KENDALL COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMITTEE

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 9, 2014

5:30 P.M.
KENDALL COUNTY BOARD ROOM

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Citizens to be Heard

IV. Operation Reports
   A. Ellis House & Equestrian Center
   B. Environmental Education
   C. Grounds & Natural Resources
   D. Volunteer Program
   E. Reservation Report
   F. Director’s Report

V. Review of Quotes for Equipment Trailer

VI. Marketing Study

VII. Subat Forest Preserve – Eldamain Road construction temporary easements

VIII. Ellis House – Generator Maintenance

IX. Forest Preserve Committees Discussion

X. Master Plan Discussion

XI. Executive Session

XII. Other Items of Business

XIII. Adjournment
House Bookings:

- April 6, 2014 – Bridal Shower
- May 17, 2014 – Wedding – Wilmington -Marji Merrigan (Bundy) So I guess you would say word of mouth :)
- June 8, 2014 – Wedding – Aurora - I was searching for rural wedding venues online. I don’t believe Ellis house came up right away. I found you while doing some "digging" online. I think I may have even found a photo on my photographer’s blog of Ellis house then searched the blog for the venue where the photos were taken.
- June 14, 2014 – Wedding – Joliet - My soon-to-be mother-in-law heard about The Ellis House from the owners of Dollinger Farm as she was asking around for outdoor wedding venues.
- June 21, 2014 – Wedding – Lansing, IA - We found out about Ellis House by doing a Google search for farms and outdoor wedding spaces outside of Chicago. That gave us a direct link to Ellis House.
- June 28, 2014 – Wedding – Minooka - Jason and I found out about the Ellis house from search the web. We then decided to come see the property in person and feel in love!
- July 12, 2014 – Wedding – Lemont - I heard about Ellis through unorthodox means. I discovered it through my position at the as a Kendall County Assistant State’s Attorney in the Civil Division.
- July 19, 2014 – Wedding – Joliet - I found you online. I just googled “outdoor wedding venues in the Plainfield area”!
- July 26, 2014 – Wedding – Minneapolis, MN - I definitely found out about Ellis House through online research. I was definitely looking for a more unique venue, and I knew I wanted something like a barn or something outside.
- August 2, 2014 – Wedding – Minooka - I found Ellis House simply by doing a google search for reception venues within the area.
- August 9, 2014 – Wedding – Joliet – I googled ranch style venues in Minooka and it popped up
- August 30, 2014 – Wedding – Plainfield - I heard of Ellis house after stopping by to investigate the stables. My mother was in from out of town and she is an avid horse rider, we saw the stables when driving by.
- August 31, 2014 – Wedding – Joliet - Google search: rustic bride website followed links and put in zip code and Ellis House came up
- September 6, 2014 - Wedding
- September 13, 2014 – Wedding
- September 20, 2014 – Wedding – Montgomery - We found Ellis house through a Google search for outdoor venues. :-(
- September 27, 2014 – Wedding – Braidwood - I found out about Ellis House from a couple friends.
- October 4, 2014 – Wedding – Aurora - I heard about Ellis House just by googling forest preserves in kendall county and such, and came across the main website for Ellis House.
- June 20, 2015 – Wedding – New Lenox - I heard about Ellis from a wedding guide magazine last year. The picture caught my attention.
- September 12, 2015 – Wedding – Shorewood - I heard of the Ellis House through a friend, and also a bride who will be getting married there this year, Kari Kezele.
- January 16, 2016 – Birthday Party – Channahon - I did the Reindeer Run at Ellis House. After doing the run, and my daughters brownie troop had an afternoon with the horses I wanted to rent Ellis House for my husband’s party.
**Ongoing Programs:**

- Family Fun Night first Friday of every month – Friday, March 7th, attendance = 60

**Meetings/Training/Expos/Annual Events:**

- Thursday, March 13th – Bonnie McBeth Learning Center Expo
- Sunday, March 16th – 1st Annual Bridal Expo at Meadowhawk Lodge
- Wednesday, March 19th – EHEC Staff Meeting
- Saturday, March 29th – Volunteer Open House at Meadowhawk Lodge

**House/Property Tours:**

- 6 – EHEC
- 0 – Meadowhawk

**Group Tours/Birthday/Girl/Boy Scout Parties:**

- 8 parties/groups with 109 guests

**Riding Lessons:**

- 72

**Community Service hours:**

- 137

**Volunteer Hours:**

- 140

**Total Deposits:**

- $3849.00
Natural Beginnings:
- The students have been busy with their weather unit. This spring has provided them with quite the variety of experiences.
- Registration for next year is going well. The Chickadee Class, ages 3-4, is full with 12 students and a wait list. The Blue Jay Class, ages 4-5, still has open spots at this time because many students remained in the younger session for an additional year.
- Two volunteers for the Natural beginnings program were recognized with Kendall County Forest Preserve volunteer awards.

Bill Piechowski continues to amaze the Education Department with his talent and his passion for giving. Bill has crafted many materials for the Natural Beginnings classroom including a puppet theater, log scale, 14 coat cubbies, a ball chute kit and more. Bill is currently creating a set of child sized picnic tables, a sensory table, a funnel stand, a mud kitchen and helping put together an outdoor stage for our new nature play space. Thank you so much for all of your time and effort Bill. The children of Kendall County will enjoy your efforts for years to come.

Stefanie Wiencke came to the Education Department after last year’s Fall Fest. She enjoyed visiting the Natural Beginnings play space as it reminded her a little bit of the Forest Kindergartens from back home in Germany. For the rest of the school year, Natural Beginnings has been blessed to have Stefanie volunteer every Tuesday and Thursday to lend a hand in our early learning program. Stefanie has been able to weave a little cultural experience into our lessons and shed a light on different ways of teaching. We have benefited from her unique teaching experiences and her indispensable classroom assistance.

Programs and Community involvement:
- Kim Olson and Laura McCoy attended the Plano Middle School career fair and meet with all of the 7th and 8th graders. Laura promoted natural education and Kim promoted natural area conservation.
- Southbury kindergarten was presented with a program about the differences in herbivore, omnivore and carnivore teeth. The seven classes had hands on activities.
- The in-school programs have ended for the season with the last Zoolchary program. We received wonderful thank you notes from the students!
- Summer camp staff were in over their spring break to finalize camp preparations.

Upcoming Events:
- Spring outdoor trips begin the first week of April and most April and May weekdays have one two programs running. We are preparing for a variety of programs and offering several new programs.
- Yorkville Go Green Fair on April 5th will feature used for cardboard boxes.
GROUND & NATURAL RESOURCES
STAFF REPORT
Kim Olson
MARCH 2014
Kim Olson, Craig Johnson, Patrick Higgins and Mike Prinos - Maintains all KCFPD properties.
Mike Pierson - maintains Hoover
Ron Smrz - maintains Ellis.

MARCH ACTIVITIES—FULL TIME STAFF.
• After yet more snow removal (the heaviest and hardest) in March...Hopefully we have said goodbye to the winter. We have optimistically begun to clean and put away the snow/ice equipment. GOOD RIDENCE Winter of 2013-14!
• We have spread the last of the seed to the forests and prairies.
• We put up/took down signage for the Bridal Expo at Harris and Hoover and also posted all the newsletters.
• We did some dead ash tree clearing at Harris and split the wood for Hoover firewood. The Emerald Ash Borer has taken its toll. Sad.
• We did a great deal of restoration at Subat, removing buckthorn and honeysuckle.
• We cleaned and raked back all gravel plowed up this winter, replaced rusted trash barrels, placed picnic tables back in the shelters and are preparing for the spring season.
• We cleared trails from downed trees at various preserves.

