



**Southeast Michigan
Land Conservancy**
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www.smlcland.org



Conservancy Farm Nature Preserve

Photo by Charles Scott

2017 Fact Sheet

Mission Statement: The Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy conserves natural land and open space – including forests, wetlands, meadows, agricultural lands, and places of scenic beauty – to provide habitat for wildlife and to enrich the lives of people.

Purpose: To conserve and manage wildlife habitat in order to foster healthy ecosystems, protect air and water quality, and provide scenic enjoyment. To promote appreciation of the natural world; educate the public about conservation options; and engage communities throughout southeast Michigan in land protection and stewardship activities.

History: Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (SMLC) was founded in 1988 to protect land in the 7-county southeast Michigan region: Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. To date, SMLC has protected over **3,400 acres** in 7 counties including Genesee. SMLC has two local chapters, **Superior Township (STC)** and **Monroe County**. Both were established to assist SMLC with land protection and community relations in their respective areas.

The Conservancy's first project was the purchase of 40 acres in the City of Westland to add to Wayne County's Holliday Nature Preserve. Since then, SMLC has established 20 nature preserves and 17 conservation easements throughout the region. Among our most notable projects are the \$1.1 million purchase in 2013 of the 538-acre Lost Lake Nature Preserve located in Genesee and Oakland counties and the \$1.3 million purchase in 2007 of a conservation easement which protected the Schultz Farm located in Washtenaw County.

Administration: SMLC is certified by the IRS as a charitable 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, and is also a "qualified conservation organization" eligible to receive tax-deductible conservation easements and land donations. SMLC is licensed to solicit donations by the State of Michigan and undergoes an annual audit. SMLC is governed by a volunteer board of directors which oversees the governance, fiscal and operational activities of the organization.

2017 Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy Board of Directors:

- Mary Ericson, President
- William Secrest, Vice President / STC Committee Chair
- Bryan Collett, Treasurer
- James T. Weiner, Secretary
- Michelle Andrzejak, At Large Officer
- Don DeMallie, Director
- Mitch Hall, Director
- Richard Kent, Land Protection Chair
- James McIntyre, Director
- Jack R. Smiley, Director
- Jonathan Trevathan, Director

SMLC's Board of Directors is assisted by **6 Committees:**

- ❖ Executive
- ❖ Finance
- ❖ Land Protection
- ❖ Stewardship
- ❖ Superior Township Chapter
- ❖ Event Planning

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2017 Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy Fact Sheet continued

Programs: SMLC's main program is **Land Protection** which includes: **Land Acquisition, Land and Easement Stewardship** and **Community Outreach**. Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy accomplishes most of our land conservation, community engagement work, and raising awareness of the importance of conservation through these primary programs.

SMLC is based at a historic farm in Superior Township. The Conservancy Farm may have one of the oldest residential buildings in the county, the original homestead cabin dating from the 1830's. It is also home to SMLC's **Community Organic Garden** with many active gardeners and room for more.

Finally, SMLC accomplishes some of our program goals by partnering with related organizations such as **Preserve Washtenaw**, a coalition promoting land conservation in Washtenaw County, **SEMIWILD**, a partnership comprised of regional land conservancies and the **Land Trust Alliance**, a national association serving more than 1,700 land trusts across the country. SMLC also works with other area community, environmental and governmental groups.

Operations: SMLC maintains a small office of 2 full-time and 1 part-time staff. Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy accomplishes a lot of work through volunteer assistance and saves money through in-kind donations.

Membership: It's easy to become an SMLC member and to give gift memberships to SMLC. Please visit www.smlcland.org to download the forms or call our office to obtain forms directly.

Donations: Donors can give to **SMLC** and let us direct their gift where it is needed most, or they can direct their gift to one or more of the following SMLC restricted funds: **Land Protection, Monroe County, Superior Township** and **Stewardship Endowment**. SMLC also raises funds for specific land protection projects (as announced). Please visit www.smlcland.org to download our donation form or to give safely and securely online. You may also call our office to obtain forms directly or to discuss other forms of giving including land conservation options with our knowledgeable staff.

List of Preserves: SMLC Nature Preserves are beautiful places to hike and explore the natural world in southeast Michigan. Please visit www.smlcland.org for more information.

- Allen Woods Nature Preserve (Wayne)
- Bell Creek Nature Preserve (Wayne)
- Chesterfield Nature Preserve (Macomb)
- Conservancy Farm (Washtenaw)
- Goemaere-Anderson Wetland Preserve (Oakland)
- Heritage Oaks Nature Preserve (Wayne)
- Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve (Washtenaw)
- LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve (Washtenaw)
- Lost Lake Nature Preserve (Genesee/Oakland)
- Lyon's Point Nature Preserve (Livingston)
- Morris-Reichert Nature Preserve (Livingston)
- Nichwaugh Lake Nature Preserve (Livingston)
- Pittsfield Stream Corridor (Washtenaw)
- Sibley Prairie Nature Preserve (Wayne)
 - Sibley Prairie site
 - West Prairie site
- Springhill Nature Preserve (Washtenaw)
- Warren H. Carpenter Nature Preserve (Livingston)

