

BAY CITY STATE PARK

PHASE 2 GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

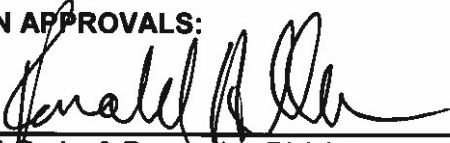
LONG RANGE ACTION GOALS

Long-range action plan providing specific action goals focused on the natural resources, historic-cultural resources, recreation opportunities, and the education-interpretation opportunities of each zone established in the Phase 1 General Management Plan



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

PLAN APPROVALS:



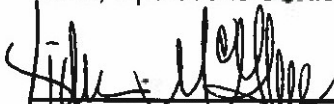
Chief, Parks & Recreation Division

10/1/18
Date



Chief, Operations Section

9-27-18
Date



Chief, Planning Section

9-17-18
Date



giffels 
webster

BAY CITY STATE PARK PLAN APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS:



Park Management Plan Administrator

6/19/18
Date



Stewardship Unit Manager

7/23/18
Date



Roscommon District Supervisor

8/15/18
Date



Saginaw Bay Regional Field Planner

8/21/18
Date



Park Manager, Bay City State Park

8-14-18
Date

FOR INFORMATION:

PRD- SECTION CHIEFS:

5/14/18
Date

MSPAC: STEWARDSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE:

5/30/18
Date

NRC- MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

6/14/18
Date

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Children experiencing the natural habitat at Tobico Lagoon.

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1. INTRODUCTION

A General Management Plan (GMP) develops as a result of a series of planning steps, with each step building upon the previous. Action decisions focus on the mission of the Parks & Recreation Division (PRD) of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the specific purpose and significance of the park. The Phase 1 GMP is the first of four phases of planning. This document, Phase 2 Action Plan, is directed by the Phase 1 plan and identifies goals to be attained over the next ten years.

The Phase 1 General Management Plan for Bay City State Recreation Area (BCSRA), the former name of Bay City State Park, was adopted in 2010. In this phase, the first action is to re-evaluate the Phase 1 plan to assure that no conditions have changed that would cause a modification in the overall guiding document. The planning team has reviewed the Phase 1, significance statements, management zones and proposed project boundary recommendations and found that the plan remains relevant today.

The second phase of management planning for Bay City State Park (BCSP) establishes long-range action goals for the park as a whole and for each of the management zones defined in the General Management Plan. Prior to plan approval, but after the public review of the draft Phase 2 plan, the name of the park was changed from Bay City State Recreation to Bay City State Park. Therefore both names will be found within this document and should be considered synonymous.



Stakeholder meeting on April 26, 2016 provided important community input in establishing action goals.

2. OVERVIEW OF PHASE 1 GMP

Bay City State Park (BCSP), with 2,389 acres, is located on the Saginaw Bay approximately 3 miles northwest of Bay City, in Kawkawlin Township and Bangor Township, Bay County. The PRD of the DNR completed the Phase 1 General Management Plan for Bay City State Park in 2010. At that time, the endeavor represented a new planning philosophy of the PRD. Management Planning, is a comprehensive, resource-based process, modeled after the National Park Service's planning methodology. Through the planning process, the planning team, made up of PRD staff and staff from other DNR resource divisions, developed the Core Values for Bay City State Park in consultation with government officials, stakeholders and the public. As a result, the Bay City State Park was determined to be significant for the following reasons.

2.1 Significance Statements

The following Significance Statements approved as part of the Phase 1 plan have been edited through the Phase 2 review to make minor factual corrections, while not altering the intent of the statements.

1. Bay City State Park is a destination for birding. It provides stopover habitat for migrating songbirds and is home for many rare nesting marsh birds. The Tobico Marsh is a significant staging location for migratory waterfowl. Significant resident bird species include the marsh wren, American bittern, yellow-headed blackbird, black-crowned night-heron, least bittern, and common moorhen.



BCSP provides unique natural resources for species along Saginaw Bay shoreline and the inland marsh.

2. The park offers unique natural resources, including southern hardwood swamp, wooded dune & swale, emergent marsh, lakeplain oak openings, and lakeplain prairie.

3. Bay City State Park plays an important role in the region for recreation, nature appreciation, education and the environment. It features one of the few public access points to Saginaw Bay. An estimated 20,000 school children visit from within a 1-hour drive of the park.

4. Due to its location on Saginaw Bay, its connectivity to Bay City through trails, and the facilities available within the park, the local community feels a sense of ownership of Bay City State Park. The park serves as a buffer strip between the surrounding commercial development and Saginaw Bay. Special community events, such as the annual Waterfowl Festival, trail rides, wellness walks / runs, and the like are held within the park throughout the year.



The visitor center provides valuable educational opportunities.

5. The Tobico Marsh is a National Natural Landmark, one of only 600 properties so designated by the National Park Service. It is significant because it is "one of the best fresh-water marshes in the north-central United States," and because of "its large size and relatively undisturbed condition, and the variety of aquatic plant communities, ranging from open water to marsh vegetation." The marsh hosts a variety of uncommon animal and plant species. The marsh serves a key role as "Nature's Water Filter," protecting underground water sources and Saginaw Bay from excessive run-off and pollutants.

6. The Visitor Center is a well-used resource for education / interpretation. Additional education and interpretive opportunities exist within the park relating to fishing, archery skills, and invasive species identification and control.

7. Year-round recreation opportunities include camping, archery, hiking trails, biking, wildlife viewing, fishing, ice fishing, and hunting. It is one of the few public access points for ice fishing in the area.

8. The park area has a rich history, from its use by many different Native American tribes, to logging, to its history as the renowned Tobico Hunt Club.

9. A variety of natural resource, sporting and friends groups are active within the park.

10. Organic build-up on the beach at Bay City State Park is an ongoing management challenge that limits public use of the beach. Historically, this beach has drawn, and has the potential to continue to draw, thousands of people to enjoy access to Saginaw Bay.

2.2 Management Zones

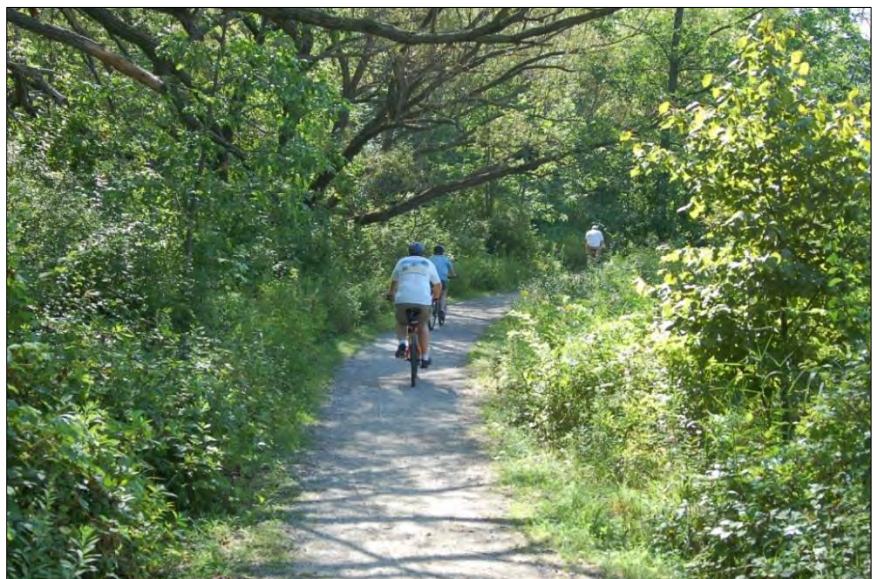
Critical to the management planning process is the identification and delineation of “Management Zones”. These are physical sections within the park that have defined characteristics and qualities, for which there are related user expectations, management guidance, and defined levels of development.



Scenic view of Saginaw Bay.

Considering the identity and significance of Bay City State Park, the planning team, with stakeholder and public input, established appropriate management zones and the extent of influence on the property (see Maps on Page 7&9). From a palette of nine standard zones, eight were applied to Bay City State Park. While the full descriptions of these zones are included in the Phase 1 document, a condensed review of the management zones follows:

- ❑ Primitive Zone comprises 1,918.7 acres, or 80.4%, and will reflect a desired condition that emphasizes the natural resources. The Primitive Zone encompasses the entire area of the Tobico Marsh.
- ❑ Backcountry Zone comprises 69.8 acres, or 2.9%, and emphasizes resource quality over recreation, but allows for modification of the landscape to allow for moderate levels of active recreation uses. Within the park, the Tobico Marsh Trail is located in the Backcountry Zone.
- ❑ Natural Resource Recreation Zone comprises 220.6 acres, or 9.2%, and permits active recreation with moderate to high density of use conducted in a natural setting. The Tobico Lagoon is located within the Natural Resource Recreation Zone.



Bicyclist enjoying the trail system.

- ❑ Developed Recreation Zone, comprises 151.2 acres, or 6.3% and allows active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced as possible. The campground, day use area and parking, and the beach are located in the Developed Recreation Zone.



Campground located in the Developed Recreation Zone.

- ❑ Administrative Zone (formerly referred to as Visitor Services Zone) comprises 17.3 acres, or 0.7% and encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. This zone includes the park headquarters, contact stations, and maintenance facilities that support the business of running a state park.
- ❑ Cultural Overlay Zone covers the entire park, 2,386 acres, and addresses the overall setting in which is found not only historic structures, but non-structural evidence of the traditions, beliefs, practices, lifeways, arts, crafts and social institutions of any community. The underlying management zone will still apply.
- ❑ History Education Overlay Zone comprises 11.3 acres, 0.5%, and emphasizes the cultural and historic resources, which are restored and interpreted for visitor understanding. This zone centers on the Saginaw Bay Visitors Center, a facility developed to educate and promote resource protection and historical interpretation.
- ❑ Scenic Overlay Zone comprises 126.7 acres, 5.3%, and recognizes that there are aesthetic qualities to be preserved and protected in the park. While there are many, those identified during the planning process, and noted on the management zone plan, are along pathways and overlook Tobico Marsh and other scenic vistas.

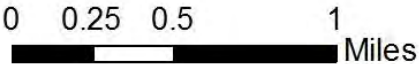


The visitor center activity shelter located in the Administrative Zone and History/Education Overlay Zone.

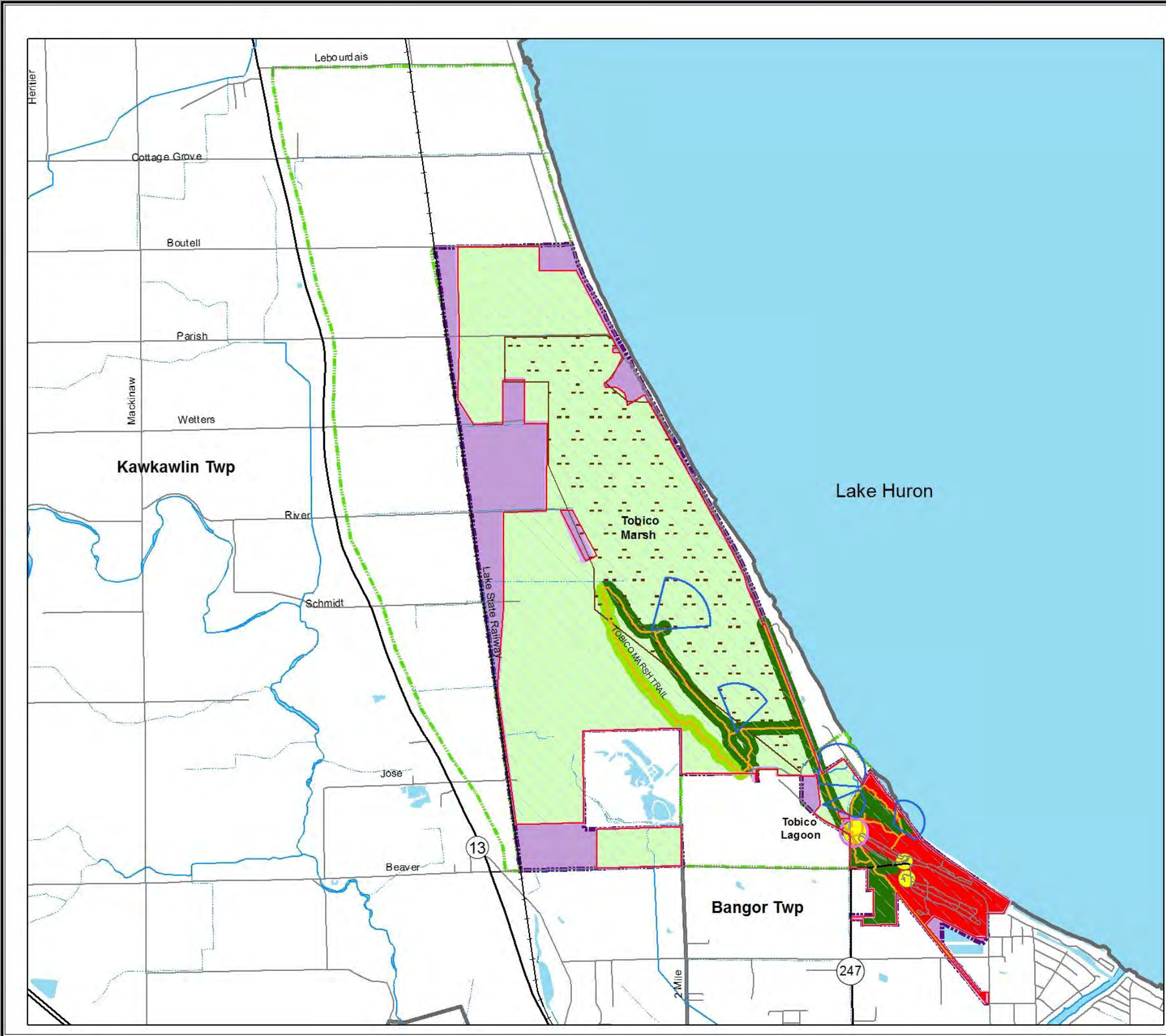
Bay City State Recreation Area Management Zones Map Bay City Bay County, Michigan



- Primitive
- Backcountry
- Natural Resource Recreation
- Developed Recreation
- Administrative
- History Education
- Scenic Overlay
- Cultural Overlay
- Addition to the NRC Dedicated Boundary as Recommended by the Planning Team
- National Natural Landmark
- Bay City State Recreation Area
- 2004 Dedicated NRC Boundary
- Trails
- County Roads



Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library,
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
December 15, 2016







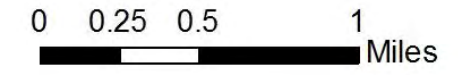
Note: The Dedicated NCR Boundary Approved by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) encompasses properties that are potential future land acquisitions as they become available and as funds become available.

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**Bay City State Recreation Area
Aerial
Bay City
Bay County, Michigan**



-  Bay City State Recreation Area
-  2004 Dedicated NRC Boundary
-  Addition to the NRC Dedicated Boundary as Recommended by the Planning Team
-  Trails



clearzoning
CLEAR AND CONNECTED

Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library,
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
December 15, 2016



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3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHANGES SINCE PHASE 1 GMP

Phase 2 of the GMP provides an opportunity to re-evaluate and assure that no conditions have changed that would warrant revision of the overall guiding document. The planning team reviewed the Phase 1 GMP including the significance statements, management zones, and the proposed project boundary. This planning effort was confirmed to remain appropriate in providing the guiding framework for Phase 2 of the GMP. Minor factual corrections to the significant statements were made without changing the overall intent of the statements.



Since the Phase I GMP, the spray park located in the day use area was completed.

In 2014, a Lakefront and Beach Access Study Report was developed in partnership with Bay County and community members. This report was subsequent to the Phase I GMP and focused on soliciting public input and evaluating development and recreation opportunities specific to the park's under-utilized lakeshore area. The recommendations of the Lakefront Study that constitute specific actions to be undertaken over the next 10-years have been incorporated into this Phase 2 plan.

The planning team provided updates on the progress that had been made at the park since the Phase 1 GMP and the Lakefront and Beach Access Study. The completed projects, with the majority receiving support from the Friends of BCSRA and other community groups, included:

- Observation tower remodeling
- Visitor Center activity shelter
- Stage for summer concert and film series
- Electric vehicle charging station
- Solar powered picnic table
- Cross country ski trail grooming
- Spray Park construction & completion
- Lake viewing enhancement platform, donated by Bay County
- Lakeshore access/ coastal boardwalk construction
- Beach access improvements (mobi-mat, beach wheelchairs etc.)
- Name change to Bay City State Park
- Land Use Order of the Director and Conservation Order changes impacting Tobico Marsh
- Eagle cam installed
- Campground host shelter construction
- Marquee sign installed at visitor's entrance
- New fishing dock at Tobico Lagoon



Visitors heading toward the improved observation tower.

