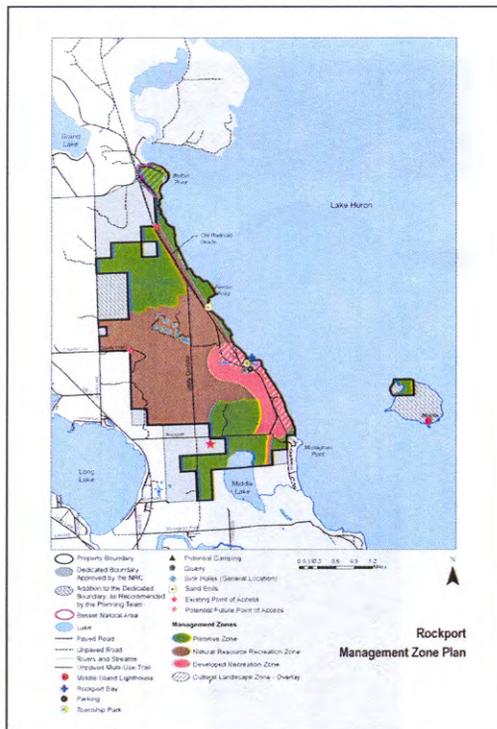


September 2008

# General Management Plan

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

## The Rockport Property



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

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



### PLAN APPROVALS:

*Ronald Hillson*

Chief, Parks and Recreation Division

9-18-08

Date

*James M. ...*

Chief, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management

9/24/08

Date

*...*

Resource Management Deputy

10-1-08

Date

*...*

Director, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

10/7/08

Date

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# PREFACE

Northeast Michigan is home to three properties owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR): Negwegon State Park, the Rockport Property, and Thompson's Harbor State Park (see figure below). Together, the sites encompass over 13,000 acres of land and 22 miles of Lake Huron shoreline. Each has significant natural resource value, while exhibiting its own special features as well as many unifying characteristics.



The three sites also have their own unique history. Negwegon was purchased in 1962, and underwent master plan studies in 1970, 1973 and 1989. Negwegon has been managed by the Parks and Recreation Division (PRD). A large portion of the Rockport Property was acquired in 1997, through a settlement with Consumer's Energy. Management of Rockport has been the responsibility of Forest, Minerals and Fire Management Division (FMFMD). Thompson's Harbor State Park was purchased in 1988 from US Steel, and underwent a master plan study that same year. Thompson's Harbor has also been managed by the PRD. Over the years and with each planning effort, there have been opportunities to obtain comments from the public regarding the management and uses of the three properties.

The PRD began a Phase I General Management Plan (GMP) process and Regional Assessment for Negwegon, Rockport and Thompson's Harbor in 2006. This planning effort was made possible with the assistance of a Coastal Zone Management Grant awarded through the Michigan Coastal Zone Management Program of the Department of Environmental Quality. This is a Federal grant available through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US Department of Commerce. Individual Phase I GMPs were prepared for each

site. The GMPs were developed according to a coordinated strategy. This was a logical approach given the location of the three sites in northeast Michigan, and the relative proximity to one another. The GMP development process involved extensive input from the Planning Team, as well as a public outreach program to obtain stakeholder and public comments.

The concept upon which all three GMPs are based would designate Rockport as the central gathering place for visitors. Rockport is the one site that has a developed area already, and it is located between Negwegon and Thompson's Harbor. There is the potential for an interpretive center, or a similar structure, that would serve as a gateway to all three sites. Brochures, maps and other materials would be available at this station. The information would equip visitors with an understanding of the educational, historical, cultural and recreational opportunities at each site. Eco-tourism businesses could also be advertised and/or based at this location.

Creating a developed area at Rockport will alleviate the need to provide similar areas at Negwegon and Thompson's Harbor. This allows for these two parks to remain in a primarily undeveloped, natural state, and accommodate low-intensity uses. Should this unifying concept for the three sites be abandoned, then the Planning Team recommends that the General Management Plan for Thompson's Harbor be revised to provide for a developable area within the park (this is explored in greater detail in the General Management Plan for Thompson's Harbor).

A key outcome of the GMP strategy for the three sites is to transfer management of the Rockport Property from FMFMD to PRD. Implementation of the unifying GMP concept would be facilitated by the management of all sites under one DNR Division. Reflective of actions by the Planning Team and the NRTM Advisory Committee, the recommendation is for the transfer to occur. The following are key differences between FMFMD and PRD regarding specific uses that are of interest to current users of the Rockport property:

### **FMFMD vs. PRD Administration of Rockport**

The following overview focuses on land uses at Rockport including: entry, camping, target shooting, ORV, equestrian, and fossil collecting. It is not intended to be a comprehensive analysis of all of the administrative differences between the two programs. A narrative discussion of program differences follows each use:

#### **Entry**

FMFMD – no entrance fees are assessed.

PRD - The Director has the authority to designate, by Land Use Order, units or portions of units where a 'Motor Vehicle Permit' (MVP) is required for entry. (MVP

fees for State Park and Recreation Areas are set by the Legislature). Once improvements can be made, vehicle access into Rockport would be subject to the MVP.

Discussion – To protect the resources from damage, FMFMD has blocked off all vehicle access into the property, and will continue that policy into the foreseeable future. The PRD Management Plan for Rockport recommends improving access from the south at the quarry where, within the Developed Recreation Zone, improvements could be made for visitor services. The plan calls for adding additional points of access from County Line Road, at about the midpoint of the property, and from the north at the Besser Natural Area. These would be in the form of defined parking areas, with access to trails. An MVP would be required for vehicle entry into Rockport under PRD at such time as vehicle entry is developed.

### **Camping**

FMFMD – Dispersed camping is allowed on state forest land unless specifically prohibited by Director's Order or within one-mile of a designated campground. It requires the posting of a "Camp Permit" on-site. The free permit form for dispersed camping is available at FMFMD area offices.

Designated FMFMD campgrounds are operated on a permit/fee basis that varies in cost based on type of campground (camper, equestrian, or ORV).

PRD – PRD does not allow 'Dispersed' camping (defined as setting up camp wherever you desire), but does allow 'Backpack Primitive' camping in designated locations. These serve to provide "walk-in" or "canoe/kayak-in" camping in aesthetic locations that are appropriate for this use. In any one area, no more than five single camps can be so designated.

PRD has expanded camping options compared to FMFMD, including Backpack Primitive, Rustic, Semi-modern, Modern, and Equestrian. PRD also has alternative overnight accommodation options including camper cabins, yurts, and lodges.

Discussion – Under PRD administration, the Management Plan for Rockport would allow for 'Backpack Primitive' camping in the Natural Resource Recreation Zone (2,040 acres = 49% of the park) and the Primitive Zone (1,645 acres = 39% of the park), all at carefully selected locations. The Developed Recreation Zone (560 acres = 12% of the park) allows for all other types of PRD overnight accommodations.

Additionally, PRD has identified Rockport as the hub of the NRTN parks, the place where it makes the most sense to develop camping and other visitor service improvements that would benefit visitors for all three locations. It is here that efforts should be made to provide a campground in the Developed Recreation Zone. It would also compliment the boat launch use, particularly to serve recreational divers and the fishing public.

## **Target Shooting**

**FMFMD** – Target shooting is allowed on state forest land, provided that it is conducted in a safe location (proper backdrop), with appropriate designated target material, safe lines of site and conduct, and appropriate clean-up of target materials, shell cases, and any debris after the shoot.

**PRD** - Target shooting is only allowed on designated shooting ranges, under the guidance of “Shooting Range Officers” to ensure public safety.

**Discussion** - The extent of target shooting use at Rockport is thought to be relatively minor, but the opportunity provided in the quarry is fairly unique for this type of activity. It may be of some debate whether or not a rock quarry meets the standard of a “proper backdrop” given the opportunity for ricochet of bullets off of rock.

In Phase 2 planning (long-range action plans) for Rockport, a formal target shooting range could be addressed as one of the recreation opportunities for the Developed Recreation Zone. Under PRD administration, this is the only option for allowing shooting range use (long-range or otherwise). With the focus of the Developed Recreation Zone to attract more people and uses, this type of controlled use is most appropriate.

## **ORV Use**

**FMFMD** – In the Southern Peninsula, ORV use on State Forest Lands is allowed only on designated ORV Trails or Areas. Rockport has neither of these and ORV use is not allowed on the property. Current ORV use at Rockport is illegal.

**PRD** – ORV’s that meet the Motor Vehicle Code (licensed for the road) can legally operate on designated park roads and parking areas. Recreational ORV use (non-registered for road use) is only allowed on a permit basis at Silver Lake State Park ORV Area and for those who are mobility impaired and require this form of conveyance to access a park (PRD Policy 8.11). Like FMFMD, no recreational ORV use would be allowed at Rockport.

**Discussion** – None of the planning recommendations identified ORV use as a compatible activity within Rockport.

## **Equestrian Use**

**FMFMD** – Equestrian use on State Forest lands is allowed unless specifically prohibited by Land Use Rule and posted as such. Rockport has not been posted against equestrian use and therefore it is currently allowed there.

**PRD** – Equestrian use on PRD lands is allowed only on designated trails.

Discussion – There were several public comments of interest in seeing equestrian use at Rockport. The proposed management zone plan designations would allow such use on over 50% of the park. Phase 2 planning would determine any recommendations for establishing equestrian trails under PRD administration.

### **Fossil collecting**

FMFMD – ‘Unauthorized’ removal of minerals is prohibited by law. This implies that through permission of FMFMD, some form of authorized removal of fossils for fossil collectors could be established.

PRD – (from Policy 1.8) “Approval decisions to remove/move large or small quantities of non-metallic minerals shall be consistent with the approved general management plan for the park or recreation area. In every instance assurance must be made to not violate statutorily protected resources.”

Discussion – The PRD policy statement is more direct to the point in terms of the Management Plan recommendations for Rockport. These recommendations support geology education, exploration, and fossil collecting as an important recreational and educational use of the park.

### **Plan Recommendations**

The Planning Team reached a consensus on a recommendation in support of an administrative transfer of Rockport. The recommendation was also supported in a motion by the NRTH Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee would assist the DNR as an advocate for the property transfer. The Planning Team and the NRTH Advisory Committee recommended that this occur over a phased timetable to give the PRD time to establish a Land Use Order of the Director, ensuring that current uses at Rockport would continue to be allowed, “as appropriate.”

“...current uses...as appropriate” are the key words in consideration of this recommendation. In its review and recommendation for approval of this Management Plan, PRD and FMFMD Management agrees with the Planning Team and the NRTH Advisory Committee that the most effective administration of the Rockport property lies with PRD. As the planning input has been gathered and incorporated into these (GMP) recommended future conditions of Rockport, the purpose and significance of the property is one clearly focused most on resource protection, recreation, education, and interpretation, all key and primary goals of PRD administration.

The recommendation regarding establishment of Land Use Orders “as appropriate” to allow FMFMD policies on use to continue under PRD is not supported by the Department. Except for target shooting, the primary land uses outlined above are reasonably accommodated under PRD management. While

not free, entry and camping opportunities will be improved under PRD, equestrian use can occur on over 50% of the park (non-wetlands) on designated trails, recreational ORV use is illegal under both PRD and FMFMD and would not be allowed, and fossil collecting is clearly addressed more positively by PRD policy.

Specific consideration of a shooting range would be made in the Phase 2 planning for Rockport. In this Phase 1 Plan, this could be a future use within the Developed Recreation Zone under PRD administration. The Department has real concerns with the idea of unregulated shooting in an area being promoted for more and varied public use and activity.

Based on the above, and reflective of the opportunity to improve overall Department efficiencies, it is the recommendation of this plan that the transfer of Rockport administration from FMFMD to PRD be made as soon as possible. This will allow for implementation of the regional management benefits of managing and marketing Negwegon, Rockport and Thompson's Harbor under one DNR program.

The Regional Assessment uses the GMP results to evaluate the merits of managing and/or marketing the three properties as a "unit". The assessment presents the significance of each property, in terms of natural resource value, historic and cultural resources, and educational and recreational opportunities. Specific features are logged as to their presence, and their local, state and regional significance. Future marketing efforts should be greatly enhanced by the classification of significant features.

Managing the sites as a unit is supported by the Regional Assessment. The recommendation for identifying Rockport as the central hub for the three sites is consistent with this finding. There are challenges associated with unit management. Distance between the management unit and the facility (none of the sites have permanent staff at this time) and physical distance (miles) between the sites makes staffing the parks difficult and daily visits by all personnel impractical. Certainly managing the units under one Division of the DNR is recommended. The GMP recommendation for management of Rockport to be transferred to PRD is appropriate given the proposed management plans.

There is great potential for marketing the sites as a unit. Their shared role in regional networks facilitates this, as does the plan to centralize 'first contact' activity at Rockport. The Regional Assessment explores the many potential partnerships, and opportunities for eco-friendly businesses to create linkages between park use and stewardship.



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rockport is a 4,237-acre State-owned property on Lake Huron, located in Alpena and Presque Isle Counties. The Phase I General Management Plan (GMP) process for the Rockport Property was made possible, in part, by funding provided by the Michigan Coastal Management Program, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration U.S. Department of Commerce. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) oversaw the planning process. The endeavor represents a new planning philosophy of the PRD. "Management Planning," a comprehensive, resource-based process, is the PRD's adaptation of National Park Service planning methodology. Rockport is under the jurisdiction of Forest, Minerals and Fire Management Division (FMFMD) at the time of this planning process, such that the GMP focuses on the four principles of the PRD Mission Statement and the mission statement of the FMFMD. Accordingly, a thorough inventory was performed on Rockport's (1) natural resources, to establish its (2) historic/cultural resources, identify the (3) recreational opportunities and develop the (4) educational and interpretation opportunities.

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

1. Uniqueness among exposed limestone formations in that the entire thickness of the rock formation is exposed at the surface.
2. Significant cultural and historic resources: Native American influences; the limestone quarry and deep water port that played an active role in Michigan's mining history and the location of the construction of the Mackinac Bridge caissons; settlement remnants from the once-active mining operation; fossils within the quarry; and, the quarry's demonstration of a limestone formation.
3. The deep water port is unique to the northeast shoreline, and is a major attraction for visitors and those seeking deep water access for launching boats.
4. Provision of boat access to Lake Huron for the public and the Chippewa tribe fishing fleet.

5. It is located within the Lake Huron Flyway (State and Federal agencies use the bird census data from this area as a litmus test of the health of Lake Huron and the shoreline environment).
6. Several historic shipwrecks lie in and around Rockport (the schooner PORTLAND at Bolton Point, and the steamer PORTSMOUTH at Middle Island, all popular and accessible dive and snorkel sites).
7. Sinkholes, karst features, and dramatic land forms are found in Rockport, which are educational and of interest to geologists, botanists, and recreational divers.
8. Unique natural features, such as old growth white pines, and cobble beach, and the prevalence of fens, which tend to be located in the northern portion of the property.
9. Shoreline and access to Lake Huron is an exceptionally valuable resource in terms of commercial fisheries.
10. Proximity and relationship to the Besser Natural Area that contains a sandy beach, rare along the typically cobbled Lake Huron shoreline, and sensitive natural features.
11. Prevalence of wildflowers, and species of special concern, threatened species and endangered species, such as Houghton's goldenrod, Dwarf lake iris and Pitcher's thistle.
12. Inclusion of land on Middle Island.
13. It is part of several regional networks.

In concert with this analysis of Rockport's identity and significance, the Planning Team, with stakeholder and public input, established appropriate Management Zones and their extent of influence on the property. From a pallet of nine standard zones, four were applied to Rockport. The Management Zone Plan is found on the cover as well as in Section 3.0 of this Plan. A thorough review of each Management Zone is presented on pages 22 through 36. A condensed review of the Management Zones is as follows:

- ❑ Primitive Zone reflects a desired condition that emphasizes the natural resources. It is managed to only allow dispersed and low frequency use for low impact recreational purposes. The Primitive Zone includes approximately 1,645 acres, or 39%, of Rockport land. The zone covers: Land that contains sensitive wetland areas, and sensitive or undisturbed forested land; the northern and southern portions of Rockport; the Besser Natural Area; and, land on Middle Island.
- ❑ Natural Resource Recreation Zone permits active recreation with moderate to high density of use conducted in a natural setting. At 49%, or 2,040 acre, the Natural Resource Recreation (NRR) Zone comprises the greatest amount of Rockport land area. The designation was applied due to the resources contained within the land, and the potential uses for these resources. Access for exploration of the sinkholes, the potential for designated rustic camping, as well as higher-intensity uses of the trails is also facilitated by the NRR designation.
- ❑ Developed Recreation Zone provides for active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. Approximately 560 acres, or 13%, of Rockport is zoned Developed Recreation. Land in this zone contains largely that which is currently disturbed, including the quarry and port. The port is shared with many users, including the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Chippewa Tribe. In a regional context, Rockport is the central hub where development can be encouraged while Negwegon State Park and Thompson's Harbor State Park retain their undeveloped, natural status.
- ❑ Cultural Landscape Zone addresses the overall setting in which is found not only historic structures, but also non-structural evidence of the traditions, beliefs, practices, lifeways, arts, crafts and social institutions of any community. Approximately 288 acres, or 6.8%, of Rockport is covered by the overlay, which applies to the eastern coastline of the Developed Recreation Zone and the Besser Natural Area. During the limestone quarry's operation, approximately 1927 to 1958, the land in this zone was occupied by settlement formed by quarry workers and their families. Remnants of this once vibrant community can be found there today.

In addition, to the Management Zones, the GMP recommends that other aspects of the property be considered:

- ❑ Regional Consideration. As described in the Preface of this document, the planning for the Rockport Property was performed in conjunction with the planning for Thompson's Harbor State Park and Negwegon State Park. The planning effort, supported by a consensus of the Planning Team, resulted in the following concept: Rockport would be established as the

central “hub” of the three sites, allowing Negwegon and Thompson’s Harbor to remain in a relatively undisturbed, natural state.

- ❑ Access and Parking. Current access to the Rockport Property is by Rockport Road, from US-23. This Plan considers two additional points of entry, both would include small parking areas: County Line Road (a central point of access that could facilitate easier access to the sink holes); and access from the north (adjacent to the Besser Natural Area).
- ❑ Signage. Appropriate signage is needed to inform the public of Rockport’s location. Interpretive, directional and education signage within Rockport, Negwegon and Thompson’s Harbor will be developed under Phase 2.
- ❑ Camping. The highly modified quarry area, in general, may offer opportunities for more extensive development with low resource impacts. The quarry also offers other recreational opportunities and any camping development would be respectful of other uses. Designated rustic camping has potential in the Natural Resource Recreation zone.
- ❑ Future Purchases. Part of the DNR’s mission is to acquire lands with unique natural, cultural and historic resources for the purposes of public recreation and education. The Natural Resources Commission approved a dedicated boundary for Rockport in 2004. The Planning Team’s recommendation for expanding the project boundary is included in this GMP (see Section 2.5). The recommendation includes acquiring additional frontage along East Grand Lake Road, and all remaining ownership of Middle Island. Land within the dedicated boundary would be a priority purchase for the DNR, should the opportunity to purchase and funding become available. Major land purchases would prompt an amendment to this GMP.

General Management Plans develop as a result of a series of planning steps. Each step builds upon the previous, and action decisions focus on the mission of the Parks and Recreation Division (PRD), and the specific Purpose and Significance of the park. This Phase I GMP is the first of four phases of planning. This document provides the direction necessary to complete the next step, a Phase 2 GMP, which will identify goals to be obtained over the next ten years.



# 1.0 Plan Process Overview

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

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

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

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

This Plan represents Phase I. In this phase of planning, what Rockport will look like in 20 years is defined, and critical questions are answered, such as: What will be the condition of flora and fauna? How will we address historic and cultural resources? What recreational opportunities could be provided? What education

and interpretation efforts will meet the visitor? What will guide the manager's operational decisions? What will be the visitor's overall experience?

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

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

- ◆ Natural features
- ◆ Historic/cultural features
- ◆ Education/interpretation, and
- ◆ Recreational opportunities.

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

- ◆ Visitor experience
- ◆ Management Focus, and
- ◆ Development.

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

## **1.1 Planning Objectives**

The objective of this General Management Plan is to bring together all DNR programs staff, stakeholders, and the public who use Rockport into a planning process that will define and clarify the unique "Purpose" and "Significance" of Rockport. Collectively, we will reinforce those attributes in the planning and management decisions that impact the property through the implementation of the Management Zone Plan. Future action plans, whether focused on a development proposal, a resource improvement initiative, an interpretive program, or day-to-day management of Rockport will be guided by this General Management Plan.

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

## 1.2 Planning Team

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Paul N. Curtis	DNR-PRD
Keith Cheli	DNR-PRD
Gary Ellenwood	DNR-PRD
Dan Mullen	DNR-PRD
Glenn Palmgren	DNR-PRD
Tom Paquin	DNR-PRD
Troy Rife	DNR-PRD
Anna Sylvester	DNR-PRD
Dave Borgeson	DNR-FD
Tim Cwalinski	DNR-FD
Steve Sendek	DNR-FD
James Johnson	DNR-FD
Laurie Marzolo	DNR-FMFMD
Bill O'Neil	DNR-FMFMD
John Pilon	DNR-FMFMD
Richard Stevenson	DNR-FMFMD
Chris Morris	DNR-LED
Jon Spieles	DNR-OC
Elaine Carlson	DNR-WD
Keith Kintigh	DNR-WD
Kevin Boyat	Chair, Alcona County Board of Commissioners
Beverly Bodem	Senator Stamas Office
Roger Carlin	Supervisor, Alcona Township
Kammie Dennis	Director, Tourism Council, Presque Isle County
Kenneth Gauthier	Supervisor, Sanborn Township
John Gilmet	Mayor, City of Alpena

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Chris Graham	Citizen's Committee for Michigan State Parks
Jeff Gray	Manager, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Tom Ferguson	Sunrise Side Travel Association and Citizen's Committee for Michigan State Parks
Beach Hall	Mayor, Rogers City
Mary Ann Heidemann	Michigan State University Extension
Laura Ingles	Senior Planner, NEMCOG
Patrick Labadie	Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Stephen Lang	Presque Isle County Commissioner, District 5
Sue Maxwell	Alpena County League of Women Voters
David Nadolsky	Rogers City
Peter Pettalia	Supervisor, Presque Isle Township
Brandon Schroeder	District Sea Grant Extension Educator, Michigan State University Extension
Mark Slown	City Manager, Rogers City
Matt Smar	DEQ Coastal Management Program
Jeff Thorton	Coordinator, Alpena County
Ken Timm	Commissioner, Alcona County
Marie Twite	Supervisor, Alpena Township
David C. Birchler	President, Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.
Amy Golke	Senior Planner, Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.

### **1.3 Management Plan Process**

Of the total 4,237 acres, the majority of the Rockport property (3,641 acres) was acquired from Consumers Energy in 1997, and was placed under the management of Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division (FMFMD). A PRD Boating Access Site already existed at the harbor within the property, and a small parcel of that land was leased to Alpena Township to develop and operate as a local park.

The DNR-Northern Lower Peninsula Ecoregion Team (representatives of all divisions and programs of the DNR) made a recommendation in 2006 to transfer administration of the Rockport property from Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division (FMFMD) to Parks and Recreation Division (PRD). In September of 2006, the Citizen's Committee for Michigan State Parks (a legislatively established advisory body for DNR-Parks and Recreation Division) held a Public Information Meeting in Alpena to gather public input before making their recommendation for the proposed transfer.

The results of that meeting was to put on hold any action until further assessment of the Rockport property could be completed through the Management Planning process of Parks and Recreation Division. They supported the regional planning grant proposal that PRD was pursuing through the Coastal Zone Management

Program to conduct Management Planning for Negwegon and Thompson's Harbor State Parks and to include the Rockport property. Additionally, they recommended the establishment of a Citizen's Advisory Committee to interact with the DNR on a long-term basis in the management of Rockport as well as Negwegon SP and Thompson's Harbor SP.

### A Regional Approach to Management Planning

Between September of 2005 and May of 2007, the Northeast Michigan Integrated Assessment (NEMIA) planning project was conducted. This regional planning effort was led by the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) and Michigan Sea Grant, a program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Through a thoughtful and deliberate process that brought in local units of government, stakeholders and public input, the NEMIA planning team developed this vision statement...

***"Visioning a Sustainable Future for Northeast Michigan: Connecting Great Lakes Coastal Access, Tourism, and Economic Development"***

...and policy question:

***"How can coastal access be designed, in a regional context, for sustainable tourism that stimulates economic development while maintaining the integrity of natural and cultural resources, and quality of life?"***

Part of the answer to that policy question lies in the role of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), with several coastal State Parks and other lands of significant frontage and unique natural resource values along the coastline of Lake Huron.

In April of 2006, Parks and Recreation Division of the DNR submitted an application for a federal grant from the Coastal Zone Management Program of NOAA for the purpose of developing individual long-range Management Plans for Negwegon State Park, the Rockport property, and Thompson's Harbor State Park. This planning effort would also look at these three significant coastal properties in a regional context, in sync with the vision of the NEMIA process and sensitive to the NEMIA policy question.

The NEMIA planning effort helped guide the DNR to this regional perspective, and the Sea Grant and NEMCOG letters of support for the CZM grant helped to secure the funding necessary to accomplish the planning. Without the grant, we did not have the resources in staff or funding to take on all three properties at the same time or to explore their regional context.

## 2.0 Core Values



### 2.1 Mission Statements

Guidance for the General Management Plan stems from the Mission Statements of the Department and its Parks and Recreation Division (PRD), and the Purpose and Significance Statements that have evolved through the planning process. Because the Rockport property is under the management of Forest, Mineral, and Fire Management Division (FMFMD) of the DNR, it is important to recognize its mission as well. The core values found in these statements must be reflected in this long-range General Management Plan for the Rockport Property, and subsequently reflected in any shorter range action plans:

#### **DNR Mission Statement**

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

#### **FMFMD Mission Statement**

*To provide for the protection, integrated management and responsible use of a healthy productive forest and mineral resource base for the social, recreational, environmental and economic benefit of the people of the State of Michigan.*

#### **PRD Mission Statement**

*Acquire, protect, and preserve the natural, historic, and cultural features of Michigan's unique resources and provide public recreation and educational opportunities.*

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

## **2.2 Statements of Purpose**

Statements of purpose for Rockport are based on legislation, legislative history, special designations and DNR policies. These statements reaffirm the reasons for which it was valued as land to be owned and managed by the State.

1. To maintain, preserve and protect Rockport's 4,237 acres, including the 3,640 acres deeded by Consumers Energy as part of the Ludington Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Facility settlement.
2. To preserve and protect the property's unique natural resources for current and future generations.
3. To preserve and protect the property's historic and cultural resources.
4. To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflect the mission of the DNR and the unique qualities of Rockport.
5. To provide opportunities for recreational uses and experiences that are unique to, and compatible with, the property's resource base.
6. To ensure that the planning of Rockport is part of a cohesive strategy for the region.

## **2.3 Statements of Significance**

Statements of significance capture the essence of its importance to carry out the core values of the DNR, FMFMD and PRD Missions. They recognize the natural and cultural heritage values of the property and the recreational and educational opportunities afforded. These statements describe the distinctiveness of Rockport. Understanding these distinctions helps managers make decisions that preserve those special resources and values necessary to accomplish the property's purposes. Rockport is significant because of many factors, including but not limited to those stated below.

14. The Rockport site is unique among exposed limestone formations in that it is the only location where the entire thickness of the rock formation is exposed at the surface. Geologists have been studying the Rockport Quarry Limestone since 1876, when the earliest description of the formation was recorded in scientific literature by then State Geologist, Dr. Carl Rominger. Rockport is a treasure for fossil collecting and the study of rock exposures and karst features for geologists, teachers, amateur collectors, and the general public.
15. Rockport has significant cultural and historic resources. The Rockport property has a rich history due to the limestone quarry and forest

operations that occurred at this location. The deep water port at Rockport was a convenient location for construction and shipping of caissons for the Mackinac Bridge. When the quarry was thriving, a large settlement occupied the area. Remnants remain to tell the story. The fossils within the quarry, as well as the quarry's demonstration of a limestone formation, are of historical and educational significance.

16. The deep water port is unique to the northeast shoreline, and is a major attraction for visitors. The port provides boat launch capability, and is an ideal location for boaters, divers and swimmers. The port may be beneficial in terms of tourism (e.g. Great Lakes cruise lines, tourism boats, etc.).
17. Rockport is within the Lake Huron Flyway and provides a vital habitat for resident and migrating bird species. State and Federal agencies use the bird census data from this area as a litmus test of the health of Lake Huron and the shoreline environment.
18. The Chippewa tribe has access to the boat launch through a Tribal Commercial Fishery Consent Decree.
19. There are cultural and historical significant features at Rockport. There is a Native American influence in Rockport. Additionally, several historic shipwrecks lie in and around Rockport. Shipwrecks include three small craft in the harbor, the schooner PORTLAND at Bolton Point, and the steamer PORTSMOUTH at Middle Island, all popular and accessible dive and snorkel sites. At least a dozen others are believed to lie offshore.
20. Sinkholes, karst features, and dramatic land forms are found in Rockport. These are educational and of interest to geologists, botanists, and recreational divers. These formations can pose a danger as the land surface surrounding the hole is often fractured and can become unstable. There are special (rare) plant associations growing on the sides of the dry sinkholes that love the lime and dry conditions. There are at least twenty sinkholes in Rockport, including an underwater spring offshore.
21. Unique natural features, such as old growth white pines, and cobble beach, and the prevalence of fens, which tend to be located in the northern portion of the property.
22. The Rockport property's shoreline and access to Lake Huron is an exceptionally valuable resource in terms of commercial fisheries. Whitefish are Lake Huron's most important commercial species, and the Thunder Bay area is growing in recognition as a focal point for whitefish spawning. It hosts a variety of nongame species, as well, and would therefore be

valuable for beach zone species composition and diversity. The fisheries value is also significant from a historical perspective, as some Alpena area settlers were attracted to the area for its commercial fishing resources.

