

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

THE VIEW FROM ABOVE

By Christopher Bunch, Executive Director

April 22, 2025 The ebb and flow of our work is akin to the pace of the rivers in this region, from whence our name is derived and where we work to preserve the nature we cherish and depend on. Sometimes fast, frenetic, dashing off rocks and limbs and obstacles; sometimes slow, eddying, languorously meandering. But always moving onward, to the next bend, the next pool, the next rapids; the next project, the next challenge, the next opportunity. As we flowed through 2024, we encountered all of these—rapids demanding all of our energy to navigate, and eddies that seemed to interminably slow our pace.

Turtle Woods was successful with its second go-round with the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund—Oakland County Parks was awarded the grant that will fund permanent protection of this critical natural asset and create a nature preserve in Troy for all in the region to explore and enjoy, at the same time it protects endangered species habitat and preserves water quality in the Clinton River.

After years of negotiation and attending to technical details, the Monarch Meadows project in Chesterfield Township made a giant leap forward. The conservation easement that ensures the property won't be developed was completed, and the Consumers Energy Foundation provided a \$250,000 Planet Award that provides matching funding to a grant from the US Air Force so we can move forward with restoration and creation of native prairie on this former brownfield. In addition to protecting and restoring the *Nature Near You*, this project ensures the viability of Selfridge Air National Guard Base by preventing development that is incompatible with the mission and operations of the base.

Thanks to our partners at Ducks Unlimited and the DNR, we secured funding for ongoing projects in Bruce Township and up in the South Branch Flint River region that will allow conservation easement acquisitions to be completed in 2025, protecting more critical habitat and the character of the region we call home. We completed the purchase of an additional property added to our Anchor Bay Woods Preserve and started the process of another acquisition there that will close in 2025. All of this while working on numerous other land protection projects in various stages of evolution, and fielding calls about new opportunities.

The pace and scale of our stewardship work increased. We added equipment—a tractor and a trailer—and additional staff to meet demand for contract services. This as we managed our preserves and assisted easement donors and partners like Drayton Plains Nature Center with restoration and management on their properties. As with land protection, our stewardship work carried on in concert with new inquiries and opportunities arising.

We increased our work to elevate the visibility, credibility and importance of our work in the region and the State, seeking to bring more people into the fold and to secure more resources to invest in conservation. Our Conservation Leadership Luncheon at the Detroit Athletic Club sold out again—weeks before it ever went public this time. In addition to hosting and attending events and educational activities, our staff has been sought out to provide technical expertise, serve on advisory groups and lead projects to help identify and conserve land in other parts of the territory we serve.

The land protection, stewardship and educational work are the reasons we exist. This work is what sustains the landscape we inhabit, and what inspires our members, donors and partners to join and invest in our mission. To do this work requires operational support—infrastructure, staff and resources. All of which also require attention and action.

We added new board members, bringing important new perspectives and skills to bear. We started the process of renewing our accreditation—a massive administrative undertaking—through our national association, the Land Trust Alliance, and as part of that process began updating our operational policies and procedures. We continued work on our capacity campaign, hiring an experienced development director to help lead those efforts, in addition to helping raise the funds necessary to both operate the organization and to purchase land. We experienced other staff transitions—as always in small organizations like ours it came with disruption and challenge.

Thanks to you, our members, supporters and partners, 2024 was another year of progress and preservation. We accomplished a lot. To get where we want to be—where we

need to be—there is much left to do. I look forward to working with all of you to continue to build Six Rivers and to protect more of the *Nature Near You* that we love and depend on.



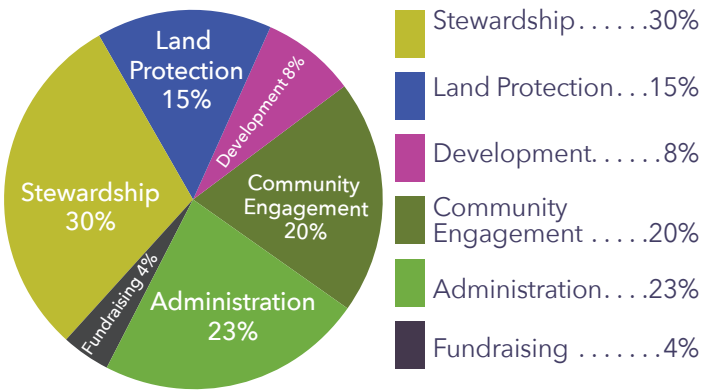
Executive Director
Chris Bunch



ASSETS

	Unaudited 2024	2023
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$288,845	\$115,563
Grants and Contributions Receivable	\$504,572	\$468,752
Other Current Assets	\$60,059	\$54,835
Land Preserves	\$1,172,421	\$2,183,178
Conservation Easements	30	30
Property and Equipment - Net	\$31,029	\$6,670
Total Assets	\$2,646,956	\$2,829,028

