



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Historic Grand Traverse Lighthouse

Leelanau State Park

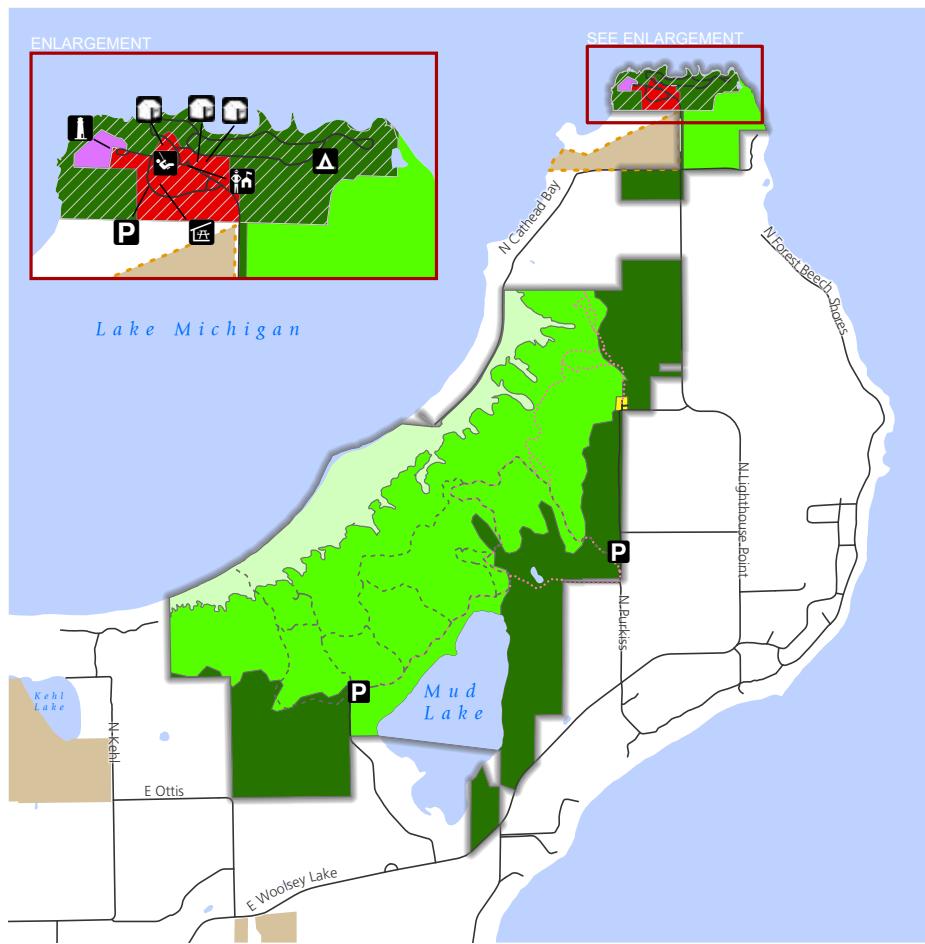
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

APPROVED 9/24/2021

Prepared with the assistance of

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LEELANAU STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Management Zones

Data Sources: Michigan CGI Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

- Leelanau State Park Boundary
- Roads
- Hiking Trail
- Winter Recreation Trail
- Lakes
- Conservancy Land
- Lighthouse West Conservation Easement

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

Date: 6/9/2021 Beckett & Raeder

- Contact Station
- Lighthouse
- Mini Cabin
- Pavilion
- Campground
- Parking
- Playground

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

PLAN APPROVALS:

Ronald Hullson

DNR Chief, Parks & Recreation Division

9/16/2021

Date

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9/17/2021

Date

Dale Eide

DNR Director, Department of Natural Resources

9/24/2021

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>6/29/2021</u> Date
DNR- Resource Management Bureau	<u>7/21/2021 (via email)</u> Date
MSPAC- Stewardship Subcommittee	<u>7/28/2021</u> Date
NRC- Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee	<u>8/11/2021</u> Date

RESOLUTION NO. 08-2021-03

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

**RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE
“LEELANAU STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN”**

ADOPTED: August 11, 2021

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

WHEREAS, the General Management Plan is consistent with the recommendations of the Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel and the Parks and Recreation Division’s strategic plan; 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 Leelanau State Park 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 Leelanau State Park;

Submitted by: MSPAC Stewardship Subcommittee

Motioned by: Mike MacDonald
Seconded by: Chris Graham

Yeas: 7
Nays: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: 3

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A sandy trail through the woods



Watching the sun set by the campfire

General Management Plan

Executive Summary

Leelanau State Park covers 1,533-acres at the northern tip of the Leelanau Peninsula in northwest lower Michigan. The park contains 2.25 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, a rustic campground, three mini cabins, land open to hunting, 8.5 miles of hiking trail with scenic overlooks, winter recreation trails, a picnic area, and a new accessible playground. One of the main draws of the park is the historic Grand Traverse Lighthouse, which is one of the most visited attractions in Leelanau County. The park includes a north and south unit that are currently not contiguous but are connected by a public road. The majority of the park's southern unit includes Critical Dunes with high-quality exemplary natural communities. The lakeshore also provides habitat for the federally- and state-threatened piping plover and much of the area is recognized as a Natural Area Registry Site through an agreement with The Nature Conservancy.

The purpose of this general management plan (GMP) is to guide the future long-term management and development of Leelanau State Park. Overall, this plan seeks to uphold the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks & 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 state park:

- Purpose and significance that captures the unique identity of Leelanau State Park;
- Twenty-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 park as a whole and within each of the designated management zones.

The supporting analysis, included as Appendix A of this plan, provides important background information on Leelanau State Park 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, the Managed Public Land Strategy, and the Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, were used as guiding references (see Chapter One).

Significance of Leelanau State Park

This general management plan was developed in consideration of the property's significant features that make it distinct from other parks in the state park system. Leelanau State Park was determined significant due to the aspects that are summarized below. The full statements of significance can be found in Chapter Three.

- Leelanau State Park's historic and natural features and scenic views bring many visitors to the peninsula, yet it maintains a peaceful and "off-the-grid" feeling, which is part of the attraction.
- The historic Grand Traverse Lighthouse welcomes visitors to the park year-round with its lighthouse museum, rotating exhibits, educational tours and gift shop.
- The park offers 8.5 miles of trails that are open year-round and are seasonally expanded to provide winter recreation. These trails allow visitors to access natural areas, scenic views, hunting land, and Cathead Bay.
- Critical Dunes, both forested and open dunes, cover roughly 1,000 acres of the park. This fragile and invaluable resource provides numerous natural, economic, and recreational benefits.
- The park's unique location at the tip of the Leelanau Peninsula is a landing place for multiple species of migrating birds, providing abundant birding opportunities.
- The park's dedicated non-profit partners provide support and programming for the park, which include managing the lighthouse, organizing clean-up days, annual events, educational programs, and fundraisers.



A family enjoys their rustic campsite

Twenty-Year Management Zones

A key goal in the development of this general management plan is to continue to protect the park's natural and cultural resources, while providing recreation and education opportunities. 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. The management zone map and a thorough review of each management zone are found in Chapter Four 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 and allows foot traffic only. This zone covers 12% of the park and includes the open dunes along the Lake Michigan shoreline in the southern unit of the park.

Backcountry Zone

The character of the backcountry zone is natural, with minimal evidence of human impact. This zone allows for a slightly higher level of use than the primitive zone, including non-motorized trails and low-impact modifications of the landscape to accommodate that use. This zone is 53% of the park and includes the forested Critical Dunes in the southern unit of the park, as well as the undeveloped portion of the northern unit. A trailhead leading to hiking trails and seasonally groomed winter recreation trails are located in the southern unit.



Children play on the lakeshore



Camping chairs set out to view Lake Michigan

Natural Resource Recreation Zone

The natural resource recreation zone supports active recreation conducted in natural settings with medium- to high-density use. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but in this zone, higher levels of use are allowed. The natural resource recreation zone makes up approximately 34% of the park and includes the rustic campground and remnants of the original lighthouse foundation in the northern unit, as well as undeveloped land in the southern unit of the park.

Developed Recreation Zone

This zone allows for active high-density recreation conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced as possible. The developed recreation zone is approximately 11 acres, or 0.7% of the park land, and includes the day use area, mini-cabins, and a contact station.

Administrative Services Zone

This zone encompasses areas required for the administration and operations of the park. It makes up 1.6 acres of the park and includes the park's shop area on North Purkiss Road.

Historical Education Zone

The emphasis of this zone is education, with cultural and historic resources restored and interpreted for visitor understanding. This zone covers 1.8 acres encompassing the Grand Traverse Lighthouse complex, currently operated under a lease agreement.

