

Recommendations for Drummond Island Comprehensive Resource Management Plan



Report of the Drummond Island Writing Team
to the
Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

June 2012

Contents

Introduction

Recommendations from the Drummond Island Writing Team

- Wildlife Management
 - Quest for Exceptional Deer Hunting Experiences
 - Ruffed Grouse and Upland Bird Habitat Improvements
 - Bobcat Populations and Trapping
 - Cormorants
 - Feral Swine

- Fisheries Management
 - Perch Management
 - Pike Management

- Recreational Management
 - Camping Platforms
 - Multi-use Non-Motorized Trail
 - Walk-in Hunting and Other Recreational Opportunities
 - Niagara Escarpment Hiking Trail
 - Improved Access to Sitgreaves Bay
 - Rock Crawl Proposed
 - South Marble Head Bypass Project
 - Hunting and ORV Use Overlap
 - Canoe and Kayak Launch Assist
 - Additional Boat Launches
 - Shipwreck Buoys Proposed

- Law Enforcement
 - Drummond Island Conservation Officer
 - Vacant Conservation Officer Positions
 - Improve Patrol of ORV and Snowmobile Trails
 - Volunteer Conservation Officer Program

- Environmental Protection
 - Protection of Unique Natural Areas
 - Old Growth Forests
 - Terrestrial Invasive Species
 - Aquatic Invasive Species
 - Great Lakes Levels

- Education and Outreach
 - Partner with the DNR Public Outreach and Engagement Unit
 - Outdoor Recreation Strategy
 - Public Awareness of Unique Drummond island Issues
 - Preservation of Dark Skies on Drummond Island

- Funding
 - Increase Hunting and Fishing License Fees

- Reconvening with DNR
 - Examining the Plan Progress

Appendix and Attachments

Appendix

- A Letter of invitation to join the Drummond Island Writing Team
- B Drummond Island Writing Team Members
- C Sportsman’s Club contributions
- D Drummond Island Five-Year Recreation Plan
- E Niagara Escarpment Hiking Trail
- F Restricted area regarding elevated platforms and deer baiting
- G Camping Platform Grant Request
- H Drummond Island ORV/ATV Trails and Routes
- I No-wheeled Motorized Access Area North of River and Lakes 1 and 2
- J Photo Credits
- K Abbreviations and Acronyms Used in this Report

Attachments

- 1 Drummond Island Magazine
- 2 Drummond Island Recreation Map
- 3 “Restoring the Natural Divide: Separating the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins in the Chicago Area Waterway System”. Summary report released on January 30, 2012 by the Great Lakes Commission
- 4 Preliminary Study of Structural Compensation Options for the St. Clair River Prepared for Great Lakes International Joint Commission by W.F. Baird & Associates Coastal Engineers Ltd. 2009

Introduction

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is developing a Comprehensive Resource Management Plan (Plan) for Drummond Island in cooperation with island residents and stakeholders. As part of this process, the Drummond Island Writing Team (Writing Team) was formed to provide the DNR with stakeholder recommendations for enhancing the wise use



and enjoyment of the wildlife and other natural resources on the island. The Writing Team is comprised of a variety of stakeholders including representatives from organizations, agencies, and the public with an array of natural resource-related interests on the Island (Appendix A). The Writing Team, with individual members representing their stakeholder group (Appendix

B), created recommendations for the Plan that are acceptable within the framework of applicable law and the DNR's mission, while meeting the overall needs and desires of island residents and other stakeholders. The Plan will focus on strategies for providing quality hunting, fishing, and trapping opportunities, and promote Drummond Island as a special place to attract resource-based tourism.

The DNR hosted a public scoping meeting on June 8, 2011, at the Drummond Island Township Hall to obtain input on the priorities of island stakeholders. Subsequently, the Writing Team met on Drummond Island for a total of 8 days between July and December to discuss topics identified during the scoping meeting and form recommendations on priority issues.

Drummond Island has many characteristics that are attractive to outdoorsmen, naturalists, retirees, environmentalists, researchers, and tourists. Basic to all of our recommendations is a deep respect for nature, an appreciation and love for outdoor sports, a desire to make Drummond Island an exciting place for traditional fishing, hunting and trapping, and to improve the overall outdoors experience for all property owners and visitors. The economy and health of the island are strongly tied to the woods and water. People retire, vacation, visit, work, and raise families on Drummond Island because of the outdoor experience. Much of the Island's economy is based on year-around tourism that relies upon



various forms of outdoor recreation including kayaking, boating, fishing, water sports, hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, off road vehicle activities, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, mountain biking and the quiet enjoyment of nature.

Drummond Island is a large (about 126 square miles) island with many of the social characteristics of a small town, but more isolated. It attracts people because of its character and the opportunity to experience many forms of outdoor recreation throughout the year.



Investments have been made to promote the island and its natural resources. A comprehensive website (<http://www.drummondislandchamber.com>) has been developed and maintained to promote outdoor experiences on the Island. The Drummond Island Magazine and Recreational Map published by the Drummond Island Tourism Association (DITA) further promotes the environment and nature of Drummond Island (Attachments 1 and 2). Since 2002, the Drummond Island Sportsman's Club (DISC) has invested over \$300,000 in Island projects

(Appendix C). A five-year recreation plan concentrates on the natural aspects of the Island (Appendix D). A video introducing Drummond Island is found at http://www.drummondislandchamber.com/movie/DITA_Web_Movie.wmv. The reader is referred to these and other materials in the appendix to gain a background on Drummond Island. The goal is to protect and enhance the natural resources so that Drummond Island becomes the premier destination for experiencing nature and enjoying outdoor sports. All of the recommendations have been developed to support this goal.

We, the Writing Team, present these recommendations to the DNR to help guide future management and resource use-related issues on Drummond Island. We ask the DNR to consider these recommendations in the development of a Plan. We believe these recommendations represent the diverse interests of Michigan society and will best serve the management of Drummond Island for years to come. Each recommendation is preceded by the background or justification for the recommendation.

Recommendations from the Drummond Island Writing Team

Wildlife Management

Quest for Exceptional Deer Hunting Experiences

Deer hunting is part of Drummond Island's tradition. Islanders desire to improve the deer hunting experience on the Island. A significant portion (57%) of Drummond is state-owned and available to the public for hunting. Drummond Island is an independent deer management unit (DMU 117) with a self-sustaining deer herd. For more than 10 years, DMU 117 has implemented a popular "no-spike rule" that differs from nearby mainland hunting rules. This strategy was implemented to offer young bucks a better chance to advance to an older age



class, thereby providing a better opportunity for hunters to see and harvest older bucks with greater antler development. Although sportsmen believe these rules have improved hunting conditions, they desire further improvements in buck age structure and resulting antler development.

Hunting is an important part of the Island's economy. Deer hunting is a major draw, contributing heavily to outdoor recreational tourism in the fall. Stakeholders believe that management of the deer herd and hunting regulation changes that encourage exceptional hunting and outdoor experiences will strengthen the outdoor recreation for residents and visitors alike.

Many Island sportsmen believe that additional antler and harvest restrictions will improve the deer herd by reducing harvest pressure and focusing buck harvest on bucks with better antler development (ie. older bucks). Young bucks compose a significant component of the buck harvest. Advancing some young bucks to an older age class would diversify the age class structure and presumably provide some bucks with greater antler development. Through these restrictions, more bucks would remain at the end of the season and provide better hunting opportunities in future seasons.

Recommendations:

- *The group recommends Drummond Island hunters would be allowed to take one deer (either antlered or antlerless), except during firearm season when only an antlered deer could be harvested. If the DNR allows, there could be extra antlerless licenses – a bonus tag would be allowed in all hunting seasons.*
- *The group recommends that antlered deer must have at least 3 points on one side.*

The Writing Team recognizes that hunting technology improvements and regulation have changed through the years. The changes have generally been supported by hunters to increase hunter success. These improvements have allowed hunter efficiency to increase. Examples include, but are not limited to, use of bait, blinds, elevated platforms, trail cameras, improved firearms (particularly muzzle-loading rifles) and scopes, improvements in archery equipment, and improvements in hunting clothing. Use of these items has resulted in deer being more vulnerable to harvest than historically. Analyses presented by DNR staff suggest that UP bucks have become more vulnerable to harvest over the past 25 years than historically, influencing the buck age structure.

Based on the information presented, antler point restrictions and restrictions of one deer per hunter will not address the larger issues of deer vulnerability. In order to meet the well-known desires of sportsmen to have opportunities at more mature bucks and enhance the quality of hunting on the island, the Writing Team believes it is necessary to limit some of the technologies (use of bait and elevated blinds during certain periods of the fall) available to hunters within a designated management area on the island. In addition to reducing buck vulnerability, such an area will likely attract hunters preferring more traditional methods of hunting, which has also been expressed as a desire of many hunters. The management area recommended was selected by trying to maximize the amount of public land, minimize the private land involved, and provide a large enough area to realize a result. Consideration was made for evaluating the results of this recommendation.

Recommendations:

- *The group recommends that elevated platforms and deer baiting be allowed from Oct. 1 through Nov. 4 and Dec. 1 through Jan. 1 in the Marble Head Management Area (everything southeast of Sheep Ranch Road) for 3 years. Elevated platforms and deer baiting in this area will be prohibited from Nov. 5 through Nov. 30 (Appendix F).*
- *Outside of this area, elevated platforms and baiting will be allowed from Oct. 1 through Jan. 1.*
- *The group recommends that the Drummond Island Writing Team convene in 3 years to evaluate the results/outcome of this recommendation.*

Drummond Island's characteristics provide a unique opportunity to study and manage the deer herd on the Island. In addition to being its own DMU, harvested deer either stay on the island or leave via ferryboat. Given limited resources for implementation, stakeholders are interested in

partnering with the DNR to collect data. In an attempt to monitor harvest including the effects of the above recommendations, the following recommendations are made:

Recommendations:

- *The group recommends that there be a special free Drummond Island stamp that must be obtained to hunt deer on the Island. Make it mandatory that deer hunters provide the DNR harvest data for all deer seasons. The Drummond Island Sportsman's Club will assist with collection and cost of deer harvest data.*
- *Failure to return the data would result in the loss of deer hunting privileges on Drummond Island for the following year.*
- *The group recommends that Tribal deer harvest data obtained and submitted by the Drummond Island Sportsman's Club be considered by the DNR.*

These recommendations have been made to allow the DNR and the Drummond Island stakeholders to improve the hunting experience on the Island, obtain more accurate deer harvest data, and improve enforcement of regulations on the island.

Ruffed Grouse and Upland Game Bird Habitat Improvements

Upland game bird hunting is popular with Drummond Island residents and visitors, but there is little widespread knowledge of the quality of this hunting experience on Drummond. The opportunity to improve the habitat with help from the DNR and the Ruffed Grouse Society is attractive to the committee. There are approximately 12,600 acres of aspen, a preferred type for ruffed grouse, on state forest land on Drummond. The committee believes that the success of management at the Strickler Grouse Management Area in Mackinac County resulting from partnership between the DNR and the Ruffed Grouse Society provides a model for improving upland game bird hunting and increasing the awareness of these hunting opportunities on Drummond Island. The Writing Team desires to create one or more similar areas on Drummond to create destination sites for upland game bird hunting.

Recommendation:

- *The group recommends that the Drummond Island Writing team members work with the DNR and the Ruffed Grouse Society to create areas that are more intensively managed for Ruffed Grouse and upland game birds (e.g., aspen blocks managed on rotation).*

Bobcat Population and Trapping

Many Writing Team members are concerned that the bobcat population on the island has declined in recent years. There is concern that the use of cable restraint and body-gripping (conibear) traps are contributing to a population decline on the island. Members also expressed concerns that these traps have killed a number of hunting dogs. It is believed that the elimination of these traps on dry land will greatly reduce the threat to domestic animals, lead to an increase

in the bobcat population on the Island, and will affect few trappers. The Writing Team desires to increase the bobcat population on the Island. Drummond Island is an independent bobcat unit with a unique bag limit, which is conducive for implementing regulations unique to the island. The Writing Team believes that the opportunity to trap swimming mammals such as muskrat, otter, mink, and beaver will not be significantly impacted by the recommendation below.

Recommendations:

- *Due to the Drummond Island isolated bobcat population, the group recommends the prohibition of dry land and surface ice body gripping traps and cable restraints on the Island.*
- *If the above recommendation is not approved, the group recommends that the bobcat season be closed on Drummond Island for five years.*

Cormorants

Double-crested cormorant populations in the Great Lakes region have rebounded from near extirpation in the early 1970's. In 1972, cormorants were added to the list of species protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Populations eventually increased as pollution regulations were instituted. Cormorant numbers are currently at historic highs in the Great Lakes region. Population increases have been accompanied by concern and controversy about the effects the birds may be having on stocks of recreational and commercial fish species, and island nesting habitat.



Drummond Island stakeholders consider healthy fisheries as essential to the economic and environmental well-being of the island. Many believe that increased cormorant control efforts are an effective way to reduce cormorant populations and, in turn, increase Great Lakes fish populations near Drummond Island.

Recommendations:

- *The group recommends that cormorant control continue; with efforts being expanded (e.g., fall harassment, expanded dates, and areas of control and take) and press the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and elected officials to allow further control of the cormorant population in order to significantly reduce negative impacts on the Drummond Island fish populations.*

- *We support the DNR's efforts to increase cormorant harvest numbers to accomplish the objectives of this plan.*

Feral Swine

Feral Swine pose a significant threat to domestic stock, wildlife, the environment and people. Once established, their populations are very difficult and expensive to control, and damage caused by the swine can be costly. In northern portions of their range, active sows are estimated to produce 2 litters per year of 4-8 piglets.

Feral Swine can transmit diseases and parasites to livestock and people. They can be destructive to recently planted field and can damage pastures and infrastructure such as fences. Pig wallows can reduce water quality of ponds and wetlands by muddying the water, creating algae blooms, and destroying aquatic vegetation. Digging, rooting and wallows along stream banks can lead to erosion and contribute to poor fish production. The tramping and rooting behaviors of feral swine can devastate sensitive native habitats and lead to reduced populations of native plants and animals and rare, threatened or endangered species.

The DNR has declared *Sus scrofa*, one species of swine, an invasive species in Michigan. As such, possession of this species of swine is now prohibited in Michigan. Although feral swine have been found in various parts of Michigan, they are not known exist on Drummond Island. We desire to prevent the introduction of feral swine to Drummond Island in order to avoid the impacts they would likely have on Drummond Island's people, wildlife, and natural features.

Recommendation:

- *The group supports and encourages the efforts of the DNR to prevent the introduction of feral swine to Drummond Island.*

Fisheries Management

Drummond Island and its surrounding waters provide diverse fishing opportunities. Yellow perch, northern pike, walleye, cisco, smallmouth bass, and lake trout are all popular sport fish in the area.

The DNR advises that fisheries resources will be managed in a scientifically sound manner, with regulations based on individual species' biology and the waters they inhabit. The DNR also notes that statewide regulations when appropriate are preferred for simplification purposes. Management will be based on ongoing consultation with users through the established regulations change procedures.

Perch Management

Drummond Island historically had a reputation as a destination for excellent perch fishing. Anglers were common visitors and their business was important to small resorts on the island. Over the past 20 years, this business has decreased and many on the Writing Team attest that fewer and smaller perch are being caught than historically. The Team supports regulations that are believed to improve the perch fishery. It is hoped that an improvement to this resource will also help to restore the island's reputation as a perch-fishing destination.

Recommendation:

- *The group recommends that the DNR manage the Drummond Island perch fisheries to increase the quantity and size of perch in a manner that may include the following: habitat management, increasing the minimum take size to 8", and reducing creel limits to 30.*

Pike Management

Northern pike are an important fishing resource for Drummond Island. The Writing Team believes that further restrictions will improve the pike fishery and encourage trophy pike fishing opportunities on the island, which will provide a greater fishing opportunity for residents and visitors. In 2011, winter spearing of pike was extended by two weeks statewide. This went into the spawning season and large breeding females were taken. Although this expands opportunities for fishermen, there is some concern that it will result in a decline in the desired fishery on Drummond Island. The Writing Team supports restoring the pike season dates to the pre-2011 framework on Drummond Island and incorporating protected slots (eg. 25-34 inches) to manage the pike fishery toward trophy pike, with the anticipation that these actions will help to improve the pike fishery on the Island.



