



# Highland CONSERVANCY

## Highland Conservancy Annual Report for 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 2007 are as follows:

- Spearheaded the establishment of our newest park, Highland Oaks, protecting a total of 265 beautiful acres. This park was finally opened in October of 2007.
- Participated in Milford's first Earth Day Celebration and were grand marshals at the annual Hi-White Parade, passing out over 300 trees.
- Created a new blog providing a venue for dialogue and debate on issues related to conservation and land use, environmental and local news. This is part of a larger educational effort including information disseminated through monthly E-newsletters, articles, our website: [www.highlandconservancy.org](http://www.highlandconservancy.org) and our blog: [www.highlandconservancy.typepad.com](http://www.highlandconservancy.typepad.com)
- Ongoing stewardship activities in the township park north of the library to clean up this sensitive nature area. Our efforts have helped remove over 200 pounds of trash from these beautiful rolling meadows and woods.
- Sponsored a local Global Warming seminar with a top notch keynote speaker from Al Gore's Climate Change project to provide dialogue and educate the public on issues related to climate change.
- Partnered with Oakland Land Conservancy. Our president, Jim Lloyd, was seated on the OLC board of directors to establish a more effective liaison with our sister conservancy. Together we continue to work to protect critical parks, acquire conservation easements and delineate land for various levels of protection.
- Ongoing watchdog activities through attending most township Planning Commission meetings to provide input and feedback with regard to conservation issues and future development in Highland.
- Contributed to the new Natural Features Ordinance, part of the revised Zoning Ordinances now before the public for comment, including strategies for a "greener" site plan review process, protection of trees, and more natural, open-space type residential land development.

- Facilitated the Green Infrastructure Plan in Highland Township. This model is now being used by others as an ecologically friendly blueprint for protection of natural hub areas and connected wildlife corridors as part of a broader effort to protect land throughout Michigan.

Submitted by,

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