

**Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, July 16, 2025 – 5:30 PM
Forest Preserve Headquarters



A G E N D A

A. ROLL CALL

B. PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE

C. APPROVAL of MINUTES

Minutes for Executive Director Interviews and June 18

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AWARDS, and PRESENTATIONS

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS / DISCUSSION

F. NEW BUSINESS

G. CLOSED SESSION

1. Personnel

H. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Executive Director Contract
2. Bills for June
3. Extension of the Current Severson Dells Nature Center Lease
4. Approval of Lease Agreement for County Line
5. IMRF Authorized Agent

I. UPDATES and REPORTS

1. Preserve Operations
2. Natural Resource Management
3. Golf
4. Marketing
5. Human Resources
6. Law Enforcement
7. Partner Groups

J. CLOSED SESSION

1. Land Acquisition

K. ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS

1. July 25 – Nine & Dine at Ledges Golf Course.
2. August 2 – Walk With U at Blackhawk Springs starting at 8:30am.
3. August 6 – Walk Up Fishing Clinic at Four Lakes Forest Preserve from 10:00am-3:00pm.
4. August 15 – 815 Day.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Next regular Board Meeting – 5:30 PM Wednesday, August 20, Forest Preserve Headquarters

Anyone wishing to address the Board must call 815-877-6100 or email ewendlandt@winnebagoforest.org in advance of the meeting.

July 16, 2025
Rockford, Illinois

RESOLUTION

No. 25-0701

APPROVAL OF AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH DANIEL OLSON FOR THE POSITION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners desires to appoint Daniel Olson as Executive Director of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners desires to provide certain benefits, establish certain conditions of employment and to set working conditions of employment for the Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners desires to: (1) secure and retain the services of the Executive Director and to provide inducement for him to remain in such employment; and (2) make full work productivity possible by assuring the Executive Director's morale and peace of mind with respect to his future job security; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Director desires to accept employment as the Executive Director of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners for the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County authorizes the Employment Agreement with Daniel Olson attached hereto as Exhibit A for a three-year term commencing on August 11, 2025.

Voting YES_____

Voting NO_____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 16th day of July, 2025.

That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

Jeff Tilly, President
Board of Commissioners

EXHIBIT A
EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
Authorization to Process Payment of Bills



July 16, 2025


**TO: THE AUDITOR AND TREASURER OF THE
FOREST PRESERVES OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY.**

Your Forest Preserves of Winnebago County Board of Commissioners, to whom were referred the following bills in the amount of **\$1,168,772.50** against the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, have reviewed and approved and therefore respectfully request that orders be drawn on the account of the Forest Preserve District for their payment:

CORPORATE FUND	3001	316,619.70
BOTANICAL GARDEN FUND	3120	139,638.85
HEALTH BENEFITS FUND	3185	42,356.95
SOCIAL SECURITY FUND	3192	24,915.89
RETIREMENT FUND	3193	24,201.23
IMPROVEMENT & DEV. FUND	3302	415,046.93
CORPORATE FUND	3402	<u>205,992.95</u>
		\$ 1,168,772.50

Respectfully submitted,


Steve Chapman, Finance Director


Date

RESOLUTION

No. 25-0702

PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR JUNE

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserve incurs annual and monthly operating and capital expenditures during its budget cycle; and

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Finance Department compiled the attached invoices relating to Forest Preserve expenditures to be paid for the month of June; and

WHEREAS, our Finance Director, Steve Chapman, has reviewed the invoices and avows them to be accurate and appropriate for payment; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board authorizes the payment of the attached compilation of bills totaling \$1,168,772.50 to be paid by the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County for the month of June, 2025.

Voting YES_____

Voting NO_____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 16th day of July, 2025.

That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

Jeff Tilly, President
Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION

No. 25-0703

APPROVAL OF SECOND AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT WITH SEVERSON DELLS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners (Board) and the Severson Dells Education Foundation (SDEF) agreed upon the terms for a lease (Lease) of the Severson Dells Nature Center and garage (Nature Center) owned by the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County (FPWC); and

WHEREAS, the Lease was executed on April 19, 2023 by both the Board and SDEF to commence on May 19, 2023 and terminate on May 18, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Board and SDEF subsequently entered into a First Amendment to Lease Agreement (the “First Amendment”) that extended the Term of the Lease to July 18, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Board and SDEF are negotiating a new lease for use of the Nature Center by SDEF but require additional time to complete negotiations and therefore wish to further amend the current Lease to extend the terms of the Lease for an additional 60 days past the current termination date of July 18, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the legal counsel for FPWC, Sosnowski/Szeto, LLC, have prepared a SECOND AMENDMENT TO LEASE, a copy of which is attached to this Resolution and incorporated herein, to amend the Lease to extend the terms of the Lease for an additional 60 days.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners for the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County authorizes the SECOND AMENDMENT TO LEASE to extend the Term of the current Lease for an additional period of 60 days to now expire on September 16, 2025.

Voting YES_____

Voting NO_____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 16th day of July, 2025.

