



*"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts"*

*Rachel Carson*





# Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program

City of Ann Arbor – Greenbelt Advisory Commission

November 7, 2013



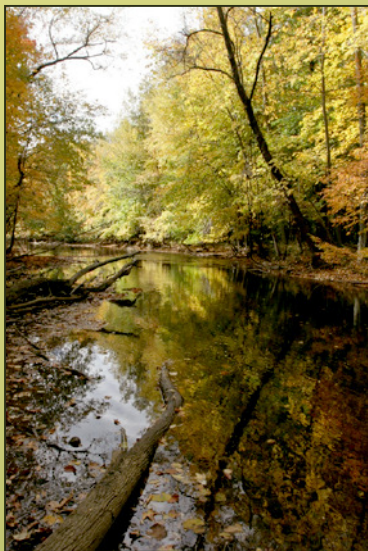
Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission



# Overview



- Program History & Overview
- NAPP Accomplishments To Date
- Partnerships and Community Involvement
- Future Land Preservation Priorities
- 2013 Program Updates



# Program History



- Established in August 2000 by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, through passage of **Natural Areas Ordinance No. 128**
- Funding for NAPP approved by a majority vote in November 2000 election, 64% of voters approved a county-wide 1/4 mill tax
- In May 2010 the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners amended Ordinance No. 128 to allow for the purchase of conservation easements on agricultural land
- Funding for NAPP was renewed by a majority vote in November 2010 election – extending the millage through 2020



# Natural Areas Ordinance No. 128



Established procedures and standards for protection of natural areas within the County:

- Responsibilities of the program
- Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee
- Agricultural Lands Preservation Advisory Committee
- Criteria for review of properties
- Application process
- Allocation schedule
  - 75% natural areas
  - 25% agricultural development rights



# NAPP Accomplishments To Date



- Over 11,650 acres nominated since 2002
- 2,682 acres protected as of October 31, 2013



## Statistics

- **52** properties protected
- 12 collaborative purchases
- 7 conservation easements
- 45 fee simple purchases
- 25 Washtenaw County nature preserves



# NAPP Accomplishments To Date




Washtenaw County  
Parks & Recreation  
Commission

## NAPP Map

Prepared by:  
Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission  
November 4, 2013