For all park GMPs, legal mandates are identified that serve to further guide the development of the GMP and subsequent Action Plans. There are several general and site specific legal mandate revisions/additions to those included in the Phase 1 GMP listed in Appendix A: Legal Mandate Updates.



Several new guiding resources have been developed within the six years since the Phase 1 plan was adopted, which influence the priorities and management practices of the Department. These include the Michigan State Parks & Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel Report (2012). This report to Governor Snyder identifies system-wide changes to programs, management and investment strategies. The Managed Public Land Strategy (2013) provides a framework for the continued conservation, use and management of public lands to provide an enhanced quality of life for Michigan residents, create jobs and protect the essence of Michigan; its woods, water, wildlife and other natural and cultural assets. The Michigan Comprehensive Trail Plan (2013) identifies eight priority recommendations with associated key actions that should be implemented to assist in achieving the vision of establishing a high quality, nationally recognized, state-wide trail plan. An outcome of this plan is the Iron Belle Trail, a hiking and biking route from Belle Isle in Detroit to Ironwood on the Wisconsin border. The biking route of this state trail passes through or near Bay City State Park. Two other guiding documents, Parks and Recreation Division Strategic Plan and the Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan were updated in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

In addition, there have been several studies relating to the buildup of organic matter in the Saginaw Bay. This includes a five year project completed in 2014, [Managing the Impact of Multiple Stressors in Saginaw Bay](http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/res/projects/multi_stressors/), a summary of which is available at: http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/res/projects/multi_stressors/.

An Integrated Assessment, funded by Sea Grant, is nearing completion. It addresses the core question: What are the causes consequences and possible ways to address the muck problem at the Bay City State Park in Saginaw Bay, and what is the public perception of the issue? This study will provide important background information on which to base management decisions and serves to emphasize that the organic buildup is a complex long-term matter that is influenced by many factors, including the changing lake levels.



Shoreline of Saginaw Bay at BCSP in August, 2013.



Shoreline of Saginaw Bay at BCSP in July, 2016

4. PLAN PROCESS AND DEVELOPMENT FOR PHASE 2 GMP

Phase 2 of the GMP is intended to build upon the Phase 1, the Lakefront and Beach Access Study, through the collaborative effort of the planning team whose extensive input was sought throughout the planning process. The planning team met several times to review and develop the plan elements. Please refer to the Appendix B for summaries of all planning team meetings.

DNR Staff		
Name	Title	Division
Debbie Jensen	Management Plan Administrator	PRD
George Lauinger	Park Manager (Retired)	PRD
Brian Dunn	Lead Ranger/ Acting Park Supervisor	PRD
Bill Doan	Roscommon District Supervisor	PRD
Scott Cook	Saginaw Bay Regional Field Planner	PRD
Ray Fahlsing	Stewardship Unit Manager	PRD
Amy Swainston	Recreation Specialist	PRD
James Baker	District Supervisor	Fisheries
John Wood	Interim District Supervisor	Law Enforcement
Valerie Blaschka	Park Interpreter	Marketing and Outreach
Timothy Payne	District Supervisor	Wildlife
Patrick Mohny	Gladwin Unit Manager	Forestry
Nate Levitte	Field Operations Manager	Wildlife

Stakeholder, public and tribal outreach is an important part of the planning process. PRD hosted a stakeholder workshop and a public participation workshop. Both the stakeholder and public participation workshops involved solicited written and verbal comments. The draft plan was available for review on the project website and the public was invited to email, call or mail questions or comments concerning this initiative. In addition, the DNR informed Tribal Governments of the planning process and invited them to meet with the DNR- PRD to discuss the GMP and provide input. Upon compiling the input, the planning team discussed and refined the plan as appropriate. A summary of all these outreach efforts and input received is documented in Appendix C.

Following public input on the draft plan, plan approval was delayed while a specially developed task force comprised of DNR staff and local community leaders, looked in more detail at shoreline access and visibility and marketing improvements. One of the resulting recommendations was to change the name back to Bay City State Park, which has a higher degree of public recognition.

5. 10-YEAR ACTION GOALS

The Action Goals proposed for Bay City State State Park (BCSP) were developed in response to stakeholder and public input and in context with the core values identified in the Phase 1 plan. The planning team has developed 10-Year Action Goals that it believes are necessary to guide management and development within the park as a whole, and in each of the management zones, in order to achieve the desired user experience and resource protection. For each management zone in the plan, action goals are recommended that address the following categories:

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

Management plans do not guarantee available funding to implement the proposed Action Goals, which will be prioritized both by PRD district and statewide. PRD will seek internal funding, alternative funding sources, partnerships and other potential mechanisms for implementing the desired future conditions defined in this plan. The Action Goals listed in this plan are intended to be in line with funding realities over the upcoming 10-year period. Other infrastructure improvements have been identified as being desirable at the park, including updating utility infrastructure and parking lot and road resurfacing, as funding sources are identified. An important additional long-term goal is to update the Saginaw Bay Visitor's Center, in terms of the infrastructure, facilities and the presentation material provided, to ensure it remains relevant and effective. This will require an inter-divisional approach.

Visual and physical access to the Saginaw Bay and revitalization of the lakeshore day use area remains a priority of the PRD and Bay County community leaders. During the planning process for this Phase 2 plan, a meeting sponsored by the local legislators, and attended by Bay County community leaders, the Director of the DNR, and DNR staff, was held to address concerns relating to lakeshore access at Bay City State Park. The DNR is committed to continue to work with the community to address this issue. Specific actions identified at the meeting focused on a joint task force convened to develop a list of projects designed to improve shoreline access that do not necessarily require significant permitting or funding and can be implemented in the short-term. A longer term action to address lakeshore access is the development of a Shoreline Access and Connectivity Plan that will take a holistic look at trail connections, amenities and desired visitor experiences in the lakeshore area.

The following 10-year action goals are ranked in terms of priority based on health, safety, and welfare, as well as ease of implementation (cost, ability to implement with own staff, partnerships etc.) and importance to park users. Priority Level 1 projects indicate those that should be addressed within the next 2 years. Priority Level 2 projects include those that should be addressed within 2-5 years. Priority Level 3 projects are desired but can be tackled in the next 5-10 years once funding has been identified.

General Action Goals

Many of the 10-Year Action Goals for **Bay City State Park** are general in nature and apply within all of the management zones. These often deal with park-wide issues, such as invasive species control, universal access, or marketing the park's many recreational opportunities to a wider audience of potential users. Many of the overall maintenance and operational issues of running a state park also result in the need for actions across all zone boundaries, such as law enforcement.

Action Goal	Priority	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Natural Resources			
Continue land and water based invasive species control, concentrating on early detection & rapid response.	Ongoing	Stewardship Park Manager Wildlife Fisheries	Stewardship
Continue to seek partnership to assist with native backyard habitat at the demonstration area behind the Visitor Center	Ongoing	Stewardship Park Manager Marketing & Outreach Community Partners	Park Manager Park Interpreter
Assess the need and implement strategic tree replacement in response to losses from Emerald Ash Borer in accordance with PRD standards.	Ongoing	Stewardship Park Manager Field Planner	Field Planner Park Manager
Education/Interpretation Opportunities			
Continue to enhance education and interpretation of wetlands and other natural resources that are generally found within the park	Ongoing	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach	Park Interpreter
Improve interpretive signage & incorporate multimedia technology throughout the park	2	Stewardship Park Manager Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Park Interpreter
Management			
Continue to work with partners to promote the park as a tourism destination to encourage economic development in the area	Ongoing	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach Community Partners	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach
Explore expanding partnership involvement in bird-related events, promoting the park as a migratory pathway and habitat for variety of wetland and woodland bird species, including the Waterfowl Festival	Ongoing	Park Manager Recreation Partners Wildlife Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager

General Action Goals

Action Goal	Priority	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Management (continued)			
Continue to promote BCSP as a Saginaw Bay Birding Trail site	Ongoing	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach Recreation Partners	Park Manager Park Interpreter
Continue to seek vendors to offer food and recreation opportunities within the park	Ongoing	Park Manager Vendors Lease Concession Manager	Park Manager
Implement phased capital outlay projects as funds become available	Ongoing	District Supervisor Field Planner	District Supervisor Field Planner
Develop a Shoreline Access and Connectivity Plan that identifies connections between the lakeshore, lakeshore amenities, existing park amenities, trails, and identifies desired visitor experiences.	1	Park Manager Field Planner Trails Specialist	Field Planner Trails Specialist
Identify amenities that would promote BCSP as a stop on Saginaw Bay Blueways Trail	2	Park Manager Field Planner Trails Specialist Community Partners	Trails Specialist
Development			
Identify funding needs, sources and partnerships necessary to achieve phased implementation of the Shoreline Access and Connectivity Plan, following its completion.	TBD by the Plan	Park Manager Field Planner Trails Specialist	Field Planner Trails Specialist
Continue to explore acquisition of recommended property within the Phase 1 General Management Plan Boundary as it becomes available and funding allows (Note: acquisition is only made on a willing seller basis)	Ongoing	PRD Land Liaison Park Manager	PRD Land Liaison Park Manager
Work with partners in the development of trail connections between park, local/regional and state systems (Iron Belle Trail)	Ongoing	Park Manager Field Planner Trails Specialist Recreation Partners	Field Planner Trails Specialist
Provide improved wayfinding signage for the Bay County Riverwalk Trail System / Iron Belle Trail	2	Park Manager Field Planner Trails Specialist Recreation Partners	Recreation Partners
Implement the identified amenities that would promote BCSP along the Blueways Water Trail	2	Park Manager Field Planner Trails Specialist Community Partners	Trails Specialist Community Partners

Developed Recreation

Active recreation with high density use, conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance, is characteristics of the Developed Recreation Zone. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced were possible. The campground and primary day use area are included within this zone.

Action Goals	Priority	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Recreation Opportunities			
Improve procedures and methods of grooming at the current beach	Completed	Park Manager Friends of BCSRA	Park Manager
Expand groomed beach area in the vicinity of the lake access boardwalk (subject to permitting)	1	Field Planner Park Manager	Park Manager
Explore opportunities to rent kayaks, canoes, other small non-motorized watercraft, and bicycles	2	Park Manager Vendors Lease & Concessions Manager	Park Manager
Education/Interpretation Opportunities			
Develop educational/interpretive signage on the shoreline's natural history	2	Stewardship Park Manager Park Interpreter	Park Manager Park Interpreter
Management			
Continue to implement the recommendations of the park/community task force to improve physical and visual access to the lakeshore and other efforts to increase park visitation.	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager
Development			
Implement lighting improvements in the day use area, specifically winter access locations	3	Park Manager Field Planner	Park Manager
Implement tree plantings as needed in accordance with PRD standards	Ongoing	Stewardship Field Planner Park Manager	Field Planner Park Manager
Continue to maintain the winter shoreline access path	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager
Study alternatives and make recommendations to provide an improved, safe pedestrian crossing between the campground and the parking lot/day use area.	1	Park Manager Field Planner Bay County MDOT	Park Manager Field Planner
Implement visitor amenities around the splash pad	2	Park Manager Field Planner Recreation Partners	Park Manager Field Planner

Developed Recreation

Action Goals	Priority	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Development (continued)			
Identify partner and partner funding for development and stewardship of a dog park	3	Park Manager Field Planner Stewardship	Park Manager Field Planner
Undertake an engineering feasibility study to determine options to alleviate seasonal flooding in the campground	2	Field Planner Park Manager	Field Planner Park Manager
Continue to work with partners on development of a disc golf course.	3	Park Manager Field Planner Recreation Partners	Park Manager Field Planner Recreation Partners
Replace play structure in partnership with Friends of BCSP	1	Park Manager Field Planner Friends of BCSRA	Park Manager Field Planner Friends of BCSRA
Construct parking area closer to the designated beach	1	Field Planner Park Manager	Field Planner Park Manager

Natural Resource Recreation

Active recreation at a medium to high density of use conducted in a natural setting is the hallmark of the Natural Resource Recreation Zone. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but in this zone higher levels of use are allowed. Vegetation may be managed to facilitate recreational use and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape, as well as address such issues as hazard trees and to manage pests and disease. The 10-year Action Goals are intended to promote and enhance diverse recreation opportunities.

Action Goals	Priority	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Recreation Opportunities			
Continue to work with Fisheries to improve the fishery in the Tobico Lagoon	Ongoing	Fisheries Park Manager	Fisheries Park Manager
Management			
Study and identify improvements for youth archery range.	2	Park Manager Field Planner	Park Manager Field Planner
Conduct a lake mapping survey in the Tobico Lagoon	2	Park Manager Fisheries	Park Manager
Development			
Improve Chickadee Nature Trail with signage and kiosk upgrades &/or other smart device compatibility	2	Stewardship Park Manager Park Interpreter	Park Manager Park Interpreter
Implement identified improvements for the youth archery range	2	Park Manager Field Planner	Park Manager Field Planner
Implement fishing platform improvements on Tobico Lagoon, including access to deeper water based upon the lake mapping survey results	3	Park Manager Field Planner Park Interpreter Fisheries	Park Manager Field Planner
Replace the boardwalk into the marsh at Tower #2	3	Field Planner Park Manager Community Partner	Field Planner Park Manager

Primitive Zone

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

Action Goals	Priority	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Recreation Opportunities			
Study suitable locations and impacts for a seasonal kayak launch on the Tobico Marsh, while ensuring its continued protection as dictated by original deed restrictions	2	Stewardship Wildlife Park Interpreter	Stewardship Wildlife Park Interpreter
Management			
Promote the Tobico Marsh as a National Natural Landmark	Ongoing	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach Community Partners	Marketing & Outreach
Continue to implement stewardship efforts to protect the Tobico Marsh ecosystem in accordance with its designation as a National Natural Landmark and its status as a wildlife refuge	Ongoing	Stewardship Wildlife Park Manager	Stewardship
Restore Lake Plain Prairie	Ongoing	Stewardship	Stewardship
Continue efforts to control phragmites & glossy buckthorn	Ongoing	Stewardship	Stewardship

Administrative Services Zone

This zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration, operations, and the business of running the state park.

Action Goals	Priority	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
<i>Refer to the General Action Goals for administrative-type activities</i>			

History Education Overlay

This overlay zone centers on the Saginaw Bay Visitors Center, a facility developed to educate and promote resource protection and historical interpretation.

Action Goals	Priority	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Education/Interpretation Opportunities			
Identify the needs and funding sources for comprehensive Visitor's Center upgrade including infrastructure and exhibits	1	Park Manager Field Planner Marketing & Outreach Grants Coordinator	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach
Identify funding and construct storage facility for the Visitor Center	3	Park Manager Field Planner District Supervisor Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Field Planner Marketing & Outreach

Cultural Overlay

The Cultural Overlay has been applied to the majority of the park in recognition of important historic and cultural resources.

Action Goals	Priority	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Management			
Continue to protect and interpret the cultural resources and history of the park.	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager

Scenic Overlay

In recognition of its scenic beauty, this overlay has been applied to the observation towers overlooking the Tobico Marsh and Lake Huron shore, which are used to enjoy the landscape and birdwatching. Any development should be sensitive to the scenic qualities of this zone.

Action Goals	Priority	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Management			
Continue to recognize and provide access to the scenic viewsheds of the Tobico Marsh, Tobico Lagoon and Lake Huron shoreline.	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager

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Appendix A—Legal Mandates

For all park General Management Plans, legal mandates are identified that serve to further guide the development of the General Management Plan and subsequent Action Plans. For our planning purposes, the term “Legal Mandates” refers not only to federal and state law, but also the administrative tools of “Policy” and “Directive” of the Natural Resource Commission, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Parks & Recreation Division. Examples include Orders of the Director, Parks and Recreation Areas State Land Rules and all other laws, commission orders, and rules or directives that apply to the state park.



Legal Mandates applicable to Bay City State Park were identified for the Phase 1 General Management Plan (GMP). This Appendix provides an update to Section 2.4 of the Phase 1 plan. The easements listed in the Phase 1 GMP remain unchanged.

FEDERAL STATUTE

THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT (CZMA), 1972

Bay City State Park falls within the Coastal Zone Management Area and is, therefore, subject to the CZMA. This law enables coastal states, including Great Lakes states, to develop a coastal management program to improve protection of sensitive shoreline resources, to identify coastal areas appropriate for development, to designate areas hazardous to development and to improve public access to the coastline. The program is administered by the Coastal Zone Program of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment. The program includes local pass through grants and administration of coastal related sections of the Natural Resource Protection Act, 1994 PA 451. Review of federal agency activities for consistency with Michigan's approved program is performed by the Great Lakes Shorelands Section in the Land and Water Management Division (LWMD).

BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLE PROTECTION ACT, 1940 AND AMENDMENTS

This Act prohibits anyone, without a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior, from "taking" bald eagles, including their parts, nests, or eggs. The Act defines "take" as "pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb." "Disturb" includes actions that may result in injury to the eagle, a decrease in its productivity or nest abandonment.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT, 1973

The purposes of this Act are to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved, to provide a program for the conservation of such endangered species and threatened species, and to take such steps as may be appropriate to achieve the purposes of the Act.

STATE STATUTE

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (NREPA) AND AMENDMENTS	
PA 451 of 1994, Part 5	Gives the DNR authority to make rules to support its mission. This includes State Land Rules, Land Use Orders, Wildlife Conservation Orders, Fisheries Orders, and Watercraft Control
PA 451 of 1994, Part 303 Wetlands Protection	Requires a permit from the state (DEQ) to undertake certain activities in regulated wetlands, such as, dredging, fill, construction or drainage.
PA 451 of 1994, Part 325 – Great Lakes Submerged Lands	A permit is required for all filling, dredging, and placement of permanent structures (i.e., docks, piers, pilings, etc.) below the "ordinary high water mark" and on all upland channels extending landward of the "ordinary high water mark" of the Great Lakes.
PA 451 of 1994, Part 356, Endangered Species Protection	The law governs those acts necessary for the conservation, protection, restoration and propagation of endangered and threatened species of fish, wildlife and plants in cooperation with the Federal Government.
PA 451 of 1994, Part 419 - Hunting Area Control	Section 324.41901 establishes the powers of the Department to establish safety zones for hunting.
PA 451 of 1994, Part 741 State Park System	The department shall create, maintain, operate, promote, and make available for public use and enjoyment a system of state parks to preserve and protect Michigan's significant natural resources and areas of natural beauty or historic significance, to provide open space for public recreation, and to provide an opportunity to understand Michigan's natural resources and the need to protect and manage those resources.
PA 35 of 2010, Part 741 Recreation Passport	This act amended the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code to provide for a State Park and State-operated public boating access site "Recreation Passport" that a Michigan resident may obtain by paying an additional fee when registering a motor vehicle.
PA 451 of 1994, Part 761 Aboriginal Records and Antiquities	The state reserves the exclusive right and privilege to all aboriginal records and other antiquities including those found on the bottomlands of the Great Lakes.

NREPA AND AMENDMENTS (CONTINUED)

<p>PA 45 of 2010 Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act</p>	<p>Amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (PA 451 of 1994) to require the DNR to establish a plan for a statewide trail network that includes Michigan trailways, pack and saddle trailways, and other recreational use trailways, and to permit pack and saddle animals on designated trailways managed by the DNR.</p>
<p>PA 46 of 2010 Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act</p>	<p>Amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (PA 451 of 1994) with a finding that a statewide system of trails, trailways, and pack and saddle trailways is in the best interest of the state; requires the DNR to establish an “adopt-a-trail” program that allows volunteer groups to assist in maintaining and enhancing Michigan trailways, pack and saddle trailways, and rail-trails; and creates the Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Council within the department.</p>

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

<p>PA 368 of 1978, Article 12, Environmental Health, Part 125, Campgrounds</p>	<p>Established to protect and promote the public health by establishing health code requirements and regulations that all public (including DNR) and private campgrounds must meet. Includes permitting, licensing, inspections and rules regarding sanitation, safety standards and public health. Also covers testing and evaluating quality of water at bathing beaches, safety and rescue equipment.</p>
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ORDERS

The following Orders apply specifically to Bay City State Park:

Land Use Orders of the Director

5.2 Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages in certain state parks and recreation areas, prohibited conduct.

Order 5.2 A person shall not do any of the following:

(7) Possess or consume an alcoholic beverage at any time within the following described locations:

- (a) Bay city SP - entire park except for registered campers in the campground.

5.12 Certain state parks and recreation areas, requirements for use, certain conduct prohibited.

Order 5.12. The following conduct shall apply to use of Michigan state parks and recreation areas:

Bay City state park, prohibited conduct

(21) A person shall not do any of the following at Bay City SP:

- (a) Operate a snowmobile off the designated snowmobile route.
- (b) Enter Tobico marsh wildlife refuge of Bay City SP, being those state-owned lands in section sections 24 of

T15N R04E, and sections 19 and 30 of T15N R05E, bounded by a line beginning at the water's edge of the Tobico marsh wildlife refuge within section 24 where the Lesperance drain discharges into the Tobico marsh wildlife refuge which is located approximately 1150 feet east and 453 feet north of the center of section 24, T15N R04E, then continuing east parallel to the quarter-quarter section lines section of 24, T15N R04E, and 19, T15N R05E, to Killarney beach road and the eastern boundary of the posted state-owned land with the posted and designated state trail, then southeasterly along the west edge of the designated state trail located west of Killarney beach road to a point on the quarter-quarter section line and approximately 837 feet north of the intersection of little Killarney beach road with Killarney beach road, then west approximately 1766 feet parallel along said quarter-quarter section line approximately 1500 feet to a point on said quarter-quarter section line, then diagonally north-northwesterly approximately 5340 feet, to the point of beginning, excluding the posted and designated state trails, from September 1 to January 1 of each year without written permission from the wildlife regional supervisor or their representative.

- (c) Launch a motorized vessel from state-owned lands onto the waters of Bay City SP, except department employees, designees of department employees, or fire, emergency, or law enforcement personnel performing official duties.

5.16a Entry, use and occupancy of certain state parks, recreation areas and scenic sites, prohibited conduct.

Order 5.16a (1) A person shall not do any of the following:

(a) Enter any of the following state-owned lands with a motor vehicle unless a valid Michigan recreation passport has been purchased and affixed to the vehicle:

- (7) Bay city SP, Bay county.

Wildlife Conservation Orders

Wildlife is owned by all the people of the state of Michigan, and protection is administered and managed by the Michigan DNR. Hunting and trapping regulations including methods of take, bag limits, license quotas, and season dates are established by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and are described in the Wildlife Conservation Orders.

7.1 Hunting or trapping in state parks or game refuges; designating where permissible; permits; hunting or trapping in state recreation areas.

Sec. 7.1. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter or section 3.412, or by permit issued by the director, no person shall trap or hunt with firearms or dogs or in any other manner in any state park, state game refuge, or other lands under the control of and dedicated by the department as a game refuge or wildlife sanctuary.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter or in section 3.412, state recreation areas shall be open to hunting and trapping during established seasons.

7.51 Bay City state park, hunting and trapping allowed, exceptions; wildlife refuge entry; posting required.

Sec. 7.51 (1) Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during the open seasons established in this order within a portion(s) of the state-owned lands within sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 24 and 25 except as follows:

(a) Within the two safety zones of 150 yards (450 feet) from the posted and designated state trails located:

- (i) west of the northerly edge of the boundary of the state-owned land starting at a point approximately north-west

of the center of section 19, T15N R05E, at the north-eastern corner of the state-owned land designated as the Tobico marsh wildlife refuge then north-north-westerly to intersect the east-west centerline of section 13, T15N R04E; and

(ii) west of the posted and designated state trails located south and west from the designated Tobico marsh wildlife refuge, as defined in section 5.12 of the land use orders of the director, and defined as beginning at the intersection of little Killarney beach road and Killarney beach road, including those state-owned lands north and west of little Killarney beach road and Killarney beach road, including that portion of state land in section 19 and 30, T15NR05E, which is not included in the Tobico wildlife refuge, including those lands westerly and northerly of the westerly trail loop crossing into section 25, T15N R04E, approximately 1150 feet south of the northeast corner of said section 25, then heading in a rough-meander north-westerly into section 24, T15N R04E, to a point approximately 251 feet north and 417 feet east of the center of said section 24, with a short south-easterly turn of approximately 730 feet then north-north-westerly to a point approximately 752 feet east and 450 feet north of the center of said section 24, then east parallel along the quarter-quarter section lines to the northwest corner of the state-owned land designated as the Tobico marsh wildlife refuge, then south-easterly, east and south along the boundary of the Tobico marsh wildlife refuge to the point of beginning.

(b) Within the Tobico marsh wildlife refuge as defined in section 5.12 of the land use orders of the director.

(c) Within the Tobico marsh waterfowl hunting area defined as those state-owned lands north of the Tobico marsh wildlife refuge, north of the southwest Tobico marsh trails no-hunting zone (defined in Section 7.5.1(2)(a)(ii) and excluding these areas), and west of the northeast Tobico marsh trails no-hunting zone (defined in Section 7.5.1(2)(a)(i) and excluding this area), and includes all state-owned lands in the south half of section 13, T15N R04E, the southwest corner of section 18, T15N R05E, and the east portion in the north one-quarter section strip of section 24, T15 R04E, which is located east of a line beginning at the northwestern-most corner of the southwest Tobico marsh trails no-hunting zone (a point where the quarter-quarter line intersects Lesperance drain and which is approximately 752 feet east and 450 feet north of the center of said section 24) then heading north-northwest (approximately N1.25°W) approximately 660 feet, then easterly (approximately N88.125°E) approximately 137 feet paralleling the quarter-quarter line to a point on the north-south quarter-quarter line, then north and northwesterly along the east side of non-state-owned land inholding by heading north approximately 440 feet along the north-south quarter-quarter line, then north-northwesterly (approximately N25.61278°W) approximately 1,160 feet to the north section line of said section 24 (T15N R04E) only migratory game birds shall be hunted with a firearm subject to regulations as described in this order.

(3) An individual shall not use in hunting, or, subject to section 43510, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.43510, possess afield in the Bay city state park a firearm other than those described in section 2.1(4) of this order as allowable within the “limited firearms deer zone”.

(4) Signs identifying the boundaries of the areas of state-owned lands open to hunting and trapping shall be posted in such a manner and at such locations as will provide reasonable notice to the public.

History: Am. 14, 1996, Eff. Sept 1, 1996; Am. 7, 2017, Eff. Dec. 21, 2017.

STATE LAND RULES

Parks and Recreation Areas – State Land Rules are issued by authority conferred on the Michigan DNR by Section 504 of 1994 PA 451 MCL 324.504. The rules cover entry, use and occupation of state lands and unlawful acts.

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

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

MDEQ/ACOE PERMITS

Permit #1990-161176, issued on August 22, 2002 – authorized discharge in an area north of the Tobico Lagoon outlet and in an area south of the Tobico Lagoon outlet. Conditions of this permit requires the MDNR to set aside two other sections of the Bay City State Park (BCSP) shoreline as preserved areas in perpetuity. Preserved areas were likewise located north and south of the Tobico Lagoon outlet. Per the conditions of the permit, the preserved areas are to remain in their natural, undisturbed condition in perpetuity and not be subject to any alteration of the vegetation, soils or hydrology.

Permit #2004-16-1320, issued January 31, 2005 – provided for additional clearing of the coastal wetlands, and included a Wetland Compensation Plan. Conditions in 1990-161176 and 2004-16-1320 included the establishment of permanent preservation areas. Permit 2004-16-1320 changed the locations/extent of the preservation areas and also included mitigation work, in the form of a multi-year invasive species removal program, (Phragmites control), in the 2,300' long preservation area. In response to MDNR's request to relocate the swim beach to its current location, considerable effort have been and continue to be expended to meet these special conditions.

Appendix B—Planning Team Summary

Over the duration of the Phase 2 General Management Planning process, the Planning Team held three on-site team meetings and two virtual meetings. These meetings were critical to the development of the Phase 2 General Management Plan (GMP) and particularly the creation of the 10-Year Action Goals. Additionally, the meetings were an opportunity to review input received from stakeholders and the public.

Overview of Planning Team Meetings

Team Meeting #1 Bay City State Recreation Area: Phase 2 (January 25, 2016) – The Planning Team’s kick-off meeting was an opportunity for Planning Team members to introduce themselves to one another, review the Phase 2 GMP schedule, receive an overview and tour of Bay City State Recreation Area and review the existing planning documents. The completed Phase 1 GMP elements were discussed, including the creation the 20-year management zones and significance statements and tasks remaining for the Phase 2 portion of the GMP.

Team Meeting #2 Bay City State Recreation Area: Phase 2 (March 7, 2016) –The Planning Team met and began with a presentation from the Saginaw Bay Muck Integrated Assessment team followed by a discussion which included possible short and long term management actions of the muck issue. The team reviewed and updated the potential stakeholders to include for the future open house. The Planning Team worked together in brainstorming 10-year action goals for the park.

Team Meeting #3 Go-To-Meeting (May 13, 2016) – The Planning Team reviewed the input received from the stakeholder meeting. In addition, general thoughts were offered by the Planning Team members who were present at the meeting. The Team refined and made additions to the Draft Action Goals, taking into account the stakeholder input received.

Team Meeting #4, Bay City State Recreation Area: Phase 2 (June 13, 2016) – The Planning Team met and reviewed the final draft of the action goals, as well as the division of input and responsible parties. The Team also reviewed the initial draft of the Phase 2 document and discussed the venue and date for the upcoming Open House.

Team Meeting #5, Go-To-Meeting (October 19, 2016) – The Planning Team reviewed public input comments from the Open House meeting. A summary of the September 2016 meeting that followed the Open House between Bay County representatives, Senator Green and DNR staff was discussed. The Team made final revisions to the action goals and reviewed the draft Phase 2 document for minor edits and updates. The Team also discussed the planning process for Section Chiefs final approval.

Bay City State Recreation Area: Phase 2 General Management Plan

**Kick-Off Meeting (Meeting #1)
Monday, January 25th, 2016 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM**

**Bay City State Recreation Area
3582 State Park Dr. Bay City, MI 48706**

SUMMARY

Attendees: Chuck Allen (Acting District Supervisor), Valerie Blaschka (Park Interpreter), Scott Cook (Regional Planner), Brian Dunn (Lead Ranger), Ray Fahlsing (Stewardship Unit Manager) Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), George Lauinger (Park Manager), Amy Swainston (Recreational Specialist), Dave Birchler, Jason Bibby, and Karen Zarowny (Clearzoning)

1. Welcome and Introductions. The Team introduced themselves and went over the agenda items.
2. Bay City State Recreation Area Phase 2 Schedule was presented by D. Birchler.
3. Review of the Phase 1 General Management Plan was presented by D. Jensen. The team was refreshed on what was covered in the Phase 1 portion of the plan, which included forming the significance statements. The management zones and Proposed Project Boundary determined in Phase 1 were also presented and confirmed to remain appropriate. The Lakeshore Access Study was also covered. The team discussed what tasks remain to be completed in Phase 2.
4. Legal Mandates Review. The team reviewed the gathered legal mandates drawn from the Phase 1 document and the Lakefront Study. The team confirmed which of the mandates were still valid, and noted others that need to be addressed.
 - Obtain Bangor Township lease agreement for invasive species management near Boutell Road
5. Bay City State Recreation Area Overview. G. Lauinger updated the team on the progress that has been completed at the park since Phase 1 and the Lakefront Access Study, which included completion of some of the Action Steps recommended for inclusion in the Phase 2 plan by the Lakeshore study. A few of the completed projects included:
 - Observation Tower remodeling
 - Campground host shelter (grant application submitted)
 - Stage for summer concert and film series
 - Electric Vehicle charging station
 - Solar powered picnic table

- Cross country ski trail grooming
- Purchase of the driving range property by Bay County
- Spray Park

S. Cook also provided input on current and future initiatives for the Recreation Area (Capital Outlay list). Some of these projects include:

- Infrastructure updates, including replacement of waterlines in the day use area
- Water trail amenities
- Dog park
- Tree replanting
- Disc golf course
- Trail improvements, boardwalks, & interpretive signage
- Kayak launch and ADA launch
- Accommodations for the Iron Belle Trail
- Campground drainage
- Pedestrian access improvements to campground
- Dredging of Tobico Lagoon
- Storage for Visitor Center Lagoon fishing pier upgrade
- Rebuild boardwalk adjacent to tower #2
- Feasibility study for reuse of concession building

Amy Swainston provided an update on the preferred route for the bicycle portion of Iron Belle Trail, connecting to the Recreation Area.

6. Action Strategies Review. The team went over the action strategies from the previous documents and confirmed if they still applied to the park. Some of the strategies have been completed in the Recreation Area, or were underway. It was noted that there are already many events/programs centered on birding activities. Other suggestions included a webcam on the eagle's nest and updates to the cameras on the marsh. Expansion of the Waterfowl Festival would require more active partner involvement.
7. The Team discussed the format of the stakeholder meeting and the importance of tying this meeting with input from previous outreach. The meeting would be formatted to present the current progress and where the plan is headed. The team also discussed
 - R. Fahlsing to contact/invite appropriate contact on Integrated Muck Assessment for information at the next Team Meeting #2 tentatively scheduled for the first week in March.
 - Clearzoning to update the stakeholder list with current contact information, to be fact-checked by G. Lauinger and V. Blaschka
8. The Team took a park tour on golf carts of some of the park amenities. Discussion of issues and opportunities took place along the tour.

