

**Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, October 22, 2025 – 5:30 PM
Forest Preserve Headquarters



A G E N D A

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Page | A. ROLL CALL |
| | B. PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE |
| | C. APPROVAL of MINUTES
Minutes for September 17, 2025 |
| | D. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC |
| | E. OLD BUSINESS |
| | F. NEW BUSINESS |
| 1. | 1. Approval of Bills for September |
| 3. | 2. Approval of Budget and Appropriations Ordinance |
| 6. | 3. Approval of Levy Ordinance |
| 10. | 4. Approval of Public Comment Ordinance |
| 13. | 5. Approval of 2026 Fee Schedules |
| 16. | 6. Approval of 2026 Holiday Schedule |
| 18. | 7. Acceptance of the Donation of the Harezlak Family Sundial and Improvements at Klehm |
| | G. DISCUSSION |
| 21. | 1. Severson Dells Operating/Partnership Agreement
2. Update on 2026 Greenways Plan and Process |
| | H. UPDATES and REPORTS |
| 22. | 1. Preserve Operations |
| 27. | 2. Natural Resource Management |
| 30. | 3. Golf |
| 35. | 4. Marketing |
| 37. | 5. Human Resources |
| 38. | 6. Law Enforcement
7. Partner Groups |
| | I. CLOSED SESSION |
| | 1. Land Acquisition |
| | J. REGULAR SESSION NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED |
| 39. | 1. Approval of Ordinance and Purchase Contract of +/- 88 Acres along Sugar River. |
| | K. ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS |
| | 1. October – November - Bird Banding at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory starting at 8:00am
2. November 6 – Managing Woody Invasive Plants: Fall Classroom Edition with Illinois Extension at Headquarters Forest Preserve starting at 6:00pm.
3. November 7 th – 9 th - Lincoln & Liberty at Macktown Living History. |
| | L. ADJOURNMENT
Next regular Board Meeting– 5:30 PM Wednesday, November 19, <u>Forest Preserve Headquarters</u> |

If you require assistance while attending our meetings, please call 815-877-6100 or email ewendlandt@winnebagoforest.org no less than 48 hours prior to the Board meeting.

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

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
Authorization to Process Payment of Bills




October 22, 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 **\$ 720,291.66** 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	300,582.96
HEALTH BENEFITS FUND	3185	43,413.63
SOCIAL SECURITY FUND	3192	12,844.06
RETIREMENT FUND	3193	17,909.16
IMPROVEMENT & DEV. FUND	3302	141,448.27
LAND ACQUISITION FUND	3307	2,500.00
CORPORATE FUND	3402	<u>201,593.58</u>
		\$ 720,291.66

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Chapman, Finance Director

10/17/2025

Date

RESOLUTION

No. 25-1001

PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR SEPTEMBER

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 September; 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 \$720,291.66 to be paid by the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County for the month of September, 2025.

Voting YES _____ Voting NO _____ Voting ABSTAINED _____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 22nd day of October, 2025.

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

Jeff Tilly, President
Board of Commissioners

Gloria Lind, Secretary
Board of Commissioners

**Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD of COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA BACKGROUND INFORMATION

October 22, 2025

Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance

Contact	Steve Chapman	877-6100
	Daniel Olson	877-6100

Background Information:

The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County’s fiscal year budget operates from November 1 through October 31. The Board of Commissioners have been presented the proposed 2025-2026 Annual Budget and Appropriation for review and adoption. The budget has been laid over for 30 days for public review and comment. No changes were made during the layover. It is requested the Board will approve the Ordinance to adopt the attached 2025-2026 Annual Budget and Appropriations.

Motion: To adopt the attached 2025-2026 Budget and Appropriations Ordinance.

ACTION required: Ordinance

September 17, 2025 – layover
October 22, 2025 – adoption
Rockford, Illinois

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County

BUDGET and APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE

No. 25-1002

for the fiscal period of November 1, 2025 through October 31, 2026

WHEREAS, the District staff in compliance with the provisions of the Illinois Municipal Budget Law, Illinois Revised Statutes, Section 70, paragraph 805 *et seq.*, has prepared an Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the District fiscal year beginning November 1, 2025 and ending October 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the said Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance was submitted to the District Board of Commissioners on September 17, 2025.

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

Section 1. That the attached schedules, containing the estimated cash on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year, the estimate of the cash expected to be received during the fiscal year from all sources, the estimate of the expenditures contemplated for said fiscal year, and the estimated cash expected to be on hand at the end of said fiscal year, be, and they are hereby approved as, the budget for the District fiscal year beginning November 1, 2025 and ending October 31, 2026.

Section 2. That the amounts stated for the objects and purposes specified in the attached schedules, or so much thereof as may be authorized by law, or as may be needed are hereby appropriated for the fiscal year beginning November 1, 2025 and ending October 31, 2026, from the following funds: Corporate, Capital Improvement, Botanical Garden, Liability Reserve, Social Security, Retirement, 2006 Debt Service, 2016 Debt Service, 2025 Debt Service, Health Insurance, and 2025 Land Acquisition.

Section 3. That, except as otherwise provided by law, no personnel shall be added other than specifically stated in each department budget, and no further appropriation shall be made at any other time within said fiscal year; however, the Board of Commissioners may from time to time make transfers between object classifications in any fund not exceeding, in the aggregate, 10% of the total amount appropriated in said Fund, and the Board of Commissioners may amend said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance from time to time by following the same procedure employed in the adoption of this Ordinance.

Section 4. That the District Secretary is hereby directed to provide two copies of this laid-over budget available in the Forest Preserve District office for public review by Thursday, September 18, 2025.

Section 5. That the District Executive Director is, by way of layover, hereby directed to advertise and hold a public hearing at the District Headquarters at 5:15 PM Wednesday, October 22, 2025, to receive public testimony regarding this proposed budget.

Section 6. That the District Secretary is hereby directed to make publication of this Ordinance in a newspaper having general circulation in the District within ten days of adoption of this Ordinance; and said Ordinance shall take effect ten days following the date of said publication.

Section 7. That the Secretary of the Forest Preserve District is hereby authorized and directed to deliver copies of this Ordinance to the District Director, Treasurer, Director of Finance, and County Clerk.

Voting Yes

Judith Barnard

Mike Eickman

Gloria Lind

Cheryl Maggio

Emily Porter

Jerry Paulson

Jeff Tilly, President

Voting No

Judith Barnard

Mike Eickman

Gloria Lind

Cheryl Maggio

Emily Porter

Jerry Paulson

Jeff Tilly, President

The above and foregoing Ordinance was adopted this 22nd day of October, 2025.

Jeff Tilly, President

Gloria Lind, Secretary

**Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD of COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA BACKGROUND INFORMATION

October 22, 2025

Tax Levy Ordinance

Contact	Steve Chapman	877-6100
	Daniel Olson	877-6100

Background Information:

The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County’s fiscal year budget operates from November 1 through October 31. The Board of Commissioners have been presented a proposed tax levy that must be approved to finance the 2025-2026 Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance that has been presented to the Board. The tax levy has been laid over for 30 days for public review and comment. It is requested the Board will approve the Ordinance to adopt the attached Levy Ordinance.

Motion: To adopt the attached Levy Ordinance.

