



Livingston Land Conservancy

Protecting the Natural Heritage and Rural Character of the Greater Livingston County Area Since 1991

Trail Dedication at the Charles & Albert Parker Families Nature Preserve-Open to All!

Board of Directors

Sara Thomas, President/Land Protection, Howell

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Bill Fountain, Secretary, Hartland

Paul Stavros, Director, Brighton

Marcee Wardell, Director, Howell

Bob Pawlowski, Newsletter Editor

Rick Thomas, Land on the Horizon Fundraising Event Coordinator

Meeting Dates & Times

We meet the second Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Meetings are at the HERO Building (Old Hartland Twp. Hall) 3191 Hartland Rd. Hartland, MI.

June 9, 2025

July 14, 2025

August 11, 2025

September 8, 2025

October 13, 2025

November 10, 2025

December 8, 2025

Livingston Land Conservancy
P.O. Box 236

Brighton, MI 48116-0236

810-229-3290 (voice mail)

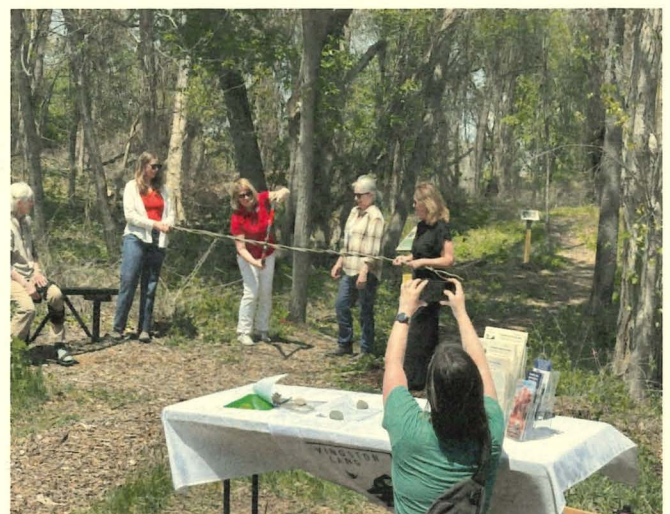
livingstonlandconservancy@gmail.com

What takes a grant by the Community Foundation for Livingston County (CFLC), monies from the Brighton District Library and the Conservancy, over 500 hours of work by dozens of volunteers and a contractor, 35 yards of wood chips and literally truckloads of cut and mulched invasive vines and shrubs? Next time you are at the Brighton District Library, see the result for yourself on the new trails at the Charles & Albert Parker Families Nature Preserve.

On Saturday, May 10, 2025 over 30 supporters and dignitaries celebrated the "rebirth" of the property, which over many years had become badly overgrown with invasive vines and shrubs like Asian Bittersweet and Autumn Olive. After nearly a year of dedicated effort by a host of brave volunteers and landscape restoration professionals (PlantWise of Ann Arbor), the LLC held a "vine-cutting" ceremony to reopen the preserve for public benefit – including a new loop trail (called the Woodland Loop Trail) that connects with the previous single, dead-end one (Hillside Trail). LLC President Sara Thomas shared the occasion with Library Director Cindy Mack, Brighton City Manager Gretchen Gomolka, and local children's author and representative of the CFLC, Denise Brennan-Nelson. A guided walk through the preserve for those interested and refreshments followed the official proceedings.

The trail system now includes educational signage, a boot brush to scrub off invasives seeds and dirt, and a new bench overlooking a wetland. The Preserve is open to the public from sunrise to sunset – but PLEASE – this is a walking trail ONLY. Please leash and pickup after your dog, and bikes or ATVs are prohibited as they will quickly destroy the mulched trails and allow invasives to reestablish themselves. In fact, as is always the case with invasives, removal work will continue year-round to keep the "bad stuff" at bay. Even now, the cut vines that were strangling trees are dead and drying out, eventually falling off the trees (you can almost hear them say THANKS!). Using the Preserve as a living laboratory, the Library has announced their intention to develop environmental education programs for children in the future.

**The vine is cut,
opening the Charles &
Albert Parker Families
Nature Preserve to the
public. Need a quiet dose
of nature in one of the
last remaining
undeveloped parcels in
the City of Brighton?
We've got a place for
you!**



Best Wishes to Bill Fountain!

We want to thank Bill Fountain for serving on the Conservancy Board of Directors for many years as our secretary. Although he still serves as the Hartland Township Supervisor and is very busy with his golf course, The Majestic at Lake Walden, he is trying to simplify his life a bit by carrying less additional commitments. (Good advice!) His experience and understanding of land use and local government oversight, his financial generosity, and his friendly manner and sense of humor, will be sorely missed. Thank you for your long-term commitment to the Conservancy, Bill. We do appreciate it!



GiLLS CISMA – Have You Heard About Us?

By Molly Wozniak

If not, we are the Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) covering Genesee, Lapeer, Livingston, and Shiawassee counties (GiLLS). There are 22 CISMAs throughout the state of Michigan that specialize in invasive species management, prevention, education, and outreach. These CISMAs are funded through the Department of Natural Resources Invasive Species Grant Program. Invasive species are those that are not native to the area and cause harm to the economy, the environment, or human health. A full list of common and watch list invasive species can be found at: www.michigan.gov/invasives.

