Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD MEETING

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

A G E N D A

A. ROLL CALL

B. PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE

C. PRESENTATIONS
Gary Anderson Holt House Roof and Repair.

D. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

E. OLD BUSINESS

Page

F. NEW BUSINESS
1. Thank you to Jeff Tilly
2. Jeff Tilly Comments

President's Statement: The following items "a" through "h" are considered routine or presented in earlier communications and will be approved with a single motion. No discussion is required. Any commissioner requesting to remove an item from the consent agenda must request the removal now so that it may be placed later in the agenda for discussion. Are there any items to be removed from the consent agenda?

1. Consent Agenda
   a. Approval of Minutes from:
      i. Budget Hearing on October 21, 2026
      ii. Regular Board Meeting on October 21, 2026
      iii. Study Session – Strategic Planning on Nov. 9, 2026

1. b. Approval of 2027 Board Meeting Schedule.
3. c. Delegate to IAPD Annual Business Meeting
5. d. Rescinding of Resolutions and Dissolution of Funds with Community Foundation of Northern Illinois
7. e. Approval of purchase of vehicles
8. f. Approval of purchase of golf mowers
12. g. Approval of change orders for Natural Resources Building
13. h. Approval of Forestry Projects Bid
16. 2. Approval of Bills for October
18. 3. Approval of Employee Salary Increase for FY 2026-27
19. 4. Approval of Naming Rights for land along Sugar River

G. UPDATES and REPORTS
21. 1. Preserve Operations
25. 2. Natural Resource Management
29. 3. Golf
34. 4. Marketing
35. 5. Human Resources
6. Partner Groups

H. CLOSED SESSION
1. Personnel
2. Closed Session Minutes

I. REGULAR SESSION CONTINUED

1. Approval of amendment to closed session minutes dated April 16, 2014

2. Approval of closed session minutes dated:

i. Nov. 20, 2013
ii. Dec. 18, 2013 – Land Acquisition
iii. Dec. 18, 2013 – Penfield Crossing
iv. Jan. 15, 2014
v. Feb. 19, 2014
vi. Apr. 16, 2014
vii. July 16, 2014 – Land Acquisition
viii. April 17, 2024
ix. May 15, 2024
x. July 17, 2024
xi. Sept. 18, 2024
xii. July 16, 2025
xiii. Aug. 20, 2025

36. 3. Approval of Release of Closed Session Minutes and Destruction of Verbatim Recordings

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATION

1. November 20 – Site Steward Volunteer Day at Deer Run Forest Preserve starting at 1:00pm.
2. December 4- Employee Appreciation & Recognition Brunch at Prairie Street Brewing Company from 10:00am – 1:00pm.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Next regular Board Meeting– 5:30 PM Wednesday, December 16, 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 may call 815-877-6100 or email ewendlandt@winnebagoforest.org in advance of the meeting.

November 18, 2026
Rockford, Illinois

RESOLUTION

No. 26-1101

Establishing the date, time and location of each regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County for the period from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027

WHEREAS, under the provisions pursuant to the Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2.02(a), the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County is required to provide public notice of the date, time and location of its regularly scheduled meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners will hold regular meetings and study sessions during the year 2027 and may hold additional meetings at such other times as may be determined.

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

Section 1. That it shall conduct regular meetings at 5:30 PM in the conference room of Forest Preserve Headquarters, 5500 Northrock Drive, Rockford, Illinois on the 3rd Wednesday of every month throughout 2027.

January 20	May 19	September 15
February 17	June 16	October 20
March 17	July 21	November 17
April 21	August 18	December 15

Section 2. That it shall conduct study sessions at the dates and times listed below in the conference room of Forest Preserve Headquarters, 5500 Northrock Drive, Rockford, Illinois during 2027. No actions may be voted on by the Board during study sessions.

January 9, (Sat.) at 9:00 AM – Strategic Planning
February 3, (Wed.) at 5:30 PM – Board Training
March 3, (Wed.) at 5:30 PM – Strategic Planning
April 7, (Wed.) at 5:30 PM – Strategic Planning
May 5, (Wed.) at 5:30 PM – Strategic Planning
June 2, (Wed.) at 5:30 PM – Strategic Planning

Section 3. That additional meetings may be scheduled as needed.

Section 4. That any changes, deletions or additions to times or locations in this schedule shall be posted 48 hours in advance at Forest Preserve Headquarters and distributed to any public media requesting notice of such meetings.

Section 5. That the Secretary of the Board of Commissioners is hereby directed to supply copies of this Resolution to any public media having filed an annual request for notice of the scheduled meetings of the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County.

Voting YES_____ Voting NO_____ Voting ABSTAINED_____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18th day of November, 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

November 18, 2026
Rockford, Illinois

RESOLUTION

No. 26-1102

DELEGATES TO IAPD BUSINESS MEETING

WHEREAS, the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) requires each member agency to select delegates to their Annual Business Meeting which will be held on January 30, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County (FPWC) is an IAPD member and therefore must assign delegates to represent the FPWC; and

WHEREAS, the FPWC typically assigns the Executive Director and up to three (3) other individuals, comprised of staff and/or Board members, as delegates;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the individuals listed on IAPD Credentials Certificate be considered delegates to represent the FPWC at the IAPD Annual Business Meeting on January 30, 2027.

Voting YES_____ Voting NO_____ Voting ABSTAINED_____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18th day of November, 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

CREDENTIALS CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that at a meeting of the Governing Board of the

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County held at
(Name of Agency)

Rockford, IL on November 18th, 2026 at 5:30pm
(Location) *(Month/Day/Year)* *(Time)*

the following individuals were designated to serve as delegate(s) to the Annual Business Meeting of the ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS to be held on **Saturday, January 30, 2027 at 3:30 p.m**:

	Name	***Title***
Delegate:	Dan Olson	Executive Director

This is to certify that the foregoing is a statement of action taken at the board meeting cited above.

