

2019 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Recommendations

2019 Acquisition Project Recommendations

Upper Peninsula

Gogebic County – City of Ironwood, Southern Beltline Trail Acquisition - \$14,800

Acquisition of up to 5 acres of land and/or easement including railroad grade for an in-town trail route through the City of Ironwood. The project will connect Norrie Park, located in southwest side with the western neighborhoods near the Wisconsin border on the Montreal River. This will complete the Beltline Trail route through Ironwood near the terminus of the Iron Belle Trail, the statewide bike and hike trail system, originating in Detroit at Belle Isle Park.

Houghton County – Calumet Charter Township, Acquisition of land at the Swedetown Recreation Area - \$66,000

Acquisition of 30 acres at Calumet Township's 1900-acre Swedetown Recreation Area. Two parcels will be acquired; one 20-acre and one 10-acre parcel. One parcel is wooded with excellent terrain that is used for cross-country ski trails while the other parcel will provide an excellent spectator and parking area for the popular Great Bear Chase ski marathon event. Swedetown is a valued community asset for year-round non-motorized recreation that benefits local residents and attracts many tourists to the area. This acquisition will secure important features and provide new opportunities to enhance recreation at Swedetown. The rolling wooded recreation area offers year-round trails for all ages and abilities. In summer and fall Swedetown Recreation Area has more than 25 miles of trails for hiking, trail running and mountain biking. In winter, the Township grooms over 35 kilometers of cross-country ski trails which are a major attraction in the region.

Northern Michigan

Grand Traverse County – East Bay Township, Holiday Woods Recreation Area Acquisition - \$584,800

Acquisition of approximately 195 acres in one of the most quickly urbanizing areas of Grand Traverse County. Acquisition of the properties would create public ownership of private property long-used for outdoor recreation by adjacent neighborhoods, allow for continued trail use of the property for the Mud, Sweat, and Beers mountain bike race, contribute to the viability of the adjacent non-profit Mt. Holiday Ski Area, and allow for the improvement and marketing of the property as a regional destination.

Montmorency County – DNR, Rattlesnake Creek Property Acquisition - \$225,000

Acquisition of 200 acres of unique forestland with highly productive wildlife habitat including lowland conifer swamp and upland stands of cedar, maple, white pine, and aspen. The property includes over 4,550 feet of the East Branch of the Black River and 1,060 feet of Rattlesnake Creek frontage. The property is adjacent to state land on two sides and acquisition will provide access to an additional 1,500 feet of East Branch of Black River frontage on state land that is currently inaccessible. The property is adjacent to the Green Swamp Ecological Reference Area and contains many of the same high-quality values including habitat for the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake as well as high-priority game species such as elk, white-tailed deer, black bear, and bobcat. The East Branch of the Black River is a blue-ribbon trout stream that supports a wild brook trout population.

Western Michigan

Barry County – Thornapple Township, Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail Extension to Kent County Acquisition - \$350,000

Acquisition of 26 acres which includes approximately 2.5 miles of abandoned rail bed which will connect the north end of the Paul Henry Thornapple Trail in Barry County with the south end of Kent County's Paul Henry Trail system. The four parcels of property in consideration include 24.75 acres of fee-simple acquisition and 1.25 acres of easement. In addition to connecting the two existing non-motorized trail sections, the bulk of the property is natural wildlife habitat including approximately 300 feet of Thornapple River frontage which would be ideal for a canoe launch. The property also includes a majestic, 130' railroad trestle over the Thornapple River.

Berrien County – Paw Paw River County Park Expansion - \$80,000

Acquisition of 63 acres of property as an addition to Paw Paw River County Park. The land has 7,000' of river frontage and is primarily wooded. The Berrien County Parks Commission would like to keep the land as a natural area and offer passive recreation such as fishing, wildlife viewing, hiking, cross-country skiing and bike trails. Managed hunting opportunities are also being considered.

Berrien County – Chikaming Township, Lake Michigan Forest and Public Beach Expansion - \$2,475,000

Acquisition of approximately 2.6 acres to conserve a pristine woodland parcel adjacent to existing 1.9-acre Cherry Beach Park on Lake Michigan in Berrien County. The purchase would increase the length of Cherry Beach by 400 feet and enlarge the park for residents and visitors alike. For decades, beach visitors assumed the parcel was part of the public beach and have enjoyed it as such. The property remains in a pristine, undeveloped state with an ecologically significant critical sand dune, old-growth forest and tributary stream to Lake Michigan. The site is a rare habitat harboring diverse species and offers a resting stop on the Lake Michigan Water Trail and US Bike Route 35.

Berrien County – DNR, Pipestone Creek/St. Joseph River Public Water Access Site - \$94,000

Acquisition of 1.26 acres to provide a public water access site at the confluence of Pipestone Creek and the St. Joseph River, filling a 9-mile long gap on this stretch of the St. Joseph River. The property includes frontage on Pipestone Creek, the St. Joseph River, and River Road. Acquisition of this parcel will provide carry-down watercraft access and assist with local plans of further developing the St. Joseph River water trail. The site also would provide shorefishing opportunities for many gamefish species including steelhead, Chinook and coho salmon, brown trout, and smallmouth bass. If acquired, the new public access site will be leased to Sodus Township which will handle all maintenance.

