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Natural Resources

History of Michigan Conservation

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

Economic Impact of Natural Resources

Conservation Funding

Michigan's natural resources conservation budget is in crisis. The funding base for state parks, trails, forests and other resources is shrinking for two reasons:

- The state's general fund, the checkbook for most state spending, is shrinking, and a greater percentage of the fund is going to priorities besides conservation.
- Fees on hunting and fishing, which for a century have supported many state conservation programs, are generating lower revenue as license sales decline.

General fund spending for DNR programs has fallen by two-thirds since 2000. Less than one penny of every dollar of the general fund is spent on DNR programs. This does not reflect the priority that most Michigianians place on their natural resources.

Heart of the Lakes seeks to educate Michigan citizens on the need for a greater public investment in conservation as a critical part of maintaining our quality of life.

Approximate
your general
appropriation
budget by
citizen:

Natural Resources
\$2.50
53% decrease

Environment
\$3.30
66% decrease

Agriculture
\$3.00
34% decrease

Legislation
\$11.50
10% increase

Corrective
\$187.00
75% increase

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Michigan

Michigan State Constitution Article IX Section 35

[Statute Details](#)[Printable Version](#)

Citation: M. C. L. A. Const. Art. 9, § 35

Citation: MI CONST Art. 9, § 35

Summary: The trust fund consists of all bonuses, rentals and royalties collected or reserved by the state under provisions of leases for the extraction of nonrenewable resources from state owned lands.

Statute in Full:

ARTICLE IX

FINANCE AND TAXATION

§ 35 Michigan natural resources trust fund.

Sec. 35.

There is hereby established the Michigan natural resources trust fund. The trust fund shall consist of all bonuses, rentals, delayed rentals, and royalties collected or reserved by the state under provisions of leases for the extraction of nonrenewable resources from state owned lands, except such revenues accruing under leases of state owned lands acquired with money from state or federal game and fish protection funds or revenues accruing from lands purchased with such revenues. The trust fund may receive appropriations, money, or other things of value. The assets of the trust fund shall be invested as provided by law.

Until the trust fund reaches an accumulated principal of \$500,000,000.00, \$10,000,000.00 of the revenues from bonuses, rentals, delayed rentals, and royalties described in this section otherwise dedicated to the trust fund that are received by the state each state fiscal year shall be deposited into the Michigan state parks endowment fund. However, until the trust fund reaches an accumulated principal of \$500,000,000.00, in any state fiscal year, not more than 50 percent of the total revenues from bonuses, rentals, delayed rentals, and royalties described in this section otherwise dedicated to the trust fund that are received by the state each state fiscal year shall be deposited into the Michigan state parks endowment fund.

The amount accumulated in the trust fund in any state fiscal year shall not exceed \$500,000,000.00, exclusive of interest and earnings and amounts authorized for expenditure pursuant to this section. When the accumulated principal of the trust fund reaches \$500,000,000.00, all revenue from bonuses, rentals, delayed rentals, and royalties described in this section that would be received by the trust fund but for this limitation shall be deposited into the Michigan state parks endowment fund until the Michigan state parks endowment fund reaches an accumulated principal of \$800,000,000.00. When the Michigan state parks endowment fund reaches an accumulated principal of \$800,000,000.00, all revenues from bonuses, rentals, delayed rentals, and royalties described in this section shall be distributed as provided

http://www.animallaw.info/statutes/statute_details/print.htm

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The interest and earnings of the trust fund shall be expended for the acquisition of land or rights in land for recreational uses or protection of the land because of its environmental importance or its scenic beauty, for the development of public recreation facilities, and for the administration of the trust fund, which may include payments in lieu of taxes on state owned land purchased through the trust fund. The trust fund may provide grants to units of local government or public authorities which shall be used for the purposes of this section. The legislature shall provide that a portion of the cost of a project funded by such grants be provided by the local unit of government or public authority.

Until the trust fund reaches an accumulated principal of \$500,000,000.00, the legislature may provide, in addition to the expenditure of interest and earnings authorized by this section, that a portion, not to exceed 33-1/3 percent, of the revenues from bonuses, rentals, delayed rentals, and royalties described in this section received by the trust fund during each state fiscal year may be expended during subsequent state fiscal years for the purposes of this section.

Not less than 25 percent of the total amounts made available for expenditure from the trust fund from any state fiscal year shall be expended for acquisition of land and rights in land and not more than 25 percent of the total amounts made available for expenditure from the trust fund from any state fiscal year shall be expended for development of public recreation facilities.

The legislature shall provide by law for the establishment of a trust fund board within the department of natural resources. The trust fund board shall recommend the projects to be funded. The board shall submit its recommendations to the governor who shall submit the board's recommendations to the legislature in an appropriations bill.

The legislature shall provide by law for the implementation of this section.

History: Add. H.J.R. M, approved Nov. 6, 1984, Eff. Dec. 22, 1984 ;--Am. S.J.R. E, approved Nov. 8, 1994, Eff. Dec. 24, 1994 ;--Am. S.J.R. T, approved Aug. 6, 2002, Eff. Sept. 21, 2002 .

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Release Date: March 13, 2006
Last Update: May 01, 2007

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund -- the Public's Trust in Land for 30 Years

March 2, 2006

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has an 85-year history of caring for this state's natural resources. Some resources, such as wildlife, fish and forests, are renewable resources that can be replenished and enhanced constantly. Other resources, such as oil and gas, are not renewable. Once taken, they are gone forever.

In the early 1970s, the discovery of oil in the popular Pigeon River Country State Forest in the northern Lower Peninsula prompted several oil companies to apply for rights to drill in this pristine wilderness, which is home to Michigan's elk herd.

This touched off a heated debate between those concerned with the environmental impact of drilling on public lands and those who felt that drilling could occur with minimal impact. Eventually, a compromise was reached which allowed drilling in the forest provided that sufficient environmental protection was ensured and that lease revenues and royalties would be used for the purchase of new recreational lands for public use.



