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The Land Conservancy of West Michigan is an independent tax-exempt 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization.

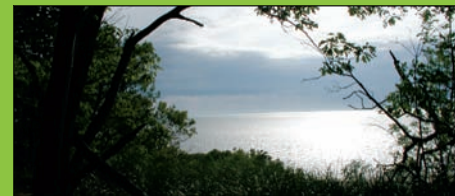
For more information please contact the  
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Land Conservancy of West Michigan  
1345 Monroe Avenue NW, Suite 324  
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## Keeping Nature Nearby



## Among Our Leading Projects

### Saul Lake Bog Nature Preserve

123 acres; Kent County

Visitors can explore a bog ecosystem, forest, and meadow. Two bog overlooks and rustic trails provide a close-up look at the unique plants and animals.

### Wege Natural Area for the Study of Ecology

62 acres; Kent County

Adjacent to Lowell Area Schools' Wittenbach Agri-Science Center, this preserve is often visited by students for studies of nature and ecology. A well-established trail leads visitors through a variety of stages of forest succession and along Lee Creek.

### Maas Family Nature Preserve

17 acres; Kent County

Located along the White Pine Trail north of Rockford, the preserve is a perfect place for trail users to enjoy nature.

### Bradford Dickinson White Nature Preserve

45 acres; Kent County

The White Preserve harbors 2,000 feet of a cold water stream, steep hills, and ravines covered in towering pines and mature oak trees.

### Minnie Skwarek Nature Preserve

24 acres; Ottawa County

Rustic trails meander through upland and lowland forests, over a creek, through spicebush-covered wetlands, and down to the Grand River.

### Palomita Reserve

40 acres; Ottawa County

An overlook along the Grand Haven Township bike path provides excellent views of the Great Lakes marsh, waterfowl, and surrounding hardwoods and pines along Little Pigeon Creek.



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# A NATURAL VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF WEST MICHIGAN

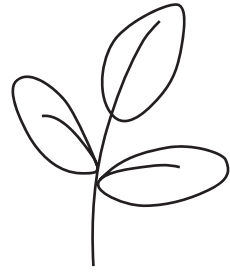


The Land Conservancy of West Michigan

## A Growing Goal

The Land Conservancy of West Michigan is a non-profit land trust and the only organization that focuses solely on the protection of important natural land within our eight-county West Michigan service area. Since 1976 we have permanently protected more than 3,000 acres thanks to the support of nearly 2,000 volunteers and financial donors.

There are many beautiful natural areas still at risk of being changed forever by development. Our goal is to conserve West Michigan's high quality natural land, making it possible for future generations to experience the same natural beauty we know and appreciate.



## The Land We Love

Lake Michigan's breathtaking shoreline and majestic sand dunes. Forests of pines and hardwoods, home to spring flowers and songbirds. Open grasslands dotted with wildflowers. Wetlands rich with wildlife. This is the extraordinary beauty and diversity of West Michigan.

What will it be like 10 or 20 years from now?

The Land Conservancy of West Michigan is dedicated to balancing our area's growth by preserving and protecting our significant natural lands.

## Branching Into Communities

**Community Assistance:** The Land Conservancy works with local communities and government bodies to establish public parks and protect natural areas.

**Education:** We believe education is the best foundation for action. Throughout West Michigan we host informational forums and slide shows, distribute brochures and educational literature to spread the seeds of conservation, and lead educational hikes to show the benefits of preservation for plants, wildlife, and the community.



## Land Protection Promises

**Nature Preserves:** The Land Conservancy obtains ownership of properties through donation or purchase to establish nature preserves that are open for the public to enjoy. Landowners wanting to leave a legacy and permanently protect the land they love should consider this option.

We currently own and manage 13 preserves, each unique with flowering meadows, marsh wetlands, sandy shoreline dunes, and deciduous forests filled with rare plants and wildlife. Many preserves offer trails and overlooks that allow visitors to discover nature up-close.

**Conservation Easements:** Landowners voluntarily limit future development of their land with a legal agreement in order to permanently protect its conservation values. Landowners continue private ownership of their property and are able to pass it on to their heirs or sell it, with the assurance that it will remain permanently protected.

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## Volunteer Opportunities

**Out and About:** Outdoor opportunities focus on maintaining nature preserves. Hands-on activities include trail maintenance, rubbish removal, and exotic plant removal.

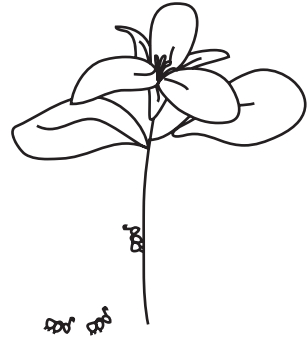
**Behind the Scenes:** The Land Conservancy's office in downtown Grand Rapids offers opportunities to assist with mailing, filing, data entry, and answering requests for information.

**Special Events:** Volunteers help plan events, presentations, and receptions to educate West Michigan's communities.

**Having a Say:** Being part of a Land Conservancy committee gives community members a chance to offer their ideas on stewardship, land protection, and membership programs.

## How You Can Help

The Land Conservancy offers many ways to get involved and help protect the future of West Michigan's natural areas. You can take action by offering financial support as a Land Conservancy member, assisting with the creation of a nature preserve, protecting your land, or volunteering.



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