

**Legacy Circle  
May 20, 2015**



**Genevieve Gillette**

**Genevieve Gillette** was the grand dame of conservation in Michigan. In 1920, she had been the first woman to graduate from Michigan State University's School of Landscape Architecture. In addition to consulting on landscape design she became a vigorous proponent of the establishment of public preserves and recreation areas. Her former Michigan State classmate and life-long friend, P.J. Hoffmaster, became the first head of Michigan's budding state park system. His work with the Conservation Commission and her work as a tireless lobbyist played a major role in transforming the Michigan state park system into one of the best in America. In 1959, she founded the Michigan Parks Association to bring under one organization all of the naturalists, sportsmen, and tourism promoters she had previously rallied to sponsor park projects.