

Annual Report 2007-08: Today and Forever

Congratulations! Thanks to you, our community can celebrate another successful year of protecting nature and farmland, here where you live. Our local landscapes inspire, nourish, and sustain us. They enhance our quality of life and make this a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

In 2007-2008, your Land Trust:

- Protected 1,116 additional acres of land, leading all local organizations in acres protected for the second year running. Since 1971, the Land Trust has protected 3,698 acres of natural and agricultural lands in Washtenaw, Jackson, and Ingham counties. (For details on lands protected in 2007-2008, please see pages 4-5.)
- Launched the Land Trust's Forever Fund for longterm stewardship and defense of protected lands, so lands protected today will stay protected forever.
- Expanded our partnerships with like-minded organizations to identify and protect our most important local lands.
- Led nature walks, workshops, and stewardship workdays at the Land Trust's nature preserves, which are open to the public.
- Continued to identify critical properties for protection and prioritize our landowner outreach efforts.

This is solid progress toward the Land Trust's 100 Year Vision to protect 25,000 acres of our most important local lands. **Thank you** for doing your part to make it all happen.

In the year ahead, the Land Trust will step up the pace by refining our search for those critical parcels, contacting the owners of those lands, and protecting that land whenever we can. Our top local conservation priorities are:

- The gaps in the Waterloo-Pinckney natural corridor, the largest block of public protected land in southern Michigan
- Working farmland in southwest Washtenaw County, where active agriculture can survive and thrive
- Our local waters: river corridors, lakes, wetlands, and streams.

Your gifts — of time, dollars, enthusiasm, and more — are truly making a difference to protect local lands for all time. **Thank you**.



Protected forever: This rolling landscape on the River Raisin is one of seventeen projects completed by the Washtenaw Land Trust in 2007-2008. See pages 4-5 for more information about completed projects.

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OUR MISSION: Washtenaw Land Trust protects natural areas and farmland, here where you live.

Country

By Susan Lackey WLT Executive Director



Annual Report allows a satisfying look back, and we certainly do that. But we take that look with humility, because we know that the Land Trust's success comes only **due to your** commitment to local lands, and also, that much work remains to be done.

Our goal is to protect land, but the successes highlighted in this report mark only the midpoint of a complex process that starts with landowner outreach and ends with a permanent commitment to monitor and defend the conservation agreements we accept. Much of our time focuses on the two end points, and 2007-2008 was no exception. In 2007-2008, we:

- Began to move forward on our promise to protect 25,000 acres of the most important lands in the area. Working with Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Huron River Watershed Council, Washtenaw County Planning and Environment, and a host of other partners, we are identifying the lands that are most important to the health of our water, the sustainability of our agricultural community, and the retention of wildlife habitat and open spaces.
- Inaugurated our Forever Fund, for stewardship and defense of our conservation agreements in perpetuity. We know that the question of legal defense is not if, but when, and we intend to be prepared.
- Became one of the first 23 land trusts in the nation selected to pursue accreditation. In the fall we'll hear a final decision from the national Land Trust Alliance accreditation committee.
- Co-hosted our first landowner education programs in Jackson County. The excellent turnout and subsequent interest from landowners prompted the Board to formally include all of Jackson County as part of our service area. We're excited about this, and we look forward to getting to know the land and its people better.
- Brought a part time Stewardship Manager on board to help with annual monitoring and with management plans for five preserves, as well as a part time work-study student to assist in volunteer coordination and communication activities.
- Expanded our volunteer base (thank you, all!) to ensure that we can accomplish all the work we've taken on.

Thank you to all of you who donated land or conservation agreements, volunteered your time, gave generous financial gifts, or just stopped to say "good job." The Land Trust's work happens only thanks to all of you.

Notes From The Land

Conservation Incentives Extended!

Powerful tax incentives for land conservation have been renewed through 2009. The incentives make conservation a financially viable option for many more landowners who wish to protect their forests, fields, and wetlands for future generations. To learn more, please contact us at 734-302-5263 or info@washtenawlandtrust.org.

What's in a Name?

For the most recent decade of its 37-year history, the Land Trust has protected some lands outside Washtenaw County. Recently, our increased work beyond Washtenaw has forced us to ask the question: is it time for another name change? This summer and fall, we're looking at how people perceive our work, and how we can make our conservation message more compelling across all the lands we serve. The James A. & Faith Knight Foundation has generously supported this effort. Thank you to everyone who responded to our online survey. We look forward to sharing the results!

