the boater education course furthering public education.

6. GMPs need more discussion on Invasive Species

This is one of the most important issues affecting Higgins Lake today. The GMP should provide more detail on this issues in the appendix. The discussion could include the occurrence of invasive species currently in the lake, where, how much and potential impacts and management methods. The Appendix could include a discussion of the impacts invasive species have already had on the lake (e.g., zebra mussels displacing fresh water clams). I believe you have the recent studies related to invasive species in Higgins Lake that can be referenced.

7. Safety issues

Several public comments for the GMP for the SHLSP concerned safety issues at the boat launch. Apparently pedestrian traffic is an issue for those trying to launch and retrieve boats. There should be a facilities change to limit the potential for pedestrians getting in the way of those using the boat launch. There is no mention in the goals to address this concern. Improving the safety of the boat launch should be a high priority goal added to the GMP.

Overall, there seems to be a disconnect between the public responses to the survey and workshop results and the goals and priorities identified in the plans. Public input for both parks were clear that invasive species management is a high concern but neither plan has a specific goal to effectively and immediately address this issue. I appreciate DNR's efforts so far to address invasive species, but there should be enough known about the issue now to commence specific goals that can be described in the GMPs and used to obtain resources to implement the goals. Thanks for your consideration of my comments and overall I think the GMPs are well written and should provide overall a good basis for future decision making.

Online Comment 49 Received 10/05/2018

Deborah- Please direct the DNR to cleanup the Starry Stonewort at launches and prevent re-introduction of this harmful, invasive marine plant.

Online Comment 50 Received 10/05/2018

Deborah Jensen,

My recent boat launch at the South Higgins Lake State Park was not a good experience. When entering the launch area I was impressed with the Roscommon High school student asking to power wash my boat off to prevent aquatic invasive species from other lakes entering Higgins Lake. He asked & I informed him I had come from Crooked Lake and that the wash would be great ! After launching my boat I must of had 5-10 LBS of seaweed hanging off my trailer which I removed. I was so disgusted with this I decided to work through some logistic hurdles and reload it at the Gerrish Twp. Marina (weed free) for \$5.00 at the end of the day to avoid all that seaweed that I know would be trapped between the boat and the bunks. I believe the DNR is responsible to clean up the lagoon, channel of seaweed and the aquatic invasive species in the weeds . I was informed that there is a newcomer named the Starry Stonewort, that is spreading into Higgins from the DNR launches. I have been coming to Higgins Lake for 62 years, this & the swimmers itch needs to be addressed NOW. Any questions or feedback is welcome !

Thanks in advance for your attention in this matter

Online Comment 51 Received 10/06/2018

Ms,Jenson, although your presentation was interesting and informative it was not the reason many came to your meeting. I hope that you and the additional staff present that evening were not surprised by what many had as our number one concernthe health of Higgins Lake.

For me, the over population of our lake, especially on week ends ,and the invasive species concerns are compromising our fragile Higgins Lake. The audience seemed to have an active frame work of ideas and solutions to begin asking DNR to address our fears. Most importantly boat washing, limited access to our lake on weekends, noise annoyance. DNR, must have some interest in assisting us to an end goal of making our natural resource healthy? What I heard was a lot of political rhetoric of non existing opportunities to partner up with us. Would you agree with any of this?

The presentation seemed primarily focused on how to make our parks bigger and better. More accommodating to larger crowds of people, trying to be inclusive to additional types of boating, sprucing up the facilities,etc. This MIGHT be appropriate, however without addressing the health of our beautiful lake , it seems like a very hurtful approach. Why can't we begin with addressing the health of the lagoon? The west boat launch? Why? As a community we have worked to correct our swimmers itch issue, purchase a DASH boat, develop committees to understand and approach additional concerns.....and there seemed to be no team work from our DNR! It's sad and now VERY annoying to many of us who really care.

My name is Nancy Perry, I am a life long resident of Higgins Lake ,graduating from Roscommon ,currently and for several years I have been a “ back lotter” and I own a home on the lake also. I spend 6 months of the year here . My family’s business ,beginning in 1944, relied on tourists . I believe “ I get it!” We have work to do all the way around ! Fundamentally, economically, historically, scientifically, the list goes on, can we prioritize and work towards an end goal of making our state parks on Higgins Lake and the lake itself...healthier?

P.S. When I said “ I get it “ I should have furthered described..I am very familiar with the long history of struggles, pull and push, obstacles, opportunities, joy and sadness of living at Higgins Lake. When I was a young girl, it was conversation at my parents store, the dinner table, meetings, hunting and fishing with my father, DNR friends,conversations all around me, from all different residents and occupationsI think it’s what made me interested in politics...is it too late to run for Governor??

Online Comment 52 Received 10/10/2018

Hi Deborah:

The DNR has the contacts and clout to help Higgins Lake now and therefore into the future. The time is now for the DNR to step up and clean up the Starry Stonewort in the South State Park lagoon and other places. I don’t feel it is time for you and the DNR to throw up your hands and ignore the emergence while still somewhat contained and GET INVOLVED in controlling the spread even if it means temporarily closing down the boat launches to do so.

This can be a turning point for the DNR to team with and help other concerned organizations.

Online Comment 53 Received 10/10/2018

We trust the DNR to protect our natural resources. In this context, please act with urgency to clean up the South Higgins Lake State Park lagoon and other places to eliminate the invasive species Starry Stonewort. We also feel that boat washing should be made manditory to stop these sites from spreading it throughout the lake.

