

Recreation Resources

This section presents the recreational resources available at Wetzel State Recreation Area and regional recreational facilities that are similar in terms of size and existing or potential population service area. Not all parks have been inventoried; smaller, neighborhood or community parks owned and operated by local governments, which meet the active recreation needs of residents, are not included. These parks are very important and the purpose is not to diminish their value. Rather, the purpose is to identify parks that offer opportunities similar to those which could be offered by Wetzel State Recreation Area.

Wetzel State Recreation Area Recreational Resources

Currently the Recreation Area is primarily undeveloped. Existing facilities include a parking area and unpaved trail. Activities that can be enjoyed are:

- Model airplane landing strip
- Pavilion at landing strip
- Picnic tables, viewing area and gravel parking
- Cross-country skiing
- Hiking
- Hunting
- Snowmobiling
- Restrooms

Visitors are welcome from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm, year round. Natural amenities include the wetland mitigation areas. Figure A-15 presents the recreational resources and natural features currently available within the park. Note: there is no water or sewer service currently available at Wetzel SRA. All wells have been capped, with the exception of one shallow well by the flying club that is useable but not for potable water.

Areas of Conflict

With diverse and multiple interests come the potential for conflict between users and/or between users and the natural resources or historic/cultural values of the Recreation Area. Conflicts will be reviewed during Phase II of the General Management Plan process.

Surrounding Recreational Resources

Determination of existing recreational facilities and programs is an essential step in the recreation planning process. This section inventories recreational facilities that share a similar function of a Regional* park. These facilities are detailed on the maps of Existing Recreational Facilities (Figure A-16). In addition to the below facilities, it should be noted that the landfill in Lenox Township is a potential future recreational resource.

Macomb County Parks

1. Freedom Hill County Park, Sterling Heights, 100 acres
 - ◆ Primary venue events such as ethnic festivals, markets, auto shows, holiday festivals such as Fourth of July, and boat shows. Amphitheater makes ideal location for concerts.
 - ◆ Recreational facilities include: bike path, playground, pavilions, covered picnic areas, and nature trail.
2. Macomb-Orchard Trail, Shelby Township to City of Richmond, 24-Mile Linear Park
 - ◆ When complete, the trail will link to 180 miles of existing trailways in southeast Michigan. Parks, restrooms and benches are provided along the trail.
 - ◆ The first of three phases is complete.

* The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) generally defines Regional parks as those that consist of 200 to 1,000 acres in size and serve communities within an hour's drive.

Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA)

1. Metrobeach Metropark, Harrison Township, 770 Acres
 - ◆ Swimming beach (1.25 miles of frontage on Lake St. Clair)
 - ◆ Swimming pool with water slides and spray park
 - ◆ Playgrounds
 - ◆ Marina and boat launch
 - ◆ Winter fishing
 - ◆ Nature center
 - ◆ Pavilions for concerts
 - ◆ Hiking / bike trail
 - ◆ 18-Hole Golf Course

2. Wolcott Mill Metropark, Ray Township, 2,625 Acres
 - ◆ Farm animal viewing
 - ◆ Camp Rotary: Activity building and picnic pavilion
 - ◆ 18-Hole golf course

3. Stony Creek Metropark, Shelby and Washington Townships, 4,461 Acres
 - ◆ Nature center
 - ◆ 6.2-Mile hiking / bike trail
 - ◆ Beaches
 - ◆ Boat launch
 - ◆ Disc golf course
 - ◆ 18-hole regulation golf course.

State Parks, Recreation Areas and Public Boat Launches

1. Algonac State Park, Clay Township, 1,500 Acres
Approximately 30 miles east of Wetzel State Recreation Area
 - ◆ State Park Explorer Program (interpretive hikes)
 - ◆ Playgrounds
 - ◆ Fishing
 - ◆ Picnic area & shelters
 - ◆ Shooting / archery range
 - ◆ Hiking
 - ◆ Cross country skiing (trails are not groomed)
 - ◆ Summer and winter camping
 - ◆ Metal detecting area.

2. Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Orion Township, 4,637 Acres
Approximately 30 miles northwest of Wetzel State Recreation Area
 - ◆ Camping (rustic cabins)
 - ◆ Hunting
 - ◆ Playgrounds
 - ◆ Beach house & swimming
 - ◆ Fishing
 - ◆ Canoeing
 - ◆ Picnic tables, fire pits / grills and picnic shelters
 - ◆ Shooting / archery range
 - ◆ Hiking
 - ◆ Mountain biking
 - ◆ Snowmobile area
 - ◆ Boat launch

- ◆ Cross country skiing
- ◆ Metal detection areas

Nature Preserves

See Natural Areas inventory.

Campgrounds

There are no public or private campgrounds within Chesterfield, Lenox, Macomb or Ray Townships. In addition to the camping facilities at the State Parks listed in this section, there are several private campground facilities within Macomb County.

Sportsmen's Clubs

There are several sportsman's clubs near Wetzel State Recreation Area. Lenox Township contains three sportsmen's clubs. These private facilities provide a variety of recreational opportunities for members. Two facilities, Huron Pointe Sportsmen's Association and St. Clair Shores Sportsmen's Association, encompass approximately 200 acres of land in the southeast corner of the Township. The third, Gilbert Sportsmen's Club, is located partly in Section 30 of Lenox Township and partly in Section 25 of Ray Township. Access to the site is from Omo Road in Lenox.

1. Lakeport State Park, Burtchville Township, 565 Acres
Approximately 50 miles northeast of Wetzel State Recreation Area
 - ◆ Michigan State Park Explorer Program (interpretive hikes)
 - ◆ Playgrounds
 - ◆ Swimming
 - ◆ Picnic tables, fire pits / grills and picnic shelters
 - ◆ Concession / store
 - ◆ Metal detection areas
2. Port Huron State Game Area, Clyde and Grant Townships, 6,000 Acres
Approximately 45 miles northeast of Wetzel State Recreation Area
3. St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area, Harsen's Island - Clay Township, 6,500 Acres
Approximately 45 miles northeast of Wetzel State Recreation Area. Includes St. John's Marsh, St. Clair Flats Game Area and Harsens Island.
 - ◆ Hunting
 - ◆ Fishing
 - ◆ Boating
 - ◆ Nature Trails

