

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

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

Fayette Historic State Park



Base Features

- Fayette Historic State Park
- NRC Dedicated Boundary (2004)



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PLAN APPROVALS:

 Chief, Recreation Division

 Date

 Deputy Director, Stewardship

 Date

 Director, Department of Natural Resources and Environment

 Date



Aerial Image



Legend

-  Fayette Historic State Park
-  NRC Dedicated Boundary (2004)



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Management Planning is a defined strategic process within the PRD Strategic Plan (2009), reflecting the following Goals and Objectives:

- Goal 1, Objective 1.2: “Strengthen, update, and implement Management Plans.”
- Goal 3, Objective 3.1: “Perform landscape level assessment of recreation opportunities in decision making.”
- Goal 8, Objective 8.1: “Continue to use the CCMSP (Citizen’s Committee for Michigan State Parks), MSWC (Michigan State Waterways Commission), NRC (Natural Resources Commission), SWC (Statewide Council), and Ecoregion Teams and partners to advise in PRD planning, policy development, and issue resolution.”

In Delta County in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Fayette Historic State Park is located on the west shore of the Garden Peninsula, which in turn defines the east shore of Big Bay de Noc, on Lake Michigan. It is a relatively small park of approximately 721 acres that preserves and protects unique historic and cultural resources while providing active education and interpretation, and natural resource recreation opportunities.



Park Entrance Sign at M-183



Park Location – MDOT Map

Long-range planning for Fayette Historic State Park (HSP) began in September of 2003 as one of four parks statewide where a new planning philosophy was implemented. The process progressed through the “Public Input” stage in September of 2004, at which point, completion of the plan was put on hold for other PRD planning priorities. The completed plan follows.

“Management Planning”, a comprehensive, resource based process, is Parks and Recreation Division’s (PRD) adaptation of National Park Service planning methodology. In our iteration of this process, we focus our attention on the four principles of the PRD Mission Statement. To that end we thoroughly inventory the (1) natural resource values of the park, establish its (2) historic/cultural

resources, identify the (3) recreational opportunities and develop the (4) educational and interpretation opportunities of the park.

With this base of knowledge and with input of the “Planning Team” (made up of Department resource staff, stakeholders and public), we established an ‘identity’ for the park. The key significance of Fayette HSP is:

“Fayette is the most intact, post Civil War-era, charcoal iron-smelting company town in the United States.” (quotes from the ‘Cultural Resource Management Plan’ by SSOE, Inc.)

“Fayette represents the rapid industrialization of the United States. Led by the growth of the iron and steel industries, and the development of a national economy that took place as the industrial frontier moved west. Fayette became a leading producer of Michigan charcoal iron used in the American steel industry. The importance of the contribution made to this nation’s industrial revolution in the late nineteenth century makes the Fayette Town Site historically significant at both the state and national level.”

And, “What is unusual about Fayette, in addition to its beautiful setting, is the variety of historic resources which have been preserved here, the unusually high overall integrity of the site and its historic resources, both above and below ground...the product both of the site’s isolation and its long period of protection as a state park...and the wealth of the written record that has survived that will, in the future, facilitate interpretation of all aspects of the site.”

The historic Town Site lies in the protection of a natural harbor (Snail Shell Harbor) occurring in the Niagaran Escarpment of Silurian aged limestone and dolomite cliffs. The ecological significance of these limestone cliffs is that they provide the habitat for old-growth cedar (in excess of 1,000 years old), the rare slender cliff-brake fern, and three rare land snails.

From the Michigan Natural Features Inventory Report, “...limestone cliffs in the Great Lakes Region have been identified as globally significant habitat for land snail fauna.”

Fayette Historic State Park provides recreational opportunities for camping, boating, swimming, picnicking, trail use, hunting and other outdoor activities.

Fayette Historic State Park offers excellent opportunities for research, education, and interpretation in the areas of:

- Cultural aspects of Native American and European life.
- History of the Fayette Town Site and the surrounding area as part of the Industrial Revolution.
- The unique ecological systems of the limestone cliffs.

Fayette HSP became a state park in 1959 when the Mead Paper Company exchanged the property for other state land more suited to their business. Shortly thereafter, a small campground was developed and a park manager assigned. Not much else happened there until 1974 when the DNR and the Michigan History Division (Michigan Department of State) joined together to conduct an archaeological/cultural resources study and entered into a Memorandum of Understanding that joined these two agencies together for the purpose of stabilizing, renovating, and interpreting the unique historic and cultural resources of this park.

