

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee
Tuesday, August 25, 2020
2:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Meeting / (248) 509-0316 | ID: 758 215 130

PRESENT FOR THE MSPAC

Chuck Hoover
Jim Bradley
Ann Conklin
Mary Pitcher
Mike McDonald
Bob Hoffmeyer
Chris Graham
Ron Olson – DNR-PRD Representative

ABSENT

Commissioner Louise Klarr
Commissioner David Nyberg
Mike Foote
Julie Clark

OTHERS PRESENT

Jacklin Blodgett, PRD
Jason Fleming, PRD
Vicki McGhee, PRD
Scott Pratt, PRD
Paul Yauk, PRD
Nikki Van Bloem, PRD
Deb Jensen, PRD
Matt Lincoln, PRD
Barbara Graves, PRD

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

OPENING COMMENTS

The meeting began at 2:03 p.m. **Ron Olson, Parks and Recreation Chief** asked everyone to introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chief Olson asked members for support of the May 27, 2020 meeting minutes. **Committee member Mary Pitcher** supported the approval with **Committee member Chuck Hoover** seconding. Acceptance of the minutes passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

GENERAL UPDATES

Chief Updates

Chief Ron Olson

The Executive Orders are still in place and remain until September 5. Group gatherings are still limited to 100 or less. Executive Order 3 curtails spending and requires a special process to meet critical specifications. There is still a hiring freeze, but we were granted exceptions to hire staff because parks, trails and waterway systems were considered essential. Camping was allowed to resume on June 22, state forest campgrounds shortly before that, working our way up to full operation. Park staff is present most of the time with others who are able to telework doing so. We were granted permission to hire 1,300 STW's and have managed to fill 83% of vacancies. We are experiencing unprecedented day use attendance, some parks seeing more visitors than we have seen in years past. Camping numbers are up about 25% compared to last year. We are behind in revenue for the season due to the delayed opening in camping but we are gaining ground. Mid-week camping and lodging numbers are up 52% compared to last July. We have had to close some parks due to overcrowding. The Porkies have seen an uptick in rescues due to an increase in novice hikers going out into the wilderness. Staff is stressed trying to run a robust service with many visitors and short staffing. Harbor reservations are up about 15%. OVR permits are up in the double digits with an increase in trail use. Some of the parks experienced interruptions due to projects that were delayed. We are still experiencing some challenges due to high water. Yesterday the state had its revenue estimating conference and the budget looked better than they thought it would. We have yet to see what will transpire for the FY2021 budget.

High Water Impacts

Vicki McGhee, Planning Chief, PRD, displayed a PowerPoint presentation showing the high water impacts in the system. Included were pictures of Tawas Point, Belle Isle, Orchard Beach,

and McLain State Parks, County Road 107, Harley Ensign Memorial boating access site, and Mackinac State Harbor. Presentation attached.

State Trail Plan Update

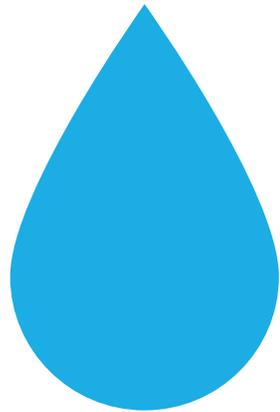
Nikki Van Bloem, Southeast Trail Specialist, PRD, went over the State Trail Plan update (attached). Please send any comments to Nikki at vanbloemn@michigan.gov.

Future Meeting Dates

Chief Olson said at the present time, protocols do not allow staff to travel. We will continue meeting virtually until things change.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

DRAFT



High Water Impacts

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AUGUST 25, 2020

Tawas Point State Park - 2015

Lake Huron water levels have been steadily increasing over the past several years. As a result, back in 2014-15, a 35' portion of the roadway was undercut and needed immediate repair by the DNR Grayling Construction Crew.



Tawas Point State Park - 2019

From 2016 to 2019 the lake levels continued to increase dramatically which led to another emergency protection of the roadway.



Tawas Point State Park - 2020

Each of the larger stones are approximately 4'x4' (est. weight 1,800 – 2,200lb each).



Tawas Pont State Park - 2020

The day use road and day use parking lot took extensive damage from a large northeasterly storm that caused the road to be flooded entirely in many areas, as well as, covering the road with rocks, logs and debris.



TAWAS
BAY

LAKE
HURON

Day Use Gate

New Shoreline due
to high water

TAWAS POINT
LIGHTHOUSE

BATHHOUSE
TOILETS & PICNIC
SHELTER

LEGEND

-  PAVED ROAD
-  GRAVEL ROAD
-  DIRT ROAD
-  TRAIL
-  STATE LAND
-  CAMPING
-  BEACH
-  PICNIC AREA
-  PLAYGROUND
-  RESTROOM
-  SANITATION STATION