Affix Seal:

Signed: _____
(President of Board) **Jeff Tilly**

Attest: _____
(Board Secretary) **Gloria Lind**

Return this form to: Illinois Association of Park Districts
211 East Monroe Street
Springfield, IL 62701-1186
Email: iapd@ilparks.org

November 18, 2026
Rockford, Illinois

RESOLUTION

No. 26-1103

RESCINDING TWO MAY 28, 2014 RESOLUTIONS AND DISSOLVING FUNDS ESTABLISHED WITH THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District (District) resolved to establish two funds with the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNI) on May 28, 2026 via two separate Resolutions; and,

WHEREAS, the two established funds included an endowment fund and a land acquisition fund; and,

WHEREAS, no agreement or contract was signed by either party to establish the two funds and doing so now would not meet the legal requirements for a local government agency to establish one of the funds; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners (Board) of the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District established a separate District endowment fund, by Ordinance, on March 20, 2024 that is still active; and,

WHEREAS, the Board agreed to dissolve both funds and request funds be turned over to the District during the August 19, 2026 Board meeting; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District, Winnebago County Illinois, the following:

Section 1. The Board of Commissioners rescinds the Resolution dated May 28, 2014 and titled ESTABLISHING A LAND ACQUISITION FUND WITH THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS.

Section 2. The Board of Commissioners rescinds the Resolution dated May 28, 2014 and titled ESTABLISHING AN ENDOWMENT FUND WITH THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS.

Section 3. Dissolving the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois Fund Named FOREST PRESERVES OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND ACQUISITION (Fund ID: 1538).

Section 4. Dissolving the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois Fund Named FOREST PRESERVES OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY ENDOWMENT (Fund ID: 1317).

Section 5. The Board of Commissioners requests that the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois disburse the money from the funds to the District, minus any fees that need to be retained. Funds received will be deposited into the District Endowment Fund and the District Land Acquisition budget.

Section 6. Severability. If any provision of this Ordinance or application thereof to any person or circumstance is ruled unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or application f this Ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid application or provision, and each invalid provision or invalid application of this Ordinance is severable.

Section 7. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect after its passage.

Voting YES_____ Voting NO_____ ABSTAINED_____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18th day of November, 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

November 18, 2026
Rockford, Illinois

RESOLUTION

No. 26-1104

AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF THREE TRUCKS OFF OF THE STATE BID FROM MORROW BROTHERS FORD

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of three new vehicles, in various configurations and with various attachments, as part of the 2026-27 capital budget; and,

WHEREAS, the vehicles are available for order from the Illinois State Bid through State of Illinois Master Vehicle Contract P-29479; and,

WHEREAS, Morrow Brothers Ford, of Greenfield, IL, holds the Master Vehicle Contract and is able to furnish and deliver the following three vehicles and attachments for the cost specified below:

Vehicle Description	Department	Budget Amount	Actual Cost
2027 Ford F250 Crew Cab Pick Up with Plow	Natural Resources	$74,500	$72,588
2027 Ford F250 Regular Cab Pick Up with Plow	Macktown Golf	$75,000	$71,655
2027 Ford F250 Regular Cab Pick Up	South Area	$65,000	$55,186

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District authorize the purchase of three new vehicles, and their requisite attachments, from Morrow Brothers Ford, of Greenfield, IL, under State of Illinois Master Vehicle Contract P-29479, for the total cost of $199,429.00.

Voting YES_____ Voting NO_____ ABSTAINED_____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18th day of November, 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

November 18, 2026
Rockford, Illinois

RESOLUTION
No. 26-1105

Purchase Approval for Golf Fairway Mowers

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of one new Golf Fairway Mower for Ledges Golf Maintenance Department and one new Golf Fairway mower for Macktown Golf Maintenance Department as part of the 2026-27 Capital Budget; and,

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

WHEREAS, Spartan Turf Products, Mundelein, IL is the Toro dealer and is able to supply two Toro Reelmaster 3575 – D Fairway Mowers with Cutting Units and 60-month comprehensive warranties, for a cost of $80,513.13 each; and

WHEREAS, the District will trade in two fairway mowers which are 26+ years old each and where the dealer will provide a $500 trade-in allowance for each of those units; and,

WHEREAS, staff budgeted $86,500 for each of these capital purchases; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County authorize the purchase of two Toro Reelmaster 3575 – D Fairway Mowers with Cutting Units and Warranties from Spartan Turf Products, Mundelein, IL. under Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Agreement #112624 -TTC, for the total cost of $160,026.26.

Voting YES_____ Voting NO_____ ABSTAINED_____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18th day of November, 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

Spartan Turf Products

Quote

Quote Date:	10/14/2026
Due Date:	11/20/26
Omnia Contract	2023261
Sourcewell Contract	112624-TTC

911 Tower Road
Mundelein, IL 60060

Quote ID: **02430154 SP5040**
Customer ID: 227539

Winnabago County Forest Preserve
5500 Northrock Drive
Rockford IL 61103
Tyler Knapp

Prepared By:
Ryan S. Maier
Territory Manager
Cell (262) 443-0363
rmaier@spartanturf.com

QTY	CODE	DESCRIPTION	PRICE DETAILS
1	03821	**Reelmaster 3575-D, 100"-3WD**	$50,068.98
5	03638	22 Inch 7-Inch, 8-Blade (Rr) Radial Reel Edgeseries	$20,447.70
1	03408	7 Inch Powered Rear Roller Brush For Cutting Units Without Groomers (Kit Of 5)	$4,254.12
1	CM535-03821	TPP 60 Month 3500h Comprehensive	$2,441.40
1	30671	Universal Sunshade, Red	$880.62
		Optional Accessorie:	
1	03614	Operator Golf Ball Guard	$841.62



Configured Contract Price:	$78,934.44
Dealer Assembly & Delivery:	$1,578.69
Trade Totals:	($500.00)
Purchase Price:	**$80,013.13**

**** Macktown Replacement**

Spartan Turf Products

Quote

Quote Date:	10/14/2026
Due Date:	11/20/26
Omnia Contract	2023261
Sourcewell Contract	112624-TTC

911 Tower Road
Mundelein, IL 60060

Quote ID: **02430154 SP5040**
Customer ID: 227539

Winnabago County Forest Preserve
5500 Northrock Drive
Rockford IL 61103
Tyler Knapp

Prepared By:
Ryan S. Maier
Territory Manager
Cell (262) 443-0363
rmaier@spartanturf.com

QTY	CODE	DESCRIPTION	PRICE DETAILS
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1	03614	Operator Golf Ball Guard	$841.62



Configured Contract Price:	$78,934.44
Dealer Assembly & Delivery:	$1,578.69
Trade Totals:	($500.00)
Purchase Price:	**$80,013.13**

**** Ledges Replacment**

Trade Details

EVALUATED BY:
Ryan S. Maier
Territory Manager
911 Tower Road
Mundelein, IL 60060
Cell (262) 443-0363
rmaier@spartanturf.com

Account: 227539
Winnabago County Forest Preserve
5500 Northrock Drive
Rockford IL 61103
Attn: Tyler Knapp

Quote ID
Reelmaster 6500
Evaluation Date
11/3/26

TRADE EVALUATION

MANUFACTURER	MODEL NAME & ACCESSORIES	MODEL YEAR	MODEL #	SERIAL #	HOURS	TRADE VALUE	
Toro	Reelmaster 6500	2000			8200	$500.00	
Toro	Reelmaster 6500	2000			6000	$500.00	
..							

