



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Holly State Recreation Area Organizational Campground

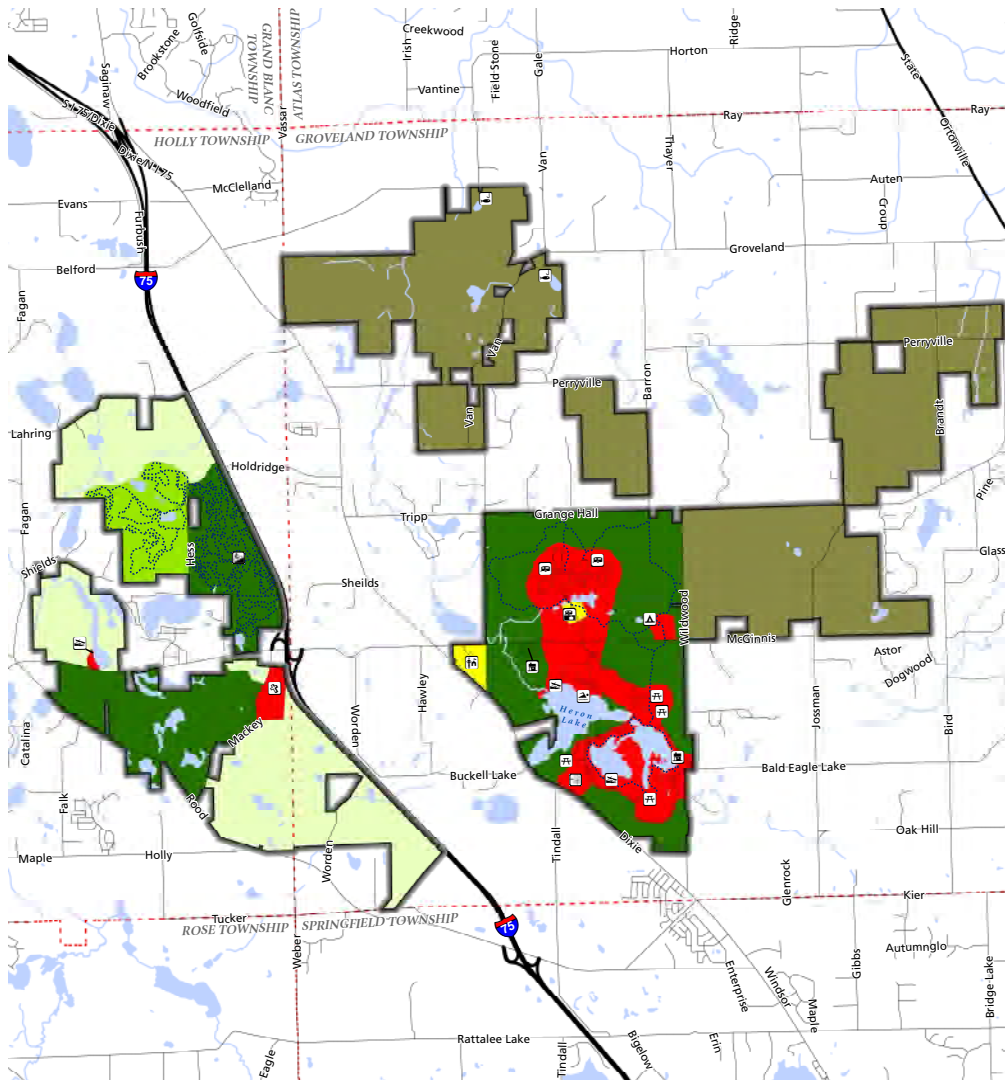
Holly State Recreation Area GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Approved May 14, 2018

Prepared with the assistance of

B R 
Beckett & Raeder

www.bria2.com



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES Date: 08-09-2017
Holly State Recreation Area - Draft Management Zones
 Date: 3-07-2018

- Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Holly State Recreation Area
 - Trails
 - Management Zones:**
 - Primitive
 - Backcountry
 - Natural Resource Recreation
 - Developed Recreation
 - Administrative Services
 - Wildlife Habitat by Dedication Zone
 - Cultural Landscape Overlay
 - Park Features:**
 - Beach Access
 - Boat Launch
 - Fishing Access
 - Model Airplane Field
 - Sanitation Station
 - Picnic Area
 - Park Headquarters
 - Modern Campground
 - Organizational Campground
 - Mountain Biking
 - Disc Golf
 - Cabin

Beckett & Raeder

This project was directed by Deborah Jensen, Management Plan Administrator, Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division with assistance from Beckett & Raeder, Inc.

PLAN APPROVALS *SM 5-8-18*

Kenneth A. Olson
 Chief, Parks and Recreation Division

William Dilise
 Natural Resources Deputy

Scott Cough
 Director, Department of Natural Resources

5/14/18
 Date

5/14/18
 Date

5/14/18
 Date

PLAN APPROVALS

PLAN APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The following dates reference when the plans were presented for recommendation. In some instances, additional time was allotted for plan review following the presentation with subsequent approval received by email.

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| PRD- Section Chiefs | <u>3/05/2018</u> Date |
| DNR- Resource Management Bureau | <u>4/10/2018</u> Date |
| MSPAC- Stewardship Subcommittee | <u>3/28/2018</u> Date |
| NRC- Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee | <u>4/12/2018</u> Date |

Note: Minor changes made to correct backcountry zone description 3/22/2021

RESOLUTION NO. 04-2018-02**MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)****RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE
“HOLLY RECREATION AREA GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN”****ADOPTED: April 12, 2018**

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division has completed the General Management Plan for Holly Recreation Area; and

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

WHEREAS, the planning process was further inclusive of stakeholder, constituent, and public input; and

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

WHEREAS, the General Management Plan is consistent with the recommendations of the Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel report submitted to Governor Rick Snyder; and

WHEREAS, the General Management Plan has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Parks and Recreation Division and the MSPAC Stewardship Subcommittee.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Holly Recreation Area General Management Plan; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee further recommends that the DNR Director approve the General Management Plan for Holly Recreation Area;

Submitted by: MSPAC Stewardship Subcommittee

Motioned by: MSPAC Chair, Louise Klarr
Seconded by: Committee Member, Mike McDonald

Yeas: 13
Nays: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: 1

This Resolution was adopted by the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee at their regular meeting on April 12, 2018 as Resolution No. 04-2018-02

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Sunset at Wildwood Lake

General Management Plan

Executive Summary

Located within the northern portion of Oakland County between Pontiac and Flint, Holly State Recreation Area (HSRA) is less than an hour drive from the Detroit metropolitan area. HSRA is approximately 50 miles north of the city of Detroit and 20 miles south of Flint. The park is just off I-75, making HSRA a quick getaway to nature for the nearby cities. This is one of a number of recreation areas in the southeast portion of Michigan providing opportunities for outdoor recreation for the surrounding region.

Holly State Recreation Area's 8,007 acres of rolling woodlands and open fields provides opportunities for a variety of outdoor activities. The recreation area offers camping, swimming, and picnicking, as well as fishing, boating, and 34 miles of hiking, mountain biking, and cross-country ski trails. The majority of the recreation area is open to hunting, with approximately one-third of the acreage dedicated to game management.

The purpose of this General Management Plan (GMP) is to guide the future long-term management of Holly State Recreation Area. Overall, this plan seeks to uphold the Parks and Recreation Division's (PRD) Mission: "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 management plan brings together DNR staff, stakeholders,

and the public into a process that defines the following for the recreation area:

- Purpose and significance that captures the unique identity of Holly State Recreation Area
- 20-year Management Zone Plan reflecting the resource protection goals and level of development appropriate for different areas of the park
- Ten-year action goals that address the desired future condition within the recreation area as a whole and within each of the designated management zones

While the GMP addresses some specific natural resource goals for the recreation area, a separate Stewardship Plan will be developed to identify targets for conservation and related natural resource goals and management strategies. In addition, a wildlife plan will be developed by the Wildlife Division for areas dedicated to game management.

The Supporting Analysis, included as Appendix A of this plan, provides important background information on Holly State Recreation Area that informs this planning initiative. It includes a comprehensive review of the park setting, area demographics, history, land ownership, legal mandates, and cultural, natural, and recreation resources. Furthermore, several existing planning documents, including the Michigan State Parks Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel Report and the Michigan Comprehensive Trails Plan, were used as guiding references (See Chapter 1).

Significance of Holly State Recreation Area

Each General Management Plan (GMP) developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) is derived from the recreation area's significant features that make it distinct from other parks in the state's system. Holly State Recreation Area (HSRA) was determined significant due to the following:

Wide Range of Activities Close to Population Center

A wide range of recreation experiences accessible from nearby urban centers can be experienced at HSRA. The quiet and natural surroundings of Heron Lake offer a day use beach, electric-only motor boating, paddling opportunities, as well as calm-water and shoreline fishing. HSRA has a well-developed trail system through serene natural areas, challenging mountain biking trails, and hunting and fishing opportunities, all within a short drive from Flint, Pontiac, and Detroit.

Administration

Two divisions of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources co-manage this recreation area: the Parks and Recreation Division and the Wildlife Division. Areas of the park are specifically managed for wildlife and hunting by the Wildlife Division in partnership with the Parks and Recreation Division. In addition, hunters can obtain the Successful Hunter patch at the deer check station, which is an important biological data gathering opportunity for the DNR.

Trend Setting

Holly State Recreation Area is innovative and trend-setting in its recreation offerings. The aqua park on Heron Lake is a distinctive and popular attraction, and the Holly Woods Disc Golf Course was the first of its kind among the state parks system.

