



FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF WILL COUNTY

2014 PROGRESS REPORT

OUR MISSION

The Forest Preserve District of Will County is dedicated to protecting, conserving, enhancing and promoting Will County's natural heritage for the educational, recreational and environmental benefit of present and future generations. Six distinctive values guide the District in fulfilling its mission.

Quality

Committing to excellence in every endeavor.

Employee Wellness

Respecting, valuing and mentoring those who serve the District.

Customer Service

Being responsive to the needs of a diverse community.

Cooperation

Working together to achieve the District's mission.

Leadership

Leading in the community and the workplace by inspiration and example.

Environmental Awareness

Promoting and practicing environmental stewardship.

CONTENT

Board of Commissioners / 1

From the President / 2

From the Executive Director / 3

Highlights / 4

Financial Information / 6

Land Protection / 8

Preserve Improvements / 9

Programs & Events / 10

#ReconnectWithNature / 11

Stewardship of Natural Areas / 12

Partnerships / 14

Partnership Awards / 15

Alternative Revenue Initiatives / 16

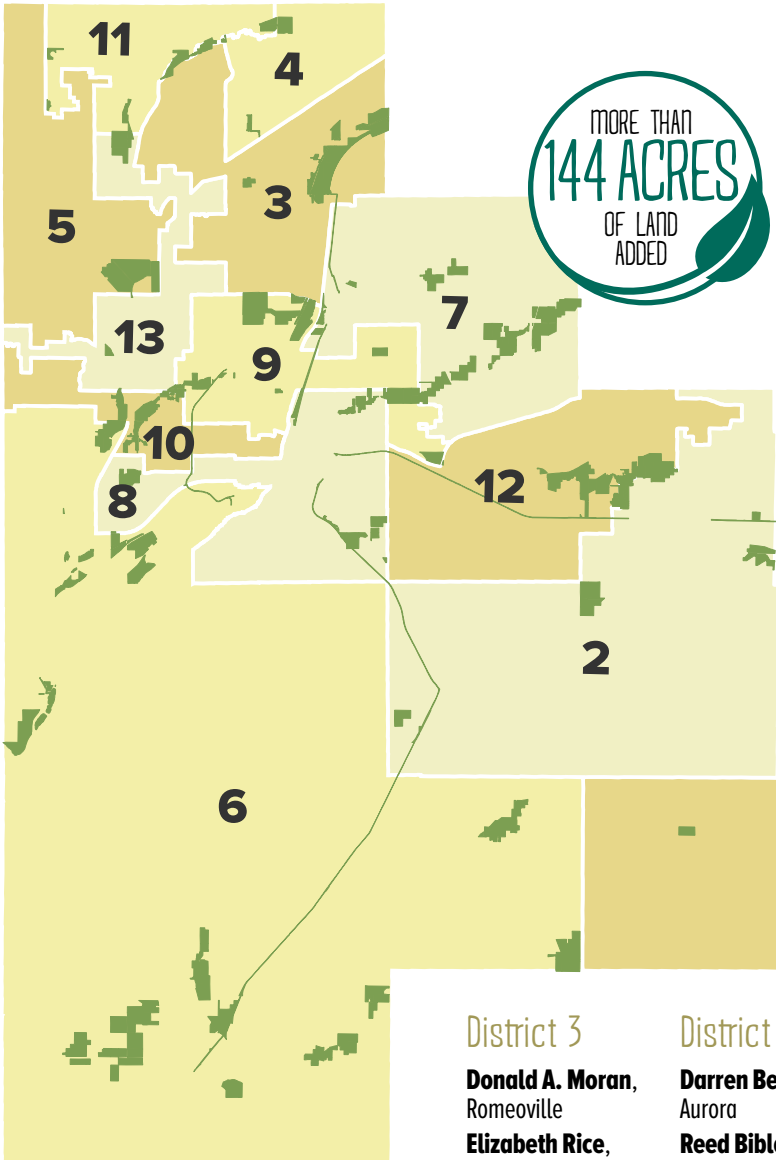
Sponsorships & Donations / 17

Awards / 18

Volunteer Support / 19

Staff Roster / 21





District 1
Robert Howard,
 Beecher
Judy Ogalla,
 Monee – *Secretary*

District 2
David A. Izzo,
 Tinley Park
James G. Moustis,
 Frankfort

District 4
Kenneth E. Harris,
 Bolingbrook
Jacqueline Traynere,
 Bolingbrook

District 3
Donald A. Moran,
 Romeoville
Elizabeth Rice,
 Bolingbrook

District 6
Ragan Freitag,
 Wilmington
Donald Gould,
 Shorewood –
President

District 5
Darren Bennefield,
 Aurora
Reed Bible, Plainfield

District 8
Herbert Brooks,
 Jr., Joliet
Denise E. Winfrey,
 Joliet – *Operations*
Committee Vice Chair

District 7
Steve Balich,
 Orland Park
Mike Fricolone,
 Homer Glen

District 9
Walter G. Adamic, Joliet
Diane H. Zigrossi,
 Crest Hill –
Finance Committee
Chair, Ad Hoc Rules
Committee Chair

District 10
Joseph M. Babich,
 Joliet – *Vice President*
Stephen M. Wilhelmi,
 Joliet – *Treasurer*

District 11
Suzanne Hart,
 Naperville – *Operations*
Committee Chair
Charles E. Maher,
 Naperville

District 12
Margo McDermed,
 Mokena
Thomas Weigel,
 New Lenox – *Finance*
Committee Vice Chair

District 13
Liz Collins, Plainfield
Mark Ferry, Plainfield



Welcome to the Forest Preserve District of Will County! It has been my honor to serve on the District's Board of Commissioners since 2010, and I was thrilled in December 2014 to be chosen to lead the Board as President for the next two years. It is my privilege to share all of the Forest Preserve's accomplishments in the District's *2014 Annual Report*. Preservation is a priority for me because I run and compete in marathons and triathlons. I also bike, kayak, canoe and snowshoe. So I appreciate the outdoors and quality open space. I am not alone. Thousands of people visit our preserves and facilities and take part in our events and programs all year long. Hikers view wildflowers in the spring, bicyclists and equestrians roll or ride along woodsy trails in the summer, busloads of schoolchildren tour our visitor centers in the fall, and cold-weather fans ski or snowshoe trails in the deep of winter.

In recent years, there have been even more places to play and enjoy nature. The Forest Preserve District's holdings have almost doubled in size in the past 15 years and now total more than 22,000 acres with 127 miles of trails. While the large-scale acquisition program funded by successful referendums in 1999 and 2005 is winding down, the work continues on maintaining and enhancing what is owned. Safety also remains a priority. Our Police Department works with other agencies and a contingent of trail sentinels to keep a watchful eye on all District properties.

As you will see in this document, the Forest Preserve achieved many successes in 2014. Trails were improved, a new dog park – the District's fifth – opened in Joliet, invasive species were removed, native species were planted and green technology was implemented. Also, the District's finances continued to remain healthy with cost-saving programs designed to protect taxpayer dollars. The *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report* can be viewed on the District's website, ReconnectWithNature.org. All of this work was accomplished not only by the District's dedicated staff, but by hundreds of volunteers who donated thousands of hours of time to staff events, restore preserves and keep watch on trails.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners and District staff, I thank you for your continued support. It is with great pride that I encourage you to read through the following pages to see all of the District's accomplishments in 2014. To learn more about the District and its programs or to provide comments about your preserve experiences, please visit ReconnectWithNature.org or call 815.727.8700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Hart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Suzanne Hart, *President*



It is my great pleasure to present the Forest Preserve District's *2014 Annual Report* highlighting our projects, programs and other successes over the past year. One of the most exciting new initiatives you will read about in this report is the establishment of the Friends of the Forest Preserve District's Board of Directors. The Foundation is a 501c3 organization dedicated to raising and administering funds that support the District's public service functions consistent with the Forest Preserve's mission, purpose and strategic or operational plans.

Over the past 15 years, the District has experienced tremendous growth in its holdings, preserves open to the public and trail expansion, which is all part of the Capital Improvement Program funded by two voter approved referendums in 1999 and 2005. The capital program is coming to an end in the next year, and the District needed to re-assess the organization's size and structure best suited to maintaining the new holdings and preserve enhancements. In 2014, the Forest Preserve Board of Commissioners took actions to improve the District's financial condition over the next five years that will impact the way in which this agency is organized and managed.