ADDITIONAL NOTES

November 18th, 2026
Rockford, Illinois

RESOLUTION
No. 26-1106
AUTHORIZATION OF CHANGE ORDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW NATURAL RESOURCES FACILITY

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners awarded the contract to construct a new facility for the natural resource department at Funderburg Forest Preserve to Schmeling Construction Co., for the cost of $2,511,00.00 through Resolution 25-1202; and,

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners approved Change Order #1 on April 15, 2026 via Resolution 26-0406, which increased the contract amount with Schmeling Construction Co. to $2,531,787.49; and,

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners approved Change Order #2 on August 19th, 2026 via Resolution 26-0804, which increased the contract amount with Schmeling Construction Co. to $2,636,288.97; and,

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners approved Change Order #3 on October 21st, 2026 via Resolution 26-1008, which increased the contract amount with Schmeling Construction Co. to $2,643,957.42; and,

WHEREAS, State law (720 ILCS 5/33E-9) requires that any change order, or change orders in aggregate, which change the contract price by more than $10,000 require board approval; and,

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District's purchasing policy permits the Executive Director to approve all change orders up to 25% over the approved contract price in advance of Board Approval; and,

WHEREAS, the Executive Director has approved the following proposed changes to the contract:

1. Provide radiant heater power transformers (add $ 7,710.15)
2. Credit unused portion of testing allowance (deduct $ 15,890.00)
3. Credit unused portion of staking allowance (deduct $ 1,570.00)
4. Diesel fuel for generator from August to October – 240 gallons (add $1,564.26)
5. Additional wall construction in garage (add $ 1,950.00)

WHEREAS, these proposed change orders have been incorporated into Change Order #4, AIA Document G701; and,

WHEREAS, these changes will decrease the contract price by $6,235.59, for a total contract price of $2,637,721.53, and sufficient funds are available in the project budget to accommodate the proposed change;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners of the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District approve Change Order #4, which will decrease the contract price with Schmeling Construction Co. by $6,235.59 for the construction of the natural resource facility.

Voting YES_____ Voting NO_____ ABSTAINED_____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18th day of November, 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

November 18, 2026
Rockford, Illinois

RESOLUTION

No. 26-1107

ACCEPTANCE OF BID PACKAGE FP # 26-1101
FORESTRY PROJECTS AT FUNDERBURG FOREST PRESERVE

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners approved the expenditure of $200,000.00 to fund contractual restoration projects as part of the 2026-27 capital budget; and,

WHEREAS, staff have identified three forestry projects at Funderburg Forest Preserve that will continue previous years' efforts to restore and maintain high quality oak – hickory woodland; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with the District's purchasing policy, competitive sealed bids were solicited to complete the work at Funderburg Forest Preserve via Bid Package FP 26-1101; and,

WHEREAS, ten firms responded to Bid Package FP 26-1101; and,

WHEREAS, staff recommends the awarding of funds to the three project components as follows:

Project Component One: Forestry mulching and chemical treatment of invasive species across 31.5 acres awarded to Pizzo Habitat Restoration for the lump sum cost of $31,699.00.

Project Component Two: Mechanical clean up and on site burning of logging debris and storm damage as directed throughout a 165-acre project area awarded to Pizzo Habitat Restoration for a cost not to exceed $120,301.00.

Project Component Three: Chemical treatment of invasive species as directed throughout a 165-acre project area awarded to Encap, Inc. for a cost not to exceed $48,000.00.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners of the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District hereby approve the following:

I. Awarding the bids for Project Components 1 & 2 to Pizzo Habitat Restoration, of Leland, IL, for a cost not to exceed $152,000.00.

II. Awarding the bid for Project Component 3 to Encap, Inc., of Dekalb, IL, for a cost not to exceed $48,000.00.

Voting YES_____ Voting NO_____ ABSTAINED_____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18th day of November, 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: NATURAL RESOURCES
26-1101 FORESTRY PROJECTS AT FUNDERBURG FOREST PRESERVE
BID OPENING – NOVEMBER 12, 2026 AT 10:00AM

VENDOR	OPS Forestry Mulching Division, LLC	Bluestem Ecological Services	Pizza Habitat Restoration	HGS, LLC dba RES Environmental Operating Company, LLC	Midwest Prairies LLC	Tallgrass Restoration, LLC	Stantec Consulting Services	Homer Tree Service Inc.	Davey Resource Group, Inc.	Encap, Inc.
PROJECT COMPONENT ONE										
TREE AND BRUSH CLEARING (31.5 ACRES) TOTAL COST	$64,950.00	$56,700.00	$31,699.00	$68,670.00	$58,275.00	$55,330.00	$95,735.00	$248,000.00	$78,907.50	$163,275.00
RECEIVED ADDENDUM	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0
PROJECT COMPONENT TWO										
TOTAL DAILY RATE FOR DAILY MINIMUM CREW REQUIREMENT	No Bid	No Bid	$3,496.00	No Bid	$6,200.00	$5,385.00	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	$6,200.00
# OF HOURS ON SITE WORKING PER BILLABLE DAY			7.0		7.5	7.0				8.0
MINIMUM # OF DAYS CONTRACTOR CAN PROVIDE FULL THE DAILY MINIMUM CREW REQUIREMENT			105		10	5				1
MAXIMUM # OF DAYS CONTRACTOR CAN PROVIDE FULL THE DAILY MINIMUM CREW REQUIREMENT			105		20	15				30
RECEIVED ADDENDUM	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0
PROJECT COMPONENT THREE										
DAILY RATE PER APPLICATOR AND ALL OF THE CHEMICALS, EQUIP., SUPPLIES, AND CONSUMABLES REQUIRED FOR FOLIAR APPLICATIONS	No Bid	$850.00	$1,050.00	$960.00	$1,100.00	$972.00	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	$800.00
DAILY RATE PER APPLICATOR AND ALL OF THE CHEMICALS, EQUIP., SUPPLIES, AND CONSUMABLES REQUIRED FOR BASAL BARK APPLICATIONS		$850.00	$1,050.00	$1,200.00	$1,200.00	$1,220.00				$875.00
# OF HOURS ON SITE WORKING PER BILLABLE DAY		7.0	8.0	8.0	7.5	7.0				8.0
MINIMUM # OF DAYS CONTRACTOR CAN PROVIDE FULL THE DAILY MINIMUM CREW REQUIREMENT		As little as needed	319	2	10	10				1
MAXIMUM # OF DAYS CONTRACTOR CAN PROVIDE FULL THE DAILY MINIMUM CREW REQUIREMENT		20+	319	10	50	20				20
RECEIVED ADDENDUM	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0	0 of 0

