*Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund*

# Annual Report 2019

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

Storey Lake acquisition, Cheboygan and Otsego counties

# Message from DNR Director, *Dan Eichinger, and* MNRTF Chair, *Steven Hamp*

*Dan Eichinger*

*Steven Hamp*

Revitalized waterfronts. Accessible fishing piers and boat launches. Protected sand dunes and wetlands. Refurbished park buildings and campgrounds. Upgraded electrical systems. Healthier fish and wildlife habitat. New trail connections. Urban playscapes. Waterway acquisitions. These are just some examples of the thousands of outdoor recreation opportunities and green space offerings made possible with funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

For more than 40 years, the Trust Fund has steadily but mightily improved the quality of life for residents and visitors in every county across the state. Each grant leverages additional investment from local government partners to further expand the power and impact of these grants.

Trust Fund-supported projects and development – the result of dynamic local-state partnerships – positively affect the physical, social and mental well-being of community residents. They spur local tourism, stimulate local economies and strengthen a sense of place through gorgeous green spaces.

Whether you're fishing world-class trout streams, biking or hiking the Iron Belle Trail from the western Upper Peninsula to Detroit, riding miles of inviting snowmobile trails or simply soaking up the silence of old-growth forests, the Great Lakes State offers year-round adventure – and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund makes much of it possible.

The Trust Fund truly is a one-of-a-kind mechanism for providing better, broader access to quality public outdoor recreation and thoughtful stewardship and conservation of Michigan's unparalleled natural resources.

Since the start, the Trust Fund leadership has remained steadfast in its desire to ensure that beautiful outdoor places are available to all Michigan residents, now and in the future. We are proud to serve alongside our many partners to further this program that, year after year, delivers valuable funding that both drives the state's economy and helps more people find themselves outdoors.

Finally, we want to congratulate the 2019 grant recipients, and we look forward to seeing your completed projects. Your hard work and vision, coupled with Trust Fund support, are sure to yield some exciting outdoor recreation opportunities and another important chapter in the Trust Fund story.

# Trust Fund Board

The MNRTF 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 residents of the state appointed by the governor.

The resident members serving in 2019 were Erin McDonough of Williamston, Steven Hamp of Ann Arbor, Bill Rustem of Mason, and Sam Cummings of Grand Rapids. Dan Eichinger represented the Department of Natural Resources in 2019 as director.

Board priorities for 2019 included: urban area projects, winter deeryards, wildlife corridors, Great Lakes shoreline access, and trail acquisition and development, including water trails and the Iron Belle Trail.

# Board and staff achievements/actions

- The MNRTF Board held six public meetings in 2019 including site visits to the Bellaire region in August.
- The MNRTF Board adopted revised scoring criteria for future applications based on public outreach and staff recommendations.
- Recreation Grant Regions were revised to balance staff workload and improve customer service.

# 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 MNRTF 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 MNRTF is $500 million. This level was reached in 2011 and represents the permanent investment corpus. Today, the MNRTF functions as a permanent endowment and funds grants, administration and payments in lieu of taxes (PILT).

To date, the MNRTF has awarded over $1.1 billion in grants to local units of government and state agencies for projects throughout all 83 Michigan counties. Of this total, $257 million has been invested in trails. In excess of 1,000 public parks have been acquired and/or developed. Other projects funded include ball fields, boat launches, trailheads, restrooms and other amenities, for a total of 2,561 MNRTF-assisted projects since 1976.

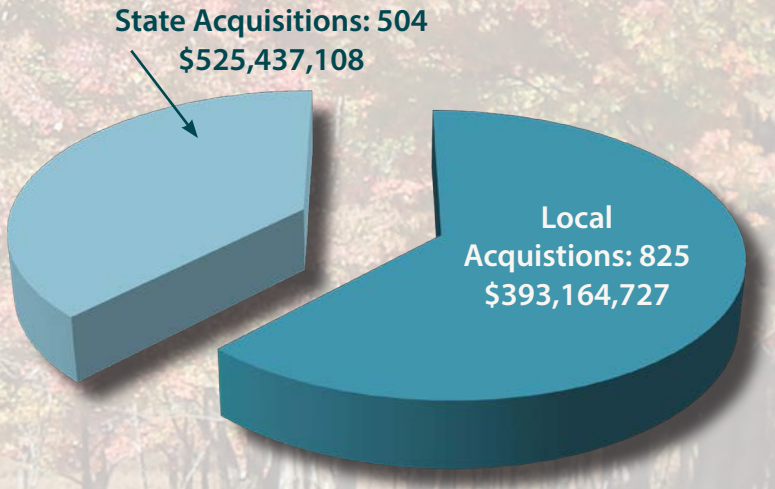
To learn more about the Trust Fund visit Michigan.gov/MNRTF.

