

### Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Date: October 25, 2023 Time: 1:00 p.m. Location: City of Ferrysburg, City Hall

### Roll Call

### Present for MSPAC

- Ann Conklin Julie Clark Mike Foote Chris Graham Bob Hoffmeyer Mike McDonald Mary Pitcher Carol Rose Nichole Fisher
- Attending remotely: Jim Bradley; Ontonagon, Ontonagon County Shaun McKeon; Lansing Township, Ingham County
- Present for the Department of Natural Resources: Ron Olson, Chief Jacklin Blodgett Michael Desnoyer Tim Novak Jason Fleming Vicki McGhee Deb Jensen Barbara Graves

The committee participated in a tour of P.J. Hoffmaster State Park prior to the meeting and were able to view the recent improvements to the park.

### Call to Order

Member Conklin called the meeting to order at 1:14 p.m. and roll was taken.

Member Conklin asked for a motion of approval of the August 30, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was moved by Julie Clark, supported by Mary Pitcher, and passed unanimously.

Introductions of the two newest committee members, Carol Rose and Nichole Fisher, were made.

### Action

Chief Ron Olson provided a summary of the following three draft Land Use Order amendments. Brief discussions took place on each.

MOTION: Committee member Conlin asked for a motion of support to adopt Resolution 10-2023-03, a resolution to recommend approval of the draft Land Use Order of the Director, Amendment No. X of 2023 – Metal Detecting. The motion was moved by Mike McDonald, supported by Mary Pitcher, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: Committee member Conlin asked for a motion of support to adopt Resolution 10-2023-04, a resolution to recommend approval of the draft Land Use Order of the Director, Amendment No. X of 2023 – Boat Access Site Trailer Parking. The motion was moved by Mike Foote, supported by Mary Pitcher, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: Committee member Conlin asked for a motion of support to adopt Resolution 10-2023-05, a resolution to recommend approval of the draft Land Use Order of the Director, Amendment No. X of 2023 – Ortonville Recreation Area Mixed Use. The motion was moved by Mary Pitcher, supported by Mike McDonald, and passed unanimously.

### **Information Only**

Parks and Recreation Update

Chief Ron Olson updated the group on the Belle Isle boathouse, in light of the recent media attention to it. A resolution was presented to the Belle Isle Advisory Committee to adopt support for the Friends of Detroit Rowing to build a temporary rowing structure so they could store their skulls due to the ceiling failure of the boathouse. A public process will happen prior to any decisions being made about the future of the boathouse.

He continued that the Recreation Passport opt-out amendment to statute will be reintroduced in the legislature, sponsored by Senator Brixie. Members

were updated on Recreation Passport, recreation nights and reservations and other stats (License and Sales report attached).

### FY24 Budget

Michael Desnoyer, Administrative Services Chief, presented the fiscal year 2024 state parks, recreational boating and trails appropriations, including operating, capital outlay, grants, and one-time funding, as well as the operating investments, and answered questions posed by committee members. (Report attached).

### ARPA Projects

Tim Novak, State Trails Coordinator, gave the committee an update of the recent ARPA projects, including the fiscal year 2023 ARPA appropriation and supplemental for Belle Isle and other ARPA projects that are completed, nearing completion, or starting this fall. The highlighted project was the Kal Haven Trail State Park, with a complete resurfacing of about 14 miles of the trail and culvert and bridge replacements. (Presentation attached).

### Committee Member Comments

Member Graham commented that the state parks are in trouble due to the deer destruction of the natural resources. He will come back to the committee after he researches possible solutions.

### **Public Comment**

Ellen Hobart – Expressed her pleasure with how the process works and is happy to be able to attend a meeting today, as she is a long-time park user.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 10-2023-03**

#### MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

#### RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE "DRAFT LAND USE ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR, AMENDMENT NO. X OF 2023 – METAL DETECTING"

#### ADOPTED: October 25, 2023

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division has long recognized metal detecting as a recreational activity at appropriate locales; however, there is concern that metal detectors facilitate illegal removal of archaeological and historic resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks and Recreation Division has had a policy for many years that prohibits metal detector use in areas that are known to have artifacts and designated historic or archaeological sites and these sites include those listed on the State or National registers of historic places or indicated by the State Archaeologist in the State Historic Preservation Office; and

**WHEREAS**, Public Act 451, 324.74102 mandates the protection of historic resources within State Parks; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Land Use Order would provide clarification on metal detector use, and establishing these prohibited activities in a Land Use Order also provides necessary authority for ceasing these activities in unwanted areas.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Land Use Order; and

**THERFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee further recommends that the DNR Director approve the Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. X of 2023 – Metal Detecting.

Submitted by: Michigan State Park Advisory Committee

Motioned by:	Mike McDonald	Yeas:	11
Seconded by:	Mary Pitcher	Nays:	0
		Abstained:	0
		Absent:	0

This Resolution was adopted by the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee at their regular meeting on October 25, 2023, as Resolution No. 10-2023-03.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 10-2023-04**

### MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

#### RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE "DRAFT LAND USE ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR, AMENDMENT NO. X OF 2023 – BOAT ACCESS SITE TRAILER PARKING"

### ADOPTED: October 25, 2023

**WHEREAS**, periodically, the Parks and Recreation Division reviews the Land Use Orders that govern the lands it administers to determine whether any updates are necessary due to operational needs, statutes and/or clarifications to existing Land Use Orders; and

**WHEREAS**, proposed to be addressed in this Land Use Order is a clean-up of the boating access site Recreation Passport language; and

**WHEREAS**, this Land Use Order includes the addition of several boating access sites to existing Land Use Orders prohibiting parking a motorized vehicle without a watercraft trailer attached or a vehicle not being used to transport a watercraft in any area other than a parking space designated as "parking for vehicles without trailers;" and

WHEREAS, "Watercraft" means any contrivance used or designed for navigation on water, including, but not limited to, any vessel, ship, boat, motor vessel, steam vessel, vessel operated by machinery, motorboat, sailboat, barge, scow, tugboat, and rowboat, but does not include contrivances used or owned by the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, many access sites have identified issues with an increase in vehicles parking in parking spaces intended to be used by vehicles with trailers who are launching and retrieving watercraft, thus, has led to a decrease in availability for parking by those towing watercraft.

