

BARRINGTON AREA
CONSERVATION TRUST

17 Oakdene Road East
Barrington Hills, Illinois 60010

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{ FALL 2009 }
BACTRUST NEWSLETTER }

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*A newsletter of the Barrington Area
Conservation Trust*

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CONSERVATION TRUST

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Visionary Residents Protect More Land

We are very pleased to report that two members of BACTrust's Board of Trustees have recently completed conservation easement documents for their properties.

Current BACTrust board president Mary Bradford-White and her husband, Lynn White, have placed a 5.4-acre easement on their Oakdene Road East property to protect the unique marsh and wetland that runs adjacent to Flint Creek as well as to limit the uses of other portions of the property.

Trustee Betsy Bramsen and her husband, Jim, have also placed a Scenic Road Easement on approximately 30 feet of setback into their property as a part of our Heritage Corridor Program in order to protect Ridge Road. The Bramsen easement will make it much more difficult for Ridge Road to become a major traffic artery in the future, provided that other neighbors step forward to continue the protection that the Bramsens have begun.

"This strategy works and is very effective for permanently protecting land here," said Mary Bradford-White. "Our residents need to act – and act quickly – and we are proud to do our part."

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A NEWSLETTER OF BARRINGTON AREA CONSERVATION TRUST

Serving the greater Barrington area

CALLING ALL VISIONARIES



Every community needs visionaries — visionaries who see beyond today to protect the future. The Barrington community has had a long history of residents who have worked hard to protect the area from uncontrolled development. The first visionaries were the pioneers; the second were the town founders. The next group were the industrialists and gentlemen farmers, who built country homes where large farms had been. In the 1950s, a group of visionaries saw what could go wrong as suburban development began to take over, so they took charge and incorporated the surrounding communities in order to establish standards to protect the natural resources of the area. The work of these visionaries was critical to creating the Barrington area we love today. But their work is not yet finished.

Barrington is to Chicago what Jackson Hole is to Wyoming and Martha's Vineyard is to the East Coast. To date, land conservancies in Jackson Hole have protected over 20,500 acres with permanent conservation easements. More than 3,200 acres of Martha's Vineyard have been protected, and over 16,000 acres of the Chesapeake Bay region are under conservation easement.

By contrast, the vitally important Barrington area has permanently protected less than 1,000 acres of private land. Zoning laws are not enough; we need permanent protection in the form of conservation easements to ensure that we can protect our beautiful area now and for generations to come.

That brings us to the visionaries of today — you, our current residents.

Several members of our community have stepped forward to lead a visionary charge to protect our area. In 2001, Mary Bradford-White began BACTrust to give our residents the tools to protect our land and our community. In 2003, under the duress of estate transfer, the McGinley family saw the potential for development and made a visionary decision to protect their 420-acre Horizon Farms with a conservation easement, making sure that it would never be developed beyond just 8 homes. In 2007, visionary Jenese Busch donated a parcel of land on the western edge of Barrington Hills to BACTrust to ensure that development would not encroach into the western boundaries of our community.

We are very pleased to announce that in 2009, two more visionary residents, the White family and the Bramsen family, have also stepped forward to permanently protect their land and/or roadways through conservation easements (see article on back page). We are also currently working with several other landowners to protect additional land and rural roadways.

As pressures from surrounding communities push into the Barrington area, we need community visionaries more than ever. A movement can begin with the actions of one individual. This year we call all the visionaries of our Barrington communities to come forward and take action with BACTrust to protect the community for this generation and those to follow.

Nancy Schumm-Burgess
Executive Director, Barrington Area Conservation Trust

OUR MISSION

The mission of Barrington Area Conservation Trust is to preserve the open space, rural character, and scenic, historic, recreational, and natural resources of the Barrington, Illinois—area communities through advocacy, education, and the promotion of responsible land stewardship.



FOUNDING DONORS

We express our ongoing gratitude to the following Founding Donors of the Barrington Area Conservation Trust. These founding donors are individuals, families, and organizations who made a substantial initial donation at our first fundraiser in 2004 to help establish a strong financial foundation for BACTrust. Our organization would not exist without the generous and enthusiastic response we received from these individuals and organizations. We recognize these initial donors as critical cornerstones to our mission!