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
Authorization to Process Payment of Bills

November 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 **$ 1,177,953.43** 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	321,760.23
BOTANICAL GARDEN FUND	3120	112,456.15
HEALTH BENEFITS FUND	3185	44,891.02
SOCIAL SECURITY FUND	3192	30,228.75
RETIREMENT FUND	3193	31,603.70
LIABILITY RESERVE FUND	3194	19,791.00
IMPROVEMENT & DEV. FUND	3302	410,986.44
CORPORATE FUND	3402	206,236.14
		$1,177,953.43

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Chapman, Finance Director

Date

November 18, 2026
Rockford, Illinois

RESOLUTION
No. 26-1108

PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR OCTOBER

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 October; 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 $1,177,953.43 to be paid by the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County for the month of October, 2026.

Voting YES_____ Voting NO_____ Voting ABSTAINED_____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18th day of November, 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

November 18, 2026
Rockford, Illinois

RESOLUTION

No. 26-1109

EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENTS FISCAL YEAR 2026-27

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County is committed to maintaining fair, competitive and equitable compensation for its employees in order to recruit and retain highly-qualified individuals, and,

WHEREAS, the Board, in consultation with staff during the annual budget process, proposed an annual salary increase for qualified full and part-time employees, to be paid beginning January 1, 2027, and,

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is in the best interest of the District to implement a salary increase for District full and part-time staff, in the 2026-27 fiscal year, and;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County hereby approves the following compensation adjustments for full and part-time employees, effective January 1, 2027:

I. A general compensation pool, was included in the FY 2026-27 budget to begin on January 1, 2027.
II. A one-time general salary increase of four percent (4%) for all full and part-time employees (excluding the Executive Director), that have been in their current positions since January 1, 2026.
III. A one-time general salary increase of two percent (2%) for all full and part-time employees that have successfully passed the 90-day required probationary period as of January 1, 2026 and have worked in their current positions less than one year.
IV. No compensation adjustment will be given to individuals that are in a probationary period as of January, 1, 2027.

Voting YES_____ Voting NO_____ ABSTAINED_____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18th day of November, 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

November 18, 2026
Rockford, Illinois

RESOLUTION
26-1110
NAMING RIGHTS AGREEMENT FOR LAND EAST OF SUGAR RIVER IN SHIRLAND ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District (District) purchased land on November 4, 2026, commonly known as the Moate and Holme properties, along the Sugar River near Shirland Illinois, and west of the existing Ferguson Forest Preserve; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners (Board) of the District has the authority to grant naming rights on land, certain waters, and infrastructure owned by the District; and,

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to enter into a naming rights agreement pursuant to which the District will grant the donors permanent exclusive naming rights for the newly purchased land in return for certain benefits set forth in the naming right agreement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in consideration of the following mutual promises, and all other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and adequacy of which are acknowledged, the Parties agree to the Naming Right Agreement.

Voting YES_____ Voting NO_____ ABSTAINED_____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18th day of November, 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

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Preserve Operations

Vaughn Stamm, Director of Operations
Matt Weik & Scott Wallace, Preserve Managers
Scott Young, Facility & Equipment Manager
October 2026 Activities Report

North Area

- Ground and repainted hand rails at employee entrance at Headquarters.
- Brush hog mowed Hononegah set aside areas.
- Prepped Sugar River Campground for Halloween Event.
- Mulched and blew leaves in Preserves as needed.
- Conducted interviews for North Area Ranger position.
- Delivered equipment to Central Shop for yearly inspections.
- Loaded campground wood bins as needed.
- Pressure washed Shower House at Sugar River Campground.
- Trimmed limbs over pump house at Atwood Golf Course.
- Replaced fallen window sill at Macktown Visitors Center.
- Hosted Halloween event at Sugar River campground.
- Mulched and blew leaves at Hononegah campground.
- Brush cut key areas at Hononegah campground.
- Prepped Macktown Historic District for Lincoln and Liberty event.
- Area Mechanical serviced furnaces in shops and buildings.
- Pearson Pest Control serviced Macktown Historic District.
- Pulled docks for season at Atwood Homestead.
- Blew roadways in preserves as needed.
- Mowed preserves and trails for the last time.
- Mickey Rykowski pulled pumps at Macktown Visitors Center.
- Replaced broken campground posts at Sugar River campground.
- Kayla Lindquist helped with education day at Sugar River.
- Matt Weik began second term on Employee Appreciation Committee.
- Staff participated in Strategic Planning Interviews with DJ Case.
- Pressure washed and blew out front deck mowers for end of year.
- Mulched and blew leaves at Laona and Colored Sands Bird Banding Station.
- Hauled black locust logs for Macktown Living History fencing repair.
- Performed monthly inspections.
- Met with Mike Brien to discuss Hononegah campground forestry mowing project.

Preserve Operations

October 2026 Activities Report – Cont.

South Area

- Replaced damaged fire rings on sites 11 and 42 at Seward Bluffs campground.
- Removed multiple hazardous trees from along the Funderburg trail system.
- Patched asphalt roadways at Seward Bluffs campground, Kishwaukee River, Pecatonica River preserves.
- Trimmed back and cleaned out butterfly garden at Severson Dells.
- Forestry mowed edges of trail loops at Funderburg.
- Mowed back snowmobile trails at Four Lakes, Pecatonica Wetlands, and Seward Bluffs.
- Cleaned out storm gutters at the Deer Lodge at Severson Dells.
- Ongoing mowing, leaf removal, and trail system maintenance throughout the preserves.
- Four lakes water control structure was cleared of debris.
- Hauled some mowing equipment to central shop for winter maintenance.
- Staged wood for bucking and splitting at Seward Bluffs.
- Completed monthly safety inspections.
- Staff completed assigned trailer training.
- Restocked firewood at Seward Bluffs campground.
- Repaired bridge on Pecatonica River trail system.
- Removed two large dead pines from shelter area at Pecatonica River.
- Assisted with removal and installation of the music structure in the Grove Play Area.
- Added new asphalt walkway at Seward Bluffs campground connecting new handicap site to the outhouse area.
- Clearing of leaves from campsites and roadways at Seward Bluffs in preparation for Halloween event.
- Trimmed back trail edges along wooded trail loop at Oak Ridge.
- Participated in strategic plan interviews.