In October 2014, the Board approved an Early Retirement Incentive (ERI) that allows employees who are at least 50 years of age with at least 20 years of service in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund to voluntarily retire between June 30, 2015 and June 30, 2016 by purchasing up to five years of service credit. Based on the number of employees both eligible and likely to opt for the ERI program, the District is taking this opportunity to re-organize and downsize by the equivalent of eight full-time employees. As a result, the District will realize a savings of approximately \$2.2 million over the next five years. These changes will occur over an 18-month period and will create exciting opportunities to realign our resources to focus on the District's core functions and to improve efficiencies in our day-to-day operations.

After 30 years of service with the District, the last eight years serving as its Executive Director, I plan on retiring in early 2016. It has been a privilege to spend my professional career in public service and to have the opportunity to directly impact and improve the quality of life in the community in which I live. I am also honored to have worked with an incredibly dedicated and talented professional staff, and I have enjoyed the support of a Board of Commissioners with the foresight and vision to create and maintain a high-quality and diverse system of forest preserves that Will County residents and future generations can use and enjoy in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcella M. DeMauro". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marcella M. DeMauro, *Executive Director*



BOARD ELECTS HART PRESIDENT

Suzanne Hart of Naperville was chosen in December 2014 to lead the Forest Preserve District's Board of Commissioners. Hart, who has served on the Board since 2010, was unanimously elected to the position. Her two-year term as president follows the one-year term of former President Don Gould of Shorewood, who did not seek re-election to the post. Hart is the first female Board president since the late Nora Wipfler held the position from 1978-1982. Hart is a past member and president of the Naperville Park District Board, and she currently serves as president of the Illinois Association of Conservation and Forest Preserve Districts.

FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS APPOINTED

Friends of the Forest Preserve District Board members were appointed in 2014 and began meeting in April. The non-profit fundraising foundation plans to cultivate relationships in the community and identify funding streams to support the preservation, conservation and recreational priorities of the District. In December 2014, the Foundation Board approved a \$266,400 donation from Superior, Wisconsin-based Enbridge Energy for habitat restoration at Forked Creek Preserve in Wilmington. Foundation officers are: Chairwoman Ann Dralle, Vice Chairwoman Laurie McPhillips-Weglarz, Secretary Sean Krause and Treasurer Ralph Bias.

COMMUNITY WORKDAY DRAWS RECORD VOLUNTEERS

The Forest Preserve District schedules its biggest volunteer workday of the year every April around Earth Day. In 2014, the District's sixth annual "Community Volunteer Workday" drew a record turnout of 500 participants. Hardy volunteers braved a spring chill to clear brush, remove rubbish and spread mulch on trails at three preserves: Whalon Lake in Naperville/Bolingbrook, Veterans Woods in Romeoville and Riverview Farmstead Preserve in Naperville.



DISTRICT OPENS FIFTH DOG PARK

In 2014, the Forest Preserve District opened its fifth dog park, the first one located in the city limits of Joliet. More than 500 people and pets attended the July ribbon cutting for the Rock Run Dog Park. The 7.5-acre, year-round canine playground is located at Lower Rock Run Preserve – McClintock Road Access, which is about 1.5 miles east of Interstate 55 and the Channahon border. The District's newest dog park features three 2.5-acre enclosures, a picnic area and a .62-mile natural surface trail.



BAT CONDO INSTALLED

The Forest Preserve installed a midsize bat condo about 75 feet north of Shorewood Grove Shelter at Hammel Woods in Shorewood in 2014. The bat condo will encourage the bats to move out of the eaves of Shorewood Grove Shelter, where they have sometimes been irritated by noise and fireplace smoke from picnickers below.



MUSHER MANIA CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

"Musher Mania," the District's premier winter program, marked its 20th anniversary in 2014. Held each January at Monee Reservoir, the event celebrates snow dogs, their history and the sport of mushing. The District has partnered each year with the Siberian Husky Club of Greater Chicago to offer the free, all-ages event that draws snow dog lovers from near and far. More than 36,000 people have attended "Musher Mania" since it began.



PARTNERSHIP BLOOMS AT KANKAKEE SANDS

In January 2014, a partnership between the Forest Preserve District, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) took root in the Kankakee Sands region of the District. Specialized seeds culled from a nursery TNC created in Indiana for its own sandy soil project were spread on snow in Sand Ridge Savanna Nature Preserve and Kankakee Sands Preserve. Seeds also were distributed in the Wilmington Shrub Prairie Nature Preserve, which is owned by IDNR. The process will be repeated annually for a decade until the land is returned to its natural state – a mixture of wetlands, prairies and savannas.



HICKORY CREEK BIKEWAY WORK BEGINS

Work began in 2014 on a major facelift for the eastern branch of the Hickory Creek Bikeway in Frankfort Township. A new bridge was installed over Hickory Creek, and pavement repairs began on a section of the trail that extends from the Frankfort Township office on Route 30 north toward the LaPorte Road Access and Hickory Creek. More asphalt repairs were planned for spring 2015. The eastern branch of the bikeway was built in 1997, and it is one of the most popular trails in the District.

GREEN AUDIT CONDUCTED

In 2014, the District continued to evaluate and implement green building maintenance and energy conservation practices, instituting upgrades as needed. An audit of 22 buildings in October 2014 was completed through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Saving Through Efficient Products program. As a result of the audit, the District is receiving 155 occupancy sensors, 52 aerators, 79 CFL bulbs and six LED exit lights. The products, which were provided at no cost to the District, have an estimated value of \$12,500.



LIABILITY AUDIT COMPLETED

The Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA), the District's liability insurance carrier, completed its audit of all District departments in 2014. The District received a loss control audit score of 95.7 percent, up from 92.1 percent in 2011, the last time PDRMA conducted its audit. The high score means another audit won't be necessary for four years and it will also maintain the District's insurance rates at the same level.



BEEES RETURN TO PLUM CREEK NATURE CENTER

After a one-year hiatus, a bustling beehive made its triumphant return to Plum Creek Nature Center in Beecher in May 2014. A beehive exhibit was first displayed at the Nature Center about five years earlier. The hive hummed happily along until a beetle infestation wiped out the bee colony. An expert beekeeper was consulted and a new hive was created that would ward off future beetle invasions. The new hive is made of clear plastic, so Nature Center visitors can watch worker bees flying in and out of their domicile as they gather pollen and nectar.





FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 1927, voters approved a referendum to establish the Forest Preserve District of Will County as a separate taxing body of county government. Even then, when Will County was overwhelmingly rural, its citizens realized the importance of preserving its natural treasures. In 2014, the Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners, made up of 26 members from the county's 13 elective districts, oversees all District business and approves property purchases and District expenditures. The District currently owns, manages and leases more than 22,000 acres of land.

The Forest Preserve is organized financially into two operating funds. The Construction and Development (C&D) Fund supports new site improvements and associated staffing costs, maintenance of existing facilities and properties, and infrastructure improvements. The Corporate Fund is used for employee salaries, benefits and general administrative costs of the District.

BOND ISSUES

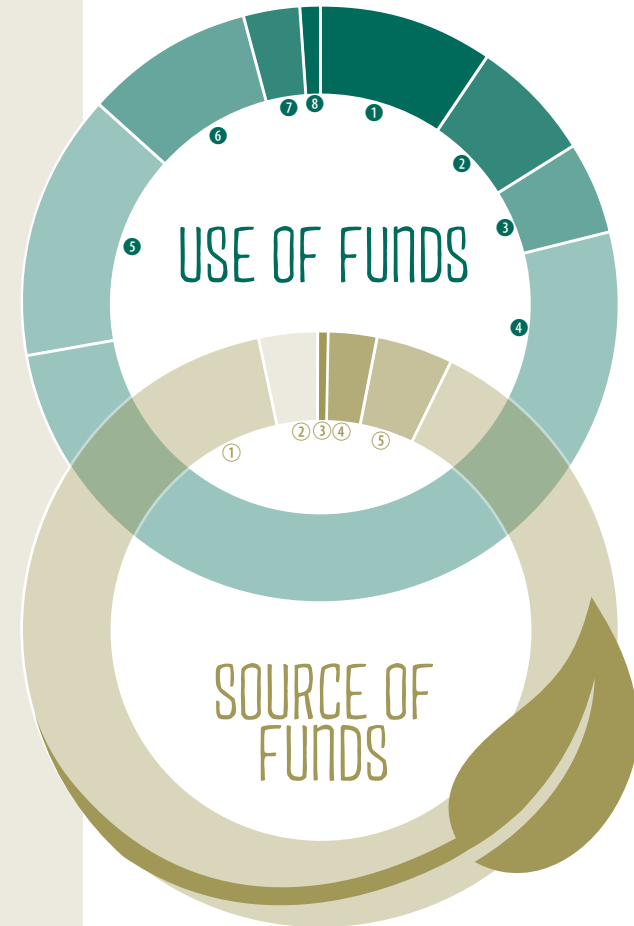
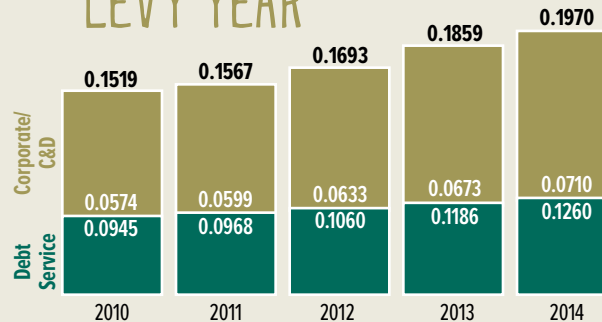
In 1999 and 2005, voters approved referendums to preserve land and improve District properties for public use. In both cases, voters recognized that the county was changing at an unprecedented pace and that special properties needed to be preserved before they were developed. The 1999 referendum provided \$70 million and the 2005 referendum \$95 million for land acquisition and development. These funds have led to thousands of acres preserved and dozens of properties improved.

