

Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission

Dave Heeres, Chairman

Don Miles

Michele Nerone

Carl Veenstra

Jacob Veenstra

**April 18, 2018
Minutes**

Members present: Dave Heeres, Don Miles, Carl Veenstra, Michele Nerone, Jacob Veenstra

Members absent:

Staff present: Mathew Cooke, Eileen Wallick,

Others present: Alyson Oostdyk, Linden Briggs

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Dave Heeres, Chair

2. Public Comment

Introductions of Committee members, Antrim County Deputy County Administrator Mathew Cooke, Antrim County Parks Manager Eileen Wallick, and GT Land Conservancy/ AmeriCorps employees Alyson Oostdyk and Linden Briggs.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Michele Nerone, seconded by Carl Veenstra, to approve the minutes of October 25, 2017 as presented.

Motion carries - unanimous.

4. Grass River 2018 Education Proposal

The 2018 Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) proposed education programs were offered as follows:

- Saturday, July 21, 10:00am: "Reptiles and Amphibians of Antrim Creek"
- Saturday, August 4, 10:00am: "Dip a Net in Antrim Creek"
- Saturday, August 18, 10:00am: "Northern Michigan and Antrim Creek History"

These programs would be conducted on site at Antrim Creek Natural Area (ACNA), weather permitting. Michele Nerone suggested advertising the programs to increase attendance. Don Miles asked if GRNA had reached out to local historical societies. Mr. Cooke will check with GRNA about fliers for the programs and having a GRNA representative present at future meetings when evaluating the programs after completion.

Motion by Michele Nerone, seconded by Don Miles, to approve the funding of three GRNA educational programs for a total cost of \$450.

Motion carries – unanimous.

5. Boat Launch Update

Mr. Cooke gave an update on the status of removing the boat launch slabs at the North entrance of ACNA. He said he is currently working with Boyne City to remove the slabs, at which time Boyne City will repurpose them. Mr. Cooke said that there would be no cost to the County for

removal. He added that if Boyne City does not work out, there is a private company who is interested in the slabs.

6. Endowment Information

The Committee discussed the endowment information that was provided in the agenda Packet. Carl Veenstra noted that this was not the same information or format that he had seen in the past. He asked what the “grants” entailed in the Grand Traverse Community Foundation’s reports. It was believed to be the interest, but Mr. Cooke said he would communicate with the GT Community Foundation regarding this, as well as possibly attending the next meeting. Mr. C. Veenstra requested the County’s ACNA Fund report for future meetings.

7. Various Matters

Ms. Nerone informed the Committee there was a scheduled cleanup day at ACNA on April 26th with AmeriCorps members. AmeriCorps member Alyson Oostdyk indicated that AmeriCorps is looking to change the date due to the extended winter weather. The new date will be rescheduled within the following few weeks of the original date.

Mr. Heeres asked that Committee members think about 3 priorities for ACNA for the next meeting.

Mr. Cooke will look into how many members should be on the ACNA Board and will check the terms for current members.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 20th at Banks Township Hall at 7:00 p.m.

8. Public Comment

None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission

Dave Heeres, Chairman

Don Miles

Michele Nerone

Carl Veenstra

Jacob Veenstra

**June 20, 2018
Minutes**

Members present: Dave Heeres, Don Miles, Carl Veenstra

Members absent: Michele Nerone

Staff present: Mathew Cooke

Others present: Terry Gear, Laurie Gear,

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Dave Heeres, Chair

2. Public Comment

Terry and Laurie Gear live in Denver but reside near the park in the summer months and have interest in one of them possibly serving on the Commission as Banks Township appointee.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Carl Veenstra, seconded by Don Miles, to approve the minutes of April 18, 2018 as amended.

Motion carries - unanimous.

4. Boat Launch Update

Mathew Cooke, Deputy County Administrator, provided an update on the removal of the boat launch slabs. The previous plan fell through and a request for proposal has been sent out and is due on June 29, 2018. It is still the intention of removing them at no cost to the County if possible.

5. County Fund Report

The Commission reviewed the fund report and recommended keeping the same budget for next year.

6. Commission Terms

The Commission reviewed the terms for the current members of the Commission. Jacob Veenstra, the Banks Township appointee, has resigned from the Commission. Banks Township will be appointing a replacement for the duration of his term.

7. Member Goals

The members discussed goals for ACNA including:

- Replacing wood barriers throughout the park
- Maintenance on entry roads
- Revamping kiosks
- Improving trails

- Improving signage
- Improving parking and reception areas
- Maintaining the area for future generations to use

These will be taken into consideration for the future of ACNA.