Online Comment 54 Received 10/10/2018

Hello Deborah,

Higgins Lake has been known to me my entire life. I’m 57 years old. It’s always been a beautiful place. I know some change is inevitable; like erosion, traffic increase, etc. But the real threat of invasive species to our lake is not acceptable. Especially when there are ways to combat it. And if we’re not doing that for whatever reason, that is equally unacceptable! We appreciate what the DNR does for our natural resources, and expect them to do everything in their power to continue to do so. Enforcing mandatory boat washes at DNR boat launches is the best way to clean up ‘visiting’ boats before they enter our lake. The DNR must find a way to make this process viable. Please encourage them to find a way.

Online Comment 55 Received 10/10/2018

Please let the DNR know I approve of mandatory boat washing to keep out invasive species from the lake. They should spend their money on that, NOT improving the sites!!!

Online Comment 56 Received 10/10/2018

Good afternoon....the property owners on Higgins Lake need your HELP! The quality of our beautiful lake has been/is being compromised by invasive species. Most recently, the Starry Stonewort has been discovered in numerous places around the lake. If your job is in fact to help protect the inland waters of Michigan, I urge you to mandate that all transit boats be washed and disinfected before they can enter any Michigan lake.

Online Comment 57 Received 10/10/2018

Deborah Jensen: I attended the meeting on September 24 at the McMullen Center and am responding to your request for comments by October 5. I am a member of the board of directors and the Environmental Committee of the HLPOA and my primary concern is the battle with milfoil and stary stonewort in our lake. We need the urgent help of the DNR is this battle to limit the spread of both invasive species to other part of Higgins Lake. Also, now that Higgins Lake has been contaminated, attention is need to insure that it is not spread to other lakes in Michigan from Higgins Lake. I urge you to take the following action steps;

- All I have read about SSW indicates that the best response is immediate action upon discovery. SSW was discovered in July or August in Higgins Lake and action is needed now and not several months down the road.
- The South Higgins Lake State Park lagoon is broadly recognized to be the primary point of SSW contamination. The lagoon should be closed immediately and remain closed until it has been decontaminated and as much SSW and milfoil as possible removed from the approaches to the lagoon. In places in the lagoon the weeds are near the surface of the water and it is impossible to avoid prop chopping when launching or parking boats.
- Similarly, the DNR West Higgins Lake boat launch approach is contaminated and should be closed to prevent the spread of SSW and milfoil until the plant growth can be removed to avoid prop chopping of and spread of these species.
- The approaches at the North Higgins Lake State Park should be monitored frequently to insure that it has not become contaminated.
- All three DNR boat launches should require mandatory boat washing in an out of Higgins Lake. Excellent, free boat washes are available for all three launches and I understand that you are taking steps to further improve boat wash facilities.
- Signs should be posted as soon as possible at all three boat launches warning users that Higgins Lake is contaminated with SSW, milfoil and zebra muscles an that boat washing is mandatory in and out.

Online Comment 58 Received 10/10/2018

I have a home on Higgins Lake and am very concerned about the discovery of Starry Stonewort in the launch areas. When my pontoon was removed from the lake at the South State Park, the trailer had the invasive species hanging over the end. I am hoping that the DNR will be aggressive in controlling this new invasive species.

Online Comment 59 Received 10/10/2018

I am in support of having the DNR take more responsibility to clean up invasive species in Higgins Lake and enforce mandatory boat washing at its launch sites.

Online Comment 60 Received 10/10/2018

Dear Deborah Jensen,

As an owner of property on Higgins lake I am writing to ask you to please take more responsibility for what you are allowing into Higgins lake as hitchhikers on the hundreds and hundreds of boats that put in at the South State Park boat launch. Since I take regular walks through that park I am disgusted with the huge number of boats that are lined up all day long on each Saturday and Sunday – all summer long. They are not required to wash off their boats and those that do make the effort only give their boats a cursory spraying. There must be a better way to police the washing and clean up the Park Lagoon of all the invasive species. Perhaps you need to consider closing that boat launch every other summer – or even every other weekend just to give the lagoon a break from the constant gas, oil and invasive species getting dumped into it every weekend. It is urgent that you stop the spread of Starry Stonewort and make a policed mandatory boat washing launch at Higgins Lake.

Online Comment 61 Received 10/10/2018

Dear Ms. Jensen,

As a property owner at Higgins Lake, I have great pride in the quality of the water and the parks that serve visitors to the lake. Our residence is near the South Higgins Lake State Park and I have concerns about the cleanliness and upkeep of the park boat launch. It is now my understanding that a new invasive species, Starry Stonewort, has been introduced to the lake and most

likely was brought in by boats that were not cleaned properly. Before this invasive species gets an insurmountable hold on the lake I encourage the DNR to act quickly to clean the lagoons and to insist on boat washing at all launch sites. It is so much easier and cost effective to control the spread of invasives when attacked early and prevented.

Online Comment 62 Received 10/10/2018

I am writing you this E mail in hopes that your influence may be used to stop the continuous contamination of Higgins Lake by invasive species. The largest spots of contamination are by the access ramps especially by the lagoon that was built for the South Higgins Park. Our lake was once described as the 6th of the most beautiful lake in the world. It, however, has begun to be something less. It may not be noticed by the 100 of thousands park visitors who are only using our lake for weeks at a time. We are the property owners who notice the slow changes brought about by zebra mussels and now the introduction of the Starry Wort which spreads easily. The HLPOA cannot be the only one who is interested in saving our lake. It's time to bring the DNR's resources to bear. Please help us maintain our crystal clear waters for the next generation.

