



## 2016 – 2017 Year in Review



**Forest Preserve District of DuPage County**



# From the President



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Cover photo © Mark Baldwin

## **As a nationally recognized conservation agency,**

the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County envisions a community in which everyone shares a connection with nature and an appreciation for cultural history. Recent efforts to connect with other organizations to save taxpayers money have already paid dividends and enhanced the quality of life for DuPage County residents ... and we're just getting started.

Throughout our area, we're tending to projects that connect people to nature through trail development. These enhancements serve bicyclists, hikers and those who like to explore nature and their neighborhoods. We're also continuing to champion the conservation of plants and wildlife. We've partnered to introduce residents to native wildflowers, shrubs and trees, to revitalize endangered dragonflies, to propagate native mussels to filter local waterways, and to establish stands of milkweed so monarch butterflies can grace our landscape in greater numbers.

By pursuing cooperative agreements with DuPage County and other municipalities, we've shared costs and saved \$275,000. With the help of partners, donors and volunteers, we've enriched our programs and offerings.

This summer, I look forward to visiting The Preserve at Oak Meadows, our largest capital-improvement effort in recent years and a prime example of how well-planned spaces incorporating good use of land and waterways can provide a prime recreation facility.

Please join me in the year ahead and enjoy the beauty, the fun and the wonder of our forest preserves.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Cantore".

Joseph F. Cantore

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

# Who we are

## Our Vision

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County is a nationally recognized conservation agency that envisions a community in which all citizens share a connection with nature and an appreciation for cultural history

## Our Mission

To acquire and hold lands containing forests, prairies, wetlands and associated plant communities or lands capable of being restored to such natural conditions for the purpose of protecting and preserving flora, fauna and scenic beauty for the education, pleasure and recreation of DuPage County's citizens

## Our Purpose

To acquire, preserve, protect and restore the natural resources in DuPage County while providing opportunities for people to connect with nature





# Our Guiding Principles

## **The Forest Preserve District is committed**

to revitalizing the county's natural areas and providing better ways for people to access and experience them.

### **STEWARDSHIP**

The District serves as a responsible steward of the financial and natural resources that have been entrusted to it by the citizens of DuPage County. We adhere to the principle of excellence in all we do, and our actions are guided by a basic respect for nature, one another and the communities we serve.

### **SUSTAINABILITY**

The District values sustainability from an organizational and environmental perspective. To ensure its long-term ability to continue its mission, the District is guided by a commitment to financial and operational sustainability. The District is also committed to the responsible and sustainable preservation and use of the natural lands, waterways, plant and animal life under its protection for current and future generations.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

We strive to continuously engage the communities and individuals we serve in an ongoing dialogue and partnership to improve our relationships and foster greater trust and collaboration around common goals.

### **INNOVATION**

As a leader in our field we seek innovative ways to integrate new technology, engage our public, respond to changing needs and advance our mission and vision.

### **EMPOWERMENT**

We will provide a supportive working environment that respects and relies upon each individual's expertise, skills and diversity while encouraging teamwork, creativity and professional development.

### **DIVERSITY & INCLUSION**

We seek to honor and represent the growing diversity within our community in our practices, programs and services, communications and the accessibility of our preserves.





## Board of Commissioners

**President** Joseph F. Cantore, Oak Brook

**Commissioners** Marsha Murphy, Addison — District 1  
Jeffrey Redick, Elmhurst — District 2  
Linda Painter, Hinsdale — District 3  
Tim Whelan, Wheaton — District 4  
Mary Lou Wehrli, Naperville — District 5  
Al Murphy, West Chicago — District 6

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### The Forest Preserve District's Board

of Commissioners named Ed Stevenson the executive director in June 2017. Stevenson served as interim executive director since November 2016 and director of golf operations since 2011, overseeing a major environmental restoration project at The Preserve at Oak Meadows in Addison. He's worked full-time for our organization since 2004.

"I'm excited to continue working with the Forest Preserve District's Board of Commissioners that is passionate about serving DuPage County residents and talented staff," said Stevenson. "Our future looks bright, and it's a privilege to lead an organization that preserves natural resources and connects people to nature."



