



Kayakers paddle down the Two Hearted River in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.



State Director, Helen Taylor

Nature Lab Youth Activity:

Extreme Heat......15

## The Power of Nature

We all have times when we crave renewal.

2020 has been—undeniably—a challenging year. However, I am confident in Michigan's ability to rise to these challenges. I am also grateful to live in a place so rich in nature. I draw strength from this, as many of you tell me you do as well.

In good times and in hard times, nature offers unique inspiration and solace. Fortunately, we don't have to go far to find it. After all, in Michigan, you're never more than six miles from an inland lake! A blue sky and warm sunshine can be found on our favorite beaches, in our neighborhood parks and outside our windows. Nature is all around us-especially when we need it most.

The power of nature to help us rest, recover and restore ourselves is as important today as it's ever been. As you read the pages of this newsletter, you'll see how that importance is recognized and embedded in every aspect of TNC's work.

And, as we strive to close out a successful fundraising campaign, we realize that our job is not over. I am humbled by the show of support for that work—how people like you, reader, are celebrating and safeguarding the power of nature alongside us. I hope that you will continue to walk this path with us. Thank you!

Yours in conservation,

Helen Taylor **State Director** 



In Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the Wilderness Lakes Reserve sits amidst the rich northern forests of the Great Lakes.

Thank you for your continued support in our campaign for conservation. Your generosity and dedication are behind each of our conservation achievements.

In July 2014, we had big aspirations and began a campaign to meet them. Your contributions have allowed us to surpass our fundraising goal with gifts totaling \$98 million! Thank you to every member and supporter. All of your contributions have been spent on critical conservation work across Michigan. You have helped us achieve many big wins. Among these are:

- 1. Protected 6,000 acres at Wilderness Lakes Reserve in the U.P. (For more on additional forest restoration work currently underway, see page 6.)
- 2. Restored degraded coastal spawning reefs for native fish species.
- 3. Implemented conservation practices on over 70,000 agricultural acres in the Saginaw Bay Watershed. (For more on our work in soil health, see page 12.)
- 4. Installed one of Detroit's largest green stormwater infrastructure projects at Sacred Heart Church.

The mission is not complete, however. We keep working! Your gifts will help us achieve \$100 million by the end of 2020 for Michigan; visit nature.org/ourmichigan to donate.



You can look forward to learning more about everything we have accomplished in this campaign when we release our annual giving publication, Giving to Michigan, in November.

Join the conversation!





nature.org/michigan



Left: Ferns show their autumn color at McMahon Lake Preserve in Luce County.

hen COVID-19 swept into our state this spring, it brought uncertainty, challenges and loss into our lives. Michiganders adapted, adjusted and found a way to move forward.

As did The Nature Conservancy. We have kept our mission in focus while learning to be effective in new ways, continuing to make remarkable progress across our portfolio of work. We ceased in-office operations and moved to a fully virtual workforce, setting up home offices at our kitchen tables and learning to navigate the quirks of video call technology, just like many other people across the country.

"Nature never stops," notes Helen Taylor, Michigan state director. "Even when it seems like the world is at a standstill nature continues to shape our lives. That means our work to

protect Michigan lands and waters must not stop either."

We reinvented the way we collaborate and communicate with each other, our partners and our supporters. By increasing the use of video calls, we have been able to reduce our carbon footprint while advancing projects to acquire land, continue research and policy work and remain as impactful as we were before.

For work that simply could not be done remotely, such as fieldwork, we increased safety precautions in keeping with Michigan's stay-at-home order.

"Though the scope of fieldwork we were able to complete was limited, we were able to continue the most immediately vital fieldwork activities to keep our preserves in good

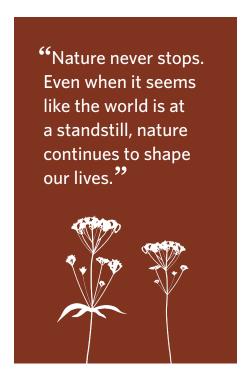
condition." says Chris May, director of protecting land and water.

Many Michiganders have turned to the power of nature for solace and comfort in these challenging times, which makes access to nature even more important. And for those who aren't able to safely get outdoors, new digital opportunities abound.

