



Liberty Prairie Conservancy

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Liberty Prairie Conservancy Preserves Key Parcel

(Grayslake, IL) As part of the Liberty Prairie Conservancy's goal to preserve at least 1,000 acres of open space in Lake County by 2010, it recently assisted an anonymous landowner in protecting 64 acres of woods, prairie and farmland near Libertyville. By placing a conservation easement on the property, anyone who buys or inherits it in the future is prohibited from developing it, a restriction that stays with the land in perpetuity.

The move closes the gap between two sizable blocks of previously protected open space, resulting in preservation of a large-scale landscape in which plant and animal populations remain intact. The property features high-quality natural areas that support over 200 plant species, including two in danger of disappearing from Illinois due to loss of habitat: small sundrops and pale vetchling. It also features 30 acres of farmland.

"This land is identified in the Lake County Regional Framework Plan as a high priority for open space protection and it's easy to see why," said Jeffrey Sundberg, Ph.D., President of the Liberty Prairie Conservancy. "It protects water quality and prevents the fragmentation that disrupts native ecosystems and working farms. We applaud the landowner's decision to create this legacy."

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The landowner admired the organization’s work and wanted to contribute to it. “This is important,” he said. “I love this land.”

Funding from members, donors and the following organizations helped make this work possible: Chicago Wilderness, the Field Foundation of Illinois, the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation and the Grand Victoria Foundation.

Conservation easements have become the nation’s most frequently used tool for preserving open space, with over 6.3 million acres voluntarily preserved through them.

The Liberty Prairie Conservancy is a non-profit organization that preserves farmland, woods, fields and other open lands throughout Lake County. With Lake County’s population growth projected to remain intense for the next 15 years, the group works to protect the county’s natural heritage and to safeguard the economic and aesthetic benefits derived from open space. For more information visit www.libertyprairie.org.

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