

Michigan DNR Land Sales Rules and Regulations

1. Registration

Registration will begin 30 minutes before the stated start time unless otherwise noted. No bids will be accepted unless the bidder has registered and received a pre-numbered bid card. A Driver's license, passport, or other state issued I.D. must be presented in order to receive a bid card.

2. Properties Offered

A. Overview

The parcels on the attached list have been approved by the State of Michigan (the "State") for sale at public auction and are individually identified by a sale unit number. The State reserves the right to pull parcels from the sale at any time prior to the auction.

These properties are subject to any state, county, or local zoning or building ordinances. The State of Michigan does not guarantee the usability or access to any of these lands. The properties are sold based upon their LEGAL DESCRIPTION ONLY (Subdivision name and Lot number, or Metes and Bounds measured description). While effort has been made to ensure that the addresses, parcel sizes, maps, and/or photos are accurate, you are relying on your own investigation and information when purchasing this property. All parcels are sold "as is where is" and there are NO REFUNDS.

B. Know What You Are Buying

It is the **responsibility of the prospective purchaser to DO HIS OR HER OWN RESEARCH** as to the suitability of any offered property for any intended purpose. The State makes no warranty, guaranty or representation concerning, but not limited to, the merchantability of title, boundary lines, location of improvements, easements or right to access by public street, utility presence or location, or any other physical, structural, or legal condition.

Prospective buyers should, prior to the auction, **personally visit and inspect any offered property** they wish to purchase. However, prior to purchase at the auction, **STRUCTURES MAY NOT BE ENTERED** without the **WRITTEN PERMISSION** of the State. Some structures may be occupied and occupants should not be disturbed.

C. Reservations

Pursuant to state statutes, deeds issued may contain the following reservations and stipulations:

- *"Excepting and reserving to the State of Michigan, all aboriginal antiquities including mounds, earthworks, forts, burial and village sites, mines or other relics and also reserving the right to explore and excavate for the same, by and through its duly authorized agents and employees, pursuant to the provisions of Part 761, Aboriginal Records and Antiquities, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended."*
- *"Saving and reserving unto the People of the State of Michigan the rights of ingress and egress over and across all of the above-mentioned descriptions of land lying along any watercourse or stream, pursuant to the provisions of Part 5, Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended."*

Additionally, the State may, in its discretion, reserve the mineral rights to offered property as follows:

- *"Saving and excepting and always reserving unto the said State of Michigan, all mineral, coal, oil and gas, lying and being on, within or under the said lands whereby conveyed, except sand, gravel, clay or other nonmetallic minerals with full and free liberty and power to the said State of Michigan, its duly authorized officers, representatives and assigns, and its or their lessees, agents and workmen, and all other persons by its or their authority or permission, whether already given or hereafter to be given at any time and from time to time, to enter upon said lands and take all usual, necessary, or convenient means for exploring, mining, working, piping, getting, laying up, storing, dressing, make merchantable, and taking away the said mineral, coal, oil and gas, except sand, gravel, clay or other nonmetallic minerals."*

If the State does not reserve mineral rights as described above, the State may nonetheless restrict the severance of mineral rights from offered property as follows:

- *"This conveyance hereby restricts the Grantee from severing oil, gas, mineral and other subsurface rights from the surface rights any time in the future. If the Grantee severs the subsurface rights from the surface rights, the subsurface rights will revert to the State of Michigan."*

3. Bidding

A. Overview

Generally, each sale unit will be offered separately and in the order appearing on the attached list. Sales are typically conducted both online and live on-site, simultaneously. The sale will be awarded to the individual bidding the highest amount equal to or greater than the starting bid by either method. Typically, the auctioneer will make available a list of parcels prior-to-sale and will provide an opportunity for on-site bidders to designate "parcels of interest" prior to the start of the sale. The auctioneer may skip over those parcels upon which no party has placed an online bid or designated as a parcel of interest prior to the start of the sale. **Parcels that do not have online bids and that have not been designated as parcels of interest prior to the start of the sale and in the manner prescribed by the auctioneer are not guaranteed to be offered.** The auctioneer, in their sole discretion, may offer a second request round of unsold parcels after the first round of bidding has been completed. Such second request round will be available to those online and on-site bidders as may be in attendance at that time.

B. Starting Bid Price

The starting bid prices are shown on the list included in the sale book. At auctions with a minimum bid, no sales can be made for less than the starting price indicated. The starting bid for no minimum bid sales will be at the discretion of the State or auctioneer.

C. Bid Increments

Bids will **only** be accepted in the following increments:

| <u>Bid Amount</u> | <u>Increment</u> |
|-------------------|------------------|
| \$100 to \$999 | \$ 50.00 |
| \$1000 to \$9999 | \$ 100.00 |
| Over \$10,000 | \$ 250.00 |

Floor bidders **MUST** bid in the same increments as online and absentee bidders. **We will not accept irregular bid increments** in fairness to online and absentee bidders.

