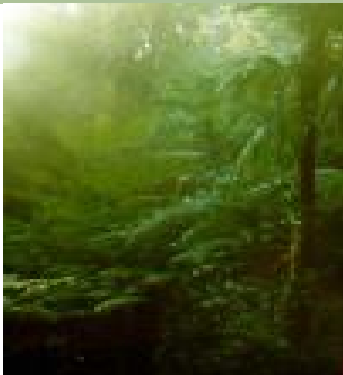




For more information about the Highland Conservancy contact us at:

- Phone: 248-887-4643
- Email: info@HighlandConservancy.org
- Visit our Website: www.HighlandConservancy.org
- Mail:
Highland Conservancy
205 W. Livingston Road
Highland MI 48357



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"We need to protect the rural character of Highland and high density, high rise development is not what we need."

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

Highland Oaks—A Success Story **by Kathryn Krupa**

The Highland Conservancy started in 2004 when concerned Highland citizens decided it was time to preserve our rural character, natural areas and open spaces before they were lost forever to development. With the support of Oakland Land Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy and other groups, we have been working to identify land for various levels of protection and conservation. Early on, members of our group, Ron Flannery and Sharon Greene developed the idea to purchase and protect a 250 acre parcel of land that is now Highland Oaks. It took several years, but finally Highland Oaks is a reality! This is a crucial hub in Highland's greenway plan and will be a beautiful park with hiking, biking and equestrian trails. Creating such

parks is a key initiative for the Highland Conservancy along with protecting wildlife habitat, encouraging open space development and helping keep Highland rural and beautiful for future generations to enjoy.

Some other initiatives include:

- Facilitate the development of conservation easements on land in Highland.
- Educate the public on issues related to global warming and preservation of our natural resources.
- Work with Oakland County Environmental Planning Dept. and other groups to create a Green Infrastructure Plan to protect land, wildlife corridors and habitat.

- Assist in the stewardship and care of land held in conservancy.
- Work with Highland Township to develop natural features ordinances and a holistic conservation plan for Highland.
- Participate in Planning Commission meetings to promote green development in Highland.

We need your help and support to protect Highland's natural beauty that still remains. Call Jim Lloyd for more information at 248-887-3952.

"Each of us has a responsibility to be good stewards of our environment. Highland Township's Conservancy is a great way to fulfill that responsibility." —Triscia Pilchowski, Highland Township Supervisor

Conservation Easements can save you Money **by Dave Pollard**

And then one day ...they were gone. Four majestic oaks were bulldozed down and all the top soil was stripped away for another cookie cutter subdivision in Highland. If you find this gradual loss of rolling pastures and open space disheartening, there is some exciting news. New laws for 2007 increased the tax incentives for land owners who protect their land with full or partial conservation easements. You still have complete

ownership of your land while also, in many cases, saving money on your taxes. Here's how it works. A land owner who enters into a conservation easement agreement waives or restricts the development rights to their property—you decide how many future buildings and the exact perimeter or location of the protected easement. You continue to own and use the land, reap a tax benefit and have the added satisfaction

that your land will be forever protected for the use and enjoyment of both wildlife and future generations. Not a bad legacy to leave behind!

If you are interested in a conservation easement for your farm or property, please call Dave Pollard 248-889-9558 or drop in to learn more. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm at Highland Station House (the old library).

Vital Connections for Wildlife adapted from Observer Eccentric

When we think about the protection of high-quality natural areas and the wildlife they support, we usually think of large parcels of land. It's true the wildlife we love need plenty of elbow-room to thrive, but another way wildlife can be encouraged to stick around is through the concept of green corridors.

As fragmentation of open land continues at a frantic pace, wildlife, whose ranges often exceed boundaries of protected open space, need ways of get-

ting from one protected area to another. Some possibilities for establishing connected corridors include pipeline and electrical easements, trail-ways, greenbelts, parkways, and conservation easements to link large undeveloped parcels. River corridors, where well-vegetated buffers line the riverbanks, offer corridors for a wide variety of wildlife, including fish. Marshes and fens act as buffers to filter out pollutants from the water and prevent erosion. Railroad right-of-ways harbor

rare plants that haven't been seen in years in other places. So what can we do? Communities including Highland in Oakland County are creating a Greenway blueprint to link up these natural areas into a connected network. Even those who live on small parcels or lake lots can be involved in preserving wildlife habitat simply by planting native Michigan trees, plants and hedgerows, or use non-phosphorous fertilizers. Log onto www.oakgov.com/es for more info on open space and greenway planning.



Woodlands and connected green spaces are important for all wildlife.

*Teach your children what we have
Taught our children,
That the earth is our mother. What-
ever
Befalls the earth
Befalls the sons of the earth.
Man did not weave the web of life,
He is merely a strand in it.
Whatever he does to the web,
He does to himself.
Chief Seattle*

Highland Conservancy Efforts by Kathryn Krupa

The Highland Conservancy is working hard to help keep Highland beautiful and rural. One of our primary goals is to increase conserved land such as the new Highland Oaks county park. This year we plan to reach out to landowners to encourage them place a conservation easement on their land. It's a win-win proposition in that there

are substantial tax savings while the land is protected while remaining completely in the landowner's possession.

This spring, Highland's Greenway Plan will be officially adopted. The next steps is to use it to help develop bike, hiking and equestrian trails as well as in future efforts to secure more open space and

parkland throughout the township. Currently we are working with the Planning Commission to finalize tree and natural feature ordinances for use in the site plan review process for Highland.

On **May 23, 2007** we will host a special **Global Warming Seminar at 7:00 p.m. at the Highland Senior Center**. Join us for this exciting and highly informative event!



Stop by the township office to see the new Greenway Plan for Highland Township.

Highland Conservancy
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Volunteers Welcome!

Are you a lawyer, accountant, teacher, outdoorsmen or parent? We need help ranging from a new webmaster to volunteers to help plant wildflowers and prairie grass or write news articles or a blog. ANY help would be greatly appreciated! Contact us at the numbers above.

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

JOIN US! *You are always welcome to join us or just drop in on our meetings. Whether you like to be outdoors or are more comfortable behind a keyboard, there's always something to do. We meet at 7pm the first Tuesday of every month at Highland Station House, 205 W. Livingston Road.*

WE WELCOME YOUR SUPPORT!

We can use your help! With your donation of \$25 you will become a contributing member and receive a beautiful tote bag or t-shirt (Please specify Adult S, M, L or XL). Thank you for your consideration and help.

Send your check made payable to:

Highland Conservancy
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Highland, MI 48357

WE'RE ON THE WEB:
WWW.HIGHLANDCONSERVANCY.ORG