# Connecting People to Nature

## DuPage County residents value

the health and social benefits natural areas provide, and the Forest Preserve District is dedicated to improving and expanding the places and experiences forest preserves offer so close to home.

## GARDENERS "GO NATIVE" AT ANNUAL SALE

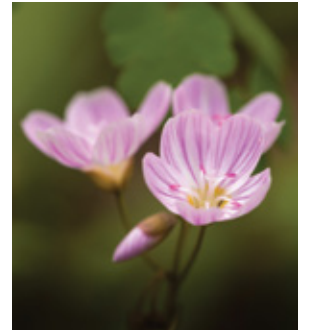
Native plants preserve biodiversity while increasing habitat for pollinators and other wildlife, and the Forest Preserve District's 10th annual Native Plant Sale May 12



and 13 at Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook put 12,000 native plants, shrubs, flowers and trees into the hands of 1,000 gardeners.

The event posted a 51 percent gain in sales from last year and a 140 percent increase since 2015. People purchased 21 percent more plants than in 2016 with presale orders accounting for almost a third of those sales. Gardeners picked up presale orders during the event at Mayslake or on the west side of the county at Kline Creek Farm in West Chicago. As with previous plant sales, proceeds will support educational programs throughout the forest preserves.

A presale catalog guided shoppers to plants well-suited for full or partial sun, shade, and wet or dry soils, and District experts helped gardeners make selections at the sale itself. Offerings included monarch butterfly, full-sun and woodland shade packages; grasses, such as little bluestem and prairie dropseed; shrubs, such as





buttonbush, Illinois rose and wild hydrangea; and blue beech, bur oak, redbud and other trees. Most plants originated from seeds collected within 100 miles of the county, and all came from seeds free of neonicotinoids, pesticides harmful to bees and other insect pollinators.



## BRIDGE JOINS MALLARD LAKE AND HAWK HOLLOW

Trail fans can make safer, easier-to-access connections with nature thanks to a pedestrian bridge over County Farm Road connecting Mallard Lake and Hawk Hollow forest preserves.

Completed in spring 2017, the bridge connects to existing trails at Mallard Lake via a new 1-mile connection, which also provides a missing link in the greater North Central DuPage Regional Trail, a regional system that will eventually link Cook County to the 23-mile West Branch DuPage River Trail.

Funding for the \$4 million project included \$500,000 from DuPage County, a \$1 million grant through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, \$1.98 million in federal funding through the Surface Transportation Program, and \$1.28 million in state funding through the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program.



## BIGGEST SUMMER CAMP ENROLLMENT EVER

A 25 percent spike in summer camp enrollment—the best enrollment ever — directly paralleled the Forest Preserve District's widest-ever offering of camp experiences. Many campers signed up for nature- and history-focused programs at St. James Farm, Kline Creek Farm, Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center and Willowbrook Wildlife Center. Others registered for ranger-led camps that introduced children to paddling, archery and other recreational activities.

By late June 770 kids and teens had enrolled in camps, compared to 608 in 2016. Registration opened Jan. 1, and almost 200 campers enrolled within the month.





# Conservation Efforts

## **No matter what you call them —**

natural areas, open spaces, prairies, woodlands or wetlands — large stretches of undeveloped land are what most people think about when they think of DuPage County's forest preserves.

## **ECOLOGISTS RAISE AND RELEASE FRESHWATER MUSSELS**

In spring 2017 the Forest Preserve District began releasing native freshwater mussels cultured and reared at its Urban Stream Research Center at Blackwell Forest Preserve into the West Branch DuPage River. Throughout the year it will release a total of 9,000 mussels along 13 miles of the waterway.

Release efforts came about after extensive efforts with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and DuPage



County Stormwater Management to improve conditions in and along the river by creating in-stream habitat for aquatic animals, combating erosion, and improving the waterway's ability to store and handle floodwater.