Your Land Trust Leadership, 2007-2008

The Land Trust is led by the Board of Trustees, a group of volunteers committed to protecting local lands. Please join us in thanking: Guy O. Williams (President), Phil Surratt (Vice President), Janet Crone (Treasurer), James W. Govert (Secre-

tary), James C. Adams, Rosanne Bloomer, Gavin Clabaugh, Peter H. DeLoof, Rob Ewing, Robert R. Helber, Sr., Carol Peacock, Charity W. Steere, Robert Tetens, and Rocky Ward. We welcome Scott Simonds to the Board of Trustees as of July 2008. Board fellows Laura Kamin**ski** (2007) and **Hugh Johnson** (2008) also serve and merit our thanks as well.

Meet your Land Trust Staff

The folks you may encounter in the Land Trust office, ready and willing to answer your conservation questions, are:

- Susan Lackey, Executive Director, leads the organization with aplomb and is always prepared to talk with you about conservation options and strategies.
- Suzie Heiney, Development & Communications Director, comes your calls or visits (and would also welcome a break from writing all those grants, letters, and newsletters!).
- Mark Patrick, Land & Operations Manager, is just as good with the ins-and-outs of conservation options as he is with bookkeeping and the other necessities of operations management.
- **Jackie Bilello**, Stewardship Intern for summer 2008, is probably out on someone's back forty for an annual monitoring visit to one of the Land Trust's many protected sites.

If you're in the area of our NEW Center office, please swing by!

the washtenaw land tru

Washtenaw Land Trust

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Washtenaw Land Trust Board of Trustees: James C. Adams, Rosanne Bloomer, Gavin Clabaugh, Janet Crone, Peter H. DeLoof, Rob Ewing, James W. Govert, Robert R. Helber, Carol Peacock, Scott Simonds, Charity W. Steere, Phil Surratt, Robert Tetens, Rocky Ward, Guy O. Williams

Washtenaw Land Trust Staff: Susan A. Lackey, Suzie Heiney, Mark Patrick, Jackie Bilello

Editor: Suzie Heiney



a member of Earth Share

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You're Invited

Rancho Tranquilico Concert Series - and Bonfire!

Saturday Sep. 6, 7:00 pm: Billy King and the Idylls. Come out to the

countryside! This award-winning indie-folk band will have you dancing in no time. Summer's concert was great, and this Sept. 6 will be the last for the season. You don't want to miss it! We'll bring refreshments and marshmallows for toasting on the bonfire. Bring your blankets or lawn chairs. Location: Rancho Tranquilico, home of host



Barry Lonik, 11300 Island Lake Rd, Dexter. Suggested donation: \$10. All proceeds benefit the Land Trust's Forever Fund: Protecting nature and farmland - forever.

Save the date! Land Protection Bus Tour • Saturday Oct. 18

The Latest News from the Field

The past few months have been busy, with conservation Q&A sessions, annual site visits to protected properties, volunteer workdays at the nature preserves, lots of community events, and more. Thank you to everyone who attended recent activities — we're glad you could join us! If you couldn't make it, here are some recent highlights:



This spring, our wildflower workshops (in partnership with the Stewardship Network) were at maximum capacity.

'Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers, especially Campbell & Fran Laird, the lovely bridge at the Land Trust's Beckwith Conservancy is now finished! We celebrated a grand re-opening earlier this year. You're welcome to visit this nature preserve anytime. For a map, visit www.washtenawlandtrust. org or call 734-302-5263.



Got email?

Sign up for our monthly email list! Stay current on all the latest Land Trust news and events. Call 734-302-5263 or email Mark at mark@washtenawlandtrust.org.



Across the Board

By Guy Williams WLT President



What a great year — or should I say, an-other great year here at the Washtenaw Land Trust. My first order of business is to thank all of you who have made it so. For the second year in a row we have broken our record for number of acres protected while continuing to build our capacity for caring for those acres already entrusted to our care.

Your unprecedented support has helped us begin to refine and build on our strengths and at the same time, build our reserves for long-term protection. It is such a pleasure to be able to use this annual report as a forum for reflection and expressions of gratitude.

My hope is that each of you who are loyal enough to be reading this message will be inspired to continue spreading the word about the importance of prompt action around the preservation of our farmland and natural areas.

Looking back and counting the number of acres protected so far is fun, and we all deserve plenty of it. At the same time, it is very sobering to recognize how much more work there is to be done.

Here at the Land Trust we have articulated a very bold vision for the future. A vision that entails protecting 25,000 acres! This is a vision rooted in solid analysis of the opportunities and the needs for preserving the land and lifestyle that accompanies the land in our area.

