



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 30, 2026

TO: Forest Preserve District Planning & Utilization Committee

FROM: Jennifer Rooks-Lopez, Director of Planning & Land Protection
Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Presentation and Approval of a Request to Apply for IDNR OSLAD Grant Funds for Site Improvements at Rutland Forest Preserve

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with information to consider applying for an Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Open Space Land Acquisitions & Development (OSLAD) Grant for site improvements at Rutland Forest Preserve in Rutland Township.

BACKGROUND:

Rutland Forest Preserve is a 463-acre preserve in Rutland Township. In 2020, with assistance from Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) the District purchase 172 acres adjacent to Rutland Forest Preserve that included the Rutland Bog. The Bog represents the southern limit of the acid bog community in Illinois, as well as the only community of its type in Kane County.

The Rutland Bog Improvement Project was included as a key project for the 2024 Land Acquisition & Preserve Improvements Referendum. The overall scope includes restoration of the existing agricultural land to prairie and provides the necessary infrastructure to link users from the existing Rutland Forest Preserve to the Rutland Bog. The proposed new trails will allow the public to access the Bog and learn its rich history as well as enjoy the peace of the restored prairie. Additional amenities will include interpretive nodes offering educational opportunities related to the Bog and other natural elements within the preserve, a new shelter, restroom and parking west of the existing entrance, accessible fishing station at the northern pond and improvements to the existing trail at Rutland Forest Preserve.

Staff is requesting permission to apply for the IDNR OSLAD grant to assist with funding the proposed improvements which, if awarded, would reimburse up to 50% (\$600,000.00 cap) for development and engineering.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There are no expenses required to submit the grant application.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Committee approve the request to apply for an IDNR OSLAD grant for the proposed improvements at Rutland Forest Preserve.

ATTACHMENTS:

Rutland Forest Preserve Location Map
Concept Plan