

Sunday, October 14th Set for Inaugural “Greenville Greenbelt Day”!

On Saturday, October 14th, 2012, the Greenville Land Stewardship Committee will host the inaugural “**Greenville Greenbelt Day: Your Future Grows Here**” Celebration at Homestead Meadows, W7560 Spencer Road in Greenville, offering hayrides, educational displays, refreshments and family fun. The event will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 PM and will give residents and visitors a glimpse of the unique and vibrant rural culture and agricultural heritage which exists in Greenville’s Greenbelt. The Land Stewardship Committee is also coordinating a poster contest with the local schools to help advertise this event.

What is a Greenbelt you ask? Simply defined, a Greenbelt is a strip of mostly undeveloped land around an urban area that contains parks, farms, and natural areas. For Greenville, this envisioned Greenbelt generally extends across the western and southern one-thirds of the Town (see map on next page) and across some **10,088** total acres of land (**15.76** square miles), most of which is some distance from the current extent of urban development.

Greenville’s Greenbelt is a special area which holds much of the community’s heritage, as well as valuable agricultural lands and natural resource features which are important to the environmental quality of the Town and its residents. These areas were strongly supported by the community in previous planning projects for stronger consideration of efforts that would lead to its long-term protection, while allowing well-planned urban development to continue in the eastern and northern one-thirds of the Town.

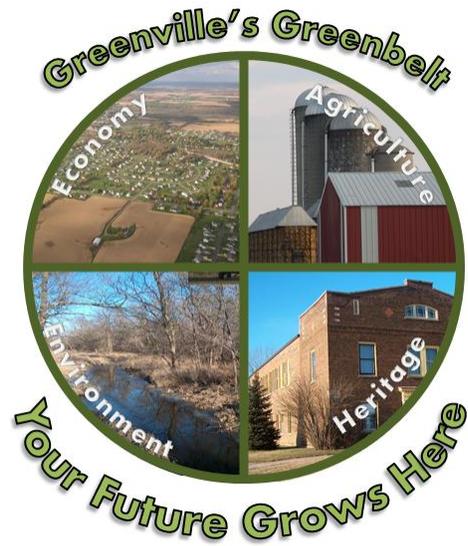
This event will help residents and non-residents learn about Greenville’s agricultural environment and the natural and cultural heritage of the Town’s important rural landscape.

Please join us on Sunday, October 14th between 1-4 PM at Homestead Meadows , W7560 Spencer Road, Greenville for:

Hayrides on the Farm
Educational Displays
Refreshments
Family Fun

DID YOU KNOW?

- In the 7th century, Muhammad established a green belt around Medina by prohibiting any further removal of trees in a 12-mile long strip around the city.
- In 1580 Elizabeth I of England banned new building in a 3-mile wide belt around the City of London in an attempt to stop the spread of plague.
- In modern times, green belt policy was pioneered in the United Kingdom in the 1930s. There are fourteen green belt areas, in the UK covering 16,716 km², or 13% of England.
- Other notable examples are the Ottawa Greenbelt and Golden Horseshoe Greenbelt (Toronto to Niagara Falls) in Ontario, Canada.



DID YOU KNOW?

Within the Greenville Greenbelt boundaries, there are:

- **5,577** acres of agricultural land
- **21** tracts of working farmland (between 80 and 730 acres)
- **17** miles of stream corridors
- **2,072** acres of wetlands
- **867** acres of forested land
- **485** acres of existing residential and non-farm development
- **6** miles of the Yellowstone Trail (www.yellowstonetrail.org)

The Greenville Greenbelt Initiative is a focused effort by the newly formed (2011) Greenville Land Stewardship Committee to build awareness and education on the long-term conservation and land protection needs in the western and southern one-thirds of the Town (see map below). The Greenbelt is an effort to re-connect urban and rural residents with the natural systems and agricultural heritage of the Town's most rural environments. This initiative is designed to work in harmony with both farm and non-farm residents, as well as the varied uses of land that currently exist within the Greenbelt. From a practical standpoint, the Greenbelt has many benefits for the people of the Town of Greenville. The Greenville Greenbelt:

- Harbors a significant amount of economic activity which benefits all Town residents. For example, the many working farms generate jobs, allow Ag businesses like Riesterer and Schnell to prosper and support local Agricultural Cooperatives;
- Allows for a contiguous habitat network for wild plants, animals and wildlife;
- Functions as a filter for rainwater which recharges the local aquifer system and protects drinking water supplies and aquatic habitat;
- Improves air quality within the community;
- Provides areas for walking and biking, thereby contributing positively to the health of our community. Furthermore, it ensures that residents in the urban portion of the Town have access to countryside, with consequent educational and recreational opportunities;
- Protects the unique character and heritage of this rural environment that might otherwise be absorbed by expansive rural residential development, and;
- Focuses efforts on better use of the lands that are identified for future urban development within the Town.

Town of Greenville Greenbelt Area

