

YOUR GIFT WILL:

- **Permanently protect 354.20 acres and 6,057.90 feet of Torch Lake shoreline**
- **Preserve a prominent undeveloped ridgeline and a large block of mesic northern forest**
- **Safeguard natural systems that protect water quality in Torch Lake and the greater Elk River Chain of Lakes watershed**
- **Position GTRLC to protect the camp's entire 493.66 acres and 7,618.91 feet of shoreline through a Right of First Offer and perpetual Purchase Option if the camp were ever to sell**

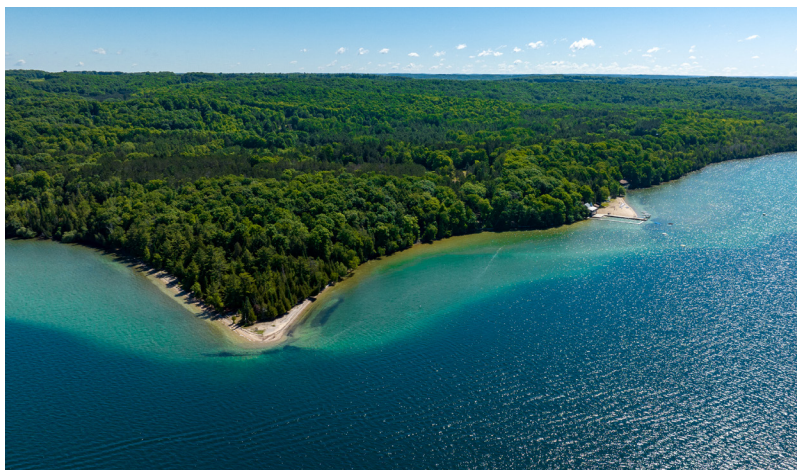
SUPPORT THIS PROJECT

The total project cost is: **\$17,585,820***

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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.*



Proposed

CAMP HAYO-WENT-HA CONSERVATION EASEMENT

April 2026



Founded in 1904, Camp Hayo-Went-Ha is one of the nation's oldest camps continuously operating on its original site. For generations, young people have spent summers paddling, hiking and making lifelong friends along the beautiful shores of Torch Lake. The camp's iconic boathouse, forested ridges and pristine shoreline are landmarks cherished by campers, visitors and residents alike.

At roughly 493.66 acres, this landscape represents the largest remaining undeveloped property on Torch Lake. Its open fields, dense cedar tangles, sheltered wetlands and quiet stretches of shoreline are part of what makes this section of the lake spectacular—and increasingly vulnerable to development.

Today, the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) has a rare opportunity to ensure this landscape remains intact. GTRLC and Camp Hayo-Went-Ha have entered into a purchase agreement for a conservation easement protecting 354.20 acres of the property, including 6,057.90 feet of Torch Lake frontage. The conservation easement is a permanent, legally binding agreement that protects the land's ecological and scenic values while allowing it to remain in private ownership—and in this case operate as a camp.

In addition, the organizations have negotiated provisions that support the entire property's future protection. Together, the agreements ensure the camp can continue to provide outstanding outdoor experiences for future generations, while the land's most sensitive and defining features are safeguarded in perpetuity.

Protecting the Land

Ranked in the top 6% of all properties scored for protection by GTRLC, Camp Hayo-Went-Ha represents one of the most significant conservation opportunities remaining on Torch Lake.

Its undeveloped ridgeline is a defining feature of the lake as well as the property's ecological backbone. Comprised

largely of closed-canopy, northern mesic forest, it is part of a high-priority block of upland forest on the lake's eastern shore that supports diverse species, provides contiguous habitat and contributes to the lake's scenic quality. Homes constructed on this ridgeline would irreversibly fragment the forest and alter the lake's character as we know it today.

In addition to protecting the camp's undeveloped shoreline, the easement safeguards water quality from Torch Lake to Elk Rapids, Traverse City and beyond. Along the shoreline, riparian wetlands and steep, forested slopes function as natural filters, slowing runoff, stabilizing soils and protecting water quality in the Elk River Chain of Lakes watershed, which ultimately flows into Grand Traverse Bay.

Investing in the Future

While the conservation easement protects roughly three-quarters of the land, GTRLC has also negotiated two critical safeguards for the remaining 130 acres where many of the camp's historic cabins and outbuildings are located. A Right of First Offer gives GTRLC the first opportunity to purchase any portion of the property offered for sale that is less than five acres. A Perpetual Option to Purchase gives GTRLC the right to purchase any portion of the camp offered for sale that is greater than five acres. Together, these provisions position GTRLC to protect the camp's entire 493.66 acres and 7,618.91 feet of shoreline should the camp decide to sell those parcels.

Excluded from the conservation easement is the main camp area with existing buildings where the camp has the freedom and flexibility to grow as they need far into the future.

GTRLC will purchase the conservation easement for \$13 million and we have until December 31, 2030 to complete fundraising.

PROJECT AREA CONTEXT MAP



PROJECT AREA MAP