Central Shop

- New Equipment & Facility Repair Manager Scott Young started in the position September 21st.
- Completed yearly inspections, repairs and painted trailers 588, 595 and 433.
- Inspected the music structure at Severson Dells and picked up the new piano insert in preparation for the overhaul of the music structure.
- Removed and replaced the lattice structure on the south side of HQ.
- Serviced LE V531.
- Began visits to each preserve to assess the condition of structures.
- Staff completed monthly safety trainings.

FOREST PRESERVES OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY
Year End Totals

	2024-2025		2025-2026	
	Number	**Total**	**Number**	**Total**
Small Shelter Res.	50	$4,250	52	$4,420
Small Shelter N/Res.	6	$660	1	$110
Large Shelter Res.	126	$13,860	119	$13,090
Large Shelter N/Res.	9	$1,215	11	$1,485
Electric Res.	167	$20,875	169	$21,125
Electric N/Res.	21	$3,255	9	$1,395
TOTAL	**379**	**$44,115**	**361**	**$41,625**
ONLINE	**310**	**82%**	**250**	**69%**
Over 300 Res.	0	$0	0	$0
Over 300 N/Res.	0	$0	0	$0
Ground Use/Tent Res	17	$530	17	$510
Ground Use/Tent N/Res.	2	$90	2	$90
Building Use Permits	5	$500	3	$300
Commercial Photography Permit	2	$200	0	$0
Special Use Permits	15	$2,780	22	$2,710
Rides	21	$840	11	$440
TOTAL	**62**	**$4,940**	**55**	**$4,050**
ONLINE	**26**	**42%**	**9**	**16%**
Equestrian Passes	**Number**	**Total**	**Number**	**Total**
Yearly Tag Res.	90	$4,500	80	$4,000
Yearly Tag N/Res.	36	$2,520	33	$2,310
TOTAL	**126**	**$7,020**	**113**	**$6,310**
ONLINE	**50**	**40%**	**31**	**27%**
Fly Field Passes	**Number**	**Total**	**Number**	**Total**
Yearly Pass Res.	38	$1,330	42	$1,470
Yearly Pass N/Res.	13	$585	11	$495
TOTAL	**51**	**$1,915**	**53**	**$1,965**
ONLINE	**17**	**33%**	**18**	**34%**
Metal Detecting Passes	**Number**	**Total**	**Number**	**Total**
Yearly Pass Res.	36	$900	35	$875
Yearly Pass N/Res.	9	$315	8	$280
TOTAL	**45**	**$1,215**	**43**	**$1,155**
ONLINE	**14**	**31%**	**18**	**42%**
GRAND TOTAL	**663**	**$59,205**	**625**	**$55,105**
ONLINE	**417**	**63%**	**326**	**52%**

FOREST PRESERVES OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY
2023-2026
CAMPING REVENUE COMPARISON

	2023 (thru 10/30)	2024 (thru 10/28)	2025 (thru 10/27)	2026 (thru 10/28)
CAMPGROUNDS				
Hononegah	$36,080	$37,563	$42,062	$34,365
Seward Bluffs	44,949	53,186	57,609	45,689
Sugar River	72,343	79,239	71,739	65,796
Campground Revenue	$153,372	$169,988	$171,410	$145,850
SCOUT/YOUTH CAMPGROUNDS				
Hononegah	$366	$282	$150	$355
Pecatonica River	540	577	535	610
Rockford Rotary	340	331	340	200
Seward Bluffs	135	0	0	0
Sugar River	222	589	231	230
Scout/Youth Campground Revenue	$1,603	$1,779	$1,256	$1,395
EQUESTRIAN CAMPGROUNDS				
Oak Ridge	$64	$492	$535	$65
Seward Bluffs	1,287	1302	1,775	1,065
Equestrian Campground Revenue	$1,351	$1,794	$2,310	$1,130
FIREWOOD				
Hononegah	$1,865	$3,369	$2,575	$1,044
Seward Bluffs	3,737	3,977	3,883	2,542
Sugar River	9,588	8,908	9,459	7,892
Firewood Revenue	$15,190	$16,254	$15,917	$11,478
TOTAL REVENUE	***$171,516***	***$189,815***	***$190,893***	***$159,853***
NUMBER OF GROUPS AT REGULAR CAMPGROUNDS *(DOES NOT INCLUDE EQUESTRIAN AND SCOUT/YOUTH CAMPING)*	2,608	2,723	2,664	2,448

Natural Resource Management

Mike Brien, Director of Natural Resources
Mike Groves, Natural Resources Manager
Keith Krey, Stewardship Coordinator
Taylor Joray, Wildlife Biologist
October 2026 Activities Report

Natural Resources

- Hand cut and chemically treated invasive brush and mesophytic tree species in high quality woodlands at Kishwaukee Gorge, Rockford Rotary, Kishwaukee River, Cedar Cliff, and Funderburg Forest Preserves.
- Completed canopy thinning and invasive species control to benefit a population of the state endangered dragon wormwood.
- Installed burn breaks in preserves throughout the county.
- Completed forestry mulching projects at Stone Bridge, Seward Bluffs, Funderburg, Kishwaukee River, Blackhawk Springs, Oak Ridge, and Atwood Forest Preserves.
- Utilized tractor and 15’ batwing mower to manage vegetation in preserves throughout the county.
- Transported forestry mulcher for use by other departments.
- Collected seed from asters, goldenrods, ironweed, wild petunia, boneset, American germander, sunflowers, culvers root, mountain mint, gentians, obedient plant, blazing stars, and others from preserves throughout the county.
- Cleaned and processed harvested seed.
- Planted wetland plugs at Paula Swanson Forest Preserve.
- Completed monitoring of plants of concern at several preserves throughout the county.
- Several staff completed strategic planning interviews with DJ Case.
- Cleared beaver blockages from water control structures at Deer Run and Pecatonica Wetlands Forest Preserves.
- Completed reporting to Illinois Nature Preserves Commission regarding the District’s six dedicated Nature Preserves and adjacent buffer areas.
- Contracted 100 acres of aerial drone spraying treatments of reed canary grass at Sugar River Alder and Ferguson Forest Preserves.
- Hosted a University of Illinois Extension Office program on woodland tree diversity at District Headquarters.
- Attended the Illinois Natural History Survey’s annual open house in Champaign – Urbana.
- Continued project coordination for the construction of the new natural resource facility.
- Coordination of various utility projects occurring in or adjacent to preserve throughout the county.

