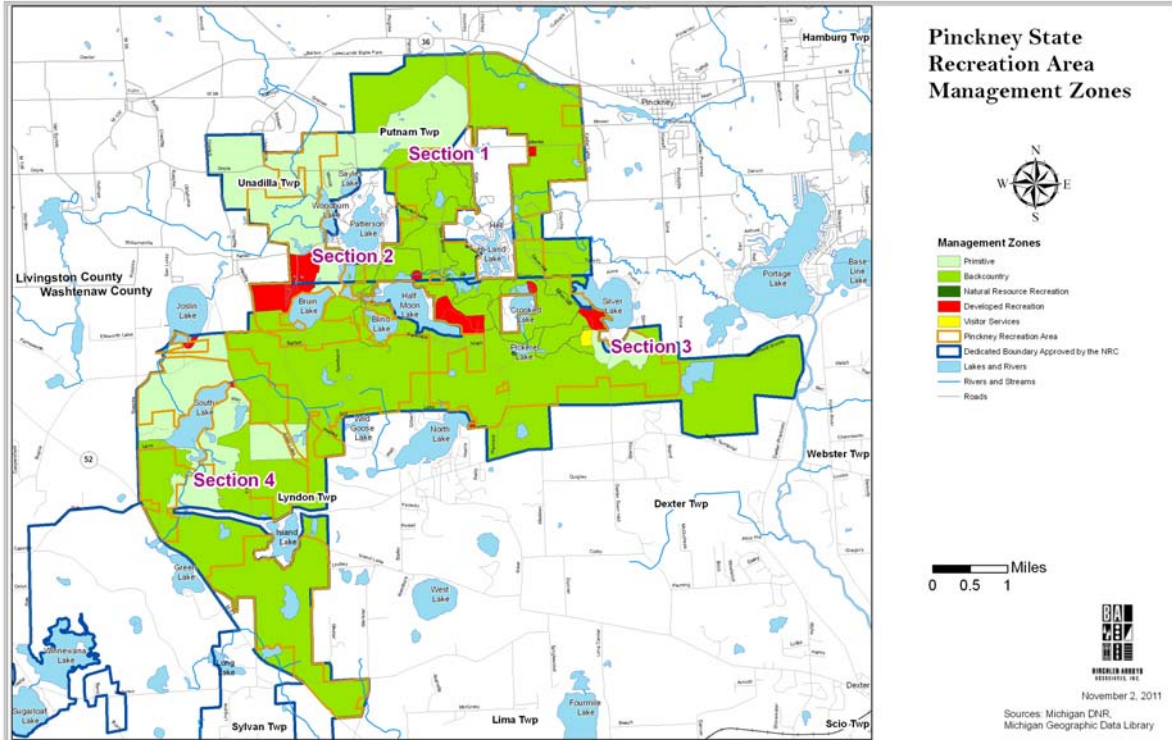


General Management Plan

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

Pinckney Recreation Area



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



PLAN APPROVALS:

Samuel A. Allen

 Chief, Parks & Recreation Division

3/2/12

 Date

Kelley Smith

 Deputy Director, Natural Resources

3/9/2012

 Date

Paul N. Curtis

 Director, Department of Natural Resources

3/19/12

 Date

Pinckney State Recreation Area Aerial



- Pinckney Recreation Area
- Waterloo Recreation Area
- Dedicated Boundary Approved by the NRC
- Roads



