Legacy Land Conservancy Annual Report 2021-2022







FY 2021-2022 Highlights

- Officially added Lenawee County to our service area
- Formally agreed to assume Raisin Valley Land Trust conservation easements
- Protected our 150th property
- Completed 4 land projects; 140 total acres protected
- Became a strategic partner with the Lenawee Intermediate School District
- Completed Phase 1 of the Shatter Family Preserve Trail Project
- Welcomed our 1st Huron Pines AmeriCorps member
- Kicked off the Preserve Accessibility Project thanks to an anonymous donor
- Chosen as a beneficiary of the Big House 5k



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ANNUAL REPORT MESSAGE

What a difference another year can make!

hen the pandemic first started, Legacy adapted but remained committed to our mission and focused on our love of the land. Over time, the ripple effect of the pandemic routinely slowed our work and challenged us in ways we didn't know possible. But, we were persistent. We leaned on each other, the generosity of our supporters, and the hope that better things were on the horizon.

Legacy held steadfast in our new way forward and by July of 2021, we were rewarded for our patience. Michigan began to slowly open up from the pandemic and its stringent protocols, and Legacy too, began to gradually emerge. There were still limitations, delays, and inconveniences, but there was much to celebrate—Legacy was back at the office, in the field, and into the community!

We welcomed the return of our in-person Land Partner Gathering, held multiple preserve volunteer workdays, and continued working to create more accessibility at our preserves thanks to a generous anonymous donor. With the help of stewardship crew members and our very first Huron Pines AmeriCorps member, we completed an enormous amount of invasive species removal and installed a new boardwalk at The Anthony & Rose Shatter Family Preserve.

We deepened our new commitment to Lenawee County by connecting with community members, leaders, and organizations, and developing new partnerships with groups like the Lenawee Intermediate School District and River Raisin Watershed Council. We also formally agreed to the enormous responsibility of assuming the conservation easements of the dissolving Lenawee-based Raisin Valley Land Trust.

Half way through the year, there was even more to revel in—the land protection log jam amplified by the pandemic finally broke free and our stalled land acquisition projects picked up steam! In a matter of months, we closed conservation easements on four remarkable pieces of land, protecting a total of 140 acres that benefit water quality and increase contiguous wildlife habitats within the River Raisin and Huron River watersheds.

Bringing these projects to the finish line is a win for our community, for

land protection, and for future generations of land lovers. Each acre we protect means a cleaner, healthier future for us all.

It has been a whirlwind of a year. Our conservation easement pipeline continues to grow at a tremendous rate as more and more people are joining Legacy to conserve the land, water, and natural spaces we all cherish. And, with numerous projects lined up, we're on track to protect another 1000 acres in the upcoming year.

It's clear we've got a lot of work ahead of us. Thanks to our wonderful community of supporters and the momentum we've gained in such a short time, we're confident that together we'll successfully work to protect these important lands.

As we look ahead, we're working toward strategically planning for land stewardship thanks to Myrna Berlet, a generous Jackson County philanthropist. The gift she bequeathed to Legacy will help build a sustainable future of stewardship on our public nature preserves. Her legacy will be represented in the stewarding of these lands.

With your support Legacy is eager to ride the wave of land protection and stewardship opportunities to preserve even more of our beautiful forests, prairies, wetlands, farms, and waterways. We're so fortunate to have you joining us for the ride!

Yours in Conservation,

Lay Old

Diana Kern Executive Director

Larry Doll Board President



Staff, board, and volunteers celebrate together at the Session Room in Ann Arbor.

FY2021-2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

As Legacy slowly emerged from the pandemic, we were able to strengthen our financial position. Despite a downturn in the market that negatively affected our investments, we benefited from a large bequest early in the fiscal year.

Total revenue for the fiscal year was \$2.0 million, of which 78 percent was related to contributions and pledges. Making up a majority of these contributions was a \$1.2 million bequest. Investments declined due to the downturn in the markets. Gifts of land and development rights made up three percent of the total revenue as more land acquisitions were completed during the last half of the fiscal year.