Recommendations:

- *The group recommends that the DNR reinstate pike season dates such that pike spearing not go beyond the end of February.*
- *The group recommends that the DNR manage for trophy pike by incorporating protected slots.*

Recreational Management

Camping Platforms

The uneven and rocky terrain near the shoreline make establishing a remote temporary camping site for hunting or other recreation difficult in these areas. The placement of a few camping platforms would facilitate camping at these locations by providing an even, level surface on which to set up a tent. Establishment of such platforms would also focus camping, which may reduce impacts to the surrounding area. These platforms may encourage use of the areas by those hunters seeking more traditional remote hunting experiences. In addition, kayaking has become increasingly popular on Drummond Island and kayaking the entire shoreline provides both a challenging experience and the opportunity for remote camping in areas difficult to reach by other means. Drummond Island has developed a circumnavigation route around the entire island, and such platforms would be helpful for campers along the route. These uses would be complementary since most kayaking is done outside of the hunting seasons. Appendix G has more details on this concept.

Recommendation:

- *If funding is obtained by the Drummond Island Tourism Association, the group recommends one raised camping platform be installed at each of four sites for remote tent camping by hunters and all sportspersons, known as 1) Mare Island, 2) North end Site (known as Grand Marais), 3) Glen Cove Site and 4) south side site (east of Long Point).*

Multi-use Non-Motorized Trail

A multi-use non-motorized trail system is desired to provide non-motorized recreational opportunities for hunters, hikers, and other outdoor recreationalists. A designated non-motorized trail would provide similar designated non-motorized opportunities as those currently available for motorized trails already in place on the Island. Areas currently exist that are not part of the designated DNR trail and route system to create a non-motorized trail (Appendix H).

Recommendation:

- *The group recommends The DNR work with local partners to develop a multi-use (hunting, hiking, mountain bike, x-country ski, camping, equestrian, etc.) non-motorized trail with minimum impact on the natural features.*

Walk-in Hunting and Other Recreational Opportunities

Historically, certain areas of Drummond Island were not as accessible by motor vehicle. Limited access resulted in opportunities for remote hunting as well as hiking and some other remote recreation. Today, like many other areas in the state, much more of the Island is accessible via motorized vehicles than historically. Increased access results in reduced opportunity for more traditional, remote hunting and other recreation. It also increases the exposure and stress on wildlife.

Many outdoorsmen seek walk-in hunting and other remote recreational experiences. A walk-in area allows reduced or no interaction with motor vehicles, often less hunting pressure, hunter conflict, and other benefits. The remoteness of a non-motorized area also reduces the stress on wildlife, allowing them to be generally less vulnerable and promotes more natural conditions.

A preferred location to establish a walk-in hunting and recreation area is located north of the Potagannissing River. There are no DNR ORV or ATV trails on state land in that area -- only snowmobile trail 493 goes through this area. The Maxton Plains containing alvar and numerous rare plant species is located here. Limiting motorized use of the alvar will help preserve and protect these rare features. Part of the area south of the Maxton Plains has been intensively managed for deer and other game species. These characteristics support establishment of a no-wheeled motorized area.

Recommendation:

- *To encourage walk-in hunting and other recreational opportunities, the group recommends that the entire area north of First and Second Lake be designated as a no-wheeled motorized access area (Appendix I).*

Niagara Escarpment Hiking Trail

The Drummond Island Tourism Association (DITA) has prepared a detailed proposal for establishment of the Niagara Escarpment Trail (Appendix E) with associated marsh birding trail due to increased requests from tourists for hiking trails in key areas. The trails would facilitate public access via foot trail to unique features on Drummond, providing both a quality hiking experience and low impact access to these unique remote features. The trails would originate in an area accessible via 2-wheel drive vehicle to provide good public access to the trail.

Recommendation

- *The group recommends: The DNR review the DITA trail proposal, which creates the Niagara escarpment-hiking trail on the extreme east end of the Drummond Island. This proposed trail would start at Sitgreaves Bay, follow the beach to Pilot Harbor, continue along the beach for about one mile, then rising with the Niagara Escarpment, it would follow a path through the Alvar to Marble Head and then continue on to the south to its end before dropping back down to the Lake Huron Shoreline a short distance to Shale Beach. The escarpment plan will also include a wildlife viewing birding trail that is on the north side of the Pilot Harbor Marsh.*

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT TRAIL & MARSH BIRDING WILDLIFE TRAIL



Red dots indicate photo location:

1 2	Marsh Birding Trail
3	Parking and pit toilet area
4 5	Pilot Harbor
6 7 8	Trail south of Pilot Harbor
9 10	Marble Head
11 12	Eagle's Landing
13 14	Shale Beach

Blue dots indicate trail locations:

A	Improved road	
B	Deep water harbor with dock	N.45.59.883 W.083.29.616
C	Start of path up to escarpment	N.45.59.287 W.083.28.552
D	Viewing area on escarpment	N.45.59.050 W.083.28.504
E	Trail to Shale Beach	N.45.58.687 W.083.28.677

Improved Access to Sitgreaves Bay

As noted in the proposal for the Niagara Escarpment trail, Marble Head is an extraordinary natural feature on Drummond Island that most do not have an opportunity to visit. The committee in conjunction with the above proposal would like to improve access to Sitgreaves Bay and the proposed Niagara Escarpment trailhead (Item A on above trail map). The current road condition does not allow for non-four-wheel drive vehicles to access this area. This action would allow access for all vehicles to the proposed Niagara Escarpment trailhead.

Recommendation:

- *The group recommends The DNR support the improvement of the road from Glen Cove to Sitgreaves Bay to be passable by a two-wheeled drive sedan.*

Rock Crawl Proposed

The improvement of the access road from Glen Cove to Sitgreaves Bay will reduce the amount of four wheel only road on the Drummond Island ORV route. Groups comprising the Writing Team proposed having rocks placed to form a rock crawl along the ORV route located on appropriate lands (ie. lands not acquired using restricted funds). The rock crawl would add another recreational experience for the four-wheel drive users. There are a large number of rocks adjacent to the ORV route that could be re-arranged to form a rock crawl. The proposed rock crawl could be done in combination with the improvement to the Glen Cove to Sitgreaves Bay road recommendation. The Drummond Island Off Road Club (DIORC) has indicated a willingness to prepare a proposal for the crawl.



Recommendation:

- *The group recommends: The DIORC develop a proposal that would be reviewed by the DNR that would use existing rocks to form a “rock crawl” in an appropriate area (non Pittman-Robertson/Restricted fund purchased land); an area consisting of approximately 16.5 feet wide by 50 feet long adjacent to an existing ORV route.*

South Marble Head Bypass Project

Islanders understand that Marble Head is a highly desirable destination for Islanders and visitors alike. Marble Head is accessed by two roads forming a loop. The northern portion of the loop consists of the Glen Cove Road (sometimes referred to as Sheep Ranch Road) and the road past Sitgreaves Bay, while the southern portion consists of the South Marble Head road and a portion of Clear Lake Road (Appendix H). The northern route to Marble Head is intended for conventional two wheel drive vehicles.



The Team prefers that the southern route not be improved beyond that necessary to

meet 4-wheel drive standards. Current improvements to the southern portion near intersection 25 have successfully addressed snowmobile trail grooming concerns by creating a bypass.

Subsequent planned phases of road improvements to the South Marble Head Loop are deemed unnecessary by the groups who comprise the Writing Team. The Writing Team feels that the scenic attractiveness of the trail and the natural characteristic of the area would be reduced if the remaining planned phases were implemented. The Writing Team believes that the roads currently passable by 2-wheel drive vehicle provide sufficient access to the area for hunting and other recreation.

Recommendation:

- *The group recommends: The DNR cease remaining phases of the south Marble Head bypass project, and future road maintenance activities not improve the road beyond what is necessary to meet 4-wheel drive standards.*

Hunting and ORV Use Overlap

One small area of the island currently affords both highly sought after deer habitat for hunting and two small segments of ORV Trail. The Team believes that the ORV Trail can be rerouted away from the desired habitat area without any significant loss of recreational experience to the ORV community. We anticipate that this cooperation between the hunting and ORV communities will resolve possible future user conflicts and defuse any possible Pittman Robertson concerns associated with hunting and other uses while preserving or enhancing quality hunting experiences as well as ORV recreation.

Recommendation:

- *The group recommends: DNR work with the DISC and DIORC on a proposed realignment of the existing ATV trails in order to provide for improved deer management and hunter experience. There will be no significant loss or gain of any wheeled motorized recreational experience in mileage, time of use, or quality of experience.*

Canoe and Kayak Launch Assist

The Drummond Island has become a destination for the paddling sports. Advancement in equipment have allowed for greater access for people of all physical capabilities to enjoy the paddling sports. A launch assist device has been developed to assist in providing access to all paddlers to launch their canoe or kayak. The Drummond Island Tourism Association may possibly obtain funding to purchase a launch assist device such as the EZ Launch system.



The DNR Maxton Bay public launch would be an excellent site for the EZ Launch system because the popularity of paddling in Potogannissing Bay and River. It would provide greater access for all recreational paddlers to enjoy the water and natural resources of Drummond Island.

Recommendation:

- *If funding is obtained by the Drummond Island Tourism Association, the group recommends the installation of an ADA compliant paddling launch site at Maxton Bay boating access site.*

Additional Boat Launches

There are no public or commercial boat launch sites on the South, Southeast, and East parts of Drummond Island. The nearest commercial launch site is at Fort Drummond Marine (Whitney Bay) and the nearest public sites are at DeTour Village and Potogannissing Bay. Watercraft travel for fishing, waterfowl hunting, and pleasure can be difficult and not safe on the south and eastern parts by small boat, canoe, or kayak because of the distance from boat launch sites. The road access to the proposed boat launch sites are good gravel roads.

Recommendation:

- *The group recommends: The DNR identify and provide additional boat launches (gravel) for outboard and duck hunting boats in remote sections (for example, Warner's Cove, Bass Cove, and Glen Cove) of the island.*

Shipwreck Buoys Proposed



The waters surround Drummond Island have many identified shipwrecks that are of significant interest to recreational divers. The Drummond island Tourism Association has located on both its website (www.drummondislandchamber.com) and Recreation Map (Attachment 2) many shipwrecks that are of significant interest to recreational divers. These are located on the south side of the island, in the DeTour Passage Underwater Preserve and in Potagannissing

Bay. Currently, there are no marking buoys on the wreck sites. Placement of marking buoys at such sites would promote recreational diving and assist divers in the location of the wrecks. The marking buoys could only be placed outside of the shipping channel and where they would not be a navigational obstacle.

Recommendation:

- *The group recommends: The DNR support and recommend to the governing state and federal agencies that buoys be allowed on deep shipwrecks in non-shipping lanes within Drummond Island Township in the Great Lakes.*

Law Enforcement

Drummond Island Conservation Officer

The remoteness of much of Drummond and the fact that access to the Island is only available by ferry makes conservation law enforcement presence more difficult than most areas of the state. When conservation officers do visit the Island, the news of their presence is informally communicated upon ferry crossing and becomes widespread knowledge on the Island. Therefore, some have blatant disregard for Michigan law and regulations. It is understood that the DNR cannot currently maintain a significant presence on Drummond and when on the Island, there is opportunity to avoid and hide illegal behavior.

The committee has been advised by the DNR that, in the Newberry and Sault areas, five of twelve conservation officer positions are vacant. The filling of one of these positions with an officer resident on Drummond Island would immediately create a significant impression and image of law enforcement. Even if the significant part of the officer's time were spent off the island, the fact that they reside on the island would deter many lawbreakers. As part of the Drummond Island community, this officer will be welcomed and supported in his or her enforcement efforts. Until a couple of years ago, Drummond Island had a Sheriff's deputy resident on the island who spent a large part of his time off the island, but was very effective in projecting a law enforcement presence and obtained considerable local support. Similarly, the

existence of a resident Conservation Officer on Drummond Island would have a significant impact in deterring violations and will obtain the support and cooperation of Island residents.

Recommendation:

- *The Writing Team strongly recommends that the DNR employ a Conservation Officer who resides on Drummond Island.*

Vacant Conservation Officer Positions

There are a number of vacant conservation officer positions in the Easter Upper Peninsula. This nearly doubles the area that current officers must patrol, resulting in less enforcement of existing regulations on Drummond Island. In many places, the lack of regulations is not an issue. Rather, the challenge of enforcing the regulations due to low staffing levels provides a situation where some deviate from the regulations with little concern for the risk of being caught.

Recommendation:

- *The Writing Team recommends that the vacant conservation officer positions in the EUP be filled.*

Improve Patrol of ORV and Snowmobile Trails

As noted in prior recommendations, there must be a disincentive for violations. The occurrence of off-road vehicles operating outside of approved trails could be reduced with enforcement of existing regulations. The committee understands that the Chippewa County Sheriff has budgeted funds to assist in the patrol of trails. These funds should be allocated to the patrol of Drummond Island trails equitably.

Recommendation:

- *The Writing Team recommends that members of the Team (the Township and the Drummond Island ORC) work with the DNR and Chippewa County Sheriff to improve patrol of the Drummond Island ORV and snowmobile trails.*

Volunteer Conservation Officer Program

The Drummond Island Sportsman's Club and other Island groups welcome the enforcement of regulations that protect the hunting, fishing, and outdoor environment and seek any opportunity to cooperate with the DNR in these efforts

Recommendation:

- *The Writing Team recommends that a Volunteer Conservation Officer program or similar volunteer program like community watch be evaluated for establishment on Drummond Island.*

Environmental Protection

Protection of Unique Natural Areas



Drummond Island is unique for communities that exist on the Island. The island is composed of many and varied cover and community types. These features make it very important to protect the areas from illegal activities. These unique natural areas are enjoyed by Drummond Islanders and visitors. The Drummond Island Writing Team has identified some areas in which threats are occurring.

The Fossil Ledges, as they are called locally, are located along the northeast shore of Drummond Island. As part of the Niagara Escarpment, the ledges consist of fossil-rich calcareous sedimentary rock

known as dolomite. Fossil Ledges have been damaged in the past by fossil collectors using chipping hammers to remove fossils from the rock ledges

Maxton Plains is a unique area containing the largest remaining high quality Alvar Grassland community in North America. This community can be found in only two other places in the world. It is characterized by thin or non-existent soil cover over dolomite bedrock. The plains provide habitat for 10 Michigan state rare plants, and an unusual mix of arctic and prairie species. Much of the area is uniquely managed by the DNR as a proposed Natural Area and by The Nature Conservancy as a Preserve.



Marble Head is a headland cliff at the Island's eastern most point and is an excellent example of a Limestone Lakeshore Cliff of vertical or near vertical limestone bedrock. Vegetation is sparse, but abundant cracks and crevices and calcareous conditions result in greater plant diversity compared with most other cliff types. Several state threatened, endangered, and special concern plant and animals are associated with this cliff type.



Due to thin soils and unstable cliff environment, the area is sensitive to disturbance.

Glen Cove and the numerous other accessible beaches are sensitive to erosion and harbor many unique plant and animal species.

Each one of these areas has experienced past motorized vehicle misuse that can cause ruts and threaten unique plant and animal species. We desire to see unique natural features protected from prohibited

illegal and damaging activities that may compromise the ecological and recreational benefits they provide on Drummond Island. The DNR along with various partners has and continues to work on various projects over the years to curb any illegal activity in the ecological sensitive areas. Signage and barriers have been placed in various locations. The signage has helped with the ability of the Law Enforcement Officers to enforce the existing laws and State Forest Land Use rules. The Drummond Island Writing Team believes that adding a combination of barriers, information signage, and educational resources will further protect these valuable resources.

Recommendations:

The group recommends that the DNR work with Drummond Island partners to:

- *Place large boulders in front of the beaches to protect the fossil ledges from motor vehicles.*
- *Create and install informational signage for the Alvar region, Marble Head, Glen Cove road, fossil ledges, and other fragile nature areas in such a manner to make it extremely difficult to remove.*
- *Establish a public relations program to educate visitors on the fragile nature of these areas and to discourage illegal use.*

Old Forests

Over the last 150 years, forests on Drummond Island have been extensively harvested. A few areas have not been harvested or devastated by fire or insect infestations in over 80 years. In many respects, they visually approximate old growth forests.

We value both the ecological and aesthetic/recreational values that mature large stand forests provide to Island residents and visitors. The writing team would like to preserve sufficient mature forests on the island for ecological interest and recreational enjoyment. Proximity to existing trails will enhance the opportunity for public access to such mature stands.



Recommendation:

- *The group recommends that the DNR work closely with the Drummond Island Writing team in the identification and designation of mature forests which have developed late-successional or old growth type structure for their potential recreational uses.*

Terrestrial Invasive Species

Exotic terrestrial invasive species are dramatically changing the forests and other natural areas of Michigan, often reducing or stressing native plants and animals. Beech Bark Disease, Emerald Ash Borer, Purple Loosestrife, Spotted Knapweed are just a few of the many exotic pests that are threatening Michigan's forests, grasslands, and wildlife and economy. Drummond Island has many unique and fragile natural communities that need to be protected from terrestrial invasive species. Mapping has been ongoing to identify areas where natural communities are affected by these invasive species. Eradication efforts have been made in some areas to limit the adverse effects of invasives on the native species and community. The Maxton Plains proposed Natural Area has undergone an extensive survey of native and invasive species and eradication program for the invasive species was completed last fall.