November 2, 2011
Sources: Michigan DNR,
Michigan Geographic Data Library

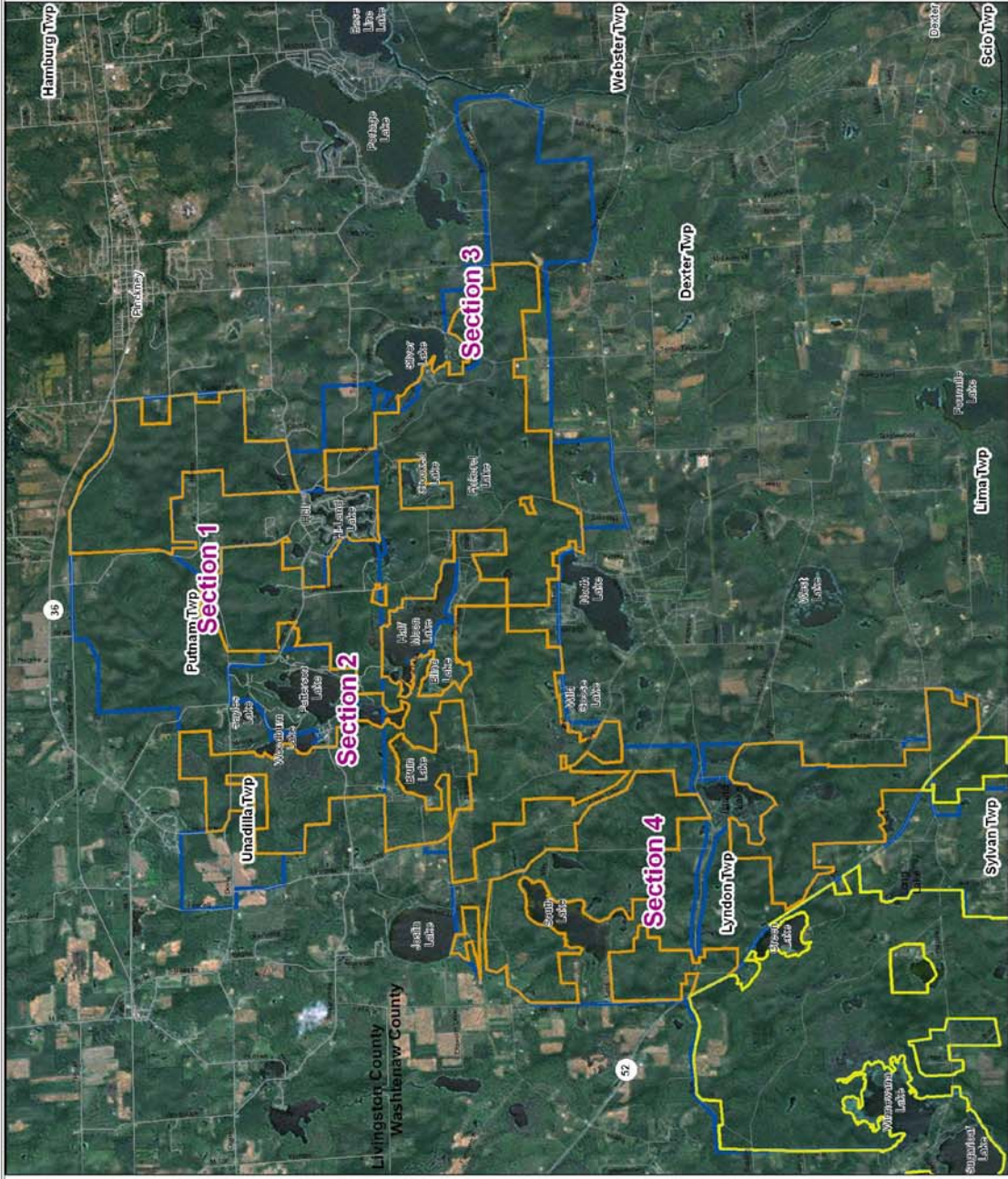


Table of Contents

Executive Summary

1.0 Plan Process Overview

- 1.1 Planning Objectives
- 1.2 Planning Team
- 1.3 Management Plan Process

2.0 Core Values

- 2.1 Mission Statements
- 2.2 Statements of Purpose
- 2.3 Statements of Significance
- 2.4 Legal Mandates
- 2.5 Land Acquisitions

3.0 Management Zone Plan

- 3.1 Primitive
- 3.2 Backcountry
- 3.3 Natural Resource Recreation
- 3.4 Developed Recreation
- 3.5 Visitor Services

Appendices

- A Supporting Analysis
- B Summary of Public Input
- C Planning Team Meeting Summaries
- D Future Plan Inserts

Executive Summary

Pinckney Recreation Area, with 10,413 acres is located primarily in Washtenaw County, Michigan, with some of the park located in Livingston County. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks & 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. During Phase 1, the GMP focuses on the four principles of the PRD Mission Statement: to acquire, preserve, and protect; (1) natural resources, (2) cultural resource, (3) provide public recreation, and (4) provide education opportunities. The process includes a thorough inventory of Pinckney Recreation Area’s natural and historic/cultural resources, recreational opportunities and education and interpretation opportunities.

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

- ❑ The recreation area has an extensive, internal trail system that also provides external connections to the region via the Lakelands Trail. There is a potential to connect to other regional trails, including those of the Huron Clinton Metroparks (HCMA) and local townships.
- ❑ The recreation area features a chain of lakes that creates a water trail for boaters.
- ❑ The recreation area offers hunting, trapping, and fishing opportunities, which are unique within southeast Michigan.
- ❑ The recreation area provides a large potential habitat area, unique geology, and wildlife corridors for threatened & endangered species. There are places within the recreation area that are exemplary natural habitats.
- ❑ Archeological & pre-historic sites may be found within the recreation area, offering an educational opportunity to tell the story of early life in the region.
- ❑ The recreation area offers a variety of camping opportunities, from rustic to modern sites, and includes the modern Glenbrook yurt overlooking Half Moon Lake.
- ❑ The size of Pinckney Recreation Area is significant in relation to the regional population center, and is enhanced by its proximity to Waterloo Recreation Area. Both recreation areas offer an “up north” feel in southeast lower Michigan, due to their combination of land mass and natural features. The two recreation areas offer the largest public area for recreational hunting in southeast lower Michigan.
- ❑ Pinckney Recreation Area is a destination for health and fitness group events and training, as well as recreation for individual users.

- ❑ Pinckney Recreation Area hosts a great diversity of users – hunters, birders, trail runners, geo-cachers, equestrians, hikers, mountain bikers, fishermen/women.
- ❑ One of the University of Michigan’s biological research stations is within the NRC boundary of Pinckney Recreation Area. Given its proximity to the University of Michigan, the recreation area is frequently used for classes and research.
- ❑ The University of Michigan’s Stichfield Woods property offers a potential trail connection to HCMA’s Hudson Mills and Dexter-Huron metroparks.

Considering the identity and significance of Pinckney Recreation Area, the Planning Team, with stakeholder and public input, established appropriate Management Zones and the extent of influence on the property. From a palette of nine standard zones, five were applied to Pinckney Recreation Area. The Management Zone map and a thorough review of each Management Zone are found in Section 3 of this Plan. A condensed view of the Management Zones is as follows:

- ❑ Primitive Zone comprises 1,968 acres, or 18.9%, and will reflect a desired condition that emphasizes the natural resources. The allowance of recreational uses should depend on attaining and maintaining a high quality natural resource condition.
- ❑ Backcountry Zone comprises 7,928 acres, or 76.1%, and emphasizes resource quality over recreation, but allows for modification of landscape to allow for moderate levels of active recreation uses. Most of park’s extensive trail system is located in this zone.
- ❑ Natural Resource Recreation Zone comprises 43 acres, or 0.41%, and permits active recreation with medium to high density of use conducted in natural areas. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but in this zone, higher levels of use are allowed (e.g., high-use park trails are so designated).
- ❑ Developed Recreation Zone comprises 454 acres, or 4.4%, and allows active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhances as possible. The park’s modern campgrounds, lake day-use beaches, boating access sites, and parking areas are found in this zone.
- ❑ Visitor Services Zone comprises 20 acres, or 0.19%, and encompasses those areas required for program administration and operations. This zone includes the office, contact station, and maintenance facilities that support the business of running a state park. The current headquarters for the park will be in the Visitors Services Zone.

Planning Team, stakeholder, and public input explored the concepts for trail connections between Pinckney and Waterloo Recreation Areas. Appropriate zones have been designated in general areas where such trails may be possible. Trail connections will be explored in more detail during Phase 2 of the General Management Plan.

