

**Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 – 5:30 PM
Forest Preserve Headquarters



AGENDA

- A. ROLL CALL**
- B. PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE**
- C. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
January 21, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
- E. OLD BUSINESS**
- F. NEW BUSINESS**
Finance Report
- G. ACTION ITEMS**
 - 1. Bills for January
 - 2. Approval of Purchase of Front Deck Mower
 - 3. Approval of Purchase of Golf Slope Mower
 - 4. Approval of Purchase of Pickup Truck with Plow
 - 5. Acceptance of Bids for Klehm Garden Gazebo Roof Replacement
 - 6. Acceptance of Bids for Fertilizer and Chemicals
- H. UPDATES and REPORTS**
 - 1. Preserve Operations
 - 2. Natural Resource Management
 - 3. Golf
 - 4. Marketing
 - 5. Human Resources
 - 6. Partner Groups
- I. CLOSED SESSION**
Land Acquisition
Personnel
- J. REGULAR SESSION CONTINUED**
- K. APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES**
March 17, 2021 Closed Session
April 21, 2021 Closed Session
May 6, 2021 Closed Session
May 19, 2021 Closed Session
June 16, 2021 Closed Session
August 18, 2021 Closed Session
Sept. 1, 2021 Closed Session
- L. ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED**
 - 7. Approval of Resolution to Destroy Verbatim Recordings of Closed Sessions
- M. ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS**
 - 1. Eastern Bluebird Monitor Training over Zoom starting at 5:00pm on March 12th.

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2. Budburst Monitor Training over Zoom starting at 6:00pm on March 18th.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Next regular Board Meeting– 5:30 PM Wednesday, March 18, Forest Preserve Headquarters

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 must 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



February 18, 2026

**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 **\$ 1,122,188.82** 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	205,731.07
HEALTH BENEFITS FUND	3185	40,777.15
SOCIAL SECURITY FUND	3192	13,253.27
RETIREMENT FUND	3193	17,314.12
LIABILITY RESERVE FUND	3194	17,047.00
IMPROVEMENT & DEV. FUND	3302	29,527.11
LAND ACQUISITION FUND	3307	746,396.86
CORPORATE FUND	3402	<u>52,142.24</u>
		\$1,122,188.82

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Chapman, Finance Director



Date

RESOLUTION

No. 26-0201

PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR JANUARY

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 January; 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 \$1,122,188.82 be paid by the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County for the month of January 2026.

Voting YES_____ Voting NO_____ Voting ABSTAINED_____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18th day of February, 2026.

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

RESOLUTION
No. 26- 0202
PURCHASE OF FRONT DECK MOWER

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of a new Front Deck Mower for North Area Preserve Maintenance Department as part of the 2025-26 capital budget; and,

WHEREAS, the desired equipment is available through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing program (Contract # 112624-DAC); and,

WHEREAS, Revels Turf & Tractor, LLC, Elgin, IL is the John Deere dealer and is able to supply one John Deere 1570 TerrainCut Commercial Front Mower with Deck and accessories, for a total cost of \$35,471.10; and,

WHEREAS, staff budgeted \$36,200 for this capital purchase; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County authorize the purchase of one John Deere 1570 TerrainCut Commercial Front Mower with Deck and accessories from Revels Turf & Tractor LLC of Elgin, IL., under Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Agreement #112624-DAC, for the cost of \$35,471.10.

Voting YES _____ Voting NO _____ Voting ABSTAINED _____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18th day of February, 2026.

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

RESOLUTION
No. 26-0203
PURCHASE OF GOLF SLOPE MOWER

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of a new Golf Slope Mower for Macktown Golf Maintenance Department as part of the 2025-26 capital budget; and,

WHEREAS, the desired equipment is available through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing program (Contract # 112624-TTC); and,

WHEREAS, Reinders Inc., Sussex, WI is the Toro dealer and is able to supply one Toro Groundsmaster 3500-D Mower with Deck, for a total cost of \$49,236.50; and,

WHEREAS, staff budgeted \$48,500 for this capital purchase; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County authorize the purchase of one Toro Groundsmaster 3500-D Mower with Deck from Reinders Inc., Sussex, WI., under Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Agreement #112624-TTC, for the cost of \$49,236.50.

Voting YES_____ Voting NO_____ Voting ABSTAINED_____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18th day of February, 2026.

