

PENINSULA STATE PARK (DOOR COUNTY)

[Peninsula State Park](#), established in 1910, is one of Wisconsin’s first state parks. This Door Peninsula park is known for its panoramic views from majestic coastline bluffs that rise 150’ above the waters of Green Bay, that form an integral part of the Niagara Escarpment. Its beaches are composed mostly of rounded dolomite cobbles rather than the sand that typifies the eastern side of the Door Peninsula (Dott & Attig, 2004).

Property Designation	State Park
DNR and Other Lands	Map L-1
DNR Fee Acres	3,827.52
DNR Easement Acres	0.0
Total DNR Acres	3,827.52
NRB Acquisition Goal	3,785.34

For its captivating history and extensive recreation amenities, it is often described as one of the state’s most ‘complete’ parks; it provides a summer theater, an 18-hole golf course, beaches, bike trails, 468 campsites, three group camps, a lighthouse, and eight miles of Door County shoreline. Winter opportunities includes cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, sledding and snowmobiling. The 1868 Eagle Bluff Lighthouse on the property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The lighthouse is managed by the Door County Historical Society. The park also offers hunting, fishing and boat access to Lake Michigan and sensational sunset views.

Horseshoe Island (38 ac), a part of Peninsula State Park located one mile north of the park’s popular Nicolet Bay swimming beach, is accessible only by boat.

The park harbors a long stretch of the Niagara Escarpment, a feature that provides home to unique animal and plant communities. In 1952, two State Natural Areas were established within this state park: [Peninsula Park Beech Forest](#) (83 ac) and [Peninsula Park White Cedar Forest](#) (64 ac). In 2018, the Beech Forest SNA was delisted as an SNA due to Beech Bark Disease damage to the forest.

Park Mission

Peninsula State Park is considered Wisconsin’s most complete park and one of the top park destinations. Peninsula offers five campgrounds, group camps, sandy beach, bike trails, nature center, outdoor theater, golf course and lighthouse. Located in Door County, it includes eight miles of Lake Michigan shoreline and has scenic overlooks from 150’ bluffs of the Niagara Escarpment.

Existing Recreation Conditions

Camping



With six campgrounds Peninsula State Park offers a variety of camping locations throughout the park. The table below provides a summary of the camping facilities at Peninsula State Park and the assigned NR 44 Development Classification.

Table 6: Camping Opportunities at Peninsula State Park

Campground Name	Facility Description	Development Classification
Welcker's	81 sites, no electric, one shower and flush toilet building, and vault toilets	Modern
North Nicolet Bay	42 sites, no electric, one shower and flush toilet building, one flush toilet building and vault toilets	Modern
South Nicolet Bay	143 sites/53 with electric, two shower/flush toilet buildings, two ADA sites, vault toilets	Modern
Weborg Point	12 sites, all electric, one shower and flush toilet building	Modern
Tennison Bay	188 sites, 95 with electric, two ADA sites, two shower/flush toilets buildings and three additional flush toilet buildings, vault toilets, a playground and one carry in launch site	Modern
Group Camps	Three group camp sites, Lakeshore, Orchard and Meadow. Tent camping only, no electric hookups, two vault toilet buildings.	Rustic

Day Use Areas

Peninsula State Park offers a variety of day use areas scattered around the park. Those that have shelters and picnic areas associated with them have been assigned a NR 44 Development Classification. The table below provides an overview of the day use facilities found at the park.

