



# Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund 2020 Annual Report

## Message from DNR Director Dan Eichinger and MNRTF Chair Bill Rustem



*DNR Director Dan Eichinger*

*MNRTF Chair Bill Rustem*

Under the challenges of this year's COVID-19 pandemic, safer, accessible outdoor spaces and public recreation played a huge role in people's lives. Enjoying time outdoors, always popular here in Michigan, became the cornerstone of individual and family activity. Walking trails, birdwatching, quiet picnics near the river or collecting leaves with the kids – simple diversions like these, amid COVID, provided relief and opportunities to safely spread out for residents who otherwise would have been confined inside their homes.

The changes brought on by this uncertain year demonstrated even more emphatically the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund's unmistakable value in helping communities across the

state acquire and develop the green spaces, parks and other recreation facilities that ensure greater outdoor access and health and wellness benefits for more Michiganders.

With the voting results of Proposal 1 this fall, it's clear, too, that Michigan residents support the Trust Fund grant program and its continued investment in projects that speak to the recreation needs of communities. This year's grant recommendations represent a broad range of land acquisition and outdoor development projects that will make a real difference and serve to further drive local economies through travel and tourism.

The projects are vast and varied. Creation of water, hiking and biking trails. Construction of streamside fishing platforms. Building inclusive playgrounds and park amenities like accessible canoe and kayak launches for children and adults of all abilities. Renovation of public restrooms and pavilions in community and state parks. Land acquisitions for the creation of community parks, water trails and the preservation of unique natural features like accessing Lake Michigan's sand dunes, and much more.

For more than 40 years, the Trust Fund has improved the quality of life for residents and visitors. With the tradition of fund raising for match dollars, these partnerships - coupled with Trust Fund support - are sure to yield ever broader opportunities for people to enjoy and experience Michigan's great outdoors.

### Trust Fund Board

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund 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 2020 were Bill Rustem of Mason, Erin McDonough of Williamston, Steven Hamp of Ann Arbor and Sam Cummings of Grand Rapids. Dan Eichinger represented the Department of Natural Resources in 2020 as director.

Board priorities for 2020 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

Achievements and actions made by the board and DNR Grants Section staff include:

- Holding six public meetings in 2020, five of which were virtual.
- Augmenting program requirements to grantees - offering them flexible options, such as temporarily amending the requirements to allow for virtual public meetings and passing resolutions, as well as not requiring grantees to hold in-person ribbon-cutting events.
- Providing historical and factual content as it pertained to Proposal 1 on the November election ballot.
- Executing contracts for program plaques and the online management system.

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

The Trust Fund has awarded over \$1.2 billion in grants to local units of government and state agencies for projects throughout all 83 Michigan counties. Of this total, \$272 million has been invested in trails. In excess of 1,000 public parks have been acquired, developed or both. Other projects funded include ball fields, boat launches, trailheads, restrooms and other amenities, for a total of 2,639 Trust Fund-assisted projects since 1976. To learn more about the Trust Fund visit [Michigan.gov/MNRTF](http://Michigan.gov/MNRTF).

## 10-year grant history

Application Year	Grant awards (dollars)			Number of grants		
	Acquisition	Development	Total	Acquisition	Development	Total
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
2019*	17,199,800	11,500,000	28,699,800	18	60	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>266,726,500</b>	<b>129,072,100</b>	<b>395,798,600</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>894</b>

\*Includes Ludington State Park acquisition recommended at the February 2020 meeting by the Trust Fund Board that was included in the 2020 appropriation bill.