Previously, revenues from leasing state land for oil and natural gas exploration and from royalties on successful wells had been funneled directly into the state's general fund. The money was spent as fast as it was earned.

Advocates of the trust fund concept, including then State Senator Kerry Kammer, believed it fair and logical to use profit from public lands to enhance public ownership, thus compensating the public for intrusion on their lands with enhanced recreational opportunities.

When the original land trust fund was established with the passage of the Kammer Recreational Land Acquisition Fund Act of 1976, it was hailed by environmentalists, conservationists and recreation groups as an investment in Michigan's future.

In effect, the trust fund would allow the people of Michigan to trade two valuable nonrenewable resources, oil and gas, for another nonrenewable resource – land.

The trust fund's ceiling was set at \$100 million. Although the original purpose of the fund was solely to preserve and protect Michigan's natural resources through buying and/or improving public parks and recreation lands, its financial success made it a target to help balance the state budget. During its first seven years, more than \$100 million was diverted to other programs outside its original stated purpose.

Michigan voters then stepped in to approve a constitutional amendment in 1984, creating a new Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund that provided constitutional protection for the original funding level and purpose of the land trust fund and increased the fund cap to \$200 million. Under the new law, up to one-third of trust fund revenues could be spent annually to purchase land for resource protection and public outdoor recreation and develop outdoor recreational facilities across the state.



In 1994, Michigan voters overwhelmingly approved Proposal P, which finally reversed the constitutional provision that allowed the annual diversion of \$20 million from the trust fund to the state's major economic development fund. The proposal also increased the trust fund cap to \$400 million and created a Michigan State Parks Endowment Fund, which receives \$10

million in trust fund revenues each year for the operation, maintenance and capital improvements at Michigan State Parks.

Finally, in 2002, voters approved Proposal 2, which increased the cap to \$500 million.

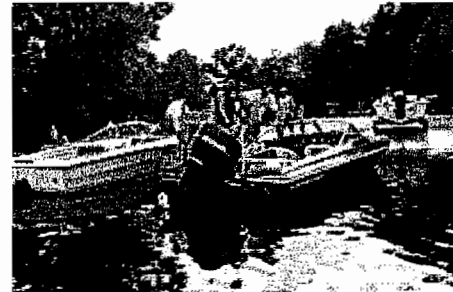
"During the 30 years of its existence, the trust fund has provided more than \$600 million for state and local land acquisition and natural resource development projects in every county in Michigan," said Jim Wood, manager of DNR Grants Management section.

These projects have included some very special tracts of land – places such as the Pigeon River Country State Forest, St. John's Marsh and the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula; hundreds of miles of frontage on the Au Sable, Manistee, Jordan and other significant inland rivers and hundreds of acres of precious Great Lakes shoreline.

Since 2002, the trust fund also has contributed more than \$16 million to allow the DNR to acquire a working forest conservation easement allowing timbering and public access on approximately 248,000 acres of land in several counties across the Upper Peninsula. This project, known as the Kamehameha Schools Development Rights Purchase, represents the single largest easement purchase in the state's history.

"The trust fund is the single most important tool available to state and local governments to ensure public outdoor recreation opportunities for future generations," Wood said. "Without the trust fund, very little additional recreational lands would be acquired."

A few of the DNR's significant recreation development projects include the Black Mountain Forest Recreation Area, a 9,000-acre multi-purpose complex developed with trust fund support in the early 1990s. Trust Fund revenues also provided nearly \$2 million for property acquisition and construction of the Presque Isle Marina in 1992, and more than \$900,000 to upgrade DNR-operated shooting ranges at Rose Lake, Sharonville and Pontiac Lake. A 13-mile hard-surfaced trail for walkers, joggers and bikers that meanders through the Island Lake Recreation Area was completed in 1997.



The trust fund has helped build access sites for boating and fishing at many locations throughout the state, and it has also played a key role in developing Michigan's statewide trailways system, where abandoned railroad corridors are converted into multi-purpose recreational trails, popularly known as rail trails.

"These land acquisitions and development projects represent an economic investment in the quality of life in Michigan," Wood said. "Their value to Michigan residents and future generations in terms of protection of valuable land resources and enhanced state, regional and local recreation opportunities is immeasurable."

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Release Date: June 12, 2002
Last Update: January 12, 2007

What is the MNRTF Board?

The MNRTF began as the "Kammer Recreational Land Trust Fund Act of 1976" via P.A. 204 of 1976. Act 204 created the Michigan Land Trust Fund (MLTF) program to provide a source of funding for the public acquisition of lands for resource protection and public outdoor recreation. Funding was derived from royalties on the sale and lease of State-owned mineral rights.

On November 6, 1984, Michigan residents voted in favor of Proposal B, which amended the State Constitution and created the MNRTF. The constitutional amendment required that oil, gas, and other mineral lease and royalty payments be placed into the Trust Fund, with proceeds used to both acquire and develop public recreation lands. To implement the constitutional amendment, the Legislature passed the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Act of 1985 (P.A. 101 of 1985, Act 101). This act stipulated that in any one fiscal year, up to a third of all mineral lease revenues plus the interest and earnings of the Trust Fund could be used to both purchase land for resource protection and public outdoor recreation and develop outdoor recreation facilities. P.A. 101 of 1985 also specified that not less than 25 percent of the total expenditures from the Trust Fund in any fiscal year shall be expended for land acquisition and rights in land, and not more than 25 percent of the total expenditures from the Trust Fund in any fiscal year be expended for development of public recreation facilities. In addition, P.A. 101 of 1985 authorized the use of Trust Funds to make the annual payments in-lieu of taxes to local units of government that are required under subpart 14 of Part 21 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 451 PA 1994, as amended. Trust Funds are used to meet the DNR's obligations under Part 21 for lands acquired by the DNR with MNRTF assistance.

