



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Sun shining on the water at Proud Lake State Recreation Area

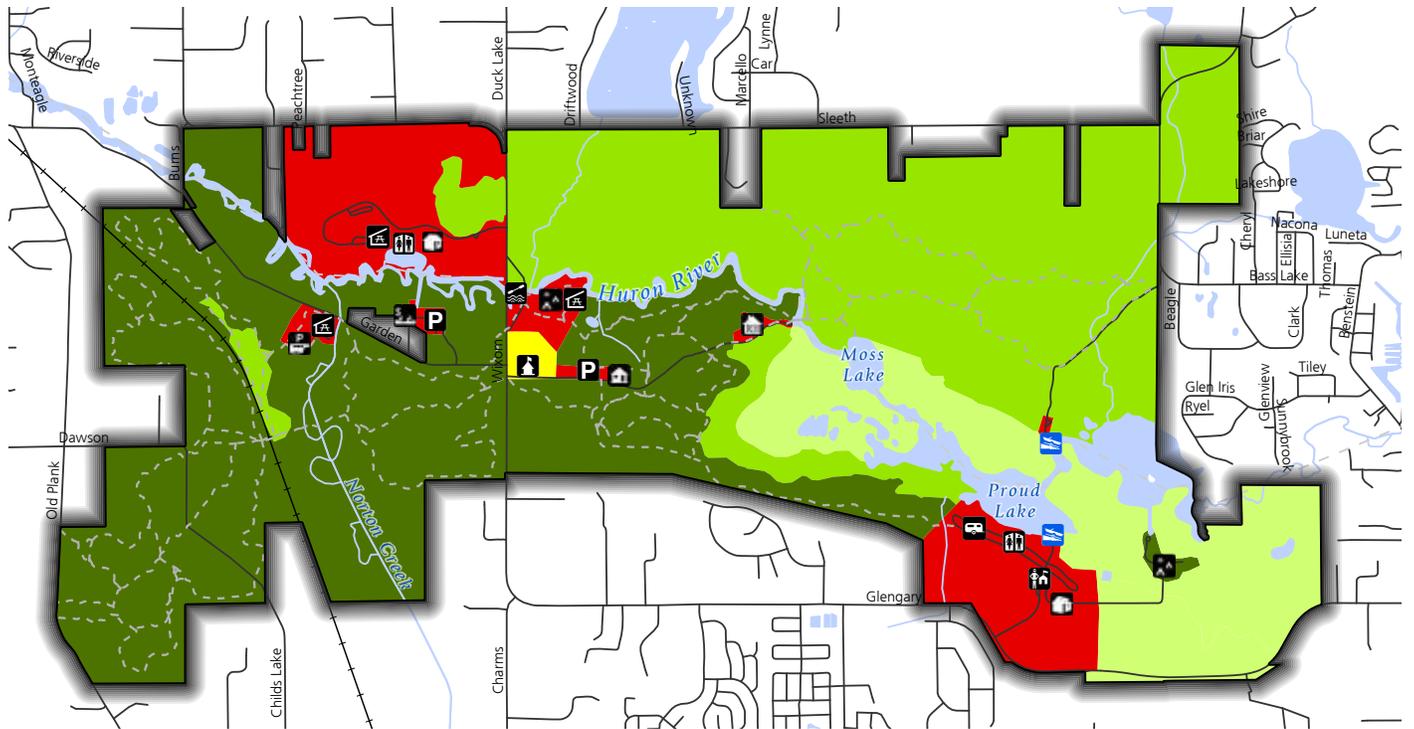
Proud Lake State Recreation Area GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

APPROVED 6/17/2022

Prepared with the assistance of Beckett & Raeder, Inc

B R 
Beckett&Raeder

www.bria2.com



PROUD LAKE RECREATION AREA GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Management Zones

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

Date: 2/4/2022

Beckett & Raeder

- Roads
- Railroads
- - - Trails
- Rivers / Streams
- Lakes
- ▭ PLSRA Boundary
- Boating Access Site
- Modern Campground
- Organizational Campground
- Park Headquarters
- Camper Cabins (2)
- Mini Cabins (2)
- Campground Registration
- River Hawk Outdoor Center
- River Hawk Outdoor Center Annex
- Canoe & Kayak Rental
- Carry-Down Boat Access Site
- Pavilion
- Parking
- Equestrian Staging
- Primitive
- Backcountry
- Natural Resource Recreation
- Developed Recreation
- Administrative Services

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

PLAN APPROVALS:



 DNR Chief, Parks & Recreation Division

6/17/2022

 Date



 DNR Natural Resources Deputy

6/17/2022

 Date



 DNR Director, Department of Natural Resources

6/17/2022

 Date

PLAN APPROVALS

PLAN APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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

PRD- Section Chiefs	<u>2-22-2022</u> Date
DNR- Resource Management Bureau	<u>3-8-2022</u> Date
MSPAC- Stewardship Subcommittee	<u>3-30-2022</u> Date
NRC- Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee	<u>4-13-2022</u> Date

RESOLUTION NO. 04-2022-03

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

**RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE
“PROUD LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN”**

ADOPTED: April 13, 2022

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

WHEREAS, the General Management Plan is consistent with the recommendations of the Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel and the Parks and Recreation Division’s strategic plan; and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Proud Lake State Recreation Area General Management Plan; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee further recommends that the DNR Director approve the General Management Plan for Proud Lake State Recreation Area;

Submitted by: Michigan State Park Advisory Committee

Motioned by: Chris Graham
Seconded by: Mike Foote

Yeas:	7
Nays:	0
Abstained:	0
Absent:	3

TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Management Plan Executive Summary	1
Significance of Proud Lake State Recreation Area	2
Twenty-Year Management Zones	3
Ten-Year Action Goals	4
Chapter One: Core Values & Guiding Resources	5
1.1 Mission Statements	5
1.2 Guiding References	5
1.3 Summary of Legal Mandates	8
Chapter Two: Plan Process Overview	9
2.1 Planning Objectives	9
2.2 Planning Process	9
2.3 Planning Team	10
2.4 Summary of Input Opportunities	10
2.5 Resilience Planning.....	12
Chapter Three: Purpose and Significance	13
3.1 Purpose of Proud Lake State Recreation Area	13
3.2 Statements of Significance	13
3.3 Public Affirmation of Significance.....	15
3.4 Community Connection.....	15
Chapter Four: Management Zones	16
4.1 Project Boundary.....	16
4.2 Primitive Zone	19
4.3 Backcountry Zone	20
4.4 Natural Resource Recreation Zone	21
4.5 Developed Recreation Zone	22
4.6 Administrative Services Zone	23
Chapter Five: Ten-Year Action Goals	25
5.1 Action Goals Summary	25
Chapter Six: Implementation Strategy	31
6.1 Implementation Toolbox	31
6.2 Documentation of Changes	32
6.3 Documentation of Accomplishments	32
6.4 Five-Year Review Process.....	32

Appendix A: Supporting Analysis A-1

- A.1 Park Overview A-1
- A.2 Demographics A-1
- A.3 Regional Recreation Resources A-3
- A.4 History of Proud Lake State Recreation Area A-8
- A.5 Land Ownership A-10
- A.6 Legal Mandates A-12
- A.7 Landscape Context and Natural Resources A-14
- A.8 Recreational Resources A-19
- A.9 Historic and Cultural Resources A-21
- A.10 Education, Interpretation, Programming and Events A-22
- A.11 Park Use Statistics A-22

Appendix B: Public and Stakeholder Input B-1

- B.1 Project Website B-1
- B.2 Summary of Public Input Survey B-1
- B.3 Summary of Stakeholder Input Workshop B-11
- B.4 Tribal Engagement B-18
- B.5 Public Input Survey Data B-19
- B.6 Summary of Draft Plan Public Input B-63

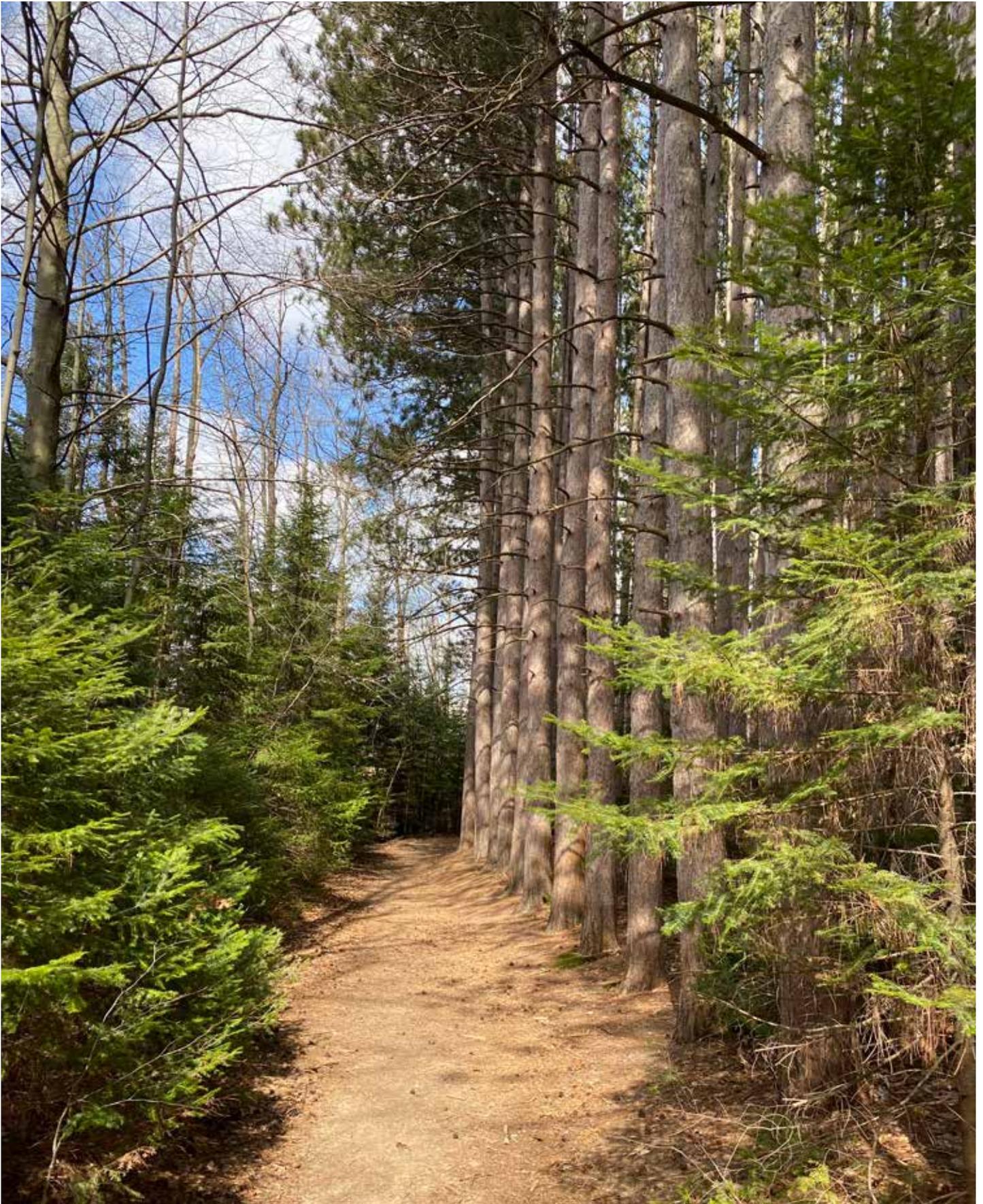
Appendix C: Opinion of Probable Costs C-1

- C.1 State Park Funding C-1
- C.2 Estimated Cost of Proposed Developments C-1

Appendix D: Legislation D-1

- D.1 NREPA - Act 451 of 1994 (Excerpt) D-1
- D.2 324.35105 Prohibited activities; easement D-1

Appendix E: On-Site Survey Report E-3



Trail through the pines



A great blue heron in flight over the Huron River

General Management Plan Executive Summary

Proud Lake State Recreation Area covers 3,030 acres in Oakland County in southeast Michigan, approximately 35 miles northwest of Detroit. It is one of 11 state recreation areas established in the 1940s to provide recreation land in southeast Michigan. The recreation area offers a large swath of nature in a populous region with a portion open for hunting. It includes more than 20 miles of trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing that meander through diverse habitats. A four-mile stretch of the Huron River flows through the recreation area, providing paddling and fishing opportunities. Visitors can stay overnight at the 130-site modern campground, two mini cabins, two camper cabins, and the River Hawk Complex, which includes a lodge for larger groups.

The purpose of this general management plan (GMP) is to guide the future long-term management and development of Proud Lake State Recreation Area. Overall, this plan seeks to uphold the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks & Recreation Division's (PRD) Mission: "to acquire, protect, and preserve the natural and cultural features of Michigan's unique resources, and to provide access to land and water based public recreation and educational

opportunities." The management plan brings together DNR staff, stakeholders, and the public into a process that defines the following for the recreation area:

- Purpose and significance that captures the unique identity of Proud Lake State Recreation Area.
- Twenty-year management zone plan reflecting the resource protection goals and level of development appropriate for different areas of the recreation area.
- Ten-year action goals that address the desired future condition within the recreation area as a whole and within each of the designated management zones.

The supporting analysis, included as Appendix A of this plan, provides important background information on Proud Lake State Recreation Area that informs this planning initiative. It includes a comprehensive review of the recreation area setting, area demographics, history, land ownership, legal mandates, and cultural, natural, and recreation resources. Furthermore, several existing planning documents, including the DNR Public Land Strategy and the Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, were used as guiding references (see Chapter One).

Significance of Proud Lake State Recreation Area

This general management plan was developed in consideration of the property's significant features that make it distinct from other parks in the state park system. Proud Lake State Recreation Area was determined significant due to the aspects that are summarized below. The full statements of significance can be found in Chapter Three.

- The recreation area is part of a larger network of green space in southeast Michigan and provides abundant recreation opportunities, as well as year-round overnight accommodations.
- The recreation area contains 3,030 acres supporting exemplary natural communities and varied habitats.
- Water recreation is a top attraction, with paddling, swimming, and boating on the Huron River and inland lakes. Canoe and kayak rentals provide access to four miles of the state- and federally-designated Huron River Water Trail.
- Ample fishing opportunities are found here, especially trout fishing, which is rare in the region. The trout stocking program is the longest-running use of brood stock in the state.
- The recreation area's 20 miles of trails are popular for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing and connect to other parks and nearby communities. A portion of the Chief Pontiac Trail traverses the recreation area, which is used by Scouts as part of a Credential Hiking Program.
- The River Hawk Complex is a rare facility for a Michigan state park and includes a modern lodge, meeting spaces, and dining areas available for rent.



The River Hawk Lodge

Twenty-Year Management Zones

A key goal in the development of this general management plan is to continue to protect the recreation area's natural and cultural resources, while providing recreation and education opportunities. Taking this into account, the planning team, with stakeholder and public input, established appropriate management zones for the recreation area from a palette of nine standard zones. The management zone map and a thorough review of each management zone are found in Chapter Four of this plan. A condensed description of each of the applied management zones is as follows:

Primitive Zone

The primary purpose of the Primitive Zone is the protection of natural resources and natural processes. The zone is managed for low-impact recreational experiences in a primitive, natural landscape. Only dispersed, self-reliant, and low-frequency use is allowed. Attaining and maintaining a high-quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements or uses are allowed. This zone covers 14% of the recreation area and includes sensitive natural resources on the east side of the recreation area, including a designated Natural Area.

Backcountry Zone

The character of this zone is natural, with minimal evidence of human impact through recreational use. While the Primitive Zone is highly restrictive for recreational use and human impact, this zone allows for slightly increased use, including bicycle and equestrian use, and modifications of the landscape (e.g., trail development) to accommodate that use. This zone is 35% of the recreation area and includes lands managed for the eastern massasauga rattlesnake that are not already zoned primitive, as well as the oak barrens on the east edge of the



Equestrians and their horses

railroad tracks and a wetland near the Powers Unit day use area. This land includes hunting lands and trails.

Natural Resource Recreation Zone

The Natural Resource Recreation Zone supports active recreation conducted in a natural setting with medium- to high-density use. There is an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but moderate to high levels of use may be accommodated. This zone makes up approximately 38% of the recreation area and includes the land west of Wixom Road that is not zoned as Developed Recreation or Backcountry and land east of Wixom Road that is not managed for the eastern massasauga rattlesnake. This area includes hunting lands and trails and the Red Oaks group campground.

Developed Recreation Zone

The Developed Recreation Zone supports 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. Examples of this zone include modern campgrounds, day use recreation areas, boating facilities, and other highly developed/high use areas. This zone is approximately 12% of the recreation area land and includes the modern campground, camper cabins, the Powers Unit day use area and picnic shelters, the Pines group campground, the canoe/kayak rental and parking lot, the Huron River fishing site, and the River Hawk Complex.

Administrative Services Zone

This zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. Typically, it will include offices, contact stations, maintenance facilities and all related land base required to conduct the business of running a state park or recreation area. This zone covers 14 acres (<1%) of the recreation area and includes the recreation area headquarters and shop area.



Winter fat tire bikers ride through the woods

Ten-Year Action Goals

Once the planning team has established management zones to guide Proud Lake State Recreation Area for the next 20 years, a series of action goals are identified that are desired to be implemented within the next ten-years. The action goals are broken down into categories pertaining either to an area of management and operations, infrastructure/development projects that require capital outlay, small infrastructure and development projects, or partner projects. Any future improvements will be considered in the context of efficiency, environmental sustainability and resiliency, for example, Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations and solar energy infrastructure. Below is a summary of the action goals for the recreation area. The full list of ten-year action goals can be found in Chapter Five.

Management and Operations

Goals for the management and operations of the recreation area include continuing to explore the acquisition of inholdings within the project boundary, completing a stewardship plan for the recreation area including invasive species management, and working with the Walled Lake Outdoor Center to provide accessibility options and educational programming. As some of the recreation area's trails traverse land that is open to hunting, park staff will work to improve awareness of land open to hunting with increased signage and other strategies. In addition, staff will investigate the feasibility of improving water access in the Powers Unit. Park staff will also work continuously to evaluate the accessibility of structures across the recreation area. Any future improvements will be considered in the context of efficiency, environmental sustainability and resiliency. Finally, the addition of an equestrian campground will be considered as part of a regional equestrian facilities review following the completion of the trail separation project.

Infrastructure and Development: Capital Outlay

Goals to complete larger construction projects involving capital outlay funds include improvements to aging infrastructure such as paving and sealing roads, studying and improving accessibility at the campground and lake access, and pursuing alternative modern lodging options at the Powers Unit. At the River Hawk Complex, the parking area will be enlarged to provide adequate space for the complex, and renovations are proposed that include interior and exterior upgrades to all facilities, modernizing the conference center building for four-season and modern technology use and possible repurposing of the dining hall for overnight accommodation. Improvements along the water's edge are also planned including mitigating erosion and improving accessibility for boating and fishing at the Huron River fishing site, mitigating erosion at the dam, and constructing a fishing pier at the

campground. Park staff will also study options and provide recommendations for modernizing the canoe livery. Finally, a boardwalk or bridge connection will be constructed over Norton Creek on the Chief Pontiac Trail.

Infrastructure and Development: Small Projects

Smaller infrastructure and development projects involve replacing the roof at the River Hawk Lodge, updating the vault toilets with new siding and stonework, replacing the culvert at Bass Lake Road, and reconfiguring the Bass Lake boat launch area to provide for both motorized and non-motorized boating access.

Partner Projects

The recreation area will partner with several area groups on other recreation projects. These include working with local trail user groups to separate the mountain bike and equestrian trail systems, including new trail signage and a mountain bike trailhead, and working with the Friends of Proud Lake to construct a playground at the campground and the Powers Unit day use area, and to construct a shelter at the canoe rental.



A young hunter and his dog



A bridge over the Huron River

Chapter One:

Core Values & Guiding Resources

1.1 Mission Statements

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

DNR Mission Statement

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

DNR Evergreen Goals

- **Protect** natural and cultural resources
- **Ensure** sustainable recreation use and enjoyment
- **Enable** strong natural resource-based economies
- **Foster** effective business practices and good governance
- **Improve** and build strong relationships and partnerships, internally and externally

PRD Mission Statement

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

1.2 Guiding References

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

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

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

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

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

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

SCORP is a five-year strategic plan that shapes investment by the state and local communities in priority outdoor recreation infrastructure and programming. The plan’s overarching goal is to “Protect and manage Michigan’s diverse and abundant natural and cultural assets to provide relevant, quality experiences that meet the fun, relaxation, and health needs of Michigan’s residents and visitors, and support economic prosperity” by meeting the following objectives:

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



Young hikers rest on a bench

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trail Plan (2022-2032)

The 2022-2032 Michigan DNR Trails Plan guides the direction of more than 13,400 miles of Michigan’s diverse trail opportunities and lays out key goals to ensure these assets are sustained and remain relevant into the future. To further elevate Michigan’s national reputation as the Trails State, the DNR will pursue the following goals over the next ten years:

- Sustainable maintenance and development: Manage Michigan’s state-designated trails system to sustainably maintain and improve existing conditions while supporting the DNR’s long-term natural and cultural resource management goals.
- Funding: Develop and refine funding structures to ensure state-designated trails provide quality recreation and transportation experiences.
- Planning and collaboration: Model trail planning best practices to maintain and improve strong relationships and partnerships with the public, stakeholders and other governmental agencies.
- Marketing, promotion and education: Promote Michigan’s diverse trail opportunities to residents and visitors, accurately depicting experiences found throughout the state.



Michigan DNR Trails Plan Cover

DNR Public Land Strategy – The Power of Public Lands (2021-2027)

The public land strategy provides a framework for the conservation and management of DNR-managed public land to ensure the best use of the state’s natural and cultural resources for the benefit of Michigan residents and visitors. The strategy sets priorities and guides actions for the best use of the 4.6 million acres of state forests, parks, trails, game and wildlife areas, and other public lands the Michigan DNR is entrusted to manage on behalf of the people. The plan identifies three broad goals with strategies and measurable objectives for each goal. These goals are to:

- Protect natural and cultural resources
- Provide access to outdoor public recreation opportunities
- Perform responsible natural resource management

PRD Strategic Plan (2017-2022)

The PRD Strategic Plan is the overarching document that guides the Parks & Recreation Division in carrying out its mission. This plan establishes long-range goals, objectives, and strategies for Michigan’s state parks and recreation system for

the five-year period beginning in 2017. It identifies the most important issues facing the PRD and helps to define where resources should be focused for maximum benefit. The goals identified in the plan are:

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



An angler at sunset

1.3 Summary of Legal Mandates

For all park general management plans, legal mandates are identified that serve to further guide the development of the plan, park management, and park operations. For the DNR's planning purposes, the term "Legal Mandates" refers to not only state law, but also the administrative tools of "Policy" and "Directive" of the Natural Resources Commission, the Department, and the Parks & Recreation Division. The general and site-specific legal mandates applicable to Proud Lake State Recreation Area are listed in Appendix A: Supporting Analysis.

The legal mandates that most directly impact planning and management at Proud Lake State Recreation Area focus on the following areas:

- Federal- and state-protected species including the eastern massasauga rattlesnake, which has a large impact on management
- Preservation of natural and cultural resources
- Water resources protection
- Hunting area and control
- Fisheries conservation orders
- Natural Area regulations
- Requirement for a Recreation Passport for entry into the recreation area
- Public health code requirements for campgrounds, swimming areas, and swimmers' itch



A dog rides on the front of a kayak



A group of hikers in the winter



Host campsite in the modern campground

Chapter Two:

Plan Process Overview

2.1 Planning Objectives

Land acquisition for Proud Lake State Recreation Area began in 1945 as part of a larger effort to provide recreation land in southeast Michigan. This land was officially dedicated as Proud Lake State Recreation Area in 1946. The original master plan for the recreation area included areas for camping, hunting, swimming, picnicking and winter sports. A group camp was located at the site of the former Montclair Hunt Club. The camp, now known as the River Hawk Complex, and other recreation opportunities have continued to evolve over the years, offering a broad range of recreation activities to park visitors. Although the recreation offerings outlined in the original master plan are generally still relevant today, recreation users, uses, and design standards have changed. For example, Proud Lake Recreation Area is one of only a few units in the state park system that have natural surface, multi-use trails shared between equestrians and mountain bikers. Recently, planning at the recreation area has focused on improving the trail user experience by separating the user groups onto distinct trails.

This general management planning process sets out a framework for protecting the recreation area’s resources while providing for meaningful visitor experiences. The

long-range vision and management objectives for Proud Lake State Recreation Area are derived from the missions of the DNR and the Parks & Recreation Division (PRD), applicable legal directives, the purpose of the recreation area, and the recreation area’s significant natural and cultural resources.

The objective of the general management plan (GMP) is to bring together PRD staff, staff from other resource divisions, stakeholders, and the public into a planning process that defines and clarifies the unique purpose and significance of Proud Lake State Recreation Area. Collectively, those attributes will be reinforced in the planning and management decisions that impact the recreation area. Through this process, the team creates the 20-year management zone plan to guide park planning decisions as well as 10-year action goals to establish specific action strategies for the recreation area. Each GMP is reviewed every five years to ensure there have been no major changes that would warrant a revision to the approved plan.

2.2 Planning Process

The planning team met periodically over a twenty-six month period to develop the GMP, beginning in November 2019 and ending in January of 2022 (the project duration was

lengthened by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic). Throughout the process, the team sought the input of the public and stakeholders to guide the decisions made in the plan. A virtual stakeholder workshop was held in July 2021 to gather insight from organizations tied to the recreation area. In addition, an online public input survey was available for interested parties to comment on their current use of the recreation area and their priorities for the future. Following the input sessions and survey, the team developed a list of action goals and developed the draft plan.

2.3 Planning Team

This plan was developed with the direct assistance, input, and expertise provided by all members of the planning team. The planning process and document development was facilitated by Beckett & Raeder, Inc.

PLANNING TEAM		
DIVISION	TITLE	NAME
PRD	Management Plan Administrator	Debbie Jensen
PRD	Lands Liaison	Matt Lincoln
PRD	GIS Analyst	Jessica Orlando
PRD	Former Unit Supervisor	Jodi Nieschulz
PRD	Unit Supervisor	Jennifer Etienne
PRD	Metro District Supervisor	Mike Terrell
PRD	Lead Ranger	Dayna LeFlamme
PRD	Regional Planner	John Terpstra
PRD	Stewardship Unit Manager	Ray Fahlsing
PRD	Stewardship Ecologist	Greg Norwood
PRD	Non-motorized Trail Grants	Dakota Hewlett
PRD	SE Michigan Trails Specialist	Nikki Van Bloem
PRD	Cultural Resources Analyst	Lisa Gamero
FD (Fisheries)	Fisheries Biologist	Cleyo Harris
FRD (Forestry)	Fire Officer Supervisor	Matt Feldpausch
WLD (Wildlife)	Wildlife Biologist	Julie Oakes
LED (Law)	District 9 Supervisor	Lt. Todd Szyska
FOD (Finance and Operations)	Geologist	Peter Rose
MOD (Marketing)	Explorer Program Director	Karen Gourlay

2.4 Summary of Input Opportunities

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

Project Website

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

Stakeholder Input Workshop

To gather targeted input from governmental, non-profit, and business/tourism entities, the planning team invited over 50 stakeholders to participate in a facilitated virtual input workshop held on July 15, 2021, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Representatives of the DNR provided the stakeholders with a brief overview of Proud Lake State Recreation Area, including its natural features and recreational offerings. The stakeholders were also informed about the GMP process, timeline, and were given explanation of the plan elements that their input would inform: the statements of significance, the draft management zone map, and a draft list of action goals intended to be accomplished over the next ten years.

After a short question and answer period, the stakeholders engaged in a virtual input session with a real-time questionnaire using the website Mentimeter. They completed a series of brainstorming exercises relating to the recreation area's current state, opportunities for partnerships, the potential for the recreation area to benefit the larger community, and the stakeholders' vision for the recreation area's future.

Online Public Input Survey

One of the methods the planning team used to gather input from recreation area users was an online survey. This online approach provides a convenient way for those who have access to the internet to provide feedback. However, it is not designed to be statistically representative of Proud Lake State Recreation Area users or uses, as respondents self-select.

The online survey provides valuable information about what certain individuals or groups (those who are motivated to comment about the recreation area, those likely to receive DNR communication about the survey, and those who have easy access to the internet) hope to see in the recreation area's future management.

The survey was advertised to a diverse range of people through various means. A press release was sent out to subscribers of Michigan's Trails or Statewide DNR News (press releases) who answered "Detroit Metro," or "Region 13: Lapeer/St. Clair/Livingston/Oakland/Macomb/Washtenaw / Wayne/Monroe", which included 83,884 recipients. It was also promoted on the Proud Lake State Recreation Area website, Facebook page and through fliers and posters within the recreation area. The survey link was also sent to over 50 stakeholders the planning team had identified who were invited to share the survey. In addition, it was sent to those who had registered to camp at the recreation area in the last 24 months, which included an additional 5,327 recipients. The survey was widely shared amongst the mountain bike community due to a concern that the mountain bike trails were threatened. This likely resulted in mountain bikers being over-represented in the survey.

Responses were collected from June 22, 2021 through July 22, 2021. During the collection period, 1,928 individuals responded to the survey. Of those respondents, 1,754 (91%) have visited the recreation area in the last five years and went on to answer the remainder of the questions in the survey. The survey included questions on what activities the visitors participated in during their visit, their thoughts on the day use and overnight park amenities, recreation opportunities, special events and programs, their overall satisfaction with their experience, and their demographic information.

Tribal Communication

The department's tribal coordinator reached out to the following tribes with a letter notifying them of the GMP process and timeline and asking for any input:

- Bay Mills Indian Community
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
- Hannahville Indian Community
- Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
- Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
- Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
- Gun Lake Tribe of Pottawatomi Indians
- Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi
- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Public Meeting

The public was invited to share their thoughts about the Proud Lake State Recreation Area Draft General Management Plan at a virtual public meeting that was hosted online by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on December 9, 2021, from 6:00- 7:00 p.m. The general public was notified about the meeting through a press release, internet postings, and email notifications. A total of 73 attendees were recorded.

The meeting began with a brief introduction of planning team members, followed by a short overview of the general management plan process, Proud Lake State Recreation Area, and the draft general management plan contents. Attendees were given an opportunity to ask questions of DNR staff. At the end of the meeting, attendees were asked to visit the interactive public input survey link to review and comment on the statements of significance, management zone plan, and ten-year actions goals. There was also a section for additional feedback on the management plan and the input process. A full report of the input received can be found in Appendix B.

Following the public meeting, the planning team met to discuss the input received and make any necessary changes to the plan. Changes made included adding more information about threatened species to the statements of significance, and adding an action goal to consider a potential equestrian campground at the equestrian staging area.

2.5 Resilience Planning

According to *Planning for Community Resilience in Michigan: A Comprehensive Handbook* (www.resilientmichigan.org), “Resilience has become an umbrella term for the planning and design strategies needed to help communities meet the economic, social, environmental and climate challenges of the future. Community resilience is a measure of the sustained ability of a community to utilize available resources to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations.” A resiliency plan involves assessing vulnerabilities, weighing the relative risks of various hazards, planning for plausible future scenarios, and tracking the progress toward resilience through measurable goals.

Proud Lake State Recreation Area is part of the Huron River Watershed, with four miles of the Huron River flowing through the recreation area. Large swaths of the recreation area along the river corridor are within FEMA’s Zone A, which is the area which has a 1% annual chance of flooding. The Huron River Watershed Council, a local non-profit environmental organization dedicated to river protection, lists climate change as one of the threats to the Huron River watershed, and says that it is already evident in warmer average temperatures and more intense rainfall events. This in turn affects the river ecosystem and the built environment surrounding the river. The Huron River Watershed Council identifies several other threats to water quality.

The following climate change impacts and vulnerabilities have been identified that could impact recreation and park infrastructure at Proud Lake State Recreation Area. *Source: Fourth National Climate Assessment (2018) – Northwest. www.adaptationworkbook.org/explore-impacts.*

- Temperatures in the Midwest are projected to increase by 5.6 to 9.5°F by the end of the century (2071-2100).
- The frequency and intensity of heat waves is expected to increase across the Midwest by the middle of the century (2036-2065).
- The frequency and intensity of cold waves is expected to decrease across the Midwest by the middle of the century (2036-2065).
- Drought risk is expected to increase across the Midwest by the end of the century.
- The frequency of intense precipitation will continue to increase across the Midwest under climate change.
- The annual frost-free season is expected to increase by roughly 30 days in the Midwest by the end of the century.
- Climate change will amplify many existing stressors to forest ecosystems in the Midwest, such as invasive species, insect pests and pathogens, and disturbance regimes.
- Surface water temperatures are expected to rise due to warming air temperatures

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

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

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

Approaches include:

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

Adaptation planning is critical for communities and facilities, including Proud Lake State Recreation Area, that encounter risks such as those identified above. Increasing resilience and mitigating hazards will continue to be an important goal for the recreation area management staff and will be considered as part of all action goals moving forward.



Kayaking on the Huron River

Chapter Three:

Purpose and Significance

3.1 Purpose of Proud Lake State Recreation Area

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

In 1944, the Michigan State Legislature appropriated funds for the acquisition of recreational lands in southeast Michigan. Supplementing this funding was money from the Game and Fish Fund. These funding sources provided for the development of eleven recreation areas in southeast Michigan, including Proud Lake State Recreation Area.

Proud Lake State Recreation Area was approved for purchase under authority of Sec. 3, Act 17, Public Acts of 1921, as amended:

- To provide public recreational land convenient to the centers of dense population.
- To preserve and protect Proud Lake State Recreation Area's unique natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.
- To provide diverse intensive and extensive recreational opportunities, including camping, swimming, picnicking,

hunting, fishing, and nature observation.

- To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflects the DNR mission and the unique qualities of Proud Lake State Recreation Area.

3.2 Statements of Significance

Each general management plan (GMP) developed by the Michigan DNR Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) is built upon the foundation of the recreation area's significant features that make it distinct from other parks in the state's system. Proud Lake State Recreation Area was determined significant due to the following:

Natural Resource Recreation Land

The land that is now Proud Lake State Recreation Area was acquired in the 1940s as part of a state goal to secure recreation space for southeast Michigan, contributing to a network of green space in the metro Detroit region. Its large expanse of woods, water and trails provide abundant land and water recreation opportunities. The recreation area also offers year-round overnight accommodations at the modern lodge and camper cabins, and the modern campground is open for an extended season to accommodate trout anglers in the spring and hunters in the fall.

Ecosystems

Proud Lake State Recreation Area's 3,030 acres represent a significant area of undeveloped plant and animal habitat close to metro Detroit. It supports several exemplary natural communities such as dry-mesic and mesic southern forest, prairie fen, rich tamarack swamp, southern wet meadow, emergent marsh, submergent marsh and remnant oak barrens. The rich tamarack swamp is one of Michigan's largest remaining occurrences and is in good condition. The natural features also provide habitat for the federally threatened eastern massasauga rattlesnake. The Proud Lake Nature Study Area is a 105 acre legally dedicated natural area.

Water Recreation

Water recreation is a top attraction at Proud Lake State Recreation Area. Park visitors paddle, swim, and boat on inland lakes and the Huron River. Canoe and kayak rentals are available at the long-running livery, allowing paddlers to enjoy roughly four miles of the state- and federally-designated Huron River Water Trail.

Fisheries

Ample fishing opportunities are provided at Proud Lake State Recreation Area in its inland lakes and the Huron River,

including trout fishing, a rarity in southeast Michigan. The trout stocking program here is the longest-running use of brood stock in the state. The Huron River is a highly diverse warm water fishery with quality spawning habitat, supporting multiple species of fish as well as state listed threatened and endangered mussel species. Visitors can learn to fish here through Explorer Guide programs in the summer.

Trails

The recreation area offers over twenty miles of trails that can be used for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing. A portion of the Chief Pontiac Trail traverses the recreation area, which is heavily used year-round by Scouts as part of a Credential Hiking Program designed to teach backpacking and wilderness skills. The recreation area's trails serve as a connection to other parks and nearby communities.

River Hawk Complex

The River Hawk Complex at Proud Lake State Recreation Area is a rare facility for a Michigan state park, with a collection of buildings available for rent that provide opportunities for lodging, recreation, and education.



A rainbow over the lake

3.3 Public Affirmation of Significance

Stakeholder and public input assisted the planning team with affirming the significant features and opportunities at Proud Lake State Recreation Area. The feedback from the online survey confirmed that the recreation area's expanse of natural land, water recreation opportunities, fisheries, and extensive trails are key aspects of the recreation area. Comments from survey respondents relating to those significant features are provided below.

"The recreation area is large enough to still feel like an escape even on the busiest of days."

"I like its versatility. I've been going to this park for at least 20 years and there is still always something to do from mountain biking to kayaking to hiking to hunting and fishing. I live rather close and go here every week. My favorite state park."

"It's so great to have a beautiful campsite so close to home without feeling like being in metro Detroit. The host has tons of family-friendly activities and the dedication to keep the park and bathroom clean makes this a step above the rest."

"Great recreation area. The land is beautiful, diverse and includes a lake and river. I love to fish, hunt and hike this recreation area."

"Proud Lake is an awesome escape from the day-to-day life! Incredibly clean, easy lake access, pet friendly, the bathrooms were always very clean, campsites are a decent size and the whole area is tucked nicely into the woods. Truly a great way to get away without having to travel far!"

"Great park with great opportunities and awesome water trails and horse trails."

"Appreciate the natural space in the southeast part of the state."

"Overall, a wonderfully peaceful place to unwind from the everyday stresses of the world in an incredibly convenient location."

"I love having the public hunting land available in Oakland County. There is a lot of hunting pressure here, but that just shows the need for more hunting land."

"These trails are really unique and provide a tranquil feeling when there. I love to mountain bike at Proud Lake!"

"I have enjoyed walking the trails and areas and paddling Proud Lake for over 30 years. Even though there has been an increase in usage, the park has

maintained a quiet friendly atmosphere.

"The park is a big reason on why I decided to buy a home in the area. It's a nice place in itself, but the way in which it can be used in concert with Kensington and Milford central park, providing a means to connected paddling trips and the connector bike/bridle trail multiply its value to the community."

3.4 Community Connection

As stated in Section 3.1, the purpose of Proud Lake State Recreation Area is to provide access to public recreation land convenient to centers of dense population, protect the area's unique resources, and to provide a diverse array of recreational and educational opportunities. Therefore, in contrast to "destination" state parks that are meant to draw visitors to a unique feature in Michigan, Proud Lake State Recreation Area is integrated into the fabric of everyday life in this community by providing space to be in nature and engage in recreation. Visitors return to the recreation area frequently to enjoy its recreational offerings and the park has a positive impact on the quality of life for local residents, as evidenced by the statements above.

Beyond individual recreation, the recreation area is a gathering area for various clubs focused on nature and recreation. Many local group events are hosted here, including equestrian events, the Milford Bike Fest and Trail Challenge, running events, mushroom hunts, yoga groups, and more. Volunteers also help support the recreation area through fundraising and trail maintenance, such as the Friends of Proud Lake, the Proud Lake Trail Riders Association, the Motor City Mountain Biking Association, and others.

Proud Lake State Recreation Area's trails are part of a larger non-motorized network in the region connecting equestrians, mountain bikers, and paddlers to trails outside the park. In addition, the Chief Pontiac Trail runs through Proud Lake State Recreation Area, which was established as a Credential Hiking Program designed for Scouts.

During the stakeholder workshop, attendees were asked how Proud Lake State Recreation Area could benefit the wider community, now or in the future. Some suggested that the recreation area could simply continue to be a source of conservation and scenic beauty and a wealth of recreation opportunities. Heavner Canoe, the current and long-time canoe/kayak rental concessionaire, was mentioned as being a valuable resource to the community. Other stakeholders advocated for demonstrations of invasive species management techniques, hosting educational STEM events, and contributing to improved water quality in the watershed.

MANAGEMENT ZONE PROGRESSION						
MANAGEMENT ZONE	RESOURCE CONDITION	VISITOR EXPERIENCE	DEVELOPMENT LEVEL			
ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE	Pristine	Restricted	None			
PRIMITIVE	↓	↓	↓			
BACKCOUNTRY						
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE						
HISTORY EDUCATION						
SCENIC						
NATURAL RESOURCE RECREATION						
DEVELOPED RECREATION				Active Management	Significant Use	Extensive Development
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES						

Chapter Four: Management Zones

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

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

The resource condition, visitor experience, and level of development vary in each of the nine standard zones, as indicated in the figure above. Proud Lake State Recreation Area was divided into the following five zones:

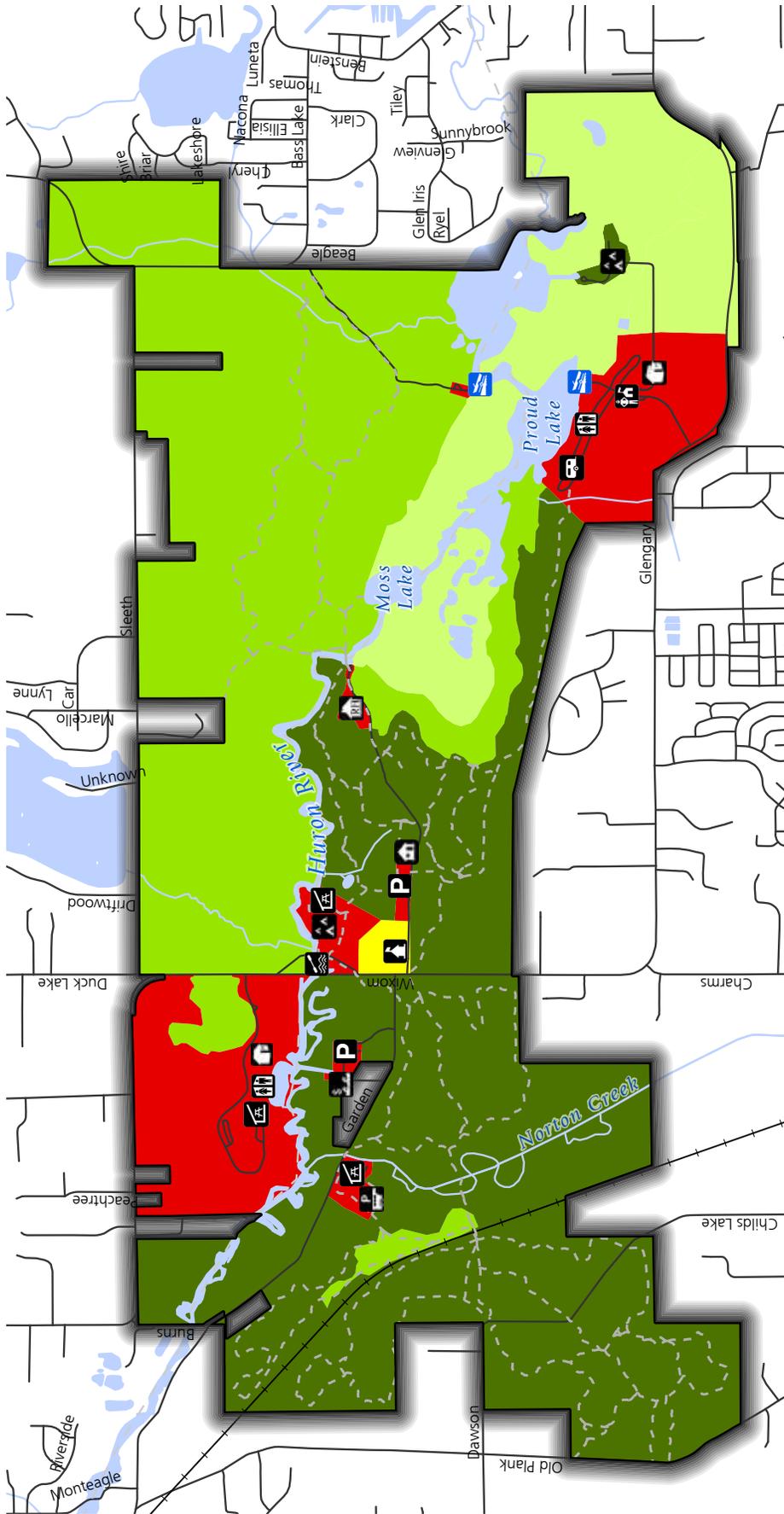
- Primitive zone
- Backcountry zone
- Natural resource recreation zone

- Developed recreation zone
- Administrative services zone

4.1 Project Boundary

Project boundaries are geographic lines that help define the state’s public lands acquisition and disposal strategy (land strategy). These boundaries contain a majority of state ownership, as well as privately owned lands that, should they ever become available for sale, would be a priority for the DNR to pursue acquiring. The DNR undertook a comprehensive statewide project boundary review in 2020. The GMP planning team provided recommendations on the proposed boundary for Proud Lake State Recreation Area and generally supports the 2020 Project Boundary approved by the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the DNR, with one exception. A parcel of land that is already included in the recreation area was excluded from the 2020 NRC Approved Project Boundary, but should have been included within it, as the recreation area does not plan to dispose of the land.

The approved project boundary, with one change proposed, includes private properties that are nearly, if not completely, surrounded by recreation area land and would simplify the recreation area’s boundary and management if acquired by the State of Michigan. In total, all the land within the proposed project boundary would add about 90 acres to Proud Lake State Recreation Area.



PROUD LAKE RECREATION AREA GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Management Zones

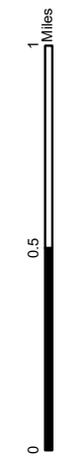
Data Sources: Michigan CGI Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

- Roads
- Railroads
- Trails
- Rivers / Streams
- Lakes
- PLSRA Boundary

- Boating Access Site
- Modern Campground
- Organizational Campground
- Park Headquarters
- Camper Cabins (2)
- Mini Cabins (2)
- Campground Registration

- River Hawk Outdoor Center
- River Hawk Outdoor Center Annex
- Canoe & Kayak Rental
- Carry-Down Boat Access Site
- Pavilion
- Parking
- Equestrian Staging

- Primitive
- Backcountry
- Natural Resource Recreation
- Developed Recreation
- Administrative Services



Date: 2/4/2022

Beckett & Raeder

The following are standard management zone descriptions for zones applied to Proud Lake State Recreation Area. Examples of recreation activities and development that may be allowed in each zone are general and may not necessarily be appropriate or allowed at this location.

4.2 Primitive Zone

The primary purpose of the Primitive Zone is the protection of natural resources and natural processes. The zone is managed for low-impact recreational experiences in a primitive, natural landscape. Only dispersed, self-reliant, and low-frequency use is allowed. Attaining and maintaining a high-quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements or uses are allowed. This zone covers 14% of the recreation area and includes sensitive natural areas on the east side of the recreation area, including a designated Natural Area. A park access road to the Red Oaks Group Campground traverses through this zone and will be allowed to remain.

Natural Resources

- Native species and natural processes take precedence over visitor accommodation.
- Native Michigan natural communities/ecosystem components and processes are maintained, restored and protected.
- Human-caused habitat fragmentation is eliminated.
- Non-native species are controlled or eliminated.
- Natural hydrology is maintained or restored.
- Vegetative management is only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removal of invasive species), and to manage pests and disease.
- Where agricultural fields currently exist, a strategy should be developed to bring these areas into compliance with the intent (nature/character) of the zone.
- New agricultural fields may be allowed but only as a specific and limited phase of an Ecological Restoration Plan or as a critical component of a plan for managing species of greatest conservation need.
- Haying may be used as a short-term vegetation management treatment.
- Prescribed fire is allowed to mimic natural disturbance or control invasive species.

Cultural Resources

- Archaeological resources are preserved.
- Ethnographic resources are protected.
- Extant historic structures may be preserved, but more often are removed or allowed to molder in place.

Recreation Opportunities

- Recreation is dispersed.

- Self-reliant, non-mechanized (no bicycle, horse, or motorized use) outdoor activities (e.g., hiking, backpacking, primitive camping, cross-country skiing, hunting/trapping/fishing, nature observation).
- Trail density is low. Trail routes are point to point and not sinuous in design. Trails are single track and natural surface (except as needed to protect the resource), although existing two-tracks may be allowed to remain.

Education Opportunities

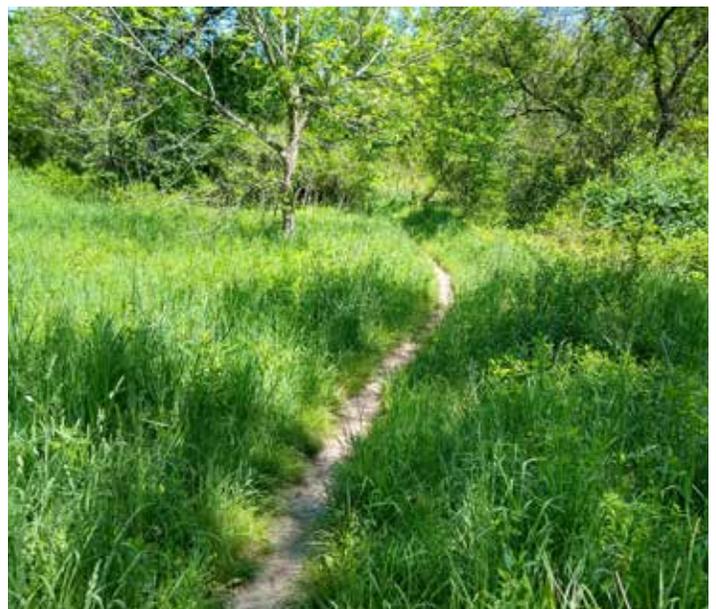
- Primarily off-site.
- Interpretive signage is allowed at trail heads and at overlooks.
- Visitor Experience
- Low visitor to visitor encounters.
- Visitors are engaged in high solitude, off-trail or trailed, self-reliant outdoor activities.
- High time commitment.
- High challenge and adventure.
- Discovery area with minimal on-site interpretation.
- Low noise tolerance.
- Low interaction with DNR staff.

Management Focus

- Maintain low-impact character of the zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality.

Development

- Very low level for visitor accommodation (e.g., foot trails).
- Site hardening only allowed to protect sensitive resources (e.g., boardwalk).
- Little evidence of human activity



A narrow trail winding through the long grass

4.3 Backcountry Zone

Character of this zone is natural, with minimal evidence of human impact through recreational use. While the Primitive Zone is highly restrictive for recreational use and human impact, this zone allows for slightly increased use, including bicycle and equestrian use, and modifications of the landscape (e.g., trail development) to accommodate that use. This zone is 35% of the recreation area and includes lands within the eastern massasauga rattlesnake managed lands that are not already zoned primitive, as well as the oak barrens on the east edge of the railroad tracks and a wetland near the Powers Unit day use area. This land includes hunting lands and trails.

Natural Resources

- Natural resources may be modified slightly to support visitor use, but tolerance for natural resource impacts for visitor accommodations is low.
- Native Michigan natural communities/ ecosystem components and processes are maintained, restored and protected.
- Human-caused habitat fragmentation is minimized.
- Non-native species are controlled or eliminated.
- Natural hydrology is maintained or restored.
- Vegetative management is only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removal of invasive species), and to manage pests and disease.
- Where agricultural fields currently exist, a strategy should be developed to bring these areas into compliance with the intent (nature/character) of the zone.
- New agricultural fields may be allowed but only as a specific and limited phase of an Ecological Restoration Plan or as a critical component of a plan for managing species of greatest conservation need.
- Haying may be used as a short- or long-term vegetation management treatment but the goal is native ecosystems.
- Prescribed fire is allowed to mimic natural disturbance or control invasive species.