MARCH ACTIVITIES—KIM OLSON
• I am a “hands on” Superintendent...so always...all of the above alongside the guys! Along with......
• I helped Becky in the office processing all the Environmental Education Program applications.
• I created the Deputy Detail schedule for the year and sent them to the Sheriff's Department.
• I attended a career fair at Plano middle school representing the KCFPD.
• I inspected all grounds and made assessments of what would be needed for the season transition/repairs.

MARCH ACTIVITIES—MIKE PIERSON-HOOVER
• Mike still had snow removal along with all the rest of us!
• Mike has been planning the playground area along with Laura McCoy.
• Mike has begun the never ending job of filling the eternal potholes that plague the Hoover roads.
• Mike put up his winter equipment also.
• Mike has a small team of part-time staff and is delegating some long needed chores such as painting, graffiti removal, staining woodwork, to make Hoover look great.
• Mike continues to study for the wastewater treatment class and test that he is undertaking.

MARCH ACTIVITIES—RON SMRZ-ELLIS
• Ron continues to feed the horses every morning.
• Ron still had snow removal a good deal of March also!
• Ron put front brakes on the dump truck.
• Ron worked with the contractors for the new door and new floor and it is completed.
• Ron hauled material and prepared the large gravel base pad for the new storage container.
ROUTINE DUTIES-FULL TIME STAFF
- The full time staff is responsible for ALL maintenance required to successfully run the Kendall County Forest Preserve District properties. This includes but is not limited to the following:
  Electrical, plumbing, carpentry, equipment operation, mechanical / equipment repairs, painting, herbicide application, prescribed burns, logging records of all restoration efforts, tree removal, demolition/building of structures, snow removal, testing of water supplies, cleaning of all buildings, Forest/Prairie restoration, road, parking lots and trail maintenance, education, various Ranger duties and mowing.

ROUTINE DUTIES-KIM OLSON
- Anything that Jason may direct me to do.
- Stepping in and assisting wherever needed due to any absences in any department.
- Obtaining quotes and meeting with contractors when projects are pending.
- Managing and scheduling all staff, including Mike at Hoover and Ron at Ellis.
- Troubleshooting and taking preventative measures at all times to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for our all guests.
- Educating, informing and communicating with the public.
- Prioritizing and dispatching staff for maximum efficiency and production.
- Opening and closing of preserves as needed to assist on days off and Holidays.
- 24/7/365 on call for staff and Sheriff’s Department for any issues that may arise (and I do get them at all hours!)
- Scheduling/on call for deputy details/patrols.

ROUTINE DUTIES-MIKE PIERSON
- Mike is our on-site certified mechanic for the entire FP fleet.
- Mike opens and closes Hoover, 3+ hours daily.
- Mike is responsible for all Hoover grounds, buildings and woodlands and trails, maintenance and repairs.
- Mike does care, testing, monitoring and maintenance of lagoon and water treatment systems, testing both daily and monthly.
- Mike supervises part-time staff and also court services individuals.

ROUTINE DUTIES-RON SMRZ: same as Mike Pierson and Kim Olson and crew.
- Ron is responsible for all the Ellis House & grounds, including Baker Woods FP.
MONTHLY REPORT TO THE
KENDALL COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT COMMISSION

March 2014

Jody Strohm; Natural Areas Volunteer Coordinator, Accounts Payable

NATURAL AREAS VOLUNTEER (NAV) PROGRAM

Total Volunteer Hours: 118.5
Breakdown of Volunteer Hours:
  Restoration - 52
  Trail Monitor - 39
  Other - 39

This month’s workday followed close on the heels of the February workday, and we were dealing with nearly as much snow cover. We worked at Jay Woods FP, following up on the Black Locust trees and some invasives that were challenging the beauty of the entrance and shelter. It was tough going!

At the end of the workday we distributed native seed over the cleared areas to give any new invasive (garlic mustard!) some competition.

I worked quite a bit with seed distribution in March. I selected 12 FP sites that would benefit from the types of prairie and woodland native seed species that we had picked and processed at the end of 2013. Attached find a worksheet I set up from our dandy Access database to track what went where. The seed had to get out quickly, and several of our volunteers assisted in sowing the seed. It was nearly impossible to traverse the fields before we had some snow melt down!

The volunteers 2014 Herbicide Certifications have arrived.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Preparing and entering the receipts into the voucher system using the new project does is time-consuming. For accounts with multiple entries each month (like Menards and credit cards) there may be as many as 12 separate entries per account.
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<th>COLLFROM</th>
<th>DISTTTO</th>
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<td>Wingstem</td>
<td>SSG</td>
<td>Ho-Mhp; Ha-Woods S, SSG, MillS Woods; Jay-sav; MillS-sav</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actinomeris alternifolia</td>
<td>Wingstem</td>
<td>DVeld</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actinomeris alternifolia</td>
<td>Wingstem</td>
<td>SSG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amorpha fruticosa</td>
<td>Indigo Bush</td>
<td>Ho-Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amorpha fruticosa</td>
<td>Indigo Bush</td>
<td>Ho-Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andropogon scoparius</td>
<td>Little Bluestem</td>
<td>HCH</td>
<td>Ho-Front pr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andropogon scoparius</td>
<td>Little Bluestem</td>
<td>Ho-Park</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aquilegia canadensis</td>
<td>Wild Columbine</td>
<td>Jas</td>
<td>Jay-sav</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arisaema dracontium</td>
<td>Green Dragon</td>
<td>JRugg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arisaema triphyllum</td>
<td>Jack-in-the-Pulpit Common</td>
<td>JRugg</td>
<td>corms by base</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asclepias syriaca</td>
<td>Milkweed</td>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>Yo-Dicks pr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asclepias incarnata</td>
<td>Swamp Milkweed</td>
<td>BBT</td>
<td>Ho-base</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asclepias tuberosa</td>
<td>Butterfly Weed</td>
<td>Ho-Front</td>
<td>Ho-Front pr, Jay-sav, MillS-town; Ho-base</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asclepias tuberosa</td>
<td>Butterfly Weed</td>
<td>Ho-Front</td>
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<td>Asclepias tuberosa</td>
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<td>JBurns</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asclepias tuberosa</td>
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<td>Ho-Front</td>
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<td>Asclepias tuberosa</td>
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<td>Butterfly Weed</td>
<td>Jas</td>
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<td>Side Oats Grama</td>
<td>Ho-Ent</td>
<td>Ho-front pr</td>
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<td>Ho-Ent</td>
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<td>Ha-Lake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cacalia atroplicifolia</td>
<td>Ha-Lake</td>
<td>Ho-Front</td>
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<td>Campanula americana</td>
<td>Tall Bellflower</td>
<td>Mar-Flat</td>
<td>Lyon-zone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cassia hebecarpa</td>
<td>Wild Senna</td>
<td>JRugg</td>
<td>BBT-Jo pr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinna arundinacea</td>
<td>Common Wood Reed</td>
<td>Mar-Flat</td>
<td>Mar;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Desmanthus illinoensis</td>
<td>Illinois Sensitive Plant</td>
<td>BBT-Pr</td>
<td>Bak-ehec; BBT-Jo pr; Ho-front, Ha-learn, BBT, Ho-base, SSG, Yo-dicks pr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Echinacea purpurea</td>
<td>Purple Coneflower</td>
<td>Ho-Park</td>
<td>BBT?, Ho-base (chaf), Ho-NA, Ho-front, BBT-Jo pr (sparse at sign)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Echinacea purpurea</td>
<td>Purple Coneflower</td>
<td>Jay</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elymus canadensis</td>
<td>Canada Wild Rye</td>
<td>MillS</td>
<td>BBT-Jo pr, Jay-sav, Mill-sav, Yo-Dicks, Ho-base prairie, Henn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elymus virginicus</td>
<td>Virginia Wild Rye</td>
<td>Mar-Flat</td>
<td>Mar, Jay-sav, MillS-sav</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eupatorium maculatum</td>
<td>Spotted Joe Pye Weed</td>
<td>Sub</td>
<td>Jay-pr (ragweed site)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eupatorium maculatum</td>
<td>Spotted Joe Pye Weed</td>
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KENDALL COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE

MONTHLY REPORT – MARCH 2014

RESERVATIONS

Harris Forest Preserve

0 Internal Events - 0 guests
1 External Event - 30 guests

Guests: Family Birthday Party

Jay Woods, Richard Young and Subat Forest Preserves

0 Events

Hoover Forest Preserve (includes Meadowhawk Lodge)

3 Internal events: 108 guests: Babes in the Woods – Spring Picasso
Volunteer Open House & Workshop

10 External events: - 361 guests

Guests: Jacob’s Well
KC Soil & Water Pond Seminar
Scout Troops – Three Fires Council: T508, T13, T889, T46, T222
Family Get-together

Historic Courthouse

Internal: 0 events – 0 guests

External: 21 events – 504 guests

Guests: Kendall County Probation Department – Family Group Sessions
Energy Referendum Meeting
KC Mayors & Managers
KC Area Transit Meeting
Mental Health First Aid Meeting (Barry Groesch)
KC Soil & Water Workshop

Becky Antrim
Reservation Coordinator
Forest Preserve Director Report
March 2014

- Conducted second interviews with Elizabeth Flowers for the barn manager position and hired Amy Clever. Amy brings strong equestrian, management, and organizational skills to the position. She begins work on April 15.

- Continue to work on the District’s Master Plan.

- Continue to work on the HR audit.

- Continue to work on finance restructure with staff and Latreese Caldwell.

- HR duties - pay vouchers, track employee vacation and S/P time, track PT employee hours, etc.

- Meeting agendas, packets, minutes.

- Staff meetings, discussions, delegation & supervision.

- Attended Forest Foundation of Kendall County meeting, volunteer restoration workday, Family Fun Night, Volunteer Open House, and Fox River Ecosystem Partnership meeting.
Requests for Quotes

**Trailer**
2014 Cronkhite 2616 Tandem Axle Trailer
80" x 16' deck, plates & title

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Atlas Bobcat</td>
<td>$4,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Birkey's Farm Store</td>
<td>$5,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Bobcat of Rockford</td>
<td>$6,100</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Selected Businesses: Marketing Plan & Presentation
Winter 2014

Marketing Plan & Presentation

Every business and organization should have a marketing plan. A marketing plan is a road map that helps guide the marketing activities of a company through a certain period of time. It is through the process and efforts of careful planning and implementation that makes one successful. The development of a marketing plan is an excellent way to incorporate all the key learning’s of this course, Marketing Management, into one area including introductions of products/services, target marketing and positioning, strategic initiatives, strategies and tactics, SWOT analysis, competition, marketing mix, promotional mix, sales, pricing and budgets. The expectations and components of this project are outlined below.

- This marketing plan will be completed as a team. Teams will be determined the first day of class. Depending on class size there may be about 3-4 members per team.
- You will have the opportunity to create a marketing plan for a “real” business. The instructor has identified some businesses that would like to work with you. Your assigned business will be identified the first day of class.
- Although ALL sections of this marketing plan must be included in the final written plan, you may find (based on your client visit) that some sections will require additional effort, research or information. As these situations arise, we can discuss them in and/or out of class.

I. Identify a Product/Service

The instructor will discuss the company you will be working with the first day of class. A thorough description of the company, location, instructor expectations and other details will all be addressed during this session.

During class one; the instructor will explain how the teams will be organized. Each client will have TWO teams assigned to them (depending on class size), but each team will work independently from one another after the initial visit. The goal is for each team to “compete” against one another to develop and create the best marketing plan. Ideas must be unique, different and provide value to the client. We do not want to recast the same ideas/promotions the client has implemented in the past. You are required to think out of the box, do any necessary outside research and provide exceptional, quality work that is expected of Benedictine University students. Listening to the client’s needs, target markets and goals are essential for this marketing plan to be a success. In class nine, each team will have the opportunity to orally present their marketing plan to the client.
II. Development of Marketing Plan

Throughout the course, we will discuss each component of the marketing plan. As noted on your syllabi, sections of the plan will be due on various dates during the course. This is to help you move forward on the project and receive the necessary guidance and instruction needed to produce a successful marketing plan. It is important to note that there may be differences in the style, format and contents of marketing plans when comparing one organization to another. However, for purposes of this course the format and contents are detailed below.

A. Executive Summary

Information that should be considered for the Executive Summary is a brief description of your product/service, target market, key goals; key promotional strategies, budget, and evaluation of plan. Be general in your executive summary, specific details will follow later in the plan.

B. Product/Service Introduction & Description & Target Market

Identify the target audience for this marketing plan. Be specific when describing the customer characteristics of your target market. Demographic, geographic, psychographic and behavioral profiles need to be provided.

C. Strategic Initiatives (Goals)

Once a product/service has been identified, goals need to be established that an individual or an organization would like to achieve. It is in this section a minimum of three to four goals maybe more depending on client need will be identified for your product/service.

D. Situation Analysis & Competition

The situation analysis offers a snapshot of your current “situation” and answers the question, “Where are we now?” The best approach to this section is to conduct and present a SWOT Analysis. This analysis helps identify the internal strengths and weaknesses of your product/service and/or company and includes the external opportunities and threats faced by your organization.

Please provide a list of your direct competition including a brief description (one paragraph) about each one and why it is viewed as a competitor. It is in this section that we want to identify and create awareness of your competition

E. Strategies/Tactics

Ultimately, the marketing plan brings together the organizational goals, strategies and tactics. It implements and accomplishes all the necessary steps to bring the process together in a timely and successful manner.

F. Marketing Program (Marketing Mix)

It is in this section the marketing mix is approached in the areas of product/service, place, price and promotion.
Product/Service: This is a recap or summary of what was included in Section B OR you may use this area to provide more detail about your product or service.

Place: This is where your target market can go to purchase your product/service (specific location (address), online (website address), telephone (phone number), direct mail (address), Facebook (location) etc...)

Price: This is how much the product/service costs. There may be a unit price, flat fee, hourly rate, insurance consideration, package pricing, etc...this will vary based on product/service.

Promotion: This is how you are going to communicate your product/service message to your target market. Please be very careful when developing this section. You do not want to recast/duplicate/copy ideas that your client has already done.

Public Relations
A press release would be developed and sent to (list specific newspapers). The press release would highlight X and be released (date). Some ideas that should be included in this press release include.......

