

Each Conservation Easements is a Unique Story

The **Colvin Road** CE, is a tract of land left behind by the Cleveland & Eastern interurban railroad. It runs behind the Gates Mills Elementary School and across a ravine. Two longtime residents gave easements on their properties to secure the land that was part of the railway's right-of-way.

The conserved 19 acres on **Woodstock Road**, some of the finest hillside land in the village, had been home to a multi-generational Gates Mills family for nearly 100 years. The addition of another 14 acres on Woodstock, was an especially strategic gift because it adjoined the already conserved 19 acres. It preserves the hillside ecology and scenic view along Berkshire Road and the west side of the Chagrin River.

Running east into the gorge that drops off from the top of **Berkshire Road** are six and a half acres of beautifully wild land known as "The Point". This conserved land is a gift of geological interest and natural beauty. Adjoining it is another conserved land that leads down to the gorge, a habitat of deer and other flora and fauna.

Both the Metroparks and the Land Conservancy tried to acquire 100 acres at **Wilson Mills and Chagrin River Roads**, but lost it to a developer. The developer planned to put 15 homes on 45 acres that lie inside Gates Mills. Instead, the Conservancy worked out a scenic easement with him, and he agreed to build only 10 homes and protect the sensitive hillside areas. A portion of each lot remained undeveloped and almost half of the total land had been preserved against development.

In each case the entire community owes a debt of gratitude to the generosity and foresight of our neighbors who considered the surrounding natural environment as something to protect.

Preserving this 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 at... gmlc44040@gmail.com