



## Planning & Land Protection Department Memorandum

TO: Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director

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

RE: September 2024 Department Monthly Report

### PLANNING

#### LAND ACQUISITION

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.

##### *Project Updates:*

- July 2024 – The IDNR formally approved the dam-removal contract on July 2. The Forest Preserve Commission subsequently approved the contract on July 9. The lowest, qualified bidder was HGS, LLC dba RES Environmental Operating Company, LLC. A pre-construction meeting will be held on August 9 and deconstruction is estimated to begin in late August.
- August 2024 – Staff, V3 and RES Environmental met with representatives from Kane DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District on August 26<sup>th</sup> to review the proposed in water management plan, schedule and address concerns. Construction staging will begin the week of September 2<sup>nd</sup>, with the installation of the rock causeway scheduled to begin the week of September 12<sup>th</sup>.
- September 2024 – A Ribbon tying ceremony was held onsite September 4<sup>th</sup> and the first notch of the dam took place the morning of Friday September 20<sup>th</sup> almost a full week ahead of schedule! Due to favorable weather and low water conditions the contractor RES was able to remove the entire 100' long by 1' deep notch that day. A time lapse camera was installed on the gazebo west side and is uploaded to the District's website every evening Monday-Friday as well as a weekly drone flight to document the progress.



### ***Jon J. Duerr F.P. Renovation Project***

The District was awarded an Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) in June 2022 for improvements to the Jon J. 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 Updates:***

- July 2024 – The existing parking lot, bike trail, shelters, and small restroom were removed. Grading and base material were installed for the new roadway/parking lot, shelters, restroom and re-aligned bike path.
- August 2024 – Both shelters have been installed. The realigned paths and roadways will be paved in September, and the new boat/kayak structure will also begin.
- September 2024 – New restroom was installed, and work continues on the concrete ADA-accessible boat launch. Paving of the roadways and new parking lots will begin early October.

### ***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 Updates:***

- June 2024 – Construction documents and specifications are in final review. The project is expected to release for bid on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- July 2024 - Construction documents and specifications are still in final review. The project is expected to release for bid on August 20<sup>th</sup>.
- August 2024 – Construction documents and specifications are still in final review. The project is expected to release for bid in fall 2024.
- September 2024 – Expected to release for bid in late October, and award a contractor at the December 2024 Full Commission.





## CAPITAL PROJECTS

### *Drainage Projects*

The Drainage Committee met on May 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the status of various active drainage projects throughout the District.

- June 2024 – Drain tile replacement and repair at Otter Creek FP out for public bid.
- July 2024 – Hartstrand Water Solutions, LLC was the lowest, qualified bidder for the project.
- September 2024 – Contracts with Hartstrand have been received and signed. The project is expected to start in early October.

### *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.

#### *Project Updates:*

- July 2024 – Plug plantings and seeding have halted for the summer but will resume again in the fall. For now, the contractor is focused on maintenance, management and establishment.
- August 2024 – Staff met with representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) on August 26<sup>th</sup> for the annual compliance visit and inspection. The ACOE representatives were very excited about our progress to date and the abundant wildlife present!



### *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.



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*Project Updates:*

- July 2024 – Contractor has begun excavation of the paths and for the new drainage devices.
- August 2024 – Concrete sidewalk along parking lot and to the new shelter location has been poured. Base stone has been placed for the proposed asphalt trails. Sled hill has been restored with seed and erosion control matting. Drainage and trail grading have started in Area 2.
- September 2024 – Asphalt trails are complete. Shelter construction paused to investigate poor soils. Will need to excavate 3' deeper for all footings. Restroom and shelter expected to be completed in October.