- Fully develop THREE of your promotional ideas. For example, if you are going to place an ad in a newspaper, design the ad copy, or if you are going to do a mail campaign, develop the direct mail piece. If you decide to do a commercial or radio spot, please include the written copy (script) in your marketing plan. The radio spot or commercial you create would be played or viewed in class as part of your oral presentation

G. Financial, Budgets, Forecasts
In this section, offer a financial review of your product and/or service as it relates to the marketing activities. The following elements would be part of this analysis:

1) Breakeven Analysis
2) Expense Forecast for Promotional Activities
3) Sales Forecast

H. Product/Service Evaluation
Product/service evaluations can be measurable targets to aid in the success or continued success of a product/service. Examples include conducting a customer satisfaction survey (sample must be included in plan) or to implement two monthly sales meetings to obtain customer feedback. One of the best ways to identify your evaluations is to review your goals. From your goals you would then determine how you would measure the success of that goal. Be thorough in your evaluation process and be sure to address each goal at least once in your analysis.
Guidelines for Written & Oral Report

Written Report

1. Cover Sheet/Title Page
2. **Table of Contents (headings and page numbers)**
3. Executive Summary (own page)
4. Product/Service Introduction & Description & Target Market
5. Strategic Initiatives (Goals)
6. Situation Analysis & Competition
7. Strategies/Tactics
8. Marketing Program (Marketing Mix)
9. Promotional Samples
10. Financial, Budget, Forecast
11. Product/Service Evaluation
12. Bibliography/Works Cited (if appropriate)
13. Copies of PowerPoint slides

Presentation

Each team will provide an oral presentation to the client and class on their product or service. A PowerPoint presentation to accompany your written marketing plan is a requirement of this assignment. The highlights from the marketing plan will be shared and displayed during this time. **A maximum of 15 – 20 minutes will be allowed for your oral presentation.**
Date: April 02, 2014

TO: Kendall County Forest Preserve
110 W. Madison St
Yorkville, IL 60560
630-553-4025

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<td>2</td>
<td>Monthly wireless network charge</td>
<td>$9.99 month</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Annual Maintenance Plan</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1 Service per year (12 months)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1 Service / 1 check up (6 months)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1 Service / 3 check ups (3 months)</td>
<td>$550.00 year</td>
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See service plan details for included parts and benefits

SUBTOTAL $0.00
TAX $0.00
TOTAL DUE $0.00

ACCEPTED BY ___________________________ DATE ____________

QUOTE VALID FOR 30 DAYS
Scheduled Maintenance

Scheduled Maintenance of your Automatic Standby Generator system helps ensure the highest level of performance, safety and reliability of your system as well as ensure full warranty coverage. Having a certified service dealer perform this maintenance will provide you with the proper documentation should the need ever arise.

Scheduled maintenance intervals vary by unit size and how often your standby generator operates between maintenance checks and services. Only Generac parts are used for maintenance and repairs so that the quality and warranty of your system are never compromised.

The best insurance you can get for your system is timely and quality maintenance, it will pay off in years of trouble free service from your system.

If you have questions about plans or are unsure which plan is right for you, please call us @ 630-546-8476

Included in your scheduled maintenance:

Engine:
- Change oil (synthetic oil)
- Replace oil filter
- Replace air filter
- Replace spark plug(s)
- Check and adjust engine valves
- Check exhaust system
- Check battery condition and charge
- Clean battery terminals
- Check or replace coolant

Generator and enclosure:
- Clean & wax generator enclosure
- Inspect all fuel lines and connections
- Check for proper cooling air flow
- Check pad/foundation - level
- Check for leaks
- Start and run unit
- Check generator output voltage and frequency
- Check battery charger output

Transfer Switch:
- Check electrical connections
- Check transfer switch fuses
- Perform simulated outage to test transfer switch operation

Included maintenance parts:
- Oil filter
- Air filter
- Oil (synthetic)
- Spark plug(S)
- Valve cover gasket(s)
- Fuses
- Coolant

Our Plan customers do not pay any other service call labor or travel charges should you experience any breakdown during the life of your plan. Customers are responsible for parts used in any repair at the discounted rate below.

5% Basic – 10% Standard – 15% Premium
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ATTENTION: It is recommended that all service work be performed by an Authorized Dealer.

* Change oil and filter after first 8 hours of operation and then every 200 hours or yearly thereafter. Change sooner when operating under heavy load or in a dusty or dirty environment or in High ambient temps.
Features and Highlights of the Cellular Generator Monitor:

- 24-hour remote wireless monitoring of automatic standby generators.
- Communication of critical generator events in real-time. Alerts include:
  - Generator Run and Generator Stop.
  - Generator not in Auto mode.
  - Maintenance due.
  - Generator exercise cycle missed.
  - *Plus* Auxiliary inputs for customized alerts.
- Virtual hour meter tracks generator run time.
- Universal compatibility.
  - Works with all generator models, regardless of brand or manufacture date.
- Fast, straightforward installation.
- Uses nationwide 4G cellular networks to communicate.
- Alerts sent via email and/or text to as many recipients as desired.
  - Mission-critical monitoring option: Alerts can be monitored by live personnel at a central station.
- Works with commercial and residential generators.
- Rugged all-weather casing.
- All units are factory-programmed. No additional software needed.
- Designed, manufactured and supported in Centereach, NY, USA.

Benefits of using the Generator Monitor: Generator End Users

- **Instant Alerts.** When seconds count, know if there is a problem right away.
- **Peace of Mind.** Rest assured knowing that your generator is being monitored 24 hours a day.
- **Improved Reliability.** Proactively address potential generator problems and reduce incidents of failure during power loss.
- **Investment Protection.** 24 hour monitoring means greater investment protection for your generator and everything it powers during an outage.
- **Customized Reports.** Receive customized reports that you can use for management functions, third-party reporting to government or oversight bodies, etc.
Kendall County Forest Preserve District
Master Plan

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1. Introduction

A. History
The Kendall County Forest Preserve District was established when residents approved a referendum in April of 1964. By the early 1970s, four forest preserves with a combined 260 acres had been created in the county. Facilities consisted mainly of picnic shelters, footpaths, and the well-known Harris Forest Preserve sledding hill. For over two decades these preserves and facilities were sufficient to meet the low demands of the still largely rural and slow growing Kendall County.

As the population of Kendall County began to grow significantly in the 1990’s, Kendall County citizens desired a more active Forest Preserve District. Long-time residents urged the District to preserve open space amid a wave of residential and commercial development. Newer residents, arriving mainly from counties with well established Forest Preserve Districts, desired the same in Kendall County. A group of residents formed the Kendall Natural Area Guardians (KNAGs) and urged the District to acquire high quality natural areas. The KNAGs created a list that identified many of these natural areas. This KNAG list, along with accompanying maps and plant species lists, were utilized by the District many years for land acquisition purposes.

The District also began to develop additional resources during the late 1990s and early 2000s. Increased staffing and funding allowed the District to initiate environmental education programming, public outreach, and natural resource management. These efforts led to increased awareness and use of the Forest Preserve District by residents. In 2000, the District completed its first Master Plan with the assistance of a Citizen’s Advisory Board. This plan was updated in 2008.

In 2003, as Kendall County was one of the fastest growing counties in the United States, a $5 million open space bond referendum was approved by Kendall County residents for the District to acquire open space and to complete capital improvement projects.

In 2006 the District participated in Protect Kendall Now (PKN) initiated by The Conservation Foundation. PKN combined the earlier KNAG list with municipal, county, and other open space plans to create a comprehensive vision for the preservation of natural areas and open space throughout Kendall County. The PKN effort produced the Natural Treasures of Kendall County map.