In concert with this effort of establishing an identity for this park, the Planning Team also developed a Management Zone Plan for the park. From a palette of nine standard zones, we utilized seven for Fayette HSP. The Management Zone Plan is found on page 19, and a thorough review of all zones accompanies that graphic. A condensed review of the zones applied at Fayette HSP is as follows: (Note...acreages given are approximate)

- Cultural Landscape Zone – the entire park falls within this zone designation (721 acres). It is established to recognize the historic impact of the entire property as part of the Fayette Town Site and environs. Evidence of that past culture can be found throughout the park.



Map of Town Site

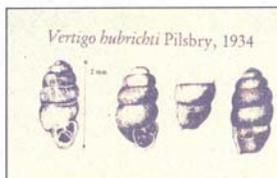


Restored building



Old foundation

- Ecologically Sensitive Zone – Totalling approximately 21 acres (3%), this designation protects three globally significant land snails, and cedar trees that date to over 1,000 years of age, found on the limestone cliffs along Lake Michigan. Public entry into this zone location will be restricted to protect the resource.



Protected land snail



Cedar trees on cliffs

- Natural Resource Recreation Zone – is approximately 583 acres (81%) of land that applies to the majority of the park. This land is characterized by fairly flat terrain, with moderate slopes and change in elevation as it approaches the west. It's land cover is scattered woods and open areas. In this zone, more active recreation takes place with trail use and hunting.



Trail through wooded area close to cliffs

- History Education Zone – this zone designation applies to two locations, and totals approximately 88 acres (12%) of the park. The largest is the historic Town Site of Fayette, which in cooperative management with the DNR Communications Division (with program formerly housed in Michigan Historical Center), and the Office of the State Archaeologist and the State Historic Preservation Office (both now under Michigan State Housing Development Authority), is under active restoration and educational programming. The second location is at the south end of the park and represents the old cemetery that is home to original settlers of the town.



Visitor Center



Interpretive display in Visitor Center



St. Peter's Church Cemetery

In this zone, archaeology has significantly affected the way Fayette is interpreted, the way it looks, and the way it is managed.

- Scenic Zone – Two areas in the park are designated in this zone. One is the top of the limestone cliffs (along the trail), which offers sweeping panoramic views of the Town Site and Lake Michigan, and the second is the view of these same cliffs from the Town Site. The zone represents approximately 8 acres (1%) of the park and is considered an “overlay” of both the “Natural Resource Recreation Zone” (trail) and the “History Education Zone” (Fayette Town Site).



Limestone cliffs at Snail Shell Harbor



View of Town Site from cliffs



Interpretation along cliff trail

- Developed Recreation Zone – this 25 acre zone (3%) is located along the Lake Michigan shoreline. It incorporates the semi-modern campground, day-use area, boat launch, and the mooring dock in Snail Shell Harbor.



Semi-Modern campground



Day-use shelter



Boat launch to Big Bay de Noc



Mooring dock in Snail Shell Harbor

- Visitor Services Zone – is located just outside the ‘Town Site’ and takes in the headquarters, shop, contact station, and storage area. It totals just over 8 acres (1%) of land.



Park Headquarters

The Department’s Land Consolidation Process identified an expansion of the park boundary to the south for purposes of cleaning up ownership to a well-defined line. As properties are acquired within the new boundaries (and/or with expansion of boundaries), the appropriate zoning will have to be determined and applied.

INTRODUCTION

Planning Process Overview – The Management Planning Process develops a series of planning steps, each built upon the previous, that keep all planning and action decisions focused on (1) the mission of the Parks and Recreation Division, and (2) the specific Purpose and Significance of the park.

There are four stages of planning, implemented in the following order:

- Phase 1 - General Management Plan (GMP) - 20-year zone plan
- Phase 2 - Long-Range Action Goals Plan – 10-year long-range action goals to attain the GMP
- Phase 3 – Implementation Plan - 5-year specific actions to implement
- Annual Work Plan and Progress Report – what will be done this year and what progress was made on last year’s plan

This is the **Phase 1 - General Management Plan**, the first step in our planning process. In this stage of planning, we are defining what the park will look like in twenty years. What will be the condition of flora and fauna? How will we address historic and cultural resources? What recreational opportunities will be provided? What education and interpretation efforts will meet the visitor? What will guide the manager’s operational decisions? What will be the visitor’s overall experience?

