



FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF KANE COUNTY
2015 Comprehensive Master Plan
Reconnecting Residents with Nature

2024 UPDATE





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It is my pleasure to present this fifth and final update to the Forest Preserve District of Kane County's 2015 Comprehensive Master Plan. Looking back at this plan and subsequent updates, many projects have been successfully completed, some have been postponed until more favorable conditions exist, and many projects that did not appear in these pages have nonetheless been successfully brought to fruition. It's clear to me that adaptability has long been a part of carrying out long-term projects within the forest preserves.

Prior to taking on my current role at the District, I served as our Director of Natural Resources for seven years. I often compared running that operation akin to running a factory without a roof. Your best-laid plans can immediately be voided by the weather. Mother Nature always has the final say for the plan of the day. The key to success there was adaptability, and scaling that practice to the District as a whole, will continue to be the best way for us to convert plans to completed projects.

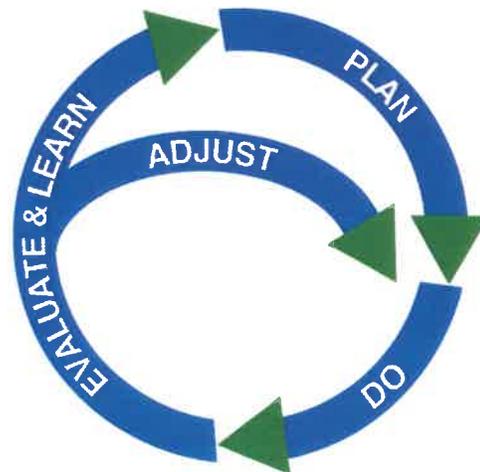
This mindset of malleability with long-term plans has been formalized into an "Adaptive Management" strategy and is "an intentional approach to making decisions and adjustments in response to new information and changes in context." It is a way to plan for an uncertain future with the goal of reducing that uncertainty. It's not about changing goals, but changing methods of achieving goals, as the situation on-the-ground changes.

The Forest Preserve District will continue to oversee public lands on behalf of the people of Kane County. We will continue to deliver our three-pillared mission of **Conservation** of our grasslands, woodlands and wetlands; **Education** of the importance and imperiled status of these resources; and providing passive **Recreation** opportunities, accessible to all of our residents, in full awareness that nature is for everyone.

The next iteration of our District's 10-year strategy, our 2035 Plan, is already being written. I encourage readers to keep an eye out on our social media outlets to see how they can be a part of this process and begin planning the 2nd Century of Conservation in Kane County.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Haberthur
Executive Director



Basic Concept of Adaptive Management

New Capital Projects

2024 Updates to the *Comprehensive Master Plan*

1. Gunnar Anderson Forest Preserve – Geneva Creek Stream Bank & Channel Improvements
2. Johnson’s Mound Forest Preserve – 100th Anniversary Improvements
3. Rutland Forest Preserve – OSLAD Grant: Cohesive Enhancements & Restoration
4. Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve – Limestone Trail Restoration: Potential RTP Grant
5. Glenwood Park Forest Preserve – Asphalt Safeguarding & Resurfacing Project
6. Mill Creek Forest Preserve – Brundidge Barn Stabilization & Safeguarding
7. Agency-wide Bridges – Repairs Prioritized by 2024 Assessment Update Phase II
8. Bliss Woods Forest Preserve – Maple Esker Woodland Project
9. Sauer Family-Prairie Kame Forest Preserve – Grasshopper Sparrow Prairie Restoration
10. Fox River Trail – Renovation & Resurfacing Engineering
11. To-Be Determined Preserve – 2024/25 OSLAD Grant Request
12. Les Arends Forest Preserve - Asphalt Resurfacing & ADA Compliance
13. District-wide Trail Improvements – Smooth Ride Project
14. Tyler Creek Forest Preserve – Amenity Upgrades
15. Fox River Shores Forest Preserve – Fox River Fen Restoration
16. Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve – Gravel to Asphalt Improvements: Bison Project
17. Elburn Forest Preserve – Grand Trillium Woodland Project
18. Rutland Forest Preserve – Redevelopment of Closed-Loop Trail: Rutland Walkabout Project
19. Schweitzer Woods Forest Preserve – Pothole Marsh & Woods Restoration

Fund Balances

General Fund

As of 6/30/2023	\$ 10,327,399
Transfer to Wetland Mitigation Bank FY24	\$ (1,600,000)
Six Months of Reserves	\$ (5,496,353)
Remaining Balance	\$ 3,231,047

IMRF Fund \$ 218,138

Insurance Liability Fund \$ 147,092

Social Security Fund \$ 189,961

Land Acquisition Fund

As of 10/31/2023	\$ 8,570,260
Non-Referendum Money	\$ 5,209,373
2017B Taxable Money	\$ 3,360,886

Construction & Development Fund

Available Cash Analysis

	FY2024		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
Current Cash Balance as of 10/31/23	\$ 9,763,975	Beginning Cash From Prior Year	\$ 3,055,788	\$ 902,332	\$ (4,470,404)
Existing Outstanding Projects	\$ (9,869,916)	New Projects	(3,804,340)	(7,301,575)	(8,548,155)
Available Funds	\$ (105,942)	Available Funds	\$ (748,552)	\$ (6,399,243)	\$ (13,018,559)
2017 Referendum Funds	\$ 4,286,719				
Non-Referendum Funds	\$ 5,477,255				
<u>Potential Future Revenues - Grants</u>		<u>Potential Future Revenues - Grants</u>			
Carpentersville Dam Grant Revenue (net)	1,674,078	Big Rock Forest Preserve RTP (FY25)	200,000		
Bison Fence at Burlington FP Riverboat	90,100	Mill Creek Archery Range OSLAD (FY26)		600,000	
Hoscheit Woods FP Bumblebee DCEO	200,000	Jon J. Duerr OSLAD (FY26)		400,000	
Raymond Street CMAQ/ITEP	146,212	Migratory Bird Habitat Fabyan FP DCEO (FY25)	322,546		
		LeRoy Oakes RTP (FY25)	179,500		
		Windmill Renovations DCEO (FY26)		700,000	
Future Grant Revenue	\$ 2,110,390	Future Grant Revenue	\$ 702,046	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -
<u>Recurring Revenues</u>		<u>Recurring Revenues</u>			
Property Taxes	\$ 112,000	Property Taxes	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000
Golf Course Revenue	\$ 312,500	Golf Course Revenue	\$ 320,000	\$ 330,000	\$ 330,000
Rentals Agriculture	\$ 486,839	Rentals Agriculture	\$ 486,839	\$ 486,839	\$ 486,839
Investment Income	\$ 140,000	Investment Income	\$ 30,000	-	-
Total	\$ 1,051,339	Total	\$ 948,839	\$ 928,839	\$ 928,839
Money Available for New Projects	\$ 3,055,787.52	Estimated Ending Cash Balance	\$ 902,332.02	\$ (4,470,403.98)	\$ (12,089,719.98)

