



General Management Plan

Muskallonge Lake State Park



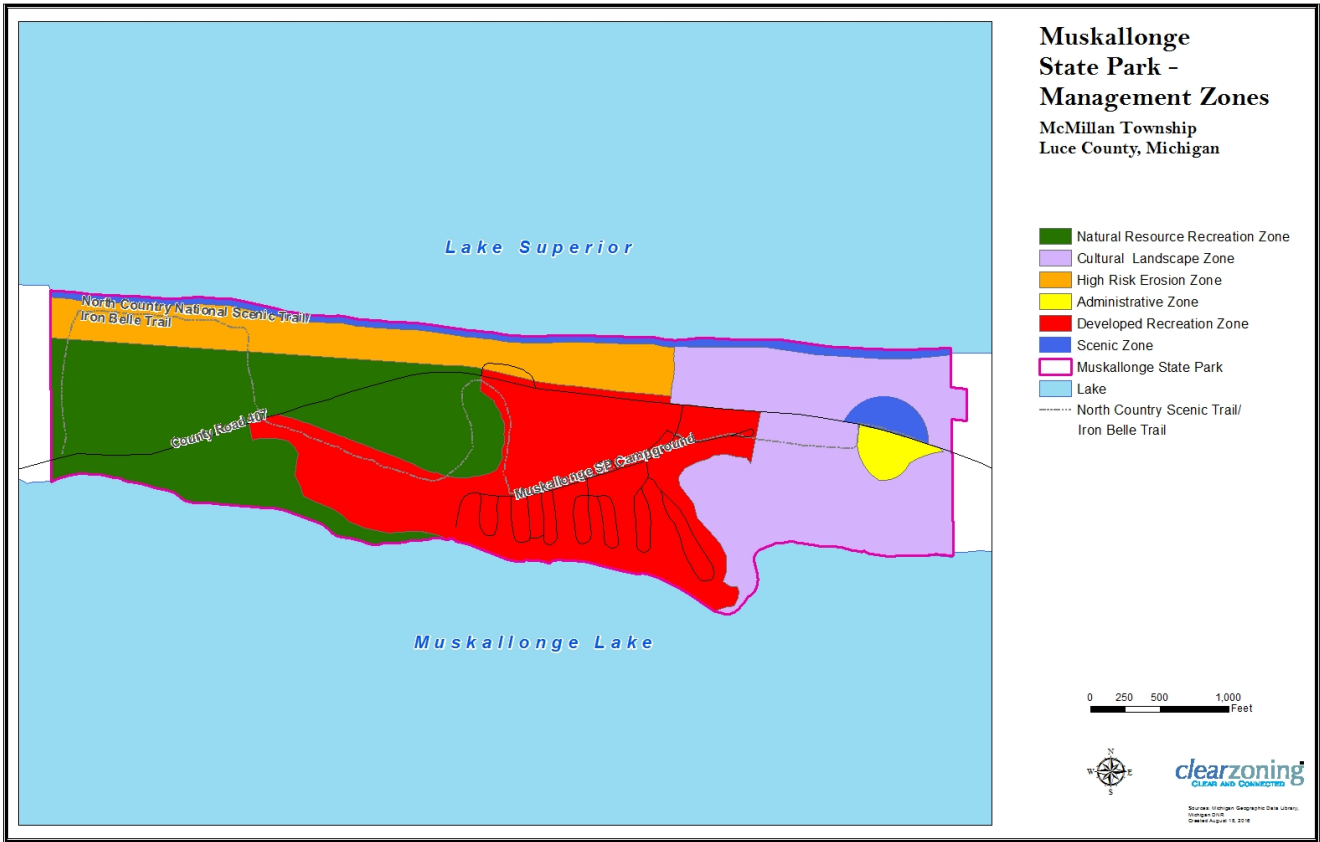
Approved February 1, 2017

Michigan DNR Parks and Recreation Division

Prepared with assistance of:



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MUSKALLONGE LAKE STATE PARK PLAN APPROVALS:

The project was directed by Deborah Jensen, Management Plan Administrator, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation Division with assistance from Clearzoning, Inc.



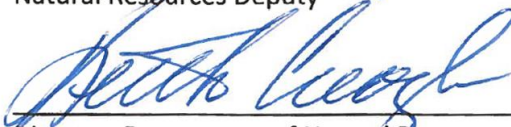
Chief, Parks & Recreation Division

1/26/17
Date



Natural Resources Deputy

1/27/17
Date



Director, Department of Natural Resources

2/1/2017
Date

MUSKALLONGE LAKE STATE PARK 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>10/03/2016</u> Date
PRD – MANAGEMENT TEAM:	<u>10/27/2016 (via Email)</u> Date
DNR – RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BUREAU:	<u>11/03/2016</u> Date
MSPAC – STEWARDSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE	<u>11/07/2016</u> Date
NRC – MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:	<u>12/08/2016</u> Date

Resolution No. 12-2016-2

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE “MUSKALLONGE LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN”

ADOPTED: December 8, 2016

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

Submitted by: Chris Graham, Chair, MSPAC Stewardship Subcommittee

Motioned by: Chris Graham
Seconded by: Mike McDonald

Yeas: 9
Nays: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: 3

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Table of Contents

Executive Summary

Chapter 1: Core Values & Guiding References

- 1.1 Mission Statements
- 1.2 Additional Guiding Resources
- 1.3 Summary of Legal Mandates

Chapter 2: Plan Process Overview

- 2.1 Planning Objectives
- 2.2 Planning Team
- 2.3 Outreach Strategies
- 2.4 Summary of Public Input Survey

Chapter 3: Purpose & Significance

- 3.1 Park Purpose
- 3.2 Statements of Significance
- 3.3 Public Affirmation of Statements
- 3.4 Relationship with the Local Community

Chapter 4: Management Zones

- 4.1 Developed Recreation Zone
- 4.2 Administrative Zone
- 4.3 Natural Resource Recreation Zone
- 4.4 High Risk Erosion Zone
- 4.5 Cultural Landscape Zone
- 4.6 Scenic Zone

Chapter 5: 10-Year Action Goals

Appendices

- Appendix A: Supporting Analysis including Resource Maps
- Appendix B: Public & Tribal Input Summary
- Appendix C: Planning Team Meeting Summary

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Executive Summary

Muskallonge Lake State Park is located in northern Luce County, between the shores of Lake Superior and Muskallonge Lake in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The area is well known for its forests, lakes and streams. The 217-acre park is located 28 miles northwest of Newberry, which is the county seat. The historic village of Grand Marais, which is known as the eastern gateway to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, is 20 miles west from Muskallonge.

Features of Muskallonge Lake State Park include two miles of Lake Superior frontage with bluffs and low, grass-covered dunes stretching off to the east and west, without any visible development in either direction. Muskallonge Lake is relatively shallow and is warm enough in the summer for comfortable swimming. The park also hosts the site of the former lumbering town called Deer Park, as well as remnants of a Coast Guard Life Saving Station that operated near the turn of the 20th century.



Sunset on Muskallonge Lake.

The park offers scenic views of Lake Superior, as well as fishing, swimming, camping and hiking opportunities. A portion of the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST), a congressionally recognized trail that stretches 4,600 miles from New York to North Dakota, runs through the park. This trail is also part of the hiking route of Michigan's Iron Belle Trail from Belle Isle Park in Detroit to Ironwood at the Michigan-Wisconsin state line.

Future management of this park is guided by the General Management Plan (GMP), which serves two primary purposes. First, it establishes a 20-Year Management Zone Plan that provides specific guidance for development, stewardship, public use, education & interpretation and park operations & management at Muskallonge Lake State Park. Second, the Plan provides 10-Year Action Goals that address the desired future condition within each Management Zone. Overall, this Plan seeks to uphold the Parks and Recreation Division's (PRD) Mission Statement: *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 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) oversaw the planning process. The Plan was developed with significant and valuable input from the Planning Team, stakeholders, and the public. Additionally, several existing planning documents, including the Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the Michigan State Parks Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel Report, were used as guiding references (See Chapter 1 for additional information on guiding references).

The Supporting Analysis, included as Appendix A of this plan, provides background information to inform this planning initiative. It includes a comprehensive review of the park settings, area demographics, history, land ownership, legal mandates, cultural, natural, and recreation resources.

Significance of Muskallonge Lake State Park

Each GMP developed by the PRD is built upon the park’s significant features that make it distinct from other parks in the state’s system. Muskallonge Lake State Park was determined significant due to the following:

Remote Location

Surrounded by the Lake Superior State Forest, the remote setting of Muskallonge Lake State Park offers a peaceful, unique getaway for visitors to step away from fast-paced urban areas and reconnect with nature. The nearest village to the park is 20 miles away, creating a secluded retreat in one of the least populated counties of the state.

Contrasting Shorelines

Located between Muskallonge Lake and Lake Superior, the park embodies two strikingly different environments. The warm, calm water of Muskallonge Lake contrasts with the harsh, untamed shore of Lake Superior.

