



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH  
DIRECTOR

August 12, 2013

TO: Keith Creagh, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

Transaction: Wildlife Land Acquisition  
Minden City State Game Area – Sanilac County  
Raymond Park Trust Tract  
Land Transaction Case #20130101

Purchase: 120 acres, more or less. \$260,000.00

PA 240 of 2012: PILT Estimate: \$1,568.00  
This parcel is south of the Mason-Arenac County line and will result in an increase of 120 counted acres. There are no excluded acres as a part of this transaction.

Description: Sanilac County, Wheatland Township, T13N, R14E, the West ½ of the NE ¼; and the NE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 9.

Seller(s): Raymond Park Trust, Sandusky, MI.

Authority: Act 451, Public Acts of 1994, as amended

Notice: This item will appear on the Department of Natural Resources (Department) September 3, 2013, calendar, and is eligible for approval on September 10, 2013.

Purpose: This tract further consolidates the Minden State Game Area and provides valuable habitat for the American woodcock, Eastern wild turkey, and ruffed grouse game species. The unique 'raised bog' environment provides for the protection of this valuable natural resource.

Comments: This rural southern Michigan 120-acre parcel is within the boundaries of the Minden City State Game Area. The property contains the following characteristics:

- Adjacent to State-owned land – the parcel abuts a large block of existing State-owned lands along 1¾ miles of its two mile border.
- Access – the property has ¾ of a mile of frontage on two county maintained roads. Roads open to vehicular traffic on this property at the time of purchase will remain open to multiple uses (e.g., horses, bikes).

- Topography and cover – this parcel is a part of the 12,000 acre Minden Bog, which has been identified by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory as a natural plant community. The property is a part of a ‘raised bog’; bogs of this type form over time as layers of sphagnum moss grow above the surrounding terrain. The property is well forested with aspen; prior to closing, the owner may perform a timber harvest in consultation with field staff.
- Water frontage – none.
- Improvements – none.
- Wildlife - this parcel provides quality wildlife habitat for a variety of wildlife species including woodcock, wild turkey, white-tailed deer and ruffed grouse.

The recently completed “Department of Natural Resources Managed Public Lands Strategy” provides guidance concerning land acquisition priorities. The plan places an emphasis on land acquisitions in southern Michigan, such as this parcel. It also places an emphasis on acquiring private holdings within DNR-managed public land project boundaries that further the goals, desired outcomes, and measurable objectives that are identified in the Strategy. As such, this acquisition furthers the following goals as outlined in the plan:

- Goal 1: Provide Quality Outdoor Public Recreation Opportunities
  - This acquisition increases the amount of land available for dispersed public recreation in southern Michigan.
- Goal 2: Foster Regional Economic Prosperity
  - Annually, more than three-quarters of a million people hunt in Michigan, making it a \$1.3 billion industry. While pursuing their activities, hunters visit restaurants, hotels, gas stations, and grocery stores across the rural areas of the state, bringing much needed economic activity to these areas. This acquisition will increase the amount of hunting land available and improve access to existing lands in this rural area.
- Goal 3: Protect Natural and Cultural Resources
  - This acquisition will increase the opportunities for current and future generations to visit and experience the unique features of a raised bog.
  - This acquisition will increase or maintain the diversity of resilient cover types and natural communities aiding in the sustainability of healthy ecosystems and species populations.

The sellers will convey mineral rights relative to this tract, if owned.

Acquisition of this parcel will contribute to the Department’s goals of consolidating State ownership, securing wildlife habitat, and increasing public recreation opportunities.

Recommendation: That the acquisition be approved, with payment to be made from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Southeast Eco-Regional Land Consolidation project, and the Urban Area Upland Game Habitat project.