8. Various Matters

Don Miles said the cleanup day with Americorps at ACNA went well. It was discovered that there were some areas with a lot of water over the trail. Mr. Miles said rerouting the trails was the best option. Members from the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy also had some ideas on trail signage.

Mr. C. Veenstra said there has been a strange traffic pattern at ACNA late at night. Mr. Heeres recommended calling the Sheriff's Department to address the issue.

Mr. Cooke mentioned that Grass River Natural Area does have literature that addresses the education programming at ACNA.

The next meeting is October 24, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Banks Township/Village of Ellsworth offices.

9. Public Comment

None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission

Dave Heeres, Chairman

Don Miles

Michele Nerone

Carl Veenstra

Terry Gear

**October 24, 2018
Minutes**

Members present: Dave Heeres, Don Miles, Carl Veenstra, Michele Nerone

Members absent: Terry Gear

Staff present: Mathew Cooke

Others present: Jenn Wright, James Dake

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Dave Heeres, Chair

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of Minutes

It was noted that it was member from the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) that had suggestions for trail signs, not Americorps.

Motion by Don Miles, seconded by Carl Veenstra, to approve the minutes of June 20, 2018 as amended.

Motion carries - unanimous.

4. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) - ACNA Program Review

James Dake, GRNA Education Director and Jenn Wright, GRNA Executive Director, updated the Commission on the programs GRNA hosts at ACNA. Over the summer months, they offered three (3) free programs to the public, which were centered around the Field Guide. Mr. Dake distributed a report on the ACNA programs(see attached pgs. 3-4), including the 2017 and 2018 attendance numbers. He said that the programs offered a wide variety of topics. He said there were 62 contact hours from the programs that got people engaged and more educated about the natural area.

Don Miles asked how the word is getting out about the programs and wondered if there was more that could be done. Mr. Dake said informational brochures are printed and mailed and are put everywhere they possible. Ms. Wright suggested putting them up at ACNA. Mr. Dake also said that 20-40 people is a pretty good attendance for public programming.

The Commission asked for additional information on potential programs for ACNA, which GRNA will provide.

5. Boat Launch Update

Mathew Cooke, Deputy Administrator, updated the Commission on the removal of the boat launch. He said East Bay Excavating has indicated they are too busy to remove the boat launch this year with their current work load. They said they were still interested in the planks and would still like to remove them at no cost. Mr. Cooke said he was told East Bay Excavating that if the planks could not be removed by a date in 2019, we will need to investigate paying for their removal. He recommended that they place a date of

April 15, 2019 deadline for East Bay Excavating to remove the planks. If they cannot meet the deadline, Mr. Cooke will send out bids for their removal which will be done.

Carl Veenstra was in favor of working with East Bay Excavating as they were at zero cost.

The consensus of the Commission was to work with East Bay Excavating to have the plans removed.

Mr. Veenstra also noted there was an issue with a culvert that needs to be addressed. He believes the problematic culvert should be removed.

6. County Fund Report

The Commission reviewed the County fund report, as well as the Community Foundation Report (see attached pgs. 5-6). The Commission wondered what could be done to help with maintenance. They suggested the feasibility of helping to fund an additional County employee for the parks department and finding additional volunteers to do work.

7. 2019 Meeting Dates

The following dates were set for 2019 meetings:

- April 24, 2019
- July 24, 2019
- September 25, 2019.

All meetings will be at 7:00 p.m. at the Banks Township/ Village of Ellsworth Hall.

8. Various Matters

Mr. Heeres asked about snow plowing at ACNA. Mr. Cooke said that he is working with Boss Landscaping to continue snow plowing for the upcoming season. Mr. Heeres provided Mr. Cooke with a local company who may be able to do the work if Boss could not.

Mr. Miles said periodically throughout 2018, he had met with Jacob Bournay from GTRLC. Mr. Bournay created a maintenance map, which was distributed by Mr. Miles (see attached pgs. 7-10), that identified opportunities for trail improvement at ACNA such as rerouting some trails and wayfinding signs. Mr. Bournay also provided Mr. Miles with a list of recommendations such as a management plan update, volunteer recruitment (which GTRLC will help with), prioritizing trail improvements, and signage additions. Mr. Miles will continue to discuss potential direction with GTRLC. The Commission discussed the information provided. This will be a topic at the first 2019 meeting.

