



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH  
DIRECTOR

September 14, 2015

TO: Keith Creagh, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

Transaction: Parks and Recreation Land Acquisition  
Watkins Lake State Park; Rose Lake District – Jackson County  
The Trolz Tract  
Land Transaction Case #20120036

Purchase: 726 acres - \$2,900,000.00

Funding Source: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Act 283 of 2012, River Raisin  
Recreation Area Fund.

PA 240 of 2012: PILT Estimate: \$63,220.58. This parcel is south of the Mason-Arenac  
County line and will result in an increase of 726 counted acres, there are  
no excluded acres as a part of this transaction.

Description: Jackson County, Norvell Township, T4S, R2E, Sections 12, 13 and 14:  
Various parcels more completely described in the case file.

Seller(s): G.T. Ranch, LLC, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Authority: Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as  
amended.

Notice: This item will appear on the Department of Natural Resources  
(Department) September 29, 2015, calendar, and is eligible for approval  
on October 6, 2015.

Management  
Purpose: The property will be managed and maintained as the Watkins Lake State  
Park and provides additional hiking, hunting, trail activities and  
recreational opportunities as allowed under State Land Rules for Park  
and Recreation Areas. Between September 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> an  
area of approximately 200 acres surrounding and including Watkins  
Lake will be closed to hunting as a seasonal waterfowl refuge.

September 14, 2015

Comments:

The Trolz tract consists of rolling land covered in a mixture of open meadow, mixed hardwoods and low wet areas, including in part, Watkins Lake. Passing east-west within the property, an abandoned rail corridor well suited for trail development continues onto land in Washtenaw County being purchased by Washtenaw County Parks thus creating a 4.5-mile corridor as the beginnings of a regional trail connection between the Villages of Brooklyn and Manchester. Together, Washtenaw County Parks and the Department will create the first state park managed through a partnership between a county recreation agency and the state. Private land surrounds the tract but the rail corridor connects the tract with rail corridor and additional lands to the east purchased by the Washtenaw County Parks.

The Trolz tract provides for additional wildlife habitat and public recreation opportunities including fishing and hunting and trail-based activities. Watkins Lake is a significant stop-over for waterfowl and other water birds and currently draws large number of watchable wildlife enthusiasts each year. Arnold Road, which bisects Watkins Lake, provides excellent viewing opportunities. Ducks Unlimited supports this acquisition for the benefits it will provide to waterfowl and waterfowl hunters.

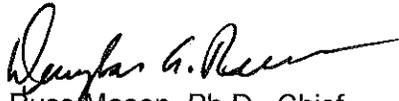
The property also includes historical significance attached to the original owners of the property and their involvement with the Underground Railroad.

Engagement:

Both Norvell Township and Jackson County support the Department's efforts to acquire this property for public outdoor recreation. Additional support for this project comes from the Villages of Brooklyn and Manchester, and the Washtenaw County Parks.

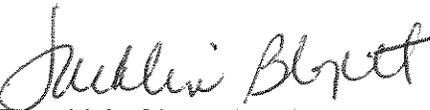
Recommendation:

1. That the acquisition be approved, with payment to be made from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Act 283 of 2012, River Raisin Recreation Area Fund.
2. That the property be dedicated as part of the new Watkins Lake State Park.

