



General Management Plan

Straits State Park

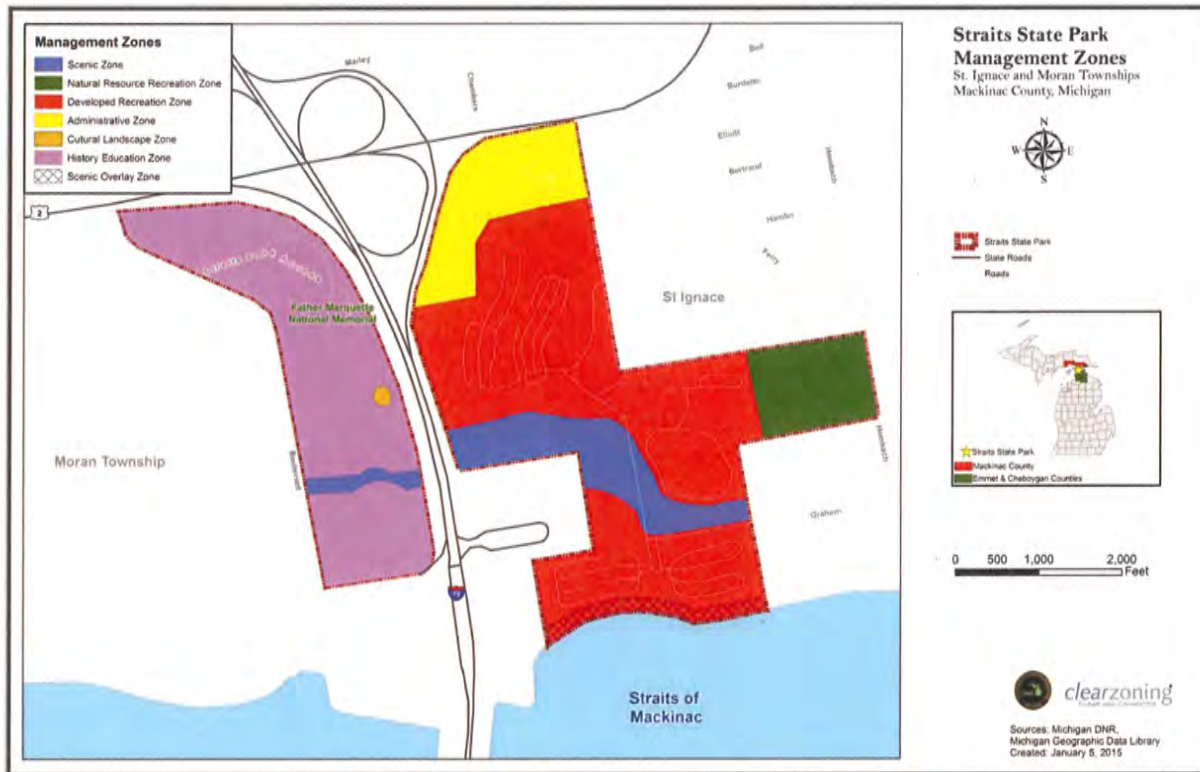


Approved March 27, 2015
Michigan DNR Parks and Recreation Division

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Date

PLAN APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

PRD – SECTION CHIEFS:

01/05/15
Date

PRD – MANAGEMENT TEAM:

12/12/14
Date

DNR – RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BUREAU:

01/13/15
Date

MSPAC – STEWARDSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE

01/15/15
Date

NRC – MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

02/12/15
Date

Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 02-2015-02

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE “STRAITS STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN”

ADOPTED: February 12, 2015

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

WHEREAS, the planning process reflects sensitivity to natural resource values, historic and cultural resource values, recreation and education opportunities, and is inclusive of all DNR programs and representative of eco-management; and

WHEREAS, the planning process was further inclusive of stakeholder, constituent, and public input; and

WHEREAS, the General Management Plan represents sound guidance for future planning phases that will be consistent with the mission of the DNR and the Parks and Recreation Division, and reflective of the purpose and significance of Straits State Park; and

WHEREAS, the General Management Plan is consistent with the recommendations of the Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel report submitted to Governor Rick Snyder; and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Straits State Park General Management Plan; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee further recommends that the DNR Director approve the General Management Plan for Straits State Park.

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

Motioned by:	Mike McDonald	Yeas:	11
Seconded by:	Bob Hoffmeyer	Nays:	0
		Abstained:	0
		Absent:	5

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

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Executive Summary

Straits State Park, with 181 acres, is located on the Straits of Mackinac, immediately north of the Mackinac Bridge. Its prime location as the gateway into the Upper Peninsula allows visitors easy access to the park. I-75 divides the park into two units. The east unit features two modern campgrounds, two mini cabins, a day use area, and hiking trails. The west unit includes the Father Marquette National Memorial and a 15-station interpretive trail, both of which educate visitors about the 17th Century explorer and missionary Father Jacques Marquette, as well as the French and Native American cultures that formed the community of the Straits Region. Both units offer spectacular views of the Mackinac Bridge and the Straits of Mackinac.



Future management of Straits State Park is guided by the General Management Plan (GMP), which serves two primary purposes. First, it establishes a 20-year Management Zone Plan that provides specific guidance for development, stewardship, public use, education and interpretation and park operations and management at Straits State Park. Second, the Plan provides 10-Year Action Goals that address the desired future condition within each Management Zone. Overall, this Plan seeks to uphold the PRD's Mission Statement: to acquire, preserve, and protect natural and cultural resources while enhancing recreation and education opportunities.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks & Recreation Division (PRD) oversaw the planning process. The Plan was developed with significant and valuable input from the Planning Team, stakeholders, and the public. Additionally, several existing planning documents, including the Michigan Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the Michigan State Parks Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel Report, were used as guiding references.

Significance of Straits State Park

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

- **Location of the Park** - Situated along the shoreline of the Straits of Mackinac and bordering two of Michigan's Great Lakes, Straits State Park serves as both a gateway to the Upper Peninsula and a quiet oasis in the St. Ignace area.
- **Mackinac Bridge** - The park offers public access to views of the Mackinac Bridge, one of the most important landmarks in Michigan due to its architectural, cultural, historical, and economic significance. With approximately 4 million vehicles crossing the bridge each year, Straits State Park is well positioned to introduce visitors to the State's abundant recreational resources.
- **Camping** - The park's campgrounds are situated in a quiet, natural setting with convenient access to various resources of the Straits area and offer great views of sunrises and sunsets.

- **Father Marquette National Memorial** - The Father Marquette National Memorial and 15-station interpretive trail educate visitors about the history of the Straits region. The site presents an opportunity to meet the interest in and need for further interpretation and education about this area.
- **History of the Straits Area** - Straits State Park is ideally located to offer interpretation and education focused on the significance and impact of the waterway and the people who have lived by it and used it.
- **Trail Connection** - The park provides an important trail stop on the North Country Trail, which connects trail systems within the Lower and Upper Peninsulas, and has the potential to become a hub for other land and water trail networks.



Father Marquette National Memorial

Management Zones

A key goal in the development of this General Management Plan is to enhance and expand the opportunities and features that attract visitors to the park, while simultaneously protecting the park's resources. Taking this into account, the Planning Team, with stakeholder and public input, established appropriate Management Zones for the park. From a palette of nine standard zones, six zones and one overlay were applied to Straits State Park. The History Education Zone is a specialized zone designed to recognize the park's rich historical and cultural resources and the tremendous potential for educational opportunities. The Management Zone Map and a thorough review of each Management Zone are found in Chapter 4 of this Plan. A condensed description of each Management Zone follows:

- **Scenic Zone** – approximately 18 acres (10%) of the park are designated Scenic Zone in recognition of areas of the park that offer excellent views of the Mackinac Bridge and the Straits of Mackinac. This zone stretches across both the east and west units of the park.
- **Natural Resource Recreation Zone** – approximately 12 acres (7%) of Straits State Park are designated Natural Resource Recreation Zone and includes a forested area east of the day use area.
- **Developed Recreation Zone** – approximately 87 acres (46%) of the park are designated Developed Recreation Zone. This zone allows active recreation and high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. The upper and lower campgrounds, organization camp and day use area are zoned Developed Recreation Zone.
- **History Education Zone** – approximately 53 acres (28%) of the park are designated History Education Zone in recognition of the significant development, education and interpretation potential of this region of the park. Any future development in this zone will be based in education.
- **Administrative Zone (formerly Visitor Services Zone)** – approximately 18 acres (9%) of the park are designated Administrative Zone and encompass the developed areas required for program administration and operations. The zone includes the park headquarters and all related land required to conduct the business of running the park.

- **Cultural Landscape Zone** – approximately 0.4 acres (0.2%) of Straits State Park are designated Cultural Landscape Zone. This zone is specifically applied to the Father Marquette National Memorial in acknowledgement of the importance of French and Native American cultures to the Straits region.
- **Scenic Overlay** – approximately 4 acres (2%) of Straits State Park are designated Scenic Overlay. The overlay is applied to the park’s shoreline, which offers excellent views of both the Straits of Mackinac and the Mackinac Bridge.

10-Year Action Goal

The General Management Plan looks at each management zone and identifies 10-Year Action Goals that the Planning Team believes are necessary to guide management and development within the zones in order to achieve the desired user experience and natural resource protection. Action goals are categorized under General Action Goals if they pertain to the park as a whole or under the applicable management zone. Highlights from the Action Goals detailed in Chapter 6 include the following:

General Action Goals (apply park-wide)

- Help facilitate land and water trail systems with local, regional and state partners
- Evaluate feasibility of safe physical connection that bridges the gap created by I-75
- Develop interpretive plan using existing and emerging technology for interpretation opportunities.

Scenic Zone

- Provide vegetative management to maintain or enhance the viewscales

Natural Resource Recreation Zone

- Maintain forest character of land east of the day use area to maintain Upper Peninsula context

Developed Recreation Zone

- Provide wi-fi in campground
- Replace playground with a universally accessible structure
- Update restrooms in lower campground

History Education Zone

- Develop an Interpretive Plan of Father Marquette National Memorial and the related New France and Native American stories that is integrated into the Interpretive Plan of Straits State Park.
- Continue to participate in and support facilitation of creative planning and development of Father Marquette National Memorial site

Administrative Zone (formerly Visitor Services Zone)

- Build a new shop building then remove old shop building and let area return to natural condition
- Develop a plan for reuse of park residence

Cultural Landscape Zone

- Continue to manage Father Marquette National Memorial as a historically and culturally significant site

Scenic Overlay

- Improve ADA access to shoreline

1. Core Values & Guiding Resources

Core values are the foundation upon which the park management plan is based. Core values are derived from the mission statements of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Parks & Recreation (PRD), as well as the priorities of the Director, to ensure that the state will acquire, preserve, and protect 1) natural resources and 2) cultural resources, and continue to provide 3) public recreation and 4) educational opportunities throughout the state park system.

1.1 Mission Statements

DNR Mission Statement

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

PRD Mission Statement

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

Five Goals of the DNR

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



The park offers a rich educational experience

"These assets provide a place to recreate and . . . help make our communities cohesive, connect people to their places and to each other, engender civic engagement, and remind us of our connection to the natural world and to our history "

Blue Ribbon Panel
(2012)

1.2 Additional Guiding Resources

The General Management Planning process is guided and shaped by several resources developed to provide recommendations for managing Michigan's park and recreation system. In particular, these resources have helped shape the 10-Year Action Goals established in this Plan.

Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) (2013-2017)

SCORP is a five-year strategic plan that shapes investment by the state and local communities in priority outdoor recreation infrastructure and programming. The Plan's overarching goal is to utilize Michigan's diverse and abundant natural assets to meet the fun, relaxation, and health needs of Michigan's residents and visitors, and the economic development needs of the state and local communities, by:

- Collaboration and cooperation
- Maintenance and continuous improvement of facilities
- Access to and connectivity between facilities
- Integration with economic development plans
- Effective marketing
- Protection and interpretation of natural resources



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

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

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



Michigan Comprehensive Trail Plan (2013 - 2018)

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

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

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

PRD Strategic Plan (2009-2019)

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

Managed Public Land Strategy (2013)

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

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

1.3 Summary of Legal Mandates

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

The legal mandates that most directly impact planning and management of Straits State Park focus on the following areas:

- Compliance with public health and safety regulations regarding campgrounds, wastewater systems, and discharge of pollutants to surface water and groundwater
- Identification of the duties of the DNR in reinforcing its core values concerning preservation, protection and management
- Requirement of a Recreation Passport for entry into the park

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2. Plan Process Overview

2.1 Why Plan?

Park planning is not a new concept. The DNR has developed Master Plans in the past for many of Michigan's state parks. Most of these plans are now 20-40 years old and do not reflect today's realities or desires of recreational users. Furthermore, past plans put a strong emphasis on development and did not often include stewardship of natural and cultural features or opportunities for education and interpretation.

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

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

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

In order for a plan to be successful it must allow for some degree of flexibility to adapt to changes that cannot be predicted 10-20 years out. The GMP will be reviewed every five years to ensure it is still meeting its intended purpose.

2.2 Planning Objectives

The objective of the General Management Plan is to bring together Parks & Recreation Division staff, stakeholders, and the public into a planning process that defines and clarifies the unique "Purpose and Significance" of Straits State Park. Collectively, those attributes will be reinforced in the planning and management decisions that impact the park through the implementation of the Management Zone Plan and Action Goals. One of the key objectives of this Plan is to identify opportunities to interconnect the east and west units so that the park operates as a single unit. This will give the park a more unified identity. The Plan also serves as a platform for decision-making regarding future development and education opportunities for the land surrounding Father Marquette National Memorial.

Extensive input was sought throughout the planning process. An online survey was developed that solicited input from park users. In the fall of 2014, stakeholders and the public were invited to workshops where they



Planning Team members discuss park assets

could provide verbal and written comments regarding the General Management Plan. The draft plan was also available for review on the park website, and the public was invited to email, call or mail questions or comments concerning this initiative. The Planning Team discussed and collected input and refined the plan as appropriate.

2.3 Planning Team

The Straits State Park General Management Plan would not exist without the valuable input and expertise provided by all members of the Planning Team. The Planning team included members of other DNR resource divisions, as well as a representative from the newly formed Friends of Straits State Park, to ensure the interests of the local community were represented. Please refer to the Appendix for summaries of all Planning Team meetings.

DNR Staff		
Division	Title	Name
PRD	Management Plan Administrator	Debbie Jensen
PRD	Unit Supervisor	Wayne Burnett
PRD	District Supervisor	Tom Paquin
PRD	Lead Worker	Mike Sutton
PRD	Regional Planner	Keith Cheli
PRD	Cultural Resource Analyst	Lisa Gamero
PRD	Stewardship Unit Manager	Ray Fahlsing
FD	Fisheries Biologist	Neal Godby
MHC	MI Historical Center Director	Sandra Clark
M& O	Park Interpreter	Theresa Neal
LED	Conservation Officer Supervisor	Sgt. Gerald Thayer
-	Moran Township Supervisor Friends of Straits State Park Representative	Jim Durm
WLD	Wildlife Ecologist	Sherry MacKinnon

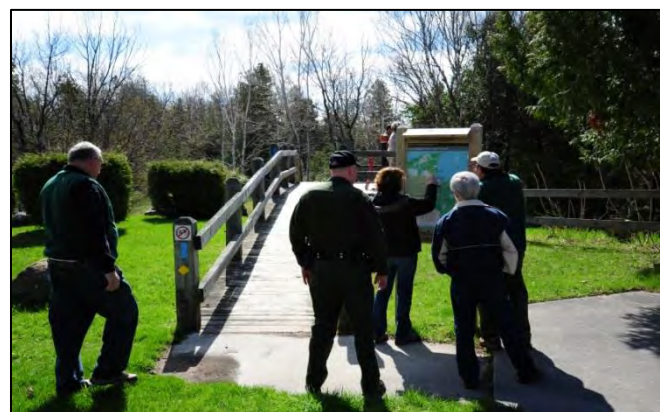
Clearzoning Consultants

David Birchler, AICP, PCP, Chief Executive Officer

Jill Bahm, AICP, Principal Planner

Mardy Stirling, Senior Planner

Sheila Starks, GIS Specialist



The Planning Team tours the park in May 2014

2.4 Summary of Public Input Survey

Understanding the important role of the public in developing this plan, the Planning Team utilized a variety of methods to gather feedback and input from park users. In particular, the public input survey was developed to gather general information about park visitors, how they use the park, as well as recommendations for improving features and amenities offered at the park. See Appendix B: Public Input Summary for more survey result information. Over 375 individuals responded to the survey and provided input via the on-line survey.

The public input survey provided the following information to the Planning Team:

- The type of visitors using the park (ex: age, distance traveled...etc.)
- The activities that visitors participate in both within the park and outside of the park
- The tendencies of campers (ex: accommodation, typical length of stay)
- The additional park amenities or improvements that visitors would like to see prioritized
- Park users current use of the Father Marquette National Memorial site

Section	Qn #s	Type of Questions
About You	1-7	This section asked general questions about the respondent including age, zip code, number of park visits per year, reasons for not visiting the park, the season of year that they visit and if they traveled with children to the park.
Activities	8-10	This section asked respondents to identify their favorite park activities, activities outside the park but within the Straits area, and whether they are a day user or a camper.
Campers	11-14	This section was specific to campers. Respondents were asked about their typical length of stay, quality of their camping experience, and their primary type of accommodation both now and in the future.
Experience	15-18	This section asked respondents to rate existing park facilities and recreational opportunities, describe how they used the Father Marquette National Memorial site, and what amenities they would like to see.
Wrapping Up	19	This section asked respondents to provide any additional comments they have about the park or General Management Planning process.

About You

Survey respondents of all ages completed the survey; however, the majority (44%) of respondents were between 50 and 64 years of age. The Summer (June –August) and Fall (September-November) are the most popular seasons for visiting Straits State Park with approximately 10% of respondents visiting the park year-round. These results indicate that the park may cater to those travelling to and through the area. The majority of respondents visited the park less than twice per year and travelled without children.

Activities

The top five activities undertaken by respondents were bridge viewing, visiting the shoreline, camping, viewing sunrises and sunsets, and hiking. Other popular activities included visiting the Father Marquette National Memorial, learning about the history of the park and area, biking, picnicking, and viewing and studying the wildlife. Straits State Park's central location in the Straits of Mackinac region provides a wide range of local activities and destination points. Respondents identified visiting Mackinac Island, shopping, dining, sightseeing, boating, golf, and local events such as the Richard Crane Memorial Truck Show and the Labor Day Bridge Walk, just to name a few.

Approximately 60% of respondents reported that they camp at Straits State Park as opposed to being day users. Over one-half of all campers stayed 3-4 nights with one-third of respondents indicating that they stayed 1-2 nights. The various camping accommodations, group/organizational camp, upper and lower campgrounds, and mini-cabin were rated good to very good by respondents. The majority of campers used recreational vehicles/trailers/5th wheels (45%) with tent camping (34%) being the second choice for accommodations. In the future, respondents see themselves using recreational vehicles/trailers/5th wheels (60%) as their primary camping accommodations with pop-up tent campers (30%) increasing in popularity.

Over 70% of the respondents have visited Father Marquette National Memorial located in the westerly unit of Straits State Park. Those that visited the site did so to visit the National Memorial. Others visited the site to view the bridge, walk the interpretive trails, visit the museum (before 2000), and attend a Pow Wow.

Respondents were asked what additional amenities or features would bring them back to Straits State Park. Although many of the respondents indicated that they were satisfied with the park's current amenities, others suggested better restroom and shower facilities, more trail options, handicapped accessible sites, more secluded sites and more space between campsites. A complete list of responses can be found in Appendix B.

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



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

3. Purpose & Significance

There are over 100 parks in Michigan's State Park system and each park has its own unique and defining characteristics. This chapter describes what makes Straits State Park a significant asset to the state's park system.

3.1 Park Purpose

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

- To be used as a public park pursuant to the intentions of the State Legislature in accordance with the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, PA451 of 1994, specifically Parts 504 and 741.
- To preserve and protect Straits State Park's unique natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.
- To provide diverse public recreational opportunities.
- To provide educational and interpretation opportunities for the public that reflect the DNR mission and the unique qualities of Straits State Park.
- To support Michigan's tourism industry and the local economy.

3.2 Statements of Significance

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

Location of the Park

Situated along the shoreline of the Straits of Mackinac and bordering two of Michigan's Great Lakes, Straits State Park is at the gateway to the Upper Peninsula and serves as a base camp for the Straits Region. The park is a quiet oasis in the St. Ignace area, which is a bustling hub for regional tourist destinations, including Mackinac Island.

Mackinac Bridge

The park offers public access to views of the Mackinac Bridge, one of the most important landmarks in Michigan due to its architectural, cultural, historical, and economic significance. This 5-mile-long suspension bridge, completed in 1957, is one of the longest in the world and serves as the only road connection between the Lower and Upper Peninsulas.

Camping

The park's campgrounds are situated in a quiet, natural setting with convenient access to all the historic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources that the Straits area has to offer. Some campsites are located on the shoreline offering spectacular views of both sunrises and sunsets.



Camping is a popular activity at the park

Father Marquette National Memorial

The Father Marquette National Memorial and 15-station interpretive trail educates visitors about the 17th Century explorer and missionary Father Jacques Marquette and the French and Native American cultures that together created the community of the Straits region. The site presents an opportunity to meet the interest in and need for further interpretation and education about Native American and European interaction, and about the natural resources of the Straits area.

History of the Straits Area

Because of its proximity along the Straits of Mackinac, an important transportation route for centuries, Straits State Park is ideally located to offer interpretation and education focused on the significance and impact of the waterway and the people who have lived by it and used it.

Trail Connection

The park provides an important trail stop on the North Country Trail, which connects trail systems within the Lower and Upper Peninsulas. The park can become a hub for other water and land trail networks, including the trail that is planned to run from Detroit to Wisconsin.



The park's location makes it an important link in the trail system between the Lower and Upper Peninsulas

3.3 Public Affirmation of Significance Statements

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

What are people saying about Straits State Park?

“Our state parks are jewels, a precious resource. They are the only way for most of the public to experience our beautiful lakes and forests. Please be mindful of that in your planning.”

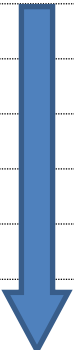
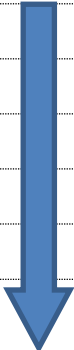
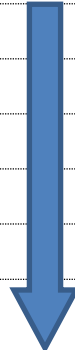
“A good place to stay but aging in its infrastructure.”

“It has taken too long to address the loss of the Father Marquette Memorial. “

“Resist any thoughts on modernization. . . Straits campground offers great bridge views and the feeling of being in the woods/wilderness even though it's right near town.”

4. Management Zones

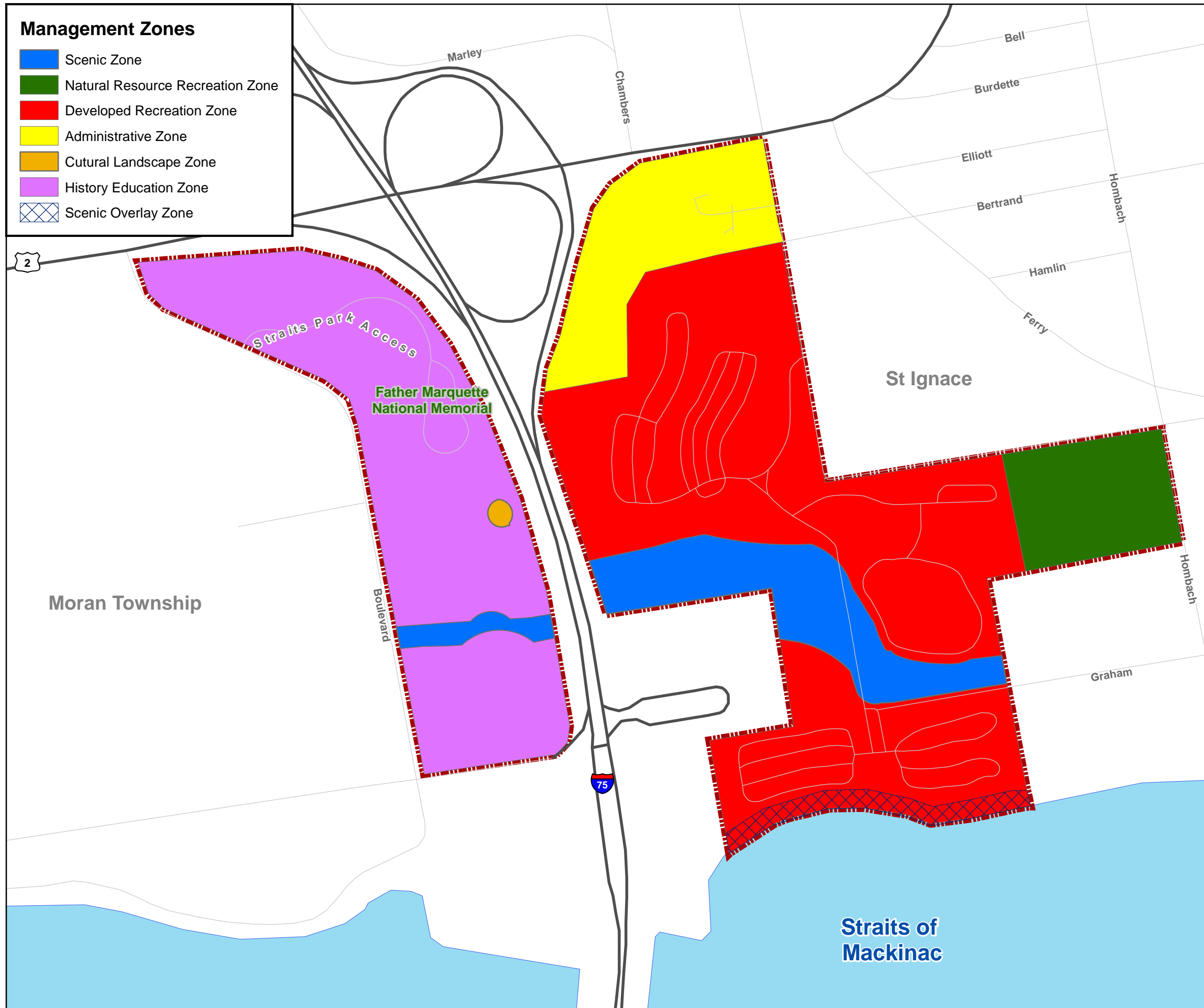
The 20-Year Management Zone Plan was developed in keeping with the park's significance, identity, and purpose. The primary goal in the development of the management zones is to protect the park's resources while also preserving the opportunities and features that attract so many visitors to the park each year. From a palette of nine management zones, the Planning Team studied the park and applied zones and overlays that best fit given the significant features of the park. Management zones describe a variety of activities that **may be** appropriate within the zone. The resource condition, visitor experience, and development level varies in each zone, as indicated in the figure below.