A key tool of this plan is the identification of “Management Zones” which define specific characteristics of the land, addressing management for:

- Natural features
- Historic/cultural features
- Education/interpretation
- Recreational opportunities

These four elements represent the primary elements of the PRD Mission Statement, and provide the primary guidance for both planning and management decisions. Within the parameters of this guidance, “Purpose” and “Significance” statements are developed for the park that establishes its unique identity and focus. No two parks are the same and this emphasis is directed at ensuring that the differences found from park to park are acknowledged, highlighted and celebrated.

Planning Objectives - The objective of this General Management Plan is to bring together Department staff, impacted and impacting stakeholders, and the public who use the park in a planning process that will define and clarify the unique “Purpose” and “Significance” of the Fayette Historic State Park. Collectively, we will reinforce those attributes in the planning and management

decisions that impact the park through the implementation of the Management Zone Plan. Future action plans, whether focused on a development proposal, a resource improvement initiative, an interpretive program, or day-to-day management of the park will be guided by this General Management Plan.

PLANNING TEAM

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Paul N. Curtis, Chair	RD – Park Management Plan Administrator - (Recreation Division)
Mike Cieslinski	RD – Baraga District Supervisor (retired)
Rich Hill Jr.	RD – Baraga District Supervisor (active)
Randy Brown	RD – Manager, Fayette Historic State Park
Keith Cheli	RD – Baraga/Gaylord District Planner
Ray Fahlsing	RD – Stewardship Unit Manager
Lisa Gamero	RD – Stewardship Unit Cultural Specialist
Dan Lord	RD – Development Planner
Kerry Wieber	RD – Resource Analyst (now in FMD)
Scott Lambert	RD – Student Assistant
Danielle Glasgow	RD – Student Intern
Jon Spieles	OEMT – Education Unit (Office of Education, Marketing, and Technology)
Tom Friggens	OEMT – Education Unit
Brenda Laakso	OEMT – Education Unit
Matt Tonello	CGI/SIRC - GIS Specialist (Center for Geographic Imaging/Spatial Information Resource Center)
Brian Conway	MSHDA (Michigan State Housing Development Authority)
John Halsey	MSHDA
Robb McKay	MSHDA

NOTE...review and comment by all DNR resource programs field staff was sought during formulation of the plan and will be solicited and incorporated during the plan review process. This includes input from: Fisheries Division, Forest, Mineral, and Fire Management Division, Wildlife Division, Law Enforcement Division, and the Office of Land and Facilities.

CORE VALUES

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

DNRE Mission Statement - *"The Department of Natural Resources and Environment is committed to the conservation, protection, management, and accessible use and enjoyment of the state's environment, natural resources, and related economic interests for current and future generations."*

RD Mission Statement - *"The Recreation Division's Mission is to acquire, protect, and preserve the natural and cultural features of Michigan's unique resources, and to provide access to land and water based public recreation and educational opportunities."*

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

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

- To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflect the mission of the DNR, the DNR Communications Division (with program formerly housed in Michigan Historical Center), the Office of the State Archaeologist and the State Historic Preservation Office, and the unique qualities of Fayette Historic State Park.
- To preserve and protect the park's historic/cultural resources for current and future generations
- To preserve and protect the park's unique natural resources for current and future generations
- To provide opportunities for recreational uses and experiences that are compatible with the park's resource(s) base.

Park Significance - Park significance statements capture the essence of the park's importance to our state's natural and cultural heritage. These statements describe the distinctiveness of Fayette Historic State Park. Understanding these

distinctions help managers make decisions that preserve those special resources and values necessary to accomplish the park's purposes.

- “Fayette is the most intact, post Civil War-era, charcoal iron-smelting company town in the United States.” (quote from the ‘Cultural Resource Management Plan’ by SSOE, Inc.)
- Additionally, “Fayette represents the rapid industrialization of the United States. Led by the growth of the iron and steel industries, and the development of a national economy that took place as the industrial frontier moved west. Fayette became a leading producer of Michigan charcoal iron used in the American steel industry. The importance of the contribution made to this nation’s industrial revolution in the late nineteenth century makes the Fayette Town Site historically significant at both the state and national level.”
- “What is unusual about Fayette, in addition to its beautiful setting, is the variety of historic resources which have been preserved here, the unusually high overall integrity of the site and its historic resources, both above and below ground...the product both of the site’s isolation and its long period of protection as a state park...and the wealth of the written record that has survived that will, in the future, facilitate interpretation of all aspects of the site.”
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 - The unique ecological systems of the limestone cliffs.

