

2018 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Recommendations

2018 Acquisition Project Recommendations

Central Michigan

Eaton County – City of Grand Ledge, Gulf Street Acquisition - \$77,000

Acquisition of 7.33 acres adjacent to Fitzgerald Park. The property has 177 feet of frontage along Sandstone Creek, flowing directly into Michigan's longest river, the Grand River. This unique geological area comprised of historic sandstone ledges is celebrated by geologists and earth scientists across Michigan and the country. "The Ledges of the Grand River are the best exposure of Pennsylvanian-age rocks in the state of Michigan. Besides their scenic beauty, the Ledges and additional outcrops of the area provide a unique setting in which to explore an ancient near-shore marine beach environment," (Geological Society of America Centennial Field Guide, 1987.) And for those who enjoy trails for nature walks, bird watching, fishing, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, and exploring the scenic beauty of the ledges, this addition will provide enjoyment for generations to come.

Eaton County – DNR, Thornapple-Eaton Land Acquisition - \$1,720,000

Acquisition of approximately 465 acres for a new state game area in Eaton County. The property is in an area identified by the Department where public hunting land of 500+ acres is lacking. A new state game area in this region will provide public hunting and recreation land that is currently in short supply. The property consists of agricultural, forest, shrub, field and wetlands. It also has about ¾ of a mile of frontage on the Thornapple River. The property will be managed for pheasant, deer, turkey, and waterfowl habitat, and will provide hunting, fishing, and wildlife-viewing opportunities.

Genesee County – Flint Charter Township, Former Pirate's Park Acquisition - \$1,511,000

Acquisition of the former Pirate's Park property for future development as a public outdoor recreational facility. The property, approximately 38.7 acres in size, is located on the south side of Miller Road, with frontage on Swartz Creek and I-69. If purchased, the land will be publicly accessible for residents of Flint Township as well as the larger region. Future improvements are proposed to create a unique public outdoor recreation amenity.

Ingham County – City of Lansing, East Willard Avenue Acquisition - \$17,300

Acquisition of approximately 3.47 acres adjacent to Scott Woods Park, which is located along Sycamore Creek. The acquisition of this property will allow the City of Lansing to own the property on both sides of the trail leading to the River Trail from Willard Avenue. This property is wooded and borders Mount Hope Cemetery and Scott Woods Park on the north, west and south.

Ingham County – City of Lansing, Hunter's Ridge Drive Acquisition - \$82,500

Acquisition of approximately 1.6 acres within Hunter's Ridge Park along the Grand River. This acquisition will provide scenic frontage along the Grand River and expand recreation opportunities at the park.

Ingham County – City of Lansing, Wise Road Acquisition - \$20,500

Acquisition of approximately 0.59 of an acre adjacent to the northern property line of Davis Park along Wise Road, will provide a much-needed buffer between the ball field and adjacent residential property.

Greater Tri-Cities / Thumb

Huron County – City of Harbor Beach, Lincoln Park Expansion - \$49,000

Acquisition of a .69-acre parcel of property along Lake Huron and adjacent to Lincoln Park. This land purchase will ensure additional public access to the lake and increase the size of Lincoln Park, which is one of the most popular attractions in the area.

Northern Michigan

Charlevoix County – DNR, Garden Island Land Acquisition - \$240,000

Acquisition of 58.26 acres of land on Garden Island, which is a 4,990-acre uninhabited island located in the Beaver Island archipelago in northern Lake Michigan. The island is accessible only by boat and is almost entirely owned by the State of Michigan. The property proposed for acquisition and two other smaller parcels are the only remaining inholdings not in state ownership. Garden Island is extremely diverse and contains many rare, threatened, and endangered plants, animals, and natural communities.

Iosco County – City of Tawas City, Tawas City Property Acquisition - \$175,300

Acquisition of property adjacent to Shoreline Park with 30 feet of frontage along Lake Huron. Once acquired, this property will be added to the city's park system to provide additional Great Lakes access as well as a significant improvement to the scenic view from US-23.

Presque Isle County – DNR, Little Ocqueoc River Land - \$200,000

Acquisition of approximately 80 acres of diverse forestland with a very unique feature created by the area's Karst topography. The property contains over 1,600 feet of Little Ocqueoc River corridor and includes the "undergrounds". This is where a stretch of the river disappears underground and then resurfaces further downstream. The Little Ocqueoc River is also a wild brook trout stream that also supports steelhead and Coho salmon. The property is dominated by an aspen forest, but also includes a hardwood stand, cedar swamp and bog located near the river. This parcel provides habitat for a variety of species including deer, black bear, fisher, marten, ruffed grouse, and a variety of fur-bearing species. Recreational opportunities are abundant including snowmobiling (Trail 99 traverses the property), hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, wildlife viewing, and exploring the unique land formation and underground river.

