

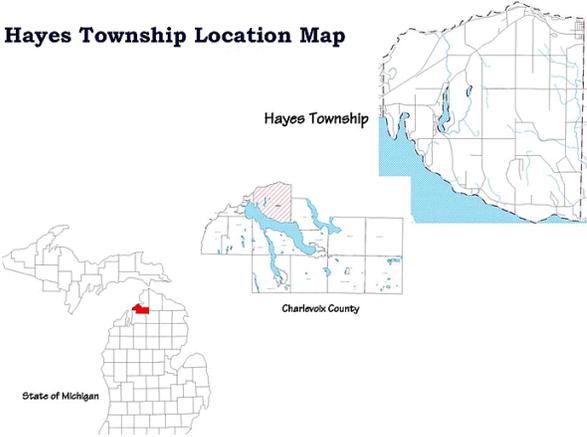


# BACKGROUND

## Introduction

Camp Sea-Gull is located in Hayes Township along the north shore of Lake Charlevoix. Once a privately owned summer camp, the park was acquired by Hayes Township in 2013 with the assistance of a DNR Trust Fund Grant. This report outlines the planning process and proposed projects for future conversion of the park for public use.

### Hayes Township Location Map



Location Images (Source: Hayes Township)

## Background

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### Park History

Camp Sea-Gull Park was originally a summer camp that began in the 1920's. It was called "Camp Kare-Free" but was renamed in mid-century to "Camp Sea-Gull." It operated as an all-girls camp for much of its existence. Lew and Regene Schulman purchased the property in 1955 and continued operating it as an all-girls summer camp. Each summer, the camp hosted approximately 100 campers from around the Mid-West, from places such as Charlevoix County, Chicago, Cleveland, the Detroit area and St. Louis. Enrollment was strong when the Schulman family decided to put the camp up for sale for \$6.5 million in 2011.



Historical Images (Source: Little Traverse Conservancy)

### Geographic Context

The park is near the Dunmaglas Golf Course and surrounded by large parcels of agricultural and forest land. The Little Traverse Conservancy owns and maintains a nature reserve to the park's north. Smaller residential parcels are scattered throughout the township, which had a population of 1,919 in 2010. There is potential for the park to serve a growing number of retirees and senior citizens in the Township, as well as vacationers from other parts of Michigan and the Midwest.

Despite the fact that 70% of Charlevoix County is water, less than 1% of shoreline on Lake Charlevoix is provided for public access. Opening Camp Sea-Gull to the public will provide much needed access to Lake Charlevoix for County residents.

### Grant Status

In 2012, Hayes Township officials submitted a MDNR Trust fund grant application for the acquisition of Camp Sea-Gull for \$4.2 million. In December of 2013, the Camp Sea-Gull project was recommended for funding and a \$3,750,000 MNRTF grant. The 25% local match requirement was met with \$500,000 from the Township's recreation fund and some \$672,000 raised in a public fund raising campaign with help from the Little Traverse Conservancy. The camp officially became a Hayes Township park on January 6, 2014 when the Township closed on the property.