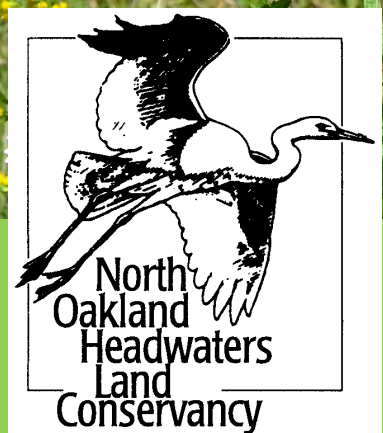


SIGNS OF SUCCESS

North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy
2019 Annual Report

Oakland County Michigan
#Natureworthpreserving NOHLC.ORG



North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy

STAFF

Executive Director: Susan Julian

Associate Executive Director:
Shannon Steel

Outreach/Communications:
Rebecca Steketee

Database: Mary Herzenstiel

Fundraising Assistant: Chris Hardman

Bookkeeper: Janet Porter

BOARD

President: Emily Duthinh

Vice President: Mike Metz

Secretary: Bette Moen

Treasurer: Mike Dougherty

Past President: Christopher Benedict

DIRECTORS

Jean Gramlich

Lora Perkins

Kelly Daly Flynn

Todd Roeser

Jill Stern



Photo by NOHLC volunteer Mike Dougherty

2019 Bullen Award

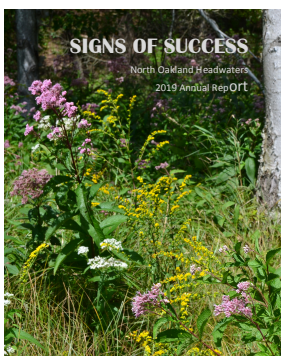
Mike Dougherty

This year's Thomas Bullen Award for outstanding volunteer service goes to longtime volunteer Mike Dougherty. Mike has been part of conservancy leadership since 2015. He serves on our board in the key role of treasurer.

In addition Mike donates his time and talent to photography and videography for the conservancy's outreach and fundraising efforts. He is a certified drone pilot and is the owner of Silent Light Photography.

He regularly donates his prints for Wild Night Out auction items and his services as a drone photographer. This year he produced a spectacular 7-minute video highlighting the Shiawassee Basin and our efforts to purchase land there.

We presented this award for outstanding volunteer service to Mike at our Wild Night Out fundraiser in October 2019.



About the Cover

A beautiful sign of success is seeing native plants return to land we have worked on. This photo highlights a rare wetland in our Bridge Valley Preserve in Clarkston.

People Power

OUR VOLUNTEERS

The heart of our organization is the many volunteers who give their time and talent to carry out our mission.

Volunteers donated 5,164 hours in 2019

A Love for Nature

Theresa Celusta is passionate about nature. That's why she has been a faithful supporter of NOHLC for nearly 20 years. From sowing seeds, to soliciting funds, to inspecting land, she's done it all.

Recently she helped design and install a native flower garden at Main Street Michigan in Clarkston. She also volunteers for Springfield Township Parks and Rec and the Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

In her retirement she works part time for Oakland County where she is in charge of citizen science programs. She manages 175 nest boxes at 7 county parks.

Theresa gets her love for nature from her father, who was VP of the Pontiac Audubon Society when she grew up.

Thanks to Theresa for all she does and to her father for showing her the way.



High school senior Jacob Porter

Boy Scout Bridge

When Jacob Porter decided to build a bridge for his Eagle Scout project, he relied on his engineering skills to get the job done. "The hardest part of the project was building the trusses. Not only were they confusing and difficult to build, they also caused lots of problems after putting them in," he says.

With the help of his father and 42 other volunteers, Jacob's troop solved those problems and built a beautiful wooden bridge across the Clinton River at our Kimball Preserve in Clarkston.

Thanks to Jacob, who spent 60 hours on the project, and to all the other volunteers for their hard work.



