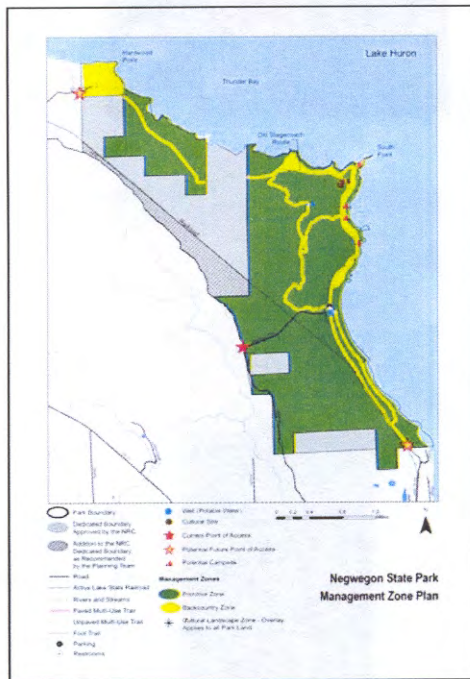


September 2008

# General Management Plan

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

## Negwegon State Park



This project was funded, in part, by the Michigan Coastal Management Program, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration U.S. Department of Commerce

The project was directed by Paul N. Curtis, Management Plan Administrator Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division with assistance from Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.



### PLAN APPROVALS:

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*9/18/08*  
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 Date

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 Resource Management Deputy

*10/1/08*  
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 Date

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 Director, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

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# PREFACE

Northeast Michigan is home to three properties owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR): Negwegon State Park, the Rockport Property, and Thompson's Harbor State Park (see figure below). Together, the sites encompass over 13,000 acres of land and 22 miles of Lake Huron shoreline. Each has significant natural resource value, while exhibiting its own special features as well as many unifying characteristics.



The three sites also have their own unique history. Negwegon was purchased in 1962, and underwent master plan studies in 1970, 1973 and 1989. Negwegon has been managed by the Parks and Recreation Division (PRD). A large portion of the Rockport Property was acquired in 1997, through a settlement with Consumer's Energy. Management of Rockport has been the responsibility of Forest, Minerals and Fire Management Division (FMFMD). Thompson's Harbor State Park was purchased in 1988 from US Steel, and underwent a master plan study that same year. Thompson's Harbor has also been managed by the PRD. Over the years and with each planning effort, there have been opportunities to obtain comments from the public regarding the management and uses of the three properties.

The PRD began a Phase I General Management Plan (GMP) process and Regional Assessment for Negwegon, Rockport and Thompson's Harbor in 2006. This planning effort was made possible with the assistance of a Coastal Zone Management Grant awarded through the Michigan Coastal Zone Management Program of the Department of Environmental Quality. This is a Federal grant available through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US Department of Commerce. Individual Phase I GMPs were prepared for each site. The GMPs were developed according to a coordinated strategy. This was a logical approach given the location of the three sites in northeast Michigan, and

the relative proximity to one another. The GMP development process involved extensive input from the Planning Team, as well as a public outreach program to obtain stakeholder and public comments.

The concept upon which all three GMPs are based would designate Rockport as the central gathering place for visitors. Rockport is the one site that has a developed area already, and it is located between Negwegon and Thompson's Harbor. There is the potential for an interpretive center, or a similar structure, that would serve as a gateway to all three sites. Brochures, maps and other materials would be available at this station. The information would equip visitors with an understanding of the educational, historical, cultural and recreational opportunities at each site. Eco-tourism businesses could also be advertised and/or based at this location.

Creating a developed area at Rockport will alleviate the need to provide similar areas at Negwegon and Thompson's Harbor. This allows for these two parks to remain in a primarily undeveloped, natural state, and accommodate low-intensity uses. Should this unifying concept for the three sites be abandoned, then the Planning Team recommends that the General Management Plan for Thompson's Harbor be revised to provide for a developable area within the park (this is explored in greater detail in the General Management Plan for Thompson's Harbor).

A key outcome of the GMP strategy for the three sites is to transfer management of the Rockport Property from FMFMD to PRD. This recommendation is supported by the NRTM Planning Team, NRTM Advisory Committee, and the Department. Implementation of the unifying GMP concept would be facilitated by the management of all sites under one DNR Division. It is the recommendation of this plan that the transfer of Rockport administration from FMFMD to PRD be made as soon as possible. This will also allow for implementation of the regional management benefits of managing and marketing Negwegon, Rockport and Thompson's Harbor under one DNR program.

The Regional Assessment uses the GMP results to evaluate the merits of managing and/or marketing the three properties as a "unit". The assessment presents the significance of each property, in terms of natural resource value, historic and cultural resources, and educational and recreational opportunities. Specific features are logged as to their presence, and their local, state and regional significance. Future marketing efforts should be greatly enhanced by the classification of significant features.

Managing the sites as a unit is supported by the Regional Assessment. The recommendation for identifying Rockport as the central hub for the three sites is consistent with this finding. There are challenges associated with unit management. Distance between the management unit and the facility (none of the sites have permanent staff at this time) and physical distance (miles) between the sites makes staffing the parks difficult and daily visits by all

personnel impractical. Certainly managing the units under one Division of the DNR is recommended. The GMP recommendation for management of Rockport to be transferred to PRD is appropriate given the proposed management plans.

There is great potential for marketing the sites as a unit. Their shared role in regional networks facilitates this, as does the plan to centralize 'first contact' activity at Rockport. The Regional Assessment explores the many potential partnerships, and opportunities for eco-friendly businesses to create linkages between park use and stewardship.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Negwegon State Park is a 3,738-acre State Park on Lake Huron, located in Alcona and Alpena Counties. The Phase I General Management Plan (GMP) process for Negwegon State Park (Park) was made possible, in part, by funding provided by the Michigan Coastal Management Program, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration U.S. Department of Commerce. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) oversaw the planning process. The endeavor represents a new planning philosophy of the PRD. "Management Planning," a comprehensive, resource-based process, is the PRD's adaptation of National Park Service planning methodology. The GMP focuses on the four principles of the PRD Mission Statement. Accordingly, a thorough inventory was performed on the Park's (1) natural resources, to establish its (2) historic/cultural resources, identify the (3) recreational opportunities and develop the (4) educational and interpretation opportunities.

With this base of knowledge and input of the Planning Team (made up of DNR Department staff, government officials, stakeholders and the public), the Core Values for Negwegon were developed. The Park was determined to be significant for the following reasons:

1. Undisturbed habitats, including gentle undulations of the wooded dune-swale complex, lowland hardwoods, and a variety of upland forest types.
2. Location within the Lake Huron Flyway (State and Federal agencies use the bird census data from this area as a litmus test of the health of Lake Huron and the shoreline environment).
3. A habitat for species of special concern, threatened species and endangered species, such as Pitcher's thistle, Bald Eagles and Blanding's turtles.
4. It is part of a greater natural resource system as a forested coastal area, which offers a habitat that supports a great diversity of flora and fauna.
5. It has exceptional value in terms of commercial fisheries, which are also significant from a historical perspective.
6. Sandy beaches that are novel along the typically cobbled Lake Huron shoreline.
7. Recreation opportunities: Hiking and kayaking are available at Negwegon along the Lake Huron coastline.

8. Hunting opportunities.
9. Unique cultural and historic resources (Native American artifacts, farmstead remnants, and shipwrecks).
10. It is part of several regional networks.

In concert with this analysis of Negwegon, the Planning Team, with stakeholder and public input, established appropriate Management Zones and their extent of influence on the Park. From a pallet of nine standard zones, three were applied to Negwegon. The Management Zone Plan is found on the cover as well as in Section 3.0 of this Plan. A thorough review of each Management Zone is presented on pages 21 through 32. A condensed review of the Management Zones is as follows:

- ❑ Primitive Zone reflects a desired condition that emphasizes the natural resources. Land is managed to only allow dispersed and low frequency use for low impact recreational purposes. The majority of Negwegon land, 3,100 acres, or 83%, is designated Primitive Zone. The designated areas contain undisturbed habitats, wetlands, and sensitive ecosystems.
- ❑ Backcountry Zone emphasizes resource quality over recreation, but allows for modification of the landscape to allow for moderate levels of active recreation uses. Activities that could occur in this zone include hiking trails, hunting and trapping, rustic camping, bicycling and equestrian use, and other complementary uses. Approximately 640 acres, or 17%, of Negwegon land is zoned Backcountry. The zone covers the existing trails; land just behind the shoreline; and the northernmost portion of the park.
- ❑ Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone addresses the overall setting in which is found not only historic structures, but non-structural evidence of the traditions, beliefs, practices, lifeways, arts, crafts and social institutions of any community. The Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone covers all Negwegon land. Native American artifacts, farmstead remnants, a portion of the Old Stagecoach Route, and shipwrecks along its coastal waters are reasons for this designation.

In addition, to the Management Zones, the GMP recommends that other aspects of the Park be considered:

- ❑ Regional Consideration. As described in the Preface of this document, the planning for Negwegon State Park was performed in conjunction with the planning for Thompson's Harbor State Park and the Rockport Property. The planning effort, supported by a consensus of the Planning Team, resulted in

the following concept: Rockport would be established as the central “hub” of the three sites, allowing Negwegon and Thompson’s Harbor to remain in a relatively undisturbed, natural state.

- ❑ Access and Parking. Negwegon State Park is accessible by Sand Hill Road. Sand Hill Road is an unpaved road on sandy soil. This makes travel quite difficult during certain times of year. The entrance road to Negwegon State Park, a wide, gravel surface, is a stark contrast to the natural, rustic setting one experiences along Sand Hill Road. Phase I of the Management Plan recommends: Improving the condition of Sand Hill Road; installing signage on Sand Hill Road directing visitors to Negwegon; developing additional points of entry; and creating a design to lessen the visual impact between Sand Hill Road and the Park entrance road.
- ❑ Camping. Potential locations for hike-in or kayak-in camping areas are identified on the Management Zone Plan. These sites are located in the Backcountry Zone. The sites would not be on the Lake Huron shoreline, but in close proximity to it.
- ❑ Equestrian and Bicycle Use. The trails, including the Old Stagecoach Route and Potawatomie, may allow for equestrian and bicycle use, where appropriate.
- ❑ Signage. Appropriate signage is needed to inform the public of the park location. Interpretive, directional and education signage within each park will be developed under Phase 2.
- ❑ Future Purchases. Part of the DNR’s mission is to acquire lands with unique natural, cultural and historic resources for the purposes of public recreation and education. The Natural Resources Commission approved a dedicated boundary for Negwegon State Park in 2004. The Planning Team’s recommendation for expanding the project boundary is included in this GMP (see Section 2.5). This would make Sand Hill Road the boundary instead of the railroad. Land within the dedicated boundary would be a priority purchase for the DNR, should the opportunity to purchase and funding become available. Major land purchases would prompt an amendment to this GMP.

General Management Plans develop as a result of a series of planning steps. Each step builds upon the previous, and action decisions focus on the mission of the Parks and Recreation Division (PRD), and the specific Purpose and Significance of the park. This Phase I GMP is the first of four phases of planning. This document provides the direction necessary to complete the next step, a Phase 2 GMP, which will identify goals to be obtained over the next ten years.

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# 1.0 Plan Process Overview

A General Management Plan (GMP) guides the management of resources, visitor use, and general development at Negwegon State Park over a 20 year horizon. The GMP provides the foundation 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 resources.

The GMP process for Negwegon was made possible, in part, by funding provided by the Michigan Coastal Management Program, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration U.S. Department of Commerce. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) oversaw the process and development of the Plan for the Park. A major component of the planning process was to ensure that extensive input was sought from DNR professionals, community groups, stakeholders and the general public throughout the development of the plan.

GMPs develop as a result of a series of planning steps. Each step builds upon the previous, and action decisions focus on (1) the mission of the Parks and Recreation Division (PRD), and (2) the specific Purpose and Significance of the park. There are four phases of planning, implemented in the following order:

- ◆ **Phase 1.** General Management Plan (GMP) that presents long-range (20 year) goals.
- ◆ **Phase 2.** Long-range Action Plan that identifies long range (10 year) goals to attain the GMP (requires review of Phase 1)
- ◆ **Phase 3.** Five-Year Action Plan, which outlines specific actions to implement (requires review of Phase 1 and Phase 2)
- ◆ **Phase 4.** Annual Action Plan and Progress Report to answer what will be done this year, and what progress was made on last year's plan.

This Plan represents Phase I. In this phase of planning, what the park will look like in 20 years is defined, and critical questions are answered, such as: What will be the condition of flora and fauna? How will we address historic and cultural resources? What recreational opportunities could be provided? What education and interpretation efforts will meet the visitor? What will guide the manager's operational decisions? What will be the visitor's overall experience?

**Phase I determines management zones, and describes a variety of activities that may be appropriate within that zone. Phase I does not determine specific uses. Identifying specific uses within each management zone is a function of Phase 2. Management Plans do not guarantee future PRD funding to achieve them. PRD will seek internal funding, alternative funding sources, partnerships and other potential mechanisms for implementing the desired future conditions defined in this plan.**

The tool used by this plan is the designation of “Management zones.” Management zones define specific characteristics of the land, addressing management for:

- ◆ Natural features
- ◆ Historic/cultural features
- ◆ Education/interpretation, and
- ◆ Recreational opportunities.

These four elements represent the primary goals of the PRD Mission Statement, and provide guidance for both planning and management decisions. Appendix A presents a detailed account of each of these elements. In addition, management zones prescribe values for:

- ◆ Visitor experience
- ◆ Management Focus, and
- ◆ Development.

Within the parameters of this guidance, “Purpose” and “Significance” statements are developed for the park that establish its unique identity and focus. No two parks are the same and emphasis is directed at ensuring that the differences found from park to park are acknowledged, highlighted and celebrated.

## **1.1 Planning Objectives**

The objective of this General Management Plan was to bring together PRD Department staff, stakeholders, and the public who use the park into a planning process that will define and clarify the unique “Purpose” and “Significance” of Negwegon. Collectively, we will reinforce those attributes in the planning and management decisions that impact the park through the implementation of the Management Zone Plan. Future action plans, whether focused on a development proposal, a resource improvement initiative, an interpretive program, or day-to-day management of the park will be guided by this General Management Plan.

Extensive input was sought throughout the planning process. The Planning Team met several times to review and comment on the plan elements (see

Section 1.2). In addition, the DNR hosted a stakeholder workshop and two public participation workshops. Both the stakeholder and public participation workshops involved surveys and receiving of verbal comments. The draft plan was available for review on the website and anyone was invited to email, call or mail questions or comments concerning this initiative. The results of the public participation program is provided in Attachment B.

## 1.2 Planning Team

Accomplishment of our planning objectives was and is dependent upon the valuable input provided by all members of the 'Planning Team'. The names of listed below are those who were critical participants in this planning process. Agendas, meeting minutes and attendance at Planning Team meetings are provided in Appendix C.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Paul N. Curtis	DNR-PRD
Keith Cheli	DNR-PRD
Gary Ellenwood	DNR-PRD
Dan Mullen	DNR-PRD
Glenn Palmgren	DNR-PRD
Tom Paquin	DNR-PRD
Troy Rife	DNR-PRD
Anna Sylvester	DNR-PRD
Dave Borgeson	DNR-FD
Tim Cwalinski	DNR-FD
Steve Sendek	DNR-FD
James Johnson	DNR-FD
Laurie Marzolo	DNR-FMFMD
Bill O'Neil	DNR-FMFMD
John Pilon	DNR-FMFMD
Richard Stevenson	DNR-FMFMD
Chris Morris	DNR-LED
Jon Spieles	DNR-OC
Elaine Carlson	DNR-WD
Keith Kintigh	DNR-WD
Kevin Boyat	Chair, Alcona County Board of Commissioners
Beverly Bodem	Senator Stamas Office
Roger Carlin	Supervisor, Alcona Township
Kammie Dennis	Director, Tourism Council, Presque Isle County
Kenneth Gauthier	Supervisor, Sanborn Township
John Gilmet	Mayor, City of Alpena
Chris Graham	Citizen's Committee for Michigan State Parks
Jeff Gray	Manager, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Tom Ferguson	Sunrise Side Travel Association and Citizen's Committee for Michigan State Parks
Beach Hall	Mayor, Rogers City
Mary Ann Heidemann	Michigan State University Extension
Laura Ingles	Senior Planner, NEMCOG
Patrick Labadie	Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Stephen Lang	Presque Isle County Commissioner, District 5
Sue Maxwell	Alpena County League of Women Voters
David Nadolsky	Rogers City
Peter Pettalia	Supervisor, Presque Isle Township
Brandon Schroeder	District Sea Grant Extension Educator, Michigan State University Extension
Mark Slown	City Manager, Rogers City
Matt Smar	DEQ Coastal Management Program
Jeff Thorton	Coordinator, Alpena County
Ken Timm	Commissioner, Alpena County
Marie Twite	Supervisor, Alpena Township
David C. Birchler	Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.
Amy Golke	Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.

### 1.3 Management Plan Planning Process

Long-range planning for Negwegon SP was conducted in 1970 with the development of a 'Master Plan' for the park that incorporated local input. This plan, which proposed a 400 modern campsite campground, was never adopted and was revised in 1973 to reflect a much lesser scale of impact. In 1989, a 'Citizen's Advisory Committee' (CAC) partnered with the DNR to develop a new Master Plan that would be sensitive to the land's unique natural and cultural resources. This new plan proposed more development. Sensitive to the unique natural resources values of the park, the Natural Resource Commission adopted the plan without the proposed campground and with lesser impacts than what was in the CAC proposal.

#### A regional approach to Management Planning

Between September of 2005 and May of 2007, the Northeast Michigan Integrated Assessment (NEMIA) planning project was conducted. This regional planning effort was led by the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) and Michigan Sea Grant, a program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Through a thoughtful and deliberate process that brought in local units of government, stakeholders and public input, the NEMIA planning team developed this vision statement...



***“Visioning a Sustainable Future for Northeast Michigan: Connecting Great Lakes Coastal Access, Tourism, and Economic Development”***

...and policy question:

***“How can coastal access be designed, in a regional context, for sustainable tourism that stimulates economic development while maintaining the integrity of natural and cultural resources, and quality of life?”***

Part of the answer to that policy question lies in the role of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), with several coastal State Parks and other lands of significant frontage and unique natural resource values along the coastline of Lake Huron.

In April of 2006, Parks and Recreation Division of the DNR submitted an application for a federal grant from the Coastal Zone Management Program of NOAA for the purpose of developing individual long-range Management Plans for Negwegon State Park, the Rockport property, and Thompson’s Harbor State Park. This planning effort would also look at these three significant coastal properties in a regional context, in sync with the vision of the NEMIA process and sensitive to the NEMIA policy question.

The NEMIA planning effort helped guide the DNR to this regional perspective, and the Sea Grant and NEMCOG letters of support for the CZM grant helped to secure the funding necessary to accomplish the planning. Without the grant, we did not have the resources in staff or funding to take on all three properties or to explore their regional context.

## 2.0 Core Values



### 2.1 Mission Statements

Guidance for the General Management Plan stems from the Mission Statements of the Department and its Parks and Recreation Division, and the Purpose and Significance Statements that have evolved through the planning process. The core values found in these statements must be reflected in this long-range General Management Plan for Negwegon State Park, and subsequently reflected in any shorter range action plans:

#### **DNR Mission Statement**

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

#### **PRD Mission Statement**

Acquire, protect, and preserve the natural, historic, and cultural features of Michigan's unique resources and provide public recreation and educational opportunities.

The core values derived from these statements are that PRD will acquire, preserve and protect; (1) natural resources, (2) cultural resources, (3) provide public recreation, and (4) provide educational opportunities.

### 2.2 Park Purpose

Statements of purpose for Negwegon State Park are based on park legislation, legislative history, special designations and DNR policies. These statements reaffirm the reasons for which Negwegon was identified as part of the State Park system. The purposes of Negwegon are:

1. The Conservation Commission approved the acquisition of land in 1962 based upon a recommendation by the National Park Service (NPS). The NPS had recommended that the Lake Huron northeast shoreline be

targeted by the State for land purchases due to the unique natural resource values of the area.

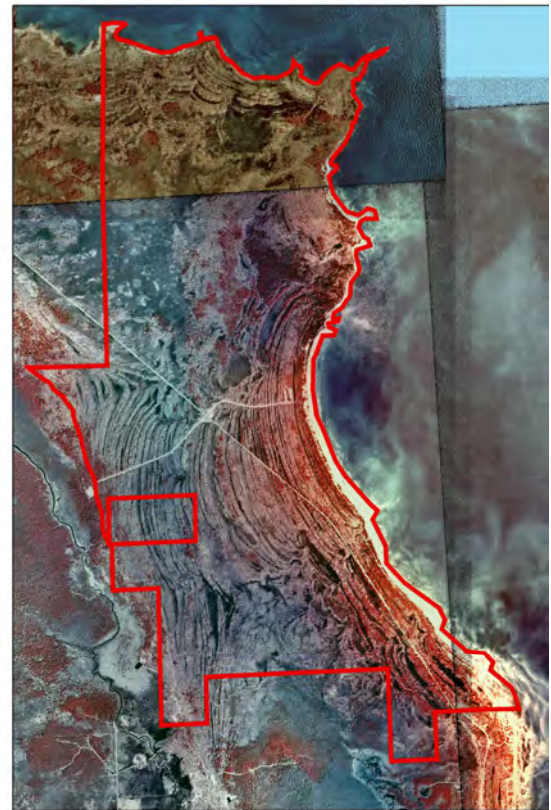
2. To preserve and protect the park's unique natural resources for current and future generations.
3. To preserve and protect the park's historic and cultural resources.
4. To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflect the mission of the DNR and the unique qualities of Negwegon State Park.
5. To provide opportunities for recreational uses and experiences that are unique to Negwegon, and compatible with the park's resource(s) base.
6. To ensure that the planning of Negwegon is part of a cohesive strategy for the region.


### 2.3 Park Significance

Park significance statements capture the essence of its importance to carry out the core values of our PRD Mission. They recognize the natural and cultural heritage values of the park and the recreational and educational opportunities afforded. These statements describe the distinctiveness of Negwegon State Park. Understanding these distinctions helps managers make decisions that preserve those special resources and values necessary to accomplish the park's purposes. Negwegon is significant because of many factors, including but not limited to those stated below.

11. Negwegon features undisturbed habitats. Its southern portion contains undisturbed forests and gentle undulations of the wooded dune-swale complex that parallels the coastline (see Figure 1). To the north is a completely different habitat, featuring lowland hardwoods and a variety of upland forest types.

**Figure 1. Dune-Swale Complex**



 Negwegon Park boundary

12. Negwegon is within the Lake Huron Flyway and provides a vital habitat for resident and migrating bird species. The site is included in the Hubbard Lake Christmas Bird Count sponsored by Michigan and National Audubon Society. Additionally, State and Federal agencies use the bird census data from this area as a litmus test of the health of Lake Huron and the shoreline environment.
13. Negwegon provides a habitat for species of special concern, threatened species and endangered species, such as Pitcher's thistle, Bald Eagles and Blanding's turtles.
14. Negwegon is part of a greater natural resource system. Negwegon is one of the forested coastal areas that offers a habitat that supports a great diversity of flora and fauna.
15. Negwegon is an exceptionally valuable resource in terms of commercial fisheries. Whitefish are Lake Huron's most important commercial species, and Thunder Bay / Negwegon is growing in recognition as a focal point for whitefish spawning. It hosts a variety of nongame species, as well, and would therefore be valuable for beach zone species composition and diversity. The fisheries value is also significant from a historical perspective, as some Alpena area settlers were attracted to the area for its commercial fishing resources.
16. Negwegon's sandy beaches are novel along the typically cobbled Lake Huron shoreline. Beach use is popular during the summer months.
17. Negwegon provides opportunities for recreation. Hiking and kayaking are available at Negwegon along the Lake Huron coastline.
18. Negwegon provides hunting opportunities. Waterfowl hunting occurs in Negwegon. Hardwood Point is an ideal known location for goose hunting and migrating. Similarly, South Point is known to be a prime area for duck and goose hunting.
19. Within Negwegon's boundaries are unique cultural and historic resources:
  - a. Native American artifacts point to a rich tribal history. Stone pits, a stone wall and burial ground are remnants that indicate occupation by ancient civilizations.
  - b. Farmstead remnants tell of a more recent era. A north-south trail through Negwegon is a segment of the Old Stage Coach Route.

- c. Shipwrecks like the WILLIAM H. STEPHENS at Scarecrow Island, and at least five others nearby Black River, are all shallow sites and entirely accessible from Negwegon's shoreline. They are a small portion of the 200 historic wreck sites under the jurisdiction of NOAA's Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Interpretation of notable but more distant offshore wrecks would also be appropriate.
20. Negwegon is a component of, or a stop along the route of several regional networks:
- a. Bluewater Trail. A proposed trailway, developed under NEMCOG, comprised of navigable waters. Negwegon would be part of such a network.
  - b. Great Lakes Circle Tour. The Tour was developed in the late 1980s and consists of a 6,500-mile road network connecting the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River. Information about the tour, including campgrounds, recreational areas and local attractions, is available to tourists on-line. Negwegon State Park could be a stop along the tour.
  - c. Huron Greenways: A NEMCOG project that applied greenways principals to specific environmental and recreational resources in the coastal portions of Northeast Michigan. The project inventoried available ecological and recreational resources, and explored ways in which they can be knit together into a cohesive, inter-connected system. Thompson's Harbor is a part of the system.
  - d. Lighthouse Trail: The Lighthouse Trail was the result of a sustained regional effort, in cooperation with the Department of History, Arts and Libraries, to designate a Maritime Heritage Trail from Au Gres in Arenac County, to the Mackinac Bridge.

Lighthouse Tour: There are many lighthouse sites in the northeast Michigan: Alpena Light (Alpena); Middle Island Keeper's Lodge (Alpena); Thunder Bay Island Lighthouse (Alpena); New Presque Isle Lighthouse Park and Museum (Presque Isle); Old Presque Isle Lighthouse (Presque Isle); Presque Isle Range Light Park (Presque Isle); Sturgeon Point Lighthouse (Harrisville); Forty Mile Point Lighthouse (Rogers City); and Tawas Point Lighthouse (East Tawas).

- e. NOAA's 448-square mile Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary extends from the north and south borders of Alpena County to West 83 degrees longitude. Based on the density and the historical, archeological and recreation significance of some 200 known shipwrecks, the Sanctuary's Advisory Council has recommended

expansion to a 3,662-square-mile area extending from Alcona County to Presque Isle County and east to the international border with Canada. This would include all of Negwegon State Park. The expansion is now pending.

- f. Sunrise Side Coastal Highway: Negwegon is a stop along the US-23 Heritage Route, from Standish to Mackinaw City. This was officially designated a Recreation Heritage Route on May 6, 2004.

## 2.4 Legal Mandates

For all park General Management Plans, legal mandates are identified and 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, and Parks and Recreation Division. Specific to Negwegon, the following legal mandates have been identified.

1. PA 451 of 1994, Part 741 – State Park System – Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act. This act is the recodification of law that established the Michigan State Park System and defined the powers and duties of same. Notable in this law is Section 324.74102 which identifies the duties of the department and reinforces those core values cited above. This section reads:
  - (A) “The legislature finds:
    - (i) Michigan State Parks preserve and protect Michigan’s significant natural and historic resources.
    - (ii) Michigan State Parks are appropriate and uniquely suited to provide opportunities to learn about protection and management of Michigan’s natural resources.
    - (iii) Michigan State Parks are an important component of Michigan’s tourism industry and vital to local economies.
  - (B) The department shall create, maintain, operate, promote, and make available for public use and enjoyment a system of state parks to preserve and protect Michigan’s significant natural resources and areas of natural beauty or historic significance, to provide open space for public recreation, and to provide an opportunity to understand Michigan’s natural resources and need to protect and manage those resources.”
2. Restrictions of Land Purchase Funding Sources. Funds used to purchase recreation land can come with stipulations as to how the land can or



cannot be used. The following are descriptions of the impacts of known funding sources (see Figure 2).

- State Game Fund: Approximately 240 acres of Negwegon land was purchased from the proceeds of a \$1.50 hunting license fee.
- MNRTF: Lands purchased using the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund. Approximately 560 acres were purchased and dedicated to Negwegon through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Any conversion of use for other than the granted project purpose must receive MNRTF Board approval.
- Special Legislation – Special legislation has funded more than 1,080 acres of land for the park.
- Other or Multiple Funds: This category of multiple funds is utilized for general program purposes. Only 80 acres of Negwegon was purchased in this category.

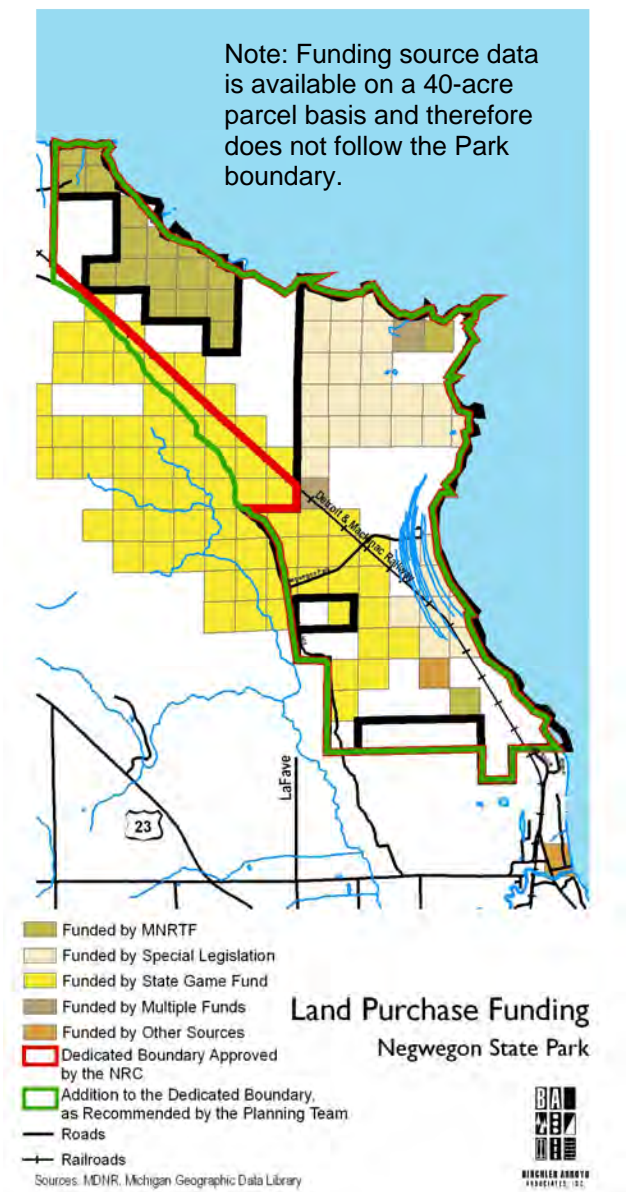
3. Easements:

- Ameritech Corporation
- Michigan Department of Transportation
- Alcona Road Commission
- Lake State Railway
- St. Sanborn and Wade 128-A Station: Two gas wells and pipeline are located on the Wade property.

