



Public Land Strategy

The Power of Public Lands





State Land Overview

DNR manages 4.6 million acres of public lands and 6.4 million acres of mineral rights on behalf of the residents of Michigan

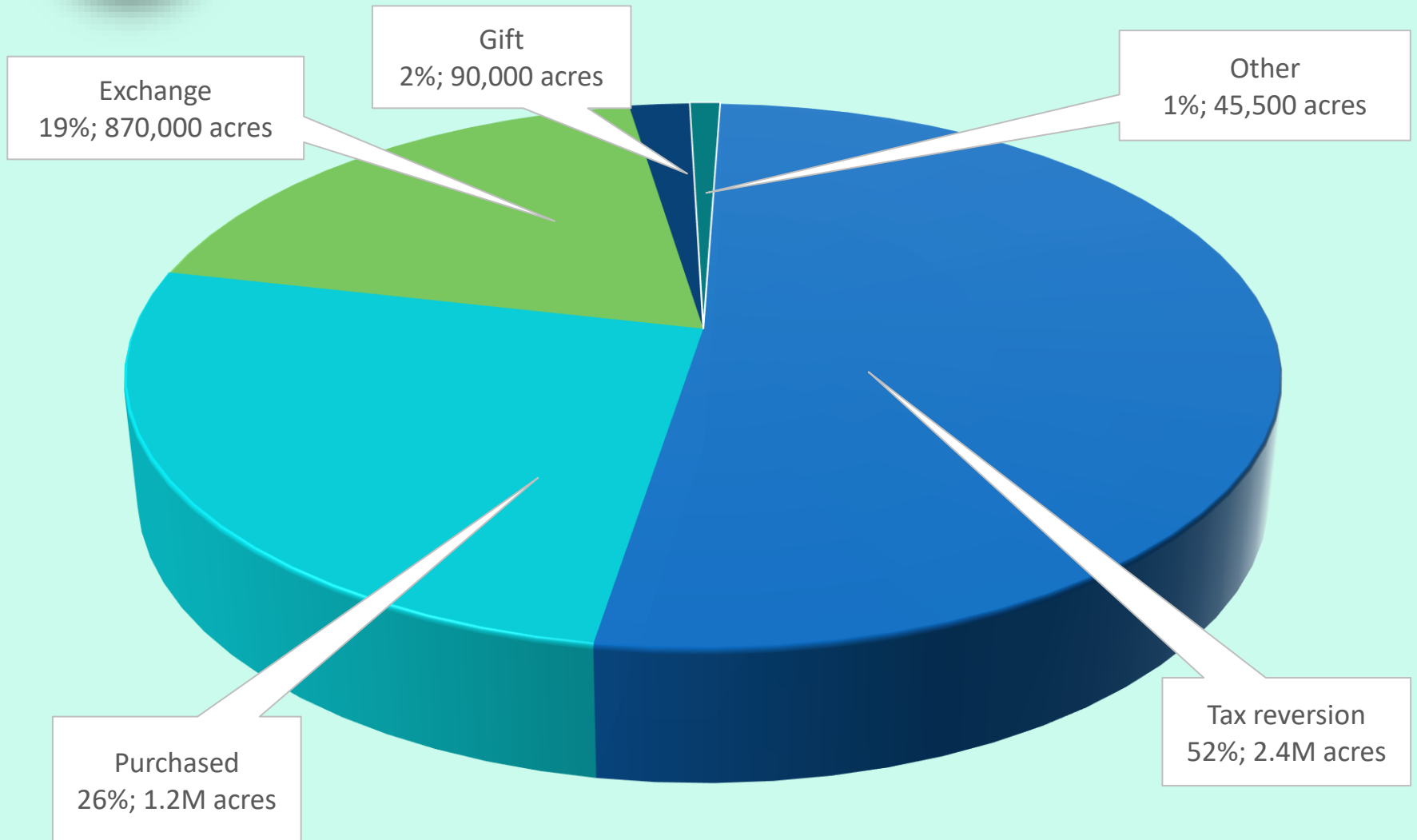
- State forests: 3.85 million acres
- State parks: 363,000 acres
- State game & wildlife areas:
364,000 acres