Online Comment 63 Received 10/10/2018

I'm in total agreement that the DNR needs to step up and do their part to stop the spread of Starry Stonewort at Higgins Lake. The problem exists not from the homeowners but from the numbers of boats being launched at the DNR sites.

ENFORCED BOAT WASHING AT ALL sites should be mandatory!!!!!!

Online Comment 64 Received 10/10/2018

I strongly agree with the E-mail I'm forwarding. The damage done by invasive species is irreversible.

Dear HLPOA Member,

On September 24th the DNR held a meeting to discuss their plans for improving their parks on our lake. Many of our members were present and voiced their opinions that the DNR has not been responsible in how they allow launching of boats at their launch sites, taking little care to protect our lake from Invasive species being brought in as hitchhikers from other lakes. We now have a new invasive species, Starry Stonewort that has recently been identified in our lake and many signs point to the DNR launch sites as to where the Starry Stonewort was introduced. We are asking the DNR to clean up the South Park lagoon and the other places known to us in order to eliminate the Starry Stonewort and stop their launch sites from spreading it throughout the lake. We also feel that mandatory boat washing is one of the best tools to protect our lake from future such invasions. The DNR has been resistant to helping us. Please let the DNR know that we need them to act with urgency to stop the spread of Starry Stonewort and also have mandatory boat washing at all DNR launch sites in the future.

Online Comment 65 Received 10/10/2018

Good morning Deborah,

Recently I've been made aware of the presence of the invasive starry stonewort in Higgins Lake. The best defense against future and additional contamination of Higgins is to compel boaters from other lakes to wash boats before launching. I'm asking you to involve the DNR in this process by requiring boat owners (from other lakes) to clean boats before boating at Higgins.

Thank you in advance for your help in this matter.

Online Comment 66 Received 10/10/2018

Ms Jensen

I have been a property owner on Higgins Lake for 20 years. I have seen the lake quality on the lake decrease dramatically. I see larger boats, faster and louder boats brought onto the lake. Have you been to the lake in the summer and seen the thousands of boats anchored on the sand bars around the lake? I have witnessed public urination at these sites. Alcohol, sun and peeing in the lake are what makes for a picture perfect setting. PURE MICHIGAN! The boats are entering the lake thru the DNR launch sites at the North and South State parks in addition to the West Launch. Last year the DNR, without a public hearing, expanded the West Launch to accommodate more and larger boats to be launched there. There no longer are enough spots at the West Launch for boats to park so they park on the shoulder of the road creating a very dangerous situation. But somehow this is not enough, your organization wanted to increase the size and number of boats entering the lake. Unfettered access!

It has now been determined unequivocally, that the launch sites which are controlled by your organization has been the source of invasive species introduction into beautiful Higgins Lake. Higgins Lake which was at one time was considered the 6th most beautiful lake in the world, no longer. The saddest part is that the Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Department(DNRPRD) absolutely does not care about the destruction that it has brought to Higgins Lake. When starry stonewort was discovered at the DNRPRD launch sites the DNRPRD had a chance to step up and show that they really do care about the lake by closing the launches until the starry stonewort was removed. Instead it continued to allow boats to be launched from the infested launch sites, dragging the aggressive invasive all over the lake. Once starry stonewort is established there is no recovery for the lake. I encourage you to google Lake Koronis starry stonewort and see the disaster that we are facing, that you are complicit in.

That fact that you are trying to develop a 10-15 year plan for a lake that will not be a viable destination for recreation use is ludicrous. You should be developing a plan for the next 3 months to 2 years hoping that you can save this beautiful lake. I and the rest of the lake community would like to see this plan. When will anyone be presenting this plan to those of us that truly appreciate this once beautiful lake. Take your 10-15 year plan and keep it off our lake.

I thought that after the Flint water crisis that the State of Michigan employees would be sensitive to the way that it responded to and treated the public after known mismanagement by state officials. Obviously this is not the case. I see no difference at all in this scenario. I hope that all state employees that are involved in the lack of response to and complicit in this environmental disaster be held accountable. At all levels!

This issue is discussed every place that I go. Your department has a public relations disaster on its hands. Somebody stand up and for once do the right thing. People have had enough.....

I welcome your response.

Online Comment 67 Received 10/10/2018

DNR I treat the lake like it IS the 6th most beautiful lake in the world. How about you? Would LOVE to hear your explanation as to why two boat washes are built and NOT made mandatory. Now look where we are. You are a disgrace Indeed!!!

Online Comment 68 Received 10/10/2018

I attended the DNR program on Monday and was quite dismayed that there is so little effort by the state of michigan to alleviate the SSW species infiltrating our lake.

We need to team up to control and remediate this threat now. Stop the launch, close the lagoon at South Higgins State Park and clean this up. Every means at your disposal must be used to keep this from spreading.

There is still time before ice to do something proactive for the rest of our lake.

You dont have enough money to clean up the whole lake once this species spreads AND/OR attempt to avoid the next invasive species. Make the hot water boat wash mandatory. We can help with manpower and funds to do this now- NO ONE has the funds or means to clean up the whole lake.

This is everyones problem!! It is not right to pass this problem, you are facilitating, off to the resident land owners and local govts.

