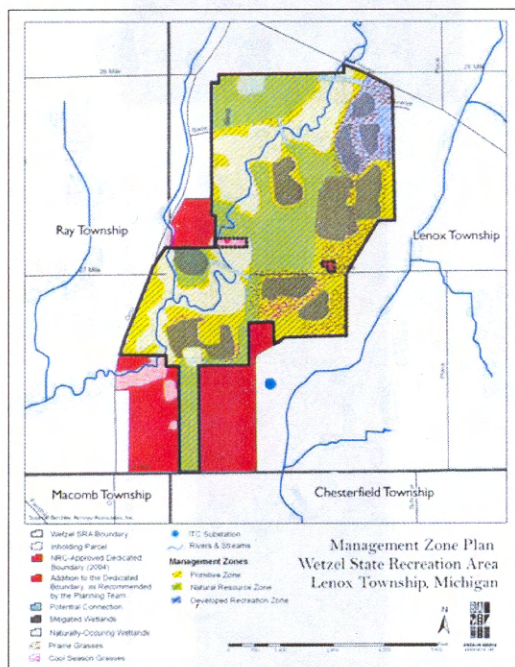


General Management Plan

Wetzel State Recreation Area



PLAN APPROVALS:

5/21/08
Date

5/22/08
Date

5/22/08
Date



RESOLUTION NO. 11-2007-03

**RESOLUTION OF
THE CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR MICHIGAN STATE PARKS
TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE "WETZEL STATE RECREATION
AREA - GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN"**

ADOPTED: November 28, 2007

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources' (Department) Parks and Recreation Division has completed Phase 1 of the General Management Plan for the Wetzel State Recreation Area; and

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

WHEREAS, the planning process was further inclusive of stakeholder, constituent, and public input, and was assisted greatly by a partnership with Lenox Township of Macomb County, who funded the consultant services for development of the plan and were active participants throughout the process; and

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

WHEREAS, the General Management Plan has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Parks and Recreation Division Management Team, the Department Statewide Council and its Southern Lower Peninsula Ecoregional Team, and has been recommended for approval by the Stewardship Subcommittee of the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks approves the Wetzel State Recreation Area Phase 1 - General Management Plan; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that greater emphasis be included in the Executive Summary, general text and maps for future, desired acquisitions; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks further recommends that the Department Director approve the Phase 1 – General Management Plan for the Wetzel State Recreation Area; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon approval by the Department Director, the Parks and Recreation Division initiate the Phase 2 – Long Range Action Plan for the Wetzel State Recreation Area.

Submitted by: Michael McDonald, Chair of the Citizens Committee for Michigan State
Parks' Stewardship Subcommittee

Motioned by: Mary Pitcher
Seconded by: Todd Scott

Yeas: 12
Nays: 0
Absent: 4

This Resolution was adopted by the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks on November 28, 2007.

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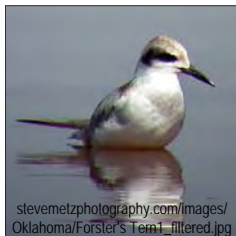
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Executive Summary

Long-range planning for Wetzel State Recreation Area (SRA) began in January of 2006 as a joint initiative of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources-Parks and Recreation Division (MDNR-PRD) and Lenox Township. This endeavor represented a new planning philosophy of the MDNR-PRD. "Management Planning", a comprehensive, resource-based process, is MDNR-PRD's adaptation of National Park Service planning methodology. In our iteration of this process, we focus our attention on the four principles of the PRD Mission Statement. To that end, we thoroughly inventory the (1) natural resource values of the Recreation Area, 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 with input of the "Planning Team" (made up of the Department resource staff, Lenox Township officials and Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.), stakeholders and the public, we established an 'identity' for the Recreation Area. The key significance of Wetzel SRA is threefold:



Forster's Tern

First, Wetzel SRA contains many natural features and special habitats. Natural features include mitigated and naturally-occurring wetlands, warm season prairie uplands and grasses, Coon Creek and associated floodplains, and woodland areas. The mitigated wetlands and warm season prairie uplands and grasses were intentionally established in the Recreation Area. There are few instances of these unique resources on State-owned land, and as such, they offer excellent research, education, and interpretation opportunities. Additionally, the mitigated wetlands appear to provide a habitat that attracts several Species of Special Concern. The Marsh Wren, Common Moorhen and Forster's Tern have been cited in Wetzel in and around the mitigated wetlands.



The Common Moorhen

Second, Wetzel SRA is the only State recreation area or park in Macomb County. It is a major source of open space and recreation in Lenox Township, and will gain value as the population grows and land development increases. The Recreation Area is used by several non-profit groups, like *Friends of Wetzel State Park*, and the *Radio Control Club of Detroit*. Residents from Lenox and surrounding areas frequent the park for hiking, relaxing, and hunting.



The Marsh Wren

Finally, Wetzel SRA is a prominent feature of the regional trailway system. The Recreation Area is a node within the Macomb County Trailway Plan, which also connects to State-wide trailway systems. Connections are planned between Wetzel and the Wolcott Mill Metropark and other regional networks like the Clinton River, Paint Creek, Bridge-To-Bay trails.

In concert with this analysis of the Wetzel's purpose and significance, the Planning Team, with stakeholder and public input, established appropriate Management Zones and their extent of influence on the Recreation Area. From a pallet of nine standard zones, three were utilized for Wetzel SRA. The Management Zone Plan is found on the cover as well as page 12 of this General Management Plan (GMP). A thorough review of each

Management Zone is presented on pages 13 through 18 of the GMP. A condensed review of the Management Zones applied to Wetzel is as follows:

- ◆ Primitive Zone: Of the total 913 acres in Wetzel SRA, approximately 566 acres of undeveloped land falls into this zone description. This represents most of the area surrounding naturally-occurring wetlands, mitigated wetlands, cool and warm season prairie uplands and grasses, and floodplain surrounding the Coon Creek and its tributaries. The focus of this zone is to maintain and protect the forested, scrub-shrub, emergent and mitigated wetlands and potholes of prairie grasses. As a result, only low impact recreation will occur: hunting, trapping, birding, and the development of foot trails for hiking and backpacking only. No equestrian or mountain bike trails will be allowed in this zone.
- ◆ Natural Resource Recreation Zone: Approximately 283 acres of Wetzel are dedicated to this zone. Much of this zone is currently unforested, open area and was selected for this designation because impacts to natural resources would be minimal. General recreation activities that are considered appropriate for this zone include: hunting, fishing, trapping, birding, rustic camping, model airplane flying and trails for hiking and cross-country skiing.
- ◆ Developed Recreation Zone: This zone comprises approximately 64 acres of the Recreation Area. It is the first zone encountered by visitors. The intent is to provide a barrier-free, educational encounter with mitigated wetlands, prairie grasses and the outdoors in general. While other zones focus on the natural setting, this zone allows for more developed uses, and potentially an outdoor classroom.

Much of Wetzel SRA's land area is occupied by wetlands, which limits space available for recreation opportunities. The Planning Team recognized the future value of Wetzel as a prime resource for recreation, and in response, identified 'Future Purchase' areas on the Management Zone Plan. Parcels were identified for purchase in the near future given their adjacency to areas of Wetzel that have recreation limitations due to the placement of the mitigated wetlands. Expanding the boundary in these areas is beneficial because: 1) expansion opens the realm of recreation opportunities available and increases visitor experience; 2) the original purpose of Wetzel was to provide an active recreation facility in this region, which was pre-empted by the location of mitigated wetlands and 3) expansion will provide more points of access, which will be needed as the visitor rate increases. Future Purchase Areas have not been designated with a Management Zone. A purchase would prompt an amendment to this GMP.



1.0 Introduction

Planning Process Overview

The Management Planning Process develops a series of planning steps, each built upon the previous, that keep all planning and action decisions focused on (1) the mission of the Parks and Recreation Division, 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 is the **General Management Plan**, the first step in our planning process. In this phase of planning, we are defining what the park will look like in twenty years, and answering critical questions like: What will be the condition of flora and fauna? How will we address historic and cultural resources? What recreational opportunities will 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?

A key tool of this plan is the identification of "Management Zones" which 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 Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) Mission Statement, and provide guidance for both planning and management decisions. Within the parameters of this guidance, "Purpose" and "Significance" statements are developed for the park that establishes its unique identity and focus. No two parks are the same and this emphasis is directed at ensuring that the differences found from park to park are acknowledged, highlighted and celebrated.

Planning Objectives

The objective of this General Management Plan is to bring together PRD Department staff, impacted and impacting stakeholders, and the public who use the park in a planning process that will define and clarify the unique "Purpose" and "Significance" of Wetzel State Recreation Area (SRA). 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.

Planning Team

Accomplishment of our planning objectives was and is dependent upon the valuable input provided by all members of the 'Planning Team'. Following are the names of those critical participants in this planning process:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Paul N. Curtis	MDNR-PRD, Management Plan Administrator
Steve Pondo	MDNR-PRD, Park Supervisor
Glenn Palmgren	MDNR-PRD, Stewardship Ecologist
Luba Sitar	MDNR-PRD, Pontiac District Supervisor
Kristen Bennett	MDNR-PRD, District Planner
Ernie Kafcas	MDNR, Wildlife
Jim Francis	MDNR, Fisheries
Larry Pederson	MDNR, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management
Bruce Miller	MDNR, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management
Peggy Ruby	MDNR, Law Enforcement
Janet Canode	MDNR, Office of Communications
Ed Meadows	MDNR, Office of Land and Facilities - Land
Denise Gruben	MDNR, Office of Land and Facilities - Engineering
John P. Gardner	Lenox Township Supervisor
Jeanette Ventimiglia	Lenox Township, Deputy Supervisor
Karol Ottenbacher	Lenox Township, Treasurer
David C. Birchler	President, Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.
Amy Golke	Senior Planner, Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.

Management Plan Planning Process

The General Management Plan is the product of a collective planning effort. The Wetzel State Recreation Area planning process began in early 2005 with conversations between Lenox Township and the Department of Natural Resources. Later that year, an agreement was reached to begin the planning process, with the assistance from Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc. In January of 2006, the Planning Team, comprised of DNR, Township representatives and consultants met for the first of many monthly meetings toward the completion of the Plan.

The first step was to determine where we are, which was developed from baseline information (Appendix A, Supporting Analysis). This inventory and analysis of existing conditions was reviewed by the Planning Team, and included the regional setting, population characteristics and natural resources and features. An evaluation of the economic impacts of the Recreation Area was also conducted.

Upon completion of the Supporting Analysis, the Planning Team considered the Recreation Area's purpose and significance, identified legal mandates and developed a management zone plan. The Team then reached out to the public for input by holding a stakeholder workshop and a public participation workshop, in addition to conducting an on-line survey (Appendix B). Representatives from a variety of interests within the community came together to discuss the planning of Wetzel. Throughout the process, an internet web page kept the community current regarding the progress of the General Management Plan. Minutes from the Planning Team meetings are provided in Appendix C.

2.0 Core Values

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 Wetzel State Recreation Area (SRA), 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.

Recreation Area Purpose

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

- ◆ In 1968, the Michigan Legislature appropriated \$250,000 with the directive to purchase a new state park on Coon Creek in Macomb County, between 24 and 28 Mile Roads. This action supported the Detroit Metropolitan Area Regional Planning Commission's Regional Lands Plan, which identified the northeast sector (including Macomb County) as an area in greatest need of recreational resources.
- ◆ To preserve and protect the park's unique natural resources for current and future generations.
- ◆ To preserve and protect the park's historic/cultural resources.
- ◆ To provide opportunities for recreational uses and experiences in an area lacking, and that are compatible with the park's resource(s) base.
- ◆ To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflect the mission of the DNR and the unique qualities of Wetzel State Recreation Area.

Recreation Area Significance

Recreation Area 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 Wetzel State Recreation Area (SRA). Understanding these distinctions helps managers make decisions that preserve those special resources and values necessary to accomplish the park's purposes.

- ◆ Wetzel SRA will serve as a model of cooperation between the state and local units of government in the planning and development of a state park or recreation area.
- ◆ Wetzel SRA is the only State recreation area or park in Macomb County.
- ◆ Wetzel SRA is a major source of open space and recreation in Lenox Township, and will gain value as a community asset as the population grows and land development increases.
- ◆ Wetzel SRA contains many natural features, such as mitigated and naturally-occurring wetlands, warm season prairie uplands and grasses, Coon Creek and associated floodplain, and woodlands. The mitigated wetlands and warm season prairie uplands and grasses were intentionally established in the recreation area. As there are few instances of such resources on State-owned land, they contribute greatly to Wetzel's significance.
- ◆ Wetzel SRA offers excellent opportunities for research, education and interpretation, particularly with regard to the mitigated wetlands, warm season prairie lands and grasses, and Coon Creek.
- ◆ There are occurrences of Species of Special Concern in the Recreation Area, like the Marsh Wren, Common Moorhen and Forster's Tern. Additionally, other endangered, threatened or special concern species may make the Recreation Area their habitat, as evidenced by a frog population that was previously cited in Wetzel.
- ◆ There are potential hunting and trapping opportunities available in Wetzel SRA.
- ◆ Historic and cultural resources, such as the remnants of farmsteads, are present in Wetzel SRA.
- ◆ Wetzel SRA is a node within the Macomb County Trailway Plan, as well as the greater regional trail plan. Connections are planned between Wetzel and the Wolcott Mill Metropark, and to other regional networks like the Clinton River, Paint Creek, Bridge-To-Bay trails.

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 Wetzel SRA, 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."

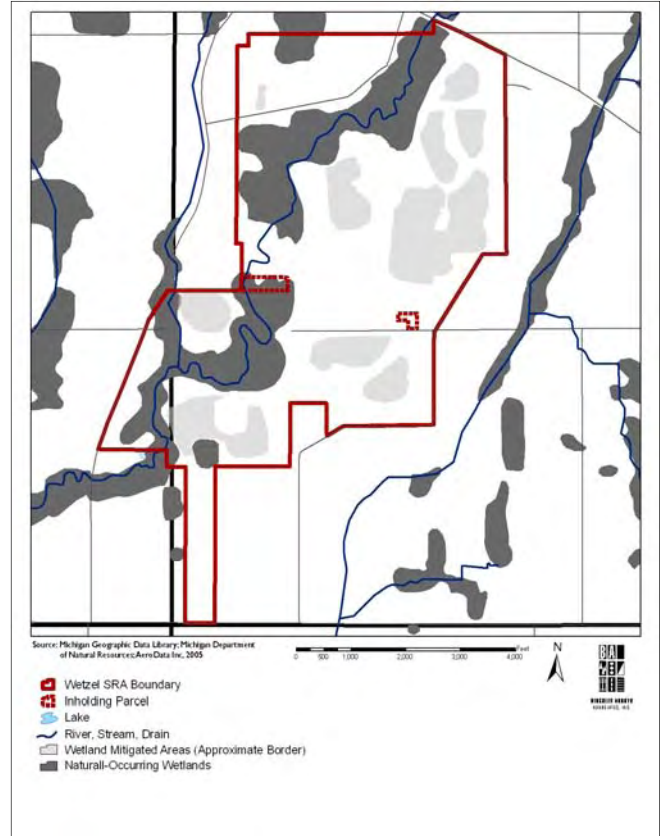
2. PA 451 OF 1994, PART 303 - NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT - WETLANDS PROTECTION. There are mitigated and naturally-occurring wetlands in Wetzel State Recreation Area, as shown below, right.

Mitigated and naturally-occurring wetlands are both under the jurisdiction of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. Section 324.30305 prescribes activities not requiring a permit under the Act and uses allowed without a permit. This section reads:

(1) Activities that require a permit under part 325 or part 301 or a discharge that is authorized by a discharge permit under section 3112 or 3113 do not require a permit under this part.

(2) The following uses are allowed in a wetland without a permit subject to other laws of this state and the owner's regulation:

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



- (j) Drainage necessary for the production and harvesting of agricultural products if the wetland is owned by a person who is engaged in commercial farming and the land is to be used for the production and harvesting of agricultural products. Except as otherwise provided in this part, wetland improved under this subdivision after October 1, 1980 shall not be used for nonfarming purposes without a permit from the department. This subdivision does not apply to a wetland that is contiguous to a lake or stream, or to a tributary of a lake or stream, or to a wetland that the department has determined by clear and convincing evidence to be a wetland that is necessary to be preserved for the public interest, in which case a permit is required.
- (k) Maintenance or improvement of public streets, highways, or roads, within the right-of-way and in such a manner as to assure that any adverse effect on the wetland will be otherwise minimized. Maintenance or improvement does not include adding extra lanes, increasing the right-of-way, or deviating from the existing location of the street, highway, or road.
- (l) Maintenance, repair, or operation of gas or oil pipelines and construction of gas or oil pipelines having a diameter of 6 inches or less, if the pipelines are constructed, maintained, or repaired in a manner to assure that any adverse effect on the wetland will be otherwise minimized.
- (m) Maintenance, repair, or operation of electric transmission and distribution power lines and construction of distribution power lines, if the distribution power lines are constructed, maintained, or repaired in a manner to assure that any adverse effect on the wetland will be otherwise minimized.
- (n) Operation or maintenance, including reconstruction of recently damaged parts, of serviceable dikes and levees in existence on October 1, 1980 or constructed pursuant to this part or former 1979 PA 203.
- (o) Construction of iron and copper mining tailings basins and water storage areas.
- (p) Until November 1, 2007, beach maintenance activities that meet all of the following conditions:
 - (i) The activities shall not occur in environmental areas and shall not violate part 365 or rules promulgated under that part, or the endangered species act of 1973, Public Law 93-205, 87 Stat. 884, or rules promulgated under that act.
 - (ii) The width of any mowing of vegetation shall not exceed the width of the riparian property or 100 feet, whichever is less.
 - (iii) All collected debris shall be disposed of properly outside of any wetland.
- (q) Until 3 years after the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subdivision, removal of vegetation as authorized under section 32516.
- (3) An activity in a wetland that was effectively drained for farming before October 1, 1980 and that on and after October 1, 1980 has continued to be effectively drained as part of an ongoing farming operation is not subject to regulation under this part.
- (4) A wetland that is incidentally created as a result of 1 or more of the following activities is not subject to regulation under this part:
 - (a) Excavation for mineral or sand mining, if the area was not a wetland before excavation. This exemption does not include a wetland on or adjacent to a water body of 1 acre or more in size.
 - (b) Construction and operation of a water treatment pond or lagoon in compliance with the requirements of state or federal water pollution control regulations.
 - (c) A diked area associated with a landfill if the landfill complies with the terms of the landfill construction permit and if the diked area was not a wetland before diking.

4. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN MDNR AND TOWNSHIP. The DNR PRD and Lenox Township entered into an MOU for the preparation and implementation of the General Management Plan. The MOU is provided in Appendix D.

5. 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 figure at the top of page 7, also shown in Appendix A (page A-6), illustrates the various funding sources used to purchase Wetzel SRA. Restrictions with each funding sources are:

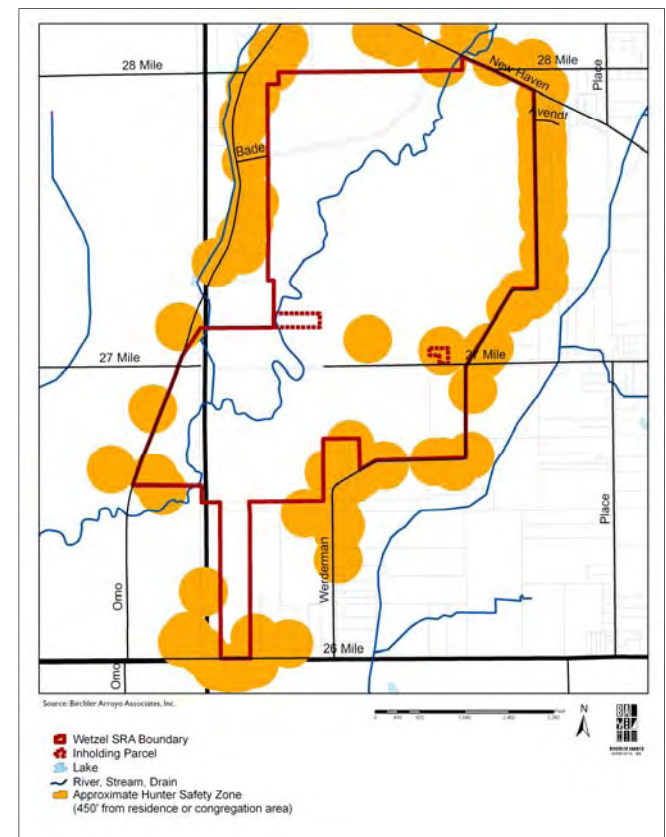
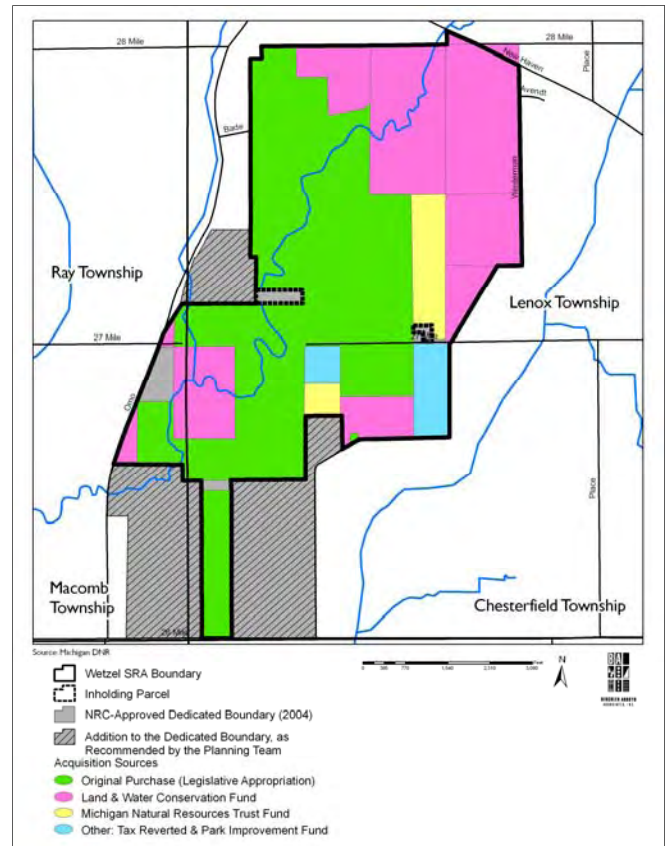
- ◆ Original Purchase Restrictions: Purpose of the original acquisition was for establishment of a State Park.

- ◆ Land & Water Conservation Fund Restrictions: The Federal Government funds this program, and with the funding is the restriction that all recreation land adjacent to land purchased under the LWCF must remain as a park and recreation use. Therefore, all of Wetzel SRA must be retained and used for outdoor public recreation in perpetuity. The project site cannot be wholly or partly converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses without prior approval of the DNR and the NPS. (Source: LWCF Application Guidelines, IC 5600, 4.18.06).

- ◆ Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Restrictions: The project site shall be retained and used for public outdoor recreation in perpetuity. The project site cannot be wholly or partly converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses without prior approval of the DNR and, if appropriate, the MNRTF Board. Also, the project site must be open to appropriate entry and use by all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, height, weight, religion, sex, residency, or disability. Preferential membership or annual permit systems are prohibited; however, admission price and other fees may be based on residence. Nonresident fees shall not exceed twice that charged residents; where no fees are charged, nonresident fees may not exceed the rate charged residents at other facilities in the area open to the public (2006 MNRTF Application Guidelines, IC 1905, 12.27.05).

- ◆ Tax Reverted Properties or Park Improvement Fund Restrictions: Wetzel SRA must be used for park purposes.

6. PA 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. The figure to the right illustrates approximate Hunting Safety Zones for Wetzel SRA.

7. RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

- ◆ **Bade Road.** Macomb County Road Commission (MCRC) indicated that Bade Road is a certified Right-of-Way 1,400 feet east of Omo Road. This extends into Wetzel SRA approximately 1,400 feet. In the future, the DNR may desire to request abandonment from the MCRC of the ROW.
- ◆ **26 Mile Road Expansion.** The MCRC Long Range Master Plan 2004-2030 establishes that 26 Mile Road will be expanded from 160 feet to 204 feet for a four-lane boulevard entry. This effort is to occur between 2010 and 2020 and will encroach the southern boundary of Wetzel SRA.
- ◆ **26 Mile Road Michigan Bell Telephone Company Easement.** The easement is located along 26 Mile Road and extends ten feet (east to west) across the southern property line of the Recreation Area. Restrictions include:
 - 1) Notice must be given before any construction may proceed, in accordance with PA 53 of 1974, and
 - 2) All provisions of the Soil and Sedimentation Control Act (PA 347 of 1972) must be followed.
- ◆ **Omo Road Easement.** The MCRC has a sixty-foot ROW along Omo Road, south of 27 Mile Road. The southern edge of the ROW commences near the boundary and Omo Road's southern meeting point, and extends northeast along Omo Road approximately 300 feet. Conditions of the easement include:
 - 1) Notice must be given before any construction may proceed, in accordance with PA 53 of 1974
 - 2) All provisions of the Soil and Sedimentation Control Act (PA 347 of 1972) must be followed
 - 3) No fences shall be constructed on the ROW or existing trail roads closed without prior written approval of the DNR
 - 4) The DNR manages the timber and forest growth, except that MCRC may cut in the area needed for road construction or for maintenance purposes
 - 5) MCRC must obtain written approval of the DNR authorizing use of the ROW
 - 6) MCRC and employees must take all reasonable precautions to prevent and suppress forest fires, not cause unnecessary damage to forest growth or to any plantations, and shall be responsible and liable for any damage to the state property
 - 7) All brush or refuse resulting from operations under the permit must be disposed of as directed by the MDNR
 - 8) The agreement becomes null and void after the MCRC no longer needs to use the ROW for original purpose
 - 9) No herbicides are permitted without first obtaining permission from the DNR, and
 - 10) MCRC agrees to special ROW construction, restoration and maintenance conditions (e.g. vegetational restoration, blocking vehicular access, soil erosion prevention / mitigation).
- ◆ **International Transmission Company (ITC) Land Ownership and Easement.** ITC transmits high voltage electricity. One of its transmission lines traverses the northern portion of the Area's southern leg, and is approximately 200 feet wide. Additionally, ITC has a ten to twelve foot easement south of their property for overhangs. Resulting limitations or restrictions include:
 - 1) ITC will consider roadways and underground utilities but no trees can be planted nor permanent structures constructed in the corridor
 - 2) Any use must maintain a clearance of 20 feet from the lines and towers, and
 - 3) All final plans for Wetzel must be submitted to ITC for review.

Note: An ITC substation was installed at 161/2 Mile Road and Werdeman in 2006. The substation location is shown on the *Management Zone Plan* Figure, page 12.