23. Proximity and relationship to the Besser Natural Area. The Besser Natural Area was dedicated as such due to the unique and sensitive natural features in its boundaries. The Area includes: a stand of mature, virgin red and white pine with spruce, balsam, cedar and birch; over 4,000 feet of Lake Huron shoreline, primarily limestone gravel; and a habitat for plant species of special concern, including the federal and state threatened Pitcher's thistle.
24. The sandy beach at the Besser Natural Area is rare along the typically cobbled Lake Huron shoreline. A wetland just inside the shoreline at Bolton Point was created by a unique "tombolo" formation, and a portion of an 1877 shipwreck lies within it.
25. Prevalence of wildflowers, and species of special concern, threatened species and endangered species, such as Houghton's goldenrod, Dwarf lake iris and Pitcher's thistle.
26. The Rockport property includes land on Middle Island. (The lighthouse on Middle Island is privately owned.)
27. Part of regional networks:
  - a. Bluewater Trail. A proposed trailway, developed under NEMCOG, comprised of navigable waters. Rockport would be part of such a network.
  - b. Great Lakes Circle Tour. The Tour was developed in the late 1980s and consists of a 6,500-mile road network connecting the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River. Information about the tour, including campgrounds, recreational areas and local attractions, is available to tourists on-line. The Rockport property could be a stop along the tour.
  - c. Huron Greenways: A NEMCOG project that applied greenways principals to specific environmental and recreational resources in the coastal portions of Northeast Michigan. The project inventoried available ecological and recreational resources, and explored ways in which they can be knit together into a cohesive, inter-connected system. Rockport is a part of the system.
  - d. Lighthouse Trail: The Lighthouse Trail was the result of a sustained regional effort, in cooperation with the Department of History, Arts and

Libraries, to designate a Maritime Heritage Trail from AuGres in Arenac County, to the Mackinac Bridge.

There are many lighthouse sites surrounding Rockport: Alpena Light (Alpena); Middle Island Keeper's Lodge (Alpena); Thunder Bay Island Lighthouse (Alpena); New Presque Isle Lighthouse Park and Museum (Presque Isle); Old Presque Isle Lighthouse (Presque Isle); Presque Isle Range Light Park (Presque Isle); Sturgeon Point Lighthouse (Harrisville); Forty Mile Point Lighthouse (Rogers City); and Tawas Point Lighthouse (East Tawas).

- e. Sunrise Side Coastal Highway: Rockport is a stop along the US-23 Heritage Route, from Standish to Mackinaw City. This was officially designated a *Recreation Heritage Route* on May 6, 2004.
- f. NOAA's 448-square mile Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary extends from the north and south borders of Alpena County to West 83 degrees longitude. Based on the density and the historical, archeological and recreation significance of some 200 known shipwrecks, the Sanctuary's Advisory Council has recommended expansion to a 3,662-square-mile area extending from Alcona County to Presque Isle County and east to the international border with Canada. This would include all of the Rockport Property. The expansion is now pending.

## 2.4 Legal Mandates

For all General Management Plans, legal mandates are identified and serve to further guide the development of the General Management Plan and subsequent Action Plans. For our planning purposes, the term "Legal Mandates" refers to not only state law, but also the administrative tools of "Policy" and "Directive" of the Natural Resource Commission, the Department, and Parks and Recreation Division. Specific to Rockport, the following legal mandates have been identified.

1. Besser Natural Area: Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 351 – Wilderness and Natural Areas - Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act. An act... "to protect the environment and natural resources of the state..." Within this law are three designations (definitions); "NATURAL AREA", "WILD AREA", and "WILDERNESS AREA". Mandates for the Natural Area include:

Section 324.35105 – PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES, identifies that the following cannot occur on state land in a Natural Area.

- (1)(a) Any alteration of vegetation except as necessary for appropriate public access.
- (b) 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.

(f) Motorized equipment (except if authorized by Department for management or conservation purposes)

(2) If a right-of-way or an easement was granted on land prior to designation under this law, the department may grant an easement along the route of same right-of-way or easement for the installation and maintenance of utilities for gas, electric, telephone, and cable services.

2. Alpena Township Lease. The PRD entered into a long term lease with Alpena Township in approximately 2000 to utilize two acres of the Boat Access Site for development of small township day-use park. Alpena Township received a Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund grant in approximately 2001 for the development of the park facility. Township park improvements were completed in the summer of 2003 and encompass a 200' x 300' area near the old shipping dock and include, approximately 25 parking spaces of which 2 are barrier free, picnic tables and grills, wildflower plantings, an interpretive display, benches, trees, lawn area and a historical marker. The photo, right, highlights the land included in the Agreement (Parcel A).



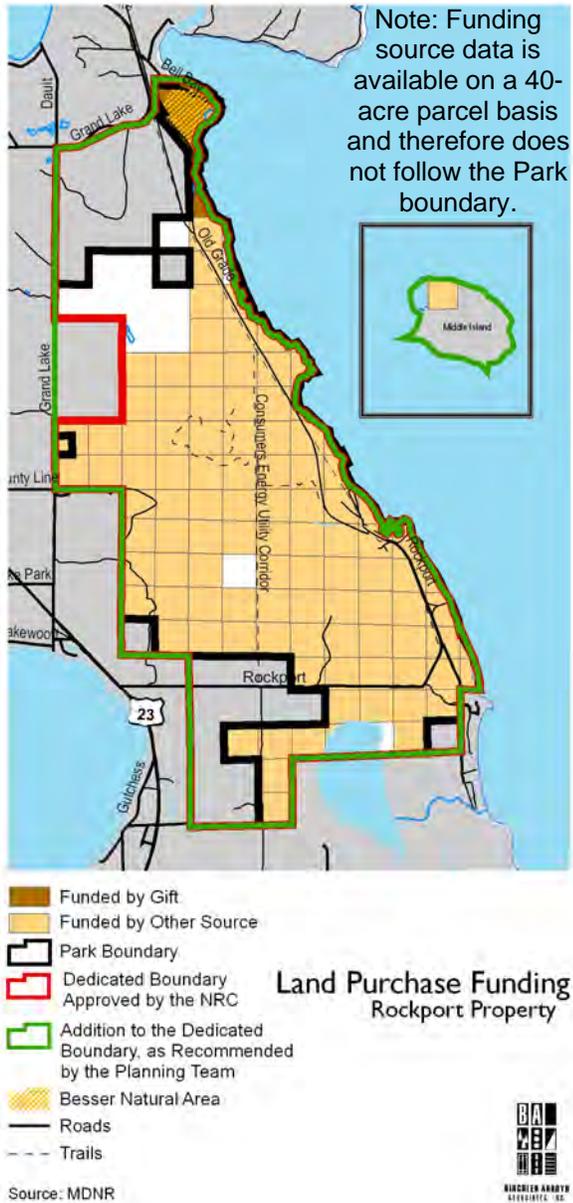
3. Public Act 451 of 1994, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (Excerpt) – 324.78105. Establishes the powers and duties of the department to acquire, construct, and maintain harbors, channels, and facilities (e.g. Boat Access Sites) for vessels in the navigable waters lying within the boundaries of the state of Michigan.
4. Restrictions of Land Purchase Funding Sources. Funds used to purchase recreation land can come with stipulations as to how the land can or cannot be used. The following are descriptions of the impacts of known funding sources (see figure, next page).

- ❑ Gift: Approximately 280 acres were gifted.
- ❑ MNRTF: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund monies were used for improvements to the two-acre park leased to the Township.
- ❑ Other sources: 4,080 acres of Rockport were dedicated from other sources. The settlement with Consumer's Energy may be included in this acreage.

5. Easements. The following have easements within the Rockport property:

- ❑ A Consumers Energy easement traverses Rockport north to south. The easement was retained by Consumers when land was dedicated as part of the settlement. The easement states that the DNR can use the land in the same manner as other public lands under its jurisdiction, as long as such uses do not interfere with the rights reserved to Consumers Energy. Further, the DNR cannot construct buildings, or other structures, or place materials, supplies, substances or equipment on the land. Approval must be obtained from Consumers Energy prior to the construction of any roads, irrigation systems or other uses. Appendix A, Section A10, contains the easement agreement.

**Figure 1: Purchase Funding Sources**



- Michigan Department of Transportation
- Alpena County Road Commission
- Lake State Railroad.

6. Public Act 451 of 1994, Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act (Excerpt) – 324.41901. Regulation and prohibitions in certain areas; powers of department; area closures; hearings, investigations, studies, and statement of facts; regulations. This part of PA 451 establishes the powers of the Department to establish safety zones for hunting. In accordance with the Administrative Rules established by Wildlife Division for hunting safety, a 450 foot “Safety zone” is established around all occupied dwellings (which includes campgrounds). Under the State Land Rules, the Department also has the authority to expand the application of this 450 foot “Safety zone” to encompass “Day-Use Areas” such as beaches, picnic areas, boat launches, and parking areas, should the need arise. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.
7. Public Act 451 of 1994, Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act (Excerpt) – 324.76102. Aboriginal records and antiquities; right to explore, survey, excavate, and regulate reserved to state; possessory right or title to abandoned property. Sec. 76102 (1) The state reserves to itself the exclusive right and privilege, except as provided in this part, of exploring, surveying, excavating, and regulating through its authorized officers, agents, and employees, all aboriginal records and other antiquities, including mounds, earthworks, forts, burial and village sites, mines or other relics, and abandoned property of historical or recreational value found upon or within any of the lands owned by or under the control of the state. (2) The state reserves to itself a possessory right or title superior to that of a finder to abandoned property of historical or recreational value found on the state owned bottomlands of the Great Lakes. This property shall belong to this state with administration and protection jointly vested in the department and the department of history, arts, and libraries.
8. Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 303, Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act – Wetlands Protection. Wetlands are under the jurisdiction of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. Section 324.30305 prescribes activities not requiring a permit under the Act and uses allowed without a permit. This section reads:
  - (1) Activities that require a permit under part 325 or part 301 or a discharge that is authorized by a discharge permit under section 3112 or 3113 do not require a permit under this part.
  - (2) The following uses are allowed in a wetland without a permit subject to other laws of this state and the owner's regulation:

- (a) Fishing, trapping, or hunting.
- (b) Swimming or boating.
- (c) Hiking.
- (d) Grazing of animals.
- (e) Farming, horticulture, silviculture, lumbering, and ranching activities, including plowing, irrigation, irrigation ditching, seeding, cultivating, minor drainage, harvesting for the production of food, fiber, and forest products, or upland soil and water conservation practices. Wetland altered under this subdivision shall not be used for a purpose other than a purpose described in this subsection without a permit from the department.
- (f) Maintenance or operation of serviceable structures in existence on October 1, 1980 or constructed pursuant to this part or former 1979 PA 203.
- (g) Construction or maintenance of farm or stock ponds.
- (h) Maintenance, operation, or improvement which includes straightening, widening, or deepening of the following which is necessary for the production or harvesting of agricultural products:
  - (i) An existing private agricultural drain.
  - (ii) That portion of a drain legally established pursuant to the drain code of 1956, 1956 PA 40, MCL 280.1 to 280.630, which has been constructed or improved for drainage purposes.
  - (iii) A drain constructed pursuant to other provisions of this part or former 1979 PA 203.
- (i) Construction or maintenance of farm roads, forest roads, or temporary roads for moving mining or forestry equipment, if the roads are constructed and maintained in a manner to assure that any adverse effect on the wetland will be otherwise minimized.
- (j) Drainage necessary for the production and harvesting of agricultural products if the wetland is owned by a person who is engaged in commercial farming and the land is to be used for the production and harvesting of agricultural products. Except as otherwise provided in this part, wetland improved under this subdivision after October 1, 1980 shall not be used for nonfarming purposes without a permit from the department. This subdivision does not apply to a wetland that is contiguous to a lake or stream, or to a tributary of a lake or stream, or to a wetland that the department has determined by clear and convincing evidence to be a wetland that is necessary to be preserved for the public interest, in which case a permit is

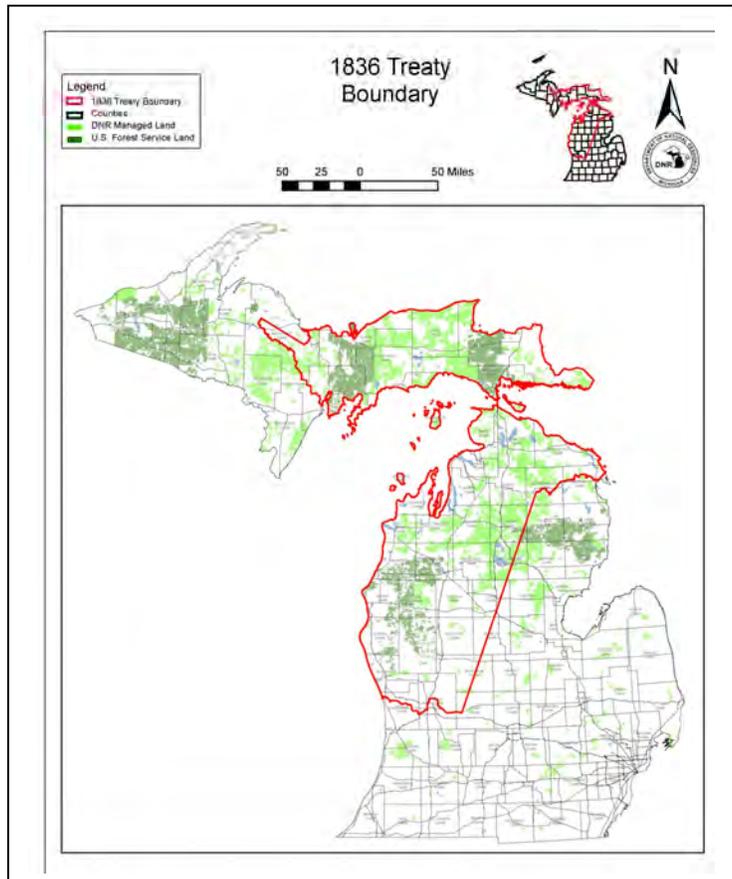
- required.
- (k) Maintenance or improvement of public streets, highways, or roads, within the right-of-way and in such a manner as to assure that any adverse effect on the wetland will be otherwise minimized. Maintenance or improvement does not include adding extra lanes, increasing the right-of-way, or deviating from the existing location of the street, highway, or road.
  - (l) Maintenance, repair, or operation of gas or oil pipelines and construction of gas or oil pipelines having a diameter of 6 inches or less, if the pipelines are constructed, maintained, or repaired in a manner to assure that any adverse effect on the wetland will be otherwise minimized.
  - (m) Maintenance, repair, or operation of electric transmission and distribution power lines and construction of distribution power lines, if the distribution power lines are constructed, maintained, or repaired in a manner to assure that any adverse effect on the wetland will be otherwise minimized.
  - (n) Operation or maintenance, including reconstruction of recently damaged parts, of serviceable dikes and levees in existence on October 1, 1980 or constructed pursuant to this part or former 1979 PA 203.
  - (o) Construction of iron and copper mining tailings basins and water storage areas.
  - (p) Until November 1, 2007, beach maintenance activities that meet all of the following conditions:
    - (i) The activities shall not occur in environmental areas and shall not violate part 365 or rules promulgated under that part, or the endangered species act of 1973, Public Law 93-205, 87 Stat. 884, or rules promulgated under that act.
    - (ii) The width of any mowing of vegetation shall not exceed the width of the riparian property or 100 feet, whichever is less.
    - (iii) All collected debris shall be disposed of properly outside of any wetland.
  - (q) Until 3 years after the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subdivision, removal of vegetation as authorized under section 32516.
- (3) An activity in a wetland that was effectively drained for farming before October 1, 1980 and that on and after October 1, 1980 has continued to be effectively drained as part of an ongoing farming operation is not subject to regulation under this part.
- (4) A wetland that is incidentally created as a result of 1 or more of the

following activities is not subject to regulation under this part:

- (a) Excavation for mineral or sand mining, if the area was not a wetland before excavation. This exemption does not include a wetland on or adjacent to a water body of 1 acre or more in size.
- (b) Construction and operation of a water treatment pond or lagoon in compliance with the requirements of state or federal water pollution control regulations.
- (c) A diked area associated with a landfill if the landfill complies with the terms of the landfill construction permit and if the diked area was not a wetland before diking.

9. 2007 Consent Decree – This was a negotiated settlement (Agreement) between the Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. government, and five Native American Tribes of:

- Bay Mills Indian Community
- Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
- Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
- Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians



(This map defines the areas impacted by the Consent Decree, which for our planning purposes includes Thompson's Harbor SP and the Rockport property.)

The agreement defines the extent of Inland Article 13 rights of the 1836 Treaty which speaks to rights for hunting and other 'usual privileges of occupancy' on lands ceded to the U.S. government. The Decree addresses fisheries, wildlife, law enforcement and land management. It also establishes parameters that define where, when, and how the Tribes may exercise their rights.

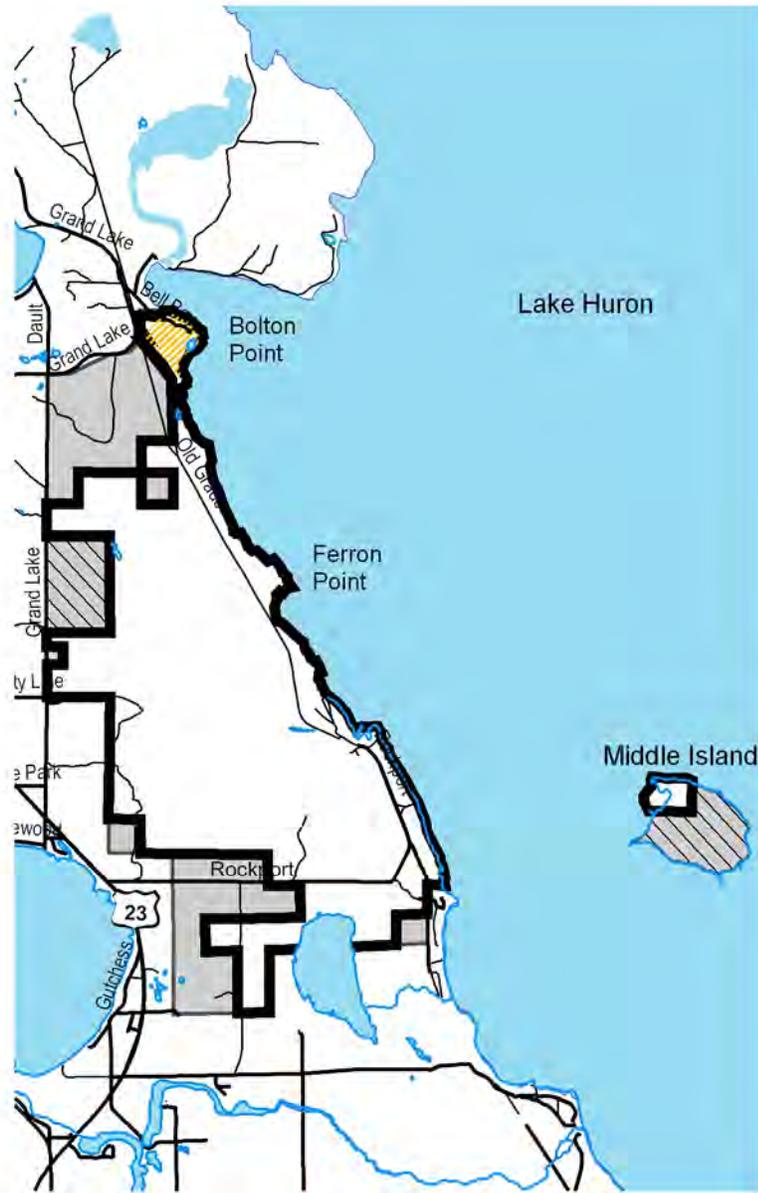
## 2.5 Land Acquisition

Acquisition of land that would expand and consolidate inholdings of the Rockport property is of high priority for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division (PRD). Imbedded in its mission statement and core values is the acquiring of land with unique resources, or natural, historic, and cultural features. Land is to be acquired for the direct purposes of preserving and protecting natural and historical / cultural features and providing public recreation and educational opportunities.

The DNR has targeted land in (privately-owned 'inholding' parcel) and around Rockport for future purchase, should there be an opportunity to do so. Figure 2 illustrates the existing boundary for the property, and the *dedicated* or *project* boundary for the site. The dedicated boundary was approved by the Natural Resources Commission in 2004. The DNR would like to acquire any private lands within the *dedicated* or *project* boundary as they become available, and as funding allows.

Part of the Phase I General Management Plan process was to evaluate the dedicated boundary and determined whether revisions are required or necessary. The Planning Team reached a consensus with regard to expanding the boundary as shown on Figure 2. The recommended boundary would follow East Grand Lake Road, and include inholding parcels, as well as all of Middle Island.

**Figure 2: Dedicated Boundary**



-  Rockport Property Current Boundary
-  Dedicated Boundary Approved by the NRC
-  Addition to the Dedicated Boundary as Recommended by the Planning Team
-  Besser Natural Area
-  Roads
-  Rivers, streams

Source: MDNR

**Dedicated Boundary**  
Rockport Property



## 3.0 Management Zone Plan



With guidance of the Planning Team and input from our stakeholders and the public, the Recreation Area “Purpose and Significance” statements were formulated. This established an identity for Rockport as a place to interact with natural and cultural resources, as well as protect, preserve and enhance the natural features. While there are multiple reasons to visit Rockport, many people associate the site with access to water. Rockport’s deep water port attracts boats, commercial fisherman, divers (shipwrecks), and swimmers. The quarry is another draw for fossil hunters, classrooms, target shooting, and historians. The undisturbed habitats support a high variety of wildflowers, and animal and bird habitats. The diverse terrain includes sink holes, old growth white pine forests, and cobbled and sand beaches.

The Management Zone Plan, Figure 3, was developed according to the Identity. Similar to the Purpose and Significance statements, the Management Zone Plan was also drafted with Planning Team, stakeholder and public support. The Management Zone Plan seeks to preserve and protect the resources, while creating appropriate recreational uses, and educational and interpretation opportunities. To achieve this, Rockport was divided into the following zones:

- ◆ Primitive Zone reflects a desired condition that emphasizes the natural resources. It is managed to only allow dispersed and low frequency use for low impact recreational purposes. Attaining and maintaining a high quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements or uses are allowed.
- ◆ Natural Resource Recreation Zone permits active recreation with moderate to high density of use conducted in a natural setting. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but higher levels of uses are allowed.

This is Phase I of the General Management Plan for Rockport. Phase I determines management zones (MZs) for the park land. MZs describe a variety of activities that **may be** appropriate within that zone. Identifying specific activities that **will occur** is a function of Phase II general management planning, and not a component of this plan.

Developed Recreation Zone provides for active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. Recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced as possible.

Cultural Landscape Zone addresses the overall setting in which is found not only historic structures, but also non-structural evidence of the traditions, beliefs, practices, lifeways, arts, crafts and social institutions of any community.

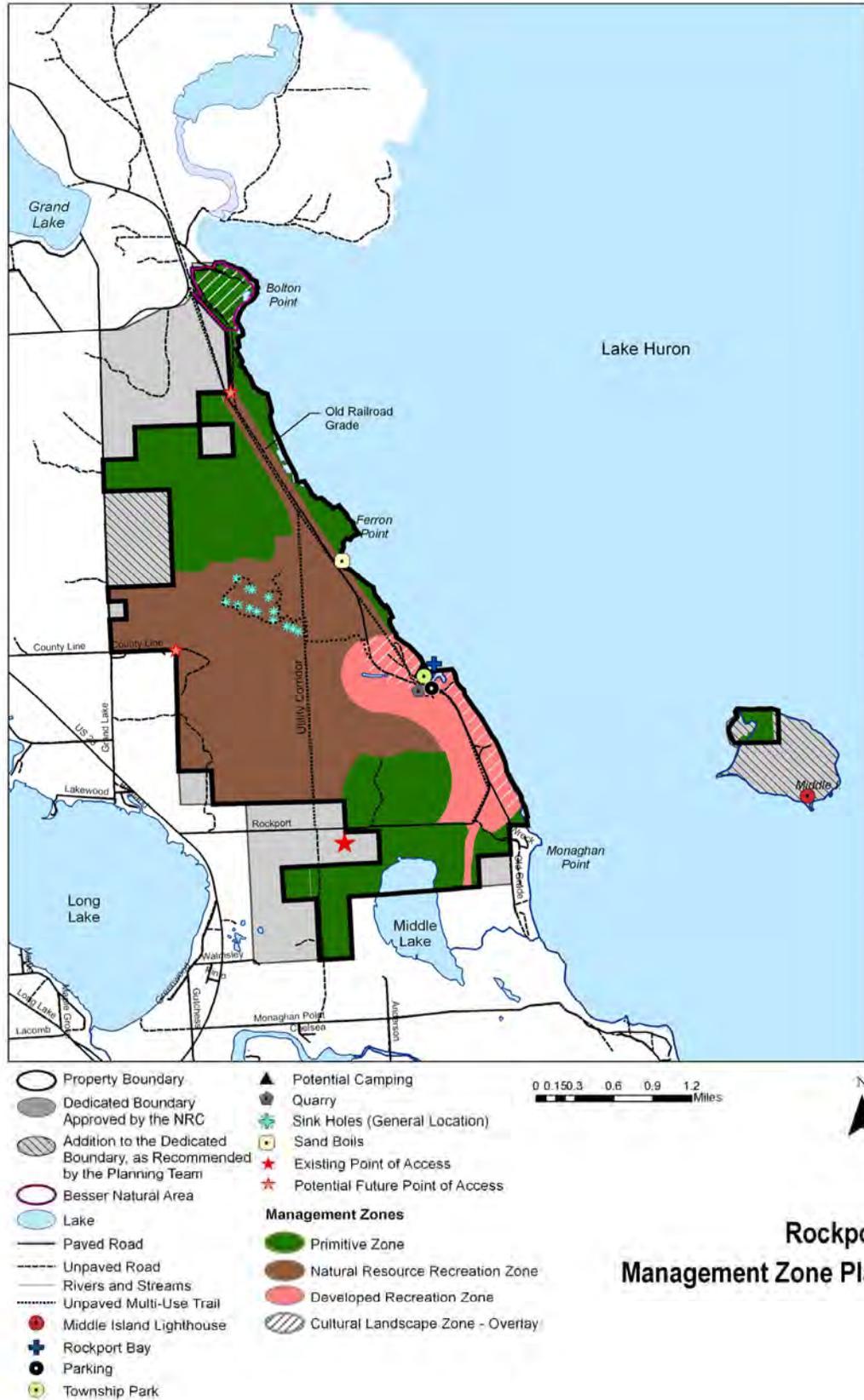
### **Other Plan Features and Recommendations**

- ◆ Regional Consideration. As described in the Preface of this document, the planning for the Rockport Property was performed in conjunction with Negwegon State Park and Thompson's Harbor State Park. The planning effort, supported by a consensus of the Planning Team, resulted in the following concept: Rockport would be established as the central "hub" of the three sites, allowing Negwegon and Thompson's Harbor to remain in a relatively undisturbed, natural state. The concept of the hub is one in which Rockport would be identified by visitors as the first stop to exploring northeast Michigan. At Rockport, there may be an interpretive center or a similar structure where people would become oriented as to the location of each site, as well as become aware of the connecting trails, and educational and recreation opportunities available at each site. Maps, brochures and perhaps information on eco-tourism businesses would be available at this central gathering place.

Of the three sites – Negwegon State Park, the Rockport Property, and Thompson's Harbor State Park – Rockport was selected as the ideal hub for two reasons: its central location between Negwegon and Thompson's Harbor; and, it has already been the site of much disturbance in the Developed Recreation Zone (see Figure 3). Scuba diving, a significant deep water boat access to Lake Huron, a Township Park, fossil collection, and long-range target shooting, are some of the activities that currently take place in this area. In contrast, Negwegon and Thompson's Harbor remain in a primarily undeveloped, natural state. To preserve their pristine environments, parking will remain minimal, but more dispersed to improve access. Rockport would be the advertised "central" location, and would be improved to accommodate more intense use and development. Note: should the concept of Rockport as the central hub not, modifications to the General Management Plan for Thompson's Harbor could be necessary (see Thompson's Harbor General Management Plan).

- ◆ Access and Parking. Current access to the Rockport Property is by Rockport Road from US-23. This Plan considers two additional points of entry, both would include small parking areas: County Line Road (a central

**Figure 3: Management Zone Plan for the Rockport Property**



point of access that could facilitate easier access to the sink holes); and access from the north (adjacent to the Besser Natural Area).

- ◆ Signage. Appropriate signage is needed to inform the public of the site's location. Interpretive, directional and education signage within Rockport, Negwegon and Thompson's Harbor will be developed under Phase 2.
- ◆ Camping. The highly modified quarry area, in general, may offer opportunities for more extensive development with low resource impacts. The quarry also offers other recreational opportunities and any camping development would be respectful of other uses.
- ◆ Future Purchases. Part of the DNR's mission is to acquire lands with unique natural, cultural and historic resources for the purposes of public recreation and education. The NRC-approved dedicated boundary for the Rockport property is provided in Section 2.5. Land within the dedicated boundary would be a priority purchase for the DNR, should the opportunity to purchase and funding become available. Land in the dedicated boundary is currently in private ownership, and therefore has not been designated a management zone. Major land purchases will prompt an amendment to this Plan.

### 3.1 Primitive Zone

The northern and southern portions of Rockport, the Besser Natural Area, and land on Middle Island, are designated Primitive Zone. These areas encompass approximately 1,645 acres, or 39%, of the site. The Primitive designation was generally applied to land that contains sensitive wetland areas, and sensitive or undisturbed forested land. Figure 4 presents areas designated Primitive Zone. Figure 5 presents the Primitive Zones with a wetlands overlay to illustrate these impacts.

- A. Natural Resources. This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease.

