



# the washtenaw land trust journal

A publication of the Washtenaw Land Trust • Volume 4 • Number 3 • Autumn, 2005

## land protected

Conservation agreements • 1446 acres  
Nature preserves • 139 acres  
Land transfers • 122 acres  
Total acres • 1,708

## board of trustees

**Theresa Schenk**  
President

**Robert W. Marans**  
Vice President

**Dianne E. Wells**  
Treasurer

**Robert E. Gilbert**  
Executive Secretary

**Kathleen Dul Aznavorian**  
Gavin Clabaugh

**Jean D. Connell**  
James E. Crowfoot

**Peter H. DeLoof**  
Suzanne L. DeVine

**Karl R. Frankena**  
James W. Govert

**Robert R. Helber**  
Bill Martin

**Maureen S. Martin**  
Cedric A. Richner III

**Charity W. Steere**  
Phil Surratt

## staff & consultants

**Susan Lackey**  
Executive Director

**Janaé Reneaud**  
Development & Grants Manager

**Suzanne Brucker Heiney**  
Operations Manager

## Inside:

Notes From The Land  
.....Page 2

Making Wildlife More at  
Home .....Page 5

Michigan Songwriter's  
Festival Jan. 8 .....Page 6

## Protect Land by Planning Today

### Land Protection Expert Speaks at Land Trust Workshop



**Land protection expert Steve Small fields questions at a workshop hosted for landowners and their attorneys, financial advisors, and estate planners.**

If there's one thing that Steve Small wants you to know, it's this: If you care about your land and want to see it protected, you must plan.

"I'm not telling you how to plan, but I am saying that you need to do the planning that is right for you," said Mr. Small. "And then act on it."

Mr. Small was an attorney-advisor for the Internal Revenue Service, where he wrote the federal income tax regulations pertaining to conservation agreements. Now in private practice, Mr. Small is widely viewed as the nation's leading authority on private land protection strategies. This fall the Washtenaw Land Trust was proud to host a workshop by Mr. Small for land-use and financial professionals from all over southeast Michigan.

"Many people think that doing nothing has no consequences, and that's just wrong," he cautioned.

Estate planning is not just for those with large sums of money in the bank. Because of rising land prices, even an average landowner may find that the value of their property has increased to the point that their estate is subject to estate tax.

"They're not millionaires, but they're millionaires on paper," Mr. Small explained. "The tax laws

didn't change, but the land values did, so now their heirs may be forced to sell the land to pay the estate tax."

Mr. Small pointed out that donation of a conservation agreement on their land can be a crucial step for a family that wishes to protect that land or even to keep it. He noted that a landowner has many rights on their land: the right to plant or chop down trees, to build or remove fences, and more.

"So, you have rights on your land," he continued, "and you also have the right to give up some of those rights."

"By donating a conservation agreement to a qualified organization such as a land trust, you are extinguishing the development rights on that land." The land is then protected, intact, forever, by the land trust charged with enforcing that agreement.

Susan Lackey, director of the Washtenaw Land Trust said, "We're excited to see a packed room for this workshop. Over the next half-century, \$41 trillion of wealth will change hands in America, and a good portion of this is in land. It's critical that our local lawyers, financial planners, and estate planners – the folks on the front lines of these transactions – have the information they need to help their clients achieve their goals."

A landowner who donates a voluntary conservation agreement is generally entitled to estate tax benefits, federal income tax deductions, and property tax reductions. Even better, good

estate planning may avoid the forced sale of the property to pay estate taxes.

Mr. Small noted, "As they say, asphalt is the last crop. Once it's paved over, it's gone forever."

*"The tax laws didn't change, but the land values did, so now their heirs may be forced to sell the land to pay the estate tax."*

*– Steve Small*

### Landowners: Would you like to learn more?

Call us at 734-302-LAND(5263) for your free "Protecting Land" guide.

### Lawyers and estate planners: Did you miss the workshop?

Call us at 734-302-LAND(5263) for a reduced rate on the books and materials that give you the information you need to help your clients plan for their land.