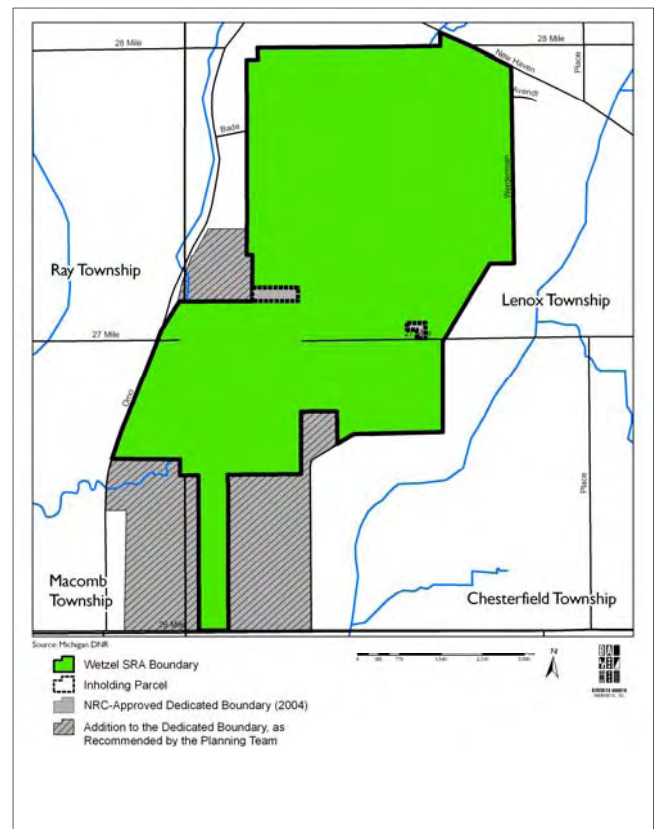
- ◆ **Sunoco Pipeline L.P. (Sunoco) Easement.** The Sunoco ROW runs southwest-northeast, and traverses southern Wetzel SRA in two places. Limitations or restrictions within the ROW include:
 - 1) Driveways or roadways may cross the ROW and pipeline perpendicularly, but at no time can they be parallel to, over and within the ROW.
 - 2) Buildings, swimming pools, sheds, decks, trees, shrubs or any obstruction of a permanent nature shall not be constructed, planted or placed within the ROW and easement (50 foot easement, structures must be no closer than 25 feet to the pipeline).
 - 3) Wells, leach beds, cesspools or sewer systems of any type shall not be placed within the ROW.
 - 4) All underground facilities crossing the ROW shall cross under the existing pipeline with a minimum of one-foot clearance. This includes sewer drain lines.
 - 5) The earth cover over the pipelines shall be maintained and never changed in any manner without the express permission of Sonoco.
 - 6) Any parking area placed over the pipeline with permission of Sunoco shall be subject to an amendment to agreement entered into by subject parties prior to construction.
 - 7) If heavy equipment is to cross the existing pipeline for any reason, it will be necessary for the owner to provide a ramp of sufficient material to protect the pipeline.
 - 8) A Sunoco inspector must be present at the time that any work is done within Sunoco's ROW.
 - 9) No blasting is permitted within 300 feet of the pipeline. Anything less than 300 feet must have the approval of an instruction from Sunoco's Engineering Department.
 - 10) All final plans for Wetzel must be submitted to Sunoco for review.


Land Acquisition

Acquisition of land that would expand Wetzel State Recreation Area is of high priority for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division (DNR-PRD). Imbedded in its mission statement and core values is the acquiring of land for the direct purposes of preserving and protecting natural and historical / cultural features and providing public recreation and educational opportunities.

The DNR-PRD has targeted land in (privately-owned 'inholding' parcel) and around Wetzel State Recreation Area for future purchase, should there be an opportunity to do so. The figure to the right illustrates the existing boundary for Wetzel, 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. For Wetzel, priority purchases would include the private inholding on Omo Road.

Part of the Phase I General Management Plan process was to evaluate the dedicated boundary and determined whether revisions are required or necessary. The Planning Team reached a consensus with regard to expanding the boundary





as shown on the figure. In general the recommended boundary would follow Omo Road south to 26-Mile Road (going behind existing residential housing) and would extend east to Werdeman Road, with the specific intent of expanding the potential for more developed recreation zone opportunities.

3.0 Management Zone Plan

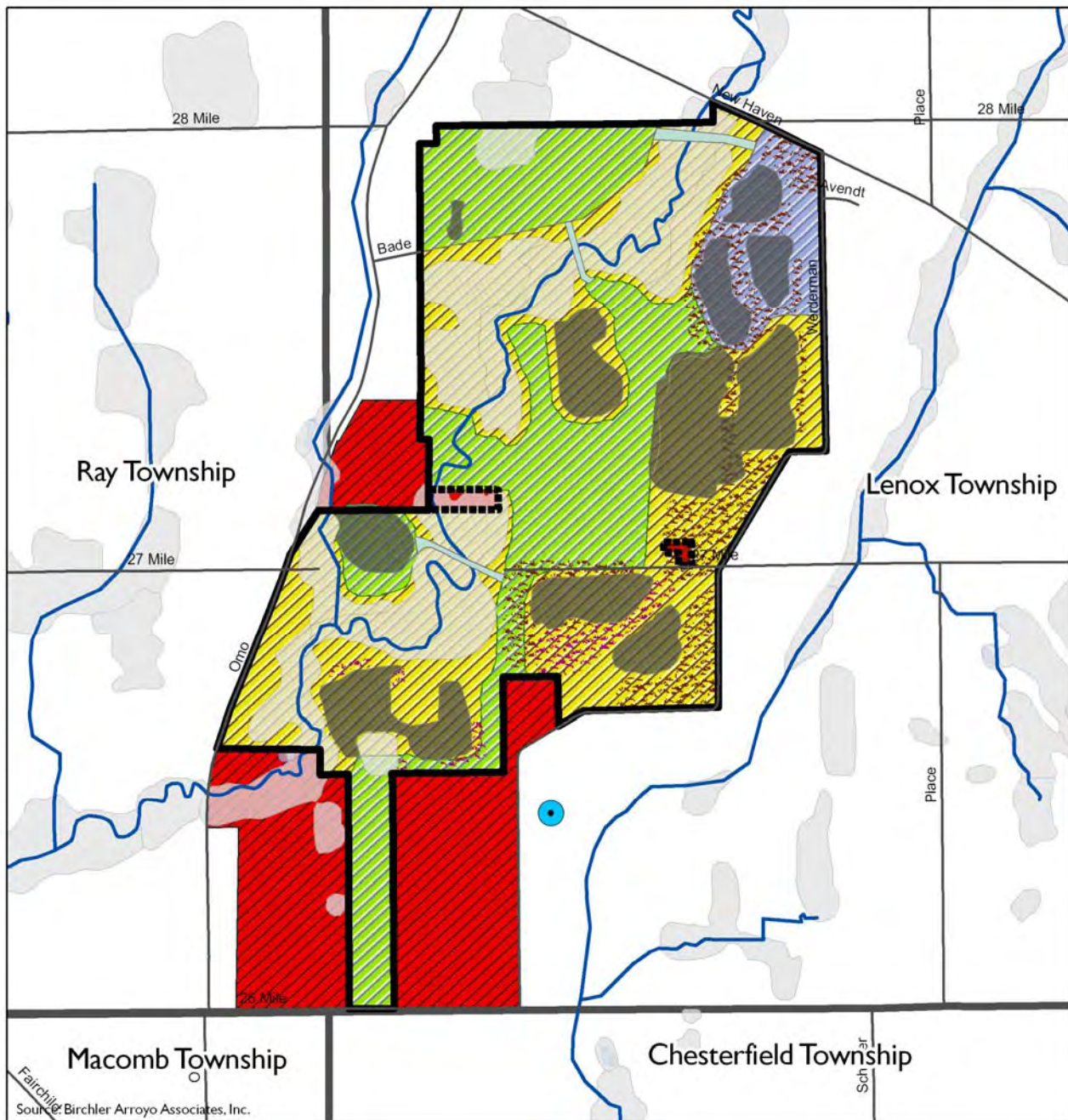
With guidance of the Wetzel SRA Planning Team and input from our stakeholders and the public, the Recreation Area “Purpose and Significance” statements were formulated. This established an identity for Wetzel SRA as a place to learn about unique natural features and enjoy a rustic outdoor experience. Wetzel SRA contains unique prairie potholes, naturally-occurring and mitigated wetlands, Coon Creek tributary and wooded areas. The Management Zone Plan seeks to preserve and protect these resources, while allowing for educational and interpretation opportunities.

The Management Zone Plan was developed according to the identity, and drafted and adopted with stakeholder and public support, and is provided as Figure 1. Responsive to the Memorandum of Understanding between the DNR and Township, the GMP limits mitigated wetlands to those that currently existing within the Recreation Area. The plan for Wetzel SRA is to have a significant focus on the Area’s natural resources while affording a pleasant visitor experience with opportunities for low impact recreation uses and education and interpretation. To achieve this, Wetzel was divided into the following zones:

- ◆ Primitive. The Primitive Zone emphasizes the natural resources, and is managed to allow dispersed and low frequency use for low impact recreation purposes. This zone will protect the integrity of the wetlands, Coon Creek and tributary, floodplain and warm and cool season prairie uplands and grasses. Hunting and trapping are allowable uses in the Primitive Zone.
- ◆ Natural Resource Recreation. The Natural Resource Recreation Zone emphasizes resource quality over recreation, but allows for medium to high levels of active recreation uses. Activities that could occur in this zone include hiking trails, hunting and trapping, rustic camping, an outdoor classroom, and other complementary uses. The activities should allow visitors to experience nature at a variety of levels.
- ◆ Developed Recreation: The Developed Recreation Zone emphasizes active recreation with a high density of use. While typically this zone is associated with areas that offer little natural resource significance, the Developed Recreation area serves a different purpose in Wetzel. Many of the natural features are located near the main entrance. This presents a special educational opportunity; paving trails and providing interpretive signage near the location provides an opportunity for those with limited mobility to enjoy and learn about the unique features of Wetzel.

Other Considerations

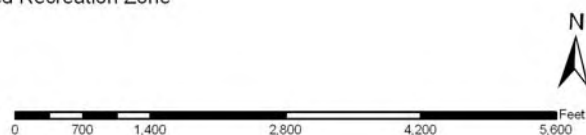
- ◆ Future Purchases. The Management Zone map includes a ‘Future Purchase’ category. These parcels were identified for purchase in the near future, given their adjacency to areas of Wetzel that have recreation limitations due to the placement of the mitigated wetlands. Expanding the boundary in these areas is beneficial for several reasons: 1) expansion opens the realm of uses provided and increases visitor experience; 2) the original purpose of Wetzel was to provide an active recreation facility in this region, which was pre-empted by the location of mitigated wetlands and 3) expansion will provide more points of access, which will be needed as the visitor rate increases. The Future Purchase areas are not zoned. A purchase would prompt an amendment to this plan.
- ◆ Access and Parking. There are currently two points of access to Wetzel State Recreation Area. The access points do not adequately serve the park and the need for more parking is anticipated as visitor attendance increases. This Management Zone Plan considers temporary parking at Omo Road and Bade Roads, until such time as property purchases may allow for alternative access points and parking areas.
- ◆ Stewardship Plan. Detailed descriptions of each zone provided on the following pages include references to a Stewardship Plan. A Stewardship Plan for Wetzel SRA has not yet been developed. Recommendations of a future Stewardship Plan are anticipated to coincide with the intent of the management zones.



Source: Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.

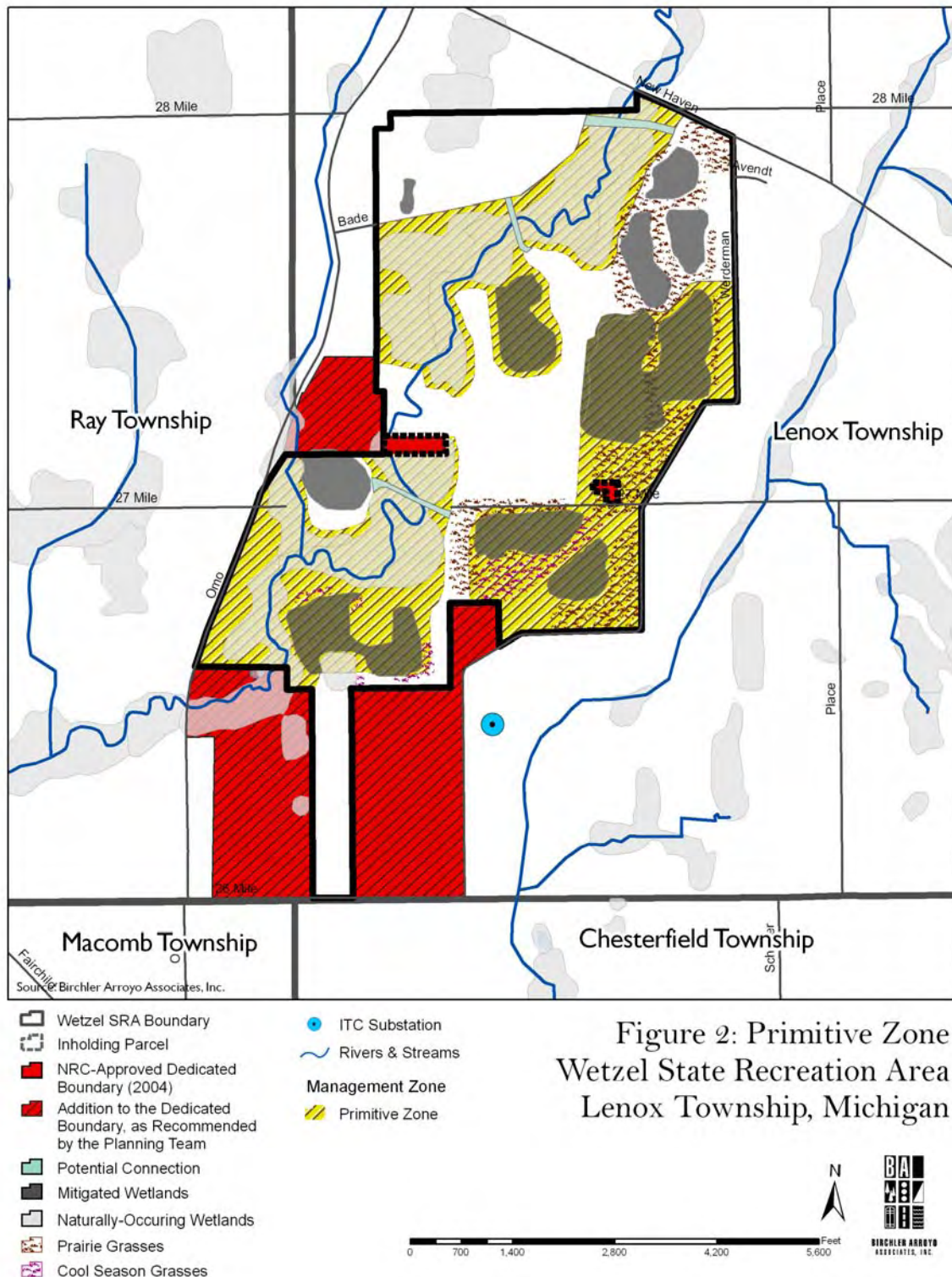
- Wetzel SRA Boundary
- Inholding Parcel
- NRC-Approved Dedicated Boundary (2004)
- Addition to the Dedicated Boundary, as Recommended by the Planning Team
- Potential Connection
- Mitigated Wetlands
- Naturally-Occurring Wetlands
- Prairie Grasses
- Cool Season Grasses
- ITC Substation
- Rivers & Streams
- Management Zones**
 - Primitive Zone
 - Natural Resource Zone
 - Developed Recreation Zone

Management Zone Plan Wetzel State Recreation Area Lenox Township, Michigan



PRIMITIVE ZONE

The majority of the Recreation Area acreage is designated Primitive Zone. In general, land was identified within this Zone for the sensitive natural features contained within it: wetlands, prairie grasslands and Coon Creek and its tributaries. Figure 2, below, presents the Primitive Zones.



In this 566-acre zone (approximately 62% of the Recreation Area), only foot traffic will be allowed. There will be no mountain bike or equestrian uses permitted. Prescribed qualities for the Primitive Zone are:

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 this Primitive Zone are naturally-occurring wetlands, mitigated wetlands, cool and warm season prairie uplands and grasses, and floodplain surrounding the Coon Creek and its tributaries. The Management Plan promotes the on-going maintenance and enhancement of these natural resources to ensure their continued success in the long-term.

Historic/Cultural Resources – There are remnants (e.g. foundations, fence lines, apple trees) of farmsteads within the Recreation Area. The locations are not known, however, any remnants within the Primitive Zone will be protected, noted with interpretive signage, or allowed to waste away in accordance with the Stewardship Plan.

Recreational Opportunities – The focus of this zone is to maintain and protect the forested, scrub-shrub, emergent and mitigated wetlands and potholes of prairie grasses. As a result, only low impact recreation will be allowed. This is characterized by dispersed recreation, such as hunting, trapping, birding, and the development of foot trails for hiking and backpacking only. No equestrian or mountain bike trails will be allowed in this zone.

Education Opportunities – The forests, wetlands and prairie potholes are ecologically significant and present an excellent opportunity for educational kiosks at the points of entry to the zone and along designated trails. Additionally, off-site educational materials could be developed. Specific planning recommendations for resource-based education and interpretation will require input from the DNR-Office of Communications and others.

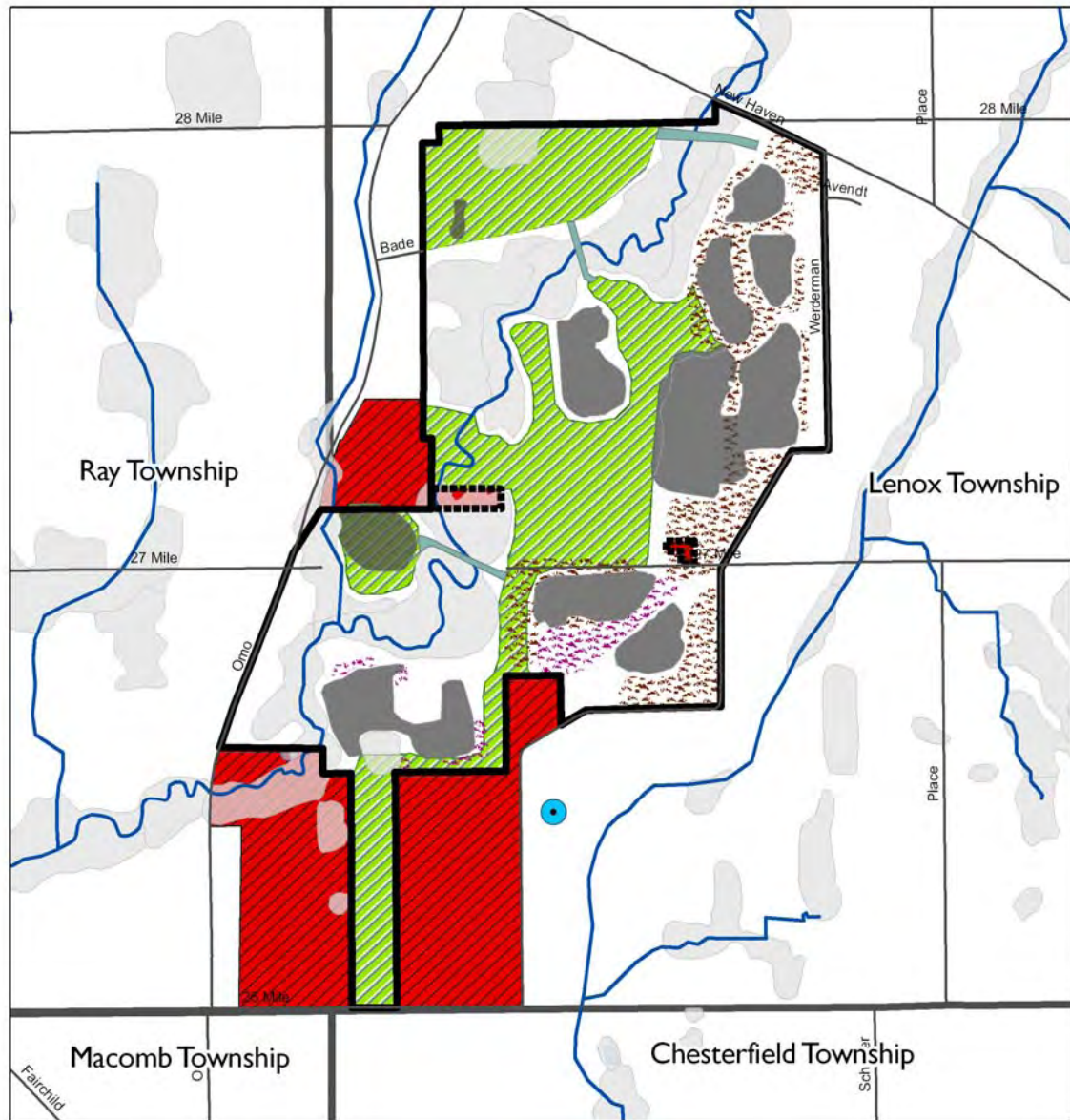
Visitor Experience – This will reflect the high degree of 'natural' feel of the zone, a significant sense of solitude, and a lack of man-made improvements.

Management Focus – Routine maintenance of any trails or routes of access will be provided, and care taken to eliminate any detrimental opportunities for erosion, sedimentation or incursion of invasive species. Other management strategies will be based on recommendations in the Stewardship Plan.

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 the evidence of man-made elements in this zone. Any improvements needed for resource protection, such as erosion control, shall be 'natural' in character. Development of mitigated wetlands in Primitive Zones is limited to those that currently exist.

NATURAL RESOURCE RECREATION ZONE

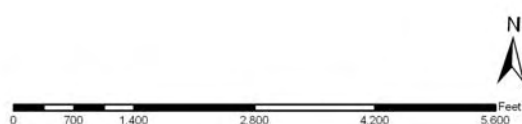
With approximately 283 acres, the Natural Resource Recreation Zone is the second largest zone within Wetzel. Land was designated Natural Resource Recreation due to the natural features within it: forested areas, wetlands, prairie grasslands and Coon Creek and its tributaries. Figure 3, below, presents the Natural Resource Recreation Zones.



Source: Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.

- Wetzel SRA Boundary
- Inholding Parcel
- NRC-Approved Dedicated Boundary (2004)
- Addition to the Dedicated Boundary, as Recommended by the Planning Team
- Potential Connection
- Mitigated Wetlands
- Naturally-Occurring Wetlands
- Prairie Grasses
- Cool Season Grasses
- ITC Substation
- Rivers & Streams
- Management Zone
- Natural Resource Zone

Natural Resource Recreation Zone Wetzel State Recreation Area Lenox Township, Michigan



General recreation activities are allowed in this zone: hunting, fishing, trapping, birding, rustic camping, and trail use for hiking and cross-country skiing. The Natural Resource Recreation Zone is described as follows:

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. In general, the natural resources can be modified to support visitor activities, provided modifications are within the guidance of the Stewardship Plan. Much of this zone is currently unforested, open area and was selected because impacts to natural resources would be minimal.

Historic/Cultural Resources – There are remnants (e.g. foundations, fence lines, apple trees) of farmsteads within the Recreation Area. The locations are not known, however, any remnants within the Natural Resource Recreation Zone will be protected, noted with interpretive signage, or allowed to waste away in accordance with the Stewardship Plan.

Recreation Opportunities – This zone is utilized for general recreation, which includes; hunting, fishing, trapping, birding, model airplane flying and trails for hiking and cross-country skiing. Other potential features of this zone to be considered may be rustic cabins, which would provide hikers and groups with an overnight experience. Snowmobiling will not be permitted in the Recreation Area. While equestrian use and biking are allowable activities in the Natural Resource Recreation Zone, the size of Wetzel State Recreation Area at the time of the preparation of this Management Plan is such that it cannot support these uses.

Education Opportunities – Given the natural features on-site, Wetzel SRA must include outlets for resource-based educational forums. Informational kiosks at trail heads and along the trails at critical locations are appropriate for self-guided visitors.

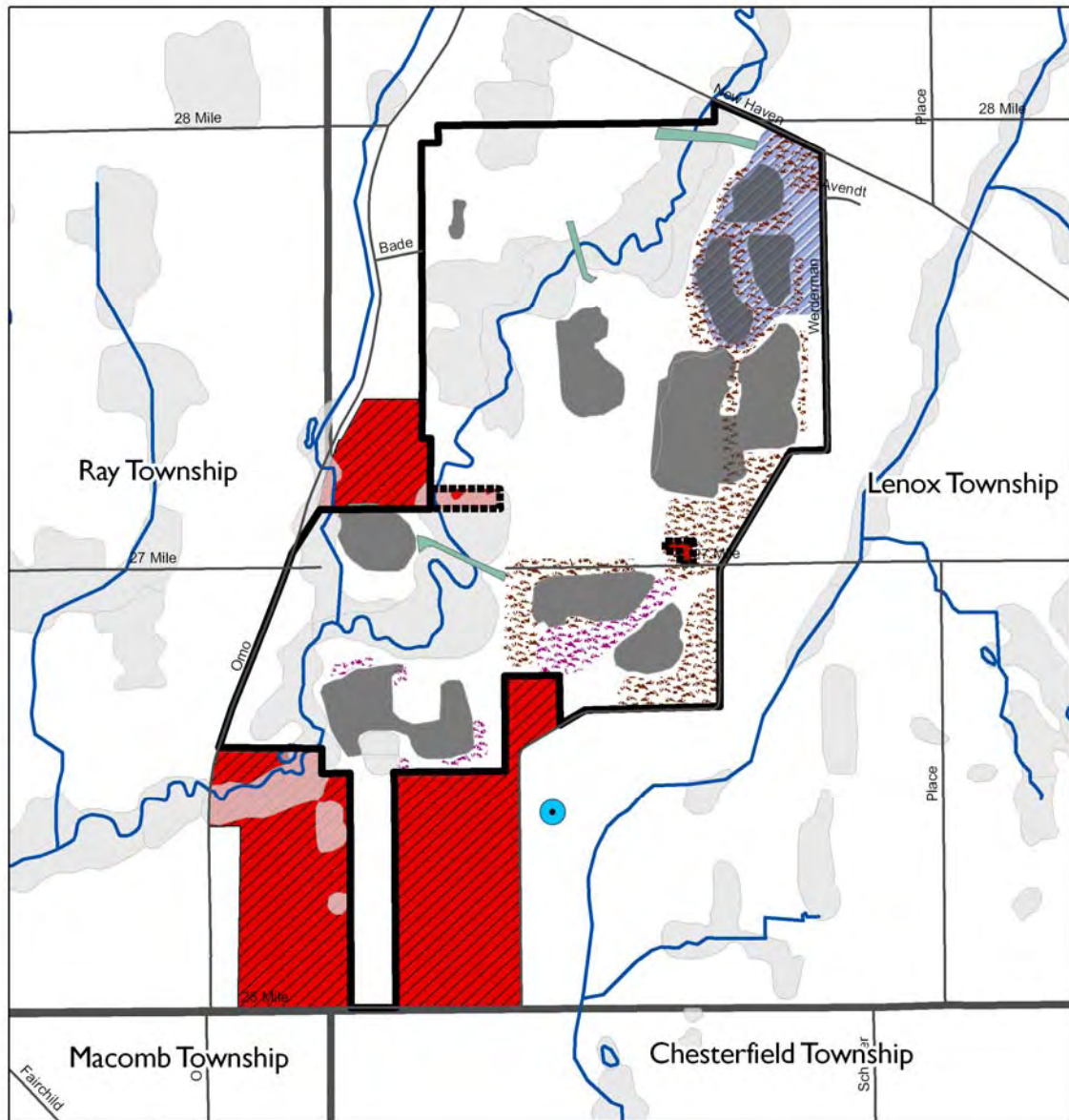
Visitor Experience – More active recreation to allow for appreciation of the natural resources is the focus of this zone. It is noted that high visitor encounters are expected and conflicts can occur as a result.

Management Focus – The focus of this zone is to protect the natural features, provide a safe and comfortable visitor experience and minimize identified conflicts noted above. Trails and rustic cabins should be compliant with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) where possible. Interpretative signage is an integral part of successful implementation of this zone.

Development – Moderate levels of development to support proposed visitor activities (i.e. picnic tables, benches, rustic cabins, paved/asphalt/gravel walkways). Development activity will be constructed with preservation of natural features and scenic views and educational goals in mind. Development of mitigated wetlands in Natural Resource Recreation Zones is limited to those that currently exist. Future development may also include consideration for parking areas or for an access road within the southern leg. Some parking areas may be interim, until park purchases enable more convenient points of access. For example, a parking area at Bade and Omo Road may be reasonable at the present time. However, if land were to be purchased along 26 Mile Road, it would make sense to close the Bade / Omo Road parking area, while providing access from this location.

