

Department of Natural Resources Overview

Scott Whitcomb, Deputy Director Jan. 31, 2023

DNR mission

We are committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.



Allocation of FY 2023 Budget

■ Health & Human Services: 43.4%

■ Education: 29.3%

■ General Government: 11.2%

■ Transportation: 7.9%

■ Corrections: 2.8%

■ State Police: 1.1%

■ Environment, Great Lakes & Energy: 0.9%

■ Licensing & Regulatory Affairs: 0.7%

■ Natural Resources: 0.7%

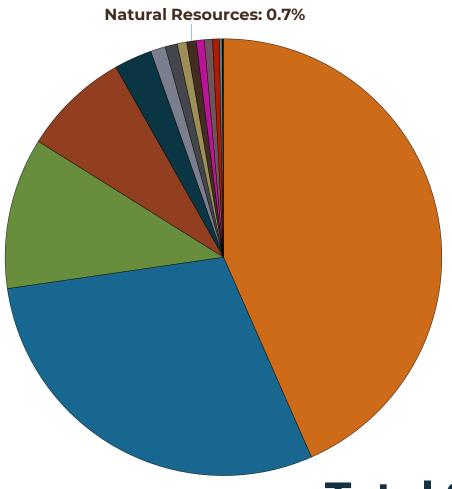
■ Capital Outlay: 0.6%

■ Judiciary: 0.6%

■ Military & Veterans Affairs: 0.5%

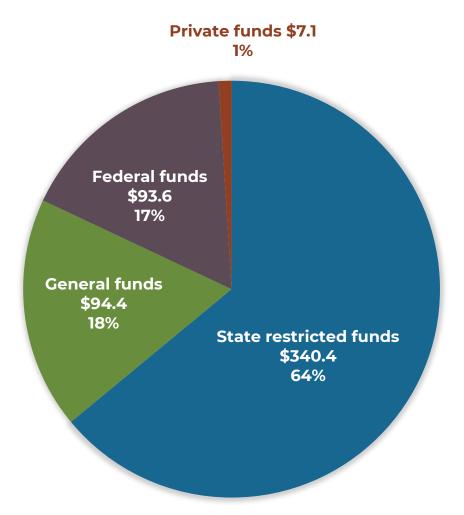
■ Agriculture & Rural Development: 0.2%

■ Insurance & Financial Services: 0.1%



Total \$77 billion

Major DNR funding sources

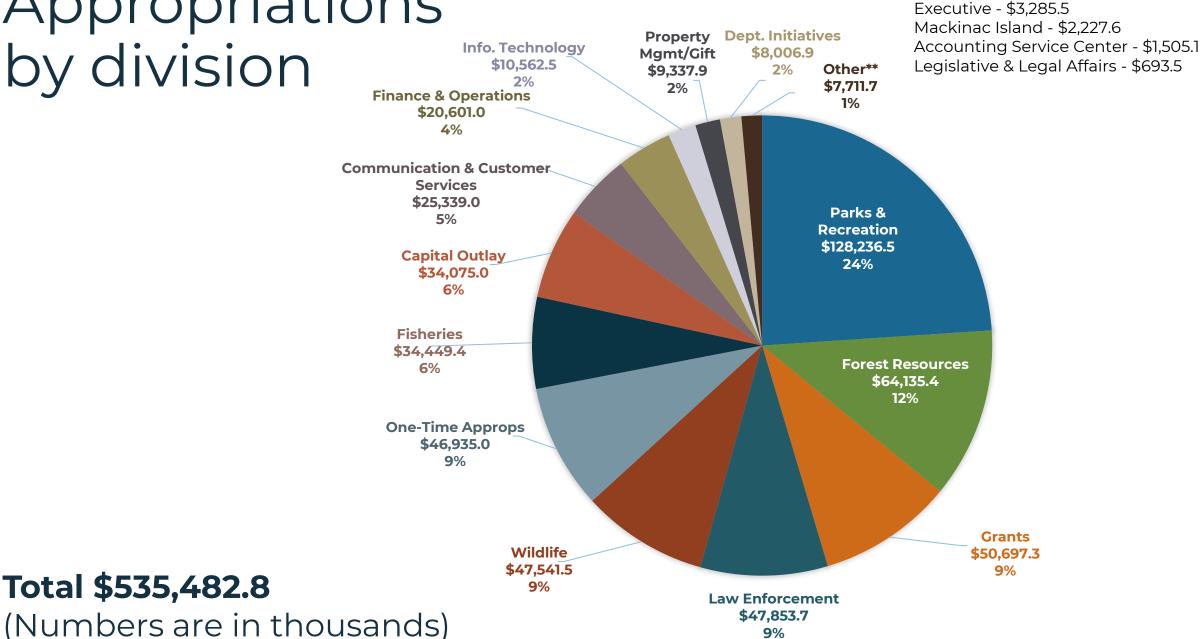


Total \$535.5

Numbers are in millions

Appropriations by division

Total \$535,482.8



**Other



Parks and recreation

- 103 diverse state parks hosted more than 30 million day-use visitors and over 1.4 million camping/lodging nights in 2021.
- We support more than 1,100 DNR-administered boating access sites, as well as:
 - o 19 state harbors.
 - o 63 harbors of refuge along the Great Lakes.
- In FY22, more than 40% of Michigan-registered vehicles with the Recreation Passport had access to:
 - o State parks.
 - o Boating access sites.
 - State forest campgrounds.
 - State trail parking.

