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Appendix D  
**Potential Funding Sources for Parks and Recreation Projects**

## SOURCES OF RECREATION GRANT FUNDING IN MICHIGAN

### Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

- Match requirement – minimum of 25%
- Development grants
  - Minimum Grant Request \$15,000
  - Maximum Grant Request \$500,000
- Acquisition grants
  - No minimum or maximum
- Goals of MNRTF Board
  - Resource Protection – very important
  - Water Access
  - Community Recreation
  - Urban Recreation
  - Economic Development
- Due annually on April 1 (secondary application for acquisition only in August)
- [www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants)

### Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

- Administered by MNRTF
- 50% match required
- Minimum grant request \$30,000 (\$60,000 project total)
- Maximum grant request \$75,000 (\$150,000 project total)
- Funds a wide variety of outdoor recreation projects
- Applications due annually on March 1
- [www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants)

### Michigan Department of Transportation - Transportation Enhancement Funds

- For non-motorized transportation (paths) and rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (bridges, railroad depot, etc.)
- 20% minimum match required, 40% recommended
- Eligible applicants include county road commissions, cities, and villages. Other organizations may *sponsor* applications (i.e. County Road Commission or local MDOT office sponsors a township application)
- Rolling on-line application process
- [www.michigan.gov/mdot](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot) Go to "Projects and Programs".

### Great Lakes Fisheries Trust (GLFT)

- Objective – improve or create shore-based Great Lakes recreational access.
- Must be located on the Great lakes or lower portions of major tributaries
- Matching funds not required but projects with local funding will be favored.
- Relatively simple application form and requirements
- Due in early September
- [www.glft.org](http://www.glft.org)

## **Michigan Coastal Zone Management (CZM)**

- Objectives
  - Protect, manage and restore coastal communities and habitats
  - Restore historic structures
  - Revitalize urban waterfronts
  - Increase recreational opportunities along Michigan's Great Lakes coast
- Applicant must be a coastal unit of government
- Maximum grant request - \$50,000
- Match requirements – 50% (some flexibility in match for non-construction projects that result in changes to local master plans or zoning ordinances, regional greenways, or include conservation planning)
- Eligible projects
  - o Studies, Designs and Land Use Plans – must have a direct connection to coastal planning and/or resource protection.
  - o Construction – boardwalks, trails, lighthouse preservation, habitat restoration, scenic overlook, etc.
- Due annually on May 1
- [www.michigan.gov/deqcoastal](http://www.michigan.gov/deqcoastal)

### ***Other grant programs to consider:***

#### **Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN)**

- Five focus areas:
  - o Agriculture and Pollution Prevention
  - o Communication / Regional Marketing
  - o Land Use
  - o Water Resources
  - o Wildlife Stewardship
- [www.saginawbaywin.org](http://www.saginawbaywin.org)

#### **Coastal Program – Great Lakes – US Fish and Wildlife Service**

- Grants to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats and to support healthy coastal ecosystems
- Rolling application process
- [www.fws.gov/midwest/greatlakes/apply.htm](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/greatlakes/apply.htm)

#### **Specific sports and sports foundations**

- United States Tennis Association (USTA) –
  - funding for tennis courts and programs
  - [www.usta.com](http://www.usta.com)
- Major League Baseball
  - Baseball Tomorrow Fund
  - [www.baseballtomorrow.com](http://www.baseballtomorrow.com)
- United States Soccer
  - [www.ussoccerfoundation.org](http://www.ussoccerfoundation.org)

### **Safe Routes to School**

- For projects near elementary and middle schools:
  - Sidewalks
  - Traffic calming and speed reduction
  - Pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements
  - On-street and off-street bicycle facilities
  - Off-street pedestrian facilities
  - Traffic diversion improvements in the vicinity of schools
- Need to complete the safe routes planning process to apply
- [www.saferoutesmichigan.org](http://www.saferoutesmichigan.org)

### **Trust for Public Land (TPL)**

- Conservation Transactions  
TPL helps structure, negotiate, and complete land transactions that create parks, playgrounds, and protected natural areas. TPL serves as an independent agent, buying land from willing landowners and then transferring it to public agencies, land trusts, or other groups for protection. In some instances, TPL will protect land through conservation easements, which restrict development but permit traditional uses such as farming and ranching.
- [www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org)

### **Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grants**

- Must be part of a watershed management plan
- Projects aimed at reducing nonpoint source pollution (streambank and shoreline stabilization, rain gardens, erosion control, conservation easements)
- [www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq) - Go to "Surface Water" and then to "Non-point Source Pollution".

### **Community Foundations**

#### **Private Foundations and Endowments**

Wickes Foundation  
Strosacker Foundation  
Gerstacker Foundations

### **KEEP IN MIND...**

- 9 Match requirements can usually be in-kind services, donations, or cash,
- 9 Most grants are provided on a reimbursable basis.
- ✶ Barrier free accessibility is usually required for improvement projects,
- 9 Multiple partners, multiple jurisdictions can be viewed favorably – think "regional" projects.
- 9 Grant applications can be complicated, detailed and competitive. Make sure your grant writer is familiar with the grant and funding source. Learn as much as possible ahead of time to know if your project has potential for finding.