

Appendix A

Possible Funding Sources

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

The MNRTF provides funding for both the purchase of land (or interests in land) for recreation or protection of land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty, and the appropriate development of land for public outdoor recreation use. Goals of the program are to: 1) protect Michigan's natural resources, and provide for their access, public use and enjoyment; 2) provide public access to Michigan's water bodies, particularly the Great Lakes, and facilitate their recreational use; 3) meet regional, county and community needs for outdoor recreation opportunities; 4) improve the opportunities for outdoor recreation in Michigan's urban areas; and 5) stimulate Michigan's economy through recreation related tourism and community revitalization.

Any individual, group, organization or unit of government may submit a land acquisition proposal. However, only state and local units of government can submit development proposals. All proposals for grants must include a local match of at least 25 percent of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects. For development projects, the minimum funding request is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$500,000.

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21)

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) established a fund for Transportation Enhancement Activities. TEA 21 of 1998 continued this program through the year 2003. Ten percent of the Surface Transportation Fund is set aside for these activities: provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists, acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites, scenic or historic highway programs, landscaping and other scenic beautification, historic preservation, rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, preservation of abandoned railway corridors, control and removal of outdoor advertising, archaeological planning and research, environmental mitigation and the establishment of transportation museums. Local match must be a minimum of 20 percent. Matching funds can include private donations and/or federal funds.

Recreation Improvement Fund Grants (RIF)

This program provides funds for the development of recreational trails, restoration of areas damaged by off- road vehicles and clean up of inland lakes. Trails must be more than of "local significance," must pass "through" a community and must accommodate a wide array of public recreational uses (walking, biking, horses, etc.) RIF is not available to local units of government unless in partnership with the MDNR. Grants are available for state forest land or public property only. Applications are due by July 1 of each year, and funding requires a 25 percent local match.

Urban and Community Forestry Program

This MDNR program provides information and technical assistance to municipal governments and volunteer groups for urban and community forest activities such as tree inventories, management plans, planting and other maintenance activities. Grant requests may be up to \$20,000. Local units of government and non-profit organizations are eligible.

Global Releaf

Global Releaf of Michigan is a grassroots, volunteer, not-for-profit organization created by The American Forestry Association. Assistance is available for joint tree plantings within communities. Global Releaf of Michigan will help communities with site selection, arrange for the acquisition and delivery of the plant material and provide technical assistance and instruction on the day of the planting. Applications are most successful when submitted by a non-government organization that has support and commitments from the municipality.

Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI)

The \$675 million general obligation bond is slated for seven categories of projects: Brownfield Redevelopment and Environmental Cleanup (\$335M), Protect and Enhance Michigan's Lakes, Rivers, and Streams (\$165M), Reclaim and Revitalize Local Waterfronts (\$50M), Make Critical State Park Improvements (\$50M), Enhance Local Parks and Recreational Opportunities (\$50M), Pollution Prevention (\$20M), and Protect Public From Lead Hazards(\$5M).

Grants to enhance local parks and recreation opportunities are between \$15,000 and \$750,000 and are awarded to local units of government to implement projects based on locally defined needs. Applicants are required to demonstrate the project's need in a comprehensive recreation plan and provide at least 25 percent of the project's costs as local match. The construction and renovation of public outdoor and indoor recreation facilities such as recreation centers, sports fields, playgrounds, non-motorized trails, nature centers, fishing piers and swimming pools are eligible projects. The bond funds will assist local projects that cannot be assisted under the MNRTF program either due to funding limitations or MNRTF funding requirements.

Ford Foundation Community Forestry Initiative

Grants are available through the Ford Foundation for short-term organizational development grants for domestic, community-based forestry projects. Phase One is designed to assist grantees to refine their strategic plan and/or project concept prior to moving on to implementation. Maximum grant request is \$40,000. RFP's are available on-line through the Ford Foundation and Aspen Institute at: <http://www.aspeninstitute.org/rural>.

Trust For Public Land (TPL)

The Trust For Public Land is a private nonprofit land conservation organization that works nationwide to conserve land for people. TPL specializes in real estate, applying its expertise in planning, negotiation, public finance and law to protect land for public use. Working with private landowners, communities and government agencies, TPL has helped protect almost 1 million acres nationwide for people to enjoy as parks, playgrounds, community gardens, recreation areas, historic landmarks and wilderness lands. The TPL's capital funds for land acquisition allow it to quickly take land off the market, enabling TPL to "hold" the land for a public agency or conservation group to raise the funds and buy the land from the TPL, typically at or below the fair market price.

Waterways Fund

This program provides funding to local units of government for the development of recreational boating facilities. The local unit must provide the land for these facilities and agree to be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the completed facility. Projects include the:

Small Grants Program for Boating Access provides financial and construction assistance equal to 75 percent of the total construction cost, with a maximum grant amount of \$30,000. Eligible projects can include facilities such as concrete launching ramps, expanded or paved parking areas, vault-type toilet facilities, courtesy piers, upgrading of existing facilities to barrier-free design and "carry down" access. Applications are accepted at all times.

The Boat Launching Facilities Program

Provides financial assistance ranging from 75-100% of the total project cost, based on the local unit's financial capability. Eligible expenses include engineering, construction and contingency costs associated with the development or expansion of launching ramp facilities. There is no minimum or maximum grant amount. The application deadline is April 1 of each year.

Inland Fisheries Grant Program

This program provides funding to local units of government, school districts and conservation-oriented organizations to enhance inland fishing opportunities. The types of projects that are eligible include: fish habitat restoration; bank stabilization; upland erosion control; fish culture; and fishing access development and improvement, such as fishing piers and platforms, boat ramps and parking lots. The maximum grant is \$30,000 per project, and the grantee must provide at least 50 percent of the project's cost. The application deadline is March 31 of each year.

Natural Heritage Small Grants

This program provides funds from the Nongame Wildlife Fund to all units of government, as well as groups and individuals to identify, protect, manage and restore native plant and animal species, natural communities, other natural features and to promote the knowledge, enjoyment and stewardship of Michigan's native species and ecosystems for present and future generations. Grants range between \$200 and \$5,000. Proposals with matching funds are given higher priority. Application deadline is approximately December 1 of each year.

Appendix B

News Articles

Public Participation Media

Appendix C

Community Survey

Survey Report/Results

Appendix D

Resolutions of Adoption

Letters of Transmittal

DNR Certified Checklist

Public Meeting Minutes