Green on map denotes DNR-managed public lands in Michigan



How State Land Was Acquired





Public Land Strategy

- Required under PA 240 of 2012
 - Submitted for legislative review/approval in July 2013
 - Approved by the Legislature and adopted by governor under PA 240 of 2018
- Provides framework for DNR-managed public lands ownership
- Current strategy expires this year
- PA 240 of 2018 requires the DNR to submit an updated public land strategy to the Legislature for review/approval by July 1, 2021



Land Strategy Update Process

Land strategy sprint team

- DNR director-appointed team representing all divisions
- Charged with meeting the requirements of PA 240 of 2018
- Create an updated strategic plan by July 1, 2021

2013 land strategy assessment

- Assess all components of 2013 strategy for effectiveness
- Evaluate specific goals, strategies and measurable objectives to determine which to keep, modify, or remove and why

2021 land strategy development

- Draft components developed based on outcome of assessment
- Multiple forms of engagement held throughout development
- Continuous edits based on public and internal feedback



Updated Land Strategy Focus

- Highlights the value of a robust public land base and higher-level outcomes such as public health and quality of life
- Leverages and aligns strategic plans and work being done by DNR at the Divisional level.
- Adds climate resilience and DEI considerations
- Identifies strategic initiatives for the next six years



2021 Land Strategy – At a Glance

OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

- Accountability/good governance
- Diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility
- Public safety
- Education
- Public health
- Partnerships
- Promotion
- Maintenance, stewardship and restoration



2021 Land Strategy – At a Glance

THREE GOALS

- Protecting natural and cultural resources
- Providing access to outdoor public recreation opportunities
- Performing responsible natural resource management



2021 Land Strategy – At a Glance

PROTECTING NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Sustainably manage and protect fish and wildlife habitat and natural communities.
- Adapt to climate change.
- Address priority invasive species.
- Identify, protect and interpret cultural resources.



2021 Land Strategy – At a Glance

PROVIDING ACCESS TO OUTDOOR PUBLIC RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Provide public water access on the Great Lakes, inland lakes, rivers and streams.
- Provide access to recreation in urban areas.
- Increase public land ownership in southern Michigan.
- Manage the 13,000-mile state designated trail network.



