

Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

October 21, 2022

Park and recreation grant application opens Oct. 24

Townships can now apply for the \$65 million appropriated for public recreation grants—known as the [Michigan Spark Grants](#)—to improve and redevelop existing public outdoor recreation. The grant application window will open on Monday, Oct. 24, and applications are due by **Dec. 19**. Funding, available in amounts of \$100,000 to \$1 million, will be awarded in three rounds, beginning with \$15 million at the end of January, \$25 million in the spring of 2023 and \$25 million in the summer of 2023. All projects must be completed by Dec. 31, 2026. Get the latest information on how to prepare for the grants and register for the [informational webinar](#) on **Oct. 28**. Questions can be directed to DNR-Grants@Michigan.gov.



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Nonpartisan analyses of Nov. 8 statewide ballot proposals

Michigan voters will be asked on Nov. 8 to decide whether to adopt three proposals to amend the Michigan Constitution. Proposal 2022-1, supported by MTA, would require financial disclosure for state elected officials and modify legislative term limits. Proposal 2022-2 would modify elections and expand voter

rights. Proposal 2022-3 would establish an individual right to reproductive freedom. Nonpartisan analysis of the three constitutional ballot proposals is available from the Senate and House Fiscal Agencies; these can be shared as they do not urge a position of support or opposition.

Senate Fiscal Agency:

- [Ballot Proposal 2022-1—Financial Disclosure and Term Limit Modifications](#)
- [Ballot Proposal 2022-2—Modification of Elections and Expansion of Voter Rights](#)
- [Ballot Proposal 2022-3—Constitutional Provisions regarding Reproductive Rights](#)

House Fiscal Agency:

- [Ballot Proposal 1 of 2022—Legislative Term Limits and Financial Disclosure by State Elected Officials](#)
- [Ballot Proposal 2 of 2022—Promote the Vote Petition](#)

Nov. 1 deadline for Clean Water, Drinking Water loan submission

Townships interested in seeking assistance from [state Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Funds](#) (SRF) must file an [Intent to Apply](#) by **Nov. 1** for funding from the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget. With new federal dollars available, including recently highlighted \$212 million in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding, the state is working to ensure as many communities as possible can receive grants and loans through the SRF programs for a drinking, storm or clean water project. Contact EGLE-WIFS@Michigan.gov or (517) 284-5433 with questions.

U.S. Treasury scaling back ARPA assistance

The U.S. Department of Treasury is scaling back its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) assistance to local governments, including responding to phone calls via its contact center as of Oct. 17. Later this month, contact center staffing will be ramped down, and email response times are expected to be delayed as a result, according to Treasury, citing funding shortfalls. A [new Self-Service Resources page](#) is now available on U.S. Treasury's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (through ARPA)



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- [Training](#)
- [Advocacy](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Community Connection](#)
- [Webcasts](#)
- [Store](#)
- [Township Governance](#)
- [Academy](#)
- [Allied Service Providers](#)
- [NATaT](#)

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website, which includes guidance and frequently asked questions, based on topic, including reporting, accessing Treasury’s portals and eligible use of funds. The National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT) has urged the U.S. House to pass the State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act, following the U.S. Senate’s passage of a companion bill last October. The legislation would, among other things, provide additional funding to allow U.S. Treasury to continue to support local governments. “Continued support from Treasury is critical to ensuring communities utilize their ARPA funds as intended by the law,” NATaT stated in its support letter. MTA-member officials can reach out to [MTA’s Member Information Services Department](#) for assistance or with ARPA questions, and access our [“COVID Relief Funds” webpage](#). The Michigan Department of Treasury can also assist townships continuing to have issues completing reporting or accessing U.S. Treasury’s reporting system; email them at treas-arpa@michigan.gov.

Funding assistance available for local units enrolling recruits in public safety academy program

Townships with police agencies are eligible for up to \$4,000 per recruit for salaries and benefits, plus \$20,000 for academy tuition and training costs as part of the state’s Fiscal Year ‘23 budget. Applications are now open for the \$30 million in available funding for agencies that intend to enroll recruits in an academy session on or after Jan. 1, 2023. Agencies are eligible for up to 25 scholarships over the course of the program. For more information and to apply, [visit the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards website](#).