DEVELOPED RECREATION ZONE

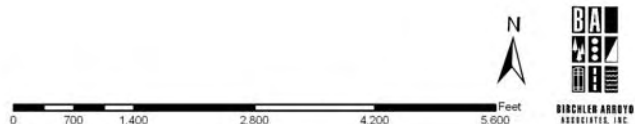
This zone comprises 64 acres, or 7%, of the total Recreation Area. It is the first zone encountered by visitors and will provide passive recreation opportunities with an emphasis on education. The intent is to make the unique natural features accessible to those with limited mobility, as well as introduce such features to those that may choose to delve further into the Recreation Area.



Source: Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.

- Wetzel SRA Boundary
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- Prairie Grasses
- Cool Season Grasses
- ITC Substation
- Rivers & Streams
- Management Zone
- Developed Recreation Zone

Figure 4: Developed Recreation Zone
Wetzel State Recreation Area
Lenox Township, Michigan



The Developed Recreation Zone provides a barrier-free, educational encounter with mitigated wetlands, prairie grasses and the outdoors in general. While other zones focus on the natural setting, this zone allows for more developed uses. The Management Plan envisions an expanded educational opportunity related to wildlife for this Zone.

Natural Resources – Vegetative management in this zone will address hazard trees, invasive species, and pests and disease, and will also be allowed for purposes of facilitating development and recreational use and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape. The wetlands located within this zone will be managed according to State law (see Legal Mandates section and the Management Objectives of the Stewardship Plan), but will allow people with limited mobility the opportunity to see and learn about this great resource.

Historic/Cultural Resources – There are remnants (e.g. foundations, fence lines, apple trees) of farmsteads within the Recreation Area. The locations are not known, however, and any remnants within the Developed Recreation Zone will be preserved, noted with interpretive signage, or allowed to waste away in accordance with the Stewardship Plan.

Recreation Opportunities – This highly structured environment may have paved parking, trails and improvements for interpretation and environmental education. Interpretive signage could be provided, and active programming may occur as visitor use increases. Given high levels of activity expected, hunting will not be allowed within this zone.

Education Opportunities – This zone is anticipated to be the most populated and visited of zones due to its location at the entrance, but also the resource-based educational forum that may be provided. Visitors may do a self-guided tour through interpretive signage along the paved trail, or, for a more formal setting, an outdoor classroom may be constructed. An area to promote education could be used by the Clinton River Watershed Council and other groups that host programs designed to educate visitors about their environment.

Visitor Experience – With the focus of this zone being education and accessibility, the visitor should experience a high level of encounters with other park visitors. Visitors could be engaged in trail use with multiple opportunities to experience interpretive signs or other types of learning devices that engage the public.

Management Focus – Maintain the infrastructure that serves the intense public uses of this zone. Provide educational opportunities, develop and maintain ADA access in the zone, and maintain public safety and good hospitality practices.

Development – Provide ADA improvements - parking, restrooms, paved trails, outdoor classroom - as needed to attain program accessibility. Improve facilities to compliment education. All development should meet the approval requirements of the planning process. Additionally, development of mitigated wetlands in Developed Recreation Zone is limited to those that currently exist.

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, MCCC, 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

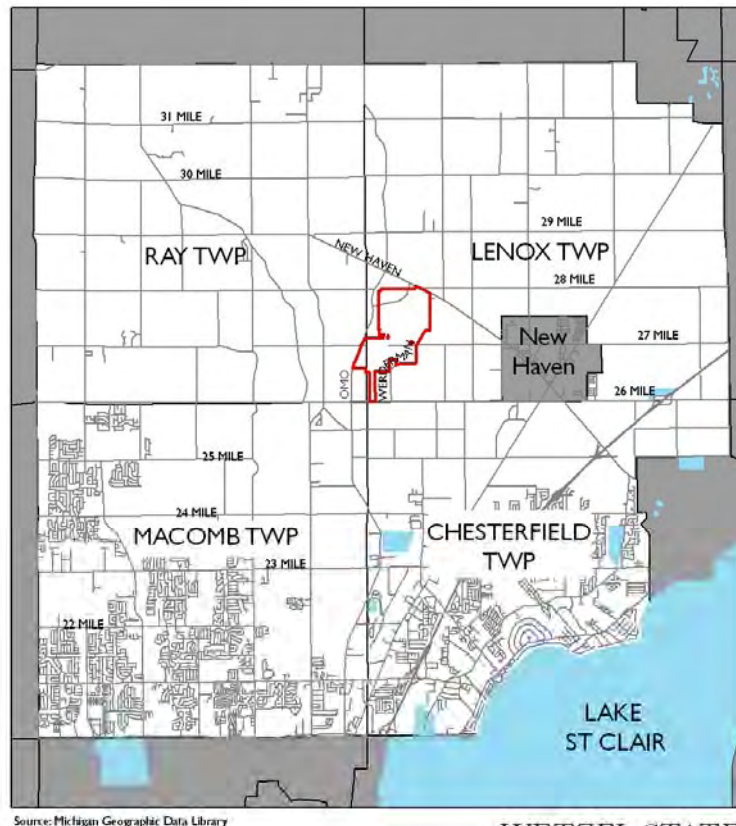
Supporting Analysis



Regional Setting

Wetzel State Recreation Area (Wetzel SRA) consists of approximately 913 acres, and is located in the southwest corner of Lenox Township, Michigan (see Figure A-1, below). Wetzel SRA is in Town 4 North, Range 14 East, and primarily within Section 31 (82°50'21.07" W and 42°44'44.64" N). Lenox Township is situated in northeastern Macomb County on the Gratiot / I-94 Corridor approximately 40 miles northeast of downtown Detroit and 20 miles southwest of Port Huron. New Haven Road and 26 Mile Road provide access to I-94 which connects the Recreation Area to the greater Detroit / Windsor and Port Huron / Sarnia communities.

Wetzel SRA is irregular in shape; the majority of the property lies within Lenox Township, with a small portion overlapping into Ray Township. General road boundaries are 28 Mile Road to the north, 26 Mile Road to the south, Werderman Road to the south and east, and Omo Road to the west. Access to the Recreation Area is available from Werderman Road. Communities neighboring Wetzel SRA include Ray Township to the west, Macomb Township to the southwest, Chesterfield Township to the south, and the Village of New Haven to the east, which is entirely within the south-central portion of Lenox Township.

Figure A-1: Location Map



 Wetzel State Recreation Area Boundary
 Inholding Parcel

WETZEL STATE
RECREATION AREA
LOCATION MAP
LENOX TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN





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General History

This section presents a sequential overview of events that led to the current status of Wetzel State Recreation Area. The overview was compiled based on historic records. The *Land Acquisition* Figure on page A-6 illustrates the initial land area purchased, and sources of subsequent land acquisitions.

- ◆ August 1966: Regional Lands Plan developed by the Detroit Metropolitan Area Regional Planning Commission identified the Northeast Sector of the area (including Macomb County) as area of greatest need for recreational resources. At that time, the existing population demanded 15,000 acres for park land, but only 6,334 acres were in public ownership.
- ◆ January 1967: A joint report issued by County Drain and Planning Departments and Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, titled *Clinton River Recreation Potentials*, was considered the most important report regarding the selection of a state park site. Based on the area targeted by the legislature - between 24 and 28 Mile Roads - the report did not identify any sites that were of State significance for their recreational potential. The area held greater potential for local or regional park development. Issues with the sites included the presence of various utility lines, including Detroit Edison lines, which reduced the desirability of the area for park usage.
- ◆ 1967-68: Recommendations to request funds for the Rochester-Utica Recreation Area, and provide a future focus on the Belle River site in the northeast corner of the County. These sites were planned to be the State's extent of park land in Macomb County, not including the potential Grants-In-Aid available to local governments. At this time, the State owned only 675 acres of parkland within Macomb County.
- ◆ 1968-69: The Department of Conservation appropriated \$250,000 for the acquisition of a new state park site on Coon Creek (North Branch of Clinton River) in Macomb County, between 24 and 28 Mile Roads. A report was written to determine the recreation potential of the entire North Branch of the Clinton River (24 to 31 Mile Roads, including the north and east branches of the Clinton River and Tupper Creek). While this covered an area greater than what was specified in the appropriations bill, the resources available in the whole area made it necessary to expand the base. Reports indicate the northern portions of the study area contain the best areas to preserve, and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority proposed a regional park between 24 and 31 Mile Roads for the north Clinton River using the corridor concept, but these areas are limited in their recreation potential due to the utility corridors in the area and the sale of some land by Macomb County Community College between 28 and 29 Mile Roads. The Macomb County Planning Commission did not give the HCMA approval for the park, and the community college land purchase reduced its feasibility. The area with the greatest potential for recreation corridor development was the Clinton and Belle River valleys.
- ◆ 1968: Recommendations to divert legislative appropriation of \$250,000 to new or existing park sites. Future development and acquisition for the northeastern sector of the metro area was to be used in the Rochester-Utica Recreation Area and the Belle River corridor, as originally proposed by the Parks Division of the MDNR.

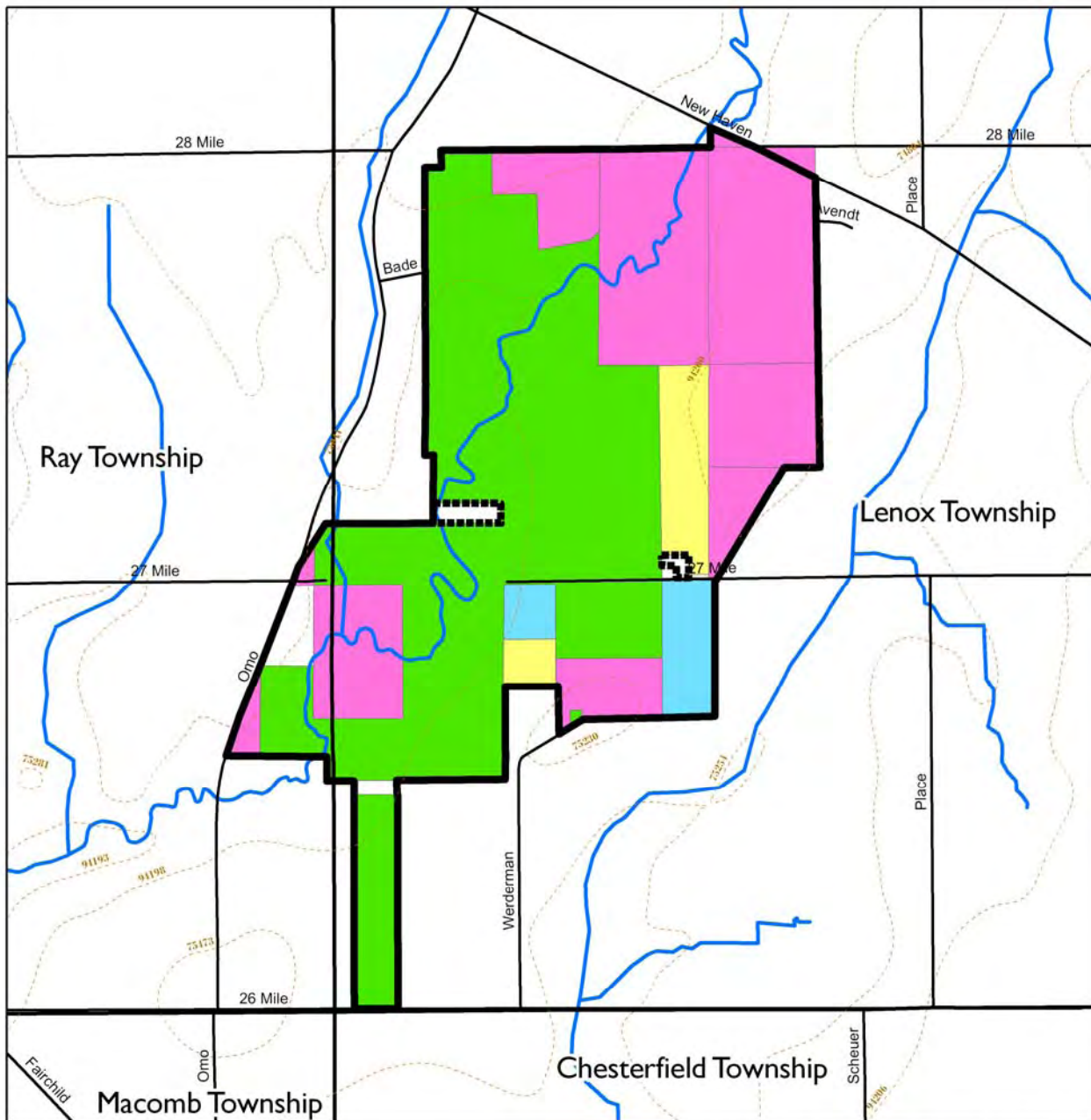
Who was Walter C. Wetzel?

Pfc. Wetzel, an acting squad leader with the Antitank Company of the 13th Infantry, was guarding his platoon's command post in a house at Birken, Germany, during the early morning hours of 3 April 1945, when he detected strong enemy forces moving in to attack. He ran into the house, alerted the occupants and immediately began defending the post against heavy automatic weapons fire coming from the hostile troops. Under cover of darkness the Germans forced their way close to the building where they hurled grenades, 2 of which landed in the room where Pfc. Wetzel and the others had taken up firing positions. Shouting a warning to his fellow soldiers, Pfc. Wetzel threw himself on the grenades and, as they exploded, absorbed their entire blast, suffering wounds from which he died. The supreme gallantry of Pfc. Wetzel saved his comrades from death or serious injury and made it possible for them to continue the defense of the command post and break the power of a dangerous local counter-thrust by the enemy. His unhesitating sacrifice of his life was in keeping with the U.S. Army's highest traditions of bravery and heroism.

(www.medalofhonor.com)




- ◆ November 6, 1968: Memo regarding a new State Park. The recommendation was that the Coon Creek study site most appropriate for future development, if appropriations could be diverted north of the legislative limits. (Site #1, area between 30 and 31 Mile Roads, with request for Parks Division of MDNR to purchase lands outside of "legislative limits". Site #2, 26 to 28 Mile, access from New Haven, Phases II and III were possible future extensions, to be added by other governmental entities). Other memo highlights:
 - Preparation of a Master Plan for the northern sector of the Coon Creek study site (Site #1) and present to the Macomb County Planning Commission for review.
 - Presentation of the final Master Plan to the Conservation Commission for approval.
 - Discussion of available funds for site selected.
 - Discussion over future development and acquisition funds to be used for the Rochester-Utica Recreation Area and the Belle River valleys as originally proposed by Park Division of the MDNR.
- ◆ May 1969: Master Plan for Wetzel State Park was prepared, and proposed facilities included a day camp area, swimming pool, passive games area, picnic area, and field sports area (football, baseball, softball). The Plan had a twenty year timetable. The Master Plan never received NRC approval, but the MDNR intended to prepare a new map in the future. Meanwhile, the park could be used for hunting, hiking and other passive activities.
- ◆ May 1969: Prepared a study to determine which parcels to purchase with the \$250,000 legislative appropriation for a new park between 24 and 28 Mile Roads on the Coon Creek. The proposed park location was between 26 and 28 Mile Roads, and included 913 acres for both passive and active uses. The MDNR plan for the park was to go beyond the traditional approach, by accommodating more "urban" uses in this growing area of Macomb County. The goal was to develop a park that would serve local residents more than providing a regional draw. It was hoped that the planned park would correct the scarcity of park land in the area.
- ◆ May 1969: The NRC approved the project boundary, and the land acquisition program was initiated.
- ◆ October 1969: The site was officially named Walter Cline Wetzel State Park.
- ◆ June 1970: The MDNR considered the development potential of a Macomb County State Park Site, between 30 and 32 Mile Roads, off Romeo Plank. This was one of the highest rated areas for recreation potential, based on a 1967 report.
- ◆ September 1978: MDNR report explored recreational opportunities in the north and east branches of the Clinton River, and Tupper and Coon Creeks. None of these sites were considered to be of State significance. It was estimated the need for park land in Macomb County would be 30,000 acres by 1980, and the Parks Division of the MDNR understood the need for additional park land in this sector of the community.
- ◆ Date Unknown: The Macomb County Planning Commission was concerned with provision of adequate open space in the northern and more rural portion of County as the population expands northward. This was planned to be the State's full involvement in Macomb County, not including the potential Grants-In-Aid to local governments to provide additional state assistance.
- ◆ September 1987: Sale of 102 acres in Armada directed urgency to Wetzel SRA. The acquisition was complete, with approximately 800 to 913 acres. The DNR stated they would begin the master plan in next month or two, after receiving resolution from commissioners. The master plan would need approval by the NRC, after a three year process involving master plan development, presentation to the state legislature and funding appropriations, and designing & obtaining approval of a budget for development. Local officials would also be consulted.
- ◆ May 1988: The Macomb County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution for a time frame and appropriation of state funds to develop Wetzel State Park. The resolution was submitted to the MDNR. If not developed, the Commissioners want the State to give the land to the County.

- ◆ September 1989: Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), established to assist the MDNR with the preparation of the Master Plan for Wetzel, held its first meeting. The boundary of Wetzel was finalized by this time, and included 935 acres, 889 of which was in public ownership. A Master Plan was prepared, but not approved.
- ◆ November 13, 1989 Article: Macomb County was behind on all recreational offerings except golf, per the “Building Michigan’s Recreation Needs” report by the MDNR.
- ◆ January 1990 Article: The CAC made a proposal to develop the 889-acre Wetzel Park [now 913 acres], which had been overlooked for twenty years. Wetzel was the only State Park in Macomb County. The only State Recreation Area in the County is the Rochester-Utica Recreation Area. Despite receiving taxes from the County, Macomb officials believe the MDNR’s commitment to providing parks in Macomb was weak, and the County is not getting its fair share of recreation resources from the state.
- ◆ April 1990 Articles: The Natural Resources Commission denied the master plan, and asked for changes to the document, including the provision of an outdoor gun range. The range was not considered a priority by the CAC. Macomb County officials believed the NRC wanted to delay park development, and that it was more interested in developing facilities outside of the metropolitan Detroit area. The MDNR had little involvement in the nearly twenty-five years that a Macomb County state park had been discussed.
- ◆ 1999: The MDNR and MDEQ created wetlands within Wetzel, which significantly impacted the landscape.
- ◆ February 2003: A conceptual plan was developed for a wetland, nesting habitat, and flying field in Wetzel State Recreation Area.

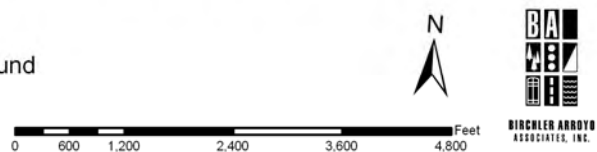


Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Figure A-2: Land Acquisition

-  Wetzel SRA Boundary
-  Inholding Parcel
- Acquisition Sources
 -  Original Purchase (Legislative Appropriation)
 -  Land & Water Conservation Fund
 -  Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
 -  Other: Tax Reverted & Park Improvement Fund

Wetzel State Recreation Area Lenox Township, Michigan



Demographics

Population

The 2005 population for the regional community surrounding Wetzel State Recreation Area is 118,740 people. (SEMCOG RFD December 2003). As shown by Table A-1, the population is projected to increase for individual communities and, with the exception of Wayne County, the region over the next twenty years. Moreover, the expectation is for the region to capture 62% - nearly 60,000 people - of the population increase projected for the whole of Macomb County between 2005 and 2025.

Table A-1: Population Trends for Lenox Township and Surrounding Communities

Community	2005	2015	2005-2015 Percent Change	2025	2015-2025 Percent Change
Surrounding Townships and Villages					
Lenox Twp	5,892	7,015	19%	8,174	17%
Chesterfield Twp	42,496	48,736	15%	57,278	18%
Macomb Twp	63,242	84,588	34%	103,548	22%
New Haven (Village)	3,166	3,415	8%	3,745	10%
Ray Twp	3,944	4,806	22%	5,763	20%
Surrounding Area Subtotal	118,740	148,560	25%	178,508	20%
Macomb County and Surrounding Counties					
Macomb County	810,096	858,335	6%	907,554	6%
Lapeer County	87,904	NA	NA	NA	NA
St. Clair County	170,702	184,427	8%	197,433	7%
Oakland County	1,225,336	1,281,557	5%	1,318,551	3%
Wayne County	2,047,417	2,024,274	-1%	2,009,924	-1%

Source: SEMCOG Regional Development Forecast, December 2003.

Family Size

The average household size in Lenox Township decreased from 3.1 persons in 1990 to 2.76 persons in 2005. The projected trend for the Township, surrounding communities, and Macomb County is for continued household decline. This is consistent with the national pattern. In general, Americans are delaying marriage, resulting in more single-person dwellings, and having fewer children when married. The high incidence of divorce and prevalence of empty-nesters are also contributing factors to the decreasing household size.

Age

Age projections indicate that those 35 to 64 years of age, and those over 65 years of age, will comprise the greatest percent increases of the regional population. This is consistent with the national aging trend led by the Baby Boomer generation. Table A-2 presents an overview of age group projections over the next ten years for the region and Macomb County.

Table A-2: Age Trends for the Region and Macomb County, 2005 and 2015

Age Group	Region*			Macomb County		
	2005	2015	% Change	2005	2015	% Change
< 5 Years	9,611	11,119	16%	51,246	53,969	5%
5-17 Years	23,790	27,135	14%	136,993	133,184	-3%
18-34 Years	27,033	33,233	23%	177,439	185,057	4%
35-64 Years	49,581	61,653	24%	331,302	338,761	2%
66+ Years	8,725	15,420	77%	113,116	147,364	30%
Total	118,740	148,560	25%	810,096	858,335	6%

* Region: Chesterfield, Lenox, Macomb and Ray Townships and Village of New Haven

Source: SEMCOG Regional Development Forecast, December 2003.

Employment

Approximately 20,000 jobs are provided within the region as of 2005 (SEMCOG Regional Development Forecast, December 2003). As shown by Table A-3, For communities around Wetzel SRA, manufacturing was the leading industry in 2005. While this sector is projected to decrease in the next 10 years within Macomb County, it is expected to increase regionally. Services and Retail Trade are also prominent job sectors, both expecting to increase by 2015. Services, Manufacturing and Retail jobs are also prevalent in Macomb County. The job sectors with the greatest percent increases in the region are Retail, Services and Wholesale Trade.

Table A-3: Employment Trends for Lenox Township and Macomb County, 2005—2015

Employment Sector	Region*			Macomb County		
	2005	2015	% Change	2005	2015	% Change
Ag, Min, Nat Res	503	570	13.3%	3,923	4,470	13.9%
Manufacturing	7,366	8,021	8.9%	105,787	105,518	-0.3%
TCU	830	1,017	22.5%	12,230	12,841	5.0%
Wholesale Trade	928	1,230	32.5%	18,725	20,223	8.0%
Retail Trade	2,863	4,374	52.8%	69,592	72,654	4.4%
FIRE	596	717	20.3%	22,755	24,037	5.6%
Services	5,541	7,896	42.5%	149,338	165,974	11.1%
Public Administration	874	1,027	17.5%	11,967	12,300	2.8%
Total	19,501	24,852	27.4%	394,317	418,017	6.0%

* Region: Chesterfield, Lenox, Macomb and Ray Townships and Village of New Haven

** Ag, Min, Nat Res: Agriculture, Mining and Natural Resource industries; TCU: Transportation, Communication and Utilities; FIRE: Finance, Insurance and Real Estate

Source: US Census and SEMCOG Regional Development Forecast, December 2003.

Racial Composition

The majority of the population surrounding Wetzel SRA is White (Table A-4). In Lenox Township, of the 19 percent that are members of minority groups, 15 percent are Black, two percent belong to more than one racial group, and one percent are American Indian or another race. In terms of ethnicity, two percent of Lenox Township residents identified themselves as being of Hispanic background. The population of Macomb County and surrounding counties is also primarily White. In 1990, the racial composition of Macomb County was 93% White; the trend from 1990 to 2000 indicates increasing minority populations in the region - particularly Black and Asian racial groups - and a decrease in the White racial group.

Table A-4: 2000 Racial Composition for Surrounding Local Governments and Counties

Race	Chesterfield Township	Lenox Township	Macomb Township	Ray Township	New Haven Village	Macomb County	Lapeer County	Oakland County	St. Clair County	Wayne County
White	34,948 (93%)	4,363 (81%)	48,518 (96%)	3,657 (98%)	2307 (74%)	730,270 (93%)	84,779 (96%)	998,697 (83%)	155,861 (95%)	1,064,497 (52%)
Black	1,110 (3%)	813 (15%)	426 (1%)	6 (0%)	593 (19%)	21,326 (3%)	654 (1%)	119,393 (10%)	3,665 (2%)	886,622 (42%)
American Indian	149 (0%)	40 (1%)	95 (0%)	11 (0%)	37 (1%)	2,478 (0%)	444 (1%)	3,114 (0%)	886 (1%)	8,231 (0%)
Asian	284 (1%)	19 (0%)	713 (1%)	14 (0%)	26 (1%)	16,843 (2%)	180 (0%)	48,378 (4%)	424 (0%)	35,273 (2%)
Pacific Islander	6 (0%)	1 (0%)	4 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	178 (0%)	2 (0%)	288 (0%)	43 (0%)	495 (0%)
Other Race	324 (1%)	27 (1%)	157 (0%)	17 (0%)	37 (1%)	3,106 (0%)	781 (1%)	10,480 (1%)	1,151 (1%)	32,873 (2%)
Multi-Racial	584 (2%)	99 (2%)	565 (1%)	35 (1%)	137 (4%)	13,948 (2%)	1064 (1%)	23,806 (2%)	2,205 (1%)	53,171 (3%)
Total Population	37,405	5,362	50,478	3,740	3,137	788,149	87,904	1,194,156	164,235	2,061,162
Hispanic Origin	941 (3%)	122 (2%)	735 (1%)	44 (1%)	130 (4%)	12,510 (2%)	2,538 (3%)	29,327 (2%)	3,643 (2%)	77,501 (4%)
Not of Hispanic Origin	36,464 (97%)	5,240 (98%)	49,743 (99%)	3,696 (99%)	3,007 (96%)	775,639 (98%)	85,366 (97%)	1,164,829 (98%)	160,592 (98%)	1,983,661 (96%)

Source: 2000 US Census

Land Use

Components that describe land use in the region are reviewed in this Section: existing land use, zoning districts applied to the land, and future land use designations. Data was collected from the Lenox Township Master Plan, and through direct contact with Ray, Chesterfield and Macomb Township planners. The existing land use, zoning and future land use classifications for the Recreation Area and surrounding properties are summarized on Table A-5 and presented on Figures 3, 4 and 5, located at the end of this section.

Table A-5: Land Use for Wetzel State Recreation Area and Surrounding Properties

	Existing Land Use	Zoning District	Future Land Use
Wetzel State Recreation Area	Recreation	Recreation	Recreation, Open Space along Coon Creek
North	Vacant, Agriculture, Single Family Residential and Industrial	AG Agricultural and FP Flood Plain	Rural Preservation and Open Space
East	Vacant, Agriculture, Single Family Residential	AG Agricultural, FP Flood Plain and RL Residential Low Density - One Family	Rural Preservation, Open Space and Commercial
South	Vacant, Single Family Residential and Commercial (1,500 sf convenience store)	R-1 and R1-S Residential, AG Agriculture and Commercial	Single Family Residential and Commercial
West	Vacant, Agriculture, Single Family Residential, Commercial and Industrial	R-1 Residential	Single Family Residential and Commercial

Sources: Lenox Township Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance, and communication with Chesterfield, Macomb and Ray Townships.

Existing Land Use

Wetzel State Recreation Area is located in a primarily rural area. The existing land uses in Lenox Township and surrounding communities consists of agriculture, single family residential and vacant property. There are small pockets of commercial nearby, such as the intersection of North Avenue and 26 Mile Road in Ray Township. In general, the single family residential is a growing land use in the region, which is responsible in part for the trend of decreasing agriculture lands. Existing Land Use Categories shown on the *Existing Land Use* Figure, page A-12, are generally defined as:

Agricultural: Classification applied to land used for crops and permanent pasture land. In addition to these, however, this group also included such agricultural activities as boarding stables, tree and shrub nurseries, and similar types of specialized agricultural activities.

