

Log out 2/7/66

GRAND MERE ASSOCIATION
Box 140
Stevensville, Michigan

The Grand Mere Association believes.....that a community should progress and develop in a logical and orderly manner with proper consideration being given to future needs in areas of natural resources for industrial, business, agricultural, recreational, and educational purposes. Each parcel of land should be evaluated with reference to how it may best be utilized in relation to the regional community.

Because Grand Mere is geologically unique and irreplaceable, this area should be preserved as nearly as possible in its natural state for public recreational and educational purposes. The long range wisdom of such a choice is apparent when consideration is given to the fact that Lincoln Township still has over 6,000 acres of undeveloped land available for commercial and industrial development.

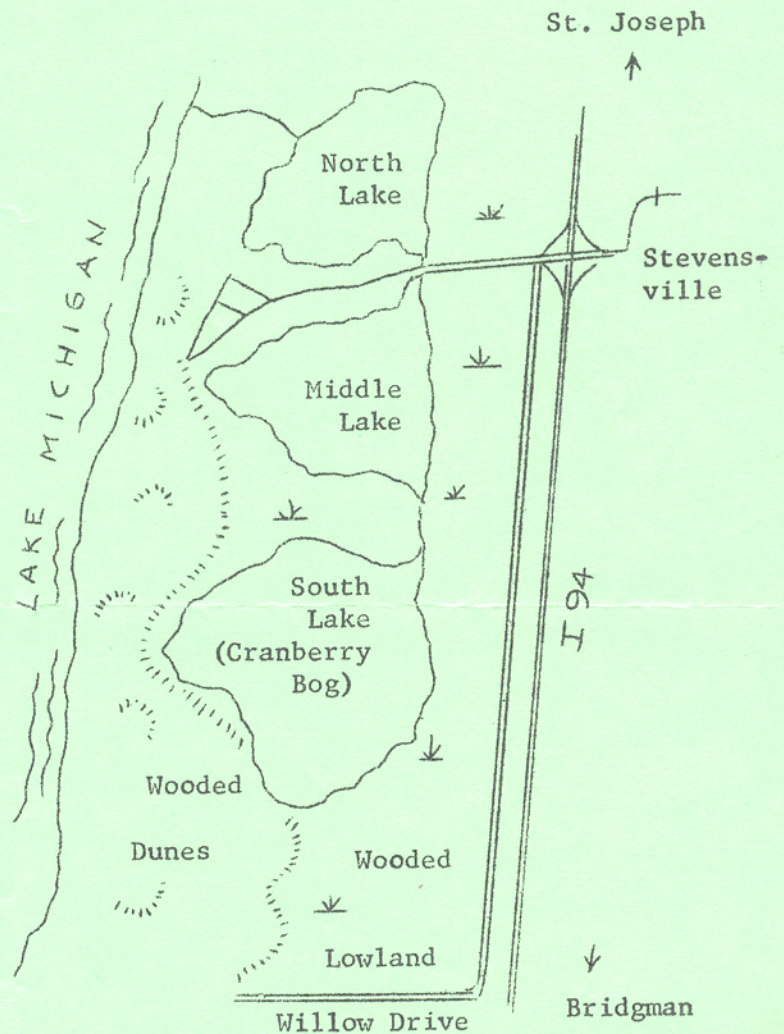
GRAND MERE

Dune characteristics, previous shorelines and the developmental status of the three lakes record the natural history of Grand Mere from the last glacial period some 14,000 years ago.

Grand Mere lakes provide excellent habitat for migrating ducks, coots, gallinules, herons and various other water birds, in addition to warblers, thrushes, flycatchers, vireos, sparrows, finches, and many more. Dozens of species of birds actually nest in the area. It is home also to raccoon, fox, opossum, deer, squirrel and other mammals whose natural habitat becomes more scarce with every passing year.

The area is rich in botanical life - unusual mosses, ferns in variety, countless wildflowers including rare native orchids, dune grasses, vines, shrubs and trees - the total species numbering in the hundreds.

Beautiful dunes and magnificent beaches create one of the outstanding scenic wonders in S. W. Michigan



A varied topography makes Grand Mere ideal as a unit for public enjoyment and education. Hiking, camping, bathing, sledding and number of other outdoor activities are possible, in addition to research study areas and wildlife sanctuary sites set aside to preserve the biological values.

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present request by MAMLE by Pikes Sanoos

If the township proposal to industrialize and commercialize Grand Mere proceeds, the dunes will be removed, the lowland filled and at some nebulous point in the future commercialization begun. It has been estimated that it will take 15 years to level the dunes, during which time the area will be in the state of chaos now existing at previous sand mining operations along I 94. Large areas denuded of trees and protective vegetation that stabilized the sand - the entire site a wasteland! The time has passed when our natural resources are no longer a matter for public concern. We must act NOW to preserve unique natural areas such as Grand Mere for our children and future generations to enjoy, as we have enjoyed them.

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SIGNIFICANT QUOTES

We share with your association concern re possible loss this important scenic and recreation resource. Recreation and scenic values of Grand Mere Lake Michigan Dunes have been recognized for many years. Urgent need to preserve such outstanding scenic resources in your highly populated regions is well illustrated in present effort to preserve the Indiana Dunes to south of Grand Mere.....

-Stewart Udall, Secretary of the Interior

I personally consider the Grand Mere area worthy of preservation as a nature reserve for the lessons which it illustrated in both glacial and shoreline geology and in ecology. The area as a whole still serves as a valuable outdoor laboratory for classes in geology, botany, zoology and other field sciences. It is a relatively wild area, and one which combines the great contrast of swamps and dunes in a delightful and interesting manner. Its preservation is much to be desired.

-Dr. Charles Olmsted, University of Chicago

The Grand Mere area is at the crossroads - of relatively short term benefits reaped by exploitation, or long term benefits from leaving it as a natural spot. You are fortunate to have such an area in this community. Relatively few would benefit from exploitation, while many could visit the area making it into one of the best nature attractions in Michigan.

-Dr. H. Lewis Batts, Director Kalamazoo Nature Center

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If we are not careful we shall leave our children a legacy of billion dollar roads leading to nowhere, except to other congested areas like that they

left behind. We are building ourselves an asphalt treadmill and allowing the green areas of our nation to disappear.

-Gen. Omar Bradley