4. DNR Right-of-Way: The DNR has an annual contract with Lake State Railroad to cross the ROW.

5. Prohibited Uses – From MCL 324.504 Order 5.1. A person shall not do any of the following in any state park or recreation area:  
 (1) Possess or use fireworks in a manner prohibited by section

**Figure 2. Purchase Funding**



- 243a of Act No. 328 of the Public Acts of 1931, being § 750.243a of the Michigan Compiled Laws.
- (2) Without first obtaining proper written permission, peddle or systematically solicit business of any nature; distribute handbills or other advertising matter; post signs on any lands, waters, structures or property; or use any portion of a state park or recreation area for commercial operations.
  - (3) From R299.922, Unlawful Acts, (v) To ride or lead a horse, pack animal, or other riding animal, or any animal-driven vehicle on any area except on roads that are open to the use of motor vehicles, trails, bridle-paths and campgrounds designated for such use by the department and on state forest lands not posted closed to such use or entry.
6. Certain environmentally sensitive and piping plover nesting areas, prohibited conduct, exceptions: Order 5.7. (1) A person shall not do any of the following:
- b) Enter, use, or occupy any of the following described state-owned lands, as posted, from April 15 through August 31 except with proper written permission: viii) Negwegon SP - state-owned lands in sections 2, and 11-12, T28N R9E, Alcona county. **Note: There is not a listed federal habitat for Piping plover in Negwegon State Park. If Piping plovers are attempting to nest, only the area around the nest(s) would be closed, and only for that year's nesting season.**
7. Public Act 451 of 1994, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (Excerpt) – 324.41901. Regulation and prohibitions in certain areas; powers of department; area closures; hearings, investigations, studies, and statement of facts; regulations. This part of PA 451 establishes the powers of the Department to establish safety zones for hunting. In accordance with the Administrative Rules established by Wildlife Division for hunting safety, a 450 foot "Safety zone" is established around all occupied dwellings (which includes campgrounds). Under the State Land Rules, the Department also has the authority to expand the application of this 450 foot "Safety zone" to encompass "Day-Use Areas" such as beaches, picnic areas, boat launches, and parking areas, should the need arise. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.
8. Public Act 451 of 1994, Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act (Excerpt) – 324.76102. Aboriginal records and antiquities; right to explore, survey, excavate, and regulate reserved to state; possessory right or title to abandoned property. Sec. 76102 (1) The state reserves to itself the exclusive right and privilege, except as provided in this part, of exploring, surveying, excavating, and regulating through its authorized officers, agents, and employees, all aboriginal records and other antiquities, including mounds, earthworks, forts, burial and village sites, mines or other relics, and



abandoned property of historical or recreational value found upon or within any of the lands owned by or under the control of the state. (2) The state reserves to itself a possessory right or title superior to that of a finder to abandoned property of historical or recreational value found on the state owned bottomlands of the Great Lakes. This property shall belong to this state with administration and protection jointly vested in the department and the department of history, arts, and libraries.

9. Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 303 – Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act – Wetlands Protection. Wetlands are under the jurisdiction of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. Section 324.30305 prescribes activities not requiring a permit under the Act and uses allowed without a permit. This section reads:
- (1) Activities that require a permit under part 325 or part 301 or a discharge that is authorized by a discharge permit under section 3112 or 3113 do not require a permit under this part.
  - (2) The following uses are allowed in a wetland without a permit subject to other laws of this state and the owner's regulation:
    - (a) Fishing, trapping, or hunting.
    - (b) Swimming or boating.
    - (c) Hiking.
    - (d) Grazing of animals.
    - (e) Farming, horticulture, silviculture, lumbering, and ranching activities, including plowing, irrigation, irrigation ditching, seeding, cultivating, minor drainage, harvesting for the production of food, fiber, and forest products, or upland soil and water conservation practices. Wetland altered under this subdivision shall not be used for a purpose other than a purpose described in this subsection without a permit from the department.
    - (f) Maintenance or operation of serviceable structures in existence on October 1, 1980 or constructed pursuant to this part or former 1979 PA 203.
    - (g) Construction or maintenance of farm or stock ponds.
    - (h) Maintenance, operation, or improvement which includes straightening, widening, or deepening of the following which is necessary for the production or harvesting of agricultural products:
      - (i) An existing private agricultural drain.
      - (ii) That portion of a drain legally established pursuant to the drain code of 1956, 1956 PA 40, MCL 280.1 to 280.630, which has been constructed or improved for drainage purposes.
      - (iii) A drain constructed pursuant to other provisions of this part or former 1979 PA 203.
    - (i) Construction or maintenance of farm roads, forest roads, or temporary roads for moving mining or forestry equipment, if the roads

are constructed and maintained in a manner to assure that any adverse effect on the wetland will be otherwise minimized.

- (j) Drainage necessary for the production and harvesting of agricultural products if the wetland is owned by a person who is engaged in commercial farming and the land is to be used for the production and harvesting of agricultural products. Except as otherwise provided in this part, wetland improved under this subdivision after October 1, 1980 shall not be used for non-farming purposes without a permit from the department. This subdivision does not apply to a wetland that is contiguous to a lake or stream, or to a tributary of a lake or stream, or to a wetland that the department has determined by clear and convincing evidence to be a wetland that is necessary to be preserved for the public interest, in which case a permit is required.
- (k) Maintenance or improvement of public streets, highways, or roads, within the right-of-way and in such a manner as to assure that any adverse effect on the wetland will be otherwise minimized. Maintenance or improvement does not include adding extra lanes, increasing the right-of-way, or deviating from the existing location of the street, highway, or road.
- (l) Maintenance, repair, or operation of gas or oil pipelines and construction of gas or oil pipelines having a diameter of 6 inches or less, if the pipelines are constructed, maintained, or repaired in a manner to assure that any adverse effect on the wetland will be otherwise minimized.
- (m) Maintenance, repair, or operation of electric transmission and distribution power lines and construction of distribution power lines, if the distribution power lines are constructed, maintained, or repaired in a manner to assure that any adverse effect on the wetland will be otherwise minimized.
- (n) Operation or maintenance, including reconstruction of recently damaged parts, of serviceable dikes and levees in existence on October 1, 1980 or constructed pursuant to this part or former 1979 PA 203.
- (o) Construction of iron and copper mining tailings basins and water storage areas.
- (p) Until November 1, 2007, beach maintenance activities that meet all of the following conditions:
  - (i) The activities shall not occur in environmental areas and shall not violate part 365 or rules promulgated under that part, or the endangered species act of 1973, Public Law 93-205, 87 Stat. 884, or rules promulgated under that act.
  - (ii) The width of any mowing of vegetation shall not exceed the width of the riparian property or 100 feet, whichever is less.
  - (iii) All collected debris shall be disposed of properly outside of any wetland.
- (q) Until 3 years after the effective date of the amendatory act that added this

- subdivision, removal of vegetation as authorized under section 32516.
- (3) An activity in a wetland that was effectively drained for farming before October 1, 1980 and that on and after October 1, 1980 has continued to be effectively drained as part of an ongoing farming operation is not subject to regulation under this part.
  - (4) A wetland that is incidentally created as a result of 1 or more of the following activities is not subject to regulation under this part:
    - (a) Excavation for mineral or sand mining, if the area was not a wetland before excavation. This exemption does not include a wetland on or adjacent to a water body of 1 acre or more in size.
    - (b) Construction and operation of a water treatment pond or lagoon in compliance with the requirements of state or federal water pollution control regulations.
    - (c) A diked area associated with a landfill if the landfill complies with the terms of the landfill construction permit and if the diked area was not a wetland before diking.

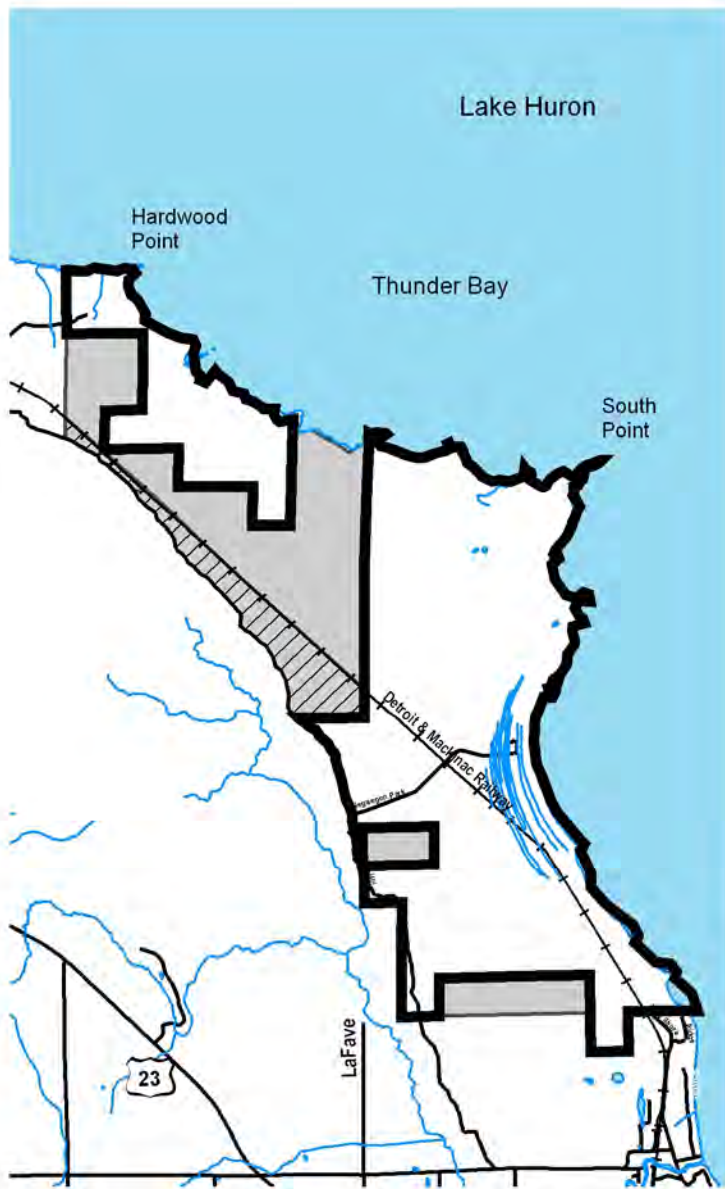
## 2.5 Land Acquisition

Acquisition of land that would expand and/or connect the two distinct components of Negwegon State Park is of high priority for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division (PRD). Imbedded in its mission statement and core values is the acquiring of land with unique resources, or natural, historic, and cultural features. Land is to be acquired for the direct purposes of preserving and protecting natural and historical / cultural features and providing public recreation and educational opportunities.

The PRD has targeted land in (privately-owned 'inholding' parcel) and around Negwegon State Park for future purchase, should there be an opportunity to do so. Figure 3 illustrates the existing boundary for Negwegon, and the *dedicated* or *project* boundary for the Park. The dedicated boundary was approved by the Natural Resources Commission in 2004. The DNR would like to acquire any private lands within the *dedicated* or *project* boundary as they become available, and as funding allows. For Negwegon, priority purchases would include land that would connect the two pieces of the Park, and the in-holding parcel.

Part of the Phase I General Management Plan process was to evaluate the dedicated boundary and determined whether revisions are required or necessary. The Planning Team reached a consensus with regard to expanding the boundary as shown on Figure 3. In general the recommended boundary would follow Sand Hill Road rather than the railroad grade, and include lands that would connect the two pieces of the park and any inholding parcels.

**Figure 3: Dedicated Boundary**



-  Negwegon State Park Current Boundary
-  Dedicated Boundary Approved by the NRC
-  Addition to the Dedicated Boundary, as Recommended by the Planning Team
-  Roads
-  Rivers, streams

**Dedicated Boundary**  
Negwegon State Park



BINGHLER AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

Source: MDNR

## 3.0 Management Zone Plan



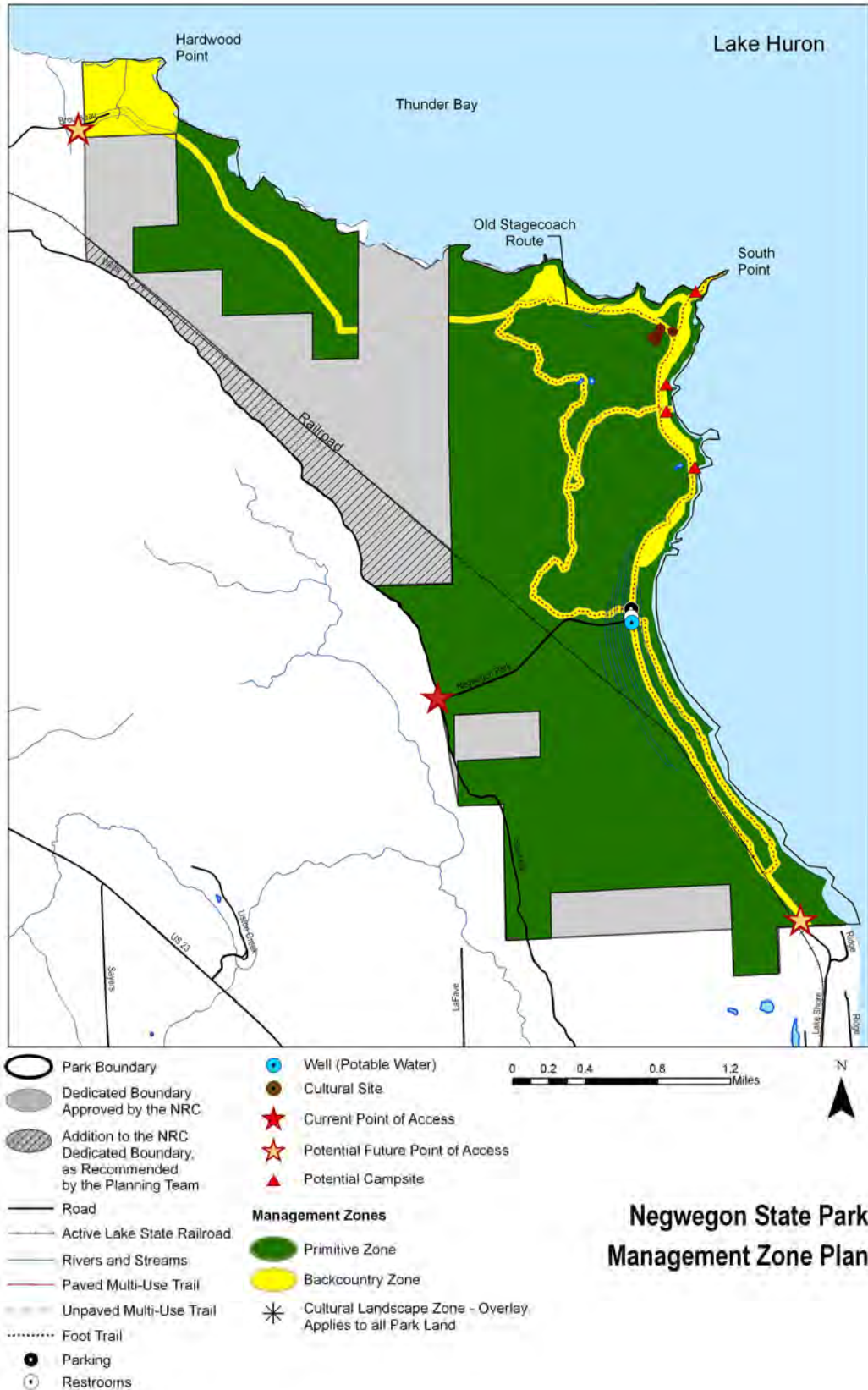
With guidance of the Planning Team and input from our stakeholders and the public, the Recreation Area “Purpose and Significance” statements were formulated. This established an identity for Negwegon State Park as: a place to be valued for the variety of undisturbed and sensitive habitats, shoreline and historic and cultural resources; a place that is part of a greater network of fishing, hunting, recreational trails and natural resources; a place where visitors may come to learn about the unique natural features; a place where visitors may experience a rustic outdoor experience through hiking, kayaking, and camping.

The Management Zone Plan, Figure 4, was developed according to the Identity. Similar to the Purpose and Significance statements, the Management Zone Plan was also drafted with Planning Team, stakeholder and public support. The Management Zone Plan seeks to preserve and protect the resources, while creating low-intensity recreational uses, and educational and interpretation opportunities. To achieve this, the 3,738-acre Park was divided into the following zones:

- ◆ Primitive Zone reflects a desired condition that emphasizes the natural resources. Land is managed to only allow dispersed and low frequency use for low impact recreational purposes. Attaining and maintaining a high quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements or uses are allowed.
- ◆ Backcountry Zone emphasizes resource quality over recreation, but allows for modification of the landscape to allow for moderate levels of active recreation uses. Activities that could occur in this zone include hiking trails, hunting and trapping, rustic camping, bicycling and equestrian use, and other complementary uses. The activities should allow visitors to experience nature at a variety of levels.
- ◆ Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone addresses the overall setting in which is found not only historic structures, but also non-structural evidence of the

This is Phase I of the General Management Plan for Negwegon. Phase I determines management zones (MZs) for the park land. MZs describe a variety of activities that **may be** appropriate within that zone. Identifying specific activities that **will occur** is a function of Phase 2 general management planning, and not a component of this plan.

**Figure 4: Management Zone Plan for Negwegon State Park**





traditions, beliefs, practices, lifeways, arts, crafts and social institutions of any community.

## Other Plan Features and Recommendations

- ◆ Regional Consideration. As described in the Preface of this document, the planning for Negwegon State Park was performed in conjunction with the Rockport Property and Thompson's Harbor State Park. The planning effort, supported by a consensus of the Planning Team, resulted in the following concept: Rockport would be established as the central "hub" of the three sites, allowing Negwegon and Thompson's Harbor to remain in an relatively undisturbed, natural state. The concept of the hub is one in which Rockport would be identified by visitors as the first stop to exploring northeast Michigan. At Rockport, there may be an interpretive center or a similar structure where people would become oriented as to the location of each site, as well as become aware of the connecting trails, and educational and recreation opportunities available at each site. Maps, brochures and perhaps information on eco-tourism businesses would be available at this central gathering place.

Of the three sites – Negwegon State Park, the Rockport Property, and Thompson's Harbor State Park – Rockport was selected as the ideal hub for two reasons: its central location between Negwegon and Thompson's Harbor; and, it has already been the site of much disturbance in the Developed Recreation Zone. Scuba diving, a significant deep water boat access to Lake Huron, a Township Park, fossil collection, and long-range target shooting, are some of the activities that currently take place in this area. In contrast, Negwegon and Thompson's Harbor remain in a primarily undeveloped, natural state. To preserve their pristine environments, parking will remain minimal, but more dispersed to improve access. Rockport would be the advertised "central" location, and would be improved to accommodate more intense use and development. Note: should the concept of Rockport as the central hub not, modifications to the General Management Plan for Thompson's Harbor could be necessary (see Thompson's Harbor General Management Plan).

- ◆ Access and Parking. Negwegon State Park is accessible by Sand Hill Road. Sand Hill Road is an unpaved road on sandy soil, which makes travel quite difficult during certain times of year. The entrance road to Negwegon State Park, a wide, gravel surface, is a stark contrast to the natural, rustic setting one experiences along Sand Hill. Thus there are two issues of concern: 1) Difficulty accessing the Park via Sand Hill Road and 2) The jarring experience of turning from the rustic Sand Hill Road onto the Park entrance road. To address both issues, Phase I of the Management Plan recommends:

1. Improved road conditions and signage pointing to Negwegon State Park are needed for Sand Hill Road. The DNR should work with the Road Commission on providing a more stable surface that would facilitate safe travel by Park visitors. Also, developing additional points of entry that would include small, unpaved parking areas, should be considered. Potential locations determined as a result of the planning process are Brousseau Road (a northern access point) and Lake Shore Road (a southern access point that would provide a close link to the Black River community, park and boat launch).
  2. Develop a strategy to lessen the visual contrast between Sand Hill Road and the Park access road. Landscaping and/or other treatments should be designed to soften the access road. Careful engineering would be required, as the road traverses sensitive natural features.
- ◆ Camping. Potential locations for hike-in or kayak-in camping areas are identified on the Management Zone Plan. These sites are located in the Backcountry Zone. The sites would not be on the Lake Huron shoreline, but in close proximity to it.
  - ◆ Equestrian and Bicycle Use. The trails, including the Old Stagecoach Route and Potawatomie, may allow for equestrian and bicycle use, where appropriate.
  - ◆ Signage. Appropriate signage is needed to inform the public of the park location. Interpretive, directional and education signage within each park will be developed under Phase 2.
  - ◆ Future Purchases. Part of the DNR's mission is to acquire lands with unique natural, cultural and historic resources for the purposes of public recreation and education. The NRC-approved dedicated boundary for Negwegon State Park is provided in Section 2.5. Land within the dedicated boundary would be a priority purchase for the DNR, should the opportunity to purchase and funding become available. Land in the dedicated boundary is currently in private ownership, and therefore has not been designated a management zone. Major land purchases will prompt an amendment to this Plan.



### 3.1 Primitive Zone

The majority of the land comprising Negwegon is designated Primitive Zone. In this 2,970 acres (79% of the park) are found undisturbed habitats, wetlands, and sensitive ecosystems. Only foot traffic would be allowed in order to ensure that the natural features are not damaged or compromised by recreation. Figure 5 presents areas designated Primitive Zone. Figure 6 presents the Primitive Zones with a wetlands overlay to illustrate these impacts.

- A. 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 of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease.

Land would be managed to preserve and protect the wetlands, wooded dune-swale complexes, undisturbed lowlands and northern upland forest types. Preserving this land is important because:

- ◆ The land provides habitat for a diverse array of animals, including rare species such as Blanding's turtles and Bald eagles.
- ◆ The forested coast supports a great diversity of flora and fauna.
- ◆ The shoreline and coastal waters are highly valued for beach zone species composition, whitefish spawning and commercial fishing.

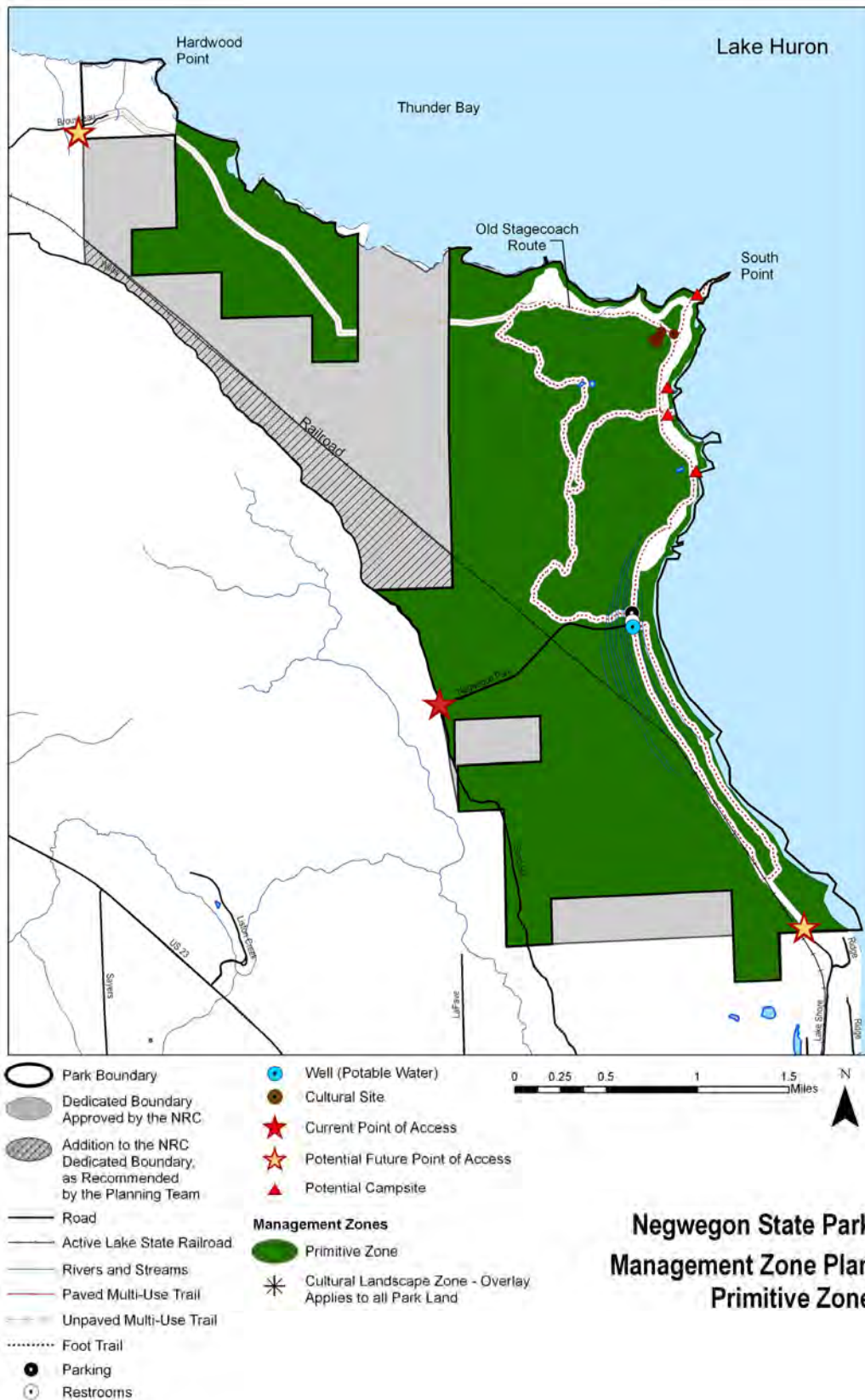
The management zone plan promotes the on-going maintenance and enhancement of these natural resources to ensure their success in the long-term. Native species and natural processes would take precedence over visitor accommodation.

- B. Historic / Cultural Resources. Native American artifacts, farmstead remnants and archeological sites are known resources located within the park's Primitive Zone. Knowing the history of the area's development – being first settled by Native Americans - it is likely that other sites may be found in this zone as well. For the protection of these resources, their identity would not be disclosed to the general public. Resources in this zone would be preserved, removed or allowed to waste away.
- C. Recreational Opportunities. With the focus of this zone being preservation, protection and enhancement of the natural communities present within the zone, recreational opportunities are limited to low-intensity uses. Any uses must be dispersed, low intensity, off-trail or trail, self-reliant, outdoor activities. Activities that could occur in this zone are hiking, back-packing,

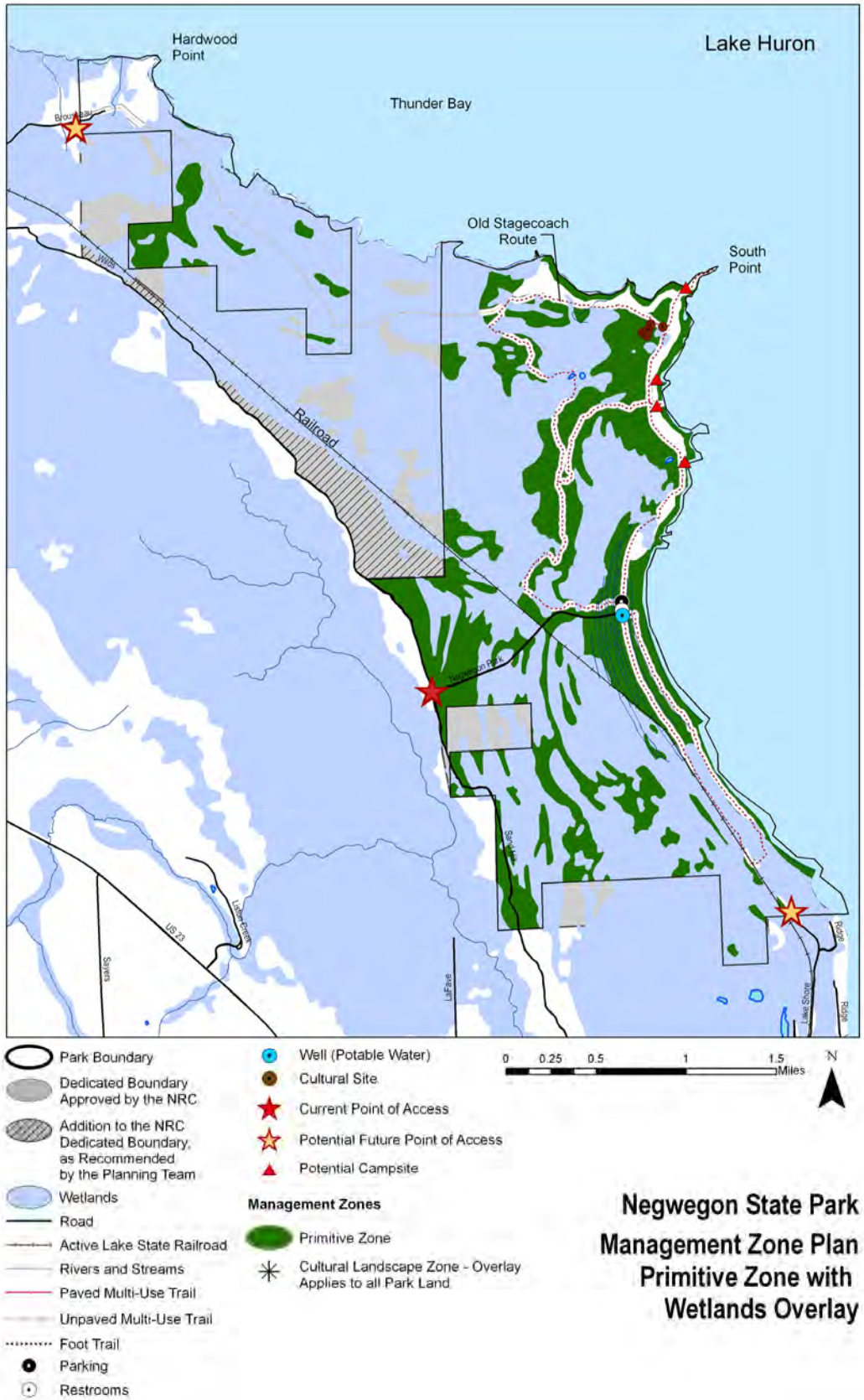
hunting/trapping/fishing, primitive camping, cross-country skiing, nature observation.

