

## Appendix C

### Opportunities for Resource Conservation in Presque Isle County

There are local, state and federal programs available today that work towards conservation of our natural resource base. Current local planning and zoning can play a role in resource conservation. There may also be opportunities on the horizon that will provide a higher level of resource conservation and protection. Please list the opportunities, both currently available and potentially available in the near future. Note if they are current or future opportunities.

#### Opportunities

- Lack of development of privately owned land
- Vast areas of State held land, and possibilities to link these lands and conserve their resources
- General public sympathetic to conservation and highly values natural resources as a quality of life issue
- Wetlands Reserve Program (conservation easements & restoration)
- Conservation Security Program (direct payments to farmers that do conservation) FUTURE
- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (cost-share & incentive payments for conservation)
- Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (Program (cost-share & incentive payments for conservation)
- Conservation Reserve Program (annual payments to qualified farms for conservation habitat)
- Partners for Wildlife Program (USFWS for habitat restoration)
- Headwaters Land Conservancy
- Wildlife corridors (present/future)
- Environmental Conservation zoning districts (present/future)
- Conservation easements (future)
- Habitat easements (future)
- Conservation setbacks in zoning districts (future)
- Greenbelt setbacks in Commercial and Industrial zoning districts (future)
- Green Infrastructure public outreach programs (present/future)
- Power line/greenbelt initiatives( future)
- Current opportunity - Coastal Zone Management grant funding for: Land use plans and zoning ordinances for coastal communities that emphasize coastal resource and water quality protection; development of management plans and habitat restoration plans for coastal parks and preserves in state, local, or nonprofit ownership; on-the-ground habitat management/restoration for coastal lands in state or local ownership; surveys/inventories for rare species and communities; interpretive displays and educational campaigns with the goal of increasing local stewardship of coastal resources and water quality; other studies/research that would improve state or local management of coastal resources and water quality. Grant program administered by Coastal Management Program, DEQ. NOAA is source of funds.

## Presque Isle County Green Infrastructure

- Current opportunity – Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) funding for public acquisition of coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values. Lands that have significant ecological value hold the highest priority for protection. Lands or types of lands eligible for acquisition should be identified in state's CELCP plan. Grant program administered by Coastal Management Program, DEQ. NOAA is source of funds.
- Enhance the compatibility of forest management activities with conservation of natural ecological systems through promotion of BMPs, establishment of conservation easements, and certification of any commercially managed forest lands.
- Expand the underwater preserve to protect sinkholes, or apply the same strategy to nearshore waters in Presque Isle County
- Develop partnerships to connect existing protected areas along the shoreline and inland areas.
- Develop network of monitors and stewards for detecting and eradicating invasive species as soon as they establish in the county (or broader area).
- Explore approaches for increasing conservation capacity in the County and northeast region generally by developing partnerships to identify shared priorities and pursue funding opportunities.
- Expand land protection strategies (acquisition, easements and management agreements).
- Development of an Interpretative Center for Watersheds in Alpena
- Preservation of sinkholes

## Threats to the Natural Resource Base in Presque Isle County

**While Presque Isle County is blessed with an abundant and rich natural resource base, changes are occurring. Do you feel there are threats to the County's resource base? Think in terms of current and future threats. Please list what you feel are the threats and note if they are current or future threats.**

### Threats

- State economy, and consequent lack of funding to properly preserve and protect
- Development pressure, especially riparian property...most notably from real estate sector
- Lack of priority with most elected officials to commit funds for staff to monitor and enforce current zoning and other ordinances
- Lack of priority with elected officials to truly preserve and protect resources...also don't want to be or appear as antidevelopment
- Surface and Groundwater protection
- Uncontrolled Urban growth (Farm the best soil and plan other uses for marginal farmland) Includes forestland as well.
- Economic stability (sustainable use of the natural resources that maintains, supports and develops local jobs)
- Invasive species control (aquatic and terrestrial)
- Lack of green infrastructure programs in master plans
- Lack of funding for conservation easement purchases
- Habitat destruction in construction/maintenance operations
- Land-consumptive, poorly-planned development patterns – current and future threat