That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

Jeff Tilly, President
Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION

No. 25-0704

Approval of Lease Agreement for County Line

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County entered into a lease agreement with the owners of 1870 Mill Rd., Cherry Valley, IL 61016 ("Property") on May 15th, 2019 for the purpose of maintaining a hiking trail connecting Newburg Village Conservation Area in Boone County to County Line Forest Preserve through their property; and,

WHEREAS, the Property was sold on December 12, 2024 and the new owners of the Property, Deborah Hoffman and Tim McInturf, have agreed to enter into a new five-year lease with the same terms and provisions of the previous agreement; and,

WHEREAS, Forest Preserves of Winnebago County legal counsel Sosnowski Szeto LLC has drafted a new lease agreement between the new owners of the Property and the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County; and,

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County will pay the owners of the Property \$500.00 per year for an initial five-year period, with the lease renewing on an annual basis thereafter;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County authorize the Lease Agreement with Deborah Hoffman and Tim McInturf for the purpose of maintaining a trail through private property in order to provide access to County Line Forest Preserve.

Voting YES_____

Voting NO_____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 16th day of July, 2025.

That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

Jeff Tilly, President
Board of Commissioners

SECOND AMENDMENT TO LEASE

This Second Amendment to Lease Agreement (the "Second Amendment") is made and entered into, effective as of the ____ day of _____, 2025, by and between The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, an Illinois municipal corporation (hereinafter called "Landlord") and Severson Dells Education Foundation, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation (hereinafter called "Tenant").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Landlord and Tenant are parties to a Lease Agreement (the "Lease") dated May 19, 2023 whereby Landlord leased to Tenant a building and garage commonly referred to as the Severson Dells Nature Center ("Premises") which is located on real property owned by the Landlord commonly known as the Severson Dells Forest Preserve ("Landlord's Parcel"); and

WHEREAS, Landlord and Tenant subsequently entered into a First Amendment to Lease Agreement (the "First Amendment") that extended the Term of the Lease to July 18, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Landlord and Tenant now desire to further extend the Term of the Lease for an additional sixty (60) days to expire on September 16, 2025, as set forth in this Second Amendment; and

WHEREAS, capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this Second Amendment shall have the meanings given to them in the Lease and First Amendment.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants set forth below, and for other valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, Landlord and Tenant hereby agree as follows:

1. Recitals. The above-recitals are hereby incorporated herein and made a part hereof.

2. Term of Lease. Section 3 of the Lease is hereby amended to reflect that upon the expiration of the Term of the Lease on July 18, 2025 (as provided for in the First Amendment), the term of the Lease shall be extended for an additional sixty (60) days to terminate at midnight on September 16, 2025.

3. Full Force and Effect. All other terms and conditions of the Lease and First Amendment, except those modified herein, shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect. In the event of any conflict between the terms of the Lease, the First Amendment and the terms of this Second Amendment, the terms of this Second Amendment will govern and control to the extent of such conflict. This Second Amendment will be binding upon and inure to the benefit of Landlord, Tenant, and their respective successors, heirs and permitted assigns.

AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT made this 15th day of May, 2025, by and between the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, as Lessee, and Timothy McInturf and Deborah Hoffman, collectively as Lessor, provides as follows:

I. Lessor hereby grants to Lessee the right and privilege to maintain a hiking trail for public open space and recreational purposes to provide access to and from natural areas. This hiking trail is more specifically described by way of map attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit "A".

2. Prior to entry upon Lessor's property pursuant hereto, Lessee and all of its contractors and subcontractors shall have in full force and effect, and shall keep in full force and effect, at their own expense, the following coverage:

- a. In the event that either Lessee, its contractors or subcontractors purchases insurance from an insurance company, each party shall keep in force at all times during the term of this Agreement Commercial General Liability Insurance specifically including bodily injury, personal injury and property damage limits of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence, written on an occurrence basis and at all times naming Lessor as additional insured.
- b. In the event that any party is self-insured, a member of an intergovernmental pool or provides for its risk financing by a means other than commercial insurance, such party shall keep in force at all times during the term of this Agreement, General Liability coverage specifically including bodily injury, personal injury and property damage limits of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence provided on an occurrence basis and at all times specifically extending that coverage to Lessor as additional insured.
- c. In addition, Lessee shall furnish certificates of the insurance and/or coverage in place as required herein.

3. All operation and maintenance of the hiking trail shall be the sole responsibility of the Lessee which will operate and maintain the access trail in the same manner as it provides generally for its own Forest Preserve District properties.

4. To the fullest extent permitted by law, Lessee shall protect, indemnify, save, defend and hold harmless Lessor, from and against any and all liabilities, obligations, claims, damages, penalties, causes of action, costs and expenses, including reasonable attorney and paralegal fees, for which Lessor may become obligated by reason of any accident, bodily injury, death of person, or loss of or damage to tangible property, arising indirectly or directly out of the performance of this Agreement; but only in proportion to and to the extent such liability, loss, expense, attorney's fees, or claims for injury or damages are caused by or result from the negligent acts or omissions of the Lessee, including its officials, agents, employees, volunteers, patrons, participants, contractors, subcontractors, and invitees.

5. In the event that the hiking trail is no longer used for Forest Preserve public recreation purposes, Lessee shall restore the property back to its original condition or better.

6. Lessee shall pay to Lessor as rent for the premises the sum of \$500 per year, payable in advance, commencing May 15, 2025.

7. This Agreement shall commence on the date of execution hereof and shall continue for a term of five (5) years until May 15, 2030, and then for successive one (1) year periods thereafter.

8. Either party may terminate this Agreement at any time after May 15, 2030, upon sixty (60) days prior written notice to the other party.

9. Lessee shall use the premises for the purpose of providing public access to natural areas and for no other purpose.

10. During the term hereof, the ordinances of Lessee, including its penal ordinances, shall apply to the demised premises.