# Far Country

By Susan Lackey  
WLT Executive Director



'Make no small plans, for they have not the power to move men's souls.' So said über-planner Daniel Burnham, whose large plans still guide much of Chicago's celebrated waterfront planning 100 years later.

The Washtenaw Land Trust is making big plans as well. Over the next several months, we will complete two important planning tasks. We'll set the tone for the next century (that's ambitious!), refine our goals for 2006 - 2010, and get a better understanding of exactly what resources are required to achieve those goals.

That's one.

The second task will be to review our policies and procedures in accordance with the Land Trust Alliance's recommended Standards and Practices. Our goal: to be one of the first land trusts in the country accredited under the newly proposed guidelines. This accreditation will ensure our members, our landowners, and others that we are capable of undertaking the responsibilities we've set out for ourselves. The accreditation process is voluntary, and it is one of the responses to concerns raised by the Joint Committee on Taxation earlier this year.

Where are we now? We took the first important steps toward our long range planning process in September, with a Board of Trustees retreat. The passion with which the Board approaches its work on behalf of land protection is inspiring. Excerpts from the visioning exercise are posted at [www.washtenawlandtrust.org](http://www.washtenawlandtrust.org).

Most importantly, we reconfirmed our land protection objectives, both in farmland, where we have a unique niche, and in open spaces and natural areas, particularly on our river corridors and in the Waterloo and Pinckney Recreation Areas. Of course, we know these land goals don't exist in a vacuum. To achieve them we will also continue to search for ways to support the farming economy while protecting and enhancing important lands, wherever they are located.

Regarding accreditation: Although the program will probably not be formally inaugurated until 2007, we will start reviewing our internal procedures yet this year.

Continue to watch this newsletter for more information on these planning processes.

# Notes From The Land

## Thank you to you!

Thanks to your support, the Land Trust is currently working on conservation agreements with more than 25 local families, representing 870 acres of natural areas and farmland. Although the conservation agreements are voluntarily donated, they are not free. Each donated conservation agreement costs the Land Trust up to \$10,000 or more in staff time and professional support. Your gifts, combined with those from the many other individuals who care deeply about our local lands, are what make it all possible.

## Local residents vote to save land

On August 2, Webster Township voters approved a 0.5-mill proposal to protect natural areas and farmland. The initiative passed resoundingly -- two-to-one! Congratulations to all who donated their time, money, and energy to this effort. For more information, visit [www.twp.webster.mi.us](http://www.twp.webster.mi.us) or call the township office at 734.426.5103.

## State Ag Fund applications submitted

The Land Trust has collaborated with county and local governments to coordinate applications to the State Agricultural Preservation Fund this October. Washtenaw communities applying in this round include Pittsfield, Scio, York, Webster, and Dexter townships.

## Help protect private conservation

Thank you to Sen. Stabenow, Sen. Levin, Rep. Schwarz, and Rep. Dingell for their support of the important work of land trusts, in response to the proposed cuts in tax deductions for donations of land and conservation agreements. Bills on this topic are being drafted but, thankfully, are likely to be far less drastic than originally proposed. Letters to your elected officials will still help - see [www.washtenawlandtrust.org](http://www.washtenawlandtrust.org) for details.

## A clean financial bill of health

The Land Trust's audited 2004 financials are available for download on our website, [www.washtenawlandtrust.org](http://www.washtenawlandtrust.org). This "clean" audit is your guarantee that we're stewarding your financial gifts as well as we steward the land.

## Survey results available

Thank you to those who responded to the lapsed member survey. Results are available on our website, [www.washtenawlandtrust.org](http://www.washtenawlandtrust.org).

## Coming in loud and clear...

Those of you up on an early October morning may have caught a half-hour radio interview with Land Trust director Susan Lackey. If you missed it, not to worry! You can listen to it from our website, [www.washtenawlandtrust.org](http://www.washtenawlandtrust.org).

