



# Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund 2021 Annual Report

# Message from DNR Director Dan Eichinger and MNRTF Chair Erin McDonough



*DNR Director Dan Eichinger*

*MNRTF Chair Erin McDonough*

As our state navigated a second year amid COVID-19 uncertainty and health and safety restrictions, the importance of green spaces and public recreation facilities became a key focus. Time and again, Michigan residents and visitors turned to trails, parks, sports fields and other welcoming public places where they could get out of the house, soak up the sun and connect with family and friends.

Such sustained use of those sites and facilities takes a toll, though, and that's where the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund continues to make a meaningful difference in each of the state's 83 counties.

Trust Fund development and acquisition grants help agencies and communities keep up with increased demand for quality outdoor recreation resources, while also nurturing each destination's sense of place and quality of life.

Trust Fund grants, with the tradition of fundraising for critical match dollars, help local governments and recreation authorities acquire land and develop recreation amenities that range from quaint neighborhood parks to larger, regional recreation areas and networks of multiuse trails systems. This year's grant recommendations include land acquisitions and outdoor development projects throughout the state. They serve a variety of user and resource needs: renovations of boardwalks, fishing docks and foot bridges; installation of accessible park restrooms, playgrounds, canoe/kayak launches and trails; land acquisitions for the preservation of Lake Huron shoreline, river frontage and natural areas; and much, much more.

Michigan's reputation as a four-season wonderland for outdoor play and exploration is forever tied to the accessibility and quality of its natural spaces and recreation opportunities. The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, along with local governments, recreation authorities and other partners, is proud to be part of a 45-year commitment to building that reputation, grant by grant, for the benefit and enjoyment of all Michiganders and visitors.

## Trust Fund Board

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board of Trustees, authorized by Public Act 451 of 1994, is composed of five members, including the director of the DNR or a member of the Natural Resources Commission, and four state residents appointed by the governor.

The resident members serving in 2021 were Erin McDonough of Williamston, Bill Rustem of Mason, Steven Hamp of Ann Arbor and Sam Cummings of Grand Rapids. Dan Eichinger represented the Department of Natural Resources in 2021 as director.

Board priorities for 2021 included urban area projects, winter deeryards, hunting access, Great Lakes shoreline and river access, and trail acquisition and development, including water trails and the Iron Belle Trail, a hiking and biking trail system spanning the state from Belle Isle in Detroit to Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula.

## Board and staff achievements/actions

Achievements and actions of the board and DNR Finance and Operations Division, Grants Section staff, include:

- Holding six public meetings in 2021, three of which were virtual.
- After a hiatus in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resuming most application site visits while following appropriate health and safety protocols.
- Augmenting program requirements to grantees because of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as temporarily allowing virtual public meetings and waiving requirements for grantees to hold in person ribbon-cutting events.
- Discussing – through public board meetings – how the passage of Proposal 1 in 2020 can be implemented.

## Trust Fund history

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund was established under the Kammer Recreational Land Trust Fund Act of 1976 to provide a permanent funding source for the public acquisition of land for resource protection and public outdoor recreation. Funding was provided by revenue derived from royalties on the sale and lease of state-owned oil, gas and mineral rights.

In 1984, the Trust Fund was expanded to allow funding of development of public land. Per the state constitution, the maximum amount of the accumulation of nonrenewable mineral royalties in the Trust Fund is \$500 million. This level was reached in 2011 and represents the permanent investment corpus. Today, the Trust Fund functions as a permanent endowment and funds grants, administration and payments in lieu of taxes (PILT).

With the passage of Proposal 1 in 2020, the Trust Fund board is now able to exercise greater flexibility in balancing funding between acquisition and development projects.