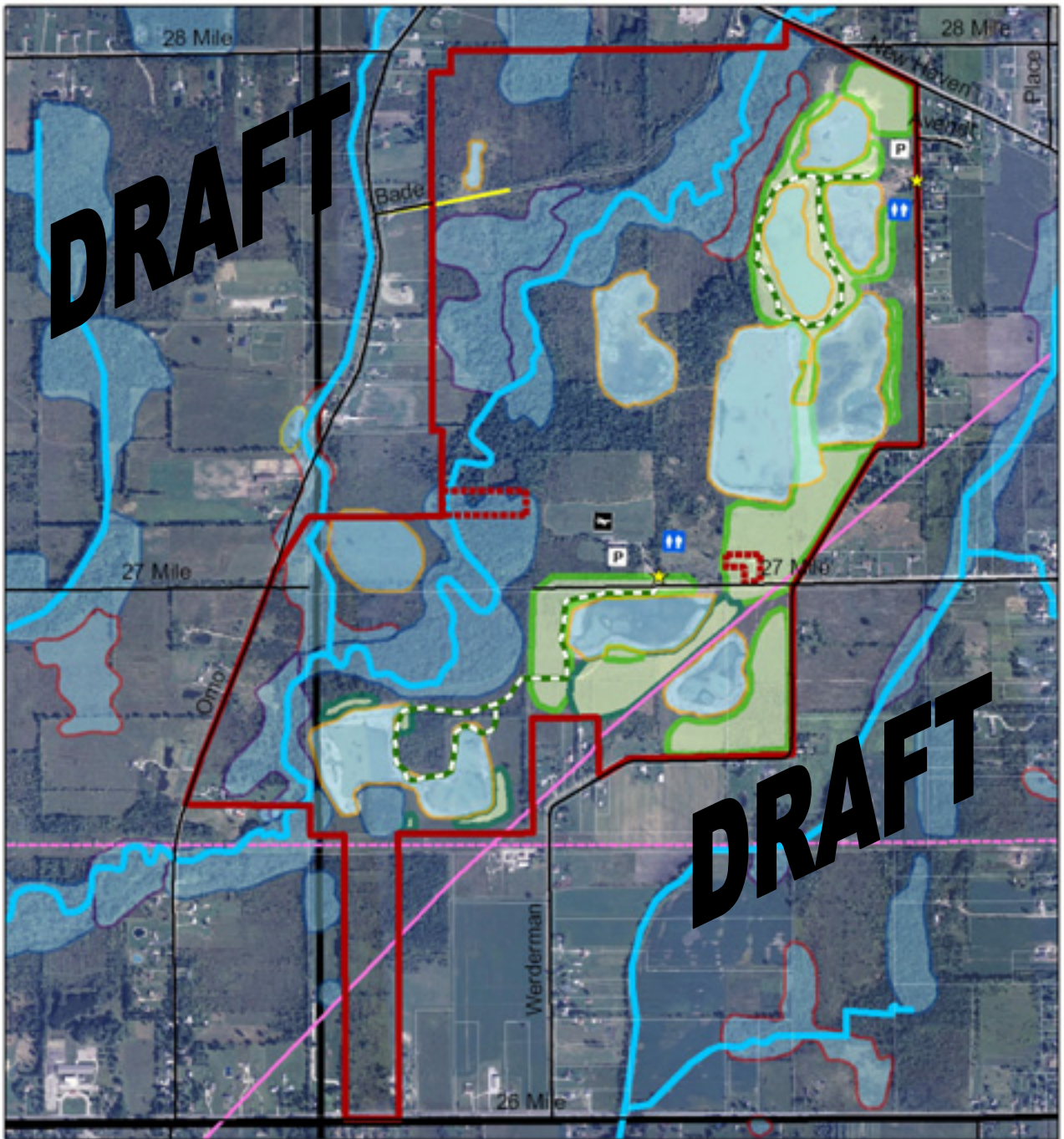
Golf Courses and Driving Ranges

There are currently many golf courses in the area. There are twenty-five golf courses in Macomb County and twenty-seven in St. Clair, five of which are private. Golf courses tend to be a principal feature of many HCMA Metroparks.

Public Boat Launches

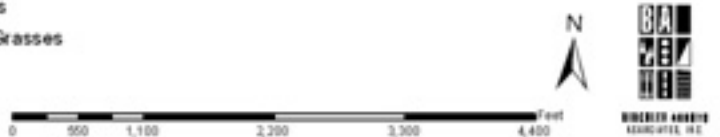
The following facilities are boat launches managed by the MDNR and other public entities.