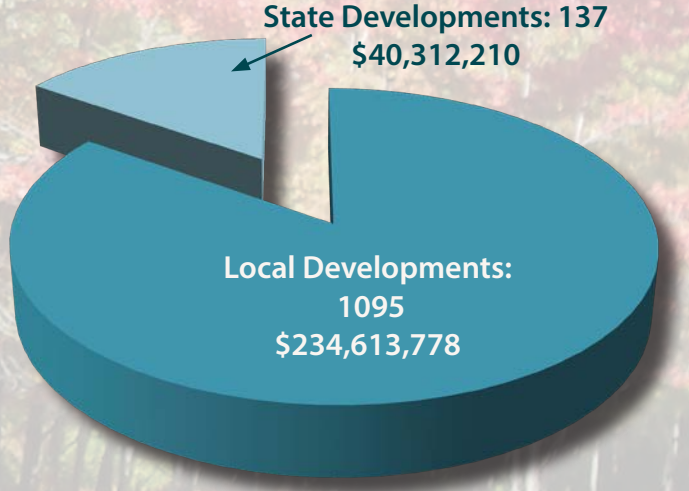
# 10-year grant history

| | Grant awards (dollars) | | | Number of grants | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Application year** | **Acquisition** | **Development** | **Total** | **Acquisition** | **Development** | **Total** |
| 2009 | 25,918,200 | 9,740,000 | 35,658,200 | 25 | 42 | 67 |
| 2010 | 81,155,800 | 20,942,600 | 102,098,400 | 46 | 71 | 117 |
| 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 |
| **Total** | **275,444,900** | **127,312,100** | **402,757,000** | **289** | **594** | **883** |

**Includes projects recommended at the April 2018 meeting by the MNRTF Board that were included in the 2018 appropriation bill.*

