

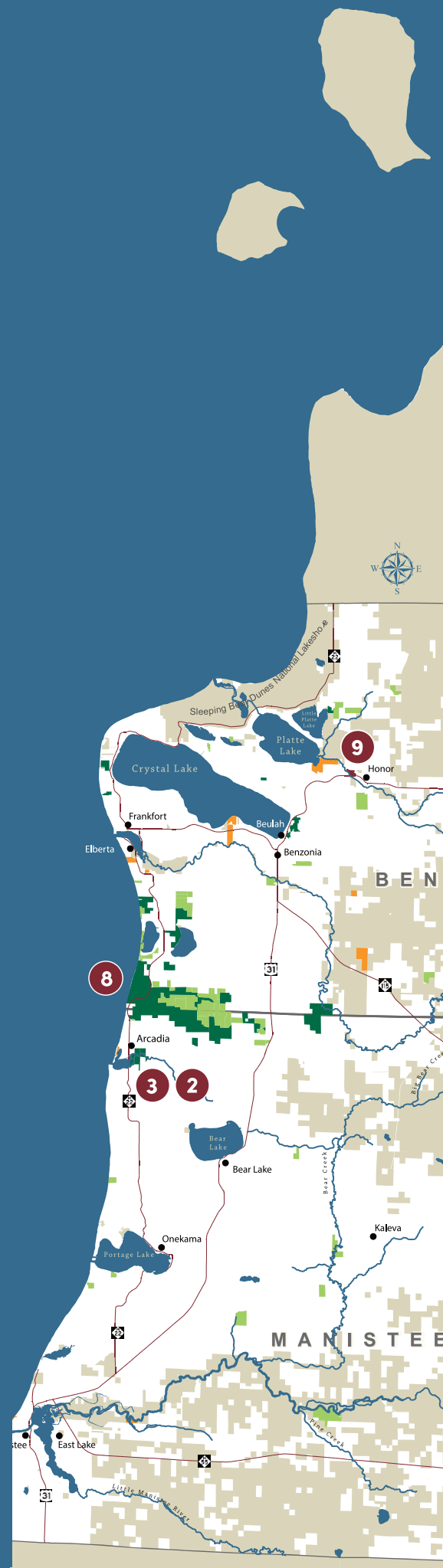
CURRENT PROTECTION PROJECTS

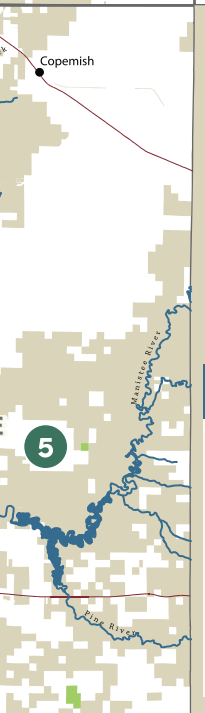
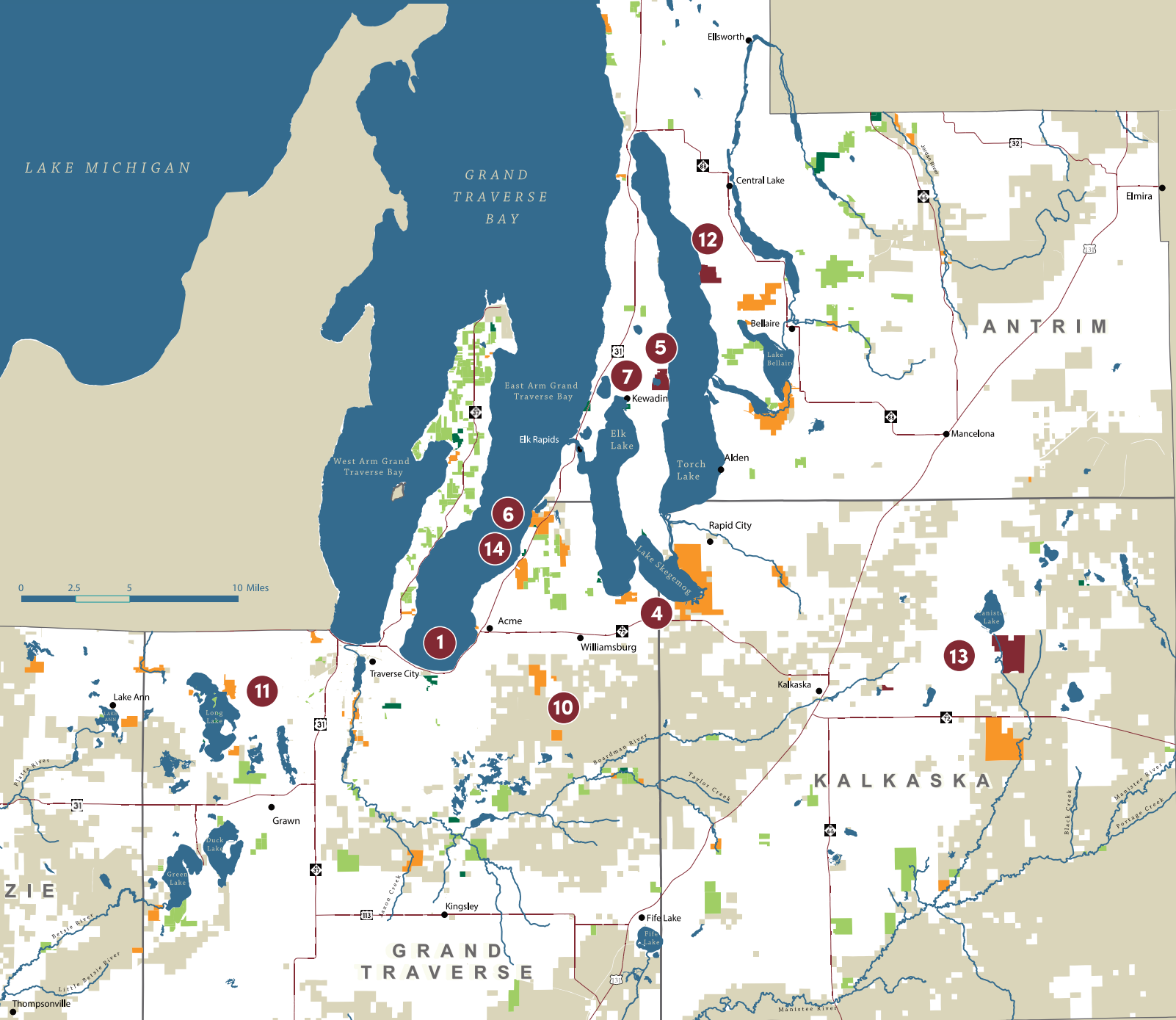
Those of us fortunate enough to live or vacation in northern Michigan have experienced firsthand this region's calming beauty, rich and productive farmland, pristine natural habitats, coastal dunes and clean water that create lasting memories. These natural resources are receiving national acclaim and attention, written about and highlighted in one Top 10 list after another.

We are experiencing a "perfect storm:" an economy that has rebounded, a vibrant region where more and more people are drawn to live, work and play, and a dramatic increase in development pressure to accommodate our region's growth. Without constant vigilance and action, our region's signature natural areas – dunes, shorelines, meadows, open spaces and critical farmland – will be sacrificed to residential and business development.

The very reasons why people love this area could be gone unless we act now to conserve the lands that are most important for water safety, food production, scenic beauty, wildlife, and community connections.

This map and the following pages provide details of those projects approved by our Board that we are working to protect. An additional dozen or more projects are in the "pipeline." The need to come together to protect our most important land and water resources has never been more urgent. Please join us in this important effort. Every gift makes a difference in making conservation work possible.










Love the land. *Pass it on.*

GTRLC has protected over 40,000 acres of land and 124 miles of shoreline through 2016. Increased development pressure on our natural resources and signature landscapes has accelerated the pace and scope with which we need to respond.