Table 7: Day Use Areas of Peninsula State Park

Day Use Area Name	Facility Descriptions	Development Classification
Fish Creek	Outdoor picnic area with vault toilets, a playground and 66 parking spaces	Rustic
Weborg Point	Shelter (capacity 50) is an enclosed building on a scenic point overlooking the shores of Green Bay. Amenities include electricity, a fireplace and flush toilets. Site also has twelve parking stalls, picnic tables and a fishing pier.	Modern



Nelson Point	Outdoor picnic area with vault toilets and 19 parking spaces	Rustic
Welcker's Point	Shelter (capacity 50) is an enclosed building with a fireplace overlooking the bay of Green Bay. Site also includes a vault toilets and 10 parking stalls, and outside picnic tables	Modern
Nicolet Beach	Picnic shelter, concessions, shower and flush toilet building, one vault toilet, playground and rental concession, camp store and parking for 134 cars	Modern
Eagle Terrace	Outdoor picnic tables, a vault toilet and parking for 32 cars	Rustic
Winter Sled Hill	Sled hill and parking area	N/A
Sven's Bluff	Overlook and trail head with 10 parking spaces	N/A
Skyline	Overlook and trail head with 8 parking spaces	N/A
Nicolet Bay Overlook	Overlook	N/A
Eagle Panorama	Overlook and trail head with 16 parking spaces	N/A
Lot 5	Unpaved large lot that serves as a trail head for ski and mountain biking trails, with a 125' X 165' parking area in the winter and a 125' by 65' parking area in all other seasons	N/A

Trails

Peninsula State Park is known for its trail opportunities with over 30 miles of trails and a variety of designated uses. The table below is a list of trails and their classifications. Please note that some trails overlap each other with differing uses for the winter and the summer and some trail use occurs on park roads that are closed in the winter. A designated trail is one that is designed, maintained and limited to specific uses. Currently, trails in Peninsula are available for hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and snowshoeing. Designated trails are identified by signage and are shown on the official map of the park.

Table 8: Trails of Peninsula State Park

Trail Name	Miles	Trail Classification
Sunset Bike Route	9.6	Moderately Developed
Off-road biking trails	12	Primitively to Lightly Developed
Eagle trail	2.0	Primitively to Lightly Developed



Hemlock trail	1.8	Primitively to Lightly Developed
Lone Pine trail	0.5	Primitively to Lightly Developed
Minnehaha trail	0.7	Primitively to Lightly Developed
Nicolet Bay trail	2.2	Primitively to Lightly Developed
Sentinel trail	2.0	Primitively to Lightly Developed
Skyline trail	3.0	Primitively to Lightly Developed
Trail Trampler's Delight trail	0.5	Primitively Developed
Vita Course trail	1.0	Lightly Developed
White Cedar nature trail	0.5	Moderately Developed
Cross-country ski trails (all mileage measured from parking lots)		
Parking Lot 1		
· White Loop	1.5	Lightly Developed
· Black Loop	3.0	Lightly Developed
· Brown Loop	3.5	Lightly Developed
Parking Lot 3		
· Purple Loop	3.0	Lightly Developed
Parking Lot 5		
· Yellow Loop	1.0	Lightly Developed
· Orange Loop	3.0	Lightly Developed
· Red Loop	3.5	Lightly Developed
· Green Loop	5.6	Lightly Developed
· Blue Loop	7.0	Lightly Developed



Snowshoe trails (all mileage measured from parking lots)		
• Nature center	1.4	Lightly Developed
• Nicolet Bay	1.0	Lightly Developed
• Eagle Tower	2.8	Lightly Developed
Snowmobile trails	17.0	Lightly Developed to Moderately Developed

Boat Launches

Table 9: Boat Launches

Boat Launch Name	Facility Description
Nicolet Beach Launch and Fishing Pier	Asphalt, 140' x 180' launch access with 3 staging spaces and 19 vehicle/trailer parking spaces
Tennison Bay Canoe/Kayak Launch	Gravel, 78' X 44' launch access area with 12 parking spaces

Other Recreation Facilities

Peninsula State Park offers many other recreational facilities. These are described briefly below.

Table 10: Other Recreation Facilities

Facility Name	Facility Descriptions
Vita Course	13 to 15 exercise stations with a mix of native soil tread and gravel tread
Tennis Court	Single tennis court
Amphitheater	400 capacity outdoor amphitheater, vault toilets and 4 small support buildings, parking is provided at the Overflow Lot.
Overflow Lot	125 cars parking lot, capacity decreases when trailer/vehicles combinations use the lot.
White Cedar Nature Center	Meeting and display space, vault toilets located nearby and limited parking.



