

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS
for the
DRAYTON PLAINS NATURE CENTER
CONSERVATION EASEMENT
Charter Township of Waterford
Oakland County



SUMMARY

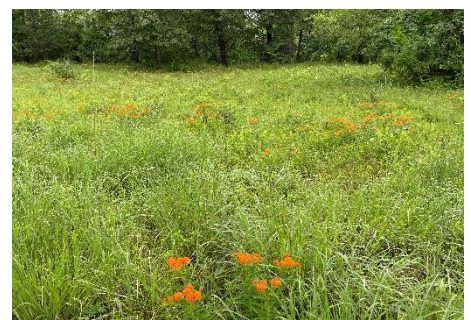
This Management Plan has been prepared in conjunction with a Conservation Easement granted to the Six Rivers Land Conservancy by Drayton Plains Nature Center and in cooperation with Waterford Township Parks & Recreation. The Conservation Easement covers approximately 136 acres of land within the 138-acre property in Waterford Township, Michigan. *Conservation Easement Permitted Uses Section 5 F. Property Management Plan specifies that the “the Owner and Conservancy have agreed to mutually develop a written Management Plan for the Property. The Management Plan shall detail how the Property shall be managed and used in keeping with the Conservation Values and Purposes of this Conservation Agreement. The Owner agrees to manage the Property in accordance with the Management Plan.”*

This Management Plan consists of 25 pages and includes a cover page, a location and site map, a list of conservation goals and a timeline of recommended management. By signing the Management Agreement on page 4, the Owner agrees to manage the Property in accordance with the Management Plan. All referenced documents are permanently filed in the Six Rivers Land Conservancy Geographic Files.

Six Rivers Land Conservancy
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INTRODUCTION

As a community nature center, the Drayton Plains Nature Center (DPNC) has significant opportunity to develop and cultivate community commitment to natural resource quality and conservation through implementation of its management actions. Engaging the community to participate in management actions provides educational opportunities for citizens, service groups and local school systems. Developing engaged and committed volunteers who participate in managing the property will create a strong and dedicated support base that will ensure necessary actions are taken and who can support efforts to develop funding where necessary.

The tactics contained in the management plan are recommended based upon thorough assessment of the property and are prioritized based upon commonly understood management principles for the region. These recommendations are intended to guide the DPNC's approach to resource development and allocation to achieve the intended outcomes. It is understood that available resources will affect the DPNC's ability to pursue specific tactics. It is also understood that community input will influence decisions about the priorities for the center.

SECTION I. MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

Management Principles

This list of Management Principles has been created specifically for the management of the Drayton Plains Nature Center Property. It is intended to provide general guidelines and is not an exhaustive list. Further literature review and expert advice will be needed for more detailed instruction in stewardship techniques. See List of Stakeholders section for contact information regarding referenced experts and consultants.

- Utilize only plants native to southeastern Michigan. Plants cultivated from seeds collected in southeastern Michigan are preferred. Best results will be obtained if the native plants are selected with knowledge of soil type and local historic plant communities in mind and by planning for the appropriate ratio of grasses to wildflowers. Incorporating a good proportion of plugs and/or larger plants at planting time (instead of a seed mix alone) will achieve results more quickly. Consultation through Six Rivers Land Conservancy or with an experienced native plant landscape firm is recommended.
- Invasive species planting will not be allowed. A list of such species would include, but not be limited to, garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Common and Glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*, *Rhamnus frangula*), honeysuckles (*Lonicera spp.*), Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Common burdock (*Arctium minus*), Common periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea biebersteinii*), Autumn or Russian olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*, *Elaeagnus angustifolia*), Dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*), Yellow Rocket/Common Wintercress (*Barbarea vulgaris*), Japanese Barberry (*berberis Thunbergii*) or Non-native Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*).
- Limit cutting of trees or vegetation to the removal of invasive species using appropriate techniques and the removal of hazardous trees for reasons of safety or to protect existing structures and pathways.
- Limit removal of dead vegetation to the high traffic areas and trails. Dead and fallen trees in natural areas provide important habitat for wildlife and should only be removed for reasons of safety.


- Management of wildlife, such as controlled deer hunting, should be planned and implemented in partnership with the DNR Wildlife Division.

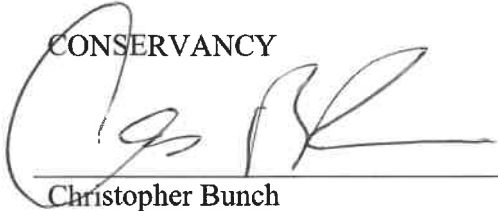
Changes in Management Recommendations

Management recommendations provided by Six Rivers are based on the most current available scientific guidelines and therefore may need to be updated over time. It is recommended that these Management Recommendations be reviewed and revised at least every five years.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES:

OWNER

By:  Date: 7/5/2022
Alison Swanson
Director
Waterford Township Parks
and Recreation Department

CONSERVANCY
By:  Date: 7/10/2022
Christopher Bunch
Executive Director
Six Rivers Land Conservancy

SECTION II. MANAGEMENT UNITS

Overall Goals

Maintain/enhance floristic quality throughout Conservation Easement area. Potential high quality ecosystems include woodland prairie, dry-mesic southern forest, and southern wet meadow. Priority will be assigned to management units containing these community types.

