



Hill 'N Dale Preserve

*An Unprecedented Opportunity to Preserve 246.5
Prime Acres to Save Living Space for Living Things*

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: Why is CFC acquiring 246.5 acres of Hill 'N Dale Farm South, offered by The Duchossois Group?

A: CFC has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to save as private land one of the largest intact properties in our area. It is a 246.5-acre, iconic property in McHenry County (surrounded by Barrington Hills) and the Spring Creek valley. It is bounded by Spring Creek Road on the north, Ridge Road on the east, Lake-Cook/County Line Road on the south, and the residents along Meadow Hill Road on the west. The parcel is a true community asset that deserves to be preserved as open and scenic space in perpetuity.

Q: When will the purchase occur?

A: The purchase of the property will close in August 2022.

Q: What does CFC plan to do with the property once it is acquired?

A: The property will remain as open space, per the wishes of the Duchossois family and Citizens for Conservation on behalf of the entire community. Key to the family's decision to sell to CFC is our promise to not only preserve the property, but also to restore it over time and return it to its natural splendor. We will bring back native species and habitats; provide new opportunities for schoolchildren/volunteers to engage with nature; and enhance the quality of our local groundwater, while also protecting 4,400 linear feet one of the most pristine streams in Northern Illinois (Spring Creek).

Q: What will happen to the fences, houses and barns?

A: The white exterior fences will be kept intact to acknowledge their iconic status within the community. Once CFC owns the property, we will spend the time to complete an assessment of and evaluate the options related to the current houses, barns, and structures on the property. At this time, we believe that there are likely too many structures for CFC to commit to maintaining all of them over time.

Q: Will CFC keep horses on the property? What about public access?

A: No horses will remain on the property. CFC will provide some level of public access through CFC's activities; current conceptual planning includes walking paths. Other uses, such as horse trails, will be evaluated after the purchase.

Q: Why is this property so significant in our region from a conservation perspective?

A: This property has been a priority area for preservation as a part of our Barrington Greenway Initiative, as well as for the Spring Creek Watershed-Based Plan, the McHenry County Infrastructure Plan, the Lake County Forest Preserve Green Infrastructure Model, the Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG) Regional Comprehensive Plan, the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory, and the Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan. It also coincides with the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan.

This property is downstream from the 4,000-acre Spring Lake (Spring Creek) Forest Preserve, which includes the 550-acre, state-dedicated Spring Lake Nature Preserve. Also, it is across the street from the 11-acre Smith Far Field Preserve, as well as 421 acres of additional locally protected areas along the Spring Creek.

We know that larger, connected ecosystems support a greater diversity of species, and we believe the greenway connectivity created by this property will be of greater benefit not only to the plants and animals who depend upon it, but to the many area residents who appreciate nature. Hill 'N Dale Preserve is the largest land preservation project CFC has ever had, and in this area, properties of this size do not become available often. The fact that it is so close to other protected preserves makes this acquisition even more important.

Q: Why is this property so significant nationally from a conservation perspective?

In 2021, the federal government established a goal to conserve at least 30 percent of U.S. lands and freshwater and 30 percent of U.S. ocean areas by 2030, in an initiative commonly referred to as 30x30. This initiative seeks to reverse the negative impacts of biodiversity decline and climate change by protecting more natural areas, and to increase access to nature for communities that lack it. The Hill 'N Dale Preserve will locally contribute significantly to this national effort.

Q: How much money are you trying to raise, and where will the funds come from?

A: We have set a fundraising goal of \$10 million. Significantly, we have already been awarded a \$4.9 million grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, the largest such grant awarded for a single parcel purchase. This extraordinarily generous grant brings us nearly halfway to our goal and demonstrates the significant conservation value of this important property. The remaining funds will come from local and regional partners and supporters.

Q: What will the money be used for?

A: A significant portion of the funding will be used to acquire the property. The purchase price is confidential until the sale is finalized.

In addition, CFC has pledged to manage the site in accordance to the high standards we are known for: by delivering ecosystem benefits through conservation. Funding will be used to enhance and restore ecology, provide site management, and create safe public access for CFC community activities.

Finally, these funds will be used to seed an endowment to ensure that ecological restoration will remain high quality over time.

Q: How can I help CFC acquire and restore Hill 'N Dale Preserve?

A: We hope you will consider a donation to the fundraising campaign to acquire and restore Hill 'N Dale Preserve in perpetuity. Please contact CFC at 847-382-7283 or cfc@citizensforconservation.org for more information. Someone will reach out to you directly to discuss the opportunities.