Within the Primitive Zone, the land would be managed to preserve and protect the wetlands, wooded dune-swale complexes, old growth pines, fens, and mature virgin red and white pine with spruce, balsam, cedar and birch located in the Besser Natural Area. Preserving this land is important because:

- ◆ The land provides habitat for a diverse array of animals.

Figure 4: Primitive Zone

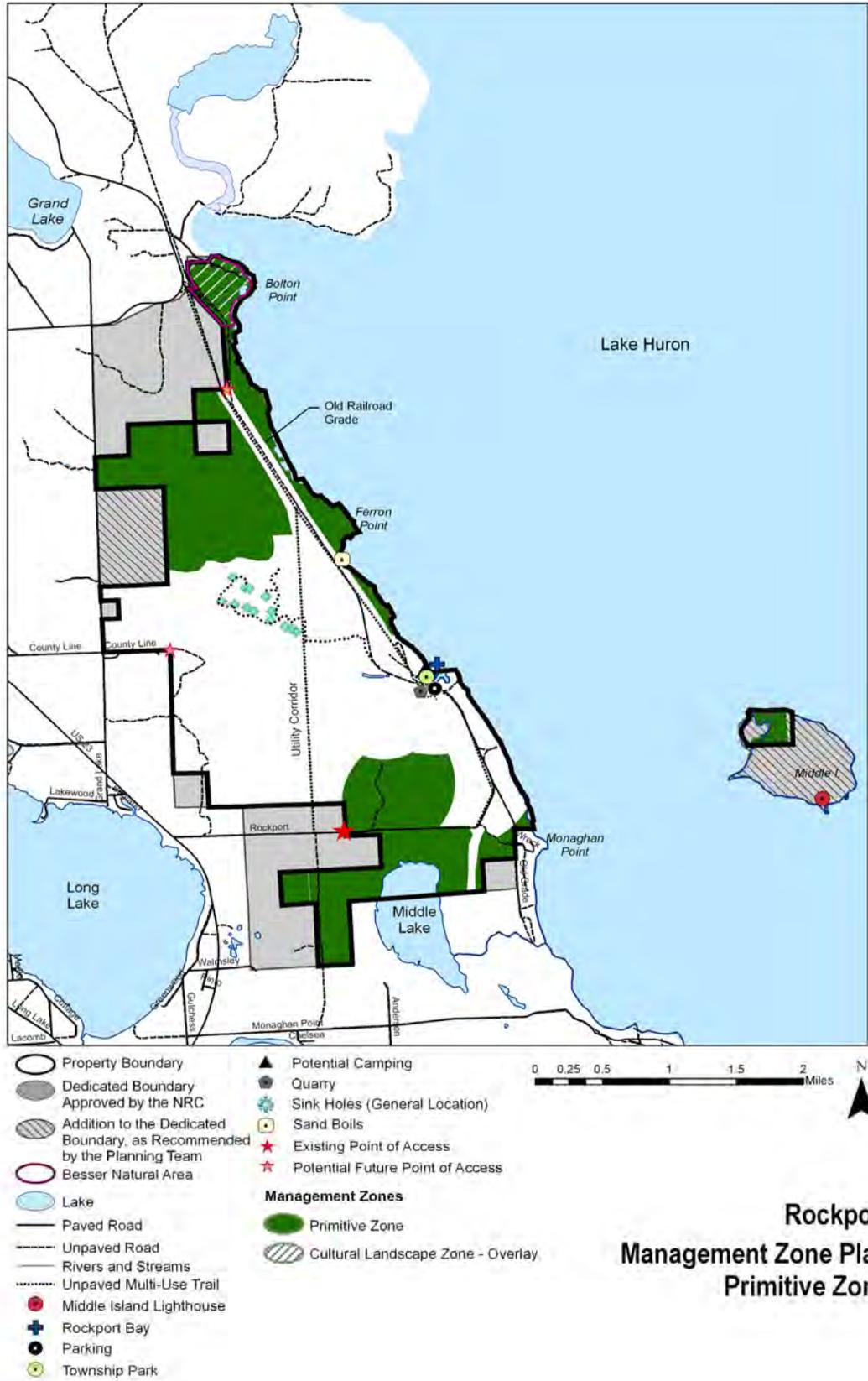
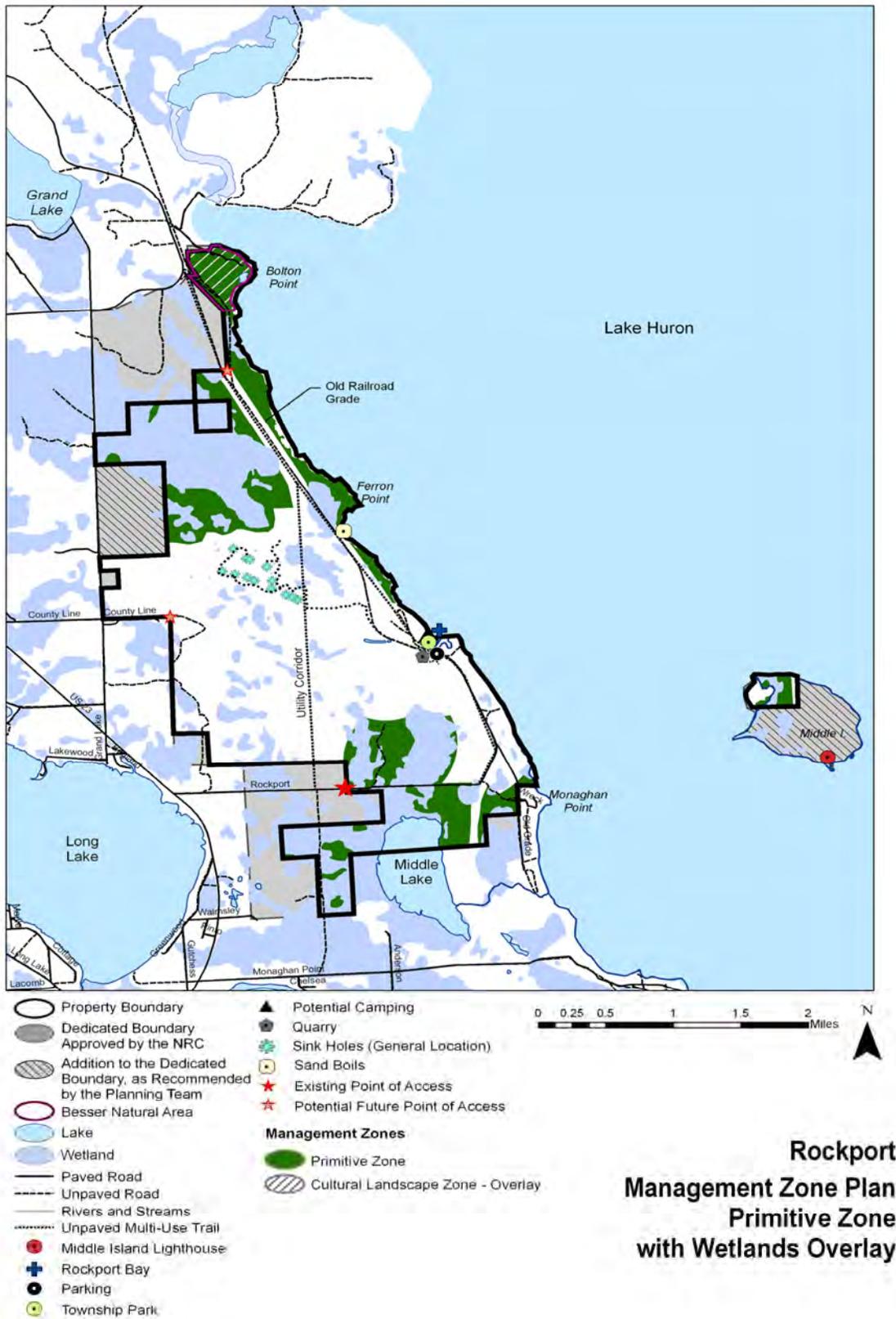


Figure 5: Primitive Zone with Wetlands Overlay



- ◆ The land supports a variety of wildflowers, including Houghton's goldenrod, Dwarf lake iris, and Pitcher's thistle, which are all threatened species.
- ◆ The shoreline and coastal waters are highly valued for beach zone species composition, whitefish spawning and commercial fishing.

The Management Plan promotes the on-going maintenance and enhancement of these natural resources to ensure their success in the long-term. Native species and natural processes would take precedence over visitor accommodation.

- B. Historic / Cultural Resources. Cultural and historic resources in this zone would be preserved, removed or allowed to waste away.
- C. Recreational Opportunities. With the focus of this zone being preservation, protection and enhancement of the natural communities present within the zone, recreational opportunities are limited to low-intensity uses. Any uses must be dispersed, low intensity, off-trail or trail, self-reliant, outdoor activities. Activities that could occur in this zone are hiking, back-packing, hunting/trapping/fishing, primitive camping, cross-country skiing, nature observation.
- D. Education Opportunities. The ecological significance of the resources in this zone present a valuable educational opportunity. Information can be relayed through the use of kiosks at trailheads and interpretive signage along trails and other appropriate locations.
- E. Visitor Experience. Visitor experience would reflect a high degree of natural feel: a significant sense of solitude, and a lack of man-made improvements. There would be low interaction with others.
- F. Management Focus. Management would focus on maintaining the low-impact character of the zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality. Routine maintenance of any trails or access routes would be provided. Care would be taken to eliminate any detrimental impacts such as erosion, sedimentation or incursion of invasive species. Other management strategies would be based on recommendations in a future Stewardship Plan.
- G. Development. The focus is to maintain as little evidence of human activity as possible. Only trail improvements, which can include boardwalks and/or overlooks, and educational or interpretive signage would be constructed.

### 3.2 Natural Resource Recreation Zone

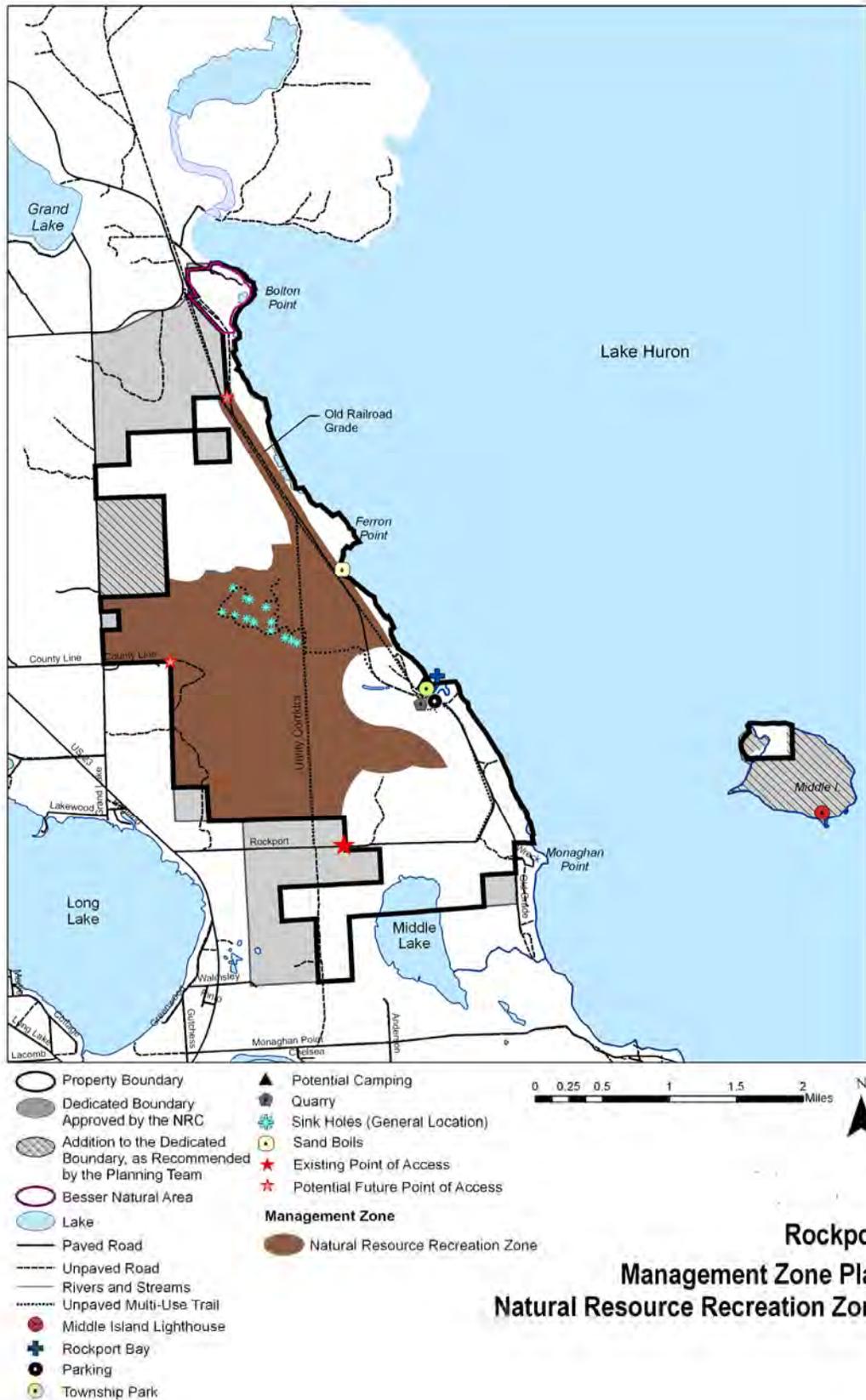
The Natural Resource Recreation (NRR) Zone comprises the greatest amount of Rockport land area (2,040 acres or 49%). This zone encompasses the central portion of the site, which includes the utility corridor, and the railroad grade. The designation was applied due to the resources contained within the land, and the potential uses for these resources. Development for exploration of the sinkholes, as well as higher-intensity uses of the trails would be facilitated by the NRR designation. Figure 6 presents land designated NRR.

- A. Natural Resources. This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing 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.

Within the Natural Resource Recreation Zone, natural resources support visitor activities with only moderate impacts. Natural resources would be managed or modified to support visitor activities, but protected to the degree possible and the appearance should remain natural.

- B. Historic / Cultural Resources. Resources in this zone could be preserved, rehabilitated, removed or allowed to waste away. Historic structures could be adaptively used for operational uses or educational purposes.
- C. Recreational Opportunities. Moderate to high levels of recreation compatible with the natural character of the zone are allowed. Visitors are engaged in outdoor activities in diverse land and water settings. Activities that could be permitted include hiking, backpacking, back-country camping, bicycling, equestrian use where appropriate, canoeing, kayaking, nature observation, cross-country skiing, and showshoeing. Hunting/trapping/fishing are permitted in designated areas, and snowmobiling is permitted on designated routes. For Rockport, snowmobiling along the utility corridor and railroad grade could be a permitted activity.
- D. Education Opportunities. Information can be relayed through the use of kiosks or interpretive signage at trailheads, along trails or overlooks.
- E. Visitor Experience. Moderate visitor encounters are accommodated in the Natural Resource Recreation Zone. Activities for visitors to engage in could offer a variable time commitment, challenge and adventure. Moderate noise tolerance and moderate interaction with others can be expected.

Figure 6: Natural Resource Recreation



- F. Management Focus. Management focuses on maintaining the use of the zone appropriate to the PRD's mission. Public safety, protection of resources, and universal access are management priorities.
- G. Development. A moderate level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities is permitted in this zone. Examples of development include restrooms, concrete/asphalt/gravel walkways and parking, trails, benches, picnic tables, rustic campsites, cabins and shelters for recreation and educational opportunities. Site hardening is allowed as necessary to facilitate activities and protect natural resources.

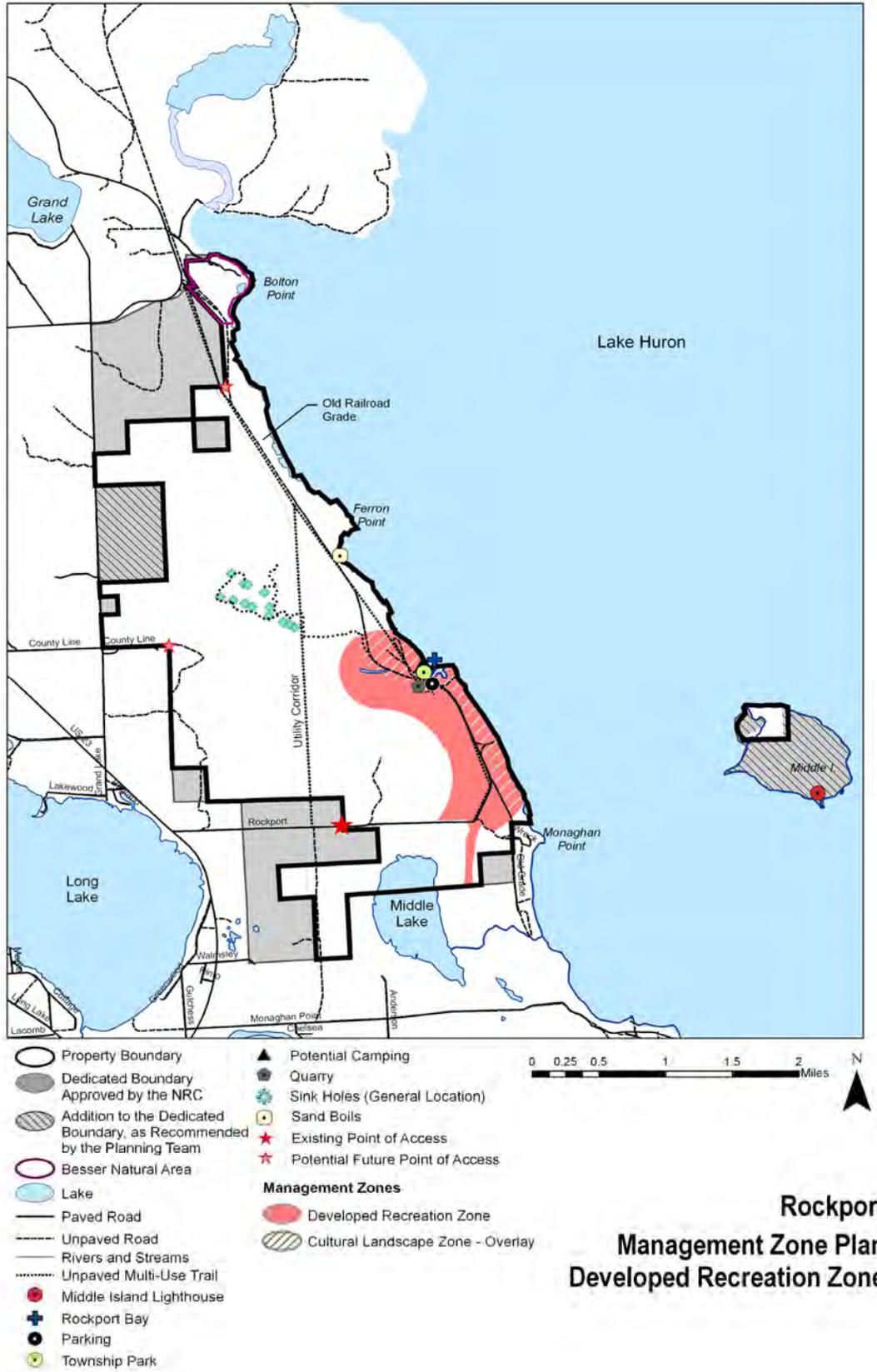
### 3.3 Developed Recreation Zone

Approximately 560 acres (13%) of Rockport land is Developed Recreation (DR). Land in this zone contains largely that which is currently disturbed, including the quarry and port, which is shared with many users, including the National Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary and the Chippewa Tribe. Should Rockport become a central hub for Negwegon State Park and Thompson's Harbor State Park, development could be accommodated in the DR Zone. Figure 7 presents land designated Developed Recreation.

- A. Natural Resources. Vegetative management in this zone will address hazard trees, invasive species, and pests and disease, and will also be allowed for purposes of facilitating development and recreational use and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape. Natural resources are actively managed and modified to support visitor activities. Water quality is maintained or restored.
- B. Historic / Cultural Resources. Resources in this zone could be preserved, adapted or rehabilitated. Non-utilized or stabilized structures are removed.
- C. Recreational Opportunities. High levels of recreation in a highly structured environment are found in this zone. Visitors engage in recreation activities in diverse and modified land and water settings: hiking, modern and semi-modern camping, bicycling, equestrian use where appropriate, boating, canoeing, kayaking, nature observation, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, day-use beach, picnicking, and other day-use activities. Hunting is allowed in only approved areas. Trapping and fishing are permitted in designated areas. Snowmobiling is permitted on designated routes.
- D. Education Opportunities. Interpretive signage and information could be provided at a day-use facility, boat launch, campground, registration building, trail head, along trails and overlooks.

- E. Visitor Experience. A high level of visitor encounters can be accommodated. Activities for visitors to engage in could offer a variable time commitment, challenge and adventure. Moderate noise tolerance and moderate to high interaction with others can be expected.
- F. Management Focus. Management focuses on maintaining the use of the zone appropriate to the PRD's mission. Public safety, protection of resources, and universal access are management priorities.
- G. Development. A high level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities is permitted in this zone. Examples of development include restrooms, concrete/asphalt/gravel walkways and parking, trails, benches, picnic tables, rustic campsites, cabins and shelters for recreation and educational opportunities. Site hardening is allowed as necessary to facilitate activities and protect natural resources.

Figure 7: Developed Recreation



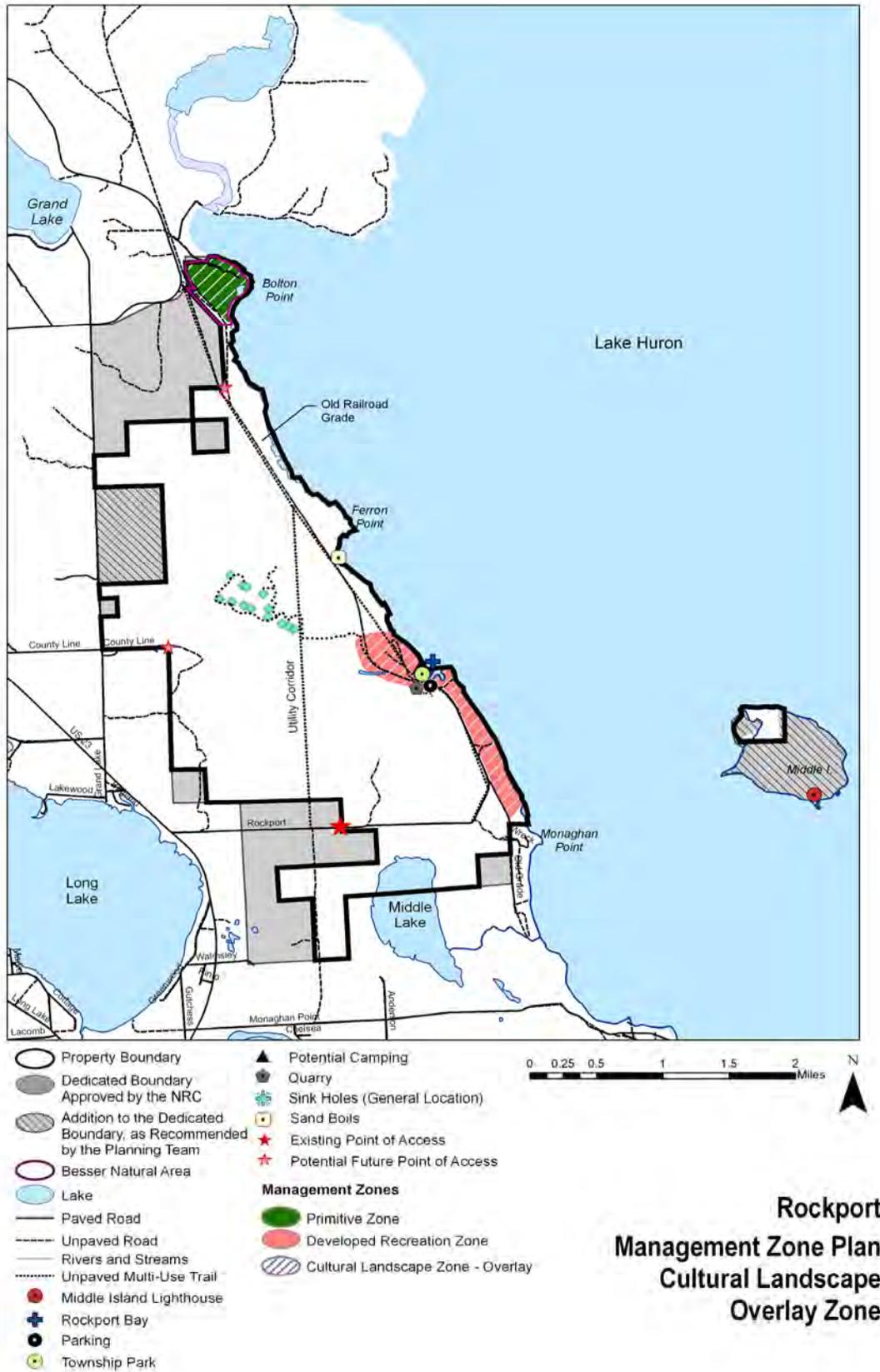
### 3.4 Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone

A Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone (Figure 8) applies to approximately 288 acres of Rockport land, or 6.7% of the total land area. The Overlay Zone applies to the coastline of the Developed Recreation Zone, and the Besser Natural Area. When the limestone quarry was in operation approximately 1927 to 1958, the land in this zone was occupied by settlement formed quarry workers and their families. There was known to be homes, and at least one school in this area. Remnants of this once vibrant community remain.

- A. Natural Resources. This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to enhance education/interpretation uses and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape that is sensitive to the historical resource and interpretation of the zone.
- B. Historic / Cultural Resources. Structures, remnants, ships and other landscape characteristics and features which represent the evolution of the resource, temporal change and the continuum of time would be preserved, protected and enhanced. Rehabilitation or adaptive re-use for operational or education purposes are permitted.
- C. Recreational Opportunities. Visitors could be engaged in sightseeing, recreational and education activities in a cultural setting compatible with and sensitive to the setting. Activities allowed in this zone include automobile, bike, walking or hiking tour. When resources are sensitive and require substantial preservation, the general public may not have access to the exact location of the resource.
- D. Education Opportunities. The cultural and historic resources demonstrate the uniqueness of Rockport, but also contribute to the story of Michigan, and our nation. Information can be relayed through the use of kiosks at trailheads and interpretive signage along trails and other appropriate locations. Off-site interpretation may be used as well.
- E. Visitor Experience. For resources available to public viewing and/or use, moderate visitor encounters are accommodated. Visitors engage in sightseeing, recreational, and education activities in a cultural setting. Moderate noise, time commitment and interaction with others can be expected.
- F. Management Focus. Management focuses on maintaining the cultural character of the zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality.

G. Development. Non-historic development and activities that do not conflict with the cultural landscape are tolerated in this zone. Moderate levels of development and accessibility could be provided to support visitor access and use.

Figure 8: Cultural Landscape Zone - Overlay



**Rockport  
Management Zone Plan  
Cultural Landscape  
Overlay Zone**



## 4.0 Future Plan Inserts

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

**10-Year Action Plan (LONG-RANGE ACTION GOALS TO ATTAIN GMP):** Phase 2 of the Management Planning Process. Includes review and update of General Management Plan.

**5-Year Action Plan (SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT):** Phase 3 of the Management Planning Process. Includes review and update of General Management Plan and Phase 2 Plan.

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

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

- ◆ Annual Work Plan (This report ties in with Phase 4 – Annual Report of Management Planning)
- ◆ Stewardship Plan
- ◆ Staffing
- ◆ Budget
- ◆ Equipment
- ◆ Training
- ◆ Public Relations / Marketing / Outreach
- ◆ Programming (ie. special events, volunteers, etc.)
- ◆ Public Health, Safety, and Welfare
- ◆ Water system
- ◆ Wastewater system
- ◆ Electrical system
- ◆ Law enforcement
- ◆ Emergency Access Plan

- ◆ Wildfire Management Plan
- ◆ CRS
- ◆ FOIA
- ◆ Raster Image Index
- ◆ Raster Images of historic plans, and
- ◆ Infrastructure data.

**APPENDIX A**

**SUPPORTING ANALYSIS**

**FOR THE**

**ROCKPORT PROPERTY**

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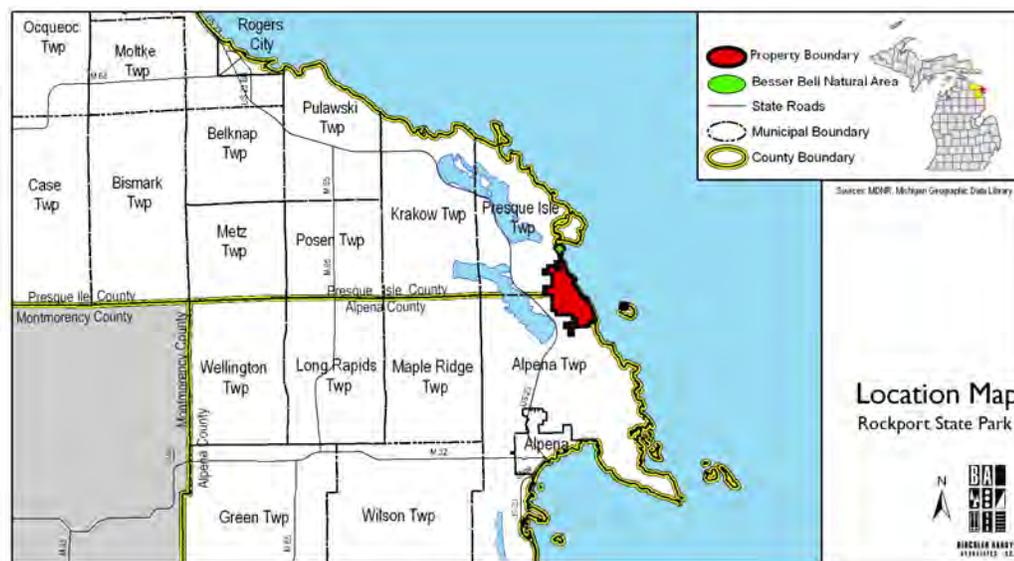
# A1. Location

The Rockport Property (Rockport) consists of approximately 4,237 acres, and is located in the northeast lower peninsula. The center of the property is in Town 32 North, Range 8 E, Section 36 (Latitude 45.207188, Longitude -83.408289). The Property includes a harbor and approximately 5.5 miles of Lake Huron shoreline.

