



APPENDIX A Supporting Analysis

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A.1 PARK LOCATION

Bay City State Recreation Area (RA) is located at 43.59 N latitude and 83.89 W longitude in Bangor and Kawkawlin Townships, Bay County, Michigan. It borders Saginaw Bay to the east. The western boundary of the recreation area is a jagged line that runs along the edge of the Tobico Marsh. The actual boarder connects to privately owned lands that have been identified for future acquisition by the state. The projected western boundary would then be the Penn Central railroad grade. Boutell Rd. touches the northern border of the RA and again private lands exist along the road that reach the railroad tracks and have been identified for acquisition when appropriate to create a more contiguous piece of state owned property easily identified and accessed by the public. The southern boarder of the RA is not easily defined because Beaver Rd. dissects the RA separating the campground from the day use area. Small plots of private land exist on either side of the road. Some of these plots are surrounded on two or three sides by state property. One example is the 30 acres owned by Waste Management that contains hazardous waste.



The Recreation Area is 4 miles from Bay City, and 17 miles from Saginaw. Other nearby population centers include Midland, 15 miles; Mt. Pleasant, 44 miles; and Flint, 47 miles. Collectively, these urban areas have a population of over 200,000. Bay City SRA is located approximately five miles east of I-75, off of the Beaver Road exit. The campground entrance is on one side of Beaver Rd. and the Entrance to the day use area and the Visitors Center is on the opposite side of the road. Small undeveloped parking areas on Parish Rd., River Rd., Schmidt Rd, and the corner of Beaver Rd. and Two Mile provide small accesses to areas open for hunting.

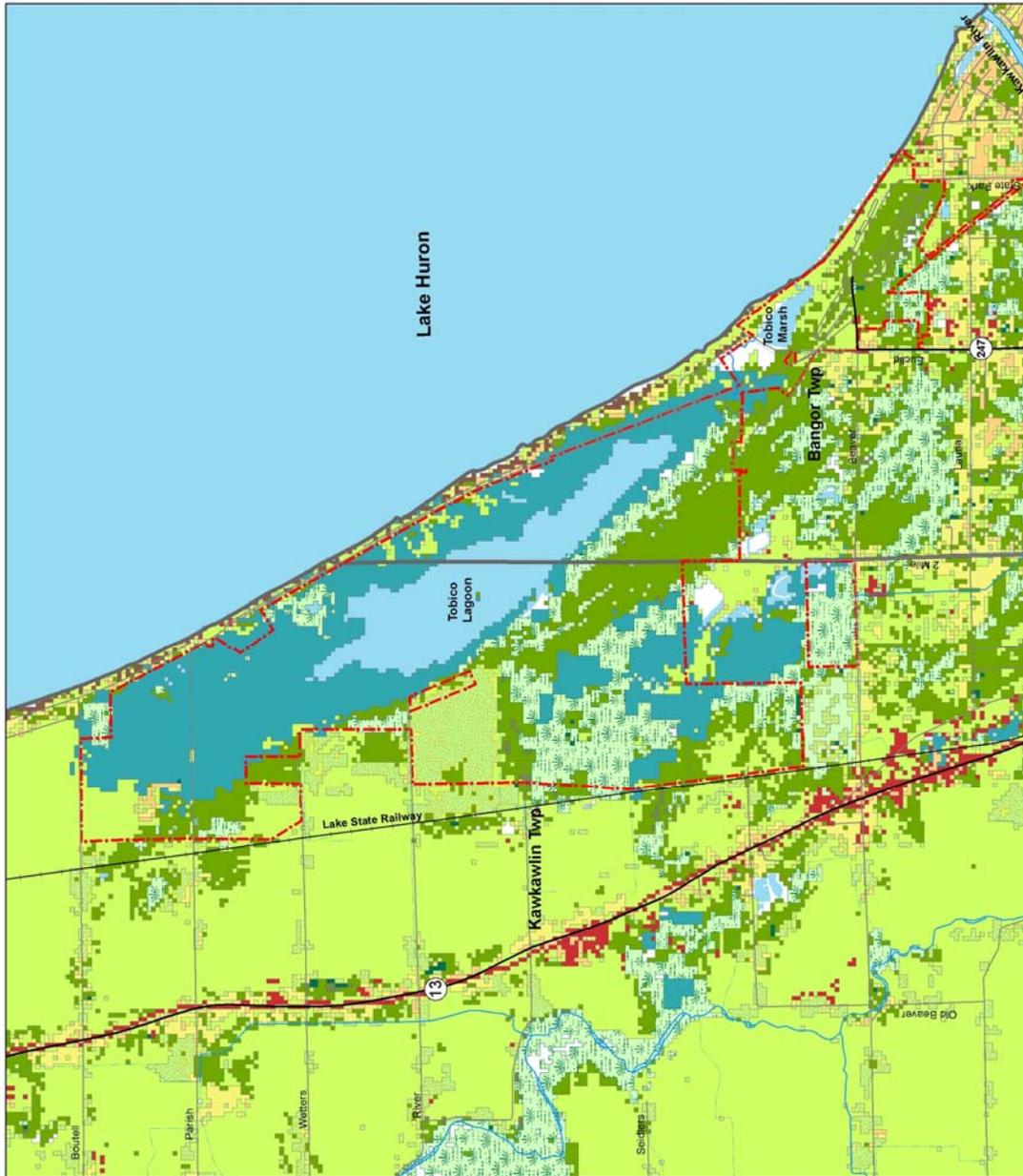
**Bay City State Recreation Area
Land Cover Map
Bay City
Bay County, Michigan**



- Low Intensity Residential
- High Intensity Residential
- Commercial/Industrial/Transportation
- Bare Rock/Sand/Clay
- Deciduous Forest
- Evergreen Forest
- Mixed Forest
- Pasture/Hay
- Row Crops
- Urban/Recreational Grasses
- Woody Wetlands
- Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands
- Municipal Boundary
- State Roads
- Municipal Roads
- Park Boundary
- Railroads
- Lakes and Ponds
- Rivers and Streams
- Drains and Intermittent Streams



Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library,
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
August 4, 2009



A.2 DEMOGRAPHICS

Bay City was a significant outpost during the late 1800's, due to the lumber industry. It grew in size due to manufacturing, throughout the 1900's. The population of Bay County rose steadily until the 1980s. It peaked and has declined steadily since then. East Central Michigan Planning and Development Region predict a slight decrease in population over the next 30 years¹.

Bay County Population (1850-2002)²

Year	Population	% Change
1850	0	—
1860	3,164	100%
1870	15,900	402.5%
1880	38,081	139.5%
1890	56,412	48.1%
1900	62,378	10.6%
1910	68,238	9.4%
1920	69,548	1.9%
1930	69,474	-0.1%
1940	74,981	7.9%
1950	88,461	18.0%
1960	107,042	21.0%
1970	117,339	9.6%
1980	119,881	2.2%
1990	111,723	-6.8%
2000	110,157	-1.4%
2002	109,672	-0.4%

Source: Michigan Economic Growth Corporation www.michigan.org/medc

¹ East Central Michigan Planning and Development Region. *Population Projections for Region 7 Through 2030*.

² Figures from 1850-1990 were gathered using the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. 1996. *Population of the States and Counties of the United States: 1790 to 1990*. <http://www.nwmcog.org/data/CensusTrends/MI-Historic-Census.pdf>

Race in Bay County (2000 Census)

	Bay County	Michigan
White persons, percent, 2005 (a)	96.4%	81.3%
Black persons, percent, 2005 (a)	1.4%	14.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent, 2005 (a)	0.5%	0.6%
Asian persons, percent, 2005 (a)	0.5%	2.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent, 2005 (a)	0.0%	0.0%
Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2005	1.2%	1.5%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2005 (b)	4.1%	3.8%
White persons not Hispanic, percent, 2005	92.6%	77.9%

(a) Includes persons reporting only one race.
 (b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories.

Source: Census of Population

The majority of the population in Bay County is white. There are a number of Hispanics and African-Americans, accounting for about five percent of the population.

Household Census Data for Bay County

	Bay County	Michigan
Housing units, 2005	47,897	4,478,507
Homeownership rate, 2000	79.3%	73.8%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2000	\$84,900	\$115,600
Persons per household, 2000	2.47	2.56
Median household income, 2003	\$39,151	\$46,291
Per capita money income, 1999	\$19,698	\$22,168
Persons below poverty, percent, 2003	10.6%	11.0%
Persons per square mile, 2000	248.1	175

Source: Census of Population

Compared to the state, Bay County's housing value is lower, and its median household and personal income are lower as well. It has a slightly higher than average rate of homeownership and persons living in poverty. Its population density is slightly higher than the state average.

Employment

There are several trends in employment since 1970. The number of jobs overall has increased, due to increased employment in state and local government, retail trade, construction, services, and finance and real estate. In the same time

period, employment in farming, manufacturing, and the military declined by at least 30 percent.

Employment by Industry, *Number of Jobs*, in Bay County (1970-2000)

Components by Type	1970	1980	1990	2000	% Change (1970-2000)
Total Employment	39,729	41,838	46,278	53,672	35%
Wage and Salary Employment	33,179	35,238	38,981	45,537	37%
Proprietor's employment	6,550	6,600	7,297	8,135	24%
Farm Employment	1,912	1,692	1,278	1,125	-41%
Non-Farm Employment	37,817	40,146	45,000	52,547	39%
Components by Industry	1970	1980	1990	2000	% Change (1970-2000)
Private	32,784	34,888	38,759	45,622	39%
Ag. serv., forestry, fishing, and other	149	225	353	515	246%
Mining	46	179	134	97	111%
Construction	1,664	1,566	2,341	2,927	76%
Manufacturing	11,207	8,956	7,368	7,871	-30%
Transportation and public utilities	1,987	1,947	1,400	1,679	-16%
Wholesale trade	2,016	2,077	2,157	2,217	10%
Retail trade	7,081	8,014	10,545	12,281	73%
Finance, insurance, and real estate	1,955	2,552	2,767	2,905	49%
Services	6,679	9,372	11,694	15,130	127%
Government and government enterprises	5,033	5,258	6,241	6,925	38%
Federal, civilian	320	285	295	311	-3%
Military	383	317	381	239	-38%
State and local	4,330	4,656	5,565	6,375	47%

Source: Michigan Economic Growth Corporation www.michigan.org/medc

Principal Employers in Bay County

Company Name	Location	Employees	Product Description
Bay Medical Center	Bay City	1,745	General medical & surgical hospital
General Motors Corp.	Bay City	1,500	Manufactures transmission & engine components, camshaft, oil pump assemblies & piston pins
Bay City Public School District	Bay City	1,150	Public school district office
Meijer Inc.	Bay City	650	Retail department & grocery store with pharmacy
Monitor Sugar Co.	Bay City	546	Manufactures sugar processed from sugar beets

Source: Michigan Economic Growth Corporation www.michigan.org/medc

INSERT ZONING AND FUTURE LAND USE MAPS HERE

A.3 GENERAL HISTORY OF BAY CITY STATE RECREATION AREA

In 1922, the City of Bay City donated 76 acres west of the waterworks to the state for use as a public park. Over the next seventy years, it has expanded to include roughly 2,300 acres, including Tobico Marsh as well as other adjacent properties.

Development of the park began in 1923. In that same year, a fish hatchery was established for the propagation of walleyed pike, a commercial food fish then of considerable economic importance. The hatchery operated until 1945, when it closed due to obsolescence and a decline in the fish population. The building was razed in 1952.

Park development continued during the 1920's and was accelerated during the 1930's as a result of federal programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Between 1933 and 1936 the CCC excavated a fresh water lagoon at the outlet of Tobico Marsh. The CCC also built and improved park roads and parking lots, constructed park buildings, and planted trees and shrubs.

In 1947, a private donor offered \$40,000.00 for the construction and operation of a trailside museum for the study of native and migratory birds. This museum, dedicated to the memory of George Birney Jennison, was constructed in 1949. The interpretive program at the museum expanded and, in 1969, created the permanent position of Park Interpreter. The park interpreter remained at the park until the early 1980's when the natural center closed. It remained closed until the spring of 1984. At that time the Jennison Center was reopened under a unique agreement between the agency formerly known as the Department of Natural Resources (DNR – now known as the Department of Natural Resources and Environment), Delta College and Saginaw Valley State University. The two colleges assumed responsibility for reopening the center and establishing environmental education programs. This partnership continued until January 1992, when the DNR assumed responsibility for the Jennison Nature Center. The DNRE still operates this center.