- Re-introduce a regularly scheduled fire regime to the woodland prairie
- Reduce/eliminate invasive plant species
- Reduce/eliminate adverse neighbor interactions with property, which include but are not limited to: dumping of yard waste and trash and vehicle trespass (motorized vehicles, ORVs, etc.)
- Trail creation/maintenance/decommissioning when needed
- Reduce/eliminate erosion along river banks, from/off trails and from Cooley Elementary School runoff
- Maintain/enhance wildlife habitat
- Create educational opportunities for Nature Center patrons
- Create stewardship workday opportunities
- Create and use trail guides and informational signs to explain management practices and important features of Property to educate visitors
- Restore abandoned fishponds to quality examples of native wetland vegetation, wildlife habitat
- Pursue additional resources to aid in the removal of invasive species
- Address adverse easement violations utilizing Code Enforcement Officers for neighbors who are in noncompliance
- Proactive communication with any neighbors that are not in compliance with the Conservation Easement

Identification of Management Units

The property has been divided into several management units. Each unit's goals and management actions will help to guide stewardship on the property. When implemented as a whole, this management plan will assist in maintaining the viability and floristic quality of this property.

- Management Unit 1: White Pine Forest (Priority Ranking = 2)
- Management Unit 2: Research Ponds (Priority Ranking = 2)
- Management Unit 3: Inactive Ponds (Priority Ranking = 1)
- Management Unit 4: DNR Ponds (Priority Ranking = 3)
- Management Unit 5: Pine Flats (Priority Ranking = 1)
- Management Unit 6: Western Mixed Forest (Priority Ranking = 2)
- Management Unit 7: River's Edge Floodplain Forest (Priority Ranking = 1)
- Management Unit 8: Dry-Mesic Southern Forest (Priority Ranking = 1)
- Management Unit 9: Woodland Prairie (Priority Ranking = 1)
- Management Unit 10: Southern Cattail Marsh (Priority Ranking = 2)

Prioritization Key: 1-High, 2-Medium, 3-Low

Management Unit 1 – White Pine Forest*Priority ranking = 2**Description*

Management Unit 1 is located in the northeast corner of the property. It consists of a planted, upland forest ecosystem including white pine, black cherry, catalpa and many shrubs. Two abandoned fish rearing ponds that no longer receive water from the river are also located in this unit. The larger pond covers a significant portion of the unit and is surrounded by very large catalpa trees. This unit, connected only by a thin strip of land, is somewhat isolated from the rest of the property.

Conservation Goals

- Reduce/eliminate invasive plant populations
- Enhance wildlife habitat around the large pond

Management Strategies

Stress 1: Encroachment on easement area by neighbors on the northern boundary of the unit including: property; dumping of trash, lawn debris, etc.; trail clearing; mowing around larger pond.

- Implement a communication plan for the surrounding neighbors to encourage landowner practices that do not degrade the Conservation Easement
- Hold periodic clean-up days to remove trash near the road

Stress 2: Invasive plants such as bittersweet, honeysuckle, barberry, multi-flora rose, etc.

- Survey invasive plant species population locations/sizes
- Remove invasive vegetation using best management techniques

Stress 3: Lack of wildlife habitat

- Maintain wood duck box

Management Unit 2 – Research Ponds

Priority Ranking = 2

Description

Management Unit 2 is located in the northwest corner of the property and includes 11 former fish rearing and research ponds. The water control structures within this Unit have fallen into disrepair. The narrow dikes separating the ponds have become degraded and overgrown with tree and shrub species consistent with lowland ecosystems. The ponds remain full much of the year, allowing wetland wildlife such as mallards and wood ducks to utilize this area for habitat.

Conservation Goals

- Maintain/enhance wetland ecosystem
- Enhance wildlife habitat
- Maintain buffer from Hatchery Road
- Allow habitat around dike system to return to a natural state
- Management Unit may need to be reviewed after the 2022 Road Commission for Oakland County Hatchery Road Bridge Replacement Project has been completed.