Vacant: Category includes all remaining land that is presently unused, idle, or agricultural land lying fallow.

Single Family: Category includes areas containing single-family dwelling units and accessory structures.

Commercial and Office Uses: Land areas where retail sales and service businesses are found, as well as medical, professional, and general business offices.

Industrial: This category includes uses with or without buildings where materials are processed, fabricated, assembled, or manufactured, or where equipment, materials, or wastes are stored out-of-doors.

Extractive: Land areas where sand, gravel, topsoil, and similar soil materials are removed for sale.

Public: Land area and facilities such as public schools, and government buildings including fire stations, are classified as public.

Recreation: Category includes public and private golf courses, sportsmen's clubs, parks, campgrounds, and commercial recreation uses such as driving ranges.

Zoning

Land surrounding Wetzel State Recreation Area is zoned residential and agricultural. Although lot sizes of the districts vary between townships, generally the area supports low density, single family homes. Higher intensity uses are found near the border of the Village of New Haven. Zoning districts shown on the *Zoning* Figure, page A-13, are generally described according to the Lenox Township Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Flood Plain: Established to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the inhabitants of the Township, and environs by promoting development that will not reduce the river valley's reservoir capacity nor impede, retard, accelerate or change the direction of water flow or the carrying capacity of the river valley or to otherwise increase - the possibility of flood.

Recreation: Designed to encourage full utilization of the Township's recreational potential while protecting the character of these lands and preserving them for future generations of Township residents.

Agricultural District: Includes those open areas where farming, dairying, forestry operations, and other rural activities are found. Vacant land, fallow land, and wooded areas are also included where such areas are interspersed among farms.

Residential Low Density: Single family districts established to provide principally for one family dwellings. Businesses, commercial or industrial or other uses of the land which would substantially interfere with development or continuation of single-family dwellings in the district tend to be prohibited. Developments whose character and size create requirements and costs for public services such as fire and police protection, water supply, and sewerage, substantially in excess of such requirements and costs are generally discouraged.

Commercial: Districts established to meet the need for day-to-day convenient shopping and services by persons residing in adjacent residential areas.

Industrial (Heavy and Light): Districts established to primarily accommodate activities that are incompatible with residential uses. Light industrial tends to include wholesale activities, warehouses, and industrial operations whose external, physical effects are restricted are some typical uses allowed in Industrial districts. Heavy industrial usually allows for manufacturing, assembling, and fabrication activities including large scale or specialized industrial operations, whose external physical effects will be felt to some degree by surrounding districts.

Future Land Use

The long range plans of Lenox Township and surrounding communities indicate that the land uses in the area are not expected to deviate from the current land use pattern. Commercial areas are planned around certain intersections: Werdeman and 26 Mile Road, North Avenue and 26 Mile Road. A light industrial use is planned at the northwest corner of North Avenue and 27 Mile Road, which is located within a mile of the Recreation Area. Land use descriptions of Lenox Township future land use designations shown on the *Future Land Use* Figure, page A-14, are:

Open Space: Category planned to establish the special character of the area along the Salt River from the Village limits to 29 Mile Road. Existing natural features included in this category effectively screen the landfill from Gratiot Avenue and should be maintained in order to preserve the Township's rural character. The valuable natural stream corridors and flood plain areas along the Township's western edge are also included in this land use designation. The open space category provides for the establishment of an appropriate buffer between adjoining, incompatible uses. As shown in the illustration at right, landscape berms and plant materials can be used to provide for essential visual screening of incompatible uses.

Rural Preservation: This category is intended to accommodate primarily agricultural land uses, farm dwellings, and non-farm dwellings that are in keeping with the rural and agricultural character. Residential development at densities of no more than 0.2-0.5 units per acre is anticipated in areas planned for Rural Preservation. A large portion of the Township, 13,497 acres (54%), is planned for Rural Preservation. Maintaining the rural views from the roadside, often referred to as the "viewshed," is also extremely important in these areas, in order to preserve the Township's rural character even as low-intensity development occurs.

Recreation: Includes active recreation uses and land designated for recreation purposes such as the Wetzel State Recreation Area and Oakridge Golf Course. Currently, 1,388 acres are planned for recreation. Additional recreation area could be located adjacent to the landfill as a buffer for nearby planned residential uses, via a Transfer of Development Rights program.

Local Business: Provides convenient business locations to serve outlying residential areas. Uses such as drug stores, florists, beauty salons, and modest-sized grocery stores are included in this category. Areas are planned to provide nodes of development at key intersections while discouraging strip commercial development along roadways throughout the Township. Total area planned for this use is 233 acres at seven key locations in the Township.

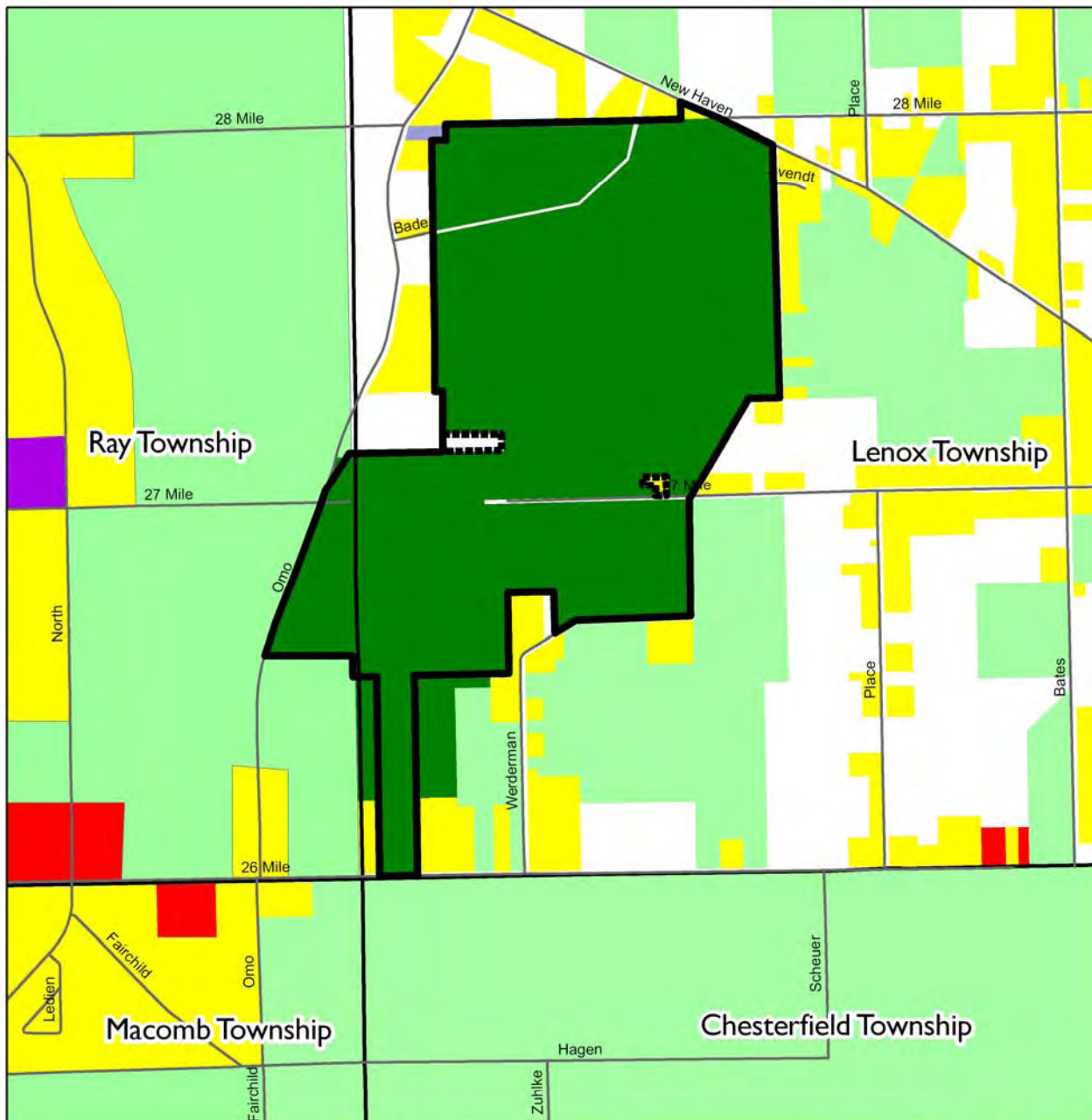
Light Industrial: Provides sites for typical light manufacturing, assembly, prototype development, and similar uses in the setting of a modern, Class A industrial park. This category is intended to provide Lenox Township with employment for its residents, a balanced tax base, and a first ring transition around the Pine Tree Acres landfill. This category includes 488 acres.

Adjacent Communities: Ray, Macomb and Chesterfield land uses are similar to Lenox Township. The Commercial districts of Macomb and Ray Townships are similar to the Local Business district of Lenox Township. One major difference is with Macomb Township's Residential land use designation, which allows for a density of three units per acre. This density is greater than the other community's residential areas which is closer to one unit per acre or less.

Local governments often include trailway routes in their Master Plans. Of the communities surrounding Wetzel State Recreation Area, only Lenox Township has a proposed trailways plan. Ray, Macomb and Chesterfield Townships do not have planned trail systems. Macomb Township does require all new developments in Section 1, along 26 Mile, Omo and Fairchild Roads, to include a paved sidewalk, eight-feet in width.

Utilities

Water and sewer services are not currently available at the Recreation Area, and the Recreation Area is outside of the Township's water and sewer service districts. All of the wells located within Wetzel have been capped, with the exception of one wellhead near the flying field. This well provides water, but it is not potable.



Sources: Michigan Geographic Data Library; Chesterfield Township; Lenox Township; Macomb Township; and Ray Township.

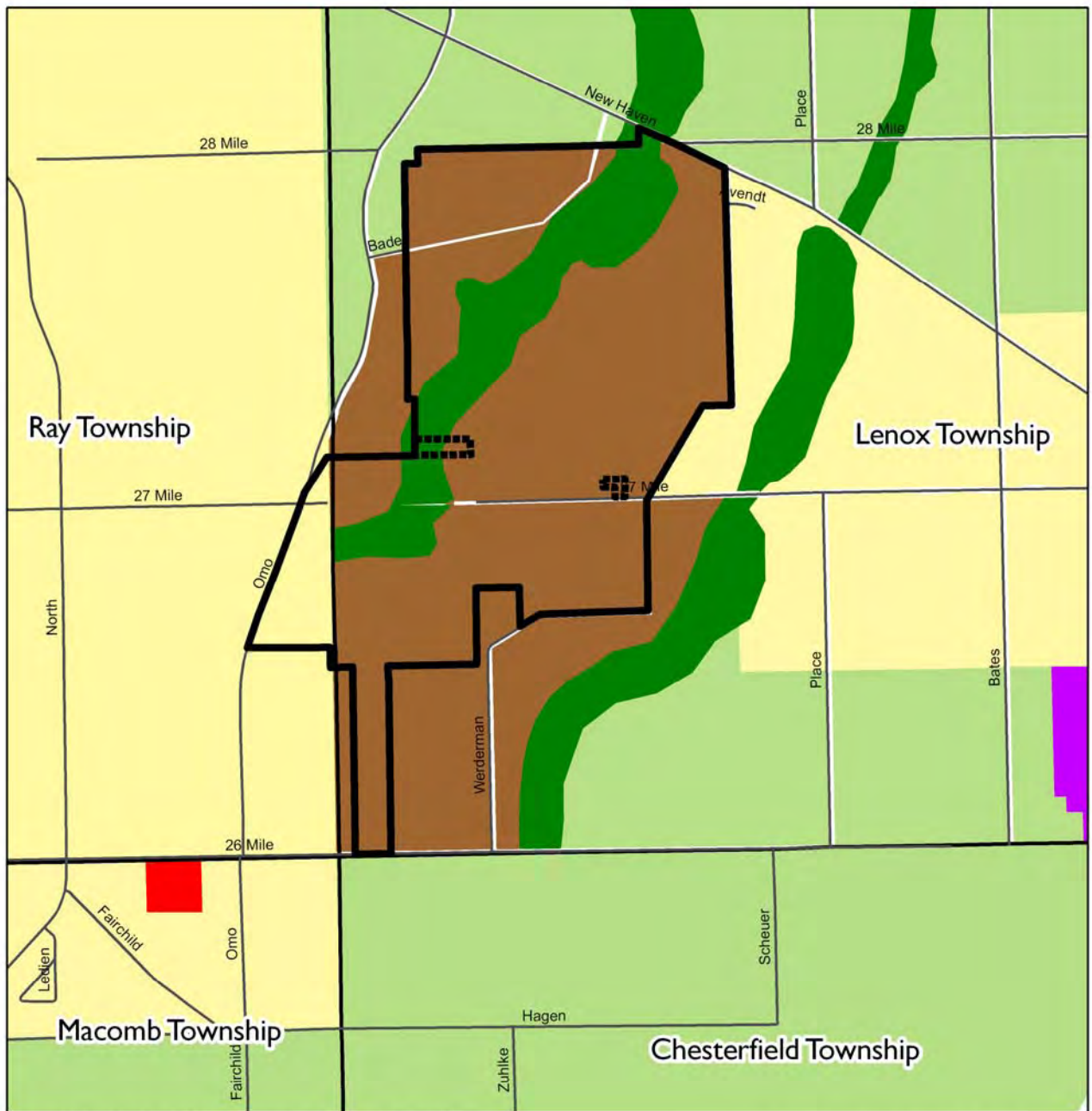
Figure A-3: Existing Land Use

Wetzel State Recreation Area Lenox Township, Michigan



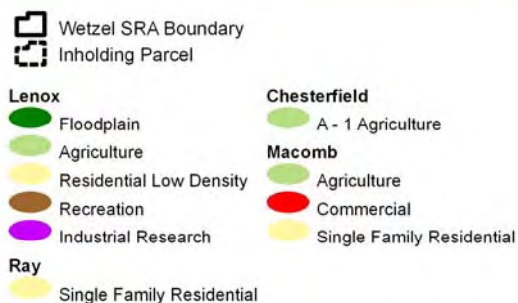
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ASSOCIATES, INC.

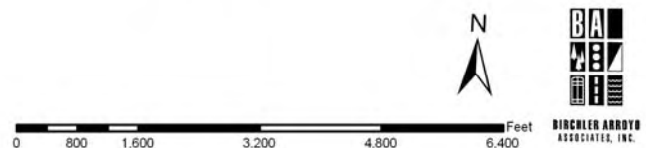


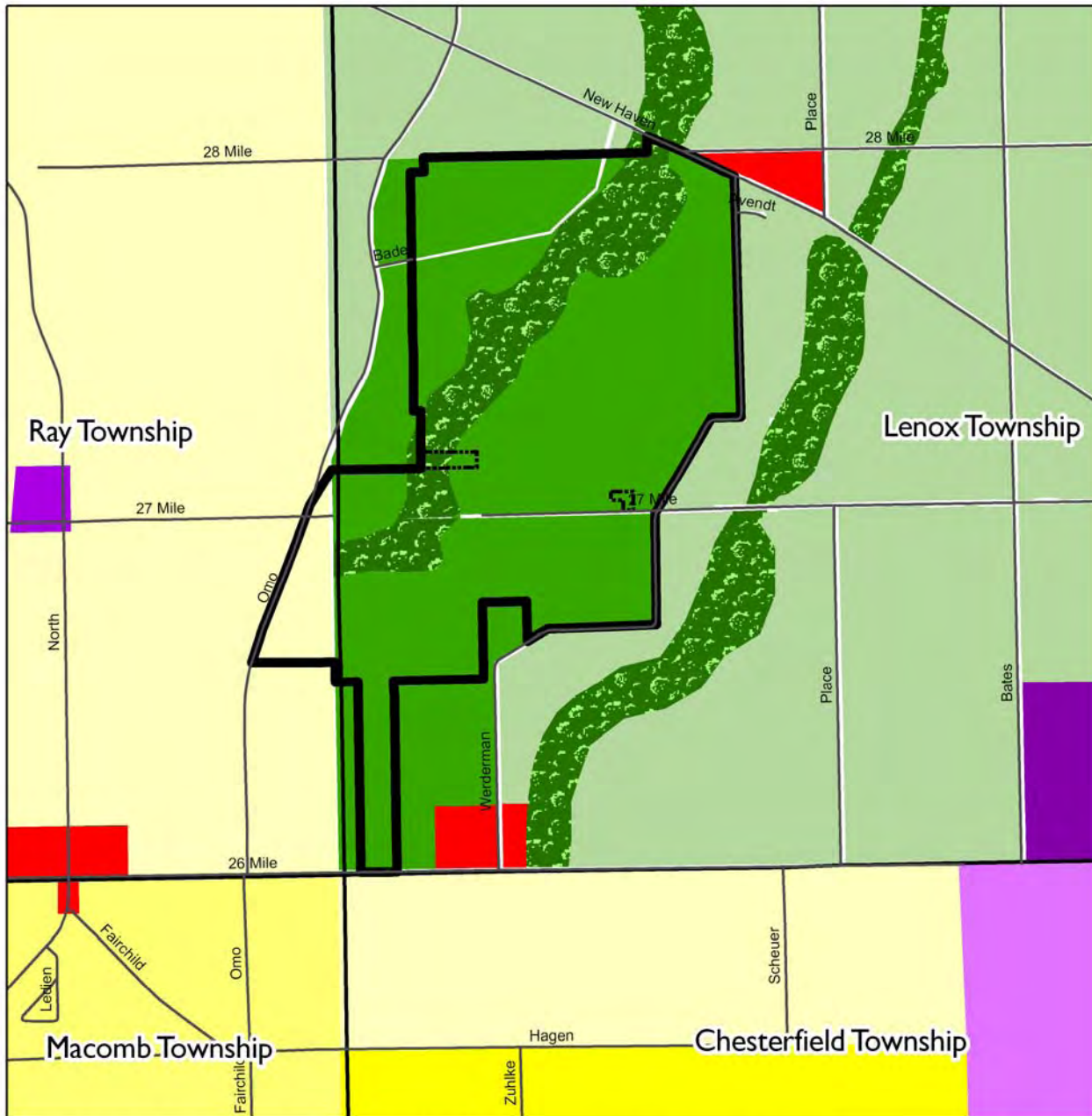
Sources: Michigan Geographic Data Library and Lenox Township Master Plan.

Figure A-4: Zoning



Wetzel State Recreation Area Lenox Township, Michigan



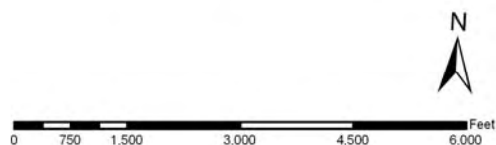


Sources: Michigan Geographic Data Library; Chesterfield Township; Lenox Township; Macomb Township; and Ray Township.

Figure A-5: Future Land Use

Wetzel State Recreation Area Lenox Township, Michigan

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Wetzel SRA Boundary | Inholding Parcel |
| Lenox | Chesterfield |
| OPEN SPACE | Rural Estates |
| RURAL PRESERVATION | Low Density Residential |
| RECREATION | Light Industrial |
| LOCAL BUSINESS | Ray |
| LIGHT INDUSTRIAL | Open Space Residential |
| Macomb | Commercial |
| Residential (3 DU/A) | Industrial |
| Commercial | |



Natural Features Assessment

Understanding the physical conditions of Wetzel State Recreation Area (Wetzel SRA) is critical to allocation of the most appropriate management zones. Zones must be selected to ensure that activities are compatible with the capacity of the land, and that sensitive areas are preserved and protected. Information provided in this section has a variety of sources. The Ecoregional Context is taken directly from *Regional Landscape Ecosystems of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin (Fourth Revision: July 1994): A Working Map and Classification* by Dennis A. Albert, United States Department of Agriculture General Technical Report NC-178. Physical descriptions following the Ecoregional Context were collected from data provided in the Lenox Township Master Plan as well as data provided by the DNR during the project.

Ecoregional Context

The State of Michigan is divided into many Ecoregions. Wetzel State Recreation Area is located within the Regional Ecosystem Landscape Sub-subsection VI.1.1: Maumee Lake Plain. The figure to the right illustrates the Ecoregions for southeast Michigan. The *Ecoregional Context* Figure on page A-20 provides an overview of the Ecoregions for the lower Michigan peninsula. The following information relates to the Maumee Lake Plain Sub-subsection.

The Maumee Lake Plain comprises approximately 2,309 square miles of southeast Michigan. It is generally a flat, clay lake plain dissected by broad glacial drainageways of sandy soil. The lake-moderated climate and productive loamy soils made for ideal, and intensive, agricultural use.

Climate: Climate is somewhat moderated by Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie. The growing season is generally long, ranging from 150 to 180 days; the growing season is longer near the shorelines of the Great Lakes and shorter inland (Eichenlaub *et al.* 1990). Extreme minimum temperature range from -18° F to -26° F, with lowest temperatures along the inland edge of the sub-subsection. Snowfall is relatively light, ranging from 30 inches in the south to 50 inches in the north. Average annual precipitation ranges from 30 to 32 inches.



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Climatic Data Center is another source for climate information. The monitoring station nearest to Wetzel State Recreation Area is the Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Mount Clemens. Data collected from 1971 to 2000 indicates the following:

- ◆ Mean daily temperature during winter months (December, January, February): 26.7° F.
- ◆ Mean daily temperature during spring months (March, April, May): 46.1° F.
- ◆ Mean daily temperature during summer months (June, July, August): 69.6° F.
- ◆ Mean daily temperature during autumn months (September, October, November): 51.3° F.
- ◆ Mean annual precipitation: 32.24 inches.
- ◆ Mean annual snow fall: 37.1 inches.

Bedrock Geology: Along Lake Erie, lacustrine deposits are more than 100 feet thick along the inland edge of the lake plain,

but less than 5 feet thick near the shoreline. The surface lacustrine deposits are underlain by Mississippian, Devonian, and Silurian marine and nearshore bedrock, including sandstone, shale, coal, limestone, dolomite, gypsum, and other evaporites (Dorr and Eschman 1984, Milstein 1987). Bedrock is only locally exposed in stream banks and near the shorelines of Lake Erie. The oldest Silurian bedrock is near the surface in the south. Commercial deposits of rock salt and saline wells occur in the Silurian Salina Formation near Detroit (see *Quaternary Geology* Figure, page A-21).

Landforms: The southern two-thirds of the sub-subsection is clay lake plain, with several broad channels of lacustrine sand. The northern third is primarily lake plain, with clay soils; but it includes several 1- to 3-mile-wide end moraines (Farrand 1982). These moraines have been reworked by water. Beach ridges and small sand dunes are common on the sand channels. The clay plain is generally broad and flat.

General Soils: Wet loamy and clayey soils are prevalent. Soil permeability is generally low, and these soils require drainage for agricultural use. Soils are calcareous at shallow depth. Soils in the sand channels are poorly or very poorly drained in depressions and excessively drained on dunes. Sandy soils in lower slope positions are often calcareous, while those on dune ridges are acidic. Sand soils are prone to wind erosion when cultivated. Soils are classified as Alfisols (Ochraqualfs and Haplualfs) and include Haplaquolls, Udipsamments, and Haplaquepts (USDA Soil Conservation Service 1967).

The USDA Soil Conservation Service indicates the Wetzel SRA includes two soil associations (see *Soil Associations* Figure, page A-22). The western portion of the park is comprised of the Hoytville-Sims-Nappanee-Blount association, which is characterized by level to gently sloping, poorly drained soils with a fine to medium texture and a high water table. These soils are good for topsoil use because of the high water table, however, they have limitations for building and construction because of high volume change, compressibility and low shear strength. The Conover-Parkhill-Locke association infiltrates the eastern portion of the Recreation Area. This association is made up of level to gently- sloping poorly-drained soils with fine and medium-textured subsoil. These soils are characterized by excessive wetness and slow runoff, which causes severe limitations for residential development and street construction.

Soil Suitability for Vegetation and Wildlife: The *Soil Suitability for Vegetation and Wildlife* Figure on page A-23 depicts various areas of Wetzel SRA that have soils suitable for vegetation that supports different groups of wildlife. The Macomb County Soil Survey divides vegetation into three categories for this purpose:

- ◆ *Openland* is cropland, pasture, meadow, and areas overgrown with grasses and shrubs. Some examples of openland wildlife are rabbits, woodchucks, hawks, sparrows, quail, pheasants, and red foxes. Soils considered very suitable for openland wildlife are distributed throughout the center of the Township.
- ◆ *Wetlands* include ponds, marshes, and swamps. Some animals that may be found in and around these areas are muskrats, ducks, geese, herons, and kingfishers. Soils suitable for wetland wildlife are located more toward the edges of the Township.
- ◆ *Woodlands* wildlife includes squirrels, raccoons, grouses, woodpeckers, deer, gray foxes, owls, warblers, and nuthatches. Small areas of soils suitable for woodland wildlife are scattered throughout the Township.

The presence of soils suitable for a particular type of wildlife means only that the soil conditions are favorable for that group of species. Many other factors combine to influence the presence or absence of wildlife in any area, such as development, weather, drainage, and pollution. The wetland mitigation projects at Wetzel SRA have artificially changed some areas of the site from Openland to Wetlands.

Lakes and Streams: No natural lakes in the sub-subsection. Major rivers include the Huron, Rouge, Raisin, Clinton, Detroit, and St. Clair. The St. Clair River flows from Lake Huron to Lake St. Clair, and the Detroit River connects Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie. The north branch of Coon Creek traverses the Recreation Area (see *Lakes, Streams, Wetlands & Grasses* Figure, page A-24).

Presettlement Vegetation: The presettlement vegetation of the clay lake plain differed greatly from that of the sand lake

plain. Most of the clay lake plain supported forest, either upland or wetland. In contrast, the sand lake plain supported oak barrens (savanna) on the uplands and wet prairies or marshes in the lowlands (Comer *et al.* 1993a).

The forests of the clay lake plain responded to differences in slope class and drainage. On flatter portions (10 feet per mile slope or less) of the lake plain or in shallow basins or depressions, lowland hardwoods were prevalent. In closed depressions, black ash was the common dominant. Where the topography was flat or gradually sloping, black ash was still the dominant species, but American elm and basswood were also common co-dominants. As slope increased slightly and drainage conditions improved, beech, white oak, white ash, and hickory became more common, but were generally less common than black ash and elm. Cottonwood, sycamore, trembling aspen, and [red or silver] maple were other common wetland species of the clay lake plain. Where drainage conditions were improved by streams, there were mesic forests dominated by beech, sugar maple, white oak, [American] elm, and hickory.

The beach ridges and low dunes of the sand lake plain supported open "barrens" or savannas of white and black oak. Small areas of dry prairie also occurred on the ridges, but were much less prevalent than savannas. Depressions and flat portions of the sand lake plain were often poorly drained, supporting wet prairies. Within the wet prairies were small beach ridges that supported scattered white oak, black oak, red oak, ash, and popple [cottonwood]. Elm was common on the moist edges of the prairie and within the swamps. Pin oak, now a common species within the swamps of the sand lake plain, was seldom referenced in the Bureau of Land Management General Land Office (GLO) survey notes; pin oak may have been much less prevalent before drainage of the wet prairies and fire exclusion.

Extensive marshes occurred along the entire coast of Lakes Erie and St. Clair. The marshes, which extended into water 4 to 5 feet deep, were 1 to 2 miles wide in places and extended for miles up major rivers such as the Huron. Upland of the marshes, there was typically a broad zone of swamp forest; but locally along Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie, 1- to 3-mile-wide expanses of wet prairie occurred.

Natural Disturbance: There were few references in GLO notes to natural disturbances on this part of the lake plain. The only area of extensive windthrown trees was at the extreme north edge of the sub-subsection in parts of St. Clair and Macomb Counties (Comer *et al.* 1993a). The windthrows were most extensive on the flat, clay lake plain, which supported swamp forest.

