



Planning & Land Protection Department Memorandum

TO: Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director
FROM: Jennifer Rooks-Lopez, Director of Planning & Land Protection
Zach Tegge, Landscape Architect
RE: March 2025 Department Monthly Report

LAND ACQUISITION & PLANNING

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

GRANT PROJECTS

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.

- Contractor submitted signed bonds and insurance. Pre-construction meeting to be held in April.

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.

- Contractor submitted signed bonds and insurance. Pre-construction meeting to be held in April.



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.

- Staff are designing development plans. Project expected to release for bid in April.



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 and V3 are working on the Adaptive Management plan to allow credits for shore bird habitat.



JOHNSON'S MOUND CENTENNIAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

On June 8, 2025, the District will celebrate its' 100-year anniversary preserving and restoring Kane County's natural areas. The first preserve acquired by the District was Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve in Blackberry Township. To celebrate 100 years of conservation, the District plans to expand Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve by restoring thirty-five (35) acres of agricultural land to forest and prairie. A key component to the centennial celebration will be the opportunity for the public to participate in the 12 acres woodland restoration and planting of 800 trees. Trees of various sizes will be offered for public donation that will include a commemorative plaque to recognize the generous donation. Revenue generated from the sale of trees is expected to be over \$170,000 and will be used to help offset the cost of the restoration and improvements at Johnson's Mound. Additional improvements planned include

the following: 23 acres of prairie restoration, Volunteer/donor memorial / Sculpture, Additional limestone trails, Ribbon cutting/ceremony on anniversary date.

- Obsidian Asphalt Paving, Inc. was chosen as the lowest and qualified bidder. Pre-construction meeting to be held in April.

MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES

- March 3 – Planning staff met with Kane County Department of Environmental and Water Resources to review possible Forest Preserve sites to utilize Kane County Wetland Initiative funds.
- March 12 – Planning staff presented the Carpentersville Dam Removal project at the Illinois association of floodplain and stormwater management conference.
- March 13 – Planning staff presented the Carpentersville Dam Removal project at the Fox River Summit in Burlington Wisconsin.
- March 18 – Bid opening for the irrigation well at Settlers Hill Golf Course.
- March 20 – District hosted the Kane Kendall County Council of Mayors Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee.
- Golf Update: March has been a busy month for LGM and the District's two golf courses. The warm weather in mid-March opened the courses earlier than expected, with positive reviews. LGM interviewed and hired a new Superintendent of Golf. Steve Kuretsky comes to the District from Cantigny Golf in Wheaton, where he was the Director of Agronomy.