1.0 Plan Process Overview

A General Management Plan (GMP) guides the management of resources, visitor use, and general development at Pinckney 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 natural and cultural resources.

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 & 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 goals (20-year).
- ◆ **Phase 2.** Long-range Action Goals Plan that identifies 10-year action strategies to attain the GMP (requires review of Phase 1)
- ◆ **Phase 3.** Five-Year Implementation 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, a 20-year vision for the park 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 each 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
- ◆ 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
- ◆ 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 Parks & Recreation Division staff, stakeholders, and the public who use the park into a planning process that will define and clarify the unique “Purpose” and “Significance” of Pinckney Recreation Area. Collectively, those attributes will be reinforced 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, develop, and comment on the plan elements. In addition, the DNR hosted a stakeholder workshop and a public participation workshop. Both the stakeholder and public participation workshops involved solicited written and verbal comments. The draft plan was available for review on a website and the public was invited to email, call or mail questions or comments concerning this initiative. The results of the public participation program are provided in Appendix 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 listed below are those who were critical participants in this planning process. Agendas, meeting minutes and attendance at Planning Team meetings is provided in Appendix C.

DNR Staff

Paul N. Curtis	PRD	Park Management Plan Administrator
Paul Yauk	PRD	Lands Manager
Rob Corbett	PRD	Acquisitions and Exchanges Case Manager
Murdock Jemmerson	PRD	Rose Lake District Supervisor
Joe Strach	PRD	SW Michigan Region Planner
Ray Fahlsing	PRD	Stewardship Unit Manager
Lisa Gamero	PRD	Cultural Resource Analyst
Alicia Selden	PRD	Natural Resource Analyst
Chuck Dennison	PRD	Pinckney RA Manager
Barb McCarter	PRD	Pinckney RA Supervisor
Gary Jones	PRD	Waterloo R A Manager
Greg Byce	PRD	Waterloo R A Supervisor
Katie McGlashen	PRD	Waterloo R A Interpreter
Tim Payne	WD	Southeast Region Manager
Kristin Bissell	WD	Wildlife Biologist
Chad Fedewa	WD	Wildlife Technician
Jeff Braunscheidel	FD	Fisheries Biologist (Lk. Erie Watershed)
Scott Hanshue	FD	Fisheries Biologist (Lk. Michigan Watershed)
Tom Hoane	FMD	FMD – Geologist
Bruce Miller	FMD	Fire Officer
Jane Gordon	LED	Lieutenant
Jason Smith	LED	Conservation Officer
Damon Owens	LED	Conservation Officer (Jackson County)
John Spieles	M&O	Interpreter Manager
Kevin Frailey	M&O	Education Services Manager

Consultants

David Birchler, Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.
Jill Bahm, Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.
Susan Roble, Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.
Sheila Starks, Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.

1.3 Management Plan Planning Process

Management Planning is a defined strategic process within the Parks & Recreation Division Strategic Plan (2009), reflecting the following Goals and Objectives:

- ◆ Goal 1, Objective 1.2: Strengthen, update, and implement Management Plans.
- ◆ Goal 3, Objective 3.1: Perform landscape level assessment of recreation opportunities in decision making.
- ◆ Goal 8, Objective 8.1: Continue to use the MSPAC (Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee), MSWC (Michigan State Waterways Commission), NRC (Natural Resources Commission), SWC (Statewide Council), and Ecoregion Teams and partners to advise in Parks & Recreation Division planning, policy development, and issue resolution.

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 & 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 Pinckney Recreation Area, 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 and cultural resources for current and future generations.

PRD Mission Statement

The Parks & Recreation Division's (PRD) Mission is to acquire, protect, and preserve the natural and cultural features of Michigan's unique resources, and to provide access to land and water based public recreation and educational opportunities.

The core values derived from the 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

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

1. To be used as a public park, pursuant to the intentions of the park first being created in the 1943 as it was acquired piece by piece by the State.
2. To preserve and protect Pinckney Recreation Area's unique natural resources for current and future generations.
3. To provide diverse recreational opportunities to nearby populations.
4. To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflect the DNR mission and the unique qualities of Pinckney Recreation Area.

2.3 Statements of Significance

Park Significance statements capture the essence of the park's importance to our state's natural and cultural heritage. These statements demonstrate the distinctiveness of Pinckney Recreation Area. Understanding the park's significance helps managers make decisions that preserve those resources and values necessary to accomplish the park's purpose.

- ❑ The recreation area has an extensive, internal trail system that also provides external connections to the region via the Lakelands Trail. There is a potential to connect to other regional trails, including those of the Huron Clinton Metroparks (HCMA) and local townships.
- ❑ The recreation area features a chain of lakes that creates a water trail for boaters.
- ❑ The recreation area offers hunting, trapping, and fishing opportunities, which are unique within southeast Michigan
- ❑ The recreation area provides a large potential habitat area, unique geology, and wildlife corridors for threatened & endangered species. There are places within the recreation area that are exemplary natural habitats.
- ❑ Archeological & pre-historic sites may be found within the recreation area, offering an educational opportunity to tell the story of early life in the region.
- ❑ The recreation area offers a variety of camping opportunities, from rustic to modern sites, and includes the modern Glenbrook yurt overlooking Half Moon Lake.
- ❑ The size of Pinckney Recreation Area is significant in relation to the regional population center, and is enhanced by its proximity to Waterloo Recreation Area. Both recreation areas offer an "up north" feel in southeast lower Michigan, due to their combination of land mass and natural features.
- ❑ Pinckney Recreation Area is a destination for health and fitness group events and training, as well as recreation for individual users.
- ❑ Pinckney Recreation Area hosts a great diversity of users – hunters, birders, trail runners, geo-cachers, equestrians, hikers, mountain bikers, fishermen/women.
- ❑ One of the University of Michigan's biological research stations is within the NRC boundary of Pinckney Recreation Area. Given its proximity to the University of Michigan, the recreation area is frequently used for classes and research.
- ❑ The University of Michigan's Stinchfield Woods property offers a potential trail connection to HCMA's Hudson Mills and Dexter-Huron metroparks.

