

# PONTIAC LAKE RECREATION AREA PHASE 2 GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

## LONG RANGE ACTION GOALS

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



Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Parks and Recreation Division  
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# 1) Introduction

Pontiac Lake Recreation Area is located in southeast Michigan, just west of Pontiac in Waterford and White Lake townships, Oakland County. The park was one of eleven parks created in southeast Michigan through appropriations by the state legislature in 1944 for the purposes of protecting natural and cultural resources and to provide recreation and interpretation opportunities to the metro-Detroit region. The recreation area consists of 3,700 acres with 1,600 feet of frontage on Pontiac Lake encompassing, the largest public beach in Oakland County. The park features a variety of recreation opportunities within a largely urbanized region of the state. Recreation activities and facilities include but are not limited to equestrian trails, hiking trails, mountain bike trails, swimming, camping, a horseback riding stable, a model airplane flying field, modern shooting range, fishing, hunting, boating, wildlife viewing, metal detecting and cross-country skiing. Although the park lies within an urbanized area, it maintains many significant natural resources, including its unique glacial topography, bogs and headwaters.

The General Management Plan (GMP) guides the future long-term management of Pontiac Lake Recreation Area and is based on the mission of the Parks & Recreation Division (PRD): “to acquire, protect and preserve the natural and cultural features of Michigan’s unique resources, and to provide access to land and water public recreation and education opportunities”.

## 1.1 Planning Objectives

The objective of the GMP is to bring together PRD staff, representatives from other Department of Natural Resource (DNR) divisions, stakeholders and the public into a planning process that directs management decisions and implementation strategies for the recreation area.

The Phase 1 GMP for Pontiac Lake Recreation Area, approved in March 2012, presents a 20-year management zone plan and defines the purpose and significance of the park. The supporting analysis included in the Phase 1 GMP provides important background information on the recreation area such as park setting, area demographics, history, land ownership, legal mandates, and cultural, natural and recreation resources. This Phase 2 GMP builds upon the previous planning step and identifies 10-year action goals to be accomplished in the park as a whole and in each of the management zones. These are implementation items for park staff and partners, addressing infrastructure, park management, and operations that impact the resource protection and visitor experience at the park. While the Phase 2 GMP addresses some specific natural resource goals, a separate Stewardship Plan will be developed to identify targets for conservation and related natural resource goals and management strategies.

## 1.2 Planning Process Overview

The Pontiac Lake Recreation Area planning team met periodically over a twelve-month period, beginning in summer 2019. For this Phase 2 GMP, the first step was to review the Phase 1 GMP to ensure that no conditions have changed that would result in the need to amend the overall guiding document. The planning team completed the required 5-year review of the Phase 1 GMP and discovered that an equestrian trail on

the west side of the park was inadvertently included within the Primitive Zone in the 20-year management zone plan from Phase 1. The team determined that this trail, along with the land to the west, should be rezoned from Primitive to Backcountry to be consistent with zoning restrictions and to accommodate the equestrian trail that existed before the park was zoned.

Stakeholder and public input was sought throughout the planning process to ensure the DNR is responsive to its partners and visitors. Stakeholders were invited to provide input early in the planning process through a workshop designed to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats at Pontiac Lake Recreation Area. In the summer and fall of 2017, Michigan State University (MSU), with assistance from park staff, conducted an on-site public survey to provide insight on park use and sentiment. The planning team used this information to guide the development of the draft Phase 2 GMP. The public was invited to review and comment on the draft plan via email or at a virtual public input meeting. The planning team reviewed all of the comments received, and made revisions as appropriate before recommending the final plan for adoption.

### 1.3 Planning Team

This Phase 2 General Management Plan was developed with valuable input and expertise of the planning team.

| <b>NAME</b>     | <b>TITLE</b>                             | <b>DIVISION</b>                 |
|-----------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Thomas Bissett  | Unit Supervisor                          | Parks and Recreation Division   |
| Debbie Jensen   | Management Plan Administrator            | Parks and Recreation Division   |
| Matt Lincoln    | Lands Program Manager/Plan Administrator | Parks and Recreation Division   |
| Ray Fahlsing    | Stewardship Unit Manager                 | Parks and Recreation Division   |
| Mike Terrell    | District Supervisor                      | Parks and Recreation Division   |
| John Terpstra   | Regional Field Planner                   | Parks and Recreation Division   |
| Dakota Hewlett  | Trails Specialist                        | Parks and Recreation Division   |
| Todd Szyska     | Lieutenant                               | Law Enforcement Division        |
| Jason Becker    | Sergeant                                 | Law Enforcement Division        |
| Sara Thomas     | Fisheries Unit Manager                   | Fisheries Division              |
| Karen Gourlay   | Explorer Program Specialist              | Marketing and Outreach Division |
| Matt Feldpausch | Fire Officer                             | Forest Resources Division       |
| Julie Oaks      | Wildlife Biologist                       | Wildlife Division               |
| Peter Rose      | Geologist                                | Minerals Management             |
| Alex Koptjev    | Shooting Range Officer                   | Marketing and Outreach Division |
| Aiden McLearn   | Shooting Range Manager                   | Marketing and Outreach Division |

