



Proposed

## MARGARET AND LEWIS FLORMAN NATURE SANCTUARY

October 2025

Love the land. Pass it on. 

The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) has a unique opportunity to protect a new nature sanctuary along the coast of Lake Michigan, situated within a high-priority corridor for conservation. Thanks to the generosity of a conservation-minded landowner, the Conservancy can forever protect and care for this ecologically rich, 38-acre shoreline property at a fraction of its value, making this opportunity even more extraordinary.

The Onekama Township property features over 1,000 feet of undeveloped Lake Michigan shoreline and contains a diverse mix of habitats. It primarily consists of high-quality, coastal northern mesic hardwood forest, much of which is located on steep slopes, and rich conifer swamp and open wetlands fed by a perennial stream. A stretch of open dune habitat lines the lakeshore. With the entire property draining into Lake Michigan, these wetlands and forested slopes serve an important role in filtering runoff, reducing erosion and protecting the lake's water quality.

While ecological surveys are still needed, similar habitats are known to support a diverse array of native flora and fauna, including the federally and state-threatened Pitcher's (dune) thistle. The property also provides crucial rest and refueling sites within a vital coastal corridor for migratory birds, including warblers, shorebirds and raptors. On a recent site visit, GTRLC staff spotted three Bald Eagles.

Additionally, the proposed nature sanctuary serves as a critical link within a high-priority corridor for

protection. It connects the Lake Michigan coast to nearby forested areas and neighbors several existing protected areas. This includes the Portage Point Woods and Lucia K. Tower Preserves (protected by The Nature Conservancy), as well as Onekama Township's North Point Park and Portage Wetlands Park.

Although the landowner has generously agreed to donate this remarkable property, GTRLC must still raise funds to complete the land's acquisition and ensure its long-term stewardship.

### Your gift will:

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- **Help establish a new nature sanctuary within a high-priority conservation corridor.**
  - **Permanently safeguard over 1,000 feet of undeveloped Lake Michigan shoreline.**
  - **Preserve sensitive coastal habitat for diverse species, including migratory birds.**
  - **Support the long-term care and protection of this extraordinary place.**
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The total cost of this project is **\$2,088,762**.



### SUPPORT THIS PROJECT

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#### Contact:

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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.*