True to its aquatic conservation mission, the District has led efforts to augment native freshwater mussel populations in DuPage waterways to improve water quality. Despite their size, mussels provide enormous benefits because they take in large amounts of water when



**Freshwater mussels comprise the most** imperiled group of wildlife in North America. At one time, 80 species made their home in Illinois. Today 17 species are extinct, and 23 are listed as endangered, threatened or of special concern at the federal or state level. Man-made changes to rivers have damaged the sand-gravel habitats mussels prefer, ammonia and other contaminants threaten young mussels, and invasive species such as zebra mussels have reduced native populations.





they feed. In the process, they filter out bacteria, algae, detritus and many other microorganisms before passing clean water back into the river. Just one adult can filter up to 18 gallons of water in one day, and because many mussels like to live in groups, together they can filter enough water to lower overall water pollution levels.

## CONSERVATION AND RECREATION IN HARMONY AT OAK MEADOWS

World-class golf, a vibrant 288-acre ecosystem, enhanced stormwater management capabilities, and improved water quality within Salt Creek. Addison and surrounding

communities will enjoy all these benefits when The Preserve at Oak Meadows opens in summer 2017.

Formerly known as Oak Meadows Golf Course, The Preserve at Oak Meadows represents a two-year, \$16.8 million transformation. Nationally known golf course architect Greg Martin designed the new 18-hole course to accommodate the project's ambitious habitat restoration and stormwater management goals. The new name reflects a revitalized property, a model for blending ecological initiatives with golf and recreation.

Natural enhancements include restored habitat for fish and other aquatic animals within Salt Creek, which







flows through the middle of the property. In-stream improvements included the removal of two low-head dams, the installation of pools and riffles, and the construction of stabilized banks, which reduce erosion. With fairways, greens and teeing areas making up just 15 percent of the preserve, the remaining resculpted landscape will be able to increase the stormwater-carrying capacity by 20 million gallons.

For golfers, critical portions of playing areas are now elevated to limit recurring damage caused by frequent flooding. The new configuration offers multiple tee options ranging from 4,800 to 7,000 yards and expanded practice areas.

Partners with the Forest Preserve District on the project included the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup and DuPage County Stormwater Management, which both funded the restoration, and The River Prairie Group of the Sierra Club, which supported the project's initiatives.

## FORMER LANDFILLS GET NATIVE-PLANT MAKEOVERS

In September 2016 the Forest Preserve District began a multiyear effort to manage more than 900 acres of habitat on and adjacent to the closed landfills at Blackwell, Greene Valley and Mallard Lake forest preserves.

When the landfills closed near the end of the 1990s, the companies managing the sites seeded each with short grasses to stabilize the “landfill disposal unit cap area” — the area where the waste is stored below ground. They mowed the grasses annually, but over the years unwanted, invasive plants — plants that don't hold soils as well or provide ideal wildlife habitat — started to take over.

Now, by working with an ecological contractor to remove the unwanted plants, the District hopes to convert the areas into attractive habitats for grassland birds that also better support landfill operations.







## NEW WETLANDS, PRAIRIES TO IMPROVE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AT DANADA

A five-year project to improve habitat for native wildlife began in February 2017 at Danada Forest Preserve. When completed, 21 acres of restored wetlands and 23 of prairie will allow the land to better accept, store and clean stormwater.

Crews will disable clay tiles installed by farmers in the 1800s to drain the soil for crops and pastures, restoring more natural groundwater conditions. They'll then mow and remove select weedy trees and aggressive, invasive nonnative plants, such as buckthorn and honeysuckle, to make room for a variety of native vegetation, such as butterfly weed, leadplant, prairie coreopsis, blazing star and wild quinine — favorites of native pollinators and other wildlife.

The work will center on an area south of Butterfield Road one-half mile west of Naperville Road. Most construction will wrap up by 2018, but initial maintenance activities will continue through 2022. The project is funded by DuPage County's Fee in Lieu of Wetland Mitigation Banking Fund.

## FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT AGAIN NAMED TOP 50 GREEN FLEET

For the sixth consecutive year, the Forest Preserve District earned accolades as one of the "100 Best Fleets in the Americas" and for the fourth year in a row made Government Fleet Magazine's list of top 50 fleets in the nation.

Both programs honor top public-sector fleets among the more than 30,000 at the municipal, county, state and federal levels. The Government Fleet list recognizes operations that perform at high levels, particularly in fleet leadership, competitiveness and efficiency, planning and problem solving. The Forest Preserve District remains the only conservation agency to make the Top 50 list.

