

Little Traverse Conservancy

Conservation Easement Monitoring



Little Traverse Conservancy (LTC) will make annual visits to each conservation easement property to ensure the terms of the easement are being upheld. A property is not “conserved” unless this status is confirmed at regular intervals. Easement monitoring is part of our legal obligation and provides us with opportunities to build relationships with landowners, address any questions or concerns, and track changes on the property.

Visiting an Easement

Little Traverse Conservancy is charged with monitoring a growing number of conservation easements spread out over a five county region. To visit every property within a monitoring season, we utilize aerial monitoring from an aircraft to supplement our visits on the ground. Landowners are notified about the monitoring season by mail and are welcomed to schedule a time to meet with a LTC staff member conducting a site visit.

During a visit we document the condition of the property and look for anything that may be of concern regarding the terms of the easement. Any concerns will be photographed and then discussed back at the LTC office. We will carefully evaluate the seriousness of the violation and how we will proceed to address that violation. Our goal will be to work collaboratively with the landowner in resolving the concern.

We encourage landowners to join us during monitoring visits to their property because this is a good opportunity for the landowner to bring up any questions or discuss future intentions for their property. This open communication is important for preventing unintended and potentially costly violations. Plus, landowners know their property more intimately than we do and we value getting to know the property through the landowners.

Aerial Monitoring

- We concentrate aerial monitoring on larger and more remote properties.
- Every property will be monitored on the ground at least once every four years.
- Properties where a reserved right has been exercised will be monitored on the ground.