## Special delivery for land protection

Thanks to a tip gleaned at the local post office, Land Trust board member

*continued on pg. 6*

# the washtenaw land trust journal

## EDITOR:

Suzanne Brucker Heiney

## LAYOUT:

Huron Valley Printing & Imaging

## PHOTOGRAPHY:

Janaé Reneaud, Barry Lonik, Suzanne Brucker Heiney, Susan Lackey

## READER COMMENTS

### OR QUESTIONS:

Email: [journal@washtenawlandtrust.org](mailto:journal@washtenawlandtrust.org)

Phone: **734.302.LAND (5263)**

Fax: **734.302.1804**

[info@washtenawlandtrust.org](mailto:info@washtenawlandtrust.org)

[www.washtenawlandtrust.org](http://www.washtenawlandtrust.org)

1100 North Main Street, Suite #203  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104



LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

a member of Earth Share  
OF MICHIGAN

Published periodically by the Washtenaw Land Trust. Vol. 4, Num. 3, Autumn, 2005

# The Latest News From the Field

Annual Monitoring  
completed for 2005



Photo by Suzanne Heiney

**Land Trust director Susan Lackey jots down notes during the annual monitoring visit at the Merlin Way conservation agreement.**

As a steward of protected land, the Land Trust is responsible for ensuring the conservation values of that land in perpetuity. And, as Executive Director Susan Lackey reminds anyone who will listen, "Perpetuity is a very long time."

One part of this long-term protection involves monitoring the properties to make sure they continue to honor the terms of the conservation agreement. Currently the Land Trust annually monitors 22 different conservation agreements on properties we protect.

The monitoring process is fairly straightforward. Each year a Land Trust representative arranges with the landowner an appropriate date and time to visit the property. The landowner is welcome to attend but is not required to do so. For the site visit, the Land Trust representative walks the land and compares its current condition to that described and photographed in the baseline documentation compiled when the conservation agreement was put in place.

The Land Trust carefully documents any changes or points of concern and sends a copy of this to the landowner for review. The reports are stored in the Land Trust office to record our commitment to upholding the terms of the conservation agreements. This can become especially important if we ever need to defend the conservation agreement in the event of a violation or a contested agreement.

This year, each of the staff members monitored some of the conservation agreements.

"The site visits for annual monitoring are among the most

rewarding things I get to do," said staff member Janaé Reneaud. "It's gratifying to meet all the wonderful people who have made the commitment to protect their land, and to then be able to visit that protected land."

### Highlights of this year's visits:

- Suzie nearly losing a boot in the wetlands along Arms Creek (a tributary of the Huron River) while visiting the string of three protected properties there.
- Bringing some homemade jam to the site visit with Mr. Hastings, to carry on a tradition Barry Lonik had upheld for years.
- Visiting the Gosline property with current resident and experienced naturalist Catherine Marquardt, and seeing first-hand the positive effects of the spring's prescribed burn on the forest's native plant growth.
- Going on a special tour with Joan Rose and her rambunctious dog, Abby. From Joan: "I really feel like I've done something that will last."

## Across the Board

By Jim Govert

WLT Board Member



Upon hearing that I serve on the board of a land trust, one of my old college classmates remarked, "I guess that's your penance for the day job, eh?"

You may have the same initial reaction since my "day job" means my work as a real estate attorney, helping clients to buy, sell, lease, finance and develop land and buildings. But I did not join the Washtenaw Land Trust Board to help save my soul; I did it to help save a valuable community resource – our agricultural lands and natural habitat.

Getting the legal aspects of land preservation right for donors and the land trust is imperative. The primary tool used to protect and preserve land is the conservation easement – a legal document that provides a sensible means for the private, perpetual preservation of land containing working farms, scenic properties or wildlife habitat.