As Kendall County continued its unprecedented population growth, in 2007 voters approved a $45 million open space bond referendum for additional open space preservation and capital improvement projects. These funds, combined with nearly $10 million in ensuing grant revenue, punctuated an amazing growth spurt where the District owns 5 times more acres in 2013 than it did just one decade earlier.

Many of these preserved acres contain some of the finest natural areas in Kendall County. Fox River frontage, property along streams, quality woodlands and wetlands, and expansion of current preserves have all been added to District holdings in the past decade. This additional acreage has permitted the District to expand its facilities and offer more recreational and environmental educational opportunities to residents than ever before.

B. Organization
The Kendall County Forest Preserve District is governed by a ten member Board of Commissioners. The commissioners are elected officials, with five commissioners elected by the
public from each of the two Kendall County Board Districts. The Board of Commissioners elects a President, Vice-President and Secretary, each of which serves a two year term. The District has its own property taxing authority, which largely funds the daily operating expenses of the District. These property tax funds are augmented by facility use fees, program fees, and farm license revenue. A yearly budgeting process determines the operating budget and tax levy to be issued by the District for each fiscal year. The District also has the ability to issue bonds for land acquisition, capital improvement projects and capital equipment purchases.

As of 2014 the staff of the District is comprised of 10 full-time and 18 part-time employees. Several seasonal employees assist with summer camps each year. The staff is responsible for the grounds maintenance, natural areas management, environmental education programming, event coordination, volunteer coordination and administration of the District.

C. Mission Statement and Goals
The mission of the Kendall County Forest Preserve District is to acquire, preserve and manage natural areas and open spaces, provide environmental education, and offer recreational opportunities for Kendall County residents.

More specifically, the goals of the Kendall County Forest Preserve District are to:

1. Acquire and hold lands containing forests, prairies, wetlands, streams and other natural areas in order to preserve the flora, fauna and scenic beauties of Kendall County for the enjoyment of county residents and future generations.

2. Acquire and hold properties containing lands capable of being restored to a natural condition and lands that will provide recreational opportunities and facilities.

3. Utilize the forest preserves to provide educational opportunities for county residents regarding the natural systems, natural processes and natural history of Kendall County.

4. Provide and maintain passive and active recreational opportunities and facilities for residents that are compatible with District natural areas and open spaces.

5. Provide and maintain multi-purpose event facilities for residents that are compatible with District natural areas and open spaces.

6. Implement management practices and policies that maintain and enhance the biodiversity of District natural areas.

7. Maintain and enhance practices and policies that promote fiscal responsibility and organizational proficiency.

8. Maintain and enhance multiple media outlets to inform Kendall County residents of District programs, properties, facilities and policies.

9. Partner with other governmental agencies, conservation organizations and private landowners to preserve natural areas, create greenway corridors, and develop linear trails.
D. Master Plan Goals & Objectives
The intense growth in recent years presents the Kendall County Forest Preserve District with many challenges. Two of the main challenges are balancing the dramatic increase in the public’s use of the preserves, facilities, and programs with the realities of current operational resources; and to acquire additional open space in the future.

While the yearly budget process and day-to-day operations focus on the short-term needs of the Kendall County Forest Preserve District, the ability to plan over a longer time span is essential. The development of a long-range plan will allow the District to best use its resources to meet its mission and goals, and better enable the District to be proactive in a rapidly changing landscape.

The goal of this Master Plan is to strengthen and focus the resources of the Kendall County Forest Preserve District so that it is most able to fulfill its mission statement and goals. This Master Plan was completed through the efforts of a Planning Ad-hoc Committee that consisted of Forest Preserve Commissioners, Forest Preserve staff, Kendall County staff, and partner organizations. The Planning Ad-hoc Committee met for approximately one year to work on the Master Plan. The Master Plan was then reviewed and approved by the Kendall County Forest Preserve District Commission.

Master Plan Objectives (with corresponding FP Goals):

- **Land Acquisition**
  - Plan for future acquisition of lands containing natural areas, lands suitable for restoration, lands providing connectivity, and lands suitable for recreational facilities. (1,2,4,8)

- **Facilities**
  - Inventory existing facilities. (4)
  - Create concept plans and/or identify improvements, estimate construction costs, and estimate maintenance costs for each of the preserves. (4,8)
  - Prioritize capital improvement projects. (4,8)

- **Administration**
  - Continue to develop and implement appropriate policies, organizational structure, and processes. (6)
  - Evaluate budget process to meet increased demands on preserves, facilities, and programming while practicing fiscal responsibility. (6)

- **Programming**
  - Continue to develop, promote, and evaluate educational opportunities to reach as many Kendall County residents as feasible. (3)

- **Natural Areas Management**
  - Continue to actively manage and evaluate the natural areas of the District. (5)

- **Marketing and Outreach**
  - Continue to inform and promote the public of the programs, properties, facilities and policies of the District. (7)
2. Kendall County Natural Resources

Natural Communities

When the first European settlers arrived in what is today Kendall County, they found a land dominated by prairie. Woodlands clung alongside creeks and rivers, with an occasional grove of trees interspersed among the prairie. Various kinds of wetlands dotted the landscape, some held snowmelt and rainfall, while others released groundwater to the surface. Deep rooted plants acted as conduits to infiltrate water into the ground, resulting in a system of hydrology based more on groundwater than surface water. Boundaries between prairie, wetland, and woodland were not always clearly defined, and these boundaries shifted as fire and weather altered the landscape.

(insert map of Natural Divisions of Illinois)

Fire shaped all of the natural communities of the region. Intense prairie fires pushed trees and shrubs from the grasslands. Slower, more moderate fires meandered through woodlands, eliminating the unprotected thin barked trees. Wetlands, dried up at season’s end, also felt the singe of fire. During the spring and fall, fire left a mosaic of burned and unburned on the landscape.

The natural communities were rich in diversity of plant and animal life, with intricate webs of relationships between predator and prey, pollinator and plant, soil and water. Many of these relationships we still strive to understand to this day.

The dark soils of the prairie were rich, as they were formed from organic matter built up over centuries. As settlers quickly determined that these soils were highly productive, prairies were quickly plowed under and wetlands were drained to create some of the finest farmland in the world. The margins of woodlands were pushed back and straightened. Fires were suppressed. Remaining natural communities were fragmented, isolated, and forever altered.

In the early 1900’s a new conservation ethic began to take root. Preservation of natural areas and open space, the study of ecology, and the process to learn how to restore our natural communities began to be viewed as important subjects. Illinois, especially northeastern Illinois, has been a big player on this conservation stage. The Burnham Plan; the establishment of Forest Preserve and Conservation Districts; and restoration initiatives at Fermi Lab, the Morton Arboretum and many public lands across the region have collectively spearheaded one of conservation’s great success stories.

A. Prairies

Prior to European settlement, tallgrass prairies were the dominant natural community in Kendall County, covering approximately 85% of the land. Tallgrass prairies in Illinois
are part of the 'prairie peninsula', an eastward extension of this natural community that was likely sustained by frequent fire.

(insert map of prairie peninsula)

Prairies are generally classified by soil moisture (wet, wet-mesic, mesic, dry-mesic, dry) and type of soil (sand or gravel hill). Prior to settlement, most prairies in Kendall County would have been wet, wet-mesic, and mesic prairie.