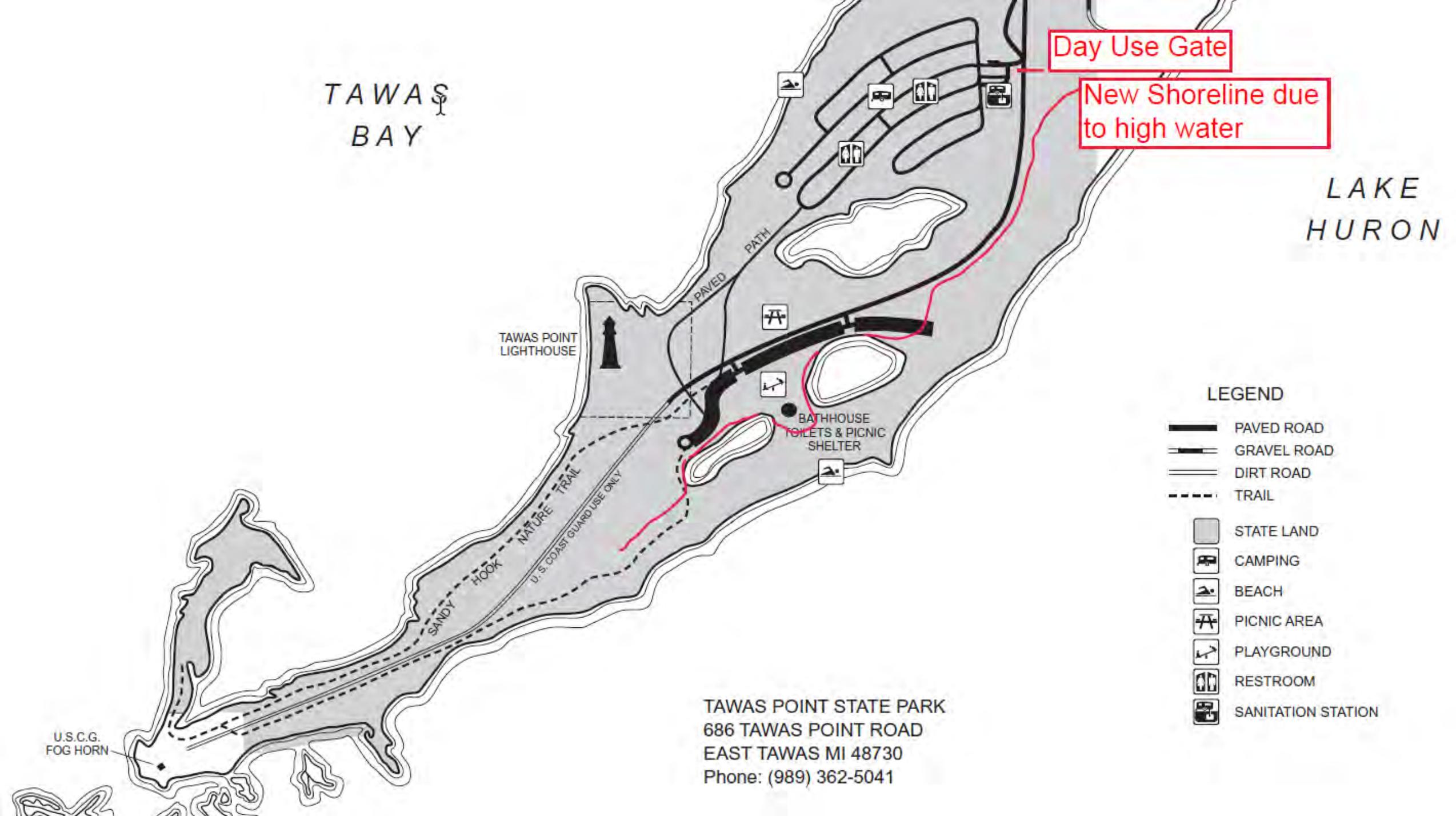
TAWAS POINT STATE PARK
686 TAWAS POINT ROAD
EAST TAWAS MI 48730
Phone: (989) 362-5041

U.S.C.G.
FOG HORN

SANDY
HOOK

NATURE TRAIL
U.S. COAST GUARD USE ONLY

PAVED
PATH



Belle Isle Park

High Water Control Measures

High Water Impacts



- Deterioration to road surfaces
- Closures of main park thoroughfares
- Threat of flooding to park's primary electric utility infrastructure
- Overtaxing the park's combined sewer system
- Indefinite construction delays for completion of the Lake Okonoka Habitat restoration project.
- Indefinite construction delays to the Flatwood Restoration
- Impacts to revenue generating picnic shelters

Water Control Measures



- Stop-log structure installed on the Detroit River side of the new box culvert at The Strand
- Constructed by Friends of Detroit River's Lake Okonoka Habitat Restoration Project
- Additional funding to install/design & permit stop-log funded by NOAA
- Cofferdam purchased by DNR and installed by a private contractor in coordination with the Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix
- The Cofferdam is a temporary control measure that will be installed when the water levels exceed the OHW levels

Belle Isle Park

High Water Control Measures

High Water Levels Before Control Measures



- The stop- log structure built between Lake Okonoka and the Nashua Canal was not able to control high river levels from raising levels within the park when river levels exceed the OHW
- The banks on either side of the control structure have been flooded from the lake and from the flooded flatwoods draining into this area
- Sections of paving along The Strand were flooded from Lake Tacoma and Lake Okonoka as island water levels rose uncontrolled

Water Levels After Control Measures in Place



- With the cofferdam and box culvert in place the water levels have been pumped down to ordinary water levels
- Flooding has been controlled - The island canal and lake banks are visible once again
- With flooding under control several construction contracts may continue, including road maintenance contracts, Lake Okonoka Habitat Restoration and the Wet-Mesic Flatwood restoration & recreational improvements

County Road 107

Ontonagon CR 107 is experiencing significant shoreline erosion along approx. 1.65 miles of road.

