

Fisherman's Island State Park

Team Meeting #1

Location: Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station

December 10, 2014

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Planning Team Meeting Attendees: Tom Copenhaver (Unit Supervisor), Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), Rich Hill (District Supervisor), Annamarie Bauer (Regional Planner), Ray Fahlsing (Stewardship Unit Manager), Lisa Gamero (Cultural Resource Analyst), Heather Hettinger (Fisheries Biologist), Andrea Erratt (Conservation Officer), Peter Rose (Geologist), Cynthia Watson (Property Specialist), Joyce Angel (FRD Gaylord Unit Manager), Jon Spieles (Interpretive Manager), Dean Anderson (State Archeologist), Dave Birchler and Mardy Stirling (Clearzoning)

1. Introductions and Review of Agenda
2. Review of Current Park and Community Issues was presented by R. Hill. He provided an overview of the public information meeting held to inform the community of the General Management Planning process. He explained that there was no formal proposal for any type of land transfer. St. Mary's Cement presented a concept in the spring of 2014. They created a citizen's group for the purpose of discussing whether they wanted to proceed with an application to the DNR. The DNR was not a part of the process or the citizen's group.

He explained that the DNR is not here to stop or facilitate a land transfer. He reiterated that the General Management Plan follows a standard process and the planning team is charged with ensuring that its development is good for the future of the park and the state of Michigan. He recommended that all calls regarding this topic be referred to him.

R. Hill also noted that there is a group called "Friends of Fisherman's Island State Park", which has no affiliation with the park or the DNR.
3. Fisherman's Island State Park Management Plan Schedule was presented by D. Birchler.
4. Overview of General Management Planning Process was presented by D. Jensen. She suggested that the stakeholder meeting and the public open house be scheduled closer together. She also suggested that the public input should occur during the summer months.
5. Fisherman's Island State Park Overview was presented by T. Copenhaver.
 - 5,000 camp nights in 2014 compared to 19,250 camp nights in Young State Park
 - Total revenue was \$92,000 versus \$638,000 at Young State Park
 - Park is used for hunting and fishing
 - There are 5 miles of hiking trails in the park
 - Several reports are available including the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (2002), Environmental Impact Assessment (1970s), Potential Park Site (1974) and a historical study – the team discussed the validity of some reports and the need for verification.
 - Archeological sites can be identified as features of the park, but site locations are protected information and are exempt from FOIA requests.

- Island is currently a peninsula, but higher water levels are bringing the island back
- 80 camp sites, many with beautiful lake views
- Hunting is popular; Petoskey Stone hunting the most popular.
- Bear spotted three times in 2013
- Frequently people park on the County Road (have not determined whether it is due to convenience or wanting to avoid purchasing a Recreational Passport)
- Facilities consist of vault toilets and hand pumps
- Phragmites is a problem – control ongoing
- Road over five large culverts keeps washing out/caving in
- Pedestrian bridge at day use area is scheduled for removal (Work Item Proposal has been submitted)
- Staff would like well/septic at contact station and better mobile/radio coverage
- Ray F. noted that a drumlin field within the 2004 NRC Project Boundary would be a unique feature for this park if it was acquired

6. Park Tour, Significant Features and Issues

- A. Water over the road (bedrock is near the surface preventing a simple solution) – culverts need replacing but repairs are costly
- B. Road maintenance is an issue – condition limits year-round access and water over the road continues to erode the hard surface
- C. Some views from shoreline campsites are dominated by the concrete plant to the north
- D. Significant archeological resources deserve protection and interpretation
- E. Island was important to native people for fishing
- F. Very limited facilities for staff at the park office\welcome center – need for well and septic
- G. Toured camping Loops 1 and 2 and South Campground – all sites are rustic
- H. Access road to the South Campground is in poor condition
- I. Pull-through campsites on the lake are popular
- J. General Park Attendance – the park is popular for fishing but has low visitor counts when compared to other nearby State Parks due to access issues and limited amenities.
- K. Norwood Road – ¼ to ½ mile leads to Whiskey Creek – not passable by most vehicles.

