

General Management Plan Tawas Point State Park



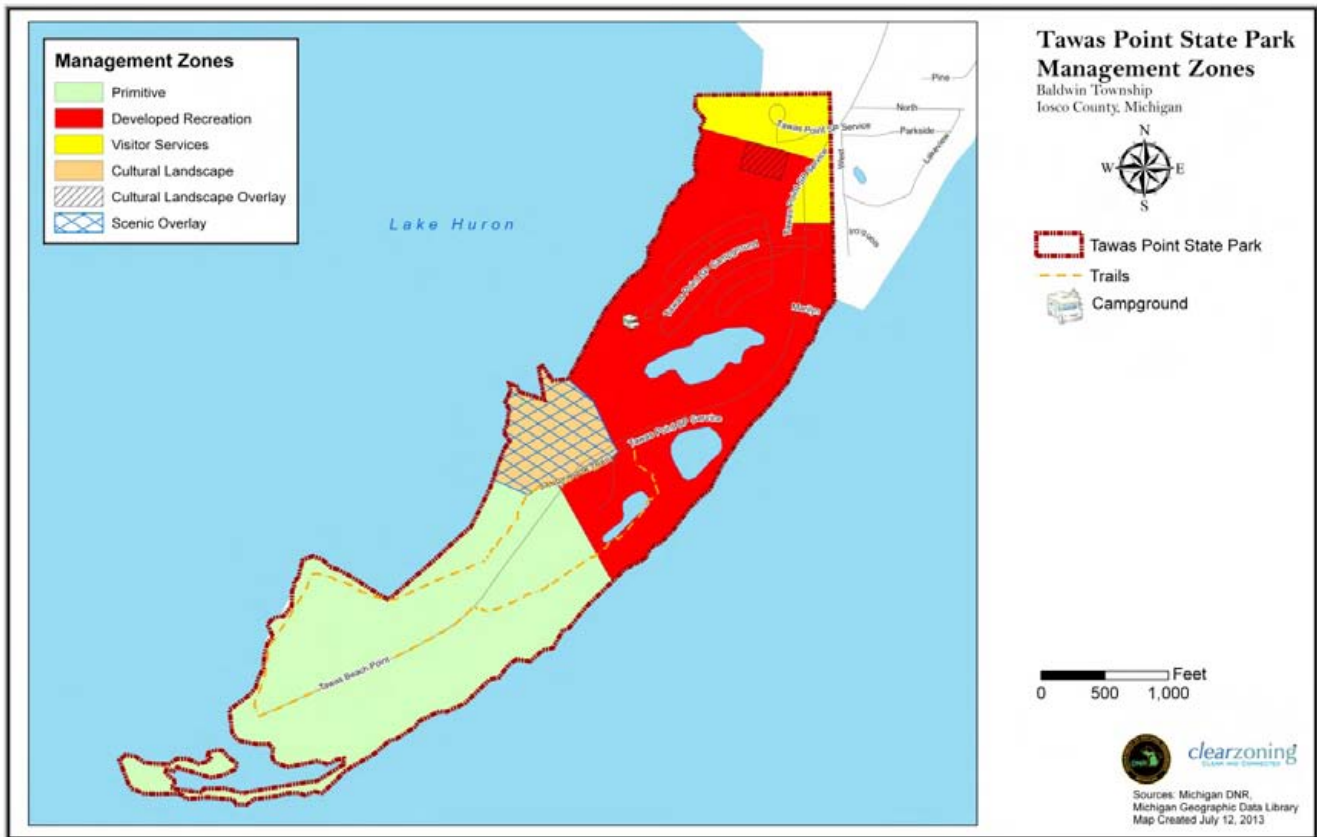
Approved May 21, 2014
Michigan DNR Parks and Recreation Division



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The project was directed by Deborah Jensen, Management Plan Administrator Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation Division, with assistance from Clearzoning, Inc.

Financial assistance for this project was provided, in part, by the Michigan Coastal Zone Management Program, DEQ, through a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce.

The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations in this plan are those of the DNR and do not necessarily reflect the views of the DEQ and the NOAA.

Plan Approvals:

[Signature] 5-15-14

 Chief, Parks & Recreation Division

[Signature]

 Natural Resources Deputy

[Signature]

 Director, Department of Natural Resources

[Signature]

 Date

[Signature]

 Date

[Signature]

 Date

PLAN APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

PRD – SECTION CHIEFS:

2/3/14

Date

PRD – MANAGEMENT TEAM:

2/26/14

Date

DNR – RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BUREAU:

3/31/14 (via Email)

Date

NRC – MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

4/10/14

Date

Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 04-2014-01

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

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

ADOPTED: April 10, 2014

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

WHEREAS, the planning process reflects sensitivity to natural resource values, historic and cultural resource values, recreation and education opportunities, 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 Tawas Point 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 Tawas Point 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 Tawas Point State Park; and

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

Submitted by: Chris Graham, Chair, MSPAC Stewardship Subcommittee

Motioned by:	Mary Pitcher	Yeas:	11
Seconded by:	Julie Clark	Nays:	0
		Abstained:	0
		Absent:	5

This Resolution was adopted by the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee at their April 10, 2014 meeting as Resolution No. 04-2014-01.

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Executive Summary

Tawas Point State Park, currently with 220 acres, is located on the shores of Lake Huron, 2.5 miles southeast of East Tawas in Iosco County. The sandy beaches on both Lake Huron and Tawas Bay, combined with the warm shallow waters of the bay, provide ideal swimming conditions at Tawas Point. Bird watchers find Tawas Point especially attractive because of the large populations of migratory birds that flock to the park's unique geography. The most iconic feature of the peninsula, however, is the Victorian-era Tawas Point Lighthouse. The park hosts 193 campsites, 2 miles of hiking trails, sandy beaches, 2 camper cabins and 2 mini cabins.



Tawas Point offers both land and water exploration

Future management of this 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 & interpretation and park operations & management at Tawas Point 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 opportunities and education opportunities.

Financial assistance for this project was provided, in part, by the Michigan Coastal Zone Management Program, DEQ, through a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations in this plan are those of the Michigan DNR and do not necessarily reflect the views of the DEQ and the NOAA. 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 Tawas Point State Park](#)

Each GMP developed by the PRD is built upon the park's unique significant features. Tawas Point State Park is often referred to as the "Cape Cod of the Midwest." The park's unique geological, ecological, recreational, cultural, and historical features make it a significant asset to the State of Michigan. Tawas Point State Park was determined significant due to the following features and opportunities (refer to Chapter 3 for more detailed statements).

- **The Lighthouse** - The Tawas Point Lighthouse (ca. 1876) is a popular and valuable resource of the park and surrounding region, holding both historical and educational significance. The lighthouse attracts visitors from around the world and the Keeper Program offers the unique opportunity to spend a week immersed in the lighthouse experience. This combination of activities allows the lighthouse to serve as a landmark for history and to be partially self-supporting.

- **Birding and Wildlife** - Tawas Point State Park is located on an important bird migration corridor. The point juts far out into Lake Huron making the park the perfect stopover for an incredible diversity and abundance of migrating passerines, waterbirds and shorebirds. Each fall and spring thousands of birds stop to rest and refuel. Two hundred ninety-seven species of birds have been observed in the park, and as a consequence, the park is a regionally significant birding location. The Federal endangered piping plover occasionally breeds at the park. Tawas Point has been designated by the National Audubon Society as an “Important Bird Area”.
- **Geology** - Geological shifting is well-defined and evident at Tawas Point, offering visitors a unique opportunity for education on geological change and coastal dynamics. The Park is currently growing in size as a result of sand deposition and fluctuating lake water levels.
- **Kiteboarding** - The consistent winds, clear water, and abundant sandy beaches make Tawas Point State Park the perfect kiteboarding environment – and one of the few such places in the state. The large numbers of kiteboard users and spectators who travel to Tawas Point have the opportunity to try out a new activity and watch the stunts of skilled kiteboarders, while simultaneously generating revenue for the park and surrounding community.
- **Sandy Beach** - Tawas Point State Park has over two miles of sandy beach – a rare feature in this region of the state where rocky shorelines tend to be more prevalent. Designated beach/swimming areas are provided for day users and camp users, and boardwalks are offered in several locations to improve accessibility.
- **Pet-Friendly Beach** -Tawas Point State Park is one of the few parks in the region that offer a designated pet-friendly beach. Local residents and visitors alike find this park to be a special resource for day visits and overnight camping with pets.
- **Trails** - The Sandy Hook Nature Trail, a 2-mile, hiking-only trail extending out to the tip of the point, provides users with the opportunity to explore natural features of land and water. The Trail connects to the larger trail system of the surrounding area and region, including the 14-mile-long Tawas Bay Pedestrian-Bike Trail and the Huron Shores Heritage Route. The Tawas Blueway identifies water trail routes beginning and ending at the park.
- **Camping** - With its 193 modern campsites, 4 cabins and 8 ADA sites, Tawas Point is a popular, in-demand, and revenue-generating camping venue. Campers enjoy the experience of being surrounded by water and the rare opportunity to see the sunrise and sunset over water from one location.
- **Shipwrecks** - Two shipwrecks sit off the shoreline of Tawas Point, providing historical and educational value to visitors. Their protection is part of a statewide effort to preserve Michigan’s maritime heritage.

Management Zones

A key goal in the development of this General Management Plan is to continue providing the opportunities and features that attract so many visitors to the park each year, 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, five were applied to Tawas Point State Park. The Management Zone Map and a thorough review of each Management Zone are found in Chapter 4 of this Plan. A condensed view of the Management Zones is as follows:

- **Primitive Zone** comprises 84 acres (42%) of the park extending from the lighthouse complex to the tip of the point, and will reflect a desired condition that emphasizes the natural resources. The

allowance of low impact recreational uses should depend on attaining and maintaining a high quality natural resource condition.

- **Cultural Landscape Zone & Overlay** comprises 15 acres (8%) of Tawas Point State Park. Management within the Cultural Landscape Zone focuses on preserving and protecting the historical and cultural resources. The Tawas Point Lighthouse complex is found within this zone. A Scenic Overlay is incorporated within the Cultural Landscape Zone.
- **Scenic Overlay Zone** comprises 13 acres (7%) of the park. The designation recognizes the spectacular viewscapes of Lake Huron, Tawas Bay, and the park as a whole that the lighthouse offers to visitors.
- **Developed Recreation Zone** comprises 106 acres (52%) of the park and allows active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. The campground and beach areas are found within this zone. A small region of land within this zone is designated as a Cultural Landscape Overlay in recognition of the old lighthouse site.
- **Visitor Services Zone** comprises 12 acres (6%) of the park and encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. The zone includes the park headquarters, maintenance facilities and all related land required to conduct the business of running the park.

10-Year Action Goals

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. Some of the Action Goals highlighted in Chapter 6 include the following:

General Action Goals (apply park-wide)

- Create a Stewardship Plan that allows or mimics natural disturbance
- Identify opportunities to improve trail connectivity between the park and local community to support the mutual goals of PRD and the local partners
- 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

Primitive Zone Action Goals

- Monitor and protect piping plover and their nesting sites through a variety of methods (e.g. enclosures, education, etc.)
- Maintain and update the existing observation platforms to meet safety standards and improve accessibility

Cultural Landscape Zone Action Goals

- Manage lighthouse complex as an archaeologically and culturally significant site

Developed Recreation Zone Action Goals

- Work with local partners in establishing safe trail connection(s) to Tawas Point State Park
- Explore emerging, new ideas for small-scale overnight accommodations

Visitor Services Zone Action Goals

- Upgrade the appearance and function of the headquarters and visitor welcome area

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

“When you visit Michigan’s state parks and are surrounded with our forests, rivers, lakes and streams that have been here for thousands of years, it’s hard to imagine that changes ever occur here. As the world gets more hectic, we think Michigan residents will continue to turn to their state parks as a resource for rest and renewal.”

-Ron Olson (2013),
DNR-PRD Division Chief



Kiteboarding is a big draw for the park



The sandy beaches attract visitors year-round

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
- 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. Specific guidelines that the PRD follows are:

- Take the best possible care of Michigan's natural and cultural resources
- Establish and maintain long-term funding
- Balance recreational use with protection of the resources
- Improve and expand education and interpretation
- Implement management practices to assess, sustain and update facilities
- Develop a workplace environment that promotes creation of fond, memorable experiences for our customers
- Strengthen safety and security
- Make the development of Partnerships a priority
- Incorporate 'Universal Access' into Michigan's state park and recreation system
- Provide facilities supporting emerging public recreation activities
- Promote PRD facilities and programs
- In all strategic goals, target and focus efforts to engage people in the out-of-doors

MiScorecard Performance Summary

The MiScorecard Performance Summary is a management tool for monitoring the progress of an initiative or opportunity. The over-arching goals of the MiScorecard Performance Summary correspond to the five goals of the DNR.

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 Tawas Point State Park listed in Appendix A: Supporting Analysis.

The legal mandates that most directly impact planning and management of Tawas Point 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.



Observation platform at the park



The playground is a fun past-time for children



A view of Tawas Bay from the campground



Visitors can buy a memento from the museum store

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 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.

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 Tawas Point 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.

Extensive input was sought throughout the planning process. An online survey was developed that solicited input from park users. Stakeholders and the public were invited to workshops where they 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.



Public input is a key component of the GMP

2.3 Planning Team

The General Management Plan would not exist without the valuable input and expertise provided by all members of the “Planning Team.” Please refer to the Appendix for summaries of all Planning Team meetings.

DNR Staff		
Division	Title	Name
PRD	Management Plan Administrator	Debbie Jensen
PRD	Planning Analyst	Matt Lincoln
PRD	Unit Supervisor	Chuck Allen
PRD	Lead Ranger	Micah Jordan
PRD	District Supervisor	Dan Mullen
PRD	Regional Planner	John Terpstra
PRD	Stewardship Unit Manager	Ray Fahlsing
PRD	Cultural Resource Analyst	Lisa Gamero
MHC	Chief of MI Historical Center	Sandra Clark

Clearzoning Consultants

David Birchler, AICP, PCP, Chief Executive Officer

Jill Bahm, AICP, Principal Planner

Susie Roble, Associate Planner

Sheila Starks, GIS Specialist

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 (both day users and campers), 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.

The survey link was distributed to park visitors at the contact station, provided in a DNR press release, and made available on the Tawas Point website. Survey respondents were given approximately eight weeks to complete the survey. Approximately 1,500 respondents completed the survey. The 16-question survey was divided into five sections:

Section	#’s	Type of Questions
About You	1 - 4	Questions about respondent’s age, travel distance, frequency of visit, and type of use (day user vs. camper)
Day Users	5-7	Questions directed toward day users regarding their favorite park features and frequency of visits
Campers	8-10	Questions directed toward campers regarding their favorite features of the park, frequency of visits, and length of stay
Experience of TPSP	11-15	Respondents asked to rate park facilities, recreational opportunities, and accessibility. Respondents asked to prioritize park improvements and additions. Finally, respondents were asked to describe the park in 3 words.
Wrapping Up	16	Respondents asked to share additional comments/thoughts

About You

Survey respondents of all ages completed the survey, however approximately 43% of respondents were between 50-64 years old. While Tawas Point welcomes visitors from around the country, the majority of users come from Michigan, and more specifically, the eastern half of the state. Nearly 65% of respondents primarily visit the park during the summer season and approximately 12% of respondents visit year-round.

The Planning team wanted to gain a better understanding of the top rated features and the needed improvements specific to whether the respondent is a day user or a camper. Assuming that there are some differences between these two groups, the Planning Team decided to design the survey in a way that would identify these differences. Therefore, the last question for this section asked the respondent to classify themselves as camper, day user, or both. Approximately 65% of respondents were campers, 17.5% were day users, and 17.5% were both.

Day Users

The top three favorite park features or recreational opportunities for day users are lakeshore/beach/swimming, nature viewing/study, and birding. Hiking/trail running, lighthouse activities, and biking also are popular activities amongst day users. Approximately 38% of day users visit Tawas Point 1-2 times per year, while 26% visit 3-5 times per year. Nearly 15% of day users visit 11 or more times per year. Over 50% of the day use respondents also camp at the park, while the other half take advantage of the day use activities only.

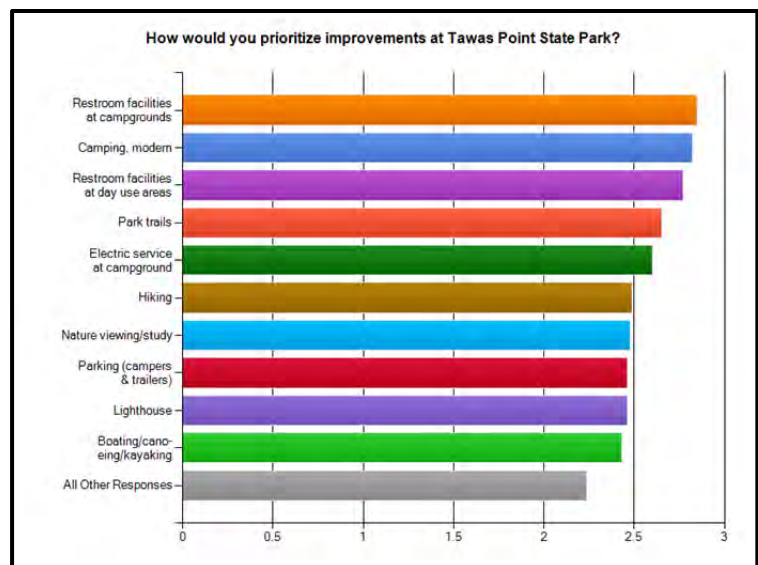
Campers

Campers top three favorite park features and opportunities include the campground, lakeshore/beach/swimming, and biking. The majority (75%) of campers stay at Tawas Point 1-2 times per year. On average, approximately 60% of campers' typical length of stay is 3-6 nights, 27% stay 1-2 nights, and 13% stay 7 or more nights.

Experience of Tawas Point State Park

Overall, users of Tawas Point rated their experience with existing park facilities and recreational opportunities as very positive. Lakeshore/beach/swimming and the lighthouse were ranked as excellent features of the park. Similarly, respondents rated their experience with nature viewing, biking, the modern campground, and the hiking trails as very good. While respondents ranked the accessibility of park facilities highly as well, several comments focused on improving sand cover on trails.

Responses varied regarding prioritization of park improvements, undoubtedly due in part to the range of interests of respondents. Nonetheless, improving the modern campground and its associated bathroom facility received the highest

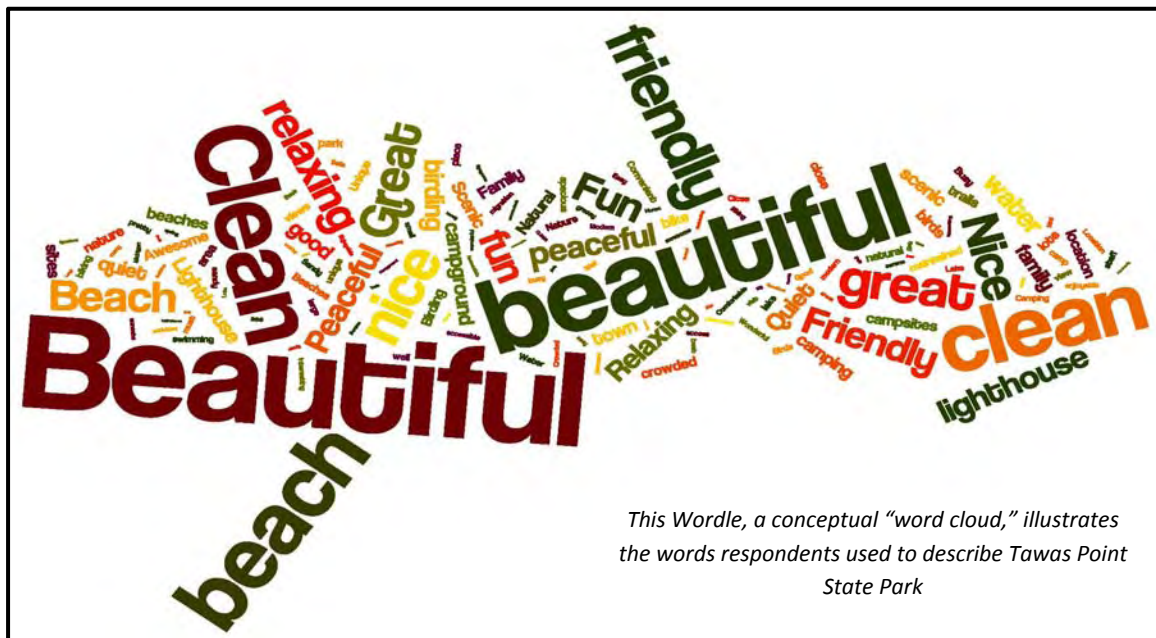


priority. Improvements to the boating/canoeing/kayaking, hiking trails, and the lighthouse were also prioritized. Respondents largely feel that no changes are needed to beach and campground accessibility, the park roads, and the pet-friendly beach.

Respondents would like to see the following additional facilities/features Tawas Point State Park: more camping opportunities and wi-fi at the modern campground; observation platforms; shade shelters at the beach; informational signs/kiosks; and bike racks. The majority of respondents feel that an amphitheater at the campground and rustic cabins are not needed. Interestingly, while about 50% of respondents would like to have wi-fi and furniture provided at the beach, 50% do not feel that these amenities are needed.

Finally, respondents had the opportunity to provide comments regarding the park or the General Management Planning process. The most recurring comments are listed below:

- Improvements to the road
- Restroom/shower improvements needed. The temperature of shower water is too hot or too cold
- Update campground with Wi-fi
- Improvements to reservation system
- Campground too noisy – not enough after-hours enforcement by park staff
- Maintain natural beauty of the park; don't over modernize the park
- Full-hook ups at campground and more sewer/dump stations needed
- Plant more trees and trim the existing trees
- The playground is not suitable for older children (8+)
- Campground is too crowded
- Friendliness of staff
- Improvements to electrical service at campground
- Keep birding experience a management focus since it's hugely important to park



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 Tawas Point 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 Tawas Point 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 when it created the park and authorized its purchase, beginning in 1944.
- To preserve and protect Tawas Point State Park's unique natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.
- To provide diverse recreational opportunities.
- To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflect the DNR mission and the unique qualities of Tawas Point State Park.

3.2 Statements of Significance

Tawas Point has been referred to as the "Cape Cod of the Midwest" and attracts visitors from both the local area and around the state. The park's unique geological, ecological, recreational, cultural, and historical features make the park an important asset to the people of the State of Michigan.

The Lighthouse

The Tawas Point Lighthouse (ca. 1876) is a popular and valuable resource of the park and surrounding region. Together, the lighthouse and Tawas Bay hold educational significance as a physical remnant of the historic lumber and fish industries. The lighthouse attracts visitors from around the world to climb up the tower into the lantern room, explore the museum, and shop at the museum store. The Lighthouse Keeper Program offers the opportunity to spend a week immersed in the Tawas Point Lighthouse experience while staying in the lighthouse. This combination of activities allows the lighthouse to serve as a landmark for history and be partially self-supporting.



The Tawas Point Lighthouse

Birding and Wildlife

Tawas Point State Park is located on an important bird migration corridor. The point juts far out into Lake Huron making the park the perfect stopover for an incredible diversity and abundance of migrating passerines, waterbirds and shorebirds. Each fall and spring thousands of birds stop to rest and refuel. Two hundred ninety-seven species of birds have been observed in the park and as a consequence the park is a regionally significant birding location. The Federal endangered piping plover occasionally breeds at the park. Tawas Point has been designated by the National Audubon Society as an "Important Bird Area".

Geology

While every park experiences physical and geological change over time, it is often difficult to see and explain these transformations. Tawas Point State Park is located on a large, rapidly growing sand spit that is extending further and further into Tawas Bay each year. This geological shifting is far more clear and definable, providing a unique opportunity for education on geology and coastal dynamics. The park is currently growing in size as a result of sand deposition and fluctuating lake water levels. These changes are evident with each passing season, offering visitors the rare experience of witnessing geological change.

Kiteboarding

The recreational activity of kiteboarding, a combination of surfing and kite flying, demands reliable wind, water, and landing areas. Consistent winds, clear water, and abundant sandy beaches make Tawas Point State Park the perfect kiteboarding environment – and one of the few such places in the state. The large number of kiteboard users and spectators who travel to Tawas Point have the opportunity to try out a new activity, watch the stunts of skilled kiteboarders, and learn more about the park's unique geological and historic qualities. This activity also has the capacity to generate revenue for the park and surrounding community through tourism and business development.

