



**“To make a prairie it takes a clover and one bee, One clover, and a bee, and revery. The revery alone will do, if bees are few.” - Emily Dickinson**

Dear Friend:

May 2026

**The time to act is now.** Here are some startling statistics that help explain why this is as meaningful today as it was years ago:

- Every hour in the U.S. we are losing approximately 150 acres of natural land and 40 acres of farmland. The total correlates to losing more than all of Grand Canyon National Park every year (1.2 million acres).
- Since 1970, 33% of biodiversity has been lost, largely due to wildlife habitat destruction.
- Global Forest Watch reports that from 2001 to 2025 Michigan lost roughly 1.8 million acres of tree cover (an 8% decrease since 2000). USDA and other studies show that forests remove air pollution and 37% of Americans get some of their drinking water from forested lands.
- A 2023 study by NatureServe found that 40% of animals, 34% of plants, and 40% of ecosystems in the U.S. are at risk. A major reason was land conversion with grasslands (prairies) and wetlands most impacted.

SMLC is part of the solution counteracting this loss of critical and important ecosystems. Our purpose is protecting, preserving and stewarding natural lands and open space while engaging with partners, communities and individuals to support this work. Two current projects exemplify this and help provide a local stopgap to the astounding losses noted above. One is a 30-acre conservation easement acquisition of beautiful woodlands along Fellows Creek, a cold-water stream tributary of the Rouge River. Another is our work as part of the Save Sibley Prairie Coalition. The Coalition is raising funds to purchase 440 acres of globally rare lakeplain prairie and mature forested lands in Brownstown Township, Wayne County.

Additionally, in the past year, SMLC has expanded our community outreach efforts, added a new public trail at our Morris-Reichert Nature Preserve, and continued to steward local natural areas. Much of this is through the efforts of organizational volunteers who generously give of their time and extend our operational reach.

Your past donations helped SMLC’s land conservation efforts mitigate the trends noted above in southeast Michigan. Today is another opportunity to give, and to do so generously, knowing that every dollar donated adds up and supports acting now. We appreciate your gift and thank you!

Sincerely,

Jill A. Lewis  
Executive Director

PS – Thank you for contributing to SMLC in 2026. 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 Mark Even

## 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  
 Fredric Lund - Vice President  
 Mary Ericson – Secretary  
 Mitch Hall – Treasurer

Donald E. DeMallie  
 Richard Kent  
 Carol Poenisch  
 William Secrest  
 James T. Weiner

## Contact Us...

Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy  
 8383 Vreeland Road  
 Superior Township, MI 48198



734-484-6565 • info@smlcland.org • smlcland.org

This letter is printed on 30% recycled paper

Place  
 Postage  
 Stamp  
 Here

Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy  
 8383 Vreeland Road  
 Superior Township, MI 48198



Photo by Charles Scott



## 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](http://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 12-31-26. All pledges should be paid in full no later than 12-31-27.
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".