ACTION required: Ordinance

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County

LEVY ORDINANCE

No. 25-1003

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, pursuant to the requirements set forth in the Illinois Municipal Budget Law, adopted an Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the fiscal year beginning November 1, 2025 and ending October 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, per the Truth in Taxation law, the aggregate levy listed below did not increase over 2024 by 2.90% or more; and

WHEREAS, the District Executive Director did cause said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance to be made conveniently available for public inspection on and after September 18, 2025; and

WHEREAS, all legal requirements in connection with the preparation, public display, public hearings and adoption of the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance have been complied with; and

WHEREAS, said Ordinance will become effective ten days after its publication.

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

Section 1. That there be and is hereby levied the sum of two million, six hundred six thousand dollars (\$2,606,000) on all taxable property in the County of Winnebago, State of Illinois, as a General Corporate Tax for the year 2025 and that the County Clerk of said County be and is hereby authorized and directed to extend a rate of taxation that will produce said amount for the objects and purposes as set forth in the Corporate 2025-2026 appropriations; and

Section 2. That there be and is hereby levied the sum of one million, one hundred seventy-one thousand dollars (\$1,171,000) on all taxable property in the County of Winnebago, State of Illinois, as a Capital Improvement Tax for the year 2025, and that the County Clerk of said County be and is hereby authorized and directed to extend a rate of taxation that will produce said amount for the objects and purposes as set forth in the Capital Improvement Fund 2025-2026 appropriations; and

Section 3. That there be and is hereby levied the sum of two hundred ninety thousand dollars (\$290,000) on all taxable property in the County of Winnebago, State of Illinois, as a Botanical Garden Tax for the year 2025, and that the County Clerk of said County be and is hereby authorized and directed to extend a rate of taxation that will produce said amount for the objects and purposes as set forth in the Botanical Garden Fund 2025-2026 appropriations; and

Section 4. That there be and is hereby levied the sum of three hundred fifty-eight thousand dollars (\$358,000) on all taxable property in the County of Winnebago, State of Illinois, as a Liability Reserve Fund Tax for the year 2025 and that the County Clerk of said County be and is hereby authorized and directed to extend a rate of taxation that will produce said amount for the objects and purposes as set forth in the Liability Reserve Fund 2025-2026 appropriations; and

Section 5. That there be and is hereby levied the sum of two hundred twenty-two thousand dollars (\$222,000) on all taxable property in the County of Winnebago, State of Illinois, as IMRF Tax for the year 2025 and that the County Clerk of said County be and is hereby authorized and directed to extend a rate of taxation that will produce said amount for the objects and purposes as set forth in the Retirement Fund 2025-2026 appropriations; and

Section 6. That there be and is hereby levied the sum of one hundred ninety-nine thousand dollars (\$199,000) on all taxable property in the County of Winnebago, State of Illinois, as a Social Security Tax the year 2025 and that the County Clerk of said County be and is hereby authorized and directed to extend a rate of taxation that will produce said amount for the objects and purposes as set forth in the Social Security Fund 2025-2026 appropriations; and

Section 7. That there be and is hereby levied the sum of three hundred twenty-seven thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$327,750) on all taxable property in the County of Winnebago State of Illinois as a 2016 Bond Debt Service Tax for the year 2025 as set forth in the 2016 Land Acquisition Bond Ordinance, and that the County Clerk of said County be and is hereby authorized and directed to extend a rate of taxation that will produce said amount for the objects and purpose as set forth in the 2016 Debt Service fund 2025-2026 appropriations; and

Section 8. That there be and is hereby levied the sum of one hundred seventy-seven thousand six hundred thirty-eight dollars (\$177,638) on all taxable property in the County of Winnebago State of Illinois as a 2025 Bond Debt Service Tax for the year 2025 as set forth in the 2025 Land Acquisition Bond Ordinance, and that the County Clerk of said County be and is hereby authorized and directed to extend a rate of taxation that will produce said amount for the objects and purpose as set forth in the 2025 Debt Service fund 2025-2026 appropriations; and

Section 9. That the Secretary of the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County is hereby directed to make a certified copy of this Ordinance and file such certified copy with the County Clerk of Winnebago County, Illinois, no later than October 31, 2025; and

Section 10. That the Secretary of the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County is hereby directed to deliver certified copies of this Ordinance to the District Executive Director, District Treasurer, and County Clerk.

Section 11. That this Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force and effect from and after its adoption by this Board of Commissioners.

Voting Yes

Judith Barnard

Mike Eickman

Gloria Lind

Voting No

Judith Barnard

Mike Eickman

Gloria Lind

Cheryl Maggio

Cheryl Maggio

Emily Porter

Emily Porter

Jerry Paulson

Jerry Paulson

Jeff Tilly, President

Jeff Tilly, President

The above and foregoing Ordinance was adopted this 22nd day of October, 2025.

Jeff Tilly, President

Gloria Lind, Secretary

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County

ORDINANCE

No. 25-1004

**ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
DURING FOREST PRESERVES MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Winnebago County Forest Preserves in Winnebago County, Illinois (District), hereby declares that it is in the best interests of the District to encourage public participation during meetings of the Board of Commissioners of the Winnebago County Forest Preserves (Board) in order to effectuate such participation, hereby establishes the following rules and regulations to ensure that such participation does not disrupt the meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE FOREST PRESERVES OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY, ILLINOIS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE: The foregoing recitals shall be, and they are hereby incorporated herein as if fully set forth within this Section One.

SECTION TWO: The following rules shall apply to public participation at meetings of the Board:

1. Public participation at Board meeting is encouraged. A period of time at each meeting of the Board shall be made available for public comments and shall be designated on each agenda as "COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC."
2. A person shall be permitted to speak upon being recognized by the President. The person shall stand, if possible, and will be asked to state their name prior to making comments. The person may state their address, but it will not be required to do so as a condition of speaking. The person will limit their comments to no more than three (3) minutes, unless additional time is granted by the President. Each person will be permitted to speak only once.
3. All speakers shall address their comments to the President. The President may request that a member of the Board or staff respond to the comment.
4. The President shall have the authority to limit the "COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC" section of the agenda to a total of one hour.
5. The President shall preserve order and decorum. The President shall decide all questions of order.
6. When addressing the Board, persons permitted to speak shall endeavor to avoid personal remarks, the impugning of motives and merely contentious statements. If any person engages in obscene, defamatory, or other conduct injurious to the health, safety or welfare of the Board of Commissioners or others in attendance at the meeting, or to the safety of the premises, the President may immediately suspend the person's opportunity to speak. The President's decision is subject to the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Commissioners present. Any person, except a Commissioner, who engages in

disorderly conduct during a meeting may be ejected from the meeting upon motion passed by a majority of the Commissioners present, or in the event of an emergency, at the direction of the President.

SECTION THREE: The following shall be posted on the Forest Preserve's website.

**CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO ADDRESSING THE FOREST PRESERVES OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.**

In order to be recognized for speaking at a Board meeting, you may:

- a. Submit written comments to the Board of Commissioners at any time by mailing comments to Forest Preserves of Winnebago County Board of Commissioner President, 5500 Northrock Dr. Rockford, IL 61103, or;
- b. Submit your comments by emailing to FPWC@winnebagoforest.org no later than forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting, or;
- c. Call ahead of time to (815) 877-6100 and state your name, the topic you would like to address, and the meeting you will be attending, or;
- d. Attend the meeting and fill out "Public Comment Request" card and turn it in to the Board's Recording Secretary, prior to the start of the meeting. The President shall group similar topics together when calling individuals to be recognized.

Attendees requiring assistance at the meeting, may call (815) 877-6100 no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting, to discuss needs while in attendance.

