

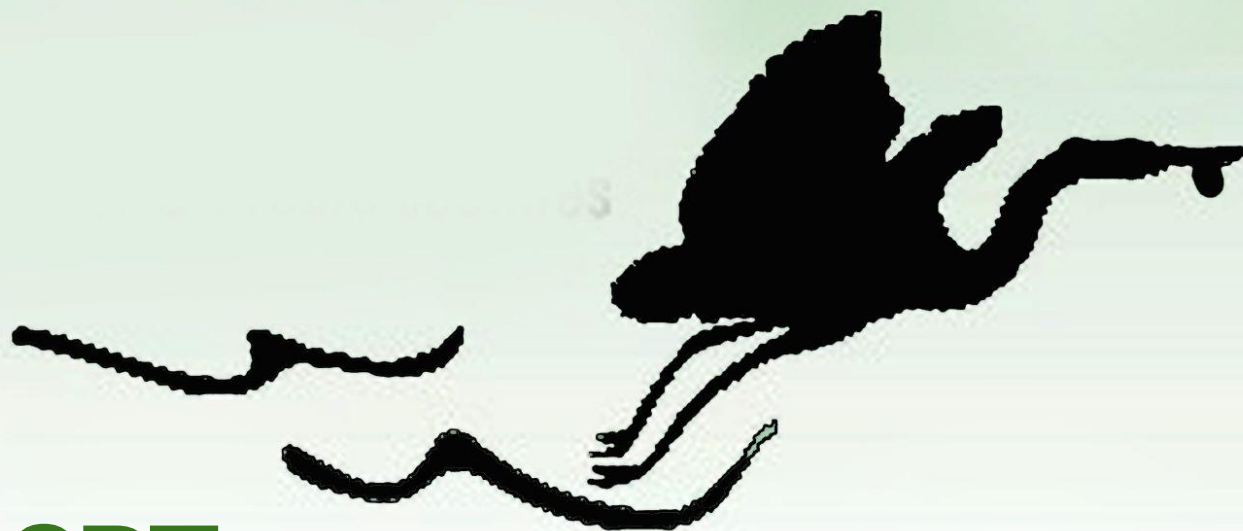


THREE VALLEY CONSERVATION TRUST

2020

ANNUAL REPORT

January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020



OUR MISSION

Conserve natural habitats,
waterways and agricultural lands
in Southwest Ohio
for the benefit of
present and future generations
through partnerships
with people and communities

2020 YEAR IN BRIEF

In many respects, 2020 was one of the most challenging periods in the 26-year history of your Three Valley Conservation Trust. The COVID-19 pandemic shook the very foundation of our country, its economy, and its people. Yet, the capabilities of your Trust's highly professional staff enabled TVCT to continue its success in adding eight new easements and effectively monitoring over 200 existing easements in its region. This could not have been accomplished in such a professional manner without the complete dedication and diligence of our staff: Randy Evans, Executive Director; Maria Fagan, Stewardship Manager; Caitlin Brown, Land Protection and GIS Specialist; and Reva Evans, Office and Communications Coordinator. Your Trust's team overcame every obstacle it faced to create success in the midst of COVID-19 chaos. In the following pages you will find the performance metrics of your Trust, along with other key information on the year's accomplishments.

Daniel Cox
Board Chair



2020 was quite a year. For Three Valley Conservation Trust, as for many of us, it brought challenges, opportunities, and growth. We hope you have weathered the year in safety and good health.

It was a year of resilience. Despite a global pandemic, YOU, and hundreds of supporters like you, showed your love for the natural wonders of Southwest Ohio like no year before. I am humbled by your support — your generous donations, the contribution of your time and talents, and how you followed and shared our progress with others. You made it possible to protect eight new properties and expand boardwalk access at Ruder Preserve. As I write this, Three Valley is protecting over 24,000 acres from development.

It was a year of gratitude for open spaces, as people flocked to the outdoors for their physical and mental well-being. More people are joining us in appreciating protected lands for beautiful vistas, wildlife habitat, productive agriculture, and places to recreate. In the coming years, it will take all of us working together to protect additional SW Ohio lands for current and future generations.