11. This Agreement may be amended or modified only by subsequent agreement between the parties reduced to writing and properly executed by them.

12. This Agreement shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of, and shall be enforceable in the courts of the State of Illinois.

13. This Agreement is entered into solely for the benefit of the contracting parties, and nothing in the Agreement is intended, either expressly or impliedly, to provide any right or benefit of any kind whatsoever to any person or entity who is not a party to this Agreement, or to acknowledge, establish or impose any legal duty to any third party.

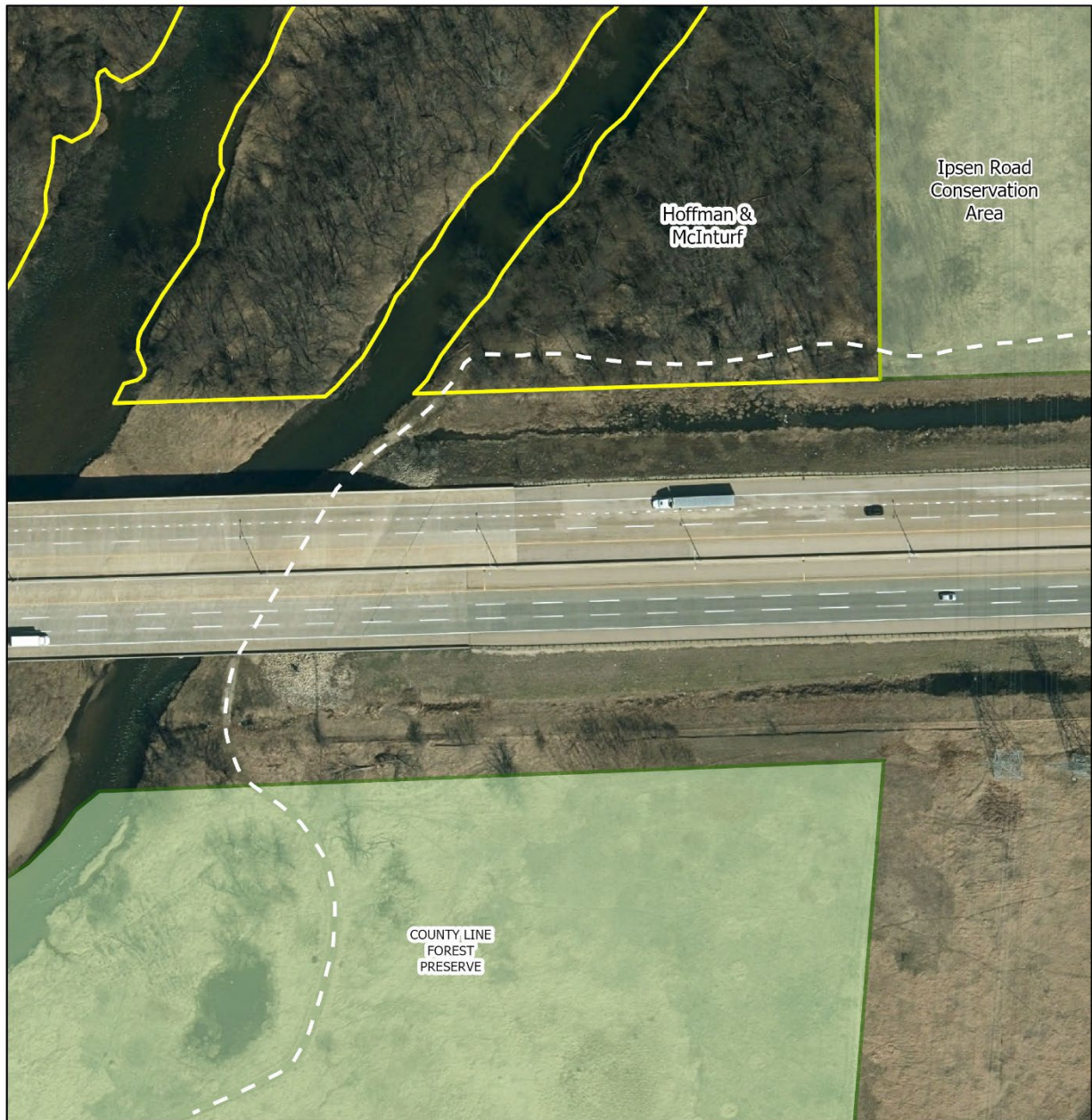
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Lessee and Lessor have executed this Agreement by and through their respective duly authorized officers as of the effective date first set forth hereinabove.

FOREST PRESERVES OF WINNEBAGO
COUNTY (Lessee)

TIMOTHY MCINTURF and DEBORAH
HOFFMAN
(Lessor)

EXHIBIT A – Hiking Trail Map

Exhibit A: Trail location map



0 125 250 500 Feet



4. Modification. The Lease and First Amendment, as modified by this Second Amendment, contains the entire agreement between the parties. The Lease, First Amendment and this Second Amendment may be amended only by a written instrument signed by and delivered to all of the parties hereto.

5. Counterparts Electronic Copies. This Second Amendment may be executed in counterparts, each of which, when executed and delivered, shall be deemed to be an original, and all such counterparts together shall constitute one and the same agreement. Electronically transmitted copies of this Second Amendment shall be treated in all manner and respects as an original agreement or instrument.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have duly executed this Second Amendment to Lease on the day and year first above written.