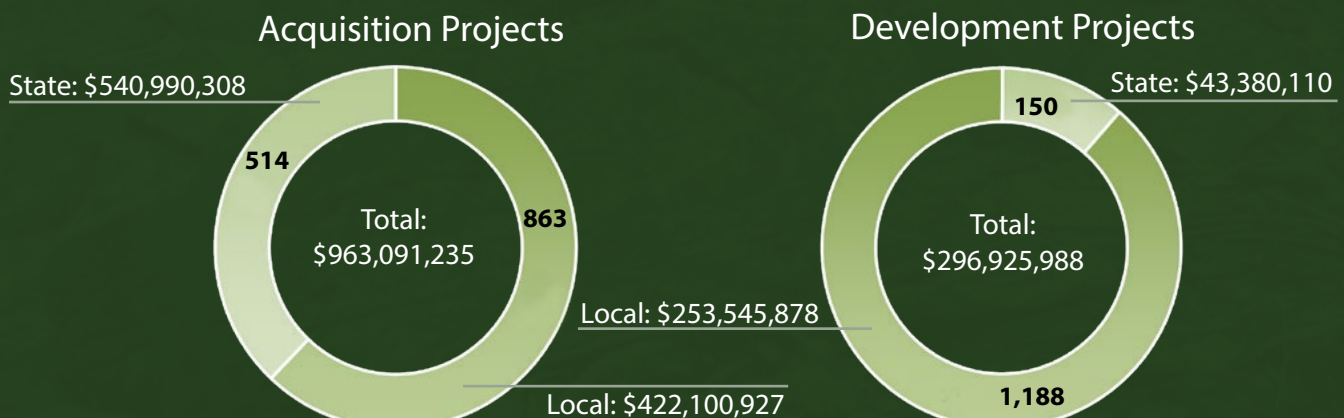
This change to the Michigan Constitution allows the board to respond to the state's changing recreation needs by acting more nimbly in its annual project selections. That's because acquisition and development grants each receive a minimum of 25% of total funding made available each year, allowing the remaining 50% to go toward either acquisition or development projects based on the greatest needs and benefits.

The Trust Fund has awarded more than \$1.2 billion in grants to local units of government and state agencies for projects throughout all 83 Michigan counties. Of this total, about \$279 million has been invested in trails. In excess of 1,000 public parks have been acquired, developed or both. Other projects funded include ball fields, boat launches, trailheads, restrooms and other amenities, for a total of 2,715 Trust Fund-assisted projects since 1976. To learn more about the Trust Fund visit [Michigan.gov/MNRTF](http://Michigan.gov/MNRTF).

## 10-year grant history

Application Year	Grant awards (dollars)			Number of grants		
	Acquisition	Development	Total	Acquisition	Development	Total
2011	21,711,000	16,054,400	37,765,400	22	77	99
2012	14,276,500	9,072,200	23,348,700	22	54	76
2013	19,033,200	8,644,600	27,677,800	32	44	76
2014	18,249,900	6,479,600	24,729,500	25	44	69
2015	19,926,000	8,031,200	27,957,200	26	44	70
2016	27,670,800	19,940,100	47,610,900	27	87	114
2017	28,852,900	21,014,000	49,866,900	34	97	131
2018	18,650,600	7,393,400	26,044,000	30	34	64
2019	17,199,800	11,500,000	28,699,800	18	60	78
2020	27,289,600	10,500,000	37,789,600	30	46	76
<b>Total</b>	<b>212,860,300</b>	<b>118,629,500</b>	<b>331,489,800</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>853</b>

