Our Opinion: Sycamore Land Trust working for Hoosiers

It’s not a big tract of land, by some standards. But the 60 acres sold to the Sycamore Land Trust by three couples represent an important addition to the land trust’s holdings.

The acreage came in “bargain sale” that included partial donations, according to land trust officials. It fits like a puzzle piece into other Sycamore Land Trust parcels and helps connect parts of Yellowwood and Morgan-Monroe state forests, Brown County State Park and the Hoosier National Forest. The large tract of uninterrupted hardwood forest provides valuable habitat for migratory songbirds, sensitive species such as box turtles and other wildlife, land trust officials said in a news release.

The Sycamore Land Trust has been protecting Indiana lands since 1990 through purchases and donations. This most recent donation/purchase came from Bill and Lorraine Hanna and two other anonymous couples, who all deserve thanks for making their land available for the land trust to manage and the public to enjoy. The Bicentennial Nature Trust, a project developed by former Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, contributed to the purchase through taxpayer support.

This 60 acres joins an area called Scarlet Oak Woods, a nature preserve in Monroe County whose name conjures up visions of beauty.

The Sycamore Land Trust continues to work for Hoosiers by preserving land and providing environmental education. It is a significant asset, helping private landowners in 26 Indiana counties protect about 19,000 acres from future development.

Congratulations to all involved in this land deal.
Bill and Lorraine Hanna of Bloomington stand on the property they sold to Sycamore.