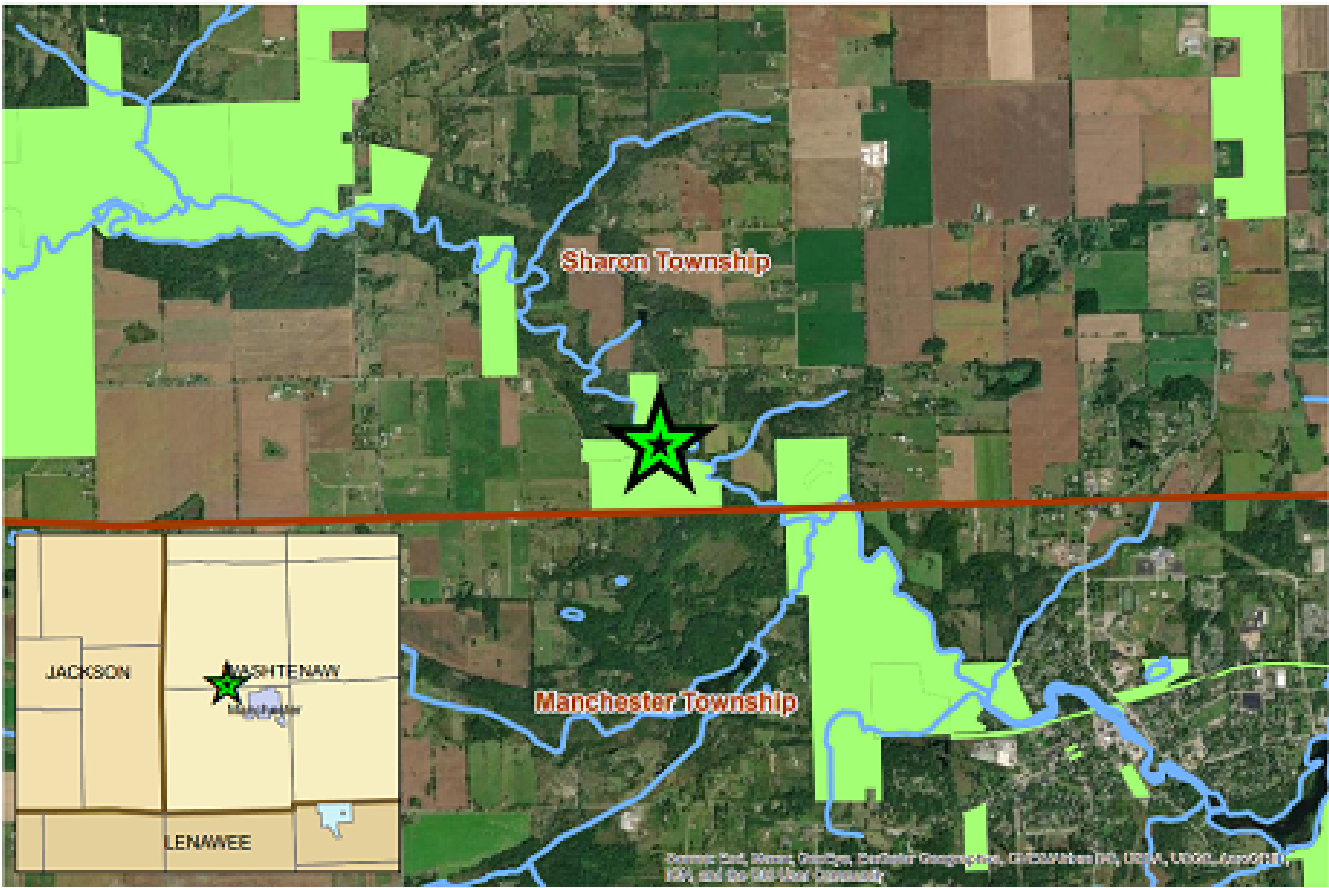




USA NEWS

# Preserves many properties, protects water quality within the River Raisin – we love Dexter

By user  
JUL 2, 2022



## McCullough-Helmer Project



Date last updated: 5/27/2022



McCullough Helmer Project



River Raisin



Other Conserved Lands



**Manchester** – Legacy Land Conservancy permanently preserves 90 acres of forest, prairie and wetlands, including 3,850 feet of frontage along the Raisin River in western Washtenaw County.

In a unique collaborative effort between three different landowner groups—John and Carol McCullough, Byron and Frieda McCullough, and David and Jennifer Helmer—the McCullough-Helmer project consists of three conservation easements in the Sharon Hills area of Manchester. The properties contain restored open prairie, several wetlands, and steep, wooded slopes leading to the Raisin River.

Landowners are excited to protect the very valuable natural wetlands on their property and ensure the quality and quantity of water resources within the Raisin River watershed through conservation easements with Legacy, which provides permanent protection to privately owned land.

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These three families were inspired to collaborate and protect their property in 2016 when they watched the creation of a Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPARC) preserve upriver from their land.

“Seeing the land preserved nearby years ago also motivated us to find a way to protect our land,” said landowner John McCullough. “Thanks to Legacy, WCPARC and their partners, our vision has become a reality and the land we love is protected forever.”

The McCullough-Helmer project is funded in part by a Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grant, a grant that aims to restore water damaged by nonpoint source (NPS) pollution and protect high water quality from degradation. Nuclear power plant pollution is the main cause of waterway pollution. It is a combination of pollutants from a large area, rather than from specific sources, such as exhaust pipes at industrial and sewage treatment plants. When water runoff caused by rain or snowmelt moves over the ground and collects pollutants from sources such as gardens or parking lots, it is discharged into streams or rivers.