Currently, we have convened a task force to review and improve our conservation easements. The task force, comprised of board members and volunteer real estate attorneys, aims to provide landowners with clear, effective and enforceable legal documents; we will also compile a handbook of legal resources for landowners and their attorneys. Our goal: to minimize the time, energy and costs required to implement the land preservation vision of our land donors.

While growing up, I lived in suburban developments carved out of the rapidly disappearing local farmlands or forest. Unfortunately, little thought or care was then given to the community benefits of thriving local agriculture and unspoiled natural habitat.

Now a resident of Ann Arbor, I recognize that our quality of life both in the city and in the surrounding townships depends largely on our thoughtful use of the land resources we have left. Our community has made great strides, both public and private, to protect and preserve precious local lands.

Your continued support of the Washtenaw Land Trust helps maintain a key component of that effort. Thank you.

# Protecting Our Land, Preserving Our Legacy

## Celebrating a Landmark Anniversary

Story by Janaé Reneaud

Steve Hastings and I sat in his living room, he in what he calls his "command chair" and I on the couch. We both had a great view overlooking a pond, his garden, and the majestic trees on the property he protected 10 years ago through the Land Trust.

2005 marks the 10-year anniversary of Mr. Hastings' donation of a conservation agreement to protect his property -- the Land Trust's first-ever. Over the years Mr. Hastings had purchased smaller parcels of land to eventually total the 116 acres that are protected today. He decided that he wanted to protect this land, and for him, the answer was to enter into a conservation agreement to protect it from development in perpetuity.

After reading an article in the Ann Arbor News about the Potawatomi Land Trust, one of the parent organizations of the Washtenaw Land Trust, he determined that this was the organization that could help him achieve his goal.

In a job on a Wyoming ranch and in other experience, Mr. Hastings had seen places where land was truly treasured and valued. But, over the years, he had also seen places where people neglect the land and take it for granted. Even today, living adjacent to a state recreation area, he commonly sees trash dumped in the trails and forests.

As a result of his experience, "He was totally dedicated to seeing his land protected," said Barry Lonik, the former Potawatomi Land Trust director who worked with Mr. Hastings to craft the



Wild Turkey

Autumn at the Hastings conservation property, protected through a conservation agreement.

protection agreement. "He already knew about conservation easements - I didn't have to explain anything!"

The land includes a wide variety of habitats, "...including some very high quality ones," said Mr. Lonik. "My favorite was the stand of old growth white oaks in the northeast corner; big, open-grown, beautiful. It was a fabulous first project for the nascent land trust. I got spoiled, though; it was a long time before another "easy" easement on a terrific property came along!"

As Mr. Hastings and I walked back to my car after a wonderful morning of sharing memories, experiences, and thoughts on the future of land preservation, we were greeted outside by a quiet wind blowing in the trees, wild turkeys foraging in the yard, and off in the distance, a startled deer running off into the permanently protected forest.

### About the Hastings conservation property

- Protects 116 acres of natural areas in Lyndon Township, Washtenaw County, adjacent to the Waterloo Recreation Area
- Voluntarily protected through a donated conservation agreement in March 1995
- Represents the Land Trust's first-ever donated conservation agreement
- Protects extensive wetlands, oak-hickory woodlands, open fields, ponds, two headwater streams, and old growth woods.

## We couldn't have said it better ourselves!

Seen at the Wing Farm, at the corner of Miller and Zeeb Road west of Ann Arbor:



Photos by Susan Lackey

# Making Wildlife More at Home

## The Landowner Incentive Program

Story by Rick Meader

**D**id you know that over 70% of Michigan land is in private hands? Because of this, many of our most valued and endangered plants and animals live on private land. Concern for the well-being of wildlife on private lands led to the creation of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) Landowner Incentive Program.

### A real-life example: Judy & Peter Gray

In the two years of its existence, the Landowner Incentive Program has already enrolled about 1,500 acres in southeastern Michigan, and about 5,000 acres statewide. Locally, 80 of those acres are the property of Judy and Peter Gray near Waterloo.

"We thought that if we wanted to live in the country, we should help protect the country," says Mrs. Gray.