Sandy Beach

Tawas Point State Park has over two miles of sandy beach – a rare feature in this region of the state where rocks tend to be predominant along the shoreline. Boardwalks are provided in several locations to provide improved accessibility. The park offers designated beach/swimming areas for day users and camp users. At Tawas Point State Park, the beaches are continually growing in size due to lower lake water levels and shifting sands along the Tawas Bay and Lake Huron shorelines.

Pet-Friendly Beach

Tawas Point State Park is one of the few parks in the region that offer a designated pet-friendly beach. Local residents and visitors alike find this park to be a unique resource for day visits and overnight camping with pets.

Trails

The Sandy Hook Nature Trail, a 2-mile, hiking-only interpretive trail, is Tawas Point's primary recreational trail. The trail extends out to the very tip of the point, providing users with the opportunity to explore natural features of land and water. The park is connected to East Tawas, Tawas City, and Alabaster Township by the Tawas Bay Pedestrian – Bike Path, which extends 14 miles along the Lake Huron shoreline. Additionally, Tawas Point State Park is adjacent to the north-south Huron Shores Heritage Route, which begins in Standish and ends in Mackinaw City. The Tawas Blueway identifies water trail routes beginning and ending at the park.

Camping

With its 193 modern campsites, 4 cabins and 8 ADA sites, Tawas Point is a popular, in-demand, and revenue-generating camping venue. Campers enjoy the experience of being surrounded by water, the accessibility of the campsites, and the rare opportunity to see the sunrise and sunset over water from one location.

Shipwrecks

Two shipwrecks sit off the shoreline of Tawas Point, providing historical and educational value to visitors. Their protection is part of a statewide effort to celebrate its maritime heritage.

3.3 Public Affirmation of Significance Statements

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

“I love this park – the sites and grounds are great! So much to do with the town so close and related events. Beaches on both sides are great and love the special beaches for pets.”

“Point is a spring migration hotspot of epic proportions in the Great Lakes region. It helps the local economy by bringing birders from all over the WORLD to Tawas. It is very important to education the public of giving the birds their space during June/July.”

“Nice shallow and warm water to swim in. Close to good fishing with beautiful sunrises. Close enough to drive to yet far enough so it feels like you are getting away.

“Top kiteboarding destination in Michigan!”

“If someone is interested in visiting the area, likes swimming, fishing, flying kites, and lighthouses, I recommend visiting Tawas Point State Park.”

“The Park allows the public to experience Michigan nature at its best, for it preserves a stretch of Great Lakes shoreline and it offers habitat to our wildlife.”

“I think the park is fabulous. If any changes are made, I would hope that they be in the manner of what has been done already, which appears to be with great attention to nature.”

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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 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 Enhance and protect the native community and natural resource process over and above any other uses that might be contemplated	Pristine Native species and natural processes maintained, restored and protected	Restricted None, unless classified as a "Seasonal Zone"	None No development, except as needed for resource protection
Primitive Attain and maintain a high quality natural resource condition	↓	↓	↓
Backcountry Maintain natural character while allowing for increased visitor use			
Cultural Landscape The zone addresses evidence and interpretation of historic and cultural resources			
Scenic Protect and preserve aesthetic qualities			
Natural Resources Recreation Protect natural resources while allowing medium to high density active recreation			
Developed Recreation Encourage active recreation with high density of use in areas not designated for natural resource significance	↓	↓	↓
Visitor Services Develop areas for program administration and operation			
	Active Management Natural resources actively managed and modified to support administrative and support activities	Significant Use Used for administration and operations; no recreational opportunities	Extensive Development High level of development of facilities for support of administrative activities

The 2004 Project Boundary approved by the Natural Resources Commission (NCR), includes 1,410 acres of land owned primarily by the Tawas Beach Club. The Planning Team recommends that this continue to be included within the future park boundary because it is a large block of mostly undeveloped land with high value natural resources, as well as recreation potential. Like the “point” itself it is an important stopover for migrating birds. Studies have identified the shore of inland lakes in proximity to Great Lakes coastline as important feeding areas for migrating song birds, lots of midge production, and the like. This property is likely used by waterfowl to escape high wind and waves on Lake Huron.

The Tawas Point Beach Club property would also have high value for resource based recreation that would complement the recreation currently offered at Tawas Point State Park (i.e. hiking, cross-country skiing). Though it is unlikely that the property will become available in the short-term, the Planning Team recommends that the undeveloped land should be considered for public purposes if and when it does become available.

Management Zones

- Primitive
- Developed Recreation
- Visitor Services
- Cultural Landscape
- Cultural Landscape Overlay
- Scenic Overlay

Tawas Point State Park Management Zones

Baldwin Township
Iosco County, Michigan



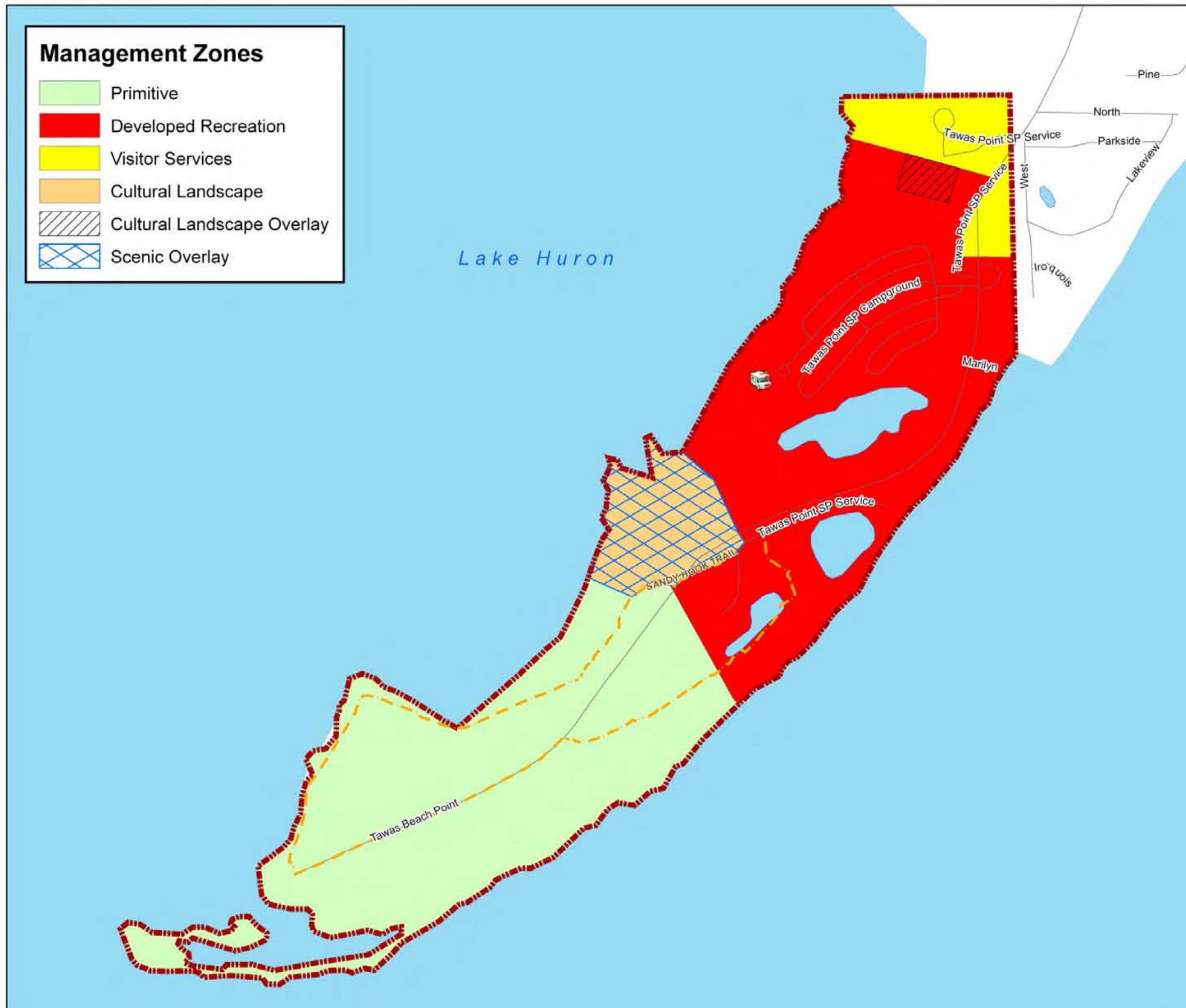
- Tawas Point State Park
- Trails
- Campground

0 500 1,000 Feet

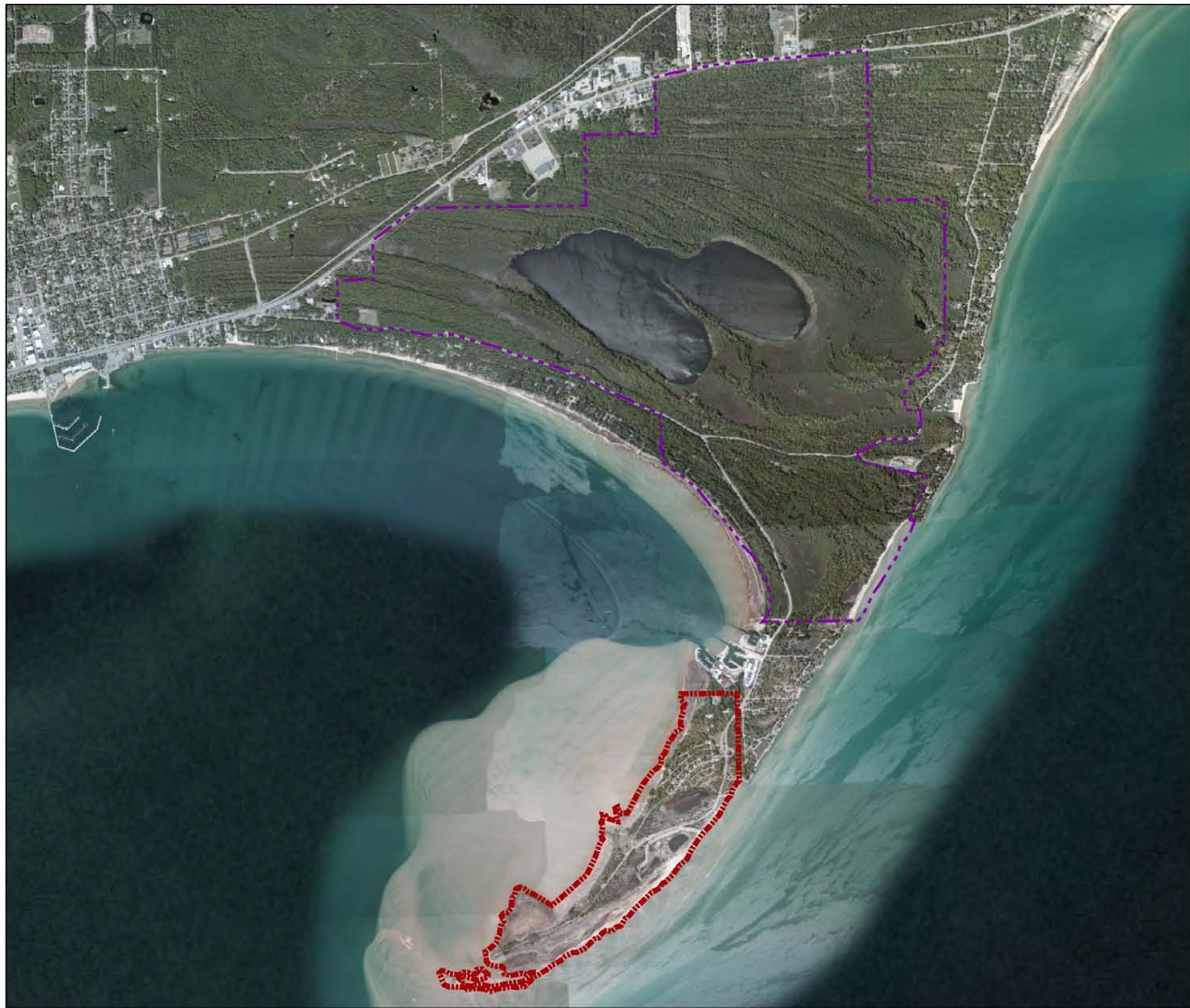


clearzoning
CLEAR AND CONNECTED

Sources: Michigan DNR,
Michigan Geographic Data Library
Map Created July 12, 2013





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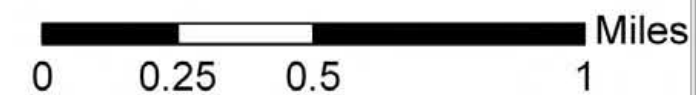
Tawas Point State Park Aerial

Baldwin Township
Iosco County, Michigan



-  Tawas Point State Park
-  2004 Project Boundary*
Approved by the NRC

* A Project Boundary is a geographic area in which the DNR has an interest in acquiring property that supports the mission of the DNR on a willing buyer/seller basis.



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Sources: Michigan DNR,
Michigan Geographic Data Library

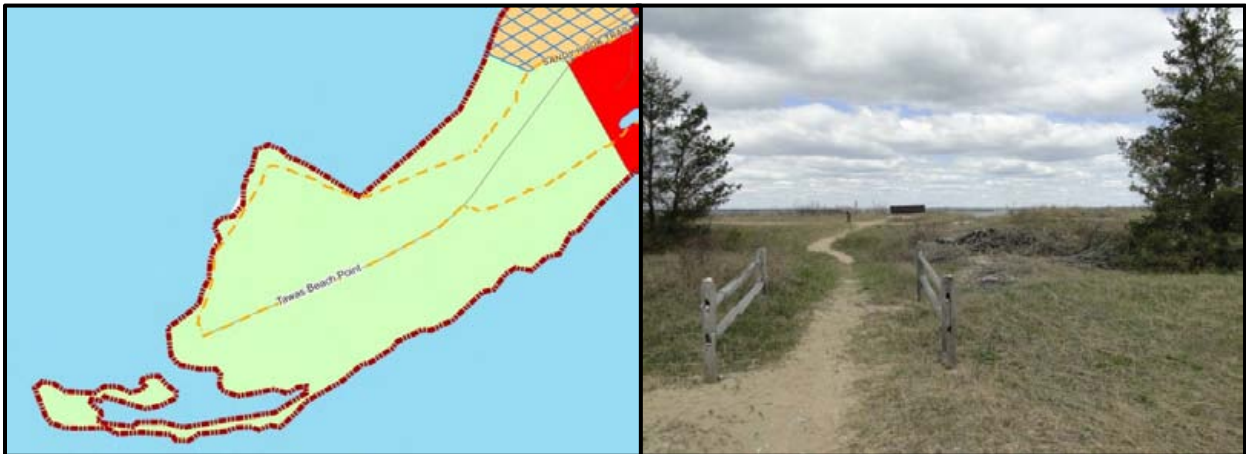
Map Created March 13, 2014

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The 220-acre Tawas Point State Park was divided into the following five zones:

- Primitive Zone
- Cultural Landscape Zone & Overlay
- Scenic Overlay Zone
- Developed Recreation Zone
- Visitor Services Zone

4.1 Primitive Zone



The Sandy Hook Trail in the Primitive Zone

Approximately 84 acres (42%) of Tawas Point State Park are designated Primitive. Located in the southern portion of the park, this zone preserves and protects the habitat for migrating birds and shoreline for nesting shorebirds, including the piping plover. Only foot traffic would be allowed in this zone to ensure that the natural features are not damaged or compromised by recreation. The zone includes the majority of the Sandy Hook Trail, which offer visitors the experience of hiking and nature observation via both land and water. The Planning Team recognizes that some of the existing development in the Primitive Zone is somewhat more intensive than the zone would typically permit.

Natural Resources

This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management allowed only where necessary to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Protection of native species (including the piping plover) and natural processes would take precedence over visitor accommodation.

Historic/Cultural Resources

There are two unidentified historic shipwrecks that are protected from development or removal of timbers, fittings or other objects.

Recreation Opportunities

With the focus of this zone being preservation, protection and enhancement of the natural communities present within the zone, recreational opportunities are limited to low-intensity uses. Low-intensity activities that typically occur in this zone are hiking and nature observation. Occasional vehicular use of

the two-track will continue to provide access to the fog signal for the U.S. Coastguard and for special park events.

Education Opportunities

The significance of the natural habitat in this zone presents a tremendous educational opportunity. Information can be relayed through the use of kiosks at trailheads and interpretive signage along trails and at other appropriate locations, along with new media for self-guided tours and the like. Signage within the zone will be mindful of the primitive zone designation.

Visitor Experience

Visitor experience would reflect a high degree of natural feel: a sense of solitude, and a lack of man-made improvements. Overall, there would be relatively low interaction with other visitors.

Management Focus

Management would focus on maintaining the low-impact character of the zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality. Routine maintenance would be provided. Care would be taken to eliminate any detrimental impacts such as incursion of invasive species. Vegetation will be protected from human degradation by using management techniques to keep users on the designated trails.

Development

The focus is to maintain as little evidence of human activity as possible. Trail improvements, which can include boardwalks and/or overlooks, will be considered but will focus primarily on upgrading the existing structures rather than adding new.



An observation platform in the Primitive Zone



Interpretive sign educates the park visitor

4.2 Cultural Landscape Zone & Overlay



The Lighthouse complex is an important educational resource

Approximately 15 acres (8%) of land within Tawas Point State Park are designated Cultural Landscape Zone. The central focus of the Cultural Landscape Zone is managing the area to preserve its historical and cultural features, most notably the Tawas Point Lighthouse complex. The Cultural Landscape Overlay has been applied to the area of the former lighthouse site. The primary difference between the zone and the overlay is that while interpretation and education opportunities within the Cultural Landscape Overlay should be explored, the recommendations of the underlying Developed Recreation Zone are the primary focus. The foundation archaeological area should not be disturbed without consultation with the State Archaeologist.

Natural Resources

This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management focused to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to enhance education/interpretation uses 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

Historic buildings and structures, such as the Tawas Point Lighthouse and its associated complex of buildings, as well as the known old lighthouse site, are included in this zone/overlay and represent the evolution of the cultural resource, temporal change, and the continuum of time. They will be managed in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation and in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office.

Recreation Opportunities

Visitors engaged in sightseeing, recreational, and educational activities in a cultural setting (i.e. walking/hiking tour), compatible with and sensitive to the setting.

Education Opportunities

Interpretive signage at the old lighthouse site, at the Tawas Point Lighthouse, at trail heads, on the trail, overlooks and other points of interest provides passive interpretation. Guided tours and education programs are available. Off-site interpretation is appropriate as well.

Visitor Experience

Visitors engaged in sightseeing, organized tours, recreational, and educational activities in a cultural setting. Moderate on-site interpretation, off-site interpretation, noise tolerance, and interaction with DNR staff and volunteers.

Management Focus

The management focus is to maintain the cultural and historical character of the zone. The focus of the overlay is to manage interpretive opportunities at the old lighthouse site, while simultaneously employing the recommendations of the underlying Developed Recreation Zone.

Development

Non-historic development and activities that do not conflict with the cultural landscape are tolerated. A moderate level of development compatible with the cultural landscape is permitted such as interpretive media, walks, picnic areas, and restrooms to support visitor access and use. Modern restrooms should be architecturally distinct from historic structures.

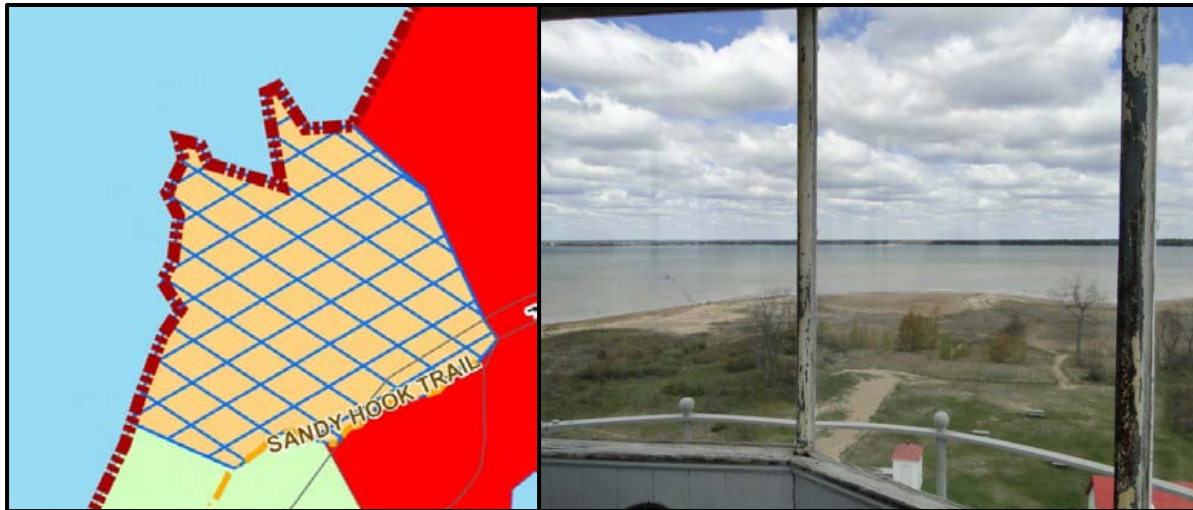


The museum store extends the experience beyond the park visit



A sitting room in the historic Tawas Point Lighthouse

4.3 Scenic Overlay Zone



View of Tawas Bay from the top of the Tawas Point Lighthouse

Approximately 13 acres (7%) of Tawas Point State Park are zoned Scenic Overlay. This zone has been applied to the Tawas Point Lighthouse complex in recognition of the spectacular views of Lake Huron, Tawas Bay, and the park as a whole that the lighthouse offers to visitors. The view from the lighthouse provides visitors the opportunity to experience the Great Lakes from a unique perspective. Views of the lighthouse from outside the park are equally important. Where viewscape protections conflict with management of cultural resources, the recommendations of the underlying Cultural Landscape Zone should apply.

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 enhance the views of the zone.

Historic / Cultural Resources

Cultural resource within the overlay, most notably the Tawas Point Lighthouse, would be preserved, rehabilitated, and adaptively used for operational uses or educational purposes.

Recreational Opportunities

Low-to-moderate levels of recreation would be allowed, compatible with the underlying zone and with the Tawas Point Lighthouse and its associated buildings. Opportunities for accessible viewing via live camera or audio tour could be explored for visitors with mobility limitations.

Education Opportunities

Interpretive signage may be used at key viewing points, trailheads, or observation area(s). There may be opportunities for off-site interpretation as well.

Visitor Experience

Moderate encounters may be expected in Scenic Overlays. A moderate time commitment, off-site interpretation and noise tolerance would be expected.

Management Focus

Management focuses on maintaining and preserving the scenic views of the complex, Lake Huron, Tawas Bay, and the park as a whole.

Development

Development will be appropriate with the underlying Cultural Landscape Zone to accommodate such things as interpretive activities and sightseeing.

4.4 Developed Recreation Zone



The beachfront Tawas Bay Cabin offers a great view of the Bay

Approximately 106 acres (52%) of Tawas Point State Park are designated Developed Recreation. This zone allows active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. This zone includes the pet-friendly beach, the campground and cabins, day-use parking, and the swimming beach areas. Additionally, a segment of the Sandy Hook Trail is located in this zone. A Cultural Landscape Overlay is incorporated within this zone at the site of the old lighthouse, but the recommendations of the underlying Developed Recreation Zone receive priority.

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. Loss of ash trees in this zone due to Emerald ash borer is a particular challenge.

Historic/Cultural Resources

Resources in this zone could be preserved, interpreted, adapted or rehabilitated. Non-utilized or non-stabilized structures could be removed.

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 camping, bicycling, boating, canoeing, kitbeboarding, kayaking, fishing, nature observation, day-use beach, picnicking, and other day-use activities.

Education Opportunities

Interpretive signage and information could be provided at the campground, registration building, trailheads, and/or along trails and overlooks.

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 pet-friendly beach, 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.



The paved portion of the Sandy Hook Trail



Bike racks are available near beach access points

4.5 Visitor Services Zone



The park entrance and headquarters building

This zone is 12 acres (6%) and encompasses the developed areas required for program administration, operations, and the business of running a state park. The Visitor Services zone in Tawas Point State park includes the park headquarters and visitor welcome area.

Natural Resources

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

Historic/Cultural Resources

No historic or cultural resources have been identified in this zone.

Recreational Opportunities

There are no recreational activities in the Visitor Services zone.

Education Opportunities

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

Visitor Experience

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 activities is permitted in this zone. Development in this zone will typically entail updating the appearance and/or function of the park headquarters and visitor welcome area.

