



Community Engagement Department Memorandum

To: Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director
From: Laurie Metanchuk, Community Engagement Director
Date: 7/8/2025
Re: June 2025 Report

Public Relations & Marketing

EVENTS, CONFERENCES, MEETINGS & TRAINING

Centennial Celebration: On June 8, approximately 500 residents, volunteers, staff and commissioners attended the 100th birthday of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County. The Centennial Celebration was held at Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve in Elburn, the District's first forest preserve. As part of the celebration, welcome remarks were given by Executive Director Ben Haberthur, who also served as



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emcee, President Bill Lenert and Elburn Mayor Jeffrey Walter. After the welcome, attendees moved to the newly installed public art piece, *Guardians*, and heard briefly from artist Mike Baur. The monuments noting sponsors of the Centennial Grove Project were also unveiled, with many people taking photos with their names. Attendees then helped plant some of the 800 trees that comprise the Centennial Grove. Once, attendees returned to the shelter area, local food trucks were on hand



to serve various refreshments. Musician Andy Camp played for the crowd. The naturalist staff had activities and a hike. It was a great day at Johnson's Mound, and a great day for Kane County. We look good for 100!



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PRESS COVERAGE

We published the following press releases, last month:

- Celebrate the Forest Preserve District's Centennial on Sunday, June 5

The following items garnered press coverage, last month:

Forest Preserve District of Kane County

- Celebrate Kane County Forest Preserve District's centennial on June 8, June 5, Daily Herald
- Controlling Cattails – Kane County Forest Preserve District to Control Invasive Hybrid Cattail Across Six Preserves, June 18, Kane County Connects
- Patrolling the Preserves – Kane County Mounted Rangers, June 23, Kane County Connects

Nature Programs

- Kane County Forest Preserve District to Host 'Wild Boar to Baconfest,' June 12, St. Charles Patch
- 'River magic': Inaugural paddle event celebrates the Fox after dam removal, June 23, Shaw Local

TREELINE NEWSLETTER

Our current print subscribers total 5,407 (+2). Current email subscribers total 15,702 (+3), for a combined total of 21,109 subscribers (+5). As always, free subscriptions to *The TreeLine* newsletter are available at: http://bit.ly/ForestPreserve_Email.

Environmental Education

JUNE SPOTLIGHT

Week in the Woods summer camps kicked off in June. We started with a couple of small groups at the Woodland Wonders Camp at Camp Tomo Chi-Chi Knolls in Gilberts, and STEAM in Nature at Burnidge Forest Preserve in Elgin, and rounded-out the month with a nearly full Art in Nature Camp at the LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve in St. Charles. Campers learned about different animals and ecosystems while enjoying games and crafts.



Week in the Woods: STEAM in Nature

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PROGRAM REACH & REVENUE GENERATION

In-Person Programs	Programs Planned (Monthly)	Programs Completed (Monthly)	Attendance (Monthly)	Average Attendance Per Program (Monthly)	Programs Planned (Total FY)	Programs Completed (Total FY)	Attendance (Total FY)	Average Attendance Per Program (Total FY)
Public	14	14	421	30	157	153	6238	41
School	8	7	120	16	100	94	2,949	31
Scout	0	0	0	0	7	7	100	14
Community	8	6	183	31	59	54	1,670	31
Outreach	1	1	31	31	47	44	2,881	65
Learn from the Experts	2	1	21	21	23	22	604	27
Virtual Public*	1	1	n/a	n/a	9	9	n/a	n/a
Virtual School	n/a	0	0	0	n/a	1	125	125
Program Totals	34	31	786	26	402	384	14,567	39
Nature Center Attendance			1,020				11,466	
Total Attendance			1,806				26,033	
Revenue	\$8,289							

*Note: Only webinars have live attendees.

^Excludes LFE/KCCN partnership revenues.

IN-PERSON PROGRAMS

- Public Programs** – In addition to summer camps, we held many other public programs. Naturalist Josh Libman led a large group of seniors at the monthly Senior Stroll at the Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve ahead of the Centennial Celebration. There were 60 seniors in attendance!

Naturalist Lisa O'Brien took a hike through the prairies at LeRoy Oakes with the *Learn from the Experts: Early Forbs of the Prairie* program. She compared prairie that had recently been burned to areas that hadn't been burned for a couple of years.

