

2020 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Recommendations

2020 Acquisition Project Recommendations

Upper Peninsula

Chippewa County – Whitefish Township, Saturn Memorial Township Park Expansion - \$185,000

Acquisition of 5 acres to expand Whitefish Township's Saturn Memorial Park. The park will feature over 600 feet of shoreline on Lake Superior, west of Whitefish Point. The park is named for the historic wreck of the barges Saturn and Jupiter which went down in 1872 with no survivors. The site's wide-open sandy shoreline provides a beautiful location to beach-comb, swim, paddle, sunbath, picnic, and enjoy nature. Future plans for the park include new parking, interpretive signage, restrooms with well and rustic camping to provide for public use while preserving and protecting the pristine setting on Lake Superior.

Delta County – DNR, Lake Michigan Dune & Swale Complex Acquisition - \$2,600,000

Acquisition of 952 acres of unique forestland that includes over 1.5 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline (and access to an additional 1+ mile of shoreline on currently inaccessible adjacent state forest land); 220 acres of wooded dune and swale complex and 27 acres of sand dunes; 308 acres of wetlands; upland timber; nearly 1/2 mile of Virginia Creek corridor; and the entirety of Little Sucker Lake. The acreage is entirely located within a winter deeryard complex and provides a critical connection between two large blocks of state forest land. It is located on an important flyway for migrating neotropical songbirds and raptors and provides habitat for these birds. Habitat for white-tailed deer, black bear, ruffed grouse, woodcock, and furbearing species is also included. Recreational opportunities include hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, snowmobiling, and birdwatching.

Dickinson County – Waucedah Township, Sturgeon River Scenic Park Acquisition - \$2,129,000

Acquisition of 944 acres adjacent to the Sturgeon River featuring over four miles of river frontage, whitewater rapids, waterfalls, granite cliffs, and old growth forest. The acquisition will connect to over 3,700 acres of State Forest and provide numerous recreational activities including kayaking, fishing, bird watching, hiking, and swimming. Native and migratory fish, birds, and other wildlife which will benefit include the Canada Lynx, Gray Wolf, Northern Long-Eared Bat, and the Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee among many other species. The Superior Watershed Partnership will assist the township with annual monitoring and maintenance will be provided by the Great Lakes Conservation Corps.

Gogebic County – Gogebic County Forest Expansion - \$3,182,200

Acquisition of 4,000 acres of unique forestland within the existing 50,000-acre Gogebic County Forest. The Gogebic County Forest is a working forest which supports the community, the forest

products industry and critical wildlife habitat while providing natural resources for public outdoor recreation. The acquisition will enable the County Forest Program to manage the resources more effectively to meet wildlife habitat goals of the DNR's Devils Creek-Chaney Lake Deer Wintering Complex Management Plan, essential to winter survival of deer in Gogebic County. This acquisition will be an asset to future generations and critical for the Western Upper Peninsula while ensuring conservation of the land for all of Michigan's citizens.

Ontonagon County – Ontonagon Township, Lake Superior Sandy Beach Acquisition - \$100,000

Acquisition of 3 acres of lakefront property featuring 275 feet of sandy beach frontage on Lake Superior in Ontonagon Township. The acquisition adjoins the Village of Ontonagon Beach and is close to the township's 54-acre lakeshore park and campground. The site, which is bisected by Lake Shore Road, offers easy access to the sandy beach, a very popular location for swimming, fishing and watching the sunset. The remaining property, on the other side of Lake Shore Road, is heavily wooded and will likely support a small picnic area and parking in the future.

Northern Michigan

Benzie County – Railroad Point Natural Area Expansion - \$718,900

Acquisition of 9.3 acres to expand the existing Railroad Point Natural Area in Benzie County from 207 to 216 acres, eliminating the last private in-holding within the existing Natural Area. This project helps protect one of the most scenic portions of the Betsie Valley Trail and preserves the natural corridor between Crystal Lake and the Betsie River. Fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, hunting, and other low impact recreational activities would be enhanced and expanded by this acquisition.

Cheboygan County – DNR, Black River Ranch Acquisition - \$2,335,000

Acquisition of approximately 8,850 acres of forestland that includes over 14 miles of Black River, East Branch of the Black River, and Stewart Creek corridor as well as three inland lakes including the 150-acre Silver Lake, 11-acre Bush Lake, and 2-acre Robarge Lake. The property is adjacent to the Pigeon River Country State Forest on nearly three sides and is located in the heart of Michigan's elk range. In addition to elk, the property provides habitat for a variety of species including white-tailed deer, black bear, ruffed grouse, woodcock, bobcat, coyote, snowshoe hare, bald eagle, merlin, and a number of threatened species including Hungerford's Crawling Water Beetle, Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, and Kirtland Warbler. Fish species found in the lakes include largemouth bass and panfish. The rivers are cold-water trout streams and provide habitat for brook, brown and rainbow trout.