Diverse Overnight Lodging Opportunities

A popular, spacious campground, with a buffer of vegetation between most sites, and several cabin options are available at this park. HSRA has repurposed a former beach area as a modern cabin site, bringing new life to an underutilized part of the park.

Located Within a Recreation Hub

HSRA is located within a hub of recreation opportunities for the urban population centers that surround it. Nearby recreation amenities include six state parks and recreation areas, two state game areas, as well as several Oakland County parks, Mount Holly Ski and Snowboard Resort, the Michigan Renaissance Festival, a future ORV Adventure Park, and the Rotten Manor Haunted House. HSRA and surrounding parks and recreation areas host various special events drawing many visitors from the region.

Natural Resources

The park's expansive area supports a variety of wildlife habitats and natural communities. It contains oak barrens, dry-mesic southern forests, and southern hardwood swamps. HSRA contains five exemplary prairie fens, which support prairie grasses, wildflowers, wetland plants, and endangered species. HSRA also contains managed habitat areas for the eastern massasauga rattlesnake.

Historic Rolston Cabin

Holly State Recreation Area is home to the historic Rolston Cabin, an authentic log cabin constructed in 1938-39. Some of the original materials still remain, such as a portion of the cedar shingle roof, oak flooring, fireplace, rafters, and wood frame windows.



Jump Island Aqua Park

Management Zones

A key goal in the development of this General Management Plan is to continue providing the opportunities and features that attract so many visitors to the park each year, while simultaneously protecting the park's resources. Taking this into account, the planning team, with stakeholder and public input, established appropriate Management Zones for the park.

From a palette of nine standard zones, five zones, one overlay, and one non-standard zone were applied to Holly State Recreation Area. The Management Zone Map and a thorough review of each Management Zone are found in Chapter 4 of this Plan. A condensed description of each of the applied Management Zones is as follows:

Primitive Zone

This zone reflects a desired condition that emphasizes the natural resources. It is managed to allow only dispersed and low frequency use for low impact recreational purposes. The primitive zone covers approximately 17% of the park and includes the majority of the eastern massasauga managed lands, and areas with sensitive natural communities.

Backcountry Zone

The character of this zone is natural, with minimal evidence of human impact. This zone allows for increased use, including non-motorized trails, and low-impact modifications of the landscape to accommodate that use. This zone comprises approximately 4% of the park and includes the eastern massasauga managed lands that are already developed with mountain bike trails.



Hiking Trails

Natural Resource Recreation Zone

This zone allows for active recreation with medium to high density of use conducted in natural settings. An emphasis on resource quality over recreation remains, but in this zone, higher levels of use are allowed. This zone makes up approximately 27% of the park and includes the lands developed with hiking and mountain bike trails and the majority of the area between Mackey and McGinnis Road on the west side of the park.

Developed Recreation Zone

This zone allows active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced as possible. This zone is approximately 11% of the park land and includes the campgrounds, picnic areas, beaches, boating access sites, disc golf course, and the model airplane flying field.

Administrative Services Zone

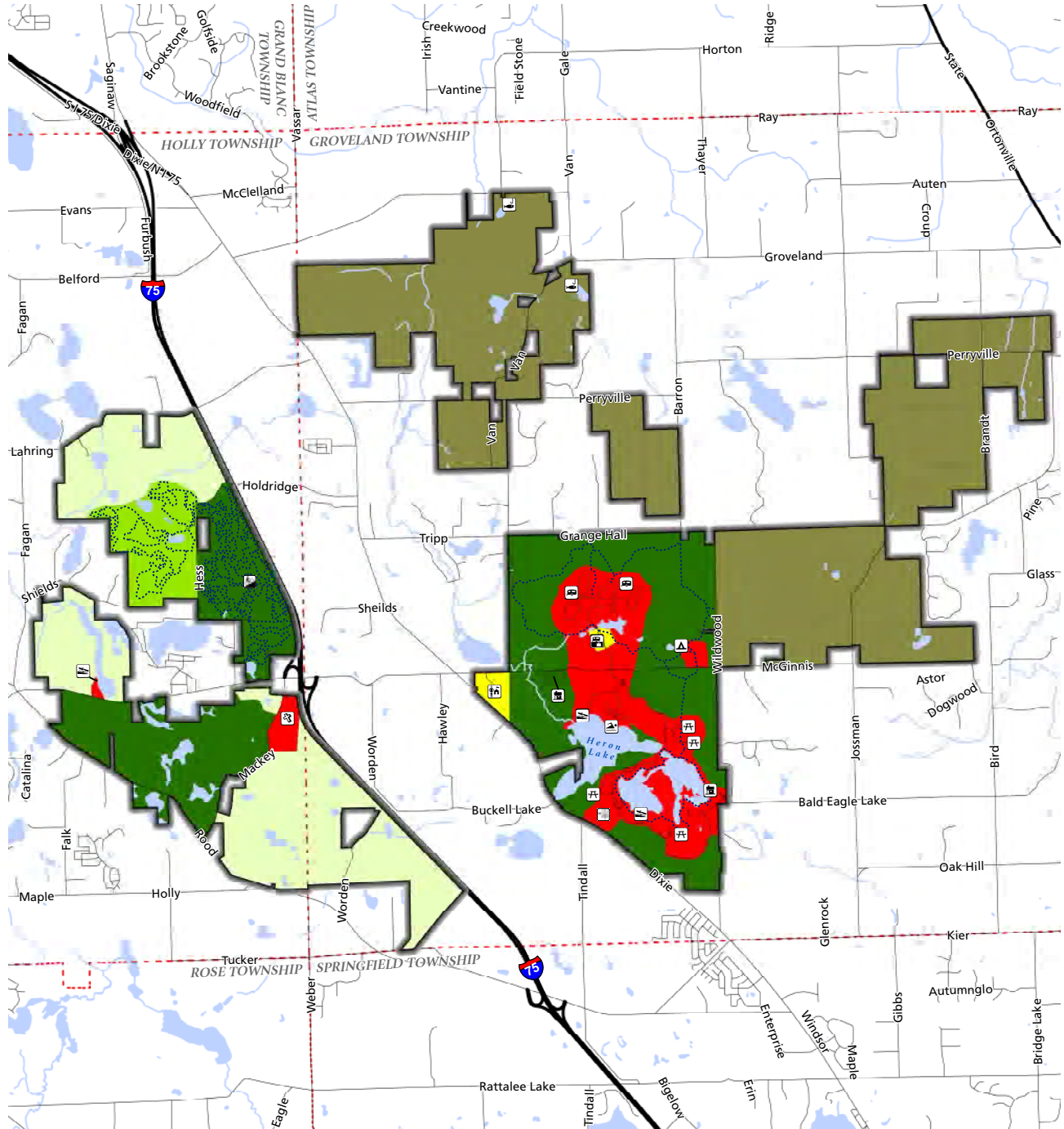
This zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. Typically, it will include offices, contact stations, maintenance facilities, and all related land base required to conduct the business of running a state park. This zone is approximately 1% of the park and includes the park headquarters and the campground wastewater infrastructure.

Wildlife Habitat by Dedication Zone

This special (non-standard) zone recognizes land dedicated by the Department of Conservation for game (wildlife) management. It is managed for game and non-game wildlife species and only allows dispersed and low frequency use in the zone for low impact recreational purposes. Recreational improvements, other than those needed to facilitate hunting, fishing, or wildlife viewing will be limited or restricted. This zone comprises approximately 40% of the park and includes lands purchased through the State Game Fund.

Cultural Landscape Overlay

This zone addresses the overall setting which includes not only historic structures, but also non-structural evidence of the traditions, beliefs, practices, arts, crafts, and social institutions of any community. This overlay is a tiny fraction of the park, only 9.2 acres of park land, and includes the area around the Rolston Cabin.



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Date: 08-09-2017



Holly State Recreation Area - Draft Management Zones

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Date: 3-07-2018

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Ten-Year Action Goals

Once the planning team has established management zones to guide HSRA development for the next 20 years, a series of action goals are identified. The planning team has determined these goals as the items that can be accomplished in the next 10 years. The goals are broken down into categories pertaining either to a single management zone or to the park as a whole. Below is a summary of the action goals for each zone. The full list of 10-year action goals can be found in Chapter 5.

General Action Goals (apply park-wide)

The general action goals for HSRA focus on managing the park's natural resources, controlling invasive species, protecting cultural resources, educating park visitors about protected species and stewardship, coordinating with Oakland County concerning upcoming projects of shared interest, and updating signage within and outside of the park.

Primitive Zone

Maintaining and restoring prairie fens and other natural communities is the goal in the primitive zone.

Backcountry Zone

In the backcountry zone, continued operations and maintenance of the Holdridge Lakes Mountain Bike Area is the focus.

Natural Resource Recreation Zone

Similar to the backcountry zone, the continued operations and maintenance of the mountain bike trails in the Natural Resource Recreation Zone is the top priority.

Developed Recreation Zone

Within this zone, action goals focus on improving the visitor experience and amenities at Heron Beach and boat launch, improving and expanding overnight accommodations, and removing unused infrastructure.

Administrative Services Zone

Improving the administration building infrastructure is the goal in this zone.

Wildlife Habitat by Dedication Zone

The wildlife management zone goal is to continue to proactively co-manage Holly State Recreation Area lands.

Cultural Landscape Overlay

The goals of this overlay zone focus on the Rolston Cabin, including evaluating and completing cabin renovations and constructing interpretive signage.