Total expenses were approximately \$1.5 million, which doubled from the prior year. Our four main program areas – Land Acquisition, Easement Stewardship, Preserve Stewardship, and Community Engagement – made up approximately 77 percent of the total expenses. Not only were we able to continue our focus on preserve stewardship, but land acquisition activity increased. Four conservation easements were closed during the fiscal year, compared to one in the previous year.

Statement of Financial Position June 30, 2022

ASSI	ETS
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Total Liabilities and Net Assets		8,848,888
Total Net Assets	\$	8,796,404
With Restrictions in Perpetuity	\$	8,796,404
With Restrictions	\$	724,575
Land Held for Resale	\$	2 60,000
Without Restrictions	\$	2,007,875
NET ASSETS	_	
Total Liabilities	\$	52,484
Long Term Debt	\$	—
Accrued Expenses	\$	48,854
Accounts Payable	\$	3,630
LIABILITIES		
Total Assets	\$	8,848,888
Land Options	\$	700
Conservation Easements	\$	91
Preserves	\$	4,597,418
Land Held for Resale	\$	260,000
Fixed Assets	\$	7,200
Pledges Receivable (non-current)	\$	7,700
Long Term Investments	\$	3,216,792
Current Assets	\$	758,987

Net income of \$680,520 increased over the prior year by approximately \$230,000. This increased our total net assets and strengthened Legacy's financial position as of June 30, 2022. Total net assets consist of \$4.7 million in fee land, \$1.2 million in endowment funds, and \$379,000 set aside for planned easement acquisitions.

Legacy's financial condition remains strong because of our generous donors as we continue emerging from the pandemic. We have healthy reserves which allow us to steward our protected lands and move forward with expansion into Lenawee County.

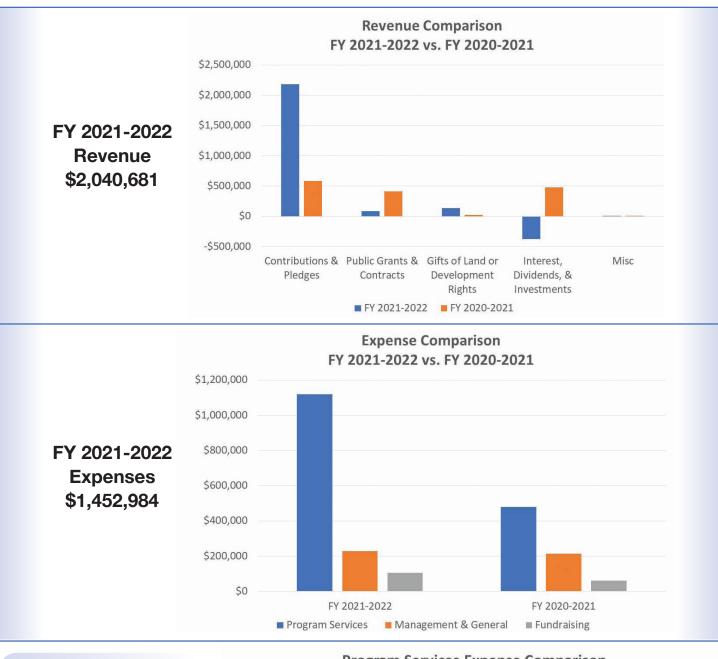
"Financial sustainability was a key focus for Legacy over the past year. We engaged with an expert in the field to come up with a 10-year Financial Sustainably Plan, which when properly executed will assure Legacy's future. A strong financial position is key to an organization whose mission is to steward land into perpetuity." <u>~Larry Doll, Legacy Board Chair</u>

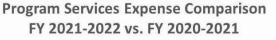
Statement of Activities For Year ended June 30, 2022