Everything else in your future plans are a pipe dream if you dont have a way to control these devastating side affects.

PLEASE, It is time to think inside the box.

Online Comment 69 Received 10/10/2018

Please add my name to those who want to keep this invasive species out of Higgins Lake.

Online Comment 70 Received 10/10/2018

Deborah,

Starry Stonewort has recently been identified in our lake and many signs point to the DNR launch sites as to where the Starry Stonewort was introduced. Please help protect Higgins Lake from invasive species that are being introduced into our lake as hitchhikers from other lakes.

I am asking the DNR to clean up the South Park lagoon and the other places known to Higgins Lake in order to eliminate the Starry Stonewort and stop their launch sites from spreading it throughout the lake. I feel that mandatory boat washing is one of the best tools to protect Higgins Lake from future such invasions. Please help to stop the spread of Starry Stonewort and other invasive species by having mandatory boat washing at all DNR launch sites in the future.

Online Comment 71 Received 10/10/2018

Dear Ms. Jensen,

I am a Higgins Lake riparian and former officer of the Higgins Lake Property Owners Association (HLPOA) Board of Directors. I'm writing at the suggestion of the current HLPOA Board of Directors, per their note (below). You may not know this, but the HLPOA is one of the oldest, largest and most respected lake associations in the state, having been formed in the late 1930's and incorporated as a non-profit under the State of Michigan in 1940.

I was unable to attend the recent (Sept 24th) DNR Parks and Rec Div public meeting held by Anna Sylvester due to illness, but I have been informed of the discussions that took place during this meeting. I am particular disturbed by those discussions in the meeting dealing with the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) now occurring in Higgins Lake and the apparent ambivalence on the part of the DNR to 1.) take appropriate action to prevent the spread of AIS, and 2.) accept the responsibility to remove Starry Stonewort (SSW) from known introduction sites at DNR boat launch sites on Higgins Lake. I believe I am correct by informing you that one of the DNR's AIS "experts" attended Anna's meeting and made the rather ridiculous and unsubstantiated claim that SSW was introduced into Higgins Lake by someone dumping the contents of their fish aquarium(s) into the lake.

Really?!?! One or more riparians left their home(s) and went to each of the DNR launch sites specifically to dump their aquarium? Can you imagine the absurdity of this claim-- the DNR's AIS "expert" is in denial.

I respectfully request the DNR assume responsibility for eradicating SSW from Higgins Lake while it is still confined to a relatively small number of known locations, concentrated at DNR boat launch sites. If this means the South State Park Boat Launch Lagoon needs to be closed for launching, blocked off, drained and all AIS plants (Eurasian Water Milfoil, Starry Stonewort, etc.) be mechanically removed this fall, then so be it. Or would you rather wait until the costs escalate into the hundreds of millions of dollars to control this problem in one of the most beautiful lakes in the country?

Other states in the union (Wyoming, Oregon, etc.) have very strict controls over the launching of boats in their state's lakes. What is the MI DNR's excuse for not adopting more stringent requirements for the launching of AIS-free boats in MI? Don't you recall the phrase that used to be stamped into every automobile license plate issued by the state of MI decades ago? It was "Water Wonderland." No other state could make that claim back in the 60's. How much longer will we be able to say that if we fail to adequately address the AIS problems we know we have here?

Online Comment 72 Received 10/10/2018

Dear Ms. Jensen,

I am writing you about my concerns regarding the invasive species known as Starry Stonewort that has been found in Higgins Lake. I would love to see the DNR take a more active role in protecting the lake by introducing mandatory boat washing at launch points on the lake. Thank you for considering and for your work to make Higgins Lake a great place for all people.

Online Comment 73 Received 10/10/2018

Higgins Lake has a new invasive species, Starry Stonewort, that was found in the waters near the South Higgins Lake State Park. This will only get worse unless the DNR DEMANDS that people wash their boats. Please help us with this effort.

Online Comment 74 Received 10/10/2018

Ms. Jensen:

I am concerned about the new invasive species that have been identified in Higgins Lake. My home is near the South Higgins Lake State Park, and the introduction of the Starry Stonewort appears to have originated from the boat launch and lagoon there. Please stop the spread of invasive species and institute mandatory boat washing at all DNR launch sites as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Online Comment 75 Received 10/10/2018

As a long time property owner on Higgins Lake we enjoy this great watershed. To keep and maintain the water quality all efforts must be made to keep evasive species from entering the lake. Please consider mandatory boat washings at all DNR maintained launch sites. In addition cleaning up the areas where Starry Stonewort is present should be a top priority for the DNR. Thank you in advance for your help.

Online Comment 76 Received 10/10/2018

Hello Deborah Jensen:

I am writing you to express my concern about invasive species entering Higgins Lake.

I am in favor mandatory boat washing for both the north and south state parks.

I have a cottage on Higgins Lake.

Online Comment 77 Received 10/10/2018

Dear Ms. Jensen:

My family has been on Higgins Lake for more than 100 years. I have been fortunate to grow up on this beautiful, pristine and unadulterated lake for most of my life.

Tragically, in recent years, I have watched as the DNR has knowingly launched literally thousands of boats at its three launch sites and caused the introduction of three invasive species. The worst of these, Starry Stonewort, has recently been found choking the lagoon at the South State Park and its channel leading out into the lake. It has also been found in heavy concentrations at the West Launch Site. Every boat that you launch, at either site, gets tangled in it and spreads it to other parts of the lake, where it has already been found.