2024 EXPENSES BY CLASS

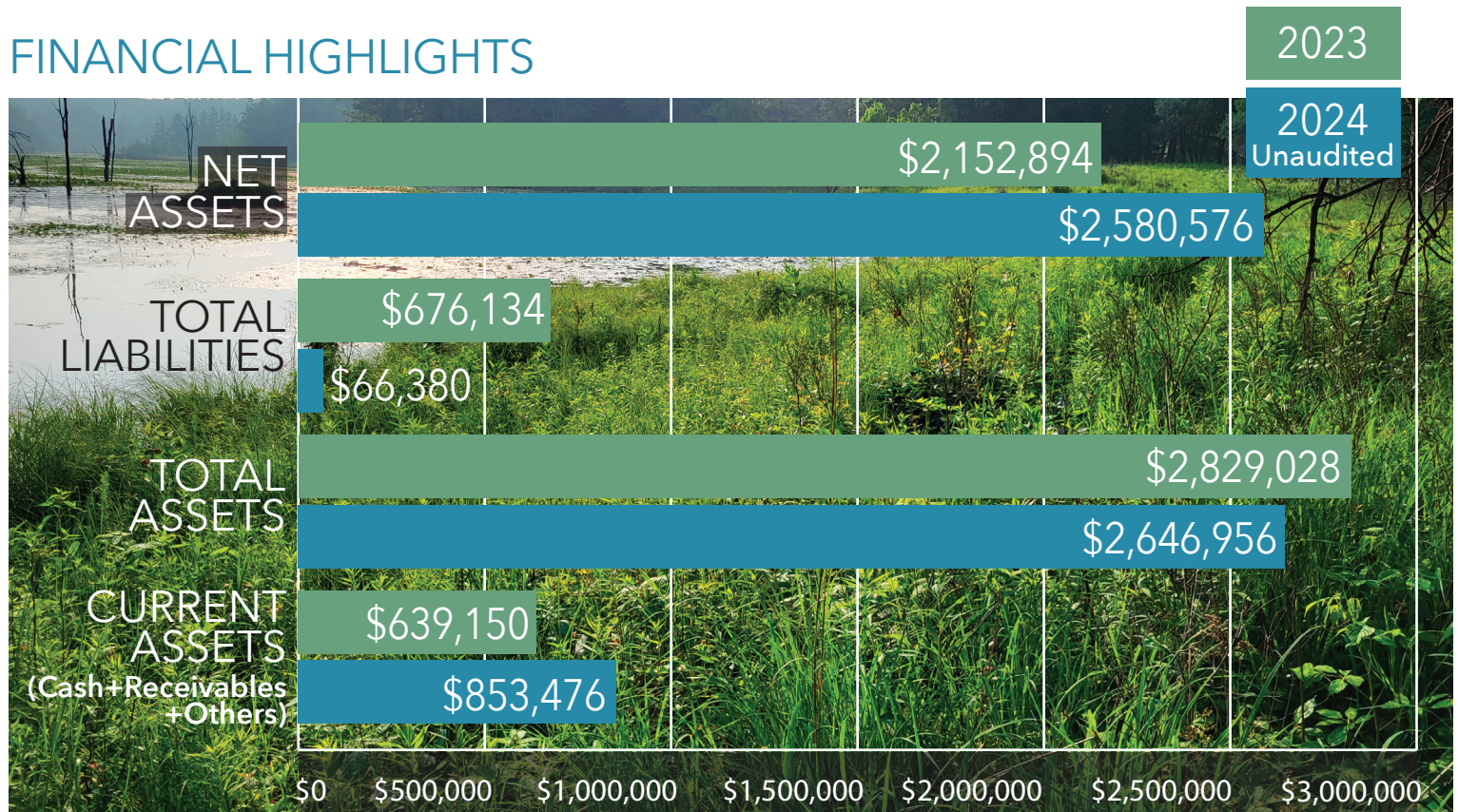


LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

	2024	2023
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$62,367	\$230,547
Payroll Liabilities Payable	\$1,941	-
Loans Payable	\$2,071	\$445,587
Total Liabilities	\$66,380	\$676,134
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions	\$2,580,576	\$1,687,894
With Donor Restrictions	---	\$465,000
Total Net Assets	\$2,580,576	\$2,152,894
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$2,646,956	\$2,929,028

Current Assets		
(Cash + Receivables)	\$853,476	\$639,150
Total Assets	\$2,646,956	\$2,829,028
Total Liabilities	\$66,380	\$676,134
Net Assets	\$2,580,576	\$2,152,894

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



2024 LAND PROTECTION

2024 CLOSED/PROTECTED PROPERTIES

- Anchor Bay Woods Preserve
#14 acquisition.....4 acres
 - Highland Township acquisition.....58 acres
 - Turtle Woods acquisition2 acres
 - Deer Creek CE14 acres
 - TOTAL PROTECTED.....78 ACRES**
- in Oakland and Macomb Counties

2025 IN-PROCESS PROPERTIES

- Monarch Meadows CE/restore.....64 acres
 - Turtle Woods acquisition70 acres
 - Bruce Township CE.....40 acres
 - South Branch Flint CE.....240 acres
 - Village of Beverly Hills (grant).....8 acres
 - White Lake acquisition.....54 acres
 - Polly Ann Trail donation.....11 acres
 - ABWP #9 acquisition4 acres
 - Bonnie Brook acquisition46 acres
 - TOTAL.....537 ACRES**
- with potential to be protected

LAND PROTECTION HIGHLIGHTS

LAND PROTECTION OUTREACH

Several efforts continue to be made to promote our Land Acquisition Assist Program targeting townships, cities, and counties. Potential for new, 2025 "Assists" with Grand Blanc Township, City of Sterling Heights.




GOOD RELATIONS

Continue with DNR Trust Fund staff and board members as we take every opportunity that we can to advocate for those who have grant applications/projects with Six Rivers, and help promote and spread the good word about the Trust Fund grant opportunities and the availability of these grant funds to assist everyone possible in our service area. 2024 TF grants were awarded to: Oakland County Parks (for acquisition of Turtle Woods - \$2,175,000); Chesterfield Township (for addition to previous assisted land acquisition with Six Rivers - \$560,000).



Some trees at ABWP that previous owner cut down until asked to stop by township...we're planning to re-forest in 2025/26..


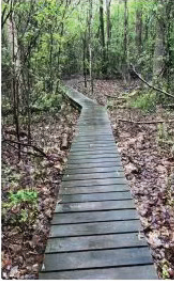
TURTLE WOODS. TROY



You're Invited!
Turtle Woods Public Open House
Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024 • 4-7 p.m.

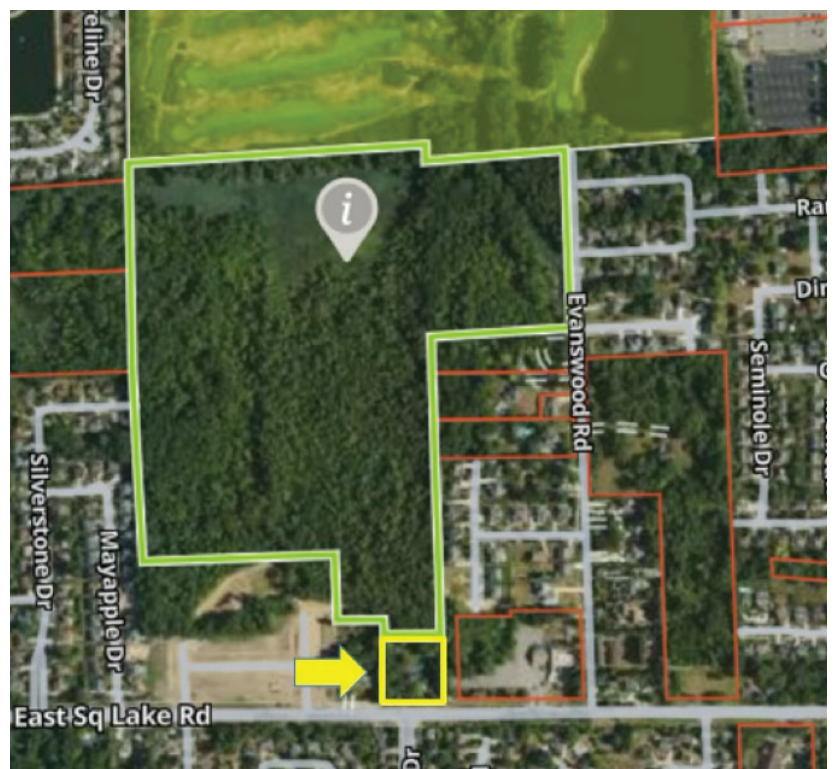
Oakland County Parks and Recreation in partnership with Six Rivers Land Conservancy is working on a revised grant application to acquire the 70-acre Turtle Woods property (north of Square Lake between John R. and Dequindre) to operate it as a county Nature Preserve. While we weren't successful with our 2023 application, we're making some exciting revisions and are optimistic about our chances of success in 2024.

Stop by to learn about where we are in the process, sign a letter of support, and share your thoughts and stories about this unique and beautiful piece of property.



Hosted by Evanswood Church, 2601 E. Square Lake Road, Troy, MI 48085
Light refreshments will be provided
Kids are welcome!

If you'd like to share your thoughts or comments with us at this time but are unable to attend, please e-mail Melissa Prowse at prosem@oakgov.com.



Turtle Woods Public Open House was co-hosted by Oakland County Parks, Troy School District and Six Rivers

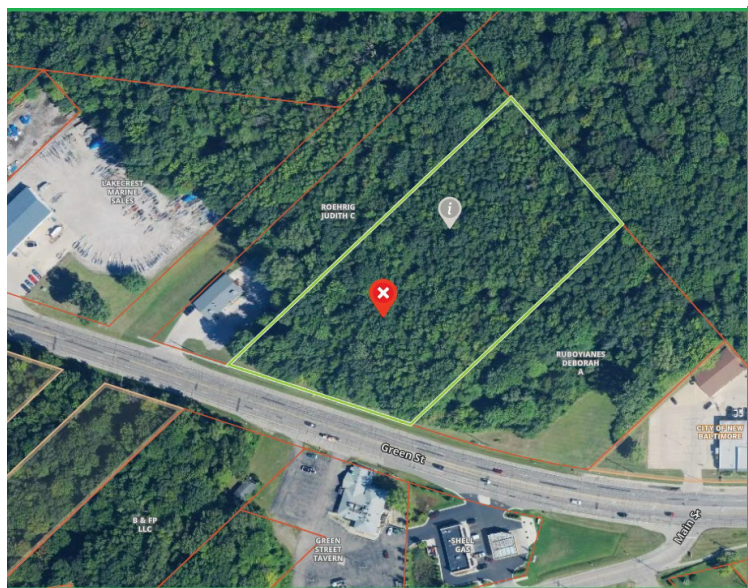
The Colberg parcel (yellow) purchase/hold for Oakland County Parks for future Turtle Woods entrance and parking area



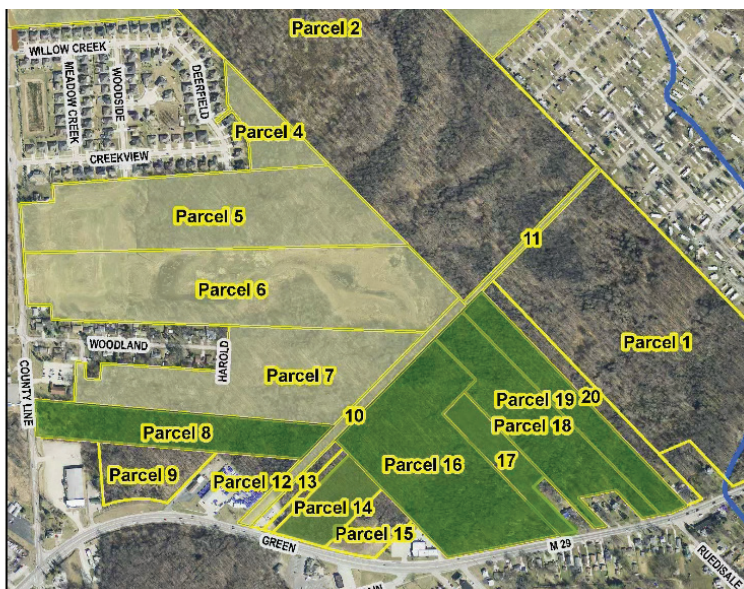
ANCHOR BAY WOODS PRESERVE

Expansion of our Anchor Bay Woods Preserve (APWP) in New Baltimore continues to be a priority. This is currently 64 acres of unique and rare wooded wetland complex that among other valuable benefits, filters and cleans ground water as it heads

out to Anchor Bay/Lake St. Clair. In August, with the help of North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant funding, we purchased a 4-acre parcel to add to this preserve.



The 4-acre wooded lot on M-29 in New Baltimore was slated to be developed in various forms over the past few years, but the owner choose to work with Six Rivers instead. Now it's part of the 64 total acres of protected land at Anchor Bay Woods Preserve, shown as Parcel #14 on the photo above, right.



HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP



Highland Township future passive use park with arboretum and hiking trails

DEER CREEK, LENOX TOWNSHIP



Deer Creek conservation easement in Lenox Township., Macomb County.

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*Alyssa Winters and Jack Cotrone from the Six Rivers' Stew Committee
Surveying Macroinvertebrates at Anchor Bay Woods Preserve*



2024 VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks go to all of the volunteers who attended our stewardship workday schedule in 2024. Thank you for all that you do!

Deb Artuch
Lisa Austin
Laura Blum
Tessa Chase
Consumers Energy
Volunteers
Susan L Davis
Beth Delaney

Vanessa Earsley
Trevor Foren
Kathleen Gauronskas
Amy Gogo
Kristine Hahn
Merrissa Hoffman
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Van Slembrouck
Keya Wang
Judy Wieber
Mike Wojciechowski
Sue Wojciechowski
Nathaniel Wootton

Visit sixriversrlc.org/calendar for information about volunteering your group for a "StewDay"



KUDOS TO THE FIELD CREWS!

We owe so much to our hard-working crews out in the fields whose efforts make it all worthwhile.



2024 in Review

15 acres

of invasive species treated
on Six Rivers preserves

Over 75 acres

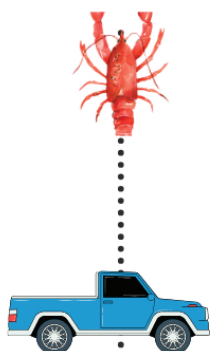
of invasive species treated
on private and public
lands through stewardship
contracts

Over 400 acres

of natural features were
assessed for future land
protection

Over 2000 acres

of land protected via
conservation easement
were monitored



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**



2024 in Review

659 Red swamp crayfish

trapped,
one berried female caught

Over 840,000

linear feet of right-of-way
surveyed and treated for
phragmites

2661 acres

surveyed for water primrose

Over 100 acres

of invasive species
treatment conducted

9 Volunteer Workdays

4 Workshops and events





Six Rivers

Land Conservancy

4480 Orion Road 2nd Floor, PO Box 80902

Rochester, Michigan 48308-0902 • 248.601.2816



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The Legacy of Giving

By Ashley Everhart, Development Director

"Each generation has its own rendezvous with the land, for despite our fee titles and claims of ownership, we are all brief tenants on this planet. By choice, or by default, we will carve out a land legacy for our heirs." - Stewart Udall

I recently took my kids (5 and 2) on a hike at Sutherland Nature Preserve. It took a not insignificant amount of time to get them packed, ready, and out the door. When we arrived, both kids complained that we were on a hike and not at a playground, but after a few short moments my son found a walking stick and was leading the way down the trail. I gave him a much larger lead than I normally would/could at a store or playground, where losing sight of him can be panic inducing. I would often catch up to him and find him walking off trail in the brush to exchange his walking stick, kneeling down to touch the water in the creek, or examine a hole in the ground to wonder whose home it may be.

During this walk I found myself so full of gratitude for this time with my kids - this moment to witness their curiosity and cultivate their enjoyment of the natural world. It was not lost on me that it was all made possible by the generosity of the Sutherland Family and the stewardship of both the Lapeer Land Conservancy and now Six Rivers Land Conservancy.

This summer, please consider the legacy you will leave behind for future generations. Whether you give through your estate, qualified charitable distributions, donor advised funds, stocks, or you contribute monthly - your gift helps to ensure the legacy of land for future generations.

For more information about the many ways you can make a legacy gift to Six Rivers, visit sixriversrlc.org/legacy-giving.

2025 AMBASSADOR SPONSORS

We are so grateful to our Conservation leadership luncheon Sponsors. Six Rivers recently launched a year-long sponsorship program for Ambassadors of Conservation in Southeast Michigan.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities, reach out to Ashley Everhart at aeverhart@sixriversrlc.org.



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