All meetings of the Board of Commissioners may be recorded in writing, audio recorded, video recorded, and/or livestreamed. All public comments are subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Anyone wishing to speak under the agenda item entitled, "COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC" shall adhere to the following guidelines:

1. A person shall be permitted to speak upon being recognized by the Board President. Please stand if possible, and announce your name. You may state your address, but it is not required to do so as a condition of speaking.
2. All speakers shall address their comments to the President. The President may or may not request that a member of the Board of Commissioners or staff respond to the comment.
3. The President shall have the authority to limit the "COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC" section of the agenda to a total of one hour.
4. The President shall preserve order and decorum. The President shall decide all questions of order.
5. When addressing the Board, persons permitted to speak shall endeavor to avoid personal remarks, the impugning of motives and merely contentious statements. If any person engages in obscene, defamatory, or other conduct injurious to the health, safety or welfare of the Board of Commissioners or others in attendance at the meeting, or to the safety of the premises, the President may immediately suspend the person's opportunity to speak. The President's decision is subject to the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Commissioners present. Any person, except a Commissioner, who engages in disorderly conduct during a meeting may be ejected from the meeting upon motion passed by a majority of the Commissioners present, or in the event of an emergency, at the direction of the President.
6. Please do not repeat comments that have already been made by others.

SECTION FOUR: Any and all policies, resolutions or ordinances of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County which may conflict with this ordinance shall be, and they are hereby, repealed.

SECTION FIVE: This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

Voting Yes

Voting No

Judith Barnard

Judith Barnard

Mike Eickman

Mike Eickman

Gloria Lind

Gloria Lind

Cheryl Maggio

Cheryl Maggio

Jerry Paulson

Jerry Paulson

Emily Porter

Emily Porter

Jeff Tilly, President

Jeff Tilly, President

The above and foregoing Ordinance was adopted this 22nd of October, 2025.

Jeff Tilly, President

Gloria Lind, Secretary

RESOLUTION
No. 25-1005
2026 FEE SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County have set annual fee schedules for Preserve Fees and Charges and Golf Fees and Charges; and,

WHEREAS, staff is proposing increasing the fees for golf cart rental as a result of the requirement by the State of Illinois to assess sales tax on rental items and an increase in associated annual maintenance costs; and,

WHEREAS, staff is proposing the removal of fees for commercial photography and geocaching/letterboxing permits; and,

WHEREAS, the minimum required donation amount for each memorial and honorary bench or tree request is being added to the annual fee schedule; and,

WHEREAS, staff is proposing no additional increases for preserve and golf fees and charges in the 2026 fee schedule; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed 2026 fees and charges for preserves and golf are included on the following two (2) pages included with this Resolution; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County approve the attached 2026 Preserve Fees and Charges and 2026 Golf Fees and Charges.

Voting YES_____ Voting NO_____ Voting ABSTAINED_____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 22nd day of October, 2025.

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

Jeff Tilly, President
Board of Commissioners

Gloria Lind, Secretary
Board of Commissioners



FOREST PRESERVES OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY
5500 Northrock Drive, Rockford, IL 61103 - 815-877-6100

2026 GOLF FEES AND CHARGES

2026 Proposed Changes

A credit card convenience fee of 3% will be applied to all transactions

		On or Before <u>Apr. 1</u>	After <u>Apr. 1</u>
<u>Preserve Pass Options</u>			
<i>(Valid January 1 - December 31, 2025)</i>			
*\$60 Capital Improvement Fee Included in Pass Pricing			
• Resident Premier Card	<i>(Valid when courses are open for play, weather permitting, not including playdays and tournaments.)</i>	*835	*860
• Non-Resident Premier Card		*860	*885
• Resident Player Card	<i>(Valid weekdays; after 11:00am on weekends & holidays, not including playdays and tournaments. Eligible for Player Card Privilege.)</i>	*635	*660
• Non-Resident Player Card		*655	*680
• Refer a Friend Discount Program	<i>(Discount for you and a friend, both receive \$100 off pass price if the friend has not had a pass in 2 years. Need not purchase same pass type. Excludes student)</i>	-100	-100
• Resident Student card	<i>(Full-time student through age 24 with student I.D. Valid weekdays; after 11:00am on weekends & holidays, not including playdays and tournaments.)</i>	230	240
• Non-Resident Student card		240	250
• Golf Team Pass	<i>Valid during the golf team's season for practice & competition</i>		80
• Replacement			10

Greens Fees

Fees are a maximum rate, not to exceed daily rate

***\$2.00 Capital Improvement Fee Included in Greens Fee Pricing**

• Resident 18-holes	<i>Weekdays</i>		*23
• Non-Resident 18-holes			*25
• Resident 18-holes	<i>Weekends & Holidays</i>		*28
• Non-Resident 18-holes			*30
• Resident 9-hole	<i>Weekdays</i>		*15
• Non-Resident 9-hole			*17
• Resident 9-hole	<i>Weekends & Holidays</i>		*19
• Non-Resident 9-hole			*21
• Student 18-holes	<i>18 through age 24 with student I.D.</i>		15
• Student 9-holes			10
• Jr. Golfer 18-holes	<i>17 years and under (before 5PM weekdays & after 1PM weekends)</i>		10
• Jr. Golfer 9-holes			5
• Player Card Privilege	<i>Discount greens fee on weekends & holidays before 11AM</i>		10
• Tee Time Cancellation Fee	<i>Fee charged per tee time if not cancelled 24 hours prior to tee time(s)</i>		10

Special Fees

• Tournament Greens Fee			20
• Outing/Playday	<i>Monday-Thursday</i>	<i>Shotgun start with golf cart rental</i>	39
	<i>Friday-Sunday</i>	<i>(100 or more golfers)</i>	48
• Practice Range (per 1 bucket)	<i>Sold at Atwood & Ledges clubhouse only</i>		5
• Resident Practice Range Pass		200	225
• Non-Resident Practice Range Pass		225	250

Golf Cart Registration

(Only Grandfathered Private Carts - No New Registration)

• Single Ownership		650
• Outside Storage Fee	<i>In addition to ownership fee</i>	200
• Replacement of golf cart stickers		10

Golf Cart Rental

• 9-hole per person		12
• 18-hole per person	<i>Weekdays</i>	17.5 18
• 9-hole per person	<i>Weekends & Holidays</i>	13.25 14
• 18-hole per person		18.5 19
• 9-hole Individual Cart Request	<i>Individual cart request subject to availability</i>	17.5 18
• 18-hole Individual Cart Request		29.5 30

Banquet Room Rental

(Contact Forest Preserve Headquarters at (815) 877-6100 for more information & Reservations)

• Macktown (25 people maximum)	<i>Available for rental April 1 - October 31</i>	50
• Ledges (50 people maximum)		200

Holidays for 2025 are: Memorial Day - May 26, Independence Day - July 4, Labor Day - September 1

Atwood Homestead - 815/623-2411

Macktown - 815/624-7410

Ledges - 815/389-0979

www.playthepreserves.com



FOREST PRESERVES OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY
5500 Northrock Drive, Rockford, IL 61103 - (815) 877-6100
2026 PRESERVE FEES AND CHARGES

