

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

Opening the outdoors to people statewide since 1976



About the Trust Fund

- The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund was established under the Kammer Recreational Land Trust Fund Act of 1976. Its purpose was to acquire public land and advance public outdoor recreation using revenue derived from oil, gas and mineral rights owned by the state.
- The Trust Fund board is comprised of five members, appointed by the governor, who serve rotating terms with the primary role of making grant recommendations each year.
- In 1984, voters added the Trust Fund to Michigan's Constitution and expanded it to allow the fund's use for development of public land.
- Michigan voters have approved other ballot measures over the years to make further constitutional changes to not only the Trust Fund, but also to establish and subsequently amend the Michigan State Parks Endowment Fund.
- Per Michigan's Constitution, 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, development of public recreation facilities, and administration of the Trust Fund, including payments in lieu of taxes to local units of government on state-owned land purchased through the Trust Fund within their jurisdiction.
- Local units of government, certain types of recreation authorities, and state agencies are eligible for Trust Fund grants.
- The Trust Fund positively influences local economies by leveraging other public and private funding, providing a sense of place for local communities to support tourism, and connecting communities locally and regionally through trails.
- The Trust Fund board's recommendations go to the Michigan Legislature for review as part of the appropriations process. The Legislature then forwards a bill for the governor's approval.
- From the inception of Trust Fund through 2020, more than \$1.2 billion in grants has been awarded for projects in each of Michigan's 83 counties.
- This [short video](#) explains more about the origins of the Trust Fund.

Visit Michigan.gov/MNRTE to learn more about this unique funding resource.