In 2007, the Forest Preserve Board of Commissioners authorized \$50 million in general obligation limited tax bonds for the purpose of acquiring land for future use. In 2007 and 2008, the District issued \$10 million and \$30 million, respectively, of limited tax bonds. The remaining \$10 million in bonds was issued during 2010. During 2012, \$66,775,000 of the 2005 referendum bonds was re-funded. As a result, the District will have saved taxpayers approximately \$4.8 million in interest costs over the life of the bonds.

DEBT SERVICE

Each of the bond issuances requires debt service. These are scheduled to be paid down over 20 years for each.

LEVY YEAR



- ① General Government \$4,244,908
- ② Planning & Development \$2,928,869
- ③ Public Programs & Education \$2,276,614
- ④ Debt Service \$22,767,746
- ⑤ Capital Outlay \$6,382,892
- ⑥ Operations \$4,095,885
- ⑦ Police \$1,406,569
- ⑧ Other Financing Uses \$417,362
- TOTAL \$44,520,845**

- ① Property Taxes \$35,691,726
- ② Licenses & Permits \$1,322,373
- ③ Investment Income \$61,475
- ④ Grants & Other Intergovernmental \$1,156,671
- ⑤ Miscellaneous Other \$1,604,918
- ⑥ Bond Proceeds Utilized 0
- TOTAL \$39,837,163**

Budget	Budget FY 2013	Actual FY 2013	Budget FY 2014	Actual FY 2014 Unaudited	Budget FY 2015
--------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	--------------------------------	-------------------

CORPORATE FUND

REVENUES

Taxes	10,187,142	10,180,444	10,391,739	10,417,634	10,390,972
Charges for Services	29,000	28,628	26,800	31,567	29,575
Licenses & Permits	261,350	287,904	263,200	338,904	265,800
Intergovernmental	290,500	398,521	290,500	508,275	310,500
Investment Income	19,000	24,328	25,000	27,862	27,000
Miscellaneous	247,200	293,447	248,600	303,100	271,550
Bond Proceeds	-	-	-	-	-
*OFS	-	-	359,385	-	650,000
Total	11,034,192	11,213,272	11,605,224	11,627,342	11,945,397

EXPENDITURES

General Government	4,206,206	3,842,414	4,270,475	4,184,519	4,363,330
Education & Recreation	2,287,955	2,238,260	2,428,186	2,242,466	2,441,785
Operations	2,578,064	2,374,040	2,535,958	2,352,196	2,477,793
Police	1,454,530	1,413,405	1,498,955	1,406,569	1,509,560
Planning & Development	237,347	229,533	235,175	231,986	239,101
Capital Outlay	117,090	81,789	481,475	472,165	331,828
*OFU	153,000	153,000	155,000	155,000	582,000
Total	11,034,192	10,332,441	11,605,224	11,044,901	11,945,397

CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT

REVENUES

Taxes	2,502,195	2,507,388	2,450,479	2,445,882	2,658,401
Charges for Services	-	-	-	-	-
Licenses & Permits	920,000	1,190,026	1,165,120	983,469	1,022,597
Intergovernmental	290,000	355,895	290,000	366,387	300,000
Investment Income	2,500	2,986	2,000	6,402	2,500
Miscellaneous	10,000	10,190	10,000	14,372	10,000
*OFS	1,413,876	260,382	258,260	262,362	512,000
Total	5,138,571	4,326,867	4,175,859	4,078,874	4,505,498

EXPENDITURES

General Government	233,048	29,037	58,150	36,491	57,615
Education & Recreation	80,559	32,388	19,900	34,148	24,900
Operations	1,892,731	1,612,716	1,747,520	1,743,689	1,766,812
Planning & Development	2,415,390	1,845,414	2,157,327	1,976,362	2,189,897
Capital Outlay	516,843	247,308	192,962	277,715	466,274
*OFU	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5,138,571	3,766,863	4,175,859	4,068,405	4,505,498

Budget	Budget FY 2013	Actual FY 2013	Budget FY 2014	Actual FY 2014 Unaudited	Budget FY 2015
--------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	--------------------------------	-------------------

DEBT SERVICE

REVENUES

Taxes	22,354,831	22,358,972	22,767,746	22,828,210	22,512,629
Investment Income	5,000	13,471	5,000	18,158	5,000
*OFS	96,000	260,382	-	262,362	-
Total	22,455,831	22,632,825	22,772,746	23,108,730	22,517,629

EXPENDITURES

General Government	5,000	2,055	5,000	2,750	5,000
Debt Service					
Principal	16,415,000	16,415,000	16,890,000	16,890,000	9,160,416
Interest	6,035,831	6,035,831	5,877,746	5,877,746	13,352,213
*OFU	-	260,382	-	262,362	-
Total	22,455,831	22,713,268	22,772,746	23,032,858	22,517,629

OTHER FUNDS

REVENUES

Intergovernmental	2,824,276	1,221,630	2,071,463	282,009	1,405,818
Investment Income	58,000	35,765	53,000	9,053	7,000
Miscellaneous	852,990	67,896	1,844,030	80,095	203,045
Bond Proceeds	-	-	-	-	-
*OFS	14,920,102	340,943	9,618,051	651,060	5,998,281
Total	18,655,368	1,666,234	13,586,544	1,022,217	7,614,144

EXPENDITURES

General Government	12,000	22,534	10,000	21,148	-
Planning & Development	3,208,791	1,038,665	3,315,534	720,521	3,037,302
Capital Outlay	15,434,577	6,150,135	10,261,010	5,633,012	4,576,842
Total	18,655,368	7,211,334	13,586,544	6,374,681	7,614,144

*OFS – Other Financial Sources (Consists primarily of carry-forward balances.)

*OFU – Other Financial Uses



YEAR ACRES	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	610	106	1,455	1,763	790	254	132	634	192	527	144

ADDITIONAL ACRES PROTECTED



HADLEY VALLEY

MORE THAN
22,000
TOTAL ACRES IN
DISTRICT
HOLDINGS

The addition of 144 acres of land brings total District holdings in Will County to more than 22,000 acres – 4 percent of Will County’s total of 543,360 acres. With funds from the 1999 and 2005 referendums all but exhausted, new acquisitions are likely to be few for years to come.

HADLEY VALLEY

33
ACRES

The Illinois State Toll Highway Authority transferred 33 acres to the Forest Preserve District as compensation for earlier impacts created by the construction of I-355 to Keepataw Preserve. The property, located in New Lenox Township, is part of the Spring Creek Greenway.

ISLE A LA CACHE

5.5
ACRES

An addition to Isle a la Cache preserve, the Beverly Vinckus Memorial Park is approximately 5.5 acres and was purchased with funds acquired from the 2007 Bond Extension Program. The parcel is part of the Des Plaines River Greenway and provides for future recreational opportunities and river access.

RIVERVIEW FARMSTEAD PRESERVE

105
ACRES

The District purchased two parcels of land totaling 105 acres to extend Riverview Farmstead Preserve in Naperville 0.5 mile southward. The parcels were acquired with funds from the 2007 Bond Extension Program and are part of the DuPage River Greenway.