By focusing on innovative ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and dependency on petroleum-based fuel, the Forest Preserve District sets an example. Use of alternate fuels has lowered fuel expenditures, reduced tailpipe emissions and lengthened vehicle lifespans.

The Forest Preserve District fleet has 125 road vehicles and 172 pieces of equipment that use alternative fuels such as liquefied petroleum gas, compressed natural gas, ethanol, biodiesel and hybrid electric. The Forest Preserve District also helps area municipalities reduce greenhouse emissions by allowing them to use its alternative fuel station — the only one in Illinois with four alternative fuels.



# Working Together

## **The Forest Preserve District relies on**

the strong partnerships it has formed with municipal, county and state agencies to ensure it can provide the best amenities for DuPage County residents while adhering to its mission. In 2016 and 2017 the Board of Commissioners approved several intergovernmental agreements that benefited forest preserve visitors and neighbors alike.

### **City of Wheaton**

- Extension of water supply improvements and provision of water to St. James Farm Forest Preserve

### **DuPage County**

- Conveyance of an easement for relocation of existing path and construction of improvements within Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve
- Acceptance of the Cool DuPage Initiative

### **DuPage County Stormwater Management, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and the DuPage River Salt Creek Work Group**

- Cook-DuPage Watershed Initiative, A Watershed Protection Partnership

## **SHARED SERVICE PROJECTS ADD UP TO BIG TAXPAYER SAVINGS**

Recent shared services and joint-purchasing agreements between DuPage County and the Forest Preserve District have produced measurable taxpayer savings of \$275,000.

Efforts over the past year have included an increase in collaboration between the two agencies' information technology departments. Sharing software-licensing agreements and geographic information system services for mapping and establishing one locale to house hardware for data backup purposes resulted in \$246,000 in combined savings. Collective savings from these efforts could grow by as much as \$100,000 over the next year.

The Forest Preserve District also saved more than \$29,000 by partnering on a joint bid with the county's public works department to lock in a lower price for aggregate stone and gravel for trail maintenance and landscaping. In December the Forest Preserve District and county also partnered on tree removal along Naperville Road in Wheaton, an effort that expedited the removal of 40 to 50 dead or unsound trees and other overhanging branches to reduce disruption for the public.



Other cooperative cost-saving efforts included a revision to the Forest Preserve District's mosquito management policy to better align with county protocols addressing emerging mosquito-borne diseases and the decision to use the county's sewer-cleaning equipment instead of purchasing the service from a third-party vendor. Additional opportunities may include tree assessments, naturalized planting plans, mowing services, trail and paved-area maintenance, and additional shared IT projects.



### **Forest Preserve District of Will County**

- House, display and care for DuPage County Blanding's turtles in support of the Forest Preserve District's Blanding's Turtle Recovery Program



- Multipurpose trail connection between Greene Valley and Whalon Lake forest preserves

### **Illinois Department of Natural Resources**

- Grant agreement for captive rearing of the federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonflies at the Urban Stream Research Center at Blackwell Forest Preserve

### **Illinois Department of Transportation**

- Improvements at Hidden Lake Forest Preserve
- Trail and trailhead improvements at Dunham Forest Preserve

### **Village of Glen Ellyn**

- Agreement providing for the lease of a maintenance building, property and the McKee House at Churchill Woods Forest Preserve

### **West Chicago Park District**

- Establishment of multipurpose trail connection between Dunham Forest Preserve and Cornerstone Lakes Park



## **PARTNERS FOR WATERSHED PROTECTION**

This fiscal year saw the beginning of a new agreement between the Forest Preserve District, DuPage County, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup to improve wetland habitat for mammals, birds and other aquatic animals in the Salt Creek area while increasing the land's stormwater storage capabilities.

The agreement will help reduce governmental redundancies and overall costs while allowing each group to contribute expertise from planning and project oversight to ecological research.



## WEST BRANCH DUPAGE RIVER TRAIL GAINS 3 MILES

As the result of a Forest Preserve District collaboration with Winfield and the Winfield Riverwalk Committee, a new stretch of the West Branch DuPage River Trail now connects Winfield Mounds and West DuPage Woods forest preserves with downtown Winfield, the Winfield Metra station, Wynwood Park, Lions Park, Oakwood Park and Central DuPage Hospital.