You have been, and continue, to violate the clear mandate of the DNR as required by our State Constitution. Your mission is to protect our environment. However, you are polluting our environment and what is perhaps the most beautiful of the lakes in our State. You are continuing to do this despite knowing you are spreading State "prohibited" species. This is unconscionable to me and to all those who value our environment and natural resources. I can think of no excuse for you not taking the following action:

1. Immediately close all of your launch sites on Higgins Lake.
2. Take the necessary action to completely eliminate Starry Stonewort and any other invasive species located in or near your launch sites.
3. As soon as possible, devise a comprehensive plan to locate and eliminate Starry Stonewort wherever it has been carried into Higgins Lake.
4. Install and require mandatory boat washing at all your launch sites and require all boats launched at those sites to be free of invasive species.

I would appreciate a response to this email with an explanation as to what the DNR is going to do to implement these actions. If the DNR is not willing or able to do so, please explain why.

Thank you for your courtesy

B.7 Response to Public Input Comments



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

January 29, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

SUBJECT: North and South Higgins Lake State Park Management Plans

Thank you for your feedback about the Higgins Lake State Park management plans. The DNR received correspondence from 77 people, many of whom provided similar comments. Below are responses to some of the more common statements.

Comment: The DNR has increased public access to Higgins Lake by expanding the west launch

The work at the west launch that occurred in September and October of 2017 was to replace eighty 6'x12' ramp planks (measuring 96' wide by 60' long) with ninety 4'x18' planks (measuring 108' wide by 60' long). The only reason for the additional 12 feet in width was because current design guide standards as well as ramp plank sizes have changed since the site was originally established. The number of launch lanes remained the same after the project.

The west launch was not included in either of the park management plans because it does not fall within the geographical boundary lines of either park.

Comment: There are concerns about the detection of starry stonewort

The starry stonewort in Higgins Lake was first detected in late July of 2018. A separate survey was conducted by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on August 8, 2018 that sampled aquatic plants at 33 locations throughout the lake. Starry stonewort was detected at six of those locations in depths from 1 to 30 feet. Based on the size and density of the infestations, starry stonewort has likely been in the lake for a few years. It is unknown if the population will expand beyond where it is currently found or what effects it may have on the lake.

The DNR shared its 2019 treatment plan with the Higgins Lake Foundation (HLF) and the Higgins Lake Property Owners Association (HLPOA). Press releases and treatment dates will be posted at the parks and on the DNR press release web page (www.michigan.gov/DNR/news_releases). For more information about starry stonewort, visit www.michigan.gov/invasives.

Comment: The DNR has not done anything to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species

The DNR works collaboratively with the DEQ and Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in the Michigan Invasive Species Program. Together, these agencies work to prevent the introductions of invasive species, detect them if they arrive, and control them when possible. More information can be found at www.michigan.gov/invasives.

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The DNR – Parks and Recreation Division has spent significant resources on Higgins Lake specifically. The DNR has partnered with the HLF and the HLPOA on the installation and maintenance of the two boat washes. In 2017, a workgroup formed between these three organizations to collaborate on Higgins Lake issues. Results from that collaboration in 2018 include:

- A DNR grant of \$75,000 to the HLF to implement invasive species outreach activities at the three state-owned boating access sites
- The purchase of two CD3 waterless cleaning stations, which were installed at the west and south boating access sites
- The washing of 1,657 boats prior to launching in Higgins Lake
- Monthly meetings to share information about aquatic invasive species, the DNR budget, and action items
- Physical removal of aquatic invasive plants at the boating access sites, paid for by the DNR and executed by the HLF DASH boat
- Installation of signage at road ends and in marinas, reminding boaters about the importance of cleaning boats and equipment to stop the spread of invasive species
- A joint meeting with the DEQ after the detection of starry stonewort to discuss the findings and provide guidance about next steps
- Research into the feasibility of moving the north boat wash to North Higgins Lake State Park.

Comment: The DNR should institute a mandatory boat wash program at Higgins Lake

In the summer of 2018, the DNR researched factors that would need to be in place prior to instituting a mandatory boat wash program. These include:

- *Legal statute that outlines the exact requirement and penalties for non-compliance.*

A mandatory boat wash would require legislative action.

- *Improved wastewater disposal system at the south park.*

The current system at the South Higgins boat wash is designed to filter 600 gallons per day and is permitted by the DEQ for that amount. To service every incoming and out-going boat, the system would need to be upgraded to accommodate the increase of wastewater, including a revised DEQ permit to increase the amount of water that can be used.

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- *Funding to staff the boat washes.*
The boat washes would need to be staffed to ensure that all boaters used the wash, that boats were cleaned properly, and that the boat wash equipment was used in an appropriate manner.
- *Certification system.*
Boats entering the north or west sites would need to provide documentation that they used a boat wash prior to launching.
- *Funding to staff the north and west sites.*
Staff would ensure that all boats were certified from a boat wash.
- *A solution to the timing concerns.*
It takes an average of 5 minutes to wash a boat. A busy day at the south site can involve over 300 boats being launched and retrieved. If every boat were washed, logistically it would take several hours just for everyone to launch.