Recommendation:

- *The group supports and encourages the efforts of the DNR to mitigate the spread of beech bark disease and other terrestrial invasive species that affect the island's flora and fauna.*

Aquatic Invasive Species

Drummond Island's natural resources are both land and water related. We are surrounded by Lake Huron, and while over 50% of our land mass is state property, the concerns of the residents and visitors to Drummond Island are as closely tied to the water as they are to the land. The fisheries resource is very important to residents, visitors and the local economy. Many believe that cormorants, low lake levels, and invasive species, have influenced the perch, salmon, pike and walleye fishery around the island.

A huge threat to the Great Lakes fishery is the introduction of aquatic invasive species (AIS). The disruptive effects of AIS on the Great Lakes ecosystem are well documented and ongoing.

The introduction of aquatic invasives by salt-water ships continues to be a significant problem that has not been remedied by Michigan's 2005 Invasive Species Law and the 2007 Ballast Water Law.

Approximately 30% of new species are unintentionally brought to the Great Lakes in the ballast tanks of ocean going freighters (source: Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program Office).

Total economic losses in the Great Lakes basin as a result of aquatic invasive species were estimated in 2005 at \$5 billion per year (Source: Great Lakes Regional Collaboration).



Recommendation:

- *For the betterment of Drummond Island fisheries, wildlife, tourism, and citizens, The group recommends to the DNR, the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Great Lakes Commission, the International Joint Commission, and the Michigan Congressional Delegation that they take all measures deemed necessary to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasives by closing the Chicago ship canal and possible elimination of salt water shipping in the Great Lakes.*

Great Lakes Levels

Lake Huron water levels have been well below average over the last decade. While the fluctuation can be predominately attributed to natural causes, there is extensive documentation that dredging of the St. Clair and Detroit Rivers has contributed to the lower lake levels.



Dredging in the St. Clair-Detroit system began in the 1930's and continued through the 1950's to deepen navigation channels. The St. Lawrence Seaway opened in 1959 and in 1962 the St. Clair-Detroit River systems were dredged to a depth of 27 feet. Dredging has increased the flow capacity of these rivers and as a result, has permanently lowered the levels of Lake Huron by nearly 15 inches (Source: Living with the Lakes, US Corps of Army Engineers and the Great Lakes Commission 1999) The consequence of the lower lake levels has had a suspected negative impact on

the fishery around Drummond Island. It has also prompted costly dredging of harbors, channels, and access to private docks and boat wells. Dredging was recently completed at the DNR launch ramp on Drummond Island and will soon occur at the DeTour Harbor. The cost to private landowners and commercial interests on Drummond Island is unknown, but significant. Many that cannot afford dredging have lost the use of their docks and waterfront property due to lower water levels. The fiscal year 2012 Federal appropriations bill as amended provides over 45 million dollars for just Michigan navigational projects which includes substantial costs for dredging, yet solutions to restrict flow in the St. Clair River were estimated in 2009 to cost as little as \$10 to \$17 million (Attachment 4) .



Recommendation

- *The group recommends to the DNR, the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Great Lakes Commission, the International Joint Commission, and the Michigan Congressional Delegation that the Lake Huron and Lake Michigan lake levels be restored by reducing outflow (at a given lake level) to that which existed pre-St. Lawrence Seaway dredging of St. Clair and Detroit Rivers.*

Education and Outreach

Partner with the DNR Public Outreach and Engagement Unit

The ability to communicate the outdoor opportunities to others can be enhanced with coordinated publicity efforts with the DNR, the Drummond Island Tourism Association and other stakeholders. The state land is a resource to all that may be under-appreciated. The Writing Team believes that the ability to reach other outlets will be enhanced through cooperative efforts with the Wildlife Public Outreach and Engagement Unit:

Recommendation:

- *The Writing Team recommends that the DNR Wildlife Division Public Outreach and Engagement Unit partner with the Writing Team and additional stakeholders to establish synergy in developing a comprehensive communication strategy to promote tourism on Drummond Island.*

Outdoor Recreation Strategy

Virtually all of the team's recommendations are designed to improve the outdoor experience for landowners and visitors of Drummond Island. It would be appropriate to develop a synergistic strategy that promotes the opportunities to experience the outdoors in the many ways that Drummond offers. The joint promotion working with the DI groups and DNR would be more successful and cost efficient.

Recommendation:

- *The group recommends that the DNR Wildlife Division Public Outreach and Engagement Unit work with the Drummond Island Writing Team to establish an outdoor recreation strategy, which includes youth activities and other outreach programs to encourage outdoor-based recreation events.*

Public Awareness of Unique Drummond Island Issues

The special nature of Drummond Island, both in the opportunities and the desire to implement Island-specific regulations, can be confusing to tourists and outdoorsmen. The recommendations for walk-in areas, special trails, Drummond-specific deer regulations, new boat launch sites, camping platforms, etc., create a need for extra-ordinary education and promotion. Compliance with regulations would be enhanced with better hunter and outdoorsmen knowledge of Drummond rules and geography.

Recommendation:

- *The Writing Team recommends that the DNR partner with local groups to educate the public on unique Drummond Island issues/regulations through public broadcasting programs (e.g., Michigan Out of Doors), local newspapers, social media (e.g., Facebook) and printed brochures and posters.*

Preservation of Dark Skies on Drummond Island

Human produced light increases yearly with development. The light can impact our view of the stars, disrupt ecosystems, affect human circadian rhythms, and waste energy. Drummond Island has some of the darkest skies in the United States and as such, we desire to see our dark skies preserved. The International Dark-Sky Association (www.darksky.org) provides significant information on the benefit of dark skies. Through education and promotion, appropriate lighting can be implemented voluntarily, and dark skies maintained. Starlight preserves are special designation that brings attention to the issue of light pollution, while distinguishing Drummond Island as a unique place to live and visit.

Recommendation:

- *The Writing Team recommends that the DNR work with the Drummond Island Township, DITA and other stakeholders to promote Drummond Island as a Dark Sky, starlight preserve.*

Funding

The writing team notes that many of the recommendations in this report are proposed to be funded locally through the Drummond Island Sportsman's Club and the Drummond Island Tourism Association. Some projects are proposed to be funded through grants. Notwithstanding the above, additional DNR funding is believed necessary for resource management and law enforcement.

Increase Hunting and Fishing License Fees

Since license fees were last increased in 1997, annual inflation has averaged 2.34%. One dollar in 1997 had the same buying power as \$1.38 in 2011. It is unreasonable to expect the DNR to perform at the level citizens expect without an increase in funding.

Hunting license dollars are matched with funding from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (ie. "Pittman-Robertson" Act). The federal moneys are collected from an excise tax on firearms and ammunition, and distributed to the states based on hunting licenses within that state. For example, every \$15 in license fees in Michigan is matched with \$45 in federal funding resulting in a total of \$60 for wildlife management and enforcement in the state.

For these reasons, the Writing Team supports a license fee increase and makes the recommendation below.

Recommendation:

- *The Writing Team recommends that hunting/fishing license fees be increased in order to provide improved DNR law enforcement, compliance, and fish and wildlife management.*

Reconvening with DNR

Examining the Plan Progress

Both the DNR and the participants in the development of these recommendations have invested significant time. The DNR and Drummond Island groups are both tasked with recommendations. The Writing Team believes it essential that there be accountability for a review of the progress on these recommendations and a report back to the team and the Drummond Island and DNR stakeholders.

Recommendation:

- *The Writing Team recommends that the DNR reconvene a meeting with the DIWT one year after the plan is approved to examine plan progress.*

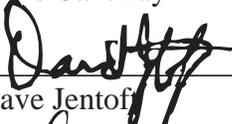
We, the members of the Drummond Island Writing Team, as the designated representatives of our respective agencies and organizations, reached consensus on all of the preceding recommendations and hereby certify we support the information set forth in this report.


Brad Kuusinen

Drummond Island Sportsman's Club


Chris Cantway

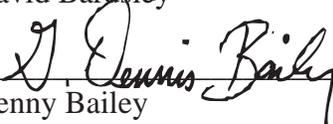
The Nature Conservancy


Dave Jentoff

DNR Wildlife Division


David Bardsley

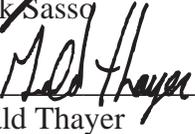
Member at large


Denny Bailey

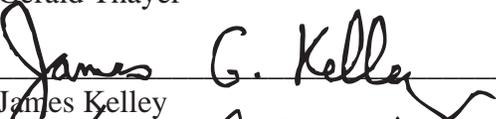
Drummond Island Grooming Association


Frank Sasso

Drummond Island Township Supervisor


Gerald Thayer

DNR Law Enforcement Division


James Kelley

Drummond Island Tourism Association


Karen Rodock

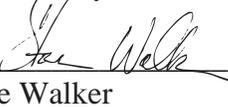
DNR Forest Resources Division


Pat Brower

Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Council


Patrick Kelly

Member at large


Steve Walker

Drummond Island Off-road Club


Chuck Moser

Eastern Upper Peninsula Transit Authority



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



RODNEY A. STOKES
DIRECTOR

June 23, 2011

Dear Drummond Island Partner:

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is coordinating the development of a Drummond Island Comprehensive Resource Management Plan (Plan). As part of this process, we are creating a Drummond Island Plan Writing Team, which will be comprised of a variety of organizations, agencies, and individuals with an array of interests concerning natural resources and Drummond Island. The purpose of the Writing Team is to create a Comprehensive Resource Management Plan that would provide resource management recommendations and alternatives that are acceptable within the mandates of the DNR's mission, while meeting the overall needs of Islanders, DNR, and resource users. The Plan will also focus on strategies for providing quality hunting, fishing, and trapping opportunities, and promote Drummond Island as a special place to attract resource-based tourism. The DNR hopes to have a plan in draft format by late winter 2012.

A facilitator will work with the Writing Team and assist members in reaching consensus on the topics and decisions within the Plan. The Plan would be presented to the DNR for final approval.

The DNR invites your organization to apply to be part of this team. If interested, please select a primary and an alternate representative and have them complete the attached application and return to the DNR by July 7, 2011. To be eligible to serve, individuals must not have any natural resource violations and will be screened by the DNR Law Enforcement Division before being approved. Preference for membership will be given to individuals that reside on the Island. We recommend that you select individuals who:

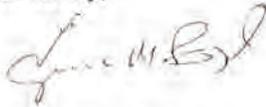
- Clearly understand the views of your organization and can articulate them within a diverse group.
- Can set aside philosophical differences and focus on the future of Drummond Island.
- Have the ability to work cooperatively and productively with people holding disparate points of view.
- Are willing to offer and accept compromise when appropriate.
- Are recognized by their organization as an appropriate representative.
- Are willing to engage in regular communication with the organization they represent to provide and solicit information.
- Speak directly for the organization they are representing and not their personal views.
- Are aware of and accept commitment to meet and work intensively over two or more months to complete tasks assigned to the Writing Team.
- Are willing to commit resources (time, travel, personnel) to effectively complete the tasks assigned to the Writing Team.
- Have e-mail capabilities and Internet access.

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

The alternate should plan on attending all meetings, but in a non-participatory capacity when the primary representative is in attendance so they understand discussions should they need to fill the primary role.

Please let Ms. Autumn Feldpausch know if your organization plans to be involved. She may be reached at 517-373-1263 or feldpauscha2@michigan.gov. The kick-off meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at location on the island that is yet to be determined. Materials will be provided electronically to the writing team for their review in advance of each scheduled meeting. Thank you for your consideration and for your interest in Drummond Island natural resources.

Sincerely,



Lynne Boyd, Chief
Forest Management Division



Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division

Drummond Island Writing Team Members

Primary Representatives:

Bill Heppler	Drummond Island Sportsman's Club
Chris Cantway	The Nature Conservancy
Dave Jentoft	DNR Wildlife Division
David Bardsley	Member at large
Denny Bailey	Drummond Island Grooming Association
Frank Sasso	Drummond Island Township Supervisor
Gerald Thayer	DNR Law Enforcement Division
James Kelley	Drummond Island Tourism Association
Karen Rodock	DNR Forest Resources Division
Pat Brower	Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Council
Patrick Kelly	Member at large
Steve Walker	Drummond Island Off-road Club
Chuck Moser	Eastern Upper Peninsula Transit Authority

Alternate Representatives:

Brad Kuusinen	Eastern Upper Peninsula Transit Authority
Kyle Publiski	DNR Law Enforcement Division
Laneen Hoover	Drummond Island Off-road Club
Paul Hammers	Drummond Island Grooming Association
Tina Hall	The Nature Conservancy

Resource Staff:

Jordan Burroughs	Michigan State University
Autumn Feldpausch	DNR Wildlife Division
Bill O'Neill	DNR Forest Resources Division
Jim Radabaugh	DNR Forest Resources Division
Kelly Siciliano Carter	DNR Wildlife Division
Penney Melchoir	DNR Wildlife Division
Steve Milford	DNR Forest Resources Division
Terry Minzey	DNR Wildlife Division

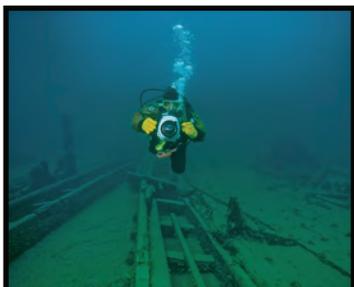
Drummond Island Sportsmen Club Contributions
(partial list)

2002	Walleye rearing pond.	\$	130,000.
2002 - 2012	Lease of property for pond \$10,000/yr		100,000
2005 - 2012	Cormorant Control \$3,000/yr Shells, Gas, etc.		24,000
2006	Potagannissing River Dam removal and rebuild Cut old existing dam out, rebuild, and put rock pools below dam so pike could rest. Plus ongoing Maintenance		50,000 plus
2007	McCormick Marsh Pike habitat program Put new covert under Maxton road so pike can move past the road. More work to do waiting on permits.		25,000 plus
Every year	Payment of \$10/deer for Johnsons Sport Shop to age; document deer taken on Drummond Island. Payments to Ferry Crew to do deer count on ferry		not quantified

Drummond Island

Five Year Recreation Plan

2011-2015



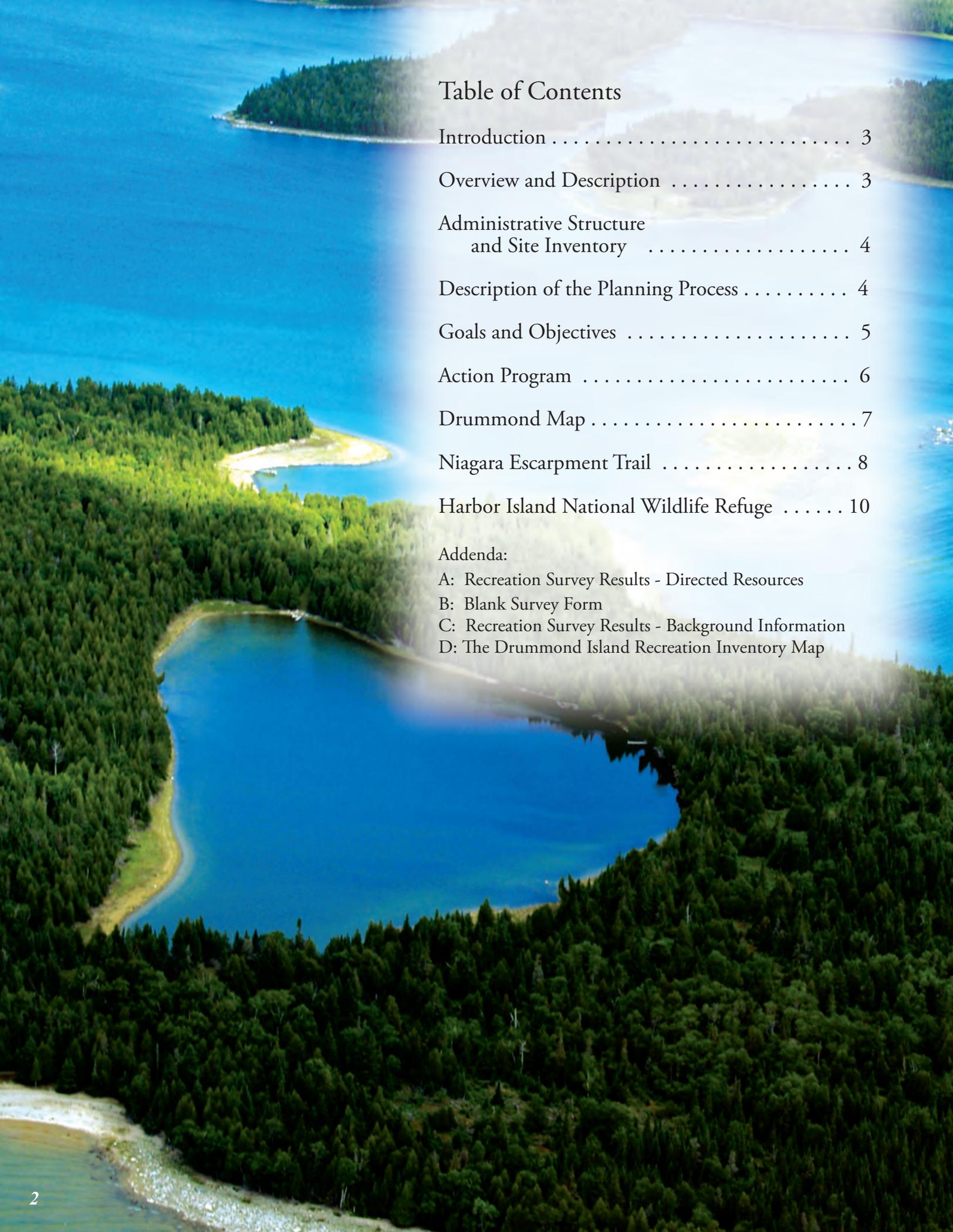


Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Overview and Description	3
Administrative Structure and Site Inventory	4
Description of the Planning Process	4
Goals and Objectives	5
Action Program	6
Drummond Map	7
Niagara Escarpment Trail	8
Harbor Island National Wildlife Refuge	10
Addenda:	
A: Recreation Survey Results - Directed Resources	
B: Blank Survey Form	
C: Recreation Survey Results - Background Information	
D: The Drummond Island Recreation Inventory Map	

