



Interim Forest Management Plan

Property Identifiers

Property Name and Designation: **Kohler-Andrae State Park**

County: **Sheboygan**

Property Acreage: **922**

DNR Property Code(s): **9500**

Forestry Property Code(s): **John Michael Kohler State Park: 6067**
Terry Andrae State Park: 6066

Master Plan Date: **1989**

Property Manager: **Edward Muzik**

Property Assessment

LANDSCAPE AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

Kohler-Andrae State Park is located in the Central Lake Michigan Coastal Ecological Landscape. Landforms are mostly glacial in origin, especially till plains and moraines, reworked and overlain in the western part by Glacial Lake Oshkosh. Along Lake Michigan, coastal ridge and swale complexes, drowned river mouths (freshwater estuaries), and clay bluffs and ravines occur. Lake Michigan is a key ecological and socioeconomic feature. It influences the climate, created unique landforms, and is responsible in part for the presence and distribution of rare species. The shoreline constitutes a major flyway for migratory birds. There are major opportunities to manage Great Lakes beaches, Great Lakes Dunes, and Great Lakes ridge and swale natural communities in this ecological landscape. Land cover types at the time of Euro-American settlement included beech-hemlock-sugar maples forests, beech-sugar maple-basswood forests, and swamp conifers.

Kohler-Andrae State Park is in the Manitowoc Plains Landtype Association (212Zc02). The characteristic landform pattern is nearly level lake plain with dunes and old beaches common. Soils are moderately well-drained to somewhat poorly-drained silty or loam soils with a silt loam or loam surface over calcareous sand beach deposits, along with well-drained sand beach/aeolian deposits. Common Kotar habitat types in the LTA include sugar maple/American beech/Virginia waterleaf (AFH), sugar maple-American beech/Jack-in-the-pulpit (AFAs), sugar maple-American beech/Jack-in-the-pulpit – Sweet cicely variant (AFAs-O), and Sugar maple-American beech-Hemlock/Spinulose shield fern (AFTD).

The landscape within about five miles of Kohler-Andrae is dominated by row crop agriculture with scattered woodlots and wetlands. The city of Sheboygan is immediately north of the park, and the village of Oostburg is just to the southwest.

General property description

From the time of the recession of the last glaciation and prior to Euro-American settlement, the Kohler-Andrae area was inhabited by a succession of Indian tribes, including mound builders. Beginning in the 1840s, Euro-American settlers began arriving to establish fisheries. Remnants of barbed wire fences indicate that livestock were kept by landowners. Some of the non-native plant species at the park were planted as ornamentals by former owners. Settlers that arrived in the



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decades that followed were mainly farmers that settled further inland where the soils were better for agriculture.

What is managed as a single property, Kohler-Andrae State Park, consists of two properties: Terry Andrae State Park and John Michael Kohler State Park. Terry Andrae State Park was established in 1927 with the donation of 122 acres. In 1966 the Kohler Company donated 280 acres to the state which became John Michael Kohler State Park. Since the initial donations, the state has purchased another 600 acres for the park. The park has been developed for a number of recreational and educational uses including hiking, swimming, camping, picnicking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, nature study, fishing, and hunting.

Kohler-Andrae has an extensive beach and series of dunes. Wetlands associated with the Black River cover a significant portion of the park. The remaining uplands have a mix of conifer plantations, northern hardwood forest, grass, and developed areas. The park is bounded by Lake Michigan on the east.

Past management includes conifer plantation management, hazard tree removal, and invasive plant species control.

Within the property boundary, the most common soils are Houghton and Palms mucks and followed by dune land and sandy beaches. Granby loamy fine sand and Oakville loamy fine sand are important soils as well.

Current Cover Types

- **Lowland brush** (45%): 412 acres in 2 stands; dominated by alder, secondarily by red-osier dogwood.
- **Bottomland hardwoods** (12%): 109 acres in 1 stand; large saw logs; dominated by green ash with aspen, black cherry, and cottonwood.
- **White pine** (9%): 83 acres in 2 plantation stands, dates of origin 1930 and 1948; large saw logs; dominated by white pine with red pine, beech, white ash, and sugar maple.
- **Red pine** (7%): 60 acres in 4 plantation stands; dates of origin 1930-1963; small saw logs; dominated by red pine with a variety of other conifer and hardwood species.
- **Northern hardwoods** (3%): 30 acres in 1 stand; large saw logs; dominated by beech with white ash and sugar maple.
- **Grasses** (3%): 23 acres in 1 stand.
- **Miscellaneous conifer** (2%): 13 acres in 2 plantation stands; date of origin 1948; both stands of large saw logs; 1st stand dominated by Scots pine with white pine, red maple, and red cedar; 2nd stand dominated by Norway spruce.
- **White spruce** (1%): 7 acres in 1 stand; date of origin 1930; small saw logs; dominated by white spruce with Norway spruce and Scots pine.
- **Rock outcrops and sand dunes** (18%): 163 acres of rock outcrops, sand dunes, and beach.
- **Developed areas** (2%): 22 acres, picnic and parking areas.