On November 8, 1994, Michigan voters approved Proposal P, which also amended the State Constitution. The 1994 amendment reversed a previous constitutional provision which allowed the diversion of Trust Fund revenue to the Michigan Strategic Fund. Proposal P also established the State Park Endowment Fund for the operation, maintenance and capital improvements at Michigan's State Parks, and provided for the distribution of \$10 million annually in Trust Fund revenues to the new Endowment Fund. The 1994 amendment also raised the maximum amount that can accumulate in the Trust Fund from \$200 million to \$400 million.

On August 6, 2002, Michigan residents approved Proposal 2. This amendment to article IX allows the MNRTF to invest in a wider array of investments, raises the current cap on the maximum allowable amount from \$400 million to \$500 million, and allows up to one third of the Trust Fund revenue to be spent annually until the principle reaches \$500 million.

The Board of Trustees created by the MNRTF Act is composed of five members. These members are the Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or a member of the Natural Resources Commission, as determined by the Natural Resources Commission, and four residents of the State appointed by the Governor. The four citizen members appointed by the Governor and serving their terms during 2007 are:

Ms. Lana B. Pollack, from Ann Arbor, for a term expiring October 1, 2007;
Mr. Bob Garner, from Cadillac, for a term expiring October 1, 2009; Mr. Garner serves as Chairperson through 2007;
Mr. Keith Charters, from Traverse City, representing the Natural Resources Commission;
Mr. Sam Washington, from Bloomfield Hills for a term expiring October 1, 2010; and
Mr. Frank Torre, from Pontiac, for a term expiring October 1, 2008.

The Trust Fund Board met six times in 2006 to conduct business. Allocation of Project Funds Section 1907(1) of Part 19, P.A. 451 of 1994, requires that by January of each year the Board submits to the Legislature a priority list of lands recommended for acquisition and/or development.

Applications for MNRTF assistance are accepted annually. Applications are accepted from both local units of government and State agencies, primarily the land managing divisions of the Department of

Natural Resources (DNR). Applications are reviewed and scored by Grants Management of the DNR. Final grant recommendations are made by the MNRTF Board and submitted to the Legislature for approval and appropriation of funds.

[Click here to learn more about applying to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant program.](#)

The 2007 Recreation Grant Application Guidelines booklet which explains the program and application requirements was made available to prospective applicants in January 2007. Applications for MNRTF land acquisition and recreation facility development projects are accepted from the DNR and local units of government on April 2, 2007. A secondary application deadline for acquisition applications is also available on August 1, 2007.

DNR's Grants Management staff review applications for eligibility and conformance to the stated program goals and evaluation criteria. For applications received in April, Grants Management staff conduct a preliminary evaluation and make the results available to applicants before the final scoring process is conducted.

During 2006, over 160 MNRTF applications requesting more than \$62 million in assistance were evaluated and scored by Grants Management staff based on criteria and a scoring model approved by the Board. Staff recommendations are submitted to the Board in December based on application scores and the funds available. The Board considers staff recommendations and other factors it considers appropriate in making its recommendations.

At its December 6, 2006 meeting, the Board officially adopted its 2006 project recommendations for Land Acquisition and Development Projects for submission to the legislature.

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MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

I. Overview

A state abundant in natural resources, Michigan's 11,037 inland lakes, 3,200 miles of shoreline, 36,000 miles of rivers and streams, and heavily forested Upper Peninsula provide rich habitat for numerous plant and animal species.¹ The state is also the eighth most populated in the nation and has a population density more than twice the national average.² In order to support public land acquisition for the purpose of resource protection and outdoor recreation, the state legislature created the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), the state's major open space funding program, in 1976 (originally titled the Michigan Land Trust Fund). In 1984, Michigan citizens voted to amend the state constitution so that proceeds could be used to acquire and develop land for public outdoor recreation. Amendments also required that extractive industry royalties and lease payments be deposited into the fund. Since then, Michigan voters have twice increased the amount that can be accumulated in the MNRTF.³ The MNRTF has helped protect hundreds of thousands of acres of land since its inception.⁴

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund has statutory authority to provide grants for a broad range of purposes, including acquiring environmentally important lands and acquiring lands for recreational use.^{5,6} MNRTF has no plans to formally integrate the Michigan wildlife action plan (formerly known as the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy) into their project selection methodology, but expects that some applicants will rely on the plan to support their grant applications.

II. Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund

Michigan's State Constitution and Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act authorize the MNRTF to provide for "the acquisition of land or rights in lands for recreational uses or protection of the land because of its environmental importance or its scenic beauty, [and]

¹ Everything Michigan, Michigan, *The Great Lake State*, at <http://www.everythingmichigan.net/miinf.htm> (last visited June 23, 2005).

² The Trust for Public Land, *Funding Profile: Michigan*, at http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cdl.cfm?content_item_id=11425&folder_id=706 (posted Mar. 2003).

³ Michigan Department of Natural Resources, *2004 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Annual Report (Jan. 2005)*, available at <http://www.midnr.com/Publications/pdfs/InsideDNR/forms/grants/IC1906.pdf>.

⁴ Email from Jim Wood, Chief, Grants, Contracts and Customer Systems, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, to Ben Gerhardstein, Research Associate, Environmental Law Institute (Sept. 20, 2005, 14:08:58 EST) (on file with author).

⁵ MICH. CONST. art. IX, § 35.