2021 Land Strategy – At a Glance

PERFORMING RESPONSIBLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

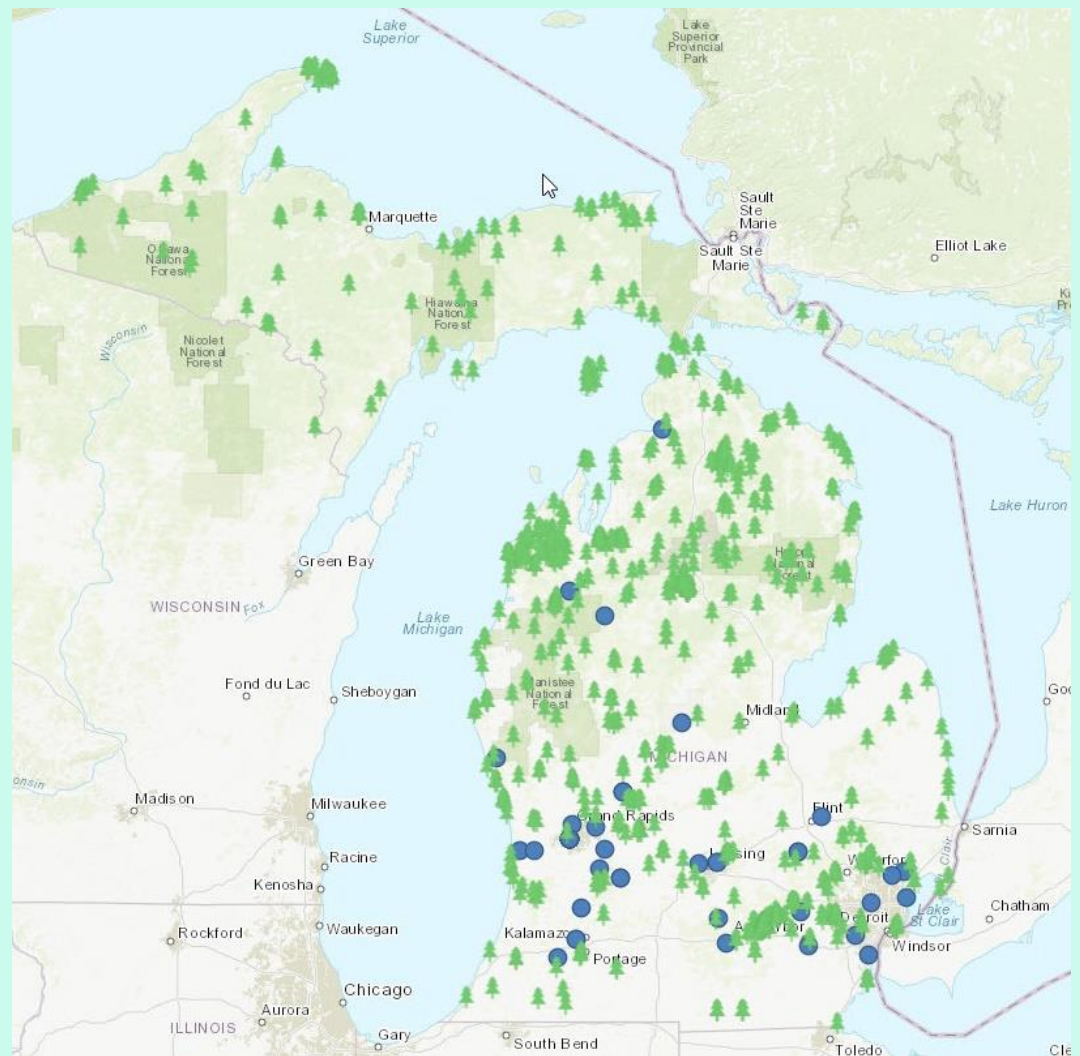
- Sustainably manage and protect the state forest system.
- Contribute to a thriving outdoor recreation industry.
- Assess potential for utility scale solar energy on marginal lands.
- Identify opportunities for climate change mitigation.



Public Engagement

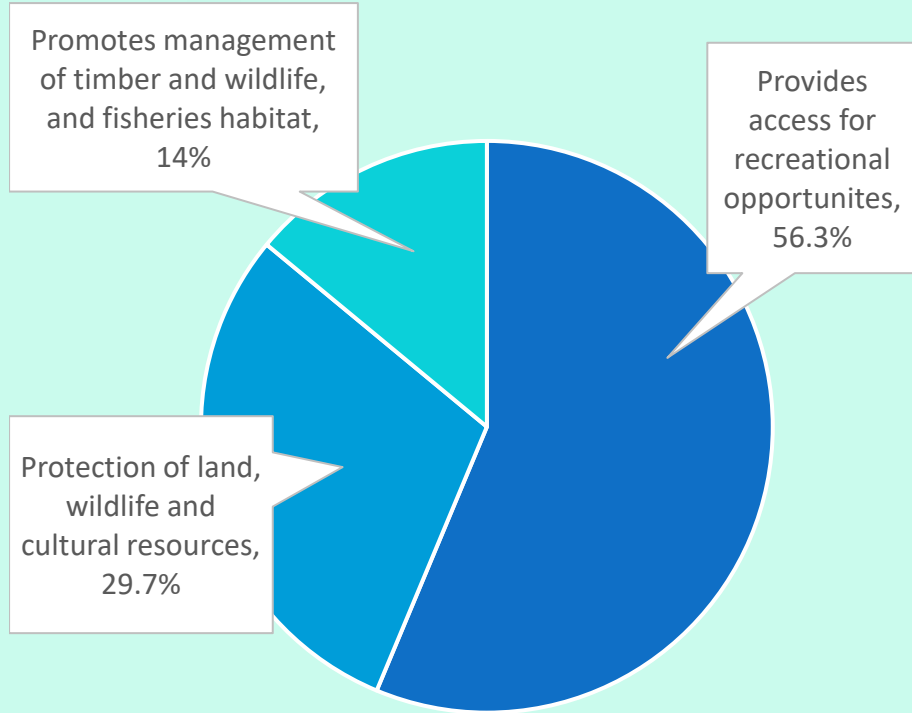
Encouraged public participation by:

- Creating an interactive map asking people to “plant a tree” on the public lands they value most
- Following this activity, we asked people to take a brief, 3-question survey to share why public lands matter to them



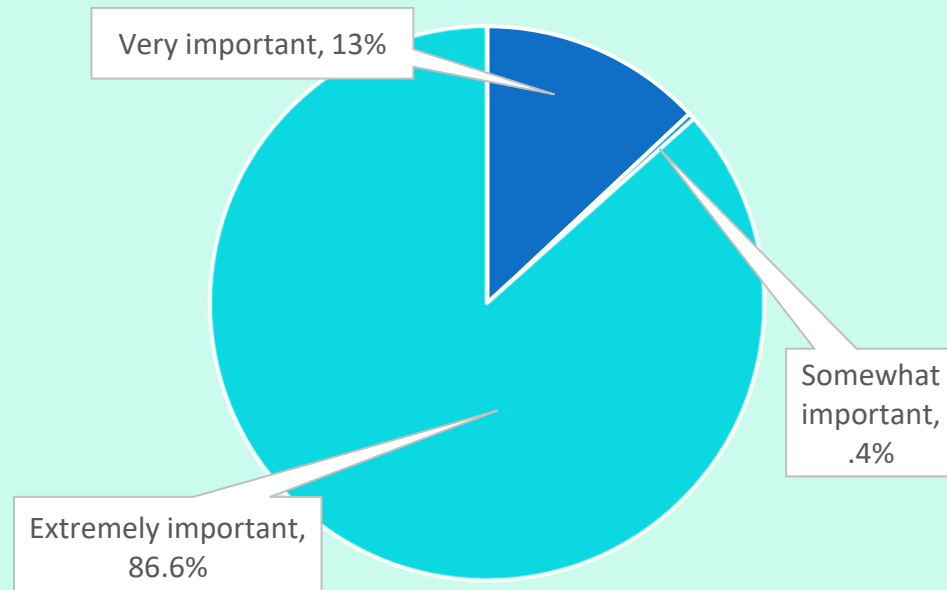


Survey Results



What do you value most about public lands?

