



## Media Release



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### **Holiday Woods Natural Area Grant Acquired by East Bay Charter Township**

*TRAVERSE CITY* – The culmination of a lengthy, collaborative process has secured the 145-acre Holiday Woods Natural Area for future generations. In July, East Bay Charter Township closed on the property which was largely made possible by an acquisition grant awarded by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) for \$584,800. This was augmented by Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy financial and administrative assistance of approximately \$120,000 and East Bay Township funding of \$49,500.

Part of the acquired property is an 80-acre parcel, formerly known as the Holiday Woodlands Preserve. The Preserve was temporarily secured by a citizens group in 2017 which was struggling to make payments on the mortgage and risked losing the property, said group chairman Jim Lamond. After discussions with East Bay Township and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, which was already in talks with owners of the 65-acre parcel, the decision was made to package both properties together and pursue a MNRTF grant.

The collaborative project was supported through resolutions of support from the Township's Parks Commission, Planning Commission, and Township Board. Mt. Holiday, a popular community non-profit ski hill located adjacent to the acquired property, participated through entering a maintenance agreement with the Township. Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy shepherded the project and the Township through the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund process.

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund program takes money earned from the sale or lease of state-owned mineral rights and grants it to municipalities to acquire land for public parks and natural areas, and to provide amenities on those lands. Since 1976, this fund has granted roughly \$1.2 billion to such projects across the state. In the year when the Holiday Woods Natural Area acquisition grant was awarded, the project garnered the fifth-highest scoring among 29 competitive projects from across the State of Michigan. Project scoring highlights a project's alignment with the Trust Fund Board's priorities.

A public ribbon-cutting celebration will take place on Thursday, July 28, 2022 at 3 pm. The celebration will be located at the entrance of the former Holiday Woodlands Preserve and attendees may park at Holiday Village Court off of Five Mile Road (44.73473178918286, -85.51900691358078).