Election reminders

- **Drop box retrieval**—If your township has an absent voter (AV) ballot drop box and does not currently have an extra approved ballot container, consider purchasing a new container. Help America Vote Act (HAVA) security grant dollars can be used to purchase extra ballot containers. See the state Bureau of Election’s (BOE) *10/19/22 News Update* for further details.
- **New deadline for spoiling ballots**—[Public Act 195 of 2022](#) changed the deadline to spoil a returned

* [Asphalt Materials, Inc.](#)

* [Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber & Kaufman, PC](#)

* [Consumers Energy](#)

* [Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

* [Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.](#)

* [Hartleb Agency](#)

* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

* [Rosati, Schultz, Joppich & Amtsbuechler, P.C.](#)

* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)



AV ballot to 5 p.m. on the Friday prior to the election (previously, returned ballots could be spoiled in person until 10 a.m. on Monday). See BOE's *10/19/22 News Update* for further information.

- **HAVA security grant**—The grant deadline is approaching. For costs incurred from Oct. 1, 2021, to Sept. 30, 2022, a claim form must be submitted no later than Oct. 31. For costs incurred from Oct. 1, 2022, or later, claim forms must be submitted by Dec. 31, 2022. Additional information and grant submission forms can be found in [E-Learning](#).

Grant funding available for aquatic habitat and recreation, dam removal

Townships can apply now for Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grants focused on aquatic habitat and dams. A combined \$1.6 million in funding, available from three sources, will provide a minimum amount of \$25,000—this includes bundling of smaller projects in the same region to reach the minimum amount. [Priority habitat areas](#) will be given priority for this funding. If interested, applicants must meet with [their local DNR fisheries biologist](#) and complete [a preproposal](#), due by **Nov. 18**. Questions can be directed to [Joe Nohner](#) at 517-599-6825, or [Chip Kosloski](#).

MSHDA offering webinar on residential energy-efficiency upgrades

Townships can share with their residents how to access home repair resources for energy efficiency upgrades through the [MI-Hope program](#). An [Oct. 26 webinar](#), sponsored by Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) Neighborhood Housing Initiatives Division, will provide additional information and details.

One week left for MTA's fall jacket order

There is one week remaining to submit your MTA jacket order to be included in our fall order! MTA is [accepting orders until Oct. 31](#) for the jackets—a full-zip softshell jacket that features full-color embroidery of the MTA logo, with optional personalization with your name and title or the name of your township. This three-seasons jacket is waterproof, with microfleece lining, adjustable

Velcro cuffs, and zippered side and chest pockets. Orders will be delivered following production. Cost is \$99 (which includes tax and shipping and handling). A portion of proceeds benefits MTA-PAC, helping to support legislative candidates who value township government and to forge positive relationships with state lawmakers. Visit [our website](#) for sizing charts and to order today.

Share your input for 2023 MTA legislative policy platform

MTA is seeking review and input from members on its legislative policy platform as we begin preparing for the 2023-2024 legislative session. The legislative policy objectives guide MTA's government relations efforts, and they are reviewed and updated annually to reflect emerging issues and goals. MTA members are encouraged to review [MTA's 2022 Policy Platform](#) and share any proposed revisions and suggested additions by **Nov. 21**. Member-proposed policy changes will be reviewed by MTA committees for word selection and legality, and to ensure they conform with the Association's overall goals and objectives. The proposed policies will be presented at the 2023 MTA Annual meeting in conjunction with our Annual Educational Conference and Expo in April. Contact the MTA Government Relations Department at (517) 321-6467 or legislation@michigantownships.org with questions, comments or suggestions.



DNR public land review process and virtual meetings for 11 counties

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking feedback and sharing information on the public land review of lands in Alger, Allegan, Barry, Bay, Gladwin, Lake, Midland, Montmorency, Presque Isle, Schoolcraft and Wexford counties. Learn more about the process, and join one of the two public meetings taking place at **6 p.m. on Nov. 2**, and **2 p.m. on Nov. 3**, on the [DNR's website](#).