Hiking at Holly State Recreation Area



Patriot Bike Parade Preparations

Chapter One: Core Values & Guiding Resources

1.1 Mission Statements

Throughout the planning process, the core values of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) were the foundation of the planning team's decisions. These include the mission statement of the DNR, the five goals of the DNR, and the DNR Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) mission statement. These values set the protection of natural and cultural resources and the provision of recreational and educational opportunities at the forefront of the plan.

DNR Mission Statement

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use, and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

Five Goals of the DNR

1. Protect the natural and cultural resources
2. Ensure sustainable recreation use and enjoyment

3. Enable strong natural resource-based economies
4. Improve and build strong relationships and partnerships
5. Foster effective business practices and good governance

PRD Mission Statement

The Parks and 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.

1.2 Guiding References

The general management planning process is guided and shaped by several resources developed to provide recommendations for managing Michigan's parks and recreation system. In particular, these resources have helped shape the 10-year action goals established in this Plan.



Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

2018-2022



Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2018-2022 (SCORP)

SCORP is a five-year strategic plan that shapes investment by the state and local communities in priority outdoor recreation infrastructure and programming. The Plan's overarching goal is to "Protect and manage Michigan's diverse and abundant natural and cultural assets to provide relevant, quality experiences that meet the fun, relaxation, and health needs of Michigan's residents and visitors, and support economic prosperity" by meeting the following objectives:

- Foster stewardship and conservation
- Improve collaboration
- Raise awareness
- Improve recreational access
- Provide quality experiences
- Enhance health benefits
- Enhance prosperity

Michigan State Parks & Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel Report 2012

The Blue Ribbon Panel's report to Governor Snyder identifies a number of recommendations for system-wide changes to programs, management, infrastructure type, and investment strategies that set up the visionary framework for the next 30-50 years of park and outdoor recreation management in Michigan. Several of the recommendations in the report are:

- Identify and protect important natural, cultural, historic, and prehistoric resources
- Diversify funding
- Prioritize development of statewide and regional systems of connected trail networks
- Improve connections between communities and their recreational assets to strengthen regional identities
- Integrate tourism and economic development marketing
- Prioritize investment in parks and recreation

Michigan Comprehensive Trail Plan 2013 - 2018

The Trail Plan, developed by an 11-member committee appointed by Governor Snyder, includes eight priority recommendations with associated key actions that should be implemented to assist in achieving the vision of establishing a high quality, nationally-recognized, state-wide trail system. The eight recommendations are as follows:

- Trails are maintained to ensure a sustainable and quality trail system
- Expand trails, trail experiences, and opportunities to ensure accessibility to trail systems, outdoor recreation opportunities, and natural and cultural resources
- The Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Council leads the effort to maintain and enhance Michigan's reputation as the trail state
- Link trails, trail users, and adjoining towns to create memorable trail experiences and enhance economic prosperity
- Develop, enhance, and celebrate partnerships and collaborations
- Implement a marketing plan including an electronic portal that allows citizens and visitors to be aware of all trails and related amenities
- Develop funding sources and mechanisms for trail maintenance, acquisition, and development
- Ensure that the state's trail system complements other plans and planning efforts



PRD Strategic Plan (2017-2022): Connections

The PRD Strategic Plan is the overarching document that guide the Parks and Recreation Division in carrying out its mission. This plan establishes long-range goals, objectives, and strategies for Michigan’s state parks and recreation system for the 5-year period beginning in 2017. The plan identifies the most important issues facing the PRD and helps to define where resources should be focused for maximum benefit to carry the state park and recreation system beyond its centennial milestone in 2019. The goals identified in the plan are:

- Be exemplary stewards of Michigan’s natural and cultural resources.
- Provide users with quality outdoor recreation experiences in balance with resource protection.
- Continue to advance Michigan as the “Trail State.”
- Provide a relevant gateway to connect people to nature and Michigan’s cultural heritage, and foster understanding and support for PRD’s mission among future generations.
- Improve and maintain strong public, stakeholder and department communication, relationships and partnerships.
- Engage in strategies to increase community and state economic prosperity.
- Sustainably support PRD programs, operations and facilities.
- Foster and adopt effective and safe business practices.

Managed Public Land Strategy 2013

The DNR-Managed Public Land Strategy provides a framework for the continued conservation, use, and management of public lands to provide an enhanced quality of life for Michigan residents; create jobs; and protect the essence of Michigan: its woods, waters, wildlife, and other natural and cultural assets. The Strategy identifies three broad goals with desired outcomes, metrics, and measurable objectives identified for each goal. These goals are to:

- Provide quality outdoor public recreation opportunities
- Foster regional economic prosperity
- Protect natural and cultural resources for future generations

1.3 Summary of Legal Mandates

For all park General Management Plans, legal mandates are identified that serve to further guide the development of the general management plan, park management, and park operations. For the DNR’s 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 the Parks and Recreation Division. There are several general and site specific legal mandates applicable to Holly State Recreation Area listed in Appendix A: Supporting Analysis.

The legal mandates that most directly impact planning and management at Holly State Recreation Area focus on the following areas:

- Protection of threatened and endangered species, including eastern massasauga rattlesnake and poweshiek skipperling
- Preservation of cultural and historic resources
- Water resources, wetlands, and inland streams protection
- Dam safety
- Hunting area control
- Requirement for a Recreation Passport for entry into the park
- Public health code requirements for campgrounds, swimming areas, and swimmers’ itch
- Local watercraft control
- Wildlife conservation and game management



Rolston Cabin

Chapter Two: Plan Process Overview

2.1 Planning Objectives

The DNR has developed master plans in the past for many of Michigan's state parks; however, most of these plans are now 20-40 years old and do not reflect today's realities or desires of recreational users. Furthermore, past plans put a strong emphasis on development and did not often include stewardship of natural and cultural features or opportunities for education and interpretation.

Development at Holly State Recreation Area (HSRA) began in the 1950s, and a master plan for future development of the Wildwood-Valley Lakes area was created in 1967 and refined in 1973. A master plan report was written for Holly Recreation Area west unit (west of I-75) in October 1978 proposing a boating access site on Crotched Lake and trail development, both of which have been implemented. Development of a swimming and picnic area on Crystal Lake and impounding Swartz Creek to facilitate additional recreation developments were not implemented.

General management planning sets out a framework for protecting park resources while providing for meaningful visitor experiences. The long-range vision and management objectives for the park are derived from the mission of the DNR and the Parks and Recreation Division, applicable legal directives, the purpose of the park, and the park's significant natural and cultural resources.

The objective of the General Management Plan (GMP) is to bring together Parks and Recreation Division staff, staff from other resource divisions, stakeholders, and the public into a planning process that defines and clarifies the unique "Purpose and Significance" of HSRA. Collectively, those attributes will be reinforced in the planning and management decisions that impact the park through the implementation of the management zone plan and action goals.

A GMP is the first in a series of planning steps, with each step building upon the previous. There are three stages of planning, implemented in the following order:

1. General Management Plan that presents a 20-year management zone plan used to guide park planning decisions and a 10-year action goals plan that establishes specific action strategies within each management zone.
2. 5-Year Implementation Plan which breaks down action goals to be accomplished in the first five years of the GMP into specific projects with estimated costs and potential funding sources.
3. Annual Work Plan that addresses what will be done during a given year, and what progress was made throughout the previous year.

2.2 Planning Process

The Holly State Recreation Area planning team met periodically over a thirteen month period to develop the General Management Plan, beginning in September of 2016 and ending in October 2017. Throughout the process, the team sought the input of the public and stakeholders to guide the decisions made in the plan. A stakeholder workshop was held in March of 2017 to gather insights from organizations tied to the park. In addition, an online public input survey was available for park visitors to comment on the current park amenities and their priorities for the future. Following the input sessions and survey, the team developed a list of action plan priorities and developed the draft plan.

After the development of the draft plan, the DNR hosted a public input session in October of 2017 to encourage the public to share their thoughts and opinions pertaining to the Draft General Management Plan contents. In addition to soliciting comments on the Draft General Management Plan contents, prioritization of the action goals was also sought.

2.3 Planning Team

This plan was developed with the direct assistance, input, and expertise provided by all members of the planning team. Please refer to Appendix C for summaries of all planning team meetings.

| PLANNING TEAM | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Division | Title | Name |
| PRD | Management Plan Administrator | Debbie Jensen |
| PRD | Lands Liaison | Matt Lincoln |
| PRD | Unit Supervisor | Shawn Speaker |
| PRD | Lead Worker | Gary Orr |
| PRD | Ranger | Brady Pettengill |
| PRD | District Supervisor | Mike Terrell |
| PRD | Regional Planner | John Terpstra |
| PRD | Ecologist | Glenn Palmgren |
| PRD | Cultural Resources Analyst | Lisa Gamero |
| PRD | S. Lower Trail Specialist | Nicole VanBloem |
| FD (Fisheries) | Fisheries Biologist | Joseph Leonardi |
| FRD (Forestry) | Forester | Mike Hanley |
| FRD (Forestry) | Forest Fire Officer | Bruce Miller |
| LED (Law) | Conservation Officer | Jason Smith |
| OMM (Minerals) | Geologist | Peter Rose |
| WLD (Wildlife) | Wildlife Biologist | Julie Oakes |
| WLD (Wildlife) | Wildlife Technician | Jon Curtis |



Public Input Meeting

| PLANNING CONSULTANTS | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Beckett & Raeder, Inc. | Principal | Christy Summers, PLA, LEED AP |
| Beckett & Raeder, Inc. | Project Professional | Caitlin Jackson, PLA |
| Beckett & Raeder, Inc. | Project Professional / GIS Specialist | Marisa Laderach |

2.4 Summary of Input Opportunities

Public input is a critical part of the planning for Holly State Recreation Area. Below is a summary of the public, stakeholder, and tribal input methods that were used to inform the development of the General Management Plan. Several different methods were used to ensure everyone had an opportunity for input. Full reports for each of the outreach methods are included in Appendix B of this plan.

