

Annual Report for January 2007

The mission of the Highland Conservancy is to encourage and facilitate the conservation of land and natural resources to preserve the rural character of Highland Township.

Major accomplishments for 2006 are as follows:

- Highland Oaks Park is much closer to completion and will be a beautiful park once it has been finalized (possibly as early as this spring). Our efforts spearheaded its creation.
- We led a major stewardship effort in the township park north of the library when the Highland Conservancy teamed with local cub scouts to clean up trash and other debris dumped in this sensitive nature area.
- At the annual Hi-White Parade we gave away 300 tree seedlings and brochures with information about our efforts and goals such as protecting natural beauty areas, establishing parks, trails, greenways and preserving open space in Highland.
- The Highland Conservancy is working closely with the Oakland Land Conservancy to protect an important fen area at the headwaters of the Shiawassee watershed and is currently reviewing other key parcels in Highland for various levels of protection.
- Our current president continues to attend Planning Commission meetings to provide input and feedback with regard to conservation issues and future development.
- We finalized a Tree Preservation Ordinance currently being finalized by the township. Our efforts helped initiate new strategies for a “greener” site plan review process.
- Working with the Oakland County Environmental Planning Department we created a Green Infrastructure Plan to use as an ecologically friendly blueprint for Highland. This greenway plan is a model for a broader effort to protect land throughout Oakland County.
- We obtained extensive training and completed 300 hours of voluntary service through the Michigan Conservation Stewards Program, a pilot program developed as a cooperative effort of the Michigan DNR Wildlife Division, Michigan State University Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Michigan Nature Features Inventory.