Cultural Landscape Overlay

The cultural landscape overlay is used to highlight not only historic structures, but also non-structural evidence of the traditions, beliefs, practices, arts, crafts, and social intuitions of any community. This overlay is applied to 3% of the park and is located in the northern unit. It contains the remains of a previous lighthouse that was the subject of an archaeological survey by the University of Michigan in 2004, as well as other known sites with the potential for further historic or prehistoric sites to be present.

Ten-Year Action Goals

Once the planning team has established management zones to guide Leelanau State Park for the next 20 years, a series of action goals are identified. The planning team has determined that these action items can be accomplished in the next ten years. The action goals are broken down into categories pertaining either to an area of management and operations, infrastructure/development projects that require capital outlay, small infrastructure and development projects, or partner projects. As future improvements are evaluated, renewable energy, resiliency, sustainability, EV charging and efficiency will be considered. Below is a summary of the action goals for the park. The full list of ten-year action goals can be found in Chapter Five.

Management and Operations

Goals for the management and operations of the park focus on completing a stewardship plan for the park including invasive species management; selectively managing vegetation to enhance beloved views while maintaining erosion protection; and continuing to assess the resiliency of the park's infrastructure to changing lake levels, natural disasters and climate change. Park management will work to improve the connectivity of the land by pursuing land acquisitions within the project boundary, including completing the acquisition of the Lighthouse West property on which the park already has a conservation easement, as well as acquiring an easement to connect the north and south units of the park. In addition, land open and closed for hunting will be clarified in a wildlife conservation order. Park management will evaluate the potential for a group campground within the park, as well as explore opportunities to feature the dark-sky viewing potential

at the park. A natural area dedication for the open dunes along the Cathead Bay shoreline will be proposed to protect this fragile natural resource, and existing cultural resources will be documented and evaluated for protection measures.

Infrastructure and Development: Capital Outlay

Goals to complete larger construction projects involving capital improvement funds include studying upgrades for drinking water and restrooms as well as shower facility options, designing and constructing a storage garage at the day-use area, and exploring the potential to relocate some campsites and/or expand the campground with a limited number of rustic campsites or camping opportunities that would maintain the natural character of the park.

Infrastructure and Development: Small Projects

Smaller infrastructure and development projects involve updating the interpretive, wayfinding, and regulatory signage in the park, as well as constructing additional accessible recreation amenities at Mud Lake. Park staff will also expand the existing parking lot on Purkiss Road and realign the campground to ensure long-term sustainability from changing lake levels.

Partner Projects

The park will partner with the Grand Traverse Lighthouse Museum to implement the items within the lighthouse historic structures report and construct an artifact storage facility at the Purkiss Road administrative services zone to protect artifacts. The Friends of Leelanau State Park will construct a half-mile accessible "All-Persons Trail" with signage along Mud Lake.



Lakeshore vegetation



The wide horizon of Lake Michigan

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 DNR Evergreen Goals, and the DNR Parks & 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.

DNR Evergreen Goals

- **Protect** natural and cultural resources
- **Ensure** sustainable recreation use and enjoyment
- **Enable** strong natural resource-based economies
- **Foster** effective business practices and good governance
- **Improve** and build strong relationships and partnerships, internally and externally

PRD Mission Statement

The Parks & 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 ten-year action goals established in this plan.

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. Recommendations in the report include:

- Identify and protect important natural, cultural, historic, and prehistoric resources

- Diversify funding
- Prioritize development of statewide and regional systems of connected trail networks
- Encourage connections between communities and their recreational assets to strengthen regional identities
- Integrate tourism and economic development marketing
- Prioritize investment in parks and recreation

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



A stone fireplace is the remnant of a past homestead

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, 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 compliments other plans and planning efforts



Michigan Comprehensive Trail Plan

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 for each. These goals are to:

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

PRD Strategic Plan (2017-2022)

The PRD Strategic Plan is the overarching document that guides the Parks & 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 five-year period beginning in 2017. It identifies the most

important issues facing the PRD and helps to define where resources should be focused for maximum benefit. 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



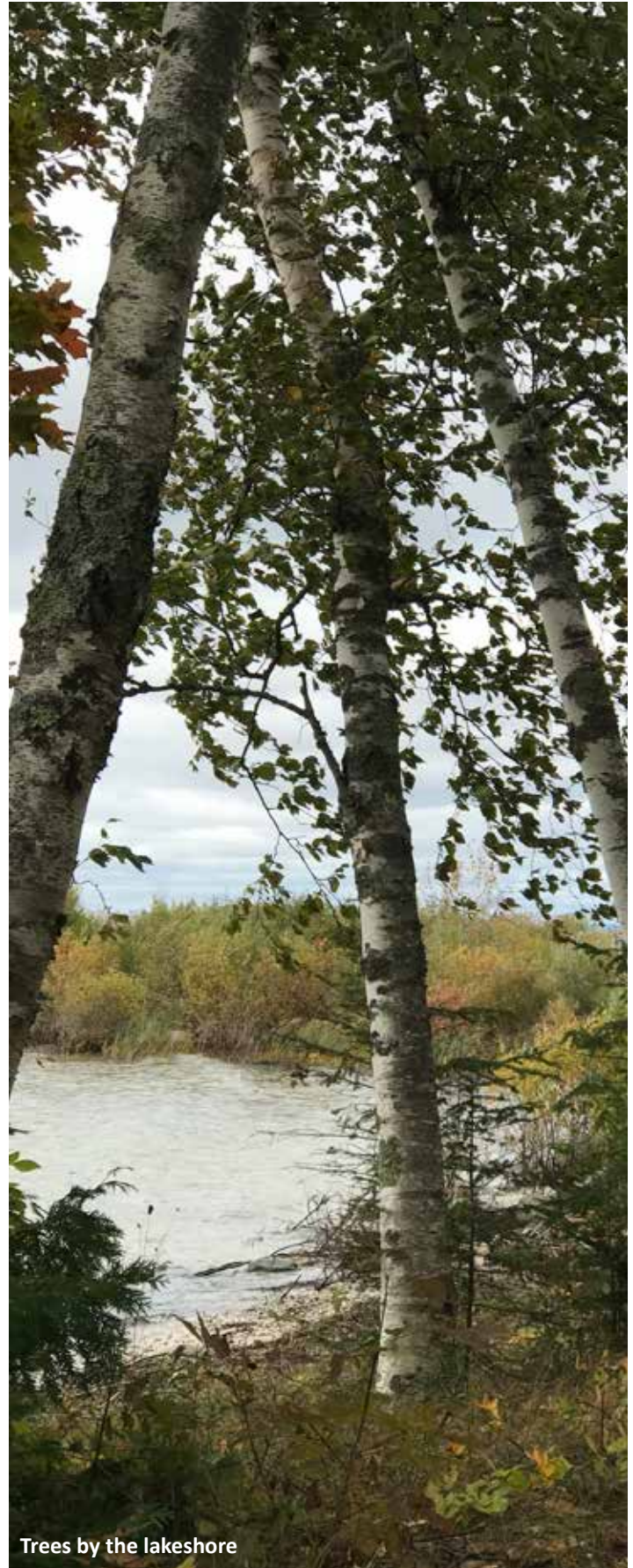
Sunset colors paint the sky

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 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 Resources Commission, the Department, and the Parks & Recreation Division. The general and site-specific legal mandates applicable to Leelanau State Park are listed in Appendix A: Supporting Analysis.

The legal mandates that most directly impact planning and management at Leelanau State Park focus on the following areas:

- Federal and state protected species including the piping plover and bald eagle
- Preservation of natural and cultural resources
- Water resources, wetlands, Great Lakes submerged bottomlands, and inland lakes and streams protection
- Protection of Critical Dunes
- Hunting area and control
- Requirement for a Recreation Passport for entry into the park
- Public health code requirements for campgrounds, swimming areas, and swimmers' itch
- Michigan Natural Areas Registry voluntary agreements for the lakeshore area of the Cathead Bay Unit



Trees by the lakeshore



A bench overlooks the dunes

Chapter Two: Plan Process Overview

2.1 Planning Objectives

Leelanau State Park has developed as a public recreation site over many decades. It began with the transfer of 31 acres of surplus lighthouse property at the tip of the Leelanau Peninsula from the U.S. Government to the State of Michigan in 1932 for park use. Initially known as the Northport Site, this area was developed with a parking and picnic area, vault toilets and campsites. Following a report by the National Park Service recommending the area for preservation and public recreation, the state purchased additional lakefront and dune land, and dedicated Leelanau State Park in 1964. Targeted land acquisition continued prior to the park's first master plan being approved in 1976. This master plan was designed to accommodate a maximum of 250,000 visitors annually and proposed two separate administrative units: the Lighthouse Unit, focusing on rustic camping and the lighthouse, and the Cathead Bay Unit with foot trails, parking lots, and land for hunting. An effort to update the Leelanau State Park master plan in the mid-1980s was not completed. Although the principles outlined in the 1976 plan are generally still recognized today, much has changed in the last 40 years. The park acreage has almost doubled, the lighthouse complex is now owned by the state and managed by the Grand Traverse

Lighthouse Museum, recreational users and uses have changed, and environmental threats have evolved.