Project Website

A public-facing website was maintained throughout the duration of the General Management Plan process at <http://mdnrmanagementplans.org/holly-recreation-area/>. This website was updated with general information about the park and park maps, results of the public input survey, and the draft of the GMP. The website contained a contact form so that the public could contact the planning team at any time with questions, concerns, and input.

Stakeholder Input Workshop

In order to gather targeted input from governmental, non-profit, and business/tourism entities, the planning team

invited a group of stakeholders to an input workshop in March of 2017. The attendees were given a brief overview of the General Management Plan process, the draft Management Zone map, and a list of action items intended to be accomplished over the next 10 years. The stakeholders were divided into two groups and completed two exercises, first prioritizing and adding to the list of action items, and then, brainstorming partnership opportunities.

Online Public Input Survey

One of the methods the planning team used to gather input from park users was an online survey. This online approach provides a convenient way for those who have access to the internet to provide feedback and accurately transfers all responses for analysis. However, it is not designed to be representative of Holly State Recreation Area users or uses, as respondents self-select. They are not sampled on a random or systematic basis that would ensure a statistically accurate representation of users or uses. Nevertheless, the on-line survey does provide valuable information about what certain individuals or groups (those who are motivated to comment about the park, those likely to receive DNR communication about the survey, and those who have easy access to the internet) hope to see in the park's future management.

This survey was advertised through a press release and an email to previous users of the Holly State Recreation Area (HSRA) overnight accommodations. Due to the survey advertisement to the camping reservation system email list, campers may be disproportionately represented in the responses as compared to day users.

Two hundred and forty-eight individuals responded to the survey, though eight of those were screened from taking the

entire survey because they had not visited the park in the last five years. The survey included questions on what activities the visitors participate in during their visit, their thoughts on the day use and overnight park amenities, fishing and hunting at the park, their overall satisfaction with their experience, and their demographic information.

Public Meeting

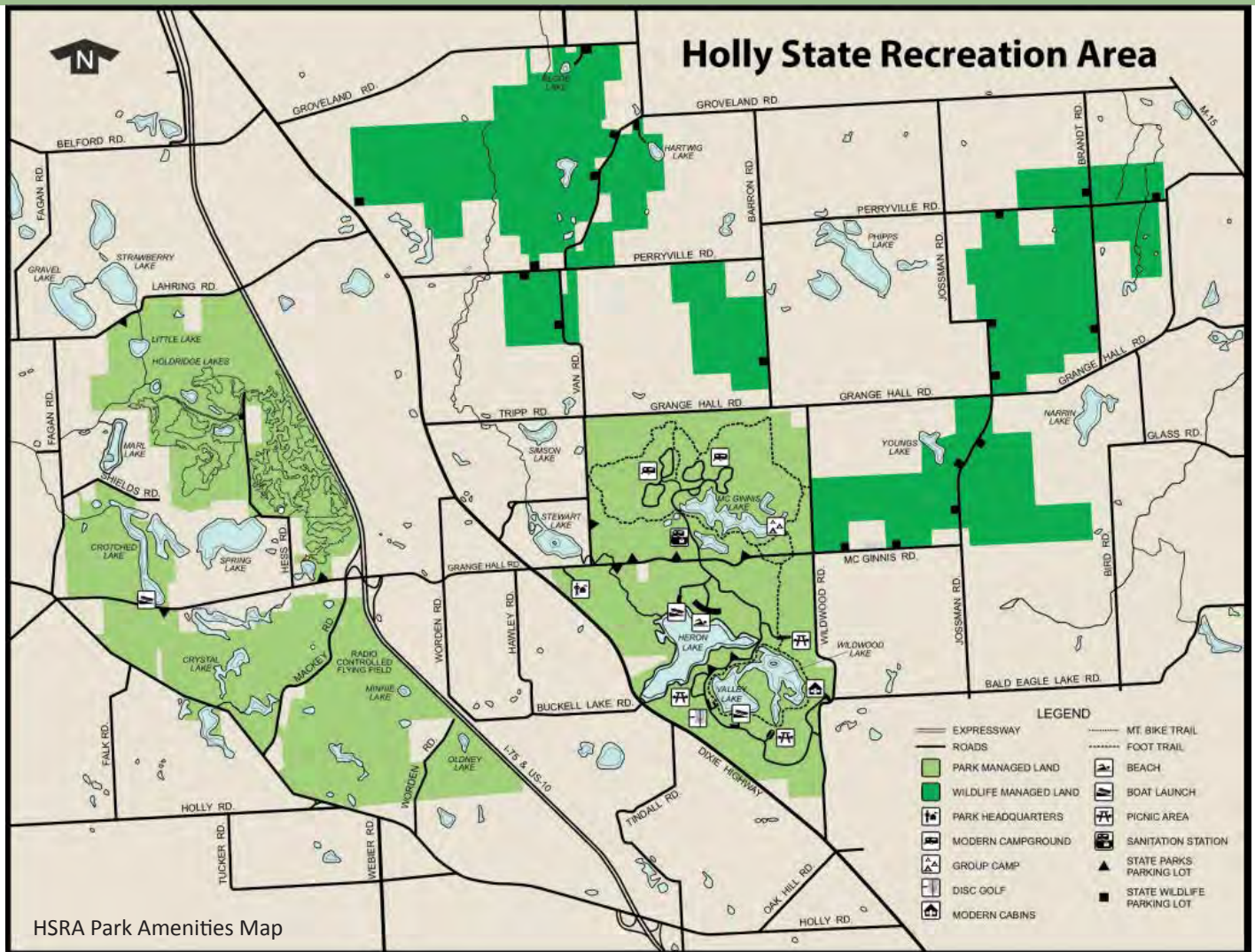
The public was invited to share their thoughts about Holly State Recreation Area Draft General Management Plan at a public meeting that was hosted by the DNR in October of 2017. The meeting included a short overview of the General Management Plan process, Holly State Recreation Area, and its Draft General Management Plan contents. Attendees were asked to review the presentation boards displaying excerpts of the draft plan, including the Statements of Significance, Draft Management Zone Plan, and 10-Year Action Goals. Participants were encouraged to comment on the plan material and to prioritize the Action Goals. The Draft General Management Plan was also made available for review on the project website and the public was invited to submit comments via email. The comments received were reviewed and incorporated into the final plan as appropriate.

Tribal Communication

The planning team reached out to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians, and the Gun Lake Band of Pottawatomi Indians with a letter notifying them of the General Management Plan process and timeline and asking for any input.



Holly State Recreation Area Campground



Chapter Three: Purpose and Significance

3.1 State Park Purpose

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

In 1944, the Michigan State Legislature appropriated funds for the acquisition of recreational lands in southeast Michigan. Supplementing this funding was money from the Game and Fish Fund. These funding sources provided for the development of eleven recreation areas in southeast Michigan, including HSRA.

Holly State Recreation Area was approved for purchase under authority of Sec. 3, Act 17, Public Acts of 1921, as amended:

- To provide public recreational land convenient to the centers of dense population.
- To preserve and protect Holly State Recreation Area's unique natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.
- To provide diverse intensive and extensive recreational opportunities, including camping, swimming, picnicking, hunting, fishing, and nature observation.
- To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflects the DNR mission and the unique qualities of Holly State Recreation Area.

In 1963, the Department of Conservation dedicated a portion of the recreation area to game management (memorandum dated October 29, 1963) to assure sportsmen of a place to hunt in the densely populated area of the state.



Heron Lake Day Use Beach

3.2 Statements of Significance

Each General Management Plan (GMP) developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) is derived from the park’s significant features that make it distinct from other parks in the state’s system. Holly State Recreation Area was determined significant due to the following:

Wide Range of Activities Close to Population Center

A wide range of recreation experiences accessible from nearby urban centers can be experienced at HSRA. The quiet and natural surroundings of Heron Lake offer a day use beach, electric-only motor boating, paddling opportunities, as well as calm-water and shoreline fishing. HSRA has a well-developed trail system through serene natural areas, challenging mountain biking trails, and hunting and fishing opportunities, all within a short drive from Flint, Pontiac, and Detroit.

Administration

Two divisions of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources co-manage this recreation area: the Parks and Recreation Division and the Wildlife Division. Areas of the park are specifically managed for wildlife and hunting by the Wildlife Division in partnership with the Parks and Recreation Division. In addition, hunters can obtain the Successful Hunter patch at the deer check station, which is an important biological data gathering opportunity for the DNR.

Trend Setting

Holly State Recreation Area is innovative and trend-setting in its recreation offerings. The aqua park on Heron Lake is a distinctive and popular attraction, and the Holly Woods Disc Golf Course was the first of its kind among the state parks system.

Diverse Overnight Lodging Opportunities

A popular, spacious campground, with a buffer of vegetation between most sites, and several cabin options are available at this park. HSRA has repurposed a former beach area as a modern cabin site, bringing new life to an underutilized part of the park.

Located Within a Recreation Hub

HSRA is located within a hub of recreation opportunities for the urban population centers that surround it. Nearby recreation amenities include six state parks and recreation areas, two state game areas, as well as several Oakland County parks, Mount Holly Ski and Snowboard Resort, the Michigan Renaissance Festival, a future ORV Adventure Park, and the Rotten Manor Haunted House. HSRA and surrounding parks and recreation areas host various special events drawing many visitors from the region.