The Grays purchased their land about 5 years ago. Through contact with the Washtenaw Land Trust and other conservation-minded groups in the Waterloo area, they developed a desire to "do their tiny little bit in the face of development in the area" to improve the ecosystems on their land. They learned of the Landowner Incentive Program through the Washtenaw Land Trust.

Their goals with the program are to protect the wild aesthetics of the land that they so enjoy and to sustain the plants and animals that live there. Even insects will benefit, like the lovely swallowtail butterflies that inhabit a mass of native Michigan prickly ash shrubs on their property.

Approximately half of the Grays' land is woods and half is open marsh/sedge meadows. In the absence of fires, both natural and those set by Native Americans, over 90% of pre-settlement prairies and wet meadows have been lost to farming, development, and encroachment by forests. Thus, any remaining meadows that can be restored to or maintained in a healthy condition are especially useful to the wildlife that depend on them. The Grays commonly see deer, raccoons, skunks, foxes, owls and a variety of other birds on their property.

Under the Landowner Incentive Program, the Grays received a grant to conduct prescribed burns to maintain open



**Above: On a site visit for the Landowner Incentive Program.**  
**Left: Swallowtail butterfly**

portions of their property. This will stimulate the growth of native plant species that need open spaces and knock back the shrubs and small trees that invade these spaces in the absence of fire.

The Grays walked the land with Dan Kennedy of the DNR and Dave Borneman, a habitat restoration specialist, to evaluate the ecological status of the land and set up a plan of action for the property. Borneman, who has years of training and experience with prescribed burns, will develop the burn plan and implement it.

The Grays' project is still in the planning stages so they can't yet report on the success of their involvement in the program, but so far they are pleased with the process and hopeful that the prescribed burns will enhance the beauty and eco-friendliness of their property.

### How the program works

The Landowner Incentive Program provides financial and technical assistance to landowners to help them enhance their property for wildlife in specific ecosystems. It is funded by a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore habitat for rare species on private land.

Eligible properties must be in a priority area and be at least 12 acres. In southeastern Michigan, the priority areas include western Washtenaw, almost all of Jackson, and northern Hillsdale and Lenawee counties. Properties outside of the priority areas may be eligible if they provide a direct benefit to a species targeted by the program or are greater than 40 acres.

In our region, the program improves prairie and savanna habitat. Plantings, prescribed burns, wetland restorations and invasive species removals may all play a part in the process. Plantings of non-native material or forest management are not supported by the plan, and landowners must agree to not do anything on the land that would be incompatible with rare species utilizing the land.

As part of the program, landowners also agree to allow the DNR to visit the properties to evaluate the changes in the ecosystems.

*Rick Meader is a volunteer with the Washtenaw Land Trust. A native Ann Arborite, he earned a Master of Landscape Architecture degree at the University of Michigan and works as a Registered Landscape Architect for Washtenaw Engineering.*

### To learn more about managing your land for wildlife

- Visit our website, [www.washtenaw-landtrust.org](http://www.washtenaw-landtrust.org), for links to the Landowner Incentive Program website and the DNR publication "Managing Michigan's Wildlife; a Landowner's Guide."
- To apply to the Landowner Incentive Program, contact Dan Kennedy of the DNR at (517) 373-9358 or [kennedyd@michigan.gov](mailto:kennedyd@michigan.gov), or contact the Washtenaw Land Trust at (734) 302-LAND(5263) or [info@washtenaw-landtrust.org](mailto:info@washtenaw-landtrust.org) to help get the process rolling.

Photos: L - Luther Goldman/USFWS,  
R - Janae Reneaud



# Board Bio

**Phil Surratt**

**Profession:**

I was President of the American Title Company of Washtenaw from 1969 until I retired in 1991. Since that time I have been active in various business development and charitable activities in the community.

**Education:**

Undergraduate and Law degrees - University of Michigan

**Home:**

I have lived in Scio Township with my wife Ann since 1969.

