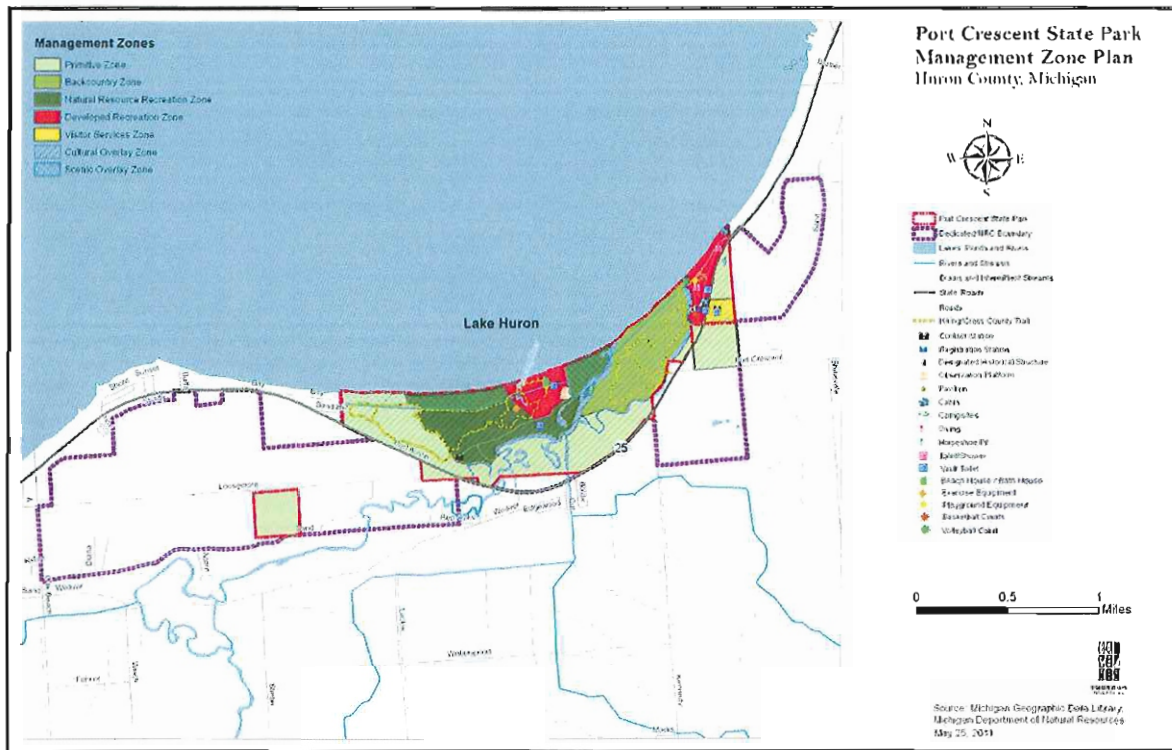


General Management Plan

Long-range management guidance focused on the specific natural resources, historic-cultural resources, recreation opportunities and the education-interpretation opportunities of...

Port Crescent State Park



This project was funded, in part, by the Michigan Coastal Management Program, Department of Natural Resources, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration U.S. Department of Commerce.

The project was directed by Paul N. Curtis, Management Plan Administrator Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation Division with assistance from Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.;



PLAN APPROVALS:

[Signature]
Chief, Parks & Recreation Division

[Signature]
Deputy Director, Natural Resources

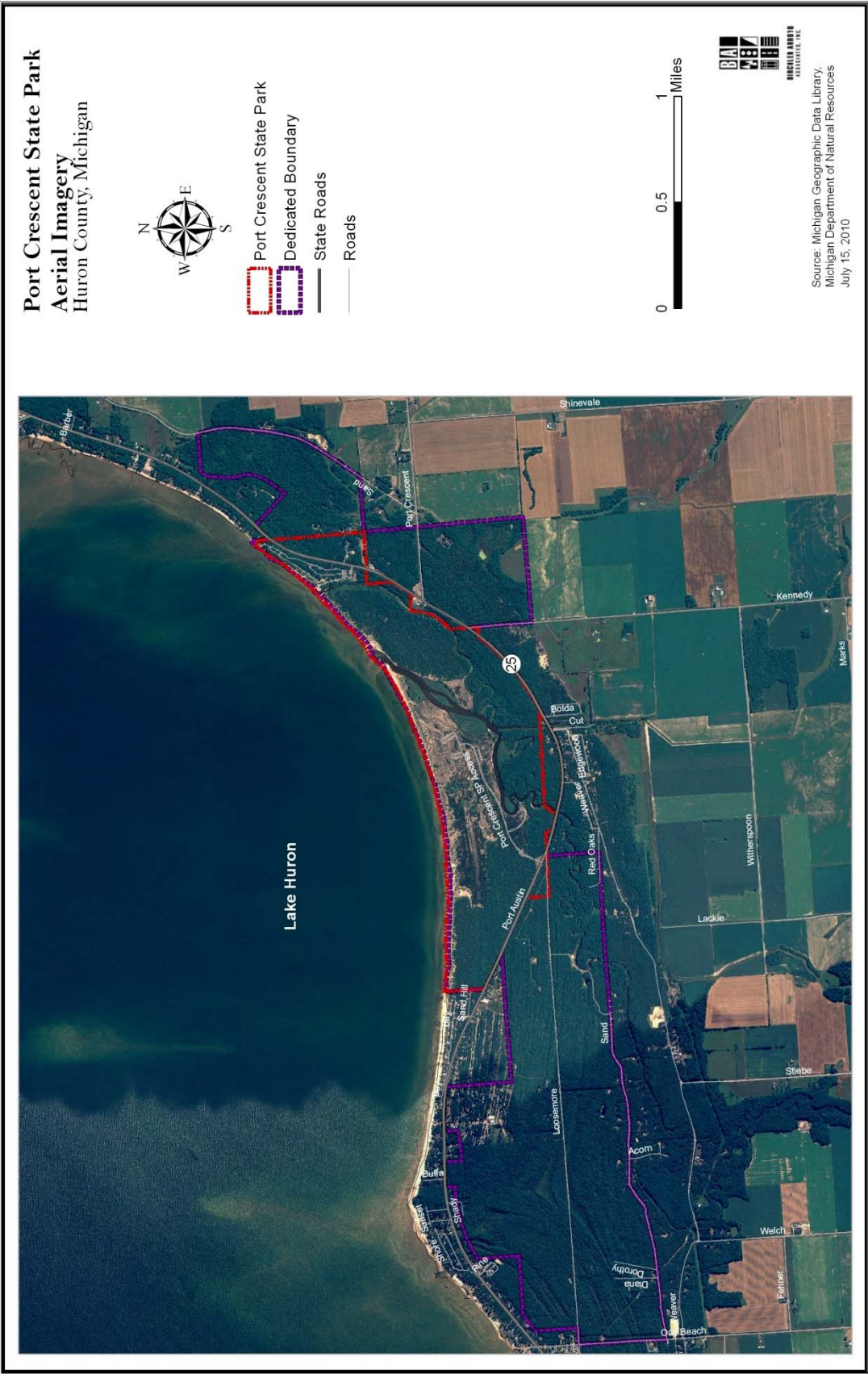
[Signature]
Director, Department of Natural Resources

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Date

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Date

[Signature]
Date





RESOLUTION NO. 08-2011-02

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE “PORT CRESCENT STATE PARK – PHASE 1 - GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN”

ADOPTED: AUGUST 11, 2011

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division has completed Phase 1 of the General Management Plan for Port Crescent 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 Port Crescent State Park; and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Port Crescent State Park – Phase 1 - General Management Plan; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee further recommends that the DNR Director approve the Phase 1 – General Management Plan for Port Crescent State Park; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the DNR Director’s approval, the Parks and Recreation Division initiate the Phase 2 – Long Range Action Goals Plan for Port Crescent State Park.

Submitted by: MSPAC Operations and Stewardship Subcommittee

Motioned by: Mike McDonald
Seconded by: Robert Hoffmeyer

Yeas: 7
Nays: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: 7

This Resolution was adopted by the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee at their August 11, 2011, meeting as Resolution No. 08-2011-02.

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Executive Summary

Port Crescent State Park (PCSP), with 727 acres, is located in Huron County, Michigan. The Phase I General Management Plan (GMP) process for PCSP was made possible, in part, by funding provided by the Michigan Coastal Management Program. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks & Recreation Division (PRD) oversaw the planning process. The endeavor represents a new planning philosophy of the PRD. "Management Planning," a comprehensive, resource-based process, is the PRD's adaptation of National Park Service planning methodology. During Phase 1, the GMP focuses on the four principles of the PRD Mission Statement: to acquire, preserve and protect; (1) natural resources, (2) cultural resources, (3) provide public recreation, and (4) provide educational opportunities. The process includes a thorough inventory of Port Crescent State Park's natural and historic/cultural resources, recreational opportunities and educational and interpretation opportunities.

With this base of knowledge and input of the Planning Team (made up of DNR staff, government officials, stakeholders and the public), the Core Values for PCSP were developed. PCSP was determined to be significant for the following reasons:

1. Port Crescent SP is an important historic resource to the area, with evidence of native inhabitants and European settlers. The park contains remnants of the Village of Port Crescent (European) significant to the mining and lumber eras, as well as a Native American presence near Pinnebog River and along the shoreline.
2. The Pinnebog River, planted with steelhead trout, flows through the park, changing the landscape, and featuring a broad and dynamic river mouth into Saginaw Bay. The river mouth area is natural, protected by the park from development. The river's watershed drains a large part of Huron County, including all or parts of 11 townships.
3. The park is an important stop for migrating songbirds and viewing location for migrating birds of prey.
4. The park features a significant wooded dune/swale complex and contains the largest dunes on the east side of Michigan.
5. Important flora in the park include a rare pitchers thistle population.
6. The park has 3-miles of shoreline along the Saginaw Bay/Lake Huron. It serves as a stop on the Tip of the Thumb heritage Water Trail and presents an opportunity to share the story of the role of the shoreline in Michigan's history.
7. The park is located in a region of small rural communities, providing a wide variety of recreation opportunities for residents and tourists, including camping, fishing,

hunting/trapping, swimming, picnicking, wildlife viewing and possibilities for ecotourism and agritourism.

8. The park is five miles from Village of Port Austin – a local destination for campers who visit the Farmers Market and for fishermen-campers who rely on the harbor's boat launch.

Considering the identity and significance of PCSP, the Planning Team, with stakeholder and public input, established appropriate Management Zones and their extent of influence on the property. From a palette of nine standard zones, seven were applied to PCSP. The Management Zone map and a thorough review of each Management Zone are found in Section 3 of this Plan. A condensed review of the Management Zones is as follows:

- ❑ Primitive Zone comprises 333 acres or 46% and will reflect a desired condition that emphasizes the natural resources. This zone preserves and protects the unique dune/swale complex found in this park.
- ❑ Backcountry Zone comprises 135 acres, or 19%, and emphasizes resource quality over recreation, but allows for modification of the landscape to allow for moderate levels of active recreation uses. The dune field east of the Pinnebog River, undisturbed by historical mining, is managed for values of this management zone.
- ❑ Natural Resource Recreation Zone comprises 172 acres, or 24%, and permits active recreation with moderate to high density of use conducted in a natural setting. This zone captures the dune field west of the river that was impacted by historical mining operations.
- ❑ Developed Recreation Zone, comprises 75 acres, or 10%, and 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 enhanced as possible. The campground area will be in this zone.
- ❑ Visitor Services Zone comprises 12 acres, or 2%, and encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. This zone includes the office, contact station, and maintenance facilities that support the business of running a state park. The current administrative and maintenance offices for the park will be in the Visitor Services Zone.
- ❑ Cultural Overlay Zone covers 688 acres, or 95%, and addresses the overall setting in which is found not only historic structures, but non-structural evidence of the traditions, beliefs, practices, lifeways, arts, crafts and social institutions of any community. The underlying management zones will still apply. Historic timber, sand mining, and Native American influence all along the Saginaw Bay support the designation of this zone.
- ❑ Scenic Overlay Zone comprises 114 acres, or 16%, and recognizes that there are aesthetic qualities to be preserved and protected in the Park. This zone recognizes the scenic value of the lakeshore and a portion of the river channel. The underlying management zones and cultural overlay zone also apply.

1.0 Plan Process Overview

A General Management Plan (GMP) guides the management of resources, visitor use, and general development at Port Crescent over a 20-year horizon. The GMP provides the foundation for protecting park resources while providing for meaningful visitor experiences. The long-range vision and management objectives for the park are derived from applicable legal directives, the purpose of the park, and the park's significant natural and cultural resources.

The GMP process for Port Crescent was made possible, in part, by funding provided by the Michigan Coastal Management Program, Department of Natural Resources and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration U.S. Department of Commerce. The Department of Natural Resources Parks & Recreation Division (PRD) oversaw the process and development of the Plan for the Park. A major component of the planning process was to ensure that extensive input was sought from DNR professionals, community groups, stakeholders and the general public throughout the development of the plan.

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

- ◆ **Phase 1.** General Management Plan (GMP) that presents long-range goals (20-year).
- ◆ **Phase 2.** Long-range Action Goals Plan that identifies 10-year action strategies to attain the GMP (requires review of Phase 1)
- ◆ **Phase 3.** Five-Year Implementation Plan, which outlines specific actions to implement (requires review of Phase 1 and Phase 2)
- ◆ **Phase 4.** Annual Action Plan and Progress Report to answer what will be done this year, and what progress was made on last year's plan.

This Plan represents **Phase I**. In this phase of planning, a 20-year vision for the park is defined, and critical questions are answered, such as: What will be the condition of flora and fauna? How will we address historic and cultural resources? What recreational opportunities could be provided? What education and interpretation efforts will meet the visitor? What will guide the manager's operational decisions? What will be the visitor's overall experience?

Phase I determines management zones, and describes a variety of activities that may be appropriate within each zone. Phase I does not determine specific uses. Identifying specific uses within each management zone is a function of Phase 2. Management Plans do not guarantee future PRD funding to achieve them. PRD will seek internal funding, alternative funding sources, partnerships and other potential mechanisms for implementing the desired future conditions defined in this plan.

The tool used by this plan is the designation of "Management zones." Management zones define specific characteristics of the land, addressing management for:

- ◆ Natural features
- ◆ Historic/cultural features
- ◆ Education/interpretation
- ◆ Recreational opportunities

These four elements represent the primary goals of the PRD Mission Statement, and provide guidance for both planning and management decisions. Appendix A presents a detailed account of each of these elements. In addition, management zones prescribe values for:

- ◆ Visitor experience
- ◆ Management Focus
- ◆ Development

Within the parameters of this guidance, “Purpose” and “Significance” statements are developed for the park that establish its unique identity and focus. No two parks are the same and emphasis is directed at ensuring that the differences found from park to park are acknowledged, highlighted and celebrated.

1.1 Planning Objectives

The objective of this General Management Plan was to bring together Parks & Recreation Division staff, stakeholders, and the public who use the park into a planning process that will define and clarify the unique “Purpose” and “Significance” of Port Crescent SP. Collectively, those attributes will be reinforced in the planning and management decisions that impact the park through the implementation of the Management Zone Plan. Future action plans, whether focused on a development proposal, a resource improvement initiative, an interpretive program, or day-to-day management of the park will be guided by this General Management Plan.

Extensive input was sought throughout the planning process. The Planning Team met several times to review, develop, and comment on the plan elements (see Section 1.2). In addition, the DNR hosted a stakeholder workshop and a public participation workshop. Both the stakeholder and public participation workshops involved solicited written and verbal comments. The draft plan was available for review on a website and the public was invited to email, call or mail questions or comments concerning this initiative. The results of the public participation program are provided in Attachment B.

1.2 Planning Team

Accomplishment of our planning objectives was and is dependent upon the valuable input provided by all members of the “Planning Team”. The names of listed below are those who were critical participants in this planning process. Agendas, meeting minutes and attendance at Planning Team meetings is provided in Appendix C.

DNR STAFF

Paul N. Curtis	PRD	Project Manager
Ray Fahlsing	PRD	Stewardship Program Manager
Glenn Palmgren	PRD	Stewardship Ecologist
Lisa Gamero	PRD	Stewardship Cultural Specialist
Bob Clancy	PRD	Stewardship Ecological Restoration Specialist
Carl Lindell	PRD	District Supervisor
Kristen Bennett	PRD	District Planner
Elizabeth Kish	PRD	Park Manager
George Lauinger	PRD	Park Manager
James Baker	FD	Fisheries Unit Manager
Kathrin Schrouder	FD	Fisheries Biologist
Bruce Miller	FMD	Area Fire Supervisor
Tom Hoane	FMD	Geologist
Arnie Karr	WD	Wildlife Biologist
Don Bonnette	WD	Wildlife Technician
T. Scott Brown	LED	Conservation Officer

Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)

Dean Anderson	Archeologist
Wayne Lusardi	Marine Archeologist

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

Charmaine Benz	Tribal Council
Marcella Hadden	Public Relations Rep
Willie Johnson	Ziibiwing Center
Bonnie Ekdahl	Ziibiwing Center

Michigan Archeological Society

Don Simons

Consultants

David Birchler, Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.
Jill Bahm, Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.

1.3 Management Plan Planning Process

In 2009, Parks & Recreation Division of the DNR received a federal grant from the Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM) for the purpose of developing an individual long-range Management Plan for Port Crescent State Park. Without the CZM grant, insufficient resources in staff or funding would have precluded these planning efforts.

Management Planning is a defined strategic process within the Parks & Recreation Division Strategic Plan (2009), reflecting the following Goals and Objectives:

- Goal 1, Objective 1.2: Strengthen, update, and implement Management Plans.
- Goal 3, Objective 3.1: Perform landscape level assessment of recreation opportunities in decision making.
- Goal 8, Objective 8.1: Continue to use the MSPAC (Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee), MSWC (Michigan State Waterways Commission), NRC (Natural Resources Commission), SWC (Statewide Council), and Ecoregion Teams and partners to advise in Parks & Recreation Division planning, policy development, and issue resolution.

2.0 Core Values

2.1 Mission Statements

Guidance for the General Management Plan stems from the Mission Statements of the Department and its Parks & Recreation Division, and the Purpose and Significance Statements that have evolved through the planning process. The core values found in these statements must be reflected in this long-range General Management Plan for Port Crescent State Park, and subsequently reflected in any shorter range action plans:

DNR Mission Statement

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

PRD Mission Statement

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

The core values derived from the statements are that PRD will acquire, preserve, and protect; (1) natural resources, (2) cultural resources, (3) provide public recreation, and (4) provide educational opportunities.

2.2 Park Purpose

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

1. To be used as a public park, pursuant to the intentions of the park being created in September 1959.
2. To Preserve and protect Port Crescent State Park's unique natural resources for current and future generations.
3. To provide diverse recreational opportunities to nearby populations.
4. To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflect the DNR mission and the unique qualities of Port Crescent State Park

2.3 Park Significance

Park Significance statements capture the essence of the park's importance to our state's natural and cultural heritage. These statements demonstrate the distinctiveness of Port Crescent SP. Understanding the park's significance helps managers make decisions that preserve those resources and values necessary to accomplish the park's purpose.

