



## Planning & Land Protection Department Memorandum

TO: Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director

FROM: Jennifer Rooks-Lopez, Director of Planning & Land Protection  
Zach Tegge, Landscape Architect

RE: November 2024 Department Monthly Report

### LAND ACQUISITION & PLANNING

Staff continues to work with the Land Acquisition Committee on the evaluation and acquisition of properties.

### GRANT PROJECTS



#### CARPENTERSVILLE DAM REMOVAL

In an agreement ratified by the Commission in 2015 and extension in 2018, the IDNR agreed to provide the funding to remove the Carpentersville dam. The dam currently fragments the Fox River by creating a barrier that prevents the free movement of fish and other aquatic organisms, compromises the water quality of the Fox River upstream, and is an impediment to safe canoe and kayak recreational use.

- The dam removal is complete and the parking lot opened to the public on December 3rd. Construction on the boat launch on the east side of the River is expected to begin the week of December 9th and take approximately 3 weeks.

#### JON J. DUERR F.P. RENOVATION PROJECT

improvements to the Jon Duerr Forest Preserve. This project will renovate the existing prairie, parking lots, shelters, restrooms and realign a section of the Riverbend regional trail as well as replace the existing boat launch with a new ADA compliant launch that is able to accommodate small motorized boats.

- Project is near completion, only the handrails to the new boat launch need to be installed. Preserve is fully open.



### **MILL CREEK GREENWAY**

The District was awarded an Open space Land Acquisition Grant (OSLAD) in 2023 for improvements to the Mill Creek Greenway Forest Preserve. This project will develop the 62.5 acres purchased in 2016 with Land Water Conservation Funding (LWCF) by introducing resource-based recreation elements that include an outdoor archery range (first of the District's kind), interpretive nature trails, 60+ acres of prairie restoration, parking, restrooms, and design for a future linkage to a regional bike trail.

- Project released for bid and will be awarded in January.

### **BIG ROCK FOREST PRESERVE LIMESTONE TRAIL RESURFACING**

In 2023, the District was awarded a Recreational Trail Program (RTP) grant to provide a trail connection between the Deer Valley property and Big Rock campground and to assist with the resurfacing of 1.57 miles of limestone trails at Big Rock Forest Preserve. Installed in 2014, sections of the limestone trails, especially in the woodland area are experiencing erosion and are in need of significant resurfacing. The RTP grant, will fund 80% of the project costs up to \$200,000.00.

- Project released for bid and will be awarded in January.



### **FITCHIE CREEK FOREST PRESERVE LIMESTONE TRAIL RESURFACING**

On September 24, 2024 the District was awarded 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, experience significant washout and flooding. The project will include addressing known drainage issues and resurfacing of the limestone trail. The RTP grant, will fund 80% of the project costs up to \$200,000.00.

- The project will begin design and engineering in early 2025.





## GRANT APPLICATIONS - PENDING

### GLENWOOD FOREST PRESERVE

On September 13, 2024 the District submitted a grant application to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant for the Redevelopment of Glenwood Forest Preserve in Batavia. In addition to replacement of the existing shelter and restroom, the existing parking lot and trail crossing needs to be realigned for improved visibility between trail users and parking lot access. Additional amenities to be provided will include a canoe/kayak launch as well as ADA fishing stations and trail access along the edge of the Fox River. The OSLAD grant will reimburse the District 50% of the construction and engineering costs up to a \$600,000 match. The grant application requested the maximum project amount of \$1,200,000.



## CAPITAL PROJECTS

### MUIRHEAD SPRINGS WETLAND/STREAM MITIGATION BANK PROJECT

In 2017, the District began planning to restore over 200 acres of wetland at Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve as part of a wetland mitigation bank. V3 Companies was chosen and approved to be the consultant for this project. Staff and V3 met on-site to review the site conditions.

- Staff met with V3 in October, to review the project to date and begin incorporation and planning for the Adaptive Management plan to allow credits for shore bird habitat.



### BRUNNER FAMILY & BUFFALO PARK FOREST PRESERVES IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

The District has been working closely with the Kane County Division of Transportation (KDOT) regarding various enhancements to these Preserves associated with the Longmeadow Road improvements. The improvements will include construction of a shelter, bathroom, trail connection from northerly parking lot to shelter/bathroom parking lot, existing gate upgrades, and converting various areas of limestone



trails to asphalt surfaces including required drainage improvements.

- Project completed and the parking lot is fully open again.

## **MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES**

- November 20 – Planning staff attended a transition coordination meeting at Hughes Creek Golf Course between Golf Visions and LGM. LGM will officially begin operations on January 1.
- November 14 – Planning Staff presented Carpentersville Dam progress to date to the Kane County Advisory Council.
- November 15 – Planning Staff attended the Kane County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting.
- November 21 – Planning Staff attended a meeting with KDOT to discuss improvements at Fabyan, 31 and 25 that will include additional ROW from the District.
- Various encroachments along the Fox River Trail in Batavia and St. Charles. Investigation of multiple duck blinds in Fox River to determine if built on District land and schedule removal of structures.
- Settler's Hill Golf Course will incorporate "Returning Nines" type of play, and that will involve adding new cart paths on both the east and western sides of the course. Staff will begin design development December 2024.