

# BROWN BRIDGE TRUST FUND

## BALLOT PROPOSALS

### BACKGROUND

The Brown Bridge Quiet Area is approximately 1310 acres of City-owned property located 11 miles southeast of Traverse City within the Boardman/Ottaway River Watershed. The City of Traverse City obtained the property in the early 1900s. The property was established as a natural area for quiet recreation by the City Commission in the 1970s.

### BROWN BRIDGE TRUST FUND

In the 1970s, oil was discovered on the property. As a result the City established the Brown Bridge Trust Fund.

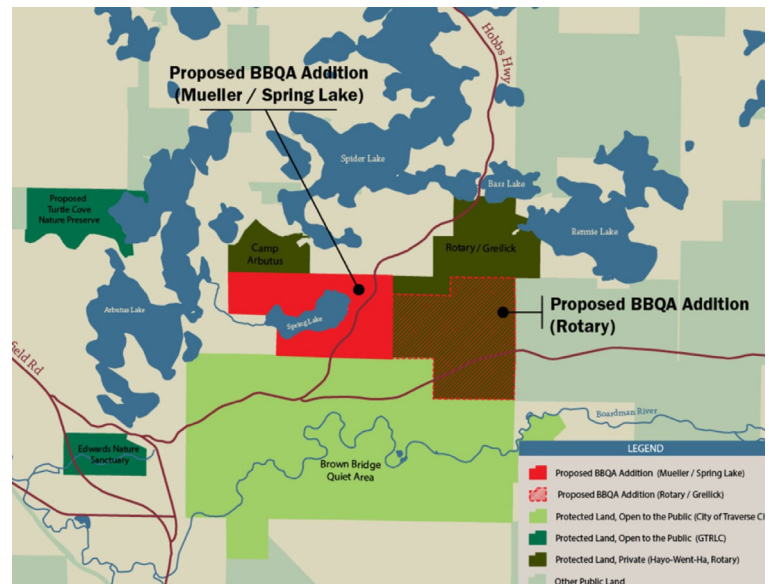
In 2019, a ballot proposal passed by 75.89% to allow the City Commission for a period of five years to use part of the Brown Bridge Trust Fund Principal that exceeds \$12,000,000 in a separate trust fund to be used for City park capital improvements and/or acquisition of property to be designated and used as City parklands.

### BROWN BRIDGE LAND ACQUISITION

In 2023, the City was presented the opportunity to acquire 528 acres of land adjacent to the Brown Bridge Quiet Area for \$3,098,445. The City Commission approved a resolution to apply for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant in the amount of \$2,352,200. If successful, the City Commission is asking City voters to approve using the principal from the Brown Bridge Trust Fund to match the grant in an amount not to exceed \$746,245, if it is awarded.

### PROCESS TO ACQUIRE LAND

- MDNR Land Acquisition Grant Application
- City Commission Adopts Ballot Language
- Ballot Language Submitted to Attorney General
- Ballot Proposals Go To Vote & Pass
- MNRTF Land Acquisition Awarded
- Land Acquired



### ABOUT BALLOT PROPOSALS

The grant match expenditure would require two proposals on the November 7, 2023 ballot.

**BALLOT QUESTION ONE:** The 2019 ballot proposal included a provision that funds could not be used in excess of \$250,000. Section 129 would need to be amended to delete the provision that no single allocation to a City park capital improvement or City parkland acquisition will be in excess of \$250,000.

**BALLOT QUESTION TWO:** The second ballot question would ask the public for permission to spend the principal from the Brown Bridge Trust Fund to match the grant in an amount not to exceed \$746,245.

Both ballot questions would need to pass in order to utilize the Brown Bridge Trust Fund. If these proposals were to fail in November, the grant application could be withdrawn.