RESOURCE PROTECTION

The Township views this property as a great opportunity to preserve critical resources and open space, educate landowners on the importance of forest and wildlife management, establish old growth forest types and provide recreational opportunities. This parcel will function as the foundation of an effort to enhance and expand ecological corridors across the eastern part of Long Lake Township. The plan recommends the Township works with agencies and organizations to either purchase fee simple or establish conservation easements adjacent lands.

Logging trails and log landing/loading sites should be seeded to permanent ground cover plants. These areas should be smoothed after a logging operation. It will be necessary to create water diversions or water bars on roadways located in hilly terrain to reduce soil erosion from stormwater run-off. Apply 100 lbs. of 10-20-20 fertilizer and 1000 lbs. of lime per acre of open area or 3.5 lbs. of fertilizer and 35 lbs. of lime per 100 feet of 16 feet wide roadways. Mix this with the soil by raking or dragging the area. Next, a seed mixture of perennial plants should be spread on the area. For sunny sites use a mixture of 10 parts perennial rye grass, 3 parts inoculated birdsfoot trefoil or clover and 1 part timothy.

For shaded areas use a mixture of 3 parts creeping red fescue and one part perennial rye grass and one-half part ladino or white Dutch clover. Both of these mixtures can be applied at a rate of 20 lbs. per acre or 1.5 lbs. per 100 feet of a 16 -foot-wide roadway. Planting in the spring or fall will improve success as will using a straw mulch. If the log landing/loading sites are one acre or larger, the planting of food bearing native shrubs will also enhance wildlife habitat.

To protect the quality of the wetlands on the property, 100 feet wide no harvest buffers should be left around all wetlands. In addition, logging equipment should not use or traverse the buffer areas.

There are several erosion sites, caused by Off Road Vehicles. One problem site is located on an existing trail in the northern part of the park. Wood chips and water diversion bars should be installed. Another erosion site is a spur trail that climbs a steep ridge from the access road. This short trail is heavily eroded due to use of 4-wheel drive vehicles. The site on the top of the ridge appears to be a party spot. The trail should be blocked prior to installation of erosion control.