Land Acquisition Fund

October 2023

PRIOR PURCHASES:

Township	Description	Preserve Name	Bonds	Date	Acres	Price Per Acre	Donated Value	Purchase Price
Sugar Grove	Cutsinger	Sauer Family Prairie Kame	2017A	10/6/2017	71.48	\$ 12,088.52		\$ 864,087.66
Burlington	Faber	Cardinal Creek	2017A	11/15/2017	12.25	\$14,363.35		\$ 175,951.06
Big Rock	Baldrige- Huiner Holdings LLC	Needham Woods	2017A	11/28/2017	28.40	\$12,491.75		\$ 354,765.76
Big Rock	Baldrige- Ernest & Martha Baldrige	Needham Woods	2017A	11/28/2017	28.44	\$12,524.41		\$ 356,194.08
Big Rock	Baldrige- Anderson/Dearvil etc.	Needham Woods	2017A	11/28/2017	28.40	\$10,252.69		\$ 291,176.32
Rutland	Lueth Property	Binnie Woods	2017A	12/7/2017	82.66	\$12,494.41		\$ 1,032,788.06
Plato	Chicago Title Land Trust Co.	Muirhead Springs	2017A	12/15/2017	53.18	\$11,947.62		\$ 635,374.65
Aurora	Strzelecki Property	Oakhurst	2017A	12/21/2017	4.69	\$67,770.10		\$ 317,841.79
Blackberry	Cloonara-Hughes Property	Johnson's Mound	2017A	12/29/2017	150.38	\$33,795.18		\$ 5,082,119.78
Blackberry	Cloonara-Hughes Property	Johnson's Mound	N/A	12/29/2017	61.67	\$34,052.21	\$ 2,100,000.00	
Elgin	Edwards Property Donation		N/A	12/4/2017	25.74	\$20,000.00	\$ 514,800.00	
Plato	Winkleman	Bowes Creek Woods	2017A	1/12/2017	55.60	\$12,527.93		\$ 696,552.97
Burlington	Lenkaitis Property	Cardinal Creek	2017B	1/26/2017	120.92	\$12,816.43		\$ 1,549,762.44
St Charles	Imhoff/ Kelley Property	LeRoy Oakes	2017A	2/8/2017	22.24	\$7,030.70		\$ 156,362.77
Plato	Butts Family Farm	Muirhead Springs	2017B	3/15/2017	110.84	\$11,770.52		\$ 1,304,644.14
Aurora	Chicago Premium Outlets		N/A	2/16/2018	75.00	\$5,000.00	\$ 375,000.00	
Big Rock	Baumez	Big Rock	2017A	3/28/2018	82.77	\$12,135.40		\$ 1,004,446.82
St Charles	THG Properties LLC	Ferson Creek	2017A	5/24/2018	17.00	\$14,394.13		\$ 244,700.19
Dundee	Meadowdale	Raceway Woods	2017A	6/27/2018	7.00	\$71,551.10		\$ 500,857.71
Dundee	Urban Property	Fox River Shores	2017A	7/26/2018	0.24	\$72,583.88		\$ 17,420.13
Dundee	Bischof Property	Fox River Shores	2017A	7/26/2018	0.26	\$143,655.54		\$ 37,350.44
Rutland	Plote Property	Binnie Woods	2017A	7/26/2018	1.35	\$12,993.36		\$ 17,541.03
Saint Charles	Riemer Property near mission hills	Ferson Creek	2017A	8/13/2018	60.00	\$12,947.43		\$ 776,846.00
Dundee	Unimproved Besinger Properties	Raceway Woods	2017A	8/15/2018	86.00	\$20,805.17		\$ 1,789,244.56
Batavia	Basler Property Montesorri School	Glenwood	2017A	8/8/2018	1.92	\$20,512.50		\$ 39,384.00
Plato	Roberts-Huerth Trust & Vogel Trust	Muirhead Springs	2017A	10/25/2018	81.18	\$11,224.06		\$ 911,169.38
Plato	Roberts-Huerth Trust & Vogel Trust	Muirhead Springs	2017B	10/25/2018	79.86	\$11,223.99		\$ 896,347.74
St Charles	Conserv. Found. Pheasant Meadows	Fox River Bluff	2017A	11/29/2018	12.50	\$1,425.34		\$ 17,816.78
Dundee	Conserv. Found. Holzer Property	Helm Woods	2017A	3/6/2019	14.40	\$2,946.50		\$ 42,429.58
Elgin	Siljestrom Property	Bowes Creek Woods	2017A	4/4/2019	23.00	\$17,344.01		\$ 398,912.12
Campton	Hawkins	Campton Forest Preserve	2017A	5/29/2019	60.16	\$19,987.06		\$ 1,202,421.47
Big Rock	Gwinn Oakes	Big Rock	2017A	6/28/2019	113.00	\$10,611.19		\$ 1,199,065.01
Rutland	County Red Slips	Freeman Kame	2017A	8/27/2019	0.60	\$853.33		\$ 512.00
Dundee	Spiegler Trust	Sleepy Hollow Ravine	2017A	11/15/2019	7.25	\$20,785.34		\$ 150,693.70
Rutland	Stade Property	Binnie Forest Preserve	2017A	12/13/2019	67.73	\$14,988.21		\$ 1,015,151.62
Rutland	Johnson Little Acres	Freeman Kame	2017A	1/13/2020	11.37	\$3,963.59		\$ 45,066.07
Rutland	Belom Property	Binnie Forest Preserve	2017A	1/31/2020	100.00	\$11,990.98		\$ 1,199,097.70
Big Rock	Shaw Property	Prairie Kame-Sauer Family	2017A	5/13/2020	118.35	\$10,869.71		\$ 1,286,430.75
Sugar Grove	Knierim Property- Nickels Farm	Hannaforde Woods	2017A	8/12/2020	13.18	\$19,126.66		\$ 252,089.41
Campton	Tangalos Property	Great Western Trail	2017A	8/17/2020	56.36	\$8,877.64		\$ 500,343.58
Elburn	Sisko Property	Grunwald Farms	2017A	8/20/2020	11.70	\$29,986.90		\$ 350,846.73
Elburn	Urich Property	Johnson's Mound	2017A	10/29/2020	24.98	\$25,590.15		\$ 639,242.01
Rutland	Harrigan Farm / Rutland Farm LLC	Rutland Forest Preserve	2017A	12/16/2020	172.52	\$14,970.44		\$ 2,582,684.49
Aurora	Sanchez Property	Oakhurst Forest Preserve	2017A	12/1/2020	0.29	\$37,534.79		\$ 10,885.09
Rutland	Kane County, As Trustee	Freeman Kame- Meagher	2017A	1/20/2021	0.81	\$632.10		\$ 512.00
St Charles	Kane County, As Trustee	Riverbend St. Charles	2017A	1/20/2021	0.12	\$4,266.67		\$ 512.00
St Charles	Kane County, As Trustee	Riverbend St. Charles	2017A	1/20/2021	0.05	\$10,240.00		\$ 512.00
Rutland	Reedy Property	Binnie Forest Preserve	2017A	6/30/2021	79.54	\$17,876.10		\$ 1,421,775.52
Aurora	Hoffer Living Trust	Oakhurst Forest Preserve	2017A	3/24/2022	0.17	\$27,802.00		\$ 4,726.34
Batavia	Reckinger Property	Dick Young Forest Preserve	2017A	6/1/2022	21.84	\$11,071.61		\$ 241,792.92
Big Rock	Breon Property	Big Rock Forest Preserve	2017A	7/27/2022	49.68	\$13,495.67		\$ 670,438.02
Hampshire	Colby/Scarpelli Property	Hampshire South Forest Preserve	2017A	11/14/2022	30.68	\$14,203.06		\$ 435,749.93
Hampshire	Doetsch Property	Hampshire South Forest Preserve	2017A	11/23/2022	99.65	\$13,933.48		\$ 1,388,457.10
Batavia	Dow Property	Dick Young Forest Preserve	2017A	2/8/2023				\$ 461,328.14
Batavia	Dow Property	Dick Young Forest Preserve	2017B	2/8/2023	23.80	\$20,138.02		\$ 17,956.70
St Charles	County Red Slips - Watseka Ave			2/13/2023	0.09	\$5,688.89		\$ 512.00
Plato	Neville Property	Stony Creek	2017B	4/28/2023	52.15	\$20,709.61		\$ 1,080,005.93
Blackberry	Norris Property	Lake Run FP	2017B	5/26/2023	88.11	\$12,500.41		\$ 1,101,411.21
Batavia	Dow (2) Property	Dick Young Forest Preserve	2017B	7/21/2023	94.60	\$13,821.51		\$ 1,307,514.77
Total					2,698.14		\$ 2,989,800.00	\$ 38,079,822.17