Mr. Veenstra said that Steve Jones passed away. Mr. Jones was a part of the family who sold the ACNA property to the County. Mr. Veenstra said that Lindy Dickerson is interested in the property and preserving the history of the area, particularly of the pioneer's arrival. They are still hoping to do this even without Mr. Jones. Mr. Veenstra wanted everyone to think about who could do a structured area for all the information out there on the property and Antrim City. Mr. Miles asked if anyone had checked with Banks Township historical society about any of this.

9. Public Comment

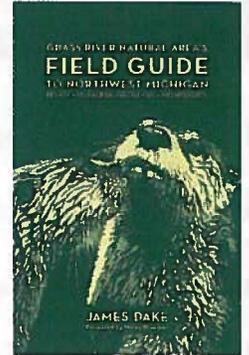
None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.



2018 Programs at Antrim Creek Natural Area

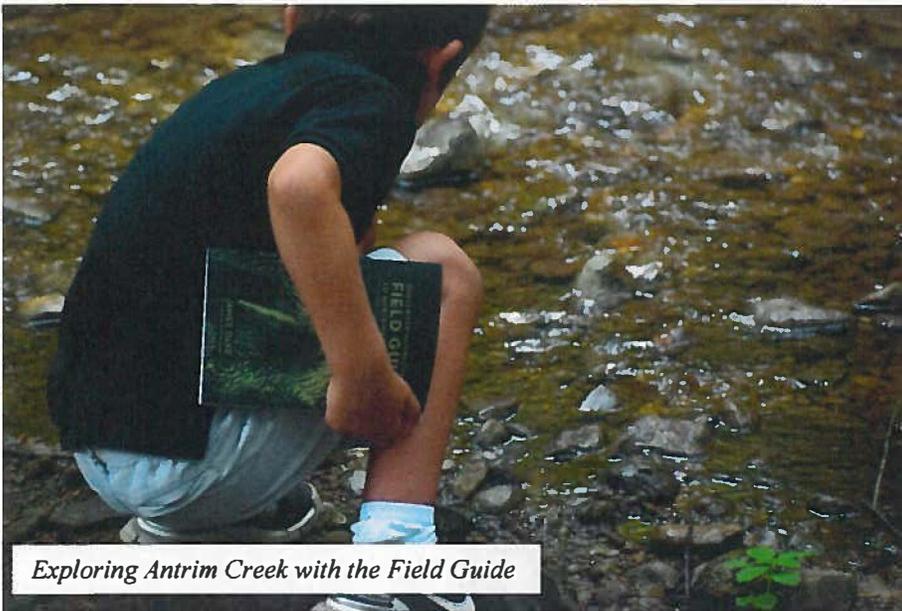
Grass River Natural Area, Inc. was pleased to offer a collaborative education project with the Antrim Creek Natural Area (ACNA) again in 2018. GRNA staff naturalists conducted three programs that focused on the unique features, wildlife, and history of the Antrim Creek Natural Area. Each program included a walk and an activity relevant to the topic. The programs used GRNA's published "Field Guide to Northwest Michigan" as a resource.



Saturday, July 21, 10:00am: "Reptiles & Amphibians of Antrim Creek" (2018 attendance: 20) (2017: 10)

Saturday, August 4, 10:00am: "Dip a Net in Antrim Creek" (2018 attendance: 5) (2017: 32)

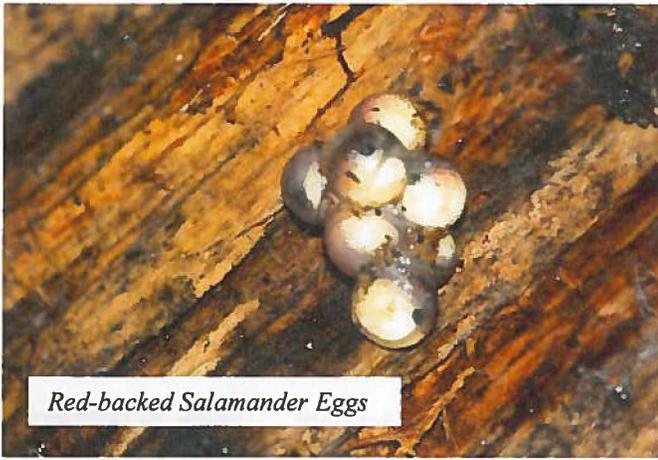
Saturday, August 18, 10:00am: "N. Michigan & Antrim Creek History" (2018 attendance: 11) (2017: 13)



Exploring Antrim Creek with the Field Guide

Over the years we have offered a variety of programs on reptiles and amphibians, creek insects, local history, wildflowers, geology, field guides, and dune ecology. The programs have had a great response, with a variety of ages attending over the years. Attendance each year ranges from 20 to 50 in total with a crowd of 10 to 30 common for

each program. Total attendance in 2018 was 36 people, with 62 contact hours.



