

In 2 peninsulas

State has many nature areas

Michigan's nature areas offer both wilderness adventure in northern forests and family fun amidst acres of native and exotic flowers, according to the Automobile Club of Michigan. They're an easy drive from most cities.

Vehicles are not allowed in the Sand Lakes Quiet Area, eight miles west of Kalkaska. Some 15 miles of pathways beckon hikers past more than a dozen small lakes buffered from civilization by hardwood and pine forests. Camping is available along the trail or at one organized facility.

Two nature areas pay tribute to Michigan's once plentiful tracts of white pine.

Hartwick Pines State Park near Grayling is a 9,000-acre wilderness preserve containing the largest stand virgin white pine in Lower Michigan. It also offers camping, an interpretive center and nature trails, including one for the blind.

At the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula in Upper Michigan, Estivant Pines near Copper Harbor holds 200 acres of virgin timber crossed by hiking trails and containing Michigan's tallest white pine.

THE SENEY National Wildlife Refuge is in the eastern U.P. This 96,000-acre wilderness tract offers a self-guided auto tour with close-up views of Canada geese, mink, ducks, deer and bald eagles.

Southern Lower Michigan's many garden and nature centers offer views of native flowers and animals as well as many tropical plant collections.

In the Irish Hills, Tilden Lake Gardens near Tipton has a plant conservatory for tropical and desert vegetation as well as five miles of trails over 620 acres. It is managed by Michigan State University.

Augusta is home of the famous Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, also managed by MSU. It features waterfowl display ponds and shelters along beautiful Gull Lake. The grounds were the former estate of cereal king W. K. Kellogg.

Near Ann Arbor, the University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Gardens has more than 700 plants and trees native to the state as well as some species from Africa and South America.

Began in 1899 by the founder of Dow Chemical Co., Midland's Dow Gardens contains more than 200 varieties of plants.

Saginaw's Green Point Nature Center is directly across the Tittabawassee River from the Shinwassee National Wildlife Refuge and has 2 1/4 miles of nature trails.

MICHIGAN'S CITIES also have set aside areas for nature lovers.

Detroit's Belle Isle Nature Center has displays of more than 100 animals and is known for its care of injured wildlife brought in by area residents.

Grand Rapids' Blandford Nature Center Has 180 acres of varied exhibits including a pioneer farmstead, one-room school and demonstration farm. A restored 1850s farm and a sub-tropical rain room are the focal points of Kalamazoo's Nature Center.

Sarett Nature Center in Benton Harbor has five miles of raised boardwalk trails through upland and lowland plant and animal communities.

Among the attractions at Lansing's Fenner Arboretum are the annual Maple Syrup Festival in early March and the Cider Making Festival in October.

Fernwood Nature Center near Niles boasts its "Moon Tree." The five-foot-tall sycamore in its nursery was grown from a seed carried to the moon aboard Apollo 14.

How to spend it?

OCC windfall: \$800,000

By Mike Scanlon
staff writer

Oakland Community College is grappling with an unusual school problem — how to spend \$800,000 the college didn't expect to have.

The college, anticipating voter approval of last May's Proposal A, trimmed its budget by \$800,000. Proposal A, rejected handily, would have imposed widespread property tax reductions and installed limits on future increases.

Trustee David Hackett of Rochester suggested at last week's board meeting that the windfall be used to reduce planned tuition increases, calling it a "PR move as much as anything else."

TUITION, \$16 a credit hour last year for district residents, rises to \$19.50 a credit hour this fall.

"I'd really like to see deflation in something," said Hackett, "even though technically we would not be decreasing it as much as we would just not be increasing it as much."

"It seems like a man bites dog type of story," Hackett suggested the money could also be used to increase pay for "traditional women's jobs" or to finance new college programs.

"The method we use to get a budget

doesn't involve the board an awful lot... This money, I'd like to see the board take an active part in dispensing," said Hackett.

"If we don't, I can see an astute union president saying they have that much more available. I'd just like to see a way to use that which, basically, cuts that out, for one thing."

EARL ANDERSON, board chairman, suggested the money be used for financial aid to students.

"In case any of our students have any trouble, we could give them more and keep them from falling out of our programs," said Anderson. "I don't think there's anything worse than starting on an education and not being able to finish it."

"It certainly doesn't make much sense to have a student drop out of school because they can't afford it when we can't afford to have them drop out," agreed Hackett.

COLLEGE PRESIDENT Robert Roelofs was less enthusiastic.

"Just because there's money in the budget doesn't obligate you to run out and try to find some place to get rid of it," said Roelofs.

After the meeting, he described \$450,000 of the funds as a carryover from last year's budget which should be retained as reserve working capital.

The college expects state aid to be reduced, probably before the end of the state fiscal year Oct. 1.

"In addition to that, they're almost certainly going to pass some kind of property tax (reduction) bill," said Roelofs. "It would certainly be nice to have something going into next year to cover that."

Administrators plan to present the board a revised budget later in the fiscal year. The added \$800,000 will be incorporated in that budget, he said.

However, Roelofs didn't comment on what plans administrators have for the money.

College boosts pay for non-union staff

Non-union administrators and support staff at Oakland Community College are in line for pay raises retroactive to July 1. Trustees approved the increases last week.

Administrators will receive increases averaging 7.9 percent, at a cost to the college of \$100,000 annually. Thirty-two administrators are affected. Administrator wage compensation previously cost the school \$1.3 million a year.

Support staff will receive raises averaging 8.7 percent annually, at a cost of \$84,000. Previously, compensation cost the school \$966,000 a year.

Forty-nine people belong to the support staff, defined as "junior administrators" by a college spokesman. They include computer programmers, assistants to administrators and labor relations specialists.

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SFA's Back-to-School Catalog... hot off the press! and filled with fashion for the fall term. Just a sampling, from Ruth Scharf: The Jog Hog: a corduroy bib jumper, with quilting and side ties, in red cotton and polyester. Underneath, the white cotton turtleneck. Find them in K.I.D.S. Collections—where we are all the things you are. A... is for Apple B... is for Back-to-School C... is for Children's Fashion Show Saturday, August 8th - 11:00 AM - SFA entrance to Somerset Mall, Troy Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coolidge, Troy

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