



Operations Department Memorandum

TO: Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director
FROM: Jeremy Jensen, Director of Operations
RE: October 2025 Department Monthly Report

OPERATIONS

End of Fall, Preparing for Winter

As the seasons shift to the cooler weather of late fall and leading into winter, Operations turn their attention to preparing for the upcoming winter months. Sledding hills are mowed in October when the weather has not shifted to the cold and wet weather of November. The District has now expanded to five sledding hills, located at Brunner Family Forest Preserve, Campton Forest Preserve, Fabyan Forest Preserve, Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve, and Oakhurst Forest Preserve. Each hill is a little different and may require additional safety measures such as signage, straw bale barriers, and/or snow fencing to designate walkways. The Great Western Trail is open for snowmobile use during the winter, when conditions are appropriate. As a protective measure to several wooden bridges along that trail, thick rubber mats are also installed over the wood decking.

October also brought the end of the 2025 camping season. Water lines were cleared and bathrooms winterized at the Big Rock Campground and Paul Wolff Campground, utilizing compressed air and RV antifreeze are used to protect the amenities from the freezing winter temperatures.

The Schweitzer Woods is having a new trail installed by the Park District which was a good chance for the sign department to pull the Schweitzer sign and give it a fresh look before it gets installed in a new location.

Cooperative Trail Usage

The District recently initiated a project working with the local equestrian community to promote trail courtesy and etiquette on preserve trailways. Many preserves have multi-use trails that support a variety of activities, including hiking, bicycling and horseback riding. In the interest of keeping everyone safe where these activities



Staff mowing the hills that will be set up for winter sledding.



New and improved fuel system was set up last month.

interact, signage was designed to be installed in key locations to recognize the variety of recreational options and encourage cooperative trail use.

The 12" x 12" signage was designed and manufactured in-house to facilitate District needs and installed by staff, with locations selected to take advantage of existing signposts but still reach the majority of trail users. By doing so, staff felt they were able to minimize the use of materials, update some outdated signage and avoid the perception of sign pollution in areas meant to remain natural. The new signage has been installed at Campton Forest Preserve and Burnidge Forest Preserve.

Trucks and Fuel

Fleet took delivery of 3 trucks for the District this month. One 2025 Ford Ranger 4x4 for Administration and for Operations department two identical 2025 Ford F-450 dump trucks equipped with plows and salt spreaders for winter operations which are just around the corner. All three vehicles were delivered to Campton Forest Preserve, where they received an inspection and District decals before being placed in use.

Required trucks and trailers were certified through the State Safety Test lane in partnership with KDOT in October. This success is due to a team effort and accurate communication between multiple District departments along with our great working relationship with Kane County Department of Transportation. These trucks and trailers are mandated to be tested every 6 months and due next in April 2026. Timing of the testing is a critical component as most trucks receive snowplow and salt spreader installation immediately following the October certification. That winter equipment is then removed prior to April for the following inspection.

October marked the completion of the Districts' first complete fuel system upgrade. After over 25 years of use, the old system has been replaced throughout all 6 fueling sites, which are located at Campton Forest Preserve, Duerr Forest Preserve, Fabyan Forest Preserve, Grunwald Forest Preserve, and Mill Creek Greenway Forest Preserve.



Signage was installed at various preserves to improve safety on the trails.