2026 Proposed Changes

A credit card convenience fee of 3% will be applied to all transactions

	Resident	Non Resident
<u>Shelterhouses</u>		
• Daily reservation small shelter (<i>up to 80 people</i>)	85	110
• Daily reservation large shelter (<i>up to 300 people</i>)	110	135
• Daily reservation large shelter w/ electric (<i>up to 300 people</i>)	125	155
• Daily reservation large shelter (<i>over 300 people</i>)	500	600
<i>Note: over 300, you must contact the office at (815)877-6100 to reserve. Reservation will require an opening in the schedule for day of and day after planned date. Forest Preserve District will provide one port-o-let along with one garbage dumpster. (Rate includes: shelter for day of and day after, port-o-let and garbage dumpster.)</i>		
<u>Ground Use Permits</u>		
• Rides & amusements per day/ride (<i>i.e. Bouncy House-maximum 5</i>)	40	40
• Building Use Permits - Headquarters per day <i>(Use by community service organizations based on availability)</i>	100	100
• Other Ground Use Permits (<i>designated areas, tents</i>)	30	45
• Special Use Permits (<i>i.e. commercial videography, weddings</i>)	25 and up	
• Construction Permits	100 and up	
• Annual Commercial Photography Permit	100	125
• Daily Commercial Photography Permit	25	35
<u>Camping</u>		
3 unit per site maximum (<i>Tent-max of 3; RV-max of 1 & up to 2 tent s</i>)		
• Sugar River Campground	17	27
Senior (62 and over) & disabled per unit	15	25
Electric hookup (additional) per unit	10	10
Primitive	15	25
Primitive - Senior (62 and over) & disabled per unit	13	23
• Seward Bluffs & Hononegah Campgrounds	15	25
Senior (62 and over) & disabled per unit	13	23
Electric hookup (additional) per unit	10	10
• Organized Scout/Youth Group Camping by reservation only (<i>per weekend reservation</i>)		
25 or less people: <i>(Hononegah, Pecatonica River-Single Pod, Sugar River and Rockford Rotary)</i>	35	45
Over 25 people - base rate plus \$1.00 per person over 25 people: <i>(Rockford Rotary only)</i>	35+ \$1/person	45+ \$1/person
• Firewood from Host when available per bundle	8	8
• Non-camper dump station use fee	25	35
<i>Note: A fee will be collected and separate permits will be issued for each unit, 3 units per site maximum (tent-max of 3; RV-max of 1 & up to 2 tents. All campers must be established and registered by 10:00 P.M.</i>		
<u>Equestrian</u>		
• Bridle tag daily each rider	10	15
• Bridle tag seasonal each rider (<i>mid-April through mid-November</i>)	50	70
• Equestrian camping per night/per unit (<i>Oak Ridge & Seward Bluffs Forest Preserves only</i>)	15	20
<u>Model Airplane Flying</u>		
• Individual Only per person (<i>calendar year</i>)	35	45
• 1 Day Pass	10	15
<u>Metal Detectors</u>		
• Individual Only per person (<i>calendar year</i>)	25	35
<u>Geocaching/Letterboxing</u>		
• Individual Only per person (<i>calendar year</i>)	20	20
<u>Memorial & Honorary Donations</u>		
• Bench		1500
• Tree		800 and up

RESOLUTION

No. 25-1006

2026 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, certain days of the calendar year are designated as scheduled holidays; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County has designated such dates to observe said holidays; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County elect to set the scheduled holidays for all Forest Preserve employees;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County approve the attached holiday schedule to be observed by the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County's employees for the year of 2026.

Voting YES _____ Voting NO _____ Voting ABSTAINED _____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 22nd day of October, 2025.

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

Jeff Tilly, President
Board of Commissioners

Gloria Lind, Secretary
Board of Commissioners



2026 Holiday Schedule

Thursday	January 1	New Year's Holiday	
Monday	January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	*
Monday	February 16	Presidents' Day	*
Friday	April 3	Good Friday	*
Monday	May 25	Memorial Day	
Friday	July 3	Independence Day (Observed)	
Monday	September 7	Labor Day	
Monday	October 12	Columbus Day/ Indigenous Peoples' Day	*
Wednesday	November 11	Veterans' Day	*
Thursday	November 26	Thanksgiving Day	
Friday	November 27	Thanksgiving Holiday	
Thursday	December 24	Christmas Holiday	
Friday	December 25	Christmas Day	

* Floating Holidays (District offices and shops will remain open)

RESOLUTION

No. 25-1007

ACCEPTING DONATION OF THE HAREZLAK FAMILY SUNDIAL AND ASSOCIATED IMPROVEMENTS FROM KLEHM ARBORETUM AND BOTANIC GARDEN INC. TO THE FOREST PRESERVES OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY

WHEREAS, Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc. has made improvements to the Carl and Lois Klehm Forest Preserve property owned by the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, and

WHEREAS, the improvements that include the Harezlak Family Sundial consisting of excavation and construction of the feature, including hardscape material and plant material, as well as all engineering and design work necessary to accomplish said installation, and

WHEREAS, Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc. intends to continue to fund and perform regular and routine maintenance to the Harezlak Family Sundial, and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago previously approved construction of this garden feature on October 25, 2023 via Resolution 23-1007, and

WHEREAS, Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc. has invested a total of \$175,732.13 of its own organizational funds, including but not limited to grant funds and other restricted contributions, into said improvements as detailed in Exhibit A, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc. has passed a Resolution approving the donation of each described improvement to the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County.

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

Section 1: That the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County does hereby gratefully accept the gift of the Harezlak Family Sundial Garden feature, including all professional engineering and design services rendered, collectively valued at \$175,732.13 from Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc., and agrees they shall not re-name the feature after acceptance,

Section 2: The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County recognize the value of the Harezlak Family Sundial as \$175,732.13

Section 3: That the Secretary of Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden, Inc. shall forward a certified copy of the Resolution to donate the described improvements to the Forest Preserve of Winnebago County's Executive Director.

Section 4: That the Secretary to the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County shall forward a certified copy of the Resolution to accept the donation of the described improvements to the Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden, Inc. Executive Director.

Voting YES: _____ Voting NO: _____ Voting ABSTAINED: _____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 22nd day of October, 2025.

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

Jeff Tilly, President
Board of Commissioners

Gloria Lind, Secretary
Board of Commissioners

EXHIBIT A

Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden
 Ellipes Sundial Expenditures / In-Kind Donations

