

Protecting Our Three Preservation Corridors

Today the open and natural character of the Village is threatened by the rapidly developing areas bordering Gates Mills. Geauga County to the east and the urban sprawl of Cuyahoga County to the West. Large parcels of open space are very attractive to developers despite zoning regulations.

Our Strategic Plan identifies specific land parcels that we believe are important to preserving the ecology of our Western Reserve Village. To ensure the future viability of our planet, scientists and many conservation organizations believe that 25-30% of our land and water should be preserved in its natural condition. When we reach our objectives, more than 25% of the land within the Village will be Village owned, conserved by easement, or protected by our land trust. We believe that this is a very realistic plan, but the clock is ticking as development pressure from our eastern and western borders increases at a relentless pace.

The Strategic Plan divides the village into three "preservation" corridors:

1. **The Wilderness Corridor** - The Wilderness Corridor is the area of Gates Mills north of Mayfield Road stretching west from County Line Road across the Chagrin River valley to the western border of the village.
2. **The Village Heartland Corridor** - The southern half of the Village and the surrounding historical center makes up The Village Heartland Corridor.
3. **The Chagrin River Corridor** - The Chagrin River Corridor's geography is essentially those properties within sight of the Chagrin River, usually bordering on it.

Each corridor contains its share of both conserved land and important properties that have not been protected. Responsibility for monitoring the current status of each protected property as well as developing and implementing action plans for each corridor is assigned to a specific trustee committee. These strategies and action plans are detailed in our overall Strategic Plan that is updated on a five-year cycle.

In our upcoming newsletters, we will focus on each Corridor and the beauty, significance and character that each corridor holds.