



**Contact:**

Jim Ferro, Ada Township Planning Director  
616-676-9191 x31, [planningdir@ada.mi.us](mailto:planningdir@ada.mi.us)  
April Scholtz, LCWM Land Protection Director  
616-451-9476, [april@naturenearby.org](mailto:april@naturenearby.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**ADA TOWNSHIP FOREVER PROTECTS 34 NATURAL ACRES**

*Ada Township purchased 34 acres of woods and wetlands thanks to donations from the Ada Open Space Fund and local residents. The Carl Creek Wetland Preserve will be protected forever by a conservation easement held by the Land Conservancy of West Michigan.*

Ada Township has purchased 34 acres of woods and wetlands located along Alta Dale Avenue (south of M-21) in Ada Township. The purchase of the Carl Creek Wetland Preserve was made possible thanks to financial contributions from local residents and the Ada Open Space Fund.

A conservation easement with the Land Conservancy of West Michigan has been placed on the property to insure that the land remains in a natural state forever. As with the other 46 conservation easements in West Michigan held by the Land Conservancy, this legal agreement will forever limit the property's development by current and future landowners and will allow the independent, non-profit Land Conservancy to monitor and protect the conservation values of the property.

The Carl Creek Wetland Preserve will be open to the public as part of the Ada Township park system. The township has no immediate plans for improvement, but has retained the right to construct a walking path along the south side of the property and establish a small parking area.

The protection of the Carl Creek property preserves natural habitat for local wildlife and plants. In 2003, Dave Warners, Professor of Biology at Calvin College, examined the property and found "that it provides valuable, high quality habitat in an increasingly urbanized landscape." He noted upland and lowland woods, a prairie community, and extensive open herbaceous wetlands, the latter being the highest quality plant community on the property. Carl Creek, a small tributary of the Grand River, meanders along the property. Protection of this riparian corridor benefits the Grand River's water quality.

A dedication ceremony for the Carl Creek Wetland Preserve will be held on Sunday, October 12, 2008 at 3 pm at 155 Alta Dale SE, Ada, MI. For additional information, please visit the Ada Township Website at [www.ada.mi.us](http://www.ada.mi.us) or the Land Conservancy website at [www.naturenearby.org](http://www.naturenearby.org).

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The Land Conservancy of West Michigan is a local, nonprofit organization that preserves natural land and open space in eight West Michigan counties. It is the only organization devoted solely to preserving natural and scenic lands that are an important part of West Michigan's community character. With over thirty years of experience keeping nature nearby, the Land Conservancy has protected more than 4,700 acres with nature preserves, conservation easements, and project assistance to local governments.