



discover the nature of life

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Press Release

The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County is pleased to announce that, among many other counties in Illinois, our agency has been awarded a \$389,900 grant through the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development, or OSLAD, program. This grant program is administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Funding will be invested in further development of a nature playground within the children’s garden at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden.

“As a non-profit partner of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, our organization is tremendously grateful for this important investment by IDNR that will create a new natural playground in the Nancy Olson Children’s Garden at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden. This development will allow for increased year-round use and enjoyment by children of all ages and abilities, and we could not be more thrilled!” **said Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden Executive Director Alex Mills.**

Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden (2715 S, Main Street, Rockford, IL 61102) is Winnebago County’s “living museum”, filled with rare trees, unique features, and special gardens. With over 2 miles of paved paths and over 3 miles of unpaved trails, the 155-acre botanic garden and arboretum is the largest public garden in Winnebago County. Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden operates within partnership of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County.

We are excited to see the children’s garden flourish with the upcoming changes and to work with Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden to continue providing outdoor spaces for citizens of all ages and abilities to enjoy. Learn more about the Nancy Olson Children’s Garden and Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden on their [website](#).

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About Forest Preserves of Winnebago County

The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County has been proudly dedicated to conserving, protecting, and enhancing Winnebago County’s natural heritage for 100 years.