

# APPENDIX A

## Supporting Analysis

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## A.1 PARK SETTING

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### **Park Profile**

Area: 2,678 Acres

County: Clinton County

Township: Ovid and Victor

Latitude: 42°56'19"N

Longitude: 84°24'46"W

Address: 7835 E. Price Road  
Laingsburg, MI 48848-6217

Phone #: (517) 651-6217



Sleepy Hollow State Park contains over 2,600 acres of woods and fields surrounding the 410-acre Lake Ovid centrally located in the park, developed by damming the Little Maple River. The park offers year-round recreation opportunities, including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, modern camping and cabins, a group youth area, day use swimming beach, disc golf course, and opportunities for fishing and hunting.

### **Location & Community**

Sleepy Hollow State Park is located in eastern Clinton County, in the south central region of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The park is situated approximately 15 miles north of the Greater Lansing area, with the City of Johns to the northwest and the City of Owosso to the northeast. The communities of Laingsburg and Ovid are within 5 miles of the park. Sleepy Hollow is strategically located east of US-27, the primary northbound transportation artery, making it the perfect retreat for Tri-County (Clinton, Eaton and Ingham) residents and visitors.

Clinton County was organized in 1839 and covers 571 square miles. Despite its close proximity to the state's capitol city of Lansing, Clinton County remains predominantly rural with a high percentage of agricultural land. The County holds a top 10 ranking in the state for agriculture in categories that include dairy, soybeans and cattle, and is famous for its mint production due to the rich black soil, and celebrates its mint farming heritage annually at the "Mint Festival".<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Source: *Clinton County Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2002 (Amended 2008)*

Clinton County's proximity to Lansing and Michigan State University gives residents ample recreation opportunities, from MSU football games to Wharton Center productions, Potter Park Zoo, City and County Parks and the 20 mile Lansing River Trail.



Entrance to Sleepy Hollow State Park off Price Road



Summer view of Lake Ovid

## A.2 DEMOGRAPHICS

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Clinton County was reported to have an estimated population of 77,297 in 2014. This is an increase of 2.5% compared to the 2010 census figure, which is higher than that of neighboring counties and above the state average increase of 0.3%. The population is expected to continue to grow through 2020 (Tri-County Planning Commission) as a result of in-migration and natural growth. The 2010 population density is reported as 133 people per square mile. The per capita personal income in Clinton County in 2013 was \$28,449, slightly above the state average of \$25,547. Clinton County's age distribution is consistent with that of the region and the state.

### 2013 U.S. Census Data for Clinton County

People QuickFacts	Clinton County	Michigan
Population, 2014 estimate	77,297	9,909,877
Population, 2010 (April 1) estimates base	75,382	9,884,133
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014	2.5%	0.3%
Population, 2010	75,382	9,883,640
Persons under 5 years, percent, 2014	5.4%	5.8%
Persons under 18 years, percent, 2014	23.0%	22.4%
Persons 65 years and over, percent, 2014	15.3%	15.4%
Female persons, percent, 2014	50.6%	50.9%
White alone, percent, 2014 (a)	94.2%	79.9%
Black or African American alone, percent, 2014 (a)	1.9%	14.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent, 2014 (a)	0.5%	0.7%
Asian alone, percent, 2014 (a)	1.5%	2.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent, 2014 (a)	0.1%	Z
Two or More Races, percent, 2014	1.8%	2.3%
Hispanic or Latino, percent, 2014 (b)	4.4%	4.8%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent, 2014	90.2%	75.8%
Living in same house 1 year & over, percent, 2009-2013	88.1%	85.3%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2009-2013	2.9%	6.1%
Language other than English spoken at home, pct age 5+, 2009-2013	4.6%	9.1%
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2009-2013	92.9%	88.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2009-2013	28.2%	25.9%

Veterans, 2009-2013	4,812	672,213
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2009-2013	23.0	24.0
Housing units, 2014	30,867	4,539,871
Homeownership rate, 2009-2013	80.8%	72.1%
Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent, 2009-2013	13.1%	17.9%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2009-2013	\$156,300	\$121,700
Households, 2009-2013	28,534	3,823,280
Persons per household, 2009-2013	2.63	2.53
Per capita money income in past 12 months (2013 dollars), 2009-2013	\$28,449	\$25,681
Median household income, 2009-2013	\$60,466	\$48,411
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2009-2013	11.1%	16.8%
<b>Geography QuickFacts</b>	<b>Clinton County</b>	<b>Michigan</b>
Land area in square miles, 2010	566.41	56,538.90
Persons per square mile, 2010	133.1	174.8
FIPS Code	037	26
Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area	Lansing-East Lansing, MI Metro Area	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts.

### A.3 REGIONAL RECREATION RESOURCES

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Sleepy Hollow was deliberately sited in an area with few large scale public recreation opportunities when it was developed in the 1960s. The following is a description of state and municipal park and recreation opportunities in the vicinity of Sleepy Hollow State Park. The area also supports a range of private recreation facilities such as golf courses, nature centers, fitness clubs, shooting and archery clubs and private subdivision trails.

#### **State Owned Recreation Facilities**

- *Ionia Recreation Area* located approximately 35 miles west of Sleepy Hollow State Park was created under the same program. The 4,500 acre park features rolling hills, streams, open meadows, woodland, a man-made lake and 4 miles of the Grand River floodplain. The park provides opportunities for modern camping, equestrian camping and trail riding, mountain biking, hiking, swimming, fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing.

The neighboring counties of Eaton, Ingham, Shiawassee and Gratiot Counties do not feature any State Park or Recreation Areas. However, within 50 miles south and east of Sleepy Hollow State Park are a number of state-owned recreation facilities including:

- *Seven Lakes State Park*
- *Brighton Recreation Area*
- *Pinkney Recreation Area*.
- *Maple River State Game Area* - 9,252 acres of varied habitat types in Clinton, Ionia and Gratiot Counties. Management focuses on opportunities for hunting and trapping as well as providing habitat for Featured Species such as ring-necked pheasants, waterfowl, turkey, deer, rabbits and squirrels.
- *Muskrat Lake State Game Area* – 212 acres in Clinton County managed primarily for wild turkey, mallard and wood duck. The Muskrat Lake Boat Access Site is managed through Sleepy Hollow State Park and was enlarged and improved in 2011 after Clinton County and the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy funded a project to raise the level of Muskrat Lake to improve habitat and recreational opportunities.
- *Rose Lake State Wildlife Area* – 4,071 acres located about 12 miles northeast of Lansing in Clinton and Shiawassee Counties. The area consists of moderately rolling farmland, abandoned fields, oak and lowland woods, and marsh. It includes several special features, such as: wildlife management features (ponds, floodings, brush piles, food patches, trees and shrub plantings), soil conservation practices, wildlife research, rifle and skeet ranges. The area offers options for outdoor educational, and is available as a biological study area for high school and university classes.

- *Gratiot-Saginaw State Game Area*- 16,684 acres of primarily forest land, with artificial impoundments and ditching potholes to improve habitat for waterfowl. The area is managed to provide quality habitat for wild turkey, white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, American woodcock, wood duck, and ring-necked pheasants and for recreational opportunities associated with these species.
- *Portland State Game Area* – located in southwest Clinton County and Eaton County. Provides opportunities for hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing as well as non-motorized recreation activities.
- *Looking Glass River Boat Access Site (Babcock Landing)* – the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) maintains a boat launch within Victor Township on the Looking Glass River. This is a minimally developed launch, suitable for small trailered boats and canoes and kayaks. Sleepy Hollow State Park manages the site.
- *Fred Meijer Clinton Ionia Shiawassee (CIS) Rail Trail* - a 41.3 mile long improved, non-motorized trail, owned by the Michigan Department of Transportation and managed by the Michigan DNR with the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority. It connects the communities of Ionia, Muir, Pewamo, Fowler, St. Johns, Ovid and Owosso, utilizing a former railroad corridor. The trail traverses mostly rural areas and farming communities, but portions also run near Stoney Creek, Maple River and the Grand River in Ionia County.



Trestle on the CIS Trail west of Ovid.  
Photo courtesy of Prein & Newhof

### **Municipal Owned Recreational Land**

- *Motz County Park (Clinton County)* - 42-acre park with 15 acres of water (Searles Lake) for boating, fishing, picnicking and swimming. Located near the corner of French and DeWitt Roads in Greenbush Township.
- *Clinton Lakes (Clinton County)* - 272-acre property acquired November 2013 and minimally developed. The property is located at 4665 North DeWitt Road, St. Johns, west of Francis Motz County Park. The focus is on providing natural resource based recreation opportunities such as fishing, hiking, nature watching and limited waterfowl hunting. It also contains an 87 acre prairie established in 2015 in a cooperative program with the Michigan DNR Wildlife Division, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Clinton County Conservation District, Pheasants Forever and Stoney Creek LLC.

- Shiawassee County Parks – Shiawassee County owns and manages 7 parks, 5 of which are on the Shiawassee River, with the combined area of 50 acres. The closest to Sleepy Hollow, Pine Grove Park, is currently decommissioned.
- Eagle Park – A small town park owned by the Eagle Township Fair Association in a rural community with big events and facilities to rent. Eagle, Michigan has easy access from I-96, just west of Lansing and east of Portland.
- City of St. Johns Parks – The city has one large main park and five neighborhood parks. The main park has hiking trails, playground equipment, picnic area, disk golf course, ball diamonds, tennis courts, and volleyball court. For winter fun, ice rinks with warming house as well as a sledding hill. The main park also has two picnic pavilions that may be reserved for reunions and parties.
- Lansing River Trail – The City of Lansing, East Lansing and Delhi Township together make up a regional trail system that stretches over 20 miles with plans to connect to other community trail systems in the future. The paved multi-use trail runs from Holt Road in the south to Old Town in the north. It also connects to Michigan State University in the east and Waverly Road in the west. Future plans include expansion to Mason and Lake Lansing. The trail runs along the Sycamore Creek, Red Cedar River and the Grand River, passing through numerous parks, natural areas and Downtown Lansing.

The cities of Lansing and East Lansing have comprehensive parks and recreation systems and programming, with additional facilities provided by Ingham and Eaton County. Many of the smaller townships and communities surrounding Sleepy Hollow State Park also offer neighborhood and smaller community parks for local residents. Larger facilities in the metropolitan area include the Thomas Cooley Law School Stadium, Michigan State University Campus, Potter Park Zoo, and the Woldumar Nature Center.

### **Clinton County Non-Motorized Plan**

The Clinton County 2015 Non-motorized Facilities (NMF) Plan supports “an efficient, destination-driven, and coordinated multi-purpose system of non-motorized facilities” to provide “a safety enhanced environment for bicyclists, equestrians and pedestrians to be active”. One of the specific goals for the plan is to connect Clinton County communities with the Fred Meijer Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee (FMCIS) Trail and Sleepy Hollow State Park. The NMF Conceptual Network Plan identifies a regional connector route along Shepherdsville Road between Round Lake Road to the south, and the FMCIS Trail to the north, running along the west boundary of Sleepy Hollow State Park. A paved shoulder is proposed to continue north up Shepherdsville to the county line. This route is identified as a medium priority from Round Lake Road to Taft and a high priority from Taft to the FMCIS. An equestrian route is also identified to link Sleepy Hollow State Park to the FMCIS Trail using Taft Road and Saint Clair Road, while recognizing the desire to acquire an off-road



equestrian route in the future. Connections are also proposed between the park and the communities of Dewitt, Lansing and East Lansing.

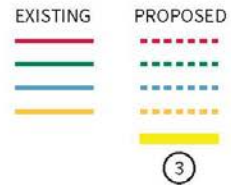
### **University Region Non-Motorized Plan**

The University Region Non-Motorized Plan was developed through the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The plan separates non-motorized transportation goals by county. This plan specifically includes a proposed regional corridor along Shepardsville Road through Sleepy Hollow State Park as shown in the map that follows. This corridor is considered part of MDOT's Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) approach to project development as well as "complete streets", which takes into consideration all forms of transportation. Sleepy Hollow State Park is highlighted in this plan as a primary destination in Clinton and Shiawassee Counties, Connections to the FMCIS trail, Bath Township, Laingsburg and DeWitt were identified as priorities at outreach meetings.

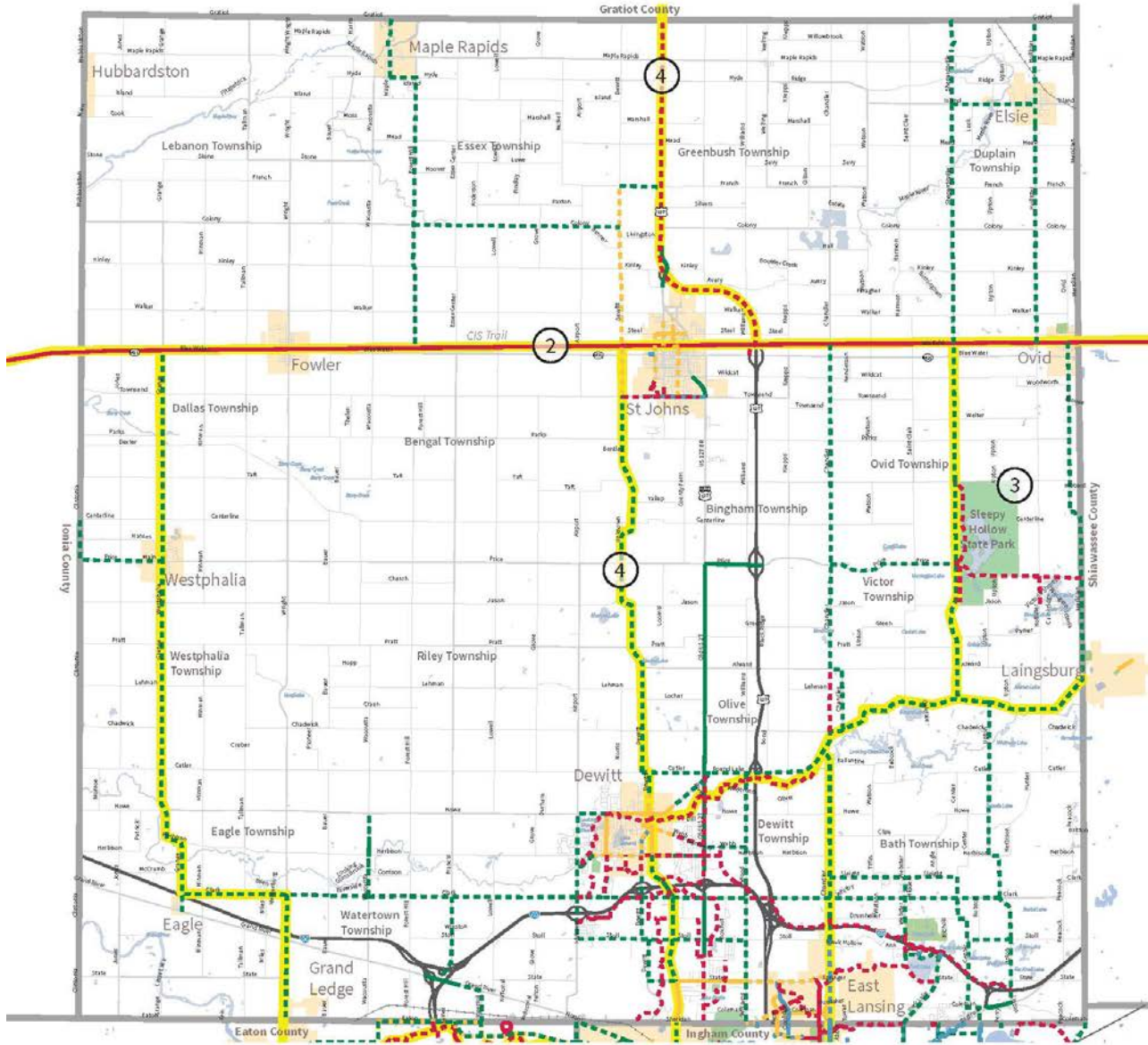
# Clinton County

## LEGEND

SHARED USE PATH  
 PAVED SHOULDER - GREATER THAN 4 FT. WIDE  
 SIDE PATH  
 BIKE LANE  
 PROPOSED REGIONAL CORRIDOR  
 KEYS TO TEXT DESCRIPTION OF PRIORITIES  
 IN MASTER PLAN



3



**MDOT University Region  
 Non-Motorized Plan**  
*Proposed Regional Corridors*  
 June 2015



## A.4 HISTORY OF SLEEPY HOLLOW STATE PARK

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In the 1960's, the Lansing area was one of the few locations in Michigan without lakes and natural areas available for public recreation. In May 1965, the Conservation Commission endorsed plans by the State Department of Conservation (now the Department of Natural Resources) to create two new parks with man-made lakes: Sleepy Hollow State Park and Ionia Recreation Area. This launched an ambitious program to build 50 state lakes in the southern region's "lakeless" area over the next 10 years. The Proceedings of the Conservation Commission report that "In Clinton County, the Department hopes to develop a first-class fishing lake for warm-water species by damming the Little Maple River. Bordering this will be the Sleepy Hollow State Park, featuring camping, swimming, picnicking, and other recreational facilities which will serve an estimated 7,000 people at one time".



Lake Ovid is a 410-acre man-made lake resulting from damming the Little Maple River

Land acquisition around the existing park boundaries began in 1965. A dam was constructed on the Little Maple River, creating flood control for the Upper Maple River Watershed, and the 410-acre Lake Ovid downstream. A total of 39 parcels of land were purchased by the state from local families, some by compulsory purchase. Of the 100 buildings the state acquired on this land, 84 of them were sold. These included two one-room schoolhouses: the Grove School and the Dennison School.

The plan to dam the Little Maple River was also part of the larger East Upper Maple River Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Plan, developed through the cooperative efforts of local soil conservation districts, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Soil Conservation Service and USDA Dept. of Forest Service. The plan's goal was to address floodwater damage, impaired drainage and lack of regional outdoor recreation in sections of

the East Upper Maple Watershed. The resulting completed project included flood protection of over 16,000 acres of farmland, construction of 45 miles of drainage channel in the watershed and development of 410 acre Lake Ovid as the centerpiece attraction of Sleepy Hollow State Park. The total project cost in 1969 was just under eleven million dollars- an investment that has far reaching impacts for over 45 years since its inception.

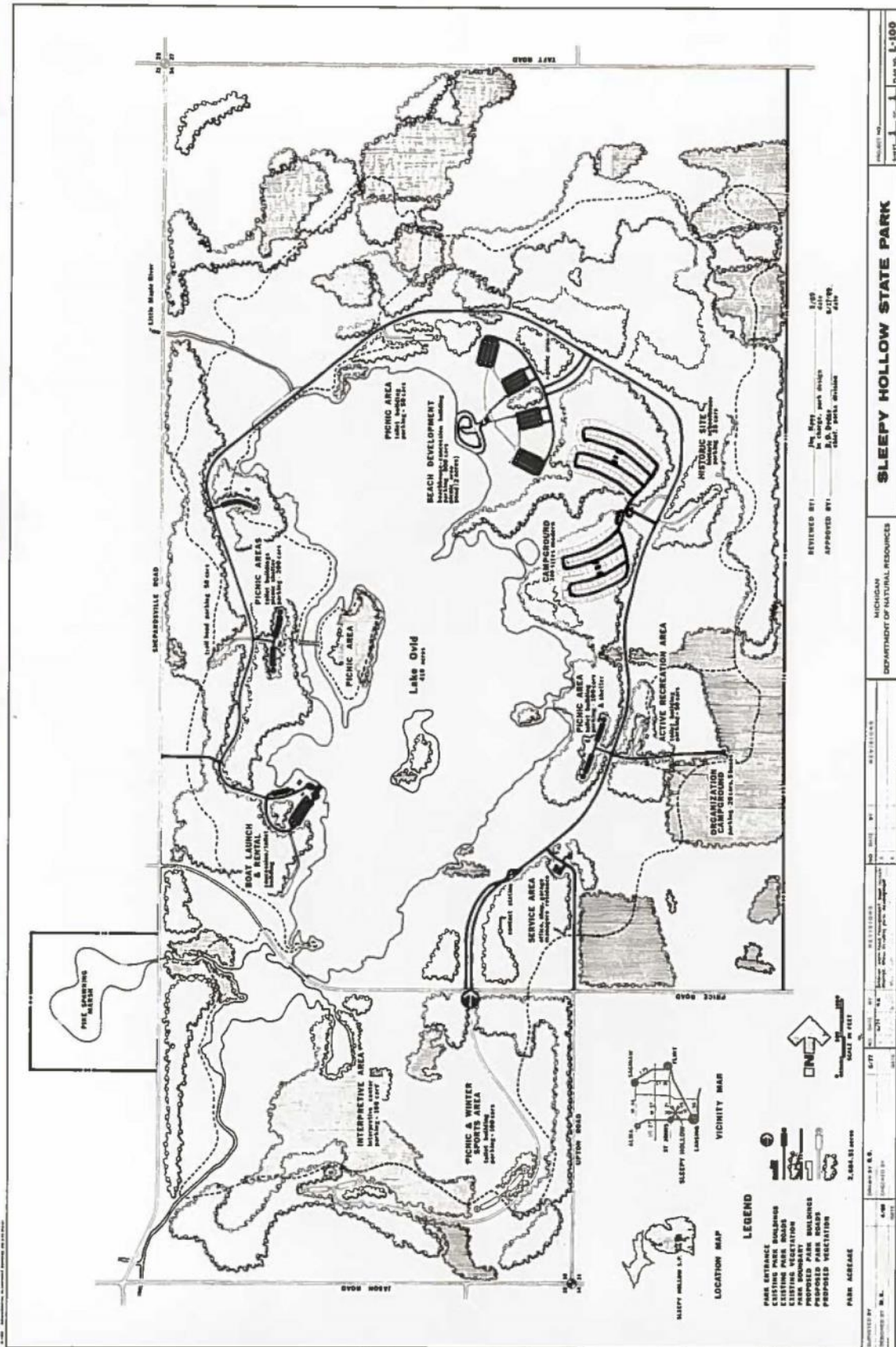
The 1969 Master Plan for the park is illustrated at the end of this section. The park was developed in line with this plan with the exception of the area south of Price Road, which remains essentially undeveloped. Sleepy Hollow was opened as a state park in May, 1976. Facilities available at that time included a swimming beach, a modern beach toilet building, three picnic areas with pavilions, and a boat launch. Five years later, disadvantaged youths engaged in a summer work program assisted with the reconditioning of trails at Sleepy Hollow.

