TALL PINES CONSERVANCY
SAVING LAND FOR TOMORROW.
ONE ACRE AT A TIME.

PARTNER IN LAND CONSERVATION

Mayer Family Farm

Project Description: Mayer Farms is a 7th generation dairy farm lying near the headwaters of the Oconomowoc River watershed in southern Washington Country south of the village of Slinger. The Coney River runs through the property. This prime agricultural land features rolling hills and pasture and is nestled in the hills of the Kettle Moraine within view of the historic Holy Hill church.

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

1.) To protect the land from increasing residential and commercial development pressure.

2.) To maintain farmland viability that will allow generational transfer of the farm to the Mayer's three children. Dairy farming is the Mayer's life's work. Their passion is their cows and they take pride in raising quality cattle and growing them naturally for dairy and beef.

3.) To improve the quality of the river by incorporating buffer strips and other strategies through a partnership with the Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program.

Where: Town of Polk, Washington County

Size: 151 acres permanently protected under conservation easement

Owners: Shelley and Dwight Mayer

Easement Holder: Tall Pines Conservancy purchased the development rights on the land with the assistance and support of the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Regional Conservation Partnership Program and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and a generous donation by the property owners, Ike and Shelly Mayer.

Completion: 2020

"Our grandchildren mark the 8th generation at the Mayer Farm. It was the love of working with fine dairy cattle and farming that brought us together. While high development pressure has surrounded our community, it's reassuring to know that due to the work of Tall Pines, the Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program and NRCS, we will be able to transition our land, passion and way of life to our children. Farming is more than a career – it's our love."

—Shelly Mayer