NHI (Endangered, Threatened, Special Concern species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need):

	Animal	Plant	Natural Community
Endangered	2	1	n/a
Threatened	1	5	n/a
Special Concern	4	4	8

Both of the Endangered animal species are based on historical records; 1 of the Special Concern plants is based on a historical record.



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There is 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Four of the natural communities have been identified as high priorities in the Wildlife Action Plan.

WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY AREAS (COA)

Kohler-Andrae terrestrial COA, global significance

Lake Michigan, aquatic COA, global significance

SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL OR ARCHEOLOGICAL FEATURES

There are both cultural and historical sites at Kohler-Andrae State Park. At the time of planning any management activity it will be required to consult the database and contact the DNR archaeologist prior to implementing any activities.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Forest invasive plant species that have been documented during forest reconnaissance include non-native honeysuckles, Japanese barberry, and garlic mustard. Honeysuckle is the most widespread being present in 12 stands with coverage up to 50% of some stands. Japanese barberry is found in eight stands with over 50% coverage in some stands. Garlic mustard coverage of up to 20% was noted in two stands. Other invasive plant species that have documented include Lyme grass, common reed, hound's-tongue, common buckthorn, spotted knapweed, and white sweet clover.

EXISTING STATE NATURAL AREAS (SNA) DESIGNATIONS

Embracing the shore of Lake Michigan, Kohler Park Dunes SNA contains active and stabilized lake dunes, interdunal wetlands, and a small dry-mesic white pine forest. It was designated in 1969.

HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FOREST or other resources/natural community types limited in the landscape

Older stands mapped as Northern Dry-mesic Forest, Northern Mesic Forest, and Floodplain Forest in the NHI database may have HCVF values.

PRIMARY PUBLIC USES (RECREATION)

Camping, hiking, picnicking, bicycling, horseback riding, boating, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, fishing, hunting, trapping, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing

BIOTIC INVENTORY STATUS

Although there has been much biotic inventory work for rare species and natural communities in the past, no comprehensive biotic inventory has been completed to date.

DEFERRAL/CONSULTATION AREA DESIGNATIONS

No D/C sites have been designated.

IFMP components

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

Terry Andrae

1. Maintain healthy vigorous old growth appearance stands.
2. Encourage regeneration of mature even-aged stands prior to deterioration.

John Michael Kohler

1. Encourage natural succession and native plant diversity.
2. Natural area will be maintained.
3. Existing red and white pine and other conifer plantations will be allowed to mature under active management.



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PROPERTY PRESCRIPTIONS (Identify specific and pertinent prescriptions by area or forest type, including passive management areas, extended rotation, and other information that will help achieve the objectives)

1. Conifer Plantations
 - a. Manage according to standard silvicultural practices outlined in the DNR Silvicultural Handbook and Bureau of Parks requirements in "WSPS Timber Harvest Prescription, Prospectus, and Contract Considerations and Standard Language."
 - b. Adhere to the DNR Timber Sales Handbook when establishing timber sales.
 - c. Follow BMPs for invasive species and water quality.
 - d. Look for opportunities to release deciduous regeneration. Continue to maintain existing deciduous trees for seed production.
2. Hardwoods Stands
 - a. Allow for natural succession.
 - b. Continue to manage hazard trees in public use areas. Timber sales may be option for extensive hazard tree management.
3. Kohler Park Dunes State Natural Area
 - a. The native Great lakes dunes and interdunal swales are managed passively. Exceptions include control of invasive plants and animals, maintenance of existing facilities, and access to suppress wildfires.
 - b. Although removal of hazardous trees from over and near trails and field roads is an allowed activity, manipulation/removal of vegetation and soil disturbance should be minimized to the extent possible.
 - c. Cordwalks may need occasional repair and repositioning.

Summary of Public Involvement and Comments Received

Maps (Optional)

- a. Property Boundary and ownership Maps
- b. Forest Cover Type Maps

PREPARED BY:

Property Manager

Date

APPROVED:

Area Program Supervisor

Date



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REVIEWED BY:

Forester

Date

District Ecologist

Date