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

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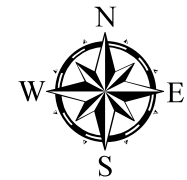
Management Zones

- Scenic Zone
- Natural Resource Recreation Zone
- Developed Recreation Zone
- Administrative Zone
- Cultural Landscape Zone
- History Education Zone
- Scenic Overlay Zone

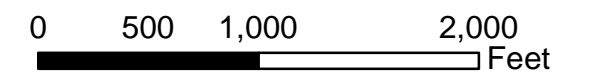
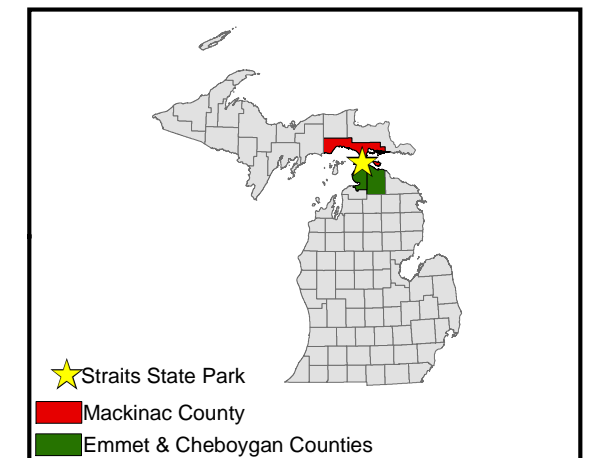


Straits State Park Management Zones

St. Ignace and Moran Townships
Mackinac County, Michigan



- Straits State Park
- State Roads
- Roads



clearzoning
CLEAR AND CONNECTED

Sources: Michigan DNR,
Michigan Geographic Data Library
Created: January 5, 2015

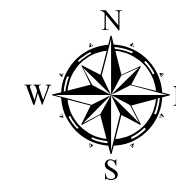
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Straits State Park

Aerial

St. Ignace and Moran Townships
Mackinac County, Michigan



-  Straits State Park
-  State Roads
-  Roads

0 500 1,000 Feet



clearzoning
CLEAR AND CONNECTED

Sources: Michigan DNR,
Michigan Geographic Data Library
Created July 21, 2014

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The 181-acre Straits State Park was divided into the following six zones with one overlay:

- Scenic Zone
- Natural Resources Recreation Zone
- Developed Recreation Zone
- History Education Zone
- Administrative Zone (formerly Visitor Services Zone)
- Cultural Landscape Zone
- Scenic Overlay

4.1 Scenic Zone

Approximately 10% (18 acres) of Straits State Park is designated Scenic Zone. The zone protects and preserves the scenic viewscapes offered at the park. The Scenic Zone spreads across both units of the park, following the ridge that runs east-west across the property, and provides visitors with picturesque views of the Straits of Mackinac and the Mackinac Bridge.



The Scenic Zone offers spectacular views of the Mackinac Bridge

Natural Resources

While natural resources and vegetation may be modified slightly to support visitor use and viewing, there is low tolerance for impacts on the natural resource. The zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management allowed to restore and maintain ecological structure and processes and to maintain or enhance the viewscapes.

Historic/Cultural Resources

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

Recreation Opportunities

With the focus of this zone on the scenic viewscapes, only moderate levels of recreation compatible with the viewscapes will be permitted. Recreation activity will typically take place on the trails and at observation points.

Education Opportunities

This zone presents an educational opportunity for visitors to learn about the Mackinac Bridge and the Straits region at key locations such as trailheads and observation points.

Visitor Experience

The visitors will engage in activities that allow for observation of the scenic views.

Management Focus

Management will focus on protecting, preserving, and enhancing the scenic viewscapes.

Development

Development will be compatible with the intent of the zone and support visitor access with the purpose of enjoying the scenic views.

4.2 Natural Resource Recreation Zone

Approximately 7% (12 acres) of the park is designated Natural Resource Recreation Zone. This zone provides for active recreation with medium density of use conducted in natural areas. The wooded area to the east of the park's day use area is designated Natural Resource Recreation Zone. While the zone designation emphasizes resource protection, landscape modification is permitted to allow for moderate interaction and recreation, as well as more intensively used trail corridors.

Natural Resources

This zone reflects 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 to maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape.

Historic / Cultural Resources

Cultural resources could be preserved, rehabilitated, removed or allowed to waste away. The garage/workshop building off Horbach Street, has lost its historic integrity due to being relocated and is recommended for removal.

Recreational Opportunities

Moderate to high levels of recreation are appropriate, compatible with natural character of the zone. Hiking, biking, picnicking, and nature observation are recreational opportunities within the zone.

Education Opportunities

Interpretive signage may be used at key viewing points, trailheads, or observation area(s).

Visitor Experience

Visitors may be engaged in outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings for recreation and education. Variable time commitment, challenge and adventure; moderate noise tolerance and interaction with DNR staff; and, moderate visitor encounters can be accommodated.

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.

Development

A moderate level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities is permitted in this zone. Examples of development include walkways and parking, trails, benches, cabins, and picnic tables. Site hardening is allowed as necessary to facilitate activities and protect natural resources.

4.3 Developed Recreation Zone

Approximately 46% (87 acres) of Straits State Park is designated Developed Recreation. This zone allows active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. The Developed Recreation zone includes the upper and lower campground, shoreline/beach, day-use area and a portion of the North Country Trail.

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, but at this park it is recognized that the wooded setting is a critical component to the park's success.

Historic/Cultural Resources

The historic restroom building at the day use area will be preserved. Cultural resources could be preserved, rehabilitated, removed or allowed to waste away.

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/semi-modern camping, bicycling, wading, nature observation, picnicking, and other day-use activities.

Education Opportunities

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

Visitor Experience

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

Management Focus

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

Development

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



A variety of camping accommodations are supported



Camper cabins are becoming more and more popular

4.4 History Education Zone

Approximately 28% (53 acres) of Straits State Park is designated History Education Zone. The zone is applied to all of the land within the park's west unit, including the land surrounding the Father Marquette National Memorial site. The History Education Zone was applied to this area to facilitate creative development opportunities related to the importance of Father Marquette, Native Americans and the Mackinac Bridge in shaping the region. Development allowed in this area of the park will be education-based and should incorporate visitor interpretation and education.

Natural Resources

Careful vegetation management is critical in this zone to maintain a setting appropriate to the cultural and education focus of this part of the park. Vegetative management 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 may be actively managed and modified to support visitor activities; however, the forested buffer around the perimeter of this zone is to be protected to maintain a natural sense of enclosure and separation from development outside of the park.

Historic/Cultural Resources

The history and culture of the straits region will form the basis for future development of this site, which will be in keeping with the preservation, enhancement and further interpretation of the Father Marquette National Memorial.

Recreational Opportunities

While high levels of recreation in a highly structured environment are permitted, they will be compatible with education and interpretation opportunities and respectful of the natural vegetation.

Education Opportunities

Historic education is the primary focus of this zone and may include many different methods of interpretation, including on-site signage and information.

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.

Management Focus

Future management will include a holistic approach to fully integrate the Father Marquette unit into Straits State Park. Management will focus on promoting and enhancing the use of the zone appropriate to the PRD's mission and supporting a diversity of facilities and activities centered on education. Building and fostering partnerships will be a priority to assist with the revitalization of this zone.

Development

A high level of development of facilities for support of education and interpretation activities is permitted in this zone. Site hardening is allowed as necessary to facilitate activities, protect natural resources, and provide universal access. Development will be restricted within the vegetated buffer surrounding this zone.

4.5 Administrative Zone (formerly Visitor Services Zone)

The Administrative Zone comprises 9% (18 acres) of Straits State Park. The zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. It includes offices, contact stations, maintenance facilities and all related land required to conduct the business of running a state park. The Administrative Zone in Straits State Park includes the park headquarters and residence building.

Natural Resources

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

Historic/Cultural Resources

Resources in this zone could be preserved, adapted or rehabilitated to support administrative and support activities.

Recreational Opportunities

There are no recreational activities provided in the Administrative Zone.

Education Opportunities

Person to person contact at park headquarters for general information; informational kiosk may be available.

Visitor Experience

Visitors typically access the zone for business and information only. High noise tolerance and moderate to high interaction with others can be expected.

Management Focus

Management focuses on the business of running the park, appropriate facilities for staff, employee safety. Universal access will be provided to the offices.

Development

A high level of development of facilities for support of administrative and management activities is permitted in this zone. Examples of development include office space, meeting rooms, employee locker room, eating area, shop space, and storage space.



*Park headquarters at Straits State Park Father
Marquette National Memorial*

4.6 Cultural Landscape Zone

The Cultural Landscape Zone at Straits State Park is designated in recognition of the Father Marquette National Memorial. The site highlights the tremendous impact and importance of French and Native American cultures to the Straits region. The central focus of the Cultural Landscape Zone is managing the area to preserve its historical and cultural features.

Natural Resources

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

Historic/Cultural Resources

Cultural resources within this zone will be protected and preserved. Although the Father Marquette National Memorial is not listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is a nationally-recognized site with great educational value.

Recreation Opportunities

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

Education Opportunities

Education and interpretation should be explored as a priority in this zone.

Visitor Experience

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

Management Focus

The management focus is to protect the Father Marquette National Memorial as well as the cultural and historical character of the zone. The focus of the zone is to ensure any future development within this area is sensitive to the site.

Development

Non-historic development and activities that do not conflict with the cultural landscape may be appropriate. A moderate level of development compatible with the cultural landscape zone designations is permitted such as interpretation media, walks, picnic areas, and restrooms to support visitor access and use.



The park recognizes the importance of Father Jacques Marquette for the Straits region

4.7 Scenic Overlay

Approximately 2% (4 acres) of Straits State Park is designated Scenic Overlay. The overlay protects and preserves the scenic viewscape of the park's shoreline. The overlay extends across the full extent of the shoreline, allowing visitors to enjoy the scenery while participating in a variety of recreational activities supported by the underlying Developed Recreation Zone.



The Scenic Overlay is located along the shoreline of the park

Natural Resources

While natural resources and vegetation may be modified slightly to support visitor use and viewing, there is generally a low tolerance for impacts on the natural resource. The zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management allowed to restore and maintain ecological structure and processes. Vegetation may also be managed to enhance the viewsapes of the zone and to allow for activities consistent with the underlying Developed Recreation Zone.

Historic/Cultural Resources

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

Recreation Opportunities

While the focus of this overlay is on the scenic viewsapes, the underlying zone is Developed Recreation and recreation activities will be permitted in these zones.

Education Opportunities

This overlay presents an educational opportunity for visitors to learn about the Mackinac Bridge, the Straits region and the ecology of the shoreline at key locations such as trailheads and observation point.

Visitor Experience

High visitor encounters may be expected. The visitors will engage in activities that allow for observation of the scenic views, as well as those consistent with the underlying zone.

Management Focus

Management will focus on protecting and preserving the scenic viewsapes from the park, as well as views into the park from the bridge and the water.

Development

Development will be compatible with the intent of the underling zone and support visitor access with the purpose of enjoying the scenic views.

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5. 10-Year Action Goals

The Action Goals proposed for Straits State Park were developed by the Planning Team in response to stakeholder and public input and in context with the core values and guiding resources discussed in Chapter 1 of this plan. Underlying the Action Goals is the belief that Straits State Park could be elevated to a true destination park through the creative redevelopment of the Father Marquette site and the day use area and through effective marketing. Connections between the east and west units of the park, trail networks, the local community and other regional attractions and initiatives are critical to the park's revitalization. Such connections will also serve to strengthen the identity and enhance economic prosperity of the straits region.

The Planning Team recognizes that some of the key action goals proposed in this plan will require partnerships, collaboration and further study to get accomplished. A physical connection between the east and west units of the park was identified as a high priority through the planning process, but the DNR cannot undertake a major project of this kind without the support of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and other state, regional and local partners. This plan commits to creating a task force of key organizations and personnel to pursue this important connection. Similarly, this plan recognizes that the development of the Father Marquette National Memorial site (Historic Education Zone) requires a focused study with significant community input. This General Management Plan lays the framework for a more detailed planning study to follow.

Connectivity, partnerships and collaboration are key recommendations of all of the major planning efforts guiding recreation in Michigan, including the Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the Blue Ribbon Panel Report to Governor Snyder, and the Michigan Comprehensive Trail Plan. The Governor's Economic Prosperity initiative is another illustration of the importance of planning regionally. Other improvements proposed will continue to maintain, improve and expand the recreation opportunities available, while protecting the natural resources of the park.

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

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

Management Plans do not guarantee future PRD funding to implement them. PRD will seek internal funding, alternative funding sources, public and private partnerships and other potential mechanisms for implementing the desired future conditions defined in this plan.



A view of the bridge from the hiking trail

General Action Goals			
<p>Many of the 10-Year Action Goals for Straits State Park are general in nature and apply within all of the management zones. These often deal with park-wide issues, such as invasive species control, universal access, developing Stewardship, Wildlife and Emergency plans, or marketing the park's many recreational opportunities to a wider audience of potential users. Many of the overall maintenance and operational issues of running a state park also result in the need for actions across all zone boundaries, such as law enforcement.</p>			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Natural Resources			
Develop Stewardship Plan (Natural Resource Plan)	3-5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship	Stewardship Ecologist
Implement Stewardship Plan for the park	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager Stewardship
Implement early detection and rapid response to invasive species control	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager
Historic/Cultural Resources			
Continue to protect historic and cultural resources	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Historical Center SHPO Regional Planner	Park Manager Stewardship Historical Center
Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources	Ongoing	Stewardship Office of State Archaeologist Regional Planner	Cultural Resource Analyst Historical Center
Recreation Opportunities			
Provide amenities to support water and land trail users	Ongoing	Park Manager Recreation Trail Specialist	Park Manager
Help facilitate improved land and water trail connections with local, regional and state partners	Ongoing	Regional Planner Park Manager Recreation Trail Specialist Recreation Partners	Recreation Tail Specialist Park Manager
Promote birding as a park activity, especially raptor migration, and provide improved amenities to draw visitors to the park.	Ongoing	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach Area Wildlife Partners	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach
Education/Interpretation Opportunities			
Work with Friends of Straits State Park and other stakeholders to develop specific interpretation and education opportunities of the Father Marquette National Memorial site	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Historical Center Marketing & Outreach Friends of Straits State Park	Park Manager Historical Center
Develop an interpretive plan that utilizes a variety of traditional and new media, including audio and visual technologies, podcasts, and other emerging technologies for interpretation opportunities	2 Years	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach
Implement elements of the Interpretive Plan	3-5 Years	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach

General Action Goals (continued)			
Management Focus			
Establish strong holistic management focus of Straits State Park and Father Marquette National Memorial as a unit	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager
Continue to support PRD and local initiatives to explore and develop revenue generating opportunities that are sustainable	Ongoing	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Historical Center
Continue to complete and comply with annual safety inspections and plans	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager
Develop a Marketing Plan to reposition Straits from an overnight stop to a destination State park	2-3 Years	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach Recreation Programmer Historical Center	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach
Support PRD effort to raise awareness of Straits State Park and Father Marquette National Memorial	5 Years	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach Historical Center	Park Manager Historical Center
Transition park lighting to be dark-sky compliant	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager
Continue to collaborate with community partners to support the mutual goals of PRD and the local partners	Ongoing	Park Manager Historical Center Local Partners Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Local Partners
Continue to support community events and programs and ensure coordination with partners to enhance the visitor experience	Ongoing	Park Manager Community Partners	Park Manager Community Partners
Development			
Maintain park facilities and infrastructure consistent with Capital Outlay priorities (i.e. roads, electrical system...etc.)	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Continue to strive towards Universal Accessibility for all development opportunities	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner Historical Center	Park Manager
Facilitate formation of a local, state and regional task force to pursue the feasibility of a connection, bridging the gap between the east and west units created by I-75.	2-5 Years	Regional Planner MDOT Bridge Authority Park Manager PRD Trails Section Historical Center Community and Regional Partners	Regional Planner
Assess and enhance trail system within the park and interface with other trail systems in the area.	Ongoing	Regional Planner Park Manager Community and Regional Partners	Park Manager

Scenic Zone			
<p>The Scenic Zone recognizes there are certain areas within Straits State Park with aesthetic qualities to be preserved and protected. The 10-Year Action Plan goals permit only moderate levels of recreation, along with compatible development to support visitor access with the purpose of enjoying the scenic views of the Straits of Mackinac and the Mackinac Bridge.</p>			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Management Focus			
Provide vegetative management to maintain or enhance the viewsapes	Ongoing	Regional Planner Park Manager Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager
Improve scenic outlooks and add opportunities for interpretation	Ongoing	Stewardship Ecologist Regional Planner Park Manager Marketing & Outreach Historical Center	Park Manager
Development			
Develop a bridge overlook pavilion at the day use area	3-5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager

Natural Resource Recreation Zone			
<p>Active recreation, at medium to high density of use, conducted in natural areas is the hallmark of the Natural Resource Recreation Zone. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but in this zone, moderate levels of uses are allowed. Vegetation may be managed to facilitate recreational use and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape, as well as to address such things as hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. The 10-Year Action Goals are intended to promote moderate to high levels of recreation compatible with the natural character of the zone. Action goals are designed to ensure that visitors will be engaged in outdoor activities in diverse natural land settings, such as hiking, backpacking, back-country and rustic camping, bicycling, nature observation, and cross country skiing.</p>			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Natural Resources			
Maintain forest character of land east of the day use area to retain Upper Peninsula context	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Ecologist	Park Manager
Recreation Opportunities			
Provide a hiking trail loop and assess interpretation opportunities.	5 Years	Marketing & Outreach Park Manager Regional Planner	Regional Planner
Development			
Remove the old shop building and let the area return to a natural condition (after construction of new building in Administrative Zone).	3-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager

Developed Recreation Zone			
Active recreation with high density of use, conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance, is characteristic of the Developed Recreation Zone. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced where possible. More than half of the park is designated as Developed Recreation Zone. Straits State Park's day-use and camping areas are located in this zone.			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Education/Interpretation Opportunities			
Develop a natural and cultural resources interpretive plan	1-3 Years	Historical Center Marketing & Outreach Park Manager	Historical Center Marketing & Outreach
Recreation Opportunities			
Evaluate the need and assess the feasibility of providing overnight accommodations and amenities for long distance hikers/bikers, paddlers (kayakers, canoeists)	2-5 Years	Park Manager PRD Trails Section	Park Manager
Provide wi-fi in campground	2-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager
Evaluate creative strategies for revitalizing day use facility in a way that highlights the natural characteristics of the area.	2 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager Regional Planner
Explore emerging, new ideas for small-scale overnight accommodations	5-10 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager
Management Focus			
Maintain and improve facilities and structures consistent with Capital Outlay priorities	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager
Determine need, feasibility of a pet friendly area and evaluate potential locations in or outside park	1-3 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Development			
Replace playground with a universally accessible structure	2-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager
Add alternative, modern overnight accommodations (ex: cabins with water and bathrooms)	3-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager
Improve universal accessibility within the park and at the shoreline	2-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager
Add additional 50 amp service and pull-through sites at campground	2-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager
Replace two lower campground toilet/shower buildings.	1 Year	Park Manager	Park Manager

History Education Zone			
<p>In recognition of the historical, cultural, and geographical significance of Father Marquette National Memorial, this area of the park is designated as a History Education Zone. The emphasis of this zone is visitor education and interpretation of the natural, cultural and historic resources related to the Father Marquette National Memorial and the related New France and Native American stories. Any future development in this zone shall require emphasis on the Father Marquette National Memorial and these stories to promote understanding of these resources.</p>			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Natural Resources			
Maintain forest character of the History Education Zone to maintain the context.	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Ecologist	Park Manager
Historic/Cultural Resources			
Continue to foster relationships with related cultural resource partners.	Ongoing	Historical Center Park Manager Friends of Straits State Park	Historical Center
Education/Interpretation Opportunities			
Develop an Interpretive Plan of Father Marquette National Memorial and the related New France and Native American stories that is integrated into Interpretive Plan of Straits State Park	1-5 Years	Historical Center Park Manager Regional Planner Marketing & Outreach	Historical Center Regional Planner
Interpret Mackinac Bridge in cooperation with the Bridge Authority	2-5 Years	Historical Center Park Manager Regional Planner Marketing & Outreach	Historical Center
Management Focus			
Continue to participate in and support facilitation of creative planning and development of Father Marquette National Memorial site to increase visitation and enhance the visitor experience	Ongoing	Historical Center Park Manager Regional Planner Marketing & Outreach	Historical Center Regional Planner
Foster public/private partnerships to assist with the revitalization of this zone	Ongoing	Historical Center Park Manager Regional Planner	Historical Center Park Manager Regional Planner
Development			
Facilitate a collaborative process to work toward an agreed upon site development plan with an education mission that includes importance and role of Father Marquette, Native Americans and the Mackinac Bridge in historical development of the region	1-5 Years	Historical Center Park Manager Regional Planner Friends of Straits State Park Local Community Recognized Tribes Marketing & Outreach	Historical Center Regional Planner

Administrative Zone			
This zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. It includes the headquarters offices and maintenance facilities with the associated land required to conduct the business of running Straits State Park.			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Development			
Develop plan for reuse of park residence	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Construct new shop building	3-5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Upgrade the appearance and function of the headquarters and visitor welcome area	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager

Cultural Landscape Zone			
The Cultural Landscape Zone is the Father Marquette National Memorial. This zone should be managed to protect and preserve the Memorial as a significant cultural resource for the park and the Straits region.			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Management Focus			
Continue to manage Father Marquette National Memorial as a historically and culturally significant site	Ongoing	Park Manager Historical Center	Park Manager Historical Center
Education/Interpretation Opportunities			
Evaluate and update the existing interpretation	2-5 Years	Park Manager Historical Center	Historical Center

Scenic Overlay			
The Scenic Overlay Zone is applied to entire shoreline in recognition of the scenic value it provides of the Straits of Mackinac and the Mackinac Bridge and views of the park from the bridge and the water.			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Management Focus			
Provide vegetative management to maintain or enhance the viewsapes	Ongoing	Stewardship Ecologist Park Manager	Park Manager
Improve universal access to the shoreline	2-5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager

Appendix A - Supporting Analysis

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A.1 PARK SETTING

Park Profile

Area: 181 Acres
County: Mackinac County
City: St. Ignace, Moran Township
Latitude: 45°45'11"N
Longitude: 84°43'13"W
T40N R3W
Address: 720 Church Street
St. Ignace, MI 49781-1729
Phone #: (906) 643-8620



Location & Community

Located on the Straits of Mackinac, immediately north of the Mackinac Bridge, Straits State Park is divided into two parts by I-75. East of the highway, the park features two modern campgrounds, two mini cabins, a day use area and hiking trails. The Father Marquette National Memorial, dedicated to the French Jesuit missionary who founded Michigan's first European settlement, is nestled within a cedar wooded area in the west unit. This site also provides parking and restroom facilities, an interpretive trail and an amphitheater. The park offers breathtaking views of the Mackinac Bridge (the fifth longest suspension bridge in the world) and the Straits of Mackinac.

The park is located less than a mile from downtown St. Ignace, which is known for its restaurants and gift shops as well as the antique auto show on the last weekend in June and the annual Labor Day Bridge Walk on the Mackinac Bridge. The city is also home to docks for passenger ferries providing access to Mackinac Island. The Kewadin Casino in neighboring St. Ignace Township also has a large impact on the city and the region.

Mackinac County and the Straits Region are a destination point for tourists interested in culture, history and exploring the outdoors. They are home to Mackinac Island, Mackinaw City, Bois Blanc Island and the 36- island archipelago known as Les Cheneaux Islands. The region is also the gateway to Michigan's Upper Peninsula with annual bridge crossings totalling 4 million vehicles. Wilderness State Park and Emmet County's Headlands, an International Dark Sky Preserve, are just across the straits. With events such as the annual "Lights Out Across the Straits," the region is widely recognized as an area to view the night sky.

A.2 DEMOGRAPHICS

Prior to European settlement, Mackinac County was inhabited by Native American tribes (Chippewa and Ottawa). The earliest European visitors were French explorers, missionaries, soldiers, and fur traders in the 17th Century. Huron Indians also arrived during the 17th century. St. Ignace, established in 1671, is the third oldest city in the U.S. Between 1763 and 1815, the area passed through French, British, and American hands. Much of Mackinac County's early settlement began along the Lake Huron and Lake Michigan shorelines. Fur trading and fishing were important early economic activities in the county, followed later by lumbering.¹

Mackinac County is located in the Eastern Upper Peninsula and serves as the gateway to the Upper Peninsula. The county was originally known as Michilimackinac County and it was created as one of the first counties of the Michigan Territory in 1818 under territorial governor Lewis Cass. The county originally included the Lower Peninsula of Michigan north of Macomb County and almost the entire present Upper Peninsula. As development occurred and population increased, the county eventually evolved into its present day boundaries. Originally, the county seat was the community of Michilimackinac Island, later known as Mackinac Island, Michigan. The county seat was moved to St. Ignace in 1882.

