



# Raising the Bar on Outdoor Fun

*Making Michigan's outdoor recreation experiences more accessible and enjoyable for everyone*

Outdoor recreation is an essential part of life for many Michiganders and provides important economic benefits to the state. Additional funding for harbor dredging and ORV trails ensures that the quality, enjoyment and safety of our favorite outdoor hobbies—our way of life—remain strong while positively benefiting local economies.

With additional investment, the Department of Natural Resources will strengthen our efforts to provide residents and visitors with broader access to high-quality Michigan outdoor recreation experiences, as detailed in the DNR Parks and Recreation Division's 2009-2019 strategic plan, Sustaining 90 Years of Excellence. We are committed to protecting, preserving and sharing with the public Michigan's unique natural and cultural resources; providing access to a variety of land- and water-based public recreation and educational opportunities; and positioning Michigan as the nation's Trails State.



## Dredging

**Michigan is experiencing record low Great Lakes water levels -- limiting access, threatening safety and compromising the vitality of local economies. With additional funding, harbors will remain open for the safety and enjoyment of the owners of Michigan's 800,000 registered boats, which add \$3.9 billion a year in trip and craft spending. This funding will:**

- Provide for dredging of 49 harbors with emergency needs (58 percent of all public harbor facilities) with 70 percent of the investment directed to local communities in grants
- Provide no-match grants to local communities for dredging by temporarily suspending the current match requirement of 50 percent
  - Maintain public safety with the Harbors of Refuge safety network by keeping open and accessible a chain of harbors along the Great Lakes so that no boater is ever more than 15 miles away from the nearest harbor
  - Preserve access to the Great Lakes for boater enjoyment and economic benefits
    - Improve recreational boating opportunities statewide, including on inland lakes
      - Provide economic stability to local communities that rely on boaters for revenue generation
      - Provide a mechanism to fund high-need channels within the Army Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction



## **ORV Trail Use**

**Additional investment will create a world-class trail network with increased enjoyment for the state's 200,000 registered ORV owners and additional economic benefit to local communities. This investment will:**

- Expand the trail system from 3,698 miles to at least 4,000 miles through trail easements and acquisitions, which current funding does not support
- Provide sufficient trail grant funding to stakeholders to develop, groom and brush trails and add signage
- Provide local law enforcement grants and provide grants for trail expansion areas
- Ensure a safer environment for ORV trail users by increasing the number of conservation officers in Michigan, thereby boosting opportunities for education contacts and public safety through trail patrols
- Thoroughly inspect the condition and maintenance of trails
- Replace and renovate failing or aging infrastructure, including bridges and culverts to address safety and environmental issues
- Create destination places by adding trail connections to communities through easements and acquisitions
- Improve the ORV license-buying experience both online and in retail stores by enhancing the retail sales system
- Enhance urban outreach to expand outdoor recreation activities and natural resources education into additional urban areas, creating a greater appreciation and funding for ORV trail use
- Create a southern Michigan ORV area closer to local population centers
- Allow us to better promote Michigan's extensive network of trails and boost our reputation as the nation's Trails State



Visit [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) to learn about outdoor recreation and to sign up to receive emails from the DNR!