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5. 10-Year Action Goals Plan

The Planning Team has developed 10-Year Action Goals that it believes are necessary to guide management and development within the five designated management zones 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 achieve them. PRD will see internal funding, alternative funding sources, partnerships and other potential mechanisms for implementing the desired future conditions defined in this plan.

General Action Goals			
<p>Many of the 10-Year Action Goals for Tawas Point 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 operating 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			
1. Create a Stewardship Plan that allows or mimics natural disturbance	3-5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship	Stewardship Ecologist
2. Implement Stewardship Plan for the park	On-going	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager Stewardship
3. Implement invasive species control, with a strong emphasis on early detection and rapid response. Monitor roads, trails, and any new development sites for possible invasive species introductions.	On-going	Park Manager Stewardship Fisheries	Park Manager
Historic/Cultural Resources			
1. Develop and conduct monitoring program for archaeological resources	On-going	Park Manager Stewardship Historical Center	Cultural Resource Analyst Office of State Archaeologist
2. Protect cultural resources	On-going	Park Manager Stewardship Historical Center SHPO Regional Planner	Park Manager Stewardship Historical Center
3. Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources	On-going	Stewardship Historical Center Regional Planner	Cultural Resource Analyst Office of State Archaeologist

General Action Goals			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Recreation Opportunities			
1. Identify opportunities to improve trail connectivity between the park and local community to support the mutual goals of PRD and the local partners	2 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner Local Recreation Partners	Regional Planner
2. Continue to identify opportunities and implement improvements to support the Tawas Bay Blue Water trails and other water-based recreation opportunities at the park	On-going	Park Manager Regional Planner Local Recreation Partners	Park Manager
3. Evaluate and identify ecotourism and heritage tourism opportunities	On-going	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach Recreation Programmer	Park Manager Historical Center
Education/Interpretation Opportunities			
1. Develop specific interpretation and education opportunities	On-going	Park Manager Stewardship Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Marketing & Outreach Historical Center
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. Implement the Interpretive Plan (virtual interpretive center)	3-5 Years	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach
4. Work with Saginaw Chippewa and other interested Tribes to provide on-site interpretation of Native American history at the park	2-5 Years	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach Saginaw Chippewa Tribe	Historical Center
5. Develop interpretive opportunity for historic shipwrecks	On-going	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach
Management Focus			
1. Explore acquisition of property within NRC Dedicated Boundary as opportunities present themselves	On-going	Park Manager Stewardship Lands Manager	Lands Manager
2. Review and update Wildfire Plan and Emergency Plan	Completed with Annual Update	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager
3. Continue to explore and develop revenue generating opportunities that are sustainable	On-going	Park Manager Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Historical Center
4. Continue to promote volunteer partnerships and Friends Group partnership to meet resource goals	On-going	Park Manager Historical Center Volunteers Friends Group Stewardship	Park Manager Volunteers Friends Group Historical Center
5. Continue to complete and comply with annual safety inspections and plans	On-going	Park Manager	Park Manager

General Action Goals			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Management Focus (Continued)			
6. Implement PRD marketing effort at local level and within the park	5 Years	Recreation Programmer Historical Center Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Historical Center
7. Continue to collaborate with community partners to support the mutual goals of PRD and the local partners	On-going	Park Manager Local Partners	Park Manager Local Partners
8. Continue to connect the park to East Tawas State Dock through alternative modes of transportation, management initiatives, marketing and promotion, and events	On-going	Marketing & Outreach Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
9. Review all concession contracts	On-going Annually	Park Manager Contracts and Lease Coordinator	Park Manager
Development			
1. Continue compliance with deed restrictions	On-going	Park Manager	Park Manager
2. Maintain park facilities and infrastructure consistent with Capital Outlay priorities (i.e. roads, electrical system...etc.)	On-going	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
3. Implement wayfinding signs within park trail system	2 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
4. Work with local partners to connect the park, community and regional land and water trails with appropriate wayfinding signs and/or GPS trail routes	On-going	Park Manager Regional Planner Local Partners	Park Manager
5. Continue to ensure ADA accessibility for all development opportunities	On-going Annually	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager

Primitive Zone

The Primitive Zone emphasizes the natural resources of the area. It is managed to allow only dispersed, low frequency and low impact recreational use in the zone. Maintaining a high quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements or users are allowed. For this reason, native species and natural processes take precedence over visitor accommodation. The following 10-Year Action Goals propose only very low levels of development, in order to protect the important habitat. The Planning Team recognizes that some of the existing development in the Primitive Zone is somewhat more intensive than the zone would typically permit.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Natural Resources			
1. Manage vegetation and infrastructure consistent with the zone designation and with the bird habitat	On-going	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager
2. Inspect for piping plover nesting sites on the beach	On-going (Seasonal)	Park Manager Stewardship Volunteers US Fish & Wildlife	Park Manager
Education/Interpretation Opportunities			
1. Identify a variety of educational and interpretive opportunities including technology-based approaches that allow visitors to understand the importance of piping plovers, other shorebirds and their habitat	On-Going (Seasonal)	Park Manager Stewardship Volunteers	Park Manager
Management Focus			
1. Monitor and protect piping plover and their nesting sites through a variety of methods (i.e. enclosures)	On-going (Seasonal)	Park Manager Stewardship Volunteers	Park Manager
2. Continue to use management techniques to keep park users on the designated trails	On-going	Park Manager	Park Manager
3. Maintain the existing access road to the fog signal as an emergency route and pathway (reduce width if coast guard abandons signal)	On-going	Park Manager	Park Manager
4. Maintain and update the existing observation platforms to meet safety standards and improve accessibility	On-going	Park Manager	Park Manager
Development			
1. Maintain appropriate education/interpretation trail signs and viewing locations	On-going	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager

Cultural Landscape Zone/Scenic Overlay Zone

The Cultural Landscape Zone addresses the overall setting in which historic structures and non-structural evidence of the traditions, beliefs, practices, life ways, arts, crafts and social institutions of any community may be found. The Tawas Point Lighthouse complex is the primary resource within this zone and provides opportunities to educate park visitors. The Scenic Overlay Zone designation recognizes the spectacular viewscape that the lighthouse offers to visitors. Where viewscape protections conflict with the management of cultural resources, the recommendations of underlying Cultural Landscape Zone apply.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Management Focus			
1. Manage lighthouse complex as an archaeologically and culturally significant site	On-going	Park Manager Historical Center	Park Manager Historical Center
2. Maintain scenic viewscape	On-going	Park Manager	Park Manager
3. Continue implementing recommendations of Historic Structures Report	On-going	Park Manager Stewardship Historical Center	Park Manager Historical Center
Education/Interpretation Opportunities			
1. Evaluate and update the existing interpretation	2-5 Years	Park Manager Historical Center	Historical Center
Development			
1. Re-plaster exterior of lighthouse	3-5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner Historical Center SHPO	Park Manager Historical Center
Recreation Opportunities			
1. Investigate opportunities for accessible viewing (i.e. live camera, audio tour...etc.) for persons with mobility limitations to "experience" the lighthouse and its views (Scenic Overlay)	2 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner Historical Center	Park Manager Historical Center

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. Tawas Point State Park's primary day-use and camping areas and swimming beaches are located in this zone. The 10-Year Action Goals direct management decisions and development projects designed to promote and support these diverse visitor activities.

The Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone is incorporated within this zone at the old lighthouse site. While interpretation opportunities within the overlay should be explored, the recommendations of the underlying Developed Recreation Zone are the primary focus.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Recreation Opportunities			
1. Work with local partners in establishing safe trail connection(s) to Tawas Point State Park	2 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner Local Partners	Regional Planner
Education/Interpretation Opportunities			
1. Develop interpretive opportunity at old lighthouse site	1-2 Years	Park Manager Cultural Analyst Historical Center	Park Manager Historical Center
2. Continue Camp Green education program with focus on electricity conservation	On-going	Marketing & Outreach Program Manager	Marketing & Outreach
Management Focus			
1. Maintain and improve facilities and structures consistent with Capital Outlay priorities	On-going	Park Manager	Park Manager
Development			
1. Explore emerging, new ideas for small-scale overnight accommodations	3-5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
2. Identify appropriate location for additional day-use parking area capable of accommodating trailers	1-3 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
3. Add bike racks at key locations	1-3 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager
4. Add more universally accessible picnic tables/areas	1-3 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager
5. Explore opportunities for additional beach amenities (possibly in partnership with concessionaires)	1-3 Years	Park Manager Concessionaires	Park Manager
6. Explore opportunity for amphitheater/flexible gathering space at campground	5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager

Visitor Service 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 Tawas Point State Park.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Development			
1. Upgrade the appearance and function of the headquarters and visitor welcome area	On-going	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager

Appendix A – Supporting Analysis

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A.1 PARK SETTING

Park Profile

Area: 220 acres

County: Iosco

Township: Baldwin

Latitude: 44°15'29"N

Longitude: 83°26'33"W

Address: 686 Tawas Beach Road
East Tawas, MI 48730

Phone #: (989) 362-5041

Tawas Point State Park



Location & Community

Tawas Point is located on the shore of Lake Huron and the Tawas Bay off US 23, 2.5 miles southeast of East Tawas in Iosco County. The park is situated on the end of a sand spit that forms the eastern shore of Tawas Bay. With the sandy beaches on both Lake Huron and Tawas Bay and the warm shallow waters of the bay, Tawas Point provides ideal swimming conditions. The protective landform also shelters the bay from high winds making it one of the best sailing locations in the state. A constructed reef has made Tawas Bay a popular location for fishermen as well. Bird watchers also find Tawas Point especially attractive because of the large populations of migratory birds that flock to the park's unique geography. The most iconic feature of the peninsula, however, is the Tawas Point Lighthouse, which is the only true Victorian-era style station built on the Great Lakes. The park also hosts 193 campsites, 2 miles of hiking trails, sandy beaches, 2 camper cabins and 2 mini cabins on its 220 acres of land. Tawas Park's distinctive geography and historic significance has helped to earn it the description as the "Cape Cod of the Midwest".

The City of East Tawas and Tawas City benefit greatly from their close proximity to the park. The annual May Bird Festival attracts visitors from around the world and provides both cities with tourism revenue. In general, park visitors regularly take advantage of lodging and food accommodations provided by these cities.

Iosco County is located on Lake Huron, north of the Saginaw Bay and covers approximately 565 square miles. Historically, the most important industries in the county were fishing, agriculture, and timber. Although the timber industry all but vanished from Iosco County by the 1890s, fishing and agriculture have remained important to the county's economy. Since the decline of the timber industry, tourism has become a significant industry. The majority of tourism is concentrated along the Lake Huron coastline where most of the county's development exists. In addition to those along the Huron coast, population concentrations can also be found in the western portion of the county, where M-65 connects Hale, Plainfield Township, and Whittemore. Aside from dispersed small cities and towns, Iosco County is largely forested with some agriculture. Only approximately 1% of the county's landmass is urbanized, 64.3% is forested, and 10.7% is agrarian. (Source: <http://iosco.m33access.com/>)



A.2 DEMOGRAPHICS

Iosco County was originally inhabited by the Sauk Indians. Algonquin, Chippewa, Menominee, and Ottawa eventually drove the Sauk. In 1819, through the Treaty of Saginaw, all but 8,000 acres of Iosco County was purchased from the Saginaw Band of the Chippewa Indian Tribe. Iosco County is recognized as the aboriginal home of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe of Michigan. The large increase in lumber interests from the 1860s to the 1890s brought with it a tremendous population influx. However, with the end of mass lumber production in the 1890s, the area showed steady population decreases as people fled the area to look for work. The population of Iosco County continued to decline through the Great Depression. Eventually population growth was stimulated by growing interests in hay, potato, wheat, corn, pea, and barley production, as well as infrastructure developments in highway access and electric communications. Recreation and tourism also became an important factor in revitalizing the population after the end of major timbering operations in the area. Developments for game hunting were established as early as 1903 near Sand, Round, and Indian Lakes. Today, tourism is heavily concentrated along the coast of Lake Huron.

(Source: <http://iosco.m33access.com/>)

2010 U.S. Census Data for Iosco County

People QuickFacts	Iosco County	Michigan
Population, 2010	25,887	9,883,640
Persons under 5 years, percent	4.0%	5.9%
Persons under 18 years, percent	17.6%	23.2%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	26.1%	14.1%
Female persons, percent	50.7%	50.9%
White persons, percent	96.4%	80.2%
Black persons, percent	0.4%	14.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent	0.7%	0.7%
Asian persons, percent	0.5%	2.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander persons, percent	0.1%	Z
Persons reporting two or more races, percent	1.5%	2.1%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino Origin, percent	1.6%	4.5%
White persons not Hispanic, percent	98.4%	76.4%
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25+,	85.1%	88.4%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25+	13.7%	25.3%
Civilian Veterans	3,609	711,613
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+	21.3	23.9
Housing units	20,443	4,525,480
Occupied housing units	11,757	73.5%

Median value of owner-occupied housing units	\$98,300	\$137,300
Households	10,934	3,825,182
Persons per household	2.36	2.53
Per capita money income in the past 12 months	\$21,303	\$25,482
Median household income	\$36,445	\$48,669
Persons below poverty level, percent	19.2%	15.7%
Geography QuickFacts	losco County	Michigan
Land area in square miles	549.10	56,538.90
Persons per square mile	47.1	174.8
FIPS Code	069	26
Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area	None	

(Source: US 2010 Census; 2010 American Fact Finder)

The higher than average number of persons 65 years and over living in the County is significant, with a corresponding lower percentage of those under the age of 18 years. It is also noted that the per capita income and median household income of the County is lower than the state average.

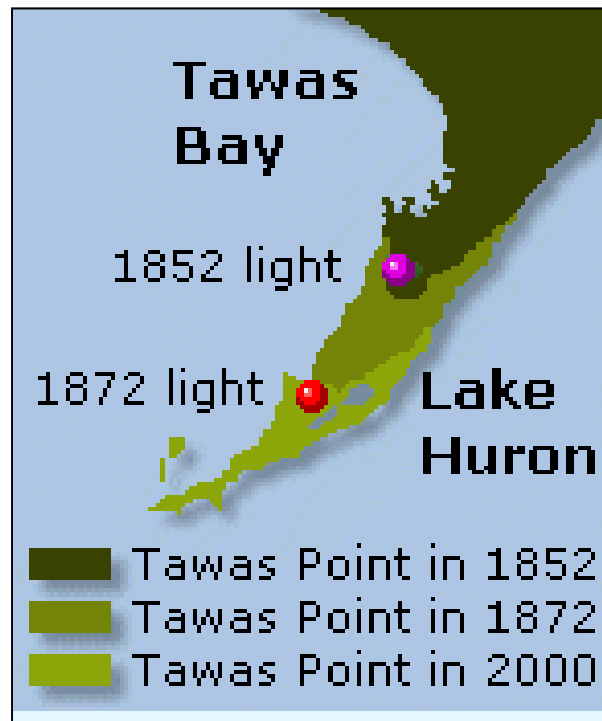
Due to the large number of seasonal residences in the county, summer population figures could be considerably higher than indicated by the census data provided. According to the 2013 losco County Master Plan, more than half of the dwellings in Baldwin Township, where the park is located, are seasonally occupied.

A.3 HISTORY OF TAWAS POINT STATE PARK

The Nineteenth Century: Iosco County and the Construction of the Lighthouse

In 1819, all but 8,000 acres of Iosco County was purchased from the Saginaw Band of the Chippewa Indian Tribe through the Treaty of Saginaw. The remaining 8,000 acres, near the AuSable River, was later purchased for an annual stipend of \$1,000. Originally known as Kanotin County, the land was renamed Iosco County by Henry Schoolcraft in 1843. The original name of the county, Kanotin, means “in path of the big wind”, while Iosco means “water of light”. In 1848, the first permanent European settlement in the county was established near the mouth of the AuSable River. Residents heavily used the area for fishing which they shipped primarily to Boston, New York, and Chicago.

In 1850, the federal government responded to the obvious need to construct a lighthouse to guide vessels around Ottawa Point (now known as Tawas Point) and safely into Tawas Bay. Congress appropriated \$5,000 for the construction of a lighthouse on Ottawa Point. Between 1852 and 1853, the lighthouse was constructed, making it the first permanent structure in the Tawas Bay area. In 1852, a Lighthouse Board was established to administer the national Lighthouse Service. The board, which included Navy officers and members of the Army Corps of Engineers, quickly made changes to the Tawas project, including the implementation of a fifth order Fresnel lens in lieu of the originally proposed, poorly performing Lewis Lamp. The Tawas Point Light Station was at this time located in the 11th District of the United States Lighthouse Establishment. In 1857, the State of Michigan established Iosco County. Over the next 20 years (from 1852-1872), the point gained nearly a mile in length due to shifting sands driven by the prevailing northeast winds. Many complaints were voiced about the dimness of the light due to the expanding distance from the lighthouse to the point.



(Source:

<http://www.terrypepper.com/lights/huron/tawas/tawas.htm>)

From 1860 to 1890, the lumber industry fueled Iosco County’s population growth, which went from 175 persons in 1860 to 15,244 in 1890. By the time Captain Olmstead drove his schooner, *Dolphin*, into the sands along the point in 1876, Congress had appropriated \$30,000 for the erection of a new lighthouse “on the shoal to the southward of Tawas Point in 4 feet of water.” In 1876, the new lighthouse, currently known as Tawas Point Light Station, and the Life Saving Station on Tawas Point had been constructed. Due to the large number of lives lost on the Great Lakes, Congress appropriated funds to hire a full-time staff for the Life-Saving Station. The years leading up to the turn of the century saw the establishment of the City of East Tawas (in 1887). The light was improved to a fourth order lens in 1892; the brick oil house was added in 1898; and the fog signal was installed in 1899 at what was then the end of the point. A tramway and telephone lines connected the keeper’s dwelling and the fog signal.

The Twentieth Century: Tawas Point State Park

On July 1, 1902 the name of Ottawa Point was officially changed to Tawas Point. Beginning in 1910, the U.S. government began a series of administrative changes that would eventually (in 1939) bring the Life-Saving Service and the Lighthouse Service under one agency: the United States Coast Guard. In 1906 a small wood frame barn was constructed at the site. Before long it was converted into a dwelling for the assistant keepers. In 1921, the Lighthouse Service approved dismantling the keepers dwelling at Ecorse on the Detroit River and moving it to Tawas Point to provide much needed housing for the assistant keepers. Once the keepers dwelling was relocated, the barn was moved to its current location.

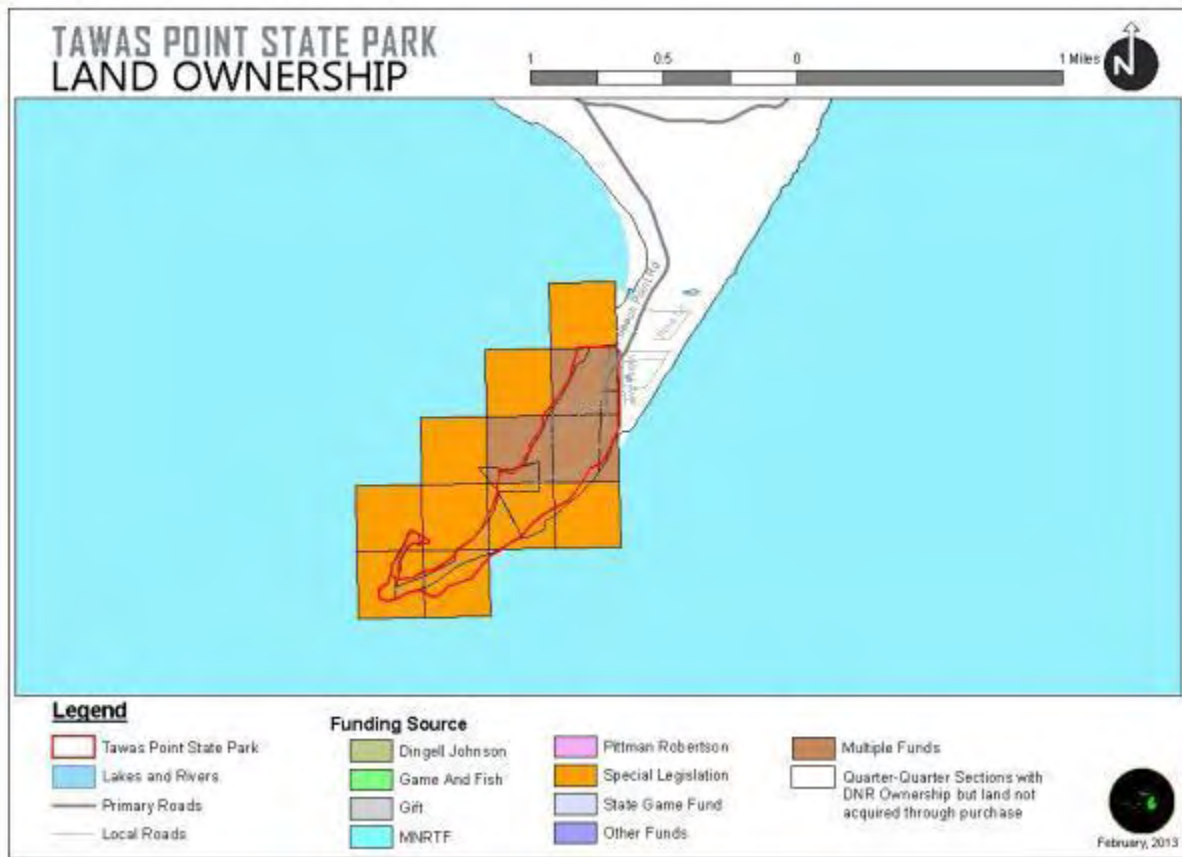
During World War II, the Coast Guard was absorbed into the Navy and later (in 1946) returned to the Department of Treasury. The reorganization of responsibilities led to all of the light stations of the Great Lakes becoming part of the Ninth Coast Guard District.

By the 1950s, the Tawas Point Light had been automated, but the Coast Guard continued to use the 1920s building as housing for staff working at the Coast Guard Station until 1993.

In 1961, the State of Michigan purchased 183 acres of land at Tawas Point for \$29,500. In 1964, development of the park began and in 1966 the park officially opened. In 1993, a beach pavilion was constructed near the playground area. The building was later renovated to include concessions to accommodate day-use visitors at the beach. In 1998, Michigan applied to have the lighthouse complex buildings transferred to the DNR without cost for Historic Monument Purposes. In 2001, the DNR took ownership of the lighthouse. In 2002, the DNR removed the Assistant Lighthouse Keeper house that had been placed on the site in 1922.

A.4 LAND OWNERSHIP

The majority of the lands of Tawas Point State Park have been acquired through special legislation. Often, conditions attached to the original funding source or other details of the property transaction encumber the future use or disposition of the land.



The funding source map above identifies the sources used to acquire the land of Tawas Point State Park. Although some of the parcels have been described as being acquired through multiple funds, the only funding sources explicitly identified in the records observed was special legislation Act 27, P.A. 1944, and Act 50, P.A. 1944. Act 27 provided for appropriations for the acquisition of recreation facilities and certain lands. The unexpended balance in any appropriations made under this act at the close of any fiscal year were not reverted to the general fund, but continued to be available for release by the state administrative board for the purpose of acquisition of recreation facilities and certain lands stated until June 30, 1949. All lands of the park were, at least, in part acquired using these funding sources. The following outlines in more detail each funding source associated with the park.

- Special Legislation
 - 93.75 acres acquired under Act 27, P.A. 1944, and Act 50, P.A. 1944.
- Multiple Funds
 - The remaining 89.25 acres of Tawas Point State Park are registered as having been acquired through multiple funding sources.
 - All three parcels listed under Multiple Funds were acquired, at least in part under Act 27, P.A. 1944, and Act 50, P.A. 1944.

- Federal Land Transfers
 - The Quitclaim Deed between the U.S. Gov. and the DNR dated 2001, when the lighthouse property was transferred, requires “compliance with terms and conditions in application for obtaining real property for historic monument purposes and right of reversion to grantor” and comes with other restrictions
 - 8.6 acres was conveyed through the Federal Lands to Parks program in 1985 and must be used in accordance with the plan and program submitted with the application. Biennial reporting to Secretary of the Interior is required to ensure compliance.

Easements

A number of easements are recorded as being granted at Tawas Point State Park. The park is impacted by a granted easement to the United States of America. According to the Release of Right of Way for Roadway Purposes agreement the easement is intended to “provide an access road to the new Tawas Point Coast Guard Station. All use other than serving to assist the Coast Guard in discharging its authorized duties is prohibited and will provide for automatic reversion to the State of Michigan”. The Coast Guard has been using the easement as access to the fog horn located at the end of the point.