Bay City State Recreation Area: Phase 2 General Management Plan

Meeting #2

Monday, March 7th, 2016 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Bay City State Recreation Area
3582 State Park Dr. Bay City, MI 48706

SUMMARY

Attendees: Bill Doan (District Supervisor), Scott Cook (Regional Planner), Brian Dunn (Lead Ranger), Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), George Lauinger (Park Manager), Amy Swainston (Recreational Specialist), Patrick Mohney (Gladwin Unit Manager), Donna Kashian (WSU), Darrin Hunt (WSU), Jason Bibby and Karen Zarowny (Clearzoning)

1. Welcome and Introductions. The Team introduced themselves and went over the agenda items. Donna Kashian and Darrin Hunt from the Saginaw Bay Muck Integrated Assessment team were welcomed to the meeting.
2. Kick-Off Meeting Summary Review. The Team reviewed and approved the summary upon minor corrections.
3. Summary and Discussion on the Integrated Assessment. Guest presenters D. Kashian and D. Hunt discussed the ongoing Integrated Assessment of the Bay Area's shoreline and environmental situation. The Assessment will address the core question: What are the causes consequences and possible ways to address the muck problem at the Bay City State Recreation Area in Saginaw Bay, and what is the public perception of the issue? Past and current results, ongoing studies, and future developments of the project were shared with the team. Social and economic impacts of the situation and efforts for remediation were also discussed, including possible short and long-term management actions.
4. Legal Mandates Review. The Team reviewed and updated legal mandates drawn from the Phase 1 document and the Lakefront Study.
 - S. Cook would provide MDEQ/USACE Permits for regulated wetlands by March 25, 2016.
5. Stakeholder List and Meeting Review. Planning Team reviewed and updated the stakeholder list. The stakeholder meeting outline was defined by the team in a manner that would address attention to all areas of the park
 - G. Lauinger to confirm venue/date with Clearzoning
 - Clearzoning to notify Planning Team once venue/date confirmed.
 - D. Jensen to create brief presentation that also summarized Donna's IA study

6. Project Updates. The Team went over ongoing projects pertaining to the park. A. Swainston provided an update of private property acquisition and/or easements pursued for the Iron Belle Trail with goal of connecting to the Recreation Area. S. Cook provided a status update on the boardwalk project. The joint permit application has been submitted for review.
7. Draft Action Goals. The Team reviewed the draft Action Goals, primarily consisting of actions identified in the Lakeshore Plan, to determine how they should be presented for Phase 2. New goals were discussed for the whole Recreation Area. D. Jensen will work with Clearzoning in the formatting of these goals for the next Team review.

Bay City State Recreation Area: Phase 2 General Management Plan

Planning Team Meeting #3 (Stakeholder Input Review)
Friday, May 13th, 2016 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Go-To-Meeting

SUMMARY

Attendees: Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), George Lauinger (Park Manager), Amy Swainston (Recreational Specialist), Valerie Blaschka (Park Interpreter), Patrick Mohney (Gladwin Unit Manager), Ray Fahlsing (Stewardship Unit Manager), Karen Zarowny and Jason Bibby (Clearzoning)

1. Welcome and Introductions. The Team introduced themselves and went over the agenda items. Debbie suggested adding approval of the meeting minutes from Planning Team Meeting #2. The Team members present at the Stakeholder Meeting offered general thoughts on the attendance and feedback received.
2. Meeting #2 Summary Review. The Team reviewed and approved the summary upon minor corrections.
3. Review of Stakeholder Input Summary. The Team was provided an overview of stakeholder ideas based on the following statements used to encourage stakeholders response:
 - *What three things do you value most about Bay City State Recreation Area?*
 - *Describe your vision of Bay City State Recreation Area 10 years from now*
 - *What should be accomplished in the following areas over the next 10 years:*
 - *Campground*
 - *Tobico Marsh & Lagoon*
 - *Shoreline & Day Use Area*
 - *Visitor Center*
 - *Trails (internal, external, Iron Belle)*
 - *Programming & Events*
 - *How does Bay City State Recreation Area benefit your organization and what contribution does your organization make in return?*

During the review of stakeholder input summary, the Team was encouraged to identify stakeholder ideas that they believe should be turned into action goals. Ideas that arose to a level of importance were drafted immediately into action goals during the call. Discussion points from the stakeholder input by the Team included the following items:

- Drop off to shoreline in day use area
- Partner with “Go Great Lakes Bay” regional tourism initiative for marketing

- Camping alternatives: two mini-cabins and two trailers are already available to rent.
 - Individual pedestals for electric
 - Better rail-trail signage and planning, study feasibility with Iron Belle Trail
 - Promote wayfinding
 - Landscape best management practices continue including prison grow program
 - Consider storm shelter and FEMA bathroom renovations
 - More paved sites for ADA and drainage
 - Overall drainage improvements
 - List of budgetary (capital overlay) needs in park
 - Need floating dock at lagoon
 - Need to improve fishing in the lagoon: consider dredging for deeper fishing
 - More amenities around splash pad
 - Dog park
 - Work with Saginaw Bay water trails to identify implementation for specific amenities for trail
 - Need updating of audio-visual infrastructure at visitor center
 - More storage for visitor center (new facility)
 - Brick marquee signage
 - Market with tourist groups
 - Study suitable locations and impacts for a seasonal kayak launch on the Tobico Marsh, while ensuring its continued protection
4. Review of Draft Action Goals. The Team reviewed the draft action goals from Planning Team Meeting #2. Refinement and additions to the action goals were provided by the Team.
 5. Discussion of the next meeting scheduled for Monday June, 13, 2016

Bay City State Recreation Area: Phase 2 General Management Plan

Planning Team Meeting #4 Summary
Monday, June 13, 2016
10:00 AM – 3:30 PM
3585 State Park Dr., Bay City, MI 48706

SUMMARY

Attendees: George Lauinger (Park Manager), Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), Jim Baker (Fisheries District Supervisor), Valerie Blaschka (Park Interpreter), Scott Cook (Regional Planner), Brian Dunn (Lead Ranger), Amy Swainston (Recreational Specialist), Karen Zarowny and Jason Bibby (Clearzoning)

1. Planning Team Meeting #3 Summary of the Go-To-Meeting on May 13, 2016. The Team reviewed and approved the summary.
2. Finalization of the Draft Action Goals. The Team reviewed and revised the Draft Action Goals circulated, including assigning targeted years for completion, as well as division input and responsible parties. Language to some goals was modified for clarification, as well as the inclusion of new goals, some of which include:
 - Assess the need and implement strategic tree replacement in response to losses from Emerald Ash Borer in accordance with PRD standards (General)
 - Continue to seek partnership to assist with native backyard habitat at the demonstration area behind the Visitor Center (General)
 - Implement lighting improvements in the day use area, especially winter access locations (Developed Recreation)
 - Install marquee sign at visitor entrance (Developed Recreation)
 - Promoting the Tobico Marsh as a National Landmark (Primitive Zone)
 - Restore the lake plain prairie (Primitive Zone)
3. The Team Reviewed the initial Draft of the Phase 2 Document. Suggested updates to the Significant Statements were also discussed. It was agreed that a subsection in the Phase 2 plan would acknowledge these updates. D. Jensen also suggested some formatting changes to the Phase 2 Document.
4. Public Open House Discussion. The Team discussed the venue and date of the upcoming Public Open House for the Phase 2 Plan, avoiding the week of the Waterfowl Festival. D. Jensen shared the internal review and approval process for the Draft Phase 2 Plan, which is necessary to complete before the Public Open House, as well as additional approvals for plan finalization after the Open House.

Bay City State Recreation Area: Phase 2 General Management Plan

Planning Team Meeting #5 Summary

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Remote/Go-To-Meeting

SUMMARY

Attendees: George Lauinger (Park Manager), Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), Jim Baker (Fisheries District Supervisor), Scott Cook (Regional Planner), Amy Swainston (Recreational Specialist), Karen Zarowny and Jason Bibby (Giffels Webster)

1. Planning Team review of Meeting #4 Summary that took place on June 13, 2016. The Team reviewed and approved the summary.
2. Review of Public Input Open House Comments. The Planning Team reviewed and discussed comments compiled at the Public Input Open House Meeting on August 11, 2016, as well as subsequent comments reviewed in the mail, on the website, and through e-mail during the comment period. The Team decided to update the summary to ensure that it was inclusive of all the opinions voiced by the community.
3. D. Jensen summarized the September 2016 meeting that followed the Open House between Bay County representatives, Senator Green the DNR Director and staff to discuss the land use restrictions on the shoreline. One of the outcomes of the meeting was to convene a task force that will identify improvements to the lakeshore area that can be addressed in the short-term.
4. Review of 10-Year Action Goals. The Team made final revisions to the action goals for the next ten years. Minor revisions and grammatical edits were made. New Action Goals were included, as well as increasing the priority of selected goals, in response to feedback from the Public Open House / Comment period.
5. Draft General Management Plan. The Team reviewed the Plan and discussed the necessary minor edits. D. Jensen will make revisions to the paragraph leading into the Significant Statements in the Plan to provide further clarification that the statements were approved as part of the Phase 1 Plan, with minor edits. The legal mandates must also be examined to determine whether they are a complete update since Phase 1 or an addendum. An update on the Integrated Assessment of Saginaw Bay should also be included, if available.

6. Next Steps. D. Jensen shared with the Team the process for approval. Once the plan has gone through a final review from the Team, D. Jensen will present the Plan for Section Chiefs approval. This is estimated to occur before the end of the year.

Appendix C – Outreach Summary

Over the duration of the General Management Planning process, the Bay City State Park (previously Bay City State Park Recreation Area) Planning Team ensured a variety of opportunities for public input and feedback. The process could be followed and comments posted at the Bay City State Recreation Area Website:

Overview of Input Opportunities

General Management Plan Tribal Outreach – As part of the DNR’s outreach efforts, a letter was sent to the Federally recognized Tribal Governments in the region, informing them of the management planning efforts and inviting them to meet with representatives of the DNR to discuss any issues or concerns they may have relating to Bay City State Recreation Area. A copy of the letter follows, as well as all received responses.

The letter was sent to the following Tribe:

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Mount Pleasant, Michigan

Stakeholder Input Meeting (April 26, 2016) – located at the Wirt Public Library. Stakeholders had the opportunity to learn about the General Management Planning process and provide input regarding their concerns, vision of the park, how they could contribute to make their vision possible. Stakeholders invited included government/quasi-government representatives, community partners, business organizations, recreation partners, and natural resource partners; 14 stakeholders attended.

Public Input Meeting (August 11, 2016) – located at the Bay City State Recreation Area. Members of the public were invited to learn about the Phase 2 General Management Planning process and comment on the Draft 10-Year Action Goals.

Bay City State Recreation Area Website – the public could post comments on the website, which also included additional resources about the General Management Planning process.

<http://www.clearzoning.com/bay-city-state-recreation-area-phase-2>



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DR. WILLIAM E. MORITZ
DIRECTOR

March 18, 2016

Mr. Frank Cloutier, Tribal Chief
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
7070 East Broadway Street
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858

Dear Chief Cloutier:

The Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is in the process of developing a Phase 2 General Management Plan (GMP) for Bay City State Recreation in Bay County, Michigan. The Recreation Area is located on the shores of the Saginaw Bay, and is home to one of the largest remaining freshwater, coastal wetlands on the Great Lakes, the Tobico Marsh. More than a thousand feet of sandy beach and over 2,000 acres of wetland woods, wet meadows, cattail marshlands and oak savannah prairies make the park an ideal staging area for migratory birds. The park also includes a modern campground, the Andersen Nature Trail, playground and splash pad, picnic shelters, swimming beach and the Saginaw Bay Visitor Center that features a wide selection of interpretive programs.

The DNR uses GMPs to define a long-range planning and management strategy that will protect the natural, cultural and historic resources of the site, while considering education and recreation opportunities. A planning team, representing various specialties within the DNR, has been established and is meeting regularly to develop the GMP for this site. The Phase 1 GMP for Bay City was completed in 2010 and designated management zones for the park. This Phase 2 Plan will define 10-Year Action Goals that provide specific guidance for development, stewardship of cultural and natural resources, recreation opportunities, education & interpretation opportunities and park management.

The planning process includes several opportunities for public and stakeholder input to help guide the GMP. Stakeholder Focus Group meetings have been scheduled for April 26, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Alice and Jack Wirt Public Library, 500 Center Ave., Bay City, Michigan 48707.

A public meeting to review and provide comments on the draft GMP will be scheduled later this year. In addition, the draft GMP will be available for review and comment on the DNR's website prior to adoption.

We would like to give the Tribes the opportunity to meet with us independently to discuss the GMP process and any concerns you may have in relation to Bay City State Recreation Area. In addition, you are welcome to send representatives to one of the stakeholder focus group meetings in April, or the public meeting, which will be advertised later this year.

CONSTITUTION HALL • 525 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30028 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7528
www.michigan.gov/dnr • (517) 284-MDNR(6367)

Mr. Frank Cloutier
Page 2
March 18,2016

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

Please contact either Ms. Debbie Jensen, PRD Management Plan Administrator at 517-284-6105, or myself, if you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,



Dennis Knapp
Tribal Affairs Coordinator
517-284-6237

cc: Ms. Debbie Jensen, DNR
Mr. William Doan, DNR
Mr. George Lauinger, DNR



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DR. WILLIAM E. MORITZ
DIRECTOR

March 18, 2016

Mr. Donald Seal
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
7070 East Broadway Street
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858

Dear Mr. Seal:

The Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is in the process of developing a Phase 2 General Management Plan (GMP) for Bay City State Recreation in Bay County, Michigan. The Recreation Area is located on the shores of the Saginaw Bay, and is home to one of the largest remaining freshwater, coastal wetlands on the Great Lakes, the Tobico Marsh. More than a thousand feet of sandy beach and over 2,000 acres of wetland woods, wet meadows, cattail marshlands and oak savannah prairies make the park an ideal staging area for migratory birds. The park also includes a modern campground, the Andersen Nature Trail, playground and splash pad, picnic shelters, swimming beach and the Saginaw Bay Visitor Center that features a wide selection of interpretive programs.

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We would like to give the Tribes the opportunity to meet with us independently to discuss the GMP process and any concerns you may have in relation to Bay City State Recreation Area. In addition, you are welcome to send representatives to one of the stakeholder focus group meetings in April, or the public meeting, which will be advertised later this year.

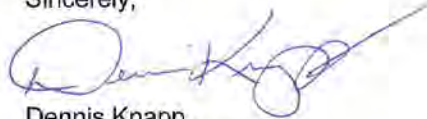
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Mr. Donald Seal
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March 18,2016

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Please contact either Ms. Debbie Jensen, PRD Management Plan Administrator at 517-284-6105, or myself, if you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,



Dennis Knapp
Tribal Affairs Coordinator
517-284-6237

cc: Ms. Debbie Jensen, DNR
Mr. William Doan, DNR
Mr. George Lauinger, DNR

DNR Stakeholder Focus Group

BAY CITY STATE RECREATION AREA



The Parks & Recreation Division (PRD) of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is developing Phase 2 of the General Management Plan for Bay City State Recreation Area. This plan will establish 10-Year Action Goals that provide specific guidance for development, stewardship of cultural and natural resources, recreation opportunities, education & interpretation opportunities and park management. The plan is developed based upon input from the DNR experts, key stakeholders and the community.



The Planning Team would like to invite you, as one of the key Bay City State Recreation Area stakeholders, to join us for a two-hour focus group either in the morning or afternoon.

APRIL 26, 2016

10 AM – 12:00 PM *or* 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

**Alice & Jack Wirt Public Library
500 Center Ave. Bay City, MI 48708**

RSVP at <https://doodle.com/poll/v69ywnxbhxxnikyb>

For assistance, please call Karen Zarowny at (248) 423-1776 ext. 14.



After registering, DNR staff will follow-up by phone or email to confirm your session and provide you with some of the discussion points for the focus group.

The meeting will begin with a brief introduction to the General Management Plan, followed by a break out session where participants will be asked to provide input on the park's future by addressing some key questions. We request that each stakeholder group send a maximum of three representatives so that we may accommodate everyone.

The Phase 2 Plan will build upon the 2010 Phase 1 General Management Plan that designates management zones for the park, and the Lakefront and Beach Access Study completed in 2015. Both of these are available on the project website provided below.

