



news release

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FAMILY'S OPEN SPACE REMAINS WILD

Newaygo, Mich. — Dave and Kerry Scripps and their family have enjoyed their 47-acre Muskegon River property for several years, and they recently created a conservation easement, keeping their natural land protected forever. A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a qualified land conservancy, in this case the Land Conservancy of West Michigan (LCWM). The agreement protects the natural qualities of the land by permanently limiting its development. The landowner continues to own and live on the land and the land stays private, but the property can never be split or sold for development purposes.

The Scripps property, downstream of the City of Newaygo, encompasses nearly a mile of natural Muskegon River frontage. Wetlands, upland forest and the natural river frontage make the property a haven for wildlife and help maintain the high water quality and scenic value associated with the Muskegon River. The area is popular with recreationists all year round, especially in the summer months.

“Our decision to donate a conservation easement to the Land Conservancy of West Michigan was easy,” said Dave Scripps. “It enabled us to preserve the natural beauty of our property as well as the Muskegon River. Our desire to see the land and the river protected for future generations is why we chose a conservation easement.”

The Scripps family is the most recent family to protect their Muskegon River frontage with the LCWM. To date, the Land Conservancy has protected over 500 acres and nearly 5 miles of frontage along the river in Newaygo County with conservation easements.

For additional information about the Land Conservancy of West Michigan and how you can protect your family land, please call 616-451-9476, email lcwm@naturenearby.org or visit 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 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.