



City of South Haven

PRESS RELEASE

City of South Haven

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Local Media

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MNRTF RECOMMENDS CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN FOR ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – (South Haven, Michigan) The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), announced at their December 5th Board of Trustees meeting in Lansing, that the City of South Haven has been recommended for a total of \$882,400 for both Acquisition and Development grants.

The City's application for "South Beach Park Extension" is the acquisition of four privately-owned parcels - 552, 556, 560, 568 - on the bluff on Monroe Boulevard. The recommended grant amount is \$665,000 for the total cost of the project of \$900,000.

The \$217,400 recommended development grant award is for the City's application "Van Buren Trail Connection Development." The Van Buren Trail Connection Development project will provide trail users with direct access to the City of South Haven's downtown, amenities, and connection to the Van Buren and Kal-Haven Trails, completing a trail route which will allow riders to travel from Kalamazoo to the Van Buren State Park and Lake Michigan. The total project cost is \$362,400.

The selection process is based on a rating system of which points are scored to meet certain criteria. The City's development application was scored high in the ranking - number 28 of 102 applicants. The MNRTF recommended all 22 acquisition applications for funding.

Mayor Bob Burr stated, "The MNRTF's recommendation of funding for the Van Buren Trail connection advances the City Council's goals of creating bicycle and pedestrian paths to increase economic viability for our community. This is one more example toward developing a healthy, vibrant, friendly environment throughout the city and surrounding townships."

The announcement of the City of South Haven as one of the recommended recipients was gratifying. "All of our hard work paid off."

In 2010, the City received an MNRTF grant for South Beach improvements in the amount of \$250,000.

The City will await confirmation from the MDNR after the Legislature approves the federal expenditures. After confirmation, city staff will begin the planning stages for construction.

For more information, contact Deb Davidson, DDA Director, 269-637-0748 or ddavidson@south-haven.com

The City's two applications can be found on the City's website.

South Beach Park Expansion: www.south-haven.com/pages/grants/monroe_blvd_2012.pdf

Van Buren Trail: www.south-haven.com/pages/grants/vanburen_trail_2012.pdf

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