⁶ The MNRTF is not specifically authorized by statute to prioritize biodiversity conservation when reviewing land acquisition projects. Since biodiversity conservation is not currently a focus for the MNRTF, lands are acquired for this purpose on a limited basis. For instance, in the summaries of the 15 acquisition projects funded by the MNRTF in 2004, the importance of habitat or species conservation was mentioned in six. Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, *Board Recommendations*, at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/04_projects_116063_7.pdf (last visited July 20, 2005).

for the development of public recreation facilities...”⁷ Under this authority, the five-member MNRTF Board of Trustees administers the program from within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).^{8,9} The board is supported by MDNR staff, including scientists.¹⁰

Program Funding

The MNRTF is funded by revenues from leases for the extraction of nonrenewable resources on state-owned land.^{11,12} The MDNR may expend the fund’s interest and earnings, as well as one-third of the revenue received in a given year.¹³ The MNRTF has approximately \$20-25 million available for grants each year, although funding fluctuates depending on revenue, investment earnings, and interest accruing in the fund.¹⁴ During FY 2004, acquisition grants totaled \$26 million, while development grants totaled \$6.1 million.^{15,16} Since 1976, more than \$600 million in MNRTF appropriations have supported over 1,200 state and local acquisition and development projects.¹⁷

Land Acquisition Grants

MNRTF provides grants to state agencies and local government entities for land acquisition.¹⁸ However, any individual, group or organization may nominate land for MDNR acquisition.¹⁹ Local units of governments must provide at least 25 percent of the total project cost as a match and must have an MDNR-approved five-year local recreation plan prior to applying for an MNRTF grant.²⁰

⁷ MICH. CONST. art. IX, § 35; MICH. COMP. LAWS § 324.1903 (2005).

⁸ MICH. COMP. LAWS § 324.1903 (2005).

⁹ Board members include the Director of the MDNR or a member of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission, and four Governor-appointed Michigan residents. Michigan Department of Natural Resources, *Meet the Board*, at http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/1,1607,7-153-10366_16791-39501--,00.html (© 2001-2005).

¹⁰ Telephone Interview with Jim Wood, Chief, Grants, Contracts, and Customer Systems, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (Mar. 17, 2005).

¹¹ MICH. COMP. LAWS § 324.1902 (2005).

¹² Currently, the maximum amount allowed to accumulate in the trust fund is \$500 million. Michigan Department of Natural Resources, *supra* note 3.

¹³ MICH. COMP. LAWS § 324.1903 (2005).

¹⁴ Michigan Department of Natural Resources, *MNRTF Grant Overview*, at http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/1,1607,7-153-10366_11864-29094--,00.html (© 2001-2005).

¹⁵ During Fiscal Year 2003, acquisition grants totaled \$18 million while development grants totaled \$5.6 million. Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Grants, Contracts and Customer Systems, *2003 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Annual Report* (Mar. 3, 2004).

¹⁶ The board is authorized to spend up to 25 percent of available MNRTF revenues each year for development projects, but exceptional acquisition opportunities during recent years have prompted the board to spend only 20 percent on development projects. Michigan Department of Natural Resources, *supra* note 3.

¹⁷ Michigan Department of Natural Resources, *About the MNRTF*, at http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10366_11864-36732--,00.html (last visited July 15, 2005).

¹⁸ Michigan Department of Natural Resources, *supra* note 3.

¹⁹ Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Grants, Contracts and Customer Systems, *Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Nomination for Land Acquisition*, (Jan. 14, 2003), available at <http://www.midnr.com/Publications/pdfs/InsideDNR/forms/grants/PR1909.pdf>.

²⁰ Michigan Department of Natural Resources, *supra* note 14.

Land Protection Strategy

MNRTF grant recipients protect land through fee simple acquisition or permanent easements.²¹ MDNR staff review proposals using point-based scoring criteria established by the MNRTF Board of Trustees.²² Criteria have remained relatively consistent over time, but have been reviewed and updated periodically under special board initiative. Project review may also include a site visit by MDNR staff. A ranked list of eligible projects is submitted to the MNRTF Board annually; the board makes final grant recommendations and submits a list of recommended projects to the Governor, which are forwarded to the Michigan Legislature for approval and appropriation.²³

MNRTF program goals, as identified by the Board of Trustees, include: resource protection, water access, community recreation, urban recreation, and economic development. Several of the project selection criteria relate to biodiversity considerations, e.g. the protection and/or use of significant natural resources; use of inland water resources; hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-related opportunities; and the special initiative of the board. MNRTF focuses on protecting “forests, fish and wildlife and their habitats, wetlands, sand dunes, flood plains, and natural and wilderness areas.”²⁴ Proposals can also receive points if they involve endangered or threatened species or features identified as “significant” by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI).²⁵ Projects can also receive points for providing “quality hunting, fishing, or other wildlife-related opportunities, such as wildlife viewing or habitat protection.”²⁶ In addition, one of the five 2005 special initiatives by the Board is the “acquisition of land that connects or provides a buffer area to land with critical wildlife habitat or ecological values that are already in permanent protection.”²⁷

Prompted by MNRTF scoring criteria, applicants seeking funding to protect natural resources provide biological information regarding their proposed project.²⁸ The type of information provided by applicants varies depending on the intended uses of the site, the natural resource features of the site, and the resources available to the applicant.²⁹ Applicants gather this information from a variety of places, including consultants, the MNFI, MDNR, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.³⁰

Protection in Perpetuity

MNRTF Board policies state that properties acquired with MNRTF assistance “shall not be wholly or partially converted to other than outdoor recreation use” without approval from the

²¹ Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Grants, Contracts and Customer Systems, *Recreation Grants Application Guidelines 2005 (Jan. 4, 2005)*, available at <http://www.midnr.com/Publications/pdfs/InsideDNR/forms/grants/ic1905bk.pdf>.

²² Michigan Department of Natural Resources, *supra* note 14.

²³ Michigan Department of Natural Resources, *supra* note 21.

²⁴ *Id.*, at 34.

²⁵ The MNFI collects, analyzes, and communicates “information about rare and declining plants and animals, and the array of natural communities and ecosystems native to Michigan.” Michigan State University Extension, *Michigan Natural Features Inventory*, at <http://web4.msue.msu.edu/mnfi/> (last visited July 19, 2005).