**WLT Board Member Since:**

Early 2005

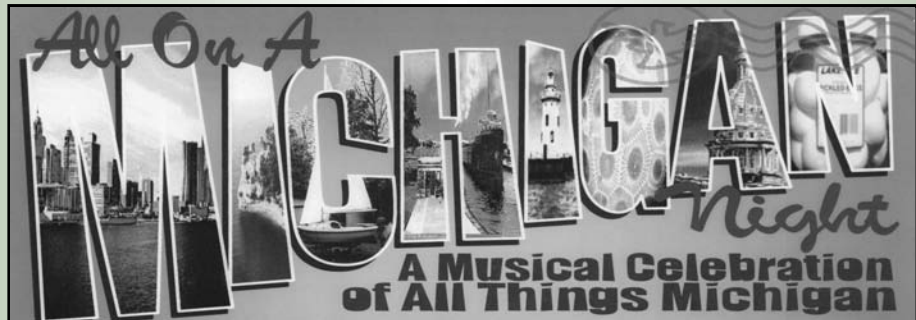
**On WLT Board Because:**

I support the goals of the Land Trust and want to do my part in furthering them.

I first became involved with the Land Trust in the early eighties when I sat on the board of the Washtenaw Land Conservancy, one of the parent organizations of the Land Trust.

The pace of development in our area has increased dramatically in the last few years, and the Land Trust's efforts to preserve our natural assets are more important than ever.

## Save the Date!



### Michigan Songwriter's Festival: All On A Michigan Night

Sunday, January 8, 2005, 7:30 p.m.  
The Ark in Ann Arbor

Treat yourself to Michigan's top songwriters, storytellers, writers, and historians performing original works about Michigan.

This family-friendly benefit concert, organized by Eric Kelly and Embassy Hotel Records, supports the Washtenaw Land Trust and its projects to preserve our region's fast-vanishing green spaces. It's a grassroots effort, and a great evening of music!

For more information, visit [www.embassyhotelrecords.com](http://www.embassyhotelrecords.com). Tickets will be available through Ticketmaster, and at The Ark Box Office, 316 S. Main Street in Ann Arbor. Hope you can join us!

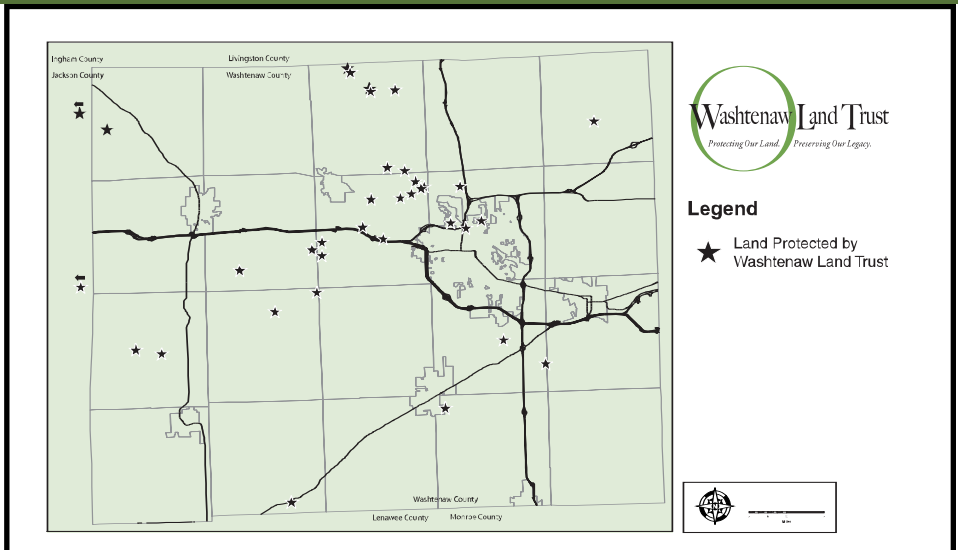
*continued from pg. 2*

Charity Steere successfully put the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in touch with sellers of a parcel within the Waterloo Recreation Area boundaries. The DNR has now purchased this property, plus another property referred by the Land Trust, for a total of 89 newly protected acres within the Lower Peninsula's largest block of protected land. The DNR said they welcomed the Land Trust's assistance on these acquisitions.