As a stakeholder and member of the community, your input on the General Management Plan for Bay City State Recreation Area is important and appreciated. We hope you will be available to join the Planning Team on April 26th.

You are encouraged to visit the project website at <http://www.clearzoning.com/bay-city-state-recreation-area-phase-2/>. Information about the General Management Planning process is available at www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans.

Questions? Please contact Debbie Jensen, PRD Management Plan Administrator at (517) 284-6105 or Karen Zarowny (Planning Consultant to PRD – Clearzoning) at (248) 423-1776 ext. 14



BAY CITY STATE RECREATION AREA

DNR Stakeholder Focus Group

Dear Bay City State Recreation Area Stakeholder Participant,

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the stakeholder focus group being held by the Park & Recreation Division of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Your participation will help to inform the Phase 2 development of the General Management Plan (GMP) for Bay City State Recreation Area. Following is the meeting time, location and program information.

- Topic:** GMP Phase 2 Focus Group
- Date:** Tuesday, April 26th, 2016
- Time:** 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Location:** Alice & Jack Wirt Public Library
500 Center Ave. Bay City, Michigan 49431
- Questions:** Debbie Jensen, Plan Administrator @ 517.284.6105 OR
Karen Zarowny, Clearzoning @ 248.423.1776 x14



10:00-10:15 General Management Plan Presentation

10:15-11:30 Focus Group Activity

Questions for the Focus Group Activity:

- What three things do you value most about Bay City State Recreation Area?
- Describe your vision of Bay City State Recreation Area 10 years from now
- What should be accomplished in the following areas over the next 10 years:
 - Campground
 - Tobico Marsh & Lagoon
 - Shoreline & Day Use Area
 - Visitor Center
 - Trails (internal, external, Iron Belle)
 - Programming & Events
- How does Bay City State Recreation Area benefit your organization and what contribution does your organization make in return?

11:30-11:45 Review of Focus Group Activity & Final Comments

11:45-12:00 Conclusion and Next Steps



Bay City State Recreation Area Stakeholder Meeting General Management Planning

Stakeholder Input Meeting
Location: Wirt Public Library
Tuesday, April 26, 2015
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM & 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

The Stakeholder Meeting for Phase 2 of the Bay City State Recreation Area General Management Plan was held on April 26, 2016 at Bay City's Alice and Jack Wirt Public Library. Stakeholders included government/quasi-government representatives, community partners, business organizations, recreation partners, and natural resource partners.

The intent of this meeting was for stakeholders to provide input that would inform the Planning Team's work to develop the Phase 2 Action Goals for the General Management Plan. Attendees were shown a brief presentation on the recreation area's General Management Plan Process, which included the Phase 1 elements of the Statements of Significant, Management Zones, and Supporting Analysis. Attention was brought to the Lakeshore and Beach Access study, which was a joint partnership between the State and Bay County and focused on action strategies specific to the lakeshore and beach of the park.

The meeting activities encouraged stakeholders to respond to the following statements:

- What three things do you value most about Bay City State Recreation Area?
- Describe your vision of Bay City State Recreation Area 10 years from now
- What should be accomplished in the following areas over the next 10 years:
 - Campground
 - Tobico Marsh & Lagoon
 - Shoreline & Day Use Area
 - Visitor Center
 - Trails (internal, external, Iron Belle)
 - Programming & Events
- How does Bay City State Recreation Area benefit your organization and what contribution does your organization make in return?

The following is the input gathered from stakeholders about Bay City State Recreation Area

Three Things you value the most?

Facilities

- Campgrounds available for locals as well as visitors (x3)
- Splash pad
- Free public meeting space
- Cleanliness

Three Things you value the most? (continued)

Beach/Water Access

- Public access shoreline (x6)
- Access to the water (x4)
- Clean beaches (x4)
- Paddling access
- View of Saginaw Bay
- Access to Saginaw Bay

Trails

- Trail network (x9)
- Forested Trails
- Walking paths / accessible paths

Natural Features

- Access to nature (x5)
- Tobico Marsh (x2)

- Birding area in marsh
- Access to wildlife

Recreational Opportunities

- Diverse recreation activities (x4)
- Birdwatching (x2)
- Running & cross-country ski trails

Programming & Events

- Educational programs year-round (x5)
- Interpretive Programming (x3)
- Events (x3)
- Informative hands-on experiences (x2)
- Jennison Nature Center
- Opportunity to learn about Michigan
- Public access to program

10-Year Vision

Facilities

- Parking lot improvements
- Playscape upgrades
- Correct flooding at campground

Beach/Water Access

- A good, clean, swimming beach that should be expanded
 - Would be a positive economic impact on the region
- Fishing pier
- Families able to use the beach for swimming, etc. without the muck
- Public boat launch to access the bay
- Premier area accessible to the public for diverse sporting and recreation activities
- Clean water using technological advancements
- Beach is one of the few public access sites to the Bay
 - Needs to be safe and usable
- Beach restoration program for next 10 years and greater access facilities to the bay (pier, boardwalk, etc.)

- Continue shoreline maintenance
- Continue trail maintenance

Funding

- Better funding to bring school children to the park's programs
- Better funding for scientific research
- Annual park fundraiser and awareness

Trails

- Improve trail signage
- Increase trail system with interpretive signage
- Iron Bell Trail connectivity
- More connections and promotion of the water trail system
- Better trail connectivity between Bay City and the park (and surrounding townships)
- Continue trail maintenance

10-Year Vision (continued)

Recreation Opportunities

- Expanded camping and other overnight options

Natural Features

- Invasive species management (x2)
- Reforestation with native plantings
- Reforestation
 - Health forests
- Preservation of the Tobico Marsh for nesting birds
 - Keep it a primitive area, foot traffic only
- Deep population monitoring/control
- Phragmites control

Programming & Events

- Ability for more staffing and increased interpretive programming

- Develop training and/or internship program to involve students in training others and conducting research
- Continue educational programming and Visitor Center activities
 - Visitor Center staff are fantastic partners and provides valuable information and gathering spaces

Promotion

- Better “branding” of the park
- Become a bigger player in the Bay Area tourism market
- Become the “place to go” in the Bay Region
- More organized marketing of BCSRA
- An environmental education destination
- Play up park’s strengths

Campground

- Needs more shading
 - Begin tree planting program involving other groups/volunteers
 - Prepare for known and potential invasive species
- Fix drainage issue at campgrounds – no more flooding (x2)
- Ability to expand to weekday bookings
- Safe access between campgrounds & day use area (crossing road) (x3)
 - H.A.W.K. (high-intensity activated crosswalk beacon)
- Waterline replacement
- More paved sites
- Mini-house (alternative accommodations)
- Individual pedestals
- Plantings
- Storm shelter
- FEMA Bathroom Renovation

Tobico Marsh and Lagoon

- Better access to fishing areas for youth and families
 - Dredging
- Increased parking closer to the area
- Access points into the marsh for carry-in canoe/kayak/non-motorized small watercraft launch
- Repair/replace boardwalk at Tower 2 and expand into the water (x2)
- More interpretive signs and other means of DIY or virtual touring (x2)
- Expand park's ownership to protect the watershed of the Tobico
- Evaluate/remove/replace boardwalk (x2)
- Access for educational programs with sustainable practices
- Hunting awareness signs
- Better designated parking area for marsh visitors/trail users
- Keep pristine, foot-traffic only
 - A "preserve" for the birds
- Keep up guided kayak tours that promote visitor's water access and educational offerings
- Access to trails
- Cross-country skiing trails

Shoreline & Day Use Area

- Hunting awareness signs
- Work toward a cleaner beach
 - It's a 50+ year issue, should be the highest park priority
- Promote "fishing weekend" and other free-entry events (x2)
- Efficient parking location near splash pad that preserves the open area
- "Drop off" area
- Expansion of splash pad
- Reduce flooding
- More pavilions/shade shelters
 - Consider new pavilion near splash pad
- More activities for all ages
- Replantings
- 2nd shelter closer to the spray park
- Seek approval to expand allowable area of groomed beach
- Seek ways to guarantee better funding
- Playscape and spay park updates
- Dog park

Trails

- Provide a trail connection up to Pinconning
- Create a trail around the entire marsh
- Provide amenities for different types of trail users (cyclist station)
- Provide improve trail signage (interpretive, markers, etc.)
- Anderson Rail-Trail Connection
- Consider volunteer trail-building events
- Adopt-a-trail maintenance programs
- Invasive species control
- Iron Belle Trail connection
- Better connection to park from city and surrounding townships
- Better trail/wayfinding signage
- Market the park as a water trail stop
- Develop a partnership with other local organization for the development of regional trails

Visitor Center

- Popular destination in the park that is well maintained
- Impressed with the year-round programming & events offers there
- Great facility for all visitors
- Needs an updated sound system
- Drainage issues at main parking lot here need to be addressed
- More “hands on” activities, updated exhibits
- More storage
- Highlighting the Visitor Center better within the park (signage)
- More staffing
- New video materials
- Interpretive Pavilion (beach conditions)
- Teach students in a way that they can see they made a difference

Programming & Events

- Better advertising
 - On websites, local news, etc.
- Marquee signage to better capture attention what is going on
- More prominent signage outside of the park
- Update the projector and sound system at the Visitor Center
- Increased guided kayak tour program
- Provide rifle range
- Provide more birding events
- Market a “beach wellness” program
- Increase partnerships with local organizations
- Increase weekend music festival activities and outreach
- Music at splash pad periodically
- Need a kayak rental vendor
- Can Friends fundraising tie into Community Centers (I.e. Tall Ships)
- Impressive line p of programs and events
- Strong partnerships with schools
- Wonderful bird educational programs
- Fishing days
- Consider providing a vegetation education program, such as “native plan day”
- Provide natural resource management education program
 - Would be unique to each park (why park does what/when/how)

Benefits

- Brings families together
- Partnerships with educational programs and institutions provide a “living lab” for learners
 - 25,000 to 30,000 school kids visit the park on field trips
- Teaches park-goers and the community about their environment (water/wildlife/habitat)
- There needs to be more transparency of the DNR’s productivity at the park, as well as information on how the park provides economic benefits to the region.
- School STEM program connected with Park’s programs
- Great “outdoor classroom” for the Bay City Garden Club
- Park has had great leadership

Contributions

- Friends Group can provide support and volunteers
- Is the park budget adequate for the needs that exist at this urban park?
 - Identify the budget deficit so that local stakeholders can search for additional funds needed
- There needs to be more transparency of the DNR's productivity at the park, as well as information on how the park provides economic benefits to the region.
- Institutions could encourage college studies to designate the Recreation Area for-credit research studies
- Expand the grant writing connection between the Recreation area and stakeholder
- Market park programs/offerings through schools
- High school community service programs could supplement park staff
- Prison outreach (trees/furniture)
- Continue to develop "living lab" programs
- Provide professional video on the park – on website and YouTube
- County support invasive species control and mosquito management

BAY CITY STATE RECREATION AREA PHASE 2 - Stakeholder Meeting Attendees

Name	Organization
Anne Atkinson	Bay City Garden Club
Ryan Carley	Bay Area Chamber
Lori Casey	Bay City Garden Club
Eileen Curtis	Bay Area Community Foundation
Katy Hintzen	Sea Grant
Bretton Joldersma	MDEQ
Sue Jones	Bay City Garden Club
David Karpovich	Saginaw Valley State University
Connie Kennedy	Bay City Public Schools
Lee Koski	SBESI/SVSU
Elizabeth Martin	Bay City Garden Club
Jim McEvoy	Saginaw Valley State University
Jim McLoskey	Representative for Senator Mike Green
Roger Michalski Sr	Friends of BCSRA
Laura Ogar	Bay County
John Riley	DEQ Office of the Great Lakes
Joel Strasz	Bay County Health Department
Cathy Washabaugh	Friends of BCSRA
Sonja Wood	Great Lakes Bay Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau
Jennifer Zielinski	E-HPS Schools

PLANNING TEAM: Valerie Blaschka (Park Interpreter), Scott Cook (Saginaw Bay Regional Field Planner), Brain Dunn (Lead Ranger), Ray Fahlsing (Stewardship Unit Manager) Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), Patrick Mohny (Forestry Gladwin Unit Manager), George Lauinger (Park Manager), Amy Swainston (Recreation Specialist), Dave Birchler, Jason Bibby, & Karen Zarowny (Clearzoning)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 25, 2016

Contact: Debbie Jensen, 517-284-6105

DNR to hold open house August 11 to get input on draft Phase 2 General Management Plan for Bay City State Recreation Area

The Department of Natural Resources will host an open house Thursday, August 11, to invite public input on a new draft Phase 2 General Management Plan for Bay City State Recreation Area. The open house will run from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Saginaw Bay Visitor Center, 3582 State Park Drive, Bay City, MI 48706.

Bay City State Recreation Area, with over 2,000 acres, is located on the Saginaw Bay, approximately 5 miles north of Bay City. The park is home to one of the largest remaining freshwater coastal wetlands on the Great Lakes, the Tobico Marsh, which provides excellent bird and wildlife viewing opportunities. Other recreation opportunities offered at the park include a swimming beach, splash park, playground, modern camping, hiking, biking and nature trails, picnicking, hunting, ice fishing, cross-country skiing, education programs and family friendly events.

This plan will establish 10-Year Action Goals that provide specific guidance for development, stewardship of cultural and natural resources, recreation opportunities, education & interpretation opportunities and park management. The plan is developed based upon input from DNR staff, key stakeholders and the community. This Phase 2 Plan will build upon the 2010 Phase 1 General Management Plan that designates management zones for the park, and the Lakefront and Beach Access Study completed in 2015. A link to the Bay City State Recreation Area draft plan can be found at <http://www.clearzoning.com/bay-city-state-recreation-area/>

The public input meeting will begin with a short presentation of the draft plan, but members of the public are welcome to attend at any time during the two-hour period to review the planning material, provide comments, and talk to DNR staff. Comments can also be made via email until August 26, 2016, to Debbie Jensen at Jensend1@michigan.gov.

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

For more information about the public meeting or the General Management Plan, contact DNR park management plan administrator Debbie Jensen at 517-284-6105 (TTY/TDD711 Michigan Relay Center for the hearing impaired) or via email at JensenD1@michigan.gov. Persons with disabilities who need accommodations for the meetings should contact Jensen at least five business days before the meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
General Management Planning Process – Phase 2
Public Input Open House
Bay City State Recreation Area
August 11th, 2016
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Saginaw Bay Visitor Center

1. Planning Team Introductions at 6:00 p.m.
2. Brief Presentation of Management Planning Process and Status of the Bay City State Recreation Area Phase 2 General Management Plan begins at 6:05 p.m.
 - a. General Management Plan Overview
 - b. Timeline and progress to-date
 - c. Significance of the Recreation Area
 - d. Management Zones
 - e. Bay City State Recreation Area Draft Action Goals organized by:
 - Ongoing Goals
 - Short-term Goals
 - Long-term Goals
 - f. Priority Exercise explained
(Slide presentation will run on continuous loop thereafter for later arrivals)
3. Brief question and answer period 6:30 p.m.
4. Open House begins after the question and answer period and remains open until 8:00 p.m.
 - a. You are invited to visit each of the stations and talk to Planning Team members
 - b. Color dots can be used to identify your priority actions (please limit yourself to 10 dots)
 - c. Additional input can be provided at the Brainstorming Exercise Station
 - d. Input Sheets are available if you would like to make any suggestion about the Phase 2 GMP
5. Adjournment at 8:00 p.m.

For More Information:

Project Website: <http://www.clearzoning.com/bay-city-state-recreation-area-phase-2/>

Comments will be accepted until August 26th, 2016.

DNR Management Planning Website: <http://www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans>



Debbie Jensen
Park Management Plan Administrator
(517) 248-6105 JensenD1@michigan.gov

clearzoning | **giffels webster**
Dave Birchler dbirchler@giffelswebster.com
Jason Bibby jibby@giffelswebster.com
Karen Zarowny kzarowny@giffelswebster.com
(313) 285-5249

Bay City State Recreation Area: Phase 2 General Management Plan

**Public Input Open House
Location: Saginaw Bay Visitor Center
Thursday, August 11, 2016
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

The Public Input Open House for Bay City State Recreation Area was held on August 11th, 2016 at the Saginaw Bay Visitor Center. The meeting was attended by approximately 50 members of the community and DNR staff representatives (see list of attendees). Public notices were sent out to government/quasi-government representatives, community partners, business organizations, recreation partners, and natural resource partners, and to the general public through press releases and internet postings.