TEALE WOODS PRESERVE

0.5
ACRE

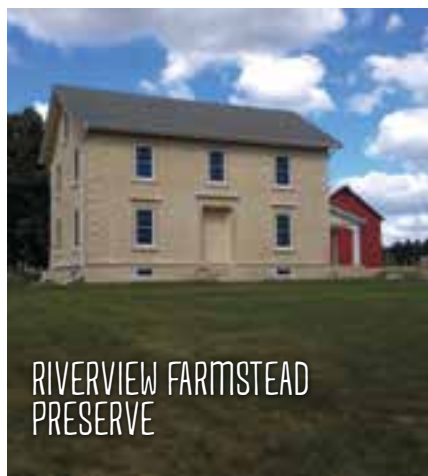
The District purchased a 0.5-acre parcel to expand its holdings at Teale Woods Preserve in Joliet. The property was purchased with funds acquired from the 2007 Bond Extension Program and is part of the Des Plaines River Greenway.

Total Preservations in 2014

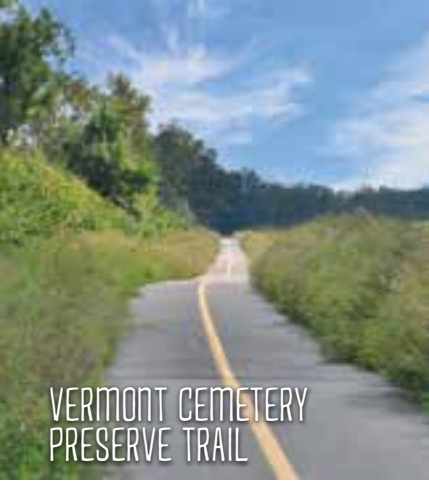
144
ACRES



TEALE WOODS PRESERVE



RIVERVIEW FARMSTEAD PRESERVE



VERMONT CEMETERY PRESERVE TRAIL



MONEE RESERVOIR



LOWER ROCK RUN PRESERVE – McCLINTOCK ROAD ACCESS

In 2014, the District added its fifth free-run dog park and expanded trails. In addition, improvements were made to three of the District's older preserves whose infrastructure required upgrades.

ADA IMPROVEMENTS

A variety of improvements were made to three preserves to become compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. At Forsythe Woods in Wilmington, pavement and pathway improvements were made, including the installation of new walkways, a new latrine, a new information board and new trailhead signage. New walkway and parking asphalt was also installed at Hammel Woods in Shorewood. Improvements at Monee Reservoir consisted of upgrading the site for accessibility while also repairing old infrastructure. Work included replacing pavement and reinforcing the fishing wall. Accessible seating was also provided. This \$638,355 project was funded by the Forest Preserve District's Capital Improvement Program.

LOWER ROCK RUN PRESERVE – McCLINTOCK ROAD ACCESS

This project created the District's fifth dog park at the Channahon-Joliet border, and includes a 0.62-mile natural surface hiking trail and small picnic area. The \$448,300 project was funded by the Forest Preserve District's Capital Improvement Program.

VERMONT CEMETERY PRESERVE TRAIL ADDITION

This project provided for a 0.86-mile trail through Vermont Cemetery Preserve in Naperville. This trail addition extends the existing 0.73-mile trail, which is part of the Forest Preserve District's and Naperville Park District's 3.83-mile Tall Grass Greenway Trail and connects to the DuPage River Trail system. The site offers views of a historic prairie cemetery as well as prairie restoration areas. The new trail segment was added by adjacent land developers at no cost to the District.

VETERANS MEMORIAL TRAIL – BLUFF ROAD TO INTERNATIONAL PARKWAY

This 1-mile trail development project connects regional trail systems in DuPage, Cook and Will counties and marks the first section of trail on property owned by the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority. This \$773,858 project was funded by an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program Grant, a partnership with the Village of Woodridge, and the Forest Preserve District's Capital Improvement Program.



Total Preserve Improvements in 2014 \$1,860,513

PROGRAMS & EVENTS



FOUR RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Tens of thousands of Will County residents enjoyed District preserves to hike, camp, picnic or let their dogs frolic together in 2014. Monee Reservoir remains the District's most popular preserve, while thousands more visited Plum Creek Nature Center in Beecher, Isle a la Cache Museum in Romeoville, the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon and the Sugar Creek Administration Center in Joliet. The annual "Howloween Hoopla" drew the largest crowd of the year's premier programs, and the day-long "Goodenow Grove Fall Fest" was the year's most popular special event.



FAMILY PICNIC AT HAMMEL WOODS

MORE THAN
144,000
PEOPLE SERVED

FACILITY VISITATION

	PEOPLE SERVED
Environmental Learning Center	3,100
Four Rivers Environmental Education Center	10,000
Isle a la Cache Museum	14,000
Monee Reservoir Visitor Center/Concessions	25,500
Plum Creek Nature Center	16,000
Sugar Creek Administration Center	3,419
Total	72,019

PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

	PEOPLE SERVED
Camping Areas	2,075
Dog Parks	2,233
Reserved Picnic Areas	36,476
Special Use Activities	4,501
Total	45,285

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

	PEOPLE SERVED
Community Outreach Presentations	4,739
Education Programs	18,000
Public Programs	4,100
Total	26,839

PREMIER PROGRAMS

	PEOPLE SERVED
Bringing Nature Home Native Plant Sale	500
Earth Day Celebration!	400
Harvest Hoedown	600
Howloween Hoopla	1,800
Island Rendezvous	1,300
Kite Fly Festival!	750
Musher Mania	1,200
Total	6,550

SPECIAL EVENTS

	PEOPLE SERVED
Community Volunteer Workday	546
Lower Rock Run Preserve – McClintock Road Access Ribbon Cutting	500
Goodenow Grove Fall Fest	3,500
Hugs for Hounds Easter Egg Hunt	700
Music at McKinley Outdoor Concert and Car Show	3,000
Ride the Rock	1,600
Total	9,846



EARTH DAY CELEBRATION



MUSHER MANIA



VOLUNTEER WORKDAY

#ReconnectWithNature2014

As 2014 drew to a close, the District took to social media to ask its followers for their favorite memories of Will County's forest preserves from the year. A few of their stories and photos are shared here. Think back – how did you #ReconnectWithNature2014?



1 "My favorite forest preserve memory in 2014 was when I took my one-year-old to #GoodenowGrove for the first time. I used to go there a lot growing up and it was nice to #ReconnectWithNature with my son."

Natalie Brothers Johns

2 "I volunteer for a local dog rescue where I walk and interact with them. Every weekend I would pick up sweet Nini and drive to Goodenow Grove. I took some amazing photos at this preserve and visit with the dogs often. The shot ... is from the big hill overlooking the beautiful trees that were changing colors in the fall. Such a beautiful forest preserve, one of my favorites for sledding too! So glad they welcome dogs there!"

Andrea Cantone Kuzma

3 "Fall ride, had the place to ourselves."

Jim Landman

4 "Beautiful fall walk in Messenger Woods."

Julie Dahlberg

5 "Emmie turtle-sitting Smashbox."

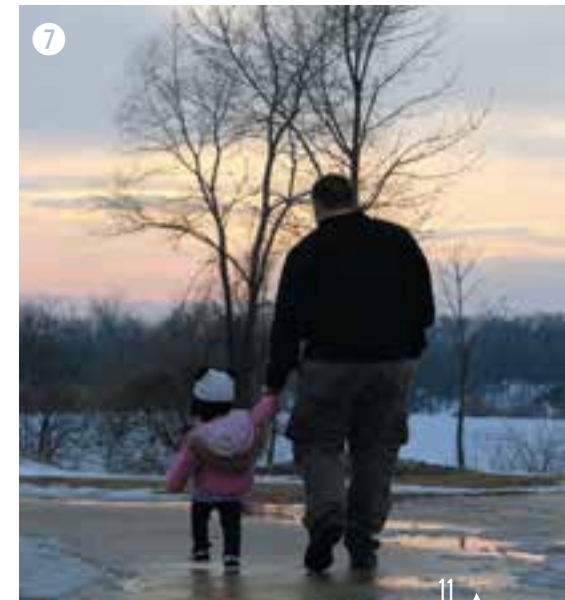
Nathaniel Holt

6 "This was Fathers Day 2014. My dad, Colin 'Buzz' Eckert, Korean War Vet and long-time resident of Joliet, took me fishing when I was a boy, and now I take him fishing at Lake Chaminwood Preserve. I hope this shows other people that they can still get out and enjoy the outdoors, no matter how old or young they are."

Neill Eckert

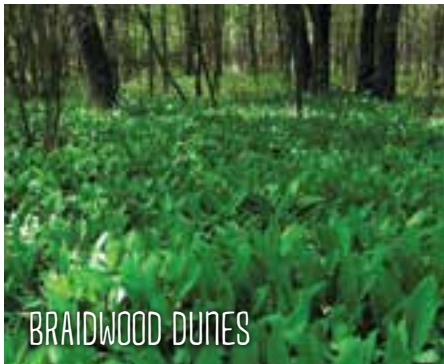
7 "This photo is of my daughter and husband. It is close to my heart because it was a long winter and this was her first time getting to walk outside at all. She loved it! The smiles on her face were priceless! Yep! We have a little nature lover!"

