

Michigan Nature Association

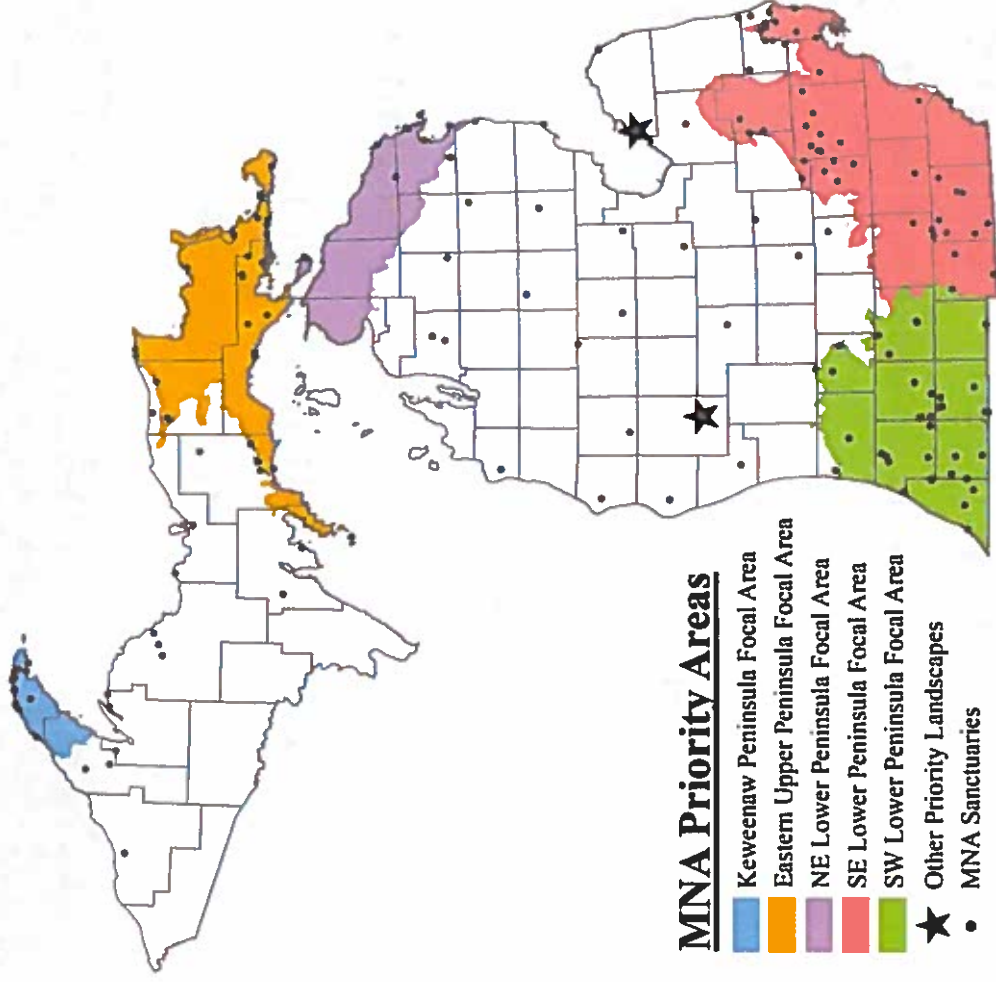
House Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation

April 9, 2019

- Established 1952, 20 years before the Endangered Species Act
- Our mission is to protect:
 - Rare, threatened, and endangered species
 - Imperiled natural communities
 - Unique geologic features



Building a Geography of Hope



- Over 175 nature sanctuaries
- Largest statewide network managed by a nonprofit
- Five focus areas and special Newaygo/Saginaw Bay landscapes
- Offer quiet recreation, scientific study, critical habitat

Being Good Stewards of the Land

- Stewardship maintains important conservation values and supports conservation reliant species
- Hundreds of volunteers annually contribute over 3,000 hours of support



Connecting Children and Families

- School to Sanctuary Partnerships
- Field trip grants
- Interpretive hikes
- Race for Michigan Nature



Why is it Important?



Federally endangered Karner blue butterfly



Federally threatened eastern massasauga rattlesnake



Federally endangered Poweshiek skipperling

- Over 700 plants and animals are rare and/or declining according to the Michigan Natural Features Inventory
- Michigan's Wildlife Action Plan identifies 301 wildlife species of greatest conservation need
- Up to one-third of America's fish and wildlife species are at risk or in decline (National Wildlife Federation)

How You Can Help

- Support/fund implementation of the Congressionally mandated Wildlife Action Plan
- Restore the Nongame Fund check-off on the state income tax form
- Revitalize planning efforts around high value natural areas on state land
- Improve the conservation, protection and preservation of source and groundwater protection areas as green infrastructure
- Invest in urban parks, waterfronts and connected greenways that provide underserved communities in and around major cities with safe, convenient access to open space and natural resources