Fiscal Year 2027 Executive Budget Overview March 11, 2026

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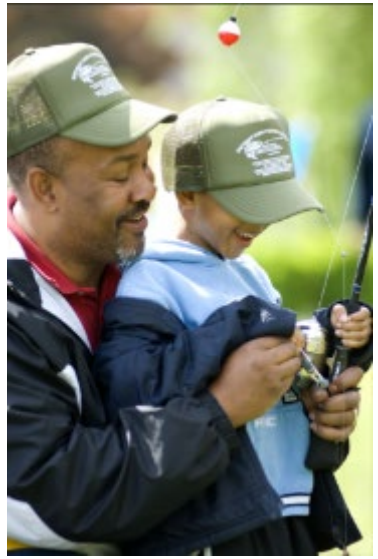
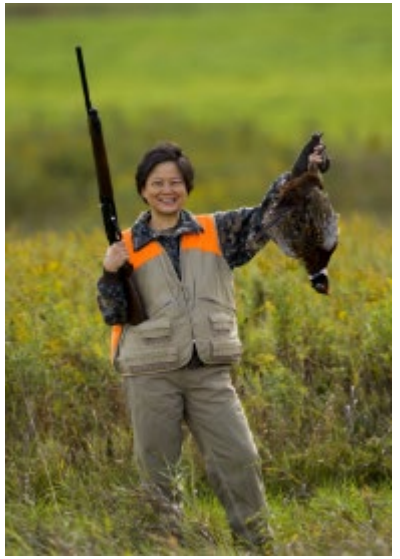
Mission

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

Realm of Responsibilities

- **4.6 million** acres of managed land
- **6.4 million** acres of mineral rights
- **Largest state-managed forest system** in the lower 48 states
- **103** state parks & recreation areas
- **70** state game areas





Realm of Responsibilities

- Nearly **14,000 miles** of state designated trails
- Over **13,000 miles** of forest roads
- Nearly **1,300** public boat launch sites
- Over **200** dams
- Stock nearly **19 million** fish
- Manage over **400** animal species

Economic Impacts

State parks

Michigan state parks draw 38 million visitors each year and are a critical piece of Michigan's $53 billion tourism industry.

Boating

The recreational boating industry generates $11.7 billion in economic impact and supports 45,000 jobs.

Fishing

The economic activity associated with Michigan's recreational fishery is at least $3.9 billion and supports nearly 35,400 jobs.

Hunting

The hunting industry generates $8.9 billion in economic impact and supports 135,579 jobs.

Outdoor recreation

Michigan's outdoor recreation industry contributes $13.9 billion in economic value, supporting 118,000 jobs and providing $6.4 billion in compensation to employees.

Forestry

The forest products industry generates $26.5 billion in economic impact and supports 88,275 jobs.

Oil and gas

The oil and natural gas industries generate $30.0 billion in economic impact and support 228,000 jobs.

