



## **Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy**

### **Mission Statement**

*To preserve and protect land and water resources for the benefit of the public, as well as for the wildlife dependent upon these resources, in order to maintain quality of life, biological diversity, and natural scenic beauty for future generations.*

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### NEWS RELEASE

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Family Donates Easement to Honor Founding City Father**

**FRANKLIN, Wisconsin (January 12, 2011)** – Susanne and Scott Mayer have donated a conservation easement on 22.5 acres in honor of David Mayer. Scott's father, Dave, was born in 1918 and had 6 siblings. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and became a Franklin town supervisor in 1948. He was one of three founding fathers during the incorporation of Franklin as a city in 1956. Dave Mayer continued to serve as an alderman until 1993. His family's passion to honor a great father meant preserving a part of Franklin's history for future family members. The Mayer family has partnered with the Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy (MALC) to preserve the land in perpetuity.

The Mayer property is located in the city of Franklin, Milwaukee County, and adjoins the county-owned Franklin Savanna State Natural Area. The parcels tell their own history by containing rare habitat for Milwaukee County where 93.9 percent of natural vegetation and nearly its entire prairie and oak savanna habitat have been eliminated from the landscape. Ryan Creek, a tributary to the Root River, flows through a portion of the property and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission has identified the area as an important environmental corridor.

The donation value will qualify as a cost-share obligation, which allows MALC to apply toward a future stewardship project. "We are pleased to honor our family with a gift of land and provide additional opportunities that will benefit our community. The Mayer name is a Franklin founding family name and Dave suggested this parcel to us. We enjoy the property's many features and want to share it with others. Our children like seeing things not found in other areas of the county. It keeps them curious and learning new things that we can share together", Susanne said.

The Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization protecting important lands by helping property owners find solutions to their land conservation needs using methods such as easements, land donations, and fee simple purchase. This project represents the third property negotiated for conservation by the grass-roots organization. MALC's other properties include Fitzsimmons Woods and the Carity Prairie, both in Franklin. The organization also has a fourth parcel under a land management agreement. More information on the properties and the organization can be found at [www.mkeconservancy.org](http://www.mkeconservancy.org).

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