Laura Gossman

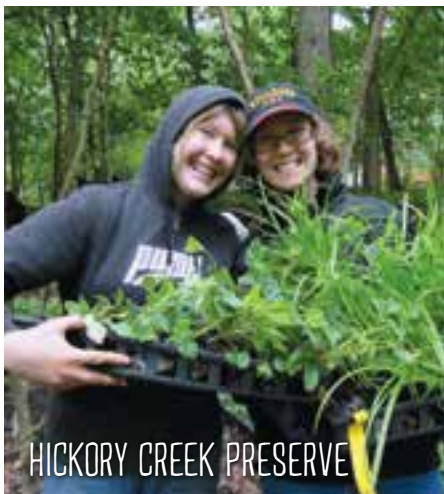




MCKINLEY WOODS



BRAIDWOOD DUNES



HICKORY CREEK PRESERVE

Caring for and restoring District lands are central to the Forest Preserve's mission. These efforts enhance the environment, benefiting all Will County residents. From the removal of invasive non-native species to the planting of new native species of trees and shrubs; from the restoration of wetlands to the creation of prairielands; from the enhancement of habitat required by endangered species to improving the flow of creeks and streams – these large-scale projects are illustrative of how the Forest Preserve District of Will County cares for the lands under the people's ownership.

NATURAL AREA RESTORATION PROJECTS

Braidwood Dunes and Savanna Nature Preserve / 293 acres

Continued follow-up management of invasive herbaceous and woody species throughout Braidwood Dunes and Savanna Nature Preserve to facilitate effective control and improve native species recovery. Completed hydrologic modifications to establish natural water flow patterns.

Hadley Valley OMMA Mitigation and NAWCA Wetland Restoration Grant / 296 acres

Completed the original five-year management and monitoring period throughout the O'Hare Modernization Mitigation Account (OMMA) project area at Hadley Valley in New Lenox and Homer townships, including prescribed burning, selective herbicide treatments, and seeding and plant installation. Completed expansion of the restoration area to include additional wetland and prairie restoration through a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant, and established a funding agreement with Openlands for up to an additional \$425,000 to extend OMMA project stewardship.

Hickory Creek Preserve / 211 acres

Continued restoration of woodland, barrens and sedge meadow communities through invasive species control, planting and prescribed fire at Hickory Creek Preserve in Frankfort Township. Used remaining funds to expand the restoration area to an adjacent 88 acres.

ISTHA Tree Mitigation / 31,000 trees and shrubs

Completed the installation of native trees and shrubs within the Spring Creek Greenway in New Lenox and Homer townships to satisfy the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority's (ISTHA) tree mitigation requirements for the I-355 south extension.

Kankakee Sands and Sand Ridge Savanna Preserves Restoration / 700 acres

Continued restoration of sand savanna, prairie and wetland communities through invasive species control and the collection of approximately 670 pounds of seed from 300 species of local native ecotypes for use on site in community re-creation activities at Kankakee Sands and Sand Ridge Savanna preserves in Custer Township.

Keepataw Preserve ISTHA Mitigation / 18 acres

Completed the Hine's Emerald Dragonfly habitat enhancement and creation efforts through an Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (ISTHA) mitigation and coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to complete habitat use assessments at Keepataw Preserve in Lemont.



31,000
TREES & SHRUBS
ADDED

2,002
ACRES
RESTORED

Lockport Prairie East Preserve and Dellwood Park West / 103 acres

Continued threatened and endangered species habitat enhancement through follow-up invasive species control within dolomite prairie, sedge meadow and marsh communities throughout Lockport Prairie East Preserve and the Lockport Township Park District's Dellwood Park West.

Messenger Woods Nature Preserve OMMA Mitigation / 100 acres

Completed the fourth year of a five-year O'Hare Modernization Mitigation Account (OMMA) grant management and monitoring period through prescribed burning and selective herbicide applications at Messenger Woods Nature Preserve in Homer Glen. Established a fund agreement with Openlands for up to an additional \$275,000 to extend OMMA project stewardship, and dedicated 7 acres of nature preserve buffer.



Prairie Bluff Preserve Prairie Restoration / 165 acres

Conducted follow-up management and invasive species control within the areas of Prairie Bluff Preserve in Lockport that were previously restored to prairie through the agricultural license program.

Thorn Creek Headwaters Preserve IDOT Mitigation / 92 acres

Continued wetland and prairie restoration at Thorn Creek Headwaters Preserve in Monee Township to satisfy the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) mitigation requirements.

Vermont Cemetery Prairie Restoration / 24 acres

Continued prairie re-creation through seeding, plant installation and mowing on former agricultural fields to buffer the adjacent high quality cemetery prairie remnant at Vermont Cemetery Preserve in Naperville.



MORE THAN
1,400 ACRES
OF FLORISTIC
INVENTORIES

WILDLIFE RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Continued the herbivory study on the federally endangered Leafy Prairie Clover (*Dalea foliosa*) at two preserves.
- Coordinated with the Chicago Botanic Garden's Plants of Concern program to monitor 14 species of threatened and endangered plants at 11 preserves.
- Completed bat surveys at four preserves and erected a bat condo at Hammel Woods in Shorewood to provide a roosting habitat.
- Completed floristic inventory and plant community mapping within 182 acres of Evans-Judge Preserve in Wilmington.
- Completed invertebrate surveys at Braidwood Dunes and Savanna Nature Preserve, Kankakee Sands Preserve and Sand Ridge Savanna Preserve in Reed and Custer Townships, covering a total of 1,333 acres.
- Continued reptile and amphibian surveys of 1,095 acres within Braidwood Dunes and Savanna Nature Preserve, Kankakee Sands Preserve and Sand Ridge Savanna Preserve.
- Initiated floristic inventory and plant community mapping within 893 acres of Sand Ridge Savanna Preserve and Kankakee Sands Preserve.
- Initiated floristic inventory and plant community mapping within 362 acres of Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve in Lockport. This work included a \$12,500 contribution from ComEd for inclusion of their transmission line right-of-way.
- Completed aerial deer population surveys at 30 preserves and documented deer browse pressure at 11 preserves.
- Completed a reptile and amphibian survey at McKinley Woods in Channahon.





HARRAH'S JOLIET



SIBERIAN HUSKY CLUB OF GREATER CHICAGO



KIDZFEST



SHOREWOOD HUGS

Dozens of organizations partnered with the Forest Preserve District in 2014. Many of these partnerships have been ongoing relationships for years, while new partnerships are continually being made. All of these provide benefits to both parties and often result in better service, expanded public programs and improved preserves for Will County citizens. We value these partnerships and are proud of the wide range of agencies that partner with the Forest Preserve.

Canal Corridor Alliance
Member

Channahon Park District
Reciprocal Use of Facilities for Educational Programming

Chicago Wilderness
Dragonfly Monitoring
Executive Council Member
Frog Monitoring
Leave No Child Inside Coalition
Plants of Concern

City of Joliet
KidzFest
Light Up the Holidays Festival

DuPage River Trail Committee
Member

DuPage River Water Trail Committee
Member

Harrah's Joliet
Joliet Iron Works Historic Site Workdays

Hickory Creek Watershed Planning Committee
Steering Committee

Hine's Emerald Dragonfly Recovery Group
Member

Illiana Expressway Corridor Planning Group and Technical Task Force
Member

Illinois Bike Transportation Plan
Participant

Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network
Monitoring and Training

Illinois Conference on Volunteer Administration
District Staff Assistance to State-Wide Conference

Illinois Conservation Foundation
Member

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Educator Loan Kit Program

Joliet Junior College
Adopt-a-Preserve Program
Resource Management Workdays

Joliet/Will County Project Pride
Joliet Iron Works Historic Site Workdays

Land Conservancy of Will County
Technical Adviser

Lincoln-Way High School T.E.A.M. Asset
Workday and Event Staffing

Long Run Creek Watershed Planning Committee
Member

Lower Des Plaines Ecosystem Partnership
Local Partnership Council Member

Lower DuPage River Watershed Planning Coalition
Member

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie
Cooperative Volunteer Trainings
Local Partnership for Wauponsee Glacial Trail – Hoff Road Access Improvement

Naperville Park District and City of Naperville
DuPage River Trail, DuPage River Greenway

National Weather Service
Weather Observer Program

Natural Areas Association
Member

Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership
Cooperative Management Agreement