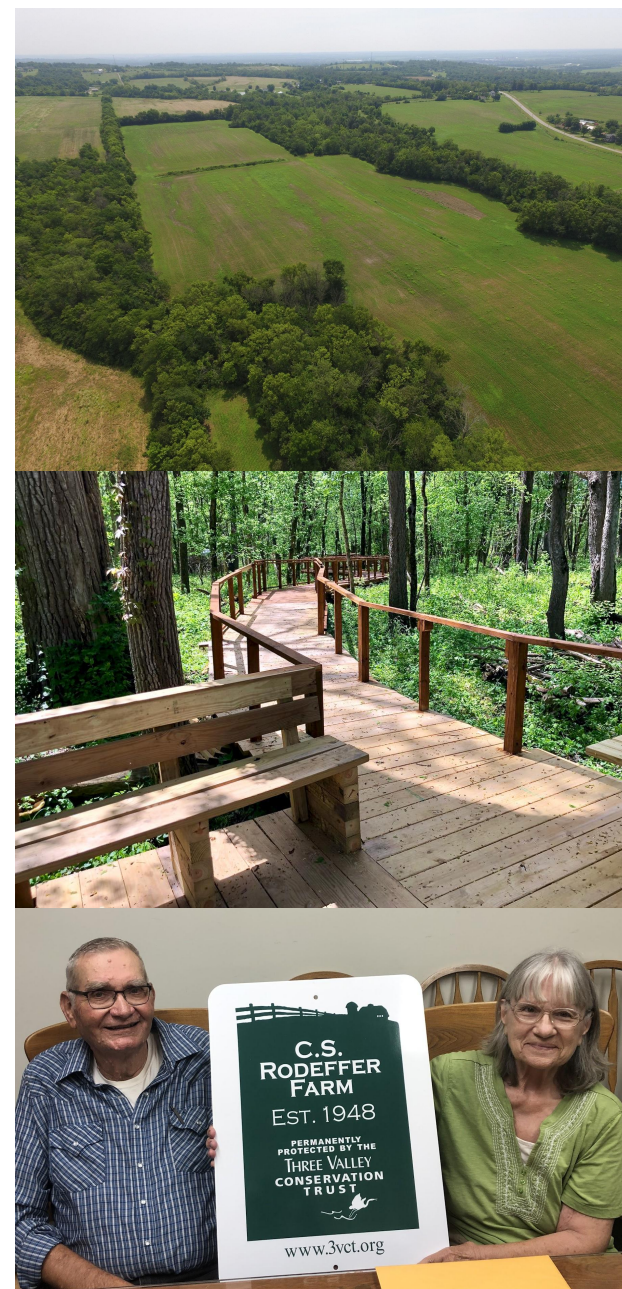
On behalf of your Three Valley Conservation Trust staff, I would like to thank our board, conservation partners, and especially you, our supporters, for helping us conserve these precious natural resources. We are grateful for you, and for your dedication to protecting our beautiful, resilient, and inclusive community and the lands that sustain us all.

Randy Evans
Executive Director



WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED IN 2020

- Permanently protected **8 properties totaling 748 acres** bringing the total acres of property protected by 3VCT to **24,043 acres**
- Visited all **211 protected properties** to ensure each property meets the criteria outlined in its easement
- Completed phase 1 **Ruder Preserve boardwalk** with resting platforms and installed kiosk
- Received **Ohio EPA funding** to create a non-point source strategy for the **Beals Run-Indian Creek watershed**
- Acquired **drone pilot licences** to better monitor protected properties
- Organized **community work days at Ruder** for Miami students, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
- **Monitored 15 Five Rivers Metroparks** easements (under contract)
- Participated in **17th annual Great Outdoor Week** and **Clean Sweep of Great Miami River** community events
- Hunters and Farmers Feeding the Hungry provided **venison to local food charities** from Fossil Creek Preserve
- Planned with **Butler County Metroparks** for their purchase of Angst Farm



WHY IT MATTERS

- Preble and Butler Counties have **lost over 169,000 acres of farmland** since 1950.*
- In the **next 15 years, one-third of America's farmland and ranchland will likely change hands**, as current landowners age and sell. The land is most at **risk of being converted to a non-agricultural use** when it is sold.**
- **Habitat loss impacts plants and animals.** Ohio is home to over 170 state or federal endangered or threatened species.
- Conservation **easements protect farmland.**
- Land protection supports **water quality and quantity.**
- State and federal funds go directly to landowners for easements. These funds **support the local economy**, jobs, and community.
- **Partnerships with other organizations** support our mission.
- An **ADA-compliant** boardwalk ensures all our community members can benefit from outdoor recreation.