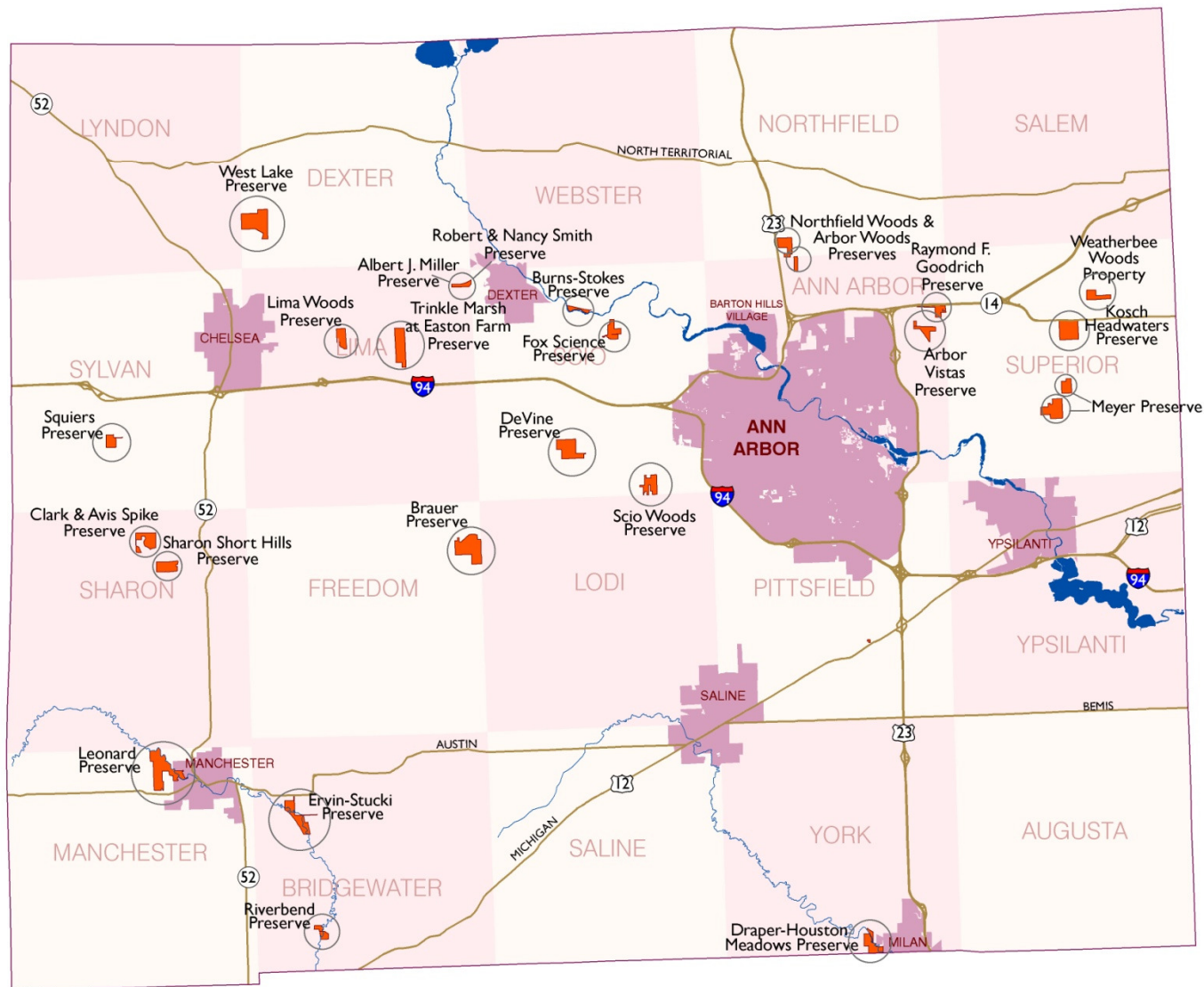
Data:  
Washtenaw County GIS

### Legend

 County Preserve  
Natural Areas Preservation  
Program (NAPP)



(734) 971-6337  
parks.ewashtenaw.org



0 2.5 5 10 Miles





# Partnerships and Community Involvement



- Preservation Partners
- Preserve Users
- Community Involvement & Volunteers



## Partners

- Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy
- Legacy Land Conservancy
- Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program
- Scio Township
- The Nature Conservancy
- Superior Land Conservancy
- Village of Dexter
- Superior Township
- Huron River Watershed Council
- Saline River Greenway Alliance



# Partnerships and Community Involvement

- Preservation Partners
- Preserve Users
- Community Involvement & Volunteers



## Users

- School Groups
- Universities
- Environmental Education
- Organized Nature Study
- Individual Participants
- Boy Scouts of America



# Partnerships and Community Involvement

- Preservation Partners
- Preserve Users
- Community Involvement & Volunteers

Volunteer hours:

2009	- 926
2010	- 868
2011	- 573
2012	- 986



## Volunteers

### **Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy**

- Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program
- Scio Township
- The Nature Conservancy
- Superior Land Conservancy
- Village of Dexter
- Superior Township
- Boy Scouts of America
- Master Stewards Program
- Washtenaw Area Teens for Tomorrow
- Friends of the Rouge River



# Partnerships and Community Involvement



## Funds Leveraged From Other Sources

Contributions from other organizations for acquisition = \$3,464,179



Donations = \$294,146

Bargain Sales = \$3,715,425

Total = **\$7,473,750**



# Preservation Priorities



- Access
- Stewardship
- Education



## Please read...

### Why is this a Nature Preserve?

This land was acquired through Washtenaw County's Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP).

NAPP purchases unique natural areas to ensure their preservation for the benefit of all County residents—plants, animals and people!

The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission manages the program, identifying and caring for lands with special ecological, recreational, and educational benefits.

...to learn more visit  
[parks.ewashtenaw.org](http://parks.ewashtenaw.org)  
or call 734.971.6337

### Help Us Protect this Special Place

Please minimize your impact by following these important guidelines:

#### Stay on the Trail

to protect plants, nesting areas, and other habitat from being harmed or intruded upon

#### Leave What You Find

stones, flowers and wildlife belong to this place, not to us

#### Respect Wildlife

keep wildlife wild, observe from a distance

#### Leave No Trash

pick up all trash, yours and others

These guidelines were developed from the seven Leave No Trace principles. For more information, visit [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org) or call 800.332.4100

### Prohibited

The following will have negative impacts on the plant and animal communities found here:

Dogs	Hunting
Bicycles	Fishing
Fires	Camping
Collecting	Cutting Wood
Motor Vehicles	Horses

### Open from Dawn to Dusk

Enjoy walking, bird watching, nature study and other quiet activities.

Thanks for visiting!



