



“Anything else you're interested in is not going to happen if you can't breathe the air or drink the water. Don't sit this one out. Do something.” - Carl Sagan

Dear Friend:

May 2025

In 2024, the SMLC Board began strategic planning. They completed the majority of the planning process and voted to approve the new 5-year Strategic Focus Areas and Goals in March. To enact these goals will require focus, knowledge and skills, and the capacity to do so. This includes raising more annual funds to acquire and steward SMLC lands and easements, to increase our online presence and outreach activities, and to support a sustainable organization - long into the future.

As part of the planning process, SMLC assessed organizational strengths and weaknesses, and external opportunities and threats. Based on that assessment, one of SMLC's greatest strengths are the people who have supported SMLC during our 37-year history. Being able to increase the level of support SMLC receives was one of our greatest opportunities.

However, what was not anticipated at that time, and could be considered a new threat to the organization as of 2025, was a more challenging funding environment. Whether this is the changing federal funding picture, the stock market swings that impact donor and foundation giving decisions, or that the number of U.S. donors giving to charities is down and has been for the past 3 years, SMLC is facing a need to maintain its annual revenue and increase it.

For land conservation to be effective, it relies on public support and every dollar counts. Nothing a land conservancy does is free including the costs to acquire lands and easements and the many actions required to monitor, maintain, and improve those lands. Additionally, providing public access to protected lands and engaging communities and residents in outreach events and volunteer activities are important charitable efforts. Finally, having the capacity to do the above, including maintaining a physical and online presence requires a sustainable level of contributions.

This is where you come in. You are the hero in the SMLC sustainability story. If not for you, we would not have accomplished what we have to-date. Your donations have inspired, motivated and encouraged SMLC to do more. As evidenced by our new strategic goals, we are striving to acquire and steward more lands, increase our outreach efforts, continue to meet accreditation requirements, and raise our capacity to do all of this. Please consider giving more than last year, sharing SMLC success stories on your social networks, and encouraging others to donate to SMLC too. Your support makes all the difference. **Thank you!**

Sincerely,

Jill A. Lewis
Executive Director

PS - Thank you for contributing to SMLC in 2025. Land conservation is under many threats, not the least of which is funding support. With your help we can keep this at bay and increase SMLC's capacity to do more to save our woods, wetlands, farmland and prairies now and forever.





Photo by Wendy Pellerito

Our Mission...

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.

Our Board of Directors...


James McIntyre – President	Christopher Flanagan
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Contact Us...

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What YOU can Do

1. Make a generous donation today. Use the enclosed envelope to mail your gift to SMLC or make a secure credit card donation at smlcland.org.
2. Make a generous pledge today. Pledges can be payable over the next 2 years starting with a payment on the pledge before 12-31-25. All pledges should be paid in full no later than 12-31-26.
3. Tell your family and friends. Spread the word about SMLC's good work and invite others to join you in participating in "local land conservation".



Photo by Mark Even