At the *Discover Butterflies* program at the Pingree Grove Forest Preserve in Pingree Grove, Naturalist Erica Lemon dodged rain drops with a group to look for butterflies. The group did find multiple species of butterflies along the trails.

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Environmental Education Manager Barb McKittrick joined Rocktown Adventures on a kayak trip. They saw many turtles basking in the perfect weather.

At the first ever El Cardunal kayak adventure, hosted by the Friends of the Fox River, Naturalist Libman taught kayakers about wetland ecosystems and animals found in them.



Kayakers stopping at Fox River Shores during the El Cardunal event

- **School Programs** – As our *Homeschool Hikes* specialist, Naturalist Libman welcomed five homeschool networks (totaling over 80 students/parents) to naturalist-guided hikes at the Fitchie Creek (Elgin), Otter Creek (Elgin), Blackberry Maples (Elburn), and LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserves. Topics included prairie wildflowers and creek walks.

With a summer *Mighty Acorns* program, Naturalist O'Brien met with Sunny Hill Elementary School's summer program at the Helm Woods Forest Preserve in Barrington Hills. They learned how light affects sight with hands-on activities. Afterward, the group caught insects to inspect them up close.

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- **Community & Outreach Programs** – Naturalist Lemon led a *Wonderful World of Insects* outreach program with the Ella Johnson Library at the Pingree Grove Community Gardens. She taught families about insects, focusing on pollinators, and walked through the pollinator garden to find bees and butterflies.

Naturalist Libman and Environmental Education Manager McKittrick joined the Durant House summer camp for their creek day at LeRoy Oakes. They netted many crayfish!

NATURE, VIRTUALLY EVERYWHERE! ONLINE PROGRAMS

For patrons that can't come to the forest preserves, or choose not to gather in groups, the Environmental Education team continues to bring high-quality nature programs to folks via podcasts, live virtual hikes, videos, and webinars. In November, we released:

- ***Participants in our first summer camp of 2025 had a blast!*** - Our Week in the Woods Summer Camps are an excellent way to immerse your child in nature education and outdoor play!
<https://youtu.be/um2YBtw3peU?si=clx1BuPL44TPkqHZ>

Rental Facilities

BARBARA BELDING LODGE AT BREWSTER CREEK FOREST PRESERVE

In June, the lodge hosted three special events and four meetings, totaling \$2,200.

CREEK BEND NATURE CENTER AT LEROY OAKES FOREST PRESERVE

In June, Creek Bend Nature Center hosted a rehearsal dinner and a wedding, totaling \$3,250.



Human Resources Department Memorandum

TO: Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director
FROM: Jennifer Clough, Director of Human Resources
DATE: June 30, 2025
RE: June 2025 Report

Employee Relations, Recruiting and Benefits:

- The District experienced no turnover in staff during the month of May. Interviews with six qualified internal applicants being considered for the south operations Ranger promotional opportunity took place, resulting in an additional Ranger Assistant vacancy after the successful candidate was identified.
- The Department has initiated the recruitment process for three of the newly budgeted positions, Deputy Executive Director, Ranger Assistant at North Operations, and part-time Administrative Specialist with the Police Department, and is preparing for the recruitment of the Human Resources Generalist beginning in July. In addition, the District's Buyer position has been reclassified to an Accountant role to better serve the department's needs, and is open for recruitment. This work has included developing job descriptions, FLSA analysis, compensation grading, and designing recruitment materials for the roles entirely new to the District.
- The annual Open Enrollment process for the benefit year beginning July 1, 2025 concludes during the month of June, with data entry in IPBC's PlanSource benefits platform and the District's ERP New World demanding significant staff time. Communication to staff, specifically related to the reduced employee contributions for quality health insurance and the increase in the District provided life insurance benefit is ongoing.
- The Department continues to support the execution of the District's performance evaluation process, and reviewed draft performance reviews for all regular full and part-time staff during the month of June. The District's process aims to assess and improve employee performance, align individual goals with organizational objectives, and identify opportunities for growth and development. Importantly, this tool is also used to inform the performance-based step increase to eligible employee's compensation, which will be effective July 1.
- Significant projects that continue to progress in the Department include a comprehensive review of the employee handbook, a reimagining of the District's performance evaluation program, the development of a work capacity test pilot program for prescribed burning, and the evaluation of employee engagement surveys.
- Department staff participated in the Centennial Celebration at Johnson's Mound, HR Source trainings on employee engagement and I-9 Audits and the IPBC webinar on GLP-1 plan coverage options.