²⁶ Michigan Department of Natural Resources, *supra* note 21, at 30.

²⁷ *Id.*, at 31.

²⁸ Wood, *supra* note 10.

²⁹ Wood, *supra* note 4.

³⁰ Wood, *supra* note 10.

MDNR and MNRTF Board. Furthermore, the MDNR and MNRTF Board must approve the implementation of mitigation measures for any conversion.³¹ Conversions are rare and normally involve only a portion of a project site.³²

MNRTF does not provide funding for management, monitoring, or stewardship of protected land.³³ However, the board assesses each applicant's stewardship within the existing parks and recreation system and may deny funding to an applicant with poor stewardship history.³⁴

III. State Wildlife Action Plan

Michigan's Department of Natural Resources coordinated the development of the Michigan wildlife action plan (formerly known as the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy) in conjunction with state, federal, and tribal agencies, local governments, conservation organizations, universities, and private landowners. The plan provides Michigan's conservation partners with a common strategic framework for wildlife conservation. Michigan's wildlife action plan uses an ecological, habitat-based framework for conservation and wildlife management, recommending actions that will improve habitat conditions and the population status of species with the greatest conservation need without compromising the status of common species.³⁵

MNRTF officials do not anticipate formally integrating the plan into their proposal evaluation process, but do expect that future grant applicants will reference the plan to support their proposed projects.³⁶

IV. Summary

Michigan statutes provide MNRTF with broad authority to provide grants for recreational uses or to protect lands that are environmentally important.³⁷ The fund is not specifically authorized to prioritize lands for biodiversity conservation. However, MNRTF project selection criteria reflect some focus on wildlife conservation.³⁸ Future grant applicants may be rewarded for utilizing Michigan's wildlife action plan, although MNRTF does not anticipate formally integrating the plan into their proposal evaluation process.

³¹ Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Grants, Contracts and Customer Systems, *Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board Policies and Procedures (Feb. 2, 2003)*, available at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mnrtfboardpolicies_69741_7.pdf.

³² Wood, *supra* note 4.

³³ Wood, *supra* note 10.

³⁴ Michigan Department of Natural Resources, *supra* note 31.

³⁵ Michigan Department of Natural Resources, *Michigan's Wildlife Conservation Strategy*, at <http://www.michigan.gov/wildlifeconservationstrategy> (last visited July 19, 2005).

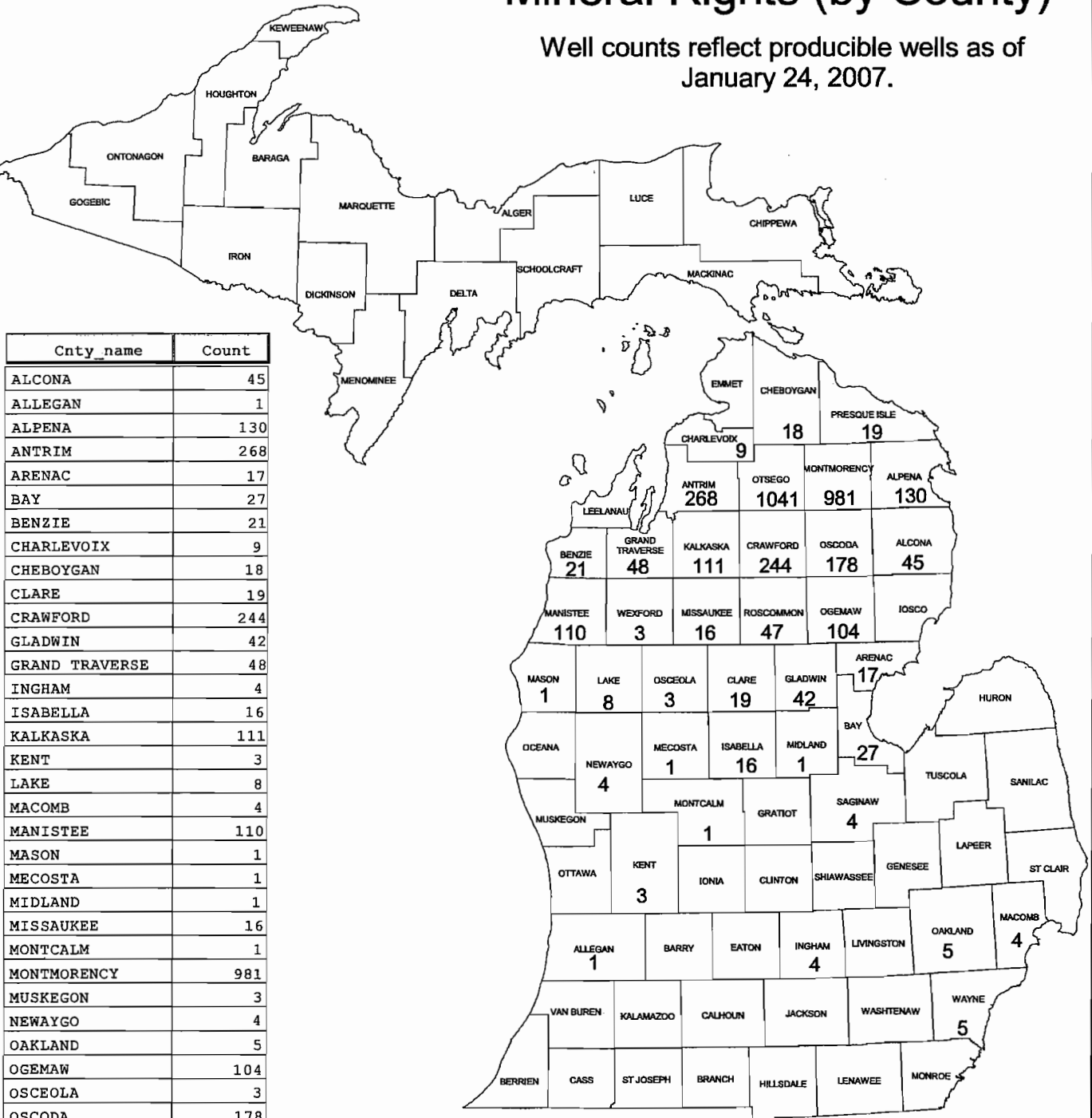
³⁶ Wood, *supra* note 4.