Natural Resources

The park’s expansive area supports a variety of wildlife habitats and natural communities. It contains oak barrens, dry-mesic southern forests, and southern hardwood swamps. HSRA contains five exemplary prairie fens, which support prairie grasses, wildflowers, wetland plants, and endangered species. HSRA also contains managed habitat areas for the eastern massasauga rattlesnake.

Historic Rolston Cabin

Holly State Recreation Area is home to the historic Rolston Cabin, an authentic log cabin constructed in 1938-39. Some of the original materials still remain, such as a portion of the cedar shingle roof, oak flooring, fireplace, rafters, and wood frame windows.

3.3 Public Affirmation of Significance

Stakeholder and public input assisted the planning team with affirming the significant features and opportunities at Holly State Recreation Area. The feedback from the online survey confirmed that the overnight accommodation options, variety of recreation activities, proximity to population centers, and natural setting are key aspects of the park. Comments from survey respondents relating to those significant features are provided below.

“Comfortable, clean, campgrounds are relaxed, the large-group sites are amazing, the modern cabins are amazing-- just wish Rolston was back!”

“It’s very wooded and has an “up north” feel. Campsites are spacious and more private for that reason... very nicely unique!”

“The Rolston cabin is by far the best cabin I’ve stayed at within the Michigan parks system. The new set modern cabins are beautiful, but aren’t as unique as Rolston. The sense of history you feel at Rolston can’t be matched.”

“The park is clean and close to home. Has an up north feel without the long drive.”

“We love the two cabins at the lake. We go with friends and feel like we have the entire area to ourselves. And the cabins are perfect for our disabled son (ADA bathroom).”

“We enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking and kayaking which is great to do at Holly recreation.”

“What a fantastic local easily accessible fishing area. Always clean and all the local sportsmen seem to respect the water. DNR also does a wonderful job maintaining the docks and bathroom.”

3.4 Relationship with the Local Community

Holly State Recreation Area was originally created to provide outdoor recreation activities within close proximity to urban centers, and that continues to be its main focus. HSRA draws visitors from around southeast Michigan to the local community for daily recreation or overnight trips, generating economic activity for the surrounding smaller municipalities. HSRA provides an overnight lodging option for many entertainment events in the area, such as the Renaissance Festival and concerts at the DTE Energy Music Theatre. In addition, HSRA is partnering with Oakland County Parks to plan an ORV Adventure Park in the area.

Oakland County is also currently working on a planning initiative to define a vision for the Dixie Highway heritage corridor. Dixie Highway links together gateway communities between Pontiac and Holly Township and provides access to the natural resources and recreational opportunities in northwestern Oakland County. The vision includes planning for economic growth, while retaining the history and natural features that distinguish it. As a major recreation destination with 2 miles of frontage along Dixie Highway, Holly State Recreation Area plays a key role in defining the Dixie corridor as a gateway to recreation where viewsheds and natural assets are preserved.



A Winter Mitten Mixer Event

MANAGEMENT ZONE PROGRESSION

| MANAGEMENT ZONE | RESOURCE CONDITION | VISITOR EXPERIENCE | DEVELOPMENT LEVEL |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE | Pristine | Restricted | None |
| PRIMITIVE | | | |
| BACKCOUNTRY | | | |
| CULTURAL LANDSCAPE | | | |
| HISTORY EDUCATION | | | |
| SCENIC | | | |
| NATURAL RESOURCE RECREATION | | | |
| DEVELOPED RECREATION | Active Management | Significant Use | Extensive Development |
| ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES | | | |

Chapter Four: Management Zones

The 20-Year Management Zone Plan was developed in keeping with the park’s purpose and significance. The primary goal in the development of the management zones is to protect and enhance the park’s natural and cultural resources while also supporting outdoor recreation opportunities at the park. From a palette of nine management zones and an additional non-standard zone due to special designations, the planning team studied the park and applied zones that best fit each area of the park. Management zones describe a variety of activities that may be appropriate within the zone and address the desired future condition for the following categories:

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

The resource condition, visitor experience, and development level varies in each of the nine standard zones, as indicated in the figure above. Holly State Recreation Area (HSRA) was divided into the following five standard management zones and one overlay zone:

- Primitive Zone
- Backcountry Zone
- Natural Resource Recreation Zone
- Developed Recreation Zone
- Administrative Services Zone
- Cultural Landscape Overlay

A special (non-standard) management zone was used for the area of the park dedicated by the Department of Conservation for game (wildlife) management.

- Wildlife Habitat by Dedication Zone

HSRA’s 2004 Project Boundary approved by the Natural Resource Commission (NRC) includes land owned primarily by private residential owners. A Project Boundary is a geographic area in which the DNR is seeking to acquire property that supports the mission of the DNR on a willing buyer/willing seller basis. During the General Management Planning process, the planning team evaluated land within the 2004 Project Boundary to determine whether it still possessed both natural resource and recreational value, and would complement existing land within Holly Recreation Area.

The planning team determined that land to the northwest of the park should be added to the Project Boundary due to a historical cabin site located there, as well as two bodies of water. Other land added to the Project Boundary includes a triangle at the corner of Dixie Highway and Grange Hall Road with the potential to serve as a field office, and additional land to the east of Fagan Road that would result in boundary consolidation for increased management efficiency. The planning team recommended removal of several parcels from the Project Boundary as these have been developed and no longer possess the desired natural resource or recreation value they once did.

The Tamarack Camp parcel was acquired by the DNR during the planning process, in July 2017, as an addition to the Holly Wildlife Unit of Holly Recreation Area, which is co-managed by the Wildlife Division and the Parks and Recreation Division. This 290.36-acre parcel provides significant wildlife resources,

including white-tailed deer, wild turkey, small game, and waterfowl. The parcel has frontage on two county-maintained roads and also water frontage on Young Lake. The wooded rolling topography and wetlands provide quality opportunities for dispersed public recreation in southern Michigan, supporting Michigan's \$1.3 billion hunting industry.

4.1 Primitive Zone

The Primitive Zone reflects a desired condition that emphasizes the natural resources, and is managed to only allow dispersed and low frequency use in the zone for low impact recreational purposes. Attaining and maintaining a high quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements or uses are allowed. The primitive zone covers approximately 17% of the park and includes the majority of the eastern massasauga managed lands and areas with sensitive natural communities.

Natural Resources

Native species and natural processes take precedence over visitor accommodation in this zone. Native Michigan natural communities / ecosystem components and processes are maintained, restored, and protected, and human-caused habitat fragmentation is eliminated. The Stewardship Plan will determine the appropriate habitat management for the park.

Historic / Cultural Resources

Although no cultural resources have been documented in this zone, there is evidence of prehistoric sites and Native American activities in the area. In addition, it is possible that many of the parcels purchased for HSRA once contained farmhouses, outbuildings, and stone walls, the remnants of which may still be evident today.

Recreation Opportunities

This zone allows dispersed, low density off-trail or trailed, self-reliant (no bicycle or equestrian use) outdoor activities (e.g. hiking, backpacking, primitive camping, cross-country skiing, hunting/trapping, fishing, nature observation).

Education Opportunities

Education opportunities in this zone are primarily off-site. Interpretive signage is allowed at trail heads and with low frequency on trails and at overlooks.

Visitor Experience

The visitor can expect a low frequency of encounters with other visitors. Visitors are engaged in high solitude, off-trail or trailed, self-reliant outdoor activities. This zone requires a higher time commitment, and high levels of challenge and adventure. It is considered a "discovery" area with minimal on-site interpretation. The noise tolerance in this zone is low, and visitors can expect low interaction with DNR staff.

Management Focus

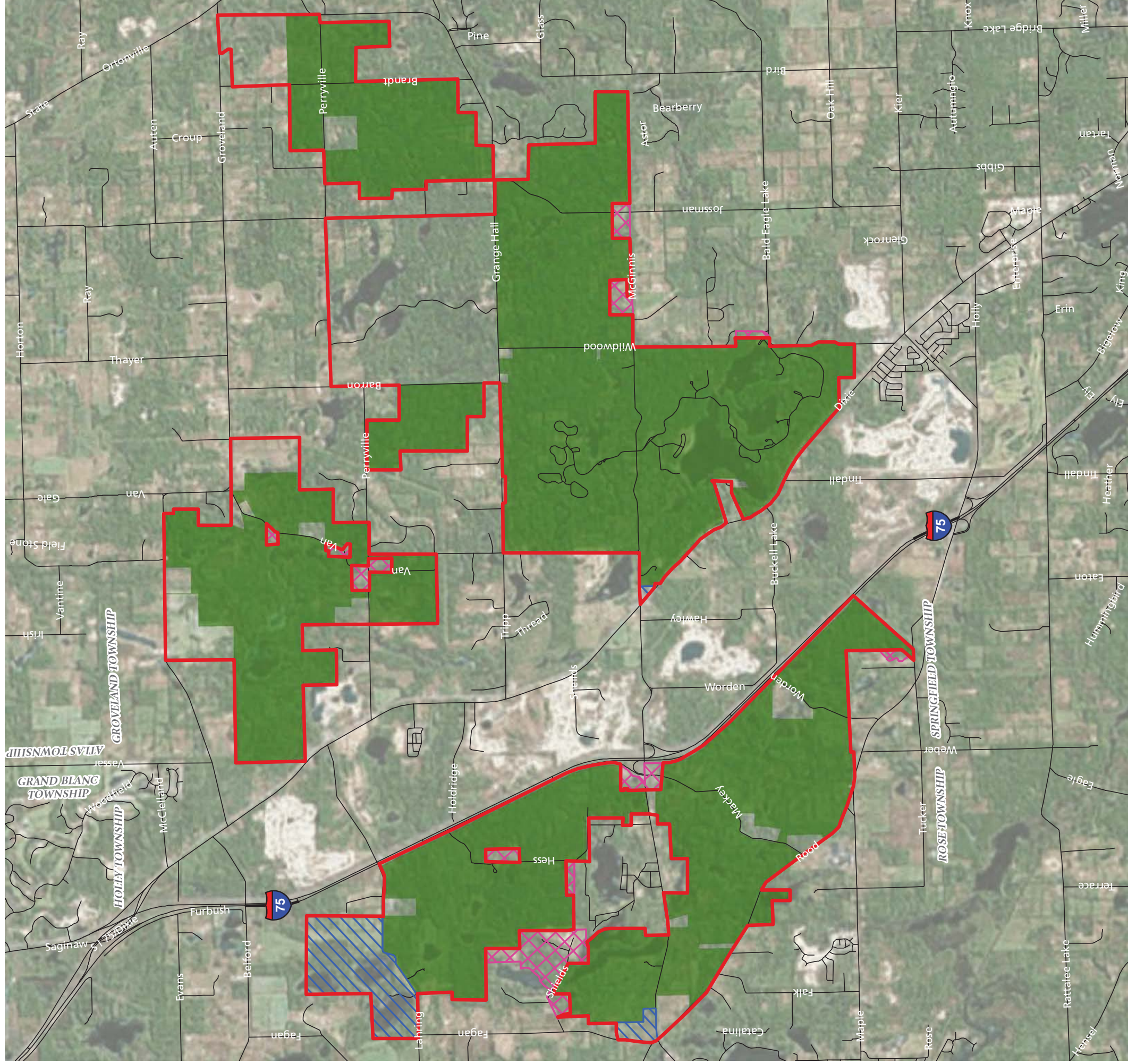
The focus is to maintain the low-impact character of this zone, with an emphasis on natural resource quality.