Cultural Resources

- Archaeological resources are preserved.
- Ethnographic resources protected.
- Extant historic resources are preserved, rehabilitated, removed, or allowed to molder in place.

Recreation Opportunities

- Moderate levels of recreation compatible with the natural character of the zone.
- Visitors engaged in non-motorized outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings (e.g., hiking, backpacking, backcountry camping, bicycling, horseback riding, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, hunting/trapping, nature observation, cross-country skiing, and

snowshoeing).

- Trails are more point to point than sinuous in design. Trail purpose is viewing and access more than challenge.

Education Opportunities

- Interpretive signage at trail heads, on the trail, and at overlooks is allowed.
- Moderate off-site interpretation.

Visitor Experience

- Moderate visitor to visitor encounters.
- Visitors engaged in non-motorized outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings.
- High time commitment.
- Moderate challenge and adventure.
- Discovery area with minimal on-site interpretation.
- Low noise tolerance.
- Low interaction with DNR staff.

Management Focus

- Maintain low-impact character of the zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality.

Development

- Low level of development to support visitor access to outdoor activities (e.g., trails, trailhead parking, marked routes, designated backcountry campsites, vault toilets, water pumps) and educational opportunities.
- Development shall be unobtrusive and blend with natural environment.
- Site hardening (e.g., boardwalks, fencing, pedestrian paths) may be necessary to protect sensitive resources.



A mountain biker stopped on the trail

4.4 Natural Resource Recreation Zone

The Natural Resource Recreation zone supports active recreation conducted in a natural setting with medium to high-density use. There is an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but moderate to high levels of use may be accommodated. This zone makes up approximately 38% of the recreation area and includes the land west of Wixom Road that is not zoned as developed recreation or backcountry, and land east of Wixom Road that is not managed for the eastern massasauga rattlesnake. This area includes hunting lands, trails and the Red Oaks Group Campground.

Natural Resources

- Natural resources support visitor activities with only moderate impacts.
- Natural resources are managed or modified to support visitor activities but protected to the degree possible and appear natural.
- Human-caused habitat fragmentation is minimized.
- Non-native species are controlled or eliminated.
- Natural hydrology is maintained or restored.
- This zone will reflect native Michigan natural communities/ecosystems and natural processes, with vegetative management to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to facilitate recreational use and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape.
- Where agricultural fields currently exist, a strategy should be developed to bring these areas into compliance with the intent (nature/character) of the zone.
- New agricultural fields may be allowed in the zone but only as a specific and limited phase of an 'Ecological Restoration Plan' or as a critical component of a plan for managing species of greatest conservation need.
- Agricultural haying may be used as a long-term vegetation management treatment.

Historic/Cultural Resources

- Archaeological resources are preserved.
- Ethnographic resources are protected.
- Extant historic resources may be preserved, restored, allowed to molder in place, or adaptively used for operational or educational purposes.

Recreation Opportunities:

- Moderate to high levels of recreation compatible with the natural character of the zone.
- Visitors engaged in outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings (e.g., hiking, backpacking, backcountry and rustic camping, bicycling, horseback riding, boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, hunting/

trapping, nature observation, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling).

- Except in areas with Exemplary Natural Communities, trails may be sinuous to provide for recreational challenge. Multi-use linear trails may be permitted in this zone.

Education Opportunities

- Interpretive signage may be provided at trail heads, on the trail, at overlooks and in campgrounds.

Visitor Experience

- Moderate to high visitor-to-visitor encounters accommodated.
- Visitors engaged in outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings for recreation and education.
- Variable time commitment.
- Variable challenge and adventure.
- Moderate noise tolerance.
- Moderate interaction with DNR staff.
- Moderate accessibility.

Management Focus

- Maintain use of zone in accordance with PRD's mission.
- Public safety.
- Protection of resources.

Development

- Moderate level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities (e.g., vault toilets, concrete/asphalt/gravel walkways and parking, trails, benches, picnic tables, rustic campsites, rustic cabins and shelters) for recreation and educational opportunities.
- Site hardening (e.g., boardwalks, fencing, surfaced pedestrian paths) as necessary to protect sensitive resources and provide accessibility.



A boardwalk over a marsh with colorful fall foliage behind

4.5 Developed Recreation Zone

The Developed Recreation Zone supports 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. This zone is approximately 12% of the recreation area land, and includes the modern campground, camper cabins, the Powers Unit day use area and picnic shelters, the Pines group campground, the canoe/kayak rental and parking lot, the carry-down boat access area, the equestrian staging area, and the River Hawk Complex.

Natural Resources

- Natural resources may be actively managed and modified to support visitor activities.
- Water quality is maintained or restored.
- Vegetative management will address hazard trees, invasive species, and pests and disease, and will also be allowed to facilitate development, recreational use, and to maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape. Native vegetation is still emphasized. PRD's tree planting standards should be followed in this zone.

Cultural Resources

- Archaeological resources are preserved.
- Ethnographic resources are protected.
- Extant historic resources may be preserved, restored, or adaptively used to support visitor activities, operational or educational purposes.

Recreation Opportunities

- High levels of recreation activity in a highly structured environment.
- Visitors engaged in activities in diverse natural and modified land and water settings (e.g., hiking, modern and semi-modern camping, bicycling, horseback riding, boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, hunting/trapping, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, day use beach, swimming, picnicking, disc golf, and other day use activities where people congregate).
- Except in areas with Exemplary Natural Communities, trails may be sinuous to provide for recreational challenge. Multi-use linear trails are allowed in this zone.

Education Opportunities

- Interpretive signage may be provided at campgrounds, day use facilities, boating facilities, registration buildings, trail heads, on the trail, and at overlooks.
- Active programming at campgrounds and other areas where people congregate.

Visitor Experience

- High visitor to visitor encounters accommodated.
- Visitors engaged in activities in diverse land and water settings for recreation and education.
- Variable time commitment.
- Variable challenge and adventure.
- Variable level of exertion.
- High noise tolerance.
- High interaction with DNR staff.
- High accessibility.

Management Focus

- Maintain use of zone in accordance with PRD's mission.
- Management of people.
- Public safety.
- Protection of resources.
- Public accessibility.

Development

- High level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities (e.g., modern restrooms, walkways and parking, trails, benches, picnic tables, picnic shelters, modern and semi-modern campgrounds, modern cabins and shelters) for recreation and educational opportunities.
- Site hardening (e.g., boardwalks, fencing, surfaced pedestrian paths) as necessary to protect sensitive resources and provide accessibility.
- Strive for universal access in all new developments.



A family at their campsite



The Proud Lake State Recreation Area park sign

4.6 Administrative Services Zone

This zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. Typically, it will include offices, contact stations, maintenance facilities and all related land base required to conduct the business of running a state park or recreation area. This zone covers 14 acres of the recreation area and includes the recreation area headquarters and shop area.

Natural Resources

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

Cultural Resources

- Cultural resources and structures are preserved, adapted, or rehabilitated to support administrative activities.
- Historic structures should be re-purposed before new construction where possible.
- Non-utilized or non-stabilized structures may be removed.

Recreation Opportunities

- None

Education Opportunities

- Person-to-person contact at park headquarters for general information, both verbally and written (brochures, maps, etc.).
- Informational kiosk.

Visitor Experience

- Business and information only.
- High noise tolerance.
- High accessibility.
- Management Focus
- The business of running a park.
- Appropriate facilities for staff, equipment and materials.
- Employee safety.
- Public access to office.

Development

- High level of development of facilities for support of administrative activities (e.g., office space, meeting rooms, employee locker room, employee eating area, shop space, storage space and related)
- Provide maximum level of accessibility for public.



A boat anchored in Proud Lake



Mini cabins at the campground

Chapter Five:

Ten-Year Action Goals

The planning team has developed 10-year action goals that it believes are necessary to guide management and development within Proud Lake State Recreation Area to achieve the desired resource protection and user experience. Action goals are recommended that address natural resources, cultural resources, recreation opportunities, education/interpretation opportunities, and development. These goals apply either to the whole recreation area or to specific locations within the recreation area, as appropriate, and according to the management zone. Refer to the zone descriptions in Chapter Four for appropriate activities in each zone.

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

Action goals are prioritized based on health, safety, and welfare, as well as ease of implementation (cost, ability to implement with own staff, partnerships, etc.). Priority Level 1 projects indicate those that should be addressed within the next 2 years. Priority Level 2 projects include those that

should be addressed within 3-5 years. Priority Level 3 projects are desired but can be tackled in the next 6-10 years once funding has been identified. Some goals are intended to continue throughout the plan timeframe and are an "ongoing" priority. Opinion of probable costs have been developed for each capital outlay action goal identified (see Appendix C), and these projects will be included in the statewide master project list.

5.1 Action Goals Summary

Goals for the management and operations of the recreation area include continuing to explore the acquisition of inholdings within the project boundary, completing a stewardship plan for the recreation area including invasive species management, and working with the Walled Lake Outdoor Center to provide accessibility options and educational programming. As some of the recreation area's trails traverse land that is open to hunting, park staff will work to improve awareness of land open to hunting with increased signage and other strategies. In addition, staff will investigate the feasibility of improving water access in the Powers Unit. Park staff will also work continuously to evaluate the accessibility of structures across the recreation area. Finally, the addition of an equestrian campground will be considered as part of a regional equestrian facilities review following the completion of the trail separation project.

Goals to complete larger construction projects involving capital outlay funds include improvements to aging infrastructure such as paving and sealing roads, studying and improving accessibility at the campground and lake access, and pursuing alternative modern lodging options at the Powers Unit. At the River Hawk Complex, the parking area will be enlarged to provide adequate space for the complex, and renovations are proposed that include interior and exterior upgrades to all facilities, modernizing the conference center building for four-season and modern technology use and possible repurposing of the dining hall for overnight accommodation. Improvements along the water's edge are also planned including mitigating erosion and improving accessibility for boating and fishing at the Huron River fishing site, mitigating erosion at the dam, and constructing a fishing pier at the campground. Park staff will also study options and provide recommendations for modernizing the canoe livery. Finally, a boardwalk or bridge connection will be constructed over Norton Creek on the Chief Pontiac Trail.

Smaller infrastructure and development projects involve replacing the roof at the River Hawk Lodge, updating the vault toilets with new siding and stonework, replacing the culvert at Bass Lake Road, and reconfiguring the Bass Lake boat launch area to provide for both motorized and non-motorized boating access.

The recreation area will partner with several area groups on other recreation projects. These include working with local trail user groups to separate the mountain bike and equestrian trail systems, including new trail signage and a mountain bike trailhead, and working with the Friends of Proud Lake to construct a playground at the campground and the Powers Unit day use area, and to construct a shelter at the canoe rental.

Any future improvements will be considered in the context of efficiency, environmental sustainability and resiliency, for example, Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations and solar energy infrastructure.



A group participates in trout stocking

PROUD LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA TEN-YEAR ACTION GOALS

The following 10-year action goals are ranked in terms of priority based on health, safety, and welfare, as well as ease of implementation (cost, ability to implement with own staff, partnerships etc.). Priority Level 1 projects indicate those that should be addressed within the next 2 years. Priority Level 2 projects include those that should be addressed within 3-5 years. Priority Level 3 projects are desired, but can be tackled in the next 6-10 years, once funding has been identified. Some goals are intended to continue throughout the plan timeframe and are an “ongoing” priority. In the program input column, the bolded party is the program lead.

MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS

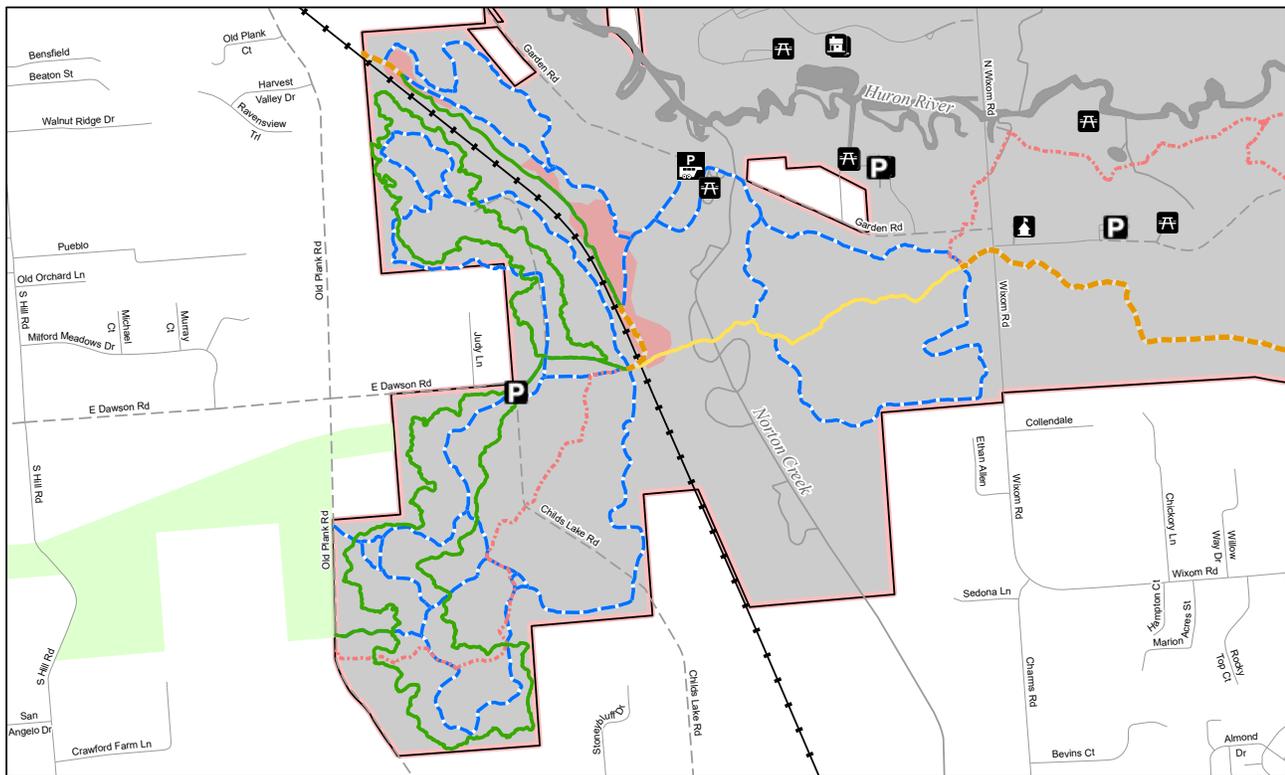
GOAL	PRIORITY	MANAGEMENT ZONE	PROGRAM INPUT FROM
Continue to explore land acquisition of inholdings within the GMP Approved Project Boundary.	Ongoing	All	Park Manager Lands Liaison
Work with Walled Lake Outdoor Center to provide accessibility options and educational programming.	Ongoing	All	Park Manager Walled Lake Outdoor Center
Improve awareness of land open to hunting with increased signage and other strategies.	Ongoing	All	Park Manager
Continue to review opportunities to connect to trails beyond the park boundary	Ongoing	All	Trails Specialist Park Manager Local and Regional Partners
Evaluate the accessibility of structures across the recreation area.	Ongoing	All	Park Manager Regional Planner
Complete a natural resource stewardship plan for the recreation area, identifying targets for conservation and related natural resource management strategies, including invasive species management.	1	All	Stewardship Park Manager
Investigate and study feasibility of improving water access in the Powers Unit.	2	Developed Recreation	Park Manager Regional Planner
After the completion of the trail separation project, consider the feasibility of adding an equestrian campground at the equestrian staging area as part of a regional equestrian facilities review.	3	Developed Recreation	Park Manager Regional Planner Proud Lake Trail Riders

INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT: CAPITAL OUTLAY			
GOAL	PRIORITY	MANAGEMENT ZONE	PROGRAM INPUT FROM
Design and construct improvements to mitigate erosion and improve accessibility for non-motorized boating and fishing at the Huron River fishing site.	2	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager
Study and implement accessibility improvements at the campground regarding water access.	2	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager
Pave roads in the River Hawk Complex and provide adequate parking.	2	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager
Resurface, chip seal, reconstruct and pave recreation area roads as needed.	2	All	Regional Planner Park Manager
Construct a fishing pier at the campground.	2	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager Fisheries
Construct a boardwalk or bridge connection over Norton Creek on the Chief Pontiac Trail.	2	Developed Recreation Natural Resource Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager Trails Specialist
Design and construct improvements to mitigate erosion at the dam and evaluate its long-term necessity.	3	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager Fisheries Stewardship
Complete interior and exterior renovations at the River Hawk Lodge.	3	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager

INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT: CAPITAL OUTLAY, CONTINUED			
GOAL	PRIORITY	MANAGEMENT ZONE	PROGRAM INPUT FROM
Complete interior and exterior renovations at the River Hawk conference center, dining hall and annex.	3	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager
Pursue alternative modern lodging options at the Powers Unit.	3	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager
Study options and provide recommendations for modernizing the canoe livery.	3	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager

INFRASTRUCTURE & CAPITAL OUTLAY: SMALL PROJECTS			
GOAL	PRIORITY	MANAGEMENT ZONE	PROGRAM INPUT FROM
Update the vault toilets with new siding and stonework.	1	All	Park Manager
Replace the modern lodge roof.	1	Developed Recreation	Park Manager
Replace the culvert at Bass Lake Road.	1	Backcountry	Park Manager
Reconfigure the Bass Lake boat launch area for both motorized and non-motorized boating access.	1	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Manager

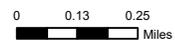
PARTNER PROJECTS			
GOAL	PRIORITY	MANAGEMENT ZONE	PROGRAM INPUT FROM
Separate the mountain bike and equestrian trail systems in coordination with user groups. Include new trail signage and a mountain bike trailhead.	1	All	Park Manager Trails Specialist Trail User Groups
Construct a playground at the campground and the Powers Unit day use area.	2	Developed Recreation	Park Manager Regional Planner Friends of Proud Lake
Construct a shelter at the canoe rental.	2	Developed Recreation	Park Manager Concessionaire Friends of Proud Lake



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Proud Lake Recreation Area - Proposed Trail Separation

- Parking Lot
- Camper Cabin
- Park Headquarters
- Picnic Area
- Visitor/Recreational
- Equestrian Staging
- Proposed Mountain Bike/Hike/Equestrian Trails
- Proposed Mountain Bike/Hike Trails
- Proposed Mountain Bike Trails
- Proposed Equestrian Trail
- Chief Pontiac Trail (Hiking)
- Railroad
- Paved road
- Gravel or dirt road
- Lake or River
- Oak Barrens Natural Community
- Kensington Metropark
- State Recreation Area Boundary



Updated: 03/23/2022



The Huron River seen winding through the recreation area from above

Chapter Six:

Implementation Strategy

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

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

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

6.1 Implementation Toolbox

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

Coordination/ Communication

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

Funding

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

Scheduling

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

6.2 Documentation of Changes

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

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

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

The management zoning map should also be reviewed regularly. Any proposed changes to the map related to land acquisition or disposal, errors in the original zoning, or land management changes should be documented. Note that the park zoning is intended to be a long-term document: changes will only be considered with adequate justification and are subject to a formal review and approval process.



Horseback riding on the trail



A mountain biker rides through a meadow

6.3 Documentation of Accomplishments

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

6.4 Five-Year Review Process

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

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



PARK PROFILE	
AREA	3,030 acres
COUNTY	Oakland
TOWNSHIP	Milford and Commerce
LATITUDE	42.562419
LONGITUDE	-83.526393
ADDRESS	3500 N. Wixom Rd
PHONE	Commerce Twp., MI 48382 (248) 685-2433

Appendix A: Supporting Analysis

A.1 Park Overview

Proud Lake State Recreation Area (SRA) is located in Oakland County in southeast Michigan, an approximately 35 mile drive northwest of Detroit. The 3,030-acre recreation area features a four-mile stretch of the scenic Huron River, which flows through the center of the park, providing opportunities for paddling and fishing. More than 20 miles of trails meander through diverse habitats and are open to hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing. Most of the recreation area is open to hunting in accordance with state and local regulations. Overnight accommodations include 130 modern campsites and two mini cabins open from April through November, as well as two camper cabins and the River Hawk Complex, which are open year-round. Proud Lake SRA participates in the Michigan State Park Explorer Program, which offers seasonal nature programs.

Location & Community

Proud Lake SRA is in both Commerce Charter Township and Milford Township (split by Wixom Road) on the west side of Oakland County. It lies in the Huron River Valley about midway between the communities of Milford, Wixom and Walled Lake. The main route to the SRA is Wixom Road, which can be accessed from I-96 to the south.

Proud Lake State Recreation Area is one of several state

recreation areas in southeast Michigan providing opportunities for outdoor recreation for the greater Detroit metropolitan area. Oakland County Parks and Recreation and Huron-Clinton Metroparks also provide recreation opportunities in the region.

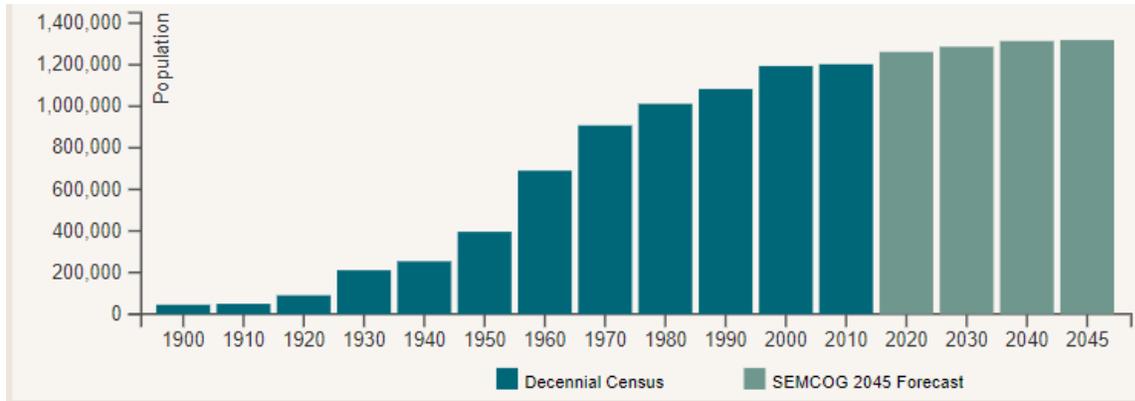
A.2 Demographics

Oakland County is located in the southeast Lower Peninsula of Michigan, between Flint and metro Detroit, and contains a good deal of urban development intermixed with some rural areas. The county contains 908 square miles and is the second most populated county in the state with a population of well over one million.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that the 2010 population of Oakland County was 1,202,362. The 2000 census was reported at 1,194,156, showing a 0.7% population growth over a ten-year period. The estimated 2018 population of the county is 1,259,201, which indicates continued growth. The immediate area around the park was transformed from a rural area to predominantly single-family residential land use, largely due to the auto industry boom of the 1950s. The population of Commerce Township grew from 7,421 people in 1950 to a population of over 22,000 in 1990.

Compared to the state, Oakland County shows a higher median household income and per capita income and has a

lower poverty rate. It can be noted that 43.7% of Oakland County residents possess a bachelor’s degree or higher compared to 26.4% for Michigan overall. The age and racial makeup of the county is comparable to that of the State of Michigan, although with a higher Asian population (8% in Oakland County compared to 3.4% in the state as a whole).



Population growth of Oakland County.

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) community profile

GEOGRAPHY QUICKFACTS		
	OAKLAND COUNTY	MICHIGAN
Population per square mile, 2010	1385.7	174.8
Land area in square miles, 2010	867.66	56,538.9
POPULATION QUICKFACTS		
	OAKLAND COUNTY	MICHIGAN
Population estimates, 2018	1,259,201	9,995,915
Population estimates base, April 1, 2010	1,202,362	9,884,129
Population, percent change- April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018	4.7%	1.1%
Population, Census, 2010	1,202,362	9,883,640
Persons under 5 years, percent, 2019	5.4%	5.7%
Persons under 18 years, percent, 2019	21.0%	21.7%
Persons 65 years and over, percent, 2019	16.8%	17.2%
Female persons, percent, 2019	51.0%	50.8%
White alone, percent, 2019	75.3%	79.3%
Black or African American alone, percent, 2019	14.0%	14.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent, 2019	0.3%	0.7%
Asian alone, percent, 2019	8.0%	3.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent, 2019	<0.1%	<0.1%
Two or More Races, percent, 2019	2.2%	2.5%
Hispanic or Latino, percent,	4.2%	5.2%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent,	71.7%	74.9%
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2013 – 2017	70.6%	71.0%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2013 – 2017	\$209,800	\$136,400
Persons per household, 2013 – 2017	2.46	2.49
Living in same house 1 year ago, percent age 1+, 2013 – 2017	86.5%	85.4%
High school graduate or higher, percent age 25+, 2013 – 2017	93.7%	90.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent age 25+, 2013 – 2017	45.7%	28.1%
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2013 – 2017	26.7	24.3
Median household income (in 2017 dollars), 2013- 2017	\$73,369	\$52,668
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2017 dollars), 2013 – 2017	\$40,941	\$28,938
Persons in poverty, percent	7.8%	14.2%



A hiker and a dog on a wintry trail

A.3 Regional Recreation Resources

Proud Lake State Recreation Area (SRA) is located in an area rich in recreation resources to support the large population base of southeast Michigan. The following describes the primary public recreation opportunities within a 30-mile radius of the recreation area.

State Parks and Recreation Areas

- **Highland SRA** is located five miles north of Proud Lake SRA and offers 5,900 acres with trails to accommodate equestrians, bikers, hikers and skiers. A recreational flying field, field trial area, and rustic campground are also available at this park. Four lakes provide fishing, recreational boating and swimming. In addition, the historic Edsel Ford Estate is within the park.
- **Island Lake SRA** is located seven miles southwest of Proud Lake SRA in Livingston County. This 4,000-acre park has the only hot air balloon port in the state park system. It features a modern shooting range and offers a variety of day-use recreational activities including boating, fishing, swimming, hiking, mountain biking, hunting and much more. Rustic cabins and a paddle-in campsite provide opportunities for overnight accommodation.
- **Pontiac Lake SRA** is located ten miles north of Proud Lake SRA and features 3,745 acres of a mixture of marshes, ponds, forests, old farm fields, river bottom and lakes that support a variety of wildlife and excellent hunting. Designated trails throughout the recreation area are available for horseback riding, hiking and mountain biking. There are also two designated campgrounds: a modern site and an equestrian site.
- **Maybury State Park** is located ten miles south of Proud Lake SRA and offers a comprehensive trail network for mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking and cross-country skiing. This park offers day-use facilities such as shelters that can be rented, as well as a riding stable and Maybury Farm.
- **Dodge 4 State Park** is located 11 miles east of Proud Lake SRA on the shores of Cass Lake. This park is small, only 139 acres, but is a popular location for water activities such as fishing, swimming and boating.
- **Brighton SRA** is located 16 miles southwest of Proud Lake SRA and displays significant topographic relief interspersed with lakes, providing for a wide range of recreational opportunities in a unique setting. There are many miles of trails for horseback riding, biking and hiking, as well as modern, rustic and equestrian camp sites. This park is also home to a riding stable, day-use beach and a disc golf course.
- **Holly SRA** is located 20 miles north of Proud Lake SRA. The nearly 8,000 acres of land are co-managed by the Parks and Recreation Division and the Wildlife Division, with most of the park open to hunting and areas dedicated to managing habitat for wildlife species. This park offers modern camping and cabins, several lakes for fishing, boating and a swim beach, an extensive mountain bike trail system, a disc golf course and a recreational flying field.
- **Seven Lakes State Park** is located 23 miles northwest of Proud Lake SRA. Its 1,434 acres of land is a combination of farmland, rolling hills and forests with about 230 acres of water and several miles of shoreline. Recreation activities include modern camping, 6.5 miles of trails for hiking and biking, hunting, fishing, boating and swimming.
- **Bald Mountain SRA** is located 24 miles northeast of Proud Lake SRA. Bald Mountain SRA has some of the steepest hills and most rugged terrain in southeastern Michigan. Camping is limited to rustic cabins, but the extensive trails, inland lakes, trout streams, a shooting range and wild game provide year-round recreation opportunities.

- **Ortonville SRA** is located in northern Oakland and southern Lapeer counties, approximately 30 miles northeast of Proud Lake SRA. This 5,430-acre recreation area offers a 25-site rustic equestrian campground, over 8.5 miles of designated trails through the Hadley Hills, a rustic cabin accommodating up to 20 guests, and a day-use picnic and beach area at Big Fish Lake.
- **Holly Oaks ORV Park** is a 235-acre park to be developed as a collaboration between the DNR and Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission. Phase 1 of the park opened to all types of ORVs, including full-size vehicles, side-by-sides, all-terrain vehicles or ATVs and motorcycles in 2020.

State Wildlife/Game Area

- **Davisburg State Game Area** – This 110-acre site is located approximately 18 miles north of Proud Lake SRA. This area is dedicated for wildlife conservation and management and provides some limited hunting and other recreational opportunity. There are several rare communities that have been identified including prairie fen, alkaline shrub/herb fen, and southern dry mesic forest. The potential exists in this area for rare species such as Blanding's turtle, red-shouldered hawk and eastern massasauga rattlesnake.
- **Horseshoe Lake State Game Area** – This site is located approximately 30 miles north-east of Proud Lake SRA and is 422 acres of primarily low marshland. The featured wildlife species for the game area are eastern massasauga rattlesnake, eastern wild turkey and white-tailed deer. There are no managed trails in this area and only one parking lot located off of Oakwood Road. This area gets limited use but is a popular spot for deer hunting.
- **Gregory State Game Area** – Gregory is approximately 2,700 acres and located approximately 40 miles west of Proud Lake SRA in Livingston County. This area has a mixture of upland hardwoods, grasslands, prairie fen, as well as several wetlands and provides waterfowl hunting, upland game hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreational opportunities. It also supports the rare eastern massasauga rattlesnake as well as other species.
- **Oak Grove State Game Area** - This site is just over 2,000 acres and is located approximately 40 miles northwest of Proud Lake SRA in Livingston County. The area consists of mostly lowland hardwoods, upland brush, and fields (including a couple of sharecrop fields), in addition to the 192-acre Indian Lake. This area and its abundant wildlife provide hunting, fishing and other recreational opportunities.

Oakland County Parks

Oakland County provides over 6,400 acres of natural landscapes, outdoor recreation parks and facilities for the public benefit and enjoyment. The 13 Oakland County Parks offer a wide variety of year-round recreation opportunities. The primary facilities in the vicinity of Proud Lake SRA are described below. In addition, the county provides five golf courses open to the public, including a foot golf course.

- **Groveland Oaks** is located in the northwestern corner of the county, directly adjacent to Holly State Recreation Area. It is a 360-acre park providing water-based recreation, camping, and mini-golf.
- **Highland Oaks** preserves sensitive habitat around the Shiawassee River headwaters. The park's 302 acres of rolling hills, wetlands and old pastures offers 2.5 miles of trails for hiking, horseback riding, geocaching and cross-country skiing. Fishing access is provided via an accessible floating dock. Archery deer hunting is allowed in designated areas.
- **Independence Oaks** is the second largest park in the Oakland County parks system, containing 1,088 acres. It is located just northeast of Clarkston. The park offers Crooked Lake for water recreation, the Wint Nature Center, and an extensive trail system. This park also provides protection to the sensitive lowlands of the Clinton River and its tributaries.
- **Lyon Oaks** is a 1,041-acre park just five miles south of Proud Lake SRA. The park features extensive environmentally-sensitive wetlands, a day-use area with picnic shelter and playground, sports fields, 6 miles of natural trails for biking and hiking, and a fenced dog park. An 18-hole golf course includes a driving range and banquet facilities.
- **Orion Oaks** is a 927-acre park that preserves sensitive wetland resources. The park contains a 14-acre dog park as well as Lake Sixteen, which is used for fishing and non-motorized boating. There are also trails for hiking and biking.
- **Rose Oaks** is a 620-acre, mostly undeveloped, park that focuses on the preservation of its various ecosystems: wetlands, meadows and forests. There are several lakes in the park with carry-in access for non-motorized or electric boats and five miles of trails for equestrians, hikers and bikers.
- **Waterford Oaks** serves as the administrative headquarters for the Oakland County parks system. This 145-acre park provides some unique features such as a BMX bike track and a refrigerated toboggan run.



A young angler smiles with the catch of the day



A group smiles after completing the Happy Little Trees 5K

Huron-Clinton Metro Parks

Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority was created in 1940, developing a system of parks in southeast Michigan. There are currently 13 parks covering about 25,000 acres. The parks are located along the Huron and Clinton rivers spanning across Wayne, Washtenaw, Macomb, Oakland and Livingston counties. Described below are the primary facilities in the vicinity of Proud Lake SRA.

- **Kensington Metropark** includes 4,486 wooded acres and the 1,200-acre Kent Lake, which is open for swimming, fishing, and boating. The park is located just west of Proud Lake SRA with connecting trails. It features an 18-hole golf course, 27-hole disc golf course, nature center, farm center and splash pad. The park also provides nearly 19 miles of equestrian trails, a paved 8.5-mile hike/bike trail, seven miles of scenic nature trails and a group camp.
- **Indian Springs Metropark** is 2,215 acres of rolling woodlands, meadows and wetland areas. It contains a variety of habitats and wildlife and some of the trails run alongside the Huron River. Recreation activities include golf, picnicking, biking, hiking, geocaching, and birding. The Environmental Discovery Center provides information for visitors as well as an event space.
- **Huron Meadows Metropark** is a 1,560-acre park, home to an 18-hole golf course and over 11 miles of trails through field and oak-hickory forested areas. Visitors may also fish for bluegill, sunfish, and smallmouth bass on Maltby Lake.
- **Stony Creek Metropark** features 4,435 acres including prairie, woodlands, wetlands, and Stony Creek Lake. Visitors may fish, boat, and paddle on Stony Creek Lake and hike, bike, or ski on over 27 miles of trails within the park. Stony Creek Metropark is also home to the Stony Creek Nature Center and the Ridgewood Campground.

State and Regional Trails

The Oakland County trail network vision is an emerging network of trails, pathways, and blueways traversing Oakland County, connecting neighborhoods to parks, schools, commercial districts and town centers. Major linear trails include the Polly Ann Trail, Paint Creek Trail, Clinton River Trail, Huron Valley Trail and Milford Trail.

The bicycle route of the Iron Belle Trail, an approximately 800-mile-long linear trail from Belle Isle in Detroit to Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula, will use a combination of existing trails and new routes through Oakland County, and runs about 18 miles northwest of Proud Lake SRA.

The Great Lake-to-Lake Trails can be found throughout the state and connects users from coast to coast. Route 1 of this trail system is located in southern Michigan running between South Haven and Port Huron and passes just south of Proud Lake State Recreation Area.

The 16.5-mile Chief Pontiac Trail was established in 1958 as a Credential Hiking Program, a backpacking program designed for Scouts. The trail runs through Proud Lake SRA, Kensington Metropark and Highland SRA. Several routes are available according to ability.

The Huron River Water Trail is a 104-mile inland paddling trail which flows from Proud Lake SRA into western Lake Erie. The trail is a state-designated water trail and is designated as part of the National Water Trail System. One of the six canoe/kayak liveries along the Huron River Water Trail is located within the park.

Other Recreation Facilities

There are many other public, quasi-public and private recreation facilities located throughout the area. Local municipalities provide neighborhood parks and there are also a number of school recreational facilities. The Village of Milford manages six municipal parks. Commerce Township operates 12 public parks encompassing more than 1,200 acres. Some of the more noteworthy sites are described below.

- **Wise Woods/Victory Park** (Commerce Township) is a 500-acre site purchased from the State of Michigan in 2012 (a former Nike missile base). A master plan for the property plans for a mix of active and passive recreation including trails, playgrounds, picnic facilities and athletic fields.
- **Maple Glen Park** (Commerce Township) is adjacent to Proud Lake SRA to the southeast, featuring 115 acres used primarily for ball fields.
- **Hickory Glen Park** (Commerce Township) is located on the north side of Glengary Road in the central portion of the Township. This community park is both an active and passive park with sports fields, play equipment, picnic tables, grills, benches and a concession building. The Motor City Mountain Bike Association has built and maintains six miles of mountain bike trails within the park.
- **Camp Dearborn** (City of Dearborn) is a 625-acre recreational facility located in Milford Township. It is open

to the general public for a fee, offering many facilities and activities including beaches, campsites, playgrounds, hall rental, paddle boats, adventure golf, softball diamonds, heated swimming pool, and the 27-hole Mystic Creek Golf Course.

- **Multi-Lakes Conservation Club** owns and preserves approximately 159 acres of land within Commerce Township. Most of the land is woodland and is used for a variety of sportsman activities.
- **Lakeshore Park** (City of Novi) offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities and plays host to many community events. Active recreation opportunities in the city's largest park include a swimming beach on Walled Lake, ten miles of mountain bike and walking trails, a kids single-track mountain bike trail, play structures, and picnic shelters.
- **The Detroit Gun Club** and **Birmingham Gun Club** also own land within the township.
- **Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center** (Walled Lake Consolidated School District) offers facilities and programs for school groups and a range of other organizations. The 11-acre site offers classroom space and an adventure challenge course with access to the adjacent Proud Lake SRA.

Private facilities in the vicinity include various golf courses, the Mount Holly Ski and Snowboard Resort, Mount Brighton Ski Area, Alpine Valley Ski Area, country clubs and swim clubs.



Runners participate in a race through the campground

A.4 History of Proud Lake State Recreation Area

In the early 1940s, the Michigan Department of Conservation determined that southeast Michigan contained lands that might be desirable for recreational areas and developed a plan to provide 100,000 acres of recreational land. Proud Lake SRA was one of 11 state recreation areas established through appropriations by the State Legislature under Public Act 50 of 1944. In 1944, land acquisition began in an area that was experiencing a rapid influx of people due to the auto industry. In 1945, funds were allotted to develop group camp and picnic areas on Proud Lake. The park was officially named Proud Lake State Recreation Area in March, 1946.¹

The land making up Proud Lake SRA includes lands formerly owned by Joseph Proud (for whom Proud Lake was named) and the Montclair Hunt Club. The Montclair Hunt Club formed in the 1920s and erected a club house and cabins on the property. Members of the club reportedly planted thousands of red pines on the property, many of which remain today.

The original master plan for Proud Lake SRA, approved in 1955, included areas for camping, hunting, swimming, picnicking and winter sports. A group camp was located at the site of the former Montclair Hunt Club, using the club house as the camp lodge until it burned down in 1947. Between 1947 and 1950 the group camp was updated. In 1954, a mess hall and dormitory, sleeping 30 to 60 individuals, were constructed. During the first year of operation, it was estimated that 1,500 campers were hosted in the group camp. A second dormitory was completed two years later, with an activity building constructed in the 1970s and a third dormitory added in the 1980s.²

In 1966, the Natural Areas Council made a recommendation to the Michigan Conservation Commission to dedicate 430 acres of Proud Lake SRA to three categories to protect the natural resources from heavy recreational use. The Department recommended limiting the designation to a single Natural Area Preserve consisting of 105 acres lying north of Glengary Road. Michigan's first full-time Park Naturalist, Hartley Thornton, was stationed at Proud Lake State Recreation Area and Highland State Recreation Area from 1962 to 1978.

At one time, the park had three administered units not physically connected to the main Proud Lake SRA: the Pelletier Lake Unit (later known as the Nike missile site) to the northeast, the Dodge #5 Unit two miles east of the main recreation area, and Bloomer #1, four miles east. The Dodge #5 Unit included 193 acres donated to the state in 1922

¹ Department of Conservation proceedings March 25, 1946 (p.541)

² A Historical Site Inventory in Southeast Michigan State Parks and Recreation Areas, Deborah Dietrich-Smith, Intern, SHPO, February 1997.



A barred owl perched in a tree

from the Dodge Motor Company. Bloomer #1 was one of four sites donated to the state in Oakland County by wealthy Detroit lawyer Howard Bloomer. Both the Dodge and Bloomer sites were formerly individual state parks, featuring rustic campgrounds, picnic areas and fishing sites, before becoming part of Proud Lake SRA. During the 1930s, workers from the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) participated in a tree planting program at Dodge #5 Park, portions of which are still present today. The Dodge unit was transferred to Commerce Township in the 1990s and is now a community park featuring soccer fields, pavilions, picnic areas, play equipment and trails. The 36-acre Bloomer unit was transferred to West Bloomfield Township in 1980 for recreational use.

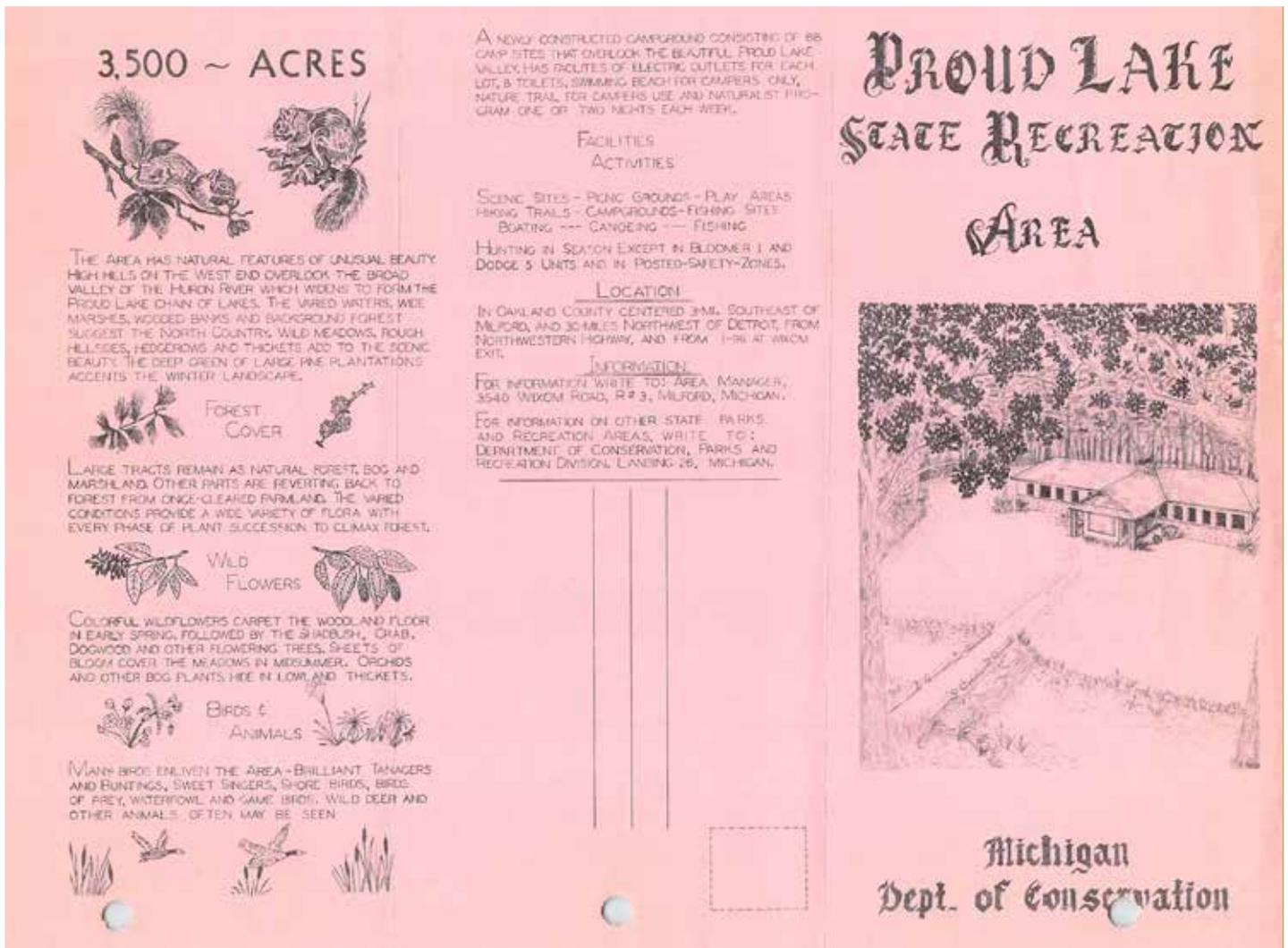
The Pelletier Lake Unit was transferred to Commerce Township in 2012. The site is divided into Wise Woods, north of Wise Road, and Victory Park to the south, and is proposed for development for outdoor recreation with areas protected for conservation and wildlife value. In the 1950s, 66 acres of this property was leased by the state to the Department of Defense for construction of the D-87 Nike missile site, one of over a dozen sites in the Detroit Nike defense network. The Nike defense system was dismantled in 1974, although a mess hall, barracks buildings and storage units remained. In the

following years, the site was used by the Parks Division as the Pelletier Outdoor Center and by the Young Adult Conservation Corp (YACC), then known as Camp Proud Lake, as part of a program to aid public assistance recipients to gain economic independence. Following that, a lease was issued to Camp Oakland-Boot Camp, which operated a juvenile offender's program on the site. After the program left, the site suffered vandalism and some of the buildings on the site burned in suspicious circumstances. After purchase by Commerce Township, all the remaining buildings were removed.

According to an Environmental Impact Assessment completed for Proud Lake SRA in 1976, acquisition then totaled 3,475 acres, including the outlying areas. Additional acquisition of 672 acres was proposed. Planned development, in accordance with the approved 1970 master plan, included expansion of

the popular nature center complex, erosion control at the existing 110-site modern campground (which was located on a sand hill 30 feet above Proud Lake), the addition of two organization campgrounds, removal of a firing range situated between the railroad tracks and Old Plank Road, and day-use improvements.

Through the 1970s and '80s, improvements included construction of an outdoor education center and a small walk-through nature center (now the annex), canoe livery building, beach development, addition of electricity to the campground, paving the campground roads, and completion of an equine staging area. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, three of the organizational camp buildings were removed: two dormitories and the pump house. Two camper cabins were added overlooking the Huron River, west of Wixom Road, in 2009.



A previous park brochure (pre 1968)

A.5 Land Ownership

Funding Sources

The lands that make up Proud Lake State Recreation Area have been acquired by the state through a variety of funding sources. Often, conditions attached to the original funding source or other details of the property transaction encumber the future use or disposition of the land. The funding source map at the end of Appendix A identifies the sources used in acquiring land within Proud Lake State Recreation Area. The following outlines in more detail each funding source associated with the park.

General Fund/Game and Fish Fund

The majority of the land was purchased using a combination of 1/12 Game and Fish Fund and 11/12 General Fund (over 2,000 acres). Public Act 325 of 1931 allowed for "...\$1.50 from proceeds from each deer hunting license sold to be made available for purposes of acquisition, protection, development and maintenance of game refuges and public hunting land." Prior to that, P.A. 17 of 1921 established the Game and Fish Protection Fund to support a conservation program for preservation/control of fish and wildlife.

Michigan Land Trust Fund

The "Kammer Recreational Land Trust Fund Act of 1976" (Public Act 204 of 1976) created the Michigan Land Trust Fund (MLTF) program to provide a source of funding for the public acquisition of lands for resource protection and public outdoor recreation. Funding was derived from royalties on the sale and lease of State-owned mineral rights. This fund has now been replaced by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Two parcels totaling 17 acres were purchased using this funding source.

Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal program administered in Michigan by the Department of Natural Resources on behalf of the National Park Service (NPS). Land purchased using LWCF funding must be used for public outdoor recreation purposes. The required 50% match was provided by Special Legislation. Approximately 90 acres in the northeast of the park were purchased using this funding source in 1971-73.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) was created by a state constitutional amendment in 1984, which required that oil, gas, and other mineral lease and royalty payments be placed into the Trust Fund, with proceeds used to both acquire and develop public recreation lands. To implement the constitutional amendment, the legislature passed the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Act of 1985 (P.A. 101 of 1985). Two parcels totaling five acres were purchased in 1991-92 using MNRTF and must be used for outdoor recreation in perpetuity.

Special Legislation

Acquisitions for park purposes through this source are tied to specific funding established by the legislature under Public Act 27 of 1944 and Public Act 50 of 1944. Just over 200 acres were acquired using this fund, often used as a match with Recreation Bond Fund, MLTF and MNRTF.

Recreation Bond Fund

At Proud Lake SRA, this fund was used to match various other funding sources across the recreation area.

Land Exchange

Approximately 156 acres were acquired through a land exchange with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) in 1982 to facilitate construction of the proposed M-275 expressway (which was never built). The DNR transferred 64 acres to MDOT in exchange for land in the northwest of the recreation area with frontage on Sleeth and Wixom roads. The land acquired contained a bomb shelter, barn and residence, which have since been removed.

State and Federal Grants

The following grants have been awarded to fund acquisition and development at Proud Lake SRA and result in certain encumbrances on the land.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANTS				
GRANT NUMBER	YEAR	TITLE	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
26-00818	1972	Proud Lake Recreation Area Acq. 2	\$140,004.88	Acquire 71 acres of land for outdoor recreation (park inholding, original park acquisition)
26-00371	1972	Proud Lake Recreation Area	\$88,131.57	To acquire 130 acres of land located in the Proud Lake Recreation Area, Oakland County. (park inholding, original park acquisition)
26-00257	1972	Proud Lake-Powers Lake Development	\$81,500.00	Develop Proud Lake Powers Lake Development Phase 2 to include additional parking, modern toilet facilities and small change court and concession building.
26-00456	1973	Proud Lake Recreation Area	\$40,311.80	Develop 10 acres to include nature interpretive center, water, sewer and electrical utilities
26-00994	1977	Proud Lake Rec. Area Park	\$17,662.37	Develop: parking lot, entrance road, LWCF sign
26-01086	1979	Proud Lake R.A. Canoe Access	\$25,835.82	Develop: support facilities, LWCF sign, new road into an existing parking lot, and improve that lot, concession bldg.
MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANTS				
GRANT NUMBER	YEAR	TITLE	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
TF07-129	2007	Proud Lake Electrical System Upgrades	\$500,000.00	Upgrades to the electrical system at Proud Lake SRA

Easements

There are a number of easements granted across Proud Lake SRA, primarily for roads or utilities. The following is a list of the entities with which the state has known easement agreements.

- Oakland County Road Commission – release of ROW for highway purposes (realignment of Wixom Road)
- Michigan Consolidated Gas – easement to construct and maintain pipelines
- Detroit Edison Company – multiple easements to construct and maintain overhead electric lines
- Michigan Associated Telephone Company – easement to construct and maintain telephone line
- Oakland County – easement to construct and maintain a pipeline and to construct and maintain a drainage ditch and culvert pipe
- Michigan Bell Telephone Company – easement to construct and maintain telephone pole and underground cable
- Cloverland Electric Cooperative – construct and maintain electric distribution line
- Michigan Transportation Commission
- Charter Township of Commerce – easement to construct and maintain sanitary sewer and water line (N. of Glengary Rd.)
- Ford, Bacon, Davis Inc. – permit to construct and maintain pipeline
- GTE North Incorporated – construct and maintain telephone line
- Village of Wolverine Lake – release of ROW for non-motorized trail (Glengary Rd.)
- ITC Holdings, Inc – easement to construct and maintain overhead transmission lines.