A major development within the park was completed in 1989 when an 181-site modern campground, with electric hook-up and indoor shower and toilet facilities, was opened for public recreational use. Since then, equestrian trails and related facilities were developed beginning in 1995.

More recently, the 18-hole Legend Disc Golf Course was opened in 2009. The 2010 season saw a major change in the layout of the park when the west entrance road was closed and dedicated as a multi-use trail. Included in the project was redevelopment of the Lake Ovid Boat Access Site facility. This was part of a state-wide effort to reduce unnecessary and costly infrastructure in Michigan's State Parks. The most recent additions to the park are a modern cabin which was constructed on the north shores of Lake Ovid in 2014, and a rustic cabin with special adaptations to accommodate equestrian campers, at the same area in 2015.



A modern cabin was constructed in the park in 2014



Sleepy Hollow State Park  
 Appendix A – Supporting Analysis

## A.5 LAND OWNERSHIP

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### **Funding Sources**

The lands that comprise Sleepy Hollow State Park have been acquired by the state through a variety of funding sources. Often, conditions attached to the original funding source or other details of the property transaction encumber the future use or disposition of the land.

The funding source map at the end of Appendix A identifies the sources used in acquiring land within Sleepy Hollow State Park. The following outlines in more detail each funding source associated with the park.

- **Special Legislation** – This was the primary funding source for acquiring the land that comprises Sleepy Hollow State Park. The legislation appropriated funds for park land acquisition under Act 27, P.A. 1944, and Act 50, P.A. 1944. Approximately 1,634 acres was acquired using this funding source between the years of 1965 and 1969. In some cases, Special Legislation Funds were used to match the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (50:50).
- **Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** - The LWCF is a federal program administered in Michigan by the Department of Natural Resources on behalf of the National Park Service (NPS). Land purchased using LWCF funding must be used for public outdoor recreation purposes. Approximately 296 acres was acquired using LWCF funding with 50% match provided by Special Legislation Funds. This land is shown as “Other Funds” on the Funding Source Map.
- **Game & Fish Fund** – Approximately 191 acres was acquired using the State Game and Fish Fund under Part 435, Act 451, P.A. 1994. The fund is derived from hunting and fishing license fees and mineral revenue deposited into the Game and Fish Protection Trust Fund for the purposes of wildlife and fisheries management.

### **Easements**

Sleepy Hollow State Park is impacted by both acquired and granted easements, as outlined in the following:

#### **Acquired Easements:**

- **H.M. Jones and Son’s Orchards:** Sleepy Hollow State Park acquired an easement as part of the Maple River Inter-county Drainage Board from H.M. Jones and Son’s Orchards in order for the board to maintain and operate flood control structures associated with the Maple River Inter-County Drain. The easement is located in T6NR1W Sections 9 and 16.

### Granted Easements:

- Michigan Gas Storage Co (Consumers Energy): An easement was granted in 1974 for the transport of underground natural gas through the park. The corridor must remain clear and undeveloped.
- GTE North Incorporated: A 10-foot wide easement was granted in 1977 to provide underground telephone service to the park.
- Consumers Power Company (Consumers Energy): An easement was granted in 1987 to provide underground electrical service to the campground.

### **County Drains**

A number of drainage courses within the park are designated as County Drains by Clinton County Drain Commission. A right-of-way or easement for construction and maintenance is obtained on behalf of the Drainage District along each side of the drain and remains in effect for as long as the drain continues in existence. County Drains within the park property are as follows:

- #618 South Maple
- #740 Putnam
- # 803 Simpson
- #661 Montague Drain
- #588 Jones

## A.6 LEGAL MANDATES

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For all park General Management Plans, all legal mandates are identified that 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 to federal and 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 Orders of the Director, Park and Recreation Areas State Land Rules and all other laws, commission orders, and rules or directives that apply to the park.

Specific to Sleepy Hollow State Park the following legal mandates have been identified.

### STATE STATUTE

<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (NREPA) AND AMENDMENTS</b>	
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 5</b>	Gives the DNR authority to make rules to support its mission. This includes State Land Rules, Land Use Orders, Wildlife Conservation Orders, Fisheries Orders and Watercraft Control.
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 31 Water Resources Protection</b>	Provides authority to DEQ to require a permit for any occupation, construction, filling, or grade change within the 100-year floodplain of a river, stream, drain, or inland lake.
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 301 Inland Lakes and Streams</b>	Requires a permit from the state (DEQ) to undertake certain activities relating to inland lakes and streams, such as dredging, fill, marinas, structures, alteration of flow, etc.
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 303 Wetlands Protection</b>	Requires a permit from the state (DEQ) to undertake certain activities in regulated wetlands, such as, dredging, fill, construction or drainage.
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 315 Dam Safety</b>	A permit is required for dams with a dam “height” of six feet or more and that have a surface area of five acres or more at the design flood elevation. A permit is required for new dam construction, enlargement of an existing dam or impoundment, dam repair, dam alteration, dam removal, dam abandonment, or reconstruction of a failed dam.



<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (NREPA) AND AMENDMENTS (Continued)</b>	
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 419 Hunting Area Control</b>	Section 324.41901 establishes the powers of the Department to establish safety zones for hunting.
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 741 State Park System</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 the need to protect and manage those resources.
<b>PA 35 of 2010, Part 741 Recreation Passport</b>	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.
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 761 Aboriginal Records and Antiquities</b>	The state reserves the exclusive right and privilege to all aboriginal records and other antiquities found on state-owned land and bottomlands of the Great Lakes. A permit is required for archaeological exploration on state-owned land.
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH CODE</b>	
<b>PA 368 of 1978, Part 125, Campgrounds, Swimming Areas and Swimmers' Itch</b>	Established to protect and promote the public health by establishing health code requirements and regulations that all public (including DNR) and private campgrounds must meet. Includes permitting, licensing, inspections and rules regarding sanitation, safety standards and public health. Also covers testing and evaluating quality of water at bathing beaches, safety and rescue equipment.

The Lake Ovid dam is designated as "Significant" under the DEQ Dam Hazard Rating. This is based on the fact that site improvements located within the park would be affected should the dam fail. The area around Lake Ovid and the South Maple Drain are within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) subject to inundation by the 1% annual chance of flood (100-year flood). The base flood elevation for this area has not been determined by FEMA.

## **ORDERS**

The following Orders apply to Sleepy Hollow State Park.

### **Land Use Orders of the Director**

#### **5.4 Watercraft use in certain state parks, prohibited conduct.**

Order 5.4 A person shall not do the following:

- (1) Operate a vessel in excess of a slow, no-wake speed on any of the following described waters:
  - (j) Sleepy hollow SP -Lake Ovid.

### **Wildlife Conservation Orders**

Wildlife is owned by all the people of the state of Michigan, and protection is administered and managed by the Michigan DNR. Hunting and trapping regulations including methods of take, bag limits, license quotas, and season dates are established by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and are described in the Wildlife Conservation Orders.

#### **7.34 Sleepy Hollow state park, hunting and trapping allowed.**

Sec. 7.34 Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during the established seasons on all those state-owned lands in the dedicated boundary in sections 34 and 35, T7N R1W, and in sections 2, 3, 9, 10, and 11, T6N R1W, within Sleepy Hollow state park; except there shall be no taking of waterfowl after 8:00 a.m. from September 1 to Labor day in that area north of Price Road.

History: Eff. Mar 31, 1989; Am. 16, 1989, Eff. Aug 1, 1989.

### **Fisheries Orders**

#### **FO-219.13 Spearing regulations Statewide**

Under the authority of section 48703 of 1994 PA 451, as amended, being MCL 324.48703, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources on October 11, 2012, ordered that for a period not to exceed five years, the following spearing regulations are established:

#### **WATERS CLOSED TO NORTHERN PIKE AND MUSKELLUNGE SPEARING**

It shall be unlawful to fish by any means other than hook-and-line for Northern Pike or Muskellunge in the following waters: Clinton County – Lake Ovid

## **STATE LAND RULES**

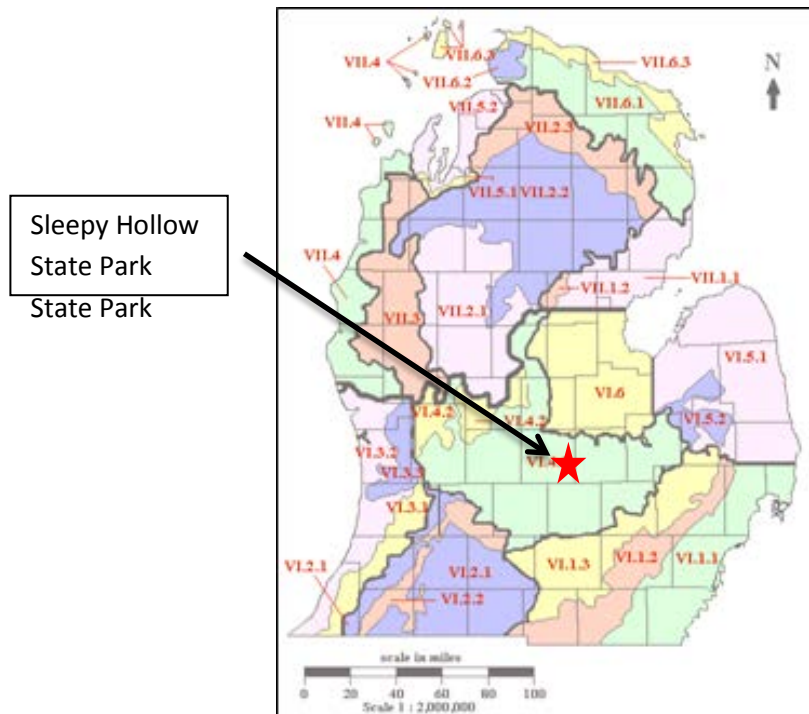
Parks and Recreation Areas – State Land Rules are issued by authority conferred on the Michigan DNR by Section 504 of 1994 PA 451 MCL 324.504. The rules cover entry, use and occupation of state lands and unlawful acts.

## A.7 LANDSCAPE CONTEXT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

### LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

A regional landscape ecosystem classification has been developed for Michigan, which distinguishes major landscapes based on macroclimate, physiography, soil and vegetation. Sleepy Hollow State Park is located in sub-subsection VI.4.1 (Southern Lower Michigan, Subsection Ionia, Sub-subsection Lansing) which is composed of broad till plain with rich, loamy soils that have been greatly modified by agriculture. This is the largest of the eco-regional subsections in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The area consists of medium textured moraines, naturally supporting beech-sugar maple forest and hardwood swamp. Elevations in this sub-subsection range from 640 to 1122 feet.

The VI.4.1 sub-subsection consists of gently sloping ground moraines that are broken by outwash channels and end-moraine ridges. The ground moraines typically range in height from 40 to 60 feet, though heights of 100 feet can be found on the eastern and western edges of the sub-subsection. The rolling topography features slopes of 0-6 percent, the greatest changes in elevation occurring along outwash channels. Groups of low ridges and swampy depressions are caused by end-moraine ridges, creating an environment unsuitable for agriculture in these areas.



*Source: Regional Landscape Ecosystems of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, A Working Map and Classification. Dennis Albert. September 20, 1995.*

### Topography

Topography within the park rises from a low elevation of 770 feet above sea level along the Lake Ovid shoreline and in wetland areas to a high elevation of 840 in the southeast corner of the park. The flat to gently rolling topography and heavy soils results in some drainage problems within the park.

### Climate

Climate in the Lansing sub-subsection allows for an average growing season of 150 days (ranges from 140 to 160 days). Precipitation annually averages 31 inches, snowfall ranging between 40 and 70 inches. Effects are greater to the west, as Lake Michigan impacts climate greatly in this area.

### Vegetation c. 1800s

Historical vegetation for the majority of the Lansing sub-subsection according to the General Land Survey, was dominated by American beech and sugar maple forest on the upland areas. The area currently encompassed by Sleepy Hollow State Park was described as being dominated by oak-hickory forest, with small areas of mixed conifer swamp, shrub swamp, emergent marsh and mixed hardwood swamp.

### Current Vegetation

The oak-hickory forest was converted to agricultural land uses after European settlement. Human interventions resulted in a landscape dominated by shrubby fields with areas of lowland and upland hardwoods and wetlands associated with the lake and river flooding. Many of the old agricultural fields are now covered by young maple and oak trees and brush.

### Water Resources

The sub-subsection contains three large rivers, the Maple, Grand and Thornapple, along with numerous small rivers. Sleepy Hollow State Park is located in the Upper Maple River Watershed, which covers 513 square miles of primarily agricultural land. This is part of the larger Maple River Watershed, one of six major tributaries of the Grand River, draining into Lake Michigan. The park boasts the largest lake in Clinton County, Lake Ovid, which was formed by the damming of the Little Maple River.

### Soils

Soils in the area are typically calcareous and loamy, derived from underlying limestone, shale and sandstone. Soils within the park are predominantly loam with pockets of loamy sand and sandy loam and some muck in the low lying areas. Soils range from well to moderately drained on the undulating land to poorly drained in depressions.

### Geology and Mineral Resources

Surface sediments in the park consist of medium-textured till. Glacial drift thickness is in the range of 100-200 feet. There is an active sand and gravel operation just north of Lake Victoria, approximately one mile to the east. However, there appears to be an abundance

of clay in the area, which could limit the economic potential of commercial sand and gravel production in the area.

The glacial drift is primarily underlain by Pennsylvanian-age sedimentary rocks (sandstones, siltstones, shales, and limestones of the Grand River and Saginaw formations) that were deposited in alluvial, deltaic, and marginal marine environments. These rocks currently do not have economic value in Michigan. In addition, the thickness of the glacial overburden would prohibit any commercial development of the bedrock resources.

The area around SHSP has seen sparse exploration for oil and gas, and there has been no development to date. There are a few dry holes nearby the park that tested Devonian formations for oil. Potential for near-future oil and gas development in this area appears to be low. The park is located north of the southern Niagaran reef trend and south of the central basin where most of the production from Devonian formations occurs.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

### Rare Flora and Fauna

Michigan Natural Features Inventory prepared an inventory report for Sleepy Hollow State Park in 2002.

One rare plant has been known to occur in the park, the state threatened goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*). The species was last observed in 1984 in an area of moist hardwood forest. Other rare plant species characteristic of moist woodlands in south-central Michigan have the potential to be discovered in the future.

One rare animal, the state special concern pinetree cricket (*Oecanthus pini*) was found at the southern end of the park in 2004. This insect lives in the tops of white pine trees.

### Natural Communities

A *natural community*, as defined by Michigan Natural Features Inventory, is an assemblage of interacting plants, animals, and other organisms that repeatedly occurs across the landscape under similar environmental conditions.

No noteworthy examples of natural communities occur at Sleepy Hollow State Park, but the park contains degraded examples of the following communities:

- Dry-mesic southern forest (oak-hickory)
- Mesic southern forest (beech-maple)
- Emergent marsh
- Southern hardwood swamp

Descriptions of these natural communities can be found at

<http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/communities/index.cfm>

### Wildlife

Despite its small size, Sleepy Hollow State Park boasts a variety of habitats. Lake Ovid, the largest lake in Clinton County, lures migrating waterfowl, shorebirds and passerines to the park. More than 228 species have been recorded in Sleepy Hollow, from the common Blue jay to the Eastern bluebird. The rarely recorded Bonaparte's Gull or Bald Eagle have also been sighted. Other wildlife found in the park includes white-tailed deer, rabbit, turkey and squirrel.

### Fisheries

Lake Ovid is a prominent feature of Sleepy Hollow State Park and at 412 acres is the largest body of water in the surrounding area. Lake Ovid supports a variety of fish species including Black Crappie, Bluegill, Bowfin, Brown Bullhead, Common Carp, White Sucker, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Pumpkinseed, Redear Sunfish, Yellow Perch, and Yellow Bullhead. In addition, the lake is stocked on a regular basis with Great Lakes Muskellunge and Channel Catfish. Stocking these two species provides park visitors with an opportunity to catch trophy-sized fish, as several Master Angler Muskellunge have been caught in Lake Ovid.

### Invasive Species

Sleepy Hollow State Park contains many invasive species. One noteworthy example is Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*). This non-native plant has been present and dominant in Lake Ovid for over 20 years. It out-competes native aquatic plant species, degrades habitat for fish and other aquatic animals, and impedes recreational boating and swimming in the lake. Attempts were made to control the milfoil with weevils (a biological control) in previous years, but the milfoil is still dominant in the lake today.

Emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), a non-native invasive beetle, has caused the loss of the majority of ash trees at the park over the past several years. The dead ash have become hazard trees in developed areas and required significant staff time to remove. In undeveloped areas, loss of ash causes gaps to be created in forested areas that are eventually filled with other tree species such as black cherry and red maple.-

Invasive shrubs such as autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) and non-native honeysuckles (*Lonicera* spp.) are abundant throughout the park, especially in old fields and young forest stands.

## A.8 HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

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Sleepy Hollow State Park was made up of 39 individual parcels of land purchased by the state in the 1960s, which included as many as 50 farmsteads. Many of the buildings were sold by the state, but remnants, mostly building foundations, remain across the park.

Two school houses were located within the park boundary at the time of the purchase by the state. The Dennison Schoolhouse was constructed in 1881. The red-brick building replaced an earlier wooden structure located at the Victor/Ovid Township line in what is now the campground at Sleepy Hollow State Park. The building was moved when the campground was established, and moved again in 1997 to its present location next to the Victor Township Hall in Laingsburg. The Grove Schoolhouse was originally located at Price and Shepardsville Roads. The school was sold and moved from the park.

According to the archaeological site file maintained by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), there are currently 19 recorded archaeological sites in the park. Two sites represent the early Native American occupation of the area between 350 and 10,000 years ago. Seventeen sites represent 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century land use, and include the locations of 13 farmsteads and dumps, the two schoolhouses, one post office and one sugar camp. None of these archaeological sites have been evaluated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Limited archaeological survey has been conducted within the park. There is the potential for additional archaeological sites to be present that have yet to be identified. Proposed ground-disturbing projects park wide should be planned in consultation with DNR Stewardship and the State Historic Preservation Office to avoid impacts to potentially significant sites.



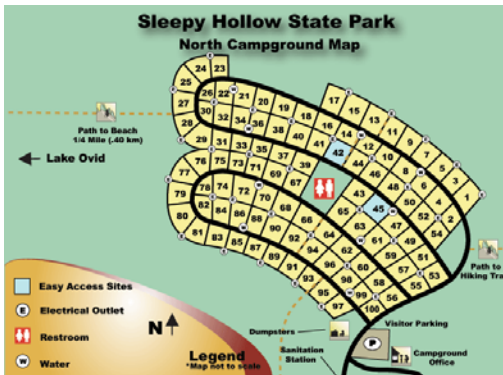
Dennison Schoolhouse, summer 1995

## A.9 RECREATIONAL RESOURCES



### Camping

The park offers a modern campsite with a sanitation station and a rustic group use area. Sleepy Hollow modern has 181 sites, divided into a north and south loop, with 20/30 amp electric service and modern bathroom facilities.



### Cabins

Built in 2014, this ADA accessible, family friendly cabin offers two bedrooms, living/dining area and a modern bathroom with shower. The kitchenette includes a sink/faucet, microwave oven, coffee maker and toaster oven. Each bedroom includes a full size bed with a single bunk above. A private outdoor grill, fire circle and picnic table overlooking 410 acre Lake Ovid are along the pathway to the cabin entrance. The modern cabin is available to rent year round and can accommodate up to 6 people.

A rustic camper cabin, without bathroom or electricity) is also available and can accommodate 5 people.



### Hiking

All of the trails in Sleepy Hollow State Park are open to hiking. The trail system travels through grassland, woodland and around Lake Ovid. A total of 28.6 miles of hiking trail are in the park, all of which is shared with mountain biking and/or equestrian use.



### Horseback Riding

There are 12.9 miles of horse trails open to day-users who trailer their horses in for the day. A staging area provides amenities for equestrian users, including mounting assistance ramp, water, vault toilets and a shelter. Horse carts can be used on the former roadbed sections of



the park's multi-use trail. Bridle Trails are maintained and managed by the Sleepy Hollow Trail Riders Association (SHTRA)



### **Mountain Biking**

More than 17 miles of trails are open for biking or mountain biking.