Shoulder closures and/or lane closures have impacted CR 107

The only access to Lake of the Clouds, Porkies Ski Hill, Union Bay CG, Union Bay Boating Access Site, and many other recreation features.



Horizontal Unit – Shoreline armoring

Armor 1,100 lineal feet of CR 107 shoreline with approximately 2,595 tons of riprap / heavy riprap material

Area #1 (East) – 800'

Area #2 (West) – 300', near Park Entrance sign

\$161,000 invested in rock armoring materials.

+ \$160,000 invested in labor & equipment

\$321,000 project value



Shoreline armoring of Ontonagon County Road 107

Over 1.6 miles (approx. 8,450') of County Road 107 is threatened by erosion. 3/4 of the length (1.2 mi or 6,340') lies within the red and yellow shaded areas. To date 4,130 has been armored. 2,210' remains as a critical need.

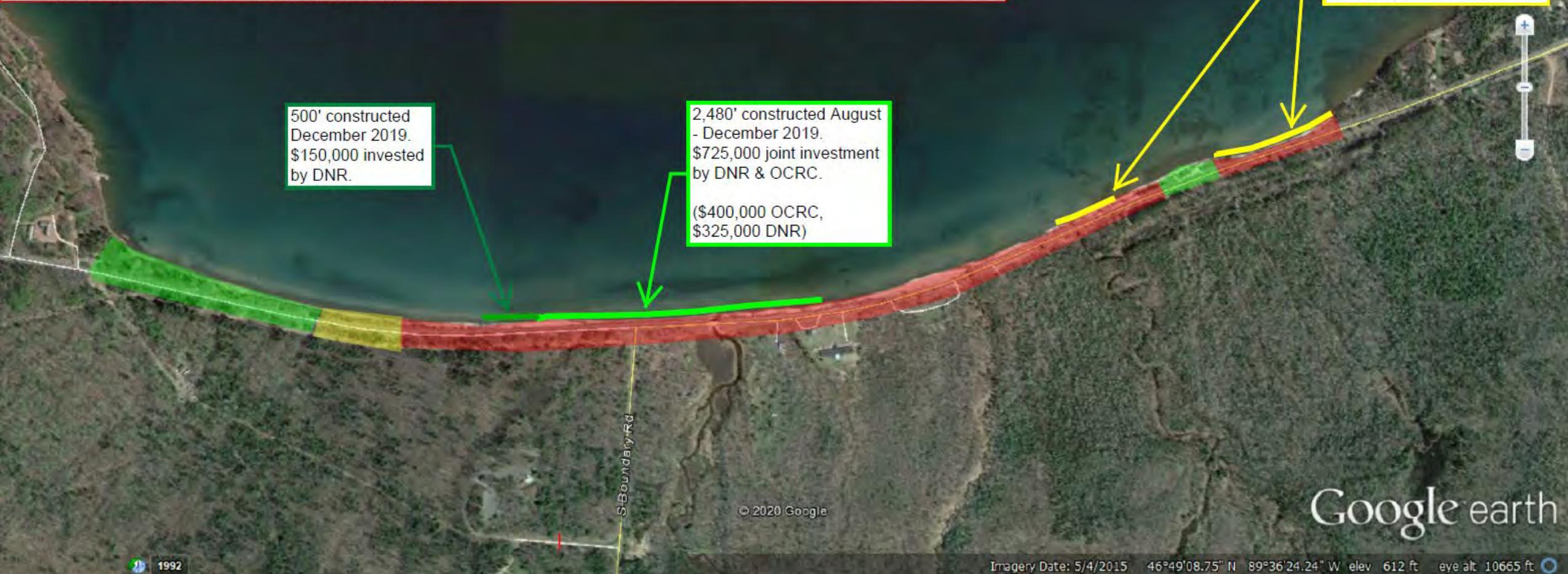
Polygon legend (Green, yellow & red shading):

- Green** - Areas > 60' of shoreline between road and edge of bluff
- Yellow** = Areas 20' - 60' of shoreline between road & edge of bluff
- Red** = Areas < 20' of shoreline between road and edge of bluff

500' constructed
December 2019.
\$150,000 invested
by DNR.

2,480' constructed August
- December 2019.
\$725,000 joint investment
by DNR & OCRC.
(\$400,000 OCRC,
\$325,000 DNR)