The ongoing protection of lands under the McCullough-Helmer project is an important part of nuclear power plant pollution reduction. Its large area of exceptional wildlife habitat, open space, riparian area and open river along the Raisin River help provide quality water filtration and a wide floodplain to support a healthy river downstream through more urban areas such as Monroe and contribute positively to the overall the health status of the Raisin River and Lake Erie.

“Protecting lands in the Upper Raisin River subwatershed remains a priority for the continued health of the larger watershed and Great Lakes basin,” explained EGLE Watershed Project Manager Julia Kirkwood. “Keeping forests intact and maintaining natural land cover ensures that these lands will provide significant water quality benefits to downstream areas.”

The project also complements existing conservation areas in the Sharon Hills area and along the Raisin River, building on the momentum of river protection and improving water quality in the corridor. Its 3,850 feet along the river connect to a series of conservation lands and 43,000 feet of river conservation land from Sharonville State Game Area, to Nan Weston Game Reserve, to Sharon Mills Park, to the WCPARC River Raisin Reserve, and down to the Mann Mann Easement and WCPARC’s Leonard Reserve.

In partnership with WCPARC, additional funds were secured to purchase conservation easements from landowners.

“Conserving lands is a group effort,” said Legacy Executive Director Diana Kern. “Legacy is fortunate to work with outstanding landowners and partners to protect the land and help preserve clean water in the Raisin River watershed and surrounding waterways.”

**About Legacy Land Conservancy:** Founded in 1971 as Michigan’s first local land trust, Legacy is a nonprofit conservation organization that protects land in southern Michigan. Legacy’s mission is to provide a land base for nature, agriculture, fresh water and recreation in Jackson and Washtenaw counties and beyond for current and future generations. Legacy has helped protect more than 9,000 acres of land (including seven nature preserves open to the public) that improve the quality of the landscape in our community by ensuring water quality, preserving working farms and protecting places for play. As a testament to 50 years of successful voluntary conservation, Legacy has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Land Trusts to meet a set of standards designed to ensure that the organization’s work continues in perpetuity. Legacy is based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. For more information visit

[www.legacylandconservancy.org](https://www.legacylandconservancy.org).

About the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy:

Working side by side with partners at the local, regional, state and federal levels, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) protects our state’s environment while supporting the economic growth and development critical to Michigan’s future.

**Non-point source control project:** This NPS pollution control project was funded in whole or in part through the Michigan Department of Environmental Protection, Great Lakes, and Energy’s Nonpoint Source Program of the United States Environmental Protection Agency under grant agreement 2019-0018 Legacy Land Conservancy for Upper River Raisin Riparian Defense – Phase 4 of the project. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the United States Environmental Protection Agency or the Department of Environmental Protection, Great Lakes, and Energy, and mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation for use.

About the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPARC):

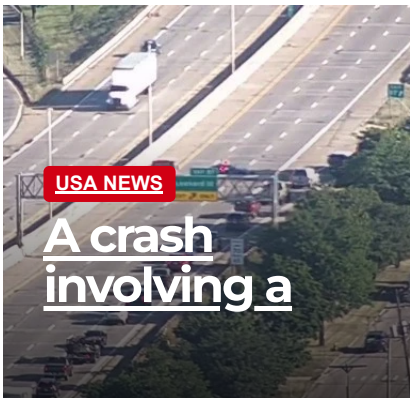
WCPARC’s mission is to enhance the quality of life in the county by promoting healthy lifestyles, effectively providing high-quality facilities, and programs that reflect the current and anticipated recreational needs of county residents and visitors – with a particular emphasis on the conservation of fragile land, water quality, wildlife environments housing, creating pedestrian and greenways and providing high-quality services to people from different backgrounds. WCPARC administers the Washtenaw County Natural Preservation Program (NPP), which was established in 2000 by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners through an ordinance that provides procedures and standards for the acquisition and preservation of natural and agricultural lands by the county. In 2010 and again in 2020, voters decided to restore the county cap that funds the program. For more information, visit <https://www.washtenaw.org/939/Natural-Areas-Preservation-Program>

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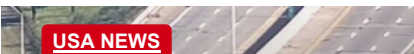
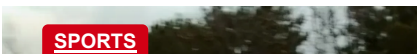


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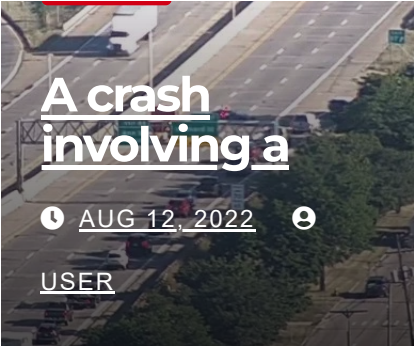
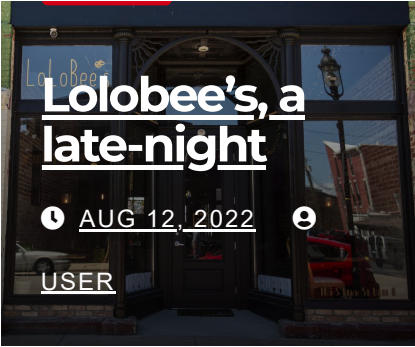
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