

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 8, 2015

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Legacy Land Conservancy and Michigan See Increases in Protected Conservation Lands

Ann Arbor, Michigan– Heart of the Lakes, the statewide association of Michigan’s land conservancies and other nonprofits dedicated to land and water conservation, released its Annual Protected Lands Survey this week. Legacy Land Conservancy, a nonprofit land conservancy that serves Washtenaw and Jackson counties, participated in the survey as a member of Heart of the Lakes.

Findings from the survey show that 27 land conservancies helped protect nearly 10,000 acres of natural, scenic and working farms and forests throughout Michigan in 2014. The collective protected lands total for the groups now stands at 597,516 acres. As part of those findings, Legacy protected 373 acres on five properties, bringing its protected lands total to 5,910 acres. In 2015, this number surpassed 6,000.

Results of the statewide Protected Lands Survey, including an explanation of the protection tools used by land conservancies, can be found at: www.heartofthelakes.org/land.

"The numbers only tell a small part of the story. Behind each of these projects are the landowners who worked to conserve these lands because of their deep connection to them; a connection that has sometimes lasted for generations. All of us benefit from their generosity, through cleaner water, working farms, and a more diverse local economy" said Legacy Executive Director Susan Lackey. Jonathan Jarosz, Executive Director of Heart of the Lakes, concurred, "The real heroes are the many, many families and individuals who voluntarily work with conservancies to protect lands they love and the conservation values important to us all."

As an example, Kendall Rogers of York Township worked with Legacy to protect 199 acres of farmland in two easements over the course of 2014. This is in addition to 47 acres that he protected in 2007. On the farm, the Rogers family grows corn, soybeans and cattle. The

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family's farming legacy is a priority to Mr. Rogers. When asked about his property, he said "Pa and I were in partnership a long time. Now my grandson Aaron can continue to farm our land".

The Legacy community has been consistently impressed with the generosity and foresight of the Rogers family. Their story is only one of the many great stories behind Heart of the Lakes' protected lands survey numbers, thanks to the willingness of so many to make a real and lasting difference by permanently protecting important conservation lands.



The Rogers Farm

About Legacy Land Conservancy:

Legacy Land Conservancy's mission is to serve Southern Michigan by protecting its forests, prairies, farms and waters, today and forever. Since 1971, Legacy has protected over 6,000 acres of land.

About Heart of the Lakes: Heart of the Lakes Center is a statewide organization that strengthens the collective efforts of organizations dedicated to the conservation of Michigan's environmentally and economically significant lands. Heart of the Lakes provides leadership,

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innovative ideas, and advocates for smart public policy for the benefit of our communities and for generations to come.