

Michigan Land Conservancies

Permanently Protecting Natural Resources

Michigan land conservancies are nonprofit organizations that help families and communities protect natural and working lands forever. Land conservancies are uniquely well situated, using voluntary, market-based tools to protect land and safeguard Michigan's natural beauty and the conservation values of our most important lands.

Private and Public Lands

Land conservancies also permanently protect lands that provide public access opportunities to nature preserves and sanctuaries in some of Michigan's most beautiful places. Conservancies engage thousands of generous volunteers and landowners in stewardship activities to maintain the conservation values of the lands they help to protect.

Benefiting Our Entire State

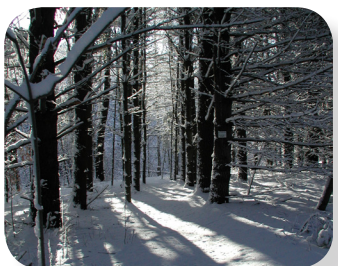
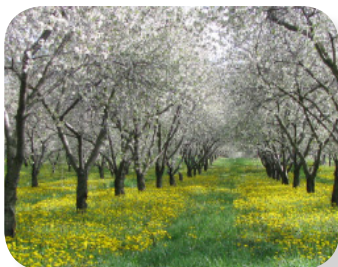
Today, Michigan land conservancies have worked with hundreds of landowners to protect over one-half million acres of natural and working lands. Land conservancies understand that thoughtful land protection enriches lives, secures cherished places, and meets vital needs for all people of the state including:

- Clean water and air
- Safe and abundant local foods
- Healthy and diverse wildlife populations
- Sustainable working forests
- Equitable access to some of Michigan's most cherished places

Clear Conservation Priorities

Conservancies regularly help landowners protect areas with specific land cover types for their biological, social, and recreational value as well as for the ecosystem services they provide (e.g. groundwater recharge and filtration, improved air quality, pollination that sustains biodiversity and food production). These land cover types include the following:

- Lands that directly affect watershed health and impact water quality
- Large, connected areas of farmland harboring productive soils and wildlife habitat
- Areas of scenic or recreational value
- Areas of high connectivity that increase existing areas of unfragmented natural or working lands
- Areas of high biodiversity that are representative of Michigan's native plants and animals
- Habitat that supports state and federal threatened and endangered species or increases preservation of a fundamental ecosystem function



Michigan Land Conservancies: Stronger Together

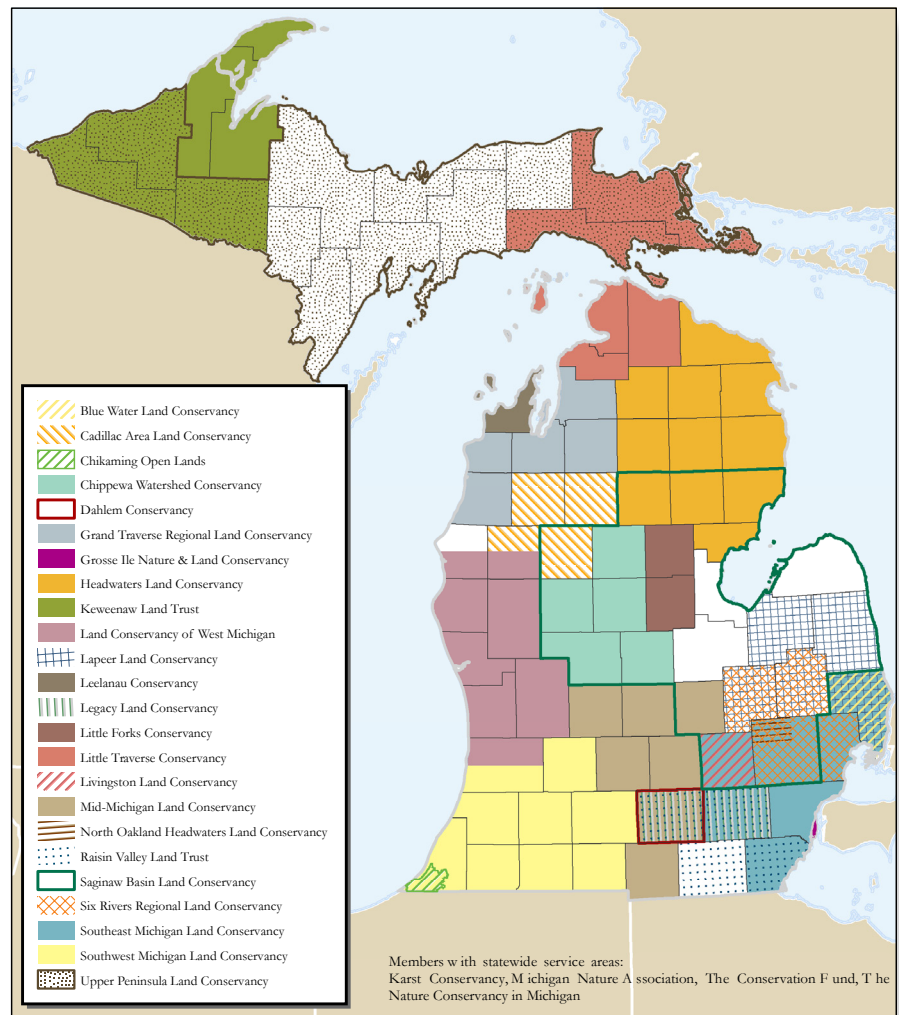
Heart of the Lakes Center for Land Conservation Policy

Heart of the Lakes is a statewide organization that represents and strengthens the collective efforts of land conservancies and conservation organizations.

Heart of the Lakes provides leadership, support services, and advocates for smart public policy for the benefit of our communities and for Michigan's future.

Uniting Michigan Land Conservancies

Founded by Michigan land conservancies, Heart of the Lakes does what no individual land conservancy can do on its own - it unites them under the common goal of protecting Michigan's critical lands.



Shared Policy Priorities

Significant opportunities exist now to have a tremendous impact on water quality, farmland preservation and protection of Michigan's most biologically and recreationally important places. Michigan land conservancies are united around policy that supports the conservation of these vital spaces.

Michigan Land Conservancies are united around policies that:

- Support water quality protection through land preservation
- Support working farm and forest land protection
- Safeguard and increase public funds for land conservation
- Encourage tax incentives for private land conservation