*Management Strategies**Stress 1: Invasive plant populations*

- Survey invasive plant species population locations/sizes
- Remove invasive vegetation using best management techniques

Stress 2: Proximity to Hatchery Road

- Maintain a buffer between this Unit and Hatchery Road: plant a row of small trees such as a willow or red osier dogwood species. This may be done by harvesting branches from nearby trees in early spring. Clear four foot planting circles with their centers approximately twelve feet apart. Plant the freshly harvested branches in the middle of these circles. Keep these circles free of competing vegetation until plants become well established
- Consider containment options for street litter. Hold periodic clean-up days to remove trash near road

Stress 3: Limited wildlife habitat structures

- Downed logs should be left in place to increase amphibian and reptile habitat
- A diversity of native plant species should be encouraged along the pond banks

Management Unit 3 – Inactive Ponds

Priority Ranking = 1

Description

Management Unit 3 consists of the five fish rearing ponds that are no longer actively managed by the DNR. Unit 3 is sub-divided into two sub-units: 3a contains ponds 4 and 5, 3b contains ponds 9, 10 and 11. These five ponds are located on the interior of the property between the two branches of the Clinton River. Dikes isolate these ponds from each other and other parts of the Property. The control of invasive plant species on the periphery of each pond is currently the main management goal. As time and resources allow, individual plans can be created to completely restore each pond into a functioning wetland ecosystem for wildlife usage and educational opportunities and observation.

Conservation Goals

Pond 4 is a shallow water pond dominated by phragmites

- Remove invasive vegetation using best management techniques

Pond 5 is a shallow water pond containing herbaceous vegetation, dominantly cattails. The water control structures that feed this pond are in disrepair. The lack of open water and the dense cattail cover give the interior of the pond limited wildlife value. However, the shrub periphery is utilized by many songbirds such as Common Yellowthroat, American Goldfinch, and Chipping Sparrow. These characteristics also make this pond a good education tool for comparison to the other ponds within this Unit. Increasing the amount of surface water would improve wildlife habitat. There is an observation platform on the south side of the pond.

- Enhance wildlife habitat
- Increase water level by adding a board(s) in the discharge control box in the southeast corner of the pond
- Raise the boardwalk located in the southeast corner

Pond 9 is a former pond area consisting of lowland shrubs, grasses and wetland forbs. Primarily dominated by the invasive species of phragmites and buckthorn.

- Remove invasive vegetation using best management techniques
- Enhance wildlife habitat

Pond 10 is a shallow water pond with some open water and with cattails over much of the interior area. Phragmites occupies the shallower northern part. There are trees and brush on the pond border. The pond supports aquatic wildlife, which can be viewed from a platform on the southern bank.

- Remove invasive vegetation using best management techniques

Pond 11 is a former pond area with little water and containing phragmites, cattails, lowland shrubs, grasses, and forbs. Trees and brush border the pond and are encroaching in parts.

- Remove invasive vegetation using best management techniques

Management Unit 4: Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Ponds

Priority Ranking = 3

Description

Management Unit 4 consists of three ponds that are managed by the DNR (ponds 6, 7 and 8). Ponds 6 and 7 are primarily used for rearing warm-water fish. These three ponds are located on the interior of the property between the two branches of the Clinton River. It is bordered on all sides by dikes kept mowed for trails and that isolate these ponds from each other and other parts of the Property.

DNR technicians maintain the ponds in this Unit by cutting brush and unwanted plant species from the pond banks and dikes. In addition, Rotenone, Copper Sulfate, Potassium Permanganate and a variety of aquatic herbicides may be used for pond maintenance (for more details on production and maintenance, contact the DNR).

No management will be conducted in the 3 ponds until a time when the DNR returns management of the Unit 4 property to the Waterford Township Parks and Recreation Department.

Conservation Goals

- Continue communication with the DNR Fisheries Division regarding the continued fish rearing and management practices within these ponds
- As necessary, review agreements between Waterford Township Parks and Recreation Department and DNR Fisheries Division

Management Unit 5: Pine Flats

Priority Ranking = 1

Description

Management Unit 5 is located on the west side of the Property just south of Unit 2. It consists of a historic pine plantation that transitions to southern floodplain forest as you travel south to north within the Unit. Also of special note is an identified oak that is 200+ years of age. Plant species found within the Unit include red and white pine, cottonwood, gooseberry, honeysuckle, grape, bittersweet, cherry and horsetails. The northern section of this Unit has many shrubs that can provide food and cover for wildlife. The trail passing through this Unit also provides an opportunity to see a variety of flora and fauna for educational study.

Conservation Goals

- Eliminate/reduce invasive plant populations, especially bittersweet, buckthorn and garlic mustard
- Maintain pine plantation for educational, recreational and aesthetic values
- Monitor habitat for blister rust
- Restore southern floodplain forest vegetation north of pine plantation
- Maintain the Pine Flats walking trail for use by pedestrians

*Stresses and Management Strategies**Stress 1: Invasive plant populations*

- Map and document invasive species population locations/sizes.
- Invasive vegetation should then be removed at the proper time of the year. Focus on large vines first, buckthorns and other woody species second and garlic mustard/other herbaceous plants third.
- Monitor area for black locust growth.