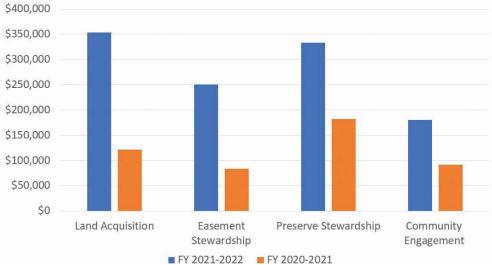
REVENUE

Contributions and Pledges	\$	2,183,926
Public Grants and Contracts	\$	89,534
Miscellaneous	\$	10,270
Interest, Dividends, and Investment gains	s \$	(378,549)
Gifts of Land or Development Rights	\$	135,500
Total Revenue and Support	\$	2,040,681
EXPENSES		
Program Services-Land Protection	\$	1,118,588
Management & General	\$	228,998
Fundraising	\$	105,398
Total Expenses	\$	1,452,984
Change in Net Assets (Net Income)	\$	587,697
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$	8,115,884
Net Assets, end of year	\$	8,796,404

*Based on audited financial statements. Full statements, prepared by Dennis, Gartland, Niergarth, CPAs, are available at legacylandconservancy.org.







PROTECTING LAND

Forging ahead

Acquiring new land and conservation easements is a complex, years-long effort. It's not unusual for an average project to take 3-5 years to complete. Given these circumstances, Legacy regularly manages multiple active projects all while fielding new inquiries and approving new projects that fill up our pipeline up to five years out. So, even though the pandemic created additional obstacles and delays that slowed aspects of acquisition work over the last two years, Legacy's land team was prepared to keep the land program forging ahead.

When the pandemic started, our ability to close existing projects was hampered. Simultaneously, we began fielding more new land inquiries from landowners at home reflecting on their land's future. What started out as a slight uptick in calls and emails abruptly surged, and helped swell our land acquisition pipeline.

At the same time, Legacy was expanding our outreach throughout Lenawee County, and we formally agreed to assume

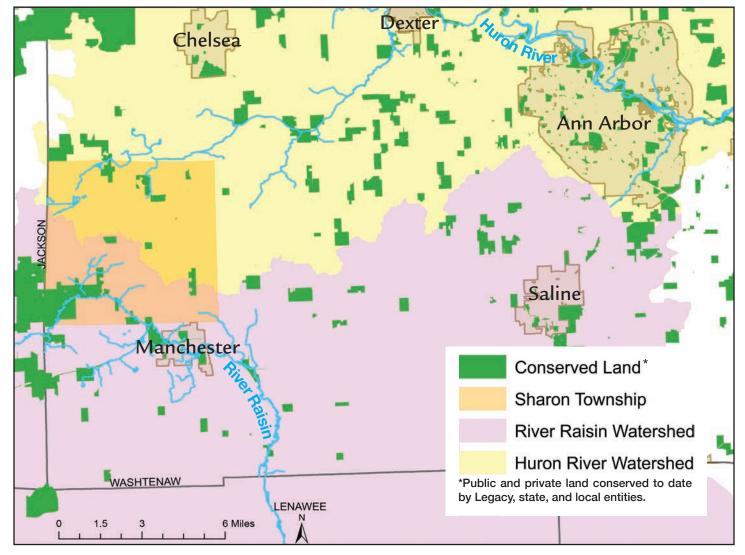
Land Acquisition FY 2021-2022 At a Glance

4 projects closed

- Purchased the H&H Conservation Easement in Washtenaw County
- Purchased the McCullough-Helmer Conservation Easements—Other Side of the River, Possum Trot, & Douglas Glen—in Washtenaw County

140 additional total acres protected

13 Raisin Valley Land Trust (RVLT) conservation easements! Agreeing to assume these easements and establish relationships with the landowners of an organization dissolving is only the beginning of a long and complicated process. The work required to get to closing day is complex and involves a lot of moving parts and people. It created a very long task list that required an enormous amount of staff resources.



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To compensate for the increased workload, the land team shifted, reorganized, and added a part time staff member to help with the growing pipeline responsibilities. And just in time, too. The slowdowns amplified by the pandemic were fading, and some significant due diligence obstacles were resolved, breaking the land protection log jam and accelerating the pace of existing projects.

Incredibly, within six months Legacy closed on four conservation easements that had been in the pipeline for more than four years—H&H (53 acres), Other Side of the River (12 acres), Possum Trot (12 acres), and Douglas Glen (62 acres).