This general management planning process sets out a new framework for protecting park resources while providing for meaningful visitor experiences. The long-range vision and management objectives for Leelanau State Park are derived from the missions of the DNR and the Parks & Recreation Division (PRD), 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 PRD staff, staff from other resource divisions, stakeholders, and the public into a planning process that defines and clarifies the unique purpose and significance of Leelanau State Park. Collectively, those attributes will be reinforced in the planning and management decisions that impact the park through the implementation of the 20-year management zone plan, used to guide park planning decisions, and 10-year action goals that establish specific action strategies for the park as a whole and within each of the management zones. Each GMP is reviewed every five years to ensure there have been no major changes that would warrant a revision to the approved plan.

2.2 Planning Process

The planning team met periodically over a two-year period to develop the GMP, beginning in June 2019 and ending in May of 2021 (the project duration was lengthened by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic). 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 October 2019 to gather insight from organizations tied to the park. In addition, an online public input survey was available for interested parties to comment on their current use of the park and their priorities for the future. Following the input sessions and survey, the team developed a list of action goals and developed the draft plan.

2.3 Planning Team

This plan was developed with the direct assistance, input, and expertise provided by all members of the planning team.

PLANNING TEAM		
DIVISION	TITLE	NAME
PRD	Management Plan Administrator	Debbie Jensen
PRD	Lands Liaison	Matt Lincoln
PRD	GIS Analyst	Jessica Orlando
PRD	Unit Supervisor	Stephanie Rosinski
PRD	Cadillac District Supervisor	Kasey Mahony
PRD	Lead Ranger	Joshua Drage
PRD	Regional Planner	Annamarie Bauer
PRD	Stewardship Unit Manager	Ray Fahlsing
PRD	N. Lower Trails Coordinator	Scott Slavin
PRD	Cultural Resources Analyst	Lisa Gamero
FD (Fisheries)	Fisheries Biologist	Heather Hettinger
FRD (Forestry)	TC Unit Manager	Dave Lemmien
WLD (Wildlife)	Wildlife Habitat Biologist	Steve Griffith
LED (Law)	District 4 Area Law Supervisor	Sgt. Dan Bigger
FOD (Finance and Operations)	Geologist	Peter Rose
History Center	Museum Director	Suzanne Fischer
SHPO	Archaeologist	Stacey Tchorzynski

2.4 Summary of Input Opportunities

Public input is a critical part of the planning for Leelanau State Park. Below is a summary of the public and stakeholder input methods that were used to inform the development of the GMP. 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 GMP process. This website was updated with general information about the park, 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

To gather targeted input from governmental, non-profit, and business/tourism entities, the planning team invited a group of over 50 stakeholders to participate in a facilitated input workshop held on October 29th, 2019. The stakeholders were initially given a brief overview of the park and the general management planning process. Next, the stakeholders were divided into small-table discussion groups to complete a series of exercises describing the park's current status, opportunities for partnerships, the park's potential benefit to the larger community, and the stakeholders' vision for the park's future. Each table then reported out to the larger group.

Online Public Input Survey

One of the methods the planning team used to gather input from park users was an online survey. This 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 statistically representative of Leelanau State Park users or uses, as respondents self-select and are not sampled on a random or systematic basis. Nevertheless, the online 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, sent to those who registered for camping in the last year, shared with park stakeholders, and was also shared on social media.

Five-hundred twelve (512) individuals responded to the survey. Of those, 479 (94%) visited Leelanau State Park in the last five years. Those who had not recently visited the park were screened out from the remainder of the survey. The survey included questions on what activities the visitors participated in during their visit, their thoughts on the day-use and overnight park amenities, the Grand Traverse Lighthouse, hunting and trapping, fishing, special events and programs, their overall satisfaction with their experience, and their demographic information.

Public Input Meeting

The public was invited to share their thoughts about the Leelanau State Park Draft General Management Plan at a virtual public meeting that was hosted online by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on March 10th, 2021, from 6:00- 7:00 p.m. The meeting was originally scheduled to be held in person, but due to the coronavirus pandemic, the meeting was held virtually. The general public was notified about the meeting through a press release, internet postings, and email notifications. A total of 81 attendees were recorded.

The meeting began with a brief introduction of planning team members, followed by a short overview of the general management plan process, Leelanau State Park, and the draft

general management plan contents. Attendees were given an opportunity to ask questions of DNR staff. At the end of the meeting, attendees were asked to visit the interactive public input survey link to review and comment on the statements of significance, management zone plan, and ten-year actions goals. There was also a section for additional feedback on the management plan and the input process. A full report of the input received can be found in Appendix B.

Following the public meeting, the planning team met to discuss the input received and make any necessary changes to the plan. Changes made included corrections to the park history, and new action goals relating to the documentation and protection of cultural resources, expansion of the Purkiss Road parking lot, and evaluation of the potential of Leelanau State Park as a dark-sky viewing location.

Tribal Communication

The department's tribal coordinator reached out to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe with a letter notifying them of the GMP process and timeline and asking for any input.



Stakeholders engage in brainstorming activities

2.5 Resilience Planning

According to “Planning for Community Resilience in Michigan: A Comprehensive Handbook” (www.resilientmichigan.org), “Resilience has become an umbrella term for the planning and design strategies needed to help communities meet the economic, social, environmental and climate challenges of the future. Community resilience is a measure of the sustained ability of a community to utilize available resources to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations.” A resiliency plan involves assessing vulnerabilities, weighing the relative risks of various hazards, planning for plausible future scenarios, and tracking the progress toward resilience through measurable goals.

Although the local community has not gone through a formal resilience planning process, a “Framework for Our Future: A Regional Prosperity Plan for Northwest Lower Michigan” was written in 2014 that points to some of the same key issues. It recognizes the importance of the region’s natural resources and scenic beauty to its economic prosperity and suggests ways that communities can maintain, improve and protect the quality of surface and ground water resources, habitat, forestland, and green infrastructure assets. These include identifying sensitive features, implementing stormwater best practices, limiting development in or near sensitive landscapes, and working with community stakeholders and non-profits to ensure the preservation of interconnected undeveloped lands.

In addition, in 2017, Networks Northwest created a resource titled “Planning for Coastal Resiliency in Northwest Michigan’s Dunes: A Guidebook for Local Leaders”. It points to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s definition of coastal resilience as “building the ability of a community

to ‘bounce back’ after hazardous events such as hurricanes, coastal storms, and flooding – rather than simply reacting to impacts.” The guidebook suggests several categories of techniques to improve resilience.

Resilience planning is critical for communities and facilities, such as the Leelanau State Park, that encounter risks due to rising lake levels, increased storm intensity and frequency, wildfire, extreme temperatures, flooding, erosion, and other hazards. The park has experienced the effects of these events, most recently record-high lake levels that have caused flooding and erosion of the campground roads and campsites that are close to the lakeshore. In addition, the arrival of beech bark disease is causing depletion of the American beech overstory, resulting in landscape-level environmental change. The GMP recognizes the risks facing the park and proposes the following measures to create a more resilient park (see Chapter Four and Chapter Five for more information):

- Stewardship staff will complete a natural resource stewardship plan for the park, identifying targets for conservation and related natural resource management strategies.
- Park staff will continue to assess the resiliency of the park’s infrastructure to mitigate potential future threats from changing lake levels, natural disasters, and climate change.
- Park staff, in conjunction with the regional planner, will realign the campground road to ensure long-term sustainability.

Increasing resilience and mitigating hazards will continue to be an important goal for the park management staff. While this plan addresses some of the issues present, a full hazard mitigation plan, or resilience plan, for the park would be a useful tool for the future.



High lake levels threaten the campground roads



One of three mini cabins

Chapter Three: Purpose and Significance

3.1 Purpose of Leelanau State Park

Park purpose statements are based on park legislation, special designations and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) policies. These statements reaffirm the reasons for which Leelanau State Park was included as part of the state park system.