Old Plank Road Trail Management Commission
Member

Pet Supplies Plus
Partnership to Sell Forest Preserve Dog Park Permits

Possibility Place Nursery
Bringing Nature Home Native Plant Sale Partner

Prairie Parklands Ecosystem Partnership
Local Partnership Council Member

RiverWorks Discovery
Field Trip Programming at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center

Route 53 Corridor Planning Committee
Stakeholder

Route 66 Bikeway Planning Group
Council Member

Shorewood HUGS
Hugs for Hounds Easter Egg Hunt

Siberian Husky Club of Greater Chicago
Musher Mania

Sustainable Agriculture Project
Member

The Conservation Foundation
Bringing Nature Home Native Plant Sale Partner

The Nature Conservancy
Volunteer Trainings and Equipment Use

Thorn Creek Audubon Society
Bluebird Monitoring and Bird Surveying

Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve Management Commission
Secretary for the Commission

University of Illinois Extension
Master Gardeners
Master Naturalists

University of St. Francis
Freshman Orientation
Service Learning and Student Internships

University of Wisconsin – La Crosse
Student Internship

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
Free Boat Safety Checks and Boating Safety Courses

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Hine's Emerald Dragonfly Habitat Conservation

Veterans Memorial Trail Planning Group
Member

Village of Woodridge
Veterans Memorial Trail – Bluff Road to International Parkway

Volunteer Stewardship Network
Volunteer Trainings and Equipment Use

Will County Audubon Society
Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Programming

Will County Historic Preservation Commission
Staff Support

Will County Regional Office of Education
Professional Development Exchange

Will County Resource Work Committee
Member

Will County Water Alliance Study Group
Membership on Steering Committee

Working Bikes
Recycle Your Bicycle Program

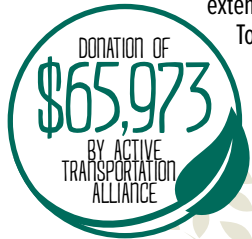
AWARDS IN APPRECIATION OF PARTNERS

Each year, a select group of partners is singled out for outstanding contributions to the Forest Preserve District of Will County. Those honored are presented their award before the full Board of Commissioners. In 2014, three honorees were selected for the Appreciation of Partners Award.



Active Transportation Alliance

Active Transportation Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting alternative transportation. This group sponsored the “Roll the Toll” bicycle ride on the first day the I-355 southern extension (Veterans Memorial Tollway) was opened. It has raised money for a proposed bike trail alongside this new tollway and has donated \$65,973 to the Forest Preserve District for this project.



S.T.E.P. – Sandra Jones

The vision statement of the Secondary Transition Experience Program (S.T.E.P.) is that each student has the necessary tools and community support to succeed in the future. In partnership with students and their families, bridges are built between schools and the community that allow for smooth and successful transitions for students with disabilities. The District has had the good fortune to partner with S.T.E.P. and their students over the last two years. Under the guidance of Sandra Jones, special education teacher at S.T.E.P., students from this program have been assisting the Forest Preserve District with shoreline cleanup at Lake Renwick Preserve – Turtle Lake Access in Plainfield. These partnerships are essential in providing students vocational, emotional, independent and functional living skills necessary to be successful members of society. Such partnerships also help the District in accomplishing its maintenance goals.

Officer Dalen Bunch

Officer Dalen Bunch of Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie is a valued partner of the Forest Preserve District’s Police Department. In February of 2014, Forest Preserve Master Patrol Officer (MPO) Dean Klier was involved in a motor vehicle accident with a semi-truck while in his squad car. MPO Klier was able to talk over the radio but was unable to state his exact location. Officer Bunch was able to locate Klier on South Arsenal Road east of Route 53 in Wilmington. Officer Bunch was the first to respond and arrive on scene and was able to gain entry into the badly damaged police vehicle and render aid and assistance to Klier, while also broadcasting via radio a more accurate location. Emergency Medical Service personnel arrived on the scene along with several other law enforcement agencies, and Officer Bunch began to direct traffic as well as help secure Klier’s weapons. Officer Bunch’s actions reflect great credit upon himself and the U.S. Forest Service, of which Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie is a part. His demeanor also displays the spirit of cooperation and partnership that exists between the Forest Service and the District.





**\$2.1
MILLION**
TOTAL GRANTS

More than \$2 million in grants was awarded to the Forest Preserve District in 2014. New trail development and large restoration projects were the primary purposes for these grant funds. Grants expand local tax dollars to enable the District to provide more amenities to Will County citizens.

GRANTS AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program <i>DuPage River Greenway Trail Development</i>	\$963,220
ComEd Green Region Program <i>Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve Restoration</i>	\$10,000
O'Hare Modernization and Mitigation Account <i>Hadley Valley – Gougar Road Access Restoration</i>	\$425,000
Illinois Department of Natural Resources <i>Hammel Woods Bat Condo Installation</i>	\$2,000
Illinois Department of Natural Resources <i>Isle a la Cache Museum</i> <i>Native American Longhouse Living History Exhibit</i>	\$270,000*
O'Hare Modernization and Mitigation Account <i>Messenger Woods Nature Preserve Restoration</i>	\$275,000
Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Illinois Youth Recreation Corp. <i>Staffing Assistance at District Visitor Centers and the Operations & Law Enforcement Facility</i>	\$11,520
Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Bike Path Grant Program <i>Whalon Lake/DuPage River Trail Development</i>	\$151,000*
Total Grants for 2014	\$2,107,740

*Grants awarded that have been suspended by the State of Illinois due to state budget concerns.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

SPONSORSHIPS

In 2014, the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Community Partnerships Program welcomed both new and returning sponsors. A total of \$79,888 was received during the year through the District's Sponsorship Program.

Abri Credit Union	Kavanagh, Grumley & Gorbald, LLC
Advanced Family Dental, PC	Kuhar Vision Care P.C.
Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar	Lee Werner Excavating
Arrowhead Tutors	Merchants & Manufacturers Bank
AT&T	Midwest Generation, LLC
Bill Jacobs Joliet, LLC	MVP Chiropractic, LLC
BIMBA Manufacturing	Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency
BMO Harris Bank N.A.	Northern Illinois Steel Supply
Canadian National Railway	Oak Lawn Blacktop Paving
CARCARE Collision Centers	Ozinga Bros., Inc.
Catholic Holy Family Society	Patterson Travel Company
CenterPoint Properties	Physicians Immediate Care
Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LTD	Presence Saint Joseph Medical Center
CITGO Petroleum Corporation	Providence Bank
Claassen, White & Associates	Pullara, Inc.
Clif Bar Company	Republic Services
Comcast Cable	Riverside Medical Center
Complete Chiropractic and Wellness Center	Rosario Cibella, LTD
D Construction	Saratoga Food Specialties
Darryl Dupre, Inc.	Siegel's Cottonwood Farm
Dollinger Family Farm	Standard Bank & Trust
Elite Rehabilitation Institute	Starcon International
Enbridge Energy	Strand Associates, Inc.
Exelon Generation	Sumbaum Cycle Co.
Exxon Mobil Pipeline	Town Center Bank
First Community Bank	TransCanada
Frank Burla & Sons Builders, Inc.	Trinity Services, Inc.
Halligan Enterprises, Inc.	Turk Furniture
Heroes West Sports Grill	Vitas Hospice Services
Hollywood Casino Joliet	Voyager Media Group
Hometown National Bank	Walgreens
I-55 Auto Salvage, Inc.	Walmart
Integrity Restoration, Inc.	Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
James V. Smith & Associates	Wermer, Rogers, Doran & Ruzon, LLC
John Wright – State Farm Agent	Whole Foods Market, Naperville
Joliet Bicycle Club	Wight & Company
Joliet Junior College	
Joliet Tent Company	
JULIE, Inc.	

* Sponsorships and donations listed exceed \$250 cash or in-kind value.



\$79,888
RECEIVED IN SPONSORSHIPS



DONATIONS

The Forest Preserve District of Will County is proud to present our donors. A total of \$61,802 was received in 2014 through the District's Donation Program. These generous contributors financially supported the Forest Preserve District of Will County during the year, showing their commitment to the mission, values and vision of the District.

