

2021 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Recommendations

2021 Acquisition Project Recommendations

Upper Peninsula

Baraga County – Village of Baraga, Baraga Waterfront Park Inholding Acquisition - \$250,000

Acquisition of 5 acres of property in the Village of Baraga along Keweenaw Bay of Lake Superior to expand Baraga Waterfront Park near the marina. The acquisition will allow for a range of future recreational opportunities including picnicking, court sports and community activities as well as extending the Keweenaw Bay Non-Motorized Pathway.

Baraga County – Baraga County, North Sturgeon River Recreation Area Acquisition - \$2,737,500

Acquisition of 1,184 acres along the North Sturgeon River in Baraga County. The property includes 8.5 miles of river frontage and 560 acres of high-quality riverine wetlands. The site provides habitat for a variety of animal species from wolves and moose to box turtles and pickerel frogs. Future plans will feature paddle-craft launches, fishing, bird watching, hiking, snowmobiling, and hunting. Rustic camp sites and trail development will be designed to minimize impacts to sensitive natural habitats on the property.

Houghton County – City of Hancock, Portage Canal Waterfront Property Acquisition - \$171,600

Acquisition of 2 acres on the Portage Canal in the City of Hancock. The parcel will expand public access to the waterfront and allow for future development of a multi-use trail as well as other waterfront activities along the shoreline. The Portage Canal connects Lake Superior with the Keweenaw Bay between the cities of Hancock to the north and Houghton to the south.

Schoolcraft County – City of Manistique, Lake Michigan Campground Acquisition - \$449,000

Acquisition of nearly 5 acres on the Lake Michigan shore located immediately west of the Manistique Lakeshore Campground in the City of Manistique. The new property would allow the city to expand this very popular waterfront campground as well as offer the public more space for fishing and kayaking in Lake Michigan and the nearby Manistique River.

Northern Michigan

Emmet County – Littlefield Township, Milton Road to Alanson Trail Corridor Acquisition - \$865,300

Acquisition of 15 acres of former railroad right-of-way for the purposes of enhancing the North Western State Trail. The property is immediately adjacent to the existing trail which is located within the US-31 highway right-of-way. Acquisition of the property would allow for immediate use by snowmobiles away from the highway and would allow for future non-motorized trail realignment. It will allow the community to retain the scenic character of the trail for future generations to enjoy. It could provide a location for a trailhead within the Village of Alanson. The trail begins at M-119 in Bear Creek Township and continues north to the Village of Mackinaw City.

Emmet County – City of Petoskey, Skyline Recreation Area - Inholding Acquisition - \$187,500

Acquisition of 58 acres adjacent to existing city-owned recreation land on three sides. The property would share an existing parking lot for the North Country/Iron Belle Trail on adjacent City-owned property. There would be an increase in recreational opportunity, conservation, and forest management with the addition of this land. There is interest from the NCT and Top of Michigan Mountain Biking Association for trail development. This project is supported by Bear Creek Township and the aforementioned organizations. If successful, the city would contract for a forest management plan with a state-licensed forester.

Grand Traverse County – City of Traverse City & Charter Township of Garfield Recreational Authority, Hickory Forest Acquisition - \$467,600

Acquisition of 76 acres adjacent to the existing Hickory Hills and Hickory Meadows public recreation areas, bounded on the north by M-72 and on the south by Barney Road. The acquisition will open the property to the public for low-impact, passive recreation, adding valued natural forest habitat to complement the more active recreational amenities at Hickory Hills and open-space amenities at Hickory Meadows.

Iosco County – Alabaster Township, Lake Huron Coastal Preserve Acquisition - \$1,700,000

Acquisition of 144 acres known as the Lake Huron Coastal Preserve along Lake Huron and US 23 in Alabaster Township, Iosco County. The acquisition will provide public access to over 4,000 feet of Lake Huron frontage and create connections between the Alabaster Bike Path portion of the Iron Belle Trail and the natural area. This will be the first acquisition of its kind in Alabaster Township and along this Lake Huron shoreline. The property contains 60 acres of forested coastal dune and swale, 6 acres of wet meadow, over 4,000 feet of cobble shoreline and northern hardwood forest. Alabaster Township is working closely with Huron Pines, a trusted conservation partner in Northeast Michigan.

Otsego County – DNR - Forest Resources Division, Camp Pishtoning at Pigeon River Acquisition - \$950,000

Acquisition of 404 acres of forestland, including nearly one mile of Pigeon River corridor, in the Pigeon River Country State Forest. The property is comprised of both lowland conifer forest in some areas along the river and upland cover types including aspen, oak, and pine on the remainder of the parcel. This stretch of the Pigeon River is a designated natural river and is known for its populations of wild brook, brown, and rainbow trout. The property is located in the core of Michigan's elk range and with a combination of both lowland and upland, provides ideal habitat for elk, deer, bear, bobcat, ruffed grouse, woodcock, wild turkey, waterfowl and furbearing species. The Pigeon River corridor also serves as a travel corridor for several of these species, as well as providing habitat for migratory songbirds. The outdoor recreational opportunities on the property would include hunting, fishing, trapping, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, camping and wildlife viewing.

Western Michigan

Allegan County – Ganges Township, Pier Cove Beach Acquisition - \$128,700

Acquisition of 0.38 of an acre, including 120 feet of beach frontage along Lake Michigan. The acquisition will triple the existing beach access at Pier Cove Park, helping to address current issues of overcrowding and trespass. The acquisition area contains the outlet of Pier Cove Creek which has long been recognized for its recreation value to all ages, but especially children who enjoy playing in the continuously flowing creek to Lake Michigan. The property offers spectacular view of Lake Michigan from the adjacent road which will be managed and preserved.