  
for Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief  
Wildlife Division

  
for William O'Neill, Chief  
Forest Resources Division

  
James L. Dexter, Chief  
Fisheries Division

  
for Ronald A. Olson, Chief  
Parks and Recreation Division

  
William E. Moritz, Ph.D.  
Natural Resources Deputy

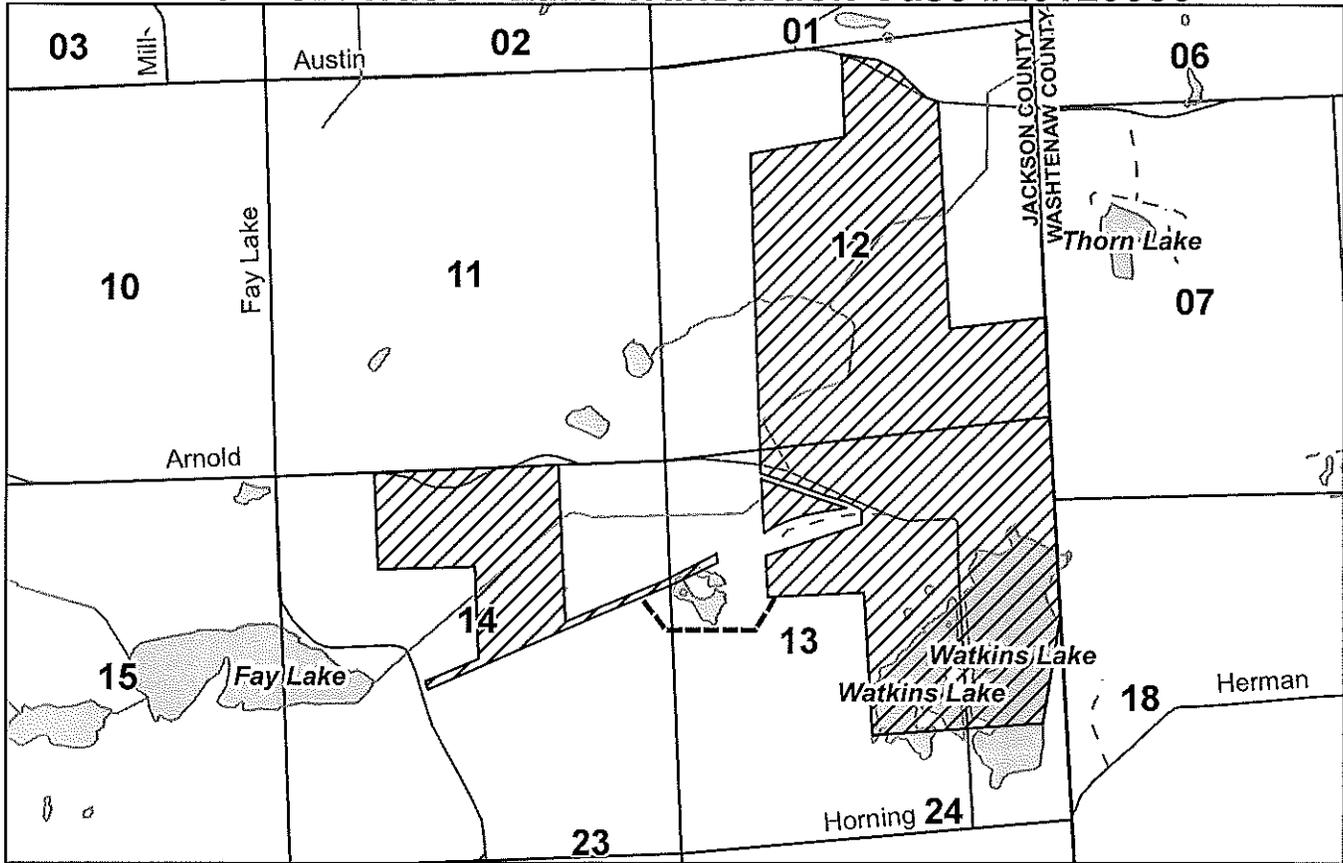
  
Mark H. Hoffman  
Chief Administrative Officer

I approve the staff recommendations.

Keith Creagh  
Director

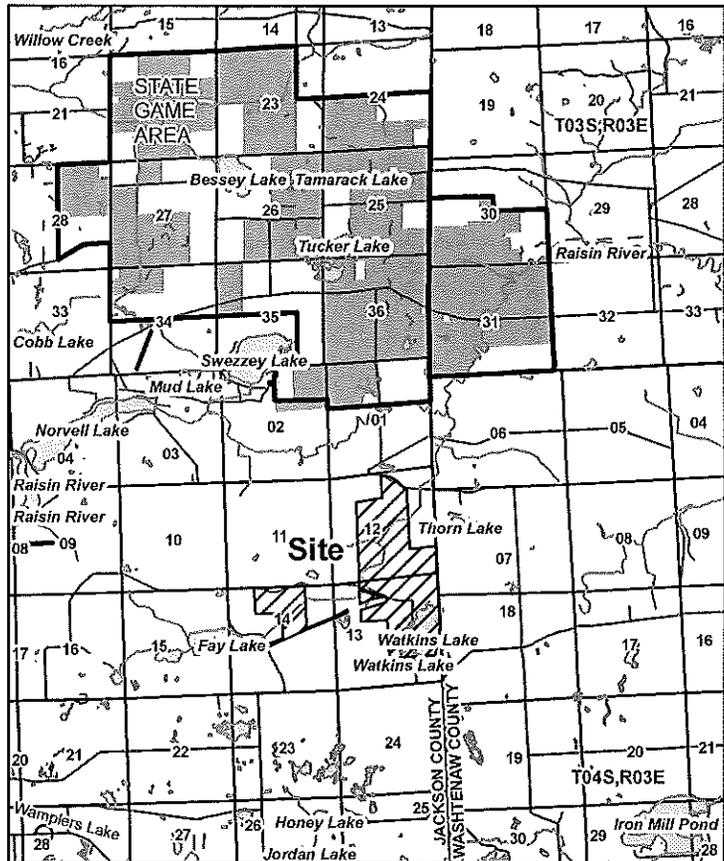
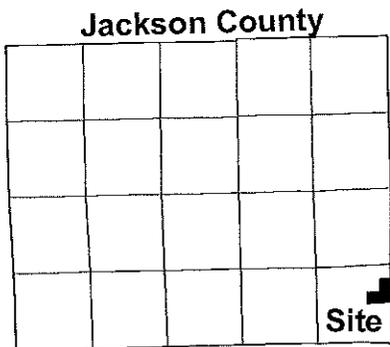
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Date Approved

**PARKS AND RECREATION LAND ACQUISITION**  
**Rose Lake District -- Jackson County**  
**The Trolz Tract -- Land Transaction Case #20120036**



**Sections 12, 13 & 14, T4S, R2E**  
**Norvell Township**

-  State Game Area Boundary
-  Land to be Acquired by DNR (726 acres m/l)
-  Trail Easement
-  State Land
-  Non-State Land



**Regional Location**



DNR – Finance & Operations Division  
 Real Estate Services Section  
 09/02/2015