- D. Education Opportunities. The ecological significance of the resources in the park, as well as the cultural resources and historic artifacts, present a tremendous educational opportunity. Information can be relayed through the use of kiosks at trailheads and interpretive signage along trails and other appropriate locations.
- E. Visitor Experience. Visitor experience would reflect a high degree of natural feel: a significant sense of solitude, and a lack of man-made improvements. There would be low interaction with others.
- F. Management Focus. Management would focus on maintaining the low-impact character of the zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality. Routine maintenance of the existing pit toilets, and any trails or access routes would be provided. Care would be taken to eliminate any detrimental impacts such as erosion, sedimentation or incursion of invasive species. Other management strategies would be based on recommendations in a future Stewardship Plan.
- G. Development. The focus is to maintain as little evidence of human activity as possible. Only trail improvements, which can include boardwalks and/or overlooks, and educational or interpretive signage would be constructed.

**Figure 5: Primitive Zone**



**Figure 6: Primitive Zone with Wetland Overlay**



### 3.2 Backcountry Zone

Approximately 770 acres, or 21%, of Negwegon land is zoned Backcountry. This zone includes the trails, land just behind the shoreline and the northernmost portion of the park. The natural character of land is similar to the Primitive Zone. However, Backcountry allows for an increased level recreational use and human impact. Figure 7 presents the Backcountry Zone.

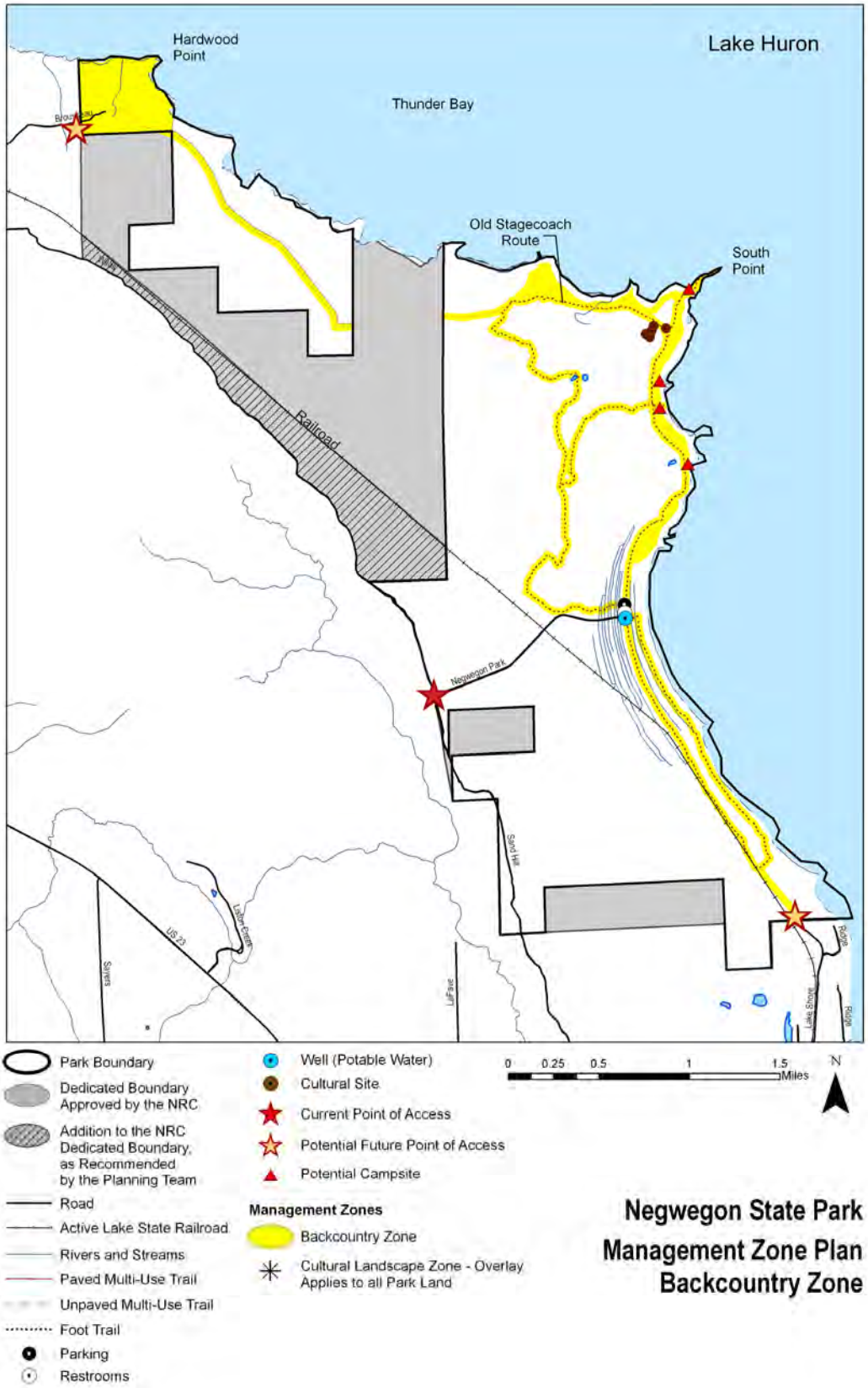
- A. Natural Resources. This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease

Within the Backcountry Zone, natural resources may be modified slightly to support visitor use, but the tolerance for natural resource impacts is low.

- B. Historic / Cultural Resources. Remnants of a farmstead are present in the northern portion of Negwegon. While no Native American artifacts are known to exist in the Backcountry Zone at this time, it is not unreasonable that sites may be found in the future given the history of the area. Resources in this zone could be preserved, rehabilitated, removed or allowed to waste away. Historic structures could be adaptively used for operational uses or educational purposes.
- C. Recreational Opportunities. Moderate levels of recreation are allowed in the Backcountry Zone, provided the activities are compatible with the natural character. Non-motorized outdoor activities are permitted, such as hiking, backpacking, back-country camping, bicycling, equestrian use, canoeing, kayaking, nature observation, cross-country skiing, showshoeing and hunting/trapping/fishing.
- D. Education Opportunities. Similar to the Primitive Zone, the Backcountry Zone offers a great opportunity to communicate the park's unique and regional significance. Information can be relayed through the use of kiosks at trailheads and interpretive signage along trails and other appropriate locations.
- E. Visitor Experience. A moderate level of visitor encounters can be accommodated in the Backcountry Zone. Visitors would engage in self-reliant, non-motorized outdoor activities that may require a fairly high time commitment. Low noise tolerance and low interaction with others can be expected.



**Figure 7: Backcountry Zone**



- F. Management Focus. Management would focus on maintaining the low-impact character of the zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality. Routine maintenance of the existing restrooms, and any trails or access routes would be provided. Care would be taken to eliminate any detrimental impacts such as erosion, sedimentation or incursion of invasive species. Other management strategies would be based on recommendations in a future Stewardship Plan.
- G. Development. A low level of development is allowed to support visitor access to activities offered in the Park. Development would be unobtrusive and blend in with the natural environment. The existing parking lot, vault toilets and water supply, and potential camping opportunities are examples of the type of development permitted.

### **3.3 Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone**

All of Negwegon land is overlaid with the Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone. Culture refers to not only historic structures or remnants, but non-structural evidence of the traditions, beliefs and practices of the region. Negwegon has Native American artifacts, farmstead remnants, a portion of the Old Stagecoach Route, which connected Standish and Alpena City, and shipwrecks along its coastal waters. The locations for many cultural resources are known, however, given the history of the area, it is not unlikely that more would be found.

- A. 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 of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to enhance education/interpretation uses and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape that is sensitive to the historical resource and interpretation of the zone.
- B. Historic / Cultural Resources. Structures, remnants, ships and other landscape characteristics and features which represent the evolution of the resource, temporal change and the continuum of time would be preserved, protected and enhanced. Rehabilitation or adaptive re-use for operational or education purposes are permitted.
- C. Recreational Opportunities. Visitors could be engaged in sightseeing, recreational and education activities in a cultural setting compatible with and sensitive to the setting. Activities allowed in this zone include automobile, bike, walking or hiking tour. When resources are sensitive and require substantial preservation, the general public may not have access to the exact location of the resource.

- D. Education Opportunities. The cultural and historic resources demonstrate the uniqueness of Negwegon, but also contribute to the story of Michigan, and our nation. Information can be relayed through the use of kiosks at trailheads and interpretive signage along trails and other appropriate locations. Off-site interpretation may be used as well.
- E. Visitor Experience. For resources available to public viewing and/or use, moderate visitor encounters are accommodated. Visitors engage in sightseeing, recreational, and education activities in a cultural setting. Moderate noise, time commitment and interaction with others can be expected.
- F. Management Focus. Management focuses on maintaining the cultural character of the zone, with emphasis on Natural Resource quality.
- G. Development. Non-historic development and activities that do not conflict with the cultural landscape are tolerated in this zone. Moderate levels of development and accessibility could be provided to support visitor access and use.





## 4.0 Future Plan Inserts

The following are items that will be added to this General Management Plan (GMP) as they are developed. The GMP serves as a guide for each subsequent plan.

**10-Year Action Plan (LONG-RANGE ACTION GOALS TO ATTAIN GMP):** Phase 2 of the Management Planning Process. Includes review and update of General Management Plan.

**5-Year Action Plan (SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT):** Phase 3 of the Management Planning Process. Includes review and update of GMP and Phase 2 Plan.

**Annual Action Plan and Progress Report:** Phase 4 of the Management Planning Process.

**Operational/Management Resources:** The following categories are established as a guide for the park manager to use to supplement this working document. Other categories can be added as needed.

- ◆ Annual Work Plan (This report ties in with Phase 4 – Annual Report of Management Planning)
- ◆ Stewardship Plan
- ◆ Staffing
- ◆ Budget
- ◆ Equipment
- ◆ Training
- ◆ Public Relations / Marketing / Outreach
- ◆ Programming (ie. special events, MCCC, volunteers, etc.)
- ◆ Public Health, Safety, and Welfare
- ◆ Water system
- ◆ Wastewater system
- ◆ Electrical system
- ◆ Law enforcement
- ◆ Emergency Access Plan
- ◆ Wildfire Management Plan

- ◆ CRS
- ◆ FOIA
- ◆ Raster Image Index
- ◆ Raster Images of historic park plans, and
- ◆ Park Infrastructure data.

**APPENDIX A**

**SUPPORTING ANALYSIS**

**FOR NEGWEGON STATE PARK**

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# A1. Location

Negwegon State Park consists of approximately 3,738 acres, and is located in the northeast Lower Peninsula, with 9.1 miles of Lake Huron shoreline. The center of the Park is in Town 28 North, Range 9 East, Section 3 (Latitude 44.848566, Longitude -83.336527).

The northern portion of Negwegon is located in Sanborn Township, Alpena County, and the southern portion is in Alcona Township, Alcona County (Map 1).

Park access is from Sand Hill Road. The access road was constructed in the late 1980's. Currently, a sign indicating arrival to the Park is not posted and, the sandy nature of Sand Hill Road is difficult to traverse during some seasons of the year.

Map 1: Location Map



- Park Boundary
- County Boundary
- State Roads
- Municipal Boundary
- Local Roads



Location Map  
Negwegon State Park



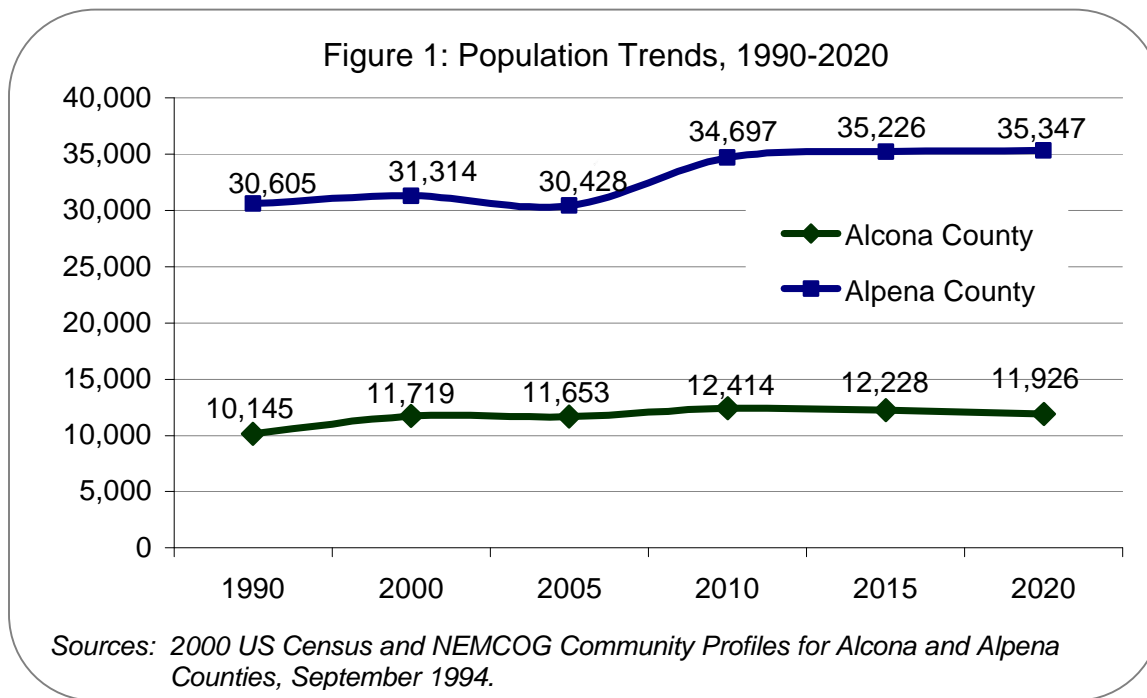
Sources: MDNR Michigan Geographic Data Library



## A 2. Demographics

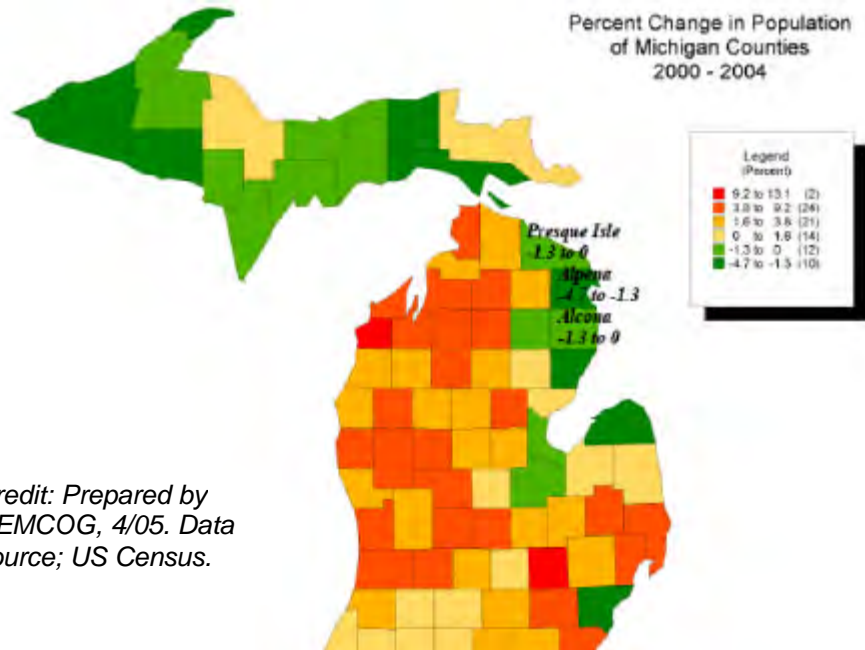


**Population.** Alpena and Alcona County populations totaled 42,081 in 2005. Seventy-two percent of the people are Alpena County residents. Alpena and Alcona communities are projected to have slight population increases by 2010, and, overall net population increases of 16.2% and 2.3%, respectively, from 2005 to 2020 (Figure 1). This is a turn-around from the 2000-2004 recent trends data, which indicate that northeast Michigan is losing population (Map 2). The Alpena-Alcona County area lost almost 1,000 people from 2000 to 2005.



Negwegon State Park is within Sanborn Township to the north and Alcona Township to the south. The 2000 population for Sanborn Township was 2,201, and Alcona Township's 2000 population was 1,109. Most communities in the area have populations similar to Sanborn and Alcona Township. The greatest population concentration in the area is in the Alpena City / Alpena Township area (11,156 persons and 9,889 persons, respectively).

Map 2: Michigan Population Trends by County, 2000-2004



**Average Household Size Average Population Age.** From 1990 to 2000 the average household size decreased while the average age rose for Alpena and Alcona Counties. This is consistent with that which occurred nationwide. The trend is expected to continue as the baby-boomer generation ages, and younger generations are marrying later and having fewer children. This may be compounded in northeast Michigan due to its growing reputation as an ideal community for retirement.

There are approximately 19,950 households in Alcona and Alpena counties (Alcona: 5,132 households, and Alpena: 12,818 households). While the number of households increased from 16,099 in 1990, the number of persons per households (pph) decreased. Between 1990 and 2000, the average household size for Alcona and Alpena Counties decreased from 2.41 pph to 2.26 pph. Figure 2 illustrates the trend of decreasing household sizes.

In addition to decreasing household size, the age of the population is increasing. The median age for Alpena and Alcona Counties rose from 40.1 years in 1990 to 44.7 years in 2000. This is reflected in the population age trend for both Alcona and Alpena Counties from 1990 to 2000: percent increases in population occurred in the older age groups, and percent decreases were experienced in the younger age groups (Figure 3). The exception is the 5 to 19 age group for Alcona County, which grew by nearly 6%.

Figure 2: Average Household Type for Alcona and Alpena Counties, 1990 and 2000

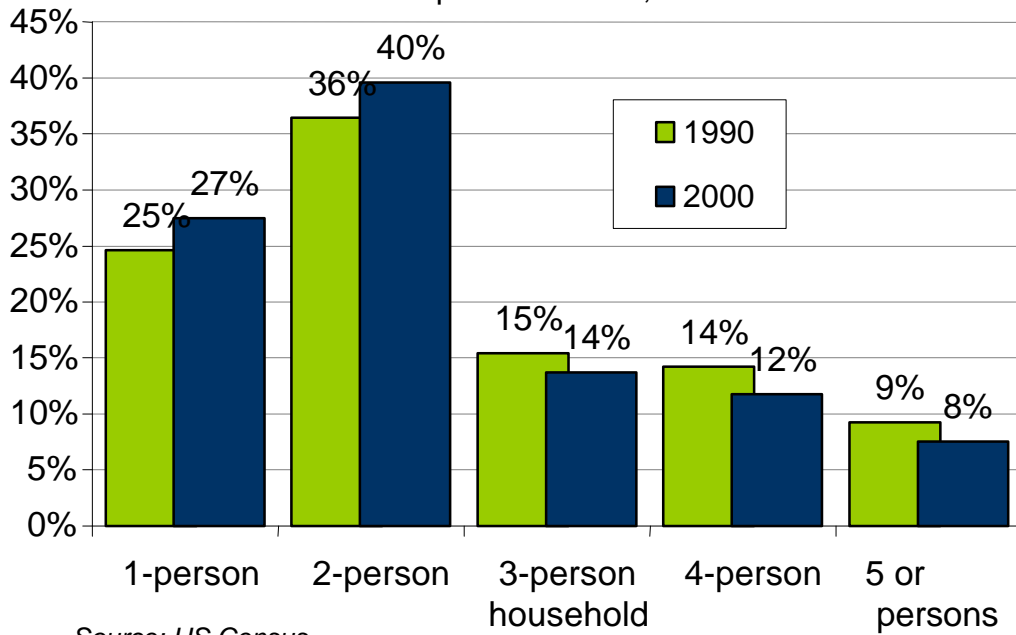
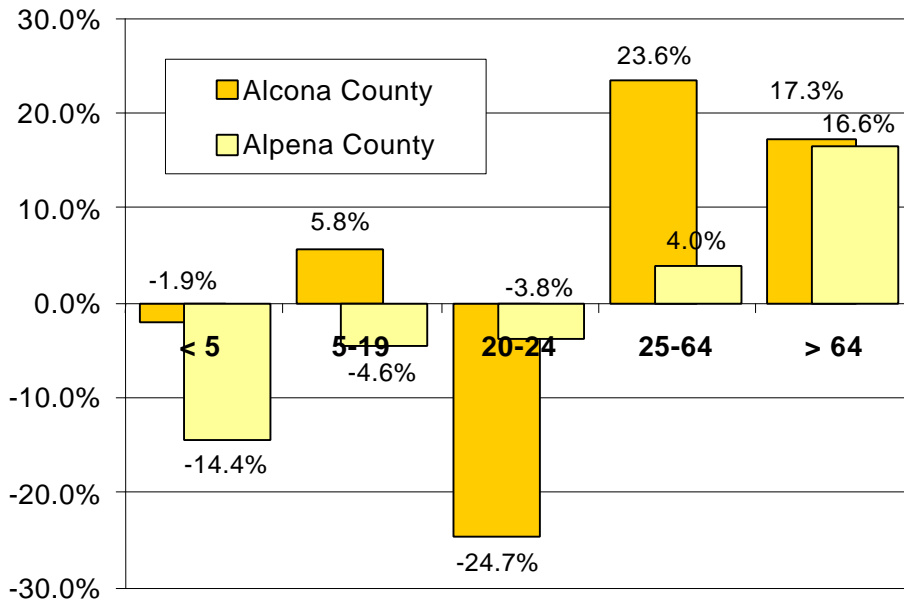


Figure 3: Percent Change in Population, 1990–2000 for Alcona and Alpena Counties



**Racial Composition.** The predominant race in northeast Michigan is Caucasian. According to the 2000 US Census, 98.9% of the population in Alcona and Alpena Counties was Caucasian. Other races include American Indian or Alaska Native (0.5%); Asian (0.3%); African American (0.2%); Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (0.005%), another race (0.1%), or two or more races (0.8%). Less than one percent (0.6) of the population is of Hispanic or Latino origin. From 1990 to 2000, minority representation decreased slightly for Alcona County (1.2 in 1990 to 1.0% in 2000), but increased slightly for Alpena County (0.8% in 1990 to 1.1% in 2000).

**Disabilities**

Approximately 9,476 residents of Alcona and Alpena Counties, or 22% of the community, live with some type of long-lasting mental, physical or emotional condition. Approximately ten percent of these people are school-aged children and young adults, 53% are of work force age, and 37% are retirees (source: 2000 US Census).

**Housing and Home Ownership.**

In 2000, there were 25,873 housing units in Alcona and Alpena Counties. Types of units available include single family detached, single family attached, duplexes, apartments, manufactured housing, and boats, RVs, vans and the like. Most housing units are single family detached at 81%, followed by mobile homes at 10%, and apartments at 5% (93% of apartments are located in Alpena County).

Of the 25,873 housing units available:

	<u>Alpena County</u>	<u>Alcona County</u>
Total Units Available:	15,289	10,584
Occupied Units:	12,818	5,132
Owner-Occupation:	10,145	4,612
Renter-Occupation:	2,673	520
Vacant Units:	2,471	5,452
Seasonally-Vacant:	1,658	5,067

The above figures indicate Alpena County has a high percentage of its housing stock in occupation, while Alcona County has more vacant units. Both communities have a large percentage of seasonal occupation. According to local sources, most of the seasonally-occupied housing units are used by their owners (i.e. not rented to vacationers).

Fifty-two percent of Alcona County home owners, and 44% of Alpena County home owners, purchased after 1990. It is important to remember that home ownership does not necessarily mean that people are new to the area. Some

home owners purchase smaller or larger homes in the same community as family needs change.

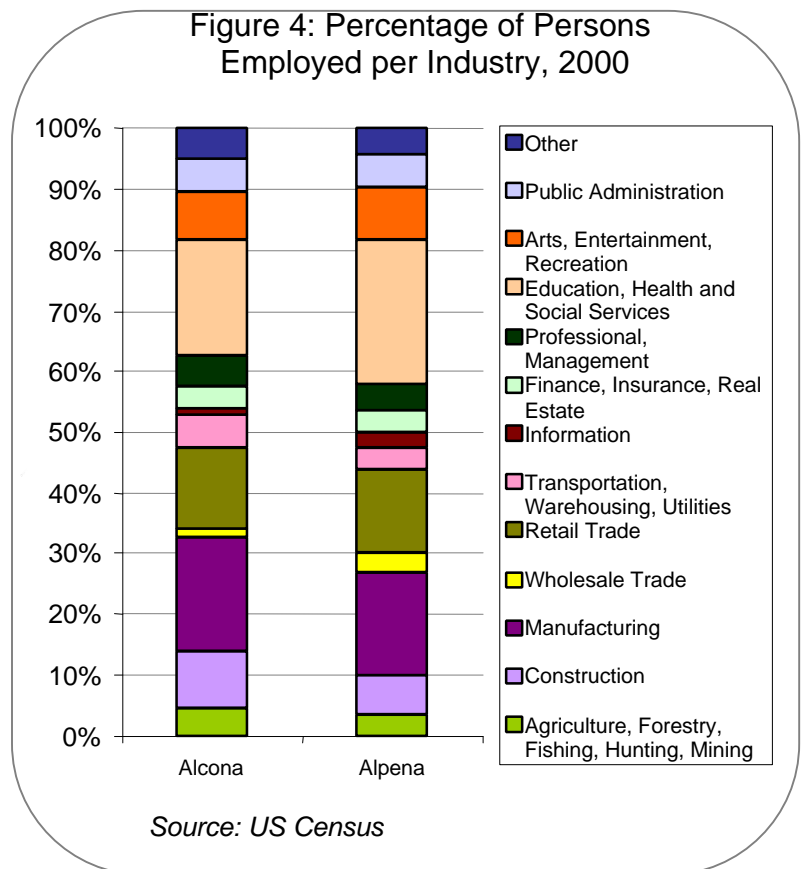
Most homes range between \$50,000 to \$99,000, with the median housing value of owner-occupied units being \$80,900. Homes in both counties tend to be of older construction: only 11.2% of the Alpena County's housing stock, and 16.5% of Alcona's housing stock, were built after 1990. For those who do rent, the median monthly rental rate averaged for Alpena and Alcona counties is \$391.

**Education, Income and Employment.**

Most people over the age of 25 living in Alcona and Alpena Counties have had some college, or earned an associates, bachelors, graduate or other professional degree (38% for Alcona County and 47% for Alpena County). The average median income earned per household is \$32,770. In 1999, 998 families in the area lived below the poverty level (8.1% of total families).

Of the 19,305 persons who are in the labor force, 17,680 are employed. The top three occupations are:

1. Management, professional and related occupations (26.4%)
2. Sales and office occupations (24.6%)
3. Production, transportation, and material moving occupations (18.6%).



Industries that are most common are: Education, Health and Social Sciences, Manufacturing, Retail Trade and Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services (Figure 4).

Of those Alcona and Alpena County residents who commute to work, most drive alone (83%). Others carpool (9%) or walk 2%. Very few take public transportation (0.3%). The average commute time is 22.3 minutes.



## A 3 General History

In 1962, the Conservation Commission approved the acquisition of the land known today as Negwegon State Park. The acquisition was prompted by a National Park Service (NPS) recommendation for the State of Michigan to purchase lands that were listed on the NPS Great Lakes Shoreline Recreation Area Survey. The park was originally named *Alpena State Park*. The name was officially changed to *Negwegon State Park* in 1970. The change resulted from organized local citizens requesting that the name reflect the state's history: Chief Negwegon (meaning 'The Wing'), of the Chippewa tribe was known to hunt and camp with his band in this bountiful south point region.

Negwegon State Park underwent a master plan study in 1970. The plan proposed 400 modern campsites located in a sandy ridge / forested area that would be serviced by flush toilets, hot water showers, underground electrical service and access via asphalt roads. Approximately 50 rustic campsites along the shoreline were also proposed.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) conducted three public hearings in the vicinity Negwegon as part of the 1970 planning process. Votes on the proposed plan are recorded for two of the hearings:

- † April 4, 1972, Alpena Public Hearing: Of the 83 respondents, 32 supported the plan, 43 opposed, and 8 held no position.
- † April 21, 1972, Village of Black River Public Hearing: 28 people attended the hearing, but no verbal responses were received. Forty written responses were received, with 27 opposing the proposed plan

Area organizations recorded as having supported the 1970 plan are:

- † Alpena Chamber of Commerce
- † Alpena County Board of Commissioners
- † Alpena Planning Commission
- † League of Women Voters of Alpena County
- † Michigan United Conservation Clubs
- † Michigan Society of Professional Engineers, Huron Shores Chapter
- † Wilderness and Natural Areas Advisory Board.



Organizations that are recorded as opposing the 1970 plan include the Sierra Club, Mackinac Chapter, and the Thunder Bay Environmental Council.

The 1970 master plan was not approved by the Commission.

In 1973, the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) approved a second master plan. This second plan was developed under the intent that the amount of development proposed in the 1970 plan would be lessened. Proposed improvements included an entrance road, a day-use center with 40-car parking area, 25 rustic campsites, several hike-in campsites, hiking trails, and beach walk. The plan intended to reduce adverse effects to natural features by limiting park capacity to 300 visitors, dispersing visitors throughout the park, and reducing disturbing approximately 25 acres. The second plan did not require an extension of water or sewer lines to Negwegon. Map 3 illustrates the outcome of the second master planning process.

