

WHC CERTIFICATION SCA INDEPENDENT LANDFILL



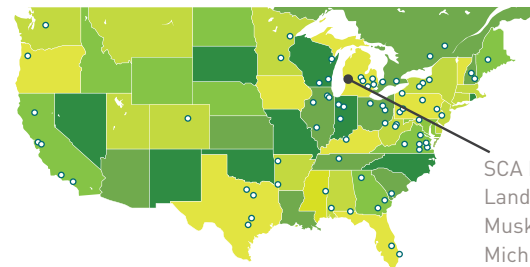
For more than 30 years, WM has partnered with WHC (Wildlife Habitat Council) to enhance and protect thousands of acres to support sustainability programs, biodiversity initiatives and environmental education. By transforming land into certified wildlife habitats, WM is helping communities thrive. At SCA Independent Landfill in Muskegon Heights, Michigan, employees actively manage conservation projects focused on grasslands, invasive species, pollinators, species of concern and wetlands and waterbodies. **The conservation program at SCA Independent Landfill has been WHC-certified since 2008.**

PRACTICES AND IMPACTS

- The team manages 16 acres of grassland through selective herbicide applied to invasive species several times during the growing season. Plant surveys of the habitat are conducted annually.
- In 2021, the team began the restoration of 11 acres of savanna habitat. Savannas are regionally rare, and this site preserves many native savanna species in its vegetation and seed bank.
- In 2019, the team partnered with a local Boy Scout troop to plant native forbs that will create habitat for beneficial insects and pollinators.
- Invasive species such as common reed, purple loosestrife, spotted knapweed, Canada thistle, sweet clover and cow vetch are controlled across the site with chemical treatment and mowing.
- Side oats grama was discovered on-site when preparations for the pollinator planting and savanna restoration began. To help manage for this rare species, invasive species are being managed and a prescribed burn is planned
- *Lupinus perennis*, the host plant of the rare Karner blue butterfly, was identified on-site in 2022. Invasive plant species have been removed to encourage Karner blue butterflies to use the site.



WM has achieved WHC Certification for conservation programs across North America



SCA Independent Landfill, Muskegon Heights, Michigan

GOLD STATUS

CONSERVATION PROJECTS

-  **GRASSLAND**
SCA Independent Landfill Prairie and Savanna Restoration, Independent Landfill Savannah Restoration
-  **INVASIVE SPECIES**
Independent Landfill Invasive Species Management
-  **POLLINATORS**
SCA Independent Landfill Pollinator Planting, Independent Landfill Beehive Installation
-  **SPECIES OF CONCERN**
SCA Independent Landfill Side Oats Grama Preservation and Restoration, SCA Independent Landfill Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat Restoration
-  **WETLANDS AND WATER BODIES**
SCA Independent Landfill Wetlands Restoration

RESOURCES

sustainability.wm.com

