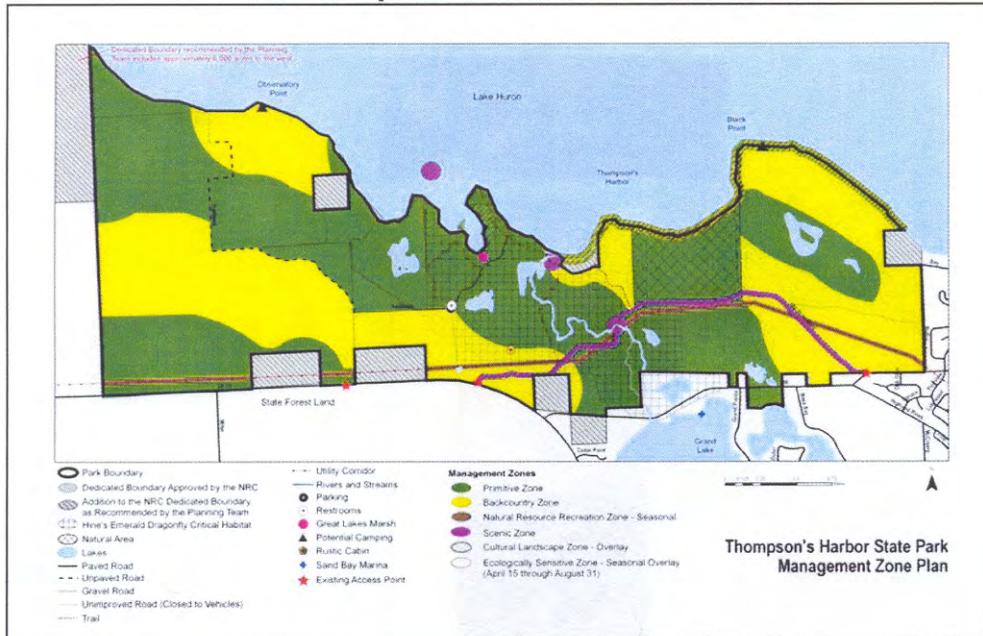


September 2008

General Management Plan

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

Thompson's Harbor State Park



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

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



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PREFACE

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



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

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

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

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

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

A key outcome of the GMP strategy for the three sites is to transfer management of the Rockport Property from FMFMD to PRD. This recommendation is supported by the NRTM Planning Team, NRTM Advisory Committee, and the Department. Implementation of the unifying GMP concept would be facilitated by the management of all sites under one DNR Division. It is the recommendation of this plan that the transfer of Rockport administration from FMFMD to PRD be made as soon as possible. This will also allow for implementation of the regional management benefits of managing and marketing Negwegon, Rockport and Thompson's Harbor under one DNR program.

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

Managing the sites as a unit is supported by the Regional Assessment. The recommendation for identifying Rockport as the central hub for the three sites is consistent with this finding. There are challenges associated with unit management. Distance between the management unit and the facility (none of the sites have permanent staff at this time) and physical distance (miles)

between the sites makes staffing the parks difficult and daily visits by all personnel impractical. Certainly managing the units under one Division of the DNR is recommended. The GMP recommendation for management of Rockport to be transferred to PRD is appropriate given the proposed management plans.

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Thompson's Harbor State Park is a 5,110-acre State Park on Lake Huron, located in Presque Isle County. The Phase I General Management Plan (GMP) process for Thompson's Harbor State Park (Park) was made possible, in part, by funding provided by the Michigan Coastal Management Program, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration U.S. Department of Commerce. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) oversaw the planning process. The endeavor represents a new planning philosophy of the PRD. "Management Planning," a comprehensive, resource-based process, is the PRD's adaptation of National Park Service planning methodology. The GMP focuses on the four principles of the PRD Mission Statement. Accordingly, a thorough inventory was performed on the Park's (1) natural resources, to establish its (2) historic/cultural resources, identify the (3) recreational opportunities and develop the (4) educational and interpretation opportunities.

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

1. Unique habitats that allow for a diversity of flora and fauna (the Park is one of the highest ranking pieces State-owned land in terms of prevalence of species of special concern, endangered species, threatened species, and exemplary natural communities).
2. Alvar glade communities found within the Park.
3. Large concentrations of Dwarf lake iris, a federally and state threatened species, occurs within the Park (Thompson's Harbor is recognized as a premier location for viewing expanses of blooming iris in the Spring).
4. Location within the Lake Huron Flyway (State and Federal agencies use the bird census data from this area as a litmus test of the health of Lake Huron and the shoreline environment).
5. A 304-acre dedicated Natural Area.
6. A 156-acre dedicated Critical Habitat for the Hine's emerald dragonfly, an endangered species.
7. Many unique natural features, including 7.5 miles of Lake Huron shoreline, dunes, fens, Great Lakes Marsh, and bogs.

8. Many recreational opportunities, including birding, wildlife viewing, hiking, hunting and trapping, and cross-country skiing.
9. A fen, which is an ideal near-shore small mouth bass fishery.
10. A Great Lakes Marsh wetland complex (Pitcher plants thrive in this unique habitat).
11. Historical artifacts: Remnants of the lumber and shipping industries, and the farming, lumbering and shipping community that formed as a results of these industries; Native American remnants; and the wreck of the schooner AMERICAN UNION.
12. It is part of several regional networks.

In concert with this analysis of Thompson's Harbor, the Planning Team, with stakeholder and public input, established appropriate Management Zones and their extent of influence on the Park. From a pallet of nine standard zones, six were applied to Thompson's Harbor. The Management Zone Plan is found on the cover as well as within Section 3.0 of this Plan. A thorough review of each Management Zone is presented on pages 22 through 40. A condensed review of the Management Zones is as follows:

- ❑ Ecologically Sensitive Seasonal Overlay Zone enhances and protects the Piping plover nesting habitat. This zone coincides with the critical habitat designation for the plover. Although should a plover be found to nesting outside of this described area, the Seasonal Overlay will apply. The seasonal designation applies from April 15 to August 31. The zone is applied to 2.8 miles of shoreline, extending 100 feet in from the shoreline, and 100 feet into Lake Huron waters. The land area covered by the zone totals 34 acres, or 0.7% of the Park. Including Lake Huron waters, the area covered by the overlay totals approximately 68 acres.
- ❑ Primitive Zone reflects a desired condition that emphasizes the natural resources. The majority of Thompson's Harbor, 2,760 acres, or 54% of the total land area, is zoned Primitive. The designation was generally applied to land that contains sensitive wetland areas, the dedicated Natural Area, the dedicated Critical Habitat, and sensitive or undisturbed forested land. This zone underlies the Ecologically Sensitive Seasonal Overlay Zone described above.
- ❑ Backcountry Zone emphasizes resource quality over recreation, but allows modifications of the landscape accommodate moderate levels of active recreation uses. Approximately 2,050 acres, or 40% of the total land area, is zoned Backcountry. Activities that could occur in this zone include

hiking trails, hunting and trapping, rustic camping, bicycling, equestrian use, where appropriate, and other complementary uses.

- ❑ Natural Resource Recreation Seasonal Zone permits higher levels of uses, however there is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation. The designation would apply in winter months to allow for snowmobile use. During non-winter seasons, the zone would revert to surrounding management zone designations. Approximately 265 acres, or 5% of the total land area, is zoned Natural Resource Recreation Seasonal.
- ❑ Scenic Zone recognizes that there are aesthetic qualities to be preserved and protected in the Park. While there are many, those identified during the planning process, and noted on the management zone plan, are: an Lake Huron overlook; a shipwreck viewable from sea level due to the shallow waters of Lake Huron; and, a viewshed at the Old State Road and Grand Lake outlet crossing. Approximately 26 acres, or 0.5% of the total land area, are zoned Scenic.
- ❑ Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone addresses the overall setting in which is found historic structures, and also non-structural evidence of the traditions, beliefs, practices, lifeways, arts, crafts and social institutions of any community. A Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone applies to the three Scenic Zones, and the eastern shoreline of western Thompson's Harbor (the site of a European settlement during the late 1800's due to the shipping trade). Remnants of this settlement remain today. This zone covers approximately 0.8% of land area, or 40 acres.

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

- ❑ Regional Consideration. As described in the Preface of this document, the planning for Thompson's Harbor State Park was performed in conjunction with the planning for Negwegon State Park and the Rockport Property. The planning effort, supported by a consensus of the Planning Team, resulted in the following concept: Rockport would be established as the central "hub" of the three sites, allowing Negwegon and Thompson's Harbor to remain in a relatively undisturbed, natural state.
- ❑ Access and Parking. There are two points of access into Thompson's Harbor. One is directly off of US-23, and leads to the trailhead parking area. The second is from Old State Road, leading to the Grand Lake outlet, where there is a turn-around with limited parking.

- ❑ Signage. Appropriate signage is needed to inform the public of the park location. Interpretive, directional and education signage within each park will be developed under Phase 2.
- ❑ Camping. Creating a camping opportunity at Observatory Point and Black Point is a consideration of this management plan. Camping would be hike-in or kayak-in access only.
- ❑ Rustic Cabin. Thompson's Harbor offers a rustic cabin, located approximately 1/4 mile from the central parking area. The cabin is hike-in access only.
- ❑ Future Purchases. Part of the DNR's mission is to acquire lands with unique natural, cultural and historic resources for the purposes of public recreation and education. The Natural Resources Commission approved a dedicated boundary for Thompson's Harbor State Park in 2004. The Planning Team's recommendation for expanding the project boundary is included in this GMP (see Section 2.5). This would significantly expand the Park, with expansion of the boundary to the west to incorporate approximately 6,000 acres currently owned by US Steel. Land within the dedicated boundary would be a priority purchase for the DNR, should the opportunity to purchase and funding become available. Major land purchases would prompt an amendment to this GMP.

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



1.0 Planning Process Overview

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.1 Planning Objectives

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

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

1.2 Planning Team

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

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

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

1.3 Management Plan Process

In 1988, a 'Citizen's Advisory Committee' (CAC) was formed to develop the first Master Plan for Thompson's Harbor SP. The resultant plan proposed a 'typical' state park development with headquarters/shop complex, 200 site modern campground, and a 60 site rustic campground. It also called for an atypical component of developing a lodge to be funded by the private sector. The Natural Resource Commission did not adopt this proposal, and other than day-use trails, no improvements have been made.

A regional approach to Management Planning

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

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

...and policy question:

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

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

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

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

2.0 Core Values



2.1 Mission Statements

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

DNR Mission Statement

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

PRD Mission Statement

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

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

2.2 Park Purpose

Statements of purpose for Thompson's Harbor are based on park legislation, legislative history, special designations and DNR policies. These statements reaffirm the reasons for which it was identified as part of the State Park system.

1. The National Park Service recommended that the State target the Lake Huron northeast shoreline for land purchases, due to the unique natural resource values of the area. Lands were originally secured through efforts of The Nature Conservancy and augmented by assistance from the Genevieve Gillette Trust and subsequent acquisitions.

2. To preserve and protect the park's unique natural resources for current and future generations.
3. To preserve and protect the park's historic and cultural resources.
4. To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflect the mission of the DNR and the unique qualities of Thompson's Harbor.
5. To provide opportunities for recreational uses and experiences that are unique to and compatible with the park's resource(s) base.
6. To ensure that the planning of Thompson's Harbor is part of a cohesive strategy for the region.

2.3 Park Significance

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

1. Within Thompson's Harbor are unique habitats that allow for a diversity of flora and fauna. This Park is one of the highest ranking pieces State-owned land in terms of prevalence of species of special concern, endangered species, threatened species, and exemplary natural communities.
2. Alvar glade communities are found in Thompson's Harbor. Alvar glades are a rare community that grows on limestone bedrock.
3. A large concentration of Dwarf lake iris, a federally and state threatened species, occurs within the Park. Thompson's Harbor is recognized as a premier location for viewing expanses of blooming iris in the Spring.



Alvar Glade communities are found only in three areas of the world.

4. Thompson's Harbor is within the Lake Huron Flyway and provides a vital habitat for resident and migrating bird species. State and Federal agencies use the bird census data from this area as a litmus test of the health of Lake Huron and the shoreline environment.
5. Thompson's Harbor includes a 304-acre dedicated Natural Area. The dedication was due to the dune-swale complex within the boundary.
6. Thompson's Harbor includes the majority of a 156-acre Critical Habitat dedicated to the Hine's emerald dragonfly, an endangered species.
7. Many unique natural features are found in the Park: 7.5 miles of Lake Huron shoreline; dunes; fens; Great Lakes Marsh; and bogs. The shoreline is relatively shallow; there is no deep water access from the Park.
8. Thompson's Harbor offers many recreational opportunities, including birding, wildlife viewing, hiking, hunting and trapping, and cross-country skiing.
9. The harbor blends with a fen, which is an ideal near-shore small mouth bass fishery.
10. There is a Great Lakes Marsh wetland complex at Thompson's Harbor. Pitcher plants thrive in this unique habitat.
11. Thompson's Harbor contains historical artifacts: Remnants of the lumber and shipping industries, and the farming, lumbering and shipping community that formed as a results of these industries; Native American remnants; and the wreck of the schooner AMERICAN UNION. The AMERICAN UNION is a well-known attraction for kayakers, snorkelers and divers. It rests in shallow water and is easily accessible from the shore.
12. Part of regional networks:
 - a. Bluewater Trail. A proposed trailway, developed under NEMCOG, comprised of navigable waters. Thompson's Harbor would be part of such a network.
 - b. Great Lakes Circle Tour. The Tour was developed in the late 1980s and consists of a 6,500-mile road network connecting the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River. Information about the tour, including campgrounds, recreational areas and local attractions, is available to

tourists on-line. Thompson's Harbor State Park could be a stop along the tour.

- c. Huron Greenways: A NEMCOG project that applied greenways principals to specific environmental and recreational resources in the coastal portions of Northeast Michigan. The project inventoried available ecological and recreational resources, and explored ways in which they can be knit together into a cohesive, inter-connected system. Thompson's Harbor is a part of the system.
- d. Lighthouse Trail: The Lighthouse Trail was the result of a sustained regional effort, in cooperation with the Department of History, Arts and Libraries, to designate a Maritime Heritage Trail from AuGres in Arenac County, to the Mackinac Bridge.

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

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

2.4 Legal Mandates

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

1. PA 451 of 1994, Part 741 – State Park System – Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act. - This act is the recodification of law that established the Michigan State Park System and defined the powers and duties of same. Notable in this law is Section 324.74102 which identifies the duties of the department and reinforces those core values cited above. This section reads:
 - (A) “The legislature finds:
 - (i) Michigan State Parks preserve and protect Michigan’s significant natural and historic resources.
 - (ii) Michigan State Parks are appropriate and uniquely suited to provide opportunities to learn about protection and management of Michigan’s natural resources.
 - (iii) Michigan State Parks are an important component of Michigan’s tourism industry and vital to local economies.
 - (B) The department shall create, maintain, operate, promote, and make available for public use and enjoyment a system of state parks to preserve and protect Michigan’s significant natural resources and areas of natural beauty or historic significance, to provide open space for public recreation, and to provide an opportunity to understand Michigan’s natural resources and need to protect and manage those resources.”

2. Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 351 – Wilderness and Natural Areas – Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act. This is an act... “to protect the environment and natural resources of the state...” Within this law are three designations (definitions); “NATURAL AREA”, “WILD AREA”, and “WILDERNESS AREA”.

A portion of Thompson’s Harbor Park falls under this law with areas identified as “NATURAL AREA” that by this law, must be treated as a designated “NATURAL AREA”. SECTION 324.35105 – PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES, identifies that the following cannot occur on state land in a Natural Area, Wild Area, or Wilderness Area:

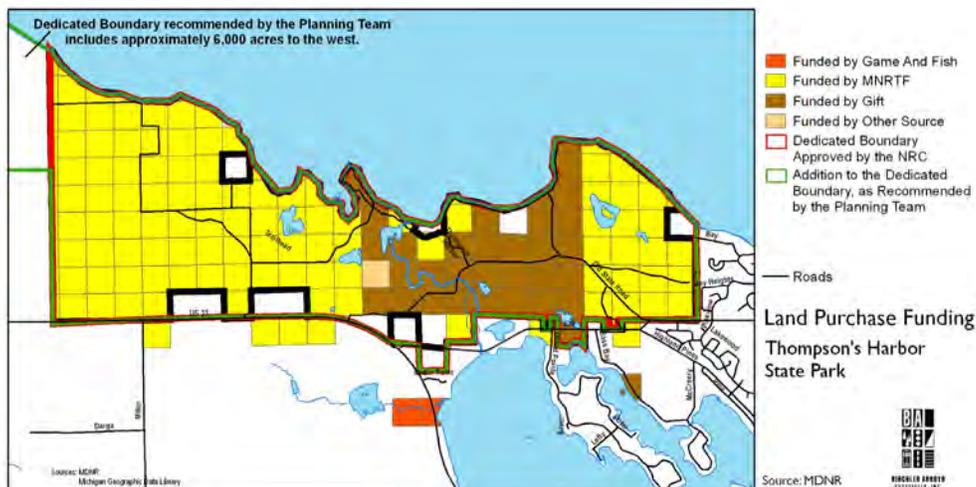
- (a) Any alteration of vegetation except as necessary for appropriate public access.
 - (b) Granting an easement for any purpose.
 - (c) Exploration for or extraction of minerals.
 - (d) A commercial enterprise, utility or permanent road.
 - (e) A temporary road, landing of aircraft, use of motor vehicles, motorboats, or other form of mechanical transport, or any structure or installation.
 - (f) Motorized equipment (except if authorized by Department for management or conservation purposes)
- (2) If a right-of-way or an easement was granted on land prior to designation under this law, the department may grant an easement along the route

of same right-of-way or easement for the installation and maintenance of utilities for gas, electric, telephone, and cable services.

3. Restrictions of Land Purchase Funding Sources. Funds used to purchase recreation land can come with stipulations as to how the land can or cannot be used. The following are descriptions of the impacts of known funding sources (accompanied by Figure 1, below):

- ❑ MNRTF: Lands purchased using the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (MNRTF). Approximately a minimum of 3,960 acres were purchased and dedicated to Thompson’s Harbor through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Any conversion of use for other than the granted project purpose must receive MNRTF Board approval.
- ❑ Gift: The Ms. E. Genevieve Gillette trust donated 304 acres for the designated Natural Area (see Legal Mandate #2). An additional 1,016 acres were gifted from other sources.
- ❑ Land Exchange Facilitation Fund: Forty acres of the Park were acquired through this program. There are eleven evaluation criteria for grant funding: the protection and use of significant natural resources, use of inland waters, population served, economic benefits, hunting, fishing and other wildlife-related values, need for proposal, capability of applicant, site and project quality, special initiatives of the Fund board, financial need of the applicant, and local match contribution. Development projects have a minimum grant amount of \$15,000 and a maximum of \$500,000. There is neither a minimum nor a maximum amount on land acquisition grants. Since 1976, the Fund has purchased more than 135,000 acres of land in Michigan. *Information obtained from The Trust for Public Land (www.tpl.org/)

Figure 1. Purchase Funding Sources



Note: Funding source data is available on a 40-acre parcel basis and therefore does not follow the Park boundary.

4. Easements:
 - Presque Isle Electric & Gas Cooperative easement in Section 22 consists of 40 acres.
 - Michigan Department of Transportation easement in Section 18 consists of 40 acres.

5. Prohibited Uses – From the MCL 324.504: Order 5.1. A person shall not do any of the following in any state park or recreation area:
 - (1) Possess or use fireworks in a manner prohibited by section 243a of Act No. 328 of the Public Acts of 1931, being § 750.243a of the Michigan Compiled Laws.
 - (2) Have more than 1 horse for each registered camper at any designated horsemen's campground without first obtaining proper written permission from the department.
 - (3) Without first obtaining proper written permission, peddle or systematically solicit business of any nature; distribute handbills or other advertising matter; post signs on any lands, waters, structures or property; or use any portion of a state park or recreation area for commercial operations.

