



UPPER MANISTEE HEADWATERS: THE MILOCK FAMILY PRESERVE

Proposed “Excelsior” the Perch Lake Addition

July, 2023

Love the land. Pass it on. 

Since opening in 2020, Upper Manistee Headwaters: The Milock Family Nature Preserve has become tremendously popular with the public. Significant amounts of critical habitat, excellent passive recreational opportunities and substantial water quality benefits make this preserve noteworthy on a regional scale.

GTRLC is now poised to further protect the headwaters of the North Branch of the Manistee River and substantially augment the conservation values of the existing preserve, particularly water quality protection and wildlife habitat, by adding 342 incredible acres (and another entire lake!) to this property. If incorporated with the preserve, this addition would bring the property’s total size to an expansive 1,700 acres.

The potential addition is directly west of the existing preserve, sharing more than a half-mile of boundary and providing the only practical access to its remote and rugged northwest corner. It includes the entirety of Perch Lake along with several ecologically rich bogs. The property is a mix of mesic northern hardwood forest, early-successional forest, various wetlands and a well-managed, mature pine plantation. There is excellent potential to convert the plantation areas to natural forests over time.

Preventing future development of this parcel will also provide a wider buffer of natural habitat for the hundreds of species of plants and animals that call this remarkable place home.

Though no plans have been finalized, GTRLC’s stewardship team also expects this addition to provide the opportunity for a substantial amount of new high-quality trail.

Your gift will:

- **Enhance the incredible conservation values of Upper Manistee Headwaters Preserve, including 3,678’ frontage and the entirety of Perch Lake.**
 - **Safeguard water quality in the beloved Manistee River watershed**
 - **Provide additional recreational opportunities**
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The total cost of this project is **\$1,362,045***.

*The Morrissey Family will generously match your donations dollar-for-dollar up to **\$200,000.***

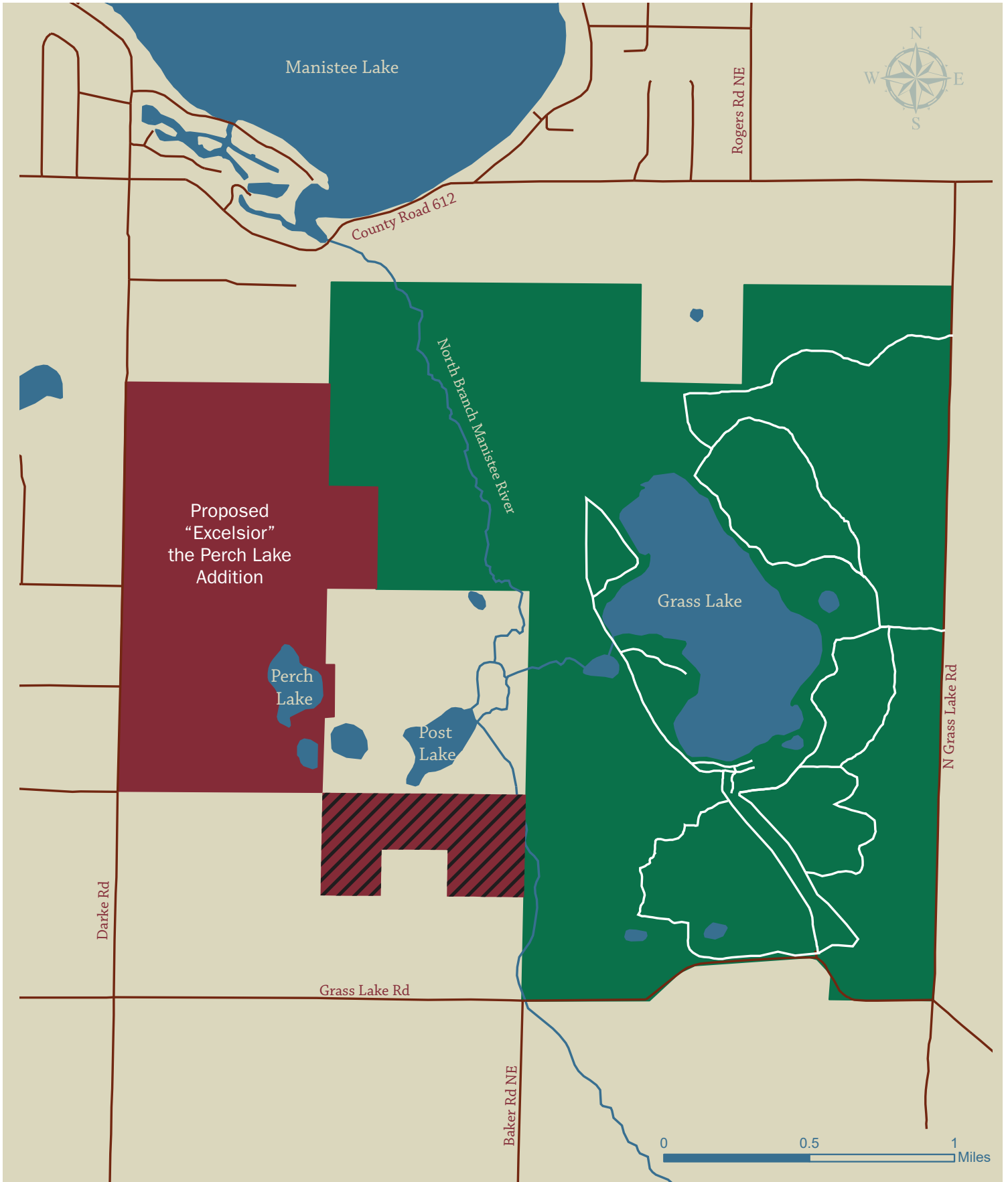


SUPPORT THIS PROJECT

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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

- Upper Manistee Headwaters Preserve (UMHP)
 - UMHP Proposed "Excelsior" the Perch Lake Addition
- Trails
 - UMHP Proposed Addition II