The 3-mile trail provides an environmentally friendly alternate route for people traveling by foot or bicycle to these popular destinations and is an important step toward the completion of the 23-mile regional trail.

The 10-foot-wide trail meanders through downtown Winfield along the West Branch DuPage River. About 2.1 miles runs over crushed limestone screenings, 0.3 mile on asphalt, and 0.6 mile on striped and signed streets. There's also 640 feet of boardwalk and an 80-foot steel bridge.

The \$2.9 million project was supported by \$2.2 million from the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning-administered Transportation Alternatives Program. The village of Winfield contributed \$184,000, and the Forest Preserve District provided \$538,000 from its construction development and bond funds.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to cooperating through intergovernmental agreements, the Forest Preserve District regularly collaborates with scores of organizations on projects from large-scale habitat restorations to programs that give homeowners tips on how to support the forest preserves in their own backyards. Partners include municipalities, park districts, townships, county departments, state and federal agencies, and the organizations below.

### 20th Century Fox

- Filming of *Empire* television show at Mayslake Peabody Estate

### Benedictine University

- Affiliation agreement to provide practical learning environment and mentorship for university students

### Bensenville Park District

- Improvements and sheep display at Fischer Farm

### Commonwealth Edison Company

- Three leases for trail maintenance adjacent to Cricket Creek, Salt Creek Marsh and Greene Valley forest preserves

### Conservation Foundation

- Grant application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the Fox Valley Monarch Corridor Project

### Friends of Danada

- Danada House flooring improvements and enhancement of water feature in rear courtyard

### Wayne Area Conservancy

- License agreement allowing the conservancy to assist with restoration of an additional 18 acres at Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve

### Wayne Township Road District

- Letter of support for the Klein Road Trail



## FOX VALLEY MONARCH CORRIDOR

The Fox Valley Monarch Corridor stretches over 975 acres and will include the eventual restoration of 10 multiacre sites and hundreds of “stepping stone” sites on private land, efforts that will connect breeding and migration habitats for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Work along the corridor is being funded in part by a \$250,000 grant from the Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund Program, a public-private partnership administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that receives funding and other support from different businesses and agencies. The Conservation Foundation applied for the grant on the other land managers’ behalf. Matching contributions by participating organizations, including those listed following, extended across six counties and totaled nearly \$600,000.



Barrington Area Conservation Trust  
Campton Township  
Conserve Lake County  
Dundee Township  
Fermilab Nature Areas  
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County  
Forest Preserve District of Kendall County  
Forest Preserve District of Kane County  
Fox Valley Park District  
Land Conservancy of McHenry County  
Oswegoland Park District  
The Monsanto Company  
U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural  
Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of  
Land Management  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Geological Survey

## POLLINATOR HABITAT GRANT TO BENEFIT NIGHT HERON MARSH

The Forest Preserve District and a dozen other public and private land managers are working to create and improve monarch butterfly habitat across an area called the Fox Valley Monarch Corridor, which includes Night Heron Marsh Forest Preserve.

At Night Heron Marsh, restoration efforts have already started with the selective removal of aggressive and invasive plants north of Liberty Street in Aurora. In fall and winter, crews will seed the land with a variety of native grasses and flowers, including milkweeds — which monarch caterpillars cannot live without — and late-season nectar-producing blooms, which adult monarchs need to fuel their migration south.

# Financial Sustainability

## For the 29th consecutive year,

the nonprofit Government Finance Officers Association awarded the Forest Preserve District its Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The association developed the program to encourage agencies and professionals who are its members to “prepare comprehensive annual financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure.” The 2016 award recognized the District’s comprehensive annual financial report for fiscal year 2014 – 2015.