D. Eligible Bidders

Any registered person may bid on the properties offered. Any person unable to attend the sale can be represented at the sale by an agent or other representative with authority to bid and otherwise represent the person. **The registered bidder is legally and financially responsible for all parcels bid upon whether acting on their own behalf or as the agent of another.**

E. Absentee Bidding

Absentee bids will be accepted in increments up to the amount that you pre-approve. Absentee bids require a \$1,000 pre-authorization on a major credit card or a \$1,000 deposit before the bid will be accepted. Absentee bids must be submitted 48 hours prior to the date of the auction by calling 1-800-259-7470. An absentee bid form is also available on www.tax-sale.info.

F. Online Bidding

On-line bidding will be available on the day of the auction at www.tax-sale.info.

G. Bids are Binding

An oral bid accepted at public auction is a legal and binding contract to purchase. No sealed bids will be accepted and the State reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

H. Attempts to Bypass These Rules and Regulations

The State and the auctioneer reserve the right to reject the bids of any bidder who appears to be acting on behalf of another person who is ineligible to bid on their own.

4. Terms of Sale

A. Payment

- **Live On-Site Bidders**
 - **The full purchase price must be paid in full on the day of the sale, within half an hour of the end of the Auction.** No purchases can be made on a time-payment plan.
 - **No cash will be accepted!**
 - **THE FIRST \$5,000 OF THE PURCHASE PRICE MUST BE PAID IN CERTIFIED FUNDS!** This \$5,000 will only be needed if you are successful as the winning bidder on a parcel. The balance may be paid by certified check, personal check, money order, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover.
- **Online & Absentee Bidders**
 - **The full purchase price must be paid in full WITHIN 5 DAYS OF THE SALE.** Payment may be made by certified funds, money order, Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or wire transfer. No purchases can be made on a time-payment plan.
 - Online and absentee bidding require a \$1,000 pre-authorization on a major credit card or a \$1,000 deposit before any bids will be accepted. Buyer's failure to consummate an online or absentee purchase will result in the forfeiture of this \$1,000.

The full purchase price consists of the final bid price *plus* a buyer's premium of 10% of the bid price and a \$10.00 deed-processing fee. **Any portion of the purchase price paid by credit card will be assessed an additional fee of 2.75%.**

B. Dishonored Payment

Any buyer whose payment is DISHONORED FOR ANY REASON will forfeit the purchase price up to the required **certified funds deposit made to the State. The State may prosecute any buyer who bounces a check or fails to consummate a purchase.**

Any buyer who fails to consummate a purchase will be banned from bidding at all future land auctions. The venue for litigation or arbitration resulting from any disputes or matters involving or arising out of bidding or purchases, whether online or on-site, shall be fixed as Kalamazoo County in the State of Michigan.

The buyer's premium is not subject to any broker fees. There are no co-brokerage or other fees or rebates available.

C. Cancellation Policy

The State reserves the right **TO CANCEL ANY SALE, AT ANY TIME, FOR ANY REASON** prior to the issuance of the deed.

D. Property Transfer Affidavit

It is the responsibility of the buyer to file a **Property Transfer Affidavit** with the *Assessor for the city or township* where the property is located **within 45 days of the transfer**. If it is not timely filed, **a penalty of \$5/day (maximum \$200) applies**. The information on this Property Transfer Affidavit is NOT CONFIDENTIAL.

5. Purchase Receipts

Successful bidders at the sale will be issued a receipt for their purchases upon payment. This receipt does not convey an interest in title to the purchased property unless and until a deed has been issued and recorded. Buyers will be entitled to deeds for the property descriptions identified by the sale unit numbers noted on the receipt unless the sale is cancelled under these Rules and Regulations or other statutory authority.

6. Title Being Conveyed

Quit-claim deeds will be issued conveying **only such title as possessed by the State at the time of sale**. Title insurance companies may or may not issue title insurance on properties purchased at this sale. The State makes no representation as to the availability of title insurance and the **unavailability of title insurance is not grounds for reconveyance to the State**. The purchaser may incur legal costs for Quiet Title Action to satisfy the requirements of title insurance companies in order to obtain title insurance.

7. Special Assessments

Parcels sold are subject to property taxes that become due and payable on or after the day of auction, as well as current and future installments of any outstanding bonded assessments. All bidders should contact the appropriate city, village, or township offices to determine if there are any outstanding bonded assessments for future tax years on the properties being offered.

