



# DeYoung Farm and Natural Area Protected by the Leelanau Conservancy in 2005 Request for Expressions of Interest

## Background

The Leelanau Conservancy owns and manages part of the DeYoung Natural Area as a working farm. Located roughly 5 miles north of Traverse City in Elmwood Township along Cherrybend Road, the farm has been in our ownership since 2005.

The Conservancy has multiple goals in protecting the DeYoung Farm. Among these goals are:

1. Protection of natural features and restoration of native ecosystems, including the stream corridor;
2. Provide public access for passive recreation on the property;
3. Restoring agricultural use to specific portions of the historic DeYoung Farm; and
4. Supporting educational uses of the property and buildings.

In achieving the third goal, the Conservancy recognizes that use by a committed farmer or non-profit is the best way to restore the historic farm to its former productivity.

This Request for Expressions of Interest (REI) asks interested individuals or organizations to submit a brief description of their ideas and specific proposal for farming the property in writing, and to provide further details as to how their proposed use will be compatible with the other ongoing Conservancy goals. Proposals are encouraged to include offers to lease part of the property or memorandums of understanding with organizations or other agreements pertinent to the situation. The Conservancy has made no final decisions about any potential lease of the agricultural portions of the property. Accordingly, this Request for Expressions of Interest seeks to gauge interest from community members, especially the local farming community.

**Parcels Subject to the REI:** Proposals should be limited to the Farm Area which is defined as the specified agricultural plots and farm buildings located along the west side of Cherrybend Road, totaling about 11 acres of fields for cultivation and about 11 acres for a hay (see map).

**Who to Contact:** Interested applicants should contact Jenée Rowe, Director of Conservancy-owned lands at the Leelanau Conservancy. She will be available to provide directions to the site, meet with individuals and answer questions prior to submission of applications.

## REI Timetable:

January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012 - REI distributed to local farmers, organizations and Conservancy website.

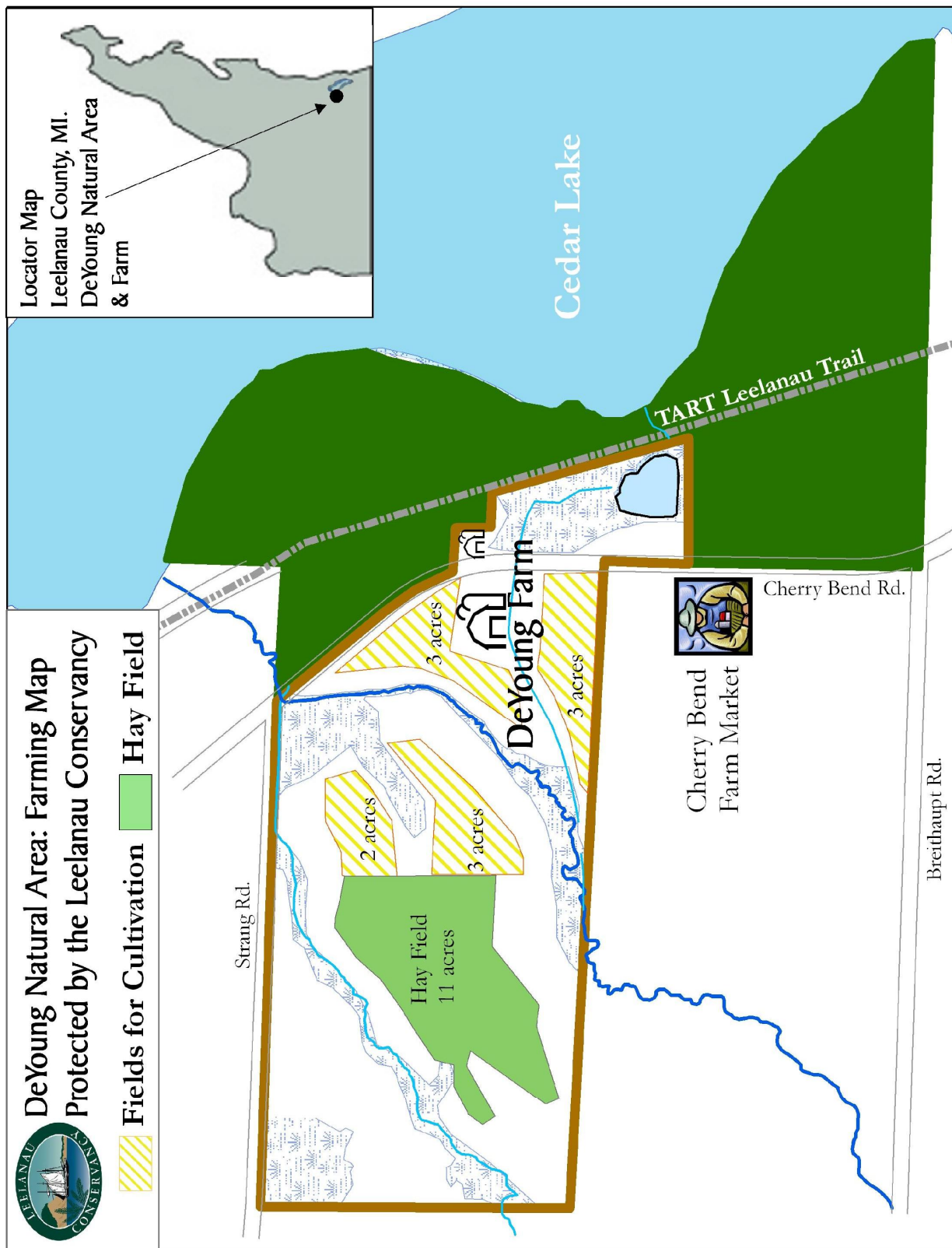
March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 - Stewardship Committee receives report from REI Committee and recommends course of action for release of a formal Request for Proposals to interested parties and the public.

April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 - Formal RFP and information packets are available for interested individuals. Letters to neighbors to be mailed in the first week of May.

October 1, 2012 - Applications due.

October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 - Stewardship Committee receives recommendation from REI Sub-Committee. Acts to recommend a course of action to the full board.

October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 - Board of Directors receives recommendation of Stewardship Committee, and may take action to authorize lease of the property, or to continue discussions.



Interested parties are welcome to visit the DeYoung Natural Area and Farm Area at anytime. Directions and maps available on our website [www.theconservancy.com](http://www.theconservancy.com)