

LAND PRESERVATION COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

No land preservation projects closed in FY 2025.

Two properties are currently under contract and are scheduled to close in FY 2026. Several other properties are in active negotiations and several more are in early exploratory stages. Letters and applications were mailed to 24 high priority properties in late March; followup phone calls will be made in the coming weeks.

For the 36 projects completed through March 31, 2025, 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) and Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) (\$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 FY 25 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 12.3% of total expenditures through the program's first 20 years, with over 87% of millage funds going directly to land and conservation easement purchases.

Liz Wiseman and Lisa Pappas took over as LPC co-chairs during FY25. Tim Redmond, Jeannine LaPrad and Daryl Burkhard continued as members. The Board of Trustees representative slot was assigned to David Read. 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,

Liz Wiseman and Lisa Pappas, Co-Chairs