A.6 Legal Mandates

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

Specific to Proud Lake State Recreation Area, the following legal mandates have been identified.

FEDERAL STATUTE	
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT, 1973	
This Act authorizes the determination and listing of species as endangered and threatened, and prohibits unauthorized taking, possession, sale and transport of endangered species.	
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT, 1966 AS AMENDED	
This is the primary federal law governing the preservation of cultural and historic resources in the United States. The law establishes a national preservation program and a system of procedural protections which encourage the identification and protection of cultural and historic resources of national, state, tribal and local significance.	

STATE STATUTE	
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (NREPA) AND AMENDMENTS	
PA 451 OF 1994, PART 5	Gives the DNR authority to make rules to support its mission. This includes State Land Rules, Land Use Orders, Wildlife Conservation Orders, Fisheries Orders and Watercraft Control.
PA 451 OF 1994, PART 31 WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION	Provides authority to EGLE to require a permit for any occupation, construction, filling, or grade change within the 100-year floodplain of a river, stream, drain, or inland lake.
PA 451 OF 1994, PART 301 INLAND LAKES AND STREAMS	Requires a permit from the state (EGLE) to undertake certain activities relating to inland lakes and streams, such as dredging, fill, marinas, structures, alteration of flow, etc.
PA 451 OF 1994, PART 303 WETLANDS PROTECTION	Requires a permit from the state (EGLE) to undertake certain activities in regulated wetlands, such as, dredging, fill, construction or drainage.
PA 451 OF 1994, ARTICLE III, CHAPTER 1, PART 351 WILDERNESS AND NATURAL AREAS	Allows for the designation of wilderness and natural areas and management of those areas.
PA 451 OF 1994, PART 365 ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION	Allows for acts necessary for the conservation, protection, restoration, and propagation of endangered and threatened species in cooperation with the federal government pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
PA 451 OF 1994, PART 419 HUNTING AREA CONTROL	Section 324.41901 establishes the powers of the Department to establish safety zones for hunting.
PA 451 OF 1994, PART 741 STATE PARK SYSTEM	The department shall create, maintain, operate, promote, and make available for public use and enjoyment a system of state parks to preserve and protect Michigan’s significant natural resources and areas of natural beauty or historic significance, to provide open space for public recreation, and to provide an opportunity to understand Michigan’s natural resources and the need to protect and manage those resources.
PA 35 OF 2010, PART 741 RECREATION PASSPORT	This act amended the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code to provide for a State Park and State-operated public boating access site “Recreation Passport” that a Michigan resident may obtain by paying an additional fee when registering a motor vehicle.
PA 451 OF 1994, PART 761 ABORIGINAL RECORDS AND ANTIQUITIES	The state reserves the exclusive right and privilege to all aboriginal records and other antiquities including those found on the bottomlands of the Great Lakes.

PUBLIC HEALTH CODE	
PA 368 OF 1978, PART 125, CAMPGROUNDS, SWIMMING AREAS AND SWIMMERS’ ITCH	Established to protect and promote the public health by establishing health code requirements and regulations that all public (including DNR) and private campgrounds must meet. Includes permitting, licensing, inspections and rules regarding sanitation, safety standards and public health. Also covers testing and evaluating quality of water at bathing beaches, safety, and rescue equipment.

Orders

The following Orders apply to Proud Lake State Recreation Area.

LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR

5.2 Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages in certain state parks and recreation areas, prohibited conduct.

Order 5.2 A person shall not do any of the following:

- (2) Possess or consume an alcoholic beverage within the following described locations from April 1 through September 30, without written authorization of the park manager:
- (f) Proud lake SRA—all state-owned lands in section 18, T2N, R8E, Oakland county.

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

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

- (a) Enter any of the following state-owned lands with a motor vehicle unless a valid Michigan recreation passport has been purchased and affixed to the vehicle:
- (68) Proud lake RA, Oakland county.

Wildlife Conservation Orders

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

7.57 Proud Lake State Recreation Area, hunting prohibited, exceptions; posting required.

Sec. 7.57 (1) A person shall not take an animal from those state-owned lands within the Proud Lake State Recreation Area in sections 17, 18, 19 and 20 lying south of the Huron river, Moss lake, Lower Proud lake, and Upper Proud lake water course except for the NE 1/2 of the NE 1/4, and the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 and the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4, section 20, and those state-owned lands in sections 1, 2 and 11, T2N R8E, all in Commerce township, Oakland county.

History: Eff. Mar 31, 1989; Am. 16, 1989, Eff. Aug 1, 1989.

Fisheries Conservation Orders

Fish found in waters of the state are owned by all people of the state of Michigan. Fishing regulations including season dates, daily possession limits, minimum legal size limits, and gear restrictions are established by the authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Department of Natural Resources by Part 487 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.48701.

200.19A. Statewide Trout, Salmon, Whitefish, Lake Herring, and Smelt Regulations.

Sec. VII. Trout and Salmon on Inland Streams. Huron River (Oakland County) from the Sign below Moss Lake Outlet to the Signs 100 Yards below Wixom Road (T2N, R7E, S13)

From the last Saturday in April- September 30, this reach of stream shall be managed under Type 1 regulations.

From April 1- the Friday before the last Saturday in April, this reach of stream shall be managed under gear restricted regulations as follows:

- Fishing season: April 1- the Friday before the last Saturday in April.- Possession season: closed; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the possession season is open.
- Tackle: artificial flies only; use or possession of scented material prohibited in the water or on shore.
- Daily possession limit: zero (0) trout; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the daily possession limit shall be one (1) trout.
- Size limits: not applicable; except that for children under the age of 12-years old the minimum size limit shall be 8 inches and the maximum size limit shall be 12 inches for all species of trout. Trout less than 8 inches or greater than 12 inches must be released.
- Mileage: 2.0 miles.

STATE LAND RULES

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

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES WILDLIFE DIVISION

WILDERNESS AND NATURAL AREAS

(By authority conferred on the director of the department of natural resources by 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.35103 and Executive Reorganization Order No. 1991-22, MCL 299.13)

Regulation No. 63, Oakland county.

R 322.63.1 Proud Lake nature study area.

Rule 1. The following described area is dedicated as a natural area under the designation of the Proud Lake nature study area: The state-owned land in the W1/2 of section 21, T2N, R8E, Oakland county, lying north of Glengary road, comprising the S1/2 of NE1/4 of NW1/4, 20 acres; that part of the south 44 acres of the W1/2 of NW1/4 lying east of creek, 19 acres; SE1/4 of NW1/4, 40 acres; and that part of the N1/2 of SW1/4 lying north of Glengary road, 26 acres. Total 105 acres.

History: 1979 AC.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

LOCAL HUNTING AND FIREARMS CONTROLS

(By authority conferred on the department of natural resources by section 41901 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.41901)

R317.163.28 Commerce Township portion; hunting restricted.

Rule 28. Hunting with, or the discharge of, a firearm other than a shotgun loaded with shot not larger than no. 2 is unlawful in those parts of sections 16 and 21, T2N, R8E, Commerce township, Oakland county, described as follows: Beginning at the junction of Bass Lake road and Benstein road; thence south on Benstein road to Glengary road; thence west on Glengary road 1 mile; thence north on the section line dividing sections 20 and 21, T2N, R8E, 1 mile to Bass Lake road; thence east on Bass Lake road to the point of beginning.

History: 1979 AC.

LOCAL ORDINANCES

Milford township, Oakland county, entire - Centerfire rifle and rimfire rifle hunting banned.

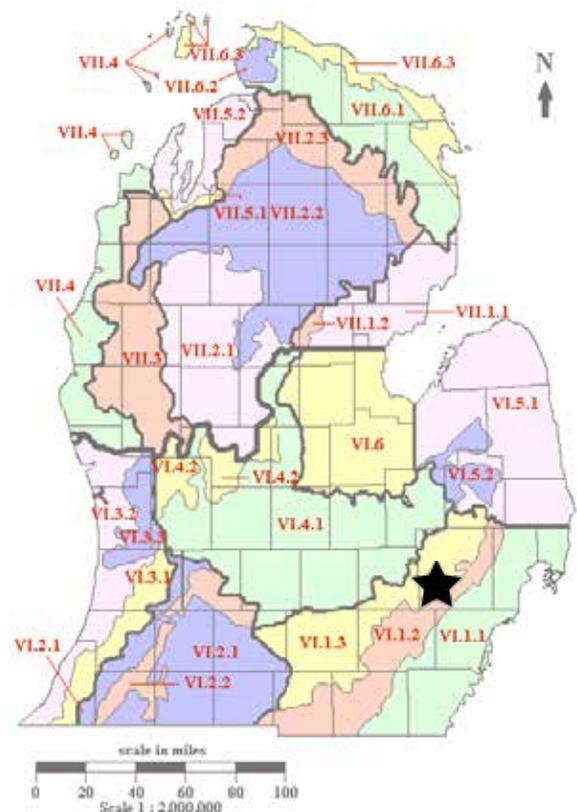
No person shall hunt with a centerfire rifle or rimfire rifle within the charter township of Milford, Oakland county, state of Michigan.

A.7 Landscape Context and Natural Resources

A regional landscape ecosystem classification has been developed (Albert, 1995) for Michigan, which distinguishes major landscapes based on macroclimate, physiography, soil and vegetation. Proud Lake State Recreation Area is located in the central portion of the Jackson Interlobate, sub-subsection VI.1.3, of the Washtenaw Sub-section VI.1. This sub-section is the northern portion of an interlobate area between three glacial lobes, which formed approximately 16,000 years ago. The interlobate is more than 150 miles long. This sub-subsection consists of most of the northeastern two-thirds of the interlobate, which is characterized by relatively steep end-moraine ridges surrounded by pitted outwash deposits; kettle lakes and wetlands are common within the outwash.

Climate

The growing season in this sub-subsection is 140 to 150 days, generally decreasing to the north (Eichenlaub et al. 1990). Danger of late spring frosts is great due to numerous lowland depressions (outwash and kettle lakes). Average snowfall is 40 to 50 inches; greatest amounts are in the extreme north and extreme south. Annual precipitation is 30 to 32 inches, with highest amounts in the south. Extreme minimum temperature ranges from -22°F to -28°F, with coldest values in the north.



Source: Albert, Dennis A. 1995. Regional landscape ecosystems of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin: a Working Map and Classification.

Water Resources

As a part of the Lake Erie basin, Proud Lake SRA contains many lakes, streams and wetlands. It is in the Huron River watershed, with about four miles of the Huron River running through the property, as well as Norton Creek and five unnamed tributaries feeding into the river. Proud and Moss lakes are inline kettle lakes connected by the Huron River. There are also several smaller ponds scattered throughout the park.

The Huron River Watershed contains 908 square miles in southeast Michigan, including seven counties and 63 municipalities. The Huron River is approximately 136 miles long with tributaries totaling about 1,200 more stream miles. Under Michigan’s Natural Rivers Act, 10.5 miles of three tributaries downstream of Kent Lake dam are designated under the state Natural Rivers Act as a “County Scenic River.”

Much of the lowlands surrounding the river are designated as Special Flood Hazards Area by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), although no base flood elevation has been established.

Topography

The complex topography of Proud Lake SRA is a result of glacial activity ending approximately 16,000 years ago. The various “ice-contact” features of hills, ridges, and depressions formed by ice and sediment interactions during the multiple glacial advances and recessions. The wetlands and lakes generally follow the course of the Huron River. Gently sloping outwash plains connect the surrounding hills and ridges (moraines), with some ridges having slopes up to 40 percent. For instance, the equestrian trail south of Proud Lake sits on a ridge that rises steeply (approximately 40 feet) above the Huron River floodplain just a few hundred feet away. The highest point in the park is in the southwest corner with an approximate elevation of 1,100 feet.

Soils

The uplands have well drained soils. These consist of Spinks loamy sand, Oakville fine sand, Fox and Riddles sandy loam, and Oshtemo-Boyer loamy sands, among other types. These vary to some degree in composition and landform-setting. The soils closer to the lakes, streams and wetlands are mucks in depressions and are somewhat poorly drained to very poorly drained.

Geology and Mineral Resources

Like the rest of Michigan, the area of Proud Lake SRA was influenced by the continental glaciers. The surficial geology consists of glacial moraine and outwash deposits, much of

it sand and gravel. More recent sediments deposited within the Huron River channel and surrounding floodplain tend to be finer-grained silt and clay. The coarser sand and gravel deposits are commonly mined in this region for construction aggregate. An active, commercial sand and gravel mining operation exists adjacent to the northeast boundary of the park. The glacial sediments are between 200 and 400 feet thick, on average, in the region of the park.

The bedrock geology immediately beneath the glacial deposits in the park consists of the Mississippian Coldwater Shale. Some 4,000 feet below the Coldwater Shale, ancient coral reefs within the Guelph Dolomite have historically shown to have good oil and gas potential in this part of the state. No oil and gas wells have been drilled within the park boundary to date, and there are currently no active state mineral leases within the park. However, there are actively producing oil wells just west of Milford. The parcels within Proud Lake SRA are currently classified as Leasable Non-Development, indicating that, while the mineral rights beneath the park are open to leasing, use of the surface for mineral development is not allowed.

Circa 1800s Vegetation

The topography, soils, and local climate determined the historic vegetation because they influence the key limits to growth for plants – moisture and nutrient availability. The previously noted hills and ridges in the surrounding uplands were oak barrens. These barrens had widely spaced white and black oak trees and “openings” between them. Frequent seasonal fires were common and maintained those open conditions under the trees that were large enough to survive them. These openings within the barrens were dominated by tall grasses and a high diversity of wildflowers and shrubs as determined by the relative proximity to the shade of trees and the severity and frequency of fire.

The aforementioned depressions between the hills and ridges were the glacial outwash plains as opposed to the steeper moraines. This outwash included a continuum of vegetation based on moisture. The lowest, wettest depressions were comprised of shrub-carr and closed-canopy hardwood swamp. These two natural communities existed in seasonally flooded areas; shrub-carr occurred where trees began growing in wet meadows or where regular disturbance prohibited succession to hardwood swamp. That disturbance came from beavers or canopy tree die-off from storms, disease, and insect defoliation.

Beech-maple forest was present on more elevated “islands” within the poorly drained depressions of the outwash plains and is most notable in the northeast part of the recreation area. Rather than fire as the main natural disturbance,

individual or groups of trees would die from windthrow or tree disease or insects. Continuing further on the driest end of the moisture gradient between the morainal hills and ridges was closed canopy oak-hickory forest. Lastly, there was wet meadow, prairie fen, and rich tamarack swamp along the Huron River and Norton Creek.

Current Vegetation

Proud Lake SRA's vegetation continues to be highly diverse. Certain natural communities exhibited more change than others resulting in variable loss of biodiversity. The oak barrens, one of fifteen oak barrens remaining in the state, have exhibited the greatest degradation in the last 170 years. Shortly after Michigan became a state in 1837, settlers rapidly converted the oak barrens into farmland. These uplands were cultivated or grazed and trees were used for building and fuel. Settlers prevented and suppressed the frequent fires that maintained the openness of any surrounding uncultivated oak barrens. Much of the oak barrens has converted to closed-canopy oak-hickory forest and red-pine plantation. This conversion resulted in the loss of important and unique biodiversity. The oak barrens has potential for restoration using prescribed burns.

The shrub-carr, hardwood swamp, prairie fens, wet meadows, rich tamarack swamps, and beech maple forest are the most intact because they were least likely to be farmed or developed. The areas are hotspots of regional biodiversity including many important and unique species. However, change has occurred and biodiversity has been lost. The canopy American elms and various ash species have been killed by invasive insects and disease; invasive shrubs have also grown in the understories. Much of the historic oak-hickory forest has been developed or farmed, necessitating restoration over time.

The water resources continue to support vast areas of emergent vegetation such as cattails but some areas have been invaded by a non-native phragmites. American eelgrass is the most common plant species found in the Huron River as it traverses through Proud Lake SRA. Proud and Moss Lakes support additional species such as milfoil, chara, elodea, water lilies, bladderwort, and various pondweed species.

Flora and Fauna

There are a number of species of state-wide and regional significance at Proud Lake State Recreation Area (see table below). These include state and federally listed species requiring special conservation attention. Notably, this is an important area for the federally threatened eastern massasauga rattlesnake which requires the combination of wetland and upland habitat features found at Proud Lake. The



Trillium in the forest

recreation area contains very important tamarack swamps, which is the required habitat of the tamarack tree cricket – a special concern species in the state. Six species of turtles are known to use the recreation area, including Blanding's turtle, map turtle, musk turtle, painted turtle, snapping turtle and spiny softshell turtle. Numerous freshwater mussels are found in the Huron River and inline lakes with many identified as species of special concern and one state threatened species, wavy-rayed lampmussel.

The fish community found in the water resources in Proud Lake SRA are indicative of a highly diverse warm water fish community. A total of 28 fish species have been documented in the recreation area as recently as 2005. The dominant species by number is bluegill and the top predators are largemouth bass and northern pike. Brown trout and rainbow trout are annually stocked into the Huron River but warm water temperatures in the summer months limit the longevity of their residence in the Huron River. Rare species like the state threatened creek chubsucker and brindled madtom, a special concern species, have been identified in the recreation area as well.

Proud Lake SRA is also a significant contiguous "block" of plant and animal habitat in proximity to metro-Detroit. It is enough contiguous habitat to have breeding populations of forest interior songbirds requiring unfragmented forest such as ovenbird and veery. During migration, the recreation area provides habitat for most migrant birds. The pine plantations draw nesting birds that typically breed further north such as blue-headed vireo, red-breasted nuthatch, and pine warbler.

The following rare animals have been documented in Proud Lake SRA. These species are protected under the State or Federal Endangered Species Act as documented below. Species of Special Concern are also included in the list.

FAUNA: RARE ANIMALS PRESENT OR LIKELY TO BE PRESENT AT PROUD LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PROTECTION STATUS
<i>Sistrurus catenatus catenatus</i>	Eastern massasauga	State: Special Concern, Federal: Threatened
<i>Oecanthus laricis</i>	Tamarack tree cricket	State: Special Concern
<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	Blanding’s turtle	State: Special Concern
<i>Lasmigona compressa</i>	Creek heelsplitter	State: Special Concern
<i>Ptychobranchus fasciolaris</i>	Kidney shell	State: Special Concern
<i>Utterbackia imbecillis</i>	Paper pondshell	State: Special Concern
<i>Villosa iris</i>	Rainbow mussel	State: Special Concern
<i>Lampsilis fasciola</i>	Wavyrayed lampmussel	State: Threatened
<i>Noturus miurus</i>	Brindled madtom	State: Special Concern
<i>Erimyzon claviformis</i>	Creek chubsucker	State: Endangered

Eastern massasauga rattlesnake is managed under the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA), an agreement signed by Michigan DNR and the US Fish & Wildlife Service in 2016. This agreement dedicates specific “managed habitat” areas at Proud Lake State Recreation Area with associated management requirements that DNR must follow. In exchange for following these requirements in managed habitat, incidental (accidental) take of eastern massasauga is allowed in many circumstances without being in violation of the US Endangered Species Act.

Natural Communities

The following are the current natural communities warranting listing as an element occurrence and their estimated viability on a scale from A (excellent viability) to D (poor viability).

GLOBAL RANK	
NATURAL COMMUNITY	ELEMENT OCCURRENCE RANK (A-D)
oak barrens	D
mesic southern forest	C
prairie fen	C
southern wet meadow	BC
emergent marsh	B
submergent marsh	B

Proud Lake Nature Study Area (Natural Areas)

The 105-acre Proud Lake Nature Study Area was dedicated under the State Wilderness and Natural Areas Statue (Part 351 of PA 451 of 1994) as a “Natural Area” (R 332.63.1). The Natural Area occurs within a glacial pitted outwash plain. Here sediments from melting glaciers were deposited around a huge block of glacial ice left behind by the receding glacier. Eventually, the ice block melted leaving behind a depression that now supports prairie fen and rich tamarack swamp. The bog area and surrounding woodland are one of the richest botanical spots in southeast Michigan. The area provides habitat for many showy and unusual plants. The vegetation of the Natural Area is easily damaged by foot traffic.

The Natural Area is located north of Glengary Road in the southeast of the park. It is difficult to access the Natural Area.

Wildlife

Wildlife that can be found throughout the park include deer, turkey, squirrels, rabbit, quail, fox, raccoon, coyote, ruffed grouse, and waterfowl to name a few. Most areas of the park are open to hunting and trapping with small game, deer and turkey being the most common game species. It is difficult



Fungi growing on fallen trees

to quantify the amount of small game hunting and trapping that take place on the area due to the length of the seasons but there is no doubt the area is used. The area also allows recreation opportunities for bird watching for hawks, owls, and a host of migratory songbirds. MI Birds and Detroit Audubon occasionally host guided bird walks at Proud Lake and have had great turnouts for these events. These groups have reported seeing such species as belted kingfisher, Swainson's thrush, Cooper's hawk and even pileated woodpecker. In addition, this area provides critical habitat for a variety of reptiles and amphibians including the elusive eastern massasauga rattlesnake.

Waterfowl hunting in the area is limited, though geese, mallards and wood ducks can be found on the lakes and impoundments. A few rare species have been found on the area and are listed on the previous page.



Rainbow trout in a net



Fall foliage reflects on the water

A.8 Recreational Resources

Boating: The Huron River Water Trail is a 104-mile inland paddling trail which flows from Proud Lake State Recreation Area into western Lake Erie. Canoes, kayaks and paddleboard can be rented at the Proud Lake campground and the Huron River rental site through a concessionaire from April to October. Canoe drop-off and pick-up services are available. Boaters may access Proud Lake at the Bass Lake Road boat launch. Registered campers may launch boats at the campground launch.

Cross-Country Skiing: There are trails throughout the park available for cross-country skiing in the winter months (ungroomed).

Fishing: Proud Lake is known for quality bluegill, bass, and pike fishing. Within the recreation area, the Huron River offer great opportunities for anglers to wade fish or fish from a boat, canoe or kayak. Anglers fishing the Huron River can target trout in the early spring or panfish in the summer and fall. A two-mile stretch of the river is managed with a gear restriction in April and a type 1 trout regulation from the last Saturday in April to September 30.

- Note: As of December 2019, there was a “Do Not Eat” fish consumption advisory for all fish species in the Huron River from where N. Wixom Rd crosses the Huron River, downstream to Lake Erie.

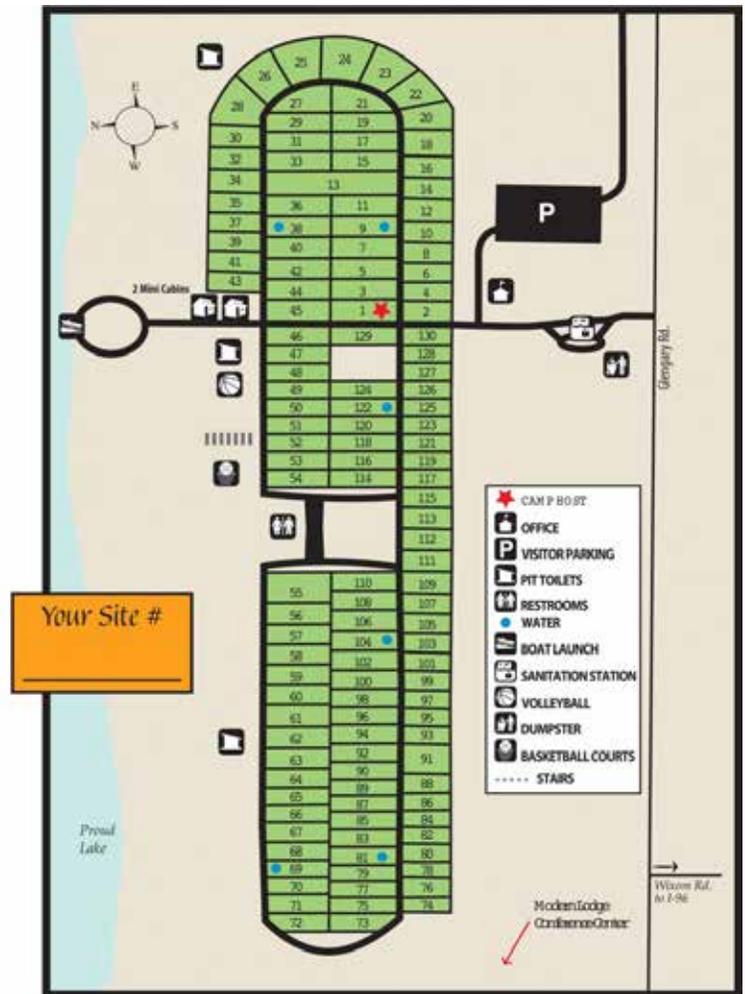
Hunting: The recreation area is open to hunting except for an area east of Wixom Road and south of the Huron River during established hunting seasons and in accordance with state and local regulations. Rabbit, squirrel, deer and grouse are among the wildlife hunted, each having its own designated season.

Hiking: Nearly 22 miles of trail are open to hiking at Proud Lake SRA. Two of the hiking/ski trails run parallel to the Huron River, while another loops around a marsh. The longer trail, north of the Huron River, meanders alongside forests, fields and wetlands.

Horseback Riding: Around 12 miles of trail west of Wixom Road are available for equestrian use, shared with mountain bikers and hikers.

Mountain Biking: About 12 miles of trails are open to mountain biking, shared with horseback riders and hikers.

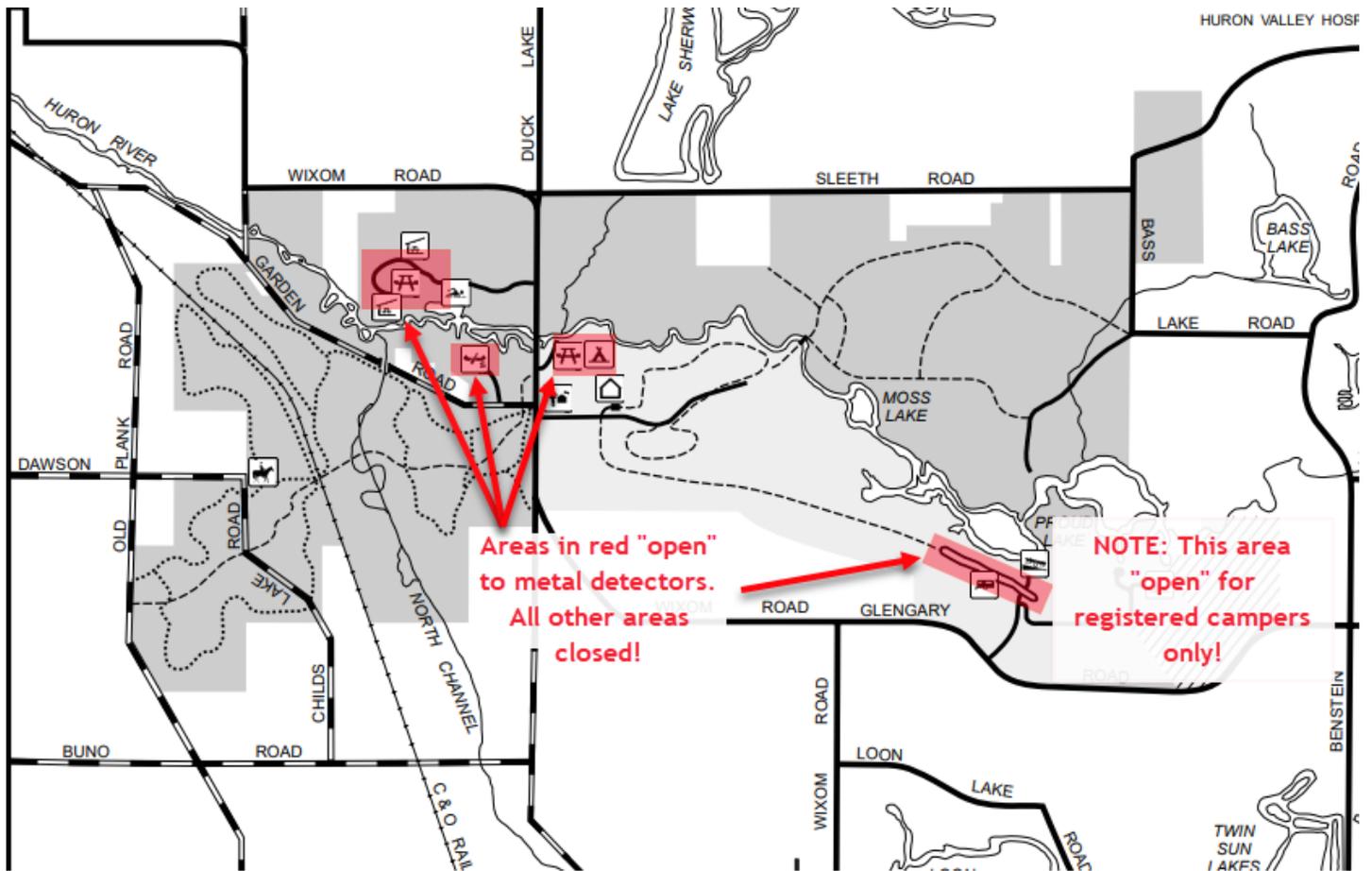
TRAIL	LENGTH (MILES)
Existing Multi-Use Trail	12
Existing Chief Pontiac Trail (Hiking-only)	4
Existing Hiking/Ski Trail	6
TOTAL EXISTING TRAIL	22



Campground map



Paddlers setting off in canoes



Areas in red on the map are open for metal detectors

Picnic Shelter: The picnic shelter at the Powers unit can be reserved for group use. If the shelter is not reserved, it is available for any patron. Reservations can be made up to one year in advance. Grills and picnic tables are available at multiple locations within the park.

Snowmobiling: There are no designated snowmobile trails in the park. However, the recreation area is open to snowmobile use (except for the Natural Area) when snow conditions allow.

Metal Detecting: Metal detecting is recognized as a legitimate recreation activity when it is conducted in ways that do not damage the natural and cultural resources in Michigan state parks nor violate applicable state statutes. The following map shows where metal detecting is allowed at Proud Lake SRA. Any items found must be reviewed by park staff and may be retained for further investigation.

Modern Camping: Proud Lake SRA offers a modern campground with 130 sites, with 20/30/50amp electrical service. There are also two mini cabins in the campground available for rent and a sanitary dump station.

Camper Cabins: To the west side of the property there are two heated 6-person camper cabins available for rent year-round with access to modern bathrooms in the summer and rustic facilities in the winter months.

River Hawk Complex: Proud Lake SRA is home to the River Hawk Lodge, Annex, Conference Center, and Café, all of which are accessible and available for reservations from April through November. The lodge sleeps 26 people in single beds, split into two seven-room wings and features a community room, kitchen, showers and restroom areas. The Annex (75 person capacity), Conference Center (150 person capacity), and Café (100 person capacity) are available for rent for events or meetings.

Group Camp: There are two rustic group campsites available for use within Proud Lake SRA. Both sites feature fire rings and picnic tables and a shelter is located at the Pines Campground.

A.9 Historic and Cultural Resources

The majority of the buildings associated with the Proud Lake group camp facility on the former Montclair Hunt Club property have been removed. Only Dormitory #2, built in 1954, now known as the River Hawk Lodge, remains on site. The Proud Lake Outdoor Center district was not considered a high priority for preservation, as it was built late in the history of group camps in Michigan's state parks and the buildings were not attributed with any particular architectural style.

No known archaeological surveys have been carried out in the recreation area. However, there is evidence of homesteads and farm buildings within the park. Given the known Native American activity in the area, it is possible that older archaeological sites may be present.



A building that was part of the Montclair Hunt Club that burned down in 1947

A.10 Education, Interpretation, Programming and Events

State Park Explorer Program

Interpretive naturalists and educators offer weekly nature and recreation programs at Proud Lake State Recreation Area from mid-May through August. The Explorer Guide offers weekly programs including fishing instruction, scheduled nature programs and informal learning opportunities in the campground and day use area. The Explorer Guide also conducts outreach programs for organized youth groups, community organizations and others by request, and assists with park events during summer and fall. Additionally, the Explorer Guide helps organize the fishing program in August for “Milford Memories”, a yearly local event in the town of Milford.

Introductory Recreation Programs

The recreation area provides programs to introduce visitors who may be new to outdoor recreation to recreational pursuits in a park setting. An introductory course to canoeing and kayaking is offered at Proud Lake, in partnership with the canoe rental company that operates in the park. Parks staff coordinates occasional introductory archery programs as well.

Annual Events

Proud Lake State Recreation Area’s Harvest Festivals are held the last weekend of September and first weekend of October each year and provide a range of activities for campers. Activities include: a site decorating contest, trick-or-treating, hay rides, scavenger hunts, grafts, archery, and a dance party.

Volunteer Groups

Proud Lake has several active volunteer groups including Friends of Proud Lake, Proud Lake Trail Riders, Motor City Mountain Biking Association, and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The volunteer groups have made contributions to the park such as trail maintenance, events, and other infrastructure projects.



A hayride as part of Harvest Festival

A.11 Park Use Statistics

Campers are recorded using the online reservation system, while day-use visitors are estimated based on a count of the number of vehicles multiplied by the mean number of people in each vehicle. Proud Lake SRA hosted over 44,500 campers in the 2021 fiscal year, a 29% increase since 2016. Over 3,000 guests were recorded in the group camp areas and modern lodge combined. The most popular months for campers were the summer months, between June and August.

Day use visitors in 2019 were estimated to be over 500,000. Day-use is generally more popular in the summer months, although the park enjoys year-round use.

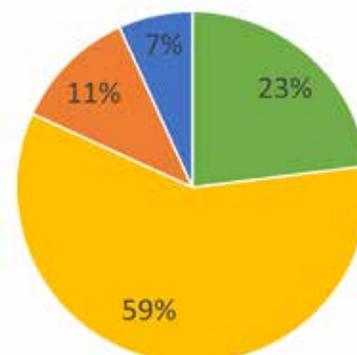
VISITATION DATA					
	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2021
CAMPERS	39,811	38,419	37,904	30,551*	44,558
SHELTER CUSTOMERS	745	948	545	346*	870

*Camping numbers were impacted by COVID in 2020

TOP TEN CITIES FOR CAMPING RESERVATIONS (2021)	
CITY & STATE	NUMBER OF NIGHTS
NOVI, MI	147
LIVONIA, MI	143
WESTLAND, MI	101
WALLED LAKE, MI	93
WATERFORD, MI	89
WIXOM, MI	87
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP, MI	79
WEST BLOOMFIELD, MI	78
FARMINGTON, MI	69
CANTON, MI	66

Day-Use Visitation by Season (2019)

■ Spring (Mar-May) ■ Summer (June-Aug)
 ■ Fall (Sept-Nov) ■ Winter (Dec-Feb)





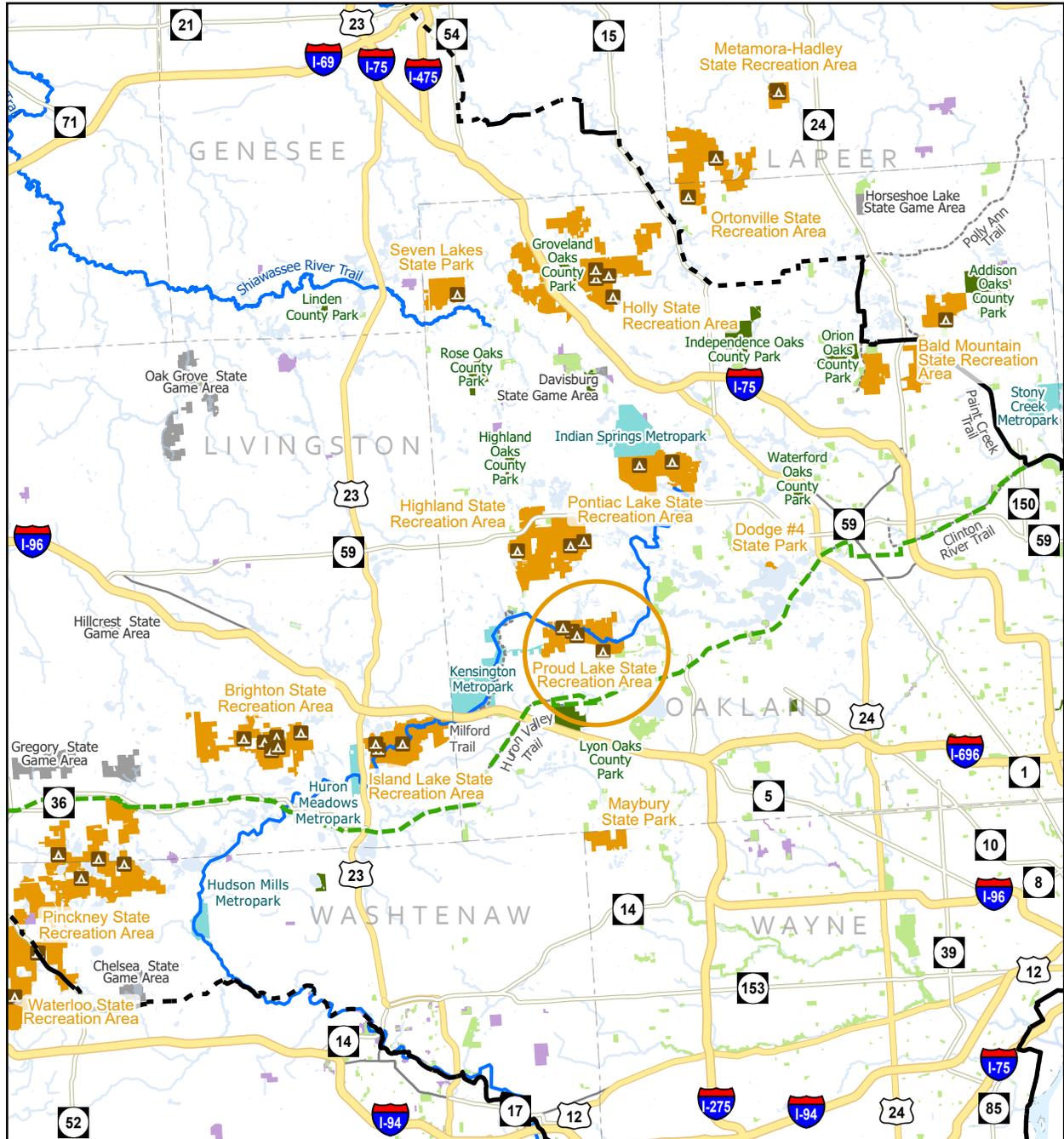
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Proud Lake State Recreation Area - Park Boundary

-  State Recreation Area Boundary
-  NRC 2020 Approved Project Boundary*
-  Road
-  Railroad

Updated: 01/19/2022

*A project boundary is a geographic area in which the DNR is seeking to acquire property that supports the mission of the DNR on a willing buyer / willing seller basis, approved by the Natural Resources Commission in 2020



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

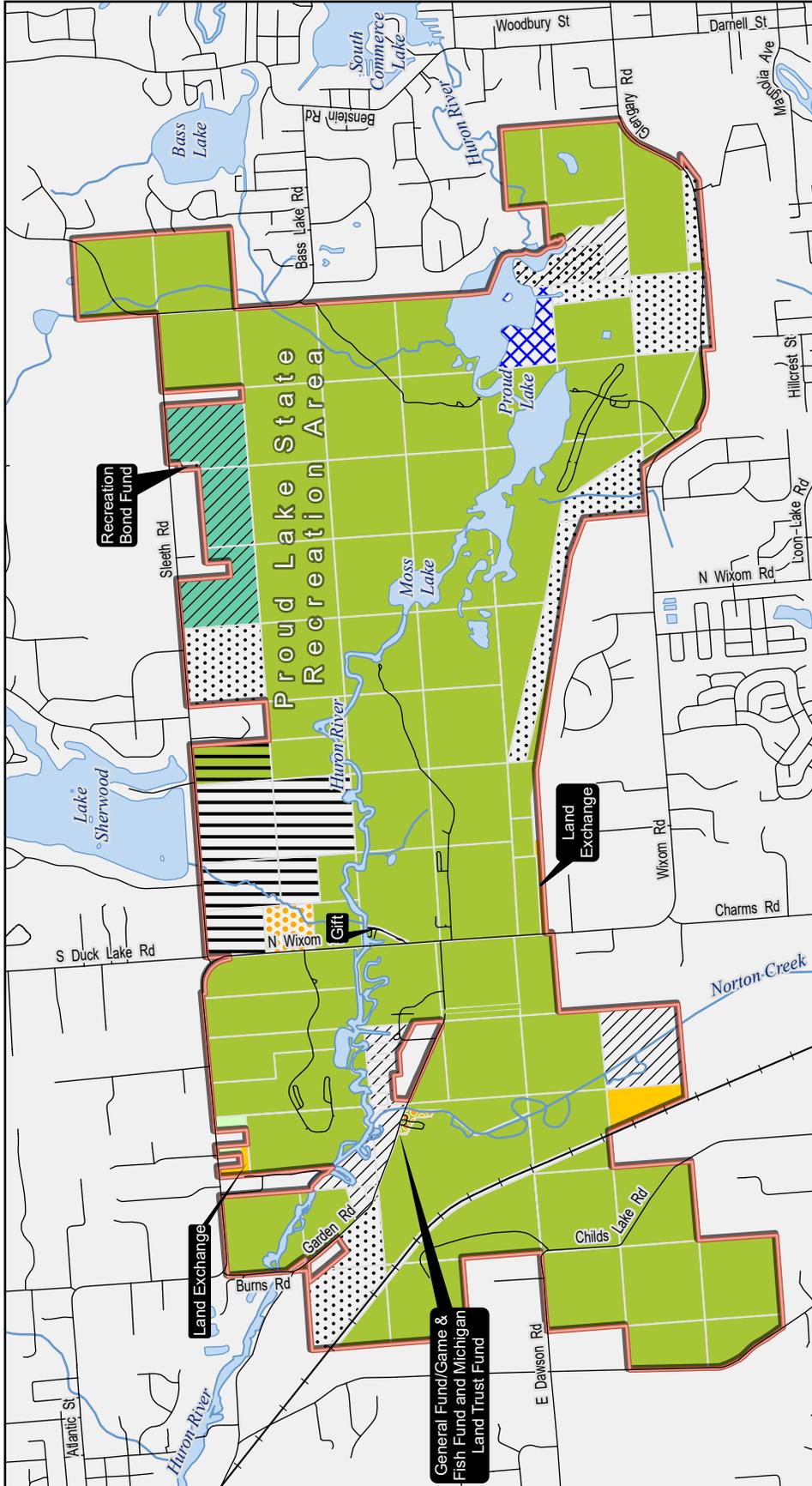
Regional Recreation Resources



Updated: 12/13/2019

- County Boundary
- State Park/Recreation Area
- State Game/Wildlife Management Area
- County Park
- Municipal Park
- Huron-Clinton Metroparks
- Conservation Lands
- State Park Campground/Lodging
- Great Lake-to-Lake Trail Network
- Iron Belle Trail Network (Existing)
- Iron Belle Trail Network (Proposed)
- Designated Water Trail



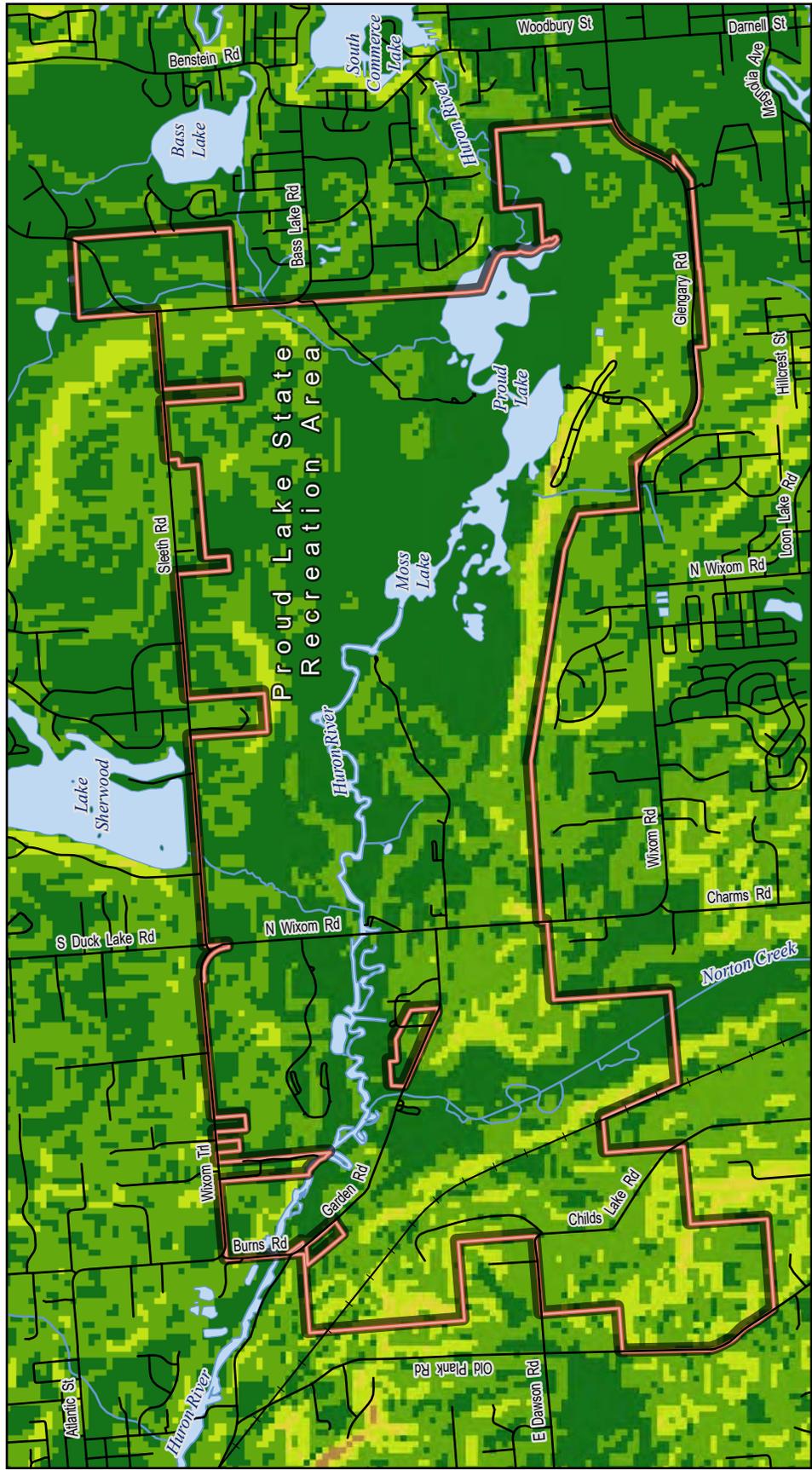


MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Proud Lake State Recreation Area - Funding Sources

- State Recreation Area Boundary
- Road
- Railroad
- River/Stream
- Lake/Pond
- Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund
- General Fund/Game & Fish Fund
- Gift
- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
- Michigan Land Trust Fund
- Recreation Bond Fund
- Special Legislation
- Federal Land Transfer
- Land Exchange

Updated: 11/15/2021 BRT



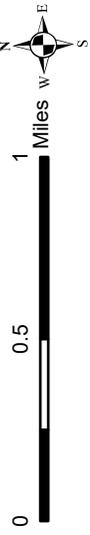
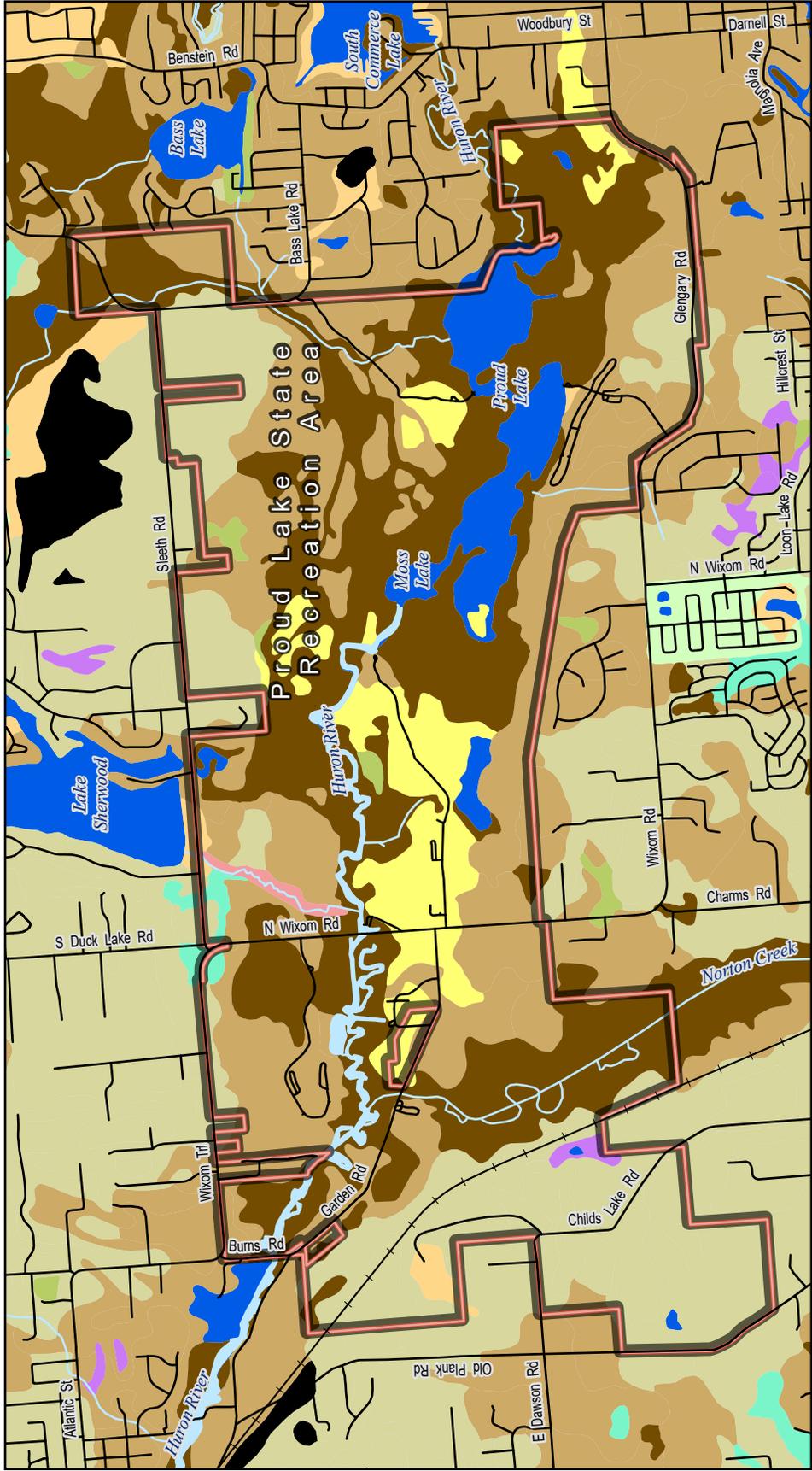
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Proud Lake State Recreation Area - Topography