## 1.4 Stakeholder and Public Input Overview



Horseback riding at the park

An on-site survey was conducted by MSU between June and November 2017. This survey provided representative sampling of park visitors to ascertain visitor demographics, park experience and suggested changes/things not to change. Of the questionnaires distributed to a sample of those visitors who arrived by vehicle, 73 were completed and returned by camper respondents and 191 were returned by day use visitors. Analysis of the data showed that the average amount of time a day visitor vehicle was in the park was 3.5 hours and the day visitor party averaged 2.1 people per vehicle. For camping respondents, the average party size was 2.4 people per vehicle.

Of those surveyed, 11 percent of day use visitors and 7 percent of campers reported one or more persons in their party with a physical impairment that impacted their ability to participate in certain types of recreation activities.

The most common activities undertaken by campers, other than camping, were bicycling on a paved road, nature observation, and picnicking. The most popular day use activities were hiking, swimming, sunbathing, picnicking and bicycling on an unpaved trail. When asked what the most important activities were, camping and horseback riding ranked highest among campers, while swimming and hiking ranked highest among day use visitors. Visitors were generally very satisfied with their visit, giving the park a favorable level of satisfaction score of 8.3 out of 9, with 9 being highly satisfied. Respondents were complimentary of the campground and the cleanliness of the restrooms, although were critical of the lack of lake access from the campground. When asked about changes to the park, most respondents identified that they do not want to see changes, keeping the beach, campground and staff the same with the same level of maintenance. The two other most frequent suggestions from campers were to update and increase the amount and quality of facilities such as restrooms and provide a better playground opportunity for young children. For day visitors, the two most frequent other suggestions were to better maintain facilities in day use areas and provide better concessions and vending machine options. The full On-site Use and User Study Report is provided in Appendix C.

A stakeholder workshop was held on August 12, 2019 at the Oakland County Executive Office Conference Center. A total of 57 invitations were sent to organizations associated with, or that were determined by the planning team to have an interest in Pontiac Lake Recreation Area. Participants were invited to provide their input, identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats related to the park. A total of 14 individuals representing organizations from around the region attended the meeting. Below is a summary of the input received. A full report of the meeting is provided in Appendix B.



Strengths identified by stakeholder representatives in attendance included management of the park, the well-maintained facilities, and the scenery associated with the park. Stakeholders also identified the location as an oasis of diverse recreation activities within a suburban area.

Weaknesses of the park identified by stakeholders in attendance included vandalism, litter, short camping season, lack of funding and aging infrastructure.

Opportunities identified included establishing a friends group that could help spearhead volunteer programs at the park with local partner organizations. Other suggestions were to improve access to the beach and provide education opportunities associated with recreation activities in the park.

Threats identified by stakeholders included invasive species, budget, surrounding land use, natural disasters and emerging recreation trends.

A virtual public input meeting was held on June 11, 2020 to review and obtain feedback on the draft plan. A press release was distributed to 4,100 members of the public, as well as 57 stakeholders, two weeks in advance of the meeting. The public was able to learn about the General Management Plan process, review the phase 1 plan and comment on the draft Phase 2 GMP. At the end of the meeting, attendees and other members of the public provided feedback on the 10-year action goals through an online survey. A total of 25 online survey responses were collected.

## **2) Overview of Phase 1 General Management Plan**

The Phase 1 GMP for Pontiac Lake Recreation Area was approved on March 19, 2012. The following information summarizes the significance statements and management zones for the park, which were defined in the Phase 1 GMP.

### **2.1 Significance Statements**

Pontiac Lake Recreation Area was determined to be significant for the following reasons. These statements contain minor corrections made by the Phase 2 planning team without changing the original meaning or intent.

- Provides large, unfragmented, wooded wetlands and a riparian corridor. The park also provides habitat for a wide variety of wildlife, including forest interior bird species, within a large tract of closed canopy. Pontiac Lake Recreation Area provides great opportunities for hunting and wildlife viewing.
- Affords year-round recreation to southeast Michigan, the most populated region in the state.
- Possesses the largest public beach (1,600 feet) on an inland lake in Oakland County.