Water level fluctuation of the Great Lakes, important for maintaining swamp forest, wet prairie, and marsh vegetation, was not well documented in the GLO notes of this sub-subsection, but was well documented further north along Saginaw Bay of Lake Huron (Sub-subsection VI.5.1 and Subsection VI.6).

Present Vegetation and Land Use: There is a long history of land use by humans, beginning with Native Americans, who farmed the flood plains of the Huron River. They may also have been responsible for fires that maintained the open conditions of the oak barrens and drier portions of the prairies.

The clay soils of the sub-subsection were among the first areas in the State farmed by European settlers. Most clay lands have been ditched and tilled and are among the most valued agricultural lands in the State. Portions of the sand plain were also ditched for agriculture, but the wettest areas remain, either as swamp forest, wet prairie, or marsh. Diking and pumping have allowed vast expanses of wet prairie and some areas of marsh to be farmed. The only remaining tracts of forest are small, usually only 40 to 80 acres.

Managed Public Lands

- ◆ State Game & Wildlife Areas: Brownstown Prairie State Wildlife Area (mini); Chesterfield Township State Game Area (mini); Erie State Game Area; Petersburg State Game Area; Pointe Aux Peaux State Wildlife Area (mini); Pointe Mouillee State Game Area; Port Huron State Game Area; Salt River Marsh State Wildlife Area (mini); St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area; St. Clair Township State Game Area (mini); and St. Johns Marsh State Wildlife Area.
- ◆ State Parks: Algonac; Sterling; Tri-Centennial State Park and Harbor (St. Aubin Marina); and Dodge #4 State Park (Cass Lake).

- ◆ State Environmental Areas: Stony Island; Grassy Island; Pointe Mouillee; and Maumee Bay.
- ◆ State Recreation Areas: Bald Mountain; Highland; Metamora; Lakeport; Pontiac Lake; and Proud Lake.
- ◆ Metroparks: Delhi; Indian Springs; Oakwoods; Lower Huron; Lake Erie; Stony Creek; Metro Beach; Wolcott Mill; and Willow.

Conservation Concerns: Management and restoration of lakeplain prairies and oak openings are a high priority and have been initiated in both State parks and State game areas. The entire native clam fauna, especially the large unionids, is being threatened by the zebra mussel invasion in the Detroit River.

Natural Areas: There are several natural areas, gardens and preserves in the vicinity of Wetzel State Recreation Area:

- ◆ State Natural Areas: Dickinson Island and Algonac State Park (proposed)
- ◆ The Nature Conservancy Preserves: Grass Bay Preserve, Ives Road Fen Preserve, Erie Marsh Preserve and Nan Weston Nature Preserve at Sharon Hallow
- ◆ Michigan Nature Association Preserves:
 - Wilcox Warnes Memorial Nature Sanctuary, Macomb County, 44.8 acres, open to public.
 - Alice W. Moore Woods Nature Sanctuary, St. Clair County, 66.2 acres, open to public.
 - Alton T. McGraw Memorial Plant Preserve, St. Clair County, 4.2 acres, open to public.
 - Big Hand Road Plant Preserve, St. Clair County, 5.4 acres, open to public.
 - Elmore P. and Irene Jasper Woods Nature Sanctuary, St. Clair County, 48.6 acres, open to public.
 - James and Alice Brennan Memorial Nature Sanctuary, St. Clair County, 118 acres, open to public.
 - Mary Stallin Ray Memorial, St. Clair County, 8 acres, not open to public.
 - Orchid Haven, St. Clair County, 0.6 acres, not open to public.
 - Red Wing Acres Nature Sanctuary, St. Clair County, 40 acres, open to public.
 - Sharon Rose Leonette, St. Clair County, acreage unknown, open to public.
 - St. Clair Lakeplain Forest Nature Sanctuary, St. Clair County, 69 acres, open to public.
 - Stephen M. Polovich Memorial Plant Preserve, St. Clair County, 17.5 acres, open to public.
 - Trillium Trail Nature Sanctuary, St. Clair County, 20 acres, open to public.

Topography

Within Wetzel SRA, the highest ground is in the northeast portion (640 to 635 feet above sea level [fsl]), with a gentle slope to the south and southwest (625 to 630 fsl). Lenox Township's topography varies approximately 115 feet from the highest point (725 fsl) to the lowest (610 fsl). The topography slopes gently to the southeast, with the highest point occurring in the northeast corner of the Township. The lowest elevations occur along the edges of the many creeks, rivers and drains (see *Topography* Figure, page A-25).

Watersheds and Drainage

A watershed is defined as the land area that contributes stormwater drainage to a specific waterway. Major watersheds are made up of many smaller subwatersheds that contribute and drain into the main watershed. Wetzel SRA is located within the Clinton River Watershed. The Recreation Area is drained by the North Branch of the Clinton River (Deer Creek) and Coon Creek (see *Watersheds & Subwatersheds* Figure, page A-26).

Flood Hazard Areas

To implement the National Flood Insurance Program, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) identifies floodplain areas and established flood-risk zones within those areas. Areas within the 100-year floodplain have a one percent chance of being flooded within any given year. These low-lying areas are adjacent to watercourses and are therefore susceptible to flooding. An examination of the information available from the Michigan Geographic Library indicates flood hazard areas along Coon Creek (see *Flood Hazards Areas* Figure, page A-27).

Wetlands & Grasses

The mosaic of wetlands and grasses created at the Wetzel State Recreation Area provide a diversity of habitats that are essential for many species of wildlife. Wildlife managers have found that wildlife plans that incorporate warm and cool season grasses provide excellent wildlife habitat. The locations of wetlands and grasses are provided on *Lakes, Streams Wetlands & Grasses* Figure, page A-24.

Grasslands are areas often referred to as prairies or meadows consisting primarily of grasses with associated wildflowers. Presently, Michigan has only small remnant prairies scattered across the state. At the time of Michigan's settlement, there were approximately 2.35 million acres of grasslands. Historically ranging from several to thousands of acres, grasslands have drastically declined because they have been converted to agricultural fields or lost because of fire suppression.

Cool season grasses develop most rapidly during spring and early summer when cool nights follow warm days. They begin to grow again in late summer and early fall when these same conditions apply. Growing best in temperatures of 55 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit, cool season grasses go dormant when temperatures reach 90 to 95. These grasses include timothy, orchard grass, and brome grass--all introduced species--and native Canada wild-rye, redtop, and june grass, which is also called blue grass. Legumes such as alfalfa and the clovers--ladino, sweet, white, red, and others--are often included in plantings of cool season grasses.

Warm-season grasses are "bunch grasses" (grow in clumps) that develop most rapidly during summer when warm nights follow hot days. They include the native prairie species such as big bluestem, little bluestem, Indian grass, and switch grass. To increase diversity and provide additional food and cover, many warm-season grasses are mixed with native wildflowers such as bergamot, lead-plant, coreopsis, aster, blazing-star, black-eyed susan, and other coneflowers.

Woodlands

The historical development patterns of the region have not been favorable to the preservation of woodlands (see *Woodlands* Figure, page A-28). Most of the original forest was logged to provide for more agricultural land. Within the Recreation Area are stands of trees, mainly along Coon Creek. Wooded areas provide a great deal of natural beauty to the Area. In addition, they provide valuable wildlife habitat, serve as windbreaks, provide visual and audio screening, replenish oxygen, and aid in the absorption of rainwater and aquifer recharge.

State-Protected Wildlife and Vegetation

There are no known Threatened or Endangered Species located in Wetzel SRA or in the surrounding vicinity. Three Species of Special Concern, the Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*), Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), and Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*), have been observed in the mitigated wetlands. Additionally, other special, threatened or endangered species may make Wetzel their habitat in the future, as evidenced by a frog population that was previously cited at Wetzel. Species of "Special Concern" are not protected under state law, but they have been identified as rare or their status is uncertain. Most species classified as "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 in the future. Protection of "Special Concern" species now, before they reach dangerously low population levels, may prevent the need to list them in the future by maintaining adequate numbers of self-sustaining populations within Michigan.



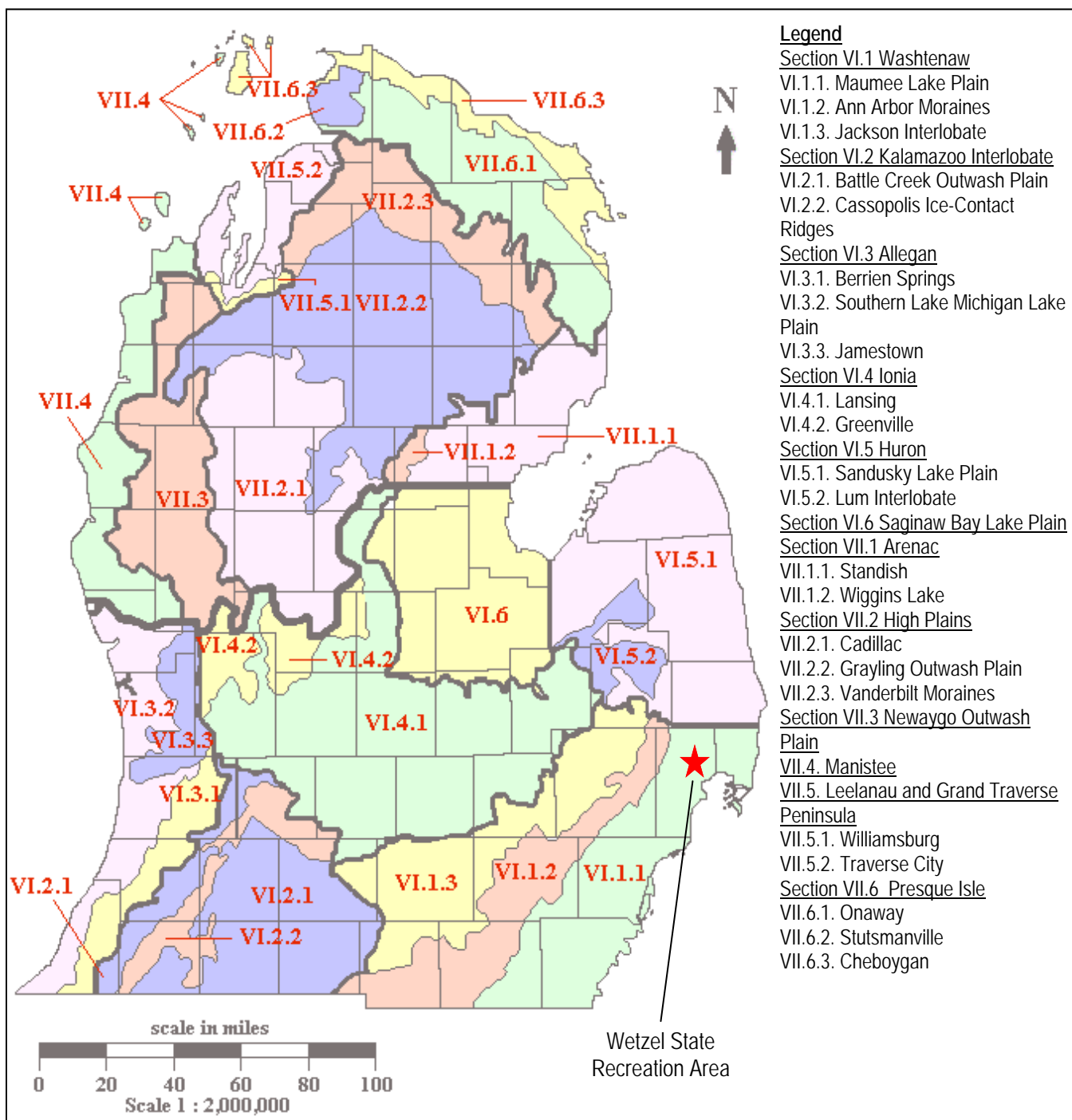
Forster's Tern



The Common Moorhen

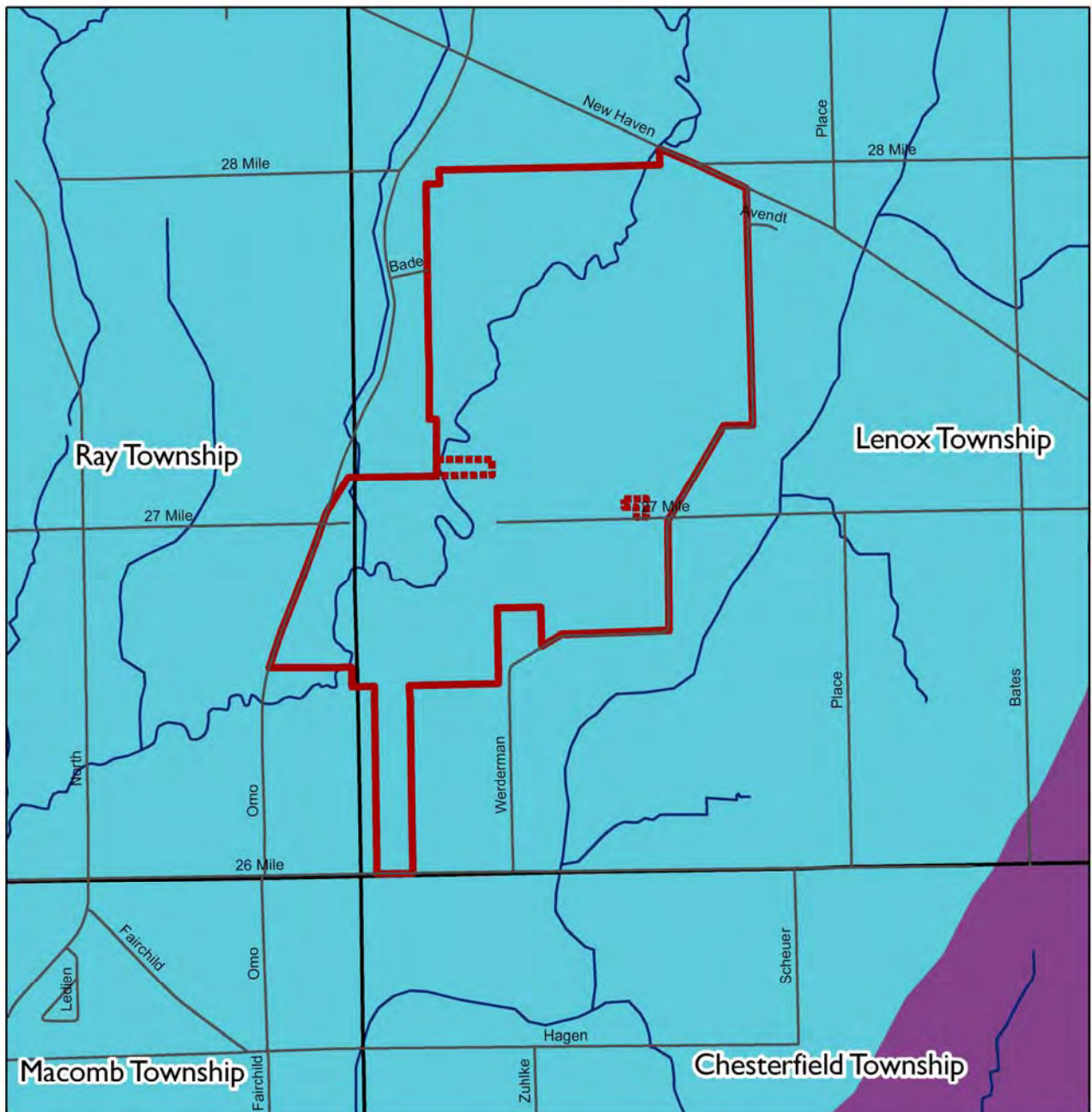


The Marsh Wren







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

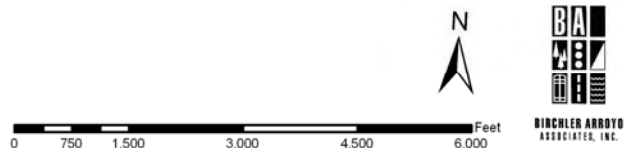
Figure A-6: Ecoregional Context
Wetzel State Recreation Area
Lenox Township, Michigan

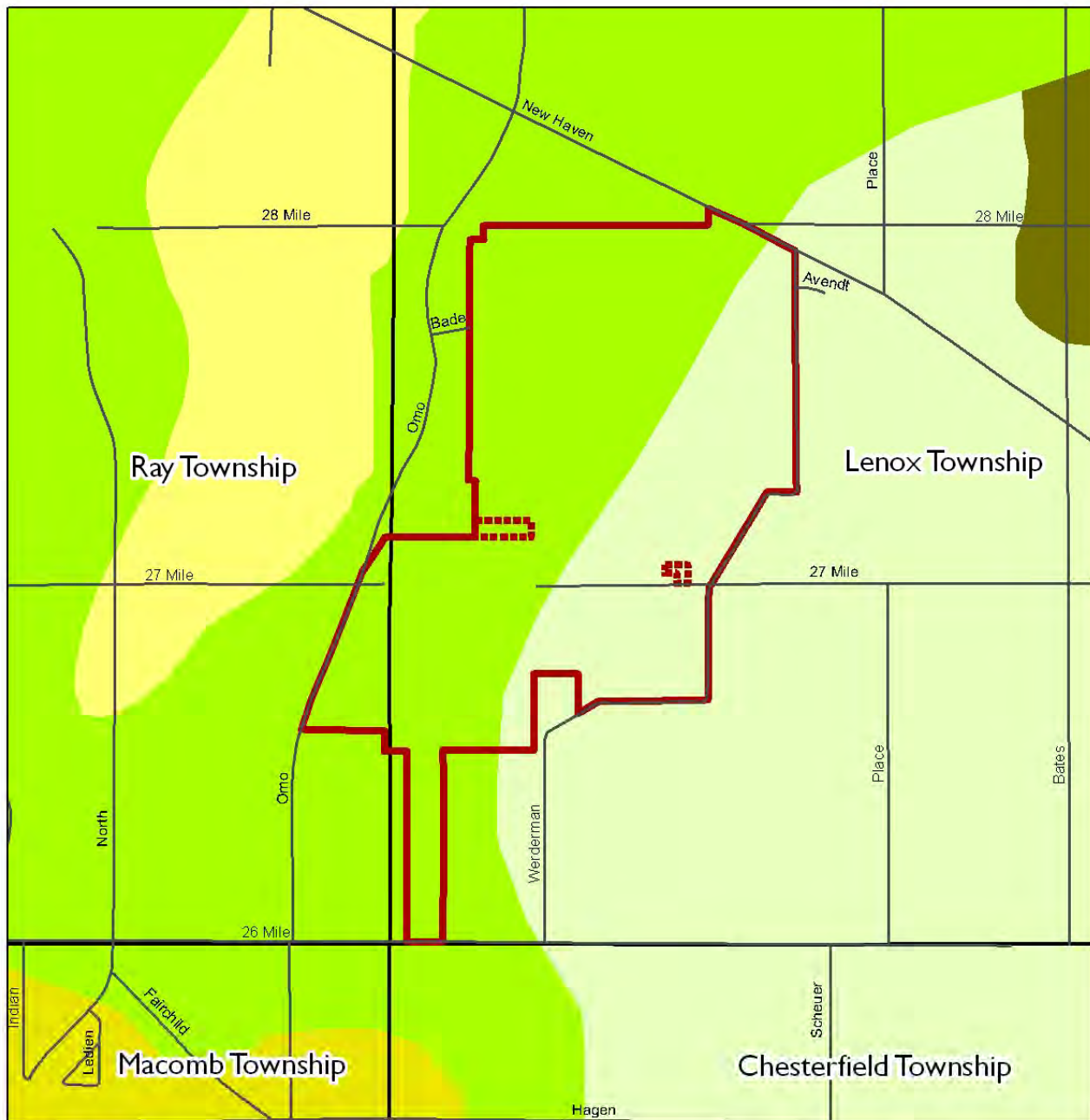


Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library

Figure A-7: Quaternary Geology
Wetzel State Recreation Area
Lenox Township, Michigan

-  Wetzel SRA Boundary
-  Inholding Parcel
-  End moraines of medium-textured till
-  Lacustrine clay and silt



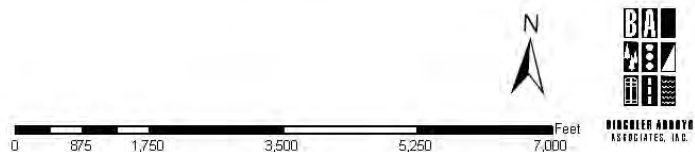


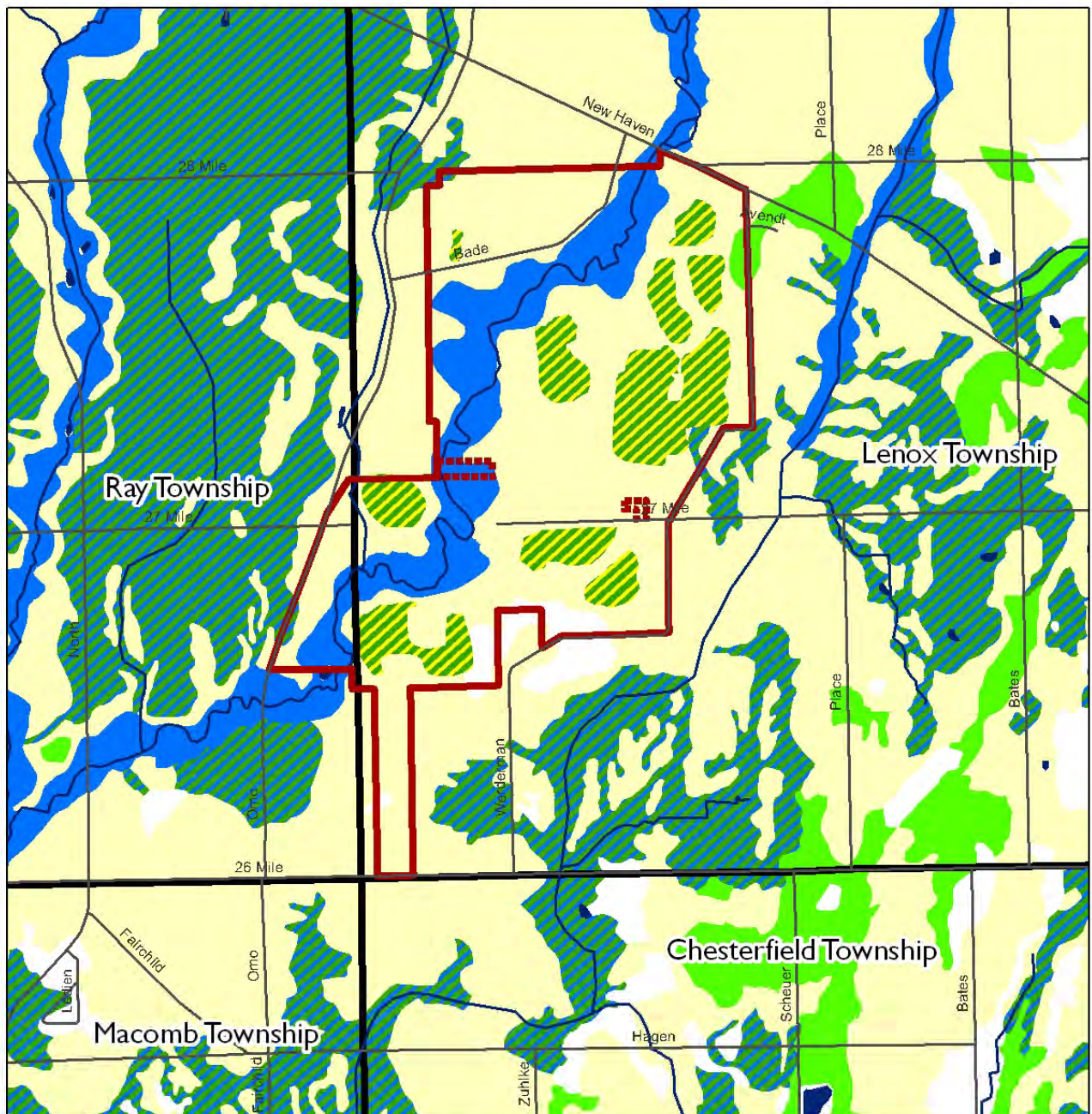
Source: USDA Soil Conservation Service

-  Wetzel SRA Boundary
-  Inholding Parcel
-  Conover-Parkhill-Locke
-  Hoytville-Sims-Nappanee-Blount
-  Toledo-Paulding
-  Lenawee-Corunna-Lamson
-  Wasepi-Au Gres

Figure A-8: Soil Association

Wetzel State Recreation Area Lenox Township, Michigan





Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library; Michigan Department of Natural Resources



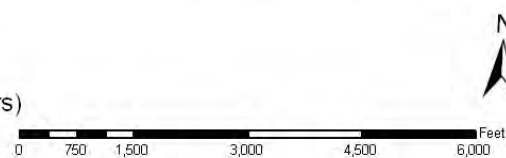
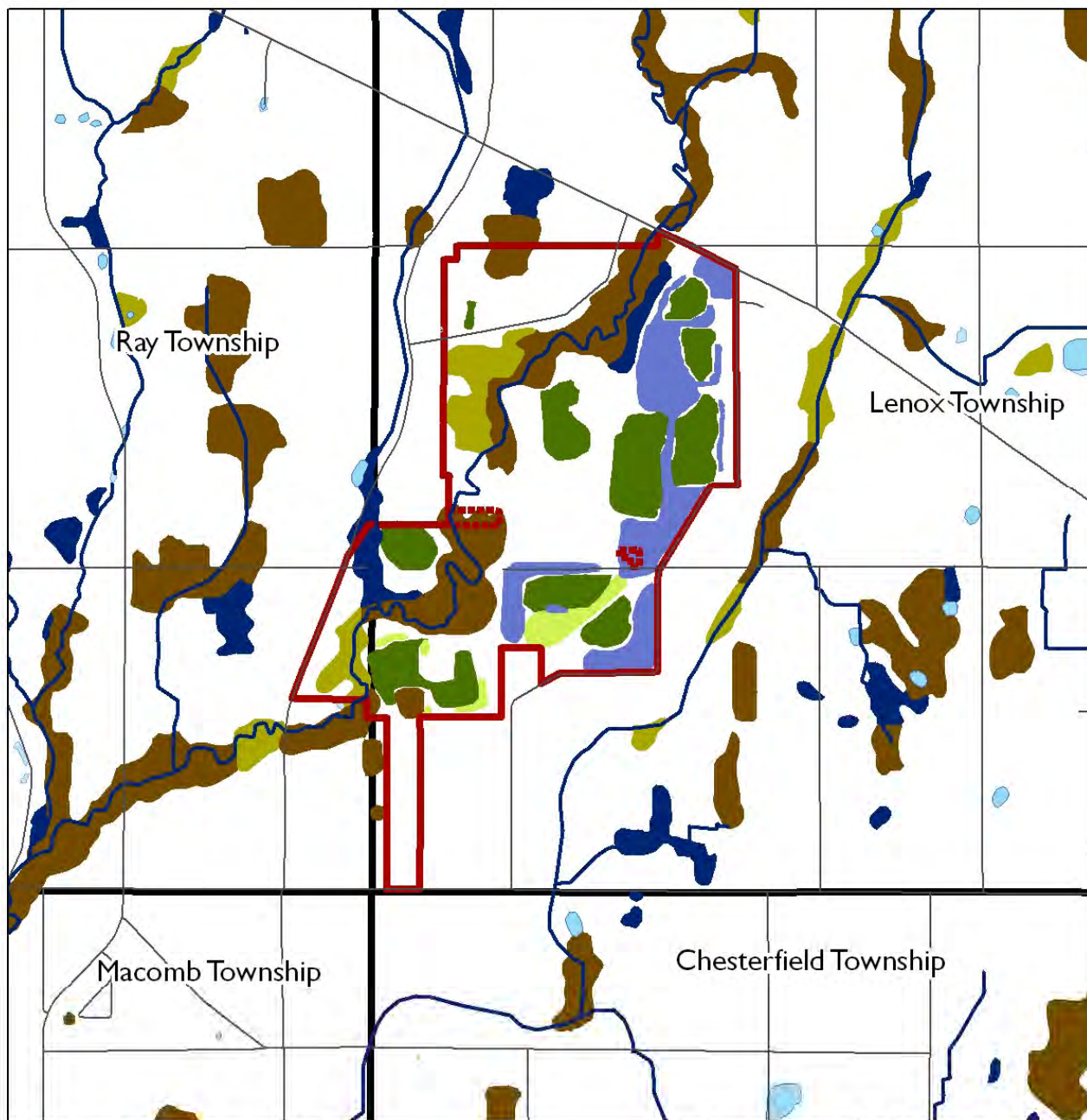
-  Wetzel SRA Boundary
-  Inholding Parcel
-  Soils Suitable For Woodland Wildlife
-  Soils Suitable For Openland Wildlife
-  Soils Suitable For Wetland Wildlife
-  Floodplain--Suitable for Riparian Wildlife
-  Wetland Mitigation Areas (Approximate Borders)