## Presque Isle County Green Infrastructure

- Loss of natural shoreline and riparian habitats serving as important links between aquatic and upland habitats – current and future threat
- Loss of habitat corridors and riparian corridors linking large blocks of publicly-owned or protected habitat – future threat
- Fragmentation of large blocks of habitat – future threat
- Improperly sited, sized, and/or maintained septic systems serving shoreline properties – current threat
- Inadequate understanding and appreciation at the local level of the importance of natural resource protection to tourism, resource-based industries, and preservation of rural character – current threat
- Conversion of natural shoreline areas to residential land use—current.
- Contamination of groundwater—current.(?)
- Incompatible forest management, i.e., management that leads to conversion of natural forest types to some other type and diminishment of ecological values—current.
- Invasive species, including invasive plants (aquatic and terrestrial) and forest pests—current.
- Unplanned development that leads to fragmentation (or destruction) of intact, contiguous natural areas—current.
- Diversion of groundwater or surface water to the extent that streams, lakes, and wetlands are significantly altered—future(?)
- Coal-fired Power plant
- ATV and snowmobile use on beaches
- Run-off from developed lakeshore properties
- Maybe Wind Turbine Generators
- Fragmentation of large tracts of private lands
- Habitat conversion along lakeshores which results in the reduction of T & E species
- Invasive species
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## Goals for the Green Infrastructure Plan

We will formulate goals at our next committee meeting. Prior to the meeting, I would like some input to give us a starting point. Please take some time to provide your ideas on goals for conserving and protecting the county's resource base.

### Potential Goals

Educate and inform landowners, businesses and local officials on the importance of Green Infrastructure.

Maintain and improve access to nature for all citizens.

Manage and protect wildlife habitat and corridors.

Preserve working landscapes including farms and forests.

## Presque Isle County Green Infrastructure

Encourage communities to retain their identity and plan for sustainable development, employment and natural resource protection.

Provide a framework for implementing and evaluating the success of the Green Infrastructure Plan.

### From Committee

- Create the GREEN plan
- Publicize the initiative to heighten public awareness, especially that of elected officials.
- Solicit participation and endorsement of similar minded groups and organizations
- Take the plan to governmental bodies for consideration and possible adaptation.
- Continually develop up to date maps and analysis of natural resources and potential development impacts utilizing existing and improved geo-referenced resource information with GIS capabilities. Integrate these capabilities with county data such as tax parcel layer.
- Utilize these maps and detailed information to assist public officials in understanding, analysis and decision making process for the future that more fully incorporates the best use natural resource management in the future.
- Important goal would be to update community land use plans in the county to incorporate the PIGI plan. A subsequent accessory goal would be to revise community zoning ordinances to reflect the PIGI-related updates to the land use plans.
- Incorporate the PIGI plan into the state's CELCP plan
- Use the PIGI plan to identify private unprotected lands with important ecological and conservation values, and target them for protection (outright acquisition, acquisition of conservation easements, work with private landowners to manage or restore habitat)
- Encourage DNR FMFMD to address PIGI plan in their state forest compartment review process (ongoing)
- Encourage DNR PRD to address PIGI plan in their Thompson's Harbor State Park planning process (now underway)
- Identify priorities for conservation among potential natural areas with respect to conservation of locally and regionally important natural communities and native species
- Develop a process for incorporating areas identified as priorities for conservation into local and regional planning and zoning.
- Provide information regarding the reasons potential natural areas were identified, including a listing of natural communities and rare and common species found in each area (excepting species that may be sensitive to collection or harassment).
- Recommend activities that are compatible with conservation of the potential natural areas and suggestions for municipalities to capitalize on natural areas in their jurisdiction.
- Develop education programs in K-12 on Lifelong (adult) classes
- Expand and improve access to coastal resources within existing parks
- Maintain key natural areas
- Continue to update zoning ordinances to address environmental concerns

## Presque Isle County Green Infrastructure

### Meeting Comments 6-27-07

#### Hub 1

Fragmentation of large tracts

Loss of wetlands

Lack of shared philosophy for preservation of nature

Habitat conversion along lakeshores which results in the reduction of T & E species

Invasive species

#### Hubs 2, 4, 6

Dams that increase water temps and

Waterfront setbacks too close and greenbelt language confusing

Increase in tannins in river water

Heavy recreation use from Ocqueoc alls to Lake Huron

Erosion structures placed in river channel many years ago are causing problems

Road construction and improvements (road stream crossings)

Lake Nettie dense lakeshore development

#### Hub 5

Rainy Lake drains every 10 years

Sandy Soils are vulnerable to groundwater contamination

Heavy recreation use with ATV's

#### Hub 9

Mining and residential development

Coal fired power plant

Expansion of industrial operations

#### Hub 8

Loss of groundwater

Over harvesting of forests and limited reforestation efforts on private lands