

RESOLUTION NO. 06-2026-04

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

RESOLUTION TO URGE NORVELL TOWNSHIP TO CONSIDER THE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF AGGREGATE MINING PERMIT ADJACENT TO WATKINS LAKE STATE PARK AND COUNTY PRESERVE AND HAYES STATE PARK

ADOPTED: June 17, 2026

Whereas the Michigan State Park Advisory Committee (MSPAC) is focused on the viability of the Michigan State Park system and;

Whereas the MSPAC has concerns about this system viability being impacted per the proposed aggregate mining permit application before Norvell Township for property adjacent to Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve and also impacting Hayes State Park and;

Whereas the MSPAC specifically notes that the nearby state park lands and county preserve have significant natural resource value including a prairie fen with attendant rare, threatened and endangered species, an active eagle nest and tremendous biological diversity as well as a popular waterfowl refuge and;

Whereas the Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve General Management Plan clearly documents these vital natural resource values and;

Whereas the aggregate mining as proposed may impair the natural resources of state park lands through changing and diminishing the pattern of ground and surface water flow and the water quality of that flow, all of which is vital to sustain the natural resources as well as disrupting park use and visitation with trucking, dust, noise and other impacts and;

Whereas the parks, the trails that pass through the parks and preserve and the many visitors to the parks and preserve greatly benefit the local economy through sustainable tourism spending for restaurants, groceries, fuel, sporting goods, souvenirs and other items that support a myriad of local businesses;

Therefore, be it resolved that the MSPAC asks Norvell Township to consider these potential negative impacts to Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve and Hayes State Park as they consider the aggregate mining permit for lands adjacent and near the parks.

Submitted by: Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee

Motioned by: Chuck Nelson

Seconded by: Steve Yanni

Yeas: 9

Nays: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: 1

This Resolution was adopted by the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee at their meeting on June 17, 2026 as Resolution No. 06-2026-04.