Other Easements

- Easement to construct and maintain underground electronic cable to Lakeview Cablevision.
- 10-foot wide easement to construct and maintain buried telephone line to service US Coast Guard fog signal.
- Several 10-foot wide easements to construct and maintain buried electric line to Consumers Power/Consumers Energy, as well as 30’ easement for ingress and egress.
- A perpetual easement reserved to the United States “for the purpose of preserving an arc of visibility” basically described as being between the lighthouse and the shores of Lake Huron. The restriction prohibits structures taller than 50 feet being constructed or trees being allowed to attain a height greater than 50 feet.
- Right of access by U.S. Government to the Lighthouse parcel.
- 40-foot right of way for roadway to U.S. Government for access to coast guard parcel north of the park.

A.5 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 Tawas Point State Park, several legal mandates have been identified, which are listed below.

Department of Natural Resources State Land Use Rules

- Issued by authority conferred on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by Section 504 of 1994 PA 451 MCL 324.504.
- Covers rules on state land relating to camping, motorized vehicle use, control of animals, trail use etc.

DNR Policies and Procedures – Series 26 - State-Owned Lands

- General principles established by the Department that guide the administration of authorities delegated to the Department by the Legislature and the Governor.
- 26.04-04 - Use Of State-Owned Lands Administered By The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (ISSUED: 02/01/2006). The NRC will 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.

Land Use Orders of the Director

There are two land use orders relating specifically to Tawas Point State Park

- Prohibits entry to environmentally sensitive and piping plover nesting areas, as posted, from April 15 through August 31 except with proper written permission:
- Possess a dog or allow a dog to enter into or upon state-owned lands, as posted, at any time in the nature trail or beach areas of Tawas Point SP.

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 regulates discharges to groundwater; administered by the Water Division, Groundwater Discharge Unit.

PA 451 of 1994, PART 31 – WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION

- Administered by the DEQ and part of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, this legislation defines specific rules for the regulation of permitted activities in a floodplain in Michigan.

PA 451 of 1994, PART 303 - WETLANDS PROTECTION (formerly Act No. 203, P.A. 1979 Wetland Protection Act)

- Administered by the DEQ and part of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, this legislation provides clarification and guidance on interpreting Part 303 by defining specific rules for the regulation of wetlands in Michigan.
- The law requires that persons planning to conduct certain activities in regulated wetlands apply for and receive a permit from the state before beginning the activity.

PA 451 OF 1994, PART 504 - STATE LAND USE RULES / LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR

- Administered by DNR Law Division.
- States that the department shall promulgate rules for the protection of the lands and property under its control against wrongful use or occupancy.

PA 451 OF 1994, PART 741 - STATE PARK SYSTEM - NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

- Notable in this law is Section 324.74102, which identifies the duties of the DNR and reinforces those core values concerning preservation, protection and management cited above.

PA 35 of 2010, Part 741 (“Recreation Passport”)

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

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.

A.6 RELATIONSHIP OTHER RECREATION RESOURCES

Federal Owned Recreation Land

- Huron National Forest – The Huron National Forest is part of the Huron-Manistee National Forest, which consists of nearly one million acres of public land. Established in 1909, the Huron National Forest consists of approximately 450,000 acres and is located in northeastern Michigan. With 14 developed campgrounds and 240 miles of non-motorized trails it provides good recreation opportunities. It also provides wonderful habitat for fish and wildlife, and resources for local industries. The Huron National Forest lies in parts of Oscoda, Alcona, Iosco, Crawford, and Ogemaw Counties.

State Owned Recreation Land

- Gladwin Lake Plain Management Area – Approximately 218,000 acres of scattered forest land offering hunting and wildlife opportunities to the public.
- Forest Conservation Area - This is a 15 acre forest management site managed by the Michigan DNR. It is located just east of the Tawas Beach Club along Baldwin Resort Road.

City of East Tawas

- East Tawas City Park Campground and Day Use Area– This is a popular site in East Tawas, featuring 174 modern campsites with full hookups and cable TV, a family picnic area, playground equipment and a public beach.
- Bolen Park – Located adjacent to the East Tawas Community Center, this park features a covered picnic pavilion with a kitchen and restrooms. Bolen Park also features a play structure, ball fields and horseshoe pits.
- Tom Dillon Park – Tom Dillon Park is a popular site for neighborhood gatherings, consisting of a covered picnic pavilion, restrooms and a kitchen area. The park also contains a youth softball diamond, horseshoe pits and a play structure.
- Dewey Durant Park – A popular day park within the community, this park features a covered picnic pavilion with kitchen and restrooms, several softball fields, tennis courts, horseshoe pits and a play structure. The park also features a fishing pond. The park and pavilion are available for private rental.
- Conservation Land – The city owns approximately 40 acres of conservation land located at the intersection of Kunze Rd. and Lincoln Rd.
- Harbor Park – Harbor Park is the location of many local festivals, community events, and the local arts and craft show. Located at the intersection of US 23 and Newman Street, it contains an expansive green area, wine and cheese shop, kite shop, children’s play structure, fountain and picnic pavilion. Public restrooms are available during the summer season.

Tawas City

- Gateway Park – Created in 1982, this 13 acre park is a public access, multi-recreational use park at the Tawas River mouth. It offers visitors fishing at a 300-foot lighted ADA-compatible fishing pier, a boat launch, portable restrooms and a shoreline trail/bike path. Family’s can enjoy the day at the park swimming, playing on the playground equipment or having a family picnic while using the park’s picnic tables and barbecue grills.
- Conservation Land - Tawas City owns two conservation sites. The first site is 14 acres in size and located on Meadow Road just outside of the city limits. The second is a 42 acres site located at the corner of East Whittemore Road and Oaks Road. Both parcels are located within Tawas Township.

- Soccer/Baseball Complex – Located adjacent to Tawas Middle School, the complex offers two baseball/softball fields that were updated in 2010 and seven irrigated soccer fields. Also available at the complex are indoor restrooms, picnic tables, a picnic shelter/pavilion, playground equipment and a concession stand.
- Tawas City Athletic Field – Home to the city’s main baseball field, the Tawas City Athletic Field contains dugouts, bleachers, a portable restroom, picnic tables and a basketball court. Also located at the site is the Community Center, which houses the community library and an open play field.
- Tawas City Park – This 8.2-acre park includes beach volleyball courts, two picnic pavilions, and a food concession stand with restrooms. The park’s 450-foot-long pier provides excellent fishing opportunities and its sandy beaches along Lake Huron are great for swimming.
- Town Square Park – Constructed in the early 1990’s and adjacent to Tawas City Park, Town Square Park offers the community an open-air building used for weddings and concerts and a memorial honoring a community resident who died serving his county during World War II. The park provides residents with the opportunity for many outdoor activities such as swimming, fishing, exploring the park’s shoreline bike path, playing on playground equipment for the little ones, performing on the performance stage or simply having a family picnic.
- Union Square Park – Union Square Park is a neighborhood park with a picnic area, benches and field area for playing sports and games.
- Veterans Park – Along the Tawas River and adjacent to the City Hall lies Veterans Park. It consists of a boardwalk used for fishing and as an access site for launching kayaks and canoes. In 2012, the first phase of a war memorial was begun in the park.

Non-Governmental Organizations

- There is a 220 acre forest reserve site located in Baldwin Township, located along the township’s northern border and northwest of Scott Rd.

Privately Owned Recreation Land

- Tawas Beach Club – Tawas Beach Club is an approximately 1,300 acre private campground located just north of Tawas Point State Park.
- Tawas Creek Golf Club - This is an 18-hole golf course that opened in 1946. It is a par 72 course offering 6,572 yards of golf from the longest tees.
- Tawas Bay Hunt Club – This hunt club contains 623 acres and offers hunting and fishing recreational opportunities. It was established in December of 1999.
- Red Hawk Golf Course – Rated as the thirteenth best public golf course in Michigan by Golf Magazine, the Red Hawk Golf Course offers guests a 18 holes of golf, plus a 7,000 sq ft putting green, driving range with two tier teeing area, a large practice bunker, a fully stocked Pro Shop and dining at the Red Hawk Grill.
- Champion Recreation Club - This is an 81 acre hunting area located off of Camel Road in Wilber, Michigan.
- Acres and Trails Hunt Club – This 569 acre private club offers a place to hunt and fish. It is located in central AuSable Township, just west of the Lake State Railway.
- Tuttle Marsh Club – The Tuttle Marsh Club is 407 acre private hunt club located in the eastern half of Wilber Township off of Old US 23. While it has no developed facilities, it does offer a trail for hiking and a large marsh land for bird watching.

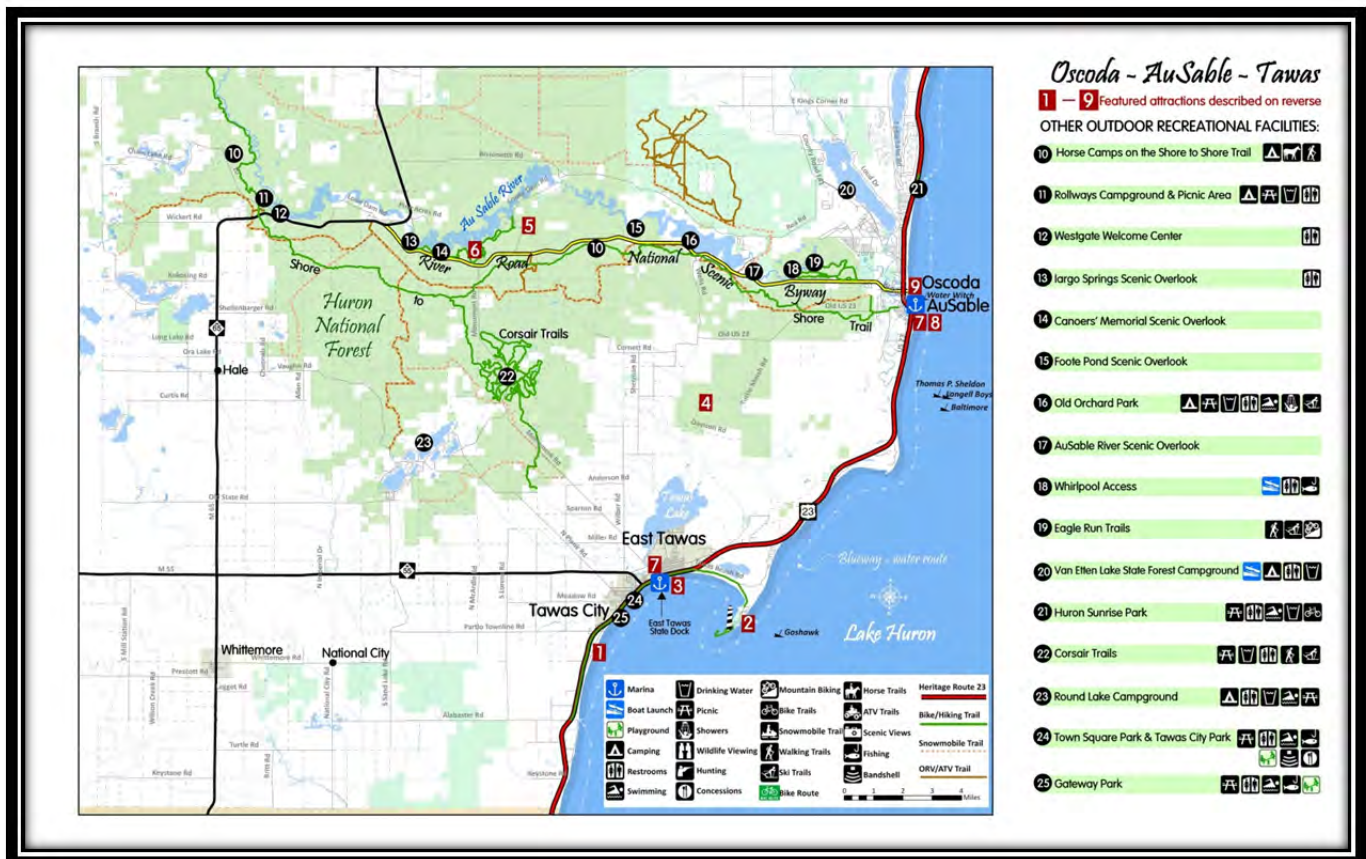
Trails Connecting to Tawas Point State Park

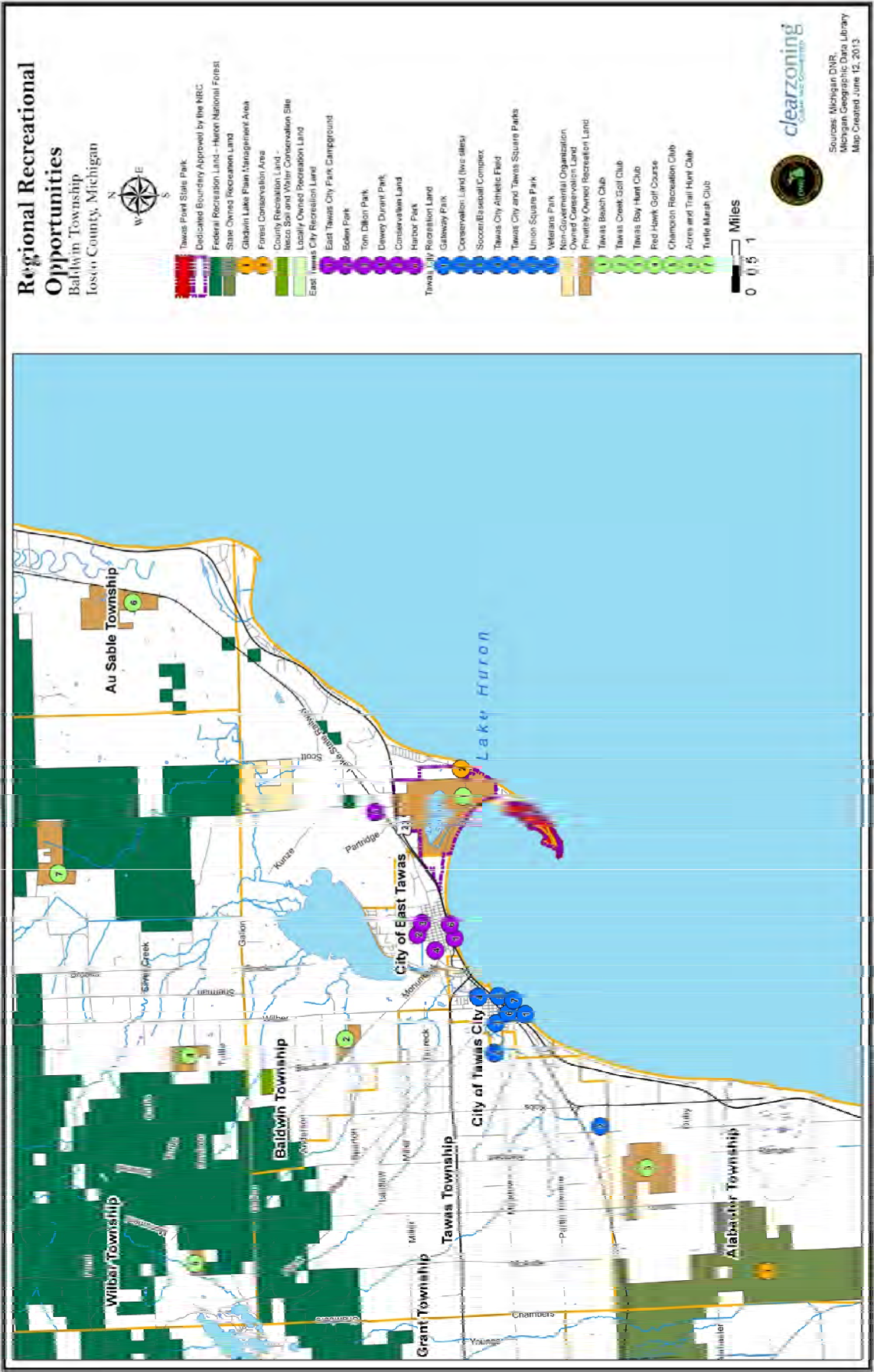
With the opening of a new section of paved, non-motorized trail way through Alabaster Township last fall, the Tawas Bay Pedestrian and Bicycle Path now extends some 14 miles along Michigan's Lake Huron shoreline. It offers a safe and scenic, off-highway route that shadows US-23 through Tawas and East Tawas, ending at Tawas Point State Park.

US-23 Heritage Route

The Tawas Bay Pedestrian and Bicycle Path connects to US-23 Heritage Route which offers 200 miles of spectacular scenic views of Lake Huron and an astounding array of large public forest and recreational properties. The route begins in Standish and winds up the Lake Huron coastline to Mackinac City. It provides users with some of the most extensive and significant recreational, ecological, historical and cultural sites in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. See the map on the following page for trail resource information in Iosco County. Visit <http://us23heritageroute.org> for more information about US-23 Heritage Route.

See the map on the following page for regional recreational opportunities.





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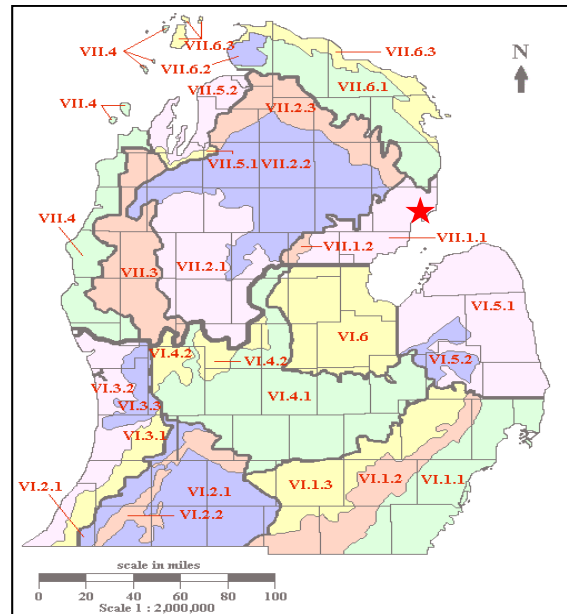
Sources: Michigan DNR,
Michigan Geographic Data Library
Map Created June 12, 2013

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.

Tawas Point State Park is located in sub-section VII.1.1, which is characterized as a flat clay and sand plain. The deep, sandy soils of this eco-region sub-section are dominated by jack pine barrens and upland conifer forest. Conifer swamps, shallow peatlands, northern hardwood forests, and coastal marshes are indicative of the region's poorly drained sand lake plains or flat clay plains. The separation of this sub-section from the remaining area of the Saginaw lake plain is due to the difference in climate, which has resulted in significant difference in land use as well as flora and fauna.



Climate

The growing season of the Arenac subsection VII.1, ranges from 140 days to 120 days. The range of the growing season is largely due to the differences in major air sources of the region. While the area below the Saginaw Bay is many times exposed to warmer air masses from southern sources, those areas above the bay are more influenced by the cool northern air masses. These differences in air sources result in a growing season that is up to 20 days shorter and much cooler than its more southern counterpart. Average annual precipitation is 28 to 30 inches, and average annual snowfall is 40 to 60 inches. The local climate of the region is somewhat moderated by the waters of Lake Huron, with the extreme minimum temperature and the higher amounts of snow fall being in inland regions of the subsection.

Geology

Tawas Point has a very unique geology in that the point is constantly changing due to the erosion and accumulation of sediments along its shoreline. Under natural conditions, sand is eroded from the shoreline north of the park, along the eastern side of the point and finally deposited along the tip and bayside shore of the point. This has led to the slow lengthening and movement of the point to the west. However, this natural process has been interrupted as development north of the park has hardened the shoreline, reducing the amount of sediment that is available to be deposited on the point. The reduced deposited sediment loads has led to a thinning of the point.

When comparing the aerial images provided on the following page, the lengthening and thinning of the point can be observed. Similarly, the shape of the point has changed. The small spikes of land jutting out from the western side of the point in the 1938 aerial image have all but vanished when compared to the recent aerial image. Again this is due to the net loss of sand accumulation on the bayside of the point. It has been hypothesized that the point has moved westward since its formation. The westward movement of the point occurred as the sands of the Lake Huron shoreline eroded and accumulated on the western side of the point



Aerial image of Tawas Point, 2012



Aerial photograph of Tawas Point taken July 4, 1938

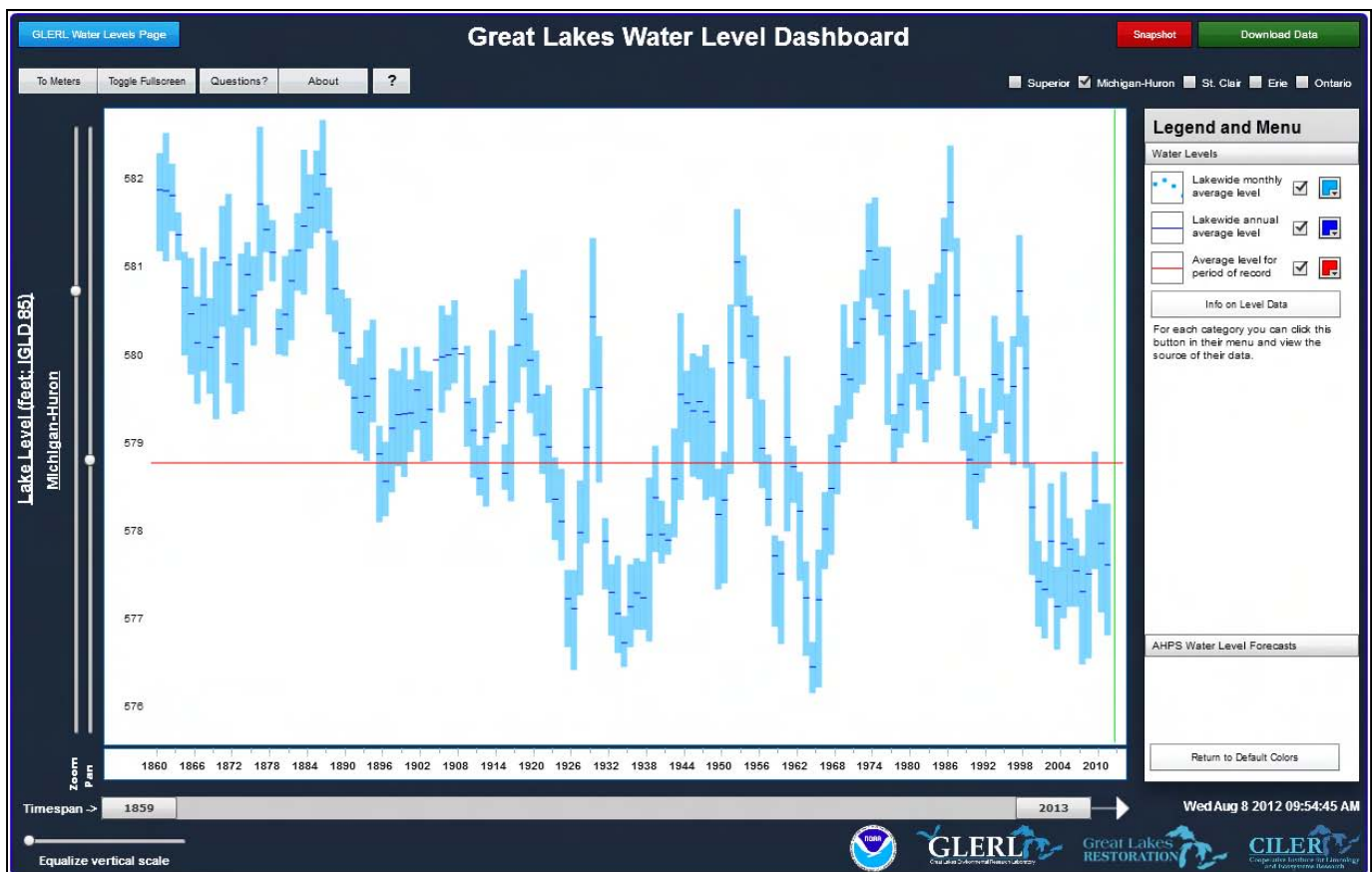
Soils

The predominant soil type in Tawas Point State Park is Wurtsmith-Meehan sands. This soil class rapidly drains, although the high water table may affect drainage in some areas. The high sand content in the onsite soils are also easily eroded, which should be considered when planning along the shoreline.