Prairies are fire dependent communities. Without regular fire, trees and shrubs invade the prairies, producing shade that kills the sun-loving plants. Fires are also important to recycle nutrients, eliminate non-native herbaceous plants, allow soil warming earlier in the spring, and to create a mosaic of burned and unburned areas that many animal species depend on.

Due to the loss of prairie habitat in Kendall County, many native species of plants and animals have either been extirpated completed from the county, or have very small, and possible unsustainable, populations.

i. Prairie Plants
Prior to European settlement, more than 300 plant species grew in tallgrass prairies, a diverse mix of grasses, sedges, and forbs. While grasses such as big bluestem (Andropogon gerardii), Indian grass (Sorghastrum nutans), and switch grass (Panicum virgatum) may have been the most numerous plants on the prairie, forbs would have contributed vast diversity. Most of the biomass of tallgrass prairie lies below the ground surface, where plant roots can reach over 15 feet in depth. These deep roots allow the prairie plants to survive the harsh prairie environment that includes drought, grazing, and fire. These roots are also important to develop prairie soil and infiltrate water into the ground.

ii. Prairie Animals
Tallgrass prairie is home to an array of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects. Each animal species has its own set of requirements – other plants and animals it is dependent on, prairie structure, and size of a prairie to name but a few. If a habitat does not meet these requirements, the animal species simply cannot survive. To meet the requirements of the most number of species, large and varied grasslands are needed.

Many grassland bird species have been in decline in recent decades as the number of native prairie sites and other grasslands have be converted to other land uses or have been invaded by trees and shrubs.

iii. Prairie Restoration & Management
Unfortunately, no great expanses of intact prairie remain in Kendall County today. While a few tiny patches of prairie remnants cling alongside railroads or other out of the
way locations, prairie restorations will make up the majority of future prairies in the county.

Prairie restoration on a landscape scale began in northeastern Illinois in the 1960s in efforts by Ray Schulenberg at the Morton Arboretum and at Fermi Lab in the 1970s by Dr. Robert Betz. These efforts led other land managers in the region to initiate prairie restorations of their own.

Prairie restorations include soil preparation, seeding, burning, mowing, herbiciding, and restoring hydrology. While in a few short years a newly seeded site may begin to look like a prairie, the complex prairie ecosystem will take decades to become established.

Established prairies typically require little management outside of a periodic controlled burn. Mechanical removal of invasive brush and control of herbaceous weeds can be performed as required.

Cool-season grasslands are a cousin of the native tallgrass prairie, but mainly contain non-native grasses and forbs. Typically, these cool-season grasslands are former pastures or hayfields. While they do not possess the great diversity of plant and animal life that a native prairie can, cool-season grasslands have proven to be suitable habitat for many native grassland bird species.

Jay Woods FP, Millbrook South FP, and Subat FP have examples of prairie restorations. Lyon FP and Richard Young FP have very small prairie remnants. Henneberry FP and Hoover FP both have cool-season grasslands.

B. Wooded Communities

Kendall County has a number of wooded natural communities that are distinct in their species make-up, tree canopy coverage, typography, and hydrology. Most of our woodlands are dominated by oaks, maples, and hickories.

All of the wooded communities found in Kendall County are, to varying degrees, dependant on regular controlled burning. In general, more open canopy wooded communities require more frequent and more intense burns, while more closed canopy wooded communities require less frequent and less intense burns.

Woodlands can be classified by soil moisture (wet, wet-mesic, mesic, dry-mesic, dry) or by the dominant trees (i.e. oak-hickory, oak-maple).

i. Savannas

Savannas form on the boundary where the prairie meets the woodland. As large, intense prairie fires swept into woodlands, only the most fire resistant tree could survive. In the Midwest, this hardy tree is the bur oak (Quercus macrocarpa).
Bur oak savannas have tree canopy coverage of 10-50%. The dappled sunlight that reaches the ground supports prairie and woodland plants, as well as certain plant species endemic to savannas. Shrubs typically found in savannas are the American hazelnut (Corylus americana) and the wild plum (Prunus americana).

Black oak savannas can form on poor, sandy soils. Dry conditions combined with more moderate fire combine to form black oak savannas. In Kendall County, very small patches of black oak savanna can be found on sites with sandy soil, mainly in the Big Rock Creek watershed and along the Fox River.

Intact oak savannas are quite rare today, as fire suppression, grazing, and invasive species have led to habitat degradation. However, many oak savannas persist today in Kendall County as more closed in woodlands, waiting for when sunlight might once again reach the ground. Jay Woods FP and Millbrook South FP both contain examples of bur oak savannas.

ii. Open Woodlands
In areas protected from intense fires by savannas, creeks or topography, open woodlands are to found. As the name suggests, open woodlands have fairly widely spaced trees resulting in a canopy cover of 50-80%. This allows sufficient sunlight to establish diverse shrub and herbaceous layers.

Moderate fires worked their way through the open woodlands, keeping the numbers of thin barked maple, ash, elm, and cherry to a minimum. As a result, most of our open woodlands are dominated by oak (Quercus sp) and hickory (Carya sp), although there can be quite a diversity of trees. Shrub species typical of open woodlands include American hazelnut (Corylus americana), wild plum (Prunus americana), chokecherry (Prunus virginiana), and black haw (Viburnum prunifolium).

Fire suppression, grazing, and invasive species have led to habitat degradation in our open woodlands. Specifically, garlic mustard (Alliaria petiolata), common buckthorn (Rhamnus cathartica), and honeysuckle (Lonicera sp), three invasive plants from Europe and Asia, have ruined many acres of open woodland habitat by pushing out native plants and preventing oak regeneration.

The best examples of open woodlands occur at Harris FP and Lyon FP, although most preserves have some amount of this community.

iii. Northern Flatwoods
Northern flatwoods are a rare type of natural community that is formed where a unique set of topography, soils, and hydrology combine to form this wet woodland. Flatwoods are characterized by having water at, or near, the ground surface for the majority of the growing season. This is usually caused by a layer of clay a few feet below the surface that
forces water to slowly move laterally rather than percolating downward. Topography prevents the water from quickly draining overland and off of the site.

The canopy trees of the flatwoods are spaced fairly far apart which allows adequate sunlight to reach the shrub and herbaceous layers. Tree canopy coverage is typically 20-80%. Trees indicative of flatwoods include swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*), linden (*Tilia americana*), black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), and cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*). Commonly found shrubs include paw paw (*Asimina triloba*), blue beech (*Carpinus caroliniana*), and buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*). The herbaceous layer usually possesses a large number of sedge species, along with a substantial amount of forb and grass species. The herbaceous layer of flatwoods can be very diverse and include plants typical of open woodlands and sedge meadows, besides those associated specifically with flatwoods. Periodic fires through the flatwoods enhance the biodiversity by creating a balance between the various components of the community. In flatwoods, these fires are slow moving and control the number of woody plants, thereby allowing adequate sunlight to reach the herbaceous layer. Flatwoods support a variety of animal life that depends on the unique watery community for food, shelter and breeding habitat.

Maramech FP contains the only flatwoods owned by the District, and possibly the only example of this community in Kendall County. The flatwoods in Maramech are an Illinois Nature Preserve, which not only acknowledges the rarity of this natural community, but identifies this site as one of the best examples of a flatwoods in the state.

iv. **Forests**
Forests thrive where fires are infrequent and of low intensity. Tree species that cannot tolerate the intense fires of the savanna or the moderate burns of the open woodlands find refuge in the forest. With more tree stems per acre, forests understandably have a more closed canopy, between 80-100%. Forests are typically dominated by maple, either black maple (*Acer nigrum*) or sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), and by red oak (*Quercus rubra*).

