



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY CENTER

Protecting Michigan's Environment:

An Update on New Wilderness, Old Pipelines, and Power Plants to Parklands



Presentation to Benzie Sunrise Rotary

By Kelly Thayer, ELPC Senior Policy Advocate

Oct. 29, 2024

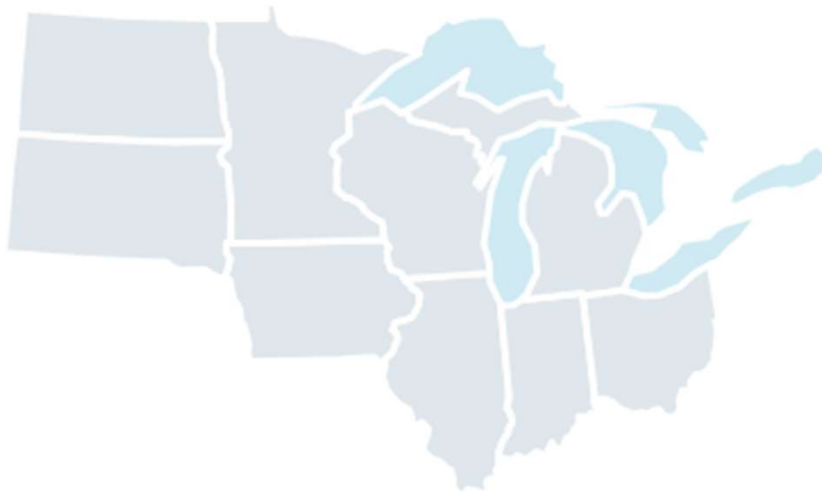
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ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY CENTER

About ELPC

We advocate, innovate, and litigate to protect the Midwest's environment from the Great Lakes to the Great Plains.



ELPC works with a staff of about 40 lawyers, policy advocates, and communicators deployed in seven offices, to enact substantive environmental change on climate, energy, air, water, and transportation policy.

1) New Wilderness:

KEEP THE U.P. WILD



More than 400 Michigan organizations and businesses working to preserve our state's last great natural places.



Seeking an Act of Congress

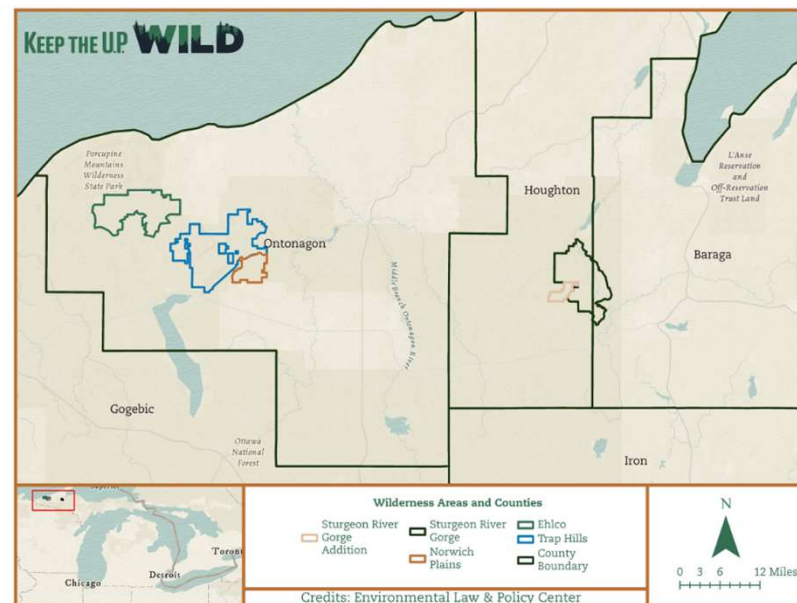


- Asking Congress to add Wilderness protections to about 51,000 acres in four areas of Michigan's Western Upper Peninsula within the Ottawa National Forest.