In addition, for the lake to have every boat washed prior to launching, there should be similar systems in place at the township and private launch sites, as well as road ends. Research indicates that to prevent the spread of invasive species, boats should be cleaned after retrieving them from the water body. This would result in leaving any potential invasive species at the lake where they were found, rather than transporting them to a different lake and discarding them where they do not yet exist. With Higgins Lake having Eurasian watermilfoil, starry stonewort, and zebra mussels, the DNR would highly encourage boaters to clean their boats upon leaving Higgins Lake as well to avoid transporting these species to other lakes.

Considering these hurdles, the DNR does not support a mandatory boat wash program at this time.

Comment: The DNR should close the south boat launch

The DNR is willing to close launch lanes temporarily at the south boat launch for aquatic weed treatment; however, the DNR does not anticipate closing the entire access site.

Comment: The DNR should drain the lagoon

Draining the lagoon to harvest any aquatic weeds would be an expensive and drastic measure without any assurance of success because many plant propagules can remain viable in moist environments. The permitting that would be required for such an action

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would be intensive. Finally, the lagoon provides habitat for threatened and endangered species, which need to remain protected.

The DNR's 2019 invasive species treatment plan does incorporate dredging the lagoon. Although the intent of the dredging is to improve the navigational channel, it will have an impact on any aquatic plants present. Public notice will be posted at the facilities as well as on the DNR webpage as referenced above.

Comment: The DNR should not encourage overnight boat camping by providing docks with electrical output

This was removed from the park management plan per the recommendations from stakeholders.

Comment: The DNR should restrict the size/number/horsepower of boats launching in Higgins Lake

The DNR does not have the legislative authority to act on this request. The size of the launch and the depth of the water is the major limiting factor for what types of boats can be launched. Oversized boats may need a special permit.

Thank you for your questions and comments, if you feel you have further questions, please feel free to contact Christina Baugher, at BaugherC@michigan.gov, or at (517) 284-5835.

Sincerely,



Debbie Jensen
 Park Management Plan Administrator

cc: Mr. Ron Olson, DNR
 Ms. Anna Sylvester, DNR
 Mr. Bill Doan, DNR
 Mr. Josh Pellow, DNR
 Ms. Rachel Roberts, DNR
 Ms. Christina Baugher, DNR

Appendix C: Agreements

LEASE

Of Tax Homestead lands within a Forest Reserve.

THIS INDENTURE, Made this²⁶..... day of ^{August}..... in the year one thousand nine hundred and twenty-^{Five}.....

BY AND BETWEEN the DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION of the State of Michigan, by the Director of Conservation, acting under the authority conferred upon him by the Commission of Conservation in a resolution adopted the thirteenth day of July, 1925, as party of the first part, and the

TRUSTEES of the WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF DETROIT,

in the County of Wayne and State of Michigan, acting under authority conferred upon them by a joint meeting of the Boards held June 17, 1925.

WITNESSETH:

That the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of ONE DOLLAR (\$1.00) to it in hand paid by the party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby confessed and acknowledged, has granted, demised and LEASED unto the said party of the second part, and their successors in office, and by these presents does grant, demise and LEASE unto the said party of the second part and their successors, for the period of FIFTY (50) years, and from year to year^{thereafter} for such time as the same shall be used for the purposes hereinafter set forth, the tracts, pieces or parcels of land described as follows, to-wit:

The west one-half ($W\frac{1}{2}$) of Lot number one (1) and the East one-half ($E\frac{1}{2}$) of lot number two (2), all in section number thirty-six (36), in Township number twenty-five (25) north, of range number four (4) west, in Crawford County, State of Michigan.

for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a Camp for Boys and Girls to be conducted by Westminster Church of Detroit, Michigan.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said above described land to the sole and only use, benefit and behoof of the said Westminster Church of Detroit for the uses herein above set forth.

IT IS FURTHER UNDERSTOOD that in granting this lease the State of Michigan reserves to itself all mineral, coal, oil and gas lying and being on, within or under the land so leased, and that no mining, piping, working, making merchantable and taking away of any such material shall be exercised by either of the parties hereto during the life of this lease.

IT IS FURTHER UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED that the lessees shall have the right to erect such necessary and convenient buildings as may be required for the purposes intended, and that strict care and watchfulness shall be exercised to prevent the occurrence of forest fires and the unnecessary destruction of any timber now upon said lands.

If at any time more than two years should elapse when the said land shall not be occupied by the lessees for the purposes set forth, then and in such case the rights conveyed by said lease shall cease and all buildings and permanent structures placed thereon shall become the property of the State and the lands shall revert to the State which shall assume possession of the same without any process at law or otherwise.

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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES v BOARD OF
TRUSTEES OF WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF DETROIT

Docket No. 55440. Submitted November 9, 1981, at Lansing.—Decided March 4, 1982.

In May, 1975, the Department of Natural Resources filed a complaint against the Board of Trustees of Westminster Church of Detroit and others in Ingham Circuit Court seeking possession of land leased by plaintiff's predecessor, the Department of Conservation, in 1925 to the defendant board of church trustees. The lease was to run for 50 years and from year to year thereafter for such time as the property was used for the purposes of establishing and maintaining a camp for boys and girls. Since 1925, Camp Westminster has been operated on the property by the board of trustees. Plaintiff's complaint alleged that the lease was invalid from its inception because it was a lease by the state to a religious society for an inadequate consideration. Alternatively, they argue that if the lease was valid it is now terminable at the will of either party because of the year-to-year provision. The court, Ray C. Hotchkiss, J., granted judgment in favor of defendants, finding that the lease was a valid contract between the state and an ecclesiastical corporation, that the year-to-year provision in the lease conferred upon defendants a right of continuing renewal, and that the lease was enforceable at the option of the lessee. Plaintiff appeals. *Held:*

1. The lease agreement was based upon adequate consideration and does not violate the state constitutional provisions

REFERENCES FOR POINTS IN HEADNOTES

[1] 16A Am Jur 2d, Constitutional Law §§ 466, 468, 477.

