

The Power of Public Lands

Your resources. Our commitment. Michigan's legacy.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Public Land Strategy Highlights 2021-2027



Department mission

The DNR is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

The department strives to protect resources, ensure sustainable recreation use and enjoyment, enable strong natural resources-based economies, improve and build strong relationships and partnerships, and foster effective business practices and good governance.



Overarching principles

The DNR is committed to standards that serve as the foundation for department operations. The following principles reflect department ideals, values and priorities and guide decision making:

- Commitment to **accountability** and **good governance**.
- Promise of **diversity, equity, inclusion** and **accessibility**.
- Dedication to **public safety**.
- Commitment to **educating** the public.
- Pledge to play a significant role in promoting **public health**.
- Commitment to **partnerships** that range from all levels of government to nongovernmental organizations to members of the public.
- Guarantee to **promote** opportunities and programs associated with DNR-managed public lands.
- Commitment to **maintain, steward** and **restore** the public lands, infrastructure and facilities under DNR responsibility.



Focus of the land strategy

The focus of the land strategy is to set priorities and guide actions related to the 4.6 million acres of land held in the public trust and administered by the DNR. The document provides objectives and strategies for the protection of natural and cultural resources, recreation opportunities and responsible management of this land, which is important to:

- The health and well-being of Michigan residents.
- The quality of life in our state.
- Our heritage and identity as Michiganders.



Goals and priorities

A large DNR-managed public land base provides the foundation for accomplishing the following goals and their accompanying strategies:

Protect natural and cultural resources

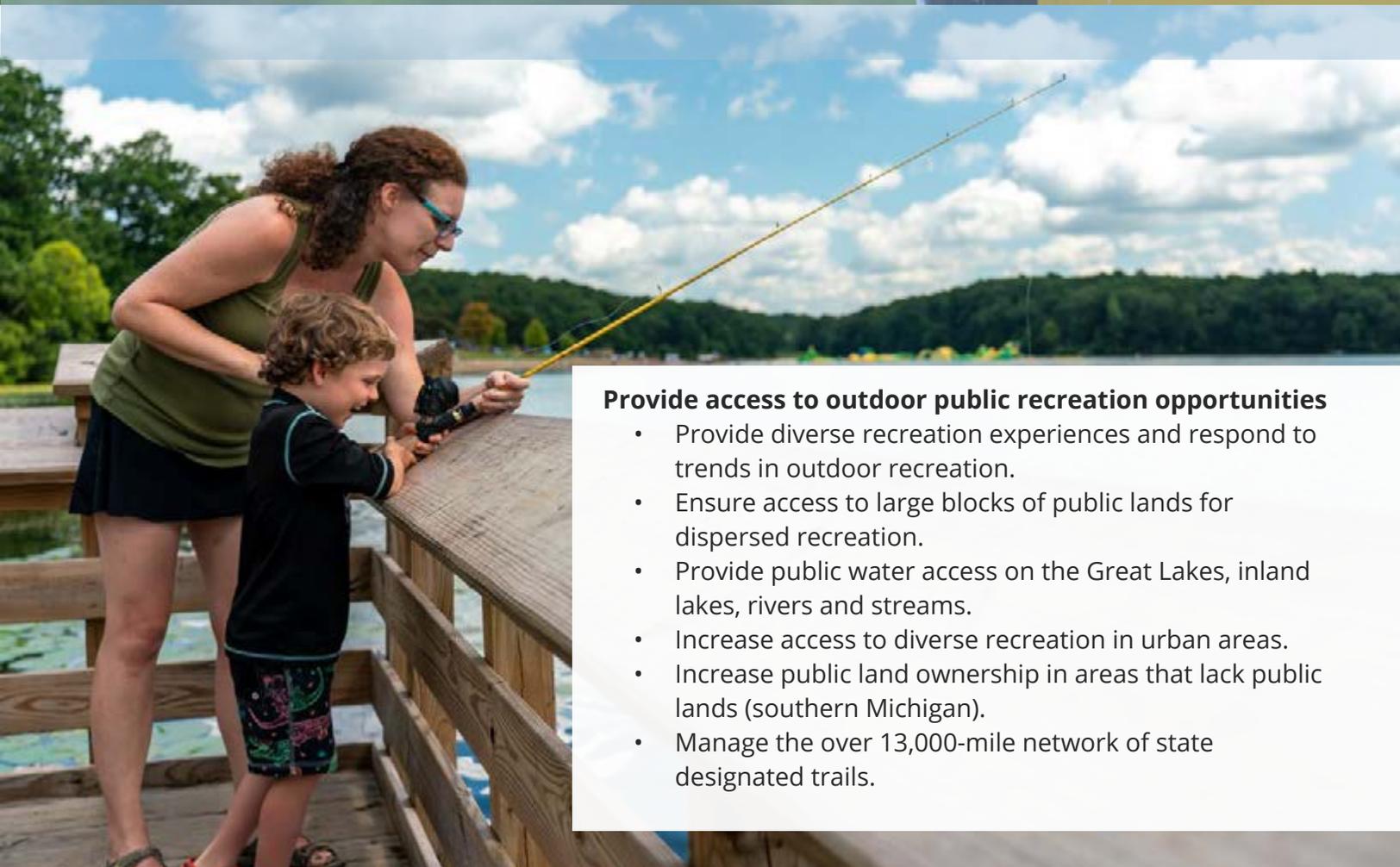
- Sustainably manage and protect fish and wildlife habitat and natural communities.
- Adapt to and mitigate climate change.
- Address priority invasive species.
- Use prescribed burning in ecosystem management.
- Manage infrastructure to reduce impacts on natural resources.
- Restore lands degraded by unauthorized uses.
- Identify, protect and interpret cultural resources.