AVAILABLE FUNDS:

	Non-Referendum Monies	\$ 5,209,373.28
	2017B Bond Proceeds MM- Taxable	\$ 3,360,886.33
Total Funds Available		\$ 8,570,259.61

Professional Services/Taxes \$ 250,000.00

BALANCE \$ 8,320,259.61

Construction & Development Funds Available

Description	Amount
Total Construction & Development Non-Referendum Funds	\$ 5,477,255.03
2017A- Saint Charles Bank Non-Taxable Funds MM	\$ 4,286,719.49
Carpentersville Dam Grant Revenue	\$ (543,041.80)
Total Development Funds Available	\$ 9,220,932.72

*2017A- Nontaxable

**2017B- Taxable

Construction & Development Fund

Capital Improvement & Maintenance Projects

	Project #	Actual FY21/22	Actual FY22/23	Budgeted FY23/24	Projected FY24/25	Projected FY25/26	Projected FY26/27
NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT							
Dick Young/Nelson Lake Marsh Revitalization	20601	\$ 58,372	\$ 51,528	\$ 34,747			
Vegetation Inventories	20603	\$ 16,256	\$ 15,331	\$ 15,640			
Pingree Grove FP - Wetland	20604	\$ 11,827	\$ 12,139	\$ 365,578			
Fabyan Woods Migratory Bird Habitat	20901	\$ -	\$ 216,881	\$ 372,455			
Hoscheit Woods Rusty Patch Bumblebee Habitat	21001	\$ -	\$ 152,569	\$ 50,731			
Burlington Prairie FP Prairie Pothole Creation	21002	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,000			
Eagle/Turkey Big Rock FP	21003	\$ -	\$ 154,885	\$ 385,000			
Oakhurst FP Teasel Control	21004	\$ -	\$ 13,250	\$ 50,000			
Settler's Hill GC Multi-Year Natural Area Management	21005	\$ -	\$ 59,598	\$ 220,050	\$ 55,000		
Oakhurst FP Multi-Year Natural Area Management	21006	\$ -	\$ 3,203	\$ 11,092			
Fabyan FP Multi-Year Natural Area Management	21007	\$ -	\$ 2,350	\$ 15,705			
Fiddlehead Hampshire FP	21008	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 180,000	\$ 50,000		
Burlington Prairie FP- Bison Reintroduction	21009	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 120,000			
Maple Esker Bliss Woods FP	NEW				\$ 350,000		
Grasshopper Sparrow Prairie - Prairie Kame FP	NEW				\$ 125,000	\$ 175,000	
Fox River Fen - FRS FP	NEW					\$ 300,000	
Grand Trillium - Elburn FP	NEW						\$ 325,000
Pothole Marsh and Woods - Schweitzer FP	NEW						\$ 200,000
Sub-Total - NATURAL RESOURCES		\$ 86,455	\$ 681,734	\$ 1,900,998	\$ 580,000	\$ 475,000	\$ 525,000

Construction & Development Fund

Capital Improvement & Maintenance Projects

	Actual FY21/22	Actual FY22/23	Budget FY23/24	Projected FY24/25	Projected FY25/26	Projected FY26/27
OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT						
Bridge Replacements/Repairs	\$ 5,649	\$ 2,810	\$ 129,648			
10601	\$ 5,649	\$ 2,810	\$ 79,648			
11006	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000			
NEW: Bridge Repairs From 2023-2024 Assessment Update				\$ 125,000		
Infrastructure Maintenance (Includes Demolitions)	\$ 141,818	\$ 40,380	\$ 258,516			
10811	\$ 141,818	\$ 40,380	\$ 36,516			
11005	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000			
11007	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000			
11008	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 72,000			
11009	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,000			
NEW: Demo of Potential New Homes and Structures				\$ 50,000		
Road/Parking Repaving	\$ -	\$ 141,245	\$ 168,000			
11003	\$ -	\$ 60,177	\$ 80,000			
11004	\$ -	\$ 81,068	\$ 88,000			
NEW: Rutland Loop Redeveloped into ADA Path				\$ 75,000		
NEW: Burlington Road and Parking Asphalt				\$ 150,000		
NEW: Les Arends Parking Improvements and ADA Issues				\$ 100,000		
NEW: Glenwood Road and Parking Improvements				\$ 100,000		
Restroom Replacement	\$ -	\$ 31,773	\$ 14,670			
11002	\$ -	\$ 31,773	\$ 14,670			
NEW: Tyler Creek North Shelter and Restroom				\$ 100,000		
Trail Resurfacing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 235,000			
10801	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000			
11001	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 135,000			
NEW: North and South Trail Pavement Work 50/50				\$ 150,000		
Sub-Total - OPERATIONS	\$ 147,466	\$ 216,209	\$ 805,834	\$ 850,000	\$ -	\$ -