1. Port Crescent SP is an important historic resource to the area, with evidence of native inhabitants and European settlers. The park contains remnants of the Village of Port Crescent (European) significant to the mining and lumber eras, as well as a Native American presence near Pinnebog River and along the shoreline.
2. The Pinnebog River, planted with steelhead trout, flows through the park, changing the landscape, and featuring a broad and dynamic river mouth into Saginaw Bay. The river mouth area is natural, protected by the park from development. The river's watershed drains a large part of Huron County, including all or parts of 11 townships.
3. The park is part of a migration corridor and is a key viewing location for migrating songbirds, waterfowl and birds of prey.
4. The park features a significant wooded dune/swale complex and contains the largest dunes on the east side of Michigan.
5. Important flora in the park include a rare population of Pitcher's thistle.
6. The park has 3-miles of shoreline along the Saginaw Bay/Lake Huron. It serves as a stop on the Tip of the Thumb heritage Water Trail and presents an opportunity to share the story of the role of the shoreline in Michigan's history.
7. The park is located in a region of small rural communities, providing a wide variety of recreation opportunities for residents and tourists, including camping, fishing, hunting/trapping, swimming, picnicking, wildlife viewing and possibilities for ecotourism and agritourism.
8. The park is five miles from the Village of Port Austin – a local destination for campers who visit the Farmers Market and for fishermen-campers who rely on the harbor's boat launch.

2.4 Legal Mandates

For all park General Management Plans, all legal mandates will be identified and will serve to further guide the development of the General Management Plan and subsequent Action Plans. For our planning purposes, the term "Legal Mandates" refers to not only state law, but also the administrative tools of "Policy" and "Directive" of the Natural Resource Commission, the Department, and the Parks & Recreation Division. Examples include Wildlife Conservation Orders, Orders of the Director, and all other laws, commission orders, and rules or directives that apply to the park. Specific to Port Crescent SP, the following legal mandates have been identified:

PA 451 OF 1994, PART 741 - STATE PARK SYSTEM - NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT - This act is the recodification of law that established the Michigan State Park System and defined the powers and duties of same.

Notable in this law is Section 324.74102 which identifies the duties of the department and reinforces those core values cited above.

This section reads:

(1) "The legislature finds:

- Michigan State Parks preserve and protect Michigan's significant natural and historic resources.
- Michigan State Parks are appropriate and uniquely suited to provide opportunities to learn about protection and management of Michigan's natural resources.
- Michigan State Parks are an important component of Michigan's tourism industry and vital to local economies.
- 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 need to protect and manage those resources."

PA 451 of 1994, PART 303 - WETLANDS PROTECTION (formerly Act No. 203, P.A. 1979 Wetland Protection Act) Administered by the DNR. In 1979, the Michigan legislature passed the Geomare-Anderson Wetlands Protection Act, 1979 PA 203, which is now Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. The DNR has adopted administrative rules which provide clarification and guidance on interpreting Part 303. Some wetlands in coastal areas are given further protection under Part 323, Shorelands Protection and Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.

In accordance with Part 303, wetlands are regulated if they are any of the following:

- Connected to one of the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair.
- Located within 1,000 feet of one of the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair.
- Connected to an inland lake, pond, river, or stream.
- Located within 500 feet of an inland lake, pond, river or stream.
- Not connected to one of the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair, or an inland lake, pond, stream, or river, but are more than 5 acres in size.
- Not connected to one of the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair, or an inland lake, pond, stream, or river, and less than 5 acres in size, but the DEQ has determined that these wetlands are essential to the preservation of the state's natural resources and has notified the property owner.

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

- Deposit or permit the placing of fill material in a wetland.
- Dredge, remove, or permit the removal of soil or minerals from a wetland.
- Construct, operate, or maintain any use or development in a wetland.
- Drain surface water from a wetland. Michigan's wetland statute, Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA

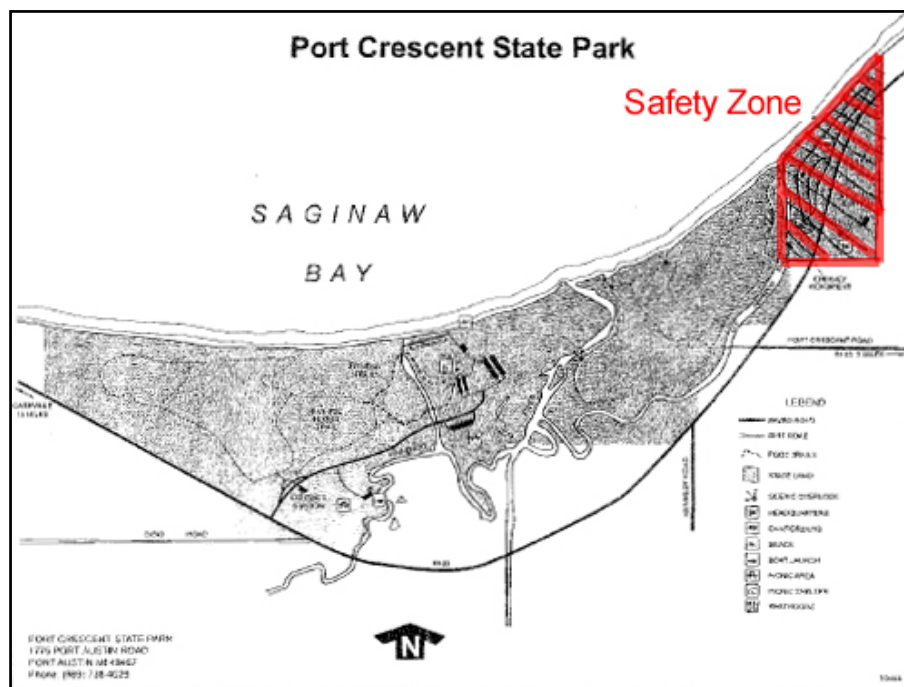
451, as amended, defines a wetland as "land characterized by the presence of water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances does support, wetland vegetation or aquatic life, and is commonly referred to as a bog, swamp, or marsh." The definition applies to public and private lands regardless of zoning or ownership.

PA 451 of 1994, PART 323 - SHORELANDS PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT (formerly Act No. 245, P.A. 1970 Shorelands Protection and Management Act)

Administered by the DNR, Part 323 is the key state statute providing consumer protection from the natural hazards of coastal erosion and flooding as well as environmental protection of our fragile coastal areas. Part 323 is closely integrated with Part 325, the Great Lakes Submerged Lands program and the Coastal Management Program which includes Part 353, Sand Dunes Management, as well as grants to state and local units of government.

PA 451 OF 1994, PART 419 - HUNTING AREA CONTROL. Administered by the DNR. Regulation and prohibitions in certain areas; powers of department; area closures; hearings, investigations, studies, and statement of facts; regulations. This part of PA 451 establishes the powers of the Department to establish safety zones for hunting. In accordance with the Administrative Rules established by Wildlife Division for hunting safety, a 450' "Safety Zone" is established around all occupied dwellings (which includes campgrounds). Under the State Land Rules, the Department also has the authority to expand the application of this 450' "Safety Zone" to encompass "Day-Use Areas" such as beaches, picnic areas, boat launches, and parking areas, should the need arise. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.

At Port Crescent State Park, the Hunting Safety Zones are represented below.



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. The DNR's authority is derived from the state Legislature and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). In Michigan the list of game species is established by the State Legislature. Hunting

and trapping regulations including methods of take, bag limits, license quotas, and season dates are established by the NRC and are described in the Wildlife Conservation Orders.

Sec. 3.412. The early September season for taking Canada geese shall be September 1 to September 15 in the Lower Peninsula and September 1 to September 10 in the Upper Peninsula, except as follows:

(7) Except as otherwise provided, all or portions of the following state parks, as described in chapter VII, shall be open from September 1 to September 10:

(a) Port Crescent State Park.

(b) Sleeper State Park.

Sec 7.31. Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during the established seasons on all state-owned lands within the dedicated boundary of Port Crescent State Park in sections 3 and 8 to 10, T18N R12E, except for that portion bounded by a line beginning at a point on the east fractional line of section 3, T18N R12E, at the water's edge of Saginaw bay; then southerly along the east line of section 3 including the most southern portion of section 3 south of highway M-25; then south along the northeast corner of section 10 to the property line; then westerly along the property line crossing highway M-25 and up to the Old Pinnebog river channel; then northerly along a line 50 feet easterly of the bank of the channel to the water's edge of Saginaw Bay; then along the water's edge of Saginaw Bay to the point of beginning. History: Eff. Mar. 31, 1989; Am. 12, 2007, Eff. July 13, 2007.

PA 451 OF 1994, PART 504 - STATE LAND USE RULES / LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR. Administered by DNR Law Division. 324.504 Department of Natural Resources; rules for protection of lands and property; certain rules prohibited; orders; violation as civil infraction; fine. The department shall promulgate rules for the protection of the lands and property under its control against wrongful use or occupancy as will ensure the carrying out of the intent of this part to protect the lands and property from depredations and to preserve the lands and property from molestation, spoliation, destruction, or any other improper use or occupancy.

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

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

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

This act amended the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code to provide for a State Park and State-operated public boating access site "Recreation Passport" that a Michigan resident may obtain by paying an additional fee when registering a motor vehicle. The Recreation Passport is required for entry into all PRD administered facilities and takes the place of the Motor Vehicle Permit (MVP) previously required to be displayed on the windshield.

PA 368 OF 1978, ARTICLE 12 - ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PART 125 – CAMPGROUNDS – Part 125 of the Public Health Code was established to protect and promote the public health by establishing health code requirements specifically addressing campgrounds. The DNR Drinking Water and Radiological Protection Division is the administering agency that is responsible for the promulgation of the Administrative Rules for Campgrounds. All public (including DNR) and private campgrounds must meet these regulations. Huron County annually inspects the campground.

PA 451 of 1994, PART 22 Campground Wastewater Systems, as amended, took effect on August 26, 1999. These rules apply to all campground wastewater systems. The Water Division, Permit Section Groundwater Discharge Unit administers these rules. The Part 22 rules regulate discharges to groundwater. “Discharge” is broadly defined to encompass the direct or indirect discharge of a waste, wastewater, or pollutant to the ground or groundwater. The terms “waste” or “wastewater” are broadly defined. Both specifically reference sewage. The rules provide that a “person” may discharge provided the requirements of the Part 22 Rules are met.

PA 368 of Michigan’s Public Health Code, as amended, and the administrative rules adopted pursuant to the code, also contains standards and requirements for campground wastewater systems. The reader should recognize that a campground wastewater system must also meet the construction permit, design, and operation requirements under Michigan’s Public Health Code.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, including Storm Water Runoff Discharge Authorization. The purpose of this permit is to control the discharge of pollutants into surface waters of the state to protect the environment. A permit is needed for any discharge of waste, waste effluent, or certain categories of storm water runoff into surface water, including wastewater stabilization lagoon effluent. Discharge permits must regulate discharges consistent with federal effluent limitation guidelines and other requirements of federal law and state water quality standards. The Water Division within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has responsibility for processing NPDES permits under the authority of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and Part 31 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. Port Crescent discharges into the Ahearn Drain. Currently there are permit questions regarding the level of phosphorus discharge.

DEDICATED BOUNDARIES - The Natural Resources Commission reviewed and rededicated boundary changes for Port Crescent State Park in 2004.

ROADS: M-25, also called Port Austin Road, is the entrance road to the park, and it also skirts around the park to provide access to a second contact station. M-25 is a state road.

R.O.W. FOR STATE HIGHWAYS

The Michigan Department of Transportation is responsible for maintenance on all state roads in Huron County. There is a 100-foot right of way along M-25. MDOT has the responsibility for managing the department’s Statewide Right-of-Way boundaries pursuant to Act 200 of 1969 (Driveway, Banner and Parade act), 368 of 1925 (Encroachment Act) and 106 of 1972 (Highway Advertising Act, Section 252.311a Vegetation Removal).

LEASE AGREEMENTS - None currently

EASEMENTS

DTE Electric owns a transmission line going through the park in an east-west direction. Consumers Energy Corporation owns a natural gas line going through the park. There is a telephone line connected to the headquarters building.

OTHER RIGHTS - None currently

ENCUMBRANCES UNDER GRANTS. Port Crescent State Park is encumbered under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program with the National Park Service. This land must be kept in public outdoor recreation in perpetuity.

OTHER FORMAL AGREEMENTS - None currently

INFORMAL AGREEMENTS

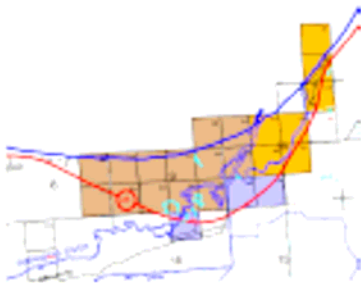
Snowmobiles are banned in the park, but campers can bring snowmobiles for access onto the frozen Saginaw Bay

RECURRING USE PERMITS - None currently

DOCUMENTED PUBLIC CONCERNS - None currently

LAND FUNDING SOURCES:

Fund Source Map



Fund Source Legend

FUND CATEGORY	
	Dingell Johnson
	Game And Fish
	Gift
	MNRTF
	Pittman Robertson
	Special Legislation
	State Game Fund
	Other Funds
	Multiple Funds

The following descriptions relate to the above fund source map and legend for Port Crescent SP. Those lands were acquired by the state through a variety of funding sources and/or transactions. Often, conditions attached to the original funding source or other details of the property transaction encumber the future use or disposition of the land.

Special Legislation

Acquisitions for park purposes through this source are tied to specific funding established by the legislature.

Other Funds

Included in this category are "General Fund," defined as properties that were purchased with monies from the state's general fund, and not associated with a specific revenue stream or bond program. Also included in this category are "Exchanges." These land transactions result in acquisition of lands in return for disposition of land to the offering party.

Another fund source represented in this category is the “Recreation Bond Fund.” This fund was established in 1988 and operates under Parts 196 and 715 of P.A. 451 of 1994, as amended. The fund was created from the proceeds and investment earnings of a bond package approved by the voters in November 1988 to finance state and local public recreation projects.

Multiple Funds

Often, more than one funding source is designated for successful completion of a real estate transaction. In those cases, this ‘Fund Source’ designation is made. Specific information for these must be investigated on a case-by-case basis.

2.5 Studies, Reports, and Special Management Teams

Saginaw Bay Water Quality Concerns. 1989

This report was prepared by the Institute of Water Research at Michigan State University and is a summary of historic reports and studies focusing on Saginaw Bay. Most involve water quality, as well as physical and biological elements.

3.0 Management Zones

With guidance of the Planning Team and input from the park's stakeholders and the public, the "Purpose and Significance" statements were formulated for Port Crescent State Park. This established an identity for Port Crescent SP as a place to be valued for its unique natural features, Lake Huron access, recreational trails, and opportunity for natural resources education.

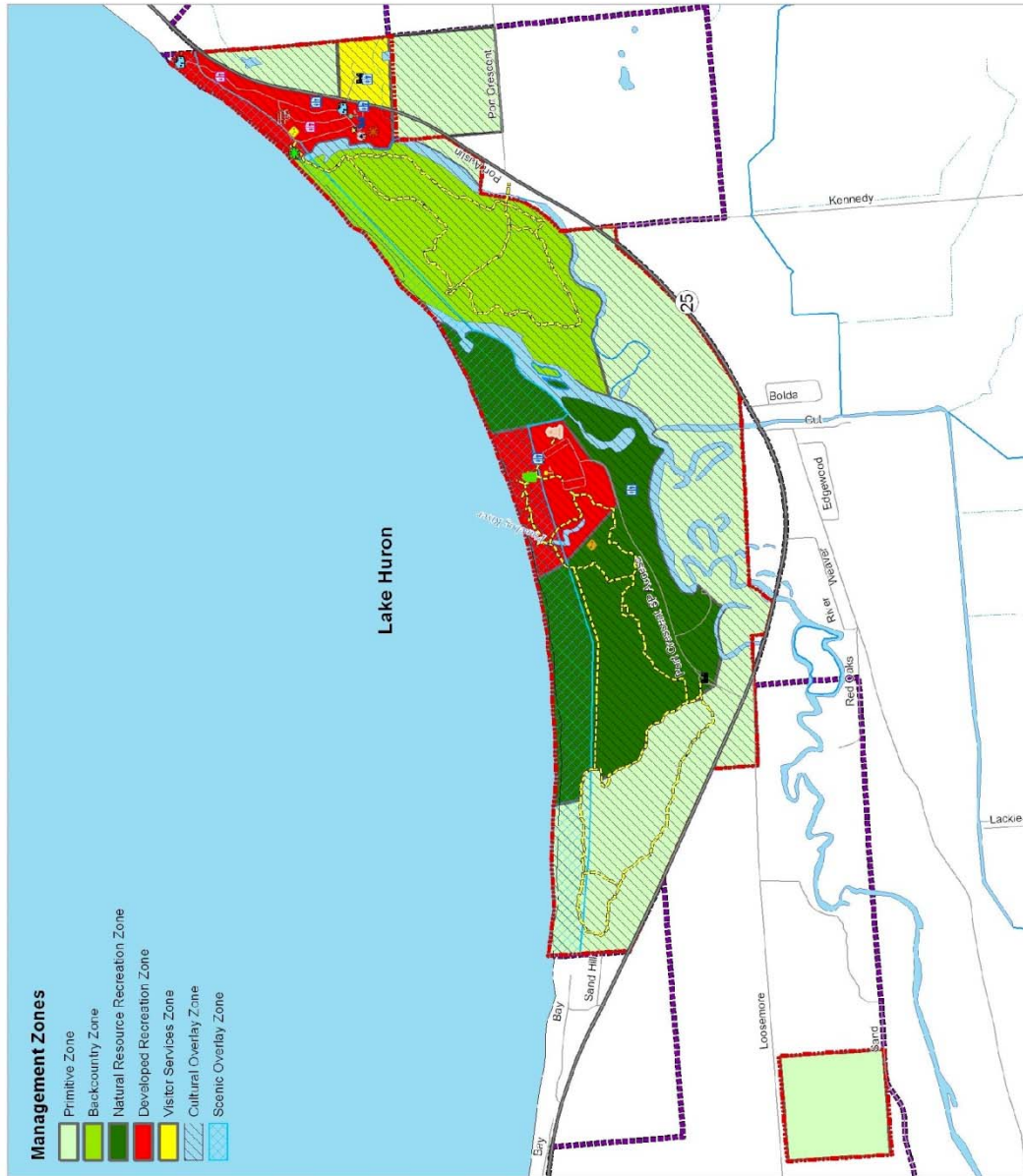
The Management Zone Plan, was developed in keeping with the park's unique Identity. Similar to the Purpose and Significance statements, the Management Zone Plan was also drafted with Planning Team, stakeholder and public support. The Management Zone Plan seeks to preserve and protect the park's natural resources, while creating opportunities for recreation, education and interpretation. To achieve this, the 727-acre park was divided into the following zones:

- ❑ Primitive Zone comprises 333 acres (46%) and reflects a desired condition that emphasizes the natural resources. Land is managed to only allow dispersed and low frequency use for low impact recreational purposes. Attaining and maintaining a high quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements or uses are allowed. This zone preserves and protects the unique dune/swale complex found in this park.
- ❑ Backcountry Zone comprises 135 acres (19%) and emphasizes resource quality over recreation, but allows for modification of the landscape to allow for moderate levels of active recreation uses. The dune field east of the Pinnebog River, undisturbed by historical mining, is managed for values of this management zone
- ❑ Natural Resource Recreation Zone comprises 172 acres (24%) and permits active recreation with moderate to high density of use conducted in a natural setting. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but higher levels of uses are allowed. This zone captures the dune field west of the river that was impacted by historical mining operations.
- ❑ Developed Recreation Zone comprises 75 acres (10%) and 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 enhanced as possible. The campground and migratory bird viewing areas will be in the DR zone.

This is Phase I of the General Management Plan for Port Crescent State Park. Phase I determines management zones for the parkland. Management zones describe a variety of activities that **may be** appropriate within that zone. Identifying specific activities that **will occur** is a function of Phase 2 general management planning, and not a component of this phase.