Golf Course	An eighteen-hole course plus a six-hole short course, club house, parking lots and other support facilities.
Horseshoe Island	Small pier and two vault toilets, no designated uses or trails
Eagle Tower	Due to its age, an in-depth inspection of Eagle Tower was conducted in the spring of 2015. The inspection included core sampling to determine the general internal condition of the structural components and overall load-bearing capacity of the structure. The tower inspection report indicated the structure was in poor condition and should be razed. On May 20, 2015 the tower was closed for public use. A stakeholders group, made up of Friends members, community members, legislators, U.S. Forest Products Lab staff and DNR staff, worked with a consultant to develop three concept options that best meet the goals for a new tower at Peninsula State Park. The DNR received more than 650 comments on the design concepts. A tower with an accessible ramp through the tree canopy connecting to the top viewing deck received the greatest support and was selected as the concept for the new Eagle Tower.
Eagle Bluff Lighthouse	Small parking lot with paved trail to the lighthouse and scenic overlook

Support Facilities

Table 11: Support Facilities at Peninsula State Park

Park Entrance Visitor Station (PEVS)	The PEVS is located at the Fish Creek park entrance and currently provides a visitor service area, display room, accessible restroom, and the park office. Outside area includes informational signage, parking lots, entrance/exit roads, and appropriate native landscaping to provide screening and improved aesthetics.
Firewood Yard and Camper Dump Station	A concessionaire uses the firewood yard to sell firewood to campers. It is currently located next to the camper sanitation dump facility.
Terrace Contact Station (Self Pay Kiosk)	This kiosk allows park visitors to pay for their park sticker as they enter the park on Shore Road.

Land Use and Partner Agreements

Amphitheater – The 675-seat outdoor amphitheater is currently managed by Northern Sky Theater, Inc. Outdoor performances are offered from Memorial Day through Labor Day as weather permits, serving approx. 30,000 patrons annually. The amphitheater area currently includes public support buildings such as concession buildings, vault toilets, open area seating and multi-leveled stage. This area also includes theater staff support areas including backstage dressing, technical and storage facilities.

Golf Course – The existing 18-hole golf course (and six-hole practice course) is operated by the Peninsula Golf Association. It includes public support areas such as restroom facilities, open-air pergolas and a clubhouse and staff support areas including a shop facility and irrigation pump house. Currently the underground irrigation system is being replaced.

Eagle Lighthouse – The Eagle Bluff Lighthouse is currently being operated by the Door County Historical Society. Paid tours are currently offered during the summer season.



Eagle Tower – The tower was inspected in the spring of 2015. The inspection included core sampling to determine the general internal condition of the structural components and overall load-bearing capacity of the structure. The tower inspection report indicated the structure was in poor condition and should be razed. In May of 2015 the tower was closed for public use. A new Eagle Tower will be constructed to include a new viewing tower, accessible ramp access, connections to existing trails near the site, improved parking and accessible walking trails from the parking areas to the tower site.

Snowmobile Trail - The department has an agreement with a local snowmobile club to assist with the maintenance of the snowmobile trails in the park.

Roads and parking lots (See Map L-2)

Peninsula State Park has 26 miles of roads, about nine miles are open year-round to the public, another 17 are open on a seasonal basis. The table below provides a summary of the roads maintained by the DNR in the park.

Table 12: Road Classifications

Road Classification	Miles of Public Roads	Miles of Closed Roads	Miles of Seasonal Roads
Primitive	0	0.29	0
Lightly Developed	0	0.21	0.37
Moderately Developed	7.86	0.08	17.23
Fully Developed	0	0	0

Property Management, Development and Use

NR 44 Land Management Classification

This property has four NR 44 land management classifications, as shown on Map L-4. They are: Recreation Management Area - Type 3 (862 acres), Recreation Management Area - Type 4 (1,467 acres), a small Special Management Area (8 acres) and Native Community Management Areas (1,363 acres). Type 3 Recreational Use Setting shall be applied to all land management classification areas. Land management areas with Type 4 Recreational Use Setting Subclassification will have the additional objectives and prescriptions described in the Recreation Objectives for Type 4.