Red-backed Salamander Eggs

For the reptiles and amphibians class, participants learn the differences between Michigan's reptiles and amphibians, and then go for a hike to search for them. We have found red-back salamanders (and eggs!), American toads, green frogs, spring peepers, garter snakes, and a variety of other critters.

Participants of all ages work together to explore the natural area. It is a great way to get families engaged with wildlife and learning the special features of Antrim Creek.



A young boy observes a toad while his dad takes a photo.



A family explores Antrim Creek together with nets.

Research has shown that repeated positive experiences in the outdoors with mentors can have the biggest impacts on people. Our goal is to provide a series of programs at Antrim Creek that provides education and positive experiences to all ages outdoors.



community foundation

ANTRIM . BENZIE . GRAND TRAVERSE . KALKASKA . LEELANAU

October 18, 2018

Dear Fund Advisor,

Enclosed you will find the 2018 Third Quarter Endowment Report for the Community Foundation Endowment that benefits your organization.

The enclosed report includes a list of any new gifts through September 30 to the Community Foundation designated for this Endowment.

In our role as *the local giving partner*, we match donor passion with purpose through grant awards to organizations working every day to make life better in our communities.

Thank *you* for being an important partner with us.

Sincerely,

David Mengebier
President and CEO



community foundation

ANTRIM . BENZIE . GRAND TRAVERSE . KALKASKA . LEELANAU

Peter Garwood
Antrim Creek Natural Area
P.O. Box 187
Bellaire, MI 49615

Antrim Creek Natural Area Endowment
2018 Fund Report – through September 30

Gifts	0.00
<i>January 1 – September 30, 2018</i>	
Grants	-6,957.00
<i>January 1 – September 30, 2018</i>	
Internal Gifts and/or Grants	0.00
<i>within Community Foundation funds</i>	
Fund Balance	186,678.33
<i>as of September 30, 2018</i>	

From: [Donald Miles](#)
To: [Boyd, Margie](#)
Cc: [Cooke, Mathew](#)
Subject: RE: Email - ACNA Trail Improvement
Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 3:18:02 PM

Matthew –

Would it be possible to get copies for each of the commission members of the recommendations from Jacob and the two attachments to bring with you to the meeting Wednesday evening? I will be able to lead the discussion regarding this topic as I worked with Jacob and Steve from the GTRLC last week regarding the trails and signs.

Thank you,

Don Miles

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Jacob Bournay](#)
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 11:24 AM
To: dfmupnorth@yahoo.com
Subject: ACNA Trail Improvement Needs

Hi Don,

Attached is a map summary of known trail issues and example of a typical GTRLC Partner sign plan.

Here is a brief summary of what we talked about on our onsite visit on Oct 15th

Recommendations and Needs Summary:

- Management Plan Update. Should be updated at the very least every 10yrs. Newest update should include and reflect current and future trail needs.
- We encourage long term community support i.e. volunteer recruitment for the project. GTRLC is willing to help with this effort.
- Prioritize trail improvement projects. Our strategy would be to first gain interest in the less intensive trail reroutes, then gather volunteer support around the larger needs of the property.
- Signage: add multiple UR Here Wayfinding signs and maps, improve road signs, private property boundary signs, kiosk information simplified
- Define beach area trail, highlight one designated trail to reduce the number of social trails and protect sensitive habitat
- Potential infrastructure to include: gate to seasonally block gate on north entrance. Timbers added to steep segments where reroutes are not possible and erosion is know to occur

(especially near social trails formed near the creek. Small culverts under trail bed where reroutes are not possible. Budget time to maintain current infrastructure.
Hope this helps. Let us know how your meeting goes.