Rockport straddles two jurisdictions. The northern portion of Rockport is located in Presque Isle Township, Presque Isle County, and the southern portion is in Alpena Township, Alpena County. Rockport includes the Besser Natural Area, a portion of Middle Island, and a non-contiguous parcel of land (Map 1).

There are several ways access the Rockport property. From the Besser parking area is a trail – a former railroad - that leads to Lake Huron and several sinkholes. Users enter from the south, by the main entrance which leads to a picnic area (leased by Alpena Township), boat launch, and trail to the limestone quarry / fossil hunting grounds. Those that know the area well may use the Grand Lake channel or powerline easement(s) as means of access.

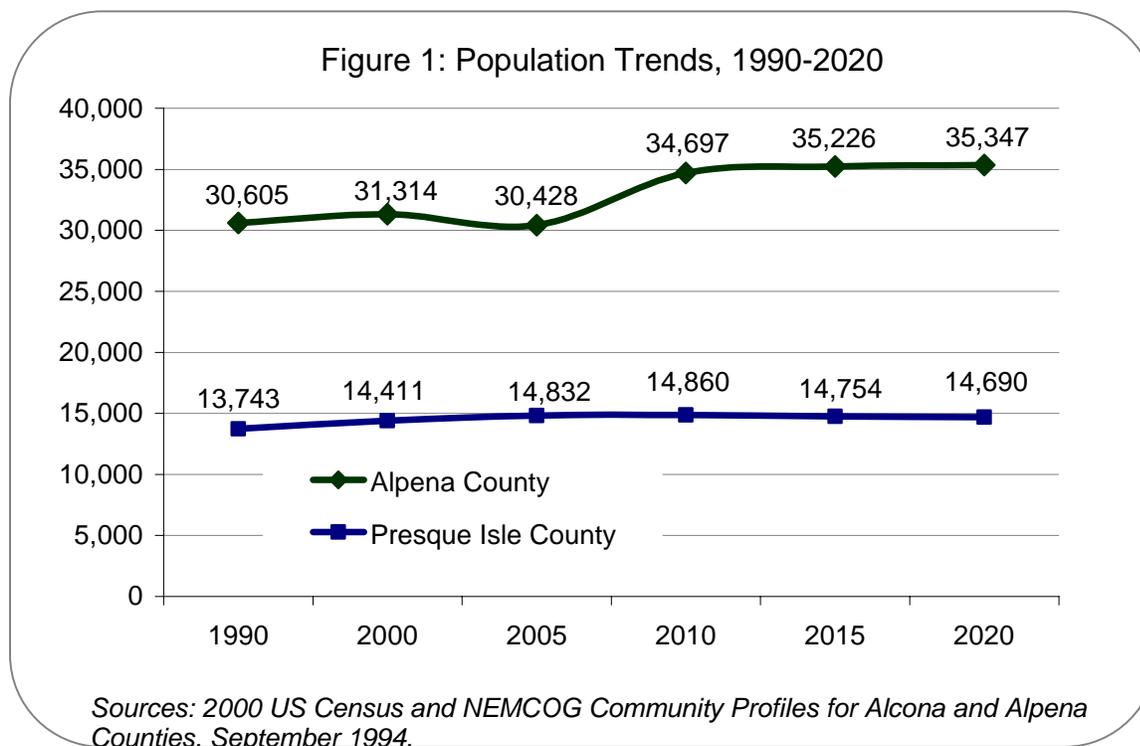
Map 1: Location Map



## A 2. Demographics

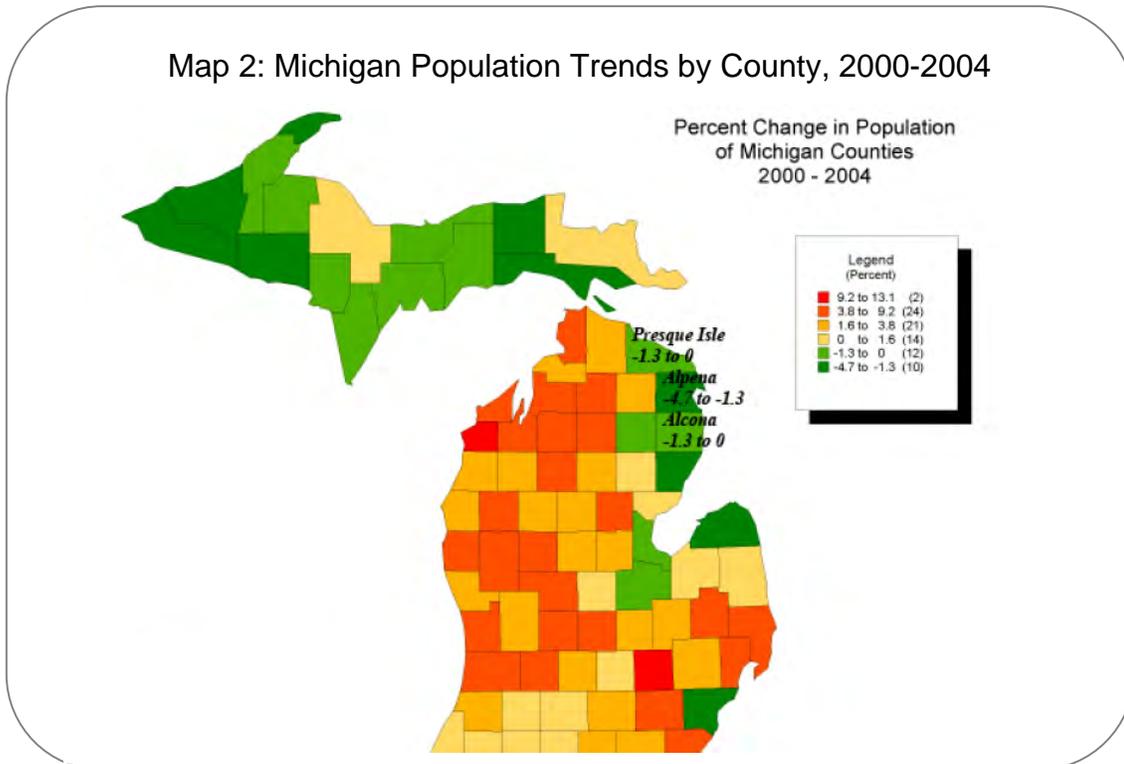


**Population.** Alpena and Presque Isle County populations totaled 45,260 in 2005. Sixty-seven percent of this total is Alpena County residents. As shown by Figure 1, Alpena County is projected to have a steady population increase through 2020, while Presque Isle County is projected to lose population. The projection for Presque Isle County is consistent with recent 2000-2004 trend data, which indicates population losses for northeast Michigan communities (Map 2).



The Rockport property lies between two local governments: Presque Isle Township to the north; and, Alpena Township to the south. The 2000 population for Presque Township was 1,634 and Alpena Township's 2000 population was 9,889. Among the larger population centers near Rockport are the Alpena City / Alpena Township area (11,156 people and 9,889 people, respectively) and Roger's City (3,318 people).

Map 2: Michigan Population Trends by County, 2000-2004

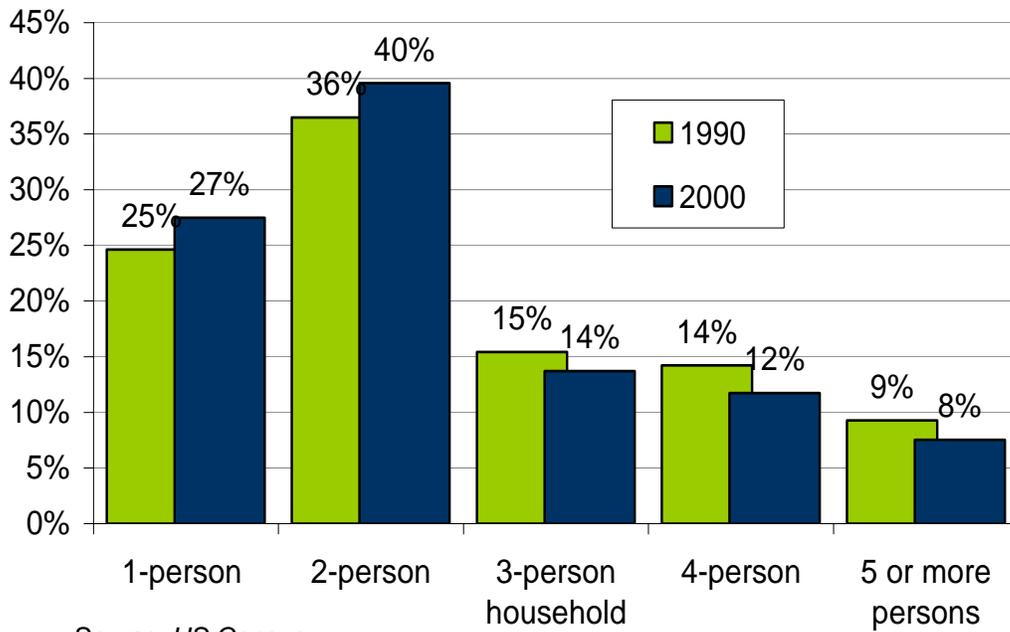


**Average Household Size Average Population Age.** From 1990 to 2000 the average household size decreased, while the average age rose for Alpena and Presque Isle Counties. This is consistent with that which occurred nationwide. The trend is expected to continue as the baby-boomer generation ages, and the younger generations are marry later and have fewer children. This may be compounded in northeast Michigan due to its growing reputation as an ideal community for retirement.

According to the 2000 US Census, there are approximately 18,973 households in Alpena and Presque Isle counties (Alpena, 12,818 households and Presque Isle, 6,172 households). While the number of households increased from 17,212 in 1990, the number of persons per households (pph) decreased during that time. Between 1990 and 2000, the average household size for Alpena and Presque Isle Counties decreased from 2.54 pph to 2.34 pph. Figure 2 illustrates the trend of decreasing household sizes.

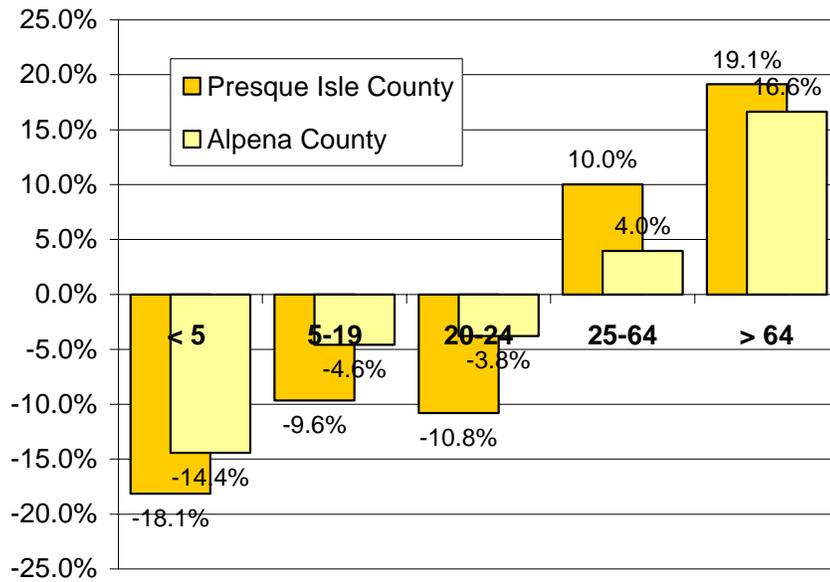
In addition to a decreasing household size, the age of the population is increasing. The average median age for Alpena and Presque Isle Counties rose from 36.9 years in 1990 to 42.3 years in 2000. The median age increase is confirmed by age data for the counties. From 1990 to 2000, percent increases occurred for the older age groups, while percent decreases were experienced for the younger age groups (Figure 3).

Figure 2: Average Household Type for Alpena and Presque Isle Counties, 1990 and 2000



Source: US Census

Figure 3: Percent Change in Population, 1990 to 2000 Alpena and Presque Isle Counties



Source: US Census

**Racial Composition.** At 98.9%, the predominant race for Presque Isle and Alpena counties is Caucasian (98.9%). The representation of other races is comparatively small: American Indian or Alaska Native, 0.5%; African American, 0.3%; Asian, 0.3%; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, 0.004%; another race, 0.1%; or two or more races, 0.7%. Less than one percent (0.6) of the population is of Hispanic or Latino origin. From 1990 to 2000, minority representation has increased: from 0.8% to 1.1% for Alpena County; and, 0.7% to 1.1% for Presque Isle County.

**Disabilities**

Approximately 9,624 residents of Alpena and Presque Isle counties, or 21% of the community, live with some type of long-lasting mental, physical or emotional condition. Approximately 11% of these people are school-aged children and young adults, 51% are of work force age, and 38% are retirees.

**Housing and Home Ownership.**

There are 25,199 housing units in Alpena and Presque Isle Counties (Source: NEMCOG Community Profiles). Types of units available include single family detached, single family attached, duplexes, apartments, manufactured housing, and boats, RVs, vans and the like. Most housing units are single family detached at 80.9%, followed by mobile homes at 8.2%, and apartments at 6.5% (78% of apartments are located in Alpena County).

Of the 25,199 housing units available:

	<u>Alpena County</u>	<u>Presque Isle County</u>
Total Units Available:	15,289	9,910
Occupied Units:	12,818	6,155
Owner-Occupation:	10,145	5,266
Renter-Occupation:	2,673	889
Vacant Units:	2,471	3,755
Seasonally-Vacant:	1,658	3,278

The above figures indicate that most of the housing units are owner-occupied. Of the 16% of Alpena County vacant units, 67% are seasonally-occupied. For Presque Isle County, 87% of the 3,755 vacant units are seasonally-occupied. According to local sources, most of the seasonally-occupied housing units are used by their owners (i.e. not rented to vacationers).

Most homes range from \$50,000 to \$99,000, with the median housing value of owner-occupied units averaging \$77,950. Homes in both counties tend to be of older construction: only 11.2% of the Alpena County's housing stock, and 14.8% of Presque Isle's housing stock, were built after 1990. For those who do rent, the average median monthly rental rate is \$391.

### Education, Income and Employment.

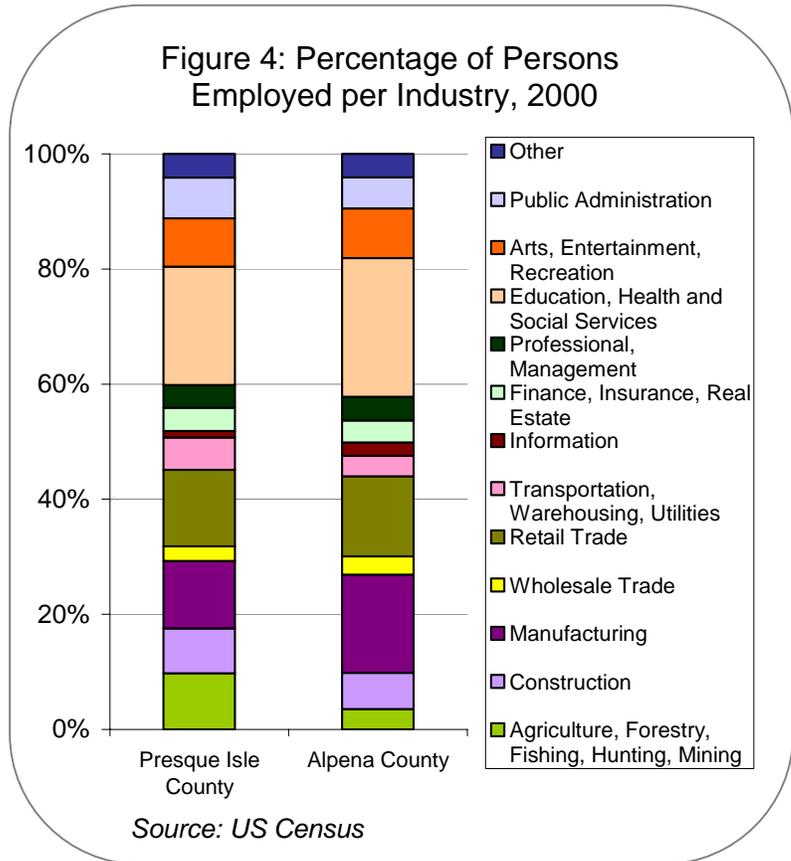
Many people over the age of 25 living in Presque Isle and Alpena Counties have had some college, or earned an associates, bachelors, graduate or other professional degree (39% for Presque Isle County and 47% for Alpena County). The average median income earned per household is \$35,800. In 1999, 961 families in the area lived below the poverty level (7.4% of total families).

Of the 12,045 persons who are in the labor force, 19,182 are employed. The top four occupations are:

1. Management, professional and related occupations (27%),
2. Sales and office occupations (25%),
3. Production, transportation, and material moving occupations (18%), and
4. Service Occupations (18%).

Industries that are most common are: Education, Health and Social Sciences, Manufacturing, Retail Trade and Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services (Figure 4). The LaFarge Stoneport Mine is the second largest employer in Presque Isle County. Of those Alpena and Presque Isle County residents who commute to work, 83% drive alone, 9% carpool, 2% walk, and 0.3% take public transportation. The average commute time is 20.5 minutes.

Unemployment is a concern for Michigan, and for the northeast in particular. Presque Isle and Alpena counties both struggles with jobless rates. At 10.7% and 7.4%, the unemployment rates for Presque Isle and Alpena Counties, respectively, were well above the State's rate of 6.7%, and the Country's rate of 5.1% (Source: FedStats).





## A3. General History

The 4,237 acres of land that constitute the Rockport property were acquired by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) through several different sources. The State originally owned approximately 617 acres of land in Presque Isle County: 56 acres for the Grand Lake boating access site and 95 acres for the Besser Natural Area. The remaining land was part of the of the state forest system, under the management of the Forest Mineral and Fire Management (FMFM) Division of the DNR.

In 1997, the DNR acquired approximately 3,641 acres of land from Consumers-Energy. The land exchange was part of the settlement resulting from the Ludington Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Facility failure, which caused much damage to the Lake Michigan fishery. The additional land acquired from this transaction was transferred to the jurisdiction of FMFM.

Within its borders the Rockport property has a vast array of natural and man-made features that are important pieces of Michigan's rich history:

- ❑ A limestone quarry operated on the site from 1927 to 1958. The mine was very successful, and brought a relatively large population to the area. Its last use was as a staging area and supplier of the footings for the Mackinac bridge. Large tailings piles tell of the past. The Detroit and Mackinac railway that traverses the property is also a remnant of the property's mineral mining past.
- ❑ The remains from the quarry operation are replete with fossils. Petoskey stones are commonly found in this area.
- ❑ Many Shipwrecks are found off the Lake Huron shoreline nearby. Rockport is an accessible diver point and used as such by Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary as well as private recreationists. The wrecks tell of the Great Lake's waterway transportation system.
- ❑ Young forest growth indicates historical logging activity, and a link to Michigan's forest industry.

# A4. Existing Land Use, Zoning and Future Uses



Existing land use, zoning district and future land use data for this section is based on Alpena and Presque Isle township information, provided by the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments. The data has been generalized for the purposes of this discussion. For exact representation, consult the local unit of government. A summary of the discussion that follows is provided on Table 1, and illustrated on Maps 5, 6 and 7.

Development in the vicinity of Rockport includes residences along the major roads, high density residential along the shorelines of Long Lake and Grand Lake shorelines, and commercial uses along Grand Lake Road, US-23/Long Lake Road, and US-23/Grand Lake Road. The LaFarge Stoneport mine, an active quarry, is due north of the Rockport property. Agriculture and hunting camps are other land uses in the area. Map 3 illustrates the existing land cover for the area. The land cover categories generally correspond to the existing land uses.

**Table 1: Summary of Existing Land Uses, Zoning Districts and Future Land Uses for Land Surrounding Rockport Property**

	<b>Existing Land Uses</b>	<b>Zoning Districts</b>	<b>Future Land Uses</b>
Rockport Property	Boat launch, diving launch, recreation (hiking, fossil hunting, etc.)	Forest / Recreation and Environmental Conservation	Residential, Conservation and Forest / Recreation
Land to the North	Active quarry, residential, commercial	Residential, Extractive / Heavy Industrial, and Environmental Conservation	Residential and Mineral Extraction
Land to the South	Hunting camps, residential, agricultural, commercial	Residential, Forest / Conservation and Agriculture	Forest / Recreation, Agriculture, Residential and Commercial
Land to the West	Residential, hunting camps, commercial	Forest / Recreation, Residential, Commercial	Residential, Forest / Recreation and Conservation
Land to the East	<i>NA - Bordered by Lake Huron to the East.</i>		

The Rockport property is zoned Forest Conservation by Alpena Township, and both Environmental Conservation and Forest/Recreation by Presque Isle Township (Map 4). Land adjacent to inland lakes is generally single family residential. Land north of Rockport – the current Lafarge quarry – is zoned Extractive / Heavy Industrial. Large tracts of land in both Townships are zoned Forest/Recreation, Forest/Conservation, Environmental Conservation and Agriculture. Smaller commercial nodes are located at key intersections in Alpena Township, and along Grand Lake Road in Presque Isle Township. Middle Island is zoned Commercial.

**Map 3: Land Cover**



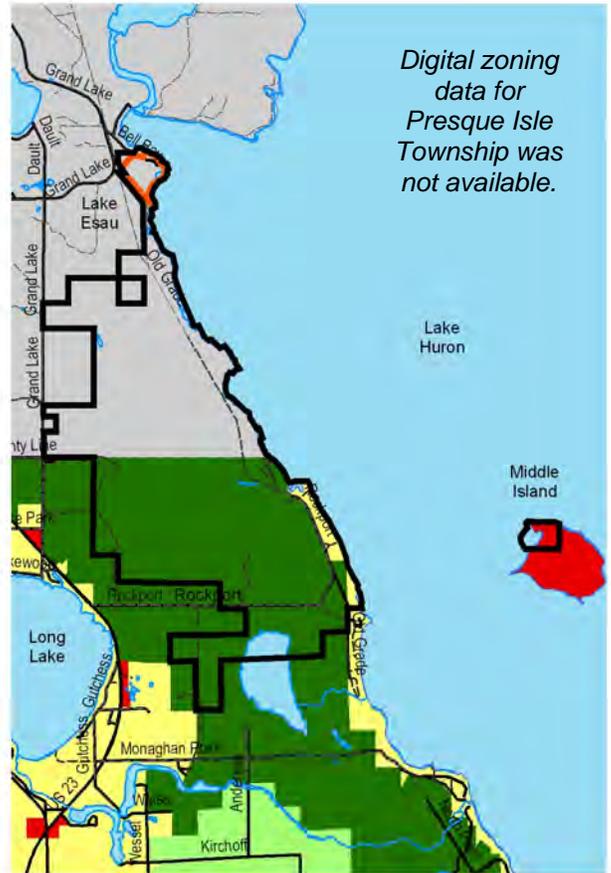
- Lowland Forests
- Non-Forested Uplands
- Non-Forested Wetlands
- Upland Forests
- Institutional/Recreational
- Agricultural
- Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial/Extractive/Transportation
- Besser Bell Natural Area
- Park Boundary
- Paved Roads
- Dirt Roads

**Existing Land Use**  
Rockport Property

Source: NEMCOG. Note: the land uses shown on this map are generalized. Consult the local unit of government for the specific land use.



**Map 4: Generalized Zoning Districts**



- Agricultural
- Forest / Conservation Area
- Residential
- Commercial / Business
- Industrial/Extractive/Transportation
- Besser Bell Natural Area
- Property Boundary
- Paved Roads
- Dirt Roads

**Generalized Zoning Districts**  
Rockport Property

Source: NEMCOG. Note: the zoning districts shown on this map are generalized. Consult the local unit of government for the specific zoning district.



## Map 5: Generalized Future Land Uses



- Agriculture
- Conservation
- Forest / Recreation
- Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial/Extractive/Transportation
- Mineral Extraction
- Park Boundary
- Besser Bell Natural Area
- Paved Roads
- Dirt Roads

### Generalized Future Land Use Rockport Property



Source: NEMCOG. Note: the future land use classifications shown on this map are generalized. Consult the local unit of government for the specific land use classification.

Future land use maps express the community's. Future land uses are not meant to be parcel-specific, but lay out the general pattern of development patterns for a period of twenty years or more. Land development should conform to the Future Land Use plan over the long-term.

The future land use for the majority of Rockport is Conservation and Forest/Recreation (Map 5). Residential areas are located within and around the property boundary. The former limestone quarry is designated Industrial/Extractive on the Future Land Use map for Alpena Township. The major commercial node planned for this area is at the intersection of Long Lake Road and US-23.



## A5. Natural Features Assessment

Understanding the physical conditions of the Rockport property is critical to designating management zones. Management zones must ensure that activities are compatible with the land's capacity, and sensitive areas are preserved and protected. This section reviews the ecological context of Rockport, including climate, soils, water bodies, wetlands and areas prone to flooding, woodlands, threatened and endangered species, and species of special concern.

### A5.1 Ecoregional Context

Rockport Property is located in the Presque Isle Subsection, sub-subsection VII.6.3, Cheboygan Ecoregion, according to the *Regional Landscape of Ecosystems of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin: A Working Map and Classification General Technical Report NC-178 (Fourth Revision: July 1994)* (Map 6). The following information is taken from NC-178.

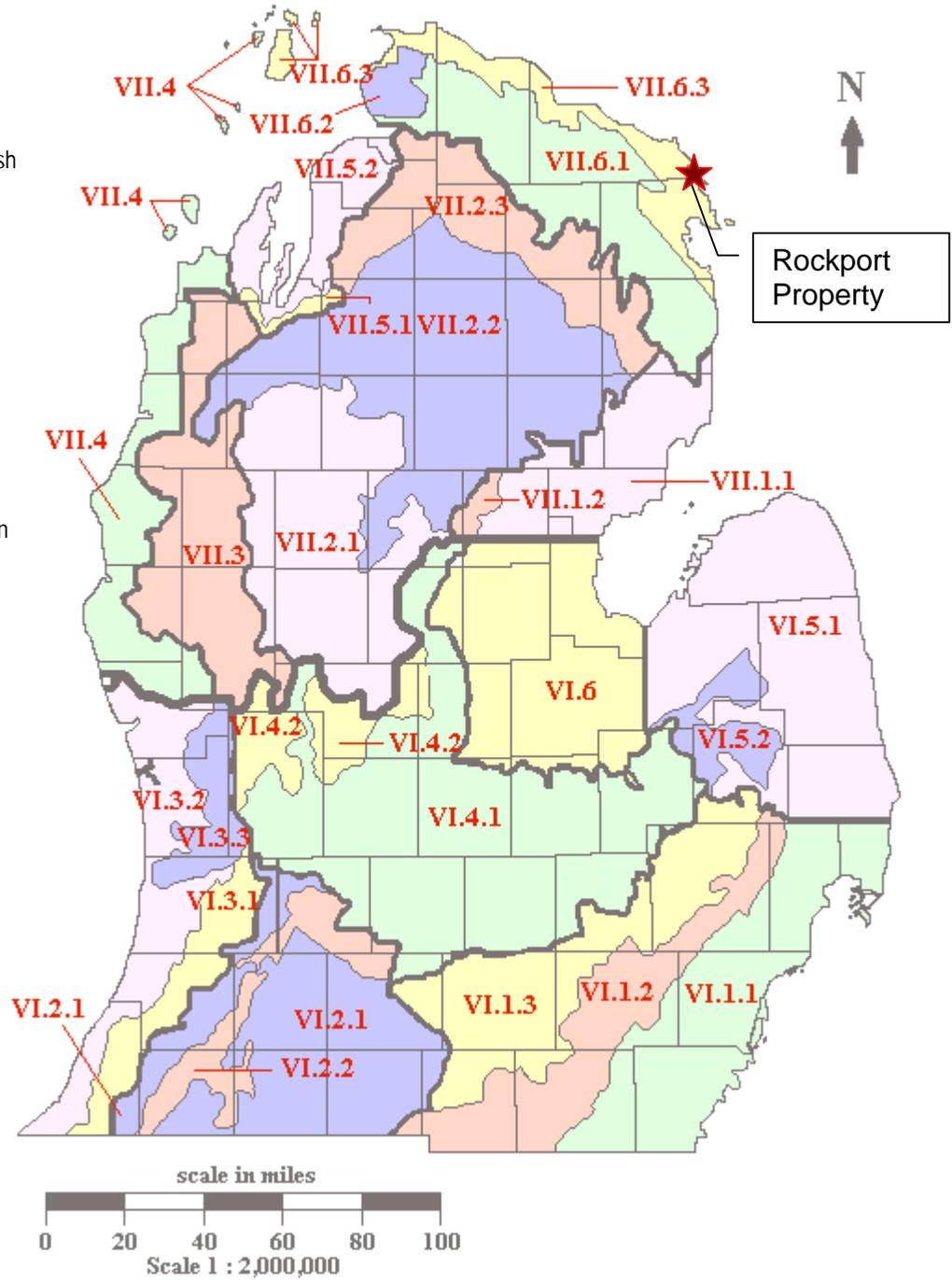
The Cheboygan sub-subsection comprises 836 square miles of northern Michigan land. Much of this relatively flat area of calcareous glacial lake plain is wetland, largely dominated by northern white-cedar forests. Broadly diverse lacustrine features are present, supporting vegetation characteristic of the northern Great Lakes shoreline. The elevation ranges from 580 to 750 feet.

