

## Sycamore Land Trust continues preservation of land for future

Editorial staff  
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Sycamore Land Trust continues to do what it is uniquely qualified to do: protect and preserve lands for future generations to enjoy.

The land trust recently bought 115 acres in two properties located in the Beanblossom Creek Bicentennial Conservation Area, one of five conservation areas created as part of the state's Bicentennial Nature Trust. SLT now has preserved more than two square miles within that particular conservation area.

Consider this a public-private partnership that worked. Private donations to the land trust blended with funding from the Bicentennial Nature Trust to make the purchase possible. That means an inviting habitat for a number of species of birds and other forms of wildlife will be preserved forever and open to the public.

Other properties purchased by SLT through the Bicentennial Nature Trust are the 49-acre Amy Weingartner Branigin Peninsula Preserve on Lake Monroe and 339 acres of wooded wetlands along Beanblossom Creek.

When Sycamore Land Trust adds new property to its rolls, we feel compelled to stress the good done by the organization. The process used to protect acreage is pure and simple: The property is purchased, and stipulations are put in place that denote how the land can be used. Included are hardwood forests, family farms, wetlands and native prairies.

This protects the land from development. The open space is thus preserved for the protection of plants and animals and the public's enjoyment.

Since 1990, the land trust has protected more than 19,000 acres in 26 southern Indiana counties. It also operates an Environmental Education Program that promotes the appreciation of natural spaces.

Information on the Sycamore Land Trust website notes 20 rare and endangered species can be found on the protected properties, and volunteers for the organization have planted 58,000 trees.

The latest purchases add to this very impressive body of work. All involved deserve the thanks of current and future Hoosiers.