- Contains a segment of the Huron River and lies within the headwaters of the Clinton, Huron, and Shiawassee rivers.
- Serves as an important regional hub for green infrastructure in Oakland County, linking miles of park land, open space, and trails throughout southeast Michigan.
- Pontiac Lake Recreation Area’s unique topography formed during the last ice age when three ice lobes coalesced. After retreating from the state, the glaciers left behind moraines, kames, kettles and outwash. In places, the topography provides views from 160 feet above Pontiac Lake.

In addition to these statements, the team also determined the park to be significant for the following reasons:

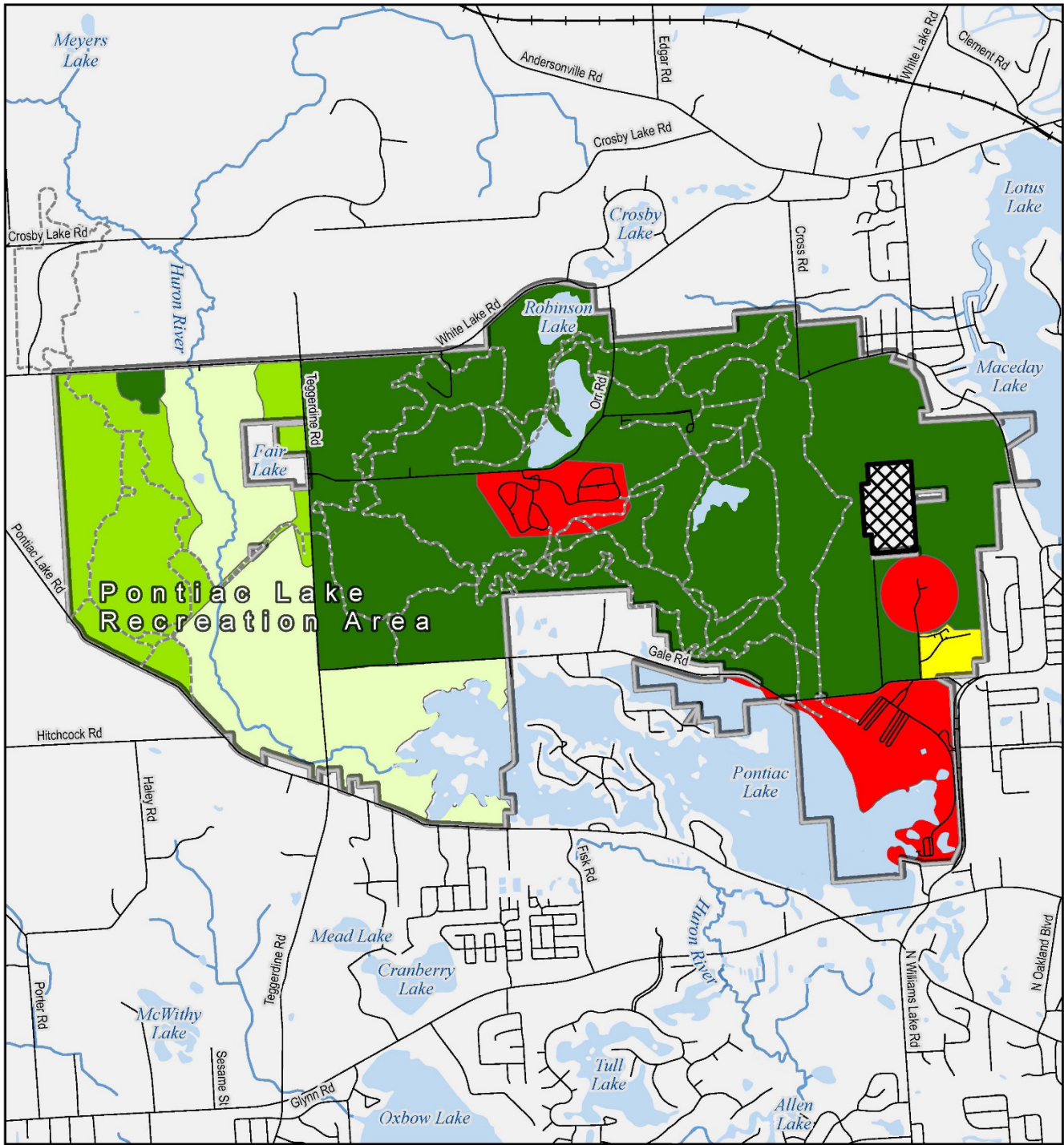
- Pontiac Lake Recreation Area is among the top 20 locations within the state for fishing tournaments, hosting 30-40 each year.
- The park is home to a horseback riding stable, rare in the state park system.
- The park includes a shooting range with a range designed specifically for handguns.