- ❑ Visitor Services Zone comprises 12 acres (2%) and encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. This zone will include the park office, contact station, maintenance facilities and all related land required to conduct the business of running a state park.
- ❑ Cultural Overlay Zone comprises 688 acres (95%) (which excludes the parcel on Loosemore Road) and recognizes the cultural significance of the entire park, due to its archeological and historic resources. The underlying management zone will apply. Historic timber, sand mining, and Native American influence all along the Saginaw Bay support the designation of this zone.
- ❑ Scenic Zone (overlay) comprises 114 acres (16%) and recognizes that there are aesthetic qualities to be preserved and protected in the park. Examples in Port Crescent State Park include the lake views.
- ❑ Proposed Future Expansion: The Planning Team recommends acquisition of those properties within the Dedicated NRC Boundary, as illustrated. The team also recommends acquisition of property within this expanded boundary as it becomes available and funding allows (Note: acquisition is only made on a willing seller basis).

Port Crescent State Park Management Zone Plan Huron County, Michigan



3.1 Primitive Zone

Approximately 333 acres, 46%, of the land comprising Port Crescent State Park is designated Primitive Zone. Only foot traffic would be allowed in this zone to ensure that the natural features are not damaged or compromised by recreation. This zone preserves and protects the unique dune/swale complex found in this park.

- A. Natural Resources. This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. The management zone plan promotes the on-going maintenance and enhancement of these natural resources to ensure their success in the long-term. Native species and natural processes would take precedence over visitor accommodation.
- B. Historic / Cultural Resources. There are no known historic structures in this zone, but both historic and prehistoric resources are present, and management and interpretation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- C. Recreational Opportunities. With the focus of this zone being preservation, protection and enhancement of the natural communities present within the zone, recreational opportunities are limited to low-intensity uses. Any uses must be dispersed, low intensity, off-trail or trail, self-reliant, outdoor activities. Activities that could occur in this zone are hiking, back-packing, hunting/trapping/fishing, primitive (designated sites) camping, cross-country skiing, nature observation.
- D. Education Opportunities. The ecological significance of the resources in the park, including dune swales, presents a tremendous educational opportunity. Information can be relayed through the use of kiosks at trailheads and interpretive signage along trails and other appropriate locations.
- E. Visitor Experience. Visitor experience would reflect a high degree of natural feel: a significant sense of solitude, and a lack of man-made improvements. There would be low interaction with others.
- F. Management Focus. Management would focus on maintaining the low-impact character of the zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality. Routine maintenance would be provided. Care would be taken to eliminate any detrimental impacts such as incursion of invasive species. Vegetation will be protected from human predation.
- G. Development. The focus is to maintain as little evidence of human activity as possible. Trail improvements, which can include boardwalks and/or overlooks, will be considered.

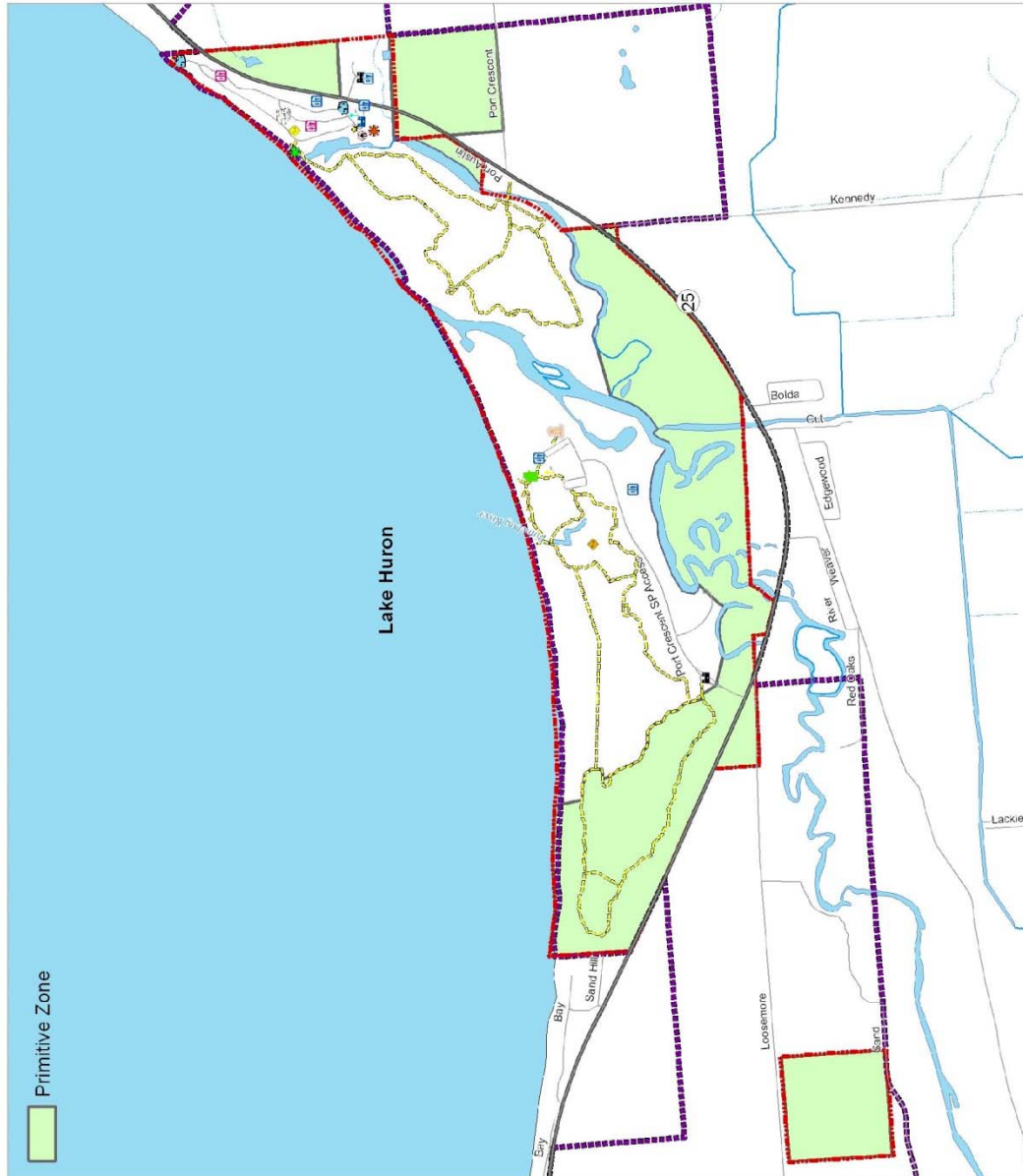
Port Crescent State Park Primitive Management Zones Huron County, Michigan



- Port Crescent State Park
- Dedicated NRC Boundary
- Lakes, Ponds and Rivers
- Rivers and Streams
- Drains and Intermittent Streams
- State Roads
- Roads
- Hilling/Cross County Trail
- Contact Station
- Registration Station
- Designated Historical Structure
- Observation Platform
- Pavilion
- Cabin
- Campsites
- Swing
- Horseshoe Pit
- Toilet/Shower
- Vault Toilet
- Beach House / Bath House
- Exercise Equipment
- Playground Equipment
- Basketball Courts
- Volleyball Court



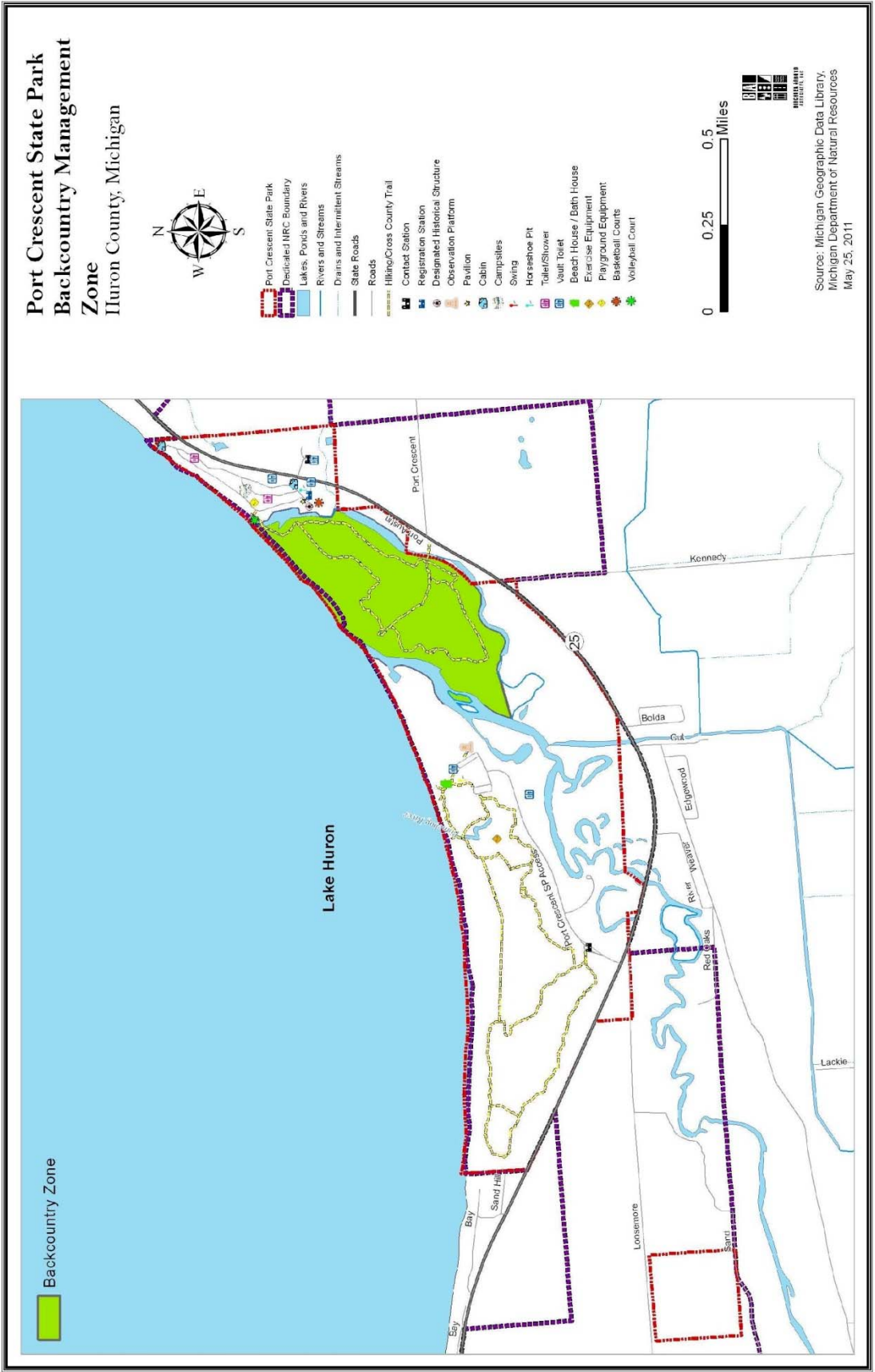
Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library,
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
May 25, 2011



3.2 Backcountry Zone

Approximately 135 acres (19%) of PCSP will be designated Backcountry Zone. Most of this area is the undisturbed dune area in the eastern portion of the park. The undisturbed (by mining) dune field east of the Pinnebog River, is managed for values of this zone.

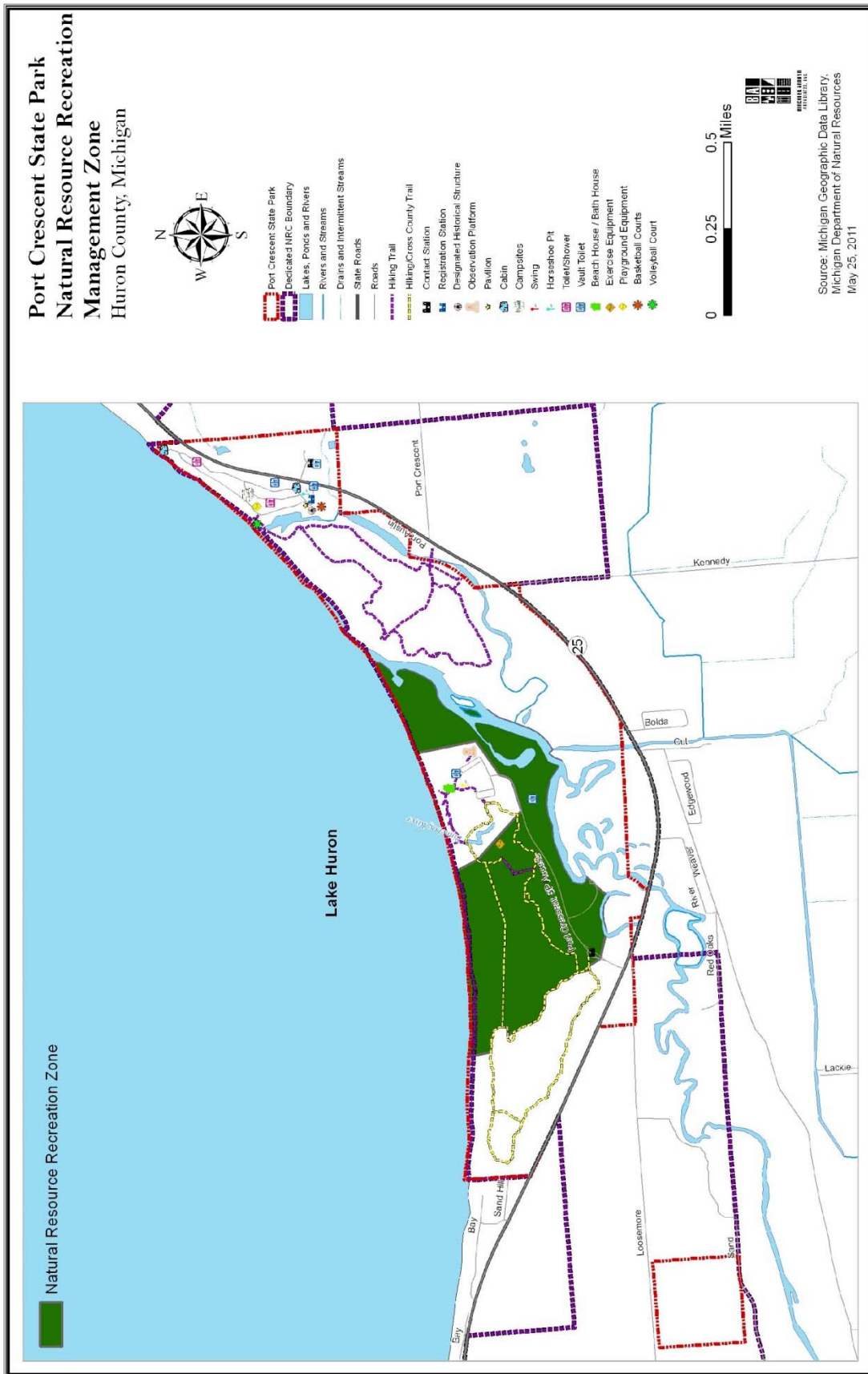
- A. Natural Resources. This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Within the Backcountry Zone, natural resources may be modified slightly to support visitor use, but the tolerance for natural resource impacts is low.
- B. Historic / Cultural Resources. There are known remnants of the former Village of Port Crescent in this zone. These resources could be preserved, rehabilitated, removed or allowed to waste away. Historic structures could be used for interpretive or educational purposes.
- C. Recreational Opportunities. Moderate levels of recreation are allowed in the Backcountry Zone, provided the activities are compatible with the natural character. Non-motorized outdoor activities could be permitted, including hiking, backpacking, backcountry camping, canoeing, kayaking, nature observation, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and hunting/trapping/fishing. The primary use in this zone is the hiking trail.
- D. Education Opportunities. Similar to the Primitive Zone, the Backcountry Zone offers a great opportunity to communicate the site's unique and regional significance, specifically, the former Village of Port Crescent. Information can be relayed through the use of kiosks at trailheads and interpretive signage along trails and other appropriate locations.
- E. Visitor Experience. A moderate level of visitor encounters can be accommodated in the Backcountry Zone. Visitors will engage in self-reliant, non-motorized outdoor activities that may require a fairly high time commitment. Low noise tolerance and low interaction with others can be expected.
- F. Management Focus. Management will focus on maintaining the low-impact character of the zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality. Routine maintenance, including maintenance for trails or access routes, will be provided. Care will be taken to eliminate any detrimental impacts such as incursion of invasive species.
- G. Development. A low level of development is allowed to support visitor access to activities offered in the zone. Development would be unobtrusive and blend in with the natural environment.



3.3 Natural Resource Recreation Zone

172 acres (24%), of Port Crescent State Park is designated Natural Resource Recreation (NRR) and is located in most of the central part of the park. This zone captures the dune field west of the river that was impacted by historical mining operations

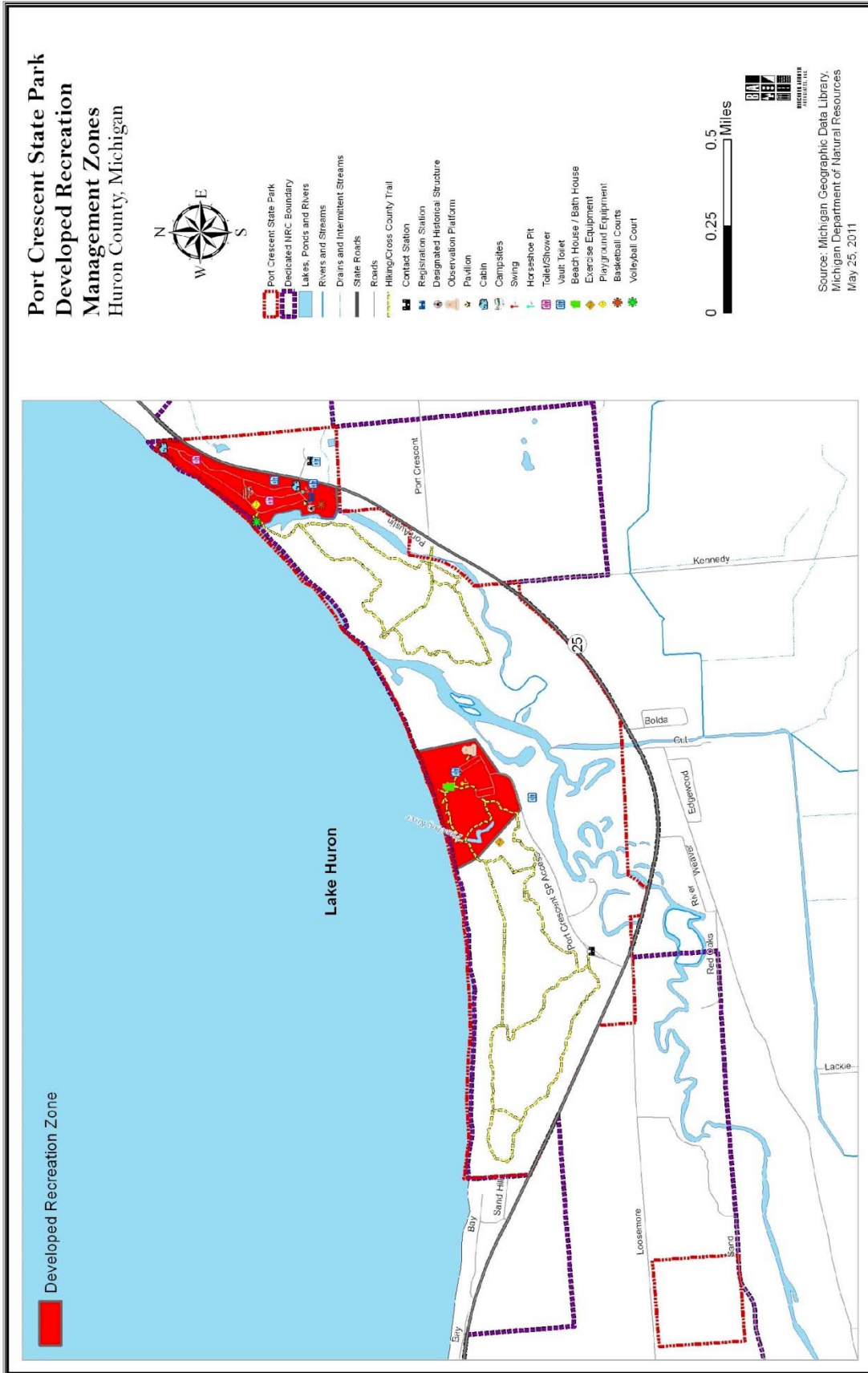
- A. Natural Resources. This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes, to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Vegetation may be managed for soil stabilization, for recreational use, and to maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape. This zone is a dune complex and will be managed for those resources.
- B. Historic / Cultural Resources. Resources in this zone could be preserved, rehabilitated, removed or allowed to waste away. Historic structures could be used for interpretive or educational purposes.
- C. Recreational Opportunities. Moderate to high levels of recreation will be permitted in this zone only. This will accommodate visitors engaged in activities including hiking, bicycling, birding, hunting, trapping, fishing, and nature viewing. The designated beach, shelter, trails, fishing pier, and bird observation deck are all found in this zone.
- D. Education Opportunities. Information can be relayed through the use of kiosks or interpretive signage at trailheads, along trails or overlooks. Information on the dunes and birds/bird migration would be the focus here.
- E. Visitor Experience. Moderate to high visitor encounters are accommodated in the Natural Resource Recreation Zone. Activities for visitors may offer a variable time commitment, challenge and adventure. Moderate noise tolerance and moderate interaction with others can be expected.
- F. Management Focus. Management focuses on maintaining the use of the zone appropriate to the PRD's mission. Public safety, protection of resources, and universal access are management priorities.
- G. Development. A moderate level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities is permitted in this zone. Examples of development include walkways and parking, trails, benches, and picnic tables. Site hardening is allowed as necessary to facilitate activities and protect natural resources.