Date	Inv #	Name	Memo	Amount	SCAN #
Contractual Services					
03/11/2025	20492	Benson Stone Company	Harezlak Family Sundial - Limestone Gnomon Cut/Bevel	770.00	1
03/11/2025	44522	Arc Design Resources Inc.	Construction Layout, Control and Construction Staking	375.00	2
04/02/2025	44565	Arc Design Resources Inc.	Construction Layout, Control and Construction Staking	1,520.00	3
04/11/2025	57177	LM Sheet Metal Inc.	Progress billing - Sundial	52,638.50	4
05/06/2025	44697	Arc Design Resources Inc.	-MULTIPLE-	1,220.00	5
05/16/2025	57372	LM Sheet Metal Inc.	Final billing - Sundial	50,910.43	6
06/06/2025		Northern Illinois Service Co.	Excavation and sitework for sundial	18,155.00	7
06/10/2025		Arc Design Resources Inc.	Additional staking and layout services	947.50	8
07/01/2025	44993	Arc Design Resources Inc.	Professional services	780.00	9
07/31/2025	45095	Arc Design Resources Inc.	Professional services-July 2025 - Sundial	130.00	10
09/23/2025	4526	Conin Contractor Services, Inc.	Sundial - Tree planting, Sprinkler system maintenance, 3 boulders	17,325.00	11
Total Contractual Services				144,771.43	
Supplies, Materials & Equipment					
05/07/2025		Blains Farm & Fleet	Sunburst prep - Sundial	99.42	12
05/07/2025		Blains Farm & Fleet	Sunburst prep - Sundial	78.93	13
05/08/2025	116720	Benson Stone Company	Sundial grant	236.64	14
05/08/2025	116721	Benson Stone Company	Sundial grant	251.03	15
05/08/2025		Menards	Sundial supplies	43.26	16
05/09/2025	116751	Benson Stone Company	Sundial grant - shooting star	417.06	17
05/10/2025	527771	Lincoln Rent-All, Inc.	Sundial equipment	757.75	18
05/10/2025		Walmart	5x7 WD ledge, ribbon	11.95	19
05/12/2025	582520	Benson Stone Company	Sundial - Gnomon installation	2,970.00	20
05/13/2025	Reimbursemer	Steven Penticoff	Reimbursement: McMaster-Carr \$40.53; Menards-\$15.18; Menards \$61.43	117.14	21
05/13/2025	45061284	Conserv FS	Sundial supplies	153.79	22
05/29/2025		Uline	Sundial - VHB tape for name/motto	48.26	23
08/18/2025	CC	Brandons Hardware & Rental	sundial supplies	8.28	24
04/23/2025	525574	Lincoln Rent-All, Inc.	Concrete vibrator - Ellipse Sundial	54.13	25
Total Supplies, Materials & Equipment				5,247.64	
In Kind Donations					
04/14/2025		Menards (Rebates Used)	Concrete Mix, Forms, and Air-Entraining Admixture	552.69	26
04/14/2025		Menards (Rebates Used)	Delivery of Supplies	113.40	27
04/15/2025		Menards (Rebates Used)	Ar-Entraining Admixture	11.97	28
05/10/2025		Larson & Darby Group	Design, Rendering, and Construction Document Preparation	25,035.00	29
				25,713.06	
Total Expenditures & In Kind Donations				175,732.13	



MEMORANDUM

TO: Forest Preserves of Winnebago County Board of Commissioners
FROM: Daniel J. Olson, Executive Director
DATE: October 22, 2025
RE: Discussion of Need for Severson Operating or Partnership Agreement

REQUEST

With the recent finalization of the Lease Agreement between Severson Dells Education Foundation and the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, we need to further address operations, responsibilities, and liabilities with a separate operating or partnership agreement. The current Lease Agreement only addresses items associated with the building and the Grove.

Ann Wasser and I have agreed to work together to draft a new agreement to bring to both Boards for discussion. We are seeking a general consensus from the Board of Commissioners to move forward with the process, with the understanding that we will regularly update the Board on the progress.

BACKGROUND

The Severson Education Foundation and the Forest Preserves have operated under various iterations of an agreement including an initial agreement in the 1970's and an executive director authorized agreement in 2012. Included in the agreements was an August of 2023 resolution for the Forest Preserves to pay for sponsorships of some of the programs. Because of a number of changes with personnel and leased space, these previous agreements are no longer viable.

The recently approved Lease Agreement will remain in place, as is. No changes to it should be necessary.

SCOPE

Preliminarily, the agreement will examine programming, sponsorship, liabilities, access, operating responsibilities outside of the Lease Agreement, and a host of other items to ensure that safe and efficient environmental education opportunities continue on District land.

BUDGET IMPACT

Although not yet drafted, we do not anticipate any budgetary impact for the agreement at this time.

ACTIONS

We are seeking a consensus from the Board to move forward with drafting an agreement. No formal action is asked for at this time.

Preserve Operations

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

- Prepped for Bard Klub Ukrainian event at Sugar River campground & put 70 bundles of firewood together.
- Completed monthly safety inspections.
- Filled washouts and potholes on gravel roadway at Macktown Historic District.
- Laid Ag lime at entrances to Mack house to reduce trip hazards.
- Trimmed up Red Bud trees along roadway at Headquarters.
- Bucked up logs, split firewood, and filled large woodbins at both campgrounds.
- Cleaned out and reorganized Hononegah lower barn.
- Cleaned out and reorganized big wood bin at Sugar River Campground.
- Power-washed memorial bench at Macktown.
- Painted Kiosk at Ferguson.
- Painted hand pumps at Colored Sands Canoe Launch and Sugar River Alder.
- Cleaned Blue Welcome/Thank You signs in preserves.
- Removed Turf and mulched around entrance sign at Macktown.
- Added gravel to washout area by Highland Shelter at Macktown.
- Hauled equipment to Central Shop by request.
- Hauled Firewood to Hononegah Campground.
- Trimmed low hanging white pine limbs near parking lot at Roland Olson.
- String trimmed vegetation away from stairs on Jensen trail.
- Trimmed low hanging limbs along hard path at Headquarters.
- Started blowing roadways in preserves off to clear fallen leaves. (2-3x per week)
- Pressure washed stone shelters.
- Filled washout area on site 42 at Hononegah Campground and along campground entrance.
- Dugout around electric pedestals and laid gravel at Sugar River Campground.
- Replaced rotted/worn boards on well house at Sugar River Campground.
- Helped Executive Director rearrange his office furniture.
- Removed two dead trees by Hononegah Bird Grove Shelter.
- Filled hazardous holes at Kieselburg soccer field and Black Willow Springs shelter.
- Added gravel around stone entrance walls at Roland Olson.

Preserve Operations

September 2025 Activities Report – Cont.

- Trained Kayla Lindquist on skid loader.
- Bucket truck trimmed along the roadways at Hononegah and in preserve areas at Atwood.
- Painted Sugar River Maintenance garage and enter/exit doors.
- Removed washout area at Colored Sands canoe launch and filled with base rock.
- Removed two dead pine trees by Sugar River Campground gate.
- Trimmed trees in picnic/mowed area at Headquarters.
- Repaired damaged welcome sign at Blackhawk Springs Perryville entrance.
- Added rock to washed out areas of trails at Deer Run.
- Restocked firewood at Seward Bluffs Campground.
- Pressure washed memorial benches along the Blackhawk Springs and Severson Dells paved paths.
- Stained the log and stage structures in The Grove Nature Play Area at Severson Dells.
- Brush mowed trail edges at Kishwaukee Gorge, Oak Ridge and the Severson Dells paved path.
- Repaired roof at the Kishwaukee River Maintenance Shop.
- Pressure washed and painted the fence at the Funderburg barn area.
- Replaced vertical log wall in The Grove Nature Play Area in front of electrical panels at Severson Dells.
- Added stone and gravel to low area of entrance trail at County Line to improve access.
- Trimmed out large Oak Tree at the Funderburg parking area.
- Removed honeysuckle from the Kishwaukee River East overlook.
- Added gravel to the Espenscheid canoe launch area.
- Removed two dead spruce trees from Fuller.
- Ongoing mowing, leaf removal and trail system maintenance in the preserves.
- Hazardous tree removal with aerial boom truck from Kishwaukee River and Kilbuck Bluff preserves.
- One of three boiler circulation pumps was replaced and the furnaces were serviced at the Severson Dells Nature Center.
- Pressure washed south side of the cabin at Rotary.
- Entrance gate was repaired at Kishwaukee Gorge.
- Replaced info kiosk at Severson Dells with a new replacement built by Central Shop staff.
- Central Shop staff installed conduit lines at Atwood Clubhouse in order to route new camera wires.

Preserve Operations

September 2025 Activities Report – Cont.

- Central Shop staff completed repairs on the outside window sills and frames on the Macktown Trading Post.
- Central Shop Equipment & Trades Manager facilitated the installation of new electric service at Macktown entrance for installation of the new electric sign board provided by Macktown Historic Society.
- Central Shop staff prepped one old trailer for auction on GovDeals.com website.
- Central Shop mechanic continues to perform equipment & vehicle repairs and annual scheduled service.

