



## Planning & Land Management Department Memorandum

TO: Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director  
FROM: Patrick Chess, Director of Natural Resources  
RE: August 2025 Department Monthly Report

### LAND MANAGEMENT

#### NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

##### ***Restoration***

###### Weed Management

Staff continued to focus primarily on Chemical Weed Management at nearly every preserve in August, totaling over 400 hours. Target species this last month were purple loosestrife, teasel, and common reed.

###### Seed Harvesting

Seed collection continues with many species including golden Alexanders, prairie cinquefoil, and pale purple coneflower. Weekly volunteer seed collections continued this month and were held at Dick Young, Muirhead Springs, and Prairie Kame Forest Preserves. We have about 20 regular volunteers and several partner agencies that come out every Wednesday to assist us with seed collection. Additionally, staff added over 120 hours of harvesting native seed.

###### Mechanical Weed Control

Staff finished efforts to control annual and biennial weeds utilizing tractors with large 15' mow decks. This month the target species was primarily giant ragweed.

##### ***Wildlife***

###### Turtle Conservation

In August the Blanding's turtle eggs being incubated by District staff hatched, yielding 121 hatchlings. Thirty-five turtles were released back into the wild, shortly after hatching. The remainder were kept for the District's first attempt at large-scale head-starting. The hatchlings will be raised in our lab until Spring 2026. They will attain a larger size and have a significantly higher survival rate than direct-released hatchlings.



*Blanding's turtle hatchling emerging from its egg.*



## Department Memorandum

August Report

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### Fish & Mussel Surveys

FPD DuPage County staff assisted FPD Kane wildlife staff with fish surveys at Muirhead Springs F.P. This survey was to determine if post-mitigation standards have been met in the streambank mitigation project area. This survey resulted in the identification of 514 fish from 15 species versus the 30 fish from 9 species in the pre-mitigation survey.

District staff completed a post-construction survey for mussels in the LeRoy Oakes pedestrian bridge project area. Two species of mussel were observed.

### Deer Management Program

A total of 72 hunters have been selected for the District's 2025-2026 Deer Management Program. In August, each selected hunter completed an archery proficiency test and attended the mandatory hunter safety training presentation, both are required for all participants.



*District and FPDDC staff conducting a fish survey in Pingree Creek at Muirhead Springs F.P.*



*District staff conducted a mussel survey in Ferson Creek following bridge construction.*