Natural Resource Management

October 2026 Activities Report – Cont.

Wildlife

- Blanding's Turtle Monitoring:
  - Captured **a new adult male Blanding's Turtle (the first captured at the site) and recaptured an adult female Blanding's Turtles** via hoop-trapping efforts; the new male was fitted with a transmitter and his movements will be monitored into the future.
  - The newly documented male Blanding's Turtle received a health assessment as part of a multi-county collaborative disease study conducted by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, University of Illinois Wildlife Epidemiology Lab, and Brookfield Zoo.
  - Continued weekly VHF telemetry of all 13 turtles with transmitters to document fall movements and overwintering areas; towards the end of October, turtles are appearing to become less active and are likely entering brumation with the onset of cooler weather.
  - Performed transmitter replacements on one Blanding's Turtle requiring a new transmitter.
  - Wrapped up the 2026 turtle trapping season; ended the year with a total of **13 marked Blanding's Turtles**, which is more than double what the FPWC had marked at the end of the 2025 season; **2 new females and 5 new males were captured in 2026**; there are now marked Blanding's Turtles at four forest preserves throughout the county.
- Mussel Surveys
  - Continued sampling stretches of the Kishwaukee River for freshwater mussel relicts and live individuals; successfully documented 15 mussel species, including the Pimpleback, Wabash Pigtoe, Round Pigtoe, Pink Papershell, and White Heelsplitter, which have previously only been encountered as dead or relict individuals.
  - Collected several relict species to be used as educational specimens.
- Fish Surveys
  - Continued opportunistic presence/absence fish surveys along stretches of the Kishwaukee, Rock, and Pecatonica River drainages in tandem with mussel survey efforts.
    - several state-listed species were documented, including the state-threatened Mottled Sculpin and state-threatened Gravel Chub (county record for the stretch of the Kishwaukee River we sampled from).
    - Other notable encounters include the Brook Silverside, Hornyhead Chub, and Carmine Shiner, which had yet to be documented via in-house surveys.
- Began scouting for sampling sites to sein and trap for the state-threatened Common Mudpuppy from late fall through the winter; four preserves of interest have been identified based on habitat conditions and historic records of the species.
- Conducted fall Northern Bobwhite covey surveys in conjunction with the deployment of ARUs at seven forest preserves in an effort to document remnant populations or captive-reared released birds; no bobwhite detections to date, but will continue passive monitoring efforts through early November.

Natural Resource Management

October 2026 Activities Report – Cont.

- Wildlife biologist Taylor Joray led a bird walk at the Hononegah Forest Preserve as part of a collaboration with Nature of the Confluence; 28 bird species were identified by sight and sound, including a nice assortment of fall migrants.
- Wildlife Biologist Taylor Joray was interview for an article focused on bobcats, coyotes, and foxes for Northwest Quarterly Magazine.
- Pulled the Purple Martin gourds from the Four Lakes Forest Preserve and began cleaning/documenting species use.
- Passive Monitoring Efforts: continued monitoring camera traps and AH Drift Array to sample for mesocarnivores and small-bodied wildlife.
- Continued water quality monitoring efforts at high-quality sites of interest to document seasonal and precipitation-related changes, including returning to sites previously sampled in the spring that were not targeted by regular surveys during the summer.
- Participated in the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) partners and researchers open house at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to network with collaborators and attend presentations on INHS's 2026 field monitoring efforts.
- Office Work: began data entry for end-of-season reporting, beginning with American Kestrel nest box monitoring data, turtle telemetry records, and fish/mussel occurrences.

Stewardship

- Hosted two volunteer seed harvest workdays at Kishwaukee River and Funderburg Forest Preserves.
- Maintained blue bird nest boxes as needed.
- Hosted a seed cleaning event at the Severson Dells Restoration Barn.
- Submitted an application to The Nature Conservancy's Volunteer Stewardship Network grant program to help cover volunteer program supplies and expenses.
- Attended the Illinois Conference on Volunteerism and Administration in Chicago, IL.
- Attended 4H and IL Extension Foundation's Fall Kick Off Dinner and Auction.
- Attended the Illinois Parks and Recreation Associations' Forest Preserve Conservation Symposium
- Attended the Xerces Society 2026 Firefly Symposium to learn more about the Firefly Atlas community science program.
- Represented the Natural Resource Department at the Employee Appreciation Committee meeting.
- Staffed the District's table at Four Rivers Sanitation Authority Wellness Fair for volunteer recruitment and public outreach.
- Volunteer Site Stewards
    - The Kilbuck Bluffs Site Steward (Kevin) hosted an invasive species removal restoration workday attended by two volunteers.

- The Deer Run Site Steward (Andrea) hosted an invasive species removal restoration workday attended by three volunteers.

2026 Statistics

A total of 319 volunteers earned 4,179.50 service hours in 2026

The monetary value of these service hours equals **$151,047.13**. As of April 2026, the estimated national value, of each volunteer hour is currently $36.14 (based on the Independent Sector, April 21st, 2026).

Golf Operations

Vaughn Stamm, Director of Operations
Bobby VanSistine, Clubhouse Manager
Tyler Knapp & Mark Freiman, Golf Course Superintendents
Rose Mathews, Golf Food & Beverage Manager
October 2026 Activities Report

Clubhouse Operations:

- Cash control
  - Weekly cash deposits
  - Restock change bags at three courses
  - Monitoring cash over/shorts
- Staff Meetings
  - Food and Beverage Manager
    - Outing food and beverage
    - Weekly scheduling
  - Staff meeting
    - End of year staff meetings
  - Party Planning Meetings
- Schedules completed using When to Work software
  - Outside Attendant
  - Cashier
- Meetings with outings
  - Booking for 2027
  - Brainstorming new events
- Outings
  - HAM Invitational – 80 golfers
- Meetings with Vendors
  - 2027 pre bookings
  - New product ideas
- Macktown closing for the season
  - Year-end inventory
  - Moving product to Atwood and Ledges

Golf Operations

October 2026 Activities Report – Cont.