Climate. The growing season ranges from 130 days near the inland edge, to 140 days along much of the Lake Huron shorelines. The longest growing season is about 150 days at the extreme southeast edge near Alpena (Eichenlaub *et al.* 1990). Extreme minimum temperatures are approximately -28°F at the southernmost point of the sub-subsection, and 36°F to the north, where Lake Huron does not appear to modify the extreme low temperature to any great extent. Average annual precipitation is 28 to 30 inches, and average snowfall is 80 inches along the entire length of the sub-subsection.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Climatic Data Center is another source for climate information. Climatological normals, average values recorded from 1971 to 2000, indicate the following:

## Map 6: Ecoregional Context

- Section VI.1 Washtenaw
  - VI.1.1. Maumee Lake Plain
  - VI.1.2. Ann Arbor Moraines
  - VI.1.3. Jackson Interlobate
- Section VI.2 Kalamazoo Interlobate
  - VI.2.1. Battle Creek Outwash Plain
  - VI.2.2. Cassopolis Ice-Contact Ridges
- Section VI.3 Allegan
  - VI.3.1. Berrien Springs
  - VI.3.2. Southern Lake Michigan Lake Plain
  - VI.3.3. Jamestown
- Section VI.4 Ionia
  - VI.4.1. Lansing
  - VI.4.2. Greenville
- Section VI.5 Huron
  - VI.5.1. Sandusky Lake Plain
  - VI.5.2. Lum Interlobate
- Section VI.6 Saginaw Bay Lake Plain
  - Section VII.1 Arenac
    - VII.1.1. Standish
    - VII.1.2. Wiggins Lake
  - Section VII.2 High Plains
    - VII.2.1. Cadillac
    - VII.2.2. Grayling Outwash Plain
    - VII.2.3. Vanderbilt Moraines
  - Section VII.3 Newaygo Outwash Plain
    - VII.4. Manistee
  - Section VII.5 Leelanau and Grand Traverse Peninsula
    - VII.5.1. Williamsburg
    - VII.5.2. Traverse City
  - Section VII.6 Presque Isle
    - VII.6.1. Onaway
    - VII.6.2. Stutsmanville
    - VII.6.3. Cheboygan



Source: *Regional Landscape of Ecosystems of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin: A Working Map and Classification General Technical Report NC-178 (Fourth Revision: July 1994).*

- ❑ Mean daily temperature during winter months (Dec, Jan, Feb): 20.3°F
- ❑ Mean daily temperature during spring months (Mar, Apr, May): 40.2°F
- ❑ Mean daily temperature during summer months (Jun, Jul, Aug): 64.2°F
- ❑ Mean daily temperature during fall months (Sept, Oct, Nov): 45.5°F
- ❑ Mean annual precipitation: 28.4 inches
- ❑ Average annual total snow fall, including ice pellets, sleet, and hail (data collected from 1964 through 2005): 84.7 inches

Bedrock Geology. For the Cheboygan sub-subsection, the glacial drift is discontinuous near the shoreline of Lake Huron. The underlying bedrock consists of Mississippian and Devonian marine and near-shore sedimentary deposits (Milstein 1987, Dorr and Eschman 1984). Limestone, dolomite, and gypsum are locally exposed and mined. Devonian bedrock in the subsection is a source for salt, brine, and major petroleum reservoirs (Dorr and Eschman 1984).

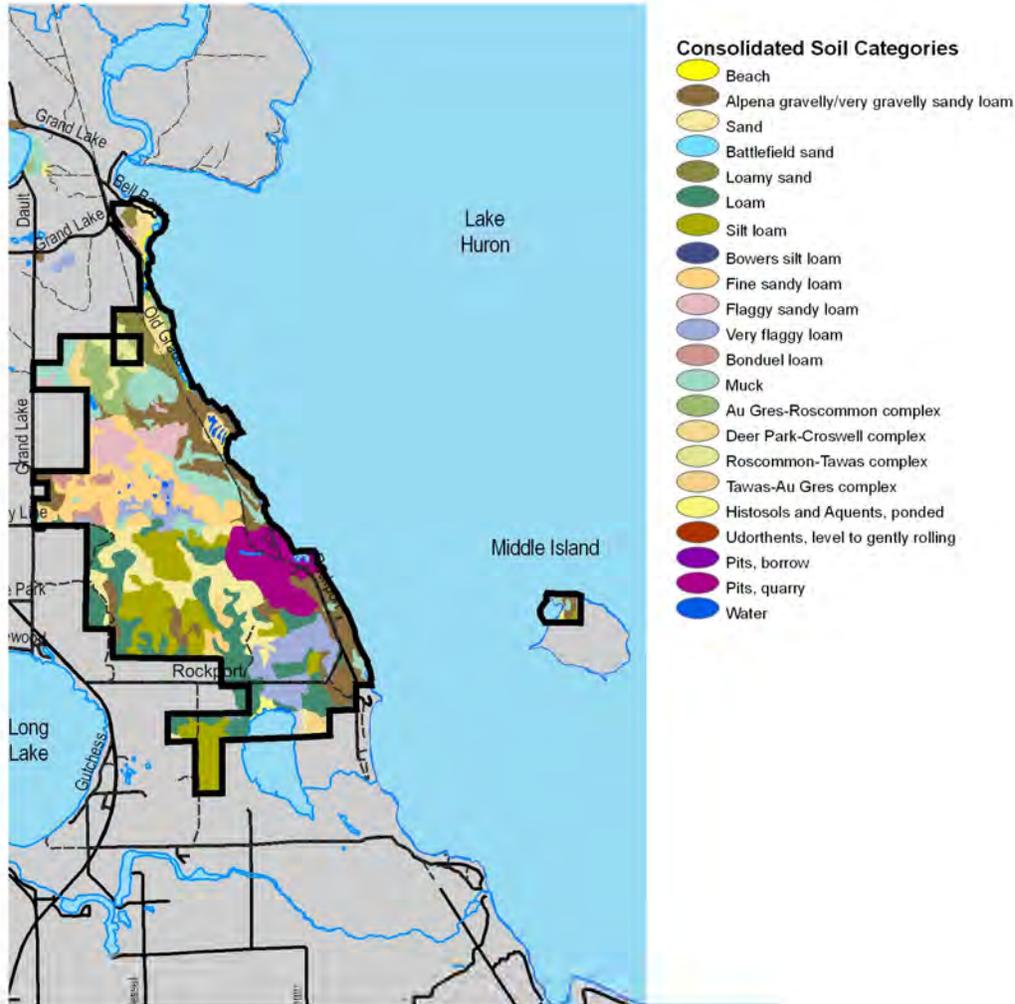
Rockport Property is situated on a calcareous sandy lake plain with mostly poorly drained soils. A narrow fringe of sandy soils with frequently exposed bedrock and cobble beach forms the border along Lake Huron, expanding into a series of old beach ridges alternating with wet depressions in the center of the park. Historically, the ridges were dominated by red and white pine, and the depressions primarily by lowland conifers such as white cedar, balsam fir, and white spruce. The north and south regions of the park are essentially flat, featureless lakeplain region that were historically dominated by white cedar swamp (source: Michigan Natural Features Inventory).

Landforms. sub-subsection VII.6.3 forms a narrow band of sandy lake plain, 2 to 10 miles wide, along the shoreline of Lake Huron (Comer *et al.* 1993a). Although a veneer of sand covers a large part of the sub-subsection's surface, limestone bedrock is near the surface of almost the entire sub-subsection; and exposed bedrock and cobble beaches are common.

The surface area in the Rockport vicinity is an exposed rim of a limestone deposit. Limestone reacted with the acidic surface water, accelerating its dissolution, and resulting in the formation of sinkholes and fissures. Sinkholes actually developed long ago, at a time when water covered the area. Huge coral deposits settled to the lake bed. As the glaciers receded, streams and lakes formed on the porous rock, which slowly dissolved the limestone. Over time, limestone cracks, primarily underground, became larger and the 'ceilings' thinner. Eventually the 'ceilings' collapse, forming a sinkhole.

**Soils.** The amount of wetland areas coupled with the close proximity to the climatic effects of Lake Huron results in a wide range of soil types (Map 7). The Lake effect results in one of the most floristically-diverse ecosystems in the Midwest. The majority of the soil consists of lacustrine sands, which range from excessively drained to very poorly drained.

**Map 7: Soils**



**Soils**  
Rockport State Park

Sources: MDNR, Michigan Geographic Data Library

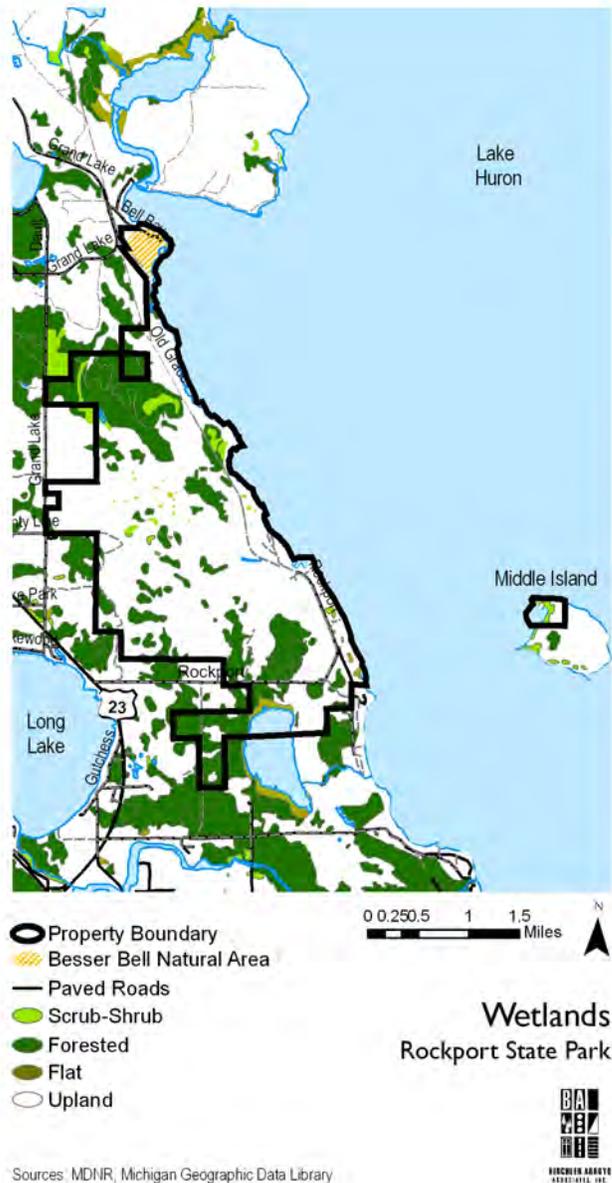


Lakes, Streams and Wetlands. In the Cheboygan sub-subsection, major lakes include Carp, Grand, Grass and Long. Long and Grand have linear basins formed by glacial erosion of the underlying bedrock. Large rivers in the sub-subsection are Thunder Bay, Ocqueoc, Black, and Cheboygan.

Map 8 illustrates the location of wetlands in the Rockport Property.. Approximately 6 to 8 sinkholes are located in the property interior. According to the USGS, sinkholes are common where the rock below the surface is limestone, carbonate rock, salt beds, or rocks that can be naturally dissolved by groundwater circulating through them. The rock dissolves, forming a hole. Land above the spaces is prone to a sudden collapse, which can be small or large. The sinkholes in Rockport are both dry and filled. Filled sinkholes can be an attraction for recreational divers.

Wetlands and fens are also prevalent in Rockport. Fens are distinguished from wetlands and bogs because they are typically fed by alkaline mineral-rich ground-water, and for the type of flora they support.

**Map 8: Wetlands**



Flood-prone Areas. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

has not mapped floodplains for this area of northern Michigan. Soil data from USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service was used to determine soils that exhibit properties characteristic of ponding and/or flooding. Based on soil data, there are several areas within Rockport that are prone to ponding and/or flooding (Map 9).

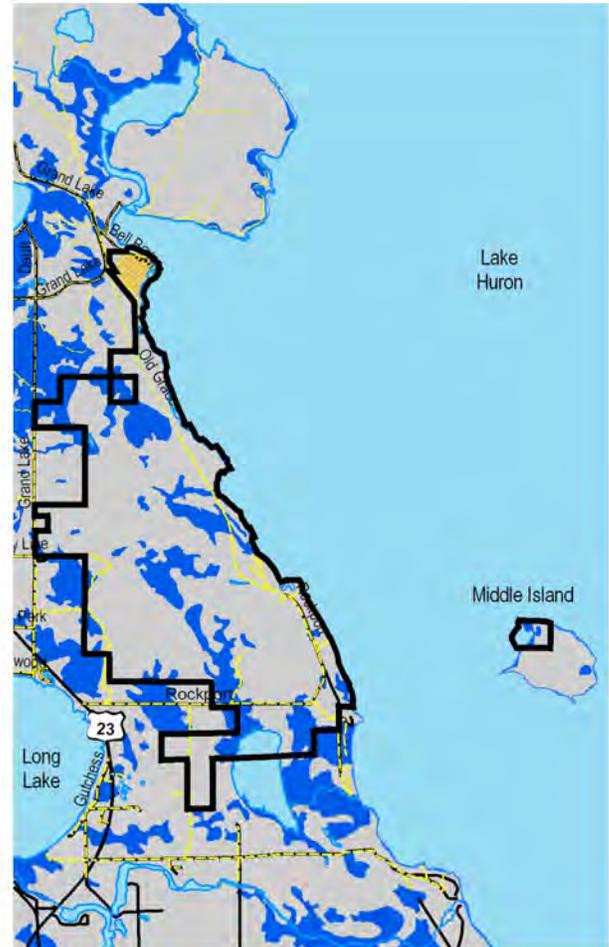
Presettlement Vegetation.

Originally, large areas of flat, poorly drained sand lake plain were dominated by lowland conifer forests. The most common species was the northern white-cedar. Northern white-cedars were dominant in areas where there was lateral water movement and they formed dense stands at the seepy, calcareous margins of adjacent sub-subsection VII.6.1. Tamarack was also a common dominant and often found growing with cedar. Tamarack was more common where drainage conditions were more impeded. Other wetland species common in the extensive wetlands of the sub-subsection included balsam fir, black spruce, eastern hemlock, white pine, balsam poplar, trembling aspen, paper birch, speckled alder, and shrub willows.

White pine and red pine were common co-dominants on the well-drained, low sand ridges of the lake plain, especially near the Lake Huron shoreline. These pines also grew together on gravelly or rocky sites near the Lake Huron shoreline.

Hemlock and white pine were also common co-dominants, often where the drainage conditions were slightly poorer than where white pine and red pine grew together. Paper birch and trembling aspen also grew on flat to

**Map 9: Areas Prone to Flooding**



- Soils Prone to Ponding
- Park Boundary
- Besser Bell Natural Area
- Dirt Roads
- Paved Roads

**Soils Prone to Flooding**  
Rockport State Park

Sources: MDNR, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Michigan Geographic Data Library

- Mixed
- Paved Roads
- Dirt Roads

Sources: MDNR, Michigan Geographic Data Library



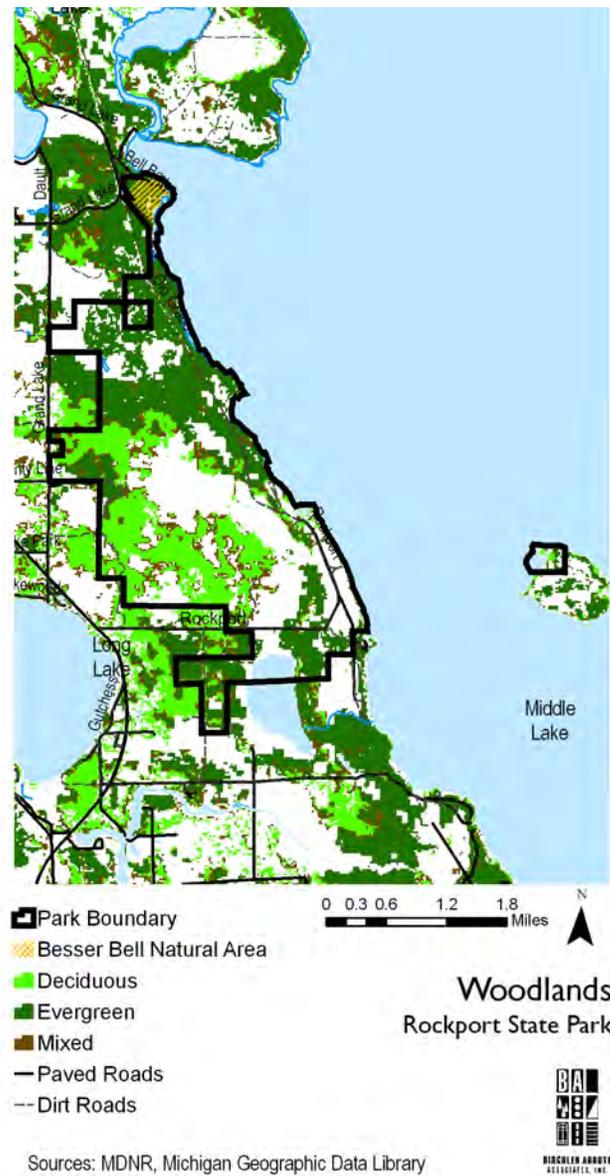
rolling parts of the sand lake plain. Although northern hardwoods were not generally extensive in the sub-subsection, some large tracts were located around Long and Grand Lakes, along the Cheboygan and Black Rivers, and locally along the Lake Huron shorelines.

Disturbances: Windthrows and burns are the two noted natural disturbances in the Cheboygan sub-subsection. One of the two large areas of burned timber occurred in the vicinity of Grand Lake. Mixed stands of white pine and red pine appeared to be the forest type most impacted by the fires.

Like many areas of Michigan, extensive logging altered the present landscape. Although both upland vegetation and wetland vegetation have been logged, the upland red and white pine forests have been greatly altered by logging while little has changed in the wetland vegetation. Today, there is a large beech, sugar maple forest in the uplands, which is primarily located on the western portion of the Rockport property.

The limestone quarry is a disturbance. The Great Lakes Stone and Lime Company of Rockport began operation in 1927. With the quarry came a booming settlement, including a school and homesteads. The community gradually vanished as the quarry's production slowed. The quarry operations halted in 1958. The last commission was to provide caissons for the construction of the Mackinac Bridge. Today, rock piles of tailings and disturbed land remind visitors of Rockport's history. (Sources: *Final Environmental Impact Statement/Management Plan* by the NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program and *Preliminary Comparative and Theme Study of National Historic Landmark Potential for Thunder Bay, Michigan* by Jay C. Martin, 1996. Great Lakes Visual/Research, Inc. Lansing, MI.)

**Map 10: Woodlands**



Present Vegetation. Rockport offers a variety of vegetation (Map 10). The limestone base provides a natural setting for Alvar glade communities. The sides and bottoms of the many sink holes found in its borders create an environment for unique species to grow. Sand dunes, dune swale complexes, fens, the primarily cobble beach, hardwood and lowland conifer swamps with pockets of shrub-thicket, and uplands of large beech and sugar maple forests are other examples of the rich range of ecosystems available in Rockport.

## **A5.2 Threatened, Endangered and Special Concern Species**

Rockport is a contiguous parcel of undeveloped land that provides a choice habitat for numerous varieties of plants and animals. Species of special concern, and threatened and endangered species sighted in Rockport are noted below.

Species of Special Concern. Most *Species of Special Concern* are noted as such because of their declining populations in the state. Should these species continue to decline, they would be recommended for Threatened or Endangered status. The goal is protection of ‘Special Concern’ species before they reach dangerously low population levels. Species of Special Concern listed in Rockport are:

- Beauty sedge
- Butterwort
- Climbing fumitory
- Prairie Indian-plantain
- Ram’s-head orchid
- Richardson’s sedge

Threatened Species. A “threatened” species is one that is likely to become endangered in the near future. Threatened species listed for Rockport are:

- Dwarf-lake iris (State and Federally)
- Houghton’s goldenrod (State and Federally)
- Pitcher’s thistle (State and Federally)

Endangered Species. According to the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI), the Piping plover, Migrant loggerhead shrike, Channel darter, Hines emerald dragonfly, and Prairie Warbler are endangered species that have been found in Alpena and Presque Isle Counties. To date, no endangered species have been identified within Rockport Park, however.

## A6. Cultural and Historic Resources



Rockport has features of great historic and cultural value. Rockport's limestone quarry offers a significant opportunity for prehistoric fossil viewing. There are also Native American archeological sites located within Rockport.

Presque Isle is a French word meaning “almost island”. The narrow peninsula located north of the park, and from which the county derives its name, afforded early missionaries, explores, and settlers with a short portage rather than a long, dangerous canoe trip.

Lake Huron was heavily trafficked for trade and transportation. As a result, many lighthouses were placed along the Lake Huron shoreline to guide ships safely to shore when the weather suddenly changes for the worse. Along the shoreline near Rockport are five lighthouses: three in Presque Isle County and two in Alpena County:

- ❑ Presque Isle Lighthouse Park and Museum is a combination of three historic buildings: a lighthouse tower, and two keeper's residences. Built in 1870 to replace the harbor light of 1840, the “New Presque Isle Light” is the tallest publicly accessible lighthouse on the Great Lakes, and visitors can climb to the top for a nominal fee to experience the extraordinary view. The unattached keeper's residence, which has been restored is now a museum that provides visitors a glimpse of the past local history and lifestyle. The lighthouse is usually open from May and to October.
- ❑ Old Presque Isle Lighthouse was build in 1840, and as such is one of the oldest existing lighthouses on the Great Lakes. The lighthouse was in operation from 1840 through 1871. The lighthouse complex consists of two structures, a light and keeper's dwelling. The light tower reaches a height of thirty feet, and guests are only charged a nominal fee to climb the lighthouse. The nearby dwelling is now an interactive museum, which allows visitors to blow fog horns and study unique artifacts. This lighthouse is also open from mid-May through mid-October.
- ❑ Forty Mile Point Lighthouse is located further north than Old and New Presque Isle Lighthouses, Forty Mile Point Lighthouse was built in 1896.

The lighthouse's original Fresnel lens still works to this day. In 1996, the Forty Mile Point Lighthouse Society began restoring the lighthouse complex. The park is open to the public year round, with the lighthouse open on weekends, from Memorial Day through mid-October.

- ❑ Middle Island Keeper's Lodge and Lighthouse is located between Presque Isle and Thunder Bay. Visitors can tour the lighthouse via Middle Island Boat Tours. After a boat ride of more than three hours, the tour begins on the island with a nature walk then tours the lighthouse complex. Overnight lodging for up to eight people is available in what was previously the Foghorn Building, which offers panoramic views of the water and lighthouse.
- ❑ Thunder Bay Island Lighthouse is located in the northern portion of Thunder Bay. Thunder Bay Island Lighthouse served as a critical marker for ships traveling frequently dangerous Lake Huron. Ships had to be aware not to get too close to the island because of the rocky shoals that could result in a shipwreck.

The Thunder Bay region is home to numerous shipwrecks. The unpredictable waters and weather of the region coupled with the heavy traffic Thunder Bay saw during the 19<sup>th</sup> century has produced an area that is now the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve. It is estimated that between 40 and 100 ships might be wrecked in this area.

Just north of South Point is the confirmed wreck of the Nellie Gardner. The Nellie Gardner was a wooden schooner-barge sent out to Alpena from Tawas in inclement weather. The Nellie Gardner tried to return to port, but struck a reef and broke into two pieces. The wreck is in only 20 feet of water and is in good condition, thanks to the cold, fresh water of Lake Huron.

The limestone quarry not only provides a place for fossil hunters, but the tailings piles and remnants from the community that thrived here during the quarry's heyday tell of the area's rich history between 1927 to 1958. Prosperous when in operation, the quarry's last charge was to supply the caissons for the Mackinac bridge. Much of the property was also logged. The railroad grade through the quarry site was operated by the Detroit and Mackinac railway.

## A7. Education and Interpretation



The DNR recognizes education and interpretation opportunities in terms of those that offer resource-based programming. Currently, there are no regularly-scheduled educational or interpretive programs offered at the Rockport property. The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary hosts diving certification courses in Thunder Bay and performs field work of the Rockport sinkholes with Michigan Universities.



## A8. Regional Recreational Resources

This section presents the recreational resources available at Rockport Property as well as recreational facilities in the northeast region.

### A8.1 Rockport Property Recreational Resources

While Rockport is primarily undeveloped, much activity occurs within its borders. Current activities include:

- Boating (Lake Huron accessed from the boat launch at Rockport. There are also public boat access sites to nearby Grand Lake and Long Lake)
- Deep water port
- Scuba diving
- Day-use picnic area
- Hiking trails
- Swimming (northern portion of property by Besser Natural Area)
- Biking
- Fossil hunting in quarry
- Fishing
- Hunting and trapping
- Mushroom hunting
- Long-range shooting, Rifle Siting and target practice
- Freighter viewing, Middle Island lighthouse viewing
- Snowmobiling

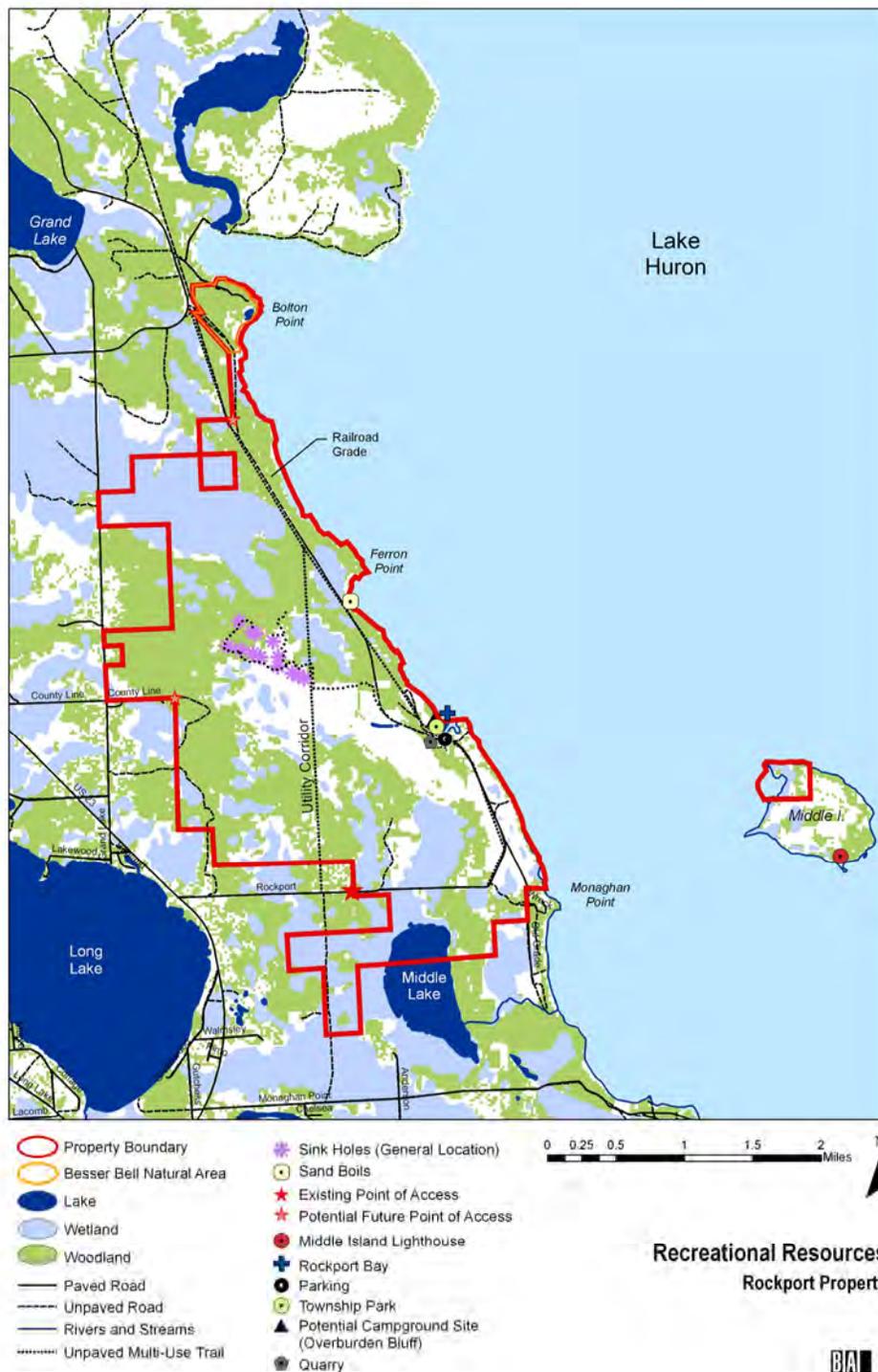
The day-use picnic area listed above is an area leased by Alpena Township. The PRD entered into a long term lease with Alpena Township in approximately 2000 to utilize 2 acres of the Boat Access Site for development of a small township day use park. Alpena Township received a Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund grant in approximately 2001 for the development of the park facility. Township park improvements were completed in the summer of 2003 and encompass a 200'x300' area near the old shipping dock and include, approximately 25 parking spaces of which 2 are barrier free, picnic tables and grills, wildflower plantings an interpretive display, benches, trees, lawn area and a historical marker. The photo below indicates the boundaries of the leased area (Parcel A in the photo).



Off-road vehicles (ORVs) and equestrian uses are not currently permitted, however the former is known to occur on the property. Visitors are welcome from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm, year round. Sinkholes are unique natural features that are of great ecological and educational value. Sinkholes are also a recreation attraction to swimmers and divers. However, the land around sinkholes may not be stable, which poses a safety hazard. A recreation component must be balanced with safety and protection of the resource.

Map 11 presents the recreational resources and natural features currently available within the park.