Southeastern Michigan

Jackson County – DNR, Watkins Lake State Park - \$450,000

Acquisition of 123 acres to connect two sections of Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve which will provide regional non-motorized trail development opportunities, wildlife habitat conservation and a variety of recreation opportunities. The property is made up of two parcels which include a former railroad corridor and a high-quality prairie fen wetland with unique natural communities. Acquisition of the parcels will allow the property to be dedicated, operated and managed as part of Watkins Lake State Park.

Macomb County – Clinton Charter Township, Clinton River Spillway Park Acquisition - \$264,600

Acquisition of 6.3 acres of vacant land near the Clinton River Spillway Drain. Clinton Township will use the property for public outdoor recreation purposes consistent with goals outlined in the Township Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

Macomb County – Clinton Charter Township, George George Park Land Acquisition - \$175,000

Acquisition of a 0.29-acre residential property that is virtually surrounded by existing township parkland. Once acquired, the property will be utilized for a variety of public recreation activities in the very popular George George and Woodrow Woody Parks.

Oakland County – White Lake Township, Brendel Lake Campground Acquisition - \$1,372,400

Acquisition of 57 acres that is currently the closed Brendel Lake Campground to develop it as a township park. The property contains over 500 feet of frontage along Brendel Lake, which is a part of the headwaters of the Huron River and is part of a multiple chain-of-lakes that run through White Lake Township. This area contains unique woodland and wetland ecosystems that support sensitive species, including threatened flora. The township envisions active and passive recreation opportunities at this site, including fishing, nature viewing, walking, and paddling. Improvements would include an improved driveway, parking area, restrooms, paths, playground and kayak launch. The park would link to the Township's proposed non-motorized pathway along Elizabeth Lake Road.

St. Clair County – Clay Township, Harsens Island Kayak Access - \$86,200

Acquisition of 9 acres of property located on Harsens Island along the Krispin Blueway and Harsen's Island bike trail. Once acquired, plans are to add an accessible kayak launch with a wetland boardwalk, parking, bathrooms, nature trail and a 25-foot-high observation tower looking out over the marsh. The property will also serve as a bike trailhead with amenities for bicyclists.

Washtenaw County – Watkins Lake County Preserve Addition - \$60,600

Acquisition (fee simple) of two parcels totaling approximately 23 acres in Manchester Township, which will expand the existing 1,122-acre Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve (WLP). The property will serve both as a connector to the existing trail system in WLP at Sharon Hollow Road, and as a trailhead with parking lot off Austin Road for the proposed regional non-motorized trail. Purchase of the property and expansion of the trail will increase the opportunity for patrons to experience the high-quality natural features and cultural heritage found at WLP including: Watkins Lake, a designated waterfowl refuge, documented prairie fen habitat, and the site's historical connection to the Underground Railroad.

Wayne County – DNR, West Riverfront Park Trail Connection - \$3,000,000

Acquisition of 1/3 of a mile of improved riverfront railway easement. The West Riverfront Connector will be a key linkage between the existing Riverwalk on the east riverfront and West Riverfront Park. This section of the Riverwalk will span the Riverfront Towers apartment complex frontage and include easements on parcels owned by the Downtown Development Authority and another private parcel. The largest portion, spanning the Riverfront Towers property, will be a boardwalk situated 17 feet out from the land's edge and will be incorporated into the property's plan for a marina. This span is of critical importance to the Riverwalk and Iron Belle Trail, as the current route from West Riverfront Park to the east riverfront requires visitors to walk inland to West Jefferson Avenue, around the apartment complex, and then back to the Riverwalk. The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy has secured the necessary agreements to build the boardwalk in this location.

Upper Peninsula

Luce County – DNR, Tahquamenon River Access Purchase - \$300,000

Acquisition of 157.5 acres adjacent to Tahquamenon Falls State Park to provide a public water access site on the Tahquamenon River, filling a gap within this 33-mile-long stretch of the river. The property contains an existing boat launch and frontage on M-123 and provides consolidation of ownership within Tahquamenon Falls State Park and state forest land. The property also provides numerous forestland recreation opportunities northwest of M-123. If acquired, the land will be managed as part of Tahquamenon Falls State Park.