6. Piping Plover Nesting Areas and Critical Habitat. Order 5.7 of Section 504 of Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, being section 324.504 of the Michigan Compiled Laws and in accordance with R 299.671 and R 299.922 of the Michigan Administrative Code: Certain environmentally sensitive and piping plover nesting areas, prohibited conduct, exceptions. (1) A person shall not do any of the following: Enter, use, or occupy any of the following described state-owned lands, as posted, from April 15 through August 31 except with proper written permission: (xi) Thompson's harbor SP - state-owned lands in sections 6-12, and 15, T34N R7E, Presque Isle county.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service designated several areas along the Great Lakes shoreline as a critical habitat for the piping plover (Federal Register Volume 66, No. 88). Approximately 2.8 miles of Thompson's Harbor shoreline are included in the designation (roughly from the Grand Lake outlet to Black Point). Destruction or adverse modification of critical habitats with regard to actions carried out, funded, or authorized by a Federal agency are prohibited. Within this critical habitat area, the quality of the habitat for nesting piping plovers cannot be compromised. Projects that do not involve federal "actions" (funding, permits, reviews, etc.) would not be affected by the designation.

7. Hine's Emerald Dragonfly Critical Habitat. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) designated 12,221 acres of land in Illinois and Michigan as a critical habitat for the Hine's emerald dragonfly under the Endangered

Species Act (Federal Register Volume 72, No. 101). The majority of the 959 acres of critical habitat in Presque Isle County 156 acres are located in Thompson's Harbor State Park. Any activity funded, permitted, or carried out by a federal agency must be reviewed by the USFWS for a determination of impact.

8. Entry, use and occupancy of certain state parks recreation areas and scenic sites, motor vehicle permit requirement. Order 5.16 of Section 504 of Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, being section 324.504 of the Michigan Compiled Laws and in accordance with R 299.671 and R 299.922 of the Michigan Administrative Code. A person shall not do any of the following: (1) Enter any of the following state-owned lands with a motor vehicle, unless a valid Michigan state park motor vehicle permit has been purchased and affixed to the vehicle windshield in accordance with the printed instructions on the permit: (vvv) Thompson's Harbor SP, Presque Isle County.
9. Public Act 451 of 1994, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (Excerpt) – 324.41901. Regulation and prohibitions in certain areas; powers of department; area closures; hearings, investigations, studies, and statement of facts; regulations. This part of PA 451 establishes the powers of the Department to establish safety zones for hunting. In accordance with the Administrative Rules established by Wildlife Division for hunting safety, a 450 foot "Safety zone" is established around all occupied dwellings (which includes campgrounds). Under the State Land Rules, the Department also has the authority to expand the application of this 450 foot "Safety zone" to encompass "Day-Use Areas" such as beaches, picnic areas, boat launches, and parking areas, should the need arise. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.
10. Public Act 451 of 1994, Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act (Excerpt) – 324.76102. Aboriginal records and antiquities; right to explore, survey, excavate, and regulate reserved to state; possessory right or title to abandoned property. Sec. 76102 (1) The state reserves to itself the exclusive right and privilege, except as provided in this part, of exploring, surveying, excavating, and regulating through its authorized officers, agents, and employees, all aboriginal records and other antiquities, including mounds, earthworks, forts, burial and village sites, mines or other relics, and abandoned property of historical or recreational value found upon or within any of the lands owned by or under the control of the state. (2) The state reserves to itself a possessory right or title superior to that of a finder to abandoned property of historical or recreational value found on the state owned bottomlands of the Great Lakes. This property shall belong to this state with administration and

protection jointly vested in the department and the department of history, arts, and libraries.

11. Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 303 – Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act – Wetlands Protection. Wetlands are under the jurisdiction of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. Section 324.30305 prescribes activities not requiring a permit under the Act and uses allowed without a permit. This section reads:

- (1) Activities that require a permit under part 325 or part 301 or a discharge that is authorized by a discharge permit under section 3112 of 3113 do not require a permit under this part.
- (2) The following uses are allowed in a wetland without a permit subject to other laws of this state and the owner's regulation:
 - (a) Fishing, trapping, or hunting.
 - (b) Swimming or boating.
 - (c) Hiking.
 - (d) Grazing of animals.
 - (e) Farming, horticulture, silviculture, lumbering, and ranching activities, including plowing, irrigation, irrigation ditching, seeding, cultivating, minor drainage, harvesting for the production of food, fiber, and forest products, or upland soil and water conservation practices. Wetland altered under this subdivision shall not be used for a purpose other than a purpose described in this subsection without a permit from the department.
 - (f) Maintenance or operation of serviceable structures in existence on October 1, 1980 or constructed pursuant to this part or former 1979 PA 203.
 - (g) Construction or maintenance of farm or stock ponds.
 - (h) Maintenance, operation, or improvement which includes straightening, widening, or deepening of the following which is necessary for the production or harvesting of agricultural products:
 - (i) An existing private agricultural drain.
 - (ii) That portion of a drain legally established pursuant to the drain code of 1956, 1956 PA 40, MCL 280.1 to 280.630, which has been constructed or improved for drainage purposes.
 - (iii) A drain constructed pursuant to other provisions of this part or former 1979 PA 203.
 - (i) Construction or maintenance of farm roads, forest roads, or temporary roads for moving mining or forestry equipment, if the roads are constructed and maintained in a manner to assure that any adverse effect on the wetland will be otherwise minimized.
 - (j) Drainage necessary for the production and harvesting of agricultural products if the wetland is owned by a person who is engaged in commercial farming and the land is to be used for the production and harvesting of agricultural products. Except as

otherwise provided in this part, wetland improved under this subdivision after October 1, 1980 shall not be used for nonfarming purposes without a permit from the department. This subdivision does not apply to a wetland that is contiguous to a lake or stream, or to a tributary of a lake or stream, or to a wetland that the department has determined by clear and convincing evidence to be a wetland that is necessary to be preserved for the public interest, in which case a permit is required.

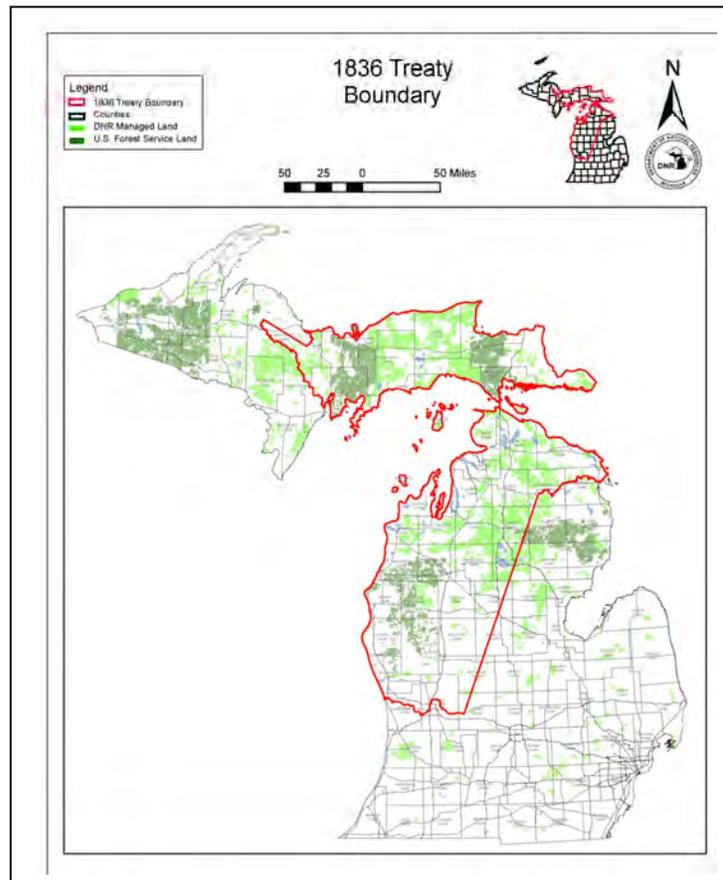
- (k) Maintenance or improvement of public streets, highways, or roads, within the right-of-way and in such a manner as to assure that any adverse effect on the wetland will be otherwise minimized. Maintenance or improvement does not include adding extra lanes, increasing the right-of-way, or deviating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

be effectively drained as part of an ongoing farming operation is not subject to regulation under this part.

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

12. 2007 Consent Decree – This was a negotiated settlement (Agreement) between the Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. government, and five Native American Tribes of:

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



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

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

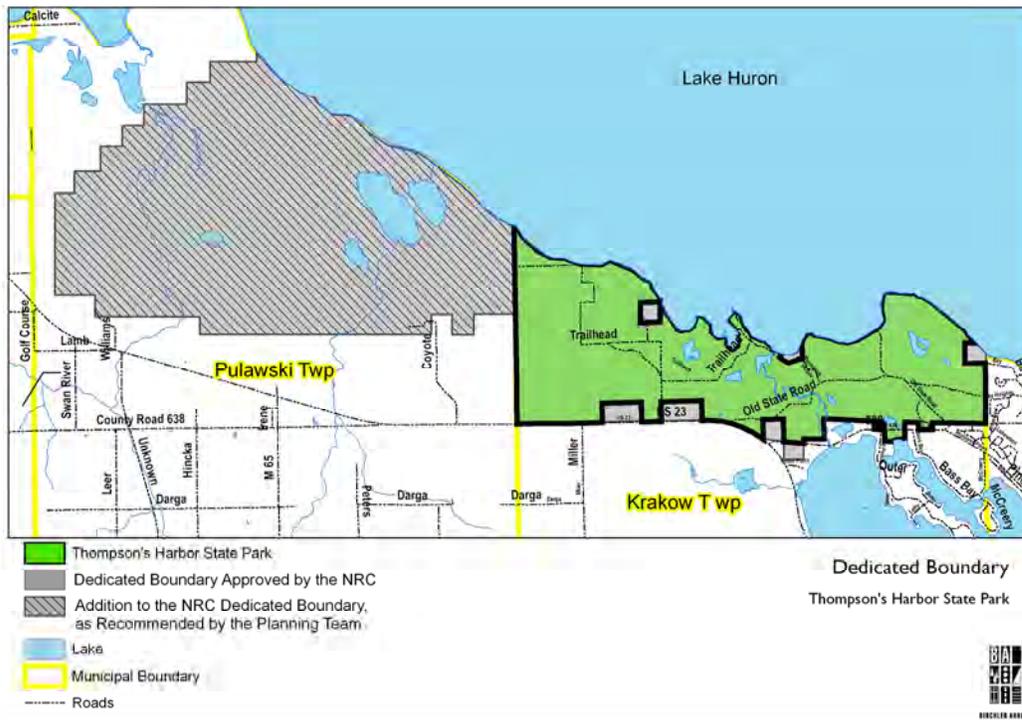
2.5 Land Acquisition

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

The PRD has targeted land in (privately-owned 'inholding' parcel) and around Thompson's Harbor for future purchase, should there be an opportunity to do so. Figure 3 illustrates the existing boundary for Thompson's Harbor, and the *dedicated* or *project* boundary for the Park. The dedicated boundary was approved by the Natural Resources Commission in 2004. The DNR would like to acquire any private lands within the *dedicated* or *project* boundary as they become available, and as funding allows.

Part of the Phase I General Management Plan process is to evaluate the dedicated boundary and determined whether revisions are required or necessary. There was consensus by the Planning Team to extend the Dedicated Boundary to include 6,000 acres of land to the west (see Figure 2). This land is currently owned by US Steel.

Figure 2. Dedicated Boundary



3.0 Management Zone Plan



With guidance of the Planning Team and input from our stakeholders and the public, the Recreation Area “Purpose and Significance” statements were formulated. This established an identity for Thompson’s Harbor as a place to enjoy passive recreation in one of the highest-ranking pieces of State-owned land with regard to prevalence and diversity of plant species.

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

- ◆ Ecologically Sensitive Seasonal Overlay Zone enhances and protects the piping plover nesting habitat. This zone coincides with the critical habitat designation for the Piping plover. Should piping plovers be attempting to nest, only the area around the nest(s) would be closed, and only for that year’s nesting season.
- ◆ Primitive Zone reflects a desired condition that emphasizes the natural resources. It is managed to only allow dispersed and low frequency use for low impact recreational purposes. Attaining and maintaining a high quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements or uses are allowed.
- ◆ Backcountry Zone emphasizes resource quality over recreation, but allows for modification of the landscape to allow for moderate levels of active recreation uses. Activities that could occur in this zone include hiking trails, hunting and trapping, rustic camping, bicycling, equestrian use,

This is Phase I of the General Management Plan for Thompson’s Harbor. Phase I determines management zones (MZs) for the park land. MZs describe a variety of activities that **may be** appropriate within that zone. Identifying specific activities that **will occur** is a function of Phase 2 general management planning, and not a component of this plan.

where appropriate, and other complementary uses. The activities should allow visitors to experience nature at a variety of levels.

The eastern portion of Thompson's Harbor, the area between the shoreline and the Primitive Zone, is currently zoned Backcountry. This designation was based on a regional strategy for Thompson's Harbor State Park, the Rockport Property and Negwegon State Park (see Preface). The strategy is for Rockport to be the central hub, allowing Negwegon and Thompson's Harbor to be designated with management zones that are less intensive. Should this strategy be dissolved, such that each Park is managed in and of itself, then the Backcountry area referred to should be zoned Developed Recreation. The reason for the change in management zone is that the natural features in this area could best allow for more intense recreation-related development (for example, a campground). Building in this portion of the park would be compatible with the existing residential uses located to the east (the 2,000-unit Presque Isle Harbor Association) and south (concentration of residences along Grand Lake).

- ◆ Natural Resource Recreation Seasonal Zone permits active recreation with medium to high density of use conducted in natural areas in the winter months only. During non-winter seasons, the zone would revert to the surrounding management zone. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but higher levels of uses are allowed. This zone is defined as the utility right-of-way.
- ◆ Scenic Zone recognizes that there are aesthetic qualities to be preserved and protected in the park. Examples in Thompson's Harbor include an overlook onto Lake Huron, a shipwreck seen in the shallow waters of Lake Huron, and a view at the US-23 and Grand Lake outlet crossing.
- ◆ Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone addresses the overall setting in which is found not only historic structures, but also non-structural evidence of the traditions, beliefs, practices, lifeways, arts, crafts and social institutions of any community.

Other Considerations / Features of the Management Zone Plan

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

brochures and perhaps information on eco-tourism businesses would be available at this central gathering place.

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

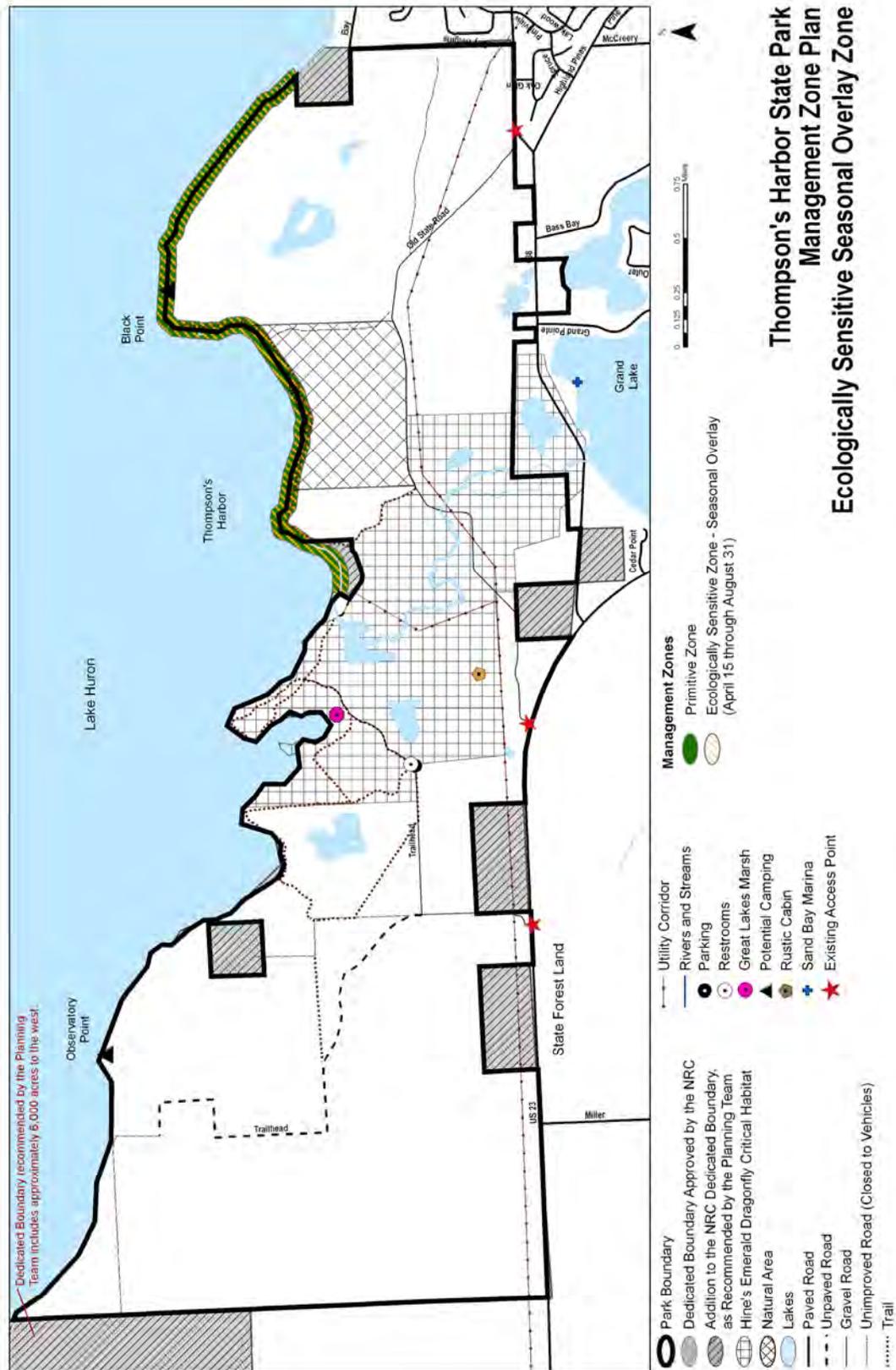
- ◆ Access and Parking. There are two points of access into Thompson’s Harbor. One is directly off of US-23, and leads to the trailhead parking area. The second is from Old State Road, leading to the Grand Lake outlet, where there is a turn-around with limited parking.
- ◆ Signage. Appropriate signage is needed to inform the public of the park location. Interpretive, directional and education signage within each park will be developed under Phase 2.
- ◆ Camping. Creating a camping opportunity at Observatory Point and Black Point is a consideration of this management plan. Camping would be hike-in or kayak-in access only.
- ◆ Rustic Cabin. Thompson’s Harbor offers a rustic cabin, located approximately 1/4 mile from the central parking area. The cabin is hike-in access only.
- ◆ Future Purchases. Part of the DNR’s mission is to acquire lands with unique natural, cultural and historic resources for the purposes of public recreation and education. The NRC-approved dedicated boundary for Thompson’s Harbor State Park is provided in Section 2.5. Land within the dedicated boundary would be a priority purchase for the DNR, should the opportunity to purchase and funding become available. Land in the dedicated boundary is currently in private ownership, and therefore has not been designated a management zone. Major land purchases will prompt an amendment to this Plan.

3.1 Ecologically Sensitive Seasonal Overlay Zone

The purpose of designating 2.8 miles of Thompson's Harbor shoreline with an Ecologically Sensitive Seasonal Zone was to support the piping plover critical habitat. The zone occupies approximately 100 feet in from the shoreline and extends 100 feet into Lake Huron waters (although should a plover be found to nesting outside of this described area, the Seasonal Overlay will apply). Should piping plovers be attempting to nest, only the area around the nest(s) would be closed, and only for that year's nesting season. The seasonal designation applies from April 15 to August 31. Restrictions on public use would likely mean limiting access to foot traffic (dogs would not be allowed). Land would otherwise be managed according to the Primitive Zone (see Section 3.2). Figure 4 provides the area designated Ecologically Sensitive Seasonal Overlay Zone.

- A. Natural Resources. This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Native species and natural processes dominate and the overall character is pristine. Human-caused disturbance would be restricted during times when the plover is found to be nesting or attempting to nest.
- B. Historic/Cultural Resources. In this zone, cultural resources are preserved, removed or allowed to waste away.
- C. Recreation Opportunities. Uses allowed in the underlying Primitive Zone would be restricted to foot traffic during times when the plover is found to be nesting or attempting to nest.
- D. Education Opportunities. Allowances for highly controlled access, where appropriate and feasible, may be made. Researchers/scientists are allowed hands-on access by permission.
- E. Visitor Experience. The areas around the nests would be highly restricted from visitor use. Visitors could continue to hike within this zone or walk along the shoreline.
- F. Management Focus. The primary focus for managing this zone is protection of the piping plover, and endangered species.
- G. Development. No development except as needed for resource protection. Very little evidence of human activity is tolerated in the vicinity of the piping plover nests.