In total, these easements—all in the Sharon Township area of Washtenaw County—combined for 140 additional acres protected that benefit water quality and increase contiguous wildlife habitats in an existing corridor of protected land.

Despite another unpredictable year, we are ecstatic the pandemic-related slowdowns have eased, and we can get back to the more predictable obstacles we know and love! And, we are extremely grateful for our current landowners and the steady stream of interested landowners who entrust us with the future of their land. Their patience and dedication to preserving the land they love is inspirational and invigorates our passion for land protection.

Although COVID-19 is still among us, the pandemic's stronghold on our work is diminishing, and the future of land protection is gaining momentum. As we look to the future, we remain focused on securing funding for projects, while at the same time allowing space to incorporate new ideas within the dynamic landscape of innovative land protection. We are excited to continue building on our work and partnerships in Lenawee County, finalizing the assumption of RVLT conservation easements, and protecting hundreds more acres throughout southern Michigan.

Conservation Value

- ✓ 140 total acres of forest, prairie, wetlands, and farmland protected in Washtenaw County
- Adds to existing protected lands in the Sharon Township area
- Increases connectivity of protected lands and provides contiguous wildlife habitat
- Benefits water quality of the River Raisin and Huron River watersheds
- Builds on River Raisin momentum; includes 3,850 feet of frontage that adds to existing protected lands along the river



Land protected in June 2022.

MANAGING LAND

Shifting stewardship

Legacy's preserve stewardship program continues to be shaped by the pandemic and our organization-wide commitment to integrate justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion principles into our work.

Even as the pandemic wanes, preserve visitation remains at an all-time high. The team continued its accessibility push to accommodate more visitors and eliminate barriers to enjoying the beauty of our preserves. Behind the scenes, the team finalized a Preserve Accessibility Project plan and cost projection that was years in the making. In the field, they spent hundreds of hours on trail maintenance and invasive species control.

Thanks to our seasonal stewardship crew members, our very first Huron Pines AmeriCorps member, and dedicated volunteers, we:

- Completed 2 prescribed burns at Reichert Preserve and Lloyd & Mabel Johnson Preserve
- Installed Phase 1 of the Shatter Family Preserve Trail Project thanks to support from the Speckhard-Knight Charitable Foundation.
- Removed over 1000 pounds of herbaceous invasive plants
- Held 5 workdays with help from volunteers and partners

 the Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition, Stockbridge
 Area Arts Council, Eastern Michigan University (EMU), and
 Alpha Phi Omega at EMU, a gender inclusive communityservice fraternity

After two years, it was a wonderful change to finally work side by side with staff, board, partners, and volunteers. As we build on our success, we look forward to remaining focused on creating welcoming places for visitors with more accessibility projects like the installation of trailhead kiosks and increased signage throughout the preserves.



Spring burns at Lloyd and Mabel Johnson Preserve (top) and Reichert Preserve (bottom)



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Preserve Stewardship FY 2021-2022 At a Glance

350 hours spent on accessibility

900 hours devoted to invasive species removal

116 hours contributed by 43 volunteers

By the numbers!

1020 hours of field work completed by the stewardship crew members

> 44 bags of herbaceous invasive plants removed

 262 feet of boardwalk installed in 3 days



MANAGING LAND

Timely transition

 \mathcal{A} new fiscal year with fewer pandemic limitations allowed Legacy's easement stewardship program to transition from virtual back to in-person activities -a switch welcomed by all that also helped ease the transition to a new Easement Stewardship Coordinator. And, for the first time since 2019, staff and volunteers enjoyed getting together for photomonitoring training and the annual Land Partner Gathering!

The team reveled in the chance to meet volunteers face-to-face and deepen relationships at the spring photomonitoring training. Plus, they relished the added bonus of taking the coffee and presentation out onto the land for the first time in our annual Land Partner Gathering's history. Staff, landowners, and volunteers visited one of Legacy's conservation easements in Dexter to see a large-scale ongoing ecological restoration project—supported in part by a connection made at last year's virtual Land Partner Gathering.