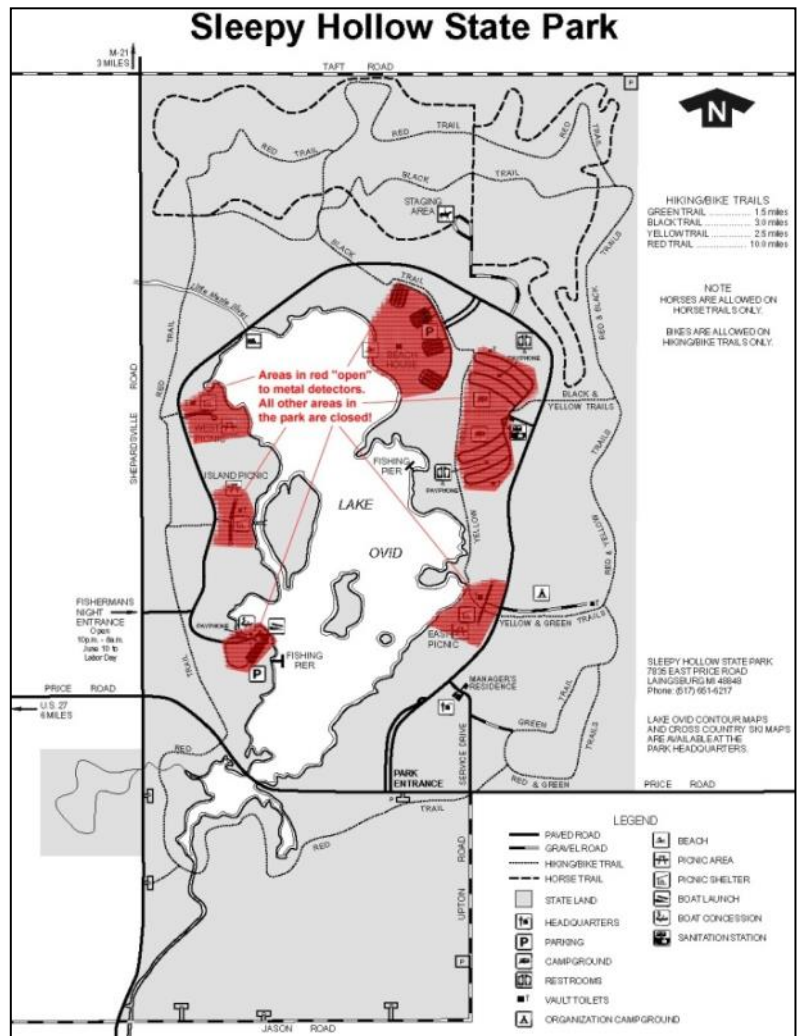
### **Cross Country Skiing**

All trails in Sleepy Hollow State Park are open to cross country skiing.



### **Metal Detecting**

Metal detecting is recognized as a legitimate recreation activity when it is conducted in ways that do not damage the natural and cultural resources in Michigan State Parks nor violate applicable state statutes. Any items found must be reviewed by park staff and may be retained for further investigation. The map shows where metal detecting may take place in Sleepy Hollow State Park.



### **Hunting**

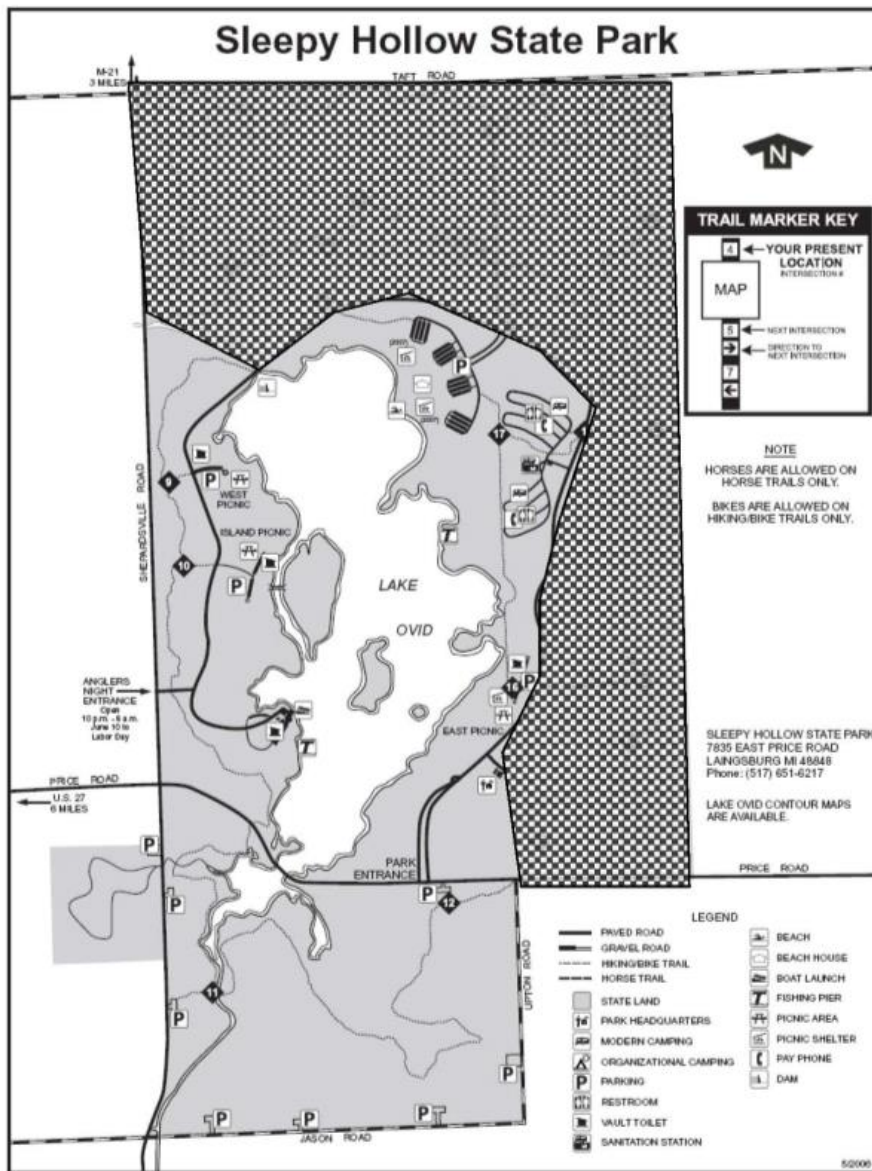
The park is open to hunting, Sleepy Hollow State Park lands are open to hunting and trapping during the appropriate seasons with the exception of no hunting areas posted around the campgrounds and high visitor areas. The hunting is excellent for ducks, deer, rabbit and squirrel. Turkey, woodcock, pheasant, quail and grouse are also found in the park.



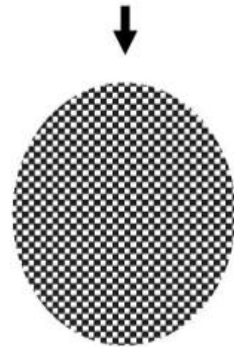
## Snowmobiling

There are no designated snowmobile trails within the park. Snowmobiling is allowed in the west end of the park when there is at least four inches of snow on the ground. Snowmobiles are prohibited on cross country ski trails, and must have a current registration.

# Snowmobile Map



**MARKED AREA  
CLOSED TO  
SNOWMOBILES**



**ALL UNMARKED AREAS ARE OPEN TO SNOWMOBILES WHEN  
THERE IS 4 INCHES OR MORE OF SNOW**



### **Fishing**

Lake Ovid offers ample fishing opportunities with a wide variety of fish (Muskie, Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Black Crappie, Yellow Perch, Channel Catfish and Northern Pike). Within the park there are four fishing piers available in addition to sites along the shore.



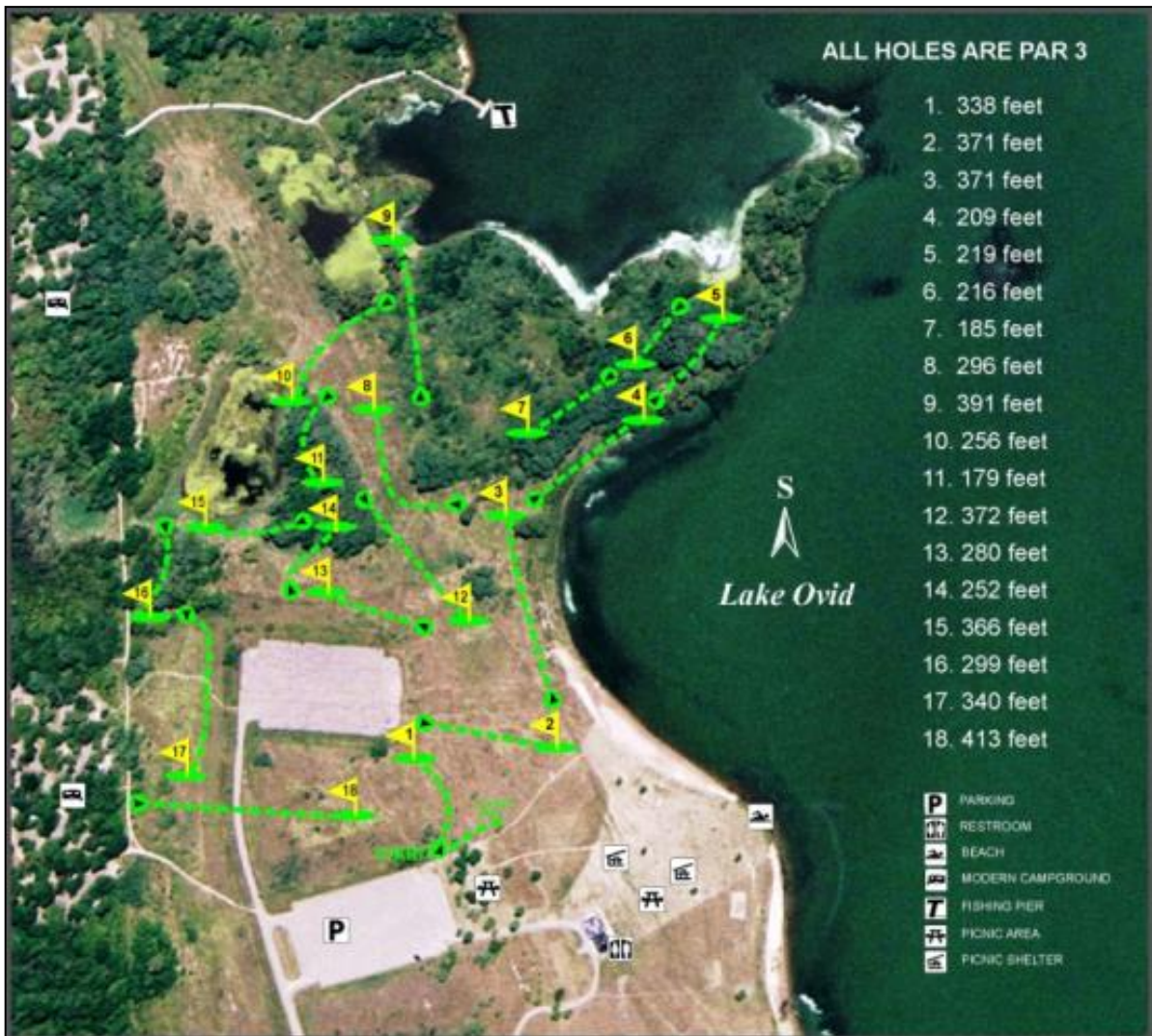
### **Paddling**

Canoeing and kayaking are popular activities at Sleepy Hollow State Park. Rentals are available from the campground office.



### **Disc Golf**

The Legend 18-hole Disc Golf Course opened in 2009 and includes a “birdieball” course. See map below for the course.





### **Boat Launch**

A paved, ADA accessible boat launch and parking area for over 100 vehicles is located in the southwest of the park, accessed off Price Road. The site also provides a bathroom and fishing pier. Lake Ovid is a "No Wake" lake inside Sleepy Hollow State park.



### **Swimming Beach**

A designated swimming beach is located at the north end of Lake Ovid, complete with a modern beach house



The swimming beach is popular with both campers and day users



### **Picnic Facilities**

There are 3 picnic shelters located in the park. The East Picnic Shelter includes picnic tables, hand water pump, grills, fireplace, and vault toilets. The North and South picnic shelters are located at the beach and include picnic tables, grills, electricity, and modern bathroom facilities. Each shelter is available at no charge on a first-come-first served basis or can be reserved up to a year in advance.



### **Playground**

A modern playground is located adjacent to the campground.



### **Concession/ Store**

Fishing bait, firewood, ice and disc golf supplies are available for sale in the campground office during the camping season.

## **Volunteer Groups associated with the Park**

Sleepy Hollow Trail Riding Association (SHTRA) - A volunteer organization whose primary purpose is the protection and preservation of the horse trails on public land, Sleepy Hollow State Park. Sleepy Hollow Trail Riders Association, Inc., a 501(3) (c) non-profit organization, was formed in 1997 to create and maintain these equestrian trails and staging area.

### Friends of Sleepy Hollow State Park (FSHSP)

“Friends” is a registered Michigan nonprofit organization founded in May 1995. The membership association consists of individuals and families who have joined together to “adopt” Sleepy Hollow State Park. The goal of “Friends” is to enhance, promote and preserve the natural resources of Sleepy Hollow State Park for present and future generations to enjoy. The FSHSP assist with environmental programs such as recycling, park maintenance activities, annual events and promotion of the park.



Sleepy Hollow Trail Riders Association provides information for equestrian users in the staging area they help to maintain

## **A.10 EDUCATION AND PROGRAMMING**

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Sleepy Hollow State Park supports a variety of programs to interest park visitors throughout the season. As well as those organized by Sleepy Hollow staff and associated volunteers, the park is frequented by school and park and recreation organizations from St. Johns, Lansing, DeWitt and the surrounding area.

### **Michigan State Park Explorer Program**

The Michigan State Park Explorer Program offers summer programs at 41 Michigan State Parks to campers and day visitors. The program arms participants with field gear (animal skins, bug boxes and hands-on materials) and a guide for informal hikes and other programs. These activities cater to each parks' unique physical and cultural resources, targeting both children and adults. At Sleepy Hollow State Park the program runs from May through August and explores hiking, fishing, and wildlife education programs.

### **Green Initiatives**

Sleepy Hollow State Park participates in a program established to promote environmentally-friendly management practices and products within state park facilities. The program reaches out to DNR staff as well as park users to embrace greener standards. Whether using a bio-based fuel, building more energy efficient facilities or mowing less, these programs help protect and preserve the natural resources.

### **Hook, Line & Sinker**

This program is an introductory lesson in fishing basics such as knot-tying, setting up your pole, casting, selecting and using bait, and removing fish from the hook. After the 20-30 minute lesson, participants are ready to start fishing. This free program runs weekly from June through August.

### **DNR Stepping Stones Program**

This program's main focus is to introduce non- traditional park visitors to outdoor experiences through organized group activities such as guided hikes, archery classes and nature exploration. The program is offered 5 days/week from mid-June through mid-August, and intermittently during spring and fall months.

### **Other Programs and Events**

Winter snowshoe building classes are popular at Sleepy Hollow State Park. Participants learn to weave a pair of traditional wooden snowshoes, similar to how the Native Americans crafted them for generations.

Annual events, such as the Harvest Festival and Ichabod Crane Days, bring additional visitors to Sleepy Hollow State Park. These are supplemented by user organized events such as disc golf tournaments, running events and equestrian rides.

## A.11 PARK USE STATISTICS

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The park use figures for Sleepy Hollow State Park from 2012-2013 showed 65,880 campers and 332,276 day use visits in a one year period. A camper is one person camping for one night. A day visit is one person visiting for some portion of a day without an overnight stay.

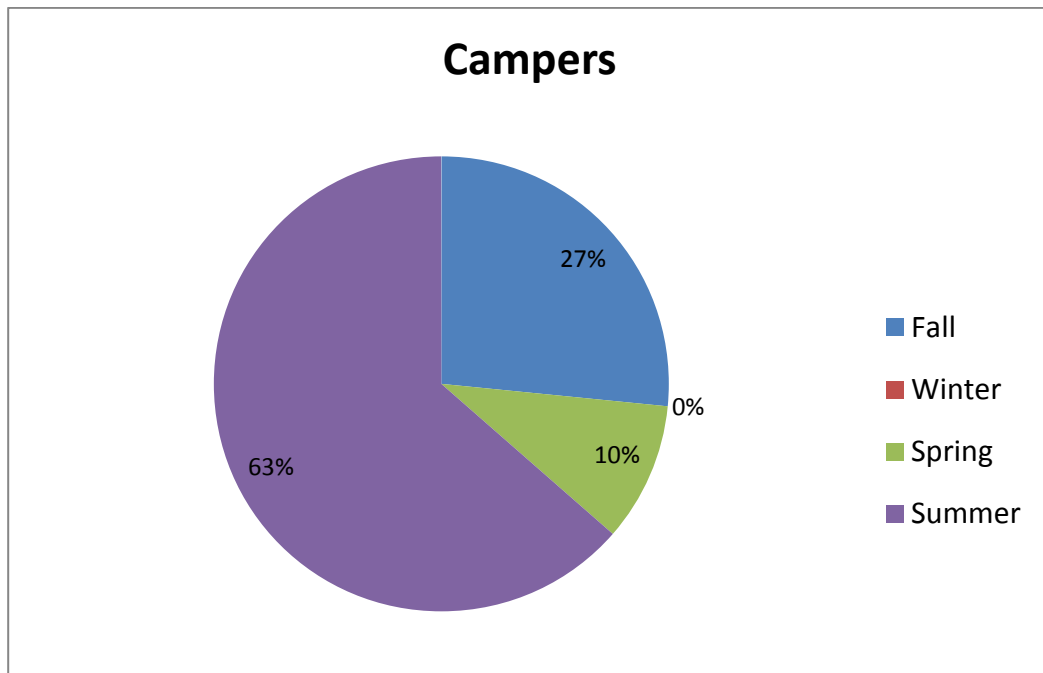
### Campers

**Fall-** Campers through the fall months of September through November totaled 17,508 making up 26.6% of camping visits for the year.

**Winter-** There were no campers during the winter months of December through February making up 0% of the years campers

**Spring-** The months of March through May had 6,497 campers making up 9.8% of the camping visits of the year.

**Summer-** The busiest season at the park had 41,875 campers which makes up 63.6% of all camper visits for the year.



Camping records indicate that those staying at the park are primarily from the local area. The top ten cities for campground reservations (2012-2103) is indicated by the table on the following page.

City & State	Reservations	Number of Nights
LANSING, MI	489	1,258
OWOSSO, MI	284	721
LAINGSBURG, MI	212	536
GRAND RAPIDS, MI	129	239
DEWITT, MI	126	319
OVID, MI	125	368
EAST LANSING, MI	94	186
SAINT JOHNS, MI	83	234
HOLT, MI	77	164
HASLETT, MI	66	151

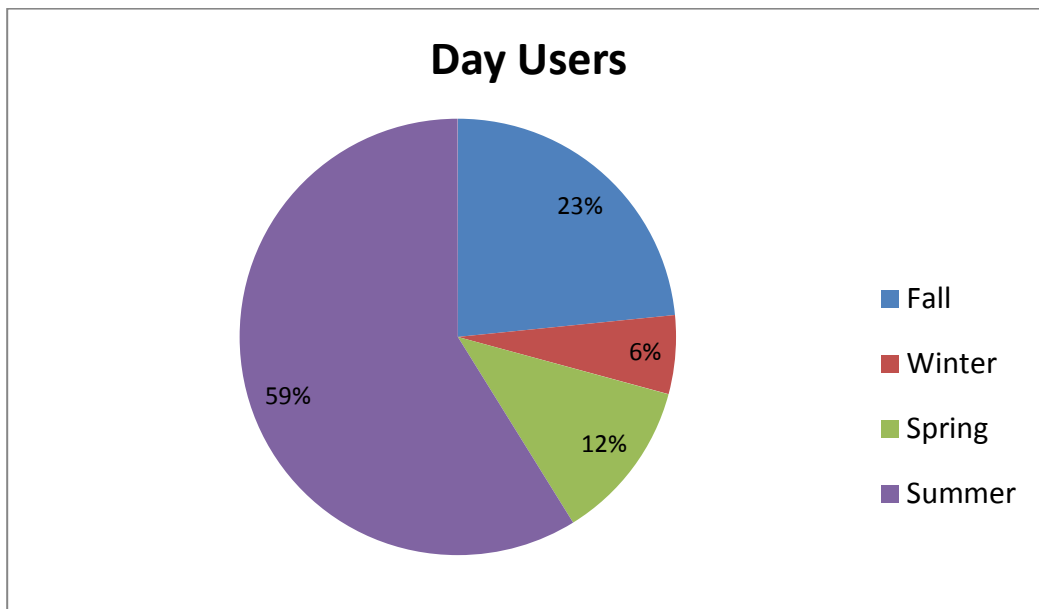
### Day Users

**Fall-** Day visits during the fall season totaled 77,734 which makes up 23.4% of all day visits for the year.

**Winter-** During the winter months there were 19,377 day visits which totals 5.8% of all day visits for the year.

**Spring-** The spring months had 39,664 day visits making up 12% of the annual day visits.

**Summer-** The summer months had 195,501 visitors which is 58.8% of the annual day use visits.



Park statistics show that the summer months are most popular for both camping and day users. The fall is the second most popular season at Sleepy Hollow, likely connected to fall and Halloween themed programs and events as well as hunting and trail use.



## A.12 RESOURCE MAPS

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- Location
- Boundary Aerial
- Regional Recreation Opportunities
- Funding Sources
- DNR Ownership
- Topography
- Soils
- Land Cover 1800s
- Land Cover 2011
- Wetlands Inventory
- Trail Opportunities

# Appendix B –Public Input Summary

Over the duration of the General Management Planning process, the Planning Team ensured a variety of opportunities for public input and feedback. These avenues included:

- **Community Engagement Meetings (April 2016)** – located at Victor Township Hall, a series of four meetings were held where participants were asked to identify Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities regarding Sleepy Hollow State Park.
  - Local Government/General Public - April 12, 2016, 10:00 to 12:00 p.m.
  - Local Business/General Public – April 14, 2016, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.
  - Volunteers/Non-Profits/General Public – April 14, 2016, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.
  - Neighbors/General Public - April 20, 2016, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- **On-line Public Input Survey** – an online survey developed to gather general information about park visitor demographics and their use of the park as well as aspirations for improving features and amenities offered at the park. The survey was posted and available for response on the DNR website beginning March 25, 2016 and closed on May 16, 2016. 155 individuals responded to the survey.
- **Sleepy Hollow State Park Website** – throughout the planning effort, a website was maintained that included resources about the General Management Planning process, including opportunities for comment and draft documents for review.
- **On-Site User Survey** – This on-site approach samples park users at systematically selected days and times across May - November of 2016. It uses a windshield survey on their vehicle to ensure representation of the full range of park users in assessing future options for management. Summaries of the results are provided for Spring, Summer and fall 2016.
- **Tribal Notification** – A letter was sent to the Federally recognized tribal governments in the region, informing them of the Management Planning efforts and inviting them to meet with the representatives of the DNR to discuss any issues or concerns they may have relating to Sleepy Hollow State Park.
- **Public Input Open House** - A public input open house was held on December 7, 2016, at the Victor Township Hall to present and take comments on the draft General Management Plan. The meeting was advertised via a DNR press release and direct mailings were sent to individuals and organizations with a known interest in Sleepy Hollow State Park. The draft plan was made available for review on-line and comments could also be provided via Email or mail.