Figure 4: Ecologically Sensitive Seasonal Overlay Zone

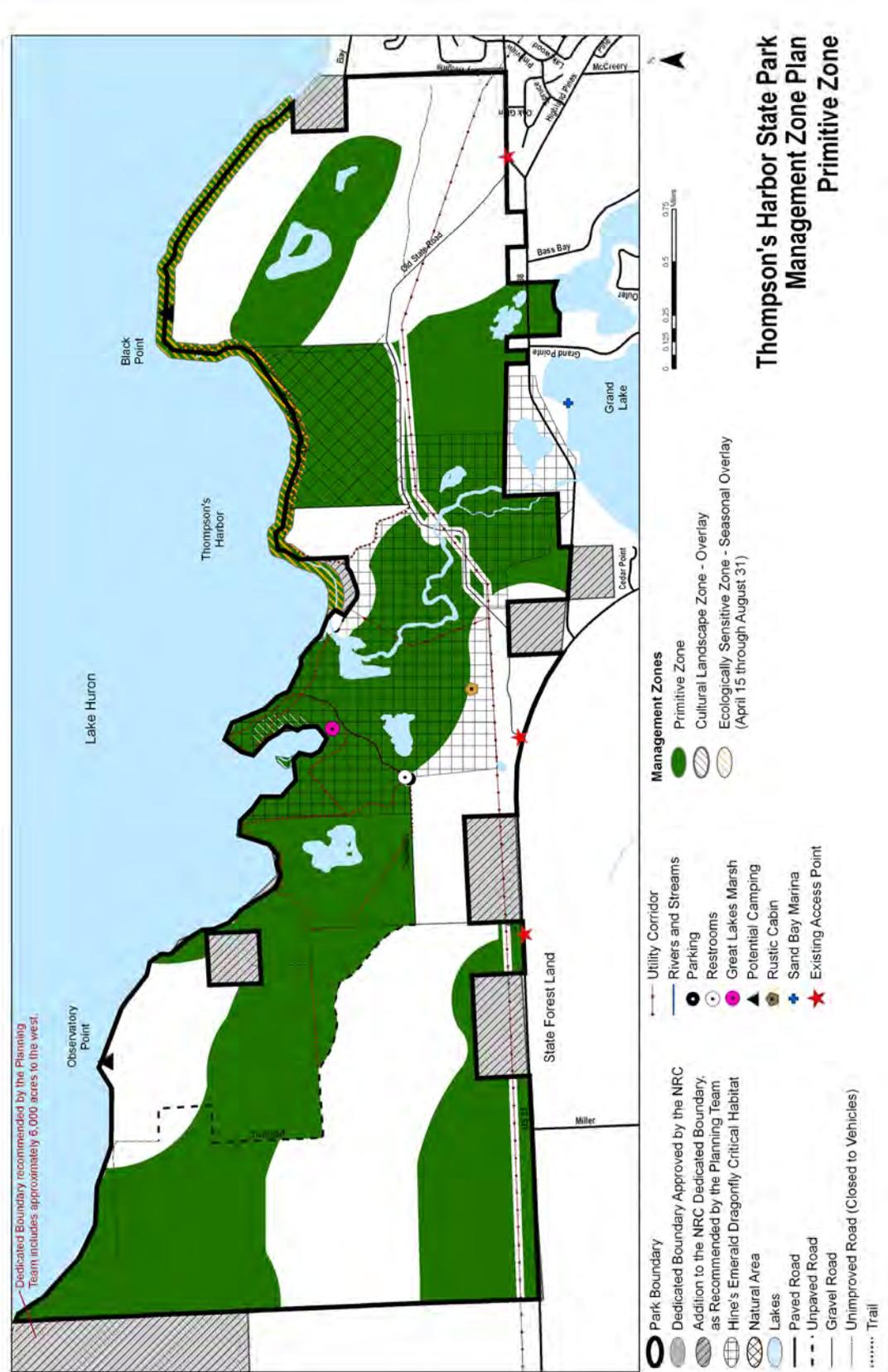


3.2 Primitive Zone

The majority of Thompson's Harbor, 2,760 acres, or 54%, is zoned Primitive. The Primitive designation was generally applied to land that contains sensitive wetland areas, the dedicated Natural Area, and sensitive or undisturbed forested land. The zone includes the majority of the Hine's emerald dragonfly Critical Habitat, and the area from the Grand Lake outlet east along the Park ownership boundary for the protection of the sensitive dune environment. In addition, it carries a Seasonal Ecologically Sensitive Zone designation. Figure 5 presents the Primitive Zone. Figure 6 presents the Primitive Zones with a wetlands overlay to illustrate these impacts.

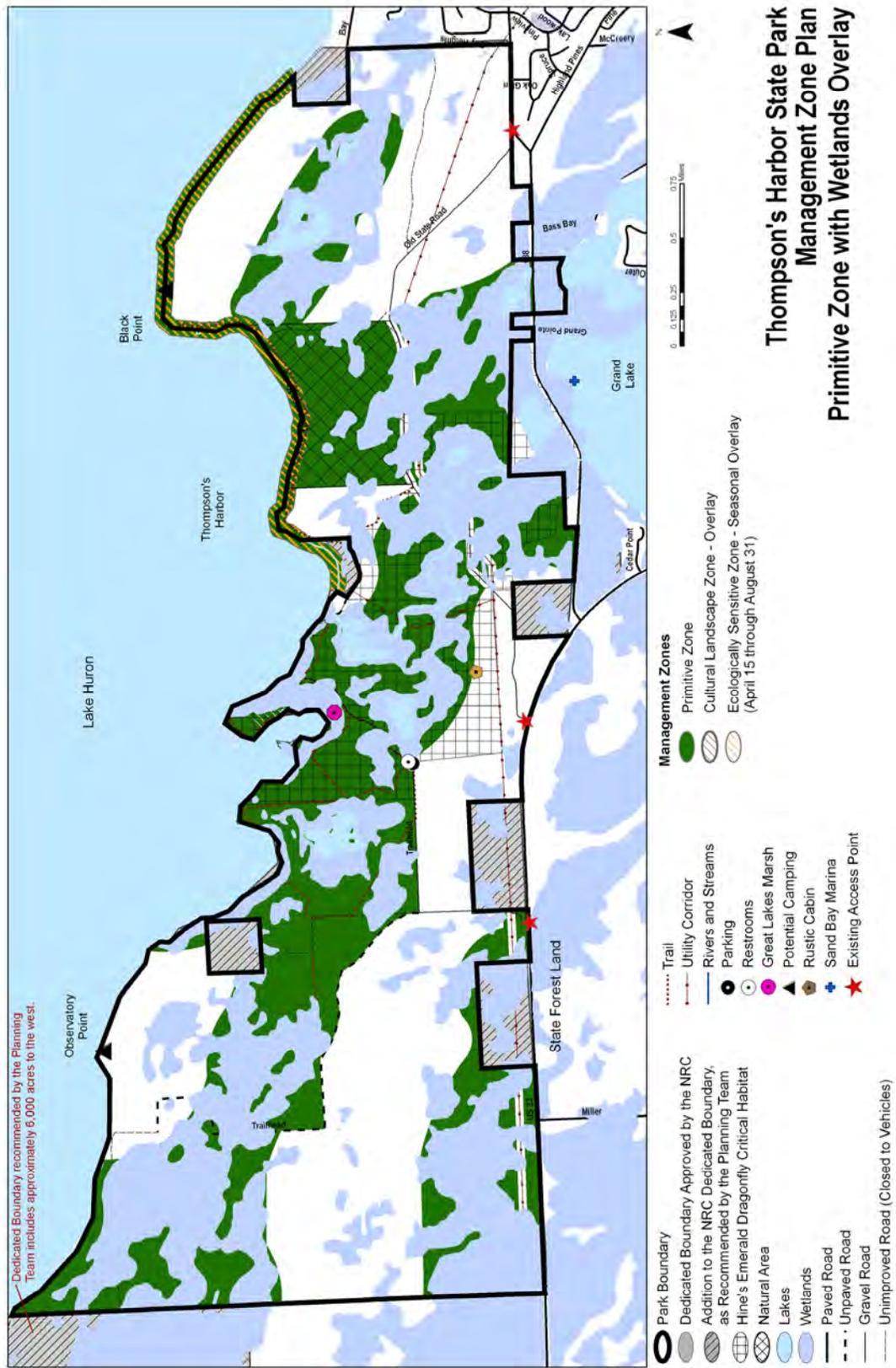
- A. Natural Resources. This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. The land will be managed to preserve and protect the wetlands, dune-swale complex, Alvar glade communities, fens, bogs, and Great Lakes Marsh complex. Preserving this land is important because:
- ◆ The land provides habitat for a diverse array of animals.
 - ◆ The land supports a variety of wildflowers, including Dwarf lake iris and Pitcher's thistle, which are threatened species. The lake and shoreline are part of a water system that includes marshes, bogs and fens and rivers.
 - ◆ The Management Plan promotes the on-going maintenance and enhancement of these natural resources to ensure their success in the long-term. Native species and natural processes will take precedence over visitor accommodation.
- B. Historic / Cultural Resources. Cultural and historic resources in this zone will be preserved, removed or allowed to waste away.
- C. Recreational Opportunities. With the focus of this zone being preservation, protection and enhancement of the natural communities present within the zone, recreational opportunities are limited to low-intensity uses. Any uses must be dispersed, low intensity, off-trail or trail, self-reliant, outdoor activities. Activities that could occur in this zone are hiking, back-packing, hunting/trapping/fishing, primitive camping, cross-country skiing, nature observation.

Figure 5: Primitive Zone



Thompson's Harbor State Park
Management Zone Plan
Primitive Zone

Figure 6: Primitive Zone with Wetland Overlay



In the western portion of the Park only, designated trails that may include equestrian use, snowmobiling and bicycling could be allowed, where appropriate, along existing roadbeds. The roadbeds are on higher ground, greatly reducing the potential for disturbance to sensitive features. This provision would allow for more extensive and scenic trail network to be created for park users.

- D. Education Opportunities. The ecological significance of the resources in this zone present a valuable educational opportunity. Information can be relayed through the use of kiosks at trailheads and interpretive signage along trails and other appropriate locations.
- E. Visitor Experience. Visitor experience will reflect a high degree of natural feel: a significant sense of solitude, and a lack of man-made improvements. There will be low interaction with others.
- F. Management Focus. Management will focus on maintaining the low-impact character of the zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality. Routine maintenance of any trails or access routes will be provided. Care will be taken to eliminate any detrimental impacts such as erosion, sedimentation or incursion of invasive species. Other management strategies will be based on recommendations in a future Stewardship Plan.
- G. Development. The focus is to maintain as little evidence of human activity as possible. Only trail improvements, which can include boardwalks and/or overlooks, and educational or interpretive signage will be constructed.

3.3 Backcountry Zone

Approximately 2,050 acres (40%) of Thompson's Harbor land is Backcountry. The Backcountry Zone was applied to shoreline and interior areas where natural resources could support a higher degree of recreational uses. Figure 7 presents the Backcountry Zone.

- A. Natural Resources. This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Within the Backcountry Zone, natural resources may be modified slightly to support visitor use, but the tolerance for natural resource impacts is low.
- B. Historic / Cultural Resources. Resources in this zone could be preserved, rehabilitated, removed or allowed to waste away. Historic structures could be adaptively used for operational uses or educational purposes.

- C. Recreational Opportunities. Moderate levels of recreation are allowed in the Backcountry Zone, provided the activities are compatible with the natural character. Non-motorized outdoor activities could be permitted, including hiking, backpacking, back-country camping, canoeing, kayaking, nature observation, cross-country skiing, showshoeing and hunting/trapping/fishing.

In the western portion of the Park only, designated trails that may include equestrian use, snowmobiling and bicycling could be allowed, where appropriate, along existing roadbeds. The roadbeds are on higher ground, greatly reducing the potential for disturbance to sensitive features. This provision would allow for more extensive and scenic trail network to be created for park users.

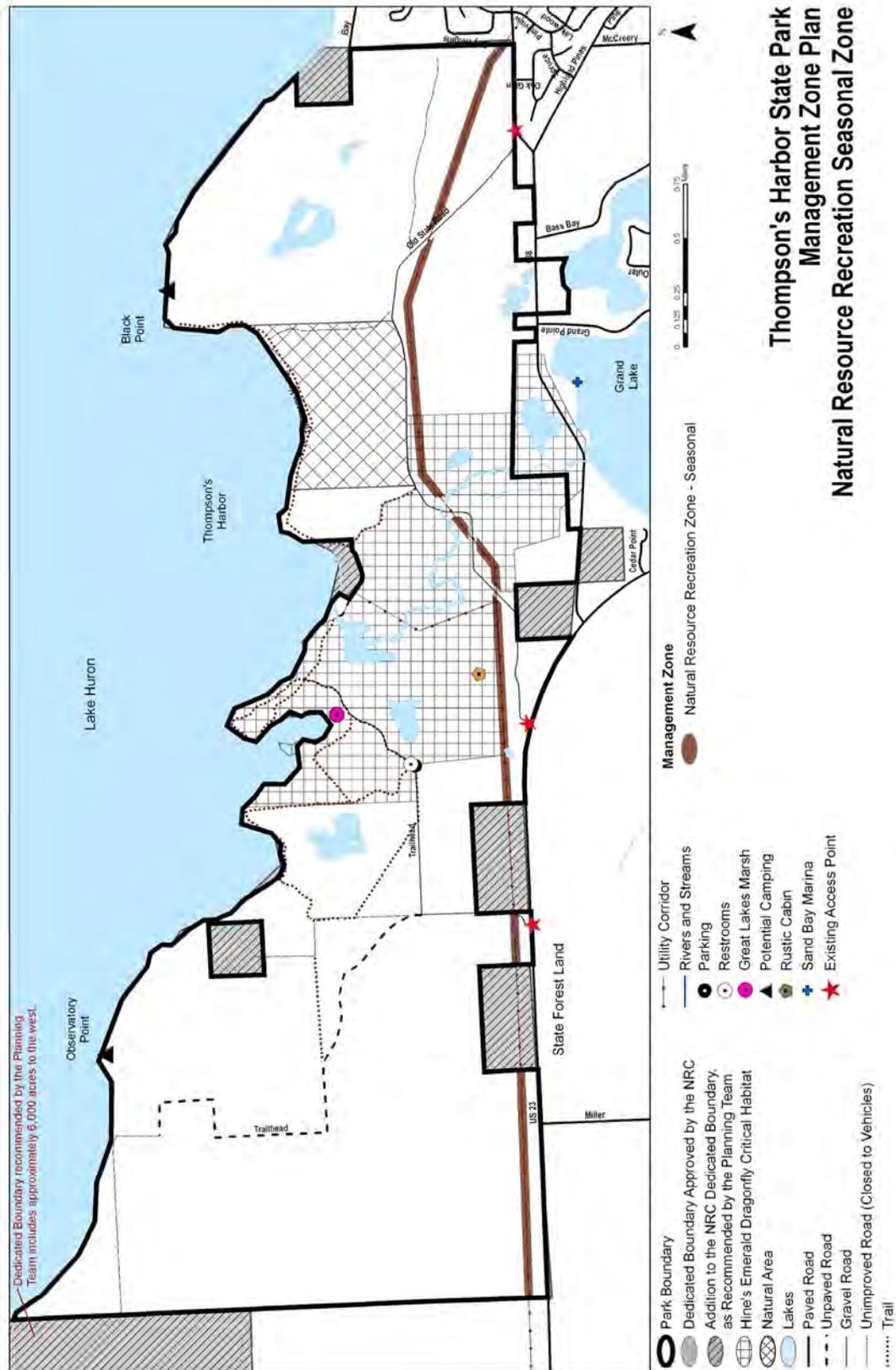
- D. Education Opportunities. Similar to the Primitive Zone, the Backcountry Zone offers a great opportunity to communicate the site's unique and regional significance. Information can be relayed through the use of kiosks at trailheads and interpretive signage along trails and other appropriate locations.
- E. Visitor Experience. A moderate level of visitor encounters can be accommodated in the Backcountry Zone. Visitors will engage in self-reliant, non-motorized outdoor activities that may require a fairly high time commitment. Low noise tolerance and low interaction with others can be expected.
- F. Management Focus. Management will focus on maintaining the low-impact character of the zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality. Routine maintenance of the existing restrooms, and any trails or access routes will be provided. Care will be taken to eliminate any detrimental impacts such as erosion, sedimentation or incursion of invasive species. Other management strategies will be based on recommendations in a future Stewardship Plan.
- G. Development. A low level of development is allowed to support visitor access to activities offered in the Site. Development would be unobtrusive and blend in with the natural environment. The existing parking lot, pit toilets and water pump, and proposed dispersed, designated campsites are examples of the type of development permitted.

3.4 Natural Resource Recreation Seasonal Zone

Approximately 265 acres (5%) of Thompson's Harbor land is Natural Resource Recreation – Seasonal (NRRS). This zone encompasses the utility corridor. The corridor was designated NRRS to allow for snowmobiling in the winter months. Figure 8 presents the NRRS Zone.

- A. Natural Resources. This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to facilitate recreational use and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape.
- B. Historic / Cultural Resources. Resources in this zone could be preserved, rehabilitated, removed or allowed to waste away. Historic structures could be adaptively used for operational uses or educational purposes.
- C. Recreational Opportunities. This is targeted at allowing snowmobiling on designated routes, and only in winter with suitable snow base to protect the natural resources.
- D. Education Opportunities. Information can be relayed through the use of kiosks or interpretive signage at trailheads, along trails or overlooks.
- E. Visitor Experience. High visitor encounters are accommodated in the Natural Resource Recreation Zone. Activities for visitors to engage in could offer a variable time commitment, challenge and adventure. Moderate noise tolerance and moderate interaction with others can be expected.
- F. Management Focus. Management focuses on maintaining the use of the zone appropriate to the PRD's mission. Public safety, protection of resources, and universal access are management priorities.
- G. Development. A moderate level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities is permitted in this zone. Examples of development include restrooms, concrete/asphalt/gravel walkways and parking, trails, benches, picnic tables, rustic campsites, cabins and shelters for recreation and educational opportunities. Site hardening is allowed as necessary to facilitate activities and protect natural resources.

Figure 8: Natural Resource Recreation Seasonal Zone

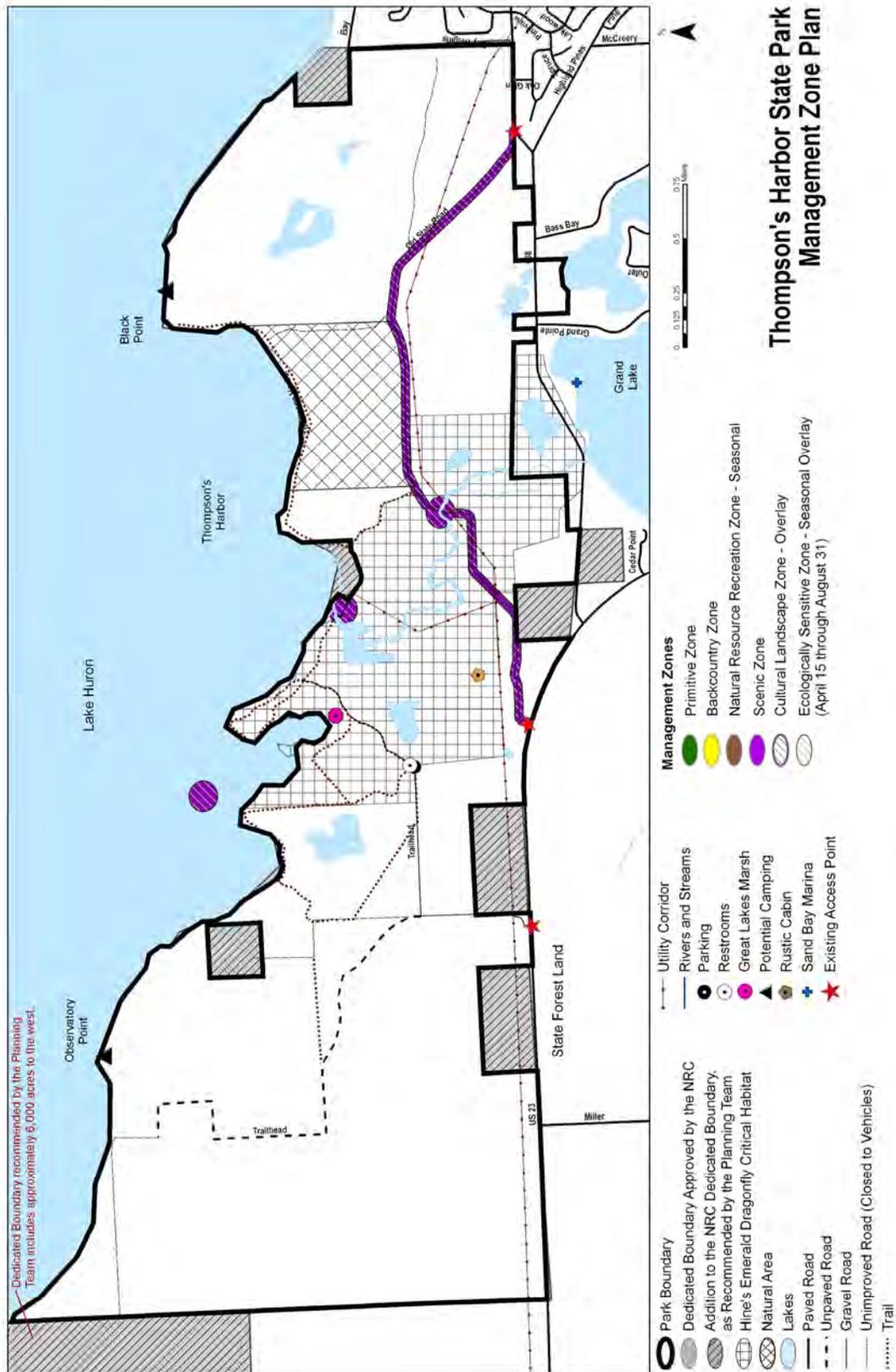


3.5 Scenic Zone

The Scenic Zone is established for scenic viewscales. While there are many in the park, those identified during the plan process were those noted on the plan: a Lake Huron overlook; a shipwreck viewable from sea level due to the shallow waters of Lake Huron; and, a view at the Old State Road and Grand Lake outlet crossing (Figure 9). Approximately 26 acres are zoned Scenic.