## Local and state acquisition and development projects, 1976-2019



## 2020 MNRTF board recommendations - development projects

County	Grantee	Project	Amount
Antrim	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	Torch River Bridge Boating Access Site Redevelopment	\$300,000
Benzie	Village of Elberta	Elberta Lake Michigan Beach Improvement Project	\$300,000
Berrien	New Buffalo Township	Marquette Greenway Development	\$300,000
Calhoun	Calhoun County	* Kimball Pines Development	\$193,400
Calhoun	Village of Homer	* Iron Belle Trail - Homer Gap Development	\$101,000
Charlevoix	City of East Jordan	Sportsman's Park River Access Upgrades	\$300,000
Charlevoix	Charlevoix County	Boyne City to Charlevoix Trail - Phase 3	\$292,600
Cheboygan	City of Cheboygan	Increasing Fishing Access in the Cheboygan River	\$300,000
Eaton	Ingham County	Bunker Road Landing Renovations	\$50,000
Eaton	Village of Dimondale	Danford Island Park Restroom Development	\$126,000
Genesee	Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation District	Development of the Silver Lake Road Connector Trail	\$300,000
Genesee	City of Fenton	Millpond Park and Shiawassee Riverwalk	\$300,000
Genesee	Genesee County	* Iron Belle Trail from Atlas Township to Grand Blanc Township	\$300,000
Genesee	City of Swartz Creek	Swartz Creek Genesee Valley Trail Development	\$300,000
Gogebic	City of Ironwood	Norrie Park Renovation and Montreal River Water Trail	\$111,300
Grand Traverse	City of Traverse City	FishPass Project - Union Street Dam Park Improvements	\$300,000
Grand Traverse	East Bay Township	Arbutus Lake #5 Park Improvements	\$300,000
Houghton	DNR - Wildlife Division	Sturgeon River Sloughs Bridge Development	\$300,000
Huron	Huron County	Lighthouse County Park Improvements	\$217,000
Ingham	Ingham County	Lake Lansing Park South Launch and Lot Development	\$300,000
Ingham	City of East Lansing	Patriarche Park Tennis/Pickleball Court Renovation	\$300,000
Iosco	Oscoda Charter Township	* Iosco Exploration Trail, Phase III	\$300,000
Jackson	Blackman Charter Township	Canary Lane River Access Development	\$45,000
Jackson	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	* Mike Levine Lakelands Trail Phase 3	\$300,000
Jackson	Jackson County	* IBT-Jackson County Mike Levine Lakelands Trail Extension	\$300,000
Kent	City of Grand Rapids	Ottawa Hills Park Improvements	\$247,900
Leelanau	Elmwood Charter Township	Greilickville Harbor Park - Discovery Pier Improvement	\$300,000
Livingston	Hamburg Township	Hay Creek Bridge Renovation	\$50,000
Mackinac	Portage Township	Portage Creek Fishing Access	\$50,000
Mackinac	Portage Township	Shoepac Creek Fishing Access	\$50,000
Marquette	City of Marquette	Mattson Lower Harbor Park - Inclusive Playground	\$300,000
Marquette	DNR - Parks and Recreation Division	* Little Presque Isle Trail Development and Renovation	\$300,000
Marquette	City of Negaunee	Jackson Mine Park Playground Development	\$125,700
Newaygo	City of Fremont	Fremont Branstrom Park Warming Lodge	\$259,000
Oakland	City of Auburn Hills	Kayak Point Park Development	\$192,600
Oakland	Village of Milford	Central Park Pathway and Launch	\$43,800
Oceana	City of Hart	Veteran's Memorial Park	\$300,000
Ottawa	Village of Spring Lake	Tanglefoot Park UA Waterfront Redevelopment	\$300,000
Ottawa	Grand Haven Charter Township	Hofma Park & Preserve - Trail Expansion & Universal Design	\$300,000
Saginaw	City of Saginaw	* Saginaw Riverwalk-Iron Belle Trail through Wickes Park	\$300,000
St. Clair	City of Port Huron	Bridge to Bay Regional Trail Connector	\$287,000
St. Joseph	St. Joseph County	Rawson's King Mill Park Renovations	\$50,000

\*Iron Belle Trail Projects

## Development projects continued

County	Grantee	Project	Amount
Van Buren	South Haven Area Recreation Authority	Deerlick Creek Park Development	\$15,000
Washtenaw	Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority	Dexter-Huron Metropark - Launch and Picnic Area Renovation	\$192,700
Washtenaw	City of Ypsilanti	I-94 Non-motorized Crossing at Huron Street Overpass	\$300,000
Wayne	Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority	* Lower Huron Metropark - Iron Belle Trail Extension	\$300,000
<b>Total 2020 Development Recommendations</b>			<b>\$10,500,000</b>