We are currently conducting surveys and monitoring the invasive Red Swamp Crayfish (RSC) in Howell. There are a few infestations of RSC throughout southeast Michigan, but we are working to monitor this population and prevent any further spread. These are an issue because they can outcompete our native species and increase stream bank erosion. If you see these or are suspicious of a sighting, please take photos and report to the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network at misin.msu.edu or directly to us at gillscisma@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please contact Molly Wozniak, the GiLLS CISMA coordinator via email at: gillscisma@gmail.com. Our website is genesee.cd.org/invasives and you can find us on Facebook and Instagram @gillscisma to stay up to date on events and information.



There are eight native species of crayfish in Michigan, but one of the identifying characters of invasive RSC is their red coloration and red bumps on their claws.

Annual Meeting: Red Cedar Run Nature Preserve
Birding Trail Dedication Wed., June 11, 2025 – 6:30pm

Please join us to dedicate our new birding trail that was installed by members of Troop 362 of Howell and their parents. The Preserve is located on the southeast corner of Nicholson and Chase Lake Roads in Fowlerville. Parking will be along the east side of Nicholson only. Joining us will be Laurel & Mitch Zoet of Wild Birds Unlimited of Brighton to talk about birding etiquette and the best way to successfully see birds when out on a trail. We will also have a brief meeting to announce the Conservancy Board of Directors for 2025-26, acknowledge members of Troop 362, enjoy refreshments, and walk the trail. Please RSVP to either 810-229-3290 or livingstonlandconservancy@gmail.com.



In furthering our sustainability discussions, the Board is working with the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) to assess our 24-year-old organization from governance to land transactions and stewardship procedures to recordkeeping – the whole 9 yards. Based on a 2 1/2-hour board retreat, some Zoom meetings, extensive document review, and in-person discussions, we are very proud of how this organization is conducting itself and performing its mission. Up next, we are deep diving into recordkeeping to make sure everything required by LTA is in place and stored properly. Paper? Digital? External hard drive? Safe deposit box? Or maybe all of the above? Somewhat tedious but important, nonetheless. Stay tuned!

Mission

The purpose of the Livingston Land Conservancy is to protect the natural heritage and rural character of the greater Livingston County area by preserving quality natural areas and productive farmland as well as to promote an appreciation and understanding of the environment for the long-term benefit of the public.

Consider a Gift to the Endowment Fund

Please consider donating to our endowment fund at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. This fund was started several years ago, provides a yearly distribution, and can only be used for general purposes. It's a nice, reliable source of income for the Conservancy and we so appreciate the generosity of our donors to help keep the principle balance growing from year to year. To contribute online, visit this link: <https://cfsem.org/ways-to-give/give-online/agency-endowments/>. To send a check or if you have any questions, contact the Philanthropic Services staff at the CFSEM at 313-961-6675. Thank you!!

Livingston Land Conservancy 2025 Membership Form — Annual Member

Membership Category	Individual	Joint
Basic Member	___ \$25	___ \$50
Protector	___ \$50	___ \$100
Conservator	___ \$100	___ \$200
Steward	___ \$250	___ \$500
Guardian	___ \$500	___ \$1000
Other	_____	_____

- Members are:
- Committed to the purpose of the Conservancy
 - 18 years of age
 - Entitled to one vote per member

Member # 1

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Member #2

Name (Please Print) _____

Email _____

Send my newsletter by: _____ email _____ paper copy

Make Checks Payable To: Livingston Land Conservancy
P.O. Box 236
Brighton, MI 48116-0236
Or Use PayPal

Please send information about:
_____ Volunteering
_____ How to protect my land
_____ How to include LLC in my estate plans

Livingston Land Conservancy is a private, non-profit organization exempt from taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law.

Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting – Red Cedar Run Nature Preserve Birding Trail

Date: Wed., June 11, 2025

Time: 6:30pm

Where: Red Cedar Run Nature Preserve, Fowlerville –
Nicholson & Chase Lake Roads

See separate article, page 2.

FOR THE KIDS! Outdoor Nature Story Walk with children's author, Denise Brennan-Nelson at the Charles & Albert Parker Families Nature Preserve

Date: Fri., June 20, 2025

Time: 10:15 am to 11 am

Where: Brighton District Library, 100 Library Drive, Brighton.
All ages with a caregiver. Registration begins Friday, June 6
with the Brighton District Library at:
brightonlibrary.info/events.

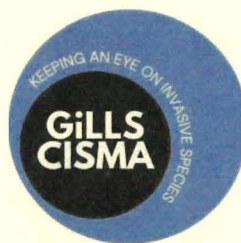
Farmers Market Days 2025

Brighton – June 28 & September 27

Fowlerville – July 12 & September 13

Howell – June 15

We are Members



Land on the Horizon Annual Fundraiser

Date: Friday, October 3, 2025

Time: 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Where: Chemung Hills Golf and Banquet Center-Howell.
Save the date and stay tuned for more details!