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

Figure 9: Scenic Zone



3.6 Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone

A Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone applies to the three Scenic Zones, and an eastern shoreline of western Thompson's Harbor (the site of a European settlement during the late 1800's due to the shipping trade). This area totals approximately 0.8% of park land, or 40 acres. Remnants of this settlement remain today. Figure 10 presents the zones with a Cultural Landscape Overlay.

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

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



4.0 Future Plan Inserts

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

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

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

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

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

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

APPENDIX A

SUPPORTING ANALYSIS

FOR THOMPSON'S HARBOR

STATE PARK

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A1. Location

Thompson's Harbor State Park consists of approximately 5,110 acres, and is located in Michigan's northeast lower peninsula. The rustic park features second growth forest, sand dunes, and 7.5 miles of Lake Huron shoreline. The center of the park is in Town 34N North, Range 7 East, Section 16 (Latitude 45.340033, Longitude -83.590768).

Thompson's Harbor is situated in northern Krakow Township, Presque Isle County (Map 1). It is bordered by Lake Huron to the north, Old State Road to the east, Little Trout Lake to the west and US-23 and Grand Lake to the south. Accessed by US-23, travel time to Roger's City (west) is approximately fifteen minutes, and to City of Alpena (south east) twenty minutes.

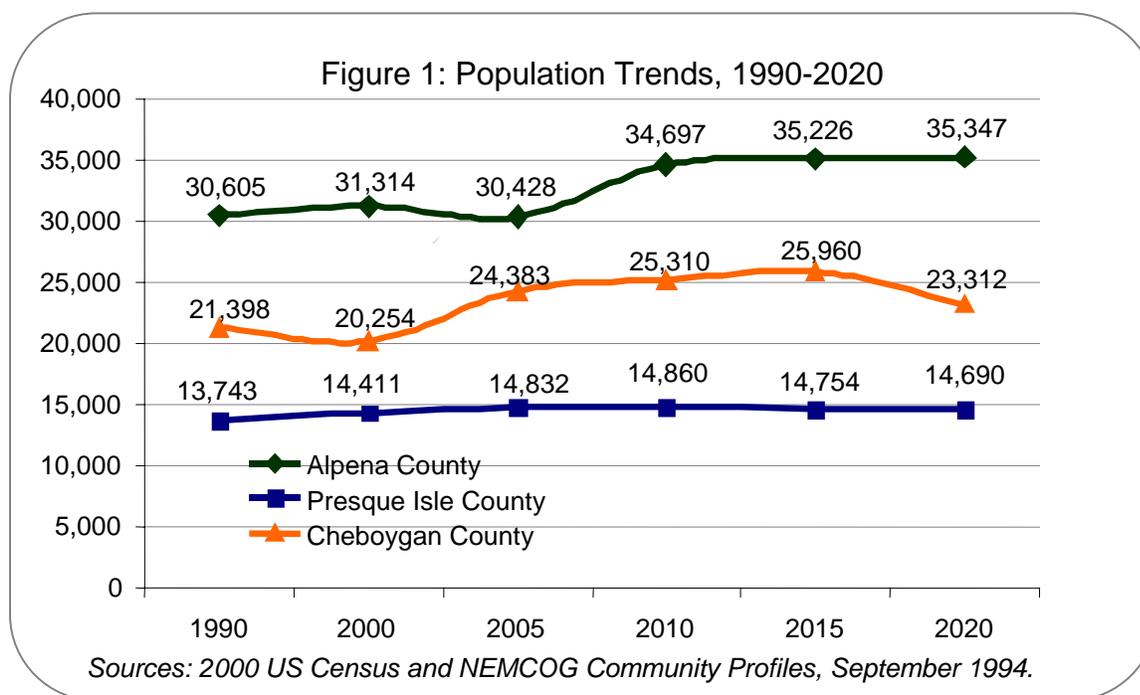
Map 1: Location Map



A 2. Demographics

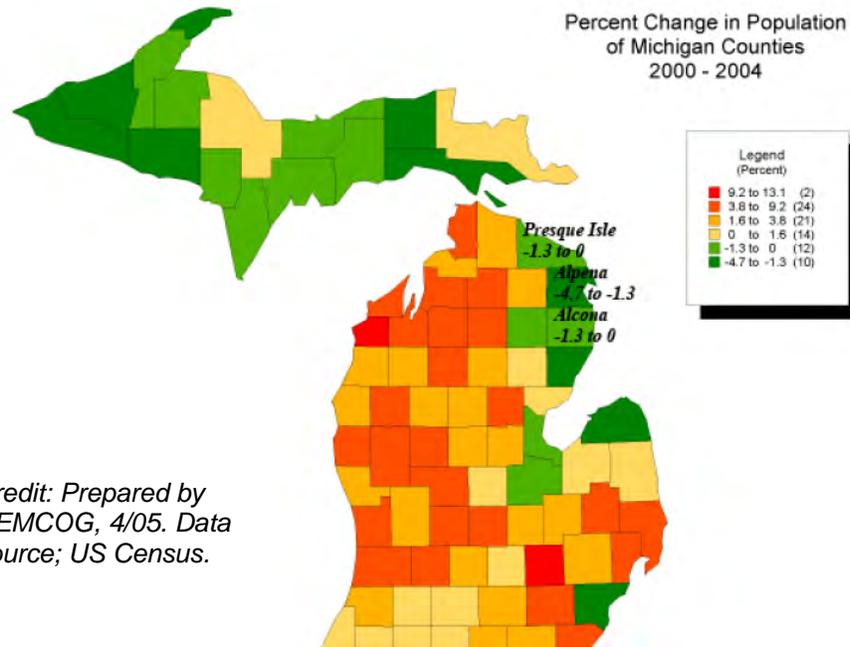


Population. Presque Isle County population totaled 14,832 in 2005. The County's population is projected to increase until 2010, then experience a small population loss of 142 people by 2020 (Figure 1). This is consistent with the 2000-2004 recent trends data, which indicates that northeast Michigan is losing population (Map 2). Over the next fifteen years, Presque Isle County is expected to have a relatively constant population. The neighboring counties, Alpena and Cheboygan, are expected to have net population decreases.



Thompson's Harbor is located in Krakow Township. Pulawski Township borders the Park to the west, and Presque Isle Township to the east. As of 2000, Presque Township had the greatest population, at 1,634. Krakow and Pulaski Township populations were 636 people and 385 people, respectively. Population concentrations along the northeast Michigan coast include Alpena City / Alpena Township area (11,156 people and 9,889 people, respectively) and Roger's City (3,318 people).

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



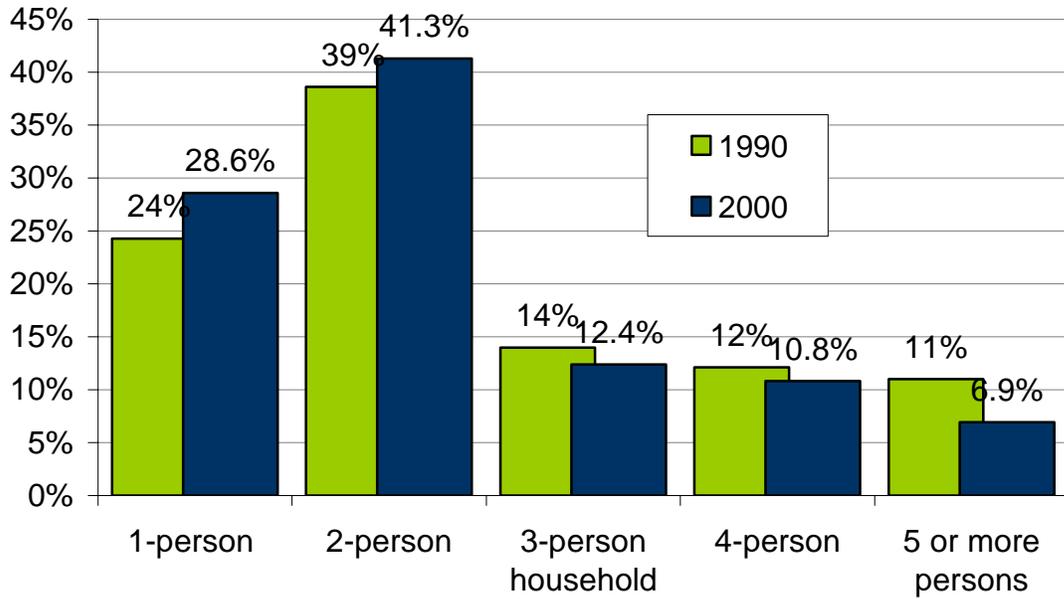
Credit: Prepared by NEMCOG, 4/05. Data source; US Census.

Average Household Size Average Population Age. From 1990 to 2000, the average household size for Presque Isle County decreased, while the average age increased. This is consistent with the nationwide trend, which is expected to continue as the baby-boomer generation ages, and younger generations marrying later and having fewer children. Northeast Michigan's reputation as an ideal community for retirement is growing. This will likely contribute to a greater percentage of the population being in the 65 and older age group over the next fifteen to twenty years.

There were approximately 6,155 households in Presque Isle County in 2000 (NEMCOG Community Profile). While the number of households increased from 5,376 in 1990, the number of persons per households (pph) decreased. Between 1990 and 2000, the average household size for Presque Isle County decreased from 3.00 to 2.31 pph. Figure 2 illustrates this trend of decreasing household sizes.

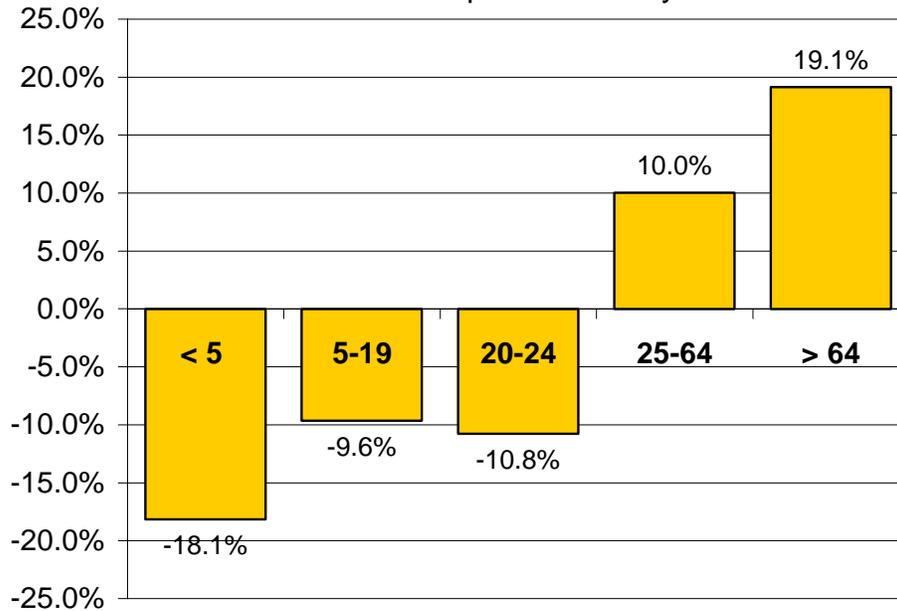
In addition to a decreasing household size, the age of the population is increasing. The median age for Presque Isle County rose from 38.5 years in 1990 to 45.1 years in 2000. The median age increase is reflected in the population age trend for the County from 1990 to 2000: percent increases in population occurred in the older age groups, and percent decreases were experienced in the younger age groups (Figure 3).

Figure 2: Average Household Type, 1990 - 2000
Presque Isle County



Source: US Census

Figure 3: Percent Change in Population, 1990–2000
Presque Isle County



Source: US Census

Racial Composition. At 98%, Presque Isle County's population is predominant Caucasian (2000 US Census). The representation of other races is comparatively small: 0.6% American Indian or Alaska Native; 0.3% African American; 0.2% Asian; 0.0007% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, 0.1% another race; and, 0.8% two or more races. Less than one percent (0.5) of the population is of Hispanic or Latino origin. From 1990 to 2000, minority representation has increased from 0.7% to 1.1% for Presque Isle County.

Disabilities

Nearly 3,000 residents of Presque Isle County, or 21% of the community, live with some type of long-lasting mental, physical or emotional condition. Approximately 8% of these people are school-aged children and young adults, 48% are of work force age, and 44% are retirees.

Housing and Home Ownership.

According to the 2000 US Census, there are 9,910 housing units in Presque Isle County. Types of units available include single family detached, single family attached, duplexes, apartments, manufactured housing, and boats, RVs, vans and the like. The two largest housing types for the area are single family detached at 85%, followed by mobile homes at 9.1%, and apartments at 3.5%.

Most homes range between \$50,000 to \$99,000, with the median housing value of owner-occupied units averaging \$77,800. Homes in the County tend to be of older construction: only 14.8% of Presque Isle County's housing stock was built after 1990.

Of the 9,910 housing units in Presque Isle County:

- ❑ 6,155 housing units are occupied,
- ❑ 3,278 housing units are seasonally-occupied, and
- ❑ 477 housing units are vacant, not occupied.

The above figures demonstrate that approximately 95% of housing units in Presque Isle County have year-round occupancy or seasonal-occupancy. There is also a high home ownership rate in Presque Isle County. Eighty-six percent of the year-round occupied housing units are owner-occupied, and, according to local sources, most of the seasonally-occupied housing units are used by their owners (i.e. not rented to vacationers).

The 2000 US Census also indicates that 44% of home owners purchased their residence after 1989. It is important to remember that home ownership does not necessarily mean that people are new to the area. Some home owners purchase smaller or larger homes in the same community as family needs change. For those who rent homes, the median monthly rental rate in Presque Isle County is \$345.

Education, Income and Employment.

Thirty-nine percent of the Presque Isle County population over the age of 25 have had some college, or earned an associates, bachelors, graduate or other professional degree (2000 US Census). The average median income earned per household is \$31,656. In 1999, 286 families in the area lived below the poverty level (6.8% of total families).

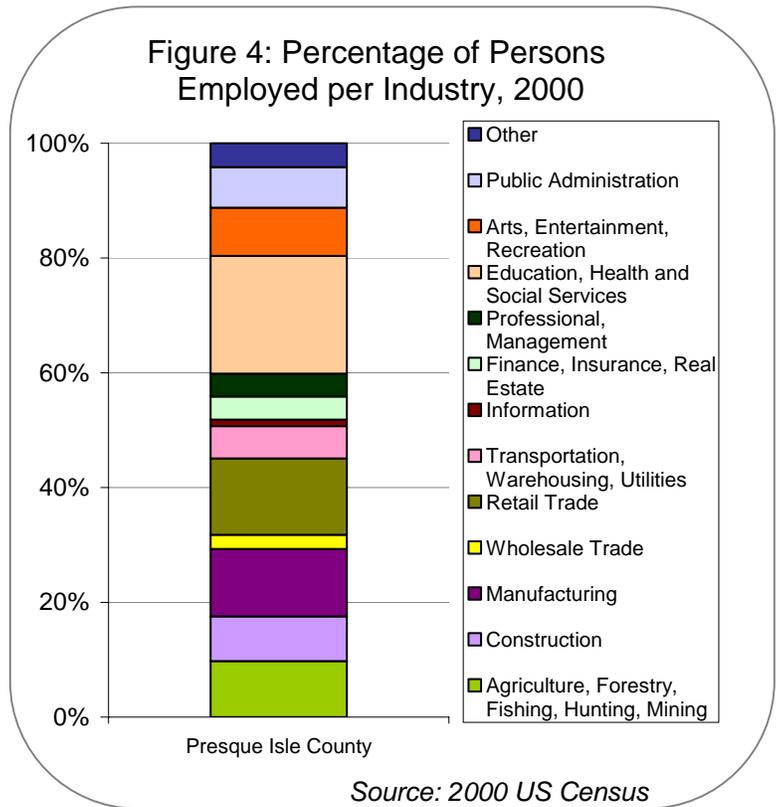
Of the 6,072 persons in the labor force, 5,400 are employed (2000 US Census). In 2000, the top four occupations were:

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

Industries that are most common are: Education, Health and Social Sciences, Retail Trade and Manufacturing. (Figure 4). The

LaFarge Stoneport Mine is the second largest employer in Presque Isle County. Of those Presque Isle County residents who commute to work, eighty percent drive alone. The average commute time is 23.9 minutes.

Unemployment is a concern for Michigan, and for the northeast in particular. Presque Isle County is one example of a community in this area that struggles with employment. In 2005, the community’s unemployment rate was 10.7%, while that for the State of Michigan was 6.7% (Source: FedStats).





A 3 General History

Thompson's Harbor State Park is named after the small bay (called Thompson's Harbor) located along the Park's shoreline. During the late nineteenth century, the bay was frequented by smaller boats that took advantage of stopping at nearly every port permitted by the depth of water. Well-known among the smaller ports were the *Thompson Line* of shipping vessels. As time went on and the area was known to be valued for limestone, the land now known as Thompson's Harbor State Park was part of quarry operated by United States Steel Corporation (US Steel).

Thompson's Harbor State Park was purchased in 1988 from US Steel. That same year, the Natural Resources Commission requested the DNR to prepare a Park Master Plan. The purpose of the plan was to chart future public recreational use and protect the natural features. A 21-member Citizens Advisory Committee was appointed by the DNR to assist with the plan development. The Committee was to provide numerous opportunities for citizen involvement, identify potential positive impacts, incorporate innovative approaches for outdoor recreation and environmental education while protecting the Park's resources. The Master Plan was drafted by 1989. The Plan, shown as Map 3, included:

- ❑ A park manager's residence, office, shop, and garage complex,
- ❑ Campground of 200 sites, complete with bathroom and shower facilities, and
- ❑ Rustic camping of 60 sites, with hand pump wells for water, and one or more rustic family cabins.

At the present time, the management complex and campgrounds have not been realized. Aside from hiking trails, Thompson's Harbor has remained undeveloped.

The dedicated Natural Area within Thompson's Harbor State Park was donated by Emma Genevieve Gillette's trust. Ms. Gillette was one of Michigan's early conservationists. She began her tenure in 1924. Among her many accomplishments was serving as president of the Michigan Parks Association. She is remembered for being primarily responsible for securing federal funds to support Michigan's state parks.



A 4. Existing Land Use, Zoning and Future Uses

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

The area around Thompson’s Harbor State Park primarily consists of undeveloped public and private land used for hunting camps and family cottages. The Presque Isle Harbor Association, a residential development immediately east of the Park, comprises 2,000 sites. Additionally, many residences are located along Grand Lake shoreline. These residents represents a significant population base in terms of park users. Southeast of the Park is the Lafarge Stoneport mine, an active quarry. Map 5 illustrates the existing land cover for the area. The land cover categories generally correspond to the existing land uses.