3.4 Developed Recreation Zone

Approximately 75 acres, (10%), of Port Crescent State Park is designated Developed Recreation (DR). Land in this zone is mainly comprised of the campground, Lake Huron day-use beach, and the observation platform/trails and associated parking areas.

- A. Natural Resources. Vegetative management in this zone will address hazard trees, invasive species, and pests and disease, and will also be allowed for purposes of facilitating
- B. development and recreational use and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape. Natural resources are actively managed and modified to support visitor activities. Water quality is maintained or restored.
- C. Historic / Cultural Resources. Resources in this zone could be preserved, adapted or rehabilitated. Non-utilized or non-stabilized structures are removed.
- D. Recreational Opportunities. High levels of recreation in a highly structured environment are found in this zone. Visitors engage in recreation activities in diverse and modified land and water settings: hiking, modern and semi-modern camping, bicycling, boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, nature observation, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, day-use beach, picnicking, and other day-use activities. There is a hunting safety zone for the campground portion of this zone.
- E. Education Opportunities. Interpretive signage and information could be provided at the campground, registration building, trailheads, and/or along trails and overlooks.
- F. Visitor Experience. A high level of visitor encounters can be accommodated. Activities for visitors to engage in could offer a variable time commitment, challenge and adventure. Moderate noise tolerance and moderate to high interaction with others can be expected.
- G. Management Focus. Management focuses on maintaining the use of the zone appropriate to the PRD's mission. Public safety, protection of resources, and universal access are management priorities.
- H. Development. A high level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities is permitted in this zone. Examples of development include restrooms, concrete/asphalt/gravel walkways and parking, observation platforms, trails, benches, picnic tables, rustic campsites, cabins and shelters for recreation and educational opportunities. Site hardening is allowed as necessary to facilitate activities, protect natural resources, and provide universal access.



3.5 Visitor Services Zone

This zone is 12 acres (2%), and encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. It includes offices, contact stations, maintenance facilities and all related land required to conduct the business of running a state park. The VS zone in Port Crescent State Park includes the existing park office and maintenance facilities.

- A. Natural Resources. Natural resources are actively managed and modified to support administrative and support activities. Vegetative management (primarily tree removal for safety) is allowed.
- B. Historic / Cultural Resources. Resources in this zone could be preserved, adapted or rehabilitated to support administrative and support activities.
- C. Recreational Opportunities. There is a hunting safety zone that encompasses the entire visitor services area.
- D. Education Opportunities. Person to person contact at park headquarters for general information; informational kiosk may be available.
- E. Visitor Experience. Business and information only. High noise tolerance and moderate to high interaction with others can be expected.
- F. Management Focus. Management focuses on the business of running the park, appropriate facilities for staff, employee safety. Universal access will be provided to the offices.
- G. Development. A high level of development of facilities for support of administrative activities is permitted in this zone. Examples of development include office space meeting rooms, employee locker room, eating area, shop space, and storage space. It will be highly accessible.

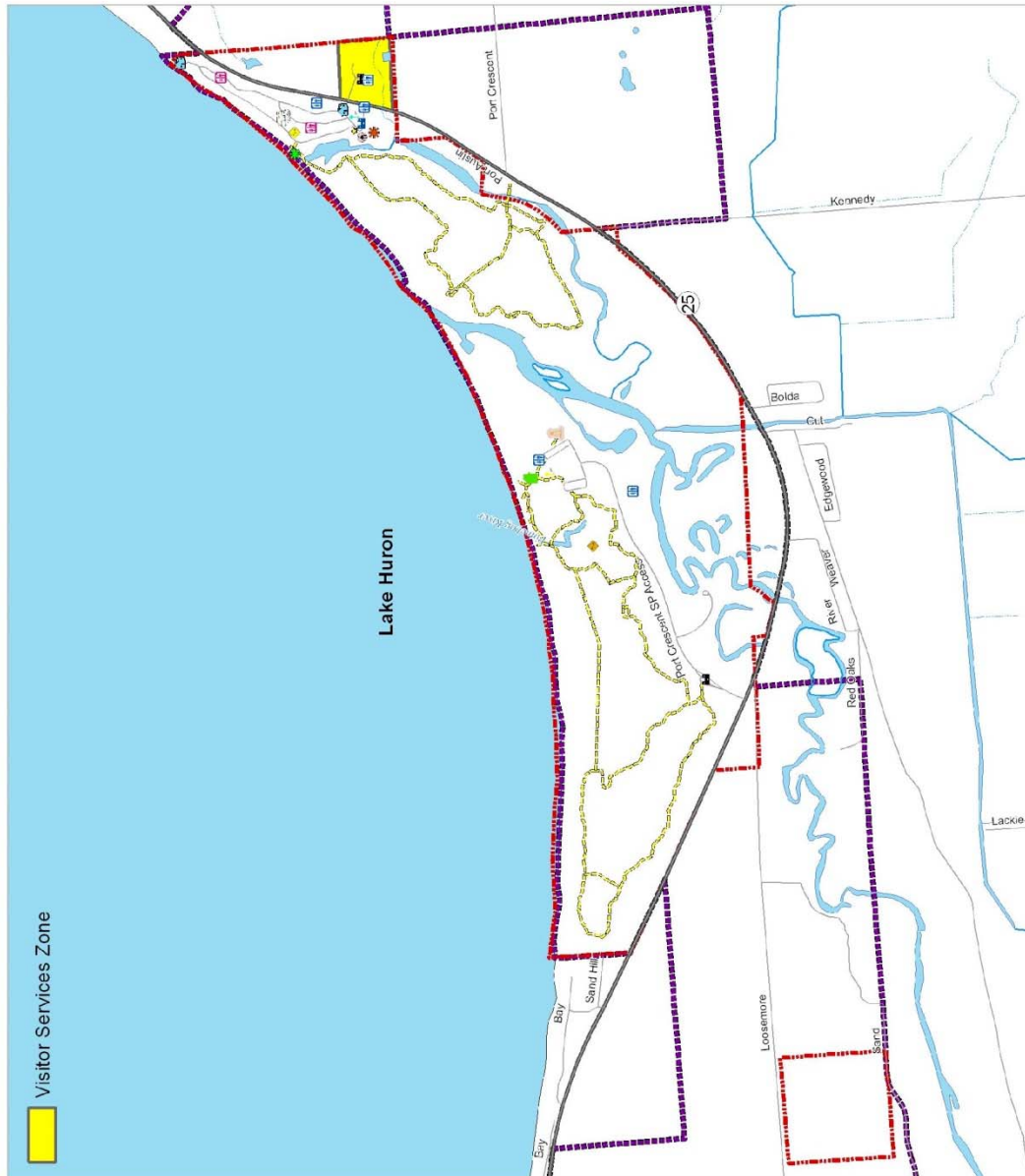
Port Crescent State Park Visitor Services Management Zone Huron County, Michigan



- Port Crescent State Park
- Dedicated HRC Boundary
- Lakes, Ponds and Rivers
- Rivers and Streams
- Drains and Intermittent Streams
- State Roads
- Roads
- Hiking/Cross County Trail
- Contact Station
- Registration Station
- Designated Historical Structure
- Observation Platform
- Pavilion
- Cabin
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- Swing
- Horseshoe Pit
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- Vault Toilet
- Beach House / Bath House
- Exercise Equipment
- Playground Equipment
- Basketball Courts
- Volleyball Court



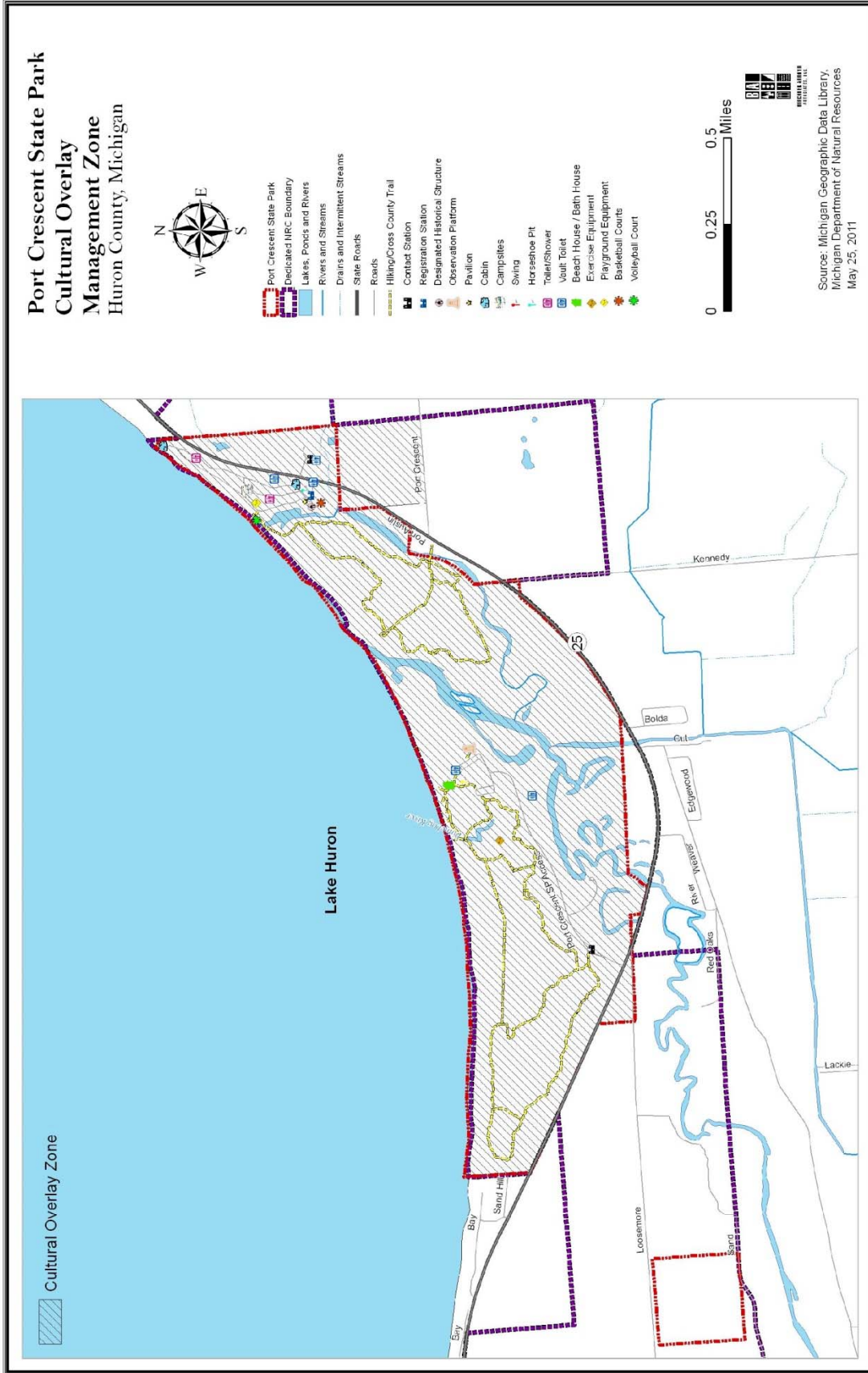
Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library,
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
May 25, 2011



3.6 Cultural Overlay Zone

The Cultural Overlay Zone applies to most of Port Crescent State Park due to the identification of archeological resources that have been observed over time. Historic timber, sand mining, and Native American influence all along the Saginaw Bay support the designation of this zone. Where the Cultural Overlay Zone and Scenic Overlay Zone overlap, management of the following elements should be reviewed on a site-specific basis to ensure goals of both zones are optimized.

- A. Natural Resources. This zone will manage vegetation as part of the cultural resource to enhance education/interpretation uses and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape that is sensitive to the historical resource and interpretation of the zone. Where there is no cultural landscape, management will reflect natural processes to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease.
- B. Historic / Cultural Resources. Both historic and prehistoric resources are present, and management and interpretation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Structures, remnants, and other landscape characteristics and features which represent the evolution of the resource, temporal change and the continuum of time will be preserved, protected and enhanced. Rehabilitation or adaptive re-use for operational or education purposes are permitted.
- C. Recreational Opportunities. Visitors could be engaged in sightseeing, recreational and education activities in a cultural setting compatible with and sensitive to the setting and the underlying zone requirements.
- D. Education Opportunities. The story of how this area was used by prehistoric peoples and Native Americans and subsequently settled by Europeans could be conveyed, sensitive to the underlying management zone. Attention will be given to 19th century sand mining, salt production from brine, and timber activities.
- E. Visitor Experience. For resources available to public viewing and/or use, moderate visitor encounters are accommodated. Visitors engage in sightseeing, recreational, and education activities in a cultural setting. Moderate noise, time commitment and interaction with others can be expected.
- F. Management Focus. Management focuses on maintaining the cultural character of the zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality.
- G. Development. Non-historic development and activities that do not conflict with the cultural landscape are tolerated in this zone. Moderate levels of development and accessibility could be provided to support visitor access and use.



3.7 Scenic Overlay Zone

The Scenic Zone, approximately 114 acres (16%), is established for scenic views. Those identified during the plan process mainly highlight the view of Lake Huron and an area along the river channel and mouth. All of the Scenic Overlay Zone is also designated Cultural Overlay Zone. Management of the following elements should be reviewed on a site-specific basis to ensure goals of both zones are optimized.

- A. Natural Resources. This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to enhance the views of the zone.
- B. Historic / Cultural Resources. Cultural resources would be preserved, rehabilitated or removed. Historic structures could be adaptively used for operational uses or educational purposes.
- C. Recreational Opportunities. Moderate levels of recreation would be allowed, compatible with the surrounding zones (Primitive, Backcountry, and Natural Resource Recreation). Only non-motorized activity would be allowed along the trails.
- D. Education Opportunities. Interpretive signage may be used at key viewing points, trailheads, overlooks or the parking area. There may be opportunities for off-site interpretation as well.
- E. Visitor Experience. High encounters are expected in Scenic Zones. Visitors would be engaged in sightseeing activities. A moderate time commitment, off-site interpretation and noise tolerance would be expected.
- F. Management Focus. Management focuses on maintaining the quality of the viewscape. Public safety, and ensuring that other activities and/or development within the Scenic Zone are compatible with the overriding purpose of the view quality are other management concerns.
- G. Development. A moderate level of development is expected to support visitor access, interpretive activities and sightseeing. Roads, restrooms, trails, parking, observation platforms, picnic areas and kiosks are some of the development options that would be allowed in a Scenic Zone, where appropriate.

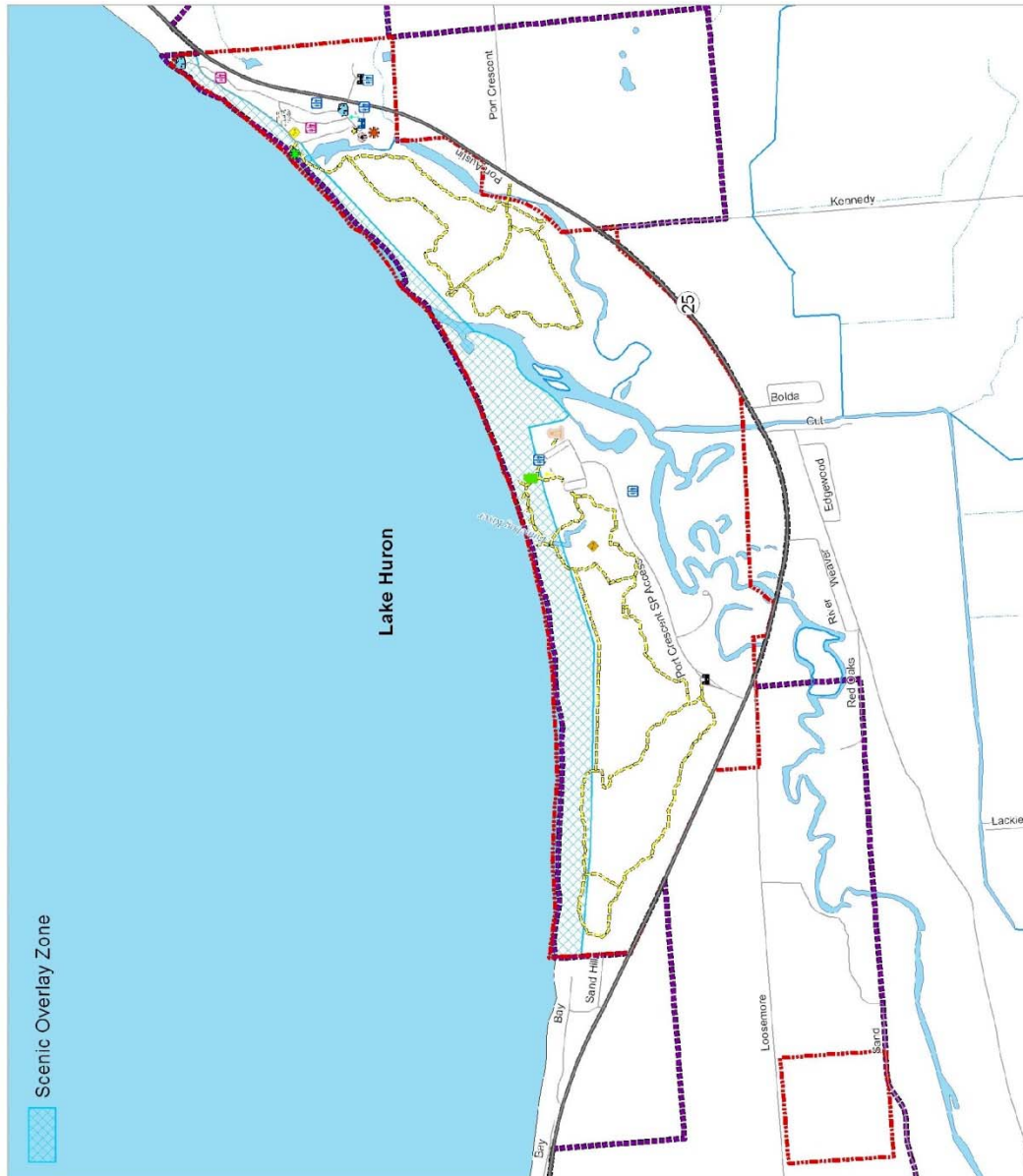
Port Crescent State Park Scenic Overlay Management Zone Huron County, Michigan



- Port Crescent State Park
- Dedicated HRC Boundary
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- Exercise Equipment
- Playground Equipment
- Basketball Courts
- Volleyball Court



Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library,
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
May 25, 2011



4.0 Future Plan Inserts

The following are items that will be added to this General Management Plan (GMP) as they are developed. The GMP serves as a guide for each subsequent plan.