Figure A-9: Soil Suitability For
Vegetation & Wildlife
Wetzel State Recreation Area
Lenox Township, Michigan



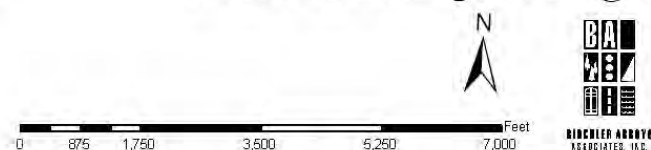


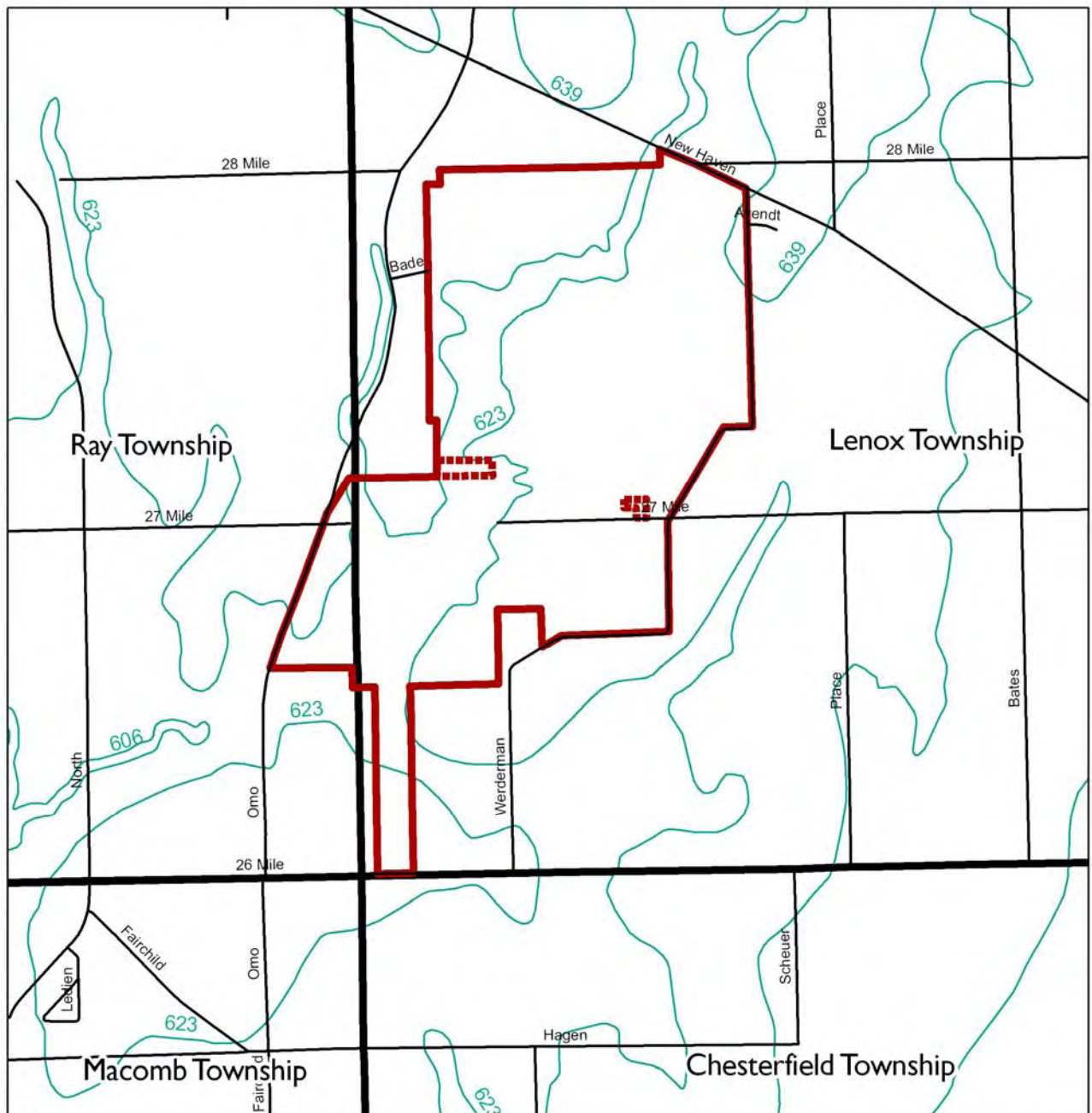
Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library; Michigan Department of Natural Resources; Aero Data Inc, 2005

Map A-10: Lakes, Streams, Wetlands & Grasses

- Wetzel SRA Boundary
- Inholding Parcel
- Lake
- River, Stream, Drain
- Wetland Mitigated Areas (Approximate Border)
- Emergent Wetland
- Scrub-Shrub Wetland
- Forested Wetland
- Open Water/Unknown Bottom Wetland
- Cool Season Grasses
- Prairie Grasses

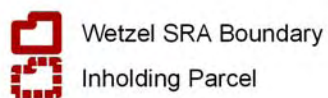
Wetzel State Recreation Area Lenox Township, Michigan



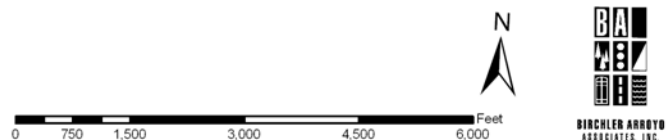


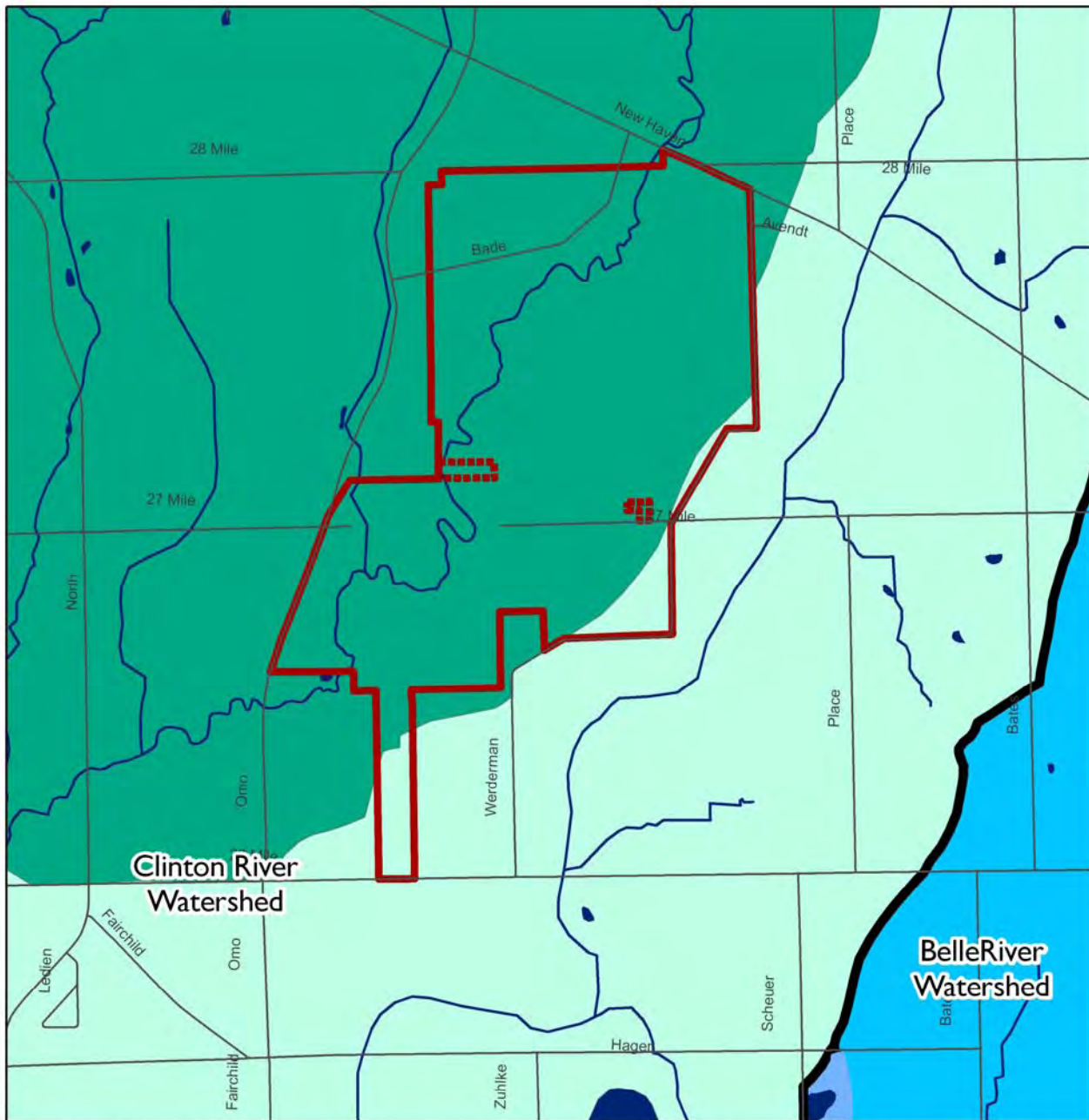
Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library

Figure A-11: Topography



Wetzel State Recreation Area Lenox Township, Michigan



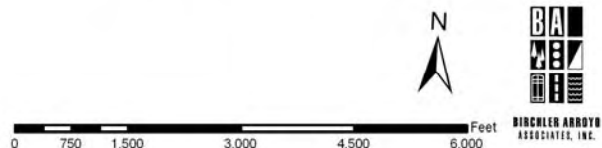


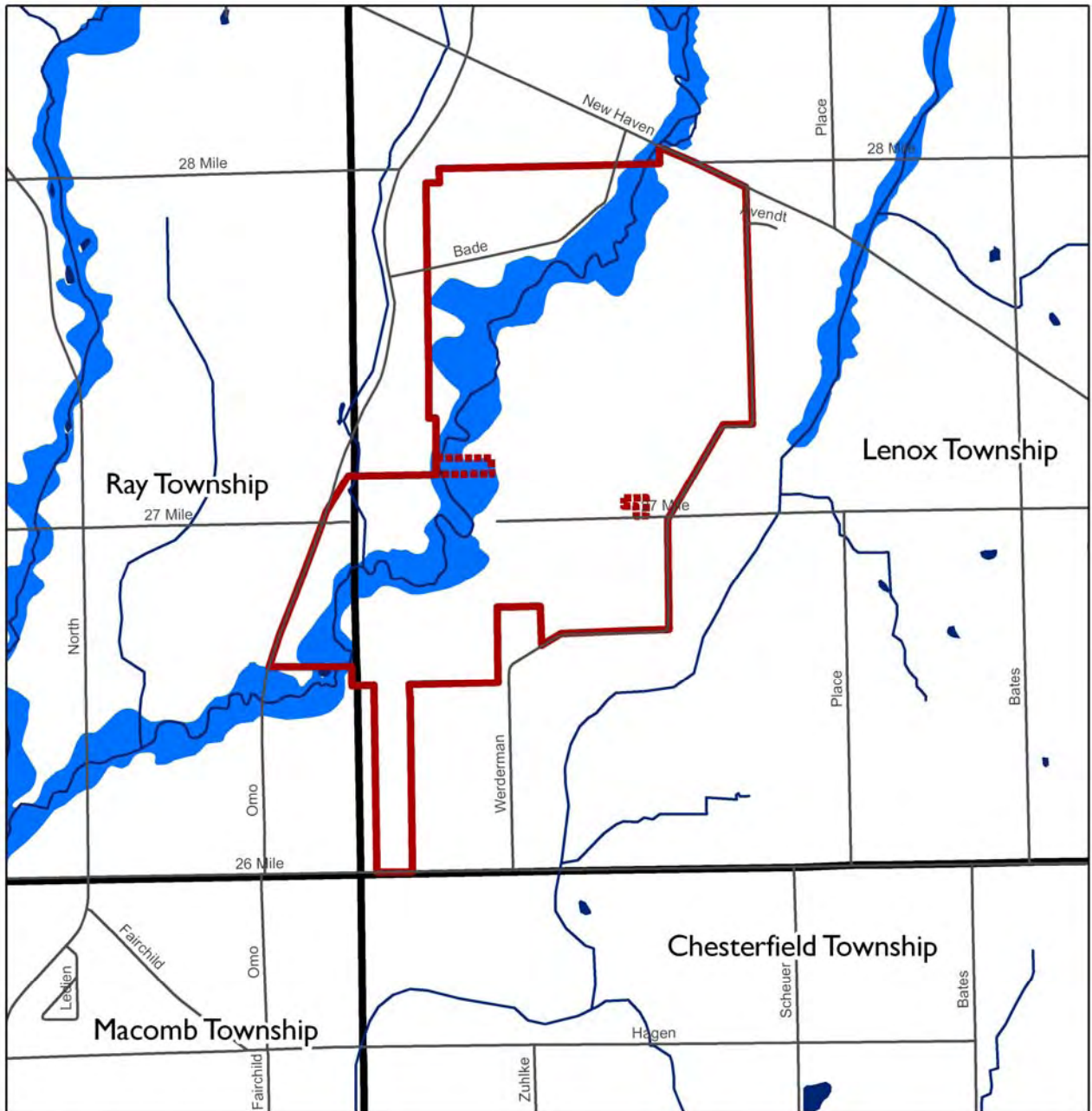
Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library

Figure A-12: Watersheds & Subwatersheds

Wetzel State Recreation Area Lenox Township, Michigan

-  Wetzel SRA Boundary
-  Inholding Parcel
-  Salt River (Mouth)
-  Auvase Creek (Mouth)
-  Coon Cteek (E. Br. Coom Creek)
-  N. Branch Clinton River (Deer Creek)
-  N. Branch Clinton River (Gage)
-  River, Stream, Drain






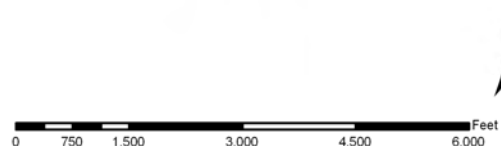


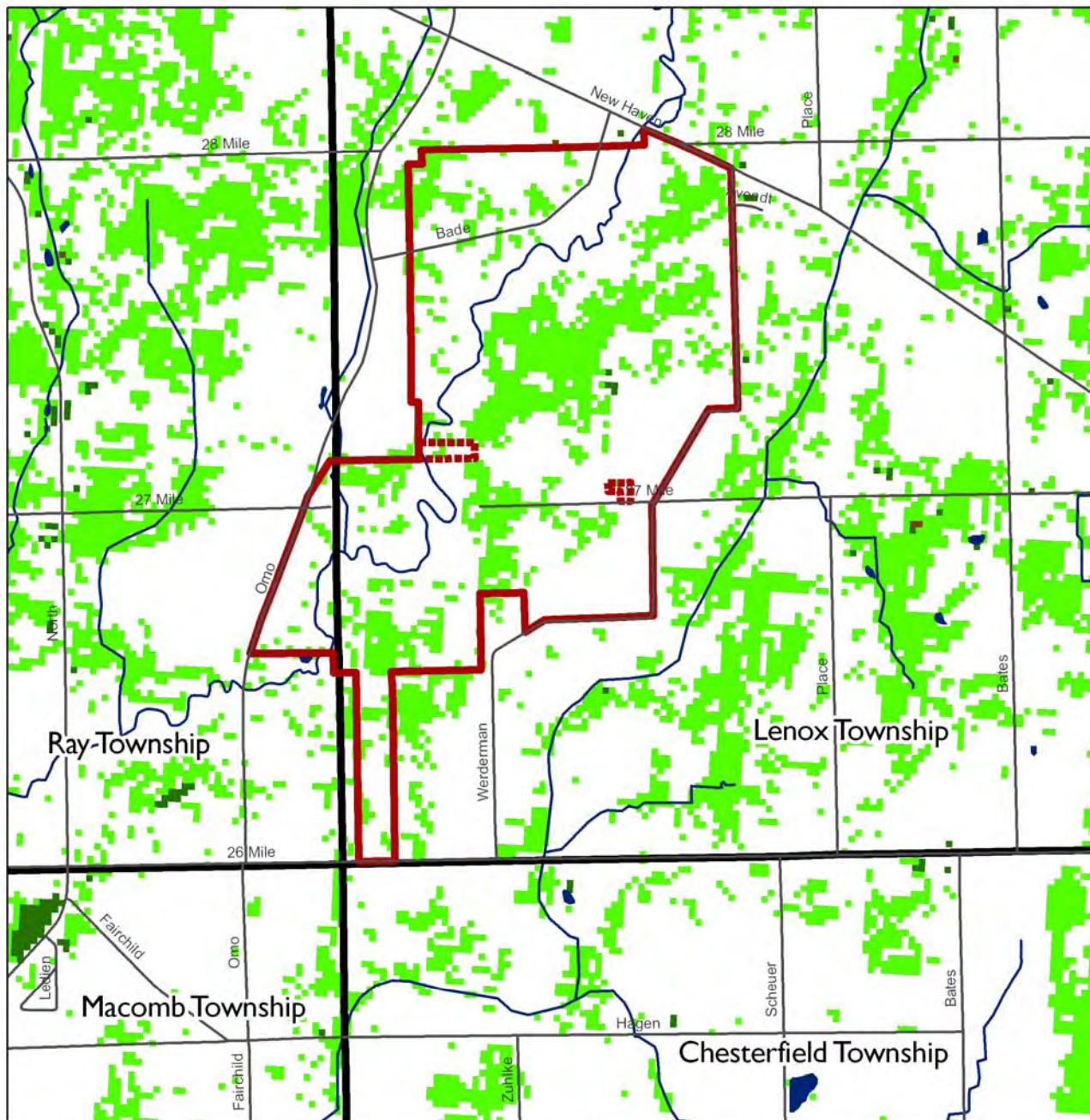
Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library, Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) database for Macomb County by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Published 10/22/2004.

Figure A-13: Flood Hazard Areas

Wetzel State Recreation Area Lenox Township, Michigan

-  Wetzel SRA Boundary
-  Inholding Parcel
-  Flood Hazard Areas



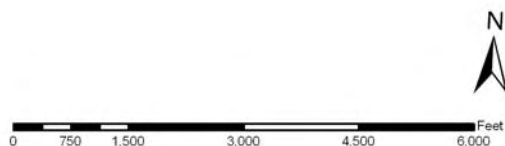


Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library

Figure A-14: Woodlands

-  Wetzel SRA Boundary
-  Inholding Parcel
-  Deciduous
-  Evergreen
-  Mixed

Wetzel State Recreation Area Lenox Township, Michigan



Cultural and Historic Resources

There are no known prehistoric resources within the park according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Historical information dates back to 1837, the year Lenox Township was officially founded. By 1875, primary exports were lumber and agricultural products, with the Salt River supporting several mills and Deer Creek and tributaries providing water for agriculture, as well as other purposes (Leeson's *History of Macomb County, Michigan*, pp.877ff). Remnants of the agrarian culture are located within Wetzel SRA as evidenced by the remains of farmstead foundations at two locations (source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources).



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Education and Interpretation

The DNR recognizes education and interpretation opportunities in terms of those that offer resource-based programming. Although there are currently no state or township sponsored education or interpretation programs offered at Wetzel State Recreation Area, it is not without activity. There are several non-profit organizations (NPOs) that hold activities at Wetzel. These NPOs are described below.

Friends of WC Wetzel State Park. This NPO actively supports Wetzel State Recreation Area. *Friends* meets monthly and publishes a newsletter. In 2005, a Spring Clean-up was held, in conjunction with the DNR. The event drew approximately 100 people. The group has also taken responsibility for weeding trails installed during wetlands mitigation activities.

Radio Control Club of Detroit, Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) Chapter 368. A NPO that has a lease with the DNR to use Wetzel State Recreation Area as its flying facility. The Club has been flying at Wetzel for many years, and constructed a War Memorial, *Wetzel Memorial Flying Field*, at the Recreation Area, in 1997. Many events are hosted by the RCCD:

Event	Attendance in 2005
Great Lakes Combat Contest	150 people
Spring Camp & Fly, Field Opening & Electric Fly-In	100 people
2nd Annual Greater Detroit C/L Stunt Contest	100 people
Kids Night (semi-annually)	50 people
7th Annual C/L Fly-In	40 people
Big Bird & Little Bird Fly-In	400 people
Great Lakes Scale Fly-In	150 people
Work Party	20 people
Pattern Contest	300 people
4-Stroke Rally	150 people
Open Combat Challenge	300 people
Kid's Night	50 people
Camp & Fly, Club Picnic & Fun Fly	65 people
Electric Fun Fly	100 people

Clinton River Watershed Council. A NPO based out of Rochester, Michigan. In its effort to protect, enhance and celebrate watershed management, the Council offers three programs:

- ◆ Stream Leaders Youth Mentoring Program: In conjunction with Michigan Duck Hunters Association, Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) has worked with Armada Middle School to train teachers in water quality monitoring skills which they pass onto their students and incorporate into the project curriculum. Since 2003, monitoring occurs each spring and fall.
- ◆ River Walks: Each year for the past three years, the Council has led an interpretive walk at the Recreation Area.
- ◆ Adopt-A-Stream: A new program designed to equip volunteers with the skills and equipment for spring and fall monitoring. The Council anticipates Adopt-A-Stream would become available to Wetzel State Recreation Area in 2007.



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Recreation Resources

This section presents the recreational resources available at Wetzel State Recreation Area and regional recreational facilities that are similar in terms of size and existing or potential population service area. Not all parks have been inventoried; smaller, neighborhood or community parks owned and operated by local governments, which meet the active recreation needs of residents, are not included. These parks are very important and the purpose is not to diminish their value. Rather, the purpose is to identify parks that offer opportunities similar to those which could be offered by Wetzel State Recreation Area.

Wetzel State Recreation Area Recreational Resources

Currently the Recreation Area is primarily undeveloped. Existing facilities include a parking area, restrooms and unpaved trail. Activities that can be enjoyed are:

- Model airplane flying
(with pavilion and landing strip)
- Picnicking
- Cross-country skiing
- Hiking
- Hunting and trapping
- Snowmobiling
- Birding

Visitors are welcome from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm, year round. Natural amenities include the wetland mitigation areas and woodlots. The *Wetzel State Recreation Area* Figure, page A-37, presents the recreational resources and natural features currently available within the park. Note: there is no water or sewer service currently available at Wetzel SRA. All wells have been capped, with the exception of one shallow well by the flying club that is useable but not for potable water.

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.

Surrounding Recreational Resources

Determination of existing recreational facilities and programs is an essential step in the recreation planning process. This section inventories recreational facilities that share a similar function of a Regional* park. These facilities are detailed on the maps of Existing Recreational Facilities (see *Regional Recreation Resources* Figure, page A-38). In addition to the below facilities, it should be noted that the landfill in Lenox Township is a potential future recreational resource.

Macomb County Parks

1. Freedom Hill County Park, Sterling Heights, 100 acres
 - ◆ Primary venue events such as ethnic festivals, markets, auto shows, holiday festivals such as Fourth of July, and boat shows. Amphitheater makes ideal location for concerts.
 - ◆ Recreational facilities include: bike path, playground, pavilions, covered picnic areas, and nature trail.
2. Macomb-Orchard Trail, Shelby Township to City of Richmond, 24-Mile Linear Park
 - ◆ When complete, the trail will link to 180 miles of existing trailways in southeast Michigan. Parks, restrooms and benches are provided along the trail.
 - ◆ The first of three phases is complete.

* The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) generally defines Regional parks as those that consist of 200 to 1,000 acres in size and serve communities within an hour's drive.

Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA)

1. Metrobeach Metropark, Harrison Township, 770 Acres
 - ◆ Swimming beach (1.25 miles of frontage on Lake St. Clair)
 - ◆ Swimming pool with water slides and spray park
 - ◆ Playgrounds
 - ◆ Marina and boat launch
 - ◆ Winter fishing
 - ◆ Nature center
 - ◆ Pavilions for concerts
 - ◆ Hiking / bike trail
 - ◆ 18-Hole Golf Course
2. Wolcott Mill Metropark, Ray Township, 2,625 Acres
 - ◆ Farm animal viewing
 - ◆ Camp Rotary: Activity building and picnic pavilion
 - ◆ 18-Hole golf course
3. Stony Creek Metropark, Shelby and Washington Townships, 4,461 Acres
 - ◆ Nature center
 - ◆ 6.2-Mile hiking / bike trail
 - ◆ Beaches
 - ◆ Boat launch
 - ◆ Disc golf course
 - ◆ 18-hole regulation golf course.

State Parks, Recreation Areas

1. Algonac State Park, Clay Township, 1,500 Acres
Approximately 30 miles east of Wetzel State Recreation Area
 - ◆ State Park Explorer Program (interpretive hikes)
 - ◆ Playgrounds
 - ◆ Fishing
 - ◆ Picnic area & shelters
 - ◆ Shooting / archery range
 - ◆ Hiking
 - ◆ Cross country skiing (trails are not groomed)
 - ◆ Summer and winter camping
 - ◆ Metal detecting area.
2. Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Orion Township, 4,637 Acres
Approximately 30 miles northwest of Wetzel State Recreation Area
 - ◆ Camping (rustic cabins)
 - ◆ Hunting
 - ◆ Playgrounds
 - ◆ Beach house & swimming
 - ◆ Fishing
 - ◆ Canoeing
 - ◆ Picnic tables, fire pits / grills and picnic shelters
 - ◆ Shooting / archery range
 - ◆ Hiking
 - ◆ Mountain biking
 - ◆ Snowmobile area
 - ◆ Boat launch

- ◆ Cross country skiing
- ◆ Metal detection areas

3. Lakeport State Park, Burtchville Township, 565 Acres
Approximately 50 miles northeast of Wetzel State Recreation Area

- ◆ Michigan State Park Explorer Program (interpretive hikes)
- ◆ Playgrounds
- ◆ Swimming
- ◆ Picnic tables, fire pits / grills and picnic shelters
- ◆ Concession / store
- ◆ Metal detection areas

Nature Preserves

See Natural Areas inventory (page A-17).

Campgrounds

There are no public or private campgrounds within Chesterfield, Lenox, Macomb or Ray Townships. In addition to the camping facilities at the State Parks listed in this section, there are several private campground facilities within Macomb County.

Sportsmen's Clubs

There are several sportsman's clubs near Wetzel State Recreation Area. Lenox Township contains three sportsmen's clubs. These private facilities provide a variety of recreational opportunities for members. Two facilities, Huron Pointe Sportsmen's Association and St. Clair Shores Sportsmen's Association, encompass approximately 200 acres of land in the southeast corner of the Township. The third, Gilbert Sportsmen's Club, is located partly in Section 30 of Lenox Township and partly in Section 25 of Ray Township. Access to the site is from Omo Road in Lenox.