Table 1: Summary of Existing Land Uses, Zoning Districts and Future Land Uses for Land Surrounding Thompson’s Harbor State Park

	Existing Land Uses	Zoning Districts	Future Land Uses
Thompson’s Harbor State Park	Recreation	State land, Forest / Recreation and Residential	Industrial, State land and Private land (inholding parcels)
Land to the East	Residential (Presque Isle Harbor Association)	Residential and Forest / Recreation	Single Family Residential
Land to the South	State forest land and residential	Industrial, Forest / Recreation, Commercial and Agriculture	State land, Residential and Private land
Land to the West	Former quarry (US Steel ownership)	Industrial, Forest / Recreation and Agriculture	Agriculture and Forest / Recreation
Land to the North	<i>NA - Bordered by Lake Huron to the North</i>		

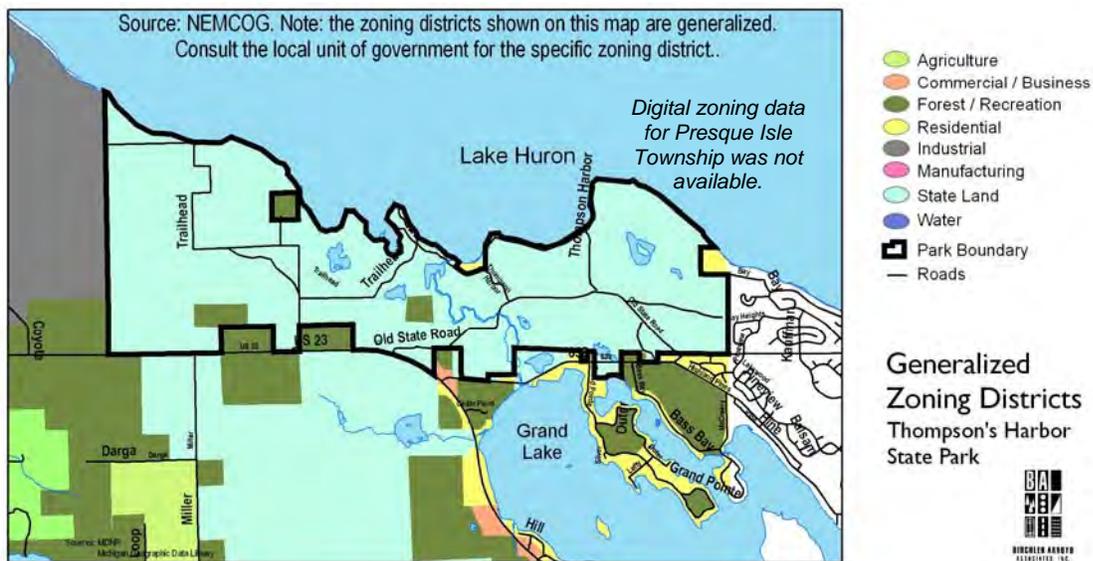
Note: Krakow Township is in the process of updating their future land use plan.

Zoning districts for the area are shown on Map 6. Zoning dictates how land owners may or may not use their property. Nearly all Park land is zoned State Land, as is much of the land to the south where Grand Lake Roadside Park and Fletcher Gilbert Park are located. The Forest/Recreation districts within the Park boundaries reflect in-holding parcels. In-holding parcels are privately owned sites within the Park. Land immediately east of the park is zoned residential. Adjacent land to the west is zoned Industrial, reflecting the former quarry operation use. To the east, land is zoned Residential, consistent with the existing Presque Isle Harbor residential development.

Map 5: Land Cover



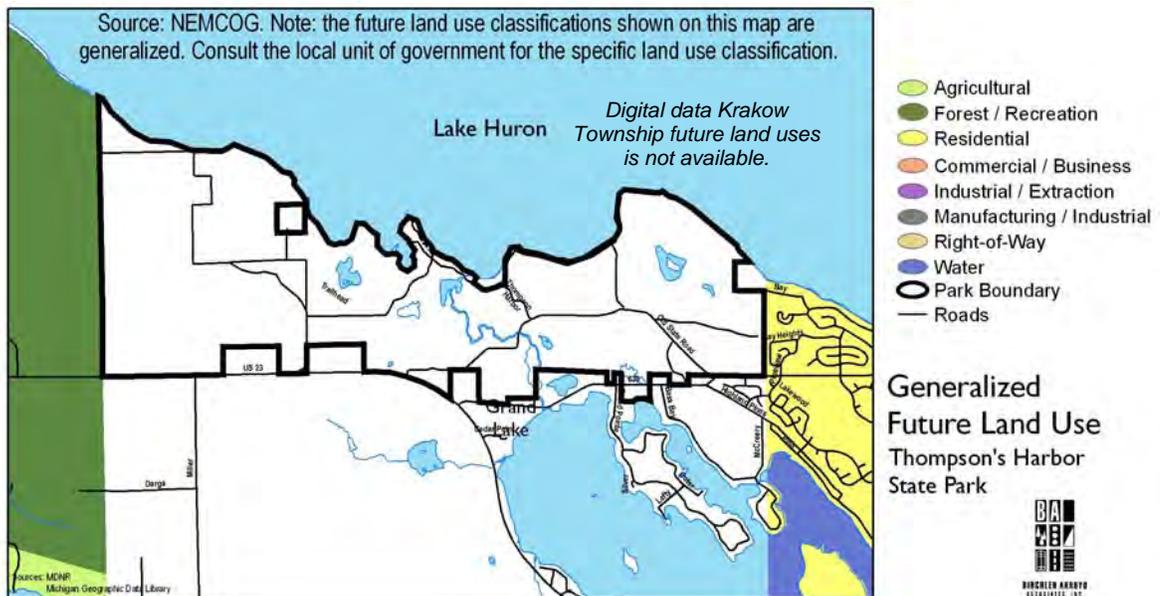
Map 6: Generalized Zoning Districts



Future land use plans express the community’s vision. Future land uses are not meant to be parcel-specific, but indicate the general development pattern for a period of twenty years or more. Land development should conform to a future land use plan over the long-term.

Pulawski Township designated land west of Thompson’s Harbor as Forest Recreation. While this land is formerly a quarry operation, the community future vision is for the land to be a use compatible with Thompson’s Harbor. The Future land use designation of residential for land immediately east of the Park in Presque Isle Township supports the existing land use. Krakow Township’s future land use plan designates most of the Park land as industrial. The Township is in the process of updating the plan, however. Future land uses south of Thompson’s Harbor include residential around Grand Lake, and State forest land.

Map 7: Generalized Future Land Uses



A5. Natural Features Assessment



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

A5.1 Ecoregional Context

Thompson's Harbor State Park is located in the Presque Isle Subsection, sub-subsection VII.6.3, Cheboygan Ecoregion, according to the *Regional Landscape of Ecosystems of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin: A Working Map and Classification General Technical Report NC-178 (Fourth Revision: July 1994)* (Map 8). The following information is excerpted from NC-178. Other sources used to supplement the text are cited.

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

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

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

Map 8: Ecoregional Context

Section VI.1 Washtenaw

VI.1.1. Maumee Lake Plain

VI.1.2. Ann Arbor Moraines

VI.1.3. Jackson Interlobate

Section VI.2 Kalamazoo

Interlobate

VI.2.1. Battle Creek Outwash

Plain

VI.2.2. Cassopolis Ice-

Contact Ridges

Section VI.3 Allegan

VI.3.1. Berrien Springs

VI.3.2. Southern Lake

Michigan Lake Plain

VI.3.3. Jamestown

Section VI.4 Ionia

VI.4.1. Lansing

VI.4.2. Greenville

Section VI.5 Huron

VI.5.1. Sandusky Lake Plain

VI.5.2. Lum Interlobate

Section VI.6 Saginaw Bay

Lake Plain

Section VII.1 Arenac

VII.1.1. Standish

VII.1.2. Wiggins Lake

Section VII.2 High Plains

VII.2.1. Cadillac

VII.2.2. Grayling

Outwash Plain

VII.2.3. Vanderbilt

Moraines

Section VII.3 Newaygo

Outwash Plain

VII.4. Manistee

VII.5. Leelanau and

Grand Traverse

Peninsula

VII.5.1. Williamsburg

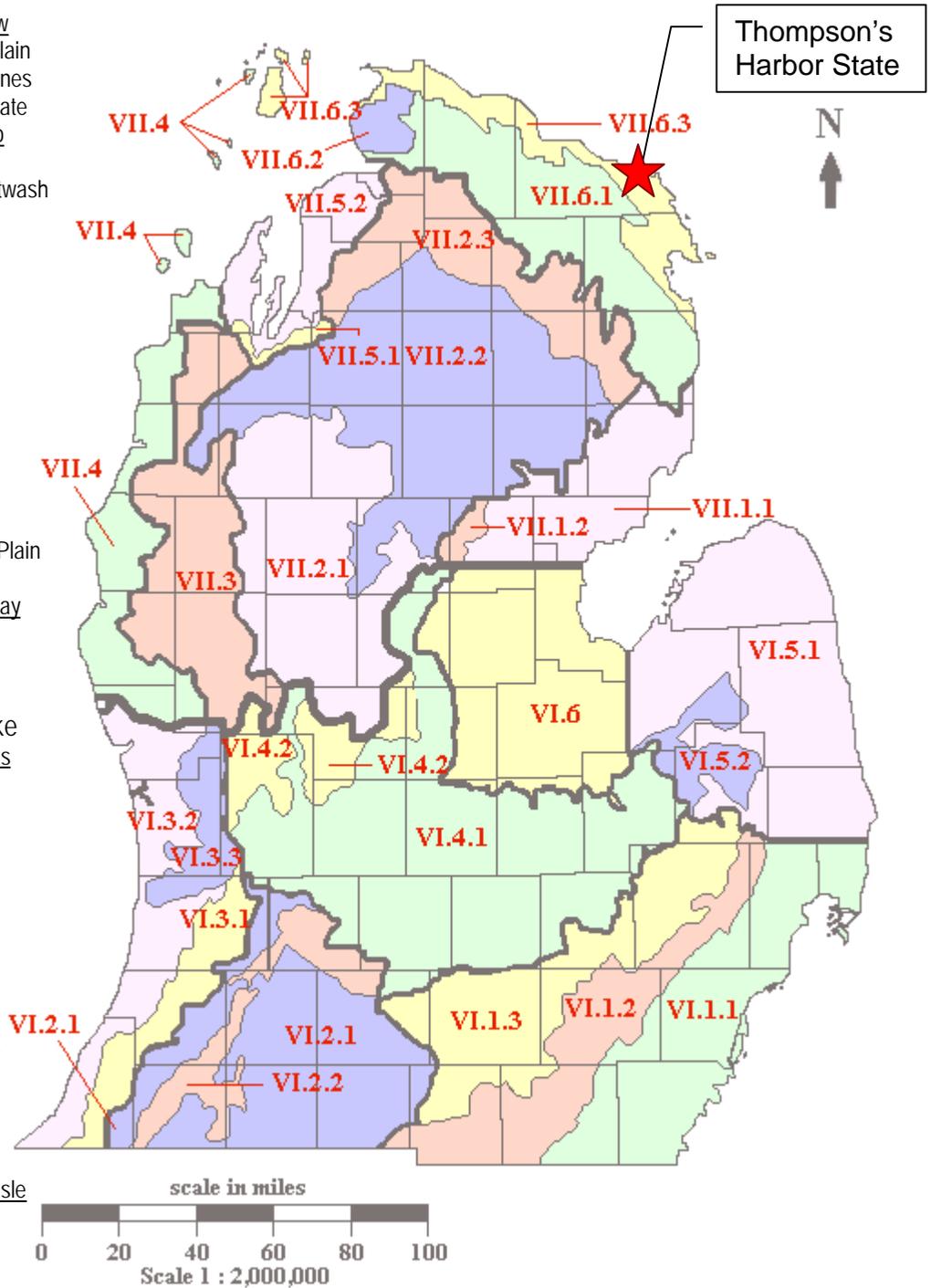
VII.5.2. Traverse City

Section VII.6 Presque Isle

VII.6.1. Onaway

VII.6.2. Stutsmanville

VII.6.3. Cheboygan



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

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

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

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

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

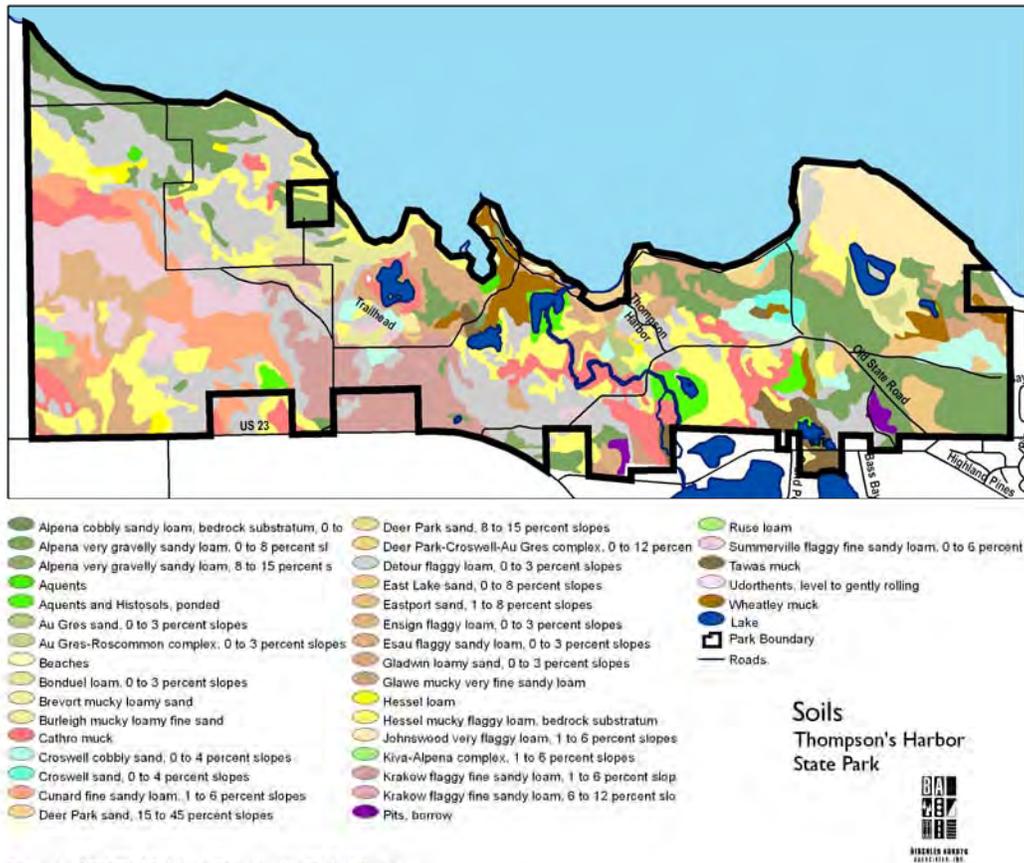
Near the present lake shore, the depressions is typically poorly drained and sometimes ponded. Farther inland, the depressions become better drained; in some places they are excessively drained, as are adjacent beach ridges. Sand dunes, low foredunes, sand spits, and beach ridges line much of the shoreline. The Original Swamp Map of Michigan (Lane 1907) shows most of the sub-subsection as swamp. Inland from the beach ridges and depressions is an extensive, flat, sand lake plain that are typically poorly drained. Within these broad tracts occur low sandy rises with slightly better drainage.

Most of the dunes on Lake Huron are relatively small; the largest being 30 to 40 feet high, near Forty Mile Point Beach. Exposed limestone bedrock and thick deposits of cobbles are common southeast of Rogers City. Waves have eroded

the limestone bedrock into steep bluffs. At one time, organic soils covered the cobbles; but fire, which was widespread throughout this part of the lake plain at the time of the General Land Office (GLO) surveys, has destroyed much of the organic cover, leaving bare cobbles. Karst depressions occur around Long Lake and elsewhere in Presque Isle and Alpena counties.

Soils. Most of the soils are lacustrine sands. These soil types range from excessively drained to very poorly drained (Map 9).

Map 9: Soils



Sources: MDNR, Michigan Geographic Data Library

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

Within the Park water resources are prevalent (Map 10). In addition to the 7.5 miles of Lake Huron shoreline, the cobble beach and open dune communities paralleling the shore are significant, and fragile areas within the park. The marsh communities along

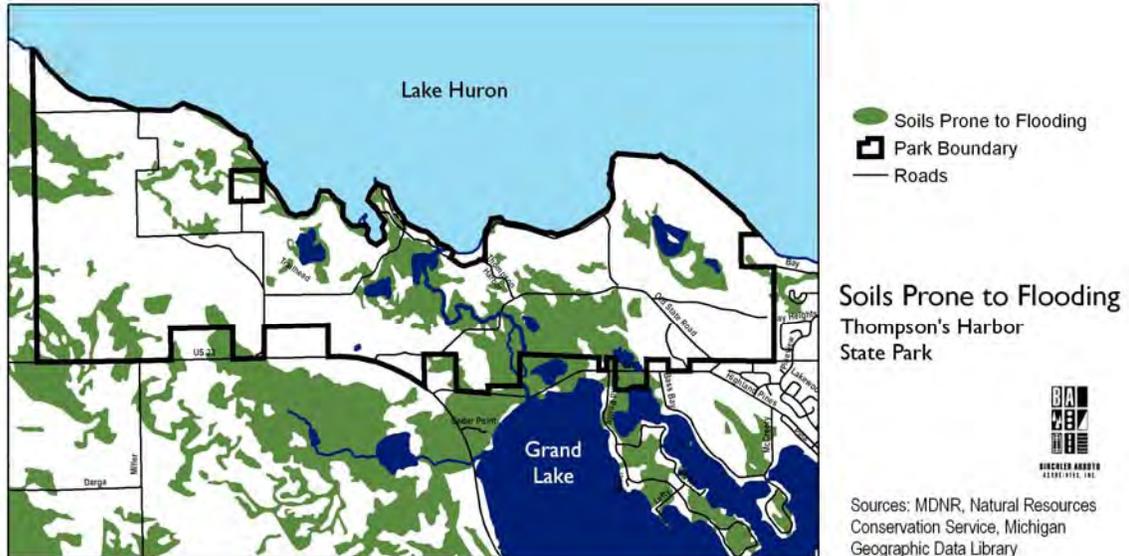
the Grand Lake outlet, the inland lakes, bogs, fens and meadows, and rich conifer swamps near the shore, are also important and sensitive ecosystems.

Map 10: Wetlands



Flood-prone Areas. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has not mapped floodplains for this area of northern Michigan. To estimate areas prone to flooding, soil data from USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service was used. Soils that exhibited properties characteristic of ponding and/or flooding were mapped (Map 11). Based on soil characteristics, major areas within Thompson's Harbor that are prone to ponding and/or flooding are those around the inland lakes and the Grand Lake outlet.

Map 11: Areas Prone to Flooding



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

White pine and red pine were common co-dominants on the well-drained, low sand ridges of the lake plain, especially near the Lake Huron shoreline. These pines also grew together on gravelly or rocky sites near the Lake Huron shoreline. Hemlock and white pine were also common co-dominants, often growing where the drainage conditions were slightly poorer than where white pine and red pine grew together. Paper birch and trembling aspen also grew on flat to rolling parts of the sand lake plain. Although northern hardwoods were not generally extensive in the sub-subsection, some large tracts were located around Long and Grand Lakes, along the Cheboygan and Black Rivers, and locally along the Lake Huron shorelines.

Natural Disturbances. Windthrows and burns are the two noted natural disturbances in the Cheboygan sub-subsection. Windthrows have been recorded near the boundary of the lake plain and on Hog, Garden, and High Islands. Two large areas of burned timber are thought to have been the result of early logging operations near Cheboygan, where log mills were already noted in the first survey: 1) Several square miles of timber were burned near Cheboygan; and 2) Areas near Thompson's Harbor and Grand Lake. Mixed stands of white pine and red pine appeared to be the forest type most impacted by the fires. Wildfires were also noted on Garden and Hog Islands.

