



“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is a process; working together is a success.” - Henry Ford

Dear Friend:

May 2023

Happy 35th Anniversary to SMLC!

It’s a year to celebrate for many reasons – our noteworthy organizational anniversary, the 10-year anniversary of the Lost Lake Nature Preserve and my 15-year anniversary with SMLC. **Thank you** to everyone who helped SMLC become the organization we are today. We appreciate all of the help and that there’s more to come.

The responsibility of conserving land is a forever one. It takes a lot of helping hands to make a strong, sustainable and viable organization – especially one that has a job to do in perpetuity. Our contributions today are building blocks of the future. I’m thinking about that more and more given the state of our world today. What helps ground us and brings peace? Nature. Being out on the land. Walking in the woods. The sun on our face, the flowers blooming afield, the monarch that landed next to where we are standing, having travelled so far to find respite, sanctuary and a little peace itself. Nature, and our relationship to it as defined by our actions here and now.

That’s what happened when SMLC acquired Lost Lake 10 years ago. It wasn’t the greatest time to visit – a cold and gloomy November day. But the lake was beautiful, the ancient tree on the bluff was magnificent, the woods were stunning even without their fall colors, and that first visit made our hearts leap and inspired commitment! On the drive back to the office, we made a pact to make this happen. It has been an incredible journey from acquiring the land – to getting it ready and opening it up to the public, to the more recent grassland and wetlands restorations.

“The Lost Lake Nature Preserve is a beautiful place that will preserve the natural heritage of Oakland and Genesee counties; demonstrate the value of diverse, high-quality, and locally-important wildlife habitat; provide a peaceful and scenic setting in which visitors can interact with and enjoy nature; and offer opportunities to learn more about the preserve’s natural communities and what influences their success.”
Lost Lake Nature Preserve Vision Statement

You made this possible, your gifts supported SMLC being ready 10 years ago to make the dream a reality. Your ongoing gifts make it possible to protect more beautiful lands like Lost Lake in the future.

This year SMLC is asking everyone to lend a hand to save the land. To consider your actions, big and small, that contribute to collective well-being through local land conservation. Thank you for all that you do to support SMLC. We appreciate you!

Sincerely,

Jill A. Lewis

Executive Director

PS – **Thank you** for your commitment to nature in 2023. Your gift contributes to saving, stewarding and supporting local lands this year and helps build a stronger SMLC going forward.