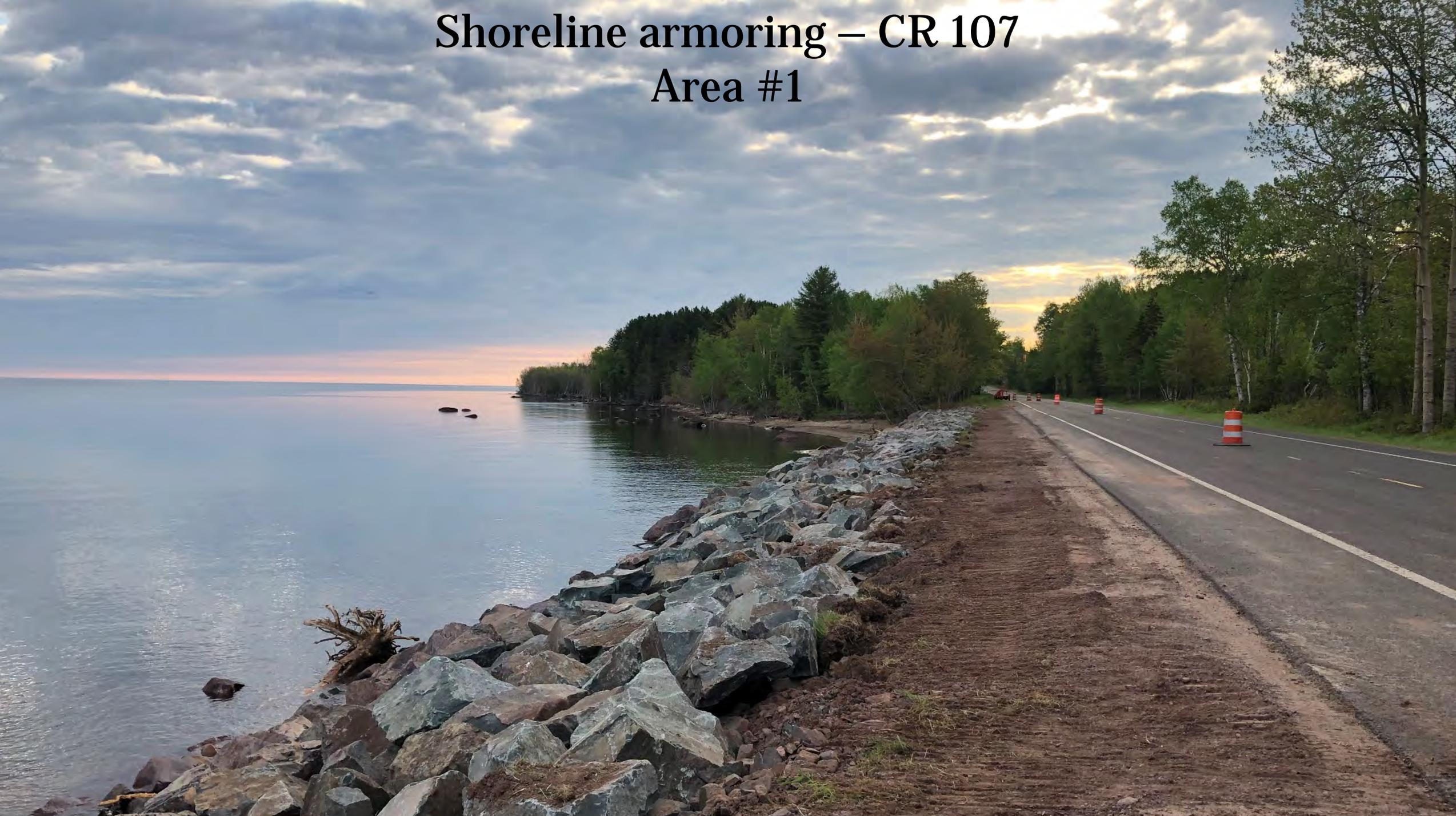
1,150' constructed May -
June 2020.
\$321,000 invested by DNR &
MIARNG.
(\$241,000 DNR, \$80,000
MIARNG).



Armoring of CR 107 – Area #1



Shoreline armoring – CR 107 Area #1



McLain State Park

Significant shoreline erosion threatened 25 lake front campsites, the day use toilet building, the campground toilet shower building, park roads, and utilities.

A new master plan was developed with public input to guide significant relocations/replacement of infrastructure.

Two phases have been completed relocating the 25 campsites, the campground toilet shower building, and park roads.

Shoreline armoring project was completed to protect a critical 1,000' of shoreline





09/15/2014



2018



06/15/2011



09/15/2014

Shoreline Armoring Project



2020

Orchard Beach State Park – Historic Shelter

Ongoing erosion at the toe of the bluff caused by wave action, compounded by rising water levels, and the sloughing off the steep slope put the future use and existence of a historic shelter building and beach access at risk.

There is less than 50 feet between the building and the edge of the drop off.

The historic shelter building is to be relocated to a different location within the park.