Development

This zone maintains a very low level of development except for visitor accommodation (e.g. foot trails). Site hardening is only allowed to protect sensitive resources (e.g. boardwalk). There should be little evidence of human activity and typically low accessibility in this zone. There is currently no development in the Primitive Zone at Holly State Recreation Area.








A Prairie Fen at Holly State Recreation Area



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES Date: 08-09-2017

Holly State Recreation Area - Proposed Project Boundary

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, ESRI Basemap

-  GMP Proposed Project Boundary*
-  Holly State Recreation Area Current Boundary
-  Township Boundary
-  Area recommended to be added to the 2004 NRC Approved Project Boundary
-  Area recommended to be removed from the 2004 NRC Approved Project Boundary

-  State Roads
-  Other Roads
-  Rivers/Streams

*A Project Boundary is a geographic area in which the DNR is seeking to acquire property that supports the mission of the DNR on a willing buyer/willing seller basis.



4.2 Backcountry Zone

The character of the Backcountry Zone is natural, with minimal evidence of human impact. While the Primitive Zone is highly restrictive for recreational use and human impact, this zone allows for increased use, including bicycle and equestrian, and modifications of the landscape (e.g. trail development) to accommodate that use. This zone comprises approximately 4% of the park and includes the eastern massasauga managed lands that are already developed as the Holdridge Lakes Mountain Bike Area.

Natural Resources

Natural resources may be modified slightly to support visitor use, but tolerance for natural resource impacts is low. Native Michigan natural communities / ecosystem components and processes are maintained, restored, and protected, and human-caused habitat fragmentation is eliminated. The Stewardship Plan will determine the appropriate habitat management for the park.

Historic / Cultural Resources

Although no sites have been documented in this zone, there is the potential for prehistoric or historic sites.

Recreation Opportunities

Moderate levels of recreation that are compatible with the natural character of the zone are allowed. At Holly State Recreation Area, this zone includes the Holdridge Lakes Mountain Bike Area. This zone can also be used for hunting outside of the designated safety zones.

Education Opportunities

Education opportunities such as interpretive signage at trail heads, on the trail, and at overlooks are allowed.

Visitor Experience

Moderate visitor encounters are accommodated in this zone. Visitors will be engaged in low impact, non-motorized outdoor activities. Moderate challenge and adventure should be expected, with low noise tolerance and interaction with DNR staff.

Management Focus

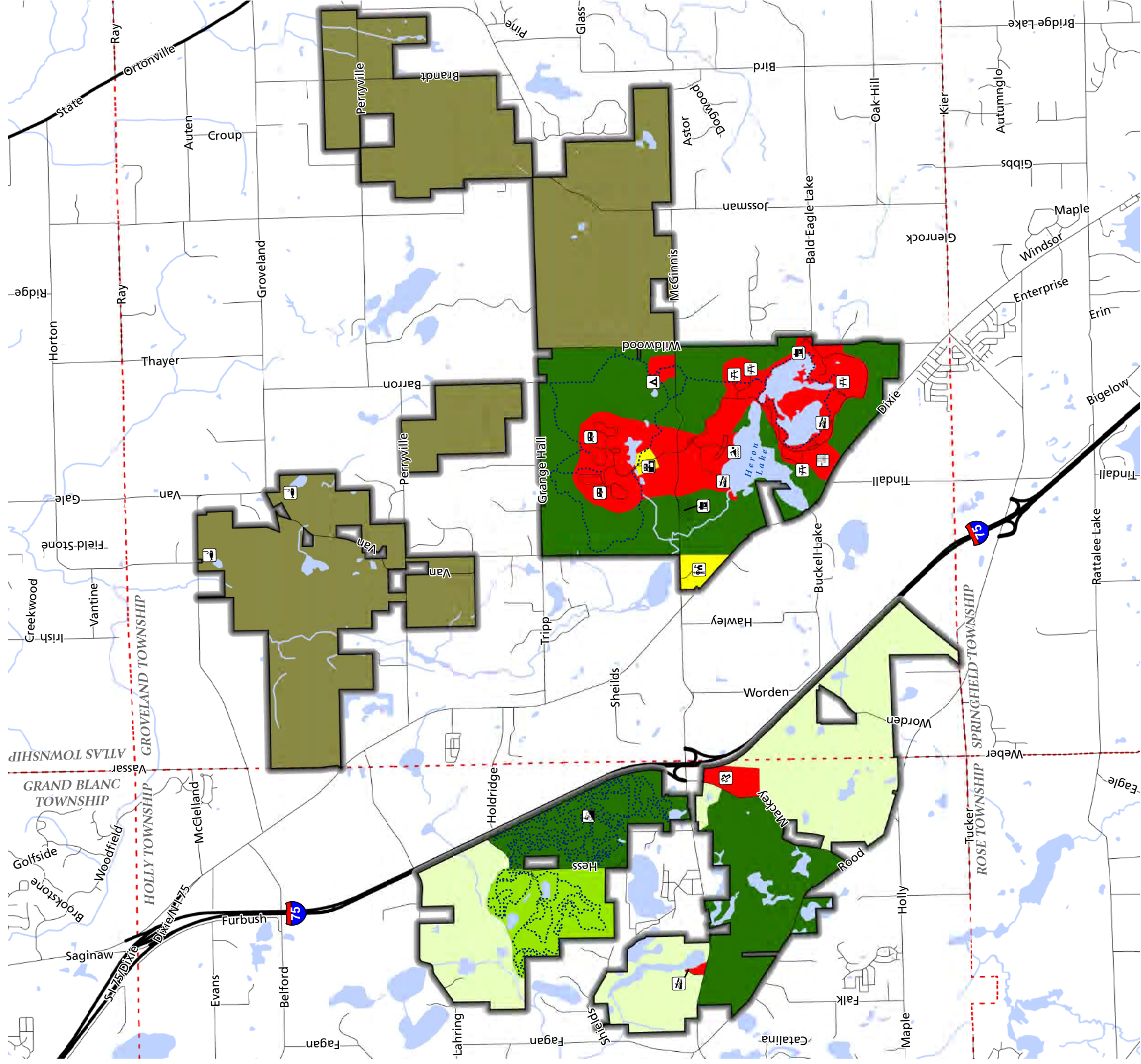
The management focus is to maintain the low-impact character of this zone, with an emphasis on natural resource quality.

Development

This zone may contain a low level of development to support visitor access to outdoor activities, such as trails, trailhead parking, marked routes, designated backcountry campsites, pit toilets, water pumps, and educational opportunities. Development would be unobtrusive and would blend with the natural environment. Site hardening such as boardwalks, fencing, and pedestrian paths may be necessary to protect sensitive resources.



Hiking at Holly State Recreation Area



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

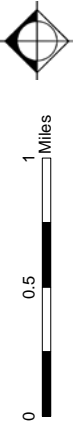
Holly State Recreation Area - Draft Management Zones

Date: 08-09-2017

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Date: 3-07-2018

- Holly State Recreation Area
- Trails
- Management Zones:**
 - Primitive
 - Backcountry
 - Natural Resource Recreation
 - Developed Recreation
- Park Features:**
 - Beach Access
 - Boat Launch
 - Fishing Access
 - Model Airplane Field
- Administrative Services**
 - Administrative Services
 - Wildlife Habitat by Dedication Zone
 - Cultural Landscape Overlay
- Sanitation Station**
 - Sanitation Station
 - Picnic Area
 - Park Headquarters
 - Modern Campground
 - Organizational Campground
 - Mountain Biking
 - Disc Golf
 - Cabin



B R E
Beckett&Raeder



Mountain Biking at Holly State Recreation Area

4.3 Natural Resource Recreation Zone

The Natural Resource Recreation Zone supports active recreation with medium to high density of use conducted in natural settings. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but in this zone, higher levels of use are allowed. This zone makes up approximately 27% of the recreation area and includes the lands developed with hiking and mountain bike trails and the majority of the area between Mackey and McGinnis Road on the west side of the park.