Introduction

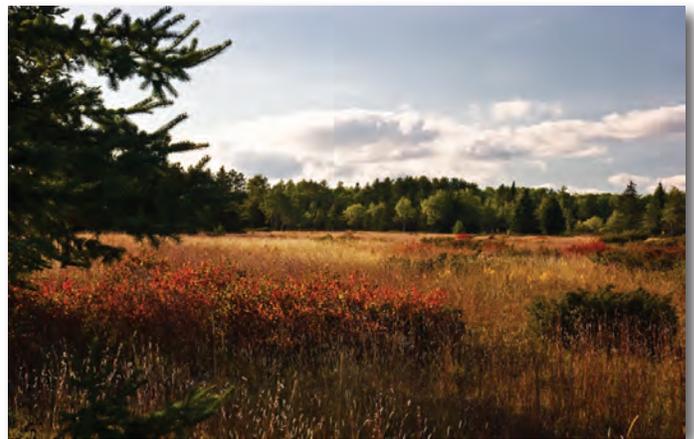
A good Recreation Plan should cast a vision for hopes and dreams, while establishing some basic parameters for practical future planning. This Recreation Plan seeks to set certain directions for future recreational development over the next five years while remaining flexible and open to modification.

Drummond Island Overview and Description

Drummond Island is part of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, offering unparalleled opportunities to enjoy unspoiled beauty, unique history and the Great Lakes of Huron, Michigan and Superior. Drummond Island is located one mile off the eastern tip of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, only 60 miles by road from the Mackinac Bridge and is one of the largest freshwater island in the United States. It is comprised of 83,000 acres, 140 plus miles of rugged scenic shoreline, 133 square miles of forested landscape, and 34 inland lakes. Within this diverse habitat, a number of rare species, land formations and plants can be found.

According to the United States Census Bureau, the township has a total area of 249.0 square miles (644.9 km²), of which, 129.1 square miles (334.3 km²) is land and 119.9 square miles (310.6 km²) (48.17%) is water. Drummond Township is a civil township of Chippewa County in the U.S. state of Michigan. The population was 992 at the 2000 census and the median income for a household in the township was \$36,131. The two biggest employers are tourism and the quarry. Community services include: Two medical offices, an elementary school, a public library, grocery store, hardware store, fire/ambulance/EMS services, Twp. Hall/Community Center, Detour-Drummond Credit Union, and five churches.

In addition to two golf courses, other recreational opportunities abound. We feature one of the largest closed loop trail systems for off road - ATV / ORV exploration in the U.S. With over two-thirds of the Island state-owned, the possibilities for developing hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and other non-motorized trails are endless. Presently, you may hike or snowshoe the Heritage Trail at the Drummond Island Township Park located adjacent the park camp sites, hike the Little Traverse Nature Conservancy Williams Nature Preserve Trail, and cross-country ski or hike the Rainbow Trail. "Geocaching" is growing as a family activity on the Island. Seventeen Drummond Island shipwrecks, unique bird species like the Leconte's sparrow, and the rare Prairie Smoke of the Alvar Plains region all await



Alvar Region



Prairie Smoke

the curious visitor. A unique experience is to visit the Detour Reef Light for a guided educational tour of this historic lighthouse. Drummond is surrounded by 53 outlying islands, including Harbor Island National Wildlife Refuge. Get ready to explore groomed snowmobile trails, cross country skiing, great fishing year around and sunsets unmatched anywhere! Come discover "Michigan's Ultimate Playground"!

(Descriptions taken from the Drummond Island Tourism website: <http://www.drummondislandchamber.com/> and the Pure Michigan website: <http://www.michigan.org/City/Default.aspx?city=G2986>)

Administrative Structure and Site Inventory

The care and development of recreational sites on Drummond Island Twp. is handled by two entities: The Township Board of Directors (Supervisor Frank Sasso) and the Drummond Island Tourism Association (D.I.T.A.). DITA manages the grooming of snowmobile trails during the winter months. The parks and recreation activities are managed by the DI Township Board under the direction of the DI Township supervisor. These 5 elected officials oversee the operations of the parks and recreation areas listed below.

RECREATION ITEM	BUDGETED COST PER YEAR
Twp. Skating Rink	\$1,600
Beach Maintenance	\$2,400
Twp. Golf Course	\$94,000
Twp. Park	\$20,000
D.I. Museum	\$9,200
Twp. Ball Field	\$1,100
Fireworks Show	\$9,300

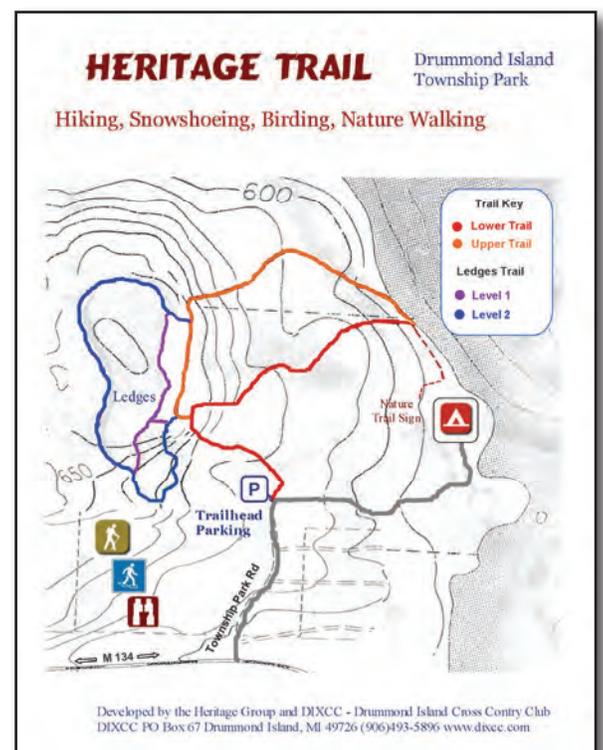
All of these areas are handicapped accessible except for Big Shoal Beach and the skating rink. The accessibility limiting feature for these two areas is the absence of a firm stable surface both in route from the parking lot to the recreation area and at the recreation area itself. No funding has come from DNR grants.

Please view Addendum D : Drummond Island Recreation Inventory Map located on page 14, for an inventory map of the sites and facilities listed on page 4.

Hiking Trails:

1. Heritage Hiking Trail. A 3.0 mile nature hiking and snowshoe trail is located at the Drummond Island Township Park
2. Rainbow Cross Country Trail is a 5 mile nature hiking and snowshoe trail system on State Land
3. Williams Nature Preserve Trail, owned by The Little Traverse Nature Conservancy, is a 1.3 mile trail system for hiking, snowshoeing and ungroomed cross country skiing.
4. Drummond Island Resort property has two hiking/snowshoeing trails—a 1.0 mile interpretive trail and a 2.5 mile hiking loop. Several (15?) miles of groomed cross country ski trails are available on the golf course.

Additionally, the Island features 117 miles of state land off-road vehicle trails. They purport to be potentially hikeable although these trails are described as demanding for off-road vehicles and are extremely rugged in areas. The snowmobile trail system gums a total of 68 miles, 45 miles of which are state owned. The percentage of the snowmobile trail that is accessible to the public on foot is not known due to this trail system being contiguous with and often only accessible through private property.



Note: All trail maps can be viewed at www.drummondislandchamber.com

Description of the Planning Process

Initial planning for the Five Year Recreation Plan began in the early months of 2010. It originated with a small group of concerned Islanders networking with various Island groups, such as: the Drummond Island Twp. Board and Supervisor, DITA, the Sportsman's Club, the ATV/ORV group, and other entities. Through various meetings and consultations, it was determined that a Five Year Recreation Plan would be of great benefit to the future development of recreational opportunities for the Island.

It was also determined that public input was crucial in setting such a Plan in motion. Two methods were used: a public meeting and a survey.

1. Public Meeting at the Bear Track Restaurant, Thursday, Aug. 19th, 2:30 pm: The public was invited to a free “Hot Dog Buffet” for the purpose of exploring recreational projects and suggesting future directions for recreational development. About twenty-five people attended. There were presentations made and a time for questions/responses.

2. Island-wide Survey: A survey (see Addendum A) was circulated throughout the Island at various establishments during the months of August and September, 2010, as well as published in the August edition of the local newspaper, The Drummond Island Digest. In October, 77 surveys were collected. The data was tabulated and formulated (see Addendum B).

Results of the public meeting and surveys showed interest in a number of directions for Drummond Island Recreation:

- Walking trails, multipurpose with snowshoeing and cross country skiing in winter
- Accessibility/enhancement of Harbor Island National Wildlife Refuge
- Improved signage directing people as to how to actually get to the trails that do exist. This includes better communication/advertising in general about the places that are here to visit.
- Do something to improve esthetics of present signage along route 134
- Enhancement of fishing
- Development of “silent sports”, e.g. Kayaking, canoeing, bird watching, nature trails, photography, etc.
- Improvement of ATV/ORV trails
- Biker friendly roadways and biking trails
- More campground space
- More recreational opportunities targeting teens and young children

Goals and Objectives

1. Provide a wide spectrum of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities
 - a. Develop ways to make recreational sites more handicapped accessible
 - b. Explore avenues to promote “silent sports”: kayaking, canoeing, bird watching, hiking, bicycling, photography
 - c. Enhance more established recreational sports: ATV/ORV trails, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, golfing
 - d. Create an advisory body that will provide guidance to the Township for the creation of new recreation projects, as well as, help for maintaining existing facilities
2. Enhance existing facilities to optimally reflect the rich diversity of the Island
 - a. Improve the accessibility of the Island’s natural beauty while maintaining excellent off-road vehicle trails
 - b. Develop ways to highlight the unique resources of Harbor Island National Wildlife Refuge
 - c. Expand upon the small number of walking/hiking trails
 - d. Improve signage and other ways to direct people to recreational sites
3. Generate recreation projects that will highlight the unique geological, biological, and cultural attributes of the Island
 - a. Develop creative ways to provide recreational services to teens and children
 - b. Create information centers, kiosks, and booths that will feature brochures, videos, and other informational items for visitors
 - c. Find more effective ways to work collaboratively with other organizations
 - d. Encourage volunteerism and heighten public awareness toward recreational resources in Drummond Island Township

FREE Hot Dog Buffet

Join Us! 

YOU ARE INVITED to a Public Forum to discuss the results of this Survey and projects that will enhance the recreational experience on our Island.

Join us at the Bear Track Restaurant for a free "Hot Dog Buffet" on Thursday, Aug. 19th, at 2:30 pm. We will talk about proposed projects and look at new ideas.

For questions, call either Jim Kelley (906-493-5567) or Scott Danforth (906-493-5233).

Hope to see you there!

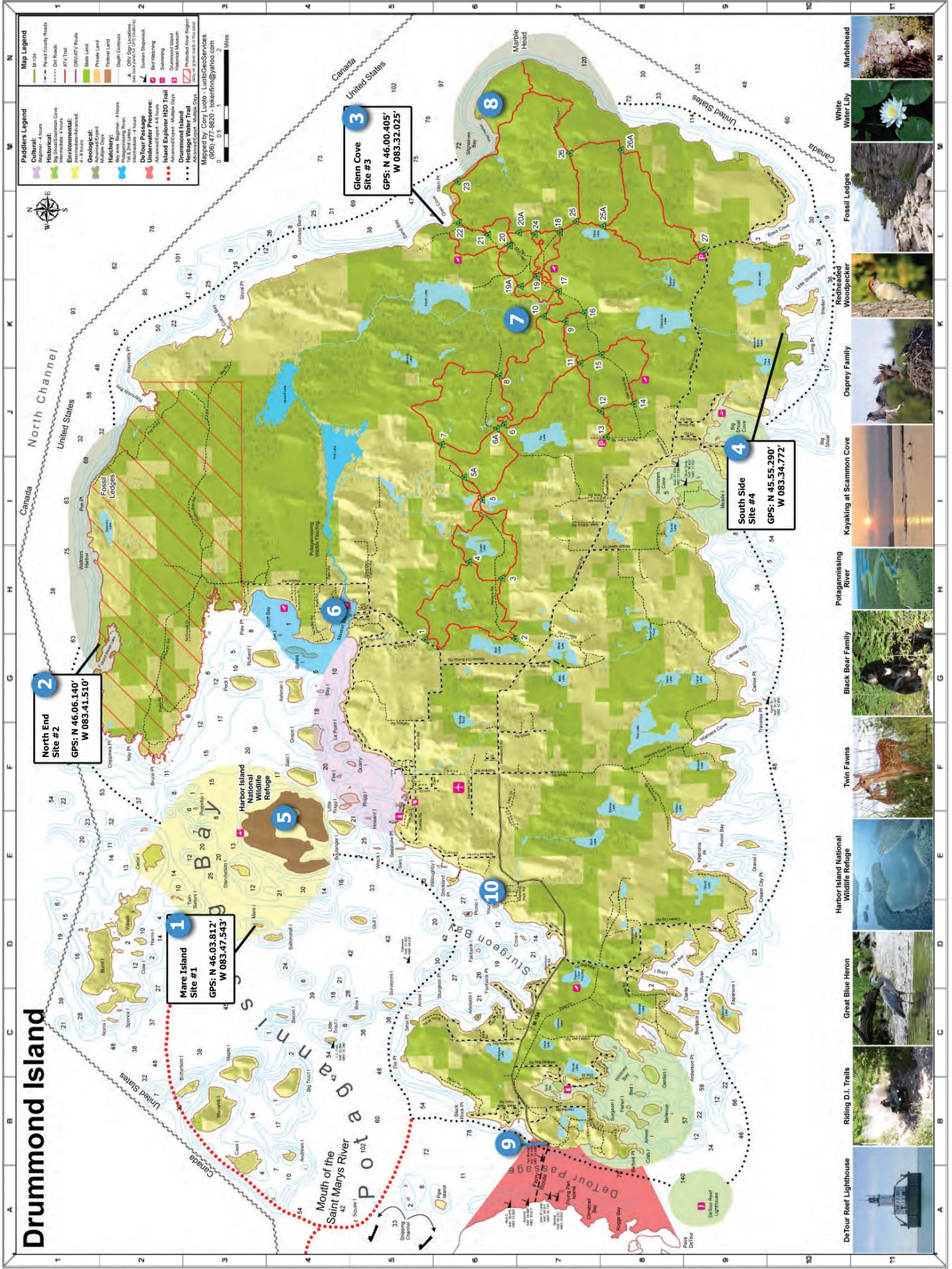
Action Program Project List

Note: Numbers to the left of project name below, correspond with project location on the following map page.