Destination for Rock Collectors

A destination for agate collectors, Muskallonge Lake State Park attracts rockhounds from around the globe. The signature event, Rock On! With Lake Superior Agates, draws over 2,500 visitors each year to this remote park.

Maritime History

The park’s rich maritime history is evidenced by the remnants of one of the first Coast Guard Life Saving Stations on Lake Superior and the SS Cyprus shipwreck located off the shoreline. These reminders of Lake Superior’s “Shipwreck Coast”, along with oral and written histories, offer interesting interpretive and educational opportunities.



1946 Photo of Deer Park Life Saving Station that was in service from 1876 to 1930’s.

Lumbering History

Muskallonge Lake State Park includes the site of Deer Park, a lumbering town of the late 1800s situated between the lakes. Sawdust piles, dock pilings, partly submerged pine logs and narrow gauge rail beds are still visible today.

Hub for Diverse Recreation Opportunities

Muskallonge Lake State Park serves as a basecamp for regional recreation opportunities including Tahquamenon Falls State Park, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, and the Grand Marais log slide. The park also provides a stopping point along the North Country National Scenic Trail, the hiking route of the Iron Belle Trail, and the Lake Superior East Water Trail. The park offers the rare opportunity for ORV camping in the State Park system. In winter months, when visitors are few, the park comes alive again as the host of the Tahquamenon Country Sled Dog Race.

Fishing

Anglers find the fishery of Muskallonge Lake plentiful year round for catches of Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, Walleye, and Rock Bass. Muskallonge Lake State Park provides anglers a central point from which to explore other fishing opportunities in close proximity.

Management Zones

A key goal in the development of this General Management Plan is to continue providing the opportunities and features that attract 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, six zones were applied to Muskallonge Lake State Park. 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:

Developed Recreation Zone comprises 29%, totaling approximately 69 acres of the park, and allows active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. The zone is centrally located within the park and includes the park's modern campground.

Administrative Zone has been applied to 1%, totaling approximately 3 acres of the park, encompassing the developed areas required for program administration and operations. The zone includes the new park headquarters.

Natural Resource Recreation Zone comprises 29%, totaling approximately 68 acres of the park, and permits active recreation with medium to high density of use conducted in natural areas. An area west of the campground, north and south of County Road 407, is located within this zone.



Public education on natural vegetation shoreline stabilization best management practices within park.

High Risk Erosion Zone has been applied to 12%, totaling approximately 29 acres of Muskallonge Lake State Park. The zone manages erosion issues while allowing continued recreational use. Further development of infrastructure and structures are restricted in this zone

Cultural Landscape Zone has been applied to 24%, totaling approximately 55 acres of Muskallonge Lake State Park. Management within the Cultural Landscape Zone highlights the preservation and protection of the cultural resources, including the historic evidence of the area’s lumbering history and the Coast Guard Life Saving Station.

Scenic Zone comprises 5%, totaling approximately 11 acres of Muskallonge Lake State Park, encompassing the entire Lake Superior shoreline and the Lake Superior overlook in recognition of its natural beauty.

10-Year Action Goals

The General Management Plan identifies 10-Year Action Goals that the Planning Team believes are necessary to guide management and development of the park in order to achieve the desired user experience and natural resource protection. Action goals are categorized under General Action Goals if they pertain to the entire park or under specific zones, which are identified on the Management Zone Map. They address natural and cultural resource protection and management, recreation opportunities, education/ interpretation opportunities, management focus and development. The goals are listed in Chapter 5 of this plan.



Cultural remnants from the Deer Park lumbering town located in the park in the 1800s.

1. Core Values and Guiding Resources

Core values are the foundation upon which the General Management Plan is based. Core values are derived from the mission statements of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Parks & Recreation Division (PRD), as well as the priorities of the Director, to ensure that the state will acquire, preserve, and protect 1) natural resources and 2) cultural resources, and continue to provide 3) public recreation and 4) educational opportunities throughout the state park system.

1.1 Mission Statements

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.

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.

Five Goals of the DNR

1. Protect the natural and cultural resources
2. Ensure sustainable recreation use and enjoyment
3. Enable strong and natural resource-based economies
4. Improve and build strong relationships and partnerships
5. Foster effective business practices and good governance



The calm water of Muskallonge Lake.

“When you visit Michigan’s state parks and are surrounded with our forests, rivers, lakes and streams that have been here for thousands of years, it’s hard to imagine that changes ever occur here. As the world gets more hectic, we think Michigan residents will continue to turn to their state parks as a resource for rest and renewal.”

-Ron Olson (2013), DNR-PRD Chief

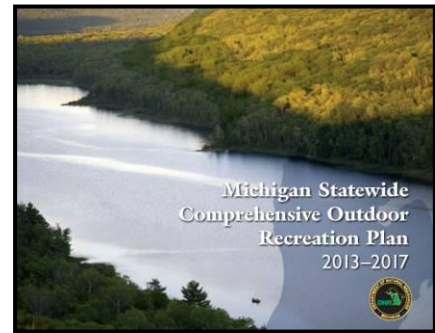
1.2 Additional Guiding Resources

The General Management Planning process is guided and shaped by several resources developed to provide recommendations for managing Michigan's park 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 (SCORP) (2013-2017)

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 utilize Michigan's diverse and abundant natural assets to meet the fun, relaxation, and health needs of Michigan's residents and visitors, and the economic development needs of the state and local communities, by:

- Collaboration and cooperation
- Maintenance and continuous improvement of facilities
- Access to and connectivity between facilities
- Integration with economic development plans
- Effective marketing
- Protection and interpretation of natural resources



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. The recommendations in the report include:

- Identify and protect important natural, cultural, historic, and prehistoric resources
- Diversify funding and use new criteria to target investments
- Prioritize development of statewide and regional systems of connected trail networks
- Encourage greater connections between communities and their recreational assets to strengthen regional identities
- Use parks and recreation areas as a key tool for revitalizing Michigan's core urban areas
- 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:

- Maintain trails to ensure a sustainable and quality trail system
- Expand trails and trail experiences and opportunities to ensure accessibility to trail systems, outdoor recreation opportunities and natural and cultural resources
- The Michigan 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

PRD Strategic Plan (2009-2019)

The PRD Strategic Plan, approved in 2009, was developed to establish one cohesive plan for the division that spells out long-range goals, objectives, actions, and specific tasks for Michigan's state park and recreation system. General Management Plans are a defined process in the strategic 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 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 and subsequent Action Plans. For our planning purposes, the term “Legal Mandates” refers to not only state law, but also the administrative tools of “Policy” and “Directive” of the Natural Resource Commission, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Parks & Recreation Division. There are several general and site specific legal mandates applicable to Muskallonge Lake State Park listed in Appendix A: Supporting Analysis.

The legal mandates that most directly impact planning and management of Muskallonge Lake State Park focus on the following areas:

- Endangered species protection (Endangered Species Act, 1973)
- The piping plover nesting habitat is addressed as a part of the Director’s Land Use Order.
- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) and amendments.
- PA 35 of 2010, Part 741 Recreation Passport. A Passport is required for entry into the park.
- Entrance to and departure of off-road vehicles from Muskallonge Lake State Park.
- National Trails System Act, 1968 (P.L. 90-543, as amended through P.L. 111-11, March 30, 2009)



The Lake Superior shoreline.

2. Plan Process Overview

2.1 Planning Objectives

Park planning is not a new concept. The DNR has developed Master Plans in the past for many of Michigan’s state parks. 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.

The General Management Planning (GMP) process provides a fresh approach to planning for a park. The GMP 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 applicable legal directives, the purpose of the park, and the park’s significant natural and cultural resources.



Planning Team members tour the park.

A GMP is the first of a series of planning steps. Each step builds upon the previous, and action goals focus on (1) the mission of the Parks & Recreation Division (PRD), and (2) the specific purpose and significance of the park. There are three stages of planning, which are undertaken in the following order:

1. **General Management Plan (GMP)** 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** outlines specific actions to implement based on the realities of staffing and funding opportunities.
3. **Annual Work Plan** addresses what will be done during a given year, and what progress was made throughout the previous year.

In order for a plan to be successful it must allow for some degree of flexibility to adapt to changes that cannot be predicted 10-20 years out. The GMP will be reviewed every five years to ensure it is still meeting its intended purpose. The objective of the General Management Plan is to bring together Parks & Recreation Division staff, staff from other Divisions, stakeholders, and the public into a planning process that defines and clarifies the unique “Purpose and Significance” of Muskallonge Lake State Park. 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.

2.2 Planning Team

The General Management Plan would not exist without the valuable input and expertise provided by all members of the Planning Team. Representatives from each of the DNR's resource divisions are invited to participate. This enables the planning team to review the issues at hand from many different perspectives, representing the diverse interests of the public. Please refer to the Appendix for summaries of all Planning Team meetings.