Boy Scout Troop 82	Joseph Trubich
Cabela's	LyondellBasell
Chevron Products Company	Mr. and Mrs. Jack Engels
Coastal Pet Products, Inc.	Mr. and Mrs. Michael Krohn
Comcast Cable	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hinz
ComEd	Mushyface Cookie Company
Cynthia Gibbons	Pet Supplies Plus
Diane's Dogs	PetSmart
Drop Zone Portable Service, Inc.	Purrfurred Pet Styling
Earthbath/SHEA	Mobile Grooming, Inc.
Feel So Good Canine Massage, LLC	Richard Wachenheim
Game 7 Films	Shorewood HUGS
Goldman, Sachs & Co.	Silvercrest Veterinary Service
Homer Tree Service, Inc.	Spay Illinois
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission	The Pooper Scoopers, Inc.
Joliet Bicycle Club	The Thomas McCafferty Family
	Two Bostons Pet Boutique
	Wendy Covelli



Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting

GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (GFOA)

This award was presented in 2014 to the Forest Preserve District for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013. This is the 19th consecutive year that the Forest Preserve has been presented with the award. The Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting, awarded by the GFOA, is the highest recognition given in governmental accounting.



Excellence in Ecological Restoration Program

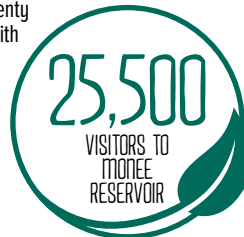
CHICAGO WILDERNESS

The Excellence in Ecological Restoration Program, presented by Chicago Wilderness, is a program that recognizes high-quality restoration sites and the organizations that manage them. This award was presented in December 2014 to the Forest Preserve District for its restoration efforts at the 575-acre Hickory Creek Barrens Nature Preserve in New Lenox. This marked the second consecutive year that the District was honored with this award. In 2013, Chicago Wilderness recognized the Forest Preserve for restoration work at Braidwood Dunes and Savanna Nature Preserve in Braidwood. Both awards were Platinum Accreditation, which is the highest level of recognition. The 2014 award was presented at Chicago Wilderness' "Celebrating Our Best" banquet held in Chicago.

Top 100 Family-Friendly Places to Boat and Fish in the U.S.

RECREATIONAL BOATING AND FISHING FOUNDATION

The Forest Preserve's Monee Reservoir was named among the top locations for families to boat and fish by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation. To be named to the list, lakes and rivers had to have family-friendly locations and amenities in park settings, be well stocked with fish, and have plenty of places to cast fishing lines. The 46-acre lake at Monee Reservoir is stocked with bluegill, black crappie, largemouth bass and channel catfish. The Visitor Center offers boat and fishing pole rentals, and sells bait, tackle, fishing licenses and snacks. During fishing and boating season, many special programs take place at Monee Reservoir including fishing derbies and kayaking and canoeing classes. In 2014, Monee Reservoir had an estimated 25,500 visitors.



Community Service Award

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS (IAPD)

JULIE, Inc., a corporate sponsor for many Forest Preserve events, was honored with a first-place award from the IAPD at its "Best of the Best Gala" banquet held in October 2014. The company, which began its partnership with the District five years ago, won its award in the "Best Friend of Illinois Parks" category for small size businesses. JULIE (Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators) provides Illinois professional excavators, homeowners and underground utility owners with a one-call message handling and delivery service committed to protecting underground utilities and the safety of people working or living near them.

The company first partnered with the Forest Preserve District in 2010 to sponsor a community workday and has continued to sponsor what has been an annual event ever since. JULIE expanded its partnership with the Forest Preserve two years ago when it became a District-wide sponsor of Forest Preserve special events. It has contributed a total of \$10,500 to the District for these family programs. JULIE has also been a title sponsor for the District's "Music at McKinley Outdoor Concert and Car Show" in Channahon for the past two years, and has sponsored the pumpkin painting tent at the District's "Goodenow Grove Fall Fest" in Beecher. JULIE also has promoted the District through email blasts, by posting a link to the District's website on its website's partnership page, and by offering Forest Preserve informational materials to the public at its booth at the Illinois State Fair. It has also provided free giveaways at District events and for the District to distribute at the annual Parks Days at the Capitol.



Excellence in Interpretive Support Award

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR INTERPRETATION

The National Association for Interpretation (NAI) selected Diane Carson, recreational facility coordinator for the Forest Preserve's Monee Reservoir, for the Excellence in Interpretive Support Award. This award is presented to individuals or entities that have provided lasting benefits to the profession of interpretation and have set standards for the interpretive field. Carson was selected from a pool of nominees within NAI's Region 5, which includes all NAI members and nonmembers from state parks, county agencies, museums, zoos, park districts, recreational facilities and many other public and private organizations in Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Also included in the region are the province of Manitoba and the territory of Nunavut in Canada.

2014 INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS

In 2014, 1,252 volunteers contributed more than 14,300 hours of service helping the Forest Preserve. Their greatest contribution was in resource management, accounting for nearly half of the hours logged by all volunteers. This huge number of volunteers is made up of individuals, families and social and corporate groups. All are honored annually at a Volunteer Banquet, where individual awards are presented for outstanding contributions to the District.

Division, Department or Section	Total Volunteers	Hours
Division of Administration and Finance		
Volunteer Services	9	1,018
Law Enforcement		
Trail Sentinels	34	1,759
Division of Planning and Operations		
Operations Department	181	1,432.50
Planning and Development Department	552	6,696.75
<i>Planning</i>	1	89
<i>Resource Management</i>	551	6,607.75
Division Total	733	8,129.25
Division of Public Affairs and Education		
Public Affairs Department	246	415
Public Programs and Education Department	230	3,054
<i>Environmental Learning Center</i>	98	466
<i>Isle a la Cache Museum</i>	19	1,442.50
<i>Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Nature Preserve</i>	37	382
<i>Monee Reservoir/Whalon Lake</i>	66	549
<i>Plum Creek Nature Center</i>	10	214.50
Division Total	476	3,469
Grand Total	1,252	14,375.25

Diane Aigner
Cindy Alberico
Tom Allison
Olivia Amezcua
Ray Amezcua
Gil Anderson
Linda Andrews
Ken Babinek
Katherine Bader
Fran Beck
Debra Bettenhausen
Mark Bettin
June Blackburn
Michelle Blackburn
Sydney Blackburn
Greg Bluhm
Pat Bluhm
Alison Borecky
Nick Bryerton
Al Bulava
Therese Caldwell
Vanessa Caldwell
Pete Caldwell
Rodney Campbell
Scott Carevic
Chad Carson
Owen Casey
Ron Cassidy
Lynne Cassidy
Janine Catchpole
Linda Chandler
Jean Christensen
Carol Cooley
Kerri Counts
Erin Cox
Anna Craig
Jimmy Craig
Joel Craig
Oscar Cuecas
Theresa Cunningham
Rodney Dabe
Paul Dacko

Tadeuz Dauksza
Georgeann Davis
George Dehm
Judy Dehm
Kathy Dehn
Joan Dietrich
Stan Dietrich
Joanne DiNovo
Jason Diverno
Dawn Downey
Cathy Dubois
Greg Dubois
Brian Duffie
Aura Duke
Sid Duke
Frank Dundek
Lyle Dundek
Michelle Dundek
Benjamin Dunkman
Dennis Eakright
Robert Eakright
Lee Ecker
Jeff Fasenella
Joan Fasenella
Laura Fattore
Barb Ferry
Joyce Flanagan
Roger Flees
Cathy Foy
Pat Foy
Carolynn Gann
Bob Gaston
Ben Gauchat
Jean Golec
Jan Gonzales
Alejandro Granados
Adriana Granados
Tom Hawk
Pat Hoffman
Emmie Holt
Cindy Hostert
Bill Huish
The Humistion Family

Jeremy Hutton
Rachel Januska
Eric Johnson
George Johnson
Glenn Johnson
Ron Kapala
Ron Kaye
Efty Kelly
Eric Kelly
Margaret Kelly
Emily Kenny
Bill Kibler
Jackie Kibler
Kathy Kibler
Will Kibler
Ed Klama
Karen Klama
Lily Klinkhamer
Stephen Konieczka
Myrt Larson
Tyler Leonard
Kathryn Lewellen
Ken Lewellen
Wayne Lezon
Phil Liput
Rich Llewellyn
Chuckie Llewellyn
Rita Luedke
Susan Malkowski
Carol Malnar
Stan Malnar
CJ Marshall
George Marshall
Noah Marshall
Lisa Matthews
Dave Mauger
Alice McBride
Tom McCafferty
MaryAnne McLean
Ruth Meyer
Bonnie Mezewicz
Bonnie Miller
Jim Miller