## FISCAL YEAR 2016 – 2017 GIFTS OF NOTE

### Blackwell and Herrick Lake Forest Preserves

- Rotary Club of Elmhurst — \$500 through the Friends of the Forest Preserve District for the ADA piers priority project

### Danada Equestrian Center

- Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation — \$25,000 through the Friends of the Forest Preserve District for paddock fencing project

### Mayslake Peabody Estate

- Anonymous — \$17,000 through the Friends of the Forest Preserve District as a first installment payment for the roundabout project
- Anonymous — Stock gift valued at more than \$5,200 through the Friends of the Forest Preserve District for the library restoration project

### St. James Farm Forest Preserve

- CNH Industrial Foundation Case IH, a brand of CNH Industrial — \$2,500 through the Friends of the Forest Preserve District for the indoor riding arena

## CONTRIBUTIONS

The Forest Preserve District and DuPage County taxpayers have benefitted from funding from the following organizations.

### Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity SEDAC Grant

- \$11,600 for HVAC needs analysis at Mayslake Peabody Estate and Forest Preserve District headquarters



## LAND DONATION GROWS SALT CREEK MARSH

Salt Creek Marsh Forest Preserve recently grew to 131 acres thanks to a donation of open space and natural habitat along the northern corridor of Salt Creek near Wood Dale and Itasca. This parcel is one of just a few remaining privately owned pieces of land of this size in the area.

Comprised of 24 acres of wetlands, floodplain and a quarter mile of creek, the land provides attractive habitat for great blue herons and other water birds including great egrets and spotted sandpipers. The preserve also contains retention basins and marshes that aid in stormwater control for surrounding communities. Visitors can view the property from the north side of the looped trail at Wood Dale/Itasca Reservoir Forest Preserve.



### Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Illinois Clean Diesel Grant Program

- \$23,376 to convert fleet vehicles to alternative fuels

### 20th Century Fox Television

- \$10,000 for filming scenes of the *Empire* television show at Mayslake Peabody Estate

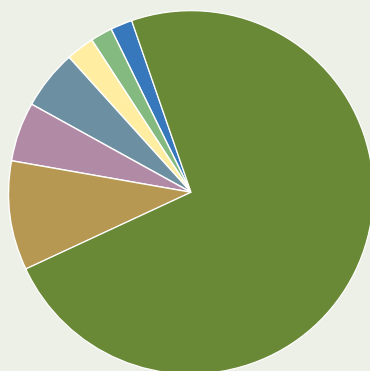
### Night Owl Ball Benefit

- \$27,223.25 profit from the September 2016 event for raptor housing project at Willowbrook Wildlife Center

## FISCAL YEAR 2015 – 2016

### PROPERTY TAX ALLOCATION

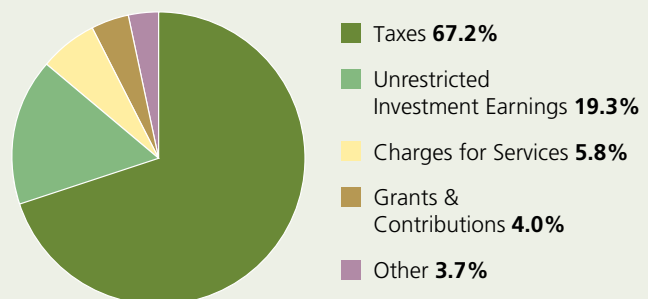
While nearly three-quarters of a DuPage County homeowner's tax bill goes to support schools, just 2 cents of every dollar paid funds all of the services the Forest Preserve District provides. During the tax year the homeowner of a house with a market value of \$300,000 paid \$169 to the District in property taxes.



- School Districts **73.36%**
- Cities & Villages **9.74%**
- Fire & Other **5.47%**
- Park Districts **5.09%**
- County Government **2.63%**
- Forest Preserve District **2.07%**
- Townships **1.67%**

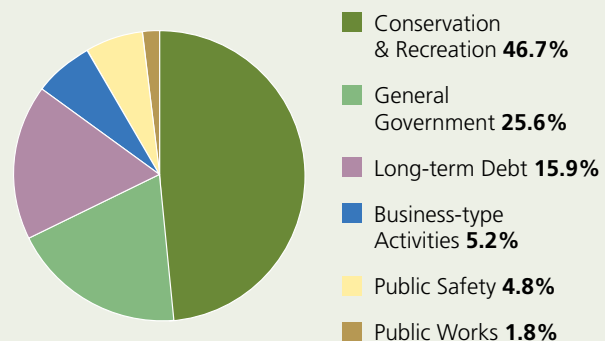
### REVENUES

During the fiscal year, the combined revenues of the District's governmental and proprietary funds totaled \$81,538,793.