³⁷ MICH. CONST. art. IX, § 35; MICH. COMP. LAWS § 324.1903 (2005).

³⁸ Michigan Department of Natural Resources, *supra* note 21.

Producible Wells on Lands that the State Holds Mineral Rights (by County)

Well counts reflect producible wells as of January 24, 2007.



0 20 40 Miles



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Forest, Mineral and Fire Management



**Grants Management
Department of Natural Resources**

12/06/2006

**MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND
2006 ACQUISITION GRANTS**

| App. No. | Applicant | Project Title/ Description | County | Grant Amount |
|----------|----------------------------|--|----------------|--------------|
| 06-128 | Dept. Of Natural Resources | Kamehameha Schools Development Rights | Various | \$1,100,000 |
| | | Phase 5 of acquisition of a working forest conservation easement allowing continued timbering and public access on approximately 248,000 acres. | | |
| 06-208 | Ottawa County | Bur Oak Land Acquisition | Ottawa | \$773,000 |
| | | Acquisition of 175 acres of high quality, undeveloped natural land with 4,925' of Grand River frontage, one-half mile of bayou frontage and 67 acres of wetlands for hunting, fishing, hiking and other resource based recreational uses. | | |
| 06-051 | Long Lake Township | Cedar Run Creek Natural Area Acquisition | Grand Traverse | \$999,500 |
| | | Acquisition of 212 acres, including over 6,200 feet on Cedar Run Creek and over 1,500 feet on Cedar Lake for hunting, fishing, hiking, nature observation, and education. | | |
| 06-204 | Newaygo County | Camp Swampy Acquisition - Diamond Lake County Park | Newaygo | \$962,000 |
| | | Acquisition of 151 acre Steelcase Camp including white oak-pine barrens, forests, dry sand prairie, and an 11 acre wetland bog with 2000' on Diamond Lake adjacent to existing protected areas for habitat protection, camping, hunting, fishing and swimming. | | |
| 06-093 | Flynn Township | Hyponex Wetlands Property Acquisition | Sanilac | \$785,900 |
| | | Acquisition of 524 acres of which approximately 480 acres is natural wetlands, with 150 acres of open water. Adjacent to 200 acre mini-State Game area. Protects many bird species including waterfowl and 2 special concern songbirds; hunting, fishing. | | |
| 06-145 | Dept. Of Natural Resources | Winter Deer Habitat Initiative | Various | \$875,000 |
| | | Acquisition of high priority winter deer habitat identified by Wildlife Division staff in the UP and Northern lower peninsula. | | |
| 06-135 | Dept. Of Natural Resources | Hackett Lake Conservation Easement | Cheboygan | \$2,600,000 |
| | | Acquisition of a conservation easement on a 640-acre parcel within the Pigeon River Country State Forest dedicated boundary containing Hackett Lake and various creeks for hunting, fishing, boating, and other outdoor recreational opportunities. | | |
| 06-199 | Oakland County | Upper Bushman Lake Acquisition | Oakland | \$1,900,000 |
| | | Acquisition of the 188-acre Upper Bushman Lake property, including a 31-acre lake, wetland, forested lowlands, and open meadows. | | |
| 06-014 | Antrim County | North Shore Hunt Club Acquisition | Antrim | \$2,093,000 |
| | | Acquisition of 172 acres on Lake Bellaire and Grass River, including 8,080 feet of waterfront. | | |
| 06-205 | Kent County | Chief Hazy Cloud Park Expansion | Kent | \$1,110,000 |
| | | Acquisition of 96 acre parcel with 1900' of Grand River frontage, 15 acres of wetlands, 23 species of special concern or endangered species for habitat protection, and resource based recreation. | | |
| 06-131 | Dept. Of Natural Resources | Inland Waters Access Initiative | Various | \$750,000 |
| | | Acquisition of properties that provide access to inland lakes and streams statewide that do not currently have adequate public access. | | |
| 06-141 | Dept. Of Natural Resources | State Park and Recreation Area Consolidation | Various | \$1,200,000 |
| | | Acquisition of priority inholdings or other key parcels of land located within and adjacent to State Park and Recreation Areas. | | |
| 06-096 | White River Township | Barrier Dunes Sanctuary Expansion | Muskegon | \$483,700 |
| | | Addition of 2.2 acres of pristine barrier dunes and wetlands with 200 feet of Lake Michigan frontage to existing 11.42 acre Barrier Dunes Sanctuary for public access and habitat protection. | | |
| 06-210 | South Haven Township | Deerlick Creek Park Acquisition | Van Buren | \$1,000,000 |
| | | Acquisition of 2.1 acres for a township park, which includes 172 feet of Lake Michigan frontage, over 700 feet of Deerlick Creek and 0.82 acres of wetlands. | | |
| 06-099 | St. Clair County | Belle River Property Acquisition | St. Clair | \$1,408,000 |