DNR Staff		
Name	Title	Division
Debbie Jensen	Management Plan Administrator	PRD
James Dzelak	Unit Supervisor	PRD
Tom Paquin	EUP District Supervisor	PRD
Keith Cheli	Regional Planner	PRD
Jeff Freeborn	Park Ranger	PRD
Ray Fahlsing	Stewardship Unit Manager	PRD
Lisa Gamero	Cultural Resources Analyst	PRD
Paul Gaberdiel	Trails Specialist	PRD
Cory Kovacs	Fisheries Biologist	Fisheries
Amy Douglass	Forester	Forestry
Sherry MacKinnon	Wildlife Ecologist	Wildlife
Sgt. Mike Hammill	Area Supervisor	Law Enforcement
Theresa Neal	Coordinator Explorer Program	Marketing and Outreach
Peter Rose	Geologist	Minerals Management
Dean Anderson	State Archaeologist	MSHDA

Giffels Webster Consultants

David Birchler, AICP, Partner Emeritus

Jason Bibby, AICP, Senior Planner

Karen Zarowny, Staff Planner

Sheila Starks, GIS Specialist

2.3 Outreach Strategies

The Planning Team utilizes several methods in collecting information to inform the development of the General Management Plan. To gather public input, the Planning Team developed and collected information through an online survey and received over 450 responses. The survey was advertised through a DNR press release, newsletter bulletin and an email blast to registered campers. The DNR informed Tribal Governments of the planning process and invited them to meet with the DNR to discuss the General Management Plan and provide input. Stakeholders and the public were invited to open houses where they could provide verbal and written comments regarding the General Management Plan. The draft plan was also available for review on the project website, and the public was invited to email, call or mail questions or comments concerning this initiative. Upon compiling the input, the Planning Team discussed and refined the plan as appropriate. A summary of all these outreach efforts and input received is documented in Appendix B.

2.4 Summary of Public Input Survey

Understanding the important role of the public in developing this plan, the Planning Team applied a variety of methods to collect feedback and input from Muskallonge Lake State Park users. In particular, the public input survey was used to gather general information about visitors, how they use the park, as well as recommendations for improving features and amenities offered. The survey was available for five (5) weeks beginning November 30, 2015. It was advertised by a DNR Press Release and an Email bulletin sent to nearly 21,450 individuals registered to receive state park news, as well as visitors known to have camped at Muskallonge Lake State Park. Over 450 individuals responded to the survey and provided input. See Appendix B: Public & Tribal Input Summary for more survey results.

The public input survey provided the following information to the Planning Team:

- The type of visitors using the state park (ex: age, distance traveled...etc.)
- The activities that visitors participate in at the park and at the surrounding community
- The preferences of campers and fishing enthusiasts
- Additional amenities or improvements that visitors would like to see prioritized

Section	Qn #s	Type of Questions
About You	1-6 & 33-36	The beginning and end sections asked general questions about the respondent including age, zip code, number of visits per year, reasons for not visiting, characteristics of people accompanying the respondent on their visit, and the season of year that they visit.
Activities	7-10	This section asked respondents to identify their favorite activities and their personal description of the State Park.
Campers	11-17	Campers were asked about their typical length of stay and to provide feedback on improvements they would like to see.
Fishing Experience	18-22	Anglers were asked about their fishing preferences.
Water Trail Users	23-24	This section asked respondents about canoe/kayak experiences along Lake Superior Water Trail.
General Comments	25-28	The section asked respondents to provide comments on the current condition of the park and if they would like to see any other improvements and amenities.
Community Interaction	29-31	Respondents were asked if they belonged to conservation/recreation associations, visited other attractions in the area, along with sharing thoughts on any additional preferred local services in the community or at the State Park.
Wrap Up	30	This section asked respondents to provide any additional comments they have about the State Park or General Management Planning process.

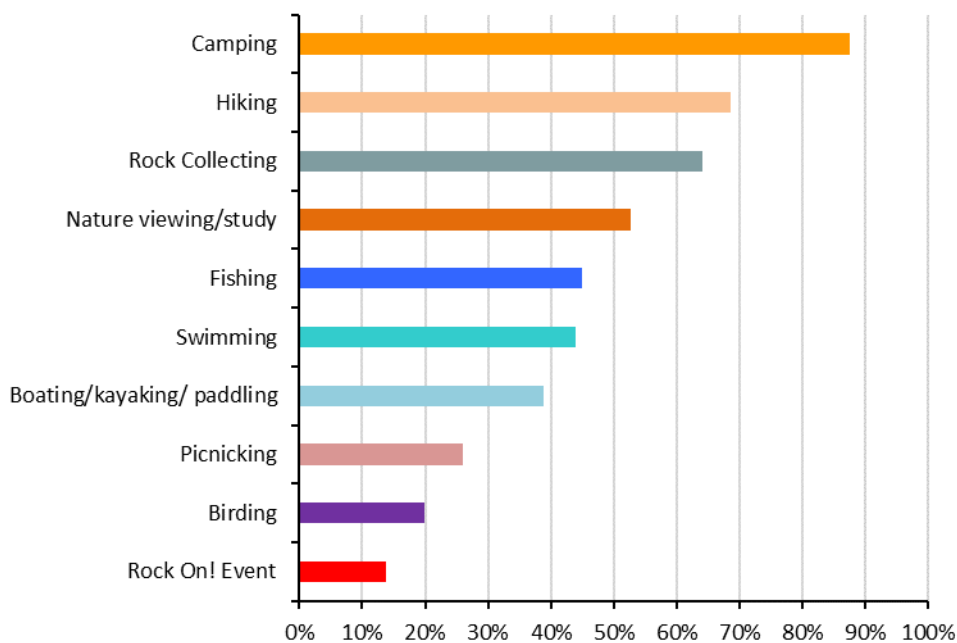
About You

Respondents of all ages completed the survey, with 50 to 64 year olds being the largest cohort (42%). Most visited the park one to two times a year, with summer (72%) and fall (33%) being the most popular seasons. Most visited the park accompanied with family (38%), followed by couples (28%) and family and friends (21%). Less than half of the respondents are accompanied by children when visiting the park. Of those travelling with children, 5 to 12 year olds represent the largest age group. Survey respondents resided throughout the state, however, the highest locational concentration of respondents reside in Luce County.

Activities

The most popular undertaken by survey respondents are camping (88%), hiking (69%), rock collecting (64%), nature viewing/study (53%), and fishing (45%). Other popular activities include swimming, boating/kayaking/paddling, picnicking, and birding. When asked which activity park-goers favored the most, most frequently mentioned was camping (42%), rock collecting (17%), and hiking (10%). Comments also included the signature event, Rock On! with Lake Superior Agates, which draws over 2,500 visitors each year.

Muskallonge State Park Activities by Popularity



Campers

Nearly 90% all respondents camp at Muskallonge Lake State Park, with over half staying three to six nights (54%), followed by approximately one-fifth of visitors camping for one to two nights (21%). Only 30% of campers indicated they would prefer full utility hookup at their campsite over a common restroom/shower facility. Campers overwhelmingly supported restrictions on using only local firewood in the park to protect forest health. The top reasons for camping at Muskallonge Lake were proximity to Lake Superior, the beautiful setting, and the remote and quiet location for camping.

Fishing Experience

44% of respondents fish at Muskallonge Lake. The majority fish by boat (71%) compared to shoreline fishing (29%). Anglers indicated they were not particular on their catch, though Perch was the most popular species. The majority of respondents (87%) indicated an average 1-10 days per year fishing at Muskallonge Lake. Many commented on regulating the size of fish caught and considering the stocking of more fish in the lake.

Water Trail Users

Approximately one-quarter of respondents canoe or kayak the Lake Superior shoreline known as the Lake Superior Water Trail at Muskallonge Lake State Park (24%). Comments indicated that easier access to the lake was needed. Some suggested easier lake access as an amenity for any park improvements associated with canoe and kayak users. Others like the undeveloped shoreline as it is.

General State Park Comments

Overall, the comments expressed were positive. Over half of respondents who answered the question regarding if they were satisfied with their visits were very satisfied. Respondents also said they were very satisfied with access to Lake Superior and the Lake Superior scenic overlook, directional signage to the park and within the facility itself, and overall maintenance. Respondents indicated favorably (60%) that they would be interested in interpretive/nature programs at the park. The most popular response for suggesting park improvements was related to road repaving and grade repair. Respondents also expressed concern for necessary campground facility improvements and alleviating campsite congestion. Finally, respondents were asked to provide any additional comments they have about the State Park or General Management Planning process. Participants pointed out the statewide importance of the Iron Belle and North Country National Scenic Trail system hosted in the park.

Community Interaction

Over one-quarter of respondents indicated that they belonged to conservation, nature, or recreation association (27%). Campers overwhelmingly (96%) indicated they visited other nearby attractions when traveling to the park, with Grand Marais and Tahquamenon Falls State Park being the most popular neighboring destinations for park-goers. Campers were satisfied that the local community grocery store meets their needs in this remote location.

