



# KETTLE MORAINE LAND TRUST

*Serving the Southern Kettle Moraine lakes area in Walworth County, Wisconsin*

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## **KETTLE MORAINE LAND TRUST RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION! Accreditation Awarded by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission**

Elkhorn, WI - For over a dozen years the Kettle Moraine Land Trust in Walworth County has assisted landowners and communities to conserve the lands they love. Now, the Kettle Moraine Land Trust has been awarded the national seal of land trust excellence by an independent commission – the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Accredited land trusts have met national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent.

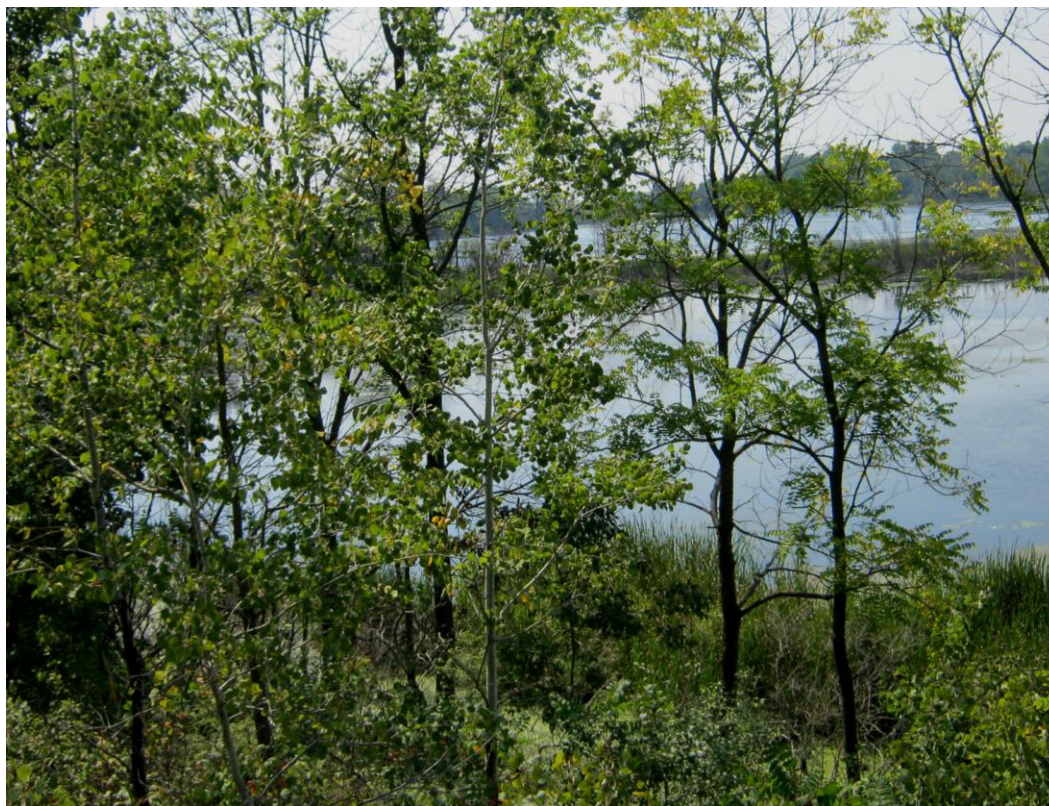
Strong, well-managed land trusts provide local communities with effective champions and caretakers of their critical land resources, and safeguard the land through the generations. “To me the level of knowledge and competence to be a responsible organization is a major outcome of the accreditation process.” explained Jerry Petersen, Kettle Moraine Land Trust president. The Kettle Moraine Land Trust holds both conservation protection agreements on private lands, and owns and manages nature preserves.

Land Trusts are non-profit, non-governmental conservation organizations that actively work to protect natural resources through partnerships with private and public landowners. They are run by local people who have a shared passion for preserving their communities' natural heritage. In Wisconsin, there are nearly 50 land trusts. The Kettle Moraine Land Trust is at the top of their field since less than 10% of the land trusts in Wisconsin are accredited.

“Having attended board meetings and seeing how involved the accreditation process is and the investment the Kettle Moraine Land Trust has made, is testament to us that this organization values the work they are doing.” noted Bill Tarman-Ramcheck, East Troy Landowner.

According to the Land Trust Alliance, conserving land helps ensure clean air and drinking water, scenic landscapes and views, recreational places, and habitat for the diversity of life on earth. In addition to health and food benefits, conserving land increases property values near greenbelts, saves tax dollars by encouraging more efficient development, and reduces the need for expensive water filtration facilities.

Sue Heffron, a board member for the Trust, expresses how important achieving accreditation is: "We learned that the steps to protecting and preserving land are not trivial, and must be done correctly. By achieving the seal of excellence through national land trust accreditation, we embrace the serious work of permanently preserving important lands in our community." Operating with nonprofit excellence is increasingly important as Kettle Moraine Land Trust increases its pace of conservation work in Walworth County. For more information on the Trust visit: [www.kmlandtrust.org](http://www.kmlandtrust.org)



North Lake in Walworth County. Lands protected by a conservation protection agreement held by Kettle Moraine Land Trust.