Grand Traverse County – Green Lake Township, Bass Lake Property Acquisition - \$569,200

Acquisition of 515 acres in Green Lake Township with 3,800 feet of Bass Lake frontage as well as 1000ft of lake frontage on Sauders Lake, along with hundreds of acres of high-quality wetlands for passive recreation and conservation. Future developments may include non-motorized trails with a trail connection to the adjacent Long Lake Natural Area and interpretive signage, platforms for hunting and wildlife observation. Long-term goals include a focus on Bass Lake for paddling, fishing, swimming, hunting, and its scenic beauty.

Lake County – DNR, Pere Marquette River Access - \$149,200

Acquisition of 13 contiguous acres and 700 feet of river frontage adjacent to DNR's existing M-37 Boating Access Site on the Pere Marquette River. The land on the opposite side of the river is owned by Lake County. The Pere Marquette River in this area is one of the most productive brown trout, steelhead, and salmon streams in Michigan. It is heavily fished by anglers and professional river guides. This project would allow wading anglers to access another 700 feet of streambank and also ensure long-term conservation of the parcel.

Western Michigan

Berrien County – Madeline Bertrand Park Addition - \$300,000

Acquisition of approximately 33 acres adjacent to Madeline Bertrand County Park along the St. Joseph River. The acquisition will allow for future development of amenities to the park and St. Joseph River trail and create a buffer to a housing subdivision.

Kalamazoo County – Oshtemo Township, Fruitbelt Trail Corridor Acquisition - \$58,000

Acquisition of 36 acres of former railroad corridor adjacent to Flesher Field and extending to Oshtemo Township's south boundary. This fee simple land acquisition will allow for future development of approximately two miles of non-motorized trail and will expand recreational opportunities at an existing park while conserving wildlife habitat. The Fruitbelt Trail is named for the railroad that once operated in this location.

Kent County – Algoma Township, Algoma Rogue River Public Access - \$65,000

Acquisition of 2 acres of property with 200 feet of frontage on the Rogue River, a state designated wild and scenic natural river. The site will serve as a stopping and access point trailhead on the Rogue River Water Trail.

Kent County – Thornapple River Water Trail Acquisition - \$744,100

Acquisition of 31 acres to enable safe portage around the hydro-electric dam at 84th street. The parcel offers 600 feet of frontage on the Thornapple River and will allow for safe access to the river for canoes, kayaks, and tubing enthusiasts.

Kent County – Thornapple Riverbend Greenspace Acquisition - \$469,700

Acquisition of 34 acres along the Thornapple River and southern boundary of Thornapple Riverbend Greenspace. The project includes nearly 9 acres of forested land adjacent to the river and will open up an additional 692 feet of shoreline to general recreation and public shore-fishing opportunity.

Muskegon County – Muskegon Sands Acquisition - \$5,000,000

Acquisition of 210 acres (part of a possible total of 376 acres) within the coastal zone boundary. The project area applied for includes 1,662 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline, critical dune land and home to many native plants and animals. In addition to Lake Michigan access, the property offers 19,364 feet of shoreline along two inland lakes.

The property is within the City of Norton Shores, and in very close proximity to the City of Muskegon and the City of Muskegon Heights. The property is also within the Muskegon-Norton Shores Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Ottawa County – Bend Area Expansion Phase III - \$504,700

Acquisition of a 194-acre former gravel mine to expand the existing Bend Area Open Space. The goal of this acquisition is to help complete a long-term plan to establish a 700-acre park in the most populous community in Ottawa County. While roughly half the size of Kent County's Millennium Park, the Bend Area is planned in the long-term to include many similar uses, such as swimming, hiking, cycling, picnicking, fishing, and paddling. Once complete, the Bend Area will serve as a centerpiece of Ottawa County Parks' Grand River Greenway and will include land and water trail access from the Idema Explorers Trail and Grand River Water Trail. This site is a key to this vision as it would help secure the 9,658' of shoreline along a 138-acre lake.

Ottawa County – Stearns Creek Expansion - \$95,000

Acquisition of a 28-acre property with 1,986' of creek frontage and 15.4 acres of floodplain/wetland. This area of Stearns Creek corridor has exceptional natural resource values and the subject land will be an important buffer and recreational asset.

Ottawa County – Grand Haven Charter Township, Hofma Park and Preserve Land Acquisition - \$246,300

Acquisition of 15 acres adjacent to the existing Hofma Park and Preserve. The acquisition will allow for a future northern entrance to Hofma Park and Preserve as well as direct access to the non-motorized trail system.

Central Michigan

Eaton County – Delta Charter Township, Elmwood Road Land Acquisition - \$30,000

Acquisition of a .46-acre parcel on Elmwood Road for future development of the East-West Pathway & Sharp Park. This parcel will allow increased accessibility to all areas and amenities within the park. Offering a second entrance for motorized and non-motorized park users is also possible.

Eaton County – Delta Charter Township, North Canal Road Land Acquisition - \$75,000

Acquisition of a 3-acre parcel for future development and connection from the East-West Pathway to the Old River Trail Pathway. This parcel will allow increased accessibility to all areas and amenities within the parks.

