

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
Annual Report
2018



Ludington State Park land acquisition, Mason County

Message from DNR Director, *Dan Eichinger*



The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund touches the lives of citizens in countless ways. For more than 40 years, it has shaped communities by expanding outdoor recreation opportunities, ensuring the conservation and protection of our natural resources, and fueling Michigan's economic growth. These benefits work together to provide residents and visitors alike with a remarkable Pure Michigan experience.

The Trust Fund's imprint is found in all 83 counties. In partnership with local units of government, Trust Fund dollars leverage local funding for recreation projects such as parks, athletic fields, trails and boat launches as well as acquisition projects that preserve Michigan's natural assets. We're a healthier, more vibrant state because of these initiatives. No matter where you are in Michigan, you're never far from a high-quality outdoor recreation opportunity or natural attraction that exists because of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Message from 2018 MNRTF Chair, *Sam Cummings*



Michigan's identity and character are defined by our remarkable natural resources. Our Great Lakes and the public lands that afford everyone access are truly unique not only in the United States but in the world. Other equally extraordinary outdoor spaces literally shape the way we live, work and play here in Michigan - be it hiking, biking, snowmobiling, fishing, beachgoing or hunting, you can do it here on public land, usually just minutes from your home.

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund is a driving force in preserving these assets and making them available for the enjoyment of all citizens. This year's list of projects continues the Trust Fund's commitment to expanding outdoor opportunities for Michigan families and visitors to our fantastic state. Recreation is a big part of living in Michigan. It's a mainstay of our travel and tourism economy as well. The Trust Fund's work ensures that our amazing natural resources, which belong to all the people, remain healthy and accessible for decades.

We're all so fortunate to call the Great Lakes State our home. As proud Michigan residents, it's our obligation to exercise good resource stewardship through conservation and thoughtful land use. The Trust Fund helps us meet these responsibilities in a way that directly connects citizens with their cherished natural resources. I am so proud to serve with so many great volunteers and staff members at the Michigan DNR and MNRTF. It truly is an honor to be a part of this legacy of conservation that we can pass on to future generations.

MNRTF 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 citizen members serving in 2018 were Erin McDonough of Williamston, Steven Hamp of Ann Arbor, Bill Rustem of Mason, and Sam Cummings of Grand Rapids. Keith Creagh represented the Department of Natural Resources in 2018 as director.

Board priorities for 2018 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 2018, including site visits in the regions of Flint (June) and Escanaba (August).
- Staff developed a brochure marketing the department's grant programs and highlighting the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.
- Board members and DNR staff members participated in the first legislative convening meeting per Public Act 166, which was enacted in June 2018.

History of the MNRTF

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, \$245 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 2,497 MNRTF-assisted projects since 1976.

To learn more about the Trust Fund visit michigan.gov/mnrftf.

10-Year Grant History

Application Year	Grant Awards (dollars)			Number of Grants		
	Acquisition	Development	Total	Acquisition	Development	Total
2008	35,632,200	12,902,500	48,534,700	37	44	81
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
Total	292,426,500	132,821,200	425,247,700	296	604	900

*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 - 2017



Total Number of Acquisitions: 1,299 for \$899,951,235

Total Number of Developments: 1,198, for \$267,532,588

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

2018 MNRTF Board Recommendations - Development Projects

County	Grantee	Project	Amount
April 2018			
Antrim	Milton Township	Kewadin Waterfront Park and Water Trail Head	\$295,000
Benzie	Village of Elberta	Penfold Park Restroom and Accessible Boat Launch	\$220,000
Calhoun	City of Albion	* Albion River Trail Expansion	\$255,000
Clare	City of Harrison	Harrison Nature Trail	\$300,000
Ionia	City of Belding	Silk City Nature Trail Gathering Place Connector	\$142,300
Livingston	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	Island Lake Regional Trail Development, Phase 1	\$300,000
Schoolcraft	City of Manistique	* Walk Manistique Riverside Pathway, Phase I	\$296,000
Washtenaw	City of Chelsea	* Letts Creek Linear Park	\$130,700
Marquette	Marquette Charter Township	U.S. HWY-41 Underpass and Regional Trail Connector Project - <i>increase to the 2017 board-recommended amount</i>	\$75,000