2.4 Legal Mandates

For all park General Management Plans, all legal mandates will be identified and will 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 the Parks & Recreation Division. Examples include Wildlife Conservation Orders, Orders of the Director, and all other laws, commission orders, and rules or directives that apply to the park. Specific to Pinckney Recreation Area, several legal mandates have been identified, which are listed below.

DNR Policy 26.04-04 - Use of State-Owned Lands Administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (ISSUED: 02/01/2006)

- The NRC will manage state-owned lands in a manner that protects and enhances the public trust while providing for the use and enjoyment of those lands as outlined in the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act.
- Established to protect and promote the public health by establishing health code requirements specifically addressing campgrounds.
- All public (including DNR) and private campgrounds must meet these regulations
- Mandates that a campground wastewater system must meet the construction permit, design, and operation requirements under Michigan's Public Health Code.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, including Storm Water Runoff Discharge Authorization

- The purpose of this permit is to control the discharge of pollutants into surface waters of the state to protect the environment.; administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

PA 35 of 2010, Part 741 ("Recreation Passport")

- This act amended the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code to provide for a State Park and State-operated public boating access site "Recreation Passport" that a Michigan resident may obtain by paying an additional fee when registering a motor vehicle.
- The Recreation Passport is required for entry into all PRD administered facilities and takes the place of the Motor Vehicle Permit (MVP).

PA 368 OF 1978, ARTICLE 12 - ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PART 125 – CAMPGROUNDS – Part 125 of the Public Health Code

- Established to protect and promote the public health by establishing health code requirements specifically addressing all public (including DNR) and private campgrounds must meet these regulations.
- Campground wastewater system must meet the construction permit, design, and operation requirements under Michigan's Public Health Code.

PA 451 OF 1994, PART 22 – CAMPGROUND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

- These rules apply to all campground wastewater systems and regulates discharges to groundwater; administered by the Water Division, Groundwater Discharge Unit

PA 451 of 1994, PART 303 - WETLANDS PROTECTION (formerly Act No. 203, P.A. 1979 Wetland Protection Act)

- Administered by the DNR and part of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, this legislation provides clarification and guidance on interpreting Part 303 by defining specific rules for the regulation of wetlands in Michigan.
- The law requires that persons planning to conduct certain activities in regulated wetlands apply for and receive a permit from the state before beginning the activity.

PA 451 OF 1994, PART 419 - HUNTING AREA CONTROL

- Administered by the DNR, this part of PA 451 establishes the powers of the Department to establish safety zones for hunting.

PA 451 OF 1994, PART 504 - STATE LAND USE RULES / LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR

- Administered by DNR Law Division.

- States that the department shall promulgate rules for the protection of the lands and property under its control against wrongful use or occupancy.

PA 451 OF 1994, PART 741 - STATE PARK SYSTEM - NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

- Notable in this law is Section 324.74102, which identifies the duties of the DNR and reinforces those core values concerning preservation, protection and management cited above.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDERS

- Established by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC).
- Describes hunting and trapping regulations including methods of take, bag limits, license quotas, and season dates are established by the NRC and are described in the Wildlife Conservation Orders.

2.5 Land Acquisitions & Funding Sources

Pinckney Recreation Area was obtained piece by piece over several years. Various funding sources have been used for acquisition of land in Pinckney Recreation Area. Please refer to Appendix A: Supporting Analysis for a complete detailed list of these sources.

Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (MNRTF)

The MNRTF has provided financial assistance to protect natural resources and open space, purchase lands for outdoor recreation, and acquire land for its environmental importance or scenic beauty.

Pittman-Robertson

Pittman-Robertson Funds have been used to acquire certain parcels of land for the park. Because this funding source is specifically dedicated to game and habitat restoration, the Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) and Wildlife Division co-manage this property. These shared responsibilities are outlined in a memorandum of understanding between the Parks and Recreation Division and the Wildlife Division.

Special Legislation

Public Act 27, 1944, appropriated \$5,000,000 for acquisition of land for recreation facilities. \$1,500,000 was dedicated to purchasing lands in southeastern Michigan.

Public Act 50, 1944, appropriated \$632,500 for the purposes of purchasing land, construction of state parks, and repairing/remodeling the State Capitol and office buildings. Of the \$632,500, \$450,000.00 went to the Department of Conservation.

State Game Fund

Revenue from this fund is raised through a \$1.50 tax on deer hunting licenses.

Other funding sources available for future land acquisition include:

- Dingell Johnson – modeled after the Pittman-Robertson Act, this program focuses on the management, conservation and restoration of fishery resources.
- Game and Fish Fund – provides revenues for the operation of the Fish, Wildlife, and Law Enforcement programs.

3.0 Management Zones

With guidance of the Planning Team and input from the park's stakeholders and the public, the "Purpose and Significance" statements were formulated for Pinckney Recreation Area. This established an identity for Pinckney Recreation Area as a place to be valued for its unique natural features, access to numerous lakes, multi-use recreational trails, and opportunity for natural resources education.

The Management Zone Plan, was developed in keeping with the park's unique 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 park's natural resources, while creating opportunities for recreation, education and interpretation. To achieve this, the 10,413-acre park was divided into the following zones:

This is Phase I of the General Management Plan for Pinckney Recreation Area to determine management zones for the parkland. Management zones 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 phase.

- ❑ Primitive Zone comprises 1,968 acres (18.9%) and 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. This zone preserves and protects the unique areas for exemplary habitat found in the northern and western portions of this park.
- ❑ Backcountry Zone comprises 7,928 acres (76.1%) and emphasizes resource quality over recreation, but allows for modification of the landscape to allow for moderate levels of active recreation uses. Much of Pinckney Recreation Area's extensive trail system is located in this management zone.
- ❑ Natural Resource Recreation Zone comprises 43 acres (0.41%), and allows active recreation with medium-high density of use conducted in natural areas. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but in this zone, higher levels of use are allowed. In Pinckney Recreation Area, this zone is mainly comprised of small boat launch areas and a 20-ft wide trail buffer around specific trails that are intensively used for events.
- ❑ Developed Recreation Zone comprises 455 acres (4.4%) and allows active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance.. The campgrounds, picnic areas, larger boat launch areas, and lake day-use beach areas will be found within the Developed Recreation zone.
- ❑ Visitor Services Zone comprises 20 acres (0.19%) and encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. This zone will include the park headquarters, maintenance facilities and all related land required to conduct the business of running a state recreation area.

