



Gessert Farm

Project Description: The Gessert Family Farm is a 266 acre farm situated next to the Rock River in the Towns of Ashippun and Lebanon. This unique property features acres of rolling, fertile cropland, currently being farmed organically along with a significant amount of wetlands carved out by Davy Creek running on the north side of the property. The “Gessert Hill” fondly coined by the neighbors, is actually a large kame, featuring 30+ acres of upland hardwood forest and is the home to 3 historically significant Native American burial mounds.

Why: The Gessert family preserved their farm and sold their development rights for the following reasons:

- 1) to protect and foster the diversity of the land, including the native woodlands, Native American Burial Mounds, the organic crop fields, wetlands and open space,
- 2) to assure that none of the land in this area is ever disturbed. A conservation easement is the ideal way to guarantee this protection, and
- 3) to assure the stewardship practices that have been maintained for over 65 years, aligning our property with Tall Pines offers us security in knowing that the farm will remain cared for to the standards and practices we value.

Where: Towns of Ashippun and Lebanon, Dodge County

Size: 266 acres

Owners: The Gessert Family

Easement Holders: Tall Pines Conservancy with Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA) under the Federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program

Completion: 2016

“When our parents purchased our farm nearly 75 years ago, they taught us to have a deep connection to the land. Over time, this fostered our commitment to its stewardship. With Tall Pines, we are proud to have protections and standards that will assure our farm will be preserved well beyond our lifetimes. It is the most important legacy we can give to honor our parents’ values.”

—The Gessert Family