Construction & Development Fund

Capital Improvement & Maintenance Projects

	Project #	Actual FY21/22	Actual FY22/23	Budgeted FY23/24	Projected FY24/25	Projected FY25/26	Projected FY26/27
PLANNING DEPARTMENT							
Raymond St. Tunnel	30320	\$ 112,185	\$ 11,389	\$ -			
Settler's Hill GC Improvements	30323	\$ 3,654,137	\$ 504,949	\$ 149,056			
Drainage Consulting & Repairs	30901	\$ 28,101	\$ 4,496	\$ 26,075			
	31001	\$ -	\$ 3,120	\$ 192,920	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
ADA Corrections	30511	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,681			
Great Western Trail Extension	30406	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 327,436			
Brunner/Raceway Woods FP Trail Connection Engineering	30605	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000			
Natural Resources Facility Phase II Building Construction	30609	\$ 49,852	\$ 39,350	\$ 51,188			
Brunner FP Improvements	30902	\$ 10,625	\$ 45,412	\$ 595,725	\$ 50,000		
Jon J Duerr FP Renovation Project	31003	\$ -	\$ 69,381	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 50,000		
Settler's Hill GC Clubhouse, Cart Storage, Parking Lot	31009	\$ -	\$ 307	\$ 150,000		\$ 4,500,000	
Village of Sugar Grove Bridge Engineering IGA	31004	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000			
Comprehensive Master Plan	31005	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200,000			
Fox River Trail Renovation & Resurface Engineering	31006	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,000		\$ 300,000	
Freeman Kame FP- Hunt Club Road Repair	31007	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000			
Chicago Premium Outlets- Berm Stabilization	31008	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000			
Big Rock Forest Preserve Deer Valley Restoration	31010	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,000			
District HQ Assessment & Concept Design	31011	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000			\$ 6,000,000
Blackberry Creek Bridge Phase 2 Engineering & Phase 3 Construction	31002	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000			
Fabyan Windmill Protection & Improvement	31012	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,017,500			
Mill Creek Greenway Engineering & Construction	31013	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,250,000			

Construction & Development Fund

Capital Improvement & Maintenance Projects

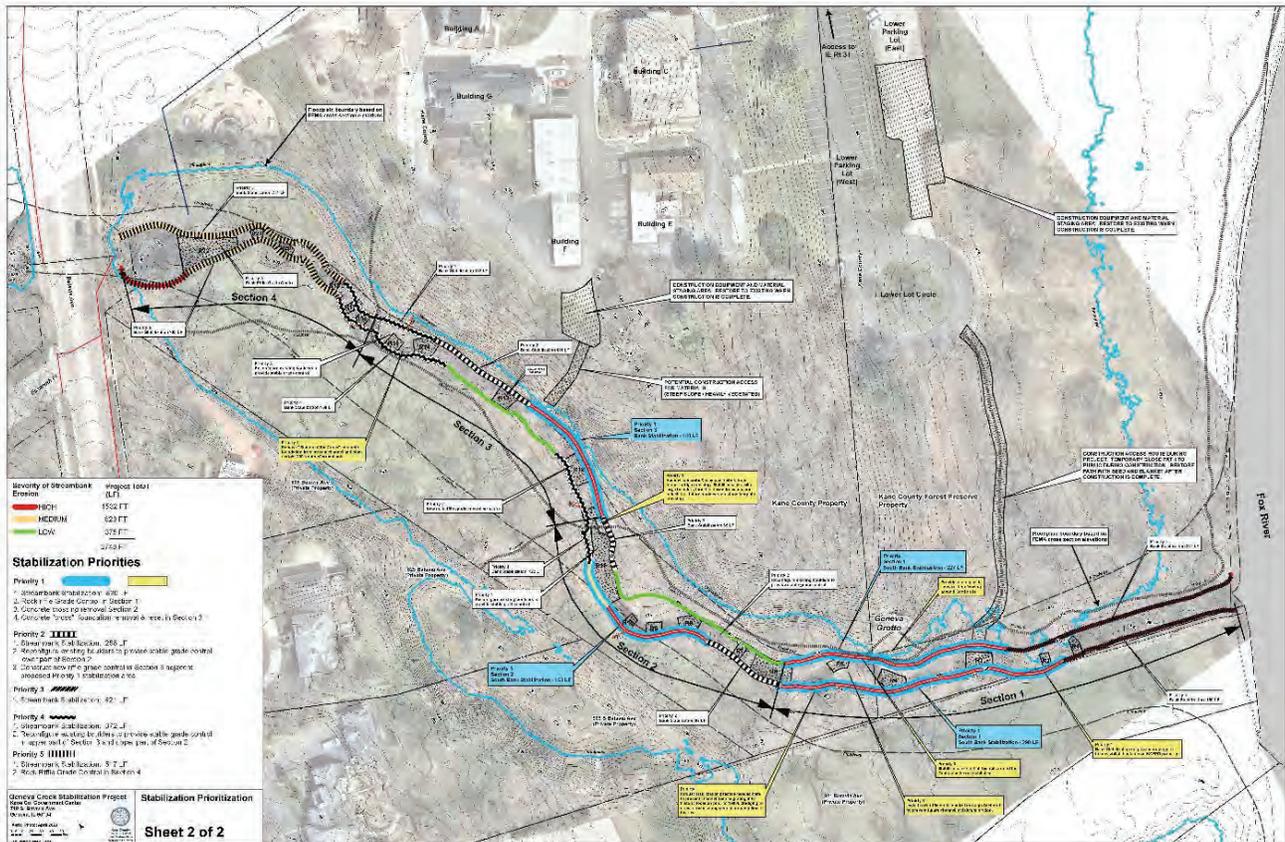
	Project #	Actual FY21/22	Actual FY22/23	Budgeted FY23/24	Projected FY24/25	Projected FY25/26	Projected FY26/27
PLANNING DEPARTMENT							
Big Rock FP Limestone Trail Resurfacing- RTP	31014	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300,000			
Transfer to Wetland Mitigation Bank	N/A	\$ -	\$ 976,963	\$ 500,000	\$ 464,340	\$ 466,575	\$ 463,155
Geneva Creek Stabilization - Kane County	NEW				\$ 50,000		
Johnson' Mound 100th	NEW				\$ 800,000		
Rutland Forest Preserve - OSLAD	NEW				\$ 800,000		
RTP Trails Grant - TBD	NEW					\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
Future OSLAD Applications	NEW					\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000
Setters Hill Ongoing Maintenance (Could put in 01-Operations)	NEW				\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Mill Creek/Brundige Barn Improvements	NEW				\$ 100,000		
Sub-Total - PLANNING		\$ 3,854,899	\$ 1,655,367	\$ 6,620,581	\$ 2,374,340	\$ 6,826,575	\$ 8,023,155
GRAND TOTALS		\$ 4,088,821	\$ 2,553,309	\$ 9,327,413	\$ 3,804,340	\$ 7,301,575	\$ 8,548,155

Gunnar Anderson Forest Preserve (Geneva)

Geneva Creek Stream Bank & Channel Improvements

In the spring 2023, the department of Environmental and Water Resources contacted the District concerning potential improvements at Geneva Creek in the Gunnar Anderson Forest Preserve. The goal of the project is to improve approximately 1,400 LF of Geneva Creek. Currently Geneva Creek experiences severe erosion during moderate to high storm events. The erosion compromises the stability of the creek, the future of the Geneva Grotto and contributes to sediment pollution into the Fox River.