Natural Resources

In this zone, the natural resources may be managed or modified to support visitor activities with only moderate impacts, while being protected to the degree possible and maintaining a natural appearance. This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removal of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to facilitate recreational use and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape.

Historic / Cultural Resources

There is a known historic resource in this zone, the Rolston Cabin, which is reflected in a Cultural Landscape Overlay. All development that may impact cultural resources should be cleared by PRD Stewardship Unit and the State Archeologist before proceeding.

Recreation Opportunities

Moderate to high levels of recreation compatible with the natural character of the zone are permitted. Visitors may be engaged in outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings (e.g. hiking, backpacking, back-country and

rustic camping, canoeing, kayaking, biking, nature observation, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing). Most areas of the park are open to hunting, and snowmobiling is allowed in the area bordered by McGinnis Road to the north, Wildwood Road to the east, and Dixie Highway to the south.

Education Opportunities

Interpretive signage may be provided at trail heads, on the trails, and at overlooks.

Visitor Experience

Visitors can expect high encounters with other visitors and moderate interaction with DNR staff. Visitors may be engaged in outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings for recreation and education. This zone requires a variable time commitment as well as variable challenge and adventure. There is a moderate noise tolerance in this zone.

Management Focus

The management focus is to maintain use of the zone appropriate to the PRD Mission, to protect public safety, protect natural resources, and provide accessibility.

Development

A moderate level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities is acceptable, including restrooms, concrete/asphalt/gravel walkways and parking, trails, benches, picnic tables, rustic campsites, rustic cabins, and shelters for recreation and educational opportunities. Site hardening including boardwalks, fencing, and surfaced pedestrian paths is allowed as necessary to protect sensitive resources. A moderate level of accessibility should be expected in this zone.



Deluxe Camper Cabin

4.4 Developed Recreation Zone

The Developed Recreation Zone supports active recreation with a high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. In this zone, recreation dominates, with natural resource attributes enhanced as possible. This zone is approximately 11% of the park land and includes the campgrounds, picnic areas, beaches, developed boat launches, disc golf course, and the model airplane flying field.

Natural Resources

Natural resources may be actively managed and modified to support visitor activities. Vegetative management in this zone will address hazard trees, invasive species, pests, and disease, and will also be allowed for purposes of facilitating development and recreational use and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape.

Historic / Cultural Resources

There are no historic structures in this zone. Cultural resources will generally be protected and preserved.

Recreation Opportunities

High levels of recreation in a highly structured environment are permitted in this zone. Visitors may be engaged in recreation in diverse and modified land and water settings. Modern and semi-modern camping, bicycling, boating, canoeing, kayaking, day-use beaches, picnicking, and other day-use activities are found in this zone.

Education Opportunities

Interpretive and informational signage is permitted at campgrounds, day-use facilities, boating facilities, registration buildings, trail heads, on the trail, and at overlooks. Active programming is encouraged at campgrounds and other areas where people congregate.

Visitor Experience

Visitors should expect a high frequency of encounters with other visitors and DNR staff. Visitors may be engaged in outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings for recreation and education. Activities in this zone would require a variable time commitment, variable levels of challenge and adventure, and low to moderate exertion. This zone has a high noise tolerance.

Management Focus

The management focus in this zone is to maintain use of it appropriate to the PRD Mission, and to support diverse recreation facilities and activities. Public safety, management of visitors, and universal access are management priorities.

Development

A high level of development of facilities to support visitor activities is permitted in this zone, such as restrooms, walkways, parking, trails, benches, picnic tables, picnic shelters, modern and semi-modern campgrounds, cabins, and shelters for recreation and educational opportunities. Site hardening is allowed as necessary to facilitate activities, protect natural resources, and provide accessibility.

4.5 Administrative Services Zone

The Administrative Services Zone is 53.6 acres, or approximately 1% of the park, and includes the park headquarters and the campground wastewater infrastructure.

Natural Resources

Natural resources may be actively managed and modified to facilitate administrative and support activities. Vegetative management, primarily consisting of tree removal for safety, is allowed.

Historic / Cultural Resources

There are no known historic or cultural resources in this zone.

Recreation Opportunities

There are no recreational activities provided in this zone, except for hunting outside of the established safety zones.

Education Opportunities

Person to person contact occurs at park headquarters for general information, both verbally and written (brochures, maps, and etc.) Informational kiosks and other informational signage may be found in this zone.

Visitor Experience

The visitor experience in this zone is related to park business and information only. A high level of noise is tolerated in this zone.

Management Focus

The management focus in this zone is the business of running a park. This includes safety for employees, universal public access to the office, and providing appropriate facilities for staff, equipment, and materials.

Development

This zone supports a high level of development of facilities for support of park infrastructure and administrative activities, such as office space, meeting rooms, an employee locker room, employee eating area, shop space, storage space and other related spaces. A high level of accessibility is expected.



Holly State Recreation Area Headquarters Sign



Corn Grown for Game Management

4.6 Wildlife Habitat by Dedication Zone

This special (non-standard) zone recognizes land dedicated by the Department of Conservation for game (wildlife) management. It is managed primarily for game and non-game wildlife species and only allows dispersed and low frequency use in the zone for low impact recreational purposes. Recreation development, other than those needed to facilitate hunting, fishing, or wildlife viewing, will be limited or restricted. This zone comprises approximately 40% in the northeast area of the park and includes the lands dedicated for game management

Natural Resources

In the Wildlife Habitat by Designation zone, native species and habitat management take precedence over visitor accommodation. Native Michigan natural communities / ecosystem components and processes are generally maintained, restored, and protected. Exotic species are contained or removed, and water quality is maintained or restored. Active habitat management techniques, such as mowing, haying, sharecropping, planting or vegetation removal and prescribed burning may be used to create or restore habitat for featured wildlife species. A Wildlife Management Plan will determine the appropriate habitat management for the park.

Historic / Cultural Resources

There are no known cultural or historic resources in this zone. Although no cultural resources have been documented in this zone, there is evidence of prehistoric sites and Native American activities in the area.

Recreation Opportunities

This zone allows dispersed, low density off-trail or trailed, self-reliant (no bicycle or equestrian use) outdoor activities (e.g. hunting/trapping, fishing, hiking, nature observation).

Education Opportunities

Education opportunities in this zone are primarily off-site. Interpretive and informational signage is allowed at trail heads and parking areas.

Visitor Experience

The visitor can expect a low frequency of encounters with other visitors. Visitors are engaged in high solitude, off-trail or trailed, self-reliant outdoor activities. This zone requires a high time commitment and high levels of challenge and adventure. It is considered a “discovery” area with minimal on-site interpretation. Visitors can expect low interaction with DNR staff.

Management Focus

The management focus in this zone is to maintain a low-impact character, with emphasis on providing quality wildlife habitat. This will be accomplished through co-management between the Wildlife and Parks and Recreation Divisions, with an emphasis on wildlife management.

Development

This zone maintains a very low level of development except for visitor accommodation (e.g. foot trails, low impact parking lots, hunting blinds). Site hardening is only allowed to protect sensitive resources (e.g. boardwalk) or for accessibility (ADA) improvements. There should be little evidence of human activity in this zone.

4.7 Cultural Landscape Overlay

The Cultural Landscape Overlay comprises 9.2 acres and is located at the Rolston Cabin. The overlay ensures that any development, guided by the underlying zone designation, is sensitive to the cultural resources present. The public interpretation of these cultural resources should also be considered.

Natural Resources

Vegetation management will be in accordance with the underlying zone (Natural Resource Recreation). Vegetation may also be managed to enhance education/interpretation uses which can include non-native species specific to the era and/or location, and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape that is sensitive to the historic resource and interpretation of the zone.

Historic / Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are the focus of this zone.

Recreation Opportunities

Registered overnight guests at the Rolston Cabin (in the event that it is made available for such use in the future) may engage in sightseeing, recreational, and educational activities in a cultural setting compatible with and sensitive to the surroundings.

Education Opportunities

The Rolston Cabin will continue to be interpreted.

Visitor Experience

The visitor experience will be consistent with the underlying zone.

Management Focus

Management focuses on maintaining and preserving the cultural resources in the area consistent with the underlying zone.

Development

Development will be consistent with the underlying zone and will not negatively impact the cultural resources.



Rolston Cabin



Chapter Five:

Ten-Year Action Goals

The planning team has developed 10-year action goals that it believes are necessary to guide management and development within the park in order to achieve the desired user experience and resource protection. Action goals are recommended that address the following categories: natural resources, cultural resources, recreation opportunities, education / interpretation opportunities, and development. These goals apply either to the whole park (general action goals) or to specific locations within the park, as appropriate and according to the management zone. Refer to the zone descriptions in Chapter 4 for appropriate activities in each zone.

In determining action goals for the park, the planning team focused on several main priorities: improving day-use facilities around Heron Lake; analyzing, improving, and expanding overnight accommodations based on demand; improving wayfinding to and within the park; and coordinating with Oakland County on future projects of shared interest.

The day use facilities at Heron Lake are popular, and several action goals seek to improve the visitor's experience at the lake. New park shelters are desired at Heron Beach, where the addition of an aqua park and playground has increased day-use, and the Heron Lake boating access site. Other future improvements would provide an accessible route to the lake and address an erosion issue on the beach.