## Local and state acquisition and development projects, 1976-2020



Total acquisition projects: 1,377 for \$963,091,235

Total development projects: 1,338 for \$296,925,988

Total acquisition and development projects: 2,715 for \$1,260,017,223

## 2021 MNRTF Board recommendations - development projects

County	Grantee	Project	
Alcona	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	Harrisville State Park - Footbridge Replacement	\$50,000
Allegan	Casco Township	Casco Nature Preserve Park Improvements on Lake Michigan	\$291,000
Allegan	Ganges Township	Pier Cove Park Renovation	\$266,000
Allegan	City of Fennville	Paradise Park Improvements	\$300,000
Alpena	City of Alpena	Bay View Park Restroom and Pavilion	\$300,000
Antrim	Antrim County	Grass River Natural Area River Access Improvements	\$300,000
Bay	Monitor Charter Township	Kawkawlin River Access Improvements	\$269,400
Bay	City of Auburn	Auburn Community Park ADA Improvements	\$249,700
Benzie	DNR - Fisheries Division	Platte River Hatchery Accessibility and Education	\$300,000
Berrien	City of Niles	Niles Dam Park Development	\$232,800
Berrien	Niles Charter Township	Ontario Trailhead Development	\$124,600
Berrien	City of Bridgman	Toth Park Playground Renovation	\$50,000
Berrien	St. Joseph Charter Township	Carronde Park Tennis Court Renovation	\$50,000
Berrien	St. Joseph Charter Township	Kedzie Kids Park Playground Renovation	\$50,000
Calhoun	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	Yankee Springs Recreation Area - Beach Wall Replacement	\$50,000
Calhoun	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	Yankee Springs Recreation Area - Fishing Pier Replacement	\$120,000
Cass	City of Dowagiac	Riverside Park Development	\$300,000
Charlevoix	City of Boyne City	Boyne City Open Space Pathway	\$300,000
Clinton	City of St. Johns	Scott Road Multi-Use Trail Connector	\$155,500
Clinton	City of St. Johns	Main City Park Improvements	\$49,900
Delta	City of Escanaba	Webster Park Splash Pad	\$150,000
Dickinson	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	Menominee River - Piers Gorge Accessible Trail	\$300,000
Dickinson	City of Iron Mountain	Pewabic Hill Mountain Bike Trail System	\$183,200
Eaton	City of Grand Ledge	Ball Field Development at Fitzgerald Park	\$134,700
Emmet	City of Petoskey	Winter Sports Park Hockey Rink Pavilion	\$298,000
Genesee	Vienna Charter Township	Neff Road Bike Path Project	\$296,600
Genesee	Mundy Charter Township	Miracle League Field	\$256,400
Genesee	Genesee County	Branch Road Universal Design Fishing Access	\$240,500
Genesee	Genesee County	Linden Park Pickleball Courts	\$296,000
Gladwin	City of Beaverton	Beaverton Trailhead	\$255,000
Houghton	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	Douglass Houghton Falls Scenic Site Development	\$300,000
Huron	City of Caseville	Riverside Park and Water Trailhead	\$298,800
Ingham	Ingham County	Hawk Island Park Boardwalk and Fishing Pier	\$300,000
Ingham	Ingham County	Lake Lansing Park North Boardwalk/Trail	\$300,000
Ingham	City of Lansing	Adado Riverfront Park Improvements	\$300,000
Ingham	City of Lansing	Fenner Pathway	\$300,000
Ingham	City of Lansing	Corporate Research Park Path Development	\$300,000
Ingham	Meridian Charter Township	MSU to Lake Lansing Connector Trail	\$300,000
Ingham	City of Mason	Rayner Park Community-Build Playground	\$242,500
Ionia	City of Ionia	Fred Thwaites Grand River Trail Reconstruction	\$300,000
Ionia	City of Belding	Lightning Bend Trailhead and Pathways	\$300,000
Ionia	Village of Saranac	Scheid Park Improvements	\$300,000