Our work today ensures a better tomorrow.

*USDA Agricultural Census

**American Farmland Trust



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2020 EASEMENTS - BUTLER COUNTY

Mark and Cindy Rentschler Property*

The 163 acre Blue Hills Farm houses the Garver-Rentschler Barn, which is estimated to have been built in 1835-1840, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Rentschler family has a long history of regional conservation and we are delighted that they have joined the Three Valley family.

Barbara Swafford and Steve Donovan Property

This 12 acre property is funded through our Paddy's Run Conservation Project (Ohio EPA and Fernald Trustees.) The property includes a wooded natural area and provides crucial habitat for a variety of species. Populations of cave salamanders, which are considered an endangered species in Ohio, occupy both natural and man-made habitats on the property.

“Conservation will ultimately boil down to rewarding the private landowner who conserves the public interest.” *Aldo Leopold*



*Funded through **Ohio Department of Agriculture's Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP)**

The LAEPP allows local landowners to voluntarily sell property development rights via an agricultural easement to the State of Ohio. The easement limits the use of land to predominately agricultural activity. The land remains under private ownership and management, and stays on tax rolls under Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV). The farmland can be sold or passed along as a gift to others at any time, but restrictions prohibiting non-agricultural development stay with the land in perpetuity. 3VCT is responsible for the long-term monitoring of these properties to ensure the easement terms are kept.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2020 EASEMENTS - PREBLE COUNTY

Paul and Nancy Rodeffer Property*

This 104 acre farm includes tillable land and natural areas. The Rodeffers join their nephew's family, "Chick" and Paula Rodeffer, also 3VCT easement holders, as our partners in conserving prime farmland.

Dean and Marilyn Ketring Property*

This 185 acre property is a combination of prime farmland, woodlands, and grassed waterways established through USDA's Conservation Reserve Program. Dean and Marilyn also own an 81 acre property in Eaton that is protected by a previous TVCT conservation easement.

James and Marcia Glenn Property*

This is an 118 acre farm. The Glenns have been decades-long vendors at local farmers markets where they, sell meats, vegetables, and baked goods directly to our community. Marcia is particularly known for her fresh asparagus which, sells out very quickly at the Eaton Saturday Farmer's Market.

Tom Vogel Property

This 54 acre farm is owned by our current 3VCT board member. Tom's Rock Fence Farm, named for the glacial erratic boulders previous owners used to establish the western boundary, is a combination of prime farmland and wet woodlands,

Carl Beneke Property*

This 99 acre family farm includes prime and locally important soils. Carl Beneke, age 92, was excited to finally see his family's farm permanently protected, something he has wanted for many years. The Beneke family joins neighboring Voge, Hamm, Besecker, and Jones families to protect large areas of prime farmland.

Jim Robbins Property*

This 12 acre property straddles Twin Creek and consists of tillable land and forested natural areas. Jim joins his parents who protected their 35 acre property in 2005 as 3VCT easement holders.



***Funded through Ohio Department of Agriculture's Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP)**

Note: all property acreage figures are rounded to nearest whole number

OUR SUPPORTERS SAY...



"The mission statement says it all: 'Conserve natural habitats, waterways, and agricultural lands.' Without these basics, we have nothing."

Betty Rogers
2020 Wallace I Edwards Conservationist Awardee



"Facing problems like urban sprawl and climate change makes me hope that organizations like Three Valley Trust will preserve some open spaces for my grandchildren and other folks' grandchildren."

Ed Teets
**Board Member/
Easement donor**



"I continue to support Three Valley because I believe strongly in the value of their mission to conserve land."
Jon Ralinovsky
Donor with over 15 years of sustained giving



"We are so grateful that Three Valley Conservation Trust is helping us establish a conservation easement on our property. Hopefully people will be able to marvel at the amazing natural beauty that makes up this small but fascinating piece of our world for a long time to come."