This spring, TNC went virtual, moving many of our typical events online. Four events in May drew over 200 attendees, including a virtual Conservation Café and even a virtual field trip at TNC's Nan Weston Preserve. This allowed TNC supporters from all over the state to

participate live in events that they might not have been able to attend otherwise. "We were thrilled to see so many of our supporters at these online events," says Kari Marciniak, director of strategic communications. "When we're all struggling, seeing our community come together around issues we care about is encouraging and rejuvenating."

Crisis necessitates innovation. "We've had to rethink things," says Helen, "And we've learned a lot about how we can more effectively operate as a result. Many of the changes we've made, we'll keep—and I believe TNC will be much stronger for it."







In the past two months, when new CEO Jen Morris would have been traveling the world as part of her introduction to TNC, she had to find a different way to learn about TNC's work. Instead, Jen and her husband packed up an RV and road-tripped to the Midwest to see TNC projects on the ground. TNC Michigan staff got creative and found safe and socially-distant ways to show Jen our work across the state.



Above: TNC staff Ben Wickerham (left) and Rich Tuzinksy (middle) found a socially-distant way to show Jen Morris (right) the protected shoreline along North Point Peninsula in Alpena. Right: Jen Morris and TNC staff safely explored the North Point Peninsula on paddleboards.



A stand of pine trees towers above the forest floor at the Ross Coastal Plain Marsh Preserve. These trees will be selectively harvested and replanted with native seedlings to build a more diverse and healthy forest ecosystem.

Restoration isn't always pretty. When it takes the form of cutting trees down, restoration can seem to contradict everything we expect from conservation. But behind the scenes, it's all part of the process of rebuilding.

That's what's happening at TNC's Ross Coastal Plain Marsh Preserve, where a 45-acre red pine and scotch pine forest at the southern end of the preserve has long appealed to visitors. What many people don't know, however, is that these trees are a relatively recent addition to the area, planted when it was still part of active timberlands in the mid-twentieth century. Over the next two years, TNC will selectively harvest these pine plantations and replace them with native seedlings.

"These non-native trees acidify the soil, preventing native plants from

growing, and create too much shade for native species," says Chris May, TNC's director of protecting land and water. "By removing them and planting native tree species in their place, we can restore a strong, thriving natural system."

TNC will plant about 2,300 new trees on the Ross Preserve, part of a collaborative project that will bring around 40,000 new native trees (a mix of beech, oak and other species) to

southwest Michigan. TNC's partners in this work include Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, Ottawa County Parks, Chikaming Open Lands and Shirley Heinze Land Trust. Funded by the Wildlife Conservation Society's Climate Adaptation Fund, with the support of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the project aims to improve the health and resiliency of the region's forests.

"By improving the diversity of trees in



The restoration work at Ross Preserve will benefit wildlife, including insects like this dragonfly.

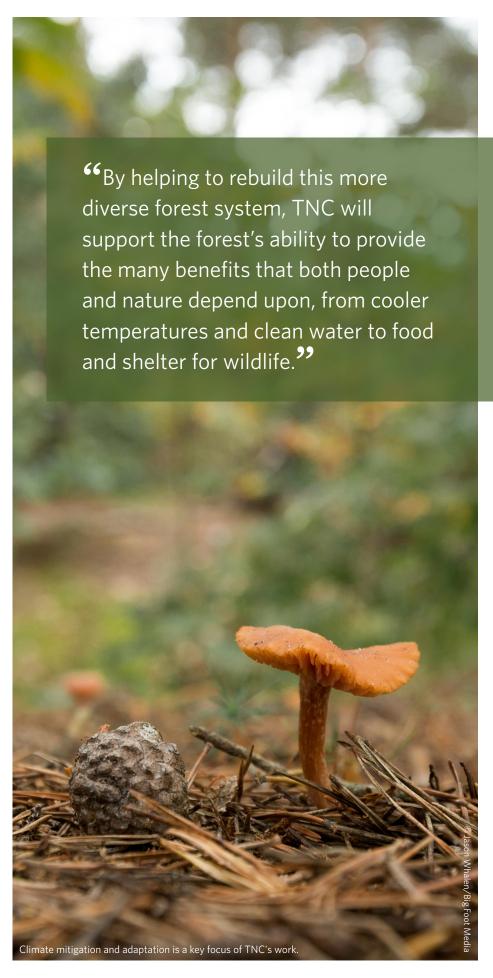
the area, and planting tree species that commonly grow farther south, we will help forests and wetlands adapt to a changing climate," says Chris.