10-Year Long Range Action Goals Plan (Plan to attain the GMP): Phase 2 of the Management Planning Process. Includes review and update of General Management Plan.

5-Year Implementation Plan (Specific actions to implement the Long Range Action Goals Plan): Phase 3 of the Management Planning Process. Includes review and update of GMP and Phase 2 Plan.

Annual Action Plan and Progress Report: Phase 4 of the Management Planning Process.

Operational/Management Resources: The following categories are established as a guide for the park manager to use to supplement this working document. Other categories can be added as needed.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Work Plan (This report ties in with Phase 4 – Annual Report of Management Planning) | <input type="checkbox"/> Water system |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater system |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Staffing | <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical system |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Law enforcement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Access Plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Training | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire Management Plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations / Marketing / Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> CRS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programming (ie. special events, MCCC, volunteers, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> FOIA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health, Safety, and Welfare | <input type="checkbox"/> Raster Image Index |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Raster Images of historic park plans |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Park Infrastructure data |



APPENDIX A Supporting Analysis

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A.1 PARK LOCATION

Park Setting

Port Crescent State Park is located at the tip of Michigan's "thumb" along three miles of sandy shoreline of Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay. Some of the modern campsites offer a waterfront view, either of the Bay or the Old Pinnebog River channel. The 727-acre park also offers excellent fishing, canoeing, hiking, cross-country skiing, birding, and hunting opportunities.



The park is surrounded by M-25, which defines most of its border. The Day Use and Campground can be accessed easily coming from the east and west by M-25.

Port Crescent is approximately 17 miles north of Bad Axe, 78 miles northeast of Saginaw, 120 miles north of Detroit. It is about 164 miles northeast of Lansing.

The sand dunes along the Port Crescent shoreline are the largest on the eastern side of Michigan. Hiking trails traverse the Day Use Unit and the Organization Area, which is accessible by the steel bridge at the end of Port Crescent Road. Hunting is allowed in all areas except the campground and the Headquarters area. Parts of the hiking trail at the Day Use are groomed in the winter for cross country skiing. Summertime brings picnickers, sunbathers, hikers, canoeists, birdwatchers, fishermen, and campers. Autumn brings migrating geese, ducks and swans and woods full of brilliant colors. The park hosts two Harvest Festivals at this time, bringing campers to the area until late October.



Surrounding Community

Port Crescent State Park is located within Hume Township, in Huron County. The closest town is Port Austin, located 4.5 miles away. The county's largest town is Bad Axe. The nearest population center is Bay City, 62 miles west of the park.

M-53 provides north-south county access while M-142 provides east-west access. M-19 originates at M-142 and runs south.

Huron County enjoys seasonal tourism from large cities such as Detroit, Flint, and Saginaw. Huron County has over 90 miles of beaches, between White Rock on Lake Huron to Sebewaing on the Saginaw Bay. Resorts, motels, marinas, restaurants, museums and attractions stretch across the coastline.

The county has a land area of 824 square miles, which is 139 square miles greater than the average for the other 82 counties in the state. The county seat is Bad Axe. The Lake Huron shoreline makes several of the county's townships irregular in size, ranging from one square mile (Pointe Aux Barques Township) to 58 square miles (Sherman Township).

Huron County ranks as one of the top agricultural counties in Michigan, based on agricultural farm income. Rich farmland inland produces beans, sugar beets and grain, including most of the world's supply of navy beans. Huron County ranks seventh in the nation for sugar beet production. Major enterprises include dairy, livestock, poultry production, and commercial fishing.

Huron County enjoys seasonal tourism from large cities such as Detroit, Flint, and Saginaw, due to its natural beauty, ideal topography and sandy beaches. Resorts, motels, marinas, restaurants, museums and attractions stretch across the coastline. Huron County has more shoreline parks than any other county in Michigan. The County is home to two State Parks – Sleeper State Park and Port Crescent State Park. Huron County maintains nine county parks along the shoreline.

In addition to small industry, tourism, and agriculture, new industries are being launched in Huron County, due to its location. The Harvest Wind Farm in northern Huron County is a project of John Deere Wind Energy and Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative. The State of Michigan is actively encouraging wind technology as a growth industry.

A.2 DEMOGRAPHICS

Population

The population of Huron County, according to the US Census Bureau, is estimated at 32,236 people in 2009. This represents a nearly 11% decrease since 2000. The populations for the communities within the County have not been updated since the 2000 US Census. At that time, Port Austin Township had a population of 1,591, Caseville had a population of 888, and Bad Axe had a population of 3,462. Given Michigan's economic downturn of the last few years, it is likely that the populations in these communities have decreased. The County is rural in nature, with 43.1 persons per square mile reported in 2000, compared to the state average of 175 persons per square mile.

The population of the county showed a continuous increase from the first census period until 1920 when it reached 34,758 people. In common with the majority of counties of the state, the population declined from 1910 to 1930. Since then, there has been a gradual increase in population to 36,459 people at its peak in 1980.

Age & Race

The 2009 estimated median age of persons living in the county was 44.7, up from 41 years in 2000. The racial make-up of persons within the county is 98 percent white.

In 2000, there were 14,597 households out of which 29% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 58.6% were married couples living together, 7.4% had a female householder with no husband present, and 30.5% were non-families. 27.3% of all households were made up of individuals and 14.10% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.42 and the average family size was 2.95.

The County's population in 2000 fell fairly evenly by age. 24.2% was under the age of 18, 6.5% from 18 to 24, 25.1% from 25 to 44, 24.8% from 45 to 64, and 19.4% who were 65 years of age or older.

Employment & Income

In 2007, the manufacturing sector provided most of the employment at about 22.5%. The next largest industry sector is health care, closely followed by retail trade and service related businesses.

The median income for a household in the county was \$35,315, and the median income for a family was \$42,436. Males had a median income of \$31,950 versus \$21,110 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$17,851. About 7.3% of families and 10.2% of the population were below the poverty line, including 12.2% of those under age 18 and 9.8% of those aged 65 or over.

People QuickFacts	Huron County	Michigan
Population, 2009 estimate	32,236	9,969,727
Population, percent change, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009	-10.7%	0.3%
Population estimates base (April 1) 2000	36,079	9,938,492
Persons under 5 years old, percent, 2009	4.9%	6.2%
Persons under 18 years old, percent, 2009	20.6%	23.6%
Persons 65 years old and over, percent, 2009	21.4%	13.4%
Female persons, percent, 2009	50.3%	50.8%
White persons, percent, 2009 (a)	97.7%	81.2%
Black persons, percent, 2009 (a)	0.3%	14.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent, 2009 (a)	0.4%	0.6%
Asian persons, percent, 2009 (a)	0.6%	2.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent, 2009 (a)	Z	Z
Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2009	0.9%	1.6%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2009 (b)	2.0%	4.2%
White persons not Hispanic, percent, 2009	95.8%	77.4%
Living in same house in 1995 and 2000, pct 5 yrs old & over	69.0%	57.3%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2000	1.4%	5.3%
Language other than English spoken at home, pct age 5+, 2000	4.4%	8.4%
High school graduates, percent of persons age 25+, 2000	78.3%	83.4%
Bachelor's degree or higher, pct of persons age 25+, 2000	10.9%	21.8%
Persons with a disability, age 5+, 2000	6,802	1,711,231
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2000	20.6	24.1
Housing units, 2009	21,400	4,541,693
Homeownership rate, 2000	83.4%	73.8%
Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent, 2000	6.5%	18.8%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2000	\$78,000	\$115,600
Households, 2000	14,597	3,785,661
Persons per household, 2000	2.42	2.56
Median household income, 2008	\$40,927	\$48,606
Per capita money income, 1999	\$17,851	\$22,168
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2008	13.1%	14.4%
Business QuickFacts	Huron County	Michigan
Private nonfarm establishments, 2007	1,028	235,422
Private nonfarm employment, 2007	10,531	3,687,441
Private nonfarm employment, percent change 2000-2007	-6.9%	-9.5%
Nonemployer establishments, 2007	2,292	648,573
Total number of firms, 2002	3,203	735,531
Black-owned firms, percent, 2002	F	6.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native owned firms, percent, 2002	F	0.7%
Asian-owned firms, percent, 2002	F	2.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander owned firms, percent, 2002	F	0.0%
Hispanic-owned firms, percent, 2002	F	1.3%

Women-owned firms, percent, 2002	20.5%	29.6%
Manufacturers shipments, 2002 (\$1000)	683,077	221,433,262
Wholesale trade sales, 2002 (\$1000)	179,192	165,958,945
Retail sales, 2002 (\$1000)	293,080	109,350,139
Retail sales per capita, 2002	\$8,279	\$10,889
Accommodation and foodservices sales, 2002 (\$1000)	30,630	12,248,269
Building permits, 2009	44	6,884
Federal spending, 2008	288,833	82,933,158
Geography QuickFacts	Huron County	Michigan
Land area, 2000 (square miles)	836.52	56,803.82
Persons per square mile, 2000	43.1	175
FIPS Code	63	26
Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area	None	
(a) Includes persons reporting only one race.		
(b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories.		
Z: Value greater than zero but less than half unit of measure shown		
F: Fewer than 100 firms		
Source: US Census Bureau State & County QuickFacts		

A.3 GENERAL HISTORY OF PORT CRESCENT STATE PARK

[The history was researched and written by Betsy Kish. Betsy is the Park Supervisor of Port Crescent State Park where she has worked for the past 22 years.]

Little remains of the former town of Port Crescent. However, upon closer inspection, old foundations can be seen in the Organization Area, where a house may have stood or a garage or shed of some sort once was. There are shrubs and flowers growing in areas where they wouldn't ordinarily be growing, unless someone planted them long ago. This is the area where many homes stood and where time, sand, and vegetation has been erasing all evidence of the existence of the town that was Port Crescent.

1887 - The village had a population of 500 inhabitants. The town's principal industry was lumbering and salt manufacturing from brine.

1936 - The original portion of the park is situated on the site of the vanished village of Port Crescent.

1940's - After World War II the increased demand for public use areas along shoreline property stimulated interest for an additional State Park in the Thumb area of Michigan. Sleeper State Park, located 5 miles northeast of Caseville, was having serious overcrowding issues as people from the cities flocked to the shore for their summer vacations.

1956 – In September, negotiations by the State and members of the Ahearn family resulted in the purchase of 104.02 acres of the Michael Ahearn estate for the park. On December 28, 1956, another 20.33 acres was purchased from the James Ahearn estate for \$49,000. These 240 acres made up the original portion of the state park. An island bounded by the Pinnebog River and Lake Huron was the Organization Area, a rustic camping site for organized youth groups. This area is accessible to pedestrian by an old iron bridge that crosses the Pinnebog River. All camping in the Organization Area was primitive until closure in 2002.

1959 - Port Crescent State Park was officially established on September 6th.

1961 – Development of the campground began. The campground area was primitive before this. In August of this year, low areas were filled in, roads constructed, wells drilled for water and construction of a modern toilet and shower building began. Removal of the 120 foot tall Pack & Woods Sawmill chimney was a controversial issue as local residents opposed razing the familiar landmark. The chimney was nearly all that remained of the former town of Port Crescent and the former sawmill.

- 1962** - Dynamite removed most of the unsafe Chimney and an 8 foot monument remained.
- 1963** - The modern campground officially opened in April with 179 campsites. Attendance records for 1963 show approximately 35,000 visitors for that first year. The following year showed an increase of 11,000 visitors. Port Crescent quickly became a popular destination for campers, with campsites filling every week end of the summer.
- 1969** - The campground office was constructed during the winter and opened in the spring of 1970.
- 1971** – By this time, another modern toilet/shower building had been added and there were 180 campsites.
- 1975** - The Day Use Area was acquired and provides access to the area known as “the dunes” along Lake Huron, and to the swimming beach. The Day Use Area contains parking lots, a picnic shelter and beach house near the lake. Five picnic decks overlooking Lake Huron have been buried by the sand. Two decks remain, connected by sections of a remaining boardwalk traversing the crest of the dunes. A one-mile accessible interpretive trail is accessed from the day use parking lot. A 3-½ mile hiking and cross-country ski trail, the third park trail, begins in the day use area.
- 1977** - Purchase of the 455 acre Day Use Unit occurred. The Day Use Unit is located 2 miles west of the campground and was purchased from the Sand Products Corporation of Detroit. Extensive sand mining occurred in that area as sand was moved, with horse and cart and later with conveyers, to the end of a dock which extended into the Saginaw Bay. Freighters or barges would be loaded with the sand which was then transported to the Detroit area for use in casting molds in the auto plants. The large, square cement slab sitting on the beach is what remains of the dock, as well as submerged pilings that can be seen while boating over them. The pilings, or “cribs”, are popular spots for fishermen. Any of the mine shafts that existed when the State purchased the property were filled in for safety reasons.
- 1978** – Improvements of the newly acquired 455 acres began.
- 1980’s** – During this period, campsites filled every night of the week from mid-June through the Labor Day Holiday week end. Annual attendance, including the Day Use Unit, exceeded 140,000 visitors by the early 1990’s, which is consistent with present day figures.

- 1987** - A boat launch on Saginaw Bay by the campground was closed. However, approximately 2 miles of the Pinnebog River are within the park, providing stream fishing for trout, salmon, smelt, pike, bass, and panfish, including the Thumb area's famous perch. The river is accessible by canoe. Picnic tables and grills are available along the river.
- 1996** - 25% of the 181 campsites were reduced making many of the remaining sites larger and easier to accommodate larger camping units. Popular sites along the lakefront were closed off to allow a small foredune to become reestablished. Currently the campground has 142 campsites.
- 2004** - One of the toilet/shower buildings was replaced with a universally accessible, barrier free facility.
- 2005** - A new Camper Cabin was delivered to the park and positioned near the shoreline, in a wonderfully scenic spot, at the east end of the campground. The cabin was the first of its kind, having been built at the Department of Corrections facility at Freeland, through their Prison Build program. Through a partnership with the Department of Natural Resources Recreation Division, this cabin was completed at the prison and then transported to the campground on a flat bed truck. The cabin provides an opportunity to participate in campground life for those who have never camped, those who have camped in the past but no longer have equipment, or those who just want to spend some quality time in the outdoors.

A.4 LAND OWNERSHIP AND ISSUES

For all park General Management Plans, all legal mandates will be identified and will serve to further guide the development of the General Management Plan and subsequent Action Plans. For our planning purposes, the term “Legal Mandates” refers to not only state law, but also the administrative tools of “Policy” and “Directive” of the Natural Resource Commission, the Department, and the Recreation Division. Examples include Wildlife Conservation Orders, Orders of the Director, and all other laws, commission orders, and rules or directives that apply to the park. Specific to Port Crescent SP, the following legal mandates have been identified:

- PA 451 OF 1994, PART 741 - STATE PARK SYSTEM - NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT - This act is the recodification of law that established the Michigan State Park System and defined the powers and duties of same. Notable in this law is Section 324.74102 which identifies the duties of the department and reinforces those core values cited above.

This section reads:

- (1) “The legislature finds:
 - (a) Michigan State Parks preserve and protect Michigan’s significant natural and historic resources.
 - (b) Michigan State Parks are appropriate and uniquely suited to provide opportunities to learn about protection and management of Michigan’s natural resources.
 - (c) Michigan State Parks are an important component of Michigan’s tourism industry and vital to local economies.
 - (2) The department shall create, maintain, operate, promote, and make available for public use and enjoyment a system of state parks to preserve and protect Michigan’s significant natural resources and areas of natural beauty or historic significance, to provide open space for public recreation, and to provide an opportunity to understand Michigan’s natural resources and need to protect and manage those resources.”
- Act 451 of 1994, Part 303 - WETLANDS PROTECTION (formerly Act No. 203, P.A. 1979 Wetland Protection Act) Administered by the DEQ. In 1979, the Michigan legislature passed the Geomare-Anderson Wetlands Protection Act, 1979 PA 203, which is now Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has adopted administrative rules which provide clarification and guidance on interpreting Part 303. Some

wetlands in coastal areas are given further protection under Part 323, Shorelands Protection and Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.

In accordance with Part 303, wetlands are regulated if they are any of the following:

- Connected to one of the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair.
- Located within 1,000 feet of one of the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair.
- Connected to an inland lake, pond, river, or stream.
- Located within 500 feet of an inland lake, pond, river or stream.
- Not connected to one of the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair, or an inland lake, pond, stream, or river, but are more than 5 acres in size.
- Not connected to one of the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair, or an inland lake, pond, stream, or river, and less than 5 acres in size, but the DEQ has determined that these wetlands are essential to the preservation of the state's natural resources and has notified the property owner.

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

- Deposit or permit the placing of fill material in a wetland.
 - Dredge, remove, or permit the removal of soil or minerals from a wetland.
 - Construct, operate, or maintain any use or development in a wetland.
 - Drain surface water from a wetland. Michigan's wetland statute, Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, defines a wetland as "land characterized by the presence of water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances does support, wetland vegetation or aquatic life, and is commonly referred to as a bog, swamp, or marsh." The definition applies to public and private lands regardless of zoning or ownership.
-
- Act 451 of 1994, Part 323 - SHORELANDS PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT (formerly Act No. 245, P.A. 1970 Shorelands Protection and Management Act) Administered by the DEQ, Part 323 is the key state statute providing consumer protection from the natural hazards of coastal erosion and flooding as well as environmental protection of our fragile coastal areas. Part 323 is closely integrated with Part 325, the Great Lakes Submerged Lands program and the Coastal Management Program which includes Part 353, Sand Dunes Management, as well as grants to state and local units of government.
 - PA 451 OF 1994, PART 419 - HUNTING AREA CONTROL. Administered by the DNR. Regulation and prohibitions in certain areas; powers of department;

area closures; hearings, investigations, studies, and statement of facts; regulations. – This part of PA 451 establishes the powers of the Department to establish safety zones for hunting. In accordance with the Administrative Rules established by Wildlife Division for hunting safety, a 450' "Safety Zone" is established around all occupied dwellings (which includes campgrounds). Under the State Land Rules, the Department also has the authority to expand the application of this 450' "Safety Zone" to encompass "Day-Use Areas" such as beaches, picnic areas, boat launches, and parking areas, should the need arise. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.

- **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDERS** - Wildlife is owned by all the people of the state of Michigan, and are administered and managed by the Michigan DNR. The DNR's authority is derived from the state Legislature and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). In Michigan the list of game species is established by the state Legislature. Hunting and trapping regulations including methods of take, bag limits, license quotas, and season dates are established by the NRC and are described in the Wildlife Conservation Orders.

Sec. 3.412. The early September season for taking Canada geese shall be September 1 to September 15 in the Lower Peninsula and September 1 to September 10 in the Upper Peninsula, except as follows:

(7) Except as otherwise provided, all or portions of the following state parks, as described in chapter VII, shall be open from September 1 to September 10:

- (a) Port Crescent state park.
- (b) Sleeper state park.

