Washtenaw County
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Property Owner Nomination Form

Name:
Address: Daytime Phone:
City: State: Zip: Email:

Is this nomination partly the result of encouragement by others? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, please note the group or organization:
Address: City:

PROPERTY LOCATION:
City: ___________________________
Village: _________________________
Township: _______________________
Address: City:

Section Number: Township & Range Number:
State Equalized Value: $ Taxable Value: $

SUGGESTED ACTION:
☐ Fee Simple Purchase ☐ Easement Purchase
☐ Donation of Property ☐ Donation of Easement/Development Rights

Are there any existing easements or rights of way? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If so, please describe:
### FEATURES OF PROPERTY (Check those that apply to all or part of the property)

- [ ] Woodland
- [ ] Prairie/Meadows
- [ ] Waterbody
- [ ] Rare or endangered plant/animal species
- [ ] Stream or water course
- [ ] Wetland
- [ ] Adjacent to protected land
- [ ] Foot trails
- [ ] Other:
- [ ] Active agricultural fields
- [ ] Inactive agricultural fields
- [ ] Roads/drives enter/bisect property
- [ ] Existing structure(s)
- [ ] Historical site or property
- [ ] Varied topography
- [ ] Property irrigated
- [ ] Enrolled in PA 116

### Has a review of the property, for natural areas values, been performed by a recognized expert?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

If so, is a copy of the report available for review?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

### Do you have an approved Conservation Plan prepared by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for the agricultural portion(s) of your property?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

If so, is a copy of the plan available for review?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

### Are you aware of the existence of any environmental contaminants or concerns associated with the property?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

If so, please describe:

### Has a general environmental assessment been conducted of the property by a qualified consultant?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

If so, is a copy of a report available for review?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

### May we share this application with other land preservation groups (such as Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program, etc.)?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

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**PLEASE ALSO ATTACH ANY AVAILABLE PHOTOGRAPHS, AERIAL MAPPING, MAPS, REPORTS OR OTHER DEPICTIONS OF THE PROPERTY.**

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**Signature**  
Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission  
P.O. Box 8645/2230 Platt Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645

**Date**
Washtenaw County's Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP) purchases natural areas to ensure their preservation for the benefit of all County residents—plants, animals and people! The Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission (WCPARC) manages the program, identifying and caring for lands with special ecological, recreational, and educational benefits.

The **program goal** is to identify lands which, through long-term preservation, will:
- Protect and preserve the natural, ecological diversity/heritage of Washtenaw County.
- Complement the existing network of publicly and privately protected lands.
- Maximize the public benefit, offering opportunities for passive recreation, environmental education and agricultural production.

**Program Origin**

NAPP was established in 2000 by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners through the passage of Natural Areas Ordinance No. 128, which provided procedures and standards for purchase and protection of natural areas by the County. In 2010, voters chose to renew the County-wide, ¼ mill tax that funds the program, which will continue through 2021.

**Citizen Advisory Committees**

Citizen groups advise the Parks & Recreation Commission with land acquisitions and conservation easement purchases. These groups—the Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC) and Agricultural Lands Preservation Advisory Committee (ALPAC)—are comprised of County residents with expertise in various areas. NATAC members have experience in land trust/conservation, wildlife management, environmental education, real estate/development, land use planning, botany/forestry and fisheries/aquatic ecology. ALPAC is comprised of individuals with knowledge of agricultural practices and provide technical assistance for properties with an active farmland component. Members of both committees meet regularly throughout the year.

Both Committees serve to meet the following major objectives:
- Recommend properties for acquisition.
- Provide technical information relevant to management and long-term care of acquisitions.
- Suggest opportunities to collaborate with other local, state and federal agencies.

**Acquisition Process**

Properties recommended by NATAC and ALPAC are reviewed by the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission and the Local Unit of Government where the land is located. If the Commission chooses to proceed with the acquisition, the landowner is made an offer at fair market value, as established by a certified appraiser. Properties purchased for nature preserves with NAPP funds are owned and maintained by the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission and are open to the public from dawn until dusk daily. Properties with conservation easements remain privately owned; land with easements on active farmland is made available to the public at specific times throughout the year (outside the growing season).

WCPARC also collaborates with other land preservation organizations to find creative ways to protect and preserve natural areas. For example, in 2008 the Commission partnered with Ann Arbor’s Greenbelt Program and Scio Township government to protect over 140 acres in Scio Township.

**For more information** on the program visit our website at napp.ewashtenaw.org
**Property Review Process**

1. **Nomination Form** submitted by owner
   - **WCPARC Staff** information gathering & review
     - Notice of receipt to applicant

2. Application forwarded to NATAC
   - Site visit & evaluation
3. Application forwarded to ALPAC
   - Site visit & evaluation

4. Recommendations to WCPARC
5. Selection of properties for further review by WCPARC
6. Perform due diligence
   - Seek input from public & local unit of government
7. Results from due diligence & owner input forwarded to WCPARC
8. Final decision by WCPARC to purchase or not purchase

**Definitions**
- **ALPAC**: Agricultural Lands Preservation Advisory Committee
- **NATAC**: Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee
- **WCPARC**: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission
- Due Diligence: Appraisals, surveys, environmental assessments, etc. Requirements may be different for conservation easements on farmland and natural areas acquisition.