Michigan’s natural resources, public lands and outdoor recreation opportunities are special and second-to-none. They define us as a people and a state. They bring us together. They strengthen our communities, our quality of life and our physical and mental health.

We can’t afford to take them for granted. That’s what protectMI is all about. We are building a movement to tell our stories, share our memories and raise awareness and our collective voice in support of Michigan.

Together, we can protect and bolster our system of public lands, waters, parks, trails, forests, recreation opportunities and our ability for all to use and appreciate them — now and forever.

There are public lands and spaces in each of Michigan’s diverse 83 counties – from the tip of the forested Keweenaw Peninsula to downtown Detroit’s riverfront. They include:

- 8M+ acres of public lands located all over the state – in rural communities, urban centers and throughout
- 3.9M acres of state forests
- 15,500 miles of hiking, biking, equestrian, ORV, snowmobile and water trails
- 11,000 inland lakes
- 3,288 miles of Great Lakes shoreline – more shoreline than any state other than Alaska
- Thousands of community playgrounds, parks, greenways, nature preserves and beaches
- 103 state parks and recreation areas
- Every MI community within 50 miles of a state park or rec area
- 70 state game areas

“37 million acres that make up Michigan, is all the Michigan we’ll ever have. How well we use and manage our land base; how intelligently we protect and conserve it; and, how wisely we husband it for future generations, will in large part determine the destiny and prosperity of those generations.”

- Former Gov. William “Bill” Milliken

“Our Great Lakes State has a long and proud legacy of public lands and outdoor recreational opportunities. We have an obligation to be great stewards of that land and to continue assuring access for everyone and the chance to experience nature – whether you live in an urban city, suburb or rural area and no matter your age, background, creed, ethnicity, or socio-economic status. Providing that for all Michiganders is what it’s all about and makes us a better, stronger and healthier state.”

- Amy McMillan
  Director, Huron-Clinton Metroparks

GET INVOLVED - STAY INVOLVED

protectMI can unite and connect us, generating pride for what we love most about the state we call home – regardless of where we come from or live, our financial means, age, abilities, or politics. Join Us.

become a #protectMI ambassador

protectMI.org
Our public lands and spaces, outdoor recreation and the industries that support them are an integral part of our communities and provide a wide range of benefits. They keep us healthy, connected and economically vibrant.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT**

Outdoor recreation is a strong force in our economy – locally and statewide.

- **232,000** direct jobs
- **$26.6B** in consumer spending
- **$75B** in wages and salaries
- **$2.1B** in state and local tax revenue

*2017 National Outdoor Recreation Economy Report from the Outdoor Industry Association

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**HEALTH**

Numerous studies demonstrate that nature and being outdoors are beneficial to our health and wellness in many ways. Many doctors have even taken to prescribing outdoor recreation to improve patient health and outcomes, including:

- Improved cognition and mental health
- Decreased stress and lower blood pressure
- Better student performance in school
- Reduced allergies, obesity and asthma

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**COMMUNITY**

Michigan’s public lands and spaces are one of the keys to building a strong quality of life across our communities and state.

- Retain and attract talent for Michigan to grow and thrive.
- Something for everyone – whether hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, kayaking, biking, snowmobiling, or the simple enjoyment of nature and countless parks and playgrounds.
- Facilities to assure access for all, regardless of location or physical ability.
- Connecting, nurturing, inspiring and uniting us.

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become a #protectMI ambassador today