

## **RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

### TIMBER MANAGEMENT

#### **Stand 1 – Northern Red Oak**

Manage for old growth forests. This management approach does not require scheduled timber harvesting. Timber harvesting may be acceptable to salvage trees lost from major wildfires, insect or disease outbreaks.

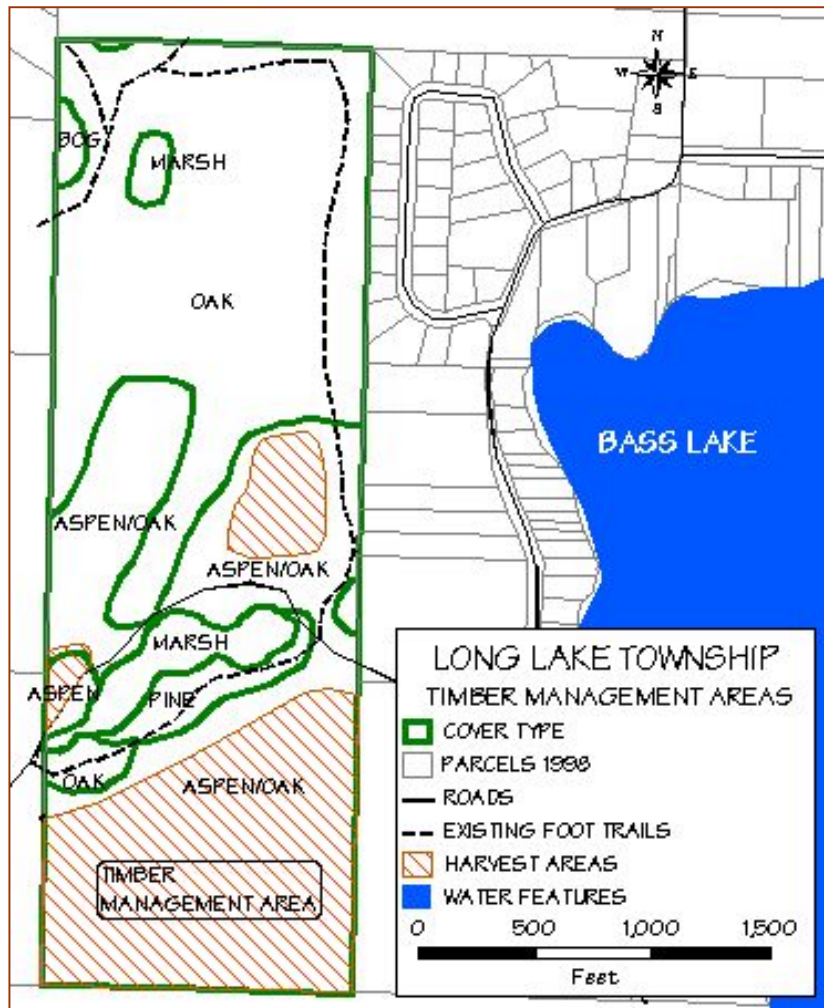
#### **Stand 2 – Aspen and Oak**

Schedule a timber harvest in ten years. The thinning will remove aspen and red maple trees. Oak, red pine and white pine should be left. Since this is a park, timber sale specifications should address the importance of protecting residual forests, aesthetics and leaving a clean looking harvest. Whole tree chipping is recommended to reduce the amount of tops left in the harvest. Skid trails and log landings should be cleaned of logging debris, smoothed and revegetated. The log landing should be maintained as a small grassy opening. Be sure to retain the services of a professional forester at the Grand Traverse County Conservation District: to market the timber, draw up a timber sale contract and manage the timber harvesting operation. An information program should precede the timber harvesting. After the harvest, a sign describing the harvesting operation and the purpose of the harvest (regenerate aspen and create wildlife cover) should be erected at the harvest site.

#### **Stand 3 – Aspen**

This stand of aspen is mature and timber harvesting is recommended on one acre. Remove all of the aspen, which will essentially result in a small clearcut. However, due to its proximity to the access road and proposed trails, care should be taken to leave a clean harvest. Be sure to leave a buffer along the wetlands. The harvest should be scheduled to coincide with Stand #2. Creating a small, transitional opening will encourage aspen to regenerate, resulting in a temporary (15-20 years), one acre patch of thick young aspen and shrubs. Certain song birds like the ovenbird prefer this type of habitat.

Aspen is very shade intolerant and requires full, open sunlight to naturally regenerate. Unlike the other species groups, aspen regenerates new crop trees by growing root sprouts or root suckers from the root systems of harvested trees. Mature trees are not needed as a seed source and, in fact, shade from large trees actually inhibits aspen seedling growth. Aspen stands are harvested and naturally regenerated under the clearcutting method. When mature (40 to 60 years), harvest all trees 2" and larger in diameter. This will encourage natural aspen regeneration by root suckering which occurs during the year following the harvest. Retain the services of a professional forester to assist in marketing and harvesting the timber.



#### **Stand 4 – Lowland Hardwoods and Conifers**

No recommended timber management activities. This area should be left as is, logging equipment should not be allowed in the forested wetlands. To further protect the wetlands, do not harvest trees or use timber-harvesting equipment within 100 feet of the wetland boundaries.

#### **Stand 5 – White and Red Pine**

Manage for old growth forests. This management approach does not require scheduled timber harvesting.

#### **Stand 6 – Bogs**

No recommended timber management activities. To further protect the wetlands, do not harvest trees or use timber-harvesting equipment within 100 feet of the wetland boundaries. Logging equipment should not use these areas for skidding trees from adjacent stands. Tree tops and logging debris should not be piled in these areas.

#### **Stand 7 – Emergent Wetlands**

No recommended timber management activities. To further protect the wetlands, do not harvest trees or use timber-harvesting equipment within 100 feet of the wetland boundaries. Logging equipment should not use these areas for skidding trees from adjacent stands. Tree tops and logging debris should not be piled in these areas.