This part of Michigan lies within a region that ecologists call the "climate tension zone," where northern tree species meet southern tree species and they blend together on the landscape. As the climate changes, this zone will move northward, putting further pressure on an area that has already been challenged by invasive pests and pathogens like the emerald ash borer, climate change effects such as heavy spring rains and deforestation brought on by human activities. Whether a forest thrives in these changes or not will depend in part on how welladapted its trees are to that region.

Protecting the health of the forests in this region will also have important benefits for wildlife. TNC's Ross Preserve and its adjacent lands have been identified as a key climate corridor in TNC's Resilient Connected Network Project, a global initiative, and will play a critical role in enabling regional species migration and movement to adapt to changing conditions. This experience will also help us generate guidelines for other successful forest resiliency projects in the future.

"This project is also unique in that it has the opportunity to serve as a model for transitioning other pine plantations in southern Michigan back to a native forest type," Chris adds. As the seedlings grow, TNC will study how species that tend to grow farther south fare in a more northern climate. We will also monitor for invasive species and encourage the natural growth of native plants from the seedbank.

Watch for more on TNC's forest restoration work in our spring newsletter!



# Love your public lands? Vote YES on Prop 20-01 Michigan's public lands strengthen our communities, economy and quality of life. Above: Northern lights over Marquette, Michigan. Right (from top to bottom): Tahquamenon Falls State Park; Belle Isle State

Park; Presque Isle State Park.

e need you. Nature needs you. This November, we urge you to join Michiganders across the state who love and value our public lands, in voting YES on Proposition 20-011.

On November's ballot, Michigan voters will have the opportunity to protect the future of many of the beloved places that bring nature into our lives, from local neighborhood parks to family vacation destinations. Proposition 20-01, if passed, would ensure that our state's most important funding source for public lands-the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)—can protect our public lands forever.

Voted into law in 1984, the MNRTF receives all oil, gas and other mineral lease and royalty payments from the sale of state-owned minerals, up to \$500 million. Since the fund reached the \$500 million cap in 2011, state mineral revenues have all been directed to the MNRTF's sister fund, the Michigan State Parks Endowment Fund (MSPEF). However, when the limit on the MSPEF is reached as well, new revenue from these sources will no longer go to these funds—unless Proposition 20-01 is passed.

"It just makes sense that money from Michigan's non-renewable natural resources should be reinvested to benefit Michigan's natural resources,







At the time this article was written it was expected that this constitutional amendment would appear on the ballot as Proposal 20-01. That designation is subject to final approval of the ballot by the State Board of Canvassers, scheduled for September 4, 2020.

residents and communities," says Director of Policy Rich Bowman. "And that's what the MNRTF and MSPEF do."

To date, over \$1.1. billion from the MNRTF has been awarded for projects in all 83 Michigan counties, and the MSPEF has enabled 103 state parks and recreation areas to stay free and open to the public, ensuring that the benefits of being out in nature are available to all.

a YES vote on Proposition 20-01 would support is the removal of the current limit on the MNRTF, which would guarantee that money from Michigan's non-renewable mineral resources would be placed in the MNRTF and MSPEF to benefit

The most significant change that

in the MNRTF and MSPEF to benefit Michigan's citizens, visitors and nature in perpetuity.

"The other critical factor of this proposal is what it doesn't do," says Rich. "By using mineral revenues in this way, we get beautiful public lands, world class state parks and recreational facilities, and we get it without increasing anyone's taxes. It's a remarkable opportunity for Michigan voters to make a real difference for Michigan's lands, waters and future generations."





## A Public Lands Success Story

This fall, the community of Saginaw is celebrating the establishment of a new park on the Saginaw riverfront. This unique park was formerly a General Motors industrial site, purchased by the state of Michigan in 2019 from the RACER Trust. Along with other funding sources, the MNRTF is contributing \$590,000 to help transform the site into a park.