Floodplain forests are a common variety in Kendall County, where silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), ash (*Fraxinus sp*), and elm (*Ulmus sp*) dominate. High quality floodplain forests are uncommon as land use changes and drainage have increased flooding occurrences and altered the hydrology of these communities. Baker Woods FP alongside the Aux Sable Creek and Jay Woods FP with the Little Rock Creek both contain examples of floodplain forests.

Shrubs typical of forests include bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*) and elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*). Due to lower sunlight levels on the ground, the herbaceous layer of forest is generally sparser than that of other wooded communities.

v. **Woodland Plants**
Obviously, trees are the dominant plant of woodlands. In Kendall County, there are 53 native tree species. Many of these species – oaks, hickories, and maples – are the tall
trees that form the canopy of the woodland. Other trees, such as hop hornbeam (Ostrya virginiana), thrive in the understory. Quality woodlands also possess a number of shrub species and a diverse ground layer of herbaceous plants that includes broadleaves, grasses, and sedges. This layering of the woodland community — canopy, understory, shrub, and herbaceous — creates a variety of habitats.

vi. Woodland Animals
Because of the varied habitat that they possess and the diversity of their plant species, woodlands are home to many species of mammals, birds, herps, and insects. Some animal species are reliant on different layers of the woodland. For example, the red-eyed vireo feeds on insect high up in the canopy while building its nest on small trees or shrubs.

As many Kendall County woodlands are dominated by oaks, these trees are especially important for wildlife. The acorns of oak trees are an important food source for deer, turkey, and squirrels. Some species of birds time their spring migrations to coincide with the flowering of oaks and other trees so that they can feed on the insects attracted by the flowers.

The intricate web between plants, animals, and other components of our woodlands depend on maintaining diverse and healthy plant communities.

vii. Woodland Restoration & Management
Many wooded communities in Kendall County have suffered from habitat fragmentation, fire suppression, invasive species, and changes in hydrology. As a result, our woodlands have lost some measure of plant and animal diversity, and long-term sustainability is uncertain. In many of our oak woodlands, new generations of oaks have not been able to grow due to habitat degradations. As the ‘elder statesmen’ oak trees begin to die, replacement oaks are not present to sustain this community.

To restore our woodland communities, a number of management techniques can be utilized. Brush and tree removal can permit adequate sunlight to reach all layers — canopy, understory, and ground — of the woodland. Controlled burns works to reduce the number of small trees, recycles nutrients, and controls invasive plant species such as garlic mustard. Invasive plants can also be controlled mechanically or with the use of herbicide.

Woodlands also benefit from the re-introduction of native plant species through seeding or the planting of plugs. Habitat fragmentation can be reversed by tree planting projects that reconnect and enlarge existing woodlands.
C. Wetlands

Wetlands come in many forms. Some are wet year rounds, while other wetlands dry up during the dog-days of summer. Some wetlands have deep, standing water, while others have only saturated soil. Many wetlands thrive in full sun, while still others thrive under the shade of shrubs and trees.

Wetlands are highly productive natural communities that support prolific plant growth and abundant animal populations. Despite the presence of water, most Kendall County wetlands are dependent on regular controlled burns.

Wetlands are important components of are areas hydrology, linking surface waters with groundwater. They capture snowmelt and rainwater, infiltrating this water into the ground. This water moves laterally through the ground, eventually discharging into streams, rivers, and even other wetlands. Water infiltration serves to lessen flooding and improve water quality of our waterways.

Most Kendall County wetlands have been completely drained or so severely altered so that they retain little of their original bio-diversity or hydrological functions.

i. Fens & Seeps

Fens and seeps are unique wetlands that form where groundwater emerges to the surface, typically on a slope near a stream or river. This water is highly alkaline from the calcium it has picked up as it has migrated through the limestone rich ground. This groundwater flows, or more likely, oozes to the surface continually throughout the year. Many plants cannot tolerate the mineral laden water, leaving ample space for those specialist plants that can. Because they rely on a continuous supply of groundwater, fens and seeps require recharge zones to be maintained where ample water can be infiltrated into the ground.

Fens can be graminoid – full of grasses and sedges – or sparsely vegetated. Graminoid fens rely on controlled burns to prevent trees and shrubs from closing in and pushing out the herbaceous plants.

Woodland seeps are found where groundwater comes to the surface under tree cover. These shaded sites are typically dominated by skunk cabbage (Symplocarpus foetidus) and marsh marigold (Caltha palustris).

Kendall County, and the entire Fox River valley, is rather special in regards to fens and seeps as the area contains the highest concentrations of these wetlands in Illinois. Nice examples of fens can be found at Lyon FP and Millbrook-South FP, while seeps are present in those same preserves as well as Hoover FP.

ii. Sedge Meadows
These wetlands are flat lowlands dotted with tussocks, a bump of soil and roots created by species of sedges. The ground of sedge meadows is typically saturated, but standing water is many times present for only short periods. The soils of sedge meadows are highly organic peat. Like graminoid fens, sedge meadows depend on occasional controlled burns to keep trees and shrubs from becoming to prolific.

Sedge meadows, wet prairies, and fens contain many of the same plant species. Sedge meadows are dominated by sedges, wet prairies by grasses, and fens by an assortment of calcium tolerant plants.

Sedge meadows can be found at Subat FP and at Cannonball Sedge Meadow.

iii. Marshes
Marshes are wetlands that typically have standing water during most of the growing season. Some marshes may dry up during the late summer and early fall, while others retain water all year. Marshes are dominated by herbaceous plants, which may include both emergent and floating vegetation. Controlled burns in the fall work to maintain the plant diversity of the marsh.

Examples of marshes can be found at Subat FP and Millbrook-North FP.

iv. Wetland Plants
v. Wetland Animals
vi. Wetland Restoration & Management

D. Lakes & Ponds
E. Rivers and Streams
3. Forest Preserves and Facilities

a. Overview

From its creation in 1964 until the mid-1990s, the Kendall County Forest Preserve District consisted of a few preserves with limited facilities. By far the most popular site was Harris Forest Preserve with its picnic shelters, horse arena, sled hill, ballfield, and trails. Trails at Lyon Forest Preserve, and a picnic shelter and trails at Baker Woods Forest Preserve completed the list of District facilities. By the 1990s, many of these existing facilities were aged and in decline.

The acquisition (1994) and development (1998) of the Richard Young Forest Preserve marked the beginning of a new era for the District. In this time period, the facilities at Harris, Lyon, and Baker Woods Forest Preserves were significantly upgraded. Additional properties were acquired and construction projects at Subat Forest Preserve, Maramech Forest Preserve, and the Shuh Shuh Gah Canoe Launch added more sites for the public to use. These newer facilities largely mirrored existing facilities with their picnic shelters and trails.