Ingham County – Meridian Charter Township, MSU to Lake Lansing Trail Hub Acquisition - \$127,500

Acquisition of a 1.8-acre property adjacent to Nancy Moore Park providing a vital link and the opportunity to build a rest stop for trail enthusiasts and community members to explore and utilize the region. This unique property located centrally to the trail network will provide convenient facilities to create a safer experience for users of the regional trail system. Meridian Township will be looking to integrate novel ideas into the development of this property that will create a unique experience for trail lovers and novice explorers alike. Our residents have

repeatedly voted to support trail development and the Township and County have worked together to make regional trails a top priority.

Jackson County – Grand - Portage River Parcel Acquisition - \$162,900

Acquisition of an estimated 47.6 acres of park land at the confluence of the Grand and Portage rivers. This additional land will provide access to both the Portage River and Grand River for outdoor water-based recreation activities such as canoeing, kayaking and fishing, as well as land for the Lakelands Trail linkages within Jackson County.

Greater Tri-Cities / Thumb

Genesee County – Stanley Road Land Acquisition - \$250,100

Acquisition of 7 acres on Stanley Road in Oregon Township of Lapeer County. These parcels have approximately 1,000 feet of water frontage along a tributary of the Holloway Reservoir and connect two park properties already owned by Genesee County. The park property surrounding these parcels is currently used for horseback riding as well as by For-Mar Nature staff for environmental education and nature hikes. Consideration for future development may include passive recreation, hiking, horse trails, fishing, and environmental education.

Huron County – Village of Sebewaing, Sebewaing Riverside Park - \$96,600

Acquisition of 1.8 acres of property on the Sebewaing River to provide an access point for the Saginaw Bay Water Trail as well as picnicking and a riverside fishing location.

Midland County – Larkin Charter Township, Larkin Township Land Acquisition - \$967,300

Acquisition of 152.4 acres of land consisting of the western parcel which is 72.4 acres of wooded land and open field, and the eastern parcel which is 80 acres of wooded land. These parcels abut the existing Township park. The western parcel will be developed for parking, a playground, pavilion, and athletic fields. The eastern parcel would be developed with walking paths and interpretive signage.

Saginaw County – Maple Grove Township, Maple Grove Township Park Addition - \$23,100

Acquisition of 4 acres to add to Maple Grove Township Park. The township has the ability to acquire property from two landowners that abut the Township's popular park.

Southeastern Michigan

Lenawee County – DNR, Nutrient Reduction - Wetland Restoration Pilot - \$1,400,000

Acquisition of 30-80 acres of a restored wetland complex within the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) in either the Maumee or River Raisin watersheds. This project aims to achieve objectives in the Executive Directive 2019-14 - "to ensure full implementation of the DAP [Michigan Domestic Action Plan]." This is a pilot project that is intended to demonstrate reduction of nutrient runoff, which causes harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie, through wetland restoration in the WLEB. DNR will work with project partners, who will purchase and develop

the site into a high-functioning restored wetland complex. The completed site will be managed as a state game area by the DNR for public wildlife-related recreation and habitat conservation in addition to the nutrient reduction aspects.

Macomb County – Chesterfield Township, Salt River Nature Center - \$199,500

Acquisition of a 33-acre parcel located along the banks of the Salt River. The acquisition would provide the Township with an opportunity to develop the Salt River Nature Center, which would provide residents with public river and lake access. If acquired and enhanced, this park would provide community residents and regional visitors with an opportunity to experience, view and access the Salt River in a variety of ways. The township views acquiring this undeveloped riverfront parcel as a key step in conservation of the Salt River corridor and preserving natural resources while providing residents access to open space and park programming.

Oakland County – Oakland Charter Township, Lost Lake Nature Park Expansion - \$3,081,000

Acquisition of a 235-acre addition to Oakland Township's Lost Lake Nature Park. The property contains Michigan Natural Features Inventory Priority 1 natural areas including a prairie fen, also a statewide priority of the Michigan Wildlife Action Plan. The site is of regional and statewide significance to buffer, protect and interpret high-quality natural areas vulnerable to loss. The park would also connect to an adjacent middle school. If successful, the new 293-acre park will allow the township to increase trails to more than 4 miles in total and provide public access to Clam Lake and the West Branch of Stony Creek. A small portion of the acquisition, formerly farmland, is proposed for future improvements to support active recreation in the township. Existing buildings would be repurposed for a Park Visitor Center, storage and maintenance.

St. Clair County – North Channel Shoreline Acquisition - \$1,425,300

Acquisition of 10 acres with three hundred feet of frontage on the North Channel of the St. Clair River. The property is located on M-29 in Clay Township immediately between the Algonac Harbor Club marina and the DNR North Channel Boat Launch site. Upon acquisition, the site will be developed with a swimming beach, kayak launch, shoreline fishing, a children's playground, picnic shelters, restrooms, maintenance facilities and parking lot. The park facilities will serve as a trailhead for the Bridge to Bay Trail that runs along M-29.

Total Acquisition Grant Recommendation Amount: \$27,289,600

26 Local Acquisitions - \$20,805,400

4 State Acquisitions - \$6,484,200