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

RESOLUTION
No. 26-0204
PURCHASE OF PICKUP TRUCK WITH PLOW

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of a new Pickup Truck with Plow for North Area Preserve Maintenance Department as part of the 2025-26 capital budget; and,

WHEREAS, the desired equipment is available through the State of Illinois Cooperative Purchasing program (Contract # boss-4-B-23568); and,

WHEREAS, Landmark Ford, Springfield, IL is the dealer with the State of Illinois Contract and is able to supply one Ford F250 4x4 Pickup Truck with Plow, for a total cost of \$59,355.00; and,

WHEREAS, staff budgeted \$59,400 for this capital purchase; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County authorize the purchase of one Ford F250 4x4 Pickup Truck with Plow from Landmark Ford of Springfield, IL., under the State of Illinois Cooperative Purchasing Program, contract # boss-4-B-23568, for the cost of \$59,355.00.

Voting YES _____ Voting NO _____ Voting ABSTAINED _____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18th day of February, 2026.

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

**RESOLUTION
26-0205**

**KLEHM ARBORETUM GARDEN GAZEBO ROOF REPLACEMENT
ACCEPTANCE OF BID**

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County Board of Commissioners approved the roof replacement project for the Klehm Arboretum Garden Gazebo as part of the 2026 Capital Budget; and,

WHEREAS, a mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on site on January 15th, 2026 at 10:00am; and,

WHEREAS, a bid opening was conducted on Thursday, January 22nd, 2026 with six (6) sealed bids received; and,

WHEREAS, the qualified lowest bidder was C3 Construction, Crystal Lake, Illinois, with a combined total project bid amount of \$32,810; and,

WHEREAS, staff is recommending that the qualified lowest bid be accepted; and,

WHEREAS, the staff is recommending additional 10% project contingency of up to \$3,281.00 be provided; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County accept the combined project bid amount for the Klehm Arboretum Garden Gazebo Roof Replacement Project, by C3 Construction in Crystal Lake, Illinois, in the amount of \$32,810.00 with an additional contingency amount of up to 10% (\$3,281.00), if necessary.

Voting YES _____ Voting NO _____ Voting ABSTAINED _____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18th day of February 2026.

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

BID TAB
DEPARTMENT: KLEHM ARBORETUM AND BOTANIC GARDEN
26-0101 KLEHM ARBORETUM GAZEBO ROOF REPLACEMENT
BID OPENING – JANUARY 22, 2026 AT 10:00 A.M.

VENDOR	BASE BID	ADDITIONAL OPTION #1	TOTAL BID COST	COMPLETED WORK AS SPECIFIED ON OR BEFORE	RECEIVED ADDENDUM
Roberts Restorations	\$18,200.00	\$21,000.00	\$39,200.00	5/28/2026	0 of 0
J&F Chiattello Constrcuton	\$35,000.00	\$18,512.00	\$53,512.00	4/23/2026	0 of 0
Taza Construction DBA Tiles in Style, LLC	\$75,550.00	\$23,220.00	\$98,770.00	5/28/2026	0 of 0
CPR Roofing Inc.	\$35,000.00	\$19,750.00	\$54,750.00	4/23/2026	0 of 0
C3 Construction	\$22,885.00	\$9,925.00	\$32,810.00	4/23/2026	0 of 0
Sterling Commercial Roofing, A Tecta America Company, LLC	\$52,350.00	\$10,200.00	\$62,550.00	5/28/2026	0 of 0

RESOLUTION

No. 26-0206

ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS FOR FERTILIZERS AND CHEMICALS

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Code for the Forest Preserve District of Winnebago County, Illinois, provide that all purchases for and contracts for supplies, materials, equipment, and contractual services, the value of which is estimated to exceed \$30,000, shall be based on competitive bids and,

WHEREAS, competitive bids were received for the following:

FERTILIZERS AND CHEMICALS

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County has reviewed the bids received for the aforementioned item (s) and recommends awarding the bids as follows:

SEE ATTACHMENT

TOTAL BID PRICE: \$109,043.46

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has determined that the funding for the aforementioned purchase shall be as follows:

VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS TURF SUPPLIES (422.84)

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County that purchase orders be issued to the attached vendors in the amount of \$109,043.46.

Voting YES _____ Voting NO _____ Voting ABSTAINED _____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18th day of February, 2026.