Supreme Court cases involving establishment and freedom of religion clauses of federal constitution. 37 LEd2d 1147.

[2] 49 Am Jur 2d, Landlord and Tenant § 1.

[3] 17 Am Jur 2d, Contracts § 96.

[4] 49 Am Jur 2d, Landlord and Tenant § 27.

[5] 17 Am Jur 2d, Contracts § 85.

[6, 7] 50 Am Jur 2d, Landlord and Tenant §§ 1168-1171.

Right to second or perpetual renewal under provision for renewal of lease. 31 ALR2d 607.

that no money or property belonging to the state shall be appropriated for the benefit of any religious sect or society, theological or religious seminary.

2. The parties to the original lease intended to have the lease continue so long as the property is used as a camp for boys and girls. The trial court did not err when it found that the lease provision in question was a valid perpetual renewal lease.

Affirmed.

1. STATE — RELIGIOUS CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS — LEASES — CONSTITUTIONAL LAW.

The state constitution, which forbids the state from appropriating property for a religious purpose, does not prohibit the state from contracting to lease property to a religious organization for valid consideration (Const 1963, art 1, § 4).

2. WORDS AND PHRASES — "LEASE".

A lease is a conveyance by the owner of an estate to another of a portion of his interest for a term less than his own, for a valuable consideration, granting thereby to the lessee the possession, use, and enjoyment of the portion conveyed during the period stipulated.

3. CONTRACTS — CONSIDERATION.

Consideration for an agreement exists where there is a benefit on one side or a detriment suffered, or services done, on the other.

4. LANDLORD AND TENANT — LEASES — CONSIDERATION.

Consideration for a lease may be in services as well as in money.

5. CONTRACTS — CONSIDERATION.

An equal exchange of consideration for an agreement is unnecessary as the law does not inquire into the adequacy thereof.

6. LANDLORD AND TENANT — LEASES — PERPETUAL RENEWAL PROVISIONS.

A provision for a perpetual renewal of a lease will be given effect and enforced in the absence of a prohibitory statute although the law does not favor perpetual leases and the Court of Appeals will not construe a lease as conferring a right to perpetual renewals unless the lease clearly provides for such renewals.

7. LANDLORD AND TENANT — LEASES — WORDS AND PHRASES — "FROM YEAR TO YEAR".

The use of the phrase "from year to year" in a renewal clause of a lease does not give the lessee the right to perpetual renewals;

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however, when that phrase is coupled with a provision which requires a positive act by the lessees, a right to perpetual renewals has been found.

Frank J. Kelley, Attorney General, *Louis J. Caruso*, Solicitor General, and *Frank J. Pipp* and *Russell E. Prins*, Assistants Attorney General, for plaintiff.

Gregory E. Snow, for defendant.

Before: M. J. KELLY, P.J., and D. E. HOLBROOK, JR., and N. J. KAUFMAN, JJ.

PER CURIAM. Plaintiff, the Department of Natural Resources, appeals a trial court decision dismissing its complaint for possession of land leased by its predecessor some 55 years ago to defendant board of church trustees.

In August, 1925, John Baird, director of the Department of Conservation (DOC), entered into a 50-year lease with defendant church trustees. The church trustees were the corporate body which managed and controlled the property and secular affairs of the Westminster Church of Detroit. The lease was for certain lake-front property in Crawford County which was to be used by the trustees to establish a camp for boys and girls. The lease provided in pertinent part:

"WITNESSETH: That the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of ONE DOLLAR (\$1.00) to it in hand paid by the party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby confessed and acknowledged, has granted, demised and LEASED unto the said party of the second part, and their successors in office, and by these presents does grant, demise and LEASE unto the said party of the second part and their successors, for the period of FIFTY (50) years and from year to year [t]hereafter for such time as the same shall

be used for the purposes hereinafter set forth, the tracts, pieces or parcels of land described as follows, to-wit:

* * *

"[F]or the purpose of establishing and maintaining a Camp for Boys and Girls to be conducted by Westminster Church of Detroit, Michigan.

"TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said above described land to the sole and only use, benefit and [behalf] of the said Westminster Church of Detroit for the uses herein above set forth.

* * *

"If at any time more than two years should elapse when the said land shall not be occupied by the lessees for the purposes set forth, then and in such case the rights conveyed by said lease shall cease and all buildings and permanent structures placed thereon shall become the property of the State and the lands shall revert to the State which shall assume possession of the same without any process at law or otherwise."

Since 1925, the trustees have operated Camp Westminster on the land in question. The avowed purpose of the camp is to develop character, citizenship and physical fitness in the youth that attend the camp. Over the years, the trustees have made substantial investments by constructing buildings and making other improvements on the land. Although the trustees are the governing body of the Westminster Church of Detroit, they have always opened the camp to the public. Between 250 and 400 children attend the camp each year, and since 1948, when records began to be kept, the number of children whose families were members of the church average 38% of the children attending the camp.