Safety and Wellness:

There were no worker's compensation claims in June and one vehicle claim for hit and run damage to a police truck. The last employee injury was February 10, 2025.

- The Department continues its work towards goals established in the PDRMA 2025 risk management review, including the District's 2024/2025 SMART goal for an employee Work Capacity Test for Natural Resources staff that conduct prescribed burns. This pilot project is in its final design phase, necessary materials have been purchased, and the program will kick-off in August. The weighted vests being used for the program will also be available to all employees for wellness training.
- The Safety and Wellness Coordinator Delivered 1st Amendment Auditor training to District Office staff. Employees were versed on tips and suggestions to de-escalate and address potential auditors while on district property.
- Staff submitted the annual IPBC wellness plan documentation for payment of the annual employee health screening and also applied for the annual wellness incentive awards for 2025. A summary review of the district's



Human Resources Department Memorandum

annual wellness screening aggregate report was presented to the HR department and trends and opportunities to improve the employee wellness program were discussed with Empower Health.

- The Safety and Wellness Coordinator reviewed mountain bike and trail safety standards with the Chicago Area Mountain Bikers volunteers. New railings were installed by the volunteers on the pedestrian bridge at Raceway Woods F.P.. All work was completed to the new district safety standards.
- Staff reviewed and updated the seasonal/intern employee training requirements for 2025. All seasonal/interns will complete online safety and compliance training in addition to in-person field training. This new format allowed the in-person sessions, which took place during the month of June, to be reduced in length.

Volunteer Resources:

At the time of this report, in June, 444.5 volunteer hours at 45 events were given to the District!

- June was an extremely hot month with real feel temperatures regularly over 100 degrees and several dangerous storms cancelling many outdoor events. Despite the heat and storms volunteer groups like our friends from GiantSteps joined the District at all of their scheduled events in June to help clean up preserves.
- The department hosted 1st Aid/AED/CPR and Bleeding Control class at HQ June 3rd, completing a fiscal year record number of volunteers receiving this critical certification.
- The Volunteer Coordinator hosted the third EST meeting of 2025 and took another load of recycling bringing the annual total up to 130 pounds recycled. They also spoke at the KCCN field trip at Dick Young FP.
- Other successfully events the District hosted in June included the first Fox River Helpers event of 2025. Over 200 l poundsof trash pulled from the trails, shoreline and river!
- The Wilds has been booked for the District's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on September 10th, and plans for the evening are progressing.
- A new volunteer steward has stepped up at Hannaford Woods, and met with volunteer and natural resources staff for a hike and discuss work areas, projects and a first workday. Staff joined three other workdays during the month at Glenwood Park FP, Big Rock, and Fabyan West. In addition, they fulfilled a number of tool and herbicide requests, with many stewards targeting resprouts of buckthorn and honeysuckle.
- The Volunteer office's spring newsletter was distributed to District volunteers in June and is available to others upon request.



Left: Fox River Helpers removed 200 lbs of trash from the Mighty Fox and Jon Duerr FP on June 21st.

Right: NRM Manager Jason, Stewardship Specialist Rachel, and Steward James Cain having a good time hiking and discussing plans at Hannaford Woods.



Natural Resource Management Department Memorandum

TO: Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director
FROM: Patrick Chess, Director of Natural Resources
DATE: July 8, 2025
RE: Monthly Department Report – June, 2025

Restoration

Centennial Tree Planting

To commemorate the District's 100-year anniversary, the District held a large Centennial celebration at Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve. At this event, Natural Resource Management staff helped volunteers plant 500 oak trees to kick start the restoration of the woods adjacent to the first land protected by the District. Tree care for both the volunteer planted trees, as well as 250 larger contractor planted trees is ongoing throughout the growing season.



Weed Management

Staff continued to focus primarily on Chemical Weed Management at nearly every preserve in June, totaling approximately 500 hours of work. Target species this last month were cut-leaved teasel, crown vetch, poison hemlock, bird's foot trefoil, garden heliotrope, and others.



When staff have not been walking the prairies and woodlands spraying weeds, technicians started working their way up and down the county with our 15-foot back wing mowers, knocking down this year's crop of giant ragweed, sweet clover, and thistles.