Areas proposed for Wilderness designation

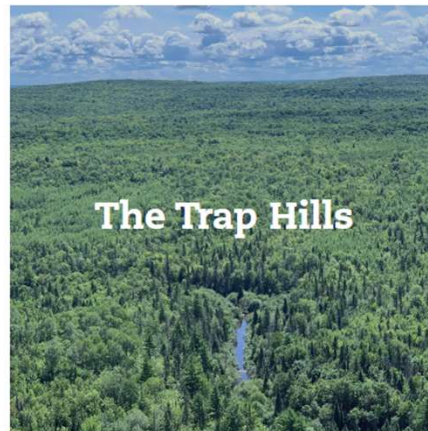
Map of Proposed Wilderness Area



Establish New Wilderness in the U.P.



- These U.P. wilderness candidate areas are almost entirely roadless, defined by dense boreal & northern hardwood forests, rare plants, rolling hills, lichen-encrusted cliffs, open plains, cedar swamps, wide rivers, & stunning waterfalls.



Protect Forests and Grow Economy



- Seeking to fight forest fragmentation, promote biodiversity, combat climate change, and grow the outdoor recreational economy in local communities.
- Enshrining special forms of recreation like hiking, camping, rock climbing, hunting, fishing, birding, kayaking, and snowshoeing – while prohibiting motorized vehicles and logging.



Protect Wildlife in the Western U.P.



- A Wilderness designation would protect bald eagles, peregrine falcons, gray wolves, moose, wood turtles, & other wildlife & preserve mature and old-growth forest.



Coalition of Groups and Businesses



- Since launching in mid-2021, Keep the U.P. Wild has earned the support of 400 members – including 70+ members organizations and business in the U.P.
- Membership comprised of environmental, business, outdoor recreation, hunting, fishing, student, political, veterans outdoor advocacy, and faith groups.



Keep the U.P. Wild

Now is the time to act:

- Strong, longstanding local desire
- to designate new Wilderness in the Western U.P.
- Wilderness builds the local recreation economy, drives tourism, and protects forests, fresh water, and wildlife.
- President's call to protect 30% of nation's lands & waters by 2030 is imperative, & U.P. is key part of the equation.