**WHEREAS**, each access site will provide parking spaces for vehicles without trailers, or options for these vehicles to park in close proximity to the access site.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Land Use Order; and

**THERFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee further recommends that the DNR Director approve the Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. X of 2023, Boat Access Site Trailer Parking.

Submitted by: Michigan State Park Advisory Committee

Motioned by:	Mike Foote	Yeas:	11
Seconded by:	Mary Pitcher	Nays:	0
		Abstained:	0
		Absent:	0

This Resolution was adopted by the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee at their regular meeting on October 25, 2023, as Resolution No. 10-2023-04.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 10-2023-05**

#### MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

#### RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE "DRAFT LAND USE ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR, AMENDMENT NO. X OF 2023 – ORTONVILLE RECREATION AREA MIXED USE"

#### ADOPTED: October 25, 2023

**WHEREAS**, periodically, the Parks and Recreation Division reviews the Land Use Orders that govern the lands it administers to determine whether any updates are necessary due to operational needs, statutes and/or clarifications to existing Land Use Orders; and

**WHEREAS**, the campground at Ortonville RA was historically open to mixed use with low amounts of user conflicts until 2022 when it was changed to equestrian use only by Land Use Order 5.1(1)(a).

**WHEREAS**, since the passage of this order, the campground has been mostly vacant during the summer months, and many previous non-equestrian campers have been turned away while the campground sits mostly empty, and, staff also have contributed a large amount of time keeping the campground maintained, with low attendance; and

**WHEREAS**, most equestrian camper use occurs during spring and fall trail rides at Ortonville Recreation Area; and

**WHEREAS**, this order would make the language of the equestrian only camping order to be effective from April 1 through June 30 and September 1 through October 31 only, allowing for more mixed use of the facility during the summer months.

**WHEREAS,** this proposed order has been discussed with the Ortonville Recreation Equestrian Association, and they are in favor with the proposed change; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Land Use Order; and

**THERFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee further recommends that the DNR Director approve the Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. X of 2023, Ortonville Recreation Area Mixed Use.

Submitted by: Michigan State Park Advisory Committee

Motioned by:	Mary Pitcher	Yeas:	11
Seconded by:	Mike McDonald	Nays:	0
		Abstained:	0
		Absent:	0

This Resolution was adopted by the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee at their regular meeting on October 25, 2023, as Resolution No. 10-2023-05.

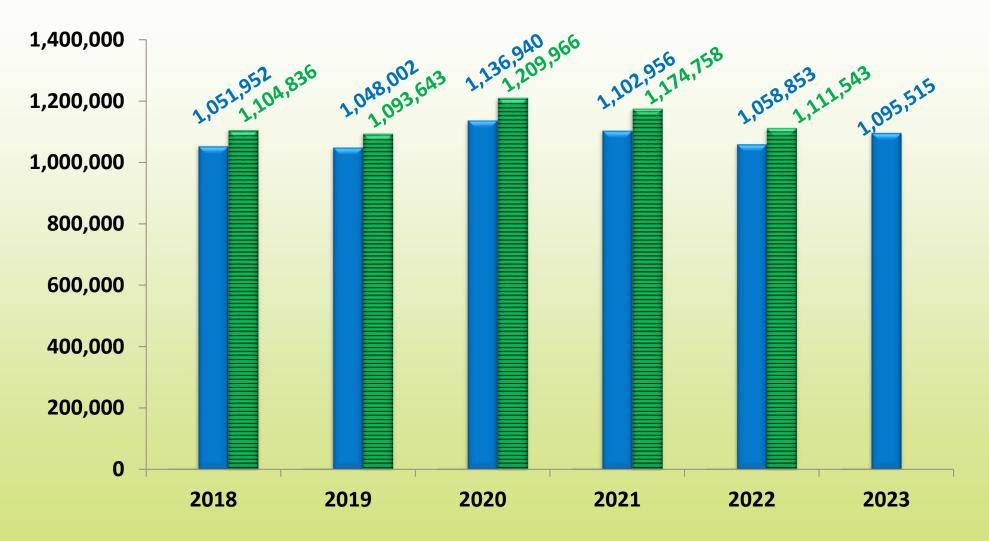


# Licenses and Permits Sales Report

### Prepared For Natural Resources Commission Meeting October 12, 2023



# **Fishing Customers - YTD**



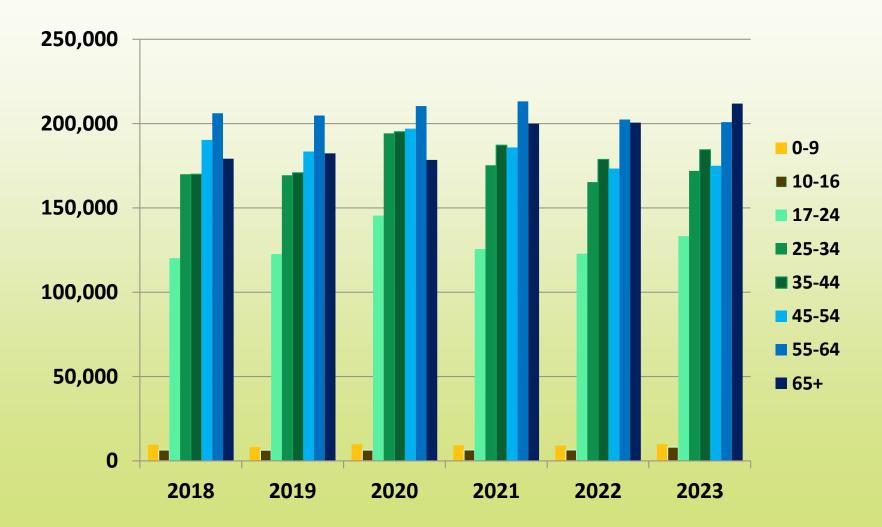
FISH - Total Unique Customers E Total license year

Blue bar represents license year to end of previous month.

Green bar represents entire license year.