## DNR to host April 20 workshop to gather planning input for Sleepy Hollow State Park

Contact: [Debbie Jensen](mailto:Debbie.Jensen@Michigan.gov), 517-284-6105

Agency: Natural Resources

March 30, 2016

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources recently announced it is seeking public input on a new [General Management Plan](#) to guide the future of [Sleepy Hollow State Park](#), located in Clinton County.

The public is invited to participate in a community engagement workshop Wednesday, April 20, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Victor Township Hall, 6843 E. Alward Road in Laingsburg.

During the workshop, people will be invited to discuss the park's strengths and weaknesses and suggest opportunities for improvements. It will be facilitated by Dr. Chuck Nelson from Michigan State University Extension, who is assisting the DNR with this project.



Those not able to attend the workshop may complete a short [online survey](#); the link is available at the top of the [Sleepy Hollow State Park Web page](#). The survey will be available until April 29.

Sleepy Hollow State Park contains more than 2,600 acres, including the 410-acre Lake Ovid, which was developed by damming the Little Maple River. The park offers year-round recreation opportunities including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, camping, swimming, picnicking, disc golf, boating, fishing and hunting.

The park's General Management Plan will define a long-range (10 to 20 years) planning and management strategy that will assist the DNR in meeting its responsibilities to protect and preserve the site's natural and cultural resources, and to provide access to land- and water-based public recreation and educational opportunities.

Public input is an important part of the DNR's planning process. This meeting is one of several opportunities for the public and stakeholders to be involved. The DNR also will host a public open house later this year, providing an opportunity for review and comment on the draft plan.

Additional information on the DNR's General Management Plan process is available at [www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans](http://www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans).

For more information about the public meeting or the General Management Plan, contact DNR park management plan administrator Debbie Jensen at 517-284-6105 (TTY/TDD711 Michigan Relay Center for the hearing impaired) or via email at [JensenD1@michigan.gov](mailto:JensenD1@michigan.gov). Persons with disabilities who need accommodations for the meeting should contact Jensen at least five business days before the meeting.

[Inside Michigan's Great Outdoors](#) subscribers are always the first to know about reservation opportunities, state park events and other outdoor happenings. Visit [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) to subscribe.

Learn more about how the Recreation Passport gains you access to Michigan state parks and more at [www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport](http://www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport).



# ***DNR Community Engagement Workshop*** **SLEEPY HOLLOW STATE PARK**

The Parks & Recreation Division (PRD) of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is developing a new General Management Plan for Sleepy Hollow State Park. This plan will define a long-range (10-20 year) planning and management strategy that will assist PRD in meeting its responsibilities to 1) protect and preserve the site's natural and cultural resources, and 2) provide access to land- and water-based public recreation and educational opportunities. The plan is developed based upon input from the DNR experts, key stakeholders and the community.



The Planning Team would like to invite you, as an individual or organization involved in volunteering, to join us for an interactive community engagement workshop on:

**THURSDAY APRIL 14, 2016**

**6:30 PM – 8:00 PM**

**Victor Township Hall**

**6843 E. Alward Road, Laingsburg, Mi 48848**



At the workshop, you and other stakeholders, will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the park and suggest opportunities for improvements in the future. The workshop will be facilitated by Dr. Chuck Nelson from Michigan State University Extension. The Victor Township Hall is a fully accessible facility and light refreshments will be available.

**Questions?** Please contact

Debbie Jensen, PRD Management Plan Administrator at 517 284-6105 or Dr. Charles Nelson, Michigan State University, at 517-432-0272 or [nelsonc@msu.edu](mailto:nelsonc@msu.edu)

**Please join us on April 14<sup>th</sup> for this important opportunity to understand the past, appreciate the present and look forward to the future of Sleepy Hollow State Park.**

RSVP would be appreciated to [Jensend1@michigan.gov](mailto:Jensend1@michigan.gov)

If you are unable to attend this meeting designed specifically for individuals or organizations involved in volunteering, you are welcome to attend an open public meeting on Wednesday April 20, 2016 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm, also at the Victor Township Hall. Alternatively you may complete a short survey available via a link at [www.michigan.gov/sleepyhollow](http://www.michigan.gov/sleepyhollow)

## SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS

The following is a summary of input received at a series of four Community Engagement Public Meetings on 4/12 afternoon, 4/14 afternoon, 4/14 evening and 4/20 evening, at Victor Township Hall, Laingsburg, MI. Dr. Chuck Nelson asked participants to identify Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities regarding Sleepy Hollow State Park. This input will be used to inform the planning team as the General Management Plan is developed.

### STRENGTHS

#### Nature

- Woods/grasslands/openings/varied habitats
- Lake Ovid
- Natural beauty/aesthetics
- Diverse topography
- Park setting one easy to appreciate nature
- Quiet
- Large area of public land/2,500 acres

#### Facilities

- Campground
  - Privacy/vegetative screening between sites
  - Paved pads/roads
  - Accessible restrooms/showers
  - Playground
- Cabins
- Disc golf course
- Beach
- New boat ramp/parking area/entrance
- Handicapper deer blind
- Pavilions
- Road bicycling opportunities
- Trails
  - Equestrian
  - Multi-use
  - Hike/Bike

#### Location

- Near mid-MI population
- Still rural/small town feel

#### Activities

- Equestrian
- Hiking
- Bicycling (road and mountain)
- Hunting (especially deer hunting)
- Fishing
- Canoe/kayak/paddlesports
- Appreciate nature (e.g bird watch, photography, relax, etc.)

**Personnel**

- DNR park managers and seasonal staff
- Explorer guide
- Park volunteers including Friends of SHSP, activity oriented groups (e.g. trail related), other volunteers

**Management Actions**

- Clean
- Sense of safety
- No wake lake
- Easy to reach beach
- Easy to launch watercraft
- Open year-round
- Long camping season for campground
- Effective integration of varying user groups/interests with minimal conflict
- Fostering park/user/volunteer partnerships
- Effectively developed facilities and did not impact natural sense of park
- Does not seem crowded

**Programming**

- Campground programs
  - Halloween, Crane Days, Christmas in July, etc.
- Explorer Guide programming
  - Owl walk, interpretive programs, Rec. 101, etc.
- Programs/events put on by partners/volunteers/park
  - Horse and equestrian rides, runs, disc golf tournaments, fishing tournaments, build snowshoes, etc.

**WEAKNESSES****Nature**

- Eurasian watermilfoil and other invasive plants
- Declining fishery for panfish

**Facilities**

- Campground
  - Lack tent camping opportunities with grass pad and separation from RVs
  - Electrical system inadequate for larger RVs
  - Pedestal placement too far from many campsites
  - Lack of ADA campsites (only 2 are rated accessible of 181)
  - No equestrian campground
  - No shade in group/organization camp
  - No easy trail access to beach from campground
  - Can't see lake from campground
  - Can't moor or launch boat near campground
- Playground hidden in campground and difficult for day visitors to reach/park
- No indoor/climate controlled meeting or interpretive space
- Beach

- No enclosed shallow area for young children
- NW shore location means lots of vegetation washed up by prevailing winds
- Disc golf course
  - Can't meet demand during tournaments
  - Too much poison ivy in wooded holes
  - Disgusting portajohns during off-season when beach restrooms closed
- Trails
  - Too many wet areas on equestrian, multi-use and hike/bike trails
  - Some erosion problems where trails are too steep (fall line trails)
  - Lack of trail mileage for equestrian, multi-use and hike/bike trails
  - Concern about safety with two way bike trails and tight/blind turns
  - Lack connection to Fred Meijer CIS trail from SHSP
- Abandoned parking lots near beach unsightly, out-of-place, inefficient
- Day use areas
  - Lack of electricity in some pavilions
  - Lack fire rings and picnic tables away from pavilions in others
  - Lack of shade in some day use areas
  - Difficult to access largest island as bridge is a mile hike one way

### **Management Actions**

- Lack of wildlife habitat management/enhancement
- Too much mowing/vegetation cutting between campsites
- Signage related to trails, orientation, interpretation, invasive species
  - Faded
  - In disrepair/missing
  - Confusing
- Lack of overall marketing plan for park, partners, neighboring communities
- Lack of recycling/too many trash bins

### **Conflicts**

- Trespass on neighboring property to E of park N of Price Rd. often hunting related
- Shooting lanes for hunting being cut along trails create concern for trail users
- Lack of knowledge among trail users about hunting seasons esp. youth deer
- Neighbor concerns about slow drainage in park through shared Montague Drain
- Boundary signs noting park property too far apart to be clearly visible
- Deer stands left up all year in trees
- Purple insect traps scare some horses near equestrian trails

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Nature

Develop/implement invasive species control plan, especially in lake, to improve fishery, boating and swimming as well as overall habitat

### Facilities

#### Campground

- Develop new tent sites with grass pads, separation from RV sites
- Develop some larger RV sites to accommodate bigger rigs
- Develop some full service campsites
- Provide wifi in the campground
- Upgrade electrical system with higher amperage, better placed pedestals
- Develop an accessible trail from campground to beach
- Upgrade/renovate bathrooms
- Make more campsites ADA accessible
- Provide a firewood vending machine

Develop an equestrian campground

Develop some walk-in, boat-in tent campsites

#### Trails

- Properly site all trails out of wet areas for longer use each year
- Develop new trail mileage for equestrian, multi-use and hike/bike
- Develop ADA trail East Pavilion/Org. Camp to Beach to Campground
  - Explore using material removed from abandoned lots in surfacing
  - Consider uses for former parking lots such as prairie habitat, overflow camping, etc.

Develop accurate new trail maps with GPS data for all trails

Develop with partners a connection from SHSP to Fred Meijer CIS trail

Develop indoor/climate controlled meeting and interpretive space

Develop/implement a sign plan for orientation, interpretive, distance and regulatory signs

Develop a second disc golf course

Develop a splash pad near the beach

Provide electrical service in all pavilions

### Programming

Strengthen/provide more Explorer Guide and general interpretive programming

With partners develop a weekend event where all park partner/volunteer groups can encourage the public to participate in their chosen activities: Bike, Hike, Run, Bird nesting boxes, Equestrian, Fish, Hunt, Disc golf

### Management

Limit use of heavy vehicles in soft, wet ground for trail management



# **Sleepy Hollow State Park 2016 On-Line Survey Report**

**By Charles M. Nelson, Jenni S. Lee and Daniel D. Nelson  
Department of Community Sustainability  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI 48824**

June 30, 2016

## **Introduction**

As part of the General Management Plan process for Sleepy Hollow State Park, an on-line survey was conducted to allow stakeholders to provide input about their use of the park, their aspirations for the future and to provide demographic information about the respondents. This on-line approach provides easy access for those who have access to the internet and accurately transfers all responses for analysis. However, it is not designed to be representative of Sleepy Hollow State Park users or uses as respondents self-select. They are not sampled on a random or systematic basis that would ensure accurate representation of users or uses. It does provide valuable information however about what those stakeholders who are motivated to comment about the park, were likely to have received DNR communication about the survey and who have internet access, hope to see in the park's future management.

## **Methods**

The on-line survey was developed by the senior author in cooperation with the DNR Sleepy Hollow Park Planning team led by planner Debbie Jensen of the DNR Park and Recreation Division (PRD) staff. The survey was posted and available for response on the DNR website beginning March 25, 2016 and closed on May 16, 2016. A copy of the survey is in Appendix C. This was announced by a DNR press release April 6, 2016, as well as letters of invitation to a series of four public meetings that targeted known stakeholders of the park including park volunteers/non-profit cooperators, the 81 adjacent property owners, local government officials and local business leaders/interests. In addition, the press release with the survey link was run in local weekly newspapers including the Meridian Weekly and the Clinton County News.

## **Results**

Tables of frequency results are presented in Appendix A and summarized in the text of this report. A total of 155 individuals responded to the online survey and provided some data in response to questions. Because it is an on-line survey it is not possible to compute a response rate of how many people knew of the opportunity to take the survey and did or did not participate. Of the respondents, 97% had visited the park in 2015, with 88% visiting the park as day users and 54% as campers. The mean number of days in the park in 2015 per on-line respondent was 18.

Those who visited the park in 2015 participated in a wide range of activities. Table 1 shows that the five most common park activities for on-line respondents in order of participation were hiking/walking/running, bicycling on paved roads, fishing from shore, nature observation and swimming. When asked the one most important park activity to them, the five most common responses by percentage noting them were camping, horseback riding, hiking/walking/running, bicycling and fishing (Table 2).

When asked to rate their satisfaction with their Sleepy Hollow SP experiences in 2015 on a scale of 1-9, with 1 being highly dissatisfied, 5 being neutral and 9 being highly satisfied, 150 of 155

respondents did so. The mean respondent rated their 2015 park experiences as 7.4 (Table 3) with more than half the respondents rating their park experiences as either an 8 or a 9 and only one respondent rating their experience as a 1 or 2.

Of the respondents rating their 2015 park experiences, 133 provided the main reason for their rating (Table 4). Of the five most commonly cited reasons listed in frequency order, four are positive and one is negative. They are clean/well maintained and patrolled park, convenient to home, nature/wildlife/quiet, poor condition of lake due to excessive weed growth and just great to be outdoors.

Question 7 of the on-line survey asked respondents to identify the one most important change they would like in Sleepy Hollow SP. If a respondent provided more than one change, only the first change was recorded in the responses per the instructions to all. Of the 130 respondents who provided suggestions, the five most common in frequency order were provide equestrian campground, improve the trails in general, improve the lake by reducing/eliminating invasive weeds, improve the beach (reduce weeds on beach and in swim area, more controlled area for small children, etc.) and improve the existing campground (e.g. larger sites, better drainage, improved utility hookups, etc.) (Table 5).

Question 8 asked respondents what one most important thing should not be changed at Sleepy Hollow SP. Again, if a respondent provided more than one item, only the first one was selected. Of the 99 people who responded, the five most common responses in frequency order were campground privacy/vegetation between sites, natural feel of park (wild, quiet, wildlife, etc.), campground in general, trails in general and no wake lake rule (Table 6).

On-line survey respondents had a mean age of 47 years of age and ranged from 19-72 years of age. Fifty-seven percent of respondents were female and 43% male. Of the respondents, 6% classified themselves as having a physical impairment that seriously limits their participation in work or recreation. The most common zip code origins of on line respondents in frequency order were 48879 (St. Johns), Laingsburg (48848), Lansing (48906), DeWitt (48820) and East Lansing (48823). One of the 152 respondents who provided a zip code was not a Michigan resident.

Additional comments are provided verbatim in Appendix B with many of them repeating suggestions on most important change or complementing DNR on park management.

## **Discussion**

These data from the on-line surveys provide one perspective on the current use and future management of the park. However, they don't provide a representative picture of the opinions of park users. But, when coupled with the data from the on-site surveys being conducted in the park from May – November 2016, a much more complete picture of park use, users and management approaches preferred by users will emerge. Because the same questions are asked in the on-site survey, it will provide an important check on how representative the on-line survey is of park users, since all on-line respondents were self-selected with many directly notified by the DNR, while on-site users were selected using a sampling plan designed to insure representation across the user spectrum.

## Appendix A. Tables of Results

Table 1. Participation in selected activities of on-line survey respondents at Sleepy Hollow SP in 2015.

Activity	% Participate
Hike/walk	69
Camp	54
Bicycle on paved road	43
Fish from shore	39
Nature observation	38
Swim	37
Bicycling on unpaved trail	32
Picnic	28
Paddle canoe/kayak	27
Photography	25
Fish from boat	21
Sunbathe	18
Horseback ride	16
Geocache	14
Disc golf	12
Pick berries or mushrooms	11
Hunt	9
Ice fish	6
Cross country ski	5
Power boat	1
Snowmobile	1
All others	12
Total	NA

Table 2. Most important activity to on-line survey respondents at Sleepy Hollow SP in 2015.

Most important activity	% Cite
Camp	32
Horseback ride	14
Hike/walk/run	12
Bicycle	12
Fish	9
Paddle canoe or kayak	4
Hunt	4
Nature observation	2
Swim	2
Disc golf	1
Picnic	1
Photography	1
Other not listed	4
Total	98 (lower than 100% due to rounding)

Table 3. Rating of Sleepy Hollow SP experiences in 2015 by on-line respondents.

Rating	Frequency	Percent
1 (very dissatisfied)	0	0.0
2	1	0.7
3	1	0.7
4	3	2.0
5 (neutral)	10	6.7
6	18	12.0
7	38	25.3
8	36	24.0
9 (very satisfied)	43	28.7
Total	150	100

Table 4. One most important reason for satisfaction rating with Sleepy Hollow SP by on-line respondents.

Reason	Percent Citing
Clean, well maintained and patrolled	13.5%
Convenient, close to home	10.5
Nature, wildlife, quiet, wild	10.5
Lake in poor condition, invasive weeds, hard paddling	9.8
Generally like, wonderful, amazing, being outdoors	9.8
Like trails	8.3
Like campground, privacy between campsites	7.5
Lack of equestrian campground	4.5
Like equestrian opportunities, volunteers	2.3
Park staff professional, courteous	2.3
Campground dump station inadequate when busy	2.3
Poor fishing	1.5
Conflict with park users by adjacent owners	1.5
Campsites too wet	1.5
Road closed around west side of park/Lake Ovid/Lack access to big island	1.5
Five other reasons cited by one respondent each	4.0
Other negative reasons difficult to classify	6.8
Total	100.0

Table 5. One most important improvement recommended for Sleepy Hollow SP by on-line survey respondents.

Improvement	Percent Citing
Develop equestrian campground	9.6
Improve trails in general	6.6
Reduce/eliminate invasive weeds (Eurasian watermilfoil) from lake	6.6
Improve beach (keep weeds from beach/swim area, small child water area)	6.6
Renovate existing campground with bigger sites, better utility service, etc.	5.9
Improve fishing, especially shore fishing opportunities	5.1
Restore road around lake, especially to provide better access to big island	5.1
Provide full service campground with water, sewer, wifi, etc.	4.4
Expand equestrian trail system	3.7
Improved, expanded campground dump station	3.7
Improve, upgrade bathrooms in campground, at beach, etc.	3.7
Have camp store with essentials, more rental watercraft, other equipment	2.9
Expand bicycle trails	2.9
No change needed	2.9
Provide rustic camping away from big rigs for tenting	2.2
Improve bicycle trails (e.g. better water management on trails, etc.)	1.5
Increase park educational, marketing and festival events	1.5
Limit hunting to a greater extent	1.5
Limit horse use/trails	0.7
Increase enforcement patrol	0.7
Hard to classify suggestions	20.6
Total	100.0

Table 6. One most important thing not to change at Sleepy Hollow SP for on-line survey respondents.

Don't change	Percent Citing
Campground privacy/vegetation between sites	18.2
Natural feel of park (wildlife, quiet, nature, etc.)	11.1
Campground in general	8.1
Trails in general	7.1
No wake lake rule	6.1
Separate trails for different trail uses	4.0
Beach	4.0
Good maintenance/patrol	4.0
Cost/price	4.0
Boat launch	4.0
Keeping most of the park open to hunting	3.0
Events and educational programs	3.0
Fishing	3.0
Continue keeping non-equestrians out of horse staging area	3.0
Hike/bike opportunities	2.0
Equestrian opportunities	2.0
Disc golf	1.0
Cabins	1.0
All others difficult to classify	11.1
Total	100.0

## Appendix B. Additional verbatim comments from Question 13

- SW4s should pick up more trash in the summer, no dogs on the beach
- Would like to see a few equestrian campsites. Again there is nothing in the middle part of the state up 'til you get up to Grayling.
- We have had trouble checking in before with limited hours of staff. This has been inconvenient at times, and sometimes have felt that control of loud campers isn't monitored due to these limited hours.
- The improvements have been amazing!!
- I would like to see the trail system cleaned up more, the campground restrooms refurbished and the ability to shoot archery for youth year round with an indoor archery range.
- The DNR does a great job in the state of Michigan managing parks and recreation areas, but the state should put more money into promoting these attractions to in state residents.
- Should really capitalize on the mountain bike trail. There is a big interest and lots of bikers in the area, that drive to Brighton area and Grand Rapids there is a big interest and a lot of bikers in the area, that drive to Brighton area and Grand Rapids area weekly for good trails. There is so much untapped potential there, could easily hold events and races there, raising lots of awareness and money for the park
- During the winter season a lot of parks have started grooming trails for bikers and skiers. This would make the trail usable year around.
- Would love to see more hike/bike trails in the remote areas of the park. Would love to see grooming of trails in the winter for fat bike cycling. Maybe more campsites.
- The dump station needs two sewer drains so campers can move more quickly out of the area. There are backups on the weekends and esp on holidays.
- Sleepy Hollow is a great park with a little something for everyone -- hiking, fishing, camping, swimming, horseback riding, disk golf -- keep up the great work!
- Hospitality training for senior employees
- The quality of panfish size and number has dropped dramatically over time. It is time to try something new to improve the fishing.
- Maybe consider increasing public events to encourage more people to come and use the park. Maybe start a Facebook page or something that puts out updates on coming events like fishing tournaments, fun activities and maybe more learning opportunities about all the things available to do at the Park.