# Local and state acquisition and development projects, 1976 - 2018




**Total number of acquisitions: 1,329 for $918,601,835**

**Total number of developments: 1,232, for $274,925,988**

**Total number of acquisitions and developments: 2,561 for $1,193,527,823**

# 2019 MNRTF board recommendations - development projects

| County | Grantee | Project | Amount |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alger | Munising Township | McQuisten Park Boardwalk Renovation | $49,000 |
| Baraga | Village of Baraga | Keweenaw Bay Non-Motorized Pathway - Baraga to State Park | $300,000 |
| Barry | DNR - Finance and Operations Division | Barry State Game Area Shooting Range Development | $200,000 |
| Benzie | City of Frankfort | City of Frankfort Lake Michigan Beach Development | $225,100 |
| Berrien | Berrien Township | Range Line Trailhead Development Project | $300,000 |
| Calhoun | Calhoun County | * Eastern Calhoun County - Iron Belle Trailhead Development | $300,000 |
| Cass | Village of Vandalia | Milo Barnes Park Improvements | $36,900 |
| Cass | Village of Cassopolis | Cassopolis Connector Development Project | $300,000 |
| Chippewa | City of Sault Ste Marie | Alford Park Enhancement Project | $300,000 |
| Crawford | Lovells Township | Lovells Access Site Development | $90,400 |
| Delta | Delta County | * UP State Fair Campground Improvement | $300,000 |
| Dickinson | Breen Township | Stromberg Park Campground Renovation | $103,600 |
| Eaton | Delta Charter Township | Delta Mills Playground Restroom Renovation | $50,000 |
| Eaton | Delta Charter Township | Hunter's Orchard Park Pathway | $225,000 |
| Genesee | Genesee County | Bluebell Beach Iron Belle Trail Connection Development | $236,800 |
| Gladwin | Gladwin County | Buckeye Trailhead Development - Gladwin to Beaverton Trail | $255,300 |
| Gogebic | City of Ironwood | Curry Park Campground Improvements 2 | $38,100 |
| Grand Traverse | City of Traverse City | Improvements to Indian Woods Park | $50,000 |
| Grand Traverse | City of Traverse City | Hickory Hills Snowmaking | $50,000 |
| Grand Traverse | Acme Township | Traverse City-Charlevoix Trail: Bunker Hill to M-72 Segment | $300,000 |
| Gratiot | City of Alma | Alma Park Restroom Rebuild & Rehab - Accessibility Project | $173,000 |
| Ingham | Ingham County | Lake Lansing Park South - Bathhouse Replacement | $300,000 |
| Ingham | Ingham County | Hawk Island Park Improvements | $300,000 |
| Ingham | City of East Lansing | Patriarche Park Pavilion and Restroom Renovation | $300,000 |
| Jackson | Blackman Charter Township | Rod Mills Park Playground Expansion | $50,000 |
| Jackson | City of Jackson | * MLK Equality Trail Lighting Project | $300,000 |
| Jackson | Jackson County | Vandercook Lake County Park Development Project | $112,300 |
| Kalamazoo | DNR - Wildlife Division | Gourdneck State Game Area Development Initiative | $113,000 |
| Kent | City of Grand Rapids | Garfield Park Splash Pad Development | $300,000 |
| Macomb | Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority | Stony Creek Metropark - Off-Leash Dog Area Development | $50,000 |
| Macomb | Clinton Charter Township | Woodrow Woody Park Improvements | $300,000 |
| Macomb | City of Mt. Clemens | Jones Street Accessibility to MacArthur Park Kayak Launch | $225,000 |
| Manistee | Village of Bear Lake | Village of Bear Lake Hopkins Park Development | $28,000 |
| Marquette | Forsyth Township | Gwinn Ball Field Restroom | $49,900 |
| Marquette | DNR - Parks and Recreation Division | Harlow Lake Fishing Platform Replacement | $50,000 |
| Marquette | DNR - Parks and Recreation Division | Van Riper State Park - River Trail Overlook Rehabilitation | $50,000 |
| Mecosta | Mecosta Township | Michigan's Dragon at Hardy Dam | $205,400 |
| Montcalm | City of Stanton | Stanton Veteran's Memorial Park | $300,000 |
| Muskegon | Village of Fruitport | Pomona Park Kayak Launch | $125,000 |
| Newaygo | Newaygo County | Michigan's Dragon at Hardy Dam | $180,100 |
| Oakland | City of Clarkston | Clarkston Depot Park Accessibility Improvements | $50,000 |
| Oakland | Oakland Charter Township | Bear Creek Nature Park Restrooms | $50,000 |
| Oakland | Village of Ortonville | Sherman Memorial Village Park Concession Renovation | $25,900 |
| Oakland | Oakland Charter Township | Marsh View Park Restrooms | $50,000 |
| Oakland | Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority | Kensington Metropark - West Boat Launch Area Development | $154,000 |
| Ontonagon | DNR - Finance and Operations Division | West UP Shooting Facility - Porcupine Mountains | $300,000 |
| Otsego | Otsego Lake Township | * Waters Iron Belle Trailhead | $215,700 |
| Otsego | DNR - Michigan Historical Center | Pigeon River Discovery Center | $254,900 |
| Ottawa | Ottawa County | Idema Explorers Trail - Jenison Mill Segment | $300,000 |

