



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Tim
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Kelly
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
n/a
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Tri-Township Fire Department
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
10951 Swan Creek Rd., Saginaw, MI 48609
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
Saginaw County
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Tim Kelly, District 93
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.
To secure funding for equipment to support the five fire departments efforts. Their needs include a truck, ATV and trailer and pole barn since they are responsible for rural areas of the county.
9. Attach documents here if needed:
Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

220000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["State"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Local unit government

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Not applicable

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Not applicable

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Not applicable

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

n/a

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

FY 25/26

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes

Senator Kevin Daley and Representative Tim Kelly,

My name is Charles Levens and I just retired from the Tri-Township FD as their Fire Chief after 32 years of community service. I am now a member of the Tri-Township Fire District Fire Board. For those who may not be familiar with our agency, we provide fire protection and rescue services for 108 square miles in southwest Saginaw County.

Our main station is in the Village of Saint Charles. We also have satellite stations in Brant Township and Swan Creek Township. We also provide services to the southern 1/3 of Fremont Twp. Each one of these municipalities provides us with modest funding.

The two additional areas that we provide coverage for is the 10,000 acre Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, and the 10,000 acre Shiawassee River State Game Area. Every season, these two properties bring thousands of hunters, anglers, trappers, boaters, snowmobilers, outdoor enthusiasts and visitors to our community. Full size emergency vehicles due to the water, marshes, narrow roads and the dike system used to control flooding, cannot traverse most of these two areas. The only way for emergency responders to respond into most of these areas, are by ATV or by foot. I have attached maps for to visually explain the terrain and lack of drivable roads.

In addition to these two entities, we also have several State Game designated hunting areas in and around our fire district. Again, we are not provided any funding to provide any fire protection or rescue operations.

NONE of these entities provides any monetary compensation to provide ANY services. However, we do provide those services, because it is the right thing to do.

When we are dispatched to provide medical assistance, fire protection or support for lost hunters, we must hike several miles on foot, to provide the requested service.

We also provide wild land fire protection to our community. Recently, with low property costs in our area of Saginaw County, retirees are building their "dream houses" in the middle of the woods. They want privacy from their neighbors, but they also want to be close enough to larger cities for entertainment and work. This nationwide phenomenon is known to the fire service as the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Typically, these residences range from 3,000-10,000 square feet in size. They do not have a water source for fire protection. They usually are constructed where fire hydrants are not located. In addition, when grass fires or wild land fires erupt in their wooded areas, we cannot get our normal size brush trucks, into their wooded property to prevent the spreading of flames. Therefore, we must walk into the woods with brooms and backpacks filled with water. This effort strains our on scene personnel physically. Moreover, it is not an effective way to fight these wind driven flames, that are rich in natural vegetative fuels.

With no way to respond with full size emergency vehicles, it puts lives and properties in jeopardy. On many occasions, we have requested the DNR Wild Land Fire crews to assist us. They are wonderful. Nevertheless, they cannot always respond when they are dealing with much larger fires up north.

Currently, our only solution is to request mutual aid for an emergency services side by side ATV, from FDs on the east side of the county. That travel time can take over an hour, depending on the time of day.

Today, the Tri-Township Fire District is requesting state funding, so that we can purchase equipment that can support our coverage areas, as well as 4 other fire departments on the WEST side of Saginaw County. These other 4 FDS communities cover Fremont, Hemlock, Marion Springs and Chesaning. This equipment can be deployed within minutes, and our services / equipment will be shared among all 4 of these other fire departments, through our mutual aid agreement.

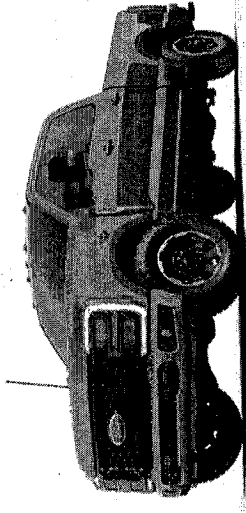
We are requesting funding for the following items, that our 5 fire departments cannot fund:

One - $\frac{3}{4}$ ton 4 door pick up with 4-wheel drive to pull the ATV and transport personnel. Approximate cost is \$80,000.

