Letter from the Executive Director

The Land Conservancy of West Michigan has always been guided by a compelling goal: giving future generations the opportunity to experience the same natural wonders that we treasure today. For over 40 years, this singular focus has helped us protect nearly 12,000 acres of West Michigan’s natural lands. In those four decades, our capacity has grown from volunteer-only to a full-time professional staff, and the land protection projects we take on have likewise grown in size and scope.

But our landscape is facing challenges that promise to increase in intensity. Climate change, urban expansion, invasive species and seminal weather events are degrading habitat at an alarming rate. As a land trust in the business of protecting nature, we are called to be intentional and proactive—simply reacting to these threats will not protect the incredible natural resources of this planet.

Our organization’s first-ever strategic conservation plan is the result of many hours of research and thought by our staff, board of directors, committees and partners. It will inform our conservation priorities and practices for the next 10–15 years, focusing our efforts on areas that promise to make the biggest impact in preserving our region’s vibrant scenery, biodiversity and habitat quality.

This is the first plan of its kind in our region, a pioneering effort that builds on the latest research and understanding of how to best protect and manage land in the face of accelerating climate change.

Studies show land trusts that use strategic conservation plans are able to protect more land. We hope our plan not only accomplishes that goal, but further helps us to create a stronger network of resilient protected lands, so that nature continues to be nearby and thriving in West Michigan for many generations to come.

Many heartfelt thanks to our staff, board, committees and community for their invaluable contributions to this plan. Finally, thank you to the Land Trust Alliance for underwriting this exciting new initiative.

Joe Engel, Executive Director

“This is the first plan of its kind in our region, a pioneering effort that builds on the latest research and understanding of how to best protect and manage land in the face of accelerating climate change.”

– Joe Engel
Who We Are

The mission of the Land Conservancy of West Michigan is to help people protect, enjoy and care for natural lands in West Michigan. We envision a future with abundant natural spaces that have been permanently preserved for generations to come. With the help of individuals, families and community and government organizations, the Land Conservancy protects the coastal dunes, hardwood forests, scenic waterways and diverse geological features that make our region a healthy and desirable place to live. These efforts have resulted in the permanent protection of nearly 12,000 acres of natural land throughout our eight-county service area, a 40-year legacy our supporters can be proud to claim as their own.

Our Vision

We envision a vibrant West Michigan with natural areas preserved for future generations.

Our Mission

Our mission is to help people protect, enjoy and care for natural land in West Michigan.

Natural Areas Protected by the Land Conservancy

- **149 Properties**
- **11,855 Acres Protected**
- **77 Miles of Shoreline**
- **8 Counties Served**

Volunteers clean up the beach at Flower Creek Dunes Nature Preserve.
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Executive Summary

We have historical climate change to thank for our unique topographical features here in West Michigan. Over the course of thousands of years, continental glaciers shaped our evolving landscape, depositing layers of rich clay, silt and sand and leaving behind scenic lakes, wetlands and rivers. The region’s topographical diversity created fertile ground for biodiversity, and all of this variety led to the development of strong and healthy ecosystems.

Now, a more intense, accelerated form of climate change poses a threat to the continued health and resilience of these ecosystems. The rapid warming of our planet has contributed to shorter winters, more frequent heavy rainstorms and periods of intense heat and drought—forcing species to adapt rapidly or face possible extinction. Moreover, urban expansion, deforestation, habitat fragmentation and invasive species have drastically diminished the ability of our region’s plants and wildlife to survive these landscape-scale changes.

In the face of these challenges, it has become even more critical that we permanently protect key natural areas that contribute to improved quality of water and life for West Michigan’s human inhabitants, as well as the resilience of our native plants and wildlife.

As a nationally accredited land trust, the Land Conservancy of West Michigan is uniquely positioned to meet these challenges through the creation of a strategic conservation plan. We are proud to be the first land trust in our region—and one of the first nationwide—to implement a proactive, climate-responsive conservation strategy. We offer the following plan to ensure our region’s most valuable natural resources are managed and protected in the face of climate change’s accelerating pace.

This plan is designed to guide our land protection and management activities for the next 10 to 15 years. Through a process combining existing science, advanced mapping and extensive community input, we have identified three distinct geographic regions in our service area where we will focus conservation efforts. These regions include the scenic Lake Michigan Shoreline on our western boundary, the Big Forests and Wild Rivers to the north and our Eastern Glacial Corridor. Each region has unique characteristics that require varying degrees of protection and management.