Recreation Management

Recreation Management Objectives (Entire Property)

- Continue to provide a wide range of recreation opportunities including camping, beach and water access, hunting and fishing, boating of all types, winter and summer trails and sledding.
- Continue to protect and interpret the long stretch of the Niagara Escarpment that runs through the park and its unique animal and plant communities.



- Continue to work the Friends of Peninsula State Park to make this destination unique in its recreational offerings.
- Provide education and interpretation regarding the cultural and natural history of the park and its current flora and fauna.
- Provide a system of recreational trails, uses include hiking, mountain biking, bike touring, and cross-country skiing (both classic and skate), snowmobiling and snowshoeing.
- Redesign the park's trail system to improve visitor's experience and trail sustainability. Equestrian and fat tire (winter) biking will be additional allowed uses when the trail system is redesigned.

Recreation Prescriptions (Entire Property)

Short Term Prescriptions

- Maintain existing facilities including roads at current development levels to continue to provide existing recreation opportunities.
- Working with partners, provide education and interpretive activities, services and features.

Long Term Prescriptions

- The existing trails for Peninsula State Park will be redesigned to create a more efficient and sustainable trail system. The department will enter into an agreement with a consultant to produce the trail system design and design standards for each trail use. The allowed uses for the trail system will be hiking, mountain biking, bike touring, and horseback riding, cross-country skiing (both classic and skate), snowmobiling, snowshoeing and fat tire biking. Parking lots and trail head support facilities will also be improved as needed to serve the new trail system.
- Build a small observation platform at the Nicolet Bay Overlook to protect sensitive vegetation in the area from foot traffic.
- Parking Lot Improvements
 - Add a 5 to 10-stall parking lot near Sven's Bluff
 - Add trailer/vehicle stalls across the road from Nicolet Beach Launch
 - Add 25 to 50 parking stalls at the beach day use area
 - Fill and level the parking lot that serves the sledding hill
 - Improve the adjacent parking lot and the lot located nearby but off-site lot to accommodate 10 to 15 additional cars
 - Redesign the overflow lot to use the space more efficiently, including paving and striping parking stalls, and adding another 50 to 100 stalls if space allows
 - Add 20 to 30 new parking stalls at Eagle Terrace, as space allows

Recreation Management Objectives (Type 4 Recreational Use Setting Only)

- Continue to work the various partners who make this destination unique in its recreational offerings including Northern Sky Theater, Inc, Peninsula State Park Golf Course and Eagle Bluff Lighthouse and Friends of Peninsula State Park.
- Provide areas for camping and day uses by maintaining and upgrading existing facilities.
- Remove facilities that are not consistent with the park's mission to allow staff to focus maintenance and management on the core purpose of the park.

Recreation Prescriptions (Type 4 Recreational Use Setting Only)

Short Term Prescriptions



- Add electrical service hook ups to up to 25 existing campsites in South Nicolet Bay.
- Allow pets at Nelson Point Day Use Area.
- Continue to work with the friends group and other local partners to build the new Eagle Tower and support facilities.