U.S. Census Data for Mackinac County

People QuickFacts	Mackinac County	Michigan
Population, 2013 estimate	NA	9,895,622
Population, 2012 estimate	11,137	9,882,519
Population, 2010 (April 1) estimates base	11,113	9,883,701
Population, percent change, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013	NA	0.1%
Population, percent change, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2012	0.2%	Z
Population, 2010	11,113	9,883,640
Persons under 5 years, percent, 2012	3.8%	5.8%
Persons under 18 years, percent, 2012	17.5%	22.9%
Persons 65 years and over, percent, 2012	23.8%	14.6%
Female persons, percent, 2012	49.1%	50.9%
White alone, percent, 2012 (a)	75.9%	80.1%
Black or African American alone, percent, 2012 (a)	1.1%	14.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent, 2012 (a)	17.3%	0.7%
Asian alone, percent, 2012 (a)	0.4%	2.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent, 2012 (a)	Z	Z
Two or More Races, percent, 2012	5.3%	2.2%
Hispanic or Latino, percent, 2012 (b)	1.5%	4.6%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent, 2012	74.8%	76.2%

¹ Source: Mackinac County Master Plan 2013

Living in same house 1 year & over, percent, 2008-2012	88.3%	85.4%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2008-2012	2.1%	6.0%
Language other than English spoken at home, pct age 5+, 2008-2012	4.2%	9.0%
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2008-2012	88.4%	88.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2008-2012	18.7%	25.5%
Veterans, 2008-2012	1,307	692,582
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2008-2012	19.0	23.9
Housing units, 2012	11,007	4,525,004
Homeownership rate, 2008-2012	77.1%	72.8%
Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent, 2008-2012	9.1%	18.0%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2008-2012	\$121,500	\$128,600
Households, 2008-2012	4,940	3,818,931
Persons per household, 2008-2012	2.20	2.53
Per capita money income in past 12 months (2012 dollars), 2008-2012	\$21,950	\$25,547
Median household income, 2008-2012	\$38,507	\$48,471
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2008-2012	15.3%	16.3%

Geography QuickFacts	Mackinac County	Michigan
Land area in square miles, 2010	1,021.57	56,538.90
Persons per square mile, 2010	10.9	174.8
FIPS Code	097	26
Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area	None	

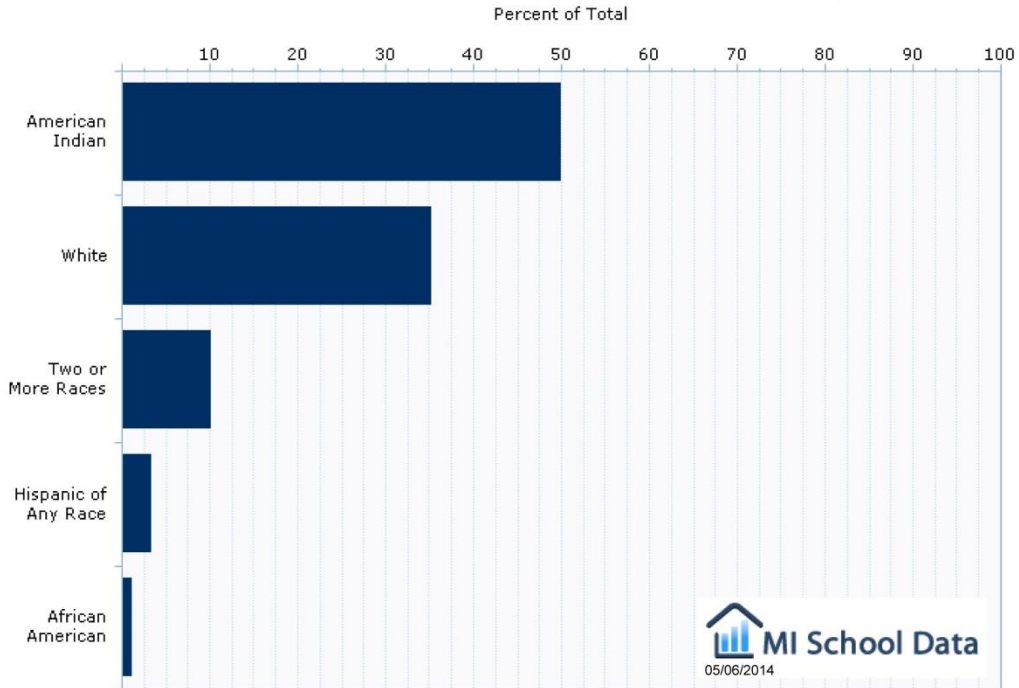
Source: US Census Bureau State and County QuickFacts

The 2010 census data for Mackinac County indicates a median and per capita income lower than the Michigan average. The County has a low population density. American Indians make up over 17% of the population (compared to the State average of 0.3%) and the County has a higher than average number of persons over the age of 65.

The large American Indian population in the region is also apparent in the local public school districts. According to MI School Data, 48% of the student body in the Moran Township School District is American Indian; 53% of the student body in the St. Ignace Area School District is American Indian.

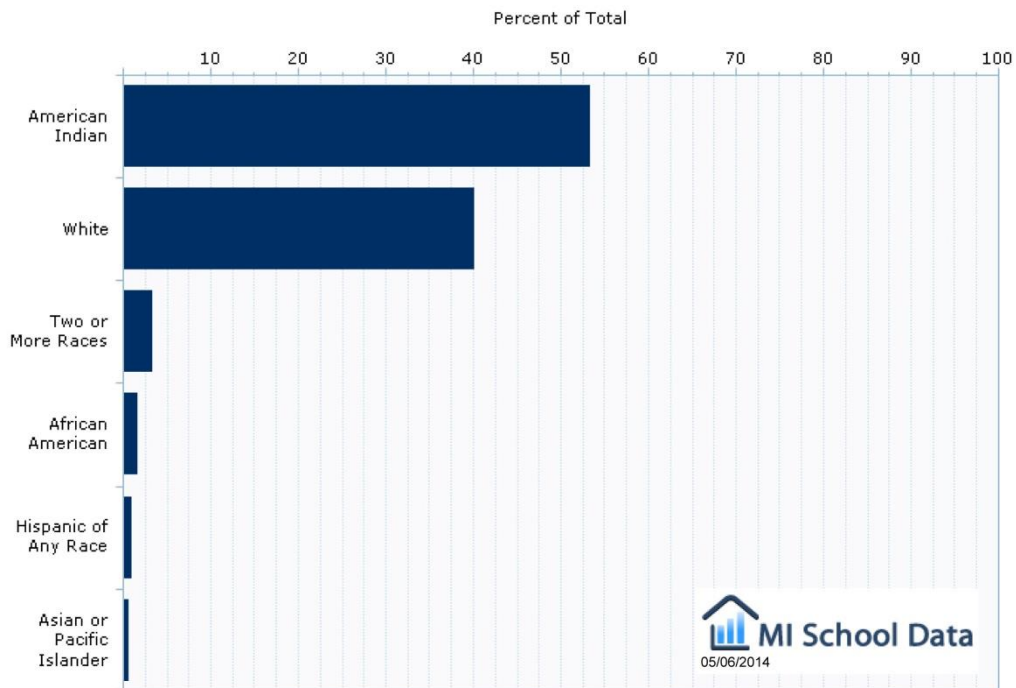
Student Count Snapshot

Moran Township School District: 2013-14 / All Grades / Race/Ethnicity / All Students



Student Count Snapshot

St. Ignace Area Schools: 2013-14 / All Grades / Race/Ethnicity / All Students



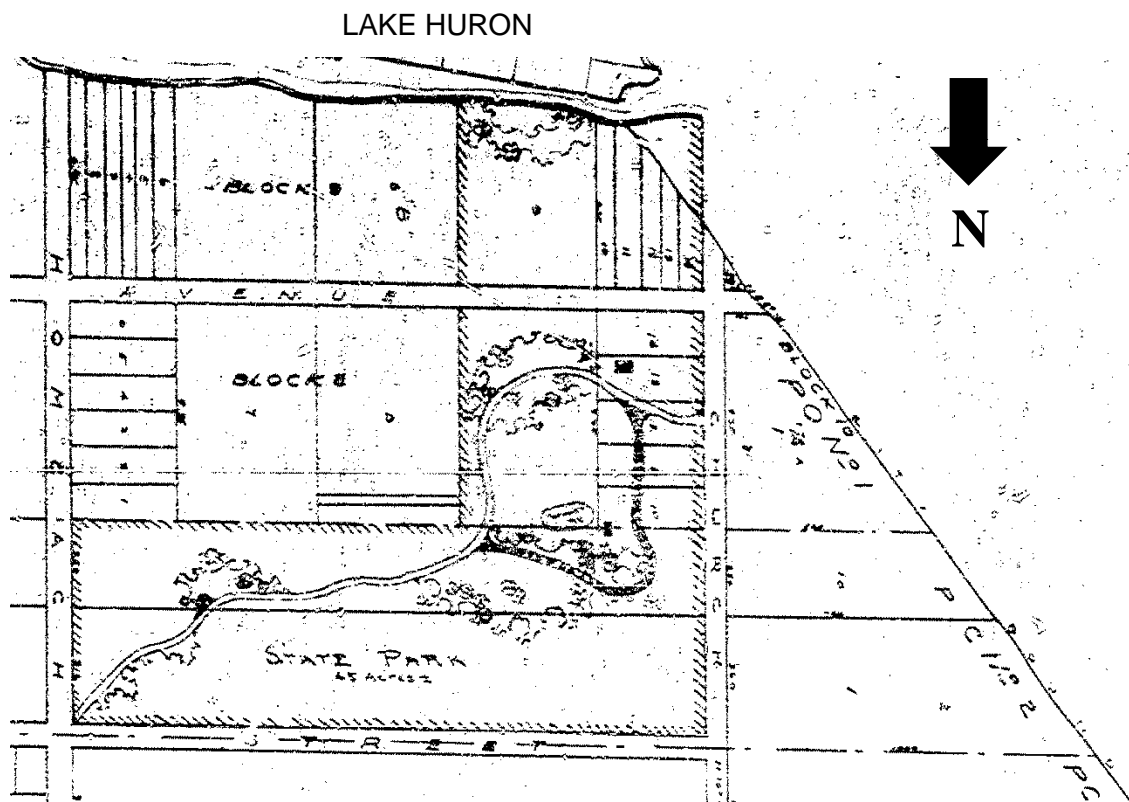
The 2010 census data for St. Ignace shows a total population of 2,452. In the city, 27% of residents are American Indians and 17% are over the age of 65; both of which are higher than the state average. The majority of local jobs are in the service, entertainment and recreation industry.

However, it is important to note that the Census Bureau does not count seasonal residents. A high percentage (48.3% of the total housing units) of vacation or seasonal homes in the county indicates that the summer population is much higher.

Straits State Park is also influenced by activities and attractions in nearby Emmet and Cheboygan Counties, located south of the Mackinac Bridge. Settlement in the area began in 1715 with the construction of Fort Michilimackinac (in what is now Mackinaw City) and the area has a rich French, British and Indian history. Emmet and Cheboygan Counties are more densely populated than their northern neighbor, with the population centers of Petoskey and Cheboygan, but are still essentially rural in nature.

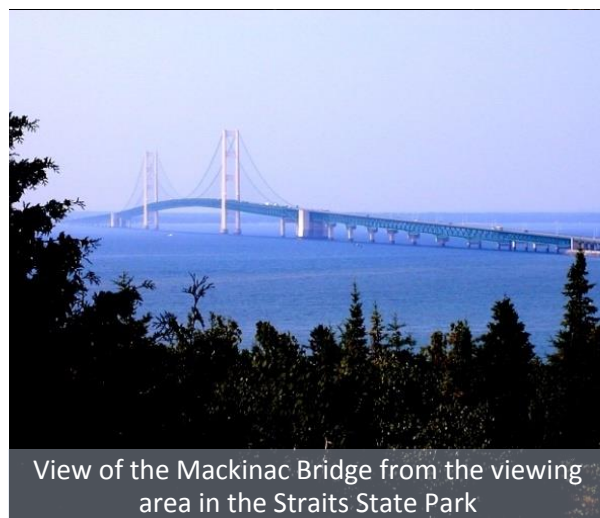
A.3 HISTORY OF STRAITS STATE PARK

Straits State Park was established in 1924 as a simple day park with the entrance located at the corner of Paro and Hombach Street. In the mid-1940s the park was redesigned to allow for approximately 32 tent campsites along the shores of the Straits of Mackinac. The entrance to the park changed to the corner of Paro and Church Street at this time. During the 1950s, the park expanded north to include approximately 90 campsites.



Park map from 1928 showing the original entrance location

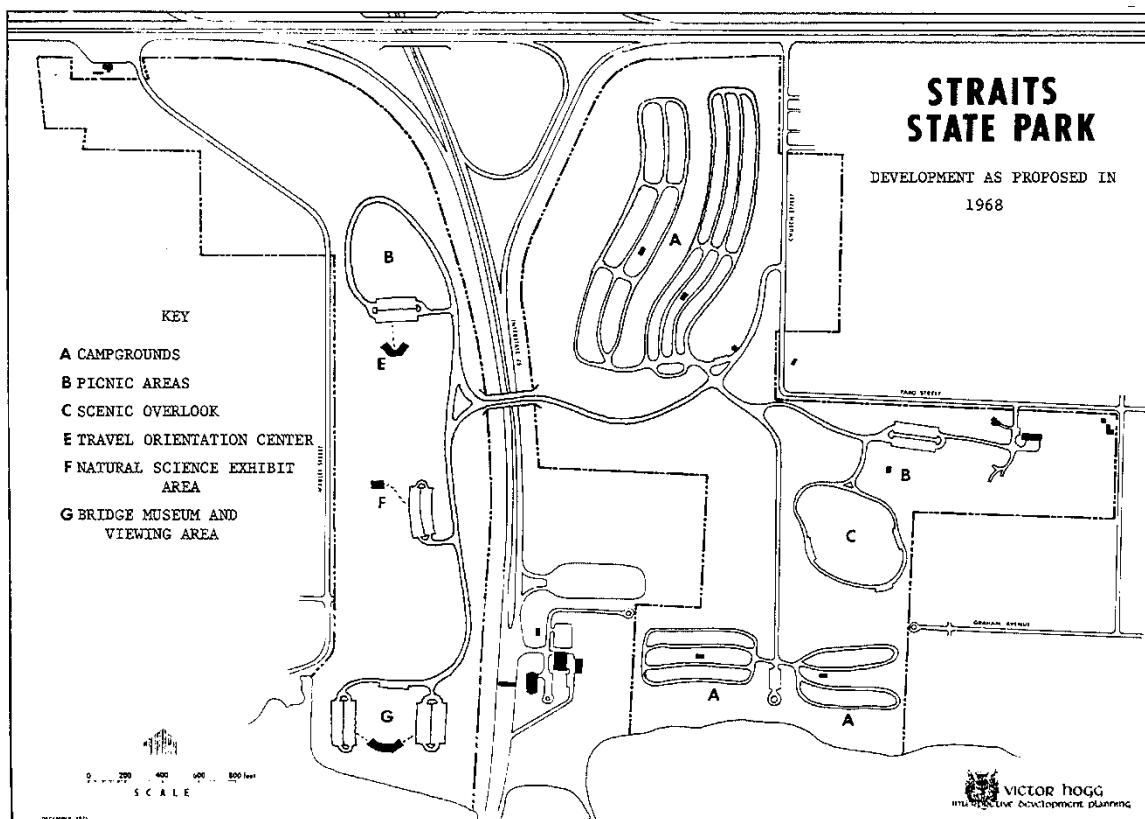
The dedication of the Brooklyn Bridge in 1883 gave rise to the idea of connecting the two Michigan peninsulas by bridge. In 1923 state ferry service began and became so popular that by 1934 the legislature created the Mackinac Bridge Authority and work began to span the straits. Although the project had many delays and setbacks, including two world wars, construction on the bridge began in 1954 and the bridge opened in 1957. While the construction of the Mackinac Bridge influenced the configuration of future acquisitions of park land, the park entrance location remained unchanged.

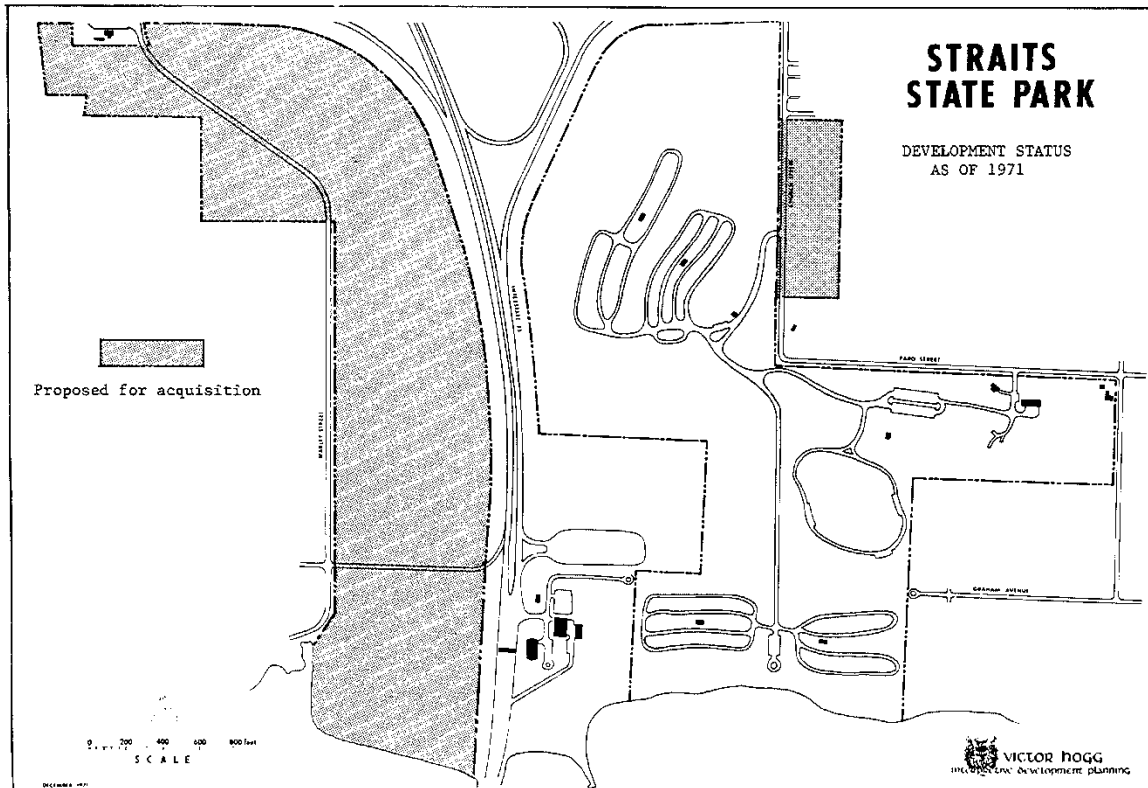


View of the Mackinac Bridge from the viewing area in the Straits State Park

In March 1965, Governor Romney directed the Department of Conservation (now the DNR) to evaluate and possibly implement the development of an Upper Peninsula Historical Park and Information Center at the northern end of the Mackinac Bridge to serve as a gateway to the Upper Peninsula. It was noted that the project had a potential “to give Michigan citizens additional recreational experiences and at the same time provide a basis for increasing tourism in the Upper Peninsula.” Within five months, a Preliminary Master Plan Report for Straits State Historical Park was prepared and presented to the Department. By 1968, the plan was adopted and development began on the 120 acres located east of I-75. This portion of the park has remained true to the original plan. The I-75 overpass shown on the 1968 development plan (below) was never constructed and the east and west parcels are accessed separately to date.

The 1968 report laid out a travel orientation center, natural science exhibit area and bridge museum and viewing area on an 80 acre parcel west of I-75. In 1971 funding was in place to purchase this 80 acre parcel from MDOT, however, before acquisition could take place, the DNR initiated a re-examination of the 1968 report to clarify the development plan and compare its relevance to new complicating factors. The foremost of these factors was the relationship of the proposed memorial to Father Marquette with the interpretation to be offered at the park. The other factor was the necessity to provide access to the buildings of the Mackinac Bridge Authority. The 1972 report “The Development of Straits State Historic Park” by the Parks Division of the DNR outlined the acquisition of 80 acres west of I-75 and the development of this portion of the park taking a holistic approach with all stakeholders involved. The report presents 3 alternative traffic and circulation alternatives for the park which included an I-75 bridge overpass in all alternatives presented to connect the two sides of the park.





In 1976 an agreement was entered into between the United States of America, acting by and through the Secretary of the Interior, and the State of Michigan, for the establishment of the Father Marquette National Memorial, under Public Law 94-100. The intent of the agreement was to provide for the development and operation of the Father Marquette National Memorial as an affiliated unit of the National Park Service (NPS). The State of Michigan was responsible for the planning and design, which was to be reviewed and approved by the NPS. Administration, operation and maintenance was also the responsibility of the State of Michigan (DNR). The memorial, restrooms, parking, bridge overlook and amphitheater were developed on a 52 acre site located west of I-75. The memorial was formally designated as an affiliated unit of the NPS in 1977. According to the National Park Service Index "The memorial pays tribute to the life and work of Father Jacques Marquette, French priest and explorer. It is located in Straits State Park near St. Ignace, Mich., where Marquette founded a Jesuit mission in 1671 and was buried in 1678." An interpretive museum was built on the site in 1980, but was struck by lightning and burned to the ground in 2000. The site of the museum is currently used for an annual Native American Pow Wow.



Father Marquette National Memorial

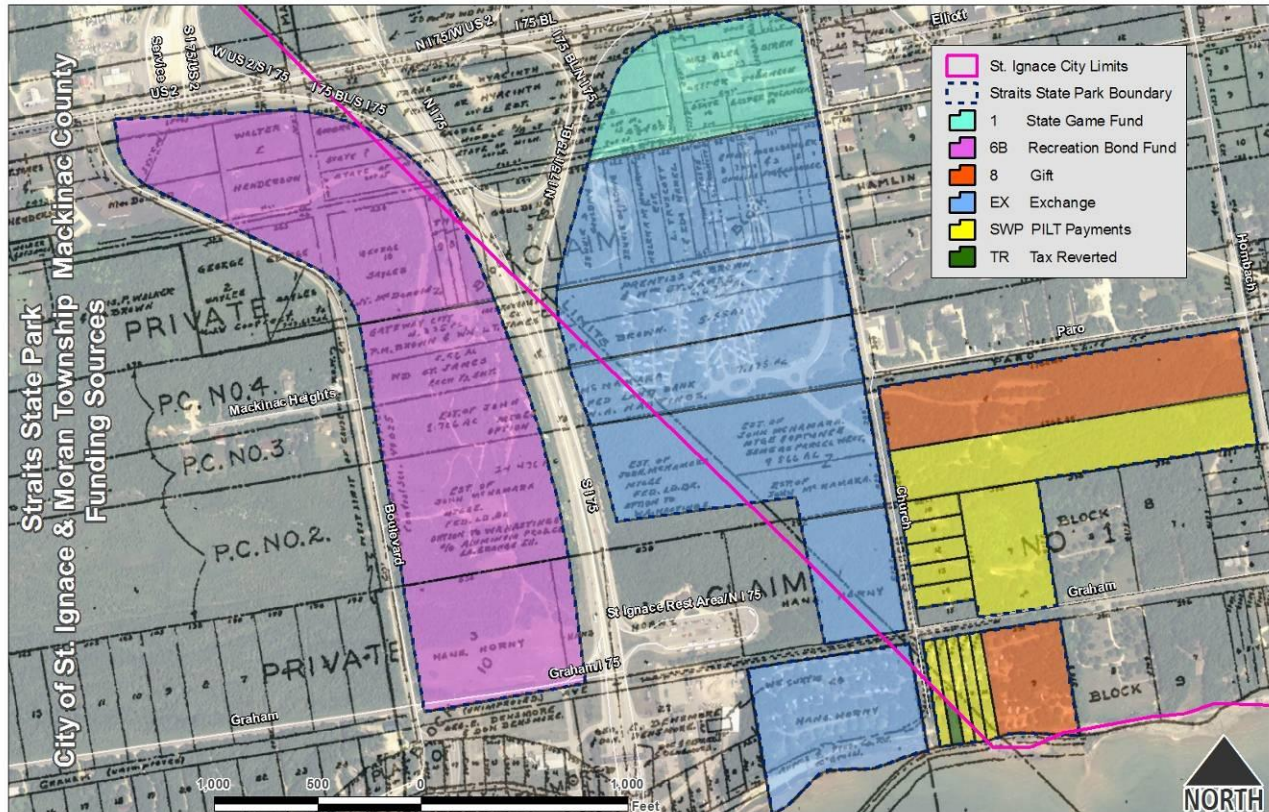
The vision of creating an Upper Peninsula Gateway Discovery Center in St Ignace has been discussed and planned many times in the past 50 years. The existing MDOT Welcome Center on the east side of I-75, was installed many years ago as a temporary structure and provides limited facilities for visitors entering the Upper Peninsula. In 2006, a master plan feasibility study was completed for an Upper Peninsula Gateway Discovery Center. The plan was accomplished through a steering committee comprised of representatives from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Michigan Department of History, Arts, and Libraries, and Travel Michigan. The plan outlined several alternative solutions and recommended a solution for a center to be constructed on the east side of I-75 near the existing MDOT Welcome Center. The plan went into extensive design detail and included cost estimates for the recommended solution. The goal of the proposed center was to develop a Welcome Center and facility that would promote and facilitate tourism and visitor awareness of natural and historic features that exist in the Upper Peninsula. The cost of this development was estimated to be in the range of \$17.8 and \$18.3 million in 2006.

This was an ambitious project with a large price tag and many different entities involved. In the 8 years since the plan was completed, no further progress has been made. Frustrated by the lack of action, particularly in regards to building the “New France Discovery Center,” to replace the burned museum, local municipal leaders and citizens pushed for legislation to form a state-appointed advisory board for the memorial. With no funding attached to the legislation, it was vetoed by Governor Snyder.

In Governor Snyder’s veto letter he suggested an independent organization could complete the same goals that the legislature proposed. This led to the recent formation of the Friends of Straits State Park, with representation from local government entities and interested Mackinac County residents.

A.4 LAND OWNERSHIP

The lands that comprise Straits State Park have been acquired by the State of Michigan through a variety of funding sources. Often, conditions attached to the original funding source or other details of the property transaction encumber the future use or disposition of the land. The following outlines in more detail each funding source as associated with Straits State Park.



Recreation Bond Fund

- Typically to meet program needs, but requires investigation on a case-by-case basis. (Legislation may direct use of a specific funding source, property may come with deed restrictions or 'gift' may specify use.)
- Old Recreation Bond Fund: Act 257, P.A. State Park and Recreation Areas (*Source: Land Information System (LIS)*)
- The 58 acre Father Marquette Memorial parcel was purchased using the Recreation Bond Fund

State Game Fund

- (324.43553 sec. 4c) This fund is used for purchase, lease and management of lands for: Propagating and rearing game, fur-bearing animals, birds or fish; Establishing and maintaining game refuges, wildlife sanctuaries, and public shooting and fishing grounds.
- 11 acres acquired under State Game Fund prior to Act 325, P.A. 1 mineral revenue deposited into Game & Fish Protection Trust Fund, no federal dollars involved. This was part of the 1959 land exchange with the State Highway Commission.

Acquisitions

The first 41 acres of lakefront property was donated by the City of St. Ignace to the State of Michigan in 1924 for the creation of a state park to accommodate the new flow of automobile travelers to Northern Michigan.

In 1948, 12.5 acres was acquired from the Mackinac Island State Park Commission. This parcel was located east of Hombach Street to Church Street.