Sec 7.31. Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during the established seasons on all state-owned lands within the dedicated boundary of Port Crescent state park in sections 3 and 8 to 10, T18N R12E, except for that portion bounded by a line beginning at a point on the east fractional line of section 3, T18N R12E, at the water's edge of Saginaw bay; then southerly along the east line of section 3 including the most southern portion of section 3 south of highway M-25; then south along the northeast corner of section 10 to the property line; then westerly along the property line crossing highway M-25 and up to the Old Pinnebog river channel; then northerly along a line 50 feet easterly of the bank of the channel to the water's edge of Saginaw bay; then along the water's edge of Saginaw bay to the point of beginning. History: Eff. Mar. 31, 1989; Am. 12, 2007, Eff. July 13, 2007.

- **PA 451 OF 1994, PART 504 - STATE LAND USE RULES / LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR.** Administered by DNR Law Division. 324.504 Department of natural resources; rules for protection of lands and property; certain rules prohibited; orders; violation as civil infraction; fine. The

department shall promulgate rules for the protection of the lands and property under its control against wrongful use or occupancy as will ensure the carrying out of the intent of this part to protect the lands and property from depredations and to preserve the lands and property from molestation, spoliation, destruction, or any other improper use or occupancy.

- DNR Policy 26.04-04 - Use of State-Owned Lands Administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (ISSUED: 02/01/2006)
It shall be the policy of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to manage State-owned lands in a manner that protects and enhances the public trust while providing for the use and enjoyment of those lands as outlined in the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. Applications to use State-owned lands will be considered and may be approved if the proposed use is consistent with other public interest and natural resource values.
- Public Act 35 of 2010, Part 741 ("Recreation Passport") This act amended the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code to provide for a State Park and State-operated public boating access site "Recreation Passport" that a Michigan resident may obtain by paying an additional fee when registering a motor vehicle. The Recreation Passport is required for entry into all PRD administered facilities and takes the place of the Motor Vehicle Permit (MVP) previously required to be displayed on the windshield.
- Campsite Amenities and Fees: State parks and recreation areas remain open year-round for day-use visitors. Ten campgrounds are open for the winter months.
- PA 368 OF 1978, ARTICLE 12 - ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PART 125 – CAMPGROUNDS – Part 125 of the Public Health Code was established to protect and promote the public health by establishing health code requirements specifically addressing campgrounds. The DNR Drinking Water and Radiological Protection Division is the administering agency that is responsible for the promulgation of the Administrative Rules for Campgrounds. All public (including DNR) and private campgrounds must meet these regulations. Huron County annually inspects the campground.
- Campground Wastewater Systems. Part 22 Rules of Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, took effect on August 26, 1999. These rules apply to all campground wastewater systems. The Water Division, Permit Section Groundwater Discharge Unit administers these rules. The Part 22 rules regulate discharges to groundwater. "Discharge" is broadly defined to encompass the direct or indirect discharge of a waste, wastewater, or pollutant to the ground or groundwater. The terms "waste" or "wastewater" are broadly defined. Both specifically reference sewage. The rules provide that a "person" may discharge provided the requirements of the Part 22 Rules are met.

- Michigan's Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, as amended, and the administrative rules adopted pursuant to the code, also contains standards and requirements for campground wastewater systems. The reader should recognize that a campground wastewater system must also meet the construction permit, design, and operation requirements under Michigan's Public Health Code.
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, including Storm Water Runoff Discharge Authorization. The purpose of this permit is to control the discharge of pollutants into surface waters of the state to protect the environment. A permit is needed for any discharge of waste, waste effluent, or certain categories of storm water runoff into surface water, including wastewater stabilization lagoon effluent. Discharge permits must regulate discharges consistent with federal effluent limitation guidelines and other requirements of federal law and state water quality standards. The Water Division within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has responsibility for processing NPDES permits under the authority of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and Part 31 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. Port Crescent discharges into the Ahearn Drain. Currently there are permit questions regarding the level of phosphorus discharge.
- DEDICATED BOUNDARIES - The Natural Resources Commission reviewed and rededicated boundary changes for Port Crescent State Park in 2004.
- ROADS: M-25, also called Port Austin Road, is the entrance road to the park, and it also skirts around the park to provide access to a second contact station. M-25 is a state road.

R.O.W. FOR STATE HIGHWAYS

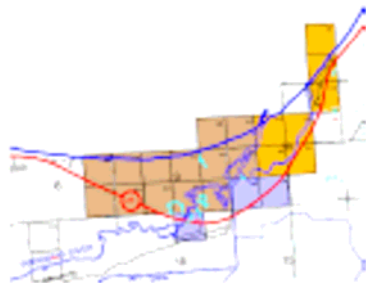
The Michigan Department of Transportation is responsible for maintenance on all state roads in Huron County. There is a 100-foot right of way along M-25. MDOT has the responsibility for managing the department's Statewide Right-of-Way boundaries pursuant to Act 200 of 1969 (Driveway, Banner and Parade act), 368 of 1925 (Encroachment Act) and 106 of 1972 (Highway Advertising Act, Section 252.311a Vegetation Removal).

- LEASE AGREEMENTS - None currently
- EASEMENTS
DTE Electric owns a transmission line going through the park in an east-west direction. Consumers Energy Corporation owns a natural gas line going through the park. There is a telephone line connected to the headquarters building.

- OTHER RIGHTS - None currently
- ENCUMBRANCES UNDER GRANTS. Port Crescent State Park is encumbered under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program with the National Park Service.
- OTHER FORMAL AGREEMENTS - None currently
- INFORMAL AGREEMENTS
Snowmobiles are banned in the park, but campers can bring snowmobiles for access onto the frozen Saginaw Bay.
- RECURRING USE PERMITS - None currently
- DOCUMENTED PUBLIC CONCERNS - None currently

• **LAND FUNDING SOURCES:**

Fund Source Map



Fund Source Legend

FUND CATEGORY	
	Dingell Johnson
	Game And Fish
	Gift
	MNRTF
	Pittman Robertson
	Special Legislation
	State Game Fund
	Other Funds
	Multiple Funds

The following descriptions relate to the above fund source map and legend for Port Crescent SP. Those lands were acquired by the state through a variety of funding sources and/or transactions. Often, conditions attached to the original funding source or other details of the property transaction encumber the future use or disposition of the land.

Special Legislation: Acquisitions for park purposes through this source are tied to specific funding established by the legislature.

Other Funds: Included in this category are “General Fund,” defined as properties that were purchased with monies from the state’s general fund, and not associated with a specific revenue stream or bond program. Also included in this category are “Exchanges.” These land transactions result in acquisition of lands in return for disposition of land to the offering party.

Another fund source represented in this category is the “Recreation Bond Fund.” This fund was established in 1988 and operates under Parts 196 and 715 of P.A. 451 of 1994, as amended. The fund was created from the

proceeds and investment earnings of a bond package approved by the voters in November 1988 to finance state and local public recreation projects.

Multiple Funds

Often, more than one funding source is designated for successful completion of a real estate transaction. In those cases, this 'Fund Source' designation is made. Specific information for these must be investigated on a case-by-case basis.

A.5 RELATIONSHIP OF PORT CRESCENT STATE PARK TO OTHER PARK RESOURCES

Federal (none)

State

Other nearby DNR Recreational Lands:

- Brookfield Township No.1 State Game Area (mini)
- Brookfield Township No.2 State Game Area (mini)
- Flynn State Game Area (mini)
- Gagetown State Game Area
- Oliver Township State Game Area (mini)
- Rush Lake State Game Area
- Verona State Game Area
- Wildfowl Bay State Wildlife Area
- Minden State Game Area
- Deford State Game Area

Local Parks

Huron County Parks:

- Jenks County Park – a highway pull-off with vault toilet and beach access
- Philip County Park – a highway pull-off with vault toilet and beach access
- Huron County Nature Center

Sanilac County Parks:

- Evergreen Park
- Forester Park
- Lexington Park
- Delaware Park

Many interesting rock formations, caves and stacks can be found less than two miles both east and west of Port Austin's Veterans Waterfront Park and harbor area. Other nearby launch sites include Grindstone City harbor, Jenks Park and Sleeper State Park. Launch sites in and near Harbor Beach include those at the Trescott Street Pier, at Wagener County Park, and just north of the city at the Train Station Motel and at Forest Bay Cottages. A complete map of the access points can be found on the Water Trail website at www.thumbtrails.com, or call 586-863-2920 for more information.

Table 5: Summary of Regional Recreational Resources

Sources:

Recreational Resource	County	Municipality	Features																
			Picnic Area	Hiking	Hunting/ Trapping	Biking	Play-ground	Equestrian	Swimming	Boat Launch	Snow Mobiling	XC Skiing	Concession/ Vending	Camping	Drinking Water	Rest Rooms	Showers	Sport Field/Ct	Fishing
Federal Resources																			
State Resources																			
Albert E. Sleeper State Park	Huron	Rush Lake	X	X	X	X	X		X			X		X		X			
Wild Fowl Bay State Park	Huron	Bay Port			X					X									
Deford State Game Area	Tuscola	Ellington Township			X														
Minden City State Game Area	Sanilac				X														
Gagetown State Game Area	Huron				X														
Rush Lake State Game Area	Huron				X														
Verona State Game Area	Huron				X														
Cass City State Game Area	Tuscola				X														
Fish Point State Wildlife Area	Tuscola				X														
Murphy Lake State Game Area	Tuscola				X														
Quanicassee State Game Area	Tuscola				X														
Tuscola State Game Area	Tuscola				X														
Vassar State Game Area	Tuscola				X														
Sanilac State Game Area	Tuscola				X														
County Resources																			
Jenks County Park	Huron	Port Austin							X							X			
Philip County Park	Huron	Caseville	X						X							X			
Grindstone County Park	Huron																		
Lighthouse County Park	Huron	Huron City	X				X			X				X					X
Stafford County Park	Huron	Port Hope					X							X					
Huron Nature Center	Huron	Hume	X	X												X			
Evergreen Park	Sanilac	Cass City		X			X							X		X	X		X
Forester Park	Sanilac	Carsonville	X	X			X		X				X	X		X	X	X	X
Lexington Park	Sanilac	Lexington	X				X		X							X		X	
Delaware Park	Sanilac	Carsonville		X					X										X

Recreational Resource	County	Municipality	Features																
			Picnic Area	Hiking	Hunting/ Trapping	Biking	Play-ground	Equestrian	Swimming	Boat Launch	Snow Mobiling	XC Skiing	Concession/ Vending	Camping	Drinking Water	Rest Rooms	Showers	Sport Field/Ct	Fishing
Municipal Resources																			
North Park	Huron	Harbor Beach	X			X	X							X		X	X	X	
Waterworks Park	Huron	Harbor Beach	X				X												
Tom Dillion Park	Iosco	East Tawas	X			X										X		X	
Dewey Durant Park	Iosco	East Tawas	X				X											X	
Gateway Park	Iosco	Tawas City					X												
AuSable River Park	Iosco	Oscoda																	
Bathing Beach Park	Huron	Harbor Beach	X				X		X							X		X	
Privately Owned Resources																			

A.6 CURRENT LAND USE

Port Crescent State Park is located at the tip of Michigan's "thumb" along the sandy shoreline of Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay. Port Crescent State Park stretches for three miles, offering one of the finest sand beaches in the state park system. Over 727 acres of northern coastal terrain characterize the park, which rests at the site of a former bustling community, Port Crescent.

Port Crescent State Park has a modern 142-site campground with a waterfront view of Lake Huron and Pinnebog River. Each site comes equipped with electric hookup, fire ring, and picnic table. The campground opens in April, with modern bathhouses closing by November. Some of the modern campsites offer a waterfront view, either of the Bay or the Old Pinnebog River channel. Port Crescent recently added a new camper cabin which sleeps six and has a scenic view of Saginaw Bay. The cabin was the first of several built Michigan Department of Corrections' Prison Build Program.

Camping, swimming, playground fun, horseshoes, hunting, fishing, hiking, and cross-country skiing are enjoyed at the park. The sandy shore is perfect for sunbathing and swimming. Several trails totaling seven miles meander through various areas of the park and are open to cross-country skiers in winter. A short boardwalk two picnic decks offer scenic vistas from the top of sand dunes in the day-use area.

Port Crescent offers excellent whitetail deer, turkey, and waterfowl hunting opportunities. The park also offers excellent fishing, canoeing, hiking, cross-country skiing, birding, and hunting opportunities. A universally accessible fishing deck is available at the day-use area along the Pinnebog River.

A.7 NATURAL RESOURCES

Eco-Regional Context

(Michigan Natural Features Inventory; April 2001). The predominant features of Port Crescent State Park include an open dune complex in the center of the park, flanked by the extensive wooded dune and swale complex on the east, south, and west. The Pinnebog River meanders through the park primarily following the ecotone between open dune and wooded dune and swale. The wooded dune and swale complex at Port Crescent State Park has been designated a C-ranked natural community that extends inland and westward from the park. Seventy such complexes once occurred in Michigan, only 41 of which are currently considered of high enough quality today to be included in the Michigan Natural Features statewide database. The open dune is not of sufficient quality to be recognized as an element occurrence.

(National Park Service historic document.) Some of Lake Huron's finest sand beach is located at Port Crescent near the southern entrance to Saginaw Bay. The quality is further enhanced by its contrast to the surrounding marshy shores of Saginaw Bay and the shallow, boulder-strewn waters along southern Lake Huron.

Though small, flat sandstones occur often near the eastern end of the shore, the western portion has an excellent beach composed of fine sand. Measuring nearly 100 feet in width, these beaches slope gently to the water line and beyond. Offshore, the shallow water frequently does not reach a depth of six feet within 200 feet from the beach.

Behind the beaches rise a line of dunes, some over 20 feet high. Port Crescent State Park hosts the largest sand dunes on the east side of the state. The lake face of these dunes is nearly bare, while grasses and an occasional cottonwood anchor the sands on the inland slopes. Farther from the shore, a pronounced series of parallel sand ridges left from old beach lines are clearly discernible.

A large portion of the area between the lake and the Pinnebog River was at one time cleared, leaving only scattered young jack pines, cottonwood and other dry-site plants on the sand ridges. Today, in the wet swales between the beach lines and along the Pinnebog River, birch, maple, elm, ash and other hardwoods are found. A denser forest growth occurs south of the Pinnebog River and State Route 25.

Geology and Topography

(Stewardship Files, 1967). The Port Crescent area is situated on a glacial lake plain which was once covered by the waters of the ancestral Great Lakes. The average drift depth is 20 feet thick. This surface sand is underlain by brownish-gray clay which extends to bedrock. Bedrock immediately below the drift is the lower part of the Marshall formation of the Mississippian age. The Marshall

formation consists of fine grained brownish-grey to grey sandstone with some shale beds. The contact between the lower Marshall sandstone and underlying Coldwater shale is gradational, and may be encountered at about 150-175 feet.

Water Resources

Huron County, located in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan in the thumb area, is made up of 27 townships and an area of about 480,000 acres. Its location is good, as it is surrounded on three sides by water, Lake Huron and the Saginaw Bay on each side, then meet at the north; to its south are Sanilac and Tuscola Counties. The Cass, Pinnebog, Shebeon, and Pigeon Rivers all head toward the center of the county and empty into the Saginaw Bay. Willow Creek, farther on the east-side of the county, empties into Lake Huron, and Cass River empties into the Saginaw River.

The beach at Port Crescent State Park stretches for three miles along Saginaw Bay, providing the perfect place for sunbathing and swimming. The fine white sand from Port Crescent was mined and shipped out for glass making from 1881 through 1936.

Swimming is available in Saginaw Bay at the mouth of the Pinnebog River. The water is clear and there is a sandy bottom. The water stays shallow for over 100 yards into the lake with the marked swimming area about five feet in depth.

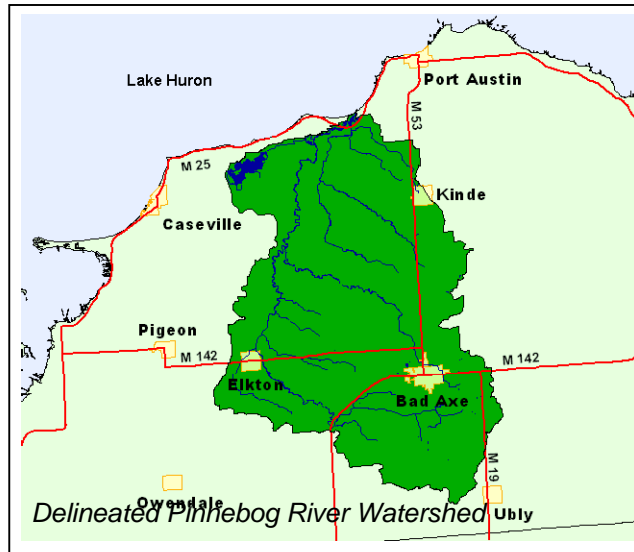
The beach and water quality have been affected by increasing amounts of muck. Water quality at the beach is monitored weekly by the Huron County Health Department during the swim season. August 11, 2009 showed elevated levels of bacteria that resulted in a 2-day beach closure. Ongoing regional studies and initiatives address specific agricultural and industrial activities that contribute to muck accumulation.

Pinnebog River

The Pinnebog River flows into Lake Huron on the west side of the "tip" of the "thumb". The entire length of the Pinnebog lies within in Huron County and is fed by various agricultural ditches and drains. It is formed by the confluence of the Colona and Colfax drains near the southern boundary of section 28 in Colfax Township. The 195 square mile Pinnebog River Watershed is primarily agricultural, with a high concentration of seasonal homes along the Saginaw Bay lakeshore.

Significant springtime flooding of the Pinnebog River threatens to impact the day use entrance road. There has been loss of riverbank and shoreline. A fishing dock located on a bend in the river has been affected, and will need to be removed.

The Pinnebog River's profile is steeper in the headwaters and flatter toward the mouth. A stream's ability to move sediment, both size and quantity, is directly related to the stream's slope and flow. Thus the steeper upstream reaches generally move larger material, such as stones and pebbles, and the flatter downstream portion of the river tends to accumulate sediment.



Bad Axe High School Students have monitored water quality in the Pinnebog River since the fall of 2003, collecting benthic macro-invertebrates as water quality indicators. Four monitoring sites were for the most part fairly healthy. The students plan to continue monitoring the river every spring and fall. A hydrologic study of the Pinnebog River watershed was conducted in 2005 by the Hydrologic Studies Unit of the then-Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The 2006 "Pinnebog River Watershed Hydrologic Study" is available for viewing at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/lwm-nps-pinnebog_202342_7.pdf.

There is fishing allowed on the Pinnebog River. According to Fisheries Division, In the Pinnebog River at Port Crescent State Park one might expect to find possibly steelhead (seasonally, after ice out, early spring), northern pike, suckers, catfish, panfish, and the occasional perch and walleye. Angler catches vary seasonally and with the flow of the river. An old fishing platform exists in a bend in the river.

Water Trails

The Tip of The Thumb Heritage Water Trail is a nonprofit citizen organization working with the Huron County Parks to establish and maintain a Water Trail along Michigan's Lake Huron's shoreline. The Water Trail, which is best utilized via sea kayaks, consists of camp sites and rest areas spaced out along the shore. Two stops along Saginaw Bay are in the state park: one at the campground, and one near the mouth of the Pinnebog River.

The Tip of the Thumb Heritage Water Trail extends over 100 miles along the Lake Huron Shoreline - from White Rock, north to Harbor Beach, then up to the "tip of the thumb" at Port Austin, then southwest all the way to Quanicassee, between Sebawaing and Essexville. Since the opening of the Water Trail in 2007, kayaking has increased tremendously in the area. The mapped water trail extends 110 miles along the Thumb's shoreline and features 34 launch/landing

markers. The trail is still being developed, so there are several large sections with no public landing sites.

