



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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January 6, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITY OF ANN ARBOR ADDED 709 ACRES TO GREENBELT IN 2009

ANN ARBOR, Mich., January 6, 2010 — Thanks to the Ann Arbor voter-approved millage a total of 709 acres was added to the Greenbelt in 2009, which includes 607 acres in Webster Township and 102 acres in Lodi Township. This brings the total acres protected to date to 1,782 acres!

Critical matching funds were received from Webster Township, landowner contributions and the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program resulting in an average of 1:1 match for every dollar that the City of Ann Arbor spent. A total of \$564,500 was provided by Webster Township, \$366,850 from landowners and \$2,065,500 from the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program.

"The Greenbelt Program had a great year--we added 709 acres to the greenbelt and closed on our biggest property yet," notes Laura Rubin, chair of the Greenbelt Advisory Commission. " Along with lower land prices and good matching funds, city dollars are going further toward the goal of protecting the farmland and natural areas surrounding the City of Ann Arbor.

"Last November, the citizens of Webster Township voted to continue their support in preserving farmland and open space," notes John Kingsley, Webster Township Supervisor. "The Ann Arbor Greenbelt, Federal and land owner partnerships in these development rights purchases have made it possible for this land to remain undeveloped for future generations.

Webster Township looks forward to working with these partners to accomplish even more results in the future.”

The Conservation Fund is under contract with the City of Ann Arbor to provide real estate services for administering the Open Space and Parkland Preservation Program. The Conservation Fund is a national nonprofit that works with government agencies and nonprofits to protect working farmland, wildlife habitat and recreation areas. www.conservationfund.org

The Open Space and Parkland Preservation Program (commonly referred to as the Greenbelt Program) was approved by City of Ann Arbor voters in November, 2003 to provide funding for the preservation and protection of open space, natural habitats and working landscapes both inside and outside the city limits. Voters authorized a one-half mill tax for 30 years, which provides funds for parkland acquisition within the City of Ann Arbor, and for the preservation and protection of open space and agricultural land, natural habitats outside the City of Ann Arbor in the designated Greenbelt district.

For more information: <http://www.a2gov.org/greenbelt/Pages/greenbelthome.aspx>

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