- State Recreation Area Boundary
- Road
- Railroad
- River/Stream
- Lake/Pond
- Percent Slope***
 - 0% – 1%
 - 1.1% – 4%
 - 4.1% – 8%
 - 8.1% – 13%
 - 13.1% – 21%
 - 21.1% – 64%

Updated: 12/13/2019

*Slope calculated from the 30 meter resolution National Elevation Dataset DEM for Michigan using ArcInfo G-GRID v9.0



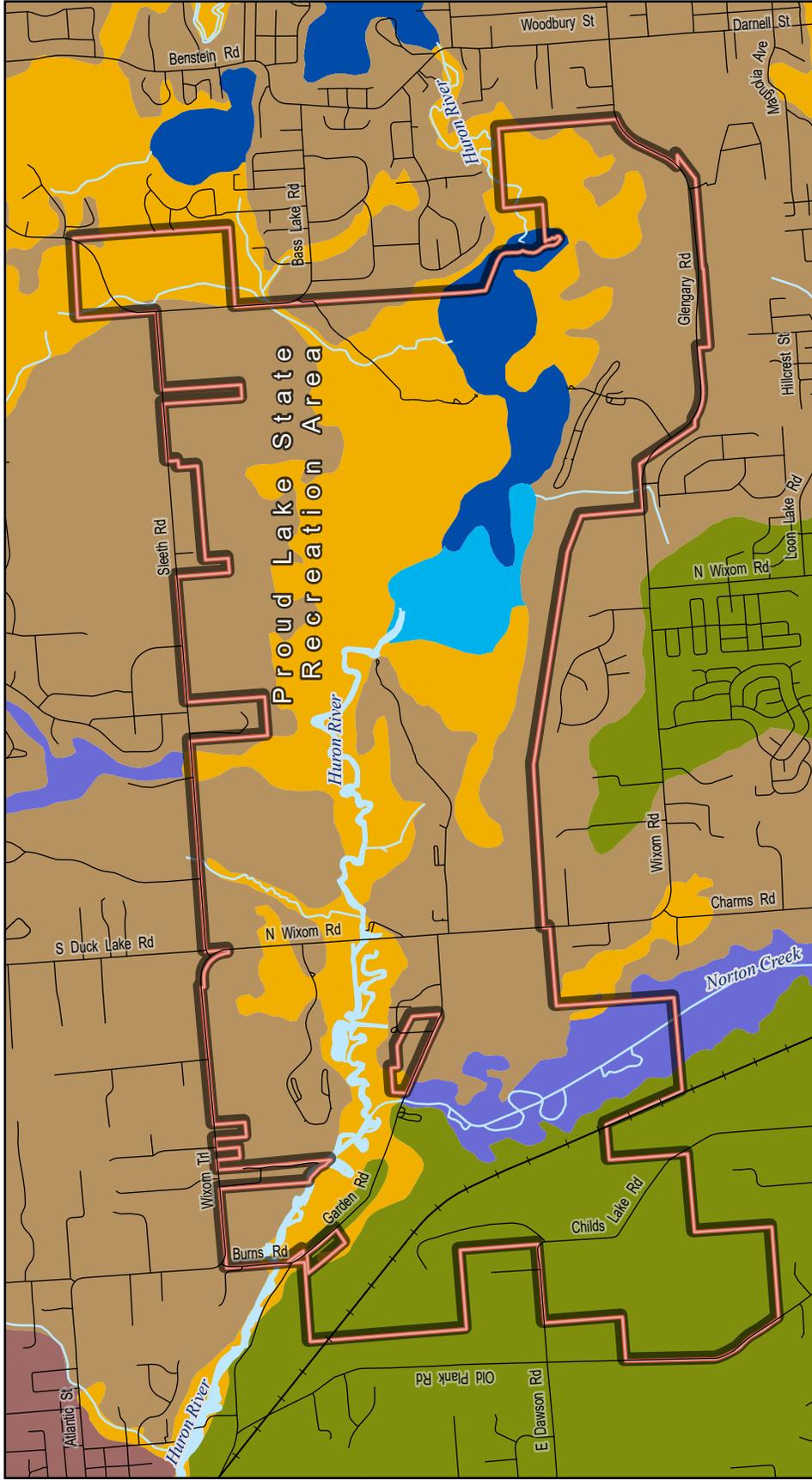
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Proud Lake State Recreation Area - Soils

- State Recreation Area Boundary
- Road
- Railroad
- River/Stream
- Sand
- Fine sand
- Loamy sand
- Loamy fine sand
- Sandy loam
- Fine sandy loam
- Sandy clay loam
- Loam
- Silt loam
- Muck
- Water (no soils data available)
- Pits (no soils data available)

Updated: 12/12/2019

*Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Map Sheets, Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) Database, 2000

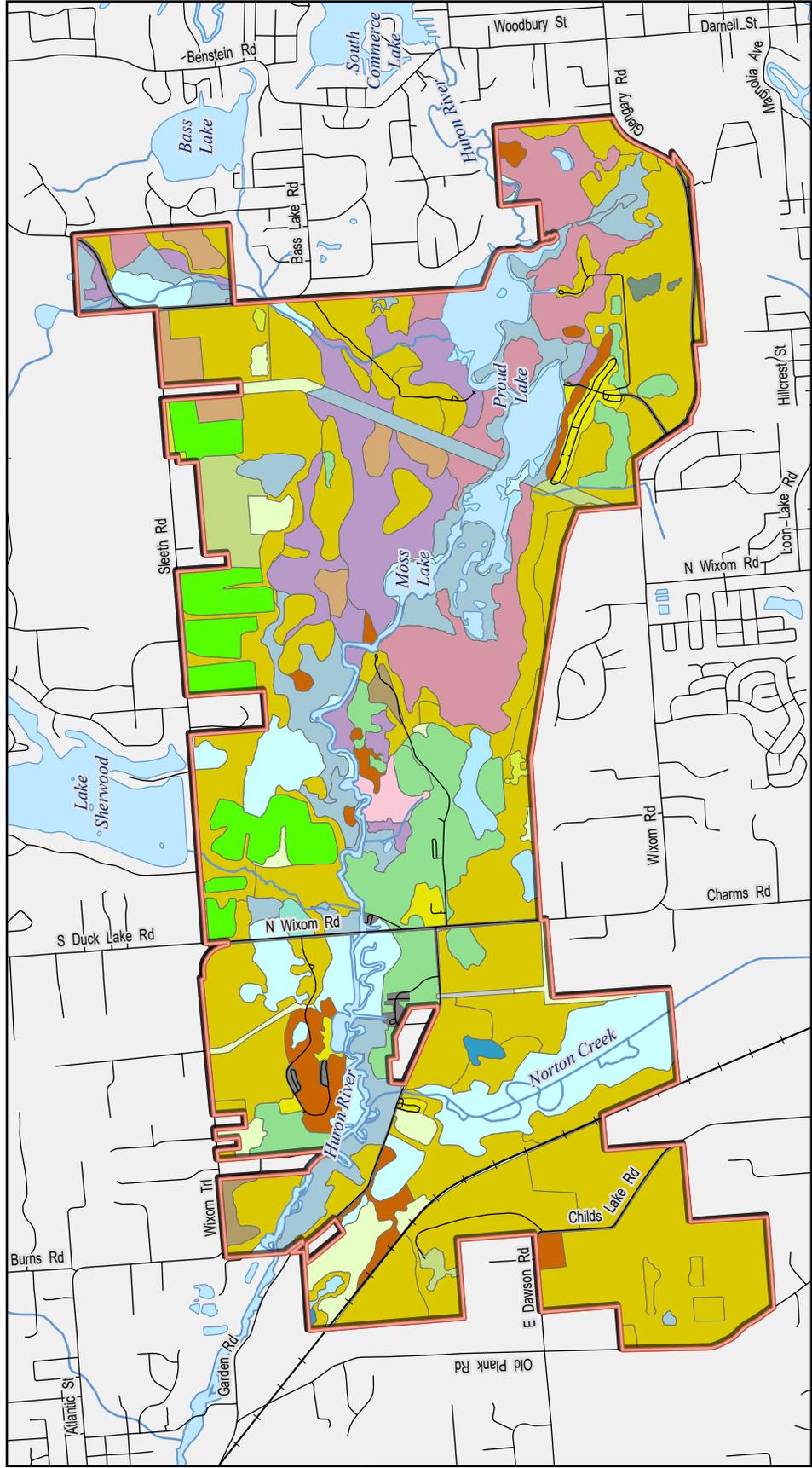


MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Proud Lake State Recreation Area - Land Cover, 1800s

- State Recreation Area Boundary
- Road
- Railroad
- River/Stream
- Oak Barrens
- Tamarack Swamp
- White Oak/Hickory
- Wet Prairie
- Black Oak/White Oak
- Bog
- Lake

Updated: 12/12/2019
 *Mapping derived from original notes of the State of Michigan General Land Office Survey conducted in the early to mid-1800s



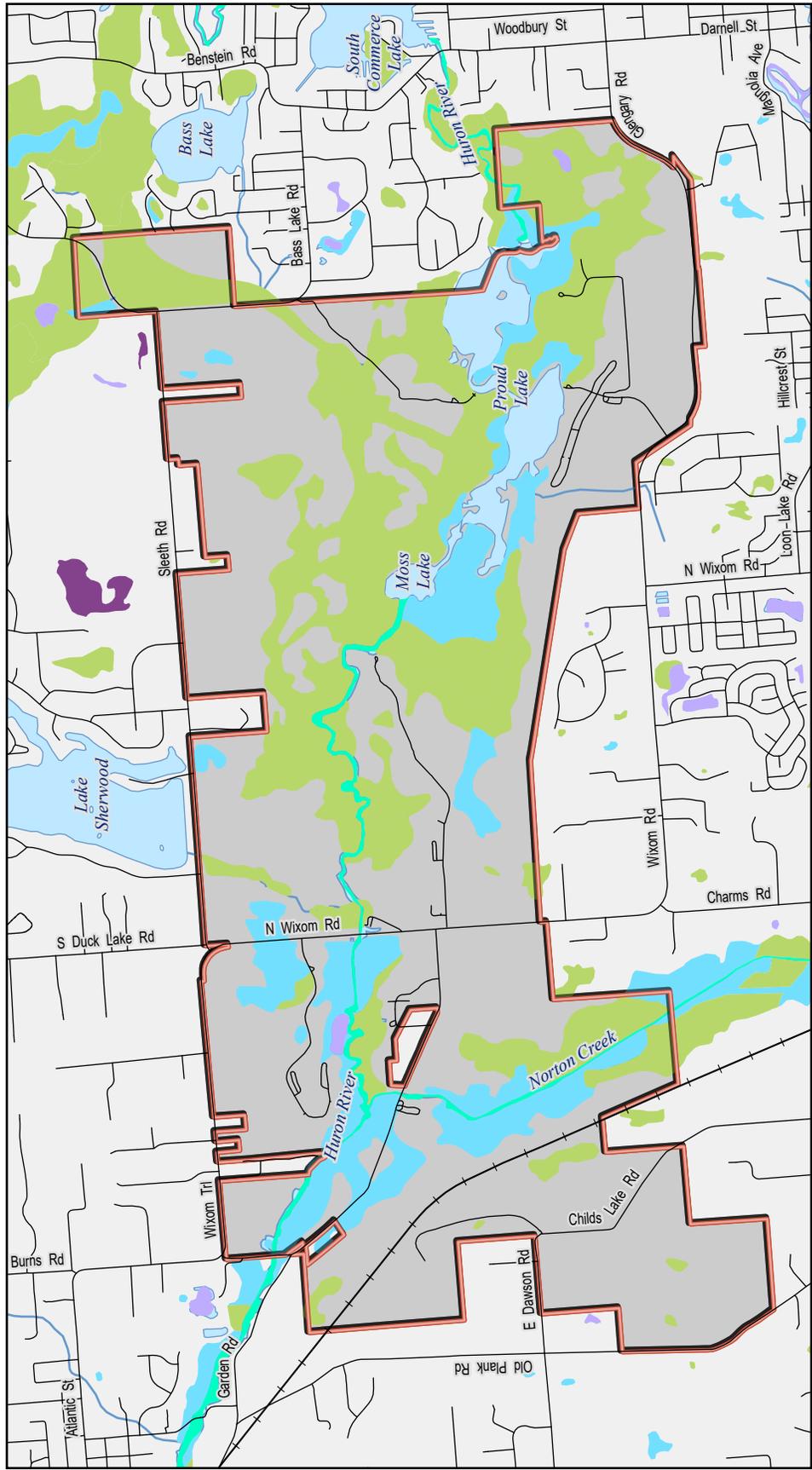
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Proud Lake State Recreation Area - Michigan Forest Inventory Cover Types

- State Recreation Area Boundary
- Road
- Railroad
- River/Stream
- Lake/Pond
- Forest Covertype**
- 411 - Northern Hardwood
- 412 - Oak Types
- 419 - Mixed Upland Deciduous
- 421 - Planted Pines
- 423 - Other Upland Conifers
- 429 - Mixed Upland Conifers
- 430 - Upland Mixed Forest
- 611 - Lowland Deciduous Forest
- 612 - Lowland Coniferous Forest
- 613 - Lowland Mixed Forest
- Non-Forest Covertype
- 121 - Airport
- 122 - Road/Parking Lot
- 211 - Cropland
- 310 - Herbaceous Openland
- 320 - Upland Shrub
- 330 - Low-Density Trees
- 350 - Parks/Golf Courses
- 500 - Water
- 621 - Floating Aquatic
- 622 - Lowland Shrub
- 623 - Emergent Wetland
- 629 - Mixed Non-forested Wetland
- No Stand Data
- State Park Boundary



Updated: 01/19/2022



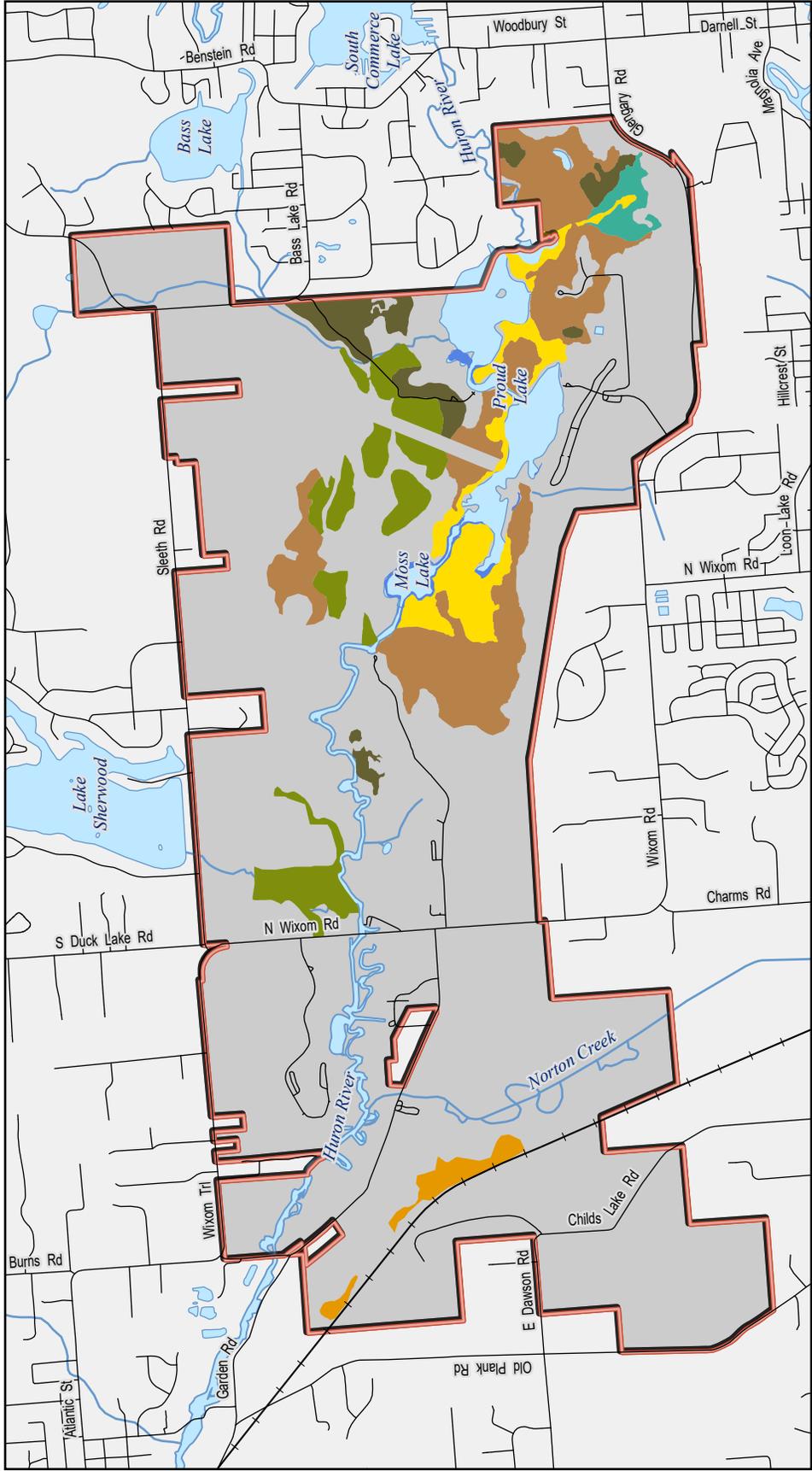
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- Wetlands

-  State Recreation Area Boundary
-  Road
-  Railroad
-  River/Stream
-  Lake/Pond
-  Wetlands*
-  Freshwater Emergent Wetland
-  Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
-  Freshwater Pond
-  Riverine
-  Other
-  State Park Boundary

Updated: 01/19/2022
 *The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) dataset (2012)





MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

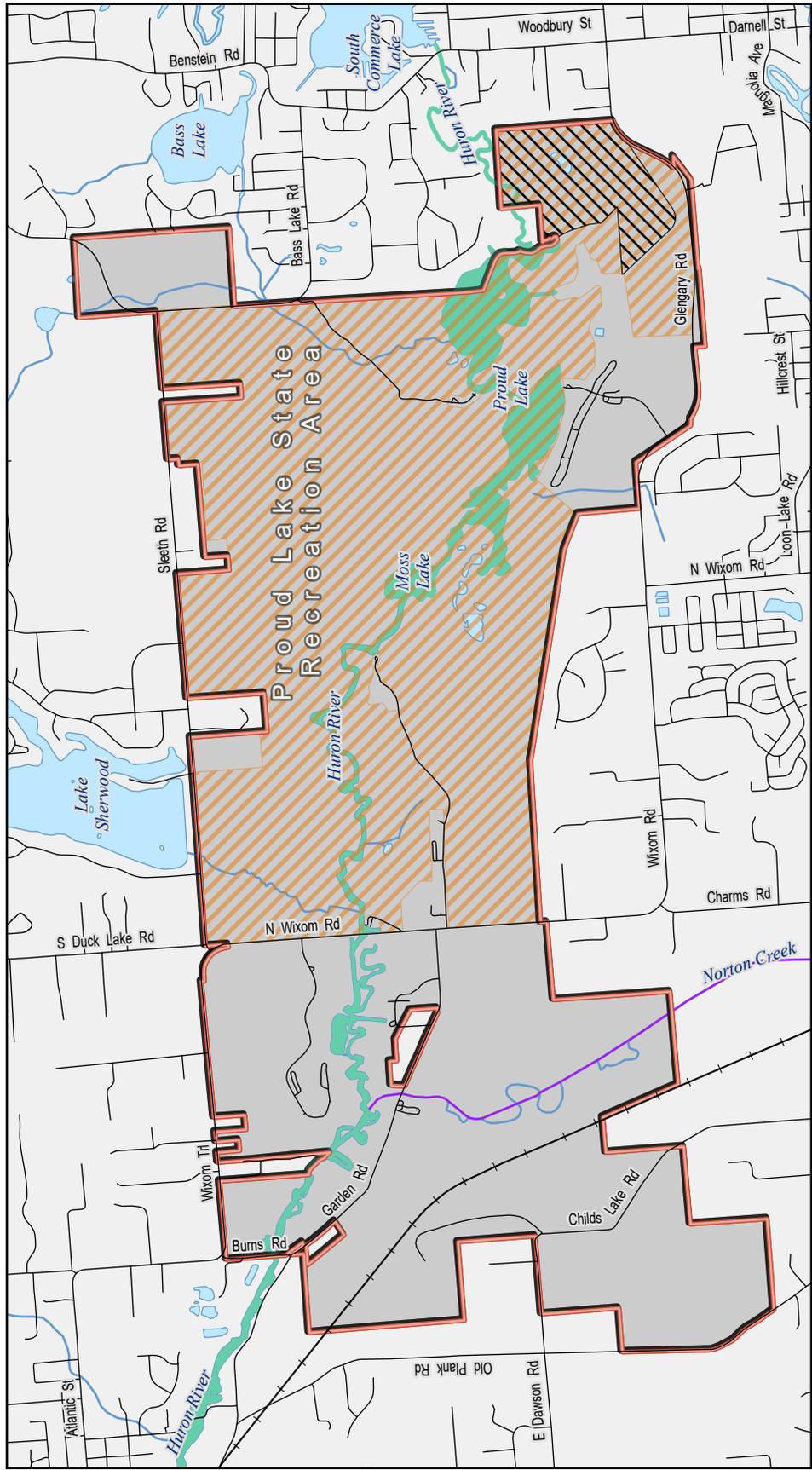
Proud Lake State Recreation Area - Exemplary Natural Communities

- State Recreation Area Boundary
- Road
- Railroad
- River/Stream
- Lake/Pond
- Dry-mesic Southern Forest*
- Mesic Southern Forest
- Oak Barrens
- Prairie Fen
- Rich Tamarack Swamp
- Southern Shrub-carr
- Submergent Marsh

Updated: 01/19/2022

*Natural Communities of Michigan (Michigan Natural Features Inventory)



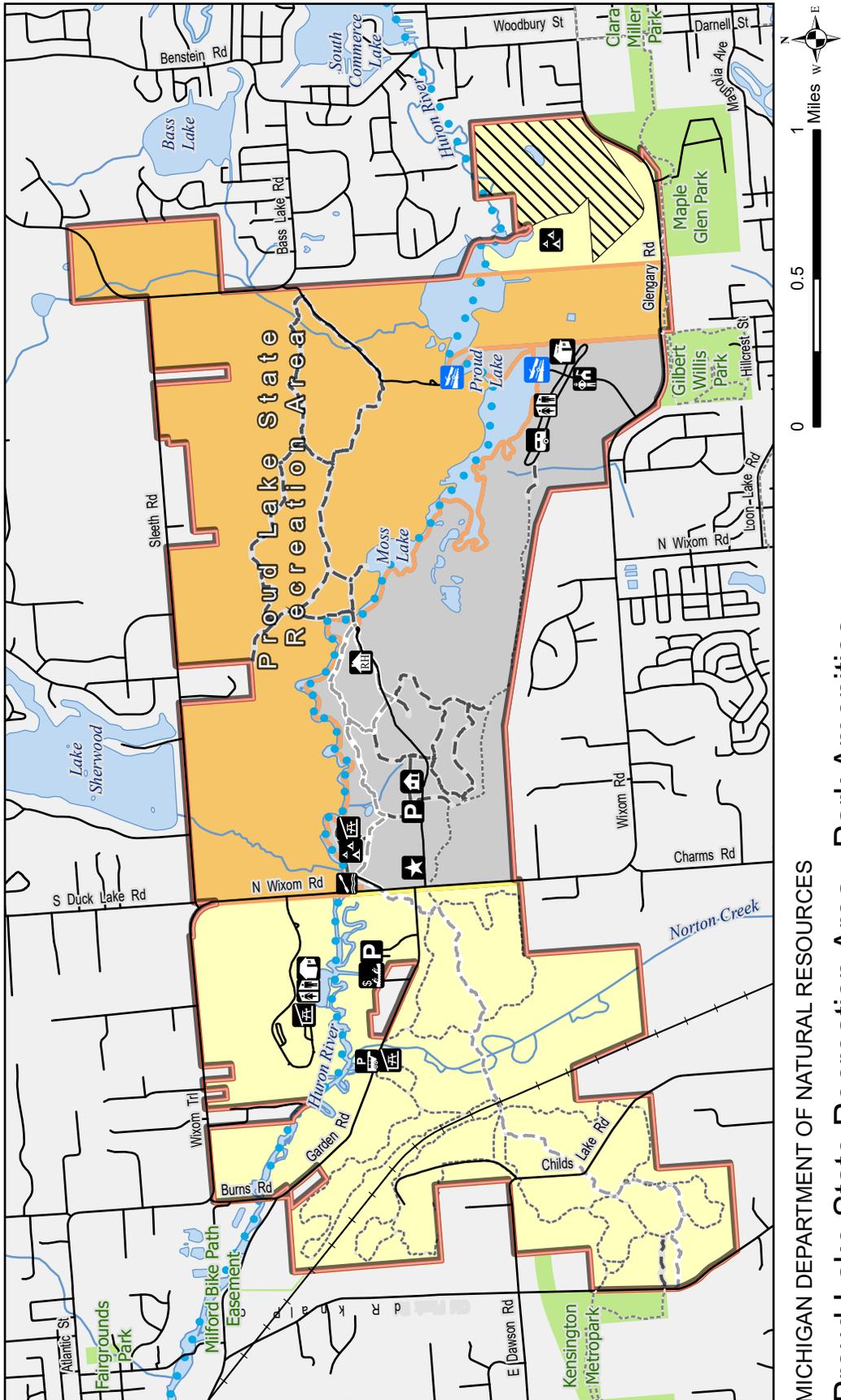


MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Proud Lake State Recreation Area - Conservation Areas

- State Recreation Area Boundary
- Road
- Railroad
- River/Stream
- Lake/Pond
- Legally Dedicated Natural Area
- Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Managed Lands*
- Group 1 Waters Known to Support Mussels Considered to be Special Concern by the State, but Lacking Mussel Occurrence Data
- Group 2 Waters Known to Support Populations of State Threatened and Endangered Mussels

Updated: 02/27/2020
 *Managed lands enrolled under the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA)

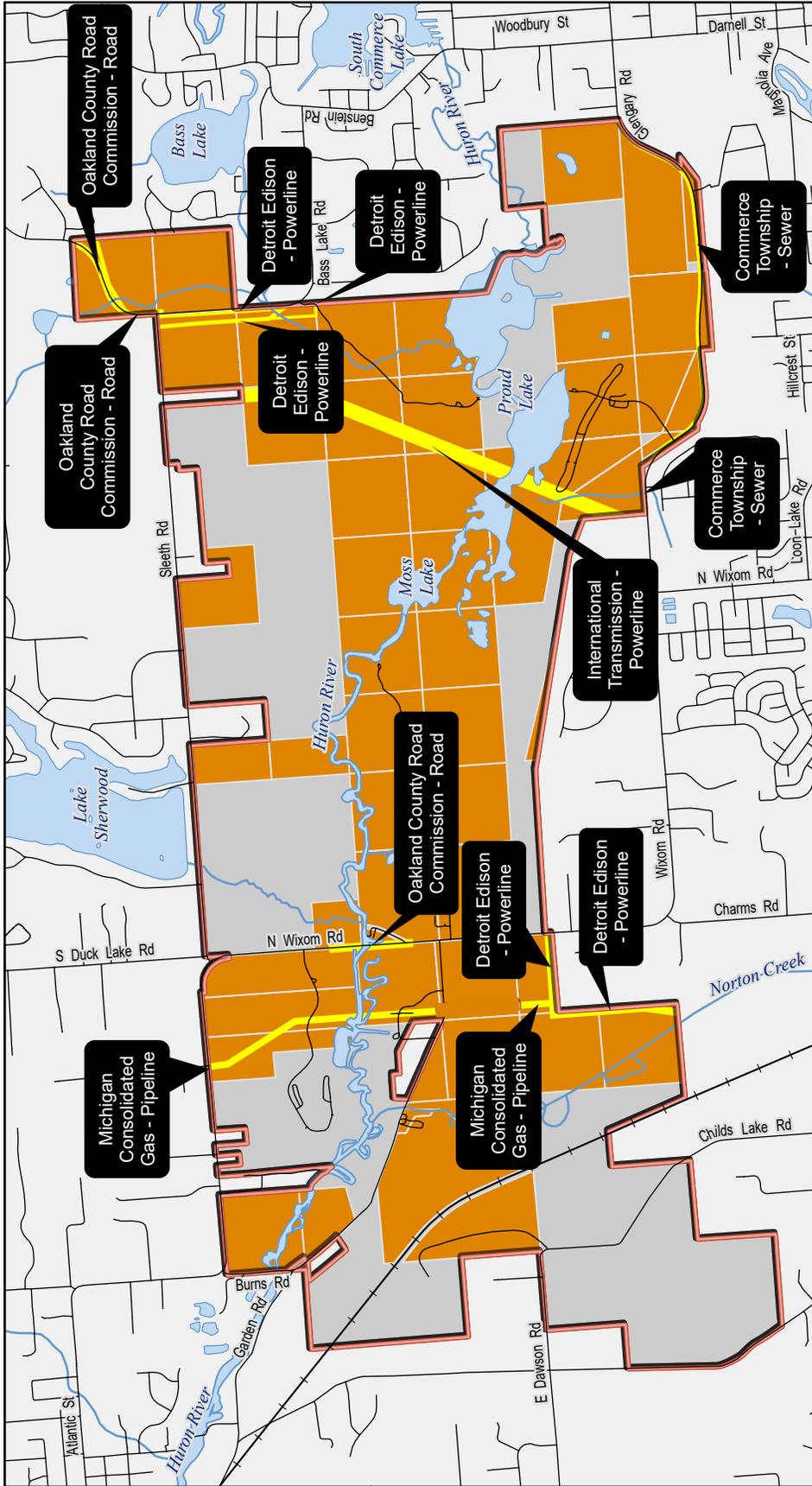


MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Proud Lake State Recreation Area - Park Amenities

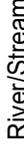
- State Recreation Area Boundary
- Legally Dedicated Natural Area
- Regional Park
- Hunting and Trapping Open
- Open with Township Restrictions
- Closed
- Lake/Pond
- Multi-Use Trail
- Chief Pontiac Trail (Hiking)
- Other Hiking Trail
- Huron River Water Trail
- River/Stream
- Boating Access Site
- Modern Campground
- Organizational Campground
- Park Headquarters
- Camper Cabins (2)
- River Hawk Outdoor Center
- Campground Registration
- Toilet/Shower
- Canoe & Kayak Rental
- Mini Cabins (2)
- Pavilion
- River Hawk Outdoor Center Annex
- Equestrian Staging
- Parking Lot





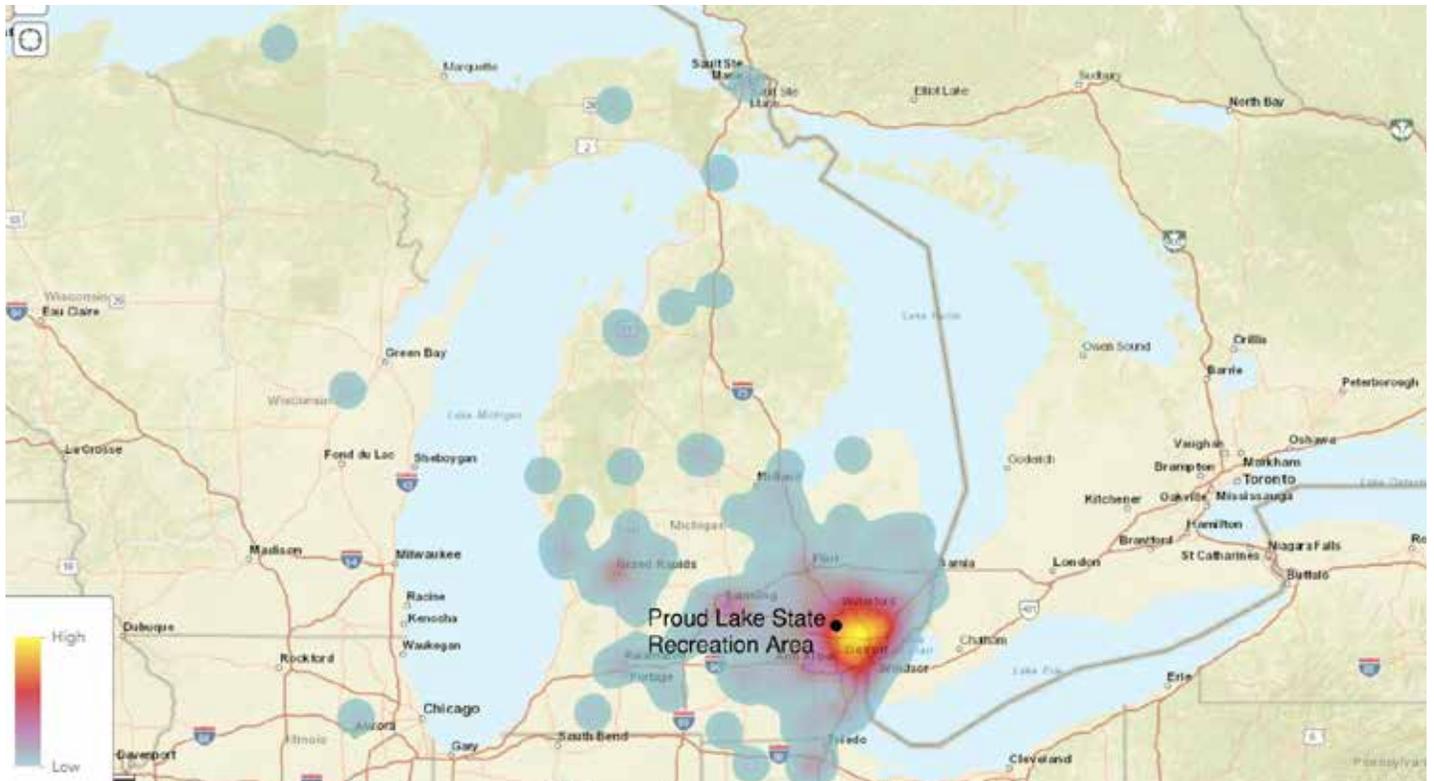
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Proud Lake State Recreation Area - Easements*

-  State Recreation Area Boundary
-  Road
-  Railroad
-  River/Stream
-  Lake/Pond
-  Parcel with Documented Granted Easement (Legal Description not Mapped)
-  Granted Easement (Mapped Legal Description)

Updated: 02/03/2020

*Easement mapping is not complete as documentation and geographic descriptions vary in availability. Geometry is an approximation based on legal description



Map depicting the zip code of survey respondents' primary residence. Brighter colors indicate a greater concentration of respondents. A small number of respondents were located outside of the map area.

Appendix

B: Public and Stakeholder Input

B.1 Project Website

A project website was available for public viewing throughout the duration of the planning process and was updated with maps, survey results, and the draft plan. Members of the public could contact the planning team through the website contact form.

B.2 Summary of Public Input Survey

One of the methods the planning team used to gather input from recreation area users was an online survey. This online approach provides a convenient way for those who have access to the internet to provide feedback. However, it is not designed to be statistically representative of Proud Lake State Recreation Area users or uses, as respondents self-select. The online survey provides valuable information about what certain individuals or groups (those who are motivated to comment about the recreation area, those likely to receive DNR communication about the survey, and those who have easy access to the internet) hope to see in the recreation area's future management. The survey was advertised to a diverse range of people through various means. A press

release was sent out to Subscribers of Michigan's Trails or Statewide DNR News (press releases) who answered "Detroit Metro," or "Region 13: Lapeer/St. Clair /Livingston /Oakland /Macomb /Washtenaw /Wayne/ Monroe" which included 83,884 recipients. It was also promoted on the Proud Lake State Recreation Area website, Facebook page and through fliers and posters within the park. The survey link was also sent to over 50 stakeholders the planning team had identified who were invited to share the survey. In addition, it was sent to those who had registered to camp at the recreation area in the last 24 months, which included an additional 5,327 recipients. The survey was widely shared amongst the mountain bike community due to a concern that the mountain bike trails were threatened. This likely resulted in mountain bikers being over-represented in the survey.

Responses were collected from June 22, 2021 through July 22, 2021. During the collection period, 1,928 individuals responded to the survey. Of those respondents, 1,754 (91%) have visited the park in the last five years and went on to answer the remainder of the questions in the survey. Of those that did not visit the park in the last five years, the top

reasons were that it was too far away, that they didn't have enough time, concern about horses and bicycles sharing trails, that the park or amenities were unknown to them, or they had other places to visit. The highest number of respondents were between 50 and 64 years old (34%), most were white/non-Hispanic (84%), and most respondents were located in southeastern Michigan. A small number of respondents were located outside of this regional area and are not shown on this map.

Your Visit

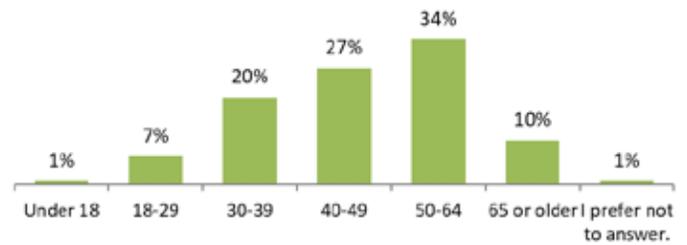
Proud Lake State Recreation Area offers an abundance of recreation opportunities that encourage frequent use, oftentimes year-round. Thirty-eight percent of respondents visit the park six or more times per year. Survey respondents were most likely to visit in the summer and fall seasons; 26% of the respondents indicated that they visit the park in all four seasons. Visitors gather information for their trip from multiple sources such as the DNR website, previous experience, friends and family, social media, and other websites and local organizations. They travel to the park mainly by personal vehicle (78%), but many respondents travel to the park using bicycles (38%), a smaller number on foot (11%), on watercraft (10%), and on horseback (4%).

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

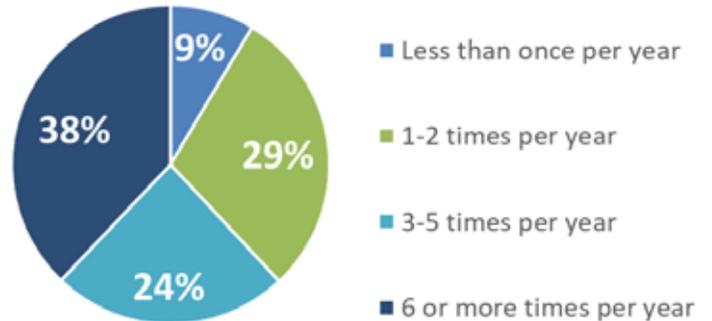


Words most frequently used to describe the recreation area. Words that were used five or more times are included. Larger word size indicates a more frequent response.

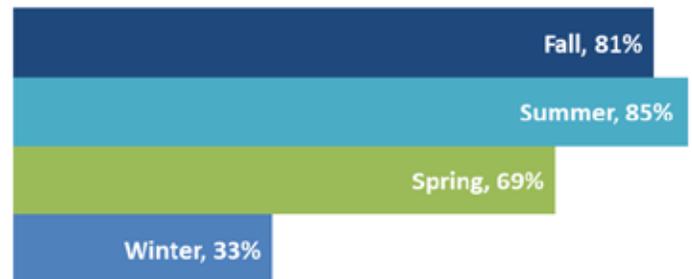
Age of Respondents



How often do you visit the recreation area?



In what seasons do you typically visit the recreation area? (Select all that apply)



Visitors participate in a range of activities at Proud Lake State Recreation Area. The most common activities respondents reported participating in are mountain biking (61%) and hiking/dog walking (50%). The next most common activities were non-motorized boating/paddling (32%), nature viewing/study (29%), camping/lodging (28%), and fishing (25%). When asked what one activity most influences their choice to visit the recreation area, the top answers were mountain biking (51%), camping/lodging (11%), hiking/dog walking (10%), horseback riding (7%), hunting/trapping (5%), non-motorized boating/paddling (5%) and fishing (3%).

Next, survey respondents were asked what they liked most about visiting Proud Lake State Recreation Area. With over 1,300 responses to this question, the answers were unique and varied, but trends did emerge. A great number of respondents mentioned numerous aspects of the trail system, including the variety of challenge levels, the connection of the trails within the park to others outside of the system, their well-maintained nature, the extensive length and variety of trails, and the joy of using the trails. Other responses mentioned that the recreation area provided easily accessible nature close to home, the clean and modern camping facilities, that it was not crowded, and the beauty of the peaceful natural area. Below are five randomly selected responses:

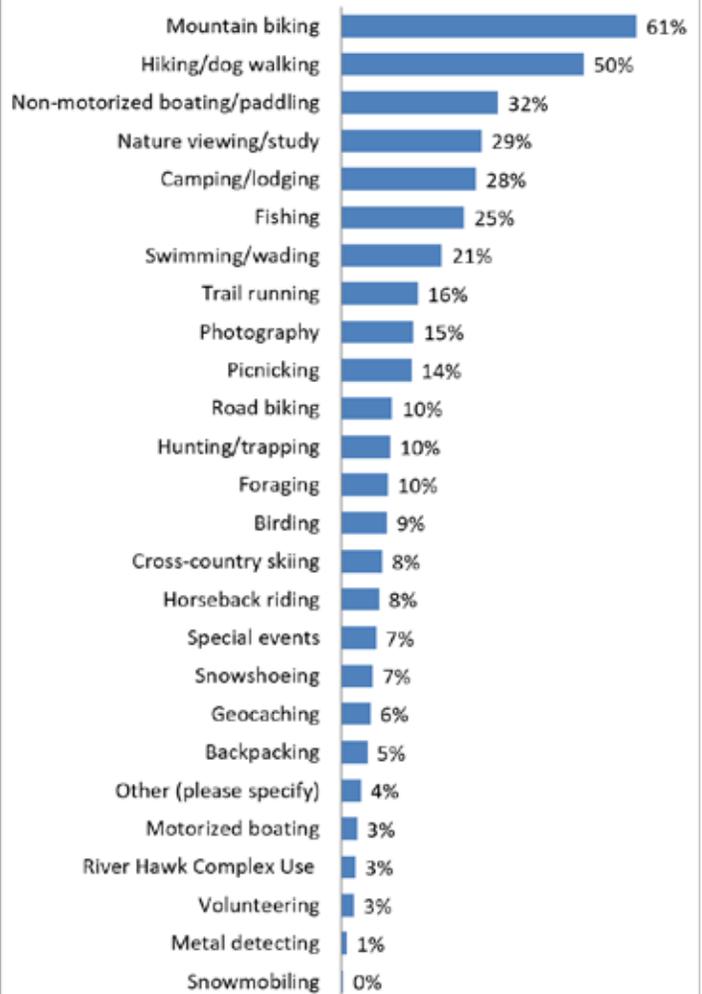
- What do you like most about visiting the recreation area?
- Feels like up north but close to home
- The campground
- The trails and lakes
- Pretty and quiet
- Plenty of good areas to go

When asked if there were any changes to be made to improve the experience at the recreation area, 29% of respondents said there were no changes necessary, and the 71% who suggested an improvement had varied responses. There were a large number of respondents requesting improvements to the trails – common ideas included having separate trails for various trail uses, adding one-way dedicated mountain bike trails, improving trail wayfinding, and adding trailhead parking. Beyond trail improvements and expansion, respondents also mentioned leveling the campsites, adding a playground and an improved sandy beach area and other improvements to the campground and lodge. The following are five randomly selected responses:

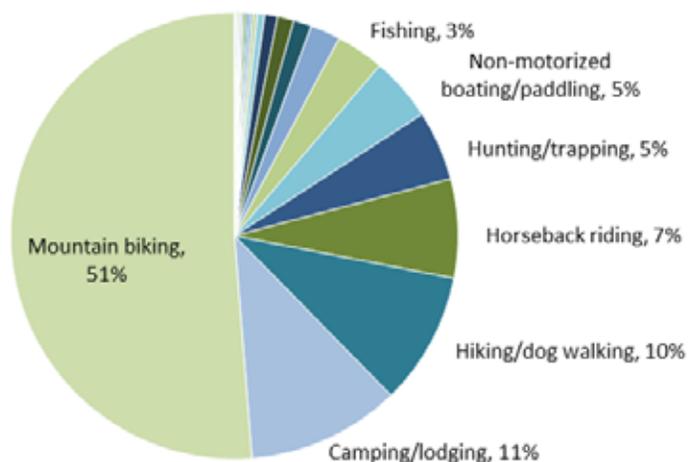
Are there any changes that you would like to see made in order to improve your experience?

- Level the sites
- Better signs on mountain bike trail

Please check ALL the activities in which you participate at Proud Lake State Recreation Area. (Select all that apply)



Which ONE activity most influences your choice to visit the recreation area?



- Some of the trails to be horse only and some for bikes only.
- Separate parking for all kayakers. They make launching boats impossible as they don't understand where to park
- Planting trout in the Huron River. It did not happen this year. Campground expansion to other parts of the area.

When asked if respondents also frequently visit other parks in the area, 85% of people said yes. Some visit all local parks or all other parks with mountain bike trails, others visit the many other state parks and recreation areas in the region. Other parks mentioned include Hickory Glen Park (Commerce Township), Kensington Metropark, Huron-Clinton Metroparks, Milford parks, and many others. Visitors have many recreation options in the region to select from including Proud Lake State Recreation Area.

Most Recent Visit

The next portion of the survey focused on the respondent's most recent visit. On the visitors' last visit, their party was most frequently described as an individual (25%) or friends (22%) and then followed closely by family and couples. The ages of those in the party tended to be between 30 and 64 years old, with lower numbers of younger and older visitors. The most common party sizes were one or two people (24% and 27% of responses, respectively). Only 12% of respondents reported a party size larger than 10 people; however, Proud

Lake State Recreation area does also attract larger groups of 30 or more individuals, and even some groups of over 50 people, as the River Hawk Complex can accommodate large groups.

When asked if there were activities which they or someone in their party wished to participate in but were not able to due to personal mobility challenges or lack of accessibility accommodations, the majority of respondents (97%) said no, they had no difficulty. Three percent of respondents did report a challenge, such as poor trail conditions, terrain that was difficult to navigate, inability to use e-bikes or track chairs on the trails, difficulty carrying in kayaks long distances, difficulty parking, and others. Three randomly selected comments follow:

During your last visit, were there any activities you or someone in your party wished to participate in but were not able to due to personal mobility challenges or lack of accessibility accommodations?

- There were trees down on the bike trails after inclement weather. They've since been removed.
- Long walk to fish
- I can't bring my father or brother (both avid mountain bikers with chronic health conditions) due to the DNR policies on class 1 e-bikes.



Anglers fish from the shore as part of a fishing event

Trails

As the extensive trails are a key part of the recreation experience at Proud Lake State Recreation Area, it is no surprise that 93% of respondents reported using the trails in the past. The primary trail use reported was biking (59%) followed by foot trail use (33%).

When asked to rank their satisfaction of the trails they primarily use on a scale of 1 (highly dissatisfied) to 9 (highly satisfied) with 5 being neutral, most respondents were satisfied with their experience. Foot trail users were the most satisfied, with 86% of respondents reporting positively. Horseback and bicycle riders were slightly less satisfied as a group, with 70% of bikers and 75% of horseback riders reporting positively. Only five people reported cross-country skiing as their primary trail use and were divided in their level of satisfaction.

Respondents were asked what they liked most about the trails at Proud Lake State Recreation Area. Responses ranged from the beautiful, natural scenery along the trails; the “old-school” feel of them; the connections with other trail systems; the extent of the trails; their good condition; the variety of terrain and level of challenge; the diversity of habitat; the easy and accessible location and so many more. When asked what could be done to improve their satisfaction, respondents mentioned adding additional trails (many requests were for additional dedicated one-way mountain bike trails), better trail signage, separating trail users on different trails, trail maintenance such as adding boardwalks in low areas, and more. Five randomly selected for each question can be found below.

What did you like most about the trails?

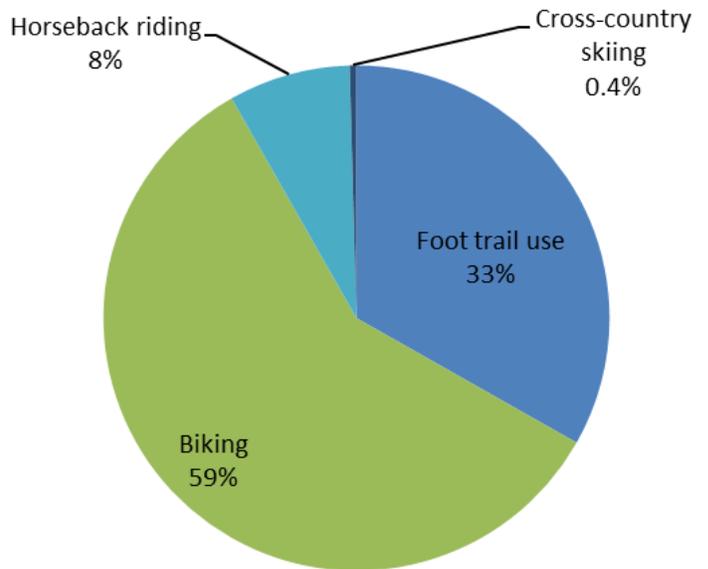
- Nice woods
- I liked how groomed they were
- Clean
- Signage
- Rustic feel and beauty of the trail

What could be done to improve your satisfaction with the trails in the future?

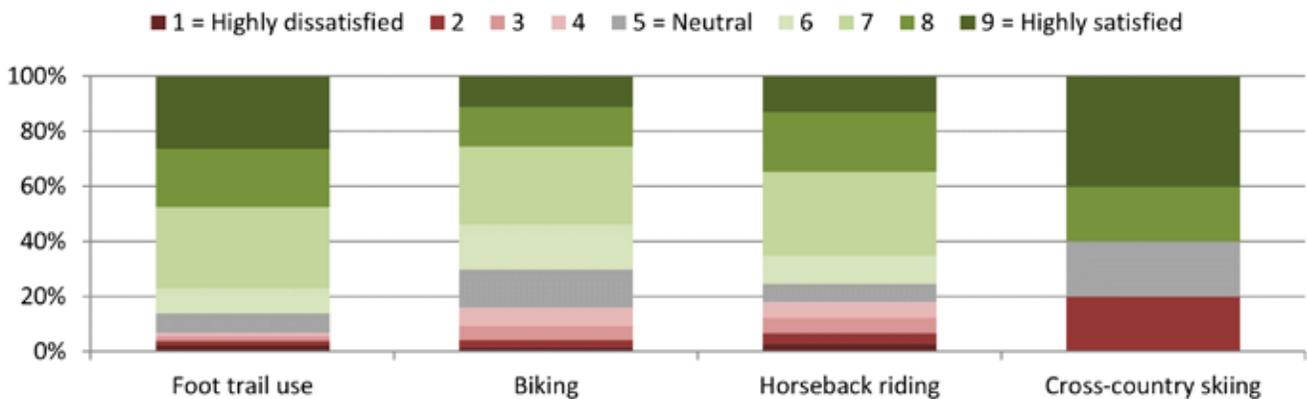
- More trail, more technical features
- Longer in length
- Possibly flow trail ie. DTE Energy Foundation Trail.
- More trails/mileage
- New trails system that has very few/no connections to the Equestrian trails

When asked if respondents use the Proud Lake State Recreation Area trails to travel to or between other parks or communities, 39% said yes. Of those who said yes, 78% primarily used the bike trails, 11% primarily ride on horseback, and 10% primarily use foot trails.