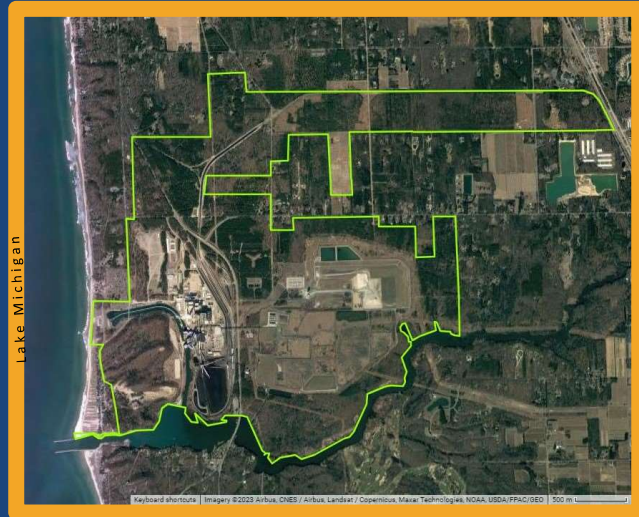


KEEP THE UP WILD

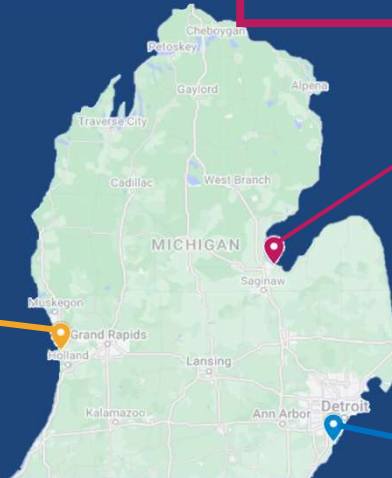
www.KeeptheUPWild.com

2) Powerplants to Parklands

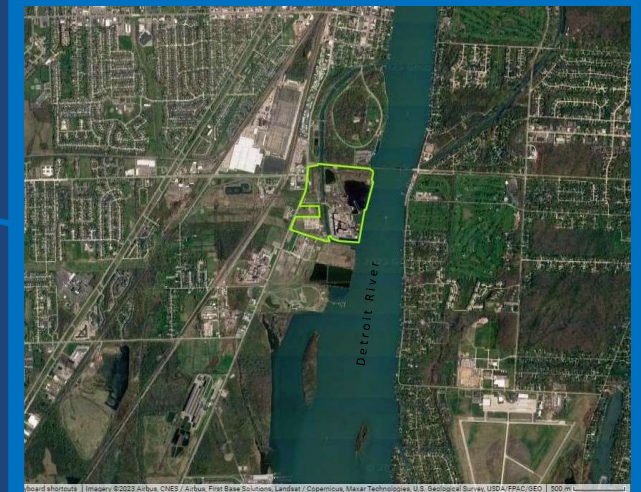
Michigan Sites



**J.H. Campbell
Generating Plant**
*West Olive, MI –
Ottawa County*
Owned by:
Consumers Energy



**Dan E. Karn
Power Plant**
*Essexville, MI –
Bay County*
Owned by:
Consumers
Energy



**Trenton
Channel Power
Plant**
*Trenton, MI –
Wayne County*
Owned by: DTE
Energy

Powerplants to Parklands + Renewable Energy

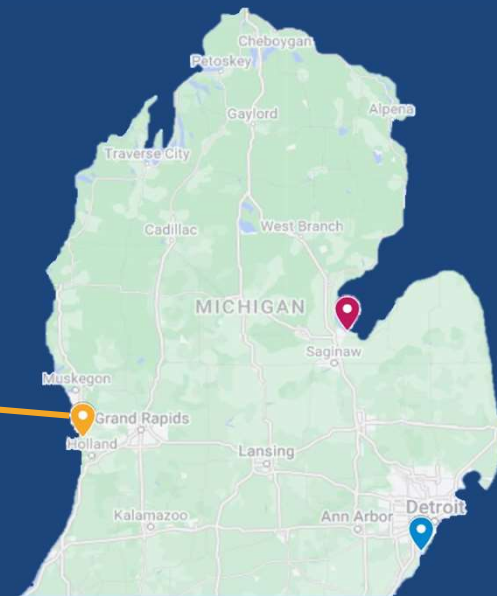
J.H. Campbell Generating Plant in West Michigan

West Olive, MI – Ottawa County

Owned by: Consumers Energy

Partner: **Ottawa County Parks & Recreation**

- 2,440-acre site
- Set to close in May 2025; demolished by 2028
- **Plans for 750 MW battery energy storage facility**



J.H. CAMPBELL GENERATING PLANT – FUTURE VISION

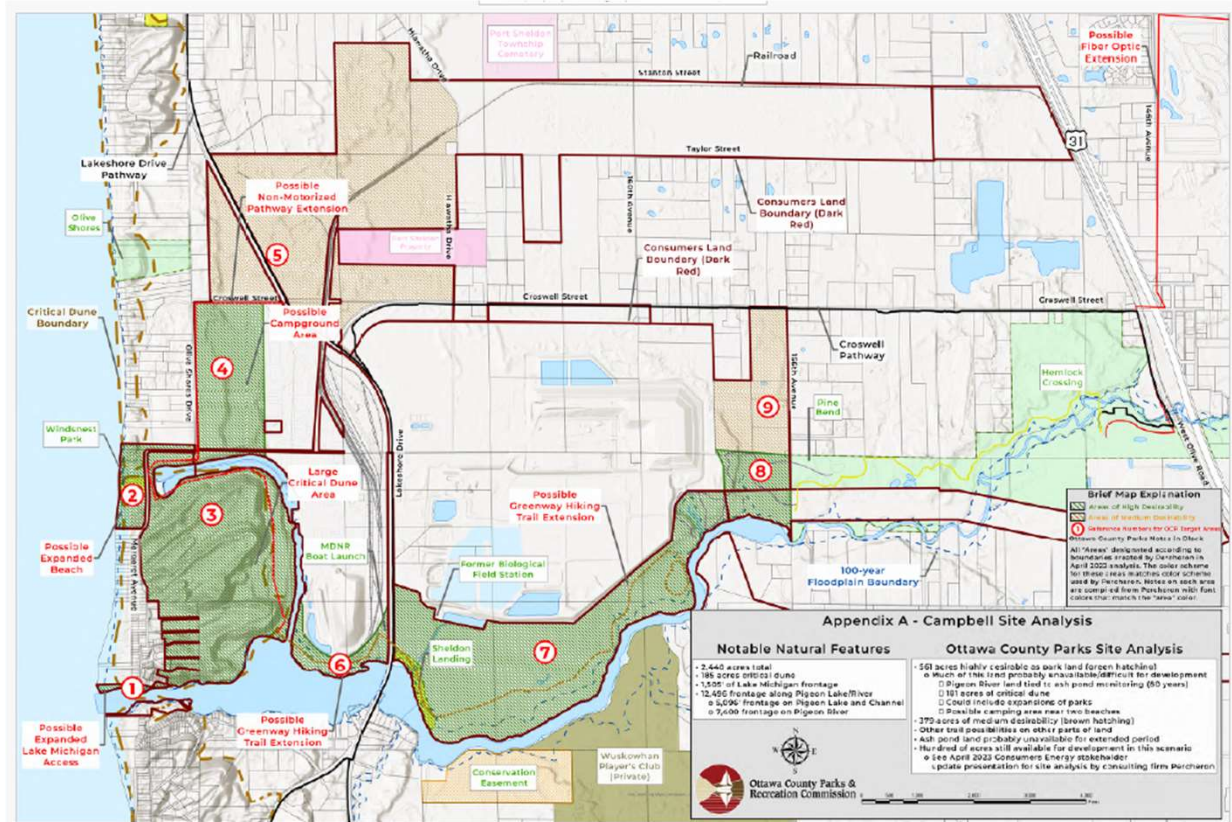
Emerging vision for conservation and public recreation...