The overarching purpose of Leelanau State Park is to be used as a public park *“for the purposes of public recreation or the preservation of natural beauty or historic association”*, in accordance with Public Act (PA) 218 of 1919, which created the Michigan State Park Commission. PA 451 of 1994, the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA), states that the Department of Natural Resources shall *“create, maintain, operate, promote, and make available for public use and enjoyment a system of state parks to preserve and protect Michigan’s significant natural resources and areas of natural beauty or historic significance, to provide open space for public recreation, and to provide an opportunity to understand Michigan’s natural resources and the need to protect and manage those resources”*.

Leelanau State Park, specifically, was dedicated by the Department of Conservation in 1964 as a Great Lakes state park *“with excellent potential for day use and camping”*.

3.2 Statements of Significance

Each General Management Plan (GMP) developed by the Michigan DNR Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) is built upon the foundation of the park’s significant features that make it distinct from other parks in the state’s system. Leelanau State Park was determined significant due to the following:

Peninsula Destination

Leelanau State Park is a destination drawing large numbers of visitors to the northern tip of the scenic Leelanau Peninsula. Visitors are attracted by the historic Grand Traverse Lighthouse, high vantage points atop the sand dunes offering scenic views of Lake Michigan and surrounding islands, and a rustic campground on the shore of Lake Michigan. Although highly visited, the park maintains a peaceful and “off-the-grid” feel due to the remote location and rustic amenities, which are part of the attraction.

Historic Lighthouse

One of the park’s main attractions is the historic Grand Traverse Lighthouse, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a destination on the Lake Michigan Circle Tour. The associated lighthouse museum, rotating exhibits,

educational tours and gift shop draw many visitors to the park year-round. An archaeological site, consisting of the remains of an earlier lighthouse, is also located within the park.

Trails

Leelanau State Park offers 8.5 miles of high-quality trails that are open to foot traffic. The trails are expanded seasonally to provide for a variety of winter recreation activities- the only public, groomed winter recreation trails in the area. The hiking trails allow visitors access to natural areas, scenic overlooks, Cathead Bay, and public hunting land.

Sand Dunes

Visitors can experience roughly 1,000 acres of open and forested dunes within the park, designated as Critical Dunes, which are protected by state law. They are a fragile and invaluable resource that provide numerous natural, economic, and recreational benefits. There are several high-quality exemplary natural communities associated with the dunes: Great Lakes barrens, open dunes, interdunal wetlands and mesic northern forest.

Birding

The park's location at the tip of the Leelanau Peninsula provides unique birding opportunities. Migrating birds, such as raptors, warblers and other neotropical songbirds, make landfall and congregate here before/after crossing Lake Michigan. As such, the park is listed as a destination on the Sleeping Bear Birding Trail, as well as within an Audubon Society designated Important Bird Area, highlighting this exceptional migratory flyway in the region. In addition, the western lakeshore is a protected Critical Coastal Habitat for the piping plover, a federally- and state-listed endangered species.

Collaboration and Support

The park has several non-profit partners that provide support and programming. The Grand Traverse Lighthouse Museum operates and maintains the lighthouse property and hosts annual events and educational programs. The Friends of Leelanau State Park hosts a variety of annual events, clean-up days, and fundraisers that support park improvements. The park partners with The Leelanau Conservancy to preserve and provide public access to the Lighthouse West Natural Area and other properties on the peninsula.



A rowboat turned into a planter adorns the grounds of the Grand Traverse Lighthouse

3.3 Public Affirmation of Significance

Stakeholder and public input assisted the planning team with affirming the significant features and opportunities at Leelanau State Park. The feedback from the online survey confirmed that the park's unique peninsula destination, historical lighthouse, trail systems, sands dunes, birding opportunities and events and programming are key aspects of the park. Comments from survey respondents relating to those significant features are provided below.

"Hiking trails were beautiful. Plenty of choices to vary the length as well."

"We truly love the remoteness of this park and walking the rocky shoreline without any view hindrance to the Lake's huge expanse."

"It is a treasure of the peninsula and Great Lakes to be maintained for future generations."

"We thoroughly enjoyed the abundance of nesting birds near our campsite."

"Its a great park! One of my favorites. I also like the Friends of the Park Facebook page for timely updates, photos and more. You can tell they love the park!"

"The campsites are nicely separated from one another. The views are beautiful. It is nice and quiet. The views of the night sky are incredible. I woke my son up at 1:00 in the morning just to stare at the stars."

"This is honestly my favorite park in Michigan. The shoreline is so beautiful but it's still not nearly as crowded as many other parks in the surrounding area. I wouldn't change anything about it."

"It's lovely and historic and it was full when we were there but never felt like we were on top of each other."

"The lighthouse, grounds, outbuildings & shoreline show the history of the area."

"Birding is excellent there during migration."

3.4 Community Connection

Leelanau State Park's historic lighthouse, shoreline campground, and expansive wooded dunes and trails draw many people to the area. In fact, the Grand Traverse Lighthouse is one of the most visited attractions in Leelanau County. The lighthouse is listed as a destination on the Lake Michigan Circle Tour, a designated scenic road system featuring many picturesque locations.

The park is situated remotely enough to feel serene and uncrowded yet still near the cafes, services, and unique shops of alluring towns such as Northport, Leland, and Suttons Bay. This provides a mutual economic benefit between the towns and the park. In the public input survey, 70% of respondents reported visiting other attractions in the area during their most recent visit to Leelanau State Park. These included Sleeping Bear Dunes, wineries, the Turtle Creek Casino, and Fish Town (Leland), among many others.

The Grand Traverse Lighthouse Museum is closely connected to the surrounding community. It provides visitors a window into the region's maritime history and culture. The original/early lighthouse keepers were part of the community and their families have donated time, stories and materials to the museum, adding to its richness. The Grand Traverse Lighthouse Museum and Friends of Leelanau State Park continue to enhance the park experience by providing historical and educational programs for local residents and visitors.



Lighthouse keepers in costume enjoy the park's Halloween festivities

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	Active Management	Significant Use	Extensive Development
DEVELOPED RECREATION			
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 and education opportunities to the greatest extent practicable. From a palette of nine management zones, the planning team studied the park and applied zones that best fit distinct areas of the park based on existing and desired future conditions. 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 level of development vary in each of the nine standard zones, as indicated in the figure above. Leelanau State Park was divided into the following six zones and one overlay:

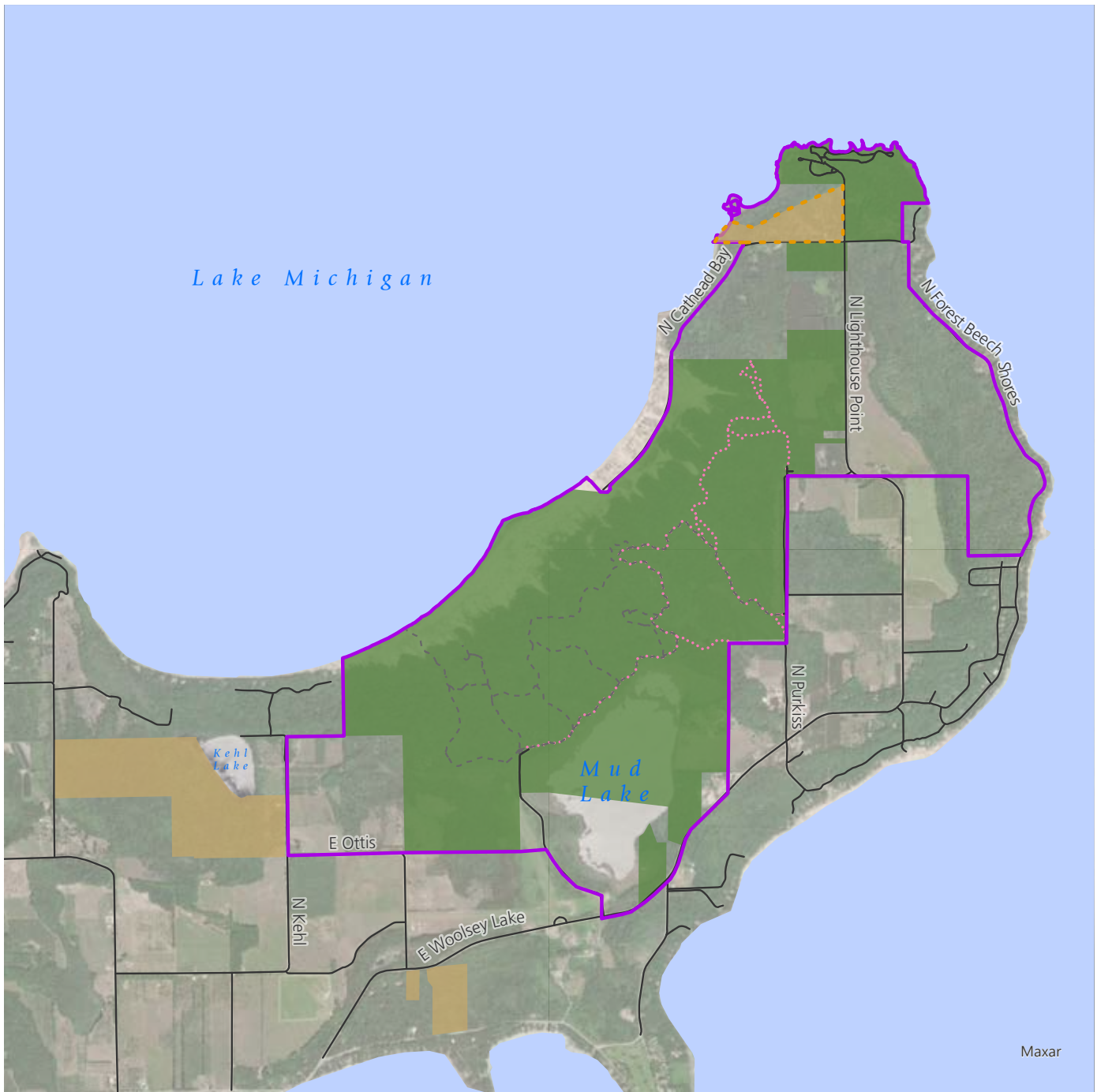
- Primitive zone
- Backcountry zone
- Natural resource recreation zone
- Developed recreation zone

