

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



**North Oakland Headwaters  
Land Conservancy**







# THE NEXT 50 YEARS

We are ever so grateful to that wise group of concerned citizens who realized 50 years ago how important it was to protect the headwaters of local rivers. We have remained true to that original mission of land preservation as a first priority. Clean water and healthy land lead to a higher standard of living.

As we look ahead to the next 50 years, we ask ourselves, "How can we protect more land for the generations to come?" The obvious answer is to expand our reach to include all of the watersheds that start in Oakland County. With that in mind, we invite you to join us on our journey and help us make the next 50 years an even greater success.

## **STAFF**

Executive Director: Susan Julian  
Development Director: Alicia Arkwright  
Communications & Outreach: Chris Hardman  
Office Manager: Dana Campbell  
Database Coordinator: Mary Herzenstiel  
Bookkeeper: Janet Porter

## **BOARD**

President: Emily Duthinh  
Vice President: Mike Metz  
Secretary: Bette Moen  
Treasurer: Mike Dougherty  
Past President: Christopher Benedict

## **DIRECTORS**

Pamela Beilke; Susan Julian; Kelly Daly Flynn; Jean Gramlich; Lora Perkins; Todd Roeser; Jesse Torres





**"Everyone has something they can contribute to a non profit."**

With that attitude it's obvious why this year's Tom Bullen Award for outstanding volunteer service goes to former board member Marilyn Zigarac. For the past 8 years, she has managed NOHLC's taxes and accounting. Marilyn is a CPA who is known for her integrity and attention to detail, and we are very lucky to have her on our team. She has served as our board treasurer and is currently serving on our finance committee. She keeps us compliant with the changing IRS regulations and holds us to a high standard. Thank you, Marilyn.

**133**  
volunteers  
contributed  
**5,882**  
hours in 2021



**Top:** Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash presented NOHLC's Tom Bullen Award to this year's distinguished volunteer Marilyn Zigarac.



**Bottom:** Board member Jesse Torres and volunteer Jim Carlton exemplify conservation service.







# CONSERVE

Inspected all 60 properties to confirm that natural resources were being protected

Placed boundary markers at 5 preserves

Removed invasive buckthorn from a 60-acre preserve

Controlled other invasive plants on multiple preserves

Engaged in planting and seeding to add diversity

Harvested seed for next year distribution

Thinned brush and trees to improve wildlife habitat

Improved and repaired trails

## 1,534

acres protected  
in Northern  
Oakland County







NOHLC identified and purchased additional fen habitat for the endangered Poweshiek skipperling butterfly. We were able to add another 4.69 acres to our existing 21.5 acre Butterfly Preserve in Davisburg with a \$37,000 purchase.

Our goal is to protect more land the butterfly can call home to increase the species' chance for survival. Currently we work with 40 partners in a U.S. Fish and Wildlife international collaboration. Since our area is only one of two places in the world where the Poweshiek still exists, the preservation of the wetland system is critical.

In 2021, experts counted 78 individuals, up from 52 the previous year. Our careful management of hydrology and plant species seems to be helping prevent an extinction right in our own backyard.



**Top:** We are part of an international coalition working to save the tiny Poweshiek butterfly from extinction.

**Bottom:** Planting native species helps restore habitat and provide proper nutrition for wildlife.







# REACH OUT

Installed 23 educational signs at our Kimball Preserve in Clarkston

Held 2 native plant sales in Neiman's Family Market parking lot in Clarkston

Led 4 nature hikes in partnership with Independence Township's Parks, Recreation & Seniors

Participated in the Clarkston Impact weekend along with area businesses, church groups and other non-profits

Met community members at table events in Clarkston & Pontiac

Collaborated to publicize events for Oakland Conservation District, Michiganese Natives, Oakland Township, Garden Gate, Rochester Pollinators

Maintained 3 demonstration gardens that are open to the public



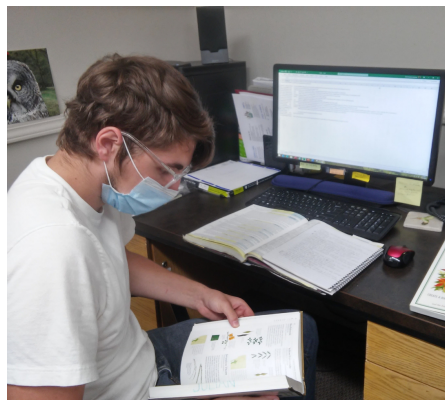




## In Person

Supervised 6 interns from University of Michigan, Oakland University, Michigan State and Northern Michigan University

Provided capstone projects for 5 students in MSU's Michigan Conservation Stewards program



## Virtual

Hosted an online talk about the importance of rain gardens

Produced a series of short educational nature videos with an MSU intern

Created 178 educational Facebook posts including one about baby Blanding's turtles that reached about 2,000 people

Produced 108 educational Instagram videos, reels and stories

Spoke to Oakland Audubon Society, North Oakland Wild Ones and Clarkston Chamber of Commerce



