

LAND PRESERVATION COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

No land preservation projects closed in FY 2024.

Three projects are currently scheduled to close in FY 2025, and several new applications for high priority properties have been received. The Land Preservation Commission is actively targeting contact with high priority property owners.

For the 36 projects completed through March 31, 2024, Scio Township has expended just over \$8.4 million in acquisition costs from its dedicated land preservation millage. Over \$12 million has been contributed by other sources: the City of Ann Arbor's Greenbelt program (\$2,196,326), Washtenaw County Parks' Natural Areas Preservation Program (\$3,405,036), the federal Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) (\$3,859,428), State of Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (\$200,400), State of Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund (\$760,200) and landowner discounts (\$1,829,236). Scio's share of the total appraised value is 41% for a match ratio of 1.5:1. The total land area protected with millage funds through FYE 24 is 1,709 acres, with 45% of that land in natural features (woods, streams and wetlands). Half of the 36 properties can or will be accessed by the public. Non-acquisition costs—which include staff, due diligence (appraisal, survey, environmental assessment, legal review) and other budgeted items—is 11.8% of total expenditures through the program's first 19 years, with over 88% of millage funds going directly to land and conservation easement purchases.

Will Weber continued as LPC chair. Marty Mayo, Liz Wineman, Tim Redmond, Jeannine LaPrad and Lisa Pappas continued as members. The Board of Trustees representative slot was assigned to John Reiser. Barry Lonik continued to serve the Commission as its consultant.

The LPC is honored to have the opportunity to serve the citizens of Scio Township and effectively apply their support toward the preservation of high quality natural and agricultural lands.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Weber, Chair

5 April 2024

Attachments: protected properties map, expenses summary