- I would like to see more shore fishing opportunities. Clear and level places along the shore. Also add a parking lot on Price Rd. for access to the south shore
- Continue weed control on the lake.
- Thank you!
- Would like to see fish (walleye and perch) planted in the lake.
- With better fishing, there would be less solitude on the lake, so there is a tradeoff. Also, it is hard to understand why there is not more activity at Sleepy Hollow as close as it is to Lansing.
- Please keep nature natural
- It's a terrific park with terrific staff!!!!
- Sleepy Hollow is a great park, and I am very thankful to have such a park near my residence.
- Please consider giving us more horse trails.
- Happy to have this resource in our area!
- Use of campground during winter would be appreciated. Perhaps a vault toilet for winter use so the facilities in place need not be maintained all year. Running water need not be supplied, nor electricity. A reduced camping fee during this time would be appreciated.
- Turn some of the lightly used hiking trail into Multi-Purpose Trail so equestrians would have more trail.
- Recommend rest room facilities on old road hiking area past lake. I really appreciate the park and enjoy walking there every weekend!
- It is a great park for family. More camping for horse people
- I think allowing camping with horses would not only make for sleeping hollow but more allow more use
- Thank you for keeping in Veteran friendly and not allowing fireworks.
- Thank you for caring about the park.
- Improve on any bathroom vaults that have not been replaced in the past year. and easy access to park by having 2 lanes to enter from one for cars that have passes the other for buy passes



- An additional fishing dock would be a great addition as well.
- I miss the old picnic areas. The beach is still gross and it's a shame.
- We love that the cost for camping is so reasonable.
- Spray mosquitos, keep fire pits dumped, took two days last yeR of asking 6 times to dump. Cut back shrubbery, have a dog beach most do now, fix dump station make bigger. Better maybe on way out road like wilderness did. Trailers are get to.g bigger and bigger.
- Thanks for wanting to know what the public thinks/sees and is concerned about. Whether a person or a bureaucratic agency the first indication of their character, sincerity, and concern is whether or not they actually listen to those with whom they are conversing and/or serving. Thanks DNR.
- Weed out the beach area
- The state needs to support wild lands, and its increasingly difficult with cities encroaching into the countryside. Has anyone really compared all the yellow areas on the state maps with those of 20-25-30 years ago? Those yellow areas are population centers, growing VERY close together. Doing something about saving family farms near wild lands or state parks would help.
- This is one of my favorite parks in the state. Please keep the apple trees!
- A thought to give to the camper pads: Many of them have quite a drop between the pad and the ground (North Campground) fixing that would be nice. Also Holly Rec Area has slightly 'angled to the road' pads which make backing in very easy. Some of the high 70's and 80's sites are VERY difficult to get even a popup to back in. But we still like this park very much.
- thanks
- Make the showers hot, not luke warm. I don't use the restroom, have my own. but I hear campers complain about no hot showers.
- It is a nice nearby nature area to go for all kinds of outdoor activities, from fishing to hunting to camping, hiking, observing and photographing Michigan's great outdoors.
- More advertisement in local area about education and programs at the park
- The fishing in the lake has been poor to dismal. Better management of the aquatic environment for fish habitat. There are too many hunting tree stands still up this spring. Removal is recommended. My main concern is trail management as I bike all year long. I would love to volunteer to help improve the trails for biking. Also, I am concerned about the horse riders taking over too many trails from the hikers and bikers.

- I think the rangers and helpers do a great job!
- It has grown into a nice state park. I remember what it looked like when it first opened and said who would want to come to a park like this!! Good job DNR.
- I like that it gets used but that it's not overcrowded. I hope it can be developed without getting overcrowded with visitors. If there were too many visitors, I would stop going there.
- This was a great place for family camping and I plan to bring our girl scout troop this summer.
- I've been very disappointed the past two years with trying to reserve a site for the Halloween weekends. Rumor has it they changed the dates for this year but never informed the public. That's just wrong. We will end up missing it this year after attending for about 10 years
- It would be nice to have designated off-leash areas for dogs
- My family has enjoyed Sleepy Hollow since my father was a child. We camp every year as family activity
- I hope they have year round RV camping with internet & TV access.
- The park has a great staff and impressive community support. Keep up the good work.
- As stated, many, many people were disappointed when the decision was made to close down the road to the island picnic area. While that area may not have been important to campers, it has always been heavily used by locals and every single time I was there - winter or summer - there were people there besides myself.
- Would like to see an access to be able to get the horses into water and would like to see more trails.
- Love this great natural resource in my back yard.
- Keep up the good work
- Wish all services and prices were listed and easy to find. i.e. kayak rentals
- The staff is wonderful - so nice, helpful and friendly. Approachable.
- Sleepy Hollow is a good family park, would love to see a splash pad and more easily accessed information about trails. Bathrooms can become very dirty and the scary long term old men with blacked out windows does create the warm and fuzzies.

- I like that the staff is respectful about privacy. The park has a good overall family feel to it.
- More camping spaces, more fish would be good.
- Ranger take time to talk to people.
- Some improvements have been done at Sleeply Hollow around the beach area and we are thankful for them.

# SLEEPY HOLLOW STATE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN SURVEY

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Michigan State University are cooperating to understand the use and users of Sleepy Hollow State Park as part of updating the park management plan.

Please take the 5 minutes needed to complete this brief survey and comment form so we can have your initial input prior to developing our initial draft of the plan.

There will be additional opportunities for public engagement and comment about the plan once it is developed in draft form.

You will be anonymous and your name will not be connected with study results. You indicate your voluntary agreement to participate by completing and returning this survey.

<b>page 2</b>		
<b>RECREATION ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>1. Please check ALL the activities in which you participated at Sleepy Hollow State Park during 2015?</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Hiking/Walking/Running	<input type="checkbox"/> Photography	<input type="checkbox"/> Horseback riding
<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling paved roads	<input type="checkbox"/> Camping	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunbathing
<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling unpaved trail	<input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking	<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing from boat	<input type="checkbox"/> Hunting	<input type="checkbox"/> Geocaching
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing from shore/dock	<input type="checkbox"/> Power boating	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal detecting
<input type="checkbox"/> Pick berries/ mushrooms	<input type="checkbox"/> Disc golf	<input type="checkbox"/> Ice fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Cross country skiing	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nature observation (birding etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Paddling (canoe, kayak etc.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) _____		
<b>2. Of those activities in which you participated at Sleepy Hollow in 2015, which is the ONE MOST IMPORTANT activity to you?</b>		
_____		
_____		

**NUMBER OF VISITS**

**3. How many days did you visit Sleepy Hollow State Park as a camper in 2015? (Enter a value between 0 and 365)**

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**4. How many days did you visit Sleepy Hollow in 2015 when you were NOT camping there? (Enter a value between 0 and 365)**

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**5. Please rate on a scale of 1 to 9 (with 1 highly dissatisfied; 5 neutral; and 9 highly satisfied) how satisfied you were with your 2015 Sleepy Hollow State Park experiences. (Select one option)**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**6. What is the ONE most important reason for your rating?**

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**7. What ONE change would you recommend to improve Sleepy Hollow State Park?**

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**8. What ONE thing would you recommend NOT change at Sleepy Hollow State Park?**

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**ABOUT YOU**

**9. What is your principal home zip code?**

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**10. What is your age? (in years) (Enter a value between 1 and 110)**

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**11. Do you have any physical impairment that seriously limits your participation in work or recreation?**

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**12. Please check your gender (Select one option)**

Male

Female

**13. Thank you for your help in improving the management of Sleepy Hollow State Park. If you have any additional input about Sleepy Hollow State Park, please provide it below.**

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# Sleepy Hollow State Park 2016 On-Site Use and User Study Final Report

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December 27, 2016

## **Introduction**

As part of the master planning process for Sleepy Hollow State Park, an on-site study was conducted to provide a representative sample of park visitors, estimate park use by parking lot and activity, provide an overall estimate of mean user hours per vehicle in day use lots and seek the opinion of park users about the future management options and approaches. This on-site approach samples users at systematically selected days and times across May - November of 2016. It uses a windshield survey on their vehicle to ensure representation of the full range of park users in assessing future options for management. This on-site study is done in combination with an on-line survey of park stakeholders conducted in spring 2016 where respondents self-selected and were able to influence who answered the questionnaire (e.g. contact others to go on-line and complete a questionnaire, etc.). In combination, the two approaches provide the active stakeholders a way to ensure their input is recorded (on-line survey) as well as to hear from the full range of users (estimated 400,000 uses in 2015) through the on-site study. It is noteworthy that few park visitors are deeply engaged in park management planning and operations, but all visitors pay the same passport (entry) fee and camping fees (if they camp) to use the park. All users' voices are important and this on-site approach provides a way for them to be heard in a representative fashion.

## **Methods**

The on-site study methodology and questionnaire were developed by the senior author in cooperation with the DNR Sleepy Hollow Park Planning team led by planner Debbie Jensen of the DNR Park and Recreation Division (PRD) staff. The questionnaire is found in Appendix B and includes all the questions from the on-line survey with additional questions regarding the experience of the park user the day he/she was sampled related to daily spending and other information about that one experience. A sampling calendar was developed that proportionally allocated sampling days across May - November based on seasonal estimates of park use for spring, summer and fall provided by the DNR (Appendices C and D). Spring is defined as May, summer as June - August and fall as September - November. Winter is not included in on-site sampling due to the timeline of the planning process that began in January 2016 and concludes December 2016 as well as winter accounting for less than 6% of the annual day use of the park and none of the camping as the campground is closed during winter.

On a sample day, the survey administrator (Dan Nelson) would arrive at the park at the start time and begin sampling at one of the day use sites within the interior of the park (Beach/disc golf, equestrian staging area, East picnic/organization area or boating access site). He would count all vehicles present upon entering the lot. Once the count is made, a questionnaire with location, questionnaire number and time is distributed to each vehicle to put on the windshield or directly

handed to the driver if he/she is at the vehicle. If it is raining, surveys are enclosed in a clear plastic bag and placed on the windshield. While almost all vehicles receive a questionnaire, occasionally one leaves before a survey can be administered, hence the number of surveys distributed is slightly less than the vehicle count. If there are more than 50 vehicles in a lot, all are counted but only the first 50 counted receive a questionnaire to limit confusion and keep to a time schedule to complete all other vehicle counts and survey distribution. This is most likely at the beach/disc golf parking area and did occur during the summer in both June and July at the beach. Thus, these major use areas are moderately undersampled.

Once those major day use sites were sampled, the administrator next visited the campground. There he randomly choose a campsite number between 1 and 181 and proceeded to sample the next 20 campsites where campers were present by presenting them with a questionnaire. If there were less than 20 sites with campers present, then the number of occupied sites with camper present received a questionnaire. If there were more than 20 present, only 20 were distributed. Finally, the administrator drove the perimeter of the park visiting all satellite parking areas that provide access to features such as wildlife floodings, trails and opportunities for dispersed recreation such as hunting, picking berries, nature observation, etc.

Respondents had two ways to return questionnaires to the researchers. The first is to use the postage paid, business reply feature of the postcards to mail them directly to Dr. Nelson at MSU. The second is to put them in the fee pipes marked "Park Surveys" at the park office, campground office or boating access site where they were collected by park staff and then held for pickup by the MSU team.

### **Results**

Results are presented in three ways. The first is observations/vehicle counts done by the survey administrator. These provide an assessment of use levels for each facility/parking area. The second is survey responses to questions 1-10, which focus on the respondent's experience the day they were sampled. Since these questions ask about the specific day's experience, there is no possibility of oversampling frequent users as each use is a use, whether done by a person who visits the park one time or 100 times in a year. However, Questions 11-16 are weighted to account for frequency of use bias as they ask about suggested improvements, things not to change and demographic information that defines the distinct park user. A frequent user, such as one who visits the park 100 times a year has 100 times greater chance of receiving a survey than one who visits the park once a year. To be able to use a one person, one vote rule where each person has an equal say in suggesting potential changes or the lack of them, the data is weighted to eliminate the frequency of use bias in sampling. For distinct users the data is weighted by the reciprocal of the number of uses the previous year (Q 16). If a person used the park once in the previous year, their weight is 1/1. If they used it 100 times, their weight is 1/100.

All results tables are provided in Appendix A and are numbered as they are in the text of this report.

### **Observations**

There were 3 sample days in Spring, 18 sample days in Summer and 6 in Fall of 2016. Table 1 shows that a total of 1,085 vehicles were counted and 856 questionnaires were distributed in day



use lots. The busiest lots were the beach/disc golf, followed by the boating access site and the East Picnic/Organization area. For campers over the 27 sample days, 418 surveys were distributed.

### **Survey Results: Uses**

Three hundred and three completed questionnaires were returned by respondents as of the December 1, 2016 cutoff necessary for analysis and presentation at the December 7, 2016 public meeting (Table 1). Since the last survey date was November 16, this provided a full two weeks for surveys to be returned after the last sampling date. Of those, 173 were from day use areas and 130 were from the campground. That is a 20% response rate from day use areas, a 31% response rate from the campground and a 24% overall response rate.

### **Activities and Party Characteristics**

The average amount of time a day visitor vehicle was in the park was 4.2 hours and the day visitor party averaged 2.1 people per vehicle. However, many day visitors were grouped with others in other vehicles as the average day visitor group had 5.9 people. Campers had longer stays and this information is readily available in campground records as all campsites register and pay for a set number of nights. The average camper vehicle had 2.8 people while the average camping group was likely to have multiple vehicles and to have 6.0 people. A total of 9 percent of all respondents reported on the day they were sampled reported that one or more people in their vehicle had a physical impairment that seriously limited him/her from participation in work or recreation. These persons would be classified as disabled under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Nine percent of campers reported a disabled person in their vehicle and 8 percent of day visitors reported a disabled person in their vehicle.

Park visitors participated in a wide range of activities. Table 2 shows that the five most common park activities for campers in order of participation were camping, hiking/walking/running, nature observation, bicycling on a paved road and swimming. For day visitors the five most common park activities were hiking/walking/running, nature observation, fishing from a boat, swimming and picnicking.

When asked the one most important park activity to them, campers primarily cited camping. For day visitors the five most mentioned activities were fishing, hike/walk/run, swimming, paddle canoe/kayak and horseback ride (Table 3).

### **Local Spending**

Park visitor spending during the 24 hours prior to their being surveyed within 20 miles of Sleepy Hollow State Park was substantial (Table 4). Campers spent an average of \$77 in the local area, with 83% of campers spending something in the local area in the previous 24 hours. The greatest amount of spending was on lodging (camping fees), followed by grocery and convenience store food/drink, restaurant/bar food and drink and vehicle related expenses.

Day visitor spending was lower than campers on a per respondent basis, with the average day visitor respondent spending \$41 during their current use and 70% of them spending something in the local area in the past 24 hours. For day visitors, the greatest portion of spending was on vehicle related expenses followed by grocery and convenience store food/drink and restaurant

and bar food and drink. In total, 76% of respondents spent something in the local area in the previous 24 hours to being surveyed and averaged \$56 of local spending in that time period.

### **Satisfaction**

When asked to rate their satisfaction with their Sleepy Hollow SP experience the day they were sampled, both campers and day visitors were generally satisfied (Table 5). They rated the experience on a scale of 1-9 with 1 being highly dissatisfied, 5 being neutral and 9 being highly satisfied. About half of all respondents gave their experience the highest satisfaction rating (9), with only 4% of respondents rating their experience as less than neutral and the average satisfaction rating was 7.8. Almost 3/4 of respondents rated their experience as an 8 or 9 and only 3% of respondents rated it as a 1 or 2.

When asked an open ended question about the reason for their experience rating, positive comments were received about the nature aspects of the park, the joy of their visit, the campground and the privacy of the campsites, the extensive trail network serving many interests, the no wake rule on the lake, good park maintenance and friendly and professional employees (Table 6). The most common negative responses/reasons for a less than the highest rating were the poor condition of the lake with invasive plant growth. This was followed by concerns about trails, poor fishing, conflict with park visitors and poor maintenance.

### **Distinct Users Opinions**

Question 11 of the on-site survey asked respondents in an open ended question to identify the one most important change they would like in Sleepy Hollow SP. This information is weighted to insure frequent users who are more likely to be sampled are not over represented in the results. If a respondent provided more than one change, only the first change was recorded in the responses per the instructions to all. Campers were most likely to suggest improving the trails. Many other suggestions were specific to the campground including having a camp store, drier sites, larger sites, better electric hookups, expanded dump station and improved bathrooms. Some also sought a full service campground while others wanted a rustic camping area. For day visitors, the most common improvements suggested were improving the trails in general and improving the lake in terms of weed control and beach improvements, followed by improved bicycling opportunities.

Question 12 of the on-site survey asked respondents what one most important thing should not be changed at Sleepy Hollow SP. Again, if a respondent provided more than one item, only the first one was selected. The most common responses for campers were keep the campground as it is in general and maintain the privacy between sites that currently exists. For day visitors, keeping the park as it is in general and specifically keeping the no wake lake rule were the key items not to change. Both campers and day visitors appreciate the natural setting of the park and the work of the staff in maintaining the park and patrolling.

### **Demographics**

Distinct respondents had a mean age of 49, with campers having a mean age of 50 and day visitors at 48 year. Ages ranged from 19-82 for campers and day visitors. Fifty-seven percent of all respondents were female and 43% male. Of the camper respondents, 33% were male and 67% were female, while of day visitor respondents, 51% were male and 49% were female.

For distinct day visitors, 80% had a relatively local zip code of 488xx or 489xx, while 60% of campers had a relatively local zip code, suggesting that campers come from a wider and farther range of origins than day visitors as a whole. The five most common zip code origins of distinct on-site camper respondents in frequency order were: 48848 (Laingsburg), 48867 (Owosso), 48917 (Lansing), 48912 (Lansing) and 48820 (DeWitt). Less than 3% of distinct camper respondents were non-residents of Michigan. For day visitors, the five most common origins for distinct user respondents were: 48823 (East Lansing); 48854 (Mason); 48820 (DeWitt); 48879 (St. Johns) and 48911 (Lansing). Less than 1% of distinct day visitor respondents were non-residents of Michigan.

### **Discussion**

These on-site survey data provide a representative picture of Sleepy Hollow State Park use, users and their opinions about the future direction of the park and its management. This representative picture is crucial to understanding and meeting the needs of all those who visit the park and financially support it by purchasing the recreation passport and additionally those who also pay to camp.

## Appendix A. Tables of Results

Table 1. Vehicle counts and surveys distributed on-site 2016 at Sleepy Hollow State Park day use areas and campground. (a)

Lot	Spring Count	Spring Survey Dist.	Summer Count	Summer Survey Dist.	Fall Count	Fall Survey Dist.	Total Count	Total Survey Dist.
Beach	39	36	549	350	57	56	645	442
BAS	30	27	211	193	54	52	241	220
E. Pavilion	19	18	34	34	18	18	71	70
Equestrian	7	7	21	21	7	7	35	35
Satellite Lots	7	6	2	2	28(b)	27(b)	37	35
Day Use Total	102	94	817	600	166(b)	162(b)	1085	856
Camping	NA	53	NA	293	NA	72	NA	418

(a) Sampling dates/start time: See calendar in Appendix D.

(b) Vehicles counted include 2 vehicles parked in from of former night access gate that were both surveyed on November 16.

Table 2. Percent Sleepy Hollow SP on-site respondents participating in selected recreational activities during sample day in 2016.

Activity	Campers	Day Visitors	All
Hike/walk	75%	37%	50%
Camp	100	0	43
Nature observation	45	31	37
Swim	38	24	30
Picnic	28	21	24
Bicycle on paved road	39	8	23
Sunbathe	27	19	22
Fish from boat	27	27	20
Paddle canoe/kayak	17	18	18
Fish from shore	24	13	18
Bicycling on unpaved trail	23	6	16
Photography	22	10	15
Disc golf	7	5	6
Hunt	5	6	5
Horseback ride	2	6	5
Pick berries or mushrooms	4	5	4
Geocache	4	2	3
Power boat	1	4	3
Metal detecting	2	1	1
All others	7	8	8
Total	NA	NA	NA

Table 3. Most important recreational activity for Sleepy Hollow SP on-site respondents when sampled in 2016.

Most important activity	Campers	Day Visitors	All
Camp	88%	2%	38%
Fish	2	27	16
Hike/walk/run	2	19	11
Swim	1	13	8
Paddle canoe or kayak	0	10	6
Horseback ride	2	6	4
Picnic	0	4	3
Disc golf	0	3	2
Bicycle	0	3	2
Nature observation	1	2	2
Hunt	0	4	2
Sunbathe	0	2	1
Power boat	0	1	1
Geocache	0	1	1
Photography	0	0	0
Metal detecting	0	0	0
Pick berries/mushrooms	0	1	0
Other not listed	6	2	4
Total	100%	100%	100%

Table 4. Expenditures of on-site respondents during past 24 hours within 20 miles of Sleepy Hollow SP in 2016.

Item	Camper Mean Spending \$ (% spend something)	Day Visitor Mean Spending \$(% spend something)	All Mean Spending \$ (% spend something)
Grocery & convenience store food, drink	\$22 (53%)	\$11 (36%)	\$15 (43%)
Vehicle related	11 (33)	15 (50)	13(42)
Lodging fees	24 (52)	2 (4)	12 (24)
Restaurant & bar meals & drinks	11 (25)	8 (28)	9 (27)
Sporting goods	5 (18)	3 (15)	4 (16)
All other items	4 (21)	2 (8)	3 (13)
Total	\$77 (83%)	\$41 (70%)	\$56 (75%)

Table 5. Rating of Sleepy Hollow SP use experience by on-site respondents on the day sampled in 2016.

Rating Scale	Campers	Day Visitors	All
1 (very dissatisfied)	1.6%	3.0%	2.4%
2	0.8	1.2	1.0
3	0	0.6	0.3
4	0	0	0
5 (neutral)	5.5	7.1	6.4
6	3.9	5.3	4.7
7	16.4	11.2	13.5
8	25.8	18.9	21.9
9 (very satisfied)	46.1	52.7	49.5
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Mean Rating	7.9	7.8	7.8

Table 6. One most important reason for satisfaction rating with Sleepy Hollow SP use by on-site respondents on the day sampled in 2016.