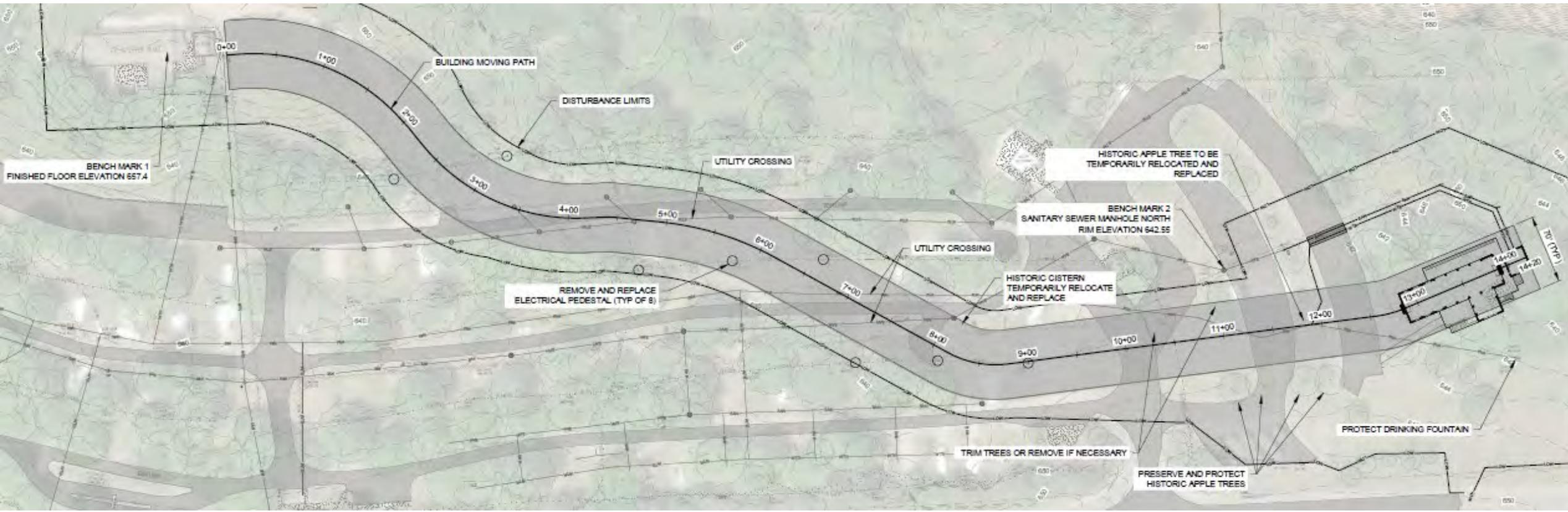




Wood fence is undermined in this location.



Orchard Beach State Park – Shelter Relocation



Orchard Beach State Park – Shelter Relocation Plan

Orchard Beach State Park – Beach Access

Access to the lakeshore at Orchard Beach State Park is provided by a single wooden staircase located north of the bathroom facilities. The staircase was constructed over an area of stone fill buttressed at the base of the slope with a series of gabion baskets.





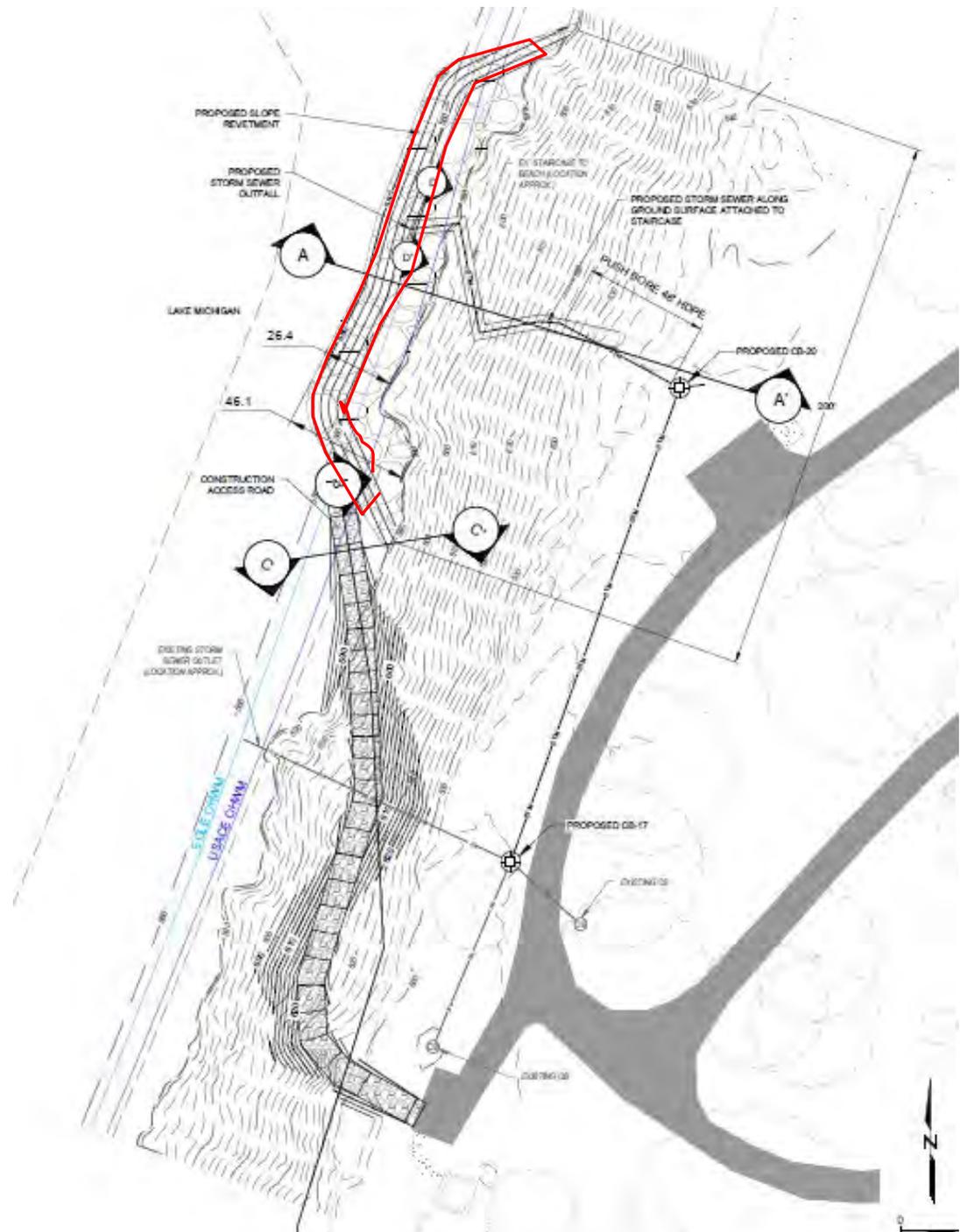
Orchard Beach State Park Beach Access

If left as-is, the stone filled gabion baskets will likely continue to be undermined by wave action, deform and potentially topple.



