

## **Climate Resilient Land Management** **Land Management for our Future**

### **What is Climate Resilient Land Management (CRLM)?**

CRLM is a work plan for the long-term health and resiliency of the Institute's natural areas in response to the threats posed by climate change. There is ample evidence linking carbon preservation in trees, plant matter, and soil to ecosystem health, but that is only one aspect of a healthy ecosystem. Building biodiversity, along with carbon sequestration, are critical for the long-term health and resiliency of our natural areas. Recent and emerging land management practices have been found to better enhance natural areas' resiliency to climatic changes and ability to maintain biodiversity. However, many of these practices involve expanding current and existing efforts that are already overextended and underfunded.

### **Why CRLM?**

The effects of climate change are accelerating, causing increased threats to the Institute's natural areas, presenting a pressing need to re-evaluate practices with the Institute's current land management plan. With the CRLM program, the Institute aims to first test these emerging practices on a small scale and document, monitor, and evaluate effectiveness and success to inform our property-wide management. Throughout this process, the Institute will provide educational programming to communicate our findings to the public and regional conservation community. Through this CRLM program, the Institute aims to utilize our land, experienced staff, and excellence in research to continue serving as a conservation leader and informing our region with progressive land management practices.

### **Why would I want to support this effort?**

Climate change is real, and sustainable ways to address it have become a top imperative for the Institute for many reasons: 1) To highlight the challenging effects of climate change on our local natural environment; 2) To provide the knowledge and tools for others to protect their piece of nature, big or small; and 3) To invest in educational efforts to benefit future generations. Your support shows your commitment to a healthier, more resilient future for our community. It is an investment in "boots-on-the-ground work" and the educational programming needed to increase further impact. It is the decision to be an active agent of change.

### **What is needed to implement CRLM?**

Under its current land management plan, the Institute stewards its 850 acres by removing invasive species, increasing native plants, and protecting areas of high-value habitat. To implement CRLM, the Institute needs funds to continue building capacity, purchase the equipment and materials required to conduct and monitor the effects of more intensive land management efforts, and develop and deliver educational programming.

### **What is the timeline for CRLM?**

The Institute piloted the program in 2023 to determine whether resources could be secured to continue the CRLM program. The pilot year provided valuable data for the Institute to continue improving its land management and educational efforts to support a more resilient and sustainable natural community. The Institute's staff and Board of Directors are committed to the CRLM effort as a critical aspect of the Institute's newly created long-range plan. Through data collection, research, and the testing of management efforts, the community will learn how they can help combat climate change. The Institute will be able to model these best practices to help ensure it remains and grows resilient and healthy. All of this will take time, but it is a focus the Institute is committed to.

### **What does it mean to be a CRLM Donor?**

Your CRLM donation demonstrates your dedication to fostering a healthier and more resilient future for our community. It represents an investment in hands-on learning and the necessary educational programs to increase our impact. By choosing to support CRLM, you are actively embracing the role of a change agent in our community.

To understand your impact, CRLM donors will receive an environmental report outlining advancements in key metrics. To give, please visit <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/crlm>. If you are interested in becoming a CRLM sponsor, please contact us at [info@cedarcreekinstitute.org](mailto:info@cedarcreekinstitute.org) or 269-721-4190 for more information. Together, we will create a healthier, more resilient future!



**Visit *CedarCreekInstitute.org* or call (269) 721-4190 for more information.**

701 W. Cloverdale Road | Hastings, MI 49058 | Phone: (269) 721-4190