



Support SMLC's mission with a donation today

Dear Friend,

November 2025

"...the care of the earth is our most ancient and most worthy and, after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it, and to foster its renewal, is our only legitimate hope."

— Wendell Berry

This year Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (SMLC) completed our new Strategic Plan which calls for an ambitious set of goals to achieve more local land conservation, community outreach and strengthening the organization's long-term sustainability. I'm sharing this with you because at some point in the past, your path and SMLC's were aligned.

So, what is land conservation? At a fundamental level land conservation provides wildlife habitat and protects invaluable natural resources including local woods, wetlands, farmland and prairies. It also provides tools for protecting land including conservation easements, and it facilitates community partnerships and promotes public access to nature.

In addition, what has been emerging is that land conservation mitigates climate change and benefits human health when nature and semi-wild places are nearby. For example, the benefits of preserving and restoring prairies in the time of climate change is being researched. One study stated, "Prairie plants are natural carbon sinks, as they have deep roots that sequester carbon into the ground and never release them unless they are tilled or dug up." Carbon sequestration is one method of reducing the amount of CO₂ in the air – a climate change goal.

SMLC has been restoring prairies for over a decade. Several preserves in our region are examples of our prairie restoration work: LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve (Superior Township, Washtenaw County), Lost Lake Nature Preserve (Holly and Grand Blanc townships in Oakland and Genesee counties) and Sibley Prairie Nature Preserve-West Prairie site (Brownstown Township, Wayne County).

If we think about land conservation from a human health perspective, many studies link health improvements to the benefits of being out in nature. These include: boosting the immune system, lowering blood pressure, reducing stress, and improving our moods, just to name a few.

SMLC's preserves are great places to get outdoors, take a hike and have some quiet respite in nature with yourself, family and friends. Besides the preserves noted above, popular sites for birdwatching and nature photography include those located in the Superior Greenway, a more than 2,700-acre mosaic of protected lands in Washtenaw County, many with hiking trails and places to enjoy nature.

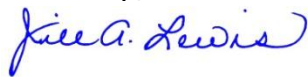
Land conservation is also a compassionate act of service. When you participate in land conservation, you care. You are part of an effort that saves lands where plants and animals can survive and even thrive. Conserving land also contributes to a healthier planet, without which, we all suffer. Finally, saving and stewarding natural lands is much bigger than ourselves and touches our spirit in ways that connects us to each other and our environment on a deeper level.

Volunteering is one way you can contribute to helping nature and land conservation. Being part of a physical activity that does good in the world is uplifting! For SMLC volunteer opportunities, please check out smlcland.org and our website calendar of activities. We can always use help with maintaining trails and other public amenities, removing invasive species, and general upkeep of the Conservancy Farm property.

Your 2025 year-end donation of \$50 or more supports local land conservation and SMLC. It funds the work that achieves our mission and new Strategic Plan goals. Make an online donation at smlcland.org or mail your check by December 31, 2025. *You can help save, steward and support local natural areas and open spaces today!*

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Jill A. Lewis
Executive Director

Conservation Takes All of Us

Join. Act. Explore. Give.