During the 1950's and 1960's many improvements were made to park facilities and services. Picnic areas and parking lots were improved and expanded. The campground was expanded to 283 sites with available electrical hook-ups. Improvements were also made to the campground's buildings and roads.

Between 1977 and 1993, infrastructure was improved. In 1977, a new bathhouse, concession complex, and two new toilet shower buildings were built. In 1982, the park was connected to the Bay County sewer system. In 1984, all of the gravel park roads were repaved with asphalt. In 1986, the park added picnic shelters and pavilions in the day use area. In 1989, the entire electrical system of the park was revamped. In 1990, the park office was completely remodeled. During the summer of 1993, two mini-cabins were constructed.

As early as the 1940's, people began reporting algae deposits on the swimming beach, commonly called *muck*. The amount of muck varies, depending on the water level and the amount of off-shore wind. Between the late 1950's and the early 1980's, the muck level gradually increased, making it increasingly difficult for park personnel to keep the shoreline attractive to swimmers. By the late 1980's, wetland restrictions tightened, and it was no longer possible for park personnel to engage in any removal efforts of the muck. In 1992, the park received permits to begin muck removal on the north swimming beach. By 2006, Bay City SRA had a permit to groom 1,200 feet of beach on the northwest end of the park, but the muck problem persists.³



Low Water Level and Algae Washed up on the Beach, 2003

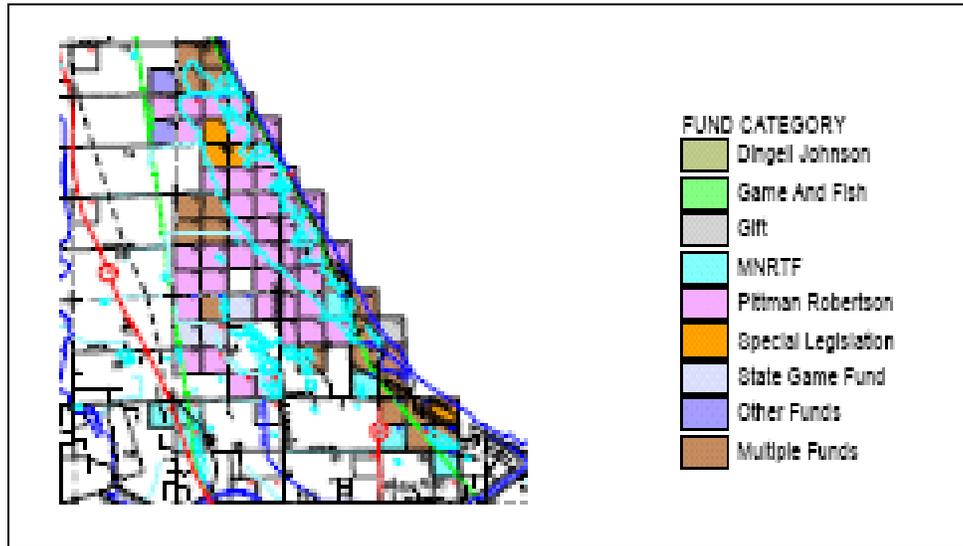
In 1985, a 180 foot sluice pipe which extended out into the Bay was removed. This sluice pipe, a hollow concrete wall, was used to channel discharge from the old water works plant out into the Bay. It was believed that the sluice contributed to the muck buildup along the park shoreline.

DNR has purchased several parcels in the past 20 years. In 1989, it purchased the small amusement park, which had been at the park entrance became part of the park. This added acreage and two new buildings, a residence and a storage building. In 1990, the abandoned railroad properties from State Park Drive over the Tobico Marsh Area were added to the park. A portion of this property had been developed into a hiking-biking trail and dedicated to Frank Anderson, the original donor of the Tobico Marsh Property. In 1992, the old roller skating rink and miniature golf course at the west entrance were also added to the park.

³ Evanoff, Michael. February 17, 2006. Interoffice Communication

A.4 LAND OWNERSHIP AND ISSUES

Bay City SRA was formed by acquiring property from a range of owners with a variety of funds. As a result, different funds carry certain restrictions for land use. Of the roughly 2,300 acres of state land at Bay City SRA, they were acquired through use of:

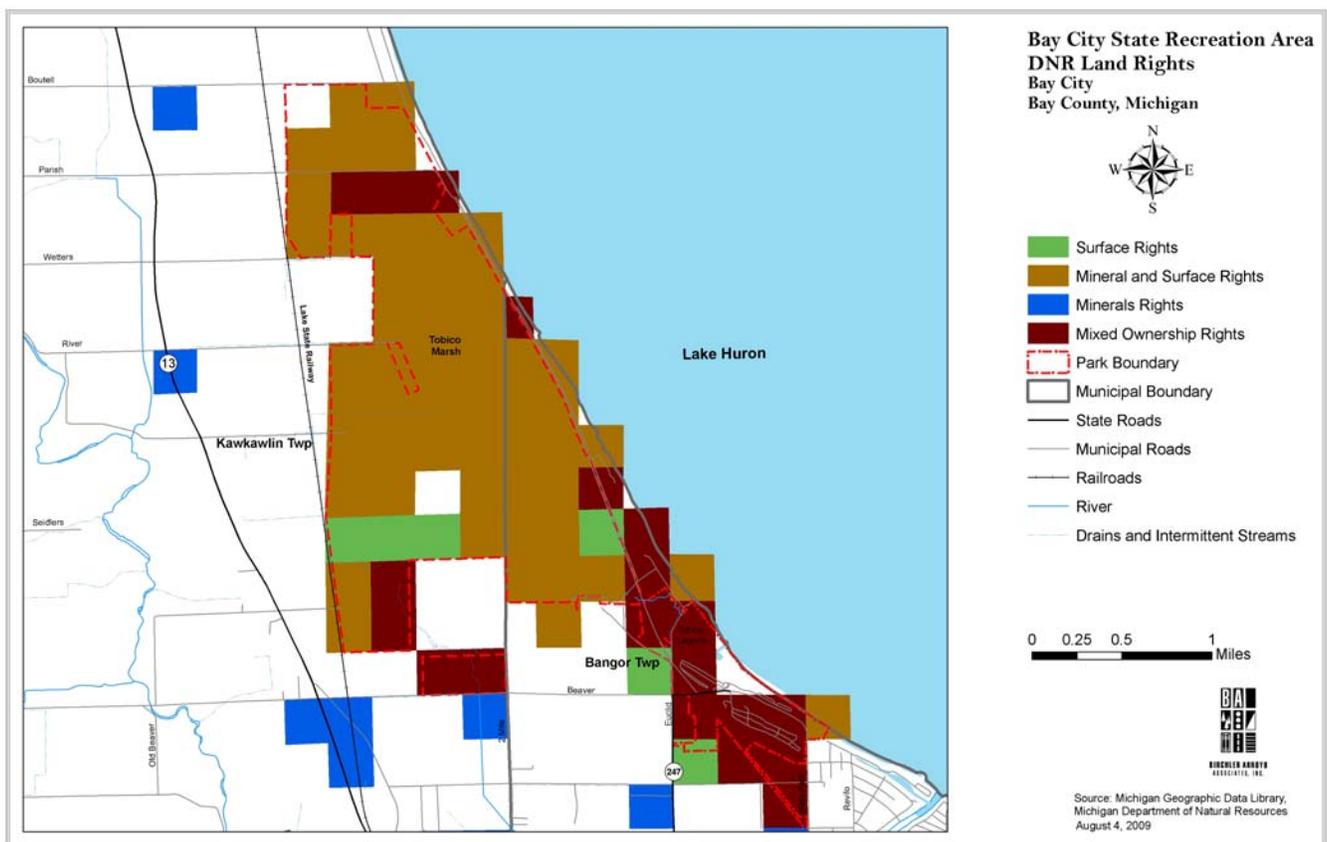


- Pittman-Robertson Fund, Part 405, Act 451, P.A. 1994
The majority of land at Bay City SRA was purchased with this fund, which comes from a federal tax on guns and ammunition. In 1955, DNR Wildlife Division purchased 992.1 acres from the Tobico Hunt Club, a large portion of the Tobico Marsh with this fund. Many adjacent parcels, totaling about half of Bay City SRA, were also purchased with money from this fund, which is used to restore wildlife habitat and must be used to promote public hunting opportunities.
- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Part 19, Act 491, P.A. 1994
A couple of parcels were purchased with money from MNRTF. It is funded with money acquired through oil and gas leases on state land. The money is used for general program purposes.
- State Game and Fish Fund, Act 17, P.A. 1921
A couple of parcels adjacent to Tobico Marsh were purchased with money from the State Game Fund. This fund was created by a \$1.50 deer hunting license fee and from mineral revenue deposited into Game and Fish Protection Fund.
- Special Legislation, Act 27, P.A. 1944 and Act 50, P.A. 1944

A couple of parcels near the north side of the Tobico Marsh were purchased with money from special legislation. It is used for general program purposes.

It was originally used mostly for The Porcupine Mountain State Park. It is no longer used.

- Environmental Settlements Fund
Money from this fund is used for general program purposes.
- Gift
A small parcel was given to the park as a gift.



A.5 RELATIONSHIP OF BAY CITY SRA TO OTHER PARK RESOURCES

Federal

The Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge is located approximately 15 miles from Bay City SRA. It covers over 9,400 acres. It attracts a variety of wildlife, migratory fowl, and birds. There are 12 miles of trails that can be used for mountain biking, hiking, and cross-country skiing. There are also opportunities to hunt, fish, and boat. There are many opportunities for wildlife observation, photography, and environmental education via observation towers, spotting scopes, and interpretive signs.

State

The state of Michigan's DNR Wildlife Division administers four State Game/Wildlife Areas (in Green) in Bay County:

- Crow Island State Game Area
- Pinconning Twp. Mini-State Game Area
- Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area
- Quanicassee State Wildlife Area.

The State of Michigan DNR also operates three boating access sites (BAS):

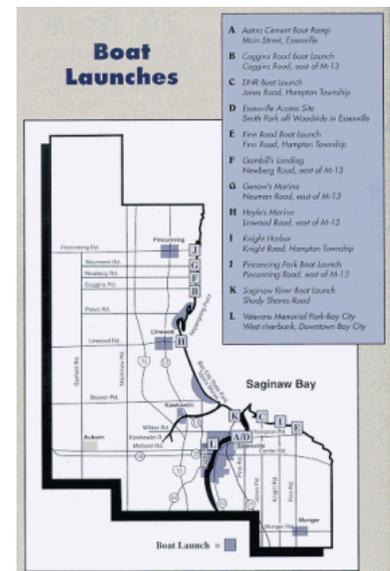
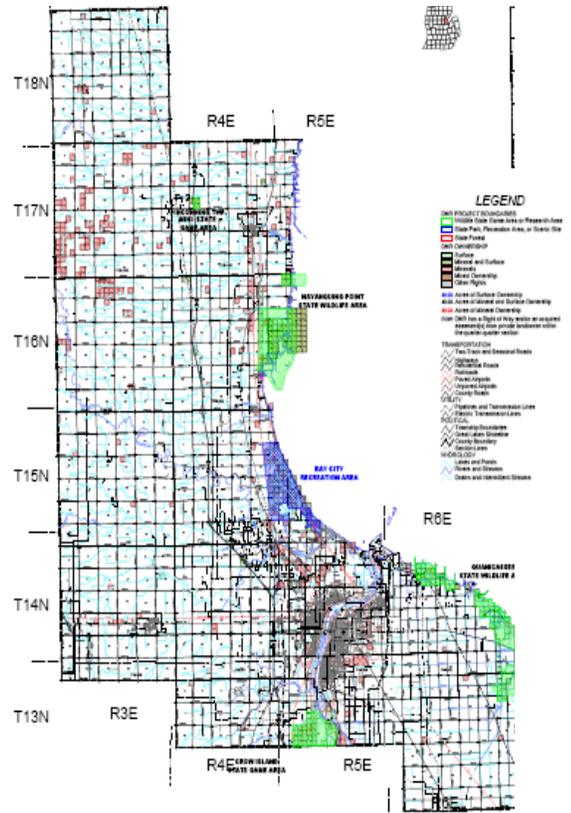
- Kawkawlin River
- Coggins Road
- Saginaw River Mouth

Additional municipal and county boat access sites are provided in the area as noted on the map at right.

