2016 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
Recommendations

2016 Acquisition Project Recommendations

Central Michigan

Eaton County – City of Lansing, Lansing Boat Club Land Acquisition - $67,500
Acquisition of a 9-acre parcel located on the Grand River. The riverfront parcel will connect with Hunter's Ridge Park and Fulton Park, both adjacent to the parcel. The acquisition will enable the construction of a non-motorized trail of 6 miles or more and enhance possible landing sites for watercraft users of the Grand River.

Genesee County – Flint Riverfront Restoration Acquisition Project - $6,056,500
Acquisition of approximately 60 acres and over 1 mile of waterfront on the Flint River for rejuvenation of the riverfront through recreation improvements. The properties will contribute to additional water-based recreation opportunities, improve community connectivity with regional trails and to natural resources, allow for ecosystem restoration on a formal industrial site, improve storm water and flood control and spur additional riverfront development.

Genesee County – Hegel Road Land Acquisition - $540,200
Acquisition of a 155-acre parcel of property on Hegel Road in Atlas Township. This is an 800' deep parcel bordered by the Atlas Mill Pond (north), Goodrich High School (south) and large residential lots. Kearsley Creek runs through the property. Future development may include passive recreation, hiking, bird watching, fishing, paddle sports and environmental education use by Goodrich Community Schools.

Ingham County – Meridian Charter Township, Ponderosa Land Preserve - $514,900
Acquisition of 89 acres located in Meridian Charter Township. The parcel is located directly south of Meridian Riverfront Park, which is a 204-acre township-owned park that runs along the Red Cedar River. The land will be managed through the Land Preservation program, which is a millage funded program developed to protect, preserve and enhance Meridian Charter Township's open spaces and natural features. The parcel has a high diversity of vegetation and topographic features including: woodlands (with huge and notable oak and maples); wetlands; streams; ponds; flora and many different types of wildlife including spawning salmon that utilize the creek.
**Greater Tri-Cities / Thumb**

**Lapeer County – Goodland Township,** Goodland Township Park Acquisition - **$67,000**
Acquisition of 9 acres of land to become the Goodland Township Park. This parcel of land is adjacent to the Township Hall and Historic Library, also owned by the township. Currently, the land is an undeveloped field with a wooded area on the northern edge. The land represents the natural features of the Township, and will provide visitors with access to high quality recreation space. In the future the site will be developed for recreational opportunities desired by the residents. The township would like to develop a walking path, pavilion, play equipment, and access drive and parking lot to the acquired land. The park will be developed in conjunction with the existing fishing pond and future site of the Historic Schoolhouse located on Township owned land on the eastern edge of the acquired parcel.

**Saginaw County – Kochville Township,** Kochville Township Park Acquisition - **$524,900**
Acquisition of a 27.5-acre parcel adjacent to Krossroads Park in Kochville Township. The expanded park will protect open, natural space in an area where the environs are being developed for commercial and residential use. Future development includes two picnic pavilions, a playground expansion, and paths. The acquisition will also add much needed open space for special events such as fireworks or community festivals.

**Northern Michigan**

**Antrim County – Milton Township,** Maplehurst Natural Area Acquisition - **$1,924,200**
Acquisition of a 389-acre former camp property for new public recreation area. Property includes entire 60 acre Maplehurst Lake, northern hardwood forest and open meadows. The property is suited for hiking and cross country ski trails, fishing, wildlife viewing and boating.

**Charlevoix County – Boyne Valley Township,** Boyne River Acquisition - **$50,000**
Acquisition of a 1-acre site with road access to property owned by the Village of Boyne Falls on the Boyne River. This acquisition provides the only access point to view the falls in Boyne Falls and the only connection to property owned by the Village of Boyne Falls on the Boyne River. The property will be used for parking and access to view of the falls, fishing along the river on Village property and potential for access to future water trails.

**Charlevoix County – City of Boyne City,** City of Boyne City Open Space Acquisition - **$2,438,800**
Acquisition of 4.6 acres with 600 feet of shoreline on Lake Charlevoix. The site will be used as an open space park available for general public use and in turn enhance the economic development opportunity for adjacent properties including the public boat launch, commercial and residential properties in the immediate area.

**Cheboygan County – DNR,** Black River Property - **$375,000**
Acquisition of 4 acres located on the Black River for improved boating access on Black Lake. Existing boating access on Black Lake has limited ability to expand to provide safe and adequate
public access on the lake due to site constraints. Acquisition of this site will allow DNR to develop a suitable boating access site that meets current state standards and will improve safety, functionality and efficiency of public boating recreation on Black Lake and the Black River.