Seed Harvesting & Planting

Seed collection continues with many species including wood betony, wild geranium, and wild hyacinth. The first seed team of the year will take place in early July.

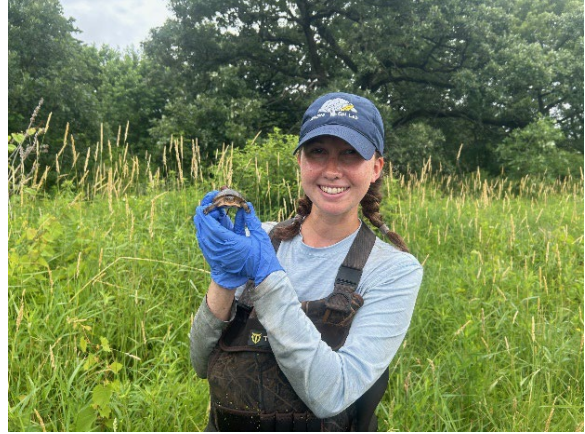


Wildlife

Turtle Conservation and Research Projects

In June, turtle conservation work is happening day and night. During the day, turtle population and health studies were conducted at 5 locations. Painted turtles, Blanding's turtles and snapping turtles were sampled for pathogens by veterinary students as part of a regional grant to study turtle population health in the Chicago region. Trapping efforts have yielded a mix of wild-born turtles and head-starts from previous releases. Staff also observed turtles nesting that were marked as juveniles 5-10 years ago, new turtles reaching adulthood is critical to population growth and persistence.

The night shift has been working diligently to find and collect eggs from Blanding's turtle nests to protect them from predation. The eggs will be incubated by staff and released this Fall to bolster our turtle populations. Staff are currently incubating 149 Blanding's turtle eggs. Lastly, staff released head-started turtles that were hatched in 2024 and kept over the winter to attain a larger size and greatly increase post-release survival.



Avian Research and Training

In June staff conducted breeding bird surveys at Elburn, Burlington, Aurora West, Fabyan and Big Rock Forest Preserves. Highlights have included sighting blue grosbeak, yellow-breasted chat and white eyed vireo. These surveys will wrap up the first week of July. Staff also continue to monitor and band adult and juvenile kestrels throughout the county. As of June, a total of 37 new kestrels have been banded with one Adult recapture. Additionally, staff discovered a successful nest of an endangered bird species at one of our preserves. For now, we plan to keep the species and location private until the chicks are grown.





Operations Department Memorandum

TO: Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director
FROM: Jeremy Jensen, Director of Operations
RE: June 2025 Department Monthly Report

OPERATIONS

Weather Challenges: Summer Storms & Heatwaves

Rolling into the hotter summer months volatile thunderstorms are a common issue to encounter. This month was no different where a handful of summer storms followed by a heatwave have led to an uptick in tree work and trail clean up. On June 8th, a heavy storm moved through the Batavia area causing significant tree damage along the Fox River Trail, as well as Glenwood and Les Arends Forest Preserves. The Batavia spur of the Illinois Prairie Path had damage as well requiring staff's immediate attention. Within the first 24 hours after the storm all trails, roadways, and parking areas were cleared of debris to allow patrons to resume access to the preserves. Staff also responded to multiple requests for tree concerns on properties who shared borders with district property. After the initial cleanup of downed debris, flail mowers were brought out to the bike trail to push back low hanging vegetation that fell in due to heavy saturation.

During the summer months one of the biggest weather challenges is the effects of a heatwave after a period of heavy rain. Once the trees and other vegetation become saturated and heavy, the additional stress from the heat will cause limbs to snap and in extreme cases whole trees to fall over. Operations staff spent extensive time cutting, chipping, and removing downed material caused by the lengthy heatwave. One of the biggest challenges is not just the cleanup itself, but managing staff due to the dangerous health conditions caused by the heat.

Seasonal Staffing Helps Keep the Forest Preserve Looking Its Best

During the summer months, Operations expands their staffing with multiple seasonally-available positions so they can continue to provide quality customer service and properly maintain District properties.

On any day of the week, Ranger Technicians can be seen out in the preserves cleaning shelters and Lodges in preparation for picnics and day camps that occur all summer long. They help keep preserves mowed and trimmed, remove trash along roadways and complete minor repairs to the amenities. All those picnic tables need to be scraped and painted, and if you've hiked along a woodland trail at



Ranger Technician Troiani trimming trees along Hampshire FP roadway.