The planning team set several goals related to improving and expanding overnight accommodations at HSRA, including expanding the rustic campground loop, cost benefit analysis for building one additional deluxe camper cabin, and upgrading the non-electric campground loop to provide 20-

30 amp service. In addition, a multi-use trail connecting the campground to the beach is desired. The Rolston Cabin was once a well-loved overnight option at HSRA, but its current condition does not allow use by park visitors. The planning team created goals to evaluate and complete renovations of the Rolston Cabin, as well as constructing interpretive signage to educate visitors about this historic structure.

There is a desire to improve the wayfinding signage within the park as well as leading to the park. The planning team intends for the trail signage and maps within the park to be updated to show correct trail use designations and consistent land management designations between those managed primarily for wildlife and those managed primarily for recreation. An update to directional signage outside of the park is needed for consistency and to help guide visitors to their intended destination.

Finally, Oakland County has some projects underway that are of interest to Holly State Recreation Area. These include a future ORV Adventure Park in partnership with PRD, and Dixie Highway Corridor planning. HSRA staff will continue to coordinate with Oakland County on these projects.

Management Plans do not guarantee future PRD funding to achieve the actions identified, but are based on funding realities and sound investment policies. PRD will seek internal funding, alternative funding sources, partnerships, and other potential mechanisms for implementing the desired future conditions defined in this plan. On an annual basis, PRD districts determine priorities for project planning and project capital outlay. Each district's top projects are then evaluated at a state-wide level for available funds.

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

| GENERAL ACTION GOALS | | | |
|--|----------|---|----------------------------------|
| <p>Many of the 10-year action goals for Holly State Recreation Area are general in nature and apply within all of the management zones. These goals often address park-wide issues, such as invasive species control, universal access, developing Stewardship and Emergency Plans, or marketing the park's many recreational opportunities to a wider audience of potential users. Many of the overall maintenance and operational issues of running a state recreation area also result in the need for actions across all zone boundaries, such as law enforcement.</p> | | | |
| ACTION GOALS | PRIORITY | PROGRAM INPUT FROM | RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION |
| NATURAL RESOURCES | | | |
| Complete the Stewardship Plan to identify targets for conservation and related natural resource management strategies. | 1 | Park Manager Wildlife Stewardship | Stewardship Ecologist |
| Implement invasive species control (part of Stewardship Plan) with an emphasis on early detection/rapid response, and on protecting high quality natural communities and sites occupied by protected species. | Ongoing | Park Manager Wildlife Stewardship Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission (OCPRC) | Stewardship Ecologist |
| HISTORIC / CULTURAL RESOURCES | | | |
| Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on cultural resources | Ongoing | Park Manager Stewardship State Archaeologist | Cultural Resource Analyst |
| EDUCATION/INTERPRETATION OPPORTUNITIES | | | |
| Provide appropriate level of education about eastern massasauga rattlesnake | 1 | Park Manager Stewardship Wildlife | Stewardship Ecologist |
| Promote waste reduction, reuse, and recycling, and educate about stewardship. | Ongoing | Park Manager Stewardship | Park Manager |
| MANAGEMENT FOCUS | | | |
| Continue to review and update capital outlay list as needed | Ongoing | Park Manager Regional Planner District Supervisor | Park Manager |
| Coordinate with Oakland County on the Dixie Highway Corridor planning and future regional trail connections | Ongoing | Park Manager Regional Planner Oakland County Planning (OCP) | Regional Planner |
| Coordinate with Oakland County on the ORV Adventure Park planning | Ongoing | Park Manager Regional Planner (OCPRC) | Park Manager Regional Planner |
| Continue the cooperative management between PRD and Wildlife in accordance with the intent of the dedication of a game (wildlife) management area within the recreation area. | Ongoing | Park Manager Stewardship Wildlife | Park Manager |
| Continue to explore land acquisition within the GMP project boundary. | Ongoing | Park Manager PRD Land Liaison | Park Manager |

TEN-YEAR ACTION GOALS

GENERAL ACTION GOALS, CONTINUED

| ACTION GOALS | PRIORITY | PROGRAM INPUT FROM | RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION |
|---|----------|---|------------------------------|
| DEVELOPMENT | | | |
| Update park trail signage with correct use designations | 1 | Park Manager | Park Manager |
| Update directional signage outside of park with specific park names: Holly State Recreation Area and Seven Lakes State Park | 1 | Park Manager, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) | Park Manager |
| Update maps with consistent land designations (WLD and PRD) | 1 | Park Manager Wildlife | Park Manager |
| RECREATION | | | |
| Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/trapping, fishing, gathering and wildlife viewing. | Ongoing | Park Manager Wildlife | Park Manager |
| Trial implementation of winter trail grooming by the Clinton River Area Mountain Bike Association (CRAMBA). | 1 | Park Manager CRAMBA | Park Manager |

PRIMITIVE ZONE

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

| ACTION GOALS | PRIORITY | PROGRAM INPUT FROM | RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION |
|---|----------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Continue to maintain and restore prairie fens and other natural communities | Ongoing | Park Manager Stewardship Wildlife | Stewardship |

BACKCOUNTRY ZONE

The character of the Backcountry Zone is intended to be natural, with minimal evidence of human impact. The zone allows for various low-intensity, non-motorized recreational opportunities such as hiking, cross-country skiing and mountain biking. The natural features of this zone also provide opportunities for hunting and nature observation. The Backcountry Zone allows for slight modifications of the landscape (such as trails) to accommodate a use where it is consistent with the protection of the resource.

| ACTION GOALS | PRIORITY | PROGRAM INPUT FROM | RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION |
|---|----------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Continue to operate and maintain the Holdridge Lakes Mountain Bike Area in partnership with CRAMBA. | Ongoing | Park Manager CRAMBA | Park Manager |

NATURAL RESOURCE RECREATION ZONE

Active recreation, at medium to high density of use, conducted in natural areas is the hallmark of the Natural Resource Recreation Zone. There is an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but in this zone, moderate levels of uses are allowed. Vegetation may be managed to facilitate recreational use and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape, as well as to address such things as hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. The 10-Year Action Goals are intended to promote moderate to high levels of recreation compatible with the natural character of the zone. Action goals are designed to ensure that visitors will be engaged in outdoor activities in diverse natural land settings.

| ACTION GOALS | PRIORITY | PROGRAM INPUT FROM | RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION |
|---|----------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Continue to operate and maintain the Holdridge Lakes Mountain Bike Area in partnership with CRAMBA. | Ongoing | Park Manager CRAMBA | Park Manager |

DEVELOPED RECREATION ZONE

Active recreation with high density of use, conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance, is characteristic of the Developed Recreation Zone. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced where possible. The park’s modern campground and primary day use areas are located within this zone.

| ACTION GOALS | PRIORITY | PROGRAM INPUT FROM | RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION |
|---|----------|--|----------------------------------|
| Construct improvements to provide barrier-free access to the water and address erosion issue at Heron Beach | 1 | Park Manager Regional Planner | Park Manager Regional Planner |
| Construct shelter at Heron Beach | 1 | Park Manager Regional Planner | Park Manager Regional Planner |
| Expand existing non-electric sites in campground | 2 | Park Manager Regional Planner | Park Manager Regional Planner |
| Construct multi-use (non-motorized) trail from campground to the beach | 2 | Park Manager Regional Planner Trail Specialist | Park Manager Regional Planner |
| Remove underutilized Oak Flats shelter | 2 | Park Manager Regional Planner | Park Manager Regional Planner |
| Complete a cost/benefit analysis for construction of and additional deluxe camper cabin. | 2 | Park Manager Regional Planner | Park Manager Regional Planner |
| Construct shelter at Heron Lake boating access site | 3 | Park Manager Regional Planner | Park Manager Regional Planner |
| Complete a demand/cost analysis to upgrade non-electric campground loop to 20-30 amp electrical service and implement as recommended. | 3 | Park Manager Regional Planner | Park Manager Regional Planner |



New playground installed at Heron Beach in 2017 with assistance from the Friends of Holly Recreation Area and Carters Kids

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ZONE

This zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. It includes the headquarters offices and maintenance facilities with the associated land required to conduct the business of running Holly State Recreation Area.

| ACTION GOALS | PRIORITY | PROGRAM INPUT FROM | RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION |
|--|----------|---|----------------------------------|
| Replace out-dated (45 year old) heating with energy efficient system | 2 | Park Manager Regional Planner District Supervisor | Park Manager Regional Planner |

WILDLIFE HABITAT BY DEDICATION ZONE

This specially-designated zone reflects a desired condition that emphasizes the natural resources. It is managed for game and non-game wildlife species and only allows dispersed and low frequency use in the zone for low impact recreational purposes. Recreational improvements, other than those needed to facilitate hunting, fishing or wildlife viewing will be limited or restricted.

| ACTION GOALS | PRIORITY | PROGRAM INPUT FROM | RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION |
|--|----------|---|------------------------------|
| Continue to proactively co-manage lands within this zone | Ongoing | Wildlife Park Manager Stewardship | Wildlife Park Manager |

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OVERLAY

The overlay ensures that any development, guided by the underlying zone designation, is sensitive to the cultural resources present. The public interpretation of these cultural resources should also be considered.

| ACTION GOALS | PRIORITY | PROGRAM INPUT FROM | RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM POSITION |
|---|----------|---|------------------------------|
| Evaluate and make recommendations for stabilizing and renovating the Rolston Cabin based on the completed condition assessment study. | 1 | Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner | Regional Planner |
| Phased implementation of Rolston Cabin renovation with a view towards re-opening for overnight rental | 2-3 | Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner | Regional Planner |
| Construct interpretive signs at the Rolston Cabin | 3 | Park Manager Stewardship | Park Manager Stewardship |