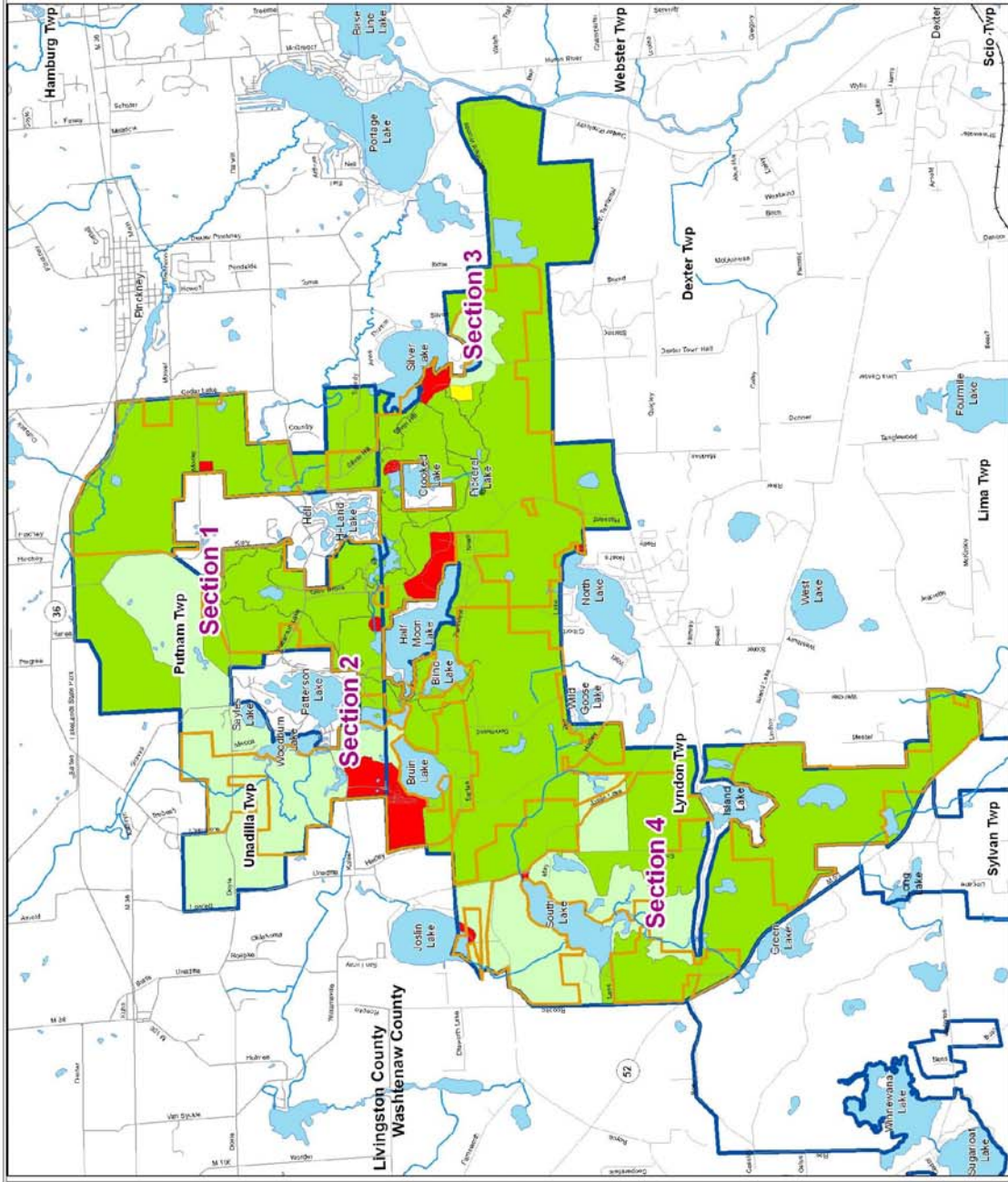
Pinckney State Recreation Area Management Zones

