

Collaborating for Conservation

Riverview Road

The last five unbuilt acres on the riverbank along Riverview Road were due to be sold and developed when their owner, Mrs. J. F. Svette, died in 1989. Riverview neighbors, however, decided they wanted to keep the land as it was for aesthetic and environmental reasons. Almost all of the families on Riverview Road contributed to the purchase of the land. They worked with the Land Conservancy who also contributed funding. The land was purchased and donated to the Land Conservancy, as the Svette Property in Mrs. Svette's honor.

Fox Hill Drive

At the end of Fox Hill Drive and looking north over the hillside to Chestnut Run were 5.5 acres of land held by the Berardinelli estate. Neighbors on Fox Hill Road and the Gates Mills Land Conservancy worked together to preserve the Berardinelli Property in 1994. The six neighbors who lived on Fox Hill Drive, wanted to preserve the property in its natural state. They contributed into a fund to buy the land and donate it to the Land Conservancy. The Conservancy contributed the remaining balance of the purchase price and the land now belongs to the Conservancy.

Sherman Road Preserve

This property is connected to the 51-acre Estate of Evelyn Newell, who granted a conservation easement on her property to the Land Conservancy. Adjacent to the Newell property is 41-acres on Sherman Road which was purchased by the Land Conservancy with the assistance of Western Reserve Land Conservancy and the support of Clean Ohio Funds. Altogether, these three properties comprise the largest plot of land preserved in our village. Preserving large tracts of land such as these, protects wildlife habitats as well as native plants and forests.

Austin Woods

Another example of neighborhood conservation is Austin Woods. Located off of Sherman Road just west of Chestnut Run. These 12 forested acres were originally destined for development. These virgin woods contain a very steep ravine that runs along the edge of Sherman Road. The purchase was made possible by gifts from neighboring landowners and augmented by Land Conservancy funds.

When neighbors want to preserve land, the conservancy will often be able to help with the financing, planning and negotiating aspects of the acquisition, and will help make sure legal and tax details are properly handled.

Preserving a great resource can be part of your legacy too. If you have questions about conservation easements, the benefits of creating one, or if you have land to be conserved, please contact us... gmlc44040@gmail.com