## Development projects continued

County	Grantee	Project	Amount
Iosco	AuSable Charter Township	* Iron Belle Trail Segment	\$300,000
Jackson	City of Jackson	* Martin Luther King, Jr. Equality Trail	\$300,000
Jackson	Jackson County	Sparks County Park Pickleball Courts	\$300,000
Kalamazoo	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	Fort Custer Recreation Area - River Valley Trail	\$300,000
Kalamazoo	DNR - Wildlife Division	Gourdneck State Game Area Access Improvements	\$300,000
Kalkaska	Garfield Township	Veteran's Park Playground and Access	\$112,500
Kent	City of Grand Rapids	Development of River Edges Trail - Leonard to Ann Segment 1	\$300,000
Kent	City of Grand Rapids	Development of River Edges Trail - Leonard to Ann Segment 2	\$300,000
Kent	City of Grand Rapids	Development of River Edges Trail - Leonard to Ann Segment 4	\$300,000
Kent	City of Lowell	* River Valley Rail-Trail - Lowell Connector	\$300,000
Kent	Plainfield Charter Township	Grand Rogue Park	\$300,000
Kent	City of Grandville	Buck Creek Trailhead at Mill Race Park	\$231,300
Kent	City of Kentwood	East Paris Park Improvements	\$214,100
Kent	Cannon Township	* Kies Road Iron Belle - North Country Trail Connector	\$300,000
Lake	Lake County	Lake County ORV Park	\$300,000
Lake	Webber Township	Webber Township ORV Park	\$183,800
Lenawee	Raisin Charter Township	Mitchell Park Shelter Renovation and Pathways	\$267,300
Mackinac	DNR - Michigan Historical Center	* Straits State Park Improvements	\$300,000
Mackinac	Clark Township	Peek-a-Boo Trail	\$200,300
Marquette	Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority	Iron Ore Heritage Trail - Marshlands Boardwalk	\$218,200
Mason	City of Ludington	Cartier Park Bathhouse	\$300,000
Mecosta	Mecosta County	Brower County Park - Water Access	\$281,400
Midland	Midland County	Pere Marquette Rail-Trail Revitalization	\$300,000
Midland	Midland Charter Township	Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail Path Extension	\$300,000
Midland	City of Midland	Tittabawassee River Pedestrian Corridor	\$300,000
Missaukee	Missaukee County	Cadillac Single-Track Bike Trail	\$110,900
Montcalm	Crystal Township	Crystal Township Park Redevelopment	\$300,000
Muskegon	City of North Muskegon	Ball Fields and Universal Access Hunting Blind	\$300,000
Oakland	City of Ferndale	Martin Road Park Walkways and Pavilion	\$68,000
Oakland	Village of Wolverine Lake	Clara Miller Park Playground	\$100,000
Oakland	City of Rochester	Memorial Grove All Abilities Park	\$225,000
Ottawa	Ottawa County	Idema Explorers Trail - Stearns Bayou Connector	\$300,000
Ottawa	Ottawa County	Kirk Park Renovation	\$237,000
Ottawa	City of Hudsonville	Buttermilk Creek Park Bathrooms and Parking	\$152,600
Presque Isle	City of Rogers City	Lakeside Park Pavilion and Playground	\$185,000
Saginaw	Carrollton Township	* Carrollton Iron Belle Trail Trailhead	\$134,500
Saginaw	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	Saginaw Riverfront Park - Phase 3 Development	\$300,000
Saginaw	Thomas Township	Nature Preserve Trail and Amenities	\$300,000
Sanilac	Sanilac County	Forester Park Playground Accessibility Renovation	\$80,200
St. Clair	City of Port Huron	Sanborn Park and Nature Area Trail	\$100,000
St. Clair	City of Algonac	Community Outdoor Swimming Pool Renovation	\$300,000
Van Buren	Village of Paw Paw	Maple Island Boardwalk and Fishing Platform	\$300,000

\*Iron Belle Trail Projects

## Development projects continued

County	Grantee	Project	Amount
Van Buren	South Haven Area Recreation Authority	Phoenix Avenue Kayak Launch Development	\$229,800
Washtenaw	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	Pinckney Recreation Area - Potawatomi Trail Renovation	\$300,000
Washtenaw	City of Ypsilanti	* Frog Island Trailhead Accessibility	\$300,000
Washtenaw	Superior Charter Township	Plymouth Road Pathway Development	\$300,000
Washtenaw	Northfield Township	Northfield Community Park - Pathways and Parking	\$300,000
Wayne	Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority	Lake Erie Metropark Cherry Island Trail Improvements	\$300,000
Wayne	City of Hamtramck	Veterans Park and Hamtramck Stadium Restroom Renovation	\$300,000
Wayne	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	W.G. Milliken State Park - Accessible Berm Development	\$300,000
Wayne	City of Detroit	* Patton Park - Joe Louis Greenway Development	\$300,000
Wayne	City of Detroit	Romanowski Park - Joe Louis Greenway Development	\$300,000
Wexford	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	Mitchell State Park - Pavilion and Restroom Replacement	\$300,000
<b>Total 2021 Development Recommendations</b>			<b>\$23,292,500</b>