In addition, \$1 million in funding has been dedicated to developing the park and endowing its maintenance by the Trustees of the Tittabawassee River Natural Resource Damage Assessment. TNC played a significant facilitating role in moving this project forward with other partners, including the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Saginaw Community Foundation, Saginaw County and Saginaw County Parks and Recreation.

When it was acquired, the 334-acre site already struck an interesting balance between its industrial past

and nature's reclamation. Deer could be seen grazing near man-made ponds filled with marsh plants, while tall milkweed lined crumbling roadways. Saginaw County Parks and Recreation will manage the park.

Upon completion, the new waterfront park will include places for hiking, fishing, wildlife watching and other outdoor activities. Trails will link to the Iron Belle Trail, which runs from Ironwood in the U.P. to Belle Isle in Detroit.

"Opportunities like this are winwin situations for people and for nature—opening up access to a natural riverfront area, while revitalizing an abandoned property right in downtown Saginaw. It's hard to imagine a better outcome," says Helen Taylor, state director.

#### Virtual Celebration!

Join us with partners for the livestreamed opening of the Saginaw Riverfront Park!

**September 24, 3-4pm**Tune in on Facebook @MichiganDNR



The Nan Weston Nature Preserve audio tour follows a stunning boardwalk through the trees and points out many special plants and animals.

he Nature Conservancy's preserves in Michigan represent the legacy of TNC's land protection roots, from the earliest days of our organization's launch in 1951. While TNC owns and manages approximately 56,800 acres in Michigan today, we have contributed to the protection of over 389,000 acres to date. Not only are these protected lands important for the biodiversity and natural systems that they preserve, but they also advance conservation by inspiring visitors of all ages and backgrounds to act on nature's behalf.

However, for people to have experiences that capture the restorative and uplifting power of nature at our preserves, these places must be accessible, well-maintained and offer information about what makes them special.



A new parking lot at the Ross Preserve offers safer and easier access to the preserve.

"It's important to us at TNC that as many people as possible have the ability to enjoy Michigan's natural beauty," says Protected Lands Project Manager Shaun Howard. "That means, among many other things, making our preserves more accessible both physically and virtually."

Over a three-year period, TNC is upgrading the infrastructure at 10 of our Michigan preserves. The Ross Coastal Plain Marsh Preserve and the Nan Weston Preserve at Sharon Hollow already showcase the full complement of planned upgrades. Thanks in part to the generosity of the Gerstacker Foundation, the Gerstacker Preserve is among the special places where further upgrades are currently in progress.

"These 10 preserves are some of our most popular preserves," says Shaun.

"It's incredibly important that they are kept up to a high standard, to protect the habitat and wildlife as well as provide safe, accessible and meaningful experiences for people."

For example, the new visitor kiosks we have installed provide trail maps, history and context, preserve rules and other information to help visitors know what to expect. "It's a big step up from a tiny 'rules of the trail' sign," Shaun says. "When you walk on to a TNC preserve in Michigan, we want you to know where you are, for all the right reasons. It should be clear that this is a place where people and nature can thrive together." We are also making improvements such as accessible parking lots and consistent signage, and installing trail upgrades such as benches, boardwalks and overlooks where appropriate.

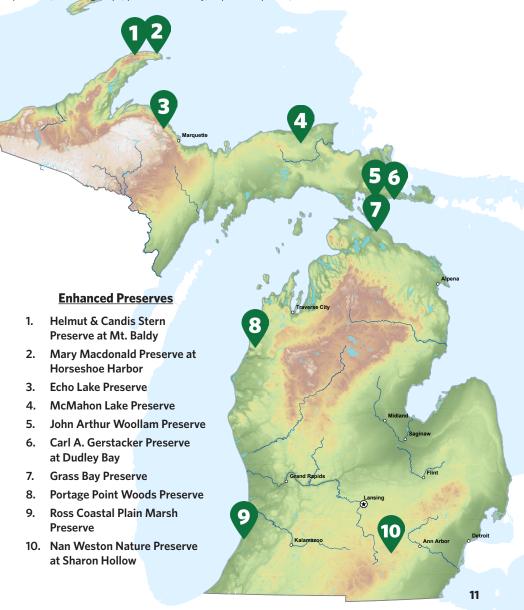
And for those who aren't able to make it to one of our preserves in person, TNC's enhanced digital offerings will provide numerous virtual alternatives. We are producing a series of audio tours for these preserves in collaboration with TravelStorysaccessible online from any locationthat are designed to enhance the on-site experience, as well as provide a way to experience TNC preserves from your own living room. Audio tours have now been completed for the Ross Preserve, Nan Weston Preserve, Carl A. Gerstacker Preserve and Echo Lake Preserve. Go to nature.org/miexplore for these tours and other ways to virtually enjoy our preserves.