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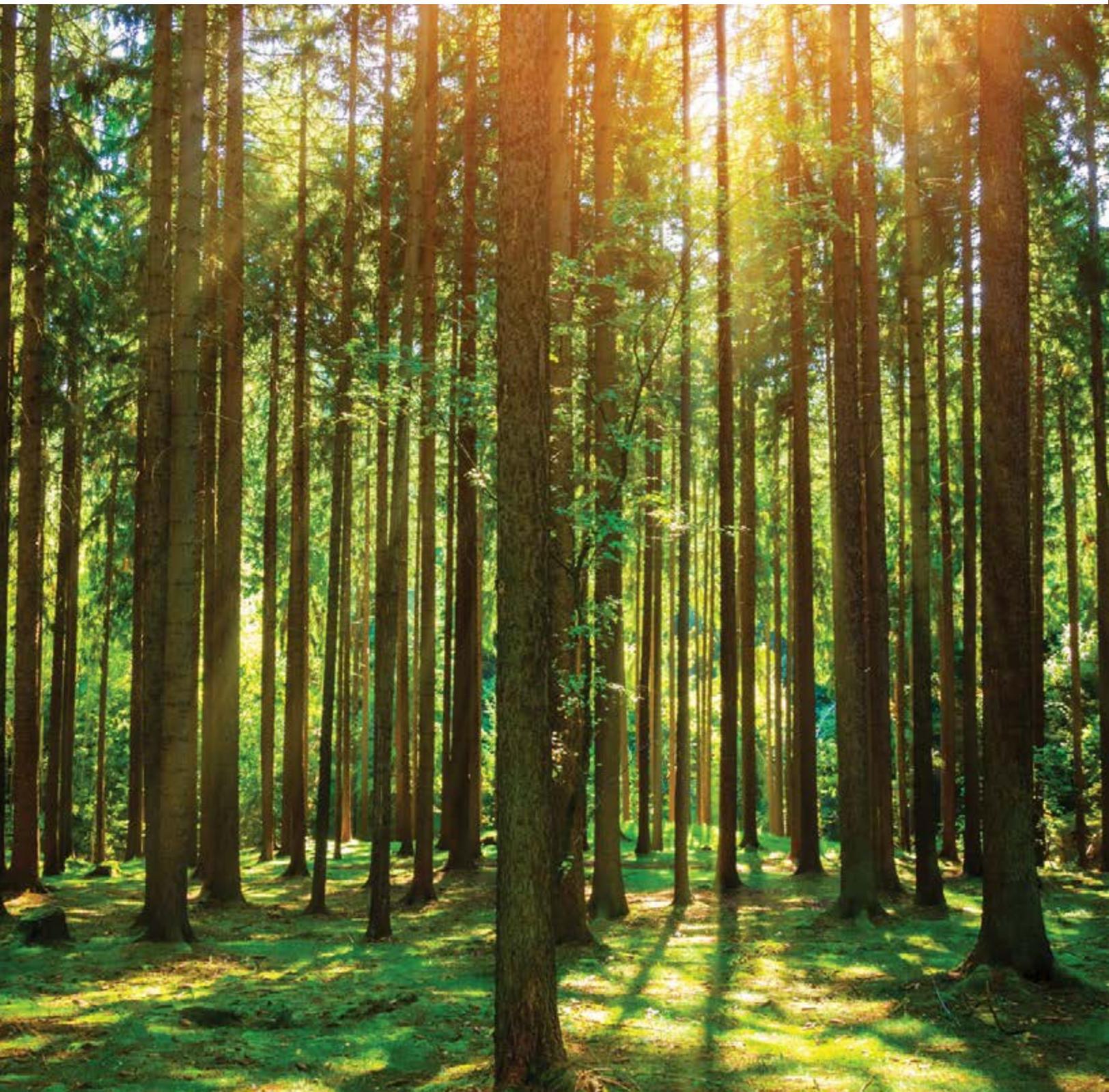
Provide access to outdoor public recreation opportunities