**Map 11: Rockport Property Recreational Resources and Natural Features**



Sources: Northeast Michigan Council of Governments, and Michigan Geographic Library.

## A8.2 Surrounding Recreational Resources

Determination of existing recreational facilities and programs is an essential step in the recreation planning process. Regional facilities are illustrated on Map 12, (page A-31) *Regional Recreational Resources*, and summarized in Table 2. The following list describes the recreational resources that are of similar size and scale to Rockport Property, and would therefore have a similar regional draw.

### National Forest Land

- ❑ Huron-Manistee National Forest: A chain of forest land traversing central Michigan. Uses allowed include dispersed camping, hiking, hunting and trapping, and equestrian trails. There are no designated biking trails and off-road vehicle (ORV) use is allowed in some areas of the National Forest land.

### State Forest Land

- ❑ Mackinaw State Forest: 717,500 acres of forest land located within eight counties in the northern Lower Peninsula: Alpena; Antrim; Charlevoix; Cheboygan; Emmet; Montmorency; Otsego and Presque Isle. Most of the Mackinaw State Forest was logged for Red and White Pine during the late 1800's, early 1900's. The forest is managed today for second-growth logging, recreation, and tourism purposes. Mackinaw State Forest contributes fifty of the 1,500+ mile North Country Trail, which spans from North Dakota to New York.

### State Park Land

- ❑ Harrisville State Park: 107 acres. Features include: a campground; day-use area; Michigan State Park Explorer Program; playground; swimming; picnic area (with fire pits and grills); hiking; cross-country skiing; and, metal detecting area.
- ❑ Negwegon State Park: 2,500 acres. Currently the Park is primarily a rustic, undeveloped resource. Existing facilities include a parking area, restrooms, a water pump (year-round), and unpaved trail. Activities that can be enjoyed are: hiking (Potawatomi '*People of the Place of Fire*' trail); birding; dispersed snowmobiling; kayaking; beach access; metal detection; and, hunting and trapping.
- ❑ Thompson's Harbor State Park: 5,110 acres. Thompson's Harbor is located on the Lake Huron shoreline, is primarily rustic and undeveloped, and has significant natural features. Recreational opportunities include: picnicking; hiking (6 miles of trails, portion of which are handicap accessible); interpretive signage; fishing; hunting and trapping; cross-country skiing (not groomed); biking; Lake Huron access; and snowmobiling (no designated trails). Thompson's Harbor includes a Natural Area, and may also have a Critical Habitat designation for the Hines emerald dragonfly.

- ❑ Hoelt State Park: 300 acres. Recreational opportunities include: Michigan State Park Explorer Program; two playground; swimming; picnic area (with fire pits and grills); picnic shelter; biking (10-foot wide paved multi-use path connected to the Huron Sunrise Trail); hiking (4.5 miles); cross-country skiing (groomed trails); metal detecting area; hunting; and fishing.

### State Forest Campground

- ❑ McCullum Lake State Forest Campground (Clinton Township, Oscoda County):
- ❑ Ossineke State Forest Campground (Sanborn Township, Alpena County): 42 camp sites for tent or small trailer use on a first-come/first serve basis, located five miles north of Rockport Property. Recreational opportunities include: barrier-free boardwalk to Lake Huron; picnicking; fishing (Lake Huron, Devil's Lake, Devil's River); hiking and biking (1 mile of trail); boating access site; and ten miles of full-sized ORV trails.
- ❑ Thunder Bay River State Forest Campground (Wilson Township, Alpena County): 10 campsites for tent or small trailer use on a first-come/first-serve basis, located 35 miles north of Rockport Property. Campground is sited on the Thunder Bay River, providing water access to every campsite. Recreational opportunities include: small boat launch; Wah-Wah-Tas-See Pathway access (includes Native American interpretive information); vault toilets and potable water from hand pump well; fishing and hunting; hiking; biking; and cross-country skiing.

### Natural Areas

- ❑ Besser: 134 acres currently under the management of the Mackinaw State Forest. This dedicated Natural Area is significant for its stand of mature, virgin red and white pine with spruce, balsam, cedar and birch. This area also includes over 4,000 feet of Lake Huron shoreline composed primarily of limestone gravel shore, and provides habitat for plant species of special concern, including the Pitcher's thistle, a plant threatened with extinction.
- ❑ Approximately 307 acres within Thompson's Harbor are a dedicated Natural Area. This land has been dedicated accordingly because it encompasses a portion of a complex of forested dunes and swales. In Michigan, there are fewer than 50 remaining examples of forested wet swale communities of this quality. This area also supports one of the largest known populations in the world of the federal and state-threatened dwarf lake iris, Michigan's state wildflower. The land is under the management of Thompson's Harbor State Park. Activities to be enjoyed in the Natural Area include: hiking, wildflower viewing, nature study, photography, wildlife viewing.

### County Parks

- ❑ Alcona County Recreation Area (Harrisville Township, Alcona County). Amenities/activities: Drinking water, restrooms and picnic facilities.
- ❑ Beaver Lake County Park (Ossineke Township, Alpena County). Amenities/activities: Fishing, hiking, swimming; camping, boat launch, Convenience Store.
- ❑ Long Lake County Park (Alpena Township, Alpena County). Amenities/activities: Fishing, hiking, swimming; camping, boat launch.
- ❑ Sunken Lake Campground / Park (Posen Township, Presque Isle County, operated by the Alpena County Parks Commission). Amenities/activities: Fishing, hiking, swimming; camping, boat launch.

### Marinas / Boat Launches

There are several points of access to inland lakes and Lake Huron. The facilities that offer access to Lake Huron in the northeast Michigan area are:

- ❑ Alpena Municipal Marina
- ❑ Hammond Bay State Harbor (Presque Isle County)
- ❑ Presque Isle State Harbor (State owned and operated)
- ❑ Rogers City Municipal Marina

### Other

- ❑ Lighthouses. Several lighthouses are located off the northeast Michigan shoreline. Middle Island Lighthouse, Forty-Mile Point Lighthouse, New Presque Isle Lighthouse, Old Presque Isle Lighthouse are generally open to the public and provide a unique aspect of Michigan's history.

Sturgeon Scenic Point offers parking for visitors interested in visiting the lighthouse and museum on the property. The Alcona Historical Society is responsible for upkeep on the lighthouse, which is owned by the US Coast Guard.

- ❑ US-23 Heritage Route. On May 6, 2004, US-23 from Standish to Mackinaw City was officially designated as a Recreational Heritage Route, and given the moniker "Sunrise Side Coastal Highway."
- ❑ Bluewater Trail. A proposed railway comprised of navigable waters. The Rockport property would be part of such a network.
- ❑ Huron Greenways. An initiative led by NEMCOG that developed a system of land and water trails connecting Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan and Presque

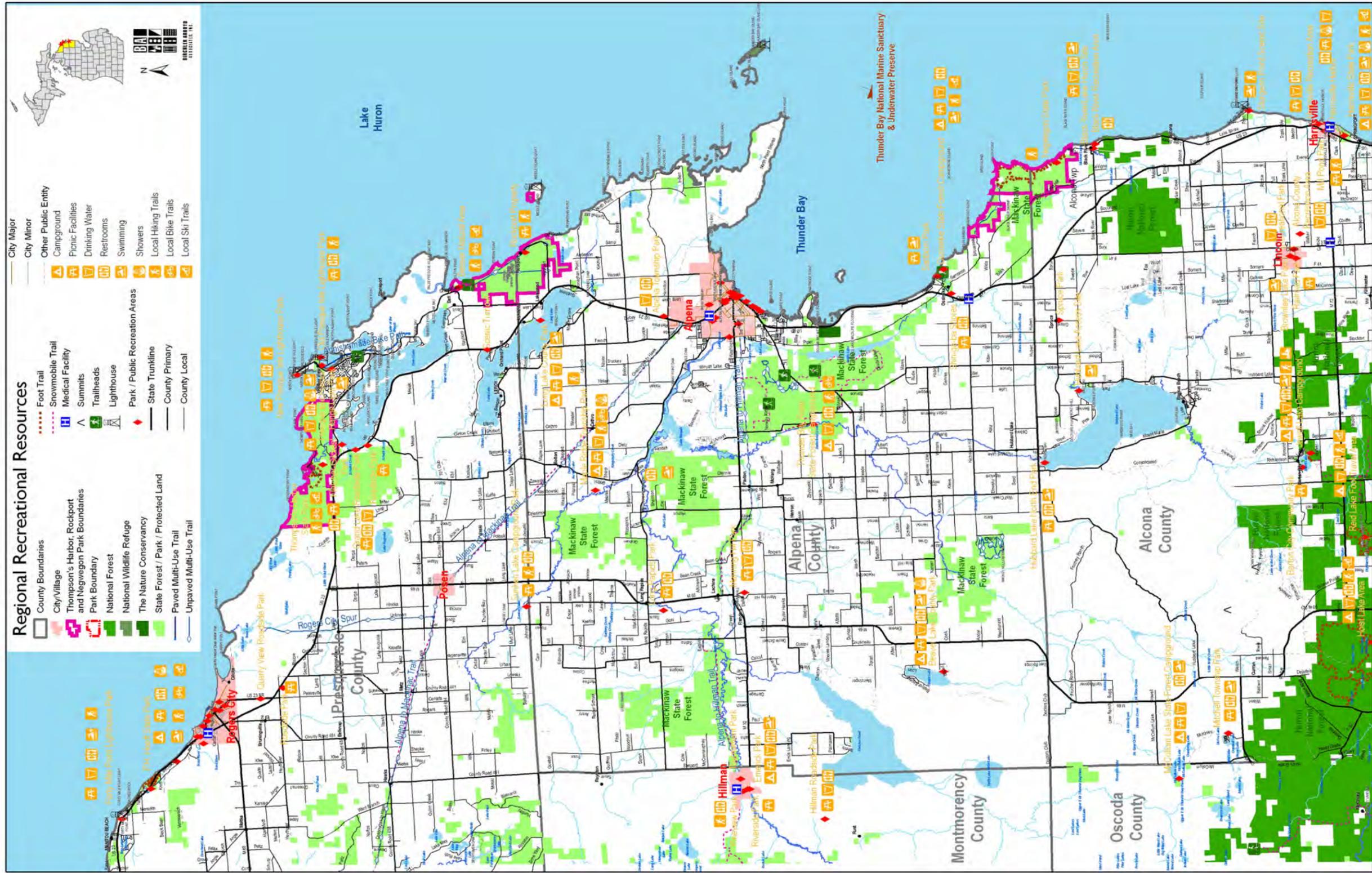
Isle counties and the resources within them. Thompson's Harbor is one stop within the greenway system.

- ❑ ORV Trails. Groomed snowmobile trails on the west side of Presque Isle County and some just south in Alpena County. These trails are used each year by many snowmobile enthusiasts. ORV trails are provided further southwest in the National forest land near Oscoda.
- ❑ Great Lakes Circle Tour. The Tour was developed in the late 1980s and consists of a 6,500-mile road network connecting the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River. Information about the tour, including campgrounds, recreational areas and local attractions, is available to tourists on-line.

### **A8.3 Areas of Conflict**

With diverse and multiple interests come the potential for conflict between users and/or between users and the natural resources or historic/cultural values of the Recreation Area. Conflicts will be reviewed during Phase II of the General Management Plan process.

Map 12: Regional Recreational Resources



Source: Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

**Table 2: Summary of Regional Recreational Resources**

Recreational Resource	County	City / Township	FEATURES											
			Picnic Area	Hiking	Biking	Equestrian	Swimming	Snow Mobiling	Skiing	Camping	Drinking Water	Rest rooms	Showers	
<b>National Recreational Resources</b>														
Huron-Manistee State Forest	Multiple	Alcona County	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	
<b>State Recreational Resources</b>														
Besser Natural Area	Presque Isle	Presque Isle Township	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	
Forty Mile Point Lighthouse Park	Presque Isle	Rogers Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	
Harrisville State Park	Alcona	Harrisville Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	
Mackinaw State Forest	Multiple	Multiple	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	
McCollum Lake State Forest Campground	Oscoda	Clinton Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	
Negwegon State Park	Alcona	Sanborn / Alcona Township	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	
New Presque Isle Lighthouse Park	Presque Isle	Presque Isle Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	
Old Presque Isle Lighthouse Park	Presque Isle	Presque Isle Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	
Ossineke State Forest Campground	Alpena	Sanborn Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	
Sturgeon Point Scenic Site	Alcona	Alcona Township	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	
P.H. Hoefft State Park	Presque Isle	Rogers Township	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	
Presque Isle Harbor	Presque Isle	Presque Isle Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	
Thompson's Harbor State Park	Presque Isle	Krakow Township	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	
Thunder Bay River State Forest Campground	Alpena	Wilson Township	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	
<b>County Recreational Resources</b>														
Alcona County Recreation Area	Alcona	Harrisville Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
Beaver Lake County Park	Alpena	Ossineke Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	
Long Lake County Park	Alpena	Alpena Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	
Sunken Lake Campground/Park	Presque Isle*	Posen Township	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	
<b>Local Recreational Resources</b>														
Alpena Township Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
Avery Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	
Barton City Community Park	Alcona	Millen Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	
Bayview Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	
Black River Recreation Area	Alcona	Alcona Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	
Black River/Lake Huron Site	Alcona	Alcona Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	
Blair Street Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	
Brownlee Lake Park	Alcona	Hawes Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	
Chisholm Street Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	
Duck Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	

\* Operated by Alpena County.

**Table 2: Summary of Recreational Resources (Continue)**

Recreational Resource	County	City / Township	FEATURES										
			Picnic Area	Hiking	Biking	Equestrian	Swimming	Snow Mobiling	Skiing	Camping	Drinking Water	Rest rooms	Showers
Emerick Park	Montmorency	Hillman Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Fletcher-Gilcrest Park	Presque Isle	Krakow Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Grand Lake Roadside Park	Presque Isle	Krakow Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Harrisville Harbor	Alcona	Harrisville Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO
Harrisville Recreation Area	Alcona	Harrisville Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
Herman Vogler Conservation Area	Presque Isle	Rogers City	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
Hillman Roadside Park	Montmorency	Rust Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
Hoist Lake Area	Alcona	Mitchell Township	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
Hubbard Lake Access Site	Alcona	Caledonia Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Hubbard Lake North End Park	Alcona	Caledonia Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Island Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Jewell Lake Campground	Alcona	Millen Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO
Lakeside Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
LaMarre Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Long Rapids Park	Alpena	Long Rapids Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Manning Hill Park	Alpena	Green Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
Maple Ridge Township Park	Alpena	Maple Ridge Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
McRae Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
Mich-e-ke-wis Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
Mill Pond Park	Alcona	Harrisville Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Mitchell Township Park	Alcona	Mitchell Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
North Riverfront Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Northshore Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
Pineview Park	Montmorency	Hillman Township	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Public Works Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
Quarry View Roadside Park	Presque Isle	Bruningville Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Railroad Park	Alcona	Gustin Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Range Light Park	Presque Isle	Presque Isle Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Recreational Park	Alcona	Gustin Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
Reid Lake Foot Travel Area	Alcona	Millen Township	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
Riverside Park	Montmorency	Hillman Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Riverside Skate Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Riverview Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES

**Table 2: Summary of Recreational Resources (Concluded)**

Recreational Resource	County	City / Township	FEATURES										
			Picnic Area	Hiking	Biking	Equestrian	Swimming	Snow Mobiling	Skiing	Camping	Drinking Water	Rest rooms	Showers
Roadside Park	Presque Isle	Belknap Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Roadside Park	Presque Isle	Krakow Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Roadside Park	Presque Isle	Rogers Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Rockport Property	Alpena	Alpena / Presque Isle Townships	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Rotary Island Mill Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Sanborn Park	Alpena	Sanborn Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Scenic Turnout	Presque Isle	Presque Isle Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Seagull Point Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
Shin-ga-ba Shores	Alpena	Sanborn Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
South Riverfront Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
South Shore Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
Sports Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Spruce Park	Alcona	Caledonia Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Starlite Beach	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
Sytek Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Thomson Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Thunder Bay Recreation Ctr/Northern Lights Arena	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Tournament Park	Montmorency	Hillman Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Trout River Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
Veteren's Memorial Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Washington Avenue Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Waterfront Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Westminster Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO



## **A9. Park Use and Economic Impact**

The limestone quarry, marina, Township park, and Besser Natural Area, sinkholes, beaches and other attractions draw people to Rockport. Visitor records for recreation use are not available. Once such data has been collected, then the park's economic contribution – in terms of jobs, income and value - to the community can be presented in this section.

# A10. Consumer's Energy Easement Information



The following describes the utility easement across Rockport and the terms and conditions of that easement. It is held by Consumers Energy as an exception and reserved right from the land transaction from them to the State.

QUITCLAIM DEED

THIS INDENTURE, Made this 3rd day of April, 1997, Between CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY (formerly known as Consumers Power Company), a Michigan corporation, 212 West Michigan Avenue, Jackson, Michigan 49201, Grantor, and the STATE OF MICHIGAN, Box 30448, Lansing, Michigan 48909, Grantee,

WITNESSETH:

That Grantor, for and in consideration of the sum of \$1.00 and other valuable consideration to it in hand paid by Grantee, the receipt whereof is hereby confessed and acknowledged, does by these presents grant, bargain, sell, remise, release and forever QUITCLAIM unto Grantee and to its successors and assigns Forever, certain land in the Township of Alpena, County of Alpena and State of Michigan, described on Exhibit A which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, excepting and reserving the interests and rights set forth on Exhibit B which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Together with all and singular the hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said premises unto Grantee and to its successors and assigns to the sole and only proper use, benefit and behoof of Grantee, its successors and assigns, Forever.

Notice pursuant to MCL 560.109(4): This property may be located within the vicinity of farmland or a farm operation. Generally accepted agricultural and management practices which may generate noise, dust, odors, and other associated conditions may be used and are protected by the Michigan right to farm act.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Grantor has caused this instrument to be executed in its corporate name and by its duly authorized representative as of the day and year first above written.

WITNESSES:

Judy M Schultz  
 Judy M Schultz  
Jeannie M King  
 Jeannie M King  
 STATE OF MICHIGAN )  
 ) SS.  
 COUNTY OF JACKSON )

CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY  
 By Thomas A McNish  
 Vice President and Secretary

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 3rd day of April, 1997, by Thomas A McNish, Vice President and Secretary of CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY, a Michigan corporation, on behalf of the corporation.

WITNESSED BY D. E. BARTH  
 100 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE  
 JACKSON, MICHIGAN

Jeannie M King  
 Jeannie M King, Ingham County acting in  
 Notary Public, Jackson County, Michigan  
 My Commission Expires: March 21, 2001

EXHIBIT A

Description of Land

Alpena Township, T32N, R8E

Parcel #1:

The entire N 1/2; entire SE 1/4; the S 1/2 of the SW 1/4; and the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4, Section 1, T32N, R8E, containing approximately 584.54 acres.

Parcel #2:

Entire E 1/2 of Section 2, T32N, R8E, containing approximately 307.65 acres.

Parcel #3:

The NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 11, T32N, R8E, containing approximately 40 acres.

Parcel #4:

The NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 and the East 1/2 of the NE 1/4; the S 1/2 of the SE 1/4; the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4; and the N 1/2 of the NW 1/4, Section 12, T32N, R8E, containing approximately 318.32 acres.

Parcel #5:

The W 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of Section 13, T32N, R8E, containing approximately 80 acres.

Alpena Township, T32N, R9E

Parcel #6:

Entire fractional Section 6, T32N, R9E, containing approximately 466.35 acres.

Also:

A parcel of filled Lake Huron bottomland situated opposite, adjacent and contiguous to Government Lot 3 in Fractional Section 6, T32N, R9E, described as:

Commencing at the NW corner of said Section 6; thence E on North line of said Section 6, 1175 feet; thence S65°14'00"E 418 feet; thence S51°32'00"E 618 feet; thence S35°51'00"E 415 feet; thence S48°03'00"E 321 feet; thence S14°00'00"W 320 feet; thence S65°00'00"E 325 feet to the point of beginning; thence along the shore on the following courses and distances:

N28°52'00"E 399.80 feet; N38°09'00"E 304.20 feet; N59°55'00"E 322.90 feet; N05°35'00"E 78.80 feet; S42°50'00"E 337.50 feet; S15°03'00"W 350.20 feet; S30°32'00"E 440.60 feet; S16°45'00"E 277.10 feet; S27°22'00"E 633 feet; thence S56°30'00"W 90 feet; thence along the 1840, 581.5-foot high waterline on the following courses and distances:

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N33°30'00"W 600 feet; N45°30'00"W 310 feet; thence N66°30'00"W 394 feet; S81°00'00"W 188 feet; N66°00'00"W 115 feet; N26°00'00"W 112 feet to the point of beginning; together with such similar bottomland, if any, lying between and opposite the above-described land and said Government Lot 3; containing 16.27 acres, more or less.

Parcel #7:

The entire N 1/2; the N 1/2 of the S 1/2, except that part reserved by John Monaghan and wife in Liber 28 of Deeds, on Page 226; and the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4, Section 7, T32N, R9E, containing approximately 508 acres.

Parcel #8:

The SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 7, T32N, R9E, containing approximately 4.5 acres.

Parcel #9:

The entire fractional N 1/2 of Section 8, T32N, R9E, containing approximately 16 acres.

EXHIBIT B

I.

Excepting and reserving to Grantor, its successors and assigns, all oil, gas and associated hydrocarbon substances in and under all of the parcels of land described on Exhibit A and the exclusive right to store, re-store and protect oil, gas and associated hydrocarbon substances in the subsurface strata underlying said parcels of land. Grantor, its successors and assigns, may request of Grantee the right to enter upon said lands for the purpose of (i) exploring for, mining, taking, storing, processing, making merchantable, transporting and removing said oil, gas and associated hydrocarbon substances, and (ii) storing, re-storing and protecting oil, gas and other hydrocarbon substances in the subsurface strata and taking and retaking same from storage. Grantee will not unreasonably or arbitrarily withhold such permission.

II.

Also excepting and reserving to Grantor, its successors and assigns, the following EXCLUSIVE easements in, over, across and under a certain 270-foot wide strip of land located within Parcel #1 described in Exhibit A, and in, over and across a certain 270-foot wide strip of land located within Parcel #4 described in Exhibit A, and in, over and across a certain 270-foot wide strip of land located within Parcel #5 described in Exhibit A, said strips of land being described hereinbelow, to: 1) enter upon said strips of land; 2) construct, operate, repair, inspect, replace, improve, enlarge and remove existing and future electric facilities on said strips of land, including but not limited to electric substations, overhead and/or underground lines consisting of towers, pole structures, poles, or any combination of same, with wires, cables, conduits, crossarms, braces, guys, anchors and transformers and other fixtures and appurtenances and electric control circuits and devices for the purpose of transmitting and distributing electricity; 3) construct, operate, repair, inspect, replace, improve, enlarge and remove existing and future communications facilities on said strips of land, including but not limited to overhead and/or underground lines consisting of towers, pole structures, poles, or any combination of same with wires, cables, fiber optic cables and other fixtures and appurtenances for the purpose of conducting a communication or related business; and 4) cut, trim, remove, destroy or otherwise control any trees and brush on said strips of land which may, in the opinion of Grantor, interfere or threaten to interfere with or be hazardous to the above-described existing and future facilities.

It is intended hereby to reserve the above-described easements EXCLUSIVE of any person or entity except Grantee itself, and in the event that Grantee wishes to grant an interest in any of said strips of land, other than a conveyance of the entire fee interest, Grantee must secure Grantor's PRIOR written consent to any such grant, and Grantor may give such consent in its sole discretion and may attach any conditions to such consent. Nothing herein shall prevent Grantee from using said strips of land in the same manner as other public lands under its jurisdiction, except that such use shall not interfere with exercise of the rights reserved to Grantor.

Grantee agrees that no buildings or other structures will be erected on said strips of land and that no materials, supplies, substances or equipment shall be placed or stored upon said strips of land. Grantee

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shall secure Grantor's PRIOR written consent for any roads, irrigation systems or any other use of said strips of land that may affect Grantor's reserved rights hereunder, and Grantor may give such consent in its sole discretion and may attach any conditions to such consent.

Nonuse or a limited use by Grantor of the easements hereby reserved shall not prevent Grantor from later making use of the easements to the full extent herein stated. No delay or omission by Grantor to enforce its rights hereunder shall be held to cancel same or be considered a waiver thereof.

The aforesaid strips of land are described as follows:

A 270-foot wide strip of land running in a Northerly and Southerly direction across each of said Parcels #1, #4 and #5, the Westerly line of said 270-foot wide strip of land across each of said Parcels #1, #4 and #5 being located 105 feet Westerly of the centerline of the electric transmission line now existing across each of said parcels, and the Easterly line of said 270-foot wide strip of land across each of said Parcels #1, #4 and #5 being located 165 feet Easterly of the centerline of said electric transmission line now existing across each of said parcels. Said centerline of said electric transmission line now existing across each of said Parcels #1, #4 and #5 is described as all those parts of the following centerline description as are located across said parcels:

To find the point of beginning of said centerline description, commence at the South 1/4 corner of Section 13, T32N, R8E; thence West along the South line of said section, a distance of 203.81 feet to the point of beginning of this existing electric transmission line centerline description; thence N 22°25'05" E, a distance of 932.55 feet; thence N 00°17'56" E, a distance of 7210.43 feet to a point on the East and West 1/4 line of Section 12, T32N, R8E, said point being N 88°33'33" W, 2547.98 feet from the East 1/4 corner of said Section 12; thence continue N 00°17'56" E to the North line of Section 1, T32N, R8E, and the place of ending of this description.

**APPENDIX B**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**PROGRAM RESULTS**

**FOR THE ROCKPORT PROPERTY**



## Public Participation

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division (DNR-PRD) emphasized that comments on the general management plans would be accepted at any time during the process. The formal public participation program included an extensive public participation component in the general management plan process. The participation initiatives are summarized below, and the results for all three sites (Negwegon, the Rockport Property and Thompson's Harbor) presented in this Appendix.

- † October 29, 2007 Stakeholder Workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to obtain comments on the draft General Management Plans for Negwegon State Park, the Rockport Property, and Thompson's Harbor State Park. With assistance from the Planning Team, approximately 212 people and organizations were identified as stakeholders. Invitations to the Stakeholder Workshop were sent by email (2), mail (207) and phone (3). Forty people attended the workshop. The sign-in sheet is included in this Appendix.

Stakeholders were invited to comment at the meeting. Stakeholders could also comment by completing a survey. The survey was mailed to each stakeholder, and was also available at the workshop and available on-line. Surveys could be completed before or after the workshop.

- † December 11, 2007 Public Input workshop. The DNR-PRD conducted two Public Input Workshops on December 11, 2007. The purpose of the workshop was to obtain comments on the draft General Management Plans for Negwegon State Park, the Rockport Property, and Thompson's Harbor State Park. The workshops were published in the local newspapers. Fifty-three attendants signed-in at the 3:00 pm session. Nineteen attendants signed in at the 5:00 pm session.

There were three opportunities to provide comments:

- 1) Comment at the workshop.
- 2) A hard-copy survey available at the workshop and on-line.
- 3) An on-line survey.

## Results from the October 29, 2007 Stakeholder Workshop

### **Negwegon**

- † If camping is allowed in Negwegon, concern that campers would simply disembark at the parking lot, and move camping gear to beach.
- † Backcountry Zone should follow both sides of pathways.
- † Duck hunters would like parking lot closer to South Point (easier access for transporting decoys and equipment). The DNR responded that there are some Native American sites on ridges that must be considered.

### **Rockport**

- † Survey question 7 response (Are there any known user conflicts or issues?): Funding for improvements to Rockport Road must also be provided to ensure the safety of the motoring public visiting the development. Middle Island was once a lifeboat station.
- † Enhance the access road. Rockport Road is not adequate to carry increased traffic to the park.
- † The quarry provided worker housing on-site.

### **Thompson's Harbor**

- † Survey Question 1 response (Do you agree with the statements of purpose? Anything to add?): Yes
- † Survey Question 2 response (Do you agree with the statements of significance?): Shipwreck. Would like to see good access where one could hand launch a boat – kayak or zodiac – need shore access for carrying dive gear.

Other comments for Thompson's Harbor:

- † The first two miles (to the outlet) of Old State Road / off US-23 need to be marked as a SCENIC AREA for wildflowers. That is already accessible to all visitors.
- † Grand Lake Outlet "fence" that obstructs kayakers was installed by the DNR with a trail grant. The fence is not popular with thoughtful park users.
- † Old State Road should be marked at both ends as a park entrance.