- Archaeology has significantly affected the way Fayette is interpreted, the way it looks, and the way it is managed.

Legal Mandates - For all park General Management Plans, all legal mandates will be identified and will serve to further guide the development of the General Management Plan and subsequent Action Plans. For our planning purposes, the term “Legal Mandates” refers to not only state law, but also the administrative tools of “Policy” and “Directive” of the Natural Resource Commission, the Department, and Parks and Recreation Division. Specific to Fayette Historic State Park, the following legal mandates have been identified:

- PA 451 OF 1994, PART 741 - STATE PARK SYSTEM - NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT - This act is the recodification of law that established the Michigan State Park System and defined the powers and duties of same. Notable in this law is Section 324.74102 which identifies the duties of the department and reinforces those core values cited above.

This section reads:

- (1) “The legislature finds:
 - (a) Michigan State Parks preserve and protect Michigan’s significant natural and historic resources.
 - (b) Michigan State Parks are appropriate and uniquely suited to provide opportunities to learn about protection and management of Michigan’s natural resources.
 - (c) Michigan State Parks are an important component of Michigan’s tourism industry and vital to local economies.
 - (2) The department shall create, maintain, operate, promote, and make available for public use and enjoyment a system of state parks to preserve and protect Michigan’s significant natural resources and areas of natural beauty or historic significance, to provide open space for public recreation, and to provide an opportunity to understand Michigan’s natural resources and need to protect and manage those resources.”
- PA 368 OF 1978, ARTICLE 12 - ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PART 125 – CAMPGROUNDS – This Act was established to protect and promote the public health by establishing health code requirements specifically addressing campgrounds. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Drinking Water and Radiological Protection Division is the administering agency that is responsible for the promulgation of the Administrative Rules for Campgrounds.

All public (including DNR) and private campgrounds must meet these DEQ regulations.

- MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) BETWEEN THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, ARTS AND LIBRARIES (HAL) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) – This MOA was executed on November 13, 2002, and defines the relationship between HAL and the DNR for collaborative management of historic sites and museum facilities located in specific parks, including: Fort Wilkins State Park, Fayette Historic State Park, Straits State Park, Hartwick Pines State Park, and North Higgins Lake State Park. It specifies department and joint responsibilities.