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

TURF FERTILIZERS, HERBICIDES, FUNGICIDES AND INSECTICIDES
BID # 26-0201

FERTILIZER AND CHEMICALS	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL	VENDOR
21-0-21 70-100%SRN 220 sgn (50lb bag) SOP	230	\$18.50	\$4,255.00	Masterblend
17-0-0 with .38% Prodiamine 220 sgn (50lb bag)	570	\$15.85	\$9,034.50	D&K Products
25-0-10 100% Poly Coated (120 Day Duration) 220 sgn (50 lb bag)	205	\$28.50	\$5,842.50	Masterblend
17-0-5 (.067 Acelepryn / .167 Dimension) 220 sgn	54	\$64.75	\$3,496.50	D&K Products
Foltec SG 8-24-8 (3x1 case)	8	\$262.00	\$2,096.00	Reinders
Foltec SG 16-0-16 (3x1 case)	50	\$262.00	\$13,100.00	D&K Products
Foltec SG 24-0-8 (3x1 case)	9	\$262.00	\$2,358.00	Clesens
Azoxystar, Albaugh	20	\$74.98	\$1,499.60	Conserv FS
Iprodione (2x2.5gal)case	30	\$284.48	\$8,534.40	Clesens
Chlorothalonil Flo (2x2.5gal)case	30	\$128.00	\$3,840.00	Clesens
100%K-Phosphite (2x2.5gal)case	30	\$94.00	\$2,820.00	D&K Products
Envy - Precision Labs, Inc	30	\$84.00	\$2,520.00	Clesens
Stergo (1gal)	6	\$275.70	\$1,654.20	Helena Agri
Propam Select	5	\$188.00	\$940.00	D&K Products
Propiconazole 14.3 (2x2.5gal) case	4	\$232.35	\$929.40	Reinders
Slant EC (2x2.5)	5	\$215.00	\$1,075.00	Helena Agri
Fluazinam (1 gal) jug	6	\$200.00	\$1,200.00	Reinders
Velista (22oz) bottle	22	\$297.00	\$6,534.00	D&K Products
Posterity Forte (1 gal) jug	3	\$852.00	\$2,556.00	Clesens
Prothioconazole 41%	6	\$650.00	\$3,900.00	D&K Products
Legacy (1 gal) jug	4	\$485.00	\$1,940.00	D&K Products
Pramaxis MEC (1gal)	4	\$96.50	\$386.00	Helena Agri
Tricure AD (2.5)	5	\$204.57	\$1,022.85	Reinders
Elite Premier Blue, Red River (12.5 gal jug)	13	\$219.37	\$2,851.81	Conserv FS
Blue Spray Dye (1gal) Precision Labs	10	\$32.00	\$320.00	Clesens
Alligare 90, Alligare	4	\$74.90	\$299.60	Conserv FS
MSO - Methylated Seed Oil (2 x 2.5 gal) case	2	\$60.00	\$120.00	Clesens
Acelepryn Xtra (2.5 Gallon Jug)	6	\$1,390.00	\$8,340.00	Helena Agri
Dimension 2 EW (1/2 gal)	2	\$139.50	\$279.00	Reinders
Vessel (2 x 2.5 gal) case	16	\$103.95	\$1,663.20	D&K Products
Transline (2 x 2.5gal) case	3	\$716.00	\$2,148.00	Helena Agri
Ranger Pro (2x2.5)	8	\$87.00	\$696.00	Helena Agri
Ranger Pro (30gal) drum	2	\$502.50	\$1,005.00	Helena Agri
Aquamaster, Bayer	1	\$801.90	\$801.90	Conserv FS
Milestone (2 x 2.5 gal) case	1	\$1,625.00	\$1,625.00	Helena Agri
Triclopyr 3, Alligare	8	\$233.90	\$1,871.20	Conserv FS
Triclopyr 4 (2 x 2.5 gal) case	8	\$277.00	\$2,216.00	D&K Products
Vastlan (2 x 2.5 gal) case	2	\$525.00	\$1,050.00	Helena Agri
Diquat, Alligare	1	\$279.00	\$279.00	Conserv FS
Grassout Max qt.	20	\$29.48	\$589.60	Advanced Turf
Krenite (2 x 2.5 gal) case	1	\$482.50	\$482.50	Helena Agri
Confront (2 x 2.5 gal) case	1	\$692.50	\$692.50	D&K Products
Escort XP (1 pound)	2	\$89.60	\$179.20	Helena Agri
		TOTAL	\$109,043.46	

Preserve Operations

Vaughn Stamm, Director of Operations
Matt Weik & Scott Wallace, Preserve Managers
Bryan Helmold, Facility & Equipment Manager
January 2026 Activities Report