7. Discussion Regarding Supporting Analysis – M. Stirling discussed the major topic areas contained in the draft supporting analysis and requested assistance from the team in their area of expertise. The following categories from the supporting analysis are typically informed by the following planning team members:

- A.8 Historic and Cultural Resources: Lisa Gamero/ Dean Anderson
- A.7 Natural Resources (Endangered Species): Ray Fahlsing
- A.7 Natural Resources (Geology): Peter Rose
- A.5 Recreational Resources: Tom Copenhaver
- A.9 Educational and Interpretation: Jon Spieles
- A.9 Park Use Statistics: Tom Copenhaver & Debbie Jensen
- A.4/A.5 Land Ownership and Legal Mandates: Debbie Jensen

The team reviewed the recreation resource map and requested the following additions:

- Wheelway and other regional trails
- Charlevoix to Traverse City trail (It was noted that T. Copenaver sits on the committee and may be able to provide more detailed information)
- Glacial Hills trail
- Identify road and mountain biking areas (Popular activity in the region)
- Show Boyne Mountain Resort – has mountain bike trails, lacrosse and disk golf
- Identify what is in East Jordan – activities on the Charlevoix Trail
- Boyne-Charlevoix Trail is scheduled to be built in 2015 – need to add to the map
- Canoe liveries, fishing guides and fishing charters based on the Jordan River

The team reviewed the supporting analysis and noted the following:

- T. Copenaver provided a map of all BAS in the region.
- Fact check the “Carnegie Center Forums” history (L. Gamero to review)
- Team will research the origins of the campground
- LWCF may encumber significant portions of the park
- US Fish and Wildlife Service has designated critical habitat for piping plover and we should include a map in the Natural Resource Section

8. Significance Statements Exercise. The team was asked to write down five features that they believe make Fisherman’s Island State Park unique and significant. These features were then categorized into topic areas.

A. Archeological Resources

- 1) National Register Sites and District
- 2) Native American sites
- 3) Important for the interpretation of early Native American tool making in the Great Lake Region
- 4) Cultural Resources/Features
- 5) Abundance of Historical Sites
- 6) Sites that document pre-contact Native American occupation of the area
- 7) Archeological Sites
- 8) Archeological History

B. Natural Resources

- 1) Petoskey stone hunting ground (3)
- 2) Rock picking - skipping
- 3) Norwood Chert Quarry
- 4) Chert outcropping
- 5) Lake Michigan shoreline
- 6) Dunes
- 7) Drumlins just outside of the park
- 8) Natural features

C. Natural Communities

- 1) Migratory bird stop-over habitat
- 2) Exemplary natural communities
- 3) Open Dune
- 4) Interdunal wetland
- 5) Limestone pavement shoreline

- 6) Rich conifer swamp
 - 7) Piping plover habitat
 - 8) Great Lake endemic rare plants (Pitcher's thistle, Lake Huron tansy, Houghton's goldenrod)
 - 9) Threatened and endangered species (2)
- D. Hunting Resources
- 1) Hunting
 - 2) Local public hunting land
 - 3) Whiskey Creek – Large limited access areas for hunting
 - 4) Proximity near hunting land
- E. Trails
- 1) Cross Country Skiing, Hiking, Running
 - 2) Foot Trails (not mapped by Inwood Creek/Clipperview)
 - 3) Major watershed drainage outlet to Lake Michigan
- F. Lake Michigan beach access
- 1) Best public beach in Charlevoix County
 - 2) Remote beach with space
 - 3) Miles of Lake Michigan shoreline and sandy beaches
 - 4) Lakeshore (access and scenic views)
 - 5) Fabulous sunsets to be viewed over Lake Michigan
 - 6) Long beachfront walking opportunities
 - 7) Shoreline
 - 8) Limited access which keeps area unique
 - 9) Over 4 miles of shoreline along Lake Michigan
 - 10) Miles of undeveloped shoreline
 - 11) Sunsets
 - 12) Proximity to a good Lake Michigan beach
 - 13) Undeveloped miles of Great Lakes shoreline in highly developed area
 - 14) Less crowded than other parks
- G. Recreational Opportunities
- 1) High quality scenic Lake Michigan shoreline
 - 2) Campsite right on Lake Michigan
 - 3) Undeveloped coastline
 - 4) Primitive setting
 - 5) Campgrounds (wooded and beach/shoreline)
 - 6) Rustic shoreline camping (2)
 - 7) Unique experience
 - 8) Rustic camping only – great crowd
 - 9) Rustic campgrounds with outhouses and water pumps
 - 10) Limited site development that keeps it unique
 - 11) Wilderness type experience found in a shoreline park
 - 12) Rustic Lake Michigan camping (lakeshore sites)
 - 13) Rustic natural recreation opportunities
- H. Relationship to Community Resources
- 1) Proximity to shopping and restaurants
 - 2) Close to other recreation/parks/lakes
 - 3) Proximity to Charlevoix – “A Michigan Destination Town”
 - 4) Closest State Park to City of Charlevoix

- 5) Only public hunting on the west side of Charlevoix County
 - 6) Public green space that offers a lot of recreational areas and undeveloped lands
 - 7) Relationship to other northern Michigan recreational opportunities
9. M. Stirling will send out a doodle poll to schedule the next Planning Team Meeting. The team discussed the next meeting date occurring the last three weeks of January.