Interdunal Wetlands

There is a seasonal interdunal pond, less than 1 acre in size, at the day use area. Seasonal ponds can occur with varying water levels. The wetland plant communities of Saginaw Bay evolved under constantly fluctuating water levels. Saginaw Bay's persistent emergent wetland vegetation displays a cyclical pattern of growth that reflects changing water levels. For the past 30 years or so, the Great Lakes have been at very high levels. The high water continually inundated near-shore portions of Saginaw Bay and gradually thinned out the above-water portions of vast beds of bulrushes and cattails in the 1970s.

Since 1998, the water levels of the Great Lakes dropped significantly. The low-water conditions were responsible for changing formerly open-water areas along Saginaw Bay's shoreline into a mosaic of exposed sand and mud flats and shallow water areas. The plants that were unable to germinate during the many years of inundation are rapidly sprouting and growing in these flats and shallow water areas. Low-water conditions allowed for the reemergence of vegetated marshes along much of Saginaw Bay's shoreline.

Since the last low-water period, environmental laws, such as the 1977 Clean Water Act, have been enacted requiring a Army Corps of Engineers permit for all discharges in navigable waters of the United States and their adjacent wetlands. These laws prevent individuals, as well as municipalities, from clearing away vegetation and muck to maintain swimming areas.

Climate

During the warmest time of the year at Port Crescent State Park highs are regularly in the 70's, and throughout the night it cools down to the 50's. The cold days of the winter come with highs in the 20's, and night lows through the winter for Port Crescent State Park tend to be in the 0's.

MONTH	AVG. MIN TEMP	AVG. MAX TEMP.
January	13F./-11C.	28F./-2C.
July	57F./14C.	81F./27C.
PRECIPITATION	RAINFALL	SNOWFALL
Average Annual	29in./74cm.	54in./137cm.
GROWING SEASON	DAYS ABOVE 90F/32C	DAYS BELOW 0F/-18C
144	8	11
<i>Source: NOAA Climate Summary, 1995</i>		

Soils

(*Michigan Natural Features Inventory*). The lake plain is nearly flat, with slope gradients generally 0-2%. Its parent material is mostly lacustrine clay, and much of the soil is poorly drained or very poorly drained. Along the inland margin of the clay lake plain is a broad sand channel that formed where glacial meltwater streams deposited sand into proglacial lakes. Due to the underlying clay, drainage conditions on the sand channel are poor, except for low dunes and sand spits that are excessively drained. The till plain is also nearly flat and difficult to distinguish from the lake plain. In the center of the sub-subsection, an end moraine forms a low ridge several miles wide with gentle to moderate slopes, generally in the 2-6% class, and better drainage conditions than those of the adjacent lake plain. The glacial deposits in most of the sub-subsection are underlain by Paleozoic bedrock, including Mississippian shale, sandstone, gypsum, and limestone, with Devonian shale along the St. Clair River and Pennsylvanian sandstone, shale, limestone, and coal along the western edge of the sub-subsection. Bedrock is not exposed except on the lower reaches of some streams and along small portions of the shoreline of Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron.

Flora

(*Michigan Natural Features Inventory; April 2001*). During pre-European settlement times, an extensive wooded dune and swale complex occurred on the silt/clay lakeplain, encompassing most of Port Crescent State Park. This complex formed the eastern edge of a series of wooded dune and swale complexes that spanned a 12-mile segment of shoreline extending to Caseville. It was characterized by a series of low sandy beach ridges (0.5-1.0), alternating with swales ranging from 7-40 m in width. White pine and eastern hemlock were more common on the ridges at that time than currently.

The predominant features of Port Crescent State Park include an open dune complex in the center of the park, flanked by the extensive wooded dune and swale complex on the east, south, and west. The Pinnebog River meanders through the park primarily following the ecotone between open dune and wooded dune and swale.

The park has been significantly modified since pre-European settlement, primarily due to logging, sand mining, and recreational development. Austrian Pine, a non-native tree, was planted to reclaim and stabilize former mining areas.

Species composition of the dune and swale community has also been altered and fragmented by trails. The pre-settlement white pine and hemlock on the ridges have been replaced by red oak, paper birch, red maple, and black cherry. In the swales, red maple, black ash, and cottonwood are the dominant trees, while red-osier dogwood, buttonbush, Michigan holly, blue joint grass, and fowl manna grass are common in the understory and herbaceous layer. The open dune is highly disturbed by trails and human use, particularly in the heavily used

day-use beach area. The beach vegetation is almost solid marram grass, while inland portions of the open dune retain a diversity of native species, such as bearberry, butterfly weed, little bluestem, and hairy puccoon. Sparse jack pine and black oak scrub occurs amongst openings in some portions of the “open dune.” Exotic species such as Kentucky bluegrass and invasive spotted knapweed are common in places.

Although precise location data is lacking, Pitcher’s thistle, a State and Federal threatened species, was noted as “common along shore” at Port Crescent in 1896, and “plentiful on beach” near Port Austin in 1908. A small population was documented at Port Crescent in 1990, in “low dunes near the mouth of Pinnebog River.” The inventory conducted by MNFI in 1996 determined this species to be on the brink of extinction at the park, with the discovery of only four individuals in two separate locations during a five hour search. At both locations, the habitat was degraded by non-native, invasive species, including Kentucky blue grass and spotted knapweed. It is possible that more individuals could be found at the park, but it certainly would be rare.

Pitcher’s thistle commonly inhabits foredune and blowout regions of lakeward dunes, in northern Michigan. Historical records show its southern-most extent in the thumb region of the state. It has rapidly dwindled in the southern lower peninsula due to extensive development of the shoreline. The sparse population at Port Crescent may represent the only remnant population south of Au Sable Point. Targeted surveys for Lake Huron tansy, Houghton’s goldenrod, and dwarf-lake iris were unsuccessful and it is unlikely that these species occur at the park.

Fauna

(*Stewardship Files, 1967*). During the 1800’s Huron County was populated with birds and animals that are no longer abundant. Elk herds grazed in this area to such an extent that the town of Elkton derived its name from the species. The passenger pigeon also was plentiful, but now is only evident in the town name of Pigeon. In 1967, small game inhabited the park, including fox, red squirrel, fox squirrel, chipmunk, raccoon, opossum, skunk, muskrat, mink, a small population of rabbits, and a steadily decreasing number of pheasants. Some beaver populated the Pinnebog River. Before the 1960’s, deer were scarce in the area, but by 1967, there was a sizable population. There were many varieties of duck and geese, with flocks seen mainly during the migratory season. Some partridge and quail also inhabit the area. Surveys were conducted for eastern fox snake, prairie warbler, dickcissel, and American bittern, none of which were documented.

(*Michigan Natural Features Inventory; April 2001*)

Port Crescent State Park contains several habitats conducive for wildlife habitation: beachfront, sand dunes, dune forest, and the backwaters of Pinnebog River. Wild turkeys, blue herons, and whitetail deer are plentiful here, and the

lucky visitor may catch a glimpse of beavers or bald eagles. Although there currently is not a nest, bald eagles can be found hunting in the park. Typical woodland species are found in the park, such as raccoon, red and fox squirrel, opossum, chipmunks, and mice inhabit the area. There is also a large bird population. Gulls, terns, and shore birds are plentiful. Thrushes, woodpeckers, flycatchers, hawks, eagles, and a wide variety of warblers can be found in the wooded sections. Other species in the park include Eastern box turtle, snapping turtle, and hognose snake.

With three miles of sandy Saginaw Bay shoreline, the park is well known for viewing raptor and songbird migrations. Port Crescent State Park is an excellent destination for viewing the spring hawk migration. A 900-foot boardwalk is ADA compliant enabling a variety of users to enjoy the sights. Improvements were made for viewing hawks in the day use area with funding from the Kellogg Foundation.

From March through April, broad-winged hawks and other birds-of-prey congregate here to rest and feed before continuing their journey to northern breeding grounds. At times you can view large kettles or groups of these birds soaring upon the drafts of air that come across Lake Huron and are funneled upward by the dune ridges. The attraction for viewing hawks makes this state park a designated Watchable Wildlife Area.

Data on hawks in the park was collected for eleven years by Tom Heatley, a retired biology teacher. He captured, banded, and studied hawks and other birds of prey in the day use area. The data produced was provided to the park. The common loon is another bird that migrates through in April. Large concentrations of bluebirds bring color and character to the fields near the park entrance.

NATURAL FEATURES INVENTORY¹

State Protection Status Code Definitions

E - Endangered

T – Threatened SC - Special concern

Federal Protection Status Code Definitions

LT - Listed threatened

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status
<i>Acella haldemani</i>	Spindle lymnaea		SC
<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>	Lake sturgeon		T
<i>Adlumia fungosa</i>	Climbing fumitory		SC
<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	Henslow's sparrow		E
<i>Appalachina sayanus</i>	Spike-lip crater		SC
<i>Asclepias hirtella</i>	Tall green milkweed		T
<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	American bittern		SC
<i>Cacalia plantaginea</i>	Prairie indian-plantain		SC
<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Piping plover	LE	E
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern harrier		SC
<i>Cirsium pitcheri</i>	Pitcher's thistle	LT	T
<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	Marsh wren		SC
<i>Coregonus artedii</i>	Lake herring or Cisco		T
<i>Cypripedium candidum</i>	White lady slipper		T
<i>Dorydiella kansana</i>	Leafhopper		SC
Emergent Marsh			
<i>Emys blandingii</i>	Blanding's turtle		SC
<i>Epioblasma triquetra</i>	Snuffbox		E
<i>Fontigens nickliniana</i>	Watercress snail		SC
Great Blue Heron Rookery	Great Blue Heron Rookery		
Great Lakes Marsh			
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald eagle		SC
Interdunal Wetland	Alkaline Shoredunes Pond/marsh, Great Lakes Type		
Lakeplain Oak Openings			
Lakeplain Wet Prairie	Alkaline Wet Prairie, Midwest Type		
Lakeplain Wet-mesic Prairie	Alkaline Tallgrass Prairie, Midwest Type		
<i>Lanius ludovicianus migrans</i>	Migrant loggerhead shrike		E
Oak-Pine Barrens			
<i>Pantherophis gloydi</i>	Eastern fox snake		T
<i>Percina copelandi</i>	Channel darter		E
<i>Percina shumardi</i>	River darter		E
<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>	Prairie white-fringed orchid	LT	E
<i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i>	Mountain mint		T
<i>Pycnanthemum verticillatum</i>	Whorled mountain mint		SC
<i>Sander canadensis</i>	Sauger		T
<i>Sistrurus catenatus catenatus</i>	Eastern massasauga	C	SC
<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	Forster's tern		T
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common tern		T
<i>Trimerotropis huroniana</i>	Lake Huron locust		T
Wooded Dune/Swale Complex			
<i>Woodsia obtusa</i>	Blunt-lobed woodsia		T

¹ current as of 12/17/2009 according to the Michigan Natural Features Inventory website:
http://web4.msue.msu.edu/mnfi/data/cnty_dat.cfm?county=Huron

A.8 HISTORIC/CULTURAL RESOURCES

Physical Environment

(*Stewardship Files, 1967*). Two brine wells with estimated depths of 900 and 1,500 feet are located on park property and were in use in the 1880's and 1890's. No detailed logs are known, but field notes of Alfred C. Lane showed both wells flowed in 1896. These wells were properly capped and plugged in 1998. Final plugging with cement stopped water seepage.

Cultural Environment

(*Stewardship Files, 1967 and "Thumbtrails" web site*). Port Crescent was founded in 1864. The place was first called Pinnebog, and changed its name to Port Crescent after its crescent-shaped harbor to avoid confusion with another Pinnebog town upriver. Port Crescent once had a population of 500 as a thriving lumber town. The town had two sawmills, one on each side of the river. The town was dependent on timber in the Pinnebog River basin that could be floated downriver to the mills.

Alongside each sawmill was a salt factory that evaporated salt out of brine using sawdust and waste wood from the mill as fuel. Two large docks jutting into the lake accommodated sailing ships that carried lumber and salt from this area to various parts of the state. The town also had a cooperage to make barrels for salt and fish, a gristmill, a wagon factory, a shoe factory, a pump factory, a brewery, several stores, two hotels, blacksmith shop, a post office, and a train depot.

The town began to decline in the late 1870's as the supply of timber was depleted. Salt mining in other areas was more profitable than the evaporation process of the brine at Port Crescent, and these factors led to the decline of the village.

As the supply of timber was depleted near Port Crescent in the 1870's Nathaniel Bennett Haskell, a sawmill and salt plant owner, started a sand mining operation. The dunes of Port Crescent were mined for their sand. The fine white sand was prized both for glass making and as furnace sand. Some of the sand was shipped to the furnaces of the Upper Peninsula. In the 20th Century, sand was shipped to the glasswork of Detroit where Port Crescent sand became windows for Model T Fords at the River Rouge Plant.

After the Fire of 1881, the former timber town of Port Crescent was abandoned. The sawmills closed and the shipping docks were dismantled and moved to Oscoda. The salt factories also closed down for lack of fuel. People left Port Crescent and moved their houses to nearby towns. In 1894, the last building was moved out of Port Crescent, leaving a ghost town with a steel bridge, a brick chimney, and a cemetery. The ghost town of Port Crescent, once a thriving timber and fishing village, was abandoned and covered by the dunes. Sand

mining continued until 1936, when the Pinnebog River overflowed and cut a new channel through the sand pit, ending the sand mining at Port Crescent.

In 1956, with the acquisition of 124 acres as state land, plans were formulated for the development of a state park to be named Port Crescent. The area was used for primitive camping, picnicking, and swimming.

The park was officially designated as a state park on September 6th 1959. In 1960 a park ranger was assigned to the area. Camps were checked and some restrictions placed on the use of the land.

Archaeological Resources

(*Stewardship Files, July 1995*). Both sides of the Pinnebog River near its mouth were occupied prehistorically, and it was a favorite artifact collecting area for many years. It is also the site of the former village of Port Crescent. All buildings once present in the village are now gone, although it may be possible to trace certain street rights-of-way. The town contained residences, a school, church, hotel, grist mill, sawmill, salt block, at least two brine wells, and a long wooden dock for the export of sand. Pilings for the dock are present off shore.

Buildings and Structures

(*Stewardship Files*). The foundations from a former sand mining operation for sand loading equipment extend perhaps ¼ mile into the lake. Pilings for the former docks are present off shore in the lake. An old iron bridge that crossed the old channel of the Pinnebog River was once used to reach the village of Port Crescent. The iron bridge now leads to the former Outdoor Center. The Pinnebog River has since formed a new channel.

Bricks from a former wood-fired sawmill were used to build a monument at the location of the sawmill in the campground. This was erected by the first park manager, Lou Witherspoon. This feature was likely moved from its original site to make room for campsites.



A.9 EDUCATION / INTERPRETATION / VISITOR SERVICES RESOURCES

Fishing in the Parks

Between June and August, Port Crescent State Park offers to help people of all ages learn fishing basics like knot-tying, setting up your pole, casting, selecting and using bait, and removing fish from the hook. Equipment is available at the park.

State Park Explorer Program

Each summer, state park explorer programs are offered to campers and day visitors at PCSP.

Armed with field guides, animal skins, bug boxes and other hands-on materials, state park explorer guides lead informal programs and hikes that feature each location's unique natural, cultural and historic resources.

Program topics include forests, insects, night hikes, pond studies and other topics covering the variety of plants, animals and natural features found within each park. These programs are designed for children and adults, often in a family setting.

Port Crescent Wildlife Observation Site

Located along Michigan's thumb region, Port Crescent boasts several habitats conducive for wildlife habitation: beachfront, sand dunes, dune forest, and the backwaters of Pinnebog River. With three miles of sandy Saginaw Bay shoreline, the park is well known for viewing raptor and songbird migrations. A 900-foot boardwalk in the day use area is ADA compliant enabling a variety of users to enjoy the sights.

Visitor Services

Campground Host Program. The primary responsibility of a Campground Host is to assist campers by answering questions and explaining rules in a pleasant and helpful manner. As a representative of the Michigan state park the Volunteer Campground Host will provide the following kinds of services:

- Greet new campers.
- Distribute interpretative information
- Answer questions about the local area
- Arrange campground activities such as camper coffee hours, kids fishing derbies, campfire sing-a-long and berry picking.
- Perform other services depending on capabilities and the campground facilities where assigned.
- Volunteer Campground Hosts take no law enforcement measures other than being observant and notifying park staff of problems. Volunteer Hosts are easily recognizable by their official vests, shirts, hats and nametags.

Volunteer Campground Hosts are selected by state park managers. Managers may require an interview or request additional information on prospective volunteers. Selection is based on familiarity with the Michigan Campground System, camping experience, special skills, availability, and knowledge of the surrounding area and needs of the park.

Weekly Camper Coffee Hour. The park manager meets weekly with campers for informal discussions in order to provide positive interactions, gain camper perspectives, and better understand camper needs and issues.

A.10 RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

Port Crescent State Park

Cross Country Skiing

Fishing

A universally accessible fishing deck is available at the day-use area along the Pinnebog River.

Fishing in the Parks

Learn more about fishing at Fishing in the Parks, a free educational program.

Hiking

Several trails totaling seven miles meander through various areas of the park.

Hunting

Port Crescent offers excellent whitetail deer, turkey, and waterfowl hunting opportunities.

Michigan State Park Explorer Program

Learn more about the natural features and resources located in this park with the Outdoor Explorer Program.

Swimming

Watchable Wildlife

The Wildlife Viewing Guide is now on line at www.michigan.gov/miwildlifeviewing.

Beach House

Picnic Area

Fire pits/grills available.

Picnic Shelter

For reservations contact the park Monday-Friday 8am-4:30pm at (989) 738-8663.

Playground

Camping

Modern Campground

Trails

Day Use Trail

Dunes Interpretive Trail

Organization Area Trail

Port Crescent Day Use Area

The Day Use Area, acquired in 1975, provides access to the area known as “the dunes” along Lake Huron, and to the swimming beach. The Day Use Area contains parking lots, a picnic shelter and beach house near the lake. There are two picnic decks overlooking Lake Huron, connected by sections of a remaining boardwalk traversing the crest of the dunes. A one-mile accessible interpretive trail is accessed from the day use parking lot. A third, 3 ½ mile hiking and cross-country ski trail also begins in the day use area.



Port Crescent Trails

Day Use Trail

Trail Length: 3.50 (Miles)
Cross Country Ski, Hiking

Dunes Interpretive Trail

Trail Length: 1.00 (Miles)
Cross Country Ski, Hiking

The 3/4 mile Dunes Nature Trail (converted 1970's fitness trail) is located on the west side of the day use parking area.

Organization Area Trail

Trail Length: 2.50 (Miles)
Cross Country Ski, Hiking

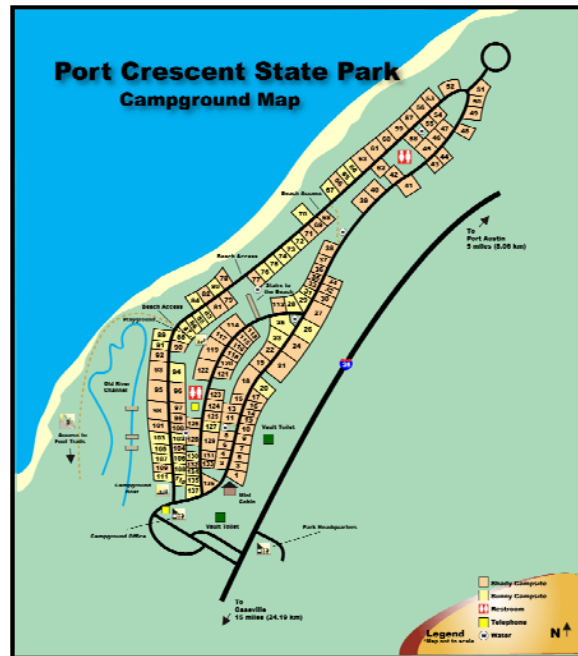


The Port Crescent State Park Organization Area Trail is very scenic, with spectacular vistas and unique qualities. The trail is one large oval divided by a short cut about half way through. The circle closest to the campground is marked with blue triangles. The circle farthest away is marked with red triangles. Access to the trail begins in 2 locations: from the campground where the old channel of the Pinnebog River enters Lake Huron, and from the bridge at the former organizational area. Along the trail, an old historic bridge spans the old river channel at Port Crescent Road. It is now a pedestrian crossing. As the trail

follows the Pinnebog River to Lake Huron, the views become steadily more spectacular as the dunes get higher and the river gets wider.

