



Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy

2021 Stewardship Fund Campaign

Land stewardship is a necessary and ongoing endeavor after natural areas and open space have been acquired for preservation in southeast Michigan. Most lands benefit from human intervention after years of degradation caused by clearing, filling, dumping and other unnatural changes. Doing nothing, in many cases, means lower quality wildlife habitat, little to no public access infrastructure, and more vulnerability to climate change. Successful land stewardship requires funding, professional and voluntary assistance, and adaptive management.

To meet this growing need, the SMLC Board of Directors is establishing a new public Stewardship Fund. The Fund's purpose is to support the ongoing stewardship costs associated with nature preserve ownership, conservation easement responsibilities, and building/equipment upkeep.

Examples of what the Fund will support:

- **Prairie Habitat Improvements:** Healthy prairies require periodic intervention such as prescribed burning and mowing which keeps the grasslands intact and provides better habitat for migratory birds.
- **Public Trails:** Trail creation and maintenance includes installing and repairing boardwalks, posting trail markers and signs, and clearing vegetation and downed trees / branches.
- **Wetlands Restoration:** Wetlands restoration requires follow-up care. After the initial project is completed, SMLC controls invasive species, monitors structural integrity, and assesses ecological results.

The Stewardship Fund Campaign

The Carls Foundation will award SMLC a \$75,000 matching grant if SMLC raises \$75,000 by 12-31-21. Achieving this goal will result in **\$150,000** in initial seed funding to address projected stewardship needs during the next 5 years. The new permanent Fund will continue to receive public support in order to provide for longer range future expenses.

The opportunity to support this important new Fund and have your gift doubled is now. You can help SMLC continue our longstanding and successful land stewardship work with your gift today. **Thank You.**



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How to Give to the Stewardship Fund Campaign:

- Please make checks payable to "Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy".
- Please note in the memo line that the gift is for the "Stewardship Fund Campaign".
- Please make your pledge and cash donations prior to 12-31-21.
- Your project donations will fund ongoing stewardship costs.

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www.smlcland.org

SMLC Stewardship Facts:

- Responsible for 2,477 acres of preserved lands
- Stewarding 18 nature preserves and 15 conservation easements located in 7 SE MI counties
- Providing and maintaining nearly 25 miles of existing public trails; planning for more
- Servicing and maintaining 1 truck, 1 tractor, 2 trailers, and additional small equipment / power tools
- Engaging many interns and volunteers for fieldwork, mapping and reporting.

"Caring for the land, the significance of doing things for life, then watching the fabric of diversity reweave a carpet of color, sound, movement and beauty in our forests, meadows, and wetlands - there is no greater joy."

- Shawn Severance, SMLC Stewardship Committee Chair