The County and the Forest Preserve are owners of Geneva Creek south of Route 31. The County through the department of Environmental and Water Resources will be the lead in coordinating final engineering and construction including but not limited to, engineering, bidding, construction oversight, and grant management, including making necessary submissions that may be required by future grants. The District will contribute \$50,000 towards the design and installation that will be payable to the County on or after July 1, 2024, as well as the main construction access through the existing path to the Grotto.



Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve (Elburn)

100th Anniversary Improvements

In June 2025, the Forest Preserve District of Kane County will celebrate its 100-year anniversary of preserving and restoring Kane County's natural areas. Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve in Blackberry Township was the very first preserve acquired by the District. To celebrate 100 years of conservation, the Forest Preserve District plans to expand Johnson's Mound by restoring 35 acres of agricultural land to forest and prairie. Additional improvements will include the following:

- 12 acres of tree planting/reforestation, planting 1,000 trees
- 23 acres of prairie restoration
- Shelter and volunteer/donor memorial
- Council ring in the general area of the historic Shabbona Elm
- Additional trails and connections
- Community tree planting
- Historic and educational signage
- Ribbon cutting/ceremony on anniversary date

Forest Preserve District of Kane County Centennial Planning Project
Johnson's Mound F.P.
Option 1



Rutland Forest Preserve (Hampshire)

OSLAD Grant: Cohesive Enhancements & Restoration

Rutland Forest Preserve is a 294-acre preserve in Hampshire. In 2020, the District was awarded a Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant of \$750,000 to assist with the purchase of 172 acres including the Rutland Bog. As a condition of the grant, the District needs to begin implementation of the site plan and incorporate the farm areas into the overall site plan for Rutland Forest Preserve. The project includes new and improved roadway and parking areas, agriculture-to-prairie natural area conversions, improved shelters and fishing access.

The overall goal of this project is to restore the existing agricultural land to prairie and provide the necessary infrastructure to link users from the existing Rutland Forest Preserve to the Rutland Bog, acquired in 2020 with assistance from Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The Rutland 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 new trails will allow the public to access the Bog and learn its rich history. Additional amenities will include interpretive nodes offering educational opportunities related to the Bog and other natural elements within the preserve, a boardwalk platform for viewing the bog as well as fishing stations along the open water pond. In August 2023, staff applied for the IDNR OSLAD Grant to assist with funding the project.

If awarded, the grant will reimburse the District 50% of the engineering and construction costs with a maximum award of \$400,000.



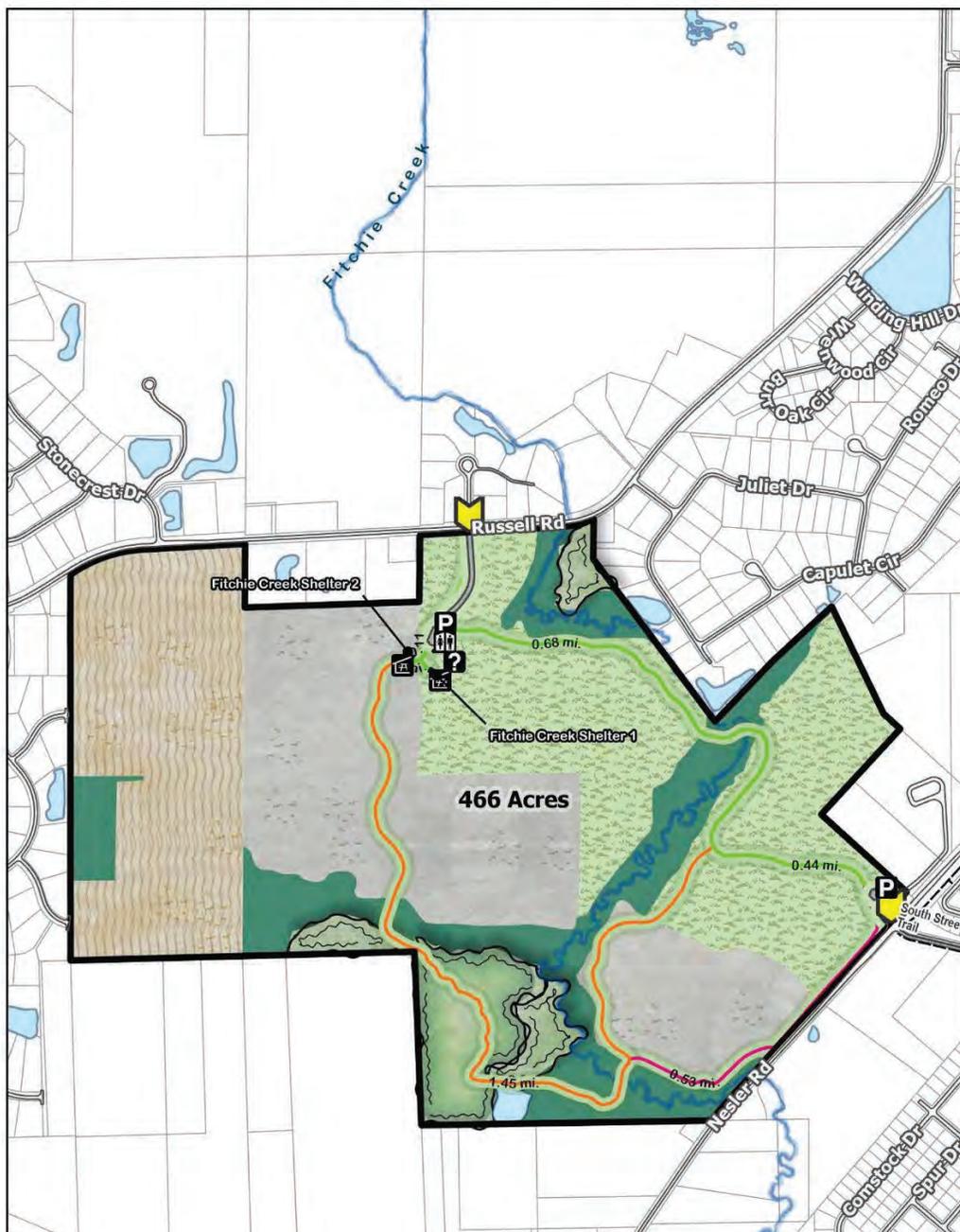
Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve (Elgin)

Limestone Trail Restoration: Potential RTP Grant

The District will seek a Recreational Trail Program (RTP) grant to assist in the restoration of the existing limestone trail at Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve. Sections of the trail, especially that section within the wooded area, experiences significant washout and flooding. The project would include addressing known drainage issues and resurfacing of the limestone trail. The RTP grant, if awarded will fund 80% of the project costs up to \$200,000.00.