Featured volunteer Theresa Celusta (end on right) and team

OUR
VOLUNTEERS
INSPECTED 59
PROPERTIES
IN NORTH
OAKLAND
COUNTY



Native bee balm at our Sashabaw Creek Preserve in Clarkston



Restoration at our Voorheis Beardsley Preserve in Clarkston

LAND STEWARDSHIP

- ▢ Sold \$11,000 worth of native plants to area homeowners.
- ▢ Collaborated with Rose and Holly Townships to control invasive phragmites along roadways.
- ▢ Documented the return of native plant species in several of our reserves.
- ▢ Removed invasive species from owned and easement holding land.
- ▢ Loaned nest protectors to citizen conservationists for the Blanding's Turtle, a Michigan species of special concern.
- ▢ Planted and maintained pollinator-friendly plants at several properties.
- ▢ Explored potential new properties to make stewardship recommendations.
- ▢ Supervised restoration activity at three properties.
- ▢ Conducted two controlled burns.
- ▢ Hosted corporation stewardship workdays.

Land Stories

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

We've had a great start to our capital campaign. Our goal is to raise \$275,000 to purchase land that is ideal habitat for the endangered Poweshiek Skipperling butterfly.

With less than 100 left in the world (and most of those recorded in Springfield Township), we feel a sense of urgency to help them before it's too late. Buying this land will also preserve environmentally rich habitat for a wide variety of other native plants and animals.

\$19,000 individual gifts

\$100,000 grant awards

Last fall The Carls Foundation of Bloomfield Hills contributed \$100,000 to our campaign. Most recently the Consumers Energy Foundation notified us of its intent to contribute another \$50,000 to our cause.

That leaves only \$106,000 needed to reach our goal. In 2020 we will be able to buy the first group of 21.5 acres and then continue fundraising for the remaining 16 acres.

Capital Campaign land in Davisburg



LOOKING AHEAD

- Two long-time supporters have started negotiations for easements on their own properties totaling 140 acres.
- NOHLC has begun negotiations with two townships to add river corridor protection.
- Early notification of repayment to the Conservation Fund that has been holding Capital Campaign land off the market.

COMMUNITY

- Demonstrated native gardening outside our office at 7150 Dixie Highway.
- Published a 7-minute educational video about the Shiawassee Basin.
- Helped the new business Main Street Michigan establish a native plant garden in Clarkston.
- Held two native plant sales in Neiman's Family Market parking lot in Clarkston.
- Updated 23 signs on the walking trail at our public Susanne Knorr Preserve.
- Collaborated with birders to begin restoration of two properties for 6 bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Michigan.
- Hosted 3 guided bird hikes on preserves in Oakland County.
- Gave presentations to clubs and interest groups throughout Oakland County.
- Established a partnership with Church of the Resurrection in Clarkston aimed at land preservation.
- Worked with the Shiawassee River Trail Coalition on establishing a national paddling trail.



New sign at our Susanne Knorr Preserve in Clarkston



Birders at one of our 3 guided bird hikes

Outreach Efforts

SOCIAL MEDIA

We use Facebook and Instagram as tools for environmental education, community support and volunteer and donor recruitment. Both platforms grew significantly in 2019. The graphic below shows the most popular photos with our nature-loving Instagram followers.

Facebook % 34 growth

Instagram % 62 growth

MOST POPULAR INSTAGRAM POSTS IN 2019

TOP NINE



@nohlc received 3.1k likes in 2019! 🌈



New bridge built by Boy Scouts at our Kimball Sanctuary

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

- Worked with Eagle Scouts on 4 projects: bridge building at Kimball Sanctuary, native planting at Voorheis-Beardsley, “bee hotels” at Clarkston Woods and snake hibernacula at the Eaton Road property.
- Hosted Clarkston High School National Honor Society students as volunteers in our office.
- Collaborated with high school juniors at the International Academy of Bloomfield Hills to remove invasive bushes at the Hall preserves.
- Promoted butterfly conservation and gardening at the Clarkston Family Farm’s Monarch Festival.

