

Memorandum



Date: October 22, 2025

To: Buchanan City Commission

From: Tony McGhee

Subject: 2024 Michigan Trust Fund Grant Award

Background

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) is a state program managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) dedicated to the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation opportunities. The program is funded through royalties from the lease and extraction of state-owned mineral resources, ensuring that revenues generated from Michigan's natural assets are reinvested into preserving and enhancing outdoor recreation for current and future generations.

MNRTF grants are highly competitive and provide significant financial support for community recreation improvements. Projects selected for funding must demonstrate strong public benefit, long-term community value, accessibility, and alignment with approved recreation plans.

In April of 2024, the City worked with Abonmarche, who wrote and developed a scope and application for the City at no cost, for Phase II of the planned riverfront park improvements. The application was recommended for funding, which the State Legislature and Governor approved funding for in early October.

Project Overview

The City of Buchanan has been awarded MNRTF grant funding for the Development of Riverfront Park project (#TF24-0129). The improvements planned through this grant will support the City's long-standing commitment to improving access to the St. Joseph River, enhancing recreational amenities, and promoting equitable use of public spaces for residents and visitors. Specific improvements include replacement of the existing boat launch and skid pier, along with other site improvements which will enhance overall accessibility.

As outlined in the award materials from the MDNR, the City is responsible for providing the required local match of \$99,000 and complying with all financial, reporting, and operational requirements during and after completion of the project. This match amount was based on the cost estimate submitted with the grant application.

The City has been working on the plans for this phase with the intention to bid this work as one project, combining the work planned for the first two phases of the project.

Requested Action

To formally accept the grant funds and proceed with project implementation, the attached resolution must be approved by the City Commission. Approval will:

- Authorize acceptance of the MNRTF grant agreement terms
- Commit the City to provide the \$99,000 local match
- Affirm the City's responsibility to maintain project records, comply with grant conditions, and ensure public accessibility
- Authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to the grant

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the resolution accepting the terms of the MNRTF Grant Agreement for the Riverfront Park project (#TF24-0129). This funding represents a significant investment in Buchanan's riverfront and will further advance key community recreation goals identified through past planning initiatives.

Attachment A: Resolution accepting MDNR Trust Fund Grant

Attachment A





**CITY OF BUCHANAN
COUNTY OF BERRIEN, STATE OF MICHIGAN
RESOLUTION 2025.10/24**

**A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT TERMS OF MNRTF GRANT AGREEMENT AND COMMIT TO MATCHING FUNDS FOR
THE DEVELOPMENT OF RIVERFRONT PARK PROJECT, BOAT LAUNCH IMPROVEMENTS (Phase 2)**

Upon motion made by _____, seconded by _____, the following:

“RESOLVED, that the City of Buchanan, Michigan, does hereby accept the terms of the Agreement for the Development of Riverfront Park project, #TF24-0129 as received from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and that the City of Buchanan does hereby specifically agree, but not by way of limitation, as follows:

To appropriate all funds necessary to complete the project during the project period and to provide ninety-nine thousand dollars (\$99,000) to match the grant authorized by the DEPARTMENT.

To maintain satisfactory financial accounts, documents, and records to make them available to the DEPARTMENT for auditing at reasonable times.

To construct the project and provide such funds, services, and materials as may be necessary to satisfy the terms of said Agreement.

To regulate the use of the facility constructed and reserved under this Agreement to assure the use thereof by the public on equal and reasonable terms.

To comply with any and all terms of said Agreement including all terms not specifically set forth in the foregoing portions of this Resolution.

To authorize Anothny C. McGhee, City Manager, to sign all documents associated with this grant.

AYES:

NAYES:

ABSENT:

RESOLUTION DECLARED:

I, Kalla Langston, Clerk of the City of Buchanan, Michigan, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Resolution relative to the Agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, which Resolution was adopted by the City Commission at a meeting held on October 27th, 2025 at 7:00p.m. at the Buchanan City Hall located at 302 N. Redbud Trail Buchanan, Michigan, with a quorum present.

Kalla Langston, Clerk

Date