

STATE SENATOR • JIM BARCIA • 31ST DISTRICT

# Barcia Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Sep 12, 2007

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## **SEN. BARCIA APPLAUDS \$1.37 MILLION FROM MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND**

*Monies to fund recreation and land acquisition projects*

LANSING- Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) today applauded the approval of a \$1,367,000 in Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant for projects in Bay, Arenac and Sanilac counties. Combined with local and other matching funds, the three projects total some \$2.4 million dollars.

Bay County will receive a total of \$1.1 million for the renovation of Bay City's Wenonah Park; Arenac County will receive a total of \$110,000 for acquisition of property to be used for a city/county recreation area; and Sanilac County will benefit from a \$1.225 million purchase of the Hyponex Wetlands property.

"This funding is great news for all three counties," Sen. Barcia said. "Not only do these projects create recreational and environmental benefits for the district, but they will ultimately provide jobs for area workers. This is a great investment and a boost to the quality of life for area residents."

In Bay County, the funding will support renovation of Bay City's Wenonah Park along the Saginaw River, which includes new seawall mooring facilities, new riverside promenade allowing closer access to the water, new paving, planters, and landscaping, and fishing access decks along the promenade.

The money will also fund the acquisition of 60 acres in Arenac County to be used for baseball softball, soccer, and walking trails for a joint City of Standish/Lincoln Township active recreation area.

The third project includes acquisition of the Hyponex Wetlands property. This 524 acre site, of which approximately 487 acres are natural wetlands, includes 150 acres of open water. The parcel is adjacent to a 200-acre mini-State Game area protecting many bird species, including waterfowl and songbirds.

The Michigan Constitution requires that the Michigan Trust Fund Board recommend projects to be funded from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. The projects are part of 61 recreation and land acquisition projects totaling more than \$36 million.

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*Sen. Barcia represents Senate District 31 that includes Arenac, Bay, Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties. He is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee where he serves as Minority Vice Chair of the State Police & Military Affairs and Higher Education subcommittee as well as on the Department of Community Health and the Department of Human Services subcommittees.*