TENANT

Severson Dells Education Foundation

By: _____

Its: _____

LANDLORD

The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County

By: _____

Its: _____

RESOLUTION
No. 25-0705

IMRF Authorized Agent

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County (Preserves) is a participating member of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF); and

WHEREAS, as a member of IMRF, the Preserves is required to appoint an IMRF Authorized Agent to execute certain documents and advise Preserves employees of IMRF rules and benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Preserves Board of Commissioners appoint Jody Kennay, Human Resources Manager for the Forest Preserves, to be the IMRF Authorized Agent.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County as follows:

Section 1. - That the Preserves President does hereby appoint and the Preserves Board of Commissioners does hereby confirm the appointment of Jody Kennay as IMRF Authorized Agent, effective July 16, 2025.

Section 2. - That the Preserves Secretary is hereby directed to deliver certified copies of this Appointment to the Preserves President, Preserves Executive Director, and to IMRF.

Section 3. - That this appointment shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its confirmation by the Board of Commissioners.

Voting YES _____

Voting NO _____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 16th day of July, 2025.

That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

Jeff Tilly, President
Board of Commissioners

Preserve Operations

Vaughn Stamm, Director of Operations
Matt Weik & Scott Wallace, Preserve Managers
Bryan Helmold, Facility & Equipment Manager
June 2025 Activities Report

- Removed hazardous silver maple on site #26 at Sugar River Campground.
- Removed dead, hazardous pine tree in primitive campground at Sugar River.
- Weekly mowing and maintenance of preserves.
- Trimmed back roadways at Hononegah Forest Preserve.
- Checked trails after recent heavy rain and wind.
- Hosted private event for KSP Bardklub at Sugar River Campground.
- Put together 60 bundles of firewood for KSP Bardklub event at Sugar River.
- Trimmed back trails at Macktown Forest Preserve.
- Staff worked on their individual 2025 goals.
- Seed and erosion mat to back parking lot dumpster area at Headquarters.
- Katie Hooper started as new Preserve Maintenance Ranger on 6/9/25.
- Received new front deck mower and sent mower #373 off to central to be prepped for auction.
- Split Firewood for campgrounds.
- Completed monthly inspections.
- Rock River disposal replaced rusted out dumpsters at Sugar River/Hononegah Campgrounds.
- Frinks pumped outhouse vaults at playground/primitive camping at Sugar River.
- Completed IDPH repair request for Hononegah Campground.
- Repaired culvert at Hononegah Campground.
- Removed “No Electric” paper signs and replaced with green sticker indicating “primitive no electric” at Hononegah Campground for sites with no electric service.
- Removed voluntary trees, underbrush and trimmed pine trees at Roland Olson back parking area.
- Cleaned fire pits at Sugar River campground on Friday mornings.
- Removed brush and voluntary trees from equestrian parking area at Sugar River.
- Replaced broken Soccer post at Hononegah Towering Pines.
- Brush mowed set aside areas at Hononegah.
- Brush mowed 3 areas at Hononegah campground.
- Installed new hitching post at Roland Olson equestrian parking.
- Brush mowed entrance near Attendant Building/Sugar River campground.
- Katie Hooper resigned as Ranger on 6/25/25.
- Jeff Dunbar successfully reached end of 90-day probationary period on 6/17/25.
- Mowed down log cabin location at Macktown Historic District.

Preserve Operations

June 2025 Activities Report – Con't.

- String Trimmed picnic/fishing area on lower trail at Jensen.
- Fixed electrical issues at campgrounds as needed.
- Prepped preserves for 4th of July weekend.
- Repainted west side of outhouse at Indian Rest Shelter (Hononegah).
- Repaired divider in men's restroom at Sugar River shower house.
- Ground stumps at Two Rivers. Stump grinder training provided for Jeff Dunbar.
- Del Johnson and Jeff Dunbar worked Hooked on Fun Fishing event at Four Lakes.
- Added mulch to the playground at Blackhawk Springs.
- Repaired bridge at Four Lakes.
- Replaced two faucets at the Severson Dells Deer Lodge.
- Trimmed back brush along the staircase at the Kishwaukee Gorge, & removed two storm damaged trees.
- South Area staff participated in the Hooked on Fun Youth Fishing Derby.
- Applied stain to the kiosk at Seward Bluffs, and Blackhawk Springs.
- Cleaned out the storm gutters at the Severson Dells Deer Lodge.
- Pressure washed the playground equipment at Blackhawk Springs, Seward Bluffs, and Pecatonica River preserves.
- Repaired bench at the Kishwaukee Gorge overlook area.
- Sprayed for weed control around gates and signage.
- Trimmed trees along roadway at Kilbuck Bluffs.
- Removed two trees from along the hard path at Severson dells.
- Completed preliminary 2025-2026 budget and capital requests.
- Ongoing mowing, trimming, and maintenance of preserves, campgrounds, and trail systems.
- Stocked firewood at Seward Bluffs campground.
- Brush hog mowed along edge of recreation path at Blackhawk Springs.
- Brush cutting at Kishwaukee East, and Trask Bridge preserves.

