



Highland Conservancy **2008 Annual Report**

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 2008 are as follows:

- Land protected to date through our efforts (along with others) includes Oakland County's newest county owned park Highland Oaks, with 265 beautiful acres.
- Met with township officials and initiated community dialogue to establish permanent protection of the 27-acre township park north of the library. We are lobbying for a conservation easement to protect this beautiful park from future development. We continue to monitor Numatic's contamination cleanup of this public park. We also continue to lead volunteers in an annual cleanup there.
- Organized ongoing efforts to fight to protect the natural resources and rural character of Highland, specifically with regard to the attempt to modify current zoning to allow a high density, multiple family senior citizen complex.
- Participated in Milford's second Earth Day Celebration, Highland's Hazardous Waste Day and the annual Hi-White Parade where we gave away more than 400 white pine trees.
- Sponsored our new 5K Fun Run along scenic East Livingston Road to Dodge 10 Park as part of Highland's "Horsin' around Highland" festivities.
- Adopted a section of Harvey Lake Road from M59 northward all the way to Highland Oaks and kicked off the ongoing clean up of this stretch of road.
- Participated in the planting of new trees at Highland's Duck Lake Pines Park with the help of local citizens and community members.
- Worked together with members of a local church and local citizens in planning, planting and maintaining a community garden. A portion of the organic food harvested from the garden was donated to local food banks.

- Co-sponsored an initiative at Highland Oaks along with Oakland County Parks to remove more than 10 garbage bags full of garlic mustard, a highly invasive plant that quickly overtakes native plants, disrupting the normal food chain.
- Ongoing partnership with Six Rivers Land Conservancy (formerly Oakland Land Conservancy). Our president, Jim Lloyd, is seated on their 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 in Highland.
- 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.
- Participated in and provided input on Highland Township Parks Committee's planning session to update and revise the Parks Committee's master plan.
- Presented and promoted the Green Infrastructure Plan that was established in Highland Township at various county and state level meetings and workshops. This model is key to our work in protecting Highland's natural resources and is an ecologically friendly blueprint for identifying natural hub areas and connected wildlife corridors as part of a broader effort to protect land throughout Michigan.
- Provided ongoing education through our blog - 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, flyers, articles, our website: www.highlandconservancy.org and our blog: www.highlandconservancy.typepad.com

It's been a great year!

Submitted by,

Katheryn Krupa
Highland Conservancy
205 W. Livingston Road
Highland, MI 48357
248-887-4643
www.HighlandConservancy.org
www.HighlandConservancy.typepad.com