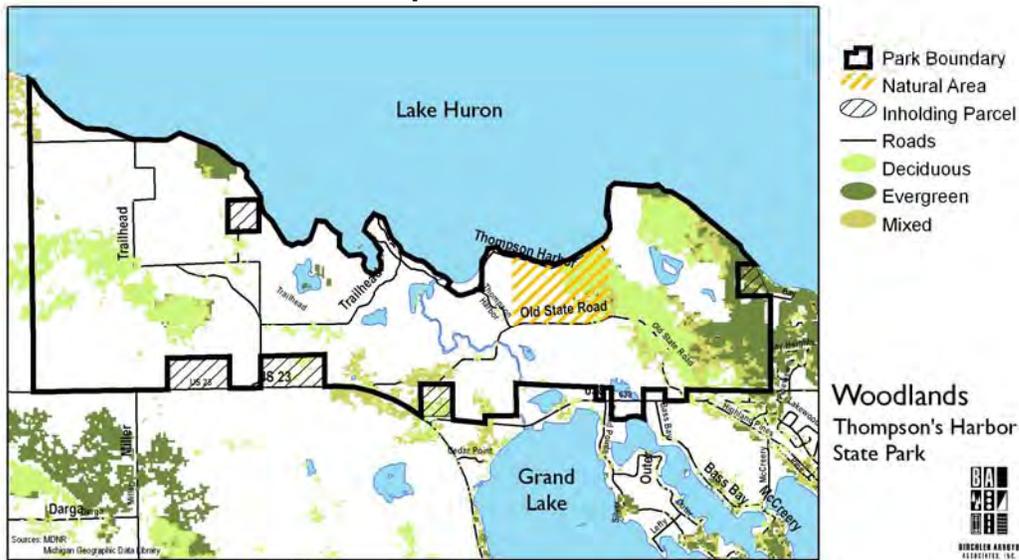
Present Vegetation. Early European logging and quarrying activity affected the original vegetation. Thompson's Harbor State Park was once teeming with tall red and white pines, but extensive logging resulted in fragmented complex of second growth communities. The lower lands primarily consist of hardwood and lowland conifer swamps, with pockets of shrub-thicket. The uplands consist primarily of paper birch, red maple and aspen trees (Map 12).

Alvar glade communities are present in Thompson's Harbor State Park. Alvar glade communities are rare, known only to grow in northern Europe, northwest Ireland, and the Great Lakes region. They are unique because of their ability to grow on flat expanses of limestone bedrock, covered by a thin layer of soil. Root systems take hold of the bedrock, and break it up. Trees that grow in this

community may be old, but their stunted growth due to the shallow soils makes them appear young.

A 304-acre dedicated Natural Area (NA) is located in Thompson's Harbor (Map 12). The area was dedicated in 1979 because of the dune swale complex there. In Michigan, there are fewer than 50 remaining examples of forested wet swale communities of this quality. An abundance of the federal and state-threatened dwarf lake iris grown in the Natural Area.

Map 12: Woodlands



A5.2 Threatened, Endangered and Special Concern Species

Certainly one of the most important aspects of Thompson's Harbor State Park is the variety of species within its borders. At least 250 plant species and 120 bird species have been recorded here. Even more species have been noted in the surrounding area, and have the potential to be found in the Park.

Species of Special Concern

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

- Beauty sedge
- Butterwort
- Climbing fumitory
- Prairie Indian-plantain

- Ram's head orchid
- Richardson's sedge
- Grizzled skipper
- Red-legged spittlebug

Threatened Species

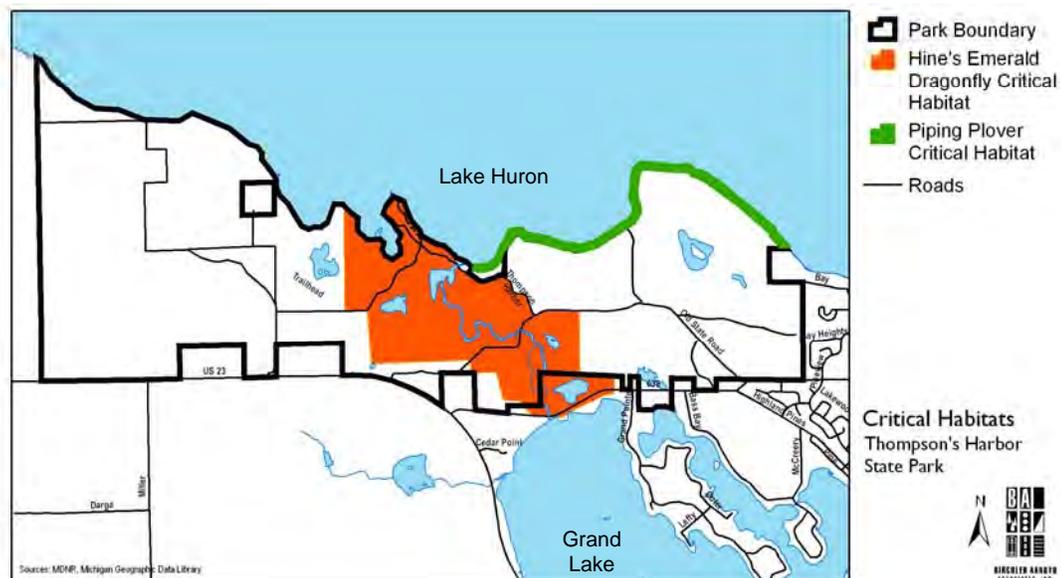
A "threatened" species is one that is likely to become endangered in the near future. Threatened species for Thompson's Harbor are:

- Bulrush sedge
- Dwarf lake iris (State and Federal)
- Houghton's goldenrod (State and Federal)
- Pitcher's thistle
- Prairie warbler
- Bald eagle

Endangered Species

To be 'Endangered' means that extinction is likely throughout all or a significant portion of its range. For Thompson's Harbor, the Hine's emerald dragonfly and Piping plover are noted as Endangered species, both State and Federally listed. A 156-acre Critical Habitat area has been designated to protect the Hines emerald dragonfly. In general, this is west of the Grand Lake Outlet and most of the Critical Habitat lies within the Park's boundary. Approximately 2.8 miles of Thompson's Harbor shoreline are included under the Piping plover Critical Habitat designation. The Critical Habitat for the Plover is roughly from Grand Lake Outlet to North Point. The figure below illustrates the Critical Habitat locations in Thompson's Harbor.

**Critical Habitats for the
Hines Emerald Dragonfly and Piping Plover**



A6. Cultural and Historic Resources



Thompson's Harbor State Park contributes to the history of Michigan's Great Lakes shipping industry. The area, *Presque Isle*, is derived from a French word meaning "almost island". The narrow peninsula located just south of the Park afforded early missionaries, explorers, and settlers with a short portage in preference to a long, dangerous canoe trip.

Excerpted from *Posen's 100th Anniversary Book*, Doyle Distributors Company, *Apennin Michigan*: Krakow Township was settled on or about 1870. Farming and lumbering were the main businesses, in this area. Thompson's harbor was the main shipping port by 1900. Smaller vessels would stop at almost every place that had a depth of water that permitted them to dock. Among the boats that plied the lakes and were well known to the smaller ports were the Thompson Line vessels. The small, protected bay is assumed to be the principal stop for these boats.

There was a small town built near the Harbor, which included a hotel and plans for a summer resort, *Beechville*. In 1908, there was a great fire that burned out at Thompson's Harbor was responsible for several deaths. This extensive natural disaster is still remembered by the community, and its 100th anniversary was celebrated in October 2008.

As the lumbering era ended, the harbor was abandoned. Today, there are still slabs laying at the bottom of the harbor.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) operates the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The Sanctuary was established "to protect a nationally significant collection of over 100 shipwrecks, spanning over a century of Great Lakes shipping history" (source: www.thunderbay.noaa.gov). Its focus is to preserve this large underwater cultural resource. The Sanctuary's landward boundary follows the Alpena County northern and southern limits. Thompson's Harbor State Park is not currently within the Sanctuary's jurisdiction. However, the shipwrecks off its shoreline make it a valuable contributor to the area's historic and cultural significance.

A7. Education and Interpretation



The DNR recognizes education and interpretation opportunities in terms of those that offer resource-based programming. Currently at Thompson's Harbor, the following are available:

- ❑ Interpretive signage. Hiking trails, some of which are barrier-free, with interpretive signs allow for self-guided tours. The signs educate visitors on the value of their surroundings, and on how to protect and minimize the impact of their presence.
- ❑ KIDS IN PARK (KIP). A statewide program available at all Michigan state parks. Fourth grade teachers are invited to use the park as an outdoor classroom. While Thompson's Harbor would be available for this program, no KIP events have occurred here to date.
- ❑ Volunteer Program. Led by the State Park Stewardship Program, volunteers hand collect native prairie seed such as big bluestem, little bluestem, Indian grass, and wildflowers. This occurs each October.



A8. Regional Recreational Resources

This section presents the recreational resources available at Thompson's Harbor State Park as well as recreational facilities in the northeast region.

A8.1 Thompson's Harbor State Park Recreational Resources

Currently the Park is primarily a rustic, undeveloped resource. Existing facilities include a parking area and restrooms. Activities that can be enjoyed are:

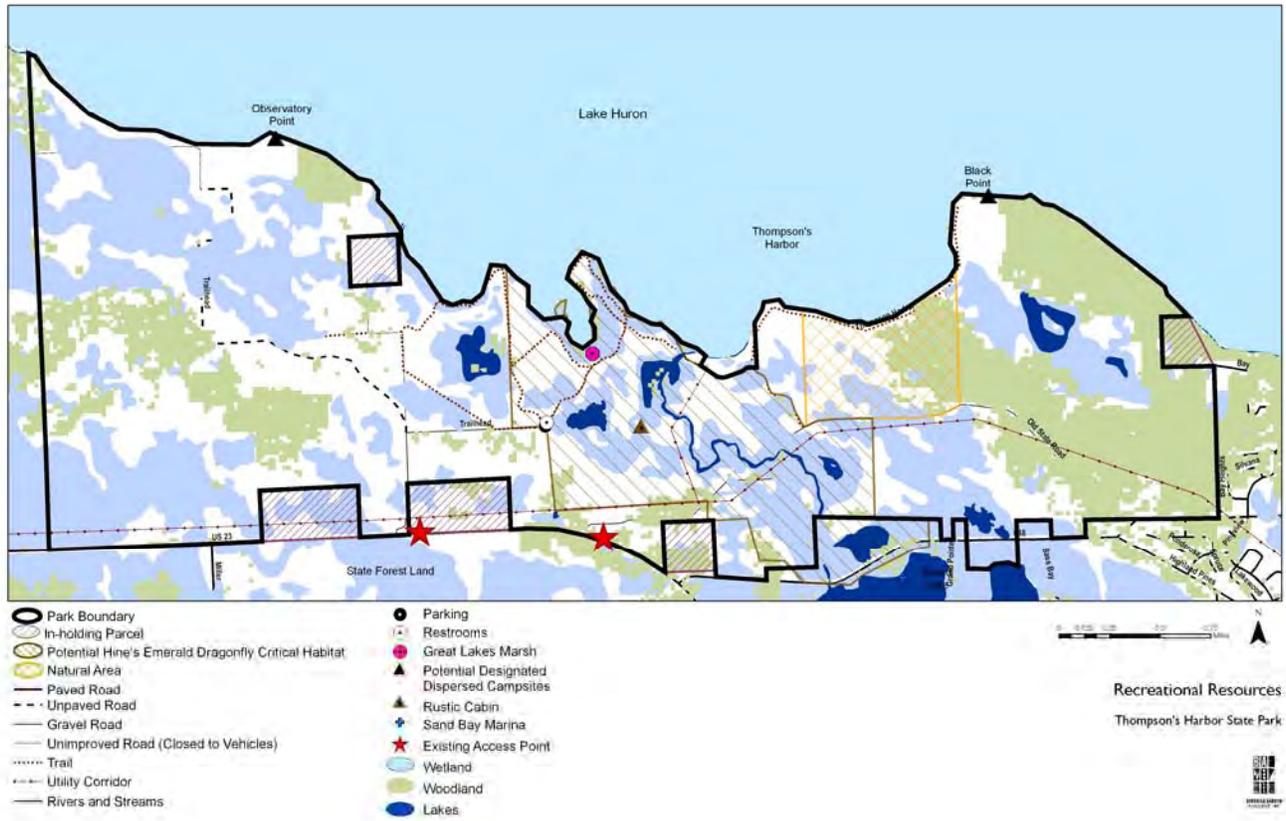
- Hiking trails, barrier-free trails, and interpretive signage
- Lake Huron access
- Cross-country skiing
- Fishing
- Hunting and trapping
- Kayaking
- Wildflower viewing
- Birding
- Mountain biking

Off-road vehicles (ORVs) and equestrian uses are not currently permitted, however these activities do occur in the park. Visitors are welcome from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm, year-round. Map 13 presents the existing recreational resources and natural features currently available within the Park.

A8.2 Surrounding Recreational Resources

Determination of existing recreational facilities and programs is an essential step in the recreation planning process. Regional facilities are illustrated on Map 15, (page A-31) *Regional Recreational Resources*, and summarized in Table 2. The following list describes the recreational resources that are of similar size and scale to Thompson's Harbor State Park, and would therefore have a similar regional influence.

Map 13: Thompson's Harbor State Park Recreational Resources and Natural Features



National Forest Land

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

State Forest Land

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

State Park Land

- ❑ Harrisville State Park: 107 acres. Features include: a campground; day-use area; Michigan State Park Explorer Program; playground; swimming; picnic area (with fire pits and grills); hiking; cross-country skiing; and, metal detecting area.
- ❑ Negwegon State Park: 2,500 acres. Currently the Park is a rustic, undeveloped resource. Existing facilities include a parking area, restrooms, a water pump (year-round), and unpaved trail. Activities that can be enjoyed are: hiking (Potawatomi '*People of the Place of Fire*' trail); birding; dispersed snowmobiling; kayaking; beach access; metal detection; and hunting and trapping.
- ❑ Rockport Property (State Forest Land): 4,240 acres. Rockport is located on the Lake Huron shoreline, is primarily rustic and undeveloped, and has significant natural features. Recreational opportunities include: picnicking (area leased to Alpena Township); boating launch site; fishing; trails; beach; abandoned limestone quarry; fossil hunting; rifle citing and target practice; hunting and trapping; water access point for Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary; connection to Besser Bell Natural Area; State forest lands on Middle Island.
- ❑ Hoefft State Park: 300 acres. Recreational opportunities include: Michigan State Park Explorer Program; two playgrounds; swimming; picnic area (with fire pits and grills); picnic shelter; biking (10-foot wide paved multi-use path connected to the Huron Sunrise Trail); hiking (4.5 miles); cross-country skiing (groomed trails); metal detecting area; hunting; and fishing.

State Forest Campground

- ❑ McCullum Lake State Forest Campground (Clinton Township, Oscoda County):

- ❑ Ossineke State Forest Campground (Sanborn Township, Alpena County): 42 camp sites for tent or small trailer use on a first-come/first serve basis, located five miles north of Thompson's Harbor State Park. Recreational opportunities include: barrier-free boardwalk to Lake Huron; picnicking; fishing (Lake Huron, Devil's Lake, Devil's River); hiking and biking (1 mile of trail); boating access site; and ten miles of full-sized ORV trails.

- ❑ Thunder Bay River State Forest Campground (Wilson Township, Alpena County): 10 campsites for tent or small trailer use on a first-come/first-serve basis, located 35 miles north of Thompson's Harbor State Park. Campground is sited on the Thunder Bay River, providing water access to every campsite. Recreational opportunities include: small boat launch; Wah-Wah-Tas-See Pathway access (includes Native American interpretive information); vault toilets and potable water from hand pump well; fishing and hunting; hiking, biking and cross-country skiing.

Natural Areas

- ❑ Besser Bell: 134 acres currently under the management of the Mackinaw State Forest. This dedicated natural area is significant for its stand of mature, virgin red and white pine with spruce, balsam, cedar and birch. This area also includes over 4,000 feet of Lake Huron shoreline composed primarily of limestone gravel shore, and provides habitat for plant species of special concern, including the Pitcher's thistle, a plant threatened with extinction.

- ❑ Natural Area within Thompson's Harbor State Park: 307 acres. This land has been dedicated because it encompasses a portion of a complex of forested dunes and swales. The land is under the management of Thompson's Harbor State Park. Activities to be enjoyed in the Natural Area include: hiking, wildflower viewing, nature study, photography, wildlife viewing.

County Parks

- ❑ Alcona County Recreation Area (Harrisville Township, Alcona County). Amenities/activities: Drinking water, restrooms and picnic facilities.

- ❑ Beaver Lake County Park (Ossineke Township, Alpena County). Amenities/activities: Fishing, hiking, swimming; camping, boat launch, Convenience Store.

- ❑ Long Lake County Park (Alpena Township, Alpena County). Amenities/activities: Fishing, hiking, swimming; camping, boat launch.
- ❑ Sunken Lake Campground / Park (Posen Township, Presque Isle County, operated by the Alpena County Parks Commission). Amenities/activities: Fishing, hiking, swimming; camping, boat launch.

Marinas / Boat Launches

There are several points of access to inland lakes and Lake Huron. The facilities that offer access to Lake Huron and are near Thompson's Harbor State Park are:

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

Presque Isle State Harbor is located immediately south of Thompson's Harbor (photos, right). Amenities there include restrooms, showers, electricity, water, pump-out and gasoline. In addition, a private-venture restaurant operates on the State land.

Other

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

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

- ❑ US-23 Heritage Route. On May 6, 2004, US-23 from Standish to Mackinaw City was officially designated as a Recreational Heritage Route, and given the moniker "Sunrise Side Coastal Highway."
- ❑ Bluewater Trail. A proposed trailway comprised of navigable waters. Thompson's Harbor State Park would be an integral piece of the system, should it be developed.
- ❑ Huron Greenways. An initiative led by NEMCOG that developed a system of land and water trails connecting Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan and Presque Isle counties and the resources within them. Thompson's Harbor is one stop within the greenway system.

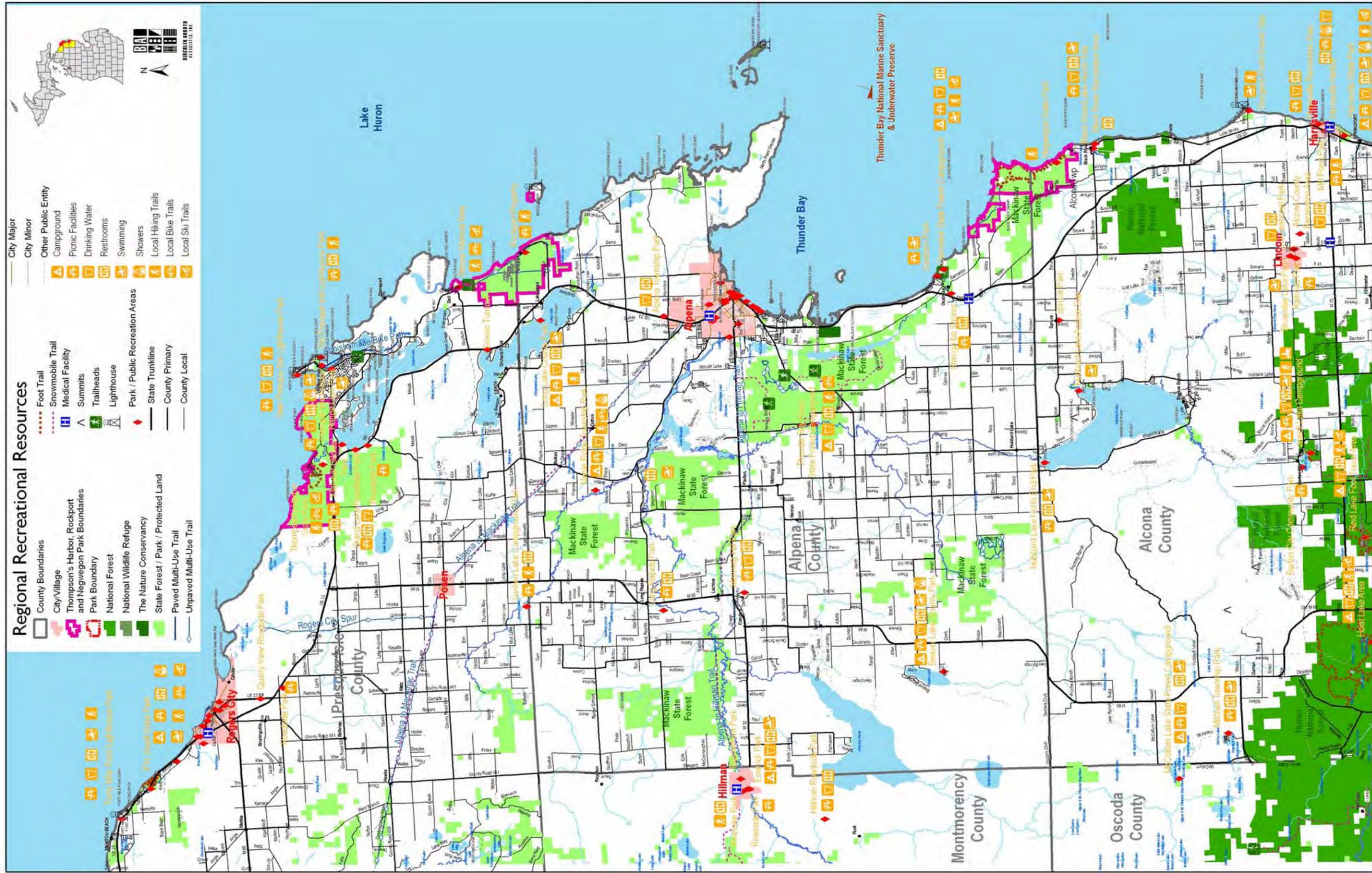
- ❑ ORV Trails. Groomed snowmobile trails on the west side of Presque Isle County and some just south in Alpena County. These trails are used each year by many snowmobile enthusiasts. ORV trails are provided further southwest in the National forest land near Oscoda.
- ❑ Great Lakes Circle Tour. The Tour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

A8.3 Areas of Conflict

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

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Map 15: Regional Recreational Resources



Source: Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

Table 2: Summary of Regional Recreational Resources

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

* Operated by Alpena County.