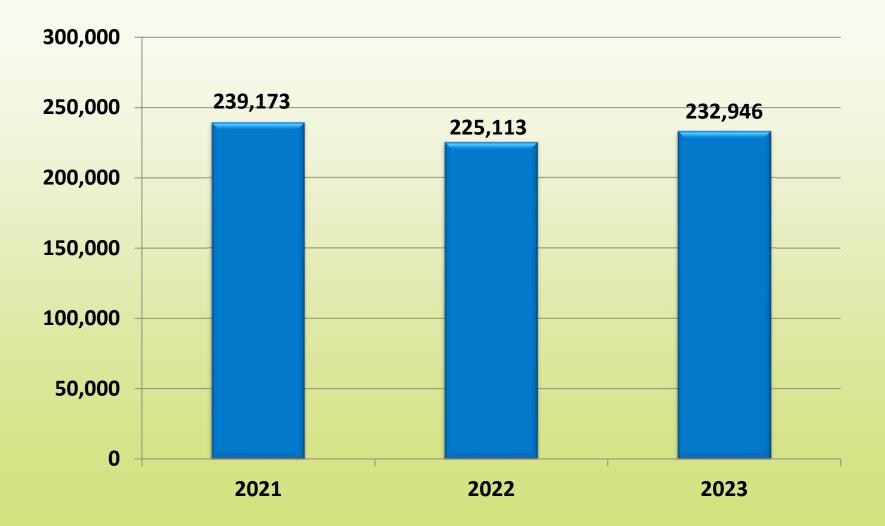


# Fishing Customers by Age - YTD



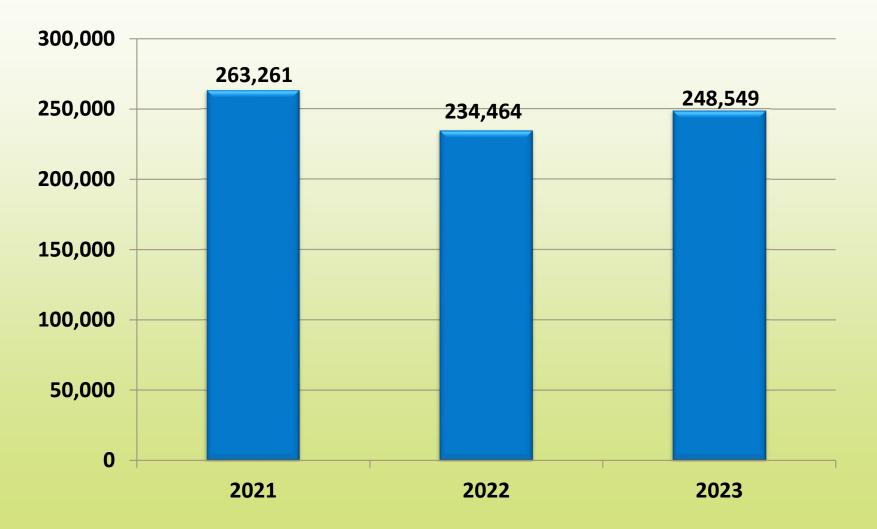


# Female Fishing Customers – YTD



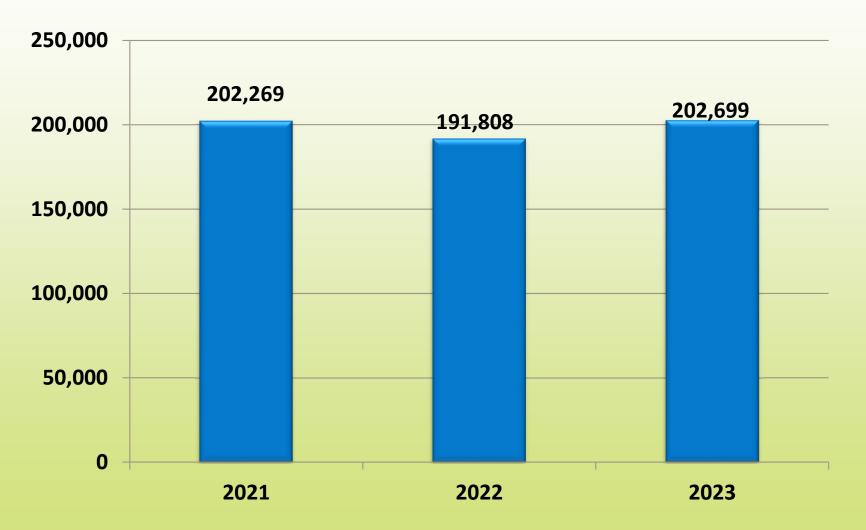


# **New Fishing Customers - YTD**



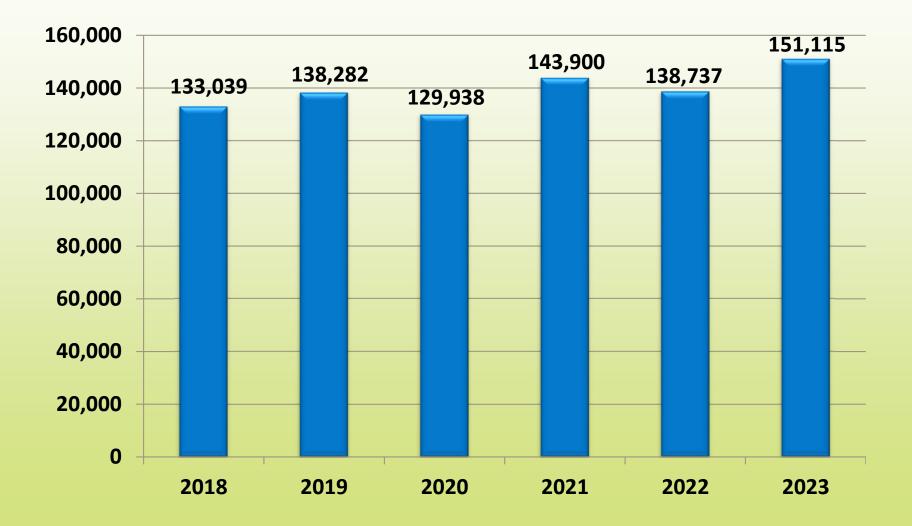


# **Est. Nonresident Fishing Customers - YTD**



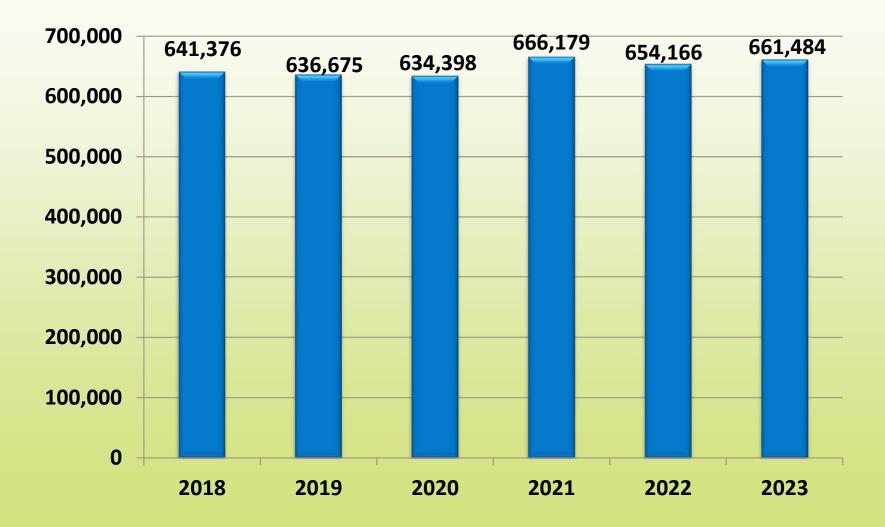