FOREST PRESERVES OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY

November - June

	<u>2023-2024</u>		<u>2024-2025</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total</u>
Small Shelter Res.	41	\$3,485	38	\$3,230
Small Shelter N/Res.	6	\$660	3	\$300
Large Shelter Res.	106	\$11,660	93	\$10,230
Large Shelter N/Res.	3	\$405	8	\$1,080
Electric Res.	138	\$17,250	128	\$16,000
Electric N/Res.	12	\$1,860	19	\$2,945
TOTAL	306	\$35,320	289	\$33,785
ONLINE	208	68%	245	85%
Over 300 Res.	0	\$0	0	\$0
Over 300 N/Res.	0	\$0	0	\$0
Ground Use/Tent Res	6	\$180	11	\$350
Ground Use/Tent N/Res.	0	\$0	2	\$90
Building Use Permits	0	\$0	5	\$500
Commercial Photography Permit	2	\$200	2	\$200
Special Use Permits	2	\$600	8	\$2,410
Rides	11	\$440	17	\$680
TOTAL	21	\$1,420	45	\$4,230
ONLINE	14	67%	22	49%
Equestrian Passes	Number	Total	Number	Total
Yearly Tag Res.	93	\$4,650	85	\$4,250
Yearly Tag N/Res.	42	\$2,940	32	\$2,240
TOTAL	135	\$7,590	117	\$6,490
ONLINE	42	31%	46	39%
Fly Field Passes	Number	Total	Number	Total
Yearly Pass Res.	44	\$1,540	32	\$1,120
Yearly Pass N/Res.	9	\$405	8	\$360
TOTAL	53	\$1,945	40	\$1,480
ONLINE	18	34%	13	33%
Metal Detecting Passes	Number	Total	Number	Total
Yearly Pass Res.	31	\$775	36	\$900
Yearly Pass N/Res.	7	\$245	8	\$280
TOTAL	38	\$1,020	44	\$1,180
ONLINE	7	18%	13	30%
GRAND TOTAL	553	\$47,295	535	\$47,165
ONLINE	289	52%	339	63%

**FOREST PRESERVES OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY
2022-2025
CAMPING REVENUE COMPARISON**

	<u>2022</u> (thru 6/26)	<u>2023</u> (thru 6/25)	<u>2024</u> (thru 6/24)	<u>2025</u> (thru 6/30)
CAMPGROUND				
Hononegah	\$9,445	\$12,151	\$12,872	\$16,147
Seward Bluffs	19,027	23,151	28,799	33,044
Sugar River	<u>33,301</u>	<u>37,475</u>	<u>39,775</u>	<u>42,036</u>
Campground Revenue	\$61,773	\$72,777	\$81,446	\$91,227
SCOUT/YOUTH CAMPGROUNDS				
Hononegah	\$160	\$180	\$131	\$45
Pecatonica River	375	465	435	325
Rockford Rotary	180	220	127	145
Sugar River	<u>145</u>	<u>145</u>	<u>289</u>	<u>151</u>
Scout/Youth Campground Revenue	\$860	\$1,010	\$982	\$666
EQUESTRIAN CAMPGROUNDS				
Oak Ridge	\$0	\$34	\$197	\$265
Seward Bluffs	<u>246</u>	<u>492</u>	<u>505</u>	<u>675</u>
Equestrian Campground Revenue	\$246	\$526	\$702	\$940
FIREWOOD				
Hononegah	\$966	\$1,008	\$1,194	\$1,424
Seward Bluffs	938	1,771	1,628	1,646
Sugar River	<u>1,919</u>	<u>2,945</u>	<u>2,676</u>	<u>4,488</u>
Firewood Revenue	\$3,823	\$5,724	\$5,498	\$7,558
TOTAL REVENUE	\$66,702	\$80,037	\$88,628	\$100,391

NUMBER OF GROUPS AT REGULAR CAMPGROUNDS (DOES NOT INCLUDE EQUESTRIAN AND SCOUT/YOUTH CAMPING)	1,056	1,130	1,165	1,353
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Natural Resource Management

Mike Brien, Director of Natural Resources

Mike Groves, Natural Resources Manager

Keith Krey, Stewardship Coordinator

Liz Hucker, Wildlife Biologist

June 2025 Activities Report

Natural Resource Staff:

- Staff led another successful Hooked on Fun kid's fishing event at Four Lakes Forest Preserve.
- Treated aquatic weeds and algae in ponds at Four Lakes Forest Preserve.
- Boom sprayed invasive resprouts and black locust at Roland Olson Forest Preserve.
- Staff spent 196 hours treating invasive weeds, including poison hemlock, bird's foot trefoil, crown vetch, teasel, multiflora rose, and honeysuckle in preserves throughout the county.
- Completed a trail improvement project to minimize erosion at Funderburg Forest Preserve.
- Forestry mowed invasive brush at Funderburg and Kishwaukee Gorge Forest Preserves.
- Hand pulled invasive weeds, including sweet clover and spotted knapweed, from the Bell Bowl Prairie salvage area at Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve.
- Tractor mowed invasive weeds and new prairie plantings at Funderburg, Four Lakes, Severson Dells, and Cedar Cliff Forest Preserves.
- Transplanted plants at the district nursery.
- Prairie enrichment seeding at Funderburg Forest Preserve.
- Watered and mulched newly planted trees as needed.
- Assisted Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Illinois Nature Preserves Commission with search for the endangered woolly milkweed at an IDNR site.
- Monitored plants of concern in preserves throughout the county.
- Assisted with wildlife surveys as needed.
- Harvested seed from sedges, shooting star, hoary puccoon, red baneberry, June grass, wild columbine, kitten tails, geranium, wild lupine, and others from preserves throughout the county.
- Cleaned out culverts and water control structures at Deer Run and Pecatonica Wetlands Forest Preserves.
- Stocked sunfish and bass in ponds at Four Lakes Forest Preserve.
- Removed erosion control blankets at Headquarters Forest Preserve and replaced with loose straw to help prevent wildlife mortality.
- Kick off planning meeting for the design of the new natural resource facility with Blakemore Architects.
- Began preparation of the FY2025-26 budget.
- Continued oversight of several open contracted projects, including installation of nature playground at Klehm Arboretum, tree removals at Atwood Forest Preserve, follow-up herbicide

Natural Resource Management

June 2025 Activities Report – Cont.

treatments at Kishwaukee Gorge and Funderburg Forest Preserve, and building demolitions at Severson Dells Forest Preserve.