Paul Miller
Thomas Miller
John Mittelbrun
Jack Mizicko
Krystle Morales
Bill Morris
Kent Munro
Jim Murphy
Jody Murphy
James Murrie
Don Nelson
Espie Nelson
John Nerren
Brandon Nye
Michael Nye
Joe O'Brien
Michael O'Brien
Michelle O'Connor
Bernie O'Reilly
Jack Wallace Panozzo
Matthew Pavich
Paul Pawlowski
Shannon Pedore
Mike Perry
Karen Pesce
Lorenzo Pesce
John Peterson
Judy Petzinger
Carol Picciolo
Diane Pool
Kristen Pool
Erika Powers
Phil Pursley
Owen Ratliff
Rita Renwick
Bob Reynolds
Mike Reynolds
Alec Rich
Dan Rich
Kevin Rich
Mary Rich
Ben Riley
Carolyn Roberts
Terri Robinson
Carrie Rock
Ann Romadka
Bob Romadka



Roger Ross
Rene Russell
Mike Rzepka
Joe Sanchez
Midge Saunders
Janet Schleeter
Paul Schroeder
Phyllis Schulte
Sam Scott-Schroeder
Max Scott-Schroeder
Carol Smith
Tod Shafer
Michelle Sommer
Angela Spero

Bailey Stevenson
Dakota Stevenson
Pat Strange
Karen Tellef
Alan Thomas
Dick Thomas
Matt Tolene
Edith Turkington
Bernie Twait
Bruce Vasa
Dave Vasa
Randy Verink
Richard Wachenheim
Judith Wallace

Tom Washkowiak
Joanne Wasz
Sarah Welz
Dave Wendt
Marie Wendt
Mark Wiclaw
Sally Wiclaw
Ylanda Wilhite
Bill Willis
Connie Witkowski
Lee Witkowski
Earl Zastro
Laura Zderad
Natalie Zderad
Sue Zelek



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER GROUPS

- | | |
|---|--|
| Beecher High School | Lemont High School |
| Boy Scout Pack 94 | Lewis University |
| Boy Scout Troop 44 | Lockport Township High School |
| Boy Scout Troop 49 Eagle Scout Project | Lincoln-Way Central High School |
| Boy Scout Troop 82 Eagle Scout Project | Special Education Classes |
| Boy Scout Troop 131 | Lincoln-Way Central High School T.E.A.M. Asset |
| Boy Scout Troop 256 Eagle Scout Project | Lincoln-Way East High School |
| Boy Scout Troop 315 Eagle Scout Project | Lincoln-Way West High School |
| Boy Scout Troop 341 | Midwest Bassmasters |
| Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus | Plainfield High School Interact Club |
| Catholic Holy Family Services | Plainfield United Methodist Church |
| Cornerstone Services | Plants of Concern Volunteers |
| Cub Scout Den 10 | Prairie 4-H Club |
| Girl Scout Troops 70132 and 70138 | Project Pride |
| Girl Scout Troop 70398 | S.T.E.P. Program |
| Girl Scout Troop 70765 | The Siberian Husky Club of Greater Chicago |
| Great Lakes Bassmasters | Treibh na Tintean |
| Heart Haven Outreach | University of St. Francis |
| Illinois Youth Recreation Corps | Wild Ones of Will County |
| Joliet Junior College | Will County Trail Riders |
| Joliet Montessori School | University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire |
| Joliet West High School | |

CORPORATE VOLUNTEER GROUPS

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Caterpillar | Home Depot |
| Citgo Lemont Refinery | Joliet Job Corps |
| Comcast Cable | JULIE, Inc. |
| Covidien | Saratoga Food Specialties |
| Goldman Sachs | Target |
| Harrah's Joliet | |

14,300
HOURS OF
VOLUNTEER
SERVICE



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Marcella M. DeMauro

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

John Gerl, *Director*
 Lisa Lukasevich, *Superintendent of Finance*
 Julie Dutton
 Renee Gauchat
 Lori Green
 Diana Jaworski
 Tom Mancari
 Kyrsten Muentnich
 Karen Odum
 Michael Prybell
 Denise Steffen
 Donna Suca

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Robert Murphy, *Chief of Police*
 Tracy Chapman, *Lieutenant*
 Jason Allbert
 Andrew Anderson
 James Antole
 David Barrios, Jr.
 Steven Bettenhausen
 James Burnette
 Vincent Cimino
 Stephen Dow
 Scott Dubs
 Jack Ellingham
 Eric Gabrielson
 Donald Gardiner
 Dennis Goron

Gregory Hidlebaugh
 Cameron Kamarasukas
 Shane Kelly
 Dean Klier
 Eric Kobe
 Terry Kreimeier
 Richard Lewandowski
 Michael Liebermann
 Reginald McCrary
 Jeffrey McKenzie
 Daniel Olszewski
 Andrew Paver
 Michael Reilly
 David Starcevic
 Marian VanOoteghem
 Bradley Veerman
 Nicole Veerman
 Robert Veron
 James Wendt

PLANNING AND OPERATIONS

Ralph Schultz, *Director*

OPERATIONS

John Fay, *Superintendent*
 Calvin Anderson
 Tracy Bianco
 Cole Biltgen
 David Blaskey
 Scott Carevic
 Rina Cheney
 Steven Crobie
 Ian Eskridge
 Cedric Foster
 Phillip Gallo
 Terrence Garvey, Jr.

Richard Gier
 James Glenn
 Gregory Griffin
 John Janssen
 Jeffrey Jaworski
 Brian Krabbe
 Jeff Kure
 Eric Latz
 John Latz
 Brian Mackey
 Scott Marco
 Edward McDermott
 Michael Milligan
 Arthur Moeller
 Christopher Moeller
 Scott Nielsen
 Adam Oestmann
 Jon Panozzo
 Justin Parks
 Daniel Parthun
 Alex Pasteris
 James Patnoudes
 Richard Princko
 Kyle Siegel
 Roy Smith
 Denzil Smothers
 Terry Snyder
 Jeffery Steichen
 Brad Steinke
 William Suca, Jr.
 Dane Thayer
 Donald Thayer
 Richard Therkildsen
 Sara Therkildsen
 Charles Thomas
 Donna VanWert
 Thomas Watson
 Robert Zinkiewicz

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Andrew Hawkins, *Superintendent*
 Juanita Armstrong-Ullberg
 Michelle Blackburn
 Allison Borecky
 Elise Brazzale
 Glen Buckner
 Jason Buss
 Floyd Catchpole
 Corinne Crawford
 Karen Fonte
 Timothy Good
 Julianne Mason
 Colleen Novander
 Matt Novander
 John O'Lear
 Karen Rinke
 David Robson
 Deborah Specht
 Andrew Stickney
 Judith Wallace
 Jason Zylka

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND EDUCATION

Cynthia Harn, *Director*

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Laura Kiran, *Superintendent*
 Cindy Cain
 Morgan Drdak
 Bruce Hodgdon
 Cecelia Kanellakes
 Glenn P. Knoblock
 Katie McCollum

Jim McFarland
 Rose Scofield
 Barb Sudsberry
 Eleanor Wagner

PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND EDUCATION

Lynn Kurczewski, *Superintendent*
 Bob Bryerton
 Catherine Caldwell
 Diane Carson
 Erin Ecker
 Jen Guest
 Christopher Gutmann
 Harry Klinkhamer
 Mark Loekle
 Terry Lorenz
 Suzy Lyttle
 Jim Nachel
 Jenna Newcomb
 Courtney Nash
 Angela Opiola
 Kelli Parke
 Jessica Prince-Sharrar
 Angela Rafac
 Tina Riley
 Ray Setzke
 Mike Speller
 Jason Stevenson
 Mary Thomas
 Melissa Zanzola

RETIRED

Lorie Graf
 Richard Wachenheim



Photo credits: Juanita Armstrong-Ullberg, Chicago Wilderness, Cindy Cain, Lane Cameron, Paul Dacko, Bill Doolin, Morgan Drdak, Lee Ecker, Barb Ferry, Karen Fonte, Tim Good, Dorian Jarrette, Jim Kloss, Glenn P. Knoblock, Suzy Lyttle, Ron Molk, John O' Lear, Ron Panzer, Lorenzo Pesce, John Tierney, Dick Todd



ReconnectWithNature.org



Sugar Creek Administration Center
17540 W. Laraway Road
Joliet, IL 60433
815.727.8700

Environmental Learning Center
20851 S. Briarwood Lane
Mokena, IL 60448
708.479.2255

Four Rivers Environmental Education Center
25055 W. Walnut Lane
Channahon, IL 60410
815.722.9470

Isle a la Cache Museum
501 E. 135th Street
Romeoville, IL 60446
815.886.1467

Monee Reservoir
27341 Ridgeland Avenue
Monee, IL 60449
708.534.8499

Plum Creek Nature Center
27064 S. Dutton Road
Beecher, IL 60401
708.946.2216