	Project Name	Project Life Span	Est. Cost	Funding Sources
1-4	Four Remote Campsites with dock facilities (Marked on map sites as 1-2-3-4)	2012-2013	\$120,000	Local, Private foundations, Grants from : MNRTF, CZMF, HRCMF*
5	Harbor Island Sign	2011-2012	8,800	Local, Private foundations, Grant from : HRCMF*
5	Harbor Island Educ. Materials	2011-2012	4,400	Local, Private foundations, Grant from : HRCMF*
5	Harbor Island Land fill Clean-up	2011-2013	1,500	Local, HRCMF*
5	Harbor Island Dock & Kiosk	2012-2014	31,606	Local, Private foundations, Grant from : HRCMF*
5	Harbor Island Trail Benches and markers	2012-2013	4,665	Local, Grant from: HRCMF*
	Avian Platforms	2012-2013	3,800	Local, Grant from: HRCMF*
6	EZ Launch for Paddlers Handicap Free system located at DNR Boat Launch Maxton Bay	2012-2013	24,600	Local, Private foundations, Grant from : HRCMF*
7	Trail way Bridges Construction	2012-2013	14,000	Local, Private foundations, Grant from : HRCMF*
7	ORV/ATV Trail Signage	2011-2013	10,000	Local, Private foundations, Grant from : HRCMF*
7	ORV/ATV Trail Bypass	2011-2013	1,000	Local CZMF*
8	Niagara Escarpment Trail	2013-2016	850,000	Local, Private foundations, Grant from : HRCMF*
9	Welcome Kiosk at Ferry	2014-2016	Planning stage only	
9	Viewing Platform at Ferry	2012-2014	44,000	Local CZMF*
9	Orval Lowe Memorial Park	2014-2016	Planning stage only	
10	Heritage Trail at Twp. Park	2012-2014	10,000	
	Heritage Route Bike/Walking Path	2012-2015	Planning stage only	Local, Grant from: HRCMF*

* **KEY:** HINWPS = Harbor Island National Wildlife Preservation Society; CZMF = Coastal Zone Management Fund; HRCMF = Heritage Route Corridor Management Funds; MNRTF = Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

Additionally, there is a need to access ongoing guidance for future recreational projects. The Drummond Island Heritage Group is working on developing an Advisory Group to assist in this. While still in the early stages, the hope is that individuals and groups that are vital to the livelihood of Drummond Island can have a voice in the future of recreational development on the Island.



Drummond Island

North End Site #2
 GPS: N 46.06.140°
 W 083.41.510°

Mare Island Site #1
 GPS: N 46.03.812°
 W 083.47.543°

Glenn Cove Site #3
 GPS: N 46.00.405°
 W 083.32.025°

South Side Site #4
 GPS: N 45.55.290°
 W 083.34.772°



DeTour Reef Lighthouse

Riding D.I. Trails

Great Blue Heron

Harbor Island National Wildlife Refuge

Twin Fawns

Black Bear Family

Potagannissing River

Kayaking at Scammon Cove

Osprey Family

Woodpecker

Fossil Ledges

White Water Lily

Marblehead

Niagara Escarpment Trail

The Drummond Island Tourism Association (DITA) has seen a significant increase in tourist requests for hiking trails. The requests are not just for hiking trails but for hiking trails in key areas.

In response to these tourist requests, DITA has approached the U.S. Forest Service to establish a hiking trail on Harbor Island. At this point in time, the project is moving forward in a very positive manner. DITA would also like to undertake a new Hiking Trail project with the State of Michigan, in response to these requests and in order to add to the Drummond Island experience for our visitors out along the Niagara Escarpment.

This proposed trail would start at Sitgreaves Bay, follow the beach to Pilot Harbor, continue along the beach for about one mile, then rising with the Niagara Escarpment, it would follow a path through the Alvar to Marble Head and then continue on to the south to its end before dropping back down to the Lake Huron Shoreline a short distance to Shale Beach.

So to recap it would cover Sitgreaves Bay, Pilot Harbor, a mile plus walk along Lake Huron, an Alvar region, the Niagara Escarpment (Marble Head), the larger ledge area to the south (Eagles Landing) and Shale Beach. This would also give panoramic views of the False DeTour Passage and Ontario, Canada, all in one hiking trail!

The Niagara Escarpment Trail would have to include an improved road to Sitgreaves Bay or Marble Head, a parking area, and signage to direct people to trail heads. Benches along the trail would be added, markers in distance walked, signs to explain what you are seeing and improvements like foot bridges and viewing decks to safely see over the edge of the escarpment. It is also being considered to make a small part handicapped accessible. In addition to the main trail, we would like to also add a small 0.6 mile trail that would run from just east of the bridge on the Glenn Cove to Sitgreaves Bay off road trail. It would run along one edge of a swamp marsh area that has high ground for good bird viewing. This mini trail could also be accessed from the same parking area at Sitgreaves Bay that would be used for the Niagara Escarpment Trail. (See Map poster for proposed trails).

Background photograph was taken at Shale Beach



NIAGARA ESCARPMENT TRAIL



6 LAKE HURON TRAIL



2 PILOT HARBOR



3 SITGREAVES BAY



4 MARSH BIRDING TRAIL



5 SHALE BEACH



- Improved Dirt Road
- - - Coastal Trail
- Escarpment Trail
- Marsh Birding Trail
- Parking Lot
- //// Overhang Deck
- Handicapped Trail
- ▲ Restroom
- ▲ ATV/ ORV Trails



1 MARBLE HEAD



BACKGROUND PHOTO
4 MARSH BIRDING TRAIL





Harbor Island National Wildlife Refuge



Working with the Seney National Wildlife Refuge manager Mark Vaniman, who is also manager of Harbor Island N.W.R., a new group is forming to oversee and preserve Harbor Island. James Kelley, a Drummond resident, has been working with Seney since 2008.

Harbor Island National Wildlife Refuge Preservation Society Mission Statement

The Purpose of this organization is to support and promote Harbor Island National Wildlife Refuge and the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) in their efforts to conserve habitat and wildlife. We are dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Refuge for the benefit of fish and wildlife and for public education and recreation.

The Harbor Island National Wildlife Refuge Preservation Societies goals are but not limited to:

- To heighten awareness of Harbor Island and the more than 500 National Wildlife Refuges.
- To Promote the Natural and Human history of Harbor Island.
- To make Harbor Island more accessible to those that wish to visit it and to educate those visiting Harbor Island on its importance to the Potaganissing Bay area ecosystem.
- To raise funds for Refuge projects and programs.

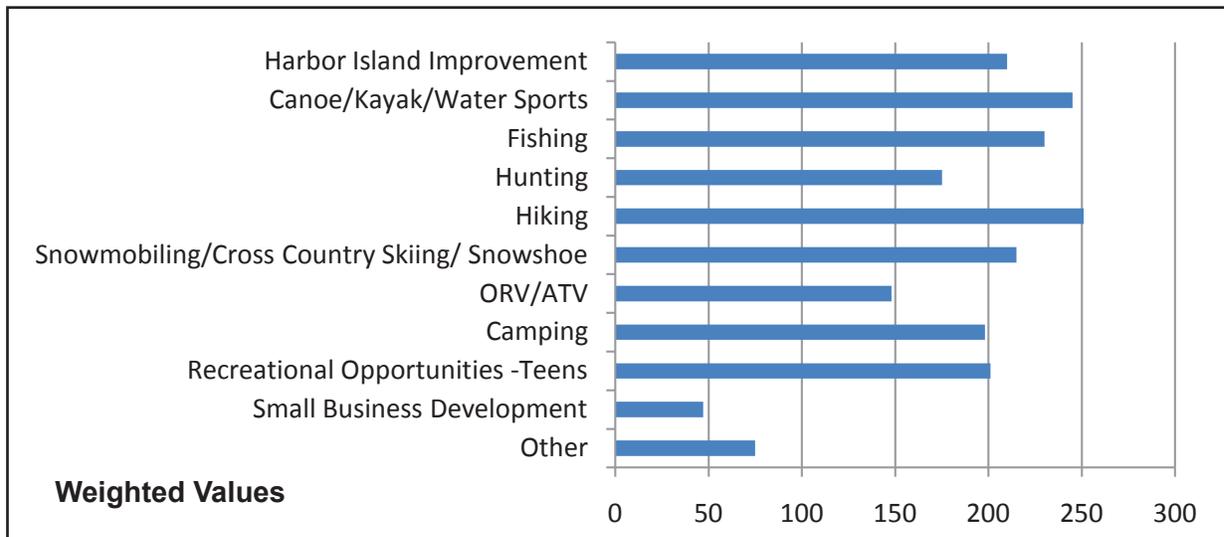
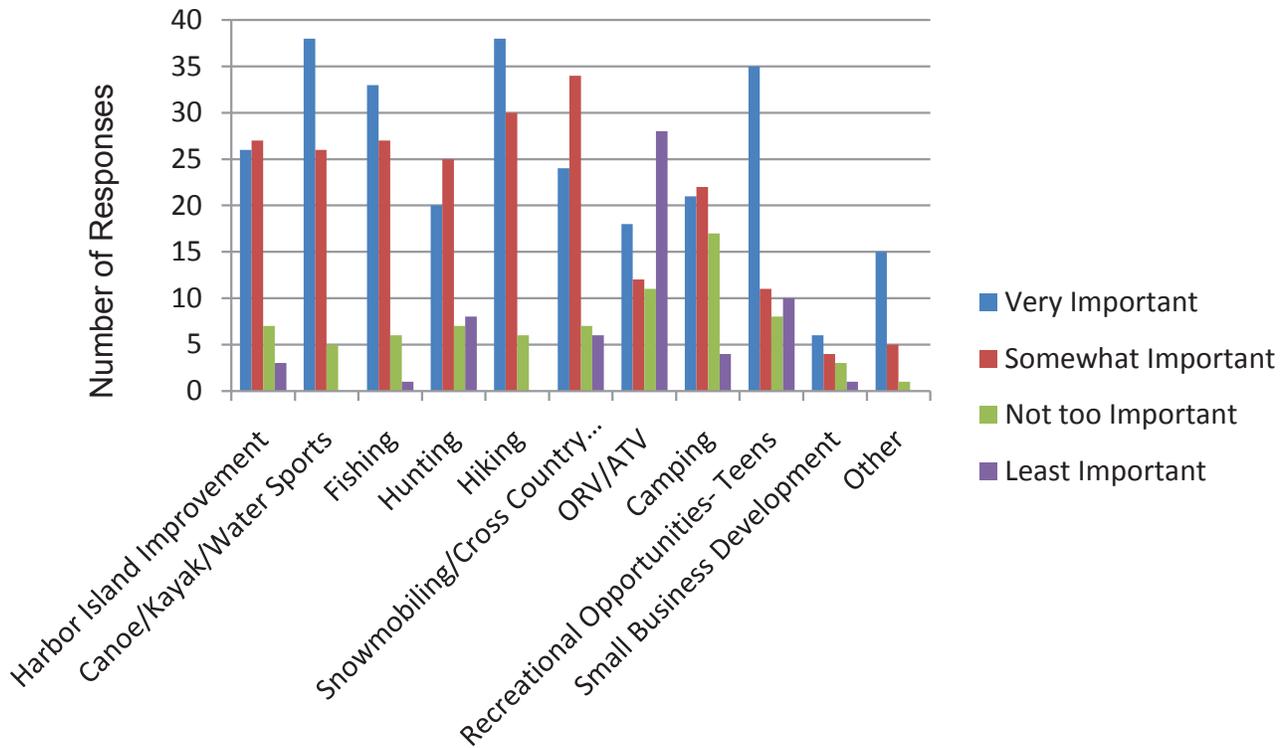
We strive to make a difference whether it is by raising funds, publishing informational materials, guiding tours, preserving its history or by making it more accessible to those wishing to visit her shores.



Addenda

- **A: Recreation Survey Results - Directed Resources**
- **B: Blank Survey Form**
- **C: Recreation Survey Results - Background Information**
- **D: The Drummond Island Recreation Inventory Map**

Addendum A: Recreation Survey Results - Directed Resources



Addendum B: Blank Survey Form

DRUMMOND ISLAND FIVE-YEAR RECREATION PLAN SURVEY



1. Background Information (Please check each answer that applies to you)

- a) Indicate your residency status: Year-round Seasonal Non-resident
- b) Indicate your property interests: Own Home Own Business Rent Home Own Land
- c) How long have you owned property in the Township?
 0-10 years 11-20 years Over 20 years
- d) How long have you lived in the Township?
 0-10 years 11-20 years Over 20 years
- e) What is your primary occupation? (choose only one)
 Manager Laborer Professional Homemaker Farmer Student
 Clerical/Sales Unemployed Skilled Trades Retired Other
- f) What is your age? 18-25 years 26-40 years 41-65 years Over 65 years
- g) What is your gender? Male Female

2. In the next five years, where should the Twp. direct its resources toward D.I. recreation? (Please answer with a number: 4=very important, 3= somewhat important, 2=not too important, 1=least important)

- Harbor Island improvements (hiking trails, signage, dock, etc.)
- canoe/kayaking/water sports
- fishing
- hunting
- hiking
- snowmobiling/cross-country skiing/snowshoeing
- Off road vehicles and ATV's
- camping
- recreational opportunities targeting teens
- other:

