

CITIZENS FOR CONSERVATION RESTORATION WORKDAYS SCHEDULE

SPRING

Thursdays and Saturdays starting in April, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Native plant rescues - dig up native plants from an approved construction site and transplant them to Barrington area nature preserves. Bring work gloves and spade or trowel.

SUMMER

Thursdays and Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Non-native plant removal (commonly called weeding) - cut, dig out or pull non-native plants from Barrington area nature preserves. Bring work gloves, spade and pruners.

FALL

Thursdays and Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., Sundays 3:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Seed collecting - collect seeds from native plants. Bring work gloves.

WINTER

Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Brush cutting - remove non-native brush from Barrington area nature preserves. Bring work gloves and loppers.



FOR ALL WORK DAYS

Meet at CFC Headquarters, 459 W. Highway 22; white farmhouse with silo across from entrance to Good Shepherd Hospital. Group meets in the parking lot and leaves for work sites promptly at 9:00 a.m.

CITIZENS FOR CONSERVATION
459 West Highway 22
Barrington, Illinois 60010

(847) 382-SAVE (7283)
www.citizensforconservation.org

Saving Living Space for Living Things



CITIZENS
FOR
CONSERVATION

Saving Living Space for Living Things



Like winds and sunsets,
wild things were taken for
granted until progress began
to do away with them.

Aldo Leopold

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Join us!

Mail in the membership form in the center of this booklet.

Be an active conservationist and/or volunteer. There's a wide range of opportunities at varying levels of effort on the membership form. Commit as much time as you would like.

Spread the word. Pass on the information you receive working with CFC.

Tell your friends how they can improve the use of their land to help save threatened plants and animals. Invite neighbors to join us, expanding our membership base to share the responsibilities.

Become a restoration volunteer. Help us collect and sow seed, rescue native plants from construction sites, cut brush or help with controlled burns. You'll acquire an in-depth understanding of the history, botany, zoology and ecology of a native Illinois landscape. Have fun and be inspired.

Participate in our educational activities. Sign up for classes and field trips as a student or a leader.

Donate land. While not all property is appropriate for protecting plant communities and wildlife, please tell us about land you believe may be suitable. Land can be given three ways: direct tax-deductible donation, a tax-deductible donation with the owner continuing to reside on the site, or a conservation easement, allowing acreage to be used for preservation while the landowner retains lawful ownership. Call us if you'd like to talk about immediate or future possibilities.

Landscape your property with native forbs, shrubs and trees. Shop at our Native Plant Sale held the first Saturday in May.



Thank you to CFC members whose photographs tell our story.

Our preserves have become a living laboratory for groups of students to monitor water quality, streambank stabilization, bird populations and the diverse ecosystem of Cook and Lake counties. They provide a place for children to experience nature and for adults to experience the satisfaction of restoring land in their community to its biologically diverse and aesthetically exciting natural state.



OUR MISSION

“Saving Living Space for Living Things” – through protection, restoration and stewardship of land, conservation of natural resources and education.



OUR BEGINNING

A group of Barrington area residents met in 1970 to discuss the damage to our environment caused by suburban growth. The creeping expansion represented a threat to the lakes, ponds, groves of trees, wetlands and prairies. Natural habitats were being destroyed, and with them, many rare plants, birds and animals that depend on those habitats.

While Illinois is known as the Prairie State, only $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1% of original prairies remains. To assure that plants and wildlife had an ongoing home in the Barrington area, it was vital that their habitats be preserved and protected. Thus, Citizens for Conservation, Inc. (CFC) was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1971.



Benefits to the Community

An inventory of protected undeveloped land, preserved as open space and restored to natural conditions, generates real benefits for all residents. Among those benefits: a healthy and healthful natural environment, a more stimulating yet tranquil human environment and measurably higher real estate value.

CFC preserves not only offer visitors a first-hand encounter with native Illinois plant communities, but also help perpetuate the plant and animal species that rely on these areas. We're making an ongoing contribution to the natural heritage of, and quality of life in, the Barrington area.

What Others Say About Us

“While others just complain about open space disappearing in Lake County, Barrington’s Citizens for Conservation is doing something about it.”
Barrington Courier-Review

“Whether they’re out chopping down buckthorn or collecting prairie plant seeds, Citizens for Conservation is on the job 52 weeks a year.”
Barrington Courier-Review

“It’s (CFC) not just a group that gets together to talk about the environment. They put their money where their mouth is. In the Chicago region, I can’t think of any that do as much on the local level at as big of a scope.”
Chuck Westcott
Daily Herald

“What a treasure Citizens for Conservation has created in our area. What a magical place this is.”
Barbara Benson
Barrington Courier-Review

“These people (CFC) not only care, they bring a lot of expertise and organizational skills. They are very savvy about how they proceed.”
Jerry Adelman
Openlands Project
Chicago Tribune