- Participated in a Region 1 Planning Council Greenways working group meeting.
- Submitted letter of intent to apply for a land acquisition grant from the Prairie State Conservation Coalition.
- Met with forester Mike Woolery, of Greenwood Forestry Consulting, at Funderburg Forest Preserve to discuss opportunities to leverage timber sales to achieve long term woodland management goals.

Wildlife

- Turtle Work
 - Continue trapping efforts in southern preserves
 - Continued telemetry of tagged Blanding's and ornate box turtles
 - Scouted new locations for Blanding's turtle trapping
 - Replaced epoxy on female Blanding's transmitter and monitored her for nesting activity
- Kestrels
 - Monitored two occupied kestrel boxes at Jensen and Sugar River Alder Forest Preserves
 - Six kestrel chicks received a health checkup and were banded by Forest Preserves of Cook County veterinarian and wildlife biologist.
 - Repaired broken nest boxes
- Deployed and monitored camera traps for badgers and other taxa at Colored Sands Forest Preserve.
- Completed cover board surveys for snakes and installed additional cover objects at several preserves.
- Assisted Illinois Department of Natural Resources staff with animal outreach table at the Hooked on Fun kid's fishing derby.
- Downloaded data from the Motus tower at Sugar River Alder Forest Preserve to assist University of Illinois's Ward Lab of Ornithology in monitoring northern saw-whet owls and wood thrush.
- Led a bird walk at Jensen Forest Preserve in partnership with Nature at the Confluence.

Stewardship Coordinator:

- Held restoration workdays at Blackhawk Springs, Seward Bluffs, Kilbuck Bluffs, Kishwaukee Gorge, Jensen, and Cedar Cliff Forest Preserves.
- Flush cut stumps in restoration areas at Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve.
- Cleared brush around bluebird nest boxes at Stone Bridge Forest Preserve.
- Supervised volunteers at the Hooked on Fun kid's fishing derby.
- Led a calling frog hike at Pecatonica Wetlands Forest Preserve.

Natural Resource Management

June 2025 Activities Report – Cont.

- Removed bluebird nest boxes from Sugar River Forest Preserves due to a lack of monitors.
- Addressed ant issues in bluebird nest boxes at Severson Dells Forest Preserve and relocated nest boxes at Kishwaukee River maintenance shop.

2025 Statistics

A total of 195 volunteers earned 2,070 service hours from January 2025 through June 2025.

The monetary value of these service hours equals **\$69,349.29**. As of April 2024, the estimated national value of each volunteer hour is currently \$33.49 (based on the Independent Sector).

Golf Operations

Vaughn Stamm, Director of Operations
Rich Rosenstiel, Clubhouse Manager
Tyler Knapp & Mark Freiman, Golf Maintenance Managers
June 2025 Activities Report

Clubhouse Operations:

- Seth B. Atwood Crosstown Classic: June 7th & 8th with 51 participants.
- Sam's Sweetheart Golf Outing: Saturday, June 7th, Macktown GC w/ 136 participants.
- Ryan Masters Golf Outing: Saturday, June 14th, Ledges GC, with 160 participants.
- Mark Beachey Golf Outing: Saturday, June 14th, Atwood GC, with 100 participants.
- Harlem Roscoe Fire Golf Outing: Friday, June 27th, Atwood GC, with 144 participants.
- Updated Bassett training for staff.
- Food permit renewal applications submitted for all 3 F&B operations.
- Macktown Local Liquor license renewed.
- Daily Operations.

Golf Maintenance:

Ledges

- Updated Golf Maintenance Manager Job description.
- Sprayed broadleaf weeds in rough.
- Mowed all waterways and ponds with boom mower.
- Sting trimmed around trees & continued pruning all low hanging branches next to greens, fairways and tees.
- Removed and cleaned up fallen tree behind #12 green.
- Filled tee divots with a sand and seed mixture.
- Continued fertility program on greens & tees.
- Scouted for signs of fungal activity on greens, tees and fairways during the period of prolonged heat and humidity and applied plant protectants on greens, tees and fairways in response.
- Adjusted irrigation cycles daily in response to unusually high nighttime temperatures.
- Redistributed sand in bunkers following washouts caused by heavy rainfall.
- Applied grub control around greens and fairways.
- Hand watered localized dry spots on greens.
- Irrigation repairs including pilot valves, drive motor replacement, & installed irrigation conversion assembly on #2 and #4 fairways.
- Removed invasive trees from prairie restoration area adjacent to #2 green.
- Mechanic repairing and servicing Ledges and Macktown equipment.

Golf Operations

June 2025 Activities Report - Cont.

