

2.0 Core Values



2.1 Mission Statements

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

DNRE Mission Statement

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment is committed to the conservation, protection, management, accessible use and enjoyment of the State's environment, natural resources and related economic interests for current and future generations.

RD Mission Statement

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

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

2.2 Park Purpose

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

1. The park was purchased by the State of Michigan in 1924; approximately 405 acres remains under lease with the Edward K. Warren Foundation until 2037.

2. To provide opportunities for recreational uses and experiences that are unique to Warren Dunes State Park and compatible with the park's resource(s) base.
3. To preserve and protect the park's unique natural resources for current and future generations.
4. To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflect the mission of the DNRE and the unique qualities of Warren Dunes State Park.

2.3 Park Significance

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

1. Warren Dunes State Park offers the public 2.5 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline along with a variety of outdoor recreational activities, including camping opportunities. A large portion of the lakeshore is high quality element occurrence of sand and gravel beach.
2. Warren Dunes State Park attracts a large number of visitors annually. In 2007, more than 900,000 visits took place, with over 92,000 campground reservations. Revenues from this park are a significant resource for the State of Michigan park system.
3. Warren Dunes State Park is a gateway to the State of Michigan Park system from the west. Approximately 92% of visitors come from outside the state.
4. Most of Warren Dunes State Park lies within the designated critical dune area, which is subject to statewide development restrictions pursuant to the Sand Dunes Protection Act of 1978. The park contains fresh water coastal dunes over 200 feet tall, with terrain varying from steep slopes to rolling hills. The "clay pits" of the Painterville Creek are a unique recreation opportunity and tradition for many visitors.
5. A significant portion of the park is a dedicated natural area. The park includes both active, modern dunes which rise high above Lake Michigan and a complex of stabilized fossil dunes from former lake levels. The pattern of dune ridges enclosing smaller interlocking ridges, where the dunes are of very different ages, creates a complex of unusual geological features.

6. Warren Dunes State Park currently supports an extensive network of forested dunes and several large areas of open dune. Several species of rare flora and fauna have been documented within the park.
7. There are important natural communities found in the park, including mesic southern forest, interdunal wetlands and open dunes.
8. As a stopover location on a bird migration route, Warren Dunes State Park features significant bird diversity.
9. Warren Dunes State Park offers unique recreational opportunities for people of all ages including swimming, hiking, wildflower viewing, outdoor education, photography, bird watching, and cross-country skiing. It is the only state park in Michigan that allows hang gliding, a popular activity at this park

2.4 Legal Mandates

For all park General Management Plans, legal mandates are identified and serve to further guide the development of the General Management Plan and subsequent Action Plans. For our planning purposes, the term “Legal Mandates” refers to not only state law, but also the administrative tools of “Policy” and “Directive” of the Natural Resource Commission, the Department, and Recreation Division. Specific to Warren Dunes State Park, the following legal mandates have been identified.

1. PA 451 OF 1994, PART 741 - STATE PARK SYSTEM - NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT - This act is the re-codification of law that established the Michigan State Park System and defined the powers and duties of same. Notable in this law is Section 324.74102 which identifies the duties of the department and reinforces those core values cited above.

A. This section reads:

- (1) “The legislature finds:
 - (a) Michigan State Parks preserve and protect Michigan’s significant natural and historic resources.
 - (b) Michigan State Parks are appropriate and uniquely suited to provide opportunities to learn about protection and management of Michigan’s natural resources.
 - (c) Michigan State Parks are an important component of Michigan’s tourism industry and vital to local economies.
- (2) The department shall create, maintain, operate, promote, and make available for public use and enjoyment a system of state parks to preserve

and protect Michigan's significant natural resources and areas of natural beauty or historic significance, to provide open space for public recreation, and to provide an opportunity to understand Michigan's natural resources and need to protect and manage those resources."

2. Public Act 451 of 1994, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act Part 323, Shorelands Protection and Management: The key state statute providing consumer protection from the natural hazards of coastal erosion and flooding as well as environmental protection of the State of Michigan's fragile coastal areas
3. Public Act 451 of 1994, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act Part 353 – Sand Dunes Protection and Management. Regulations to protect the critical dune areas of this state, allowing local units of government to exercise the primary role in protecting and managing critical dune areas in accordance with this part. The benefits derived from alteration, industrial, residential, commercial, agricultural, silvicultural, and the recreational use of critical dune areas shall occur only when the protection of the environment and the ecology of the critical dune areas for the benefit of the present and future generations is assured
4. PA 451 OF 1994, PART 351 - NREPA - WILDERNESS AND NATURAL AREAS; Dedication of the Warren Dunes Natural Area – 488 acres of the park are designated as State Natural Area under part 351 of NREPA of 1994. This legislation provides guidelines for the identification, management and protection of Wilderness, Wild and Natural Areas. The legislation prohibits most cutting, gathering or other alteration of vegetation, extraction of minerals, establishment of commercial uses and easements, and use of mechanized devices of travel.
5. PA 368 OF 1978, ARTICLE 12 - ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PART 125 – CAMPGROUNDS – Part 125 of the Public Health Code was established to protect and promote the public health by establishing health code requirements specifically addressing campgrounds. The Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) is the administering agency that is responsible for the promulgation of the Administrative Rules for Campgrounds. All public and private campgrounds must meet these DNRE regulations.
6. PA 451 OF 1994, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT Part – 324.41901 Regulation and prohibitions in certain areas; powers of department; area closures; hearings, investigations, studies, and statement of facts; regulations. – This part of PA 451 establishes the powers of the Department to establish safety zones for hunting. In accordance with the Administrative Rules established by Wildlife Division for hunting safety, a 450' "Safety Zone" is established around all occupied dwellings (which includes campgrounds). Under the State Land Rules, the Department also has the authority to expand the application of this 450' "Safety Zone" to encompass

