

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about *Project Boundaries* and *Land Acquisition* in the proposed Glacial Heritage Area project

This fact sheet is intended to answer common questions that landowners, residents, and local officials may have about Department of Natural Resources' project boundaries and potential land acquisition.

Land for the proposed GHA project would only be acquired from those landowners willing to sell or donate land or land rights.

Q: What is a Project Boundary and how does it affect landowners?

A: The project boundaries drawn for the proposed GHA project simply identify those areas within which the Department or a partner organization would like to purchase some land from *willing sellers* to create or expand a conservation park, wildlife or natural area, or river-based conservation area.

The establishment of a project boundary affects landowners within the boundary in one basic way – it provides the option to sell land to the Department at fair market value at some time in the future.

The Department, or partner organizations, would only make an offer to purchase land if:

- the landowner is interested in selling land,
- acquisition funds are available, *and*
- the land will help meet the goals of the proposed recreation or conservation area.

No one is under any obligation to sell land, nor does the creation or expansion of a project boundary subject land to any new restrictions or regulations.

Owning property within a project boundary simply provides landowners (and future owners) the possibility to sell land at fair market value to the Department or other partner groups as part of the GHA project. Fair market value would be determined by an independent appraisal.

What is the GHA ?

The proposed Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) would link parks, preserves, wildlife and natural areas, and other conservation lands to nearby cities and villages with different types of trails. This **network of "strings and pearls"** is intended to provide readily accessible opportunities for residents and visitors to get outdoors and participate in hiking, biking, wildlife watching, fishing, paddling, hunting, horseback riding, camping, and other nature-based activities.

The existing collection of parks, boat landings, wildlife and natural areas, and trails forms the foundation of the GHA. Some strategic expansions and additions are needed to create a more useable network; thus the groups helping to implement the project would need to acquire land through donation, purchase, or a combination of both, from willing sellers.

Q: How were the Project Boundaries drawn?

A: The project boundaries were drawn as part of the "Feasibility Study" assessing whether it is practicable for the Department and its partners to establish, acquire, develop, and manage properties for the Glacial Heritage Area project. The study takes into account the area's physical and biological environment and its capabilities, the views of the public, and the availability of funding and staffing to successfully accomplish the purposes of the proposed project. The Department is leading the study in cooperation with Jefferson County and a group of citizens representing local units of governments and recreation, conservation, and economic interests.



