

# The Conservation Foundation

*The Conservation Foundation and the Protect Kendall Now! initiative is working to preserve open space. The following is a brief summary of the organization's activities in Kendall County.*

The Foundation is working with the forest preserve district to identify open space lands, contact landowners of potential future forest preserve sites, and negotiate land sales to the district. The Foundation owns 45 acres (Jay Woods) in Little Rock Township. The Foundation helped purchase a 68-acre parcel (Subat Forest Preserve) for the district near the Fox River west of Yorkville. The Foundation coordinated the campaign to pass a \$5 million open space referendum for the forest preserve district in 2002.

## Village of Minooka

The Foundation is working with the Village of Minooka to preserve a corridor along the Aux Sable Creek near Minooka. The Foundation currently owns a 3-acre parcel along Aux Sable Creek that was donated in 2002.

## Conservation Easements

The Foundation is currently in discussions with several landowners in Kendall County regarding conservation easements and land donations to permanently protect open space. Educational seminars have been held to educate landowners of the benefits of private land conservation through easements.

## Protect Kendall Now!

This new initiative starting in 2005 will create an open space and natural areas master plan for Kendall County, increase the public's awareness for the urgency to protect open space and launch a long

term landowner contact process to acquire open space county-wide. Partners include the forest preserve district, municipalities, park districts and other conservation and economic development groups.

## Farmland Protection

Foundation staff is involved in the Kendall Farmland Preservation Committee, which is charged with organizing a county-wide farmland preservation program.



Yorkville residents attend a recent informational meeting organized by the Protect Kendall Now! initiative.

*For a complete list of Kendall County projects supported by The Conservation Foundation contact (630) 428-4500 or [www.protectkendallnow.org](http://www.protectkendallnow.org).*

## City supports Protect Kendall Now! Initiative

The city recently approved funding to partner in the Protect Kendall Now! initiative. The goal of the initiative, coordinated by The Conservation Foundation, is to plan for and increase the pace of land conservation in Kendall County.

Kendall County is the fastest growing county in Illinois and the third fastest growing county in the nation. The urgency to protect open space in Kendall has never been greater.

*Protect Kendall Now! has three phases:*

- **Phase 1** consisted of developing an Open Space and Natural Area Master Plan for Kendall County. Meetings were scheduled in January and February around the county. Yorkville residents had the opportunity to view the plan at the Historic courthouse in January.
- **Phase 2** is a continuing public awareness and media blitz campaign to increase the awareness of the need and urgency to protect open space now.
- **Phase 3** is the landowner contact phase where The Conservation Foundation and its partners will contact and establish relationships with landowners and educate them on their many options to preserve their properties.

For more information about how you can get involved and support the project, visit the project website at [www.protectkendallnow.org](http://www.protectkendallnow.org) or call Stephanie Sheetz at (630) 428-4500, ext. 21.

# The United City of Yorkville

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