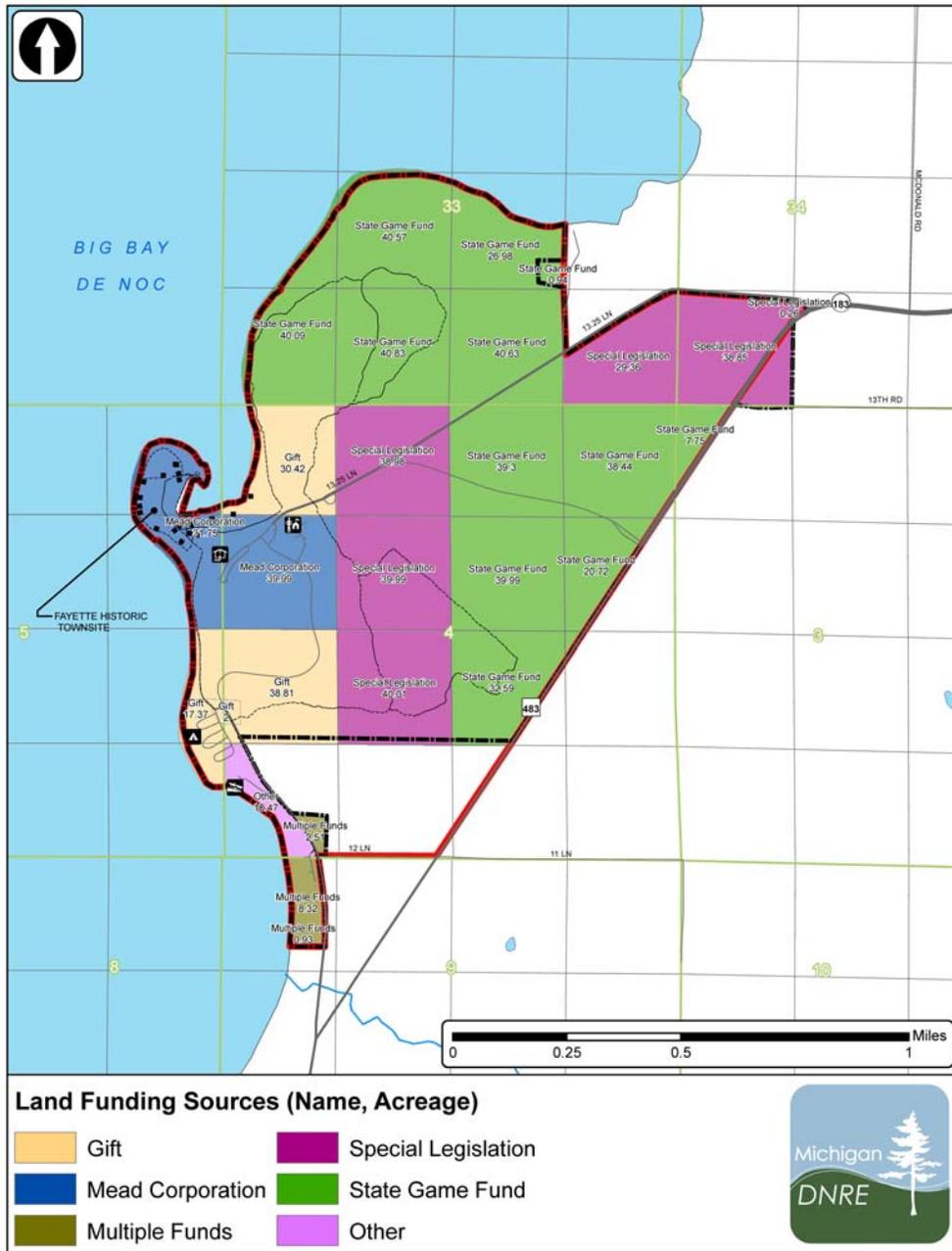
(NOTE...effective October 1, 2009, the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries was abolished by Executive Order No. 2009 – 36. Many of those functions were transferred to the Department of Natural Resources. Additionally, the DNR and DEQ were both abolished by Executive Order No. 2009 – 45, to merge as one department. Under these circumstances, the current MOA is categorically obsolete, and will have to be re-created to fit the new organization. A separate MOA will be required with MSHDA for cooperative management with that organization.)

- DEQ - F5 WATER TREATMENT CERTIFICATION - The potable water for the park is provided through a water treatment process that must follow the strict operational and testing requirements of the F5 Water Treatment Certification. The minimum requirements are as follows:
 - Waterworks System Operator F-5 (other staff can be trained & work in the water plant but a certified operator is responsible)
 - Daily monitoring of water levels in storage & on-line tank(s)
 - Daily check of chlorine residual in on-line & storage tanks
 - Daily check of chlorine residual in furthest locations - campground, town site & picnic area (in season) supervisor residence (off season)
 - Monthly monitoring for Coliform Bacteria per DEQ standards
- LAND OWNERSHIP
 - Special Legislation – Approximately 146 acres of the park was acquired with this fund source. It was a re-direction of funding from acquisition of the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, and is utilized for general program purposes.
 - State Game and Fish Fund – Approximately 347 acres of the park was acquired with this fund source. Derived from fees assessed on hunting and fishing equipment, this fund source must support habitat and hunting and fishing opportunities.
 - Recreation Bond Fund – 4.5 acres of the park were acquired with this funding source which is utilized for general program purposes.

On the Funding Source Map these are indicated with “Multiple Funds” and “Other” designations.

- Gift – Approximately 70 acres of the park were acquired by gift. It is utilized for general program purposes.

LAND ACQUISITION FUNDING SOURCES



- PA 451 OF 1994, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (EXCERPT) – 324.41901 Regulation and prohibitions in certain areas; powers of department; area closures; hearings, investigations, studies, and statement of facts; regulations. – This part of PA 451 establishes the powers of the Department to establish safety zones for hunting. In accordance with the Administrative Rules established by Wildlife Division for hunting safety, a 450’ “Safety Zone” is established around all occupied dwellings (which includes campgrounds and cabins). Under the State Land Rules, the Department also has the authority to expand the application of this 450’ “Safety Zone” to encompass “Day-Use Areas” such as beaches, picnic areas, boat launches, and parking areas, should the need arise. This is determined on a case-by-case basis. At Fayette HSP, the Hunting Safety Zones are represented below. Shown on the map is the area where hunting is allowed (hatched area). Those areas within the park that are not hatched are in the “Hunting Safety Zone.”