We need to double or even triple our pace if we are to succeed. These next four years are the most important for keeping the momentum going in the farmland and natural areas alike. To that end, you can expect us not to rest on our laurels. Instead, we are developing innovative partnerships, increasing our operating effectiveness and efficiencies while boosting our outreach and public education impact.

Please take a moment or two to read through our report and let the stories inform and inspire you to do just a little bit more this coming year than you did last year. That's what I plan to do. Perhaps if all of us take that approach we will make it to that amazing goal after all.

By the Numbers

3,698	total acres protected by the Washtenaw
	Land Trust

- 1,116 acres protected during 2007-2008
- 3,019 acres protected in Washtenaw County (plus a handful of acres in Livingston)
 - 337 acres protected in Jackson County
 - 191 acres protected in Ingham County
 - 46 large garbage bags full of invasive garlic mustard plants removed from Land Trust nature preserves by volunteers
 - 1 muckboot nearly lost by Suzie at Marigold Marsh farm (Note to Suzie: Consider tighter-fitting boots)
 - 29 information packets mailed to property owners interested in land protection this year
 - volunteers who helped at nature preserves, acted as "Green Team Ambassadors", assisted with mailings, and more
 - threatened and endangered species protected
 - celebratory cannon-fire to officially open the new bridge at the Beckwith Conservancy
 - 21 species of wildflowers seen at the Land Trust's Reichert conservation site during the spring wildflower identification workshop
 - press conference at the historic Geddes farm to kick off Michigan Conservation Week and announce newly proposed bi-partisan conservation legislation

\$12.4 dollars worth of land protected million in 2007-2008

\$600,000 spent by the Land Trust to protect that land — that's a ratio of more than 20-to-1!

The Top 23 Reasons to Save Land

There are many reasons to save local nature ▲ spots, farmland, and open spaces. Here are some we've heard from members and friends.

Natural beauty

Biodiversity

Clean air

Wildlife habitat

Keep the agricultural economy strong

Clean water

Recreation

Enjoyment

Local food

Scenic views

Hunting

Hiking

Endangered species habitat

Connected nature corridors

For future generations

Rural bicycling

Interconnectedness of all life

Rural roads and lands for horseback riding

Guide appropriate development

Connection to the earth

Farming heritage

Native Michigan flowers and trees

Keep cities and villages vibrant

What's your top reason? Do you have any other ideas to add to the mix? Call 734-302-5263 or email suzie@washtenawlandtrust.org with your ideas, and we'll add them to the list!

Wishlist

You may be able to grant the Land Trust's wishes! If you can help with any of the items below, please contact Suzie Heiney at 734-302-LAND (5263) or suzie@washtenawlandtrust.org. *Thank you!*

- Copy paper (recycled preferred)
- Postage stamps (first class and postcard rate)
- .5 inch or 1 inch paint brushes for painting trailmarkers
- White paint
- Funding for a computer server upgrade
- GPS unit for monitoring



www.washtenawlandtrust.org info@washtenawlandtrust.org

Washtenaw Land Trust 2007-2008 Financial Report

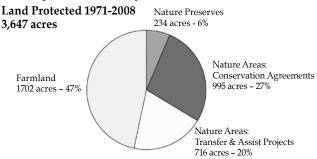
This report covers the eighteen months from January 1, 2007-June 30, 2008. This marks the Land Trust's transition period from a January-December fiscal year to a July-June fiscal year. July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008 represents the first year on the new fiscal calendar.

Land Projects Completed, in Acres	Jan 2007- June 2008	Total
Nature Preserves	95	234
Natural Areas: Conservation Agreeme	ents 477	995
Natural Areas: Transfer and Assist Pro	ojects 186	690
Farmland	358	1,702
Total Land Protected	1,116	3,647



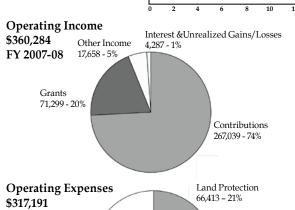
	- Jun 2007 Fiscal Year)	Jul 2007-Jun 2008 (12 month Fiscal Year)			
	Operating Income/Expense Income				
Contributions	66,3772	67,039			
Grants	10,000	71,299			
Events	2,016	0			
Interest & Dividends Income	7,815	9,239			
Unrealized investment gain/lo	ss 2,926	-4,951			
Other Income	20	17,658			
Total Operating Income	89,154	360,284			
Expense					
Education & Outreach	10,638	13,570			
Land Protection	21,051	66,413			
Fundraising	389	6,785			
Management & Shared	24,170	46,084			
Personnel	84,588	184,339			
Total Expense	140,836	317,191			
Net Operating Income	-51,682	43,094			
Other Income/Expense					
Other Income					
Land Protection Campaign	81,670	9,131			
Designated Funds	3,648	4,795			
Forever Fund	0	34,400			
Donated Land	0	4,614,000			
Total Other Income	85,318	4,662,326			
Other Expense					
Payments on Land Projects	10,000	151,250			
Total Other Expense	10,000	151,250			
Net Other Income	75,318	4,511,076			
Net Income	23,636	4,554,169			

