



news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Less than \$65,000 Needed to Protect the Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area After Large Donation Received

Saugatuck, Mich. — On Tuesday, August 9th the Land Conservancy of West Michigan received a \$50,000 donation to protect the Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area. This donation is a significant step toward completing the \$22.1 million project. Now only \$65,000 remains to be raised by Labor Day to ensure permanent protection and public access to the 3,600 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline and 173 acres of dunes and wetlands south of the Kalamazoo River channel.

“Thelma Coghlin, a long-time community member who made this generous donation, wants to help preserve Saugatuck’s natural beauty and cultural history,” according to Penny Ladd, chair of the Land Conservancy’s Board of Directors, “Now we need others who value this place to come forward and help us reach this worthy goal.”

On Sunday, August 28, 2011 the Land Conservancy will offer a guided hike through the property. Guests are invited to join April Scholtz, Land Protection Director, to learn more about the natural and cultural history of the property and experience its remarkable views and wildlife firsthand.

Hikers should meet at 7:00 p.m. at the north end of Saugatuck’s Oval Beach City Park parking lot. Please bring water and dress for the weather, as this is a challenging hike. This hike is free, but there is a \$6 fee to park at Oval Beach. There is no entry fee for those choosing to enter the park on bikes, mopeds, the Interurban bus system (269-857-1418), or on foot.

For more information about making a tax-deductible contribution to this project, or the hike, please contact the Land Conservancy of West Michigan at lcwm@naturenearby.org, www.naturenearby.org, or 616-451-9476.

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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 thirty-plus years of experience keeping nature nearby, the Land Conservancy has protected over 7,300 acres with nature preserves, conservation easements, and project assistance to local governments.