Table 2: Summary of Recreational Resources (Continue)

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

Table 2: Summary of Recreational Resources (Concluded)

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



A9. Park Use and Economic Impact

A9.1 Park Use

Thompson's Harbor State Park receives many visitors each year. Nearby residences along Grand Lake as well as the 2,000-unit Presque Isle Harbor Association residential development immediately adjacent to the Park are major user groups. The Park's location on US-23 between two of the major population centers in Northeast Michigan – Alpena and Rogers City – may also contribute to its high day-user visits counts. In the 2005 season, 10,527 visits were recorded. Peak months for visits were May, July, September and November.

A9.2 Economic Impact

Thompson's Harbor State Park does not currently generate revenue from park visitors. To determine its economic value to the community, the Money Generation Model–Version 2 (MGM2 Short Form) was applied. Dr. Dan Stynes of Michigan State University developed this economic analysis tool. The MGM2 Short Form is an update of the MGM model developed by Dr. Ken Hornback for the National Park System in 1995. The purpose of the 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 MGM2 Model uses three factors for determining economic impact or tourism spending: *number of visits* multiplied by the *average spending per visitor* multiplied by a *multiplier*, which estimates the extended effects of direct spending. The formula produces a very basic analysis that is ideal for the non-economist, and an excellent tool for obtaining a base-line assessment of the economic impacts of Thompson's Harbor.

Direct Economic Effects to the Community

The MGM2 Model results indicate that Thompson's Harbor is contributing to the local economy (based on 2004 data):

- Direct Spending attributable to Thompson's Harbor totaled \$98,000.
- Jobs created totaled 3 (Note: jobs are not full-time positions but part-time and seasonal employment).

- ❑ Personal Income totaled \$33,000.
- ❑ Value added (total income plus business taxes) totaled \$51,000.

Total Economic Effects to the Community

Total economic effects reflect '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. The total economic effects for Thompson's Harbor are estimated to be (based on 2004 data):

- ❑ Total Spending: \$130,000.
- ❑ Jobs: 4.
- ❑ Personal Income: \$44,000.
- ❑ Value Added: \$70,000.

**APPENDIX B
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
PROGRAM RESULTS
FOR THOMPSON'S HARBOR
STATE PARK**

Public Participation

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

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

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

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

There were three opportunities to provide comments:

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

Results from the October 29, 2007 Stakeholder Workshop

Negwegon

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

Rockport

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

Thompson's Harbor

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

Other comments for Thompson's Harbor:

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

Sign-in Sheet

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

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

Results from the December 11, 2007 Public Input Workshop

A. Comments at the workshop

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

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

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

December 11 Public Workshop Sign-In Sheet

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

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

Survey Distributed at Meeting (and available on-line), and Survey Results
 (Responses: 11)

THOMPSON'S HARBOR STATE PARK
 Public Input Workshop Worksheet
 (Please use additional pages as necessary for your comments to the questions below)

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

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

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

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

- The National Park Service recommended that the State target the Lake Huron northeast shoreline for land purchases due to the unique natural resource values of the area.
- Preserve and protect the park's unique natural resources for current and future generations.
- Preserve and protect the park's historic and cultural resources.
- Provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflect the mission of the DNR and the unique qualities of Thompson's Harbor.
- Provide opportunities for recreational uses and experiences that are unique to , and compatible with the park's resource(s) base.
- Ensure that the planning of Thompson's Harbor is part of a cohesive strategy for the region.

Do you agree with the above statements? Would you add anything to the above statements? _____

2. Current statements of significance are summarized as:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legally-designated Natural Area, consisting of 304 acres, was preserved because of the dune-swale complex within it. • Unique habitats for flora and fauna. Thompson's Harbor is one of the highest ranking pieces State-owned land in terms of prevalence of species of special concern, endangered species and threatened species. • Alvar glade communities are found in Thompson's Harbor. This is a rare community that grows on limestone bedrock. • A large concentration of Dwarf Lake Iris, a federally and state threatened species, grows within the park's borders. • The park includes a designated Natural Area. • The Hines emerald dragonfly has been sited in the Park. A Critical Habitat for the dragonfly may be designated in the Park. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unique natural features: 7.5 miles of Lake Huron shoreline, dunes, fens and bogs. The shoreline is relatively shallow; there is no deep water access from the Park. • There is a rustic camping experience available within the Park's borders. This is the only overnight lodging available at present. • Recreational opportunities. Hunting, hiking, and cross-country skiing are available. • The harbor blends with a fen, which is an ideal near-shore small mouth bass fishery. • The Great Lakes Marsh wetland complex. • Thompson's Harbor contains artifacts of European settlement • Its part in regional networks: Lighthouse Tour; "Sunrise Side Coastal Highway"; Huron Greenways; Bluewater Trail (proposed); and Great Lakes Circle Tour. |
|---|---|

Do you agree with the above statements? What else makes Thompson's Harbor significant to you? _____

Continued on next page

Thompson's Harbor State Park ♦ Public Input Worksheet ♦ December 11, 2007

3. What natural resources are important? _____

4. What cultural resources are important? _____

5. What are the education and interpretation opportunities? _____

6. What are the recreation opportunities? _____

7. What should be the visitor experience? _____

8. Are there any known user conflicts or issues?

9. What should be the identity of Thompson's Harbor?

Other Comments _____

Survey Responses (11)

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

- Yes. In theory I agree with the above statements to varying degrees. I would just like to say that I would not like to see the NPS become too involved in the park. I prefer local control over federal control.
- Yes, as long as access is maintained along the existing trails (not just the DNR maintained trail system). The park area has not been changed (except for some ORV's on the dunes) by the current use of the trails that were put in by US Steel decades ago.
- Yes, with an emphasis on #2 (Preserve and protect the property's unique natural resources for current and future generations)
- Yes, no.
- Yes. Especially #5 (Provide opportunities for recreational uses and experiences that are unique to and compatible with the park's resource base. Do not try to make the park like other state parks, keep it unique and unspoiled.
- Agree.
- Agree.
- Agree.
- Yes.

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

- Yes. This is a large tract of open hunting land for many people.
- Yes. But, I believe mountain biking should be included under recreational opportunities. There are existing trails perfect for the sport and these should all remain accessible. It is not a high-impact sport because bikes remain on trails and it doesn't have a plethora of follower anyway. I believe it is plausible to have a Backcountry trail through an area designated Primitive with no negative consequences.
- Its large size provides unique opportunities for solitude. You can always find a piece of woods, beach, shoreline or dune that can put you close to nature.
- Yes, as long as you add mountain biking and snowmobiling to the list of recreational opportunities. These activities have been going on for years in the park and have not caused any problems.
- Yes. Thompson's Harbor rates as one of the most valuable and unique natural environments in the Great Lakes basin.
- Yes, the bird hunting and hiking are excellent.
- Agree.
- Agree.

- Quiet area. Good area to hike. Has been a good location for hunting grouse but is now getting more use - overhunted.
- Yes.

3. What natural resources are important?

- Shoreline and natural sand dune area. Wildlife, but it is not managed well.
- The forest, beaches and special flora and fauna are all important and must be protected.
- The only significant dunes of any size on Lake Huron; dwarf lake irises, eagles, relatively large numbers of grass – of – parnassus and fringed gentian and pitcher plants, among other species of somewhat rare flora and fauna.
- Dunes, alvar glade communities.
- Endangered flora and fauna.
- Numerous – listed in statements of significance. Critical habitat for many species, especially the dwarf lake iris.
- The existing plants and animals and their relationship with one another.
- Shoreline.

4. What cultural resources are important?

- The lumbering artifacts are very interesting and gives a taste of a bygone era.
- Shipwreck in the west harbor.
- Karst, fishing village remnants of the harbor.
- Lighthouses, heritage trail.
- Shipwreck, endangered species.
- Shipwrecks, remnants of early settlement.
- 1) The settlement remains in the Harbor area 2) The remnants of old shipping wreckage on the lake and harbor bottom and washed up on the shore 3) Old pioneer trails and roads.

5. What are the education and interpretation opportunities?

- To me, this is not as important as other aspects. If people are truly interested, they will educate themselves. A limited amount of signage would be okay. Currently the Nature Conservancy runs educational tours and that's great.
- Diverse ecosystems with rare or endangered plants and animals should be maintained and studied.
- Interpretive trails and signage.
- Nature trails, light house history.
- Rare plant and animal species and the interactions of the different land types.

- Diverse natural communities, coastal wetlands, wildflowers

6. What are the recreation opportunities?

- Hiking, cross-country skiing, kayaking, nature observation, photography, mountain biking.
- There should be a loop snowmobile trail around the park – narrow one way, low speed trail that gets down to the shoreline along with the larger identified trail.
- Hunting, walking, snowmobiling.
- Hiking, flora and fauna
- Hunting, hiking, skiing, fishing, photography, biking.
- Hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching.
- Hiking, camping, rustic cabins with specific allowances.
- Biking, hiking, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, hunting, trapping, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, ski-jouring, dog sledding, birding, wild flower viewing, the list is endless!
- Snowmobiling along the existing network of trails, which were created many years ago when it was quarry property. Mountain biking on those same trails.

7. What should be the visitor experience?

- Whether a visitor is coming to THSP for the first or fiftieth time, he should be struck by the simple, understated beauty of the place. He should be allowed to enjoy the park as he sees fit, provided he remains respectful and does not damage the natural resources. Having relatively unfettered access is what makes THSP and Negwegon such wonderful places for outdoor enthusiasts.
- Relaxing, pleasant for campers, secret-get-away feeling.
- Opportunities to enjoy relative solitude without the noise and congestion typical of other state parks.
- Quiet area generally.
- An appreciation for nature.
- Low-impact, non-motorized recreation in an undisturbed setting.
- Unspoiled (which is very rare these days). Shoreline with no development.

8. Are there any known user conflicts or issues?

- Sand dune area should be protected but most of the area could use more access and use by the public.
- None known.
- In a multi-use area such as this, hunters can conflict with hikers/bird watchers. Need to continue signage information everyone that the area is

open to hunting.

- As a hunter, I have never had a conflict with legitimate users (bikers, hikers, skiers, other hunters). There is a problem with access to the property by ATVs from nearby private properties.
- Illegal ORV activity is frequent.
- As a person who lives within the park, I have never witnessed or heard of any conflicts between users. Yes, there are occasionally people who run four wheelers where they shouldn't, but by and large it's the Peaceable Kingdom out there so my advice is let it be!

9. What should be the identity of the Park?

- I don't like the 'State Park' identity.
- The park should be a low impact and primitive experience. There should not be any asphalt, power, or modern facilities installed or built. I don't want to see 5th-wheelers, large RVs, huge camping areas and nature paved over. I don't want to hear someone's boom box blaring. I go there for nature's sounds alone.
- Basically passive with limitations on motorized vehicles.
- Perhaps access to the harbor could be improved.
- Thompson's Harbor should be considered a natural environment park, with an emphasis on unique wildflowers and wetland habitats.
- THSP should be known for its unique geographic features and flora, but is atypical in other ways as well. It is one of the largest unspoiled, undeveloped coastal areas in Michigan and that is how it should remain. It should be known as a place of solitude, far away from the hurly-burly of _____, other fine but developed state parks.
- Unspoiled, relatively untouched shoreline.
- Low levels of public use with an emphasis on recreation compatible with semi-wilderness: hiking, camping at primitive sites, canoeing, cross-country skiing, environmental studies, etc.

10. Other Comments

- All area's open to hunting. No fees, no camping.
- There were opportunities in the past to acquire additional shoreline and acreage to the north. The opportunity may have been lost as a result of private acquisitions.
- I favor minimal development of Thompson's Harbor. I would prefer several small 'hike-in' campsites rather than large campsites for RVs. We have the opportunity to keep several miles of Lake Huron shoreline in a semi-wilderness state. We should preserve the shoreline some and keep most development away from the shoreline zone.

- 1) Open up the road to the Harbor. Opening the road would allow those that can't walk long distances to visit the cultural area and shore. Also the harbor could accommodate a launch for small boats to use the harbor bass fishery and Lake Huron reef fishery. 2) No modern facilities should be part of the park. Allow only rustic and limited camping. 3) Maintain the main access roads. They are in terrible shape. 4) Form a citizen's 'Friends of Thompson's Harbor' group. 5) Introduce a pass or permit system for all users, with funds going directly to this park, Rockport and Negwegon.
- The Indian Mission Conservation Club plans to seek expanded natural areas designation for most of Thompson's Harbor. Our club endorses the recommendations of the draft management plan.
- When my family and I are out and about in the park and we meet up with someone enjoying the trails or the beach, they are invariably struck by the beauty and sense of seclusion. It is one of the few places left that is not overrun with people and for those who have ventured that far off the beaten path, that is just what they are looking for.
- Don't make any more changes to the park. We already have enough developed park trails, in Michigan. Except for some occasional ORV riders on the dunes (put up a few signs by the dunes and most people will probably stay off the dunes) the park and its users have been getting along well for decades. The greatest threat to the dunes is the Lake Huron water levels. The low levels have extended the point on the west end of Thompson's Harbor to such an extent that it has blocked the along shore flow of new sand to this part of the shoreline. The beach area is not supplying new sand for dune regeneration.
- We [Indian Mission Conservation Club, Oscoda, MI] have retained Grobbel Environmental Planning Associates to evaluate the natural features of Negwegon and Thompson's Harbor with the intent to submit nominations for Natural Areas designations for both parks. We are also working with a coalition of environmental organizations with the purpose of preserving and protecting the undeveloped shoreline environments that make these areas a critical part of Michigan's natural heritage.
- I've never been to Thompson's Harbor Park. What I know about it, is what I've read in the Alpena News. Since Michigan has many family camping parks, I'm inclined to want special, sensitive, natural areas preserved with great care.

On-line Results
(Responses: 6)

Thompson's Harbor State Park

1. How far do you live from Thompson's Harbor?		Response Percent	Response Count
Within 10 minute drive		33.3%	2
Within 30 minute drive		16.7%	1
Within 60 minute drive		0.0%	0
Greater than 60 minute drive		50.0%	3
<i>answered question</i>			6
<i>skipped question</i>			0

2. How often do you vist Thompson's Harbor each season?	Once per week	Once per month	Once per season	Never	Response Count
Spring	16.7% (1)	16.7% (1)	66.7% (4)	0.0% (0)	6
Summer	33.3% (2)	16.7% (1)	50.0% (3)	0.0% (0)	6
Fall	33.3% (2)	0.0% (0)	50.0% (3)	16.7% (1)	6
Winter	16.7% (1)	16.7% (1)	16.7% (1)	50.0% (3)	6
<i>answered question</i>					6
<i>skipped question</i>					0

3. What activities do you currently enjoy at the park?

- 1 Hiking, bird watching, mushrooming, hiking, botanizing, birdwatching, picnicing
- 2 Hiking, taking photos, watching Bald Eagles, springtime flowers, hunting.
- 3 Hiking, kayaking, identifying flora and fauna, particularly birds and wildflowers, though insects as well.
- 4 birding, x-c skiing, hiking
- 5 This is the most beautiful beach on the western shore of L Huron. Seeing the spring flowers and the natural vegetation along the over 7 miles of shore is magnificent.
- 6 I used to hunt the property, but haven't done that in a number of years. Mostly, I just drive the main trail to the parking areas and sometimes take a walk through parts of the property.

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

- 1 I would prefer to see no additional modern improvements except bathrooms.
- 2 Campsites would be nice.
- 3 no comments
- 4 none
- 5 Please have no activities, at all. What is more precious than the rare untouched area that now exists? There's too much development already a ll along the Huron coast.
- 6 I really don't think that THSP is amenable to many activities. I would like to see access to various areas improved so that more people could make more use of the property.

5. What natural resources at Thompson's Harbor are most important to you?

- 1 natural spaces for wildlife, wild flowers, etc.
- 2 shoreline, wetlands, forest, wildflowers
- 3 Fresh air, hiking trails.
The natural features, including rare orchids, dwarf lake iris, pitcher's thistle, carnivorous plants (sundew, butterworts, pitcher plants), monkey flowers, etc., as well as plethora of birds (merlins, common loons, magnolia warblers, black-throated green warblers, and a small mixed nesting colony of Caspian terns--species of special concern--and the state threatened common tern, which I studied as part of my master's thesis at MTU). The abundant dragonflies, damselflies, ant lions, and other insects, as well as black bear, beaver, badger, and other mammals, make this Harbor quite special! The access to the shoreline is invaluable, too! Lastly, the cold spring waters feeding the harbor are also unique and interesting aspects of the area.
- 4 all of them
- 5 The water, beach, flowers, vegetation, animal life, etc...
- 6 The lakeshore and the many acres of undeveloped land are what is unique about the property.

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

- 1 no
- 2 I'm not aware of any.
- 3 I am aware of the shipwrecks in the area, as I have visited the Alpena Marine Sanctuary before.
- 4 yes
- 5 I am not aware of them
- 6 I understand that there used to be a lumber dock in the east arm of the harbor and that the old Lake Huron trail runs through it. I know there are still some remnants of the trail visible along the lakeshore.

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

- 1 Continued trail maps, perhaps a local species bird list
- 2 perhaps plant ID guides
- 3 I think things are good as is.
- 4 A nature center would be nice near entrance to park. Trails with platformed boardwalk areas near sensitive areas would be helpful, so people stay off sensitive vegetation.
- 5 signage, interpretive center
- 6 Just advertise the area as an unique experience. Nature at its best with no man-made obstacles. That's an education in itself.
- 7 I feel there is little opportunity for this outside the endangered flora that are there.

8. When visiting Thompson's Harbor, what should the experience be like?

- 1 quiet, natural,
- 2 entirely natural
- 3 Peaceful, and clean.
- 4 Non-motorized traffic! Quiet...uncrowded...time to contemplate life's greater mysteries...
- 5 Just as it is: walk and think and wonder and enjoy. Is there anything better?
- 6 It should be refreshing to be in an unspoiled area.

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

- 1 primitive, natural area
- 2 primitive natural areas
- 3 Primitive, natural, undisturbed as much as possible.
- 4 Primitive natural area, with some opportunities for educational experiences.
- 5 primitive
- 6 natural area
- 7 Natural Area. Vehicular access should be improved throughout the park.

10. Are there any known user conflicts or issues?

- 1 no
- 2 no snowmobiling, no additional paved roads, no modern camping
- 3 I'm not aware of any.
- 4 I have seen four-wheelers on the dune areas before. Hopefully this can be prevented in the future. I have noticed some wooden pylon construction to this effect by the MDNR, I believe, and I commend this effort and
- 5 motorized usage
- 6 Not that I know of
- 7 I imagine some people would like to see hunting and trapping eliminated, but do not think that is practical.