* Iron Belle Trail projects

# Development projects *continued*

| County | Grantee | Project | Amount |
|---|---|---|---|
| Presque Isle | City of Onaway | Trailhead Development for the North Eastern State Trail | $204,700 |
| Roscommon | DNR - Finance and Operations Division | Roscommon County Shooting Range | $300,000 |
| Saginaw | Saginaw County | Haithco Recreation Area Splash Pad Development | $300,000 |
| St. Clair | City of Port Huron | Gratiot Park Development of Inclusive Play Equipment | $50,000 |
| Washtenaw | Ypsilanti Charter Township | * Loonfeather Point Park Development | $296,500 |
| Washtenaw | Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority | Hudson Mills Metropark - Rapids View Development | $226,400 |
| Washtenaw | City of Ann Arbor | Universal Access and Site Improvements at Argo Nature Area | $300,000 |
| Wayne | DNR - Parks and Recreation Division | * Belle Isle Park - Iron Belle Trail Loop Development | $300,000 |
| Wayne | City of Flat Rock | * Flat Rock Boat Launch Improvements | $300,000 |
| Wayne | DNR - Parks and Recreation Division | Belle Isle Park - South Fishing Pier Renovation | $300,000 |
| Wayne | City of Detroit | Perrien Park Renovation | $300,000 |
| | | **Total 2019 Development recommendations** | **$11,500,000** |

# 2019 MNRTF board recommendations - acquisition projects

| County | Grantee | Project | Amount |
|---|---|---|---|
| Barry | Thornapple Township | Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail Extension to Kent County | $350,000 |
| Berrien | DNR - Fisheries Division | Pipestone Creek/St. Joseph River Public Water Access Site | $94,000 |
| Berrien | Berrien County | Paw Paw River County Park Expansion | $80,000 |
| Berrien | Chikaming Township | Lake Michigan Forest and Public Beach Expansion | $2,475,000 |
| Gogebic | City of Ironwood | Southern Beltline Trail Acquisition 2 | $14,800 |
| Grand Traverse | East Bay Township | Holiday Woods Recreation Area Acquisition | $584,800 |
| Houghton | Calumet Charter Township | Acquisition of land at the Swedetown Recreation Area | $66,000 |
| Huron | City of Caseville | Lake Huron Access & Trailhead Acquisition | $433,400 |
| Ingham | City of Lansing | Cavanaugh Road Property | $75,000 |
| Ingham | City of Lansing | East St. Joseph Street Property | $75,000 |
| Ingham | City of Lansing | River Street Property | $60,000 |
| Kent | Kent County | Chief Hazy Cloud Park Land Addition | $1,654,800 |
| Montcalm | DNR - Wildlife Division | Stanton State Game Area Acquisition | $550,000 |
| Montmorency | DNR - Forest Resources Division | Rattlesnake Creek Property | $225,000 |
| Oakland | Independence Charter Township | Walters Lake Land Acquisition | $2,250,000 |
| Van Buren | South Haven Area Recreation Authority | Pilgrim Haven Natural Area - Royle Addition | $2,262,000 |
| Washtenaw | DNR - Parks and Recreation Division | * Iron Belle Trail/ Border to Border Trail Property | $200,000 |
| Wayne | DNR - Parks and Recreation Division | * May Creek Greenway - Iron Belle Trail | $2,700,000 |
| | | **Total 2019 acquisition recommendations** | **$14,149,800** |

A list of all MNRTF projects, 1976 to present, is available online at *Michigan.gov/MNRTF*