Reason	Campers	Day Visitors	All
Nature, wildlife, quiet, wild	13.2%	14.6%	14.0%
Generally like, wonderful, amazing, being outdoors	9.1	14.6	12.2
Like campground, privacy between campsites	26.4	0	11.5
Clean, well maintained and patrolled	5.8	12.0	9.3
Like trails	2.5	12.0	7.9
Lake in poor condition/too many weeds	1.7	9.5	6.1
Park staff professional, courteous	11.6	1.3	5.7
Like lake/no wake rule	0.8	8.2	5.0
Convenient, close to home	8.3	2.5	5.0
Don't like trails/need improvement	0.8	5.1	3.2
Good fishing	0	3.8	2.2
Conflict with park users	3.3	1.3	2.2
Like equestrian trails	0.8	3.2	2.2
Poor fishing	0.8	2.5	1.8
Lack of disabled access to lake/other facilities	1.7	1.3	1.8
Poor maintenance of park	2.5	1.3	1.7
Dump station capacity too small	3.3	0.0	1.4
Don't like road closed to island/around lake	0.8	0.6	0.7
Poor disc golf/needs improvement	0	1.3	0.7
Good disc golf	0	0.6	0.4
Wet campsites	0.8	0	0.4
Lack of equestrian trails	0	1.1	0.4
Rude, negative park staff	0	0	0.4
Other negative reasons difficult to classify	5.0	5.1	2.6
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 7. Response to open ended question about one most important improvement at Sleepy Hollow SP by distinct on-site user survey respondents in 2016.

Improvement	Campers	Day Visitors	All
Improve trails in general	14.7%	21.8%	18.2%
Nothing to improve/change	10.2	7.5	8.9
Improve beach by reducing weeds/shade/more sand	2.4	11.8	7.1
Improve lake by removing invasive weeds/deepening	1.9	12.1	7.0
Improve bathrooms/bath house	8.2	3.2	5.7
Have camp store/better watercraft and other equipment rentals	8.3	1.9	5.1
Improve/expand bicycling opportunities	0.3	9.5	4.9
Improve existing campground with larger sites, dry sites, etc.	8.2	0	4.1
Improve maintenance	7.5	0.4	4.0
Improve fishing/better shore fishing opportunity	1.5	5.7	3.6
Provide full service campground	5.9	0.8	3.4
Larger/improved dump station	5.0	0	2.5
Increase access for the disabled	2.4	0.9	1.6
Restore road around lake/easy access to big island	0.3	1.9	1.1
Provide rustic camping	2.1	0	1.0
Increase law enforcement patrol	1.6	0.3	1.0
Expand equestrian trails	0.1	1.1	0.6
Provide equestrian campground	0	0.9	0.5
Increase education/events	0.3	0	0.2
Decrease equestrian use/trails	0.3	0	0.2
Other suggestions difficult to classify	18.2	19.8	19.0
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



Table 8. Response to open ended question about one most important thing not to change at Sleepy Hollow SP for distinct on-site user survey respondents in 2016.

Don't change	Campers	Day Visitors	All
Campground privacy between sites	35.0%	3.3%	20.0%
Don't know/Keep as is	6.2	27.9	16.5
Natural areas/nature/wildness/wildlife/quiet	7.7	6.9	8.9
Lake Ovid no wake lake rule	0	18.7	8.8
Campground in general	16.0	0	8.4
Beach	4.0	7.8	4.9
Cost/price	7.4	1.9	4.8
Friendly staff	5.2	2.5	3.9
Good maintenance/patrol	4.8	2.9	3.9
Trails in general	2.9	3.5	3.2
Boating access site/boat launch	0	5.8	2.7
Hike/bike opportunities	1.3	3.3	2.2
Most of park open to hunting	0	3.1	1.5
Separate trails for different trail activities	0	1.9	1.3
Fishing	1.0	0	0.5
Equestrian opportunities	0	0.8	0.4
Disc golf	0	0.4	0.2
Other hard to classify	7.4	9.3	8.3
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

## Appendix B. On-site questionnaire

### Sleepy Hollow State Park Use Assessment

\_\_\_\_\_Date

Dear Driver:

MSU and the Michigan DNR are cooperating to measure recreation use of Sleepy Hollow State Park as part of updating the park management plan. Please take the 4 minutes needed to complete this form and mail it to us postage paid or put it in one of the drop boxes at the boat launch or the campground office. You will be anonymous and your name will not be connected with study results. You indicate your voluntary agreement to participate by completing and returning this survey.

1. Please check ALL of the activities in the park in which one or more of the people from your vehicle participated while you were in the park today.

Hiking/Walking/Running     Photography     Paddling watercraft  
 Bicycling paved roads     Camping     Horseback riding  
 Bicycling unpaved trail     Picnicking     Sunbathing  
 Fishing from boat     Hunting/Scouting     Swimming  
 Fishing from shore/dock     Power boating     Geocaching  
 Pick berries/mushrooms     Disc golf     Metal detecting  
 Nature observation (birding, etc.)     Other(\_\_\_\_\_)

2. Which ONE activity was the MAIN reason visited the park today? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How many HOURS was your vehicle in the park today? \_\_\_\_\_ # HOURS

4. Including you, how many PEOPLE came here in this vehicle? \_\_\_\_\_ # PEOPLE

5. Including other vehicles, how many people are in your group? \_\_\_\_\_ # PEOPLE

6. Does anyone in your vehicle have a physical impairment that seriously limits his/her participation in work or recreation?     Yes     No

7. Where did you stay last night (check one)?     Sleepy Hollow campground  
 Own principal home     Another campground     Another's home/2<sup>nd</sup> home  
 Hotel/motel/rental cabin     Own 2<sup>nd</sup> home     Other (\_\_\_\_\_)

8. During the past 24 hours, how much did you and those in your vehicle spend within 20 miles of Sleepy Hollow State Park on the following items.

Vehicle related (gas, oil, trip related repair, etc.)    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Restaurant & bar meals & drinks    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grocery or convenience store food, drink or ice    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sporting goods (fishing supplies, camping gear, etc.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lodging fees (camping, motel, cabin rental, etc.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All other items (watercraft rental, souvenirs, ice, etc.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

9. Please rate on a scale of 1-9 (w/ 1 highly dissatisfied; 5 neutral; and 9 highly satisfied), how satisfied you were with **today's Sleepy Hollow SP** experience. # \_\_\_\_\_ **Rating**

10. What is the ONE most important reason for your rating? \_\_\_\_\_

11. What ONE change would you recommend to improve Sleepy Hollow SP? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What ONE thing would you recommend not change at Sleepy Hollow SP? \_\_\_\_\_

13. What is your principal home zip code? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Your age? \_\_\_\_\_ years

15. Please circle your gender. M or F

16. How many days did you visit Sleepy Hollow SP in 2015? \_\_\_\_\_ #days

**Thanks** for your help in improving the management of Sleepy Hollow State Park.

Dr. Chuck Nelson, Project Director \_\_\_\_\_ Time

MSU Dept. Community Sustainability, 480 Wilson Rd., \_\_\_\_\_ Site

East Lansing, MI 48824 Phone (517) 432-0272 nelsonc@msu.edu \_\_\_\_\_ Ques #

## Appendix C. Sleepy Hollow Sampling Schedule 2016

- Based on Spring, Summer and Fall use levels per 2012-13 DNR park use data
- Spring (March - May); Summer (June - August); Fall (September - November)
- For our study purposes
  - Spring sampling in May
  - Summer sampling June-August
  - Fall sampling September - November 20
- Both camping use and day use approximately 12.5% spring, 62.5% summer and 25% fall
- Sample days are divided the same way with 2/3 on weekdays and 1/3 on weekends similar to calendar.

Table 1. Sampling schedule based on park use levels from 2012-13.

Season	% of camping use	% of day visits	% of day visits adj. for no winter	Weekend Sample Days	Weekday Sample Days	Total Sample Days
Spring	10	12	13	1	2	3
Summer	64	59	63	6	12	18
Fall	26	23	24	2	4	6
Winter	0	6	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	9	18	27

Sampling day is as long as it takes to cover the 16 day use areas and to sample 20 occupied campsites. Campground is sampled by select occupied campsites systematically with a random start. Start by randomly selecting a number from 1-181 and then do the next 20 occupied sites going up the numeric scale.

Sample calendar will be developed in conjunction with student's other commitments to DNR Wildlife job at Rose Lake/Jolly Rd. Lansing conducting deer observations along the Maple River (Clinton, Ionia counties) and along the Cass River (Sanilac, Tuscola counties). SHSP sampling will begin at one of the following times each sample day: 9 AM, Noon, 3PM and 6PM.

## Appendix D. Sleepy Hollow State Park On-Site Sampling Calendar

Day	Date	Start Time
Fri	5/6	3PM
Saturday	5/14	Noon
Tue	5/24	6PM
Wed	6/1	6PM
Thur	6/9	6PM
Sun	6/12	9AM
Fri	6/17	3PM
Sat	6/18	Noon
Wed	6/29	Noon
Wed	7/6	Noon
Thur	7/14	9AM
Mon	7/18	9AM
Sat	7/23	3PM
Tue	7/26	Noon
Sun	7/31	3PM
Sun	8/7	6PM
Tue	8/9	9AM
Mon	8/15	Noon
Sat	8/21	6PM
Thur	8/25	9AM
Tue	8/30	3PM
Mon	9/5	Noon
Sat	9/17	6PM
Tue	9/27	3PM
Tue	10/11	6PM
Tue	10/18	3PM
Wed	11/16	9AM



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



DR. WILLIAM E. MORITZ  
DIRECTOR

March 18, 2016

Mr. Frank Cloutier, Tribal Chief  
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe  
7070 East Broadway Street  
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858

Dear Chief Cloutier:

The Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is in the process of developing a General Management Plan (GMP) for Sleepy Hollow State Park in Clinton County, Michigan. Sleepy Hollow State Park contains over 2,600 acres of woods and fields, the Little Maple River and the 410-acre Lake Ovid, which was developed by damming the river when the park was created in the 1960s. The park offers year-round recreation opportunities, including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, modern camping and cabins, a group youth area, day use swimming beach, disc golf course, and opportunities for fishing and hunting.

The DNR uses General Management Plans to define a long-range planning and management strategy that will protect the natural, cultural and historic resources of the site, while considering education and recreation opportunities. A planning team, representing various specialties within the DNR, has been established and is meeting regularly to develop the GMP for this site.

The planning process includes several opportunities for public and stakeholder input. A series of stakeholder meetings have been scheduled to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the current park situation and suggest opportunities to improve the future. These will be held at Victor Township Hall, 6843 E. Alward Road, Laingsburg, MI 48848, to be facilitated by Dr. Charles Nelson of MSU, who is assisting the DNR with this project.

- Local government – Tuesday 4/12 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
- Local business – Thursday 4/14 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.
- Non-profits and volunteers – Thursday 4/14 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- Neighbors and all other interested citizens – Wednesday 4/20 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

A public meeting to review and provide comments on the draft plan will be scheduled in late fall 2016. In addition, the draft plan will be available for review and comment on the DNR's website prior to adoption.

We would like to give the Tribes the opportunity to meet with us independently to discuss the GMP process and any concerns you may have in relation to Sleepy Hollow

Mr. Frank Cloutier  
Page 2  
March 18, 2016

State Park. In addition, you are welcome to send representatives to any of the stakeholder meetings in April, or the public meeting, which will be advertised later this year.

For additional information on our management plan process, please visit our website at [www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans](http://www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans)

Please contact either Ms. Debbie Jensen, PRD Management Plan Administrator at 517-284-6105, or myself, if you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,



Dennis Knapp  
Tribal Affairs Coordinator  
517-284-6237

cc. Dr. Charles Nelson  
Ms. Debbie Jensen, DNR  
Mr. Murdock Jemerson, DNR  
Mr. Timothy Machowicz, DNR



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



DR. WILLIAM E. MORITZ  
DIRECTOR

March 18, 2016

Mr. Donald Seal  
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe  
7070 East Broadway Street  
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858

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Mr. Donald Seal  
Page 2  
March 18, 2016

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Dennis Knapp  
Tribal Affairs Coordinator  
517-284-6237

cc. Dr. Charles Nelson  
Ms. Debbie Jensen, DNR  
Mr. Murdock Jemerson, DNR  
Mr. Timothy Machowicz, DNR



## Statewide DNR News

Nov. 17, 2016

Contact: [Debbie Jensen](mailto:Debbie.Jensen@Michigan.gov), 517-284-6105

### **DNR seeks public input on Sleepy Hollow State Park general management plan at public meeting Dec. 7**

Hoping to gather public input on a new draft general management plan for Sleepy Hollow State Park, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources will host an open house Wednesday, Dec. 7, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Victor Township Hall, 6843 E. Alward Road in Laingsburg.

Sleepy Hollow State Park, located 15 miles north of the Greater Lansing area, contains more than 2,600 acres, including the 410-acre Lake Ovid. The park offers year-round recreation opportunities, including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, camping, swimming, picnicking, disc golf, boating, fishing and hunting.



The general management plan defines a long-range (10- to 20-year) planning and management strategy that will assist the DNR Parks and Recreation Division in meeting its responsibilities to protect and preserve the park's natural and cultural resources and to provide access to land- and water-based public recreation and educational opportunities. A link to the Sleepy Hollow State Park draft general management plan is available at <http://www.michigan.gov/sleepyhollow>.

The open house will begin with a short presentation of the draft plan. Chuck Nelson, from Michigan State University Extension, will share the results of public input efforts. Members of the public are welcome to attend at any time during the two-hour period to review the planning material, provide comments and talk to DNR staff. Comments also can be made via email until Dec. 12 to Debbie Jensen, DNR park management plan administrator, at [jensend1@michigan.gov](mailto:jensend1@michigan.gov).

Additional information on the DNR's general management planning process is available at [www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans](http://www.michigan.gov/parkmanagementplans).

For more information about the public meeting or the general management plan, contact Jensen at 517-284-6105 (TTY/TDD711 Michigan Relay Center for the hearing impaired) or [jensenD1@michigan.gov](mailto:jensenD1@michigan.gov). Those with disabilities who need accommodations for the meetings should contact Jensen at least five business days before the meeting.

**/Editor's note:** An accompanying photo is available below for download. A suggested caption follows.

Sleepy Hollow State Park is known for year-round recreation opportunities, including fishing. The Michigan DNR will host an open house Dec. 7 to provide opportunities for the public to learn about and provide feedback on the park's new draft management plan./

- [Sleepy Hollow muskie fishing.jpg](#)

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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. For more information, go to [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).



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**SLEEPY HOLLOW STATE PARK  
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**PUBLIC INPUT OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY  
Victor Township Hall**

The Sleepy Hollow State Park Draft General Management Plan (GMP) was available for review from November 17 through December 12, 2016. Members of the public were invited to review the draft plan online and provide comments via Email or attend a public meeting on December 7, 2016 to present the plan and solicit input. The review opportunity was advertised by a DNR press release and sent to organizations and individuals with a known interest in Sleepy Hollow State Park as well as park neighbors.

Following is a summary of input received at the Public Input Meeting on December 7, 2016 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Victor Township Hall, Laingsburg, MI.

The meeting was attended by over 50 members of the community and DNR representatives. The meeting began with a brief presentation of the Draft General Management Plan, including the planning process, significance statements, management zones and action goals for the upcoming 10 years. Dr. Chuck Nelson gave a detailed presentation on the results of the on-line and on-site survey work that gathered input from park users to help inform the plan.

Verbal comments and questions following the presentation included the following:

- Lack of goals relating to equestrian use
- Consider crowd funding for trail connection projects
- Equalize trail miles between the uses
- Safety concerns with combining equestrian and multi-use in the northwest corner of the park
- How is the 5-year implementation plan undertaken? It should include user groups.
- What about water trails?
- Appreciate the attention to use by persons with disabilities: consider additional accessibility improvements such as an accessible kayak launch and equestrian accessibility. Consider partnering with a veterans group.
- Members of the Michigan Mountain Bike Association expressed their support for the plan. The group regularly has rides on the trails in the park and supports no additional trails and a focus on connecting to the FMCIS trail, trail maintenance and separation of uses.

Meeting attendees were invited to complete comment cards answering specific questions relating to aspects of the GMP. The information below includes comment cards both collected at the meeting and submitted via Email afterwards. (Numbers after the comment indicate the number of times it was made).

1. *Do you agree with the park Significance Statements? Would you add or change anything to the statements?*

- Expand recycling to all developed recreation
- Park needs more accessibility
- Yes, the park is an excellent resource for generations
- Lake weeds are a big issue
- Husband uses the park 6-8 times in the fall for waterfowl hunting and it is very important to him
- Yes. In Trails section, thank you for highlighting the scarcity of other equestrian trails in the area and the uniqueness of a section suitable for horse-drawn carts.
- In the Camping section, I appreciate welcoming equestrian guests at the cabins.
- Thanks, too, for highlighting the recycling available for visitors' use

2. *Do you agree with the Draft Management zones? If not, what would you change?*

- Yes, they make sense/ well thought out (3)
- Equestrian use allowed in Rec & Backcountry- Great!
- Because SHSP is the only park within 40 miles and the feedback being recreation based, the Natural Resource Recreation zone should be expanded into the Backcountry zone

3. *Are there any additional actions you would like to propose?*

- Equestrian goals (non-specific) (4)
- Equestrian campground (3)
- Add more horse trails (2)
- Partnering with veterans for accessible lake fishing platform.
- Accessibility in EQ area- Mount block/ hard surface around outhouses, give recognition (naming rights) to make it happen
- Group camp area for family/scouts/etc.
- Dog Beach
- Nope. The park and trail system are great the way it is
- Once connected to CIS, will need hike/bike in camp.
- Yes, while the road around the lake has been closed, re-open the right fishing entrance for access to the island. Losing that developed area was a mistake as it was heavily used.
- Splash park
- Water access for equine use- watering on hot days, training for young horses
- Expand parking area for equestrian special events
- I would like to see action plans specifically directed to strengthening cooperation and communication between DNR personnel and the groups working on trail maintenance
- Identify a "lightly used" bike trail to be reassigned to a horse trail

4. *Are there any proposed actions you don't think should be included? If so, please explain.*
- Wifi is not necessary for "wilderness experience" (3)
  - Keep tenting and rustic camping separate from equestrian staging area (2) The staging area gravel, outhouse, well and pavilion were constructed and paid for by equestrians. This is a safety issue.

5. *Other Comments:*

General Support

- Those of us at Michigan Search and Rescue are grateful for the training opportunities provided for our K-9s for both land and water training. (3)
- Well rounded plan that reflects the user groups well (2)
- Just keep the process open to the public as it has been, Thank you.
- Really like the islands to get away from people and swim my dogs in the summer.
- Great job on the plan – couldn't ask for more

Trails

- Changing the C-P (equestrian) trail into a multi-use trail poses major safety concerns (3)
- Park is important to trail users-more trails! (3)
- Use pipeline for trail (2)
- Where is trail to CIS proposed? (2)
- Keep separate trails separate (2)
- Beneficial to have CIS trail open to equestrians and partner with equine local groups (2)
- Flowers planted on Pipeline "trail"
- Allow a kid loop at equine camp
- How do you designate a "lightly used" trail? Can we put cameras up to monitor a specific trail?
- Develop EQ Trails Now in Backcountry.
- Trail to Laingsburg- open to all non-motor use
- SHTRA would like to be involved in the trail improvements- FMCIS
- I agree with the conclusion that additional trails aren't needed, but I urge the DNR not to REDUCE the trails open to equestrians
- It appears that assisting to develop a non-motorized route from Sleepy Hollow to the FMCIS Trail is a high priority. THANK YOU!

Other

- Kiosks to capture use all the time
- Cindy Burkhour for Kayak launch for accessibility
- Geocachers missed
- Water trails was completely missed
- No renovation of out-houses, but cleaning out at least 1 time per year please (horse staging)

- Will wildlife viewing on horseback be allowed?
- Keep south of Price Rd [referring to rustic campsites]
- Where is the archery range going? Partner with Wolf Creek Productions in Perry & NWTF.
- Sewage Lagoon hugely important!
- ADA fishing more important now.
- Outreach- 5 years seems too far in the future. How will young visitors' interest and future social factors be considered in plans?
- We [equestrians] have many issues with the surveys and feel decisions were based on faulty data
- SHTRA feels ignored

Additional comments were submitted via Email and are recorded on the following pages.

**SLEEPY HOLLOW STATE PARK  
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**WRITTEN DRAFT PLAN REVIEW COMMENTS**

Note: Personal information has been removed from correspondence, except those representing an organization or government entity to protect privacy.

Received 11/18/16

We appreciate this local resource available, utilizing the resource for trail hiking, biking, fishing, and x-country skiing.

We will be unable to participate in the Dec 7<sup>th</sup> public meeting, but offer the following suggestions for improvement:

1. Many parts of the lake have limited movement of our pontoon due to extensive aquatic vegetation; is it possible to remove/control some of the excessive growth?
2. The park maps do not show which trails are “friendly and safe” for x-country skiing; can this information be added to the maps? (some trails have turns and bends that are too sharp for safe maneuvering)

We offer these suggestions for consideration – thank you.

Randy Step, President, President R.F. Events, 11/21/16

Our only concern is the consideration of removal of unused parking lots ... Lots that we fill the weekend of our August event and if removed, could bring an end to this 15 year old tradition.

This may be a short sighted idea, these lots may become of great value to attract future events, they are so much better than the grass areas we often park event cars on at other Michigan State Parks, lots that often get muddy and rutted in wet times. Your large surface lots are superior, even very cracked and not maintained, they are better to park and walk on.