WHAT WE DO

Citizens for Conservation, A Volunteer-driven Organization:

- Has helped protect over 2,000 acres of public land, including three new forest preserves: Ela Marsh, Fox River and Grassy Lake.
- Owns 10 preserves encompassing 343 acres.
- Helps provide natural area stewardship for the Village of Barrington, Cook and Lake County Forest Preserves, Barrington Park District and School District 220.
- Offers conservation education to children in all the Barrington elementary schools through CFC's Junior Naturalist program and nature classes.
- Works with Middle and High School students through our cooperative programs.
- Publishes a quarterly conservation newsletter.
- Conducts nature or bird watching tours of its preserves throughout the year for its members.
- Provides valuable seed collected from its preserves to Barrington area schools and forest preserves.
- Spearheaded the successful restoration of the heron rookery on the island in Baker's Lake.
- Monitors bluebird, wood duck and frog populations.
- Reports stream monitoring of Flint Creek.
- Arranges special programs for youth, scouts and adults.
- Makes presentations to community groups and shares conservation resources with individual citizens.
- Works to restore land to its "pre-settlement" condition at many of its preserves.
- Assisted the beginning stages of restoration at Vehe Farm.

Our Work Has Just Begun... We Need You

CFC is a member of Chicago Wilderness, The IL Environmental Council, Fox Land Alliance, Flint Creek Watershed Partnership and the Land Trust Alliance (LTA). We also meet the LTA Land Trust Standards and Practices; the ethical and technical guidelines for the responsible operation of a land trust.

Our Preserves

CFC owns ten preserves encompassing 343 acres. Much of this land has been generously donated, but 103 acres have been purchased through fundraising campaigns.

At **Grigsby Prairie** in Barrington Hills we've seen impressive results since beginning a restoration recreating an Illinois tallgrass prairie at the 37 acre preserve. Work began on the site in 1987. A bird count conducted in 2000 found no less than four species of shore birds including the not-so-common long-billed dowitcher. In 1999, prairie birds nesting at Grigsby included a pair of meadowlarks, eight pairs of bobolinks, and 2 pairs of grasshopper sparrows. A rare, little male Henslow's sparrow sang his heart out hoping to attract a mate. Grassland birds, including two pairs of savanna sparrows and two pairs of kingbirds were also present.

The Barrington Bog (45 acres in Lake Barrington), **Farm Trails North** (18 acres in Lake Barrington), and **Wagner Fen** (41 acres in Lake Barrington) are all designated Illinois Nature Preserves. Bogs and fens are specific types of wetlands that were probably abundant at one time in Illinois, but now hang on only in scattered remnants. Each support unique plant communities and provide habitat for wildlife, both common and rare. The Baltimore checkerspot butterfly, which depends on the turtlehead plant, is one species that thrives only in fens.

Hawley Lake Wetlands (17 acres in Barrington Hills), **Heron Marsh** (49 acres in Cuba Township), **River's Bend** (9 acres in Lake Barrington), **Steyermark Woods** (1 acre in North Barrington), and **Twin Ponds** (23 acres in Lake Barrington) are preserves maintained in their current natural state.



Flint Creek Savanna is CFC's largest preserve at 103 acres, and home to our office headquarters in Lake Barrington. It embraces nearly a mile of creek watercourse, four oak and hickory groves, and acres of restored wetlands and prairie.

In the early 1990's a prairie pothole of almost 2 acres was constructed. Emergent plants, such as bur reed and arrowhead, were installed in the water, while wet prairie vegetation was planted around the perimeter. It quickly became a prominent feature of the preserve. Four species of frogs moved in. With the frogs came large, winged predators - white egrets and great blue herons. Shortly thereafter, the wetland exploded. A single spatterdock became a colony nearly 20 feet across, while mesic prairie plants added a brilliant display of color.

In 2001 a gravel hill prairie was added utilizing old concrete. A gravel hill is a unique habitat in which to grow rare native plants. In the same year a series of wetlands were created to slowly cleanse



stormwater before entering Flint Creek. A fish crib for a spawning bed was added to the largest pond.

One of CFC's exciting indications of success is the annual residency of a pair of sandhill cranes, which have nested successfully here since 1998. This is a bird which until recently hadn't nested in Illinois for a century.

The community recognizes CFC preserves as special places. Consequently, youth from Willow Creek Church, scouts and Barrington High School students have joined CFC in their restoration efforts. Some CFC restoration projects have been partially funded by grants received from federal, state and township governments.

CFC is a volunteer-driven organization. If Citizens for Conservation ever becomes inactive, The Nature Conservancy will receive all its lands and assets. A large international organization, The Nature Conservancy owns more than one million acres of land being preserved in its natural state.