Local Parks

- Pinconning Park is a county park located on Saginaw Bay that has 42 modern campsites and 6 log cabins for rent. It is open year round. The park attracts a variety of birds and migratory waterfowl. It attracts sportsmen who fish for perch, bass, pike, crappie, bluegill, and catfish, and who hunt ducks and geese.
- Finn Road Park & Campground is located approximately 12 miles SE of Bay City SRA. It is

Map of DNR Landholdings in the County



Map provided by Bay City CVB

right on Saginaw bay as well and offers campsites with full hook-ups and a small boat launch.

- Linwood Beach Marina & Campground is privately owned and is located approximately 8 miles north of the Recreation Area. This facility has 106 campsites with full hook ups, beach access, boat launch, boat rentals, party store and other amenities.
- Railtrail/Riverwalk is a system of paved trails that connect many of Bay City's day use parks including Wenonah Park and Carroll Park. Wenonah has an amphitheater and is home to many special events. Carroll Park was designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, world renowned park designer, who also designed New York City's Central Park. Other day use parks along this linear park system include Bigelow Park and Veterans Memorial Park. These places provide the community with sports fields (baseball, softball, volleyball, soccer) and picnic areas. This Riverwalk does extend into Bay City State Recreation Area.

The City of Bay City drafted a new parks and recreation plan in 2005⁴. Saginaw Bay Greenway Network is working to provide a network of trails, known as *greenways*, for the Bay City-Saginaw-Midland area. Two of the five regional hubs for these greenways are on state managed lands—Bay City SRA and Tobico Marsh.

⁴ City of Bay City. 2005. *City of Bay City Parks & Recreation Plan, 2005-2009*.
<http://baycitymi.org/2002design/PDF%20Files/2005-2009%20Park%20and%20Recreation%20Plan.pdf>

Table 5: Summary of Regional Recreational Resources

Sources: Bay County, State of Michigan

Recreational Resource	County	Municipality	Features																
			Picnic Area	Hiking	Hunting/ Trapping	Biking	Play-ground	Equestrian	Swimming	Boat Launch	Snow Mobiling	XC Skiing	Concession/ Vending	Camping	Drinking Water	Rest Rooms	Showers	Sport Field/Ct	Fishing
Federal Resources																			
Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge	Saginaw	Saginaw		X	X	X					X		X						X
State Resources																			
Crow Island State Game Area	Bay & Saginaw				X														
Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area	Bay	Pinconning			X														
Pinconning Twp. Mini-State Game Area	Bay	Pinconning			X														
Quanicassee State Wildlife Area	Bay & Tuscola				X						X								
County Resources																			
Bay County Community Center	Bay	Bay City								X							X		X
Bay County Fairgrounds	Bay	Bay City	X	X		X	X	X						X	X	X			
Civic Arena	Bay	Bay City		X		X										X		X	
Euclid Linear Park	Bay			X		X													
Pinconning Park	Bay	Pinconning	X	X	X	X	X				X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Municipal Resources																			
Bigelow Park	Bay	Bay City	X				X												
Carroll Park	Bay	Bay City	X				X												X
DeFoe Park	Bay	Bay City																	X
Finn Road Park & Campground	Bay										X			X					
Golson Boat Launch & Nature Area	Bay	Bay City	X	X							X								
Railtrail/Riverwalk	Bay	Bay City		X		X													
Veterans Memorial	Bay	Bay City																	X
Wenonah Park	Bay	Bay City																	
Privately Owned Resources																			
Linwood Beach Marina & Campground	Bay	Linwood								X	X			X					

A.6 CURRENT LAND USE

Bay City SRA is a multi-use park with multiple recreational opportunities. There is a day-use area along the beach, which includes opportunities for picnicking swimming and a lagoon for fishing. The day-use area also contains a very large playscape for children and three picnic shelters. Other picnic areas are spread throughout the day use area. There are three restrooms buildings in the day use as well as vault toilets. There is a modern campground with 193 sites. The Tobico Marsh, which makes up the majority of the RA, offers a large coastal marshland with plentiful wildlife-viewing opportunities. Hunting and trapping are permitted in the outlying areas of the park, but not within the Tobico Marsh. There are nature trails on either side of the marsh and another near the visitor's center. Outlying land is largely agricultural and residential. Bay City, an urban center, lies approximately 4 miles to the south.

The Saginaw Bay Visitors Center located at the north end of the day use parking lot offers year round programs for students grades K-12. The center is open to the public and has many exhibits.

The former manager's residence building near the Headquarters is being constructed into a DNRE Operation Service Center. The new office will house employees from multiple divisions.

A.7 NATURAL RESOURCES

At Bay City SRA, Tobico Marsh contains the majority of the natural ecological communities. Therefore, this section refers primarily to the marsh, rather than the area formerly known as Bay City State Park, which consists mainly of the campground, day use, and beach areas.

- ECO-REGIONAL CONTEXT

Bay City SRA falls within *Subsection VI.6 Saginaw Bay Lake Plain* eco-region⁵. This area consists primarily of flat glacial plain. The clay plain is broken by several extensive sand channels. One of the state's largest pineries occurred here on the somewhat poorly to poorly drained sands and clays. Agricultural development has been intensive as a result of the lake-moderated climate and the rich loamy soils.

- WATER RESOURCES

Bay City SRA has approximately 4,700 feet of shoreline along Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay. Approximately 1,200 feet of that shoreline is used as a swimming beach. Bay City SRA also contains the Tobico Marsh, the largest Great Lakes coastal marsh. This 1,848 acre marsh is an important breeding and nesting ground for migratory birds and waterfowl. The depth and size of the open water portion of the marsh has varied over the years. Presently, the open water area within the marsh varies from 2.5 to 5.5 feet deep and averages about 4 feet deep. Dense mats of floating cattails extend out from the shoreline over water 3-4 feet deep.

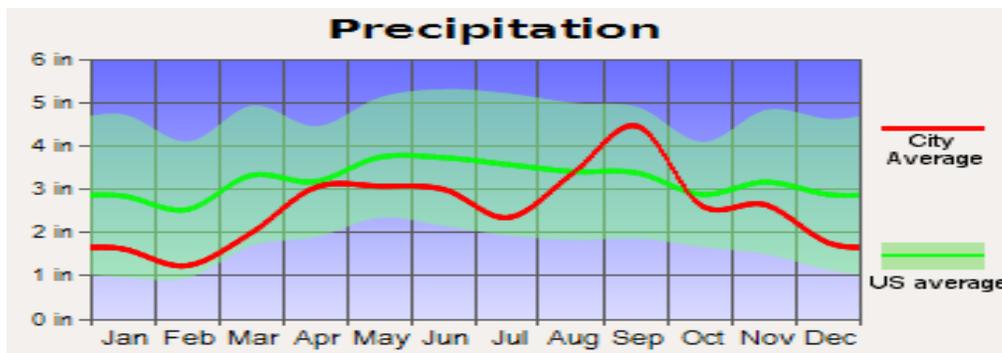
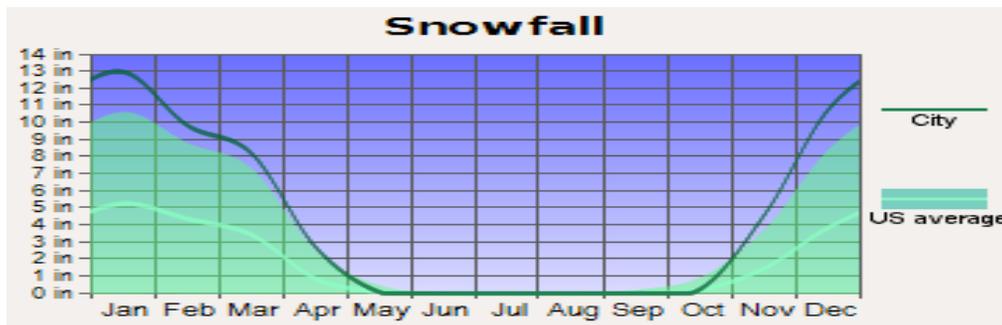
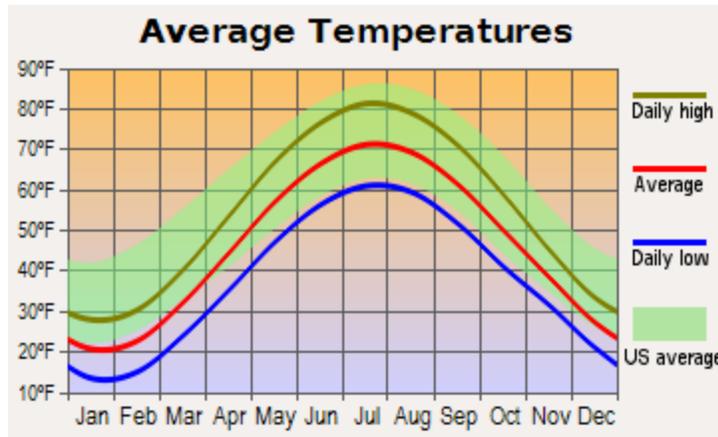
The Tobico Marsh Hydrologic Study studied and determined the nature and extent of the historic changes within the marsh. It also provided management options for the future, including an appropriate water level in the marsh. Two significant alterations of the marsh affecting the water level of the marsh are a water level control weir, installed to keep water in the marsh during times of low water level in Saginaw Bay, and a flap gate at Euclid Road, installed to prevent flooding of local residential properties at times of high water levels. Additionally, agricultural drains have altered the Tobico Marsh watershed.

- CLIMATE

The climate of Bay City and the surrounding area is affected by several conditions. Its latitude places it within the wind belt known as the *prevailing westerlies*. Winds are usually from the southwest or northwest. As a result, the area is also subject to high and low pressure systems that can produce storms and rapid weather changes. The city's proximity to the Great Lakes is another significant influence on its climate, bringing cooler temperatures in summer and warmer temperatures in the winter.

⁵ Albert, Dennis A. 1994. Regional Landscape Ecosystems of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin: A Working Map and Classification <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/habitat/rlandscp/index.htm>

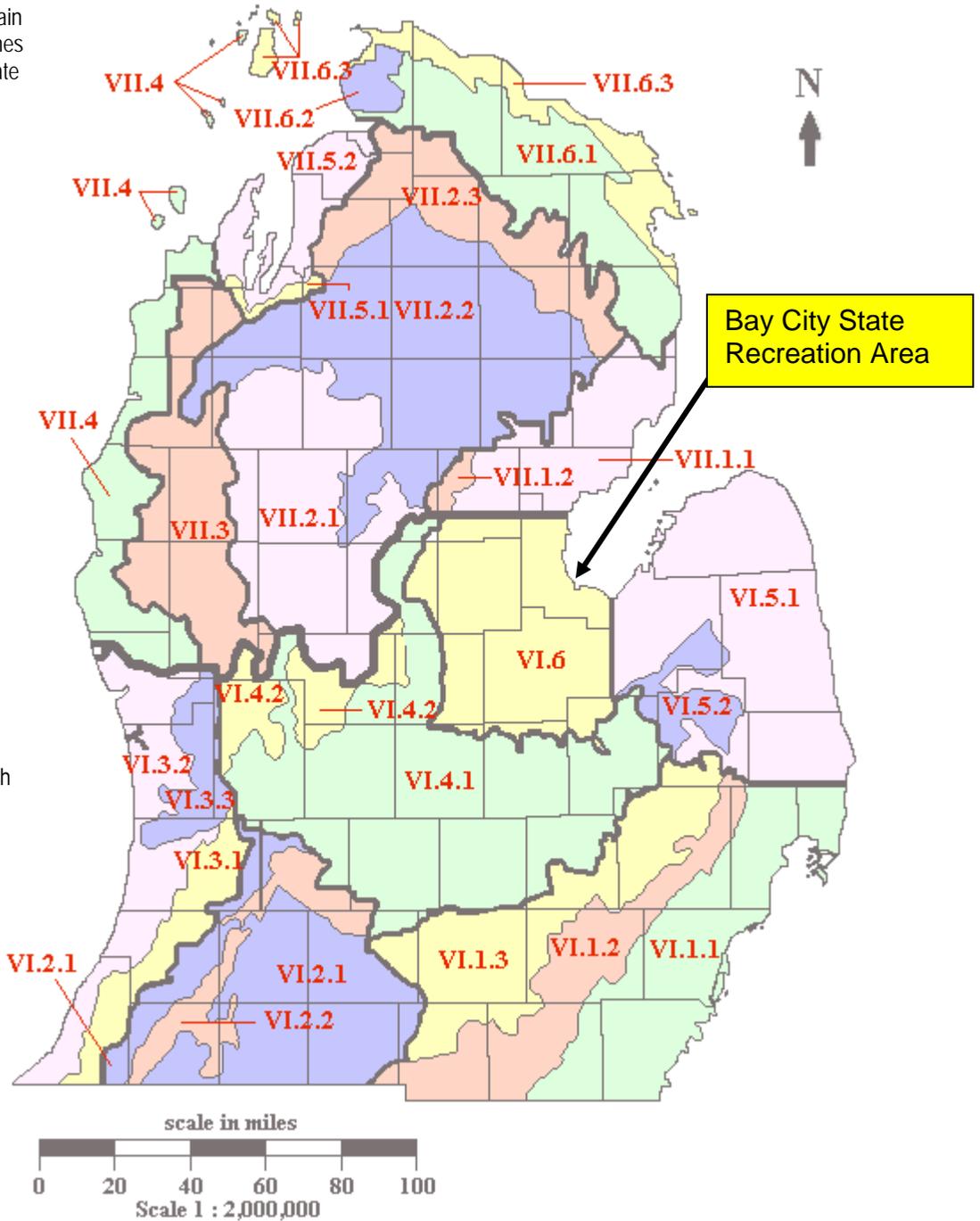
Precipitation is well distributed throughout the four seasons. The mean annual rainfall in Bay County is estimated at 28.7 inches. The annual depth of snowfall is 39 inches (from Bay City Parks and Recreation Plan, 2005-2009). The growing season is 150 to 160 days.