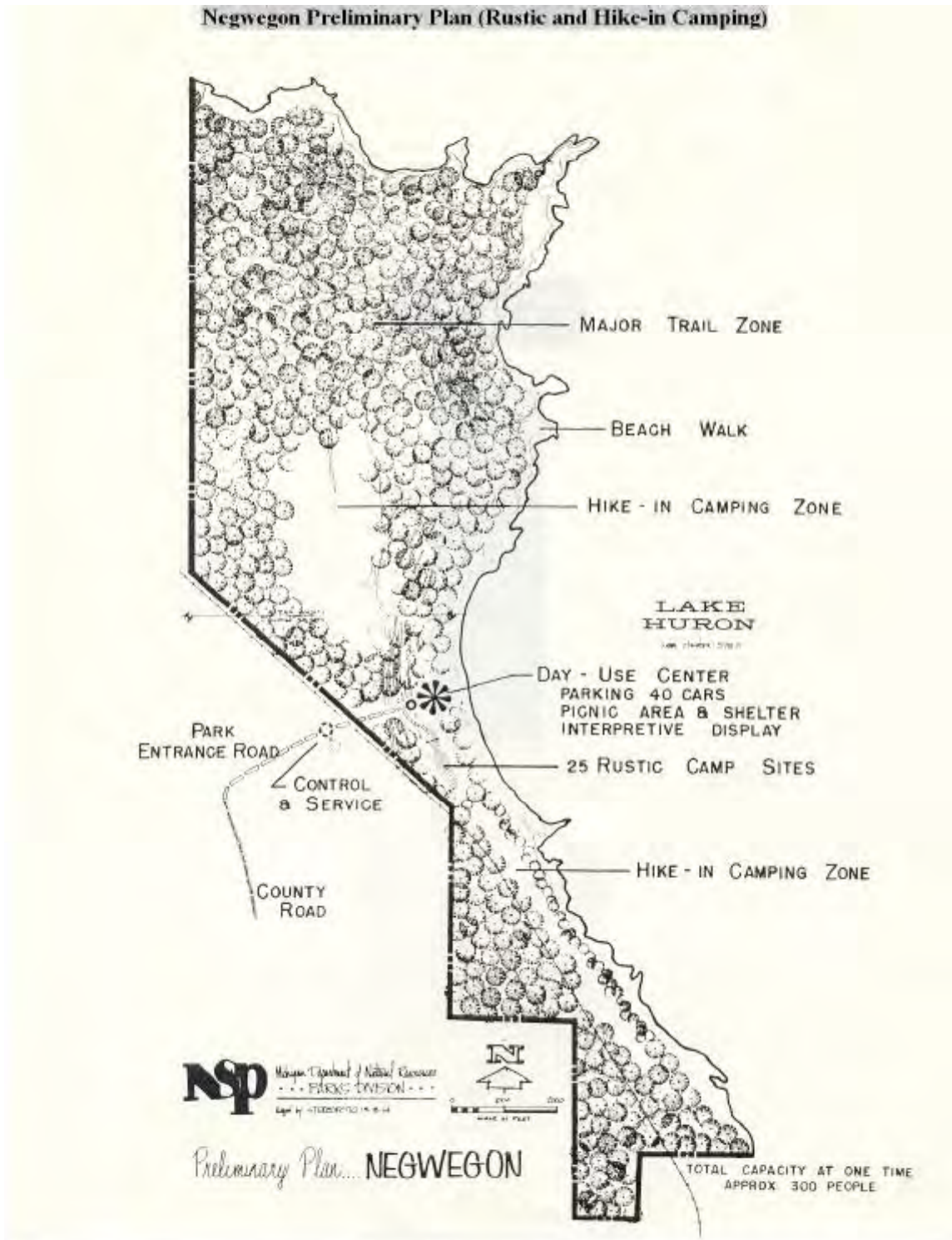
The entrance road and day-use parking area were constructed in 1985. The entrance road traversed a dune-swale complex. This action concerned the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC). They group wanted to ensure that future development was sensitive to the land's unique natural features and cultural and historic resources. As a result, the DNR and CAC partnered to create an updated master plan in 1989.

The 1989 master plan was more aggressive than the 1973 plan in terms of development. The proposal included: a park headquarters complete with an office, shop, and garage; a 100-site modern campground with a toilet/shower building and electrical outlets for each site; six hike-in campsites; and permanent park staff on duty to protect the resources while operating and maintaining the park's facilities. The NRC adopted the 1989 plan, with the Modified C map (Map 4), and without a campground. The NRC's adoption stipulated that any campground would require the approval of the NRC before expenditures would be allocated.

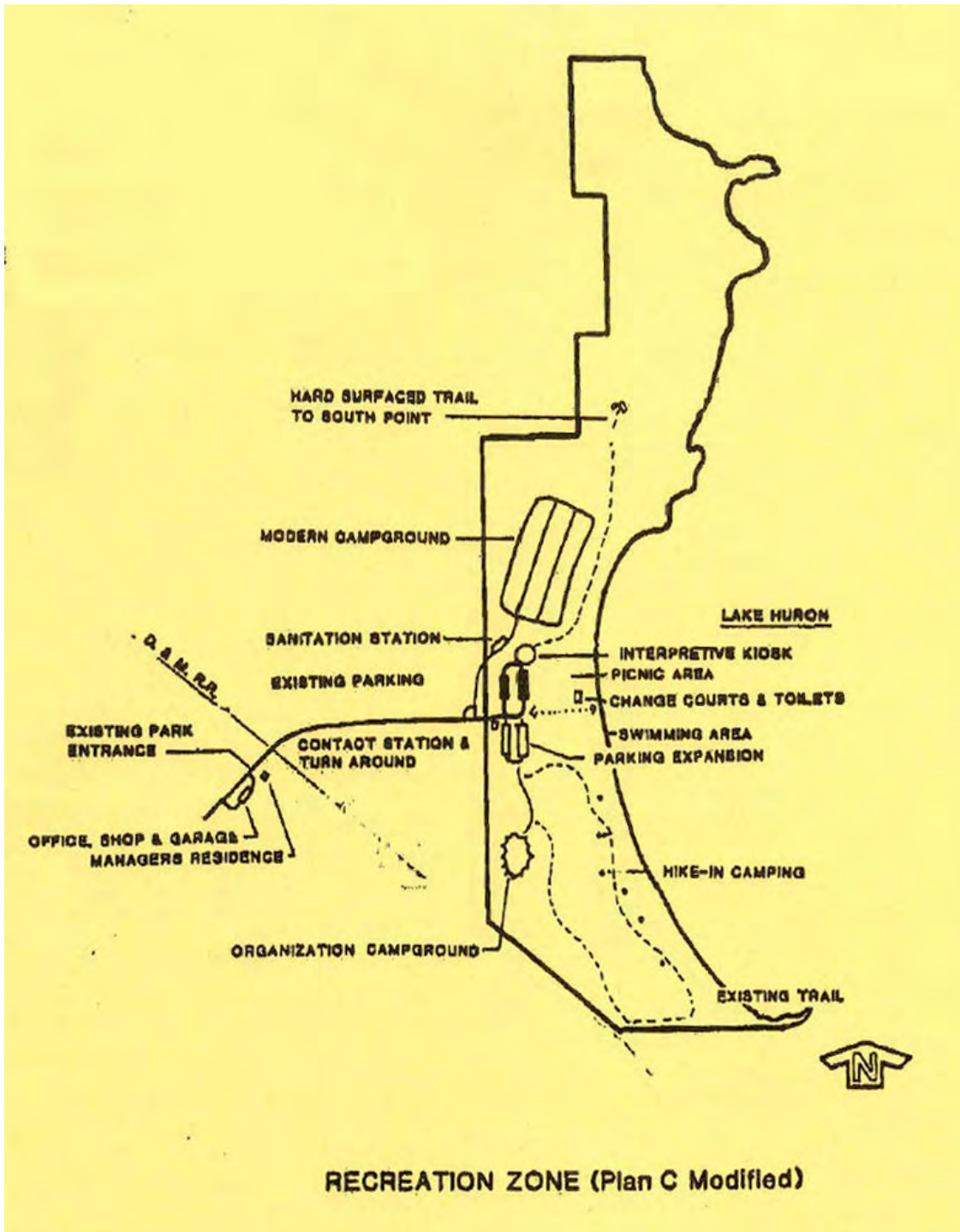
Today, Negwegon remains one of northern Michigan's most rustic and undeveloped parks. Passive recreation forms are encouraged, such as hiking, hunting, and bird watching.



### Map 3: 1973 Master Plan Map for Negwegon State Park



Map 4: 1989 Master Plan Map for Negwegon State Park





## A4. Existing Land Use, Zoning and Future Uses

Existing land use, zoning district and future land use data for this section is based on Alcona and Alpena townships information, provided by the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments. The data has been generalized for the purposes of this discussion. For exact representation, consult the local unit of government. A summary of the discussion that follows is provided on Table 1, and illustrated on Maps 5, 6 and 7.

Land uses around Negwegon consists of low-intensity development and undeveloped land (Map 5). Development consists of single family residential and agricultural uses. A typical use of undeveloped land is hunting camps and family cottages. Map 5 illustrates the existing land cover for the area. The land cover categories generally correspond to the existing land uses.

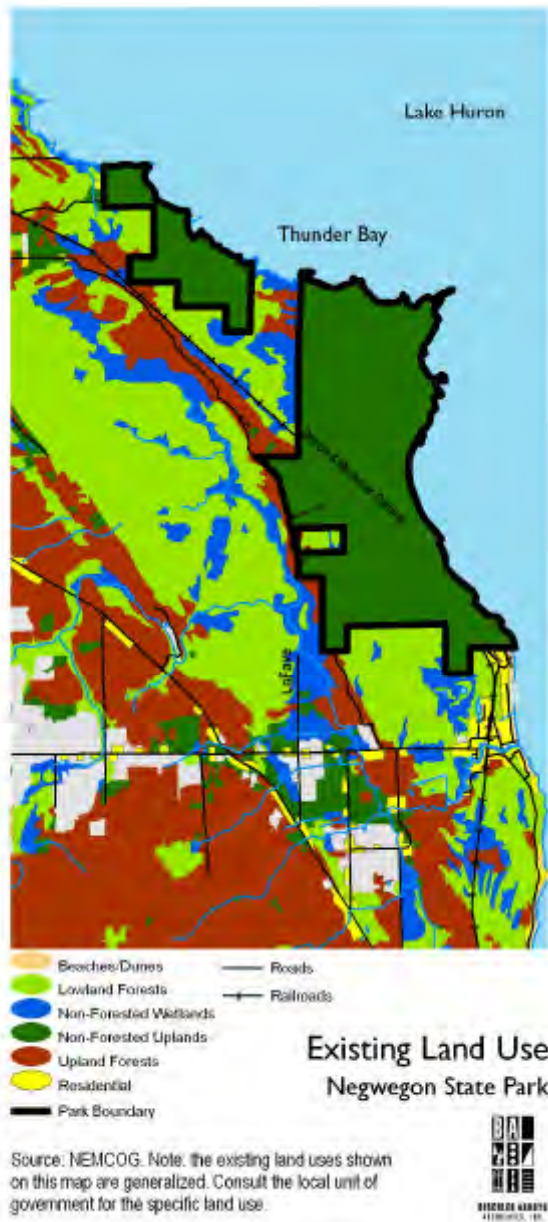
**Table 1: Summary of Existing Land Uses, Zoning Districts and Future Land Uses for Land Surrounding Negwegon State Park**

	Existing Land Uses	Zoning Districts	Future Land Uses
Negwegon State Park	Recreational uses	Forest	Commercial, No Additional Development and Possible Future Development
Land to the North	Residential and undeveloped land	Forest	Commercial, Forest Recreation, No Additional Development and Possible Future Development
Land to the South	Residential, agriculture, undeveloped land, and Alcona Township park and boat launch.	Forest, Agricultural Residential, Mobile Home Park, Commercial	Commercial, Forest Recreation, No Additional Development and Residential
Land to the West	Residential and undeveloped land	Forest	Commercial, Forest Recreation and No Additional Development
Land to the East	<i>NA - Bordered by Lake Huron to the East.</i>		

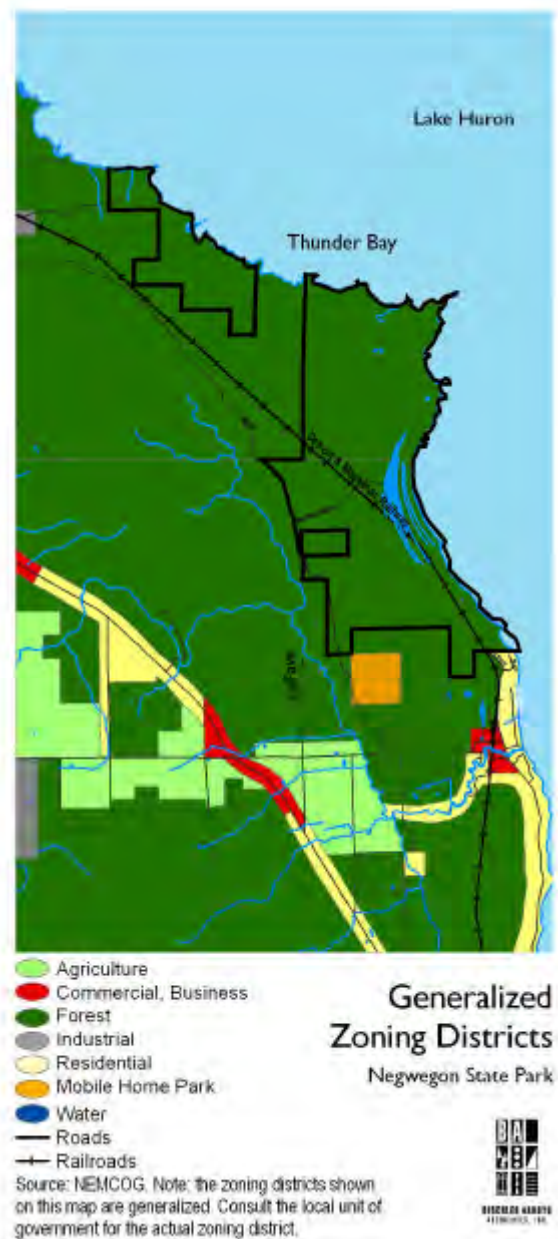


Zoning districts for the area are shown on Map 6. Zoning dictates how land owners may or may not use their property. The Park and most of the surrounding land is zoned Forest. Agriculture districts line Black River Road. Residential districts line the shoreline south of the Park, Black River, US-23 and Lake Shore Road. Commercial districts are designated along US-23, as well as at key intersections: Black River Road / Ridge Road and Black River Road and US-23. Zoning for a Mobile Home Park is also designated south of Negwegon.

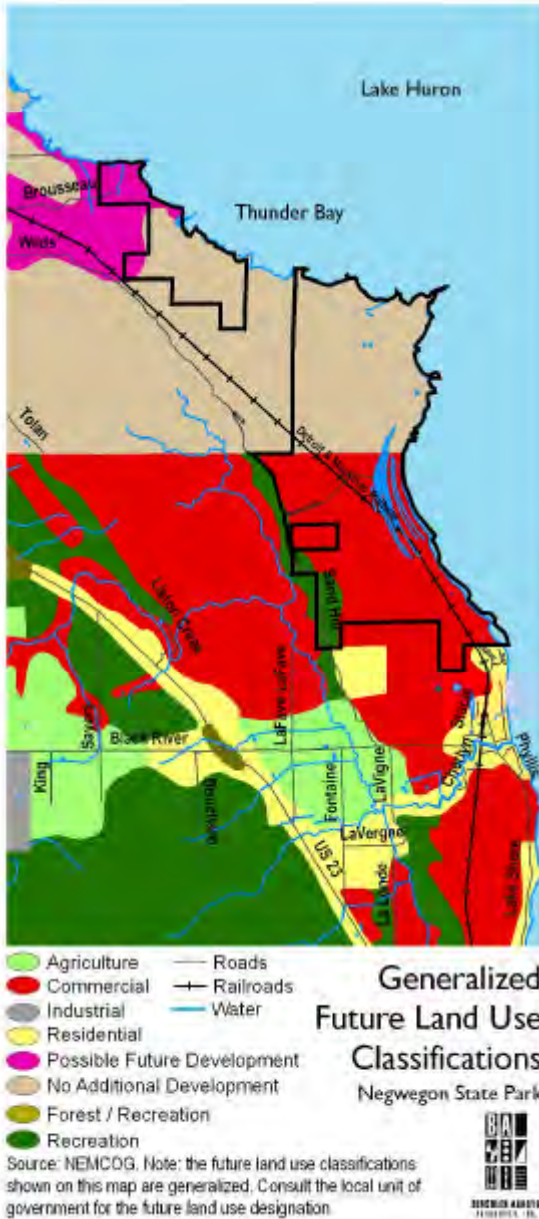
**Map 5: Land Cover**



**Map 6: Zoning Districts**



**Map 7: Future Land Uses**



Future land use maps express the community's vision for the area. Future land uses are not provide general patterns for development for a period of twenty years or more. Land development should conform to the Future Land Use plan over the long-term.

Alpena Township's plan for the future is to leave Negwegon and surrounding areas as undeveloped. A portion of the area to the northwest is designated as 'Possible Future Development.' Alcona Township has designated the southern portion of Negwegon and the surrounding land as 'Commercial.' Agriculture, Residential, and Forest Recreation uses are planned for the area around Sand Hill Road, Black River Road and US-23.

# A5. Natural Features Assessment



Understanding the physical conditions of Negwegon State Park is critical to designating management zones. Management zones must ensure that activities are compatible with the land's capacity, and sensitive areas are preserved and protected. This section reviews the ecological context of Negwegon, including climate, soils, water bodies, wetlands and areas prone to ponding, woodlands, and threatened and endangered species, or species of special concern.

## A5.1 Ecoregional Context

Negwegon State Park is located in the Presque Isle Subsection, sub-subsection VII.6.3, Cheboygan Ecoregion, according to the *Regional Landscape of Ecosystems of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin: A Working Map and Classification General Technical Report NC-178 (Fourth Revision: July 1994)* (Map 8). The following information is taken from NC-178.

The Cheboygan sub-subsection comprises 836 square miles of northern Michigan land. Much of this relatively flat area of calcareous glacial lake plain is wetland, largely dominated by northern white-cedar forests. Broadly diverse lacustrine features are present, supporting vegetation characteristic of the northern Great Lakes shoreline. The elevation ranges from 580 to 750 feet.

Climate. The growing season ranges from 130 days near the inland edge, to 140 days along much of the Lake Huron shorelines. The longest growing season is about 150 days at the extreme southeast edge near Alpena (Eichenlaub *et al.* 1990). Extreme minimum temperatures are approximately -28°F at the southernmost point of the sub-subsection, and 36°F to the north, where Lake Huron does not appear to modify the extreme low temperature to any great extent. Average annual precipitation is 28 to 30 inches, and average snowfall is 80 inches along the entire length of the sub-subsection.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Climatic Data Center is another source for climate information. Climatological normals, average values recorded from 1971 to 2000, indicate the following:

## Map 8: Ecoregional Context

Section VI.1 Washtenaw

VI.1.1. Maumee Lake Plain

VI.1.2. Ann Arbor Moraines

VI.1.3. Jackson Interlobate

Section VI.2 Kalamazoo

Interlobate

VI.2.1. Battle Creek Outwash

Plain

VI.2.2. Cassopolis Ice-

Contact Ridges

Section VI.3 Allegan

VI.3.1. Berrien Springs

VI.3.2. Southern Lake

Michigan Lake Plain

VI.3.3. Jamestown

Section VI.4 Ionia

VI.4.1. Lansing

VI.4.2. Greenville

Section VI.5 Huron

VI.5.1. Sandusky Lake Plain

VI.5.2. Lum Interlobate

Section VI.6 Saginaw Bay

Lake Plain

Section VII.1 Arenac

VII.1.1. Standish

VII.1.2. Wiggins Lake

Section VII.2 High Plains

VII.2.1. Cadillac

VII.2.2. Grayling

Outwash Plain

VII.2.3. Vanderbilt

Moraines

Section VII.3 Newaygo

Outwash Plain

VII.4. Manistee

VII.5. Leelanau and

Grand Traverse

Peninsula

VII.5.1. Williamsburg

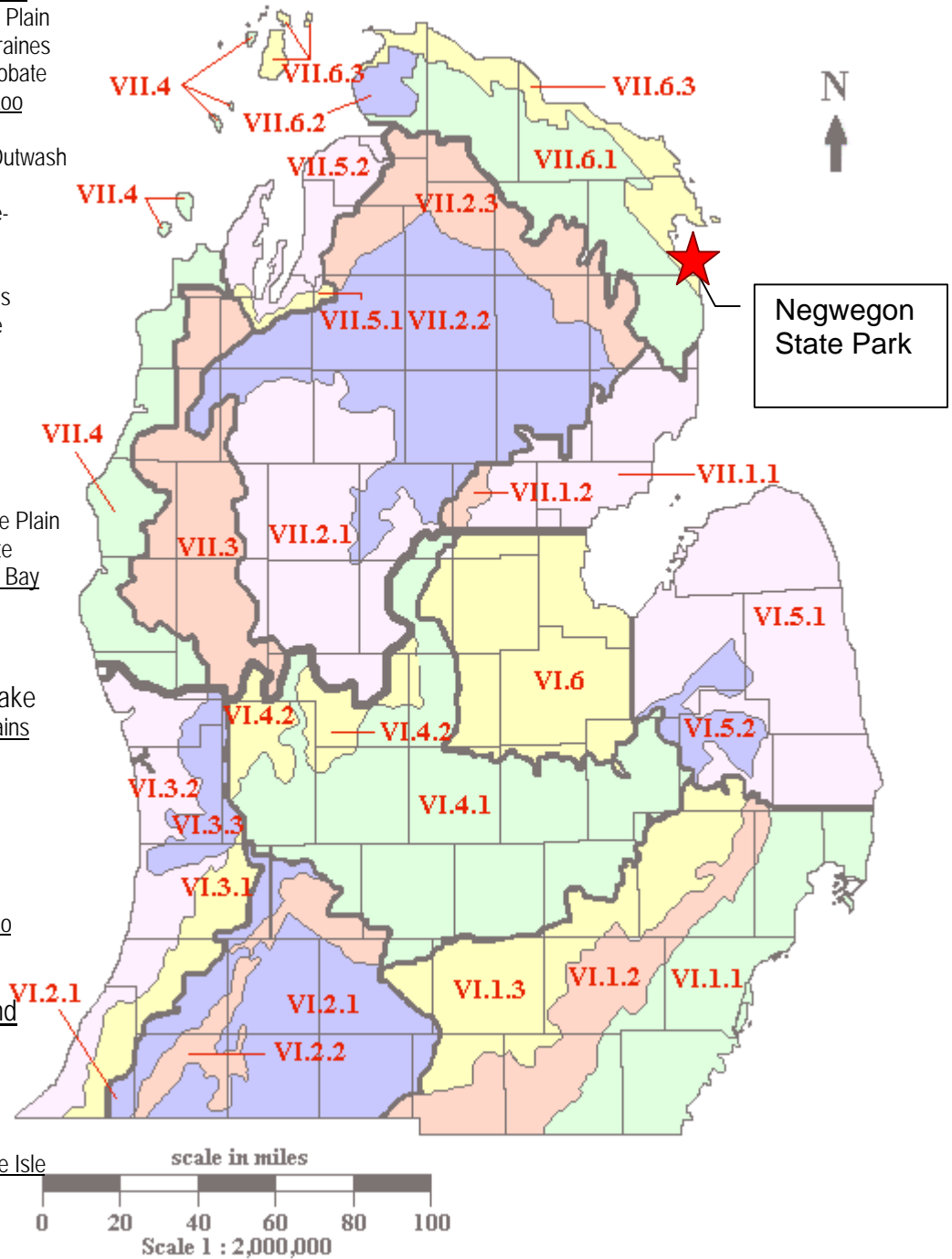
VII.5.2. Traverse City

Section VII.6 Presque Isle

VII.6.1. Onaway

VII.6.2. Stutsmanville

VII.6.3. Cheboygan



Source: *Regional Landscape of Ecosystems of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin: A Working Map and Classification General Technical Report NC-178 (Fourth Revision: July 1994).*



- † Mean daily temperature during winter months (Dec, Jan, Feb): 20.3°F
- † Mean daily temperature during spring months (Mar, Apr, May): 40.2°F
- † Mean daily temperature during summer months (Jun, Jul, Aug): 64.2°F
- † Mean daily temperature during fall months (Sept, Oct, Nov): 45.5°F
- † Mean annual precipitation: 28.4 inches
- † Average annual total snow fall, including ice pellets, sleet, and hail (data collected from 1964 through 2005): 84.7 inches

Bedrock Geology. For the Cheboygan sub-subsection, the glacial drift is discontinuous near the shoreline of Lake Huron. The underlying bedrock consists of Mississippian and Devonian marine and near-shore sedimentary deposits (Milstein 1987, Dorr and Eschman 1984). Limestone, dolomite, and gypsum are locally exposed and mined. Devonian bedrock in the subsection is a source for salt, brine, and major petroleum reservoirs (Dorr and Eschman 1984).

Negwegon State Park is situated on a calcareous sandy lake plain with mostly poorly drained soils. A narrow fringe of sandy soils with frequently exposed bedrock and cobble beach forms the border along Lake Huron, expanding into a series of old beach ridges alternating with wet depressions in the center of the park. Historically, the ridges were dominated by red and white pine, and the depressions primarily by lowland conifers such as white cedar, balsam fir, and white spruce. The north and south regions of the park are essentially flat, featureless lakeplain region that were historically dominated by white cedar swamp (source: Michigan Natural Features Inventory).

Landforms. sub-subsection VII.6.3 forms a narrow band of sandy lake plain, 2 to 10 miles wide, along the shoreline of Lake Huron (Comer *et al.* 1993a). Although a veneer of sand covers a large part of the sub-subsection's surface, limestone bedrock is near the surface of almost the entire sub-subsection; and exposed bedrock and cobble beaches are common.

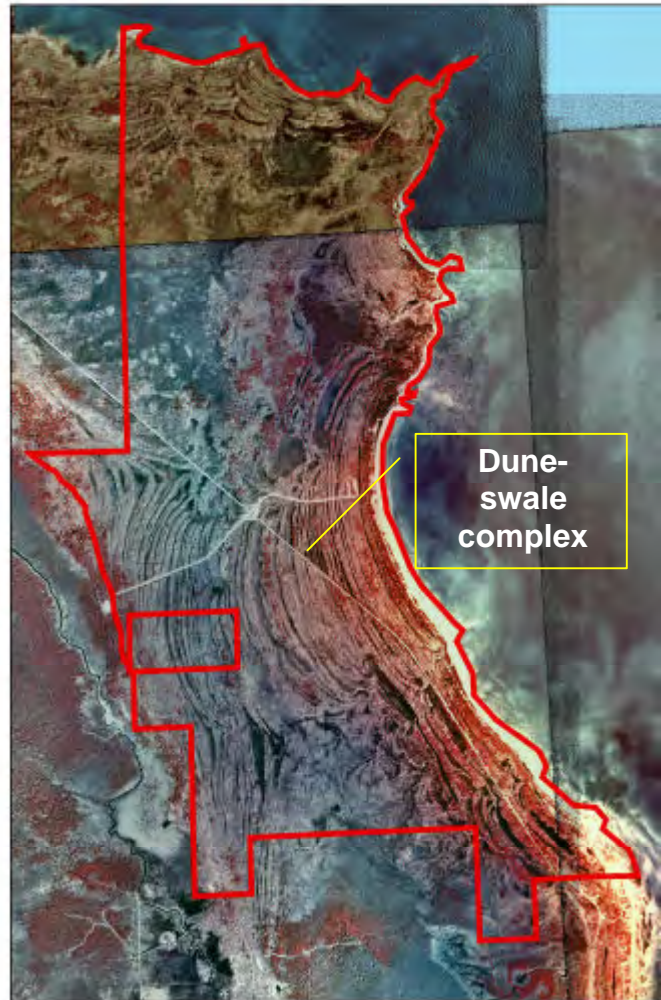
Similar to other sand lake plains in the State, much of the topography is a series of beach ridges and adjacent wet depressions, extending locally several miles inland. These dune and swale complexes are well developed in Sturgeon Bay of Lake Michigan and east of Cheboygan and along Hammond Bay of Lake Huron, and are of particular importance for Negwegon State Park (Map 9).

Near the present lake shore, the depressions are typically poorly drained and sometimes ponded. Farther inland, the depressions become better drained; in some places they are excessively drained, as are adjacent beach ridges. Sand dunes, low foredunes, sand spits, and beach ridges line much of the shoreline. The Original Swamp Map of Michigan (Lane 1907) shows most of the sub-subsection as swamp. Inland from the beach ridges and depressions are extensive flat, featureless areas of sand lake plain that are typically poorly

drained. Within these broad tracts occur low sandy rises with slightly better drainage.

**Map 9: Dune–Swale Complex in Negwegon State Park**

Most of the dunes on Lake Huron are relatively small; the largest being 30 to 40 feet high, near 40 Mile Beach. Exposed limestone bedrock and thick deposits of cobbles are common southeast of Rogers City. Waves have eroded the limestone bedrock into steep bluffs. At one time, organic soils covered the cobbles; but fire, which was widespread throughout this part of the lake plain at the time of the General Land Office (GLO) surveys, has destroyed much of the organic cover, leaving bare cobbles. Karst depressions occur around Long Lake and elsewhere in Presque Isle and Alpena counties.



Soils. Most of the soils are lacustrine sands. These soil types range from excessively drained to very poorly drained (Map 10).

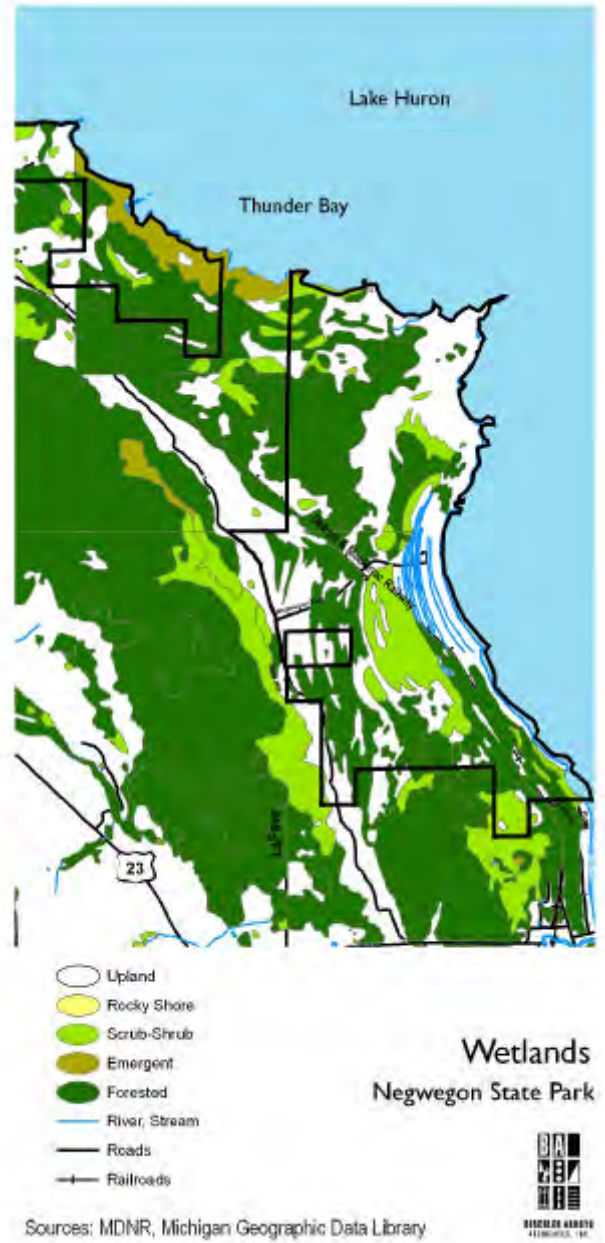
#### Lakes, Streams and Wetlands.