In 1959, the DNR acquired the remainder of the park land on the east side of I-75, and west of Church Street, from the State Highway Commission. The land was acquired for the purpose of developing a campground for the sum of \$34,000 with the following restrictions:

- There shall be no right of ingress to or egress from I-75 or US-2 from or to the park into the park
- No Billboards, signboards or advertising devices other than those advertising articles or products manufactured or sold on the premises shall be permitted.

In 1974, the DNR acquired approximately 58 acres of land from the State Highway Commission for \$183,000 for the purposes of developing the Father Marquette Memorial. Restrictions on this property include the following:

- No junkyard, automobile salvage or garbage dump located within 1000 feet of Interstate 75 or US 2.
- The right to maintain public utility facilities on the property
- That all water run-off from Interstate 75 shall be allowed to run on the said land.

Easements

The following is a list of easements impacting Straits State Park:

Acquired Easements

No acquired easements have been associated with Straits State Park.

Granted Easements

- Edison Sault Electric Company obtained an easement in 1974 for the purposes of distributing electricity to the park headquarters located on Church Street.
- Michigan Power Company obtained a permit to construct and maintain a pipe line on an easement 20 feet wide by 140 feet long to service the park residence building.
- The Michigan Power Company obtained an easement in 1979 to construct and maintain a gas pipeline located 15 feet south of Graham Street through the park for the purposes of servicing the Mackinac Bridge Authority property.
- The City of St. Ignace obtained a 16 foot wide easement in 1981 along Church Street to construct a water line across the park property for the purposes of serving the City of St. Ignace and the park.
- The Michigan Bell Telephone Company obtained a 5 foot wide by 1,127 feet long easement across the park property in 1986 for buried telephone line for the purposes of servicing the Mackinac Bridge Authority property.
- Peninsula Fiber Network headquartered in Munising, Michigan, acquired an easement in 2010 to bury fiber optic cable across Straits State Park on the west side of Church Street.

A.5 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RECREATION RESOURCES

Recreation opportunities in Mackinac County and the Straits region are abundant and generally focus on history and outdoor recreation. Recreation facilities range from expansive federally owned lands, like the Hiawatha National Forest, to privately owned golf courses. This region of the state has many historic attractions to offer its visitors: much of Mackinac Island, Fort Mackinac, Fort Michilimackinac and Old Mill Creek are part of Mackinac State Historic Parks. Straits State Park is located immediately north of the bridge crossing into the Upper Peninsula and is ideally located for exploring these regional recreation opportunities.

Public Recreation facilities

Federal Recreation Facilities

- Hiawatha National Forest – nearly 1 million acres divided into two units providing opportunities for hunting, trails, camping and Off Road Vehicle (ORV) use. The eastern unit stretches from St. Ignace to the Lake Superior shoreline.

Federal Campgrounds (in Mackinac County)

- Big Brevort Lake Campground
- Lake Michigan at St Ignace Campground
- Carp River

State Recreation Facilities

- Wilderness State Park – over 10,000 acres located west of Mackinaw City and the closest state park to Straits.
- Tahquamenon Falls State Park – located approximately 1 hour north of Straits State Park, many people visiting the Straits region will venture north to view the falls.
- State Forest - 322,500 acres separated geographically into two units by the Hiawatha National Forest. The Sault Unit is located in eastern Mackinac County and Chippewa County. The Naubinway Unit, in western Mackinac County.
- Bridge View Park (Mackinac Bridge Authority)
- St. Ignace Welcome Center (MDOT)
- Straits of Mackinac Underwater Preserve (Michigan Underwater Preserve Council, Inc.)

State Campgrounds

- Big Knob State Forest (SF) Campground
- Black River SF Campground
- Garnet Lake SF Campground
- Hog Island Point SF Campground
- Little Brevort Lake N. SF Campground
- Milakokia Lake SF Campground
- South Manistique Lake SF Campground



Straits of Mackinac Underwater Preserve
includes many historic shipwrecks

Mackinac State Historic Parks

- Mackinac Island Harbor
- Mackinac Island State Park
- Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park
- Fort Michilimackinac
- Fort Mackinac
- Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse
- Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum

Municipal Owned Recreation Facilities

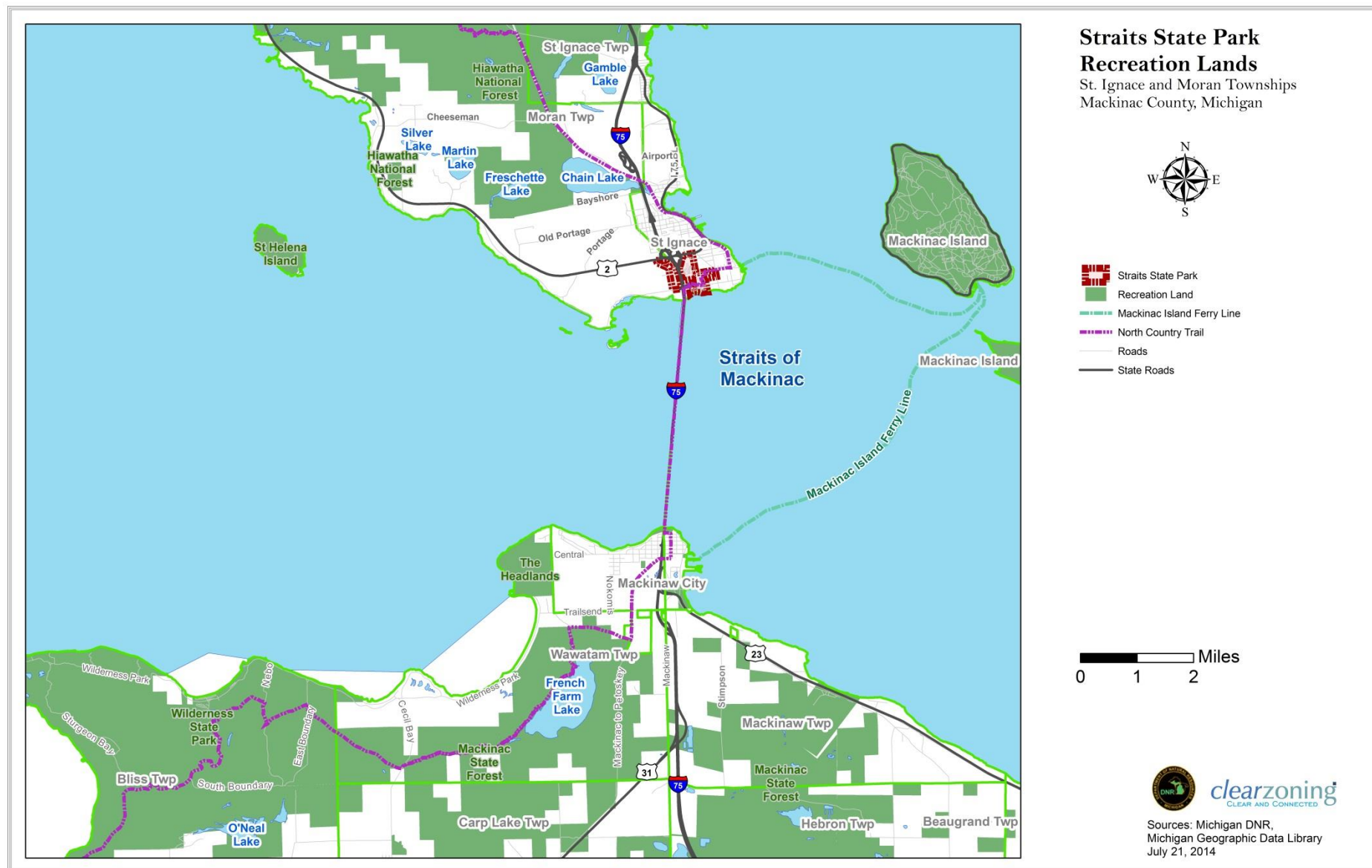
There are many community recreation facilities in and around St. Ignace, including the following:

- Little Bear East Arena and Community/Fitness Center
- St. Ignace Municipal Marina and Chief Wawatam Park
- City Municipal Boat Launch
- Dock #3 Park – located at the site of the car ferries before the Mackinac Bridge was built, this park offers views of the Coast Guard cutter and traditional park elements.
- St. Ignace Community Swimming Pool
- Kiwanis Beach Waterfront Park
- American Legion Memorial Park
- Museum of Ojibwa Culture – a museum showing the changes that took place with culture and land from the 1660's.
- Marquette Mission Park – Located adjacent to the Ojibwa Museum, this park contains interpretive panels about Ojibwa, Odawa and Huron cultures and their relationship with Father Marquette. The park also contains replicas of Ojibwa lodging.
- Headlands International Dark Sky Park – owned and operated by Emmet County, this park provides interpretation and viewing of the night sky uninterrupted by manmade light.

Private Recreation Facilities

Although the Straits region offers several attractions for recreation, the following attractions are notable in relation to Straits State Park.

- St. Ignace Golf Course and Country Club – A golf course offering views of the Straits and the Mackinac Bridge
- Castle Rock, which rises 195.8 feet over the waters of nearby Lake Huron, is a seasonal tourist attraction open for business from mid- May through mid-October.
- Castle Rock Campground – located on Lake Huron, this campground offers modern lakeside campsites on Mackinac Trail Road



Non-Motorized Trails

North Country Trail

The North Country trail, with 4,600 miles, is the longest National Scenic Trail. It was authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1980. The route, from New York to North Dakota, passes through seven (7) states. More than 1,500 miles are in Michigan, with approximately 2 miles of the trail passing through Straits State Park.

USBR 35 Bicycle Route

This is a route for experienced long distance touring bicyclists. It is not a trail per se, but is a mapped route meant to be a recommendation as the best way to ride a bicycle long distance along the coast. Approval of USBR 35 designates it as a nationally recognized route, designated by the same organization that numbered the US interstate highway system. Michigan's U.S. Bicycle Route 35 will attract bicycle tourists from near and far, providing economic, social, and health benefits to the communities that the route intersects. The route, approximately 500 miles in length, runs from New Buffalo, on the border with Indiana, to Sault Ste. Marie, Canada.

St. Ignace to Trout Lake Trail

This 26-mile rail-trail is almost entirely within the Hiawatha National Forest. Snowmobiling is permitted in the winter months. The trail passes through woodlands, wetlands and open spaces.

Huron Boardwalk

This mile-long boardwalk through downtown St. Ignace along the shores of Lake Huron connects downtown businesses with the lakefront.

Mackinac Island Loop

This is an 8-mile paved road around Mackinac Island. It is State Highway 185, the only state highway not open to cars.

Water Trails

The Lake Michigan Water Trail Upper Peninsula travels 400 miles along Lake Michigan's northern coast; Les Cheneaux Water trail is located east of the Mackinac Bridge along the northern shore of Lake Huron. These trails are being developed through several initiatives at the local, state and regional level.

North Central State Trail

This trail is a 62 mile long multi-use trail from Gaylord to Mackinaw City. The trail is used for snowmobiles, bicycles, equestrians and hikers.

North Western State Trail

This trail is a 32 mile long multi-use trail from Petoskey to Mackinaw City. This trail is used by snowmobiles, bicycles, equestrians and hikers.

Michigan's New Trail from Belle Isle to Ironwood

This new trail from Belle Isle Park (Detroit) to Ironwood (western Upper Peninsula) features two distinct routes—one for hiking and one for bicycling – using many existing hiking and biking trails.

Straits of Mackinac Mackinaw City/St. Ignace

Lake Michigan National Recreation Water Trail



LM Circle Tour Directions

Traveling North

FROM MACKINAW CITY, continue on I-75 crossing the Mackinac Bridge and entering the Upper Peninsula at St. Ignace | In St. Ignace, continue west on US-2 toward Naubinway and Manistique.

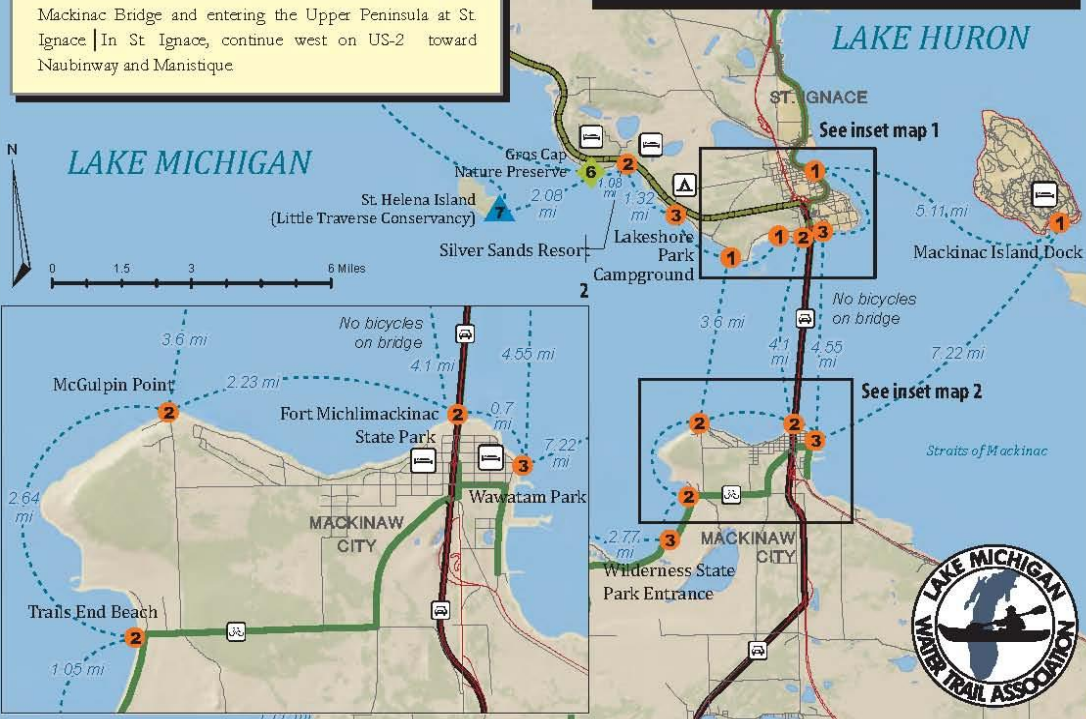
U.S. Bike Route 35 Directions

Traveling North

IN MACKINAW CITY, turn left (N) to S. Nicolet St | Turn right (E) to E. Central Ave | Turn right (S) to S. Huron Ave | Turn left to Arnold Ferry Line Dock | FROM MACKINAW CITY, at Arnold Line Ferry Dock, take Ferry to Mackinac Island OR from Nicolet St, take I-75 Bridge Shuttle | From Mackinac Island, take Ferry to St. Ignace | Enter N. State St/I-75 Bus going North | Turn right (NE) to Mackinac Trail

MACKINAC BRIDGE: Bicyclists are not allowed to cross the Mackinac Bridge on their own. The Mackinac Bridge Authority will transport your group across the bridge in Mackinac Bridge Authority vehicles. The fee is \$2.00 per bicycle.

- If you are traveling northbound, there is a phone at the south end of the bridge. Instructions for using the phone are posted in the phone box.
- If you are southbound, please go to our service window in the administration building and ask for assistance. The administration building is located on the north end of the Mackinac Bridge on the east side of the toll plaza.
- The service is provided on an as needed basis. If you need additional information please call us at 906-643-7600.



A.6 LEGAL MANDATES

For all park General Management Plans, all legal mandates are identified that serve to further guide the development of the General Management Plan and subsequent Action Plans. For our planning purposes, the term “Legal Mandates” refers to not only state law, but also the administrative tools of “Policy” and “Directive” of the Natural Resource Commission, the Department, and the Parks & Recreation Division. Examples include Wildlife Conservation Orders, Orders of the Director, and all other laws, commission orders, and rules or directives that apply to the park. Specific to Straits State Park, several legal mandates have been identified, which are listed below.

PA 451 of 1994, Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Act (NREPA), Article 1, Part 5
Section 324.504: This law describes the DNR’s authority to make rules that support its mission.

- (1) “The department shall promulgate rules to protect and preserve lands and property under its control from depredation, damage, or destruction or wrongful or improper use or occupancy.”

The rules relate to camping, motorized vehicle use, control of animals, trail use etc.

PA 451 of 1994, Part 303 - Wetlands Protection, of NREPA, as amended.

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

- Deposit or permit the placing of fill material in a wetland.
- Dredge, remove, or permit the removal of soil or minerals from a wetland.
- Construct, operate, or maintain any use or development in a wetland.
- Drain surface water from a wetland.

PA 451 of 1994, Part 325 – Great Lakes Submerged Lands (NREPA)

Any dredging, filling, modifying, constructing, enlarging, or extending of structures in Great Lakes waters or below the ordinary high water mark of the Great Lakes requires a permit. Permits are required by both the Water Resources Division within the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), and the US Army Corps of Engineers. The purpose of this permit is to protect the waters of the Great Lakes and the Great Lakes bottomlands (the land lying below the ordinary high water mark).

PA 451 of 1994, Part 419 - Hunting Area Control (NREPA)

Section 324.41901 establishes the powers of the Department to establish safety zones for hunting. Straits State Park is closed to hunting.

PA 451 of 1994, Part 741 - State Park System (NREPA)

Sec. 74102:

- (1) The legislature finds:
 - (a) Michigan state parks preserve and protect Michigan's significant natural and historic resources.
 - (b) Michigan state parks are appropriate and uniquely suited to provide opportunities to learn about protection and management of Michigan's natural resources.
 - (c) Michigan state parks are an important component of Michigan's tourism industry and vital to local economies.

- (d) A holistic, integrated park system that reflects the unique value of both state and local parks is a goal of this state.
- (e) State and local park planners should work in concert for a coordinated Michigan park and recreation plan.
- (2) The department shall create, maintain, operate, promote, and make available for public use and enjoyment a system of state parks to preserve and protect Michigan's significant natural resources and areas of natural beauty or historic significance, to provide open space for public recreation, and to provide an opportunity to understand Michigan's natural resources and the need to protect and manage those resources.

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

This act amended the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code to provide for a State Park and State-operated public boating access site "Recreation Passport" that a Michigan resident may obtain by paying an additional fee when registering a motor vehicle. The Recreation Passport is required for entry into Straits State Park.

PA 45 of 2010 - Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act

Amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (PA 451 of 1994) to require the DNR to establish a plan for a statewide trail network that includes Michigan trailways, pack and saddle trailways, and other recreational use trailways, and to permit pack and saddle animals on designated trailways managed by the DNR.

PA 46 of 2010 - Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act

Amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (PA 451 of 1994) with a finding that a statewide system of trails, trailways, and pack and saddle trailways is in the best interest of the state; requires the DNR to establish an "adopt-a-trail" program that allows volunteer groups to assist in maintaining and enhancing Michigan trailways, pack and saddle trailways, and rail-trails; and creates the Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Council within the department.

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

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

PA 368 of 1978, Article 12 - Environmental Health, Part 125 – Campgrounds – Part 125 of the Public Health Code

Established to protect and promote the public health by establishing health code requirements and regulations that all public (including DNR) and private campgrounds must meet. Campground wastewater system must meet the construction permit, design, and operation requirements under Michigan's Public Health Code.

PA 451 of 1994, Part 22 – Campground Wastewater Systems

These rules apply to all campground wastewater systems and regulate discharges to groundwater; administered by the Water Division, Groundwater Discharge Unit.

PA 451 of 1994, Part 761 Section 324.76102 – Aboriginal Records and Antiquities

- (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.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit

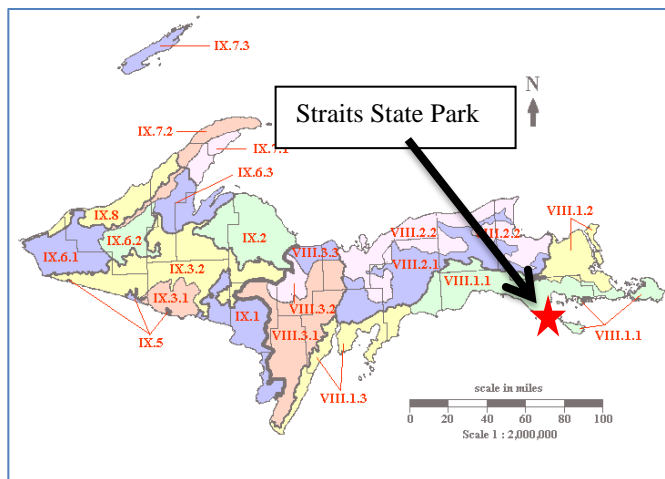
The NPDES permit process was initiated by The Federal Water Pollution Control Act amendments of 1972. The purpose of the program is to control the discharge of pollutants into surface waters by imposing effluent limitations to protect the environment. Authority for NPDES permit issuance rests with the MDEQ.

A.7 NATURAL SYSTEMS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Eco-Regional Context

The following information was obtained from Regional Landscape of Michigan and Wisconsin. A working Map and Classification. Dennis Albert, September 20, 1995.

Straits State Park is located in sub-subsection VIII.1.1 St. Ignace, which is typified by sandy lake plain and limestone bedrock at or near the surface. Limestone bedrock is exposed along the Lake Huron shoreline in the east, especially on Drummond Island. Lacustrine features include sand dunes, embayment's with complexes of parallel beach ridges and swales, and extensive conifer-dominated wetlands on sand or bedrock.



Climate

The growing season ranges from 130 to 140 days and is longest along the Lake Michigan and Lake Huron shorelines (Eichenlaub *et al.* 1990). Extreme minimum temperatures are coldest inland, where they can be as low as -46°F, and warmest along the Lake Michigan shoreline, where they are as high as -30°F. Average annual precipitation is 30 to 32 inches across the entire sub-subsection. Annual snowfall averages 60 to 80 inches, uniform across the sub-subsection.

Topography

The topography of Straits State Park is rolling and slopes down to the lake. The elevation change from the highest point in the park to the water's edge is approximately 130 feet. Topography changes rather abruptly through the center of the park. Flat areas are located in the developed portions of the park including both campgrounds and the day-use area.

Land Cover

Prior to settlement, this area was comprised of Beech/Sugar Maple Forest.

The majority of the park today consists of evergreen forest made up of primarily cedar. Since development has taken place for recreation facilities, these areas of the park are classified as either developed open space or developed low to medium intensity use. Other parts of the park consist of a mixed forest of evergreens and hardwoods, herbaceous ground cover, or scrub/shrub cover. In the 1970's, ash trees were planted in the campground. These ash have since suffered from Emerald Ash Borer. Buckthorn is also prevalent at the park.