Stress 2: Understory tree/shrub and native competition

- Remove understory tree sprouts within the pine plantation that are not red or white pine seedlings.
- Trees that are removed can be laid on the ground to add structure to the wildlife habitat already present.
- Monitor for ribes (currants and gooseberries) within the pine plantation understory.
- Remove competing vegetation surrounding the 200+ year old oak.

Stress 3: Dumping of trash/lawn debris, clearing of trails by park neighbors

- Implement a communication plan for the surrounding neighbors to encourage landowner practices that do not degrade the Conservation Easement.

Stress 4: Vegetation impeding Pine Flats walking trail.

- Clear overhanging and other impeding vegetation along the Pine Flats trails to encourage pedestrian use.
- Close and rehabilitate unauthorized trails

Stress 5: Understory revitalization.

- Once spraying is done for bittersweet population, attempts should be made to monitor and plant white pines and other native trees.
- Mechanically clear river bank up to the trail of invasive vegetation, leaving native plants.
- Replant red and/or white pine saplings.

Management Unit 6: Mixed Forest*Priority Ranking = 2***Description**

Management Unit 6 is located on the north end of the westernmost side of the property. Historically the northern portion of this unit was black oak barrens sloping to the southwest into mixed conifer swamp and to the southeast into wet prairie. However, disturbance regimes such as controlled flooding were altered and the unit was planted in pine. Current vegetation consists of pine, mixed hardwoods, a variety of native and non-native woody understory plants and grasses and forbs, such as brome and alfalfa. Both trees and shrubs are encroaching into the grassland area from the south. This Unit serves as a buffer between the residential street and the interior of the Nature Center. There is trail erosion on the north edge of this Unit.

Conservation Goals

- Maintain current walking trail for use by pedestrians
- Reduce/eliminate adverse neighbor interactions
- Reduce/eliminate invasive plant species

Stresses and Management Strategies

Stress 1: Invasive species such as bittersweet, honeysuckle, Japanese barberry, buckthorn, autumn olive, multi-flora rose, etc.

- Complete survey to document invasive species population locations/sizes.
- Invasive vegetation should then be removed at the proper time of the year.

Stress 2: Encroachment on Conservation Easement area

- Implement a communication plan for the surrounding neighbors to encourage landowner practices that do not degrade the Conservation Easement.
- Hold periodic clean-up days to remove trash near road.

Stress 3: Impeding vegetation and erosion on walking trails

- Maintain and keep clear, one main trail for entry off Riverview Drive.

Management Unit 7: River's Edge Floodplain Forest

Priority Ranking = 1

Description of Management Unit

Management Unit 8 consists of the Rivers Edge Trail and Floodplain forest that runs along the east side of the east branch of the Clinton River. Historically this area was a mixed conifer swamp but decades ago the northern portion was planted in pine. Current vegetation includes lowland hardwood trees with pine trees present in the northern portion, shrubs, forbs and grasses. Within this Unit is a low area where run-off collects before slowly percolating or draining away.

Conservation Goals

- Reduce/eliminate invasive plant species
- Make trail passable in all seasons

Stresses and Management Strategies

Stress 1: Invasive species such as bittersweet, honeysuckle, Japanese barberry, buckthorn, phragmites, multi-flora rose.

- Document invasive species population locations/sizes
- Invasive vegetation should then be removed at the proper time of the year,
- Prioritize invasive populations to aide in management

Stress 2: Erosion monitoring

- Monitor erosion and flooding.
- Runoff from Cooley Elementary School east of the Unit. Construction completed by Waterford School District in 2020 did improve some areas of concern, but this still requires monitoring.
- Two portions of the trail run very close to the river. Explore the possibility of alternate trail for this area that would move pedestrians away from the riverbank, as continual erosion threatens the trail's existence.

Management Unit 8: Dry-Mesic Southern Forest*Priority Ranking = 1***Description of Management Unit**

Management Unit 8 is located on the southeast end of the easement (east of the east branch of the Clinton River) and encompasses a high quality dry-mesic southern forest. Historically an Oak-hickory forest, this Unit has retained much of its native vegetation. Although this Unit contains high floral diversity, Jay Snyder noted in his 1993 plan that there is a lack of trees in the 60 – 160 year old age range. He postulated that cattle grazing within the understory of the forest destroyed all the small trees during that period of time. Many trails run throughout this Unit including the previously mapped Woodland Trail. In 1998 the Cooley Woods portion of this Unit was logged, to secure needed funds to support running the Nature Center. There is good habitat for forest wildlife due to the number of seed and berry producing shrubs, the small vernal pond located at the south end of the Unit and the adequate number of tree cavities present. Other items of note include the erosion caused by the Cooley Elementary drainage that runs across this Unit to the Clinton River. There is an observation platform overlooking the northern part of Unit 10.

