

PHOTOMONITORING FAQ



LEGACY
Land Conservancy

*Protecting and Preserving
Southern Michigan*

What if I can't access certain areas of the property? Do I need to reach every photo point?

Safety comes first! Don't attempt to navigate anywhere that feels unsafe or inaccessible to you.

It's okay if you don't reach every photo point. If you can't access a point because of thick vegetation, wet conditions, or fencing, just skip it. Make a note in your report and get a photo from a distance, if you can.

Do I need to navigate to photo points in order?

No. You can go in any order. The numerical order provided can be used as a guide for navigating or if you are unsure where to begin.

If the easement borders a road, can I drive those boundaries to monitor?

Yes. You may monitor from your vehicle if it's safe. Don't drive a boundary if the road is paved, busy, or doesn't give you good visibility to the easement and its boundaries.

How do I know if something is worth documenting?

If something seems unusual or out of place, take a photo! When in doubt, take a photo (or a few!) rather than leaving it unaccounted. Here are some common things to look out for:

- soil disturbance
- ditches
- new fencing
- building new trails
- erecting buildings or barns
- removal of vegetation (not invasive species)
- solar panel installation
- trash/yard waste/dump piles/brush piles
- tree cutting/fresh stumps/marked trees
- encroachment from neighbors (over-mowing, dumping)
- hunting stands not by the landowner or that appear permanent

Can I enter neighboring properties to reach photo points?

No. Unless you are given permission directly from the neighbor, do not trespass. If you are unable to access a photo point or area of the easement safely within the easement boundaries, make a note in the report and move on to the next photo point.

Can I take scenic photos for my personal use?

Not unless you get permission from the landowner. Usually, landowners don't mind, but you should always ask permission. If you are permitted, please share your favorite photos with us! We love a good volunteer selfie, too, and may feature it in our newsletter or on social media.

What if a landowner asks me what is allowed or not allowed on their land?

Politely remind the landowner that they will need to speak with Legacy staff for easement specific activity questions. Do not attempt to interpret what they are allowed or not allowed to do. Document their question in your report notes, and inform Legacy.

What if there is an altercation with a landowner or neighbor?

It's unlikely to happen, but if there is an altercation or even an interaction that makes you feel uncomfortable, do your best to remain calm and disengage from the situation. Inform them you are legally permitted to be on the property. If necessary, stop your visit, provide them with Legacy's contact information, and leave the property. Call Legacy and document it in your report.

PHOTOMONITORING FAQ



LEGACY
Land Conservancy

*Protecting and Preserving
Southern Michigan*

What if I feel unsafe?

Your safety comes first! Do not continue the visit if you feel unsafe for any reason. If it is an emergency, call 911 immediately. Depending on the circumstances, get back to your car and leave the property. Once you are safely removed from the situation, call Legacy.

What if there is an emergency?

Even the most prepared volunteer can run into an unexpected emergency. If you feel unsafe, fall ill, or have an accident, call 911 immediately. When you are able, contact Legacy to update us.

I found a tick on me. What do I do?

Don't worry. It takes a tick being attached to you for about 24 hours before it transmits anything.

Carefully remove the tick. Don't forget its head! Take a picture of it to identify it. If you are concerned about Lyme disease, freeze it in a plastic bag and send it to the Michigan Department of Health and Services for testing.

Remember to check yourself and your partner after every site visit. When you get home, flip your clothes inside out, wash them, and shower.

When on a visit, always use bug spray, wear light colored clothes, cover your arms and legs, and tuck your pant legs into your socks.

Can I forage plants, flowers, or take other natural items from the land?

No. Do not remove any at-risk, special, or endangered plants. Unless the landowner has given you specific permission, refrain from taking anything but photographs!

I forgot to prepare for offline use. Now what?

If you can, return to WiFi to prepare the site for offline use. If not, call Legacy for next steps. You may have to reschedule the visit.

What if Landscape crashes or I have technical difficulties?

Don't worry! Landscape usually saves your work automatically. If you need to restart the app or site visit, your work should be there. Refer to the "Landscape mobile How-To guide" for specific troubleshooting instructions.

If you still can't get Landscape to work, take photos with your cell phone. Record the GPS locations for each photo and take notes.

You can stop your visit and return another time to complete the monitoring. Update the landowner and Legacy.

My iPad/phone died during the visit. Now what?

Return to your car to recharge your device. If you forgot the charger or can't power it back on, return home or to Legacy's office. Sync your visit once the device is charged and connected to WiFi.

It's okay if the visit was not completed. Still sync it to save what you did. Call Legacy for your next steps.

Still have questions? Contact us!

We answered the questions we hear the most. If you don't see the answer you're looking for, contact our Easement Stewardship Manager at 734-302-5263.

Legacy Land Conservancy
6276 Jackson Rd Ste G
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
legacylandconservancy.org