8. Possession of Property

A. Possession Pending Deed Delivery

It is recommended that the buyer DOES NOT take physical possession of any purchased property until a deed has been executed and delivered to the buyer. The buyer risks financial loss for any improvements or investments made on purchased property *before the delivery of a deed* in the event that the State exercises its right to cancel the sale. Until the buyer receives a deed, no activities should be conducted on the site other than:

I. Securing the Property

Buyer should take steps to protect their equity in purchased property **by securing vacant structures against entry and obtaining (homeowners) insurance for occupied property**. Buyer is responsible for contacting local units of government **to prevent possible demolition of structures situated on purchased property**.

II. Assessing Potential Contamination

Buyer may immediately wish to conduct a Baseline Environmental Assessment (BEA) to assess the condition of potentially contaminated properties. More information about BEAs can be found at http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3311_4109_4212---,00.html

B. Occupied Property

Buyers will be responsible for all procedures and legal requirements for conducting evictions. Occupants of purchased property should be treated as tenants holding over under an expired lease. This means that legal eviction and/or possession proceedings will be necessary to effectuate control over such property.

9. Conditions

The purchaser accepts the premises in its present "as is" condition, and releases the State and employees and agents from all liability whatsoever arising from any condition of the premises, whether now known or subsequently discovered, including but not limited to all claims based on environmental contamination of the premises.

A person who acquires property that is contaminated (a "facility" pursuant to Section 20201(1)(1) of Natural Resources and Environmental Act (NREPA), 1994 P.A. 451, as amended) as a result of release(s) of a hazardous substance(s) may become liable for all costs of cleaning up the property and any other properties impacted by the release(s). Liability may be imposed upon the person acquiring the property even in the absence of any personal responsibility for, or knowledge of, the release. Protection from such liability may be obtained by conducting a Baseline Environmental Assessment (BEA) as provided for under Section 20126(1) (c) of NREPA. However, the BEA must be conducted prior to or within 45 days of the earliest date of purchase or occupancy of the property. Persons who acquire contaminated property may have "due care" obligations under Section 20107a of

NREPA even if they conduct a BEA and are not liable for the contamination.

Pursuant to part 201 of NREPA, the person(s) responsible for an activity causing a release at the property is obligated to pursue response activities at the property. Consequently, the non-labile purchaser may be required to provide access to the liable party to conduct response activities at the property in the future. Section 20116 of the NREPA requires that a person who has knowledge that their property is contaminated provide a written notice to the purchaser or other person to whom the property is transferred which discloses the general nature and extent of the release. Additional disclosure obligations may also apply at the time the property, or an interest in the property, is transferred. Accordingly, the State recommends that a person who is interested in acquiring surplus County property contact an attorney or an environmental consultant for advice prior to the acquisition of any surplus County property that may be contaminated.

10. Deeds

All monies collected will remain in escrow for a period not to exceed 20 days. Once payment is cleared and verified, funds will be disbursed to the State and deeds will be executed and recorded as required by law. The State will deliver the deeds to the Register of Deeds for recording and remit them to the buyer after recording is complete. IT CAN TAKE 6 TO 8 WEEKS FOR DEEDS TO ARRIVE. PLEASE BE PATIENT.

11. Property Taxes & Other Fees

All property taxes that become due and payable on or after the day of auction will be the responsibility of the buyer. The **buyer is responsible for all other fees and liens that accrue against the property on or after the day of the auction.** These items include, but are not limited to municipal utility or ordinance fees and condo or property owner association fees or dues. This can also include demolition and other nuisance abatement costs. These fees and expenses **are not collected at the auction** and must be paid by the buyer after taking title to any purchased property which is subject to such fees and expenses.

12. Other

A. Personal Property

Personal property (*items not attached to buildings and lands such as furnishings, automobiles, etc.*) located on offered property or within structures situated on offered property does not belong to the State and is not sold to the buyer of the real estate in this transaction. You are advised to contact former owners of any purchased property and provide them an opportunity to reclaim contents. A certified and first class mail notice to their last known address is strongly advised.

Mobile Homes may be titled separately and considered *personal property*. It is the buyer's responsibility to determine if an Affidavit of Affixture of Manufactured Home has been executed and recorded as outlined in MCL 125.2330i.

B. Applicability of These Rules and Regulations

All sales are subject to these Rules and Regulations, all terms and conditions printed in sale booklets, posted at the physical sale location, online at <http://www.tax-sale.info>, and made verbally at the location of sale on the day of the auction. Furthermore, additional Terms of Sale are included on the printed auction receipt given to the buyer at the time of checkout. In the event of a conflict between these Rules and Regulations and the Terms of Sale printed on the auction receipt, those Terms of Sale on the auction receipt shall be controlling.

These Rules and Regulations are subject to change at any time and should be reviewed frequently.

NOTE: Please review the terms at the top of each online catalog and the addendum pages in the printable sale books for sale-specific purchase terms. Failure to follow the specific rules posted for each sale could result in a cancellation of the sale and the retention of part or all of the purchase proceeds by the State.