\*Iron Belle Trail Projects

## 2021 MNRTF Board recommendations - acquisition projects

County	Grantee	Project	Amount
Allegan	Ganges Township	Pier Cove Beach Acquisition	\$128,700
Baraga	Village of Baraga	Baraga Waterfront Park Inholding Acquisition	\$250,000
Baraga	Baraga County	North Sturgeon River Recreation Area Acquisition	\$2,737,500
Berrien	DNR - Wildlife Division	Berrien Springs State Game Area Acquisition	\$4,700,000
Emmet	Littlefield Township	Milton Road to Alanson Trail Corridor Acquisition	\$865,300
Emmet	City of Petoskey	Skyline Recreation Area - Inholding Acquisition	\$187,500
Grand Traverse	City of Traverse City and Charter Township of Garfield Recreational Authority	Hickory Forest Acquisition	\$467,600
Houghton	City of Hancock	Portage Canal Waterfront Property Acquisition	\$171,600
Ionia	DNR - Wildlife Division	Portland State Game Area Acquisition	\$350,000
Iosco	Alabaster Township	* Lake Huron Coastal Preserve Acquisition	\$1,700,000
Isabella	Isabella County	Meridian Park Acquisition	\$85,000
Jackson	Jackson County	Little Wolf Lake County Park Expansion	\$176,200
Kent	Kent County	Townsend Park Land Acquisition	\$1,120,000
Kent	City of Grand Rapids	Plaza Roosevelt Acquisition	\$44,800
Livingston	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	Waterloo-Pinckney Recreation Area Land Consolidation	\$2,050,000
Livingston	Genoa Charter Township	Genoa Township Park Expansion	\$300,000
Muskegon	Muskegon County	Muskegon Sand - North Acquisition	\$5,075,200
Otsego	DNR - Forest Resources Division	Camp Pishtoning at Pigeon River Acquisition	\$950,000
Saginaw	Tittabawassee Township	Midland-Freeland Path Connector Acquisition	\$71,300
Schoolcraft	City of Manistique	Lake Michigan Campground Acquisition	\$449,000
St. Clair	St. Clair County	North Channel Park Inholding Acquisition	\$148,000
St. Clair	City of Marine City	Belle River Acquisition	\$272,000
<b>Total 2021 Acquisition Recommendations</b>			<b>\$22,299,700</b>

\*Iron Belle Trail Projects

A list of all MNRTF projects, 1976 to present, is available online at [Michigan.gov/MNRTF](https://Michigan.gov/MNRTF).



## Understanding how the Trust Fund works



*Delta Mills Park, Eaton County*

In May 2011, the corpus of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund reached \$500 million and, in accordance with the Michigan Constitution, the funding formula of the Trust Fund changed significantly. New revenue from state-owned oil, gas and other mineral production stopped being deposited into the Trust Fund and started to be deposited in the State Parks Endowment Fund. Funds available for grants from the Trust Fund, as well as payments in lieu of taxes and administrative costs, now come from interest and earnings on these invested funds.

The Michigan Department of Treasury manages the investment of the corpus to ensure grants will continue to be available

for current and future generations. Adequate fund reserves are present to withstand variations in the market and to allow for continued stability in the fund. This strategy will maintain a vital Trust Fund for years to come. The estimated fiscal year 2021 ending investment balance of the Trust Fund is \$674.4 million.

## Financial summary

**Interest earnings and income:** **\$84.7 million**

**Development project recommendations:** **\$23.3 million**

**Acquisition project recommendations:** **\$22.3 million**

**Property taxes paid on state land purchased:** **\$2.3 million**

**Operating expenditures:** **\$2.1 million**



*Bond Falls Scenic Site, Ontonagon County*

## About the cover photos

**Front cover:** White River near Whitehall, Muskegon County, taken from the William Field Memorial Hart-Montague Trail State Park. Photo credit: Michigan state parks photo ambassador Morgan Liskey, [Instagram.com/MorganAislyn](https://www.instagram.com/MorganAislyn)

**Back cover:** Andrus Lake State Forest Campground, Chippewa County. Photo credit: Michigan state parks photo ambassador Brandon Johnson, [Instagram.com/MichiganRustic](https://www.instagram.com/MichiganRustic)





Learn more about the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund at [Michigan.gov/MNRTF](https://Michigan.gov/MNRTF).

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Questions: 517-28-GRANT (517-284-7268) or [DNR-Grants@Michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-Grants@Michigan.gov).