## **2.2 Management Zones**

During review of the Phase 1 GMP, the planning team discovered that an existing equestrian trail traverses through the Primitive Zone in two locations. Since this trail existing before the Phase 1 GMP was developed, the team recommends changing the zoning of the equestrian trail and land to the west of the trail to Backcountry. This recommended change is reflected in the revised Management Zone Plan shown on the following page.



Swimming at the beach



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## Pontiac Lake Recreation Area - Management Zones

- |                                |                        |                                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| State Recreation Area Boundary | Lake/Pond              | Backcountry Zone                 |
| Closed to Public (Not Zoned)   | Non-Motorized Trail    | Natural Resource Recreation Zone |
| Road                           | Designated Water Trail | Developed Recreation Zone        |
| Railroad                       | <b>Base Zones</b>      | Visitor Services Zone            |
| River/Stream                   | Primitive Zone         |                                  |



A condensed review of the management zones follows. A thorough description of each management zone can be found in the Phase 1 GMP.

- **Primitive Zone:** The Primitive Zone is characterized by a mesic southern forest and wetland complex of emergent and shrubby species, and represents 612 acres or 18% of the park (reduced from 645 acres in the phase 1 plan). This zone is natural in character and managed only to allow dispersed and low-frequency use for low-impact recreational purposes, such as foot traffic. Within this zone lies the Huron River corridor and its associated wetlands, protection and management of which are primary concerns within this zone.
- **Backcountry Zone:** The Backcountry Zone, approximately 12% or 414 acres (revised from 380 acres in the phase 1 plan) of Pontiac Lake Recreation Area, is characterized by lowland hardwood forest and limited amount of wetlands. Activities in this zone will be limited to low-impact, such as hiking and equestrian use, hunting, fishing and other dispersed-use activities. Protection and management of the zone's forested areas will be primary goals.
- **Natural Resource Recreation Zone:** Totaling over 2000 acres (61%), this zone includes rolling wooded terrain, wetland areas and some seasonal ponds. More active recreation, with medium- to high-density use takes place here, with hunting and trails for hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian uses. There remains an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but higher levels of recreational use are allowed.
- **Developed Recreation Zone:** This 277-acre zone (8%) is prescribed in two primary locations. The largest part of this zone is located on Pontiac Lake, and offers day-use activities, including a boat launch facility. In this same general area (north of the park headquarters) is a modern shooting range, which is also included in this zone. The second part of this zone is in the center portion of the park, serving as the modern campground. This zone features active recreation with higher density use than in the Natural Resources Recreation Zone, especially in areas not designated for natural resource significance.
- **Visitor Services Zone:** This 31-acre zone (less than 1%) is located off Gale Road. This zone encompasses the developed areas required for park administration and operations. Currently, the visitor service area (park headquarters and shop) is located at the south end of the park on State Park Road.



Enjoying the shooting range

## **2.3 Changes Since Phase 1 General Management Plan**

### Management

The staff at Pontiac Lake Recreation Area are also responsible for the management of 5 boating access sites in the region.

### Annual Visitation

Camping nights have steadily increased from 8,490 in 2014 to 12,808 in 2018.

Day use visitation was estimated at 567,815 in 2018, with visitation holding steady since 2014.

### Infrastructure Improvements

The following projects have been completed since the Phase 1 GMP was approved:

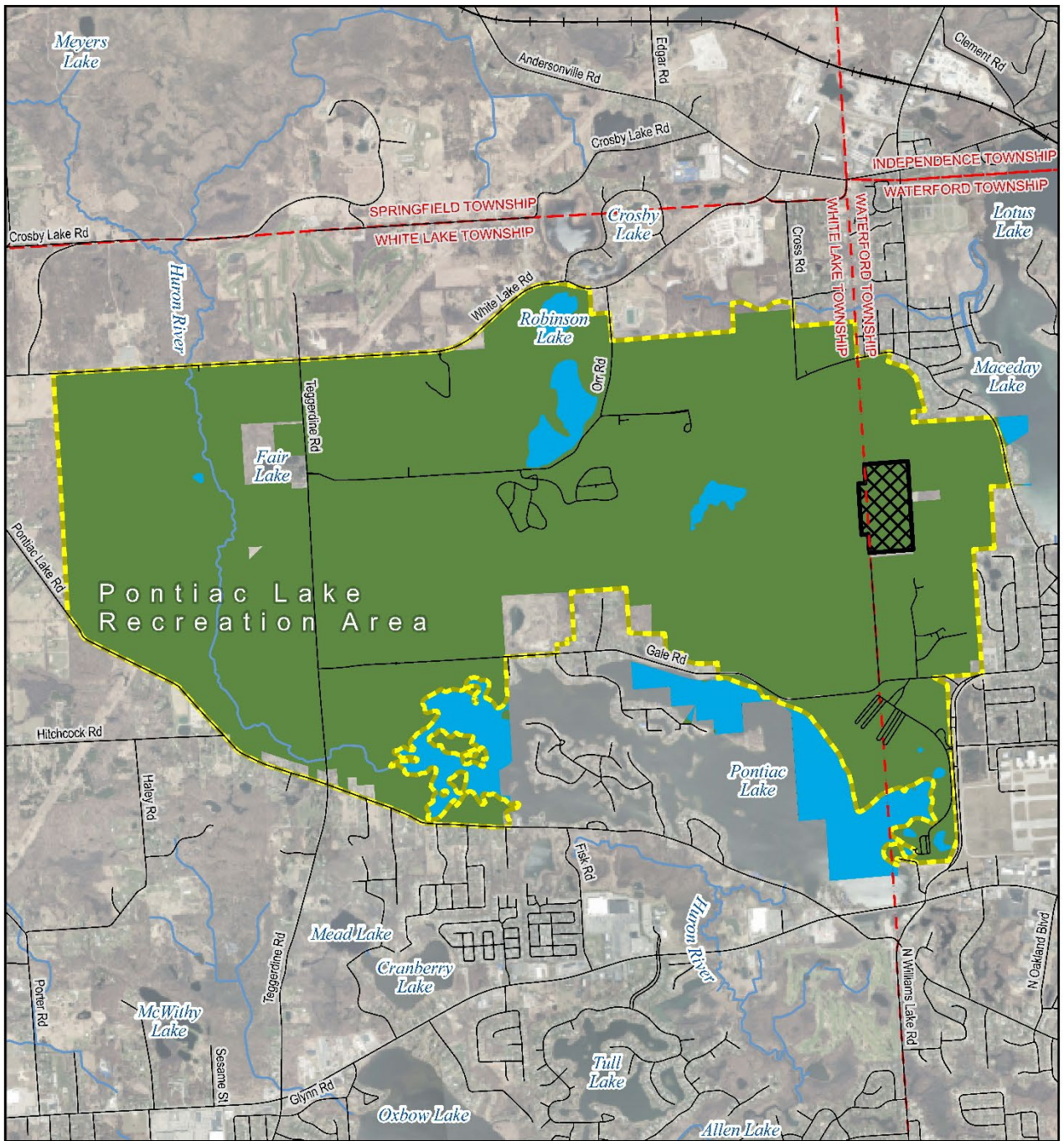
- 5 semi-modern cabins constructed - 2020
- Fenced dog park installed at day-use beach area (2017) and expanded in 2019
- Mini-cabin installed at modern campground - 2019
- Riding stable re-opened - 2018
- Concession building at day use beach razed - 2018
- Connected beach facilities to municipal sanitary sewer system and closed sewer lagoon - 2017
- Modern restroom building installed at the shooting range - 2017
- Organizational campsite improvements including new vault toilets, an accessible hand pump, shade structure, and hammock sites - 2017
- 10 handgun stalls were added at the shooting range - 2017
- Old vault toilets were removed from the trap and archery range - 2017
- Expanded the trap range fence and lead reclamation at the shooting range - 2016
- Old prison buildings razed - 2014

### Park Boundary

The project team reviewed the park boundary for accuracy and identified the large inholding on the east side of the park as being owned by the DNR. This property was acquired in 2000 through tax reversion and is currently monitored as a former landfill site. The property is not currently open to the public.

### Project Boundary

A project boundary is a geographic area reflecting the future desired park boundary. The DNR has an interest in acquiring property within this boundary that supports the mission of the DNR on a willing seller/ willing buyer basis. The project team reviewed the existing 2004 Natural Resources Commission (NRC) approved project boundary for Pontiac Lake Recreation Area and compared it to current plat maps, aerial photos and department initiatives. No changes are recommended to the 2004 project boundary, as shown on the following map.