August 12, 2013

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief  
Wildlife Division

William O'Neill, Chief  
Forest Resources Division

James L. Dexter, Chief  
Fisheries Division

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

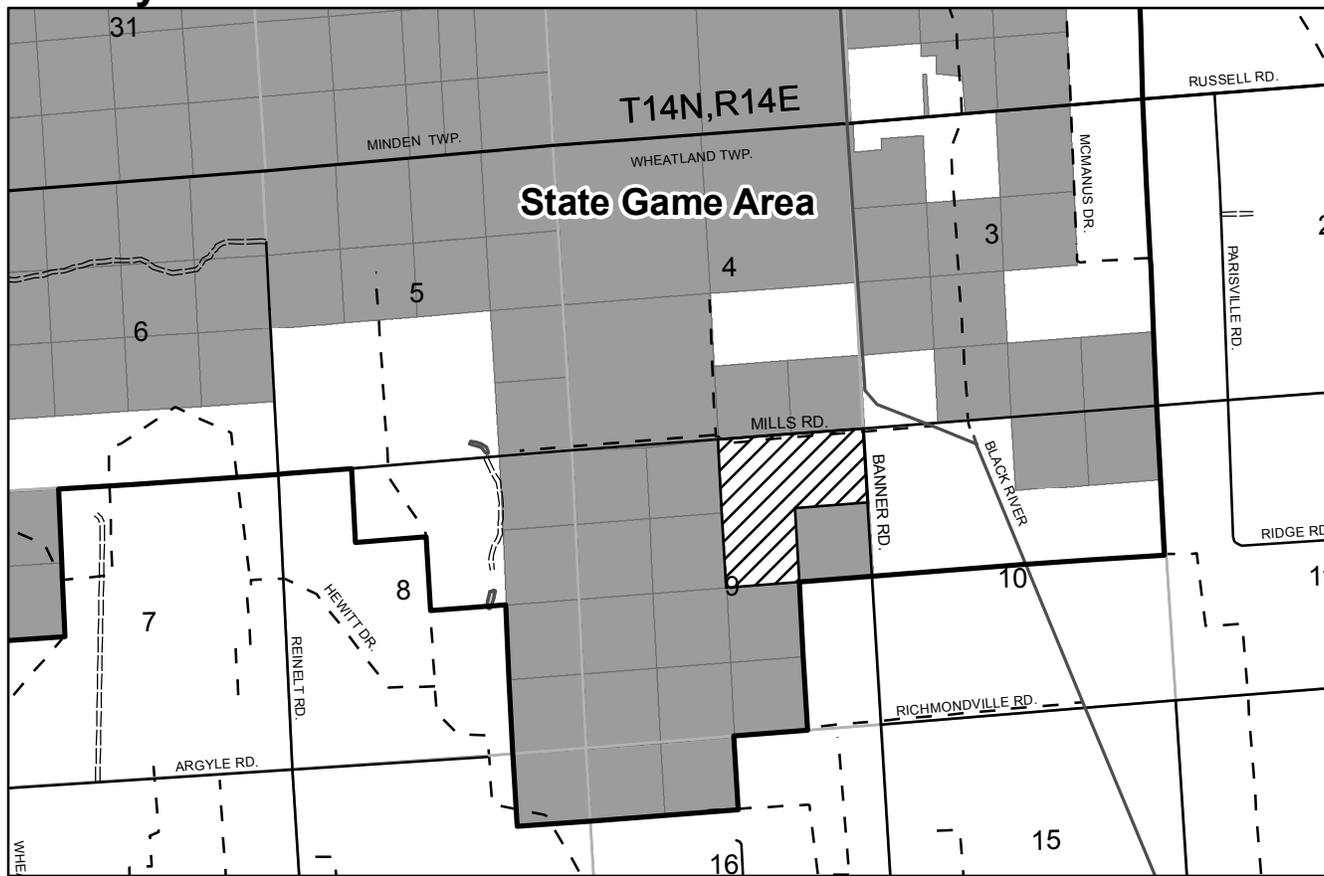
Keith Creagh  
Director

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Date Approved

# WILDLIFE LAND ACQUISITION

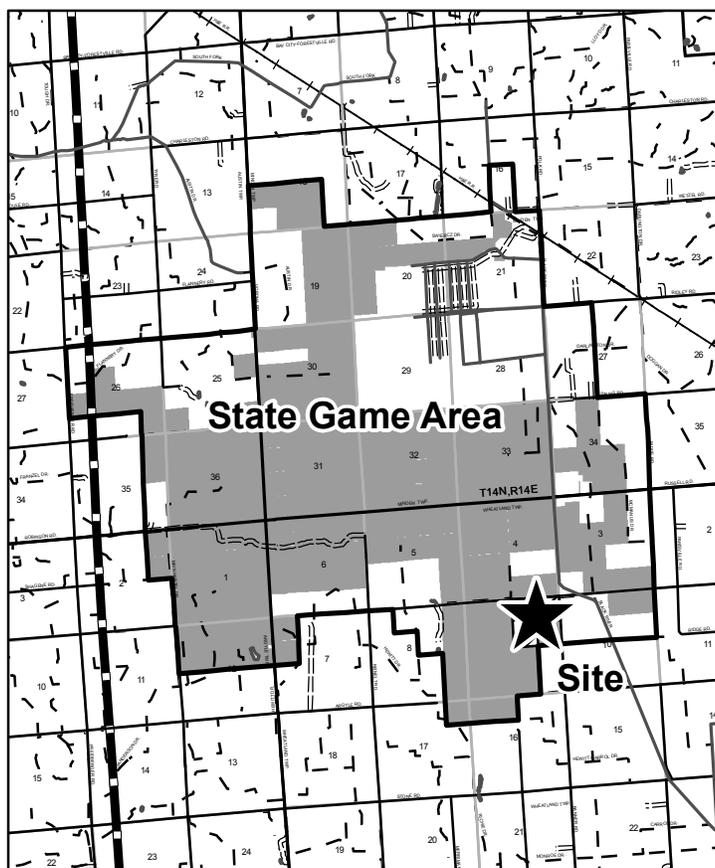
## Minden City State Game Area -- Sanilac County

### The Raymond Park Trust Tract -- Land Transaction Case #20130101



### Section 9, T13N, R14E Wheatland Township

-  State Game Area Boundary
-  Land Offered to DNR  
(120 acres -- \$260,000)
-  State Land
-  Private Land



**Regional Location**



DNR -- Finance & Operations Division  
Real Estate Services Section  
07/24/2013