Macktown

- Repaired irrigation line break on fairway #12.
- Interviewed candidates for vacant mechanic position.
- Sprayed broadleaf weeds in rough.
- Scouted for signs of fungal activity on greens, tees and fairways during the period of prolonged heat and humidity and applied plant protectants in response.
- Edged bunkers and adjust sand to proper playing depth & redistributed sand in bunkers following washouts caused by heavy rainfall.
- Burned brush pile.
- String trimmed all trees.
- Removed and cleaned up wind damaged trees on holes #1 and #8.
- Filled tee divots with a sand and seed mixture.
- Continued fertility program on greens & tees, and applied granular fertilizer to fairways.
- Hand watered localized dry spots on greens.
- Repair irrigation leak on 12th hole with new pipe and fittings.
- Replaced and stained damaged boards on shelter.
- Applied white grub control around fairway.
- Atwood and Ledges mechanics continue to repair and service equipment for Macktown.

Atwood

- Remove excess thatch and lateral growth from greens with vertical mower.
- Top-dress greens with sand to smooth putting surface.
- Add sand to bunkers for proper playing depth.
- Applied granular fertilizer to tees & sprayed broadleaf weeds in rough.
- Filled divots on tees with sand and seed mixture.
- White grub control product applied around fairways.
- Mow thistle and wild parsnip in prairie restoration areas to control spreading from seed.
- Capital improvement estimates obtained from contractors
- Applied granular fertilizer to fairways.
- Trim low hanging branches from trees around fairways.

Golf Operations

June 2025 Activities Report - Cont.

- Scout tees, greens and fairway for the presence of plant pathogens due to heavy disease pressure from adverse weather conditions.
- Implement treatment options to maintain health of turfgrass.

**Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
Golf Course Revenue & Sales
November - June**

	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
<u>Atwood Homestead</u>				
Green Fees	\$98,235	\$102,666	\$130,972	\$142,883
Cart Rental	\$77,618	\$81,709	\$104,523	\$107,321
Merchandise	\$11,751	\$14,765	\$14,153	\$15,261
Gift Card	\$405	\$575	\$599	\$498
Discount Gift Card	\$27,885	\$32,054	\$43,234	\$51,799
Capital Improvement Fee	\$9,652	\$10,126	\$10,979	\$10,955
Food & Beverage	\$33,844	\$42,919	\$45,145	\$52,654
Golf Club Rental	\$0	\$200	\$280	\$30
Video Gaming & ATM	\$1,840	\$1,304	\$1,975	\$288
Total Atwood Revenue	\$261,229	\$286,318	\$351,860	\$381,687
<u>Ledges</u>				
Green Fees	\$99,210	\$109,507	\$116,677	\$148,808
Cart Rental	\$75,728	\$87,793	\$91,392	\$116,154
Merchandise	\$11,203	\$14,367	\$11,757	\$15,992
Gift Card	\$111	\$245	\$0	\$650
Discount Gift Card	\$28,811	\$38,950	\$40,446	\$49,156
Capital Improvement Fee	\$10,106	\$11,150	\$11,454	\$12,304
Food & Beverage	\$41,229	\$58,708	\$58,460	\$70,008
Golf Club Rental	\$0	\$160	\$160	\$410
Video Gaming & ATM	\$430	\$414	\$2,995	-\$347
Total Ledges Revenue	\$266,827	\$321,294	\$333,340	\$413,134
<u>Macktown</u>				
Green Fees	\$65,835	\$82,112	\$85,770	\$97,839
Cart Rental	\$52,520	\$67,647	\$67,119	\$76,214
Merchandise	\$6,999	\$8,875	\$7,449	\$8,664
Gift Card	\$0	\$0	\$144	\$250
Discount Gift Card	\$34,476	\$45,003	\$44,315	\$54,622
Capital Improvement Fee	\$6,610	\$8,574	\$8,584	\$8,381
Food & Beverage	\$38,788	\$50,622	\$51,660	\$49,731
Golf Club Rental	\$0	\$80	\$80	\$120
Video Gaming & ATM	\$1,331	\$1,629	\$390	\$0
Total Macktown Revenue	\$206,559	\$264,540	\$265,511	\$295,820
<u>Headquarters</u>				
Gift Card	\$2,515	\$1,430	\$3,120	\$1,100
Discount Gift Card	\$29,560	\$26,402	\$26,625	\$26,736
Golf Passes	\$292,400	\$314,585	\$326,735	\$352,405
Capital Improvement Fee	\$32,760	\$32,338	\$32,820	\$35,400
Tournaments	\$9,175	\$12,175	\$14,445	\$14,385
Private Golf Cart Registration	\$11,650	\$11,650	\$10,150	\$9,500
Total Headquarters Revenue	\$378,060	\$398,580	\$413,895	\$439,526
Total Golf Course Revenue	\$1,112,675	\$1,270,732	\$1,364,605	\$1,530,168