"We want to help people learn about and value not just the places themselves, but also the larger ecosystems they showcase, as well as their historical and cultural context," says Shaun. "We also want people who aren't necessarily able to get to a preserve to have the opportunity to experience them."

We will also work to scale up community engagement and codevelop programming with partners, like a field trip we co-hosted at Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area with the Land Conservancy of West Michigan last fall. "This enhanced programming and engagement will help TNC more effectively highlight the importance of conservation, in an inclusive, inspiring and placebased way," notes Mary Louks, Events Manager.



TNC staff gather around a kiosk at the Portage Point Woods Preserve that offers information about the preserve, including maps, protection history, important species, and more.





Peaceful sunset over Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay. The Saginaw Bay Watershed is Michigan's largest watershed and is home to over 1 million people.

he Nature Conservancy is hard at work to protect clean water in Michigan's rivers and lakes and ensure this vital resource meets the needs of both people and nature long into the future. However, a changing climate and a growing population put increasing pressure on Michigan's water systems and infrastructure. Here are snapshots of what we are doing to protect our waters across the state.

## **Reducing Nutrient Pollution**

The issue: Nearly 90,000 miles of drainage ditches in suburban and rural areas across the state help ensure that agricultural lands are supplied with the water crops need to flourish—not too much, not too little. However, runoff from agricultural lands, especially after heavy rains, carries sediment and nutrients into these ditches and

Michigan's streams and lakes, altering habitat, threatening water quality and contributing to harmful algal blooms.

Our work: TNC is collaborating with farmers and other agricultural partners to increase soil health practices in the Saginaw Bay watershed, one of Michigan's most important farming regions. Since 2015, conservation practices such as cover crops and reduced tillage have been implemented on over 70,000 acres, keeping about 23,000 pounds of phosphorus and 5,300 tons of sediment on the land and out of the water. Additionally, we have worked with county drain commissioners to incentivize landowners to plant grass buffers along drainage ditches to further reduce runoff.

"To date, we've partnered with over 140 farmers on this work, which is really encouraging progress," says Saginaw Bay Project Lead Ben Wickerham. "It's vital that we take this collaborative approach to keeping our lands and waters healthy in all the ways we depend on them because ultimately it's all part of the same system."



Buffer strips in the Saginaw Bay Watershed.

### **Preventing Sewer Overflows**

The issue: Aging sewer and water drainage systems in many Michigan cities and towns are increasingly overwhelmed by heavy rainfall, leading to surface flooding and contaminated overflows. As Michigan's oldest and largest urban landscape, Detroit is one of our hardest hit areas.

TNC's work: TNC is working closely with the City of Detroit and Eastern Market Corporation, as well as other community partners, to advance green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) that uses nature-based engineering to capture, slow and filter rainwater, reducing the burden on Detroit's combined sewer system.

"GSI is a really impactful tool that has been used successfully by other cities like Portland and Atlanta to reduce their stormwater burdens," says Director of Urban Conservation Valerie Strassberg. "Adapted for Detroit's unique needs, it has the potential to completely change the landscape of stormwater management while bringing new green spaces into our city."

To demonstrate and build upon the impact of GSI, TNC has recently completed a demonstration project at Sacred Heart Church in Eastern Market, which will manage up to 3.5 million gallons of stormwater annually. We also helped to launch the city-wide Detroit Stormwater Hub (detroitstormwater.org) and are working with the City of Detroit to realize an innovative vision of publicly accessible GSI greenways in the historic Greater Eastern Market district (learn more at detroitmi.gov/easternmarket).