Wrapping Up

Finally, respondents were asked to choose three words to describe Muskallonge Lake State Park. Their responses are provided in the word cloud graphic on the following page. The larger the word, the more times it was offered.



3. Purpose and Significance

There are over 100 parks in Michigan’s State Park system and each park has its own unique and defining characteristics. This chapter describes what makes Muskallonge Lake State Park a significant asset to the state’s park system.

3.1 Park Purpose

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

- 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 Act 218, Public Acts of 1919, which created the Michigan State Park Commission.
- To preserve and protect Muskallonge Lake State Park’s unique natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.
- To provide access to land and water based public recreational opportunities.
- To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflect the DNR mission and the unique qualities of Muskallonge Lake State Park.

3.2 Statements of Significance

Remote Location

Surrounded by the Lake Superior State Forest, the remote setting of Muskallonge Lake State Park offers a peaceful, unique getaway for visitors to step away from fast-paced urban areas and reconnect with nature. The nearest village to the park is 20 miles away, creating a secluded retreat in one of the least populated counties of the state.

Contrasting Shorelines

Located between Muskallonge Lake and Lake Superior, the park embodies two strikingly different environments. The warm, calm water of Muskallonge Lake contrasts with the harsh, untamed shore of Lake Superior.

Destination for Rock Collectors

A destination for agate collectors, Muskallonge Lake State Park attracts rockhounds from around the globe. The signature event, Rock On! With Lake Superior Agates, draws over 2,500 visitors each year to this remote park.



Rock On! Attendees watching a presentation at the Park, 2008.

Maritime History

The park's rich maritime history is evidenced by the remnants of one of the first Coast Guard Life Saving Stations on Lake Superior and the SS Cyprus shipwreck located off the shoreline. These reminders of Lake Superior's "Shipwreck Coast", along with oral and written histories, offer interesting interpretive and educational opportunities.

Lumbering History

Muskallonge Lake State Park includes the site of Deer Park, a lumbering town of the late 1800s situated between the lakes. Sawdust piles, dock pilings, partly submerged pine logs and narrow gauge rail beds are still visible today.

Hub for Diverse Recreation Opportunities

Muskallonge Lake State Park serves as a basecamp for regional recreation opportunities including Tahquamenon Falls State Park, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, and the Grand Marais log slide. The park also provides a stopping point along the North Country National Scenic Trail, the hiking route of the Iron Belle Trail, and the Lake Superior East Water Trail. The park offers the rare opportunity for ORV camping in the State Park system. In winter months, when visitors are few, the park comes alive again as the host of the Tahquamenon Country Sled Dog Race.

Fishing

Anglers find the fishery of Muskallonge Lake plentiful year round for catches of Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, Walleye, and Rock Bass. Muskallonge Lake State Park provides anglers a central point from which to explore other fishing opportunities in close proximity.



Sawdust piles from the area's lumbering history over 100 years ago.

3.3 Public Affirmation of Significance Statements

Stakeholder and public input assisted the Planning Team with identifying significant features and opportunities at Muskallonge Lake State Park. The feedback they provided via the online survey, the on-site workshops, and email affirmed the value of the park. Comments from stakeholders and the public further affirmed the unique characteristics of Muskallonge Lake and its significance within the State Park's recreation system. Below are just a few comments from the online survey:

What are people saying about Muskallonge Lake?

"It is family tradition (we have been camping here for at least one week per summer since 1987). Great rock hunting. Lots to do when the weather is not so good."

"Started as rock collection on Lake Superior, but now we enjoy all aspects of the state park. Beautifully kept up, clean, and great employees."

"There is something for everyone to do."

"Off the beaten path which allows us to better connect with each other and nature."

"It is the most beautiful, remote, quiet campground. That has the benefit of an inland lake and Great Lake. And it is close to lots of things to do."

"An Upper Peninsula adventure. Something way off the beaten path. Wanted to get away and unplug!"

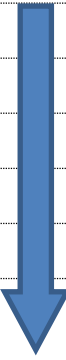
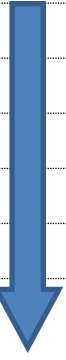
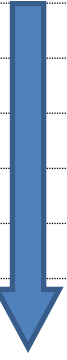
"It is our most favorite place on earth."

3.4 Relationship with the Local Community

Muskallonge Lake State Park draws over 47,000 visitors each year to this northern Luce County location, from across Michigan and from neighboring states and Canada. The Park is host of the Tahquamenon Country Sled Dog Race in the winter and the annual Rock On! With Lake Superior Agates in September, which draws local community members and international visitors to the park. Many are attracted to the park by its remote location, but it is recognized as a hub for recreational opportunities and the many attractions of the eastern Upper Peninsula. The online survey undertaken as part of this Management Plan indicated that the vast majority of visitors camping at the park include trips to Grand Marais, Tahquamenon Falls, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Whitefish Point, and the Crisp Point Lighthouse during their visit. Grand Marais, the nearest community some 20 miles from the park, relies on the tourism and recreation industry. Several businesses in the vicinity of the park are also supported by park visitors, who are equally reliant on their services.

4. Management Zones

The 20-Year Management Zone Plan was developed in keeping with the park’s significance, identity, and purpose. The primary goal in the development of the management zones is to protect the park’s resources while also preserving the opportunities and features that attract visitors to the park each year. From a palette of nine management zones, the Planning Team studied the park and applied zones that best fit, given the significant features of the park. Management zones describe a variety of activities that **may be** appropriate within the zone. The resource condition, visitor experience, and development level varies in each zone, as indicated in the figure below.

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			

The Muskallonge Lake General Management Plan identifies management zone boundaries which reflects the resource protection goals and recreation development opportunities for different areas within the park. The following descriptions for each management zone describe the existing and future conditions in relation to each of the following:

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

The 217-acre Muskallonge Lake State Park was divided into the following six Management Zones:

- Developed Recreation Zone
- Administrative Zone
- Natural Resource Recreation Zone
- High Risk Erosion Zone
- Cultural Landscape Zone
- Scenic Zone

Any revisions to the zoning map will require public notification and the same review and approval process as the General Management Plan.



Project Boundary

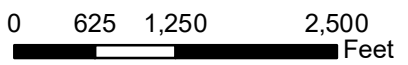
Some parks may be approved by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to expand beyond their current boundaries. The 2004 NRC Project Boundary for Muskallonge Lake does not propose any changes in land ownership, which is supported by the planning team.

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Muskallonge Lake State Park - Boundary Aerial