-Jake

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Jacob Bournay

Land Steward

email: jbournay@gtrlc.org

web: www.gtrlc.org

telephone: 231.929.7911

3860 N. Long Lake Rd, St D

Trail Maintenance at Antrim Creek Natural Area



GTRLC: PROTECTING SIGNIFICANT NATURAL, SCENIC AND FARM LANDS, AND ADVANCING STEWARDSHIP, NOW AND FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS



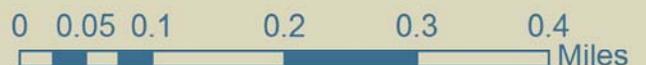
Legend

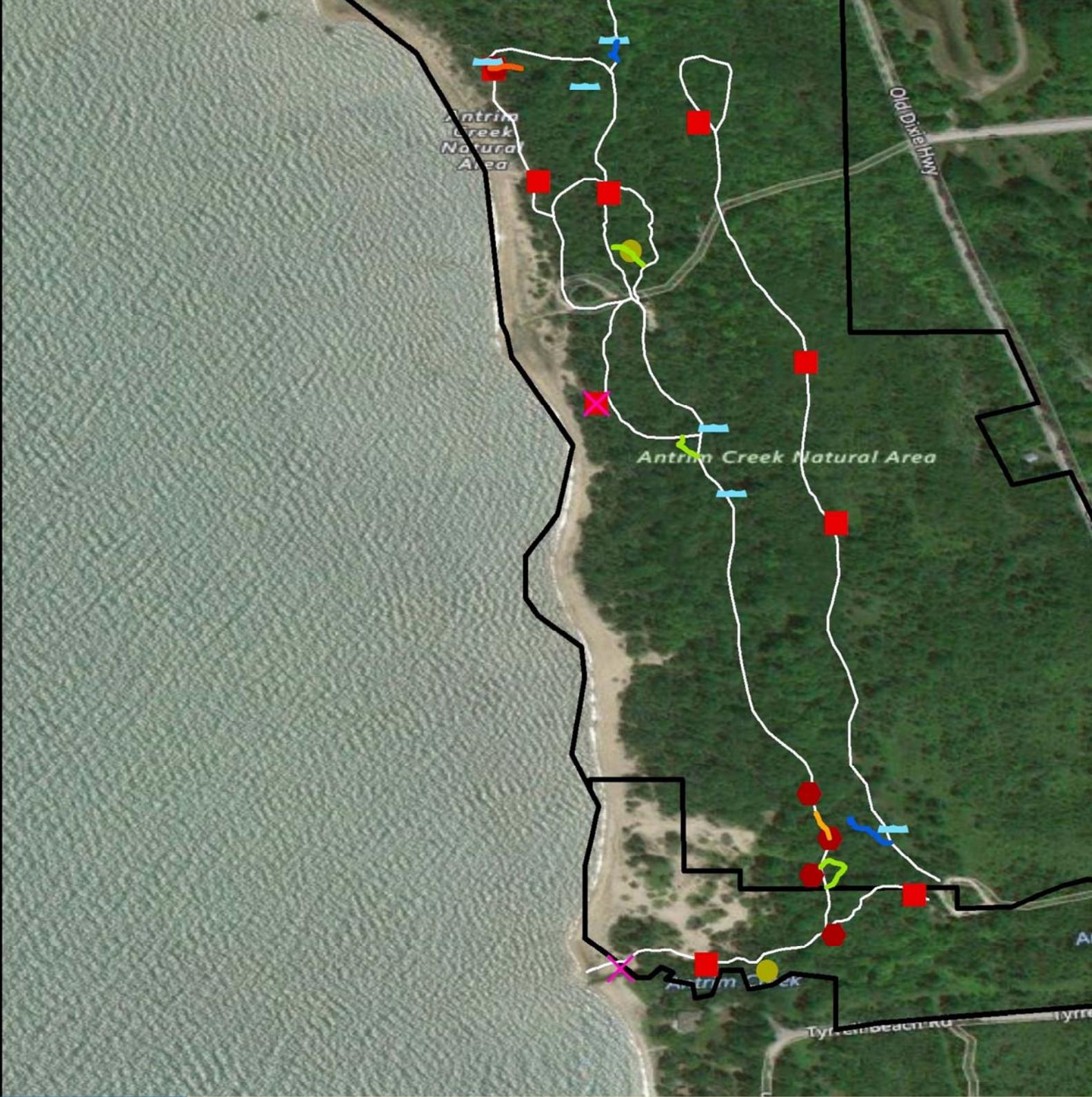
Trail Issues

- Add Drainage
- Eroded Trail
- Reroute
- Miscellaneous Trail Needs

- Alternate route
- Erosion
- Needs wayfinding
- Standing Water
- Reroute

- Trail
- Preserve Boundary





Legend

Trail Issues

 Add Drainage

 Eroded Trail

 Reroute

 Miscellaneous Trail Needs

 Alternate route

 Erosion

 Needs wayfinding

 Standing Water

 Reroute

 Trail

 Preserve Boundary

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