### **Sign-in Sheet**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
John Bare	
Don Bey	
David Birchler	Birchler Arroyo Associates
Dan & Ann Brasier	
Keith Cheli	DNR PRD
Paul N. Curtis	MDNR-PRD
Ken Gauthier	

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Amy Golke	Birchler Arroyo Associates
Mary Ann Heidemann	MSU Extension
Colleen Higgins	MDNR-PRD/Harrisville State Park
Laura Ingles	NEMC 06
Jim Johnson	MDNR – Fisheries
Michael Joyce	
Tom Keerl	City of Harrisville
Frank Krist	
Jane & Steve Kroll	
Art Laatz	Alcona Historical Rte Committee
C. Patrick Labadie	Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Al Lipski	
Sue Maxwell	
John McConnell	
Jeanne Meskus	Huron Shore Chamber
Dan Mullen	MDNR-PRD/Harrisville State Park
Rick Myrick	Alcona Conservation District
Doug Niergarth	Michigan Brown Trout
Patty Ramus	The Alpena News
Tom Paquor	Clio F.O. DNR
Peter Pettalia	
Jeff Shea	City of Alpena
M. Slown	City of Rogers City
Joe Sobczak	TBUPC
Yvonne Swager	Michigan Outdoor News
Rachael Franks Taylor	TNC
Kenneth Timm	
Marie A. Twite	Twp of Alpena
Scott Vergiels	UofM Mus. Of Paleontology
John Whatcott	
Ron Young	Alcona County Road Commission

## Results from the December 11, 2007 Public Input Workshop

### **A. Comments at the workshop**

- † Concerns regarding the quarry.
  - ✍ The plan references fossils only. Fossils may be found on the beach (near the sand boils or by the bluffs).
  - ✍ People should be able to find and collect fossils.
  - ✍ There should be a way to assemble collections so fossils can be viewed by the public.
  - ✍ In all parks, exposed lake shore is good place to find fossils.
  - ✍ The quarry great from educational standpoint.
    - ? It is the only place where rock formation is fully exposed.
    - ? An info kiosk at Rockport should identify it as one of the best places in the world view this type of rock formation.
- † Audubon society view trapping as a conflict with cross-country skiing, bird counting, and similar activities.
- † There needs to be entrance signs at Thompson's Harbor (two roadside signs and two entry signs).
- † Consider the costs and benefits of: Identifying Native American artifacts: will they be ruined?; and allowing equestrian use (seeds in waste).
- † Why do we want to allow equestrian use?
- † Having hunted in Rockport and Thompson's Harbor, there are already many trails, it seems as if the plans stick snowmobile on powerline routes only.
- † Don't restrict current users.
- † Would like to see things left as they are. I don't want to damage anything though.
- † What's the motivation for the plans - Financial? Preservation?
- † Most locals use the parks and the plans restrict locals a lot.
- † We have camping, etc. If we start developing these jewels, what's going to happen?
- † What are the allowed uses now? Is there overuse? Are we just planning stewardship? (Facilitator response: yes)
- † ATV's ruin dunes not equestrians.
- † If there are trails, make them where they are compatible for equestrian use. There is no proof that horses cause damage.
- † In the late 1980's, Thompson's Harbor was financially self-sufficient from a management standpoint. Nothing has happened. Concerned that park is used less after this process than when it was in private ownership.
- † If land must sustain itself financially, hard to believe it will.
- † Each park is unique, each has unifying traits.
- † Education means to make park available to the public and protect the resources. Will you help us form groups and tell us what we need to do? What are we supposed to do now? Response: start a "Friends" Group. Use "Friends of the Library" as a model. At the next CAC meeting, this will be discussed. Also, there is a DNR List serve.

- † Are you looking at what does or doesn't work right now? Note that activities you can't do other places, you can do here.
- † The DNR is not planning on selling these sites right? (Response: not to our knowledge. More likely that land will be added to the sites.)
- † Tawas Pointe has birding. People want to visit Newegon in particular for birding, especially during migration.
- † Regarding park management, have difficulties / benefits with management been identified? Is there a way to do partial regionalization? Will there be staff at each park?
- † Rockport Road is hazardous road to travel. Work with local agency long-range planning to do something about this.
- † Concerned with privacy for homeowner on the Lake. Protect our privacy.
- † When DNR moves into Phase 2 & 3, do you still consult the public?
- † Now we have to pay \$24/ year to get into and out of the Rockport Property. For years, we did not have to pay.
- † Fees. Paying \$3 per day at Negwegon is undesirable, a sign should be posted to encourage \$24 / annual fee. (Response: there is such as sign).
- † Don't give discounts to seniors (comment from a senior citizen).
- † Develop in ways that are educational. These sites are a tremendous benefit for younger people, so build appreciation for the resource that they can pass along to their children.
- † Concerned for forest management. Do not allow what happened at Thompson's Harbor to happen at Rockport.
- † Comment to younger people: what you have is really unique; a heritage to hold on to.
- † Is there still a trust fund?
- † Regional perspective: There is a proposal to expand the National Marine Sanctuary, so there could be unified management on front side of sites. Good sense would deem unified management on land side.
- † There are no conflict with kid usage at the sites. They like to hang out at Negwegon.
- † What is the significance of cultural resource overlay?
- † With present climate, (i.e. DNR closing parks), why have Developed Recreation zones? Why not leave these areas as Primitive?
- † In Thompson's Harbor, access road is blocked off, you can't get through. There is a similar situation at Rockport where the gates limit access.
- † How will we know when next planning phase start?
- † For Negwegon, will you allow camping in Negwegon? Will the access road be open during the winter?
- † More camping should be allowed. What is allowed in terms of primitive camping?
- † Snowmobiling is allowed only in a single line. A loop around the parks would be nice? We would like to view the beach or something more scenic to facilitate a pleasure ride.
- † Rockport: Now that state owns, access is cut off.

- † Why develop every piece of land? I don't want it all accessible. I don't want to see people when go to sinkholes. We pick up more trash from others. Open these areas and they will be destroyed because people cannot handle responsibility. Geocaching is awesome here, you don't see another soul.
- † When do users and conflicts get addressed? Phase 2? If so, then Phase 2 should also have opportunities for public comment.
- † There are many uses in Thompson's Harbor right now, and they all get along. Fear that if managed, user groups may lose out on their use.
- † What phase are the "economics" considered? These sites are not paying their own way right now. Be up front with public. How much this will cost? It won't be free.
- † This is a long-term planning process, but what do we do in short-term? ATV's are tearing up Negwegon. (DNR response: Call us when you see it – that's why you see berms, etc. Need public's support (peer policing) on regulating ORV's.)
- † Recreation opportunities that are low intensity, how are they determined?
- † Biking should be low intensity not lumped with horses.
- † Trails by the wetlands could be used, mountain bikes will not hurt them.
- † A dive platform is needed at Rockport, and a place for trash.
- † Why not label zones at Rockport Primitive, and later on change what you want to do.
- † Never have seen a Conservation Officer in Thompson's Harbor.
- † These properties are unique in the State.
- † Time to break new ice: charge a user pass to pay for staff.
- † Metal detecting: can it be done in any of the management zones? Would like to see this activity addresses in the plans.
- † Forest management plans for harvest timber? In Negwegon? (Response: We don't harvest timber except species control or after a storm.)
- † Would quarry remain open (i.e. allowed to remove rocks)?
- † Why is no one at Rockport patrolling, and what level of campsite management would enact a patrol officer?
- † Regarding the cabin at Thompson's Harbor. Since it is there, why not make the property open to six cabins?
- † Don't take from public, give to public!
- † The people that are not here tonight feel disenfranchised and bitter over trail closings, which yields vandalism. They feel ownership is taken away. Outsiders don't respect property – 'Rules' ruin right-to-use for locals.

### December 11 Public Workshop Sign-In Sheet

Name	Organization/ Affiliation
Kenneth Timm	Alcona County
Jim Szczukowski	
Bill McDonnell	
Richard White	
Linda Klemens	
Don Beem	
Dave LaVigne	
Erin Riopielle	Head Waters Land Conservation
Deb Pardike	
May Heideman	
James Zakshesky	Presque Isle Planning Commission
Fred Sterns	
Elizabeth Antkowiak	Citizen
Joe Cercone	Citizen
Cory Gilders Lieve	Audubon
Peggy Ridgway	Audubon
Edward H. Cole	Audubon
William Hyde	County Planning
Beach Hall	Mayor
Colleen Higgins	DNR
Mark Hansen	DNR
Dan Mullen	DNR
Jim Larson	AuSable Audubon
Sue M. Keller	
Jeff Spruit	MDEQ Geologic Outreach Commission
Kerry Mase	
Carol Clute	
Robert C. Brandt	
Elizabeth Littler	
Chris Christopherson	
Wade Oliver	
Shawn Neuland	
Brian Kionzle	
Tony Curia	
Shawn Fettes	
John Pilon	Michigan DNR
Carue Shafto	City of Alpena
Jeanne Meskus	
Pauline Farmer	
Jerry Meek	Thunder Bay River Watershed Council
Richard Cluter	Besser Museum
David Sedlow	

Name	Organization/ Affiliation
Randy Fairbanks	Thunder Bay Trails Association
Elise DeMerell	
Jim McCallum	
Bobbi Bashore	DNR/LAW
Kim Wallis Burke	
Haley DeJarlin	Alcona Schools
Justin Brown	
Nathan Bushey	Alcona High School
David Dubuque	North East Huron Detector Club
Jennifer Nemeth	DNR/FMFM
Suzie Leow	
Tom Carlson	
Don Rosenberg	
Marcus Kemp	
Steve Mitchell	
Mike Leon	
Rick Egstrom	

# Survey Distributed at Meeting (and available on-line), and Survey Results (Responses: 8)

**ROCKPORT**  
Public Input Workshop Worksheet  
(Please use additional pages as necessary for your comments to the questions below)

The questions below pertain to the DRAFT General Management Plan for the Rockport Property. If you would like to submit your comments after tonight's workshop, please mail, fax or email to: Amy Golke, Birchler Arroyo Associates, 28021 Southfield Road, Lathrup Village, MI 48076 / (248) 423-1793 (fax) / [agolke@birchlarroyo.com](mailto:agolke@birchlarroyo.com) by **December 17**.

Surveys, the draft plan, and the presentation are available at: [www.birchlarroyo.com/Clients/MDNR-NRTH.htm](http://www.birchlarroyo.com/Clients/MDNR-NRTH.htm)

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the survey.  
Your comments are a very valuable component of the General Management Plan process.

Name / Affiliation	Address	Email / Phone
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**1. The Statements of Purpose currently include:**

- Maintain the approximately 3,641 acres of Rockport that were deeded to the Department of Natural Resources from Consumers Energy, as part of the Ludington Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Facility settlement
- Preserve and protect the property's unique natural resources for current and future generations.
- Preserve and protect the property's historic and cultural resources.
- Provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflect the mission of the DNR and the unique qualities of Rockport
- Provide opportunities for recreational uses and experiences that are unique to, and compatible with, the property's resource base.
- Ensure that the planning of Rockport is part of a cohesive strategy for the region.

**Do you agree with the above statements? Would you add anything to the above statements?** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Current statements of significance are summarized as:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural and historic resources: Native American influence in Rockport; limestone quarry and forest operations; fossils found in the quarry; the oak ridge (indicates a prehistoric use).</li> <li>• Deep water pier: unique to the northeast shoreline; major attraction for visitors; provides water access (fishing, diving and swimming). Ideal location for boaters, divers and swimmers and may be beneficial in terms of tourism (Great Lakes cruise lines, tourism boats).</li> <li>• The Chippewa tribe accesses the boat launch through a Tribal Commercial Fishery Consent Decree.</li> <li>• The NOAA Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary's jurisdiction includes a portion of the Rockport Coast. The Sanctuary uses the deep water port at Rockport as a base for diving excursions.</li> <li>• Sink holes, karst features, dramatic land forms that are educational and interesting to divers. (Sink holes can also pose a danger as the land surface surrounding the hole may collapse unpredictably).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unique natural features: old growth white pines; cobble beach; and fens.</li> <li>• Value to commercial fisheries. Fisheries are also significant from a historical perspective, as some Alpena area settlers were attracted to the area for its commercial fishing resources.</li> <li>• Proximity and relationship to the Besser Bell Natural Area, which features stands of mature, virgin red and white pine with spruce, balsam, cedar and birch, Lake Huron shoreline, sandy beach. Portions of a shipwreck can be found in a wetland, just inland from the shoreline.</li> <li>• Prevalence of wildflowers, and species of special concern, threatened species and endangered species, such as Houghton's goldenrod, Dwarf lake iris and Pitcher's thistle.</li> <li>• The Rockport property includes land on Middle Island. (The lighthouse on Middle Island is privately owned.)</li> <li>• Its part in regional networks: Lighthouse Tour; "Sunrise Side Coastal Highway"; Huron Greenways; Bluewater Trail (proposed); and Great Lakes Circle Tour.</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

**Do you agree with the above statements? What else makes Rockport significant to you?** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

*Continued on next page*

Rockport ♦ Public Input Worksheet ♦ December 11, 2007

3. What natural resources are important? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What cultural resources are important? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What are the education and interpretation opportunities? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. What are the recreation opportunities? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. What should be the visitor experience? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Are there any known user conflicts or issues?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. What should be the identity of Rockport?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Survey Responses: 8

### 1. Do you agree with the statements of purpose? Would you add anything to the above statements?

- ☞ Absolutely! This site is a treasure in many ways: geologically; biologically; ecologically; and aesthetically, just to name a few.
- ☞ I agree.
- ☞ Yes.
- ☞ Yes, no.
- ☞ Yes, with an emphasis on #2 (Preserve and protect the property's unique natural resources for current and future generations).
- ☞ Agree.
- ☞ Agree.

### 2. Do you agree with the statements of significance? What else makes the site significant to you?

- ☞ Yes. It is the only place in the Lower Peninsula where the total thickness of this rock formation (Rockport Quarry Limestone) is exposed for study, observation and educational purposes.
- ☞ The terrain (rocks, bedrock) is unlike any other I've seen in the Lower Peninsula. It would be incredible for developing a unique, technically challenging mountain bike trail system.
- ☞ Yes. Fossil collecting destination.
- ☞ Yes.
- ☞ Yes. In particular, the deep water port which gives access to deeper water for divers and fishermen. Additionally, I enjoy bird hunting here.
- ☞ Agree.
- ☞ Yes. Believe lighthouse is still US Coast Guard's high ground. Giver good visual onto Lake Huron. Interesting to observe the commercial fishing operation.

### 3. What natural resources are important?

- ☞ Old growth white pines, threatened wildflowers, sink holes.
- ☞ Shoreline, fossils, ledges.
- ☞ The wildflowers (yellow lady slipper, for one), birds, karst features (sink holes), cultural features, historic significance (the quarrying operations that occurred in the past).
- ☞ The Besser Bell Natural Area, shoreline habitat, wildflowers, fens and sink holes.
- ☞ Fossil collecting.
- ☞ Karsts, forests, sinkholes, cobble beach, old growth white pines, endangered species.

### 4. What cultural resources are important?

- ☞ The pier and boat ramp, the old settlement of Rockport, the old abandoned quarrying

equipment.

- ☞ Pier, shipwrecks, Native American influence.
- ☞ Old village, site of 'Big Mac' bridge caisson construction, old railroad grades.
- ☞ Native American influences.
- ☞ Fossils, artifacts, old community, shipwrecks.

## 5. What are the education and interpretation opportunities?

- ☞ The karst features, the fossils, the different layers of rock within the Rockport Quarry Limestone Formation (geo-education).
- ☞ The unique sink hole geology.
- ☞ Native American education, rock formations, fossils.
- ☞ Limestone geology.
- ☞ Rockport settlement, quarrying methods, types of fishing.
- ☞ Introduction to geology and all of science through wonder of fossil collecting.

## 6. What are the recreation opportunities?

- ☞ Hunting, fishing, walking, snowmobiling.
- ☞ Light camping or day use, diving, hiking, horse-back riding.
- ☞ Possible campground with Great Lake access.
- ☞ Hunting, fishing, swimming, diving, rock climbing, fossil collecting.
- ☞ Fossil collecting, hiking, birding, fishing, swimming and maybe mountain biking on designated trails.
- ☞ A stacked-loop, multi-use non-motorized trail system (see attached example from Building Better Trails published by the International Mountain Bicycling Association.) Proper trail design would help minimize trail conflicts. In addition, the apparent lack of soft soils means equestrians may be able to share these trails with minimal negative trail impact. Having more technical trails also leads to slower mountain biker speeds which can also alleviate conflict with other trail groups. (FIGURE attached, page 10)
- ☞ Hiking, cross-country skiing, kayaking, nature observation, photography, swimming and boat access.
- ☞ The outer loops would ideally be located within the rockier areas and quarry area in order to provide a very challenging trail experience.
- ☞ I believe such a trail would draw significant mountain bikers from across the Lower Peninsula and potentially the Midwest since this terrain is so unique. It is much closer for cyclists to drive to Alpena than the Upper Peninsula or East Coast in order to experience the rugged, rocky and challenging trails.

## 7. What should be the visitor experience?

- ☞ Multiple opportunity. Fossil collect and birding and hiking for example. Historical edification, wildflower observation, and hiking for another.
- ☞ An appreciation of nature.
- ☞ Educational.
- ☞ Multiple. Considerable opportunity for hiking trails. Loop hike to Besser Bell on the shoreline and return on the old railroad grad is a good hike.
- ☞ Low-impact, non-motorized in northern area and more developed – camping, etc. at pier and quarry.

## 8. Are there any known user conflicts or issues?

- ☞ There may be a possible conflict between fossil collecting / geo-education and target shooting. Target shooting is certainly possibly compatible if properly planned.
- ☞ Major resource damage from illegal ORV activity.
- ☞ Yes. Desire by some user group for motorized access to sink holes and interior of park. Possible nesting area for bald eagles-motorized noise could impact nesting.

## 9. What should be the identity of the site?

- ☞ Wildlife, nature and geo-educational park.
- ☞ Should be an education spot showing the history of the area. (HISTORICAL)
- ☞ Multi-experience park. Of the three areas, this site probably has the most mullet-use potential.
- ☞ As stated above, the trail identity for Rockport would be its unique and challenging terrain within the Lower Peninsula and the Midwest.
- ☞ A mixture of recreational-oriented areas <remainder not legible>
- ☞ A fossil collecting destination among all the other recreational uses.

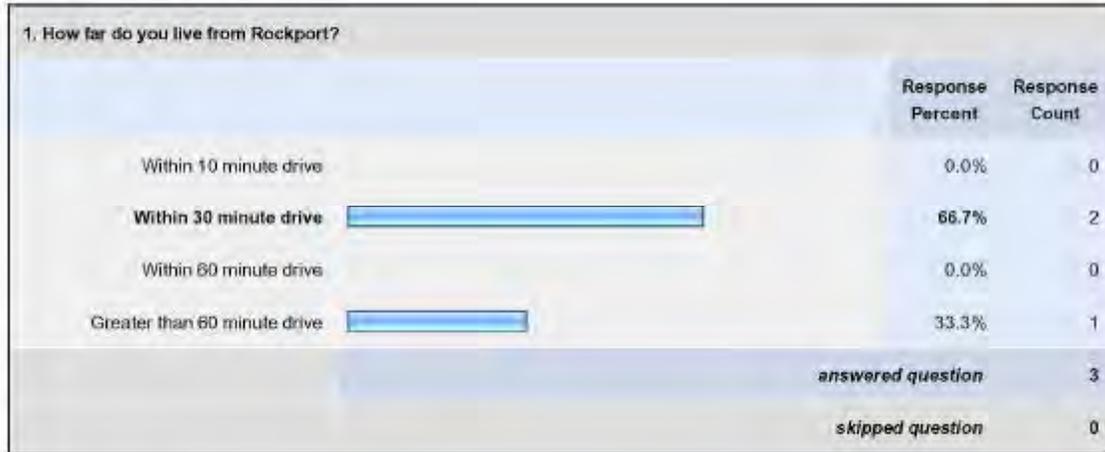
## 10. Other Comments

- ☞ No camping, no launch fee.
- ☞ Good opportunity for marked trails for hiking. Some safety issues with the quarry cliffs – will need fencing and signage. This property should be transferred to the State Park system at the appropriate time.
- ☞ This property presents a unique opportunity to develop a campground / residence for people wishing to dive on a wreck or wrecks or for fishermen.

## On-line Survey Results

(Responses: 3)

### Rockport Property



**3. What activities do you currently enjoy at the site?**

- 1 fossils, sinkholes, quiet hu=ikes
- 2 Hiking
- 3 Boat Launch, Fishing, Hunting, Scuba Diving, Hiking

**4. Please list the new activities that you would like to see at Rockport, and indicate the number of new visits per year if the activity is added. For example, the addition of rustic campsites might change a person's number of visits per year from four to twelve.**

- 1 marked hiking trails, no need to create more. Please don't open it up to pick-up trucks and divers.
- 2 Horse back riding spring, summer and fall and cross country skiing in the winter. I would probably increase my visits to once per month in each season.
- 3 Easier access to the sinkholes for scuba divers, and people with disabilities. Also Scuba access from the township day park to the Deep Water Pier, instead of the boat launch area. Cross Country Ski trails.

**5. What natural resources at Rockport are most important to you?**

- 1 Sink holes, quarry, shorelines
- 2 I think that the fossils and the history of the region is important.
- 3 The Fossils / Quarry, sinkholes, hiking trails,

**6. Are there any historically-significant resources or culturally-significant resources in Rockport of which you are aware?**

- 1 no
- 2 Just the stage couch route, mining and fishing.
- 3 The old houses near the lake, just South of the parking lot.

**7. What would you like to see in terms of education or interpretation opportunities?**

- 1 Information on karst geology
- 2 History and fossils.
- 3 The sinkholes, the fossils, and what Rockport actually was used for in its time

**8. When visiting Rockport, what should the experience be like?**

- 1 Quiet, natural, camping opportunities
- 2 Quiet, peaceful, natural--- not developed. No snowmobiles in the winter.

**9. What should the identity for this site be (i.e. a primitive, natural area; campground; educational area)?**

- 1 Cmapground, education, natural areas
- 2 Natural area with tent camping, hiking trails, skiing trails and equestrian trail. Continued port for fishermen, picnic area for families.
- 3 I feel there is enough land to accomplish the following: primitive, natural area, a campground, and education

**10. Are there any known user conflicts or issues?**

- 1 ATV's and snowmobiles on beaches, divers driving motor vehicles to sink holes
- 2 There should be no conflicts between users if we respect each other and all follow the rules; showing courtesy to everybody.
- 3 The target practicing / weapon sighting shouldn't be allowed, there are ranges for that

**11. Please review the CORE VALUES section of the General Management Plan. Do you agree or disagree with the statements of purpose and significance? Is there anything you would add?**

- 1 Agree
- 2 I agree.
- 3 I agree

**12. Please review the General Management Plan's MANAGEMENT ZONE PLAN. Do you agree or disagree with the Management Zones for Rockport? What changes would you make?**

- 1 Shorelines should be ecological sensitive zones  
I agree with the zones but why was equestrian use not listed as one of the possible recreational uses? As I
- 2 recall there is an old road (old stage couch route) that runs from Rockport up to Besser Bell. This could be a horse back riding trail.

**13. The next step in the process is to consider linkages among Negwegon State Park, Thompson's Harbor State Park and the Rockport property in the context of the geographic region (Alcona, Alpena, and Presque Isle Counties). This Regional Assessment will also tie into the Michigan Sea Grant Northeast Michigan Integrated Assessment project. Please provide your comments with regard to regional consideration of these three sites.**

- 1 Makes sense to have Tompsons harbor and rockport tied together. Negwegon should be tied with Harrisville Townships need to be involved. Volunteers from the local areas and user groups should be recruited to help with trail maintenance, education tours, etc.
- 2 To have the three parks would be a great asset for boaters / kayakers /canoers being able to travel up the Lake Huron shore and camp for the night at a park. Maybe in the future being able to travel to Mackinaw by canoe / kayak.
- 3

**14. Are there any comments you would like to share?**

- 1 I hope it is possible to include horse back riding at Rockport. (Thank you for all your work on these plans. They are impressive.)

**APPENDIX C**

**PLANNING TEAM MEETING**

**AGENDAS AND MINUTES**

**FOR THE ROCKPORT PROPERTY**

Meeting agendas and minutes for all Planning Team meetings are provided in this Appendix. Meetings were held on the following dates:

June 6, 2007

July 24, 2007

September 25, 2007

January 29, 2008

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# A G E N D A

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION  
Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson's Harbor (NRTH)  
General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: June 6, 2007

TIME: 1:00 - 5:00 pm

PLACE: Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
500 W Fletcher St, Alpena, MI

1. Introductions
2. Project Overview
3. Exercise
  - ✍ Your interests
  - ✍ First impressions of each park's significance
  - ✍ First impressions of each park's purpose

4. Summary: What was heard

Summary Report to be emailed - please provide your email address on the sign-in sheet.

5. Planning Team Meeting Schedule
6. Local Citizens Advisory Committee

# M E E T I N G   M I N U T E S

## MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION

### Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson’s Harbor (NRTH) General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: June 6, 2007

TIME: 1:00 - 5:00 pm

PLACE: Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
500 W Fletcher St, Alpena, MI

#### **1. and 2. Introductions and Project Overview.**

Paul Curtis, MDNR-PRD Management Plan Administrator, began the meeting by providing an overview of the General Management Plan process.

#### **3. Exercise**

Birchler Arroyo Associates led an issues / solutions exercise. A brief description of each park was given, after which participants were asked to identify issues and solutions, as well as the significance and purpose of Negwegon, Rockport and Thompson’s Harbor.

#### 3.A Negwegon

##### 3.A.1 Negwegon: Issues and Solutions

- † Is there a Piping Plover Critical Endangered Habitat designation? (Answer: no).
- † Metal detecting is not allowed in sensitive areas.
- † County Road access is a major issue because it is essentially seasonal. Sandhill Road does not have 66’ ROW, traveled way easement only, sand base makes it unstable.
- † Catholic Church ROW may be a potential access point.
- † There are important archeological sites in Negwegon.
- † Original access was from Lakeshore, by 4WD only. This access was closed when Sandhill Road was opened. People feel shut out by current condition of access.
- † Criticism of equestrians watering horses at lake is unfair.
- † Desirable use should determine the access provided (primary plus secondary EMS)
- † Is there *runaway slave* history associated with the property?

- † Regarding previous attempts to plan: ORV use has been destructive. The land is somewhat healed, however, limited rustic camping and DNR management personnel would help police unauthorized ORV traffic / damage.
- † Parks should be accessible for seniors
- † Wayfinding signs are needed to locate parks, direct users within parks, etc.
- † Opportunities for interpretation and accessibility.
- † Black River and Scarecrow island have shipwrecks accessible to kayakers and snorklers.
- † Cultural and ecological tourism on all three properties is important to Roger's City and the region's economy.
- † Lighthouse tour includes area. US-23 Heritage Trail, Bluewater Trail and Huron Greenways.
- † Interconnections are important. Access should not be shut out by Department standard for one-way in and one-way out (especially for non-motorized trails). Remember that access parameters control uses.
- † Dozens of local parks are part of the system (obtain NEMCOG complied local inventory).
- † Hikers, bikers, swimmers are primary users now. Hunting is in decline (by design?). There are potential and actual conflicts now. People camp informally in an Alcona Township park as a base for kayaking from Negwegon.
- † There is animosity towards duck hunters.
- † Access is critical and will be difficult to improve because of easements required (neighbors run users off state land as a result of the access having been 'reduced'). Purpose needs to address appropriate use, as broad as possible, with reduction of conflict.
- † This is the #1 retirement area – are we addressing barrier-free access?
- † Hunters need more opportunities.
- † Has 'no motorized use' be re-evaluated in regard to rascals, elec. Golf carts with turf tires?
- † Universal access is part of MDNR standards now.
- † Any exploration of allowing private enterprises in the park (i.e. concessions?)

### 3.A.2 Negwegon: Interest, Purpose and Significance

- † Access for hunting, primitive camping within designated areas and under PRD management
- † Access needs to be improved for primitive camping; maybe some rustic camping; people will police the use (peer pressure); hunting; northern unit has locked gates; duck hunting at southpoint is a concern.
- † Maximum use possible in the most responsible manner possible. (Duck hunters to South Point, scuba divers to sink holes, help local economy. Can Rockport include user-friendly target range of unique design? Can management rules be tailored to these properties?
- † Access to Lake Huron for beach walkers, kayakers.
- † A 'multi-use park' should be feasible.

- † Multiple access, some easy and some requiring a vigorous hike. Likes term “sustainable use.” Important to look at all three parks simultaneously.
- † Interpretive centers for rare / interesting species can address education and ecotourism.
- † Teach people how to have fun outdoors, how to be a responsible recreationist. May be essential to have a ‘center’ from which to disperse people to each site. Hunting is safe, compatible.
- † Northeast Michigan should not have to be ‘pristine and poor.’ Paul Bunyon legend began in Oscoda (*first newspaper articles published about Paul were published here*). Also have lighthouse tours, stagecoach trail. An interpretive center is needed.
- † No one representing law enforcement – are there serious conflicts between users now?
- † Fossil hunting is a big activity.
- † Native American tribes should be contacted.
- † Is there a plan to connect the two parcels (Wade property?)

### 3.B Rockport: Issues and Solutions; Significance and Purpose

- † Flowing springs just off of the shore could be important to divers (white algae).
- † Similar to Negwegon, access is an issue.
- † Consumers Power never discouraged access, which failed to address abuses, such as ORV damage. When the State purchased, there was a ‘lock-down.’ To stop ORVs, bocks were installed, which prevented fishing access. Snowmobiles should be able to use designated roadways, however, quads become problem that barriers did not resolve. Not enough large signs to ID allowable uses. Access is available from Grand Lake Road to sink holes, but no action to develop to-date. Need to encourage public use, not discourage. Hoeft State Park could be the camping base for NRTH if there was good access.
- † Parking at the powerline crossing (road access form both directions) could be Rockport base for hiking access)
- † Commercial fishing access at Rockport is an important use to preserve.
- † Presque Isle Township community has offered to assist with maintenance and management. Would the MDNR consider a partnership? Could we encourage / license a private enterprise to take kayakers and divers to the lake (motorized means).
- † Rockport deep water pier is one of the few facilities of its kind. Tour boats could run between the Marine Sanctuary and the deep water port. Save the deep water access. Touring boats on Great Lakes could stop at an interpretive center (Native American fishing, dune and swale complexes, fens, artifacts, shipwrecks, etc.
- † Need certified guides and outfitters.
- † Tie into ‘entrepreneurial communities’ concept: “Duck hunting with a certified duck hunter;” step aerobics class on the Lake Huron shoreline; sell park

- products (Chamber); sale of Dwarf Lake Iris. Private enterprises would give DNR control (good incentive: businesses would lose license if break rules).
- † Many creative concession opportunities: lighthouse boat tours, kayak access, etc.
- † Partnership with local governments to staff facilities and/or concessions.
- † Rules for taking on commercial passengers at certain types of sties may need review / modification (more opportunity could reduce fuel use, for example). Dive charters, fishing charters, lighthouse tours, kayak tours.
- † Old mine tailings area and the like could be more development without ecoregional harm.
- † Quarry is a very attractive site for divers.
- † Mountain biking from Besser to boat launch, currently able to do.
- † History of Rockport quarry should be documented (wayfinding) and preserved for public education and enjoyment. May also be former US Navy Training area).
- † Safety could be a concern for Rockport features (sink holes, deep water pier, cliff faces at the limestone quarry, metal parts and equipment).