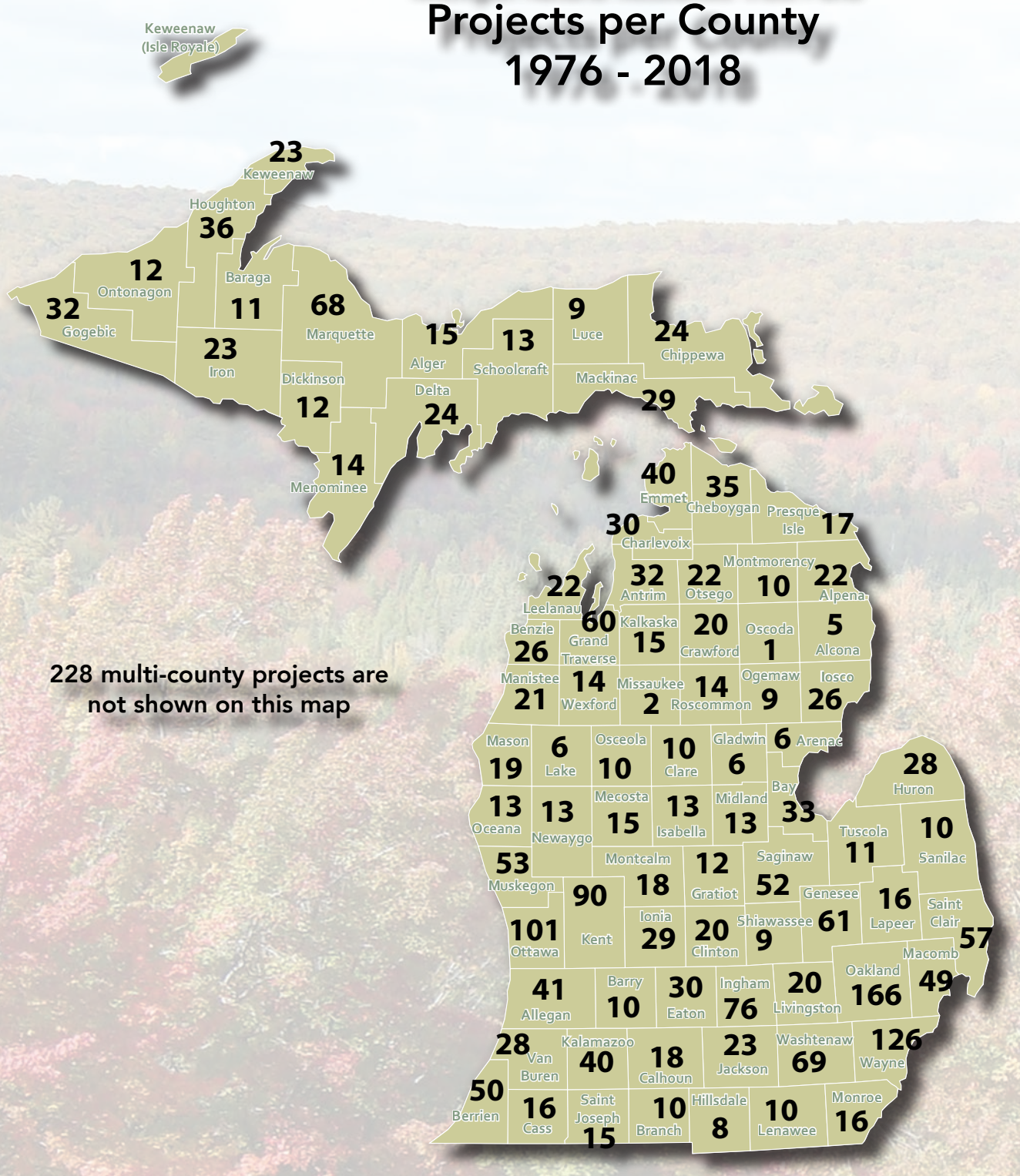
Waterfront Stadium Park, Ottawa County

Ojibway Island, Saginaw County

* Iron Belle Trail projects

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

# Projects per County
# 1976 - 2018




228 multi-county projects are not shown on this map

## Enhancing communities, helping citizens

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund was created to provide perpetual outdoor recreation benefits for the people of Michigan for both current and future generations. The positive effects of the Trust Fund help Michigan's economy by:

- Leveraging other public and private funding.
- Providing a sense of place for local communities to support tourism.
- Connecting communities locally and regionally through trails.

# Understanding how the Trust Fund works

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 MNRTF changed significantly. New revenue from state-owned oil, gas and other mineral production stopped being deposited into the MNRTF and started to be deposited in the State Park Endowment Fund. Funds available for grants from the MNRTF 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 future and current 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 MNRTF for years to come. The 2019 MNRTF investment fund balance total is $623.2 million.

Bridgeport Cass River Trailhead, Saginaw County

## Financial summary

| | |
|---|---|
| Interest earnings and income: | $44.1 million |
| Development project awards: | $11.5 million |
| Acquisition project awards: | $14.1 million |
| Property taxes paid on state land purchased: | $2.2 million |
| Operating expenditures: | $2.1 million |

Otsego County Sportsplex, Otsego County

Hancock Pier, Houghton County

Chief Hazy Cloud Park, Kent County

Palmer Park Boardwalk, St. Clair County

Learn more about the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund at Michigan.gov/MNRTF.

Stay current on the latest Trust Fund news and other DNR information by subscribing to email updates. Visit Michigan.gov/DNR to sign up.

Questions: 517-28 GRANT (517-284-7268)

DNR-Grants@Michigan.gov