Berrien County – DNR - Wildlife Division, Berrien Springs SGA Acquisition - \$4,700,000

Acquisition of 839 acres for a new State Game Area in Berrien County. The property has approximately one mile of frontage along the St. Joseph River, and it has diverse upland forest habitats, open fields, and wetland areas. The property would be managed primarily for wild turkeys, small game, and deer, and it will provide hunting, fishing, and wildlife-viewing opportunities in an area of the state with a low percentage of public land.

Ionia County – DNR - Wildlife Division, Portland SGA Acquisition - \$350,000

Acquisition of 66 acres for the Portland State Game Area in Ionia County. The property will provide wildlife habitat conservation, land consolidation, and additional recreational opportunities such as hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, and fishing. The property has gently rolling to flat topography with about ¾ mile of frontage on the Grand River and ½ mile shared boundary with the state game area. The parcel has about 45 acres of farmland and an intact riparian forest which together provide quality habitat for species such as wild turkey, deer, small game, sandhill crane, and waterfowl.

Kent County – City of Grand Rapids, Plaza Roosevelt Acquisition - \$44,800

Acquisition of 0.77 of an acre in the Plaza Roosevelt area for the purpose of developing a public park to serve the Roosevelt Park neighborhood. Users will include numerous nearby residents and the children attending the school that is immediately adjacent to the new park. Roosevelt Park is one of three neighborhoods targeted by the city's 2017 Parks and Recreation Master Plan for parkland acquisition.

Kent County – Kent County, Townsend Park Land Acquisition - \$1,120,000

Acquisition of 106 acres adjacent to Townsend Park which would bring Townsend Park from large park status to a regional park status with a proposed total of 250 acres. Conceptual planning of the addition envisions 3 miles of trails, an access drive connecting to the existing park, parking for the trail system, and a pavilion that will feature unobstructed views of the surrounding landscape. The property will add significant wildlife habitat, bird watching opportunities and even access to Bear Creek for fishing which is host to brown trout.

Muskegon County – Muskegon County, Muskegon Sand - North Acquisition - \$5,075,200

Acquisition of 162 acres within the coastal zone boundary of Lake Michigan. The acquisition of this northern portion constitutes the second phase of the Muskegon Sand project. Upon completion of the second phase, the public will be able to enjoy approximately 1,460 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline and 9,490 feet of shoreline along inland lakes within a critical dune area and including a variety of habitat types.

Central Michigan

Isabella County – Isabella County, Meridian Park Acquisition - \$85,000

Acquisition of 11 acres to expand the 149-acre Meridian Park. This 11-acre parcel is owned by a neighboring farmer and is on the west side of the park. It is a natural area with native foliage, wildlife habitat and large pine trees. This acquisition would provide for the conservation of a natural area that will add better access, including additional trails for park visitors, along with improved access for management activities. Meridian Park is the closest one to the largest city in our County (Mt. Pleasant) and use has grown over the years.

Greater Tri-Cities / Thumb

Saginaw County – Tittabawassee Township, Midland-Freeland Path Connector Acquisition - \$71,300

Acquisition of 1 acre for multi-use path that is part of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail (GLBRT). The trail will extend toward the existing Tittabawassee Township Park and trail network which connects trail users to Freeland and Saginaw and is planned to connect to Midland. These parcels will enable trail users to get from the Tittabawassee River to the road right-of-way and township park.

Southeastern Michigan

Jackson County – Jackson County, Little Wolf Lake County Park Expansion - \$176,200

Acquisition of 50 additional feet of lake frontage adjacent to Little Wolf Lake County Park in Napoleon Township. This property will increase the lake frontage of the park by 50%, and provide additional space for swimming, picnicking, and the potential for future development of a kayak/canoe launch at the trailhead of the Chain of Lakes Trail and the Upper Grand River Water Trail.

Livingston County – DNR - Parks and Recreation Division, Waterloo-Pinckney Recreation Area Land Consolidation - \$2,050,000

Acquisition of 258 acres within the Waterloo-Pinckney Recreation Area to consolidate ownership within the park for recreation and natural resource conservation in an area facing pressure for development. These properties consist of wooded wetlands, wildlife habitat, rolling hills, lake frontage and navigable water frontage. Recreation opportunities include trail connections, hunting, fishing, hiking, equestrian, paddle sports, wildlife viewing and winter sports.

Livingston County – Genoa Charter Township, Genoa Township Park Expansion - \$300,000

Acquisition of 90 acres in Genoa Township adjacent to the existing township park and municipal offices. The addition will enhance the community park with expanded opportunity for recreational sport and other township-sponsored programming, all in a naturally attractive outdoor setting.

St. Clair County – City of Marine City, Belle River Acquisition - \$272,000

Acquisition of 1/2 of an acre with 160 linear feet of river frontage on the Belle River. The parcel is located at 610 Main Street in Marine City near the downtown area and the confluence of the Belle River and the St. Clair River in St. Clair County. The acquisition will enable future development of a public marina district with amenities to create a new public space and new opportunity in Marine City. Boaters will be able to come in from the St. Clair River and have a great space to tie-off their boats and enjoy a short walk into an exciting waterfront downtown on the St. Clair River. This new water access will also allow for various water recreation opportunities on the Belle River and on the St. Clair River and will provide direct access to and from our Great Lakes.

St. Clair County – St. Clair County, North Channel Park Inholding Acquisition - \$148,000

Acquisition of approximately 6/10ths of an acre to complete a proposed waterfront county park site and enhance the development of recreational facilities by locating the entrance to the new park in a safe location. The existing building on the parcel will be repurposed as a park operations and maintenance office and equipment storage facility.

Total Acquisition Grant Recommendation Amount: \$22,299,700

18 Local Acquisitions - \$14,249,700

4 State Acquisitions - \$8,050,000