

Purchasing Development Rights

Preserving Kent County Farmland for Future Generations



*We have an incredible opportunity to **preserve farmland today** for those who will use it for agriculture tomorrow, and maintain Kent County's rural character for future generations.*

The conversion of farmland to development is one of the greatest threats to our local agricultural industry. Agriculture, our second leading industry in Michigan, is an important source of local, safe, and healthy food. Preserving farmland will ensure local agriculture remains viable going forward and preserve green space in rural Kent County.

In 2002, the Kent County Commissioners adopted the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program in a concerted effort to permanently preserve prime and unique farmland in Kent County. A PDR is a permanent tool to protect land, while compensating landowners for the value of the development rights. The landowner maintains the option of farm production, selling the land or passing it on to heirs even though the land cannot be developed. This \$300,000 grant will help leverage other foundation grants, township contributions, property owner contributions and federal grant funds to preserve approximately 2,250 acres of farmland over the three-year period.

Grant Facts

Organization: Kent MSU Extension

Grant amount: \$300,000 over three years

Grant purpose: To preserve farmland and greenspace in Kent County

Web site: www.accesskent.com/YourGovernment/BOC/PDR/

Program Started: 2001

Location: 775 Ball Ave NE
Grand Rapids MI 49503

No. served: 605,213 (Kent County residents, 2008 estimate, US Census)

This Is Community Leadership

Having sufficient park space is **crucial** for supporting a community. It is generally accepted that a community should have at least 20 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, and Kent County currently stands at 21.2 acres. In order to **build** on this and **provocate** urban sustainability & smart growth, the Community Foundation has taken a **lead** in **advocating** for the PDR program. By making the second and third year payments of this grant contingent on prescribed levels of support by Kent County, the Community Foundation will **ensure** participation and **support** from local stakeholders.

Ways You Can Help

To help ensure the success of this grant you may give to address any of the needs listed below. Please call Kent MSU Extension at 616.336.2028 to learn more.

- **Printed banner** - \$300
- **Printing services** - \$200
- **Digital camera and tripod** - \$100
- **Professional photography services** - \$500

To ensure the Community Foundation can make grants like this one in the future, please consider a gift to the Fund for Healthy Ecosystems. Please call 616.454.1751 to learn the benefits of Community Foundation giving and how gifts can be made.



Grand Rapids
community foundation[™]

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