An end to:

- Burning 140 railroad cars' worth of coal each day
- Drawing up to 1 billion gallons of Lake Michigan water into the coal plant each day & releasing it back out at a higher temperature

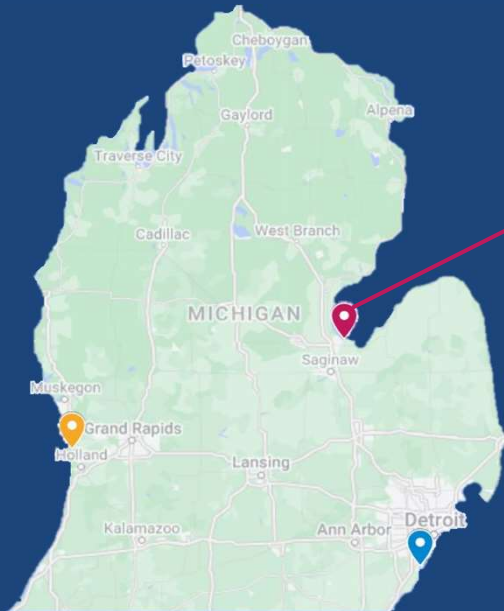
Conservation of, and public access to where sustainable:

- 185 acres of designated critical dunes
- 1,500 feet of Lake Michigan frontage
- 12,500 feet of frontage along the Pigeon Lake & River system



Powerplants to Parklands +Renewable Energy

Dan E. Karn Power Plant



Essexville, MI – Bay County

Owned by: Consumers Energy

Partner: Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy (SBLC)

- 2,400 acres
- Closed two coal units in June 2023; converted the other two to natural gas & fuel oil units to be run during peak demand periods until 2031.
- **Plans for 85+ MW solar generation (250k panels)**