- Bucked up and split firewood.
- Replaced picnic table boards for various preserve locations.
- Trimmed back tree along roadway at Macktown.
- Posted boundary signs at Paula Swanson Forest Preserve.
- Trimmed back trees along fly field parking area at Kieselburg.
- Kayla Lindquist passed Illinois Pesticide Applicators test.
- Kayla L. and Nate H. worked on S-130 and S-190 Burn Training.
- Burned Atwood Homestead brush pile.
- Burned Sugar River brush pile.
- Matt W. and Kayla L. took part in Community Assessment Survey group.
- Completed monthly building inspections.
- Del J., Kayla L., Scott W., and Arnie W. participated in the deer management program.
- Trimmed back walnut trees by Sugar River Campground dump station.
- Burned brush pile at Kishwaukee River maintenance facility.
- Removed hazardous trees along roadway at Rockford Rotary Forest Preserve.
- Assisted Central Shop staff with bridge repair at Blackhawk Springs recreation path.
- Repaired damaged gate at Pecatonica Wetlands.
- Removed two leaning trees from Trailside roadway.
- Snow and ice removal from various preserve roadways and parking areas.
- Replaced circuit breaker at Severson Dells Ed Center.
- Tree removals along Kishwaukee River Forest Preserve roadway.
- Ground tree stumps at Blackhawk Springs and Kishwaukee River.
- Removed two hazardous trees from Seward Bluffs Campground.
- Cleared trees from trails of McKiski FP section at Deer Run FP.
- Director of Operations prepared four Resolutions with three contracts for various golf and preserve equipment and one competitive bid for a project for board approval.
- Director of Operations participating in Personnel Policy Handbook review process.

Natural Resource Management

Mike Brien, Director of Natural Resources

Mike Groves, Natural Resource Manager

Keith Krey, Stewardship Coordinator

Liz Huckler, Wildlife Biologist

January 2026 Activities Report

Natural Resource Staff

During the month of January, the department focused on the 2026 deer management program. Maintenance was completed on program equipment and stands were installed in the preserves during early January. Natural resource and wildlife staff began baiting piles after installing stands and continued to do so twice a week throughout the management season. At the time this report was submitted, staff had completed removals in the Kishwaukee River corridor (75 deer) and at Funderburg Forest Preserve (20 deer). Six deer had also been removed from Klehm Arboretum; management there will continue as required through February. Samples taken from harvested deer to test for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) will be submitted to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the results will be shared once available.

Additional work completed in January includes:

- Hand cut and chemically treated invasive brush at Sugar River Alder, Cedar Cliff, and Rotary Forest Preserves.
- Removed trees from restoration area at Kishwaukee Gorge Forest Preserve.
- Removed eastern red cedars from a degraded prairie remnant at Sugar River Alder Forest Preserve.
- Forestry mowed invasive species at Sugar River Alder, Deer Run, and Kishwaukee Gorge Forest Preserves.
- Burned brush piles at Kishwaukee Gorge and Sugar River Alder Forest Preserves.
- Removed snow and salted Headquarters as needed.
- Sandra led a winter tree ID walk at Hononegah Forest Preserve.
- Staff toured Paula Swanson Forest Preserve.
- Monitored wood duck nest boxes in preserves throughout the county.
- Submitted application for 2026 prescribed burn permits.
- Participated in the employee handbook review and community survey planning processes.
- Participated in dedication ceremony for the Hononegah rock elm's award from the Natural Land Institute's Legacy Tree program.
- Met with University of Illinois's Winnebago County extension office to discuss opportunities for collaboration.
- Met with WinGIS staff to discuss the District joining the WinGIS consortium.
- Closed on the Mckee property purchase.

Natural Resource Management

January 2026 Activities Report – Cont.

- Met with Illinois Department of Transportation to discuss potential impacts to the preserve system from the replacement of the I-39 bridge over the Kishwaukee River.
- Continued project coordination for the construction of the new natural resource facility.

Wildlife

- Installed posts for three new kestrel nest boxes.
- Conducted aerial deer counts using thermal drone at Deer Run Forest Preserve and Klehm Arboretum.
- Assisted with baiting piles and sharpshooting.
- Completed maintenance on dogproof traps for upcoming raccoon removal project.
- Continued monitoring and maintaining remote camera traps.
- Attended Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana.
- Prepared education specimens for public outreach programs.
- Completed 2025 year end herptile permit report and submitted to Illinois Department of Natural Resources.
- Coordinated estimated for the installation of bird strike film on windows at preserve headquarters.
- Continued work on the District's wildlife species index and trail camera database.
- Performed literature review and began developing protocols for water quality assessments that will be conducted alongside aquatic trapping this field season.
- Worked on an ESRI introduction to ArcGIS course.