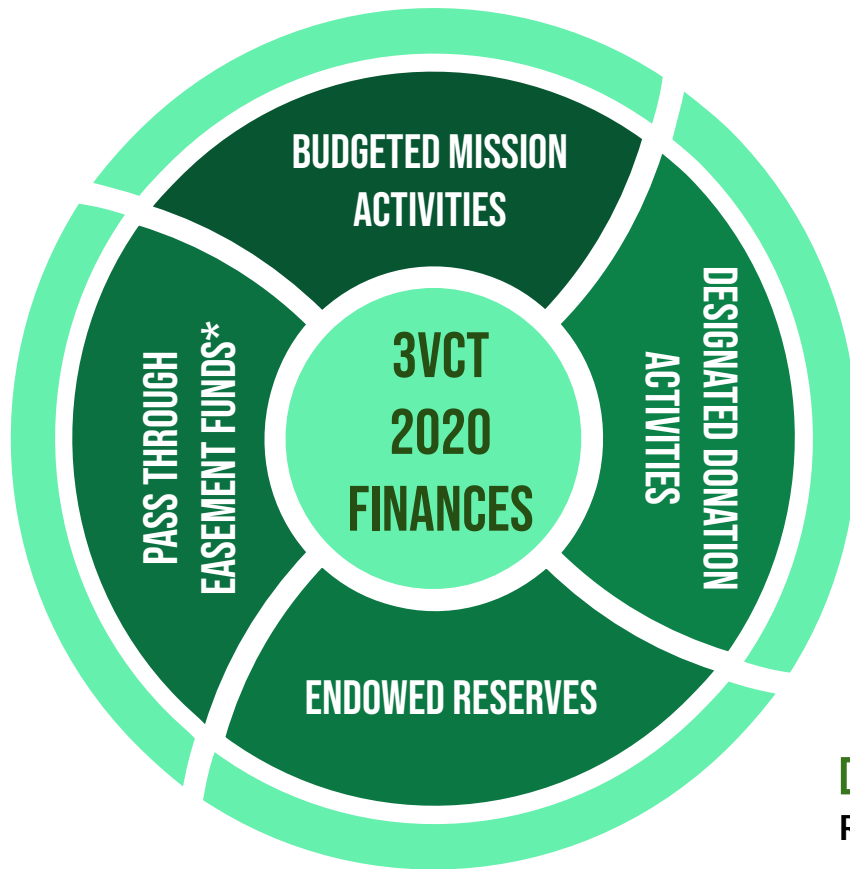
Brian and Donna Weiss
Easement Property Owners



"I really didn't want to see it {his farm} developed, turned into a Walmart down the road... It's been in the family since 1886. I'd like to keep it in the family as long as possible. - they aren't making more of it."

John Becker
Easement Property Owner

FINANCIAL STATEMENT



*pass through funds from OEPA for Paddy's Run Easements purchase and stewardship

BUDGETED MISSION ACTIVITIES

Revenue:

Donations / Gifts	\$66,899
Contracts (Five Rivers Metroparks, OEPA)	\$36,000
Endowment proceeds	\$168,000
Payroll Protection Program	\$ 37,467
Angst Farm Lease	\$ 5,000

Total Income: \$313,366

Expenses:

Personnel (3 full-time, 1 part-time)	\$189,023
Other (rent, insurance, legal, supplies, etc.)	\$111,468

Total Expenses: \$300,491

Net Income: \$12,875

DESIGNATED DONATION ACTIVITIES

Ruder Preserve Activity

Wakeman Foundation	\$8,000
Duke Power	\$10,000
Oxford Community Foundation	\$4,000

Office Technology Upgrades

Drone upgrade / improvement

Dayton Foundation	\$5,000
Staff Development / Health Insurance Subsidy	\$5,000

OUR STAFF



Randy Evans
Executive
Director



Caitlin Brown
Land Protection &
GIS Specialist



Maria Fagin
Stewardship
Manager



Steve Gordon
Paddy's Run
Project
Subcontractor



Reva Evans
Office and
Communications
Coordinator

2020 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Miami University, retired

THANK YOU!

Three Valley Conservation Trust depends on the financial support of many people and organizations to fulfill our mission.

DONORS WITH 15 YEARS OR MORE OF SUSTAINED GIVING

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EK Excavations	Janet & David Meeker Fund	Oxbow	Village West Framing
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FOUNDATIONS

Dayton Community Foundation - Partners for the Environment
Dewald Family Foundation
Dupps Charitable Foundation
Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Foundation
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Oxford Community Foundation

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS OF OUR 2021 ANNUAL MEETING



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