# Fishing Customers Buying Short-Term Licenses (1 or 3 day) - YTD



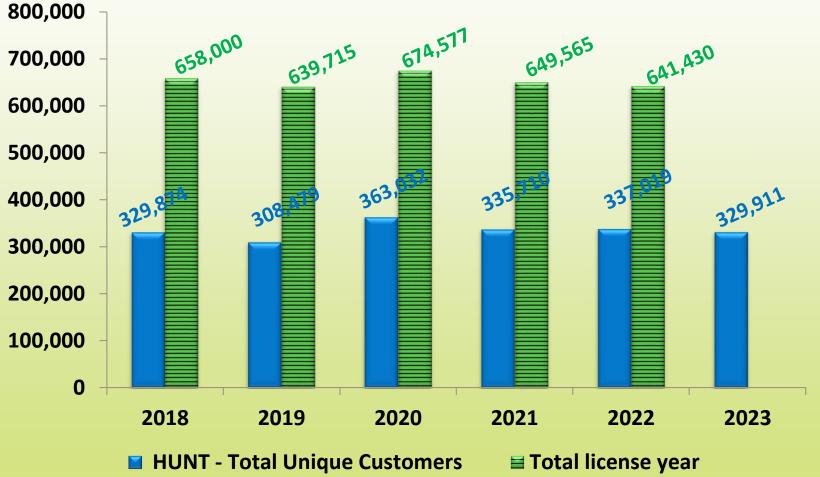


# **Repeat Fishing Customers – YTD**





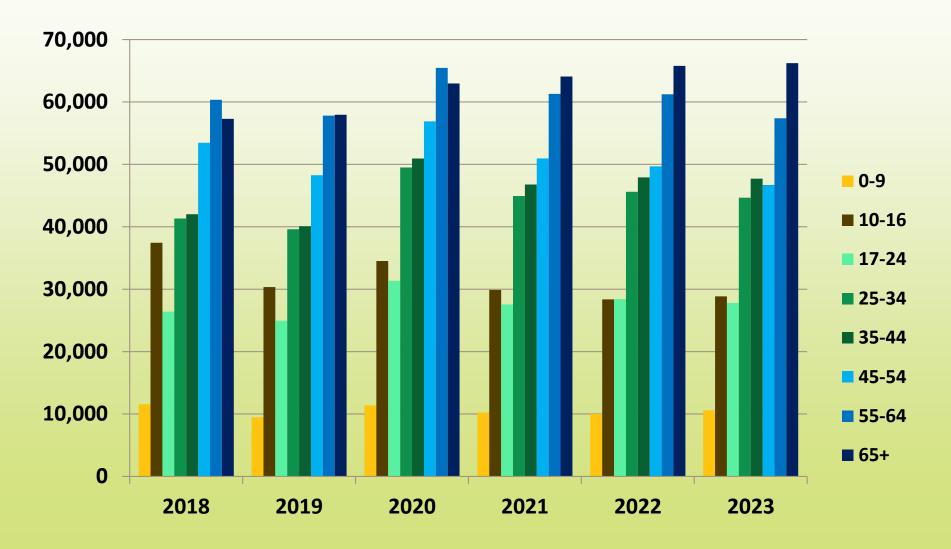
# **Hunting Customers - YTD**



Blue bar represents license year to end of previous month. Green bar represents entire license year.