Funding for this project will only proceed if the District receives RTP Grant award.

Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve



Glenwood Park Forest Preserve (Batavia)

Asphalt Safeguarding & Resurfacing Project

Glenwood Forest Preserve is one of our most highly used preserves, because of its location between Batavia and Aurora along the Fox River. With its proximity to Route 25, and adjacency to Fox Valley Park District, this preserve has a high volume of visitors. The Fox River Trail that transects the preserve has been recently renovated, and is the lone amenity in the preserve that is not in need of repair.

To increase the safety and experience of the preserve, a significant re-pavement is necessary on the existing parking lot and entrance road. Once the safety concerns are addressed, additional improvements in the preserve are needed, such as replacement of the current Romtec-style pit toilet.

Further investigation of the condition of the paved surfaces is needed, to see what measures are needed to fix the roadway and parking lot. Staff will be submitting a budget fund request of \$100,000 for fiscal year 2024/2025, for this project.



Mill Creek Forest Preserve (Elburn)

Brundidge Barn Stabilization & Safeguarding

Located on the fringe of Kane County's urban and rural corridor, Mill Creek Greenway Forest Preserve (269 acres) houses the District's Natural Resources maintenance facilities. The 62.5-acre subject parcel acquired in 2016 consists of farmland flanked by intermittent deciduous and evergreen treelines.

On March 1, 2023, the District was awarded an Illinois Department of Natural Resources "IDNR" Open Space & Land Acquisition "OSLAD" grant (\$600,000) to enhance this land by introducing resource-based recreation elements that include an outdoor archery range (first of the District's kind), interpretive nature trails, prairie restoration and a potential linkage to a future regional bike trail. A new access road will lead users to a new parking area that will include a shelter and restroom near the proposed archery range and trailhead.

Improvements will need to be made to the barn and the surrounding area to ensure it is safe prior to opening the new improvements. Costs include the demolition and landscape restoration of the abandoned concrete foundations as well as minor improvements to the exterior of the barn.



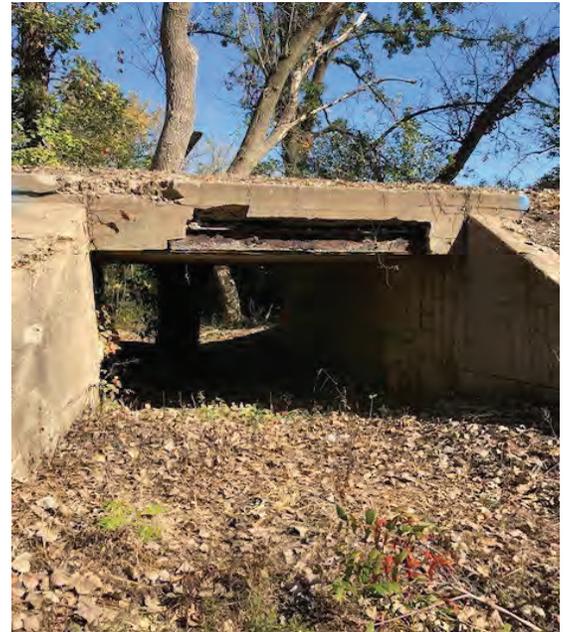
Agency-wide Bridges

Repairs Prioritized by 2024 Assessment Phase II

In 2017, the District contracted Benesch Engineering to assess all of its 78 bridges throughout the county. The assessment report outlined the bridges' conditions and each bridge was prioritized in order of urgency of need for repairs. Over the last six years, the District began to address the Priority 1 and 2 bridges. During that time, the remaining bridges have continued to age and deteriorate, making the 2017 assessment outdated. Additionally, the District has new bridges have been added since the assessment was done, and staff saw a need for non-traditional bridges to be evaluated as well.

In order to solve these growing safety concerns and ensure safe passage for all preserve users, staff is recommending a multi-year plan to make new assessments of the bridges beginning fiscal year 2024/2025.

Staff will be submitting a budget fund request of \$125,000 for fiscal year 2024/2025, for this project.



Bliss Woods Forest Preserve (Sugar Grove)

Maple Esker Woodland Project

The rich mesic woods present at Bliss Woods Forest Preserve contain a canopy comprised of red oak, basswood, and importantly sugar maples. This 235-acre complex now contains a large portion of the remaining timber within Sugar Grove, a community named for the presence of these large stands of sugar maples. The community within Bliss Woods Forest Preserve remains largely intact due to the presence of Blackberry Creek along with the defining landscape feature of the area, the Kaneville esker. This six mile long, 50-foot high esker reaches its southern terminus within the preserve and presented a geology too difficult to farm. As such, the diverse understory flush with spring ephemerals like blue-eyed Mary's and toad trillium is still present and represents one of the pristine examples of a pre-settlement woodland remaining within Kane County.

Currently, that diverse community is under threat from the spread of invasive species and the effects fire suppression on the landscape. Multitudes of sugar maple saplings combined with the increased presence of buckthorn and bush honeysuckle have begun to block sunlight from reaching the forest floor. This project would work to reverse that course of action through the removal of invasive species and the selective thinning of canopy trees to help restore the open woodland condition that was present historically. The cost of clearing combined with additional follow-up work is estimated to be \$350,000.

Bliss Woods F.P.

110 acres



Sauer Family-Prairie Kame Forest Preserve (Sugar Grove)

Grasshopper Sparrow Prairie Restoration

The core of Sauer Family – Prairie Kame Forest Preserve is the titular gravel prairie kame. At about 40 feet tall and comprising about an area of about an acre, the kame rises high above the surrounding landscape. Once a part of the Kaneville esker, much of the remnants of the subglacial stream were mined over time due to their valuable gravel component. This kame however, remains untouched by time and contains a diverse assemblage of dry prairie species, including the locally rare short green milkweed.

Over time, the District has created a buffer of restored prairies and wetlands on site and there are now about 160 acres of restoration present. This area now contains over 120 species of plants, which in turn support the 135 bird species documented from the area. Notable species documented from the preserve include several grassland nesting species such as Henslow’s sparrows, grasshopper sparrows, and Eastern meadowlarks. These species rely on large tracts of grassland for habitat, a commodity that is increasingly rare, especially in the western third of Kane County.

This project seeks to convert 185 acres of cropland to additional restored grasslands. This will more than double the size of the natural area present on site. Plantings will also be catered to increasing plant diversity and structure to accommodate increased habitat for a number of grassland nesting birds. It is anticipated that prairie seed costs will remain at about \$1,500-2,000/acre going forward, resulting in a grand total for the project at \$300,000.

Sauer Family/Prairie Kame F.P.