Washtenaw County  
Parks & Recreation  
Commission



Official Partner  
Leave No Trace  
Center for Outdoor Ethics



# Future Land Preservation Goals

Although NAPP has been very successful to date, there are many preservation goals yet to be achieved. With the renewal of the program, the following ecotypes will be a focus of the program for the next 10 years:

- **Historic Lake Maumee Floodplain**
- **Sharon Short Hills**
- **Grassland Habitat**
- **Wetland Habitat**
- **Prairie Fen**
- **Tamarack Swamp**
- **Bio-reserve Natural Areas** (as identified by the Huron River Watershed Council)





# Broader Geographic Distribution of Preserves




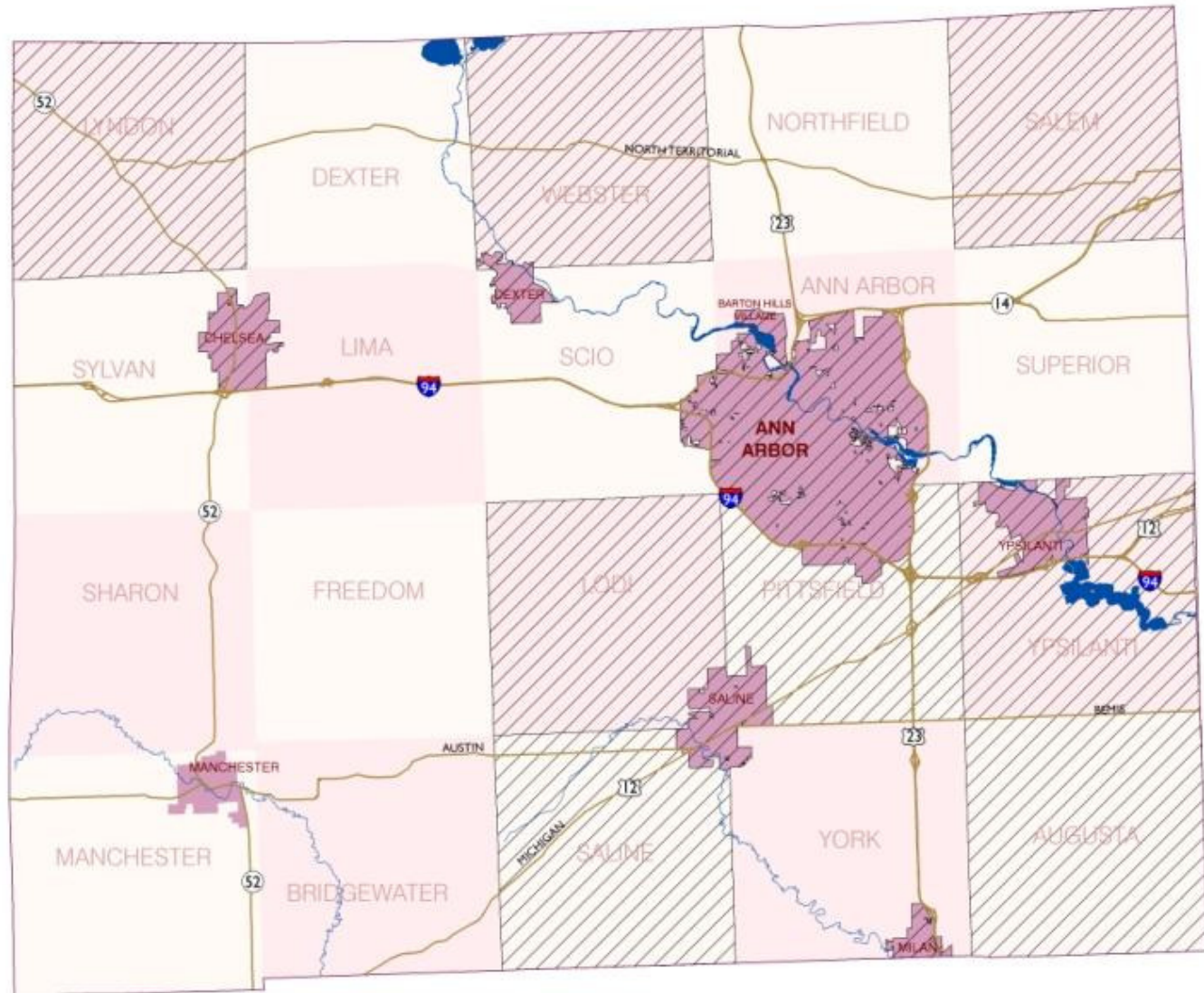
## NAPP Preserve Distribution

Prepared by:  
Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission  
May 3, 2012

Data:  
Washtenaw County GIS

### Legend

 Townships and Cities Without NAPP Preserves



(734) 971-6337  
[parks.ewashtenaw.org](http://parks.ewashtenaw.org)



# Stewardship Planning



- Preserves require annual stewardship plans, developed and maintained by WCPARC staff
- Stewardship maintenance includes:
  - trail and boardwalk maintenance
  - habitat restoration
  - plant and animal habitat monitoring
  - controlling invasive species through prescribed burns & manual removal







DeVine Preserve





Scio Woods Preserve





Fox Science Preserve





Goodrich Preserve





Meyer Preserve





Prescribed burn at Miller-Smith





Goodrich Preserve





Winter at the Leonard Preserve





Fall at Scio Woods Preserve





The Huron River along Burns-Stokes Preserve



**Thank You!**



*DeVine Preserve  
Scio Township, Michigan*