FOREST PRESERVES OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY
November-September

	<u>2023-2024</u>		<u>2024-2025</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total</u>
Small Shelter Res.	58	\$4,930	49	\$4,165
Small Shelter N/Res.	7	\$770	6	\$660
Large Shelter Res.	135	\$14,850	126	\$13,860
Large Shelter N/Res.	5	\$675	9	\$1,215
Electric Res.	173	\$21,625	166	\$20,750
Electric N/Res.	14	\$2,170	21	\$3,255
TOTAL	392	\$45,020	377	\$43,905
ONLINE	270	69%	309	82%
Over 300 Res.	0	\$0	0	\$0
Over 300 N/Res.	0	\$0	0	\$0
Ground Use/Tent Res	13	\$390	16	\$500
Ground Use/Tent N/Res.	1	\$100	2	\$90
Building Use Permits	1	\$100	5	\$500
Commercial Photography Permit	2	\$200	2	\$200
Special Use Permits	4	\$880	15	\$2,780
Rides	12	\$480	21	\$840
TOTAL	33	\$2,150	61	\$4,910
ONLINE	15	45%	26	43%
Equestrian Passes	Number	Total	Number	Total
Yearly Tag Res.	102	\$5,100	90	\$4,500
Yearly Tag N/Res.	48	\$3,360	36	\$2,520
TOTAL	150	\$8,460	126	\$7,020
ONLINE	43	29%	50	40%
Fly Field Passes	Number	Total	Number	Total
Yearly Pass Res.	50	\$1,750	38	\$1,330
Yearly Pass N/Res.	11	\$495	13	\$585
TOTAL	61	\$2,245	51	\$1,915
ONLINE	23	38%	17	33%
Metal Detecting Passes	Number	Total	Number	Total
Yearly Pass Res.	35	\$875	36	\$900
Yearly Pass N/Res.	7	\$245	9	\$315
TOTAL	42	\$1,120	45	\$1,215
ONLINE	9	21%	14	31%
GRAND TOTAL	678	\$58,995	660	\$58,965
ONLINE	360	53%	416	63%

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

	<u>2022</u> (thru 10/2)	<u>2023</u> (thru 10/1)	<u>2024</u> (thru 10/2)	<u>2025</u> (thru 9/29)
CAMPGROUND				
Hononegah	\$28,233	\$34,650	\$33,062	\$35,524
Seward Bluffs	35,987	42,716	49,422	54,384
Sugar River	<u>70,370</u>	<u>69,489</u>	<u>73,787</u>	<u>67,065</u>
Campground Revenue	\$134,590	\$146,855	\$156,271	\$156,973
SCOUT/YOUTH CAMPGROUDNS				
Hononegah	\$185	\$302	\$282	\$150
Pecatonica River	605	515	577	500
Rockford Rotary	300	340	331	340
Seward Bluffs	245	135	0	0
Sugar River	<u>240</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>589</u>	<u>231</u>
Scout/Youth Campground Revenue	\$1,575	\$1,487	\$1,779	\$1,221
EQUESTRIAN CAMPGROUNDS				
Oak Ridge	\$61	\$64	\$362	\$535
Seward Bluffs	<u>1,003</u>	<u>1,164</u>	<u>1,132</u>	<u>1,590</u>
Equestrian Campground Revenue	\$1,064	\$1,228	\$1,494	\$2,125
FIREWOOD				
Hononegah	\$1,750	\$1,719	\$3,233	\$2,567
Seward Bluffs	2,347	3,318	3,473	3,417
Sugar River	<u>6,740</u>	<u>8,293</u>	<u>7,580</u>	<u>8,458</u>
Firewood Revenue	\$10,837	\$13,330	\$14,286	\$14,442
TOTAL REVENUE	\$148,066	\$162,900	\$173,830	\$174,761

NUMBER OF GROUPS AT REGULAR CAMPGROUNDS
(DOES NOT INCLUDE EQUESTRIAN AND SCOUT/YOUTH CAMPING)

	2,346	2,476	2,472	2,412
--	-------	-------	-------	-------

Natural Resource Management

Mike Brien, Director of Natural Resources

Mike Groves, Natural Resources Manager

Keith Krey, Stewardship Coordinator

Liz Hucker, Wildlife Biologist

September 2025 Activities Report

Natural Resources

- Harvested seeds of pale purple coneflower, marble seed, dotted horsemint, poke milkweed, Canada milkvetch, nodding onion, round head bush clover, Canada wild rye, swamp milkweed, mountain mint, prairie dropseed, jack-in-the-pulpit, rattlesnake master, culvers root, cardinal flower, cream gentian, and others from preserves throughout the county.
- Chemically treated silky bushclover, phragmites, and woody resprouts in preserves throughout the county.
- Completed a shoreline restoration project at Four Lakes Forest Preserve.
- Completed an erosion control project at Oak Ridge Forest Preserve.
- Forestry mowed waterway and entry drive to Stone Bridge Forest Preserve.
- Hand cut invasive brush at Rotary Forest Preserve.
- Tractor mowed access lanes at various preserves and new prairie plantings at Funderburg Forest Preserve.
- Cleaned and processed harvested seed as needed.
- Watered recently planted trees at various preserves as needed.
- John Peterson assisted with a field day for Rockford University students.
- Mike Groves led a tour at Roland Olson Forest Preserve to showcase ongoing restoration projects at the site.
- Director, natural resource manager, and wildlife biologist met to discuss new format for prescribed burn plans.
- Continued working with Blakemore Architects on design of new natural resource facility.
- Mike Brien led an invasive species walk with University of Illinois Extension at Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve.
- Submitted final report and reimbursement request for FY24 OSLAD award.
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources hosted a Chronic Wasting Disease outreach meeting at Forest Preserve Headquarters.
- Continued working on land acquisition projects.

Natural Resource Management

September Activities Report – Cont.

Wildlife

Turtle / Aquatics Work

- Continued trapping efforts at multiple preserves throughout the county.
- Continued telemetry of tagged Blanding's and ornate box turtles.
- Utilized salamander traps to survey for hatchling turtles and other aquatic species. Surveys documented presence of Great Plains Mudbugs, an obligate species for the Federally Endangered Hine's Emerald dragonfly, and several species of fish.
- Smooth Green Snakes
 - Continued searching sites with historic observations.
- Demonstrated turtle trapping, radio telemetry, and aquatic net seining to a Terrestrial Vertebrate biology class from Rockford University
- Deployed and monitored camera traps for badger and otter at Funderburg, Deer Run, Ferguson, and Pecatonica Wetlands Forest Preserve.
- Deployed acoustic bat monitors at Sugar River Alder and Kishwaukee Gorge.
- Coordination with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for October ornate box turtle meeting and survey
- Coordination with University of Illinois and Cook County Forest Preserves for winter badger health project
- Brought two job shadows to the field to demonstrate wildlife management techniques
- Repair, maintenance, and cleaning of field equipment.

Stewardship

- Community Science Highlight: Three volunteers logged 25 hours monitoring bats throughout 12 preserves. Their efforts documented 7 species of bats!
- Held four restoration workdays at Colored Sands, Kishwaukee Gorge, Crooked River, and Funderburg Forest Preserves.
- Hosted Jane Addams Day of Service on September 10th, where 45 students from Rockford University removed invasive species at Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve and collected seed from Deer Run Forest Preserve.
- Hosted a workday at Burpee Museum where volunteers assisted with maintaining the new native planting beds in the Nature Nook.
- Staffed FPWC table at Four Rivers Sanitation Authority and Collins Aerospace health and wellness fairs.
- Flush cut and chemically treated stumps in restoration areas at Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve
- Replaced and repaired blue bird nest boxes as needed.