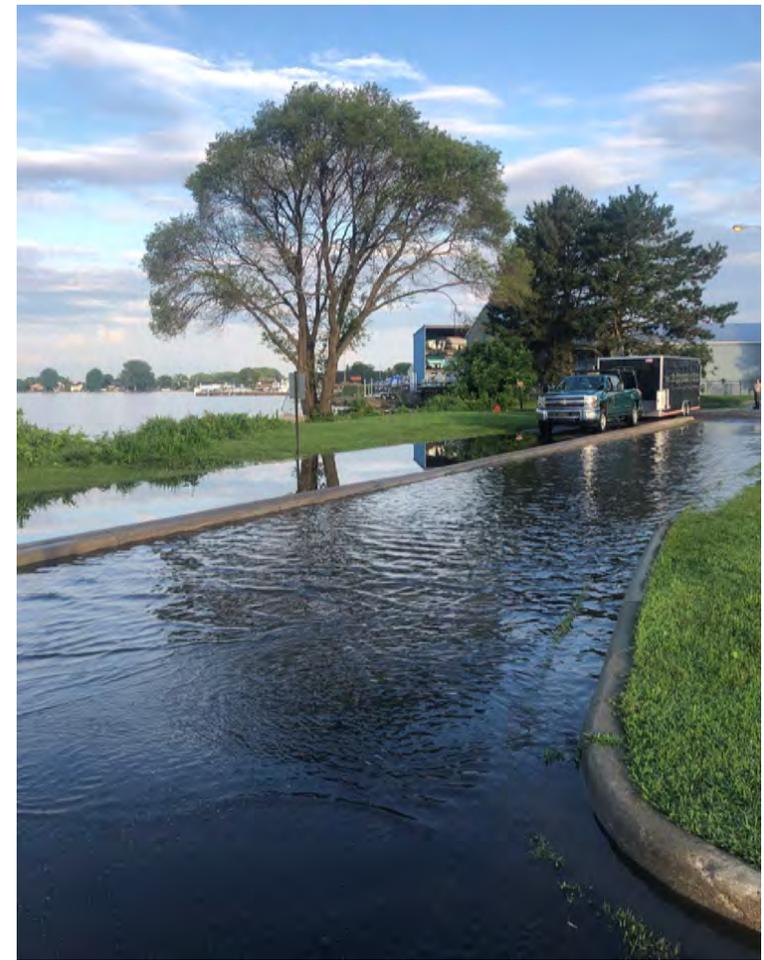
2020

Orchard Beach State Park Beach Access



Shore Stabilization Plan –

A shoreline stabilization revetment has been designed to stabilize the shoreline and protect the stairway for beach access



Harley Ensign Memorial BAS

Macomb County

One of largest sites in DNR system that provides access to Lake St. Clair.

Mackinac Island State Harbor

- High water impacts going back to early 2019
- Staff raised some decks in 2019
- Harbor had to shut down electricity on docks for 2020 season due to conduit under water





