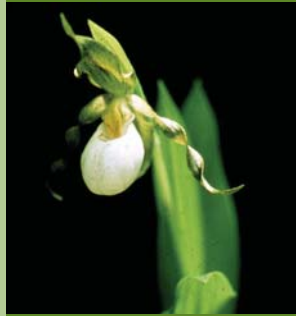


Washtenaw County's  
Natural Areas  
Preservation  
Program acquires  
unique natural areas  
to ensure their  
preservation for the  
benefit of all County  
residents—plants,  
animals and people!



# Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program

(734) 971-6337  
[parks.ewashtenaw.org](http://parks.ewashtenaw.org)

*"Those who contemplate the  
beauty of the earth find reserves  
of strength that will endure  
as long as life lasts"*

*Rachel Carson*

## Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission

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Washtenaw County is blessed with an enviable range of natural features which contribute immeasurably to our quality of life. As population growth and land development continue to threaten natural areas, preservation of these special places has become ever more important.

The purpose of the Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP) is to preserve and protect the natural, ecological diversity and heritage of Washtenaw County. Lands acquired through NAPP are managed as nature preserves, open to the public for walking, bird watching, nature study and other quiet activities.

### Program Origin

NAPP was established in 2000 by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners through the passage of Natural Areas Ordinance No. 128. The ordinance provides 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. Funding will continue through 2021.

### Who Manages the Program?

Responsibility for managing NAPP is assigned to the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission (WCPARC). Technical assistance is provided by NATAC, the Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee. The volunteer members of NATAC have expertise in land trust/conservation, wildlife management, environmental education, real estate/development, land use planning, botany/forestry and fisheries/aquatic ecology.

NATAC's primary goal is to recommend natural areas for acquisition. A screening system with four major categories, helps identify high quality natural areas appropriate for protection:

- A. Public Water Resources
- B. Special Animals, Plants and Plant Communities
- C. Recreational and Scientific Values
- D. Proximity to Protected Land

Additional assistance is provided by the Agricultural Lands Preservation Advisory Committee (ALPAC), which helps review nominations for natural areas with active farm land.

### How is Land Acquired?

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 Parks Commission elects to proceed with acquisition, the landowner will be made an offer at fair market value, as established by a State-certified appraiser. WCPARC may purchase the land outright, or it may partner with other organizations to protect and preserve natural areas.

### Award Winning Program!

“In Recognition of Outstanding Accomplishment  
in the Field of Parks and Recreation”

*National Association of County Park  
and Recreation Officials, 2006*

## Nominate Your Property to the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program

Contact the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission to request a Nomination Form, or download the form at [parks.ewashtenaw.org](http://parks.ewashtenaw.org).

Mail completed Nomination Forms to:  
WCPARC  
P.O. Box 8645  
Ann Arbor MI 48107-8645

Nominations are reviewed regularly. WCPARC will obtain an appraisal from a State-certified Appraiser and a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for any property it considers acquiring at its expense.

Questions? Contact us at (734) 971-6337 or [parks@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:parks@ewashtenaw.org)