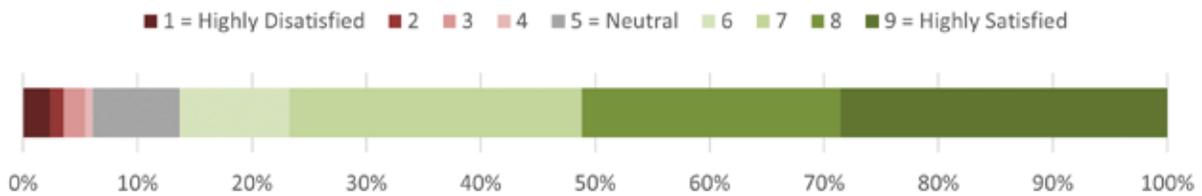
What is your primary trail use?



Trail Experience Satisfaction By Primary Trail Use



Paddling Experience Satisfaction



Paddling

When asked if they paddle or tube at Proud Lake State Recreation Area, 41% of respondents said yes. Those that paddle or tube typically bring their own watercraft (76%), whereas 24% rent their watercraft at the recreation area. Four hours or less was the most frequent length of paddling trip (82%). Only 17% reported full-day trips, and 1% make overnight paddling trips. Paddlers were typically highly satisfied with their experience, with a weighted satisfaction average of 7.25 on a scale of 1 (highly dissatisfied) to 9 (highly satisfied) with 5 being neutral. Eighty-six percent of respondents reported a positive experience.

When asked what could be done to improve their satisfaction with paddling at the recreation area, 75% said nothing needed to be done. The 25% that recommended various improvements including improving or increasing parking, improving the launch areas, creating additional access points, creating an accessible launch, improving water quality, and decreasing crowding and rowdy behavior at the dam area, among many others. Below are five randomly selected:

Please describe the changes you would like made to improve your paddling experience:

- I was unable to rent a paddle board, just canoe or kayak. I now have my own
- Only issues are with other kayakers blasting loud music. Not much anyone can do about that.
- Better launching areas, signage along the river
- Improve the launch site launch area
- Quiet times or slow speed in one area

Overnight Accommodations

Of those who responded to the survey, 27% have used the overnight accommodations at the recreation area. In the past five years, respondents have most frequently stayed at the campground (82%). Respondents most frequently stay for two to three nights (73%), followed by one night (17%).

Respondents were also asked to rate their satisfaction with the overnight accommodations they used on a scale of 1 (highly dissatisfied) to 9 (highly satisfied) with 5 being neutral. Most respondents reported positive experiences, and among the accommodation types, the weighted satisfaction average was

highest for the mini cabins at 7, followed by the camper cabins at 6.8, followed by the campground at 6.5. The River Hawk Lodge and group campground showed slightly lower rates of satisfaction.

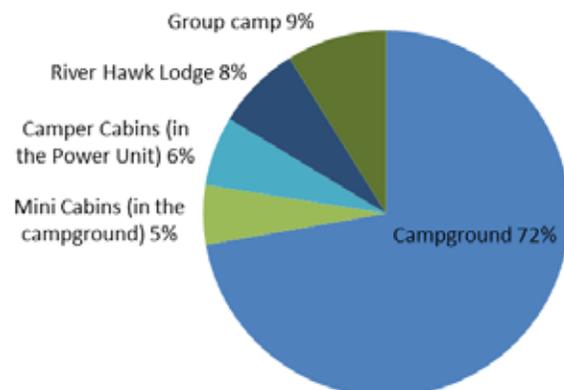
When asked what they liked most about their accommodations, respondents frequently mentioned the cleanliness of the facilities, the convenient location close to their home, the access to the trails and recreation amenities, the spaciousness of the sites, and the quiet natural feel. Five randomly selected comments follow:

What did you like most about your accommodations?

- It was quiet at the time we camped!
- Rangers
- Clean
- Access to hiking or trails
- That I can camp and bike at the same location.

When asked what could be done to improve the accommodations in the future, around 59% of respondents indicated that nothing should be done. However, 41% of respondents who commented indicated a desire for more level campsites, more trees between the sites for privacy and shade, larger campsites, updated beds in the cabins and lodge, and requests for both full hook-up sites as well as hike-in rustic sites. Five randomly selected comments follow on the next page.

In the past five years, which overnight accommodations have you used in the recreation area?



What could be done to improve your satisfaction with the accommodations in the future?

- They won't let bikers who are passing through the campground use the bathroom??? That should change, there's no reason for that
- More level sites
- Had issues with DNR we were a group of fireman and police officers in our family we were being mostly quiet with a loud yes here and there playing cards and they were always at our camper asking us to just go to bed because it was late
- More trees in the campground- too open not enough privacy
- Sites need leveling. Some trailers are always blocked up dangerously high to be level, we have been there. We sometimes have to turn sideways.

Day Use Facilities

Forty-one percent of respondents have used the recreation area's boat launches, picnic areas, and pavilions in the past.

Most respondents were satisfied, with a weighted satisfaction score of 7 on a scale of 1 (highly dissatisfied) to 9 (highly satisfied) with 5 being neutral.

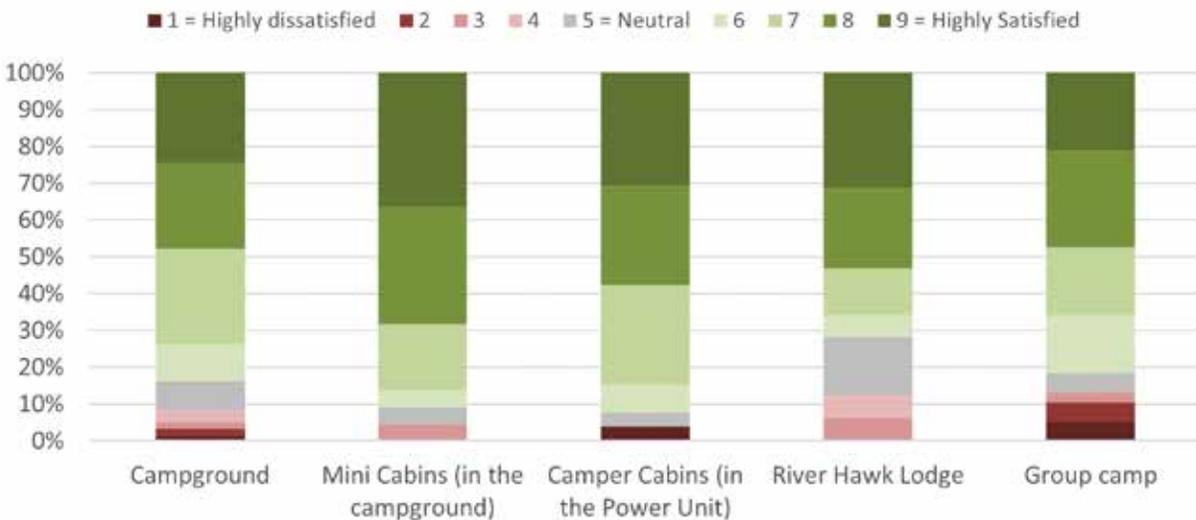
When asked what they liked the most about the day use facilities, respondents frequently mentioned the cleanliness of the facilities, the easy access and convenience of the location, and the availability of the facilities.

What did you like most about the day use facilities?

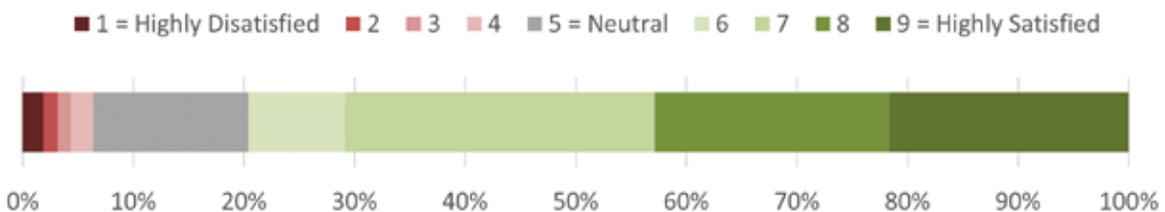
- Picnic areas
- Boat launch and beach
- Easy access
- Clean
- Easy access to boat launch east of Wixom Rd.

Most respondents (74%) said nothing needed to be done to improve their experience, but the 25% that suggested an improvement spoke of a variety of improvements relating to general maintenance and upkeep and modernization of the

Overnight Accomodations Satisfaction by Accomodation Type



Day Use Facility Satisfaction



facilities, adding additional facilities such as picnic tables and restrooms, increasing parking, increasing fishing access, and road maintenance. Five randomly selected are below.

Please describe what could be done to improve your experience at the day use area:

- Make the boat launch on Wixom Rd for Boaters only. Canoe rental boat launch is supposed to be open to the general public, but the rental place has it monopolized. Provide a beach for people to use instead of taking over the area around the weir/bridge over the river.
- Empty the toilets more often
- General upgrades, aesthetics
- More available picnic tables and grills
- Larger grassy shore at launch area for canoes and kayaks or other hand launched craft

Hunting and Trapping

Ten percent of survey respondents hunt or trap at the recreation area. Most tend to hunt white-tailed deer and small game.

When asked to leave any comments about their hunting or trapping experience, several respondents remarked how they appreciated having public hunting land available in the region. They noted that it can feel crowded at times and wished the hunting area was larger. Several also noted that there were recreation trails within the areas open to hunting, which was a conflict. Five randomly selected comments are follow:

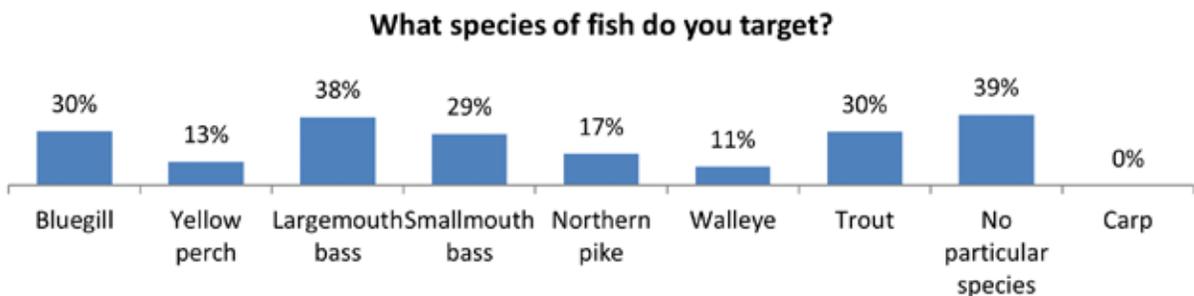
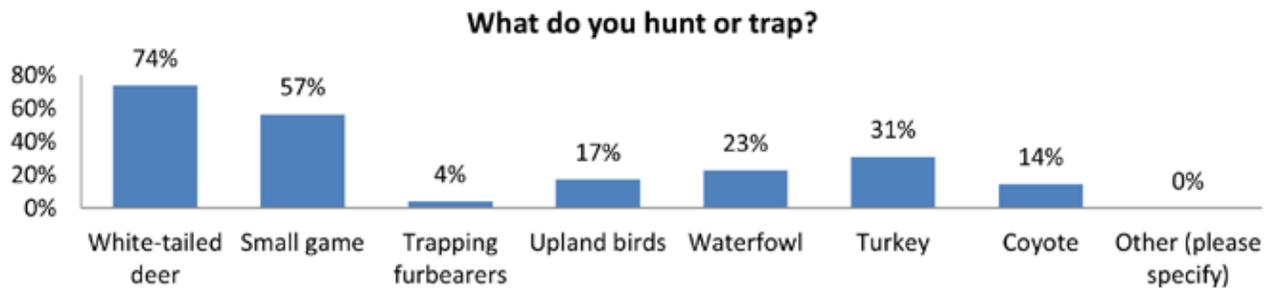
Please enter any comments you may have about hunting and trapping at the recreation area.

- Close to home
- Wish the hunt-able areas were better marked.
- Please develop habitat for these species and consider that hunters do not like bike trails and hiking trails throughout the recreation area. We want to go where someone doesn't interfere by mountain biking, yelling, talking. If the areas remain undeveloped, you can limit the interference.
- It would be nice to make it clear that hikers are in an area open to hunting and that there are active seasons. I have had a few interactions with hikers and bikers, especially during spring turkey, where they seem genuinely surprised that hunting is allowed.
- Hunting areas occasionally feel a bit too close to residential land.

Fishing

Twenty-three percent of survey respondents use the recreation area for fishing access. They most frequently fish from the shoreline (59%) or from a non-motorized boat (28%), rather than a motorized boat (13%). The preferred fishing location was split between the Huron River (50%) and the Proud Lakes (45%) followed by Moss Lake (2%) and others. While many anglers target no particular species (39%), the next most commonly sought species was largemouth bass.

Comments left by anglers noted concern about the PFAS pollution in the Huron River, a desire for more fish stocking,



requests for additional fishing access opportunities such as a fishing pier, and comments about how they enjoyed fishing and bringing up the next generation of anglers. Five randomly selected comments are below:

Please enter any comments you may have about fishing at the recreation area.

- Add a fishing pier.
- Local. Would like to have continued updates on the health of the fish and water (can and should we be eating them)
- Great for my grandchildren
- Can't eat the fish due to chemicals
- Stock more fish

Special Events or Programs

Most survey respondents (87%) have not participated in a special event or program at the park. Those that did most frequently participated in activities other than those that were listed, such as local bike races and festivals, Michigan Mushroom Hunter's Club events, night hikes, races, equestrian group events, and other local group outings. Participants were on average very satisfied with the special events or programs. On a scale of one (highly dissatisfied) to nine (highly satisfied), the various activities were scored generally positively.

Comments left were generally very positive and noted how much they enjoyed the events they participated in. Five random comments are listed below.

Please enter any comments you may have on the special events or programs in which you participated.

- It seems like the management at PLRA is great to work with!
- Very nice
- Love the programs for younger kids
- The Milford Bike Fest is a great community activity and the inclusion of Proud Lake greatly enhances the experience.
- The PLTRA is one of the best in the area...takes care of the trails, great organized events, and the very best fundraisers!!!

Respondents were asked for ideas of other events or programs they would like to see at the park. A wide variety of suggestions were given, ranging from additional bicycling events, equestrian riding/camping events, nature education programs, events that combine recreation and fundraising, events for children and youth, and more.

Other Thoughts

Finally, respondents could share any other comments they had about the park, and optionally submit a photograph of their experience. Four hundred and eighty-six comments were submitted, and five randomly selected comments follow:

Please share any other thoughts you may have on the recreation area.

- This is a good multiuse area. I like that there are dedicated trails for hikers and bikers.
- There needs to be a standalone hike/bike trail system that does not connect or overlap with the equestrian trails
- Please keep access for mountain bikes. Michigan has a large cycling community in this area and these have been great trails for beginners all the way to more experienced riders.
- Encourage and promote hunting and fishing and let visitors know (via signs, etc.) that these activities are welcome and encouraged as a responsible use of natural resources.
- This is a great natural asset to the ever growing/ sprawling residential communities surrounding it. I fully support park land acquisition/expansion to help maintain the natural function of these great places and to accommodate the intense use of a high population.

Survey participants could leave a photo of their experience at Proud Lake State Recreation Area, and 134 images were submitted. These photographs will be used to bring the General Management Plan to life! The DNR appreciates everyone who took the time to participate in the survey.



Campers relax around a campfire



Michigan
Department of
Natural Resources



You're invited!

What

Proud Lake State Recreation Area
General Management Plan
Stakeholder Input Workshop

When

Thursday, July 15, 2021
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Where

Web Meeting via Microsoft Teams

**Click here to register
using the online form by July 12th**

After registering using the link, you will receive a calendar invite with the meeting link.

About the plan

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks & Recreation Division (PRD) is in the process of developing a general management plan for Proud Lake State Recreation Area. The general management plan will define a long-range planning and management strategy that protects the resources of the site while addressing recreation needs and opportunities. Public and stakeholder input is a critical component of the planning process.

About the workshop

The planning team cordially invites you to participate in an online stakeholder input workshop! This session will include a brief presentation from the DNR on the planning process and progress followed by interactive online exercises to gather input to inform the plan. We request that your organization, or department within your organization, send a maximum of two representatives so we may accommodate everyone. We look forward to your input!

Input survey

In addition, we are collecting input from park users via an online survey, which is available through July 22, 2021. You may share this survey link with any who may be interested.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PLSRA>

Project website

<http://mdnrmanagementplans.org/proud-lake-state-recreation-area/>

For more information, please contact:

Plan Administrator Debbie Jensen at JensenD1@michigan.gov



The invitation to the stakeholder input workshop

B.3 Summary of Stakeholder Input Workshop

To gather targeted input from governmental, non-profit, and business/tourism entities, the planning team invited over 50 stakeholders, both individuals and community groups, to participate in a facilitated virtual input workshop held on July 15, 2021, from 10:00 am to 12:00 p.m. Representatives of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provided the stakeholders with a brief overview of Proud Lake State Recreation Area, including its natural features and recreational offerings. The stakeholders were also informed about the general management plan process, timeline, and were given explanation of the plan elements that their input would inform: the statements of significance, the draft management zone map, and a draft list of action goals intended to be accomplished over the next ten years.

After a short question period, the stakeholders engaged in a virtual input session with a real-time questionnaire using the website Mentimeter. They completed a series of brainstorming exercises relating to the recreation area’s current state, opportunities for partnerships, the potential for the recreation area to benefit to the larger community, and the stakeholders’ vision for the recreation area’s future. The results of the exercises are described in the following sections.

PLANNING TEAM ATTENDEES	
NAME	REPRESENTING
DEBBIE JENSEN	DNR: Management Plan Administrator
JENNIFER ETIENNE	DNR: Proud Lake State Recreation Area Supervisor
RAY FAHLSING	DNR: Stewardship Unit Manager
LISA GAMERO	DNR: Cultural Resources Analyst
KAREN GOURLAY	DNR: Explorer Guide Program Coordinator
GREG NORWOOD	DNR: Stewardship Ecologist
JESSICA ORLANDO	DNR: GIS Analyst
MIKE TERRELL	DNR: District Supervisor
NIKKI VAN BLOEM	DNR: Southern Michigan Trails Specialist
CHRISTY SUMMERS	Planning Consultant
CAITLIN JACKSON	Planning Consultant

STAKEHOLDER INPUT WORKSHOP ATTENDEES	
NAME	REPRESENTING
ALAN HEAVNER	Heavner Rental
ALEX HARIMOTO	Heavner Rental
ALLISON KENNEDY	Commerce Township Parks and Recreation
AMY SCHARMEN-BURGDOLF	Kensington Trail Riders
BILL CHATFIELD	Walled Lake Schools
BILL HERMANN	Motor City Mountain Bike Association
BRIAN MARZOLF	Six Rivers Land Conservancy
BRUCE HEAVNER	Heavner Rental
CHRISTIAN WUERTH	Village of Milford
CINDY KESLER	Proud Lake Trail Riders
DICK RUSSELL	Proud Lake Friends
DON GREEN	Milford Township Supervisor
EMILY ENGLAND	Commerce Township Parks and Recreation
ERICA CLITES	Oakland County CISMA
GARY KIRSH	Maintenance Supervisor for ITC
JASON ARIC JONES	Michigan Mountain Biking Association
JASON BIBBY	Huron Clinton Metroparks
JO BURNSIDE	Representing Horse Boarders
KARRIE HANCOCK	Equestrian User and Group Organizer
KARRIE MARTIN	Walled Lake Outdoor Center
KEVIN CZARNIK	Wixom Resident, Michigan Mountain Biking Association, Ski Patroller
KRISTEN WILTFANG	Oakland County Economic Development / DNR Nonmotorized Advisory Board
LARRY GRAY	Commerce Township Supervisor
ROB WINN	Disability Network Oakland & Macomb
RYAN ANDREW DIVIDOCK	Oakland County Economic Development (Land Alliance Group)
SHAUGHN GALLOWAY	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
STEPHEN FRITZ	Michigan Geocaching Association

Exercise 1: Say one word or phrase that describes the recreation area right now.

Most common words and phrases alluded to the natural beauty of Proud Lake State Recreation Area and its wealth of trails for many types of recreation users. The words and phrases spoke to the importance of protecting recreation land in the developed southeast Michigan region and the area's beautiful, peaceful green space.

ITEMS	MENTIONS
Natural	7
Hiking	5
Beautiful	4
Water trail	3
Horse trails	2
Local	2
Mountain biking	2
Quiet	2
Beautiful trails	1
Biking gem	1
Biking terrain	1
Biking trail connections	1
Biking trails	1
Busy	1
Camping	1
Canoeing	1
Connector trails	1
Conservation	1
Diverse	1
Fishing	1
Fun	1
Geocaching	1
Greenspace	1
Hiking	1
Horse	1
Horse trails	1
Horseback riding	1
Important	1
Intact	1
Inviting	1
Kayaking	1
Legacy trails	1
Multuser	1
Nature	1
Oakland Co Rec Haven	1
Passive recreation	1
Peaceful hiking place	1
Popular mountain biking	1
Protected	1
Quiet	1
Refreshing	1
Relaxing	1
Trails	1
Unchanging	1
Valuable	1
Versatile	1
Water	1
Water recreation	1
Wet	1
Wonderful	1
Wooded	1

PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT

Exercise 2: Say one word or phrase that you want to describe the recreation area in the future.

Words or phrases the stakeholders want to describe the park in the future continue to speak of protecting the natural resources and providing recreational amenities in a sustainable, inclusive way. The same word, "Natural", was the most frequently mentioned word in both the first and second exercises.

ITEMS	MENTIONS
Natural	8
Protected	5
Well-maintained	4
Diverse	3
Horse trails	2
Mountain biking trails	2
Preserved	2
Accessible	1
Backpacking	1
Central hub between parks	1
Chief Pontiac Trail	1
Connected	1
Ecologically stable	1
Equestrian connector trail	1
Family oriented	1
Historic	1
Horse camping	1
Hosting large activities	1
Hub of biking trails	1
Inclusive	1
Inclusive for all	1
Maintain the wilderness	1
Mt. biking hub	1
Multi-use	1
Multiuser trails	1
Peaceful	1
Primitive camping	1
Pristine	1
Recreation	1
Recreational center	1
Scenic	1
Scenic boating	1
Share Local history	1
Sustainable	1
Trail connections	1
Trails	1
Trails and camping	1
Unchanging natural beauty	1
On land and in the water	1
Used to come as a kid	1
Varied	1
Walk in camping	1
Water quality	1
Water trail	1
Welcoming	1

Exercise 3: How can Proud Lake State Recreation Area benefit the wider community, now or in the future?

Stakeholders considered a plethora of ways the recreation area could benefit the wider community, from offering educational programs (or simply providing the space for programs), by continuing to conserve the natural resources while providing recreation, removing invasive species, and more.

Items

1. Ability to share the beauty of the park
2. Area for the local MISCA youth Cycling Club to host events.
3. As a State Recreation Area, Proud Lake should be progressive in serving the recreational desires of the public, as long as they can also work sustainably with the preservation of natural resources at the Area. Recreational desires change over time.
4. Connecting to other community trails
5. Connections to surrounding trails/communities
6. Conserving species that would otherwise be lost.
7. Continue conservation and scenic beauty for multi users on shared trails
8. Continue to allow for Scout Eagle projects to benefit the park
9. Continue to connect kids with nature!
10. Continue to provide multiple recreation opportunities with access for those with disabilities
11. Continue to provide rustic outdoor experiences near urban areas
12. Demonstrate invasive species management techniques to larger community
13. Equestrian camping
14. Expand ability usage using track chairs
15. Hosting large STEM events
16. I would like to see equestrian camping. Many trails with the Inclusion of Kensington Metro Park.
17. Improved boating access
18. Invasive removal
19. Invasive species free zone
20. It seems to be a well-kept secret... Perhaps more a larger role in social media, and offering more family/evening programs.
21. Keep concessionaires like Heavner Canoe. They are invaluable to connecting people to the park.
22. Maintaining natural spaces
23. Native species study area to use in restoring adjacent lands
24. Offer activities for children to appreciate nature
25. Offering interpretive hiking, canoe/kayak and

recreational activities with guides

26. Opportunities for all
27. Preservation of natural resources
28. Resource for educational and recreational opportunities
29. Share local history
30. The wider community is serving the most popular recreational interests at Proud Lake and not those of niche groups with low user numbers.
31. Water quality
32. Water quality
33. With mountain biking booming Proud Lake is located in the center of multiple parks offering connections for mountain bikers., Hiker. Offering Central hub for mountain biking in the Milford area, bring an economic benefit to the Milford area.
34. Working as a community for supporting environmental - conservation efforts. Including being involved when there is nearby large-scale deforestation for new housing developments.

Exercise 4: How can local groups and stakeholders collaborate and partner with Proud Lake State Recreation Area?

Next, stakeholders offered collaboration and partnership opportunities. Some suggested partnerships could provide volunteer labor to remove invasive species and maintain trails, while others could host programs and events. Other collaboration ideas focused on educating the public on conservation and history or expanding recreation offerings.

Items

35. Collaborate with Oakland County CISMA on invasive species removal events
36. Consider collaboration with MSU Extension Conservation Stewards program
37. Disabilities hunting groups utilizing track chairs
38. Equestrian clubs with kids. Windmill Farm
39. Events
40. Geocachers also help with activities like clean ups.
41. Girl Scouts
42. Host partner events, workshops, etc. at the park as a way to build awareness of this resource to foster appreciation of it.
43. I believe that the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center can collaborate with Proud Lake to provide educational programming- The possibilities are endless! -STEM/STEAM, family events, team building, invasive removal, etc.
44. Invasive species removal with local communities
45. ITC continues coordination with park management regarding maintenance of ITC's corridor and focus on potential removal of invasive species

46. Kensington Metropark could collaborate with invasive removal events with our volunteer coordinator
 47. Learning and discovering events
 48. More partnership and less partisanship between stakeholders and the park
 49. Motor City Mountain Bike Association will build new sustainable trail systems for multiple use. In the process removing invasive species, adding the opportunity for the local youth cycling clubs to help build and maintain.
 50. Promote water quality information (PFAS) and partner with Huron River Watershed Council
 51. Regular meetings with surrounding communities
 52. Share local history resources for interpretive materials
 53. Stakeholders can serve as trail stewards and adopters for trail maintenance needs. Not enough attention has been placed by the Department on sustainability and proper modern construct of natural surface nonmotorized trails.
 54. Support expanded use of the park by the Order of the Arrow honorary portion of Scouting that is devoted to doing service work
 55. Trail cleanups and workdays
 56. Work with equestrian and disability advocates to enhance needed amenities to improve user experience
 57. Work with neighboring communities for trail connection
 58. Working to partner on the removal of invasive species
11. Hiking trails
 12. I appreciate the vast natural areas. It is easy to feel like you are in the UP, even though you are close to home.
 13. Invasive species management to preserve natural area function
 14. Jenn Is Awesome!
 15. Keep Jenn as the Manager. She is awesome!
 16. Keep trails rustic
 17. Manage areas to insure future functionality
 18. More collaboration with local natural resource groups
 19. Most common comment by the Canoe customer? Is it hasn't been changed since I was here 20 years and 30 years ago
 20. Natural areas
 21. Natural, undeveloped areas
 22. Not commercialization of park keep it a natural wonder
 23. Opportunities for many users
 24. Preserving natural areas
 25. Recreational trails
 26. River access
 27. River access
 28. Staff is excellent good to work with!! Camping area is top notch. All the connections to other parks.
 29. Stay as rustic as possible.
 30. The remote feel within the park while still being located within a metro area.
 31. Trails
 32. Variety of the trail systems currently allow a diverse user group

Exercise 5: What things should stay the same about Proud Lake State Recreation Area?

Stakeholders continued to reiterate the priority of maintaining the natural and undeveloped feel of the area while still providing an abundance of recreation opportunities in a balanced manner.

Items

1. A continued equal balance of trails between hikers equestrians and mountain bikers
2. Annual trout stocking and river fishing access
3. Camping and trails are appreciated
4. Camping, trails, and river access should all stay.
5. Continue to offer trails for a variety of users
6. Continue to support Chief Pontiac Trail Winter Camping programs that occur in January, February and the first weekend in March ~ typically 200 Scouts will Winter backpack
7. Continue to support rustic backpacking opportunities
8. Equestrian trails, and hiking/biking trails. The cabins for camping.
9. Equestrian/hiking trails
10. Hiking opportunities, natural communities/resources

Exercise 6: What improvements or changes would you like to see at Proud Lake State Recreation Area?

The stakeholders had many ideas for improvements or changes, including accessibility improvements, enhanced connections between parks, invasive species removal, campground improvements, trail enhancements, and many more.

Items

1. A new separate purpose built 10- to 15-mile mountain bike trail system. For Bikers, hikers, runners, cross country skiers, snowshoers and winter fat bike riders. With connections to the other parks. Mountain bike trailhead with ample parking.
2. A stewardship council representing equal representation of stakeholders
3. Accessibility improvements
4. Accessible kayak launch area
5. Additional vault toilets in or next to the ball field on the Powers unit side
6. Bass Lake boat launch needs a face lift to include more parking and dedicated parking for cars with boat trailers. The people with Kayaks do not know how to park or load and unload at the launch. Needs more signage on proper loading and unloading.
7. Bathrooms at the canoe rental modern.
8. Better signage on trails
9. Build local awareness, promotion of the park/resource
10. Continue to expand the number of campsites called "Hidden Pines" to expand more capacity in the Pines Group Campsite area.
11. Elimination of non-authorized trails
12. Enhance the connections to surrounding communities and trails to expand access
13. Equestrian camping
14. Friends are working towards building another shelter in the meadow across from the canoe livery using future DNR match funds
15. Improve connection between PLSRA and Kensington Metropark
16. Improved group and event areas.
17. Introduce and increase archery programs. Let us also the same with Fishing. There's a definite need for education in both of these areas
18. Invasive species removal. Example: Phragmites along Wixom Rd
19. It may be necessary to provide a new Canoe\kayak portage ramp just east of the current ramp at the weir. So often have conflicts with Canoe\kayak crossing over through congested swimmer at the same location do cause crowding
20. Length of fishing closure on the Huron River limits access
21. Maintain or improve view from the road
22. Make needed accessibility improvements
23. Manage the pine timber resources within the park. Many are 85 feet + in height and will break and crash. I have been told that it is not economically a benefit for timber vendor to manage the vertical forests.
24. Management of multiple uses to consider ecological connectivity
25. Minimize multidirectional trails where possible but assure through access to Kensington, Commerce, Wixom, and Milford
26. Mobi mat at swimming area
27. More emphasis on sustainability and modernization of trails to improve environmental impact and experience for trail users.
28. More group org sites near the Huron river
29. Outreach to corporate groups church groups home school in public schools that can come use the park during the week When the park is underused
30. Parking at river access locations
31. Proud lake working with local High School youth cycling clubs
32. Rustic camping. Community involvement with kids and young adults
33. Spread out sites at campground. Too crowded
34. The invasive species removed from the park!
35. Universal design for all buildings
36. Updated rental facilities.
37. Updates to existing facilities
38. Upgrade any aging infrastructure
39. Would love a group org site at the North Boat launch area

Exercise 7: What are the most important things to stay the same at Proud Lake State Recreation Area? (Choose 3)

The ideas in exercise 5 were summarized into 12 choices, of which the stakeholders could select their top three items. The stakeholders voted most frequently for preserving the natural areas and the trails of multiple types. Other top answers were the canoe rentals, managing the existing areas for improved functionality, and the rustic nature and remote feel.

Exercise 8: What are the most important improvements or changes to make at Proud Lake State Recreation Area? (Choose 3)

Out of the choices given of potential improvements or changes to the recreation area which were summarized from Exercise 6, the stakeholders voted most frequently for invasive species management, accessibility/universal design updates, improved trail signage, and improved water access and fishing opportunities.

WHAT SHOULD STAY THE SAME?	VOTES
Preserve natural areas	16
Trails (multiple types)	13
Canoe rentals	6
Manage existing areas for improved functionality	6
River boating access	6
The rustic nature and remote feel	6
Camping opportunities	3
Chief Pontiac Trail backpacking program	2
Continued balance between park users	2
Rustic backpacking opportunities	2
Trout stocking	1
River fishing opportunities	0

WHAT SHOULD BE CHANGED OR IMPROVED?	VOTES
Invasive species management	12
Accessibility / Universal design updates	9
Improved trail signage	9
Improved water access / fishing opportunities	8
Increased collaboration with stakeholders	7
Increased promotion/awareness of the park	5
Increasing connectivity with other parks	4
Expanded group campground opportunities	3
Improved group and event areas	3
Improved trail facilities	2
Updated rental facilities	2
Improved campground facilities	1

B.4 Tribal Engagement

The following letter was sent via email to:

- Bay Mills Indian Community
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
- Hannahville Indian Community
- Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
- Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
- Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
- Gun Lake Tribe of Pottawatomi Indians
- Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi
- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Dear Tribal Leaders:

The Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is in the process of developing a general management plan for Proud Lake State Recreation Area in Oakland County.

The 3,030-acre recreation area features a four-mile stretch of the scenic Huron River flowing through the center of the park, popular for fishing and paddling. More than 20 miles of trails traverse varied habitats and are open to hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing. Overnight accommodations include 130 modern campsites, and two mini cabins open seasonally, as well as two camper cabins and the River Hawk Complex, with meeting venues and group accommodation, which are open year-round. Most of the recreation area is open to hunting in accordance with state and local regulations and the 105-acre Proud Lake Nature Study Area protects a floating bog and associated woodland vegetation. Proud Lake State Recreation Area participates in the Michigan State Park Explorer Program featuring seasonal nature programs.

The DNR uses general management plans (GMPs) to define a long-range planning and management strategy that will protect the natural, cultural and historic resources of the site, while considering education and recreation opportunities. A planning team, representing various specialties within the DNR, has been established and has met regularly to develop the draft GMP for this site. For additional information on our management plan process, please visit our website at www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans.

The planning process includes several opportunities for input. An on-line survey was available in June/July and garnered over 1,900 responses, which helped to inform the draft plan. An online stakeholder focus group also took comments from a range of government, business, conservation, and recreation interests. The draft plan is now available for review and comment.

We would like to give the Tribes the opportunity to meet with us independently to discuss the management plan process and any thoughts you may have in relation to Proud Lake State Recreation Area. In addition, you are welcome to send representatives to the online public meeting which is scheduled for December 9 from 6-7pm. Details of the meeting, including a registration link and the draft plan, are available on the project website via a link at www.michigan.gov/proudlake.

Please contact Ms. Debbie Jensen, PRD Management Plan Administrator, at Jensend1@michigan.gov, or myself if you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,

Trevor J. VanDyke, J.D.

Director, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office, Tribal Liaison
 Executive Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
 Constitutional Hall, 525 West Allegan Street
 P.O. Box 30028
 Phone: 517.284.6243
 Fax: 517.335.4242
vandyket1@michigan.gov

B.5 Public Input Survey Data

Public Input Survey

The purpose of this survey is to gather input from **Proud Lake State Recreation Area** visitors. Your answers will help the Michigan Department of Natural Resources develop a **General Management Plan** that will guide the future of the recreation area.

This survey should take about **10 minutes** to complete. Your answers will not be shared with any other parties and are confidential unless you provide your email address at the end of the survey.

At the end of the survey, you will be directed to the **project website** that provides additional information on the General Management Plan process and further opportunities for public review and comment.

To proceed with the survey, click the "Next" button.

General Satisfaction

* 1. Have you visited Proud Lake State Recreation Area in the last five years? If no, please explain what keeps you from visiting the recreation area more often.

- Yes
- No (Please explain what keeps you from visiting more often)

2. How often do you visit the recreation area?

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

3. In what seasons do you typically visit the recreation area? (Select all that apply)

- Winter (December, January, February)
- Spring (March, April, May)
- Summer (June, July, August)
- Fall (September, October, November)

4. How do you travel to the recreation area? (Select all that apply)

- Motorized Vehicle (Car/Truck/Horse Trailer/RV/Motorcycle)
- Bicycle
- On Foot
- Horse
- Watercraft (Boat, Kayak, Canoe)
- Other:

5. From which of the following sources did you get information to plan your trip to the recreation area? (Select all that apply)

- DNR Website
- Other websites
- Social media
- Tourist or information center
- Previous experience
- Friends / family
- Printed publication (magazine, book, brochure)
- Other (please specify)

6. What three words would you use to describe Proud Lake State Recreation Area to someone who has never visited?

First Word

Second Word

Third Word

7. Please check ALL the activities in which you participate at Proud Lake State Recreation Area. (Select all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Camping/lodging | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking/dog walking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting/trapping | <input type="checkbox"/> Birding | <input type="checkbox"/> Backpacking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foraging (e.g., mushrooming, berry picking) | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail running |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Metal detecting | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback riding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geocaching | <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-country skiing | <input type="checkbox"/> Special events (fundraisers, races, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature viewing/study | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowshoeing | <input type="checkbox"/> River Hawk Complex Use (dining hall, conference center, annex) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-motorized boating/paddling | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motorized boating | <input type="checkbox"/> Road biking | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming/wading | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain biking | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | | |

8. Which ONE activity most influences your choice to visit the recreation area?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Fishing | <input type="radio"/> Snowmobiling |
| <input type="radio"/> Hunting/trapping | <input type="radio"/> Road biking |
| <input type="radio"/> Foraging (e.g., mushrooming, berry picking) | <input type="radio"/> Mountain biking |
| <input type="radio"/> Metal detecting | <input type="radio"/> Hiking/dog walking |
| <input type="radio"/> Geocaching | <input type="radio"/> Backpacking |
| <input type="radio"/> Nature viewing/study | <input type="radio"/> Trail running |
| <input type="radio"/> Non-motorized boating/paddling | <input type="radio"/> Horseback riding |
| <input type="radio"/> Motorized boating | <input type="radio"/> Special events (fundraisers, races, etc.) |
| <input type="radio"/> Swimming/wading | <input type="radio"/> River Hawk Complex Use (dining hall, conference center, annex) |
| <input type="radio"/> Camping/lodging | <input type="radio"/> Volunteering |
| <input type="radio"/> Birding | <input type="radio"/> [Insert text from Other] |
| <input type="radio"/> Picnicking | |
| <input type="radio"/> Photography | |
| <input type="radio"/> Cross-country skiing | |
| <input type="radio"/> Snowshoeing | |
| <input type="radio"/> Snowmobiling | |

9. What do you like most about visiting the recreation area?

10. Are there any changes that you would like to see made in order to improve your experience?

- No, no changes
- Yes, please describe

11. Do you also frequently visit other parks in the area? If so, what parks do you frequent?

- No
- Yes (please describe)

Your Most Recent Visit

The following questions relate to your most recent visit.

12. On your last visit, which statement best describes your party?

- Individual
- Couple
- Family
- Friends
- Family and friends
- Organized group or club
- Other (please specify)

13. Did you travel with a pet?

- No
- Yes with Dog
- Yes with other (please specify)

14. On your last visit, please specify the number and age group of the members in your party, including you.

	Number of Members
Under 5 years old	<input type="text"/>
5-12 years old	<input type="text"/>
13-17 years old	<input type="text"/>
18-29 years old	<input type="text"/>
30-39 years old	<input type="text"/>
40-49 years old	<input type="text"/>
50-64 years old	<input type="text"/>
65 or older	<input type="text"/>

15. During your last visit, were there any activities you or someone in your party wished to participate in but were not able to due to personal mobility challenges or lack of accessibility accommodations?

- No
- Yes (please describe)

Have you used the Trails?

* 16. Have you used the trails at Proud Lake State Recreation Area? This includes foot trail use, biking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing.

- Yes
- No

Trails

17. What is your primary trail use?

- Foot trail use
- Biking
- Horseback riding
- Cross-country skiing

Trails

18. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the trails which you primarily use. (1 = Highly dissatisfied, 5 = Neutral and 9 = Highly satisfied)

	1 = Highly dissatisfied	2	3	4	5 = Neutral	6	7	8	9 = Highly satisfied
Foot trail use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Biking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Horseback riding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cross-country skiing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

19. What did you like most about the trails?

20. What could be done to improve your satisfaction with the trails in the future?

- Nothing
- Please describe the changes you would like made:

21. Do you currently use the Proud Lake State Recreation Area trails to travel to or between other parks or communities?

- No
- Yes (please describe)

Paddling

* 22. Do you paddle or tube at Proud Lake State Recreation Area?

- Yes
- No

Paddling

23. Do you typically bring your own watercraft to the recreation area or do you rent?

- I bring my own watercraft (canoe, kayak, stand-up paddleboard, or tube)
- I rent a canoe, kayak, or stand-up paddleboard at the recreation area livery

24. What is the typical length of your paddling trip?

- 4 hours or less
- A full day
- An overnight trip

25. Please rate your level of satisfaction with your paddling experience. (1 = Highly dissatisfied, 5 = Neutral and 9 = Highly satisfied)

1 = Highly
dissatisfied

2

3

4

5 = Neutral

6

7

8

9 = Highly
satisfied

26. What could be done to improve your satisfaction with paddling at the recreation area?

- Nothing
- Please describe the changes you would like made:

Have you used the overnight accommodations?

* 27. Have you ever used any of the overnight accommodations (campground, mini cabins, camper cabins, River Hawk Lodge or group camp) at the recreation area?

- Yes
- No

Overnight Accommodations

28. In the past five years, which overnight accommodations have you used in the recreation area?

- Campground
- Mini Cabins (in the campground)
- Camper Cabins (in the Power Unit)
- River Hawk Lodge
- Group camp

29. On average, what is your typical length of stay?

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

30. Please rate your level of satisfaction with your overnight accommodations. (1 = Highly dissatisfied, 5 = Neutral and 9 = Highly satisfied)

	1 = Highly dissatisfied	2	3	4	5 = Neutral	6	7	8	9 = Highly Satisfied
Campground	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mini Cabins (in the campground)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Camper Cabins (in the Power Unit)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
River Hawk Lodge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Group camp	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

31. What did you like most about your accommodations?

32. What could be done to improve your satisfaction with the accommodations in the future?

- Nothing
- Please describe the changes you would like made:

Have you used the day use facilities (excluding trails)?

* 33. The day use facilities at Proud Lake State Recreation Area include boat launches, picnic areas, and pavilions. Have you used any of these facilities?

- Yes
- No

Day Use Facilities

34. Thinking of only the day use facilities which you have used, please rate your level of satisfaction. (1 = Highly dissatisfied, 5 = Neutral and 9 = Highly satisfied):

1 = Highly dissatisfied	2	3	4	5 = Neutral	6	7	8	9 = Highly satisfied
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please describe what most influenced your rating.

35. What did you like the most about the day-use facilities?

36. What could be done to improve your satisfaction with the day-use facilities?

- Nothing
- Please describe the changes you would like made:

Do you hunt or trap?

* 37. Do you hunt or trap at the recreation area?

- Yes
- No

Hunting and Trapping

38. What do you hunt or trap? (Check all that apply)

- White-tailed deer
- Small game
- Trapping furbearers
- Upland birds
- Waterfowl
- Turkey
- Coyote
- Other (please specify)

39. Please enter any comments you may have about hunting and trapping at the recreation area.

Do you fish at the recreation area?

* 40. Do you fish at the recreation area?

- Yes
- No

Fishing Access

41. How do you typically access the water for fishing?

- Shoreline
- Motorized boat
- Non-motorized boat

42. What is your preferred fishing location when visiting the recreation area?

- Huron River
- Proud Lakes
- Moss Lake
- Other (please specify)

43. What is your target species of fish? (Check all that apply)

- Bluegill
- Yellow perch
- Largemouth bass
- Smallmouth bass
- Northern pike
- Walleye
- Trout
- No particular species

44. Please enter any comments you may have about fishing at the recreation area.

Have you participated in a special event or host program at the recreation area?

* 45. Have you participated in a special event or host program (interpretive hike or activity, program or class, outdoor skill class, or other event) at the recreation area?

Yes

No

Special Events and Programs

46. Please select the programs you have participated in at the recreation area in the past. (Select all that apply)

Harvest Festival

Explorer Guide program (fishing, nature programs)

Stepping Stones Outreach Program

Recreation 101 program (canoeing/kayaking class)

Volunteer workdays

Campground host program

Yoga Fest

Other (please specify)

Special Events and Programs

47. Please rate the level of satisfaction with the programs or activities in which you participated. (1 = Highly dissatisfied, 5 = Neutral, 9 = Highly satisfied)

	1 = Highly Dissatisfied	2	3	4	5 = Neutral	6	7	8	9 = Highly Satisfied
Harvest Festival	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Explorer Guide program (fishing, nature programs)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stepping Stones Outreach Program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation 101 program (canoeing/kayaking class)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Volunteer workdays	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Campground host program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Yoga Fest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
[Insert text from Other]	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Special Events and Programs

48. Please enter any comments you may have on the special events or programs in which you participated.

49. What, if any, additional programs or events would you like to be available at the recreation area in the future?

Other Thoughts

50. Please share any other thoughts you may have on the recreation area.

51. (Optional) Share a photo of your experience at Proud Lake State Recreation Area! By uploading a photo, you grant permission to the DNR to use the photo.

No file chosen

Demographics

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

ZIP:

53. What is your age?

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

54. Which of the following best describes you?

- White, non-Hispanic
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black or African-American
- Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Prefer not to answer
- Other (please specify)

55. If you would like to be informed about the upcoming draft general management plan review, please leave your contact info below:

Name

Email

Thank you!

Thank you for participating in the Proud Lake State Recreation Area General Management Plan survey! Your input is appreciated.

Q1: HAVE YOU VISITED PROUD LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS? IF NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN WHAT KEEPS YOU FROM VISITING THE RECREATION AREA MORE OFTEN.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
YES	90.98%	1754
NO (PLEASE EXPLAIN WHAT KEEPS YOU FROM VISITING MORE OFTEN)	9.02%	174
ANSWERED		1928
SKIPPED		0

No (Please specify what keeps you from visiting more often):

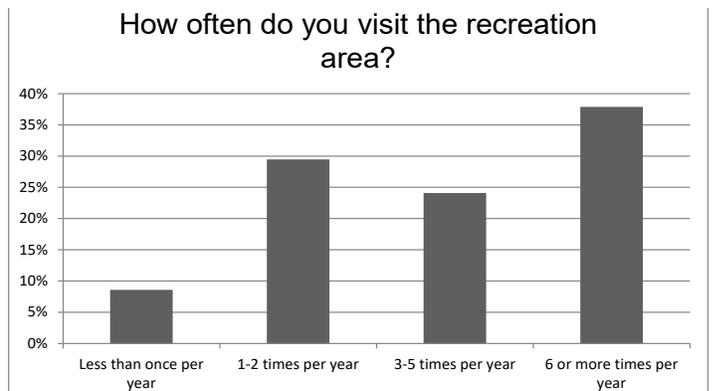
(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

1. I was living out of country
3. Didn't know it existed
7. Never heard of it
12. Need way more single track for mountain bikers would be awesome there!!!
23. distance
25. In the past 5 years, haven't had the opportunity.
39. I do not care to share horse trails with bicycles. It is way too dangerous to mix the two. If the trails are separated, then I will visit the park more often.
45. It's my first time here it's and don't appreciate camping under power lines and not being told about them prior to my visit
70. I go to island lake since I believe it's better for mtn biking
72. Wasn't aware of it
73. It is a bit of a drive
75. New to riding mountain bikes
83. I am a new resident of Michigan and haven't made it to proud lake just yet
92. I know first hand of the dangers bot sharing the trails with bikes. One ran into my horse.
101. There are better built and maintained MTB trails in the general area.
111. Recently moved to Michigan
112. I visit parks for fishing biking and parties. We have fishing close by and no friends scheduling parties there but if you have a biking trail, I'll definitely consider it
117. Haven't found the time
120. There is nothing there i am interested in doing
121. I just get busy
128. Now live in northern mi

131. New to the area
134. Haven't had a chance to go yet
140. Just can't find time
146. It's not as close as other places like metro beach.
150. It is a fairly long drive from my location, but I am planning a visit yet this month.
154. Water quality and unable to consume fish.
163. Haven't been camping.
165. PFAs make fishing a no go for me.
167. Don't know
171. Other state and local parks are closer to me, offering similar activities.