One - Polaris 6 crew cab ATV with medical transport capabilities / wildland fire fighting skid unit. Approximate cost is \$ 70,000.

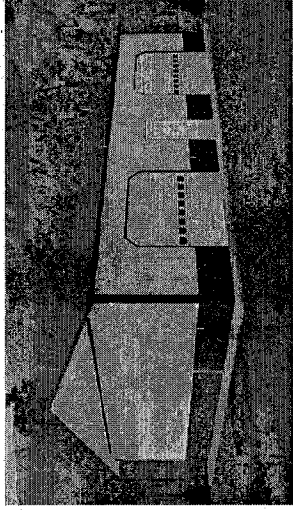
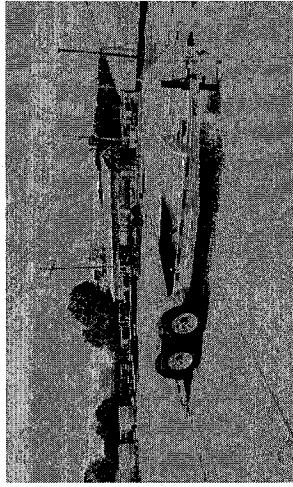
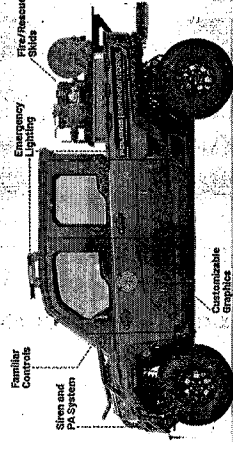
One - Trailer to transport the Polaris ATV. Approximate cost is \$10,000.

One - Pole barn style construction building to house this equipment. We already have the property. Approximate cost is \$60,000.



TURN-KEY FIRE & RESCUE SOLUTION

Send this year's Department, our Fire & Rescue vehicle packages are positioned to meet the needs of the communities you serve.



I do see that the state of Michigan provided Grand Rapids FD with a \$35 Million Grant in 2024, for two fire stations and a training center. Per the Census Bureau, Grand Rapids has a median income of \$65,526 among a population of 196,608 residents. They also have a robust economy that provides additional community support, such as the Devos Family Foundation.

The state provided a grant for \$1.8 Million Dollars to purchase a fire truck for the Traverse City FD in 2023. Per the Census Bureau, Traverse City has a median income of \$71,731 among 15,707 residents. They also have a robust tourist industry to support their community. Their poverty level is only 9.1% of their population.

I now see that the Comstock FD is requesting \$12.5 Million Dollars to replace a fire station and a regional training facility. Per the Census Bureau, Comstock has an annual per capita income of \$77,376 among 15,142 residents. Their poverty level is only 5.3% of their population.

In Saginaw County, specifically the Tri-Township Fire District, we have a median income of \$49,606 among 7364 residents. Our poverty level is 16.2 % of our population.

I hope that the Census Bureau data has shed some light on the differences in income, poverty and additional community resources among these four fire departments. As our fire fighter personnel numbers shrink each year, it leaves a heavy burden on the much older generation of fire fighters, who are still protecting their communities, without a full time paycheck.

I would love to discuss our request in person with any of your office representatives. I can be contacted at (989)233-2059. My e-mail is Clevens@TriTwpFD.Org

Respectfully Submitted,



Charles M Levens

Retired Tri-Twp Fire Chief/ Active Fire Board Member



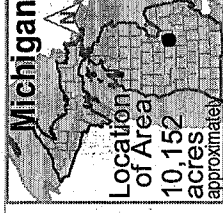
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SHIAWASSEE RIVER STATE GAME AREA

- Managed Area Map -
Saginaw County

Area Headquarters: St. Charles DNR Wildlife Office

225 East Spruce Street, St. Charles, MI 48655; ph. 989-865-6211



Legend: Land:

State Wildlife/Game Area:
General Area "A"
open to hunting
but a local permit is
required; contact the
office for details.