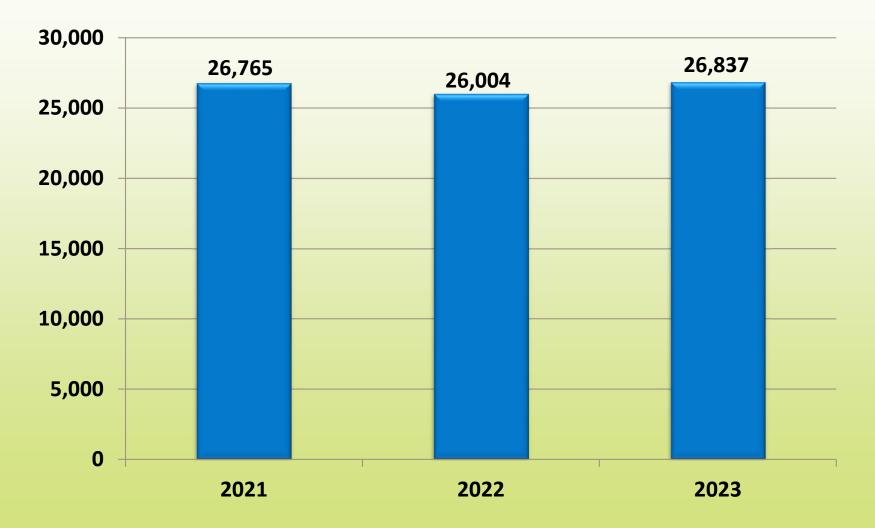


# Hunting Customers by Age - YTD



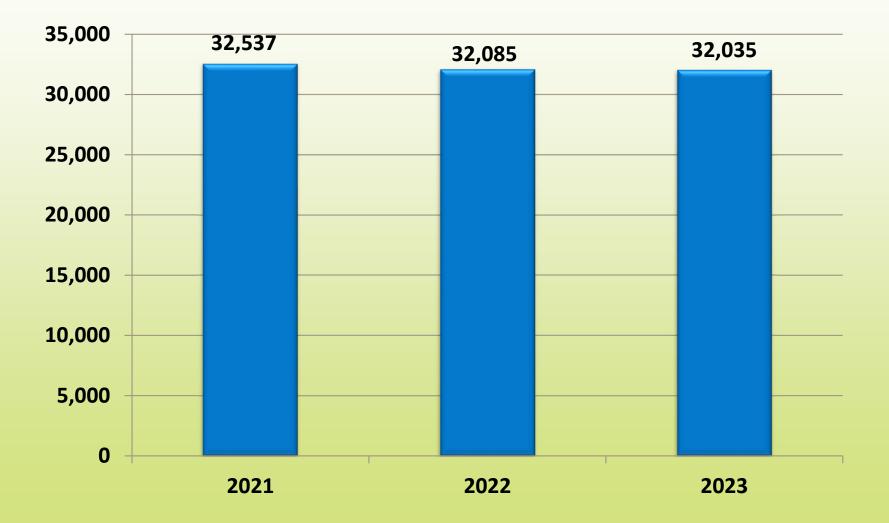


# **New Hunting Customers - YTD**



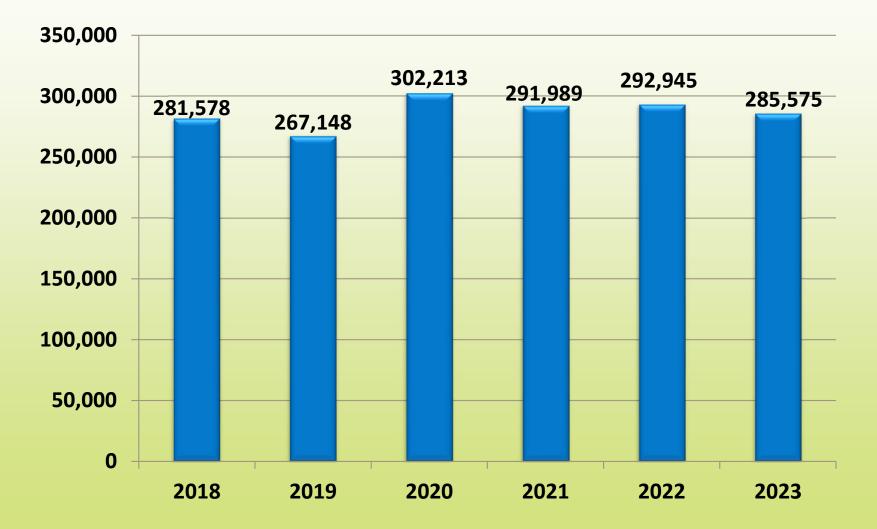


# **Female Hunting Customers – YTD**



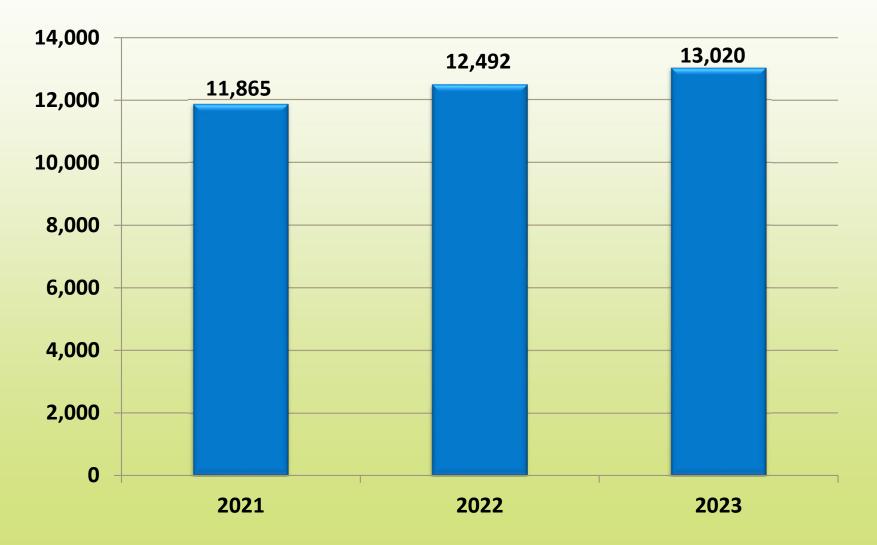


# **Repeat Hunting Customers - YTD**



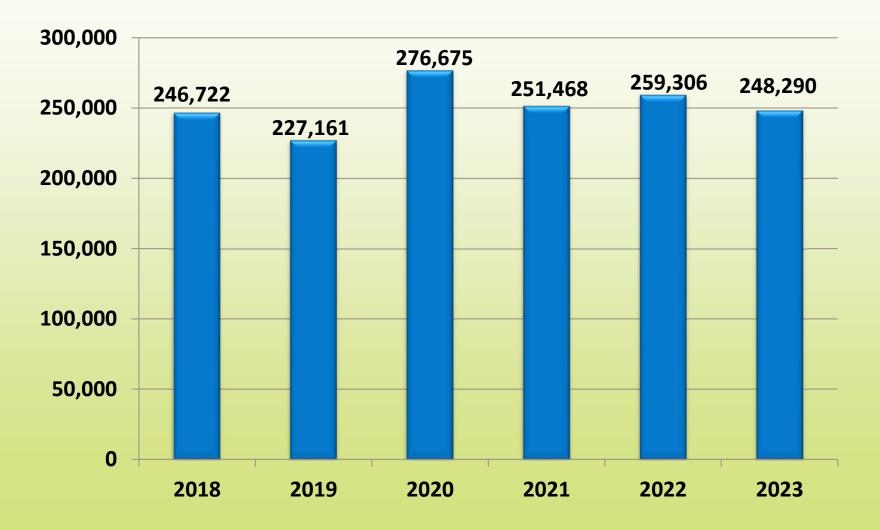


# **Nonresident Hunting Customers - YTD**





## **Deer License Customers - YTD**





### FY23 through August



Total FY 2021- <i>\$38,045,700</i>	Cumulative August FY2023 – <i>\$38,823,986</i>	August FY2023 – \$4,294,865
Total FY 2022- <i>\$37,591,900</i>	Cumulative August FY2022 – <i>\$34,407,984</i>	August FY2022 – \$3,734,245
% Change: -1.19%	% Change: +12.83%	% Change: +15.0%

Effective 10/1/22 legislation allows for the purchase of two-year vehicle registrations. The current year impact of this change on revenue and transaction numbers is being evaluated.