### EXPENDITURES

The combined expenses of governmental and proprietary funds totaled \$61,176,122.





## **DISTRICT RAISES ENDANGERED HINE'S EMERALD DRAGONFLY**

The Forest Preserve District will raise federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly larvae at its state-of-the-art Urban Stream Research Center at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville after it was awarded a nearly \$70,000 federal grant. The rare dragonflies will be raised from larvae to adults. To boost the natural population, the adults will be released into the wild at select breeding sites in the Chicagoland area.

The program will minimize the risks associated with transporting larvae long distances between rearing and release sites and allow for appropriate release schedules as larvae near emergence as adults. Less than one percent of Hine's emerald dragonfly eggs makes it to adulthood in the wild, and the species is known to exist in only six locations nationwide. One of these locations is the Des Plaines River Valley in northeastern Illinois. Rapid development in this urban area means the Hine's emerald dragonflies here are in the most imminent danger of extirpation.

The four-year grant supports efforts to preserve and recover endangered species and boost the state's biological diversity. Receipt of the grant underscores the District's reputation as one of the top research partners in the Chicago region. Work will be done in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, University of South Dakota, the Genoa National Fish Hatchery and the Hine's Emerald Dragonfly Working Group.

## **GRANTS**

Many agencies awarded grants to the Forest Preserve District in 2016 and 2017, including those featured below. Some of these are multiyear grants, so the District may not receive all funds in any given year.

### **Cabela's**

- \$2,500 for major 2017 District events through the Friends of the Forest Preserve District for in-kind value of product and gift cards

### **Commonwealth Edison Company**

- \$10,000 for pollinator habitat improvements at Night Heron Marsh through the 2017 ComEd Green Region Program

### **Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation**

- \$176,000 for land acquisition and \$10,000 for restoration

### **Illinois Department of Natural Resources Endangered Species Section 6**

- \$69,733 for Hine's emerald dragonfly captive rearing

### **Illinois Department of Transportation Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program**

- \$312,000 for North Central Regional Trail development
- \$2 million for West Branch DuPage River Trail development

### **Mary J. Demmon Private Foundation**

- \$2,000 for Danada Equestrian Center through the Friends of the Forest Preserve District for equestrian medical expenses

### **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund Program**

- \$40,000 for the Fox Valley Monarch Corridor Project

### **Whole Foods Market – Wheaton, Illinois**

- \$3,929.20 for Forest Preserve District programs through the Friends of the Forest Preserve District as a Community Support Day beneficiary





# Our Volunteers

The Forest Preserve District could not offer many of its popular events and services without its dedicated corps of volunteers, individuals willing to donate their time, talents and resources to support programs and staff in carrying out the District's mission, purpose and guiding principles. These individuals maintain the momentum

of long-standing programs and also bring many new experiences to forest preserve visitors. During the 2015 – 2016 fiscal year, District volunteers donated 64,606 hours. That represents contributions of time totaling more than seven years and four months in a single year.

## VOLUNTEERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

	VOLUNTEER PROGRAM	HOURS	CONTRIBUTING VOLUNTEERS
	DANADA EQUESTRIAN CENTER	12,577:13	109
	EDUCATION & RESEARCH	28:30	3
	FULLERSBURG WOODS NATURE EDUCATION CENTER	1,344:18	40
	KLINE CREEK FARM	8,506:21	88
	MAYSLAKE PEABODY ESTATE	1,913:01	46
	NATURAL RESOURCES	6,546:05	169
	SPECIAL SERVICES	618:41	46
	ST. JAMES FARM	1,169:34	43
	TRAIL PATROL	3,038:45	75
	VOLUNTEER RANGER PROGRAM	736:18	29
	WILLOWBROOK WILDLIFE CENTER	20,492:05	236
	VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS		
	83 RESTORATION WORKDAYS	1,706	534
	100 GROUP WORKDAYS & EVENTS	5,929	2,082
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64,606</b>	<b>3,500</b>
	<b>TOTAL VALUE \$1,637,116.04</b> <i>Based on Independent Sector's Value of Volunteer Time</i>		





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