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## Pontiac Lake Recreation Area - Project Boundary

- Pontiac Lake Recreation Area Current Boundary
- Bottomlands Ownership within Current Boundary
- NRC 2004 Approved Project Boundary\*
- Closed to Public
- Municipal Boundary
- Road
- Railroad
- River/Stream



Updated: 11/21/2019

\*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 May 2004

## 2.4 Supporting Documentation Updates

The following is the list of rare species and important natural communities found at the park according to the Michigan Natural Features Inventory.

| Common Name       | Scientific Name             | State Status     |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <u>Animals</u>    |                             |                  |
| Blanding's turtle | <i>Emydoidea blandingii</i> | Special Concern  |
| Pickereel Frog    | <i>Lithobates palustris</i> | Special Concern  |
| Cerulean warbler  | <i>Setophaga cerulea</i>    | State Threatened |
| Hooded warbler    | <i>Setophaga citrina</i>    | Special Concern  |

### Plants

|                               |                        |                 |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| White or prairie false indigo | <i>Baptisia lactea</i> | Special Concern |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|

| <u>Exemplary Natural Communities</u> | <u>Global Rank</u> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Dry-mesic Southern Forest            | G4                 |
| Mesic Southern Forest                | G2/G3              |

### Legal Mandates

Legal mandates that impact Pontiac Lake Recreation Area have been updated and are included in Appendix A of this plan for reference.

### Mineral Ownership

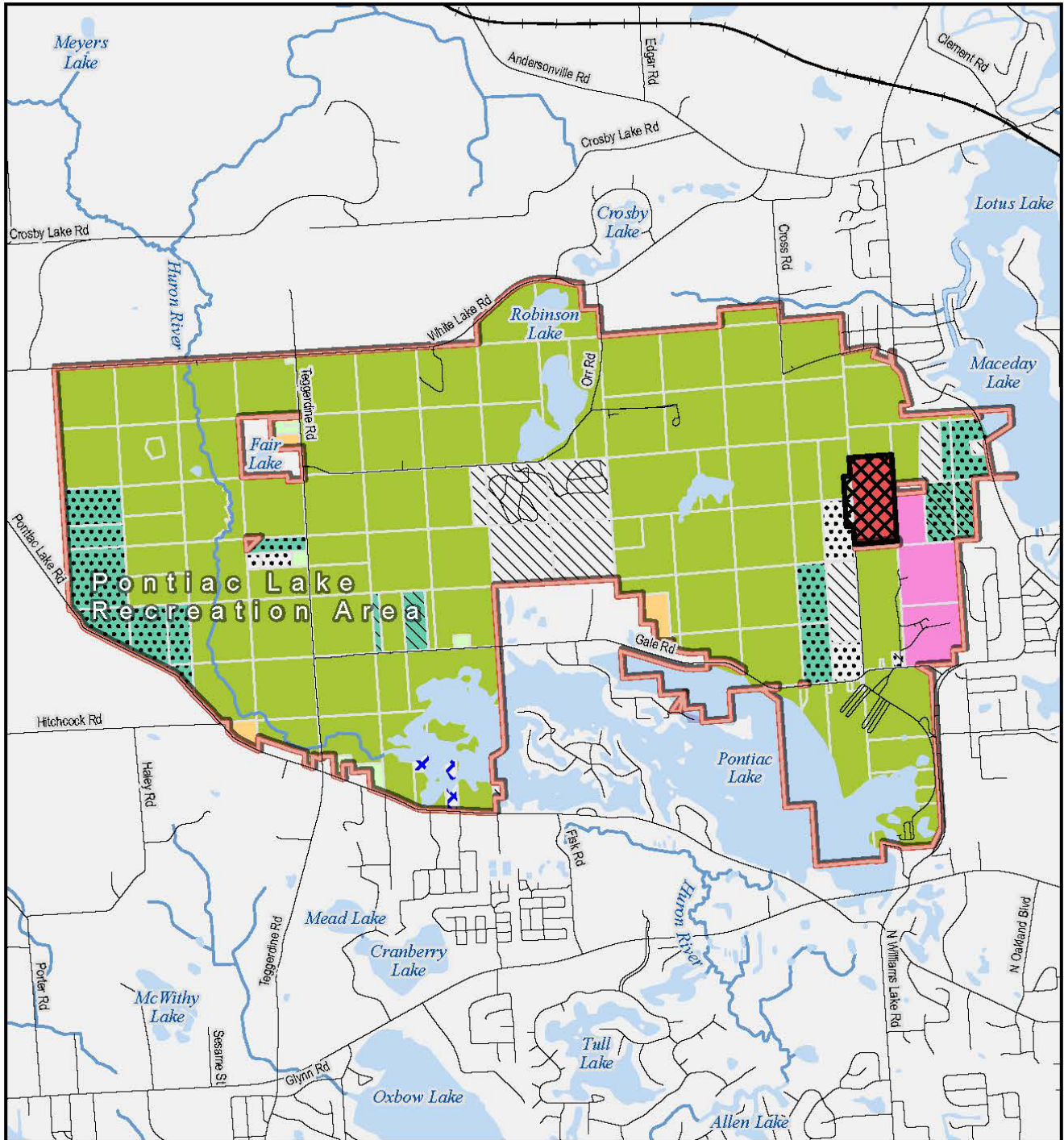
The DNR owns all mineral rights in the park.