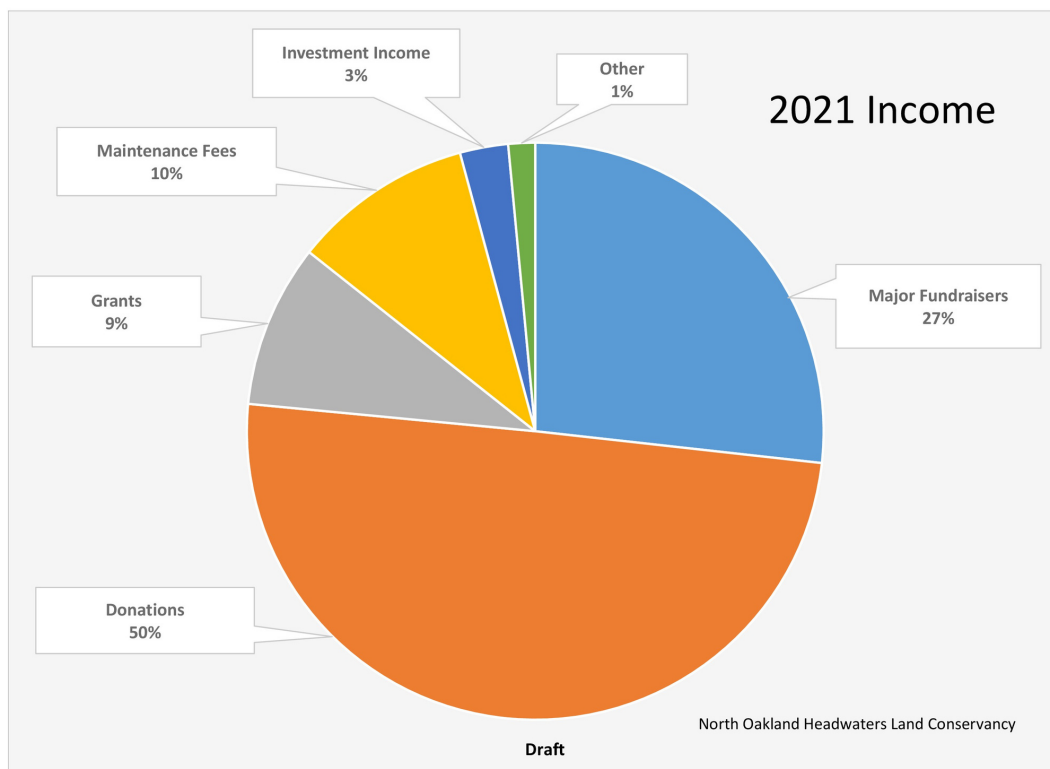
Our Facebook  
audience grew  
by **10%** in 2021



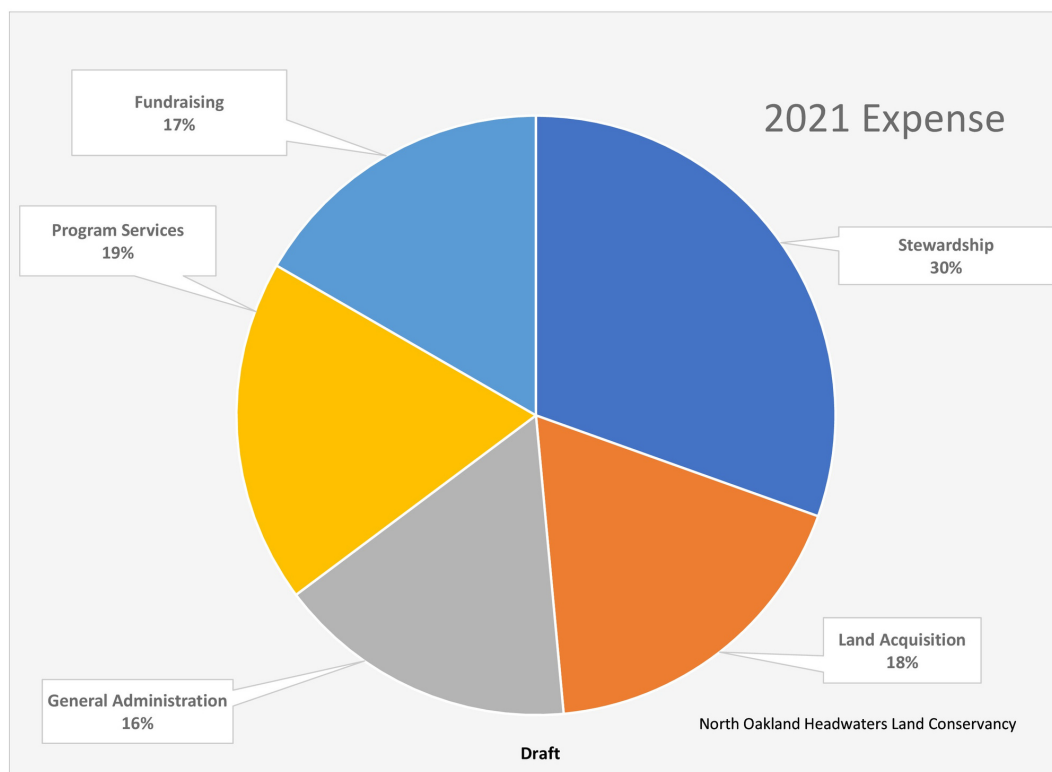




We are grateful to Oakland County for making available three grants during the Covid epidemic. The purpose of the grants was to keep non-profit work going despite economic uncertainty and to hire/add to staff when possible. NOHLC received funds at the end of 2020 and was able to spend them in 2021 with an increase in hours for staff personnel operating remotely. Without this assistance, we would not have been able to continue uninterrupted our mission to preserve land in the public interest. Details are available on request.







In 2021 we concentrated on stewardship and program services, utilizing income as well as previously restricted funds. The result was an expenditure of \$204,846 which exceeded the yearly income of \$169,660 by \$35,186.

However, the Operations Fund ended the year with a positive balance of \$2,835 thanks to prior generous donations. On average only part of our restricted funds were mobilized for stewardship, so that all those funds dedicated to perpetual conservation also had positive balances at year end. A full explanation of the conservancy's finances is available on request.





Red-spotted purple  
butterfly on Buttonbush  
Photo by Theresa Ray

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Land Conservancy  
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Nature worth preserving