Wildlife Refuge
- Do NOT Enter
Sept. 1 to Jan. 1

Areas Closed to
Waterfowl Hunting
(units B, C, D)

Individual Permit
Areas - Managed
Waterfowl Hunt Zones,
hunting by permit only,
(areas #1-8, 49-52,
61-117, 137-150).

Party Permit
Areas - Managed
Waterfowl Hunt Zones,
hunting by permit only,
2-4 hunters per party
(areas #9-46, 55-60)

National Wildlife
Refuge, Federal Land
- Shiawassee NWR
this cooperators is shown on
- other maps like the DMU
273 map, and NWR maps

Linear State Park
Area Headquarters:
office in St. Charles

Parking:
Prepared Lots

Accessible features: 4 barrier-free wheelchair/PAMD
accessible combinations of parking, trail and blind
locations are provided for those with limited mobility,
off Ryan Rd, Prior Rd, and Wahl Rd (2 spots)
look for Parking, then the Wheelchair/PAMD
look for Accessible Trail to the

Boating: Accessible Hunting/Photography Blind
Boating: Prepared Ramp / Access Site

Roads: Boat Pull-Over Dike / Ditch
Areas

Water: Highways or Paved
Gravel, Dirt Roads, Two-Tracks, Trails

Other: Lakes, Ponds Marsh in Area
Rivers, Streams Seasonal
Streams, Drains

Other: Pumping Station
Foot Access/Bridges, or Field Access

Other: Town-Range-Section Lines Cities or
Villages
Railroads Power Lines, Pipes

GPS coordinates at flagged points:
1 area headquarters in St. Charles:
Lat. 43.3003784°N, Long. 84.1405239°W.

2 parking and boat access, Pickeral Creek:
Lat. 43.302833°N, Long. 84.110728°W.

Important: No shooting within 150 yards (450 feet)
Safety Zones around all buildings, always enforced.
Be Safe! Beware of deep water, and at ditch/dikes!

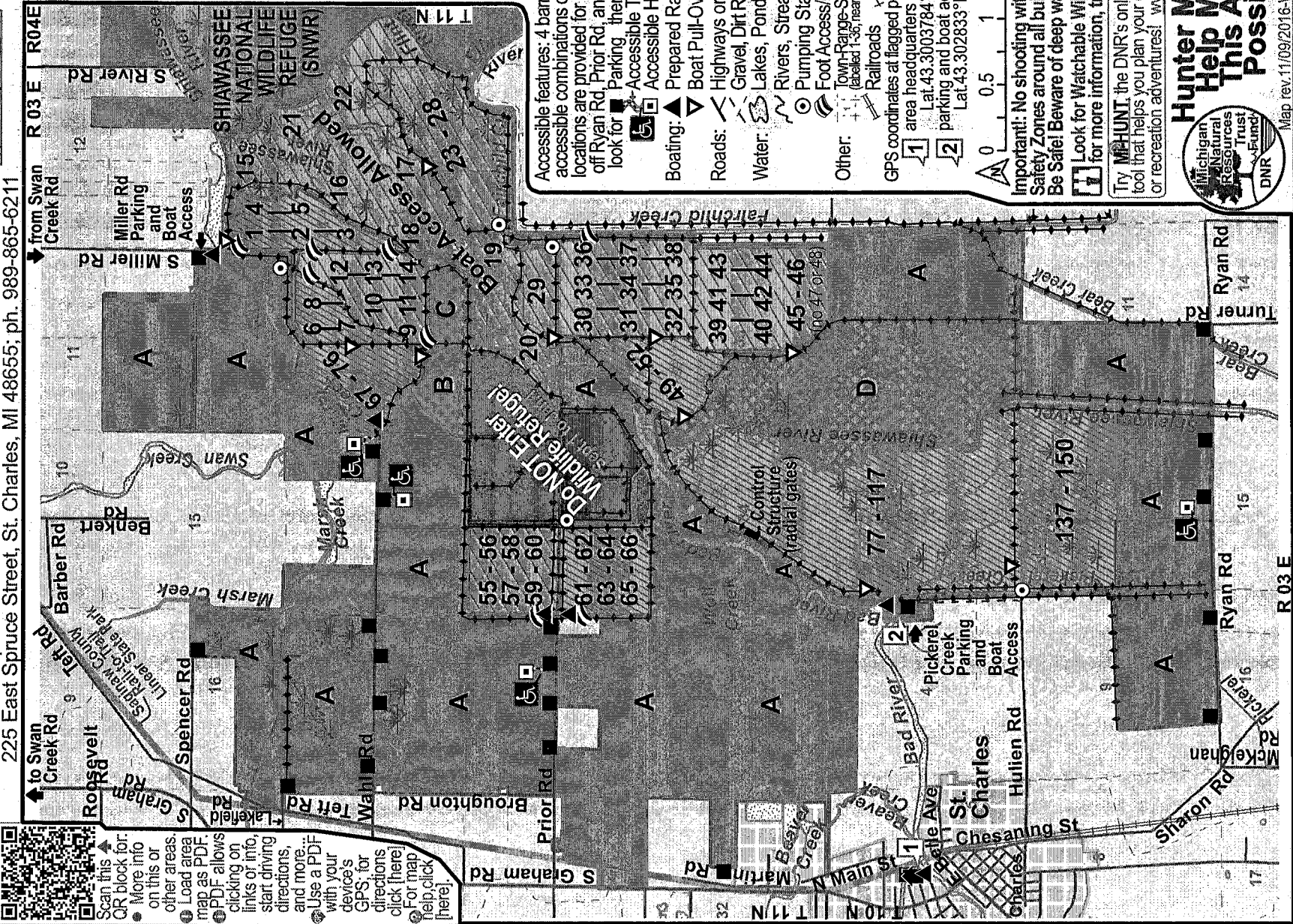
Look for Watchable Wildlife viewing area signs
for more information, trails or feature locations.