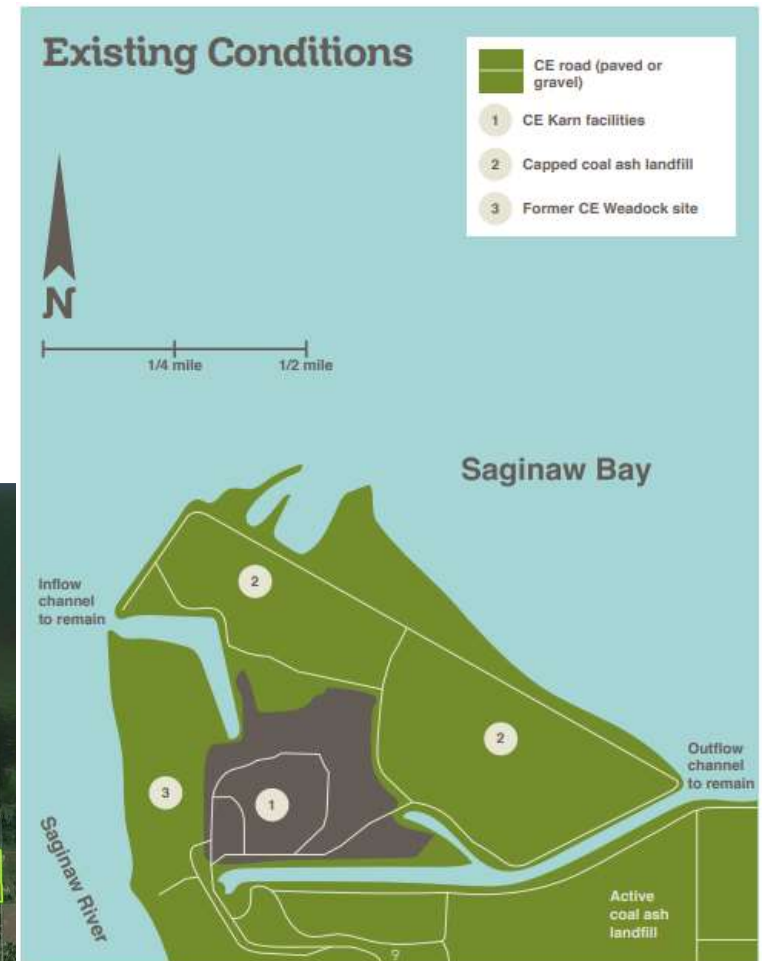
DAN E. KARN GENERATING PLANT

Existing Site & Infrastructure:

- Peaker plant will continue to operate until 2031.
- Active coal ash landfill remains on site.
- Capped coal ash landfills are part of future recreation plans.

SBLC Process:

- Community engagement meetings sought input and buy-in from local residents and leadership.
- Work was funded by the Mott Foundation and administered by ELPC.
- Consumers Energy was active in the meetings.



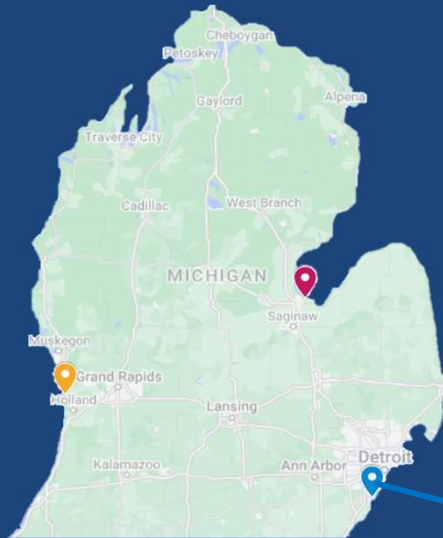
SBLC's Redevelopment Vision: "Where the River Meets the Bay"

- Development modeled on National Parks with smaller "parks with a park" linked via a trail and road network
- Each "park within a park" would have distinct elements
- Public access would unfold in stages, beginning asap
- Future Steps:
 - A sitewide infrastructure plan that maps out elements such as restrooms, water crossings, natural areas, shelters, play elements, trails and parks.
 - Community engagement must be a part of all future design processes.



Powerplants to Parklands + Renewable Energy

Trenton Channel Power Plant



Trenton, MI – Wayne County

Owned by: DTE Energy

Partner: University of Michigan

SEAS

- 458 acres
- Closed in 2022; demolition will continue through Q2 2025
- Greenway path construction could begin Q3 2025
- **Broke ground on 220 MW energy storage facility in June 2024.**

Trenton Channel Power Plant Site

DTE Vision for the Greenway Path

- The site including affiliated Sibley Quarry occupies 458 acres along the Detroit River. 225 acres is open fields, woods, and ponds.
- Smokestacks and boiler house were demolished in May and July 2024; Demo will continue through Q2 2025
- Greenway path construction could start Q3 2025

Trenton Power Plant Greenway Rendering



Trenton Channel Energy Center



DTE broke ground on June 10, 2024 for the 220MW battery energy storage facility, which will power 40k homes.

Mayor Steven Rzeppa, US Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-6th District), Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, and DTE Energy senior representatives.



Powin Energy will supply the 220 MW/880 MWh battery system, which will cost \$460 million; about \$140 million of that will be offset by tax incentives through the Inflation Reduction Act.