



## CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

100 North Fifth Ave. P.O. Box 8647

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-8647

[www.a2gov.org](http://www.a2gov.org)

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Jayne Miller

Community Services Area Administrator

734.794.6210

[jmiller@a2gov.org](mailto:jmiller@a2gov.org)

### CITY OF ANNARBOR GREENBELT PROGRAM AND WEBSTER TOWNSHIP PARTNER TO PROTECT ANOTHER 94 ACRES OF FARMLAND

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Nov. 16, 2009 — The City of Ann Arbor and Webster Township have partnered to protect another 94 acres of farmland in Webster Township. Farmland development rights were purchased on the Webster United Church of Christ property with funds from the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt millage, the Webster Township Land Preservation Millage, and a donation from the landowner. This brings the total acres protected in Webster Township to over 700 acres — an impressive result of these two land preservation millages and city–township partnerships.

The Webster Church property is located along Webster Church Road and Farrell Road and is ideally located in proximity to other farms already protected in the township. The property has been visited by many residents during hay rides at the annual Webster Fall Festival. The majority of the property is in agriculture production. Approximately 32 acres of the property consists of high quality forested woodland and a portion of Scadin Pond, which empties into Arms Creek, a tributary to the Huron River.

“The protection of the Webster Church property brings us closer to achieving our goal of preserving 1,000 acre blocks of farmland and creating a greenbelt around the City of Ann Arbor. This would not have been possible without a partnership with the township and a generous donation from the landowner,” said Laura Rubin, chair of the Greenbelt Advisory Commission.

“The Webster Church property adds to the growing block of protected farmland in Webster Township, and maintains the historic character of the area,” said Webster Township Supervisor John Kingsley. “The township board of trustees is pleased to assist in funding this easement purchase and appreciates the church membership’s willingness to donate some value. This is exactly the kind of partnership our citizens desire, as indicated by their continued support of the township PDR millage last week.”

The Webster Township millage was originally passed in 2005 by the voters and is a dedicated source of revenue for the purchase of open space and farmland in the township. The millage was recently renewed by Webster Township voters for another five-year term.

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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*Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and was named the No. 1 Healthiest Hometown in the U.S. by AARP The Magazine in 2008. Other notable recognitions include: No. 27 of the top 100 U.S. cities to live in by CNN/Money Magazine in 2008, as well as the fourth smartest city in the U.S. by Forbes Magazine. The city’s mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters, fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.*