- Administrative services zone
- History education zone
- Cultural landscape overlay

4.1 Project Boundary

Project boundaries are geographic lines that help define the state’s public lands acquisition and disposal strategy (land strategy). These boundaries contain a majority of state ownership, as well as privately owned lands that, should they ever become available for sale, would be a priority for the DNR to pursue acquiring. The DNR undertook a comprehensive statewide Project Boundary Review in 2020. The GMP planning team provided recommendations on the proposed boundary for Leelanau State Park and supports the 2020 Project Boundary approved by the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the DNR. The Project Boundary includes land that complements the existing park land, considering natural and cultural resources, economic value, recreational value and ease of access and management.

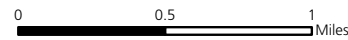
The approved project boundary proposes to add land that would envelop Mud Lake within park boundaries, connect the park to Conservancy land with additional undeveloped acreage, and connect the park’s north and south units with additional undeveloped land, protecting the important migratory bird flyway. In total, all the land within the proposed project boundary would add 1,325 acres to Leelanau State Park.



LEELANAU STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Proposed Project Boundary

Data Sources: Michigan CGI Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

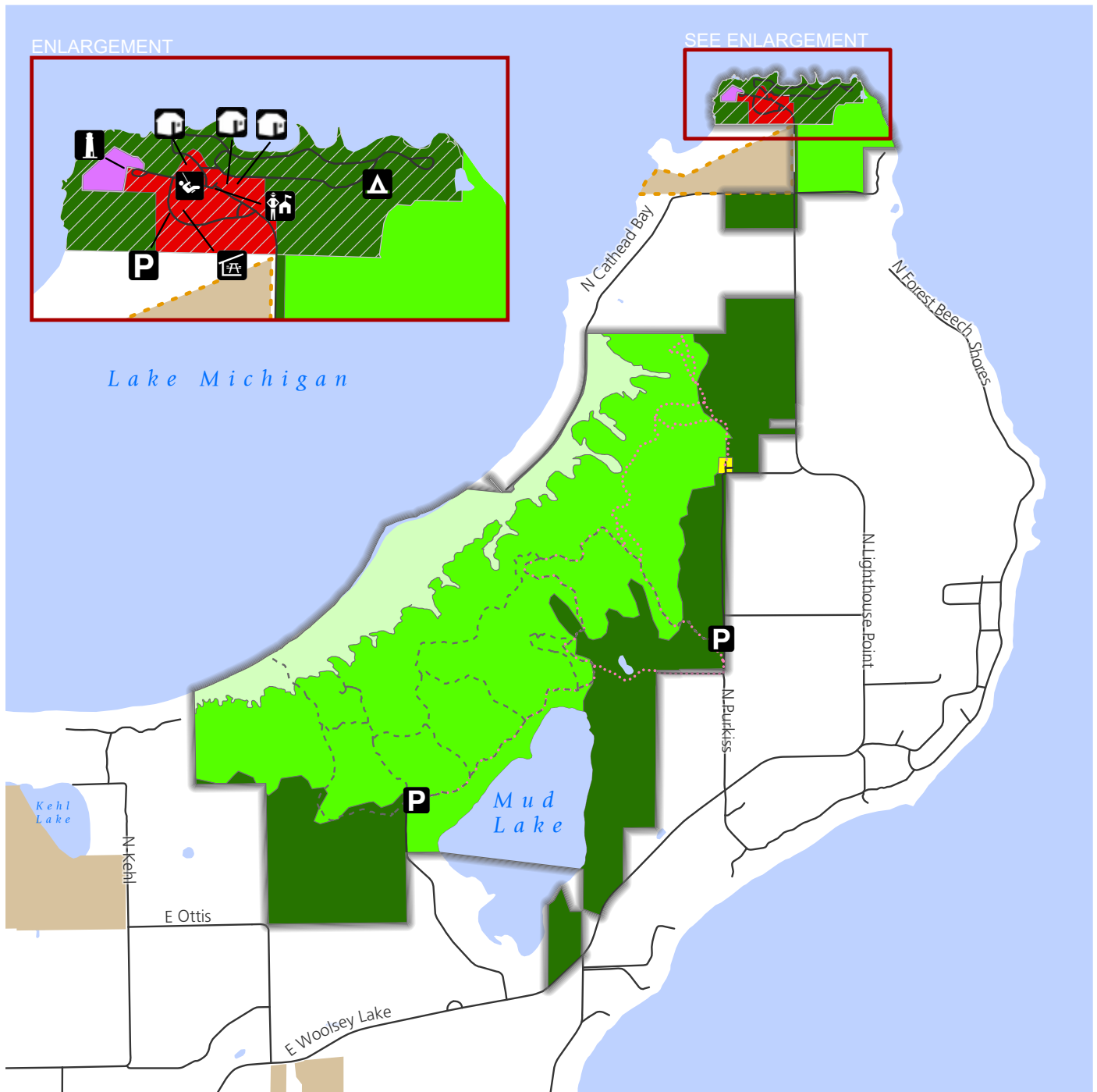


Date: 3/9/2021

- Leelanau State Park Boundary
- Roads
- Trails
- Winter Recreation Trail
- Rivers / Streams
- Lakes
- Current Park Boundary
- 2020 Approved Project Boundary
- Lighthouse West Conservation Easement
- Conservation Land

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, approved by the Natural Resources Commission in 2020





LEELANAU STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Management Zones

Data Sources: Michigan CGI Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

- Leelanau State Park Boundary
- Roads
- Hiking Trail
- Winter Recreation Trail
- Lakes
- Conservancy Land
- Lighthouse West Conservation Easement

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

- Contact Station
- Lighthouse
- Mini Cabin
- Pavilion
- Campground
- Parking
- Playground

Date: 6/9/2021

Beckett & Raeder

4.2 Primitive Zone

The primary purpose of the primitive zone is the protection of the natural resources and natural processes. The zone is managed to only allow dispersed and low-frequency use 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. This zone covers about 188 acres (12% of the park) and includes the open dunes along the lakeshore on Cathead Bay, which are designated Critical Dunes.

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 there are no recorded historic sites within this zone, there is potential for archaeological sites to be found. Cultural resources may be preserved or allowed to remain undisturbed.

Recreation Opportunities

This zone allows dispersed, low-density, self-reliant (no bicycle, equestrian, or motorized use) outdoor activities (e.g., hiking,

cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hunting/trapping, fishing, swimming, paddling, nature observation).

Education Opportunities

Education opportunities for 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 others. Visitors are engaged in high-solitude, on- or off-trail outdoor activities. This zone requires a high time commitment and can involve 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 for visitor accommodation (e.g., foot trails). Site hardening is only allowed to protect sensitive resources (e.g., boardwalks). There should be little evidence of human activity in this zone. This zone is largely undeveloped open dunes.



Rolling open dunes

4.3 Backcountry Zone

The character of the backcountry zone is natural, with minimal evidence of human impact through recreational use. Whereas the primitive zone is highly restrictive for recreational use and human impact, this zone allows for slightly increased use and may include modifications of the landscape, such as trail development, to accommodate that use. This zone is about 811 acres (53% of the park) and includes the wooded Critical Dunes in the park's south unit, hiking and winter recreation trails, scenic overlooks, the west shoreline of Mud Lake, and a trailhead. It also includes undeveloped woodlands in the north park unit.