Lake Water Levels

Due to fluctuating water levels and wind patterns, the land mass of Tawas Point has changed throughout its history. Water levels of Lake Huron have been showing a general downward trend over the past 150 years, which are also believed to be linked to the alteration of the point's shape and position.

The image below illustrates the annual changes in water level from 1860 to 2011.

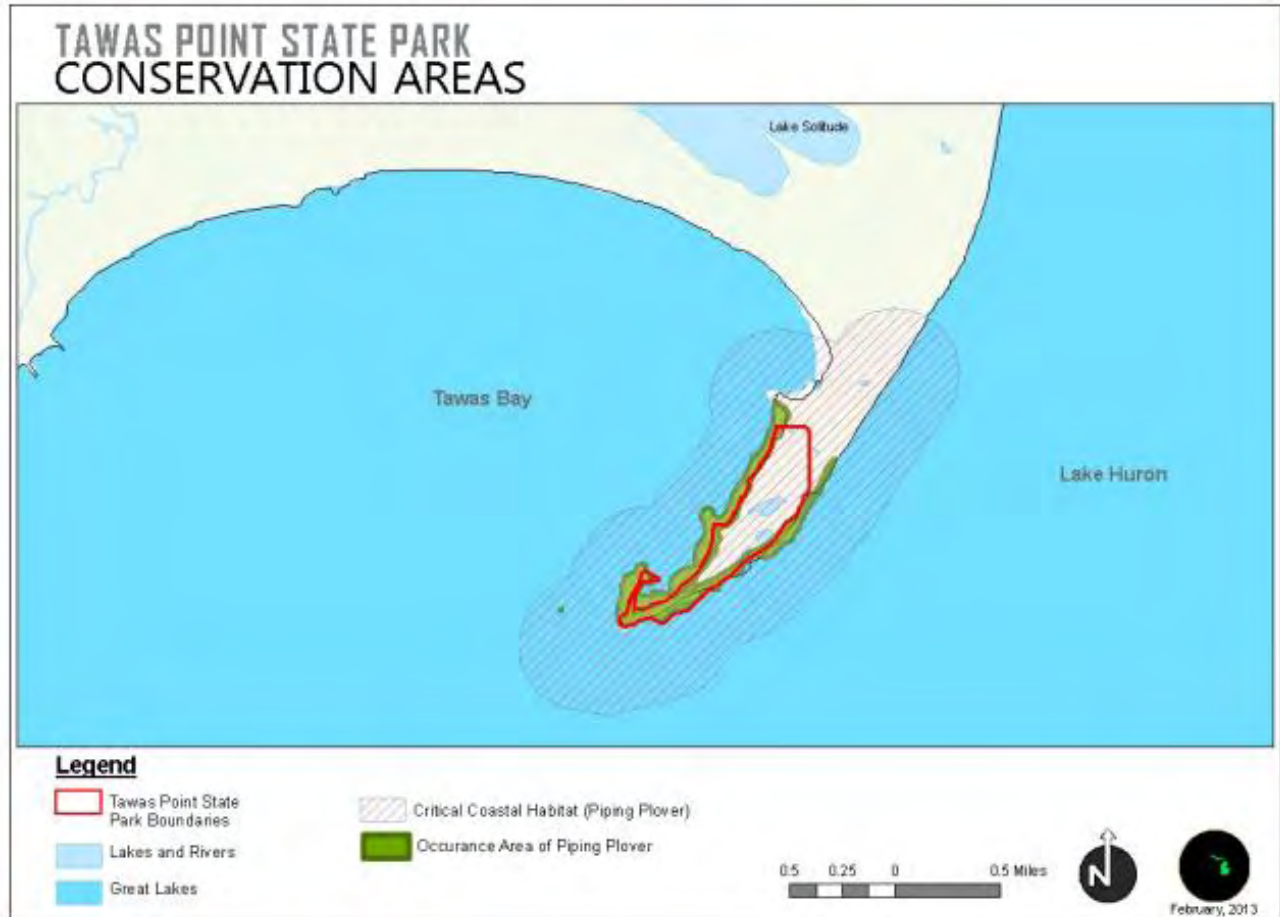


(Source: Great Lakes Water Level Dashboard. www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/now/wlevels/dbd/)

It is interesting to note that the average water level of Lake Huron in 2012 was the same as the average in 1965 when the park was established; recorded at 577.15 feet. However, the general downward trend in the water level of the Great Lakes is well documented and expected to continue. When seasonal variation is considered, the lake level varies from an all-time low of 576.02 feet in January 2013 to a high of 582.35 in October 1986 (a difference of 6.33 feet). The average lake level for the period of record is 578.80. Some of the land of Tawas Point State Park is below the recorded floodplain elevation of 583.00.

Natural Areas

Although there are no National Natural Landmarks, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) registered natural areas, or any state dedicated, proposed or administratively recognized natural areas on the site, the shoreline of the site has been identified by the USFWS as a critical habitat for the piping plover. This federally endangered shore species has been known to breed on the shoreline of the park. The unique geology and climate of this site makes it a very important location for migratory birds. Consideration of the piping plover and other bird species should be given special consideration in planning efforts.



Fauna and Flora

The following tables illustrate the rare plants and animals for which locations have been recorded in the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI). This list presents the Endangered and Threatened plant and animal species of Michigan, which are protected under the Endangered Species Act of the State of Michigan (Part 365 of PA 451, 1994 Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act). Also included in this list are species of Special Concern. While not afforded legal protection under the Act, many of these species are of concern because of declining or relict populations in the state.

Fauna			
Rare Animals at Tawas Point State Park			
Scientific Name	Common Name	State Status	Federal Status
<i>*Charadrius melodus</i>	Piping Plover	Endangered	Endangered
Rare Animals in Iosco County			
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald eagle	Special Concern	
<i>Percina copelandi</i>	Channel Darter	Endangered	
<i>Trimerotropis huroniana</i>	Lake Huron locust	Threatened	
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern goshawk	Special Concern	
<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>	Lake sturgeon	Threatened	
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper sparrow	Special Concern	
<i>Appalachia arcana</i>	Secretive locust	Special Concern	
<i>Atryonopsis hianna</i>	Dusted skipper	Special Concern	
<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	American bittern	Special Concern	
<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Red-shouldered hawk	Threatened	
<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Black tern	Special Concern	
<i>Cincinnatia cincinnatiensis</i>	Campeloma spire snail	Special Concern	
<i>Coregonus artedi</i>	Lake herring or Cisco	Threatened	
<i>Coregonus reighardi</i>	Shortnose cisco	Extirpated	
<i>Cygnus buccinators</i>	Trumpeter swan	Threatened	
<i>Dendroica cerulean</i>	Cerulean warbler	Threatened	
<i>Dendroica discolor</i>	Prairie warbler	Endangered	
<i>Dendroica kirtlandii</i>	Kirtland's warbler	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	Blanding's turtle	Special Concern	
<i>Gavia immer</i>	Common loon	Threatened	
<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>	Wood turtle	Special Concern	
<i>Ligumia nasuta</i>	Eastern pond mussel	Endangered	
<i>Ligumia recta</i>	Black sandshell	Endangered	
<i>Moxostoma carinatum</i>	River redhorse	Threatened	
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	Special Concern	
<i>Pantherophis gloydi</i>	Eastern fox snake	Threatened	
<i>Percina shumardi</i>	River darter	Endangered	
<i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>	Eastern massasauga	Special Concern	Candidate
<i>Villosa iris</i>	Rainbow	Special Concern	

Flora			
Rare Plants at Tawas Point State Park			
Scientific Name	Common Name	State Status	Federal Status
<i>Cirsium pitcheri</i>	Pitcher's thistle	Threatened	Threatened
Rare Plants in Iosco County			
<i>Armoracia lacustris</i>	Lake cress	Threatened	
<i>Cirsium hillii</i>	Hill's thistle	Special Concern	
<i>Galearis spectabilis</i>	Showy orchis	Threatened	
<i>Panax quinquefolius</i>	Ginseng	Threatened	
<i>Prunus alleghaniensis</i> <i>var. davisii</i>	Alleghany or Sloe plum	Special Concern	
<i>Pterospora andromedea</i>	Pine-drops	Threatened	
<i>Zizania aquatica</i> <i>var. aquatica</i>	Wild rice	Threatened	

According to a 2011 report by Bruce M. Bowman, there were 298 species of birds sighted at Tawas Point State Park. For a complete list of these identified species refer to the following link: http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bbowman/birds/michigan/tawas_pt.html

Community Types

Interdunal Wetland; alkaline shoredunes pond/marsh, Great Lakes Type

Wetlands

Tawas Point State Park has several forested and scrub-shrub wetland areas throughout the park, according to the National Wetlands Inventory.



A.8 HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

There are three buildings in Tawas Point State Park recommended for preservation by the Historic Strategic Planning Team. These buildings are listed in the 2005 Historic Structures and Related Resources Strategic Plan as follows:

Structure	DMB#
Tawas Point Light Station, Lighthouse Residence	84367
Tawas Point Light Station, Carriage House	84370
Tawas Point Light Station, Oil House	84368

The Tawas Point (Ottawa Point) Light Station is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



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In addition to the sites listed above as historic structures, there are also two archeological sites at the park that should be considered when planning. The first is at the location of the original lighthouse. The second is a burial that surveyor Henry Gillman reported in 1856. Although the exact location of the site is unknown, due to the shifting of the point over the years, the site is thought to be covered by water at this time. In addition, two shipwrecks have been identified off the coast of the park.

A.9 EDUCATIONAL AND INTERPRETATION

Michigan State Park Explorer Program

- The Explorer Program offers fun and educational talks, hikes, and other outdoor learning experiences which help connect families to nature. Explorer Guides, with backgrounds in natural resources and education, are on board each summer to provide programs at no cost. Additional information regarding the program can be found online at www.michigan.gov/natureprograms and click on the link "Schedule of Nature Programs at Michigan State Parks.

Hook, Line & Sinker

- This program takes place weekly through the summer months at the pond in the day-use area. It is an introductory lesson in fishing basics such as knot-tying, setting up your pole, casting, selecting and using bait, and removing fish from the hook. After the 20-30 minute lesson, participants are ready to start fishing. Participants are welcome to bring fishing gear, or gear will be provided by the Hook, Line & Sinker program.

Lighthouse Tours and Interpretation

- This program allows people to visit the top of the tower and learn about life as a light keeper. Historical exhibits and signage help school groups and summer visitors understand the importance of lighthouses to shipping and safety on the lakes

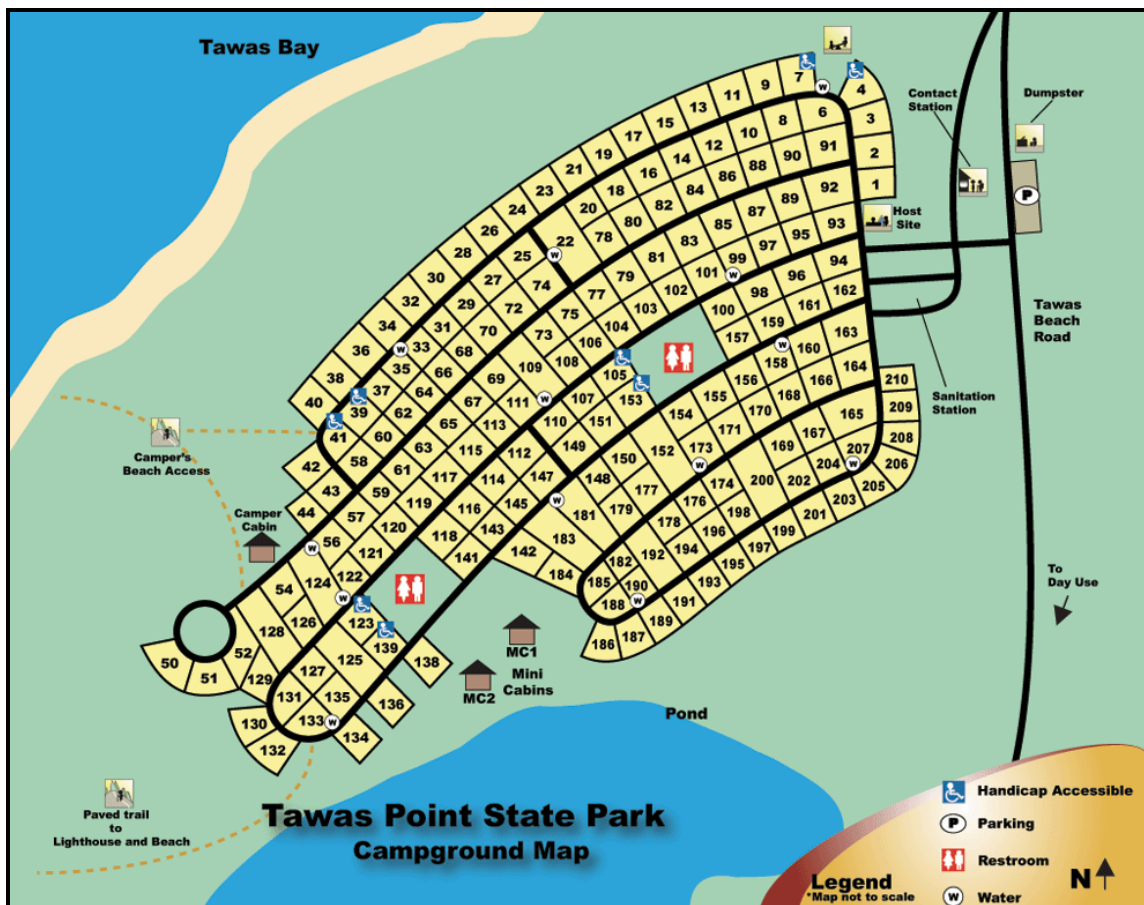
A.10 RECREATION RESOURCES

Birding and Wildlife

- Tawas Point State Park is the best birding site in the Saginaw Bay area. The best time for birding is during times of heavy migration such as during strong south winds in spring and strong north winds in the fall.
- According to a 2011 report, 298 bird species have been observed at Tawas Point State Park including 31 species of warblers and 17 species of waterfowl.
- Tawas Point is listed by the DNR as a Watchable Wildlife Viewing Site. In addition to the birds, in mid-August, monarch butterflies often congregate on the Point to rest as they make their annual journey south to Mexico for the winter.

Camping

- There are 193 camp sites. The campground offers 8 ADA accessible concrete campsites, beach access, electrical service, modern restrooms, and a playground.



Cabins

- Tawas Point State Park has two camper cabins for rent: the Tawas Bay Cabin and the Fox Den Cabin. These cabins both offer two bedrooms, heaters, a refrigerator, a coffee pot, and a fold-out couch. Outside each cabin there is a fire pit, picnic table, and a large grill. (The campground map above does not include the Fox Den Cabin which is located just west of campsite 50)
- There are also 2 mini cabins for rent.

Hiking

- The Sandy Hook Nature Trail is a 2 mile trail that leads from the campground toward the tip of the point. The trail has 25 stops which range from significant flora and fauna, to geological formations, to the Tawas Point Lighthouse

Cross Country Ski

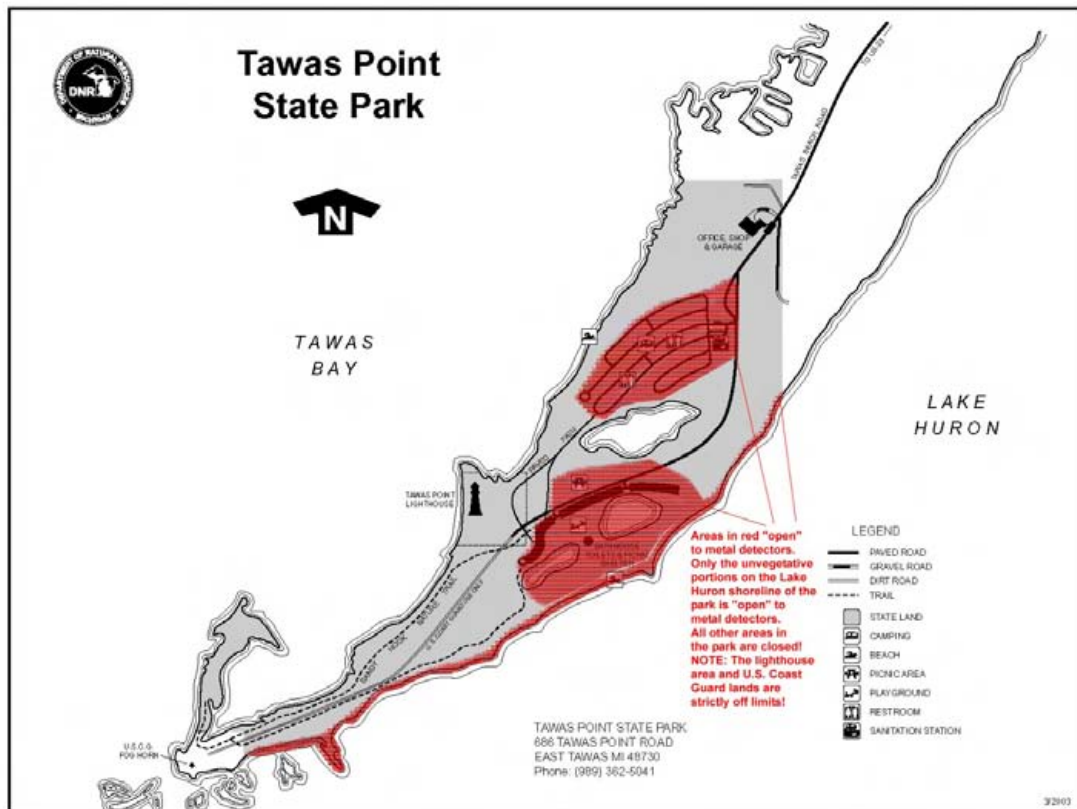
- The Sandy Hook Nature Trail is open to cross country skiing.

Fishing

- Tawas Bay is known for its perch, walleye, brown trout, lake trout, northern pike, bass, coho and chinook salmon fishing. A limestone reef created in 1987 has helped to make the bay one of the best fishing areas around. Located along the northern side of the bay, the 800 foot long, 25 foot wide reef has been reported by fisherman as increasing success in the walleye, pike, perch, and smallmouth bass fishing.
- Fishing in the Parks is a weekly program in which instructors educate visitors about recreational fishing. The 20-30 minute lessons include fishing basics such as knot tying, setting up your pole, casting, selecting and using bait, and removing fish from the hook.
- The park also offers a stocked fishing pond for kids.

Metal Detecting

- There are two areas for metal detecting within the park. Refer to the map provided below for authorized metal detecting areas.



Swimming

- Ample opportunities for swimming are provided for campers and day users along the shoreline of the park in both Tawas Bay and Lake Huron. The warm, shallow, sandy bottomed waters of Tawas Bay are known for their swimming.

Beach

- Tawas Point Park offers two miles of sandy beach. Beaches are located on both the Tawas Bay and Lake Huron.

Beach House and Picnic Shelter

- ADA compliant beach house in the day use area provides changing facilities for visitors.
- The picnic shelter in the day use area may be reserved for group picnics for a cost of \$50.00.

Pet-Friendly Beach

- Designated beach area for pets that is universally accessible via a boardwalk.

Kiteboarding

- Kiteboarding is a popular activity at Tawas Point due to the windy conditions and shallow, clear water.

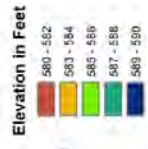
Picnicking

- The day use area of the park contains a picnic area with tables, picnic grills and a playground for children.

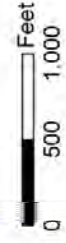
Tawas Point Lighthouse Complex

- The lighthouse is open for tours on weekends from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The tour offers a unique opportunity to climb to the top of the tower for a spectacular view of Tawas Point.
- The Tawas Point Lighthouse museum store is located within the lighthouse complex and is open May – October.

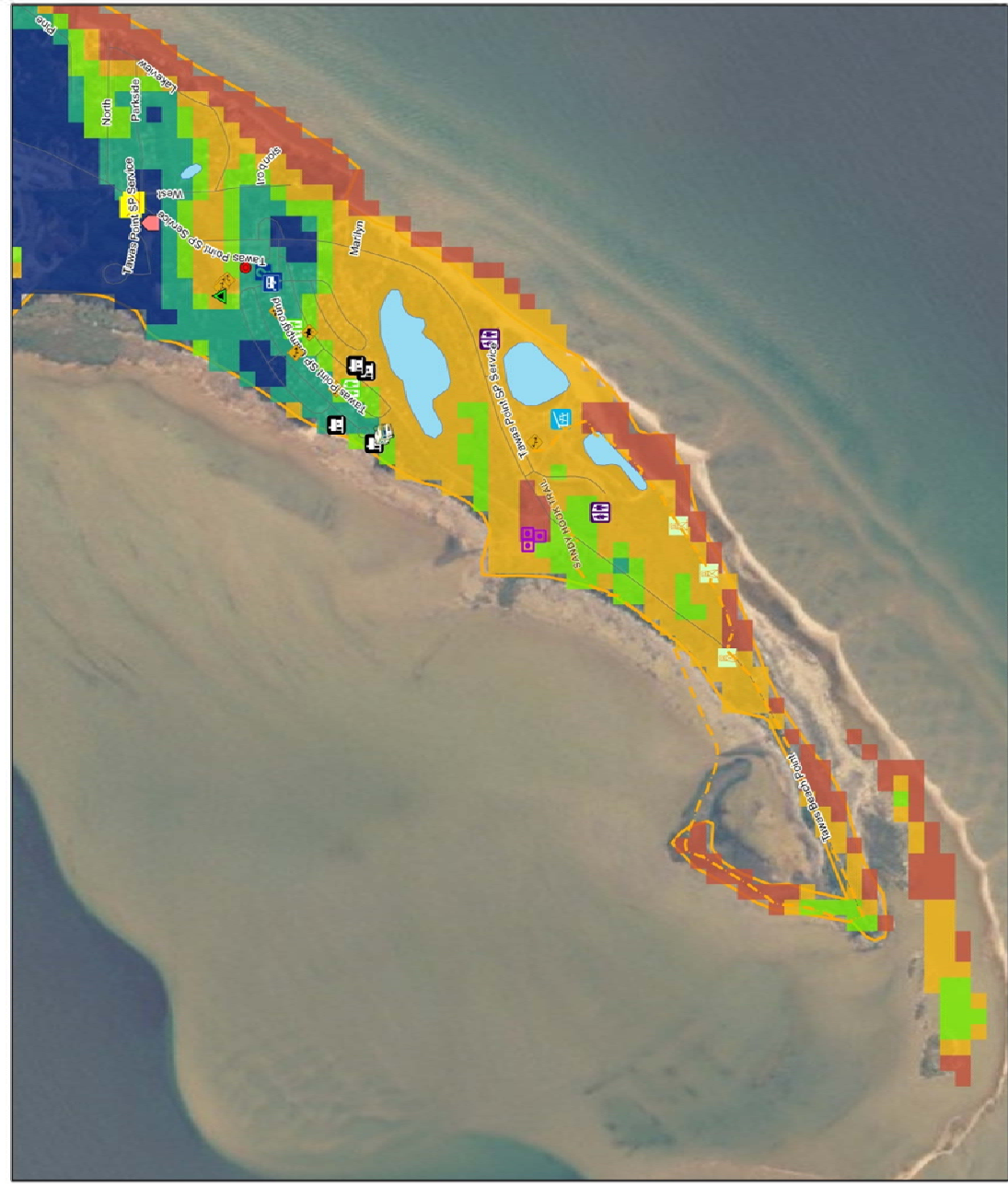
Tawas Point State Park
Recreational Resources
 Blighwin Township
 Ingham County, Michigan



- Combination Structure
- Designated Historical Structure
- Entrance
- Handicap
- Historic Pic
- Interpretive
- Min. Cabin
- Observation Platform
- Pavilion
- Single-Excursion
- Single-Full Service
- Spring Toy
- Spring
- Toilet/Shower
- Vault Toilet
- Volleyball Court
- Single-Modern Campsite
- Trails



clearzoning
 Clearing and Grading
 Sources: Michigan DNR,
 Michigan Geographic Data Library
 Map Created June 12, 2013



A.11 AREAS OF CONFLICT

Areas of conflict within and around Tawas Point State Park include:

- Piping plover nesting on beach
- Multi use paved trail (walking, rollerblading, biking)
- Dogs on bathing beaches (We have a designated Pet Friendly Beach)
- Metal Detectors in Historic Preservation Areas
- Kiteboarders on beaches
- Bikes on Nature Trails
- Birders and park visitors creating spur trails
- Park users accessing the beach in non-designated areas causing erosion

A.12 PARK USE STATISTICS AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Park Use

The total number of recreation visits in 2012 was 319,545, 68% of which was day-use visits and 32% camping visits. The total number of car visits to the park was 108,000.