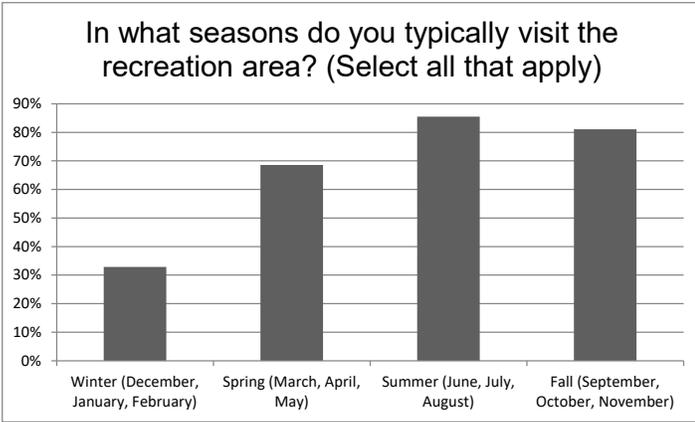
Q2: HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT THE RECREATION AREA?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
LESS THAN ONCE PER YEAR	8.58%	136
1-2 TIMES PER YEAR	29.45%	467
3-5 TIMES PER YEAR	24.09%	382
6 OR MORE TIMES PER YEAR	37.89%	601
ANSWERED		1586
SKIPPED		342



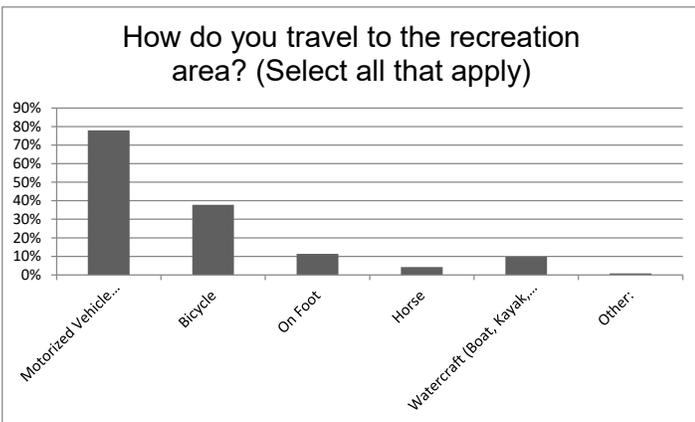
Q3: IN WHAT SEASONS DO YOU TYPICALLY VISIT THE RECREATION AREA? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
WINTER (DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY)	32.85%	522
SPRING (MARCH, APRIL, MAY)	68.60%	1090
SUMMER (JUNE, JULY, AUGUST)	85.46%	1358
FALL (SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER)	81.06%	1288
ANSWERED		1589
SKIPPED		339



Q4: HOW DO YOU TRAVEL TO THE RECREATION AREA? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE COUNT
MOTORIZED VEHICLE (CAR/TRUCK/HORSE TRAILER/RV/MOTORCYCLE)	77.97%	1239
BICYCLE	37.76%	600
ON FOOT	11.39%	181
HORSE	4.28%	68
WATERCRAFT (BOAT, KAYAK, CANOE)	9.75%	155
OTHER:	0.88%	14
ANSWERED		1589
SKIPPED		339



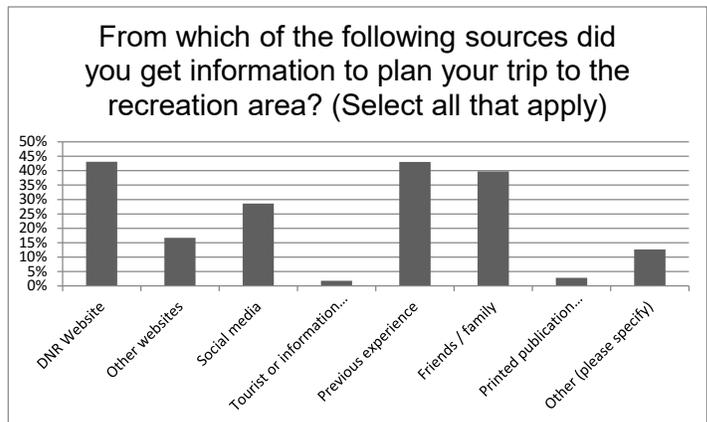
Other (please specify):

1. Mountain Bike
2. Truck and Horse Trailer
3. Mountain bike
4. Car
5. Mtb
6. I live 1/4 mile away
7. Cross country ski

8. I often connect Proud Lake MTB with other trails like Milford and Hickory Glen all in the same ride which is a great opportunity to maximize what the area can offer
9. Bike
10. Camping
11. fish

Q5: FROM WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING SOURCES DID YOU GET INFORMATION TO PLAN YOUR TRIP TO THE RECREATION AREA? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
DNR WEBSITE	43.12%	680
OTHER WEBSITES	16.74%	264
SOCIAL MEDIA	28.60%	451
TOURIST OR INFORMATION CENTER	1.78%	28
PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE	43.06%	679
FRIENDS / FAMILY	39.76%	627
PRINTED PUBLICATION (MAGAZINE, BOOK, BROCHURE)	2.85%	45
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	12.68%	200
ANSWERED		1577
SKIPPED		351



Other (please specify):

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

2. Mountain Bike Club and canoe livery
8. Kensington and Proud Lake Equine Trail Associations
18. club members of MMHC Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club
21. Horse associations
24. Trail riding group
31. Mmba
35. CRAMBA

Q7: PLEASE CHECK ALL THE ACTIVITIES IN WHICH YOU PARTICIPATE AT PROUD LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA. (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
FISHING	25.21%	399
HUNTING/TRAPPING	10.11%	160
FORAGING (E.G., MUSHROOMING, BERRY PICKING)	9.54%	151
METAL DETECTING	1.14%	18
GEOCACHING	6.00%	95
NATURE VIEWING/STUDY	28.81%	456
NON-MOTORIZED BOATING/PADDLING	32.22%	510
MOTORIZED BOATING	3.22%	51
SWIMMING/WADING	20.66%	327
CAMPING/LODGING	27.67%	438
BIRDING	9.41%	149
PICNICKING	14.40%	228
PHOTOGRAPHY	14.85%	235
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING	8.46%	134
SNOWSHOEING	6.57%	104
SNOWMOBILING	0.44%	7
ROAD BIKING	10.49%	166
MOUNTAIN BIKING	60.64%	960
HIKING/DOG WALKING	49.78%	788
BACKPACKING	5.31%	84
TRAIL RUNNING	15.73%	249
HORSEBACK RIDING	7.77%	123
SPECIAL EVENTS (FUNDRAISERS, RACES, ETC.)	7.14%	113
RIVER HAWK COMPLEX USE (DINING HALL, CONFERENCE CENTER, ANNEX)	3.03%	48
VOLUNTEERING	2.65%	42
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	4.04%	64
ANSWERED		1583
SKIPPED		345

Other (Please specify):

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

4. New Years Day Hikes are awesome!
5. Our property backs up to the park and love to walk and trial ride our horses there.
8. Educating my children about nature around them.
11. Kayaking
12. Kayaking
13. Bike trail riding
14. TV
15. Fat biking
17. Snow fat tire biking
18. Kayaking
19. Kayaking
24. Halloween Festival
25. Mt. Biking
30. I kayak
31. I used to live in the area so I come to PL because it allows me to visit my friends and still be able to be "home" at night!!!
32. Fatbiking
36. Fat biking in winter
38. Scouting Award Ceremonies conducted by individual troops and Scouting Committees for Special Award recognitions
40. Fatbiking
42. Halloween
44. Banjo guitar
48. Kayak or hike/camp/backpack classes
49. Fall festival
53. Boy Scouts of America- Chief Pontiac Trail Programs
55. Winter fatbiking
56. Kayak relaxing
59. Winter Fat Biking
61. Exploring, Personal discovery of the floating bog prior to the park being developed. A trail going north off of Glengarry was used by teenagers for "grassers".
62. Never knew about River Hawk Complex
63. Milford Mt. Bike Festival

PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT

Q8: WHICH ONE ACTIVITY MOST INFLUENCES YOUR CHOICE TO VISIT THE RECREATION AREA?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
FISHING	3.48%	53
HUNTING/TRAPPING	5.06%	77
FORAGING (E.G., MUSHROOMING, BERRY PICKING)	0.92%	14
METAL DETECTING	0.00%	0
GEOCACHING	0.13%	2
NATURE VIEWING/STUDY	2.17%	33
NON-MOTORIZED BOATING/PADDLING	4.60%	70
MOTORIZED BOATING	0.20%	3
SWIMMING/WADING	0.53%	8
CAMPING/LODGING	11.10%	169
BIRDING	0.13%	2
PICNICKING	0.13%	2
PHOTOGRAPHY	0.07%	1
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING	0.07%	1
SNOWSHOEING	0.00%	0
SNOWMOBILING	0.00%	0
ROAD BIKING	0.33%	5
MOUNTAIN BIKING	51.25%	780
HIKING/DOG WALKING	9.59%	146
BACKPACKING	0.26%	4
TRAIL RUNNING	1.31%	20
HORSEBACK RIDING	7.16%	109
SPECIAL EVENTS (FUNDRAISERS, RACES, ETC.)	0.13%	2
RIVER HAWK COMPLEX USE (DINING HALL, CONFERENCE CENTER, ANNEX)	0.20%	3
VOLUNTEERING	0.00%	0
[INSERT TEXT FROM OTHER]	1.18%	18
ANSWERED		1522
SKIPPED		406

Q9: WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT VISITING THE RECREATION AREA?

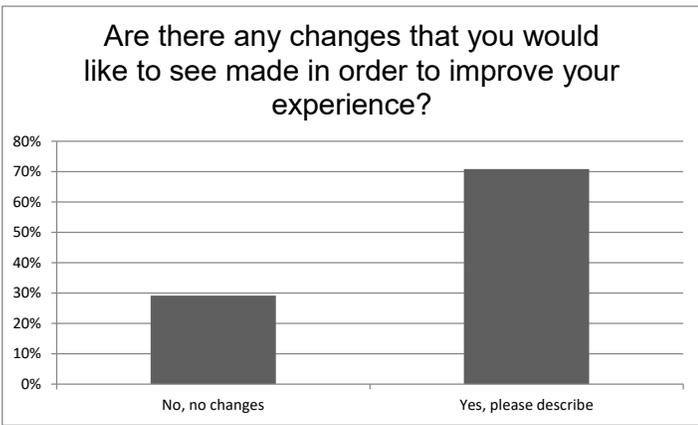
ANSWERED	1304
SKIPPED	624

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 32. It is quiet and a great place to walk with my kids.
- 89. The mountain bike trails
- 155. Well maintained trails!
- 186. Having a place to hike without city noise
- 235. The trails are great and you can get to Milford quickly and safely without car traffic.
- 276. Tough climbs with fast descents
- 397. Lots of different trails that are not heavily traveled
- 545. It connects Kensington to Hickory Glen.
- 604. N/a
- 641. It was our first time camping here
- 661. scenic
- 688. The nature. When kayaking you see a lot of wild life
- 691. How nice the trails were maintained.
- 745. Beauty and solitude. It has a very up north feel.
- 779. The mountain bike trails is very good for all skill levels. We would like to have the opportunity to continue and attract younger riders in the area to ride their bikes at Proud Lake. Please do not kick us out of the trails, doing so will have an adverse effect on the community who so love the rec area.
- 885. It's close to home
- 899. Kayaking the river and hiking the trail to the waterfall
- 977. The chance to see animals in a natural setting.
- 985. The high quality of the trails
- 1101. Big, clean bathrooms
- 1134. It's clean and updated
- 1146. It's conveniently located and has a lot of amenities.
- 1149. This is literally in my bike yard main reason I bought the house. I can connect on foot or bike from chickory lane and hit everything. The trails are a hidden gem. The trails are great for all level of bikers, being a coach we could take the kids back their and let them hone their mtb skills. I love that I am able to connect to Milford trail, Kensington, and Hickory Glen all through the Proud Lake trail system.
- 1158. Great getaway! Not to far from home!
- 1197. MTB connectivity to other trails in the area
- 1208. Closer to home
- 1244. Good walking trails. Forested areas. Wildlife
- 1251. Large amount of natural trails with diverse landscape

- 1256. Convenient
- 1293. Plenty of good areas to go

Q10: ARE THERE ANY CHANGES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE MADE IN ORDER TO IMPROVE YOUR EXPERIENCE?		
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
NO, NO CHANGES	29.18%	426
YES, PLEASE DESCRIBE	70.82%	1034
ANSWERED		1460
SKIPPED		468



Yes (Please describe):

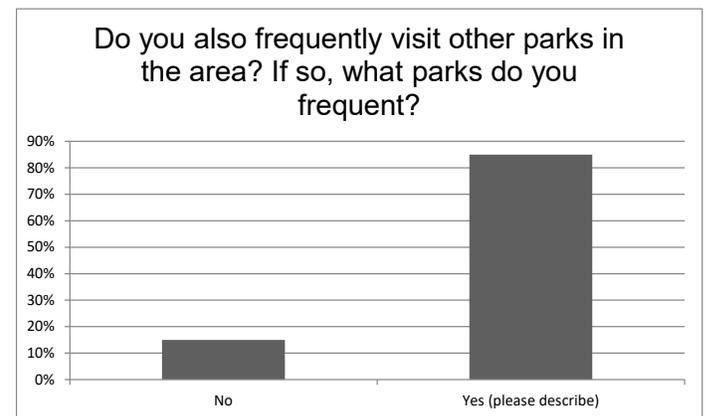
(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 79. No shared trails, better education for non-horse people
- 87. Keep the horse trails
- 144. More biking only trails
- 161. Improved mountain biking and cross country trails
- 162. Trailhead parking for the mountain bike trails
- 166. One way trails for safety
- 180. Expand mountain bike trails
- 240. Add more trails
- 263. Better trail marking
- 270. Improve mtb trails
- 280. Better trail maintenance and trail signage
- 328. Single direction trails
- 343. More mountain bike trails
- 395. Mountain bike trail head, additional trails
- 402. Maybe doing more with the mountain biking trails
- 518. I would like to see the mountain bike trails separated from the horse trails so each has own trails to use. It would also be a benefit for all mountain bike trails to be

one way (not 2-way trails).

- 632. Please separate the horse and bike trails.
- 686. Separate equestrian trails from bike trails
- 754. The campsites need to be level, most sites are terrible for campers
- 758. Improve accessibility for hunting.
- 766. More mountain bike trails!
- 791. 24 hour access
- 809. Better trail signage for mountain biking
- 828. No hunting. Too close to houses.
- 833. A sandy beach
- 877. Dedicated mountain bike trails separated from the horse trails. The horses tear up the trail surface and there is horse poop everywhere
- 915. We need a playground
- 947. Dedicated mtb singletrack network
- 977. More management for upland bird habitat
- 991. Either separate trails for equestrian and mountain bikers or a more accepted use for mountain bikers by the equestrians

Q11. DO YOU ALSO FREQUENTLY VISIT OTHER PARKS IN THE AREA? IF SO, WHAT PARKS DO YOU FREQUENT?		
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
NO	15.02%	223
YES (PLEASE DESCRIBE)	84.98%	1262
ANSWERED		1485
SKIPPED		443



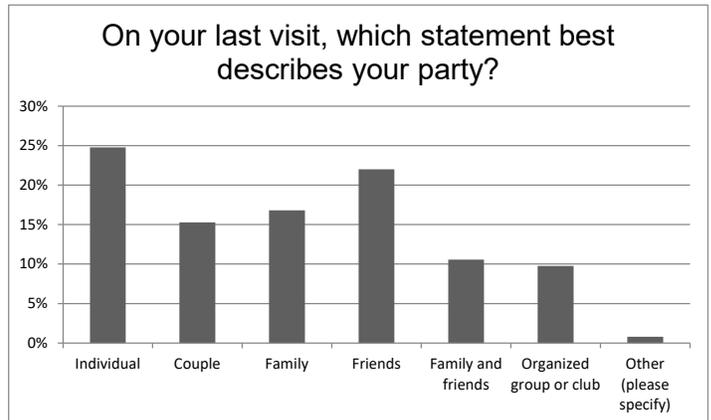
Yes (Please describe):

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 3. Kensington, Indian river
- 51. Island lake

- 81. Pontiac lake
- 123. Kensington
- 151. Island Lake / Kensington/ Brighton Rec
- 194. Highland, Island Lake, Kensington
- 232. Hickory Glen, lakeshore park, island lakes, Pontiac lake, riverbanks, stony creek.
- 260. ILRA, maybury, poto, highland
- 263. Pontiac lake, island lake, Milford trail, stony creek, maybury
- 300. Brighton
- 390. ILRA, PLRA, Maybury, Brighton Rec, Highland Rec, Holdridge
- 430. Highland Recreation, Pontiac Lake Recreation, DTE Foundation Trails, Hine Drive Trail System.
- 503. kensington
- 517. Island lake
- 621. Lakeshore, Highland State, Island Lake
- 708. Metro parks like Indian Springs and K
- 716. Kensington, Pontiac Lake, Brighton, Highland
- 732. Kensington, Highland, Brighton
- 785. Island Lake, KOA in Holly, & Groveland Oaks in Holly, MI
- 826. Maybury SP & Island Lake Rec Area
- 849. Milford and Hickory Glenn island lake Kensington Pontiac lake highland rec.
- 894. Sterling
- 940. Camp every other weekend at state parks.
- 985. Highland Rec, Mayberry, Kensington, Brighton Rec
- 1007. Mostly for hiking and biking
- 1011. Island Lake, Pontiac Lake
- 1034. Kensington Metro park and Mayberry state park
- 1069. Island lake, Mayberry
- 1137. Lakeland, Brighton rec, Holly rec, Maybury and Lakeland.
- 1189. Highland Rec Area, Kensington/Island Lake

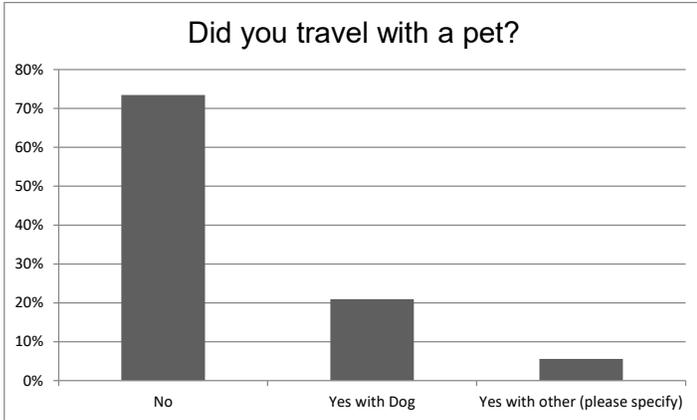
Q12: ON YOUR LAST VISIT, WHICH STATEMENT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR PARTY?		
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
INDIVIDUAL	24.78%	373
COUPLE	15.28%	230
FAMILY	16.81%	253
FRIENDS	21.99%	331
FAMILY AND FRIENDS	10.56%	159
ORGANIZED GROUP OR CLUB	9.77%	147
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	0.80%	12
ANSWERED		1505
SKIPPED		423



Other (please specify):

1. Daddy and daughter
2. Horseback riding events
3. Mt bike group
4. Milford Trail festival introducing new riders to the trails.
5. Baseball team/Commerce tournament
6. milford challenge
7. Scout Troop participating in a Chief Pontiac Trail Backpack Hike
8. Work picnic & canoeing
9. Solo winter MTB ride
10. Family and Friends Mountain Bike Ride
11. Running friends

Q13: DID YOU TRAVEL WITH A PET?		
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
NO	73.45%	1101
YES WITH DOG	20.95%	314
YES WITH OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	5.60%	84
ANSWERED		1499
SKIPPED		429

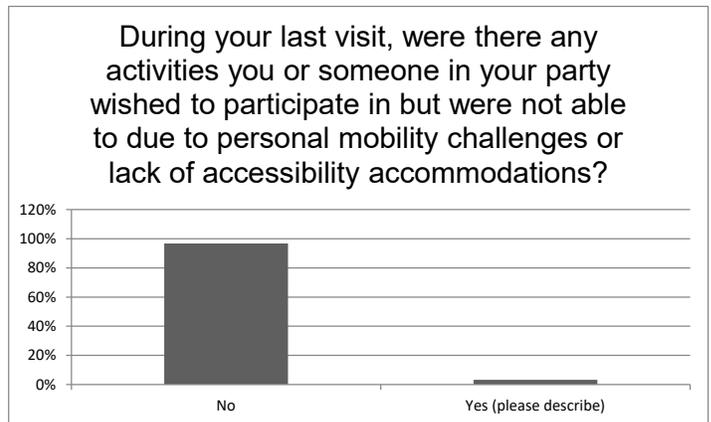
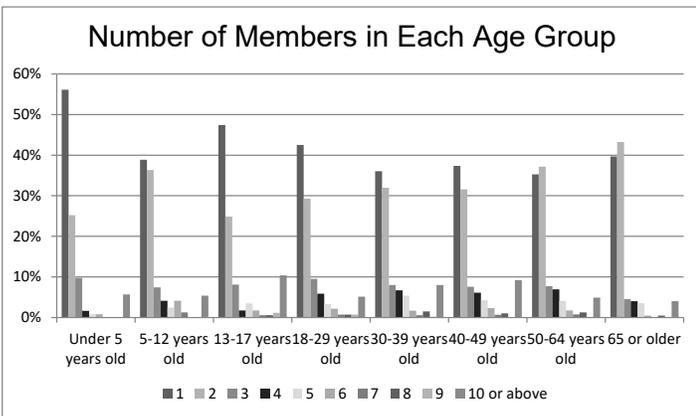


Other (please specify):

- 76% Horse
- 10% Cat
- 5% Horse and dog
- 4% Dog
- 2% Sometimes
- 1% group mountain biking
- 1% Skunk
- 1% Stop allowing dogs at campgrounds. It's unsanitary.

Q14: ON YOUR LAST VISIT, PLEASE SPECIFY THE NUMBER AND AGE GROUP OF THE MEMBERS IN YOUR PARTY, INCLUDING YOU.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS																					Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 or above											
UNDER 5 YEARS OLD	56.10%	69	25.20%	31	9.76%	12	1.63%	2	0.81%	1	0.81%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	5.69%	7	123
5-12 YEARS OLD	38.84%	94	36.36%	88	7.44%	18	4.13%	10	2.48%	6	4.13%	10	1.24%	3	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	5.37%	13	242
13-17 YEARS OLD	47.40%	82	24.86%	43	8.09%	14	1.73%	3	3.47%	6	1.73%	3	0.58%	1	0.58%	1	1.16%	2	10.40%	18	173
18-29 YEARS OLD	42.49%	116	29.30%	80	9.52%	26	5.86%	16	3.30%	9	2.20%	6	0.73%	2	0.73%	2	0.73%	2	5.13%	14	273
30-39 YEARS OLD	36.06%	194	31.97%	172	7.99%	43	6.69%	36	5.39%	29	1.67%	9	0.56%	3	1.49%	8	0.19%	1	7.99%	43	538
40-49 YEARS OLD	37.34%	227	31.58%	192	7.57%	46	6.09%	37	4.28%	26	2.30%	14	0.66%	4	0.99%	6	0.00%	0	9.21%	56	608
50-64 YEARS OLD	35.28%	224	37.17%	236	7.72%	49	6.93%	44	4.09%	26	1.73%	11	0.79%	5	1.26%	8	0.16%	1	4.88%	31	635
65 OR OLDER	39.70%	79	43.22%	86	4.52%	9	4.02%	8	3.52%	7	0.50%	1	0.00%	0	0.50%	1	0.00%	0	4.02%	8	199
ANSWERED																					1459
SKIPPED																					469



Q15: DURING YOUR LAST VISIT, WERE THERE ANY ACTIVITIES YOU OR SOMEONE IN YOUR PARTY WISHED TO PARTICIPATE IN BUT WERE NOT ABLE TO DUE TO PERSONAL MOBILITY CHALLENGES OR LACK OF ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
NO	96.72%	1443
YES (PLEASE DESCRIBE)	3.28%	49
ANSWERED		1492
SKIPPED		436

Yes (please describe):

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

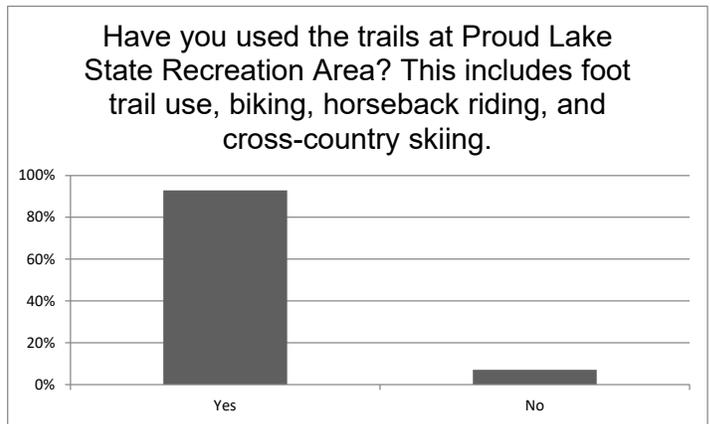
- Someone had knocked multiple trees down across trails making it difficult to travel by bike.
- Hiking cut short due to joint pain
- Solo mountain bike trail
- Unable to share trail with mountain bikers who are on the horse only trails. Handicapped rider.
- Trail use for my wife. Some state parks have track chairs.
- People with mobility issues wouldn't come here, it's not

accessible

9. My parents are not likely to walk in areas where there are boardwalks that are not safe. The boardwalk over the water are unstable and in need of replacement.
12. Lack of E-bike acceptance on Michigan trails for older riders
14. Kayaking due to no kayak accessibility ramps. Wife has disabilities.
15. There were trees down on the bike trails after inclement weather. They've since been removed. :)
16. I can't bring my father or brother (both avid mountain bikers with chronic health conditions) due to the DNR policies on class 1 ebikes.
17. Milford Organized activity
20. The degrading, off camber rutted out soil of one of the multi-use trails we were on was very hard for a few. The horses have beat it up very badly
21. Trail conditions
23. Parking accommodations
25. See above
28. Now unable to ride horse due to mobility issues from injury that now permanent. Buggy is our only option to enjoy trails now
30. Kayaking but to far to carry kayak from closest parking lot
31. There was absolutely nothing going on for the children which is one of the main reasons we come here.
33. cycling
36. Limited placement for using a hammock sleep system.
37. Needs a playground for kids
38. older person(s) had strength problems, skipped a good portion of trail due to sharp elevation changes. a class 1 eBike would've made it possible for our entire group to enjoy and use the entire trail system
39. Had to drive to trails from cabin. No access without taking roads
41. Can't eat fish PFAS
42. Walking through deep mud on the hiking trails
43. Halloween Camping.
- 46 More mt bike trails please
- 47 Cast on broken ankle.
- 49 Long Walk to fish

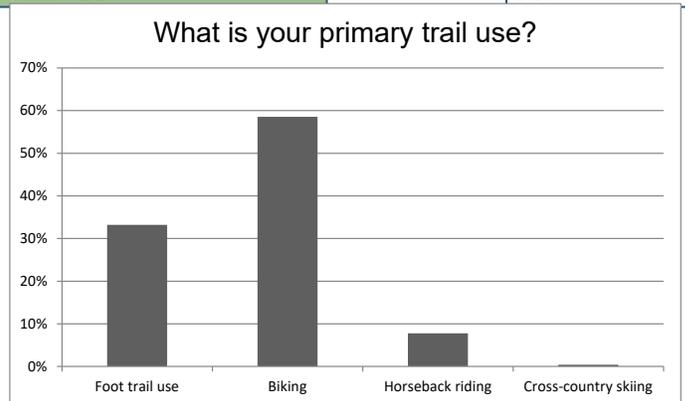
Q16: HAVE YOU USED THE TRAILS AT PROUD LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA? THIS INCLUDES FOOT TRAIL USE, BIKING, HORSEBACK RIDING, AND CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
YES	92.92%	1405
NO	7.08%	107
ANSWERED		1512
SKIPPED		416



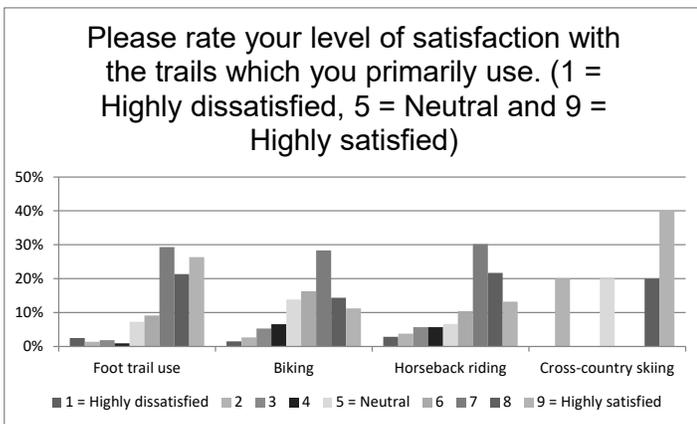
Q17: WHAT IS YOUR PRIMARY TRAIL USE?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
FOOT TRAIL USE	33.21%	465
BIKING	58.57%	820
HORSEBACK RIDING	7.79%	109
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING	0.43%	6
ANSWERED		1400
SKIPPED		528



Q18: PLEASE RATE YOUR LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH THE TRAILS WHICH YOU PRIMARILY USE. (1 = HIGHLY DISSATISFIED, 5 = NEUTRAL AND 9 = HIGHLY SATISFIED)

	1 = HIGHLY DISSATISFIED		2		3		4		5 = NEUTRAL		6		7		8		9 = HIGHLY SATISFIED		TOTAL
FOOT TRAIL USE	2.50%	11	1.36%	6	1.82%	8	0.91%	4	7.27%	32	9.09%	40	29.32%	129	21.36%	94	26.36%	116	440
BIKING	1.51%	12	2.64%	21	5.29%	42	6.55%	52	13.85%	110	16.25%	129	28.34%	225	14.36%	114	11.21%	89	794
HORSEBACK RIDING	2.83%	3	3.77%	4	5.66%	6	5.66%	6	6.60%	7	10.38%	11	30.19%	32	21.70%	23	13.21%	14	106
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING	0.00%	0	20.00%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	20.00%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	20.00%	1	40.00%	2	5
ANSWERED																			1345
SKIPPED																			583



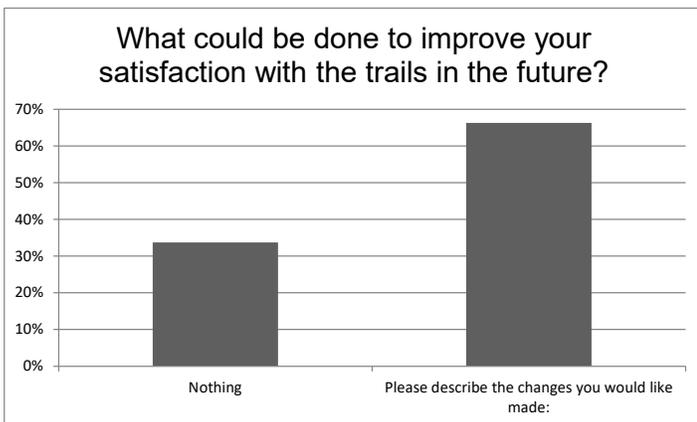
Q19: WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE TRAILS?	
ANSWERED	1103
SKIPPED	825

Responses:

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 80. Scenery
- 82. Beautiful
- 131. the trails were well maintained and marked, very scenic, varying.
- 141. Climbs
- 166. The unique and challenging terrain and trails
- 168. Fun and exciting, has a lot to offer for everyone.
- 174. So many different routes in and around the park. Really a gem, please add more!!!
- 192. nice easily hikeable paths
- 231. Terrain
- 242. Flow
- 261. Well maintained
- 291. Different scenery. I mountain bike on single track trails a lot and need to change it up.
- 350. A fun challenge that mix is up from the normal riding of SE MI. I can also connect.to hickory glen and island lake for more milage
- 352. Lots of potential for good MTB trails
- 367. Challenge of different routes
- 412 The wooded nature of the trails, that "up north" feel...
- 566. the trail maintenance people keep everything like branches and stuff controlled
- 570. Mostly wide and well maintained
- 638. They cover a large area
- 658. Well maintained and cleared nicely! Good for kids learning to shred.
- 701. Good for mountain biking.
- 709. ease of use, proximity to my home
- 787. Walking them feels like you're a lot further from civilapzation than you actually are. Lots of birds and animals. A good walk, but not too challenging for older adults or young kids.
- 803. Escaping suburbia to be amongst the trees
- 883. That they weren't too difficult for my daughter to try.
- 940. Clear and safe
- 973. Able to access the entirety of the land area without being too obtrusive to others hunting and fishing
- 980. Well defined, trail markers with maps
- 1004. Secluded
- 1053. Great variety

Q20: WHAT COULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE YOUR SATISFACTION WITH THE TRAILS IN THE FUTURE?		
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
NOTHING	33.72%	441
PLEASE DESCRIBE THE CHANGES YOU WOULD LIKE MADE:	66.28%	867
ANSWERED		1308
SKIPPED		620



Please describe the desired changes:

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 22. More trails / bigger park!
- 91. remove bike trails from crossing horse trails...so dangerous to have them in the same area. Better signage with maps of trails.
- 100. Keep trails for equine only not dual purpose.
- 103. we had numerous close encounters with mountain bikes on the trail. Our horses are good but it's asking a lot of any horse to have a silent bike approach at speed especially from the rear. Many of the riders couldn't hear us due to wearing headphones or ear buds. the trails are very rolling and twisting, makes it impossible to see a bike until the last second.
- 104. Better separation or control of bicycle/horse traffic.
- 129. The equestrians I've encountered have been rude, I wish they were more welcoming to other users
- 134. more purpose-built bike trails- i.e. preferably separate from horse trails, etc.
- 219. Add more trails of course
- 255. Better signage
- 267. Proud Lake trails do not currently have a trailhead parking lot- we would like them to have one. The trail is shared with equestrians. This creates more required maintenance of the trails to keep them in good shape for dog walking, trail running, and mountain biking. It

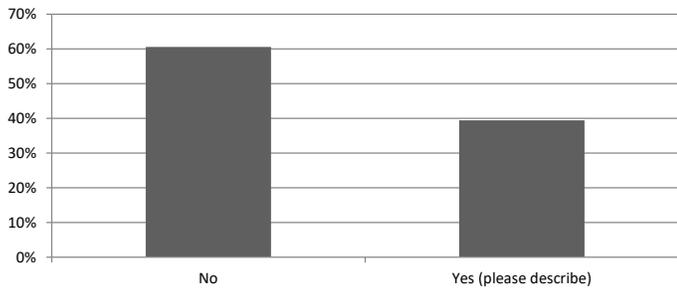
also creates more likely points of contention between these user groups. Land managers have offered us two-way traffic for the connectors. This makes the connectors potentially dangerous with oncoming traffic, particularly for kids and those unfamiliar with the trails. One-way trails would make the trails more appropriate for Mountain Bike Youth events like the Huron Valley Youth Cycling Club and MiSCA. To make Proud Lake a "destination" trail, we would like to see 12+ miles of separate purpose-built mountain bike trail.

- 278. One way traffic for bikes
- 302. Trail markers
- 335. Have a dedicated mountain bike trail
- 386. Designated mountain bike trail head/parking area
- 412. make sure signage is accurate so new folks don't ride backward on accident. This can be very dangerous for everyone...
- 424. Have dedicated mountain bike trails one way so is not to conflict with horses
- 445. Better signage at some intersections are needed
- 469. More permanent signage that is not so easy to remove by groups opposed to sharing the trails
- 498. Separate bike and horse trails
- 534. Separate bikes and horses also enforce the leash rules
- 538. Separation of Bike and Horse trails
- 603. Fix board walks
- 630. Re design and add more trail
- 652. Better designation of trails.
- 681. Better marking
- 702. A little less mud would be nice
- 704. Proper signage and more miles
- 810. limit equine use on some trails for mountain biking and hiking only, improve care of trails, better trail marking, reroute to improve flow and ease of use
- 826. Split horse and bike trails to avoid horse waste
- 851. The wooden bridges could use some work.

Q21: DO YOU CURRENTLY USE THE PROUD LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA TRAILS TO TRAVEL TO OR BETWEEN OTHER PARKS OR COMMUNITIES?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
NO	60.58%	813
YES (PLEASE DESCRIBE)	39.42%	529
ANSWERED		1342
SKIPPED		586
SKIPPED	98	

Do you currently use the Proud Lake State Recreation Area trails to travel to or between other parks or communities?



Yes (please describe):

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

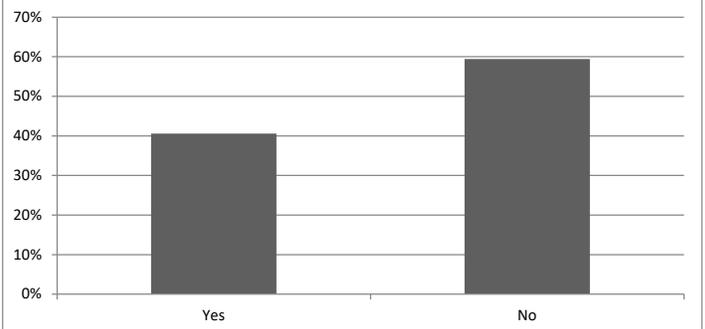
- 42. Kensington metro park
- 45. More mountain bike features and more flow
- 49. Kensington
- 101. I often connect to Highland, Hickory Glen, and Milford Trail.
- 126. Kensington
- 134. I go from Milford Gardner Road trails to Commerce and Hickory Glen Trails.
- 140. I do
- 159. Milford 3 trail ride
- 165. Commerce to milford
- 259. To community park and trail connector to Kensington
- 269.. Connects to Kensington and Commerce Township
- 271. I do longer rides connecting Milford and Hickory Glen mountain bike trails
- 295. Many trails near by make for nice longer rides across a couple parks
- 309. Connected to Milford.
- 316. Kensington
- 320. I've used the connector to get to and from Hickory Glen.

- 332. I ride Kensington to Proud Lake and back.
- 360. Kensington connector
- 388. CPT
- 409. Hickory gllen, island lake, highland
- 449. Proud Lake to Kensington
- 452. I can travel through
- 462. I have traveled through Proud Lake from Milford to reach Hickory Glen
- 470. We sometimes take the trails from the downtown Milford area into the park (getting onto the trails near Village Canoe). We also sometimes take the trail that connects to Kensington.
- 482. I have ridden through from Milford to other trails east of Proud Lake.
- 484. Island Lake and kensington
- 491. Milford mountain bike trails
- 497. Connecting MTB trails in Milford, Hickory Glen and Island Lake SP
- 504. Connect milford trails
- 514. I ride from walled lake, through proud lake, to Milford and/or highland state rec weekly.

Q22: DO YOU PADDLE OR TUBE AT PROUD LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA?

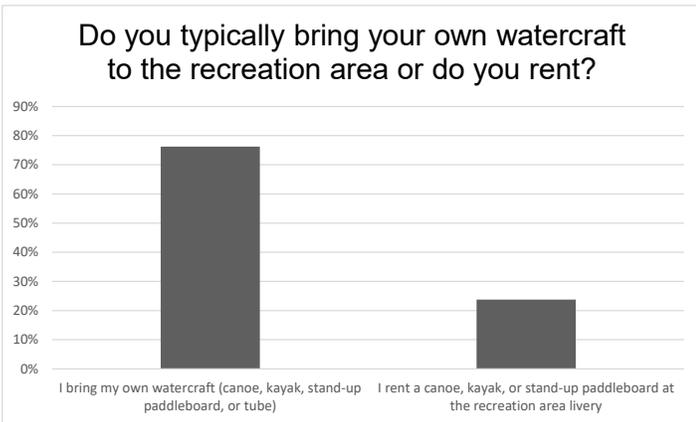
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
YES	40.58%	599
NO	59.42%	877
ANSWERED		1476
SKIPPED		452

Do you paddle or tube at Proud Lake State Recreation Area?



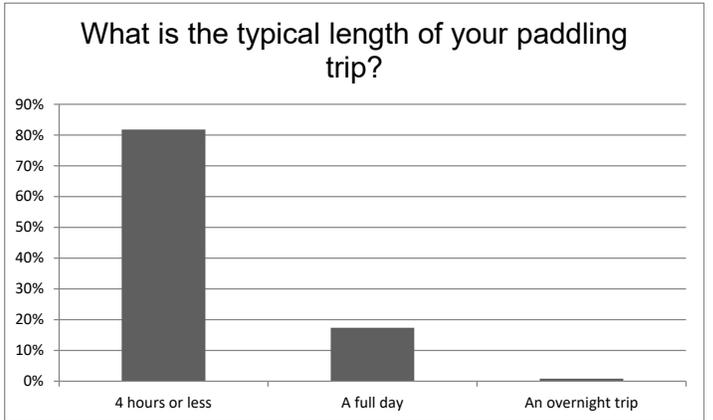
Q23: DO YOU TYPICALLY BRING YOUR OWN WATERCRAFT TO THE RECREATION AREA OR DO YOU RENT?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
I BRING MY OWN WATERCRAFT (CANOE, KAYAK, STAND-UP PADDLEBOARD, OR TUBE)	76.22%	452
I RENT A CANOE, KAYAK, OR STAND-UP PADDLEBOARD AT THE RECREATION AREA LIVERY	23.78%	141
ANSWERED		593
SKIPPED		1335
ANSWERED	329	
SKIPPED	183	



Q24: WHAT IS THE TYPICAL LENGTH OF YOUR PADDLING TRIP?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
4 HOURS OR LESS	81.79%	485
A FULL DAY	17.37%	103
AN OVERNIGHT TRIP	0.84%	5
ANSWERED		593
SKIPPED		1335

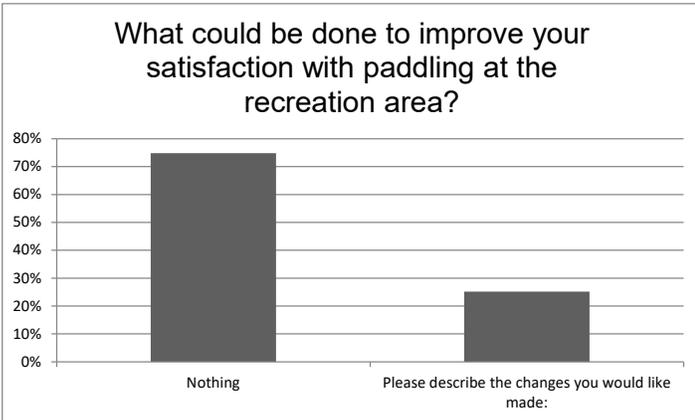


Q25: PLEASE RATE YOUR LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH YOUR PADDLING EXPERIENCE. (1 = HIGHLY DISSATISFIED, 5 = NEUTRAL AND 9 = HIGHLY SATISFIED)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total	Weighted Avg.									
1	2.36%	14	1.18%	7	1.86%	11	0.68%	4	7.60%	45	9.63%	57	25.51%	151	22.64%	134	28.55%	169	592	7.25
ANSWERED																				592
SKIPPED																				1336

Q26: WHAT COULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE YOUR SATISFACTION WITH PADDLING AT THE RECREATION AREA?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
NOTHING	74.83%	431
PLEASE DESCRIBE THE CHANGES YOU WOULD LIKE MADE:	25.17%	145
ANSWERED		576
SKIPPED		1352



Please describe the desired changes:

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

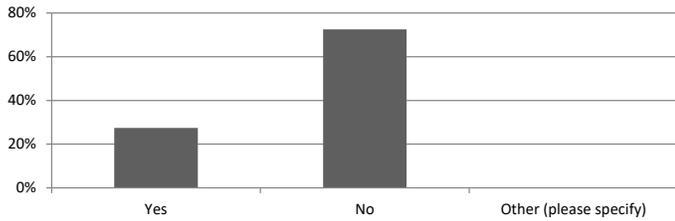
- 6. Parking for truck and boat trailer by the launch
- 18. Too many weeds around beach area. Now i have a kayak to do the whole lake.
- 22. Often it appears numerous paddlers engage in alcohol consumption on the river. Not sure if allowed or not currently, but the resultant behavior is often disruptive and degrades the experience. So, banning alcohol would be welcome if not already done, then enforcement would be appreciated.
- 31. Add handicap accessible ramps for canoe and kayak
- 45. Monitoring the Huron River for intoxicated paddlers, too many drunks on the river.
- 46. In the spring there are sometimes trees obstructing the river.
- 48. Better launching areas, signage along the river
- 53. Better access
- 54. Ask people to not use speakers to play music from their boats.
- 62. Widen launch area for turnaround of vehicles and simultaneous launch of kayaks
- 66. Slow the power boats down.
- 69. It's too crowded on the River! But it's a great facility and

- easy to paddle either direction
- 78. Motorcraft generally disregard kayakers safety
- 81. Clean up Nortan creek.
- 86. Parking a vehicle at peak use times
- 89. The transition of watercraft over the portage at the weir is often complicated by swimmers and waders as you transfer from Moss lake to the Huron River. Swimmer do not typically separate and make way for those portaging in watercraft. There might be some benefit to make a portage point slightly to the east of the weir.
- 94. More accessibility for drop ins at dam area
- 98. Picnic areas(with out houses) between campground & kensington metro
- 107. Kayak launch
- 120. So minor, but I wish it was easier to beach in Milford to visit stores and restaurants.
- 123. It can be very crowded on the river.
- 126. Improve the launch site launch area
- 127. Limit motorized use, either areas or times.
- 128. Only issues are with other kayakers blasting loud music. Not much anyone can do about that.
- 130. it can't be helped, but it gets pretty crowded and chaotic at the launch sites sometimes
- 133. often just really crowded, otherwise a nice area to paddle when its not busy
- 134. The portages could be improved
- 135. better access to water and more access to water
- 138. Better access
- 140. Permit alcoholic beverages for adults

Q27: HAVE YOU EVER USED ANY OF THE OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS (CAMPGROUND, MINI CABINS, CAMPER CABINS, RIVER HAWK LODGE OR GROUP CAMP) AT THE RECREATION AREA?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
YES	27.47%	403
NO	72.53%	1064
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	0.00%	0
ANSWERED		1467
SKIPPED		461

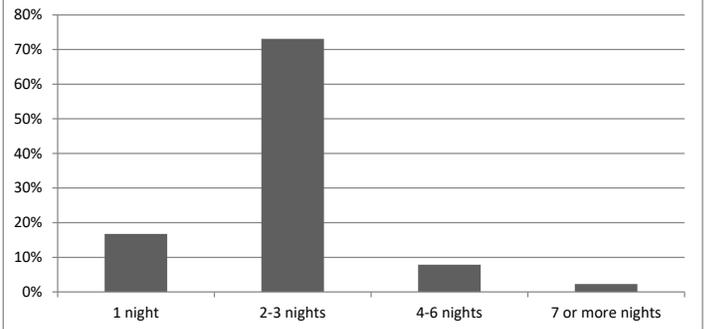
Have you ever used any of the overnight accommodations (campground, mini cabins, camper cabins, River Hawk Lodge or group camp) at the recreation area?



Q29: ON AVERAGE, WHAT IS YOUR TYPICAL LENGTH OF STAY?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
1 NIGHT	16.75%	66
2-3 NIGHTS	73.10%	288
4-6 NIGHTS	7.87%	31
7 OR MORE NIGHTS	2.28%	9
ANSWERED		394
SKIPPED		1534

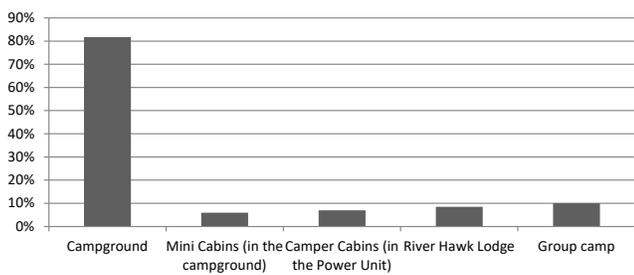
On average, what is your typical length of stay?



Q28: IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, WHICH OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS HAVE YOU USED IN THE RECREATION AREA?

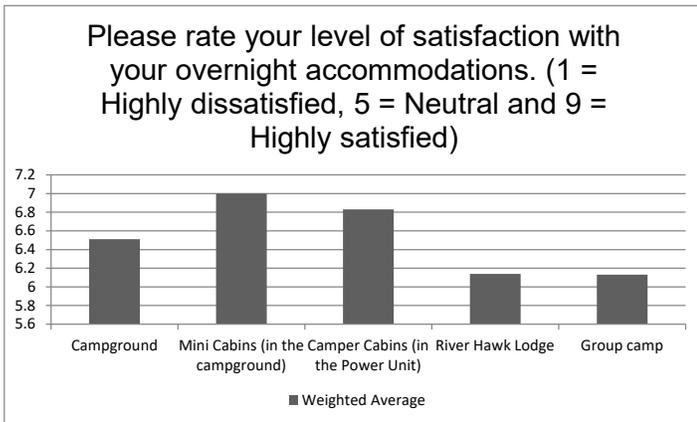
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
CAMPGROUND	81.75%	318
MINI CABINS (IN THE CAMPGROUND)	5.91%	23
CAMPER CABINS (IN THE POWER UNIT)	6.94%	27
RIVER HAWK LODGE	8.48%	33
GROUP CAMP	10.03%	39
ANSWERED		389
SKIPPED		1539

In the past five years, which overnight accommodations have you used in the recreation area?



Q30: PLEASE RATE YOUR LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH YOUR OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS. (1 = HIGHLY DISSATISFIED, 5 = NEUTRAL AND 9 = HIGHLY SATISFIED)

	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVG
CAMPGROUND	1.30%	4	1.95%	6	1.95%	6	3.25%	10	7.79%	24	10.06%	31	25.97%	80	23.38%	72	24.35%	75	308	6.51
MINI CABINS (IN THE CAMPGROUND)	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	4.55%	1	0.00%	0	4.55%	1	4.55%	1	18.18%	4	31.82%	7	36.36%	8	22	7
CAMPER CABINS (IN THE POWER UNIT)	3.85%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.85%	1	7.69%	2	26.92%	7	26.92%	7	30.77%	8	26	6.83
RIVER HAWK LODGE	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	6.25%	2	6.25%	2	15.63%	5	6.25%	2	12.50%	4	21.88%	7	31.25%	10	32	6.14
GROUP CAMP	5.26%	2	5.26%	2	2.63%	1	0.00%	0	5.26%	2	15.79%	6	18.42%	7	26.32%	10	21.05%	8	38	6.13
ANSWERED																				379
SKIPPED																				1549
SKIPPED	500																			



Q31: WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS?

ANSWERED	304
SKIPPED	1624

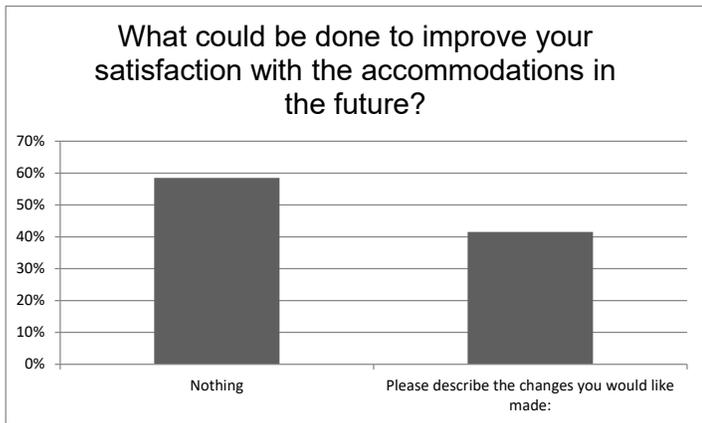
Comments:

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 30. Boat launch at the campground.
- 33. Close to home
- 37. the view
- 52. The campground is kept very neat and clean, bathrooms are excellent.
- 62. convenient
- 68. Peaceful
- 73. The modern bathroom facilities

- 80. The access to the mountain bike trail.
- 92. Large sites. Clean restroom and showers. Great job!
- 99. Clean, spacious, quiet and ease of access to the trails
- 111. Easy access
- 123. Kayak, hiking, biking, swimming, and fishing were all accessible with a short walk from the campsite
- 146. Size of site
- 149. Shady, few bugs
- 162. Ease of parking
- 175. Quiet, by the water, lots of space
- 179. Shade
- 192. Clean updated showers and restrooms
- 205. Available spots
- 209. Clean campsites and fellow respectful guests
- 211. The sites are big
- 216. Clean and DNR staff has been very nice
- 241. Camp host activities, site size, facilities.
- 263. everything was good
- 271. Nothing
- 277. Nice sites with a view of the lake.
- 279. Cleanliness and River/lake access.
- 282. Peaceful
- 283. Modern bathrooms
- 299. Clean

Q32: WHAT COULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE YOUR SATISFACTION WITH THE ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE FUTURE?		
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
NOTHING	58.49%	217
PLEASE DESCRIBE THE CHANGES YOU WOULD LIKE MADE:	41.51%	154
ANSWERED		371
SKIPPED		1557



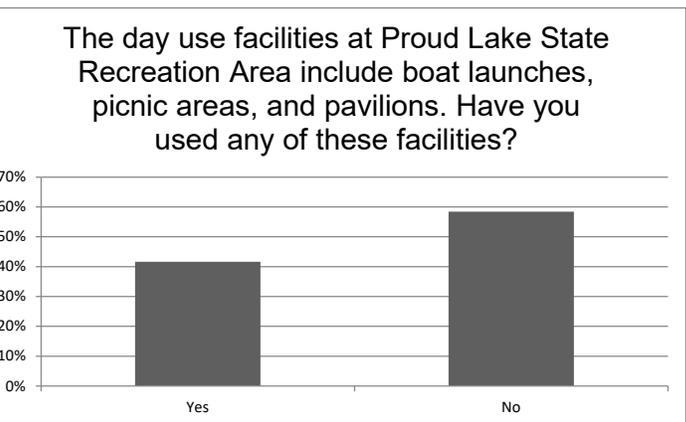
Please describe the desired changes:

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 11. More trees in the campground to open not enough privacy
- 14. Update and expand bathrooms.
- 23. Upgrade lodge rooms with new mattresses, furniture.
- 24. plant some tree cover from where the put the power lines in
- 29. Level the sites
- 30. Kill poison ivy on back edge of camp sites
- 43. Electric water
- 47. Have larger/ more private campsites.
- 50. More campsites and some tucked away into the woods more.
- 51. More secluded rustic camp sites, with quiet hours.
- 53. more level sites
- 58. Full hook up sites
- 71. Had to move campsite due too leveling issues. Nothing in my RV would work due to the slant of the campsite. The one 50 amp site available, was being used by some one in a tent running a coffee pot. The CampGround system should do a better job of assigning sites. Campground is known not to have level sites throughout the camping community.

