



The Elberta Waterfront Community Conservation Project will receive \$1.75 million from the recently passed State Budget

We are celebrating a great local success story that combines **strong community support, smart state leadership, and lasting conservation impact** — right here in northern Michigan.

The recently passed **state budget includes \$1.75 million** to help purchase and protect **35 acres of Lake Michigan shoreline in the Village of Elberta**. The funding, championed by **State Senator Jon Bumstead**, will be matched by **private donations raised by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC)** to complete the *Elberta Waterfront Community Conservation Project*.

After visiting the property last spring, Senator Bumstead saw firsthand the **overwhelming community support**, the **millions in private funds already secured**, and the project's potential to drive **regional recreation and economic benefits**. He then led the effort to **reassign unused funds from the prior year's state budget** — aligning perfectly with the original intent to support public recreation and conservation.

Once completed, the project will:

- Permanently protect **578 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline** and **3,120 feet of Betsie Bay frontage**,
- Create a **new public waterfront park** and extend the **Betsie Valley Trail**, and
- Preserve Elberta's small-town character while encouraging sustainable community use.

It's an example of a local-state partnership delivering tangible results for Michigan's natural heritage.

"We're deeply grateful to Senator Bumstead for his leadership and for recognizing how important this project is to the community and to Michigan's Great Lakes," said **GTRLC Executive Director Glen Chown**. "This funding is a game changer that helps ensure Elberta's waterfront remains open, natural, and accessible to all."

Jennifer Jay

Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy

Director of Communications and Engagement



On behalf of the Village of Elberta, I want to extend our profound gratitude to Senator Bumstead for his advocacy in spearheading this vital effort. His commitment aligns with our community's vision and is instrumental in advancing a project that not only protects our cherished natural and cultural assets but also ensures their preservation for generations to come.

This initiative preserves the heart of Elberta—where stewardship, collaboration, and resilience define our path forward. **We are deeply thankful for the many residents, partners, and supporters whose voices and efforts have helped shape this endeavor.** Their dedication is a testament to the strength of our community and the shared belief that Elberta's future is worth investment.

Together, we are building something lasting, anchored in heritage, strengthened by partnership, and inspired by the promise of tomorrow.

Jennifer Wilkins, Village President