DNR Park Attendance Statistics provide a break-down of the park usage for each season.

- **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 72% of all camping and 50% 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 20% of camping and 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 7% of its day-use occurs during this time and minimal camping/cabin use.
- **Spring Use Season** – April through May shows gradual increase in park use with day-use at 10% and camping at 6.5%.

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.

Following are the relative economic impacts of Tawas Point State Park to the local economy.

Direct Economic Effects to the Community

- Direct spending attributable to Tawas Point State Park visitors totaled \$6,352,000 of which \$2,148,000 came from day-use, and \$4,204,000 from camping.
- Jobs totaled 167 with 57 related to day-use activity and 111 to camping. (Note...jobs are not full-time equivalent. They include part-time and seasonal positions.)
- Personal Income total is \$2,205,000 with \$745,000 associated with day-use of the park and \$1,460,000 associated with camping.
- Value added (total income plus business taxes) totaled \$3,341,000 with day-use accounting for \$1,130,000 and camping \$2,211,000.

Total Economic Effects to the Community

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

- Total spending = \$9,169,000
- Jobs = 210
- Personal Income = \$3,222,000
- Value added = \$5,099,000

Appendix B – Public Input Summary

Over the duration of the Lakefront and Beach Access Study, the Planning Team ensured a variety of opportunities for public input and feedback. These avenues included:

Overview of Planning Team Meetings

- **Public Input Survey** – an online survey developed to gather general information about park visitors (both day users and campers) 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 an 8-week period.
- **Tawas Point 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: www.clearzoning.com/clearzoning-clients/tawas-point-state-park/
- **Stakeholder Input Open House (August 1st, 2013)** – located at East Tawas City 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; 9 stakeholders attended.
- **Public Input Meeting (October 9th, 2013)** – located at East Tawas City Hall from 6-8 p.m., 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

Tawas Point State Park



We Want Your Input!!

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

www.surveymonkey.com/s/TawasPoint

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/tawas-point-state-park/>

For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Susie Roble at susie@clearzoning.com or 248.423.1776 x 15

DNR Stakeholder Open House

Review and discussion of Draft General Management Plan

The Parks & Recreation Division of the DNR is in the process of developing a Management Plan for Tawas Point State Park. 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.

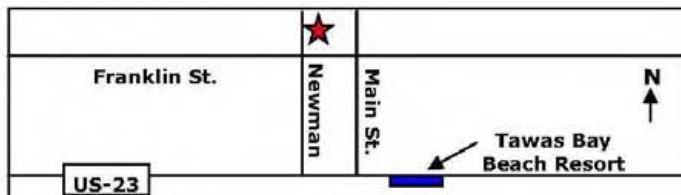
You and/or your group have been identified as a stakeholder, with active interests in Tawas Point State Park. Using an open house format, the DNR will share its initial thoughts on the Draft General Management Plan and welcomes your input.

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.

Thursday, August 1st, 2013

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The East Tawas City Hall
760 Newman Street
East Tawas, MI 48730



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
General Management Planning Process
Stakeholder Input Open House
Tawas Point State Park
August 1st, 2013
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
East Tawas City Hall

1. **Planning Team Introductions at 1:00 p.m.**

2. **Brief Presentation of Management Planning Process and Status at 1:05 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. Tawas Point SP Planning Team Draft Action Goals organized by:
 - General Action Goals
 - Primitive Zone
 - Cultural Landscape Zone/Overlay
 - Scenic Overlay Zone (included with CL Zone)
 - Developed Recreation Zone
 - Visitor Service Zone
 - d. Priority Exercise explained
 - e. Action Goals input sheets described
 - f. Questions and Answers

3. **Open House at 1:30 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. **Reconvene at 2:30 p.m.**
 - a. Group conversation to share ideas with Planning Team and other stakeholders

5. **Adjournment at 4:00 p.m.**

Please remember to complete the
Tawas Point State Park Public Input
Survey (link provided below)

For More Information:

Survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TawasPoint>
Project Website: <http://www.clearzoning.com/clearzoning-clients/tawas-point-state-park/>
DNR Management Planning Website: www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans
Email: Susie@clearzoning.com or jill@clearzoning.com
Phone: 248.423.1776



**What else makes Tawas Point Significant
(Comments from August 1, 2013, Tawas Point Stakeholders Meeting)**

- Paddleboarding becoming popular
- Tawas Bay perfect location to tie into local blue water trail efforts
 - May need additional places to launch
 - Need more trash containers
- Protect, enhance, care for the living resources that the wildlife depend upon.
 - User defined trails adversely impact.
- Many opportunities for education (good and bad) – Interpretive Center? (with life saving gear?)
 - invasive species
 - threatened species
 - alternative energy
 - unique recreation options
 - history & culture, lighthouse / shipwrecks.
 - Value of these resources
- Some type of life-saving station/facilities and supplies.
 - Menominee River example.
- Perhaps the bird migration should be considered seasonally ecologically sensitive.
- Birding event is getting larger – at some point will humans adversely impact the migration? Or will the birds seek land fall no matter?
 - Brochures & kiosks along Sandyhook Trail could help educate visitors on how to protect the resources for the birds.
- Flexibility of future facilities and infrastructures – and partnerships to sustain the maintenance.
 - Seek new use for existing facilities.
- Critical information can be shared on wider basis by partnering with local communities, businesses and organizations.
- A covered pavilion could help facilitate a wide variety of programs year-round (flexible / adaptable to varying weather conditions).
 - Accessible to person with limitations.
- Potential programming tie-in with Tuttle Marsh (cross-marketing opportunities)
- Concessionaire is another good point of contact with park staff – for emergencies, species protection, etc.
- Dark Skies Park has many good new media interpretation examples.

**Please see Appendix C: Planning Team Meeting Summary for the Planning Team’s
comments on stakeholder input.**

General Action Goals		
<p>Many of the 10-Year Action Goals for Tawas Point 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 operating a state park also result in the need for actions across all zone boundaries, such as law enforcement.</p>		
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Stickers
Natural Resources		
1. Create a Stewardship Plan	3-5 Years	
2. Implement Stewardship Plan for the park	On-going	
3. Implement invasive species control	On-going	2
Historic/Cultural Resources		
1. Develop and conduct monitoring program for archaeological resources	On-going	2
2. Protect cultural resources	On-going	1
3. Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources	On-going	
Recreation Opportunities		
1. Identify opportunities to improve trail connectivity between the park and local community to support the mutual goals of PRD and the local partners	2 Years	1
2. Evaluate and identify ecotourism and heritage tourism opportunities	On-going	2
Education/Interpretation Opportunities		
1. Develop specific interpretation and education opportunities	On-going	2
2. Utilize variety of traditional and new media, including audio and visual technologies, podcasts, and other emerging technologies for interpretation opportunities	On-going	
3. Develop interpretive opportunity for historic shipwrecks	On-going	
Management Focus		
1. Explore acquisition of property within NRC Dedicated Boundary as opportunities present themselves	On-going	
2. Review and update Wildfire Plan and Emergency Plan	Completed with Annual Update	
3. Continue to explore and develop revenue generating opportunities that are sustainable	On-going	1
4. Continue to promote volunteer partnerships and Friends Group partnership to meet resource goals	On-going	1
5. Continue to complete and comply with annual safety inspections and plans	On-going	
6. Implement PRD marketing effort at local level and within the park	5 Years	
7. Continue to collaborate with community partners to support the mutual goals of PRD and the local partners	On-going	1
8. Review all concession contracts	On-going Annually	
Development		
1. Continue compliance with deed restrictions	On-going	
2. Maintain park facilities and infrastructure consistent with Capital Outlay priorities (i.e. roads, electrical system...etc.)	On-going	
3. Implement wayfinding signs within park trail system	2 Years	2
4. Work with local partners to connect the park, community and regional trails with appropriate wayfinding signs	On-going	
5. Continue to ensure ADA accessibility for all development opportunities	On-going Annually	
Additional Comments From Post-It Notes:		
<p>1) Are you planning on an archaeological study of 1853 lighthouse site? Will there be signage to designate this as the original 1853 lighthouse site?</p> <p>2) Restoration with native plants especially food source</p> <p>3) Create an interpretive center for unique birds, plants, migration in park, lighthouse, invasive species at the park</p> <p>4) Wayfinding and rules of conduct</p>		

Attendees had the opportunity to prioritize the draft action goals using sticky dots

Primitive Zone		
<p>The Primitive Zone emphasizes the natural resources of the area. It is managed to allow only dispersed, low frequency and low impact recreational use in the zone. Maintaining a high quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements or users are allowed. For this reason, native species and natural processes take precedence over visitor accommodation. The following 10-Year Action Goals propose only very low levels of development, in order to protect sensitive resources. The Planning Team recognizes that some of the existing development in the Primitive Zone is somewhat more intensive than the zone would typically permit.</p>		
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Stickers
Natural Resources		
1. Inspect for piping plover nesting sites on the beach	On-going (Seasonal)	1
Education/Interpretation Opportunities		
1. Identify a variety of educational and interpretive opportunities including technology-based approaches that allow visitors to understand the importance of piping plovers, other shorebirds and their habitat	On-going (Seasonal)	2
Management Focus		
1. Monitor and protect piping plover and their nesting sites through a variety of methods (i.e. enclosures)	On-going (Seasonal)	2
2. Maintain and update existing boardwalks and observation platforms to meet safety standards and improve accessibility	On-going	2
Development		
1. Maintain appropriate education/interpretation trail signs and viewing locations	On-going	2
Additional Comments:		
Good boardwalks that limit access to dunes/beach and allow better walking and viewing to reduce erosion and damage the habitat. Observation and seated areas are also good. Handicapped could be more involved too.		
Cultural Landscape Zone		
<p>The Cultural Landscape Zone addresses the overall setting in which historic structures and non-structural evidence of the traditions, beliefs, practices, life ways, arts, crafts and social institutions of any community may be found. The Tawas Point Lighthouse complex is the primary resource within this zone and provides opportunities to educate park visitors. The Scenic Overlay Zone designation recognizes the spectacular viewscape that the lighthouse offers to visitors. Where viewscape protections conflict with the management of cultural resources, the recommendations of underlying Cultural Landscape Zone apply.</p>		
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Stickers
Management Focus		
1. Manage lighthouse complex as an archaeologically and culturally significant site	On-going	3
2. Maintain scenic viewscape	On-going	1
3. Continue implementing recommendations of Historic Structures Report	On-going	1
Education/Interpretation Opportunities		
1. Evaluate and update the existing interpretation	2-5 Years	
Development		
1. Re-plaster exterior of lighthouse	3-5 Years	3
Recreation Opportunities		
1. Investigate opportunities for accessible viewing (i.e. live camera, audio tour...etc.) for persons with mobility limitations to "experience" the lighthouse and its views (Scenic Overlay)	2 Years	
Additional Comments From Post-It Notes:		
1) Restore lighthouse interior - especially the tower 2) Replace plexiglass with glass 3) Upgrade cat walk at top		

Developed Recreation Zone		
<p>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. Tawas Point State Park's primary day-use and camping areas and swimming beaches are located in this zone. The 10-Year Action Goals direct management decisions and development projects designed to promote and support these diverse visitor activities. The Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone is incorporated within this zone at the old lighthouse site. While interpretation opportunities within the overlay should be explored, the recommendations of the underlying Developed Recreation Zone are the primary focus.</p>		
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Stickers
Recreation Opportunities		
1. Work with local partners in establishing safe trail connection(s) to Tawas Point State Park	2 Years	3
Education/Interpretation Opportunities		
1. Develop interpretive opportunity at old lighthouse site	1-2 Years	2
2. Continue Camp Green education program with focus on electricity conservation	On-going	
Management Focus		
1. Maintain and improve facilities and structures consistent with Capital Outlay priorities	On-going	1
Development		
1. Explore opportunities for new overnight accommodations	3-5 Years	1 1
2. Identify appropriate location for additional day-use parking area capable of accommodating trailers	1-3 Years	
3. Add bike racks at key locations	1-3 Years	1
4. Add more universally accessible picnic tables/areas	1-3 Years	
5. Explore opportunities for additional beach amenities (possibly in partnership with concessionaires)	1-3 Years	2 1
6. Explore opportunity for amphitheater/flexible gathering space at campground	5 Years	2
Additional Comments From Post-It Notes:		
1) No further commercialization of Tawas Point beaches 2) Need a covered pavillion near the lighthouse for school groups, bus tours, etc. 3) Bike path past Jerry's Marina needs to be improved - it's too narrow and dangerous as it is 4) Water trails 5) Put restrooms in camper cabins		
Visitor Services Zone		
<p>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 Tawas Point State Park.</p>		
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Stickers
Development		
1. Upgrade the appearance and function of the headquarters and visitor welcome area	On-going	
Additional Comments From Post-It Notes:		
Park Staff - I've never seen staff 'patrolling' the trails or two track for dogs or people off trails. I have seen both this year in 40 hours. I've been there multiple times so must be very consistent.		

TAWAS POINT STATE PARK
Additional Comments

ADDITIONAL ACTION GOALS TO CONSIDER:

Action Goal	Mgmt. Zone
More overnight accommodations?	Developed Recreation
Takes \$ away from local lodging	
Offers more opportunities for late night mischief	
Reduces area that is "nature oriented"	
More up keep expenses and management issues for staff	

Action Goal	Mgmt. Zone
Water trail for kayaks, canoes around Tawas Bay/ Shore like Michigan's thumb has	
Please complete bike path past Jerry's marina.	
Build covered pavilion near lighthouse for school groups / bus tours, etc.	

Action Goal	Mgmt. Zone
I would like to offer a bigger menu to the public.	
I would like to see an expansion of the boardwalk to a deck and offer outdoor seating which would be enclosed.	
The family experience that can be gained from all the amenities. Offering live music on the weekends.	
I would like to offer beer and wine under a highly monitored/ structured application.	
At the same time keep the family environment / integrity at hand.	
When you take your family it's very convenient for beach goers.	

Action Goal	Mgmt. Zone
Stand up paddleboard Eco-Tours	
Paddle-fit classes and Paddle Yoga	

Action Goal	Mgmt. Zone
Historical signage, park development and ties to adjacent community	
Parking area wintertime access to Tawas Bay	
Water trails to park	

Action Goal	Mgmt. Zone
<p>Install an interpretive center. In addition to history of lakes / lighthouse & geology. We have endangered species – Plovers & Kirtland’s warbler, invasive plant & animal species – Autumn olive, loosestrife, phragmites and zebra mussels. Also unusual birds – Trumpeter swans, Bald Eagles, Osprey & very unique site to view bird migration. The only hope of preserving these things for future citizens is to educate so these assets are appreciated. Also a good opportunity to educate about wind turbines since they’re now visible from beach & lighthouse.</p>	

Action Goal	Mgmt. Zone
<p>Limit access; even to complete closure at significant times or seasons. I.E. Spring migration. 80% of birds migrating N go through Great Lakes Regions. Protection of habitat is crucial and must be done BEFORE problems develop. Think like Teddy Roosevelt & National Parks! It was a crazy idea then – but such a TREASURE now! Trusting people to do the “right” thing doesn’t seem to work for enough folks anymore. Or maybe of 300,000 visitors even 1% can destroy what the other 99% come here for! Even during Birding Festival – limits could be set if there was a fence from beach to beach and even into H2O! A tough move BOLD but necessary soon! (Grand Canyon limits access to it’s camping & hiking to the birds T. Point is just as unique & important. After all there lives depend on food, shelter & a chance to use them as they journey 100’s or even thousands of miles.</p>	Primitive Zone

Action Goal	Mgmt. Zone
A year round interpretive center would allow a lot more education & appreciation to be shared. Plovers, Spring migration, Trumpeter swans, Kirtland's Warblers and endangered Plants & Geology, etc. etc.	Primitive

Action Goal	Mgmt. Zone
Build an interpretive center with modern technology accessibility for 75 people to allow enhancement of birding, geology, ship wrecks opportunities pertinent to TSP.	

Action Goal	Mgmt. Zone
Sandy Hook Trail – make more accessible to handicapped individuals by adding more paved areas for wheelchairs and walkers.	Primitive & Recreation Zones
Add more bench observation areas.	
Mark trail access better to help eliminate visitors going into restricted areas.	

Action Goal	Mgmt. Zone
Habitat protection / reforestation at sites where unauthorized trails exist. Enhance area w/new additional native plants / trees. Boardwalks viewing platforms to keep people on authorized trails	Primitive
Separate primitive area from other areas with physical barrier so entry can be restricted / monitored during times of high use – birding festival and when endangered species are present Piping Plover nesting & young rearing times.	

Hi Dave,

Here are some additional thoughts about the meeting in Tawas today. Please contact me should you have questions. Please respond however briefly, so I know you have received and included this in the open house planning process.

Preserve, enhance, and educate.

I wish our discussion in the open forum part of today's meeting had not centered so strongly on an interpretive center. While I strongly believe such a center should be built at Tawas, I feel a more immediate goal that needs to be addressed should be preserving current habitat from additional harm, and to begin a program of enhancing the current habitat. Education should also be a component. While I wish each of these actions could be done simultaneously, my view of reality dictates this will be difficult for planners to justify because of the lack of financial resources.

20 years ago, when the lighthouse was last renovated, a significant number of trees and shorter woody vegetation were removed to improve the visibility of the lighthouse as seen from across the bay in East Tawas and Tawas City.

Recently, all trees that threatened the power line along Consumers Energy right-of-way to the foghorn at the Point's tip, were removed.

Last year, the park received a grant to purchase 120+ trees. Many of these trees were used to replace diseased and dying ash trees in the campground far from the southern end of the Point.

Migrating birds rely on the entire Point to rest and refuel, but many seem to prefer the dense foliage at the southern end of the Point. This dense foliage provides a habitat where insects the birds need, can thrive.

Park practice dictates removing foliage for safety and aesthetic reasons, but never a continuous program to replace, enhance, and increase the foliage available to birds and animals. We're told of dramatically diminishing numbers of migrating songbirds compared to times past. We're told a major reason is loss of habitat. If we destroy habitat anywhere in our park, we should immediately replace it in a nearby area.

Unauthorized trails in the park cause a loss of habitat and the continued use of these trails causes interruption in the resting and feeding of migrating birds. In 40 years of visiting the Point I've seen new unauthorized trails and shortcuts made every year; some barely visible the first year, some obvious. Park officials recognize the damage done by unauthorized trails. Many of these trails have been blocked off by park staff and signed, 'Not a Trail'. However, these trails continue to be used. Perhaps, a solution would be to make the unauthorized trails invisible, i.e., replanted and returned to natural habitat. Removing evidence of an unauthorized trail is expensive and time consuming, but it removes more human temptation to take an established 'shortcut'.

This trend of new trails made by park visitors each year hasn't halted.

Will the park habitat be adequate for birds and wildlife in the future?

We continue to have more participation in birding, and park use in general, which means a small but increasingly larger group of people who ignore requests to stay on authorized trails. Is it a reasonable conclusion that habitat destruction will continue, and increase? If so, that means less shelter, food and rest for migrating birds, lessening their ability to survive an already difficult migration. Our birding resource will wear away from habitat overuse, improper use, and neglect.

I'm reminded of literature I read at a national park about walking on fragile vegetation: 15 people walking on an unauthorized shortcut on fragile habitat condemn that route to become a permanent trail during their lifetime. It may take a human lifetime to naturally recover, even if never used again.

We have poor measuring sticks to know if habitat is adequate for a bird population. When population and species numbers are noticed declining, it may be too late, or extremely costly and difficult to justify the measures to bring them back. If habitat is destroyed for any reason in our park, we should replace it immediately.

Let's fund a continuous program of enhancing the Point's habitat for birds and animals. This should include replanting and returning unauthorized trails to their natural state. Educational signage, human barriers, and law enforcement, should also be part of this effort to reduce additional unauthorized trail production and use.

Protecting wildlife should come first, then the interests of people. Without the wildlife, there is less reason for people to be attracted to the park.

I've included two .jpg photos to help illustrate my argument about unauthorized trails.

The first photo (2012) was taken at an angle from vertical. Perhaps what comes to mind is how small and delicate the Point appears. There is little evidence of any trails, only the central two-track road. One can certainly see the additional parkland that has originated from lower lake levels.

The second photo (Google Earth 2011) taken from about the same altitude (~4000ft.), but directly over the Point, shows many tiny white lines. These lines connect the central road and the beaches, or the main trail to the beaches. Please use Google Earth on your computer to view Tawas Point. Zoom in still closer to see many more unauthorized trails. These white lines are the older and regardless of signage to the contrary, frequently used unauthorized trails. When you walk the Point in person, still more such trails, through otherwise prime habitat, are visible.

Larry VanWagoner
Au Sable Valley Audubon, V.P.
989-362-2522
lvanwago@charter.net



Welcome – Please Sign In!
Stakeholder Input Open House
Tawas Point State Park
August 1, 2013

Name	Affiliation	Address	Phone #	Email Address
Larry Van Wagoner	AuSable Valley Audubon	513 N. Sand Lake Road National City, MI 48748	989-362-2522	Lvanwago@charter.net
Ron Leslie	City of East Tawas	PO Box 672 East Tawas, MI	989-362-6161	Rleslie@easttawas.com
Sue Duncan	AuSable Valley Audubon	513 N. Sand Lake Road National City, MI 48748	989-362-2522	Smdunc@charter.net
Jane Chandler	Friends of Tawas Point	447 Galion Road East Tawas, MI 48730	989-362-3238	Jcdctawas@msn.com
Gary Bushman	Friends of Tawas Point	405 W. State Street East Tawas, MI 48730		
Chuck Allen	DNR – PRD	686 Tawas Beach East Tawas, MI 48730	989-362-5041	Allenc9@michigan.gov
John Terpstra	DNR – PRD	26000 W. 8 Mile Road Southfield, MI 48075	248-359-9050	Terpstraj@michigan.gov
Matt Lincoln	DNR – PRD	530 W. Allegan Lansing, MI		

Ray Fahlsing	DNR – PRD	530 W. Allegan Lansing, MI		
Debbie Jensen	DNR – PRD	530 W. Allegan Lansing, MI		
Brian LeFoue	Great Lakes Kiteboarding	23517 Nine Mack Drive St. Clair Shores, MI 48080	586-359-6951	Brian@greatlakessurf.com
Jeff Smith	Great Lakes Kiteboarding	Tawas RV/Park Lot 107B	517-617-0045	Jeffcoldwaterlake@charter.net
Joe Martinez	Tawas Point Grill	891 Jay Street East Tawas, MI 48730	989-305-0123	Joemartinez01210@gmail.com
Ruth Golm	AuSable Valley Audubon	1950 Sunrise Drive Greenbush, MI	989-724-5679	Gbgcpro@gmail.com

DNR Public Open House

Tawas Point State Park



We Want Your Input!!

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/tawas-point-state-park/>

For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Susie Roble at susie@clearzoning.com or 248.423.1776 x 15

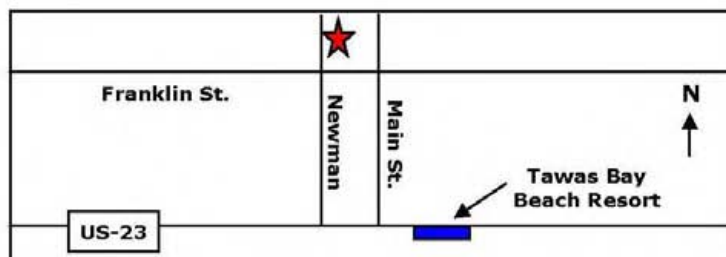
DNR Public Open House


Review and discussion of Draft General Management Plan

The Parks & Recreation Division of the DNR is in the process of developing a Management Plan for Tawas Point State Park. 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.**

Wednesday, October 9th
6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
 The East Tawas City Hall
 760 Newman Street
 East Tawas, MI 48730





Michigan Department of Natural Resources

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DNR to hold open house Oct. 9 to get public input on draft General Management Plan for Tawas Point State Park

Contact: Debbie Jensen, 517-335-4832 or [Ed Golder](mailto:Ed.Golder@dnr.state.mi.us), 517-335-3014
Agency: Natural Resources

Sept. 30, 2013

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently announced it will hold an open house on Wednesday, Oct. 9, designed to let the public provide input on a new draft General Management Plan for Tawas Point State Park, in Iosco County. The open house is set for 6-8 p.m. at the East Tawas City Hall, 760 Newman St., in East Tawas, and will provide an opportunity for the public to review and comment on specific long-range planning recommendations for this park.

