

# BECKWITH Nature Preserve

This scenic 30-acre preserve near Stockbridge is a quiet retreat for walking, hiking, cross-country skiing, picnicking, and bird-watching. Wide, flat trails wind through mature pine and spruce forests and along Portage Creek, connecting with the Stockbridge Community Pathways trail system. Rest and relax on the trail's many benches. Whether you're attracted by the quiet hush of the pine forest, or by the creek banks well-visited by wildlife, you are sure to find your curiosity engaged and your spirit satisfied at Beckwith Nature Preserve.

## Preserve History

Cleared in the 1830s to cultivate corn and raise cattle, the property was later abandoned because its sandy soil proved unproductive for those uses. Dr. Sidney Beckwith and Harriet Beckwith purchased the land in 1948. They allowed the farm fields to evolve into meadows, and planted the pine and spruce trees you see today.

In the 1970s Dr. Beckwith was encouraged to plan autumn olive to enrich wildlife habitat—a common practice at the time. Now that autumn olive is recognized as an invasive plant with little value to wildlife, its removal keeps the preserve's stewards busy!

The Beckwiths' daughter Frances Laird inherited the property and donated it to Legacy in 1998. Since then, Fran and her husband Campbell have been instrumental in caring for the preserve.

Engage your curiosity at Beckwith Nature Preserve.



Staff photo

## Who We Are

Legacy Land Conservancy is a nonprofit conservation organization that works with private landowners and local organizations to preserve forests, prairies, wetlands, and farmland in Washtenaw and Jackson counties. Founded in 1971 as the state's first local land trust, Legacy leverages the support of donors and volunteers to protect the beautiful places and unique character of southern Michigan.

## Get Involved

- Lend us your energy and expertise! Volunteer opportunities abound: photo-monitoring, outdoor work, office support, and more.
- Subscribe to our e-newsletter.
- Make a donation.
- Attend a Legacy event.



## Contact Us



LEGACY  
Land Conservancy

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Robert Huffman

# BECKWITH Nature Preserve



Kateri Fahey

Soft pine needles underfoot



## Preserve Highlights

□ – **Boardwalk Exploration:** A wooden boardwalk allows for easy exploration of the preserve’s wetland.



❖ – **Fort Building in the Forest:** The open understory of the mature pine forest offers a great space for kids to play. The downed sticks and branches are perfect for constructing temporary forts and other earth art. Let your imagination run wild!

△ – **Picnic Area:** The open meadow is a lovely spot for a sunny picnic or cloud-gazing.

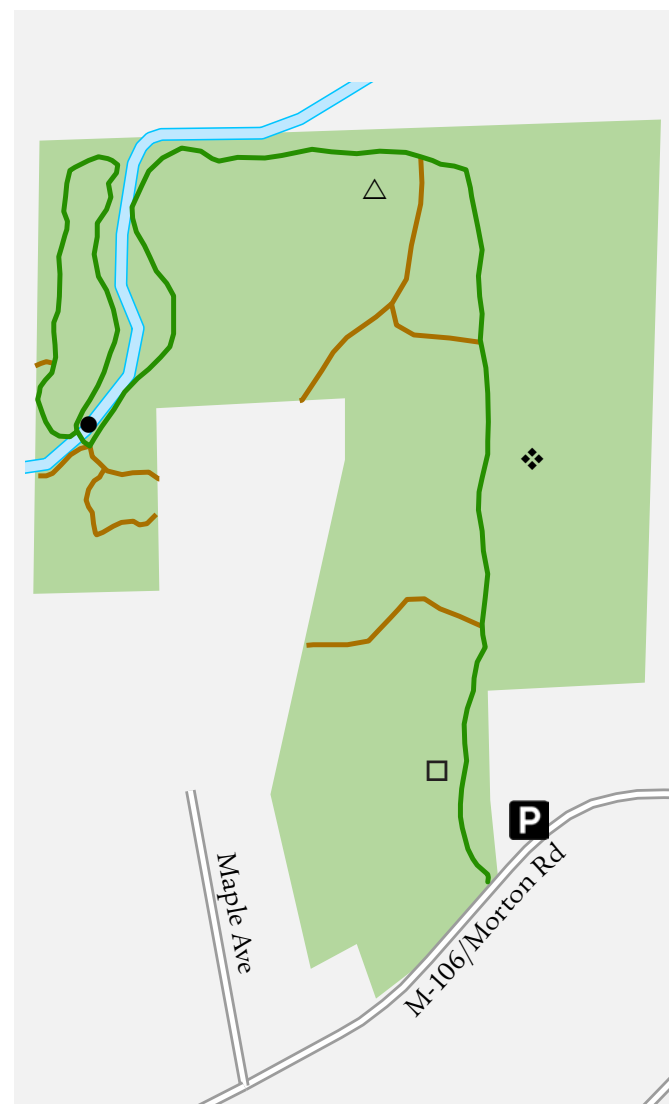
● – **Bridge Viewpoint:** Pause for a quiet moment to take in the view from the bridge spanning Portage Creek. See if you can find the water mark: Is the creek’s water-level high or low? Can you find where wildlife amble down to the creek for a drink?

## Getting Here

Beckwith Preserve is located just east of the Village of Stockbridge. Look for the preserve entrance sign on the north side of M-106, just east of Maple Avenue. Park carefully along M-106 near the sign. Alternatively, park in the mowed grass lot we share with Stockbridge Community Pathways Initiative along Clinton Road across from Stockbridge High School, and enter the preserve from the west.

Visit [legacylandconservancy.org](http://legacylandconservancy.org) for visitor guidelines and accessibility information.

Main trail **1.0** miles roundtrip



### Beckwith Nature Preserve

- Main trail (1 mi)
- Other trails
- Trail highlights