Stewardship

- Hosted annual volunteer wrap up event at Forest Preserve Headquarters to celebrate the accomplishments of all of our volunteers throughout 2025.
- Worked with an Eagle Scout candidate to complete a conservation project at Keiselburg Forest Preserve.
- Flush cut and treated stumps at Hononegah Forest Preserve.
- Hosted five volunteer workdays at Pecatonica River, Kishwaukee Gorge, Hononegah, and Roland Olson Forest Preserves.
- Met with a professor from U-W Whitewater to discuss our volunteer programming and partnership opportunities.
- Attended webinars on volunteer management and engagement
- Toured the new Paula Swanson Forest Preserve.
- Met with University of Illinois's Winnebago County extension office to discuss partnerships and volunteerism.

Natural Resource Management

January 2026 Activities Report – Cont.

2026 Statistics

A total of 9 volunteers earned 76 service hours during the month of January.

The monetary value of these service hours equals **\$2,644.04**. 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

January 2026 Activities Report

Clubhouse Operations:

- Completed year-end inventories > Dir. of Operations will coordinate with new Golf General Manager and Food & Beverage Manager.
- Golf Operations Overview > Dir. of Operations will coordinate with new Golf General Manager
- Selected vendor for carpet & flooring replacement at Atwood Golf Clubhouse and selected products to be used so they could be ordered. Planned for late February/early March install.
- Director of Operations conducted interviews for Golf General Manager and Food & Beverage Manager positions.
- New Food & Beverage Manager has been hired and scheduled to start February 2nd.
- Offer made and accepted for Golf General Manager position with a tentative scheduled start date of Feb 11th or 16th.
- Last day for outgoing Golf Clubhouse Manager, Rich Rosenstiel was January 30th. His commitment and dedication helped FPWC Golf accomplish much and established a great level of customer satisfaction for which we wish to continue and build upon moving forward. Thanks Rich!

Golf Maintenance:

Ledges

- Refurbished and repainted all tee markers to ensure a clean and consistent appearance.
- Created an expense report for the 2026 season to ensure accurate, up to date tracking of all expenses.
- Picked up janitorial supplies from central maintenance shop and distributed them to all golf clubhouses and maintenance facilities.
- Overhead hoist inspected by a certified contractor to ensure proper operation and compliance.
- Assisted central maintenance shop with the completion of the bridge decking projects.
- Began interviewing candidates for seasonal positions.
- Assembled driving range dividers for Atwood.
- Developed pesticide and fertility programs for the upcoming season.
- Assisted the Director of Operations with second round interviews for the vacant Golf General Manager position.
- Continued removal of volunteer trees in the prairie restoration area behind the 4th tee complex.
- Represented the department at the Community Needs Assessment Committee meeting.
- Snow removal from golf course roads and parking lots.
- Mechanic performed repairs and maintenance on equipment.

Golf Operations

January 2026 Activities Report – Cont.

Macktown

- Washed and cleaned all tee markers.
- Created an expense report for the 2026 season to ensure accurate, up to date tracking of all expenses.
- Picked up janitorial supplies from central maintenance shop and distributed them to all golf clubhouses and maintenance facilities.
- Installed new ice bin at clubhouse and reconfigured the plumbing to ensure proper drainage.
- Cleaned and organized and removed all old scrap metal from the cold storage buildings.
- Began interviewing candidates for seasonal positions.
- Overhead hoist inspected by certified contractor to ensure proper operation and compliance.
- Developed pesticide and fertility programs for upcoming season.
- Snow removal from golf course roads and parking lots.
- Repaired and calibrated numerous irrigation timing mechanisms.
- Mechanic performed repairs and maintenance on equipment.
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Atwood

- Distributed janitorial supplies to golf course clubhouses and maintenance buildings.
- Replaced ice bin in clubhouse kitchen.
- Implemented equipment cost of ownership information sheets.
- Removed invasive and unwanted trees near #7 tee complex.
- Assisted with second round interviews for golf general manager position.
- Equipment lift inspected for safe operation and painted.
- Mechanic grinded reels and serviced equipment.
- Snow removal from road and parking lots.
- Assembled driving range dividers for Atwood.