Try **MEHUNT**, the DNR's online interactive mapping
tool that helps you plan your outdoor hunting, trapping,
or recreation adventures! www.mi.gov/mihunt

**Hunter Monies
Help Make
This Area
Possible**

Michigan
Natural
Resources
Trust
Fund
DNR

Map rev. 11/09/2016-Wildlife Div./MS





SHIAWASSEE RIVER STATE GAME AREA - SPECIAL USE AND HUNTING RULES

This "Special Use and Hunting Rules" is a special-back of a State Wildlife/Game Area map. All other applicable State Land Use rules and regulations apply, unless modified by text below with citation. For the standard-back "Reminders of State Land Rules for State Wildlife / Game Areas" with citations and links, read the back of most wildlife/game area maps (or click [here](#)). Details on this and other areas are available on the DNR's internet site online or contact DNR offices. If you cannot read details on this or any other DNR documents, contact DNR offices, or see scalable documents on the DNR website.

*** NOTE:** It's your responsibility as a user of public lands, to ensure you are informed of all current rules and regulations relevant to your activities. The information presented here represents some details, but is not a complete set of all rules, regulations and laws, and may not be as immediately updated as current legislation and rules. This product is not a legal notice; it is a tool provided for convenience on this specific subject. A complete listing of rules and regulations, legal descriptions, hunt unit boundaries, season dates and more are on the DNR website (www.michigan.gov/dnr) under "Laws and Legislation". Contact DNR offices if you have questions or to verify rules and regulations relating to your possible activities, before doing those activities.

If you have questions or comments about the area or its management, please contact the local office:

Shiawassee River Game Area Office, 225 E. Spruce Street, St. Charles, MI 48655 ; phone 989-865-6211.

GENERAL RULES: You may not enter any area posted "WILDLIFE REFUGE - DO NOT ENTER" or "WILDLIFE REFUGE - CLOSED TO ALL USE AND OCCUPANCY" from September 1 to January 1, except with written permission/ permit from local office (above).