Charts courtesy of (<http://www.city-data.com/city/Bay-City-Michigan.html>)

Regional Landscape Ecosystems of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan

- Section VI.1 Washtenaw
 - VI.1.1. Maumee Lake Plain
 - VI.1.2. Ann Arbor Moraines
 - VI.1.3. Jackson Interlobate
- Section VI.2 Kalamazoo Interlobate
 - VI.2.1. Battle Creek Outwash Plain
 - VI.2.2. Cassopolis Ice-Contact Ridges
- Section VI.3 Allegan
 - VI.3.1. Berrien Springs
 - VI.3.2. Southern Lake Michigan Lake Plain
 - VI.3.3. Jamestown
- Section VI.4 Ionia
 - VI.4.1. Lansing
 - VI.4.2. Greenville
- Section VI.5 Huron
 - VI.5.1. Sandusky Lake Plain
 - VI.5.2. Lum Interlobate
- Section VI.6 Saginaw Bay Lake Plain**
- Section VII.1 Arenac
 - VII.1.1. Standish
 - VII.1.2. Wiggins Lake
- Section VII.2 High Plains
 - VII.2.1. Cadillac
 - VII.2.2. Grayling Outwash Plain
 - VII.2.3. Vanderbilt Moraines
- Section VII.3 Newaygo Outwash Plain
- VII.4. Manistee
- VII.5. Leelanau and Grand Traverse Peninsula
 - VII.5.1. Williamsburg
 - VII.5.2. Traverse City
- Section VII.6 Presque Isle
 - VII.6.1. Onaway
 - VII.6.2. Stutsmanville
 - VII.6.3. Cheboygan



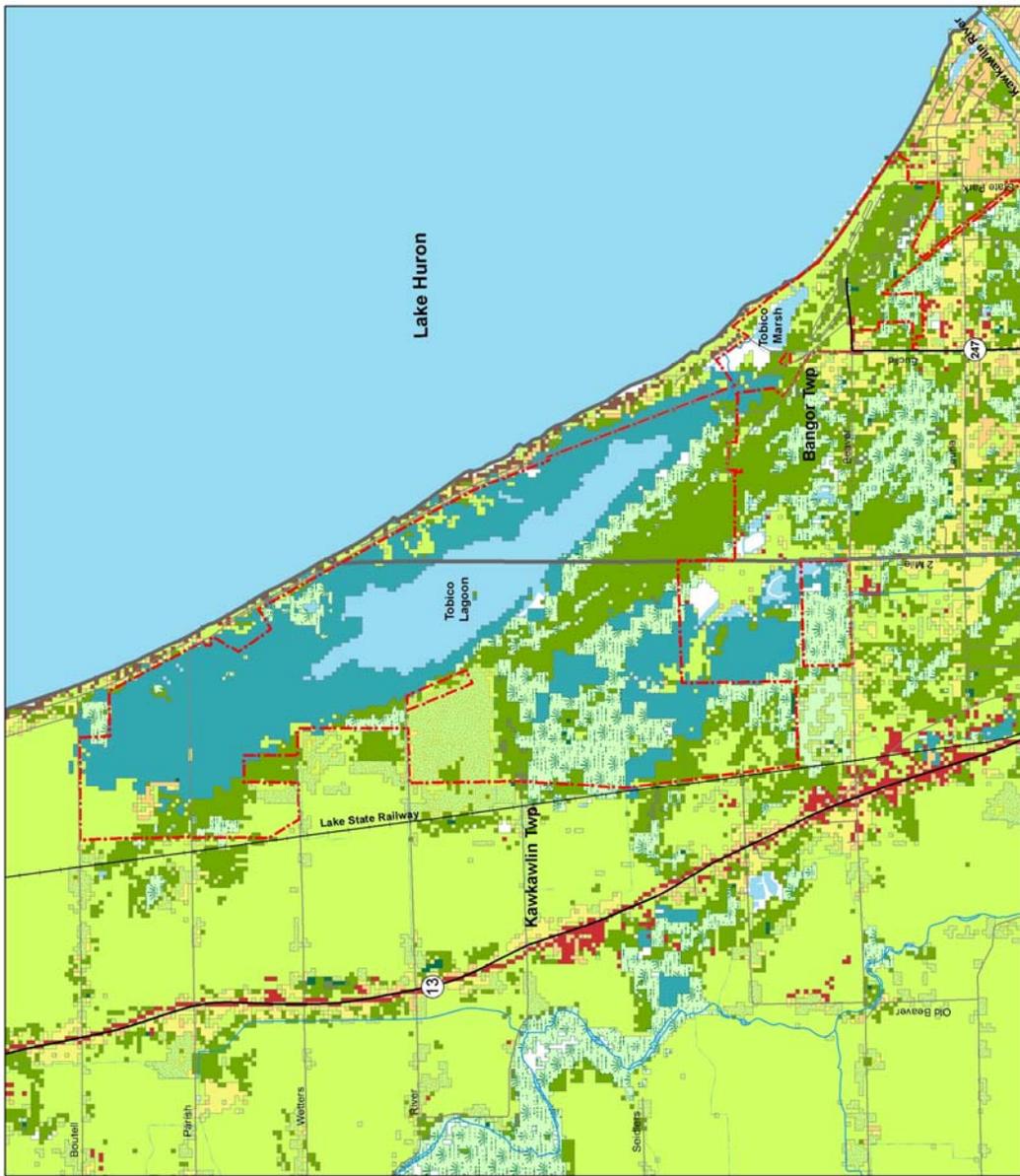
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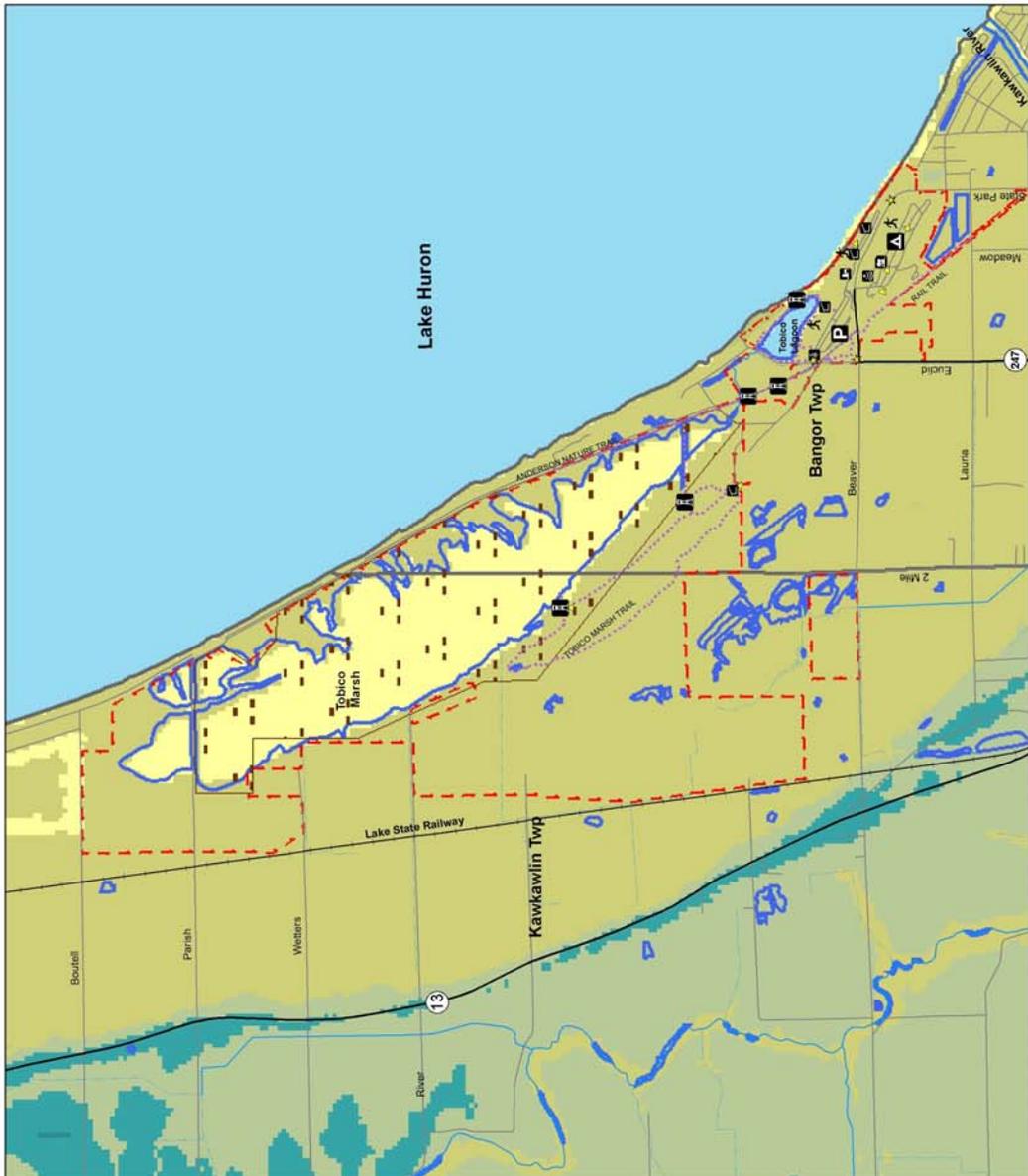
**Bay City State Recreation Area
Elevation Map
Bay City
Bay County, Michigan**



- Elevation in Feet**
- 571 - 580
 - 581 - 590
 - 591 - 600
 - 601 - 610
 - 611 - 620
- Municipal Boundary**
- National Natural Landmark**
- State Roads**
- Municipal Roads**
- Railroads**
- Hiking/Biking Trail**
- Hanging/Bungee/Cross Country Trail**
- Lakes and Ponds**
- Park Boundary**
- Rivers and Streams**
- Drains and Intermittent Streams**
- Observation Platform**
- Entrance**
- Amphitheater**
- Concession/Store**
- Mini Cabin**
- Pavillion**
- Visitor/Nature Center**
- Restroom**
- Playground**
- Parking**
- Camping**



Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library,
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
August 4, 2009