The meeting began with a brief presentation on the Phase 2 General Management Plan. This included an overview of Phase 1 completed in 2010, which defined the significance of the park and management zones, and the Lakefront Access and Beach Study completed in 2014 which focused on concerns about the lakeshore area of park. Attendees were asked to review and prioritize the Action Goals that had been developed by the Team during the Phase 2 process, and to also provide additional input at a Brainstorming station or on comment cards.

Many of the meeting participants expressed their concerns about access to and cleanliness of the shoreline and dissatisfaction in the state's management on the issue. Others voiced support for protecting the natural processes of the Saginaw Bay. The importance of maintaining a clean beach for the public, as well as questions in regard to the role of the DNR and US Army Corps of Engineers in land restrictions and grooming of this area, were discussed. Some attendees announced recent actions that have been taken to further address this issue, such as contacting state leadership.

The written comments received at the meeting and the prioritization of the Action Goals covered a wider variety of topics, including access to the existing beach area, trail connections and markers, and invasive species control. Additional comments were received via mail, e-mail, and project website during the plan review period that demonstrated diverse opinions on the management of the lakeshore as well as other issues.

Below are the written comments received from attendees about the Bay City State Recreation Area Phase 2 General Management Plan, organized by area topic.

General Recreation Area Comments

- If you are going to keep turtles [in the Visitor Center], especially protected ones like Blanding's and Eastern Box, a proper set up [is needed]. Aquatic turtles like Blanding's and snapping turtles should have more water and proper filtration. Also, it didn't look like there were heating lamps for the turtles to bask.
- The shoreline should stay as is. There is not an abundance of beach users within the groomed area to force a need for more groomed shoreline. And in lieu of a boardwalk from the spray park to the

shoreline, I would like the consideration of a removable ADA accessible walk to be placed from the end of the existing boardwalk to the shoreline.

- The total area of the groomed beach area seems to accommodate the number of people swimming and sunbathing. Either moving the area that is groomed or better access to the groomed portion would seem to be a good compromise.
- [Consider] widen[ing the] access road to the Tobico Marsh parking lot
- Have a dog beach
- [Build a] pier into the Saginaw Bay
- [Provide] mile markers every 1/10th to ¼ mile along longer trails
- [Provide a] park store
- Construct a continuation of boardwalk parallel to shore with seating
- [Consider] shower for sand at beach
- [Consider] local Native American exhibits
- Add parking and bathrooms closer to the beach area. [There are] accessibility problems [in that area] right now.
- The Bay City document states the land is for public recreation use; however, this wording includes nature walks and birding. The groomed beach that currently exists is unappealing because of the muck; until that can be managed it should not be expanded. As it exists, the natural wetland serves recreational purposes as a natural location. Today's turn-out was heavily dominated by members of Save our Shorelines. This younger demographic is not represented here. That said, I feel a disc golf course will attract many people in their teens and 20s to the park. I highly support the boardwalk and the Iron Belle Trail extension, but fear that litter will result from increased human access.
- As a person who drives [through] the state park frequently (and camps here), please provide a way for campers to cross the road [safely].
- Redesign the parking area so that it will be easily accessible to the beach. [The] beach can't be seen in the parking lot, [design should be in a way that will] open up the view [of the beach]
- [The] present beach [is] too far to walk for children, cool, and chairs. [There are] no facilities [for] rinsing, water, [or] tables. People [are] using the woods [as] a bathroom.
- Please make sure to keep good habitat area for a wide variety of birds

General Action Goals

Many of the 10-Year Action Goals for **Bay City State Recreation Area** are general in nature and apply within all of the management zones. These often deal with park-wide issues, such as invasive species control, universal access, or marketing the park's many recreational opportunities to a wider audience of potential users. Many of the overall maintenance and operational issues of running a state park also result in the need for actions across all zone boundaries, such as law enforcement.

Action Goal	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers
Natural Resources		
Continue land and water based invasive species control, concentrating on early detection & rapid response.	Ongoing	16
Continue to seek partnership to assist with native backyard habitat at the demonstration area behind the Visitor Center	Ongoing	1
Assess the need and implement strategic tree replacement in response to losses from Emerald Ash Borer in accordance with PRD standards.	Ongoing	2
Education/Interpretation Opportunities		
Continue to enhance education and interpretation of emergent wetland and other natural resources that are found within the park	Ongoing	4
Improve interpretive signage & incorporate multimedia technology throughout the park	1-5 years	2
Management		
Continue to work with partners to promote the park as a tourism destination to encourage economic development in the area	Ongoing	10
Explore expanding partnership involvement in bird-related events, promoting the park as a migratory pathway and habitat for variety of wetland and woodland bird species, including the Waterfowl Festival	Ongoing	3
Continue to promote BCSRA as a Saginaw Bay Birding Trail site	Ongoing	2
Encourage vendors to offer food and recreation opportunities within the park	Ongoing	
Implement phased capital outlay projects as funds become available	Ongoing	
Develop a Shoreline Access and Connectivity Plan that identifies connections between the lakeshore, lakeshore amenities, existing park amenities, and bike trails; and identifies desired visitor experiences.	1-3 Years	10
Identify amenities that would promote BCSRA as a stop on Saginaw Bay Blueways Trail	1-3 years	

General Action Goals (continued)		
Action Goal	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers
Development		
Identify funding needs, sources and partnerships necessary to achieve phased implementation of the Shoreline Access and Connectivity Plan, following its completion.	TBD by the Plan	5
Continue to explore acquisition of recommended property within the Phase 1 General Management Plan Boundary as it becomes available and funding allows (Note: acquisition is only made on a willing seller basis)	Ongoing	1
Work with partners in the development of trail connections between park, local/regional and state systems (Iron Belle Trail)	Ongoing	16
Provide improved wayfinding signage for the Bay County Riverwalk Trail System / Iron Belle Trail	1-5 Years	1
Implement the identified amenities that would promote BCSRA along the Blueways Water Trail	2-10 years	1

Administrative Zone		
This zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration, operations, and the business of running the state park.		
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers
<i>Refer to the General Action Goals for administrative-type activities</i>		

Developed Recreation

Active recreation with high density use, conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance, is characteristics of the Developed Recreation Zone. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced were possible. The campground and primary day use area are included within this zone.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers
Recreation Opportunities		
Construct an accessible boardwalk to the shoreline	1 Year	16
Expand the groomed beach in the vicinity of the proposed boardwalk (subject to permitting)	1 -2 Year	30
Explore opportunities to rent kayaks, canoes, and other small non-motorized watercraft	1-3 Years	3
Education/Interpretation Opportunities		
Install a webcam for eagle nestings	1 -3 Year	2
Develop educational/interpretive signage on the shoreline's natural history	1-5 Years	1
Management		
Implement lighting improvements in the day use area, specifically winter access locations	2-5 Years	
Continue to manage the accumulation of muck on the beach and investigate ways to improve efficiency and effectiveness of management techniques	Ongoing	17
Development		
Implement tree plantings as needed in accordance with PRD standards	Ongoing	
Continue to maintain the winter shoreline access path	Ongoing	1
Work with County to provide an improved, safe pedestrian crossing between the campgrounds and the parking lot/day use area.	1-3 Years	5
Implement visitor amenities around the splash pad	1-10 Years	
Explore development and stewardship of a dog park in partnership with user group(s)	2-5 Years	5
Undertake an engineering feasibility study to determine options to alleviate seasonal flooding in the campground	2-5 Years	6

Developed Recreation (continued)		
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers
Development (continued)		
Install marquee sign at visitor entrance.	2-5 Years	
Continue to work with partners on development of a disc golf course.	2-10 Years	2
Replace play structure in partnership with Friends of BCSRA.	5-10 Years	4

Natural Resource Recreation		
<p>Active recreation at a medium to high density of use conducted in a natural setting is the hallmark of the Natural Resource Recreation Zone. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but in this zone higher levels of use are allowed. Vegetation may be managed to facilitate recreational use and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape, as well as address such issues as hazard trees and to manage pests and disease. The 10-year Action Goals are intended to promote and enhance diverse recreation opportunities.</p>		
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers
Recreation Opportunities		
Continue to work with Fisheries to improve the fishery in the Tobico Lagoon	Ongoing	3
Study and identify improvements for youth archery range.	1-3 Years	
Development		
Improve Chickadee Nature Trail with signage and kiosk upgrades &/or other smart device compatibility	1-5 Years	1
Implement identified improvements for the youth archery range	3-5 Years	
Expand or add new fishing platform on Tobico Lagoon, including access to deeper water	5-10 Years	11
Replace the boardwalk into the marsh at Tower #2	5-10 Years	22

Primitive Zone

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

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers
Recreation Opportunities		
Study suitable locations and impacts for a seasonal kayak launch on the Tobico Marsh, while ensuring its continued protection as dictated by original deed restrictions	1-3 Years	8
Management		
Promote the Tobico Marsh as a National Natural Landmark	Ongoing	1
Continue to implement stewardship efforts to protect the Tobico Marsh ecosystem in accordance with its designation as a National Natural Landmark and its status as a wildlife refuge	Ongoing	3
Restore lake plain prairie	Ongoing	4
Continue efforts to control phragmites & glossy buckthorn	Ongoing	13

History Education Overlay

This overlay zone centers on the Saginaw Bay Visitors Center, a facility developed to educate and promote resource protection and historical interpretation.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers
Education/Interpretation Opportunities		
Identify the needs and funding sources for comprehensive Visitor's Center upgrade including infrastructure and exhibits	1-2 Years	8
Identify funding and construct storage facility for the Visitor Center	5-10 Years	2

Cultural Overlay

The Cultural Overlay has been applied the majority of the park in recognition of important historic and cultural resources.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers
Management		
Continue to protect and interpret the cultural resources and history of the park.	Ongoing	5

Scenic Overlay

In recognition if it's scenic beauty, this overlay has been applied the observation towers overlooking the Tobico Marsh and Lake Huron shore, which are used to enjoy the landscape and birdwatching. Any development should be sensitive to the scenic qualities of this zone.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Priority Stickers
Management		
Continue to recognize and provide access to the scenic viewsheds of the Tobico Marsh, Tobico Lagoon and Lake Huron shoreline.	Ongoing	7

Public Open House Attendees

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Jim Barcia	Bay County	Paul Begick	
Ellen & Paul Blanchard	local residents and adjacent property owners	John Buckelew	local resident
John Busch	Save Our Shoreline	Charles Brunner	State Representative
Ryan Carly	Bay Area Chamber	Kim Coonan	Bay County
Tina Counterman	Friends of BCSRA	Carrie & Kip Cronk	
Amy Dore		Linda Doar	Resident
Dan Duso	MC	Rick Finn	City of Bay City
Pete Frauson		Joshua Gilbert	
Rick Greve		Chuck Groya	Shoreline resident
Jim Irving	Bay City Commission	Barbara & George Killeen	
Kay Kimball	Save Our Shoreline	Ernie & Mary Krygier	local residents
Bill & Nancy Longpre		Jeannine Lorenger	Friends of BCSRA
Tom Herek	County Commission	William G. Lutz	
Jim McLoskey	Representative for Senator Mike Green	Roger Michalski Sr.	President of Friends of BCSRA
Rich Milster	Bay Area Community Foundation	Don Morin	Saginaw River Marine Historical Society
Laura Ogar	Bay County	Summer Richard	Intern at Bay City State Recreation Area
Carl Rowley	KRWA	Glenn Rowley	KRWA & PSBWA
Ray Rowley	Property owner	Carol & Jerry Schmolitz	
Nancy Schultz	concerned citizen	BJ & Gail Schwartz	
Warren Smith	Partnership	Bob VanTol	
Emily Schaefer		Joe Soehnel	Citizen scientist
Walt Stansinowsky		Will Stansinowsky	Local resident
Lynne Stamiris	Bay County Commission	Thomas Tober	
Amanda Swedish		Bernie Uhlmann	
Allen Warren		Frank Whalen	Save Our Shoreline
Linda Winningham			

DNR & Planning Team Attendees

Name	Position	Name	Position
Rex Ainslie	Northern Lower Peninsula Wildlife Supervisor, DNR	Scott Cook	Regional Planner, DNR
Bill Doan	District Supervisor, DNR	Brian Dunn	Lead Ranger, DNR
Ray Fahlsing	Stewardship Unit Manager, DNR	Debbie Jensen	Management Plan Administrator, DNR
George Lauinger	Park Manager, DNR	Amy Swainston	Recreational Specialist, DNR
Anna Sylvester	Northern Michigan Field Operations Section Chief, DNR	Jason Bibby	Giffels Webster
Karen Zarowny	Giffels Webster		

Website & E-mail Comments

NOTE: Personal information has been removed from correspondence, except those representing an organization or government entity, to protect privacy

Received Wednesday, August 10, 2016 at 12:50 PM

I am submitting my comments about the future "development" of the Bay City State Recreation Area.

I believe that the park should be maintained in its present state, without further development. I am against the idea of a fishing pier for several reasons. 1) Fish in the bay are contaminated and should be eaten only in small quantities. It makes no sense to encourage fishing for game fish that cannot be eaten. 2) The beach area and park are the main attraction. The grounds should be used for access to swimming and for picnics. 3) The campground is well placed, way out of the way, and out of sight. Improvement of those facilities may be justified (modernization). 4) I oppose a pier for fishing or boating, as being too dangerous for boaters and swimmers. 5) I oppose any structural modifications that require a future financial burden by the State of Michigan. 6) I think the roadway through the beach area should be closed on the East end, to make it safer for campers to access the beach area. 7) The recreation area might need to be enhanced for safety and access for bicycling and hiking, that is, for additional trails to be opened, if possible. 8) The possession and use of firearms in the Bay City State Recreation Area should be prohibited, if provided by law.

Let us pass on this relatively unspoiled park to future generations, so that they can enjoy the beauty of the bay and the park itself.

Received Wednesday, August 10, 2016 at 2:44 PM

Hi Debbie,

First off, I have to commend you all on the great job I've personally seen in our park over the past few years!

I do have a couple of suggestions on the future plans for our Bay City State Park.

Myself, along with many others through discussions we've had in the growing kayaking community here in Bay City would love to have Saginaw Bay access. Currently we make the trek on occasion but don't do so often due to the hurdles involved. For example, as the design sits currently we must carry the boats across the 300 yards of park to reach the shore. This is a great burden for those with children and in some cases with disabilities.

A simple and likely very inexpensive solution would be to lay down a rustic or gravel turnaround from the parking lot to near the water's edge for (un)loading of recreational equipment but not parking.

One other minor change would be to allow those of age to sip a nice beer on the beach. Makes a great end to a long trip!

I would imagine the kayak community here would help with fundraisers etc. should you need it. We all know we have a great park and its only getting better! Thank you!

Received Thursday, August 11, 2016 at 6:56 AM

Would love to see consideration given to extending sanitary sewers up the lake side leading to Nyanquing Point. The foreign weeds have taken over and the beautiful wild life birds have lost their nesting sites. Home and farms are draining contaminants into the small bay and changing the waterfront into a muck. Debris from Hoyles Marina drifts over and mixes with the sky high weeds to instigate a coastline nightmare.

Received Thursday, August 11, 2016 at 9:01 AM

Debbie and all involved in Phase 2,

No one has phoned to get my opinion so I'll send it through email as requested in the MLive article that appeared this week.

Since my involvement with BCSRA has primarily been as a partner in attempts at getting disc golf as a recreational activity offered, I will mention my opinion on that first.

Thanks for including it in the ten year plan but stating that disc golf is to be addressed in 2-10 years kind of feels like a slap in the face. Change the timeline to 2-4 years and we are pals forever. I would also strongly suggest some type of interaction between Bangor Township and BCSRA. Bangor is looking to build a disc golf course on a parcel of property that easily connects to BCSRA by the rail trail. Working together will only enhance a great solution for a disc golf option for park goers. It is my opinion that BCSRA could have a small, beginner friendly disc golf course for both local players and visitors to the park but if players wanted to play a more challenging course, a short walk or ride down the bike trail and you would be there. If designed properly, the two course could work as one venue if there was ever tournament play scheduled. It was over 8 years ago that Mike Evanoff contacted me for the second time, this time because BCSRA had just added 11 acres on the east end and a disc golf course was the plan. We worked two years making certain that all areas concerned were giving a clear go ahead and work actually began with the course in mind. Buildings came down, holes were filled, some structures were left intact, brush and fairway areas were beginning to take shape and then most all progress stagnated until working with the friends group, I wrote a grant and secured around \$8000.00. I also had pledges from a few businesses that totaled \$3000.00.

The plan went in the trash when the main DNR regional guy stopped the 18-hole course and instead insisted that a 9 hole was all that would fit on the land. So you see, reading that disc golf is in the plans but on a 2-10 year schedule does upset and insult logical intelligence. This project and effort is 10 years old already and actually was at a point of groundbreaking when the bottom was pulled out on one "yahoos" opinion.