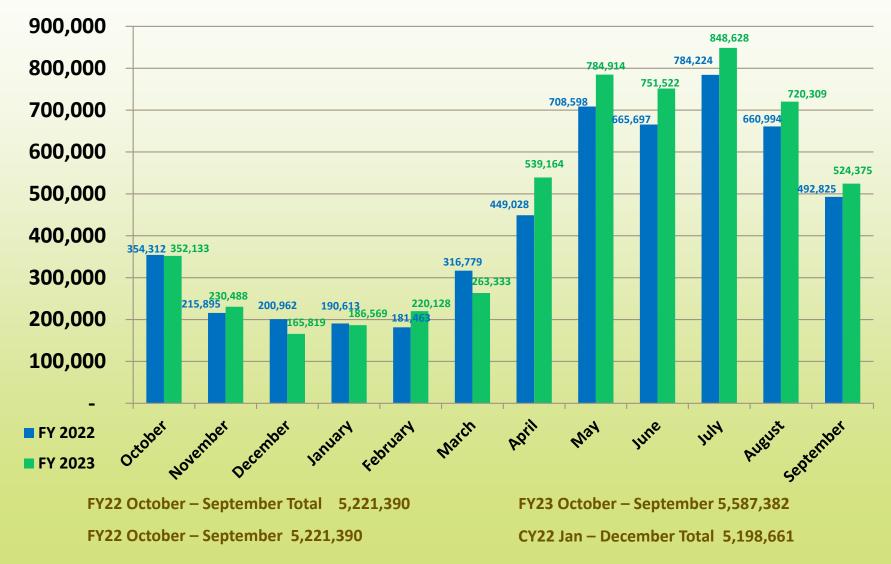


### **Recreation Nights and Reservations** FY23 September

<u>Category</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>	<u>FY 2022</u>	<u>FY 2023</u>	<u>% Change FY22</u> to FY23
Park Nights	1,437,209	1,335,104	1,312,553	-1.69%
Park Reservations	560,283	508,789	494,874	-2.73%
Harbor Nights	44,243	42,278	42,651	+0.88%
Harbor Reservations	23,919	22,511	22,131	-1.69%



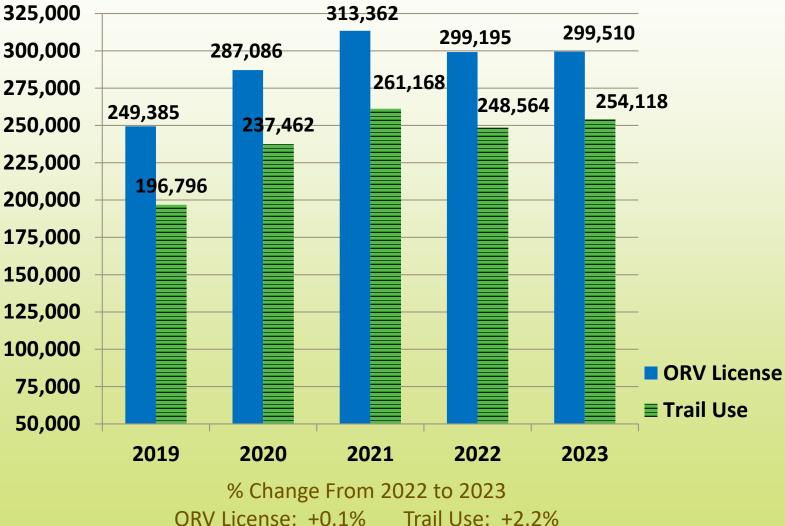
## **Belle Isle Average Monthly Attendance**





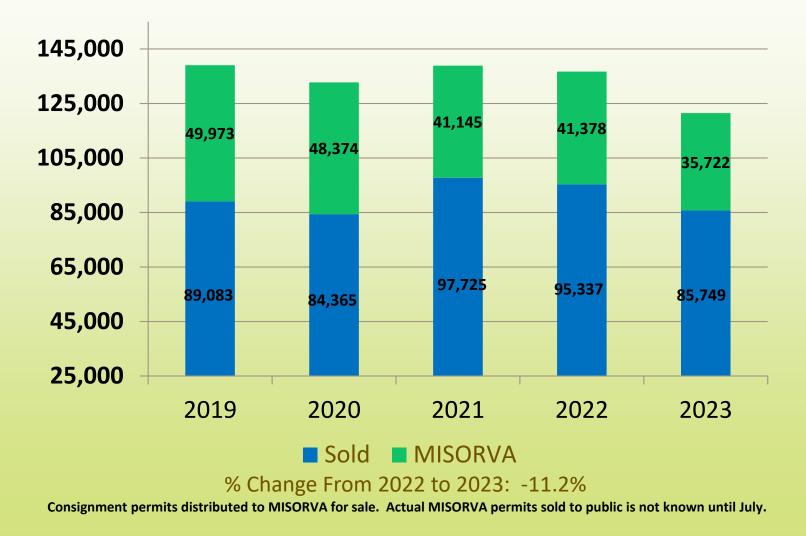
# **ORV License Sales**

# **Through September**





# Snowmobile Permit Sales Through September



### Belle Isle Boat House needs \$54M renovation as demolition remains an option

Jenna Prestininzi Detroit Free Press

View Comments

0:00

1:08

The fate of Detroit's Belle Isle Boat House is in question as Michigan Department of Natural Resources officials prepare for a meeting Thursday.

Architects estimate full restoration costs at \$54 million.

The building, <u>built in 1902</u>, previously housed the Detroit Boat Club and currently is under lease by the Friends of Detroit Rowing. Significant damage has occurred to the building in recent years, worsening in 2022, as sections of the roof, flooring and exterior stucco collapsed, combined with other structural issues, according to the DNR.



"That's when it was determined that we have a huge problem here," said Thomas Bissett, urban district supervisor for the Michigan DNR.

They declared the building uninhabitable in August 2022 and notified the Friends of Detroit Rowing that it could no longer operate in the building.

The Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee, which advises the state on decisions at the Belle Isle Park, will address this issue at its upcoming meeting at 9 a.m. Thursday. Bissett will give a presentation at the meeting.

Complete demolition remains among potential options, but it's too early to determine what's best, Bissett said.

"I don't think we're there yet on where we want to go or what we want to do, but I think that the biggest hurdle for us is \$54 million is a huge number," Bissett said. Some community members on Tuesday posted on social media of plans to vote on demolishing the Belle Isle Boat House at the upcoming meeting.