McMillan Township
Luce County, Michigan

-  Muskallonge State Park
-  Newberry State Forest Management Unit

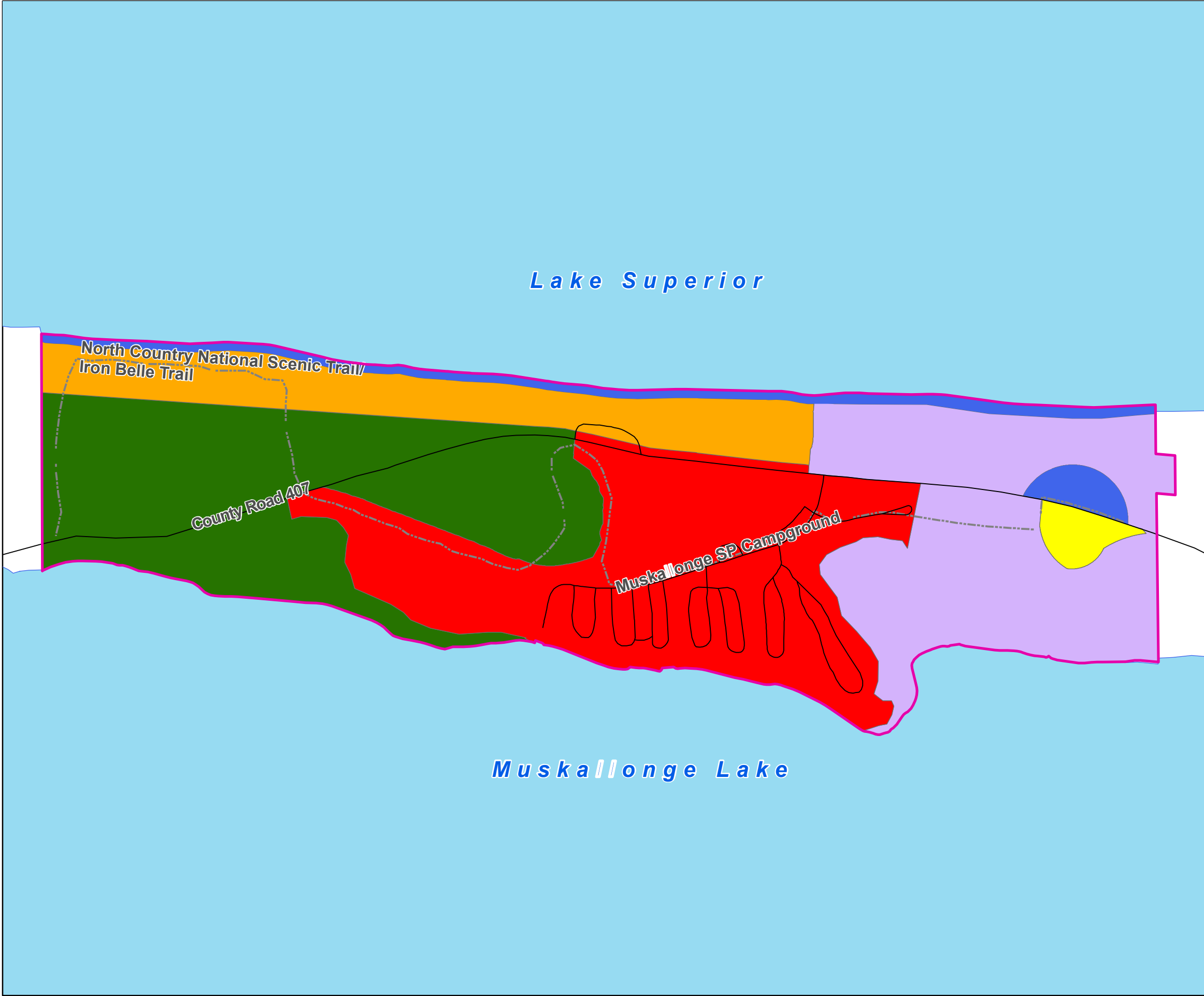


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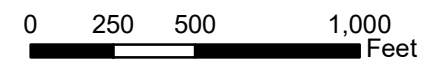
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Muskallonge Lake State Park - Management Zones

McMillan Township
Luce County, Michigan



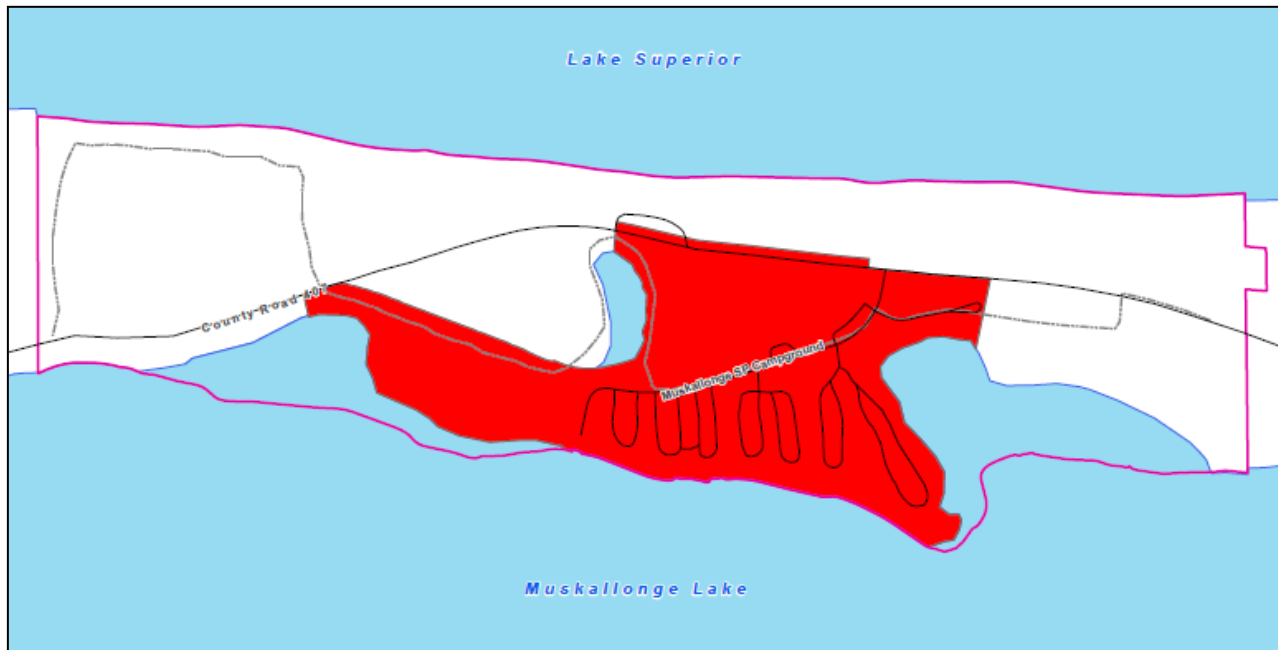
- Natural Resource Recreation Zone
- Cultural Landscape Zone
- High Risk Erosion Zone
- Administrative Zone
- Developed Recreation Zone
- Scenic Zone
- Muskallonge State Park
- Lake
- North Country Scenic Trail/
Iron Belle Trail



Sources: Michigan Geographic Data Library,
Michigan DNR
Created August 18, 2016

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4.1 Developed Recreation Zone



Approximately 29% of Muskallonge Lake State Park is designated Developed Recreation. This zone allows active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. The Developed Recreation Zone includes most of the accessible shoreline of Muskallonge Lake and the designated campgrounds. ORV ingress and egress from the campgrounds is permitted in this zone.

Natural Resources

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

Historic / Cultural Resources

There are no known historic resources within this zone. Cultural resources will generally be preserved and protected.

Recreational Opportunities

High levels of recreation in a highly structured environment may be found in this zone. Visitors engage in recreation activities in diverse and modified land and water settings, which could include modern or semi-modern camping, boat launch, day-use areas, fishing areas, parking areas, and supporting amenities.



Campers utilizing campground amenities.

Education Opportunities

Informational signage regarding invasive species control at the boat launch could be implemented. Active programming would be appropriate in areas where people congregate.

Visitor Experience

A high level of visitor encounters can be accommodated. High noise tolerance and high interaction with DNR staff and other users can be expected.

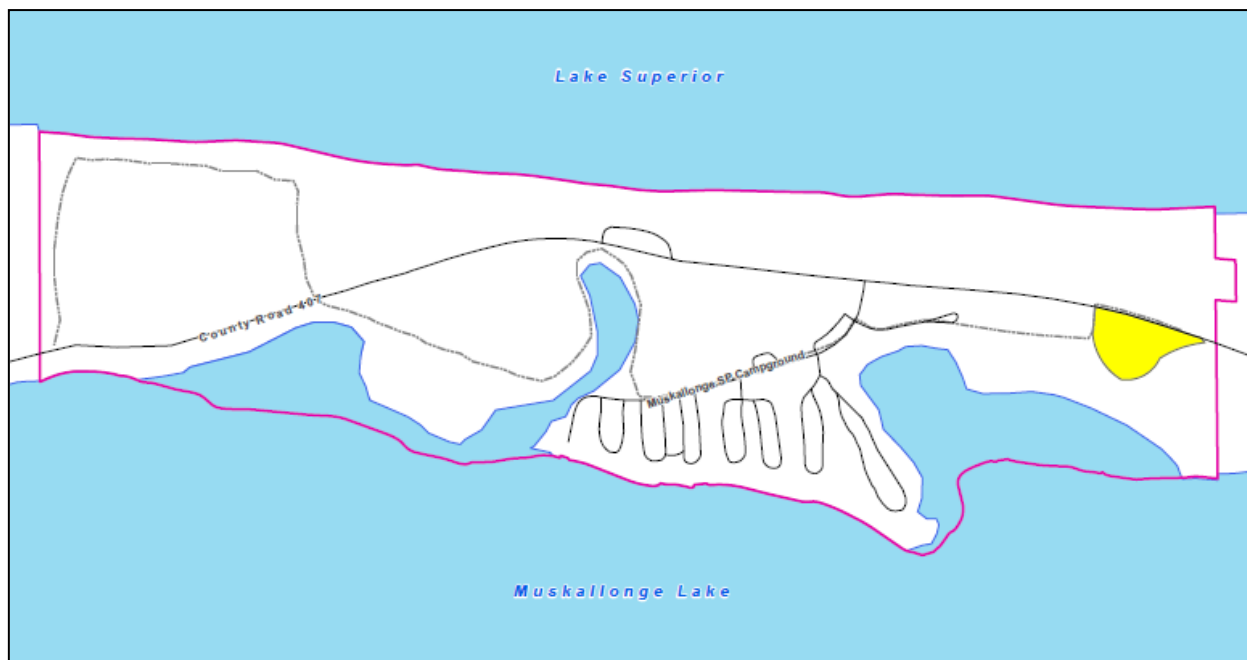
Management Focus

Management focuses on maintaining the use of the zone appropriate to the PRD's mission, promoting and supporting a diversity of facilities and activities and providing a high level of accessibility.

Development

A high level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities is permitted in this zone. Increased and improved camping opportunities, additional parking areas, improved access routes, and improvements for visitor accessibility are priorities in this zone.