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| | | Acquisition of 300 acres with 1.5 miles of Belle River frontage for future development as a passive county park. | | |
| 06-137 | Dept. Of Natural Resources | State Forest Land Consolidation Initiative | Various | \$800,000 |
| | | Acquisition of in-holdings within state forests to improve access, management, and public use and to reduce fragmentation and use conflicts. | | |
| 06-146 | Dept. Of Natural Resources | Wildlife Land Consolidation Initiative | Various | \$800,000 |
| | | Acquisition of private lands within the dedicated boundaries of State Game and Wildlife Areas statewide to consolidate ownership, protect habitat and provide recreation. | | |
| 06-134 | Dept. Of Natural Resources | State Trailways Acquisition Initiative | Various | \$1,500,000 |
| | | Acquisition of approximately 220 miles of rail corridor in the upper and lower peninsulas. | | |
| 06-024 | Leelanau County | Veronica Valley Park | Leelanau | \$600,000 |
| | | Acquisition of 93 acres of land with over 47 acres of wetlands and 2000 feet of frontage on Mebert Creek, a designated trout stream. | | |
| 06-112 | Forest Home Township | Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area | Antrim | \$213,100 |
| | | Acquisition of 165 acres for public recreation, hunting, natural resource protection, and public land consolidation. | | |
| 06-110 | Suttons Bay Township | Herman Park Acquisition | Leelanau | \$394,200 |
| | | Acquisition of 120 acres for proposed Herman Park, with 500 feet of frontage on Leo Creek. | | |
| 06-005 | Denton Township | Houghton Lake Shore Property Acquisition | Roscommon | \$450,000 |
| | | Acquisition in fee simple of approximately one acre of Houghton Lake property with over 150-foot frontage to develop a township waterfront park. | | |
| 06-142 | Dept. Of Natural Resources | Leelanau State Park Conservation Easement | Leelanau | \$2,043,800 |
| | | Acquisition of a conservation easement on 51 acres, with public access to Leelanau State Park at the tip of Leelanau Peninsula, including 1,400 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline, northern forest and wetlands. | | |
| 06-138 | Dept. Of Natural Resources | Trisch Trust Property Acquisition | Missaukee | \$975,000 |
| | | Acquisition of 600 acres of forested land that is completely surrounded by State Forest land, with one-half mile of Willow Run Creek frontage and diverse habitat types for hunting, fishing, hiking, and other outdoor recreation opportunities. | | |
| 06-036 | Gerrish Township | Gerrish Township Public Park | Roscommon | \$1,400,000 |
| | | Acquisition of 5.13 acres of proposed public recreational property on the SW side of Higgins Lake with approximately 427 feet of frontage. Includes commercial buildings intended for continued commercial use. | | |
| 06-002 | Algoma Township | River's Edge Park Addition | Kent | \$49,000 |
| | | Addition of 3.5 acres to existing 7 acre undeveloped park of wooded Rogue River riparian wetlands with 360' of river frontage across from 84 acres of DNR property for greenway development, fishing, environmental education, and wetland protection. | | |
| 06-053 | Village of Hillman | Brush Creek Dam and Millpond Acquisition | Montmorency | \$37,000 |
| | | Acquisition of approximately 1.5 acres of land and 200 feet of frontage on Brush Creek Mill pond. | | |
| 06-087 | Grattan Township | Satterlee Park Acquisition | Kent | \$30,000 |
| | | Acquisition of 8.5 acres including 5 acres of wetlands with Massasauga and other wildlife habitat along Suly Creek for wetland and habitat protection, natural resource based recreation, and environmental education. | | |
| 06-032 | Village of Ontonagon | Ontonagon Marina Acquisition | Ontonagon | \$87,000 |
| | | Acquisition of two acres of Ontonagon riverfront property for the development of a recreational boating facility and public fishing access. | | |
| 06-202 | Bridgeton Township | Township Boat Launch Expansion | Newaygo | \$96,500 |



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| | | 5 acre expansion to existing public boat launch. Parcel will add 50' of Muskegon River frontage, protect 2 acres of wetlands, increase recreation opportunities, and address bank erosion and traffic safety problems due to limited size of existing park. | | |
| 06-206 | City of Norton Shores | Black Lake Park Expansion | Muskegon | \$38,220 |
| | | Acquisition of 4.28 acres of undeveloped land of which approximately 50% are designated wetlands adjacent to Black Lake Park and Hoffmaster State Park for passive recreation. | | |
| 06-105 | City of Standish | Recreation Property Acquisition | Arenac | \$81,000 |
| | | Acquisition of 60 acres located in Lincoln Township to be used for baseball, softball, soccer, walking trail for a joint city/township active recreation area. | | |
| 06-061 | City of Ithaca | McNabb Park Land Acquisition | Gratiot | \$40,700 |
| | | Acquisition of 10 acres for multi-recreational purpose. | | |
| 06-201 | City of Alanson | Crooked River Access Project | Emmet | \$99,000 |
| | | Acquisition of one acre of land on the Crooked River to establish recreational access to the river and a nearby "Island Sanctuary Park" already owned by the Village of Alanson. | | |
| | | | | \$27,774,620 |



