



P.O. Box 222
Bay City, MI 48707-0222
PHONE: (989) 891-9986
FAX: (989) 891-9987
www.sblc-mi.org

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 15, 2014

Contact:

Erin Denay, SBLC Outdoor Urban Recreation Project Coordinator
989.891.9986
erin@sblc-mi.org

Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy Receives Important Grant to Expand Work into City of Saginaw

The Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy has been awarded a grant from the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network to connect people with nature in the City of Saginaw. The project, named 'Taking Root in Saginaw' will empower the Conservancy and its partners to identify the best conservation projects using technical land use analysis and community engagement techniques. This project will build a body of knowledge to make long-term conservation projects happen in the City of Saginaw where they will be most connected with the people of Saginaw. Taking Root will welcome local groups to play an active role in enhancing their community through conservation.

"We are excited to support this project that will really serve as a new template in engaging our urban areas in the broader work of conservation and the enhancement of regional quality of life", said Michael Kelly, Great Lakes Director of The Conservation Fund. The Conservation Fund administers the Saginaw Bay WIN project. "By providing this grant, we hope to build new partnerships between community organizations, while at the same time look for increased opportunities to connect people to nature, right here in the City of Saginaw", added Kelly.

Partnerships with the Children's Zoo at Celebration Square in Saginaw, Ducks Unlimited, and Saginaw County Parks will aid in identifying land use within the city limits and determining how the Conservancy could improve access, education, and conservation in the community. The project is also receiving technical assistance from Carlisle Wortman Associates, Inc. and Environmental Consulting and Technology, Inc. There are currently hundreds of acres of land standing vacant in Saginaw, and the Conservancy hopes to make conservation and restoration a realistic, attainable option for some of those properties.

The Conservancy believes land protection for conservation can play a role in broad goals like economic development, job creation, community health, and quality of life. Urban communities like Saginaw are underserved by the work of conservationists, though that is it where the Conservancy feels they can have the most immediate impact on people. They are eager to welcome the community of Saginaw to participate in the Conservancy's endeavors.

Zak Branigan, executive Director of the Conservancy adds, "We believe a process like this will have an educational component, a conservation component, and a consensus-building component. The best land protection projects are those that have the undivided support of the communities in which they reside. This project represents the due diligence to get us there."

* * *

The Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy is a watershed-wide conservation organization, serving over 22 counties and 1.4 million residents in Michigan's heartland. Their work focuses on habitat restoration and improvement, land acquisition for the purpose of protecting land in perpetuity, and nature-based community programming. For more information, please contact the Conservancy by calling their office at (989)-891-9986 or visit their events calendar at www.sblc-mi.org/events.

The Saginaw Bay Watershed is the largest watershed in the state of Michigan filtering 15% of Michigan's inland waters. It contributes cleaner water to the Huron Bay, the Great Lakes, and is the largest contiguous freshwater coastal wetlands system in the United States. Featuring more than 175 inland lakes and nearly 7,000 square miles of rivers and streams, this unique watershed is home to a variety of waterfowl, birds, snakes, turtles, amphibians, and more than 138 endangered or threatened species. The Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy helps maintain the quality of life in the Saginaw Bay Watershed through the preservation of important wetlands, waterways and land of all types. The Conservancy is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization working in the Saginaw Basin. To date, the Conservancy has permanently preserved more than 6,000 acres in the watershed.

The Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) is a collaborative, community-driven quality of life initiative created by a variety of environmental, business and community interests in 1996. WIN was formed to create a more sustainable future for all who live, work and play within the Saginaw Bay watershed. One of the ways in which WIN accomplishes this objective is by providing financial support to projects that link the economic, environmental and social needs of the region. Key WIN funding partners include: Bay Area Community Foundation, Consumers Energy Foundation, Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation, Midland Area Community Foundation, Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, Saginaw Community Foundation, The Dow Chemical Company Foundation, The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, S.C. Johnson Fund, the Cook Family Foundation, the C.S. Mott Foundation and the Saginaw Bay Foundation. More information on WIN is available at www.saginawbaywin.org or by calling 989-892-9171.

* * *

Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy
Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy Receives Important Grant
to Expand Work into City of Saginaw
NEWS RELEASE
July 15th, 2014

www.sblc-mi.org
989-891-9986

Page 2 of 2