Conservation Goals

- Reduce/eliminate invasive plant populations
- Reduce/eliminate erosion from the school property
- Reduce/eliminate adverse neighbor interactions

Stresses and Management Strategies*Stress 1: Invasive plant populations*

- Complete a periodic site survey to document invasive species population locations/sizes.
- Invasive vegetation should then be removed at the proper time of the year. Focus first on garlic mustard, second on bittersweet and third on all others.

Stress 2: Loss of oak-hickory tree diversity due to canopy closure

- Create a wildlife enhancing forestry management plan that may include prescribed burning and selective harvest.

Stress 3: Run-off from school property creating erosion problems

- Review current erosion and drainage issues.
- Talk with Waterford School District about possible solutions.
- Runoff from Cooley Elementary School east of the Unit occurs. Construction completed by Waterford School District in 2020 did improve some areas of concern, but this still requires monitoring.

Stress 4: Neighbor encroachment

- Implement a communication plan for the surrounding neighbors to encourage landowner practices that do not degrade the Conservation Easement.
- Monitor possible neighbor encroachment on eastern part of the south boundary.

Management Unit 9: Woodland Prairie

Priority Ranking = 1

Description of Management Unit

Management Unit 9 is located close to the southern boundary on the west side of the property. Historically black-oak barren, current vegetation includes Indian grass, big bluestem, little bluestem, goldenrods, asters and bush clover. This Unit was burned and re-seeded in 1997. An oak woodland transitional boundary surrounds the periphery of this Unit as it slopes into the adjacent wetlands and river.

Conservation Goals

- Reduce/eliminate invasive plant populations
- Continue restoration of prairie habitat
- Reduce/eliminate adverse neighbor interactions

Stresses and Management Strategies*Stress 1: Invasive plant populations.*

- Document invasive species population locations and sizes.
- Invasive vegetation should then be removed at the proper time of the year.
- Focus first on autumn olive, bittersweet and other woody shrubs, second on garlic mustard and third on all others.

Stress 2: Prairie becoming overgrown with woody vegetation

- Create and implement a prescribed burn schedule.
- Remove woody vegetation from prairie, such as autumn olive, grey twigged dogwood, and honeysuckle, while allowing larger oaks to remain.

Stress 3: Property neighbor relations

- Implement a communication plan for the surrounding neighbors to encourage landowner practices that do not degrade the Conservation Easement.

Management Unit 10: Southern Cattail Marsh

Priority Ranking = 2

Description of Management Unit

Management Unit 10 is located in the southeast corner of the Conservation Easement and consists of two wetlands divided by a land bridge that is vegetated with trees and shrubs. Historically a mixed conifer swamp, these wetlands are now both open and consist of emergent phragmites, cattails, and scrub-shrub vegetation.

Conservation Goals

- Reduce/eliminate invasive plant populations
- Reduce/eliminate adverse neighbor interactions

Stresses and Management Strategies

Stress 1: Invasive plant populations

- Document invasive species population locations and sizes.
- Invasive vegetation should then be removed at the proper time of the year.
- Prioritize southeast portion of Unit and treat phragmites.

Stress 2: Neighbor relations

- Implement a communication plan for the surrounding neighbors to encourage landowner practices that do not degrade the Conservation Easement.

SECTION III. LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS*Landowner*

1.

<i>Contact Name:</i>	Alison Swanson		
<i>Title:</i>	Director		
<i>Company:</i>	Waterford Township Parks and Recreation Department		
<i>Address:</i>	5200 Civic Center Dr.		
	Waterford, MI 48329		
<i>Phone:</i>	248-674-5441		
<i>Email</i>	aswanson@waterfordmi.gov	<i>Website:</i>	www.waterfordmi.gov/parks

2.

<i>Contact Name:</i>	Tori Heglin		
<i>Title:</i>	Recreation Supervisor		
<i>Phone:</i>	248-674-5441		
<i>Email</i>	theglin@waterfordmi.gov	<i>Website:</i>	www.waterfordmi.gov/parks

Conservation Easement Holder

<i>Company:</i>	Six Rivers Land Conservancy		
<i>Address:</i>	4480 Orion Rd, P.O. Box 80902		
	Rochester, MI 48308		
<i>Phone:</i>	248-601-2816		
<i>Email</i>	info@sixriversrlc.org	<i>Website:</i>	www.sixriversrlc.org

Conservation Easement Steward per Stewardship Agreement

<i>Contact Name:</i>	Ian Ableson		
<i>Title:</i>	Stewardship Manager		
<i>Company:</i>	Six Rivers Land Conservancy		
<i>Address:</i>	4480 Orion Rd, P.O. Box 80902		
	Rochester, MI 48308		
<i>Phone:</i>	248-601-2816		

Bird Surveys – suggested partner

<i>Contact Name:</i>	Terri Chapdelaine		
<i>Company:</i>	Friends of the Drayton Plains Nature Center		
<i>Address:</i>	1996 Denby Dr.		
	Waterford, MI 48329		
<i>Phone:</i>			
<i>Email</i>	tbirdchap@gmail.com		

SECTION IV. REFERENCES

The following documents were consulted in the preparation of the original Management Plan.