3. Identify one thing that you like most about Drummond Island.

4. Identify one thing that you feel needs improvement on Drummond Island.

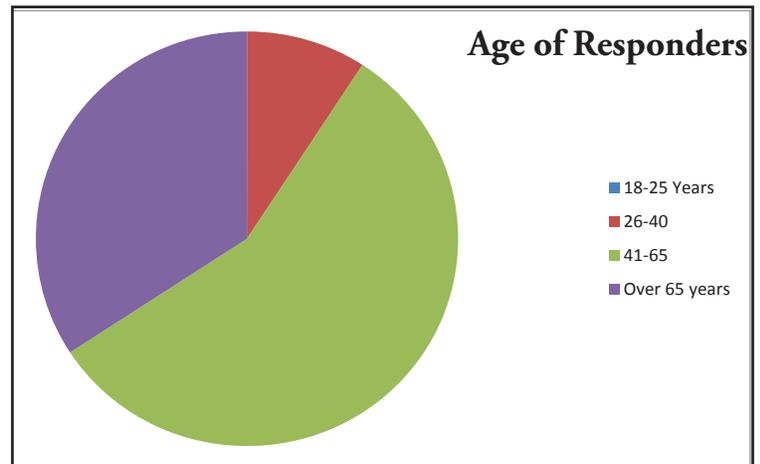
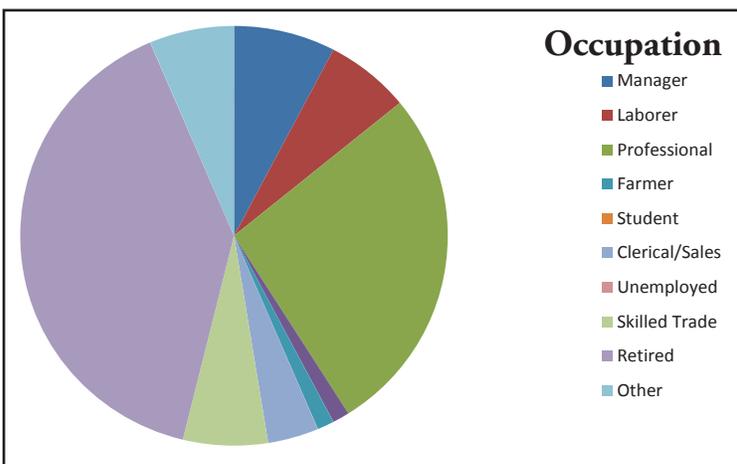
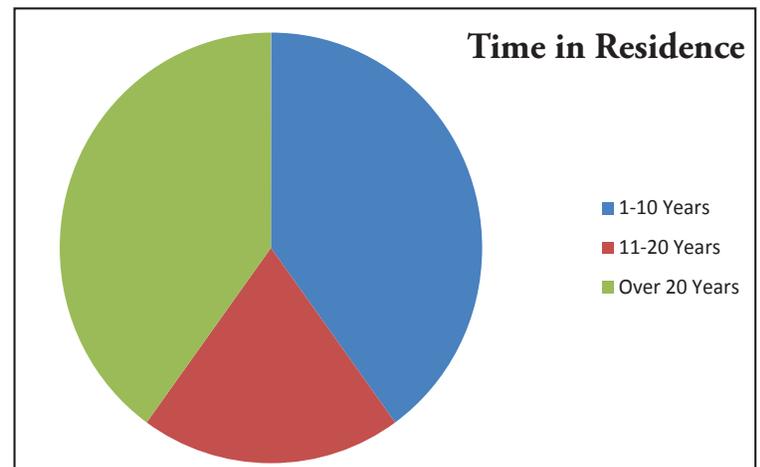
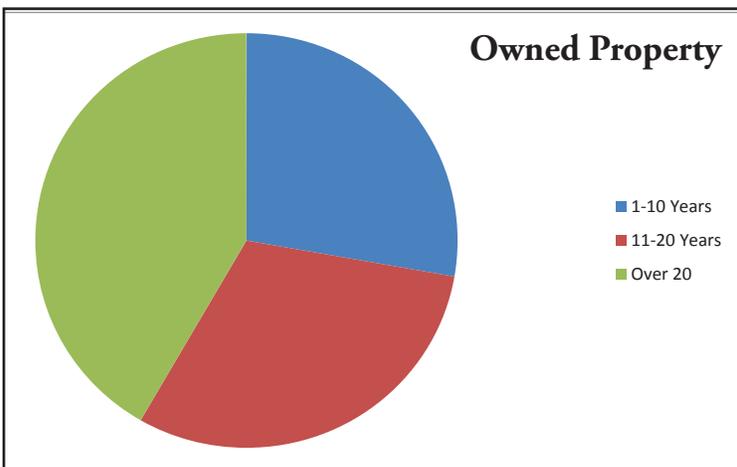
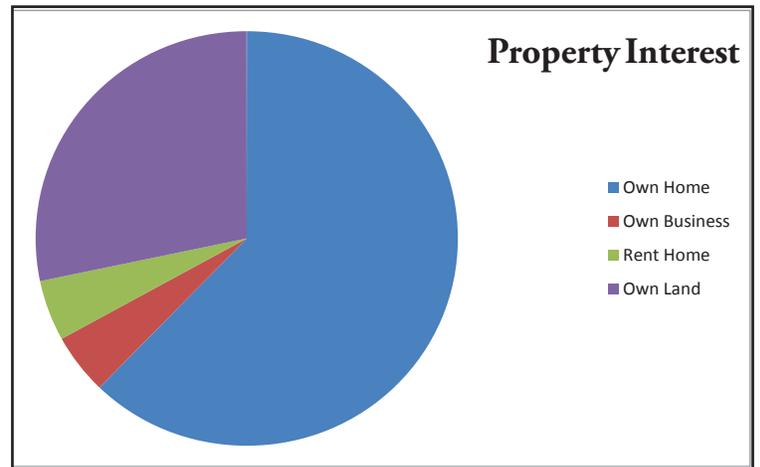
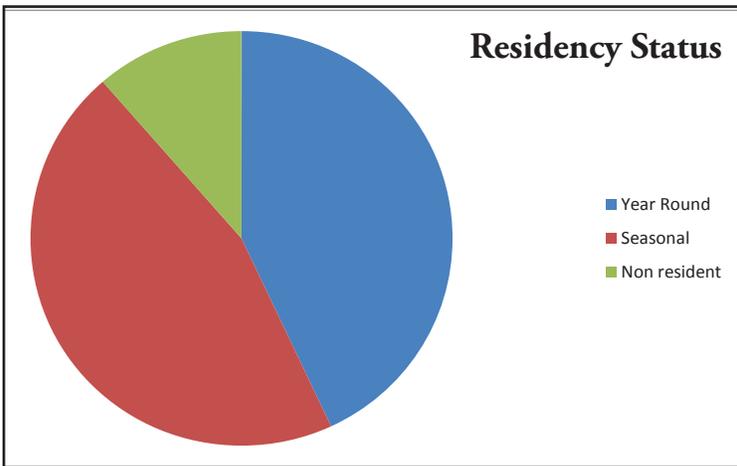
5. Please include any brief comments or ideas for Drummond Island Twp. recreation projects.

Deposit this survey in a designated container (found in various locations: Twp. Hall, Sune's Dry Goods, North Haven Gifts, DeTour Drummond Community Credit Union, and the Drummond Island Tourism Association office.

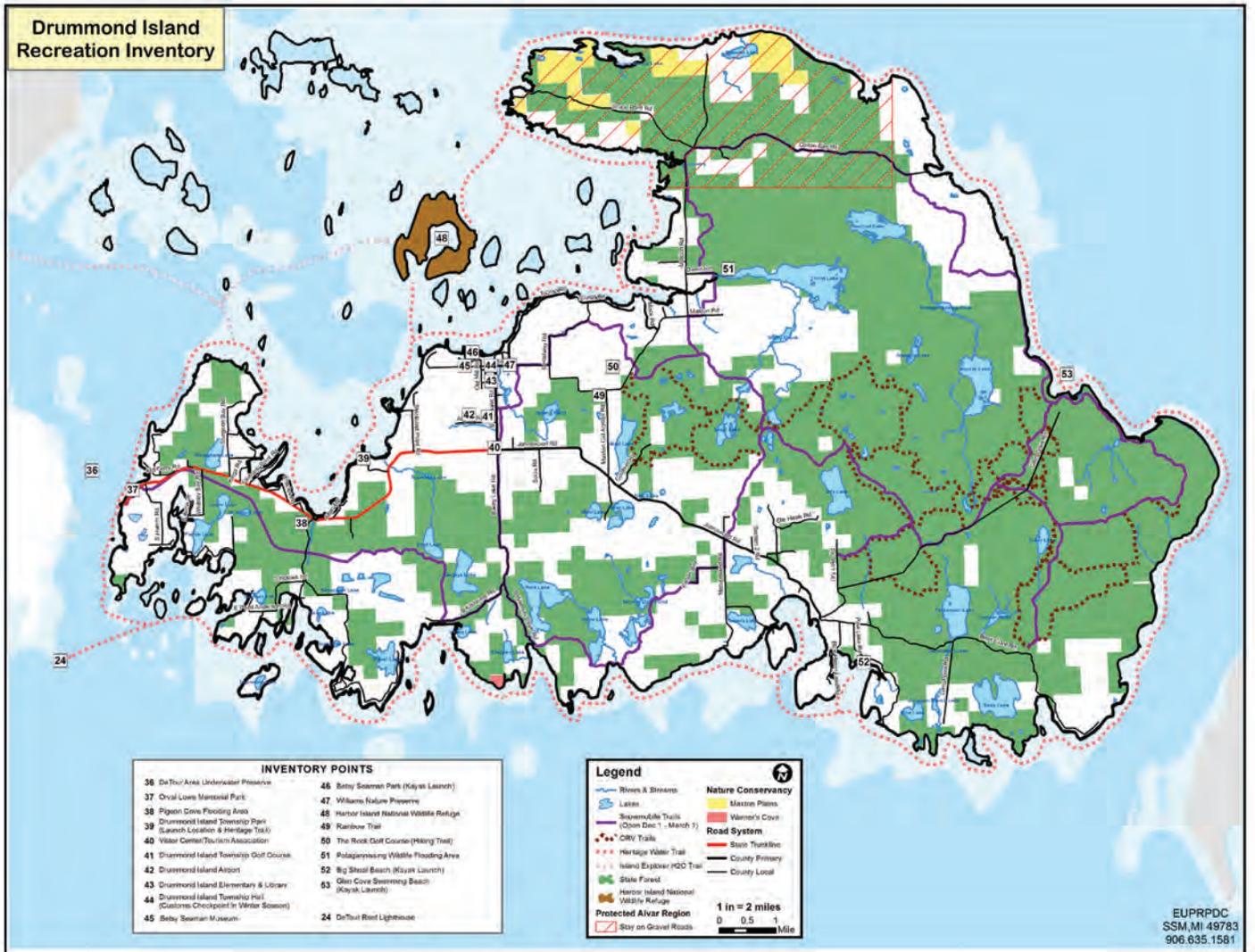
Addendum C: Recreation Survey Results - Background Information

The information included in the addenda was gathered from our participants who either filled out survey sheets at the meeting on August 19th, 2010 or filled out a survey sheet and deposited it in one of the many collection boxes located on Drummond Island. The largest majority of responders were:

Year round residents, who have owned their home for at least 10 years, were retired and between the ages of 41 and 65. The information gathered was filled out by a 50% male to female ratio.



Addendum D: The Drummond Island Recreation Inventory Map



Appendix E

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT TRAIL PROPOSAL

WITH MARSH BIRDING TRAIL

Prepared by
The Drummond Island Tourism Association
James Kelley, Project Manager



Contents

Contents2
Cover Letter 3-5
Proposal 6-8
Niagara Escarpment Trail Poster9
Trail Development Proposal Form10
Attachments to Trail Development Proposal 11-12
Proposed Trail Map13
Trail Map Photo Locations 14-21

Drummond Island Tourism Association
James Kelley, Project Manager
35409 S. Fairbank Pt. Rd.
Drummond Island MI. 49726

November 21, 2011

To All Concerned:

The development of the Niagara Escarpment Trail and the Marsh Birding Trail has progressed as we had hoped.

First, the idea and was it possible? This idea was kicked around as early as late fall 2009. By spring 2010, Steve Walker had taken me (Jim Kelley) for my first visit ever to Marble Head via Jeep. By August, I had traveled around the whole area by boat, flown over it twice, hiked it in total twice and a third time journeyed from Glen Cove to Pilot Harbor. I took 400 photos, made many notes and recorded many GPS locations. From this information I got permission from DITA (The Drummond Island Tourism Association) to advance the idea. Sue Kelley then made what is known now as the Niagara Escarpment Trail Poster. This poster and a written proposal were given to the DNR. At that time, it was agreed to table the request for the trail until the Drummond Island Five Year Plan was completed and to see if the writing team would support this trail. On 11-8-2011 the writing team approved of both trails, leading to the submission of the Trail Development Proposal. This did not stop us from writing a \$750,000.00 grant request for this trail. Being approved by the Drummond Island writing team and the DNR will help increase the possibility of an approved grant.

Once approved, both by the DNR and Grant Committee, we will complete an even more detailed trail outline, adding signage, description of what each sign will say, number of benches, bridges and trail up to the escarpment and back down. All parts of this project's construction will be open to public bid.

Maintenance of the trails: A fund has been started and will be added to as funds come in to maintain both this trail system and the remote tent campsites. It is our goal to use the latest and most maintenance free materials possible, cutting no corners. We also will set up a volunteer group that will review and hike trails, to make sure they are maintained and void of trash.

Two issues are ongoing and yearly: First, the pumping of the "his and hers" rustic privies (built over concrete vaults) located at Sitgreaves Bay, will need to be done annually and by contract; Second, there is an area along the Lake Huron shoreline, west and south of Pilot Harbor, about $\frac{3}{4}$ miles in length, that is infested with horse or black flies in late spring and early summer. These are two ongoing issues we would have and would be paid for from funds from DITA's maintenance account.

Why:

The number one most asked question DITA tables is "Can I drive to Marble Head and are there hiking trails there?" Hiking trails that take you somewhere and offer viewing memories and photo opportunities are key to attracting tourists as well as providing them with unforgettable experiences. Drummond has few hiking trails and some are private. None of our hiking trails are on state land that is designated as "hiking only." The trails we do have, while nice, do not lead anywhere with a landmark attached. Offering trails that would show the scenic beauty of Drummond Island, but have destinations like Sitgreaves Bay, Pilot Harbor, Marble Head, Eagles Landing and Shale Beach, not to overlook the Alvar and Lake Huron shoreline would be ideal because of the destinations the trail is taking you to. We do not have these trails now, but all of these landmarks would be included in the Niagara Escarpment Trail.

Where:

The Niagara Escarpment Trail is located in Range R. 8E. Sections: 36,30,31 & 6 on the extreme east end of Drummond Island Michigan, in the area know as Marble Head.

How:

The trail will be built mainly with grant funding supplemented with modest local help. We have filed for a grant in the amount of \$750,000.00 with the Michigan Department of Transportation inside the M-134 Heritage Route Grant. This is not the last of our efforts, just our first.

DITA will oversee a group of volunteers that will inspect the trails for downed trees, maintenance issues and to clean the trail area and parking lot of trash as needed. This group will also schedule the pumping of the "his and hers" rustic privies (built over concrete vaults) at the Sitgreaves Bay parking area and any other bid or contracted issues. The group will report to the DITA board twice annually and will include non-DITA members. It also has

been proposed to do bi-annual fund raisers to help with maintenance if funds are needed.

When:

The Niagara Escarpment Trail and the Marsh Birding (wildlife viewing) Trail will go forward after:

1. DNR and state approval.
2. Obtaining grant dollars.

Our time frame is open.

Contact info:

Project Manager and contact person: Jim Kelley
35409 S. Fairbank Pt. Rd., Drummond Island, MI 49726

Phone: 906-493-5567 e-mail: jkelly@alphacomm.net

DITA President: Denny Bailey
33185 S. Walter St., P.O. Box 148, Drummond Island, MI 49726

Phone: 800-543-4743 e-mail: Yachthaven@lighthouse.net

Grant Writer: Scott Danforth
29898 E. Pine St., Drummond Island, MI 49726

Phone: 906-493-5233 e-mail: scottdanforth@gmail.com

DITA (the Drummond Island Tourism Association) would like to thank all those that have given of their time and help to make this key hiking trail a possibility.

Sincerely,

James Kelley, Project Manager

Denny Bailey, President DITA

Scott Danforth, Grant Writer

Niagara Escarpment Trail and Marsh Birding Trail Proposal

The Drummond Island Tourism Association (DITA) has seen a significant increase in tourist requests for hiking trails. The requests are not just for hiking trails but for hiking trails in key areas.

DITA would like to undertake two new Hiking Trail projects with the State of Michigan, in response to these requests, and in order to add to the Drummond Island experience for our visiting tourists. Both trails would start from a parking lot at Sitgreaves Bay.

(1). The Niagara Escarpment Trail, roughly 3.5 miles in length (one way) covers some of the most pristine and unique areas of the Upper Peninsula.

It covers, a deep water, all natural harbor protected from every direction, with water so clear you can see bass fifteen plus feet down. The trail offers a walk along Lake Huron overlooking the international border and the Canadian neighboring islands of the Manitoulin. It covers miles of fossil beaches, the cliffs of the Niagara Escarpment, a glimpse of an Alvar region, a new growth pine and cedar forest, and ends at Shale Beach. Each area in its own is a marvel but together they make for an extremely enriching hiking experience. The Niagara Escarpment Trail would have few hiking trail equals anywhere in the state. It also lends to Drummond's early history in the lumbering days of Johnswood, the even early times of the native Americas and its most recent history as a playground for Drummond's Tourists. It is the Drummond Island Tourism Association's goal to make a trail equal to the beauty of the area it covers.

The Niagara Escarpment Trail would start at Sitgreaves Bay, at the end location of an improved road and follow the beach to Pilot Harbor (note: the area of the road to be improved is from Glen Cove to the Trail Head and is approximately .7 miles). Pilot Harbor is an all natural harbor with deep water. Pilot Harbor (N45.59 883 W083.29. 616) borders the trail and a sign directing boaters to what is viewable from the trail would be found at this location.

The trail would continue along the beach for approximately one mile, then rising with the Niagara Escarpment. (N45. 59. 287 W 083. 28. 552) Note: this area would require a switchback trail to rise from shore level to the escarpment bluff. It then would follow a path through the Alvar to Marble Head. A great location for one of two possible "viewing areas" can be found at N45.59.050 W083.28.504, and a second possible area with a great view is N 45. 58. 936 W 083. 28. 539.

The trail continues on to the larger ledge area to the south, "Eagles Landing," and then drops back down to the Lake Huron shoreline (N45. 58.687 W 083.28.677), following it a modest distance to Shale Beach. This would also give panoramic views of the False DeTour Passage and Ontario, Canada, all in one hiking trail! Please note: all the beach hiking would use an old ATV trail and very little work would be needed to turn this area into a key part of the trail system. It also adds to a fantastic view of Lake Huron in an area void of any sign of human development.

The trail that would leave the beach and follow the escarpment would be about one mile and that includes the part of the path leading up to the escarpment and down from it. This trail could be made with cutting few trees larger than five inches in diameter.

Marsh Birding Trail

(2). A short trail (at this time unnamed), but for this purpose we will call the Marsh Birding Trail, about .6 mile in length for bird and wildlife viewing. This trail will be due west of the parking area and a short walk down the improved dirt road will lead to the trail head. For Drummond, this would be modestly unique as the trail would view a marsh system from high ground (looking down into the marsh area). The trail forks once the side trail going left as you walk in may need a small wooden bridge to cross a low depression area (bridge length around 10/12 foot).

The Drummond Island Writing Team, at the November 7th-8th, 2011 meetings unanimously voted on two issues in support of these two trails. See exact wording below.