Landscaping improvements at Jon Duerr FP.



Crew Leader Smith and Ranger Technician Stoecklein putting finishing touches on a new water hydrant at Burlington FP.

Binnie or Campton Forest Preserve, you've enjoyed their work to keep the trees and bushes trimmed back out of the way.

The Ranger Weekend Hosts do much of the same work, but they focus on the weekends, when the preserves are the busiest, to keep facilities safe and clean. After a storm moves through the area, there's always limbs and debris to remove from places like the Fox River Trail and Illinois Prairie Path, and while they're out there, they can answer questions and provide maps for those that have lost their way and need directions.

Each year the District hires a Horticulturist Intern and a couple of Garden Seasonal staff to perform scheduled maintenance of the flower beds in the Centennial and Japanese Gardens and around rental facilities. Annual planting and regular watering and weeding are necessary to keep the gardens in their best shape. Their ambitious project this year is the installation of the rose arbor at Fabyan Forest Preserve.

If you stay at one of the District campgrounds at Big Rock or Burnidge Forest Preserve, you will meet one of ten Attendants hired to work shifts covering seven days a week, morning through evening. They will help you get registered for your site and answer any questions you have about camping, the District or even local destinations and where to find that one item you forgot to pack but just need to have. When not busy assisting customers, the Attendants can be found cleaning facilities, emptying firepits, selling firewood and doing minor repairs about the campsites.

Last but not least, the District has hired a Mechanic Specialist to assist with inspecting and repairing the District's fleet of vehicles and equipment. These fleet services are imperative to keep the rest of District staff on the road, allowing them to support their portion of the District's mission.

Structure and Amenity Work

Six new memorial benches were installed in June, including two benches for the Centennial Celebration. Custom signs for the event were also created and installed to replicate cast plaques that will be installed at a future date. Minor concrete repairs were made to the shelter footings and an emergency sidewalk correction was needed to mitigate a tripping hazard at Creek Bend Nature Center. The South Residence received an exterior face lift and a replacement HVAC system was coordinated with the LGM; and currently in the process of being installed. Structure demolition has begun at Big Rock FP, with an expected completion date in early July.



The main drive hydraulic line on the skid steer failed while demolishing the structure at Big Rock.



Photos of the new siding installed on the Fabyan FP staff residence.

Operations Department Memorandum
June Report

Fleet Management

Regular vehicle and equipment services and repairs continued in June. These repairs included full tune ups, fuel injector replacements, diagnostic of the electrical systems, hub replacements, full brake replacements including brake lines, fuel line repairs, and A/C system repairs.

Fleet also retrieved a skid steer that had a hydraulic line fail while completing work during a property demolition. The main drive hydraulic line blew while staff were using it to break and remove concrete walls and floors in the basement of the property. Rendering the machine unable to move. Fleet was able to assess the line, add enough hydraulic fluid, and with the help of Trades staff building a new exit ramp, to start and quickly drive the skid steer back up to the main driveway for towing to repair.

Horticulture Work

Soil tests on the Arbor to monitor pH, which is strongly staying at 7. The Climbing Roses producing their first flush of blooms and a new sign was installed to gently remind our patrons to not pick the flowers. Dead-heading the roses have been worked into our weekly tasks. Inside of the Japanese Garden work continues with the Geneva Garden Club to add some new perennials to fill the beds and a new *Chamaecyparis*. This is to help bolster the evergreen element throughout the garden. With a lack rain watering and sprinkler rotations have been required, in addition to routine mowing, weeding and weeding activities.



Photos of the work the horticulturalist and crew accomplished last month.



Planning & Land Protection Department Memorandum

TO: Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director

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

RE: June 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 FOREST PRESERVE – OSLAD ARCHERY RANGE AND PRESERVE DEVELOPMENT

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:

- May 2025 – Construction begins as Evans & Son shape the new entry roadway, parking lot and detention basin.
- June 2025 - Evans & Sons experienced staffing issues in June. As a result, construction progress has been much slower than expected. Staff is currently exploring all options to get the project back on track.

BIG ROCK FOREST PRESERVE – RTP 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.