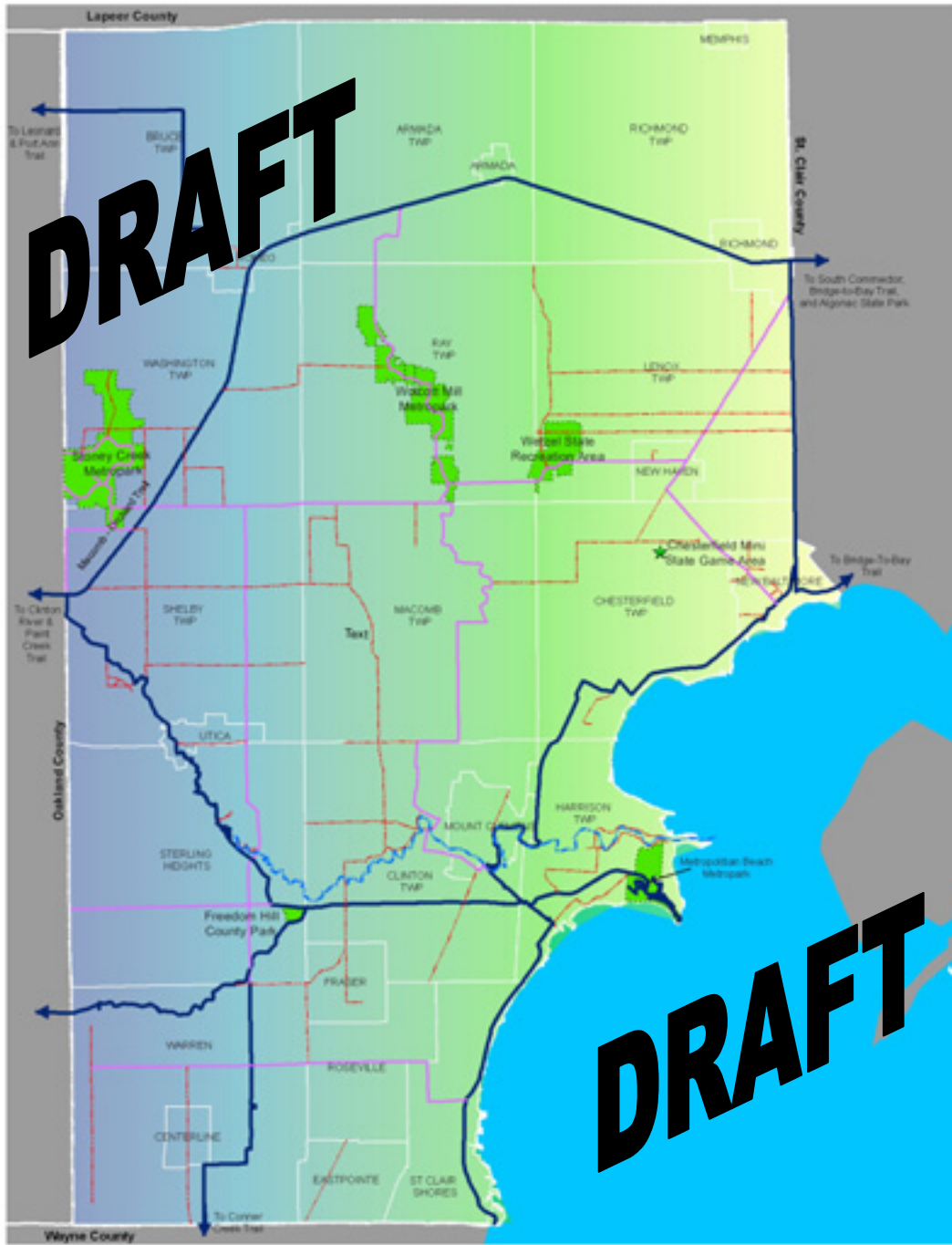
| Boat Launch | County | Access Provided To: |
|--|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Algonac Municipal Ramp | St. Clair | N. Channel, St. Clair River |
| Algonac State Park | St. Clair | St. Clair River |
| Ames | St. Clair | Middle Channel, St. Clair River |
| Deckers Landing | St. Clair | N. Channel, St. Clair River |
| Fair Haven | St. Clair | Lake St. Clair |
| Harley Ensign Memorial Launch | Macomb | Clinton River / Lake St. Clair |
| I-94 Bridge Municipal Ramp | St. Clair | Black River |
| Marine City | St. Clair | St. Clair River |
| N. Channel | St. Clair | N. Channel St. Clair River |
| Selfridge Boat Launch | Macomb | Lake St. Clair |
| Snooks | St. Clair | Middle Channel, St. Clair River |
| St. Clair Municipal Ramp | St. Clair | Pine River |
| 12 th Street Municipal Ramp | St. Clair | Black River |
| Walkers Flats Impoundment | St. Clair | Black River |
| Brandenburg Memorial Park | Macomb | Lake St. Clair |
| Metro Beach | Macomb | Lake St. Clair |
| Stony Creek Metropark | Macomb | Stony Creek Lake |



- ▭ Wetzel SRA Boundary
- ▭ Inholding Parcel
- ★ Entrance (Main on Werderman)
- ▭ Restrooms
- ▭ Parking
- ▭ Air Field
- ▭ Existing Trail
- ▭ Utility Easement - Pipeline
- ▭ Utility Easement - Electric
- ▭ Bade Road Certified ROW (1,400 feet east of Omro Rd)
- ▭ Wetlands (Mitigated)
- ▭ Wetlands (Emergent Wetlands)
- ▭ Wetlands (Forested Wetlands)
- ▭ Wetlands (Open Water / Unknown)
- ▭ Wetlands (Scrub-Shrub)
- ▭ Prairie Grasses
- ▭ Cool Season Grasses

Figure A-15
 Wetzel State Recreation Area
 Lenox Township, Michigan





Source: Placech County GIS

Figure A-16: Regional Parks

Wetzel State Recreation Area
Lenox Township, Michigan

- Regional Corridor
- County Connector
- Local Connector
- - - Proposed Blueway Water Trail
- Regional Parks

0 7,500 15,000 30,000 45,000 60,000 Feet



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