Straits State Park Topography Map

St. Ignace and Moran Townships
Mackinac County, Michigan



-  Straits State Park
-  Municipal Boundary
-  Roads
-  State Roads

0 500 1,000 Feet

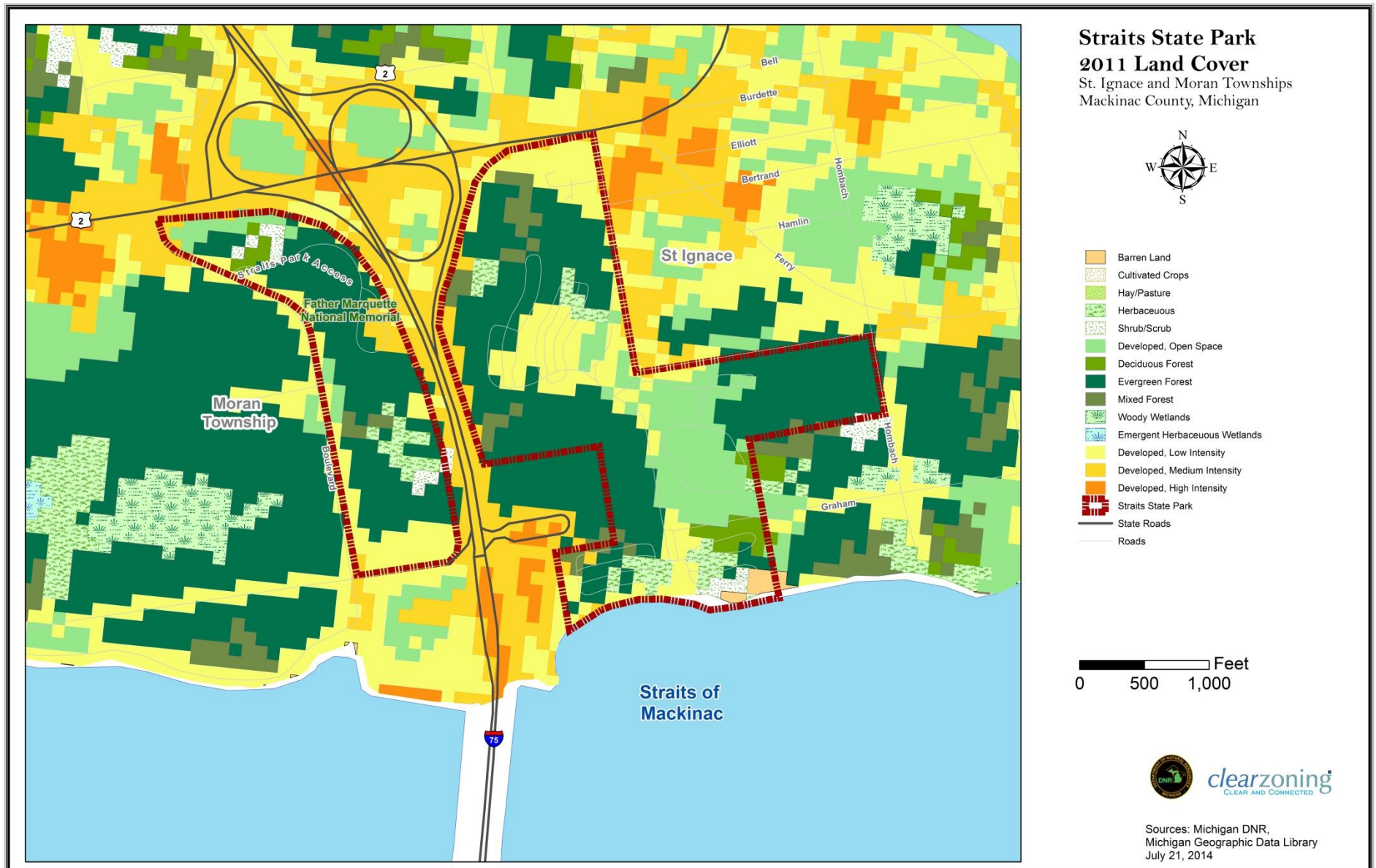


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CLEAR AND CONNECTED

March 10, 2014

Sources: Michigan DNR,
Michigan Geographic Data Library

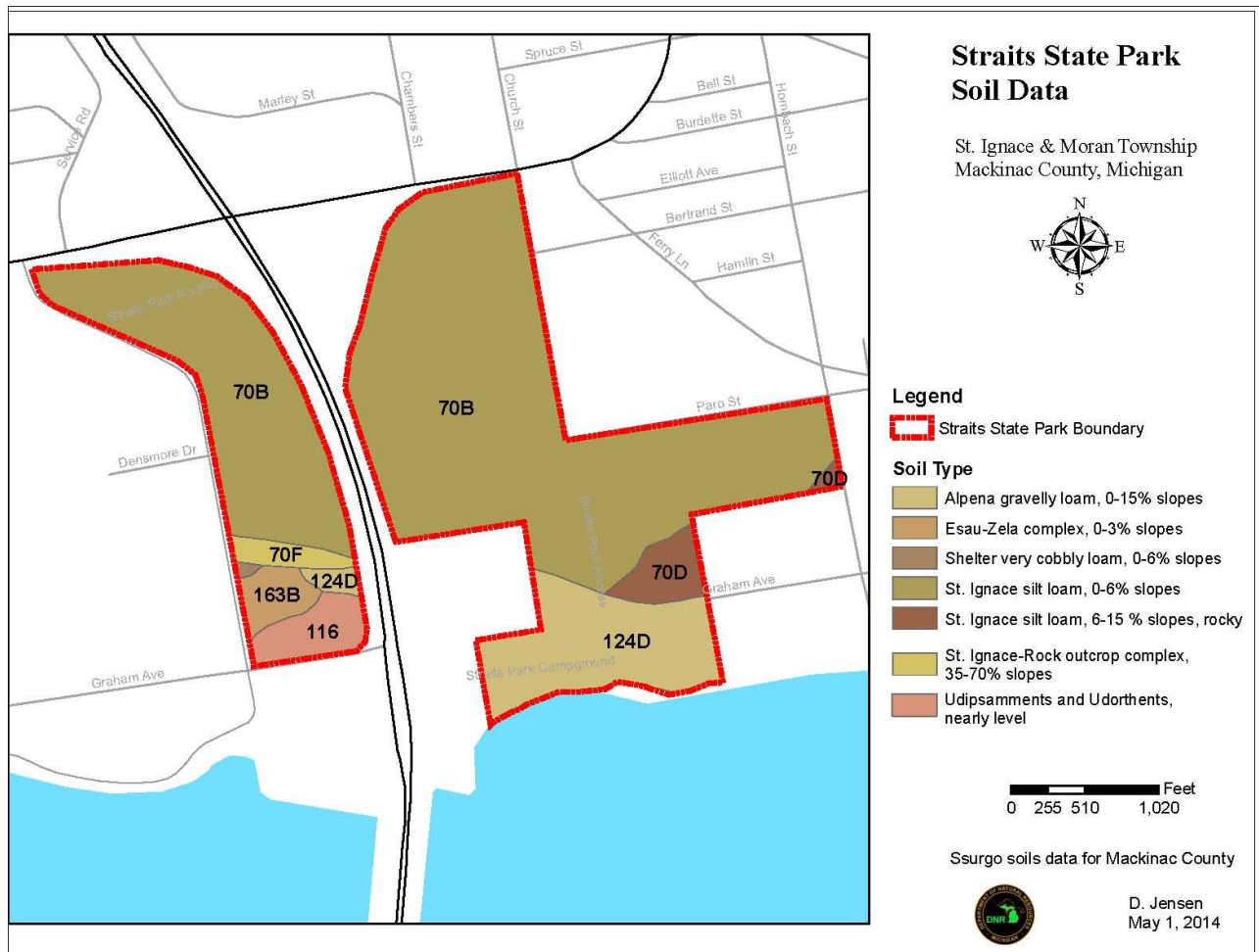




Soils and Geology

According to the Soil Survey of Mackinac County, the park is generally covered by glacial till that is shallow to moderately deep over red to green soft shale bedrock. The Straits area contains calcareous shale bedrock and limestone breccia, which are at shallow depth or are exposed. This causes poor drainage and undesirable swimming conditions at the park.

The park consists of primarily of silt loam with some rock outcrops and gravelly loam on the lakeshore



The entire sub-subsection is underlain by sedimentary bedrocks, principally limestone and dolomite, but also including less resistant shale and gypsum (Dorr and Eschman 1984). The resistant Niagaran series dolomite and limestone of Silurian age form the Niagaran Escarpment, which is locally exposed as cliffs and limestone pavement along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The underlying bedrock is typically less than 50 feet below the surface of the glacial drift (Vanlier and Deutsch 1958; Sinclair 1959, 1960).

Wildlife

Wildlife species typically found in Mackinac County and the eastern Upper Peninsula that may also appear from time to time within the park include mammals such as, whitetail deer, coyote, red fox, squirrels, snow-shoe hare, chipmunks, raccoons, weasels, mink, and skunk.

A natural feature of particular note and value to some wildlife species in this area is the Niagara Escarpment. This linear limestone/dolostone geologic formation stretches from Niagara Falls, through the Bruce Peninsula in western Ontario, across the southern counties in the Upper Peninsula and down the Door Peninsula in Wisconsin. It is habitat for many calcium loving rare plants and invertebrates. Within the park, dense upland cedar grows along this feature. Migratory songbirds particularly value this habitat for refuge during inclement weather and within which to forage for hatching insects along the Great Lakes shoreline.

Fishing

Fishing in the eastern UP region has been a significant part of the area's history. Fishing is allowed on the shore of Lake Huron, with the best fishing located west of the Mackinac Bridge. The water is too shallow in front of the park for good shore fishing.

Natural Areas

No designated natural areas are identified at Straits State Park.

Rare Flora

According to the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, Lake Huron tansy (*Tanacetum huronense*), a state threatened plant, may be present in the park. This herbaceous plant is found on coastal dune and beach systems along the northern coasts of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. If present at Straits, the tansy would be found along the shoreline.

Rare Fauna

According to the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, crested vertigo (*Vertigo cristata*), a state special concern snail, was found adjacent to the park and may be present within the park. This tiny land snail with chestnut brown-colored cylindrical shell is associated with cedar swamps and woodlands, and limestone cliffs and bedrock, so it could occur anywhere within the park. Another snail of special concern, the widespread column (*Pupilla muscorum*) is known to occur about 0.5 mile north of the park and requires similar habitat to the crested vertigo.



Conservation Concerns

Surveys are needed along the shoreline to determine whether Lake Huron tansy occurs at the park, for Michigan Monkey Flower in those areas where water seepages occur along the escarpment, and inland to determine whether either of the rare snails occurs within the park. If they do, then future development projects at the park should be reviewed for possible impacts on these species.

A.8 HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

A list of historical structures at Straits State Park is provided below:

Structure	DMB#
Flushing Toilet Building 5 Picnic Area	80212

The 1925-27 Biennium Report for the Department of Conservation states that four toilet buildings were constructed at the park. This facility was most likely one of the original four toilets at the park. These were the only developments in the park until the 1950s when the north campgrounds were built.

Father Marquette National Memorial

- The Father Marquette Memorial pays tribute to the French Jesuit missionary, Father Jacques Marquette. He established the Michigan's earliest European settlements, helped Louis Jolliet map the Mississippi River, and mastered several Native American languages. The monument rises on a bluff overlooking the Straits of Mackinac in a pavilion. In the pavilion, the story of the 17th century missionary explorer is told through interpretive panels and maps. The memorial site also offers panoramic views of the Mackinac Bridge.

Amphitheater and Old Museum Site

- The amphitheater and old museum site are located south of the Father Marquette Memorial. They are used for an annual Native American Pow Wow. The amphitheater is also occasionally used for wedding ceremonies.

Archeology

- There are six known archaeological sites located within the boundaries of Straits State Park. They represent both pre-contact and historic periods. There has not been a comprehensive archaeological survey of the park and additional sites may be present, making it important to survey before any ground disturbance is undertaken. The site is next to Lakeside Cemetery and there is some potential of for unmarked historic graves crossing into what is now park property.

A.9 EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

Programming

- Summer programs offered during the summer of 2013 at Straits State Park include Fresh Air Fit Yoga, through a partnership with The Bridge to Wellness Yoga Center in St. Ignace, and Rec202:Sea-kayaking.

Interpretive Trail

- This trail is located adjacent to the Father Marquette National Memorial and offers a 15-station interpretive educational experience that encourages learning about life in Michigan when Father Marquette lived. The trail also informs visitors of Native American use of native flora and fauna found in the park and in the area.

Events

- Rendezvous on the Straits Pow Wow, held annually every August
- Many other events occur beyond the Straits boundaries, including:
 - St. Ignace car show
 - Semi-truck show
 - Labor day bridge walk

A.10 RECREATION RESOURCES

Camping

- 275-site campground, 256 with electrical service and modern restrooms and 19 semi-modern sites along the waterfront with no electricity.
- The campground is divided into two main areas, the Lower Campground with 129 sites and 2 mini-cabins along the Huron shoreline; and the Upper Campground with 146 campsites on higher land.
- A Group Camping area is located south of the day-use picnic area east of the main access road off of Church Street and available by reservation only.
- Camping is the main activity at the park, however, most campers visit attractions outside of the park.

Trails

- A dirt foot trail on the east side of Interstate 75 connects the north campground unit to the day-use area and the lakeshore campground unit. It is approximately a half mile long and is also part of the North Country National Scenic Trail system which begins at the adjacent MDOT Welcome Center and continues north through the park towards the City of St. Ignace and its Huron Boardwalk.
- The other trail is an accessible interpretive trail located adjacent to the Father Marquette National Memorial. This trail creates a loop between the interpretive trail, restroom facilities, memorial and the parking lot. It also connects to the amphitheater. Both of these foot trails provide scenic views of the Mackinac Bridge and the Straits of Mackinac.

Hunting

- Hunting is not allowed at Straits State Park, however duck hunting does occur in Lake Huron offshore from the park.

Fishing

- While fishing is allowed at the park, the shallow, rocky lakeshore does not provide a quality fishery.

Playground

- Playground equipment can be found at each of the park's campground sites as well as the day-use picnic area. Equipment found may include jungle gyms, swings, slides, and spring toys.

Picnic

- There are two picnic areas located in the park: one on the east side of I-75 and one on the west.

Birdwatching

- The park is located on migration routes for many bird species. Birders often come to the park to observe birds during migration periods.

Metal Detecting

- Straits State Park is not open to metal detecting.

Amphitheater

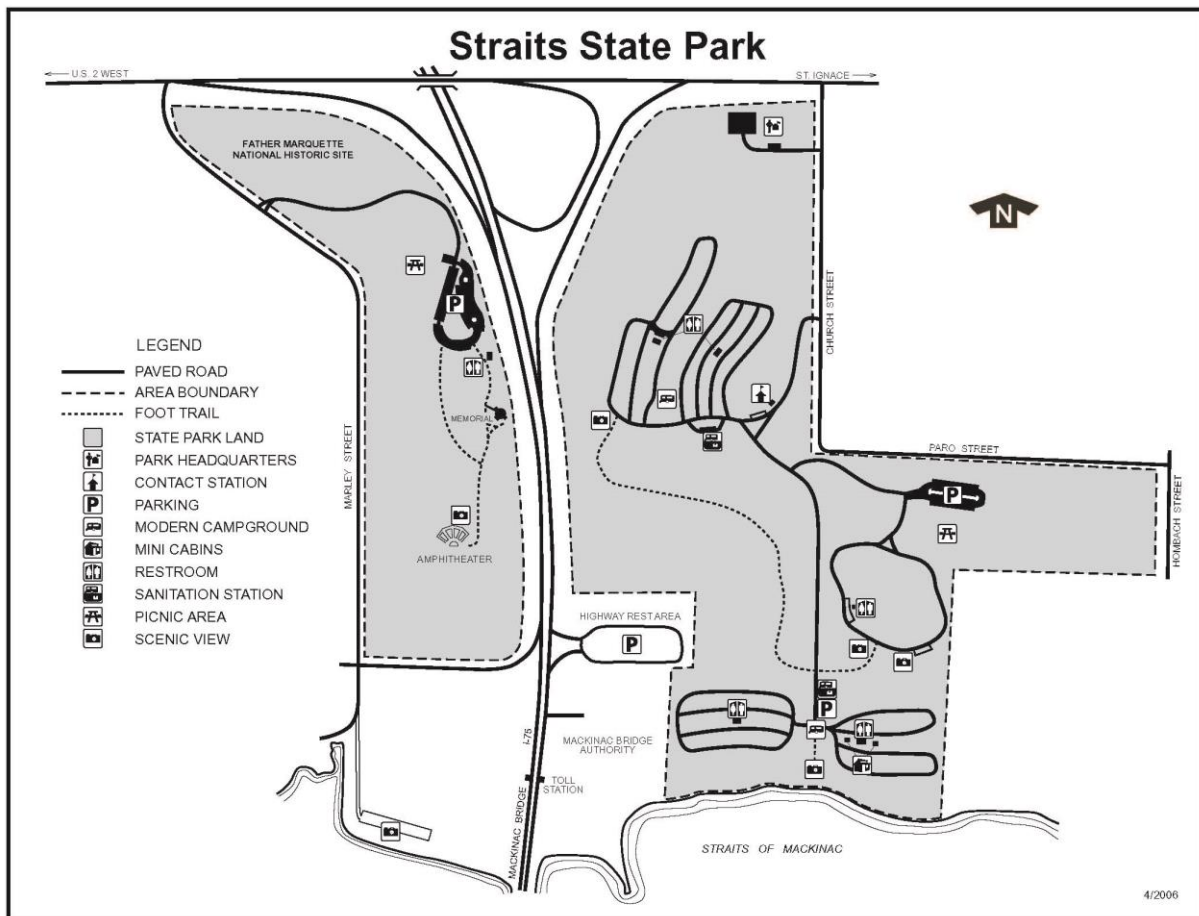
- The amphitheater is on the Father Marquette National Memorial site and is used for weddings and other programmed events.

Father Marquette National Memorial

- The Father Marquette National Memorial interprets the history of Father Marquette and his relationship to the region. A sheltered monument stands to commemorate his life.

View Areas

- Several viewing areas/ overlooks are located in the park. Sightseeing is a popular activity, especially the turning on of the bridge lights.



A.11 ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Issues and opportunities associated with Straits State Park:

- The future of the New France Discovery Center
- General decline in camping numbers since 2000
- MDOT Welcome Center and its relationship to the park
- North Country Trail beyond park boundaries
- Michigan's new trail from Belle Isle to Ironwood
- Visibility of entrance to park
- Management of the east and west units of the park due to separate access points and the Interstate dividing the units.
- Great Lakes water levels
- Relationship of park to Bridgeview Park
- Regional trail connections
- Ash tree decay due to Emerald Ash Borer
- Relationship of park to local community

A.12 PARK USE STATISTICS AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Park Use

A characterization of park use is described as follows (based on MDNR-Park Attendance Statistics):

Total number of Day-use visitors for 2012 was 36,194.

Total number of Campers for 2012 was 85,660.

Total revenues (Camping Fees) generated by the park in 2012 was \$531,344

Day-use

Summer Use Season – This is defined as the three-month period of June through August, when schools are not in session. This is the busiest season for the park, as 65% of all day-use takes place during these months.

Fall Use Season – The fall season is defined by the months of September through November. An estimated 30% of all day-use takes places within this season.

Winter Use Season – December through March marks a significant decline in park use, as only 1% of its day-use occurs during this time.

Spring Use Season – April through May shows 4% of day-use.

Camping

Summer Use Season – This is defined as the three-month period of June through August, when schools are not in session. This is the busiest season for the park, as 73% of all camping takes place during these months.

Fall Use Season – The fall season is defined by the months of September through November. An estimated 24% of all camping takes places within this season.

Winter Use Season – Camping is closed from December through March

Spring Use Season – April through May accounts for 3% of the camping.

The majority of campers at Straits State Park come from the Grand Rapids area, with significant numbers also travelling from Lansing, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Holland, Ann Arbor and the Saginaw Bay area.

Economic Impacts

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

This analysis tool relies on three primary factors in the common equation:

Economic Impact of Tourism Spending = Number of Tourists (x) Average Spending per Visitor (x) Multiplier (to estimate extended effects of direct spending).

For our purposes of conducting a very basic review of impacts, we have utilized the “MGM2-Short Form” version of the program, which simplifies the extent of analysis required for input, and utilizes more generalized multipliers for spending outputs. For the non-economist, this

provides an excellent tool for establishing a baseline assessment of the economic impacts of our parks. In order to update the model, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has been used to adjust values over time.

Following are the estimated relative economic impacts (based on 2012 use data) of Straits State Park to the economy of the region.

Direct Economic Effects to the Community

Direct spending attributable to Straits SP visitors totaled \$4,841,550 of which \$435,760 came from day-use, and \$4,357,600 from Camping.

Jobs totaled 127, with 11 related to day-use activity and 116 to camping. (Note...jobs are not full-time equivalent. They include part-time and seasonal positions.)

Personal Income total is \$1,680,550 with \$151,250 associated with day-use of the park and \$1,529,290 associated with camping.

Value added (total income plus business taxes) totaled \$2,546,570. Day-use accounted for \$229,200 and camping accounted for \$2,317,370.

Total Economic Effects to the Community

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

Total spending = \$6,988,370

Jobs = 160

Personal Income = \$2,455,630

Value added = \$3,886,060

Appendix B – Public Input Summary

Over the duration of the General Management Planning process, the Straits State Park Planning Team ensured a variety of opportunities for public input and feedback. These avenues included:

Overview of Public Input Opportunities

Public Input Survey – an online survey developed to gather general information about park visitors and their use of the park as well as recommendations for improving features and amenities offered at the park. The survey was made available for a 10-week period.

General Comments – comment cards, website comments and feedback provided by email were elicited during the General Management Planning process.

Straits State Park Website – the public could post comments on the website, which also included additional resources about the General Management Planning process. The link for the website is:
<http://www.clearzoning.com/clearzoning-clients/straits-state-park/>

Stakeholder Input Open House (September 9th, 2014) – located at Moran Township Hall. Stakeholders had the opportunity to learn about the General Management Planning process and provide input regarding the Statements of Significance and the Draft 10-Year Action Goals. Approximately 50 stakeholders were invited to the open house; nine stakeholders attended.

Public Input Meeting (October 28th, 2014) – located at St. Ignace Public Library. Members of the public were invited to learn about the General Management Planning process and comment on the Statements of Significance and the Draft 10-Year Action Goals.

DNR Stakeholder Open House

Straits State Park



We Want Your Input!!

You are invited to complete a 5-10 minute online survey, which can be found at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/StraitsStatePark>

Your input will inform the Planning Team as they develop appropriate zones and action goals for the park!

You are encouraged to visit the project website at:

<http://www.clearzoning.com/clearzoning-clients/straits-state-park/>

For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Mardy Stirling at mardy@clearzoning.com or 248.423.1776 x 15

DNR Stakeholder Open House Draft General Management Plan

Straits State Park

The Parks & Recreation Division of the DNR is in the process of developing a Management Plan for Straits State Park which includes the Father Marquette National Memorial Site. The Management Plan includes a 20-year management outlook for natural and cultural resources and educational opportunities at the park. In addition, the plan includes a set of 10-year action goals that will guide specific management decisions and enhance the visitor experience, while protecting the natural, cultural and historic resources for the enjoyment of future generations.

You and/or your group have been identified as a stakeholder, with active interests in Straits State Park. Using an open house format, the DNR will share its initial thoughts on the Draft General Management Plan and welcomes your input.

You may drop in at any time during the scheduled open house. However, we request that each stakeholder group limit itself to not more than 3 representatives, so that we may accommodate everyone based on meeting space and time constraints.

**Tuesday, September 9, 2014
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Moran Township Hall
W1362 US Hwy. 2 W
St. Ignace, MI 49781



Straits State Park

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
General Management Planning Process
Stakeholder Input Workshop

September 9, 2014
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Moran Township Hall

1. **Planning Team Introductions at 2:00 p.m.**
2. **Brief Presentation of Management Planning Process and Status at 2:05 p.m.**
 - a. Significance Statements
 - b. Development of Management Zone Maps
 - c. Action Goal Development – Draft 10-year strategies to address the desired future condition of each zone
 - d. Straits State Park Planning Team Draft Action Goals organized by:
 - ☐ General Action Goals
 - ☐ Scenic Zone
 - ☐ Natural Resource Recreation Zone
 - ☐ Developed Recreation Zone
 - ☐ Administrative Zone (formerly Visitor Services Zone)
 - ☐ Scenic Overlay Zone
 - ☐ Education Overlay
 - e. Priority Exercise explained
 - f. Action Goals input sheets described
 - g. Questions and Answers
3. **Open House at 2:30 p.m.**
 - a. You are invited to visit each of the stations and talk to Planning Team members
 - b. Sticky notes are available to comment on Management Zone Map
 - c. Color dots are available for you to identify your priority actions (please limit yourself to 10 dots)
 - d. “Additional Input” sheets are available for you to contribute additional suggested actions goals
4. **Adjournment at 4:00 p.m.**

Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/StraitsStatePark>

For More Information:

Project Website: <http://www.clearzoning.com/clearzoning-clients/straits-state-park/>

DNR Management Planning Website: www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans

Email: JensenD1@michigan.gov, Mardy@clearzoning.com or Dave@clearzoning.com

Phone: 517.284.6105 (Debbie Jensen, DNR-PRD Management Administration) or 248.423.1776 (Clearzoning)



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Stakeholder Input Workshop Attendees			
Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Rebecca Simmons	Marion Township Resident	Ellen Bonoit	EUP Regional Planning and Development
Pete Paramski	MDOT	Tom Bailey	Little Traverse Conservancy
Mary Lynn Swiderski	County Commissioner	Robert West	US Forest Service
Gary Gorniak	Straits Area Snowmobile Club	Dave Rusch	MDOT
Jim Durm	Township of Moran Friends of Straits State Park		

General Action Goals				
<p>Many of the 10-Year Action Goals for Straits State Park are general in nature and apply within all of the management zones. These often deal with park-wide issues, such as invasive species control, universal access, developing Stewardship, Wildlife and Emergency plans, or marketing the park's many recreational opportunities to a wider audience of potential users. Many of the overall maintenance and operational issues of running a state park also result in the need for actions across all zone boundaries, such as law enforcement.</p>				
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Priority Stickers (Stakeholders)
Natural Resources				
1. Develop Stewardship Plan	3-5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship	Stewardship Ecologist	2
2. Implement Stewardship Plan for the park	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager Stewardship	2
3. Implement early detection and rapid response to invasive species control	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager	2
Historic/Cultural Resources				
1. Continue to protect historic and cultural resources	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Historical Center SHPO Regional Planner	Park Manager Stewardship Historical Center	3
2. Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources	Ongoing	Stewardship Office of State Archaeologist Regional Planner	Cultural Resource Analyst Historical Center	3
Recreation Opportunities				
1. Provide amenities to support water and land trail users	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager	4
2. Help facilitate improved land and water trail connections with local, regional and state partners	Ongoing	Regional Planner Park Manager Trails Coordinator	Regional Planner Park Manager Trails Coordinator	3
Education/Interpretation Opportunities				
1. Work with Friends of Straits State Park to develop specific interpretation and education opportunities of the Father Marquette National Memorial site	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Historical Center Marketing & Outreach Friends of Straits State Park	Park Manager Historical Center	3
2. Develop an interpretive plan that utilizes a variety of traditional and new media, including audio and visual technologies, podcasts, and other emerging technologies for interpretation opportunities	2 Years	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	2
3. Implement the Interpretive Plan	3-5 Years	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	2
<p>Additional Comments from Post-It Notes:</p> <p>Amenities - parking area, launch site, boat racks.</p> <p>Lake Superior Water Trail Canadian Connection - Lake Michigan, Lake Huron.</p> <p>Consider mini-OAC as interpretive and natural resource center.</p>				

General Action Goals				
Management Focus				Priority Stickers (Stakeholders)
1. Establish strong holistic management focus of Straits State Park and Father Marquette National Museum as a unit	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager	4
2. Continue to support PRD and local initiatives to explore and develop revenue generating opportunities that are sustainable	Ongoing	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Historical Center	1
3. Continue to complete and comply with annual safety inspections and plans	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager	
4. Develop a Marketing Plan to reposition Straits from an overnight stop to a destination State park	5 Years	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach Recreation Programmer Historical Center	Park Manager Historical Center	1
5. Support PRD effort to raise awareness of Straits State Park and Father Marquette National Memorial	5 Years	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach Historical Center	Park Manager Historical Center	
6. Continue to collaborate with community partners to support the mutual goals of PRD and the local partners	Ongoing	Park Manager Historical Center Local Partners Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Local Partners	4
Development				
1. Maintain park facilities and infrastructure consistent with Capital Outlay priorities (i.e. roads, electrical system...etc.)	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager	1
2. Continue to focus on providing barrier-free accessibility	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner Historical Center	Park Manager	
3. Evaluate feasibility of safe physical connection that bridges the gap created by I-75	5-10 Years	Regional Planner MDOT Bridge Authority Park Manager PRD Trails Section Historical Center	Regional Planner	7
4. Assess and enhance trail system within the park	Ongoing	Regional Planner Park Manager	Park Manager	
Additional Comments from Post-It Notes:				
<p>Include MDOT as part of holistic approach to management and operations. There must be a physical connection to integrate both parts of the park. Don't just evaluate; DO IT! In nonmotorized transportation planning for region - a big priority to the public. Improve path connection for bicyclists travelling US BR35 - across Mackinac Bridge - to Welcome Center to MSP.</p>				

Scenic Zone				
The Scenic Zone recognizes there are certain areas within Straits State Park with aesthetic qualities to be preserved and protected. The 10-Year Action Plan goals permit only moderate levels of recreation, along with compatible development to support visitor access with the purpose of enjoying the scenic views of the Straits of Mackinac and the Mackinac Bridge.				
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Priority Stickers (Stakeholders)
Management Focus				
1. Provide vegetative management to maintain or enhance the views	Ongoing	Regional Planner Park Manager	Park Manager	1
2. Improve scenic outlooks and add opportunities for interpretation	Ongoing	Stewardship Ecologist Regional Planner Park Manager Marketing & Outreach Historical Center	Park Manager	2
Development				
1. Develop a bridge overlook pavilion at the day use area	3-5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager	2

Natural Resource Recreation Zone				
Active recreation, at medium to high density of use, conducted in natural areas is the hallmark of the Natural Resource Recreation Zone. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but in this zone, moderate levels of uses are allowed. Vegetation may be managed to facilitate recreational use and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape, as well as to address such things as hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. The 10-Year Action Goals are intended to promote moderate to high levels of recreation compatible with the natural character of the zone. Action goals are designed to ensure that visitors will be engaged in outdoor activities in diverse natural land settings, such as hiking, backpacking, back-country and rustic camping, bicycling, nature observation, and cross country skiing.				
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Priority Stickers (Stakeholders)
Natural Resources				
1. Maintain forest character of land east of the day use area to retain Upper Peninsula context	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Ecologist	Park Manager	5
Historic/Cultural Resources				
None identified at this time				
Education/Interpretation Opportunities				
Recreation Opportunities				
None identified at this time				
Management Focus				
None identified at this time				
Development				
None proposed at this time				
Additional Comments From Post-It Notes: Night Activity such as full moon hikes, etc. can help capitalize on Dark Sky interest.				