Natural Resource Management

September Activities Report – Cont.

2025 Statistics

A total of 271 volunteers earned 3,657.75 service hours from January 2025 through September 2025.

The monetary value of these service hours equals **\$127,253.12**. As of April 2025, the estimated national value of each volunteer hour is currently \$34.79 (based on the Independent Sector).

Golf Operations

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

Clubhouse Operations:

- Golf Outings & Events;
 - Bob N Mike Fall Classic @ Ledges GC w/150 participants
 - Rockton Lions Club @ Macktown GC w/100 participants
 - Winnebago County Sr. AM @ Macktown GC w/40 competitors
 - Lindquist Family Golf Outing @ Atwood GC w/100 participants
 - Forest City Gear Outing @ Ledges GC w/100 participants
 - NIC-10 Boys Conference Tournament @ Ledges GC w/90 players Friday & 60 players Saturday
- Shop coverage for shifts covered by college students & teachers returning to school.
- Starting times adjusted:
 - 7:00am Weekdays
 - 6:30am Weekends
- Daily Operations

Golf Maintenance:

Ledges

- Applied granular fertilizer on fairways and tee complexes.
- Performed daily course cleanup of leaves, pine cones, and needles on greens, tees and fairways through blowing, mulching, and sweeping.
- Filled low turf areas throughout the course with soil and over seeded to promote turf recovery.
- Mowed all waterways and pond edges using the boom mower to maintain visibility and enhance course appearance.
- Finished trimming all low hanging branches next to greens, fairways and tees.
- Filled par three tee divots with a sand and seed mixture.
- Continued fertility program on greens, tees and fairways.
- Removed and cleaned up dead trees on left side of #14 fairway.
- Spiked and vertical cut greens to remove excess organic matter, followed by topdressing sand application to smooth the putting surface.
- Leveled low irrigation heads on #6 and #12 tee complex.
- Edged all greenside bunkers.
- Hand watered localized dry spots on greens, collars and approaches.
- Irrigation repairs including pilot valves and drive motor replacement.

Golf Operations

September 2025 Activities Report – Cont.

- Installed irrigation conversion assemblies on numerous heads in #5 and #10 fairways.
- Removed overgrown landscaping behind #17 tee complex.
- Started servicing, cleaning and waxing golf car fleet.
- Mechanic performed repairs and maintenance on equipment.

Macktown

- Scouted for signs of plant pathogens on greens, tees and fairways during the period of prolonged heat and humidity.
- Applied granular fertilizer on fairways and tee complexes.
- Performed daily course cleanup of leaves, pine cones, and needles on greens, tees and fairways through blowing, mulching, and sweeping.
- Edged bunkers throughout the course.
- Continued trimming low-hanging branches around greens, tees, and along fairways.
- Repaired and tested multiple irrigation pedestal timing mechanisms.
- Burned brush pile.
- Filled tee divots with a sand and seed mixture.
- Continued fertility program on greens, tees and fairways.
- Repaired vandalism on #13 and #17 green caused by golf cart.
- Removed and cleaned up dead tree behind #2 tee complex.
- Leveled low irrigation heads in #4 and #14, & #18 fairway.
- Started annual servicing, cleaning and waxing golf car fleet.
- Mechanic performed repairs and maintenance on golf equipment.
- Hand water greens, collars, & approaches regularly to maintain turfgrass health during drought conditions.
- Pressure washed and degreased fuel tanks in preparation for painting.
- Repair cart path near 11th tee complex.

Atwood

- Aerated putting greens with ¼ inch solid tines to reduce compaction. improve air, water and nutrient movement to the root zone.
- Vertical mowed putting greens to remove thatch and reduce lateral growth.
- Top-dressed greens with sand to smooth and firm the putting surface.

Golf Operations

September 2025 Activities Report – Cont.

- Lowered height of cut on driving range tee and top-dress with 7:2:1 construction mix to level playing surface.
- Added soil and seed to heavy traffic areas near greens complexes.
- Applied granular fertilizer to tees to ensure plant health and aid in divot recovery.
- Continued trimming trees along fairways and rough areas.
- Power washed and painted fuel tanks and bollards at maintenance building.
- Repaired irrigation heads and hand water greens during drought conditions.

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

	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
<u>Atwood Homestead</u>				
Green Fees	\$244,423	\$251,756	\$285,138	\$327,441
Cart Rental	\$188,837	\$185,842	\$212,140	\$222,559
Merchandise	\$29,938	\$32,738	\$28,478	\$32,070
Gift Card	\$687	\$675	\$599	\$928
Discount Gift Card	\$58,472	\$64,481	\$78,880	\$95,064
Capital Improvement Fee	\$22,289	\$21,472	\$21,973	\$23,252
Food & Beverage	\$91,969	\$104,686	\$105,882	\$124,689
Golf Club Rental	\$0	\$600	\$880	\$280
Video Gaming & ATM	\$4,887	\$3,579	\$4,276	\$288
Total Atwood Revenue	\$641,502	\$665,829	\$738,245	\$826,570
<u>Ledges</u>				
Green Fees	\$262,507	\$267,795	\$280,510	\$306,912
Cart Rental	\$196,833	\$202,445	\$211,464	\$219,050
Merchandise	\$25,555	\$28,191	\$25,908	\$28,763
Gift Card	\$111	\$245	\$0	\$1,100
Discount Gift Card	\$65,078	\$73,405	\$79,528	\$89,577
Capital Improvement Fee	\$24,352	\$24,564	\$24,534	\$23,225
Food & Beverage	\$123,658	\$134,457	\$143,213	\$143,079
Golf Club Rental	\$0	\$680	\$670	\$1,190
Video Gaming & ATM	\$5,173	\$2,364	\$4,948	-\$347
Total Ledges Revenue	\$703,266	\$734,147	\$770,775	\$812,549
<u>Macktown</u>				
Green Fees	\$177,854	\$200,956	\$200,242	\$219,309
Cart Rental	\$139,749	\$157,881	\$152,289	\$170,336
Merchandise	\$16,822	\$18,758	\$15,198	\$19,567
Gift Card	\$25	\$0	\$217	\$250
Discount Gift Card	\$78,056	\$93,483	\$94,196	\$111,211
Capital Improvement Fee	\$17,637	\$19,165	\$18,395	\$18,929
Food & Beverage	\$95,953	\$108,808	\$111,594	\$107,678
Golf Club Rental	\$0	\$200	\$110	\$240
Video Gaming & ATM	\$3,814	\$3,349	\$5,461	\$0
Total Macktown Revenue	\$529,910	\$602,601	\$597,702	\$647,520
<u>Headquarters</u>				
Gift Card	\$2,554	\$1,430	\$3,170	\$1,250
Discount Gift Card	\$34,072	\$29,954	\$31,020	\$33,043
Golf Passes	\$294,780	\$315,785	\$328,440	\$353,205
Capital Improvement Fee	\$32,820	\$32,338	\$32,880	\$35,400
Tournaments	\$16,670	\$18,623	\$23,815	\$20,725
Private Golf Cart Registration	\$11,650	\$11,650	\$10,150	\$9,500
Total Headquarters Revenue	\$392,546	\$409,779	\$429,475	\$453,123
Total Golf Course Revenue	\$2,267,225	\$2,412,355	\$2,536,196	\$2,739,763