Our strategic conservation plan outlines the threats in each region and the ways in which we propose to respond.

The road map we provide in the following pages is backed by the best available research at the time of writing. New research and strategies will continue to arise as our understanding of climate change and resilience advances. For this reason, our strategic conservation plan is a living document and, like our region’s plants and wildlife, will need to evolve as climate change progresses.

Finally, this document summarizes the results of a year-long plan development process. Those interested in the methodology and technical aspects of the plan’s development are encouraged to contact the Land Conservancy for more information.

Think Globally, Act Locally

Within this plan are opportunities for you, reader, to respond locally to the global problem of climate change. By becoming a Land Conservancy of West Michigan volunteer, donor, conservation agreement owner or by simply sharing our story, you can help us work proactively to permanently protect West Michigan’s natural areas.
How We Work

The Land Conservancy works with individuals, families and organizations using the following tools to permanently protect lands in our eight-county West Michigan service area.

**CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS** These are legally binding agreements between a private landowner and the Land Conservancy to protect their land forever. The land remains in private ownership and use, but future development is limited to preserve the land’s natural characteristics. The Land Conservancy conducts annual visits and collaborates with landowners and partnering organizations to improve habitat quality and ensure the resilience of these lands in the face of climate change.

**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS** The Land Conservancy assists local communities and governments in their efforts to create public parks and preserve open space. We work in partnership with these groups by identifying important natural areas, negotiating transactions, writing grants and raising project funds.

**NATURE PRESERVES** The Land Conservancy acquires land, either through donation or purchase, and manages it as nature preserves that are open to the public for hiking and nature enjoyment. The Land Conservancy currently owns and manages 16 nature preserves throughout West Michigan.

**LAND MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION** Permanent land protection is not limited to preventing development. To truly protect a landscape forever requires sustained attention to the threats that endanger it—proactive work we call “stewardship.” Working with landowners, volunteers and organizations, the Land Conservancy designs and implements management plans that maintain and restore health to the land.
Setting Our Course

We have developed a strategic approach to protecting natural lands in West Michigan. We have identified four key traits that define an area’s conservation potential and provide the basis for prioritizing our conservation focus. The four traits are:

- Connected habitat
- Rivers, lakes and wetlands
- Habitat quality
- Landscape resilience

We break down how each of these four traits informs conservation potential in the following pages.

Mapping Conservation Potential

We used a data-driven process to map lands that best embody each of the four key traits of conservation potential. Then, using advanced GIS software, we layered the maps together to identify places on the landscape where the four traits intersect. The more traits that converge on a particular location, the higher its potential to be a conservation priority. This map, which we call our “Map of Conservation Potential,” informs how we will proactively pursue opportunities through conservation agreements, community partnerships, nature preserves and long-term stewardship.
Breaking Down Conservation Potential

Our final Map of Conservation Potential is informed by data illustrating the following four key traits.

CONNECTED HABITAT For plants and wildlife to survive, they need room to migrate and adapt. Preserving areas close to and between existing protected lands creates corridors of connected habitats—like green highways connecting isolated towns. This will help plants and wildlife adapt and find suitable places to live in the face of landscape and climate changes. The data in this layer highlight land adjacent to existing parks, preserves or conservation agreements, and also lands that act as natural corridors between these areas. This allows us to identify and focus on opportunities to expand already protected areas, as well as protecting the connections between them. This layer places special emphasis on land adjacent to publicly accessible natural areas, highlighting the importance of securing and expanding access for low-impact outdoor recreation and nature enjoyment.

RIVERS, LAKES AND WETLANDS Rivers, lakes and wetlands are magnets for biodiversity. However, these remarkable habitats are disproportionately vulnerable to pollution, erosion and other landscape changes. Protecting natural areas adjacent to wetlands and water features ensures these sensitive areas can continue to thrive, preserving valuable habitat for plants, reptiles, amphibians and waterfowl. It also ensures the ecological viability of waters we use for recreational activities including fishing, swimming and kayaking. The data in this layer also highlight uplands that buffer wetlands and water features, as well as areas important for groundwater recharge, both of which help maintain water quality and stabilize flows in our rivers, lakes and wetlands.

HABITAT QUALITY Protecting high-quality natural habitats and the plants and wildlife they support has long been a central focus of conservation. Ensuring West Michigan’s current biodiversity is protected also lays the groundwork to allow species and ecosystems to adapt and change in an ever-evolving landscape. We focus especially on rare species and imperiled habitats such as oak savannas, prairie fens and unfragmented dune landscapes, whose continued existence is the most at risk. The data in this layer account for imperiled species and habitats, lands known to support high-quality examples of West Michigan ecosystems, as well as large blocks of contiguous natural habitat, where rare and sensitive species are most likely to occur.

LANDSCAPE RESILIENCE In addition to protecting our region’s existing biodiversity, the Land Conservancy seeks to protect lands that are most likely to support biodiversity in the future—in other words, lands that are resilient to climate change and other anticipated landscape alterations. Geodiversity—areas with varying soils, landforms, topography and hydrology—is a key factor in determining resilience. Areas with highly variable physical environments provide a variety of microclimates, allowing species and ecosystems to shift and survive without having to migrate long distances. This layer reflects the data compiled by The Nature Conservancy as part of their “Resilient Sites for Terrestrial Conservation” project.
Where We Will Focus

With all of the data layers combined, our Map of Conservation Potential led us to identify three priority regions with distinct ecologies in our West Michigan service area. In the following pages, we briefly outline how we will approach protecting areas within each region. These regions are:

LAKE MICHIGAN SHORELINE Characterized by iconic beaches and dunes, this area also contains richly diverse hardwood forests, coastal marshes and river mouths. Its importance for regional water quality and ecological connectivity contribute to its high conservation potential.

BIG FORESTS & WILD RIVERS Crisscrossed by cold water rivers, this rugged area contains some of the largest blocks of contiguous natural habitat left in southern Michigan. High habitat quality and abundant water resources highlight this area's conservation importance.

EASTERN GLACIAL CORRIDOR The rolling topography and landscape diversity of this region make it particularly resilient to climate change—the primary reason it rises to high conservation priority in our model.

How Our Focal Regions Inform Our Approach

Each of these regions contains a wealth of specialized habitats and unique wildlife that demands proactive approaches to their protection. In the following pages, we address the risks facing each region and outline our goals and strategies for protecting the land and water within them.

While these priority regions help focus our conservation efforts in high-potential areas, they are not meant to exclude important work elsewhere. As opportunities arise outside our priority areas, the Land Conservancy will continue to work with local governments, park systems, and community groups to help protect important conservation land—as we always have.
WHERE WE WILL FOCUS

Lake Michigan Shoreline

Michigan’s western shoreline is one of the state’s postcard communities. The dunes, beaches and forests along the coast of Lake Michigan draw people from near and far for their beauty and recreation opportunities. In addition to scenic views, the Lake Michigan shoreline contains an incredible variety of habitats. Towering sand dunes, back-dune hardwood forests and interdunal wetlands are just a few of the ecosystems characteristic of this area. The range of organisms that call them home is even more diverse.

The Lake Michigan shoreline is an important migratory corridor for songbirds, waterfowl and monarch butterflies. Lake Michigan’s dunes are part of the largest complex of freshwater dunes in the world—a globally rare habitat that supports a variety of rare and threatened species including Pitcher’s thistle and piping plover.

**Risks**

**INVASIVE SPECIES** Vacationers, animals and lake currents bring seeds and plant fragments from distant lands, making this zone particularly vulnerable to invasive phragmites, oriental bittersweet and Japanese barberry. Invasive forest pests have an outsized impact on this region—hemlock woolly adelgid, oak wilt and beech bark disease pose tangible threats to three of the dominant tree species in forested dunelands.

**SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT** Rows of waterfront cottages have effectively stabilized Lake Michigan’s sand dunes, pushing out species like Pitcher’s thistle, which require sand movement to thrive. Roads, driveways and lawns fragment dune habitats, while lights and human activity may cause sensitive species to leave. Heavy human use of the waterfront also threatens the vulnerable piping plover, which nests on the few remaining undisturbed areas of Lake Michigan’s beaches.

**LAND LIMITATIONS** Shoreline land is in high demand and much of it has already been developed. What little land remains available to protect is expensive to acquire.

**Protecting Lake Michigan’s Shoreline**

**GOAL**

Preserve critical migratory corridors, sustain habitat for rare species and provide unparalleled scenic and recreational opportunities in one of Michigan’s most iconic landscapes.

**STRATEGIES**

Protect and manage the few remaining undeveloped dune landscapes to allow natural sand and shoreline movement to occur unimpeded, providing a range of microhabitats important for species adapted to these habitats.

Work with local and state partners to protect remaining shoreline habitat and provide public access for nature-based recreation where appropriate.

Work with landowners and other partners to improve forest health and prevent or mitigate the effects of invasive forest pests.
In late 2017, Ottawa Sand Company approached Ottawa County Parks with a limited-time offer: If the parks system could purchase the sand mining company’s 345-acre site quickly, the company would donate 25 percent of the $11.2 million land value.

The property, located between North Ottawa Dunes County Park and Kitchel-Lindquist Dunes Preserve, presented a unique opportunity. Protecting it from development would create a 2,000-acre corridor of natural land stretching five miles from P.J. Hoffmaster State Park to the Grand River. It would preserve 219 acres of critical dune habitat, an active eagles’ nest and federally threatened Pitcher’s thistle. Ottawa County Parks’ acquisition of the land would transform a mysterious property previously barred from public access into a park with recreational opportunities such as camping, hiking, fishing and kayaking.

Securing the funds to save this property was a team effort. Ottawa County Parks, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, The Conservation Fund and the Land Conservancy of West Michigan worked together swiftly to raise the money. Opportunities to protect land like Ottawa Sands are rare, and partnerships like these are critical to ensuring their protection.

“The opportunity to complete a 6-mile ecological corridor with tremendous recreation potential was compelling, but the project just seemed too big and time was running out,” said John Scholtz, former director of Ottawa County Parks. “We turned to the Land Conservancy of West Michigan and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for help and learned that, with the right partners, big things are possible.”

Protecting Ottawa Sands created...

- A corridor of healthy, connected shoreline habitats for migratory birds and other wildlife.
- Land available for world-class scenic views and passive recreation opportunities.
- Dune forests that are resilient to landscape-level changes, including effects of invasive forest pests.
The northern portion of our West Michigan service area is characterized by large swaths of forests and winding rivers. It contains the largest blocks of unfragmented habitat in our service area and sprawling public lands, including the Manistee National Forest and the Muskegon State Game Area. The region’s massive river systems and extensive forests help maintain Great Lakes water quality and provide important habitat for plants and wildlife. The Pere Marquette, White and Muskegon Rivers offer the full spectrum of recreational opportunities, from “flies-only” stretches of world-class trout streams to family-friendly paddling excursions. This region contains the most significant populations of the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly in Michigan. Eastern massasauga rattlesnake, which was recently listed as federally threatened, is also scattered throughout the area.

Risks

HABITAT FRAGMENTATION This region already boasts some of the best habitat connectivity in our service area, but strengthening and maintaining it will be critical to species and ecosystem resilience as climate change progresses.

HABITAT DEGRADATION The Big Forests & Wild Rivers region is dominated by oak and pine forests, and it contains significant patches of globally rare oak barrens habitat. Historical suppression of fire and careless land use has impacted both, closing the barrens, overcrowding the forests and leading to a decline in ecosystem health. As a result, these areas are particularly susceptible to the impacts of climate change, drought and insect and disease outbreaks. The increasing occurrence of severe rain events, historic logging practices and vacation home development has disconnected streams, eroded banks and increased sedimentation in waterways, threatening water quality and fish habitat.

Protecting our Big Forests & Wild Rivers

GOAL
Create and maintain large blocks of intact upland and riparian habitat to allow landscape-level movement of wildlife, protect water quality and hydrology along important rivers and preserve the wild character of the region.

STRATEGIES
Collaborate with local, state and federal partners to protect land around the Manistee National Forest, expanding protected areas and forming connections between disjointed habitat blocks.

Protect aquatic and upland habitat along critical stretches of the Pere Marquette, White and Muskegon Rivers to help maintain water quality and ecological connectivity.

Grow healthy and resilient forests and barrens that filter and protect clean water, support biodiversity, sequester and store carbon and provide a sustainable source of wood products and wood-based energy that replace more energy- or emissions-intensive materials.

Work with landowners and other partners to implement land management practices that improve forest health, increase landscape resilience and restore habitat for imperiled species.

WHERE WE WILL FOCUS
Big Forests & Wild Rivers

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Work with landowners and other partners to implement land management practices that improve forest health, increase landscape resilience and restore habitat for imperiled species.
Dr. Rob Gunnell owns three parcels in the “Big Forests and Wild Rivers” region, totaling 560 acres. His land borders the Manistee National Forest, and the Five Mile Creek and White River run through the properties. The properties feature pockets of dark conifer forests, dense, young aspen stands and open uplands characterized by white oak and white pine. There are also a few bogs filled with sphagnum moss—wetlands that are especially good at capturing carbon and have become more critical to protect in the face of climate change.

Gunnell is an avid angler, and he knows sustaining his hobby requires protecting the forests that hold the streambanks, shade the cool waters and provide logs and leaf litter that are critical for trout habitat. That is why he established conservation agreements on each of his properties to permanently protect them from deforestation and further development. As the steward of these agreements, the Land Conservancy will ensure that conservation remains a priority in the care of Gunnell’s land forever.

“My view is the beauty of the natural world—lands, waters and forests—must be preserved or they’ll be lost forever,” Gunnell said. “I have enjoyed my properties for 40 years and wish them to exist unchanged 100 years from now—my partnership with the Land Conservancy ensures this.” Gunnell understands that land protection is an active endeavor. He is removing invasive species, helping to maintain forest buffer around the waterways and ensuring they remain healthy habitats for fish. Gunnell also plans to sustainably harvest the remnants of a former red pine plantation on his property. Over time, the planted pine forest will transform into a more resilient forest, better suited for native songbirds and other wildlife. He intends to reinvest money he earns from the timber in the continued stewardship of his land, making his choice to protect and responsibly manage his land a truly sustainable model for other landowners to follow.
Eastern Glacial Corridor

This region is characterized by a ribbon of moraines, kames and kettles formed by glaciers thousands of years ago. The result is a geologically diverse landscape of rolling hills with many small lakes, streams and wetlands ranging from bogs to fens. The moraines and kames are made up of coarse glacial sand and gravel—dry, well-draining soils that, along with frequent fire, led to the development of prairies, oak savannas and open oak woodlands. These habitats were once abundant in Michigan but have now been reduced to less than one percent of their original footprint. The drought-tolerant nature of these systems and the diversity of their topography, geology and hydrology make them uniquely resilient to precipitation and temperature-related climate shifts. Additionally, protecting and restoring habitat patches in this area will help establish a north-south corridor to allow the movement of plants and wildlife between regionally significant natural areas to the south (e.g., Barry State Game Area) and to the north (e.g., Manistee National Forest).

Risks

HABITAT FRAGMENTATION There are very few large, unfragmented habitat patches left in this region. Most of the habitat remains in relatively small patches broken up by agriculture and residential development.

HABITAT DEGRADATION The Eastern Glacial Corridor region can support rare habitats like dry-mesic prairies and oak savannas, but without active restoration and the reintroduction of natural processes such as fire, these ecosystems will disappear completely—to the detriment of the region’s biodiversity and landscape health. Wetlands and water bodies in this zone are particularly threatened by residential and agricultural development, which lead to nutrient pollution from fields, septic tanks and lawns. Shoreline alterations, roads and water control structures sever natural habitat connections.

INVASIVE SPECIES With a high amount of human activity on the landscape, remaining natural areas in this region are being degraded by the spread of invasive species and pathogens including oriental bittersweet, autumn olive, emerald ash borer and oak wilt.

Protecting the Eastern Glacial Corridor

GOAL

Preserve a diverse patchwork of healthy, functional habitat types that will support a high level of biodiversity and ecosystem services now and into the future.

STRATEGIES

Protect lands that expand or form connections between existing habitat blocks, ultimately creating a landscape-level corridor between regionally important natural areas to the south (e.g., Barry State Game Area) and the Big Forests & Wild Rivers region to the north. Protect lands with high geological and hydrological variability to provide microhabitats for a range of natural communities and species. Work with landowners and other partners to implement land management practices to restore and sustain the diverse mixture of prairies, oak savannas, open oak woodlands, streams and wetlands characteristic of this region.

Conservation Potential

- Very Low
- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Very High
- Existing Protected Area
from Valerino and Maria Castro, establishing the organization’s first nature preserve. Under the Land Conservancy’s ownership, management of the preserve has focused on protecting the rare bog ecosystem, reforesting previously cleared areas and establishing a tallgrass prairie. Today, the preserve boasts several high quality natural areas, including an expansive tallgrass prairie that is the result of a two-decades-long, volunteer-led restoration effort.

“One afternoon twenty years ago, I paused on the preserve trail near Saul Lake Bog and realized that I was standing in the center of an ideal prairie restoration...So it began.”

–Dwight Baker

Protecting Saul Lake Bog Nature Preserve contributed to...

✓ Protecting and maintaining globally rare ecosystems including dry-mesic prairies and oak savannas.
✓ Preserving high topographic, habitat and species diversity.
✓ Creating a connected corridor between southern and northern ecosystem types.

EASTERN GLACIAL CORRIDOR

Case Study: Saul Lake Bog Nature Preserve

Nature Preserves

Long before humans began shaping the landscape near Saul Lake Bog Nature Preserve, glaciers left depressions and deposited sediment, creating small lakes, ponds and wetlands, including Saul Lake Bog. Soon after the glaciers retreated, the area was populated by Native Americans, who shaped the landscape over thousands of years by hunting, farming and establishing villages and trails. These cultures also used fire liberally for agriculture, hunting and a host of other reasons—contributing to the rise of prairies, savannas, and other fire-dependent ecosystems throughout the region.

The landscape changed dramatically after the arrival of European settlers in Kent County in the early nineteenth century. Over the course of two centuries, most of the forests and prairies were cleared for agriculture, resulting in widespread habitat loss and fragmentation. Nearly all of the non-wetland areas on what is now Saul Lake Bog Nature Preserve were cleared and farmed, and the fields were planted with European grasses and mowed for hay.

In 1989, the Land Conservancy purchased the property from Valerino and Maria Castro, establishing the organization’s first nature preserve. Under the Land Conservancy’s ownership, management of the preserve has focused on protecting the rare bog ecosystem, reforesting previously cleared areas and establishing a tallgrass prairie. Today, the preserve boasts several high quality natural areas, including an expansive tallgrass prairie that is the result of a two-decades-long, volunteer-led restoration effort.

“One afternoon twenty years ago, I paused on the preserve trail near Saul Lake Bog and realized that I was standing in the center of an ideal prairie restoration,” said Dwight Baker, Land Conservancy of West Michigan volunteer and former board member. “An expanse of abandoned farm land was under the permanent curation of a conservation team with access to abundant experience, education and volunteers. More importantly, these professional caretakers will passionately invest their time and resources for wildlife benefit in itself, with no further justification required. So it began.”

Protecting and maintaining globally rare ecosystems including dry-mesic prairies and oak savannas.
Preserving high topographic, habitat and species diversity.
Creating a connected corridor between southern and northern ecosystem types.
West Michigan’s rich diversity of both natural ecosystems and human communities makes it a challenge to define region-wide conservation success. Research about how to best manage landscapes in response to climate change is still emerging, and how we measure success may evolve as work progresses. Also, as we continually monitor outcomes, organizational capacity and the progress of our work, our approach to protecting and caring for land may shift as we adapt and continue to propel conservation forward. Broadly, the work we do under this plan will be successful if it leads to:

- Continued persistence of well-functioning, healthy and biodiverse landscapes.
- Improved connections between important natural areas.
- Improved water quality and aquatic habitats.
- Landscapes that are able to heal in the face of more intense weather events and affected plants and wildlife that are able to find new spaces to thrive long into the future.
- Continued access to nearby natural areas where future generations can find wonder and restoration.

Call to Action

What Success Looks Like

It is only through donor and volunteer support that the Land Conservancy has been able to protect West Michigan’s natural spaces over the past four decades. Our success is the direct result of your efforts and the passion you continue to bring to our mission. Our strategic conservation plan provides a framework for a future where we will continue pursuing and protecting nature nearby in West Michigan. Here’s how you can join us in this critical work:

- Support the Land Conservancy with a donation or gift
- Become a volunteer
- Consider protecting your land
- Spread the word
- Share your ideas and suggestions

Acknowledgments

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