REGARDING WATERFOWL HUNTING:

1. All waterfowl hunting is **by local permit only**, with appropriate licenses and stamps. Permits are issued for a morning hunt or an afternoon hunt, and are only valid for the time and location designated on the permit. This area is a Michigan Wetland Wonder (click [here](#)) with reports ([here](#)), and a managed waterfowl hunt area with unique regulations with local details and drawing process.
2. The area is open to early waterfowl seasons in select portions, but hunters must have a self-registered local permit available from the St. Charles headquarters, local office kiosk (office details are at top; local office is shown on map).
3. Shiawassee River SGA (SRSGA) waterfowl reservations are required to hunt during the first weekend of regular waterfowl season. For SRSGA waterfowl reservation information and directions, see the current waterfowl hunt digest or online info (click [here](#)).
4. Local drawings are held each hunting day at 5:00 AM for the morning hunt, and 11:00 AM for the afternoon hunt. Morning permits are valid from opening hour that day (varies) to 12:00 noon; afternoon permits are valid from 1:00 PM to closing hour (varies).
5. Individual hunting: hunters successful in a drawing may choose areas 1-8, 49-52, 61-117, or 137-150 (see map on reverse side).
6. Party hunting: A minimum of 2 hunters are required to hunt party permit areas 9-46, 55-60 (see map); parties cannot exceed the maximum party size. All party members must register together before a drawing (morning and afternoon), except 1 or 2 absentee hunters may be absent from a drawing yet later join party, if the party leader has the absent hunter's license(s).
7. After a draw, parties are not allowed to split and take separate zones.
8. On any day during which a hunter participated in a morning drawing, were successful, issued a hunt permit and used it, then that hunter may not participate in the afternoon drawing. If a hunter did the same participation in morning drawing, except passed or forfeited their draw, then that hunter may participate in the afternoon drawing.
9. Self-registered permits are no longer available; leftover permits are issued on a first-come/first-served basis until 4:00 PM.
10. Hunting by local permit is restricted to assigned zones in area on permit, chosen post or strip, and hunters may leave only to retrieve downed game. Party leader or individual hunter must carry a valid permit on their person during the hunt, must show to DNR staff if asked, and must return the permit to the designated location before leaving Shiawassee River SGA on the day of the hunt.
11. During the regular waterfowl season, each hunter is limited to 25 shells, with BBB as the largest shot size permitted; see #a below.
12. It is unlawful to use motion-winged decoys at Shiawassee River SGA. If any doubts on a decoy, ask the area headquarters (at top).

REGARDING YOUTH HUNTS: youth hunting and mentoring are encouraged; check current digests (click [here](#)), or ask the office.

REGARDING DEER HUNTING: For reserved deer hunt details like DMU273 are online ([here](#)). Deer hunting is **by local permit only** (daily or annual permit); for more information, contact the office. Deer hunters must carry permits with them during hunt. Hunters can erect legal tree stands prior to their hunt; see #c below. Buckshot is prohibited; see #a below. If questions, contact the local office.

REGARDING SMALL GAME HUNTING: Small game hunting with appropriate licenses, is permitted only in general areas "A" (see map on other side, for locations labelled "A") from September 1 until the end of waterfowl season. The entire area is closed to small game hunting November 15 to 30. For more information or if questions, contact the local office (details at top).

REGARDING TRAPPING: Trapping of furbearers is **by local permit only**. For more information, contact the local office (details at top).

THESE ACTIVITIES ARE PROHIBITED: ... plus be aware other reminders are on the "standard map back" (click [here](#) to read)...