4.2 Administrative Zone



This zone is 1% of total land and encompasses the developed areas required for program administration, operations, and the business of running the state park. While some of the park's administrative services are currently located outside of this zone, the long term goal is to relocate the park headquarters and support facilities to this location. While surrounded by the Cultural Landscape Zone, an archaeological evaluation determined that this area was suitable for development.

Natural Resources

Natural resources are actively managed and modified to support administrative and support activities. Vegetative management is allowed (primarily tree removal for safety).

Historic / Cultural Resources

There are no known historic or cultural resources within this zone, which was subject to a Phase 1 archaeological survey prior to being selected for the headquarters relocation. Cultural resources will generally be preserved and protected.

Recreational Opportunities

There are no recreational activities provided in the Administrative Zone.

Education Opportunities

Person to person contact at park office for general information; informational kiosk may be available.

Visitor Experience

Visitors typically access the zone for business and information only. High noise tolerance and high interaction with others can be expected.

Management Focus

Management focuses on the business of running the park, appropriate facilities for staff, employee safety and the like. The park will focus on fully implementing the relocation of the park headquarters from its lakeshore location.

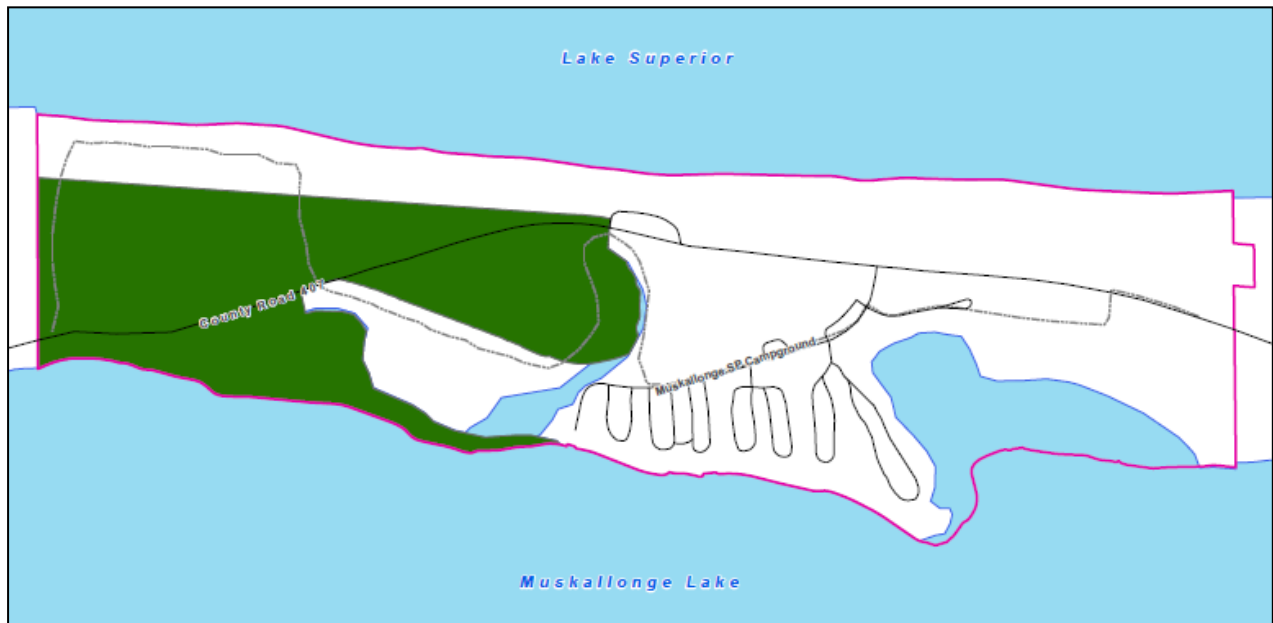
Development

Chosen as the area for relocation of the new park headquarters, a high level of development of facilities and high levels of accessibility are expected in this zone.



Construction of new park headquarters forced to relocate due to erosion, summer 2015.

4.3 Natural Resource Recreation Zone



Approximately 29% of Muskallonge Lake State Park is zoned Natural Resource Recreation. This zone provides for active recreation with medium to high density of use conducted in natural areas. The Natural Resource Recreation area is located west of the designated campgrounds, north and south of County Road 407. The area is heavily wooded and contains parts of the park's trail system and a portion of the Muskallonge Lake shoreline. While the zone designation emphasizes resource protection, landscape modification is permitted to allow for moderate interaction and recreation, as well as more intensively used trail corridors.

Natural Resources

Natural resources support visitor activities with moderate impacts. This zone reflects natural processes, with vegetative management focused on restoring and maintaining natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to facilitate recreational use and to maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape.



Park trail.

Historic / Cultural Resources

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

Recreational Opportunities

Moderate to high levels of recreation compatible with the natural character of the zone are to be expected. Visitors may be engaged in outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings, including hiking, rustic camping, canoeing, kayaking, nature observation.

Education Opportunities

Interpretive signage may be used along trails and at specific points of interest.

Visitor Experience

Visitors may be engaged in outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings for recreation and education. Variable time commitment, challenge and adventure; moderate noise tolerance and interaction with DNR staff and moderate to high visitor encounters can be accommodated.

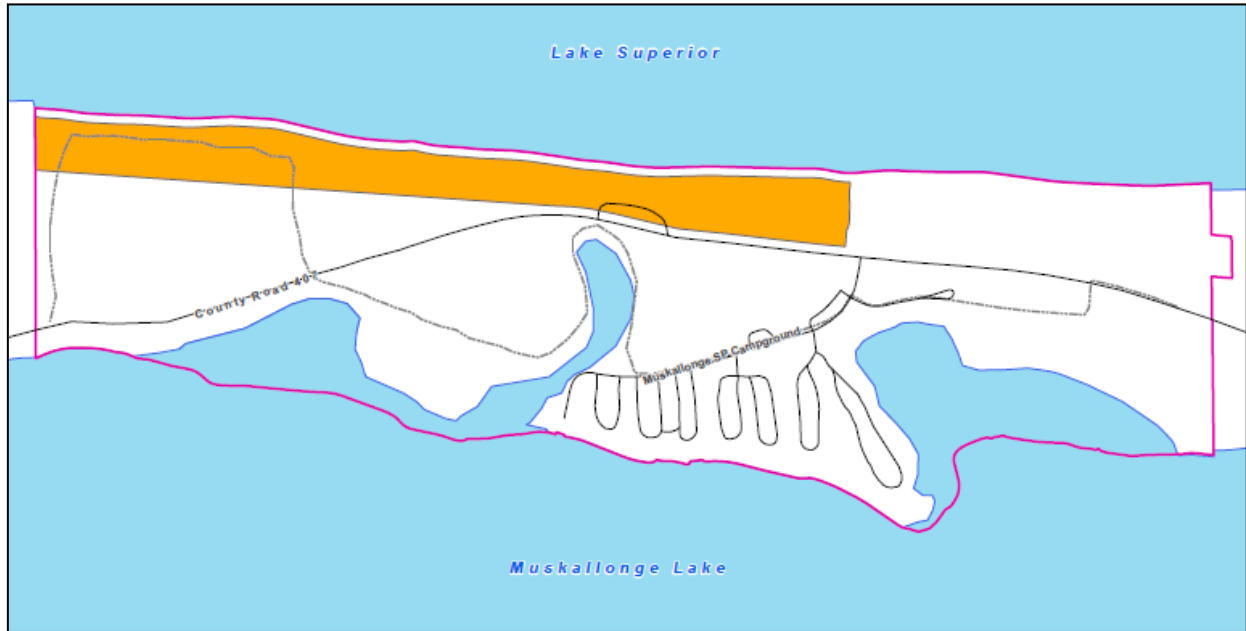
Management Focus

Management focuses on maintaining the use of the zone appropriate to the PRD's mission. Public safety, protection of resources, and improved visitor accessibility are management priorities.

Development

A moderate level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities is permitted in this zone. Examples of potential development at Muskallonge Lake includes camper cabins for year-round use. This zone allows site hardening as necessary to facilitate activities (such as ADA compliance) and to protect natural resources.

4.4 High Risk Erosion Zone



The High Risk Erosion Zone at Muskallonge Lake State Park has been applied to approximately 4,500 linear feet of Lake Superior shoreline, and a total of 12% of the park, running from the campground entrance drive and beach access walkway to the west boundary of the park. The zone varies in width from 220 to 360 feet and recognizes the high rate of active erosion that has been occurring long-term along the Lake Superior shoreline within the park. The primary focus of this zone is to manage the area in recognition of the continued rate of coastal recession. While some park infrastructure is currently located within this zone, the intent is to remove the infrastructure at risk over time and allow only limited and temporary recreational development in the future.



Erosion along the park's Lake Superior shore.