Developed Recreation Zone				
Active recreation with high density of use, conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance, is characteristic of the Developed Recreation Zone. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced where possible. More than half of the park is designated as Developed Recreation Zone. Straits State Park's day-use and camping areas are located in this zone.				
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Priority Stickers (Stakeholders)
Natural Resources				
None identified at this time				
Historic/Cultural Resources				
None identified at this time				
Education/Interpretation Opportunities				
1. Develop a natural and cultural resources interpretive plan	1-3 Years	Historical Center Marketing & Outreach Park Manager	Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	
Recreation Opportunities				
1. Evaluate the need and assess the feasibility of providing overnight accommodations and amenities for long distance hikers/bikers	2-5 Years	Park Manager PRD Trails Section	Park Manager	
2. Provide wi-fi in campground	2-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager	2
3. Evaluate strategies for revitalizing day use facility in a way that highlights the natural characteristics of the area.	2 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager Regional Planner	
4. Explore emerging, new ideas for small-scale overnight accommodations	5-10 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager	
Management Focus				
1. Maintain and improve facilities and structures consistent with Capital Outlay priorities	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager	1
2. Determine feasibility of providing a pet-friendly area	1-3 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager	1
Development				
1. Replace playground with a universally accessible structure	2-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager	
2. Add alternative, modern overnight accommodations (ex: cabins with water and bathrooms)	3-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager	1
3. Improve ADA access to shoreline	2-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager	
4. Add additional 50 amp service and pull-through sites at campground	2-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager	
5. Replace two lower campground toilet/shower buildings.	1 Year	Park Manager	Park Manager	
Additional Comments From Post-It Notes:				
Night Sky is a key resource to capitalize on the success of the Headlands. Address gap in pet needs with dog run at either park or MDOT area. Consider remodel or upgrade/rehab versus replace.				

Administrative Zone (formerly known as Visitor Services Zone)				
This zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. It includes the headquarters offices and maintenance facilities with the associated land required to conduct the business of running Straits State Park.				
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Priority Stickers (Stakeholders)
Management Focus				
None identified at this time				
Development				
1. Develop plan for reuse of park residence	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager	1
2. Build a new shop building then remove old shop building and let area return to natural condition	3-5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager	
3. Upgrade the appearance and function of the headquarters and visitor welcome area	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager	1

Cultural Landscape Zone				
The Cultural Landscape Zone is the Father Marquette National Memorial. This Zone should be managed to protect and preserve the Memorial as a significant education resource for the park and the Straits region.				
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Priority Stickers (Stakeholders)
Management Focus				
1. Continue to manage Father Marquette National Memorial as a historically and culturally significant site	Ongoing	Park Manager Historical Center	Park Manager Historical Center	4
Education/Interpretation Opportunities				
1. Evaluate and update the existing interpretation	2-5 Years	Park Manager Historical Center	Historical Center	
Development				
None proposed at this time				3
Recreation Opportunities				
None identified at this time				1

Scenic Overlay Zone				
The Scenic Overlay Zone is applied to entire shoreline in recognition of the scenic value it provides of the Straits of Mackinac and the Mackinac Bridge and views of the park from the bridge and the water				
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Priority Stickers (Stakeholders)
Management Focus				
1. Provide vegetative management to maintain or enhance the views	Ongoing	Stewardship Ecologist Park Manager	Park Manager	
2. Improve ADA access to shoreline	2-5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager	

DNR Public Open House

Straits State Park



We Want Your Input!!

Your input will inform the Planning Team as they develop appropriate zones and action goals for the park!

The draft plan is available for review online on the project's website at:

<http://www.clearzoning.com/clearzoning-clients/straits-state-park/>

Additional information on the DNR's General Management Plan process is available at

<http://www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans/>

For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Mardy Stirling at mardy@clearzoning.com or 248.423.1776 x 15

DNR Public Open House

Draft General Management Plan

Straits State Park

The Parks & Recreation Division of the DNR is in the process of developing a Management Plan for Straits State Park which includes the Father Marquette National Memorial Site. The Management Plan includes a 20-year management outlook for natural and cultural resources and educational opportunities at the park. In addition, the plan includes a set of 10-year action goals that will guide specific management decisions and enhance the visitor experience, while protecting the natural, cultural and historic resources for the enjoyment of future generations.

Using an open house format, the DNR will share its initial thoughts on the Draft General Management Plan and welcomes your input. **You may drop in at any time during the scheduled open house.**

Tuesday, October 28, 2014
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

St. Ignace Public Library
Community Room
110 W. Spruce St.
St. Ignace, MI 49781





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DNR to hold public input meeting Oct. 28 on new General Management Plan for Straits State Park, including Father Marquette National Memorial Site

Contact: [Debbie Jensen](#), 517-284-6105 or [Debbie Munson Badini](#), 906-226-1352
Agency: Natural Resources

Oct. 17, 2014

The Department of Natural Resources will hold a public open house Tuesday, Oct. 28, to invite public input on a new draft General Management Plan for Straits State Park, including the Father Marquette National Memorial site. The open house will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the St. Ignace Public Library Community Room, 110 W. Spruce St., in St. Ignace, Michigan.

[Straits State Park](#), located on the shores of the Straits of Mackinac less than a mile from downtown St. Ignace, is at the gateway to the Upper Peninsula, making it a convenient stopover for those wishing to explore the many attractions in the region. The park provides a large modern campground, a day-use area and spectacular bridge views, and is home to the [Father Marquette National Memorial](#).

The General Management Plan for Straits State Park defines a long-range planning and management strategy that will assist the DNR Parks and Recreation Division in meeting its responsibilities to protect and preserve the site's natural and cultural resources, and to provide access to land- and water-based public recreation and educational opportunities. The draft plan is available for review online at www.clearzoning.com/clearzoning-clients/straits-state-park.

Additional information on the DNR's General Management Plan process is available at www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans.

Public input is an important part of the planning process. The meeting will begin with a short presentation of the draft plan, but members of the public are welcome to attend at any time during the two-hour period to review the planning material, provide comments and talk to DNR staff.

For more information about the public input open house or the Draft General Management Plan, contact DNR park management plan administrator Debbie Jensen at 517-284-6105 (TTY/TDD711 Michigan Relay Center for the hearing impaired) or via email at Jensend1@michigan.gov. Persons with disabilities who need accommodations for the meeting should contact Debbie Jensen at least five business days before the meeting.

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

Straits State Park

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
General Management Planning Process
Public Open House
October 28, 2014
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
St. Ignace Public Library

1. **Planning Team Introductions at 6:00 p.m.**
2. **Brief Presentation of Management Planning Process and Status at 6:15 p.m.**
 - a. Significance Statements
 - b. Development of Management Zone Maps
 - c. Action Goal Development – Draft 10-year strategies to address the desired future condition of each zone
 - d. Straits State Park Planning Team Draft Action Goals organized by:
 - Scenic Zone
 - Natural Resource Recreation Zone
 - Developed Recreation Zone
 - Administrative Zone (formerly Visitor Services Zone)
 - Cultural Landscape Zone
 - History Education Zone
 - Scenic Overlay
 - General Action Goals
 - e. Priority Exercise explained
 - f. Action Goals input sheets described
 - g. Questions and Answers
3. **Open House at 6:30 p.m.**
 - a. You are invited to visit each of the stations and talk to Planning Team members
 - b. Sticky notes are available to comment on Management Zone Map
 - c. Color dots are available for you to identify your priority actions (please limit yourself to 10 dots)
 - d. “Additional Input” sheets are available for you to contribute additional suggested actions goals
4. **Adjournment at 8:00 p.m.**

For More Information:

Project Website: <http://www.clearzoning.com/clearzoning-clients/straits-state-park/>

DNR Management Planning Website: www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans

Email: JensenD1@michigan.gov, Mardy@clearzoning.com or Dave@clearzoning.com

Phone: 517.284.6105 (Debbie Jensen, DNR-PRD Management Administration) or 248.423.1776 (Clearzoning)



clearzoning

Straits State Park - Public Input Open House Attendees			
Name	Affiliation (Optional)	Name	Affiliation (Optional)
Chris Kittell	Moran Township Planning	NB Lundsmith	
Becky Simmons	Moran Township Resident	Dan Litzner	
Kay Kujawa	North Country Trail	Shirley Sorels	
Stan Kujawa	North Country Trail	Betsy Turf	
Mindy Rutgers	St. Ignace Visitors Bureau	Alan Turf	
John Miller	Self	Dean I. Reid	Mackinac Co Planning Commission
Jim Durm	Moran Township	Mary Lynn Swederstein	Mackinac County Commissioner
Erick Doerr	St. Ignace News	Dave Kunze	
Cheryl Schlehuber	Father Marquette Friend	Mary Sue Kunze	
Jim Schlehuber		Jill Eyre	
Sue and Andy Steffel		Alicia Schlehuber	
Patty & Bill Peek	Michilimackinac Historical Society	Mike Lilliquist	MDOT Welcome Center

General Action Goals				
<p>Many of the 10-Year Action Goals for Straits State Park are general in nature and apply within all of the management zones. These often deal with park-wide issues, such as invasive species control, universal access, developing Stewardship, Wildlife and Emergency plans, or marketing the park's many recreational opportunities to a wider audience of potential users. Many of the overall maintenance and operational issues of running a state park also result in the need for actions across all zone boundaries, such as law enforcement.</p>				
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Priority Stickers (Public Open House)
Natural Resources				
1. Develop Stewardship Plan (Natural Resource Plan)	3-5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship	Stewardship Ecologist	
2. Implement Stewardship Plan for the park	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager Stewardship	
3. Implement early detection and rapid response to invasive species control	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager	4
Historic/Cultural Resources				
1. Continue to protect historic and cultural resources	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Historical Center SHPO Regional Planner	Park Manager Stewardship Historical Center	6
2. Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources	Ongoing	Stewardship Office of State Archaeologist Regional Planner	Cultural Resource Analyst Historical Center	
Recreation Opportunities				
1. Provide amenities to support water and land trail users	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager	2
2. Help facilitate improved land and water trail connections with local, regional and state partners	Ongoing	Regional Planner Park Manager Trail Coordinator Recreation Partners	Regional Planner Park Manager	3
3. Promote birding as a park activity, especially raptor migration, to draw new visitors.	Ongoing	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach	4
Education/Interpretation Opportunities				
1. Work with Friends of Straits State Park and other stakeholders to develop specific interpretation and education opportunities of the Father Marquette National Memorial site	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Historical Center Marketing & Outreach Friends of Straits State Park	Park Manager Historical Center	8
2. Develop an interpretive plan that utilizes a variety of traditional and new media, including audio and visual technologies, podcasts, and other emerging technologies for interpretation opportunities	2 Years	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	3
3. Implement the Interpretive Plan	3-5 Years	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	2

General Action Goals (continued)				
Management Focus				Priority Stickers (Public Open House)
1. Establish strong holistic management focus of Straits State Park and Father Marquette National Museum as a unit	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager	7
2. Continue to support PRD and local initiatives to explore and develop revenue generating opportunities that are sustainable	Ongoing	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Historical Center	2
3. Continue to complete and comply with annual safety inspections and plans	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager	1
4. Develop a Marketing Plan to reposition Straits from an overnight stop to a destination State park	5 Years	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach Recreation Programmer Historical Center	Park Manager Historical Center	6
5. Support PRD effort to raise awareness of Straits State Park and Father Marquette National Memorial	5 Years	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach Historical Center	Park Manager Historical Center	
6. Continue to collaborate with community partners to support the mutual goals of PRD and the local partners	Ongoing	Park Manager Historical Center Local Partners Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Local Partners	2
7. Continue to support community events and programs and ensure coordination with partners to enhance the visitor experience	Ongoing	Park Manager Community Partners	Park Manager Community Partners	2
Development				
1. Maintain park facilities and infrastructure consistent with Capital Outlay priorities (i.e. roads, electrical system...etc.)	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager	
2. Continue to strive towards Universal Accessibility for all development opportunities	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner Historical Center	Park Manager	
3. Pursue the feasibility of a connection, bridging the gap between the east and west units created by I-75, through local, state and regional partnerships.	5-10 Years	Regional Planner MDOT Bridge Authority Park Manager PRD Trails Section Historical Center	Regional Planner	27
4. Assess and enhance trail system within the park and interface with other trail systems in the area.	Ongoing	Regional Planner Park Manager	Park Manager	11

Scenic Zone				
The Scenic Zone recognizes there are certain areas within Straits State Park with aesthetic qualities to be preserved and protected. The 10-Year Action Plan goals permit only moderate levels of recreation, along with compatible development to support visitor access with the purpose of enjoying the scenic views of the Straits of Mackinac and the Mackinac Bridge.				
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Priority Stickers (Public Open House)
Management Focus				
1. Provide vegetative management to maintain or enhance the viewscapes	Ongoing	Regional Planner Park Manager	Park Manager	5
2. Improve scenic outlooks and add opportunities for interpretation	Ongoing	Stewardship Ecologist Regional Planner Park Manager Marketing & Outreach Historical Center	Park Manager	6
Development				
1. Develop a bridge overlook pavilion at the day use area	3-5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager	3

Natural Resource Recreation Zone				
Active recreation, at medium to high density of use, conducted in natural areas is the hallmark of the Natural Resource Recreation Zone. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but in this zone, moderate levels of uses are allowed. Vegetation may be managed to facilitate recreational use and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape, as well as to address such things as hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. The 10-Year Action Goals are intended to promote moderate to high levels of recreation compatible with the natural character of the zone. Action goals are designed to ensure that visitors will be engaged in outdoor activities in diverse natural land settings, such as hiking, backpacking, back-country and rustic camping, bicycling, nature observation, and cross country skiing.				
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Priority Stickers (Public Open House)
Natural Resources				
1. Maintain forest character of land east of the day use area to retain Upper Peninsula context	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Ecologist	Park Manager	5
Recreation Opportunities				
1. Provide a hiking trail loop and assess interpretation opportunities.	5 Years	Marketing & Outreach Park Manager Regional Planner	Regional Planner	4
Development				
1. Remove the old shop building and let the area return to a natural condition (after construction of new building in Administrative Zone).	3-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager	
Public Open House Comments: Day use pavilion should be on or near the North Country Trail				

Developed Recreation Zone				
Active recreation with high density of use, conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance, is characteristic of the Developed Recreation Zone. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced where possible. More than half of the park is designated as Developed Recreation Zone. Straits State Park's day-use and camping areas are located in this zone.				
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Priority Stickers (Public Open House)
Education/Interpretation Opportunities				
1. Develop a natural and cultural resources interpretive plan	1-3 Years	Historical Center Marketing & Outreach Park Manager	Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	5
Recreation Opportunities				
1. Evaluate the need and assess the feasibility of providing overnight accommodations and amenities for long distance hikers/bikers	2-5 Years	Park Manager PRD Trails Section	Park Manager	2
2. Provide wi-fi in campground	2-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager	6
3. Evaluate creative strategies for revitalizing day use facility in a way that highlights the natural characteristics of the area.	2 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager Regional Planner	
4. Explore emerging, new ideas for small-scale overnight accommodations	5-10 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager	1
Management Focus				
1. Maintain and improve facilities and structures consistent with Capital Outlay priorities	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager	
2. Determine feasibility of providing a pet-friendly area	1-3 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager	3
Development				
1. Replace playground with a universally accessible structure	2-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager	
2. Add alternative, modern overnight accommodations (ex: cabins with water and bathrooms)	3-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager	2
3. Improve universal accessibility within the park and at the shoreline	2-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager	
4. Add additional 50 amp service and pull-through sites at campground	2-5 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager	2
5. Replace two lower campground toilet/shower buildings.	1 Year	Park Manager	Park Manager	
Public Open House Comments: Improve signage for North County Trail - both large and small. Expand water front area for RV-Larger Rigs who won't currently stay in here. Expand the North Country Trail across I75 to park and through Boulevard Park area Pedestrian bridge should be built to connect campground to Memorial site.				

History Education Zone				
<p>In recognition of the historical, cultural, and geographical significance of Father Marquette National Memorial, this area of the park is designated as a History Education Zone. The emphasis of this zone is visitor education and interpretation of the natural, cultural and historic resources related to the Father Marquette National Memorial and the region. Any future development in this zone shall require emphasis on the Father Marquette National Memorial and the region to promote understanding of these resources.</p>				
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Priority Stickers (Public Open House)
Natural Resources				
1. Maintain forest character of the History Education Zone to maintain the context.	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Ecologist	Park Manager	
Historic/Cultural Resources				
1. Continue to foster relationships with related cultural resource partners.	Ongoing	Historical Center Park Manager Friends of Straits State Park	Historical Center	6
Education/Interpretation Opportunities				
1. Develop an Interpretive Plan of Father Marquette National Memorial and New France that is integrated into Interpretive Plan of Straits State Park	1-5 Years	Historical Center Park Manager Regional Planner	Historical Center Regional Planner	12
2. Interpret Mackinac Bridge in cooperation with the Bridge Authority	2-5 Years	Historical Center Park Manager Regional Planner	Historical Center	2
Management Focus				
1. Continue to participate in and support facilitation of creative planning and development of Father Marquette National Memorial site to increase visitation and enhance the visitor experience	Ongoing	Historical Center Park Manager Regional Planner	Historical Center Regional Planner	6
2. Foster public/private partnerships to assist with the revitalization of this zone	Ongoing	Historical Center Park Manager Regional Planner	Historical Center Park Manager Regional Planner	4
Development				
1. Facilitate a collaborative process to work toward an agreed upon site development plan with an education mission that includes importance and role of Father Marquette, Native Americans and the Mackinac Bridge in historical development of the region	1-5 Years	Historical Center Park Manager Regional Planner Friends of Straits State Park Local Community Recognized Tribes	Historical Center Regional Planner	15
<p>Developing an educational (year round) public/private partnership at Father Marquette Park. Build a center to showcase the area artifacts example: Fort deBuade Museum - cultural center Comments under "Priority Stickers" were provided by Stakeholders. All Other Changes to the Action Goals designed/developed by the Planning Team. Become a regional destination for cultural and historical education. My 2 top priorities would be to build a museum to tell the natives people story (Father Marquette area) and foot bridge over I-75 to connect both sides.</p>				

Administrative Zone				
This zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. It includes the headquarters offices and maintenance facilities with the associated land required to conduct the business of running Straits State Park.				
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Priority Stickers (Public Open House)
Development				
1. Develop plan for reuse of park residence	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager	1
2. Construct new shop building	3-5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager	1
3. Upgrade the appearance and function of the headquarters and visitor welcome area	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager	

Cultural Landscape Zone				
The Cultural Landscape Zone is the Father Marquette National Memorial. This Zone should be managed to protect and preserve the Memorial as a significant education resource for the park and the Straits region.				
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Priority Stickers (Public Open House)
Management Focus				
1. Continue to manage Father Marquette National Memorial as a historically and culturally significant site	Ongoing	Park Manager Historical Center	Park Manager Historical Center	13
Education/Interpretation Opportunities				
1. Evaluate and update the existing interpretation	2-5 Years	Park Manager Historical Center	Historical Center	6

Scenic Overlay				
The Scenic Overlay Zone is applied to entire shoreline in recognition of the scenic value it provides of the Straits of Mackinac and the Mackinac Bridge and views of the park from the bridge and the water				
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position	Priority Stickers (Public Open House)
Management Focus				
1. Provide vegetative management to maintain or enhance the views	Ongoing	Stewardship Ecologist Park Manager	Park Manager	
2. Improve universal access to the shoreline	2-5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager	



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DNR seeks public input on new General Management Plan for Straits State Park

Contact: [Debbie Jensen](#), 517-284-6105 or [Debbie Munson Badini](#), 906-226-1352
Agency: Natural Resources

Aug. 4, 2014

The Department of Natural Resources today announced it is seeking public input on a new General Management Plan to guide the future of Straits State Park, including the [Father Marquette National Memorial](#) site. The park is located just north of the Mackinac Bridge and includes 181 acres both east and west of I-75.

Public input is an important part of the planning process and there are several upcoming opportunities for people to share their opinions and ideas. The first is via online survey, available through Sept. 14, 2014, at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/StraitsStatePark>. Survey results will provide valuable information to the planning team. The DNR will also host an open house later this year (details yet to be determined), providing another chance for public input and information sharing.

[Straits State Park](#), located on the shores of the Straits of Mackinac less than a mile from downtown St. Ignace, is at the gateway to the Upper Peninsula, making it a convenient stop for those wishing to explore the many attractions in the region. The park houses the Father Marquette National Memorial and provides a large modern campground, a day-use area and spectacular views of the Mackinac Bridge.

The DNR uses General Management Plans to define long-range planning and management strategies for state parks and recreation areas. This General Management Plan will assist the DNR Parks and Recreation Division in meeting its responsibilities to 1) protect and preserve Straits State Park's natural and cultural resources and 2) provide access to quality land- and water-based public recreation and education opportunities. Learn more about the DNR's General Management Plan process at www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans.

For more information about the Straits State Park survey or the proposed plan, contact Debbie Jensen at 517-284-6105 (TTY/TDD711 Michigan Relay Center for the hearing-impaired).

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

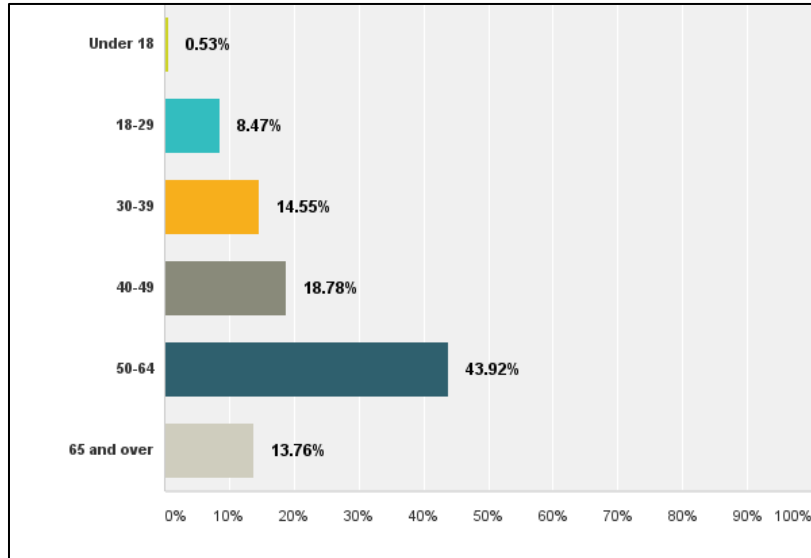


Public Input Survey Results

Please refer the full summary report
available on the project website

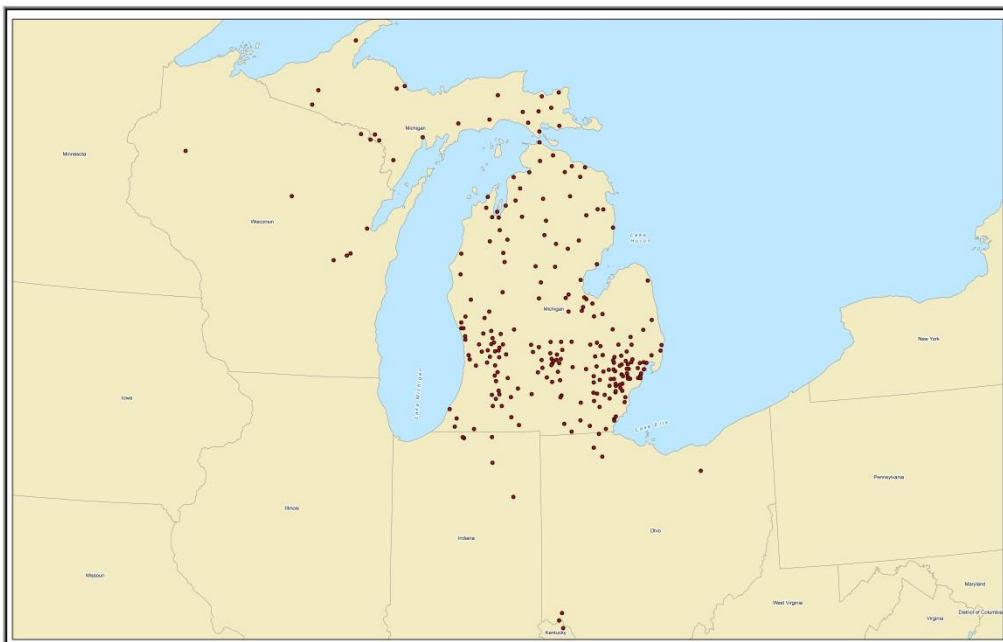
Q1: What is your age?

Answered: 378 Skipped: 2



Q2: What is the zip code of your primary address?