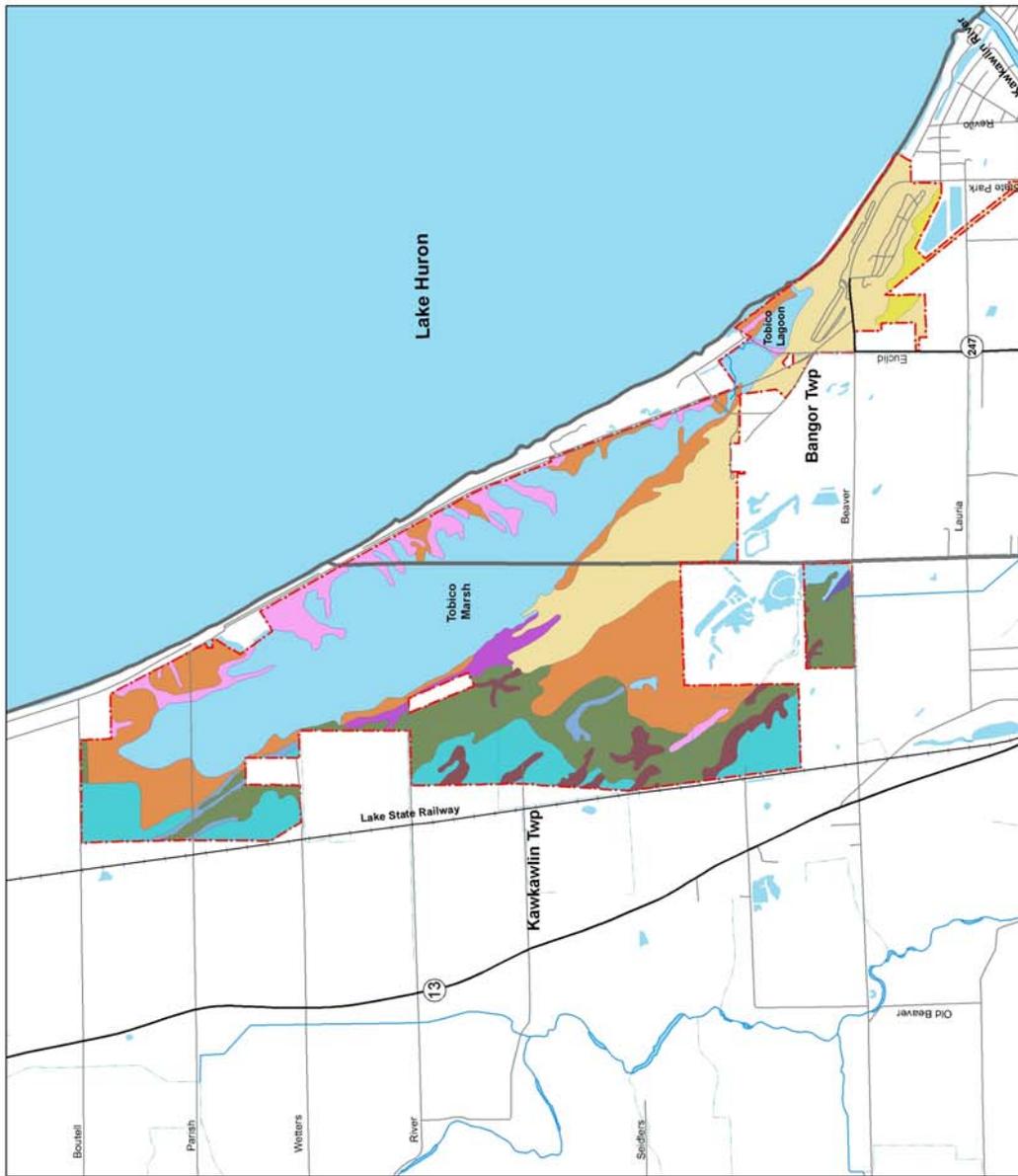
Bay City State Recreation Area
Soils Maps
 Bay City
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- Park Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- State Roads
- Municipal Roads
- Railroads
- Belleville loamy sand
- Wixom loamy sand, 0-3% slopes
- Tappan loam
- Pipestone fine sand, loamy substrate, 0-3% slopes
- Pipestone fine sand, 0-3% slopes
- Rousseau fine sand, 0-9% slopes
- Aquents, sandy and loamy
- Dumps
- Tobico fine sand
- Pipestone-Tobico fine sand, 0-3% slopes
- Belleville loamy sand, ponded
- Water
- Rivers and Streams
- Drains and Intermittent Streams



Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library,
 Michigan Department of Natural Resources
 August 4, 2009



**Bay City State Recreation Area
Soil Limitations for
Recreational Development**
Bay City
Bay County, Michigan

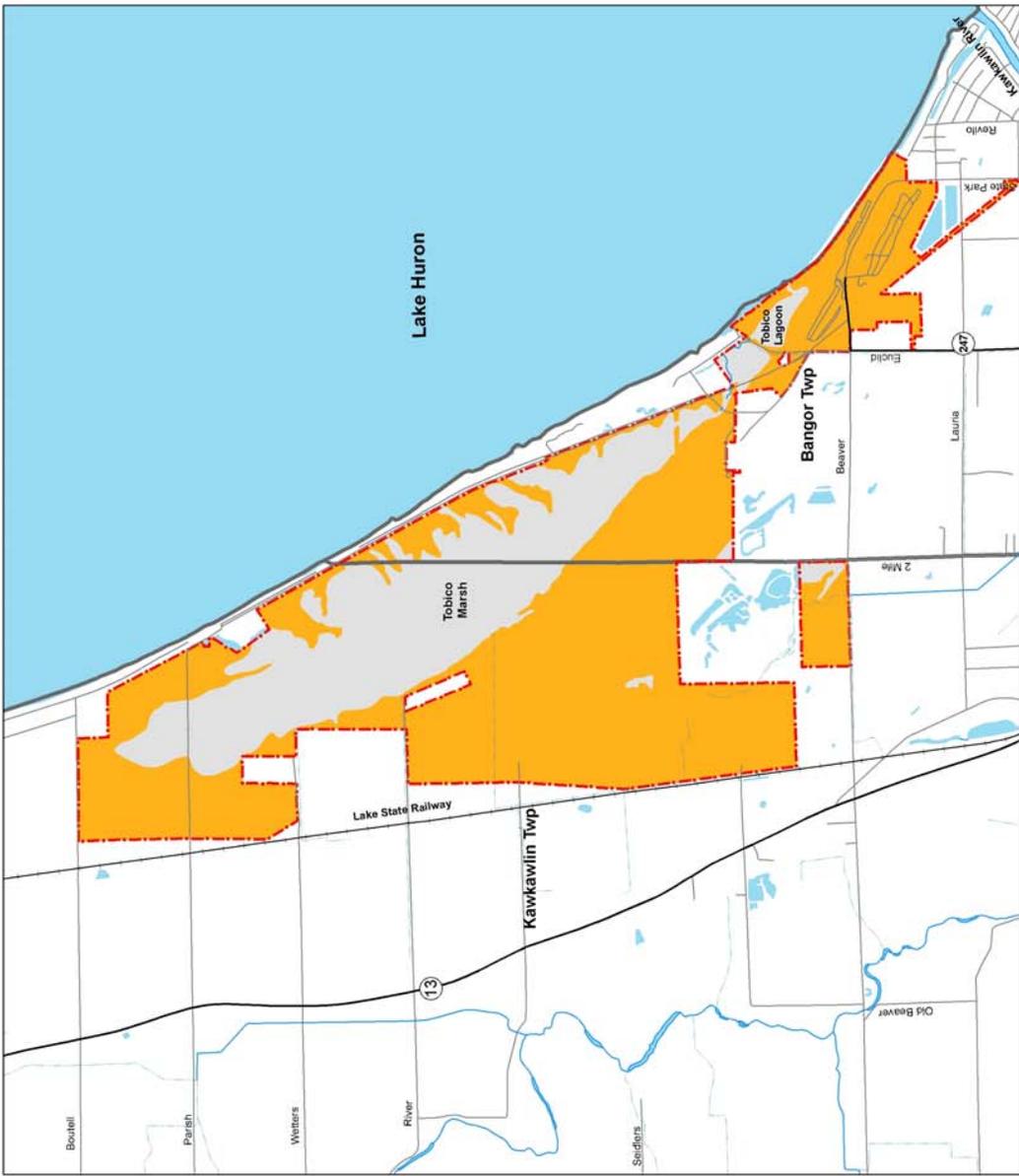


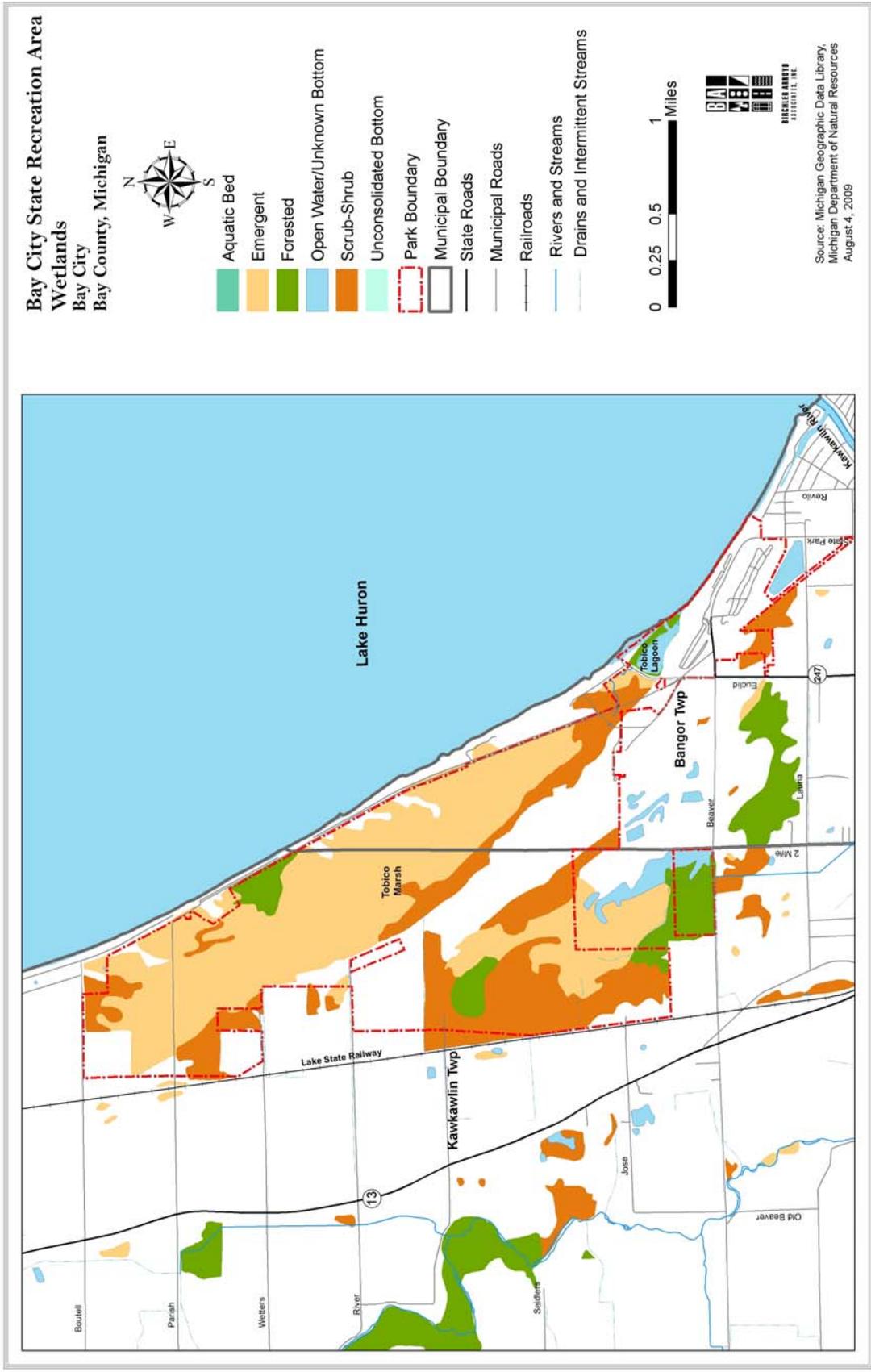
- Park Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- State Roads
- Municipal Roads
- Railroads
- Very Limited
- Not Rated
- Lakes and Ponds
- Rivers and Streams
- Drains and Intermittent Streams