Natural Resources

This zone will generally reflect natural processes, but will allow for active vegetative management techniques focused on protecting the shoreline from erosion. Vegetation may also be managed to maintain the views of the zone, but only if this will not exacerbate the rate of erosion (i.e. root systems should remain intact).

Historic/Cultural Resources

Cultural resources will be preserved as far as possible. Resources threatened by erosion should be recorded and monitored and may be removed with the appropriate approvals. There are no historic structures in this zone.

Recreation Opportunities

Low levels of recreation compatible with the purpose of viewing and beach access is permitted. Public access within the zone will be restricted for safety reasons and to reduce human induced erosion. This zone will transition over time to foot traffic only.

Education Opportunities

Education and interpretation of the shoreline processes should be explored. Interpretation will generally be outside the boundaries of the zone.

Visitor Experience

Due to the desire for park visitors to walk on the beach, swim, pick rocks, and take in scenic vistas, there may be a moderate level of visitor encounters in this zone.

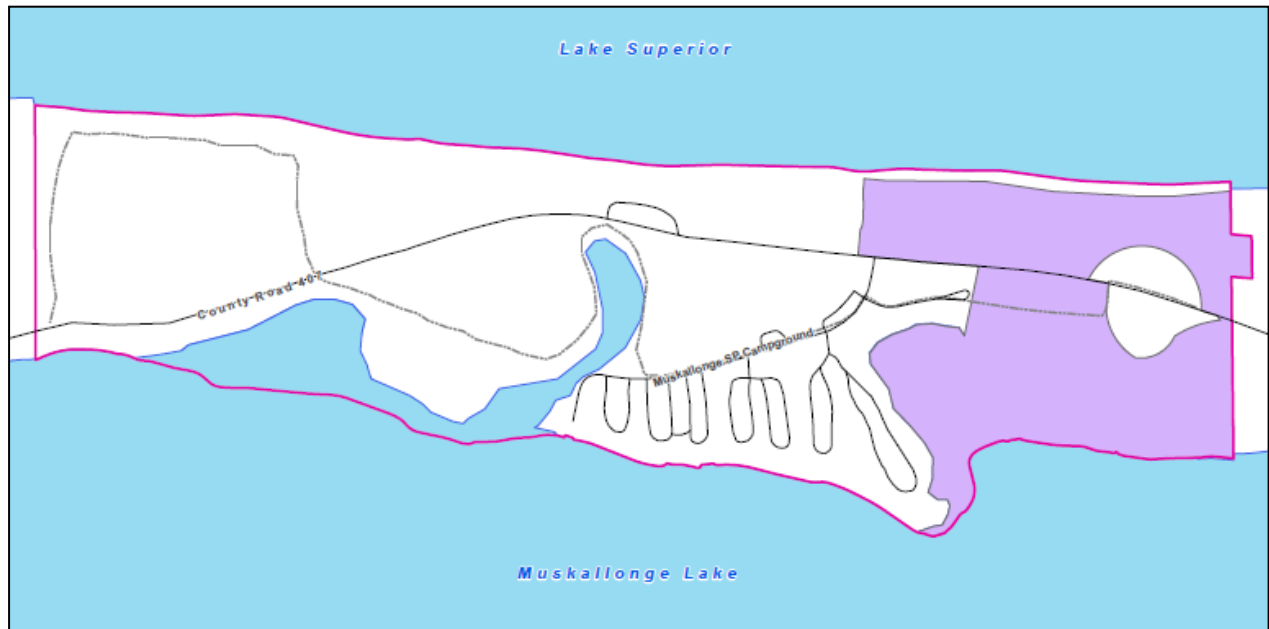
Management Focus

Management focus within the High Risk Erosion Zone will be on public safety and the relocation of park infrastructure out of the zone. Management will take into account the 2014 Muskallonge Lake State Park Lake Superior Shoreline Erosion Study, and other studies of lakeshore recession in the park. Continued monitoring of the lakeshore will help to inform management decisions. Management will include the phased removal of infrastructure from the zone in response to the threat of bluff recession. Controlled access to reduce human induced erosion will be expected. Low-impact management techniques to reduce the rate of erosion may be employed. The quality of the coastal viewscales will be maintained and upheld.

Development

Low level of development to support controlled beach access and sightseeing is permitted. Development will blend with the natural environment and may include foot trails and limited site hardening (i.e. beach access stairways, barriers and fencing).

4.5 Cultural Landscape Zone



Approximately 24% of Muskallonge Lake State Park is designated as Cultural Landscape Zone in recognition of the historic and cultural significance. This zone includes the remnants of Deer Park, as well as the former Coast Guard Life Saving Station. It is also likely an area of high sensitivity to the presence of prehistoric and historic Native American resources. The central focus of the Cultural Landscape Zone is managing the area to preserve its historical and cultural features.

Natural Resources

This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. 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 historical resource and interpretation of the zone.

Historic/Cultural Resources

Historic remnants within the park are the focus of this zone and represent the area's history. Sawdust piles, dock pilings, partly submerged pine logs, rail beds, and what remains of the Life Saving Station will be managed in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation and in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office.

Muskallonge Lake General Management Plan



Informational placard on the local history.

Recreation Opportunities

Visitors engage in sightseeing, recreational and educational activities compatible with and sensitive to the cultural setting.

Education Opportunities

Education and interpretation of the park's history should be explored both on and off-site. This may include interpretive signage.

Visitor Experience

Visitors engage in sightseeing, and potential educational and interpretive activities. Moderate noise tolerance, and interaction with DNR staff, other visitors, and volunteers is characteristic of this zone.

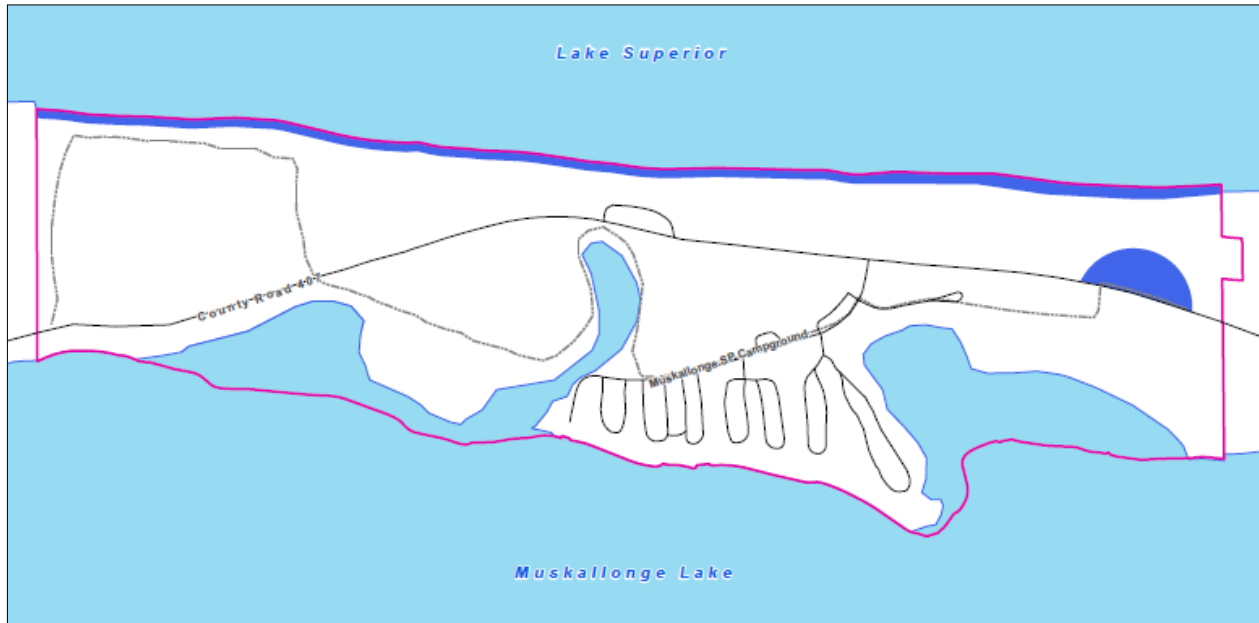
Management Focus

Management focus is to maintain the cultural and historical character of the zone.

Development

Non-historic development and activities that do not conflict with the cultural landscape are tolerated. A moderate level of development compatible with the cultural landscape is permitted such as interpretive media, walks, and amenities to support visitor access and use.

4.6 Scenic Zone



Approximately 5% of Muskallonge Lake State Park is designated Scenic Zone. The zone protects and preserves the scenic views offered at the park. The Scenic Zone extends along the entire Lake Superior shoreline, as well as the viewing platform located at the eastern end of the park, and provides visitors with picturesque views of Lake Superior

Natural Resources

While natural resources and vegetation may be modified slightly to support visitor use and viewing, there is low tolerance for adverse impacts on the natural resources. The zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management allowed to restore and maintain ecological structure and processes, and to maintain or enhance the views.

Historic/Cultural Resources

There are no known historic resources within this zone. Cultural resources will generally be preserved and protected.

