

# SHARON HILLS

## Nature Preserve

Located just north of Manchester, 67-acre Sharon Hills Nature Preserve offers a wide variety of natural areas to explore, including kettle wetlands, black walnut and aspen stands, and rolling grassy meadows. The hills and valleys of its extensive trail system are open for hiking, cross-country skiing, sledding, horseback riding, and with a permit, falconry. The preserve even serves as training ground for search-and-rescue dogs! Be aware that some steep hills can make exploring here fairly strenuous. We suggest you keep a trail map with you while you travel the winding trails.

## Preserve History

Until the 1960s, the majority of Sharon Hills was cleared for agriculture and grazing. This disturbance explains the widespread population of invasive plants here today. Slowly but surely, using controlled burns and manual removal, we're making progress toward restoring the land to its pre-agricultural condition.

Sharon Hills Nature Preserve was donated in 2000 by University of Michigan professors Sally Allen, David and Ellie Shappirio, and John Allen and Edith Maynard. They used the preserve for entomological research and wanted to share this special place with everyone.

Legacy occasionally hosts falconry demonstrations at Sharon Hills.



Tania Evans

## Who We Are

Legacy Land Conservancy is a nonprofit conservation organization that works with private landowners and local organizations to preserve forests, prairies, wetlands, and farmland in Washtenaw and Jackson counties. Founded in 1971 as the state's first local land trust, Legacy leverages the support of donors and volunteers to protect the beautiful places and unique character of southern Michigan.

## Get Involved

- Lend us your energy and expertise! Volunteer opportunities abound: photo-monitoring, outdoor work, office support, and more.
- Subscribe to our e-newsletter.
- Make a donation.
- Attend a Legacy event.

Wide open spaces abound at Sharon Hills.



Margot Mehringer

## Contact Us



LEGACY  
Land Conservancy

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Staff Photo

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Black walnut stand



An impressive cottonwood tree



## Hike Highlights

□ – **Black Walnut Stand:** As you pass beneath these tall trees, enjoy the dappled light they create.

❖ – **Meadow Overlook:** This high point overlooks what was once a substantial orchard. As you take in the view, imagine all the faces this land has worn. This hill also makes for a great sledding run, but please be careful: it's very steep!

△ – **Sounds of Sandhill Cranes:** The swamps in the southeast corner of the preserve are popular resting areas for sandhill cranes. Their distinctive calls can be heard throughout the preserve when they visit during the spring and early summer.

● – **Hot Compost Site:** We are composting invasive plants in the foundation of an old cistern. With heat from the sun and a little time, the seeds will lose their ability to grow, and the plant material will become nutrient-rich compost.

## Getting Here

Sharon Hills Nature Preserve is on the east side of Sharon Hollow Road between Washburn and Walker Roads. Park in the grass lot at the trailhead just south of Tolen Drive.

Visit [legacylandconservancy.org](http://legacylandconservancy.org) for visitor guidelines and accessibility information.



Main trail **1.2** miles roundtrip

Sandhill crane



## Sharon Hills Nature Preserve

— Main trails (1.2 mi)

— Other trails

□❖△● Trail highlights

