



# TURTLE COVE NATURE PRESERVE (Proposed)

November, 2021

Love the land. Pass it on. 

We have the opportunity to protect a gorgeous and ecologically significant bay and create a nature preserve on one of Grand Traverse County's most popular and beloved inland lakes.

The proposed Turtle Cove Nature Preserve along Arbutus Lake is one of the highest ranking parcels identified for protection in our priority land atlas. It encompasses the majority of a shallow-water bay, along with additional frontage on the main body of the lake totaling over .75 mile undeveloped shoreline. Collectively, the property has more than three quarters of a mile of undeveloped water frontage, making it critical for water quality on Arbutus Lake.

In addition to water quality benefits, this proposed preserve packs a major punch in terms of wildlife habitat. The shallow water of Turtle Cove provides habitat for scores of fish, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrate species. Along with emergent marsh and bog habitats, the property also contains mesic forest with areas of open field (dominated by bracken fern and little bluestem) and early-successional forest. There is also an active eagle's nest on the property.

While not small in its own right at roughly 120 acres, the property also benefits from being contiguous to Pines Park (a natural area owned by East Bay

Township) along with a tract of state land. Such connectivity is critical for wildlife movement throughout increasingly fragmented habitats. The property will also lend itself to a scenic and enjoyable trail system.

Undeveloped shorelines are becoming increasingly rare throughout GTRLC's service area, particularly near the regions' population center. This protection effort presents a relatively rare chance to safeguard unspoiled habitat.

## Your gift will:

- **Safeguard water quality on Arbutus Lake**
- **Protect highly diverse and extremely critical wildlife habitat**
- **Add to previously protected land and maintain migratory corridors**
- **Provide a new trail system for passive recreation**

The total fundraising need for this project, which reflects a generous bargain sale by the landowner, is **\$2,473,007\***.

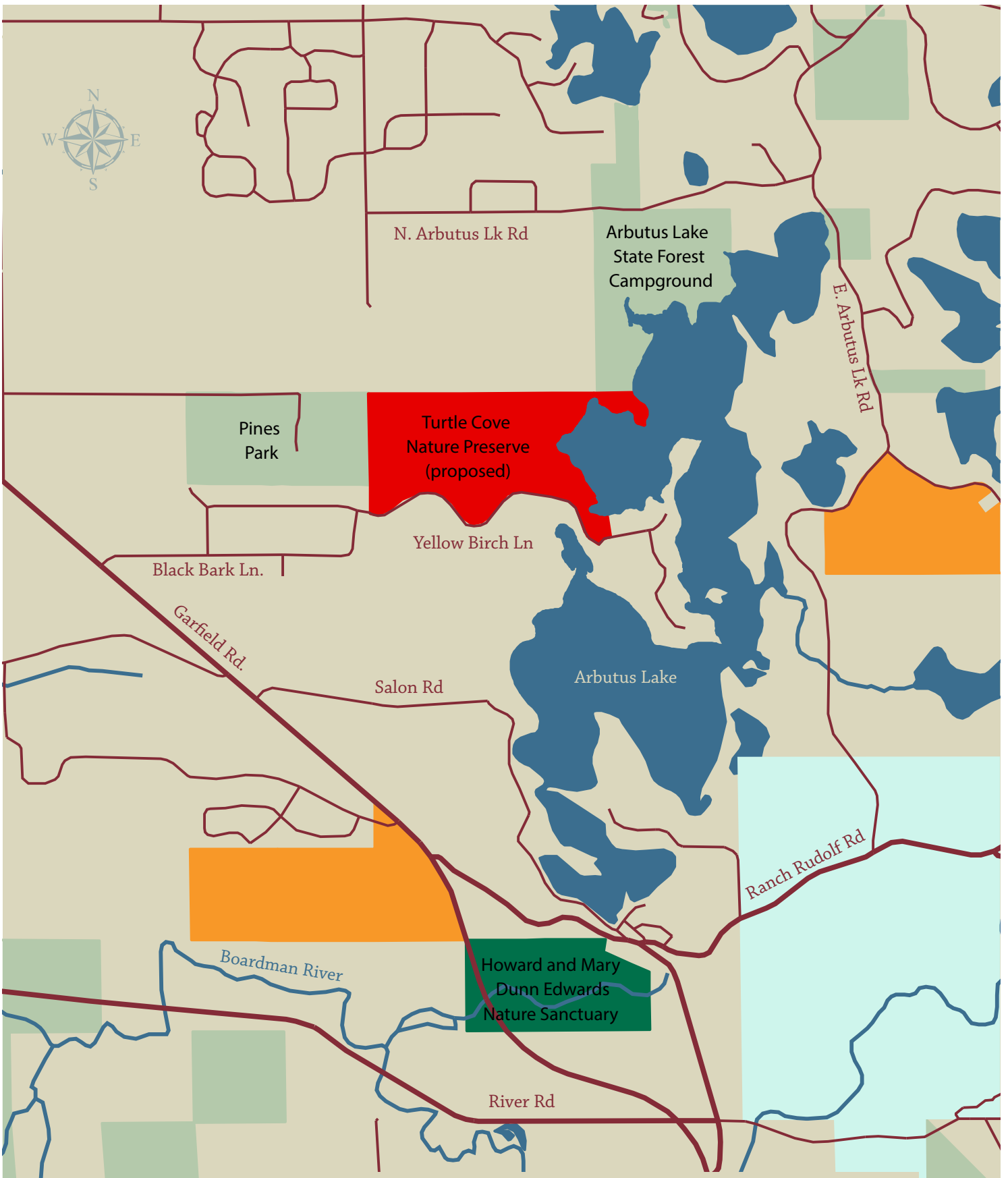


## SUPPORT THIS PROJECT

### Contact:

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*\*In the event that fundraising support for a project exceeds the original project fundraising goal, the Conservancy will allocate the overage to purposes that the Conservancy determines further its mission, such as organizational costs, to protect additional land, or to care for the long-term stewardship of protected land.*



LEGEND

- GTRLC Protected Land (Public)
- Proposed Turtle Cove Nature Preserve
- Other Public Land
- GTRLC Protected Land (Private)
- Brown Bridge Quiet Area