- May 2025- Evans & Son delivered excavator to site. Project to break ground first week of June.
- June 2025 - Evans & Sons experienced staffing issues in June. As a result, construction progress has been much slower than expected. Staff is currently exploring all options to get the project back on track.

FITCHIE CREEK FOREST PRESERVE – RTP 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.

- Design and engineering are expected to begin in later summer. The project is expected to be bid in late fall of 2025/2026 with construction anticipated to begin in early summer 2026.

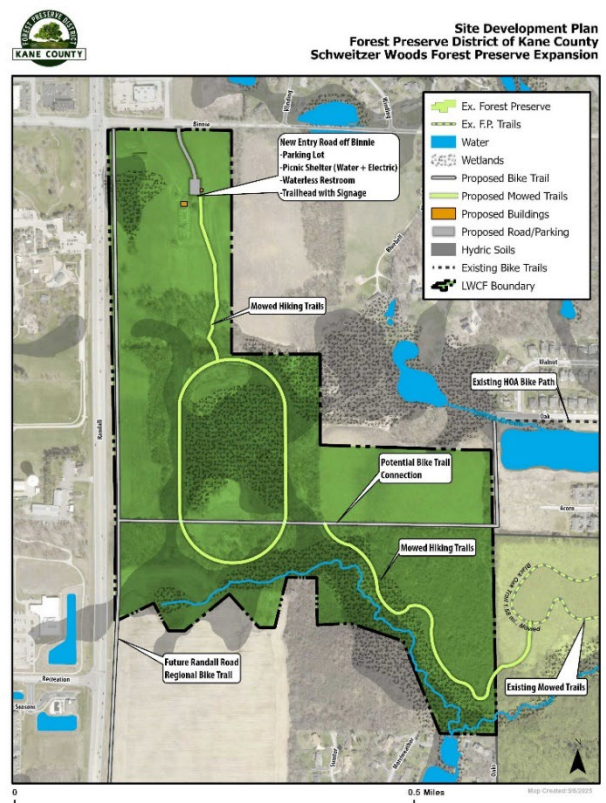


GRANT APPLICATIONS – PENDING

LAND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF)

GRANT APPLICATION- SCHWEITZER WOODS EXPANSION PROJECT.

The Forest Preserve District of Kane County seeks funding assistance through the 2025 LWCF grant cycle to acquire an additional 122 acres of ecologically significant land adjacent to the existing Schweitzer Woods Forest Preserve. This expansion is aimed at protecting sensitive habitats, enhancing recreational opportunities, and ensuring long-term conservation of regional biodiversity. The proposed property lies immediately west of the current Schweitzer Woods Forest Preserve boundary and represents a rare opportunity to secure contiguous natural land in a rapidly urbanizing area of northern Kane County. The land is primarily composed of upland oak-hickory woodlands, open meadow, and seasonal wetlands, consistent with the native ecological profile of the existing preserve. Acquisition of this land will not only preserve these important habitats but will also expand passive recreational access and trail continuity for the public.



- May 9, 2025- Planning staff submitted a grant application for acquisition assistance to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) & Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) .
- June 2025 - No response yet from LWCF concerning the District's grant application.



CAPITAL PROJECTS

MUIRHEAD SPRINGS FOREST PRESERVE - 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:

- April 2025 – Staff, V3 and Davey Resource group met onsite to discuss spring plans. New data tracking monitors have been installed that will allow Davey to track hydrology on a daily basis versus visiting the site to download the data.
- June 2025 – V3 continues management of the plantings. Additional planting are expected in fall 2025.



JOHNSONS MOUND FOREST PRESERVE - 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.

Project Updates:

- May 2025- Sculptures, monuments, limestone trails, council ring installed. Sealcoating, striping and landscape restoration to be done first week of June.
- June 8, 2025 – Project completed in time for the District's Centennial Celebration. Contractor will be back in June/July to complete small punch-list adjustments.

BRUNNER FAMILY FOREST PRESERVE - TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

The Brunner Family (709.22 acres) and Buffalo Park (28.46 acres) Forest Preserves total 737.92 acres, and are located in the northeast corner of Kane County. In 2024, the District completed improvements at the far north end of the preserve. This included a new shelter, bathroom and trail connection from the northerly parking lot to shelter/bathroom parking lot, and a new sled hill. Improvements proposed for 2025-2026 include grading and drainage improvements along the older section of limestone trail and resurfacing the section of asphalt trail.