Kent County – Chief Hazy Cloud Park Land Addition - \$1,654,800

Acquisition of approximately 71.3 acres with .52 miles of frontage on the Grand River. The acquisition will expand the existing Chief Hazy Cloud park to 373 acres with over 3.5 miles of frontage. The site is located in a corridor identified on the Lower Grand River Green Infrastructure Plan and is across the river from properties protected under both park ownership and conservation easement. This grant application is a second phase that began with grant TF17-0200 which was partially funded.

Mason County – DNR, Ludington State Park Acquisition Phase 2 - \$5,300,000

Acquisition of up to 272 acres from the Sargent Minerals Company. The property is adjacent to Ludington State Park and will increase recreation opportunities and conserve natural resources. The property includes coastal habitat with lakes, wetland and sand dunes. Acquisition of the property will allow for the property to be dedicated and managed as part of Ludington State Park.

Montcalm County – DNR, Stanton SGA Acquisition - \$550,000

Acquisition of approximately 140 acres to connect two areas of the Stanton State Game Area, which will provide wildlife habitat conservation, land consolidation, and additional recreational opportunities including hunting, trapping, and wildlife viewing. The property provides quality wildlife habitat for a variety of species including deer, turkey, ruffed grouse, and woodcock.

Van Buren County - South Haven Area Recreation Authority, Pilgrim Haven Natural Area Addition - \$2,262,000

Acquisition of a 47-acre property adjacent to Pilgrim Haven Natural Area with approximately 1,000 feet of frontage on Lake Michigan, critical dune, imperiled backdune forest, and a stream which flows out of Van Buren State Park and into Lake Michigan. The property has been relatively untouched by human development, and its natural communities remain largely pristine. Acquisition of the land will create 75 contiguous acres of preserved Pilgrim Haven Natural Area and be a critical piece of a larger regional conservation vision to preserve over 10 shoreline miles of DEQ-designated critical dune.

Central Michigan

Ingham County – City of Lansing, Cavanaugh Road Property Acquisition - \$75,000

Acquisition of one acre of land which will significantly improve the aesthetics of a blighted stretch of the Lansing River Trail. The parcel includes a number of derelict structures which will be demolished and removed once the acquisition is complete. Once cleared, the land will be properly landscaped to enhance the scenery along this very popular urban pathway.

Ingham County – City of Lansing, East St. Joseph Street Property Acquisition - \$75,000

Acquisition of improved lot to enhance park aesthetics and add park space to Lansing's riverfront park system.

Ingham County – City of Lansing, River Street Property - \$60,000

Acquisition of improved lot to enhance park aesthetics and add park space to Lansing's riverfront park system.

Greater Tri-Cities / Thumb

Huron County – City of Caseville, Lake Huron Access & Trailhead Acquisition - \$433,400

Acquisition of a .68-acre parcel within the City of Caseville which will provide expanded public access to the Pigeon River and Lake Huron. Future development of the site may include fishing areas, motorized boat and kayak launches, multi-purpose courts, an ice rink and picnic seating area.

Southeastern Michigan

Oakland County – Independence Charter Township, Walters Lake Land Acquisition - \$2,250,000

Acquisition of 76 acres of land, in two parcels bisected by Clarkston Road. The west parcel is 36 partially wooded acres with 840 feet of frontage on Walters Lake. The east parcel is 40 acres of open, level land. The western parcel is planned to be developed for both active and passive recreation with a swimming beach, fishing pier, pavilion, athletic courts, and walking trails. The eastern parcel is planned for active community recreation including athletic fields, a pavilion, restrooms, and picnic facilities. If successful, the two properties may be connected via an underpass at Clarkston Road as part of the intended recreational development.

Washtenaw County – DNR, Iron Belle Trail/ Border to Border Trail Property - \$200,000

Acquisition of a strategic 7.84-acre parcel along highway M-52 in the Pinckney Recreation Area. Not only will it provide land for construction of Washtenaw County's Border to Border Trail and Iron Belle Trail, but it will also bridge a gap between two disconnected public parcels in the Pinckney Recreation Area which will enable more efficient management and uninterrupted recreation use. The Huron-Waterloo Pathway Initiative is the partner organization that will develop, operate and maintain the multi-use regional trail on the parcel via lease with the state.

Wayne County – DNR, May Creek Greenway - Iron Belle Trail - \$2,700,000

Acquisition of a developed easement for the May Creek Greenway that will be a key pedestrian connector of the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Centennial Park, formerly West Riverfront Park, to the vibrant Corktown and Southwest Detroit neighborhoods on the upland side of West Jefferson Avenue via the Iron Belle Trail alignment. Situated along a former creek bed and now active Detroit-Windsor rail tunnel line, the project will be a non-motorized greenway. This greenway will connect residential areas to the existing Detroit Riverwalk with over 3.5 miles of recreational opportunity along the Detroit River. The May Creek Greenway will also serve as the primary non-motorized connection from the north to the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Centennial Park, a parcel that was previously purchased with MNRTF funds and which is undergoing a significant park development funded with private Wilson Foundation funding.

Total Acquisition Grant Recommendation Amount: \$19,449,800

13 Local Acquisitions - \$10,380,800

6 State Acquisitions - \$9,069,000