Food & Beverage:

- Scheduled employees for the remaining weeks of the season.
- Prepared for and worked at the Men's Association final steak dinner for the season on October 14. I had to order and pick up the steaks from Pinnons. They had the usual sides.
- Closed up Macktown and had several days of moving remaining product to other courses otherwise it would expire and be wasted.
- Attended the manager's meeting on October 6.
- Attended the mandatory meeting on October 13.
- I had my phone interview with Bob regarding Strategic Planning.
- Picked up needed product at GFS.
- Completed the credit card reconciliation report.
- I worked quite a few shifts due to people leaving, needing time off, and scheduled surgeries.
- I calculated the cost savings for DirecTV versus YouTubeTV and provided Bobby with the report. Hoping this winter, we could switch as the savings are significant.
- Planned out some projects to do over the winter.
- Started cleaning at Macktown and will work to finish that once Ledges closes.

Golf Maintenance:

<u>Ledges</u>

- Updated expense report for the 2026 season to ensure accurate, up to date tracking of all expenses.
- Performed hand watering on putting greens to correct and prevent localized dry spot to ensure consistent turf quality.
- Trimmed and cleaned up all ornamental grasses around clubhouse landscaping and tee complexes throughout the golf course.
- Performed daily course cleanup of leaves, pine cones, and needles on greens, tees and fairways through blowing, mulching, and sweeping to keep playing surfaces clean.
- Cleaned screens on irrigation heads that supply water to greens and tees.
- Continued fertility and plant protectant program on greens, tees, and fairways.
- Vertical cut greens to remove excess organic matter, followed by topdressing sand application to smooth the putting surface.
- Spiked greens to improve gas exchange, increase water infiltration and enhance drainage.
- Closed the halfway house for the season and completed winterization procedures to protect plumbing prior to freezing temperatures.
- Began annual golf car fleet inspections and servicing.
- Began pressure washing and detailing all maintenance equipment.
- Removed, cleaned, and stored all ball washers for the off-season.
- Irrigation repairs including pilot valves, solenoids, and drive motor replacement.

Golf Operations

October 2026 Activities Report – Cont.

- Mechanic performed repairs and maintenance on equipment.

Macktown

- Updated expense report for the 2026 season to ensure accurate, up to date tracking of all expenses.
- Performed hand watering on putting greens to correct and prevent localized dry spot to ensure consistent turf quality.
- Continued reviewing and evaluating applications for the vacant Golf Course Mechanic position. One interview has been conducted at this time.
- Performed daily course cleanup of leaves, pine cones, and needles on greens, tees and fairways through blowing, mulching, and sweeping to keep playing surfaces clean.
- Disconnected, repaired, and reinstalled a severely damaged irrigation pedestal following a golf cart collision.
- Irrigation repairs including pilot valves, solenoids, and drive motor replacement.
- Annual golf car fleet inspections, servicing, and washing completed.
- Moved the golf car fleet into offseason storage.
- Began pressure washing and detailing maintenance equipment.
- Removed, cleaned, and stored all ball washers for the off-season.
- Removed and stored all tee signs for the off season.
- Continued trimming trees along fairways to improve sightlines and maintain adequate clearance for golfers and equipment.
- Continued fertility and plant protectant program on greens, tees, and fairways.
- Spread hardwood mulch in landscape beds at clubhouse and around tees signs.
- Test irrigation satellites prior to winterizing irrigation system.

Atwood

- Applied granular fertilizer to tees.
- Mowed prairie restoration areas to invasive remove woody vegetation.
- Verticut greens to remove lateral growth and unwanted organic matter.
- Top-dressed greens to smooth putting surface.
- Spiked greens to improve gas exchange and water movement in soil profile.
- Continued fertility program on greens.
- Repaired and replaced multiple swing joints and malfunctioning irrigation heads.
- Removed overgrown woody vegetation with forestry mulching implement.
- Continued leaf and debris clean-up throughout golf course to keep playing surfaces clean.
- Tested irrigation satellites prior to winterizing irrigation system.

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

	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Atwood Homestead				
Green Fees	$251,756	$285,138	$327,441	$250,037
Cart Rental	$185,842	$212,140	$222,559	$215,274
Merchandise	$32,738	$28,478	$32,070	$39,280
Discount/Gift Card	$65,156	$79,479	$95,992	$90,454
Capital Improvement Fee	$21,472	$21,973	$23,252	$26,005
Food & Beverage	$104,686	$105,882	$124,689	$150,489
Range Balls/Golf Club Rental	$600	$880	$280	$15,876
Video Gaming & ATM	$3,579	$4,276	$288	$0
Total Atwood Revenue	**$665,829**	**$738,245**	**$826,570**	**$787,414**
Ledges				
Green Fees	$267,795	$280,510	$306,912	$267,309
Cart Rental	$202,445	$211,464	$219,050	$223,390
Merchandise	$28,191	$25,908	$28,763	$38,474
Discount/Gift Card	$73,650	$79,528	$90,677	$81,019
Capital Improvement Fee	$24,564	$24,534	$23,225	$28,608
Food & Beverage	$134,457	$143,213	$143,079	$149,048
Range Balls/Golf Club Rental	$680	$670	$1,190	$9,854
Video Gaming & ATM	$2,364	$4,948	-$347	$0
Total Ledges Revenue	**$734,147**	**$770,775**	**$812,549**	**$797,703**
Macktown				
Green Fees	$200,956	$200,242	$219,309	$208,032
Cart Rental	$157,881	$152,289	$170,336	$164,977
Merchandise	$18,758	$15,198	$19,567	$21,108
Discount/Gift Card	$93,483	$94,413	$111,461	$99,788
Capital Improvement Fee	$19,165	$18,395	$18,929	$23,478
Food & Beverage	$108,808	$111,594	$107,678	$115,441
Golf Club Rental	$200	$110	$240	$300
Video Gaming & ATM	$3,349	$5,461	$0	$0
Total Macktown Revenue	**$602,601**	**$597,702**	**$647,520**	**$633,123**
Headquarters				
Discount/Gift Card	$31,384	$34,190	$34,293	$39,755
Golf Passes	$315,785	$328,440	$353,205	$403,440
Capital Improvement Fee	$32,338	$32,880	$35,400	$40,680
Outing/Tournaments	$18,623	$23,815	$20,725	$97,159
Private Golf Cart Registration	$11,650	$10,150	$9,500	$9,500
Total Headquarters Revenue	**$409,780**	**$429,475**	**$453,123**	**$590,534**
Total Golf Course Revenue	**$2,412,355**	**$2,536,196**	**$2,739,763**	**$2,808,774**