Mining

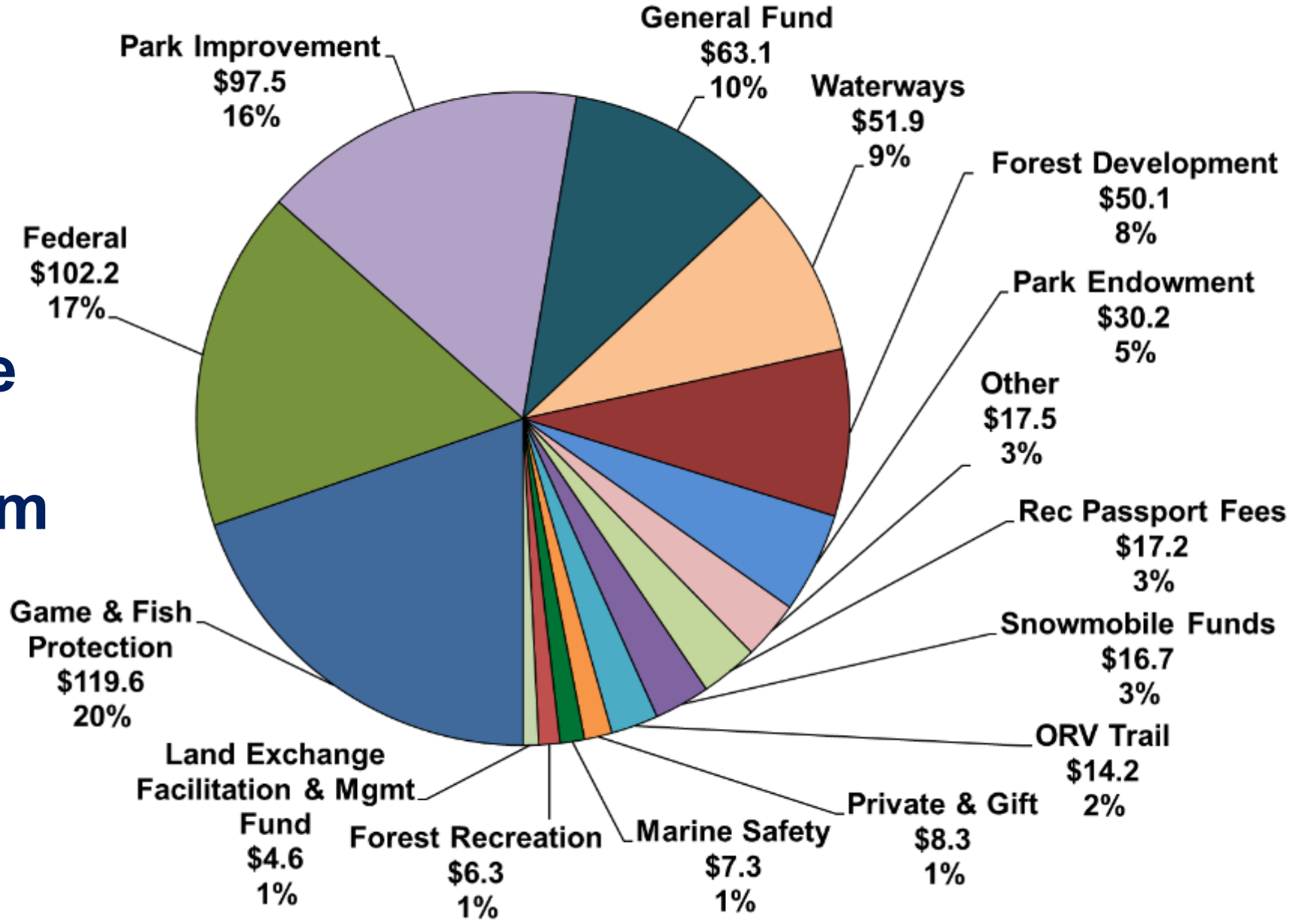
The mining industry generates $3.5 billion in economic impact and supports 31,371 jobs.

Current and Proposed Budgets

Approps ($ in thousands)	FY26 Enacted	FY27 Proposed	Change	% Change
Classified FTEs	2,509.2	2,513.9	4.7	0.2%
Federal	$100,214.8	$102,198.4	$1,983.6	2.0%
Private	$7,609.2	$8,330.9	$721.7	9.5%
State Restricted	$362,360.9	$433,064.6	$70,703.7	19.5%
General Fund	$60,797.6	$61,686.8	$889.2	1.5%
Ongoing Total	$530,982.5	$605,280.7	$74,298.2	14.0%
One-Time General Fund	$12,211.8	$1,436.2	($10,775.6)	(88.2%)
One-Time Total	$12,211.8	$1,436.2	($10,775.6)	(88.2%)
Total General Fund	$73,009.4	$63,123.0	($9,886.4)	(13.5%)
Total – All	$543,194.3	$606,716.9	$63,522.6	11.7%