In the Cheboygan sub-subsection, major lakes include Carp, Grand, Grass and Long. Long, Grand, and Grass Lakes have long, linear basins formed by glacial erosion of the underlying bedrock. Large rivers in the sub-subsection are Thunder Bay, Ocqueoc, Black, and Cheboygan. Water resources prevalent in Negwegon include: wetlands in the northern portion of the Park, wetlands as part of the dune-swale complex, and approximately 6.5 miles of uninterrupted Lake Huron shoreline (Map 11).

**Map 10: Soils**

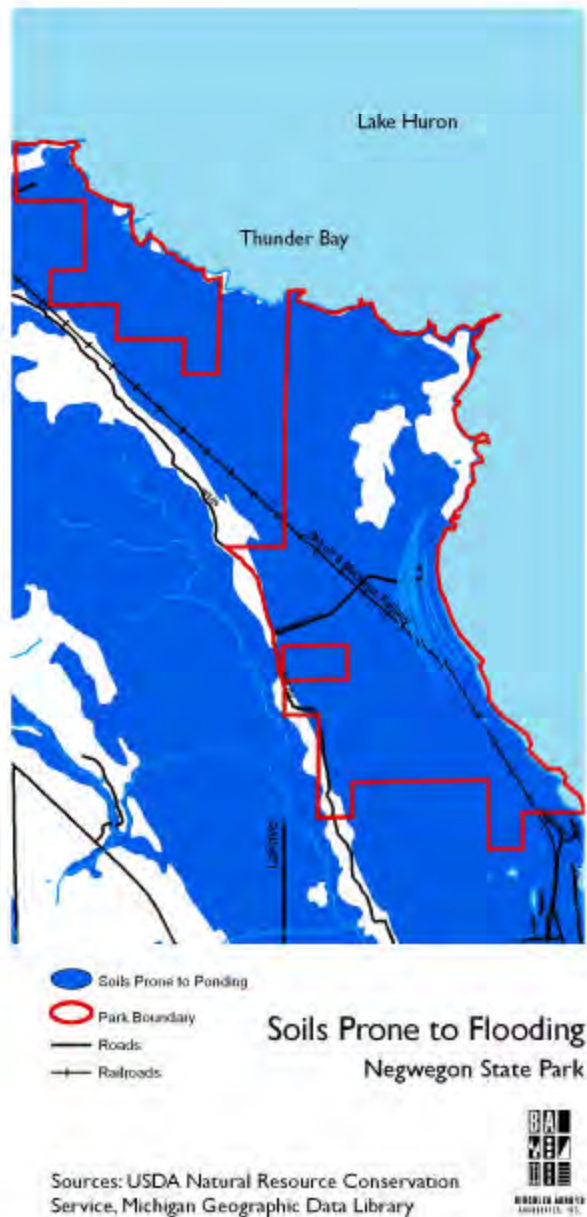


**Map 11: Wetlands**





**Map 12: Areas Prone to Flooding**



Flood-prone Areas. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has not mapped floodplains for this area of northern Michigan. Soil data from USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service was used to determine soils that exhibit properties characteristic of ponding and/or flooding. Based on soil data, there majority of Negwegon land is prone to ponding and/or flooding (Map 12).

Presettlement Vegetation. Originally, large areas of flat, poorly drained sand lake plain were dominated by lowland conifer forests. The most common species was the northern white-cedar. Northern white-cedars were dominant in areas where there was lateral water movement and they formed dense stands at the seepy, calcareous margins of adjacent sub-subsection VII.6.1. Tamarack was also a common dominant and often found growing with cedar. Tamarack was more common where drainage conditions were more impeded. Other wetland species common in the extensive wetlands of the sub-subsection included balsam fir, black spruce, eastern hemlock, white pine, balsam poplar, trembling aspen, paper birch, speckled alder, and shrub willows.

White pine and red pine were common co-dominants on the well-drained, low

sand ridges of the lake plain, especially near the Lake Huron shoreline. These pines also grew together on gravelly or rocky sites near the Lake Huron shoreline.

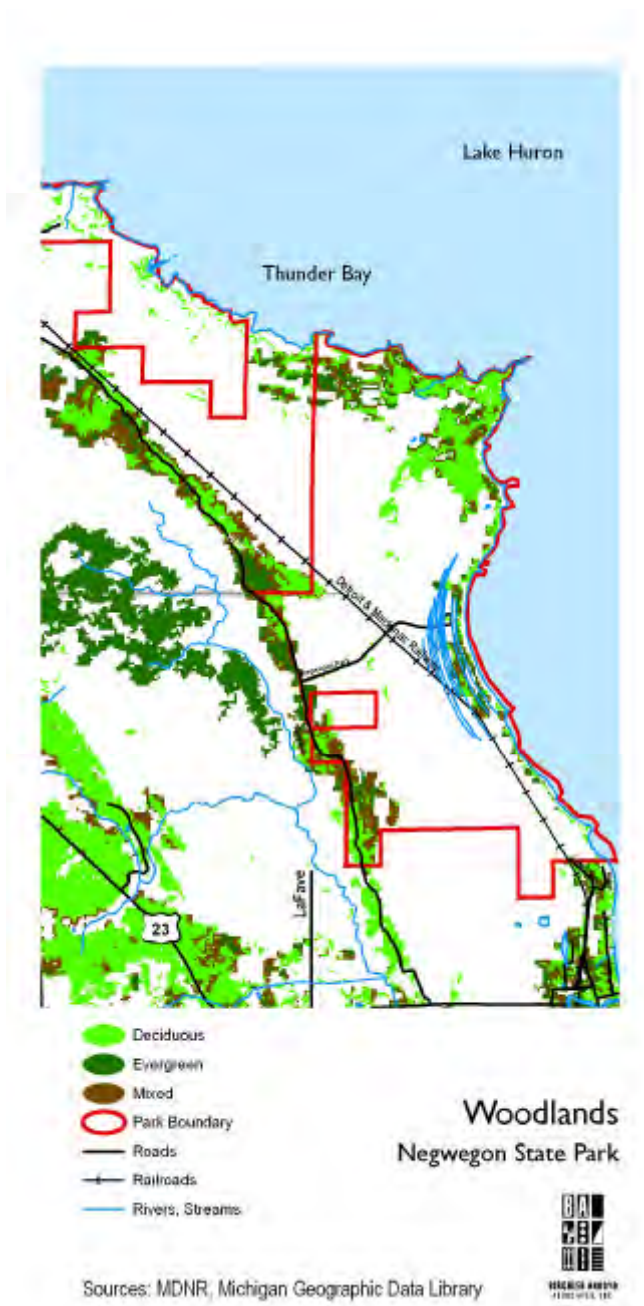
Hemlock and white pine were also common co-dominants, often where the drainage conditions were slightly poorer than where white pine and red pine grew together. Paper birch and trembling aspen also grew on flat to rolling parts of the sand lake plain.

Although northern hardwoods were not generally extensive in the sub-subsection, some large tracts were located around Long and Grand Lakes, along the Cheboygan and Black Rivers, and locally along the Lake Huron shorelines.

Natural Disturbances. Windthrows and burns are the two noted natural disturbances in the Cheboygan sub-subsection. Windthrows have been recorded near the boundary of the lake plain and on Hog, Garden, and High Islands. Two large areas of burned timber are thought to have been the result of early logging operations near Cheboygan, where log mills were already noted in the first survey: 1) Several square miles of timber were burned near Cheboygan; and 2) Areas near Thompson's Harbor and Grand Lake. Mixed stands of white pine and red pine appeared to be the forest type most impacted by the fires. Wildfires were also noted on Garden and Hog Islands.

Present Vegetation. In this sub-subsection, logging has greatly altered the forest composition of many upland forest types, especially those dominated by white pine, red pine, or hemlock. Negwegon State Park was once teeming with tall red and white pines, but extensive logging resulted in a fragmented complex of second growth communities. The lower lands primarily consist of hardwood and lowland conifer swamps, with pockets of shrub-thicket. The uplands consist primarily of paper birch, red maple and aspen trees (Map 13).

**Map 13: Woodlands**



Negwegon's Fisheries Values. Some of Lake Huron's most important lake trout and whitefish spawning reefs are in Thunder Bay. The Negwegon beach is almost unaltered and is habitat to at least 40 fish species, including juvenile lake whitefish. Negwegon is exceptionally valuable as whitefish spawning habitat in November and nursery habitat in May and June. It hosts a wide variety of nongame species year round. Waters adjacent to Negwegon hold good numbers of smallmouth bass, walleyes, brown trout, lake trout, and whitefish and growing numbers of yellow perch. The property is valuable for study of beach zone species composition and diversity in the absence of shoreline modification.

The most important attributes of the many bedrock and glacially derived reefs adjacent to Negwegon are their value to whitefish spawning, which takes place each November. Whitefish are Lake Huron's most important commercial species, and about 1.8 million pounds are harvested annually from Presque Isle to Harrisville. There is growing recognition that the Thunder Bay area is a focal point for whitefish spawning in Lake Huron. A recently-completed tagging of 9,000 adult spawning-phase whitefish from the Rockport/Middle Island area to South Point of Thunder Bay ascertained the relative importance of Thunder Bay as a spawning site in Lake Huron. Beach seining has shown that whitefish use the beach zone for post-larval habitat and that the Thunder Bay area produces the highest seine catches of juvenile whitefish of all sites sampled between Hammond Bay and Saginaw Bay (Johnson, J. E., S. P. Dewitt, and J. Clevenger. In press. *Causes of variable survival of Chinook salmon stocked into Lake Huron. Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Research Report. Ann Arbor, MI*). Lake trout spawn successfully at three reefs in the Thunder Bay area. These are the only nearshore reefs in Michigan that lake trout are known to spawn on successfully, and thus are of key importance to the international lake trout rehabilitation effort in Lake Huron (Johnson, J. E., and J. P. VanAmberg. 1995. *Evidence of natural reproduction of lake trout in western Lake Huron. Journal of Great Lakes Research* 21 (Supplement 1):253-259).

Of course, fishing was the original occupation of settlers that eventually established the community of Alpena. The area remains the center of whitefish commercial fishing, in terms of total pounds harvested annually, for the Great Lakes. Thus, there is a heritage element to the importance of the Negwegon area to whitefish spawning and commercial fishing. Walleyes feed much of the year off Negwegon, whether Negwegon offers a spawning habitat for walleyes is unknown as the water may be too cold during the spring. Walleye spawning is more successful in tributaries and the warmest bays and inlets.

There is a healthy population of smallmouth bass in the Negwegon/Thunder Bay area. This species uses the nearshore waters for spawning each May and June. Smallmouth bass spawning occurs in most protected, warmer water, coves along the shore of Negwegon. Smallmouth bass are underrepresented in gill-nets, which used for much of the sampling, and are believed to be more common than

surveys suggest. Fishing for smallmouth bass and walleyes occurs along the shore from Ossineke through Negwegon to South Point of Thunder Bay. This section of shore is accessed by fishers using the Devil River State Access Site, which is suitable for launching smaller fishing boats. Many visitors to the area tend to camp at the Ossineke State Forest Campground and launch at the Devil River, as both sites are within a mile of each other. Some fishers enjoy wading along Negwegon to shore fish for smallmouth bass.

An assessment netting of Thunder Bay is performed annually. The table below indicates the results from species caught during a brown trout study of Thunder Bay, and is taken from Table 1 of *Investigations into recent declines in survival of brown trout stocked in Lake Charlevoix and Thunder Bay, Lake Huron* by Johnson, J. E., and G. P. Rakoczy, 2004, MDNR, Fisheries Research Report 2075, Ann Arbor.

**Fish species sampled in graded-mesh gillnets, spring, 1990-2001, Thunder Bay, Lake Huron.**

Common name	Scientific name	Frequency	Mean Total Length (mm)	Percent
Alewife	<i>Alosa pseudoharengus</i>	971	171	30.30
Walleye	<i>Stizostedion vitreum</i>	750	492	23.40
Yearling brown trout	<i>Salmo trutta</i>	734	198	22.90
Channel catfish	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>	245	432	7.64
White sucker	<i>Catostomus commersoni</i>	100	403	3.12
Freshwater drum	<i>Aplodinotus grunniens</i>	73	362	2.28
Burbot	<i>Lota lota</i>	63	568	1.97
Age 2+ brown trout	<i>Salmo trutta</i>	62	468	1.93
Gizzard shad	<i>Dorsoma cepedianum</i>	57	390	1.78
Lake trout	<i>Salvalinus namaycush</i>	45	569	1.40
Brown bullhead	<i>Ictalurus nebulosus</i>	22	295	0.69
Round whitefish	<i>Prosopium cylindraceum</i>	20	447	0.62
Yellow perch	<i>Perca flavescens</i>	14	208	0.44
Rock bass	<i>Ambloplites rupestris</i>	11	164	0.34
Common carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	9	631	0.28
Northern pike	<i>Esox lucius</i>	7	726	0.22
Bowfin	<i>Amia calva</i>	4	632	0.12
Rainbow trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	4	469	0.12
Smallmouth bass	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>	3	291	0.09
Stonecat	<i>Noturus flavus</i>	2	214	0.06
Chinook salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	2	439	0.06
Longnose sucker	<i>Catostomus catostomus</i>	2	463	0.06
Longnose gar	<i>Lepisosteus osseus</i>	1	713	0.03
White perch	<i>Morone americana</i>	1	198	0.03
Lake whitefish	<i>Coregonus clupeaformis</i>	1	555	0.03
Largemouth bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	1	314	0.03
Round goby	<i>Neogobius melanostomus</i>	1	132	0.03
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,205</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>100</b>



## A5.2 Threatened, Endangered and Special Concern Species

Negwegon is a contiguous parcel of undeveloped land that provides a choice habitat for numerous varieties of plants and animals. Species of special concern, and threatened and endangered species sighted in Negwegon are noted below.

### Species of Special Concern

Most *Species of Special Concern* are noted as such because of their declining populations in the state. Should these species continue to decline, they would be recommended for Threatened or Endangered status. The goal is protection of 'Special Concern' species before they reach dangerously low population levels. Species of Special Concern listed in Negwegon are:

- † Blanding's Turtle (sighted in June of 2007)
- † Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake

### Threatened Species

A "threatened" species is one that is likely to become endangered in the near future. Threatened species listed for Negwegon are:

- † Red-shouldered Hawk
- † Pitcher's Thistle
- † Great Blue Heron
- † Bald Eagle
- † Caspian Tern
- † Osprey

### Endangered Species

An endangered species is one that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. The Piping plover and Hines emerald dragonfly are two listed endangered species that have been observed in Negwegon. There are not designated critical habitats for either species.



*Blanding's Turtle*

## A6. Cultural and Historic Resources



Negwegon State Park is significant from an archeological perspective. Though only a few remnants from earlier occupation exist today, Negwegon State Park is home to some fascinating artifacts. Several large pits formed from rocks, and a rock wall traversing a wetlands area<sup>1</sup> are indicators that this area was home to former civilizations. It is known that the Park was named after Chief Negwegon of the Chippewa tribe, who lived in this area with his band because of the ample supply of fish and game. It is also known that Thunder Bay was home to the Ottawa and Potawatomi tribes. However, it is not conclusive that these tribes are responsible for the formations.

The natural resources in the Park are significant from a historic perspective, as well. There is a very large late woodland site located in Negwegon. Also, each beach ridge has the potential to have an archaic site on it.

In 1997, an archaeological study of Negwegon State Park was commissioned. Conducted by Great Lakes Research Associates, Inc., *Phase I Archaeological Survey, Negwegon State Park, Alcona and Alpena Counties, Michigan*, concluded the following:

“While there is little doubt the Negwegon State Park stone features are the result of human action, their functional and temporal origin remains unknown at the present time. In general, two interpretations have been offered. The first is that they are the product of historic period agricultural practices . . . [t]he second postulates that these features were created by the local prehistoric or historic Native American communities, in either an agricultural or ritual context. “

There is evidence of western culture influence as well. The old stage coach route from Harrisville to Alpena follows the shoreline, and a segment of the original trail

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<sup>1</sup> The purpose of this rock wall is not known for certain, but one theory suggests that wall was used by Native Americans to trap fish.

runs through Negwegon. Remnants of a stone well, foundation and chimney are present in the park.

Just to the south of Negwegon State Park, in Harrisville, is Sturgeon Point Lighthouse, which is open to the public. Sturgeon Point Lighthouse was built in 1869, and is maintained today to look as it did at that time. There are also two light houses in Alpena - Alpena Light and Thunder Bay Island Lighthouse. Presque Isle Lighthouse is the next publicly-accessible light house to the north, and Tawas Point Light House is the closest publicly-accessible lighthouse to the south.

The Thunder Bay Region is home to numerous shipwrecks, which are remnants of Michigan's rich water-transportation history. The unpredictable waters and weather of the region, coupled with heavy ship traffic during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, produced an area that is now the *Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve*. It is estimated that anywhere between 40 and 100 wrecked ships are in the area.

Just north of South Point is the confirmed wreck of the Nellie Gardner ship. The Nellie Gardner was a wooden schooner-barge sent out to Alpena from Tawas in inclement weather. The Nellie Gardner tried to return to port, but failed to make when it struck a reef and broke into two pieces. The wreck is in only 20 feet of water and is in good condition due to the cold, fresh water of Lake Huron.

## A7. Education and Interpretation



*Dedication to C. Hazlett Kramer,  
Humanitarian and Conservationist.*

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources recognizes education and interpretation opportunities in terms of those that offer resource-based programming. Currently, there are no formal or regularly-scheduled educational or interpretive programs offered at Negwegon. However, upon special request, the Park's explorer guide can be available to facilitate educational and interpretation opportunities. In addition, Kids in Park (KIP) is a statewide program available at all Michigan state parks. KIP entails fourth grade teachers using the park as an outdoor classroom. While Negwegon would be available for this program, no KIP events have occurred here to date.



## A8. Regional Recreational Resources

This section presents the recreational resources available at Negwegon State Park as well as recreational facilities in the northeast region.

### A8.1 Negwegon State Park Recreational Resources

Currently the Park is primarily a rustic, undeveloped resource. Existing facilities include a parking area, restrooms, a water pump (year-round), and unpaved trail. Activities that can be enjoyed are:

- Hiking
- Swimming
- Birding
- Wildlife and wildflower viewing
- Fishing
- Dispersed snowmobiling
- Kayaking
- Beach access
- Metal detection
- Hunting and trapping

Negwegon State Park visitors are welcome from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm, year-round. Off-road vehicles (ORVs) and equestrian uses are not permitted in the Park.

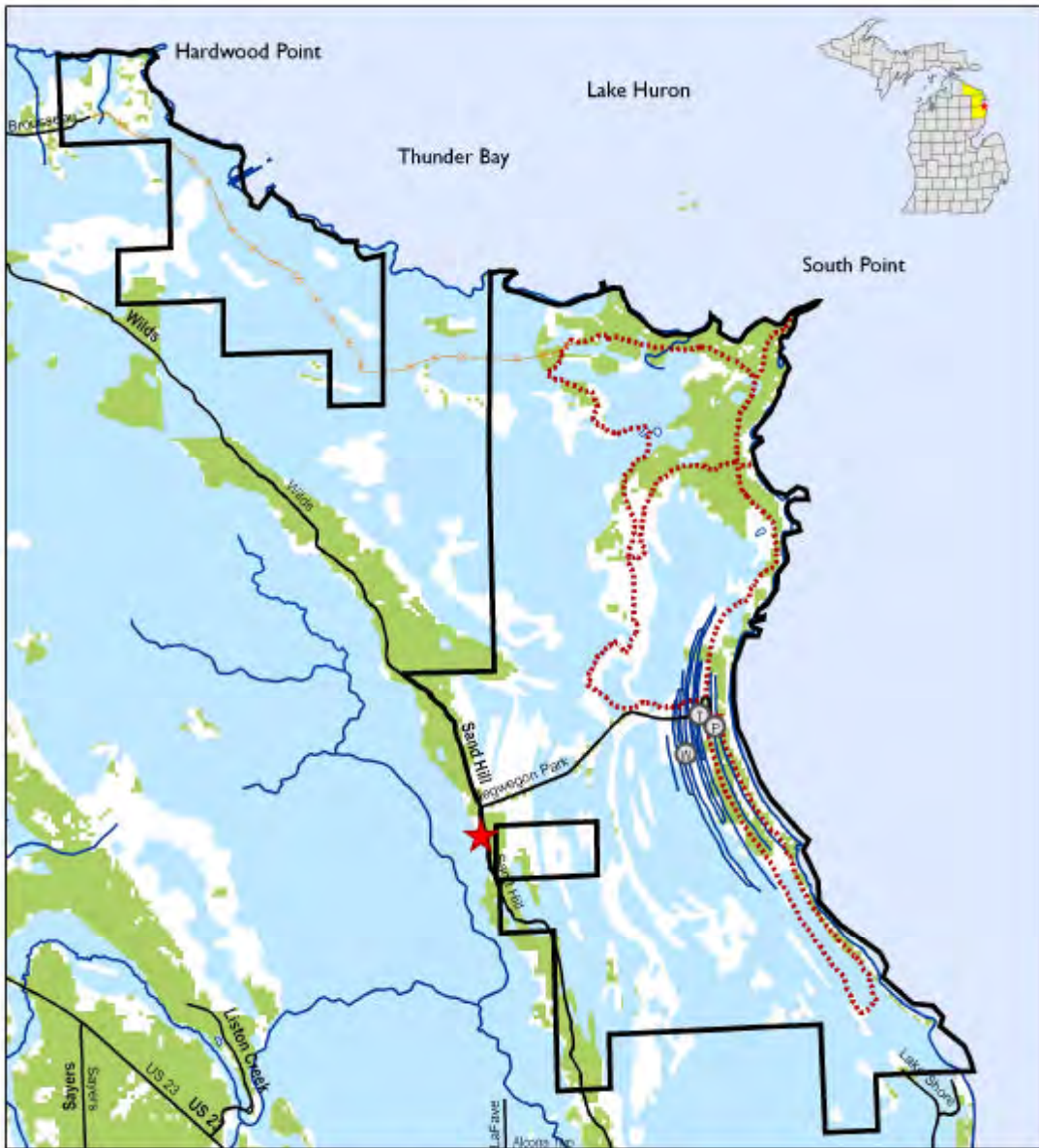
Because the Park has been undisturbed, there are many rare natural resources. These include wooded dune-swale complexes, sandy beaches lined with White Pine, wetlands in the northern section, pine forests, and hardwood / aspen forests. Map 14 presents the existing recreational resources and natural features currently available within the Park.

### A8.2 Regional Recreational Resources

Determination of existing recreational facilities and programs is an essential step in the recreation planning process. Regional facilities are illustrated on Map 15, (page A-31) *Regional Recreational Resources*, and summarized in Table 2. The following list describes the recreational resources that are of similar size and scale to Negwegon State Park, and would therefore have a similar regional draw.



## Map 14: Negwegon State Park Recreational Resources and Natural Features



- Park Boundary
- Woodlands
- Wetlands
- River, Stream
- Main Entrance
- Parking
- Toilets
- Well

- Paved Road
- Dirt Road
- Footpath / Trail
- Unpaved Multi-use Trail

### Recreational Resources

Negwegon State Park

Sources: Northeast Michigan Council of Governments, and Michigan Geographic Library.



### National Forest Land

- † Huron-Manistee National Forest: A chain of forest land traversing central Michigan. Uses allowed include dispersed camping, hiking, hunting and trapping, and equestrian trails. There are no designated biking trails and off-road vehicle (ORV) use is allowed in some areas of the National Forest land.

### State Forest Land

- † Mackinaw State Forest: 717,500 acres of forest land located within eight counties in the northern Lower Peninsula: Alpena; Antrim; Charlevoix; Cheboygan; Emmet; Montmorency; Otsego and Presque Isle. Most of the Mackinaw State Forest was logged for Red and White Pine during the late 1800's, early 1900's. The forest is managed today for second-growth logging, recreation, and tourism purposes. Mackinaw State Forest contributes fifty of the 1,500+ mile North Country Trail, which spans from North Dakota to New York.

### State Park Land

- † Harrisville State Park: 107 acres. Features include: a campground; day-use area; Michigan State Park Explorer Program; playground; swimming; picnic area (with fire pits and grills); hiking; cross-country skiing; and, metal detecting area.
- † Rockport (State Forest Land): 4,240 acres. Rockport is located on the Lake Huron shoreline, is primarily rustic and undeveloped, and has significant natural features. Recreational opportunities include: picnicking (area leased to Alpena Township); boating launch site; fishing; trails; beach; limestone quarry; hunting and trapping; water access point for Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary; connection to Besser Bell Natural Area; Middle Island property.
- † Thompson's Harbor State Park: 5,110 acres. Thompson's Harbor is located on the Lake Huron shoreline, is primarily rustic and undeveloped, and has significant natural features. Recreational opportunities include: picnicking; hiking (6 miles of trails, portion of which are handicap accessible); interpretive signage; fishing; hunting and trapping; cross-country skiing (not groomed); biking; Lake Huron access; and snowmobiling (no designated trails). Thompson's Harbor includes a Natural Area, and may also have a Critical Habitat designation for the Hines emerald dragonfly.
- † Hoeft State Park: 300 acres. Recreational opportunities include: Michigan State Park Explorer Program; two playgrounds; swimming; picnic area (with fire pits and grills); picnic shelter; biking (10-foot wide paved multi-use path connected to the Huron Sunrise Trail); hiking (4.5 miles); cross-country skiing (groomed trails); metal detecting area; hunting; and fishing.



### State Forest Campground

- † McCullum Lake State Forest Campground (Clinton Township, Oscoda County):
  
- † Ossineke State Forest Campground (Sanborn Township, Alpena County): 42 camp sites for tent or small trailer use on a first-come/first serve basis, located five miles north of Negwegon State Park. Recreational opportunities include: barrier-free boardwalk to Lake Huron; picnicking; fishing (Lake Huron, Devil's Lake, Devil's River); hiking and biking (1 mile of trail); boating access site; and ten miles of full-sized ORV trails.
  
- † Thunder Bay River State Forest Campground (Wilson Township, Alpena County): 10 campsites for tent or small trailer use on a first-come/first-serve basis, located 35 miles north of Negwegon State Park. Campground is sited on the Thunder Bay River, providing water access to every campsite. Recreational opportunities include: small boat launch; Wah-Wah-Tas-See Pathway access (includes Native American interpretive information); vault toilets and potable water from hand pump well; fishing and hunting; hiking; biking; and cross-country skiing.

### Natural Areas

- † Besser Bell: 134 acres currently under the management of the Mackinaw State Forest. This dedicated natural area is significant for its stand of mature, virgin red and white pine with spruce, balsam, cedar and birch. This area also includes over 4,000 feet of Lake Huron shoreline composed primarily of limestone gravel shore, and provides habitat for plant species of special concern, including the Pitcher's thistle, a plant threatened with extinction.
  
- † Approximately 307 acres within Thompson's Harbor are a dedicated Natural Area. This land has been dedicated accordingly because it encompasses a portion of a complex of forested dunes and swales. In Michigan, there are fewer than 50 remaining examples of forested wet swale communities of this quality. This area also supports one of the largest known populations in the world of the federal and state-threatened dwarf lake iris, Michigan's state wildflower. The land is under the management of Thompson's Harbor State Park. Activities to be enjoyed in the Natural Area include: hiking, wildflower viewing, nature study, photography, wildlife viewing.

### County Parks

- † Alcona County Recreation Area (Harrisville Township, Alcona County). Amenities/activities: Drinking water, restrooms and picnic facilities.

- † Beaver Lake County Park (Ossineke Township, Alpena County).  
Amenities/activities: Fishing, hiking, swimming; camping, boat launch, Convenience Store.
- † Long Lake County Park (Alpena Township, Alpena County).  
Amenities/activities: Fishing, hiking, swimming; camping, boat launch.
- † Sunken Lake Campground / Park (Posen Township, Presque Isle County).  
Amenities/activities: Fishing, hiking, swimming; camping, boat launch.

### Marinas / Boat Launches

There are several points of access to inland lakes and Lake Huron. The locations listed below offer both marina and boat launch facilities.

- † Alpena Municipal Marina and Boat Launch
- † Hammond Bay State Harbor (Presque Isle County)
- † Harrisville Municipal Harbor / Marina
- † Presque Isle State Harbor (State owned and operated)
- † Rogers City Municipal Marina

### Other

- † Lighthouses. Several lighthouses are located off the northeast Michigan shoreline. Middle Island Light House, Forty-Mile Point Lighthouse, New Presque Isle Lighthouse, Old Presque Isle Lighthouse are generally open to the public and provide a unique aspect of Michigan's history.

Sturgeon Scenic Point offers parking for visitors interested in visiting the lighthouse and museum on the property. The Alcona Historical Society is responsible for upkeep on the light that is owned by the US Coast Guard.

- † US-23 Heritage Route. On May 6, 2004, US-23 from Standish to Mackinaw City was officially designated as a Recreational Heritage Route, and given the moniker "Sunrise Side Coastal Highway."
- † Huron Greenways. An initiative led by NEMCOG that developed a system of land and water trails connecting Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan and Presque Isle counties and the resources within them. Thompson's Harbor is one stop within the greenway system.
- † Bluewater Trail. A proposed railway comprised of navigable waters. Negwegon would be part of such a network.
- † ORV Trails. Groomed snowmobile trails on the west side of Presque Isle County and some just south in Alpena County. These trails are used each

year by many snowmobile enthusiasts. ORV trails are provided further southwest in the National forest land near Oscoda.