185 acres



Map Created November, 2023; 2022 Air Photo

Fox River Trail (South Elgin)

Renovation & Resurfacing Engineering

The Fox River Trail provides transportation and recreation options for the hikers and bicyclists in Kane County every year. To provide this service for the public, the District has on-going repair and maintenance activities throughout the trail system. One of the heavily used sections of trail between South Elgin and Jon Duerr Forest Preserve was paved almost 20 years ago and is starting to show signs of aging and is in need of repair.

Funds were requested in 2023/24 to seek a qualified engineering firm to evaluate the trail and provide solutions for the developing problems. Construction of the suggested improvements will need to be budgeted for fiscal year 2025/26. At this time, the expense is anticipated to be \$300,000. Staff will seek grant funding to assist with the anticipated costs.



To-Be Determined Preserve

2024/25 OSLAD Grant Request

The District will seek an Open Space Land Acquisition (OSLAD) grant to provide improvements and restoration at a 'to be determined' Forest Preserve. OSLAD grants typically open in late July and are due in early September. By July 2024, the 10 year comprehensive Master Plan 2025-2034 should be far enough along to provide direction on the next preserve to submit for the grant.

The OSLAD grant, if awarded will fund 50% of the project costs up to \$600,000. The IDNR will reimburse the District one-half (\$300,000) of the grant prior to construction and the remaining grant amount (\$300,000) upon completion of the constructed project for a total grant award of \$600,000.



Les Arends Forest Preserve (Batavia)

Asphalt Resurfacing & ADA Compliance

Les Arends Forest Preserve is a preserve located along the Fox River in Batavia. The Fox River Trail transects the preserve, along with unpaved trails in the floodplain sections along the river. Recent efforts have been made to improve the shelters and the restrooms at Les Arends, and staff recommends addressing the parking lot and roadways next.

Staff will evaluate the pavement, to see if a full replacement is needed or if a grind in place with additional layers could be done. This project will also address multiple non-ADA compliant routes and bring the site into full ADA compliance.

Staff will be submitting a budget fund request of \$50,000 for fiscal year 2024/2025, for this project.



District-wide Trail Improvements

Smooth Ride Project

Annually, the District budgets funds to improve a section of the linear trail system, alternating between the northern part of the county and the south. The improvements generally include repairing and repaving approximately 1-2 miles of trail. Staff is currently evaluating the entire linear trail system, to establish a priority list based on need. Staff is recommending shifting trail improvements from alternating locations each year, to instead focus on addressing trails based on priority, to keep our trails safe for our preserve users.

Staff will be submitting a budget fund request of \$150,000 for fiscal year 2024/2025, for this project.



Tyler Creek Forest Preserve (Elgin)

Amenity Upgrades

Tyler Creek Forest Preserve is a heavily trafficked preserve in a very populated area, that is used nearly every weekend during peak seasons and used regularly even in off-peak seasons. Several improvements have been made to the preserve, including installation of a block building restroom near the southern parking lot picnic shelter. The picnic shelter appears to be the original shelter installed when the preserve first opened, but is in relatively good repair and presents itself with a charm of stone and timber. The northern shelter does not share that same charm, as its frame is nothing of significance and the condition is in a much worse state of deterioration. Additionally, there is only one Romtec-style single-use pit toilet near the shelter with a second identical unit located by an isolated parking lot.

To accommodate the heavy use of the preserve and to increase preserve users' experience, staff is recommending a new shelter be installed and the Romtec-style restrooms be replaced with one multi-user block restroom to be located in the northern portion of the preserve.

Staff will be requesting \$100,000 for this project in fiscal year 2024/2025.



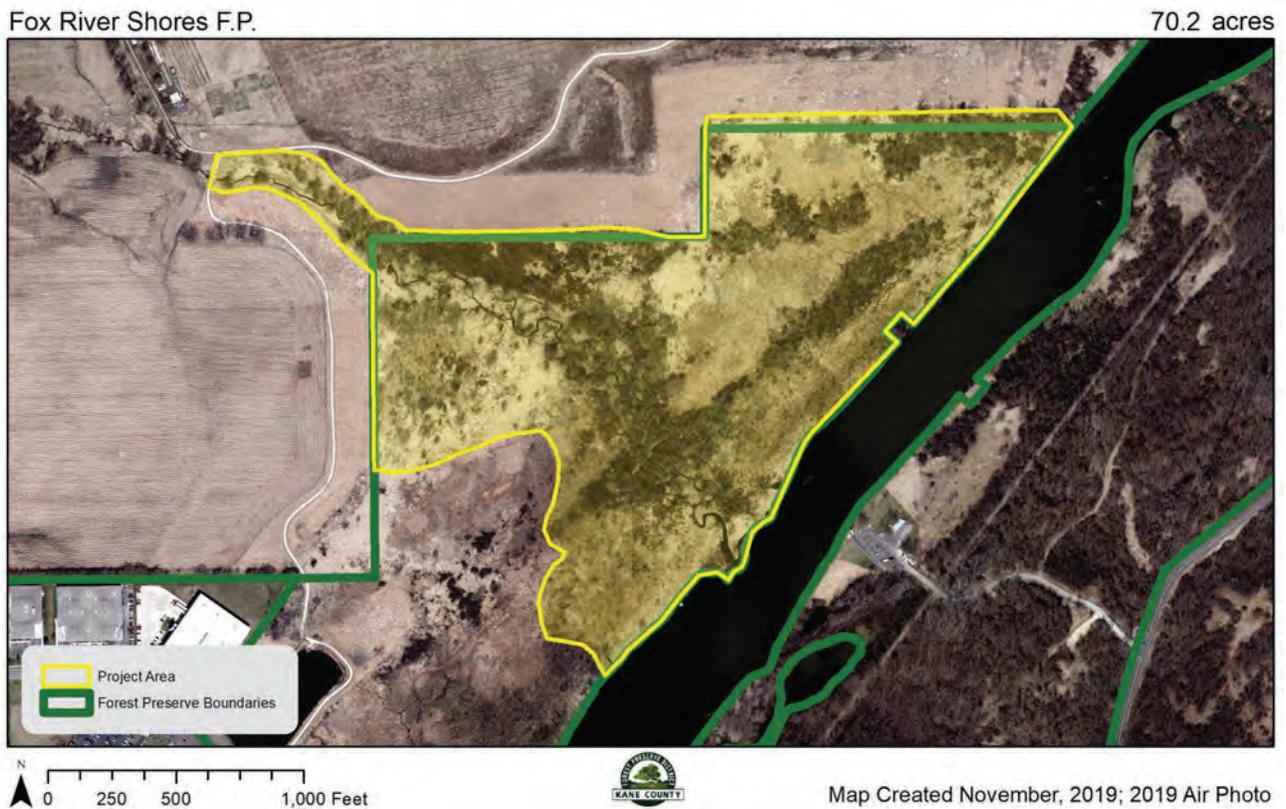
Fox River Shores Forest Preserve (Carpentersville)

Fox River Fen Restoration

Fens are a special type of wetland that occur in proximity to larger bodies of water. In the case of the Fox River Fen at our Fox River Shores Forest Preserve, the fen parallels the Fox River and is fed by groundwater that saturates the area, adjacent to the river. Fens are primarily comprised of grasses and sedges that are different from prairie species in that these graminoids can tolerate calcareous soils and moist conditions, for most of their existence. Fox River Fen is full of uncommon grasses including blue-joint grass, fringed brome and the aromatic vanilla grass. Fens are often treasure troves of

Biodiversity and havens for endangered species. Fox River Fen hosts multiple rare species including the Rusty-patched bumblebee, along with many plants.