### Funding Sources

An updated funding source map has been produced, depicting the funding sources used to purchase property for the park. A description of these funding sources can be found in the Phase 1 GMP.



Mountain biking at the park



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## Pontiac Lake Recreation Area - Funding Sources

- |                                |  |                        |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| State Recreation Area Boundary | Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund | Pittman/Robertson Fund |
| Closed to Public               | General Fund/Game & Fish Fund            | Recreation Bond Fund   |
| Road                           | Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund    | Special Legislation    |
| Railroad                       | Michigan Land Trust Fund                 | State Game Fund        |
| River/Stream                   | Land Exchange                            | Tax Reverted Land      |
| Lake/Pond                      |  |                        |





### 3) 10–Year Action Goals

The action goals proposed for Pontiac Lake Recreation Area 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 the Phase 1 GMP. The action goals for Pontiac Lake Recreation Area generally focus on upgrading existing infrastructure while maintaining a focus on protecting natural resource-based recreation experiences. Priorities identified in this plan include strengthening relationships with internal and external partners, improving education and interpretation, replacing aging campground and day-use infrastructure, improving roads and adding alternative lodging experiences. These goals are supported by the recommendations of all of the major planning efforts guiding recreation in Michigan, including the Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

The planning team has developed 10-year action goals that it believes are necessary to guide management and development within the designated management zones in order to achieve the desired user experience. Action goals are categorized under two types: Management and Operations and as Infrastructure and Development, which is further broken down to small projects and capital outlay projects. These categories align with the PRD Strategic Plan as well as the annual Capital Outlay funding process. Action goals are recommended to address the following categories:

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

A separate Natural Resource Stewardship Plan will be developed that will identify conservation targets, goals and threats to those conservation targets for the park. This plan will also identify and define strategies to reach the goals for Pontiac Lake Recreation Area.

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

The following 10-year action goals are ranked in terms of priority based on health, safety, and welfare, as well as ease of implementation (cost, ability to implement with own staff, partnerships, etc.). Priority Level 1 projects indicate those that should be addressed within the next 2 years. Priority Level 2 projects include those that should be addressed within 2-5 years. Priority Level 3 projects are desired, but can be tackled in the next 5-10 years, once funding has been identified. The Program Input From column identifies the project coordinators for each goal with a project lead identified in bold. Opinion of probable costs have been developed for each capital outlay action goal identified (see Appendix E) and these projects will be included in the statewide master project list.

| <b>MANAGEMENT &amp; OPERATIONS</b>  |                 |                        |  |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|--|
| <b>Action Goals</b>   | <b>Priority</b> | <b>Management Zone</b> | <b>Program Input From</b>  |
| Implement invasive species control, with a strong emphasis on early detection and rapid response. Monitor roads, trails, and any new development sites for possible invasive species introductions.             | Ongoing         | All                    | <b>Stewardship</b><br>Park Supervisor  |
| Support volunteer stewardship projects in the park  | Ongoing         | All                    | <b>Stewardship</b><br>Park Supervisor<br>Local Partners                          |
| Enhance opportunities for natural resource based education including, but not limited to, volunteer interpreters, partnerships with local teachers, fact shack and/or mobile hunting education trailer at beach | Ongoing         | All                    | <b>Park Supervisor</b><br>Marketing & Outreach<br>Local Partners                 |
| Monitor archaeological and cultural resources   | Ongoing         | All                    | <b>Park Supervisor</b><br>Stewardship<br>Cultural Resource Analyst               |
| Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources  | Ongoing         | All                    | <b>Stewardship</b><br>Regional Planner<br>Park Supervisor                        |
| Continue to complete and comply with annual safety inspections and plans  | Ongoing         | All                    | <b>Park Supervisor</b>   |
| Review and update Wildfire Plan and Emergency Plan.   | Ongoing         | All                    | <b>Park Supervisor</b><br>Stewardship<br>Forest Resources                        |
| Work with local governments to connect the park to a regional trail system  | Ongoing         | All                    | <b>Trail Specialist</b><br>Park Supervisor<br>Local Partners                     |
| Explore acquisition of property within proposed 2004 NRC-approved project boundary.   | Ongoing         | All                    | <b>Park Supervisor</b><br>Land Specialist  |
| Evaluate trail signage and make improvements as necessary   | Ongoing         | All                    | <b>Park Supervisor</b><br>User Groups  |
| Review Airport Vegetation Management agreement with Oakland County International Airport to develop a long-term management plan.  | 1               | Developed              | <b>Stewardship</b><br>Park Supervisor<br>Oakland County<br>International Airport |