Conservation officers

- Patrol every county in Michigan.
- Critical part of the state's law enforcement network.
- Often the first emergency responders on scene in life-threatening situations.
- COs contacted nearly 440,000 people during 2022:
 - Delivered education and safety tips.
 - Provided general law enforcement services.
 - Ensured the responsible enjoyment of Michigan's natural resources.



Education

Each year:

- 250,000 people come through one of the 10 DNR visitor centers.
 - o 40,000 participate in a program, tour or hike.
- More than 300 teachers and educators participate in professional

development programs.

- The DNR-managed hunter education program:
 - o Trains 2,200 volunteer instructors.
 - Certifies 16,000 students in hunter safety.





Fishing

- Fishing contributes more than \$2B a year to the state's economy, making Michigan one of the top three states in the nation for fishing-related expenditures.
- Our six state fish hatcheries produce close to 20 million fish annually for stocking in more than 1,000 locations across both peninsulas.
- The DNR's efforts have been successful at preventing invasive silver, bighead and black carp from entering the Great Lakes.

Wildlife recreation

- Michigan ranks third in the nation for hunter participation. Hunting-related expenditures:
 - o Contribute more than \$8.9B to the state's economy.
 - Include more than \$40M in annual license sales that pay for wildlife and habitat conservation.
- More than 3 million people a year participate in Michigan wildlife watching, contributing more than \$1B to the state's economy.



Public lands and waters

Places for people to explore include:

- 3.9 million acres of state forests.
- o 360,000 acres of state parks.
- 364,000 acres of state game and wildlife areas.
- More than 8 million acres (including about 4.6 million acres managed by the DNR) of land open to the public for hunting.
- More bodies of fresh water for fishing than any place in the world – 3,300 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, 11,000 inland lakes and tens of thousands of miles of rivers and streams.





Forestry and firefighting

- World-class state forest land:
 - o 3.9 million acres.
 - Certified since 2005 under standards set by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative[®] and the Forest Stewardship Council[®].
 - o 6 million tree seedlings planted every year.
- Forest products industry:
 - Nearly \$22B a year to Michigan's economy.
 - o Supports 91,000 jobs.
- The DNR responded to an average of 245 wildfires burning about 1,937 acres of public and private lands each year over the past 10 years.



Museums and other cultural resources

- Every year, more than 480,000 people visit the Michigan History Center's 12 museums and historic sites across the state; over 65,000 are schoolchildren.
- The Archives of Michigan preserves the records of the state's governors, legislators, government agencies, private organizations and individuals. It provides access to over 150 million records, including documents, photographs and maps.
- Nearly 1 million people a year visit the Mackinac
 State Historic Parks family of living-history museums and parks in the Straits of Mackinac.



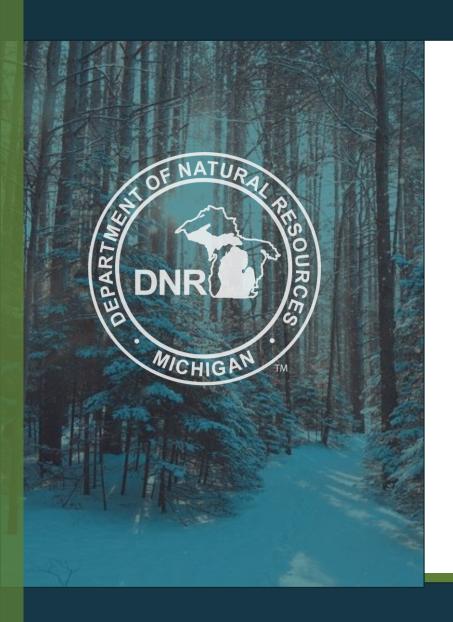
Grants

- Each year, the DNR offers up to approximately \$80 million in available grant funding to local units of government, state agencies and nonprofit partners.
- Perhaps the most unique grant program in the country, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund:
 - Uses revenues from oil, mineral and gas leases to support efforts to conserve natural resources and improve public access to quality outdoor recreation.
 - Since 1976 has awarded more than \$1.3B for projects and acquisitions in all 83 counties.

Trails

- 13,000-plus miles of state-managed trails (some serve multiple uses).
- 7,738 miles of motorized trails.
- 4,780 miles of nonmotorized trails.
- Michigan leads the nation with 1,375 rail-trail miles, built along old railway tracks.
- Iron Belle Trail:
 - 2,000 miles from the westernmost U.P. to Belle Isle in Detroit.
 - Separate hiking and biking routes that pass through 48 counties.





Thank you.

Michigan.gov/DNR

Caring for Michigan's outdoor places and stories since 1921.