- May 2025 – Bids for construction were released and are expected to open on June 10th.
- June 2025 – Project release for bid. Obsidian Asphalt, the contractor that recently completed improvements at Johnson's Mound and Jon Duerr Forest Preserve was the lowest responsible bidder. The contract for construction is expected to be awarded at the July 8th Commission meeting.

MUIRHEAD SPRINGS FOREST PRESERVE - WILDLIFE OBSERVATION PLATFORM

Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve contains the first wetland mitigation bank created by the District. The volume and diversity of birds that have returned to this wetland is unrivaled by any previous projects completed by the District. Multiple state and federal threatened and endangered species have been seen utilizing the site, and the word of this success is widespread amongst the “birding” community. As a result, birders have inundated the site hoping for glimpses of these rarities. This increase in visitors to the preserve has created issues with the establishment of the wetland plants required for the mitigation bank. The proposed wildlife-observation platform was included as a key project for the 2024 Land Acquisition & Preserve Improvement Referendum. It includes the construction of a raised observation deck that would be installed close to the water. It would allow visitors of differing abilities access to view the birds and the wetland, without causing damage to the plant community and disturbing the birds’ activities. The District plans to seek funding assistance from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Open Space Land Acquisition & Development grant (OSLAD) which, if awarded, would reimburse up to \$600,000 for development.

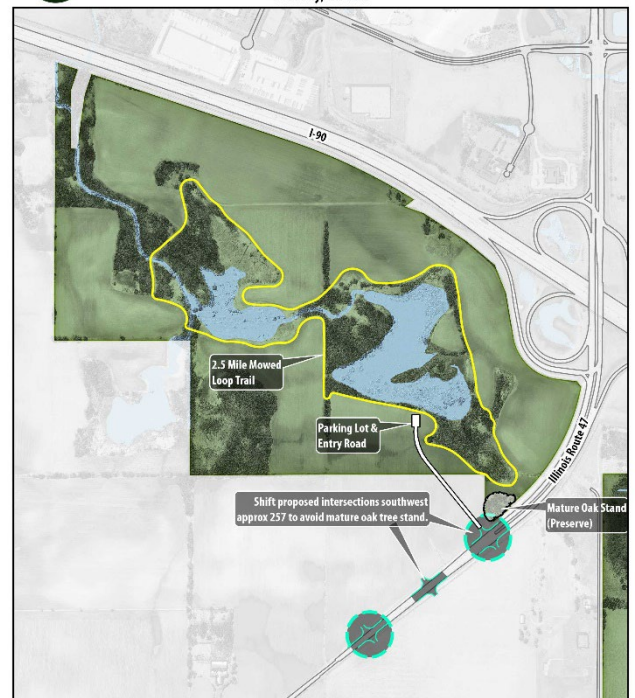
- June 2025 – The District conducted interviews with three of the six firms that responded to the Request for Qualifications for design and grant assistance for the wildlife platform. The contract is expected to be awarded to Wight and Company at the July 8th Commission meeting.

NEWLY ACQUIRED FOREST PRESERVE IN HUNTLEY – ROUTE 47 ACCESS

In 2024, the District acquired 298 acres in Huntley, at the southwest intersection of Illinois Route 47 (IL-47) and Interstate 90 (I-90). The property includes old oaks, a never-plowed sedge meadow, and more than 25 acres of prime waterfowl habitat. During the acquisition process, it was discovered that the approved entrance to the property is located at the edge of the eastbound I-90 exit ramp and IL-47. As part of the acquisition, an access easement on IL-47 was granted to the District by the adjacent property owner and the Village of Huntley. However, before a



Illinois Route 47 Intersection Exhibit
SWQ of I-90 & IL Rt. 47
Huntley, Illinois



new entrance can be constructed, the District must also seek approval from IDOT.

- June 2025 – Proposal and scope of work was developed by Christopher B. Burke Engineering , Ltd. (CBBEL) for engineering services: including: traffic analysis, design and Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) permitting for an entrance to the preserve from highway 47. The contract for design is expected to be awarded at the July 8th Commission meeting.