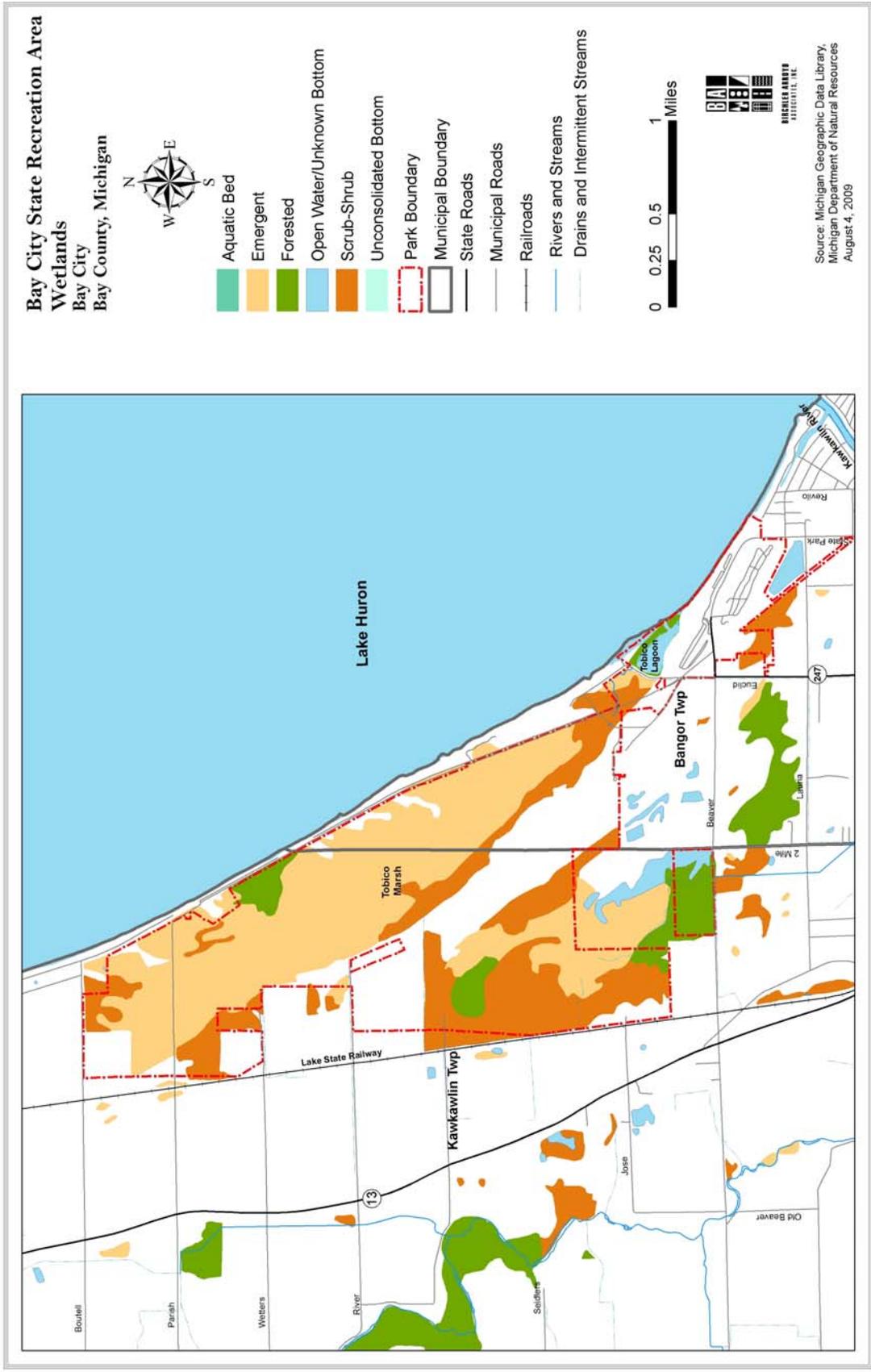
Recreation opportunities examined include the development of picnic areas, playgrounds, paths and trails.



Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library,
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
August 4, 2009







- SOILS

The soils in the Tobico watershed were originally wet and poorly drained with little slope. Predominate soil types are Tappan loam, Pipestone/Tobico fine sands, and Belleville loamy sand. The gentle slopes cause slow runoff and ponds to occur.

- FLORA

Emergent and submergent wetland plants, including some wet prairie, shrub and forest species as well as the cattail marsh complex cover approximately 1,300 acres of the Tobico Marsh. The remaining 550 plus acres are primarily oak, oak-aspen-white pine forest. Mature oaks in the uplands within the refuge provide nesting cavities and mast for wildlife. Most aspen and pine are small.

- FAUNA

Wetlands wildlife species are common here, particularly birds. Early autumn populations consist primarily of dabbling ducks, while diving ducks, mergansers, and Canada geese are more numerous late in the season. Diving ducks are abundant throughout the spring migration period.

Many wetland dependent non-game birds species also use Tobico Marsh for breeding and resting. Yellow-headed blackbird, which are common nesters in Michigan, used to nest here and continue to nest at the nearby Nyanquing Point Wildlife Area; however, none were detected during field work done in the spring of 1990. Other wetland dependent non-game species that utilize the area include: American bittern, least bittern, northern harrier, and black tern. King rail have also been spotted in the area and may nest there.

Many terrestrial bird species utilize the wooded upland portion of the area. Large numbers of warblers are seen in the area during migration, possibly because the natural oak forest is relatively isolated from other undisturbed stands along the lakeshore migration route. Some passerine bird species that require extensive forest are found there, including scarlet tanager, veery, yellow-throated vireo, ovenbird, woodthrush, red-eyed vireo, and American redstart.

Mammals found at Tobico Marsh are typical for the central part of lower Michigan. Muskrat is the most common in the wetlands. Other species include white-tailed deer, raccoon, fox squirrel, eastern chipmunk, mink, river otter, meadow vole, cottontail rabbit, white-footed mouse, opossum, and beaver.

The amphibians and reptiles found at Tobico Marsh include multiple varieties of turtles, snakes, salamanders, and frogs.

DNRE's *Status of the Fishery Resource Report 97-1, 1997*⁶ discusses the history of the marsh, which was once a spawning area for northern pike and walleye. Fisheries biologists believe that the marsh has the potential to become a major spawning and nursery area for pike, if fish passage were provided from Saginaw Bay to the marsh. The 1997 fishery survey found nine species, including brown bullhead, black crappie, carp, and northern pike, yellow perch, largemouth bass, and sunfish. Additionally, yellow perch and largemouth bass are common. Carp and bowfin can also be found there.

- NATURAL FEATURES INVENTORY

The Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) categorize and list plant and animal communities that are endangered (E), threatened (T), and probably extirpated, or extinct, (X), according to the Endangered Species Act of the State of Michigan⁷. This list also includes species of special concern (SC), which are likely to become endangered if their population declines. Similarly, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service lists species that are endangered nationally. In Bay County, there are 35 species listed by the state and two that are federally listed, including the *orange or yellow fringed orchid*, which is listed threatened (LT) and the bald eagle, which is currently listed threatened, but has been proposed for delisting (PDL). These species have been identified by MNFI and DNRE scientists within Bay County or are believed to live within Bay County, given available habitat. These species may or may not actually occur within the Bay City SRA, but given the available habitat, it is likely that many do occur there.

There are additional rare plant communities. These include wet and wet-mesic prairies, which were originally extensive, along with oak savannas. Prairies and savannas on the lake plain are called *lakeplain prairie* or *oak openings* because of the distinctive flora and fauna. The white pine and hemlock forests of the lake plain have been virtually eliminated. More information and management best practices can be found in Dennis Albert's *Between Land and Lake: Michigan's Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands*.⁸

⁶ Schrouder, Kathrin S. Status of the Fishery Resource Report 97-1, 1997. Tobico Marsh <http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/PUBLICATIONS/PDFS/ifr/ifrlibra/Status/waterbody/97-1.htm>

⁷ see Section 36503 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.36503

⁸ Albert, Dennis A. 2003. *Between Land and Lake: Michigan's Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands*

Michigan Natural Features in Bay County⁹

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern Goshawk		SC
<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	Henslow's sparrow		E
<i>Asclepias hirtella</i>	Tall Green Milkweed		T
<i>Astragalus neglectus</i>	Cooper's Milk-vetch		SC
<i>Beckmannia syzigachne</i>	Slough Grass		T
<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	American Bittern		SC
<i>Cacalia plantaginea</i>	Prairie Indian-plantain		SC
<i>Carex lupuliformis</i>	False Hop Sedge		T
<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Black Tern		SC
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier		SC
<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	Marsh Wren		SC
<i>Emys blandingii</i>	Blanding's Turtle		SC
<i>Erynnis persius persius</i>	Persius Duskywing		T
<i>Galearis spectabilis</i>	Showy Orchis		T
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Common Moorhen		T
Great Blue Heron Rookery	Great Blue Heron Rookery		
Great lakes marsh			
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle		SC
<i>Incisalia irus</i>	Frosted Elf		T
<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Least Bittern		T
Lakeplain oak openings			
Lakeplain wet prairie	Alkaline Wet Prairie, Midwest Type		
Lakeplain wet-mesic prairie	Alkaline Tallgrass Prairie, Midwest Type		
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Black-crowned Night-heron		SC
<i>Platanthera ciliaris</i>	Orange or Yellow Fringed Orchid		E
<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>	Prairie Fringed Orchid	LT	E
<i>Rallus elegans</i>	King Rail		E
<i>Sander canadensis</i>	Sauger		T
<i>Scirpus clintonii</i>	Clinton's Bulrush		SC
<i>Silene virginica</i>	Fire Pink		E
Southern swamp			
<i>Sterna caspia</i>	Caspian Tern		T
<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	Forster's Tern		T
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern		T
<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	Yellow-headed Blackbird		SC

State Protection Status Code Definitions

E - Endangered
T - Threatened
SC - Special concern

Federal Protection Status Code Definitions

LT - Listed threatened

⁹ current as of 4/20/2010 according to the Michigan Natural Features Inventory website
<http://web4.msue.msu.edu/mnfi>

A.8 HISTORIC/CULTURAL RESOURCES

- PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT
Although there are no known Native American village sites, burial ground, or other permanent population indicators at Tobico Marsh, there is evidence of a Native American presence in the area. Field investigations indicated extensive habitation over a period of several years, especially in the forested beach ridges. Researchers found evidence of deer hunting in sites where acorns are found. In one area, campsites stretch for over 600 meters along an old beach ridge.
- CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT
Before European settlement, Native American settlements were common along the shorelines of the Great Lakes. Oak savannas were probably maintained on beach ridges near the shoreline of Saginaw Bay with fire. Following the growth of the timber industry between 1830 and 1870, drainage began for agricultural use of the fertile clay plain, adjacent to Tobico Marsh. The majority of Bay City SRA remained preserved in private ownership as the Tobico Hunt Club, until 1955 when it was purchased by the state.
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
There are artifacts from Pre-historic, Historic, Woodland, and the Late Woodland periods at Bay City SRA. There is evidence of cemeteries, cultural materials scatter, and lithic scatter.

A.9 EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

- Saginaw Bay Visitor's Center

The visitor center's role is to introduce visitors to the park's special features and to acquaint them with the unique coastal wetland within the park. It features an exhibit hall, a field observation room, and auditorium. There are also interpretive programs in the summer and special events throughout the year, including trail hikes, birding adventures, fishing and hunting clinics, and touring cultural and natural resource artists.

- Interpretive Programs and Displays

- The **Chickadee Nature Trail** is a short, half-mile paved accessible trail that threads its way through a remnant oak-savannah prairie. Colorful trailside displays contain recorded messages that help visitors explore this fragile habitat where birds, butterflies and blossoms abound. The trail was made possible by the Bay City Garden Club
- The **Andersen Trail** takes visitors through the marsh. The first two miles of paved, barrier-free trail meander through this wildlife haven where the telltale signs of waterfowl, herons, turtles, otters, marsh wrens and beavers are readily visible. The trail then connects to an unpaved four-mile loop that winds through a wooded wetland and features two 60-foot observation towers.
- The **Lagoon Nature Trail** explores wooded wetlands, forested beaches and open shoreline habitat. This one-mile, hard-surfaced trail circles the lagoon and meanders along the shores of the bay. The first section, which is universally accessible, leads to a shoreline boardwalk that offers several panoramic views of the bay. The trail also features shoreline spotting scopes, and accessible picnicking sites and fishing pier
(http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10365_10887-31276--,00.html)

- Volunteer Programs

Many volunteer programs exist in the Saginaw Bay Visitors Center. Potential Eagle Scouts work in the Recreation Area. The Campground Host Program is active in the RA. There is also an active "Friends of Bay City Recreation Area" group. Volunteers have been used to clear invasive species from the beach and to organize and construct the playscape in the day use area.

