



The Conservation Foundation Protecting Land — Many Tools in the Toolbox

There are many approaches The Conservation Foundation uses to address our mission, which includes preserving open space and protecting natural lands. These include:

Advocacy—We are not shy about talking with people about the benefits of protecting land. We talk with many people, individually and in groups, and send countless letters and packets of information. Our advocacy role extends to organizing and managing voter campaigns to pass land-acquisition referenda. We have led several successful referendum campaigns in DuPage, De Kalb, Will, Kane and Kendall Counties. We also lobby in Springfield for state funding for local open space grant programs.

Buy and Hold—We buy land and hold it temporarily on behalf of park and forest preserve districts and other units of local government. In recent years we have bought land on behalf of such entities as the De Kalb and Kendall County Forest Preserve Districts, Campton Township (Kane), and the Batavia and the Wheaton Park Districts. The Foundation typically holds onto the properties for one or two years, allowing the government agency time to obtain funds (grants, etc.) then sells it to the agency.

Negotiate for Others—We negotiate the purchase of land for various land preservation agencies. We have worked for various park districts, forest preserve districts and local governments. In the last few years we have negotiated the purchase of more than 4,000 acres of land valued at nearly \$180 million.

Hold Conservation Easements—We accept the donation of conservation easements and monitor those easements and, if necessary, defend those easements. We can also arrange for the donation of conservation easements to other entities such as a forest preserve district or park district. Conservation easements are a legal means to protect natural and open space lands—in perpetuity. Developers are also putting conservation easements in place within developments. We currently hold and enforce 36 conservation easements throughout our service area.

Land Donations—We accept land donations and facilitate land donations to others. We will look for an appropriate agency that is willing to accept the ownership and management of a parcel of land. It is often advantageous for the Foundation to hold onto the land until the public agency is ready for it. If we do so, we grant the public agency immediate access to the property once we take title. We then transfer it at a later date when the timing is right.

Acquisitions and Partnerships—More land can be protected when financial and expertise resources are combined. To that end, we can obtain grant and other funding and arrange partnerships or joint acquisitions with open space agencies.

Match-Maker—We are in contact with landowners on a regular basis. Some of them are interested in partnering with or selling to an open space agency or a conservation-minded developer. We connect people together to help facilitate land preservation. This “behind the scenes role” is extremely important.

When we talk about land preservation, we are fortunate to have a variety of “tools” to use to find the best method for protecting open space and the best fit for the landowner.