Mackinac County – Clark Township, Lake Huron Access and Trailhead Acquisition - \$41,900

Acquisition of an approximately two-acre parcel on M-134 to be developed for parking to serve multiple recreational venues including the nearby Hessel Harbor and Launch, as a trailhead for regional snowmobile trails, and the adjoining 40-acre Michigan Nature Association Beaver Dam Nature Sanctuary to the east. Additionally, the Little Traverse Conservancy's Mackinac Bay Nature Preserve is located immediately across the highway.

Marquette County – DNR, Iron Belle Trail Easements-West U.P. - \$200,000

Acquisition of 10.44 miles of 30-foot-wide hiking trail easement in Marquette and Ontonagon Counties. The purpose of this project will be to secure permanent trail easement rights for the hiking portion of the Iron Belle Trail and North Country National Scenic Trail.

Marquette County – Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority, Negaunee Trailhead Acquisition - \$29,600

Acquisition of three acres of property in Negaunee along the 47-mile Iron Ore Heritage Trail for the development of a trailhead that will support a variety of trail users including walkers, bikers, ORVs and snowmobiles. The parcel of property is at the highly visible and easily accessible corner of CR 492 and M35. The future trailhead will include parking and restrooms that will be open 24/7 year-round. The new trailhead will provide a much-needed access point for users of the Marquette to Negaunee segment, a distance of 14 miles.

Western Michigan

Allegan County – Heath Township, Schutmaat Park Acquisition - \$50,000

Acquisition of nearly 1 acre to expand the existing Schutmaat Park. Future development will include an overlook, parking, shelter, restroom enclosure for a portable toilet and stair access to the existing park. The expansion will provide parking for the existing park which includes a boat launch and fishing piers on the Rabbit River.

Berrien County – Village of Grand Beach, Grand Beach Nature Preserve Acquisition - \$2,400,000

Grand Beach Nature Preserve Acquisition - Acquisition of approximately 42 acres to become the Grand Beach Nature Preserve. The acquisition will preserve an existing coastal plain marsh, allow for the use and future expansion of a non-motorized trail system and buffer existing conservation land from development.

Cass County – City of Dowagiac, Elks Trail Easement Acquisition - \$56,200

Acquisition of an easement along the south side of Dowagiac Creek between Cass Avenue and Riverside Drive for the purpose of building a trail for access to an inaccessible stretch of the creek and to link 8 miles of existing trails.

Kent County – Lowell Regional Park Addition - \$683,200.00

Acquisition of 122 acres to expand the existing 406-acre Lowell Regional Park. Property includes open field, a stream and old growth forest, fen and wetland with high floristic quality. The majority of the site will be natural area with hiking trails as well as a small developed area with playground, restroom, picnic facilities and parking.

Kent County – Millennium Park Expansion - \$294,000

Acquisition of nearly 5 acres to expand Millennium Park. Site development will include habitat restoration, pond fishing and a trail connection from the Millennium Park trails to the Fred Meijer Standale Trail.

Oceana County – Golden Township, Golden Township Park Addition - \$67,500

Acquisition to expand Golden Township Park at Silver Lake Sand Dunes. The 1.03-acre acquisition will provide greenspace and an area for overflow parking for various festivals and events held at this popular park.

Ottawa County – Ottawa Sand-Phase 2 - \$3,817,200

Acquisition of nearly 160 acres which is the second phase of a 353-acre property that includes extensive Critical Dune, an 80-acre man-made lake and Grand River frontage. This site along with adjacent protected properties will complete the final link in a nearly six-mile stretch of green infrastructure and wildlife corridor that will encompass nearly 2,400 acres and extend from near Grand Haven's North Pier to Hoffmaster State Park. The site will be developed for day use, swimming, fishing, hiking and camping.

Ottawa County - Park Township, South Shore Lake Macatawa Land Acquisition - \$675,000

Acquisition of a 3/4-acre parcel with over 148 feet of sheltered frontage on Lake Macatawa. The site is next to the existing township boat launch. It will be developed with passive recreation facilities including an accessible kayak launch and parking.

Van Buren County – DNR, Cornish SGA Acquisition - \$534,600

Acquisition of 126 acres of land for habitat conservation, public hunting and recreation. The Cornish State Game Area was established in 2015 after the state purchase of 385 acres adjacent to the 77-acre federal Kinney Waterfowl Production Area (WPA). The 126 acres is now available for purchase adjacent to the game area and the WPA. One of the parcels connects the game area and the WPA and includes the western portion of Grass Lake. The property will be managed for waterfowl and grassland bird production. Hunting opportunities include wild turkey, deer, waterfowl, pheasant and other small game.

Total Acquisition Grant Recommendation Amount: \$18,650,600

22 Local Acquisitions - \$12,006,000

8 State Acquisitions - \$6,644,600