

EXECUTIVE DIGEST

PUBLIC RECREATION ACCESS PROGRAMS

INTRODUCTION	This report, issued in August 1998, contains the results of our performance audit* of the Public Recreation Access Programs, Department of Natural Resources (DNR).
AUDIT PURPOSE	This performance audit was conducted as part of the constitutional responsibility of the Office of the Auditor General. Performance audits are conducted on a priority basis related to the potential for improving effectiveness* and efficiency*.
BACKGROUND	DNR is responsible for managing various programs that offer public recreational access to Michigan residents and visitors. The most expansive of these is the State forest program, which consists of approximately 3.9 million acres of forests that offer various types of recreational opportunities. DNR's 96 State parks and recreation areas; various trails; Great Lakes marinas; and boating, hunting, and fishing access sites offer additional public recreational opportunities.
AUDIT OBJECTIVE AND CONCLUSION	<p>Audit Objective: To determine if DNR was effective in ensuring public access to meet public interest.</p> <p>Conclusion: DNR was generally effective in ensuring public access to meet public interest. Although we found no material conditions*, we identified two reportable</p>

conditions* related to stakeholder* surveys and public access publications.

**AUDIT SCOPE AND
METHODOLOGY**

Our audit scope was to examine the program and other records of the Department of Natural Resources' public recreation access programs. Our audit was conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and, accordingly, included such tests of the records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

Our methodology included examining program records and activities for the period October 1, 1995 through April 30, 1998.

To accomplish our objective, we obtained an understanding of DNR's public recreation access programs by conducting a preliminary survey. We reviewed data on public interest to determine if it was current and whether DNR used it for making public recreation access need projections. Also, we compared various information to determine the consistency of data used.

We analyzed public access property acquisitions to determine if they were consistent with established priorities. Also, we determined if DNR was effective in acquiring public access properties. In addition, we reviewed property acquisition planning to determine that plans include site development and maintenance.

AGENCY RESPONSES

Our audit report includes 2 findings and 3 corresponding recommendations. DNR agreed with all 3 recommendations.