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

- 1 Agree
- 2 I agree with the statements of purpose.
- 3 I will review them when I am done with this survey. My opinion is leave the park as is.
- 4 I agree with them. They are well-stated. Again, though, I would like to emphasize the importance of excluding "off-roading" in any "recreational" designations.
- 5 keep it primitive
eliminate a formal educational purpose. Perhaps a brochure at the entrance to encourage entrants to seek out
- 6 various natural, "listed" phenomena, and suggest that visitors leave remarks in some enclosed box or the like.
Please have personnel on duty whenever possible.
- 7 I don't disagree with the statements. My main concern is that the nature of the property does not conform with what I normally think of as a State Park. I feel strongly that the only reason that the property was placed in the State Park system was to afford maximum protection to the Dwarf Lake Iris, Pitcher's Thistle, etc.

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

- 1 Agree
- 2 I agree with the management zones.
- 3 Again leave the park as is.
- 4 I'm in agreement, generally; however, I'm not certain about future logging in the area. This, along with quarry operations, should be permanently prohibited.
- 5 keep it primitive
- 6 see above
- 7 Based upon my knowledge of the property, I feel that the zones are somewhat arbitrary since the the property is pretty homogeneous once you leave the immediate lake shore.

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

- 1 I would need to know more about what "linkages" would mean.
- 2 Yes, I consider a regional assessment important, and would like to see more protected land in the area, especially shoreline.
- 3 Please leave as is. I believe people enjoy the parks as they are
- 4 I feel that connectivity of the landscape is crucial to the ecological health of the ecoregion. Fragmentation only harms, while creating corridors can only help.
- 5 keep it primitive
- 6 This area must be tied together of the sake of preservation and for the health of the region.
Physical linkage is obviously not practical. I think that if these parks were "marketed" as a package, it might
- 7 increase the number of visitors. Unless there is some development that makes them more accessible, I doubt if many people will visit them.

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

- 1 The Michigan Natural Areas Council did a survey report of Thompson's Harbor many years ago and it is in the Bentley Archives of the University of Michigan. This document should be consulted if it hasn't been already. The MNAC was charged with the job of investigating potential natural areas in our state and making recommendations for their protection.
- 2 Review the survey and think sensibly about changes.
This looks like a terrific undertaking! I hope to see this plan come to fruition for aiding ecotourism on the
- 3 "Sunrise Side" of Michigan, as well as preserving our natural heritage. Too much has been taken from this beautiful planet; we truly need to begin protecting and restoring that which we have damaged! Thanks!
- 4 keep it primitive
- 5 I have already expressed my ideas.
I served on the original THSP planning committee and we were given the mandate to come up with a plan that would increase utilization of the property in a manner that was financially self-sufficient and that would afford maximum protection to endangered species. The State Park professionals that were engaged in that process were convinced that it was the latter consideration that resulted in the property being placed in the State Park system, and felt strongly that the property could not be sustained economically. The ensuing 20 years have verified these concerns. I find it unfortunate that the usage of the property today is significantly less than it was
- 6 That being the case, it should be removed from the State Park system and opened to the public, like all other state land, without restriction. I don't think this will result in destruction of endangered species or "trashing" of the property. Joe Cercone Rogers City, MI 49779 ja_cercone@yahoo.com

A P P E N D I X C

P L A N N I N G T E A M M E E T I N G

A G E N D A S A N D M I N U T E S

F O R T H O M P S O N ' S H A R B O R S T A T E P A R K

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

June 6, 2007

July 24, 2007

September 25, 2007

January 29, 2008

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A G E N D A

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

DATE: June 6, 2007

TIME: 1:00 - 5:00 pm

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

1. Introductions
2. Project Overview
3. Exercise
 - Your interests
 - First impressions of each park’s significance
 - First impressions of each park’s purpose
4. Summary: What was heard

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

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

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

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION

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

DATE: June 6, 2007

TIME: 1:00 - 5:00 pm

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

1. and 2. Introductions and Project Overview.

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

3. Exercise

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

3.A Negwegon

3.A.1 Negwegon: Issues and Solutions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Citizens Advisory Committee

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

June 6, 2007
NORTH Planning Team Meeting Participants

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

A G E N D A

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

DATE: July 24, 2007

TIME: 9:30 - 5:00 pm

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

1. Brief Review of Background Analysis (9:30-10:15)
2. Management Zones (10:15 – 4:00)
 - A. Review Management Zone Descriptions, Legal Mandates and Directions
 - B. Group Exercise
 - Negwegon Management Zones (10:30-11:30)
 - Rockport Management Zones (11:30-12:30)
 - Thompson's Harbor Management Zones (1:30-2:30/3:00)
 - Group Reports to Planning Team (2:30/3:00-4:00)

Results from group exercise to be compiled into GMP statements of purpose and significance and will be distributed after meeting.

3. Citizens Advisory Committee (4:10-5:00)

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

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION

Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson’s Harbor (NRTH)

General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: July 24 2007

TIME: 9:30 - 5:00 pm

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

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

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

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

Comments on Negwegon

- Section 1.3 Management Plan Process to include a more detailed history.
- Purpose Statements:
 - Hiking and kayaking are major uses of Negwegon at present.
 - Negwegon is near a State Forest campground, which is very accessible by boat.
 - Waterfowl hunting is another purpose of Negwegon. Hardwood Point, in particular, is ideal for goose hunting and migrating.
- Significance Statements:
 - Number rather than bullet the statements of significance.
 - Add to bullet #1: *The northern portion of Negwegon offers a completely different habitat, featuring lowland hardwoods and a variety of upland forest types.*
 - Add to bullet #2: Add Hines emerald dragonfly, if appropriate.
 - Add to bullet #3: Add: Negwegon is one of the forested coastal areas that offers a habitat that supports a great diversity of flora and fauna.
 - Add to bullet #5: Unique cultural and historic resources are a tremendous educational opportunity for understanding the park’s value.
 - Add to Bluewater Trail: NEMCOG may be developing a Bluewater Trail (depends on securing grant).

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

Legal Mandates

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

Comments on Rockport

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

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

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

Purpose Statements:

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

Significance Statements:

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

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

Legal Mandates

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

Comments on Thompson's Harbor

- Section 1.3 Management Plan Process will include a more detailed history.
- Park Purpose: no changes noted.
- Park Significance:
 - Change bullets to numbers.
 - Modify bullet #2: 'Stands of Alvar glade trees' to the effect that Alvar glade community is one of only stands known on *park* property.
 - Modify bullet #3 to reflect that Thompson's Harbor has one of the highest concentrations of unique habitats and species.
 - Add bullets:
 - Thompson's Harbor is significant from a historic standpoint: artifacts of European settlement.
 - There is no significant deep water access at Thompson's Harbor.
 - There is a rustic cabin which will be open to the public – the only overnight lodging experience is in Thompson's Harbor at present.
 - Hunting, hiking, cross-country skiing are all allowed at Thompson's Harbor.

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

☐ Legal Mandates:

- See Negwegon discussion of Piping plover nesting area.

3. Management Zone Plans

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

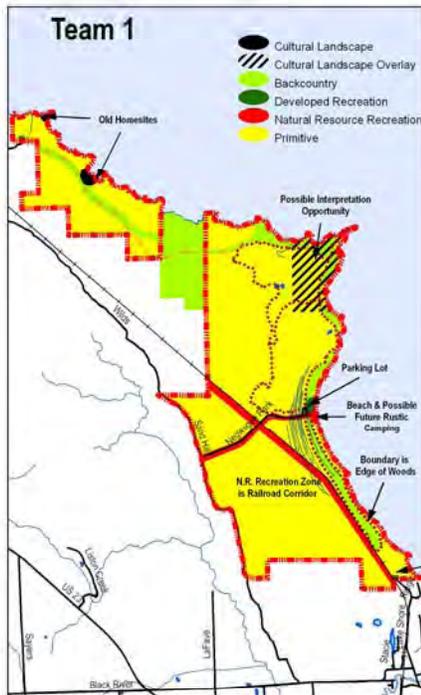
Comments made at the end of the group exercise:

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

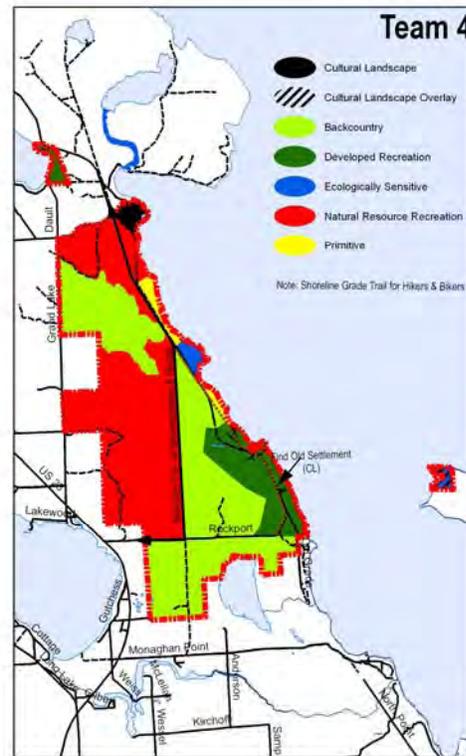
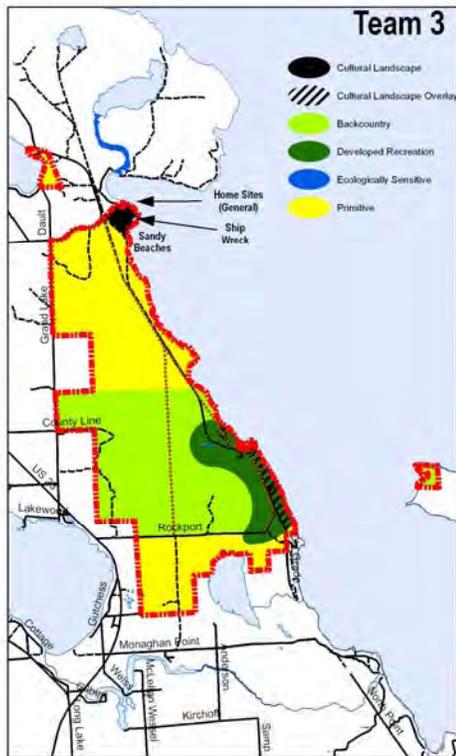
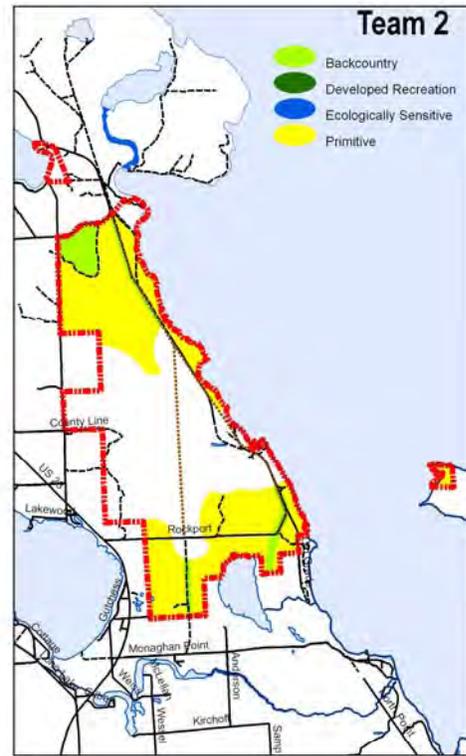
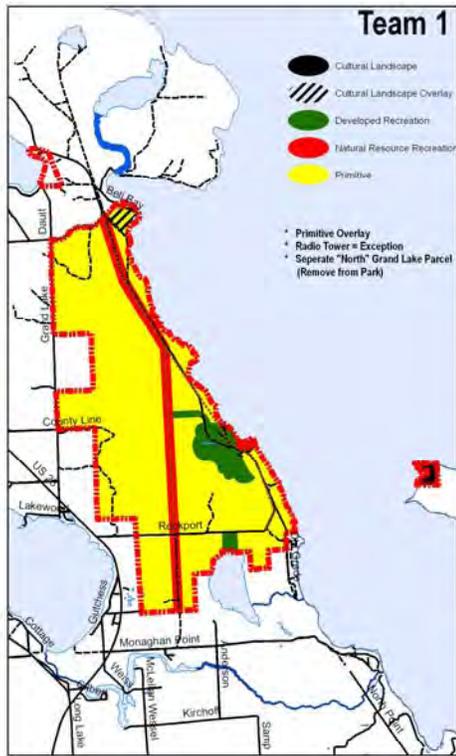
4. Citizens Advisory Committee

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

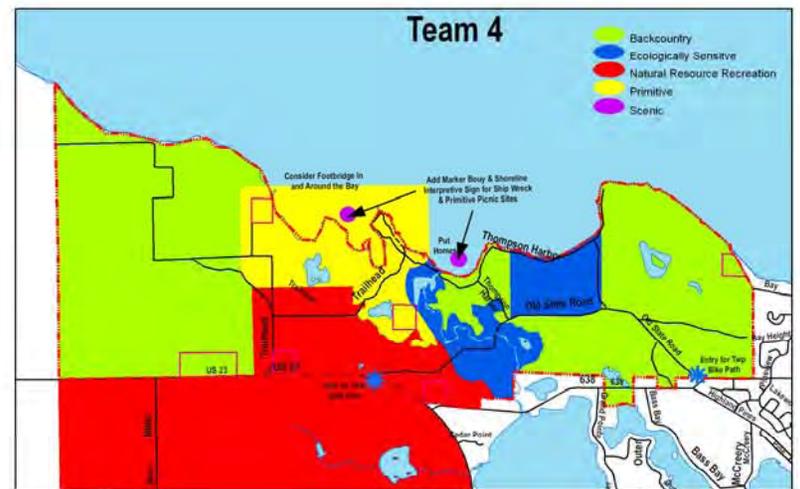
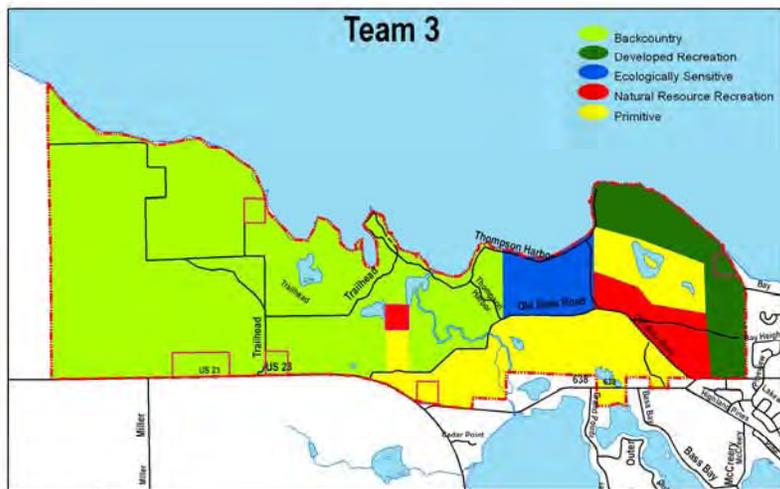
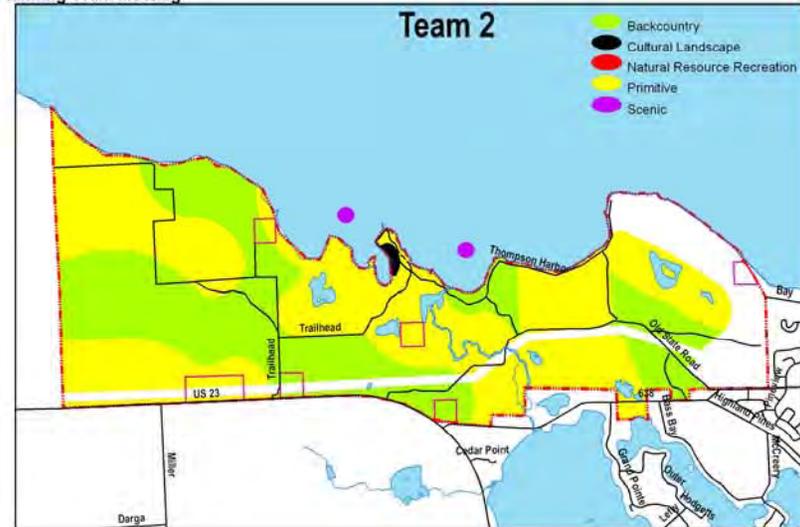
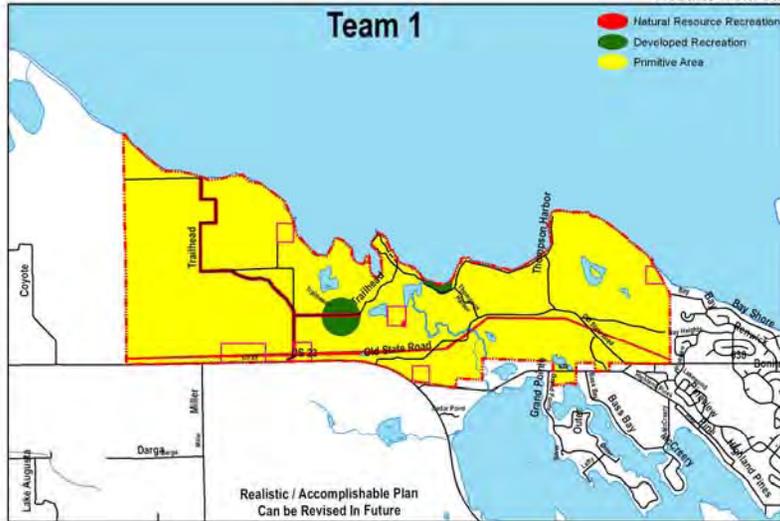
Negwegon State Park
Results from July 24, 2007 Planning Team Meeting



Rockport Property
Results from July 24, 2007 Planning Team Meeting



Thompson's Harbor
Results from July 24, 2007 Planning Team Meeting



Thomson, MEAR
Michigan Geographic Data Library

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July 24, 2007
NORTH Planning Team Meeting Participants

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

A G E N D A

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

DATE: Tuesday, September 25, 2007

TIME: 10:00 - 5:00 pm

PLACE: Alpena Township Hall
4385 N US 23

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

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

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

DATE: September 25, 2007

TIME: 1:30 to 5:00 pm

PLACE: Alpena Township Hall
4385 N US 23

1. Meeting began at 1:45 am with Introductions

2. Citizen's Advisory Committee Update

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

3. Review of Draft Management Zone Maps

Negwegon State Park

Changes to draft management zone plan are:

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

The Rockport Property

Changes to draft management zone plan are:

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

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

In the text, discuss:

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

Thompson's Harbor State Park

Changes to draft management zone plan are:

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

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

4. Stakeholder List

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

September 24, 2007

NRTH Planning Team Meeting Participants

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

A G E N D A

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION

Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson's Harbor (NRTH)

General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: Tuesday, January 29, 2008

TIME: 10:00 - 12:00 pm

PLACE: Alpena Public Library

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

- ❑ Changes to all plans
 - Clarification of Phase I planning process intent
 - Addition of bird flyway zone
 - Addition of Section 2.5, Land Acquisitions. Group must evaluate and recommend changes to Dedicated Boundary as part of this process
- ❑ Changes to Rockport
 - Addition of equestrian use as a potential activity in the Backcountry, Natural Resource Recreation and Developed Recreation Zones
 - Strengthened geologic significance statement
- ❑ Changes to Thompson's Harbor
 - Addition of Ecologically Sensitive Seasonal Overlay for the Piping plover critical habitat
 - Addition of Piping plover and Hine's emerald critical habitats in Legal Mandates section
 - Question: should the former Developed Recreation Zone be Primitive or Natural Resource Recreation?
 - Question: should the plan expand use of existing roadbeds for snowmobiling, bicycling and equestrian use?

2. Review Regional Assessment

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

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

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION

Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson’s Harbor (NRTH)

General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: Tuesday, January 29, 2008

TIME: 10:00 - 12:00 pm

PLACE: Alpena Public Library

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

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

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

2. Review changes to the General Management Plans

Negwegon

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

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

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

Rockport

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

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

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

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

Thompson's Harbor

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

3. Review Regional Assessment

- Comments were provided regarding the tables, and resources available at each park.

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

Distance from management unit to site is also a challenge.

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

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

January 29, 2009
NRTH Planning Team Meeting Participants

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

Name	Affiliation
John Pilon	MDNR Planner
Roger Carlin	Alcona Township
William J. Laram	RE Alpena
Peter Pettalia	Presque Isle
Paul Curtis	DNR-PRD
Amy Golke	Birchler Arroyo Associates