STATEWIDE COLLABORATION

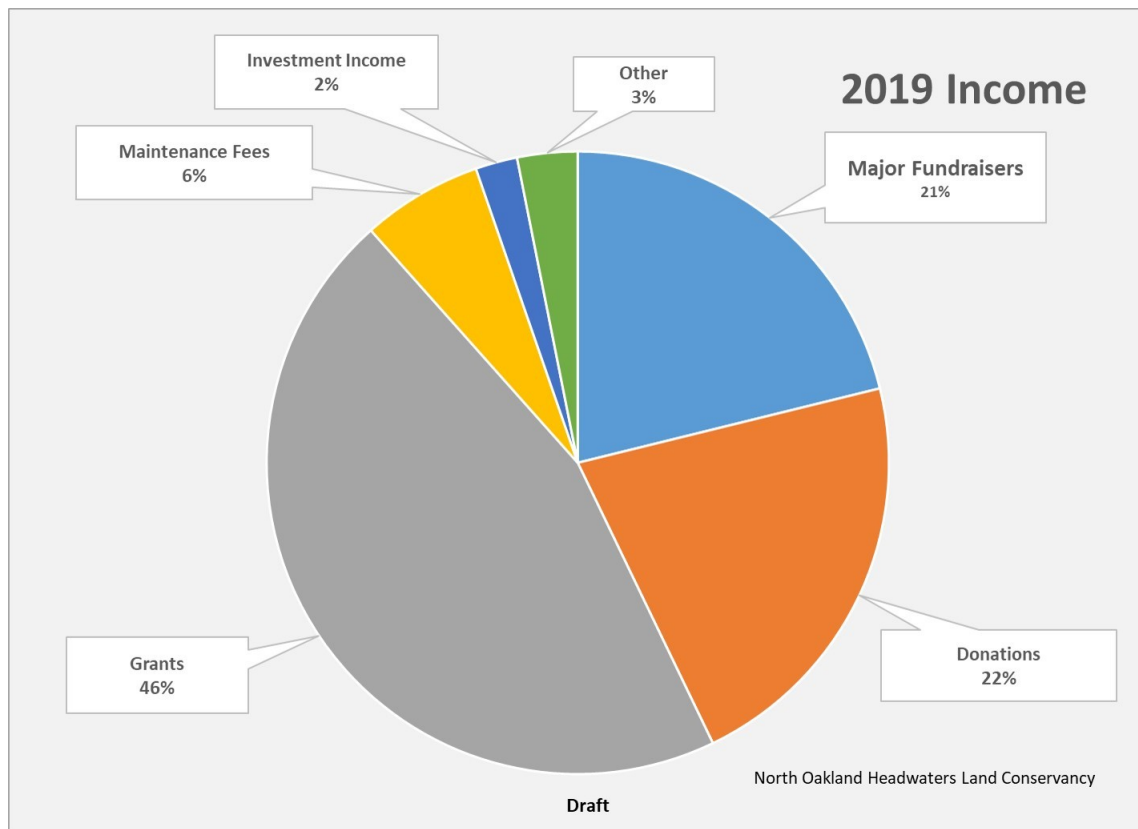
- Member of Michigan Vernal Pond Partnership.
- Anchor partner in Oakland County’s CISMA collaborative for controlling invasive species.
- Member of Heart of the Lakes policy group.
- International collaboration through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Poweshiek conservation.

Financial Report (2-22-2020)