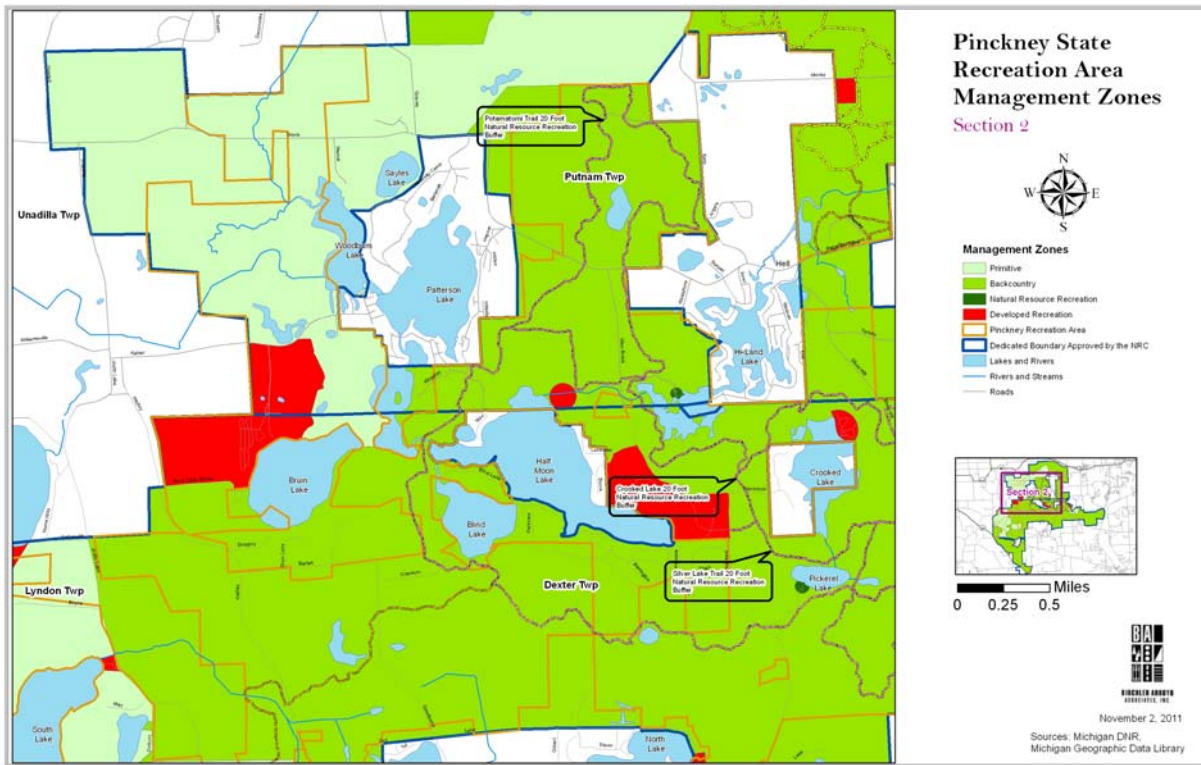
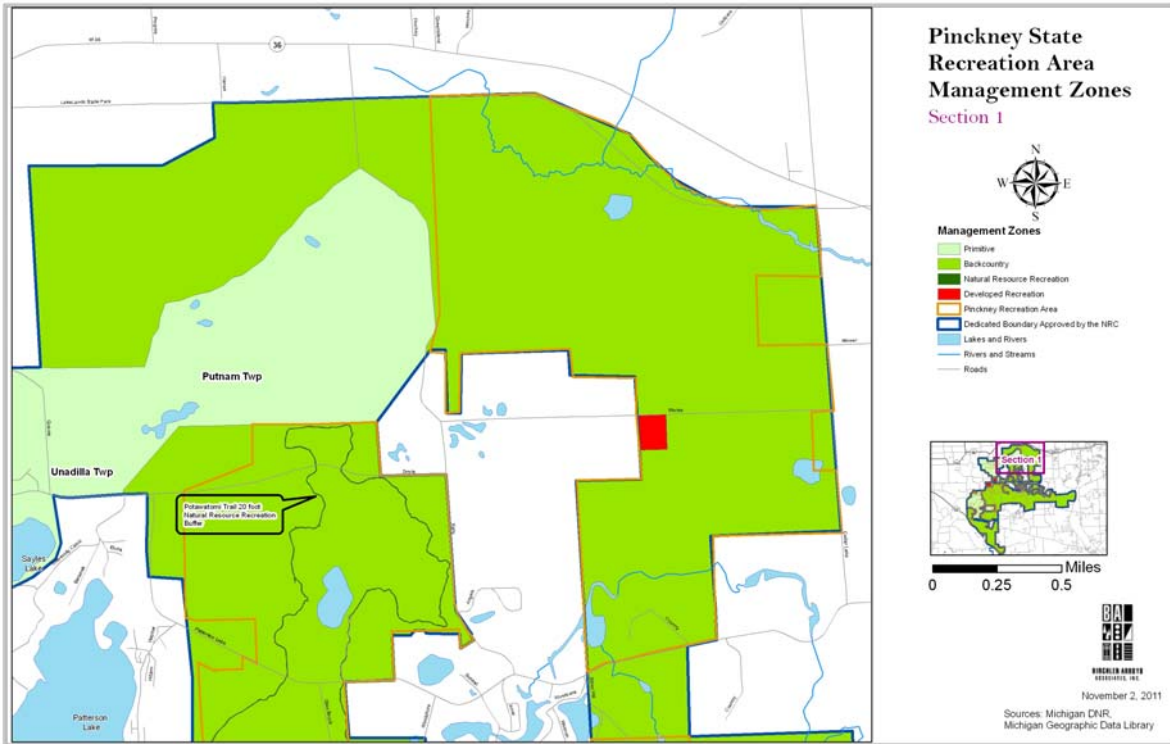


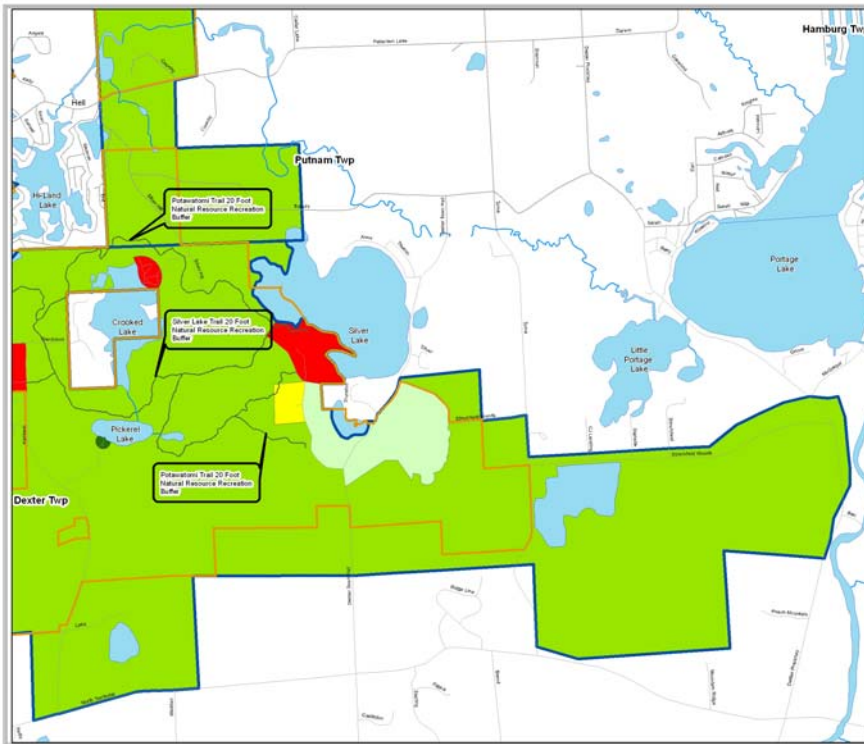
- Management Zones**
- Primitive
 - Backcountry
 - Natural Resource Recreation
 - Developed Recreation
 - Visitor Services
 - Pinckney Recreation Area
 - Dedicated Boundary Approved by the NRC
 - Lakes and Rivers
 - Rivers and Streams
 - Roads