Modern Campground

The modern campground features 142 campsites with some sites located along the lake and the old river channel. Each site has an electrical outlet, fire circle, and picnic table. The campground has a sanitation station for fresh water and with dump station. Recreational activities in the campground include a playground, horseshoe courts, swimming, fishing and boating and access to the hiking trail. A 2 ½ mile marked foot trail, also used for cross-country skiing, begins near the organization area.



A.11 AREAS OF CONFLICT

Recurrent law enforcement issues include controls on indecent exposure at a remote area of the park, and control of campfires and camping on the beach. Unlike many parks, Port Crescent experiences few trespass issues or dumping of refuse.

From a safety perspective, an area of concern is at the mouth of the Pinnebog River, where the swift current has been blamed for several serious accidents.

A.12 PARK USE STATISTICS AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

2009 Park Use

Port Crescent State Park is just over a one-hour drive of greater metropolitan Bay City and Saginaw, a Combined Statistical Area that had a combined population of 320,196 at the 2000 census. Of the 138,700 visitors in 2008, 42% were campers and 58% were day-users. Attendance was up slightly in 2009, with a total of 139,600 visitors, mainly due to an increase in camp nights.

Camping is popular at Port Crescent State Park. The campground is regularly full in late June through Labor Day, and always on the July 4th weekend. The mini-cabin is continuously full throughout the summer, including week days.

Characterization of park use is described as follows: (based on 2007-2008 DNR-Park Attendance Statistics)

- Peak-Use Season – By far, the highest use period occurs during the warmer summer months of June, July, and August. During this time in 2008, Port Crescent State Park averaged about 27,800 visitors per month over the three months. May shows a total visitation number of over 7,800, while September shows total visitation numbers of nearly 15,500 people. No data exists for October 2008, however, in October 2007 there were 7,387 visitors.
- Moderate-Use Season – April and November show less use, with about 5,900 visitors in April 2008 and roughly 5,000 visitors in November 2007. Winter use drops off but remains steady with an average of about 2,850 visitors per month from December through March.

2008 Economic Impact Analysis

(MSU Dr. Stynes' economic analysis model; "MGM2") This model is an update of the MGM model developed by Dr. Ken Hornback for the National Park System in 1995. The purpose of the updated MGM2 model is to estimate the impact of park visitor spending on the local economy. These economic impacts are reflected in terms of sales, income, employment, and value added.

This analysis tool, like others, relies on three primary factors in the common equation: Economic Impact of Tourism Spending = Number of Tourists (x) Average Spending per Visitor (x) Multiplier (to estimate extended effects of direct spending).

Following are the relative economic impacts (based on 2004 data) of Port Crescent State Park to the economy of the surrounding county:

Direct Economic Effects to the Community

Following are the relative economic impacts (based on 2004 data) of Port Crescent State Park to the economy of the surrounding county:

- Direct spending attributable to Port Crescent State Park visitors totaled \$4,410,000 of which \$925,000 came from Day-Use, and \$3,485,000 from Camping.
- Direct Jobs totaled 116 with 24 related to Day-Use activity and 92 to Camping. (Note...jobs are not full-time equivalent. They include part-time and seasonal positions.)
- Personal Income total is \$1,531,000 with \$3,210,000 associated with Day-Use of the park and \$1,210,000 associated with Camping.
- Value Added (total income plus business taxes) totaled \$2,320,000. Day-Use accounted for \$487,000 and Camping accounted for \$1,833,000.

Total Economic Impact to the Community

(NOTE...this reflects 'Direct Effects' plus the 'Secondary Effects' of visitor spending on the local economy. Secondary Effects (sometimes called 'Multiplier Effects') capture economic activity that results from the re-circulation of money spent by the park visitors in the community.

- Total spending = \$6,366,000 (44.4% over direct spending)
- Jobs = 146 (25.9% over direct job impacts)
- Personal Income = \$2,237,000 (46% over direct spending)
- Value added = \$3,540,000 (52.6% over direct value added)

For purposes of updating economic values, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is often used to adjust values over time. At the following site, <http://www.bls.gov/home.htm>, a CPI Inflation Calculator is located in the category of "Inflation and Consumer Spending".

Appendix B –Summary of Public Input

Public Participation

Public Participation

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks & Recreation Division (DNR-PRD) emphasizes that comments on the general management plans are accepted at any time during the process. Two structured approaches to gathering public input are included in the general management plan process. The participation initiatives are summarized below, and the results are presented in this Appendix.

❑ **January 18, 2011 Stakeholder Workshop**

The purpose of the workshop was to obtain comments on the draft General Management Plans for Port Crescent, Sleeper, and the Sanilac Historic Petroglyphs State Parks. With assistance from the Planning Team, approximately 65 people and organizations were identified as stakeholders. Invitations to the Stakeholder Workshop were sent by email and via post. Sixteen people attended the workshop. The attendee list is included below.

Stakeholders were invited to comment at the meeting. Stakeholders could also comment by completing a survey. The surveys were provided at the workshops to complete in person or submit by mail.

- ❑ **March 30, 2011** A public input open house was held to allow the public the opportunity to express their comments about the park. The above noted people were again contacted regarding the public input workshops by mail and email. A notice was published in the local paper. Stakeholders and others were encouraged to share this information with interested members of the general public. Approximately 15 people attended.

There were two opportunities to provide comments:

- 1) Comment at the workshop
- 2) A hard-copy survey available at the workshop - for completion on site or submitted via mail

Meeting Summary
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION
Sleeper State Park | Port Crescent State Park
Sanilac Petroglyphs Historic State Park
General Management Plans – Stakeholder Meeting

DATE: January 18, 2011

TIME: 6:30 – 8:00 PM

PLACE: Franklin Inn, Bad Axe MI

Planning Team members in attendance (Division or Firm):

Paul Curtis	RD Management Plan Administrator
Kristin Bennett	RD District Planner
Ray Fahlsing	RD Stewardship
Scott Brown	DNRE – LED
Betsy Kish	DNRE – Port Crescent State Park Manager
George Lauinger	DNRE – Sleeper State Park Manager
Jill Bahm	Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.
David Birchler	Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.

Stakeholders in attendance (Group Represented):

Joe & Lynn Finan	Frank's Party Store
Marv Kuziel	Port Austin Harbor Commission
Carol Osentoski	Huron EDC
Dan McCole	MSU
Kerry Bennett	Michigan Archaeological Society
Kenneth Piechette	Hume Township
Don Simons	Michigan Arch Society
Shannon Martin	Ziibiwing Center Saginaw Chippewa
R. Sally Moldwin	(none listed)
Cary Rouse	MDOT
Bill Moldwin	Sanilac Watershed Council
Nancy Moss	City of Caseville
Pamela Kladzyk	Colfax Township
Scott Whipple	Huron ISD
Ken Merckel	Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association
Chris Boyle	(none listed)

1. Introductions and Background

All Team members and Stakeholders introduced themselves and identified the DNRE Division, stakeholder group, or issue they represented.

2. Presentations:

- ☐ Paul Curtis (RD) - General Management Planning Process & Overview of Draft Plan process for Sanilac Petroglyphs

- ☐ David Birchler (Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.) - Overview of Draft Plan process for Sleeper and Port Crescent State Parks
- 3. Questions & Answers/Comments Session
The Planning Team members fielded questions and heard comments from the stakeholders present.
- 4. Open House / Stakeholder Survey Session
 - ☐ Open house format was explained, as well as resource maps and materials available for review
 - ☒ Progression of Management Zone Objectives
 - ☒ Aerial Photos
 - ☒ Recreational Resources Maps
 - ☒ Draft management Zones Maps
 - ☒ Detailed Description of Management Zones
 - ☒ Stakeholder Survey
 - ☐ Team members and Stakeholders engaged one another in discussions about each park's resources and its importance to the greater Thumb region
 - ☐ Stakeholders who did not return a completed survey promised to send them to Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc. via mail
- 5. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM, after all Stakeholders had departed.

**Michigan DNR
Public Input Workshop
Sleeper State Park | Port Crescent State Park
Sanilac Petroglyphs Historic State Park**

March 30, 2011 • 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Franklin Inn
1070 E. Huron Avenue
Bad Axe, Michigan 48413**

AGENDA

1. Introductions and Background (6:30 – 6:40 p.m.)

2. Presentation (6:40 – 7:30 p.m.)

- ☐ Purpose of General Management Plans
- ☐ Plan Process
- ☐ Overview of Draft Plans for:
 - Sanilac Petroglyphs Historic State Park
 - Sleeper State Park
 - Port Crescent State Park

3. Work Shop (7:30 – 8:30 p.m.)

You are invited to visit each park's Map Station. Planning Team members will be available to answer questions, discuss your ideas, and receive your input. Please be sure to fill out a survey and offer us your comments for any one or all three of the parks. Your input is important to the process of developing a general management plan for these parks.

Appendix C –Planning Team Meeting Summaries

PLANNING TEAM MEETING #1 - 9/30/10

Sleeper SP, Port Sanilac SP, and Sanilac Petroglyphs HSP

Meeting Overview

The first planning team meeting was well attended by DNRE resource programs staff (Fish Division, Forest Management Division, Wildlife Division, Law Enforcement Division, and Recreation Division). Also participating on our planning team: the State Archaeologist, the Michigan Archaeological Society, and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. David Birchler and Jill Bahm of Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc. (BA) are assisting the DNRE with the GMP for Sleeper and Port Crescent State Parks.

Paul Curtis presented a presentation of the management planning process, which was followed up by a BA overview of features and attributes of each park. The team found no corrections were needed to the park overviews.

The planning team was split into two groups to consider and discuss those things that make each park special and unique. The following comments were presented by the teams:

Port Crescent SP

- Contains remnants of the Village of Port Crescent (European)
- Native American presence near Pinnebog River and along shoreline
- Pinnebog River has broad and dynamic river mouth (causing relocation of man-made elements)
- Migrating songbirds and birds of prey
- Wooded dune/swale complex
- The water itself (Lake Huron and Pinnebog River)
- 3-miles of shore/dune
- Part of the Lake Huron Kayak Trail
- Specific archaeological features
- Steelhead plan for the Pinnebog River
- Rare pitchers thistle population
- Large area protected from development include- mouth of river

- History – mining town / dock / lumber industry
- Largest dunes East side of Michigan
- Specific archaeological features
- Proximity to local, rural communities
- Oak – Pine barren
- Camping & Recreation draw on the lake
- Natural features of the park.
- Shoreline Trail is important back to pre-history
- Could day-use area return to Ecologically sensitive in next 100 years due to natural changes.

Sanilac Petroglyphs HSP

- Sacred site for Native Americans
- Whole park has cultural impact (also area surrounding the park)
- Spiritual significance
- Other archaeological significance in park (e.g. logging camp and cabin)
- Active site for cultural practices (Saginaw Chippewa Tribe)
- Potential for revegetation of native plants for tribal cultural practices
- Big white pine (dates back to the big fire...)
- Pristine natural character outside Petroglyphs
- Opportunity for interpretive trail for its educational significance
- Opportunities for strong mutual education partnerships between Native Americans / DNRE / Archeological society.
- Cass River
- Park is surrounded by State Game Area and serves as a hunting oasis for wildlife
- Exposed bedrock is unique
- Physical record of past.
- Condition of the glyphs, need for stewardship is common concern.
- It is apparent that a unique technology was used to cut the petroglyph images into the rock.

Sleeper SP

- 5-miles from the annual “Cheeseburger Festival”
- Undisturbed Wooded dune/swale complex
- Oak-Pine Barrens
- Adjacent to Rush Lake Game Area (2000 acres +/-)
- Undisturbed beach ridges
- Potential archaeological significance
- Part of the Lake Huron Kayak Trail
- University shoreline research done here
- Bird migration not as significant here as at Port Crescent, but include Sand Hill Cranes, Raptors
- Outdoor Center (old CCC cabins in rustic setting)
- ½ mile shoreline
- Sunrise to sunset

Management Zone Plans:

Each team created a conceptual 'Management Zone Plan.' These maps will be discussed and refined at the next team meeting. Generally, the teams identified the following zones:

Port Crescent SP: The Natural Resource Recreation Zone will cover the footprint of the old sand mine, currently the parking area, the observation platform, and hiking trails by the access road. The Backcountry Zone will cover the old town site, currently the eastern park trails, and the Developed Recreation Zone will apply to the campground and the Visitor Services Zone will apply to the park office. The remainder of the park will be zoned Primitive. A Scenic overlay zone will apply to the entire shoreline, and a Cultural overlay will apply to the entire park.

Sleeper SP: The hiking trails and surrounding area will either be zoned Primitive or Natural Resource Recreation. The 80 acres mostly south of Sand Road will be zoned Primitive; the campground will be zoned Developed Recreation. The park office will be zoned Visitor Services. The beach will either be zoned Developed Recreation or Natural Resource Recreation. One team suggested a Scenic overlay at the shoreline and a Cultural overlay at the Outdoor Center, given its link to the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Sanilac Petroglyphs:

- Primitive Zone – Much of the park is impacted by wetlands. This zone would apply to the whole park except for the parking area, path to the petroglyphs, and the petroglyphs area. It was noted that the existing loop trail offers natural resource education/interpretation and that zoning should not conflict with upgrading the trail for accessibility.
- History Education Zone - Parking area, path to petroglyphs, and the petroglyphs area. This would allow for improvements for protection of the petroglyphs and expansion of education/interpretation improvements.
- Cultural Landscape Zone – would apply to the whole park reflecting not only Native American occupation, but also later European influences reflected in the old logging camp and cabin.

Stakeholders

Team members were asked to come to the next Planning Team Meeting (#2) with names and contact information for "Stakeholders" to invite to the Stakeholder Workshop.

Paul Curtis and David Birchler attended the Sea Grant meeting "Charting the Course for the Bluewater Coast – Southern Lake Huron Assessment" the next day (Oct.1, 2010 at Sleeper SP). Those attendees were advised of planning

efforts that had just started, and asked for anyone interested in participating in our Stakeholder Workshop to contact Paul. Following are those who have expressed that interest:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Joyce Staner	Executive Director, Greater Port Austin Area Chamber of Commerce (989) 738-7600 pacofc@airadv.net
Christopher J. Boyle	Owner, Kayak business (989) 269-9276 cboylelaw@yahoo.com
Chuck Frost	Executive Director, Thumb Area Tourism Council, Inc. (248) 880-2485 chuck@thumbtourism.org
Carl Osentoski	Executive Director, Huron County Economic Development Corporation (989) 269-6431 carl@huroncounty.com
Marv Kuziel	Harbor Commissioner, Port Austin and Grindstone Area (989) 738-7708 mkuziel@shortlineins.com
Doug Wilson	MDOT, Cass City (need to get contact info)

PLANNING TEAM MEETING #2 - 11/3/10

Sleeper SP, Port Sanilac SP, and Sanilac Petroglyphs HSP

Meeting Overview

The second planning team meeting was attended by DNRE resource programs staff including Paul Curtis, Betsy Kish, George Lauinger, Jeff Johnson, Glenn Palmgren, Lisa Gamero and Kriss Bennett. Don Simons of the Michigan Archeological Society and David Birchler of Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc. (BA) were also present.

The planning team discussed the draft management zones and made the following comments:

Sleeper SP:

- The dune-swale complex warrants Primitive designation for the majority of the park.
- Add scenic and cultural overlays
- Designate Outdoor Center as Developed Recreation Zone
- The Outdoor Center was originally part of the CCC camp; the original dining hall burned down and was rebuilt.
- Historic picnic pavilion needs cultural overlay
- Expand visitor services to include the former residence that is scheduled for demolition

Port Crescent SP:

- Visitor Services is all on the east side of M-25
- Area north of Port Crescent Road is being purchased for park
- Make Scenic Overlay a cross-hatch in darker blue
- There is area of trail missing from the map

Sanilac Petroglyphs:

- Parking and Petroglyph should be History Education to permit buildings
- The entire remainder should be Primitive and Cultural Overlay
- Future structure to protect the resource should be in harmony with the primitive character of the park

Stakeholders

Team members agreed to invite attendees of the Bluewater Coast initiative and will consider other potential stakeholders.

PLANNING TEAM MEETING #3 - 12/16/10

Sleeper SP, Port Sanilac SP, and Sanilac Petroglyphs HSP

Meeting Overview

The third planning team meeting was attended by DNRE resource programs staff including Paul Curtis, Betsy Kish, George Lauinger, Kim Kauffman, Jim Baker, Dean Anderson, Mark Sine, Ray Fahlsing, Jeff Johnson, Lisa Gamero and Kriss Bennett. David Birchler and Jill Bahm of Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc. (BA) were also present.

The planning team discussed the draft management zones and made the following comments:

Sleeper SP:

- The boundary line on the north should be checked
- Add Cultural Overlay to the entire park
- Add description of the Recreation Passport program in place of the permit system in plan document
- There was discussion about historic structures and the potential for archeological resources in and around the park

Port Crescent SP:

- Both plans need a wide angle view of the entire park boundary
- Both plans should reflect that there are “no designated equestrian trails, therefore no equestrian use is allowed.”

- Check the acreage of the park

Sanilac Petroglyphs:

- Hunting, fishing, trapping technically violate the deed restriction at this park
- Petroglyphs refer to “carving or inscriptions in rock.”

Stakeholders

Team members identified additional stakeholders for the upcoming meeting.

PLANNING TEAM MEETING #4 - 4/21/11

Sleeper SP, Port Sanilac SP, and Sanilac Petroglyphs HSP

Meeting Overview

The final planning team meeting was attended by DNRE resource programs staff including Paul Curtis, Betsy Kish, George Lauinger, Kim Kauffman, Don Bonnette, Dean Anderson, Carl Lindell, Lisa Gamero, John Terpstra, and Kriss Bennett. David Birchler and Jill Bahm of Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc. (BA) were also present.

The planning team discussed the public input meeting and draft management zones and made the following comments:

Sleeper SP:

- The zone around the campground should extend about 50 ft south of the road loop
- The sewage plant lagoon is dry now, remove the blue from the map
- Include the playground equipment in the Developed Recreation zone
- The team discussed the dedicated NRC boundary and agreed to continue studying an extension west to Mole Road and north to the power line easement
- Align the dedicated boundary with the existing park boundary where they meet
- Recommend studying boundary expansion west to the County Road.
- Remove dedicated boundary line from Wildlife Area in the SE corner of the map
- Change the trails to headquarters to hike/bike (yellow)

Port Crescent SP:

- Add the trail that parallels the scenic overlay area
- All trails should be yellow (hiking/cross country skiing)

- The team discussed cultural overlay areas in both parks and how they might apply to parcels as acquired. Paul noted these plans are reviewed every five years.

Sanilac Petroglyphs:

- Wildlife is looking at purchasing 140 acres to the south, but no formal recommendation to expand beyond dedicated boundaries is proposed with this plan.