Crawford County – DNR, Upper Au Sable River Property - $3,100,000
Acquisition of 1,020 acres of land nearly surrounded by state forest land and adjacent to two parcels previously protected utilizing grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. The property contains approximately 8,000 feet of Au Sable River corridor, a designated Natural River and world-renowned trout stream with populations of brown trout, brook trout and rainbow trout. The property is primarily forested, with the portion located east of the Au Sable River containing "old growth" pine stands that rival those at Hartwick Pines State Park. The forested nature of the property, along with the river corridor, offers excellent habitat for both game and non-game wildlife species. The property also offers numerous outdoor recreational opportunities including hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, wildlife viewing, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

Emmet County – DNR, Iron Belle Trail - Bechek Property - $145,000
Acquisition of 40 acres of undeveloped land for the purposes of securing permanent site control for the hiking route of Michigan's Iron Belle Trail, as well as, securing permanent site control for Snowmobile Trail #760. This acquisition will also provide for a recreation and wildlife corridor between State Forest land to the east and City of Petoskey land to the west.

Emmet County – Littlefield Township, Blumke to Milton Road Trail Acquisition - $99,000
Acquisition of a 1/2 mile corridor to enhance the North Western State Trail. The property is immediately north of the existing trail which is located within the US 31 Highway (Oden Road) road right-of-way. Acquisition of the property would allow for immediate use for snowmobiles in the winter away from the highway and would protect the land for possible future non-motorized trail realignment. It will allow the community to retain the scenic character of the trail for future generations to enjoy.

Manistee County – Pleasanton Township, Acquisition of May Buell Park - $162,000
Acquisition of 0.91 of an acre of property to establish a public day-use park on Bear Lake. The site has 148 feet of frontage and is located in the northeast corner of Bear Lake. The east shore of Bear Lake provides a sandy, shallow, relatively weed-free swimming area that is popular with local residents during the summer months. People can wade into the lake for well over 150 feet at the proposed park site before reaching three feet of water, which provides excellent swimming conditions for young children. Prevailing winds from the southwest move warm water to the east shore of Bear Lake and makes swimming enjoyable from early June through early September.

Southeastern Michigan

Monroe County – DNR, Crystal Waters Land Acquisition - $3,500,000
Acquisition of 680 acres for a new DNR Wildlife Division state game area in northwest Monroe County. The property is within an area identified by the Department where public hunting land
of 500+ acres does not exist within 30 miles of residents. The property has seven water bodies that range in size from 5 to 85 acres. There are no inland public access lakes in Monroe County. A small boat launch is proposed on the 85-acre lake. The remaining land consists of agricultural, forested/shrub land, old field/grasslands, wetlands, and bare soil. The property would be managed for deer, turkey, small game, and waterfowl habitat, along with hunting, fishing, and shooting range opportunities.

Oakland County – City of Novi, ITC Regional Trailhead Park - $402,500
Acquisition of a 12.5- acre parcel located on Nine Mile Road west of Garfield and adjacent to the planned ITC Corridor Trail. This trail is depicted on the City's Non-Motorized Master Plan adopted in 2011. It will provide a non-motorized recreation link traversing the entire City of Novi from north to south. Ultimately, this trail will link regional facilities in neighboring communities with parks in Novi including connection with Maybury State Park. The Parks Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS) Departments' goal for this piece of property is to provide features such as parking, restrooms, a play structure, outdoor fitness stations and/or a shelter to service the ITC Corridor Trail. Along the planned five mile trail from Eight Mile to Providence/Beck, currently only ITC Community Sports Park provides these types of amenities.

Oakland County – Oakland Charter Township, Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Expansion - $2,216,400
Acquisition of 209 acres composed of a 74-acre fee simple purchase and the purchase of less than fee simple rights on the remaining 135 acres. Some farm field areas within the 135 acres are proposed for wetland restoration and participation in mitigation banking. Oakland Township would purchase the remaining property rights after the current land owner furnished conservation easements to the MDEQ for the creation of the wetland areas. The 209-acre addition could connect trail and ecological corridors with both Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park and Stony Creek Metropark, providing improved trail and vehicular access from Snell Road.

Washtenaw County – DNR, Iron Belle Trail - Norfolk & Western Railway Easement - $150,000
Acquisition of a trail easement and/or property across the Norfolk & Western Railway Company property located in Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County for the purposes of filling a critical gap for Michigan's Iron Belle Trail. The proposed easement will allow a multi-use trail to be developed in order to connect the proposed Downriver Greenway in Wayne County to Washtenaw County's Border to Boarder Trail (B2B).