Recreation Opportunities

With the focus of this zone on the scenic views, only moderate levels of recreation compatible with the views will be permitted. Recreation activity will typically take place on the trails and at observation points along the shoreline

Education Opportunities

This zone presents an educational opportunity for visitors to learn about Lake Superior, as well as the erosion process at key locations such as trailheads and observation points.

Visitor Experience

High levels of visitor encounters can be expected, with moderate noise tolerance and generally low interaction with DNR staff. The visitors will engage in activities that allow for observation of the scenic views.

Management Focus

Management will focus on protecting, preserving, and enhancing the scenic viewscapes and public safety.

Development

A moderate level of development to support visitor access, sightseeing and interpretive activities is appropriate in this zone. Development will only be allowed that does not adversely affect the scenic qualities of the zone.



The Planning Team at the view platform, 2015.

5. 10-Year Action Goals

The Action Goals proposed for Muskallonge Lake State Park were developed by the Planning Team in response to stakeholder and public input and in context with the core values and guiding resources discussed in Chapter 1 of this plan, including the Blue Ribbon Panel Report to Governor Snyder.

The top reasons visitors come to Muskallonge Lake State Park, according to the online survey, are for its quiet, remote and scenic location on Lake Superior. The Action Goals proposed continue to recognize those features while making necessary improvements to existing infrastructure and amenities at the park. Providing greater education and interpretation opportunities, through the proposed addition of an interpretative trail and by expanding seasonal programming at the park, will add to the appreciation of the natural and cultural resources the park and the area has to offer. The region is known for its outdoor recreation and opportunities for exploration. Muskallonge Lake State Park is the perfect base for such activities with direct access to the NCNST, Iron Belle Trail, Lake Superior East Water Trail and nearby expansive state forest land, rivers and lakes. Continuing to work with the local community, event planners and regional partners will provide mutual benefits for the park, its visitors and the Eastern Upper Peninsula Planning Region.

The Planning Team has developed 10-Year Action Goals that it believes are necessary to guide management and development within the park as a whole, and the six designated management zones, in order to achieve the desired user experience. For each management zone in the plan, action goals are recommended that address one or more of the following categories:

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

Management Plans do not guarantee future PRD funding to implement them, 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. The 10-Year Action Goals address the desired future condition at the park, and serve as a blueprint for management decisions.

General Action Goals

Many of the 10-Year Action Goals for **Muskallonge Lake State Park** are general in nature and apply within all of the management zones. These often deal with park-wide issues, such as invasive species control, universal access, trails that cross zone boundaries, 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 park also result in the need for actions across all zone boundaries, such as law enforcement.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Natural Resources			
Implement land and water based invasive species control	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Fisheries Wildlife	Stewardship Fisheries Wildlife
Develop a Stewardship Plan that identifies conservation targets and priorities for resource management and stewardship	5-10 years	Stewardship Park Manager	Stewardship Ecologist
Historic/ Cultural Resources			
Fund through Stewardship Unit the completion of a Phase 1 archaeological survey for the balance of the park not already inventoried	1 Year	Park Manager Stewardship State Archaeologist	Stewardship
Recreation Opportunities			
Continue to manage Muskallonge Lake in accordance with management prescriptions to establish/maintain it as a fishing destination	Ongoing	Park Manager Fisheries	Fisheries
Continue partnership with EUPRPDC to support the Lake Superior East Water Trail and provide base line water trail user amenities	Ongoing	Park Manager EUPRPDC Trails Specialist	Park Manager
Formalize the reroute of the North Country National Scenic Trail and Iron Belle Trail	1 Year	Park Manager Regional Planner Trails Specialist Stewardship NCNST	Park Manager
Improve shore fishing angler access with pier and structures such as crib, tree drop, and other methods to be determined	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner Fisheries	Park Manager Fisheries
Education/Interpretive Opportunities			
Bring a seasonal interpreter/explorer guide to the park	5-10 Years	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager
Install/develop an interpretive trail focusing on the park's heritage and natural resources.	5-10 Years	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach Stewardship Regional Planner State Archaeologist	Park Manager

General Action Goals			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Management			
Continue to relocate existing infrastructure in response to lakeshore erosion	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager Regional Planner
Evaluate park lighting for Dark Sky compliance *	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Work with partners to promote park as Dark Sky destination*	Ongoing	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach Partners	Park Manager
Establish partnerships with businesses to enhance visitor experience	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager
Continue to review and update capital outlay list as needed	Annual	District Supervisor Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Continue to review and monitor infrastructure needs based on visitor use and trends	Annual	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Evaluate options for overflow vehicle storage	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Evaluate and expand park's WiFi service to campground areas if financially sustainable	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Continue to monitor and explore partnerships or commercial services that will provide the opportunity to enhance cell phone service at the park	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Development			
Implement phased capital outlay projects as funds become available	Ongoing	District Supervisor Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager

EUPRPDC = Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission

NCNST = North Country National Scenic Trail

** State Legislation relating to dark sky preserve designation excludes establishment in the Upper Peninsula, however the park may still be managed and promoted for night sky viewing or for consideration as an International Dark Sky Preserve.*

Developed Recreation

The Developed Recreation Zone is characterized by 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 where possible. The campground, boat launch, swimming beach and day use area are located in the Developed Recreation Zone.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Natural Resources			
Develop and implement campground tree replacement plan in partnership with PRD Stewardship Prison Grow program	1-5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager
Education & Interpretation			
Continue to update and improve aquatic invasive species control messaging at the boat launch	Ongoing	Park Manager Fisheries Marketing & Outreach	Marketing & Outreach
Development			
Provide additional vehicle/trailer parking spaces at the boat launch	1-5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Designate and implement an improved emergency access route connection from the service road to the boat launch	1-5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner Local EMS	Park Manager
Upgrade the campground electric system	1-5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Regional Planner
Upgrade campground road system	1-5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Regional Planner
Provide camper cabins or other alternative lodging for year-round use based on cost benefit analysis with a sustainable and financially solvent plan	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Redevelop the day use area to provide improved visitor experiences, including but not limited to: accessibility, appropriate playgrounds, pavilion shelter, and other amenities	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Regional Planner

Natural Resource Recreation

Active recreation at a medium to high density of use conducted in a natural setting is the hallmark of the Natural Resource Recreation Zone. There is an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but in this zone higher levels of use are allowed. Vegetation may be managed to facilitate recreational use and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape, as well as address such issues as hazard trees and to manage pests and disease.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Development			
Provide camper cabins or other alternative lodging for year-round use based on cost benefit analysis with a sustainable and financially solvent plan	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager
Recreation Opportunities			
Evaluate additional non-motorized trail routes	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager

Administrative Zone

This zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration, operations, and the business of running the state park. The Administrative Zone at Muskallonge Lake includes the area of the new Park Headquarters, south of County Road 407 at the east end of the park.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Development			
Fully implement headquarters relocation	1-5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Regional Planner

Cultural Landscape Zone			
The Cultural Landscape Zone recognizes the overall setting in which is found not only historic structures, but all non-structural evidence of the park's past. This includes evidence of the Coast Guard Life Saving Station and Deer Park.			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Management			
Develop and implement an education and enforcement plan for protecting cultural resources and artifacts to prevent damage/collecting	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship SHPO	Cultural Resource Analyst State Archaeologist
Implement vegetation management in the area of the Lifesaving Station for increased visibility of historic features and site line from upper viewing platform	1-5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager

SHPO = State Historic Preservation Office

Scenic Zone			
In recognition in the beauty of the Lake Superior shoreline, this zone has been applied to the entire shoreline, as well as the viewing platform located off the northern parking lot along County Road 407. The Scenic Zone is also where agates can be found			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Management			
Continue to recognize the compelling natural and scenic viewshed along the Lake Superior Shoreline	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager

High Risk Erosion Zone

Active erosion along the Lake Superior Shoreline is a long-term issue Muskallonge Lake State Park will continue to experience. The primary focus of this zone is to manage the area in recognition of the continued rate of coastal recession. Infrastructure will be removed from this zone over time and only limited or temporary recreation developments will be allowed in the future. The zone offers opportunities to provide education and awareness of lakeshore erosion processes.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Natural Resources			
Ensure conservation of rare plants is included in all shoreline erosion control measures	Ongoing	Stewardship Park Manager	Stewardship Ecologist
Management			
Annually monitor the rate of recession along the shoreline bluff by establishing a series of benchmarks	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager
Continue to remove at-risk infrastructure and buildings	1-5 Years	Park Manager District Supervisor Regional Planner	Park Manager
Historic/Cultural Resources			
Monitor exposure of archaeological sites. Work with State Archaeologist to record and preserve artifacts and document sites when deemed necessary	Ongoing	State Archaeologist Park Manager Stewardship	State Archaeologist
Education/Interpretation Opportunities			
Continue public education regarding the natural erosion of the Lake Superior shoreline bluff	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach