

2020-2023

MICHIGAN PROTECTED LANDS SURVEY

HEART OF
THE LAKES



HEART OF THE LAKES

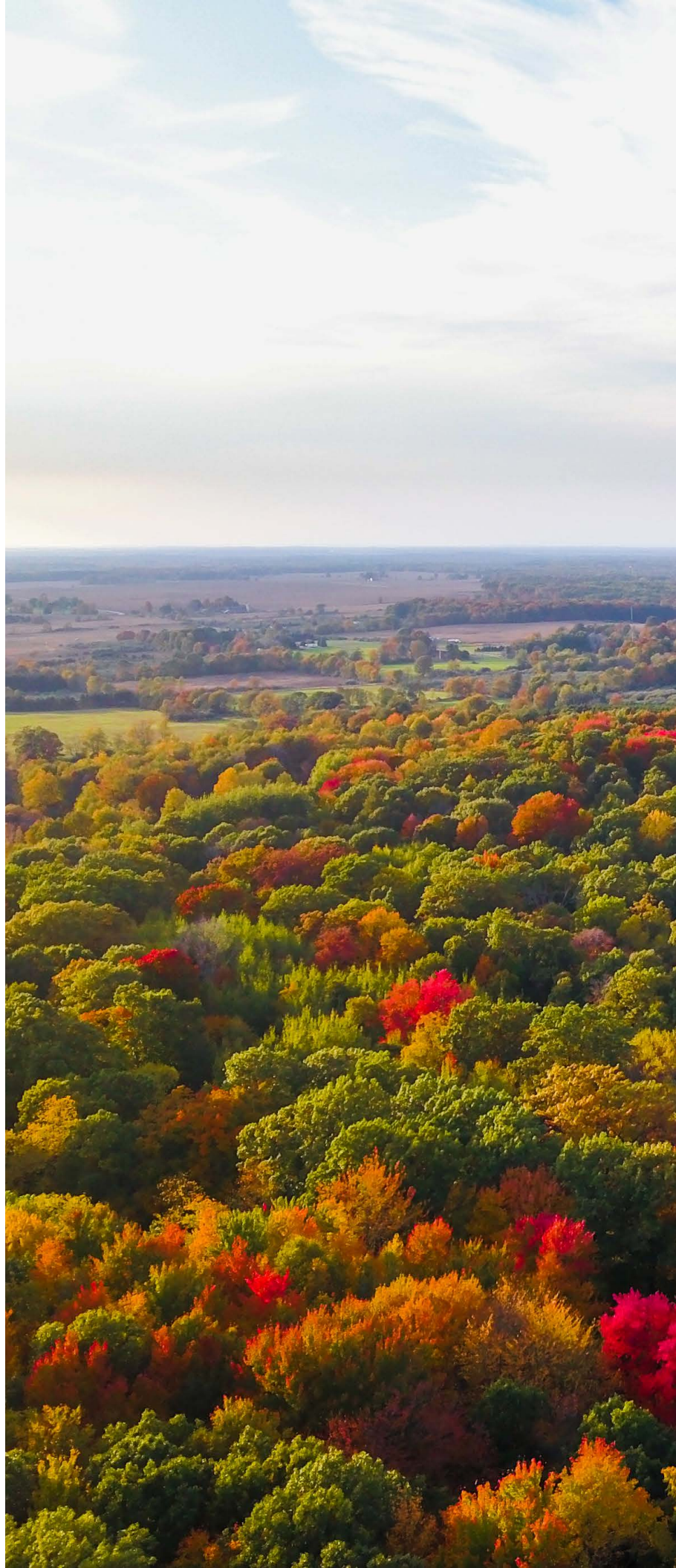


The biennial Michigan Protected Land Survey, conducted by Heart of the Lakes, collects land protection data for Michigan — advancing 30x30 efforts and providing reliable data to share with decision-makers, media, and other sources to strengthen the work of Michigan’s land conservation organizations.

In addition, it assists in serving valuable strategic planning to conservation community by knowing where current conservation, recreation, and easement lands exist.

Heart of the Lakes is the collective voice for Michigan’s land conservancies and their friends. Our efforts conserve forests, farmland, coastline, and other important places for the benefit of generations to come.

heartofthelakes.org





MICHIGAN'S CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

Has protected *nearly a million acres* —

806,560 to be exact.

That's over 130,000 more acres since 2020.



ACRES PROTECTED

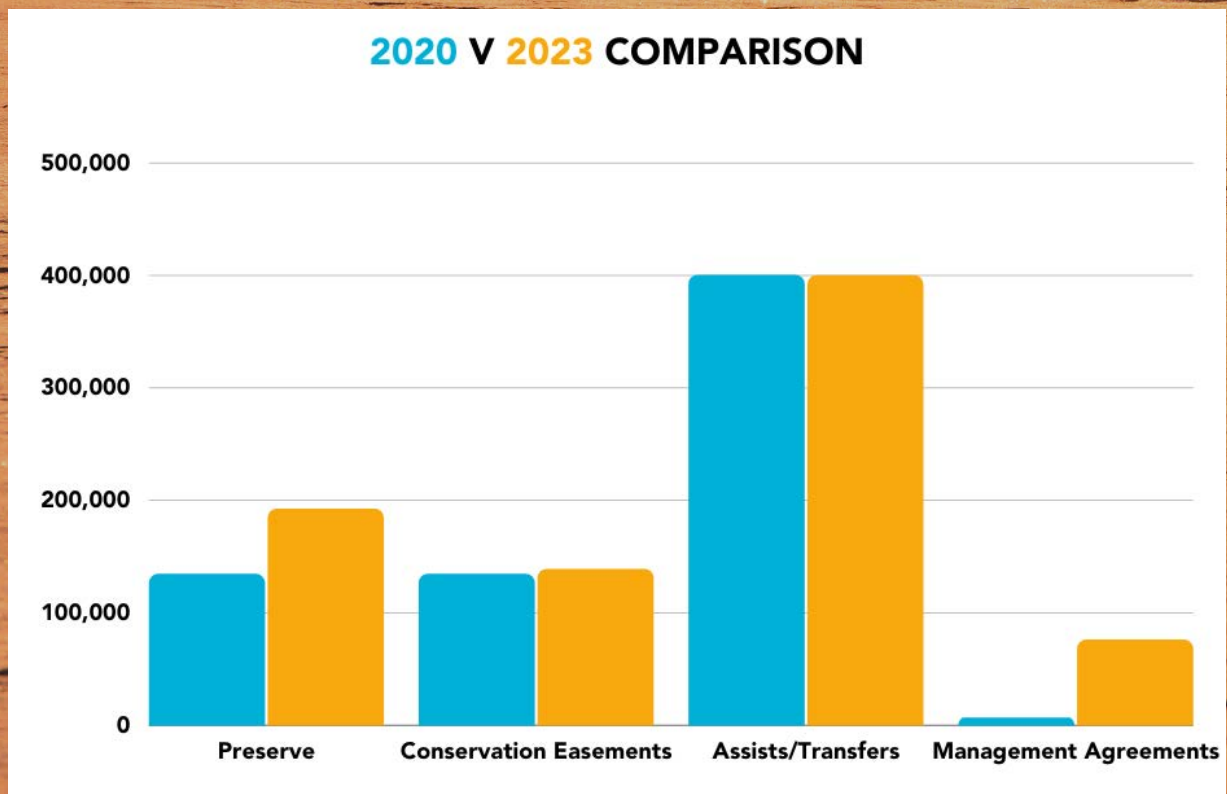
	Acres protected since 2020	Total acres protected since inception
Heart of the Lakes' Members	129,307 <small>Completed by March 31, 2023.</small>	748,552
Other Organizations + Open Space Partners	4,285	58,008
Total	133,592	806,560



DATA BREAKDOWN

133,000+ new acres conserved.

Heart of the Lakes' survey tracks land conservation successes by a suite of unique protection tools used: acquisition of nature preserves or conservation easements, assists or transfers of lands to local governments or the state, or management or stewardship of lands held by other.





NATURE PRESERVES OR SANCTUARIES

192,296 acres are currently owned by conservation groups as nature preserves or sanctuaries, an increase of 57,887 acres since 2020.



CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

138,754 acres are protected by conservation easements. Land conservancies added 7,439 acres of conservation easements since 2020.



TRANSFERS + ASSISTS

399,686 acres were protected through assistance or transfers of lands to local government or the state, a minute decrease of 472 acres since 2020.



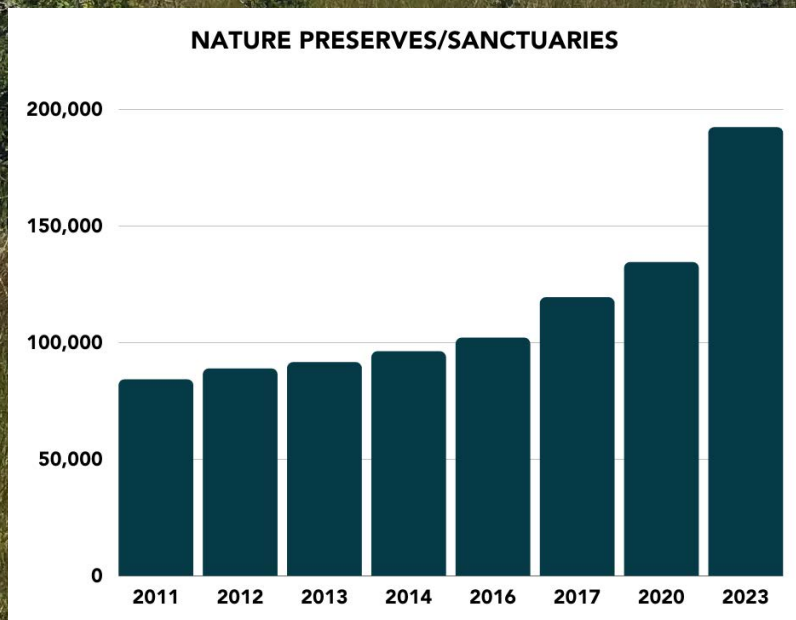
MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS

Conservation groups also manage or steward another 75,824 acres on natural lands owned by other entities.

NATURE PRESERVES + SANCTUARIES

Lands are acquired through donation or purchase to be used as a nature preserve or sanctuary. Often, these lands are open to the general public to visit and enjoy.

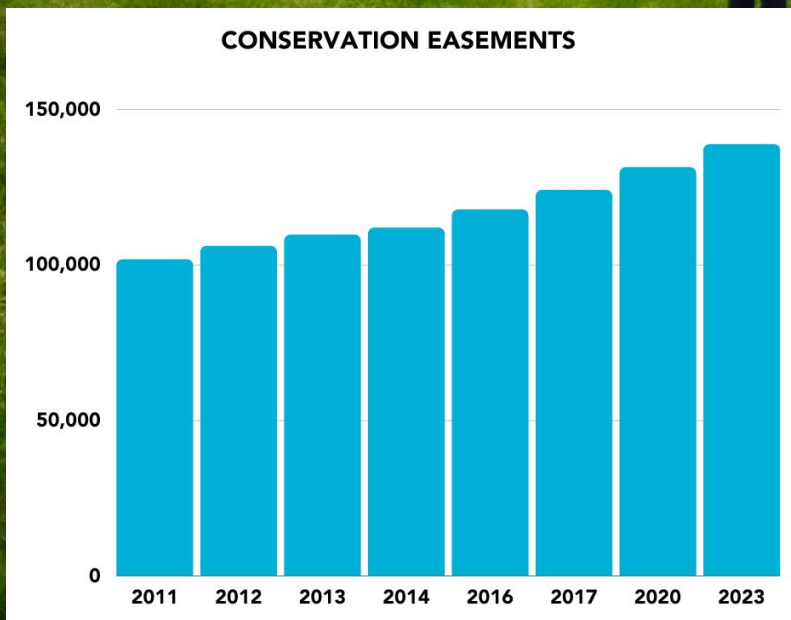
192,296 acres are currently owned by conservation groups as nature preserves or sanctuaries, an increase of 57,887 acres since 2020.



CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

A voluntary legal agreements between landowners and land conservancies that permanently protect significant conservation values by restricting future development on natural, scenic, farm and forest lands. The lands remain in private hands and on the tax rolls.

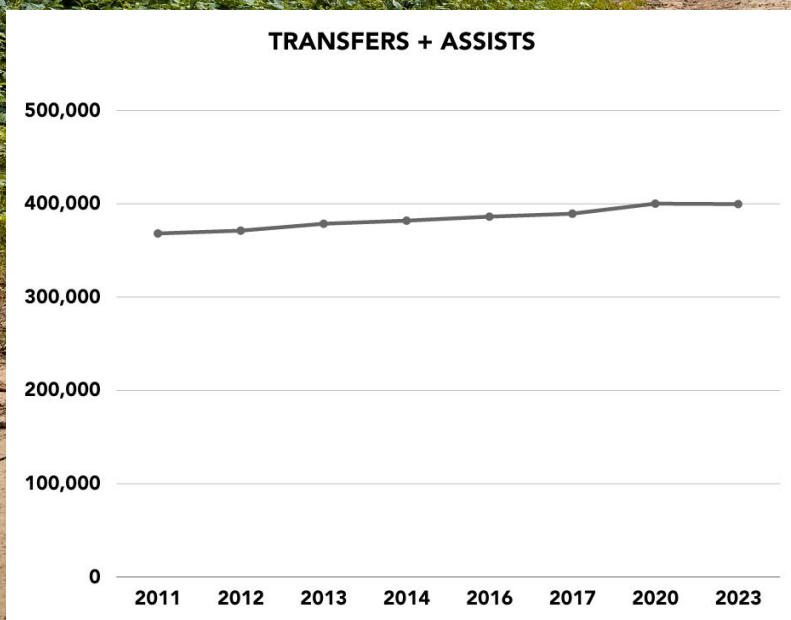
138,754 acres are protected by conservation easements. Conservancies added 7,439 acres of conservation easements since 2020.



TRANSFERS + ASSISTS

By far the largest segment of conservation groups have helped protect are assistance or transfers of lands to local government or the state, supporting their efforts to secure parklands and open space. Land conservancies and conservation groups often negotiate with landowners, secure lands and raise funds to make these acquisitions possible.

399,686 acres have been protected through assistance or transfers of lands to local government or the state, a minute decrease of 472 acres since 2020.



MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS

Conservation groups can have ongoing management and monitoring agreements to protect the conservation values of properties owned by other entities.

Conservation groups also manage or steward 75,824.

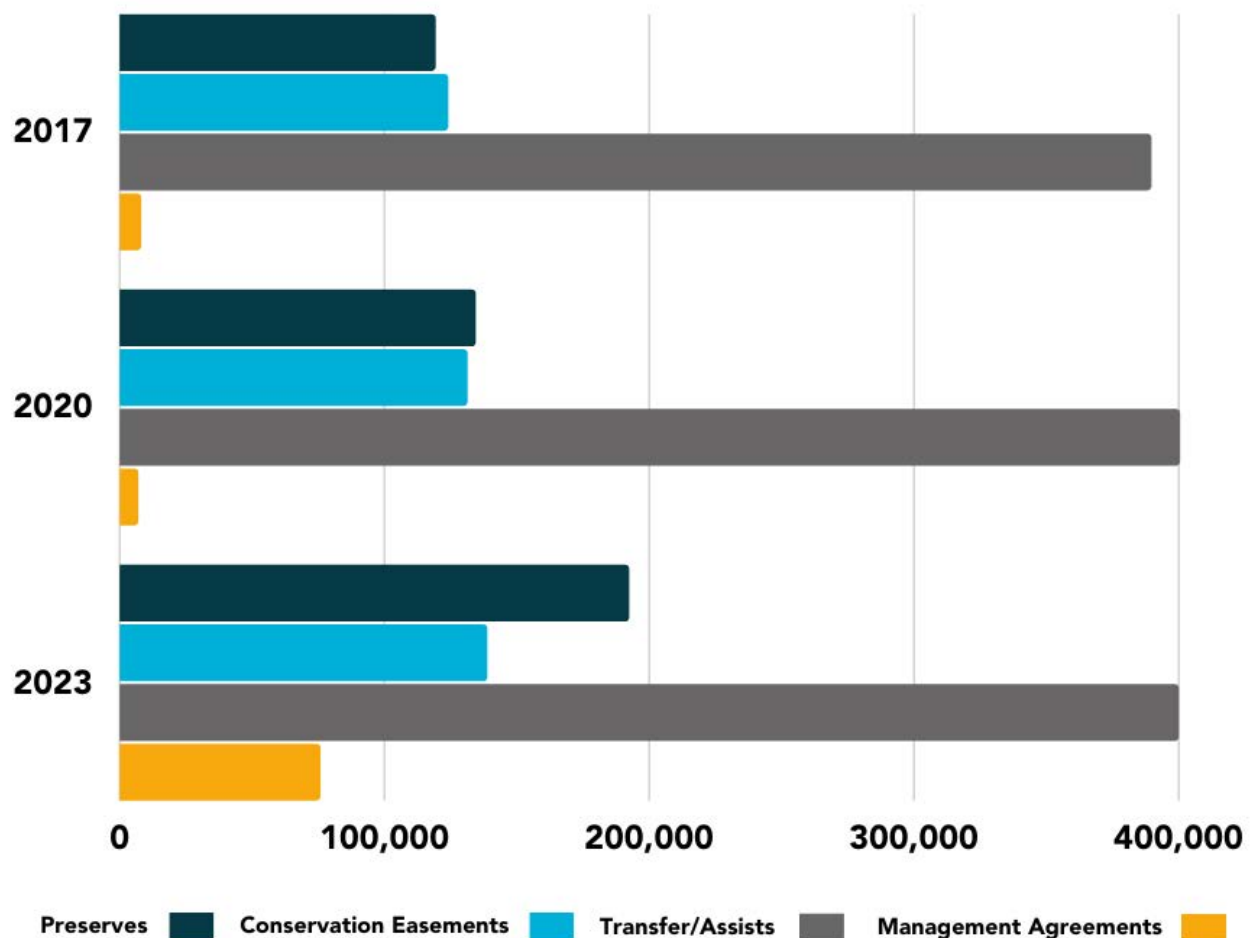


SURVEY RESULTS

By effectively saving land, land conservancies and the conservation community enhance the economic, environmental and social values of our communities. They provide clean water, fresh air, safe food, places for recreation and a connection to the land that sustains us all.

Detailed results on the following page can be [downloaded here](#).

5 YEAR COMPARISON OF PROTECTION CATEGORIES



Heart of the Lakes
Protected Lands Survey

DEFINITIONS																	
Def: Also referred to as "acres held in fee". Acres owned outright by the land conservancy. These are not lands you are holding in trust.					Def: Total acres protected by conservation easement by your land trust.				Def: Acres your conservancy has transferred and/or total acres your conservancy significantly assisted another entity in securing as parkland/open space, e.g. local unit of government or State of Michigan				Def: Lands you may manage/steward on behalf of another entity. Does not include properties owned by another land conservancy.				
Lands Protected as of March 31, 2023		PRESERVES HELD IN FEE			CONSERVATION EASEMENTS				TRANSFERS AND ASSISTS				MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT				
		As of December 31, 2020		As of March 31, 2023		As of December 31, 2020		As of March 31, 2023		As of December 31, 2020		As of March 31, 2023		As of December 31, 2020		As of March 31, 2023	
Member	Land Conservancies	Acres in Preserve or Sanctuary	Number of Preserves or	Acres in Preserve or	Number of Preserves or	Acres Under Easement	Number of Easements	Acres Under Easement	Number of Easements	Transfers and Assists Acreage	Number of Transfer and	Transfers and Assists Acreage	Number of Transfer and	Acres Under Management	Number of Management	Acres Under Management	Number of Management
	Blue Heron Headwaters Conservancy	430.00	20.00	412.00	20.00	1099.00	40.00	1102.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Cadillac Area Land Conservancy	86.00	4.00	86.00	4.00	2333.00	19.00	2383.00	21.00	0.00	0.00	23.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Chikaming Open Lands	663.00	18.00	789.00	21.00	1118.00	33.00	1118.00	33.00	263.00	1.00	263.00	1.00	86.00	1.00	86.00	1.00
	Chippewa Nature Center	1500.00	2.00	1503.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	1.00
	Chippewa Watershed Conservancy	629.00	23.00	646.00	24.00	4698.00	37.00	4778.00	38.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Ducks Unlimited	502.00	2.00	295.00	2.00	308.00	4.00	308.00	4.00	175.00	5.00	419.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Grand Traverse Regional Land	8976.00	41.00	10167.00	48.00	21714.00	250.00	22256.00	257.00	13833.00	151.00	13979.00	154.00	4275.00	5.00	4872.00	6.00
	Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy	141.00	20.00	159.00	25.00	15.00	5.00	15.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
	Headwaters Land Conservancy	662.00	6.00	690.00	8.00	11588.00	89.00	12202.00	95.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
	Huron Pines	653.00	3.00	2292.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	365.00	1.00	509.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	1214.00	4.00
	Land Conservancy of West Michigan	770.00	17.00	1268.00	19.00	9239.00	124.00	8895.00	123.00	2235.00	14.00	2619.00	15.00	120.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
	Leelanau Conservancy	3582.00	28.00	3732.00	28.00	10653.00	192.00	11663.00	204.00	1402.00	20.00	1450.00	23.00	164.00	2.00	164.00	2.00
	Legacy Land Conservancy	323.00	7.00	324.00	7.00	3758.00	87.00	4413.00	99.00	5288.00	48.00	5317.00	47.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Little Forks Conservancy	856.00	7.00	1004.00	9.00	2953.00	33.00	3125.00	34.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Little Traverse Conservancy	23069.55	406.00	25695.00	471.00	22403.00	274.00	24747.00	281.00	18256.00	88.00	18261.00	89.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Livingston Land Conservancy	278.00	8.00	286.00	10.00	372.00	5.00	448.00	7.00	365.00	1.00	365.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Michigan Karst Conservancy	590.00	3.00	590.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	72.00	1.00	72.00	1.00
	Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy	425.00	7.00	425.00	7.00	1783.00	18.00	2015.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy	603.00	9.00	603.00	9.00	5238.00	72.00	5255.00	73.00	28.00	1.00	28.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	59.00	4.00
	Six Rivers Land Conservancy	274.00	10.00	376.00	11.00	1985.00	27.00	1960.00	29.00	535.00	9.00	741.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	The Conservation Fund - Midwest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	33332.23	44.00	30522.00	159.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	The Nature Conservancy - Michigan Chapter	55268.00	30.00	103055.00	36.00	6703.00	35.00	8106.00	36.00	321261.00	426.00	321791.00	437.00	537.00	13.00	68819.00	7.00
	Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy	3100.00	36.00	2029.00	36.00	3164.00	24.00	3407.00	26.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	53.00	1.00
	Walloon Lake Association & Conservancy	1378.00	49.00	1526.00	53.00	755.00	20.00	756.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals		104758.55	756.00	157952.00	859.00	111879.00	1388.00	118952.00	1445.00	397340.23	810.00	396289.00	948.00	5267.00	26.00	75359.00	27.00

2020 Totals	671,614.28		2020 Fee	134,409		2020 CE	131,315		2020 Assists	400,158.23		2020 MA	7085.40	
2023 Totals	806,560.00	134,946	2023 Fee	192,296	57,887	2023 CE	138,754	7,439	2023 Assists	399,686.00	-472.23	2023 MA	75824.00	68,739

	PRESERVES HELD IN FEE				CONSERVATION EASEMENTS				TRANSFERS AND ASSISTS				MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT			
	As of December 31, 2020		As of March 31, 2023		As of December 31, 2020		As of March 31, 2023		As of December 31, 2020		As of March 31, 2023		As of December 31, 2020		As of March 31, 2023	
Other Organizations	Acres in Preserve or Sanctuary (Owned)	Number of Preserves or Sanctuaries (Owned)	Acres in Preserve or Sanctuary (Owned)	Number of Preserves or Sanctuaries (Owned)	Acres Under Easement	Number of Easements	Acres Under Easement	Number of Easements	Transfers and Assists Acreage	Number of Transfer and Assists Projects	Transfers and Assists Acreage	Number of Transfer and Assists Projects	Acres Under Management Agreement	Number of Management Agreement Projects	Acres Under Management Agreement	Number of Management Agreement Projects
The Archaeological Conservancy	131.00	6.00	9.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Detroit Audubon	174.00	1.00	76.00	1.00	88.00	5.00	88.00	5.00	5.00	1.00	5.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gratiot Lake Conservacy			750.00	4.00												
Grass River Natural Area	1492.00	1.00	1492.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Keweenaw Land Trust	3683.00	23.00	3811.00	26.00	4220.00	20.00	4220.00	20.00	1106.00	3.00	1160.00	3.00	1106.00	3.00	0.00	0.00
Henrietta Conservation and Land Conservancy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	2.00	163.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Michigan Audubon	3876.00	20.00	3500.00	18.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Michigan Nature Association	11530.00	173.00	15187.00	178.00	1492.00	16.00	1704.00	18.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	480.00	1.00	453.00	3.00
Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy	1735.00	18.00	1737.00	18.00	742.00	15.00	745.00	15.00	1004.00	11.00	1011.00	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy	3951.00	51.00	4445.00	55.00	12404.00	107.00	12882.00	116.00	702.00	9.00	1220.00	12.00	220.00	8.00	0.00	0.00
Thumb Land Conservancy	69.00	4.00	69.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.40	1.00	12.00	1.00
Trout Unlimited - Michigan	217.50	2.00	218.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Trout Unlimited - National	2380.00	8.00	550.00	5.00	240.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Yellow Dog Watershed	412.00	5.00	2500.00	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals	29650.50	312.00	34344.00	322.00	19436.00	166.00	19802.00	175.00	2818.00	25.00	3397.00	28.00	1818.40	13.00	465.00	4.00

2020 Totals	53722.90	
2023 Totals	58008.00	4285.10

HEART OF THE LAKES



heartofthelakes.org

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