



NATURE *Near You*

NEWS FROM SIX RIVERS LAND CONSERVANCY



Six Rivers

Land Conservancy

2025 | SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Nature Near You is published for the supporters and partners of Six Rivers Land Conservancy

THE CONFLUENCE

By Christopher Bunch, Executive Director



It's the waning hours of Earth Day as I write this. A celebration of this Pale Blue Dot we call home. A reminder of its fragility, of our obligation for stewardship.

In my lifetime, there have been great strides in addressing the tremendous impacts arising from progress and

civilization—in educating and engaging people to care about and for the land that sustains our very existence. Silent Spring and Iron Eyes Cody helped drive the evolution of popular thought and action, from limitless abundance and careless abandon to reverence and the beginnings of protection. The EPA, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act; the evolution of agriculture from the Dust Bowl era to government programs fostering both conservation and production.

Land conservancies also evolved out of the challenges that arose from the relentless pursuit of economic returns extracted from the land. They started—then and now—at the local level. When people saw the forests and fields they cherished forever changed by development and progress, they came together to protect them. To sustain the quality and character of the lands they inhabit.

Our members and donors, partners and supporters, share a commitment to conservation, to sustaining the nature that supports us and provides beauty and meaning in our lives. There is among us a sense of empathy for life—from the biome in the soil to the forests and fields, waters and wildlife we share this brief and beautiful journey with.

We do this through action. Our sweat and investments preserve land through conservation easements, preserves and parks and through the stewardship work that restores and enhances the natural systems we cherish and depend on.

Repeated experience shows the pendulum of progress swings wide across the spectrum of the attitudes and actions of our societies. Our members come from both sides of this pendulum—they meet in nature. In common experiences and values they want to share with loved ones—here and now, and in the future. Sunsets, birdsong, breezes and rain; the rustle of the leaves as critters forage and play, the buzz of bees as they carry out the duties of their own societies. All rooted simultaneously in both present and future—what we do now, effects what we have tomorrow.

The Conservancy exists to provide grounding in the here and now and a stable and abundant future. In spite of chaotic swings of the pendulum. Notwithstanding pressures to weigh in on one side or the other. We stay focused on our work.

Raising the money necessary to support our operations and to acquire and manage the lands we protect. Finding and connecting with landowners and members and supporters and partners who share passion for nature. Doing the hard work of stewardship—just ask our field staff, who spend their days toiling in all sorts of conditions.

As sure as the sun will rise tomorrow, the pendulum of now will swing again. Our job during all this is to ensure that the sacred gift of the land we inhabit is cared for and nurtured. That clean air and water, abundant wildlife, thriving forests and magical meadows surround and support us, now and for generations to come.

Six Rivers recently launched the 365 Donor Circle, a group of members committing one dollar for every day that nature provides to us. Joining the 365 Donor Circle, helps to provide the resources we need to protect the Nature Near You for generations to come. For more information go to page 3.

I am extraordinarily privileged and grateful to be able to do this work. I am grateful to all of you who share in this journey and this mission to preserve the quality and character of this land we inhabit so that others may experience the joys we know.

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Celebrating Community and Conservation: HIGHLIGHTS FROM TWO INSPIRING EVENTS

Six Rivers recently hosted two special events that reminded us just how powerful our community can be when it comes together in support of nature.

On April 24, we kicked off our 365 Donor Circle launch at Stumblebum Beer Co. in Troy. This relaxed evening was the perfect setting to introduce our newest giving campaign, inviting supporters to contribute just \$1 a day to help advance Six Rivers' mission. Guests enjoyed great beer, connected with our team, and browsed our new limited-edition t-shirts and patches inspired by Monarch Meadows –created by local artists Arsenal Handicraft. All proceeds from merchandise support our conservation work, and it was heartening to see so many people excited to wear their passion for nature.

The momentum continued on May 3 at Clarkston Family Farm, where we gathered for our Conservation Celebration. This event was an opportunity to reflect on recent accomplishments and honor some of the individuals who help make our work possible.

We were proud to present the 2025 Peggy Johnson Conservation Hero Award to Jim Lloyd, a dedicated conservationist and longtime champion of Six Rivers. This award honors individuals whose sustained commitment to conservation has brought about meaningful, lasting benefits for both the environment and our communities. Named in memory of Peggy Johnson, a founder and original executive director of the Clinton River Watershed Council, and a founding board member of Six Rivers, this award celebrates the enduring legacy of those who have shaped the region's conservation movement.

Jim truly embodies that legacy. Over the years, Jim has supported Six Rivers in countless ways—as a board member, community advocate, and passionate land steward. He joined the Oakland Land Conservancy in 2008 and served as a board member there through its organizational evolution to Six Rivers Land Conservancy. From 2012 to 2017, he led our Adventure League program, which brought people together year-round to enjoy kayaking, hiking, skiing, and more on the trails and waterways of southeast Michigan.

Jim's conservation impact extends far beyond Six Rivers. He has served on local planning commissions, co-founded the Highland Conservancy which later merged with Six Rivers, and was recognized with the Oakland County Planning Partner Award for his leadership in improving the quality of life in the region. Alongside his wife Mary, Jim permanently protected their 30-acre property with a conservation easement held by Six Rivers and continues to actively restore and steward the land.



The April event at Stumblebum Beer Co. in Troy was an ideal settling for supporters to connect with Six Rivers' staff and learn about our new giving campaign; the 365 Donor Circle

His dedication to conservation, advocacy, and our community has inspired many and will continue to benefit ecosystems for generations to come. Jim's leadership, generosity of spirit, and deep-rooted belief in protecting the natural world remind us of what's possible when passion meets purpose.

We also celebrated Amy O'Leary, our Board President, for being named a 2024 Notable Nonprofit Board Leader. Amy's strategic guidance and tireless dedication have played a critical role in advancing our goals. Her leadership has helped strengthen our governance, deepen our partnerships, and expand our conservation impact. Whether working behind the scenes or representing Six Rivers in the community, Amy leads with integrity, vision, and a deep commitment to protecting nature for future generations. We are grateful to have her at the helm of our board.

In addition, we recognized Jean Persely, a valued board member, for her continued generosity and commitment to Six Rivers. Jean has hosted several Six Rivers gatherings at her own home, where her native garden serves as both a refuge for wildlife and learning space. Her knowledge and enthusiasm for supporting local ecosystems and restoring native habitats have made her an invaluable ambassador for Six Rivers and for conservation in our region.

These events were a beautiful reminder of what's possible when people come together around a shared love for nature. We are deeply grateful to all who attended, contributed, and celebrated with us. With your support, we're building a stronger, more connected future for the *Nature Near You*.



365 REASONS TO GIVE— ONE FOR EVERY DAY NATURE GIVES TO YOU

Throughout the month of April, we partnered with Stumblebum Beer Co.'s Rule of 15 Initiative, where one dollar from every pour of Schwarzbier was donated back to helping Six Rivers protect the *#naturenearyou!*

The partnership helped launch our 365 Donor Circle: 365 Reasons to Give – One for Every Day Nature Gives to You. This new initiative invites supporters to make a lasting impact year-round by committing to consistent contributions that sustain our work.

To celebrate, we hosted a special evening event where around 30 community members gathered to enjoy some local brews, share their passion for conservation, and participate in a raffle where one lucky winner took home a Mystery Ranch hiking



backpack. The event also marked the debut of our brand-new Monarch Meadows t-shirts, celebrating pollinator habitats and supporting our continued restoration efforts.

With a few new donors joining the cause during the event, the night was a success in both raising awareness and building momentum for protecting the lands and waters that make our area special. Thank you to Stumblebum Beer Co. and everyone who came out – and cheers to conservation! Want to be part of the

movement? Join the 365 Donor Campaign today and help ensure that nature has the support it needs – every day of the year.

Visit <https://www.sixriversrlc.org/365-donor-circle> for more information!

CALLING ALL ADVENTURERS!

Are you ready to get outside, explore wild places, and connect with an awesome crew of nature lovers? Six Rivers is thrilled to announce the soft re-launch of Adventure League – your new go-to for non-competitive, outdoor fun happening right in your own backyard!

Join the Six Rivers team for guided kayaking and hiking adventures through some of the most beautiful and protected natural spots in southeast Michigan. Discover hidden trails, paddle scenic waterways, and learn the stories behind the landscapes we love.



Whether you're flying solo or rolling in with friends, you'll walk away with a deeper connection to the natural world—and a new community of fellow outdoor enthusiasts to share it with.

Bonus: The first 25 people to sign up will score a Mystery Ranch backpack when they participate in the first Adventure League event! We'll let you know ahead of time if you're one of the lucky 25.

So... **WHO'S IN?** Let the adventure begin!

Visit [sixriversrlc.org/calendar](https://www.sixriversrlc.org/calendar) for dates and more information.



Six Rivers

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Land Conservancy

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SO YOU WANT TO FIX THE NATURE NEAR YOU

By Ian Ableson, Stewardship Manager

I am not a mechanic. Open the hood of a car and let me stare into the depths, and I'd struggle to identify anything smaller than the engine. It is, perhaps, a shameful confession for anyone who has lived the majority of their life in the Motor City, but I've come to terms with the fact that it's not a part of my skillset.

But at Six Rivers, to be a good steward of our nature preserves requires that we embrace our inner nature mechanic. In an ideal world, there would be no need for stewardship- we could acquire healthy, beautiful, natural areas, celebrate, and check on them occasionally while we let nature do its thing. But in the heavily developed region of Southeast Michigan, impacts from human influences—past and present alike—are inevitable in natural areas, and mitigating their effects is a large part of stewardship.

Just like taking the car to the mechanic, the first step to repair is to identify the issue, as every preserve comes with its own unique set of disturbances. Here, the analogy falls apart a little- there is no equivalent of "roadworthiness" for a nature preserve. Even a natural area completely overtaken by invasive species, with severely altered hydrology, encroachment from neighbors, and a completely artificial ecosystem still hosts more species than pavement, so it's always preferable to a parking lot. In most cases, when pursuing stewardship activities, we are seeking to somehow improve biodiversity, ecosystem function, or both.



Just four months after a controlled burn, this field of Butterfly Weed is flourishing.

GOLDEN NATURE PRESERVE

Golden Preserve in Springfield Township boasts several major ecosystems, most prominent among them a tallgrass prairie, an oak-hickory forest, and a prairie fen. Around 2020 or so, the preserve was suffering from three primary human-induced impacts: invasive autumn olive in the prairie and the oak woodlands, invasive bittersweet climbing trees near the prairie fen and in the oak woodlands, and a lack of fire throughout the preserve. All of these issues can be costly and time-consuming to address.

The autumn olive's threat comes primarily from its tendency to encroach into the prairie, shading out the native grasses and wildflowers, thereby decreasing food sources for the preserve's bountiful population of pollinators. Autumn olive has been managed on the preserve via volunteer workdays since at least 2018, but our wonderful volunteers were only able to do so much. Two years of generous funding from the Michigan Nature Association has allowed us to send LSC CISMA employees to cut and treat invasive autumn olive, freeing up the prairie and providing more space for grasses and wildflowers. This same funding also addressed the climbing bittersweet, which required both cutting the climbing vines at the base and treating the shorter young vines via foliar spray. This treatment will prevent the vines from bringing down trees in the future, maintaining the quality of the forest.

Getting fire back on the ground was just as urgent of a priority as the invasive species. Historically Michigan prairies were hugely dependent on fire, which prevented woody trees and shrubs from establishing while also revitalizing the soil and maintaining the balance between grasses and wildflowers. Conducting a controlled burn on an area as large and complex as Golden Preserve requires a large crew of highly trained individuals- and as always, training and experience don't come cheap. In 2022, we were successful in our application to receive funding for the burn from the Oakland County CISMA's Community Habitat Improvement Program, and hired contractor Plantwise to conduct the burn. Even I was surprised at how well Golden Preserve reacted to the burn, as wildflowers burst from the soil as though they'd been awaiting their cue for years.

Today, Golden Preserve is almost where we want it to be. There are a handful of minor issues remaining—a little autumn olive left to manage, crown vetch in the two-track entrance to the preserve, some especially stubborn beavers flooding parts of the prairie fen, and we'll need another burn soon—but overall Golden Preserve thrives. Nowadays we can conduct our annual butterfly count, watch the birds, record wildflower species, and be satisfied that we have restored significant parts of the ecosystem in this little corner of the *Nature Near You*.

ANCHOR BAY WOODS PRESERVE

By Amanda Ruffini, LSC CISMA Director

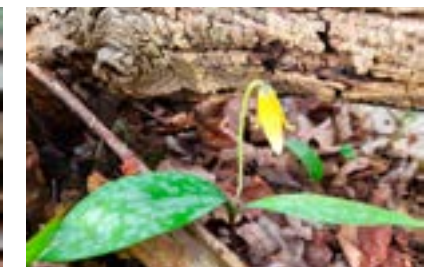
Situated in a little pocket of New Baltimore is a hidden gem known as Anchor Bay Woods Preserve. This forested wetland, totaling over 57 acres, is one of the largest blocks of forest in the Maumee Lake Plain and one of the largest blocks of wet-mesic flatwoods in the state of Michigan. Wet-mesic flatwoods can be described as a mature forest developed on a mosaic of depressions and low, sandy rises formed by deposits from glacial meltwater. As of 2024, only 11 locations are left of this ecologically significant ecosystem in Michigan. Because of this, Anchor Bay Woods Preserve is one of our highest priority areas for conservation due to its rarity and threat of development.

If you find yourself, on a bright and sunny day visiting Anchor Bay Woods Preserve, you may find an array of wildlife and

vegetation. Many species found at Anchor Bay Woods are considered threatened or endangered in the state of Michigan. This is why you will not find any maintained trails. It is our goal to continue to conserve the ecological integrity of the ecosystem. This doesn't mean you can't enjoy the preserve. In the summer, keep an eye out for events such as Bat Hikes, hosted by our Stewardship Director Ian Ableson or volunteer workdays in the spring and fall led by the Lake St. Clair CISMA. You may even see programs throughout the year to learn about wet-mesic flatwoods, vernal pools, or invasive species.

If you are looking to experience the *Nature Near You*, Anchor Bay Woods Preserve may definitely be for you!

Photos by Amanda Ruffini



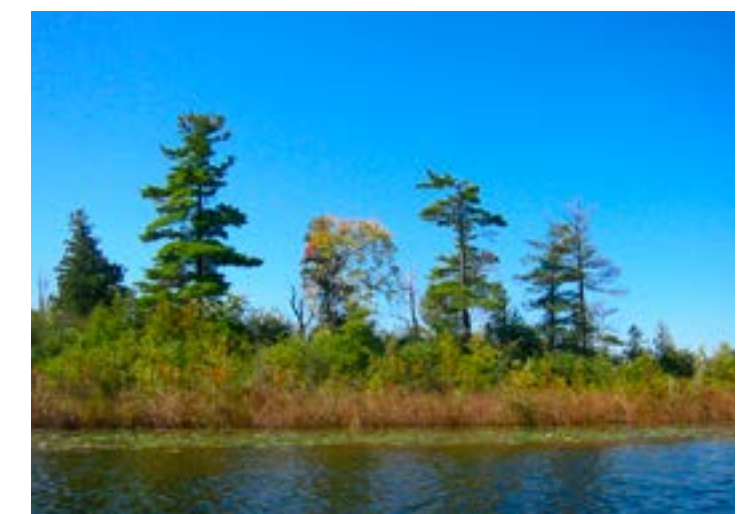
Conservation Stewards Program Field Trip being led by Six Rivers Stewardship Director Ian Ableson and Lake St. Clair CISMA Director Amanda Ruffini (There is no image that matches this description. Instead, should we point out the diversity of wildlife and vegetation at Anchor Bay Woods preserve?)

DISCOVERING THE HIDDEN WILD: CEDAR ISLAND PRESERVE

Tucked away in the quiet waters of Cedar Lake in Oxford Township lies a hidden gem—Cedar Lake Island Preserve. This 6.35-acre property, owned by Six Rivers Land Conservancy, includes two forested islands and surrounding wetlands in one of the few remaining natural spaces in this part of Oakland County. Donated in 2000 by the Russell H. Harriman Estate Trust, the islands have remained largely undisturbed due to their inaccessibility and unique wetland characteristics. Dominated by northern white cedar, these islands represent a rare and locally uncommon habitat—rich conifer swamp—which supports plant life not often seen in Southeast Michigan.

Though small and secluded, the preserve plays an important ecological role, especially in an area where most lakeshore land has been developed. While access is limited to kayaks, you now have a chance to experience this special place up close! This summer, join us through the Six Rivers Adventure League as we guide a kayak tour of Cedar Lake, sharing the natural beauty, ecological importance, and conservation efforts firsthand. Paddle through peaceful waters, explore the preserve's rich habitat, and learn how you can help protect these vital ecosystems.

Space is limited—sign up for an Adventure League outing and be part of a truly unique experience on the water! To sign up visit: www.sixriversrlc.org/adventure-league-2025



Land Protection



TIBBETS NATURE SANCTUARY

The Hilton and Marjorie Tibbits Nature Sanctuary is a great place to enjoy the *Nature Near You*—especially if you live near Columbiaville.

A wide-variety of wildlife and plants/trees await your arrival – at Heron Lake you'll find sandhill cranes wading for their next meal, and on land you might come across a red fox or a variety of ground-dwelling animals. If it's plants and trees you enjoy,



Two land donations make up the 123-acre Tibbits Nature Sanctuary

SUTHERLAND NATURE SANCTUARY

Explore the Well-loved Wetlands and Woodlands of Sutherland Nature Sanctuary

Nestled in a quiet corner in Lapeer County, Sutherland Nature Sanctuary offers a rare and diverse ecological haven open to the public. The 82.91-acre property features a rich 45-acre wetland complex—classified as a seasonally flooded, broad-leaved deciduous forest—that supports a vibrant range of plant and animal life. Once part of a pre-settlement landscape dominated by beech-sugar maple forests and black ash swamps, the sanctuary still harbors wildflowers like yellow lady's slipper and blue flag iris, as well as rare wildlife like Baltimore checkerspot butterflies and several species of bats.

Visitors can enjoy over two miles of rustic trails winding through forest and wetland, complete with bridges, a boardwalk, benches, and interpretive signs. A small picnic pavilion displays a fascinating collection of natural treasures—feathers, bones, and other finds shared by visitors—while a restored viewing tower overlooking the prairie adds to the sanctuary's unique charm. The site is actively maintained by dedicated volunteers and stewards and serves as a hub for educational events and guided hikes. Dogs are welcome on leash, making it a great spot for nature-loving families.

Tibbits is known to have a wonderful conifer forest filled with birds and a restored wildflower prairie that provides habitat and food for the area wildlife.

Tibbits was created through the generosity of a private landowner, Clark Tibbits, who donated this property in two phases—the first was 65 acres in 2012 and then the second was 58 acres in 2020. These two land donations combined make up the existing 123-acre Tibbits Nature Sanctuary.

The decision to protect land is very personal, and our landowners' reasons for pursuing protection can come from any number of influences. We asked Clark to share why he and his family initially chose to protect their land, and he had this to say: "None of us wanted to continue animal farming, but we also did not want to sell and see all the creativity and love he and my mother put into restoring the land engulfed by unwarranted development. We could see the rural character of our beautiful Lapeer County being overwhelmed by urban sprawl."

When asked about the donation of the remaining 58 acres in 2020, he added: "When our all-volunteer conservancy decided to merge with the Six Rivers Conservancy, a larger regional conservancy with many more resources and supporters, I felt more confident that our land would be looked after for the long run, and I gifted Six Rivers my remaining land in Lapeer County."



As one of our most publicly accessible preserves, Sutherland Nature Sanctuary is a perfect place for hiking, photography, picnicking, and connecting with nature. Keep an eye out for upcoming outreach events—and come discover the wild beauty that thrives tucked away in Metamora!

Events

For more information or to sign up, visit sixriversrlc.org/calendar or contact Hollie Coleman at hcoleman@sixriversrlc.org

VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS

NICHOLSON NATURE CENTER
Clinton Township, Clinton Township
Tuesday, October 21,
9:00am - 12:00pm

SUTHERLAND NATURE SANCTUARY
Metamora
Saturday October 25,
9:00am - 12:00pm

BAT HIKES

SUTHERLAND NATURE
SANCTUARY
Metamora
Friday July 25,
8:30pm - 10:30pm

CRANBERRY LAKE PARK
Oakland Township
Friday August 22,
8:00pm - 10:00pm

NICHOLSON NATURE CENTER
Clinton Township, Clinton Township
Friday, September 19,
7:30pm - 9:30pm



GUIDED HIKES

ECOSYSTEM HIKE,
BEAR CREEK PARK
Oakland Township,
Friday June 20,
5:00pm - 8:00pm

TRAILS AND TREATS HIKE
SUTHERLAND NATURE
SANCTUARY
Metamora
Wednesday, September 24,
6:00pm - 7:30pm



Volunteer Spotlight

This month, we're proud to recognize Jim Vanderpool, a dedicated steward at Sutherland Nature Sanctuary for over a decade. Jim's commitment to maintaining the sanctuary has helped keep the property pristine and welcoming for all who visit. His quiet, consistent efforts behind the scenes—clearing trails, caring for the land, and watching over the sanctuary—have not gone unnoticed. Many frequent visitors know Jim by name and appreciate the care he puts into preserving this special place. Thank you, Jim, for being such an essential part of our community!

MONARCH MEADOWS MERCHANDISE IS IN!

Sport your Monarch butterfly t-shirt and patch to show your love for local conservation and help protect the Nature Near You. Monarch Meadows—a 64-acre preserve, formerly known as the North Lagoons and Landfill—is being transformed into monarch butterfly habitat and native biodiversity. Every shirt and patch you wear supports our mission to turn this once-forgotten land into a thriving sanctuary for pollinators and people alike.

To order yours, visit our website: www.sixriversrlc.org/merch



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.

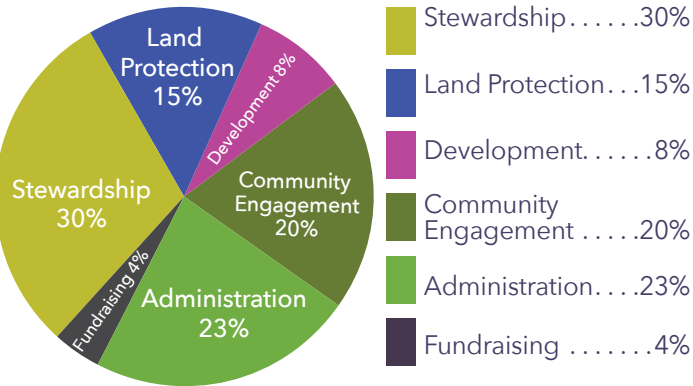


Executive Director Bunch planting the Six Rivers flag at Anchor Bay Woods Preserve parcel #14.

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



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES	2024	2023
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

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
 - Schaufler CE.40 acres
 - Schofield CE.240 acres
 - Village of Beverly Hills (grant).8 acres
 - White Lake acquisition54 acres
 - Polly Ann Trail donation11 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).

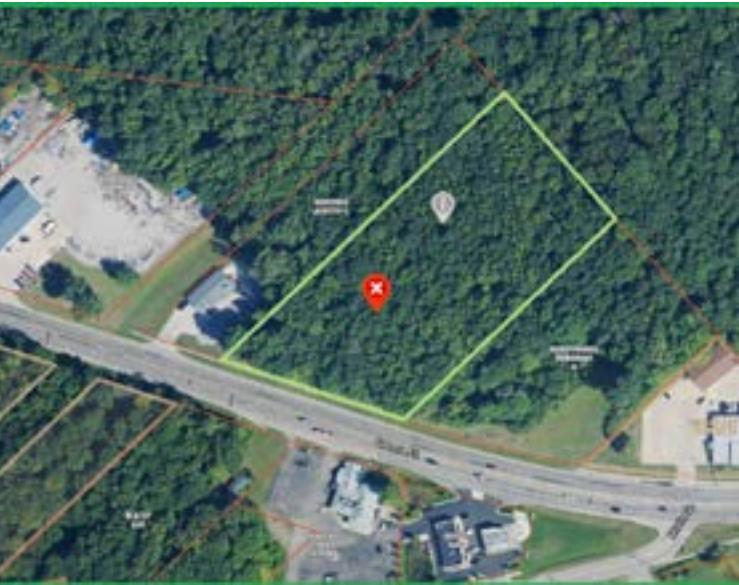


Some trees at ABWP that previous owner cut down until asked to stop by township...we’re planning to re-forest in 2025/26..

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.



TURTLE WOODS. TROY



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

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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Thank you for your steadfast support of our conservation mission



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Continued on page 14



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

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

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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
Susan L Davis
Beth Delaney
Vanessa Earsley
Trevor Foren

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Mike Wojciechowski
Sue Wojciechowski
Nathaniel Wootton



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

CUDOS TO THE FIELD CREWS!

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



Six Rivers

**FIELD CREW
2024 WORK
IN REVIEW**

15 acres

of invasive species treated
on our own preserves

Over 75 acres

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

400 acres

of natural features were
accessed for future land
protection

OVER

2000 acres

of land protected via
conservation easement
were monitored



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**



**2024 IN
REVIEW**

659 RSC

Trapped
One Berried female caught

Over 840,000

linear feet surveyed and
treated for phragmites

2661 acres

surveyed for water primros

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



Facebook: facebook.com/sixriverslc



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Website:
www.sixriverslc.org

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 non-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 sixriverslc.org/legacy-giving.

AWARENESS CALENDAR

JUNE 5
World Environment
Day

JUNE 20
Clean Air Day

June 23-30
Female Ranger Week

JULY 28
World Nature
Conservation Day

AUGUST 19
World Humanitarian
Day