LEGEND

-  Board Approved Land Protection Projects
-  GTRLC Nature Preserves
-  Other Public Land Protected and/or Managed by GTRLC
-  Privately Owned GTRLC Protected Lands (Including Farmland)
-  Other Protected Land



Active Project Roundup

The Northern Lights at Camp Tapico

1. Acme Bayside Park Improvements

New gardens, universal access, updated restrooms, a playground, beach enhancements and much more are in store for Acme's shoreline. This is the next step in a community-driven plan to provide recreational opportunities and enjoyable access to East Grand Traverse Bay.

2. Arcadia Marsh Addition – St. Pierre Corner

This 12-acre addition, near the intersection of Glover's Lake and St. Pierre, is grassland habitat used by a variety of birds. Its protection is perhaps most valuable, however, because it will extend the preserve boundary to the road and prevent as many as five home sites directly alongside the preserve. We will also now have the ability to directly control invasives on this parcel, further improving the overall health of the marsh.

3. Arcadia Marsh Infrastructure

As with our successful Universally Accessible (UA) trail at Arcadia Dunes, plans for the marsh call for a UA boardwalk and other improvements that will improve accessibility for those with mobility issues.

4. Copeland Farm Easement

This 179-acre property is important from both an ecological and historical standpoint. It has more than 1,000 feet of shoreline on Lake Skegemog and more than 500 feet along Barker Creek, a key tributary. For more on this project, see the story on page 14.

5. Maplehurst

This fantastic 389-acre property is one of the largest remaining intact and undeveloped parcels on Torch Lake. It has northern hardwood forests and open meadows that surround Lake Maplehurst, a 60-acre spring fed gem. We helped Milton Township secure a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant and now must fundraise for a local match and stewardship costs.



Camp Maplehurst

6. Maple Bay Farmhouse Renovations

This turn-of-the-century favorite is now set to play a much larger role in GTRLC operations and engagement than ever before after a series of renovations that will allow it to be used for office space, meetings and much more. To learn more about this project, please see the story on page 18.

7. Milton Township Beach

Protection of this 0.65-acre parcel allows Milton Township to connect two previously acquired parcels and create a nearly 10-acre public park with more than 300 feet of public access along Elk Lake. GTRLC helped Milton Township secure a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, and now we're fundraising for a local match and stewardship costs.

8. Overlook Trail at Arcadia Dunes

This trail, which opened in June, allows visitors with mobility issues to traverse a Universally Accessible (UA) trail and enjoy a beautiful view of Lake Michigan. Preliminary data shows heavy use, and the trail has received excellent reviews from disabled visitors. We are still completing fundraising for this project.

9. Platte River Park

At the urging of the Honor Area Restoration Project (HARP), we recently secured a purchase option on a beautiful 52-acre parcel with 1,500 feet of frontage on the Platte River in Benzie County's Homestead Township. Now, we're supporting the township's application for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant to acquire the property and use it for a public park, while assisting with fundraising. The Trust Fund decision will be made in December.

10. Sand Lakes DNR Assist

We recently acquired this 160-acre parcel from Grand Traverse County after the county listed it for sale. It is a crucial piece for recreation, as multiple trails used by several events use it. For more information, please see the story on page 3.



The Overlook Trail at Arcadia Dunes

11. Timbers UA Improvements

As with other UA projects, the goal is to provide quality of life opportunities for people of all fitness and mobility levels. In addition to a new trail, several UA-friendly amenities are planned. The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund will make a decision regarding the application to support this project in December.

12. Torch Ridge Farm Easement

This 431-acre farm has a mile long ridge that looms over the east side of Torch Lake in Antrim County. Although this land will remain in private hands and won't be open to the public, we'll all benefit from its protection, as the property serves very important roles related to viewshed preservation and water quality protection.

13. Upper Manistee Headwaters Preserve

Thanks to a private loan, we were able to acquire the former Camp Tapico from the Boy Scouts with the hope of turning it into our second-largest nature preserve if we succeed in raising the needed funds. This property is stunning from an ecological standpoint. For more information, see the story on page 6.

14. Wintergreen Woods Nature Preserve

This preserve protects 22 beautiful acres adjacent to Acme Township's Saylor Park. The property includes a striking natural pine forest and more than a half-mile of shoreline on Yuba Creek.