- 72. Would like to see more of the facilities around the lodge updated and used regularly.
- 81. Sites are too close and small. Need a second bathroom building for other section
- 84. Better beds
- 86. More site options for big rvs, flat paved sites
- 91. This campground was never intended for the modern size campers. Group camp area always seems under utilized. Consider options to expand campsites.
- 92. enlarge the campsites
- 95. New beds, the cots are uncomfortable
- 98. more trees on the sunny sights
- 103. Update the beach.
- 106. Add AC, better beds, update bathrooms
- 108. Sites need to be leveled out and or changed to fit campers better.
- 121. More trees/shade
- 126. Full Hookups
- 128. Larger sites, full hook up, trees between sites
- 136. Full hookups, more trees
- 147. Did not like the largepowerlines
- 148. I would have more people stay if the beds were better

Q33: THE DAY USE FACILITIES AT PROUD LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA INCLUDE BOAT LAUNCHES, PICNIC AREAS, AND PAVILIONS. HAVE YOU USED ANY OF THESE FACILITIES?		
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
YES	41.63%	609
NO	58.44%	855
ANSWERED		1463
SKIPPED		465
SKIPPED	491	



PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT

Q34: THINKING OF ONLY THE DAY USE FACILITIES WHICH YOU HAVE USED, PLEASE RATE YOUR LEVEL OF SATISFACTION. (1 = HIGHLY DISSATISFIED, 5 = NEUTRAL AND 9 = HIGHLY SATISFIED):

	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVG.
1	1.84%	11	1.34%	8	1.17%	7	2.01%	12	14.07%	84	8.71%	52	27.97%	167	21.27%	127	21.61%	129	597	6.99
PLEASE DESCRIBE WHAT MOST INFLUENCED YOUR RATING.																			294	
ANSWERED																				597
SKIPPED																				1331

Please describe what influenced your rating:

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 31. The pavilion at group camp and the toilets are really useful
- 40. Easy access
- 41. Nothing too special, typical stuff. Would like to see better facilities
- 44. Stuff
- 47. Accessibility, I've rarely seen any horse users at the day use facilities
- 48. Access and cleanliness
- 55. Ability to enjoy my activity.
- 59. Easily accessible
- 80. We used the facilities passing through for lunch and rest.
- 100. Typical public toilets
- 101. Bathrooms are clean when we used them on our paddle trips.
- 106. Good biking trail but need park needs more toilets
- 116. Nice amenities
- 139. Local access to all of the above
- 144. No access to south boat launch .
- 147. Lack of crowds
- 165. Location
- 171. nothing. it's not bad nor good i guess.
- 172. nice sheltered picnic table
- 180. Clean, convenient
- 200. We swim & kayak in the river & love it!
- 212. its a state park.. can only expect so much
- 215. Bathrooms not very clean
- 222. Cleanliness and good clean well water
- 227. Kayak access
- 230. Ease of access

- 242. Not kept up
- 250. clean and easy approach
- 285. private
- 288. Ease of use

Q35: WHAT DID YOU LIKE THE MOST ABOUT THE DAY-USE FACILITIES?

ANSWERED	386
SKIPPED	1542

Comments:

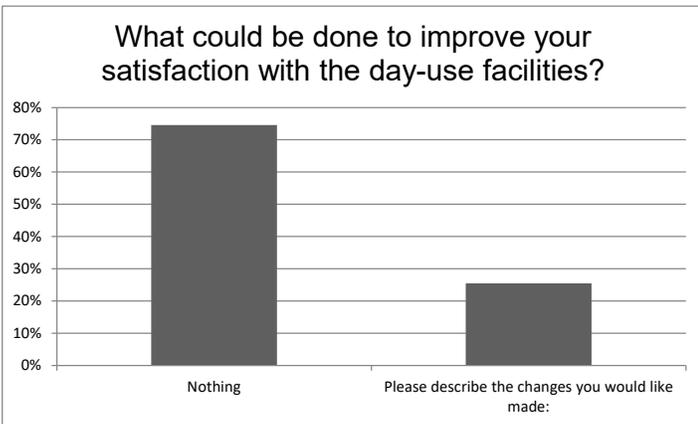
(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 13. Nice clean
- 53. The cleanliness is generally on point.
- 76. Ease of access
- 88. lots of nice spread out areas to grill or do whatever
- 89. Overall just great!
- 97. convenience
- 105. Shade and picnic tables
- 134. I like that the bathrooms are not just pit toilets
- 143. Lots of parking
- 174. Natural habitat andy not too commercialized
- 196. Convenient
- 211. Easy access and very clean
- 228. They were clean and there was a lot of pretty views
- 248. Great park environment
- 256. all
- 263. Picturesque settings
- 267. Restrooms not vault toilets
- 276. area
- 294. Very close to home
- 301. Picnic areas

- 309. Same
- 311. Easy access
- 314. Easy access
- 336. They were easy to use and find.
- 344. Just picniced once
- 357. Pavilions and fire pits are great. Certainly a huge blessing when the weather goes pear shaped.
- 367. Readily available
- 368. Clean.
- 384. Easy to use
- 386 Lack of crowds.

- 43. Update the picnic shelters, add some playground pieces or other attractions.
- 45. General upgrades, aesthetics
- 57. NA
- 58. Maintenance
- 60. Add a sign for equestrian day staging parking entrance
- 62. Non horse people climbing on stuff
- 64. larger grassy shore at launch area for canoes and kayaks or other hand launched craft
- 65. Improve the beach
- 83. Potable water at picnic shelters
- 93. Picnic area
- 95. Please keep the lot cut. Sometimes overgrown
- 99. Provide carts to help transport equipment from the parking area to the group camp.
- 104. Fix up the restroom facility near the small pond off the river, by the two cabins
- 109. Not sure you can do it, but less geese
- 113. clean out the back side of the launch dock so waiting boats can be out of the way.
- 121. More garbage cans, people leave garbage possibly adding more garbage cans next to the launch would influence people to make better decisions.
- 122. Nothing can be done about it, but PFAS has reduced our use of the river. Very limited fishing as the entire river, all the way to Lake Erie is tagged no consumption.
- 123. update and provide more covered options
- 129. Parking is horrible. Non trailer vehicles take over the lot and park all over the place.
- 133. Improve launch area
- 134. remove tubing, kayaking, bike trails, etc.
- 135. Better parking, more boat launch options for kayaks.
- 136. More access points to lake

Q36: WHAT COULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE YOUR SATISFACTION WITH THE DAY-USE FACILITIES?		
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
NOTHING	74.58%	399
PLEASE DESCRIBE THE CHANGES YOU WOULD LIKE MADE:	25.42%	136
ANSWERED		535
SKIPPED		1393



Please describe the desired changes:

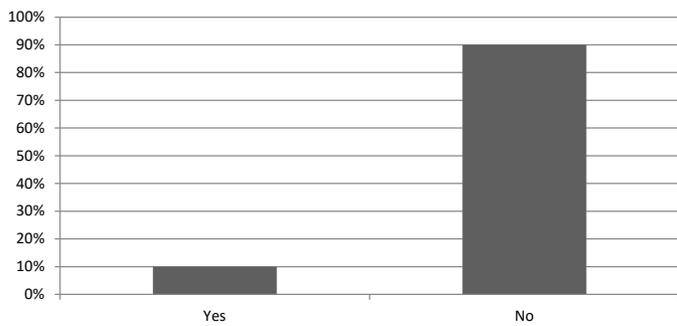
(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

- 6. Need closer access to potable water
- 13. Not sure but I'm sure there are some
- 18. Routine cleaning
- 25. Running water and electricity could be added if a campground is added here too
- 30. Make picnic ground accessible by vehicle.
- 31. update?
- 34. Outhouses could be cleaner, also a lot of goose poop

Q37: DO YOU HUNT OR TRAP AT THE RECREATION AREA?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
YES	10.01%	146
NO	89.99%	1312
ANSWERED		1458
SKIPPED		470

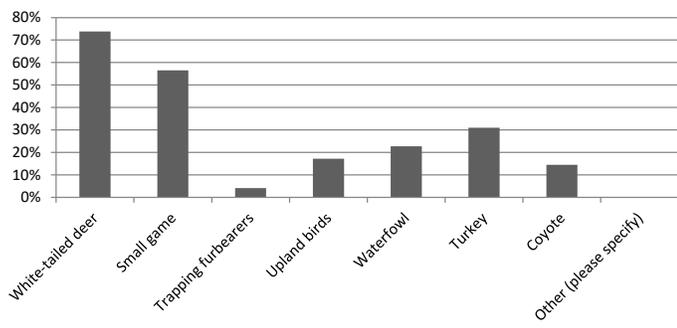
Do you hunt or trap at the recreation area?



Q38: WHAT DO YOU HUNT OR TRAP? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
WHITE-TAILED DEER	73.79%	107
SMALL GAME	56.55%	82
TRAPPING FURBEARERS	4.14%	6
UPLAND BIRDS	17.24%	25
WATERFOWL	22.76%	33
TURKEY	31.03%	45
COYOTE	14.48%	21
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	0.00%	0
ANSWERED		145
SKIPPED		1783

What do you hunt or trap? (Check all that apply)



Q39: PLEASE ENTER ANY COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE ABOUT HUNTING AND TRAPPING AT THE RECREATION AREA.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES COUNT
ANSWERED	74
SKIPPED	1854

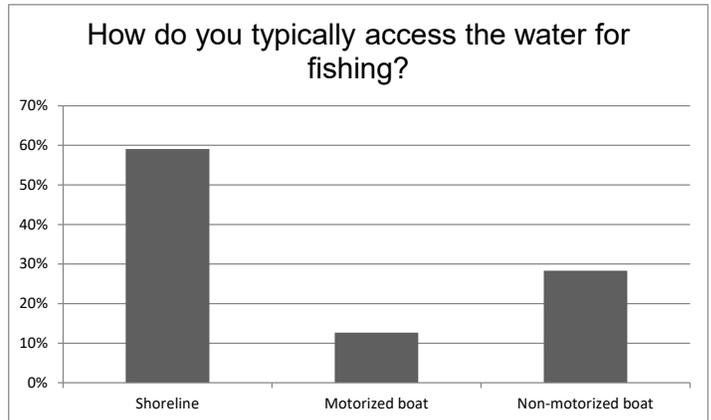
Comments:

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

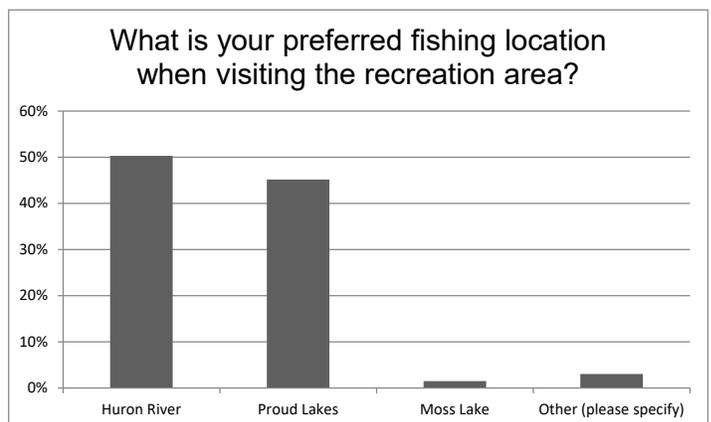
4. I love that hunting is open in the western part of the park. I'd like to see more of the park opened up to deer hunting
7. Very nice area close to home. Beautiful lands and water. Deer population is hard to locate during hunting season.
8. More habitat management outside of food plots
12. Consider making an are open to only small game & upland birds, excluding deer hunting. Archery deer hunters act like their "stand" and the surrounding area is their private property.
13. Seems pretty busy so I don't hunt there much
15. The deer hunting is great. Especially since I can scout my hunting areas earlier in the year when mountain biking.
18. Need more boundry signs north section of land
23. Like most Michigan state land it is being over developed and ruined by human intrusion. The more that you make these areas easy access the fewer species I see and the more trash and damage I see to the landscape. Hunting here is not worth the time any longer.
26. Piss Poor
27. Have had people walk in on my hunt that were oblivious to the fact hunting is allowed in the area
28. It is very unsafe presently and something must be done before there is a fatal accident. I was quite distraught to see that trails were in hunting areas without clear markings or signage.
29. Please keep hunting open
35. Wish there was more information about hunting available like where. I really would like to waterfowl hunt there but I can't find info. Maybe something online explaining the good opportunities there. Maybe a workshop for people new to the area. Maps?
39. Love the opportunity to go hunting here since the areas to hunt are getting less and less
41. Trail maps would help.
42. I just hope it is never restricted because there are so few places you can hunt compared to the number of hunters. Especially in Southeast MI.
45. It can be very crowded at times

- 49. seems very territorial
- 52. Too many hunters during firearm
- 54. I'm not likely to hunt it any longer since I now have access to private property in the area.
- 56. Little to much traffic at times. Am ok
- 57. Habitat improvement; clear cutting, brush piles and other game improvements for birds and rabbits.
- 62. Need more habitat..work
- 63. Please keep the park open for hunting
- 66. It would be nice to make it clear that hikers are in an area open to hunting and that there are active seasons. I have had a few interaction with hikers and bikers, especially during spring turkey, where they seem genuinely surprised that hunting is allowed.
- 67. This area is a wonderful opportunity for kids and first time outdoorsman to experience hunting and fishing. The trout stocking for kids in early Spring is an excellent program. Our kids and some of their friends have enjoyed chasing these trout up and down the Huron river over the past decade. Thank You
- 70. Please open more areas- even if bow only
- 71. Please develop habitat for these species and consider that hunters do not like bike trails and hiking trails throughout the recreation area. We want to go where someone doesn't interfere by mountain biking, yelling, talking. If the areas remain undeveloped, you can limit the interference.
- 73. Deer regulations regarding removing treestands really needs to be enforced. People leave treestands and all sorts of trash and are never contacted.
- 74. need to make hunting available south of moss lake

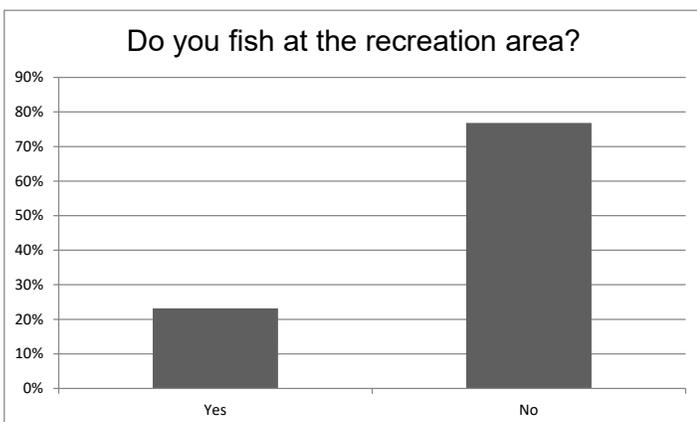
Q41: HOW DO YOU TYPICALLY ACCESS THE WATER FOR FISHING?		
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
SHORELINE	59.04%	196
MOTORIZED BOAT	12.65%	42
NON-MOTORIZED BOAT	28.31%	94
ANSWERED		332
SKIPPED		1596



Q42: WHAT IS YOUR PREFERRED FISHING LOCATION WHEN VISITING THE RECREATION AREA?		
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
HURON RIVER	50.30%	166
PROUD LAKES	45.15%	149
MOSS LAKE	1.52%	5
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	3.03%	10
ANSWERED		330
SKIPPED		1598



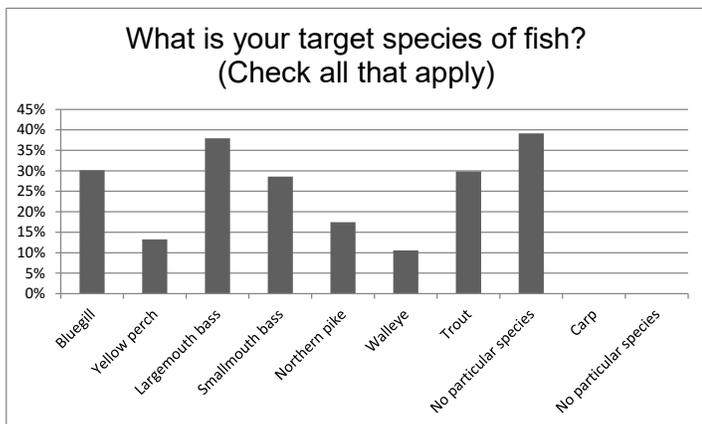
Q40: DO YOU FISH AT THE RECREATION AREA?		
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
YES	23.18%	338
NO	76.82%	1120
ANSWERED		1458
SKIPPED		470



Others, Please specify:

1. All the above, paddle up to commerce lake!
2. Lake at the campground
3. The rivers
4. Campground launch area or the area west of the swim area
5. Campground lake
6. All of above
7. Any
8. Na
9. Stream fly fishing
10. All of the above
11. Na
12. Stream fly fishing
13. All of the above

Q43: WHAT IS YOUR TARGET SPECIES OF FISH? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)		
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
BLUEGILL	30.12%	100
YELLOW PERCH	13.25%	44
LARGEMOUTH BASS	37.95%	126
SMALLMOUTH BASS	28.61%	95
NORTHERN PIKE	17.47%	58
WALLEYE	10.54%	35
TROUT	29.82%	99
NO PARTICULAR SPECIES	39.16%	130
CARP	0.00%	0
NO PARTICULAR SPECIES	0.00%	0
ANSWERED		332
SKIPPED		1596



Q44: PLEASE ENTER ANY COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE ABOUT FISHING AT THE RECREATION AREA.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES COUNT
ANSWERED	102
SKIPPED	1826

Comments:

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

3. Seems that folks fish above the marker below the dam. Many non compliant folks there.
5. Love the catch and release trout fishing in the spring.
10. It's fun.
15. Fish with my grandkids...just for the fun and experience.
18. improve shoreline access
20. stock more fish
23. Putting the trout there is nice to look at but I haven't tried to fish for them. I like to launch at the bridge at Norton Creek and go up and down river
24. Love the early catch and release fly fishing season for trout.
27. Trout catch and release is my favorite time to fish, once trout season opens I don't go because of the crowd. This area needs to be patrolled during trout opener and beyond.
30. I did a couple of numbers ago .
32. Great bass fishing in the river
33. Great place
39. end stockerfest.
40. The amount of trash in the water and on the land is proportional to the amount of access and "recreation opportunity" you provide to the public.
44. I hope the PFAS get cleaned up!
46. Please keep doing the trout release at the Huron River.
47. As mentioned previously the launch comes with frustration and sometimes limited accessibility
54. supporter of Michigan Fly Fish Club
57. Nothing to add to fishing
60. Monitoring fishing by the dAm
63. Have 1 son that is fishing crazy so we do it for him
64. Proud Lake was really overgrown so perhaps we should ck out the others as time permits.
65. I would like more shorefishing areas
68. Currently avoiding fish due to PFOS
80. The regulations are confusing and not well posted. Also, on occasion my kidshave been swimming at the little dam and people have started casting over their heads.

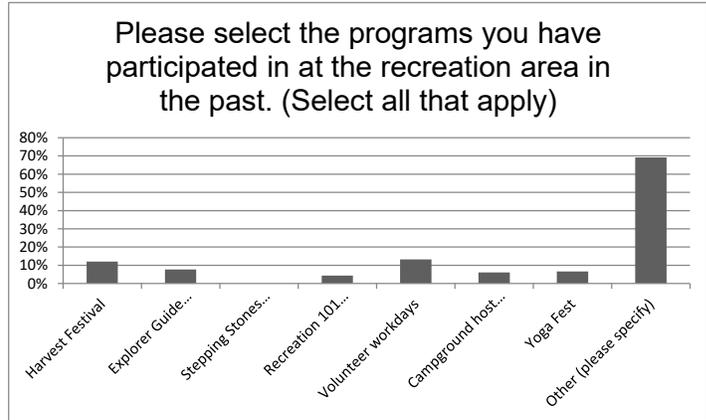
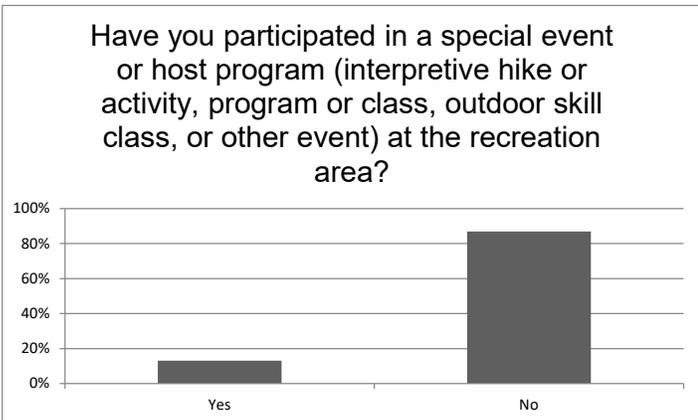
- 84. Add a fishing pier.
- 86. Continue to plant trout in the Spring. Add more shoreline at the Campground area to fish.
- 89. Needs more toothy fishes
- 94. I have fished less since PFAS contamination discovered
- 101. Better fishing access on Proud and Moss Lakes

Q46: PLEASE SELECT THE PROGRAMS YOU HAVE PARTICIPATED IN AT THE RECREATION AREA IN THE PAST. (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
HARVEST FESTIVAL	12.09%	22
EXPLORER GUIDE PROGRAM (FISHING, NATURE PROGRAMS)	7.69%	14
STEPPING STONES OUTREACH PROGRAM	0.00%	0
RECREATION 101 PROGRAM (CANOEING/ KAYAKING CLASS)	4.40%	8
VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS	13.19%	24
CAMPGROUND HOST PROGRAM	6.04%	11
YOGA FEST	6.59%	12
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	69.23%	126
ANSWERED		182
SKIPPED		1746

Q45: HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN A SPECIAL EVENT OR HOST PROGRAM (INTERPRETIVE HIKE OR ACTIVITY, PROGRAM OR CLASS, OUTDOOR SKILL CLASS, OR OTHER EVENT) AT THE RECREATION AREA?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES COUNT
YES	13.08%	190
NO	86.92%	1263
ANSWERED		1453
SKIPPED		475



PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT

Q47: PLEASE RATE THE LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH THE PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES IN WHICH YOU PARTICIPATED. (1 = HIGHLY DISSATISFIED, 5 = NEUTRAL, 9 = HIGHLY SATISFIED)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL	WEIGH- TED AVG.									
HARVEST FESTIVAL	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	4.76%	1	4.76%	1	9.52%	2	42.86%	9	38.10%	8	21	8.05		
EXPLORER GUIDE PROGRAM (FISHING, NATURE PROGRAMS)	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	7.14%	1	7.14%	1	7.14%	1	21.43%	3	57.14%	8	14	8.14		
STEPPING STONES OUTREACH PROGRAM	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0	0		
RECREATION 101 PROGRAM (CANOEING/ KAYAKING CLASS)	0.00%	0	12.50%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	12.50%	1	62.50%	5	12.50%	1	8	7.25
VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS	0.00%	0	4.17%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	25.00%	6	4.17%	1	25.00%	6	20.83%	5	20.83%	5	24	6.88
CAMPGROUND HOST PROGRAM	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	10.00%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	30.00%	3	60.00%	6	10	8.1
YOGA FEST	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	9.09%	1	27.27%	3	0.00%	0	63.64%	7	11	8.18
[INSERT TEXT FROM OTHER]	2.44%	3	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	6.50%	8	2.44%	3	12.20%	15	21.14%	26	55.28%	68	123	8.02
ANSWERED																				181
SKIPPED																				1747

Q48: PLEASE ENTER ANY COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE ON THE SPECIAL EVENTS OR PROGRAMS IN WHICH YOU PARTICIPATED.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
ANSWERED	55
SKIPPED	1873

Comments:

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

1. DNR served hot chocolate for donation. Loved it!
2. they were very well organized and enjoyable
4. "Please separate bicycles from horse trails before someone gets hurt.

Have bicycles repair the trails they destroy

Please do not allow bicycle racing events at Proud Lake. "

6. none
8. It was a little out of my strength

10. Barefoot and free has been very successful as an event and gets bigger every year so things like that would be wonderful.
11. Always well organized and great recreation time
15. Milford Bike Fest
16. Great tour of the trails at Milford Bike Fest
17. Nice
21. The Motor City Mountain Bike Associations commitment to maintaining the trail system with volunteers and their own resources is amazing. It far surpasses any other group including the State of Michigan. Most of the trails the State advertises were built and maintained by volunteers.
22. The rangers did a fantastic job with the kids during the June 17, 2021 Archery 101 class!
23. They're great for the kids
24. Loved it, great safe way for kids and family to get out on the trail
25. Enjoy having the extra parking available. Please remove bump from road to extra parking.
26. It was great to see hundreds of mountain bikers at

- the recent Milford mtb Fest, great group rides, really enjoyed the group ride through Proud Lake.
30. The proud lake trail riders association did a great job of planning and hosting the event!
 31. Well organized
 33. Love the programs for younger kids
 34. Well organized
 35. I really love the Pancake program as you get to eat with your camping neighbors.
 37. Harvest fest is very nice, my kids are older now but we still like to camp with friends and enjoy the fall festivities
 38. Trails were well marked and trimmed back
 40. Love every one! Cannot wait for them to return!
 41. fun
 44. Kids participated
 45. Trails are great, but hate dealing with horse manure
 47. I have been a guest at a few events in the park and have found everyone to be very welcoming and friendly. The park is beautiful and I enjoy each and every visit. Keep up the great work, and I hope to continue visiting and become more involved in the future.
 50. Yoga was Great
 52. I was glad the park dropped activities off for the kids to do during covid and still allowed everyone to trick or treat.

20. Milford Trail Challenge
22. More cycling clinics, mtb races, misc cycling events
23. Not sure if event is happening this year
24. Events to get new people outside, or trying new things are always great
26. Bring back the Junior Ranger program. It gives child a chance to interact with nature, there parents and the park ranger.
27. Mountain bike races
28. More horse activities
29. Music or sport festivals
32. More horse camping events!
34. An obstacle course competition, an equestrian parade day with costume competition and exhibitions and pony rides for kids 12 and under.
35. MTB races
36. More Mt.Bike kids events. Huron Valley Youth Cycling club has 180+ kids that Mt. Bike Proud Lake every couple weeks. Would be every week if they had more trail loops to ride. Youth Mt. Biking is one of the fastest growing sports, will be done for the rest of there lives.
39. I would gladly work to build separate bike trails. Have Shovel, Will Travel!!
40. Fourth of July programs. Easter hunts.
42. Nature Center
43. More biking events
48. Mountain bike skills
50. more bike events, like a race of some kind
53. More- much more- cycling events that reflect the growing interest in the sport particularly with young riders
57. Yoga more often
58. Night hikes in the winter would be cool.

Q49: WHAT, IF ANY, ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS OR EVENTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE AVAILABLE AT THE RECREATION AREA IN THE FUTURE?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
ANSWERED	63
SKIPPED	1865

Comments:

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

4. Plant identification walks, birding events.
5. A camp cooking weekend pot luck dinner
8. More child based activities for kids
10. can't think of anything
13. More events and camping year round
14. Please continue to maintain horse trails for endurance / competitive trail rides
16. More bike connection to adjacent trail
17. More orienteering, bike races, adventure races. Astronomy programs
19. Education on edible native plants.

Q50: PLEASE SHARE ANY OTHER THOUGHTS YOU MAY HAVE ON THE RECREATION AREA.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
ANSWERED	486
SKIPPED	1442

Comments:

(30 randomly selected responses are listed below. Full results available upon request)

4. The sign about fishing restrictions in the spring near the dam was confusing. My 7 year old son and I tried to fish in the right place (far enough from the dam) but the ranger told us we were in the wrong spot. She was very nice about it. We saw others make the same mistake after reading the sign. Perhaps it could be worded

- differently so people understood more easily.
63. Keep trails for separate use for safety.
 81. This park sits right next to Commerce, which is obviously thriving. I'm not sure why there aren't more planned activities here to get more of the community in there.
 84. Sometimes equestrians want to monopolize the trails
 110. Please add a trailhead parking lot and add non-equestrian 1 way trails!
 128. more places to bike are always better
 138. Please continue to support and enhance the biking trails here
 147. Please keep all of the mountain biking trails open. They are really great and it would be a shame to get rid of them. The local mountain biking association that maintains them has done a great job.
 194. I really enjoy camping at Proud Lake Recreation Area. Consider keeping the campground open later, through November until the first week in December.
 208. Proud Lake has potential for great mountain bike trails. The connectors are great for going between parks and the trails if better marked and separate from equestrian would be on par with any other trails in the area
 218. Would really like improvements in the mountain biking trails, prime park for this!
 219. Please at least keep available for mountain biking
 227. Improve the Mountain Biking experience by adding: a dedicated trailhead, more miles of 1 way trail separate from equestrian trails, connector trails to other recreation areas including DNR, Metropark, and City owned trail systems.
 252. I enjoy having such a wonderful park so close for hiking and biking with my son. More trails would be great but overall, we are happy.
 282. Just need a better sign for the entrance of the road to the horse staging area. It's too far back on the road to see it from the fork. And it's small!
 295. It is important to share the space and NOT take space away from those who use it often. Mountain biking is HUGE in this area and benefits from having Proud Lake Trail!
 300. If possible, please add more bike trails
 305. Proud Lake does not have a lot for families to do. I'm a senior, and had bad experiences with the condition and levels of the lots available.
 327. The supervisor and staff at Proud Lake are a great support team throughout the year.
 341. Campground management is solid. Tough to control people who are inconsiderate though. I've been camping there over 50 years and I'm over it now. To crowded and polluted for me at this point. Actually was boxed in by two 30' campers and one Motor Home that had no business at that location. Went from a small lake view to a room with no view. We just loaded up and

headed home. Had my car bumped and an obviously intoxicated camper ask me to back up the car for them, so they could leave after a spat with there comrades. Guess what, I obliged them. Multiple Sheriff calls and a Jed Clampet affair with a disputed eviction and late night pack up. Same old Proud Lake!

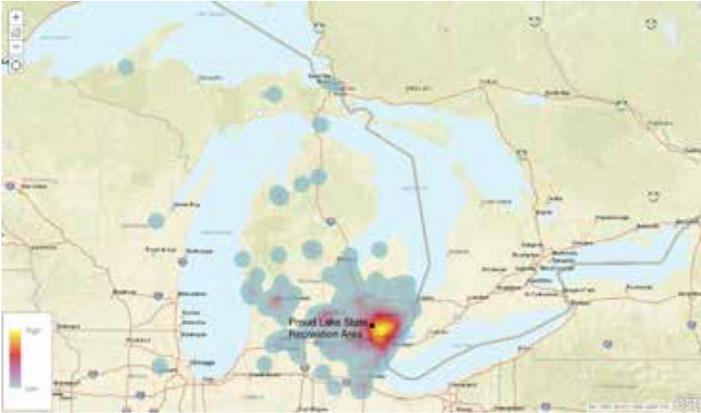
347. looking forward to utilizing River Hawk Lodge for future activity
350. Campground needs to be updated. Sites leveled and a playground for kids.
378. It is one of our favorite parks in the area and the one I visit most often. Both my sons did their Eagle Scout service projects at Proud Lake. The staff there was very nice to work with.
391. This is a great park for metro Detroit and an asset to youth group organizations.
420. This area has been my favorite park ever since my cross country team hosted summer camp at the lodge for a few days. In the 7 years since, I've been at proud lake at least once a month and very frequently more than once at week! It's a great area and I'm so grateful to everyone that keeps it going
433. I really like Proud Lake, and think it's a diamond in the rough. It would take much to make it a first class Park.
435. Separate trails for biking, as the trail surfaces resulting from shared equestrian use are not ideal.
449. Add a playground
454. It's a great park! Thanks for the survey.
478. Personally the hoof prints made riding a bike not enjoyable but I'm happy to share the trail. I just don't visit often.

Q51: (OPTIONAL) SHARE A PHOTO OF YOUR EXPERIENCE AT PROUD LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA! BY UPLOADING A PHOTO, YOU GRANT PERMISSION TO THE DNR TO USE THE PHOTO.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
ANSWERED	135
SKIPPED	1793

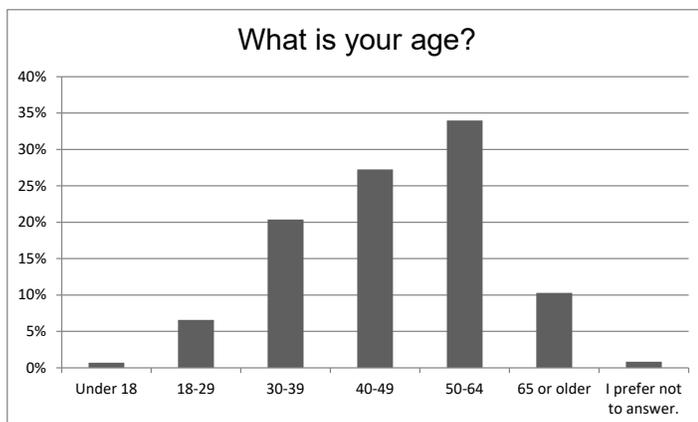
Q52: WHAT IS THE ZIP CODE OF YOUR PRIMARY RESIDENCE?

ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES	
ANSWERED				1572
SKIPPED				356



Map depicting the zip code of survey respondents' primary residence. Brighter colors indicate a greater concentration of respondents. A small number of respondents were located outside of the map area.

Q53: WHAT IS YOUR AGE?		
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
UNDER 18	0.69%	11
18-29	6.58%	105
30-39	20.38%	325
40-49	27.27%	435
50-64	33.98%	542
65 OR OLDER	10.28%	164
I PREFER NOT TO ANSWER.	0.82%	13
ANSWERED		1595
SKIPPED		333



Q54: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES YOU?		
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
WHITE, NON-HISPANIC	83.50%	1311
AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKAN NATIVE	0.51%	8
ASIAN	2.04%	32
BLACK OR AFRICAN-AMERICAN	0.83%	13
HISPANIC, LATINO OR SPANISH ORIGIN	1.66%	26
NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER	0.19%	3
PREFER NOT TO ANSWER	9.30%	146
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	1.97%	31
ANSWERED		1570
SKIPPED		358

Q55: IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE INFORMED ABOUT THE UPCOMING DRAFT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW, PLEASE LEAVE YOUR CONTACT INFO BELOW:		
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
NAME:	99.40%	658
EMAIL:	99.24%	657
ANSWERED		662
SKIPPED		1266

B.6 Summary of Draft Plan Public Input

The public was invited to share their thoughts about the Proud Lake State Recreation Area Draft General Management Plan at a virtual public meeting that was hosted online by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on December 9, 2021, from 6:00- 7:00 p.m. The general public was notified about the meeting through a press release, internet postings, and email notifications. A total of 73 attendees were recorded.

The meeting began with a brief introduction of planning team members, followed by a short overview of the general management plan process, Proud Lake State Recreation Area, and the draft general management plan contents. The presentation was followed by a short question and answer period. Topics discussed included the proposed trail separation project, potential campground upgrades, invasive species management, and others. The answers to the questions can be viewed on the following pages.

At the end of the meeting, attendees were asked to visit the interactive public input survey link to review and comment on the statements of significance, management zone plan, and ten-year actions goals. There was also a section for additional feedback on the management plan and the input process. The survey link was posted to the project website, along with a recording of the meeting and the report of the questions and answers from the meeting. The survey link was open through December 23, 2021. Comments could also be submitted during that time via email.

Within the survey, participants were asked to prioritize their top five action goals from the ten-year action goals list. Some of the top priority goals were:

- Separate the bicycling and equestrian trail systems in coordination with user groups
- Continue to review opportunities to connect to trails beyond the park boundary
- Construct a boardwalk or bridge connection for hikers and bicycle riders through a wet area on the Chief Pontiac Trail
- Complete a natural resource stewardship plan for the recreation area, identifying targets for conservation and related natural resource management strategies, including invasive species management
- Continue to explore land acquisitions of inholdings within the GMP Proposed Project Boundary

Within the following pages is a listing of all comments received through the interactive public input survey as well as the email comments received. These items, along with other input from the public, will be considered as the planning team finalizes the general management plan.

Virtual Public Input Meeting Questions and Answers

The following questions were asked by members of the public during the Proud Lake State Recreation Area online public review webinar. The answers below were either given during the presentation or were answered by the planning team after the meeting concluded.

General Questions

- Q. What was the date of the on-site survey completed at Proud Lake State Recreation Area?
- a. Surveys were completed between June and October 2017.
- Q. Reading through the plan, there was mention of the unlevel campsites. There was also mention of pavement repair. Is leveling the campsites part of the pavement repair?
- a. Leveling campsites would not be part of the pavement repair project, as that would be a much more extensive project. The positive aspect of the unlevel campground is that it is rarely flooded; however, as campers and rigs grow larger, those sites become more of a challenge. We would like to look into leveling the sites to be able to accommodate that larger equipment, but we are not including it in the pavement repair project due to the large expense of that potential project.
- Q. Are there any plans to build any fishing piers that are not located in the campground? I was specifically thinking about Proud Lake around the area near the boat launch.
- a. The campground fishing pier is the only planned fishing pier at this time, as there is currently very limited fishing access at campground. There are several other areas in the park where the water can be accessed for fishing. Other areas may be considered, although fishing piers are expensive.
- Q. I agree that the campground should be the first location for a fishing pier, but will anyone be able to use the campground fishing pier if they aren't camping?
- a. Individuals would be able to walk or bike into the campground to utilize the pier, but parking is extremely finite and would be limited to registered campers and their guests during peak season.
- Q. Are there any plans to manage the bittersweet invasive plant that is tearing up the forest?
- a. The DNR is currently working on a stewardship plan for Proud Lake State Recreation Area that should be completed within a couple of months. This plan will include a prioritization of areas within the park for invasive species management, including bittersweet. Some areas of the park are so overtaken with invasive species that it would

be very difficult to contain them. However, other areas of the park could be improved with targeted management, including some methods such as prescribed burns. The stewardship plan will give more detail on the strategies to be used.

- Q. Will the Powers Beach be open to public swimming again?
- The beach area was closed because it kept filling with silt from the slow-flowing river and was not sustainable to maintain. We do want to provide access to the water in that area, whether it's to put in a canoe or kayak or provide for fishing access.
- Q. What is the current development review level of the proposed addition to the Hidden Pines Group Campsite? This was proposed by the Chief Pontiac Trail users and would provide four additional walk-in backpack group camping sites.
- We are still working to compare numbers and occupancy. The pandemic has made it difficult to get a real sense of the occupancy of that campsite. There were some concerns with the old pines that are in that vicinity, we need to make sure we're not putting campsites in the vicinity of hazardous trees.
- Q. Are there any plans to expand the modern camping area and add more sites?
- Not at this time.
- Q. Is there any hope for lowering camping fees, since the state budget has a 4.7 billion dollar surplus?
- Approximately 97% of state parks' funding for operations and maintenance is generated by user fees, such as camping and lodging reservations and the Recreation Passport, and royalty revenues from state-owned oil, gas, and minerals. Michigan's general fund tax dollars provides just 3% of state park funding (excluding some special appropriations). So, a state budget surplus does not directly benefit park maintenance and operations. A statewide review has just been completed and camping fees were increased for the first time in four years in line with the consumer price index and to account for increasing operational costs and aging infrastructure.
- Q. Can we share the public survey on social media for outside input?
- Yes, the survey link can be shared on social media. However, the survey was only open through December 22nd, 2021.

Trail Separation Project Questions

- Q. How many miles of trails are planned?
- After both phases are complete, there will be 5.8 miles of mountain bike trails, 8.42 miles of equestrian trails, 9.03 miles of hiking only trails, and 3.52 miles of multi-use trails.
- Q. Who is designing the Mountain Bike Trail? What is the timeline of the mountain bike trails for phase 1 and phase 2? Can the trails be used while the project is ongoing – for example, will phase 1 be open before phase 2 is complete?
- Phase 1 of the trail project will be operational before phase 2 is complete. Phase 1 is being led by MCMBA and will be doing the bulk of installation with volunteer work. Phase 2 is a more expansive project including replacing the bridge over Norton Creek. Closures of the multiuse trails will be gradual as sections of new trail are completed and signed. For more information, please call the main office of Proud Lake State Recreation Area.
- Q. Do we know what the target date is for the completion of the trail separation project? Also, will the Kensington Connector still be accessible via mountain bike?
- We do not have a firm date for completion. We were hoping to have them installed over this winter, but we have had a late start. The Kensington Connectors will be maintained, which was a priority for both the mountain bikers and the equestrians. Some sections will remain multi-use to assist in maintaining critical trail connections.
- Q. Why are the mountain bike trails going from 10 miles to less than 6? Is there any opportunity in the future for extending that length?
- The largest reason for reducing the mileage was the density of trails in the overall area. The original trail proposal was to double the trail mileage in the park, but that negatively affected the park ecosystems and would not have been a good user experience. The trail plan was developed to keep a balance between the natural resources and other users in the park. We have added as many new trails as can be reasonably sustained in the park. In addition, we performed an analysis of trails available outside of the park and there are significantly more mountain bike trails than equestrian trails in the local vicinity.
- Q. The proposed trails are within an area that is open to hunting. Will those areas remain open to hunting?
- Yes.
- Q. Could you share the proposed trail map? Also, please share a map that indicates where all those snakes live!
- The proposed trail map as well as a map showing

the lands that are Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Managed Lands were added to the project website.

to other trails beyond the recreation area which will remain multi-use.

Q. Will there be signs installed on the trail so that trail users know they're entering hunting areas?

a. Yes, one action goal we will be working on is improving awareness of the hunting areas and signage would need to change significantly with the proposed trails.

Q. Shouldn't the trail lengths for each user group at least be even or based on the largest user group?

a. The trails were developed initially for equestrian use. They were opened to mountain bike use in the mid-1990s. It is evident that the online survey over-represented mountain bike use and is not comparable with the more scientific on-site survey and use study that have been undertaken at the park. The largest trail user group is foot traffic. See additional explanation in Q.4 above.

Q. What about mountain bike trails east of Wixom and the railroad tracks? Any opportunity?

a. The area east of Wixom Road is designated as managed lands for the Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake, so new trails will not be considered in this area.

Q. Can we ride bikes on the multi-use trails on the east side of Wixom Road?

a. There is an existing multi-use trail running east from Wixom Road to the campground and linking

Q. How about parking near the bike trails on Old Plank?

a. A new mountain bike trailhead parking area is proposed off E. Dawson Road & Child's Lake Road.

Q. Not a question, but an observation...Lyon Oaks County Park has great signage for areas open/not open to hunting.

a. Thank you

Q. Will the new camp bypass trail be used for mountain biking?

a. Yes, it will be open for mountain biking and hiking.

Q. How will mountain bikers get to Garden Road? The route to Milford?

a. The trail running parallel to the railroad tracks towards Milford will continue to be multi-use. The existing hiking trail running from the railroad tracks to N. Wixom Road, just south of the intersection with Garden Road, is proposed to be improved for bike use in phase 2 of the proposal

Q. Will trail runners still have access to equestrian trails?

a. Yes, all trails in the park will remain open to all types of foot traffic.

Statements of Significance Comments

Natural Resource Recreation Land

The land that is now Proud Lake State Recreation Area was acquired in the 1940s as part of a state goal to secure recreation space for southeast Michigan, contributing to a network of green space in the metro Detroit region. Its large expanse of woods, water and trails provide abundant land and water recreation opportunities. The recreation area also offers year-round overnight accommodations at the modern lodge and camper cabins, and the modern campground is open for an extended season to accommodate trout anglers in the spring and hunters in the fall.

Comments:

1. We'd like to see at Proud Lake located in Southeast Michigan is open equestrian camping designated at a portion of the staging area sites. We have the potential for modern camping here because there used to be a home on site. The Proud Lake trails are gorgeous, and connect to Kensington Metropark eq trails for over 30 miles of riding, great for a weekend of camping. Plus Dairy Queen on the connector trail! Secondly and thankfully, due to intentional and unintentional threats to riders safety, plans are in the works to separate the bike and horse trails at Proud Lake. However, a multi-use section of trail running parallel to the railroad tracks is being proposed. We ask that the DNR still consider other viable options to this plan and fully separate the horse and bike trails at Proud Lake.
2. Could you add an equestrian campground?
3. The abundance of trails is important not only for individual hikers and cyclists, but also for hiking groups and youth groups (e.g., Scouts). The continued acquisition of recreation space will continue to provide the hiking and other recreation opportunities that are so necessary for individuals and groups in the metro Detroit region.
4. Great, I love the huge expanse of natural space. As the area around it builds-up it will become more important to preserve this area.

Ecosystems

Proud Lake State Recreation Area's 3,030 acres represent a significant area of undeveloped plant and animal habitat close to metro Detroit. It supports several exemplary natural communities such as dry-mesic and mesic southern forest, prairie fen, rich tamarack swamp, southern wet meadow, emergent marsh, submergent marsh and remnant oak barrens. The rich tamarack swamp is one of Michigan's largest remaining occurrences and is in good condition. The Proud Lake Nature Study Area is a 105 acre legally dedicated natural area.

Comments:

1. An investment in negating phragmite australis growth in the recreation area would help the swamp and wetlands area continue to support our native species and habitat.
2. Great, I love the huge expanse of natural space. As the area around it builds-up it will become more important to preserve this area.

Water Recreation

Water recreation is a top attraction at Proud Lake State Recreation Area. Park visitors paddle, swim, and boat on inland lakes and the Huron River. Canoe and kayak rentals are available at the long-running livery, allowing paddlers to enjoy roughly four miles of the state- and federally-designated Huron River Water Trail.

Comments:

1. I love paddling on the Huron River!

Fisheries

Ample fishing opportunities are provided at Proud Lake State Recreation Area in its inland lakes and the Huron River, including trout fishing, a rarity in southeast Michigan. The trout stocking program here is the longest-running use of brood stock in the state. The Huron River is a highly diverse warm water fishery with quality spawning habitat, supporting multiple species of fish as well as state listed threatened and endangered mussel species. Visitors can learn to fish here through Explorer Guide programs in the summer.

No Comments.

Trails

The recreation area offers over twenty miles of trails that can be used for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing. A portion of the Chief Pontiac Trail traverses the recreation area, which is heavily used year-round by Scouts as part of a Credential Hiking Program designed to teach backpacking and wilderness skills. The recreation area's trails serve as a connection to other parks and nearby communities.

1. It's best when fast moving biking trails are separate from hiking, hunting and horseback riding trails. For hiking, hunting, and horseback riding trails we recommend safe passing plan signs of "Stop, Speak, and Stand Back" with a smile, while horseback riders pass at a walk.
2. Could you have separate biking trails and equestrian trails?
3. Would love to see if there could be over night camping with horses!
4. The loss of several miles of mountain bike trail is disappointing, but the connectors available to other parks and nearby communities remains an important part of the trail system.
5. This park has always provided a unique connection between growing communities as a dedicated natural corridor. The development of additional dedicated trail loops within that corridor are a welcome bonus.
6. 1) Please ensure that there will continue to be access to connect between the proposed mountain bike trail west of the railroad tracks and the connector trail that is east of Wixom Road that tracks past the Modern Camp Ground to Glengary Road. 2) Please ensure access to the proposed MTB trail remains from Garden Rd., just East of the railroad tracks in Milford.
7. According to the survey, MTB and hiking are by far the largest user groups. Horse back riding is a small portion, only 8%. When separating horse trails from the others, MTB actually loses mileage while equestrian does not. How can this possibly be considered representative of what the vast majority of users want?
8. Trails are SUPER important. They allow people to enjoy the natural areas of the park. I am VERY disappointed in the reduction of Mountain Biking trails. According to the survey Mountain Biking is by FAR the #1 activity in the park; but instead of increasing access, the amount of trails are being reduced. To me, this is backwards.
9. The new plan calls for a reduction in miles of mountain biking while Equestrian seen a increase or same. Fewer people ride horses were as mountain biking has increased.

River Hawk Complex

The River Hawk Complex at Proud Lake State Recreation Area is a rare facility for a Michigan state park, with a collection of buildings available for rent that provide opportunities for lodging, recreation, and education.

No comments.

Additional Comments

Should any significance statements be added? Suggest any additional significance statement(s) you think should be added to the above, if any and explain why.

Comments:

1. I think you should have separate trails for bikers and horseback riding. Trails are not safe if bikers and horseback riders are on the same trails. I also think you should have an equestrian only campground in the park.
2. Mountain Biking should be a major consideration in the future planning and funding as it is and will continue to be a of significant importance to the local taxpayers and has already shown to be of equivalent use, if not more than the Equestrian trails.
3. This plan should not reduce trail miles for biking it should increase as the sport has.