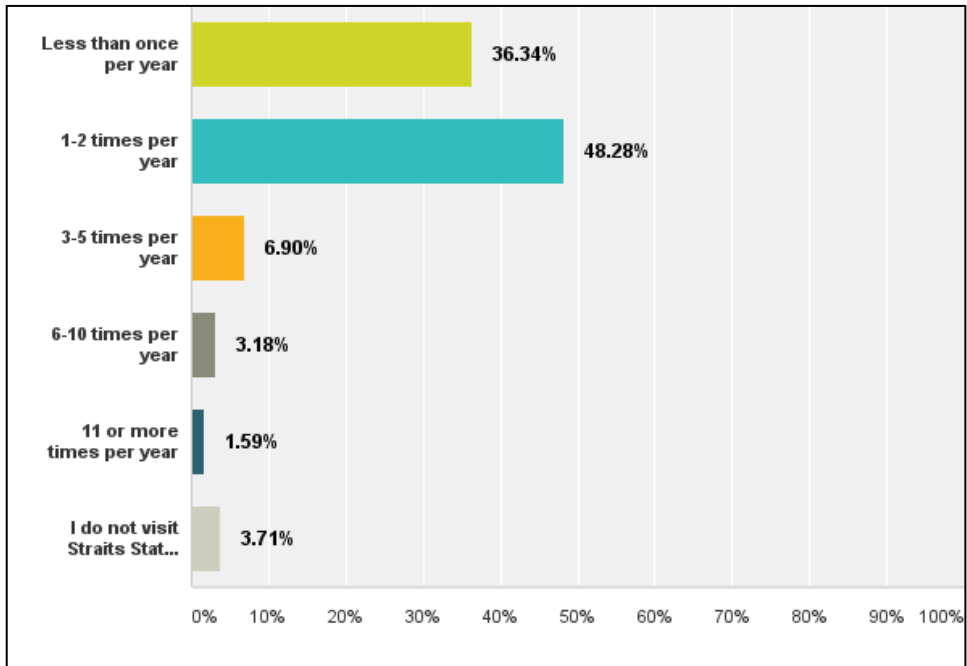
Answered: 378 Skipped: 2



The majority of survey respondents were from Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana and Ohio, with the majority of respondents from Kent County and the St. Ignace area of Michigan. There were also survey respondents from Tennessee and Utah.

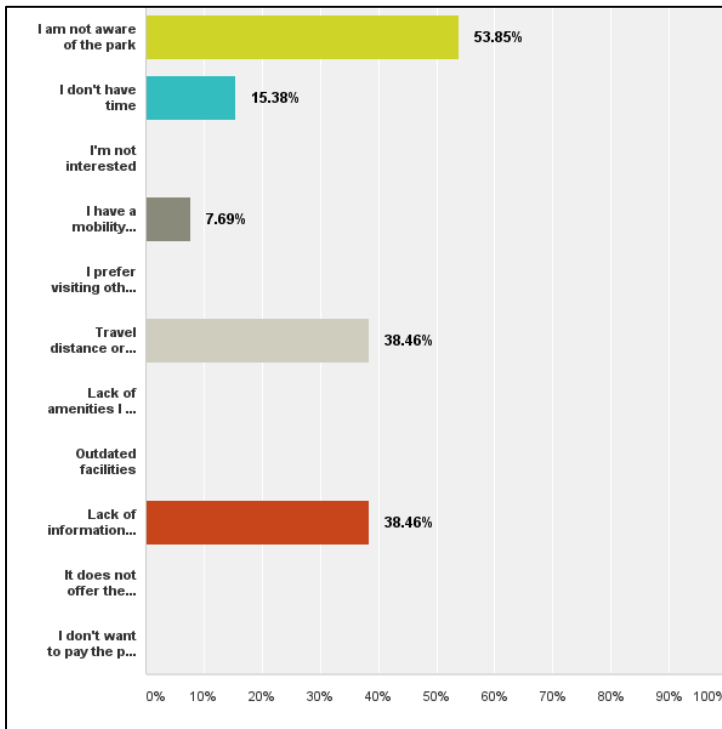
Q3: How many times per year do you visit Straits State Park?

Answered: 377 Skipped: 3



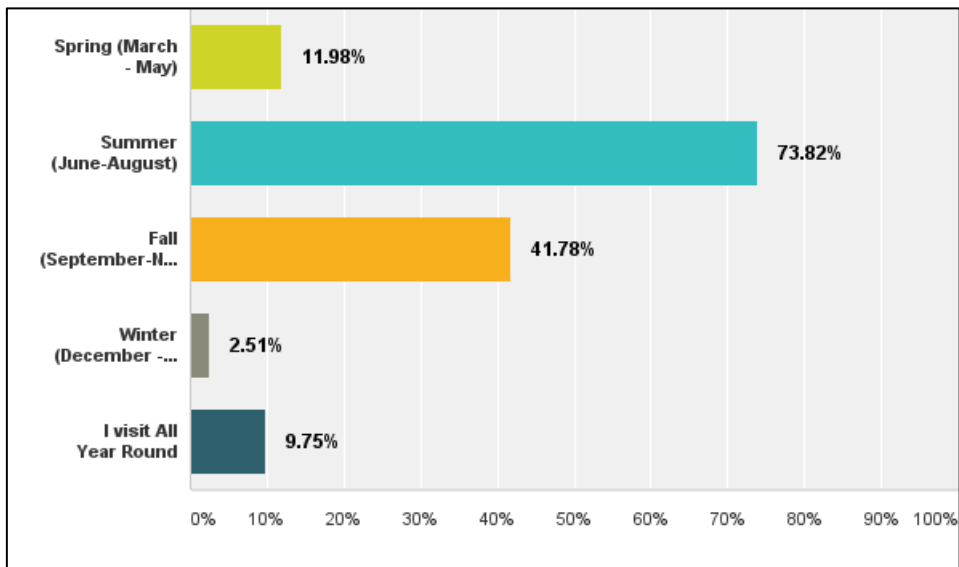
Q4: What is your reason(s) for not visiting Straits State Park?

Answered: 13 Skipped: 367



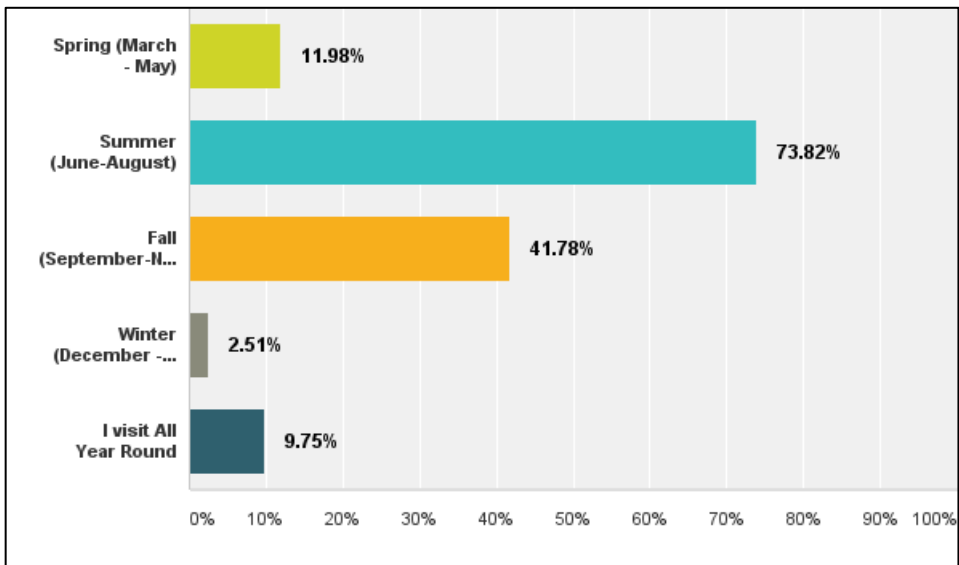
Q6: During what season do you visit Straits State Park?

Answered: 359 Skipped: 21



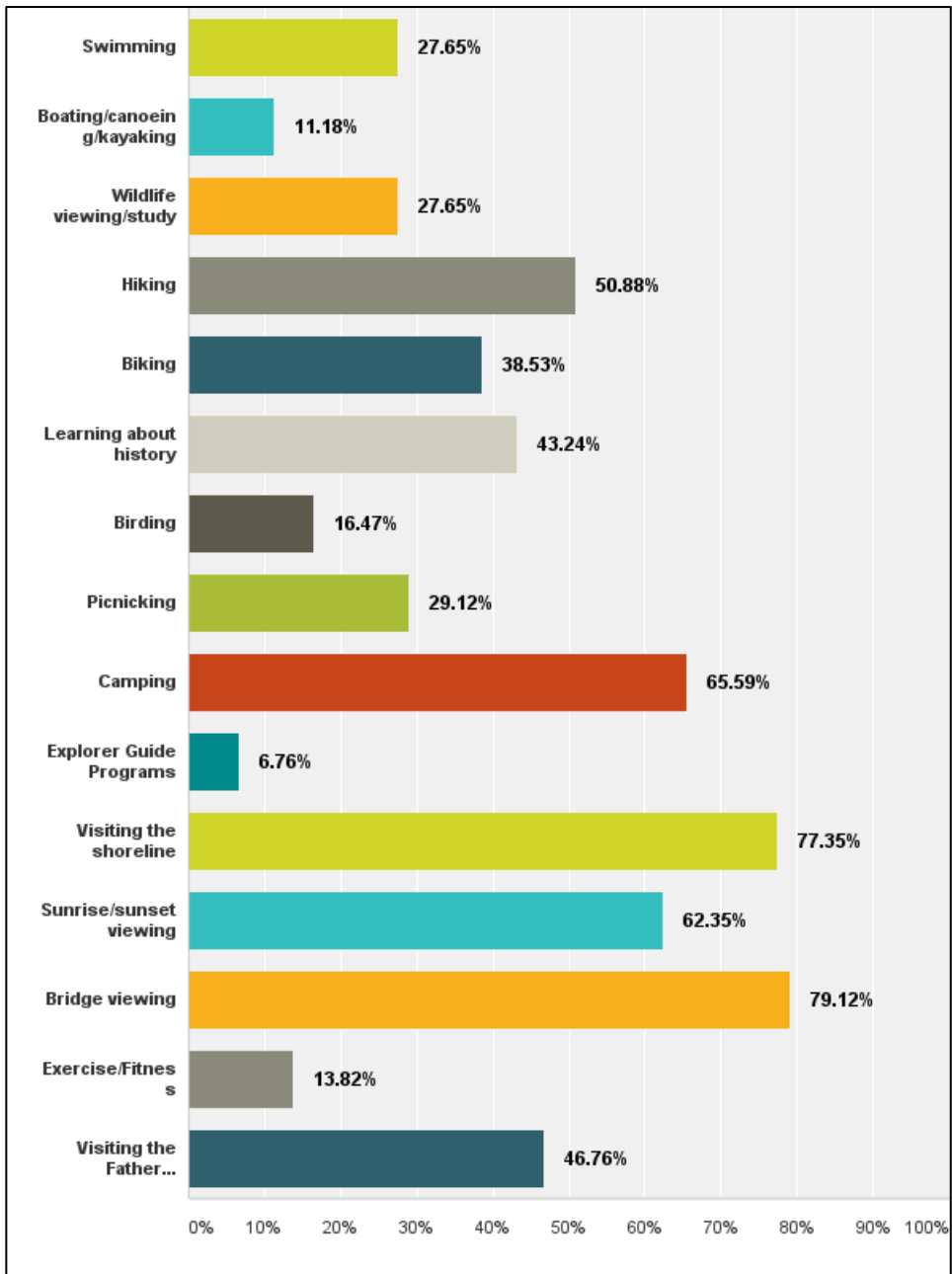
Q7: Do you typically visit the park with children under the age of 18?

Answered: 358 Skipped: 22



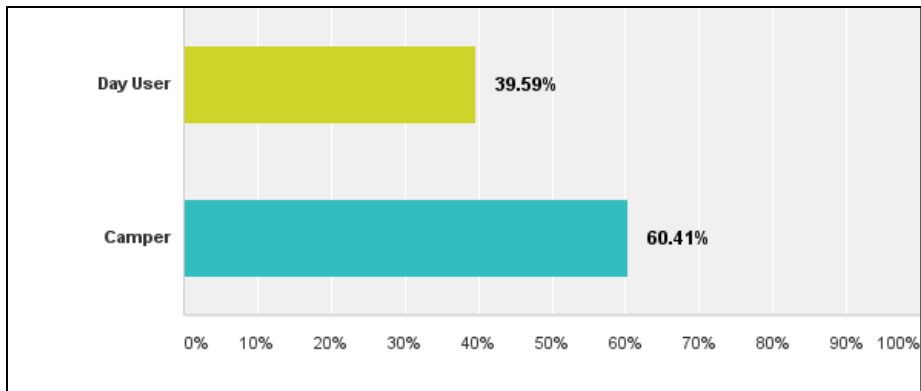
Q8: What activities have you participated in at the park?

Answered: 340 Skipped: 40



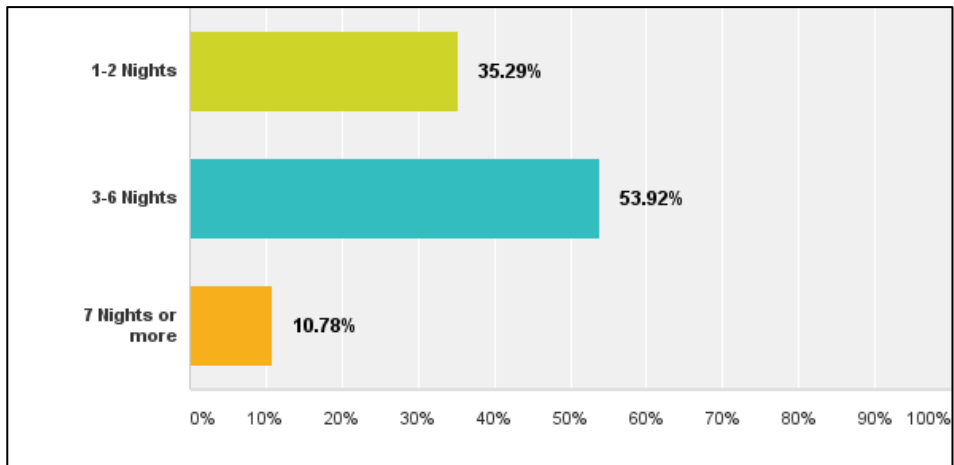
Q10: Do you typically visit the park as a day user or overnight camper?

Answered: 341 Skipped: 39

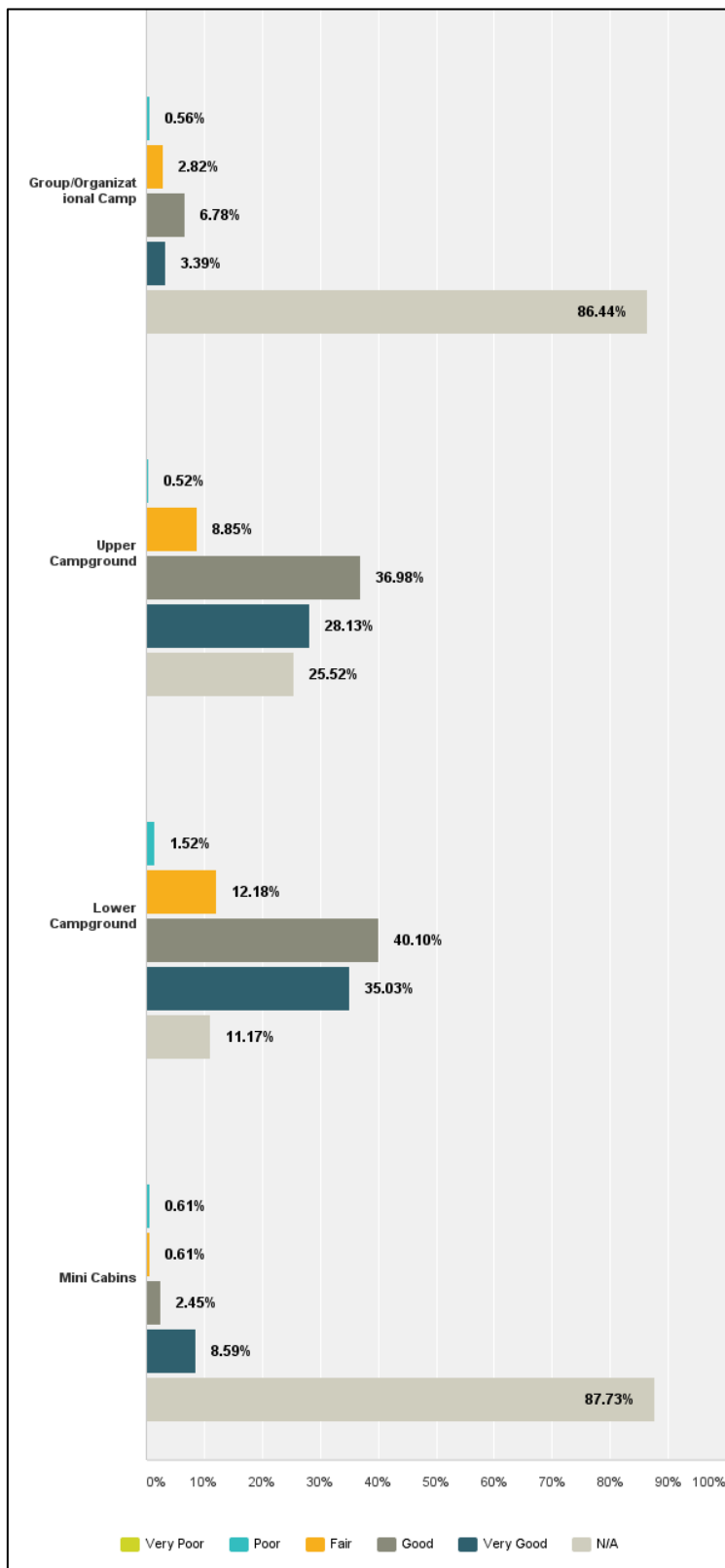


Q11: As a Camper, what is your typical length of stay?

Answered: 204 Skipped: 176

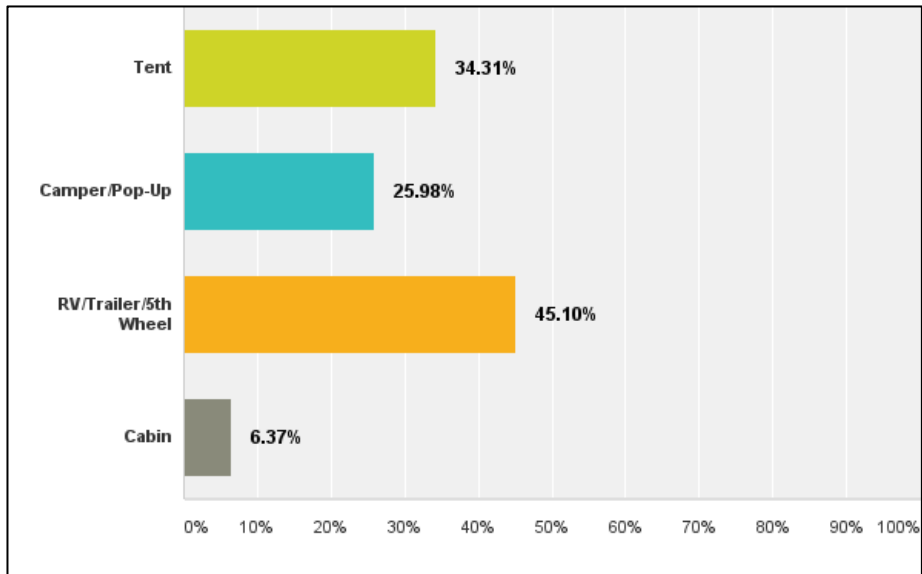


Q12: As a camper, how would you rate your experience with the following overnight accommodations? Answered: 203 Skipped: 177



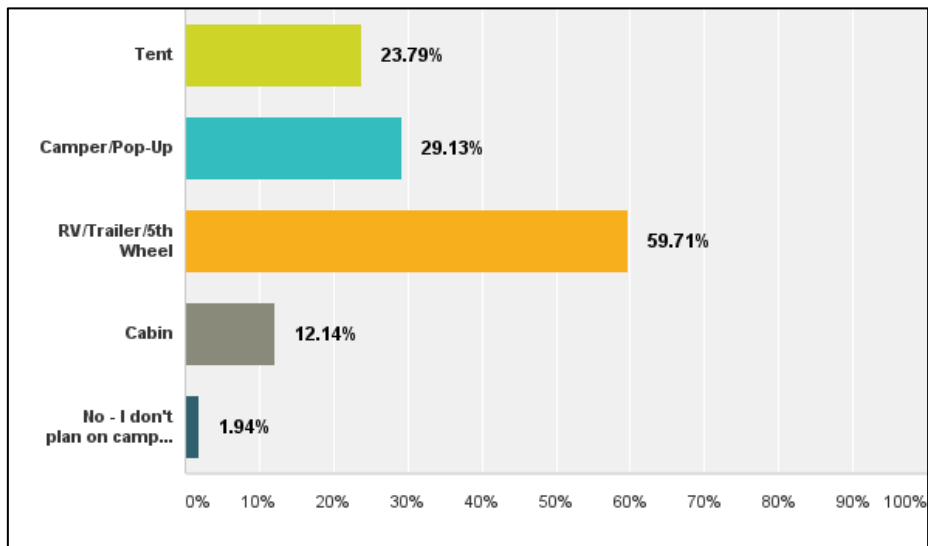
Q13: How do you camp today?

Answered: 204 Skipped: 176



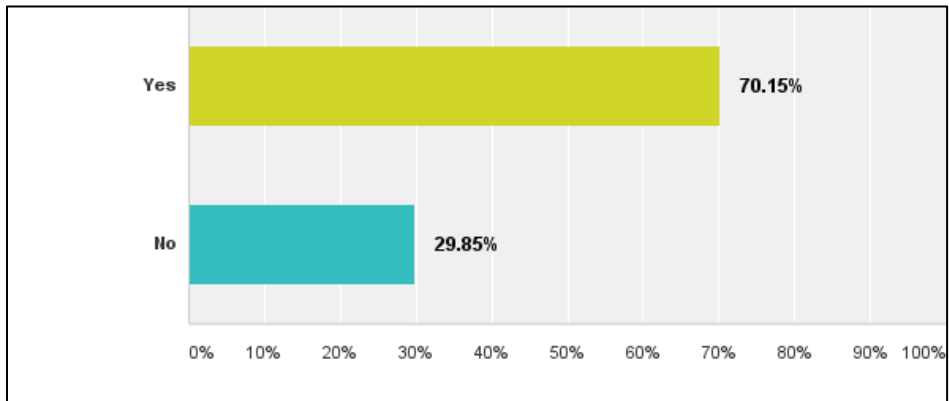
Q14: Do you plan on camping 10 years from now? What kind of accommodations will you likely use?

Answered: 206 Skipped: 174



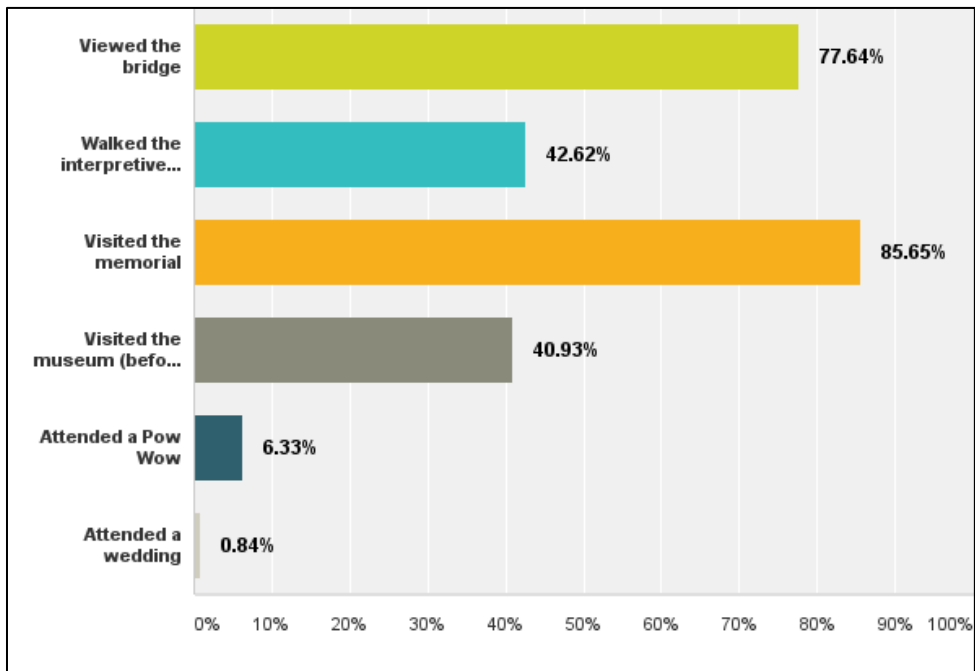
Q15: Have you ever visited Father Marquette National Memorial?

Answered: 335 Skipped: 45



Q16: If you answered yes above, what did you do at the Memorial site?

Answered: 237 Skipped: 143



Q17: What three words would you use to describe Straits State Park to someone who has never visited the park?



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

Appendix C—Planning Team Summary

Over the duration of the General Management Planning process, the Planning Team held three on-site team meetings and three virtual meetings. These meetings were critical to the development of the General Management Plan and particularly the creation of the 20-Year Management Zones and the 10-Year Action Goals. Additionally, the meetings were an opportunity to review input received from stakeholders and the public.

Overview of Planning Team Meetings

Team Meeting #1 (April 16, 2014) – The Planning Team met at the St. Ignace Library. The kick-off meeting was an opportunity for Planning Team members to introduce themselves to one another, review the General Management Plan schedule, get an overview of the park (provided by Wayne Burnett) discuss the park and its significance, review the resource maps and discuss the Father Marquette National Memorial, gather ideas on survey questions to ask the public, and review the Supporting Analysis.

Team Meeting #2 (May 22, 2014) –The Planning Team met at Straits State Park and were led on a park tour by Wayne Burnett. They also finalized the significance statements, reviewed the supporting analysis and stakeholder lists and refined the questions for the public input survey. Additionally, the Planning Team began brainstorming 10-year action goals for the park.

Team Meeting #3 (June 26, 2014) – The Planning Team met at Moran Township Hall and reviewed the Statement of Significance, Management Zone Map, and Action Goals as well as the draft public input survey. The Planning Team also discussed revisions to the online survey and opportunities to partner with local organization and agencies during the General Management Plan process.

Team Meeting #4, Go-To-Meeting (July 30, 2014) – The Planning Team reviewed the Management Zone Map, Action Goal and on-line survey questions. In addition, the stakeholder list was modified in preparation for the September 9, 2014 Stakeholder Input Open House.

Team Meeting #5, Moran Township Hall (September 9, 2014) – The Planning Team reviewed input and comments received at the September 9, 2014 Stakeholder Input Open House. The Planning Team discussed the input and revised the draft action goals as needed in preparation for the October 28, 2014 Public Input Open House.

Team Meeting #6, Go-To-Meeting (November 25, 2014) – The Planning Team reviewed input and comments received at the October 28, 2014 Public Input Open House. The Planning Team revised the 10-Year Action goals as deemed appropriate and discussed next steps for finalizing the General Management Plan.