Natural Resources

Natural resources may be modified slightly to support visitor use, but tolerance for natural resource impacts is typically low. Native Michigan natural communities/ecosystem components and processes are maintained, restored, and protected, and human-caused habitat fragmentation is minimized.

Historic/Cultural Resources

There is one known archaeological site in the Cathead Bay Unit of the park in the backcountry zone. There is potential for additional archaeological sites to be found. Cultural resources may be preserved or allowed to remain undisturbed.

Recreation Opportunities

Moderate levels of recreation (non-motorized) that are compatible with the natural character of the zone are allowed. Outdoor activities in diverse, natural land and water settings, such as hiking, backpacking, or bicycling on designated trails, paddling, nature observation, cross-country skiing, hunting/trapping, fishing, and snowshoeing, may be allowed in this

zone. Snowmobiling is not permitted in the backcountry zone. Year-round bicycling within Critical Dunes presents a serious erosion risk; therefore, is only permitted on trails specifically designated for that purpose and when the ground is covered with at least six inches of snow.

Education Opportunities

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

Visitor Experience

Moderate visitor encounters are accommodated in this zone. Visitors will be engaged in 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, designated backcountry campsites, pit toilets, and educational opportunities. Development shall be unobtrusive and blend with the natural environment. Site hardening, such as boardwalks, fencing, and pedestrian paths, may be necessary to protect sensitive resources. This zone currently contains hiking trails, winter recreation trails, and a trailhead.



A trail through the woods

4.4 Natural Resource Recreation Zone

The natural resource recreation zone supports active recreation conducted in natural settings with medium- to high-density use. There is an emphasis on resource quality over recreation. The natural resource recreation zone makes up about 520 acres (approximately 34% of the park) and includes the portions of the southern park unit that are outside of the Critical Dunes, the rustic campground, and some undeveloped portions of the northern park unit. There is a 65-foot-wide corridor of natural resource recreation zone along North Lighthouse Road to allow for a potential future bicycle path.

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. This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and function. Vegetation may also be managed to facilitate recreational infrastructure and use and to maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape.

Historic/Cultural Resources

The foundation of the original Grand Traverse, or Cat Head, lighthouse is located within this zone. There is also a stone chimney from a former residence located in the southern unit. Extant historic resources may be preserved, restored, allowed to molder in place, or adaptively used for operational or educational purposes. Cultural resources may be preserved or allowed to remain undisturbed. Part of this zone is also covered by a cultural landscape overlay which has additional requirements for cultural resource management.



Walking on a boardwalk bridge

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, natural land and water settings. Activities that may be allowed in this zone include hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, viewing historic sites, snowshoeing, rustic camping, picnicking, nature observation, hunting, trapping, fishing and snowmobiling.

Education Opportunities

Interpretive signage may be provided at campgrounds, day use facilities, trailheads, on the trails, and at overlooks.

Visitor Experience

Visitors can expect moderate to high encounters with others and moderate interaction with DNR staff. 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 vault toilets, concrete/asphalt/gravel trails and small parking lots, benches, picnic tables, and shelters for recreation and educational opportunities. Site hardening, including boardwalks and surfaced pedestrian paths, is allowed, as necessary, to protect sensitive resources and provide accessibility. Current development includes a rustic campground with a gravel road, hiking trails, winter recreation trails, and a trailhead.



A smiling family reading a book at their campsite

4.5 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. The developed recreation zone is about 11 acres (approximately 0.7% of the park land) and includes the day-use area (parking lots, picnic shelter, playground), contact station, and three mini cabins.

Natural Resources

Natural resources may be actively managed and modified to support visitor activities. Vegetative management in this zone will facilitate development and recreational use and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape.

Historic/Cultural Resources

Although there are no recorded historic sites within this zone, there is potential for archaeological sites to be found; however, little evidence may remain. Cultural resources may be preserved or allowed to remain undisturbed. Refer to cultural landscape overlay description.

Recreation Opportunities

High levels of recreation in a highly structured environment are found in this zone. Visitors may be engaged in recreation in diverse and modified land and water settings such as hiking, modern and semi-modern camping, bicycling, nature observation, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, picnicking, playground use, and participating in educational programs or events.

Education Opportunities

Interpretive and informational signage is encouraged at trailheads and at gathering areas such as the picnic shelter, registration buildings, and other day-use areas. Active programming may also be provided. The park contact station is in this zone, where face-to-face contact occurs for general information, both verbally and written.

Visitor Experience

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

Management Focus

The management focus in this zone is to maintain use of the zone appropriate to the PRD mission, protect the park's resources, maintain public safety, effectively manage visitors, and provide universal access.

Development

A high level of development of facilities to support visitor activities is permitted in this zone such as restrooms, walkways, parking, campground facilities, cabins, trails, playgrounds, benches, picnic tables, and shelters for recreation and educational opportunities. Site hardening is allowed, as necessary, to facilitate activities, protect natural resources, and provide accessibility. Current development includes parking areas, a picnic shelter, a playground, three mini cabins, and a registration station.



Playground in the day-use area was constructed in September 2019 (Photo: Friends of Leelanau State Park)



Park entrance sign

4.6 Administrative Services Zone

This zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations such as the park headquarters, maintenance area, sanitary infrastructure, and all related land required to conduct the business of running the state park. This zone is about 1.6 acres, or approximately 0.1% of the park and includes the park maintenance facility on North Purkiss Road.

Natural Resources

Natural resources may be actively managed and modified to facilitate administrative 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

Recreation activities are not the focus of this zone, although the winter recreation trails pass through the zone, connecting to Purkiss Road.

Education Opportunities

Person-to-person contact for general information is typically provided in this zone. At Leelanau State Park, public contact with park staff for verbal and written information primarily occurs at the contact station in the developed recreation zone of the northern unit.

Visitor Experience

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

Management Focus

The management focus in this zone is the business of running the 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 seating area, shop space, storage space, and other related spaces. A high level of accessibility is expected.

4.7 History Education Zone

The emphasis of this zone is education and cultural resource preservation. Historic resources are restored and interpreted for visitor understanding. A high level of development is common in this zone for the management and control of people and traffic, protection of the resources, and historical interpretation. This zone is about 1.8 acres (approximately 0.1% of the park land) and includes the area defined by the Grand Traverse Lighthouse lease.

Natural Resources

Natural resources that have been identified as important to the integrity of the historic (cultural) landscape are managed to perpetuate those qualities. This can include non-native species (those that are non-invasive) specific to the era and/or location. Vegetation may also be managed to enhance education/interpretation and to protect historic structures and views.

Historic/Cultural Resources

Cultural resources found in this zone, such as the Grand Traverse Lighthouse and associated structures, are preserved, restored, rehabilitated or reconstructed to the specific period of significance. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties are followed.

If essential for visitor access, comfort, or education, buildings may be rehabilitated to support visitor and staff activities for in-depth interpretation of historic periods. The Michigan History Center and the State Historic Preservation Office are often consulted.

Recreation Opportunities

Visitors may be engaged in sightseeing and educational activities in a cultural setting such as visiting the historic structures at the Grand Traverse Lighthouse Museum, scenic viewing at overlooks and at the top of the lighthouse tower and viewing interpretive exhibits.

Education Opportunities

Structured interpretive/educational activities related to the historic resources, such as guided or brochure tours, in-depth history exhibits, media, and programs, may be found in this zone. Off-site interpretation may also be provided.

Visitor Experience

High visitor encounters are accommodated in this zone. Visitors are engaged in structured interpretive/educational activities related to the historic resources. Visitors should expect a moderate time commitment, high on-site interpretation and some off-site interpretation, moderate noise tolerance, and high interaction with staff.

Management Focus

The management focus is to maintain the historic/cultural integrity of the zone. Development should be kept consistent with the zone with a goal of a quality visitor experience of historic interests.

Development

Developments necessary for visitor understanding and/or staff support that are compatible with the historic periods are permitted or are accommodated off-site. Restored or rehabilitated areas include the necessary protection, security, and heating/cooling systems and visitor/staff support uses such as restrooms and offices. Development is consistent with historic periods. Developments found in this zone include the Grand Traverse Lighthouse and associated structures, the gift shop, vault toilets, and interpretive signs.



The lighthouse shines under the stars

4.8 Cultural Landscape Overlay

The cultural landscape overlay is used to highlight not only historic structures, but also non-structural evidence of the traditions, beliefs, practices, arts, crafts, and social intuitions of any community. This zone covers about 45 acres of the park (3%) and encompasses most of the northern tip of the peninsula. This includes the foundation of the original lighthouse, day-use area, campground, shoreline, and some surrounding undeveloped areas.