The team also began the complex effort of preparing the incoming Raisin Valley Land Trust conservation easements for



Photomonitors catch up on the latest technology from Legacy staff.

Easement Stewardshi FY 2021-2022 At a Glance



7350 total acres monitored

100% monitoring for all 89 Legacy-held easements

22 easements monitored in partnership with WCPARC

199 hours contributed by 24 photomonitoring volunteers

integration into the monitoring program. When the process is complete, it will add 13 more easements and almost 700 acres to the 7,350 acres currently monitored by Legacy.

As the number of easements Legacy watches over grows year after year, one thing is certain: We couldn't do our work without our loyal volunteers. We are extremely grateful for their help! Thanks to our seasoned group of 24 photomonitors and their 199 volunteer hours this year, we achieved 100% annual monitoring on all Legacy-held easements.



Volunteer Steve Gilzow documents his photomonitoring visit.



Land Partner Gathering 2022 at a Legacy-held conservation easement in Dexter.

APPRECIATION

O id we mention Legacy has the most amazing volunteers?! Yes, it's true! We are so thankful to our volunteers who continue to step up and donate their time and energy.

We had fewer volunteers compared to last year, but they still contributed an astounding 1,320 hours—more hours than last year—WOW!

To all Legacy volunteers who improve our public preserves, monitor our easement properties, give us legal advice, provide us with sound governance, and keep our procedures running smoothly: thank you! We couldn't do our work without you.





Eastern Michigan University students remove common buckthorn from the woodland at Lloyd and Mabel Johnson Preserve.



Campbell Laird takes a water break during a workday at Beckwith Preserve.



Kai Garcia and Wynton Love head out to remove fencing at Johnson Preserve.

A Special Thank You!

- Eastern Michigan University biology students and professors Thank you for your continued support cutting invasive shrubs at Johnson Preserve.
- Peter and Anita Sandretto, Fran and Campbell Laird, and John Metzler Thank you for being super volunteers!
- Thank you to Alpha Phi Omega at Eastern Michigan University; especially Kai Garcia who attended multiple workdays, removed wire fencing, and made signs!
- Thank you to the outstanding photomonitoring team of **Charity Steere, Bill Steere,** and **Tania Evans**.
- Marguerite Smith Thanks for organizing and typing up all our board and committee minutes!
- Thank you to all the attorneys for their help with land acquisitions, easement review, and legal advice especially **Sandy Sorini Elser and Steve Palms!**



Peter Sandretto hides a geocache at Johnson Preserve.

2021-2022 Legacy Volunteers

Ann Agler* **Rose Andrews** Alexandra Audia Cynthia Avery Neal Billetdeaux Vincent Black* **Rosanne Bloomer** Meghan Bonfiglio George Borel Terry Brinkman John Chamberlin* Thomas E. Chettleburgh* Alexandria Chumney Sam Collie Aodan Craigie Lauren Dawn Matt Demmon Larry Doll John Dryden* Margaret Engle Tania Evans* Kyla Faligowski Olivia Felicelli Lauren Fochler Samuel Furness Kai Garcia Joseph Geisz Steven Gilzow* Maria Goodrich

Jacqui Grisdale* Emilv Grman Lukas Gyomory Joan Hellmann* Yamille Hernandez Coriana Howard Jesse John Jennifer Kangas Lewis (Woody) Kellum* Ashlyn Kiedrowski Sybil Kolon* Ginny Leikam John Lloyd* Wynton Love Michael Machesky Ella Markel Lance McCarty James McCauley* Emma Metivier John Metzler John Moran Gerald Nordblom John Owen* Pennv Owen* Steve Palms Michael Rader David Read* Sorbie Richner Steven Roach