- a. Use or possess any shot, whether loose or loaded in shot shells, of a material other than Federally approved non-toxic shot, except single projectile loads. When in doubt, ask the local headquarters (office info at top).
- b. Hunting or shooting from any dike, road, trail, safety zone, or retrieving zone.
- c. Constructing a shooting pit or blind on the game area. Make sure: using legally approved stands or blinds and all are correctly labelled as required before installed; no screw-in steps; portable blinds are permitted; and all must be removed at the end of each hunt.
- d. Using an amphibious vehicle, all-terrain, air-boat, hovercraft, or any other motor driven vehicle while in the managed hunting area. Outboard motors are permitted but must be operated at a no-wake speed, such as 10 miles per hour.
- e. Camping during October 1 to January 1 as per WCO 13.9 (4) is not allowed, and it is prohibited to build or use a ground fire.
- f. Taking cans or glass bottles into the permit zones, or to possess or consume alcoholic beverages.
- g. Parking outside of designated parking areas. See map for locations of parking lots, or a help sheet, or, if questions, contact the office.
- h. To enter, use or occupy the state-owned lands of Shiawassee River State Game Area between the hours of 11:00 PM and 4:00 AM unless specially permitted - or under exception when hunting coyote, fox or raccoon. If questions, call the local office (at top).
- i. Other rules and regulations for this wildlife/game area may be posted in the area; look for additional signs or notices to insure you have a safe outing. Check current digests (hunting and waterfowl) for necessary licenses, stamps, season dates and other details.
- j. **CAUTION:** Use care near all open water areas which may contain deep water, depending on season and recent rainfall.

BE A SAFE HUNTER - A safe hunter obeys laws governing hunting and boating, and is alert to any conditions hazardous to themselves and others.

(Rev. 10/05/2016 - WLDMLS)

Equal Rights for Natural Resources Users : The Michigan Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunities for employment and access to Michigan's natural resources. Both State and Federal laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, sex, height, weight or marital status under the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 as amended (MI PA 453 and MI PA 220, Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire additional information, please write the Human Resources, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909-7528, or the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Cadillac Place, 3054 West Grand Blvd, Suite 3-600, Detroit, MI 48202, or the Division of Federal Assistance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203. For information or assistance on this publication, or for information about other State land areas, contact the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, P.O. Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48909-7944, -or- through the internet at www.michigan.gov/dnr. TTY / TTD (teletype): 711 (Michigan Relay Center). This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.



Image Details

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

f

About Us

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1953 and contains 10,000 acres of marsh, bottomland hardwood forest and grasslands. It was authorized by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act “...for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds.” Additional purposes designated under the Refuge Recreation Act are “...incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreational development, the protection of natural resources, and the conservation of endangered and threatened species.”

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge is designated as an Important Bird Area for its global significance to migratory waterfowl.

Our Mission

The mission of the refuge is to preserve and manage an undeveloped expanse of floodplain forest, marshes, rivers and associated habitat within an agricultural and urban landscape through habitat management, encouraging public stewardship, educational programs and private land activities.

Our Purpose

More than 280 species of migratory birds and more than 100 songbirds have been observed on the refuge. The refuge supports numerous species of colonial nesting waterbirds such as ring-billed and herring gulls, great blue herons and great egrets. The refuge is home to several pairs of nesting eagles. In the spring and summer visitors may see eastern fox snakes (non-venomous) or white-tailed deer while on the trails. Muskrats are active throughout the year, swimming along drainage and the wetlands. Visitors might observe American white pelicans resting during the summer in Maankiki Marsh.

Our History

1953 - When established, the refuge and the associated state area were envisioned as providing a place where waterfowl from the Saginaw Bay area could be held longer before they migrated to southern Illinois. Since its establishment, the refuge has shown its importance to migrating waterfowl, including the Southern James Bay population of Canada geese and American black ducks, the production of waterfowl, and for other wildlife.

1995 - The refuge completed the additions final environmental assessment establishing a total acquisition boundary targeting 16,600 acres.

2014 - The refuge received its neighboring property formerly known as the Germania Golf Club from The Nature Conservancy (*gifted from The Dow Chemical Company*). The property consists of 135 acres with 4.5 miles of asphalt cart paths. (*Excluding: The former Club House now inhabited by the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority: Albert & Woods Professional Development & Business Center*).

2016 - The refuge completed restoration of roughly 1,000 acres of Maankiki Marsh. At the time, it was the largest wetland restoration project to take place in the prior 70 years within the region.

Other Facilities in this Complex

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge staff also manage Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge consisting of the Lake Huron islands: Scarecrow, Big and Little Charity and Sugar Islands and Crooked.

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge staff also manage Michigan Wetland Management District consisting of: Schlee, Malan, Kinney and Edger Waterfowl Production Areas.