



A Unique Place To Ride

The tradition is older than America, brought here from Europe and continuing today in the Barrington area—one where riders, horses, and foxhounds gather for camaraderie and some welcomed open-air exercise. Youthful teenagers ride alongside seasoned equestrians following the Master of Fox Hounds who leads the pack. For the children who participate, this sporting event fosters dedication, commitment to proper care of their horse, and helps to develop a high level of personal responsibility.

Barrington Hills Farm offers land for “riding horses to hounds” by invitation only. It’s where riders of all ages meet, including members of the Fox River Valley Hounds, Mill Creek Hunt Club, Fox River Valley Pony Club, and The Riding Club of Barrington Hills. Standing watch over the many horse trailers parked for the morning’s ride is the 40-foot tall red brick silo, a beacon of the past. Built in 1895, the silo is one of the oldest of its kind and serves as a monument to the roots of Barrington Hills.

The ride pictured here lasted for an hour and a half, but the set-up and post-ride breakdown efforts add in time to this long-standing tradition. Riders look forward to this sport and the chance to ride at Barrington Hills

Farm where they can experience open fields, rolling hills, and abundant wildlife along the way. Master of Fox Hounds, Tony Leahy, travels to the farm with about 45 foxhound puppies. The puppies have boundless energy and run across the land for miles just ahead of the riders, responding to the Master’s various bugle calls that they are trained to follow.

This summer, riders on Barrington Hills Farm’s acreage were witness to its exquisite 50-acre sunflower crop. The farm’s management is proud to continue the tradition of certified organic farming throughout its 700 acres of pristine farm and grazing land. Numerous plots are interspersed throughout the property, where principles for safe and sustainable certified organic farming are practiced. Last year’s sunflower crop was sold for birdseed while his year’s will be harvested and made into sunflower butter.

As the season changes from late summer to the fall harvest, riding horses to hounds will conclude in late November for the year. A formal Hunt Ball at Barrington Hills Country Club will bring riders of all ages together once again to celebrate their rides of past months, and to look forward to a new decade of equestrian life that in large part is made possible thanks to Barrington Hills Farm. 



www.barringtonhillsfarm.org

Barrington Hills Farm is 700 acres of pristine, undeveloped land located at Haegers Bend and Spring Creek Roads in the northwestern most corner of Barrington Hills. The rarity of Barrington Hills lies in its open space, fresh air, clean water, and abundant wildlife. The land is precious and delicate and in constant need of stewardship to keep it that way.