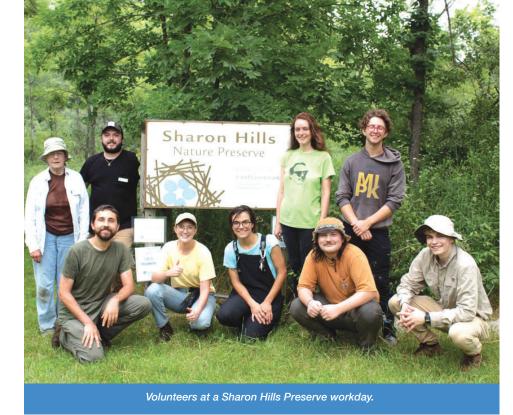


Photo by Patricia Sauer

Anita Sandretto* Peter Sandretto* Dale Sass Marguerite Smith* Andrew Snavely Sandy Sorini Elser Bill Steere* Charity Steere* Scott Strodtman* William Strohaver Catherine A. Susan* Charlie Sutherland* Huntress Theibert Karen Ufer Deborah VandenBroek Hannah Walker Scott Weaver Simon Whitelocke

We try to keep our records up to date, but apologize if we have missed anyone. Please let us know if your name is missing!

*photomonitor



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APPRECIATION

Thank you for your support!

Our community of dedicated supporters are the backbone of our work protecting and preserving the places we love. This year our community stepped up to the challenge of funding multiple land acquisition deals and critical accessibility work on our preserves, as well as expanding our work into Lenawee County.

Generous donor gifts built boardwalks, fueled controlled burns, permanently protected creek frontage, and so much more. And a special \$25,000 gift from an anonymous donor kicked off our preserve accessibility project! We couldn't be more grateful.

Every gift made to Legacy makes a tremendous impact on our mission, helping to protect and preserve the land we share.

Thank you to our Forest and Farm Business Sponsors -Bank of Ann Arbor, Chelsea State Bank, and GreenStone Farm Credit Services!

All the work Legacy does to protect and preserve southern Michigan wouldn't be possible without the support of our foundation and corporate partners.

We are grateful for support from James A. & Faith Knight Foundation,Cherry Republic, J. Ferrantino Charitable Foundation,Harry A. & Margaret D. Towsley Foundation, and the Land Trust Alliance.

A special thank you to our special project partners!



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Thank you for your support!

The following list includes gifts received in fiscal year, July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. If you believe we have made an error, please contact Krista Jacob at 734-302-5263 or kjacob@legacylandconservancy.org.



Non-native nodding thistle – Photo by Harvey Michaels

Thank you to those who have made workplace-giving pledges or gifts through the United Way of Washtenaw County, Earthshare of Michigan, and Benevity Community Impact Fund.

Ameriprise Financial, Inc. Apple Stephen Bruder David and Carol Clifford Steve and Judy Dobson Michael Fitzsimmons and Hope Haefner Dan McAskin Griff and Pat McDonald Tom and Debby McMullen Patrick and Carolyn McNamara Novelis Bill Spurlock Donald Whitacre

Thank you to those who documented new multi-year pledges between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. Commitments of this nature allow Legacy an increased stability to sustainably plan and carry out work that takes years to execute, and lasts forever.

Bank of Ann Arbor

Memorial and Honorary Gifts

In Memory of Margaret Gram Marian and Paul Laughlin

In Memory of Shirley Mae (Logan) Hanson Mt. Elliott Cemeteries

In Memory of Meroë Allen Kaericher Michael and Dianne Kaericher Marcia Van Fossen and Woody London

In Memory of Barbara Michniewicz Erika Taylor

In Memory of Robert Miller Helen Parker

In Memory of Stan Parker Helen Parker

In Memory of Bill and Helen Peppler Nancy Harrigan

In Memory of Anthony and Rose Shatter Kathee Shatter

In Memory of George Stewart Alison Neff

In Memory of Jan Willem Niklaas Zuidveld Anonymous In Honor of Ben Caldwell Mary Caldwell

In Honor of Krista Jacob Jade-Celene Keller

In Honor of Susan LaCroix Sue Morley

In Honor of Barry Lonik Gerald Nordblom

In Honor of Peter and Anita Sandretto Anonymous

In Honor of Dale Sass Katie Slicker Frank and Lauren Zinn

In Honor of Bill and Sheila Sikkenga Karen Sikkenga

In Honor of Adam Smith Martha Coscina

In Honor of William Strohaver Sydney Thomas

In Honor of Dari Stuhl and Bob Warner Susan and Oliver Cameron

In Honor of Karen Ufer lan and Sally Bund



Volunteers and stewardship crew members add bags of garlic mustard to the compost pile during a Sharon Hills Preserve workday.