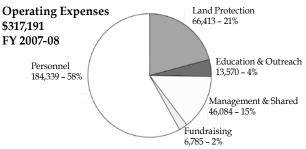
Statement of Net Assets	Jan-Jun 2007 (6 month Fiscal Year)	Jul 2007-Jun 2008 (12 month Fiscal Year)
Assets		
Current Assets	429,535	333,968
Endowment	38,335	36,102
Forever Fund	11,074	44,000
Nature Preserves & Land	d Rights 719,184	5,333,184
Total Assets	1,198,128	5,747,254
Liabilities & Net Assets		
Liabilities	5,054	_
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	226,578	4,852,807
Temporarily Restrict	ed 214,968	142,919
Permanently Restric	ted 751,528	751,528
Total Liabilities & Net As	sets 1,198,128	5,747,254











Land Preservation by "Preserve Washtenaw" Groups					
Agency	Acres protected prior to 2007	Acres protected in 2007	Total		
Ann Arbor Township	148	153	301		
City of Ann Arbor Gree	enbelt 636	119	755		
Washtenaw County Par	ks & Rec. 980	99	1,079		
Pittsfield Township	838	223	1,061		
Raisin Valley Land Trus	st 150		150		
Scio Township		79	79		
Southeast Mi. Land Con	servancy 1,974	443	2,417		
Washtenaw Land Trus	t 2,531	1,088	3,619		
Total Acres Protected	6,045	1,720	7,765		

Note: The details by agency do not match the overall total because for partnership projects, acres are listed for all partners, whereas for the total, acres are counted only once. Also, the agency details include an organization's entire service area, whereas the total is Washtenaw County only.

2007-2008 financial data is unaudited. Prior years' audited financial statements are available at www.washtenawlandtrust.org or by contacting the Land Trust office. Audited statements for 2007-2008 will be available in fall 2008.

Protecting Nature & Farmland, Here



Mill Creek Fen, 123 acres

This globally rare fen habitat, home to several threatened and endangered species, is protected thanks to a partnership between the Land Trust, the owner, Defenders of Wildlife, Nature Conservancy, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and Michigan Natural Features Inventory.



Lee and Jane James Conservation Agreement, 160 acres

These woods, wetlands, and fields were protected by Lee and Jane James, with the Henrietta Conservation and Recreation Conservancy and the Land Trust. "We've always been concerned about having enough farmland for food for the future generations." - Jane James (Ingham County)



Wenk Family Conservation Agreement, 41 acres

The meadows, woods, and wetlands of this Freedom Township site will now be protected for the future. "This allows me to keep a part of the family land that has been in the family for almost 150 years." - Bill Wenk



Hand Family Conservation Agreement, 85 acres

This idyllic property on Jackson County's Bibbins Lake was protected by the Hand family in memory of Nancy Hand. "There could be no better memorial for her legacy than to protect the land she loved." - John Hand



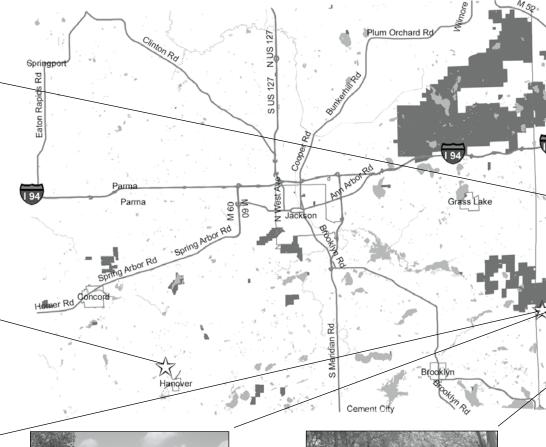
Marigold Marsh: River Raisin Headwaters, 24 acres; Farm, 84 acres

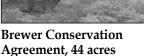
Protecting rivers, like this land along the River Raisin, is one of the Land Trust's top conservation priorities. "This land is abundant with migratory birds and butterflies, which I didn't realize when I bought it. It was kind of love at first sight." - Betty Jean Murray