- † Great Lakes Circle Tour. The Tour was developed in the late 1980s and consists of a 6,500-mile road network connecting the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River. Information about the tour, including campgrounds, recreational areas and local attractions, is available to tourists on-line.

### **A8.3 Areas of Conflict**

With diverse and multiple interests come the potential for conflict between users and/or between users and the natural resources or historic/cultural values of the Recreation Area. Conflicts will be reviewed during Phase II of the General Management Plan process.







**Table 2: Summary of Regional Recreational Resources**

Recreational Resource	County	City / Township	FEATURES										
			Picnic Area	Hiking	Biking	Equestrian	Swimming	Snow Mobiling	Skiing	Camping	Drinking Water	Rest rooms	Showers
<b>National Recreational Resources</b>													
Huron-Manistee State Forest	Multiple	Alcona County	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
<b>State Recreational Resources</b>													
Besser Natural Area	Presque Isle	Presque Isle Township	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
Forty Mile Point Lighthouse Park	Presque Isle	Rogers Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Harrisville State Park	Alcona	Harrisville Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Mackinaw State Forest	Multiple	Multiple	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
McCollum Lake State Forest Campground	Oscoda	Clinton Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO
Negwegon State Park	Alcona	Sanborn / Alcona Township	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
New Presque Isle Lighthouse Park	Presque Isle	Presque Isle Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Old Presque Isle Lighthouse Park	Presque Isle	Presque Isle Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Ossineke State Forest Campground	Alpena	Sanborn Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
Sturgeon Point Scenic Site	Alcona	Alcona Township	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
P.H. Hoefft State Park	Presque Isle	Rogers Township	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Presque Isle Harbor	Presque Isle	Presque Isle Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO
Thompson's Harbor State Park	Presque Isle	Krakow Township	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
Thunder Bay River State Forest Campground	Alpena	Wilson Township	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
<b>County Recreational Resources</b>													
Alcona County Recreation Area	Alcona	Harrisville Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Beaver Lake County Park	Alpena	Ossineke Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Long Lake County Park	Alpena	Alpena Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Sunken Lake Campground/Park	Presque Isle*	Posen Township	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
<b>Local Recreational Resources</b>													
Alpena Township Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Avery Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Barton City Community Park	Alcona	Millen Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Bayview Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO
Black River Recreation Area	Alcona	Alcona Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Black River/Lake Huron Site	Alcona	Alcona Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
Blair Street Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Brownlee Lake Park	Alcona	Hawes Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Chisholm Street Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Duck Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO

\* Operated by Alpena County.

**Table 2: Summary of Recreational Resources (Continue)**

Recreational Resource	County	City / Township	FEATURES										
			Picnic Area	Hiking	Biking	Equestrian	Swimming	Snow Mobiling	Skiing	Camping	Drinking Water	Rest rooms	Showers
Emerick Park	Montmorency	Hillman Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Fletcher-Gilcrest Park	Presque Isle	Krakow Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Grand Lake Roadside Park	Presque Isle	Krakow Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Harrisville Harbor	Alcona	Harrisville Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO
Harrisville Recreation Area	Alcona	Harrisville Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
Herman Vogler Conservation Area	Presque Isle	Rogers City	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
Hillman Roadside Park	Montmorency	Rust Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
Hoist Lake Area	Alcona	Mitchell Township	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
Hubbard Lake Access Site	Alcona	Caledonia Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Hubbard Lake North End Park	Alcona	Caledonia Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Island Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Jewell Lake Campground	Alcona	Millen Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO
Lakeside Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
LaMarre Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Long Rapids Park	Alpena	Long Rapids Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Manning Hill Park	Alpena	Green Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
Maple Ridge Township Park	Alpena	Maple Ridge Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
McRae Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
Mich-e-ke-wis Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
Mill Pond Park	Alcona	Harrisville Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Mitchell Township Park	Alcona	Mitchell Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
North Riverfront Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Northshore Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
Pineview Park	Montmorency	Hillman Township	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Public Works Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
Quarry View Roadside Park	Presque Isle	Bruningville Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Railroad Park	Alcona	Gustin Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Range Light Park	Presque Isle	Presque Isle Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Recreational Park	Alcona	Gustin Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
Reid Lake Foot Travel Area	Alcona	Millen Township	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
Riverside Park	Montmorency	Hillman Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Riverside Skate Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Riverview Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES



**Table 2: Summary of Recreational Resources (Concluded)**

Recreational Resource	County	City / Township	FEATURES										
			Picnic Area	Hiking	Biking	Equestrian	Swimming	Snow Mobiling	Skiing	Camping	Drinking Water	Rest rooms	Showers
Roadside Park	Presque Isle	Belknap Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Roadside Park	Presque Isle	Krakow Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Roadside Park	Presque Isle	Rogers Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Rockport Property	Alpena	Alpena / Presque Isle Townships	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Rotary Island Mill Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Sanborn Park	Alpena	Sanborn Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Scenic Turnout	Presque Isle	Presque Isle Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Seagull Point Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
Shin-ga-ba Shores	Alpena	Sanborn Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
South Riverfront Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
South Shore Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
Sports Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Spruce Park	Alcona	Caledonia Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Starlite Beach	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
Sytek Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Thomson Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Thunder Bay Recreation Ctr/Northern Lights Arena	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Tournament Park	Montmorency	Hillman Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Trout River Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
Veteren's Memorial Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Washington Avenue Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Waterfront Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Westminster Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO



## A9. Park Use and Economic Impact

### A9.1 Park Use

Negwegon State Park's unique natural environments may explain why it receives approximately 18,500 people annually (2005 data). Approximately 2,308 people visit the park per month during the peak use season, which is May through November. On average, 468 people visit the park during non-peak use season, that being December through April.

### A9.2 Economic Impact

Negwegon State Park does not currently generate revenue from park visitors. To determine its economic value to the community, the Money Generation Model Version 2 (MGM2 Short Form) was applied. Dr. Dan Stynes of Michigan State University developed this economic analysis tool. The MGM2 Short Form is an update of the MGM model developed by Dr. Ken Hornback for the National Park System in 1995. The purpose of the model is to estimate the impact of park visitor spending on the local economy. These economic impacts are reflected in terms of sales, income, employment, and value added.

This MGM2 Model uses three factors for determining economic impact or tourism spending: *number of visits* multiplied by the *average spending per visitor* multiplied by a *multiplier*, which estimates the extended effects of direct spending. The formula produces a very basic analysis that is ideal for the non-economist and an excellent tool for obtaining a base-line assessment of the economic impacts of Negwegon.

#### Direct Economic Effects to the Community

The MGM2 Model results indicate that Negwegon is contributing to the local economy (based on 2005 data):

- † Direct Spending attributable to Negwegon State Park totaled \$172,000.
- † Jobs created totaled 5 (Note: jobs are not full-time positions but part-time and seasonal employment).

† Personal Income totaled \$58,460.

† Value added (total income plus business taxes) totaled \$88,260.

#### Total Economic Effects to the Community

Total economic effects reflect 'Direct Effects' plus the 'Secondary Effects' of visitor spending on the local economy. Secondary Effects (sometimes called 'Multiplier Effects') capture economic activity that results from the re-circulation of money spent by the park visitors in the community. Based on 2005 data, the estimated total economic effects for Negwegon are:

† Total Spending: \$227,260.

† Jobs: 6.32.

† Personal Income: \$76,900.

† Value Added: \$122,380.

**APPENDIX B**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**PROGRAM RESULTS**

**FOR NEGWEGON STATE PARK**



## Public Participation

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division (DNR-PRD) emphasized that comments on the general management plans would be accepted at any time during the process. The formal public participation program included an extensive public participation component in the general management plan process. The participation initiatives are summarized below, and the results for all three sites (Negwegon, the Rockport Property and Thompson's Harbor) presented in this Appendix.

- † October 29, 2007 Stakeholder Workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to obtain comments on the draft General Management Plans for Negwegon State Park, the Rockport Property, and Thompson's Harbor State Park. With assistance from the Planning Team, approximately 212 people and organizations were identified as stakeholders. Invitations to the Stakeholder Workshop were sent by email (2), mail (207) and phone (3). Forty people attended the workshop. The sign-in sheet is included in this Appendix.

Stakeholders were invited to comment at the meeting. Stakeholders could also comment by completing a survey. The survey was mailed to each stakeholder, and was also available at the workshop and available on-line. Surveys could be completed before or after the workshop.

- † December 11, 2007 Public Input workshop. The DNR-PRD conducted two Public Input Workshops on December 11, 2007. The purpose of the workshop was to obtain comments on the draft General Management Plans for Negwegon State Park, the Rockport Property, and Thompson's Harbor State Park. The workshops were published in the local newspapers. Fifty-three attendants signed-in at the 3:00 pm session. Nineteen attendants signed in at the 5:00 pm session.

There were three opportunities to provide comments:

- 1) Comment at the workshop.
- 2) A hard-copy survey available at the workshop and on-line.
- 3) An on-line survey.



## **Results from the October 29, 2007 Stakeholder Workshop**

### **Negwegon**

- † If camping is allowed in Negwegon, concern that campers would simply disembark at the parking lot, and move camping gear to beach.
- † Backcountry Zone should follow both sides of pathways.
- † Duck hunters would like parking lot closer to South Point (easier access for transporting decoys and equipment). The DNR responded that there are some Native American sites on ridges that must be considered.

### **Rockport**

- † Survey question 7 response (Are there any known user conflicts or issues?): Funding for improvements to Rockport Road must also be provided to ensure the safety of the motoring public visiting the development. Middle Island was once a lifeboat station.
- † Enhance the access road. Rockport Road is not adequate to carry increased traffic to the park.
- † The quarry provided worker housing on-site.

### **Thompson's Harbor**

- † Survey Question 1 response (Do you agree with the statements of purpose? Anything to add?): Yes
- † Survey Question 2 response (Do you agree with the statements of significance?): Shipwreck. Would like to see good access where one could hand launch a boat – kayak or zodiac – need shore access for carrying dive gear.

Other comments for Thompson's Harbor:

- † The first two miles (to the outlet) of Old State Road / off US-23 need to be marked as a SCENIC AREA for wildflowers. That is already accessible to all visitors.
- † Grand Lake Outlet "fence" that obstructs kayakers was installed by the DNR with a trail grant. The fence is not popular with thoughtful park users.
- † Old State Road should be marked at both ends as a park entrance.

### **Sign-in Sheet**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
John Bare	
Don Bey	
David Birchler	Birchler Arroyo Associates
Dan & Ann Brasier	
Keith Cheli	DNR PRD
Paul N. Curtis	MDNR-PRD
Ken Gauthier	

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Amy Golke	Birchler Arroyo Associates
Mary Ann Heidemann	MSU Extension
Colleen Higgins	MDNR-PRD/Harrisville State Park
Laura Ingles	NEMC 06
Jim Johnson	MDNR – Fisheries
Michael Joyce	
Tom Keerl	City of Harrisville
Frank Krist	
Jane & Steve Kroll	
Art Laatz	Alcona Historical Rte Committee
C. Patrick Labadie	Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Al Lipski	
Sue Maxwell	
John McConnell	
Jeanne Meskus	Huron Shore Chamber
Dan Mullen	MDNR-PRD/Harrisville State Park
Rick Myrick	Alcona Conservation District
Doug Niergarth	Michigan Brown Trout
Patty Ramus	The Alpena News
Tom Paquor	Clio F.O. DNR
Peter Pettalia	
Jeff Shea	City of Alpena
M. Slown	City of Rogers City
Joe Sobczak	TBUPC
Yvonne Swager	Michigan Outdoor News
Rachael Franks Taylor	TNC
Kenneth Timm	
Marie A. Twite	Twp of Alpena
Scott Vergiels	UofM Mus. Of Paleontology
John Whatcott	
Ron Young	Alcona County Road Commission

## Results from the December 11, 2007 Public Input Workshop

### **A. Comments at the workshop**

- † Concerns regarding the quarry.
  - ✍ The plan references fossils only. Fossils may be found on the beach (near the sand boils or by the bluffs).
  - ✍ People should be able to find and collect fossils.
  - ✍ There should be a way to assemble collections so fossils can be viewed by the public.
  - ✍ In all parks, exposed lake shore is good place to find fossils.
  - ✍ The quarry great from educational standpoint.
    - ? It is the only place where rock formation is fully exposed.
    - ? An info kiosk at Rockport should identify it as one of the best places in the world view this type of rock formation.
- † Autobon society view trapping as a conflict with cross-country skiing, bird counting, and similar activities.
- † There needs to be entrance signs at Thompson's Harbor (two roadside signs and two entry signs).
- † Consider the costs and benefits of: Identifying Native American artifacts: will they be ruined?; and allowing equestrian use (seeds in waste).
- † Why do we want to allow equestrian use?
- † Having hunted in Rockport and Thompson's Harbor, there are already many trails, it seems as if the plans stick snowmobile on powerline routes only.
- † Don't restrict current users.
- † Would like to see things left as they are. I don't want to damage anything though.
- † What's the motivation for the plans - Financial? Preservation?
- † Most locals use the parks and the plans restrict locals a lot.
- † We have camping, etc. If we start developing these jewels, what's going to happen?
- † What are the allowed uses now? Is there overuse? Are we just planning stewardship? (Facilitator response: yes)
- † ATV's ruin dunes not equestrians.
- † If there are trails, make them where they are compatible for equestrian use. There is no proof that horses cause damage.
- † In the late 1980's, Thompson's Harbor was financially self-sufficient from a management standpoint. Nothing has happened. Concerned that park is used less after this process than when it was in private ownership.
- † If land must sustain itself financially, hard to believe it will.
- † Each park is unique, each has unifying traits.
- † Education means to make park available to the public and protect the resources. Will you help us form groups and tell us what we need to do? What are we supposed to do now? Response: start a "Friends" Group. Use "Friends of the Library" as a model. At the next CAC meeting, this will be discussed. Also, there is a DNR List serve.

- † Are you looking at what does or doesn't work right now? Note that activities you can't do other places, you can do here.
- † The DNR is not planning on selling these sites right? (Response: not to our knowledge. More likely that land will be added to the sites.)
- † Tawas Pointe has birding. People want to visit Newegon in particular for birding, especially during migration.
- † Regarding park management, have difficulties / benefits with management been identified? Is there a way to do partial regionalization? Will there be staff at each park?
- † Rockport Road is hazardous road to travel. Work with local agency long-range planning to do something about this.
- † Concerned with privacy for homeowner on the Lake. Protect our privacy.
- † When DNR moves into Phase 2 & 3, do you still consult the public?
- † Now we have to pay \$24/ year to get into and out of the Rockport Property. For years, we did not have to pay.
- † Fees. Paying \$3 per day at Negwegon is undesirable, a sign should be posted to encourage \$24 / annual fee. (Response: there is such as sign).
- † Don't give discounts to seniors (comment from a senior citizen).
- † Develop in ways that are educational. These sites are a tremendous benefit for younger people, so build appreciation for the resource that they can pass along to their children.
- † Concerned for forest management. Do not allow what happened at Thompson's Harbor to happen at Rockport.
- † Comment to younger people: what you have is really unique; a heritage to hold on to.
- † Is there still a trust fund?
- † Regional perspective: There is a proposal to expand the National Marine Sanctuary, so there could be unified management on front side of sites. Good sense would deem unified management on land side.
- † There are no conflict with kid usage at the sites. They like to hang out at Negwegon.
- † What is the significance of cultural resource overlay?
- † With present climate, (i.e. DNR closing parks), why have Developed Recreation zones? Why not leave these areas as Primitive?
- † In Thompson's Harbor, access road is blocked off, you can't get through. There is a similar situation at Rockport where the gates limit access.
- † How will we know when next planning phase start?
- † For Negwegon, will you allow camping in Negwegon? Will the access road be open during the winter?
- † More camping should be allowed. What is allowed in terms of primitive camping?
- † Snowmobiling is allowed only in a single line. A loop around the parks would be nice? We would like to view the beach or something more scenic to facilitate a pleasure ride.
- † Rockport: Now that state owns, access is cut off.

- † Why develop every piece of land? I don't want it all accessible. I don't want to see people when go to sinkholes. We pick up more trash from others. Open these areas and they will be destroyed because people cannot handle responsibility. Geocaching is awesome here, you don't see another soul.
- † When do users and conflicts get addressed? Phase 2? If so, then Phase 2 should also have opportunities for public comment.
- † There are many uses in Thompson's Harbor right now, and they all get along. Fear that if managed, user groups may lose out on their use.
- † What phase are the "economics" considered? These sites are not paying their own way right now. Be up front with public. How much this will cost? It won't be free.
- † This is a long-term planning process, but what do we do in short-term? ATV's are tearing up Negwegon. (DNR response: Call us when you see it – that's why you see berms, etc. Need public's support (peer policing) on regulating ORV's.)
- † Recreation opportunities that are low intensity, how are they determined?
- † Biking should be low intensity not lumped with horses.
- † Trails by the wetlands could be used, mountain bikes will not hurt them.
- † A dive platform is needed at Rockport, and a place for trash.
- † Why not label zones at Rockport Primitive, and later on change what you want to do.
- † Never have seen a Conservation Officer in Thompson's Harbor.
- † These properties are unique in the State.
- † Time to break new ice: charge a user pass to pay for staff.
- † Metal detecting: can it be done in any of the management zones? Would like to see this activity addresses in the plans.
- † Forest management plans for harvest timber? In Negwegon? (Response: We don't harvest timber except species control or after a storm.)
- † Would quarry remain open (i.e. allowed to remove rocks)?
- † Why is no one at Rockport patrolling, and what level of campsite management would enact a patrol officer?
- † Regarding the cabin at Thompson's Harbor. Since it is there, why not make the property open to six cabins?
- † Don't take from public, give to public!
- † The people that are not here tonight feel disenfranchised and bitter over trail closings, which yields vandalism. They feel ownership is taken away. Outsiders don't respect property – 'Rules' ruin right-to-use for locals.

### December 11 Public Workshop Sign-In Sheet

Name	Organization/ Affiliation
Kenneth Timm	Alcona County
Jim Szczukowski	
Bill McDonnell	
Richard White	
Linda Klemens	
Don Beem	
Dave LaVigne	
Erin Riopielle	Head Waters Land Conservation
Deb Pardike	
May Heidemann	
James Zakshesky	Presque Isle Planning Commission
Fred Sterns	
Elizabeth Antkowiak	Citizen
Joe Cercone	Citizen
Cory Gilders Lieve	Audubon
Peggy Ridgway	Audubon
Edward H. Cole	Audubon
William Hyde	County Planning
Beach Hall	Mayor
Colleen Higgins	DNR
Mark Hansen	DNR
Dan Mullen	DNR
Jim Larson	AuSable Audubon
Sue M. Keller	
Jeff Spruit	MDEQ Geologic Outreach Commission
Kerry Mase	
Carol Clute	
Robert C. Brandt	
Elizabeth Littler	
Chris Christopherson	
Wade Oliver	
Shawn Neuland	
Brian Kionzle	
Tony Curia	
Shawn Fettes	
John Pilon	Michigan DNR
Carue Shafto	City of Alpena
Jeanne Meskus	
Pauline Farmer	
Jerry Meek	Thunder Bay River Watershed Council
Richard Cluter	Besser Museum
David Sedlow	



Name	Organization/ Affiliation
Randy Fairbanks	Thunder Bay Trails Association
Elise DeMerell	
Jim McCallum	
Bobbi Bashore	DNR/LAW
Kim Wallis Burke	
Haley DeJarlin	Alcona Schools
Justin Brown	
Nathan Bushey	Alcona High School
David Dubuque	North East Huron Detector Club
Jennifer Nemeth	DNR/FMFM
Suzie Leow	
Tom Carlson	
Don Rosenberg	
Marcus Kemp	
Steve Mitchell	
Mike Leon	
Rick Egstrom	

**Survey Distributed at Meeting (and available on-line), and Survey Results (Responses: 14)**

**NEGWEGON STATE PARK**  
 Public Input Workshop Worksheet  
 (Please use additional pages as necessary for your comments to the questions below)

The questions below pertain to the DRAFT General Management Plan for Negwegon State Park. If you would like to submit your comments after tonight's workshop, please mail, fax or email to: Amy Golke, Birchler Arroyo Associates, 28021 Southfield Road, Lathrup Village, MI 48076 / (248) 423-1793 (fax) / agolke@birchlerarroyo.com by **December 17**.

Surveys, the draft plan, and the presentation are available at: [ww.birchlerarroyo.com/Clients/MDNR-NRTH.htm](http://ww.birchlerarroyo.com/Clients/MDNR-NRTH.htm)

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the survey.  
 Your comments are a very valuable component of the General Management Plan process.

Name / Affiliation	Address	Email / Phone
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**1. The Statements of Purpose currently include:**

- Maintain the parks as intended when the Conservation Commission approved the acquisition of land. Approval was based upon the National Park Service's recommendation, which was to target purchases along Michigan's northeast shoreline.
- Preserve and protect the park's unique natural resources for current and future generations.
- Preserve and protect the park's historic and cultural resources.
- Provide educational and interpretive opportunities.
- Provide opportunities for recreational uses and experiences unique to Negwegon and compatible with the natural resources.
- Ensure that the planning of Negwegon is part of a cohesive strategy for the region.

**Do you agree with the above statements? Would you add anything to the above statements?** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Current statements of significance are summarized as:**

- Undisturbed habitats: forests and gentle undulations of the wooded dune-swale complex that parallels the coastline (south); Lowland hardwoods and a variety of upland forest types (north).
- Habitats for species of special concern, threatened species and endangered species, such as eagles and Blanding's turtles.
- Its part of a greater system: Negwegon is one of the forested coastal areas that offers a habitat that supports a great diversity of flora and fauna.
- Valuable resource for commercial fisheries. The fisheries value is also significant from a historical perspective, as some Alpena area settlers were attracted to the area for its commercial fishing resources.
- Sandy beaches are novel along the typically cobbled Lake Huron shoreline. Beaches are heavily used during the summer months.
- Recreational resources: Hiking and kayaking are available at Negwegon along the Lake Huron coastline.
- Hunting opportunities: Waterfowl hunting occurs in Negwegon. Hardwood Point is an ideal known location for goose hunting and migrating. Similarly, South Point is known to be a prime area for duck and goose hunting.
- Unique cultural and historic resources: Native American artifacts; farmstead remnants; and a segment of the *Old Stage-Coach* route.
- Shipwrecks, like the Nellie Gardner, are accessible from Negwegon's shoreline, and from Black River and Scarecrow Island. Shipwrecks are part of NOAA's Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary.
- Its part in regional networks: Lighthouse Tour; "Sunrise Side Coastal Highway"; Huron Greenways; Bluewater Trail (proposed); and Great Lakes Circle Tour.

**Do you agree with the above statements? What else makes Negwegon significant to you?** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

*Continued on next page*

Negwegon State Park ♦ Public Input Worksheet ♦ December 11, 2007

3. What natural resources are important? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What cultural resources are important? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What are the education and interpretation opportunities? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. What are the recreation opportunities? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. What should be the visitor experience? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Are there any known user conflicts or issues?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. What should be the identity of Negwegon State Park?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Survey Responses: 14

**1. Do you agree with the statements of purpose? Would you add anything to the above statements?**

- ☞ Sounds good but I don't believe they (Parks Dept) will have the money to do the job.
- ☞ I agree. A focus on education may help with appreciation by future generations.
- ☞ I agree, but think preservation of natural resources takes precedence over recreational uses.
- ☞ I don't understand some of these statements. The only usage plans I'm familiar with are County or Township Master Plans.
- ☞ I do not agree that Negwegon is conducive to regional management, but am very pleased that it is being included in the cohesive planning strategy.
- ☞ Agree.
- ☞ Agree, but would change the order of placement.
- ☞ Agree.
- ☞ Yes.
- ☞ Yes.
- ☞ Yes.
- ☞ Yes, with an emphasis on Item #2 [Preserve and protect the park's unique natural resources for current and future generations]
- ☞ Yes / No.
- ☞ Yes.

**2. Do you agree with the statements of significance? What else makes Negwegon significant to you?**

- ☞ Yes – unspoiled beauty and diverse plant and animal life. The bird hunting and rabbit hunting are very good.
- ☞ The entire area has been disturbed in the last 100 years. Protecting the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter mile in land from the lake shore is very important. Further in land from that good forestry and wildlife management practices should be incorporated to improve the area for deer, ruffed grouse & snowshoe hare and provide forest material for local jobs & industry.
- ☞ I am not very familiar with Negwegon but I think the shipwrecks are a great educational point for this area.
- ☞ Stopover for many migrating birds. (Sandy beaches are common from Oscoda to Au Gres & elsewhere).
- ☞ This park is included in the Hubbard Lake Christmas Bird Count sponsored by Michigan and National Audubon. This is the 108 CBC with bird census data used by State and Federal agencies as a litmus test of the health of Lake

Huron and the shoreline environment. Bird Watching is also a major tourist draw in this area.

- ☞ Negwegon because of its projecting points and arboreal shoreline, is a collector during migration of many passerines & shorebirds. It could have great economic significance for the region because of its importance as a birding site.
- ☞ Agree.
- ☞ Ability to enjoy park by bike, horse, ski.
- ☞ Yes, Negwegon is significant in that it features the longest stretch of undeveloped Lake Huron shoreline in an area that has been heavily developed.
- ☞ Agree, also has extensive cobble beaches. The sand beach has a shallow angle of repose and is possibly one of Mich. Premier swimming beaches.
- ☞ Yes.
- ☞ Recreational resources – equestrian use, cross country skiing.
- ☞ Where is the mention of equestrian use on the stage-coach route?
- ☞ Yes.

### **3. What natural resources are important?**

- ☞ All natural resources are important!
- ☞ Dune swale area, beach, forest, wetlands, and bird ridge.
- ☞ Habitats for Eagles and other significant wildlife.
- ☞ Shoreline, sand ridges, swale & dunes.
- ☞ Cedar bogs, hardwood uplands, rare botanical species, endangered fauna (black bears, bobcats, sandhill dunes) and the fabulous shoreline.
- ☞ Maintaining habitat for waterfowl, migrating birds and year around species – unpolluted environment for park visitors.
- ☞ All.
- ☞ This whole ecosystem is priceless. The area reflects the ruggedness and beauty of our Lake Huron coastline.
- ☞ Wildlife habitat especially for endangered species.
- ☞ The beautiful (Lake Huron Shoreline) Any unique ecological features not found in other shoreline areas. The wildlife which use the oak ridges & swamps of the area.
- ☞ Undisturbed shoreline habitats, dune-swale wetlands, wide diversity of plant and animal habitats, especially listed species.

### **4. What cultural resources are important?**

- ☞ Historical / cultural horse/non-motor retracing of the old stage route.

- ☞ Old stage-coach route – the Indian trail and burial ground – farm sites.
- ☞ Need to protect (fence) certain cultural resources as was done at Ludington State Park and use interpretive signage.
- ☞ Indian tribes that were here many years ago should always be remembered.
- ☞ Stage coach trail, American Indian artifacts and structures, early settlers farm sites.
- ☞ Indian sites, farmstead, Kramer memorial.
- ☞ Indian historical sites. Hopefully shipwrecks are already protected by Marine Sanctuary.
- ☞ Shipwrecks lighthouses are just as historically important.
- ☞ The South Point area, prehistoric, Native American and early settlement

## **5. What are the education and interpretation opportunities?**

- ☞ Once again there are many, but do not discount the cultural – historical contribution of the horse to this area.
- ☞ Younger generations should be offered field trips to appreciate the park. Historical, geological, forestry studies, are limitless.
- ☞ How the lake has receded over many years.
- ☞ Wildlife habitat & nature interpretation.
- ☞ Great opportunity for interpretive trails with signage.
- ☞ Unique natural communities linked to the undisturbed Lake Huron shoreline.
- ☞ The cultural and natural resources provide many opportunities for understanding the world we now live in, the world we might anticipate and the world we have come from.
- ☞ Excellent site for field trips watching birds, wildlife, shell collection, spotting wild flowers.
- ☞ I would like trail markers and possibly kiosks at parking lot – not much else.
- ☞ Historical and cultural studies for local students.

## **6. What are the recreation opportunities?**

- ☞ Maybe leave no trace camping or no camping to protect.
- ☞ Camping, hiking, bird watching, hunting, fishing, biking, horseback riding.
- ☞ Hiking, swimming, kayaking.
- ☞ Hiking, hunting, leisure beach use, make this area special.
- ☞ Snowmobiling, hunting, primitive camping, fishing, swimming, vista viewing, horseback riding!
- ☞ Camping at hike-in sites, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, snow shoeing, etc.
- ☞ Swimming, kayaking, hiking, sitting on a rock watching Lake Huron visitors,



(friends from Russia thought this was an ocean). Birding is our favorite! Limit or totally disallow motorized vehicles or hire full time enforcement for the park!

- ☞ Hiking, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, birding, wildlife viewing, swimming, boating, back-country camping, rock collecting. Finally, there are very few places remaining where one might simply contemplate – “Think a green thought in a green shade”.
- ☞ I think horse, bike, wheelchair ski accessibility are very important.
- ☞ Good trail system, bridges and boardwalks have improved the trail system when crossing wet areas.
- ☞ Biking, hiking, kayaking, horseback riding canoeing.
- ☞ Equestrian use.
- ☞ Limitless.
- ☞ Hiking, cross-country skiing, kayaking, nature observation, photography, swimming, dispersed primitive camping.

## **7. What should be the visitor experience?**

- ☞ Forested coastline protection.
- ☞ They should leave the land with great respect, fully understanding we have access to a rare piece of public property.
- ☞ An appreciation for nature.
- ☞ Depends on the visitor’s goal – i.e.: swimming, hiking, hunting.
- ☞ Motorless relaxation, education.
- ☞ It should be primarily educational but also aesthetic (there are few places in Michigan as beautiful as Negwegon).
- ☞ Clean air, water and undisturbed environment.
- ☞ The experience should be compatible with a semi-wilderness experience – please don’t overdevelop the park. Visitor experience should be focused on hiking, hunting, cross country skiing, camping at rustic hike-in campgrounds.
- ☞ See & swim at beautiful beaches. Hunt in fall with no significant wheeled traffic. Hike in winter, spring & summer in relative solitude.
- ☞ Very quiet & peaceful!
- ☞ Visitor experience should be day use, maybe some group visitors (school groups) with existing structures.
- ☞ Low impact, non-motorized recreation in an undisturbed setting.

