



Trout Lake Nature Sanctuary. Photo Courtesy of The Nature Conservancy

Land trusts are non-profit organizations that actively work to conserve and protect the environment by acquiring land outright or by acquiring a conservation easement over the land. Land trusts take direct action to protect local land by investing in the stewardship of the protected land or easement for future generations. The Michigan Nature Association (MNA) is the state's oldest land trust.

In the Beginning

Established in 1952 by Michigan visionary leader Bertha Daubendiek, the Michigan Nature Association is a home-grown and funded non-profit that works to protect a statewide network of over 170 nature sanctuaries, ranging from the rich native grasslands that border Ohio and Indiana to the most northern part of the Upper Peninsula, where MNA protects the largest stand of old-growth pine still left in Michigan.

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What began nearly 70 years ago as a bird study group has become a statewide land conservation organization. From such humble beginnings MNA has built an amazing network, dedicated to protecting Michigan's endangered, threatened and rare plant species.

Dedication to Stewardship

Within Alger, Schoolcraft, Luce, and western Mackinac counties, the Michigan Nature Association protects and manages 25 nature sanctuaries, covering over 550 acres.

These unique areas include quality examples of dune and swale complex, Great Lakes shoreline, northern fen, bog and a diversity of forest types as well as multiple waterfalls and a portion of a historic ghost town. These preserves include:

- Two Hearted River Nature Sanctuary
- Manistique Dune and Swale Nature Sanctuary

- Swamp Lakes Moose Refuge Nature Sanctuary
- Trout Lake Nature Sanctuary

These sanctuaries also help to protect populations of rare species, including some of Michigan's rarest plants and wildlife species such as the spruce grouse, wood turtle and moose.

A few of the accomplishments MNA and its array of volunteers:

- A proven track record of stewardship and land protection in Michigan that has protected some of the highest quality habitat in the state.
- A Board of Trustees elected by the membership that guides the organization to be responsive to the interests of conservation-minded Michigan citizens and the needs of our natural heritage.
- Access to various outreach products such as Michigan Nature magazine, a periodic activities and events guide for MNA-related opportunities around the state, sanctuary facts sheets, conservation email updates and social media products including a website, blog, Instagram account and Facebook site.
- Invitation and event listings for activities in Michigan to help build fellowship around Michigan for members, volunteers, neighbors, partners, and other conservation minded individuals throughout the state.

Volunteers – who selflessly donate their time and energy – are a key resource for the implementation and success of the MNA program. An MNA volunteer works to protect and maintain Michigan's special natural areas in a variety of ways. To accomplish the mission and goals of MNA, volunteers are needed from a variety of different backgrounds and skill-levels to help with our many worthwhile projects and initiatives. From constructing boardwalks, performing invasive species management, monitoring sanctuary boundaries, and maintaining trails to helping out in the office, becoming a volunteer helps accomplish the MNA mission. Volunteers come in many forms and can help in variety of capacities depending on their skill sets, age and interests.

Consider a Volunteer Role

Michigan is full of amazing natural beauty, beauty that can mask fragmented habitats and lost landscapes. MNA works to permanently protect the natural beauty of Michigan. Volunteering is a crucial part of what makes the cogs turn at MNA. Its dedication to the conservation of rare, threatened and endangered species, imperiled natural communities and unique geological features throughout the State of Michigan takes many people doing many jobs. Find the many ways you can volunteer by clicking the link [volunteer](https://michigannature.org/menus/volunteer.html) or at <https://michigannature.org/menus/volunteer.html>

More Information

<http://www.rook.org/earl/bwca/nature/shrubs/taxuscan.html>

<http://www.michigannature.org/>



Michigan Nature Association
People. Land. Legacy.