9

10

ATA LINE FERRY



DNR Trail Plan

Management Team
Update

8/12/20

Trail Plan Team

PRD

- Nikki Van Bloem
- Paige Perry
- Dakota Hewlett

Division Liaisons

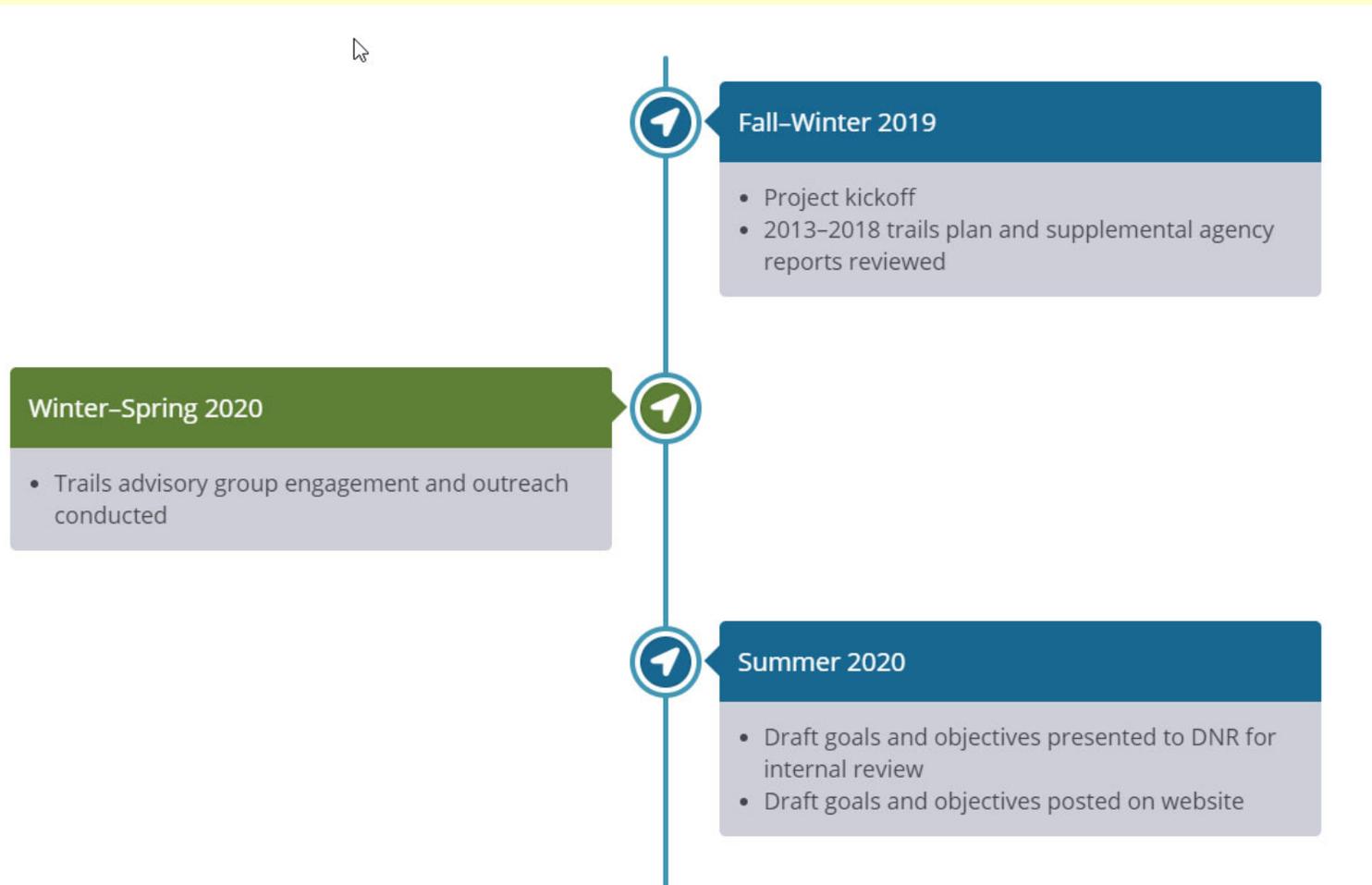
- Steve Milford – FRD
- Christine Hanaburgh – WLD
- Brian Bury – FD
- Roger Storm – FOD
- Pete Wright – LED
- Beth Fults – MOD