A.10 RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

DEVELOPED OPPORTUNITIES

As a state recreation area, Bay City SRA offers diverse recreational opportunities to nearby urban populations, as well as visitors from around the state including,

- Camping—there are a total of 193 sites available all year, including 2 mini-cabins. There is also an organizational camping area for large groups.
- Hunting and trapping—there is hunting and trapping allowed by special permit along the outskirts on Tobico Marsh, including deer, waterfowl, small game, beaver, and muskrat.
- Fishing—there is fishing available in the Tobico Lagoon, which provides pike, carp, bass, and pan fish. There is an accessible fishing pier making shore fishing available. Ice fishing is also possible when Saginaw Bay freezes.
- Day-use area—there is a large day use area that includes a three acre playground with a variety of play equipment. Three picnic shelters and three restroom buildings are in this area as well as other accessible picnic areas. There are also vault toilets in the day use for cold season use.
- Beach activities—there is a 1,200-foot long beach where swimming, sunbathing, and picnicking are available.
- Wildlife viewing—there are many species of waterfowl and shore birds to watch year round, including Caspian terns and black-crowned night herons.
- Hiking—there are more than seven miles of trails throughout the wetlands and the park. This includes over three miles of paved accessible pathways, three observation towers, boardwalks, viewing platforms, and shoreline spotting scopes. Bicycles and rollerblades are also allowed on these paths.
- Biking—The three-mile Andersen Natural Trail follows a railway corridor and connects to the Bay City Trail System south of the park. Bicycles are allowed on established park roads and on designated trails.
- Cross-Country Skiing—There are six miles of ungroomed trails.
- Metal detecting—It is allowed in designated areas, but all items found must be reviewed by park staff and may be retained for further investigation.

A.11 AREAS OF CONFLICT

There are properties contiguous to Bay City SRA that affect the current operations and future development of the park, including:

- Leaching of industrial waste--former industrial waste disposal area that has resulted in significant leaching;
- Lack of parking for hunting access--a parking area and access point, mainly for hunting, to the RA off of Schmidt Road can only be accessed by crossing over private property. The owner posts “no trespassing” signs on the road claiming it is a private driveway. Therefore cutting off access.
- Overflowing storm sewers--during periods of heavy rain causing the swimming beach to be closed for two days in July 2005, due to e. coli;
- Irregular water level in Tobico Marsh--a lift gate controlled by the Bay County Drain Commissioner controls the water level of Tobico Marsh.

A.12 PARK USE STATISTICS AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

PARK USE

Park use has fluctuated over the years, particularly on years that the beach has been unavailable due to algae blooms. Low numbers in 1994 are due to flooding and Clean Michigan Initiative projects, which closed the campground for six months. Camping makes up about 20% of visits to the park, while day-use accounts for about 80%.

The majority of visitors to Bay City SRA live within a few hours. In addition, a recent study by the Bay City Visitors Bureau demonstrates that over half of the visitors to the Bay City area are from nearby metropolitan areas, including Detroit, Flint, Saginaw, Bay City, Grand Rapids, Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Traverse City, and Cadillac.

Top 10 Cities of Origin for Campers at Bay City SRA in 2008

City & State	Reservations	Number of Nights
Bay City	1,053	3,104
Saginaw	212	564
Essexville	136	430
Midland	113	307
Auburn	75	231
Kawkawlin	69	193
Freeland	53	154
Pinconning	49	142
Reese	49	142
Linwood	48	146
Total	1,857	5,413

**From October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008—Central Reservation System Figures*

Camping clearly fluctuates with the seasons, peaking in June and July in the summer and during February and March in the spring.

Bay City SRA had \$306,327 in gross revenue for camping in 2007-2008, attributable to the main campground (96%), mini-cabins (4%), and the organizational campground (less than 1%). In addition, the following facts describe camping at Bay City SRA:

- Camping revenue has fluctuated over the past five years ranging from \$258,907 in 2002 to \$174,402 in 2004 to \$306,327 in 2008
- The average length of stay for campers is 2.2 nights, with the state average being 2.45
- The average amount paid per reservation is \$76.51, less than the state average of \$93.11

- The average number of people per reservation was 5.5, less than the state average of 4.7.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

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

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

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

For our purposes of conducting a very basic review of impacts, we have utilized the *MGM2-Short Form* version of the program, which simplifies the extent of analysis required for input, and utilizes more generalized multipliers for spending outputs. For the non-economist, this provides an excellent tool for this desired baseline assessment of the economic impacts of our parks.

DIRECT ECONOMIC EFFECTS TO THE COMMUNITY

Economic impacts are split equally between day-use and camping at Bay City SRA. Some direct economic impacts include:

- \$4.52 million in direct spending;
- \$1.57 million in personal income;
- \$2.39 million of value added (total income plus business taxes); and
- 119 jobs.

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT TO THE COMMUNITY

Total economic impacts include direct effects as well as secondary effects of visitor spending in the local economy. Secondary effects, also known as *multiplier effects*, capture economic activity that results from the re-circulation of money spent by park visitors in the local community. Total economic impacts include:

- \$6.52 million in direct spending (30% over direct spending);
- \$2.29 million in personal income (31% over direct income);
- \$3.63 million in value added (34% over direct value added); and
- 150 jobs (21% over direct job impacts).

Appendix B –Summary of Public Input

Public Participation

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment Recreation Division (DNRE-RD) emphasized that comments on the general management plans would be accepted at any time during the process. The formal public participation program included an extensive public participation component in the general management plan process. The participation initiatives are summarized below, and the results are presented in this Appendix.

❑ December 10, 2009 Stakeholder Workshop

The purpose of the workshop was to obtain comments on the draft General Management Plans for Bay City State Recreation Area. With assistance from the Planning Team, approximately 117 people and organizations were identified as stakeholders. Invitations to the Stakeholder Workshops were sent by email and via post. Twelve people attended the two workshops. The attendee list is included in this Appendix.

Stakeholders were invited to comment at the meeting. Stakeholders could also comment by completing a survey. The surveys were provided at the workshops to complete in person or submit by mail.

- ❑ March 16, 2010** A public input open house was held to allow the public the opportunity to express their comments about the park. The above noted people were again contacted regarding the public input workshops by mail and email. Stakeholders and others were encouraged to share this information with interested members of the general public. Approximately 20 people attended.

There were two opportunities to provide comments:

- 1) Comment at the workshop
- 2) A hard-copy survey available at the workshop - for completion on site or submitted via mail

December 10, 2009 stakeholder meeting:

Planning Team members in attendance (Division or Firm):

Paul Curtis (RD Management Plan Administrator), Jake Figley (FMD), Carl Lindell (RD District Supervisor) Kristin Bennett (RD District Planner), Mike Evanoff (Bay City SRA Park Manager) Ray Fahlsing (RD Stewardship), Valerie Blaschka (Park Interpreter, Saginaw Bay Visitor Center), Jim Baker (Fisheries Division District Supervisor), and David Birchler (Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.)

Stakeholders in attendance (Group Represented):

Jackie Lerner (Friends of Bay City SRA and neighbor)
Edward Lerner (Friends of Bay City SRA and neighbor)
Barb Neymeiyer (Tobico Beach Homeowner)
Cheri Allen (Friends of Bay City SRA)
Denny Brooks (Midland Audubon)
Chuck Kusick (Bay City)
Dorothy Dean (Friends of Bay City SRA)
Butch Walbel (Friends of Bay City SRA)
Elaine Livingston (Saginaw Valley Audubon)
Jeanne Henderson (Saginaw Valley Audubon)
Al Eachlan (Friends of Bay City SRA)
C. Patrick Sellenraad, ASLA (Designscapes, Inc.)

Summary of Stakeholder survey responses (December 10 meeting):

Statements of Purpose

- General agreement with the statement of purpose by respondents
- It is a privilege to use the park and those who abuse it will be penalized
- Offer diverse recreational opportunities, but nothing that disturbs nature or diminishes the visitor experience.

Statements of Significance

- Reduce phosphorus loads to restore the quality of the water resources
- The serene atmosphere draws people interested in nature as well as bird watchers
- It is important that the park offers a wilderness experience in an urban area

What natural resources are important?

- Clean water, wildlife, vegetation and forests
- Bird-watching and environmental education
- Clean beach, lagoon and Tobico Marsh
- Plant new trees every year to replace some that have died; use native plant species only

What cultural resources are important?

- Important not to overdevelop the natural resource of this park
- Hunting and fishing heritage of Tobico and Saginaw Bay
- Educational classes for children
- Native American heritage, Tobico Hunt Club
- Keep the boardwalks, decks and make a new tower
- Recreation – play on beach, explore on trails

What are the education and interpretation opportunities?

- Education programs run for schools
 - Fishing, geological formations, habitat diversity
 - Lake plain prairie and oak savannah, waterfowl and shorebird interpretation in the marsh, lagoon and along beach areas.
 - Educational studies of flora and fauna
- What are the recreational opportunities?**
- Fishing, beach, nature exploration
 - Walking, picnics, birding, bicycling
 - Running, nature photography, swimming
 - Snow shoeing
- What should be the visitor experience?**
- Enjoyable relaxing visit
 - Other play opportunities (spray park) when beach use is impaired
 - The majority of campers reside within 50 miles from the park
 - Quiet, serene area, learning about nature
 - Escape from noise, loud music in the areas by visitor center, lagoon, trails into Tobico Marsh, open area of day-use by pavilions
- User Conflicts/Issues**
- Trying to offer too many things; spray park would conflict with trying to attract birds for nesting and using beach and is too expensive and hard to maintain
 - Designated areas for walking dogs so they don't disturb birds and other wildlife
 - People who want to turn the park into just a park for a few
 - Noise should be out for any kind of activity
 - The gradual destruction of Tobico Marsh by high recreational foot traffic; loss of open water on Tobico
 - Boats anchoring and partying nearby in Saginaw Bay; trash, noise and dogs on beach from boaters
- Identity for Bay City State Recreation Area**
- Not just the beach, but the nice trails and beauty of marsh; need to be advertised as part of the camping experiences
 - A nearby place to play, explore and discover
 - Saginaw Bay, fishing
 - Low impact recreation area
 - Great place to see native wildlife, especially waterfowl and shorebirds as well as lake freighters passing in Lake Huron; fishing
- Other comments**
- It's disappointing to see the damage done by some
 - Need more patrols; people sneak in down by the gate near Tobico entrance; maybe signs that suggest on camera would help
 - Current policies and economics are in conflict; ideas could be taken from Metroparks
 - Consider a small "cut-through" trail in the large loop trail in Tobico Marsh, so that you don't have to go 5 miles all the way around
 - Leave restrooms open during daylight hours for walkers, birders, etc. in the day-use area
 - Workshop format for this meeting would be more effective as a roundtable discussion; worksheets should be available at sign-in table

Summary of Public Input survey responses (March 16 meeting):

1. The Statements of Purpose currently include:

- To be used as a park, pursuant to intentions of the park as created in 1922.
- To Preserve and protect Bay City SRA's unique natural resources for current and future and current generations.
- To provide diverse recreational opportunities to nearby urban populations.
- To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflect the DNR mission and the unique qualities of Bay City SRA.

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

- Yes (3)
- No, Campfire not enough. Need clean beach with access to the bay to increase day use and draw. Fishing, boating access needed.
- I do agree with the above statements
- No. Yes.

2. Current statements of significance are summarized as:

- Bay City State Recreation Area is a home for nesting / shore birds and is a staging location for migratory waterfowl.
- The park offers unique natural resources: wooded dune & swale complex, significant wildflowers, an oak Savannah, and a lake plain prairie.
- Bay City SRA plays an important role in the region for recreation, nature appreciation, education and the environment.
- The local community feels a sense of ownership to Bay City SRA.
- The Tobico Marsh is a National Natural Landmark, hosts a variety of species, and serves a key role as "Nature's Water Filter".
- The Visitor Center is a well-used resource for education / interpretation.
- Year-round recreation opportunities are available at Bay City SRA.
- The park area has a rich history of early human settlement.
- A variety of natural resource, sporting and friends groups are active within the park.
- Organic build-up dampens the potential for public use of the beach.

Do you agree with the above statements? What else makes Bay City State Recreation Area significant to you?

- Yes
- Clean organics, Phragmites must be removed to show people the only public view of the bay.
- Yes, I feel that this park needs more access for fisherman to use bay for ice fishing.
- Yes, campground.
- I do agree with the above statements.
- The condition of the water is historic and people need to understand this – they need to be educated. The water was bad years ago. It got better, bad, better – it's natural progression.