Total April 2018 Development Recommendations \$2,014,000

December 2018

Baraga	Baraga County	Point Abbaye Natural Area Pathway and Picnic Improvements	\$49,500
Delta	City of Escanaba	* North City Limits Non-Motorized Pathway	\$300,000
Delta	Delta County	Rapid River Falls ORV/ATV Campground	\$85,000
Delta	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	Fayette Historic State Park - Visitor Center Accessibility	\$50,000
Emmet	City of Petoskey	* Iron Belle Trail Bear River Bridge	\$83,000
Emmet	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	* Iron Belle Trail - Carp River Bridge Renovation	\$140,000
Genesee	Argentine Township	Argentine/LAFF Multi-Use Trail	\$300,000
Genesee	Mundy Charter Township	Mundy Township's Hill Road Recreational Park Project	\$283,000
Genesee	Genesee County	* Flint River Scenic Overlook Picnic Area	\$296,000
Genesee	Genesee County	* Iron Belle Trail Improvements at Vietnam Veterans Park	\$296,000
Genesee	Genesee County	* Iron Belle Trail - Richfield County Park	\$300,000
Gogebic	Gogebic County	* Bessemer to Ramsay Iron Belle Trail Project	\$299,900
Gogebic	City of Ironwood	* Miners Memorial Heritage Park Mountain Bike Trail System	\$280,000
Ingham	Ingham County	Lake Lansing Park South Improvements	\$300,000
Ingham	City of East Lansing	Bailey Park Improvements	\$219,000
Ingham	City of Lansing	Cambridge to Frances Park River Trail Connection	\$300,000
Ingham	Lansing Charter Township	Gould Park Redevelopment	\$26,800
Iron	Bates Township	Paint River Access Site Improvements	\$58,800
Kalamazoo	City of Kalamazoo	Kalamazoo River Valley Trail Development	\$300,000
Kent	City of Grand Rapids	Renovation and Development of Roberto Clemente Park	\$300,000
Keweenaw	Grant Township - Keweenaw	Keweenaw Point Trail - High Rock to Montreal River	\$297,000
Macomb	Harrison Township	Waterfront Park Shoreline Improvements	\$156,000
Mecosta	Fork Township	Rustic Campground Development	\$50,000
Oakland	Commerce Township	Scarlet's Playground at Dodge Park #5	\$195,000
Oakland	Orion Charter Township	* East Clarkston Road Pathway - M-24 to Paint Creek	\$300,000
Oakland	Oakland Charter Township	* Paint Creek Junction Park Northern Trailhead Development	\$228,400
Saginaw	Kochville Township	Kochville Township Trail Extension	\$300,000
Saginaw	Tittabawassee Township	Freeland-Kochville Path Extension	\$300,000
Schoolcraft	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	Palms Book State Park - Raft Canopy Replacement	\$50,000
St. Clair	City of Port Huron	Palmer Park Inclusive Playground	\$50,000
Wayne	Wayne County	Venoy Dorsey Park Canoe and Kayak Launch Development	\$300,000
Wayne	City of Detroit	Romanowski Park Renovation	\$300,000
Wayne	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	* Belle Isle Park - Picnic Shelter Replacement	\$300,000
Wayne	Van Buren Charter Township	* Van Buren Twp. Iron Belle Trail / Belleville - Heritage Park	\$300,000

Total December 2018 Development Recommendations \$7,393,400

Total 2018 Development Recommendations \$9,407,400

* Iron Belle Trail projects

2018 MNRTF Board Recommendations - Acquisition Projects

County	Grantee	Project	Amount
April 2018			
Mason	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	Sargent Mineral Co. Land Acquisition - <i>increase to the 2017 board-recommended amount</i>	\$7,500,000
Total April 2018 Acquisition Recommendations			\$7,500,000
December 2018			
Allegan	Heath Township	Schutmaat Park Acquisition	\$50,000
Berrien	Village of Grand Beach	Grand Beach Nature Preserve Acquisition	\$2,400,000
Cass	City of Dowagiac	Elks Trail Easement Acquisition	\$56,200
Charlevoix	DNR - Wildlife Division	Garden Island Land Acquisition	\$240,000
Eaton	City of Grand Ledge	Gulf Street Acquisition	\$77,000
Eaton	DNR - Wildlife Division	Thornapple-Eaton Land Acquisition	\$1,720,000
Genesee	Flint Charter Township	Former Pirate's Park Property Acquisition	\$1,511,000
Huron	City of Harbor Beach	Lincoln Park Expansion	\$49,000
Ingham	City of Lansing	E. Willard Ave. Acquisition	\$17,300
Ingham	City of Lansing	Hunter's Ridge Drive Acquisition	\$82,500
Ingham	City of Lansing	Wise Road Acquisition	\$20,500
Iosco	City of Tawas City	Tawas City Property Acquisition	\$175,300
Jackson	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	Watkins Lake State Park Consolidation	\$450,000
Kent	Kent County	Lowell Regional Park Addition	\$683,200
Kent	Kent County	Millennium Park Expansion	\$294,000
Luce	DNR - Fisheries Division	Tahquamenon River Access Purchase	\$300,000
Mackinac	Clark Township	Lake Huron Access Acquisition	\$41,900
Macomb	Clinton Charter Township	George George Park Land Acquisition	\$175,000
Macomb	Clinton Charter Township	Clinton River "Spillway Property" Acquisition	\$264,600
Marquette	Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority	Negaunee Trailhead Acquisition	\$29,600
Marquette	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	* Iron Belle Trail Easements - Western Upper Peninsula	\$200,000
Oakland	White Lake Township	Brendel Lake Campground Acquisition	\$1,372,400
Oceana	Golden Township	Golden Township Park Addition	\$67,500
Ottawa	Park Township - Ottawa	Southside Lake Macatawa Land Acquisition	\$675,000
Ottawa	Ottawa County	Ottawa Sand - Phase 2	\$3,817,200
Presque Isle	DNR - Forest Resources Division	Little Ocqueoc River Property	\$200,000
St. Clair	Clay Township	Harsens Island Kayak Access	\$86,200
Van Buren	DNR - Wildlife Division	Cornish SGA Acquisition	\$534,600
Washtenaw	Washtenaw County	Watkins Lake County Preserve Addition	\$60,600
Wayne	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	* West Riverfront Park Trail Connection	\$3,000,000
Total December 2018 Acquisition Recommendations			\$18,650,600
Total 2018 Development Recommendations			\$26,150,600

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

* Iron Belle Trail projects

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 (PILT) and administrative costs now come from interest and earnings on these invested funds.

The 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 2018 MNRTF investment fund balance total is \$607 million.

Financial Summary

Interest earnings and income:	\$37.5 million
Development project awards:	\$9.4 million
Acquisition project awards:	\$26.1 million
Property taxes paid on state land purchased:	\$1.9 million
Operating expenditures:	\$1.6 million

Iron Ore Heritage Trail, Marquette County



Pilgrim Haven, Van Buren County



Frankenmuth Memorial Park, Saginaw County

Gallup Park Playground, Washtenaw County



Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail, Bay County





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

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)