The group recommends: (1). The DNR review the DITA trail proposal, which creates the Niagara escarpment hiking trail on the extreme east end of the Drummond Island. This proposed trail would start at Sitgreaves Bay, follow the beach to Pilot Harbor, continue along the beach for about one mile, then rising with the Niagara Escarpment, it would follow a path through the Alvar to Marble Head and then continue on to the south to its end before dropping back down to the Lake Huron Shoreline a short distance to Shale Beach. (2). The escarpment plan will also include a wildlife viewing birding trail that is on the north side of the Pilot Harbor Marsh.

The group recommends: (3). The DNR support the improvement of the road from Glen Cove to Sitgreaves Bay to be passable by a two-wheeled drive sedan.

Both trails would be visited and hiked from the same jump off point. To do this there would need to be an improved road to Sitgreaves Bay, (see 3. above) a parking area, "his and hers" rustic privies built over a concrete vault and signage to direct people to the trail heads. Benches along the trail would be added, markers in distance walked, signs to explain what you are seeing and improvements like foot bridges and viewing decks to safely see over the edge of the escarpment. It is also being considered to make a small part handicap accessible. (See Map poster for proposed trails).

A photo recap: Each photo or photos has a number 1 through 14 below is a description of each.

1. Marsh Birding (wildlife viewing) Trail. A short walk from the parking area at Sitgreaves Bay down an improved road leads to the trail head. Hiking area is over mostly level ground with a high ground view of marsh area. From the trail head to the end of the trail, one way is about .6 mile.

2. View from the Marsh Trail.
3. Sitgreaves Bay, marked with improved road, parking area, and the first leg of the trail to Pilot Cove.
4. Sitgreaves Bay Trail Head: The jump off point and location of the main sign highlighting the Niagara Escarpment Trail.
5. Trail to Pilot Harbor, Pilot Harbor and trail cutting through tree line. (note: path or trail to the beach area on the east side of Pilot Harbor is already there.)
6. View through the tree line at Pilot harbor.
7. Old ATV trail on beach heading southeast toward Marble Head. (note: you can still see trail and tire tracks). Except the trail up on to the escarpment, the Niagara trail will use this old ATV trail most of the way. Also note: there is a current snowmobile trail from Eagle's landing, going south toward Shale Beach and down to the beach that will also be used if possible. The only areas of more than very modest change would be the trail up onto the escarpment and viewing platform location or locations.
8. Pilot Harbor at the top of photo and trail along the beach to Marble Head.
9. Cracks like these two photos are in three or four locations along Escarpment; these photos were added to show that short foot bridges could be added and would improve the hiker's experience.
10. Marble Head area.
11. Eagles Landing. Outcrops of stone with trees growing out of them or with cracks are found along the whole escarpment. A view from the water in the area of Eagle's Landing.
12. Old ATV or snowmobile trail down on the south end of the escarpment heading toward Shale Beach and a view from the trail after leaving the escarpment, close to Shale Beach.
13. Trail leading into Shale Beach. Note: you can see a parking area for the ORV's and the stones that the DNR have in place to keep them off of the beach. ATV and ORV users can enjoy this hiking trail with jump off points at Sitgreaves Bay, Marble Head and Shale Beach. Just like boaters can use it when they moor at Pilot Harbor. This truly will be a trail used by many. With the improved road to Sitgreaves Bay and a moderately level trail along Lake Huron (for the greater part) this area can be enjoyed by almost everyone.

Also note: to obtain some Federal grants part of the trail possibly will have to be handicap accessible.

14. Shale Beach. The Niagara Escarpment Trail, from the parking lot at Sitgreaves Bay to Shale Beach and back is a seven mile hike. If you were to include the hike from the parking lot to the far end of the Marsh Birding Trail, you would have a total of just over eight miles. This is the first and only serious hiking trail in Drummond Township or in the Eastern U.P. on public land.

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT TRAIL



6 LAKE HURON TRAIL



2 PILOT HARBOR



3 SITGREAVES BAY



4 MARSH BIRDING TRAIL



5 SHALE BEACH



- - - Improved Dirt Road
- Coastal Trail
- Escarpment Trail
- Marsh Birding Trail
- ▭ Parking Lot
- ▨ Overhang Deck
- ▧ Handicapped Trail
- ▭ Restroom
- ▲ ATV/ ORV Trails



1 MARBLE HEAD

4 BACKGROUND PHOTO
MARSH BIRDING TRAIL





TRAIL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Header Section: This section identifies project initiator; type of trail to be developed; project name; and project location.			
Area/District Drummond Island - Chippewa County		Project Name Niagara Escarpment Trail	
County Chippewa	Township Drummond	Range R.8E	Section 36-30-31 &6
Trail Type: Hiking			

A. DEVELOPMENT OF PROPOSED TRAIL	
1. Length of the proposed trail (miles/kilometers) 3.5 one way (Miles)	2. Width of the proposed trail (feet) 18 to 30 inch
3. Roads Show, in miles, the portion of the proposed trail on existing, plowed or unplowed roads. Show miles by topography category. Level Miles 0	4. Jurisdiction of Roads Show miles/kilometers by appropriate jurisdiction. DNR Miles 0
5. Improvements Needed: (Show the number of miles/kilometers of the proposed trail that will require grading and/or brushing.) (Miles) <input type="checkbox"/> Grading <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brushing Cost: \$305,600.00	6. Stream Crossing(s): Show total number of water crossings; width and depth of each crossing. If more space is needed, attach additional sheet listing the water crossings and width and depth of each Number: 0 Width: Depth:
7. Culverts / Bridges: Show number of culverts and estimated cost of the culverts; show number of bridges and the estimated cost of the bridges. No. of Culverts: zero Cost: \$ No. of Bridges: 3 Cost: \$ 5,400.00	8. Total Estimated Cost of Development: This should include all estimated costs of trail development. "Other" costs should be explained in the comments section. \$ 750,000.00
9. Method of Payment (Check one to indicate how trail development will be accomplished.): <input type="checkbox"/> Contract <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant <input type="checkbox"/> FMFM	
10. Land Ownership (Show miles of proposed trail by ownership category.) (shown in Miles): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State: 3.5 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal: <input type="checkbox"/> Private: <input type="checkbox"/> County:	
<p>On land ownership maps, show location of needed improvements, bridges, etc. COMMENTS (Indicate specific concerns that would affect the proposed trail development. Explain "other" trail development costs not covered elsewhere.):</p> <p>See attached statement to Cover #5. , #7 & #8. Note : also please find a list of other expenses listed under # 8.</p>	

B. ANNUAL MAINTENANCE	
Show estimated annual costs for grooming and any on-going special maintenance needs, i.e. grading. Identify each cost such as grooming, grading, leases, etc.	
11. Estimated Annual Cost	Cost Explanation (i.e., grooming, grading, etc.)
\$ 600.00/1,000.00	There are No leases, grooming etc. materials used will be for lowest maintenance
\$	possible, there will be normal maintenance fees, and repairs and annual fee to
\$	toilets at Sitgreaves Bay parking pump. The above figure is an estimate only.
\$	

DNR USE ONLY (Section C - Project Notification/Approval)			
The trail development proposal must be signed by the Forest Unit Manager and Habitat Biologist and forwarded with required maps, to Forest, Mineral & Fire Management (FMFM) State Forest Supervisor's office.			
_____ <i>Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Unit Signature</i>	_____ <i>Date</i>	_____ <i>Area Habitat Biologist Signature</i>	_____ <i>Date</i>
State Forest Supervisor: Comment, sign and mail original proposal with land ownership maps and comments attached to the Lansing office.			
_____ <i>State Forest Supervisor's Signature</i>	_____ <i>Date</i>	_____ <i>Fisheries Supervisor Signature</i>	_____ <i>Date</i>
_____ <i>Wildlife Supervisor Signature</i>	_____ <i>Date</i>		
Lansing Office: Route proposal through Division offices. Upon receipt of proposal signed by respective Division Chief's, State Trails Coordinator shall prepare recommendation to FMFM Chief; approved proposals shall be distributed to the appropriate Forest Supervisor's Office and Unit Offices.			
_____ <i>Chief, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management</i>	_____ <i>Date</i>	_____ <i>Chief, Fisheries</i>	_____ <i>Date</i>
_____ <i>Chief, Wildlife</i>	_____ <i>Date</i>	_____ <i>State Trails Coordinator</i>	_____ <i>Date</i>

Trail Development Proposal

5. Improvement needed: area that needs brushing and trails created is about 1 mile.

Please note: this estimate is for an 18 to 30 inch trail, chipping all cut trees, and adding no fill. It would be in this same area and there is a good chance that part of trail will be handicap usable, due to the mandate of a federal grant. If this becomes handicap usable in part this estimate will go way up and this price is no longer valid. This estimate covers the trail on to the bluff only and no where else, due to the fact that the rest of the trail system needs no brushing. It does not cover any type of ground fill, bridges, viewing areas or anything else. The estimate is just to cut and chip cuttings and create a base trail. Estimated Cost : \$17,200.00

Please Note: Due to the fact that the grants DITA is pursuing are Federal, there is a very good chance they will require at least a part of the trail to be handicap usable. We are looking at a 1/2 to 3/4 mile from Marble Head to Eagles Landing or Sitgreaves Bay to Pilot Harbor. This would add greatly to the overall cost. The handicap accessible trail would be 1/2 to 3/4 mile in length. Estimated Cost: \$187,000.00

All trails not covered underbrushed trails about 2.5 miles along the beach Estimated Cost: \$27,000.00

Switchback trail from the beach to the escarpment bluff & down again at Eagles Landing. Note: We could only get a guess at this due to digging by hand and overall size. Also a concern would be shoring up the other edge if needed and the materials to do this. This price alone could double. The prices range average estimated : \$74,400.00

Estimated Cost Totals for trail development: \$ 305,600.00

7. Bridges/Culverts: Please see photo #9 titled Marble Head Crack. Cracks like this are located in hiking area. They can be bypassed by lengthening the trail and going around them, but due to the short span and the view made possible by walking over them, including them would add to the hiking experience. There are two locations that short spanned bridges, to cover areas less than six feet, would be needed. A third bridge may be needed on the Marsh Birding Trail, which would be about ten to twelve foot in length.

Estimated Cost: for all three \$5,400.00 (No culverts are needed).

8. Due to the fact that the grants DITA is pursuing are Federal, they may require at least a part of the trail to be handicap usable. We are looking at a 1/2 mile from Marble Head to Eagle's Landing or Sitgreaves Bay to Pilot Harbor. This would add greatly to the overall cost.

This grant would pay for parking lot, privy toilets, improved road, viewing platforms, bridges, trail head signage, signage along the trail, benches, engineer fees if needed, brochure, adding information about the trail to DITA webpage, adding information to the Drummond Map and general overall promotion. All construction projects would be open to public bid.

Other estimated expenses related to this trail proposal:

D. Improved road .7 miles: \$36,700.00

E. Parking Lot, with "his and hers" rustic privies with concrete vault. Major sign explaining and showing the both trails, distances and key locations and information: \$107,000.00

F. Trail head sign (with logo) and long term information: \$11,450.00

G. Trail signs: 6 main signs plus 1/2 mile markers, etc.: \$23,400.00

H. Benches: \$3,880.00

I. First over viewing platform: \$57,800.00

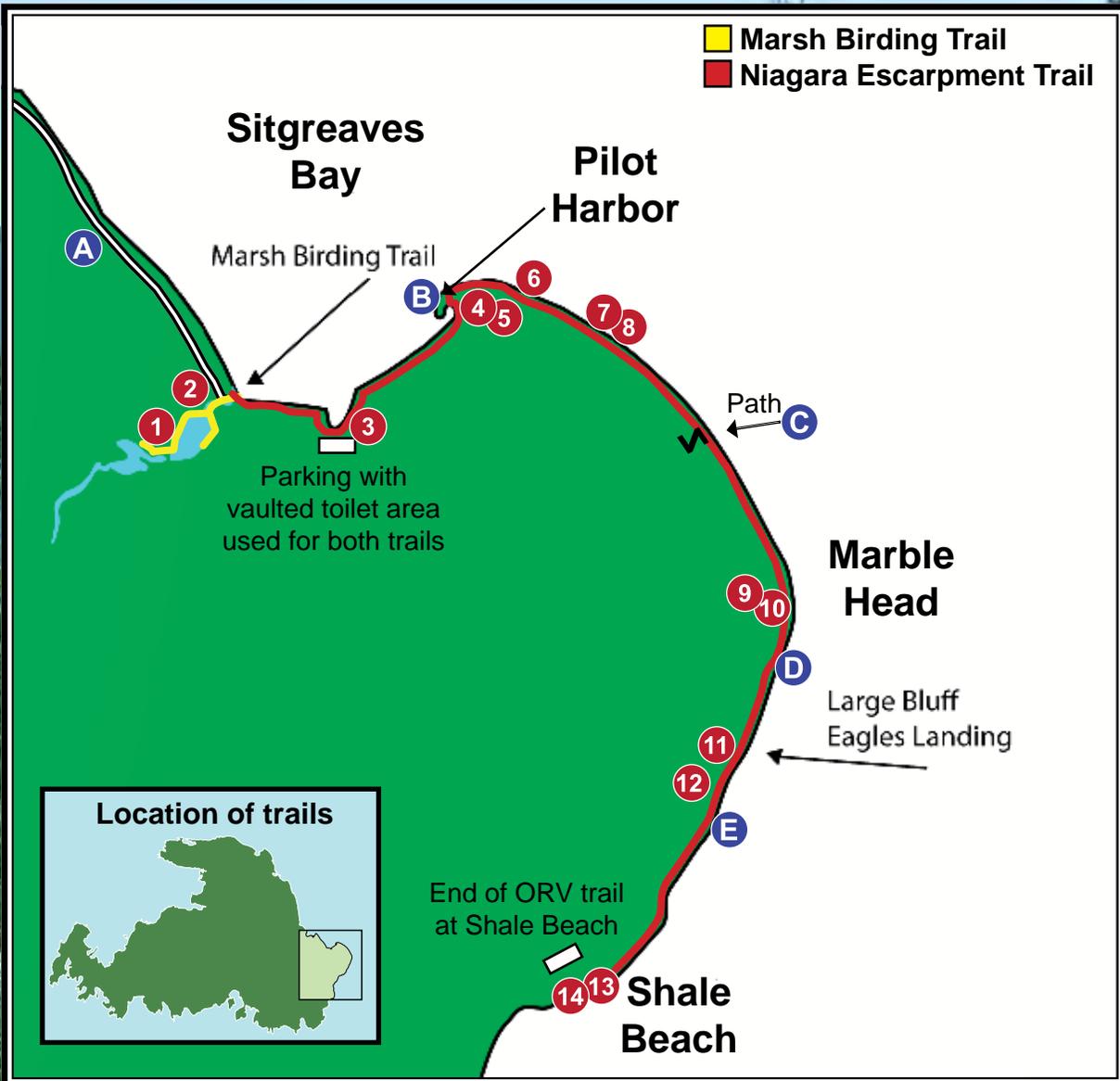
J. Second overhang platform : \$52,700.00

K. Life lease on land at the corner of Johnswood Road and Kreetan Road (major sign) plus along Kreetan Road two more smaller directional signs: \$28,700.00

Please note these were estimates only. By the time we bid them they will be three years and maybe older and without a doubt the costs will go up due to inflation. Promotional materials including but not limited to; stand alone website, being added to DITA's website, being added to the State of Michigan website, creating a brochure, being included in the Drummond Map and a two page spread in the Drummond Island Magazine for the first two years, plus engineering fees and maintenance. (Engineering drawings may be required for the whole trail due to Federal grant and the price for this is unknown but assumed expensive).

Overall Cost: \$750,000.00

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT TRAIL & MARSH BIRDING WILDLIFE TRAIL



Red dots indicate photo location:

- 1 2 Marsh Birding Trail
- 3 Parking /vaulted toilet area
- 4 5 Pilot Harbor
- 6 7 8 Trail south of Pilot Harbor
- 9 10 Marble Head
- 11 12 Eagles Landing
- 13 14 Shale Beach

Blue dots indicate trail locations:

- A Improved road
- B Deep water harbor with dock N.45.59.883
W.083.29.616
- C Start of path up to escarpment N.45.59.287
W.083.28.552
- D Viewing area on escarpment N.45.59.050
W.083.28.504
- E Trail to Shale Beach N.45.58.687
W.083.28.677



MARSH BIRDING TRAIL

Pilot Harbor

Sitgreaves Bay

To Parking Area →

Trail Head →

Viewing Area





MARSH BIRDING TRAIL VIEW



Improved Road
Trail leads to
Marsh Birding Trail

Parking Lot

Trail Head

To Pilot Harbor



SITGREAVES BAY



TRAIL TO PILOT HARBOR



PILOT HARBOR



TRAIL SOUTH OF PILOT HARBOR



OLD ATV TRAIL ALONG THE BEACH



TRAIL SOUTH OF PILOT HARBOR



MARBLE HEAD CRACK





EAGLES LANDING



TRAIL TO SHALE BEACH



SHALE BEACH ~ END OF TRAIL



SHALE BEACH



Remote Campsite Project

Brief project description: It is the Drummond Island Tourism Association's (DITA) goal to have in each location four remote tent pads and to have four different locations. Three will be on the mainland of Drummond Island and one on Mare Island. All four locations are in remote areas on State land. Remote tent pads are a wooden platform with heavy duty corner post with tie downs and eyes for easy tent assembly. (See drawing and pictures).