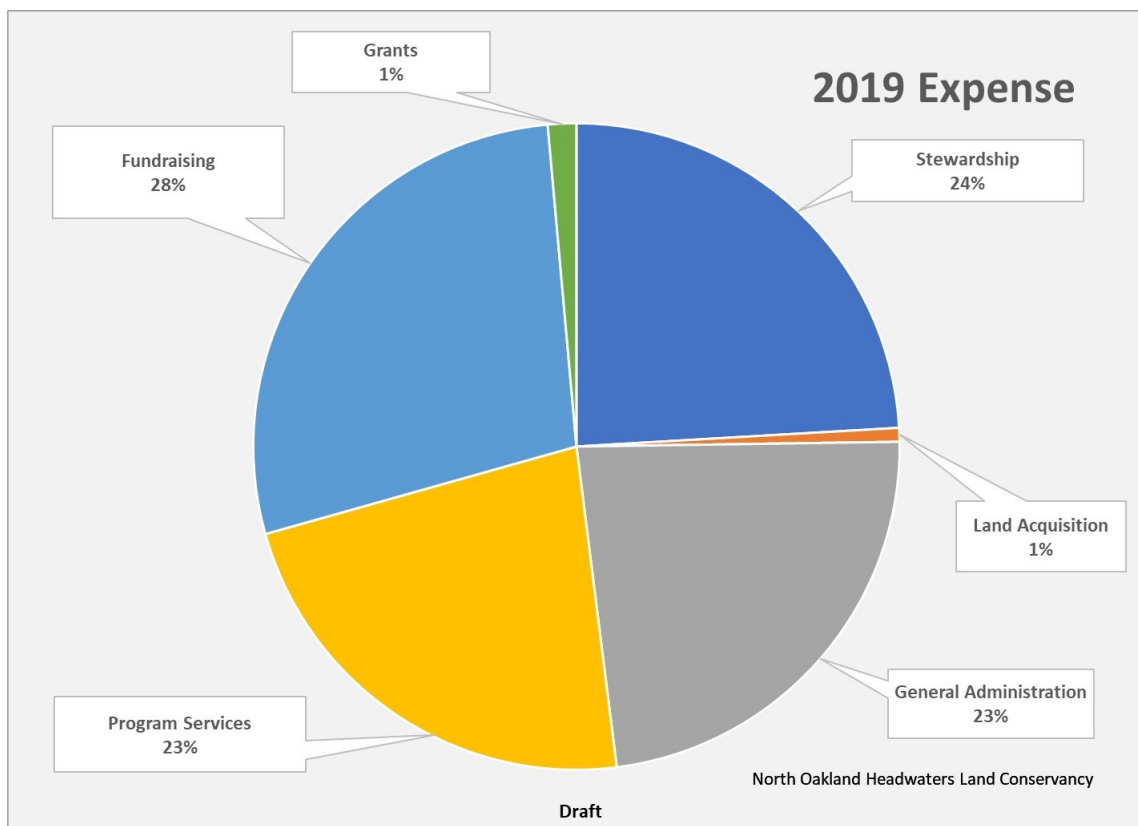
FINANCES

- ▢ Received a \$100,000 contribution from the Carls Foundation for the Capital Campaign to purchase land earmarked for protection of the endangered Poweshiek skipperling butterfly.
- ▢ Raised \$30,927 at Wild Night Out which is an increase of 24% over the previous year.
- ▢ Reached out to area businesses and received \$12,050 in support.
- ▢ Held two plant sales which netted many supporters and \$11,291 in gross receipts.
- ▢ Received \$49,140 in donations from individual supporters.
- ▢ Accepted collaborative funding from Springfield Township for ecosystem preservation.
- ▢ Provided \$2,556 in services to Holly Township and Rose Township.
- ▢ Earned nearly \$5,000 in investment interest.
- ▢ Paid over \$6,000 for outside review of NOHLC finances.
- ▢ Expended \$34,457 in program services primarily for property stewardship.
- ▢ Conducted an extensive campaign to contact foundations requesting support for capital building and the capital campaign. Two foundations responded in 2019.





Note: The \$131,339 in-kind value of 5,164 hours of volunteer work is not included.



406 Acres Owned

Dixie Independence .11	Keller Sanctuary 3.5	Buckhorn Complex 23
Holly Lakeview Preserve .25	Cranberry Lake Shores 4.2	Mud Lake 35
Bald Eagle Lake Lots .5 P	Eaton Wet Meadow 4.5	Nels Kimball Sanctuary 41
Princeton Independence .69	Voorheis-Beardsley Farm 8	John R. Schmude 55.4
Whipple Lake Preserve 2.6	Tully Lake Preserve 14.7	Nolta-Brennan 60
Heather Haven 3	Rattalee Shoreline 15	Springfield Nature Preserve 111
Victoria Preserve 3.2	Sashabaw Creek 20	



1,099 Acres of Easements

Campbell .25	Oakhill Hollow 6.8	Old Sturbridge 19
Thomson Preserve .5	Robert E. Shell Fen 8.9	Hummingbird Ridge 25.2
Deer Wood Hollow .5	Poquosin II 9	Davis Lake Overlook 36.7
Oakland Crest II .5	Pine Knob Country II 10.3	Bridge Valley Reserve 50.8
Gill Landing 1	Cedar Park II 10.5	Suzanne G. Knorr 52
Oakland Hill I 1	Steeple Ridge 11	Clarkston Woods 59.49
Oakland Hill II 1	Waterford Hills 11	Forest Point Acres 62
Round Lake Shores 1.2	Poquosin I 12	Hidden Ridge 69.97
Oakland Crest I 1.5	Schwartz Preserve 12.7	Haddon Nursery 79.6
Cedar Park I 4	Long Lake Village 12.9	Thread Creek Farm 97.23
Hall's Connector 5	Ingomar Farms 13	Liberty Golf Preserve 120
Waterworks Wetlands 5.2	Village Park 14.9	Camp Wathana 250
Bailey Preserve 5.2	Whipple Tree Lane II 17	

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WEB: NOHLC.ORG

FACEBOOK: [@NOHLC](https://www.facebook.com/NOHLC)

INSTAGRAM: [NOHLC](https://www.instagram.com/NOHLC)

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