Ludwig Conservation Agreements, 87 acres and 80 acres

Bob Ludwig and his daughter Connie protected their neighboring farms, located within the Land Trust's priority farmland conservation area. "I like to go out there and watch the buzzards fly, the hawks fly, the deer run, the turkeys walking all over the place - just enjoying being there. After I'm gone, I know that others will enjoy the land as I have." -Bob Ludwig





Wildlife flourishes on this property in Lodi Township. "It's a very nice environment of woods and pond and an awful lot of nice wildlife. It's important to protect what we have now." - George Brewer

Where You Live

Lands Protected by the Washtenaw Land Trust, January 2007-June 2008



Harold Baker Conservation Agreement, 2 acres

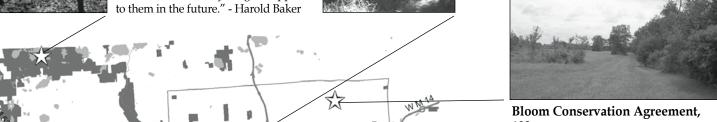
This forested land provides a protective buffer for Half Moon Lake and the adjacent Pinckney Recreation Area. One of the Land Trust's top conservation priorities is to fill unprotected gaps in Waterloo-Pinckney. "I love the woods, and I didn't want anything to happen



Parker Woods, 23 acres

Stanley and Helen Parker had already protected most of their farm, and they have now protected the remainder, the mature woods. "This gives our nephew and his wife a chance to stay in farming, and it leaves open space, which means a lot." - Helen Parker





103 acres

Bill & Jane Bloom donated a permanent conservation agreement to protect their family land. "I must say, I'm very pleased. Protecting this land - what a nice thing to have happen." - Jane Bloom



McKinley Inc./Glencoe Conservation Agreement, 18 acres

Nature trails provide a relaxing walk through the woods and along two small lakes. "We are thrilled to be able to share this land knowing the Land Trust will ensure that it is protected and enjoyed for future generations." - Albert Berriz, President and CEO, McKinley Inc.



Saline River Conservation Agreement, 80 acres

This property, with frontage on both sides of the Saline River, is being restored with native Michigan plants. "My grandparents bought the land, my dad lived there virtually his whole life, as did I, and now my daughter is living there. My kids all really believe in preservation and are really excited that we're preserving it." - Kris Kipka



Map by Jhansi Pailla

Rogers Farm, 43 acres

The Land Trust's 2007 Farmland Protection Challenge protected part of this York Township farm which connects to 500 acres of alreadyprotected land. "Why am I doing it? To preserve it for the next generation."- Kendall Rogers



Lloyd & Mabel Johnson Preserve, 95 acres

The Land Trust thanks the Lloyd and Mabel Johnson Foundation for its generous gift of 95 acres of woods and fields to benefit the good of the community. Stay tuned for news about this new preserve!

Thank you!

The Washtenaw Land Trust expresses its sincere thanks to its generous supporters. The following is a list of gifts made between January 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008. Please accept our sincere apologies for any unintentional errors or omissions. For corrections, please notify us at info@washtenawlandtrust.org or 734-302-5263. Thank you for protecting nature and farmland, here where you live.

Land and Conservation **Agreement Donors**

Harold Baker Bill & Jane Bloom George & Lucia Brewer The Hand Family Lee & Jane James Kris & Donn Kipka Lloyd & Mabel Johnson Foundation Bob Ludwig Connie Ludwig McKinley Inc. Betty Jean & Brownson Murray Gerald Nordblom & Barbara Michniewicz Stanley & Helen Parker The Rogers Family Bill & Marlene Wenk 2 anonymous property owners **Individual Gifts**

Founders (\$10,000 or more)

Sally & Ian Bund Thomas & Deborah McMullen Sarah W. Newman Ellen Ward & James Young, Jr. 2 anonymous gifts

Partners (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Bob & Cindy Helber Mr. & Mrs. William B. Holmes Connie Ludwig Roger & Coco Newton Richard & Norma Sarns Scott & Frankie Simonds

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The Honorable Ronald & Eileen Weiser

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Carol Cramer & Thomas Longworth Richard & Penelope Crawford Townley & Joann Culbertson Robert & Irene Dernberger

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These volunteers are just a few of those who have helped this year. Clockwise from top right: Trail-clearers from Concordia University at Creekshead Nature Preserve; Bridge-builders at the Land Trust's Beckwith Conservancy; the General Motors team on the annual Garlic Mustard Weed-out for