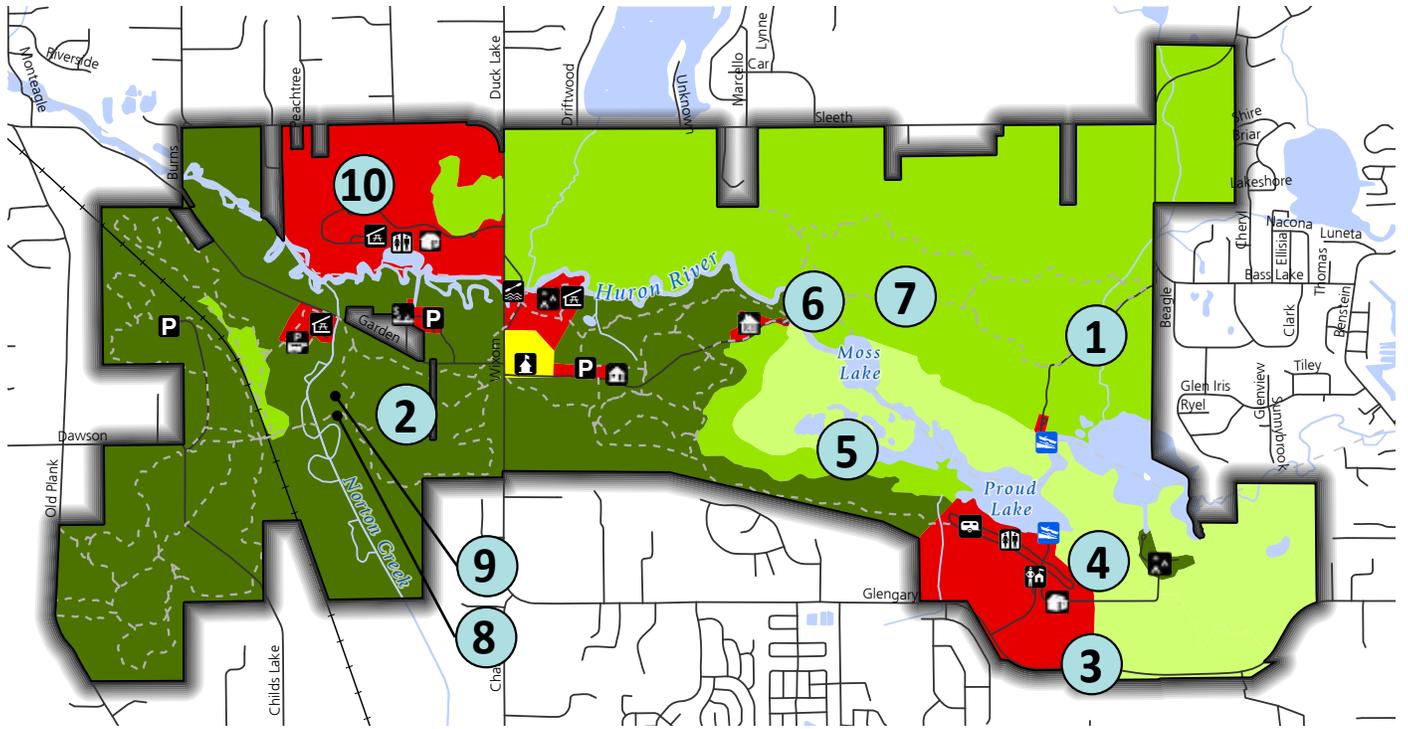
Action Goal Priorities

ACTION GOALS	VOTES
a. Continue to explore land acquisition of inholdings within the GMP Proposed Project Boundary	18
b. Work with Walled Lake Outdoor Center to provide accessibility options and educational programming	1
c. Improve awareness of land open to hunting with increased signage and other strategies	14
d. Continue to review opportunities to connect to trails beyond the park boundary	37
e. Evaluate the accessibility of structures across the recreation area	9
f. Complete a natural resource stewardship plan for the recreation area, identifying targets for conservation and related natural resource management strategies, including invasive species management	19
g. Investigate and study feasibility of improving water access in the Powers Unit pending the resolution of any potential land acquisition funding restrictions.	7
h. Reconfigure the Bass Lake boat launch area for both motorized and non-motorized boating access	4
i. Design and construct improvements to mitigate erosion and improve accessibility for non-motorized boating and fishing at the Huron River site	6
j. Study and implement accessibility improvements at the campground and lake access	8
k. Pave roads in the River Hawk Complex and provide adequate parking	0
l. Resurfacing, chip seal, reconstruction and new paving as needed on recreation area roads	9
m. Construct a fishing pier at the campground	5
n. Construct a boardwalk or bridge connection for hikers and bicycle riders through a wet area on the Chief Pontiac Trail	25
o. Design and construct improvements to mitigate erosion at the dam and evaluate its long-term necessity	13
p. Study and make recommendations for modernizing the River Hawk complex including interior and exterior upgrades to all facilities, modernizing the conference center building for four-season and modern technology use and possible repurposing of the dining hall for overnight accommodation.	3
q. Pursue alternative modern lodging options at the Powers Unit pending the resolution of any potential land acquisition funding restrictions	5
r. Study options and provide recommendations for modernizing the canoe livery, including the addition of modern bathrooms	7
t. Update the vault toilets with new siding and stonework	9
u. Replace the modern lodge roof	2
v. Replace the culvert at Bass Lake Road	2
w. Separate the bicycling and equestrian trail systems in coordination with user groups	41
x. Construct a playground at the campground and the Powers Unit day use area	6
y. Construct a shelter at the canoe rental	0

Action Goal Comments

Should any goals be added to the list? Suggest any action goal(s) you think should be added to the above, if any and explain why.

1. Open equestrian camping at the current equestrian staging area. Proud Lake Trail Riders have spent many hours and money upgrading the staging area and trails. It is time for open equestrian camping.
2. What we'd like to see at Proud Lake is open equestrian camping designated at a portion of the staging area sites. We have the potential for modern camping here because there used to be a home on site. The Proud Lake trails are gorgeous, and connect to Kensington Metropark equestrian trails for over 30 miles of riding, great for a weekend of camping. Secondly and thankfully, due to intentional and unintentional threats to riders safety, plans are in the works to separate the bike and horse trails at Proud Lake. However, a multi-use section of trail running parallel to the railroad tracks is being proposed. We ask that the DNR still consider other viable options to this plan and fully separate the horse and bike trails at Proud Lake.
3. Allow camping at the equestrian site. This is a lovely park, and folks would use it more if camping were allowed through out the season.
4. Modern equestrian camping
5. Educate a safe passing plan with signage of "Stop, Speak, and Stand Back" with a smile while horseback riders pass at a walk on hiking, hunting, and horseback riding trails.
6. Separate the Horse trails from the Bike trails safety first. Horse camping as well should be separated for safety as well.
7. Increase and improve signage on equestrian trails. I rode there in 2021 and felt lost all the time. Thank you.
8. Supply year round equestrian camping availability.
9. I'd like to see the equestrian staging area used for open equestrian only camping, whereas currently equestrian camping is only permitted with organization by Proud Lake Trail Riders group camping. There is so much potential for camping here because the Proud Lake trails are gorgeous, and connect to Kensington Metropark equestrian trails for over 30 miles of riding. Camping would increase the use of the trails (as will the upcoming separation of bicycles and horses onto their own trails) and the equestrian trail riders have put in a lot of time, money, and effort to make that staging area and campground equestrian focused with the obstacle course, pavilion, and additional picket posts.
10. Open equestrian camping.
11. Make electrical sites available at Proud Lake Horse Staging Area. Allow horse camping May through November.
12. Create equestrian camping at a portion of the staging area. Fully separate equestrian trails from bike trails.
13. Designated equestrian camping
14. 1) Designate around six sites at the equestrian staging area as an equestrian campground. Since water, vault toilets and the driveway are already present, it should be an inexpensive process for designation and it would still leave plenty of parking for the staging area. Because of the location in populated Southeast Michigan, it's proximity to riders from Ohio and other surrounding states, the connection to Kensington for additional trail mileage, and the beauty of both trail systems, Proud Lake could be a destination camp. It is truly a shame that we do not have open equestrian camping available at either of these parks yet which would allow for riders from and also outside the area to enjoy these wonderful trails. Proud Lake could be a candidate for electrical hook up at these equestrian camping sites because there was at one time a house on site. Equestrians are hungry for modern hook up availability at more of our campgrounds in Michigan and this would be a huge draw to the equestrian camping to Proud Lake. 2) Look into any other viable options other than sharing the proposed multi-use section of trail between bikers and horseback riders. Due to aggression from bikers to riders and the fact that this trail runs closely to the railroad tracks which presents its own challenges to riders, equestrians have serious safety concerns about sharing this section of trail.
15. Improved parking area and trail-head for mountain bike trails, with vault restroom.
16. Leveling of the campsites to support travel trailers and RV's should be a top priority. 47% of the revenue is generated from campers and while the park is great, the sites are the absolute worst compared to any area state park. Lawsuit waiting to happen. I have seen campers jack up their mobile homes to unsafe levels. Just a matter of time before someone is crushed in the process or a runaway camper goes down the hill running someone over. If it is too expensive to repave, break up the asphalt, level the sites, and lay down crushed stone.
17. Thank you for taking into consideration the needs of the hunters.
18. Maximize the mileage for MTB which is by far the largest user group. Losing MTB mileage is not acceptable especially recognizing that equestrian loses nothing and it is a very small user group. Simple solution is to designate Loop 1 and Loop 2 no horses in addition to adding the new MTB trail.
19. Since the largest user group is mountain biking, adding more mountain biking trails would be great. With more mileage, it could be a destination location like the DTE trails.
20. Increase mountain biking trail and reduce or limit horses back area as horse back has decreased.



PROUD LAKE RECREATION AREA GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Management Zones

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

0 0.4 0.8 Miles

Date: 11/5/2021 Beckett&Raeder

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Roads — Railroads - - - Trails — Rivers / Streams — Lakes ▭ PLSRA Boundary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boating Access Site Modern Campground Organizational Campground Park Headquarters Camper Cabins (2) Mini Cabins (2) Campground Registration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Hawk Outdoor Center River Hawk Outdoor Center Annex Canoe & Kayak Rental Carry-Down Boat Access Site Pavilion Parking Equestrian Staging | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primitive Backcountry Natural Resource Recreation Developed Recreation Administrative Services |
|---|--|---|---|

Management Zone Comments

COMMENT NUMBER	MANAGEMENT ZONE	COMMENT
1	Backcountry	Request 'connector' hiking trail as a preferred alternative to hiking on the dirt road. The dirt road has a lot of slope, and especially during the winter can get slippery. Also, with the winding road, there are areas of limited visibility to vehicles.
2	Natural Resource Recreation	Disappointed that the trails east of the railroad will be equestrian only. According to the survey, Mountain Biking is the #1 activity in the park by a wide margin. Instead of increasing the amount of trails for Biking, they are being reduced.
3	Primitive	Need a more accessible, safer connection to the Lakes Community Trail (south of Glengary Rd). Current access point has low visibility to the road and a very difficult entrance/exit from the pavement. Able to move it East or improve it?
4	Primitive	Marl fens located in this area hold an extremely small and sensitive population of spotted turtles, one of the only extant populations in Oakland County. Preserving the ground water flow in this area and overall health of these fens should be prioritized.
5	Primitive	Spotted turtles are also found in this area and a turtle traversed between the two wetlands over the course of a few years. The overall health of this larger wetland complex should be prioritized. Will dam removal affect the water table and these areas?
6	Backcountry	Area of extreme significance for rattlesnake burrows/overwintering site. Any potential disturbance in this area needs to be aware of seasonal use (March-May, Sept-Nov). Caution should be taken to limit disturbance in these areas.
7	Backcountry	Area of extreme significance for rattlesnake burrows/overwintering site. Any potential disturbance in this area needs to be aware of seasonal use (March-May, Sept-Nov). Caution should be taken to limit disturbance in these areas.
8	Natural Resource Recreation	Large number of Blanding's turtles in this area. Also suspected rattlesnake use areas along this wetland corridor.
9	Natural Resource Recreation	Potential spotted turtle habitat.
10	Developed Recreation	This area used to harbor a very health population of blue racers. Hognosed snakes have also been found here, one of the only extant populations in Oakland. It has become very overgrown, but exercise caution when considering development here.

Additional Feedback

Question 1: Please provide any additional comments you may have on the Proud Lake State Recreation Area general management plan.

1. Please separate the horse trails from the bike trails. (Like across the road from each other!)
2. Any potential trail work or development in key areas needs to be more aware of rattlesnake migration patterns, den sites and seasonal activity levels. For example, the boardwalk update east of the dam has recently had work conducted in the spring and fall, when rattlesnake activity is extremely high in this area due to the large amount of crayfish burrows and den sites. These are the worst possible time to construct in this area in regards to the snakes.
3. Work should ideally occur during the summer when the snakes have moved to other areas of the park. This hopefully won't apply to most of the wooded mountain bike trails in areas with suspected low rattlesnake density, but should be considered when planning the boardwalk/bridge over the wetland area to connect the two trail systems. Additionally, I am unsure how much the dam plays into the wetland complexes/marl fens upstream from the dam. These have shown to harbor a small but extremely important extant spotted turtle population, one of the only ones in the county. Consideration of dam removal should take into account effects on the water table upstream and how this may affect this small and secretive species.
4. I am pleased with the direction of the management plan at this point. I am also pleased that the state provides a way for many residents to attend the meeting to learn about the recreation area itself, the management plan, and the reasoning behind the initiatives.
5. Separating equestrian and mountain biking is great! However, mountain biking is by far the largest user group while equestrian is only 8% and mountain biking loses mileage in the separation while equestrian loses nothing. This is completely inappropriate. Some of the existing trail should remain for mountain biking and horses not allowed. For instance, Loop 1 and 2 should be designated no horses. The master plan should be more representative of what the primary user groups are indicating is important.
6. Hikers, which are allowed on mountain biking trails, plus mountain biking combine to more than 80% of the park users. Please make a plan that recognizes that data from the survey.
7. According to the public survey, mountain biking is by far the most popular activity in the park. But in the draft plan the amount of mountain biking trails are being reduced. To me, this is backwards. Instead of increasing the mountain biking trail network resources are being taken away from the most popular activity. I'm very disappointed in the draft plan. It seems like public input was ignored.
8. I'd like to see a better situation for connecting the

campground to the River Hawk area. The two track road is often torn up by park vehicles, which creates standing water, mud and hazards for hikers and bikers. A multi use trail running parallel could help keep people safe and allow the park vehicles to use the road as a road.

9. Biking and skiing should be increased in the area. The horse traffic damages the environment with hoof prints and horse poop everywhere
10. Although I missed the webinar, I spoke with many that did. I read the draft plan as well. As a cyclist, I was glad to hear that trail separation was part of the plan. I was however disappointed to hear that the new bike trail (assuming it is multi-use with hikers) was so limited in mileage. This results in a reduction of trails that are now accessible by bike! Mountain biking has had huge growth and popularity over the past 10 years. Even though many parks nearby feature trails, they are still becoming crowded.

Question 2: Did you attend the virtual public meeting (webinar)?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
YES	8
NO	2

Question 3: Rate your experience with this virtual public open house format.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
VERY DISSATISFIED	1
DISSATISFIED	0
NEITHER SATISFIED NOR DISSATISFIED	0
SATISFIED	3
VERY SATISFIED	3

Question 4: What worked well and how can we improve future virtual public open houses like this one?

1. The meeting format worked very well, as did the format for questions & answers. Using the chat for questions allowed attendees to present their questions clearly and the presenters to answer those questions in an orderly way.
2. During the meeting Q&A, there were many questions from the largest user group, mountain biking, which were not included thus did not provide the opportunity to voice concerns with the plan. For instance, in the mountain biking/equestrian split, the much smaller user group loses nothing while mountain biking loses access to significant miles. There needs to be a way to preserve mileage for mountain biking. One solution is to build new m mountain biking tb trail and designate loops 1 and 2 no horses.
3. More open time for questions.

Input Received via Email**Email Comment #1, Received 11/26/2021**

Except for the one weak reference to hunting in the "About the Park ". This park will turn into another Kensington, No Hunting allowed park !

Once again why can't we put are boats in on the south side of the river in the campground ? The north side is a sad docking. Also there should be a no wake in the larger lake, it is just to small for speed.

-Phil Rickel (roadkillfil@comcast.net)

Email Comment #2, Received 12/07/2021

Thank you for your continued efforts to improve our parks.

It seems like a great idea to separate trails so both horse and biking users can enjoy their interests. What are some of the reasons the DNR has that may not want to support this goal?

Best regards, Carl Slindee

Email Comment #3, Received 12/10/2021

Hello Debbie,

Thank you so much for hosting the webinar last night on the future plans for Proud Lake. I have to commend you and your team on the high level of thought, input and planning you have put into this park. I live right down the street from the park in downtown Milford and visit the park almost weekly when it is warm out, less in the winter months.

One of the main activities that I do in the park is mountain biking. I think the splitting of the trails is an excellent idea and will be beneficial for both horseback riders and bikers. For the record, I have never had a bad experience with horse riders, it is just difficult for me to ride on the same trails where their hoofs tear up the trail. I am also not surprised to see in the survey results that 61% of those polled used the park for mountain biking and only 8% use it for horse back riding. During my time in the park, I have only come across horse back riders twice.

This brings me to my question about the mileage for the mountain bikers. With so many people using the park for mountain biking, why are there only 5.8 miles of trails for mountain biking versus 10 for the horses? I would have thought that would have been reversed. Mileage for mountain bikes can be covered quickly compared to horses. Mountain bike users also do not have the access to any unpaved areas in the adjacent Kensington Park like the horse back users do. I was really hoping to see a larger area and mileage for

mountain bikers in the plan and hope that you could consider this in a revised plan. Based on the survey results, I trust this would be greatly appreciated by the majority of park users. I see potential for this area to be like the new DTE trails which have been built. Have you ever visited these? They are fantastic trails that are highly utilized, a destination for many in MI and surrounding states. For me it is too far of a drive to visit more than a time or two in the summer. It would be great to have some trails like these closer to home. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to seeing how this plan develops.

Regards, Kyle

Email Comment #4, Received 12/10/2021

Hello everyone,

I was in the meeting last night and I am not very tech savvy, but I have one concern about the shared trail along the railroad tracks. I've talked with Jenn and I sent a text to Nikki, but I'm still not understanding why we need to share this trail. I noticed that the property the bikers bought has a trail running through it. It's private property, why is it even on the map? Also, there is going to be a need of another trail coming from the railroad tracks out to Garden Road. This trail will be necessary in order to access the loop to the campgrounds, so I've submitted a drawing to show my idea of a better solution to sharing that trail. My biggest concern is safety, and I know all of you have heard the problems the equestrians have encountered on the trails. I don't think it's a good idea to share a trail that runs parallel with the railroad tracks and then to add bikes to problem. There are many horses that are not desensitized to trains, and to maneuver railroad tracks without hesitation is a difficult task all in itself. If the trail is shared here, it is adding to the dangers at an exponential rate that equestrians would have to face on this section of the trail. I've heard excuses such as bikers who are worried about cars, or that equestrians shouldn't use that trail if they are afraid, and to protect the oak trees. But I don't understand why nobody will discuss this problem with me. Please look at the map and consider us in your final approval. I would like to have a discussion about this please. Thanks for listening in

Cindy, President of the Proud Lake Trail Riders

Email Comment #5, Received 12/15/2021

We are requesting a meeting to discuss the equestrian concerns of the mixed use section of trail proposed for Proud Lake.

Equestrian concerns with this section are:

- Riding near the RR tracks is already a challenge if a train approaches without having to also pass bikes on this

section of trail

- Bikers are already having to ride the road to get to this section of trail, where are biker parking lots planned for and would that allow for different point of access
- Biker aggression towards horseback riders (air horns to scare horses, not yielding to horses when asked) is well documented at Proud Lake as are unintended dangerous situations (Large groups of bikers all riding by at one time) – these could be life threatening encounters

Please let us know when we could schedule a meeting to discuss these important concerns and any viable solutions.

Amy Scharmen-Burgdorf, Equine Trails Subcommittee

SE Michigan Rep and Chair

Email Comment #6, Received 12/21/2021

Hello Deb,

I wanted to send an email to discuss the future of our trails. I would like to add equestrian trails to this 10 year plan. I know this is a little late, but I was waiting to see if the campground date would remain equestrian only. Otherwise, I do not want to having camping here. We have a perfect situation for equestrian camping. Our club has built the pavilion, we paid for a bathroom, put in picket posts, built hitching rails, and built an obstacle course. Since there was a house there, we could also provide some campsites with electric. By connecting to Kensington, we also add another 20 miles of trails. The Diary Queen and party store also offers equestrians with destination rides. I hope management will consider the proposal for this idea.

I also wanted to touch base on the shared trails use. I know the mountain bikers have a big voice in this area. However, I have a huge issue on where they want to share the trail along the railroad tracks. I have measured the distance from the tracks to the trail and it's only 50 feet in some areas. As we already realize, the problems and accidents we have had with the mountain bikers I don't feel this is safe for the equestrians. Please consider my concerns. I am only looking out for the safety for all users.

Have a wonderful holiday!!

Thank you

Cindy Kesler, President of Proud Lake Trail Riders

Email Comment #7, Received 12/21/2021

1) Designate around six sites at the equestrian staging area as an equestrian campground. Since water, vault toilets and the driveway are already present, it should be an inexpensive process for designation and it would still leave

plenty of parking for the staging area. Because of the location in populated Southeast Michigan, it's proximity to riders from Ohio and other surrounding states, the connection to Kensington for additional trail mileage, and the beauty of both trail systems, Proud Lake could be a destination camp. It is truly a shame that we do not have open equestrian camping available at either of these parks yet which would allow for riders from and also outside the area to enjoy these wonderful trails. Proud Lake could be a candidate for electrical hook up at these equestrian camping sites because there was at one time a house on site. Equestrians are hungry for modern hook up availability at more of our campgrounds in Michigan and this would be a huge draw to the equestrian camping to Proud Lake.

2) Look into any other viable options other than sharing the proposed multi-use section of trail between bikers and horseback riders. Due to intentional and unintentional threats from bikers to riders and the fact that this trail runs closely to the railroad tracks which presents its own challenges to riders, equestrians have serious safety concerns about sharing this section of trail.

Email Comment #8, Received 12/21/2021

Dear Ms Jensen,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to have input on the Master Plan process at Proud Lake State Recreation Area.

I have owned and boarded horses locally, for over 50 years! I have always appreciated access to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) parks. Over the years I have experienced a tremendous loss of safe bridle trails.

I would like the MDNR to take a closer look at the growing, equestrian needs in the area and to take into consideration their limited options. Changes in the trail system prior to the Master Plan Process being completed, does not make sense.

I do not believe that your survey, which may only reflect current users, is accurate as so many equestrians have been pushed off the trails. You are missing their input!

Please take a closer look at the equestrian's needs, moving forward. The idea of "if you build it, they will come"; what are we building going into the future?

Sincerely, Jo Burnside

Email Comment #9, Received 12/21/2021

Dear Ms. Jensen,

The Michigan Horse Council represents thousands of horse and mule riders in this great state through individual, family, organizational and business memberships. One of our key focus areas is ensuring the continued construction, improvement and maintenance of public trail systems where those equestrians may safely ride, pack and compete with their animals.

The Proud Lake Trails Association is located in one of the highest equine tri-county areas in the state of Michigan: Oakland, Livingston and Washtenaw counties. The Michigan Horse Council agrees with Proud Lake in asking a respectful request that there is a pause in the Master Plan process to more fully review the options for all trail users. There are currently gaps for trail users such as the hundreds of equestrians who enjoy these local trails. Cindy Kesler, President of the Proud Lakes Trails Association and a member of the Michigan Horse Council has submitted emails to the DNR seeking solutions that could help accommodate a safe option for our equestrians.

Please let the Michigan Horse Council know how we can further assist with efforts supporting our Michigan equestrians. One of our board members would be happy to provide more information and attend meetings to help further a beneficial option that fully supports our horseback riders.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Ligon, MHC President

(810)623-0659

Jean.ligon@gmail.com

Bruce Deur, MHC Vice-President & Trails Chair

(989)304-0811

brucedeurmhc@gmail.com

This page intentionally blank

Appendix C:

Opinion of Probable Costs

C.1 State Park Funding

The primary funding sources for state park improvement and development projects are Recreation Passport sales (motor vehicle registration fee), the Park Endowment Fund (generated from royalties from oil, gas and mineral extraction on public land) and the Park Improvement Fund (from camping and other state park user fees). One-time appropriations from the state General Fund may also be ear marked for specific needs but are not guaranteed. The annual capital outlay budget for state parks varies significantly from year to year, as illustrated by the table below.

The state park system is 100 years old and much of the infrastructure is aging. Identified infrastructure needs across the state park system (excluding Belle Isle Park, trail infrastructure, and state waterways infrastructure) is currently estimated to be over \$258 million.

FISCAL YEAR	TOTAL ANNUAL CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT BUDGET**	IDENTIFIED INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS
FY21	\$ 14,945,000	\$ 258,482,050
FY20	\$ 15,435,000	\$ 278,159,950
FY19	\$ 18,925,000	\$ 273,498,836
FY18	\$ 14,520,000	\$ 264,089,912
FY17	\$ 10,400,000	\$ 285,513,487
FY16	\$ 8,661,000	\$ 312,594,557

**Capital Outlay funds dedicated to funding state park projects; excluding funds for Belle Isle Park, major emergency repairs, District Major Maintenance Projects, etc.

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

C.2 Estimated Cost of Proposed Developments

The following table provides an estimate of probable cost for each capital outlay development project proposed at Proud Lake State Recreation Area over the next ten years. Management and operations actions, small projects, which are funded out of district or park funds, and partner projects are not included in this list but will have additional financial implications. The costs are preliminary, based on information available at the time, and will be adjusted as studies, conceptual and detailed designs are completed. Where noted, the costs may only include studies or project planning, which will provide direction for development costs if determined appropriate. The costs are based on 2021 prices and should be adjusted according to the consumer price index and the market at the time of implementation.

The following action goals are ranked in terms of priority based on health, safety, and welfare, as well as identified need and ease of implementation (cost, ability to implement with own staff, partnerships etc.). Priority Level 1 projects indicate those that should be addressed within the next 2 years. Priority Level 2 projects include those that should be addressed within 3-5 years. Priority Level 3 projects are desired but can be tackled in the next 6-10 years once funding has been identified.

PROUD LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT: CAPITAL OUTLAY		
ACTION GOALS	PRIORITY	OPINION OF PROBABLE COST
Design and construct improvements to mitigate erosion and improve accessibility for non-motorized boating and fishing at the Huron River site.	2	\$250,000
Study and address accessibility at the campground and lake access.	2	\$75,000
Pave roads in the River Hawk Complex and provide adequate parking.	2	\$500,000
Resurfacing, chip seal, reconstruction and new paving as needed on recreation area roads.	2	\$2,750,000
Construct a fishing pier at the campground.	2	\$200,000
Construct a boardwalk or bridge connection for bicycle riders and hikers through a wet area on the Chief Pontiac Trail.	2	\$500,000
Design and construct improvements to mitigate erosion at the dam and evaluate its long-term necessity.	3	\$450,000
Complete interior and exterior renovations at the River Hawk Lodge	3	\$160,000
Complete interior and exterior renovations at the River Hawk conference center, dining hall and annex	3	\$220,000
Study options and provide recommendations for modernizing the canoe livery	3	\$75,000
TOTAL*		\$5,180,000
*EXCLUDES COSTS YET TO BE IDENTIFIED BY STUDIES TO DETERMINE BEST WAY TO PROCEED AND COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PROJECTS THAT ARE ALREADY FUNDED.		

Appendix D:

Legislation

D.1 Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act - Act 451 of 1994 (Excerpt)

Land Habitats Part 351 Wilderness and Natural Areas

324.35101 Definitions.

Sec. 35101.

As used in this part:

- (a) “Natural area” means a tract of state land or water under control of the department and dedicated and regulated by the department pursuant to this part which:
 - (i) Has retained or reestablished its natural character, or has unusual flora and fauna or biotic, geologic, scenic, or other similar features of educational or scientific value, but it need not be undisturbed.
 - (ii) Has been identified and verified through research and study by qualified observers.
 - (iii) May be coextensive with or part of a wilderness area or wild area.
- (b) “Wild area” means a tract of undeveloped state land or water under control of the department and dedicated and regulated by the department pursuant to this part which:
 - (i) Is less than 3,000 acres of state land.
 - (ii) Has outstanding opportunities for personal exploration, challenge, or contact with natural features of the landscape and its biological community.
 - (iii) Possesses 1 or more of the characteristics of a wilderness area.
- (c) “Wilderness area” means a tract of undeveloped state land or water under control of the department and dedicated and regulated by the department pursuant to this part which:
 - (i) Has 3,000 or more acres of state land or is an island of any size.
 - (ii) Generally appears to have been affected primarily by forces of nature with the imprint of the work of humans substantially unnoticeable.
 - (iii) Has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.
 - (iv) Contains ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, scenic, or natural history value.

History: Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995 ;-- Am. 1996, Act 290, Imd. Eff. June 19, 1996

Popular Name: Act 451

Popular Name: NREPA

D.2 324.35105 Prohibited activities; easement.

Sec. 35105.

- (1) The following are prohibited on state land in a wilderness area, wild area, or natural area, or on state land proposed by the department for dedication in 1 of these categories during the 90 days a dedication is pending pursuant to section 35103:
 - (a) Removing, cutting, picking, or otherwise altering vegetation, except as necessary for appropriate public access, the preservation or restoration of a plant or wildlife species, or the documentation of scientific values and with written consent of the department.
 - (b) Except as provided in subsection (2), granting an easement for any purpose.
 - (c) Exploration for or extraction of minerals.
 - (d) A commercial enterprise, utility or permanent road.
 - (e) A temporary road, landing of aircraft, use of motor vehicles, motorboats, or other form of mechanical transport, or any structure or installation, except as necessary to meet minimum emergency requirements for administration as a wilderness area, wild area, or natural area by the department.
 - (f) Motorized equipment, except if the department approves its use for management purposes of conservation practices.
- (2) If a right-of-way or an easement for ingress and egress was granted on land prior to the land’s designation as a wilderness area, wild area, or natural area, upon request, the department may grant an easement along the route of the existing right-of-way or easement for the installation and maintenance of utilities for gas, electric, telephone, and cable services. In granting an easement under this section, the department shall require conditions necessary to protect the wilderness area, wild area, or natural area.

History: Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995;¾Am. 1996, Act 290, Imd. Eff. June 19, 1996.

Popular name: Act 451

Popular name: NREPA

This page intentionally blank

Appendix E:

On-Site Survey Report

Proud Lake Recreation Area 2017 On-Site Use and User Study Report

By Charles M. Nelson and Thomas Braum, Department of Community Sustainability

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824

March 3, 2018

Introduction

As part of the management planning process for Proud Lake Recreation Area (RA), an on-site study was conducted of a representative sample of park visitors to provide an overall estimate of mean user hours per vehicle in day use parking areas, assess local spending, ascertain the opinion of park users about the future management options and approaches and provide a profile of park visitors, both campers and day users. This on-site approach sampled users on systematically selected days and times across June- November of 2017. It used a windshield survey at all day use parking areas and the same survey handed to a sample of up to 20 camping parties on sample days to ensure representation of the full range of park users.

Methods

The on-site study methodology and questionnaire were developed by the senior author in cooperation with the DNR Park Planner Debbie Jensen of the DNR Park and Recreation Division (PRD) staff. The questionnaire is found in Appendix B and is very similar to an instrument that was used in 2016 in the pilot project of integrating visitor surveys into the state park management planning process at Sleepy Hollow State Park. A sampling calendar of 27 sample days was developed that proportionally allocated sampling days across June- November based on seasonal estimates of park use for summer and fall provided by the DNR (Appendices C and D). The survey commenced in the field on June 21, 2017.

On a sample day, the survey administrator (a Michigan State Park employee) would begin sampling at one of the day use parking areas at the beginning of the designated sample period (9AM, Noon, 3PM or 6PM) per the sampling schedule. The survey administrator would count all vehicles present upon entering the lot. Once the count is made, a questionnaire with location, questionnaire number and time is distributed to each vehicle front windshield or directly handed to the driver if he/she is at the vehicle. If it is raining, surveys are enclosed in a clear plastic bag and placed on the windshield. While most vehicles receive a questionnaire, occasionally one leaves before a survey can be administered, hence the number of surveys distributed is slightly less than the vehicle count. Also, if there are more than 50 vehicles in a lot, it is the intention that all are counted, but only the first 50 counted receive a questionnaire to limit confusion and keep to a time schedule to complete all other vehicle counts and survey distribution. At Proud Lake there were a few instances where this occurred at the canoe/kayak rental lot and at the East and West Picnic areas. Hence, visitors using those areas are somewhat underrepresented in the sample compared to their actual proportion in the number of park day visits.

This method does not capture input from those arriving by bicycle and on foot, only those arriving by vehicle. However, those arriving by vehicle directly support the Michigan State Park system through the purchase of the Recreation Passport or, in the case of non-residents, through the purchase of the non-resident motor vehicle permit. Those arriving by bicycle or on foot, if they have not purchased the Passport or a non-resident motor vehicle permit, are not providing such direct financial support.

For campers, surveys were distributed in the 130-site modern campground. On a sample day, a survey administrator would randomly choose a campsite number between 1 and 130 and proceeded to sample the next 20 campsites where campers were present by handing them with a questionnaire. If there were less than 20 sites with campers present, then the number of occupied sites with camper present received a questionnaire. If there were more than 20 present, only 20 were distributed.

Respondents returned the questionnaire by U. S. mail using the postage paid, business reply feature of the postcard. Cards were directly delivered to Dr. Nelson at MSU.

Results

Results are presented in three ways. The first is observations/vehicle counts done by the survey administrator. These provide an assessment of use levels for each facility/parking area. The second is survey responses to questions 1-10, which focus on the respondent's experience the day they were sampled. Since these questions ask about the specific day's experience, there is no possibility of oversampling frequent users as each use is a use, whether done by a person who visits the park one time or 100 times in a year. However, Questions 11-16 are weighted to account for frequency of use bias as they ask about suggested improvements, things not to change and demographic information that defines the distinct park user. A frequent user, such as one who visits the park 100 times a year has 100 times greater chance of receiving a survey than one who visits the park once a year. To be able to use a one person, one vote rule where each person has an equal say in suggesting potential changes or the lack of them, the data is weighted to eliminate the frequency of use bias in sampling. For distinct users the data is weighted by the reciprocal of the number of uses the previous year (Q 16). If a person used the park once in the previous year, their weight is 1/1. If they used it 100 times, their weight is 1/100.

All results tables are provided in Appendix A and are numbered as they are in the text of this report.

Observations

There were 19 scheduled sample days in Summer and 8 in Fall. All day use sites were sampled on 17 of the 19 summer sample days and 5 of the 8 fall sample days. For campers, 17 summer days were sampled and 2 fall days. The sampling calendar in Appendix D reflects this deviation from the sampling schedule. Table 1 shows that a total of 1,166 vehicles were counted in day use parking areas over the 22 completed sample days (1,120 vehicles in the summer and 46 in the fall) with a total of 907 questionnaires distributed (862 questionnaires in summer and 45 in fall) in day use lots. The two busiest lots were the canoe/kayak rental lot and the East Picnic area. Campers were sampled on 17 summer and 2 fall days with a total of 283 surveys distributed (275 in summer and 8 in fall).

Survey Results: Uses

Sixty-nine completed questionnaires were returned by camper respondents and 120 by day use respondents as of the December 31, 2017 cutoff for a total of 189 respondents. Since the last survey date was November 15, this provided almost seven weeks for surveys to be returned after the last sampling date. The response rate for day visitors was 13%, for campers 24% and for the combined group 16%.

Activities and Party Characteristics

The average amount of time a day visitor vehicle was in the park was 4.2 hours and the day visitor party averaged 2.2 people per vehicle. Many day visitors were grouped with others in other vehicles as the average day visitor group had 4.0 people. For camper respondents, mean people per vehicle was higher, averaging 2.9 people per vehicle.

A total of 3 percent of day use respondents and 22 percent of camper respondents reported on the day they were sampled that one or more people in their vehicle had a physical impairment that seriously limited him/her from participation in work or recreation. These persons would be classified as disabled under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Park visitors participated in a wide range of activities. Table 2 shows that the five most common activities for campers in order of participation were camping, hiking, swimming, nature observation and a tie between picnicking and photography. For day visitors the five most common activities were hiking, paddling, nature observation, swimming and a tie between picnicking and fishing from a boat.

When campers were asked the one most important park activity to them, the only four mentioned in descending order were camping, nature observation, swimming and power boating (Table 3). When day visitors were asked this question, their five most common responses in descending order were paddling, hiking, fishing, swimming and a tie between picnicking and picking berries/mushrooms.

Local Spending

Park visitor spending in the local area of Proud Lake RA was substantial (Table 4). Campers from a single vehicle reported spending an average of \$128 in the 24 hours prior to being surveyed with 89% spending something within 20 miles of the park.

The greatest average amounts were for lodging fees, food and beverages from a store and sporting goods. Day visitor spending averaged \$57 per vehicle with 71% of them spending something in the local area in the past 24 hours. The greatest portion of day visitor spending was on grocery and convenience store food/drink, vehicle related expenses and restaurant spending.

Satisfaction

When asked to rate their satisfaction with their Proud Lake RA experience the day they were sampled, day visitors were highly satisfied with a mean rating of 8.3, while the average rating for campers was 8.2 on a scale of 1 – 9 where 1 is highly dissatisfied, 5 is neutral and 9 is highly satisfied for all respondents (Table 5). Sixty percent of day visitors and almost 60% of camper respondents gave their experience the highest satisfaction rating (9). Only two percent of campers and one percent of the day visitor respondents rated their experience as dissatisfying, with one percent of campers and three percent of day visitors rating it as neutral.

When asked an open ended question about the one most important reason for their experience rating, campers were most likely to mention the park was well maintained and patrolled, their enjoyment of the campground as a whole and the generally wonderful/total experience at Proud Lake RA (Table 6). For day visitors, the most common positive comments related to nature, good trails or a generally wonderful overall experience. The most common concerns voiced related to the ratings were poor campground in general and poor campground maintenance. For day visitors the most stated concerns per the satisfaction rating were challenges related to renting a canoe/kayak and overcrowding. Considering the overall ratings and all comments, these comments of concern were made by a very few respondents.

Distinct Users Opinions

To understand the opinions of distinct users, one open ended question asked visitors to identify the one most important change they would like at Proud Lake RA. This information is weighted as previously discussed to insure frequent users who are more likely to be sampled are not over represented in the results. If a respondent provided more than one desired change, only the first change was recorded in data entry. Campers most commonly suggested that there was nothing to improve. The three other most frequent suggestions from campers were to better maintain the campground and to provide better access to the lake, beach and river for campers and to increase the amount and quality of facilities such as restrooms in the campground. update and increase the amount and quality of facilities such as restrooms and provide a better playground opportunity for young children. For day visitors, the three most frequent suggestions were to provide better information and signage about the RA, improve access to the lakes, rivers and beach and no changes needed.

When asked what one most important thing should not be changed at Proud Lake RA (Table 8), campers were most likely to suggest the campground facilities stay the same. They also supported keeping the current level of maintenance, current staff and the natural aspects of the RA. For day visitors the most common suggestion of what not to change was to keep the natural aspects of the RA, followed by not making any changes and keeping the same level of park and facility maintenance.

Demographics

Distinct respondent campers had a mean age of 50, with ages ranging from 20-74. Sixty percent of distinct camper respondents were female and 40% male. For distinct day visitors, the mean age was 47, with ages ranging from 18-92. Fifty-eight percent of distinct day visitor respondents were female and 42% male.

The vast majority of distinct campers and day visitors were Michigan residents (Table 9). Ohio, Maryland and Pennsylvania were the second most common origin of campers. The most common day visitor origins following Michigan were Virginia and California.

Summary

Proud Lake is a large recreation area in the highly populated south eastern region of Michigan. Many visitors are coming relatively short distances to enjoy the very wide range of activities including some unique ones offered at relatively few to no other state parks and recreation areas (canoe/kayak rental, horseback riding). Surprisingly, no visitors reported equestrian use, even though park visitors were sampled in the equestrian staging lot. Conversely, considerable day use was associated with the canoe/kayak rental operation (busiest day use parking area) as well at other water access sites within the RA. One in five campers reported that they had a person in their vehicle who was disabled per the definition of disability from the American's

with Disabilities Act. This is higher than any park sampled in 2017.

Spending related to park experiences is lower per vehicle for day visitors than some other parks studied (e.g. Lake Michigan beach parks such as Warren Dunes and Saugatuck Dunes) as many visitors are likely actively enjoying water, trail or picnicking activities within a few miles of their primary home, thus not eating at restaurants or securing lodging in the area or the park. Campers however, have a much higher level of spending that is on par with that reported by campers elsewhere in the Michigan State Park system. With the intense use the recreation area receives, there is significant recognition by park campers in particular of the effective operational work done by park staff to maintain facilities, pick up litter and patrol the area. Finally, it is noteworthy with this high level of use and many diverse uses, there is little mention of conflicts among users, even though there is overcrowding noted by some day visitors. Like visitors to many Michigan State Park and Recreation Areas, there is interest among both campers and day visitors in updating and adding more facilities such as improved restrooms and in even greater maintenance efforts. Overall the site is highly appreciated by park visitors for its natural setting and strong park maintenance and patrol efforts.

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank Michigan DNR Park and Recreation Division permanent and seasonal field staff for their distribution of the survey instrument, record keeping of the number of surveys distributed and counting vehicles during sampling. We also greatly appreciate the cooperation throughout the project with Division Planning staff.

Appendix A. Tables of Results

Table 1. Vehicle counts and surveys distributed on-site 2017 at Proud Lake RA day use areas and campgrounds.

Parking Lot/Area	Summer Count	Summer Surveys Dist.	Fall Count	Fall Surveys Dist.	Total Count	Total Surveys Dist.
Proud L. N BAS	104	103	10	9	114	112
Dam/River Hawk Conf. Center	95	94	3	3	98	97
Equestrian Staging Area	13	10	0	0	13	10
Canoe Rental	442	300	4	4	446	304
W Picnic Area lots	101	71	7	7	108	78
E Picnic Area	267	189	2	2	269	191
River Hawk Annex	24	24	7	7	31	31
Other legal parked vehicles on roadsides within RA	10	9	7	7	17	16
Trailhead just E of Park HQ	64	62	6	6	70	68
Total	1,120	862	46	45	1166	907
Campers Sampled in Campground	NA	275	NA	8	NA	283

Table 2. Percent Proud Lake RA respondents participating in selected recreational activities during sample day in 2017.

Activity	Campers	Day Visitors	All
Hike/walk	62%	58%	59%
Camp	94	8	39
Swim	55	25	36
Paddle canoe/kayak	14	48	35
Nature observation	36	33	34
Picnic	33	14	21
Photography	33	12	20
Sunbathe	28	13	18
Fish from shore	29	8	15
Fish from boat	12	14	13
Bicycle on paved road	30	2	13
Power boating	7	3	5
Bike on unpaved trail	10	2	5
Pick berries/mushrooms	1	4	3
Hunt	1	2	2
Metal detect	3	0	1
Horseback ride	0	0	0
All others	6	11	9

Table 3. Percent Proud Lake RA on-site respondents one most important recreational activity during sample day in 2017.

(a)

Activity	Campers	Day Visitors	All
Camp	91	2	30
Hike	2	36	25
Paddle canoe/kayak	0	37	25
Fish	0	9	6
Swim	0	8	5
Pick berries/mushrooms	0	2	1
Nature observation	4	0	1
Picnic	0	2	1
Bicycle	0	1	<1
Power boat	2	0	<1
Hunt	0	1	<1
Photography	0	0	0
Metal detect	0	0	0
Sunbathe	0	0	0
Horseback ride	0	0	0
All others	2	4	3
Total	100%	100%	100%

(a) Total may not add to 100% due to rounding

Table 4. Expenditures of on-site respondents during past 24 hours within 20 miles of Proud Lake RA in 2017 (a).

Item	Campers Mean \$ (% spent something)	Day Visitors Mean \$ (% spent something)	All Mean \$ (% spent something)
Lodging fees	\$49 (54%)	\$6 (5%)	\$22 (23%)
Grocery and convenience store food & drink	25 (75)	17 (39)	20 (52)
Restaurant & bar meals & drinks	15 (37)	10 (29)	12 (32)
Vehicle related	12 (43)	11 (41)	11 (42)
Sporting goods	20 (22)	4 (9)	10 (14)
All other items including souvenirs	7 (16)	9 (11)	8 (13)
Total	\$128 (89%)	\$57 (71%)	\$83 (78%)

(a) Totals may not exactly add up due to rounding.

Table 5. Rating of satisfaction with Proud Lake RA use experience by on-site respondents on the day sampled in 2017.

Rating Scale	Campers %	Day Visitors %	All %
1 (very dissatisfied)	0%	0%	0%
2	1	0	<1
3	1	1	1
4	0	0	0
5 (neutral)	1	3	3
6	1	2	2
7	13	15	14
8	23	18	20
9 (very satisfied)	58	60	59
Total	100%	100%	100%
Mean Rating (a)	8.2	8.3	8.2

(a) Rating scale: 1=highly dissatisfied; 5=neutral; 9=highly satisfied.

Table 6. Response to open-ended questions about one most important reason for satisfaction rating with Proud Lake RA use by on-site respondents on the day sampled in 2017. (a)

Reason	Campers	Day Visitors	All
Nature, wildlife, quiet	6%	20%	15%
Generally like, wonderful, amazing	11	13	12
Good trails	2	16	11
Clean, well maintained/patrolled	18	6	10
Like campground	13	3	6
Like facilities	11	2	5
Like easy access to surface waters and trails	0	7	4
Like hiking	0	5	3
Convenient, close to home	8	1	3
Poor maintenance/patrol	3	1	2
Overcrowded	0	3	2
Conflict with other users	3	1	2
Poor lake management	2	2	2
Difficult to rent kayak/canoe	0	4	2
Good behavior by other visitors	3	1	2
Like paddling	0	4	2
Don't like campground	6	0	2
Good fishing	0	2	1
Uncrowded	0	2	1
Positive, friendly staff	3	0	1
Other positives with one response or hard to classify	4	4	4
Other negatives with one response or hard to classify	4	3	4
Total	100%	100%	100%

(a) Total may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Table 7. Response to open ended question about one most important improvement at Proud Lake RA by distinct on-site user survey respondents in 2017 (a).

Improvement	Campers	Day Visitors	All
Nothing to improve/change	20%	11%	16%
Better surface water/beach access/maintenance	14	10	12
Improve campground maintenance	18	0	10
Update and increase facilities	13	5	9
Better signage/information	3	14	8
Improve trail maintenance/system	0	17	7
Improve campground store/concessions	3	4	4
More parking	1	8	4
Change park rules (variety of suggestions some contradictory)	3	3	3
Improve campground utilities	6	0	3
Better maintenance of facilities	2	3	3
More enforcement/patrol	4	2	3
Improve shore/pier fishing opportunities	3	0	2
Poison ivy control	2	2	2
More rental watercraft available	0	4	2
Improved road maintenance	0	2	1
Other suggestions made by one respondent or difficult to classify	8	18	13
Total	100%	100%	100%

(a) Total may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Table 8. Response to open ended question about one most important thing not to change at Proud Lake RA for distinct on-site user survey respondents in 2017. (a)

Don't change	Campers	Day Visitors	All
Nature/wildness/quiet/wildlife	12%	25%	18%
Don't know/Keep as is	7	23	14
Level of maintenance	13	15	14
Facilities	21	2	12
Easy access to lake/river/activities	7	9	8
Staff/personnel	12	1	7
Cost/price/value/passport	5	5	5
Non-motorized trail system	0	10	4
Rules/regulations	7	<1	4
Weekend events	3	0	2
Campground	4	<1	2
Beach/lake/river	2	1	1
Watercraft rentals being available	0	4	1
Other hard to classify or less than 1% of responses	4	6	5
Total	100%	100%	100%

(a) Total may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Table 9. Origins of distinct park visitors to Proud Lake RA by state for on-site user survey respondents in 2017 (a)

State	% Campers Originating	% Day Visitors Originating	% All Originating
Michigan	90%	97%	93%
Ohio	3	0	1
Maryland	3	0	1
Virginia	0	3	1
Pennsylvania	3	0	1
Illinois	1	0	<1
California	0	<1	<1
Florida	<1	0	<1
West Virginia	<1	0	<1
Total	100%	100%	100%

(a) Total may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Draft 3-3-18

Appendix B. On-site questionnaire**Proud Lake Recreation Area Use Assessment** _____ Date

Dear Driver:

Michigan State University (MSU) and the Michigan DNR are cooperating to measure recreation use of Proud Lake State Park as part of updating the park management plan. Please take the 4 minutes needed to complete this form and mail it to us postage paid or put it in one of the drop boxes in the park marked "Park Surveys". You will be anonymous and your name will not be connected with study results. You indicate your voluntary agreement to participate by completing and returning this survey.

1. Please check ALL of the activities in which one or more of the people from your vehicle participated while you were in the park today.

<input type="checkbox"/> Hiking/Walking/Running	<input type="checkbox"/> Photography	<input type="checkbox"/> Paddling watercraft
<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling paved road/trail	<input type="checkbox"/> Camping	<input type="checkbox"/> Horseback riding
<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling unpaved trail	<input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunbathing
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing from boat	<input type="checkbox"/> Hunting/Scouting	<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing from shore/dock	<input type="checkbox"/> Power boating	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal detecting
<input type="checkbox"/> Pick berries/mushrooms		
<input type="checkbox"/> Nature observation (birding, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other(_____)	

2. Which ONE activity was the MAIN reason visited the park today? _____

3. How many HOURS was your vehicle in the park today? _____ # HOURS

4. Including you, how many PEOPLE came here in this vehicle? _____ # PEOPLE

5. Including other vehicles, how many people are in your group? _____ # PEOPLE

6. Does anyone in your vehicle have a physical impairment that seriously limits his/her participation in work or recreation? ___ Yes ___ No

7. Where did you stay last night (check one)? _____ Campground at Proud L. RA
 Own principal home Another campground Another's home/2nd home
 Hotel/motel/rental cabin Own 2nd home Other (_____)

8. During the past 24 hours, how much did you and those in your vehicle spend within 20 miles of Proud Lake State Park on the following items.

Vehicle related (gas, oil, trip related repair, etc.)	\$ _____
Restaurant & bar meals & drinks	\$ _____
Grocery or convenience store food, drink or ice	\$ _____
Sporting goods (fishing supplies, camping gear, etc.)	\$ _____
Lodging fees (camping, motel, cabin rental, etc.)	\$ _____
All other items (watercraft rental, souvenirs, etc.)	\$ _____

Draft 3-3-18

9. Please rate on a scale of 1-9 (w/ 1 highly dissatisfied; 5 neutral; and 9 highly satisfied), how satisfied you were with **today's Proud Lake RA** experience. # _____ **Rating**

10. What is the ONE most important reason for your rating? _____

11. What ONE change would you recommend to improve Proud Lake RA? _____

12. What ONE thing would you recommend not change at Proud Lake RA? _____

13. What is your principal home zip code? _____

14. Your age? _____ years 15. Please circle your gender. M or F

16. How many days did you visit Proud Lake RA in **2016** (last year)? _____ #days

Thanks for your help in improving the management of Proud Lake RA.

Dr. Chuck Nelson, Project Director _____ Time
 MSU Dept. Community Sustainability, 480 Wilson Rd., _____ Site
 East Lansing, MI 48824 Phone (517) 432-0272 nelsonc@msu.edu _____ Ques #

Appendix C. Proud Lake Sampling Schedule 2017

- 27 sample days prescribed, 22 accomplished in day use, 19 in campground.
- Based on Summer and Fall use levels per 2016 DNR park use data
- For our study purposes
 - Summer sampling June-August
 - Fall sampling September - November
- Sample days are divided the same way with 2/3 on weekdays and 1/3 on weekends similar to calendar.
- Proud Lake RA sampling will begin at one of the following times each sample day: 9 AM, Noon, 3PM and 6PM.

Draft 3-3-18

Appendix D. Proud Lake Recreation Area Planned On-Site Sampling Calendar (a)

Day	Date	Sampling Time Start
Tues	6/20	3PM
Fri	6/23	9AM
Sun	6/25	9AM
Wed	6/28	6PM
Sun	7/2	Noon
Wed	7/5	3PM
Mon	7/10	Noon
Sat	7/15	3PM
Tues	7/18	9AM
Thu	7/27	6PM
Mon	7/31	9AM
Sun	8/6	6PM
Thu	8/10	9AM
Sat	8/12	Noon
Mon	8/14	3PM
Fri	8/18	Noon
Tues	8/22	6PM
Sat	8/26	6PM
Wed	8/30	Noon
Tues	9/5	Noon
Sun	9/17	6PM
Fri (*)	10/6	6PM
Sat	10/14	9AM
Mon (*)	10/23	3PM
Sat	10/28	3PM
Thu	11/2	3PM
Wed (*)	11/15	9AM

(a) On days with an *, day visitors were sampled but not campers. On days with an overstrike, neither group was sampled.