Here is what I have to say about disc golf and BCSRA - after digesting many meetings, emails and face to face comments, it is my **STRONG** opinion that BCSRA really **DOES NOT WANT** a disc golf option to be offered. And if this is so, please just out of respect for the time and efforts of the volunteers and those concerned, **PLEASE** just issue a statement that the DNR, State Of Michigan and BCSRA does not want and will not investigate disc golf as a recreational option (I wish this would have been stated 8 years back)

Putting a Dog Park in front of ANY OTHER possible improvements is almost criminal, as I see it. I am STRONGLY against a Pet Play Station at BCSRA.

Moving and maintaining a GREAT beach should be priority one.

Please, NEVER allow a fishing / retail space pier to be built at the end of State Park Drive.

I would put FIRST PRIORITIES in areas that already have a foothold

Moving, maintaining and improving the beach area

Improving the Spray Park

Enhancing the education program, birding and fieldtrips (hire an Educational Curator)

Revamping and enhancing a children's play area (disc golf included)

And areas that SHOULD be STRONGLY investigated:

- kayak, bike, canoe, X-country ski and disc rental (maybe a partnership with a vendor setting up an on sight facility)
- Build a disc golf course that will supply a need for campers, visitors and the Bay County public as well (working with Bangor Township)
- Develop a plan for an Eagle viewing walkway and platform on the east end of the park
- Maintain MARKED TRAIL X Country skiing options that include a visit to the Marsh area
- Maintain the GREAT VIEW of the Saginaw Bay
- Look at more partnerships with Bay City/Bay County events and activities to get more happenings at BCSRA (this year's Hell's Half Mile fest)
- investigate closure or agreeable alternatives for State Park Drive going through the park
- investigate and maintain a solution to eliminate problem wet areas near and around the camping area
- investigate hiring a VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR that maintains a program that SUPPORTS and COMPLIMENTS the efforts of volunteers
- secure and develop a plan for the Old Driving Range property that may include a lease of the building for kayak, bike and
- Recreational equipment rentals. Also look at making this area acceptable for larger RV use

And what I suggest are areas to avoid forever:

- Pet Play Park
- any planting of trees that will eventually eliminate a view of the Bay from the roadway, camping area, picnic areas

I would like to attend the meeting but know that I couldn't have enough floor time to get even 1/4 of my thoughts mentioned. Add in the fact that I am not the best public speaker and I would probably not say or do anything that could be understood as progress and the conclusion is to stay home.

Thanks for listening.

Received Thursday, August 11, 2016 at 4:16 PM

I recently read about the plans being laid out regarding the future of the Bay City State Park and I'm really quite disappointed. I understand there are those that are very interested in birding and natural preservation, and while that is a concern, I do not think it should be our primary goal right now.

Bay City. The "City by the Bay" as it's referred to, and yet our city has no good, clean access to said bay. Sure, those who own a boat are in decent shape. Lake Huron is a beautiful sight and offers tons of fun, once you're far enough away from shore. I cannot count the amount of people I've had visit me throughout the years since I've lived in Bay City. Literally *everyone* asks me where the bay is, and can they go to the beach and swim. Many of my friends and family who visit have never even been to a beach, so it's really crushing for me every time I have to explain the sad shape ours is in. Not only is the water not clean enough to swim in, the muck covering the beach produces a putrid odor and a nasty sight even to look at. I simply do not understand why this has not been addressed after so many years!

Our city could be such a bigger summer destination. Away from the busy life, but close enough in case you want to indulge in some shopping. Yet the only reasons most people come to Bay City is for the few remaining festivals we still have, and even those are losing their flavor. Our city needs something new to show that the "City by the Bay" is still a sight to see, and a place to visit. A proper, clean beach would bring so much tourism and revenue it would easily pay for itself; but instead everyone is focused on birds? We do not need more nature preserves that just sit and degrade. We need somewhere that families can go to enjoy the sun and waves. I'm actually disgusted whenever I hear the "Pure Michigan" slogan because in my town, "Pure" really isn't what comes to mind.

As a final note, I have had a Recreation Pass on my vehicle for many, many years. It's a very efficient way to gain access to the many parks our state has to offer, but in the past 3, or maybe more, years I believe I've only gone to Bay City's State Park *one time*. If some serious thought and planning is not directed towards the awful state of our beaches, I will no longer be purchasing a pass, or visiting our state park. There is simply nothing left for me and my family.

I truly hope proper attention is garnered by these discussions. Thank you for your time.

Received Friday August 12, 2016 at 2:01 PM

The Preserved Area, non-disturbance use restrictions DNR recorded over the Day Use beachfront conflicts with the original conveyance and donation of the property by the City of Bay City to Michigan State Park Commission for Public Recreation purposes, the recorded restrictions prevent recreational use and therefore must be removed.

2. The beach improvements identified by the community stakeholders for the 1994 Master Plan are still community priorities. And these must be completed (Entire beach cleaned for swimming, development of a boardwalk, Bayfront trail, fishing pier and scenic outlook) BEFORE any new planning effort is undertaken.

August 12, 2016

Via Email Only
Deborah Jensen
Park Management Plan Administrator
MI Dept. of Natural Resources
Parks and Recreation Division
jensend1@mich.gov

Re: Bay City State Recreation Area Draft Phase 2 Plan

Dear Ms. Jensen:

This letter is to summarize and follow-up on my comments at the public meeting Thursday, August 11, 2016, at the Bay City State Recreation Area. I attended the meeting representing the Bay Area Community Foundation.

The DNR's Phase 2 Draft Management Plan is disappointing and incomplete. Any acceptable plan should contain and emphasize the following:

1. An overwhelming majority of Bay County residents want more access to the Saginaw Bay. Community residents want a clean beach and visual access to the bay. A groomed and cleaned beach should be as long as possible, preferably the entire coastal length of the park. The status quo is not desirable.
2. A boardwalk should lead from the parking area to the beach and run parallel to the beach along its entire length. This boardwalk should be handicapped accessible. Connecting pathways between the various attractions of the park is a desirable goal.
3. If at all possible, a fishing pier should be constructed similar to the fishing pier that exists along the Riverwalk between Veteran's Memorial Park and Bigelow Park on the west side of Bay City. Any such pier at the park should be substantially bigger and handicapped accessible. Communities have been building piers for hundreds of years. Winter weather in the Saginaw Bay is not any more severe than winter weather in many other northern areas of the United States and Canada that have community piers. It is disappointing even the idea of a pier is not within the park's ten year plan. However, if engineers and scientists believe a pier would somehow

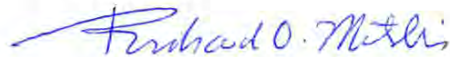
contribute to muck accumulation on the beach a pier would not be advisable.

4. The beach should be groomed and cleaned on a regular basis. The muck should be regularly removed. I do not understand why the DNR labels the muck a “management challenge”. The beach only needs to be cleaned and maintained for about 75 to 85 days per year, from mid- June until Labor Day.
5. This desire of the community for higher quality access to the Saginaw Bay has been articulated not just in repeated communications to your department over the years but in the Bay County Road Map to the Future and BACF’s Guiding Focus publications.
6. The muck issue has been around for over 60 years. Simply continuing to investigate muck management options should not be a substitute for muck removal.
7. The Bay City State Recreation Area should be a destination vacation spot for the Great Lakes Bay Region. It should be an economic and environmental jewel. These twin goals are not mutually exclusive. They complement each other. The park’s existence began in 1922 when the City of Bay City donated 76 acres to the State for recreational purposes and use as a public park. This park became known as the Bay City State Park. The Bay City State Park Advisory Committee made the following recommendations to the 1994 Master Plan.
 - a. All the coastal areas shall be reverted to a swimming beach. The exception being a wetland demonstration area, to be located in an appropriate location, and limited to 15% of coastal area.
 - b. The DNR (Parks and Recreation Division) shall continue to secure the permits necessary to allow for ongoing maintenance of the majority of the beach, Northwest of the lagoon outlet as well as all other beach areas as they are approved.

I do not feel it is unreasonable for the community to ask the State to move forward on these 1994 beach recommendations, especially when those recommendations are essentially incorporated in the Bay County Road Map to the Future and the BACF’s Guiding Focus. If returning the coastal areas to a beach is actually illegal due to previous agreements between the DNR and the Army Corps of Engineers, it should be a plan goal to re-negotiate those permits. There should be a disclosure of what the restrictions actually are and whether they ever expire.

I feel the meeting on Thursday, August 11, 2016 was needlessly confrontational. Any plan must emphasize as a goal the return of the coastal area to a beach. This is what the public has been asking for meeting after meeting, year after year, decade after decade. If the DNR would use its leadership ability to get that done almost all of the individuals at Thursday's meeting would be natural allies for all of the other goals the DNR is trying to accomplish.

Sincerely,



Richard O. Milster
Chair Person, Board of Trustees
of Bay Area Community Foundation

ROM/lpd

cc: *Via Email Only*

R. Carley
K. Coonan
E. Krygier
L. Ogar
E. Curtis

cc: Governor R. Snyder
P.O. 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Received Saturday, August 13, 2016 at 10:06 AM

I want to start by thanking for your hard work at the State Park and organizing the public meeting on August 11. It is clear there is still a lot of emotion around the issue of having 100% of the shoreline groomed along the designated recreation area. You have heard all the arguments pro and con so I will not go into any detail on that but I want to mention a few things.

The recreation area of the park was designed and built with the idea of keeping the beach sandy and groomed for public use. I do not understand the total value of the Corps forcing the DNR to let the beach go to wetlands so the Tobico March could be improved. It seems the will of the people and the economic impact of this strategy do not play a part in the decision making process.

I know the bird watchers (and friends) want to keep the beach a wetlands but if you look at the big picture they have access to the Bay and wetland in many areas (not just the Park) for their activities but the beach goers do not have this option. The large majority of the Bay is coastal wetlands and is danger of because of phragmities and we should repair those areas if we really are serious about true functioning wetlands. One of the birds watcher folks at the meeting expressed to me after the meeting how upset he was about tree removal at the Park (recent and in the past) and that should not have happened. Well just imagine how the beach people feel with the limited options available to them.

I know there have been suggestion on how to make the current beach area access better but I again say we have everything needed if we put the entire beach back to what is was years ago. You will not have to build anything or spend a lot of funds except to clean the beach and maintain it. And I know there are folks out there that a very willing to help with maintaining the beach.

I think most of the ideas in Phase 2 are very good and will improve the park. I also know that any of the ideas related to improving access to the Bay for the public will not work to their fullest until the entire shoreline is returned to its intended use as a Sandy Beach.

Received Saturday, August 13, 2016 at 4:22 PM

It is time for the foolishness to stop. The Bay County State Park belongs to the taxpayers of Michigan. The DNR has done nothing but harm to this park especially the beech. Every other beech has been groomed making it useful for swimming. Still the DNR and Corps of Engineers play games. We pay a fee to use the park and are not allowed to take advantage of the beech because of lack of common sense.

Please stop and allow this to be an area we all can be proud of as well as helping the area economy by bringing visitors to the area.

August 15, 2016

Via Email only
Deborah Jensen
Park Management Plan Administrator
MI Department of Natural Resources
Parks and Recreation Division
Jensend1@mich.gov

Re: Bay City State Recreation Area Draft Phase 2 Plan

Dear Ms. Jensen:

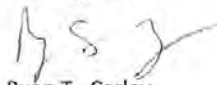
This letter is to provide clear guidance on the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce's position regarding the DNR's Phase 2 Draft Management Plan. While creating an opportunity to provide candid public input is greatly appreciated, and a long-term plan for improvements is needed, I am disappointed that the importance of access to the Bay and beach cleanliness were not placed in the initiatives or phase two plans. Going back decades, the community has spoken and recognized, in the plan dated 1994, that access to the Bay is critical to "our sense of place". A clean, well-groomed beach and access to the Bay will not only improve the quality of life to Great Lakes Bay Region residents but will provide immeasurable economic impact. The bottom line is there must be a viable solution included as priority number one in the Phase two draft.

As a Chamber and as a community, we are requesting the following two items be taken care of immediately,

1. Immediately take all actions necessary to remove the restrictions DNR recorded on the property deed "prohibitions of Use, Preserved as Non-Disturbance Area".
2. Finish the 1994 beach improvements before embarking on Phase two of the plan

I, like many others that attended the meeting on Thursday, August 11, 2016, felt it was needlessly confrontational. We respectfully ask for swift action that has been clearly articulated for decades, return our beach and place beach access as a priority.

Kind regards,



Ryan T. Carley
President and CEO
Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

cc: Governor R. Snyder
PO Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909



Received Monday, August 15, 2016 at 11:00 PM

D. Jensen,

I am Vaughn Begick and I am a Bay County Commissioner. I am writing in regard to the Bay City State Recreation Area.

I have been a lifelong resident of Bay County and am old enough to remember the 1950's and 1960's when the Bay City State Park was a very active beach enjoyed by many including myself. We would like our beach back.

There apparently were recorded restrictions by the DNR that contradict the original conveyance language when Bay City turned the property over to the Michigan State Park Commission. I read the letter from the

Bay City Manager and he feels strongly that those restrictions need to be lifted. I agree with him.

It is time to make the beach a beach again and the DNR can have the miles and miles of shoreline that surround the Saginaw Bay for whatever purpose they see fit to do with them. But please give Bay County just a small part of that shoreline for a great recreation area again.

Sincerely,

Vaughn Begick
3rd District Bay County Commissioner

Received Wednesday, August 17, 2016 at 2:08 PM

Dear Ms. Jensen,

I've been an avid Saginaw Bay Area (SBA) birder since the mid-1980's. The SBA is arguably one of the best areas in the state for birding with a rich diversification of habitat and I've felt blessed to have lived in the heart of the SBA. I've led seasonal bird watching, community ed. field trips over the years along with continually maintaining www.saginawbaybirding.org since 1999. I volunteered to help create the Saginaw Bay Birding Trail of which the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy played a major role. I've conducted weekly waterbird surveys for Shiawassee NWR for the Integrated Waterbird Management & Monitoring nationwide database for four years.

I'm emailing you today to voice my concern over "Save Our Shoreline" (SOS) push to groom 700 more feet of Bay City SRA shoreline. I attended the Bay City SRA public meeting for its ten year master plan on August 11, 2016. It was clear to me that SOS was flexing its organizational muscle with many attendees to advance the grooming of the beach. I don't think they'll rest until every last portion of that beach is groomed. And for what?? I bird at the park many times over the summer period and I've never seen the beach anywhere near half full with sun bathers. Why, then, do they feel that they need to groom more beach? Also, do you really think those representative SOS people utilize the current beach, much less more groomed beach? I think not.

I say, "Enough is enough!" After the meeting, I went out to survey the wetland area of the beach and there are numerous waterbirds that inhabit that narrow stretch of wetland. Here is a list of the waterbirds along with numbers for each species that I observed/heard in an hour's time period:

- Canada Goose 52
- Mallard 1
- Hooded Merganser 2
- Great Blue Heron 4
- Great Egret 38
- CATTLE EGRET 5
- Virginia Rail 9
- Sora 11
- Killdeer 2
- Spotted Sandpiper 4
- Ring-billed Gull 10
- Herring Gull 1
- Caspian Tern 4

This only represents summer residents that utilize this stretch of wetland for food source and/or nesting. The un-groomed portion of the beach is a vital stopover for migrating waterbirds both in the spring and the fall. Over the years, birders have reported twenty-four species of shorebirds on the Bay City SRA shoreline. That doesn't take into account the many waterfowl, egrets, herons, and gulls that also utilize the beach as a migratory stopover.

Please take what I've said into account when making a final decision related to the valuable birding wetland area along the Bay City SRA shoreline.

Thank you!

P.S. As an aside, I really think the many volleyball nets are taking up beach area and should be taken down given that I've never seen them used. If there are tournaments out there, just put them up for the tournament and then take them back down afterwards.

Received Thursday, August 18, 2016 at 1:11 PM

The shoreline at the Bay City State is a fabulous habitat for shorebirds and other wildlife. Destruction of the natural environment would be an injustice to the welfare to the species who migrate and live there. Keep it natural!

Received Friday August 19, 2016 at 4:49 PM

Dear Ms. Jensen,

I support keeping the adjoining area to the present beach wild. Let nature control the ever changing shoreline of Saginaw Bay for the benefit of both flora and fauna. Thank you for your indulgence in this matter.

Received Friday August 19, 2016 at 5:29 PM

Dear Ms. Jensen,

The state park in Bay County is a treasure to us and the state. There needs to be a balance between the beach and wildlife. Presently, I believe, the balance is what it ought to be to satisfy both human, animal and plant needs. So I'd like to enter my opposition to any further expansion of a groomed beach for the sake of wildlife and those who enjoy communing with nature.