To learn more about TNC's work in Detroit, visit **nature.org/Detroit**.

## **Improving Water Infrastructure**

The issue: Our water infrastructure is how we access drinking water, process our waste and manage stormwater. In Michigan, much of our water infrastructure is in dire need of additional investment due to deferred maintenance and aging facilities across the state, with nearly \$800 million in funding need going unmet every year, even as rising water rates have outpaced increases

in median household income. This puts our communities and our water resources at risk. Often, communities of color subject to historical systemic discrimination are disproportionately impacted.

TNC's work: Over the next three years, we will build on a set of recommendations put forward by an expert group of Water Fellows convened in 2019 by TNC and Michigan State University. Working with partners, policy makers and water infrastructure managers, we will help explore and develop cost effective, equitable solutions to address Michigan's water infrastructure needs.

"Michigan needs a safe, reliable and equitable drinking and wastewater system, for the wellbeing of all residents, regardless of race or income," Rich Bowman, TNC's director of policy, says. "Ultimately, this work will help protect the long-term sustainability of our state's waters—strengthening our economies, our communities and the natural world around us."





TNC's successes in Detroit to date, including the GSI retrofit at Sacred Heart Church (left), are thanks to the generosity of supporters including the DTE Energy Foundation, Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation, JPB Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, Kresge Foundation, Pisces Foundation, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation and many more.

## **Planting Healthy Rivers**

The issue: Healthy forests are key to healthy rivers. Why? Trees along streams and rivers help control erosion and protect water quality.

They filter out pollutants, nutrients and sediment in runoff as well as keep streams cool so that cold water species like brook trout can thrive. The cleaner our rivers and streams are, the cleaner our lakes, and the cleaner our drinking water. When we lose forests to invasive species, development or other threats, it puts our water resources at risk.

TNC's work: Last year, TNC helped plant 85,000 white pines along riparian areas in the Upper Peninsula that have been impacted by the spruce budworm pest—part of a stewardship agreement TNC has with the Ottawa National Forest. The now one-year-old seedlings are thriving, with an estimated survival rate of up to 95%. TNC is also working with partners across the Upper Peninsula on more forestry projects, from demonstrating sustainable timber practices that

protect wetland and riparian areas, to mapping corridors of resilient lands and waters.

"We're really focused on maintaining and restoring forests through the lens of resiliency," says Kevin Swanson, TNC's director of forestry. "Healthy and diverse forests paired with clean waterways will make the whole system more resilient in a changing climate."

## **Adapting to Coastal Flooding**

**The issue:** In Michigan, approximately 300 miles of Great Lakes coastline are at risk of coastal flooding. Rising water levels, as well as the loss of coastal wetlands, put coastal habitat and communities at even further risk.

**TNC's work:** TNC is working to restore coastal areas, such as 900 acres of wetlands on our Erie Marsh Preserve in southeastern Michigan, to strengthen both the natural habitat and its potential to "buffer" the coastline. At another nearby site, we are initiating a restoration project that incorporates nature-based solutions

such as floating islands of vegetation and repurposed dredge material to rebuild degraded marshlands.

Through the Bailey Conservation Fellowship, TNC has also brought on Matthew Jurionas, a post-doctorate environmental social scientist, to support this work. He will synthesize Great Lakes restoration efforts to identify the benefits of nature-based solutions used to date-how much is invested, where it's happening and the equity and efficiency of its impact-and document people's perceptions of nature-based solutions in the region. This will illuminate the status of coastal nature-based solutions and enable the most effective strategies going forward.

"Painting a clear picture of restoration successes and opportunities for improvement will help TNC and partners design projects that incorporate local benefits for coastal communities and have strong public support," says Matthew.







Top: A healthy planted white pine sapling. Bottom: Coastal marsh at the Ross Preserve. Right: Wetlands at Erie Marsh Preserve.



Nature Lab is a robust and engaging online platform developed by TNC for parents and educators, so that young people can confront the urgent and complex challenges facing the planet. Nature Lab helps youth learn about conserving nature for its own sake and for its ability to fulfill their needs and enrich their lives. Visit **nature.org/naturelab** to access lesson plans with interactive worksheets, videos and hands-on projects.

