



Barrington Area Council  
Of Governments

## **DONALD P. KLEIN AWARD HISTORY OF PROJECT AWARDS**

### **OCTOBER 2017**

**Awarded to: Village of South Barrington**

**Project: Conservancy 2.0 Project**

The village's acquisition and preservation of a 35-acre natural area within South Barrington a dozen years prior was called the "Conservancy 1.0 Project". In "Conservancy 2.0", the village and its Conservancy Commission restored and developed the area by removing invasive species, holding controlled burns, and planting native sedges and wildflowers. Volunteers installed trails and educational pods, and an observation deck was built with local Eagle Scouts. At their own cost, the village installed a new well on the site that is taking real-time water level measurements for the BACOG aquifer monitoring program and offers another opportunity for public education about natural resources. The Conservancy provides the venue for Arbor Day festivities and community events, and it is now a true regional asset.

### **OCTOBER 2015**

**Awarded to: Village of Barrington**

**Project: The Barrington White House Restoration**

The Village of Barrington purchased the historic John Robertson, Jr. house in 2007 as part of its downtown revitalization efforts. Its intent was to restore and re-purpose the architecturally-significant house, make it self-sustaining, and produce a cultural resource for the community. The Barrington project utilized committees of citizens from throughout the BACOG area, who led fundraising, landscape planning, interior design and grant writing. Barrington's White House has been fully restored, with the original ballroom re-established for cultural events on the third floor, a bride's room for weddings and office space for the area's not-for-profits on the second floor, and a community meeting and events space with a catering service area on the first floor. Notably, the White House has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Barrington's White House now provides an historic venue in the downtown area – and central in the BACOG area – for community organizations and for cultural, civic and community gatherings and events.

### **NOVEMBER 2013**

**Awarded to: Village of Tower Lakes and Cuba Township**

**Project: Barclay's Woods Nature Preserve**

The Barclay's Woods project acquired a high value track of land that had been slated for development and safeguarded it as a nature preserve. The area was recognized as high value oak savanna with 100-200 year old white and red oak trees that also contains a high quality creek and wetlands that flow into Tower Lake and on into Wagner Fen Nature Preserve. The project partners and participants included: the two local governments, three local non-profit organizations, and four private contributors. While they encountered many complications working through Illinois laws, intergovernmental agreements, and various local ordinances and resolutions, the parties closed on the property on October 30, 2012. The project has a number of benefits to the BACOG area including protection of 15 acres of high value forested open space and wetlands, protection of groundwater recharge areas that supply our aquifers, and potential space for a future hiking trail.

### **NOVEMBER 2011**

**Awarded to: Village of North Barrington**

**Project: Watershed Best Management Practices Handbook**

The Handbook was created as a guidance document for natural area management and protection of the Flint Creek Watershed. Several of BACOG's member municipalities and townships are located within the watershed. Before development, the Flint Creek Watershed was dominated by prairies, savannas, forests, marshes, wet meadows and other mature native plant communities. By 2011, many of the native plant communities had been replaced with turf grass and impervious cover. As a result, many of its streams suffered from streambank erosion, sediment deposition, degraded in-stream habitat and poor water quality. The BMP Handbook will help educate various stakeholder groups about the various practices that can be used for restoration and protection of the watershed with pollution prevention, stormwater management, groundwater protection, and stream and surface water protection.

### **NOVEMBER 2010**

**Awarded to: Village of Lake Barrington**

**Project: Open Space Initiative**

Following a successful \$5.5 million dollar referendum in 2007, the Village of Lake Barrington purchased 56 acres of open space. The Open Space Initiative was created to reduce development pressures, evident at the time, and to preserve critical woodlands, historic farmlands, and groundwater recharge areas. The benefits of the Open Space Initiative included preservation of community character, the creation of a community space at the Freier Farm, and securing of bucolic views along Route 14 entering and leaving the Barrington area.