PSC Team

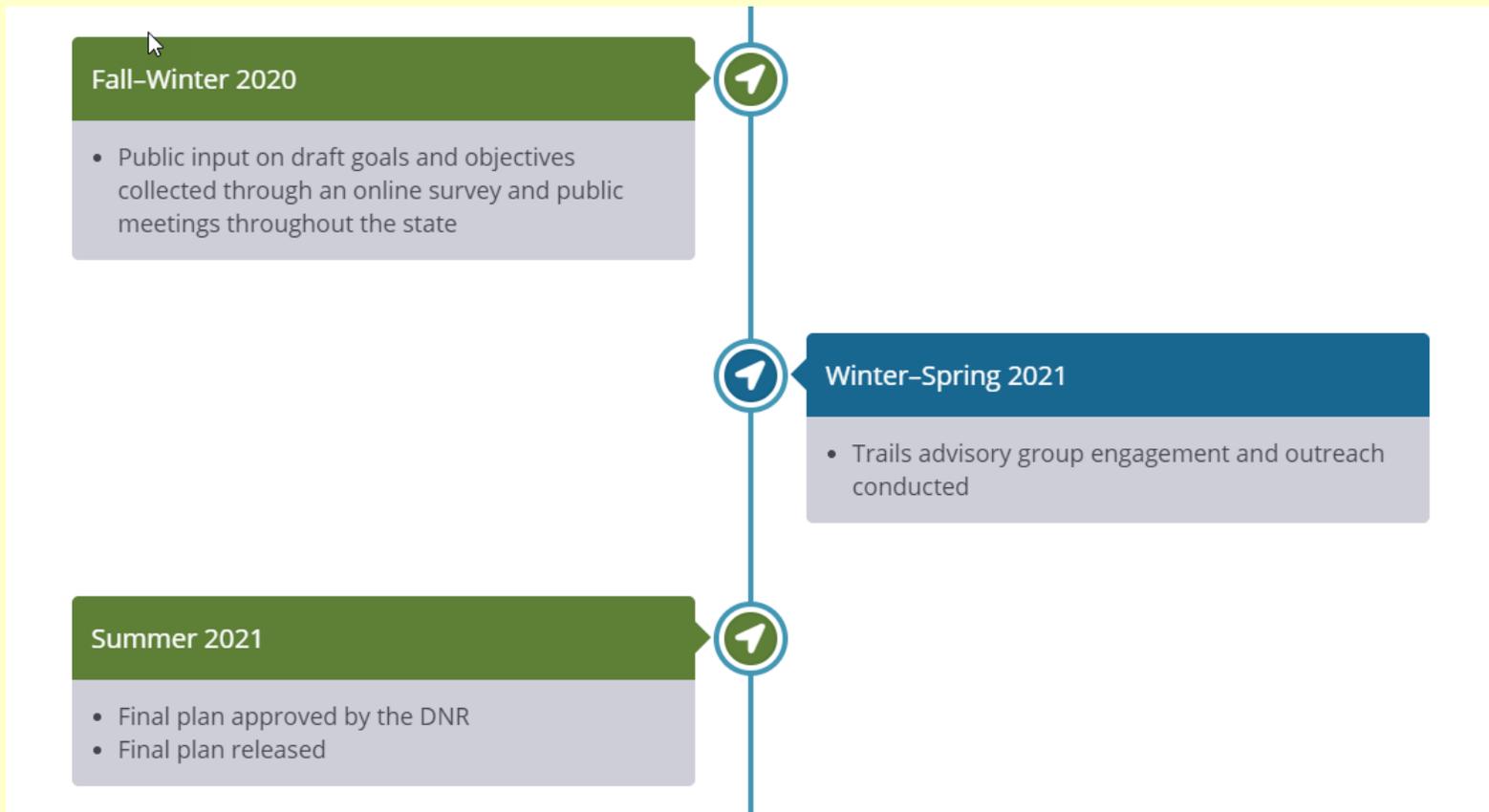
- Jon Beard
- Cody Proudfoot



Timeline - Completed



Timeline - Future



DNR and Public Input

- Facilitated virtual meetings of draft goals and objectives in October
 - Regional DNR (EUP, WUP, NE, NW, SE, SW)
 - Regional Public (UP, NLP, SLP, SE)
 - Use Type (Motor, Non-motor, Water, Non-Trail Stakeholder – timber, wildlife, etc)
- Online survey



Draft Goals and Objectives

DRAFT FOR REVIEW (JULY 24th, 2020) 8-4 NVR

Vision

Michigan will solidify its national recognition as "The Trails State" by providing sustainable and diverse trail experiences to connect people and communities, provide for the health and wellness, transportation, and outdoor recreation pursuits of Michigan's residents and visitors, supporting the vibrancy and prosperity of Michigan and its communities.

Outcomes

Successful implementation of the trails plan will support the following outcomes:

Quality trail experiences and resource management: With proper funding, coordination, and planning, Michigan's trail systems will be maintained and sustainably expanded to provide diverse motorized and nonmotorized opportunities for safe, quality trail experiences while also managing Michigan's natural and cultural resources.

Public stewardship: By developing and promoting trail systems residents and visitors are knowledgeable about trail opportunities as well as regulations and use practices. Trails will serve as a pathway to engage with Michigan's cultural and natural resources, cultivating a stewardship mindset to, protect and enhance these resources, and improve understanding of how public lands are managed for multiple purposes.

Community and economic prosperity: Through intentional planning, collaboration, and promotions, Michigan's trails can be leveraged for the greatest benefit to support community and economic prosperity in Michigan. Trail systems enhance the quality of life for Michiganders making our state and its communities a great place to live and draw visitors from other regions contributing to the tourism economy.

Goals

To achieve the long-term vision and outcomes, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources will pursue the following goals over the next five years:

Goal #: Sustainable Maintenance and Development

Manage Michigan's trails system sustainably to maintain and improve existing conditions while protecting natural and cultural resources.

Objectives

1. Design and locate trails to meet current and future needs for all users
2. Prioritize quality trail experiences over the quantity of trails
3. Elevate maintenance of existing trails systems in comparison to the development of new systems
4. Connect existing trail systems, trail users, and adjoining communities to form a network of interconnected trails and users
5. Prioritize completion of destination trails such as the Iron Belle and Great Lake to Lake trails
6. Encourage and integrate environmentally sustainable practices
7. Manage trails to ensure trails remain viable while providing for wildlife habitat, healthy vibrant forests, and other best management practices as determined by the Land Administration Division

1

DRAFT FOR REVIEW (JULY 24th, 2020) 8-4 NVR

Goal #: Planning and Collaboration

Model best trail planning practices to maintain and improve strong public, stakeholder, and department communication, relationships, and partnerships.

Objectives

8. Coordinate planning with partners including user groups, government, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and volunteers
9. Prioritize planning at a regional scale and across DNR Divisions
10. Foster collaborative partnerships across user groups and among resource managers
11. Foster support for key initiatives from partners, legislators, and stakeholders

Goal #: Marketing, Promotion, and Education

Promote Michigan's diverse trail opportunities to residents and visitors, accurately depicting experiences found in the state.

Objectives

12. Promote Michigan's diverse trail opportunities to encourage use from residents and visitors
13. Coordinate with community, business, and government partners to promote trail systems
14. Utilize relevant technology and promotional practices to engage and educate new and existing audiences
15. Enhance available technology tools and services to make trail information easily accessible
16. Develop and implement an education strategy to minimize user conflict; promote trail safety and general use practices such as leave no trace principles; and enhance understanding of public lands management
17. Develop and implement wayfinding and signage guidelines
18. Connect trail users to Michigan's natural resources and cultural heritage
19. Document use patterns and analyze significance of trail-based recreation to the state and its communities

Goal #: Funding

Develop and refine funding structure to ensure trails are maintained and developed to provide quality recreation experiences.

Objectives

20. Develop additional sources of sustainable funding for nonmotorized trail maintenance funding,
21. Continue to strengthen current funding sources for maintenance, development, and acquisition
22. Coordinate funding sources more strategically to achieve greater outcomes
23. Seek funding opportunities to leverage investments

2



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