The initial agenda published on the committee's website stated that one of the agenda items would be "Resolution 10-2023-02 in Support of the Belle Isle Boathouse Demolition." The <u>revised agenda</u> and draft resolution now refers to the resolution as "Resolution 10-2023-02 to Support the Establishment of a Temporary Storage and Operational Facility."

The previous version of the resolution included a typo in its title and neither resolution indicates a plan to demolish the building, Bissett said. The committee removed the previous version of the agenda from its website.

This resolution proposes to let the Friends of Detroit Rowing store equipment in the parking lot near the Belle Isle Boat House.

Officials have been in constant communication with Friends of Detroit Rowing throughout this process, Bissett said.

"They've been partners with us in trying to explore solutions for this," Bissett said.

Potential options for the building include total restoration, a compartmentalized approach, a mothball preservation approach, or total demolition, Bissett said.

They brought in WTA Architects, along with structural architects from MacMillan Associates Inc., in March 2022 when signs of significant damage began to appear. They estimated the \$54 million cost for total restoration of the building, posing a significant barrier for state officials.

"That would represent more than a quarter of the total needs for the island itself," Bissett said.

This cost would be in addition to over \$200 million in infrastructure needs already facing Belle Isle, Bissett said. Further, the DNR has around \$200

million in American Rescue Act funds to distribute among all 103 state parks in Michigan, of which \$12 million went to Belle Isle.

Due to the high costs required for total restoration, officials are more focused on the other three options, Bissett said.

Concerns over the status of the Belle Isle Boat House have been ongoing for several years. The Detroit Boat Club left the building in 1996, when it moved operations outside Detroit.

The Detroit Free Press <u>reported in 2018</u> on efforts to fundraise for renovations, as the building began to see decay. At the time, the wallpaper and paint had chipped and ceiling tiles were missing.

The Detroit Boat Club, founded in 1839, had been a longstanding feature of the Belle Isle community. The uncertain status and deterioration of the Belle Isle Boat House represents the changing state of Belle Isle in recent decades.

To join the meeting, <u>follow this link</u> and use the meeting ID 243 952 644 936, passcode qPxaBt. Or call in 248-509-0316, Conference ID: 309 777 281#. Public outreach and input sessions will follow the meeting.

View Comments

### State Parks, Recreational Boating & Trails FY 2024 Appropriations Includes Operating, Capital Outlay, Grants, and One-Time Funding

### State Parks

Park Improvement Fund – 71%

- Camping \$20 \$53
- Recreational Passport \$13 at SOS, \$18 elsewhere
- Use Permits
- Others

Park Endowment Fund – 13%

Gas/Oil/Mineral Royalties
 Recreation Passport Fees – 12%
 General Fund – 2%

- Belle Isle
- Western UP

Others – 2%

### **Recreational Boating**

Waterways – 91%

- Watercraft Registration \$5 \$448 (3-year renewal)
- Gas Tax 80% of DNR 2%
- User Fees (harbor reservations, boating access sites)

Federal – 9%

Total R = \$198,877.5 Million – \$ in Thousands

**State Parks Funding - \$130,536.8** \$108,686.8 Operating, \$20,350.0 CO, \$1,500.0 One-time

**State Forest Recreation & Trails Funding - \$32,347.6** \$11,177.6 Operating, \$2,000.0 CO, \$18,670.0 Grants, \$500.0 One-time **Recreational Boating Funding - \$34,768.1** \$23,293.10 Operating, \$11,475.0 CO State Forest Recreation & Trails Funding

Off-Road Vehicle Trail Improvement – 26%

- Licenses \$26.25
- Trail Permits \$10 Forest Recreation – 19%
- Camping Fees \$20 \$25
- Recreational Passport \$ 13 at SOS, \$18 elsewhere Snowmobile Trail Improvement – 32%
- Trail Permits \$52
- Gas Tax 14% of DNR 2%
  General Fund (used for non-motorized) 2%

National Recreational Trails – 12%

• Grants

Recreation Improvement – 5%

• Gas Tax – 6% of DNR 2%

Others – 4%

RAM Center - \$1,225.0 Operating

### FY 2024 Investments

Amount	Funding Source(s)	Туре	Purpose
\$7,800,000	Park Improvement, Waterways,		
\$7,800,000	Forest Recreation	On-going	State Parks System Operations - includes 54.7 FTEs
\$8,000,000	General	On-going	
\$8,000,000	General	(two years)	Nature Awaits Program - includes 13.8 FTEs
\$1,250,000	General	One-time	Dam Management
\$2,000,000	General	One-time	Invasive Species Prevention and Control - includes 8 FTEs
\$1,000,000	General	One-time	Cultural Resource Management (expand DNR's archeological operations) - includes 2 FTEs
\$1,000,000	General	One-time	Great Lakes Splash Pads - Grand Haven, Holland, and Warren Dunes
\$500,000	General	One-time	Summer Youth Employment Program - Total will be \$1,434,000 in FY 2024
\$500,000	General	One-time	State Designated Water Trails
\$20,250,000	Park Endowment and Recreation		
\$20,350,000	Passport	Capital	State Parks Repair and Maintenance
\$8,152,500	Federal and Waterways	Capital	State Boating Infrastructure
\$3,322,500	Waterways	Capital	Local Boating Infrastructure
\$1,000,000	ORV Trail Improvement	Capital	ORV Trail Development and Maintenance - transfer from grants to capital outlay
\$1,000,000	Snowmobile Trail Improvement	Capital	Snowmobile Trail Development and Maintenance - transfer from grants to capital outlay

### FY 2024 State Park System Operating Investments

Amount	<u>FTEs</u>	Purpose
\$2,047,100	23	Additional Park Ranger hours
\$1,028,500	10	10 full time Ranger positions, 3 in state parks and 7 in forest recreation
\$336,600	6.7	Additional Short Term Worker hours
\$480,000	4	Additional Park Supervisor positions
\$350,800	3	Stewardship positions - includes MCCC management support
\$211,100	2	Administrative Support - Revenue Analyst and Training/Safety Analyst
\$140,000	1	Urban District P&R Manager
\$374,000	3	Planning Section Staff - Wastewater Analyst, Preventative Maintenance Technologist, Trails planner
\$240,300	2	Non-motorized Trails Analyst and Trails Property Analyst
\$630,000		Belle Isle Operations - majority to replace Grand Prix revenues
\$100,000		Park operation efficiency analysis
\$400,000		Horticulturist work and contracted resource support
\$575,000		Increase maintenance and equipment funding for state forest campgrounds
\$300,000		Improve technology systems to better manage concessions, incident management and other required systems
\$200,000		CSSM adjustments - boot reimbursements and radio replacements
\$425,000		Fee pipe replacement, signage, land surveys
67 020 400	F 4 70	

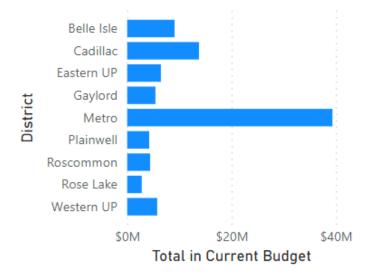
\$7,838,400

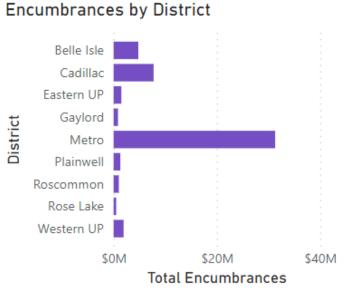
54.70



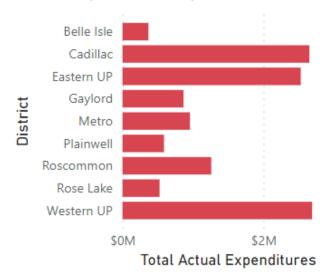
# AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) PROGRAM UPDATES OCTOBER 2023

### Current Sigma Budget by District





### Actual Expenditures by District



\$253.59M

Current Sigma Program Budget

\$132.94M

Sum of Encumbrances

\$23.43M

Actual Expenditures

Compared to: August 2023 \$246.29M

Current Sigma Program Budget

\$104.99M

Sum of Encumbrances

\$15.68M

Actual Expenditures

### PROGRAM STATUS BY THE NUMBERS







# FY23 SUPPLEMENTAL FOR BELLE ISLE

- Initial request of \$43M to address multiple projects
- Public Act 119 of 2023 provided \$23 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act State Fiscal Recovery Fund (ARPA/SFRF) in FY 2023 supplemental appropriations to the DNR, to be comprised of the following items:
  - Belle Isle Aquarium and Conservatory new HVAC system(s), facility and site drainage, ADA accessibility improvements, building stabilization and facility development planning
  - Former Zoo removal of dilapidated structures and development of recreational greenspace
  - Belle Isle Boathouse critical stabilization of the building to provide restricted access for the Friends of the Detroit Rowing Club (FDRC) program use
  - James Scott Memorial Fountain replace concrete decking supporting fountain main basin
  - Park wide removal/abatement of hazardous materials, strategic planning for development based on Strategic Management Plan, implementation of immediate recommendations from mobility study

# PROJECT UPDATES

# **RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS**

- Fayette State Park
  - Phase 2 water treatment plant improvements
- Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park
  - Resurfacing and reconstruction of visitor center and Headquarters area paved surfaces
- Bay City State Park
  - Saginaw Bay Visitor Center renovations
- Tawas Point State Park
  - Repair of exterior brick spalling on historic lighthouse tower
- Straits State Park
  - Replacement of two upper campground toilet/shower buildings



### PROJECTS NEARING COMPLETION

### Cheboygan State Park

- Modernization of the campground electrical and water distribution systems
- Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park
  - Paving 29 miles from Sand Lake to Big Rapids
- Hoffmaster State Park
  - Repair of the campground water and sewer lines
  - Resurfacing & new paving in campground
- Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park
  - Parking lot expansion and new toilet building at Summit Peak
  - Renovations and preservation of historic service area buildings
- Port Crescent State Park
  - Day Use roads and parking
  - Beach house renovation





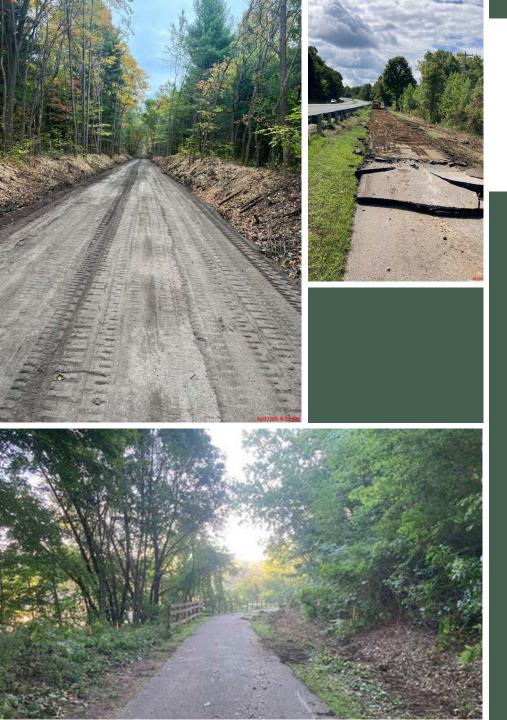






# PROJECTS STARTING THIS FALL

- Bay City State Park
  - Resurfacing, new paving and improved pedestrian circulation in day use
  - Resurfacing, new paving at campground entrance road
- Fort Custer Recreation Area
  - New toilet/shower buildings in campground
  - Upgraded electrical distribution system in the West Loop
- Muskallonge State Park
  - New West Campground toilet/shower building
- Tahquamenon Falls State Park
  - New Hemlock Campground toilet/shower building
- Young State Park
  - New campground toilet/shower buildings in Spruce Campground
  - Improvements to Spruce campground storm water system, repaving of campground loop, and campsite refresh



# PROJECT HIGHLIGHT – KAL HAVEN TRAIL STATE PARK

- Complete resurfacing of approximately 14 miles of the Kal-Haven Trail
  - Short sections of asphalt adjacent to South Haven and Bloomingdale trailheads
  - Remainder to be resurfaced with limestone aggregate (to match existing surfacing)
  - Also replacing culverts in poor condition and 3 bridges
- Construction is ongoing
  - All culvert replacements complete. Bridges are manufactured and ready to be delivered
  - Clearing & grubbing, 50% complete
  - Current estimated completion date is April 2024.
    - Some delays due to EGLE permitting, contractor and material availability



# WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?