State Game & Wildlife Areas

1. Port Huron State Game Area, Clyde and Grant Townships, 6,000 Acres
Approximately 45 miles northeast of Wetzel State Recreation Area
2. St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area, Harsen's Island - Clay Township, 6,500 Acres
Approximately 45 miles southeast of Wetzel State Recreation Area. Includes St. John's Marsh, St. Clair Flats Game Area and Harsens Island.
 - ◆ Hunting
 - ◆ Fishing
 - ◆ Boating
 - ◆ Nature Trails
3. Chesterfield Township State Game Area (mini), Chesterfield Township
Approximately 3.5 miles southeast of Wetzel State Recreation Area
4. St. Clair Mini State Game Area (mini), St. Clair County
Approximately 30 miles east of Wetzel State Recreation Area

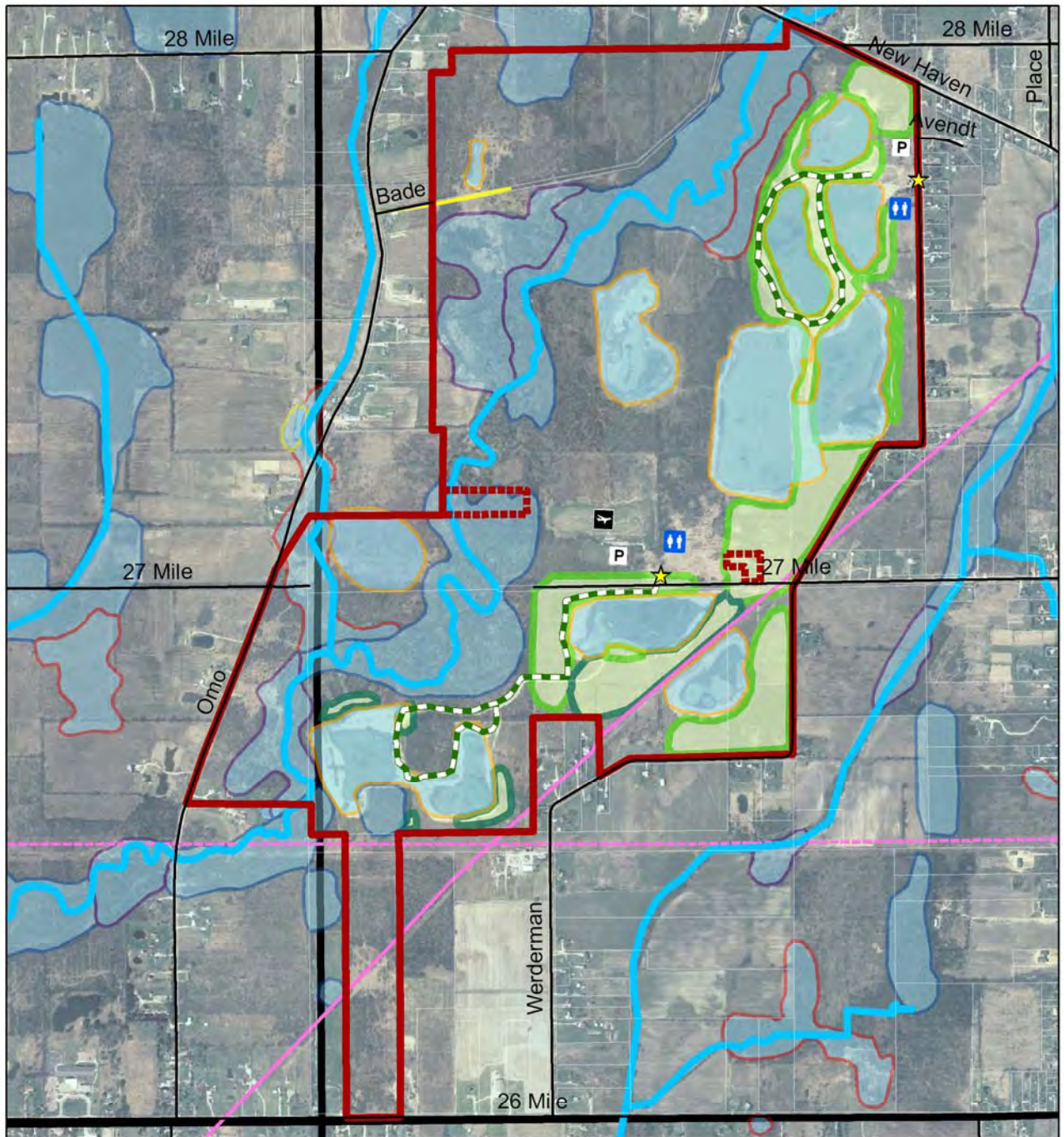
Golf Courses and Driving Ranges

There are currently many golf courses in the area. There are twenty-five golf courses in Macomb County and twenty-seven in St. Clair, five of which are private. Golf courses tend to be a principal feature of many HCMA Metroparks.

Public Boat Launches

The following facilities are boat launches managed by the MDNR and other public entities.

Boat Launch	County	Access Provided To	Managed By
Algonac Municipal Ramp	St. Clair	N. Channel, St. Clair River	City of Algonac
Algonac State Park	St. Clair	St. Clair River	Algonac State Park (DNR)
Ames	St. Clair	Middle Channel, St. Clair River	Algonac State Park (DNR)
Deckers Landing	St. Clair	N. Channel, St. Clair River	Algonac State Park (DNR)
Fair Haven	St. Clair	Lake St. Clair	Mt. Clemens Field Office (DNR)
Harley Ensign Memorial Launch	Macomb	Clinton River / Lake St. Clair	Mt. Clemens Field Office (DNR)
I-94 Bridge Municipal Ramp	St. Clair	Black River	City of Port Huron
Marine City	St. Clair	St. Clair River	Algonac State Park (DNR)
Selfridge Boat Launch	Macomb	Lake St. Clair	Mt. Clemens Field Office (DNR)
Snooks	St. Clair	Middle Channel, St. Clair River	Algonac State Park (DNR)
St. Clair Municipal Ramp	St. Clair	Pine River	City of St. Clair
12 th Street Municipal Ramp	St. Clair	Black River	City of Port Huron
Brandenburg Memorial Park	Macomb	Lake St. Clair	Chesterfield Township
Metro Beach	Macomb	Lake St. Clair	Huron-Clinton MetroPark Authority
Stony Creek Metropark	Macomb	Stony Creek Lake	Huron-Clinton MetroPark Authority



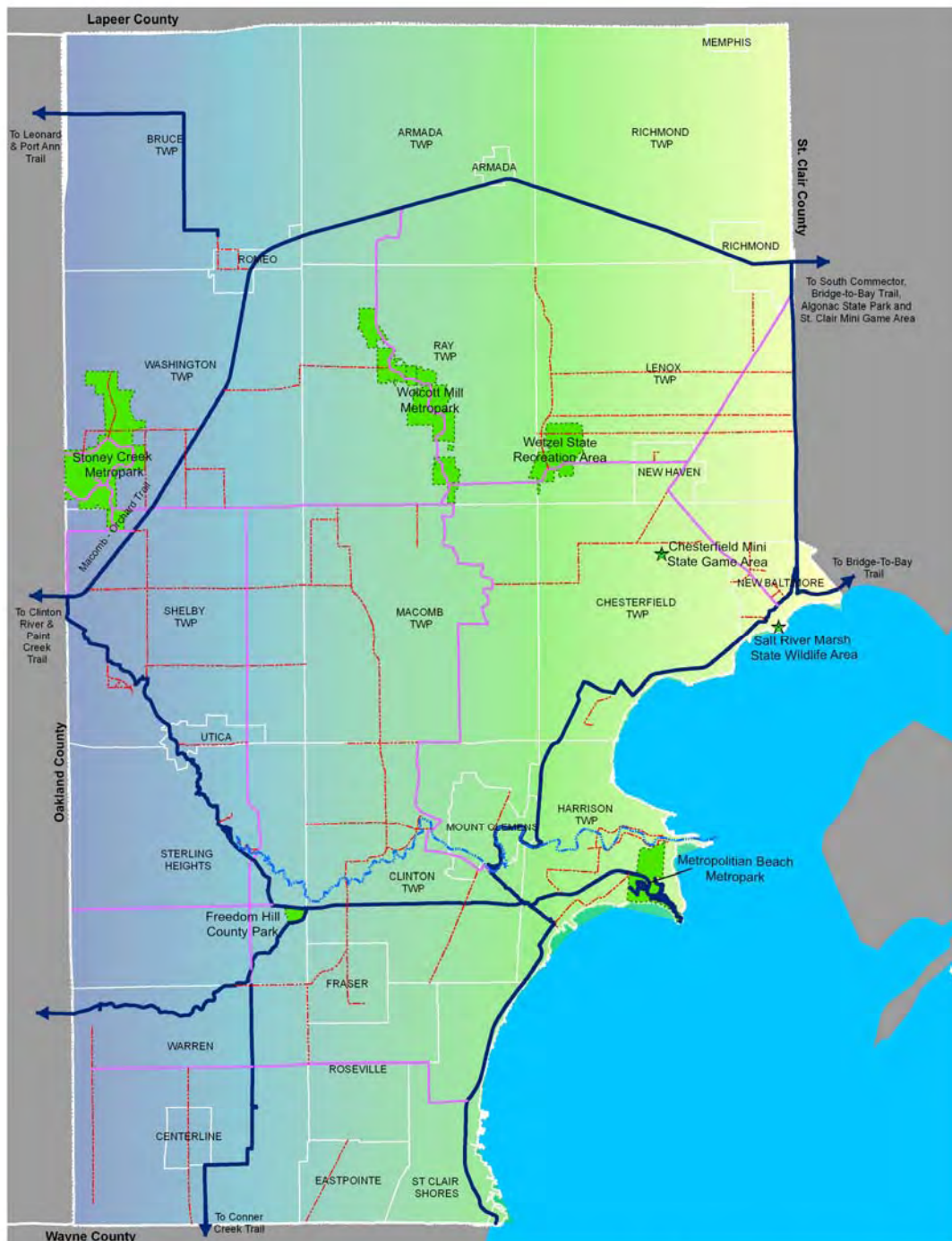
- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Wetzel SRA Boundary | Wetlands (Mitigated) |
| Inholding Parcel | Wetlands (Emergent Wetlands) |
| Entrance (Main on Werderman) | Wetlands (Forested Wetlands) |
| Restrooms | Wetlands (Open Water / Unknown) |
| Parking | Wetlands (Scrub-Shrub) |
| Air Field | Prairie Grasses |
| Existing Trail | Cool Season Grasses |
| Utility Easement - Pipeline | Rivers & Streams |
| Utility Easement - Electric | |
| Bade Road Certified ROW (1,400 feet east of Omo Rd) | |

Source: Macomb GIS

0 550 1,100 2,200 3,300 4,400 Feet



Figure A-15
Wetzel State Recreation Area
Lenox Township, Michigan



Source: Macomb County GIS

Figure A-16: Regional Recreation Resources

- Regional Corridor
- County Connector
- Local Connector
- Proposed Blueway Water Trail
- Regional Parks

0 7,500 15,000 30,000 45,000 60,000 Feet



BIRCHLER ARROYO
ASSOCIATES, INC.

Wetzel State Recreation Area Lenox Township, Michigan

Park Use and Economic Impact

Park Use

Wetzel State Recreation Area (SRA) is primarily used for hiking by typically local visits, educational purposes through programs sponsored by the Clinton River Watershed Council, and flyers of the Radio Control Club of Detroit. Between April 15 and October 15, 2005, the recreation area saw approximately 2,875 total visits during the week and an estimated 1,485 total visits on the weekends. On average, the park hosts twenty persons a day during the twenty-six weeks that it is open. The SRA has yet to be developed to its potential, and as such, the number of users is lower than that expected once the General Management Plan and Action Program are implemented.

Economic Impacts

Economic impact is the benefit to the local economy that results from expenditures generated by Wetzel State Recreation Area (Wetzel SRA) visits. The tool used for measuring economic impact is the Money Generation Model - Version 2 (MGM2) Short Form, developed by Dr. Daniel Stynes of Michigan State University. The MGM2 is an update of the MGM model developed by Dr. Ken Hornback for the National Park System in 1995. The MGM2 estimates the impact of park visit spending on the local region in terms of sales, income, employment and value added. The model provides a very basic review of impacts and is an excellent tool for establishing a baseline assessment of the economic impact of Wetzel SRA.

The MGM2 Short Form uses three factors for determining economic impact of tourism spending: number of visits multiplied by the average spending per visit 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 Wetzel State Recreation Area.

For this analysis, data used for the MGM2 Short Form was obtained from 2005 events that occurred at Wetzel SRA and Consumer Price Index adjusted numbers based on a 1997 MDNR Park User Study applied to all DNR Management Plans. The model was also run on three other state parks that are strictly day-use parks, to illustrate increases in economic impact that occurs with increased park use. The results are summarized on Table A-6.

Direct Economic Effects to the Community

The results indicate that Wetzel SRA is contributing to the local economy:

- ◆ Direct spending attributable to Wetzel SRA visits totaled \$64,750.
- ◆ Personal Income totaled \$22,020.
- ◆ Jobs totaled 2.38 (note: jobs are not full-time positions but include part-time and seasonal employment).
- ◆ Value Added (total income plus business taxes) totaled \$33,250.

Total Economic Effects to the Community

Total effects reflects 'Direct Effects' in addition to the 'Secondary Effects' of visit 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 visits in the community.

- ◆ Total Spending: \$85,600 (32% over direct spending).
- ◆ Personal Income: \$28,970 (32% over direct spending).
- ◆ Jobs: 2.38 (19% over direct job impacts).
- ◆ Value Added: \$46,090 (39% over direct value added).

Table A-6, below, provides an idea of what may be in store for Wetzel SRA. As the Recreation Area is developed, and becomes more widely recognized as an excellent source for recreational activities, the direct and total economic effects should approach those for other day-use parks, like Negwegon, Duck Lake and Maybury.

Table A-6: MGM2 Economic Impact Analysis Summary Table

	State Park			
	Wetzel	Negwegon	Duck Lake	Maybury
Day-Use Visits	6,995	18,571	190,992	300,801
Conversion to Party Nights	1,891	5,019	51,619	81,298
Spending Average Based on Party Nights	\$87,000	\$231,000	\$2,374,000	\$3,740,000
Spending Captured	\$65	\$172	\$1,768	\$2,784
Direct Economic Effects				
Sales (\$000's)	\$64.75	\$171.91	\$1,767.96	\$2,784.44
Personal Income (\$000's)	\$22.02	\$58.46	\$601.26	\$946.94
Jobs	2	5	56	88
Value Added (\$000's)	\$33.25	\$88.26	\$907.74	\$1,429.64
Total Economic Effects				
Sales (\$000's)	\$85.60	\$227.26	\$2,337.27	\$3,681.05
Personal Income (\$000's)	\$28.97	\$76.90	\$790.90	\$1,245.62
Jobs	2.38	6.32	64.98	102.35
Value Added (\$000's)	\$46.09	\$122.38	\$1,258.58	\$1,982.18

Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

What is a Party Night?

The NPS measure of recreation visits counts the number of people entering the park. Economic impacts depend on how long a person stays in the local region more so than how many times they enter the park. NPS recreation visit data will generally count a visit each time someone enters the park. So a camper who leaves the park and re-enters six times during their stay will count as six visits. For economic analysis, the best measure is the length of stay in the area, expressed in days or nights. We generally favor estimating spending on a per party rather than per person basis.

The "party" is a group of people in a single vehicle or in some cases staying in the same room or campsite. When spending is estimated on a per person basis, there is a tendency to double count shared expenses (lodging, gasoline) and not handle children correctly.

With spending estimated on a party-night basis, the lodging expense is easily interpreted as the average cost for a room or campsite. MGM2 can handle other units of analysis as long as spending and visits are entered in the same units.

Source: MSU Website, MGM2, FAQs.

APPENDIX B

Public Participation Program Results

Public Participation Program Results

A very important aspect of the General Management Plan (GMP) process is public participation. For the Wetzel State Recreation Area GMP, public participation consisted of a stakeholder workshop, followed by a public participation workshop and an on-line survey. Stakeholders included:

- Lenox Township Board Members
- Lenox Township Planning Commission
- New Haven Village
- Chesterfield Township
- Macomb Township
- Ray Township
- Macomb County Parks and Recreation
- Macomb County Board of Commissioners
- Macomb County Trailways members
- United Conservation Club – District 8
- Huron-Clinton Metroparks
- Clinton River Watershed Council
- Friends of Wetzel State Park
- Radio Control Club of Detroit, Academy of Model Aeronautics, Chapter 368
- Fly'n Wolverines
- Macomb / Oakland Conservation District
- Southeast Michigan Canine Association
- Gilbert's Sportsman's Club"
- Pheasants Forever
- ITC
- Sunoco
- Macomb County Road Commission
- Local legislators, and
- Property owners in areas identified for future purchase on the draft Management Zone Plan.

There was an open invitation to the public to provide comments by telephone, fax, email or mail/drop-off to the Lenox Township Hall throughout the process. A copy of the draft plan was available on-line during the public participation events. The results of the public participation initiatives are presented on the following pages.

Stakeholder Workshop Results
Held on July 25, 2006, 7:00 p.m., at the Lenox Township Hall
No. of Participants: 36

Worksheet Responses (2 responses received)

What natural resource values are important?

- ◆ Greenspace in southeastern Michigan. The quantity and quality of Wetzel is unsurpassed in this area. All types of hunting. Nature trails and hiking for solitude and interpretation of nature. Wetlands. Undeveloped land for the above mentioned uses are important resource values. We are quickly running out of place to "simply be" or to explore the incredible things that raw nature offers.
- ◆ Our land, forests and wetlands.

What cultural resource values are important?

- ◆ Interpretation, The study of wildlife, flora and fauna.
- ◆ Not sure what you mean.

What are the education / interpretation opportunities?

- ◆ Wetzel could easily offer endless opportunities for natural education / interpretation including wildlife studies, flora, fauna, hunter safety instruction, resource stewardship and navigation in the wild.
- ◆ Signage for various uses could be used.

What are the recreation opportunities?

- ◆ Hunting, snowmobiling, hiking, biking, model airplane flying, geocaching, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, dog training, horseback riding.
- ◆ Hunting, bird watching, nature walk, bike trail, fly field, picnic area, etc.

What should the visitor experience be?

- ◆ Feel welcome, relaxed, peaceful. Experience wildlife, nature, openness and a brief vacation from civilization.
- ◆ Different for different people, such as hunting for the hunter, bird watching for the bird watcher, etc.

What should the identity for this park be?

- ◆ A primitive, naturally beautiful, mostly undeveloped area for passive recreation. A natural outdoor educational facility complete with interpretive stations, naturalists, trainers in birds, fish, insects, amphibians, hunter safety and resource stewardship.
- ◆ Should keep it as intended for a hunting preserve – there is not other area for hunting like it in Macomb County.

Are there any known users conflicts?

- ◆ ORV's that abuse the area, dumping and illegal uses. Concerns or conflicts between hunters and other users can be curbed through education and supervision.
- ◆ You can't have all the activities all the time because of hunting season. Restrictions will have to be put on certain uses certain times of the year.

Other comments:

- ◆ Friends of Wetzel State Park: We can see the need for staffing that would include at least one full time ranger and one or two part-time employees. In summary, we would like to see Wetzel remain as natural as possible while making it available and usable to as many different people as possible refining the development that we have established at the Recreation Area. Educate the patrons of the area to curb as much conflict as possible between different user groups.

Issues & Solutions Identification & Prioritization

Votes	Comments
Issues	
17	The Recreation Area should be open to hunting (other uses should not prohibit hunting)
10	The boundaries of Wetzel are not well known
9	The Recreation Area must be multi-use (<i>Friends of Wetzel</i>)
7	The issue of balancing conflicting uses
6	Homeowners adjacent to the park needing to be an integral part of planning and decisions
5	Fear that hunting will not be a priority or allowed as a result of the planning process
5	The issue of keeping people off of trails in sensitive areas during spring nesting season
5	The issue of noise levels as park use increases
5	Leaving the park as status quo (the issue of new uses resulting in the creation of conflicts with current uses) (<i>Radio Control Club of Detroit</i>)
4	Management of new uses: new uses should be negotiated with MDNR
4	The issue of finding the right mix of uses so that conflicts are avoided to the extent possible
2	The issue of using lead shot in wetland areas
1	The issue of safety: irresponsible shooters near adjacent homes
1	The issue of target practice, which is occurring though it is an illegal activity
1	The issue of budget problems and funding the management of Wetzel SRA
	The issue of the public not knowing that Wetzel SRA exists
	Regarding hunting safety or hunting near residences, the issue of waiting until someone gets hurt before something is done
	Noise level of any particular activity is a concern
	The issue of willing private investors to assist with the future management of Wetzel SRA
	The size of Wetzel SRA is relatively small, making it difficult to reduce conflicting uses or have many uses that have the potential to create conflicts (little buffer room)
	The possibility that the DNR may sell Wetzel SRA
	The issue of potential conflicts between hunting and other uses
	Noise issues resulting from the model airplane flyers
	Managing entry points: should the Recreation Area have a single entrance or an open perimeter; should the Recreation Area be fenced?
	Are North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) funds available?
	Is a dog trial facility a potential use at this location?
Solutions	
11	Delineate the hunter safety zones
8	The state should designate an area for model airplane flyers (<i>Flying Wolverines</i>)
5	Leave the Recreation Area as is, with new uses added as more land is purchased
5	Construct a well-defined boundary, such as a fence, around Wetzel SRA
3	Provide educational trails
3	Offer hunter safety courses at Wetzel
2	Perform a survey for invasive species
1	Look for opportunities to generate revenue
1	Install signage to designate uses (look to Bald Mountain as an example)
1	Utilize technology like GPS as a mean of delineating park boundaries. Users could download boundaries when at Wetzel.
1	Consider funding opportunities through NAWCA
	Neighbors of Wetzel should work with the DNR to mark corners of their property
	When planning uses, keep in mind that the wetland areas have buffers around them that must also be protected
	Recognize that uses and users must evolve and adapt to nature
	Utilize community assets to assist with improvements at Wetzel: local high school students; 4H, Boy Scouts; and non-violent early release people from the County court system
	Perform a boundary survey

**Wetzel State Recreation Area
Public Participation Workshop Summary
October 3, 2007**

Meeting began at approximately 7:00 pm

No. of Participants: 61

David Birchler of Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc. opened the meeting, and introduced John Gardner, Township Supervisor, Kris Bennett, Paul Curtis, Steve Pondo and Luba Sitar of the DNR, and Amy Golke of Birchler Arroyo Associates.

Paul Curtis presented the General Management Plan (GMP) process. Amy Golke presented the draft GMP.

David Birchler facilitate the workshop. Comments recorded include:

1. Will the Flying Club (Radio Control Club of Detroit, RCCD) have to relocate?
2. Is the Flying Club activity incompatible with the Management Zone Plan?
3. The Flying Club has been a good neighbor and educator for 23 years.
4. Development of the park will drive wildlife away.
5. Friends and RCCD provide clean-up manpower. Campers would help.
6. Will the Township be funding the projects?
7. Concern that hunting areas will be 'chipped away.' Leave entire Recreation Area as Primitive Zone (running out of places to hunt).
8. RCCD brings in approximately 7,000 people per year (not 2,000). They provide educational opportunities on flying to abused children from the Shelter. They do good in the park; they are compatible; they've worked well with the DNR. The wetlands went around the field - why not let us stay where we are?
9. The flying field is compatible for the following reasons: relationship to significance statements #2 and #4 (education opportunity and take care of land that they use); they maintain the area and assist with clean-up; they helped form the Friends of Wetzel; they are careful not to interfere with hunters; they help police the area to decrease vandalism; they bring out abused children and boy scouts and have achieved Goleader Status; many of the members are in the 66+ age group, which is expecting the largest percent increase of all age groups; they created the Memorial to Walter C. Wetzel.
10. As residents if they want the park changed—why constantly mess with what nature has given. We should enjoy the park as it stands.
11. Issue with why the report says the flying field is incompatible.
12. Strike the incompatibility reference in the plan.
13. The impact of the RCCD continues to grow is positive for the future of Wetzel.
14. Can there be future access from 26 Mile?
15. Need to remove the language regarding the relocation of the RCCD out of Wetzel.
16. RCCD leases 9 acres (1% of total land)
17. Would like to see camping allowed.
18. Friends of Wetzel and RCCD should keep doing what they are doing.
19. RCCD and others are remarkable stewards of Wetzel. They provide large amounts of time and resources to maintain Wetzel.
20. Would like to see equestrian trails, a day-staging area, and camping for equestrians. Also would like to see trail connections to the Macomb Orchard Trail and Wolcott HCMA park.
21. Flying is educational. It teaches aerodynamics and has served as the inspiration for children to become pilots.
22. Neither flying or hunters are in each other's way. Hunters also help to clean up the park.
23. Flyers have removed approximately 135 tons of trash in Wetzel over the years.
24. Why should Flyers be on the low end of the stick when they have done so much: Memorial, Monument with

Congressional Medal of Honor, etc.

25. New resident has found the Flying Field at Wetzel is very popular and the activities are integrated into the community. Friends, family, coworkers are all involved in the flying field activities.
26. Flyers bring in people and revenue (approx. 40,000 opportunities for admission fees)
27. Why does 60% of the land need to be zoned Primitive? Need clarification of uses allowed in the NRR Zone and Phases of GMP planning process. Also, add a statement to the plan of the Flying Field's demonstrated stewardship and value to the community and Wetzel.
28. P. Curtis: do the zones make sense to you? [Response: some nods, and yes's from the participants]. No, because hunting will not be allowed over the long-term. It was noted that hunting is an allowed use in the NRR zone.
29. When flying field initiated, it was dedicated and registered in Washington DC.
30. Whether the State has money available to make improvements is a question.
31. When Phase II starts, will the public be a part of the process?
32. Stipulate what ADA means in the plan
33. Future land use areas should be classified as NRRZ.
34. There is no issue between hunters and flying field members.
35. The MGM2 Model should take into consideration the impact of the Flying Field.
36. I would like to propose Radio Flying is one aspect of the Radio Control Club of Detroit. Cars, boats and helicopters are also of interest.
37. If we are going to protect Wetzel, it has been operating nicely as it is. Why not leave it alone?
38. Note that there are restrooms by the Flying Field. Also the Field comprises less than 1% of the Area.
39. If RCCD did not develop this property, would this meeting still be taking place? (Answer: yes)
40. The RCCD renders Wetzel a cultural resource. The RCCD has been at Wetzel for 55 years.
41. The Township should spend resources on zoning to protect Wetzel from development of surrounding land uses and / or going after those who may ruin the park [discussion had made reference to the mitigated wetlands]
42. Additional language should be added to each zone description to the effect that no more mitigated wetlands will be allowed. Language must be carefully crafted to be sure other doors are not left open.
43. Do wetland areas allow fishing? If so, consider stocking them with indigenous fish.
44. RCCD has had a positive impact overall. No negative impacts on hunters or wildlife. It provides educational value (e.g. newsletters to schools).
45. Revise the paragraph on page 11 of the report [referring to incompatibility of flying field]
46. Flying field shares the site with others (e.g. Ducks Unlimited)
47. Given the State's revenue shortfall, how would Future Land Use purchases be made? [Answer: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, money from land exchanges, private party donations, land donations, land conservancies).
48. How were the zones determined?

The meeting ended at approximately 9:10 pm.