- Provide diverse recreation experiences and respond to trends in outdoor recreation.
- Ensure access to large blocks of public lands for dispersed recreation.
- Provide public water access on the Great Lakes, inland lakes, rivers and streams.
- Increase access to diverse recreation in urban areas.
- Increase public land ownership in areas that lack public lands (southern Michigan).
- Manage the over 13,000-mile network of state designated trails.



Perform responsible natural resources management

- Sustainably manage and protect the state forest system.
- Facilitate responsible mineral development.
- Contribute to a thriving outdoor recreation industry.
- Assess potential for locating utility-scale solar energy on DNR-managed public lands that have been degraded by past industrial use.
- Identify and address opportunities for climate change mitigation associated with natural resources management on DNR-managed public lands.





Strategic initiatives

These strategic initiatives offer an opportunity to expand upon existing programs and priorities, while also leveraging partnerships in an effort to strengthen and broaden the impacts of the DNR's work. An investment of dedicated resources, including funding and personnel, may be required to accomplish the following outlined work:

- Conduct a comprehensive public survey regarding the perception of DNR-managed public lands and public land ownership for use in the development of the next land strategy update.
- Resolve issues of federal funding and management compatibility to ensure compliance with grant and program requirements.
- Update and expand information about known cultural resources.
- Undertake a comprehensive review of DNR-managed public land records to ensure accuracy and ability to reference geographically.
- Complete a roads plan to ensure appropriate access while also considering resource protection, maintenance and management access.
- Review proposed nominations to dedicate areas as wilderness areas, wild areas or natural areas.
- Work with partners to establish one new "signature park" in a core urban area as a tool for urban revitalization and as a prototype model of collaboration that can be used elsewhere.
- Leverage partnerships with Michigan Economic Development Corporation and Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry to use public lands as a basis to foster economic growth, placemaking and cultural identity in three Michigan communities.



Impacts of goals and priorities

The goals and priorities outlined in the land strategy have far-reaching effects, including:

- Drawing millions of visitors to state parks and driving local economies.
- Supplying about 20% of timber to the state's \$20.2 billion forest products industry.
- Providing hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities that contribute billions annually.
- Protecting Michigan's distinguished and treasured hunting traditions.
- Ensuring access to DNR-managed public lands.
- Partnering on urban revitalization centered around access to the outdoors.
- Growing economies in rural areas through a focus on placemaking and cultural identity.





To review the complete land strategy document and associated appendix, go to **Michigan.gov/PublicLands**