Option not available for that season

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

	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
<u>Rounds Played</u>				
Atwood	23,024	23,026	25,398	29,127
Ledges	22,701	22,416	23,448	25,439
Macktown	20,156	21,241	22,218	23,808
Total Rounds Played	65,881	66,683	71,064	78,374
<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.	189	164	162	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.	68	73	103	113
Student Card Non-Res.	5	10	10	7
Team Pass	17	15	8	7
Practice Range Res.	25	19	21	0
Practice Range Non-Res.	0	0	0	0
Total Passes	662	656	690	717
<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
September 2025 Activities Report

Marketing/Advertising

- General visitorship (Mid-West Family targeted display ad running seasonally).
- GoRockford advertising (Outdoor Activities, Family Fun).
- Working with Mid-West Family Broadcasting.
 - Running digital ads and radio commercials
 - Running digital ads on Rock River Current website

Media Relations

- Guided Hike at Roland Olson featured as one of 35 things to do in Rockford area 9/18.
- FPWC golf courses featured in My Stateline article about benefits of golfing the fall 9/30.
- October digital newsletter to be sent to subscribers on 10/23.
- November digital newsletter scheduled for 11/20.
- Attended quarterly GoRockford Marketing Partnership Meeting 9/23 (topic: media relations).

Events/Programs

- Walk With U at Hononegah 9/20, October Guided Bird Hike at Deer Run 10/9, Fall Foliage Hike at Seward Bluffs 10/16, Legacy Tree Hike with Natural Land Institute at Deer Run 10/18.
- Upcoming: Managing Woody Invasive Plants: Fall Classroom Edition with Illinois Extension 11/6, Winter Restoration Work Day & Hike 12/6.
- Tabled at Lifescape's Senior Expo 9/20.
- Upcoming: Tabling at Hoo Haven's Annual Open House 11/2.

2025 Preserve Passport metrics

- Active teams as of 10/8: 81 (+2)
- Submissions as of 10/8: 2,517 (+175)

Printing & Signage

- 2026 wall calendar artwork completed and sent to printer.
 - Final product expected to be in hand mid-November
- Continuing preliminary development of interactive signage in collaboration with Natural Resources.

Marketing & Communication Relations September 2025 Activities Report – Cont.

Social Media(September 5 – October 8, 2025)

- FPWC Facebook: 5,682 followers (+100)
 - Reach: 8,478 (-34%)
 - Engagement: 1,062 (-31.9%)
 - Views: 44,766(-31%)
- FPWC Instagram: 1,987 followers (+38)
 - Reach: 2,071 (+7.1%)
 - Engagement: 534 (-44.1%)
 - Views: 17,766 (-22.2%)

Human Resources

Jody Kennay, Human Resources Manager
September 2025 Activities Report

Full-Time and Seasonal Open Requisitions	2 (Golf Course Mechanic and Ranger)
Resignations	6 (Seasonal - back to school/done for season)

Updating New Employee Orientation:

- Discovering quality videos, what do other FPs do, use of/purchasing videos, working with Legal on topic requirements, etc.

Compensation Study:

- Current state, pain points, research, other Preserve information, compensation analysis, etc.

Job Description Review

- Accurate reflection of positions, revising as needed, sent to Managers for revisions and sent to Legal for approval, Dan approval next step.

Revising Employee Handbook

- Updating with new employment laws, rewriting sections as needed, Staff review and approval is next step followed by Legal, Executive Director and Board.

Employee Appreciation Event

- Beginning to plan.

Law Enforcement

September 2025 Activities Report

1200 FP WB25-011092
5390 Rotary Rd
Illegal Dumping

On Sunday September 14, 2025 at 0730 hours a large U Haul truck was seen at 5390 Rotary Road illegally dumping large logs and brush on the property by witness, Ginger Anderson. A Hispanic male, approximately 30 years of age is the suspect. A return on the license plate was not found at the time of report.

Brief Activity Summary

- There were 3 Criminal arrests
- There were 7 Calls for service inside of the Forest Preserves
- There were 10 Calls for service outside of the Forest Preserves
- There were 2 Reports written
- There were 0 Ordinance violations (citations) written
- There were 0 Written warning
- There were 4 Verbal warnings
- There were 4 Airfield permits
- There were 4 Equestrian bridle tags
- There were 12 Fishing license checks
- There were 31 Occupied shelter house patrols
- There were 32 Campground patrols
- There were 38 Patrols on trail systems
- There were 115 Directed patrol hours

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County

ORDINANCE

25-1008

Authorizing the Purchase of +/- 88 Acres Along the Sugar River

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners (the “Board”) of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County (the “District”) have determined that it is advisable, necessary, and in the best interest of the District that the District acquire land in and for the District, with said lands, together with all lands heretofore acquired, not to exceed 55,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2025 the Board authorized the issuance of \$2,000,000 of General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds for the purpose of acquiring additional lands within the District; and

WHEREAS, +/- 88 acres of land (the Property) along the Sugar River in northwestern Winnebago County was made available for sale by owner; and

WHEREAS, the Property has been evaluated by staff and it has been determined that the Property meets the criteria of “Policy Option #3” set forth by the Land Advisory Council, and adopted by the Board on January 20, 2016, which prioritizes “Acquiring properties with significant natural resource value, high quality natural areas, habitat for endangered species and significant natural communities of plants and animals”; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Director of the District and sellers of the Property have executed a non-binding letter of intent establishing the base terms and conditions under which the District would enter into a contract for sale and purchase of the Property; and

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

Section 1. The Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes and approves the purchase of the real property commonly known as “the McKee Property” (PINs 06-09-100-010, 06-09-100-003, and 06-09-300-001) for \$747,000.00 plus customary closing costs. Such authorization and approval are contingent upon the Seller and the District finalizing and memorializing in writing the terms and conditions of the Letter of Intent for the acquisition of the McKee Property. To the extent the Seller and Forest Preserves of Winnebago County are unable to finalize and memorialize in writing the terms and conditions of the Purchase Contract, the authorization and approval provided for in this Ordinance shall be automatically rescinded, without further action of the Board.

Section 2. That the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County hereby authorize the Executive Director of the District to execute any and all documents necessary to acquire title to and possession of the McKee Property.

Section 3. That pursuant to the District Land Classification and Use Policy adopted May 27, 1982 lands contained in this acquisition shall be classified as reserve area and/or recreational area.

Section 4. That upon closing, the Property shall henceforth be known as “Paula Swanson Forest Preserve”.

Section 5. That upon receipt of notice from the District Executive Director, the District’s Director of Finance, Auditor, and Treasurer are hereby authorized and directed to execute appropriate District payment orders required for the closing authorized herein, which payment orders shall be drawn upon the District’s Land Acquisition Fund – 2025a (3307).

Section 6. That the Secretary of the Forest Preserve District is hereby authorized to prepare and deliver certified copies of this Ordinance to the Executive Director, Auditor, and Treasurer.

Section 7. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

Voting Yes

Voting No

Judith Barnard

Judith Barnard

Mike Eickman

Mike Eickman

Gloria Lind

Gloria Lind

Cheryl Maggio

Cheryl Maggio

Jerry Paulson

Jerry Paulson

Emily Porter

Emily Porter

Jeff Tilly, President

Jeff Tilly, President

The above and foregoing Ordinance was adopted this 22nd of October, 2025.

Jeff Tilly, President

Gloria Lind, Secretary