Our company has been considering staging a triathlon at Sleepy Hollow, knowing the large amount of parking will allow us to have high entry limits and the area roads for road biking make it an ideal triathlon venue.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Received 11/21/16

Hopefully whoever is rewriting what should happen recreationally in Sleepy Hollow also knows Pure Michigans efforts to find the most popular destination recreation.....Bicycling ended #2 in their survey.....so please don't wreck the bicycling opportunities in the park!!!! Thank you



Received 12/4/16

Please, please keep Sleepy Hollow State Park open for equestrian use! Places to ride as a family that are safe and enjoyable are so hard to find without having to travel a great distance.

Thank you so much for your time,

Received 12/5/16

Hi, I am unable to make the meeting but I am a trail rider and love Michigan. Please keep in mind during the discussions that horseback riding is a growing sport and especially trail riding. Many folks use Michigan trails and even travel out of state. Lets keep Michigan trail riders in our state by keeping, adding and creating nice camps for horse folks. Thanks for your time.

Received 12/8/16

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the meeting, but wanted to share some thoughts with you regarding the horse trails.

I regularly ride my horse at Sleepy Hollow as it is very convenient for me since I live in Ovid. I am a year round rider and my thoughts are that the proposed "shared" trails have the potential to be very dangerous for everyone who uses the trails. Horses are always unpredictable and at best sometimes spooky. I personally have had an issue on the current shared road. Last year, I had a cyclist come up behind me without indicating they were approaching. I didn't hear them and neither did my horse. My horses reaction and our proximity to the guard rail truly scared me because I literally thought I was going over the rail. The cyclist just stood there watching, didn't apologize or do anything to improve the situation. It took me a really long time to recover and calm my horse. Non-horse people do not understand that horses can kick, buck, bolt, and just flip out when they are scared. They also have no way of knowing the aptitude of the rider and riders of all skill levels use these trails. I consider myself an intermediate rider and for me to be unnerved in that situation, a beginner rider could have been seriously hurt or killed.

My final point is that while hikers and cyclists can utilize any public area for their activities, horses are restricted to private land and at Sleepy Hollow only certain trails. The trail riders association has fought very hard to make this a horse-friendly place for riders to use and have done a wonderful job maintaining these trails and staging area.

I think there are alternative ways that the Fred Meyer Trail Rails to Trails system can be connected to the current mixed use trails.

Thank you for your time.

Received 12/8/16

I was at the meeting last night and wanted to let you know that I am really excited about the plan for the park presented for the next 10 years. I live nearby and use the park in the neighborhood around 1,000 days a year for mountain biking, hiking, and water activities.

I know it is impossible to appease all groups when you have competing interests and someone is going to be disgruntled. Most times those that are negative are the most vocal group at a meeting, as I am sure you know.

The 15 people that I knew there were very happy with the plan and are excited about the future of Sleepy Hollow. We just were not very vocal about it.

One of the main reasons I bought my house in Laingsburg was because of Sleepy Hollow. The unique opportunities it provides for outdoor recreation. I considered many different cities nearby Lansing. So, along with the calculations about what the average user brings in when they visit, you have many people like me that have settled nearby because of the park and bring in tens of thousands of dollars living out here year round in revenue in the form of restaurants, stores, gas stations, property taxes, etc, etc, etc.

Thank you very much for all you do. Be aware that your efforts are much appreciated by the "silent majority".

SHTRA member, 12/8/16

Thank you for the informative meeting at Victor Township Hall last night. I am an avid horseback rider. I am 60 years old, semi-retired and a widow. I have some comments regarding what was shared last night.

Regarding the public Input Meeting Comments:

1. I have no comment.
2. Yes, I agree with the Draft Management zones. I think it is very important to keep as much of the park as natural as possible.
3. Yes, there are additional actions I would like to propose.
  - a. I would like to see some type of actions for the equestrian users added. There didn't seem to be anything in the plan.
  - b. I would like to suggest that two to four additional small loops be added to the equestrian trails, nothing major, maybe a short loop that circles back to the main trail. It would not matter if the loops were close to the staging area or not, no additional damage to landscape, just a couple small loops.
  - c. I feel it is very important not to create any further multi-use trails using the current equestrian trails. Please do not take any of our current trails away. Please. It is my understanding that a new park map has come out that already shows that part of the West loop as been turned into multi-use to help link the CIS trail to Sleepy Hollow but we were told last night that nothing is set in stone. I have a strong feeling that we have already lost it. I feel very strongly that there are other alternatives and it appeared that both the equestrians and mountain bikers agreed on this.
4. See #3.
5. I respectfully request additional signage that helps park users understand the rules for yielding to others on the multiuse trails, i.e. walkers yield to bikes, bikes yield to horses. Approach others with caution whether walking or riding and let people know when you are coming up on them from behind. People with no common sense especially need to be reminded often. Periodic reminders on existing markers makes good sense.

Finally, SHTRA members put in hundreds and hundreds of hours and dollars out of our own pockets to maintain our trails at Sleepy Hollow as do other equestrian friends groups in other state parks. I spend an enormous amount of time riding in our State Parks and sincerely hope that you will reconsider some of the changes to the equestrian trails that you are proposing. I never miss a campover at Sleepy Hollow and hope and pray that you reconsider taking any of our trails away.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

"EPIC Mountain Bike", 12/9/16

Statement of Support for the Sleepy Hollow General Management Plan from the local mountain bike group (EPIC Mountain Bike)

We are a local group of over 120 recreational mountain bike riders who regularly ride and appreciate the trails at Sleepy Hollow. We are associated with the Mid-Michigan Chapter of the Michigan Mountain Bike Association (MMMBA). Our group continues to grow and includes all ages (from under 10 all the way up to riders in their 70's). We are all shapes and we are all levels of experience. But what we share is the love of being in the outdoors and the desire to improve our fitness, both physical and mental. At our weekly group rides at Sleepy Hollow, we average 25 to 30 people every Wednesday night and our biggest ride of the year comes in December where we had over 100 riders enjoying the trails this past Saturday at our annual Global Fat Bike Day event.

We want to thank the staff and committee for their work in developing the plan for our park. And we would like to say thank you for the opportunity to provide input throughout the development of the plan.

As a user group, we support the General Management Plan as it's been presented.

- We support the designation of the management zones for the park to protect and enhance the park's natural and cultural resources while also supporting outdoor recreation opportunities at the park
- We support the stated elements for each management zone – Recreation Opportunities, Management Focus, Development Opportunities, etc.
- We understand and will support the plan's position that the trail system "should not be expanded any further and that future actions should concentrate on upgrading the existing trails to improve wet areas and to make key trails accessible, improving trail signage and connecting the park to the regional FMCIS Trail to the north".
- As a user group, we pledge our continued support, whether through volunteering, monetary or other resources, to the plan's stated action goals to:
  1. Create a trail signage plan for the park and upgrade trail markers to improve confidence for trail users, exploring new technologies to achieve this.
  2. Evaluate and make recommendations for improvements to the existing trail system in partnership with trail stakeholders to make the trail system more sustainable.
- We support that the plan does not recommend the conversion of existing hike/bike trails to multi-use trails. We believe there are significant incompatibilities that would result combining certain existing user-groups which currently have very little overlap in existing trail system. We believe this separation must be maintained.

Although not included in our group's statement, we have had significant discussion about the current multi-use sections of trail at the park and we have no concerns with the open road sections that are marked for multi-use. However we have much concern with the shared section of trail on the island that is referred to as the "Island Loop". We feel that this is too narrow to be a shared trail and has presented some serious difficulties already when hikers/bikes encounter 1 or more equestrians on that section of trail. It would be our hope that this section could be reevaluated and returned to a hike/bike only trail section.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Received 12/11/16

My first trail rides at Sleepy Hollow were this past summer. It was a wonderful experience. The trails are well done, and cared for.

That said, the staging area is very small, the area for watering the horses is also crowded. I can also see the need for expansion of the riding trails.

These improvements if completed will certainly increase the number of riders and the number of times your park is visited.

SHTRA member, 12/11/16

When prioritizing your plan, please keep the equestrians in mind. I have ridden at many state parks and Sleepy Hollow has become my favorite as it has the best maintained trails. I joined SHTRA when I realized that it was because of them that the trails were safe and well marked, as well as maintained beautifully. When I started to volunteer for the work bees, I could see the amount of equipment, supplies, money, planning, and manpower that went into keeping the trails in such great shape. They have worked for years to improve the park and are willing to continue to do this.

I feel that in your research, our numbers weren't represented fully. Every time I've ridden there, I have never seen anyone in the booth at the entrance. Many of us riders like to ride when we feel the park will be least busy, in that we like to enjoy the solitude of nature. I've ridden many times, but feel as if park authorities didn't know I was there. Also, on the days of the count, weather and insects play a huge role in when and where we ride. It may look like a beautiful day to most, but it could be too hot or humid to safely ride, or the fly or mosquito count could be too high to make it comfortable for the horse.

I also feel that more equestrians would be drawn to ride at Sleepy Hollow if there were a few more miles of trail. Horses can cover much more ground than a hiker, and, therefore, need more trail mileage to make hauling in worthwhile. Also, an improved staging area would make it a more desirable venue for events. If overnight camping were allowed, more people would haul in, as they could go on several trail rides over the course of 2 days. I ask that it would be equestrian only campground for safety issues. There is a lot to learn in keeping safe around horses and non equestrians could easily put themselves in danger through lack of knowledge and experience. For instance, I've heard of a scared horse getting loose and running through a campground scaring the horses and people. Only people who know horses would be able to keep themselves or their horses safe. Because of their size and being a prey animal,

horses can be dangerous. Non equestrians could unknowingly cause a problem or put themselves in danger.

Thank you for considering our needs. I look forward to working in the future to make Sleepy Hollow a premiere destination for nature lovers.

SHTR Member, 12/11/16

Thank you for the opportunity to make my individual comments on the master plan draft.

The significance statements are appropriate.

The zones establishment will help with management and usage allowed within, Will there be a clarification if equestrians will be allowed in the backcountry area as stated on p31 or not as on p21?

When I first read the plan, I was disappointed to realize the lack of equestrian goals for the future. I hope that concern is addressed when the draft is reworked.

Sleepy Hollow's equestrian trails are now being realized as "worth the drive" where as in the past, I could hardly convince riders to give us a try. Why would they come for just a 2-3 hour ride? We have no campground nor the precious mileage increased. I know that these dreams probably will not be realized. I really appreciate the ability now to ride in different directions out of the staging area. I think that the Island trail is an unique attraction found no where else in the state. I feel that it's importance is yet to be fully utilized. We have a "Mini-Mac" complete with a bridge! The ability to cart drive on a trail is also a highlight for Sleepy. The Metamora equestrian driving groups have yet to discover this resource. Please do not take away island access, mileage nor our special event opportunities to camp and fundraise.

There are several suggestions for potential Action goals.

1. An Action goal should include creating the connector to the FMCSI, without causing serious safety concerns for existing park users on the scenic existing trails. (EX. Using Taft Rd. to old Upton Rd.-- clear straight vision path, or using Shepardsville Rd. to the existing parking lot, equestrian trail to "P" then to "I"0.
2. An Action goal could include balancing the difference in trail mileage between user groups. I feel it is unfair that such a mileage difference between user groups is allow to exist.  
If the multi use trail proposal for connection to FMCSI proceeds as suggested in the draft, then separate equestrian mileage should be allowed by repurposing lightly used biked trail.(EX. 4-5-7)
3. An Action goal could include the expansion of the equestrian staging area.
4. An Action goal could include making several sites (perhaps 4) in the equestrian staging area, trial rustic camping for equestrian w/ reservations (ex. Elk Hill Trail camp). Small to keep 24/7 impact down , but allow revenue.
5. An Action/Management goal to keep staff and ALL user groups informed of scheduled events to foster cooperation, communication and interaction between all concerned.

SHTRA members have been generous, hard workers. They have paid to play. This group has enhanced this park's equestrian experience by the solitude of scenic trails or enjoying a fun, family equestrian event. I've been elected to lead and feel that awesome responsibility. I ask that Sleepy Hollow State Park continue providing a quality, horse friendly recreational area. SHTRA has stewardship opportunities for future events. This Master Plan must support that in concept and in action.

Thank you for listening.

Received 12/11/16

In my opinion people want to much sometime a larger staging area would be nice for equestrian parking but I think 2/3 of the the it is big enough I would like to see a couple fire pits on both sides of the road and open up to camping like waterloo just pay at the post use what you have and get the most back thanks just my in put

Received 12/11/16

Thank you for your presentation December 7.

Concerns for equestrian access continue to be of concern since it continues to be more limited with increasing population. Historically equestrians from the Clinton Co 4-H to Sleepy Hollow Trail Riders have been an integral part of the park.

My concerns are:

1. Poor survey procedure
2. Plan for archery facilities, should be distanced from equestrian facilities
3. Shared trails should be open and widened with good line of sight and signage.
4. Trail mileage for equestrian use should be increased.

As with biking, increased population has made road riding dangerous and unpleasant. We appreciate your efforts to maintain open space for all.

December 6, 2016

Ms. Deborah Jensen  
Management Plan Administrator  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Park and Recreation Division

Re: Draft Sleepy Hollow State Park General Management Plan

Dear Ms. Jensen:

The Sleepy Hollow Trail Riders Association (SHTRA), a friends' organization to Sleepy Hollow State Park (SHSP), is pleased to provide the following comments in reference to the draft SHSP management plan. We appreciate all the work in preparing this plan; however, we have some questions and requests.

We understand the management zones as well as their potential use for park management. However, how will these zones influence future action with respect to users, trails or staging areas? What other parks or recreational areas are managed using these zones? Who decides what areas are to be zoned in a certain designation? Can boundaries or designations of zones change over time?

We note that implementation objectives are quite broad. Thus, **we strongly support the use of a process which allows for consideration of user groups' concerns and requests.** We view the use of a committee for developing implementation details as crucial to our support of the plan. **We ask that this committee meet on a regular and advertised basis, and that all meetings for all management zones include SHTRA.**

While we appreciate the survey process, we note that the sample sizes are small and not inclusive. Also, there were many issues with trail camera's data that negate their usefulness for planning. **If data from the current surveys or cameras will be used to formulate management implementation actions, we ask that SHTRA be allowed to identify and address the shortcomings of the data with respect to equestrian use.**

In the future, how will new and existing data collection be used to guide actions? For example, if a trail is determined via collected data to be "lightly used" by a designated user group, can there be a re-designation of a trail to an alternative use? Re-designation is of great interest to SHTRA. If total SHSP trail miles are capped for the foreseeable future, re-designation is a way to add to total equestrian trails. The SHTRA perceive an inequity in trail designation. That is, bikers and hikers have, for their use, access to more miles of trail and additional paved surface mileage available, than do the equestrians. At SHSP, the equestrian trail miles total less than 13 miles, while hikers and bikers have 17 trail miles, plus the available paved mileage (about 5 miles) such as the campground and access roads. At the October 19, 2016, Equine Trail Subcommittee (ETS) meeting, State Administrative Manager Anna Sylvester commented that the goal for equine trails in parks is 15-20 miles, while the goal for biker trails is 2 to 10 miles. We would like to see the SHSP work toward reaching that equestrian trail mileage goal.

**We ask that SHTRA's equestrian request for additional total trail mileage and the expansion of the equestrian staging area be included in the General Action Goals for SHSP. Presently, no equestrian goals were listed in the 10-year Action Goal Plan.**

Other questions and concerns we have with the plan include:

- We note that the equestrian trail from "C" to "P" to "I" is suggested to change from the present single use equestrian trail to multiuse to accommodate bike/hike travelers. We have

strong objections to this suggestion. How will serious safety issues in this narrow, multiuse trail segment be addressed? We believe that there are viable near-by biker alternatives that are more appealing to bike/hike traffic and safer for all concerned users.

**We ask that this trail segment not be changed to multiuse.**

- Where will the non-motorized rustic campsites be located? Will they be available to equestrians? Would the equestrian staging area be used for these rustic camps? It has been the experience of equestrians that, in most situations, mixing uses poses serious safety issues.

**We ask that equestrians and non-equestrians not share narrow, serpentine trails, staging areas, or campgrounds.**

- Where would the 3-D archery range be located relative to equestrian trails and day use areas?

**We ask that the archery range be separated from equestrian staging areas and trails for safety.**

- Are any of the proposed additions of land to the park to be purchased with either Pittman Robertson funds or Dingall Johnson funds? If so, will the lands be only accessible to hunters and fishers? Will viewing wildlife from horseback be considered acceptable for the lands acquired with these funds?

**We ask that any new lands purchased with funds do not restrict future equestrian uses.**

We close by noting the past success for the Park has been enhanced by cooperation between park staff and volunteers. SHTRA is unlike any other SHSP user group because we totally maintain the equestrian trails, provide materials, and donate over a thousand volunteer hours each year as well as contribute to special projects such as the rustic cabin. The attendance of our family fun equine events has greatly increased. The impact of this group's efforts for the quality and benefit of the park users is remarkable. (Please see the attached list of SHTRA accomplishments.) We want to secure a safe, enjoyable, stress reducing, horse friendly recreational area for future generations. We trust that the DNR will remain committed to supporting the efforts and contributions of SHTRA.

Respectfully,

Marsha Putman, President  
Sleepy Hollow Trail Riders Association

CC: Keith Creagh, Director, DNR  
Bill Moritz, Deputy Director, DNR  
Ron Olson, Chief Parks and Recreation, DNR  
Anna Sylvester, State Administrative Mgr., DNR  
Murdock Jemerson, Parks and Recreation Mgr., DNR  
Tim Machowicz, SHSP Supervisor, DNR  
Mike Foote, Chair of ETS



## **Sleepy Hollow Trail Riders, Assoc.**

The Sleepy Hollow Trail Riders were officially incorporated in 1997 to provide a support group of interested horse owners to provide and maintain a safe place to meet and ride their horses. This group evolved from several 4-H leaders who petitioned the DNR to be able to put horse trails in Sleepy Hollow State Park in the late 1980's. Since that time the Sleepy Hollow Trail Riders (SHTRA) have:

- Constructed and maintained the entrance road to the horse staging area (\$12,000)
- Constructed and maintained the staging and parking area
- Installed a 4" well and barrier free hand pump
- Cleared, marked and maintained the west and east trail loops (since 1997)
- Entered a DNR Partnership Agreement with Sleepy Hollow State Park
- Joined the DNR's Adapt-A-Park program with Sleepy Hollow State Park
- Signed a friends group Memorandum of Understanding with Sleepy Hollow State Park (2016)
- Acquired federal nonprofit 501 c3 status (1999)
- Sponsored annual Ichabod Crane Day for Sleepy Hollow State Park, providing horse teams and volunteers (1999-2014)
- Attended many trail building seminars
- Donation to Sleepy Hollow State Park for tractor repair (\$500 in 2003)
- Paid for and installed horse signs along trail and in staging area (2004)
- Paid Tree Service to remove damaged trees in staging area (2005)
- Established and maintained website for SHTRA (SHTRA.ORG) (since 2006)
- Constructed and paid for staging area additional parking area (\$4800 in 2006)
- Paid for and installed picket poles around parking addition (70 total)
- Constructed and paid for a covered pavilion in the staging area (\$4600 in 2006)
- Donation to Sleepy Hollow State Park for gator repair (\$125 in 2007)
- Conducted the Sleepy Hollow State Park Plow Day (2007-2014)
- Constructed and paid for a barrier-free mounting block in the staging area (2008)
- Contributed to Michigan State Park Birthday celebration (\$200 in 2009)
- Installed a sand rolling pit for horses in the Staging Area
- Manure Pit installation and maintenance (2011)
- Constructed, cleared and maintained south lake trail loop (2011)
- Constructed, painted and installed bridge railing on east trail (2012)
- Horseshoe Pit installation and maintenance (2012)
- Purchased 2 sections of bleachers to be used for park functions (2012)
- Paid for and installed new horse trail signs for south lake trail loop (2012-13)
- Gave presentation about SHTRA to Annual Friends Group Summit at Higgins Lake (2011)
- Paid for an outhouse in staging area (\$900 in 2013)
- Gravel donated and installed on horse trails (\$382 in 2013)
- Purchased cougar/bike informational signs (\$120 in 2014)
- Donated money to repair park Gator (\$400 in 2014)
- Paid for rustic cabin for park (\$5,000 in 2014)
- Provided and installed picket posts at modern and rustic cabins (2014)
- Paid for and constructed connector trail from cabins to trails (\$300 in 2014)
- Purchased ground cloth for trail improvement (\$600 in 2015)
- Received DNR Community Service Award (2015)
- Paid for and constructed Island Bridge repair (\$1700 in 2015)
- Paid for gravel on hunter parking lot on Taft Rd (\$350 in 2016)

- Paid for and installed new decking on bridge-east trail (\$800 in 2016)
- Paid for gravel hauler repair and refurbishment (\$600 in 2016)
- Purchased gravel to improve east and west trail (\$1343 in 2016)
- Planted native flowers around staging area
- Conducted public awareness horse safety and horse health seminars
- Provided SHSP with many hundreds of volunteer hours every year
- Paid for and applied many tons of gravel and culverts for trails (more than \$40,000)
- Applied for, received, and completed numerous Michigan Horse Council grants to construct various trail projects
- Provided a SHTRA booth at various horse venues promoting trail riding at SHSP
- Sponsored many annual special permit camping events at horse staging area
- Provided the Sleepy Hollow State Park with a group of dedicated, hardworking, generous people who care about the horse trails and are willing to work on them

December 12, 2016

Ms. Deborah Jensen

Management Plan Administrator

Michigan Department of Natural Resources, PRD

RE: Draft Sleepy Hollow State Park General Management Plan

Dear Ms. Jensen,

As the president of Ionia Horse Trails Association and the Central Region Representative on the Equine Trails Subcommittee I am quite disappointed in the lack of Equine Anything in the Draft Sleepy Hollow State Park General Management Plan.