Budgeted Revenue	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Golf Service Fees and Charges Budgeted Revenue	*$1,200,000*	*$1,550,000*	*$1,660,000*	*$1,810,000*
Sale of Merchandise and Concessions Budgeted Revenue	*$250,000*	*$320,000*	*$340,000*	*$340,000*
Golf Capital Fee Budgeted Revenue	*$80,000*	*$92,000*	*$90,000*	*$92,000*
Total Budgeted Revenue	***$1,530,000***	***$1,962,000***	***$2,090,000***	***$2,242,000***
Budgeted Revenue Variance	**$882,355**	**$574,196**	**$649,763**	**$566,774**

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

	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Rounds Played				
Atwood	23,026	25,398	29,127	29,525
Ledges	22,416	23,448	25,439	26,756
Macktown	21,241	22,218	23,808	23,837
Total Rounds Played	**66,683**	**71,064**	**78,374**	**80,118**
Golf Passes				
Premier Card Res.	28	28	33	35
Premier Card Res.-Refer-A-Friend	37	47	50	70
Premier Card Non-Res.	2	2	3	4
Premier Card Non-Res.-Refer-A-Friend	1	1	4	7
Player Card Res.	164	162	173	178
Player Card Res.-Refer-A-Friend	278	279	294	345
Player Card Non-Res.	9	11	15	13
Player Card Non-Res.-Refer-A-Friend	20	18	18	26
Student Card Res.	73	103	113	108
Student Card Non-Res.	10	10	7	6
Team Pass	15	8	7	5
Practice Range Res.	19	21	0	25
Practice Range Non-Res.	0	0	0	0
Total Passes	**656**	**690**	**717**	**822**
Private Golf Cart Registration				
Outside Storage	3	2	2	2
Home Storage	14	13	12	12
Total Private Golf Cart Registration	**17**	**15**	**14**	**14**

Marketing & Communication Relations

Sarah Lorenz, Communications Coordinator
October 2026 Activities Report

Marketing/Advertising:

- GoRockford: Two featured listings (Things to Do, Family Fun); Spotlight listing (run of site);
  - Events and programs included in free community calendar.
  - Updated artwork for winter season sent mid-November.

Digital:

- Website redevelopment Design Phase completed; internal work on Information Architecture and content updates continues.
- Continuing development of individual golf course logos.
- Communicated end-of-season updates, including amenity closures and golf course conditions.

Events/Programs:

- Managing Woody Invasive Plants: Fall Classroom Edition with Illinois Extension 11/6, November Guided Bird Hike 11/13.
- Upcoming: Winter Restoration Work Day & Hike 12/6.
- Tabled at Hoo Haven's Annual Open House 11/2.

Print & Signage:

- Calendars arrived 10/28, distributed to partners and public.
- Redevelopment of Visitor's Guide & Map underway.
- Working with Natural Resources and Operations to reprint and update interpretive signage (Blanding's turtle, Ferguson Forest Preserve).

Engagement:

- November digital newsletter to be sent to subscribers on 11/19.
- Working with Employee Engagement Committee to begin planning for annual employee appreciation party.
- Press release announcing land acquisition to go out 11/19.

Social Media (October 6 – November 5, 2026)

FPWC Facebook: 6,965 followers (+69)

- Reach: 12,036 (-70%)
- Engagement: 1,492 (-44.6%)
- Views: 48,926 (-57.5%)

FPWC Instagram: 2,325 followers (+28)

- Reach: 1,303 (-27.7%)
- Engagement: 708 (-24.5%)
- Views: 22,382 (+21.5%)

Human Resources

Jody Kennay, Human Resources Manager
October 2026 Activities Report

Full-Time New Hires	0
Full-Time Open Requisitions	2
Seasonal Hires	0
Resignations	0

Projects and Progress:

Seasonal Employees - efforts starting re seasonal employees who will be returning for the next season or those who will not be returning. Working with the County on processing status changes and with Managers to identify who will/will not be returning.

All Staff Meeting - covered topics included: changes in vacation accrual and floating holidays, strategic planning, performance review process, discretionary bonus, and department updates from Operations and Natural Resources.

Compensation Study - Analysis includes current state, pain points, research, compensation comparisons with similar agencies/organizations, plan for next steps, recommendations for roll out, etc. Discussing recommendations with Directors and discussing next steps with D. Olson.

Staff Hiring - 2 full time open positions that have been posted both internally and externally. Initial interviews ongoing.

Discretionary Bonus - process completed with estimates, letters, and delivery by managers. Will be seen by employees in 11/27 paycheck.

Training for Employees - 100% compliance with required trainings for employees (Trailering with Light Trucks). Additional training for December will be Fire Extinguisher demonstrations and American Red Cross training in January.

Employee Appreciation Brunch - planning for brunch on December 4th at the Prairie Street Brewery beginning at 10:00 am.

Performance Review Process - November 30 is due date for managers to complete draft performance reviews and forward to directors. December 18 is completion of meetings and January 1, 2027 increases are effective.

November 18, 2026
Rockford, Illinois

RESOLUTION

No. 26-1111

RELEASE OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES AND DESTRUCTION OF VERBATIM RECORDINGS

WHEREAS, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d), the Board of Commissioners (Board) of the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District (District) has met and reviewed and approved the minutes of all meetings of the Board dated below, that are presently closed to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby finds and declares that the minutes for closed sessions held on certain dates no longer require confidential treatment; 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; and

WHEREAS, District staff and legal counsel have reviewed and made recommendations to the Board about the minutes of all meetings dated below.

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 closed session minutes or parts thereof of the following dates no longer require confidential treatment and can be released at this time:

December 18, 2013 – Land Acquisition
December 18, 2013 – Penfield Crossing
April 16, 2014 – ONLY IF AMENDED FIRST
July 16, 2014
April 17, 2024
May 15, 2024

SECTION THREE: The Board finds and hereby declares that the closed session minutes or parts thereof for the following dates cannot be released at this time because it remains necessary to protect the public interest or the privacy of an individual to keep said minutes confidential:

November 20, 2013
January 15, 2014
February 19, 2014
July 17, 2024
September 18, 2024
July 16, 2025
August 20, 2025

SECTION FOUR: 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:

November 20, 2013
December 18, 2013 Land Acquisition
December 18, 2013 Penfield Crossing
January 15, 2014
February 19, 2014
April 16, 2014
July 16, 2014
April 17, 2024
May 15, 2024
July 17, 2024
September 18, 2024

SECTION FIVE: 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 SIX: 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 November, 2026.

Voting YES_____ Voting NO_____ ABSTAINING_____

_____
Jeff Tilly, President
Board of Commissioners

_____
Gloria Lind, Secretary
Board of Commissioners