November 2, 2011
Sources: Michigan DNR
Michigan Geographic Data Library





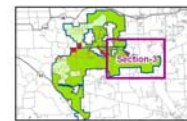


**Pinckney State
Recreation Area
Management Zones**
Section 3



Management Zones

- Primitive
- Backcountry
- Natural Resource Recreation
- Developed Recreation
- Visitor Services
- Pinckney Recreation Area
- Dedicated Boundary Approved by the NRC
- Lakes and Rivers
- Rivers and Streams
- Roads

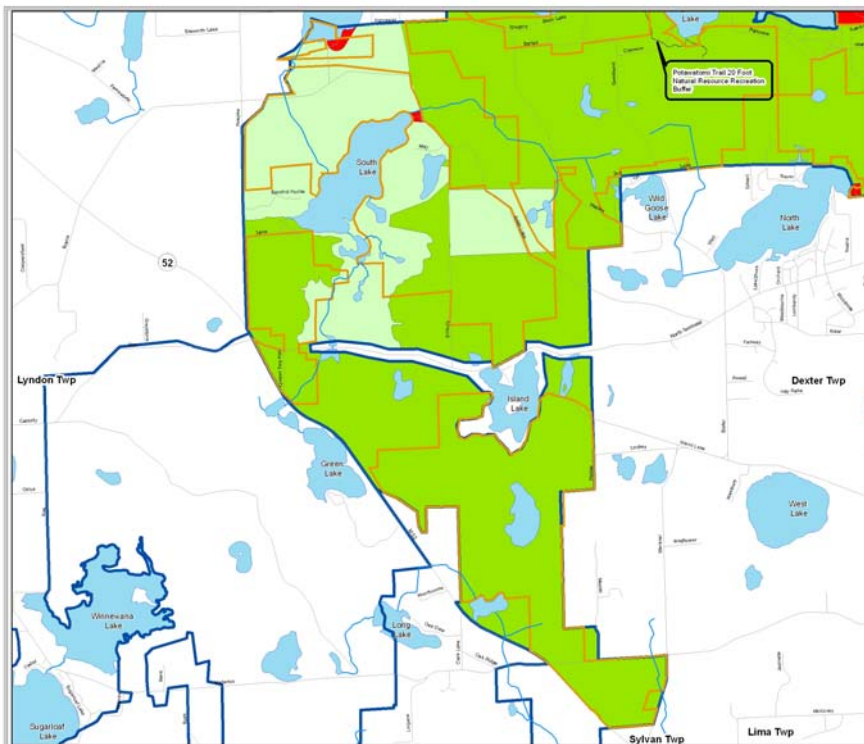


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November 2, 2011

Sources: Michigan DNR,
Michigan Geographic Data Library



**Pinckney State
Recreation Area
Management Zones**
Section 4



Management Zones

- Primitive
- Backcountry
- Natural Resource Recreation
- Developed Recreation
- Visitor Services
- Pinckney Recreation Area
- Dedicated Boundary Approved by the NRC
- Lakes and Rivers
- Rivers and Streams
- Roads



Miles
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November 2, 2011

Sources: Michigan DNR,
Michigan Geographic Data Library

3.1 Primitive Zones

Approximately 1,968 acres, 18.9%, of the land comprising Pinckney Recreation Area is designated Primitive Zone. Only foot traffic would be allowed in this zone to ensure that the natural features are not damaged or compromised by recreation. This zone preserves and protects the unique resources found in the northern and western portions of this park.

- 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 invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. 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. There are no known historic structures in this zone, but both historic and prehistoric resources are present, particularly along the chain of lakes and waterways. Management and interpretation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- C. Recreation 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 (designated sites), cross-country skiing, nature observation. A yurt may be appropriate in this zone at South Lake with canoe/hike-in access.
- D. Education Opportunities. The ecological significance of the resources in the park presents a tremendous educational opportunity. Information could be relayed through the use of kiosks at trailheads and interpretive signage along trails and other appropriate locations.
- E. Visitor Experience. The 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 other visitors.
- F. Management Focus. Management would focus on maintaining the low-impact character of the zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality. Routine maintenance would be provided. Care would be taken to eliminate any detrimental impacts such as incursion of invasive species. Vegetation will be protected from human predation.
- G. Development. The focus is to maintain as little evidence of human activity as possible. Trail improvements, which can include boardwalks and/or overlooks, will be considered.

3.2 Backcountry Zone

Approximately 7,928 acres (76.1%) of Pinckney Recreation Area will be designated Backcountry Zone. This zone allows for modification of the landscape to allow for moderate levels of active recreation use.

- 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 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. There are no known historic structures in this zone, but both historic and prehistoric resources are present, along the chain of lakes and waterways. Management and interpretation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- 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 could be permitted, including hiking, backpacking, backcountry camping, canoeing, horseback riding, kayaking, mountain biking, nature observation, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and hunting/trapping/fishing. The Potawatomi Trail, Crooked Lake Trail, Silver Lake Trail, and Waterloo-Pinckney Trail are part of the extensive multi-use trail system found in the Backcountry Zone. However, due to the intensive events that periodically take place on these trails, the Potawatomi, Crooked Lake, and Silver Lake trails are zoned Natural Resource Recreation. There is a desire to develop a hike/bike shared-use trail that would connect to the Potawatami Trail to the Bruin Lake Campground. Such a future trail would be zoned as a backcountry corridor, and may run through a differently-zoned area.
- D. Education Opportunities. The ecological significance of the resources in the park presents a tremendous educational opportunity. Information can be relayed through the use of kiosks at trailheads and interpretive signage along trails and other appropriate locations. The Michigan State Park Explorer Program (also known as the Outdoor Explorer Program) offers campers and day visitors the opportunity to learn about a wide range of topics including forests, insects, and pond studies.
- E. Visitor Experience. A moderate level of visitor encounters can be accommodated in the Backcountry Zone. Visitors will 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.
- F. Management Focus. Management will focus on maintaining the low-impact character of the zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality. Routine maintenance, including maintenance for trails or access routes, will be provided. Care will be taken to eliminate any detrimental impacts such as incursion of invasive species.
- G. Development. A low level of development is allowed to support visitor access to activities offered in the zone. Development would be unobtrusive and blend in with the natural environment.

