Walk with us

Saving and enjoying land together

Sycamore Land Trust

2015 IMPACT REPORT

Protecting Land

Thanks to you, we protected 507 more acres worth $2.2 million last year, bringing the total to nearly 9,000 acres!

Beanblossom Creek Bicentennial Conservation Area

By leveraging part of a $1 million state grant and matching contributions from over 200 donors, we acquired four properties in the area…so far! These new preserves along Beanblossom Creek help build a corridor for wildlife, improve water quality, and provide new recreation opportunities.

Acquisition Highlight: Oxbow Preserve

This uniquely situated property protects the scenic "gateway to Bloomington." Green space will forever welcome all who pass by. We are exploring options for building a trail so that you can enjoy a walk through this special preserve.

Friends Along the Path: Volunteerism

In 2015, more people found meaningful ways to get involved, thanks to our increased focus on volunteerism. We are so thankful for the help our volunteers provide with events, preserve maintenance, photography, mailings, and more!

Volunteer Impact Highlight: Three New Trails

If you like hiking, you're in luck. Volunteers recently completed *three* new trails so you can:

- Take in the view from the top of Trevlac Bluffs Nature Preserve
- Relax to the sound of waterfalls at Dilcher-Turner Canyon Forest
- Admire the pretty blue shale creeks at the Laura Hare Nature Preserve at Downey Hill

160+ volunteers

1,680+ hours

$38,735 value of their contribution

And many more volunteer contributions that go unreported!

Our volunteers are enthusiastic about helping maintain Sycamore preserves, so we introduced a monthly "Preserve-a-Preserve Day." In November, these volunteers cleaned up trash at Trevlac Bluffs Nature Preserve.

Photo by Jaime Sweeny.

A Lifelong Journey: Environmental Education

After acquiring land and building trails, we put these unique resources to good use for environmental education. We hired our first full-time Environmental Education Director and expanded our commitment to reaching people of all ages and abilities. In 2015, over 1,800 people participated in our programs.

Photo courtesy of the Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington.

"Before this class this year, I was a person that only heard what I wanted to hear…. Now I hear a lot more, and when I hear birds and such, I try to identify it."

–Lou, fifth-grader at Harmony School

(Left) During a Boys & Girls Club field trip these children experienced nature hands on with Environmental Education Director Shane Gibson. Valuable experiences like this ensure that future generations will care for the land you're helping us protect today.

Photo by Jaime Sweeny.

(Right) Combine excellent habitat and the expertise of a volunteer hike leader and you have an ideal learning opportunity. Doug Johnson led a tour of the plants and butterflies at Touch the Earth Natural Area.

Forging New Trails

Thanks to supporters like you, Sycamore is continuously fulfilling a cycle of protecting land, building trails, connecting people to nature, and applying the support of our donors and volunteers to protect *more* land. We are strong. Sycamore's membership includes nearly 1,000 households.

Development Highlight: Sycamore Sustainers

Last fall, we launched the Sycamore Sustainers monthly giving program to recognize people who show their support month after month. As of December 2015, 33 Sycamore Sustainers together were giving almost $1,000 per month. That really makes a difference!

Your Investment: Financial Report, July 2014 - June 2015

Year after year, we add to our net assets, reserves, and endowments.

NET WORTH

Value of nature preserves	$7,482,895
Bank accounts	$611,664
Office building and equipment	$615,503
Investments and endowment	$2,012,662
TOTAL	**$10,722,724**

REVENUE/EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

Revenues	$1,595,270
Memberships:	$116,359
Unrestricted cash contributions:	$229,129
Events and other revenue:	$68,521
Restricted contributions:	$736,529
Donated land:	$444,732
Operating expenditures	$(441,346)
Net revenue	**$1,153,924**

Thank you for being part of this inspiring journey!

Audited financial statements are available at **sycamorelandtrust.org**