| <b>MANAGEMENT &amp; OPERATIONS Continued</b>   |                 |                             |  |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Action Goals</b>  | <b>Priority</b> | <b>Management Zone</b>      | <b>Program Input From</b>  |
| Explore feasibility and cost benefit to install an electric/solar powered hand pump at the equestrian campground | 1               | Natural Resource Recreation | <b>Park Supervisor</b><br>Regional Planner<br>Horseman's Association |
| Continue to work with vendor to provide alternative lodging in the modern campground                             | 1               | Developed                   | <b>Lease Specialist</b><br>Park Supervisor<br>Regional Planner       |
| Develop a Natural Resource Stewardship Plan for the park   | 2               | All                         | <b>Stewardship</b><br>Park Supervisor                                |
| Explore feasibility and cost benefit to add electric to some equestrian campsites                                | 3               | Natural Resource Recreation | <b>Park Supervisor</b><br>Regional Planner<br>Horseman's Association |

| <b>INFRASTRUCTURE &amp; DEVELOPMENT: CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>   |                 |                        |  |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|--|
| <b>Action Goals</b>   | <b>Priority</b> | <b>Management Zone</b> | <b>Program Input From</b>                  |
| Design and Construction – Replace day-use restrooms, exploring options for concession and accessibility between parking lot and beach | 1               | Developed              | <b>Regional Planner</b><br>Park Supervisor |
| Design and Construction – Electrical improvement to 50-amp service in modern campground   | 1               | Developed              | <b>Park Supervisor</b><br>Regional Planner |
| Design and Construction – Improve dump station to accommodate current capacity  | 2               | Developed              | <b>Regional Planner</b><br>Park Supervisor |
| Design - Reconstruct or resurface park roads and parking lots   | 2               | All                    | <b>Regional Planner</b><br>Park Supervisor |
| Design and Construction - Replace 2 modern campground toilet/shower buildings   | 3               | Developed              | <b>Regional Planner</b><br>Park Supervisor |
| Design and Construction – Replace contact station with accessible structure   | 3               | Developed              | <b>Regional Planner</b><br>Park Supervisor |
| Design and Construction – Expand Teggerdine Road parking lot  | 3               | Backcountry            | <b>Regional Planner</b><br>Park Supervisor |

| <b>INFRASTRUCTURE &amp; DEVELOPMENT: SMALL PROJECTS</b>                                 |                 |                        |  |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|--|
| <b>Action Goals</b>   | <b>Priority</b> | <b>Management Zone</b> | <b>Program Input From</b>                  |
| Develop a disc golf course near the beach day-use area                                  | 1               | Developed              | <b>Park Supervisor</b><br>Local partners   |
| Upgrade existing campsites to meet current ADA requirements at modern campground        | 1               | Developed              | Park Supervisor<br><b>Regional Planner</b> |
| Construct a gaga-ball pit or other low-cost play opportunities at the modern campground | 2               | Developed              | <b>Park Supervisor</b>                     |
| Construct a visitor parking lot for modern campground                                   | 3               | Developed              | Park Supervisor<br><b>Regional Planner</b> |

ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act

| <b>PARTNER PROJECTS</b>   |                 |                        |  |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|--|
| <b>Action Goals</b>   | <b>Priority</b> | <b>Management Zone</b> | <b>Program Input From</b>                        |
| Construct a pavilion at the shooting range for education and events | 1               | Developed              | <b>Marketing and Outreach</b><br>Park Supervisor |
| Construct a shade shelter and water stations for dog park           | 2               | Developed              | <b>Park Supervisor</b><br>Animal Shelter         |



Model airplane flying field at the park

## 4) Implementation Strategy

This chapter of the 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 PRD'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/Manager to oversee plan implementation.

A long-range plan such as this must maintain a degree of flexibility in order 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.

### 4.1 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/Manager 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" in July 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

## **4.2 Documentation of Changes**

The Unit Supervisor/Manager 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 5-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 the GMP. In reviewing the action goals for changes, document goals that may become irrelevant or are no longer viable, as well as proposed new action goals, including justification.

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.

## **4.3 Documentation of Accomplishments**

As action goals are completed, the Unit Supervisor/Manager 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.

## **4.4 Five-year Review Process**

General management plans are reviewed every five years from the date of approval of either the Phase 2 GMP or the complete GMP. The planning team for the 5-year review is made up of the Park Management Plan Administrator, Unit Supervisor/Manager, Regional Field Planner and District Supervisor, with other team members included as may be necessary. A 5-Year Review Form will be used to record all changes to the plan within the past 5 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 5-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 established 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.