



RE: May 2025 Department Monthly Report



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.

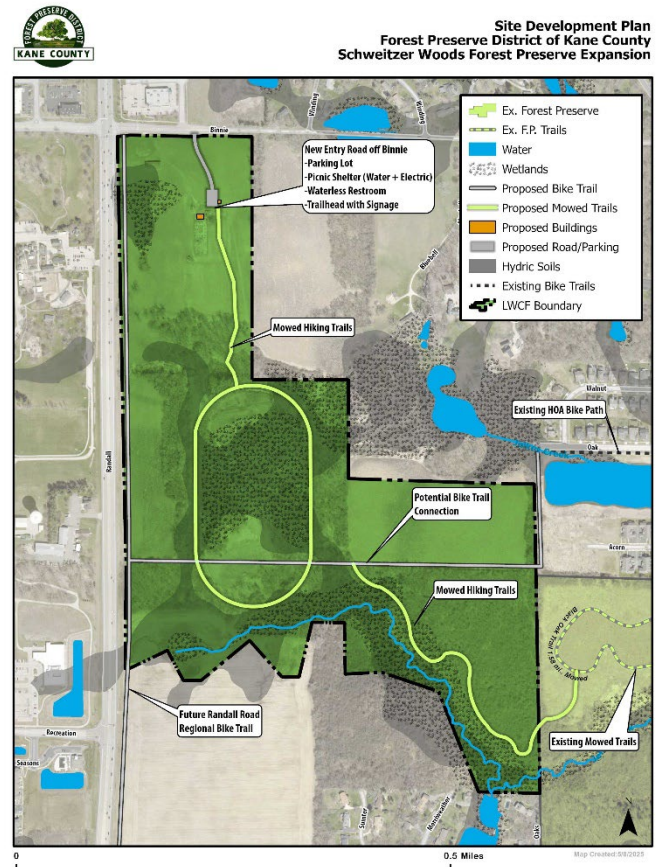
- May 2025 – No additional updates.

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) .



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.

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.



JOHNSONS 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.

Project Updates:

- May 2025- Sculptures, monuments, limestone trails, council ring installed. Sealcoating, striping and landscape restoration to be done first week of June.

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.



MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES

- May 1st – Planning staff met with Wight & Company to discuss the 2 geotechnical borings to be done in preparation for the new pedestrian bridge crossing, connecting Les Arends to The Wilds at Red Oak.
- May 9th - Planning staff submitted a grant application for acquisition assistance to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) & Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) .
- May 14th - Planning staff presented the Carpentersville Dam Removal project at the May meeting of the Fox River Ecosystems Partnership (FREP).
- May 15th – Planning Staff and Executive Director Haberthur met with Nancy Reid and surveyor Rudy Dixon to walk the Reid parcel and layout the homestead parcel that will remain with Ms. Reid.
- May 16th – Planning staff attended the preconstruction meeting for the Fiber optic installation at Prairie Green and the Tri-Com Center.
- May 22nd – Planning and Natural Resource staff met with representatives of V3 to review the condition of the Chicago Premium Outlets mitigation bank and to seek a proposal for design services.