The General Management Plan for Tawas Point 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. This 220-acre state park is well known for its historic lighthouse, sandy beaches, modern camping and outstanding birding opportunities. The draft plan is available for review online at www.clearzoning.com/clearzoning-clients/tawas-point-state-park.



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

Anyone seeking more information about this open house or the proposed plan or needing accommodations to attend this open house should contact Debbie Jensen, DNR park management plan administrator, at 517-284-8105 (TTY/TDD 711 Michigan Relay Center for the hearing-impaired) at least five business days before the open house.

The Recreation Passport is an easy, affordable way for residents to enjoy and support outdoor recreation opportunities in Michigan. By checking "YES" for the \$11 Recreation Passport (\$5 for motorcycles) when renewing a license plate through the Secretary of State (by mail, kiosk, online at www.expresssos.com or at branch offices), Michigan motorists get access to state parks, recreation areas, state forest campgrounds, nonmotorized state trailhead parking and state boat launches. In addition, Recreation Passport holders can enjoy real savings at businesses and retailers that participate in the Passport Perks discount program. The Recreation Passport is valid until the next license plate renewal date. Nonresidents can purchase the Recreation Passport (\$30.50 annual; \$8.40 daily) at any state park or recreation area or through the Michigan e-Store at www.michigan.gov/estore.

Learn more about this creative way of sustaining Michigan's outdoor recreation and natural resources at www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport.

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.

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
General Management Planning Process
Public Input Open House
Tawas Point State Park
October 9th, 2013
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
East Tawas City Hall**

1. **Planning Team Introductions at 6:00 p.m.**

2. **Brief Presentation of Management Planning Process and Status at 6:05 p.m.**

3. **Significance Statements**
 - a. Development of Management Zone Maps
 - b. Action Goal Development – Draft 10-year strategies to address the desired future condition of each zone
 - c. Tawas Point SP Planning Team Draft Action Goals organized by:
 - General Action Goals
 - Primitive Zone
 - Cultural Landscape Zone/Overlay
 - Scenic Overlay Zone (included with CL Zone)
 - Developed Recreation Zone
 - Visitor Service Zone

 - d. Priority Exercise explained
 - e. Action Goals input sheets described
 - f. Questions and Answers

4. **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

Adjournment at 8:00 p.m.

For More Information:

Project Website: <http://www.clearzoning.com/clearzoning-clients/tawas-point-state-park/>
DNR Management Planning Website: www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans

Email: Susie@clearzoning.com or Dave@clearzoning.com

Phone: 248.423.1776



clearzoning[®]

Public Input Open House Attendees			
Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Roger Eriksson	AVA	Chuck Allen	MIDNR – Tawas Point
Jason Ogden	Iosco News	Peggy Ridgeway	AuSable Valley Audubon
Debbie Jensen	MDNR	Edward H Cole	AuSable Valley Audubon
Alan Seiferlen	Michigan Steelheaders	Mark & Susan Elliott	E. Tawas Park Board
Larry Van Wagoner	Audubon	Christina William	Tawas
Peggy Sue Albin	Tawas DNR	Douglas Williams	Tawas
Jane Chandler	Friends of Tawas Point	Chuck Allen	MIDNR – Tawas Point
Dennis Chandler	Friends of Tawas Point		
David Wentworth			

General Action Goals		
<p>Many of the 10-Year Action Goals for Tawas Point 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 operating a state park also result in the need for actions across all zone boundaries, such as law enforcement.</p>		
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers
Natural Resources		
1. Create a Stewardship Plan that allows or mimics natural disturbance	3-5 Years	3
2. Implement Stewardship Plan for the park	On-going	
3. Implement invasive species control	On-going	4
Historic/Cultural Resources		
1. Develop and conduct monitoring program for archaeological resources	On-going	
2. Protect cultural resources	On-going	
3. Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources	On-going	2
Recreation Opportunities		
1. Identify opportunities to improve trail connectivity between the park and local community to support the mutual goals of PRD and the local partners	2 Years	3
2. Continue to identify opportunities and implement improvements to support the Tawas Bay Blue Water trails and other water-based recreation opportunities at the park	On-going	5
3. Evaluate and identify ecotourism and heritage tourism opportunities	On-going	1

General Action Goals		
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers
Education/Interpretation Opportunities		
1. Develop specific interpretation and education opportunities	On-going	
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	1
3. Implement the Interpretive Plan (virtual interpretive center)	3-5 Years	1
4. Develop interpretive opportunity for historic shipwrecks	On-going	2
Management Focus		
1. Explore acquisition of property within NRC Dedicated Boundary as opportunities present themselves	On-going	
2. Review and update Wildfire Plan and Emergency Plan	Completed with Annual Update	
3. Continue to explore and develop revenue generating opportunities that are sustainable	On-going	3
4. Continue to promote volunteer partnerships and Friends Group partnership to meet resource goals	On-going	3
5. Continue to complete and comply with annual safety inspections and plans	On-going	
6. Implement PRD marketing effort at local level and within the park	5 Years	
7. Continue to collaborate with community partners to support the mutual goals of PRD and the local partners	On-going	1
8. Continue to connect the park to East Tawas State Dock through alternative modes of transportation, management initiatives, marketing and promotion, and events	On-going	2
9. Review all concession contracts	On-going Annually	
Development		
1. Continue compliance with deed restrictions	On-going	
2. Maintain park facilities and infrastructure consistent with Capital Outlay priorities (i.e. roads, electrical system...etc.)	On-going	
3. Implement wayfinding signs within park trail system	2 Years	1
4. Work with local partners to connect the park, community and regional land and water trails with appropriate wayfinding signs and/or GPS trail routes	On-going	5
5. Continue to ensure ADA accessibility for all development opportunities	On-going Annually	1
Comments:		
1) In general - promote Recreation Passport for much needed revenue. Beginning in February there will be venues such as Outdoorama (Novi) all over Michigan. The DNR and Section of State often have booths there. Put up posters, promote Recreation Passport anyway you can. Thousands of outdoor people (lots of families) come to these shows.		

Primitive Zone

The Primitive Zone emphasizes the natural resources of the area. It is managed to allow only dispersed, low frequency and low impact recreational use in the zone. Maintaining a high quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements or users are allowed. For this reason, native species and natural processes take precedence over visitor accommodation. The following 10-Year Action Goals propose only very low levels of development, in order to protect the important habitat. The Planning Team recognizes that some of the existing development in the Primitive Zone is somewhat more intensive than the zone would typically permit.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers
Natural Resources		
1. Manage vegetation and infrastructure consistent with the zone designation and with the bird habitat	On-going	3
2. Inspect for piping plover nesting sites on the beach	On-going (Seasonal)	3
Education/Interpretation Opportunities		
1. Identify a variety of educational and interpretive opportunities including technology-based approaches that allow visitors to understand the importance of piping plovers, other shorebirds and their habitat	On-Going (Seasonal)	3
Management Focus		
1. Monitor and protect piping plover and their nesting sites through a variety of methods (i.e. enclosures)	On-going (Seasonal)	1
2. Continue to use management techniques to keep park users on the designated trails	On-going	4
3. Maintain the existing access road to the fog signal as an emergency route and pathway (reduce width if coast guard abandons signal)	On-going	
4. Maintain and update the existing observation platforms to meet safety standards and improve accessibility	On-going	1
Development		
1. Maintain appropriate education/interpretation trail signs and viewing locations	On-going	3

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. Tawas Point State Park's primary day-use and camping areas and swimming beaches are located in this zone. The 10-Year Action Goals direct management decisions and development projects designed to promote and support these diverse visitor activities. The Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone is incorporated within this zone at the old lighthouse site. While interpretation opportunities within the overlay should be explored, the recommendations of the underlying Developed Recreation Zone are the primary focus.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers
Recreation Opportunities		
1. Work with local partners in establishing safe trail connection(s) to Tawas Point State Park	2 Years	6
Education/Interpretation Opportunities		
1. Develop interpretive opportunity at old lighthouse site	1-2 Years	2
2. Continue Camp Green education program with focus on electricity conservation	On-going	
Management Focus		
1. Maintain and improve facilities and structures consistent with Capital Outlay priorities	On-going	
Development		
1. Explore emerging, new ideas for small-scale overnight accommodations	3-5 Years	
2. Identify appropriate location for additional day-use parking area capable of accommodating trailers	1-3 Years	
3. Add bike racks at key locations	1-3 Years	
4. Add more universally accessible picnic tables/areas	1-3 Years	1
5. Explore opportunities for additional beach amenities (possibly in partnership with concessionaires)	1-3 Years	
6. Explore opportunity for amphitheater/flexible gathering space at campground	5 Years	2
Comments:		
1) From State Park entrance to current start of bike path 0.3 of a mile long but has 4 ft. of usable space for bikes		
2) Winterize the pavilion as year-round educational meeting place		

Cultural Landscape Zone/Scenic Overlay Zone

The Cultural Landscape Zone addresses the overall setting in which historic structures and non-structural evidence of the traditions, beliefs, practices, life ways, arts, crafts and social institutions of any community may be found. The Tawas Point Lighthouse complex is the primary resource within this zone and provides opportunities to educate park visitors. The Scenic Overlay Zone designation recognizes the spectacular viewscape that the lighthouse offers to visitors. Where viewscape protections conflict with the management of cultural resources, the recommendations of underlying Cultural Landscape Zone apply.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers
Management Focus		
1. Manage lighthouse complex as an archaeologically and culturally significant site	On-going	2
2. Maintain scenic viewscape	On-going	
3. Continue implementing recommendations of Historic Structures Report	On-going	
Education/Interpretation Opportunities		
1. Evaluate and update the existing interpretation	2-5 Years	1
Development		
1. Re-plaster exterior of lighthouse	3-5 Years	4
Recreation Opportunities		
1. Investigate opportunities for accessible viewing (i.e. live camera, audio tour...etc.) for persons with mobility limitations to "experience" the lighthouse and its views (Scenic Overlay)	2 Years	1
Comments:		
1) Evaluate tower and its historic construction and what would be best for long-term repair and maintenance - might not be plaster		
2) Follow through and maintain long-term		

Visitor Service 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 Tawas Point State Park.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers
Development		
1. Upgrade the appearance and function of the headquarters and visitor welcome area	On-going	1



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- Reports

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DNR seeks public input on new management plan for Tawas Point State Park

Contact: Debbie Jensen, 517-335-4832 or [Ed Golder](#), 517-335-3014
Agency: Natural Resources

July 11, 2013

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is in the process of developing a management plan for Tawas Point State Park. The DNR uses management plans to establish long-range planning and management strategy that will protect the natural resources of the park while addressing recreation needs and opportunities. The public is invited to complete an online survey to provide valuable input to the planning team. This is the first of several opportunities for citizens to be part of the planning process, which will include availability of draft documents online for review and comment, and a public open house to be announced in the fall.

The survey can be found online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TawasPoint> and will be available until Aug. 16, 2013.

This management plan will assist the DNR Parks and Recreation Division in meeting its mission 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. Additional information on the DNR's management plan process is available at www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans.

For more information about this survey or the proposed plan, contact Debbie Jensen, DNR park management plan administrator, at 517-284-6105 (TTY/TDD711 Michigan Relay Center for the hearing impaired).

The Recreation Passport is an easy, affordable way for residents to enjoy and support outdoor recreation opportunities in Michigan. By checking "YES" for the \$11 Recreation Passport (\$5 for motorcycles) when renewing a license plate through the Secretary of State (by mail, kiosk, online at www.expresssos.com or at branch offices), Michigan motorists get access to state parks, recreation areas, state forest campgrounds, nonmotorized state trailhead parking and state boat launches. In addition, Recreation Passport holders can enjoy real savings at businesses and retailers that participate in the Passport Perks discount program. The Recreation Passport is valid until the next license plate renewal date. Nonresidents can purchase the Recreation Passport (\$30.50 annual; \$8.40 daily) at any state park or recreation area or through the Michigan e-Store at www.michigan.gov/estore.

Learn more about this creative way of sustaining Michigan's outdoor recreation and natural resources at www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport. For information on Passport Perks shopping discounts or how businesses and retailers can enroll in the program, visit www.michigan.gov/passportperks.

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

1. What is your age?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Under 18		0.2%	4
18-29		4.1%	67
30-39		15.2%	250
40-49		22.6%	372
50-64		43.6%	717
65 and over		14.2%	234
answered question			1,644
skipped question			13

3. During what season do you primarily visit Tawas Point State Park?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Spring (March - May)		11.6%	190
Summer (June-August)		65.3%	1,072
Fall (September-November)		11.0%	180
Winter (December - February)		0.4%	7
I visit All Year Round		11.7%	192
answered question			1,641
skipped question			16

4. Do you typically visit Tawas Point State Park as a day user or overnight camper?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Day User		17.5%	287
Camper		65.0%	1,068
Both		17.5%	287
answered question			1,642
skipped question			15

**5. As a Day User, what are your top three favorite things about Tawas Point State Park?
Please check only 3 features.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Birding		37.4%	212
Playground		11.3%	64
Pavilion		4.4%	25
Special events		7.4%	42
Lakeshore/beach/swimming		60.1%	341
Fishing		9.7%	55
Nature viewing/study		41.3%	234
Hiking/Trail running		34.9%	198
Boating/canoeing/kayaking		10.8%	61
Biking		24.3%	138
Lighthouse activities		28.4%	161
Kiteboarding		4.9%	28
Pet-friendly beach		16.6%	94
	Other (please specify)		20
	answered question		567
	skipped question		1,090

6. How many times per year do you visit Tawas Point State Park?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Less than once per year		7.6%	43
1-2 times per year		37.9%	214
3-5 times per year		25.9%	146
6-10 times per year		13.7%	77
11 or more times per year		14.9%	84
	answered question		564
	skipped question		1,093

7. Do you also camp at Tawas Point State Park?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		53.8%	301
No		46.3%	259
	answered question		560
	skipped question		1,097

Question 8

As a Camper, what are your top three favorite things about Tawas Point State Park? Please check only 3 features.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Birding	11.0%	149
Special events	3.0%	41
Campgrounds, modern	70.3%	954
Playground	7.5%	102
Pavilion	1.6%	22
Cabins	5.4%	74
Lakeshore/beach/swimming	63.7%	865
Fishing	6.9%	94
Nature viewing/study	15.1%	205
Hiking/Trail running	20.0%	272
Boating/canoeing/kayaking	11.6%	157
Biking	36.7%	498
Pet-friendly beach	18.9%	256
Kiteboarding	2.6%	35
Lighthouse activities	22.5%	305
Community/Area attractions	15.5%	211
Other (please specify)		53
answered question		1358
skipped question		299

9. How many times per year do you stay at Tawas Point State Park?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than once per year	15.8%	215
1-2 times per year	74.7%	1,016
3-5 times per year	8.5%	115
6-10 times per year	0.6%	8
11 or more times per year	0.4%	6
answered question		1,360
skipped question		297

10. As a Camper, what is the typical length of your stay?

	Response Percent	Response Count
1-2 Nights	26.8%	364
3-6 Nights	59.9%	812
7 Nights or more	13.3%	180
answered question		1,356
skipped question		301

Question 11

How would you rate your experience with the following facilities and recreational opportunities at Tawas Point State Park?								
Answer Options	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent	N/A	Rating Average	Response Count
Lakeshore/beach/swimming	9	45	164	400	612	143	4.27	1373
Lighthouse	2	9	153	481	625	101	4.35	1371
Camping, modern	17	37	200	505	435	189	4.09	1383
Cabins	4	21	46	102	88	1019	3.95	1280
Fishing	28	65	199	143	62	800	3.29	1297
Birding	2	23	159	258	339	584	4.16	1365
Boating/canoeing/kayaking	20	47	168	206	130	749	3.66	1320
Hiking/Trail running	14	64	286	464	243	279	3.80	1350
Biking	5	57	278	390	312	331	3.91	1373
Nature viewing/study	2	16	201	451	439	255	4.18	1364
Kiteboarding	6	5	30	65	78	1080	4.11	1264
Pavilion	6	46	214	310	155	569	3.77	1300
Pet-friendly beach	38	48	142	214	243	636	3.84	1321
Picnic Areas	5	32	216	351	205	519	3.89	1328
Playground	6	41	192	293	178	573	3.84	1283
Other (please specify)								70
<i>answered question</i>								1465
<i>skipped question</i>								192

Question 12

If you have a disability or mobility limitation, or have visited the park with someone with a disability or mobility limitation, how would you rate the accessibility of this park?								
Answer Options	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	N/A	Rating Average	Response Count	
Campground	6	13	116	100	683	3.32	918	
Beach/day use areas	10	39	99	64	681	3.02	893	
Lighthouse	20	32	102	47	691	2.88	892	
Restrooms (day use)	5	26	105	54	703	3.09	893	
Restrooms (campground)	6	13	114	91	674	3.29	898	
Pavilion	5	16	91	60	712	3.20	884	
Pet-friendly beach	11	23	66	40	742	2.96	882	
Picnic Areas	6	15	90	48	723	3.13	882	
Playground	9	17	66	37	750	3.02	879	
Trails	13	45	65	41	711	2.82	875	
Comment (please specify)							33	
<i>answered question</i>								924
<i>skipped question</i>								733

Question 13

How would you prioritize improvements at Tawas Point State Park?								
Answer Options	No Changes Needed	Low Priority	Medium Priority	Highest Priority	N/A	Rating Average	Response Count	
Birding	292	260	180	189	264	2.29	1185	
Parking (campers & trailers)	297	223	297	241	123	2.46	1181	
Pavilion	279	263	262	93	242	2.19	1139	
Playground	266	210	321	135	225	2.35	1157	
Camping, modern	234	145	333	407	112	2.82	1231	
Cabins	219	219	206	74	428	2.19	1146	
Electric service at campground	299	177	283	337	119	2.60	1215	
Fishing	204	229	262	105	345	2.34	1145	
Boating/canoeing/kayaking	201	211	313	128	295	2.43	1148	
Hiking	249	205	410	173	132	2.49	1169	
Biking/Bike racks	291	308	321	94	155	2.21	1169	
Park roads	343	273	312	193	59	2.32	1180	
Park trails	240	203	383	295	72	2.65	1193	
Restroom facilities at day use areas	182	169	333	305	200	2.77	1189	
Restroom facilities at campgrounds	228	161	291	450	103	2.85	1233	
Pet-friendly beach	338	241	198	149	250	2.17	1176	
Picnic Areas	296	257	291	86	218	2.18	1148	
Lighthouse	332	182	356	243	87	2.46	1200	
Nature viewing/study	293	226	298	252	121	2.48	1190	
Accessibility: beach/day use area	376	210	263	183	165	2.25	1197	
Accessibility: campground	404	205	216	141	192	2.10	1158	
Other (please specify)							154	
<i>answered question</i>								1376
<i>skipped question</i>								281

Question 14

What, if any, additional facilities would you like to see at Tawas Point State Park?					
Answer Options	No Need	Would be nice	A Must	Rating Average	Response Count
Amphitheater/flexible gathering space at campground	639	488	17	1.46	1144
Bike racks	342	703	120	1.81	1165
Campsites, modern	309	421	443	2.11	1173
Cabins, modern (w/bathroom & kitchenette)	514	537	109	1.65	1160
Cabins, rustic (no bathroom or kitchenette)	687	357	50	1.42	1094
Beach furniture	625	530	39	1.51	1194
Picnic Areas	483	531	101	1.66	1115
Pavilion(s)	588	454	75	1.54	1117
Shade shelters at beach	325	721	171	1.87	1217
Wi-fi at beach	662	404	139	1.57	1205
Wi-fi at campground	273	522	452	2.14	1247
Trails, hiking-only	292	651	221	1.94	1164
Kayak/canoe launch	299	679	201	1.92	1179
Observation platforms	290	776	155	1.89	1221
Informational/educational signs or kiosks	339	688	136	1.83	1163
Other (please specify)					145
<i>answered question</i>					1410
<i>skipped question</i>					247

Question 15

Provide 3 words that best describe Tawas Point State Park



Appendix C – Planning Team Meeting 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 12th, 2013)** – Located at Tawas Point State Park, the kick-off meeting was an opportunity for Planning Team members to introduce themselves to one another, review the General Management Plan schedule, discuss the park, begin drafting the management zones and significance statements.
- **Team Meeting #2 (May 13th, 2013)** – Park Manager, Chuck Allen, led the team on a tour of Tawas Point State Park. The Planning Team reviewed the draft management zones and significance statements and developed appropriate questions for the public input survey. Additionally, the Planning Team began brainstorming 10-year action goals for the park.
- **Team Meeting #3 (June 18th, 2013)** – The Planning Team reviewed the Significance Statements and Action Goals as well as the draft public input survey. The Planning Team discussed various methods for distributing the online survey link to park visitors.
- **Team Meeting #4, Go-To-Meeting (July 12th, 2013)** – The Planning Team reviewed and finalized the Significance Statements and Action Goals in preparation for the August 1st Stakeholder Input Open House.
- **Team Meeting #5, (August 12th, 2013)** – The purpose of this meeting was to review the input and feedback received at the August 1st Stakeholder Input Open House. The Planning Team used the input to inform and revise the 10-Year Action Goals as deemed necessary.
- **Team Meeting #6, Go-To-Meeting (TBD)** - The purpose of this meeting was to review the input and feedback received at the Public Input Open House. The Planning Team used the input to inform and revise the 10-Year Action Goals as deemed necessary.