Upper Peninsula

Delta County – Cornell Land Acquisition - $956,200
Acquisition of 1400 acres in Cornell Township, Delta County. This forested property provides excellent wildlife habitat values and will provide public outdoor recreational opportunities for hunting, trapping, hiking, bird-watching, sight-seeing, cross-country skiing, off-road biking, ORV & snowmobile use, berry & mushroom picking, nature walks, outdoor classroom activities and rustic camping. Persons with disabilities will be able to access the property easily because
of the existing network of logging roads. The property will be managed for deer, woodcock and the Golden Winged Warbler.

**Gogebic County – DNR, Iron Belle Trail - Cottens Property - $500,000**

Acquisition of 6 acres of land with frontage on Lake Superior for the purpose of supporting Michigan's Iron Belle Trail and improving land management of the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. The parcel is surrounded by the park on three sides with Lake Superior on the fourth side. The parcel is identified as an inholding desired by PRD in the 2004 Project Boundary and has the potential to offer overnight accommodations for park visitors and Iron Belle Trail travelers. The Iron Belle Trail is also part of the North Country Scenic Trail and will be routed through this parcel once acquisition of the parcel is complete.

**Keweenaw County – Eagle Harbor Township, Brockway Mountain Backcountry Expansion - $268,600**

Acquisition of 620 acres of forestland in Eagle Harbor Township to enlarge the Keweenaw Coastal Wildlife Corridor and protect the wildlife corridor at Brockway Mountain. This property lies just south of Brockway Mountain towards Lake Medora and is completely within the viewshed of the public overlook. The acquisition of this property will allow for protection of scenic views, birding habitat, and historical significance within the Keweenaw Coastal Wildlife Corridor. It serves as habitat to over 75 species of nesting and migrating birds.

**Keweenaw County – Eagle Harbor Township, Eagle Harbor Township Recreation Area Property Addition - $98,000**

Acquisition of 77 acres to expand the Eagle Harbor Township Recreation area, connecting two large parcels together to create a corridor of preserved land for recreation trails, wildlife habitat, and winter deer yard. The property is directly adjacent to Great Sands Bay where MDOT maintains a beach access site as well as parking and restroom facilities. The property is important as breeding grounds and migratory stopover for bird species such as neotropical warblers. Other wildlife from frogs and beavers to larger mammals such as black bear and wolves are also found in and around this property.

**Keweenaw County – Grant Township, Copper Harbor Trail System Access Protection Project - $248,300**

Acquisition of approximately 94 acres including the core of an existing trail system and access to the main trailhead at Grant Township Park in Copper Harbor. The acquisition contains scenic, forested acreage with 3 miles of non-motorized single track mountain bike trail providing contiguous access to Fort Wilkins Historic State Park, Keweenaw Point DNR lands, and Grant Township's Hunter's Point Park. In addition to trail protection, the purchase will prevent further fragmentation of the landscape to enhance hunting and wildlife corridors, provide interpretive opportunities to unique geologic and natural features, and maintain access to sweeping views of Copper Harbor and Lake Superior.
Western Michigan

Branch County – Angel Cove Park Expansion - **$84,300**
Acquisition of 4 acres on the Coldwater River adjacent to the existing Angel Cove Park. Future development of the parcels will include riverfront campsites, pavilion and a handicap accessible canoe/kayak launch. The canoe/kayak launch would be the first of its kind in the county and it could also be used to provide shore fishing opportunities.

Kent County – Chief Hazy Cloud Park Land Addition - **$2,152,500**
Acquisition of approximately 145 acres with over one mile of frontage on the Grand River. The acquisition will more than double the current 123-acre park property and double the river frontage. The park sits along the Grand River on the east side of the Grand Rapids Metro area. The property is particularly rich in plant species and ranks high on the floral index. The purpose of the acquisition is for preservation, access to the Grand River as part of Kent County’s river trail system and future trail connections to Ada Township’s bike/non-motorized trail system.

Ottawa County – Bend Area Expansion - **$729,000**
Acquisition of multiple properties totaling 231 acres to expand the Bend Area Open Space park. The acquisition includes frontage on the Grand River which connects to a series of lakes on the property. The vision for the Bend Area Park is for an accessible, high-use park offering a wide range of recreation opportunities including a large swimming beach, marina with non-motorized boat rentals, paved and natural surfaced trails (including the Greenway trail), canoe/kayak trails and water trail access to the Grand River Heritage Water Trail, boat launches, picnicking, playgrounds, fishing docks and wildlife viewing areas. Archery hunting for deer is currently offered and will continue through a permit system as park use expands.

Van Buren County – South Haven Area Recreation Authority, 14th Avenue Parcel Acquisition - **$300,000**
Acquisition of 39.5 acres for the development of a recreation park that will include soccer fields, baseball/softball fields, parking and restroom/concession facilities to serve recreation demand in the region.

**Total Acquisition Grant Recommendation Amount: $27,670,800**

21 Local Acquisitions - $19,900,800

6 State Acquisitions - $7,770,000