I feel the surveys taken are both poorly explained and unfairly described in the supporting documentation. While one of the surveys stated numerically between 15% and 20% of respondents gave horseback riding as their primary reason for visiting the park, the verbal synopsis dismissed this as inconsequential. The MSU professor that explained the mathematical weighting at one of the public meetings stated that repeat visitors' responses were minimized to reduce the impact. This is exactly the opposite of how common sense would dictate the weighting, and cries out the biased perspective used when measuring the data. To properly weight the data the number of visits should be multiplied against those responses – not divided as was stated. The skewed logic used discredits the validity of return users rather than ratifying the opinions of those most important return park users.

The GMP alludes to potential reduction of horse trail miles, by making them shared trails with bicyclists. This is unacceptable both from a safety standpoint as well as an equity standpoint. At the very least, the Sleepy Hollow State Park General Management Plan should guarantee no loss of horse trail miles, no loss of equine event dates, and open the possibility of added trails if more lands are acquired to the east as described in the Draft GMP. This would require any such lands be purchased with funds that do not restrict the usage of the land.

Additionally, any new construction (perhaps an archery range?) should be positioned such that it does not present a safety issue to horses and riders.

This is the very least the equine supporters of Sleepy Hollow Recreation Area deserve in return for the tens of thousands of dollars in improvements and investments they have gifted to the state.

Respectfully,



Kristie Walls

# Appendix C – Planning Team Meeting Summary

Over the duration of the General Management Planning process, the Planning Team held four on-site team meetings and two virtual meetings. These meetings were critical to the development of the General Management Plan and particularly the creation of the 20-Year Management Zones and the 10-Year Action Goals. Additionally, the meetings were an opportunity to review input received from stakeholders and the public.

## Overview of Planning Team Meetings

- **Team Meeting #1 (February 12, 2016)** – Located at Sleepy Hollow State Park Headquarters, the kick-off meeting was an opportunity for Planning Team members to introduce themselves to one another, review the General Management Plan schedule and process, review the stakeholder and public engagement process, tour the park, discuss the park and its significance, and review the draft Supporting Analysis.
- **Team Meeting #2 (March 18, 2016)** – Located at the Sleepy Hollow State Park modern cabin, the Planning Team reviewed the draft significance statements, reviewed the Supporting Analysis and developed draft 20-year management zones. The Team also discussed appropriate questions for the on-line and on-site survey and worked to develop a list of stakeholders for the park.
- **Team Meeting #3 (May 6, 2016)** – Located at Sleepy Hollow State Park Headquarters, the Planning Team reviewed and finalized the Significance Statements, Supporting Analysis and the Management Zone Map. Input received at the community engagement meetings and via the on-line survey was reviewed and discussed. The team began to formulate 10-year Action Goals, taking into account comments received.
- **Team Meeting #4, (July 7, 2016)** – Located at Sleepy Hollow State Park Headquarters, the Planning Team finalized the Significance Statements, Management Zone Map and Project Boundary. Results of the spring on-site survey were presented and discussed. The 10-year Action Goals were reviewed and edited.
- **Team Meeting #5, (November 2, 2016)** – A conference call was held to review the on-site survey report and the draft plan and to discuss the up-coming public review and approval process
- **Team Meeting #6, (January 23, 2017)** – A conference call was held to review input and comments received at the Public Input meeting and via Email and make adjustments to the plan as appropriate.

**Sleepy Hollow State Park  
General Management Plan  
Kick-off Meeting Summary (Meeting #1)**

**Friday, February 12, 2016  
9:00am-3:30pm  
Sleepy Hollow State Park Headquarters  
7835 E. Price Road  
Laingsburg, MI 48848**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- In attendance: Murdock Jemerson, Debbie Jensen, Matt Lincoln, Joe Strach, Glenn Palmgren, Lisa Gamero, Stacy Tchorzynski, Rich Nickols, Dr. Chuck Nelson, Tim Machowicz, Scott Hanshue
- Debbie provided information on other team members not present at the meeting
- Housekeeping items (Tim)

**2. Review General Management Planning Schedule (Debbie Jensen)**

- Debbie identified milestones, meetings and general schedule items.
- Light blue items on the schedule spreadsheet are outreach items and Chuck will be helping with this outreach and public input.

**3. Overview of Management Planning Process (Debbie Jensen)**

- Debbie presented Management Planning process and how it's evolved over the years.
- Parts of the plan were explained including supporting analysis, core values, principles, purpose and significance of the park, management zoning plan, and ten year action goals.
- How this plan will tie into existing DNR plans/initiatives was also explained
- Overview of management zones
- Approval process explained

**4. Overview of Stakeholder and Public Engagement (Dr. Chuck Nelson)**

- Get stakeholders to identify "What", not "where", BEFORE the plan is drafted.
- Stakeholder meetings will take place from the end of February through March.
- Stakeholder list introduced, grouped by business, government, individuals, non-profits.
- The Team was asked to provide information for any additional stakeholders to Chuck. CMU archeology program was added.
- Tribal outreach will be handled through the DNR's outreach process
- Meetings will be held by group in order to allow free expression of ideas. The meetings will identify strengths and challenges of the park using flip chart method.
- Park visitors will be surveyed throughout the year, trying to capture as many seasonal users as possible, using the form developed (see hand-out). It was noted that the survey will capture spring turkey hunters and will continue into the fall to get a complete picture, although the plan will essentially be complete at that time.
- An online survey will also be available.
- Review of postcard survey: metal detecting, geocaching were suggested as additions.
- A second round of stakeholder meetings will be held to present the Draft Plan, in addition to the Public Open House.

## 5. Sleepy Hollow State Park Overview (Tim Machowicz)

- Park History
  - o Pre-history/ native people
  - o Park was founded in 1965 by creating Lake Ovid.
  - o Two schoolhouses on the property were relocated
  - o The Legend of Sleepy Hollow - a farmer that used to live on the property was named Mr. Crane
- Activities/Events at the park
  - o Ice-fishing, fishing, boating (no wake) – not as popular as it once was because of issues associated with milfoil. Fish species include Bluegill, Crappie, Sunfish, Muskellunge and Bass. Channel Catfish are stocked.
  - o Camping opened in 1989
  - o Get-away park
  - o Winter activities: Snowmobiling, skiing. Lack of snow has kept these activities low in recent years.
  - o Equestrian trails
  - o Hunting (includes accessible blind)
  - o Modern and rustic cabin
  - o 18 hole Disc Golf – attracts college students
  - o MSU rowing team
  - o Ichabod Crane Days
- Volunteers
  - o Friends of Sleepy Hollow, Trail Riders Association, etc.
  - o Programmed events coordinated by volunteer groups
  - o Disc Golf course maintenance
- Issues
  - o Drainage
  - o Electrical in campground (shared pedestals)
  - o Emerald ash borer
  - o Eurasian milfoil
  - o Transporting milfoil on boats that are leaving
  - o Introduction of exotic species into the lake
- Future ideas for park. Tim has a list generated by park staff which will be shared with the planning team and includes:
  - o CIS Trail connection
  - o Playground at beach

## 6. Park Tour and Overview

The planning team toured the park including the launch ramp, organization camp, picnic area, modern campground, equestrian staging area and beach.

## 7. Significant Features Exercise (Debbie Jensen)

- Team members were asked to write down what they view as significant/unique about the park on sticky notes.
- Topics were grouped into categories and will be taken and crafted into draft significance statement for review at the next meeting

## **8. Supporting Analysis and Resource Maps Review Exercise (Debbie Jensen)**

Team members were asked to review and identify gaps in the Supporting Analysis

- A.3 Regional Recreation Resources
  - o Include trail system in Lansing/East Lansing (Matt Lincoln)
  - o Add relationship to non-motorized transportation plans (Chuck Nelson)
  - o Review State Game/Wildlife Areas for accuracy (Chad Fedewa)
- A. 4 History of Sleepy Hollow State Park
  - o Add flooding history that supported the dam construction (Tim Machowicz)
  - o Discussion on master plan vs. what was built, what worked, and what didn't
- A.5 Land Ownership
  - o Identify funding source for white areas on map (Debbie Jensen)
- A.6 Legal Mandates
  - o Add Land Use Order for spearing of fish
  - o Add dam hazard map (Matt Lincoln)
  - o Early goose season is changing, so will need to be updated when approved by NRC
- A.7 Landscape Context and Natural Resources
  - o Review and expand Geology and Mineral Resources (Peter Rose)
  - o Review/ edit Vegetation and Rare Fauna and Flora and add a description of the natural communities (Glenn Palmgren)
  - o Golden seal is the only state threatened plant known to be found in the park in the past
  - o Review Wildlife (Chad Fedewa)
  - o Add description of Fisheries (Scott Hanshue)
  - o Add section on Invasive Species
- A.8 Recreational Resources
  - o Trail mileage needs to be verified and updated to include island (Debbie Jensen)
  - o Add "Birdieball" to the disc golf course
  - o It was noted that there is no Land Use Order to restrict snowmobile use (which was described as being low) to the area shown on the map.
- A.9 Historic and Cultural Resources
  - o Move to before Recreational Resources
  - o Provide brief pre-history and edit (Stacy Tchorzynski)
- Resource Maps
  - o NRC 2004 Project Boundary was discussed. Matt to check 2012 boundary
  - o Glenn to determine whether or not the pre-vegetation map is correct
  - o Mineral rights discussion – check "other rights" shown outside the park
  - o Trails map needs to be updated

## **9. Other Issues/discussions**

- Some conflict between hunters and equestrians, specifically when the south equestrian trail loop was added.
- Debbie provided a brief overview of the Trail Analysis that was completed: this will be made available to team members.
- Rich indicated he was not in favor of limiting snowmobile access if it could not be legally enforced (should the signs be removed?)

## **10. Next Meeting scheduled for Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am**



## **SLEEPY HOLLOW STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN MEETING #2 SUMMARY**

**Friday March 18, 2016**

**9:30 AM – 3:00 PM**

**Sleepy Hollow State Park Modern Cabin**

- 1) Welcome Introductions:  
Tim Machowicz, Debbie Jensen, Natalie Elkins, Rich Nickols, Peter Rose, Lisa Gamero, Chad Fedewa, Stacy Tchorzynski, Glenn Palmgren, Murdock Jemerson, Joe Strach, Chuck Nelson.
- 2) Review of Meeting #1 Summary
  - a. No comments
- 3) Review of Draft Significance Statements
  - a. Review of significance statements exercise
  - b. Statements were developed by combining items from the exercise
  - c. Each statement was reviewed and refined to better reflect its significance
- 4) Draft Management Zone Activity
  - a. Boundary discussion
    - check eastern project boundary
    - look into southern project boundary for water quality
- 5) Stakeholder and Public Engagement Update and Review
  - a. Added suggestions to survey form based on the last meeting
  - b. Discussion on how the survey will be administered to park visitors
  - c. 4 scheduled stakeholder meetings
    - i. Tues, April 12 – local government officials
    - ii. Thurs, April 14 day – local businesses
    - iii. Thurs, April 14 evening – local volunteer organizations
    - iv. Wed, April 20 – neighbors and interested citizens
  - d. Revised stakeholder list will be circulated one more time.
  - e. Stakeholders will be notified by e-mail. (discussion about e-mail language)
  - f. Press release for public meeting.
  - g. Coordination of e-mails and press releases discussed





6) Resource Maps Review

- a. Discussion about funding source map and that the white areas were missing data in the GIS.
- b. Game and Fish funding source areas discussion – maybe call these areas out as an overlay on the zoning map.

7) Action Goals Wish List Activity

- a. Tim presented list of pending Work Item Proposals (WIPs) and staff goals
- b. Discussion on what could be included in the 10-year action goals
- c. Brainstorming of other potential action goals

8) Supporting Analysis Review

- a. Review of sections assigned to the team and the additional information needed
  - o Chuck Nelson – relationship to non-motorized transportation plans
  - o Chad Fedewa – review State Game/ Wildlife Areas for accuracy
  - o Glenn Palmgren – review/edit Natural Resources section
  - o Scott Hanshue – add Fisheries description
  - o Stacy Tchorzynski – provide brief pre-history and edit Historic & Cultural Resources section

9) Next meeting (#3)

- a. Reviewing stakeholder outcomes
- b. Brainstorming 10-year goals
- c. Reviewing zoning map
- d. Friday, May 6



**SLEEPY HOLLOW STATE PARK  
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN  
MEETING #3 SUMMARY**

**Friday May 6, 2016**

**10:30 AM – 3:00 PM**

**Sleepy Hollow State Park Headquarters  
7835 E. Price Road, Laingsburg**

1. In Attendance: Tim Machowicz, Debbie Jensen, Chuck Nelson, Joe Strach, Murdock Jemerson, Rich Nichols, Peter Rose, Matt Lincoln, Lisa Gamero, Natalie Elkins
2. Review of Meeting #2 Summary
  - a. Item 5 – WIPs (Work Item Proposal should be spelled out)
  - b. Sequential numbers need to be updated
3. Supporting Analysis Review
  - a. Review History and Cultural Resources section and add pre-history (Stacy)
  - b. Add relationship to Clinton County's Non-motorized plan (Chuck)
  - c. Update trail mileage based on new GIS data (Debbie)
  - d. Add county drain easements and locations in supporting analysis (Tim)
4. Draft Significance Statements Review
  - a. Refined sentences and headings
  - b. Update trail mileage
5. Stakeholder and Public Engagement Update and Review
  - a. Discussed sampling schedule for public input questionnaire (handout)
  - b. Discussed plan for survey process and logging (handout)
  - c. Discussed summary of stakeholder engagement workshops and results (handout)
  - d. Coordinate GPS trail analysis with FRD Resource Management
  - e. Online survey results discussion
6. Draft Management Zone Review
  - a. Discussion on boundary – conclusion to keep it as approved in 2004
  - b. Discussion on CIS trail connection
  - c. Follow-up with Stewardship on Backcountry designation south of organization campground to incorporate natural communities.
7. Action Goal Development: Draft Action Goals were reviewed, edited and added to, taking into account comments received at the stakeholder meetings.
8. Team Meetings #4 will be scheduled in June



**SLEEPY HOLLOW STATE PARK  
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN  
MEETING #4 SUMMARY**

**Thursday July 7, 1pm to 4pm  
10:30 AM – 3:00 PM  
Sleepy Hollow State Park Headquarters**

1. In Attendance: Tim Machowicz, Debbie Jensen, Chuck Nelson, Joe Strach, Chad Fedewa, Murdock Jemerson, Matt Lincoln, Lisa Gamero, Niki VanBloem, Natalie Mooney (Intern), Jason Flemming
2. Review of Meeting #3 Summary
  - a. Murdock's name was corrected
2. Finalize Significance Statements

The team was reminded that these are intended to be statements of what sets Sleepy Hollow apart from other parks. The following edits were made:

  - a. Additional activities were added to "Strategic Location for Recreation", including swimming, boating and nature observation.
  - b. It was questioned whether the negative impact of aquatic species rises to the level of "significant". Due to the large amount of public input on this topic it was determined that the reference should remain
  - c. Paddle sport users, swimmers and anglers were added to the users that benefit from the no-wake designation
  - d. In the Wildlife statement, language will be added to reflect that the park is surrounded by farmland in an area with few hunting opportunities and close to the population base.
  - e. Trails – the mileage will be updated and the word approximately removed
  - f. Camping – the fact that the cabins welcome equestrian users was added
  - g. Education – the word "outreach" will be removed and more specifics added
  - h. A new statement was proposed covering green initiatives at the park
4. Management Zone and Project Boundary Review

Some minor edits were recommended for the Management Zone map.

  - a. The Project Boundary should be referred to as the 2004 NRC dedicated project boundary and a description added that defines what that means
  - b. Roads and park features will be shown
  - c. Park trails will be added to the map
  - d. The plan will include a discussion on road ROWs (or equivalent on park roads) and how the zoning does not apply within the road corridor



- e. Debbie will work to ascertain standards and availability of equipment for the remainder of the trails within the park to be mapped to ensure the information is up to date.
5. Stakeholder and Public Engagement Update and Review  
Chuck presented summaries of the On-line Survey and the On-site Survey and highlighted the differences between them. On-site survey work will continue through the fall.
6. Action Goal Development  
Draft Action Goals were reviewed, edited and added to.
- a. A discussion was held regarding options to control Eurasian milfoil. The DNR's aquatic invasive species staff member will be added to the goal related to this.
  - b. Add a new goal to "maintain undeveloped/ quiet areas for hunting and wildlife viewing"
  - c. The plan will include a discussion on trails within the park and that they are essentially built out.
  - d. The need to create a trail signage plan and update the trail markers was added.
  - e. Other minor edits were made and target completion dates and responsible program positions added.
7. The next step is to draft the plan and re-engage the stakeholders/ public. Debbie will discuss this with Chuck.



**SLEEPY HOLLOW STATE PARK  
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN  
MEETING #5 SUMMARY**

**Wednesday November 2, 10am to 12pm  
Thomas Sharpe Conference Room, 5N Con Hall, Lansing  
Conference Call/Go-To option**

1. In Attendance: Tim Machowicz, Debbie Jensen, Murdock Jemerson, Matt Lincoln, Lisa Gamero, Glenn Palmgren, Chad Fedewa, Rich Nickols, Natalie Elkins, Chuck Nelson
2. Review of Meeting #4 Summary – no comments
3. Update on Park Survey
  - a. Chuck presented the on-site survey report for spring and summer. One of the common themes was concern over the condition of Lake Ovid, which impacts use of the lake. Implementation of more aggressive treatment measures in high use areas was discussed.
  - b. The on-site survey will run through the beginning of fire-arm deer season.
  - c. The final data will be compiled for the Public Input meeting.
4. Draft General Management Plan Review
  - a. Staff were asked to review the Draft General Management Plan and provide comments/ revisions by November 16.
  - b. Some minor corrections and edits to the plan were noted.
  - c. Trail Specialist was removed from trail goals that did not extend beyond the park boundary.
  - d. MSU was added as a resource for the trail improvement action goal.
  - e. Goal related to disc golf course was edited to have a broader focus.
  - f. The goal relating to evaluation of possible hike-in etc. campsites was moved to the Natural Resource Recreation Zone and reworded to reflect the proposed rustic nature.
  - g. A discussion was held on whether stakeholder and public input comments had been adequately addressed.
5. Draft Plan Public Review

The public input open house has been scheduled for December 7 from 6:30-8:30pm at the Victor Township Hall. Prior to public review, the plan will be reviewed by PRD Section Chiefs. The Draft plan will also be posted on the Department's website to enable review and comment via Email.



**SLEEPY HOLLOW STATE PARK  
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN  
MEETING #6 SUMMARY**

**Monday January 23, 2017, 2pm to 4pm  
Anthony Stamm Conference Room, 5N Con Hall, Lansing  
Conference Call/Go-To option**

- 1. In Attendance:** Tim Machowicz, Debbie Jensen, Murdock Jemerson, Matt Lincoln, Glenn Palmgren, Lisa Gamero, Nikki VanBloem, Scott Hanshue, Stacy Tchorzynski
  
- 2. Review of Public Input Comments received through the draft plan review**
  - The public input meeting held on December 12, 2016 was attended by approximately 50 people. Reactions to the plan were mixed.
  - The team reviewed the Public Input Meeting Summary and made some minor corrections/clarifications.
  - Written comments received were also reviewed, including letters from the Sleepy Hollow Trail Riders Assoc. and Epic Mountain Bike group. Debbie will draft a response to the Sleepy Hollow Trail Riders for Tim's review.
  
- 3. Plan Revisions in response to comments**

The team reviewed the draft plan to determine what changes are required in response to the comments received.

  - The significance statements were widely supported and no changes were made.
  - The Management Zones were generally supported. Designations are made by the planning team in response to the natural resources in the park and the level of use that can be sustained (not in response to the desired level of use) no changes were made. Debbie will review the zone descriptions as there was some confusion between uses allowed in the Backcountry and Natural Resource Recreation Zone.
  - The following discussions/ changes were made in response to comments on the Action Goals:
    - a. Goal relating to naturalization of the pipeline corridor was reworded to more clearly convey the intent
    - b. Cultural Resource General Action Goal was reworded to say: "Continue monitoring known cultural resource sites".
    - c. The goal relating to non-motorized connection between SHSP and the FMCIS Trail was reworded to specifically include equestrians and add the word "Safe". SHTRA was added to the "Program Input From" column.



- d. A number of comments received through the review included concern over the possible re-designation of portions of the equestrian trail to multi-use, to provide a connection between the park, the FMCIS and to the south. This connection is still under review and is not detailed in the management plan. A note will be added to the plan regarding the desire to look for alternatives to re-designation of existing equestrian only trail use.
- e. The timeline to develop an interpretive plan for the park (5 Years) was discussed and was determined to be realistic.
- f. A discussion was held on the options for increasing equestrian overnight accommodations at the park. The length of trail miles in the park does not support the need for overnight camping, which is currently accommodated by use permit for special events. Equestrian, along with other uses, will be considered under the Action Goal "Evaluate feasibility of providing additional lodging and camping opportunities" in the Developed Recreation Zone.
- g. The multi-use nature of the island loop trail was discussed. This trail will be reviewed to determine if trail widening or other improvements are needed, possibly a one-way rule, to accommodate both equestrian and mountain bike uses. An Action Goal will be added to reflect this.
- h. The request by SHTRA to increase the size of the staging area was discussed. The staging area is considered sufficient in size with the exception of one event per year. It was felt that this did not warrant expanding the area permanently with the associated increased maintenance. A goal will be added to work with user groups to ensure the needs of special events are met and supported at the park.
- i. The goal to remove the three closed beach parking lots was discussed in light of the occasional use for staging events. The goal will be reworded to state "partial" removal. The above addition will again ensure that special event needs continue to be met.

#### **4. Other Comments**

An error in the Appendix A: Table of Contents was noted. Stacey requested additional information regarding the Metal Detecting Map on page 24 of the Supporting Analysis. It was noted that staff will follow up with the Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator to ensure the lake management plan is moving ahead.

#### **5. Next Steps**

Plan revisions will be made and the revised Draft Plan circulated to the planning team for final review. The plan will then go through the approval process, culminating with approval by the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee on April 13.