### Thank you to Washtenaw County

Washtenaw County selected the Land Trust for a scholarship to classes offered by Nonprofit Enterprise At Work. These courses help build the Land Trust's capacity to fulfill its mission of protecting land. We are thankful for this opportunity.

## WLT Preservation Map



# You can give the gift of nature and open space

As the holiday season approaches, why not consider giving a "Gift of Land" to friends, family, and business associates? Your recipients will enjoy your thoughtful gift and their part in preserving additional acres of natural areas and farmland in their community.



## Why give a "Gift of Land"?

- It's a **thoughtful, meaningful, and personalized** gift
- It's a **fun and easy** way for you to spread the word about land protection
- You'll **support effective, voluntary, local solutions**, right here where you live
- You (and your lucky recipient!) will make a **direct, tangible impact** on protecting natural areas and farm land

## Your gift recipient will receive:

- One-year membership in the Washtenaw Land Trust
- A personalized card welcoming them into the Land Trust's group of dedicated individuals working together for land protection
- A year's subscription to our newsletter, the Washtenaw Land Trust Journal
- The satisfaction of knowing they are helping to protect local natural areas and farmland.

Please complete the gift form below, or contact us at 734.302.LAND(5263).



## \$10 per month!

Is it worth \$10 a month to you to help protect our forests and fields, right here where you live? Your annual, tax-deductible contribution of \$120 to support the Washtenaw Land Trust can do just that - and more.

The first land trust in Michigan, the Washtenaw Land Trust protects the natural areas and working farms of Washtenaw, Jackson, and Ingham counties.

Working with private, individual landowners, we've completed 36 projects directly protecting 1,700 acres, and we have been a leader in campaigns that have successfully secured funding to protect thousands more acres.

### Help us do more. Give today.

Please return the gift form below or contact us at 734.302.LAND(5263).

### Your information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Day time phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Donation information

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: \$ _____ |

- For:  Membership/contribution  
 A "Gift of Land" (see above right)

To order multiple "Gift of Land" Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ at \$20 each. Total \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to Washtenaw Land Trust, or to pay by credit card:

- Visa  MC  AMEX  Discover

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### "Gift of Land" information (if applicable)

This "Gift of Land" is given:

in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Your gift should be mailed to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach additional recipient names.



1100 N. Main Street #203  
 Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
 734.302.LAND(5263)  
 info@washtenawlandtrust.org  
 www.washtenawlandtrust.org



NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ANN ARBOR, MI  
PERMIT No. 45

1100 N. Main Street  
Suite #203  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104  
734.302.LAND (5263)  
734.302.1804 FAX  
info@washtenawlandtrust.org  
[www.washtenawlandtrust.org](http://www.washtenawlandtrust.org)



**RECYCLED PAPER**

*Printed on 100% post consumer recycled paper produced with windpower.*



## Did you know?

The Washtenaw Land Trust played a key role in protecting the Huron River frontage that later became Ann Arbor's Bandemer Park.

In 1982, the Land Trust acquired control of 28 acres of the Huron River frontage. This was made possible through a combination of Land Trust funds, City park bond monies and Michigan Land Trust grants. Through the efforts of the Land Trust, the owners were persuaded to donate a further portion of the parcel to the City. The property, which now totals 40 acres, was turned over to the City of Ann Arbor in 1984.

To visit: Bandemer Park is a great spot to have a picnic, launch a canoe, or begin a nature hike loop. You can access the park off North Main Street at Lake Shore Drive, off Barton Drive where it meets Whitmore Lake Road, and from trails that connect it to neighboring nature areas.

**At Bandemer Park in Ann Arbor**