\*Iron Belle Trail Projects

## 2020 MNRTF board recommendations - acquisition projects

County	Grantee	Project	Amount
Benzie	Benzie County	Railroad Point Natural Area Expansion	\$718,900
Berrien	Berrien County	Madeline Bertrand Park Addition	\$300,000
Cheboygan	DNR - Forest Resources Division	Black River Ranch Acquisition	\$2,335,000
Chippewa	Whitefish Township	Saturn Memorial Township Park Expansion	\$185,000
Delta	DNR - Forest Resources Division	Lake Michigan Dune & Swale Complex Acquisition	\$2,600,000
Dickinson	Waucedah Township	Sturgeon River Scenic Park Acquisition	\$2,129,000
Eaton	Delta Charter Township	North Canal Road Land Acquisition	\$75,000
Eaton	Delta Charter Township	Elmwood Road Land Acquisition	\$30,000
Gogebic	Gogebic County	Gogebic County Forest Expansion	\$3,182,200
Grand Traverse	Green Lake Township	Bass Lake Property Acquisition	\$569,200
Huron	Village of Sebewaing	Sebewaing Riverside Park	\$96,600
Ingham	Meridian Charter Township	MSU to Lake Lansing Trail Hub Acquisition	\$127,500
Jackson	Jackson County	Grand - Portage River Parcel Acquisition	\$162,900
Kalamazoo	Oshtemo Township	Fruitbelt Trail Corridor Acquisition	\$58,000
Kent	Algoma Township	Algoma Rogue River Public Access	\$65,000
Kent	Kent County	Thornapple River Water Trail Acquisition	\$744,100
Kent	Kent County	Thornapple Riverbend Greenspace Acquisition	\$469,700
Lake	DNR - Fisheries Division	Pere Marquette River Access	\$149,200
Lapeer	Genesee County	Stanley Road Land Acquisition	\$250,100
Lenawee	DNR - Wildlife Division	Nutrient Reduction - Wetland Restoration Pilot	\$1,400,000
Macomb	Chesterfield Township	Salt River Nature Center	\$199,500
Midland	Larkin Charter Township	Larkin Township Land Acquisition	\$967,300
Muskegon	Muskegon County	Muskegon Sands Acquisition	\$5,000,000
Oakland	Oakland Charter Township	Lost Lake Nature Park Expansion	\$3,081,000
Ontonagon	Ontonagon Township	Lake Superior Sandy Beach Acquisition	\$100,000
Ottawa	Ottawa County	Bend Area Expansion Phase III	\$504,700
Ottawa	Ottawa County	Stearns Creek Expansion	\$95,000
Ottawa	Grand Haven Charter Township	Hofma Park and Preserve Land Acquisition	\$246,300
Saginaw	Maple Grove Township	Maple Grove Township Park Addition	\$23,100
St. Clair	St. Clair County	North Channel Shoreline Acquisition	\$1,425,300
<b>Total 2020 Acquisition Recommendations</b>			<b>\$27,289,600</b>

A list of all MNRTF projects, 1976 to present, is available online at [Michigan.gov/MNRTF](http://Michigan.gov/MNRTF).



## Understanding how the Trust Fund works



Riverside Kayak Park development, Hagar Township, Berrien County

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 Trust Fund changed significantly.

New revenue from state-owned oil, gas and other mineral production stopped being deposited into the Trust Fund and started to be deposited in the State Park Endowment Fund. Funds available for grants from the Trust Fund, 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 current and future 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 Trust Fund for years to come. The estimated fiscal year 2020 ending investment balance of the Trust Fund is \$635.4 million.

## Financial summary

Interest earnings and income: **\$43.1 million**

Development project recommendations: **\$10.5 million**

Acquisition project recommendations: **\$27.3 million**

Property taxes paid on state land purchased: **\$2.2 million**

Operating expenditures: **\$2.0 million**



Riverfront Park canoe and kayak launch development, Lansing, Ingham County

## About the cover photos

Front: Brockway Mountain Backcountry Access, Keweenaw County, 10-acre trail easement acquisition with funding from a Trust Fund grant.

Back: Ocqueoc Falls River, Presque Isle County, 80-acre acquisition with funding from a Trust Fund grant.



**Learn more about the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund at [Michigan.gov/MNRTF](https://Michigan.gov/MNRTF).**

**Stay current on the latest Trust Fund news and other DNR information by subscribing to email updates. Visit [Michigan.gov/DNR](https://Michigan.gov/DNR) to sign up.**

**Questions: 517-28 GRANT (517-284-7268) or [DNR-Grants@Michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-Grants@Michigan.gov).**