Cut out this page and participate in this fun Nature Lab activity!



## **Project: Extreme Heat**

**Grade Levels: 3-8** 

**Essential Question:** How do trees, grass, asphalt and other materials affect temperature?

#### Introduction

A microclimate is the climate of a very small area. It can be influenced by the type of land surface, the presence or absence of plants, the type of plants and the amount of shade. In this activity, you will complete an experimental design challenge to discover the different microclimates in your neighborhood. You will also hypothesize how surfaces absorb heat differently and how this might affect the temperature in cities.

#### **Materials**

Thermometer, data table, compass, camera, flags or site markers.

#### **Activity:**

- 1. Choose 5 locations around your neighborhood that you think represent different microclimates. Try to find locations with different ground surfaces.
- 2. Make a prediction: Where in your neighborhood will the temperature be the warmest? Where will it be the coolest?
- 3. Collect the Data: Record the type of ground cover (trees, grass, soil, asphalt, concrete, garden). Determine the amount of sunshine (sun, full shade, part shade). Finally, take at least 3-5 temperature readings for each location, then take the average of the readings. Record your findings in the data table below.
- **4. Discuss:** Once you have your data collected, look at the results. Are the results what you predicted? What aspects of the environment affect temperature in the different locations? What amount of sun/shade resulted in higher temperatures? What type of ground cover resulted in higher temperatures?
- 5. Application: Based on your results, what do you think would be warmer: urban areas or rural areas?

Locations in your neighborhood

|                     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ground<br>cover     |   |   |   |   |   |
| Sun/Shade           |   |   |   |   |   |
| Average temperature |   |   |   |   |   |

#### The Urban Heat Island Effect

The air in urban areas can be 3.6-9°F warmer than nearby rural areas. This is known as the heat island effect. An urban heat island can increase the magnitude and duration of a heat wave. It can also influence the weather, changing wind patterns, clouds, and precipitation.

What makes cities warmer? Modifications to the land surface have a large impact on whether a heat island forms. For example, many cities have fewer trees than rural areas. Trees shade the ground, preventing radiation from the sun from being absorbed. Without them, the ground surface heats up. Dark rooftops and dark pavement absorb more radiation, too. Tall buildings reflect and absorb sunlight. Automobiles. which make heat from their engines and exhaust, also contribute to the heat island effect.

Today, many cities are making an effort to combat the heat island effect. White or reflective materials are being used for roofing and roads. Trees are being planted along city streets. And, in many areas, green roofs—living plants on rooftops—are being installed.



The Nature Conservancy 101 East César E. Chávez Ave. Lansing, MI 48906 nature.org/michigan

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Our event programs are in flux as we monitor the developments of COVID-19. Please check **nature.org/mievents** for the latest information and additional opportunities, including new ways to engage with us online.

## Mules in the Michigamme

Sept. 18, Oct. 2, 12-1pm | Virtual

Hear how our restoration staff tackled a routine project deep in the McCormick Wilderness in a most unusual way - with pack mules from Wyoming!

## OktoberForest Happy Hour

October 15, 4-5pm | Virtual

Grab your favorite beverage and hear from our forestry staff about the importance of beer's main ingredient - water - and the importance of forests.

## Virtual Tour at Carl A. Gerstacker Nature Preserve

November 20, 12-1pm | Virtual

Experience the sights of the U.P. without the drive. This preserve features a spectacular limestone bedrock shoreline and a variety of wildlife and songbirds.

#### **#OptOutside - Get Out, Clean Up**

November 27, 3-5pm | Lansing, MI

Go outdoors on Black Friday instead of shopping. Join us on the Lansing River Trail; we'll clean up trash and share more about conservation in Michigan.

# Volunteer Work Days at Ives Road Fen Preserve

Saturdays, 9am-12pm, Sept.-Nov. | Tecumseh, MI

Step up for nature with friendly faces at this preserve in southeast Michigan. Help cut honeysuckle while enjoying the fall fruits and colors.

To learn more and sign up, visit nature.org/mievents or contact Mary Louks at (517) 316-2260.