



Friends of the Detroit River
20600 Eureka Rd., Suite 250
Taylor, MI 48180
734.288.3889

The mission of Friends of the Detroit River is to protect, defend, and improve the Detroit River through community-based stewardship and restoration, now and for future generations.

February 5, 2026

Save Sibley Prairie Coalition
c/o Michigan Land Conservancy
10325 Cherry Hill Rd.
Superior Township, MI 48198

Dear Save Sibley Prairie Coalition,

Friends of the Detroit River expresses full support of the Save Sibley Prairie Coalition in protecting the Fritz Enterprises Inc. tract of Sibley Road Prairie. This 440-acre parcel is an important ecological part of the largest remaining lakeplain prairie in Michigan.

Lakeplain prairies are rare and valuable ecosystems, once covering thousands of acres in the state; however, less than one percent of this type of land now remains in restorable condition. These prairies host a significant biodiversity of plants and insects, and native species that provide important habitat. They also serve valuable ecosystem benefits such as water and air filtration and flood mitigation. Additionally, Sibley Road Prairie is one of the most important stopping points for migrating landbirds in Wayne County.

Protection of Sibley Road Prairie will also provide the opportunity for residents of Brownstown Township and Downriver communities to connect to nature, fostering a sense of stewardship for the conservation of our wild areas into the future.

It is Friends of the Detroit River's mission to improve and protect the Detroit River and its watershed through community-based stewardship and restoration. With several years of experience in preserving and restoring wetland habitat in and along the river, we recognize the significance and value of protecting rare ecosystems, such as lakeplain prairies. These natural areas can positively impact water and air quality for communities and wildlife and offer opportunities for public planning to improve access to nature.

Friends of the Detroit River fully supports Save Sibley Prairie Coalition's efforts to protect this important landscape, which is not only a vital part of our environment, but a beautiful resource to be shared by future generations.

Sincerely,

Tricia Blicharski, Executive Director
Friends of the Detroit River