Wetzel State Recreation Area
On-line Survey Results
Posted 9/4/06 to 10/9/06

ID	1. How far do you live from Wetzel SRA?			
	Within 10 minute drive	Within 30 minute drive	Within 60 minute drive	Greater than 60 minute drive
1	X			
2		X		
3		X		
4		X		
5		X		
6	X			
7		X		
8		X		
9		X		
10		X		
11			X	
12		X		
13	X			
14		X		
15		X		
16	X			
17		X		
18		X		
19		X		
20		X		
21		X		
22		X		

ID	2. How often do you visit Wetzel SRA each season?															
	Spring				Summer				Fall				Winter			
	1/wk	1/mo	1/season	Never	1/wk	1/mo	1/season	Never	1/wk	1/mo	1/season	Never	1/wk	1/mo	1/season	Never
1		X			X				X						X	
2		X				X				X				X		
3	X				X				X					X		
4	X				X				X					X		
5	X				X				X					X		
6	X				X				X				X			
7	X				X				X				X			
8	X				X				X				X			
9			X				X		X					X		
10			X			X				X						X
11		X				X				X				X		
12	X				X				X					X		
13	X				X				X					X		
14				X				X				X				X
15	X				X				X							X
16	X				X				X					X		
17	X				X				X						X	
18	X				X				X				X			
19			X		X					X					X	
20	X				X				X				X			
21			X				X				X					X
22	X				X				X							X

ID	3. What activities do you currently enjoy at the Recreation Area?
1	
2	Hiking, hunting, dog training, birding, relaxing.
3	Flying model airplanes and as a member of the Friends of Wetzel State Park I help out in the clean up once a year and any help we provide to the DNR.
4	Radio Control Model Aircraft flying at the RCCD field. Walking
5	rccd flying club
6	Radio Control Flying
7	RC Flying and hiking. But, I visit much more than once a week.
8	radio control airplanes
9	
10	I used to board my horse near Wetzel and would ride in there at times. Would have loved to do it more often, but it is very overgrown and inaccessible in the places we could ride.
11	hiking, nature walks
12	Flying R/c planes.
13	
14	I have never been there.... only heard about it the other day.
15	Radio Control airplanes
16	Hiking through the woods and trails watching migrating birds bow hunt fly rc aircraft
17	Flying radio control airplanes.
18	radio control flying hiking hunting
19	radio control club flying and bow hunting
20	I'm the newsletter editor for the Radio Control Club of Detroit and fly at least 3 times a week...sometimes more than that in good weather. www.rccd.org I'm also Pres. of The St. Clair Flats Wildfowl Association (decoy carving and hunting group) and I've hunted Wetzel since it was a put-take pheasant area and I hunt it now that we have some great ponds for duck and goose hunting. www.scfwa.com I'm also Pres/owner of Lock Stock & Barrel, Inc., manufacturing duck hunting boats and decoys and many of our customers use Wetzel also.
21	I ride my horse.
22	walking. watching the rc aircraft fly. relaxation.

ID	4. Please list the new activities that you would like to see at Wetzel Recreation Area and indicate the number of new visits per year if the activity is added.
1	
2	Outdoor education and interpretation. Increase 6 times per year. Additional trails and interpretive signage.
3	I am Happy with things the way they are. I now visit the park 2 - 3 times a week weather permitting spring summer and fall. Flying model airplanes Hiking Watching the wild life while hiking.
4	Longer walking trail would be a plus.
5	
6	Retention of Radio Control Flying Natural Habitat with major influx of hikers, bikers, etc...
7	Nature Center. Would visit once a month
8	none
9	
10	There is a need for horse trails. I know of at least 2 dozen people who would use the trails on a weekly basis and many more who would ride there if trails were available.
11	more hiking trails
12	No additional activities needed. Any new activities will not increase my visits. Loss of the RCCD flying field will result in no visits a year.
13	
14	horseback riding 20 times / year rollerblading 10 times / year
15	
16	I like the park the way it is now
17	Not interested in any new activities there.
18	dog training horse trails
19	continue park usage as it is
20	At this point, there are no new activities I can see me participating at Wetzel. I'd rather not see more hiking, horse back riding or any RV/ATV activities at the park.
21	The addition of a 5+ miles of Hiking/Equestrian trails would increase my useage to atleast once a week during Spring through Fall. The addition of a Rustic Camping/Equestrian Rustic Camping area I would use at lease once a month.
22	I like it the way it is.

ID	5. What natural resources are most important to you?
1	
2	Greenspace.
3	The education of our youth and the time and the place, Wetzel Park, to accomplish this.
4	Forestry and wetlands
5	
6	Rural Setting
7	Preservation of exiting land uses
8	all
9	
10	Trees,meadows,wildlife,a place to park a trailer,a place to get water for horses.
11	Coon Creek, freshwater impoundments, prairie areas
12	
13	
14	horseback riding trails
15	wetlands
16	
17	Hunting & fishing
18	clean water
19	keeping some natural areas
20	Wetlands and open spaces for recreation-flying and hunting.
21	The important resource at Wetzel S.R.A. are the woodland areas which are limited but it would be good to be able to enjoy them too with some trail through them.
22	The relaxing aspect. I also like watching the rc aircraft flying park. I hope you will not chase this activity away.

ID	6. Are there any historically significant resources of which you are aware?
1	
2	
3	The land that is Wetzel park was farm land when the DNR purchased it in 1969. As far as I can see there is no historical significant resources in the park.
4	No, other than the Wetzel memorial
5	no
6	no
7	RCCD has added much to the total visitor attendance. By attending one or more of the advertised RC events many attendees follow up by coming back to the park for other uses.
8	not at the rec area
9	
10	A large undeveloped area that would be wonderful for horseback riding.
11	no
12	
13	
14	none
15	None
16	no
17	
18	yes
19	no
20	Yes.....RCCD (model airplane flying club) has installed a permanent/historical monument to the man who the park is named for.
21	No.
22	There is always history at all locations but I am not of aware of any significant resources. History has a place...primarily in a book unless really significant to the location. then an exhibit is often appropriate.

ID	7. Are there any culturally significant resources of which you are aware (i.e. related to native American or early European settlement cultures)?
1	
2	
3	No
4	No
5	no
6	no
7	
8	not at the rec area
9	
10	
11	no
12	
13	
14	
15	None
16	no
17	Yes, but not at Wetzel state park.
18	no
19	no
20	NO
21	No.
22	Same thoughts as above.

ID	8. What would you like to see in terms of education or interpretation opportunities?
1	
2	Wildlife, wetland study. Naturalist led outdoor classes and iterprative walks.
3	Every year The Radiocontrol club of Detroit brings in from 60 to 100 young boys & girls and gives them basic theory and a chance to fly radio controled minature aircraft withan instructor on duel controls. I would like to see this program expands. Many of our engineers, astronauts and pilots started out with just such an experience.
4	
5	
6	Wildlife Conservation
7	RCCD holds several Kids nights for the sole purpose of educating our kids about manned flight.
8	same as current or increasing
9	
10	
11	hunter safety courses, various conservation education seminars - native plants of Wetzel, bats of Macomb County, etc., stormwater management, riparian ecosystems and their importance, etc. The Macomb Conservation District and other natural resource cooperators such as Pheasants Forever Macomb County chapter, etc. could possibly contribute to these future opportunities.
12	
13	
14	Educate birdwatchers that horses are thier fiends. Horse droppings feed birds!
15	
16	
17	Teaching young people about building and flying model aircraft.
18	same as current
19	
20	Our model airplane club does a lot of education of adults as well as children and several fellas, who started with the club, have gone on to careers in aviation-design and commercial flying. We do a lot with disadvantaged children and kids who are in sanctuary from battered homes...teaching them about model airplanes, flying and the care and concern of our members. I'm also a member of The Michigan Duck Hunters Association and there is some stream/wetlands & waterfowl education conducted with our Youth.
21	Interpitive nature walk and bird watching areas.
22	Same thoughts as above.

ID	9. What should the visitor experience be like?
1	
2	An escape from civilization, work and everyday life, for a few moments or a full day. A place to relax and enjoy the outdoors.
3	Fun, enjoyable for the whole family.
4	Pleasant experience, easy parking, ready access to the facilities.
5	
6	.
7	Safe, relaxing and most of all a desire to return.
8	whatever he/she would like it to be. every person will see the same situation with a different perspective or opinion.
9	
10	In tune with nature
11	Balanced and natural with multi-use choices: hunting, hiking, nature walking, snowmobiling, etc.
12	
13	Satisfying.
14	
15	
16	To come to the park and be able to walk around and enjoy the surroundings what ever your interest might be
17	Something pleasurable.
18	peaceful,educational, entertaining, participative
19	
20	Enjoyable without over crowding or over use
21	Relaxing area so vistiors can appreciate nature and get rejuvenated.
22	As it is now. I feel this survey is trying to pull thoughts directed toward driving change to the park. and you may well get what you want...but it is not what I would desire.

ID	10. What should the identity for this park be?
1	
2	I would say all except campground unless that were a limited use such as group camping by permit only.
3	Camp ground wetland study Flying field
4	Preference would be for the primitive nature of the park to remain. Do NOT open the park for dirt-bikes, ATVs, snowmobiles etc.
5	
6	primitive
7	A diverse use park where old and young can enjoy the fruits of our land.
8	it must allow for activities requested by the public which cannot be accomplished elsewhere
9	
10	A natural area that could incorporate a campground for multi-use.
11	an undeveloped natural area or park that provides areas for hiking, hunting, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, radio controlled flying, birdwatching, wildlife observation, nature-walking (i.e., multiple use as on our federal national wildlife refuges)
12	
13	To be determined
14	primitive
15	Keep it the way it is. Allow the Radio Control Club of Detroit to remain at its present location. We are about the only group that regularly uses the park and cares about it much more than the general public.
16	primitive,natural area
17	Semi primitive
18	natural and recreational as per law.
19	natural area for the majority of land
20	Wetlands and recreation. I think the camp-ground area is a bad idea.
21	A Natural area that allows for a number of different recreational activities and also a rustic camping area.
22	an area that is void of houses and businesses. somewhere to go and relax without the busy lifestyle you could find in numerous city/county parks around.

ID	11. Any known user conflicts or issues?
1	
2	There are always perceived conflicts between hunters and other users of the park. Most could be eliminated
3	NO
4	One lone neighbor with a very long history of complaints in regard to model airplane noise. Closer neighbors have
5	Im not aware of any conflicts
6	Removing RCCD from there current field is a unintelligent idea. This club has been helping keep Wetzel up for years no. Inserting Money and work to keep it up.
7	None
8	yes
9	
10	People who are not familiar with equestrian activities,may object.Most horse people are very good about cleaning up after their animals and we are very conservation minded.
11	Hiking trails and other potentials for 2 or more people to gather in readily accessible walking or other type routes could impede the use of the area for hunting purposes.
12	
13	Not that I knopw of!
14	
15	None
16	no
17	Only from people that dislike other people who are enioing their hobby
18	yes
19	no
20	Known conflicts would come from increased motorized useage of the park by ATV/RV & motor cycles.
21	Their could be conflicts between hunters and other users during certian times of the year.
22	no. again, I enjoy watching the rc aircraft that frequent the east corner in the park. please don't chase them away...I have heard the rumor that this is one of your objectives.

ID	12. Do you agree/disagree with purpose and significance?
1	
2	Agree
3	Agree.
4	I would hope the 'Recreation' capability would include the current model airplane activity. The current tenant (RCCD) provides an outstanding opportunity for younger members of society to engage in a pleasurable pastime that perhaps discourages other less socially acceptable behavior. Many of the events held by the club have resulted in inquiries in regard to how to join ,get started and receive instruction. This is all included in the RCCD club constitution:... 'The purpose of this club shall be to further the advancement of radio controlled model aircraft in all its aspects as a hobby/sport.' The current facility is recognized as probably the best in the surrounding area
5	
6	There is no reason to upgrade the park. People are not going to use it the same as say, Stoney Creek.
7	Some what I agree. But, there are specific that I question. I see conflicts between hunting and preservation.
8	disgree
9	
10	
11	agree
12	
13	Comments are already on file.
14	we need more horseback riding trails in this part of MI
15	
16	yes
17	I disagree
18	
19	would not like to see the current park ussage/pla changed
20	I think a lot has been assumed by Lenox that makes them think they have any type of control of the park. I'd rather that Lenox keep out of it and leave the park as it currently stands.
21	I agree with the Core Values.
22	It is so general and subject to inturpretation how could one agree or disagree. It all depends on your agenda.

ID	13. Do you agree with Management Zones?
1	
2	Agree.
3	I disagree Keep the flying field just as it is.
4	I would like to see the RCCD field become a developed recreation zone instead of a Natural Resource zone. To my mind, categorization of the current area would not illogically separate different areas of the park.
5	
6	See above
7	NO. I do not agree with plan. I see no evidence of conflict as stated.
8	greatly disagree
9	
10	not sure
11	Disagree - selection of management zones should not classify the use of the flying field as a non-compatible use. Justification for such non-compatibility was not explained in the document.
12	
13	Agree
14	we need more horseback riding trails in this part of MI
15	I disagree. The RCCD club should be allowed to stay in the park.
16	Agree except I would allow RCCD to continue to lease the land they currently have.
17	
18	yes
19	
20	Mostly, I agree with the management zones. I would not displace the flying club as was originally suggested in the plan.....where it was stated that our activities are incompatible with the other activities of the park. Last year we brought over 7000 visitors to the park as a result of our activities and events.
21	<p>I do NOT Agree with all the Management Zones for Wetzel SRA. I do NOT think the primitive area zone should go right up to the roads. I think there should be about a 30 foot wide area running along Werderman rd, 27 Mile rd, and Omo rd that is zoned Natural Resource Recreation area so an UNPAVED multiuse/safety path could be developed. I strongly disagree with the statement and ask that this statement be removed that in - Natural Resource Recreation Zone Draft- under-Recreation Opportunities- 'While equestrian use and biking are typically allowable uses in the Natural Resources Recreation Zone, the current size of the recreation area is too small to accommodate them.' There may not be enough area for 3 separate user trails (hiking, equestrian, bike) but there is enough for a multi-use trail. A joint Hiking/equestrian trail could work out well in a Wetzel SRA. In Macomb county there is currently only 10 miles of trails for equestrian use at Wolcott Mill Metropark. These are shared with hikers and it has been working fine.</p> <p>There are over 1000 equestrians registered to ride at Wolcott Mill and equestrian trail riding is a growing recreational activity there is a need for more trails in Macomb county. Other SRA with equestrian trails are over 50 miles from Wetzel SRA. I think a hiking/equestrian multi-use trail is viable in the limited space at Wetzel SRA.</p>
22	Protect the flying zone.

ID	14. Comments?
1	
2	I am incredibly pleased with what I've seen so far in the management draft especially that the plan is to keep the park predominately natural.
3	I feel that an organization such as The Radio Control Club of Detroit that is 53 years old with a 250 + members and has been in the park for 23 years should be aloud to stay in the park. And it should be backed buy the DNR and Lenox Twonship. You can ask any young family who has spent an afternoon with us at one of our events and they will tell you what a good time they had and how enjoyable it was. This is what the park should be about, people enjoying them selves.
4	As a R/C flyer I am naturally concerned at the proposal to eliminate that activity from the park. Our club has an excellent record of relationships with the DNR, maintenance of our part of the facility and of drawing people to the area who did not even know it existed. I am not sure I understand why continued use would be incompatible. I have no interest in remaining anonymous. I am Keith Jones, RCCD club member. I live in Washington Township. My phone number is 586-255-8038, my email is kaydeejay9@yahoo.com.
5	I think we should be able to keep are flying site were it is, we have no conflicts with hunters or walkers. If any thing the rccd club brings people into the park.
6	Mostly, I feel that moving everything around for joggers and bikers is a bad idea. This park averages more RC flyers per week than it will receive in joggers/bikers/hikers etc.
7	The Management plan seems to be oriented toward financial gain as opposed to recreational use. How can Tourism be applied as used in the MGM2 model. Other neglected areas are; the parks currently having RC club outtings or offerings such as open flying.
8	
9	
10	PLEASE JUST CONSIDER ALLOWING HORSES AND HORSE PEOPLE ACCESS TO WETZEL STATE LAND.
11	
12	
13	Not at this time.
14	we need more horseback riding trails in this part of MI
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	The Radio Control Club of Detroit has proven to be the best Stewarts of Wetzel that you have. We're also the ones instrumental in creating the Friends of Wetzel. It doesn't make any sense to mess with that. Hunters (true hunters & not the slobs) are also Stewarts of the land and can not be discounted in their contribution. I and many of my hunting friends consistently come out of the area with more trash than we went in with....helping to clean while we're there. Thanks much and good luck, Lou Tisch 36568 Boyce Drive Clinton Township, MI 48035 www.lockstockbarrell.com www.eallendecoys.com www.rccd.org www.scfwa.com
21	I would like 5+ miles of hiking/equestrian trails with a staging area for equestrians and a rustic camp that would include equestrian to be developed at Wetzel SRA. Stop anymore mitigated wetlands development at WSRA. I feeel that their would NOT be any conflict with the fly field and equestrians trail usage.
22	Protect the flying zone.

Intentionally Blank.

APPENDIX C

Record of Planning Team Meetings

**Meeting Minutes
Wetzel State Recreation Area
General Development Plan
Lenox Township, Michigan**

Date: Friday January 13, 2006, 10:00 am

Attendees: John Gardner, Jeanette Ventimiglia, John Bugg, Tom Bissett, Steve Pondo, Kristen Bennett, Paul Curtis, David Birchler, Heidi Hannan, Amy Golke.

AGENDA ITEM 1. Agreement on the Scope of Work, Roles, Responsibilities, Time Line. The scope of work was reviewed at the November 2005 meeting, revised per discussion at that meeting, and distributed for final approval. No changes were requested.

AGENDA ITEM 2. Review Background Data and Information: plans, historic data and other relevant information provided by the DNR. The team reviewed Task 2A *Supporting Analysis* activities. Discussion included: adding a map to show progression of development; adding eco-regional context information MNFI evaluation; checking on existing archeological surveys; identifying volunteer and educational programs; and adding wetland mitigation areas to the map; and performing the economic impact assessment.

AGENDA ITEM 3. Establish Task 2A Outcome Dates. Task 2A will be completed by the end of April, 2006.

AGENDA ITEM 4. Establish Meeting Schedule. Group will meet monthly beginning March 15 to review progress, plan for upcoming activities.

AGENDA ITEM 5. Website. Report that website will be created; any information posted will first be approved by the group.

Actions:

1. Begin work immediately on the Task 2A activities. Communicate by email and phone as necessary.
2. Create project letterhead with Township, DNR and BA logos to use for official correspondence.
3. Potential projects to keep in mind:
 - a) Wayfinding sign for the 'triangle' on the north side of New Haven Road.
 - b) Opportunity for interpretative signage along Wetlands Mitigation trail.

Meeting Minutes
Wetzel State Recreation Area
General Development Plan
Lenox Township, Michigan

Date: Tuesday March 14, 10:00 am

Attendees: David Birchler, Paul Curtis, Amy Golke, Karon Ottenbacher, Steve Pondo and Jeanette Ventimiglia.

AGENDA ITEM 1. Review of the draft document, Task 2A Supporting Analyses. Discussion included the addition of a General History discussion and other minor changes. Everyone agreed to review and comment on the document by Friday, March 31 so that changes can be incorporated and redistributed by April 11 for review to all attendees of the April 25 meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 2. Looking Ahead

- ◆ April Meeting: Begin Task 2B Core Values - Approach
- ◆ May Meeting: Begin Task 2C: Management Zone Plan – Approach

Next meeting topic: Core Values (Management Zone Plan in May)

AGENDA ITEM 3. Updates to Stakeholder List

AGENDA ITEM 4. Letterhead

No comments.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Website Update

A print out of the website was distributed. No comments or changes.

Actions:

1. Make changes to report as discussed under Agenda
2. Upload website

**Meeting Minutes
Wetzel State Recreation Area
General Development Plan
Lenox Township, Michigan**

Date: Tuesday April 25, 10:00 am

Attendees: Kristen Bennett, David Birchler, Tom Bissett, Janet Canode, Paul Curtis, Jim Francis, John Gardner, Amy Golke, Ernest Kafkas, Karon Ottenbacher, Steve Pondo, Cam Trombly, and Jeanette Ventimiglia.

AGENDA ITEM 1. Powerpoint presentation of the planning process by DNR.

AGENDA ITEM 2. Brief overview of draft General Management Plan. Comment made regarding the status of Bade Road.

AGENDA ITEM 3. Review of the draft Core Values were reviewed. Changes to the park purpose and legal mandates, as appropriate.

AGENDA ITEM 3. Updates to Stakeholder List

AGENDA ITEM 5: Website Update

No comments or changes.

Actions:

1. Make changes to plan as discussed.

**Meeting Minutes
Wetzel State Recreation Area
General Development Plan
Lenox Township, Michigan**

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Attendees: Kristen Bennett, David Birchler, Janet Canode, Paul Curtis, Jim Francis, John Gardner, Amy Golke, Ernest Kafcas, Glenn Palmgren, Steve Pondo, Cam Trombly and Jeanette Ventimiglia.

AGENDA ITEM 1. Review of Core Values and update on easement information. There was discussion over the Bade Road certified ROW.

AGENDA ITEM 2. Review of Management Zones (e.g. wetlands can fall within a Natural Resources Recreation Zone). General comments/conclusions regarded wetland locations, park entrances, utilities, management zone allocations and potential future purchase locations. The planning team completed the worksheet summary (What Natural Resource Values are important).

AGENDS 3. Other:

- Updates to Stakeholder List
- Website update.

Actions:

1. Update Core Values and Management Zone map per discussion
2. Add draft plan to website

Meeting Minutes
Wetzel State Recreation Area
General Development Plan
Lenox Township, Michigan

Date: Tuesday, June 13, 2006

Attendees: David Birchler, Janet Canode, Paul Curtis, Amy Golke, Steve Pondo, Tony Bissett and Jeanette Ventimiglia.

AGENDA ITEM 1. Review the Legal Mandates section per changes from the May meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 2. Management Zones discussion on potential uses within each zone, access to the park and coordination with the County railway system.

AGENDA ITEM 3. Stakeholder Workshop: primary date of July 25, back-up date of July 18.

Actions:

1. Update Core Values and Management Zone Plan map
2. Add prairie grasslands to map
3. Send out letter of invitation

Meeting Minutes
Wetzel State Recreation Area
General Development Plan
Lenox Township, Michigan

Date Thursday, August 10, 2006

Attendees Kristen Bennett David Birchler, Paul Curtis, Amy Golke, Ernie Kafkas, Karon Ottenbacher and Jeanette Ventimiglia.

AGENDA ITEM 1. Review of Stakeholder Workshop results. Team discussion of general comments and ranking of issues and solutions based on workshop activity.

AGENDA ITEM 2. Changes to Final Draft Plan were reviewed.

AGENDA ITEM 3. Public Participation Workshop was discussed. Possible dates: September 26 or October 4. The on-line survey questions were also reviewed. The on-line survey will be available when public notices go out.

Actions:

1. Make changes to plan as appropriate
2. Select date for Public Participation Workshop
3. Upload On-line survey (BA)

APPENDIX D

Memorandum of Understanding

**MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF
THE WETZEL RECREATION AREA BETWEEN LENOX TOWNSHIP AND THE
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, signed this 3 day of MARCH, 2005, between Lenox Township, hereinafter referred to as the "TOWNSHIP," and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, hereinafter referred to as "DNR,"

The purpose of this Memo of Understanding between Lenox Township and the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division, is to serve as a working platform for further discussions and planning regarding the Wetzel Recreation Area that is located in Lenox Township. This Memo of Understanding arises out of a meeting between representatives of the Department of Natural Resources and Lenox Township that took place on October 21, 2004. By signing this Memo of Understanding, the Department of Natural Resources understands that Lenox Township is not necessarily bound to develop the Wetzel Recreation Area at its expense, and Lenox Township agrees that the Department of Natural Resources is not bound to develop Wetzel Recreation Area at this time at all. Rather, this Memo of Understanding simply confirms the discussions of the parties to date and serves as a working agreement to continue with those discussions and to provide a process for future discussions regarding the development of the Wetzel Recreation Area.

The Wetzel Recreation Area, formerly known as the Wetzel State Park, is not developed at this time, and the Department of Natural Resources, based upon budgetary restraints and development priorities, has no current plans to develop the Wetzel Recreation Area in the near future.

Lenox Township, who has no legal obligation whatsoever to develop the Wetzel Recreation Area, has the finances to develop the Wetzel Recreation Area at its expense and has expressed a willingness to do so. Lenox Township believes that the development of the Wetzel Recreation Area would benefit Lenox Township residents, would improve the public image of Lenox Township, would draw users to Lenox Township, and would be consistent with the Department of Natural Resources' policy of attempting to provide additional public Recreation opportunities in the vicinity of Metropolitan Detroit.

Although both parties recognize that the mitigation of wetlands is in the State of Michigan's best interests, both parties would prefer that the Wetzel Recreation Area not be used as a bank for mitigated wetlands from other areas, as a bank for mitigated wetlands would not provide potential Wetzel Recreation Area users with the types and range of recreational uses that the parties are contemplating in this Memo of Understanding. The Department of Natural Resources has indicated that no further areas of the Wetzel Recreation Area are committed to mitigated wetlands at this time and that the Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division, will do what it can to insure that no further areas of the Wetzel Recreation Area are committed to the development of mitigated wetlands from other areas, during the time that further discussions and planning takes place.

Although Lenox Township has expressed an interest in developing the Wetzel Recreation Area consistent with the Department of Natural Resources Master Plan for that area, both parties agree to be completely flexible in terms of how, or if, the Wetzel Recreation Area is developed. This flexibility

includes, but is not limited to, issues such as whether the Wetzel Recreation Area is developed as a day park as opposed to affording overnight camping; whether the area is developed in phases or not; how much of the area is developed and/or preserved for hunting; the types and features of recreational use; and the issues of who administers and incurs the expenses of administration of the Wetzel Recreation Area once developed.

The Department of Natural Resources recognizes that this is an unusual opportunity to have the Wetzel Recreation Area developed with no, or little, expense to the State of Michigan. The Department of Natural Resources commends Lenox Township for this unusual opportunity and promises to endeavor to take advantage of this unusual opportunity and do what it can consistent with existing policies and regulations to bring the development of the Wetzel Recreation Area to fruition in accordance with this agreement.

To take advantage of this unusual opportunity, the Department of Natural Resources has agreed to go forward with the discussions and processes set forth in this agreement on the fastest track that is possible. The Department of Natural Resources recognizes that Lenox Township has stated that the typical Department of Natural Resources planning time of one or two years is unacceptable and that Lenox Township will not extend this generous offer to the Department of Natural Resources unless the planning processes are completed as quickly as possible. Accordingly, the parties have agreed to consider having the planning done by private consultants at Lenox Township's expense in accordance with Department of Natural Resources' planning guidelines and planning policies. However, subject to further discussions, Lenox Township is not bound to pay for private consulting unless and until Lenox Township subsequently agrees to do so.

The secondary purpose of this Memo of Understanding is to have each of the parties declare their informal partnership to each other regarding this possible development. If the parties can ultimately agree on plans for the Wetzel Recreation Area as well as the subsequent administration of it, it is the intention of the parties to enter into a formal, binding agreement at that time.

In this regard, both parties recognize that there is no precedent for the type of offer that Lenox Township has made to the Department of Natural Resources and, as a consequence, both of the parties agree to be open minded and flexible as further discussions take place.

No commitments of any nature have been made by either party during discussions to date or as a result of this Memo of Understanding. Neither party to this agreement is bound by any verbal representations made to date or by anything contained herein. Rather, the purpose of this tentative agreement is to simply serve as a framework for future discussions, at which time the parties may, or may not, enter into a formal, binding agreement.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TOWNSHIP:

Although neither party shall be legally bound by this agreement, the TOWNSHIP pledges to be flexible, open minded, cooperative, and partnerlike towards the DNR with regard to any discussions and developments that follow as a result of the Memo of Understanding.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DNR:

Although neither party shall be legally bound by this agreement, the DNR pledges to be flexible, open minded, cooperative, and partnerlike towards the TOWNSHIP with regard to any discussions and developments that follow as a result of the Memo of Understanding.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto, through their duly authorized agents and representatives, set their hands the day and year first written above.

Signed in the presence of:

Jeanette M Ventimiglia
Carol A Swentke

LENOX TOWNSHIP

John P. Gardner
John P. Gardner, Lenox Township Supervisor
Date: 3/3/05

Signed in the presence of:

Diane Munson
Victoria Dischalek

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES

Samuel A. Kah
An authorized representative of the State of
Michigan Department of Natural Resources,
Parks and Recreation Division
Date: 4/29/05

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