## **8. Are there any known user conflicts or issues?**

- ☞ I do not favor equestrian use & especially not any kind of ORV use.
- ☞ No major conflicts.
- ☞ 4-wheel ORV use needs to be restricted – exception-use to remove a legally

harvested deer. A snowmobile trail could go through the area and provide recreation with little damage. Horse use on designated trails could be allowed.

- ☞ There is a certain amount of littering and ORV abuse. The area is certainly better off in this area than in the past. Regular patrols by patrolled DNR staff is important.
- ☞ Safety demands a close review of hunting, trapping, us snowshoeing, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, birding, etc. specific areas for activities need to have clearly marked boundaries.
- ☞ Everything used by the public requires sanitary and safety maintenance.
- ☞ No – we have many trails that are shared non-motorized.
- ☞ Continue to limit motorized off-road vehicles. At one time vehicles had considerable access.
- ☞ There will always be some conflicts but non motorized historical & natural are best in Summer.
- ☞ Snowmobiles on trails, also occasional ORV activity.

## **9. What should be the identity of Negwegon State Park?**

- ☞ Negwegon should be considered a natural environment park: Primitive and backcountry zones are appropriate, minimal development.
- ☞ Natural succession of vegetation and shoreline.
- ☞ Keep it preserved and protected, as is.
- ☞ Forested Coastline, Wildlife habitats.
- ☞ Passive, limited potential for full blown state park with modern camping. Also it is very remote.
- ☞ Recreation & Responsible enjoyment for all.
- ☞ As a natural and cultural preserve, as an educational site, as a location for anthropological and environmental research.
- ☞ Undisturbed “Gem” should be visited, enjoyed with no trace of visitors left behind (except entrance fee).
- ☞ Negwegon park should be administered as a primitive camping area in selected sites, perhaps by a reservation system, with campers being responsible for site clean-up.
- ☞ A primitive natural area, but accessible.

## **10. Other Comments**

- ☞ Day use suggested – camping available in Harrisville for those staying longer, maybe some kind of fee deal where if camping at Harrisville get use of Negwegon also.
- ☞ I would like to see camping (Primitive) allowed, but not close to parking areas. I

really enjoy bird hunting this property – my son shot his first grouse on the wing here, and I hope my grandson can, as well.

- ☞ Every summer and fall, I make treks to Negwegon. I'm always in awe of what a treasure we have there.
- ☞ The Indian Mission Conservation Club plans to seek natural areas designation for most of Negwegon. Our club endorses the recommendations of the draft management plan.
- ☞ Better access is needed. There are no signs telling people how to get to the park and the road in from the south is very unpleasant driving. I don't support a regional approach – don't see the point, though all 3 might have a single park manager. I think they are all very different.
- ☞ Boy Scouts, hunters, fishermen, and other had primitive campsites here for many many years, and were told that this would continue. Parks Division ruined the area by building the terrible road into the middle of the land off the old 2-track county road and expected the county to alter the old road to handle big motor homes, etc. Parks Division closed the 100 year old stage coach trail to vehicle use in spite of the agreement to have it open in the fall. Parks Division closed the area to all camping without any public hearings. I believe the new road was built without wetland permits and the proper approval.
- ☞ I would rather see rustic hike-in campgrounds rather than large developed RV campgrounds. Access points to the water should be hike-in (don't build parking lot right next to the shore) and rustic in design. I prefer gravel parking lots (small) rather than paved lots. I am very familiar with this park – please don't make a plan that would support over-development.
- ☞ I was, along with the 8-10 other birders that attended the 3-5:50 session on Dec. 11, very disappointed to see nothing listed in any of the three areas as important Birding areas. Michigan Audubon Society has an international effort underway to identify and obtain funding for Important Birding Areas (IBA's). These areas all lie within the Lake Huron Flyway and are vital habitat for resident and migrating species, not to mention the birds that visit our area to view the birds.
- ☞ Any consideration of change in Negwegon should be informed by a careful study of Point Pelee Provincial Park in southern Ontario. Negwegon and Pt. Pelee are very similar in resources. Pelee, however, has come into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in exactly the form Negwegon should go into the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century. An examination of Pelee and its development would save us many errors, much time and money and inspire us as we move forward.
- ☞ As an engineer I would like to see "Trails for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" design plans well utilized to draw in the recreational use for educational and inclusionary for all : skier, bike, horse, hike.

- ☞ Severe access problem on seasonally maintained road with a sand base. This is a safety issues for small vehicles and those without 4-wheel drive. Need additional land acquisition to the north to connect existing DNR ownership. Because of the access and limited signage, this park is lightly used. It has much greater use potential. Some visitors have expressed concern with the vehicle entry fee when compared with high use State Parks with many amenities.
- ☞ State Parks need to be protected for recreational users. Michigan's claim to fame is our automobile industry and our natural resources. The more people that get out and enjoy these resources the more people that will be willing to protect these same resources. My parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents grew up and started families in Michigan. My most treasured memories are of travelling around the state with my parents and exploring on horseback. I want my children and grandchildren to have these same opportunities.
- ☞ I just feel the Old Stage Coach route should be preserved for non-motorized use, at least in summer.
- ☞ We [Indian Mission Conservation Club, Oscoda, MI] have retained Grobbel Environmental Planning Associates to evaluate the natural features of Negwegon and Thompson's Harbor with the intent to submit nominations for Natural Areas designations for both parks. We are also working with a coalition of environmental organizations with the purpose of preserving and protecting the undeveloped shoreline environments that make these areas a critical part of Michigan's natural heritage.
- ☞ I really enjoyed the meeting and feel that your agency has done a very nice job with these management plans. My only concern would be that some of the user groups are going to make a concerted effort to either curtail or completely eliminate other user groups. I am a horse back rider and there are very few equestrian trails in the state, especially in northeast MI. There is no reason why all non-motorized user groups cannot share these parks. We need to use common sense, respect others, follow the rules and show courtesy to everybody. The old stage couch roads that run through the Negwegon and Rockport would be the logical locations for these trails. Do you know why equestrian use at Rockport was not listed as one of the possible recreational uses?

## On-line Results

(Responses: 9)

### Negwegon State Park



2. How often do you visit Negwegon each season?

	Once per week	Once per month	Once per season	Never	Response Count
Spring	0.0% (0)	33.3% (3)	44.4% (4)	22.2% (2)	9
Summer	0.0% (0)	66.7% (6)	11.1% (1)	22.2% (2)	9
Fall	0.0% (0)	11.1% (1)	77.8% (7)	11.1% (1)	9
Winter	0.0% (0)	11.1% (1)	22.2% (2)	66.7% (6)	9
<i>answered question</i>					9
<i>skipped question</i>					0

### 3. What activities do you currently enjoy at the park?

- 1 walking the shoreline.
- 2 horseback riding
- 3 Hiking, Birding X-C skiing
- 4 Walking and breathing in the clean air and listening to the "quite" atmosphere. I love the dunes and the views. This is a treasure and must be preserved as is.
- 5 Birding, swimming, hiking
- 6 I love the peaceful, undeveloped, natural setting. I simply walk the trails and beach and enjoy the beauty and
- 7 There are some spectacular birding opportunities there !! Because of the remote and undisturbed habitat, many rare and "secretive species" frequent the area or perhaps nest there.
- 8 Birdwatching, hiking, wildflowers, animal viewing, cross-country skiing, and enjoying the secluded, untrampled, unpopulated natural setting.

**4. Please list the new activities that you would like to see at Negwegon, and indicate the number of new visits per year if the activity is added. For example, the addition of rustic campsites might change a person's number of visits per year from four to twelve.**

- 1 More activities will cause me to visit less. I love it just as it is.
- 2 horse riding Several times per year, if possible.
- 3 Rustic Campsites would be great! More horse trails!
- 4 None
- 5 None
- 6 Rustic campsites would be a detraction  
I am concerned adding campsites will change the feeling of the place. I prefer to have no overnight campsites.
- 7 Furthermore, I find the idea of studying the economic contribution of a park to be a flawed consideration. Why does everything have to be viewed through an economic lenses. The park is priceless as is. Its contribution to the human experience is more valuable than an fiat dollar that could be generated.
- 8 Perhaps just more regular maintenance of the existing "two tracker" into the area. Maybe one small sign to indicate the entrance.  
I would like to see Negwegon remain as isolated as it is. It is a joy and a privilege to have a location where one can view so many different birds, animals, and vegetation types time after time and not be offended by human caused noise, litter, and other types of habitat degradation. On second thought, there is one activity I might allow: A staffed interpretive center on site to educate people about what a jewel this park is, and to enforce the rules to maintain the park as it is.

**5. What natural resources at Negwegon are most important to you?**

- 1 The shoreline in its natural state, with no road running parallel to it.
- 2 Michigan's northeast shoreline.
- 3 Trails
- 4 All Natural features
- 5 the natural forest and the dunes
- 6 Undeveloped shoreline and Potowatomi Trail. It is a time capsule, not a playground.
- 7 The integrity of the entire ecosystem. The combination of all natural aspects in an undeveloped setting gives the visitor a chance to enjoy nature without man screwing it up.
- 8 Bird habitat nesting areas, and bird watching opportunities.... The old Indian trails...rocks..wildflowers  
Negwegon is unique in that only day use is allowed. Hence, it is far more natural than any other state park I am aware of in Michigan. I don't know how many visitors/year this park gets. I don't know if numbers are important. I think it's wonderful that remote places like Negwegon exist in relatively populated areas. How else can people be educated how important it is to have wild places.
- 9 Once places like Negwegon are incorporated into the norm for most parks; campsites, electricity, paved roads, spaces for 30' RVs, generators running at night. Too big a compromise has been made. The natural space is lost forever.

**6. Are there any historically-significant resources or culturally-significant resources in the Park of which you are aware?**

- 1 Indian and prehistoric native occupation.
- 2 Unique cultural and historic resources: Native American artifacts; farmstead remnants; and a segment of the Old Stage-Coach route.
- 3 Yes
- 4 No, but the future of this park will make an indelible mark on future generations. That will be part of our cultural and the history of the future.
- 5 Yes. Ancient native dwellings.
- 6 The most culturally significant aspect of the park is that it has withstood our culture of developing things. It doesn't need anything else as it is already perfect.
- 7 The Indian Trail that goes along near the shoreline.
- 8 I have read about the remnants of historic native Indian-built sites, and have searched for them, but to date, I have not found any sites.

**7. What would you like to see in terms of education or interpretation opportunities?**

- 1 signs are fine. Guided walking tours would be fine.
- 2 Signage, nature center
- 3 I can see that marked "natural trails" for educational purposes would have value. It would draw school classes and families.
- 4 A DVD to be shown in schools and on television.
- 5 NONE - LEAVE IT ALONE - NATURE DOESN'T NEED TO BE LITTERED WITH SIGNS AND OTHER STRUCTURES.  
LESS IS MORE. NOTHING IS BETTER.
- 6 No buildings!! Perhaps guided walks (bird/cultural,etc.) lead by a knowledgeable person.
- 7 A staffed, on-site interpretive center would help those who come here appreciate what here to a greater extent.
- 8 If the interpretive center worked to make Michigan teachers aware of the resources at Negwegon, it might be use a field trip destination where students could learn about wild places.



**8. When visiting Negwegon, what should the experience be like?**

- 1 Just as it is now. You are alone with nature.
- 2 A nice family horseback ride.
- 3 rustic, primitive, quiet
- 4 Quiet, natural, and an opportunity to get up close to nature in all its aspects. One can learn from simply observing nature and having the quiet and the time to contemplate what one sees.
- 5 To see the Great Lakes as Christ might have.
- 6 An opportunity to enjoy nature without man made attempts at betterment that ironically take away from the natural experience.
- 7 It is one of the unique places where we can "walk in the moccasins" of Indians and experience what life was like along Lake Huron as the area was explored by native Americans and fur traders.

I think Negwegon is a jewel because it's unlike other parks. It's far more natural. That's its beauty. I think there must be places that are difficult to get to. By making a place 'wheelchair accessible', you make the place vulnerable to many kinds of misuse....increased litter, noise, overuse, just because it is easy for those who don't appreciate pristine places, to get to. How many places like Negwegon exist in the Lower Peninsula? I think that's a reason to keep the park as remote as it is.

The experience should be as near to undisrupted by humans, natural setting as possible. No pavement, no insect spraying, no camping, no pets. An interpretive center on-site to help users learn and appreciate what's here and why a decision has been made to keep it as it is, rather than develop it.

**9. What should the identity for this park be (i.e. a primitive, natural area; campground; educational area)?**

- 1 UNDISTURBED
- 2 Negwegon is one of the forested coastal areas that offers a habitat that supports a great diversity of flora and
- 3 Primitive
- 4 primitive
- 5 natural and education area
- 6 Protected primitive.
- 7 It already has its own identity. What hubris to think man has to give it an identity. Hands off. Simply let it be. Don't screw it up.
- 8 Natural/cultural area NO CAMPGROUNDS!!!!
- 9 Primitive, natural area set aside for education. I would compromise about the camping....camping only for visiting students on educational field trips, or perhaps for people kayaking or backpacking through the park???

**10. Are there any known user conflicts or issues?**

- 1 Have heard of car break-ins in the parking area.
- 2 motorized use
- 3 No
- 4 Few at this point. The development of the gravel access road brings more people to Negwegon, but the quality of the experience is maintained. If it is further developed it may become what H. L. Menken defined as "nature: that place where we throw empty beer bottles"
- 5 None that can't be worked out by reasonable free people.
- 6 Yes, the piping plover has been observed there and could possibly nest....endangered specie!  
In past visits to the park, I've seen evidence of 4-wheelers and horses on the trails. I don't believe either are allowed. The fact that there may not be frequent law enforcement personnel on site is a concern to me. I worry that there will be a degradation of my standard of living in the form of neglected and unsupervised
- 7 public wild areas when state budgets are cut for lack of available funds. Places like Negwegon deserve to be protected at any cost. Their preservation is an excellent reason to raise taxes during our current time of economic woes to be sure they are maintained-not neglected.

**11. Please review the CORE VALUES section of the General Management Plan. Do you agree or disagree with the statements of purpose and significance? Is there anything you would add?**

- 1 I agree with the statements, but only hope that is hunting/trapping or unforeseen circumstances change the list, that it will not constitute reason to then develop the park.
- 2 Agree.
- 3 Keep it primitive
- 4 Protection should be the key word
- 5 In general I agree with the statements.
- 6 It is hard to understand the significance of the phrases and words within the parlance of planners but in general the park should be left as is.  
I feel uncomfortable making a decision concerning the language of this Plan. I have little experience reading and making decisions based on my interpretation of this type of document. Frankly, I find it very complicated and confusing. I'd like to read a plain English version of this document.
- 7

**12. Please review the General Management Plan's MANAGEMENT ZONE PLAN. Do you agree or disagree with the Management Zones for Negwegon State Park? What changes would you make?**

- 1 I would not like to see an access road that parallels Lake Huron as Lakeshore drive does now. This would eliminate the remoteness of the shoreline.
- 2 Agree.
- 3 Keep it primitive
- 4 we must have oversight on any rules for the area so the rules can be enforced  
Creation of hiking trails is an invitation to 4-wheelers and snowmobiles. Although not an approved use, the "low DNR contact" makes the prospect a certainty. There are a number of camps adjacent to Negwegon which would provide the traffic. Hiking trails and primitive camping is redundant to other existing opportunities.
- 5 Again too much segregation and specification. Just leave the place alone and be happy.
- 6 I agree with acquiring land to connect the two separate land masses of Negwegon. I disagree with developing any additional entrances to Negwegon or improving the existing road to Negwegon. I would like to see visible presence of DNR staff at the in all zones for the purpose of enforcing rules and protecting animals/habitat and education of the public. I don't agree with the concept that small exposure to DNR personnel is necessary in primitive zones. I feel uncomfortable having any place in the park that would allow or encourage increased vehicle traffic, noise, and human population density.
- 7

**13. The next step in the process is to consider linkages among Negwegon State Park, Thompson's Harbor State Park and the Rockport property in the context of the geographic region (Alcona, Alpena, and Presque Isle Counties). This Regional Assessment will also tie into the Michigan Sea Grant Northeast Michigan Integrated Assessment project. Please provide your comments with regard to regional consideration of these three sites.**

- 1 I do not understand this item.
- 2 It would be great if these properties could be linked by trails that include equine use like the shore to shore trail
- 3 Keep it primitive
- 4 It's a good idea. Seashores, dunes, wetlands, and forests of this nature should be a contiguous region to present to the future generations.
- 5 I'm not familiar with Thompson's Harbor or the Rockport property. If linkages provide better possibility for funding projects, or the possibility of enhanced appreciation of historical importance of the regions, linking seems reasonable.

**14. Are there any comments you would like to share?**

- 1 Negwegon Park is one of Michigan's greatest treasures and can only remain so if it is not developed.
- 2 Reasonable use fees to support the trails would be our way of helping pay for riding there.
- 3 Keep it primitive
- 4 Time is of the essence and what we do today will reflect well or not well for the rest of this property's existence. Sometimes less is more. Eliminating obstacles to casual users may seal the fate of Negwegon. Should we allow Smithsonian Institution visitors try on the First Ladies' ballgowns or handle and read the Declaration of Independence? No.
- 6 Thank you for giving me an opportunity to share my views.
- 7 I will express them at the meeting next week.  
Only to reiterate what I've already written about. 1) Negwegon is unique in Michigan because of its inaccessibility and it's lack of conveniences. Because of these lacks, it has many treasures available in few other places in Michigan. Quiet, low human population density, many opportunities to view birds, animals, and flora, beautiful miles of uninhabited beaches, and habitat for endangered species. Once you change this by developing this park--make it easy for anyone to visit, you've begun the degradation of it's unique properties, and you can't go back. Does one work to keep beautiful places isolated and unknown, or does one work to make beautiful places easily accessible in hopes that all those who now come will learn to appreciate the place? My experience to date tells me that the harder one works to achieve a goal, the more one appreciates having  
If you give something to someone, there's great possibility it won't be appreciated or long enjoyed. The concept relates to Negwegon in the sense that leaving it hard to get to limits access to those who a willing to invest some time and effort to get there. While it doesn't insure everyone who comes does so with good will, it insures the majority will. So, in conclusion, preserve what's here, educate as to why that's important, and encourage people to 'push' themselves to accept the place as it is, instead of changing it to a way they think it should be.
- 8

**APPENDIX C**

**PLANNING TEAM MEETING**

**MINUTES AND AGENDAS**

**FOR NEGWEGON STATE PARK**

Meeting agendas and minutes for all Planning Team meetings are provided in this Appendix. Meetings were held on the following dates:

June 6, 2007

July 24, 2007

September 25, 2007

January 29, 2008

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# A G E N D A

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION  
Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson’s Harbor (NRTH)  
General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: June 6, 2007

TIME: 1:00 - 5:00 pm

PLACE: Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
500 W Fletcher St, Alpena, MI

1. Introductions
2. Project Overview
3. Exercise
  - ✍ Your interests
  - ✍ First impressions of each park’s significance
  - ✍ First impressions of each park’s purpose

4. Summary: What was heard

Summary Report to be emailed - please provide your email address on the sign-in sheet.

5. Planning Team Meeting Schedule
6. Local Citizens Advisory Committee

# M E E T I N G   M I N U T E S

## MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION

### Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson’s Harbor (NRTH) General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: June 6, 2007

TIME: 1:00 - 5:00 pm

PLACE: Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
500 W Fletcher St, Alpena, MI

#### **1. and 2. Introductions and Project Overview.**

Paul Curtis, MDNR-PRD Management Plan Administrator, began the meeting by providing an overview of the General Management Plan process.

#### **3. Exercise**

Birchler Arroyo Associates led an issues / solutions exercise. A brief description of each park was given, after which participants were asked to identify issues and solutions, as well as the significance and purpose of Negwegon, Rockport and Thompson’s Harbor.

#### 3.A Negwegon

##### 3.A.1 Negwegon: Issues and Solutions

- † Is there a Piping Plover Critical Endangered Habitat designation? (Answer: no).
- † Metal detecting is not allowed in sensitive areas.
- † County Road access is a major issue because it is essentially seasonal. Sandhill Road does not have 66’ ROW, traveled way easement only, sand base makes it unstable.
- † Catholic Church ROW may be a potential access point.
- † There are important archeological sites in Negwegon.
- † Original access was from Lakeshore, by 4WD only. This access was closed when Sandhill Road was opened. People feel shut out by current condition of access.
- † Criticism of equestrians watering horses at lake is unfair.
- † Desirable use should determine the access provided (primary plus secondary EMS)
- † Is there *runaway slave* history associated with the property?

- † Regarding previous attempts to plan: ORV use has been destructive. The land is somewhat healed, however, limited rustic camping and DNR management personnel would help police unauthorized ORV traffic / damage.
- † Parks should be accessible for seniors
- † Wayfinding signs are needed to locate parks, direct users within parks, etc.
- † Opportunities for interpretation and accessibility.
- † Black River and Scarecrow island have shipwrecks accessible to kayakers and snorklers.
- † Cultural and ecological tourism on all three properties is important to Roger's City and the region's economy.
- † Lighthouse tour includes area. US-23 Heritage Trail, Bluewater Trail and Huron Greenways.
- † Interconnections are important. Access should not be shut out by Department standard for one-way in and one-way out (especially for non-motorized trails). Remember that access parameters control uses.
- † Dozens of local parks are part of the system (obtain NEMCOG complied local inventory).
- † Hikers, bikers, swimmers are primary users now. Hunting is in decline (by design?). There are potential and actual conflicts now. People camp informally in an Alcona Township park as a base for kayaking from Negwegon.
- † There is animosity towards duck hunters.
- † Access is critical and will be difficult to improve because of easements required (neighbors run users off state land as a result of the access having been 'reduced'). Purpose needs to address appropriate use, as broad as possible, with reduction of conflict.
- † This is the #1 retirement area – are we addressing barrier-free access?
- † Hunters need more opportunities.
- † Has 'no motorized use' be re-evaluated in regard to rascals, elec. Golf carts with turf tires?
- † Universal access is part of MDNR standards now.
- † Any exploration of allowing private enterprises in the park (i.e. concessions?)

### 3.A.2 Negwegon: Interest, Purpose and Significance

- † Access for hunting, primitive camping within designated areas and under PRD management
- † Access needs to be improved for primitive camping; maybe some rustic camping; people will police the use (peer pressure); hunting; northern unit has locked gates; duck hunting at southpoint is a concern.
- † Maximum use possible in the most responsible manner possible. (Duck hunters to South Point, scuba divers to sink holes, help local economy. Can Rockport include user-friendly target range of unique design? Can management rules be tailored to these properties?
- † Access to Lake Huron for beach walkers, kayakers.
- † A 'multi-use park' should be feasible.



- † Multiple access, some easy and some requiring a vigorous hike. Likes term “sustainable use.” Important to look at all three parks simultaneously.
- † Interpretive centers for rare / interesting species can address education and ecotourism.
- † Teach people how to have fun outdoors, how to be a responsible recreationist. May be essential to have a ‘center’ from which to disperse people to each site. Hunting is safe, compatible.
- † Northeast Michigan should not have to be ‘pristine and poor.’ Paul Bunyon legend began in Oscoda (*first newspaper articles published about Paul were published here*). Also have lighthouse tours, stagecoach trail. An interpretive center is needed.
- † No one representing law enforcement – are there serious conflicts between users now?
- † Fossil hunting is a big activity.
- † Native American tribes should be contacted.
- † Is there a plan to connect the two parcels (Wade property?)

### 3.B Rockport: Issues and Solutions; Significance and Purpose

- † Flowing springs just off of the shore could be important to divers (white algae).
- † Similar to Negwegon, access is an issue.
- † Consumers Power never discouraged access, which failed to address abuses, such as ORV damage. When the State purchased, there was a ‘lock-down.’ To stop ORVs, bocks were installed, which prevented fishing access. Snowmobiles should be able to use designated roadways, however, quads become problem that barriers did not resolve. Not enough large signs to ID allowable uses. Access is available from Grand Lake Road to sink holes, but no action to develop to-date. Need to encourage public use, not discourage. Hoeft State Park could be the camping base for NRTH if there was good access.
- † Parking at the powerline crossing (road access form both directions) could be Rockport base for hiking access)
- † Commercial fishing access at Rockport is an important use to preserve.
- † Presque Isle Township community has offered to assist with maintenance and management. Would the MDNR consider a partnership? Could we encourage / license a private enterprise to take kayakers and divers to the lake (motorized means).
- † Rockport deep water pier is one of the few facilities of its kind. Tour boats could run between the Marine Sanctuary and the deep water port. Save the deep water access. Touring boats on Great Lakes could stop at an interpretive center (Native American fishing, dune and swale complexes, fens, artifacts, shipwrecks, etc.
- † Need certified guides and outfitters.
- † Tie into ‘entrepreneurial communities’ concept: “Duck hunting with a certified duck hunter;” step aerobics class on the Lake Huron shoreline; sell park

- products (Chamber); sale of Dwarf Lake Iris. Private enterprises would give DNR control (good incentive: businesses would lose license if break rules).
- † Many creative concession opportunities: lighthouse boat tours, kayak access, etc.
- † Partnership with local governments to staff facilities and/or concessions.
- † Rules for taking on commercial passengers at certain types of sties may need review / modification (more opportunity could reduce fuel use, for example). Dive charters, fishing charters, lighthouse tours, kayak tours.
- † Old mine tailings area and the like could be more development without ecoregional harm.
- † Quarry is a very attractive site for divers.
- † Mountain biking from Besser to boat launch, currently able to do.
- † History of Rockport quarry should be documented (wayfinding) and preserved for public education and enjoyment. May also be former US Navy Training area).
- † Safety could be a concern for Rockport features (sink holes, deep water pier, cliff faces at the limestone quarry, metal parts and equipment).

### 3.C Thompson's Harbor: Issues and Solutions; Significance and Purpose

- † Need to look at local significance, state significance and even Federal significance.
- † 18% of Alpena County is publicly-owned land. Some of the resources requiring protection area available on other sites.
- † There is a preponderance of Species of Special Concern, and Threatened and Endangered species in Thompson's Harbor: 1) Thompson's Harbor 2) Negwegon 3) Rockport.
- † Diversity of wildflowers along at Thompson's Harbor warrants tour opportunities. Access to many is good as result of them growing in breaks in canopy.
- † Great kayaking is available seasonally from Grand Lake outlet to Lake Huron (and there is Thompson's Harbor State Park access on Black Bass Bay of Grand Lake).
- † Barrier-free access available from drive on Old State Road. (Point: there is currently great access to see wildflowers).
- † Currently interpretive panels are being installed in Thompson's Harbor State Park.
- † Shipwreck sites are visible to kayakers – NOAA has permit to drop a buoy as marker for one out at the point.
- † Park's history as 'immigrant point.'
- † Presque Isle Township bike path to lighthouse could easily be connected to Old State Road (a bikeable road).
- † Frog data is available from Mary Ann Heidemann.
- † Shoreline is walkable and has a well-established pedestrian path.
- † Enjoyment of the resources cannot be fully realized until we can get people to the center, park and hike or bike from there.

- † Park boundaries are not identified. People do not know where park land is located.
- † Hines Emerald Dragonfly habitat means development would trigger a special assessment.
- † Helpful to document and post what is permitted and what is not permitted at each site (there is a great deal of rumor and misperception).
- † Is it appropriate to plan to regulate nearby private development, so as not to adversely impact the resource? Can we promote economic development without harming the resource?
- † Assessment should show relationship of NRTH to:
  - Nearby State and federal land
  - Nearby County and local parks
  - Trail facilities in the area
  - Harrisville and Hoeft State Parks (campgrounds)
  - Former rail bed from Rockport to Alpena
  - Negwegon shoreline is 6.5 to 8 miles.
- † Consider uses of adjacent properties so they are not a detriment to the State Parks.
- † Look at bike trails which connect the area (100-miler).
- † Look at the Alpena to Rockport railbed (Possible connection: *Rails with Trails*).

## **2. Citizens Advisory Committee**

Paul Curtis led a discussion regarding the formation of a Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC). A CAC would contribute to the GMP planning process and continue to meet for other projects after the GMPs are completed.

June 6, 2007  
NORTH Planning Team Meeting Participants

NAME	AFFILIATION
Beverly Bodem	Sen. Stamas
Mark Slown	City of Rogers City
David Nadolsky	Rogers City
Jerry Smith	Rogers City
Kenneth Gauthier	Sanborn Township
Jeff Thornton	County of Alpena
Matt Smar	DEQ Coastal Mgmt Pgm
Mary Ann Heidemann	MSU Extension
Roger Carlin	Alcona Twp. Supervisor
Tom Ferguson	Michigan Sunrise Sire
Dan Mullen	MDNR
Glenn Palmgren	DNR-PRD
Keith Cheli	MDNR-PRD
Jeff Gray	NOAA
Eric Cline	City of Alpena
Amy Golke	Birchler Arroyo Associates
David Birchler	Birchler Arroyo Associates
Keith Kintigh	MDNR
Tom Paquin	MDNR
Gary Ellenwood	MDNR
Laurie Marzolo	MDNR FMFM
John Pilon	MDNR
F. Joe LaMarre	Underwater Pres. Comm.
Brandon Schroeder	MSU Extension / MI Sea Grant
C. Patrick Labadie	TB National Marine Sanctuary
Jon Spieles	DNR
Elaine Carlson	DNR-Wildlife
Sue Latuszek	Alpena News
Paul Curtis	DNR_PRD
Peter Pettalia	Presque Isle Township

# A G E N D A

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION  
Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson's Harbor (NRTH)  
General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: July 24, 2007

TIME: 9:30 - 5:00 pm

PLACE: Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
500 W Fletcher St, Alpena, MI

1. Brief Review of Background Analysis (9:30-10:15)
  2. Management Zones (10:15 – 4:00)
    - A. Review Management Zone Descriptions, Legal Mandates and Directions
    - B. Group Exercise
      - ✍ Negwegon Management Zones (10:30-11:30)
      - ✍ Rockport Management Zones (11:30-12:30)
      - ✍ Thompson's Harbor Management Zones (1:30-2:30/3:00)
      - ✍ Group Reports to Planning Team (2:30/3:00-4:00)
- Results from group exercise to be compiled into GMP statements of purpose and significance and will be distributed after meeting.
3. Citizens Advisory Committee (4:10-5:00)

# M E E T I N G M I N U T E S

## MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION

Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson's Harbor (NRTH)

General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: July 24 2007

TIME: 9:30 - 5:00 pm

PLACE: Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
500 W Fletcher St, Alpena, MI

### **1. Meeting began at 9:35 am with introductions.**

### **2. Agenda Item 1: Brief review of General Management Plans**

The first agenda item was to review each draft General Management Plan, and receive comments from Planning Team members. Comments received at the meeting are listed below. Members could contact Amy Golke by email, phone or fax with their comments at a later date.

