

# Goals and Objectives

## Nature Preserve Goals and Objectives

**Provide an opportunity for residents, tourists and future generations to experience the natural environment of coastal communities – plants and wildlife.**

- Provide birding a site for people.
- Provide views to the Thunder Bay Island Group.
- Provide access to the many ecological communities and rare biological species.
- Provide a place for schools and individuals to study natural ecosystems, flora and fauna.
- Develop a nature study brochure and signage to feature the natural communities and flora.

**Coordinate with existing activities to make the Nature Preserve part of a regional tourism package.**

- The Preserve can be an attraction for tourism, and part of an eco-tourism/historic/outdoor recreation package that will draw people to the area.
- Work with organizations and efforts such as the Alpena Tourism and Convention Bureau, US-23 Heritage Route, Michigan State Parks, Huron Greenways, NOAA Maritime Heritage Center, Sunrise Side Tourism.

**Protect natural communities, and rare flora and fauna.**

- The property is home to a number of rare species and functions as an important migratory bird stop-over (neo-tropical birds, shorebirds and waterfowl). Public use should be allowed within reason with an emphasis on protecting the sensitive areas.
- To maintain ecosystem integrity, invasive species should be monitored and managed. Invasive species can become an issue during construction projects. Disturbed sites create a receptive seed bed; equipment and fill such as road gravel and top soil bring in the seed source. The monitoring program should be stepped up after any construction project.
- Periodically evaluate the threat of wildfires and develop a policy to address fighting wildfires.

**Provide for a variety of outdoor recreational activities while protecting the fragile environment of the property.**

- Provide access to Misery Bay for canoes and kayaks.
- Provide controlled access to sinkholes for diving and observation.
- Provide an area for the public to hunt.
- Provide off road parking.
- Provide a marked/signed trail system for people to hike the property and not get lost.
- Develop a brochure of the property that shows trail system, cover type, plant communities, sinkhole, parking, park rules, picnic areas, etc.
- Provide nature education for schools and individuals by placing signs, and developing a brochure.
- Establish a means to provide surveillance and policing of the park.
- Monitor and regulate usage so overuse and abuse of the land do not negatively impact the fragile communities on the property.
- The Township needs to be flexible with options and adjust management activities to address needs and concerns.

## **Alpena Township Nature Preserve**

- Make sure management activities and recreational development on the property is covered by liability insurance.
- Ban the use of snowmobiles and ATV's on the property, including but not limited to along the shore and on the exposed bottomlands.
- Ban the use of motor vehicles along the shoreline and on the exposed bottomlands, particularly driving to the sinkholes.

### **Support the long term management of the park**

- Establish a mechanism to provide long term funding for management and maintenance.
- Explore the possibility of setting up some endowment that can accept private funds and public funds earmarked for the preserve.
- Establish a mechanism for enforcing park rules.