“Day-Use Areas” such as beaches, picnic areas, boat launches, and parking areas, should the need arise. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.

7. DNR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER, 7/16/2007:

3.412 Early September season for taking Canada geese; season dates and closures, exceptions.

The early September season for taking Canada geese shall be September 1 to September 15 in the Lower Peninsula and September 1 to September 10 in the Upper Peninsula, except as follows: State parks closed; exceptions listed, the day following Labor Day to September 15 open season.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection and subsections (4), (5) and (6), all state parks shall be closed.

3.423 (4) Crows shall not be taken in state parks and recreation areas from April 1 to September 14.

7.1 Hunting or trapping in state parks or game refuges; designating where permissible; permits; hunting or trapping in state recreation areas.

Sec. 7.1. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter or section 3.412, or by permit issued by the director, no person shall trap or hunt with firearms or dogs or in any other manner in any state park, state game refuge, or other lands under the control of and dedicated by the department as a game refuge or wildlife sanctuary.

7.37 Warren Dunes State Park, hunting and trapping allowed.

Sec. 7.37. Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during the established seasons on all state-owned lands of Warren dunes state park in sections 24, 25 and 26, T06S R20W.

History: Eff. Mar. 31, 1989.

14.5 (5) It shall be unlawful to dog train in state parks without permission of the land administrator.

8. Restrictions of Land Purchase Funding Sources: Funds used to purchase recreation land can come with stipulations as to how the land can or cannot be used. The following are descriptions of the impacts of known funding sources.

- ❑ Lease – approximately 405 acres of the park are under lease until 2037 with the Edward K. Warren Foundation. Use is restricted to a public park, and “no cutting or removal of trees or shrubs, no removal of sand, gravel or soil, no construction of roads, and no construction of buildings for permanent camps or amusement places will be permitted on or from the lands or premises, or the adjacent waters, except as may be necessary for the property development, improvement, and maintenance of the lands for their proper use for state park purposes.”

- ❑ Gift – two parcels of the park were acquired by gift from the Federal Government totaling 0.6 acres. These properties were provided to the state as a donation from private individuals or entities. They are used for general program purposes unless a specific deed restriction would otherwise dictate.
 - ❑ Michigan Land and Trust – 15 parcels totaling 399.98 acres were funded by the sale of oil, gas, and mineral leases on certain State land. These are to be used for park purposes. The State Constitution was amended in 1984 to provide for a "Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund" which was implemented in 1985. Most rentals, royalties, and other revenues derived from mineral, coal, oil, and gas interests on State-owned land are credited to the fund. Public Act 451 of 1994 redirected a portion (\$10 million per year) of these revenues previously committed to this fund, to the Michigan State Parks Endowment Fund. Appropriations are used to fund grants to local units of government as well as State agencies to acquire or develop outdoor public recreation facilities.
 - ❑ Multiple – Seven parcels totaling 23.11 acres are utilized for general program purposes.
 - ❑ Michigan National Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) – One parcel totaling 0.78 acres came from money spent annually to purchase land for resource protection, public outdoor recreation and to develop outdoor recreational facilities across the state. The trust fund was established in 1976 to provide a source of funding for public acquisition of lands for resource protection and public outdoor recreation. Funding is derived from royalties on the sale and lease of state-owned mineral rights. It is utilized for general program purposes.
 - ❑ Special Legislation – 25 parcels totaling 504.33 acres (one quarter of the total park acreage) were acquired by this fund. It is utilized for general program purposes.
 - ❑ Recreation Bond Fund – One Parcel totaling 1.58 acres came from
 - ❑ State Game Fund – One parcel totaling 18.70 acres were purchased with revenue from a \$1.50 tax on deer hunting licenses.
 - ❑ Split (three parcels totaling 81.05)
 - ❑ Parcels with No Funding Information (31 parcels totaling 389.35 acres)
 - ❑ Pittman / Robertson (one parcel totaling 0.85 acres)
9. LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR - By authority conferred on the Director of the DNRE by Section 504 of Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994,

as amended, being section 324.504 of the Michigan Compiled Laws and in accordance with R 299.671 and R 299.922 of the Michigan Administrative Code, the Director of the DNRE specifies that Land Use Orders of the Director shall read as follows:

5.2 Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages in certain state parks and recreation areas, prohibited conduct. A person shall not do any of the following:

(6) Possess or consume an alcoholic beverage within the following described locations from March 1 through September 30:

5.8 Hang gliders in Warren Dunes State Park, conditions for use, permit, prohibited conduct.

Order 5.8 (A) person shall not possess or fly a hang glider in Warren Dunes SP except under the following conditions:

- (1) A person desiring to hang glide must possess a valid United States hang gliding association (USHGA) proficiency rating card and a Warren dunes SP hang glider permit, except for students under the instruction and direct supervision of a USHGA certified instructor. The established fee for the permit shall be paid.
- (2) USHGA certified instructors may utilize the area for student instructions only after they have obtained a Warren Dunes SP instructor permit and paid the established fee. Instruction shall be in the designated instruction zone only.
- (3) Persons hang gliding shall have in possession and produce upon demand of the park staff, personal identification, USHGA rating card, and a valid department permit.
- (4) Hang gliding will be permitted only in designated zones and hang gliding proficiency will determine allowable zone. It is unlawful to launch from a zone with a higher rating than the pilot has attained.
- (5) All pilots shall wear safety helmets while flying.
- (6) All accidents resulting in injury or property damages shall be reported to park staff.
- (7) No motorized hang gliding will be permitted in the park.
- (8) No competitive or spectator events will be allowed without prior written permission.

- (9) The park manager may close the park to hang gliding for the day, or portions thereof, if in the opinion of the park manager weather conditions, conflicting public use, or other circumstances develop which may cause a serious hazard to people or property. History: Iss. Sept. 17, 1993
10. R.O.W. FOR COUNTY ROADS – Brown Town Road is a county road along the southern border of Warren Dunes State Park. Warren Woods is bordered by the I-94, Warren Woods Road, Three Oaks Road, and Elm Valley Road. The Berrien County Road Commission has the authority to require permits for any impacts to their ROW (i.e. crossings or new drives). All of these roads have a 66' wide right-of-way (33' from center line).
11. R.O.W. FOR STATE HIGHWAYS - The Michigan Department of Transportation is responsible for maintenance on all state highways in Berrien County. Highways that impact the park are: I-94, and Business Route 94 (Red Arrow Hwy). The Right-of-Way for I-94 is xx. The Right-of-Way for the Red Arrow Highway is xx.
12. BOUNDARIES DEDICATED MAY 13, 2004 - The Natural Resources Commission reviewed and rededicated boundary changes for Warren Dunes State Park in 2007.
13. WARREN DUNES DESIGNATED NATURAL AREA, 488 ACRES
14. METAL DETECTING AREAS: See map in Appendix A
15. PROPOSED AGREEMENT - Proposed agreement with City of Bridgman to connect trails north and south of park
16. INFORMAL AGREEMENTS
- Agreement with Shorewood Hills residents to use powerful omni-directional loudspeakers only for emergencies, and to otherwise use mobile speakers mounted on park vehicles.
 - Assurances to adjacent residents that if rental of "wave runners" disturbed neighbors, the park would review the program critically.
17. ENCUMBRANCES UNDER GRANTS – Warren Dunes State Park is encumbered under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program with the National Park Service, and under the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Warren Woods State Park is encumbered under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program.
18. STUDIES and REPORTS:

- ❑ Invasive Species Control Plan - The Stewardship program developed Invasive Special Control Plans for these parks, submitted in December 2003. This document includes surveys on invasive species in preparation for the development of management plans. Invasive species control is prioritized by a ranking of species and site quality.
- ❑ Inventories to Identify Significant Natural Features - Inventories to identify significant natural features of Warren Dunes State Park and Warren Woods State Park were completed by MSU Extension Service's Michigan Natural Features Inventory in June 2002. The document includes a discussion about general management recommendations, and element specific recommendations.

19. USE PERMITS:

- ❑ Beach concession
- ❑ Campground firewood store

20. DOCUMENTED PUBLIC CONCERNS:

- ❑ Drownings Frustrate Michigan Officials, July 8, 2003
http://www.lifesaving.com/news/news_articles/news1/N_04-20-08.html
- ❑ Interview of Duncan Wyeth, executive director of the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns, regarding Access to Recreation at Warren Dunes State Park, 7/1/2006.

2.5 Land Acquisition

Imbedded in its mission statement and core values is the acquiring of land with unique resources, or natural, historic, and cultural features. Land is to be acquired for the direct purposes of preserving and protecting natural and historical / cultural features and providing public recreation and educational opportunities.