#### Comments on Negwegon

† Section 1.3 Management Plan Process to include a more detailed history.

† Purpose Statements:

- Hiking and kayaking are major uses of Negwegon at present.
- Negwegon is near a State Forest campground, which is very accessible by boat.
- Waterfowl hunting is another purpose of Negwegon. Hardwood Point, in particular, is ideal for goose hunting and migrating.

† Significance Statements:

- Number rather than bullet the statements of significance.
- Add to bullet #1: *The northern portion of Negwegon offers a completely different habitat, featuring lowland hardwoods and a variety of upland forest types.*
- Add to bullet #2: Add Hines emerald dragonfly, if appropriate.
- Add to bullet #3: Add: Negwegon is one of the forested coastal areas that offers a habitat that supports a great diversity of flora and fauna.
- Add to bullet #5: Unique cultural and historic resources are a tremendous educational opportunity for understanding the park's value.
- Add to Bluewater Trail: NEMCOG may be developing a Bluewater Trail (depends on securing grant).

- Other significance statements for Negwegon:
  - Tribal heritage significance. While all parks contain tribal significance, many remnants are cited at Negwegon (burial grounds, stone wall, stone pits).
  - Hunting is a resource value.
  - Add bullet to the effect that south point, and toward the Wade property, are prime focus for duck and goose hunting.
  - Sandy beaches – heavily used during the summer, weekends.
  - Several historic shipwrecks are in this area.

#### † Legal Mandates

- Add note to boundary map that data reflects 40-acre land purchases (may not follow line directly).
- Regarding easements, Detroit & Mackinac is now Lake State Railroad
- MDNR ROW, there is a contract in-place and the DNR pays an annual fee to Lake State RR to use the crossing.
- Under prohibited uses, Chris Morris to provide the proper MCL. Delete item (2) which refers to horses and add the current policy regarding horses.
- Regarding the Piping plover, note that the current status is that it is not currently listed as a Federal Habitat and that the nesting area designation would kick-in only on a seasonal basis if Piping plover nests were found.

#### Comments on Rockport

† Sections 1.1 and 2.1 Add FMFM Mission Statement and FMFM references where relevant (i.e. change core values per FMFM's charge).

† Section 1.3 Management Plan Process will include a more detailed history.

† Section 2.2 heading refers to 'park's purpose.' This is not a park. Change references throughout the GMP.

#### † Purpose Statements:

- Contact Laurie Marzolo and Anna Sylvester for other purpose and significance statements.

#### † Significance Statements:

- Number rather than bullet
- Add to bullet #1: Specify what the history is: quarry used for construction of Mackinaw bridge.
- Add to bullet #2: more than an ideal location for divers – expand this definition. Also, Rockport provides access to shipwrecks. Also, include the important relationship between Rockport and the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary.
- Change bullet #4: There are easily 16-20+ sink holes in Rockport.
- Add bullets:
  - Alvar glade community located at Rockport.



- There are unique fens (groundwater fed and alkaline base). These create a special habitat in which only certain plant species can grow.
- Tribal commercial fishery (2000 Consent Decree) 1836 Chippewa Tribe.
- Historic homesteads and tribal landscapes are present in Rockport.
- Rockport is associated with the best, biggest single facility for fishing. Rockport is the primary-use access site for fishing.
- Significant for hunting, rifle citing and target practice.
- Significance of beach at Besser and significance of shipwreck at the beach.
- Middle Island and access to lighthouse must be mentioned.
- Include fishery discussion from Negwegon as it also applies to Rockport. These areas are important from an educational perspective because undisturbed habitats support ~ forty different species in this area.
- Add statement regarding NEMCOG's development of the Bluewater Trail system based upon grant (see Negwegon comments).
- There was discussion regarding the use of the utility line for snowmobiling. This discussion is more appropriate in the Management Zone Plan.

#### † Legal Mandates

- Add note regarding 40-acre boundaries of land purchase data
- MNRTF Funding source for improvements at the 2-acre Township park within Rockport boundaries.
- Under easements, change reference to Alpena County Road Commission and Lake State Railway

#### Comments on Thompson's Harbor

† Section 1.3 Management Plan Process will include a more detailed history.

† Park Purpose: no changes noted.

† Park Significance:

- Change bullets to numbers.
- Modify bullet #2: 'Stands of Alvar glade trees' to the effect that Alvar glade community is one of only stands known on *park* property.
- Modify bullet #3 to reflect that Thompson's Harbor has one of the highest concentrations of unique habitats and species.
- Add bullets:
  - Thompson's Harbor is significant from a historic standpoint: artifacts of European settlement.
  - There is no significant deep water access at Thompson's Harbor.
  - There is a rustic cabin which will be open to the public – the only overnight lodging experience is in Thompson's Harbor at present.
  - Hunting, hiking, cross-country skiing are all allowed at Thompson's Harbor.

- There is a Great Lakes Marsh wetland complex at Thompson's Harbor (also significant for Negwegon).
- The harbor blends with a fen, which is an ideal near-shore small mouth bass fishery.

† Legal Mandates:

- See Negwegon discussion of Piping plover nesting area.

### 3. Management Zone Plans

Planning team members divided into four groups and allocated management zones to the two parks and the Rockport property. Groups then presented their results to the Planning Team. Birchler Arroyo will digitize plans, and present to the group at the next meeting, which will be scheduled for September 2007.

Comments made at the end of the group exercise:

- We must make sure that the management zone plan is doable. A walk through the parks and Rockport property after the management plans have been drafted should be performed (field verification).
- The Team must be sensitive to the fact that this group does not represent the citizenry. Responses: the Planning Team is drafting the plans for the public to review. There will be a stakeholder workshop and a public participation workshop in order to ensure that the plans include citizen input.
- Regarding Negwegon and Thompson's Harbor, many of the groups designated areas as Back Country. Is this an appropriate designation, as it would allow camping? (DNR representatives indicated that the Zone, and camping, would be appropriate).
- Negwegon seems to have the best sandy beaches for swimming. The group should look ahead, Back Country may not be the best fit for the future. Must consider the potential for an access road off of Lake Shore and how that would affect the Management Zone Plan.

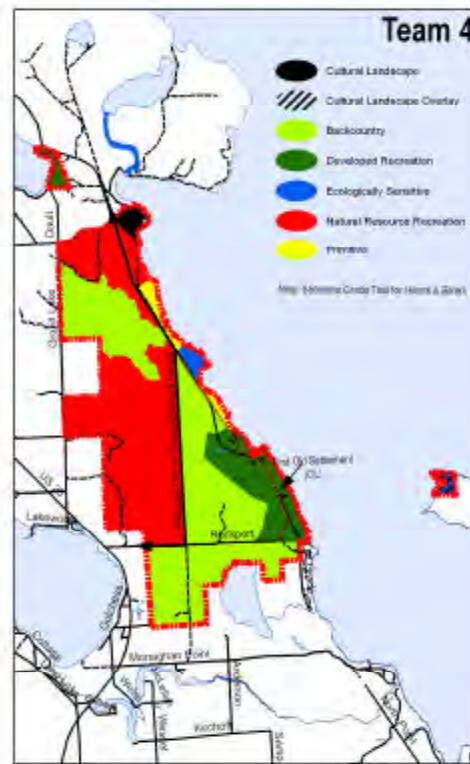
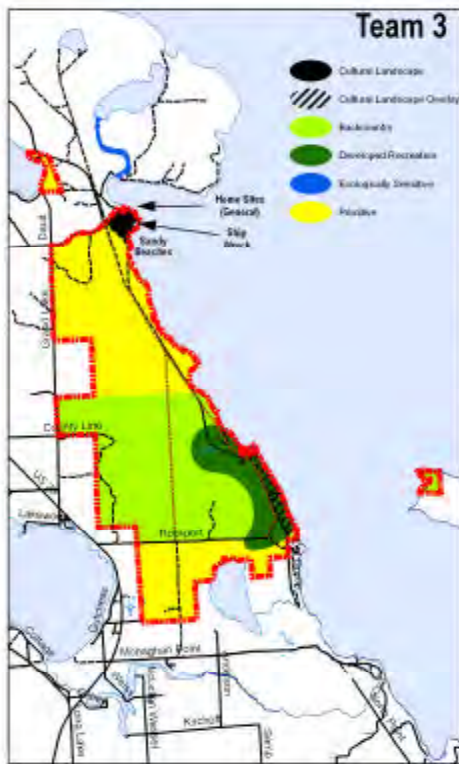
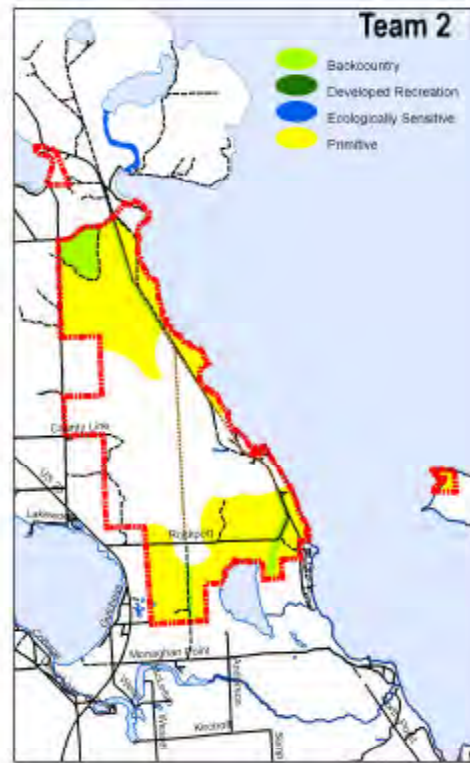
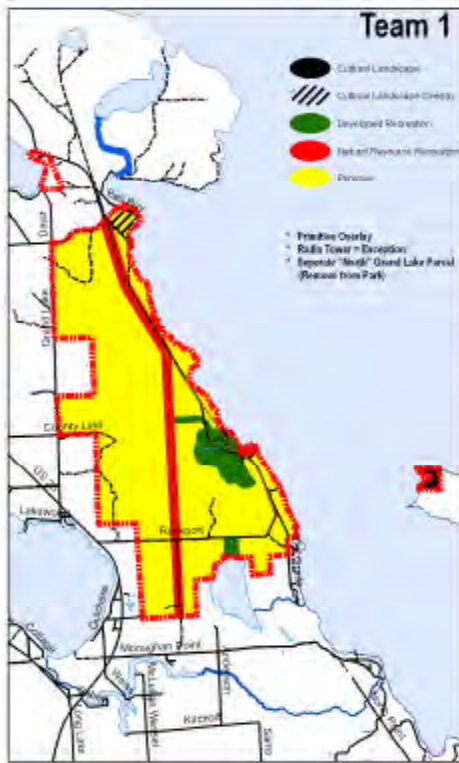
### 4. Citizens Advisory Committee

Discussion continued regarding the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC).

Negwegon State Park  
Results from July 24, 2007 Planning Team Meeting

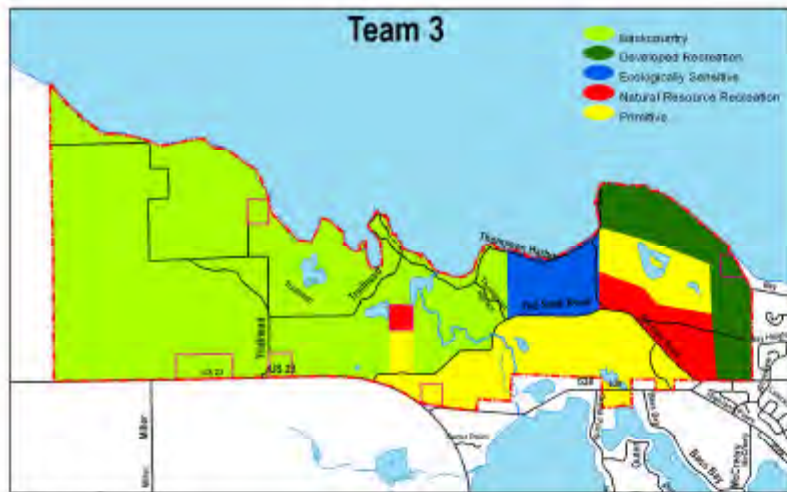
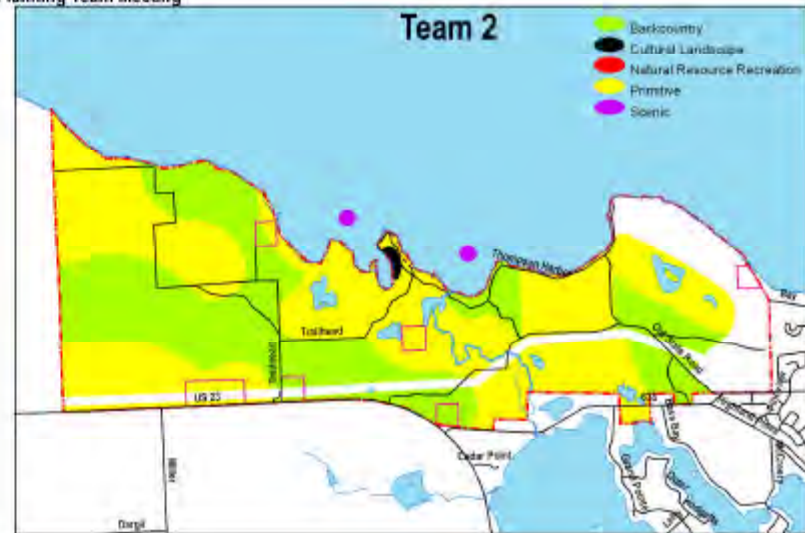
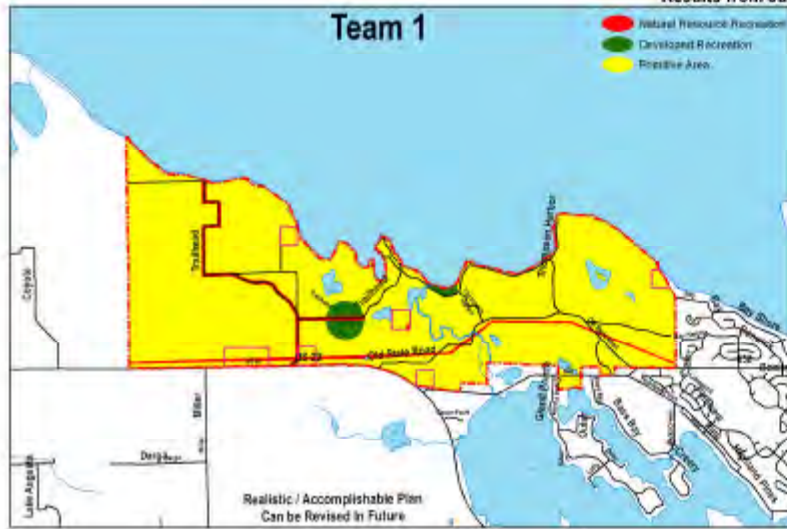


Rockport Property  
Results from July 24, 2007 Planning Team Meeting





Thompson's Harbor  
Results from July 24, 2007 Planning Team Meeting



***Intentionally blank.***

July 24, 2007

NRTH Planning Team Meeting Participants

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
Paul Curtis	DNR
Glenn Palmgren	DNR-PRD
Dan Mullen	MDNR
Ken Timm	Alcona County
Roger Carlin	Alcona Twp. Supervisor
Keith Cheli	MDNR-PRD
Anna Sylvester	MDNR-PRD
Laurie Marzolo	MDNR-FMFM
Chris Morris	MDNR-LED
Eric Cline	City of Alpena
Brandon Schroeder	MSUE/Michigan Sea Grant
Jim Johnson	DNR-Alpena Fisheries
Ken Gauthier	Sanborn Township
C. Patrick Labadie	TB National Marine Sanctuary
Mary Ann Heidemann	MSU Extension
Keith Kintigh	MDNR
Beach Hall	Mayor, Rogers City
Steve Lang	PI County Commissioner
Laura Ingles	NEMCOG
John Pilon	MDNR
Amy Golke	Birchler Arroyo Associates



## A G E N D A

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION  
Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson's Harbor (NRTH)  
General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: Tuesday, September 25, 2007

TIME: 10:00 - 5:00 pm

PLACE: Alpena Township Hall  
4385 N US 23

1. 10:00 am to 12:00 pm: Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting
2. 1:30 to 4:30 pm: Review Draft Management Zone Maps (enclosed)
3. 4:30 to 4:40 Stakeholder's List for Workshop. *The next step in the planning process is to have a stakeholder workshop. Please bring names/contact information to the meeting for groups, organizations, etc .for stakeholders that should be invited to the workshop.*
4. 4:40 to 5:00 pm: History of Negwegon Video

# M E E T I N G   M I N U T E S

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION  
Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson's Harbor (NRTH)  
General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: September 25, 2007

TIME: 1:30 to 5:00 pm

PLACE: Alpena Township Hall  
4385 N US 23

## 1. Meeting began at 1:45 am with Introductions

## 2. Citizen's Advisory Committee Update

The CAC met the morning of September 25. Officers were elected: Mary Ann Heidemann, MSUE, is the Chair, Laura Ingles, NEMCOG, is the Vice Chair; Sue Maxwell, League of Women Voter's, is the Secretary, and Dan Mullen is in charge of record keeping. The two-year terms will be staggered. The By-laws of the committee have been set. There was a request to know the Planning Team meetings at the earliest possible time so that the CAC can schedule their meetings on the same day.

## 3. Review of Draft Management Zone Maps

### Negwegon State Park

Changes to draft management zone plan are:

- † The entire shoreline, from coast to treeline, will be Primitive Zone.
- † Natural Resource Recreation Zone will include the existing access roads, parking area, and access points at Lake Shore and Brousseau.
- † Back Country Zone will buffer the existing trails.
- † Check that the in-holding parcel is actually 80 acres, not 40 acres as shown.
- † Add wetlands and woodlands to maps to illustrate boundaries of zones.
- † Question: should there be a special zone over dune swales in the parks and Rockport property?
- † In the text, discuss:
  - The difference between the dedicated boundary land and land in actual DNR ownership.
  - Opportunities for interpretation and education: kiosks with illustration of the dune swale complex. Include aerial photograph.

## The Rockport Property

Changes to draft management zone plan are:

- † The center of the property should be zoned Natural Resource Recreation.
- † Add wetlands and woodlands to maps to illustrate boundaries of zones.
- † Access road should be zoned Natural Resource Recreation.
- † Extend Cultural Resource overlay north of the parking area / bay to protect the rock piles.
- † Ensure that the width of the Natural Resource Recreation zone along the utility corridor is only as wide as the easement (call out width in the management zone text).
- † The Backcountry zone should be zoned Natural Resource Recreation.
- † Change the Developed Recreation zone south of the entrance road to Primitive.
- † Identify a potential central parking area as a Natural Resource Recreation Zone.
- † Identify the sand boils south of Ferron Point as a unique resource.

Questions to be resolved are: 1) whether ORV use be allowed in Rockport and 2) whether the shooting range should be maintained as a component of the quarry.

In the text, discuss:

- † The opportunity for an interpretive center in the Development Recreation Zone.
- † Call-out the bay as a water access point / develop a safe harbor at this location.
- † Discuss the importance of the 'water / front door' access to Rockport through the port.

## Thompson's Harbor State Park

Changes to draft management zone plan are:

- † The eastern boundary should be designated as Developed Recreation zone.
- † Create a scenic point at the bridge. Also, move the scenic point currently in the Lake to the shoreline of Thompson's Harbor (scenic 'view').
- † Add a campground at Observatory Point and near Black Point.
- † Add note for the Natural Resource Recreation – Seasonal "for snow mobile use."
- † Identify the location of the Pitcher plants (at inlet)
- † Include a Primitive Zone on the western portion of the Park (currently Backcountry) to preserve the Alvar Glades and wetlands.
- † Show Old State Road and County Road to Grand Lake Outlet as Natural Resource Recreation.
- † The foot paths shown on the map are not correct.

- † In text, describe the potential for a lodge along the eastern shore, including that such a development would require a change in Department policy.

#### 4. Stakeholder List

Planning Team members brainstormed key individuals and organizations that should be invited to the stakeholder workshop.

September 24, 2007  
NRTH Planning Team Meeting Participants

NAME	AFFILIATION
Paul Curtis	DNR
Glenn Palmgren	DNR-PRD
Dan Mullen	MDNR
Ken Timm	Alcona County
Roger Carlin	Alcona Twp. Supervisor
Marie Twite	Twp of Alpena
Joseph Sobczak	TBUPC
Laurie Marzolo	MDNR-FMFM
Chris Morris	MDNR-LED
Deb Pardike	Alpena CUB
Brandon Schroeder	MSUE/Michigan Sea Grant
Jim Johnson	DNR-Alpena Fisheries
Ken Gauthier	Sanborn Township
C. Patrick Labadie	TB National Marine Sanctuary
Mary Ann Heidemann	MSU Extension
Keith Kintigh	MDNR
Rachael Franks Taylor	The Nature Conservancy
Sue Maxwell	League of Women Voters
Jackie Krawczak	Alpena Chamber of Commerce
Jeff Thorton	County of Alpena
Roxanne Merrick	DEQ-LWMD
Peter Pettalia	Presque Isle Twp Supervisor
Jeff Shea	Alpena
Matt Smar	DEQ-Coastal Management
Troy A. Rife	DNR-PRD
Laura Ingles	NEMCOG
John Pilon	DNR
David Birchler	Birchler Arroyo Associates
Amy Golke	Birchler Arroyo Associates

# A G E N D A

## MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION

Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson's Harbor (NRTH)

General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: Tuesday, January 29, 2008

TIME: 10:00 - 12:00 pm

PLACE: Alpena Public Library

### **1. Review survey results and incorporation of comments into Management Plans**

#### † Changes to all plans

- Clarification of Phase I planning process intent
- Addition of bird flyway zone
- Addition of Section 2.5, Land Acquisitions. Group must evaluate and recommend changes to Dedicated Boundary as part of this process

#### † Changes to Rockport

- Addition of equestrian use as a potential activity in the Backcountry, Natural Resource Recreation and Developed Recreation Zones
- Strengthened geologic significance statement

#### † Changes to Thompson's Harbor

- Addition of Ecologically Sensitive Seasonal Overlay for the Piping plover critical habitat
- Addition of Piping plover and Hine's emerald critical habitats in Legal Mandates section
- Question: should the former Developed Recreation Zone be Primitive or Natural Resource Recreation?
- Question: should the plan expand use of existing roadbeds for snowmobiling, bicycling and equestrian use?

### **2. Review Regional Assessment**

### **3. Review steps for the remainder of the process (P. Curtis)**

# M E E T I N G   M I N U T E S

## MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION

Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson’s Harbor (NRTH)

General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE:      Tuesday, January 29, 2008

TIME:      10:00 - 12:00 pm

PLACE:     Alpena Public Library

### **1. Review survey results and incorporation of comments into Management Plans**

A summary of the results from the December 11 Public Participation workshop was given. Comments from the group included:

- † Negwegon was the first to have interest in a Friends group. Also, the most on-line survey responses were received for Negwegon. Perhaps this is due to its southern location (the other two sites are further north).
- † The Negwegon Friends group has already met (per D. Mullen). A.Golke is to send the list of interested people who signed up at the December 11 Public Participation Workshop for the Negwegon Friends group to S.Maxwell, Secretary for the Citizen’s Advisory Committee (the list was already sent to D.Mullen).
- † Note that for Thompson’s Harbor, comments received indicated that the user groups do not conflict. People want to make sure that they will be able to use the park as they do currently.

### **2. Review changes to the General Management Plans**

#### Negwegon

- † The purpose of the Phase I planning process was clarified in Sections 1.0 and 3.0.
- † A statement of significance was added regarding Negwegon’s importance as a migrating bird flyway zone, as well as providing a habitat for resident birds.
- † Section 2.5, Land Acquisitions, was added. A revision to the dedicated boundary was recommended by the group. There was consensus from the Planning Team to extend the western boundary to the road, not the railroad. The map will be revised to reflect this recommendation.
- † There was a motion to include a recommendation regarding Sand Hill Road improvements. There is a jarring contrast between Sand Hill Road and the access road to Negwegon. The need to upgrade access and signage should be called out in the plan. The recommendation should state that careful

engineering is needed to soften the visual impact of the access road with trees and/or other design treatment.

- † There is a need to identify how Negwegon fits in with the region (Thompson's Harbor and Rockport). A preface will be added to the beginning of each general management plan. Also, 'Marketing' will be added to "Other Considerations" Section; this would address marketing and signage needed at the park (and all three sites). A comment was made that the sites do not have to be managed regionally, but can certainly be marketed regionally.
- † On page 18, clarify accessibility – that the two 'potential future points of access' would include parking areas. Can the southern access point be unblocked for bikers?

### Rockport

- † The purpose of the Phase I planning process was clarified in Sections 1.0 and 3.0.
- † A statement of significance was added regarding Negwegon's importance as a migrating bird flyway zone, as well as providing a habitat for resident birds (per comments received from the public).
- † Section 2.5, Land Acquisitions, was added. A revision to the dedicated boundary was recommended by the group. There was consensus from the Planning Team to extend the boundary to Grand Lake Road for most of the northern portion, as well as to include all of Middle Island.
- † Equestrian use as a potential activity in the Backcountry, Natural Resource Recreation and Developed Recreation Zones was added per comments received from the public. There was consensus from the Planning Team that this statement was acceptable, provided the language 'where appropriate,' would be included.
- † The geologic significance statement has been strengthened to reflect comments received from the public.
- † A comment was made regarding parking at Rockport, and whether a parking area could be created on the Private property at Besser. The ownership of the road and access should be investigated, and there should be consideration as to whether a parking area could be created in a Natural Area.
- † A question was raised regarding target shooting at Rockport, and whether this would be an allowable activity.
- † The plan should emphasize that Rockport is the central 'hub' for the three sites, and that is the underlying purpose for the Developed Recreation management zone. There was consensus that a preface be added to each plan to explain this.
- † The genesis of the plan for Rockport was to evaluate whether the property should be managed by PRD rather than FMFM. The decision should be reflected in these plans. There was consensus by the Planning Team to



recommend that the PRD manage Rockport, over a phased timetable as reflected in the following motion of the Citizen's Advisory Committee:

"[At the January 29, 2008 meeting], It was motioned to communicate the Committee's general consensus that the Rockport property should be transferred from FMFM to PRD with a phased transfer contingent on Land Use orders being created to retain the FMFM activities on the property." K. Gauthier motioned to approve and P. Pettalia seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- † The regional assessment should include a recommendation for Rockport, and consider Rockport as the center of activity because of its central location and because it has been the site of more disturbance.
- † The Citizen's Advisory Committee would work with the DNR on the details of the property transfer. This statement should be added to the GMP.
- † A comment was made that perhaps the property should be split, and managed by FMFM and PRD. L.Marzolo did not support splitting the property. The important concept is to work out the changes in rules that will be necessary before the transfer occurs.

#### Thompson's Harbor

- † The purpose of the Phase I planning process was clarified in Sections 1.0 and 3.0.
- † A statement of significance was added regarding Negwegon's importance as a migrating bird flyway zone, as well as providing a habitat for resident birds (per comments received from the public).
- † Section 2.5, Land Acquisitions, was added. A revision to the dedicated boundary was recommended by the group. There was consensus from the Planning Team to extend the boundary to the west, which would encompass approximately 6,000 acres.
- † The Ecologically Sensitive Seasonal Overlay for the Piping plover critical habitat was added. In addition, the Piping plover and Hine's emerald critical habitat descriptions were added to the Legal Mandates section.
- † The question was brought to the group: should the former Developed Recreation Zone be Primitive, Backcountry or Natural Resource Recreation? There was consensus from the Planning Team that the area be designated Backcountry, contingent on having a Developed Recreation zone at Rockport.
- † Another question was brought to the group: should the plan expand use of existing roadbeds for snowmobiling, bicycling and equestrian use? There was consensus from the Planning Team, that these uses could be allowed 'where appropriate.'

### **3. Review Regional Assessment**

- † Comments were provided regarding the tables, and resources available at each park.

- † Queensland, AU could be used as a model for assisting with supporting small businesses that support tourism (e.g. kayak businesses). The PRD can allow private enterprises on park land on a case-by-case basis. There is opportunity to do this, the challenge is to orchestrate the ability for people to do this.
- † Include the Piping plover in Natural Resource values table.
- † A number of partnerships were identified, including the Blue Water Trail study.
- † Include the lumbering and fire history at Thompson's Harbor (contact for more information: Mayor Hall).
- † Need to express the tourism value of the sites.
- † Distance from management unit to site is also a challenge.

#### 4. Review steps for the remainder of the process (P. Curtis)

- † A.Golke will distribute the final draft plans via the website, and allow 5 days for Planning Team members to comment. The plans will then go through the DNR-approval process.

January 29, 2009  
NORTH Planning Team Meeting Participants

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Manny Valdez	DNR-PRD
Jeff Shea	City of Alpena
Laurie Marzolo	DNR-FMFM
Sue Maxwell	LWV
Brandon Schroeder	MSUE / Sea Grant
Deb Pardike	Alpena COB
Erin Riopelle	Headwaters Land Conservancy
Kenneth Timm	Alcona County
Kenneth Gauthier	Sanborn Township
Anna Sylvester	DRN-PRD
Keith Cheli	DRN-PRD
Christopher Graham	Citizens Committee, Michigan Parks
Beach Hall	Rogers City
Colleen Higgens	DNR-PRD
Louise Cotter	DNR-PRD
Tom Paquin	DNR-Cheboygan Field Office
Lee Shirey	Target Alpena EDC
Jackie Krawczak	Alpena Chamber of Commerce
Laura Ingles	NEMCOG
Mary Ann Heidemann	MSU Extension
C Patrick Labadie	NOAA Marine Sanctuary

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
John Pilon	MDNR Planner
Roger Carlin	Alcona Township
William J. Laram	RE Alpena
Peter Pettalia	Presque Isle
Paul Curtis	DNR-PRD
Amy Golke	Birchler Arroyo Associates