### 3.C Thompson's Harbor: Issues and Solutions; Significance and Purpose

- † Need to look at local significance, state significance and even Federal significance.
- † 18% of Alpena County is publicly-owned land. Some of the resources requiring protection area available on other sites.
- † There is a preponderance of Species of Special Concern, and Threatened and Endangered species in Thompson's Harbor: 1) Thompson's Harbor 2) Negwegon 3) Rockport.
- † Diversity of wildflowers along at Thompson's Harbor warrants tour opportunities. Access to many is good as result of them growing in breaks in canopy.
- † Great kayaking is available seasonally from Grand Lake outlet to Lake Huron (and there is Thompson's Harbor State Park access on Black Bass Bay of Grand Lake).
- † Barrier-free access available from drive on Old State Road. (Point: there is currently great access to see wildflowers).
- † Currently interpretive panels are being installed in Thompson's Harbor State Park.
- † Shipwreck sites are visible to kayakers – NOAA has permit to drop a buoy as marker for one out at the point.
- † Park's history as 'immigrant point.'
- † Presque Isle Township bike path to lighthouse could easily be connected to Old State Road (a bikeable road).
- † Frog data is available from Mary Ann Heidemann.
- † Shoreline is walkable and has a well-established pedestrian path.
- † Enjoyment of the resources cannot be fully realized until we can get people to the center, park and hike or bike from there.

- † Park boundaries are not identified. People do not know where park land is located.
- † Hines Emerald Dragonfly habitat means development would trigger a special assessment.
- † Helpful to document and post what is permitted and what is not permitted at each site (there is a great deal of rumor and misperception).
- † Is it appropriate to plan to regulate nearby private development, so as not to adversely impact the resource? Can we promote economic development without harming the resource?
- † Assessment should show relationship of NRTH to:
  - Nearby State and federal land
  - Nearby County and local parks
  - Trail facilities in the area
  - Harrisville and Hoeft State Parks (campgrounds)
  - Former rail bed from Rockport to Alpena
  - Negwegon shoreline is 6.5 to 8 miles.
- † Consider uses of adjacent properties so they are not a detriment to the State Parks.
- † Look at bike trails which connect the area (100-miler).
- † Look at the Alpena to Rockport railbed (Possible connection: *Rails with Trails*).

## **2. Citizens Advisory Committee**

Paul Curtis led a discussion regarding the formation of a Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC). A CAC would contribute to the GMP planning process and continue to meet for other projects after the GMPs are completed.

June 6, 2007  
NORTH Planning Team Meeting Participants

NAME	AFFILIATION
Beverly Bodem	Sen. Stamas
Mark Slown	City of Rogers City
David Nadolsky	Rogers City
Jerry Smith	Rogers City
Kenneth Gauthier	Sanborn Township
Jeff Thornton	County of Alpena
Matt Smar	DEQ Coastal Mgmt Pgm
Mary Ann Heidemann	MSU Extension
Roger Carlin	Alcona Twp. Supervisor
Tom Ferguson	Michigan Sunrise Sire
Dan Mullen	MDNR
Glenn Palmgren	DNR-PRD
Keith Cheli	MDNR-PRD
Jeff Gray	NOAA
Eric Cline	City of Alpena
Amy Golke	Birchler Arroyo Associates
David Birchler	Birchler Arroyo Associates
Keith Kintigh	MDNR
Tom Paquin	MDNR
Gary Ellenwood	MDNR
Laurie Marzolo	MDNR FMFM
John Pilon	MDNR
F. Joe LaMarre	Underwater Pres. Comm.
Brandon Schroeder	MSU Extension / MI Sea Grant
C. Patrick Labadie	TB National Marine Sanctuary
Jon Spieles	DNR
Elaine Carlson	DNR-Wildlife
Sue Latuszek	Alpena News
Paul Curtis	DNR_PRD
Peter Pettalia	Presque Isle Township

# A G E N D A

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION  
Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson’s Harbor (NRTH)  
General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: July 24, 2007

TIME: 9:30 - 5:00 pm

PLACE: Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
500 W Fletcher St, Alpena, MI

1. Brief Review of Background Analysis (9:30-10:15)
  2. Management Zones (10:15 – 4:00)
    - A. Review Management Zone Descriptions, Legal Mandates and Directions
    - B. Group Exercise
      - ✍ Negwegon Management Zones (10:30-11:30)
      - ✍ Rockport Management Zones (11:30-12:30)
      - ✍ Thompson’s Harbor Management Zones (1:30-2:30/3:00)
      - ✍ Group Reports to Planning Team (2:30/3:00-4:00)
- Results from group exercise to be compiled into GMP statements of purpose and significance and will be distributed after meeting.
3. Citizens Advisory Committee (4:10-5:00)

# M E E T I N G M I N U T E S

## MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION

Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson's Harbor (NRTH)

General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: July 24 2007

TIME: 9:30 - 5:00 pm

PLACE: Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
500 W Fletcher St, Alpena, MI

### **1. Meeting began at 9:35 am with introductions.**

### **2. Agenda Item 1: Brief review of General Management Plans**

The first agenda item was to review each draft General Management Plan, and receive comments from Planning Team members. Comments received at the meeting are listed below. Members could contact Amy Golke by email, phone or fax with their comments at a later date.

#### Comments on Negwegon

† Section 1.3 Management Plan Process to include a more detailed history.

† Purpose Statements:

- Hiking and kayaking are major uses of Negwegon at present.
- Negwegon is near a State Forest campground, which is very accessible by boat.
- Waterfowl hunting is another purpose of Negwegon. Hardwood Point, in particular, is ideal for goose hunting and migrating.

† Significance Statements:

- Number rather than bullet the statements of significance.
- Add to bullet #1: *The northern portion of Negwegon offers a completely different habitat, featuring lowland hardwoods and a variety of upland forest types.*
- Add to bullet #2: Add Hines emerald dragonfly, if appropriate.
- Add to bullet #3: Add: Negwegon is one of the forested coastal areas that offers a habitat that supports a great diversity of flora and fauna.
- Add to bullet #5: Unique cultural and historic resources are a tremendous educational opportunity for understanding the park's value.
- Add to Bluewater Trail: NEMCOG may be developing a Bluewater Trail (depends on securing grant).

- Other significance statements for Negwegon:
  - Tribal heritage significance. While all parks contain tribal significance, many remnants are cited at Negwegon (burial grounds, stone wall, stone pits).
  - Hunting is a resource value.
  - Add bullet to the effect that south point, and toward the Wade property, are prime focus for duck and goose hunting.
  - Sandy beaches – heavily used during the summer, weekends.
  - Several historic shipwrecks are in this area.

#### † Legal Mandates

- Add note to boundary map that data reflects 40-acre land purchases (may not follow line directly).
- Regarding easements, Detroit & Mackinac is now Lake State Railroad
- MDNR ROW, there is a contract in-place and the DNR pays an annual fee to Lake State RR to use the crossing.
- Under prohibited uses, Chris Morris to provide the proper MCL. Delete item (2) which refers to horses and add the current policy regarding horses.
- Regarding the Piping plover, note that the current status is that it is not currently listed as a Federal Habitat and that the nesting area designation would kick-in only on a seasonal basis if Piping plover nests were found.

#### Comments on Rockport

† Sections 1.1 and 2.1 Add FMFM Mission Statement and FMFM references where relevant (i.e. change core values per FMFM's charge).

† Section 1.3 Management Plan Process will include a more detailed history.

† Section 2.2 heading refers to 'park's purpose.' This is not a park. Change references throughout the GMP.

#### † Purpose Statements:

- Contact Laurie Marzolo and Anna Sylvester for other purpose and significance statements.

#### † Significance Statements:

- Number rather than bullet
- Add to bullet #1: Specify what the history is: quarry used for construction of Mackinaw bridge.
- Add to bullet #2: more than an ideal location for divers – expand this definition. Also, Rockport provides access to shipwrecks. Also, include the important relationship between Rockport and the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary.
- Change bullet #4: There are easily 16-20+ sink holes in Rockport.
- Add bullets:
  - Alvar glade community located at Rockport.

- There are unique fens (groundwater fed and alkaline base). These create a special habitat in which only certain plant species can grow.
- Tribal commercial fishery (2000 Consent Decree) 1836 Chippewa Tribe.
- Historic homesteads and tribal landscapes are present in Rockport.
- Rockport is associated with the best, biggest single facility for fishing. Rockport is the primary-use access site for fishing.
- Significant for hunting, rifle citing and target practice.
- Significance of beach at Besser and significance of shipwreck at the beach.
- Middle Island and access to lighthouse must be mentioned.
- Include fishery discussion from Negwegon as it also applies to Rockport. These areas are important from an educational perspective because undisturbed habitats support ~ forty different species in this area.
- Add statement regarding NEMCOG's development of the Bluewater Trail system based upon grant (see Negwegon comments).
- There was discussion regarding the use of the utility line for snowmobiling. This discussion is more appropriate in the Management Zone Plan.

#### † Legal Mandates

- Add note regarding 40-acre boundaries of land purchase data
- MNRTF Funding source for improvements at the 2-acre Township park within Rockport boundaries.
- Under easements, change reference to Alpena County Road Commission and Lake State Railway

#### Comments on Thompson's Harbor

† Section 1.3 Management Plan Process will include a more detailed history.

† Park Purpose: no changes noted.

† Park Significance:

- Change bullets to numbers.
- Modify bullet #2: 'Stands of Alvar glade trees' to the effect that Alvar glade community is one of only stands known on *park* property.
- Modify bullet #3 to reflect that Thompson's Harbor has one of the highest concentrations of unique habitats and species.
- Add bullets:
  - Thompson's Harbor is significant from a historic standpoint: artifacts of European settlement.
  - There is no significant deep water access at Thompson's Harbor.
  - There is a rustic cabin which will be open to the public – the only overnight lodging experience is in Thompson's Harbor at present.
  - Hunting, hiking, cross-country skiing are all allowed at Thompson's Harbor.

- There is a Great Lakes Marsh wetland complex at Thompson's Harbor (also significant for Negwegon).
- The harbor blends with a fen, which is an ideal near-shore small mouth bass fishery.

† Legal Mandates:

- See Negwegon discussion of Piping plover nesting area.

### 3. Management Zone Plans

Planning team members divided into four groups and allocated management zones to the two parks and the Rockport property. Groups then presented their results to the Planning Team. Birchler Arroyo will digitize plans, and present to the group at the next meeting, which will be scheduled for September 2007.

Comments made at the end of the group exercise:

- We must make sure that the management zone plan is doable. A walk through the parks and Rockport property after the management plans have been drafted should be performed (field verification).
- The Team must be sensitive to the fact that this group does not represent the citizenry. Responses: the Planning Team is drafting the plans for the public to review. There will be a stakeholder workshop and a public participation workshop in order to ensure that the plans include citizen input.
- Regarding Negwegon and Thompson's Harbor, many of the groups designated areas as Back Country. Is this an appropriate designation, as it would allow camping? (DNR representatives indicated that the Zone, and camping, would be appropriate).
- Negwegon seems to have the best sandy beaches for swimming. The group should look ahead, Back Country may not be the best fit for the future. Must consider the potential for an access road off of Lake Shore and how that would affect the Management Zone Plan.

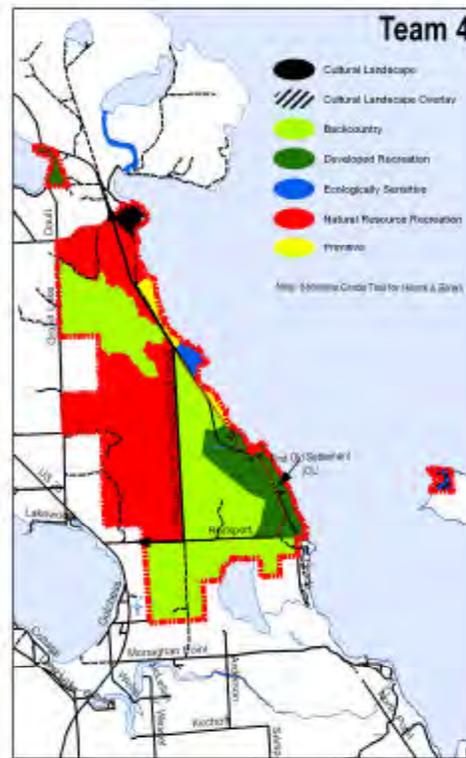
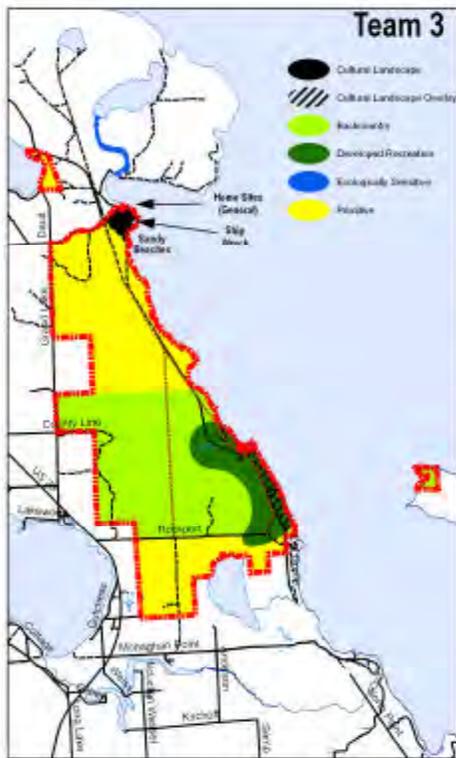
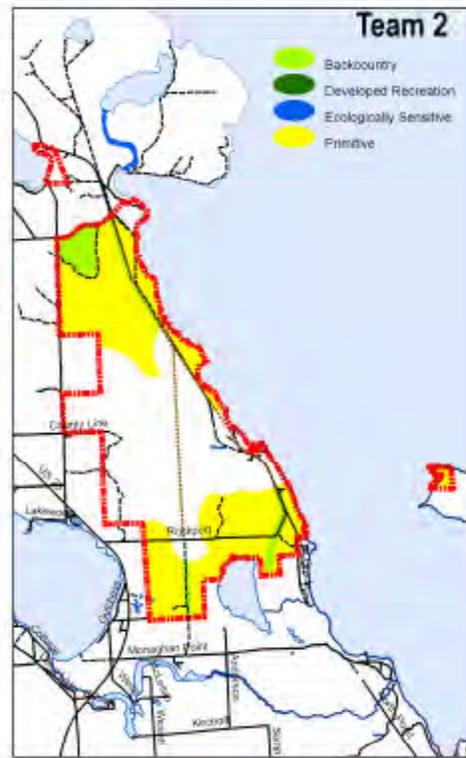
### 4. Citizens Advisory Committee

Discussion continued regarding the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC).

Negwegon State Park  
Results from July 24, 2007 Planning Team Meeting



Rockport Property  
Results from July 24, 2007 Planning Team Meeting





***Intentionally blank.***

July 24, 2007

NRTH Planning Team Meeting Participants

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
Paul Curtis	DNR
Glenn Palmgren	DNR-PRD
Dan Mullen	MDNR
Ken Timm	Alcona County
Roger Carlin	Alcona Twp. Supervisor
Keith Cheli	MDNR-PRD
Anna Sylvester	MDNR-PRD
Laurie Marzolo	MDNR-FMFM
Chris Morris	MDNR-LED
Eric Cline	City of Alpena
Brandon Schroeder	MSUE/Michigan Sea Grant
Jim Johnson	DNR-Alpena Fisheries
Ken Gauthier	Sanborn Township
C. Patrick Labadie	TB National Marine Sanctuary
Mary Ann Heidemann	MSU Extension
Keith Kintigh	MDNR
Beach Hall	Mayor, Rogers City
Steve Lang	PI County Commissioner
Laura Ingles	NEMCOG
John Pilon	MDNR
Amy Golke	Birchler Arroyo Associates

# A G E N D A

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION  
Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson's Harbor (NRTH)  
General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: Tuesday, September 25, 2007

TIME: 10:00 - 5:00 pm

PLACE: Alpena Township Hall  
4385 N US 23

1. 10:00 am to 12:00 pm: Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting
2. 1:30 to 4:30 pm: Review Draft Management Zone Maps (enclosed)
3. 4:30 to 4:40 Stakeholder's List for Workshop. *The next step in the planning process is to have a stakeholder workshop. Please bring names/contact information to the meeting for groups, organizations, etc .for stakeholders that should be invited to the workshop.*
4. 4:40 to 5:00 pm: History of Negwegon Video

# M E E T I N G   M I N U T E S

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION  
Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson's Harbor (NRTH)  
General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: September 25, 2007

TIME: 1:30 to 5:00 pm

PLACE: Alpena Township Hall  
4385 N US 23

## **1. Meeting began at 1:45 am with Introductions**

## **2. Citizen's Advisory Committee Update**

The CAC met the morning of September 25. Officers were elected: Mary Ann Heidemann, MSUE, is the Chair, Laura Ingles, NEMCOG, is the Vice Chair; Sue Maxwell, League of Women Voter's, is the Secretary, and Dan Mullen is in charge of record keeping. The two-year terms will be staggered. The By-laws of the committee have been set. There was a request to know the Planning Team meetings at the earliest possible time so that the CAC can schedule their meetings on the same day.

## **3. Review of Draft Management Zone Maps**

### Negwegon State Park

Changes to draft management zone plan are:

- † The entire shoreline, from coast to treeline, will be Primitive Zone.
- † Natural Resource Recreation Zone will include the existing access roads, parking area, and access points at Lake Shore and Brousseau.
- † Back Country Zone will buffer the existing trails.
- † Check that the in-holding parcel is actually 80 acres, not 40 acres as shown.
- † Add wetlands and woodlands to maps to illustrate boundaries of zones.
- † Question: should there be a special zone over dune swales in the parks and Rockport property?
- † In the text, discuss:
  - The difference between the dedicated boundary land and land in actual DNR ownership.
  - Opportunities for interpretation and education: kiosks with illustration of the dune swale complex. Include aerial photograph.

## The Rockport Property

Changes to draft management zone plan are:

- † The center of the property should be zoned Natural Resource Recreation.
- † Add wetlands and woodlands to maps to illustrate boundaries of zones.
- † Access road should be zoned Natural Resource Recreation.
- † Extend Cultural Resource overlay north of the parking area / bay to protect the rock piles.
- † Ensure that the width of the Natural Resource Recreation zone along the utility corridor is only as wide as the easement (call out width in the management zone text).
- † The Backcountry zone should be zoned Natural Resource Recreation.
- † Change the Developed Recreation zone south of the entrance road to Primitive.
- † Identify a potential central parking area as a Natural Resource Recreation Zone.
- † Identify the sand boils south of Ferron Point as a unique resource.

Questions to be resolved are: 1) whether ORV use be allowed in Rockport and 2) whether the shooting range should be maintained as a component of the quarry.

In the text, discuss:

- † The opportunity for an interpretive center in the Development Recreation Zone.
- † Call-out the bay as a water access point / develop a safe harbor at this location.
- † Discuss the importance of the 'water / front door' access to Rockport through the port.

## Thompson's Harbor State Park

Changes to draft management zone plan are:

- † The eastern boundary should be designated as Developed Recreation zone.
- † Create a scenic point at the bridge. Also, move the scenic point currently in the Lake to the shoreline of Thompson's Harbor (scenic 'view').
- † Add a campground at Observatory Point and near Black Point.
- † Add note for the Natural Resource Recreation – Seasonal "for snow mobile use."
- † Identify the location of the Pitcher plants (at inlet)
- † Include a Primitive Zone on the western portion of the Park (currently Backcountry) to preserve the Alvar Glades and wetlands.
- † Show Old State Road and County Road to Grand Lake Outlet as Natural Resource Recreation.
- † The foot paths shown on the map are not correct.

† In text, describe the potential for a lodge along the eastern shore, including that such a development would require a change in Department policy.

#### 4. Stakeholder List

Planning Team members brainstormed key individuals and organizations that should be invited to the stakeholder workshop.

September 24, 2007  
NORTH Planning Team Meeting Participants

NAME	AFFILIATION
Paul Curtis	DNR
Glenn Palmgren	DNR-PRD
Dan Mullen	MDNR
Ken Timm	Alcona County
Roger Carlin	Alcona Twp. Supervisor
Marie Twite	Twp of Alpena
Joseph Sobczak	TBUPC
Laurie Marzolo	MDNR-FMFM
Chris Morris	MDNR-LED
Deb Pardike	Alpena CUB
Brandon Schroeder	MSUE/Michigan Sea Grant
Jim Johnson	DNR-Alpena Fisheries
Ken Gauthier	Sanborn Township
C. Patrick Labadie	TB National Marine Sanctuary
Mary Ann Heidemann	MSU Extension
Keith Kintigh	MDNR
Rachael Franks Taylor	The Nature Conservancy
Sue Maxwell	League of Women Voters
Jackie Krawczak	Alpena Chamber of Commerce
Jeff Thorton	County of Alpena
Roxanne Merrick	DEQ-LWMD
Peter Pettalia	Presque Isle Twp Supervisor
Jeff Shea	Alpena
Matt Smar	DEQ-Coastal Management
Troy A. Rife	DNR-PRD
Laura Ingles	NEMCOG
John Pilon	DNR
David Birchler	Birchler Arroyo Associates
Amy Golke	Birchler Arroyo Associates

# A G E N D A

## MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION

Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson's Harbor (NRTH)

General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: Tuesday, January 29, 2008

TIME: 10:00 - 12:00 pm

PLACE: Alpena Public Library

### **1. Review survey results and incorporation of comments into Management Plans**

#### † Changes to all plans

- Clarification of Phase I planning process intent
- Addition of bird flyway zone
- Addition of Section 2.5, Land Acquisitions. Group must evaluate and recommend changes to Dedicated Boundary as part of this process

#### † Changes to Rockport

- Addition of equestrian use as a potential activity in the Backcountry, Natural Resource Recreation and Developed Recreation Zones
- Strengthened geologic significance statement

#### † Changes to Thompson's Harbor

- Addition of Ecologically Sensitive Seasonal Overlay for the Piping plover critical habitat
- Addition of Piping plover and Hine's emerald critical habitats in Legal Mandates section
- Question: should the former Developed Recreation Zone be Primitive or Natural Resource Recreation?
- Question: should the plan expand use of existing roadbeds for snowmobiling, bicycling and equestrian use?

### **2. Review Regional Assessment**

### **3. Review steps for the remainder of the process (P. Curtis)**

# M E E T I N G   M I N U T E S

## MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION

Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson’s Harbor (NRTH)

General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE:      Tuesday, January 29, 2008

TIME:      10:00 - 12:00 pm

PLACE:     Alpena Public Library

### **1. Review survey results and incorporation of comments into Management Plans**

A summary of the results from the December 11 Public Participation workshop was given. Comments from the group included:

- † Negwegon was the first to have interest in a Friends group. Also, the most on-line survey responses were received for Negwegon. Perhaps this is due to its southern location (the other two sites are further north).
- † The Negwegon Friends group has already met (per D. Mullen). A.Golke is to send the list of interested people who signed up at the December 11 Public Participation Workshop for the Negwegon Friends group to S.Maxwell, Secretary for the Citizen’s Advisory Committee (the list was already sent to D.Mullen).
- † Note that for Thompson’s Harbor, comments received indicated that the user groups do not conflict. People want to make sure that they will be able to use the park as they do currently.

### **2. Review changes to the General Management Plans**

#### Negwegon

- † The purpose of the Phase I planning process was clarified in Sections 1.0 and 3.0.
- † A statement of significance was added regarding Negwegon’s importance as a migrating bird flyway zone, as well as providing a habitat for resident birds.
- † Section 2.5, Land Acquisitions, was added. A revision to the dedicated boundary was recommended by the group. There was consensus from the Planning Team to extend the western boundary to the road, not the railroad. The map will be revised to reflect this recommendation.
- † There was a motion to include a recommendation regarding Sand Hill Road improvements. There is a jarring contrast between Sand Hill Road and the access road to Negwegon. The need to upgrade access and signage should be called out in the plan. The recommendation should state that careful

engineering is needed to soften the visual impact of the access road with trees and/or other design treatment.

- † There is a need to identify how Negwegon fits in with the region (Thompson's Harbor and Rockport). A preface will be added to the beginning of each general management plan. Also, 'Marketing' will be added to "Other Considerations" Section; this would address marketing and signage needed at the park (and all three sites). A comment was made that the sites do not have to be managed regionally, but can certainly be marketed regionally.
- † On page 18, clarify accessibility – that the two 'potential future points of access' would include parking areas. Can the southern access point be unblocked for bikers?

### Rockport

- † The purpose of the Phase I planning process was clarified in Sections 1.0 and 3.0.
- † A statement of significance was added regarding Negwegon's importance as a migrating bird flyway zone, as well as providing a habitat for resident birds (per comments received from the public).
- † Section 2.5, Land Acquisitions, was added. A revision to the dedicated boundary was recommended by the group. There was consensus from the Planning Team to extend the boundary to Grand Lake Road for most of the northern portion, as well as to include all of Middle Island.
- † Equestrian use as a potential activity in the Backcountry, Natural Resource Recreation and Developed Recreation Zones was added per comments received from the public. There was consensus from the Planning Team that this statement was acceptable, provided the language 'where appropriate,' would be included.
- † The geologic significance statement has been strengthened to reflect comments received from the public.
- † A comment was made regarding parking at Rockport, and whether a parking area could be created on the Private property at Besser. The ownership of the road and access should be investigated, and there should be consideration as to whether a parking area could be created in a Natural Area.
- † A question was raised regarding target shooting at Rockport, and whether this would be an allowable activity.
- † The plan should emphasize that Rockport is the central 'hub' for the three sites, and that is the underlying purpose for the Developed Recreation management zone. There was consensus that a preface be added to each plan to explain this.
- † The genesis of the plan for Rockport was to evaluate whether the property should be managed by PRD rather than FMFM. The decision should be reflected in these plans. There was consensus by the Planning Team to

recommend that the PRD manage Rockport, over a phased timetable as reflected in the following motion of the Citizen's Advisory Committee:

"[At the January 29, 2008 meeting], It was motioned to communicate the Committee's general consensus that the Rockport property should be transferred from FMFM to PRD with a phased transfer contingent on Land Use orders being created to retain the FMFM activities on the property." K. Gauthier motioned to approve and P. Pettalia seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- † The regional assessment should include a recommendation for Rockport, and consider Rockport as the center of activity because of its central location and because it has been the site of more disturbance.
- † The Citizen's Advisory Committee would work with the DNR on the details of the property transfer. This statement should be added to the GMP.
- † A comment was made that perhaps the property should be split, and managed by FMFM and PRD. L.Marzolo did not support splitting the property. The important concept is to work out the changes in rules that will be necessary before the transfer occurs.

#### Thompson's Harbor

- † The purpose of the Phase I planning process was clarified in Sections 1.0 and 3.0.
- † A statement of significance was added regarding Negwegon's importance as a migrating bird flyway zone, as well as providing a habitat for resident birds (per comments received from the public).
- † Section 2.5, Land Acquisitions, was added. A revision to the dedicated boundary was recommended by the group. There was consensus from the Planning Team to extend the boundary to the west, which would encompass approximately 6,000 acres.
- † The Ecologically Sensitive Seasonal Overlay for the Piping plover critical habitat was added. In addition, the Piping plover and Hine's emerald critical habitat descriptions were added to the Legal Mandates section.
- † The question was brought to the group: should the former Developed Recreation Zone be Primitive, Backcountry or Natural Resource Recreation? There was consensus from the Planning Team that the area be designated Backcountry, contingent on having a Developed Recreation zone at Rockport.
- † Another question was brought to the group: should the plan expand use of existing roadbeds for snowmobiling, bicycling and equestrian use? There was consensus from the Planning Team, that these uses could be allowed 'where appropriate.'

### 3. Review Regional Assessment

- † Comments were provided regarding the tables, and resources available at each park.
- † Queensland, AU could be used as a model for assisting with supporting small businesses that support tourism (e.g. kayak businesses). The PRD can allow private enterprises on park land on a case-by-case basis. There is opportunity to do this, the challenge is to orchestrate the ability for people to do this.
- † Include the Piping plover in Natural Resource values table.
- † A number of partnerships were identified, including the Blue Water Trail study.
- † Include the lumbering and fire history at Thompson's Harbor (contact for more information: Mayor Hall).
- † Need to express the tourism value of the sites.
- † Distance from management unit to site is also a challenge.

### 4. Review steps for the remainder of the process (P. Curtis)

- † A.Golke will distribute the final draft plans via the website, and allow 5 days for Planning Team members to comment. The plans will then go through the DNR-approval process.

January 29, 2009  
NORTH Planning Team Meeting Participants

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Manny Valdez	DNR-PRD
Jeff Shea	City of Alpena
Laurie Marzolo	DNR-FMFM
Sue Maxwell	LWV
Brandon Schroeder	MSUE / Sea Grant
Deb Pardike	Alpena COB
Erin Riopelle	Headwaters Land Conservancy
Kenneth Timm	Alcona County
Kenneth Gauthier	Sanborn Township
Anna Sylvester	DRN-PRD
Keith Cheli	DRN-PRD
Christopher Graham	Citizens Committee, Michigan Parks
Beach Hall	Rogers City
Colleen Higgens	DNR-PRD
Louise Cotter	DNR-PRD
Tom Paquin	DNR-Cheboygan Field Office
Lee Shirey	Target Alpena EDC
Jackie Krawczak	Alpena Chamber of Commerce

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Laura Ingles	NEMCOG
Mary Ann Heidemann	MSU Extension
C Patrick Labadie	NOAA Marine Sanctuary
John Pilon	MDNR Planner
Roger Carlin	Alcona Township
William J. Laram	RE Alpena
Peter Pettalia	Presque Isle
Paul Curtis	DNR-PRD
Amy Golke	Birchler Arroyo Associates