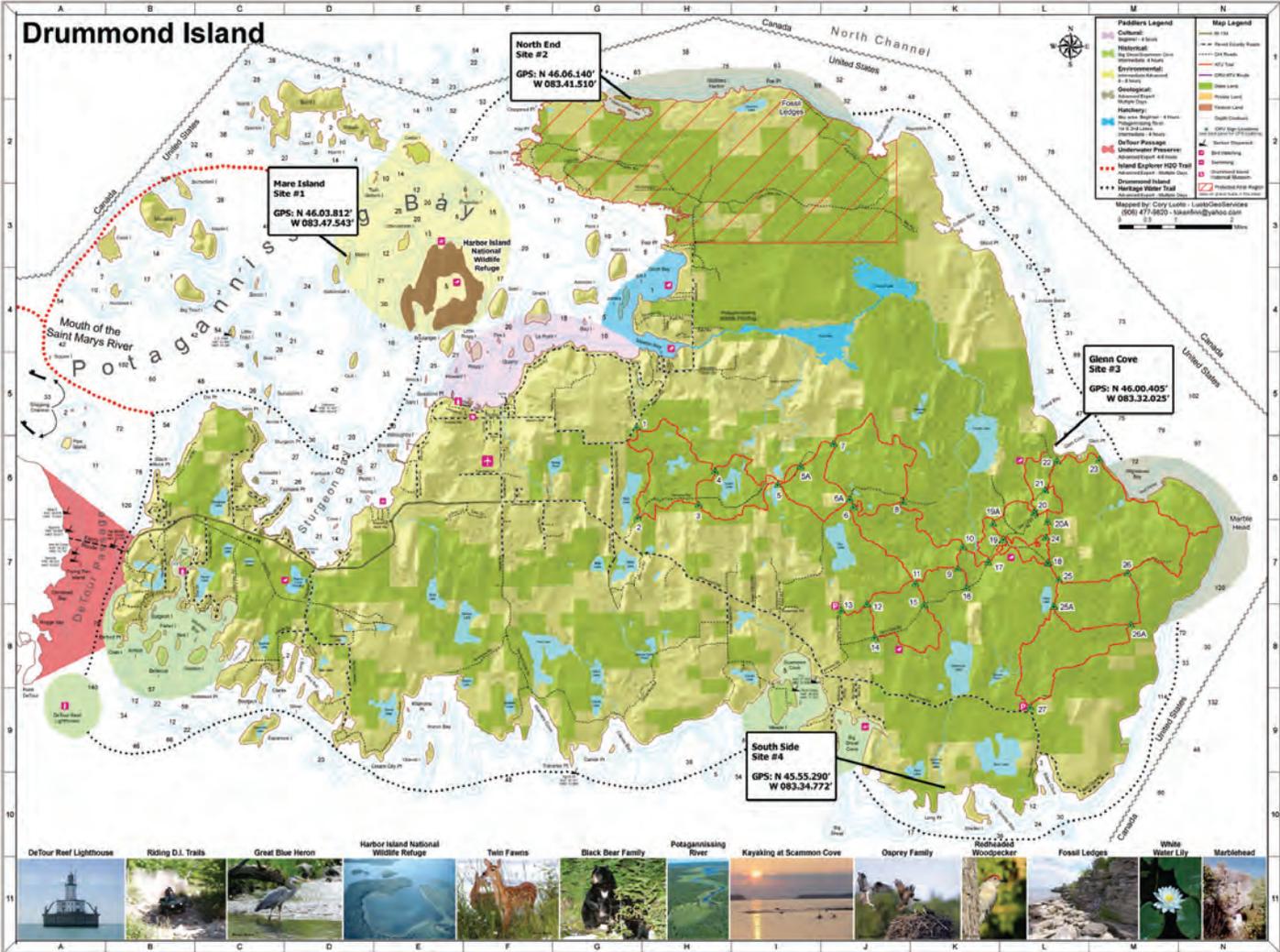
Statement of need: Drummond is 68% state-owned and the east end has vast areas that are extremely remote. It is DITA's goal with these remote tent sites to open this area to hunters and sportsmen of all types. These areas are hard to reach and have little hunting pressure. These sites will be used by tourists visiting Drummond, as well as locals. They are primarily for use by hunters, but may also be utilized by hikers, boaters, and paddlers to get maximum use in all seasons. Right now under Michigan state law there can be four remote tent camp sites at any one location with a permit. One platform will accommodate up to four tents at each location. By building these sites we can have them in Poison Ivy free areas, three plus feet above high water, and do it without hopefully cutting a tree. Our plan is to keep users in defined areas where both the DNR and DITA can inspect and police. DITA also would place visible markers on the beach for easy location finders. Add GPS and site locations on our web-site and map with a list of rules those enforced by DNR, including the policy of "nothing taken and nothing left behind". Our fourth location would be on Mare Island also on State land. Mare Island has been chosen because it lies just northwest of Harbor Island National Wildlife Refuge which is open to hunting. According to Seney N.W.R. (overseers), they would like more deer hunting there due to large of a Whitetail Deer population. The hunting there is governed by Michigan state laws and licensing. It's also the closest to Lime Island which is also State-owned. Lime Island has both cabins and remote tent sites with a significant docks area. Mare Island will create a stop-over location for hunters, paddlers, boaters, and sportsman in general. All our locations have multi- user potential, with hunters of all types as our first concern. Drummond Township is the local government body that will oversee the site but its maintenance and general upkeep will be overseen by the Drummond Island Tourism Association, DITA. See our web site: www.drummondislandchamber.com

Project Manager:

James G. Kelley 35409 S. Fairbank Pt. Rd. Drummond Island MI. 49726 906-493-5567 jkelly@alphacom.net

Project Assistant:

Scott Danforth 906-493-5233 scottdanforth@gmail.com

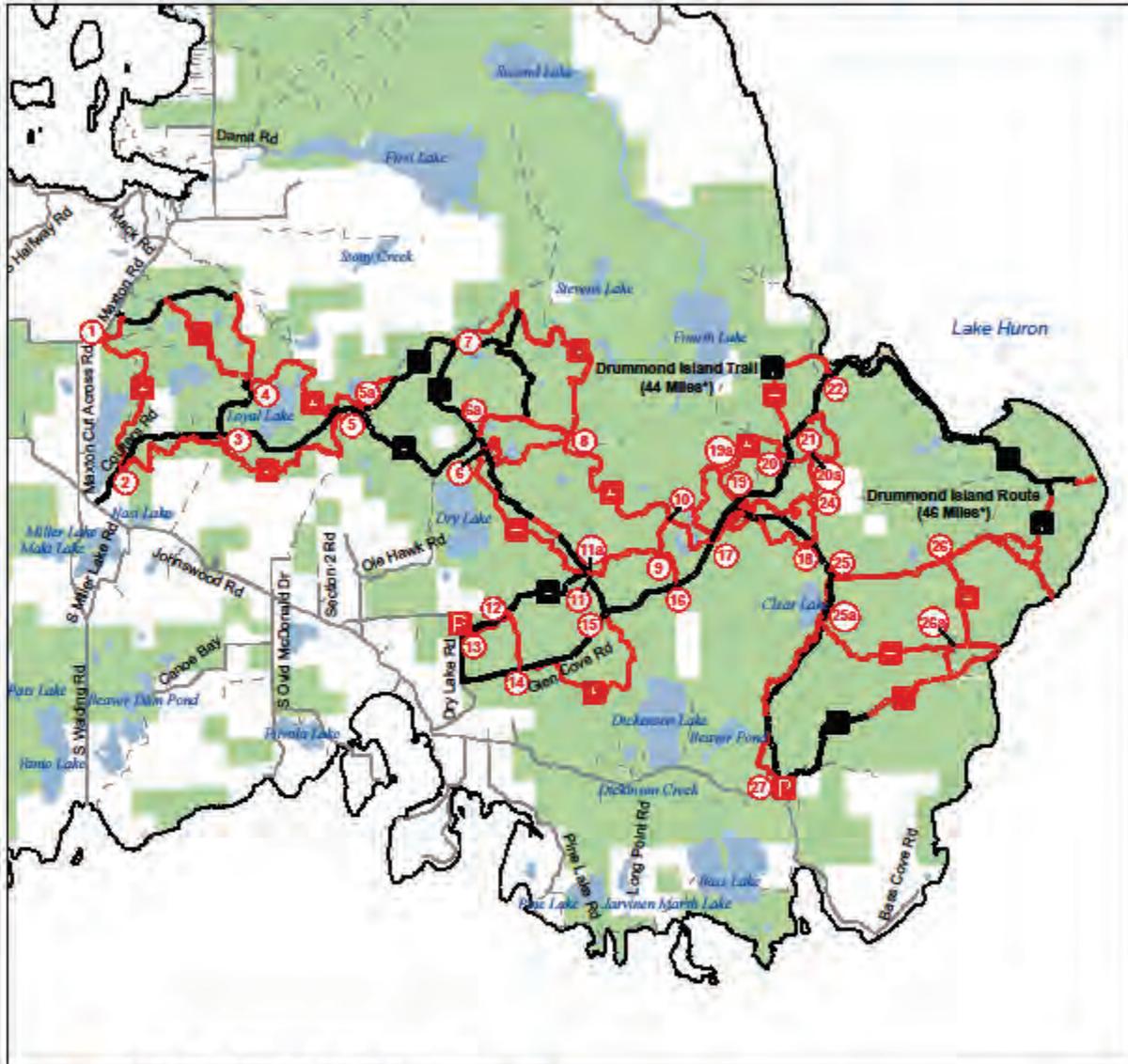


Drummond Island Precreation Map Showing Proposed Location of Camping Platforms

Drummond Island Trail & Route

Chippewa County, Michigan

GPS Data Disclaimer: Locational accuracy +/- 300 feet. Please use the GPS coordinate data as a general guide for trail location. It is not to be used as an exact location reference.



- ATV Trail – ORV's less than 50" in width including off-road motorcycles. (DNR license (ORV sticker) required)
- ORV Route – ORV's of all sizes including off-road motorcycles. (DNR license (ORV sticker) and high clearance 4wd required.)
- ORV Route – ORV's of all sizes including off-road motorcycles. (DNR license (ORV sticker) required unless licensed by the Secretary of State)

* Mileage shown is actual ground miles.
Advisory: Trails and Routes have two-way traffic.
Disclaimer: Trails shown on this map are an approximate representation of the trail system at the time of publication and may not reflect current ground conditions. **STAY ON SIGNED TRAILS ONLY!**

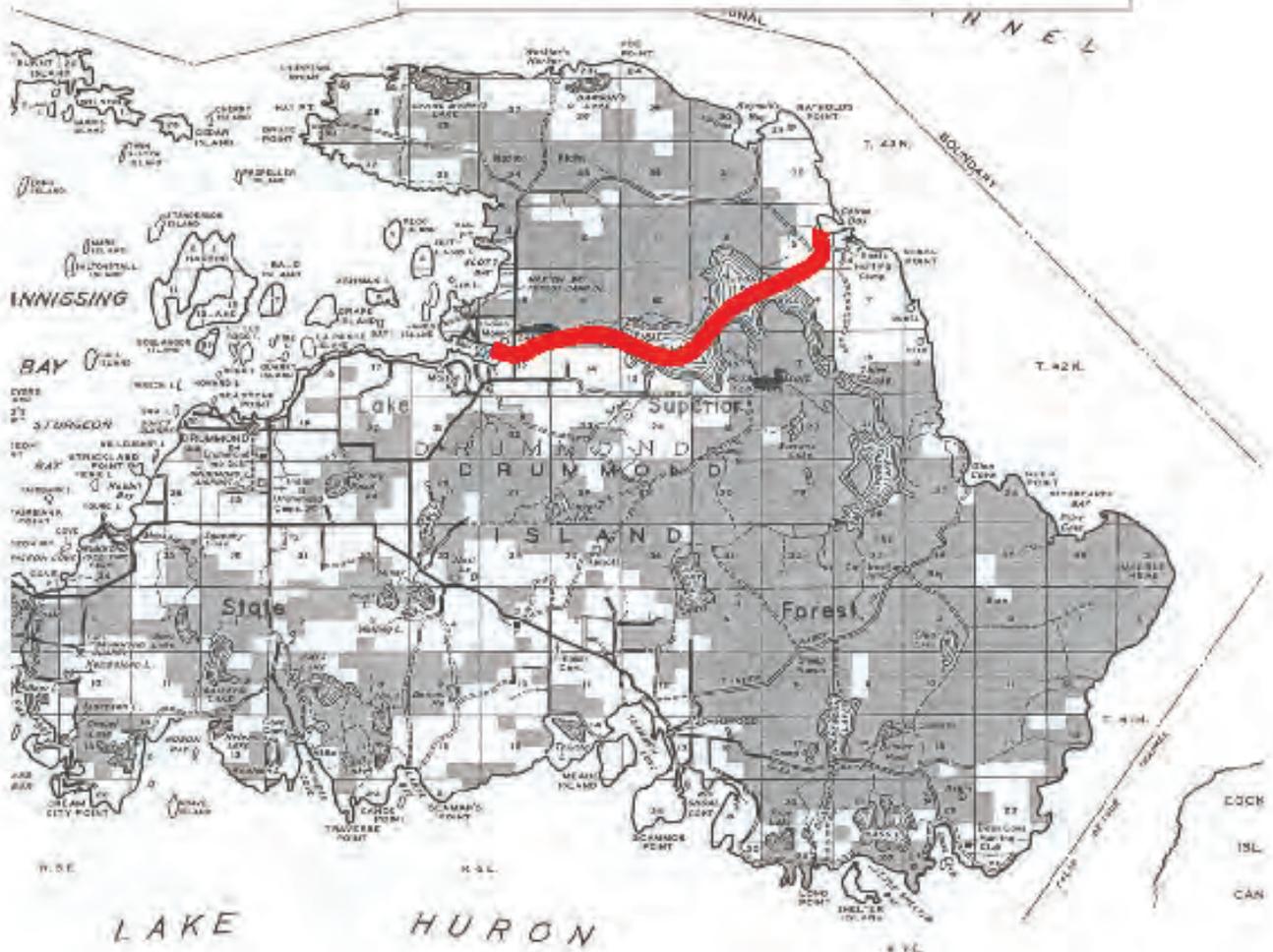
- Link to Download GPS file
- Trailhead Parking
- Intersection Number
- Highway
- Paved or Gravel Road
- Poor Dirt Road
- Lakes and Rivers
- State Land
- County Boundaries



Updated 6/28/2011

Appendix I

Restricted Area - No Wheeled Motorized Access
North of Potagannissing River and Lakes 1 and 2



STATE LAND



MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DRUMMOND ISLAND

CHIPPEWA COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Photo Credits

Page	Subject	Photo Credit
4	Drummond Island	Gerry Bailey
4	Aerial of Potagannissing River	D. Sandell
5	Kayak at the Ledges	Candis Collick
6	Deer	R Dorman
9	Cormorants	Michigan DNR
11	Pike	Jim Kelley
15	Rock Crawl	Steve Walker
16	South Marblehead Bypass	Yacht Haven Construction
17	EZ launch	EZ Dock Systems
18	Diver at ships wheel	Bud Huizing
20	Aerial of the Ledges	D. Sandell
20	Alvar Sign	Jim Kelly
21	Marble Head	J Stressman
22	Mature Old Stand Forest	Mike Kelly
23	Sunset	Drummond Island Tourism Association
24	Low Lake Levels at docks (2)	D. Bardsley

Abbreviations and Acronyms used in this report

AIS	Aquatic Invasive Species
ATV	All-Terrain Vehicle
DIORC	Drummond Island Off Road Club
DISC	Drummond Island Sportsman's Club
DITA	Drummond Island Tourism Association
DIWT	Drummond Island Writing Team
DNR	Michigan Department of Natural Resources
EZ Launch	A kayak launch device for the physically disabled manufactured by EZ-Dock USA
ORV	Off Road Vehicle