Reference 1

Author	Kost, M.A., D.A. Albert, J.G. Cohen, B.S. Slaughter, R.K. Schillo, C.R. Weber, and K.A. Chapman. 2007
Name of Document	Natural Communities of Michigan: Classification and Description
Date	2007
Location	Michigan Natural Features Inventory, Report No. 2007-21, Lansing, MI.

Reference 2

Author	Susanne Greenlee
Name of Document	Baseline Documentation Report
Date	
Location	Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy Geographical Files

Reference 3

Author	Michigan State University, Michigan Natural Features Inventory
Name of Document	Michigan Natural Communities Abstracts
Date	Updated 2007
Location	http://web4.msue.msu.edu/mnfi/

APPENDIX 1. MAPS

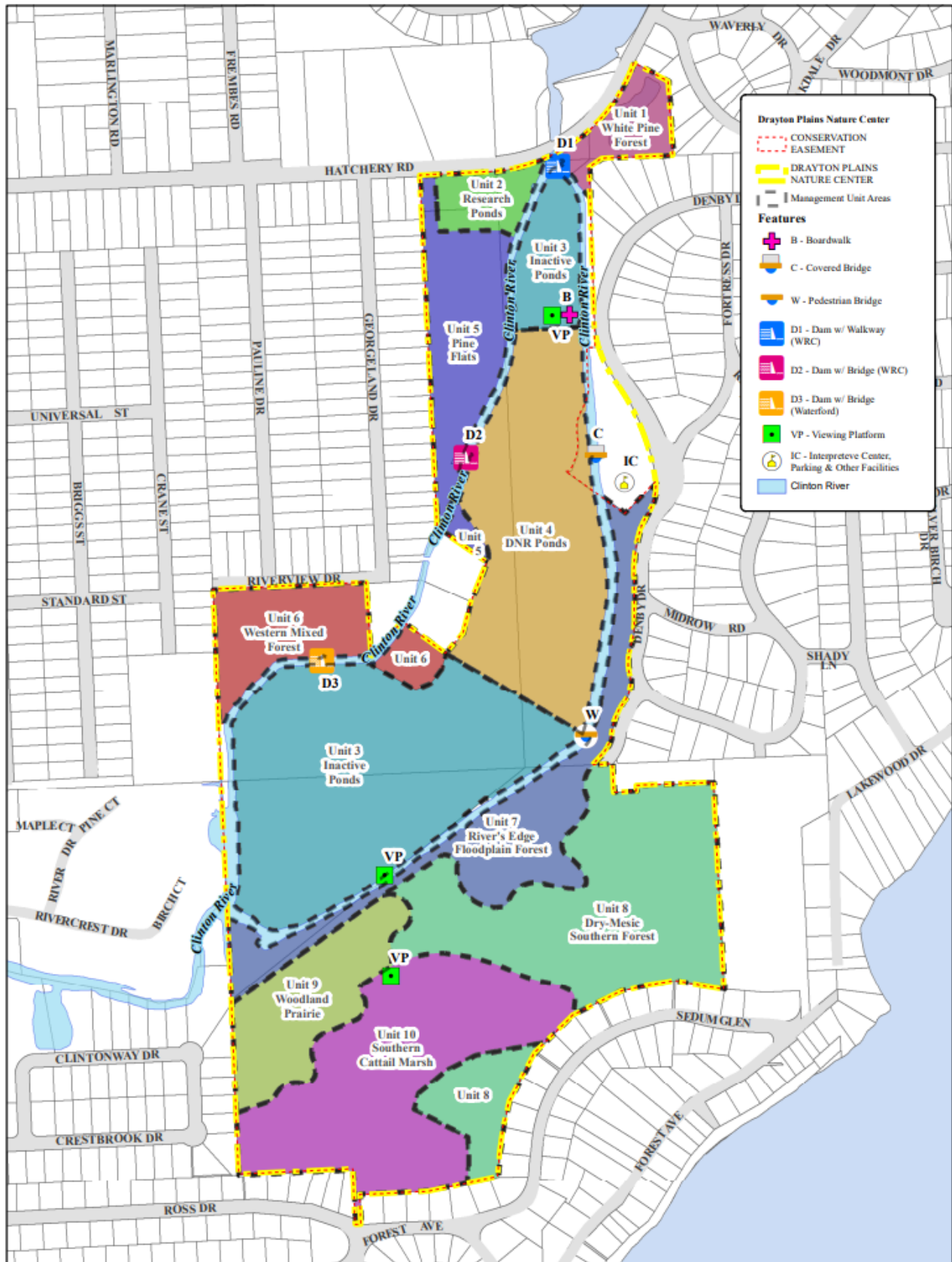
Map 1. Management Units Map



Map 2. Features Map 1



Map 3. Features Map 2



APPENDIX 2. EXCERPTS FROM CONSERVATION EASEMENT—PROHIBITED ACTIONS AND RESERVED RIGHTS

4. PROHIBITED ACTIONS. Any activity on, or use of, the Property which is inconsistent with the Purposes of this Conservation Easement or which is detrimental to the Conservation Values is expressly prohibited. By way of example, but not by way of limitation, the following activities and uses are explicitly prohibited:

A. Division. Any division or subdivision of the Property is prohibited.

B. Commercial Activities. Any commercial activity on the Property is prohibited except as associated with permitted activities as specified in Section 5 below.

C. Industrial Activities. Any industrial activity on the Property is prohibited.

D. Construction. The placement or construction of any human-made modification such as, but not limited to, buildings, roads, and parking lots is prohibited. This prohibition does not prohibit the maintenance or replacement of any structure existing at the time this Conservation Easement is executed as permitted in 5.C. or the erection of fences as permitted in 5.H. Additionally Parties anticipate the future construction of unpaved trails, footbridges, boardwalks, observation decks, seating areas, structures to support ecological interpretation and study (such as deer enclosures and bird nesting boxes). Any added structures, improvements, modifications, or uses must be consistent with the Conservation Values of the Property. Prior to beginning construction, Owner will provide a written plan to the Conservancy for the Conservancy's review and approval according to the procedures established in Section 8 below. Such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

E. Cutting Vegetation. Any cutting or removal of trees or vegetation, living or dead, including pruning or trimming, is prohibited, except to remove hazardous or dead trees for reasons of safety and to protect existing or authorized roads, fences, foot trails and paths, except as specified in Section 5 below.