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We thank the following individuals and organizations who donate annually to sustain BACTrust. Those listed here are members of BACTrust for the current membership year, which began in October 2008 and ended in October 2009. We salute all who have continued to support BACTrust since its inception more than eight years ago.

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“WE DECIDED TO PUT AN EASEMENT ON A 30-FOOT SETBACK OF OUR PROPERTY IN ORDER TO PROTECT RIDGE ROAD. WE STILL OWN THE LAND, BUT NOW WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO PROTECT OUR ROAD FROM DEVELOPMENT.” *Betsy Bramsen*

Are You Concerned about the Future of Our Rural Roadways?

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR HERITAGE CORRIDOR PROGRAM

A leisurely drive down a rural country lane... an invigorating walk over a hilly, wooded back road... an exhilarating ride along a rustic old trail. The rural byways of the Barrington area are a treasure that define our community and give us the space to breathe that we crave. And yet, if the pressure of increased traffic and the need to relieve congestion on major suburban roads continues to grow, we may see our hills flattened, our roads expanded, and our gravel lanes paved.

The Barrington area's rural back roads have been used for over a hundred years and have maintained the visual, historical, and cultural significance that is the hallmark of our community. But increases in population and cut-through traffic means increased risk to the character of these roads.

That's where our Heritage Corridor Program can help. Working in partnership with the Law Offices of George Covington and local municipalities, BACTrust designed this program after a study of road protection strategies from around the country. Once in place, the Heritage Corridor will be a preservation district in which the geographic area is identified with a designated road. The program helps homeowners put conservation easements 10 to 30 feet from the edge of the roadway into their setback property. Homeowners still own the property, while the easements are held by BACTrust and a corresponding municipality (such as the Village of Barrington Hills or other village

government). The easement may also include any structures such as bridges, signs, shoulders and vegetation. Following state statutes for scenic easements, this strategy can effectively preserve a road from being threatened.

“We were definitely interested in this program, because our rural back roads are so important to this community,” said BACTrust Trustee Betsy Bramsen. “We decided to put an easement on a 30-foot setback of our property in order to protect Ridge Road. We still own the land, but now we have taken steps to protect the road from development. It is such a beautiful byway and we would hate to see it widened.”

Qualifying roadways are defined as the roads that represent the rural character of the Barrington area. They were originally designed to be rural residential routes that connected neighbors and weaved through the community. The result of corridor protection is that the character of the roads will remain relatively unchanged and embody the essential elements of the local culture and history of the area.

If you live along one of the roadways listed below, you and your neighbors should consider exploring the Heritage Corridor program, which is most effective when several neighbors come together to create a band of protection.



By protecting our rural byways, the Heritage Corridor Program provides many benefits to our community, including:

- Protecting the scenic, natural and historic resources in the road corridors
- Protecting the recreational value of roads that encourage walking, biking, riding horses, or a leisurely drive in the countryside for pleasure
- Protecting expansive views, unusual land formations, woodlands, wetlands, prairies, autumn color, and rolling farmland
- Protecting unique architectural features such as churches and old cemeteries, farmsteads, historically significant buildings, historical markers, and roadway features such as bridges, tunnels, and natural hills
- Promoting a sense of place and home

Which roadways can be protected?

A qualifying road for the Heritage Corridor program must fulfill the following two requirements:

- It must be a designated roadway that connects major thoroughfares, but was designed for local residential use.
- It must be a road that, if it were altered, would significantly change the rural character of the area.

In addition, qualifying roads must fulfill two or more of the following secondary requirements:

- Must possess a scenic value and/or possess public vistas
- Are two-lane residential roads with minimal shoulders
- Pass through or are adjacent to environmentally sensitive areas and/or habitats
- Are parallel to or are crossed by historic riding trails
- Have a documented historical value to the community
- Possess archaeological features
- Possess distinct expressions of local community life

The following are some of the roadways in our area that would qualify for the Heritage Corridor Program. If you believe your road might qualify based on the criteria above, please call us at 847-381-4291.

Bateman Road	Haeger's Bend Road	Plum Tree Road
Brinker Road	Miller Road	Ridge Road
Chapel Road	Old Sutton Road	
Cuba Road	Otis Road	