Natural Resources

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

Historic/Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are the focus of this overlay and will be preserved for visitor education and understanding. These include the foundation of the original Grand Traverse, or Cat Head, lighthouse. Cultural resources may be preserved or allowed to remain undisturbed.

Recreation Opportunities

Visitors may be engaged in recreation activities in accordance with the underlying zone.

Education Opportunities

Education opportunities in this zone are consistent with the underlying zones. On-site interpretation of the cultural resources is appropriate and may be supplemented by off-site education and interpretation.

Visitor Experience

The visitor experience will be consistent with the underlying zones.

Management Focus

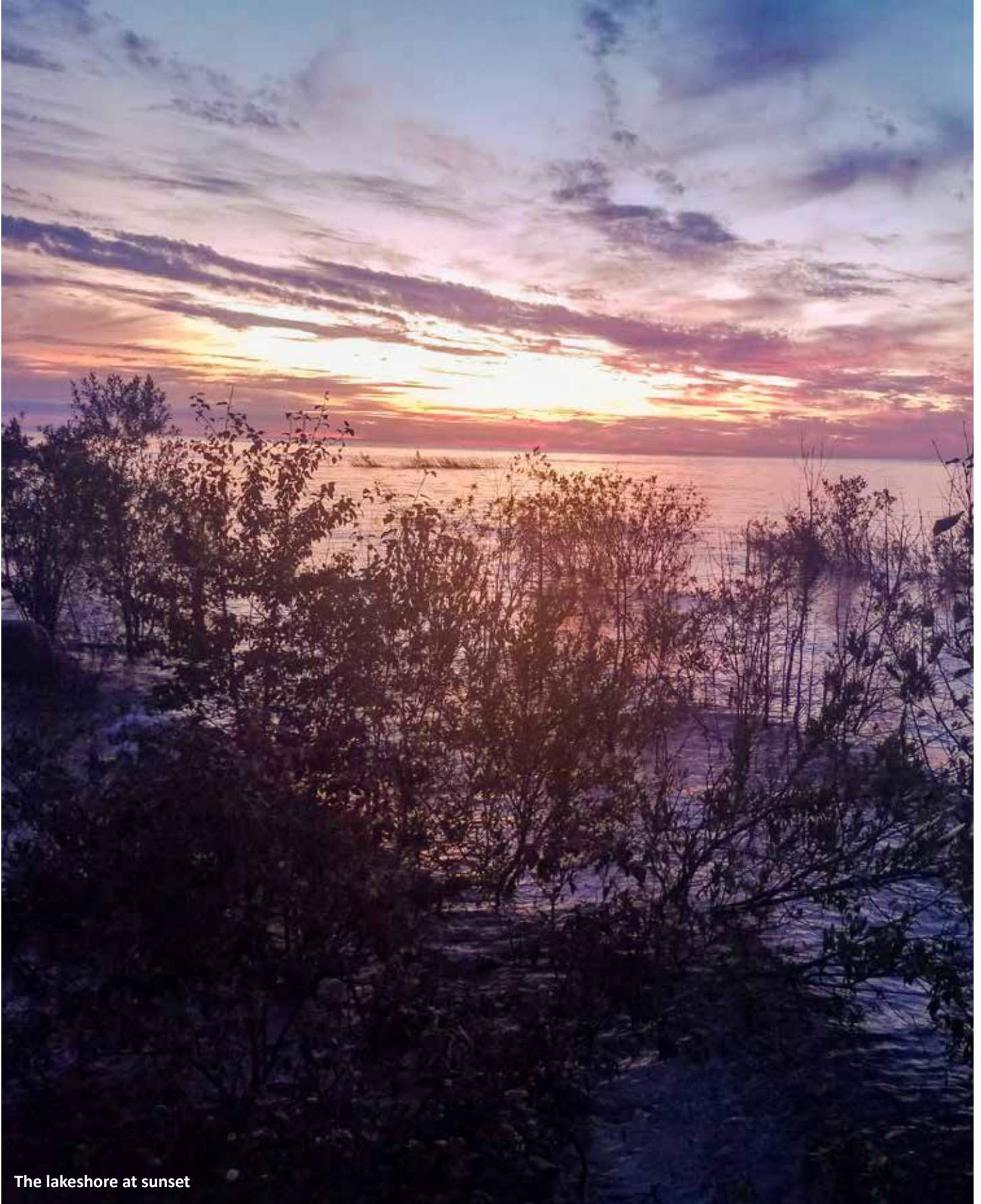
Management focuses on maintaining and preserving the cultural resources in the area consistent with the underlying zones.

Development

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



An interpretive sign at the ruins of the original Grand Traverse Lighthouse keeper's dwelling



The lakeshore at sunset



A picnic table and fire ring at a rustic campsite

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 Leelanau State Park to achieve the desired resource protection and user experience. 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 or to specific locations within the park, as appropriate, and according to the management zone. Refer to the zone descriptions in Chapter Four for appropriate activities in each zone.

Management plans do not guarantee future 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.

Action goals are prioritized 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. Some goals are intended to continue throughout the plan timeframe and are an "ongoing" priority. Opinion of probable costs have been developed for each capital outlay action goal identified (see Appendix C), and these projects will be included in the statewide master project list.

5.1 Action Goals Summary

The park currently faces challenges from climate change, invasive species, and human impacts. Record-high lake levels in 2019, continuing into 2020, caused erosion and flooding of the campground roads, but water levels will likely continue to change. Park management will continue to assess the resilience of the park's infrastructure to changing lake levels and natural disasters. The park's Critical Dunes are under threat from erosion as well, which can be exacerbated by heavy or inappropriate use that degrades the vegetation protecting the dunes. For this reason, only foot traffic will continue to be allowed in open dune areas.

Goals for the management and operations of the park focus on completing a stewardship plan for the park including invasive species management; selectively managing vegetation to enhance beloved views while maintaining erosion

protection; and continuing to assess the resiliency of the park's infrastructure to changing lake levels, natural disasters and climate change. Park management will work to improve the connectivity of the land by pursuing land acquisitions within the project boundary, including completing the acquisition of the Lighthouse West property on which the park already has a conservation easement, as well as acquiring an easement to connect the north and south units of the park. In addition, land open and closed for hunting will be clarified in a wildlife conservation order. Park management will evaluate the potential for a group campground within the park, as well as explore opportunities to feature the dark-sky viewing potential at the park. A natural area dedication for the open dunes along the Cathead Bay shoreline will be proposed to protect this fragile natural resource, and existing cultural resources will be documented and evaluated for protection measures.

Goals to complete larger construction projects involving capital improvement funds include studying upgrades for drinking water and restrooms as well as shower facility options, designing and constructing a storage garage at the day-use area, and exploring the potential to relocate some campsites

and/or expand the campground with a limited number of rustic campsites or camping opportunities that would maintain the natural character of the park.

Smaller infrastructure and development projects involve updating the interpretive, wayfinding, and regulatory signage in the park, as well as constructing additional accessible recreation amenities at Mud Lake. Park staff will also expand the existing parking lot on Purkiss Road and realign the campground to ensure long-term sustainability from changing lake levels.

The park will partner with the Grand Traverse Lighthouse Museum to implement the items within the lighthouse historic structures report and construct an artifact storage facility at the Purkiss Road administrative services zone to protect cultural resources. The Friends of Leelanau State Park will construct a half-mile accessible "All-Persons Trail" with signage along Mud Lake.

As future improvements are evaluated, renewable energy, resiliency, sustainability, EV charging and efficiency will be considered.



Grand Traverse Lighthouse Sign

LEELANAU STATE PARK TEN-YEAR ACTION GOALS

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. Some goals are intended to continue throughout the plan timeframe and are an “ongoing” priority. In the program input column, the bolded party is the program lead.

MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS

GOAL	PRIORITY	MANAGEMENT ZONE	PROGRAM INPUT FROM
Continue to explore land acquisition of properties within the GMP Proposed Project Boundary.	Ongoing	All	Park Supervisor Lands Liaison
Continue to selectively manage vegetation to maintain views from shoreline campsites, scenic overlooks, and the lighthouse, while maintaining erosion protection.	Ongoing	All	Park Supervisor Regional Planner Stewardship Ecologist
Continue to assess the park's infrastructure resilience to changing lake levels, natural disasters and climate change.	Ongoing	All	Park Supervisor Regional Planner
Continue to pursue an easement and/or land acquisition to connect the north and south park units.	1	N/A	Land Liaison Park Supervisor
Update the wildlife conservation order to resolve discrepancies between land that is open and closed to hunting.	1	All	Regulatory Unit Park Supervisor Wildlife Law Enforcement
Complete a natural resource stewardship plan for the park, identifying targets for conservation and related natural resource management strategies, including invasive species management.	1	All	Stewardship Park Supervisor
Integrate the Lighthouse West property into the park through fee acquisition, integration of management and access, and create hiking trail connections to the rest of the park.	2	All	Park Supervisor Lands Liaison

MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS, CONTINUED			
GOAL	PRIORITY	MANAGEMENT ZONE	PROGRAM INPUT FROM
Document reported cultural resources and integrate into the State Archaeological Site File. Evaluate resources for protection measures.	1	All	Cultural Resources Analyst Park Supervisor SHPO
Propose a Natural Area Dedication for the open dunes along the Cathead Bay shoreline to protect the natural resources in perpetuity.	2	Primitive	Stewardship Park Supervisor
Evaluate the potential for Leelanau State Park as a dark-sky viewing location.	2	All	Park Supervisor Regional Planner Marketing and Outreach
Evaluate the potential for a group campground within the park.	3	Natural Resource Recreation	Regional Planner Park Supervisor

INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT: CAPITAL OUTLAY			
GOAL	PRIORITY	MANAGEMENT ZONE	PROGRAM INPUT FROM
Explore the potential for relocated and/or a limited number of additional rustic campsites/camping opportunities in keeping with the natural character of the park.	1	Natural Resource Recreation	Regional Planner Park Supervisor
Design and construct a storage garage at the day-use area.	3	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Supervisor
Study upgrades for drinking water and restrooms as well as shower facility options.	3	Developed Recreation	Regional Planner Park Supervisor

INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT: SMALL PROJECTS			
GOAL	PRIORITY	MANAGEMENT ZONE	PROGRAM INPUT FROM
Update interpretive, wayfinding, and regulatory signage.	1	All	Park Supervisor Regional Planner Marketing and Outreach Michigan History Center
Realign the campground road and modify or relocate campsites to ensure long-term sustainability from changing lake levels.	1	Natural Resource Recreation	Regional Planner Park Supervisor
Expand the existing parking lot on Purkiss Road.	2	Natural Resource Recreation	Regional Planner Park Supervisor
Design and construct amenities for increased accessible recreation opportunities at Mud Lake.	3	Backcountry Natural Resource Recreation	Park Supervisor Regional Planner Fisheries



A campsite with a tent and a hammock in the trees

PARTNER PROJECTS			
GOAL	PRIORITY	MANAGEMENT ZONE	PROGRAM INPUT FROM
Implement improvements to the lighthouse complex in accordance with the historic structures report.	Ongoing	History Education	Grand Traverse Lighthouse Park Supervisor Stewardship Michigan History Center
Construct an artifact storage facility at the Purkiss Road administrative services zone.	1	Administrative Services	Grand Traverse Lighthouse Regional Planner Park Supervisor Michigan History Center
Construct a half-mile accessible “All-Persons Trail” with signage along Mud Lake.	1	Natural Resource Recreation	Friends of Leelanau State Park Park Supervisor



Two visitors smile by the Evergreen Cabin



The sun rises over the lake

Chapter Six:

Implementation Strategy

This chapter of the general management plan (GMP) provides guidance for implementation of the action goals and maintaining the plan so it remains relevant in the long term. These guidelines will also help the park align the action goals with park, district, and statewide annual funding processes and annual tasks outlined in the Parks and Recreation Division’s Strategic Plan or other planning documents. Although the implementation of the GMP will require commitment from staff at every level, it will be the primary responsibility of the Unit Supervisor to oversee plan implementation.

A long-range plan such as this must maintain a degree of flexibility to be responsive to changing circumstances or opportunities that cannot be foreseen. It is recognized that some goals may be accomplished in a short time frame, while others may carry over through multiple years. It will be important to track progress so that the plan remains a relevant park management tool. The GMP will be reviewed every five years to ensure it remains viable.

6.1 Implementation Toolbox

The following is a list of items to consider when reviewing and prioritizing the implementation of action goals identified in the GMP.

Coordination/ Communication

- Meet regularly with the Regional Field Planner and District Supervisor to coordinate and prioritize large capital projects for capital outlay requests.
- Maintain an open dialogue with local partners and stakeholders to coordinate community-related projects as identified in the action goals.
- Follow-up regularly on progress for action goals that are not the primary responsibility of the Unit Supervisor with the responsible program position.

Funding

- Identify estimated cost for each capital improvement/ infrastructure project, with assistance from Regional Field Planner or other planning and infrastructure section staff as needed.
- Identify potential funding sources for each project/task. Liaise with PRD grants coordinator as appropriate.
- Align potential funding sources with the annual “call for projects” for capital outlay funding requests.
- Review action goals list and determine which projects can be requested to receive District Small Project funding through the District Supervisor.

Scheduling

- Further prioritize projects based on need, funding, staffing and other constraints and opportunities.
- Incorporate project/task assignments into annual staff performance objectives.

6.2 Documentation of Changes

The Unit Supervisor should keep a record of any major changes to the park since approval of the GMP and note potential updates that may be required in the future. Documenting these changes will assist in the five-year plan review or when the GMP is updated. Changes may include:

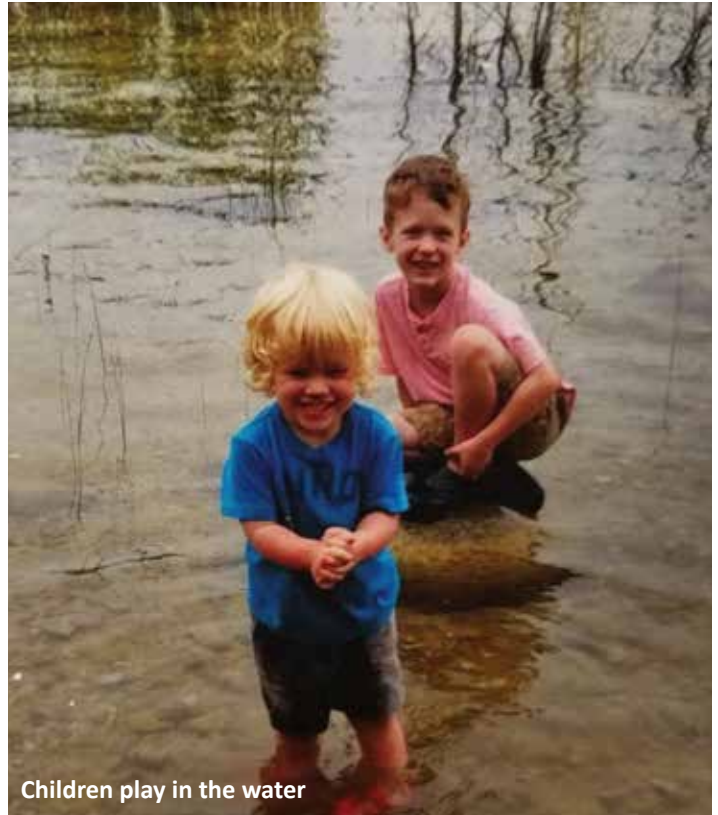
- New user requests or conflicts
- Emerging recreation, funding or partnership opportunities
- Changes in land management
- Land transactions or changes to the Approved Project Boundary
- Major infrastructure projects or removal of structures

Changes may be documented by marking up the park's copy of the GMP or maintaining a log that is kept with it. In reviewing the action goals for changes, documentation should be provided for goals that may become irrelevant or are no longer viable, as well as proposed new action goals, including justification.

The management zoning map should also be reviewed regularly. Any proposed changes to the map related to land acquisition or disposal, errors in the original zoning, or land management changes should be documented. Note that the park zoning is intended to be a long-term document: changes will only be considered with adequate justification and are subject to a formal review and approval process.



Cooking by the fire



Children play in the water

6.3 Documentation of Accomplishments

As action goals are completed, the Unit Supervisor should mark them as such in the park's copy of the GMP, including the completion date. This will also help to maintain a log of accomplishments for district and division-wide reporting purposes, including PRD's strategic plan.

6.4 Five-Year Review Process

General management plans are reviewed every five years from the date of approval of either the Phase 2 plan or the complete GMP. The planning team for the five-year review is made up of the Park Management Plan Administrator, Unit Supervisor, Regional Field Planner and District Supervisor, with other team members included as may be necessary. A Five-Year Review Form will be used to record all changes to the plan within the past five years. Upon reviewing the GMP and the documented changes, the planning team will determine whether the changes warrant a complete update of the plan.

If there are no major changes required in either the zoning or the action goals, the planning team will complete the Five-Year Review Form and attach it as a supplement to the existing GMP. If zoning changes are needed, the GMP will be revised or updated following the complete GMP planning process led by the Park Management Plan Administrator. If changes to the action goals only are required, the Phase 2 GMP planning process will be implemented.