3. What natural resources are important?

- Tobico Marsh, Shoreline & dunes, Waterfowl migration, fishing
- Fishing
- Beach & view of bay. Not everyone has a park with waterfront.
- Lagoon – needs to be dredged & fish stocked.
- All natural resources are important – water plants – trees.
- Soil, water, air, plants, animals and humans – economics.
- Bird nesting, beaver dams, water and quality.

4. What cultural resources are important?

- Any and all historical significance. We need to preserve our heritage.

- Keeping the area as natural as possible or improved by making small changes to what it was in the past.
 - Native American past lifestyle – Tobico
 - Saturday night concerts are wonderful.
 - Swimming & Boating
5. What are the education and interpretation opportunities?
- The visitor center offers a wide variety of educational hands-on education. The bird viewing room is priceless.
 - Keeping the information in the visitor center as up to date as possible.
 - Tree planting – wildlife programs.
 - The Saginaw Bay Visitor Center is very important to local schools for outdoor education.
 - A great museum.
 - Wetland education, shoreline and dune succession, forest succession, Oak Savannah, prairie, fishing, waterfowl.
6. What are the recreation opportunities?
- Fishing, archery, walking, biking
 - Need access for small boats, snowmobiles, & ATV's for ice fishing.
 - Dogwalking, swimming, fishing, Cross country skiing, snowshoe, bird watching, bike riding and camping.
 - Endless! Walking, birding, education, fishing, natural history, (No Trapping – please especially during classes), X-country ski, boating, picnicking, relaxing, photographing, jogging.
 - Walking – fishing – education – program – mostly (wildlife) – camping.
7. What should be the visitor experience?
- A beach with an actual view of the water.
 - Fishing, hiking, camping, access to bay for fisherman, Enjoy a safe outdoor experience.
 - What they want it to be, but good of course. It's a visitor friendly park now; not too many signs saying do this don't do that.
 - Relaxing time.
 - The V.C. trails – campground (camping).
 - Great environment to be in.
8. Are there any known use conflicts or issues?
- The greater protection of the natural resources of the park & Tobico.
 - Cleaning up beach.
 - The beach – dogs with / without a leash, moving campsites on Friday-Weekends.
 - None that I can think of.
 - Places to sit near 2nd tower; more waste containers; lagoon needs work.
 - Too much red tape. Phragmites are invasive and need to be removed.
9. What should be the identity of Bay City State Recreation Area?
- Our park needs to get back to being a water-utilized recreation.
 - Wood, water, trails, camping.
 - Highlight the fact that BCSRA is a "National Natural Landmark". Put that designation on signs, logo's etc.
 - The Towers- beach. Leave bathroom open for year-round campers.
 - A nice clean place to go to for recreation. A great place to visit for people from other areas of the state.
 - Nature next door.

Other Comments:

- Concern about manufacturing the Oak Savannah and prairie.
- Would like to see more fish cleaning stations – would like more fish in lagoon.
- The most popular concern I've heard is closing the beach because of E Coli.

- Somehow the budget seems to be screwed up a bit. Somebody needs to budget more \$ for the employees so they can be here to do the programs for the school kids. Designate the floating dock area as a scenic overlay. Our towers need to be re-enforced BIG TIME. But we **must** keep them – the overview is priceless.
- Please do not make this park just for environments, & birders. Parks should be for all the people. Also, a boardwalk near the trees along beach for handicapped to access beach. Channel to help water flow to lagoon.

Appendix C –Planning Team Meeting Summaries

Meeting Summary
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT
RECREATION DIVISION
Bay City State Park
General Management Plan - Phase 1
Planning Team Meeting 1
August 13, 2009
Saginaw Bay Visitors Center - Bay City State Park

1. Introductions & Park Tour

2. Project Overview – General Management Planning

Paul Curtis, DNRE-RD Management Plan Administrator, began the meeting by providing an overview of the General Management Plan process. Jill Bahm of Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc. shared a summary of Bay City State Recreation Area and invited comments.

3. Exercise

Birchler Arroyo Associates led an exercise in which participants were asked to identify issues and solutions, as well as the significance and purpose of Bay City State Recreation Area.

4. Summary: What was heard

- There is a demand for access to support ice fishing on Bay – limits for snowmobiles.
- Wildflower poaching in spring (Asian restaurants – fiddleheads).
- Some foot traffic damaging wildflowers.
- Biggest issue – clean up the beach.
- Phragmites is large operational problem/concern – Glossy buckthorn / Oriental bittersweet – also invasive problem.
- Trespass issue (especially to north) ATV access and timber removal by riparian neighbors.
- Trespass has created unauthorized trails.
- Need to revisit Wildlife Refuge status. That designation may not be valid now, given the change in administration of the property (former Game Area) to Recreation Division.
- Lake plain prairie on east side of marsh damaged by Whitetail Deer – more hunting would help control / limit damage.
- Increasing development pressure / loss of surrounding agricultural use buffer.
- Local trails are two-edged sword: better local access but increases intensity on some more sensitive sections.
- Fisheries – winter access has been improved through acquisition of additional property at the south end of the park, which has helped increase park visitation.
- Low water levels in recent years has hampered access for ice fisherman (ice cover good but edges thaw where bottom land is exposed).

- State Park Road – currently open to public but that somewhat hampers management. Closure not an option without a substitute route for local traffic. General opinion was that any effort to close this road would be strongly opposed.
- FMD – prescribed burns are a challenge as a result of difficulties with smoke management.
- Lupine, blueberry, & huckleberry have responded to burning (helps keep Glossy Buckthorn at bay).
- Closed landfill is nearly surrounded by park and has good deal of uncontrolled invasive species.
- Hunting is hampered somewhat by inadequate access.
- Area could support modest level of additional hunting.
- “Closed areas” in Wildlife Conservation Orders (closed to hunting & trapping) are currently used by school group visitors.
- Deer hunting would help control wildflower damage.
- Beaver Road at 2 Mile – neighbor complaints about hunters and alleged damage to homes. Area is open to hunting (conflict).
- Rifle vs. shotgun/muzzle loader conflict. BCSRA is right on line between the two zones.
- Requests for gun-sighting range – but flat topo is not safe for that activity.
- Minor law enforcement issues: gang graffiti and illegal marijuana plots.
- Campground floods in Spring (or anytime there is a heavy rain) – drains slowly, lowest point in County.
- Driving range & par 3 golf property would be good addition to park.
- To manage the Tobico’s environment the SRA needs to control (own) the entire Tobico watershed. The park boundary should be expanded to take in the watershed, and the general recommendation was to expand the boundary west to M-13 and north toward Linwood.
- Significance – the point of public access to the Bay.
- Tobico Marsh has significant educational opportunity – large number of important plant/animal species in small physical area.
- Many points to walk and see wildlife (especially birds).
- Replacing the viewing towers would provide improved ability to enjoy the migratory birds.
- Grant funding for tower replacement might fare better with private, non-profit participation (Audubon Society).
- Significance –the association of the Park with Saginaw Bay is a significant opportunity.

5. Planning Team Meeting Schedule – the timeline for Phase 1 was distributed to the Planning Team.

6. Identify Local Stakeholders & Develop Contact List – the Planning Team is asked to consider groups or individuals that would be considered to have a key stake in the future planning and use of this park.

Meeting Summary
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
RECREATION DIVISION
Bay City State Park
General Management Plan - Phase 1
Planning Team Meeting 1

Attendance:

Paul Curtis, DNRE-RD Project Manager
Glenn Palmgren, DNRE-RD Stewardship
Kristen Bennett, RD District Planner
Mike Evanoff, Park Manager
Valerie Blaschka, Park Interpreter
Jacob Figley, FMD Forest Fire Officer
Barry Sova, WD
Jill Bahm, Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc., consultant

Meeting Summary:

1. Jill Bahm gave a brief review of the Background Analysis for Bay City SRA and asked for any additional information. Mike Evanoff gave Jill three studies to review.
2. Group Breakout: The attendees were split into two groups and discussed the following:
 - What is special about this park?
 - Preliminary Identification of Management Zones

The draft management zone maps will be shared with the planning team and reviewed at the next planning meeting.

3. Group reports to Planning Team resulted in many points of significance, which Jill Bahm has revised into the following draft statements of significance:

Draft Statements of Significance

1. Bay City State Recreation Area is a destination for birding as it is home for nesting / shore birds in the marsh and is a staging location for migratory waterfowl – short-eared owls. Significant bird species include the Black & common tern, American Bittern, Least Bittern.
2. The park offers unique natural resources, including wooded dune & swale complex, significant wildflowers, an oak savannah, and a lake plain prairie.
3. Bay City State Recreation Area 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 to Bay City State Recreation Area. 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 tides, wellness walks / runs, and the like are held within the park throughout the year.

5. The Tobico Marsh hosts a variety of species, including Spotted Turtles, Blandings turtles, and King Rail. 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.
7. Year-round recreation opportunities include camping, hiking trails, biking, wildlife viewing, fishing, ice fishing, and hunting. There is potential to expand ice fishing access, as it is one of the few public access points in the area.
8. The park area has a rich history, from its development in the 20th century to its use by indigenous people. Archeological digs were conducted within the park by the Civilian Conservation Corps, who discovered fire pits, the oldest known evidence of human settlement in the area.
9. A variety of groups are active within the park, including, Duck hunters / Walleye Fishing group and a “Friends” group
10. Organic build-up on beach of Bay City State Recreation Area is an ongoing management challenge.

Meeting Summary
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
RECREATION DIVISION

**Bay City State Recreation Area
General Management Plan - Phase 1
Planning Team Meeting 2
November 5, 2009**

Attendance:

Paul Curtis, DNRE-RD Project Manager
Glenn Palmgren, DNRE-RD Stewardship
Kristen Bennett, RD District Planner
Carl Lindell, District Supervisor
Valerie Blaschka, Park Interpreter
Barry Sova, WD
Jill Bahm and David Birchler, Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc., consultants

Meeting Summary:

1. The Team reviewed the Draft Statements of Significance.
 - The national significance of Tobico Marsh should be referenced. Valerie Blaschka offered to provide content for statement from educational program materials
 - Statement 5 need to echo that Tobico Marsh “is a unique resource that provides ...”
 - Statement 7 should be reworded to note that BCSRA is one of the few public access points for ice fishing on the Bay.
 - Statement 8 archeological digs were conducted by University of Michigan
 - Statement 9 should be expanded to include wider variety of groups that support and are active in the RA.
 - Need a new statement that notes the original significance of BCSRA was the public beach – which could again become a significant element if the water quality issues are solved in the future.

2. The Team reviewed the Draft Management Zones produced by the two sub-groups at Team Meeting 1:
 - The recommended future boundary should extend north to Linwood and west to within 200'-300' feet of M-13 in order to include the majority of Tobico's watershed but exclude existing commercial development along the highway
 - Recent land purchases that are just outside the NRC boundary should be recommended for inclusion
 - GMP needs to differentiate between observation towers and platforms

- ❑ Important view directions from towers and platforms should be added to the map symbology
 - ❑ Small area north of Tobico Lagoon should be recommended for future purchase, including additional beach front, as this is a turtle nesting area, among other resources
 - ❑ The National Natural Landmark symbology on the map is difficult to read and requires adjustment
 - ❑ The Cultural Overlay should be consistent with the approved NRC boundary, since the entire area shows evidence of these resources
 - ❑ The east side Tobico Marsh Trail should be designated Natural Resource Recreation up to and including the drainage dikes at the north end.
 - ❑ The text should carry a statement that boardwalk “finger” out into the marsh, consistent with preservation of the resource, should be considered to provide universal access to key resource viewing areas
 - ❑ West loop of the Tobico Marsh Trail and the resource area on both sides should be designated Backcountry
 - ❑ The Chickadee Prairie and Tobico Lagoon area can remain Natural Resource Recreation to maintain ability to provide universal access while also protecting the resource
 - ❑ An Access Point symbol should be added at the far south end of the Anderson Trail at State park Road
 - ❑ The entrance star symbol in the southeast corner of the SRA should be removed
3. The Team shared Stakeholder contact information and discussed several additions to a comprehensive list started by Valerie Blaschka. Once this list is completed, it will be shared with the team for final input before invitations are sent out.
 4. The Team compared calendars and discussed the most appropriate meeting date for the Stakeholders Workshop – the best date being December 10th at the Recreation Area in the auditorium. Invitations will be sent out as soon as the Stakeholders list is finalized.