RUTLAND FOREST PRESERVE – RELOCATION OF EAKIN CREEK CROSSING

Rutland Forest Preserve is a large preserve located just west of Elgin on Big Timber Road. The area of the preserve north of Big Timber Road has been improved with picnic areas, parking and trails. The area south of Big Timber Road has some areas of wetland along Eakin Creek, which flows through the site, however a majority of the site is currently farmed in the District’s agriculture program. Currently, access to the agricultural field utilizes an easement with the adjacent land owner. The current crossing over the creek is very narrow for the wide farming equipment, and the supporting footings are beginning to fail.

In 2017, WBK Engineering was retained by the District to review the existing conditions and recommend the best approach to address concerns. It was determined that the best long-term solution would be to abandon and remove the existing crossing, and construct a new wider structure further to the east. The new location would allow the District to eliminate the shared access easement with the adjacent land owner, to reduce risk and establish a future public access to the southern half of Rutland Forest Preserve. The wider crossing will be safer for the current farmer and District maintenance vehicles it and will be designed in such a way as to accommodate pedestrians when the area is restored.

- June 2025 – Proposal and scope of work was developed by Christopher B. Burke Engineering , Ltd. (CBBEL) for engineering services: including: traffic analysis, design and Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) permitting for an entrance to the preserve from highway 47. The contract for design is expected to be awarded at the July 8th Commission meeting.



MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES

- June 1st – Planning intern Anna Hruska’s first day!
- June 3rd & 4th - Interviews of Architects & Engineers for the Muirhead Springs Wildlife Overlook
- June 13th – Planning staff participated in a stakeholder focus group meeting for the Fox Valley Park District Master Plan Update

Planning & Land Protection Department Memorandum

June Report

- June 17th – Planning and Operations staff met with officials of East Dundee and ComEd to discuss potential changes to the Fox River Trail and the overhead ComEd utilities.
- June 25th – Planning and Natural Resource staff met with representative of Prairie State Conservation to review their new land acquisition grant opportunities.



Public Safety Department Memorandum



TO: Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director
FROM: Paul Burger, Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police
RE: June 2025 Report

REPORTS

16 reports were taken from 172 dispatched calls for service.

CITATIONS & WARNINGS ISSUED

22 total citations written: 1 State violations, 16 ordinance violations, 5 written warnings.

REPORT HIGHLIGHT SYNOPSIS

Electrical Fire

Dispatch reported a truck struck a pole at the entrance of Pingree Grove FP, causing downed power lines and a fire on the side of the road. Upon arrival, an officer secured the scene and street. The local fire department arrived to clear.



Injuries & Welfare Checks

A man was riding his bike on the Fox River Trail in West Dundee while heavily intoxicated, when he fell off his bicycle and sustained an injury. The man was transported to Sherman Hospital for treatment.



At the off-leash dog park within Schweitzer Woods FP, two dog bites occurred. During the first incident, two dogs began to show aggression at each other. While the dogs were being separated, one of the owners was bit by the other dog on his hand. The dogs later became aggressive again, during a second incident. This time, a nearby patron attempted to assist the man who was previously bitten. While retraining the bitten man's dog, the other dog bit the assisting patron on her forearm. The dogs were able to be restrained and the owners left after exchanging information. The bitten patrons did have to receive treatment for their injuries.

An officer responded to the area of Stearns Rd and Route 31, South Elgin, for a welfare check. The officer made contact with a man on the bike path, who had a large cut on his cheek, which was bleeding profusely. The man relayed that he was approached by three males and one of them threw a rock at him, striking his face. An ambulance was called and the man was transported to St. Joseph's Hospital for treatment. The officer conducted a premise check, but was unable to locate the offenders or any witnesses.

TRAINING & MEETINGS

Meetings:

- IPLEA (Ofc. Kelly)
- Mounted Rangers (Ofc. Rochotte)
- PT Police Officer Candidate Interviews (Chief Burger & Sgt. Hayes)
- Tacos & Tequila 2025 Event Planning (Chief Burger, KCSO, & KC Cougars)

Training:

- Departmental Police Law Training / Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect
- Departmental Range Training Date
- 1st Amendment Auditors / In House (Chief Burger)
- High Risk Traffic Stops / NEMRT (Officers Rochotte, Bovio, & Jones)
- Avoiding Preventable Use of Force Cases / SLEA (Ofc. Konecki)
- Emergency Medical Response / NEMRT (Officers Jones & Rochotte)

June 2025 Reports by Location/Offense

[illegible]