F. Land Surface and Subsurface Alteration. Any mining or alteration of the surface of the land is prohibited, including any substance that must be quarried or removed by methods that will consume or deplete the surface estate, including, but not limited to, the removal of topsoil, sand, gravel, rock, and peat. In addition, exploring for, developing, and extracting oil, gas, hydrocarbons, or petroleum products are all prohibited activities, whether by perpendicular or directional drilling and extraction techniques and regardless of whether the surface is disturbed.

G. Dumping. Waste, rubbish, refuse, construction debris or other landscaping and yard care debris or material may not be accumulated or permitted on the Property regardless of whether placed on the Property by Owner or a third party.

H. Water Courses. Natural watercourses, lakes, wetlands, or other bodies of water may not be altered, except for regulation of water flow in and out of ponds as specified in Section 5.E. below.

I. Vehicles. Motorized vehicles such as, but not limited to, automobiles, trucks, sport utility vehicles, snowmobiles, dune buggies, all-terrain vehicles, and motorcycles may not be operated on the Property, except as permitted in sections 5 and 6 below.

J. Signs and Billboards. Billboards are prohibited. Signs are prohibited, except for the signs indicated below. Such signs shall be sited, designed, and constructed so as not to interfere with the Conservation Values of the Property. The following signs may be displayed to state:

- (1) The name and address of the Property or the owner's name.
- (2) Nature Center hours, including hours of operation and details about restrictions on use by Nature Center visitors.
- (3) Interpretive Signage for use by Nature Center visitors. Interpretive signage must not interfere with the Conservation Values of the Property. Owner shall provide a written plan to the Conservancy for the Conservancy's review and approval. Such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- (4) The area is protected by a Conservation Easement.
- (5) Prohibition of any unauthorized entry or use.
- (6) An advertisement for the sale or rent of the Property.
- (7) Signs as permitted in section 6.E below.

5. PERMITTED USES. The Owner reserves for itself and its personal representatives, heirs, successors, and assigns all ownership rights, which are not expressly restricted by this Conservation Easement. In particular, the following rights are reserved:

K. Right to Manage Property for Passive Recreation. The Owner retains the right to allow the following passive recreational uses: hiking, environmental education, and wildlife observation so long as such uses do not impair or destroy the Conservation Values as stated in this Conservation Easement. Additional uses need to be approved by the Conservancy as provided in Section 5.F. below.