Option not available for that season

**Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
Golf Course Revenue & Sales
November - June**

	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
<u>Rounds Played</u>				
Atwood	9,825	10,780	12,769	14,303
Ledges	9,030	10,559	10,629	13,020
Macktown	7,828	10,083	10,040	10,515
Total Rounds Played	26,683	31,422	33,438	37,838
<u>Golf Passes</u>				
Premier Card Res.	31	28	28	33
Premier Card Res.-Refer-A-Friend	36	37	47	50
Premier Card Non-Res.	1	2	2	3
Premier Card Non-Res.-Refer-A-Friend	3	1	1	4
Player Card Res.	188	164	161	173
Player Card Res.-Refer-A-Friend	252	278	279	294
Player Card Non-Res.	11	9	11	15
Player Card Non-Res.-Refer-A-Friend	24	20	18	18
Student Card Res.	66	73	102	112
Student Card Non-Res.	5	10	10	7
Team Pass	0	0	0	0
Practice Range Res.	25	19	20	0
Practice Range Non-Res.	0	0	0	0
Total Passes	642	641	679	709
<u>Private Golf Cart Registration</u>				
Outside Storage	3	3	2	2
Home Storage	15	14	13	12
Total Private Golf Cart Registration	18	17	15	14

Marketing & Communication Relations

Sarah Lorenz, Communications Coordinator
June 2025 Activities Report

Marketing/Advertising:

- General visitorship (Mid-West Family targeted display ad running seasonally).
- GoRockford advertising (Outdoor Activities, Family Fun).
- Meta ad (Facebook & Instagram) ad ran 6/19-6/23 to attract out-of-town visitors to sites.
 - Reach: 17,964
 - Views: 28,131
 - Engagement: 218
- Summer edition of Nature's Notebook printed and published digitally.
- Developing welcome and regulation signage to be posted at the entrance of the Nancy Olson Children's Garden at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden.

Media Relations:

- Hooked on Fun highlighted by Rockford Register Star as one of 29 things to do over Father's Day weekend.
- June digital newsletter sent to subscribers on 6/24.
- July digital newsletter scheduled for 7/17.
- 2025 Preserve Passport metrics:
 - Active teams as of 7/9: 75 (+8).
 - Submissions as of 7/9: 2084 (+254).

Events/Programs:

- Calling Frog Hike 6/20, Butterfly Hike with Natural Land Institute 6/22, Moth Night 7/11, R.E.A.P. Day 7/12, Walk With U at Headquarters 7/12, Walk-Up Fishing Clinic with IDNR 7/16.
- Upcoming: Walk-Up Fishing Clinic with IDNR 8/6, Bat Hike 8/22, Invasive & Nuisance Plants in the Forest Landscape: Fall Edition with Illinois Extension 9/10, Guided Hike of Roland Olson 9/24.

Presentations & Tabling

- Tabled at NLI Family Nature Adventures 6/28 (served 86 individuals).
- Upcoming: Winnebago County Fair 8/13 – 8/17.

Marketing & Communication Relations

June 2025 Activities Report – Cont.

Social Media (June 6 – July 9, 2025)

- FPWC Facebook: 5,475 followers (+58)
 - Reach: 34,232 (+24.5%)
 - Engagement: 1,943 (+9.5%)
 - Views: 90,044 (+16.7%)
- FPWC Instagram: 1,949 followers (+24)
 - Reach: 2,246 (-14.7%)
 - Engagement: 1,021 (-13.1%)
 - Views: 16,080 (+3.9%)

Human Resources

Jody Kennay, Human Resources Manager
June 2025 Activities Report

Orientations May 16 - June 15	10 Sessions
Seasonal and Full Time Hires Attending Orientation	21 Attended (Total since July 9 is 117)
Full-Time Open Requisitions	4 (Golf Course Maintenance Supervisor (new position), Trades Tech I, Ranger-North)
Resignations/Terminations	2 (Katie Hooper - Ranger, Tim Costa - Trades Tech)
Benefits New GLP Program Roll-out	Effective date 7/1/2025 (Checking dependent coverage to ensure no age- outs during coverage period (26 years and older) Effective date 1/1/2026
3rd Quarter DOT list from Figment Group with testing requirements	3 managers/employees chosen; all have been tested

Law Enforcement

June 2025 Activities Report

WB25-006870

Deputy Ganz was dispatched in the morning hours regarding a Disorderly with a dog. The dog had exited the vehicle and approached another patron. Words were exchanged. Deputy Ganz investigated and patrons declined charges.

WB25-007376

Deputy Eiten was dispatched to the Tall Pines Area of Kish River East regarding found shell casings. 19 9mm casings were located at the scene. Rounds were collected and lodged. No damaged property or trees in the area. No injured people or animals reported.

WB25-007376

Eiten and Kennay dispatched to Espenschied for Jeep doing burnouts and destroying turf. Kennay arrived and Jeep had left prior to her arrival. Turf was lightly damaged. Eiten assessed the damage to be approximately \$250. Photos Taken.

WB25-007678

On 6/27/25 Deputy Tetzlaff was dispatched to 5500 Northrock Dr for a dog bite. Animal Control was also dispatched. Deputy Tetzlaff was redirected to Mercy East hospital to meet with complainant, James Wallis. James stated he was bit by a brindle-colored pit bull and had small puncture wounds to his left ankle. Pictures were taken and downloaded into Axon Evidence. James said the pit bull and owner left in a maroon SUV with a loud muffler toward Machesney Park.

Brief Activity Summary

- There were 0 Criminal arrests
- There were 14 Calls for service inside of the Forest Preserves
- There were 13 Reports written
- There were 0 Ordinance violations (citations) written
- There were 1 Written warnings
- There were 11 Verbal warnings
- There were 1 Airfield permits
- There were 7 Equestrian bridle tags
- There were 15 Fishing license checks
- There were 36 Occupied shelter house patrols
- There were 38 Campground patrols
- There were 25 Patrols on trail systems
- There were 67 Directed patrol hours