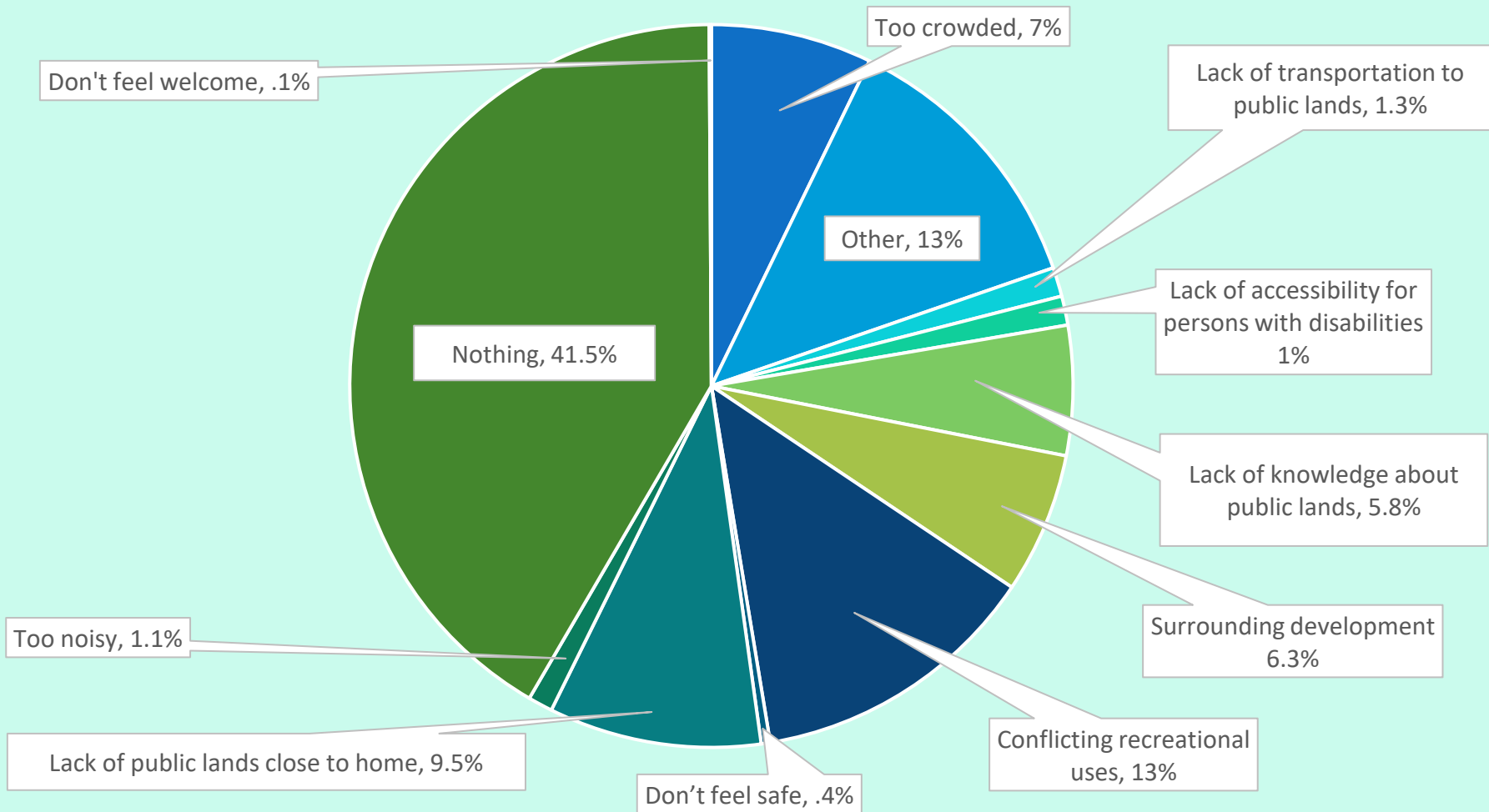
How important are Michigan's public lands to your quality of life and recreational activities?





Survey Results

What is the limitation, if any, to you enjoying public land to the fullest extent possible?





2021 Land Strategy – At a Glance

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- Comprehensive statewide public survey of the perception of public lands.
- Resolve issues of federal funding and management compatibility.
- Create a comprehensive database of known cultural resources.
- Review DNR land records to ensure they are current, accurate and can be referenced geographically.
- Roads plan to ensure appropriate amounts of motorized and nonmotorized access to DNR-managed public lands.



2021 Land Strategy – At a Glance

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- Complete statutory requirements on areas of DNR-managed public lands nominated as wilderness, wild or natural area.
- Work with partners to establish one new “signature park” in a core urban area as a tool for urban revitalization.
- Work with MEDC and Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry to use public lands as a basis to foster economic growth, placemaking and cultural identity in three Michigan communities.



2021 Land Strategy – At a Glance

OUTCOMES

- Future generations experiencing high-quality natural and cultural resources, including a variety of vegetation and natural communities that keep plants, wildlife, fish and other resources healthy and vibrant.
- Abundant green spaces in rural and urban areas throughout the state.
- Diverse, adaptable and accessible public outdoor recreation opportunities for people of all abilities.
- Resilient natural resources that support fish and wildlife populations while offering continued opportunities for thriving, sustainable resource-based industries, like forest products.



Process Timeline

2021

May 1

- Report on 2013 Land Strategy provided to relevant legislative committees

July 1

- Updated land strategy formally submitted to Legislature
- Adoption
- Implementation
- Dashboard for tracking measurable objectives posted on internet.



Questions?

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