

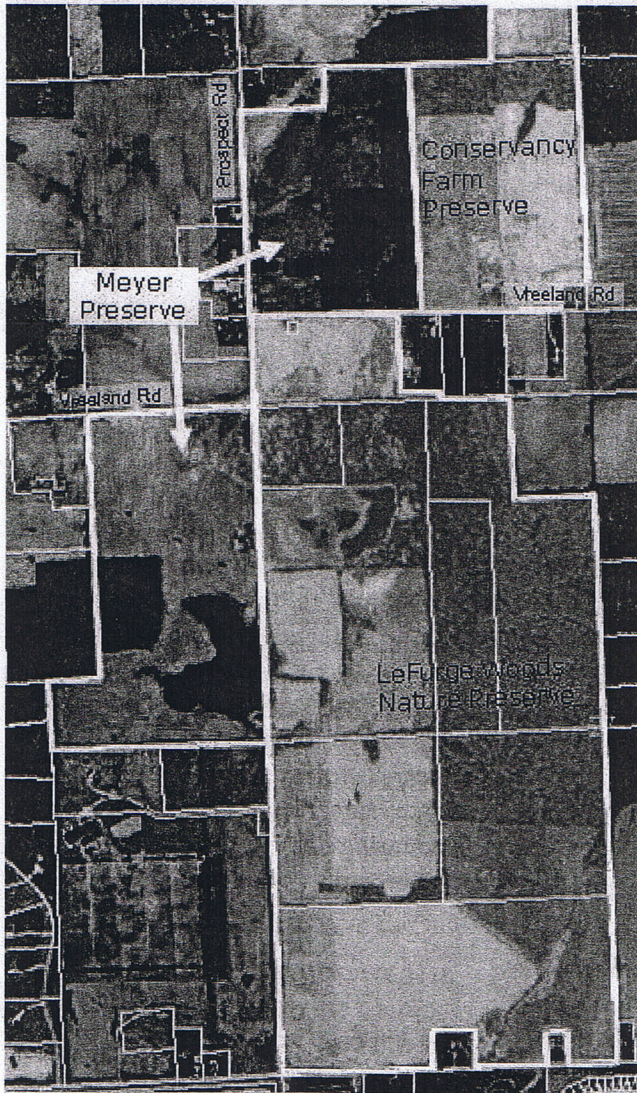
# Washtenaw County's Meyer Preserve adds 139 acres to Superior Greenway

by Richard Kent, Land Protection Committee Chair

In August of 2008, the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPARC) became the owner of 139 acres in Superior Township, Washtenaw County. The preserve has since been named the Meyer Preserve to acknowledge the family which long held land in the Township. The 139 acres consists of two parcels on Prospect Road at the intersection of Vreeland Road, a 55 acre parcel located northeast of the intersection and an 84 acre parcel to the southwest. The preserve consists mainly of open agricultural land, with about 45 acres of valuable woods and wetlands, and makes a significant contribution to the two mile long Superior Township Greenway.



Wetlands, woodlands and fields at the Meyer Nature Preserve in Superior Township. Photo by Scott Tyrrell



Washtenaw County's new Meyer Nature Preserve, located adjacent to the Conservancy Farm Preserve and LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve adds 139 acres of protected land to the Superior Greenway between Canton and Ann Arbor.

The County purchase of this land, through its Natural Areas Preservation Program, was made financially easier through collaboration with the Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program, the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy and Superior Township. WCPARC contributed 52% of the cost. The Greenbelt program provided most of the balance, but smaller, still important, contributions were made by SMLC's Superior Land Conservancy (SLC) division and Superior Township.

SMLC also agreed to participate in management of the land. Last fall invasive species, in the hedgerow along Vreeland Road east of Prospect, were removed with the help of funds provided through SLC. Over the winter a county contract was signed by a local farmer, Gary Grosshans, to farm the approximately 65 acres of productive agricultural land on the preserve. At present no parking area has been built to service the Meyer Preserve, but parking is available at SMLC's LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve across Prospect Road from the 84 acre parcel. Please exercise caution in crossing busy Prospect Road if you park in the LeFurge parking lot.

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