Fiscal Year 2027 Executive Recommendation: DNR Budget by Fund

Where The Funding Comes From

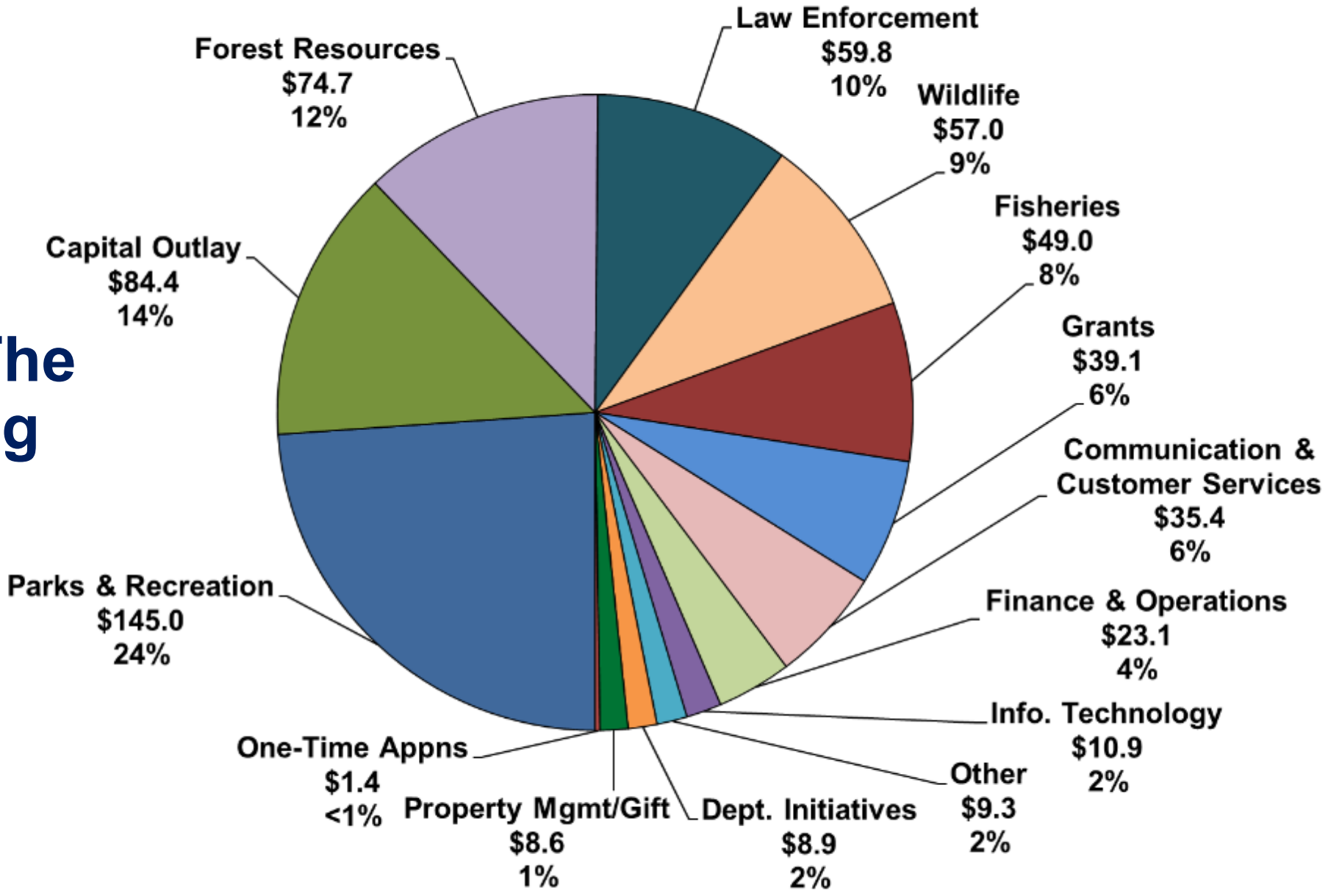


*Note: Figures in millions; Values may not sum to total due to rounding.

Total Appropriation: $606.7 *

Fiscal Year 2027 Executive Recommendation: DNR Budget by Program

Where The Funding Goes



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Fiscal Year 2027 Recommendations
Hunting and Fishing License Fees

Proposal: Amend hunting and fishing license fees to right-size the costs of hunting and fishing in Michigan to combat the effects of inflation, meet increased demands and changing uses, and better support fish and wildlife management activities and infrastructure needs.

Investment: $29.4 million ongoing state restricted funds

Fiscal Year 2027 Recommendations Wildlife Services/Infrastructure

Managing Michigan's wildlife as a public resource on behalf of residents, ensuring it is enjoyed today and conserved for future generations.

Support proposed funding to address:

- State Game Area management – 113 state game and wildlife areas over 500,000 acres
- Deferred infrastructure – Over $80 million across buildings (average age +50 years old), wetland infrastructure (average age +60 years old), and equipment

Fiscal Year 2027 Recommendations Wildlife Services/Infrastructure

Support proposed funding to address:

- 40% reduction of the operational budget over the past four years
- 20% reduction of full-time staff since 2005
- Increased land management responsibilities at state game areas as public needs and uses expand
- Reduced habitat restoration work and management of invasive species
- Reduced species surveying and monitoring
- Reduced ability to maintain parking lots, access routes and roads for hunter access

Fiscal Year 2027 Recommendations Fisheries Services/Infrastructure

Michigan has the most diverse freshwater fishery in the world, including nearly 3,300 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, 11,000 inland lakes and over 50 thousand miles of rivers and streams.