In 1972, Reverend Carl Howie of the church, concerned that the original 50-year term was drawing to a close, requested the Attorney Gener-

al's opinion regarding the construction of the "year to year [t]hereafter" provision of the lease. In a private letter to Reverend Howie, the Attorney General opined that the provision conferred a right of continuing renewal so long as the land was used as a camp for boys and girls. In 1973, the Attorney General reached the same conclusion in a letter to a state legislator.

In May, 1975, plaintiff filed a complaint for possession of the land in question. The complaint alleged that the lease was invalid from its inception because it was a lease by the state to a religious society for an inadequate consideration, but that, if the lease was valid, it was terminable at the will of either party because it was a year-to-year lease. On August 26, 1980, the parties, pursuant to GCR 1963, 111.10, submitted to the trial court an "Agreement on the Lease" setting forth their agreement as to facts and the record to be considered by the court. On December 17, 1980, the trial court issued an opinion in favor of defendants. The court found that the lease was a valid contract between the state and an ecclesiastical corporation. It also found that the year-to-year provision in the lease conferred upon defendant a right of continuing renewal. The court concluded that the lease was enforceable at the option of the lessee and dismissed plaintiff's complaint. Plaintiff appeals the trial court's decision as of right, GCR 1963, 806.1.

I

On appeal, plaintiff claims that the 1925 lease was void *ab initio* because it violated Const 1908, art 2, § 3. That constitutional provision states in part:

"No money shall be appropriated or drawn from the treasury for the benefit of any religious sect or society, theological or religious seminary; nor shall property belonging to the state be appropriated for any such purpose."

This same provision appears in Const 1963, art 1, § 4.

Pursuant to MCL 450.161; MSA 21.162, the trustees of a church corporation are empowered to take and hold property. While the constitution forbids the state from appropriating property for a religious purpose, it does not prohibit the state from contracting to lease property to a religious organization for valid consideration. A lease is a conveyance by the owner of an estate to another of a portion of his interest therein for a term less than his own for a valuable consideration, granting thereby to the lessee the possession, use and enjoyment of the portion conveyed during the period stipulated. *Minnis v Newbro-Gallogly Co*, 174 Mich 635, 639; 140 NW 980 (1913), *Royal Oak Wholesale Co v Ford*, 1 Mich App 463, 466; 136 NW2d 765 (1965), *lv den* 377 Mich 697 (1966). Consideration for an agreement exists where there is a benefit on one side or a detriment suffered, or services done, on the other. *Plastray Corp v Cole*, 324 Mich 433, 440; 37 NW2d 162 (1949). The consideration for a lease may be in services as well as in money. *Shaw v Hill*, 79 Mich 86, 89; 44 NW 422 (1889). An equal exchange of consideration is unnecessary and the court does not inquire into the adequacy of consideration. *Levitz v Capitol Savings & Loan Co*, 267 Mich 92, 97; 255 NW 166 (1934).

The lease agreement between plaintiff's predecessor and defendant board of trustees states that the lease was given for \$1 in consideration. The

ase further required the trustees to establish a camp for boys and girls to be run by the Westminster Church. The trustees incurred a substantial detriment by entering into the lease because they were required to expend monies to establish the camp. Furthermore, the trustees have provided a service to the State of Michigan by operating a camp which teaches the children of Michigan citizenship, character, and physical fitness. In this case, the lease agreement was based upon sufficient consideration and does not violate the provisions of Const 1908, art 2, § 3 or Const 1963, art 1, 4.

II

Plaintiff also argues that after the initial 50-year term the lease became a tenancy from year to year which was terminable at the will of the lessor as well as the lessee. Defendants counter by claiming that the "year to year [t]hereafter" provision makes the lease a perpetual lease. The provision for a perpetual renewal of a lease will be given effect and enforced in the absence of a prohibitory statute. *In re State Highway Comm'r*, 372 Mich 104, 109; 125 NW2d 482 (1963). However, the law does not favor perpetual leases, and this Court will not construe a lease as conferring a right to perpetual renewals unless the lease clearly provides for such renewals. *State Highway, supra*, 109, *Woud v Harley*, 215 Mich 234, 238; 183 NW 705 (1921), *Brush v Beecher*, 110 Mich 597, 602-603; 68 NW 420 (1896).

The disputed clause in this case reads, "* * * LEASE unto the said party of the second part [church trustees] * * * from year to year [t]hereafter for such time as the same [the property] shall

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be used for the purposes hereinafter set forth". It is well settled that the use of the phrase "from year to year" in a renewal clause does not give the lessee the right to perpetual renewals. *Waldrop v Siebert*, 286 Ala 106, 108-109; 237 So 2d 493 (1970). However, when that phrase is coupled with a provision which requires a positive act by the lessees, a right to perpetual renewals has been found. *President and Trustees of Ohio University v Athens Livestock Sales, Inc*, 115 Ohio App 21, 22-24; 179 NE2d 382 (1961). In this case, the renewal provision is coupled with the requirement that the land be used as a camp for boys and girls. By linking this requirement with the renewal provisions, the parties have demonstrated an intention to have the lease continue so long as the property is used as a camp for boys and girls. The trial court did not err when it found that the lease provision in question was a valid perpetual renewal clause.

Affirmed.

Lease
State of Michigan
To
The Westminster Church
of Detroit

1/2 of Lot One (1) & 1/2
1/2 of Lot Two (2)
Sec. 36-T. 25 N. R. 4 W

Dated Aug. 26. 1925
Period - Fifty (50) years
from date of Execution