Straits State Park

Planning Team Meeting #1

April 16, 2014

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

St. Ignace Public Library

Attendees – Wayne Burnett (Unit Manager), Mike Sutton (Lead Worker), Sherry MacKinnon (Wildlife Ecologist), Sgt. Gerald Thayer (Conservation Officer Supervisor), Sandra Clark (Director of the MI Historical Center), Matt Lincoln (PRD Planning Analyst), Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), Susie Roble (Clearzoning), Neal Godby (Fisheries Biologist), and Jill Bahm (Clearzoning) participated via web conference.

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Debbie Jensen provided an overview of the General Management Planning Process (powerpoint presentation)
3. Jill Bahm reviewed the GMP schedule and work program for the park, noting the importance of everyone prioritizing meetings to help stay on schedule
4. Wayne Burnett provide an overview of the park (powerpoint presentation)
 - a. Organization camps fills 30 days of the year
 - b. The toilet building in the day use area has historical significance (built in 1926)
 - c. It is very difficult for users to access both units because I-75 bisects the park and poses safety concerns
 - d. North Country Trail passes through the park and has active volunteers
 - e. Camping – most visitors to the park are campers; very busy during fall season
 - f. Swimming – people do swim but the water is very cold and the shoreline is rocky
 - g. A big attraction for campers is watching the bridge lights come on at 10 p.m.
 - h. There are no fishing ponds within the park and very little fishing along shoreline due to the Mackinaw Bridge causeway. Fishing opportunities are located outside of the park
 - i. Playground equipment has been removed because it was out-of-date and unsafe
 - j. Picnicking is no longer a popular activity at the park
 - k. Amphitheater is under-utilized
 - l. Invasive species – volunteers (ex: Eastern Upper Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area) are involved and training is available
 - m. Duck hunting is a popular activity (boats located ¼ mile from shoreline)
 - n. Campers explore the areas located outside of the park (most do not stay at the park during the day)
 - o. The bluff poses safety concerns (difficult to pedal up and very fast coming down)
 - p. Historic structures include 1) the picnic area restroom (built in 1926); 2) old shop – a CCC building which was the location of the old headquarters building

- q. Ash trees were planted on every other campsite; Emerald ash borer is present at the park and all ash trees have been removed.
 - r. Unit Manager, Wayne Burnett is responsible for several other properties, boating access sites, and parks in the area
5. Review of the Resource Maps
- a. Label Father Marquette site as “Father Marquette National Memorial” on all maps and move the label to the circle drive
 - b. Relocate the St. Ignace label
 - c. Debbie will confirm whether there is a 2004 dedicated boundary
 - d. Location map – zoom out to show Emmett and Cheboygan counties and add ferry lines to Mackinac Island as these comprise “the Straits” area
 - e. Trails Map – Debbie will talk to Ray about the new segment of the North Country Trail
 - f. Lake Michigan and Lake Huron should be labeled on all maps
 - g. The Planning Team decided to use the Unit Map rather than the Recreation Resource Map
 - h. The Wetlands Map is not needed as there are no wetlands within the park boundary
 - i. Woodlands Map – add 2006 Land Cover
6. Father Marquette National Memorial Discussion
- a. Sandra – does not think that combining the memorial with the future MDOT Welcome Center is a good idea as there is no community support; Wayne agreed that it is too complicated
 - b. Sandra mentioned that community members have suggested the west side should include an interpretive site, which could range from Native American “village” to a commercial development
 - c. Idea has been raised that private funds could help build and manage new development
 - d. The Planning Team agreed that the DNR needs to come up with clear parameters for the development during the General Management Planning process.
 - e. Sandra suggested that the management zones set the stage for future development (i.e. the site is compatible with an interpretive, educational zone)
 - f. Sherry suggested that the MNFI complete a survey of the park, which would inform the team of the best management zone (the survey must be done in June or July)
 - g. Sandra provided other suggestions for the site including a genealogy center, Native American education (microfilm) center
 - h. Sandra commented that this area is viewed by the community as a “quiet place” within St. Ignace
 - i. Bridge across I-75 connecting the two units of the park – the Planning Team agreed that there is a tremendous need for the bridge. The bridge will not only connect the two

sides of the park but the community around St. Ignace as well. The community is supporting of the bridge.

- j. Sandra commented that the early French story is not interpreted as well as the Native American story on this side of the Straits
 - k. Susie will send out Management Zone descriptions to the Planning Team
 - l. Debbie will send the Planning Team articles regarding Father Marquette.
7. Review of Supporting Analysis – the Planning Team reviewed the document and suggested revisions. The DNR will update the document per the recommendations of the Planning Team.
8. Public Input Survey Brainstorming Exercise. The Planning Team discussed the types of information that would be useful in developing the General Management Plan.
- a. Have you ever visited Father Marquette National Memorial? (yes or no. If yes, what did you do there? (bridge viewing, trail walking, memorial visit, interpretive trail, visited museum (pre-fire), pow wow, wedding)
 - b. Do you camp at the park?
 - c. What activities have you participated in at the park? (bridge viewing, hiking or biking through the park, kayaking, camping, learning about history, picnicking, nature viewing)
 - d. What additional amenities or features would bring you to the park more often? (make this an open-ended response)
 - e. What else do you do in the area?
 - f. What is your zip code?
 - g. # of visits per year
 - h. Do you visit the park with children under the age 18?
 - i. How would you rate your experience with the following overnight accommodations? Group Camp, Upper Campground, Lower Campground, Mini Cabins (use a scale for this question – poor, average, good, excellent)
9. Significance Statements Exercise – the Planning Team discussed characteristic/features of the park that make it distinct. These characteristics will help shape the statements of significance that guide the General Management Plan.
- a. Location/The Bridge – located on the Straits; history of the area; only park located on two lakes; sunrise; proximity and access to Mackinac Island; quiet oasis in a busy community; base camp for the region; gateway to the Upper Peninsula
 - b. Camping – campers can walk into town; base camp for the region; bridge/water view
 - c. History – Father Marquette National Memorial; New France; New France and Native American fur trade; Bridge; Native American
 - d. Hub/Convergence of Trails – bike trail connection; North County Trail; local events (car show, pow wow, bridge walk, antique tractor show); potential for being trail hub in the Upper Peninsula; potential for greater use of the amphitheater
10. Next Meetings: Thursday, May 22nd and June 26th

Straits State Park

Planning Team Meeting #2

May 22, 2014

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Straits State Park Office

Attendees – Wayne Burnett (Unit Manager), Tom Paquin (District Supervisor), Keith Cheli (Regional Planner), Sgt. Gerald Thayer (Conservation Officer Supervisor), Sandra Clark (Director of the MI Historical Center), Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), Jim Durm (Supervisor, Moran Township), Jill Bahm (Clearzoning).

1. Welcome and review of Kick-off meeting minutes. A few minor changes were discussed and the minutes will be updated.
2. Park Tour. Wayne Burnett provided a park tour. Notes of the tour are attached.
3. Finalize Statements of Significance. The team discussed the draft statements of significance and a few changes have been made.
4. Review Supporting Analysis & Stakeholder list. Supporting analysis – DNR staff to refine analysis; Stakeholder list – additional groups/representatives were discussed by the team; Review of the Resource Maps – a few changes were suggested.
5. Management Zone Map Development. The team divided into two groups and discussed management needs and priorities in the context of the statements of significance and the park tour. The groups shared their findings and maps will be assembled for discussion at the next meeting.
6. 10-year Action Needs/Wants. The following list was generated by the team and will be discussed and refined at future meetings:
 - a. Marketing: raise awareness of park and reposition the park from an overnight stop to a destination or hub.
 - b. Conveyance over I-75 to serve non-motorized transportation and recreation needs.
 - c. Interpretive center focusing on the history and engineering significance of the Mackinac Bridge.
 - d. Accommodations for hikers/bikers on the Governor's Trail
 - e. Sustainable public/private partnership to plan and develop New France Discovery Center
 - f. Strategy to revitalize day use facility in a way that highlights views
 - g. Pet-friendly area
 - h. Assessment and enhancement of the trail system, including overlooks and interpretation
 - i. Plan for reuse of park residence
 - j. Remove old shop building and let area naturalize, if appropriate
 - k. Construct new cold storage building in service area.
7. Public Input Survey Review. The team reviewed and refined the draft survey.

Next Meeting: June 26th

Straits State Park

Team Meeting #3
June 26, 2014
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Moran Township Hall

Attendees – Wayne Burnett (Park Manager), Tom Paquin (District Supervisor), Sandra Clark (Director of Historical Center), Keith Cheli (Regional Planner), Lisa Gamero (Cultural Resource Analyst), Jim Durm (Moran Twp. Supervisor), David Birchler and Sheila Starks (Clearzoning)

1. Review of Team Meeting #2 Summary
2. Review of Statements of Significance – Sandra provided several revisions
3. Keith Cheli reported that the MSU LA Department may be doing some work with the local Father Marquette group. Jim expanded that Native American studies group at MSU may have an intern available to work on a local plan that would include Father Marquette site. Keith feels that the group needs to engage our Management Planning effort to coordinate so we are working cooperatively. Sandra commented that her agency would take the lead of interpreting the site. We need to make sure to fully engage the local organization in the General Management Process.
4. Management Zone Map Review
 - a. Consensus on east side of I-75
 - i. Scenic zone should follow ridge and include the steep slopes (use topo map to establish boundary)
 - ii. Scenic Overlay on beach to reflect desire to protect views of the park from Mackinac Bridge
 - iii. Natural Resource Recreation in central area, east of Scenic
 - b. West of I-75
 - i. The history suggests the entire site deserves an Education overlay
 - ii. Partner opportunities require that we establish adequate space for Developed Recreation
 - iii. Desire to maintain beautiful, natural view as people enter the Upper Peninsula from bridge or leave the Upper Peninsula via US-2; requires a perimeter buffer
 - iv. Father Marquette is unique in State Park system and we may need flexibility to partner with private sector to implement
 - v. The Memorial itself, as a National Memorial, needs to be a separate, Cultural Zone (use aerial)
 - vi. Open field at south end should be Developed Recreation to allow possible Native American Village (which would be visible from bridge)
 - vii. Core of Memorial side should be Developed Recreation with Education Overlay on entire park
 - viii. Maintain Scenic Zone (use aerial)
 - ix. Debbie wants to see the description fleshed out for East Side/Memorial
 - x. Sandra will draw upon the New France Discovery Center document draft and share with Team
5. Public Input Survey – several revisions were recommended
6. Supporting Analysis – Debbie brought copies of the 2nd draft and the Team will provide comments directly. Clearzoning will send new map set to Debbie for inclusion.

7. Stakeholders List – fix the table; add new info from the meeting; send to Team for another update
8. Management Zone Presentation
 - a. Development Recreation on east side
 - b. Developed Recreation with Education Overlay at New France District Center side
9. Review Draft Action Goals
 - a. Cyclists using Bridge Authority shuttle are dropped at Welcome Center then cut through the park
10. Stakeholder Input Open House
 - a. Target September 9th at Moran Township Hall
 - b. Plan to conduct the Team Meeting immediately following the Stakeholder Meeting

Straits State Park

Team Meeting #4

July 30, 2014

2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Go-To-Meeting

Attendees – Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), Wayne Burnett (Park Manager), Tom Paquin (District Supervisor), Sandra Clark (Director of Historical Center), Lisa Gamero (Cultural Resource Analyst), Jim Durm (Moran Twp. Supervisor), Brett Gustavson (representing Sgt. Gerald Thayer), PRD intern Melanie Nieske, David Birchler and Mardy Stirling (Clearzoning)

1. Debbie Jensen suggested a few minor revisions to the Team Meeting #3 summary.
2. Management Zone Map Review
 - a. Scenic Zone should be a solid blue color, rather than a pattern
 - b. Team discussed revising Visitor Services zone boundary to just the area in use
 - c. Team discussed development level of the Natural Resource Recreation Area on the east side of the park and decided it should be changed to Developed Recreation
 - d. Team agreed to leave a buffer of Natural Resource Recreation around the perimeter of the west side of the park
3. Review of Stakeholder List. Debbie shared several updates via email before the start of the meeting. Clearzoning will review Debbie's updates and those of other team members and share a final draft to be used for the September 9th invitations.
4. Action Goals Review.
 - a. Modified General Action Goals adding a focus on the trail system.
 - b. Edited goals for consistency in terminology and added "none identified" and "none proposed to blank action goal fields.
 - c. Modified Natural Resource Recreation Zone. Added program information and moved/revised action goals per Planning Team.
 - d. Scenic Zone identified target completion/program input and responsible party.
5. Online Public Input Survey. Debbie Jensen offered two minor revisions. Team agreed the survey could be posted to website and opened for public input.
6. Next step will be the Stakeholder Input Open House scheduled for September 9th, at the Moran Township Hall, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. The Team was reminded that we will remain at the hall for a Team meeting to review the Stakeholder input immediately following the 4:00 PM close.

Straits State Park

**Team Meeting #5
Stakeholder Input Review Meeting
September 9, 2014
4:00 PM
Moran Township Hall**

Attendees – Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), Wayne Burnett (Park Manager), Tom Paquin (District Supervisor), Keith Cheli (Regional Planner), Lisa Gamero (Cultural Resource Analyst), Sandra Clark (Director of Historical Center), Jim Durm (Moran Township Supervisor), Anna Sylvester (Field Operations Section Chief), Dave Birchler and Mardy Stirling (Clearzoning)

1. Review Draft 10-Year Action Goal Comments and Priority Activity. The Planning Team revised specific goals based on their priority ranking and recommendations/input from stakeholders.

General Action Goals:

- a. Revised Recreation Opportunities. Added *"Promote bird migration, especially raptors to draw new visitors"* with a target completion date of *"ongoing"* and program input by and responsible program position assigned to *"Regional Planner, Park Manager and Marketing & Outreach"*.
- b. Revised Development #3 to read *"Pursue the feasibility of a connection, bridging the gap between the east and west units created by I-75, by strengthening local, state and regional partnerships."* This revision was in response to comments made at the Stakeholder Public Input Open House.
- c. Revised Development #4 to read *"Assess and enhance trail system within the park and interface with other trail systems in the area."* This revision was in response to comments made at the Stakeholder Public Input Open House.

Natural Resource Recreation Zone:

- a. Added goal under Recreation Opportunities – *"Provide a hiking trail loop and assess interpretation opportunities"* with a target completion date of *"5 Years"* and program input from *"Market & Outreach, Park Manager, Regional Planner"* and responsible program position assigned to *"Regional Planner"*. Revised Recreation Opportunities #1 by adding *"and support facilities at the park."*

Developed Recreation Zone with Education Overlay

- a. Added goal under Natural Resources – *"Maintain forest character of the History Education Zone to maintain the context"* with a target completion date of *"ongoing"* and program input from *"Park Manager and Stewardship Ecologist"* and responsible program position assigned to *"Park Manager"*. This revision was in response to comments made at the Stakeholder Public Input Open House.
- b. Added goal under Historic/Cultural Resources – *"Continue to foster relationships with related cultural resource partners"* with a target completion date, program input from, and responsible program position to be determined.
- c. Modified the target completion date under Education/Interpretive #1 to develop an interpretive plan for Father Marquette National Memorial and New France that is integrated into the same for Straits State Park from 2-5 Years to 1-5 Years.

- d. Revised goal under Development to read “Facilitate a collaborative process to ~~produce work~~ *toward* an agreed upon site development plan with an education mission that includes importance and role of Father Marquette, *Native Americans* and the Mackinac Bridge in historical development of the region” with a target completion date changed from 1-3 Years to 1-5 Years.

2. Brainstorming Session

The Planning Team discussed the following comments which were noted during a brainstorming session at the Stakeholder’s Public Input Open House. There were four general categories: Trail and Connectivity, Natural Resources, Dark Sky, and General Programming.

Trail and Connectivity

- The two units will never be one until we achieve physical connection.
- Securing a trail across I-75 to connect the two park units. Create a non-motorized connection to tie the parks together and allow access to other recreational resources in the area.
- Include snowmobile access trails and improve existing trails to allow for bikes to share use – current surface is too soft for bike use.
Planning Team discussed the difficulties with the existing highway and limited cross access between the east and west units of the park. The Team discussed the existing connections from the Welcome Center to the adjacent trails and ways that those may be enhanced or use encouraged.
- Improve trail connection from Welcome Center through park to support bicycles.

Natural Resources

- Bird migration, especially raptors, could be a way to draw visitors.
Planning Team added this to the Action Goals.

Dark Sky

Opportunities for camping and programming links with International Dark Sky Park.
Work with MDOT on dark sky compliant I-75 lights.

Planning Team discussed the Dark Sky program and how the existing camping areas have limited light fixtures. The Team also discussed the viewshed from the bridge and electric versus non-electric sites adjacent to the Straits and its potential adverse impact on views of the park from the Bridge.

General Programming Comments

- Programming connection opportunities with Township property to the west and Conservancy’s St. Helena Island.
- Father Marquette side as potential Outdoor Adventure Center
- Potential for Cultural Center, perhaps featuring Native American village, French fur trade industry and the like.
- Potential for conference center
- St. Ignace area historical trolley tours beginning at Father Marquette National Memorial.
- Mackinac Island/SSP programming tie-in
- Partnerships will be key to success in promoting the SSP/St. Ignace area resources – and reaching across the bridge to Mackinac City, Wilderness State Park, International Dark Sky Park
- Promote SSP as a Destination Park and base from which to tour area.
Planning Team discussed some of the programming comments and the need to continue fostering relationships with agencies that provide those resources. Discussion regarding the

use and preservation of the Father Marquette National Memorial and the DNR's role in facilitating and protecting the character of the area. It was decided to add goals that would address the context of the park and encourage the fostering of relationships with related cultural resource partners in the area.

3. Review of Management Zone Map comments
 - a. D. Jensen discussed the process of determining the various zones and how the Scenic Zone extent was determined. There was additional discussion regarding assigning a specific zone to the Father Marquette or westerly portion of the park instead of having an overlay zone. Some suggestions were made and D. Jensen will propose some options to the Planning Team by email.
4. Review of Survey Results
 - a. D. Birchler commented that the survey results were provided to the team members by email. The survey will officially close to participants on 9/15/14.
 - b. Discussion regarding the various uses within the park and the survey results.

Straits State Park

**Team Meeting #6
Public Input Review Meeting
November 25, 2014
9:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.
Go-To-Meeting**

Meeting Attendees – Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), Wayne Burnett (Park Manager), Tom Paquin (District Supervisor), Keith Cheli (Regional Planner), Lisa Gamero (Cultural Resource Analyst), Sandra Clark (Director of Historical Center), Dave Birchler and Mardy Stirling (Clearzoning)

1. Review of Planning Team Meeting #4, Summary of July 30, 2014. Reviewed with revisions to formatting.
2. Review of Planning Team Meeting #5, Summary of September 9, 2014. Reviewed with the following revisions:
 - a. Addition of Anna Sylvester and Jim Durm to attendees;
 - b. Item 2, Natural Resource Recreation Zone, a. Changed the word “loupe” to “loop.”
 - c. Item 3, Brainstorming Session, Trail and Connectivity, bullet #3, add in parenthesis (refers to areas outside Straits State Park).

D. Jensen also requested verification regarding the timing of changes to the overlay designation for the Father Marquette National Memorial.

3. Review comments received at the October 28, 2014 Public Input Open House. The Planning Team reviewed the public’s prioritization and comments on the Action Goals.
4. Review of 10-Year Action Goals for General Management Plan (final version). The Planning Team made the following comments and **revisions** to the Action Goals:

General Action

 - a. Team discussed including the Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission (EURPDC) to provide program input as they have expressed interest in submitting a grant that would address goal #2 under Recreation Opportunities to “help facilitate improved land and water trail connections with local, regional and state partners.” The Planning Team determined that EURPDC could be included under “recreation partners” No action was necessary.
 - b. Correction under Management Focus, Item #1 change Museum to **Memorial**.
 - c. D. Birchler noted that the largest number of priority stickers were placed on pursuing the feasibility of a connection, bridging the gap between the east and west units (Development, Item #3) and assessing and enhancing the trail system within the park and interface with other trail systems in the area (Development, Item #4).
 - d. Under Development, Item #3, change to **Facilitate formation of a local, state and regional task force to pursue the feasibility of connection, bridging the gap between the east and west units created by I-75 - Target Completion Date of 2-5 Years – Program Input From (add) Community and Regional Partners.**
 - e. Under Development, Item #4, Program Input From (add) **Community and Regional Partners.**

Developed Recreation Zone

- a. The Team discussed the comment regarding the pet friendly area and the public comment regarding its location on the Bridge Authority property. The Planning Team modified the goal to read ***“Determine need and feasibility of providing a pet-friendly area and evaluate potential locations in or outside the park.”***

History Education Zone

- a. Under the description of the zone, S. Clark suggested that the language reads “In recognition of the historical, cultural and geographical significance of Father Marquette National Memorial, this area of the park is designated as a History Education Zone. The emphasis of this zone is visitor education and interpretation of the natural, cultural and historic resources related to the Father Marquette National Memorial ***and the related New France, and Native American stories.*** Any future development in this zoned shall require emphasis on the Father Marquette National Memorial ***and these stories.***
- b. S. Clark also suggested the following Under Education/Interpretation Opportunities, Item #1, “Develop an Interpretive Plan of Father Marquette National Memorial and ***the related New France, and Native American stories*** that is integrated into the Interpretive Plan of Straits State Park.”

Cultural Landscape Zone

- a. S. Clark suggested that education be replaced with cultural in the second sentence of the introduction to read “This Zone should be managed to protect and preserve the Memorial as a significant ***cultural*** resource for the park and the Straits region.
5. The Planning Team will provide comments and suggested changes to the Draft General Management Plan to D. Jensen by December, 3, 2014 at 12:00 p.m. Clearzoning will provide all revisions by December 8, 2014. D. Jensen noted that the Executive Summary needed to be modified to reflect the Action Goals and requested that the Resource Recreation Zone photo be removed or replaced.
 6. D. Birchler reviewed the next steps to the process.

Appendix D – National Park Service Agreement

National Park Service Agreement – Father Marquette National Memorial

Jame

AGREEMENT

This Agreement, made and entered into this 30TH day of July, 1976, between the United States of America, acting by and through the Secretary of the Interior, under and pursuant to the power and authority contained in the Act of December 20, 1975, Public Law 94-160 which provides for the establishment of the Father Marquette National Memorial, and the State of Michigan, acting by and through the Governor of the state.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the above legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement, satisfactory to him, with the Governor of Michigan providing for the location, design, construction, and operation by the state of the Memorial; and

WHEREAS, upon conclusion of the agreement and when in his opinion sufficient lands have been acquired for an administrable memorial, the Secretary is authorized to designate the Memorial by publication in the Federal Register; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary is authorized upon conclusion of this agreement to render to the State of Michigan assistance, including, but not limited to, technical advice and grants of funds for development; and

WHEREAS, the Congress is authorized by the above-mentioned legislation to appropriate such sums, but not to exceed \$1,000,000, as may be necessary for assistance rendered by the Secretary:

NOW, THEREFORE, the Secretary and the Governor mutually agree:

1. Objects of Agreement: That this agreement is intended to provide for the development and operation of the Father Marquette National Memorial as an affiliated unit of the National Park System administered by the State of Michigan, for technical and financial assistance by the National Park Service (hereinafter sometimes referred to as NPS), and for continuing orderly and harmonious cooperation between the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior and the State of Michigan in implementing the provisions of Public Law 94-160.
2. General Planning Procedures: That planning in general, including environmental documentation and compliance with P.L. 91-190 is the responsibility of the State of Michigan. The Department of the Interior, through the National Park Service, will provide technical assistance and guidance upon request from the state and will review and approve all plans. Detailed site planning to implement the development schemes shall be prepared by the State of Michigan as will all construction drawings.

3. Land Acquisition: Title to all real property acquired for the Memorial site will be taken in the name of the State of Michigan. Documentation of such title shall be provided to the Secretary of the Interior.

4. Development Financing: That costs of development at the Memorial shall be borne by the state and the National Park Service. Those costs borne by the NPS shall be derived from appropriated construction funds as provided by the Congress: Provided, that the maximum amount of such development costs to be paid directly by the NPS shall not exceed the combined expenditure ceiling for development as provided for in Public Law 94-160.

As each development project is conceived, the state will advise the NPS by January 30 of each year of the preliminary engineering estimates for allocation of funds by the NPS in the second following fiscal year. The transfer of funds for expenditures incurred by the state shall be by quarterly billing to the NPS Finance Office of the Midwest Region, National Park Service, of the NPS share of a contract award.

5. Operation and Maintenance: That overall administration and management of the Memorial shall be the responsibility of the state and the actual operation and maintenance will be carried

out by employees of the State of Michigan. The NPS (Midwest Region) will conduct biennial on-site reviews of the administration and management of the Memorial.

6. Costs of Operation and Maintenance: That as indicated in the testimony on the Act (on H.R. 2724), all costs for management, operation, protection, and maintenance of the Memorial shall be borne by the state. It is anticipated that admittance to the facilities provided through this agreement will be free of charge to the public. If future admittance or user fees are required by the state for operation and maintenance purposes, such fees shall be approved by the Secretary of the Interior prior to implementation.

7. Development of Facilities: That the state will have the overall responsibility for development of the Memorial. The state will determine development priorities based on land control and needs, and will be responsible for preparation and administration of contracts. All such contracts let with funds provided by authority of Public Law 94-160 shall be in strict conformity with Federal Management Circular 74-7 and its attachment 0 dated June 9, 1975, and here incorporated in its entirety by reference.

Development proposals and construction drawings prepared by the state will be submitted to the NPS for review and approval prior to implementation.

8. Jurisdiction Over Memorial: That the Memorial is a unit of the Straits State Park and is subject to the normal requirements of Michigan law with respect to such matters as user fees, state or local taxes, licensing, and wildlife management.

9. Exchange of Information: That the state and the NPS shall make available to each other any additional information relating to the Memorial that is not otherwise specifically provided for in this agreement.

10. Liaison and Coordination Responsibility: That to provide for a primary point of contact between the state and the NPS, the Governor of the State of Michigan or his designated representative and the Chief of the Chicago Field Office of the NPS or a successor representative designated by the Midwest Regional Director are assigned.

11. Availability of Funds: That nothing herein contained shall be construed as binding the Secretary of the Interior to expend in any one fiscal year any sum in excess of appropriation made by Congress for that fiscal year, or to involve the United States in any contract or other obligation for the future expenditure of money in excess of such appropriations. Funds for cost sharing shall be requested by the parties hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The parties hereto cause this agreement
to be exeucted on the date hereinabove first set forth.

Thomas S. Klepp

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

William G. Milliken

GOVERNOR, STATE OF MICHIGAN