- Support proposed funding to address:
  - Fisheries infrastructure – 6 hatcheries, 4 Great Lakes research stations, 10 major fish ladders and much more
  - Deferred infrastructure – Needs exceeding $150 million
  - Increased construction/trade costs due to inflation – Infrastructure repairs and improvements more costly

Fiscal Year 2027 Recommendations Fisheries Services/Infrastructure

- Support proposed funding to address:
  - Operational capacity that has decreased by more than 30%
  - Fewer surveys, mothballed walleye rearing ponds, delays in responding to public concerns, bare minimum representation in stakeholder meetings, and reduced opportunities and tourism
  - Decreases in fish stocking, as the cost of fish food has increased 70% in just the last few years
  - Fewer dollars available to collaborate with partners for habitat work and youth fishing programs

Fiscal Year 2027 Recommendations
Watercraft Registration Fees

Proposal: Amend watercraft registration fees to right-size the costs of recreational boating in Michigan to combat the effects of inflation, meet increased demands and changing uses, and better support boating safety and infrastructure needs.

Investment: $6.9 million ongoing state restricted funds

Fiscal Year 2027 Recommendations Boating Safety/Infrastructure

Michigan ranks third in the nation for registered watercraft and fourth in the nation with more than $11.7 billion in annual economic impact.

Support proposed funding to address:

- State waterways infrastructure – 19 harbors and 1,045 boating access sites
- Deferred maintenance – Needs exceeding $100 million for parking and ramp surfacing improvements, dock and pier enhancements, electrical upgrades, fuel tank replacements, new and improved restroom facilities
- Increased construction/trade costs due to inflation – Infrastructure repairs and improvements costs continue to increase annually

Fiscal Year 2027 Recommendations Boating Safety/Infrastructure

- Support proposed funding to also provide:
  - An increase of $1,050,000 to Waterways grant funding to local communities for infrastructure improvements
  - An increase of $1,650,000 of Marine Safety grant funding to county sheriff departments for safety education, enforcement, livery inspections, and equipment
- Support and advocacy from the Michigan State Waterways Commission and the Michigan Boating Industries Association

Fiscal Year 2027 Recommendations

- $17.7 million (State Restricted) for **recreational boating and trails** – Primarily for infrastructure needs.
- $1.4 million (one-time General Fund) for the **Nature Awaits education program**.
- $436,200 (State Restricted) for **Michigan History Center** gift shops at state parks and recreation areas and exhibit maintenance/upgrade needs.
- $393,700 (State Restricted) to aid in the **recruitment and retention of state park supervisory staff** by further realigning supervisor classifications/positions.
- $271,300 (State Restricted) to support **DNR management of Grayhaven State Harbor and the St. Jean Boat Launch** to expand public access to the Detroit River.

Fiscal Year 2026 Supplemental Requests

- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
  $45.0 million (State Restricted)
- Recreational Boating and Trail Infrastructure
  $13.6 million (State Restricted)
- Wildlife Infrastructure
  $10.0 million (State Restricted)
- Fisheries Infrastructure
  $7.0 million (State Restricted)
- Chronic Wasting Disease Consortium Study
  $3.2 million (State Restricted)

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND
1976-2026

Investments and Collaboration with Philanthropy

- **New State Park in Flint,** a unique development and operational model in partnership with the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and Genesee County.
- **Implementation of the Spark grant program,** in partnership with Council of Michigan Foundations and the Governor's Office of Foundation Liaison.
- **Detroit Riverfront and Belle Isle State Park,** ongoing public/private investments highlighted this year with the opening of the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Centennial Park.
- **Conservation easement stewardship endowment fund program,** in partnership with the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation for ongoing monitoring and operations within the state forest system.
- **Tracked wheelchair program,** in partnership with Kali's Cure for Paralysis Foundation, supporting the purchase and free use of all-terrain wheelchairs at twenty-five state parks.
- **Hunters Feeding Michigan program**, with support from the Cook Family Foundation to provide a high-quality protein source distributed through a partnership with the Food Bank Council of Michigan.

Hunters Feeding Michigan

Addressing a social need through a resource issue by providing a protein food source from deer management

- Driven by donations:
  - License component = $300,000 (2025)
  - Harvest component = 140,000 lbs. (2025)
- Implementation partnership and support from:
  - Food Bank Council of Michigan programmatic support
  - DTE and Cook Family Foundation financial support
  - Michigan Farm Bureau endorsement

Thank you!
Questions?

For more information visit:

Michigan.gov/dnr