Long Term Prescriptions

- Construction of a new Park Entrance Visitor Station (PEVS) is planned. The exact location for the new PEVS has not been determined, but the current location is not a likely candidate due to natural resource concerns there. Further study is necessary before a specific location is selected. The new PEVS provide similar but expanded programing to meet the needs of the park visitors.
- Additional electric sites may be added to the family campgrounds within the limits of the state statutes regarding state park campgrounds.
- Install an open-air shelter with a maximum capacity of 50 people at Fish Creek and Nelson Point Day Use Area. Shelters will not have electrical service and therefore, the NR 44 classification will remain rustic.
- Install an open-air shelter with electricity and a maximum capacity of 50 people at Eagle Terrace Day Use Area. Add 10 to 25 parking stalls. The shelter will have electrical service and therefore, the NR 44 classification will convert to modern.
- Redesign the beach area and associated parking and picnic areas for improved flow of visitors and more efficient use of space. Add a pet picnic area and an accessible kayak launch.
- Improve the Lot 5 Trailhead (Highland Road) with a partially enclosed shelter that can serve as a warming hut in the winter. Add toilets to serve the trailhead. The shelter with electric service will convert this parking lot to a modern day use area.
- Work with partners to expand and redevelop the White Cedar Nature Center building and outdoor space to accommodate use.
- Remove the vita exercise course and the tennis court, and restore sites to a natural setting.
- Working with partners, the department will pursue the following projects on facilities managed by others in Peninsula State Park:
 - Amphitheater – Improvement of public support areas, concession facilities and new restroom facilities.
 - Golf Course – Replacement of vault toilet facilities and the expansion and improvement of the interior and exterior clubhouse area.
 - Eagle Lighthouse - Facility and exhibit improvements to the interior and exterior of the lighthouse and minor site improvements including repair to the stone wall, wood fence, replacement of the vault toilet and parking improvements.
 - Eagle Tower - Additions and improvements to interpretive elements of the structure.

Resource Management

The land cover for Peninsula State Park can be found on Map L-3.

Table 13: Peninsula State Park Land Cover

Land Cover	Current	
	Acres	% Cover
Upland Broad-leaved Deciduous Forest	1706	47



Upland Coniferous Forest	684	19
Upland Grass	85	2
Oak	284	8
Forested Wetland	430	12
Open Wetland/Marsh	68	2
Shrub Wetland	2	0
Developed	392	11
Total	3652	100

State Natural Areas of Peninsula State Park

Table 14: State Natural Areas

SNA Name	Existing Acres	Proposed Acres	Total Acres
Peninsula Park Beech Forest	82.44	0.00	82.44
Peninsula Niagara Escarpment State Natural Area	0.00	242.26	242.26
White Cedar Forest State Natural Area	64.41	65.53	129.94

Resource management on DNR lands is organized by land management classification areas. The areas described below are depicted on Map L-4.

Area 1: Recreation Management Area – Type 3 Setting

Classification: Recreation Management Area
 Recreational Use Setting: Type 3
 Size: 863.53 acres

Management Objective

- Maintain, protect and enhance the area’s natural features, including the Niagara Escarpment and old forest character, to provide a high quality scenic setting for non-motorized recreational use and snowmobiling.

Management Prescriptions

- Overall, maintain existing native cover types. Convert or allow the natural conversion of cover types to more suitable native types where conversion is appropriate for achieving the management objective, particularly long-term.



- On suitable sites, use active and passive management techniques to develop and maintain older forest characteristics, including larger diameter trees. Where possible, favor longer-lived tree species and use uneven-aged management approaches. Allow for natural recruitment of coarse woody debris (large diameter timber) and standing snags.
- To the degree feasible and practicable, design and conduct vegetation and other land management activities to maintain and enhance an attractive, natural appearing landscape. Use visual quality management techniques to minimize and rapidly reduce secondary, negative visual quality impacts of management activities.
- Following a catastrophic event (e.g. wind storms, wild fire, ice damage, forest pests), salvage may be done after consultation and direction by the district ecologist, forester and property manager.

Area 2: Recreation Management Area – Type 4 Setting

Classification: Recreation Management Area
Recreational Use Setting: Type 4
Size: 1,490.13 acres

Management Objective

- Provide and maintain attractive and safe grounds for intensive outdoor recreation activities.