Received Sunday, August 21, 2016 at 10:33 AM

Dear Debbie,

I am writing to you with regards to the decision that will be made soon to destroy habitat that is vital to many shorebirds and other water fowl at Bay City State Park. I am an avid bird watcher and environmentalist. I have been inducted into the Michigan Environmental Hall of Fame and awarded the Michigan Elementary Science Teacher of the Year Award because of my dedication to the environment and the educational opportunities I offer my students.

I am saddened that the habitat needed to support the wildlife in your State Park is not being considered as important to the life it supports. The trails and other avenues for the visitors in the park are more than adequate for them to gain a view of the shoreline or to use the already existing beach front.

Once again, HUMAN NEEDS are being placed before the WILDLIFE needs due to greed and pressure from uninformed individuals that are actually BULLIES. The best interest of the environment is to PRESERVE what we have. Habitat destruction is the number one reason that many of our water fowl, shorebirds and other wildlife are suffering the largest decline in numbers in years. If these important creatures disappear, it will be something that we will never recover from.

I teach my students to be stewards of this wonderful environment. They are encouraged to get involved in activities that promote the health and well-being of the world around them. I would not be able to teach this if I did not act in the same manner. Our environment is very fragile, and today it is just as important as ever to maintain a balance for the survival of all living things.

I believe that the destruction of this habitat will have long lasting, negative consequences to the environment and to the wildlife depending on it. Please reconsider destroying habitat that is so vital. Please look at all the affects your decision will make to everything around you. One little change affects so much that you may not realize the full extent of this decision until it is too late to reverse

it. Make sure the decision is not made because of pressure from individuals that are not looking at the best interest of a very fragile environment or the wildlife it will impact.

Received Sunday August 21, 2016 at 8:15 PM

Dear Ms. Jensen:

As a regular and long-time visitor to BCSRA, it is my firm opinion that --as to further development of this park-- enough is enough.

I know I am not alone in the opinion that people have their pavilions, kids have their water park and those of us who have been coming for a relaxing and peaceful visit with nature are having less success in finding some solitude.

I urge the Management Plan members to dedicate their attention to preserving what is the most valuable part of the park: its natural attributes, various habitats, and the wildlife that has existed for decades, and which faces great dangers if its environment continues to be destroyed to accommodate further development-- at any cost-- for what possible reason? To bring in a few more dollars into the community? What will happen, more likely, is that people will trash it, nature-lovers, photographers, and birders will go elsewhere and revenue will take a dive.

Leave the un-groomed beach as is.

Received Monday August 22, 2016 at 10:49 AM

Dear Ms. Jansen,

It's come to my attention that there are plans to groom an additional stretch of bay shoreline in the recreation area. There is already a beach area for people to enjoy for swimming, etc. and I believe that some of the area should be left in its natural state in order to benefit wildlife. This shoreline is a valuable part of the Saginaw Bay Birding Trail. It provides a tiny stretch of relatively undisturbed shoreline habitat for a large variety of birds and provides recreation for people that enjoy observing wildlife.

Thank you for your time.

Received August Monday August 22, 2016 at 8:40 AM

Recently brought to my attention is the plan to groom an additional 1000' of shoreline at this park. Led by a small but vocal and in this instant a misguided group, with an agenda I can only assume is a complete takeover of this beautiful public state park. The SOS group (save our shoreline) has its history and so do I. The past is what it was but this over reach by a few and the politicians on the county, city and state level would seem to have cavorted in the effort to undermine the great work the men and women do at our parks and in the service of the state and its citizens.

This cannot be allowed to go forward and I would like to address a few points using their own survey; It is bogus as the day is long, to underscore their lack of understanding and knowledge of the Bay and its history.

1. Average age of park user is 57
2. Average use of park 1.5 times a year and only in the months of June-July August.
3. 3.60% of all folks responding either bike or come to nature watch. Camping, boardwalk and Tobico Marsh are a close second.
4. In a statistical dead heat at 34% are those who say they use the beach and those who don't, (as a personal observation from many years at the park there are no 60 year old men or women swimming in that Bay water) myself included.
5. The least activity participation in the park is volleyball. Yet there has remained for the last 10 years 8 nets taking up 300 feet of beach area that folks have not been able to use. Really?? Along with 2 other nets at other end of park for a total of ten I think we might be able to utilize the space better.
6. 42% said they are not interested in anything educational. I might add here that the number of kids that come to the park in an educational way is quite high according to the numbers. However I've yet to see any one group or kids taken along that shoreline where there is an abundance of bird-flower and insect life. I don't get it.
7. So we come to the kicker. 83% said they want the beach improved. Hmmm As of today there is 3000' of beautiful beach out there with 3 access points- one on each end for a full walk or bike ride (hard packed sand) and one more to board walk.
8. Finally the dead heat again at 36% saying the beach is poor to fair. How would any of them know? They don't use it. I have sent a photo disc showing the beach as of the 17th and the last few years at different times. Please listen as I crinkle up this survey and throw it in the basket. I, along with many others, were not aware of this or any of the previous meetings. Had we been it may not have come to this situation.

http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2015/10/cmu_epa_10_million_wetland_gra.html

The above link ties in well with our park and more importantly the coastal fresh water marsh not found but in one or two places in the world. The opportunity to manage and enhance this is nothing short of a gift. It also brings home the point that through programs like CREP and CRP, (80,000 acres) the purchase of recently held private land in the last twenty years along the bay shore (27 million spent in last fifteen years on CREP and I'm awaiting a number on the other), all point to a long hard fight to restore habitat and clean the Bay water and it's watershed.

I'm awaiting numbers on CREP specific to our county and its acreage and also land bought and put into use by the state in conjunction with local townships and cities. It may seem like these are unrelated to a small chunk of sand but it does show the cost and effort put in place to bring back much that has been lost. It seems silly right here at our door step we should undo that which Mother Nature has provided in the last five years. And for what again???

http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2016/06/michigan_great_lakes_tourism.html

<https://www.fws.gov/southeast/economicimpact/pdf/2011-birdingreport--final.pdf>

So, let's talk about economics and tourism and how we can utilize our park and area better. The two links above I have included because instead of me quoting from them and using their stats it's all right there with a click. I'll just add that for our state Michigan ranks 13th in birding participation, spent 1.2 billion on birding related expenditures and another 417 million for an average of 425.00 in away from home expenses (2014).

Many states have long been on the band wagon and with an average income of 75,000 I'd follow and attract the money!

So let's talk about our Saginaw Bay shore line and State park. There have been seventeen species of gull seen in Bay County along the shoreline 14 of them at the state park. 31 species of shorebirds have been seen in Bay county shore line 26 of them right at state park. I should add that all have been seen east of groomed beach. It's where life can exist. Thirteen different hawks, falcons and eagles hunt that shore line during spring, fall and winter. I think park records show 245 bird species for the park. Not to mention the insect flower and fauna life it supports.

In closing let me say that I have swam, ran, biked and walked every inch of that park in the last thirty years. In the 80's boaters beach as its known was fun and that part of the beach was always there_ minus the fake sand and grooming. Just been cleaner there and as you go east west and north it is the same. Our park will never be a swim beach. It never has. Polluted water, oily and of the last few years filled with an algae type honker of some sort like I haven't seen before. Saw it other places also but not like here.

The rising water has shifted and created a natural beach from the maintained beach. It has been filled with drift wood from time to time, shells, dead fish and life giving food! All types of birds and critters depended on it and more than that need it for survival. Migration is coastal and this park sits at the bottom of the bay. They are funneled through spring and fall and the new marsh that has come back to life is loaded with rails and herons, song birds, mink and bobcat run the shore and otter make an appearance from time to time.

Let the Bay and shoreline be what it will,-ever changing and shifting, each passing season bringing new untold wonders. Strike this crazy, completely unnecessary piece of the plan and never let it see the light of day. The few do not speak for the many. Have the courage and the vision to look further than a pier to nowhere selling small trinkets to those who can least afford them. You have the power. Use it.

Received Thursday August 25, 2016 at 4:48 PM

Dear Ms. Jensen,

I am writing in regards to the DNR's recent visit and meetings regarding our Bay City State Park. Since 1994 we have been dealing with a master plan to help our beach front and shoreline improvements. 22 years this community has waited and still continue to get the run around. Why do we continue to pay government taxes when the DNR clearly are not supporting us and helping us to improve our community? I understand there has been a few issues from a few individuals that upset the folks in the DNR but let's not lose sight of the big picture. Our community wants our beaches back! It's unfortunate that there are some disagreements with a few but I urge the DNR to think of the entire city and what we have lost over the years in not being able to enjoy our beaches. It's time we go back to our 1994 master plan and move forward!

Dear Mrs. Jensen,

I am writing because of the proposed clean beach at Bay City Rec Area. As a child in the 50's I swam there a few times but in the last 40 years I've gone to this area to enjoy the birds and the flowers and natural beach scene. I live out of the county but have probably gone to BCRA over 100 times. The reason is because of the unique location in regard to migrating birds and the natural view and feel of the Saginaw Bay at this point. Most of the rest of the bay is blocked by phragmites or private land.

As a naturalist and former teacher I also enjoy seeing the dragonflies, butterflies as well as the flowers. Right now this area has some of the rarer goldenrod plants blooming. We have about 25 species of goldenrod in Michigan.

I have even studied shells and mammals on this beach. The butterflies and dragonflies are in very reduced numbers statewide now but come through this area because of the plants. It is also at the end of a migrant funnel for them.

Mostly I go there for the bird migration. In the early Summer one might go to the forest by Tobico Marsh or by the camp ground but the forest birds there would also be found in any other similar forest.

For the water birds and shorebirds and migratory tundra birds and grassland birds, the only place to go is the bay and the best place is BCRA. For this reason the small natural beach area receives about 75% + of all the birding activities in the area.

Although I don't live in Bay County, I've seen more than 300 bird species in Bay County. There are only a few counties that have 300 species seen by anyone. Most of the birds I've seen have been from or near the shore. Two days after hurricane Sandy hit New York we saw many Atlantic Brant as well as Kittiwakes and Sabine's Gulls flying in the lower bay. All these birds are from the ocean.

For several years a gull from Europe hung out on this beach. He was known as Lester the Lesser Black-backed gull. Many people came from Detroit or farther to see Lester.

I've seen my only Bay County Golden Eagle from this beach. Also seen were my only Red Phalarope and some Jaegers. I've heard a Nelson's sparrow from the far north, from this beach. It was my only Michigan record. This area fills with hundreds of migrating sparrows in the Fall. We've seen nearly all the bay ducks from here including three species of scoter and Long-tailed ducks. Of course many shorebirds are found here because of the natural food.

This beach is open to all and usually there is a non-birder walking it, often with his dog. Naturalists don't come all at once but use it throughout the year. This is probably more use than what the swimming area would get in three concentrated months.

The need and maintenance problem is as follows. I've seen very few people at the present beach at any time. I've never seen it crowded since the 50's. With the spread of swimming pools most people can swim at or near home. We were very saddened when

the large Burr Oak trees were cut down to create the open field that mostly lies unused now behind this beach area. You can now see the bay better from the parking lot but you used to see it from the shade.

Because of the counter clockwise gyr of the current, whatever comes down the Saginaw River ends up settling off shore of this beach. I've waded out here to photo a rare bird and soon was in about 2 ft. of muck that almost kept me there. To keep this area clean would involve cleaning the floor of the bay for a couple hundred yards out. This would have to be done over and over again.

I feel that the strong opposition to this being a natural area is not coming from swimmers but from people who enjoy being angry at the government. I doubt that most of the people opposing it own a swim suit that still fits them.

As an educational area, this beach is a wonderland for many types of study with the children. I don't think that a clean beach would be used as an educational area at all.

As you might have guessed I hope the wild beach area is left as it is now. I would be ok. with a small outhouse built at the west end of the present beach or an access trail from the west road to the beach.

**BAY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
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Community Initiatives
Geographic Information Systems
Gypsy Moth Suppression Program
Mosquito Control
Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative
Transportation Planning

August 26, 2016

Deborah Jensen
Park Management Plan Administrator
MI Dept. of Natural Resources
Parks and Recreation Division

Re: Comments on the Bay City State Recreation Area Draft Phase 2 Plan

Dear Ms. Jensen,

We have reviewed the DNR Draft Phase 2 plan for the Bay City State Recreation Area (BCSRA) and unfortunately find that this is simply another plan (the 4th one) that won't be able to be implemented with the existing restrictions in place that prohibit any disturbance to the sand at the beachfront along the Day Use area shoreline.

We are reluctant to be so critical however as we've seen, even the proposal put forth by the DNR's own Director Keith Creagh's to the community stakeholders for a boardwalk and 1000 feet of beachfront to be cleaned at a specific site location he himself selected in 2013, can't be done, as the restrictions prohibit "any disturbance to the soils (sand)" at the shoreline area. So the prohibition on any disturbance isn't just that the shoreline muck cannot be removed and the beach groomed, or that a boardwalk cannot be installed to provide public access to the shore, further there cannot be any kayak launching or no kayak rack installed, no setting up a tripod to photograph birds and no leaving footprints in the sand. These activities cannot be done without disturbing the soils. The restrictions prohibit the normal and customary public recreational use of public shoreline at BCSRA that was donated to the state by the City of Bay City exclusively for public recreational use.

Bay County was provided a curtesy copy of the written comments from Mr. Richard Milster, Chair of the Bay Area Community Foundation, and Mr. Rick Finn, the City Manager of Bay City. We are 100% supportive of the comments made by these community leaders and do not have much more to offer as far comments other than to reiterate them and so they are included here as attachments.

Interestingly, the Draft Phase 2 Plan notes at Legal Mandates (Page 12) that new guiding resources have been developed in the six years since the Phase 1 Plan was adopted, and specifically cites the Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel Report (2012). We have reviewed that report and find its recommendations for targeting investments, integrating tourism and economic development promotion, prioritizing safety and maintenance and helping communities use their park and recreation assets to strengthen regional identity are exactly what's needed. These are the same values the Bay City/County community has requested DNR consider at the BCSRA since the development of the 1994 Master Plan. The community wants the local park to be a waterfront show piece; it provides the only state recreational access to the Saginaw Bay in over 130 miles. The public amenities requested in the 1994 Master Plan at BCSRA are basic amenities available and in place at most state parks. As described in Richard Mister's letter, it is not unreasonable for the community to ask the State to move forward on those 1994 recommendations to allow for public access and use of the Great Lakes shoreline at the park.

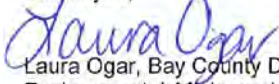
Bay County recommends that DNR make the re-negotiation of the permit conditions with the Army Corps of Engineers the singular highest priority for action. The Corps has indicated their willingness to reconsider the land use restrictions and the Preserved Area could be relocated to a more appropriate location in the 2,000 acre (Tobico Marsh) site than the beachfront. Or it could be placed at any of DNR's other six (6) Wildlife Area's located on the shoreline of the Saginaw Bay that are preserved for birds and wildlife. Once the restrictions are removed we would urge DNR to embrace the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel report and work with the local community to make the BCSRA a Signature Park.

We will be following up with the Blue Ribbon Panel members to ensure they are accurately informed of the assets and challenges at our local state park and to applaud them for the fresh approach and recognition of the value state parks have on local community's and the regional economy.

Lastly, again reaffirming Richard Milster's comments, the DNR Open House presentation and approach taken in the Draft Phase 2 Plan led to a "needlessly confrontational meeting. Any plan must emphasize as a goal the return of the coastal area to a usable beachfront – and allow for maintenance of that beachfront for public use. If DNR would use its leadership ability to get that done almost all the individuals at the meeting would be natural allies for all the other goals the DNR is trying to accomplish."

In consideration of the public expense of another Plan at the BCSRA and the inability to implement shoreline improvements with the existing restrictions in place, we respectfully ask that you hold off on any further planning effort until the restrictions preventing use of the shoreline at the Day Use area are removed. The beach access improvements identified by stakeholders in the 1995 Master Plan and reaffirmed again in the 2015 Lakefront and Beach Access Study, should then be completed.

Thank you,



Laura Ogar, Bay County Director
Environmental Affairs and Community Development
Bay County Building
515 Center Avenue, Suite 500
Bay City, Michigan 48708

Attachments: R. Milster, Email to D. Jensen August 12, 2016
R. Finn, City Manager, Bay City, Letter to Governor
Bay County Board/Signed Community Letter to Governor, August 10, 2016 w/Resolution

cc: T. Hickner, R. Finn, R. Milster, E. Curtis, R. Carley, E. Krygier, K. Coonan,

Governor R. Snyder
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

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