L. Right to Convey. The Owner retains the right to sell, mortgage, bequeath, or donate the Property. The Owner retains the right to grant easements, leases and licenses on, over, under, across and/or through the Property so long as any such grant is for a public purpose and does not impair or destroy the Conservation Values as stated in this Conservation Easement. Any such conveyance will remain subject to the terms of the Conservation Easement and the subsequent Owner or grantee will be bound by all obligations in this agreement. In the case of a conflict between this Conservation Easement, and any subsequently granted easement, lease, or license, the terms of this Conservation Easement shall control.

M. Right to Maintain and Replace Existing Structures. The Owner retains the right to maintain, renovate, and replace the existing structure(s) as noted in the Baseline Documentation Report in substantially the same location and size. Any expansion or replacement may not substantially alter the character or function of the structure. Prior to beginning renovation or replacement of the existing structures, the Owner will provide a written plan to the Conservancy for the Conservancy's review and approval. Such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

N. Right to provide connection to Riverwalk. The Owner retains the right to connect the Property with Waterford Township's Riverwalk trail system on the western edge of the Property as noted in the Baseline Documentation Report by providing a wooden bridge of similar size and construction to the existing Riverwalk bridge constructed by Waterford Township to cross the Clinton River on the north side of M-59 and an unpaved trail of not more than five feet in width that provides access to the Property's trail network. Construction plans for the existing Riverwalk bridge are referenced in the Baseline Documentation Report.

O. Right to manage fish-rearing and wetland habitat ponds. The Owner retains the right to manage fish-rearing and wetland habitat ponds and to regulate flow of water in and out of the ponds on the Property or to permit the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or another agency to manage and regulate the ponds on the Property, so long as such management does not impair or destroy the Conservation Values as stated in this Conservation Easement. Specific management practices, including habitat restoration of inactive ponds, will be described in the Property Management Plan as provided in Section 5.F. below.

P. Property Management Plan. The Owner and Conservancy have agreed to mutually develop a written Management Plan for the Property. The Management Plan shall detail how the Property shall be managed and used in keeping with the Conservation Values and Purposes of this Conservation Agreement. The Owner agrees to manage the Property in accordance with the Management Plan.

The Management Plan shall be consistent with the terms of this Conservation Easement and shall be approved by the Owner and the Conservancy. The Management Plan may be amended if approved in writing by both parties.

The Management Plan will encourage long-term sustainable stewardship conducive to the propagation and retention of healthy native plants and trees and wild populations of game and non-game native species of birds and mammals, which could include the cutting of invasive vegetation and management of woody debris in the Clinton River.

In the event that the Owner fails to implement management activities set forth in the Management Plan, and such failure continues for a period of thirty days after written notice to the Owner, the Conservancy and the Owner shall meet to discuss and confer as to the reasons, if any, for such failure by the Owner, and attempt to agree upon a plan and schedule for such implementation and/or agree upon any necessary modification to the Management Plan. If no agreement can be reached, or if the Owner refuses or fails to meet, the Conservancy, without further notice shall have the right, but not obligation, to implement such management activities at its expense, so long as management activities do not interfere with the Owner's use of the property. The Remedies provided in Section 7 shall not apply in connection with enforcement of this subsection 5.F.

Q. Limited Vehicular Use. The Owner, including Owner's officials, employees and agents, may operate a motor vehicle or other necessary equipment on the property in conducting forestry management or other management practices in accordance with an approved management plan or as necessary in any corrective or recovery action whether in an emergency or not, as permitted in this Conservation Easement. Vehicle use for special events and educational purposes or for transportation of the disabled is limited to the trails indicated as "Limited Vehicle Use" on the Site Map (see Exhibit B, Map 4).

R. Fences. The Owner may install fencing to demarcate boundary lines and uses as needed. Fences shall be sited and constructed so as not to interfere with the Conservation Values of the Property.

Protection of Public Health and Safety. The Owner may disturb the Conservation Values, if and only to the limited extent, it is determined (and, if time permits, following notice to and recommendation of the Conservancy) that disturbance is required for the protection of public health and safety, and that there are no feasible and prudent alternatives to such disturbance.

APPENDIX 3. SPECIES LISTS

Species of interest in each ecological community are referenced in the Conservation Easement baseline documentation report. Formal species lists have not yet been created.

List 1. Plant Species List

Species list compiled from field observations, including signs, and interviews.

COMMON NAME	Date of SV	Reference

List 2. Mammal Species List

Species list compiled from field observations, including signs, and interviews.

COMMON NAME	Date of SV	Reference

List 3. Bird Species List

Species list compiled from field observations and interviews. 191 species observed as of 2021 year-end.

For a complete list please visit www.waterfordmi.gov/parks

List 4. Herpetile Species List

Species list compiled from field observations and interviews.

COMMON NAME	Date of SV	Reference

List 5. Insect Species List

Species list compiled from field observations and interviews.

COMMON NAME	Date of SV	Reference