Management Prescriptions

- In forested locations maintain a healthy tree canopy. Where feasible, promote the growth and retention of larger trees.
- Remove hazardous, diseased and defective trees.
- In appropriate locations maintain and promote native shrubs for screening.
- Provide and maintain turf areas as appropriate.
- Conduct other management and maintenance activities as needed, such as mowing, brushing, erosion control, and maintaining landscaping associated with public use facilities.
- Any applicable, approved management practice or tools may be used.

Area 3: Peninsula Niagara Escarpment and White Cedar Forest

Classification: Native Community Management Area
Size: 372.27 acres
Overlay: 372.27 acres (SNA)

Site Description: Site encompasses Peninsula Park White Cedar Forest State Natural Area (SNA) and a significant portion of the Niagara Escarpment within Peninsula State Park.

This area features a continuum of five distinct community types that change with elevation away from Green Bay:

- A one-acre open marsh dominated by blue-joint grass, common reed grass, and rushes,
- An open calcareous meadow in a wet swale between beach ridges,
- A Northern Wet-mesic Forest dominated by northern white-cedar and black and white spruce; vertical cliffs of Niagara dolostone, and



- A mixed upland forest dominated by northern white-cedar, white birch, and sugar maple at the summit of the escarpment.

Significance: Habitat for a diverse group of rare terrestrial snails associated with the Niagara Escarpment since the last Ice Age. Talus slopes contain vents that carry cold air, moisture, and nutrients that some snail species depend on. These vents, located throughout the slope and on bedrock outcrops on top of the cuesta, are vulnerable to compaction and filling-in.

Management Considerations: The rare snails found here have restricted ranges, limited dispersal ability, very specific biotic and abiotic habitat requirements, and are vulnerable to management activities that alter temperature, moisture, and/or food supplies. Impacts from activities that disturb the soil or open the forest canopy, can create warmer and drier conditions, increase sedimentation, introduce invasive plant species, and cause vent compaction. Therefore, to minimize potential impacts of activities above and below the escarpment face a 200-foot buffer zone is proposed for this SNA.

Creating buffer zones with allowed uses that do not negatively impact the core area of the Niagara Escarpment is one technique outlined in the Niagara Escarpment Plan, which guides management of the Niagara Escarpment in Ontario, an area designated in 1990 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a World Biosphere Reserve. Management of invasive species is necessary.

Management Objectives

- Passively manage the Northern Wet-mesic Forest and associated wetland communities to provide ecological reference areas.
- Protect the Niagara Escarpment rare species habitat by minimizing the potential impacts of activities above and below the escarpment face.
- Promote the development of old forest characteristics where applicable.
- Protect and enhance rare species populations and their habitats.
- Allow for natural recruitment of coarse woody debris (large diameter timber) and standing snags.

Management Prescriptions

- Allow natural processes to shape the structure of the forest communities.
- Within a 200-foot buffer zone of the escarpment face, do not conduct management or development (e.g., timber harvesting, new parking lot or building construction), or allow uses that would disturb soil and forest canopy cover and negatively impact the core habitat area of the Niagara Escarpment.
- Rare species habitat enhancement could include: rerouting trails, installing cordwalks, and selectively removing canopy cover by hand felling trees for increased sunlight.
- Following a catastrophic event (e.g. wind, fire, ice damage, forest pests), salvage may be done along trails, access roads, and other infrastructure for human safety after consultation and direction by the Parks and district ecologist, forester and property manager.

Area 4: Peninsula Park Beech Forest

Classification: Native Community Management Area
Size: 82.44 acres
Overlay: 82.44 acres (SNA)



Site Description: Site represents the Peninsula Park Beech Forest State Natural Area (SNA) within Peninsula State Park.

It features a continuum of forest types from the dry edge of the Niagara Escarpment to rolling uplands forested with mesic species. The Northern Mesic Forest is old second-growth, with sugar maple, American beech, hemlock, yellow and white birch, and ironwood; some trees nearly two feet in diameter. To the east, between Shore Road and the bluff edge, is a young Northern Dry-mesic Forest dominated by red oak and white pine. The bluff drops 150 feet to several terraces, which are forested with northern white-cedar and hardwoods.