Unfortunately, the hydric conditions that have let so many beneficial native grasses thrive at the fen have also proved attractive to invasive Reed canary grass, and to a lesser extent, Common reed. The proposed restoration project would remove/replace these non-native grasses with site-appropriate species, as well as remove the invasive, woody Buckthorn and Oriental bittersweet that have been invading the area, a process that will cost \$300,000.



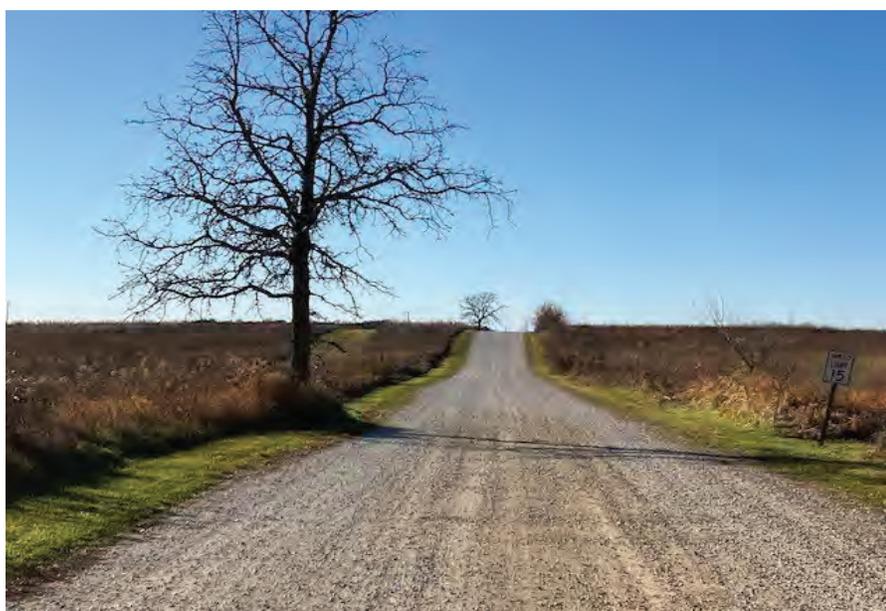
Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve (Sycamore)

Gravel-to-Asphalt Improvements: Bison Pass Project

Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve will be gaining a very exciting new addition in the near future: bison!

This new attraction will undoubtedly dramatically increase the traffic at this preserve. There is currently a gravel road into the preserve, which is not currently suitable to be plowed. Because of this, the roadway is closed during the winter months. This will need to be changed once the bison arrive, so the public and bison farmer have proper access to the road and parking areas year round.

Staff will need to assess the current condition of the gravel road, to evaluate if the roadway might need additional asphalt lifts to stabilize the surface. Doing so would allow the road to handle the increased traffic and would give staff the ability to plow during the winter months, so that we can keep the preserve open all year. For this project, staff will be seeking to request \$50,000 in fiscal year 2024/2025.



Elburn Forest Preserve (Elburn)

Grand Trillium Woodland Project

Elburn Forest Preserve was one of the first natural areas protected by the Forest Preserve District. Purchased in 1928, and long known as Preserve #4, the woods at Elburn Forest Preserve were of a quality to immediately warrant protection. Light use of the land combined with early protection have left all three of the major woodland structural tiers intact. The overstory exhibits great tree diversity with beautiful examples of old hardwoods. The midlayer, typically absent from many of our woods, abounds with native Viburnums, Hazelnuts, juvenile Oak trees, and even a rare native Honeysuckle.

However, the understory vegetation is something really special at Elburn Forest Preserve. Along with true Kane- genetic populations of ephemeral spring plants like Wild geraniums, Jacob's ladder and Jack-in-the- pulpit, the woods also protects the largest colony of large-flowered trilliums (*Trillium grandiflorum*) in Kane County. Structural woodland diversity also brings about avifaunal diversity, and the migratory birds present at Elburn certainly prove the case.

While the woods at Elburn Forest Preserve still have many of the important components necessary for the proper functioning of an ecosystem, it is currently suffering encroachment from non-native woody vegetation. The scope of this project will entail the selection of a knowledgeable tree-and-brush clearing company to conduct the initial removal of decades of encroaching trees. Follow-up will be conducted to be certain that the brush and its progeny have all been removed. Finally, the area will be reseeded, as necessary, after the native seedbank has been allowed to naturally express itself. The estimated cost of clearing, follow-up, and enrichment seeding is \$325,000.



Rutland Forest Preserve (Elgin)

Redevelopment of Closed-Loop Trail: Rutland Walkabout Project

In 2022, Rutland Forest Preserve received a chip and seal, in an attempt to address the failing pavement on the existing road loop, which provides access to all the amenities. During the chip and seal, the plans were to close the loop to reduce traffic along the southern section to only foot traffic. A significant section of the roadway that was converted into a paved trail to prevent vehicle traffic in the loop. The decision to close the loop presented new obstacles, which now need to be addressed. This section of the preserve is not currently included in the Rutland Bog project.

Staff is recommending assessing the trail to address accessibility and safety concerns along this route. Midway through this route is a very attractive vantage point to observe the nesting of many waterfowl within a wetland area. For this project, it would be necessary to reroute and regrade sections of this old roadway to accommodate foot traffic versus vehicle traffic, as well as the ADA issues that are now present.

Staff will be requesting \$50,000 in fiscal year 2024/2025 for this project.



Schweitzer Woods Forest Preserve (West Dundee)

Pothole Marsh & Woods Restoration

While all of the 156 acres at Schweitzer Woods Forest Preserve are under some stage of ecological restoration, the approximate 56 acres that make up the woods on the southwest portion of the site have a leg up on the rest of the preserve. Emily Schweitzer and her family valued the beautiful trees and scattered wetlands in this area, for their intrinsic value.

Because of that protection, wood ducks still fly over Kane County's only remaining population of Dwarf bur reed. Multiple species of oaks persist amongst the Shagbark hickories.

Of course, in the face of invasive species and fire suppression, the woods still need an intervention to maintain what was preserved. This project would remove invasive woody brush from the woods, knock back the weedy Reed canary grass and Phragmites from the wetlands, and then reseed both of these habitats with diverse, native seed mixes. The entire project is anticipated to cost approximately \$200,000.

Schweitzer Woods F.P.

56.2 acres



Map Created November, 2019; 2019 Air Photo



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