



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8647

www.a2gov.org

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Ginny Trocchio, Ann Arbor Greenbelt,

734.794.6210 ext. 42798, gtrocchio@a2gov.org

2010 A STRONG YEAR FOR LAND PRESERVATION IN WASHTENAW COUNTY: 1,604 ACRES PROTECTED

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Jan. 14, 2011 — During 2010, land preservation programs in Washtenaw County protected an additional 1,604 acres of farmland, natural areas, and open spaces for Washtenaw County residents. These projects were made possible thanks to local farmland and open space preservation millages – Ann Arbor Greenbelt, Ann Arbor Township, Scio Township, Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP), and Webster Township – along with efforts of local land conservancy, Legacy Land Conservancy (formerly the Washtenaw Land Trust).

Partnerships

One of the keys to the successes of land protection in Washtenaw County has been the willingness for land protection organizations to work collaboratively in order to achieve on-the-ground results to permanently preserve Washtenaw County's natural resources.

As examples:

- Ann Arbor Township and City of Ann Arbor: The Charles and Catherine Braun farm was a high priority for both the City and Ann Arbor Township due to its prime farmland soils and scenic views along Whitmore Lake and Joy Roads. In addition, only five years ago this property was planned to be developed with hundreds of manufactured houses and an onsite waste water treatment plant. That treatment plant would have discharged just upstream of the City of Ann Arbor's water intake that supplies 85 percent of the city's drinking water and sat on the Village of Barton Hill's Wellhead Protection Zone. The protection of the property would not have been possible without the collaboration between the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt program and Ann Arbor Township.
- Webster Township: Due to the collective efforts of Ann Arbor Greenbelt, Webster Township and the Legacy Land Conservancy, over 1,300 acres of farmland and open space have been protected in Webster Township.

Farmland Preservation and Leveraging Federal Funding

In 2010, local programs with a focus on farmland preservation leveraged almost \$4 million dollars from the Federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) to protect over 1,100 acres of farmland in

more

Printed on recycled paper



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8647

www.a2gov.org

Washtenaw County. FRPP provides matching funds to keep farmland in agricultural use, with a focus on properties near other farmland parcels to support long-term agricultural production. An additional 161 acres of farmland was protected through local millages, landowner donations and local land conservancies.

Samples of farmland projects completed in 2010 include:

- Five farms protected by the Ann Arbor Greenbelt program, totaling 610 acres. These projects build on the last five years to assemble 1,000 acre blocks of protected land. The projects include \$1.7 million from local partners and \$1.9 million from USDA Farm and Ranchland Protection Program grants.
- Three farms protected by Ann Arbor Township, totaling 345 acres. All of these properties are contiguous to previously-protected properties. In combination with the two Greenbelt projects completed in the township, there is currently over 1,000 acres of protected farmland in Ann Arbor Township, halfway to the goal of 2,000 acres.
- Three farms protected by Webster Township totaling 160 acres, one of which is adjacent to two previously-protected properties. The other two projects are nearby and are starting a new block of protected land along Mast Rd., one of the township's most scenic and well-travelled routes.
- One project completed by Scio Township totaling 50 acres. The property also features a wetland treasured by local birders.

Natural Area Preservation

Washtenaw County's Natural Areas Preservation Program completed five purchases in 2010, adding 277 acres to the nature preserves managed by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. These purchases include additions to existing preserves and the establishment of two new preserves.

- The Brauer Preserve, located in Freedom Township, was expanded by 39 acres and now totals over 225 acres.
- The Goodrich Preserve, located in Ann Arbor Township, was expanded by eight acres and now includes over 36 acres. The Goodrich Preserve is connected via trails to Horner-McLaughlin Woods, a 96 acre property owned by the University of Michigan.
- In Superior Township, 44 acres were added to the Meyer Preserve. The newly expanded Preserve, now totaling over 180 acres, is a recognized destination for birding. The wooded portion of the recent purchase includes a plant type classified as "Threatened" by the State of Michigan. The Meyer Preserve is located within an area known as The Superior Greenway, a joint project of the of the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, City of Ann Arbor, Superior Township and Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission which has protected over 1,800 acres.

more



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8647

www.a2gov.org

- The Clarke & Avis Spike Preserve was established in Sharon Township through the purchase of 103 acres from the Spike Property. This property is adjacent to the Grass Lake Sanctuary. The Preserve will be available for public access in 2011, once trails and an access point have been developed.
- The Sharon Short Hills Preserve was established through the purchase of an 84 acre property in Sharon Township. Exhibiting steep topography, which is the source of its name, the Preserve will be available for public access in 2011, once trails and an access point have been developed.

With the completion of these purchases, the Natural Areas Preservation Program has established 19 nature preserves in Washtenaw County, totaling over 2000 acres.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- **Tom Freeman**, Deputy Director, Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission, 734.971.6337, freemant@ewashtenaw.org
- **Susan Lackey**, Executive Director, Legacy Land Conservancy, 734.302.5263, susan@legacylandconservancy.org
- **Jill Lewis**, Executive Director, Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, 734.484.6565, jlewis@smlcland.org
- **Barry Lonik**, Consultant, Treemore Ecology and Land Services, 734.223.2321, blonik13@aol.com

Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and is frequently recognized as a foremost place to live, learn, work, thrive and visit (www.a2gov.org/news). To keep up with City of Ann Arbor information, subscribe for e-mail updates (www.a2gov.org/subscribe), follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/a2gov>) or become a city fan on Facebook (www.facebook.com/thecityofannarbor). The city's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters, fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.

#####