Damselfly - Photo by Dave Foster

Founders

Anonymous Donors (4) Americana Foundation Mvrna Berlet± The Carls Foundation Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, & Energy J. Ferrantino Charitable Foundation James A. & Faith Knight Foundation John and Fran Parker Charitable Gift Fund Bruce Watkins[±] Marguerite Smith The Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation

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Diana Raimi and John Dryden James Reichert The Jack and Ginny Sinn Family Foundation Jean Wineman

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Anonymous Donor (1) Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation Bank of Ann Arbor Cherry Republic, Inc. Judith Heady Judith Lobato John McCauley and Virginia Weingate Karen Sikkenga

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Legacy Society

Our Legacy Society recognizes those whose values will be immortalized through a planned gift - a will, bequest, trust, annuity, insurance, or deferred gift - in support of Legacy's ongoing land protection mission. We are extremely grateful for the following Legacy Society members whose generosity will continue to make a difference for land conservation far into the future. *±deceased*

Anonymous (3) Elizabeth S. Bishop Susan J. Blake Larry & Stephanie Doll Diane L. Dupuis Paul and Anne Glendon John S. Hand, PhD Judith Heady Sybil Kolon and Maan Abdulbaki Susan Lackey and Steve Daut Lois McHenry Thomas and Deborah McMullen Margot K. Mehringer Jerry Nordblom and Barbara Michniewicz‡ Margaret M. Phillips Bill and Charity Steere Ann Surratt

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Antoinette Pilzner and Daniel Moons Jennifer Poteat and Mike Staebler William and Karen Reichert Rick Taylor Real Estate Jim and Pam Rossman Bill Steusloff Andrea and William Stickney Deborah and William Strohaver Ann Surratt United States Department of Agriculture -Farm Service Agency Bill and Marlene Wenk

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Mayapple - Photo by John Lloyd

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Champions

Anonymous Donors (2) Karen Adams John Bassett James Bergman and Penelope Hommel Victor Boccalon



Skunk cabbage bud - Photo by Kateri Fahey



Baltimore checkerspot butterfly at Reichert Preserve - Photo by Harvey Michaels

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Ally Audia, Chris Boyce, and Kyler Moran prep lumber to build boardwalk at Shatter Family Preserve.



Wild turkeys walk through a field during a photomonitoring visit - Photo by John Lloyd

Donald Doll Brenda Donaldson Amy Donoghue Dawn Earll-Thomas EarthShare of Michigan Cary and Suzy Engleberg Jim and Deirdre Fidler James Fish Carol Fletcher Mr and Mrs Karl Frankena Gerald Gardner Anne Gardner Remlev Beth Glover Reed **Richard Grant** Helen and Edward F Greene Jacqui Grisdale Mark Haddox Joan Harris and Ed Sarath Bruce and Grace Harrison **Carolyn Hastings** Suzie and Bob Heiney Glenn Hendrix Les and Judy High Peggie Hollingsworth William Holmes Andrew and Catherine Horning Susan and Dave Horvath James House and Wendy Fisher House Kenneth and Carol Hovey Gary and Kathleen Huffnagle Ray and Stephanie Hunter Angela Johnson Kathleen Johnson Willard Johnson Erika and Ralph Keith Lew Kidder

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Southern blue flag iris reflecting in water -Photo by John Lloyd

Alan Weintraub

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Supporters

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Gray treefrog rests on a log at Sharon Hills Preserve - Photo by Xu Zhou

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Eastern Michigan University student cuts common buckthorn during Johnson Preserve workday.

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AmeriCorps member Ally Audia carries lumber to build the Shatter Preserve boardwalk.





Protecting and Preserving Southern Michigan CONTACT 734-302-5263 info@legacylandconservancy.org legacylandconservancy.org



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