

## Richfield Historical Society/Lofy Conservation Easement



**Project Description:** The Lofy Farm is prominently situated at Hwy. 164 and Pleasant Hill Road in the Village of Richfield. As both next-door neighbors and supporters of the Richfield Historical Society (RHS), the Lofys donated their property to RHS through a Life Estate. They also were committed to protecting their ancestral land from future development through a conservation easement with Tall Pines Conservancy. Thus, a unique partnership was formed between the two non-profit organizations with the support of the Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program.

The property features fertile farmland with Coney Creek meandering through both the Lofy Farm and the Richfield Historical Society (RHS) property.

**Why:** The Lofy family preserved their farmland with the support of the Richfield Historical Society:

- 1.) to preserve the legacy of their family's farming history by connecting two area non-profits that are committed to conserving the area's rural heritage;
- 2.) to be an example to other area farmers who might be interested in protecting their farmland from development pressure, and
- 3.) to protect local natural resources, through best management practices applied to the agricultural operations that present a significant opportunity to benefit both the water quality of the creek and the Oconomowoc River, which it feeds.

**Where:** Village of Richfield, Washington County

**Size:** 27 acres

**Owners:** Richfield Historical Society through a life estate of Sharon and Herb Lofy

**Easement Holder:** Tall Pines Conservancy

**Completion:** 2021

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*“Sharon and I are equally pleased that a portion of our farm is now covered with a conservation easement through Tall Pines. Being that this part of the farm is a life estate with Richfield Historical Society as the beneficiary, we felt that a conservancy would provide a “win-win” situation for everyone. Development has certainly taken many farms in Richfield out of production. One hundred years from now this may be one of only a few open spaces left in Richfield.”*

—Herb & Sharon Lofy

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