The base of the bluff along Green Bay supports many ferns including bulblet fern, fragile fern, polypody, slender cliff brake, walking fern, and wood ferns. The beach is composed of dolomite cobblestones with little vegetation. Rare plants are present at the site

Significance: Peninsula Park Beech Forest SNA is managed as a reserve for the Northern Mesic Forest natural community and as an ecological reference area.

Management Considerations: Future management should be focused on developing old forest characteristics.

Management Objectives

- Passively manage the Northern Wet-mesic Forest and associated wetland communities to provide ecological reference areas and a Northern Mesic Forest natural community ecological reference area.
- Protect the Niagara Escarpment by minimizing the potential impacts of activities above and below the escarpment face.
- Promote larger blocks of older mixed conifer-hardwood forest.
- Protect and enhance rare species populations and their habitats.
- Allow for natural recruitment of coarse woody debris (large diameter timber) and standing snags.

Management Prescriptions

- Within a 200-foot buffer zone of the escarpment face, do not conduct management or development (e.g., timber harvesting, new parking lot or building construction), or allow uses that would disturb soil and forest canopy cover and negatively impact the core habitat area of the Niagara Escarpment.
- Allow natural processes to shape the structure of the forest communities.
- In consultation with the Parks and NHC ecologists, use uneven-aged, extended rotation techniques to accelerate the development of large diameter trees where appropriate.
- Rare species habitat enhancement could include: rerouting trails, installing cordwalks, and selectively removing canopy cover by hand felling trees for increased sunlight.
- Following a catastrophic event (e.g. wind, fire, ice damage, forest pests), salvage may be done along trails, access roads, and other infrastructure for human safety after consultation and direction by the Parks and district ecologist, forester and property manager. Additional salvage may be conducted if it fits with the ecological considerations for the site.

Area 5: Northern Mesic Forest

Classification:

Native Community Management Area



Northern Lake Michigan Coastal Ecological Landscape
Draft Master Plan

Recreational Use Setting: Type 3
Size: 908.95 acres

Site Description: The site contains a mature Northern Mesic Forest and rare species. The Northern Mesic Forest is diverse, with sugar maple, American beech, hemlock, and northern white-cedar as common canopy trees. Wet areas with northern white-cedar, black ash, and shallow pools are found on the low topography in the middle of the site.

Significance: Mature Northern Mesic Forests with conifer species are uncommon in this landscape and rare species such as red-shouldered hawks are present. Forests here provide a vital migratory bird stopover site for up to 10,000 neo-tropical migrant bird species each spring and fall.

Management Considerations: Management opportunities exist to promote old-growth characteristics and provide habitat for rare species. Invasive species control is necessary.

Management Objectives

- Maintain, protect and enhance the area's natural features and old forest character to provide a high quality, scenic setting for non-motorized recreational uses.
- Protect and enhance rare species populations and their habitats.
- Promote larger blocks of older mixed conifer-hardwood forest.
- Allow for natural recruitment of coarse woody debris (large diameter timber) and standing snags.

Management Prescriptions

- Rare species habitat enhancement could include: rerouting trails, installing cordwalks, and selectively removing canopy cover by hand felling trees for increased sunlight.
- In consultation with the Parks and NHC ecologists, use uneven-aged, extended rotation techniques to accelerate the development of large diameter trees following guidelines for old forest management in the Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook 2480.5.
- Following a catastrophic event (e.g. wind, fire, ice damage, forest pests), salvage may be done along trails, access roads, and other infrastructure for human safety after consultation and direction by the district ecologist, forester and property manager. Additional salvage may be conducted if it fits with the ecological considerations for the site.

Area 6: Administration and Maintenance

Classification: Special Management Area
Size: 8.5 acres

The management objective is to provide and maintain areas and facilities for the administration and maintenance support of the property. Additional administrative policies and directives may apply.