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| 06-067 | Ottawa County | Mount Pisgah Dune Protection Project Improvements to Mount Pisgah Dune with exceptional views of Lake Michigan and Lake Macatawa including boardwalks, steps and decks, interpretive signs, and dune grass plantings to improve access to dune for area 1.5 million annual visitors and residents. | Ottawa | \$280,000 |
| 06-133 | Dept. Of Natural Resources | Multi-Use Shooting Sports and Education Facility Development to include an indoor shooting range education facility in partnership with MSU. The range will provide new, year-round recreation and education opportunities for archery, airguns and smallbore arms. | Ingham | \$500,000 |
| 06-147 | Dept. Of Natural Resources | Accessible Hunting/ Viewing Facilities To provide for the creation or refurbishing of hunting and viewing facilities (parking lots, access trails, hunting blinds and viewing platforms) to be made in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. | Various | \$99,700 |
| 06-118 | City of Grand Ledge | Grand Ledge Riverwalk 2,500 linear foot extension of the Grand Ledge Riverwalk, connecting multiple parks, improving fishing access, and providing access to 5 acres of riparian wetlands along the Grand River in downtown Grand Ledge. | Eaton | \$192,100 |
| 06-074 | Milford Township | Milford to Kensington Metropark Trail Development of approximately 2.9-mile non-motorized trail through Kensington Metropark to Milford Dam. | Oakland | \$400,000 |
| 06-092 | Village of Ellsworth | Ellsworth Community Park Enhancements Development of Ellsworth Community Park on Lake Ellsworth to include an archery range, boat dock, fishing pier, 4-season pavilion with warming area and restrooms, children's play area, nature trails, and boardwalk. | Antrim | \$249,700 |
| 06-010 | Northville Township | Coldwater Springs Nature Area-Linear Park Development of public access trailway along the Johnson Creek, one of only 3 cold-water fisheries in SE Michigan and home to one endangered and one threatened species. and create a linkage to the 119-acre community park. | Wayne | \$303,800 |
| 06-022 | City of Bay City | Wenonah Park Renovation Updating of existing park along the Saginaw River. New seawall mooring facilities, new riverside promenade allowing closer access to the water, new paving. Planters and landscaping. Fishing access decks along the promenade. | Bay | \$500,000 |
| 06-132 | Dept. Of Natural Resources | Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center Improvements Development to include new RAM Center lodging and classroom buildings (phased project) to meet current and future needs of user groups. | Crawford | \$500,000 |
| 06-077 | Emmet County | Camp Pet-o-se-ga Campground Facilities Development of a third campground loop, play area, boat access, and bath house at Camp Pet-o-se-ga on Pickerel Lake. | Emmet | \$490,700 |
| 06-126 | Department of History Arts and Libraries | Iron Industry Museum Interpretive Trail System Development of a two mile non-motorized interpretive trail system along the Carp River including scenic and historical overlooks and informational kiosks. | Marquette | \$261,600 |
| 06-046 | Plainfield Township | Plainfield Township Nature Park Improvements Development of nature trails, boardwalk, boat launch, fishing platforms, picnic areas, pavilion, restroom and parking on Loon and Mud Lakes in township park. | Iosco | \$332,000 |
| 06-020 | Ingham County | Lake Lansing Trail | Ingham | \$358,300 |



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| | | Development of 2.5 mile pathway and accessible fishing pier providing access to Lake Lansing, Lake Lansing South County Park, Meridian Township parks, and natural areas. Future connector will connect to Lansing River Trail at Michigan State University. | | |
| 06-069 | City of Rockford | Rogue River Trail Network Extension - Peppler Park | Kent | \$222,700 |
| | | 1,600 foot boardwalk and bituminous extension of the Rouge River Trail Network through Peppler Park in downtown Rockford. | | |
| 06-140 | Dept. Of Natural Resources | Campground Utility Improvements | Various | \$500,000 |
| | | Renovation at various state forest campgrounds, including dump stations, vault toilets, and wells. | | |
| 06-018 | City of Cadillac | Clam River Greenway | Wexford | \$269,500 |
| | | Development of an additional 0.4 miles to the existing one-mile Clam River Greenway to complete the walkway within the City of Cadillac. | | |
| 06-075 | Ontonagon Township | Ontonagon Township Park Improvements | Ontonagon | \$232,755 |
| | | Improvements to Ontonagon Township Park on Lake Superior to include development of a new restroom/shower building, pedestrian bridge and trails, campsite expansion, electrical upgrades, interpretive signage and hiking trails. | | |
| 06-064 | City of Southfield | Carpenter Lake Nature Interpretive Center | Oakland | \$500,000 |
| | | Development of a community nature and environmental education center at Carpenter Lake Park. | | |
| 06-127 | Dept. Of Natural Resources | Upper Peninsula Pocket Park Renovation | Delta | \$178,300 |
| | | Development to include renovation of existing building to include a welcome center, display areas, interactive classroom, accessible bathrooms and facility upgrades. | | |
| 06-123 | Grant Township | Hunter's Point Public Access Enhancement | Keweenaw | \$47,100 |
| | | Development to include access to Lake Superior with parking, boardwalk, viewing platform, toilet building and informational kiosk. | | |
| 06-006 | Gratiot County | Reed County Park Improvements | Gratiot | \$495,000 |
| | | Development of recreational day-use facilities, including beach house, youth playground, picnic area, pavilions and other infrastructure improvements. | | |
| 06-015 | City of Evart | Riverside Park Improvements | Osceola | \$100,000 |
| | | Improvements to 43 acre Riverside Park with 1,500 Muskegon River footage to include parking, walking trails, skate park equipment, and fishing piers. | | |
| 06-082 | City of Munising | Tourist Park Campground Expansion | Alger | \$210,500 |
| | | Development to include additional campsites with water, sewer and electrical services, foot bridge and pavilion/restroom/shower building at Tourist Park. Campground on Lake Superior. | | |
| 06-029 | Midland County | Sanford Lake Park Improvements | Midland | \$235,900 |
| | | Improvements to Sanford Lake Park to include pavilions, restrooms, rail/trail connector and play structure. | | |
| 06-090 | Oscoda Township | Oscoda Beach Park Boardwalk Development | Iosco | \$44,800 |
| | | Development of a lighted barrier-free boardwalk along the Lake Huron shoreline to include seating areas and access ramps to the beach and parking lot. | | |
| 06-050 | City of Lansing | Hunter Pool Renovation | Ingham | \$500,000 |
| | | Improvements to Hunter Pool Park to include installation of splash park, and upgrades to existing pool to include zero depth entry, mechanical upgrades, drains, and pool deck, for water-based outdoor recreation in an urban setting. | | |
| 06-079 | Village of Milford | Hubbell Pond Park Non-Motorized Trail | Oakland | \$297,000 |



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| | | Development of a one mile, 10-foot wide paved trail from Milford Dam north through Hubbell Pond Park. | | \$8,301,455 |