Marketing & Communication Relations

Sarah Lorenz, Communications Coordinator

January 2026 Activities Report

Programming & Events:

- Presented to Rockford Garden Club in collaboration with Natural Resources staff 2/4, Snowshoeing Excursion with Rocktown Adventures 2/7.
- Upcoming: Calling Frog Monitor Training 2/12, Bluebird Monitor Training 3/12, Budburst Monitor Training 3/18, Fabulous Frogs with Illinois Extension Master Naturalist Connie McIntosh 3/26, Backpacking With Burpee: Basics of Birding 4/4, Bumblebee Monitor Training 4/9, Backpacking With Burpee: Celebrate Earth Day 4/18, Bat Monitor Training 4/22.

Engagement:

- February digital newsletter to be sent to subscribers on 2/26.
- March digital newsletter scheduled for 3/19.

Community Needs Assessment:

- Survey went live 2/1.
- Collateral: mailer to over 9,500 unique addresses, digital ad with projected 200,000 unique user reach over run time, signs at forest preserves, sign and flyer in HQ lobby, slips at cash register.
- Link and flyer shared with 18 partner groups and community agencies, include NICNE and Community Advisory Forum.
- Link and flyer shared with 4 state and county representatives.

Advertising:

- General and targeted golf (Mid-West Family targeted display ads running seasonally).
- GoRockford advertising (Outdoor Activities, Family Fun).
- Spring ads (general visitorship and golf) submitted for March ad in Stateline Connection.

Printing & Signage:

- Preliminary brochure redesign in progress.
- Permanent PSA signage (dogs must be on leash) in progress.

Social Media (January 6 – February 6, 2026):

FPWC Facebook: 5,984 followers (+96)

- Reach: 13,963 (+18.2%)
- Engagement: 1,474 (-7.2%)
- Views: 76,643 (+52.1%)

FPWC Instagram: 2,045 followers (+11)

- Reach: 1,090 (-12%)
- Engagement: 647 (+14.3%)
- Views: 12,233 (+8%)

Human Resources

Jody Kennay, Human Resources Manager
January 2026 Activities Report

Full-Time New Hires	2 (Golf Manager and Food and Beverage Manager)
Full-Time Open Requisitions	2 (Technician and Carpenter)
Resignations	1 (Golf Manager)
1st Quarter DOT list from Figment Group with testing requirements	3 managers/employees chosen; all have been tested

Projects:

Returning Seasonal Employees letters sent and Orientation sign up in progress. Open seasonal positions posted on website.

Revising Employee Handbook (updating with new employment laws, rewriting sections as needed, adding addendums; Staff/ED review complete; Legal review is in process; next step followed by Employees, and Board. Estimate bringing to Board in Feb. for review)

Updating New Employee Orientation (new content, additional focus on policies, developing speaker notes, selecting new training videos, etc.)

Compensation Study (current state, pain points, research, other Preserve information, compensation analysis, etc.)

February 18, 2026
Rockford, Illinois

RESOLUTION
No. 26-0207
DESTRUCTION OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

WHEREAS, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d), the Forest Preserve District of Winnebago County Board of Commissioners (the “Board”) met on January 19, 2022 and reviewed the minutes of all meetings of the Board dated below; and

WHEREAS, on January 19, 2022 the board approved the release of certain portions of Closed Session minutes of all meetings of the Board dated below; and

WHEREAS, section 2.06(c) of the Open Meetings Act allows for destruction of closed session verbatim recordings more than eighteen (18) months old.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT IN ILLINOIS, AS FOLLOWS:

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

SECTION TWO: The Board finds and hereby declares that the verbatim recordings of closed session minutes for the following dates may be destroyed by the recording secretary, as approved written minutes exist for those sessions.

March 17, 2021 Closed Session
April 21, 2021 Closed Session
May 6, 2021 Closed Session
May 19, 2021 Closed Session
June 16, 2021 Closed Session
August 18, 2021 Closed Session
Sept. 1, 2021 Closed Session

SECTION THREE: Any and all motions, policies or resolutions of the Forest Preserve District of Winnebago County in conflict with the provisions of this resolution shall be and are hereby repealed.

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

PASSED THIS 18th day of February, 2026.

Voting YES_____ Voting NO_____ Voting ABSTAINED_____

Gloria Lind, Secretary
Board of Commissioners

Jeff Tilly, President
Board of Commissioners