Planning Team Meeting #1

Location: Park Headquarters

Date: April 12, 2013

Time: 9 AM – 3 PM

Attendees: Chuck Allen, Matt Lincoln, Debbie Jensen, Jill Bahm, Susie Roble, Lisa Gamero, Sandra Clark, Dan Mullen, John Terpstra

Review of GMP Schedule – the plan needs to be completed by the end of March 2014; Jill Bahm expressed that coordinating meetings can be difficult and asked that everyone please try to prioritize attendance at meetings

Team Meeting #2 – tentatively scheduled for May 13th

Team Meeting #3 – tentatively scheduled for June 18th (alternative date is June 17th)

Draft Stakeholder List Discussion – additional groups added to the list; Chuck will provide contact information

Overview of General Management Planning (given by Debbie Jensen)

- Note on public input: there should be links to our project page from DNR and TSSP page
- Highlights of other plans/missions (ex: Blue Ribbon Panel, SCORP, etc.)
- MI Scorecard Performance goals (Director Keith Creagh)
- Important to highlight Recreation Passport (add logo to website)
- Overview of Zones

Park Overview (given by Chuck Allen)

- State purchased 183 acres in 1961 for (\$29,500); about 220 acres now (more sand, low water level)
- Park Features
 - 300,000+ visitors (day use and campground)
 - 193 campsites
 - 2 miles of sandy beach on Lake Huron and Tawas Bay
 - Major bird migration area
 - Birds often get confused around the point and will just “drop” or stop off on the point to feed and rest
 - Bird Festival – May 16-19th (festival headquarter @ Tawas Bay Beach Resort)
 - Not unusual to see over 300 species mid-late May
 - One of the best birding areas in the state at this time of year
 - Fall – monarch migration
 - National Audubon designated park as an Important Bird Area in 2007
 - 193 modern campsites; 4 cabins; 8 concrete ADA sites
 - 25,000 campers in 2012
 - 100% occupancy from June – August
 - Day Use
 - 200,000 visitors/year
 - Often need to shut down every weekend in July for max. capacity

- Designated swimming area
 - Sandy Hook Nature Trail – 2 miles, hiking only; no pets allowed on trail
 - Lighthouse/gift store
 - In 2012, lighthouse visitors came from 30 diff. Countries
 - Original Fresnel lens
 - Restoration started in 2001; internal and external – “work in progress”
 - Parking – 250 spaces
 - Picnic Shelter
 - Playground
- Conflicts
 - Pets on beaches and trails
 - Park created a dog beach with boardwalk – very successful
 - Used by campers and day users – no other dog park in local area
 - Piping plover nesting areas – education and signs have helped
 - Kiteboarders – they think this is one of the best places in the state because it’s always windy; with education, they are understanding piping plover habitat and becoming more mindful and helpful in education efforts
- Multi-use paved trails – sometimes conflicts on this mile of paved trail but it’s connected to a 14 mile trail; lots of people enter by bike
- Erosion from non-designated trail use (typically by birders); signs have helped with this problem
- Exposed shipwrecks – May Queen (sank in 1859) and Table Rock – dry now (vandalism issue)
- Invasive issues – garlic mustard (Girl Scouts help pull every year); Japanese knotweed, phragmites (not as bad as in some parks), purple loosestrife, spotted knapweed
 - Emerald ash borer hit trees hard – many will be removed
- Wildlife issues – foxes and “domestic invasives” like pet rabbits, chickens; deer; snow owl influx in 2012

Additional Info About Park

- Kayak rental available at park
- There is a stocked fish pond for kids
- The park sells ash wood for fire wood (\$30-40,000 per year in sales)
- Coast Guard maintains fog signal. They turn it on in the spring – the light recently changed to solar power. They return at the end of the shipping season to turn off. They also clean the Fresnel lens (which they own) and check the bulbs. The lighthouse is still a navigational aid – mostly for recreation boaters
- There is a NOAA easement (10’ x 10’) for weather station

Discussion about Supporting Analysis

- Debbie suggests making the history more narrative; separate park history from lighthouse, etc.
- Sandra notes Natural Resources Commission minutes are being scanned and added online – close to going live online (could be useful for understanding history of park and land acquisition)

Statements of Significance Activity – sticky dots were placed on map to indicate significant areas and post-it notes were used to write significant statement

Lighthouse

- It is an icon and is visible identity for city – big draw for city and has tremendous economic impact
- Historic – illustrates the significance of the harbor as a major harbor for lumber and fishing industries
- Educational benefits (including museum)
- Tourist draw – open to the public (museum/gift shop/keeper program)
- Ottawa Point Lighthouse – these two serve as monuments

Dog Beach

- Recreation for people and animals
- Draw for area – no other nearby dog beach for locals and campers
- Makes park more accessible
- Offers opportunity for education
- Economic benefit as more people are able to use the park

Birds

- Economic value as draw for local, regional, state, national, and international tourists
- Annual festival surrounding birds
- Endangered species habitat (piping plovers)
- Geographic significance of the point in migratory route causes birds to stop

Geology

- Shifting sands and lower lake levels show how geology changes over time
- Education value of illustrating these concepts
- Supports migrating birds – rest, food, habitat
- Sand is draw for recreation – swimmers and kiteboarders (thermals created as temp warms sand each day)

Trails

- Tourist draw due to its connection to city trail network
- Nature trail and paved trail offer options
- Located on Heritage Trail (Standish to Mackinac City); regional connectivity
 - US-23 Heritage Route
- Potential for Blue Water Trail
- Public health benefit

Camping

- Unique setting – surrounded by water
- Popular, full – economic revenue for the park
- Accessible campsites
- Sunrise/sunset
- Family tradition – returning generations

- Most popular camping site on Lake Huron

Beach

- 2 miles of sandy beach – hard to find in the area
- All beaches are accessible; boardwalk for wheelchairs
- Growing due to lower lake levels and increasing sand
- Designated swimming area for day users and campers
- Beaches for day use and campers

Shipwrecks

- Two known shipwrecks provide education opportunity for history
- Accessible – no snorkel/scuba needed – presents resource sharing
- Marine and enforcement issues (vandalism)

Kiteboarding

- Revenue/economic impact from these users and spectators
- Education/awareness
- Unique features of bay and lake make TPSP an ideal location for this activity
- Potential conflicts but being managed

Draft Management Zone Activity

- Ecologically Sensitive Zone (area of piping plover habitat) – 100 feet around nest along shore
 - Use critical habitat boundary
 - Seasonal (May thru mid-Aug)
 - This species is known to nest near people and a trail will probably not preclude nesting
 - Can nest on either side of the shoreline
 - Underlying zone should be Primitive
 - This zone will tend to see more visitor traffic than the typical primitive zone due to its accessibility. However, it is sensitive from a geographical and geological perspective
- Lighthouse - should this be zoned as Cultural Landscape or Education Zone

Sheila should come to May 13th meeting to check map – bring GPS unit!

Due to poor weather conditions, we did not tour the park. We plan to tour the park at the May meeting!

Planning Team Meeting #2

Location: Park Headquarters

Date: May 13, 2013

Time: 10 AM – 3 PM

Attendees: Chuck Allen, Micah Jordan, Sandra Clark, Dan Mullen, Debbie Jensen, Ray Fahlsing, Lisa Gamero, Dave Birchler, Susie Roble

Park Tour Highlights:

- There is a gate (which can be locked) near the entrance of the park which is intended to prevent users/local from accessing the park via an undesignated trail.
- Single park entrance allows park management to check for Recreation Passport. Vehicles parked in the lots are also checked.
- Playground was installed in 2001; sand is filled every year to reach surface level
- Adjacent to the playground is the site of the old lighthouse; Chuck would like to see some interpretive opportunities here (ex: kiosk).
- The Friends Group has helped partially fund replacement trees in park
- Cabins currently do not have restrooms; this is a future opportunity. Tawas Bay Cabin building by prison crew in 2005. Fox Den cabin was built in 2009. Both cabins are heated.
- Multi-use trail is connected to 14 miles of trails in town; some user conflicts.
- Dog beach – fencing should be upgraded at some point. The dog beach rules generated from City of Chicago dog beach. There is a wash station area/pump available.
- Lighthouse – the exterior needs to be re-plastered but this would cost about \$100,000. Park management might try to re-plaster it themselves. The lighthouse was last re-plastered 11 years ago. The gift store is a huge revenue generator for the park. The grass area in front of the lighthouse had a dwelling located on it at one time. This area should not be developed. The lighthouse is heated with geo-thermal energy. Need to develop strategies for making lighthouse ADA compatible (ex: live camera).
- A vault toilet is being built adjacent to the lighthouse.
- The signage along the Sandy Hook Trail is strictly nature-based, not historical.
- The service drive (Coast Guard access road to fog horn) from the lighthouse to the end of the point is often used for hay rides.
- There is a boardwalk along portions of the Sandy Hook Trail.
- Concession stand lease (with Joe Martinez); concession is very popular for day use beach area – sells burgers, hot dogs, ice cream.

Management Zone Discussion:

- Ray will ask Glenn to modify park boundary in the state GIS system
- **Remove Ecologically Sensitive Overlay (Ray feels that the Primitive Zone provides enough protection); add Scenic Overlay at Lighthouse**
- **Remove cultural overlays from shipwrecks (to prevent collecting); mention shipwrecks and their cultural/historical significance in the text**
- Note that Coast Guard access road to fog horn is not appropriate to Primitive Zone but must be maintained for the navigational aid – not justification for any further development
- Some of the existing development (ex: observation platforms) is not appropriate in the Primitive Zone but zoning in Backcountry would open it to pressure for bikes, etc. **Add note in text that**

we are aware it currently has somewhat more development than is typically desirable in Primitive.

Statements of Significance Discussion:

- Susie passed out significant statements to team members present at the meeting; Susie will email the statements to other team members. Planning team should review and provide Susie will input.
- Dave commented that the statements are more narrative descriptions of significant features of the park

Survey Discussion:

- The survey will be available online; survey links will be sent/passed out to users
- Chuck has contact info for just campground users
- Tawas Point recently did a survey and received 2,000 responses
- The survey should be available (open) from June thru August
- Hard copy surveys would manually inputted by TP staff (Chuck mentioned that this could be done at the contact station)
- Team Activity – What do we hope to learn from the online survey?
 - What new facilities/programs would users like to see?
 - What is Park Management doing well?
 - What could Park Management be doing better?
 - Are there other significant features at TPSP?
 - Where are you from?
 - How often do you visit?
 - What attracts you to TPSP?
 - Are you a camper? Day user...etc.?
 - Do you camp alone? In a group? What is the size of your group?
 - How frequently do you visit the park?
 - What would encourage you to visit the park more in the winter?

Planning Team Responses

Action Goals Brainstorming Exercise:

- The Planning Team was asked to respond to the following questions: 1) What enhancements are needed at the park? 2) What improvements are desired? 3) What protections are appropriate? 4) Can the visitor experience be enhanced?
 - Continue plover protection
 - Park roads needs repair/rebuilding
 - Additional cabins – modern, outside campground
 - Additional day-use parking (trailer capability...relationship to Health Dept. restroom rules)
 - Scenic zone for lighthouse
 - Bike path requires full connection for safety (separate bikes from cars)
 - Better connection and wayfinding signs for local trail system
 - “Beach club” property needs to be added back as future boundary
 - Invasive species plan for garlic mustard, spotted knapweed, autumn olive, honey suckle, Japanese knotweed – work to eliminate
 - Stewardship Plan (Phase 1)
 - Camera system to allow persons with mobility limitation to “experience” the lighthouse
 - Upgrade electrical service in campground

Planning Team Responses

- Green Camper education to conserve electricity

Scheduling Future Meetings:

- Team Meeting #4 will be a Go-To-Meeting on Friday, July 12th from 9 AM – 12 PM (1st option); 2nd option is Monday, July 15th from 10 AM – 1 PM
- Stakeholder Meeting – **Chuck will contact East Tawas City Hall to see if we can host meeting;** meeting will be from 1-4 PM; Mon-Thursday last week of July or first week of August
- **Susie will send out a doodle poll**

Planning Team Meeting #3

Location: Park Headquarters

Date: June 18th, 2013

Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting Attendees – Chuck Allen, Micah Jordan, Dan Mullen, Ray Fahlsing, Jill Bahm and Susie Roble

Review Team Meeting #2 Summary

- Change gate to fence in reference to off –main road access point
- Change “dog beach” to “pet-friendly beach”
- Previous survey was done at East Tawas Harbor; not done by TPSP

Review Statements of Significance – use bullet points for stakeholder input meeting

- Tawas Point Lighthouse – use circa 1876
- Tawas Pedestrian-Bike Trail is 14 miles
- Reword Heritage Route text – point out that it runs north and south

Review of Public Input Survey

- Edit introduction per Debbie Jensen’s suggested revisions
- **At end of survey, ensure exit to project site. Jill will also check to make sure that if you click on GMP Plan link, you are able to return to survey**
- Zip – **ask Sheila to provide tips regarding how to show visually**
- Q.4 – move under day-use and camper sections to get separate responses
- Q.5 – can we add both?
- Q.6 – separate birding and special events; change “dog beach” to “pet-friendly beach”; delete cross country ski and snow shoeing since these are not recreational activities at the park (make this change to all questions)
- Q.7 – add “community/area attractions”
- Q.9 – change “camper cabins” to “cabins”; delete sailing and add canoeing/kayaking to boating (make change throughout); add birding and change “wildlife life viewing” to “nature viewing/study”; delete “research”; **Jill will see if we can have excellent rating column first**
- Q.10 – delete Great Lakes ship watching; add playgrounds, pavilion (to both); add barrier free/universal access; add parking
- Q.11 – delete boat launch; add modern cabins with indoor plumbing kitchen; add modern cabins without indoor plumbing; add beach furniture
- Q.12 – Add question pertaining to barrier-free accessibility of park
- Add Question – If you could add additional amenities/facilities to the beach area and campground, what would you add?
- Send out survey as soon as possible
- Share preliminary results of the survey at the Stakeholder Input Meeting on Aug. 1st

- It was suggested that John Terpstra can provide email contacts
- **Send a press release to Debbie by 6/22**
- Debbie (DNR) will develop info cards with survey link for park visitors

Review Stakeholder List

- Add Helen P. from East Tawas DDA
- Delete Tawas Township and Grant Township
- Add Francesca Cuthbert from University of Minnesota
- Delete returning lighthouse keepers
- Debbie will follow up with Sandra or Paul Yauk regarding water trails
- Susie will send out invites to TPSP Stakeholder Meeting the second week of July

Review Draft 10-Year Action Goals – the planning team reviewed the Draft 10-Year Action Goals. The following list includes some of the comments/suggested revisions/additions for the plan:

General
Action
Goals

- Remove Biodiversity Stewardship Plan
- Remove “update Natural Features Inventory”
- Cultural resources survey for the park has been completed
- Add goal, “Ensure ADA accessibility for all development opportunities”

Primitive
Zone

- Do not propose to build any new observation platforms in Primitive Zone in order to be consistent with zone
- Add technology-based interpretive opportunities for piping plover

Developed
Rec. Zone

- Make boardwalks safe; not ADA-accessible
- Add goal, “Work with local partners to establish a safe trail connection to the park”
- Add goal, “Explore opportunities for additional beach amenities”
- Add goal, “Explore opportunity for group gathering area in or around campground”

Cultural
Landscape
Zone

- **The Team decided that the Cultural Landscape Overlay should be a Zone! Sheila should revise the map accordingly.**
- Add goal, “Continue implementing recommendations of the Historic Structures Report

Planning Team Meeting #4

Tuesday, July 12th, 2013

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Go-To-Meeting

1. Meeting Attendees – Chuck Allen, Micah Jordan, Debbie Jensen, Dan Mullen, Sandra Clark, Dave Birchler and Susie Roble
2. Review Team Meeting #3 Summary
3. Susie informed the team that she sent out invitations for the Aug. 1st Stakeholder Input Open House and that there have been 74 survey responses so far.
4. Review Statements of Significance – use bullet points for stakeholder input meeting
 - a. Dan Mullen suggested inserting the word ‘fluctuating’ to describe the varying water levels at TPSP
5. Review of Draft Action Goals (Susie revised the document as changes were discussed)
 - a. Addition of Historic Center to several of the Historic/Cultural Resources goals
 - b. Discussion of the newly revised boundary, which has yet to be adopted. Debbie wants to discuss whether the dedicated boundary still exists with Paul Yauk
 - c. The team determined that the Scenic Overlay goal should be moved under the Cultural Landscape Zone
 - d. The Team decided not to include the list of ongoing maintenance needs/projects in the GMP since the 5-year Implementation Plan will address these items
6. Discussion of potential dates for Public Input Open House
7. Discussion of Project Website
 - a. Add Stakeholder meeting powerpoint presentation to website
 - b. Add Significance Statements
 - c. Add Planning Team roster
 - d. Add Management Zone Map

Stakeholder Input Review Meeting

Monday, August 12th, 2013

1:00 – 4:00 PM

Go-To-Meeting

1. Meeting Attendees –Micah Jordan, Debbie Jensen, Matt Lincoln, Dan Mullen, Sandra Clark, Ray Fahlsing, Lisa Gamero, Dave Birchler and Susie Roble
2. Review of input from “What Else Makes Tawas Significant?” Activity. Team comments in red text.
 - Paddleboarding becoming popular
 - Tawas Bay perfect location to tie into local blue water trail efforts
 - May need additional places to launch
 - Need more trash containers.

Addressed in General Action Goals/Development #5, but the team recognized that more education would help
 - Protect, enhance, care for the living resources that the wildlife depend upon.
 - User defined trails adversely impact.

Park Management works on this on a continual basis
 - Many opportunities for education (good and bad) – Interpretive Center? (with life saving gear?)
 - Invasive species
 - Threatened species
 - Alternative energy
 - Unique recreation options
 - History & culture, lighthouse / shipwrecks.
 - Value of these resources

Sandra Clark suggested the potential opportunity for a virtual interpretive center that incorporates history, culture, nature, etc. Mobile apps are very popular, with picnic shelter as good “jumping off” location
 - Some type of life-saving station/facilities and supplies.
 - Menominee River example

Dan Mullen noted that the existing facilities comply with DNR policy. Menominee River has a lock-box, which TPSP could have via a use permit
 - Perhaps the bird migration should be considered seasonally ecologically sensitive.

Ray Fahlsing commented that this is not necessary. The resource can accommodate the human interaction with migratory birds
 - Birding event is getting larger – at some point will humans adversely impact the migration? Or will the birds seek land fall no matter?
 - Brochures & kiosks along Sandy Hook Trail could help educate visitors on how to protect the resources for the birds.

There are some existing kiosks; some need repair. Ray Fahlsing noted that the birds are opportunists who choose the point first, then move inland as needed
 - Flexibility of future facilities and infrastructures – and partnerships to sustain the maintenance.
 - Seek new use for existing facilities.
 - Critical information can be shared on wider basis by partnering with local communities, businesses and organizations.

The Team agreed that this is covered in the draft Action Goals.
 - A covered pavilion could help facilitate a wide variety of programs year-round (flexible / adaptable to varying weather conditions).

- Accessible to person with limitations.
TPSP needs to use existing facilities more effectively
 - Potential programming tie-in with Tuttle Marsh (cross-marketing opportunities)
State/federal waterfowl; addressed in goals focusing partnerships
 - Concessionaire is another good point of contact with park staff – for emergencies, species protection, etc.
 - Dark Skies Park has many good new media interpretation examples.
There will be a Dark Skies designation at Port Crescent this month (August)
3. Review of Management Zone Map comments – Micah commented that numerous posts have deteriorated and/or been partially removed. The team determined that this should be part of the Interpretive Plan for the park.
 4. Review of Draft Action Goal Comments and Priority Activity
 - a. The Planning Team revised specific goals based on recommendations/input from stakeholders
 - b. Archaeological study 1853 lighthouse site – Micah mentioned that a university research team did an archaeological study of the site a few years ago. The team already has plans to interpret this site.
 - c. Determined that the Stewardship Plan allow or mimic natural disturbance
 - d. Revised action goal pertaining to regional connection of trails via wayfinding signs to specify that these trails are both land and water.
 - e. Revised Education/Interpretation Opportunities goals to include Interpretive Plan and virtual interpretive center.
 - f. Revised Primitive/Management Focus #2 by deleting ‘boardwalks’. No additional boardwalks are needed in the Primitive Zone.
 - g. Add goal in Primitive/Management Focus, “Maintain existing access to fog signal as emergency route and pathway (reduce width if Coast Guard ever abandons the signal)
 - h. The Team decided that the comment related to carry-down launch sites requires further study to determine if there is a need for this; it would only be appropriate on the Bay side of the park.
 - i. Sandra commented that replacing glass at the lighthouse is very expensive and not a top priority
 - j. Revise Developed Recreation Zone/Development goal pertaining to overnight accommodations to read “Explore emerging new ideas for small-scale overnight accommodations.”
 5. Review of Additional Comments
 - a. Clarify what is intended by additional overnight accommodations; see 4.j above
 - b. Add paddleboarding – the park will work with partners to expand opportunities
 6. Review of Larry VanWagoner’s Letter
 - c. Ray noted that we need to allow/mimic natural disturbance
 - d. Micah– park staff continues to monitor unauthorized trails
 7. Review of Survey Results
 - e. Dave provided an overview of the survey results summary
 - f. The survey will officially close to participants on 8/16

Public Input Review Meeting Summary

Wednesday, November 20th, 2013

2:00 PM – 2:30 M

Go-To-Meeting

1. Meeting Attendees – Chuck Allen, Debbie Jensen, Dan Mullen, Matt Lincoln, Dave Birchler and Susie Roble
2. Review Public Input received at the October 9th Public Input Open House
 - A. Public Input Comment: promote Recreation Passport for much needed revenue. Beginning in February there will be venues such as Outdoorama (Novi) all over Michigan. The DNR and Section of State often have booths there. Put up posters, promote Recreation Passport anyway you can. Thousands of people (lots of families) come to these shows.
Planning Team Discussion: Debbie Jensen commented that Recreation Passport promotion is on-going. Matt said that he passed this comment along to Marketing and Outreach. Dan Mullen commented that postcards used to be passed out at tradeshow.
 - B. Public Input Comment: Evaluate tower and its historic construction and what would be best for long-term repair and maintenance.
Planning Team Discussion: The Planning Team will continue to evaluate the best method for ensure on-going preservation and maintenance of the lighthouse.
 - C. Public Input Comment: From State Park entrance to current start of bike path 0.3 of a mile long bust has 4 ft. of usable space for bikes.
Planning Team Discussion: This is already incorporate in an action goal.
 - D. Public Input Comment: Winterize the pavilion as a year-round educational meeting place
Planning Team Discussion: Chuck Allen commented that he is concerned that the cost of winterizing the pavilion is not consistent with the limited number of times it would likely be used during the winter. He doesn't currently get many winter meeting requests.

Additional Meeting Comments:

- E. Debbie commented that Chuck, Sandra and she had a meeting with the Saginaw Tribe of Chippewa. Sandra would like to add a General Action Goal regarding native American input and that the Tribe would like to be part of interpretation activities at the park. They would like to see more education opportunities and interpretive signage related to the tribe. Debbie said that she will work with Sandra to develop the action goal (which will likely be under General Action Goals/Education and Interpretation). Finally, Debbie said that she will follow up with the tribe to see if they would like to comment on the plan.

Appendix D – Tribal Outreach

The following section provides information related to tribal outreach efforts that transpired during the General Management Planning process for Tawas Point State Park. The DNR recognizes the presence of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe at Tawas Point State Park and welcomes the Tribe's valuable input and collaboration with the Planning Team.



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

July 12, 2013

Mr. Dennis V. Kequom, Sr.
Tribal Chair
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
7070 East Broadway
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858

Dear Chief Kequom:

The Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is currently working to develop a General Management Plan for Tawas Point State Park in north-east Michigan. Tawas Point is a 183-acre site in Iosco County with two miles of Lake Huron/Tawas Bay shoreline. Facilities include a modern campground, swimming beach, trails, picnic areas and the Tawas Point Lighthouse.

The DNR uses General Management Plans (GMP) to define a long-range planning and management strategy that will protect the natural, cultural and historic resources of the site, while considering education and recreation opportunities. A planning team, representing various specialties within the DNR, has been established and is meeting regularly to develop the GMP for this site. The planning process includes several opportunities for stakeholders and public input. An on-line survey is being developed and stakeholder and the public will be invited to meetings to learn more about the process, understand the findings of the team, and to provide input. In addition, the draft plan will be available for review and comment on the DNR's website prior to adoption. The stakeholder meeting has been scheduled for on Thursday, August 1, 2013, 1-4 p.m. at the East Tawas City Hall, 760 Newman Street, East Tawas, MI 48730. The public meeting will be scheduled in early October.

Prior to this meeting, we would like to give the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe the opportunity to meet with us independently of the larger group to discuss the GMP process and any concerns you may have. In addition, you are also welcome to send representatives to the stakeholder and/or public meeting.

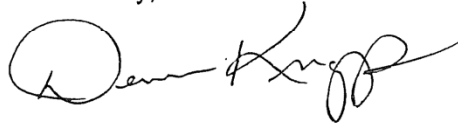
For additional information on our management plan process, please visit our website at www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans.

STEVENS T. MASON BUILDING • 530 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30028 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7528
www.michigan.gov/dnr • (517) 373-2329

Mr. Dennis V. Kequom, Sr.
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Please contact either Ms. Debbie Jensen, PRD Management Plan Administrator, at 517-335-4832, or myself if you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Knapp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail.

Dennis Knapp
Native American Affairs Coordinator
517-241-0330

cc. Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribal Planning Department
✓ Ms. Debbie Jensen, DNR

**TAWAS POINT
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**MEETING WITH SAGINAW CHIPPEWA INDIAN TRIBE
Mount Pleasant Tribal Operations Center
Thursday, October 3, 2013**

Attendees:

Saginaw-Chippewa Tribe: Frank Cloutier, Public Relations Director
Willie Johnson, Curator, Ziibiwing Center
Donald Seal, Planning Department, Community Engineer
Craig Graveratte, Environmental Response Program Specialist

Michigan DNR: Dennis Knapp, Native American Affairs Coordinator
Sandra Clark, Director, Michigan Historical Center
Debbie Jensen, Park Management Plan Administrator
Chuck Allen, Unit Supervisor, Tawas Point State Park
Micah Jordan, Lead Ranger, Tawas Point State Park

The meeting was initiated by a letter from Dennis Knapp, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Tribal Coordinator, extending an invitation to meet with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe to discuss the General Management Plan for Tawas Point State Park. Tribal representatives expressed gratitude at being invited to meet on a one-on-one basis.

Debbie Jensen gave a brief overview of the Management Plan process and provided a Draft of the plan. (Prior to the meeting a link to the planning website was provided <http://www.clearzoning.com/clearzoning-clients/tawas-point-state-park/>).

The Tribe expressed the desire to acknowledge the presence of the Saginaw Chippewa in the Tawas region through on-site interpretation at the park and other means. The offer to provide information to the Lighthouse Museum store and at the campsite was welcomed by DNR staff.

A children's activity book produced by the Tribe was circulated. Don indicated that there is an on-going effort to revitalize the Indian language (for example with dual signs in Mount Pleasant).

It was noted that a Tribal Master Plan is underway.

Natural resources in the area were discussed. Chuck noted that eagles are prominent at Tawas Point, with sightings almost daily.

Opportunities for a wider educational programming partnership between the Saginaw Chippewa and the DNR was discussed and welcomed by both parties.

The Tribe was invited to provide comments on the draft Management Plan and it was requested that they be sent to Debbie by the beginning of December. In particular, a review of sections A.2, Demographics, and A.3 History of Tawas Point State Park of the Supporting Analysis would be appreciated.