3.3 Natural Resource Recreation Zone

43 acres (0.41%), of Pinckney Recreation Area is designated Natural Resource Recreation (NRR) and is mainly comprised of smaller boat launch areas.

- A. Natural Resources. This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes, to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Vegetation may be managed for soil stabilization, to maintain recreational use, and to maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape.
- B. Historic / Cultural Resources. Resources in this zone could be preserved, rehabilitated, removed or allowed to waste away.
- C. Recreational Opportunities. In this zone, visitors engage in *outdoor activities* in diverse land and water natural settings (ie. hiking, backpacking, back-country and rustic camping, bicycling, canoeing, kayaking, equestrian use, nature observation, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing). Hunting/trapping/fishing are permitted in designated areas. Snowmobiling is permitted on designated routes. Moderate to high levels of recreation compatible with natural character of the zone. The Potawatomi Trail, Crooked Lake Trail, Silver Lake Trail, and Waterloo-Pinckney Trail are part of the extensive multi-use trail system found in the Backcountry Zone. Due to the intensive events that periodically take place on these trails, the Potawatomi, Crooked Lake, and Silver Lake trails are zoned Natural Resource Recreation.
- D. Education Opportunities. Information can be relayed through the use of kiosks or interpretive signage at boat launch areas.
- E. Visitor Experience. Visitors engaged in outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings for recreation and education. Hunting/trapping/fishing permitted in designated areas. Snowmobiling permitted on designated routes. Variable time commitment. Variable challenge and adventure. Moderate noise tolerance. Moderate interaction with DNR staff. High visitor encounters accommodated.
- F. Management Focus. Management focuses on maintaining the use of the zone appropriate to the PRD's mission. Public safety, protection of resources, and universal access are management priorities.
- G. Development. A moderate level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities is permitted in this zone. Examples of development include walkways and parking, trails, benches, and picnic tables. Site hardening is allowed as necessary to facilitate activities and protect natural resources.

3.4 Developed Recreation Zone

Approximately 455 acres, (4.4%), of Pinckney Recreation Area is designated Developed Recreation. Land in this zone is mainly comprised of the park campground, lake day-use beach, and associated parking areas. The three most developed areas within the park are Bruin Lake Campground, Silver Lake day use area, and Halfmoon Lake day use area.

- A. Natural Resources. Vegetative management in this zone will address hazard trees, invasive species, and pests and disease, and will also be allowed for purposes of facilitating development and recreational use and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape. Natural resources are actively managed and modified to support visitor activities. Water quality is maintained or restored.
- B. Historic/Cultural Resources. Resources in this zone could be preserved, adapted or rehabilitated. Non-utilized or non-stabilized structures could be removed.
- C. Recreational Opportunities. High levels of recreation in a highly structured environment are found in this zone. Visitors engage in recreation activities in diverse and modified land and water settings: hiking, modern and rustic camping, bicycling, boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, nature observation, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, day-use beach, picnicking, and other day-use activities. As noted in the Backcountry Zone description, there is a desire to develop a hike/bike shared-use trail that would connect to the Potawatami Trail to the Bruin Lake Campground. Such a future trail would be zoned as a backcountry corridor, and may run through a differently-zoned area.
- D. Education Opportunities. Interpretive signage and information could be provided at the campground, registration building, trailheads, and/or along trails and overlooks.
- E. Visitor Experience. A high level of visitor encounters can be accommodated. Activities for visitors to engage in could offer a variable time commitment, challenge and adventure. Moderate noise tolerance and moderate to high interaction with others can be expected.
- F. Management Focus. Management focuses on maintaining the use of the zone appropriate to the PRD's mission. Public safety, protection of resources, and universal access are management priorities.
- G. Development. A high level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities is permitted in this zone. Examples of development include restrooms, concrete/asphalt/gravel walkways and parking, fishing piers, trails, benches, picnic tables, rustic campsites, cabins and shelters for recreation and educational opportunities. Site hardening is allowed as necessary to facilitate activities, protect natural resources, and provide universal access.

3.5 Visitor Services Zone

This zone is 20 acres (0.19%), and encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. It includes offices, contact stations, maintenance facilities and all related land required to conduct the business of running a state park. The Visitor Services zone in Pinckney Recreation Area includes the existing park office and maintenance facilities.

- A. Natural Resources. Natural resources are actively managed and modified to support administrative and support activities. Vegetative management is allowed (primarily tree removal for safety).
- B. Historic/Cultural Resources. Resources in this zone could be preserved, adapted or rehabilitated to support administrative and support activities.
- C. Recreational Opportunities. Typically, there are no recreational activities permitted in the Visitor Services zone.
- D. Education Opportunities. Person to person contact at park headquarters for general information; informational kiosk may be available.
- E. Visitor Experience. Business and information only. High noise tolerance and moderate to high interaction with others can be expected.
- F. Management Focus. Management focuses on the business of running the park, appropriate facilities for staff, employee safety. Universal access will be provided to the offices.
- G. Development. A high level of development of facilities for support of administrative activities is permitted in this zone. Examples of development include office space, meeting rooms, employee locker room, eating area, shop space, and storage space.

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 Long Range Action Goals Plan (Plan to attain the GMP): Phase 2 of the Management Planning Process. Includes review and update of General Management Plan.

5-Year Implementation Plan (Specific actions to implement the Long Range Action Goals Plan): 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
- Park Infrastructure data