

Conservator

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200-year-old Turner Farm: Preserved For All Time

Historic Turner Farm — 58 gently rolling acres — is one of three working farms that remain within the Village of Indian Hill. It has been actively farmed since the early 1800s. In November 2002, an Agricultural Conservation Easement was created that permanently protects Turner Farm's agricultural viability — and also its historic, scenic and natural conservation values.

The land is part of an unbroken arc of farmland and open space in a community that takes pride in its scenic, rural character. Its gardens and fields are home to a variety of plants and animals. There are open pastures for the sheep and chickens. Hedge-row and meadow mix with wooded areas. Wetland runoff feeds the pond. The inherent beauty of these settings give a unique sense of place.

Well known for its quality farm products, Turner Farm is currently under the stewardship of Bonnie Mitsui, who has operated it as an organic farm and a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) partnership since 1994. CSA members receive a weekly distribution of fresh, organic produce grown on the land from late May through mid-October. In season, farm produce is also sold to the public on Saturdays at Findlay Market in downtown Cincinnati.

“Certified Organic” production

Organic agriculture is practiced on Turner Farm because of the concern for people's health, the health of the farm, and the health of those who work on the land.

Turner Farm products are “Certified Organic” by the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association. Observing strict practices to receive the coveted designation, Turner Farm uses energy-efficient, biological principles to produce good looking, great tasting foods that are nutritionally superior.



About the Agricultural Conservation Easement

Primary purpose of the Turner Farm easement, held and monitored by The Land Conservancy of Hamilton County, Ohio in cooperation with American Farmland Trust, is to **protect productive agricultural land**. The easement keeps the land from any development or other use, assuring that Turner Farm will continue as an organic farm forever. It assures that the land's agricultural soils will always be maintained and used to produce organic products.

Additional purposes:

Protects historically important land

Turner Farm traces its history to an original homestead farm dating from 1795, the present boundaries of which date back to 1873. There is a record of continuous agriculture dating from the original purchase of the land.

It is possibly the only land in the Village of Indian Hill, Ohio that was owned and farmed by descendants of a pioneer ancestor up until 1967.

Protects natural habitat

The easement also protects a natural habitat for wildlife and plants. Turner Farm contains farmlands, woodlands, streambeds and pastures that form an important and diverse natural ecosystem.

Wildlife thrives on this protected land, and the forest floor supports a diversity of native wildflowers. The terrain contains healthy streams with broad riparian areas, and forested areas with mature trees.

Protects scenic views

Another purpose of the easement is to protect scenic views of Turner Farm that benefit the general public. This includes its many garden beds, hayfields, rolling pastures and open woodlands.

The scenery is enjoyed by the motoring public traveling along two main roads that border the property's northern and western boundaries. Horseback riders use marked trails, part of a community-wide trail system, through the property.



THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

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