As land was acquired from the 2003 and 2007 open space referendums, additional preserves were improved with public facilities. Hoover Forest Preserve and the Ellis House & Equestrian Center provided the District with opportunities to diversify its facilities with tent campsites, bunkhouses, environmental education buildings, equestrian facilities, and multi-purpose spaces. Jay Woods Forest Preserve, Millbrook South Forest Preserve, and Blackberry Trails Forest Preserve were all acquired and improved with public use facilities during this time period.

b. Preserve & Facility Chart
Complete

c. Preserve Summaries
Complete

d. Preserve Maps
Complete
### Facility Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Name</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Parking</th>
<th>Trails</th>
<th>Picnic Shelters</th>
<th>Drinking Water</th>
<th>Bathrooms</th>
<th>Fishing</th>
<th>Tent Camping</th>
<th>Bunkhouse</th>
<th>Baseball Field</th>
<th>Horse Arena</th>
<th>Sled Hill</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

1 Ellis House
2 Fox Valley Park District
3 Hoover has three bunkhouses for overnight camping
4 Meadowhawk Lodge
5 Seasonal
BAKER WOODS FOREST PRESERVE

Address: 2939 Route 52, Minooka
13986 McKanna Road, Minooka (Ellis House & Equestrian Center)

Township: Seward

Total Acres: 253

Existing Facilities - 2939 Route 52:
- Parking: Yes  Spacing: 18
- Trails: Yes  Miles: 3
- Shelter: Yes  Number: 2  Tables: 4
- Restroom: Yes (seasonal)
- V.I. Sign: Yes
- Water: No
- Other: Storage building

Existing Facilities - 13986 McKanna Road, Minooka (Ellis House & Equestrian Center):
- Parking: Yes  Spacing: 85
- Trails: Yes  Miles: 3
- Shelter: No  Number: 0  Tables: 4
- Restroom: Yes
- V.I. Sign: Yes
- Water: Yes
- Other: Equestrian facilities - stable, indoor & outdoor arenas, storage building
  Ellis House

Acquisition History:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquired From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Acres</th>
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</table>

Natural Communities: Open woodland, floodplain forest, grassland, stream

Baker Woods Forest Preserve consists of the Aux Sable Creek and its associated woodlands, and row crop fields. Pastures and hay fields associated with Ellis House & Equestrian Center occupy the northwest section of the preserve. A small gravel parking lot and associated amenities are located at the Route 52 entrance. A multi-use trail was constructed in 2012.

The Aux Sable Creek is one of the highest quality streams in Kendall County and northeastern Illinois. The corridor along the creek is predominately mesic maple-oak woodlands, although there are some floodplain forests along the Aux Sable. A small prairie restoration is located near the Route 52 entrance and a few ephemeral wetlands dot the woodlands each spring. Eventually, row crop fields will be restored to natural areas.
BLACKBERRY TRAIL FOREST PRESERVE

Address: Caliendo Circle, Montgomery

Township: Bristol

Total Acres: 154

Existing Facilities:

Parking: No*  
Trails: Yes  
Shelter: No  
Restroom: No  
V.I. Sign: No  
Water: No  
Other:

Spaces:  
Miles: 1.84  
Number:

Tables:

* Parking and other facilities are available at Blackberry Trails Park operated by the Fox Valley Park District.

Acquisition History:

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<tr>
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Blackberry Trail FP was created through a cooperative effort between the District, Village of Montgomery, and various development companies. All of the property was acquired through dedication agreements with the developers, who also paid for prairie seeding and trail construction. A partnership with the Fox Valley Park District allows access to this preserve through the adjacent Blackberry Trails Park.

This preserve creates a nearly contiguous greenway along the Blackberry Creek from the Kendall-Kane line to Galena Road. Although there are little remnant natural areas, this preserve and other adjacent open spaces shows the value of prairie restorations, naturalized stormwater detention, and greenway corridors in a highly developed landscape.
HARRIS FOREST PRESERVE

Address: 10460 Route 71, Yorkville

Township: Kendall

Total Acres: 92

Existing Facilities:
- Parking: Yes
- Spacing: 100
- Trails: Yes
- Miles: 2.67
- Shelter: Yes
- Number: 7
- Tables: 70
- Restroom: Yes
- V.I. Sign: Yes
- Water: Yes
- Other: Sled hill
- Horse arena
- Ballfield
- Maintenance buildings (2)

Acquisition History:

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<tr>
<th>Acquired From</th>
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Natural Communities:
Open woodland, grassland, stream, pond

Harris Forest Preserve is one of the most used of the Kendall County Forest Preserves. The facilities have been significantly upgraded since the late 1990s. The maintenance buildings are part of a farmstead that used to be on the site. Leifheit Lake is a man-made lake that was created in the early 1970s, with the spoils being used to form the sled hill.

The natural areas of Harris FP consist mainly of oak-maple woodlands. Recent restoration efforts have increased the herbaceous plant coverage of sizable sections of the woodlands. A number of unused former turf areas have been covert to meadows and prairies and add important habitat buffers to the woodlands. Small, intermittent streams flow through the woodlands and into Leifheit Lake.
HENNEBERRY FOREST PRESERVE

Address: Cherry Road, Oswego

Township: Na-Au-Say

Total Acres: 217

Existing Facilities:

- Parking: No
- Trails: No
- Shelter: No
- Restroom: No
- V.I. Sign: No
- Water: No
- Other:

Spaces: Miles: Number: Tables:

Acquisition History:

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Natural Communities:

Open woodland, grassland, shrubland

This site contains rolling grasslands, shrublands, and some forested areas. Approximately 100 acres are in row crop fields as of 2014. There is no direct access to Henneberry as of 2014. The grasslands and shrublands at Henneberry are uncommon in Kendall County and a number of increasingly rare bird species breed in these habitats. Future planning for Henneberry will balance public use with the breeding requirements of these species. Henneberry has future planned connections to Waa Kee Sha Park owned by the Oswegoland Park District.
HOLLENBACK SUGARBUSH FOREST PRESERVE

Address: Route 71, Yorkville

Township: Fox

Total Acres: 46

Existing Facilities:

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Acquisition History:

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Natural Communities:

Open woodlands, forest, stream

Hollenback Sugarbush was acquired by the District from descendants of one of the earliest families to settle in Kendall County. For many years, the area was home to a maple tapping operation. The preserve name acknowledges the Hollenback family and the history of site. Besides the large sugar maples, the preserve also contains oak woodlands and a stretch of the Hollenback Creek.
Address: 11285 Fox Road, Yorkville

Township: Little Rock, Bristol, & Kendall

Total Acres: 393

Existing Facilities:
- Parking: Yes
- Spaces: 194
- Trails: Yes
- Miles: 6.64
- Shelter: Yes
- Number: 4
- Tables: 68
- Restroom: Yes
- V.I. Sign: No
- Water: Yes

Other: Bunkhouses (3)
Meadowhawk Lodge
Staff residence
Maintenance building (2)
Education building (2)
Volunteer building

Group and family campsites
Neshnabe'k Village
Sled hill
Ballfield
Fox River decks (2)
Amphitheater

Acquisition History:

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<td>4,145,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Natural Communities: Open woodland, floodplain forest, fen, seep, grassland, prairie, stream

This former Boy Scout camp is the largest and most used preserve in Kendall County. Since 2007, nearly all of the buildings and infrastructure at Hoover FP have been upgraded and renovated. Hoover FP is the central location for many of the District’s environmental education programs. The preserve is also the home of the Kendall County Outdoor Education Center, which is an educational cooperative of the Regional Office of Education. These facilities make Hoover FP the environmental education center of Kendall County.

Hoover FP has a number of facilities that are available for rental by the public - bunkhouses, family campsites, group campsites and Meadowhawk Lodge.

Hoover FP possesses a deep water well, pump station, and water mains that service all of the facilities at the site. The preserve also has its own sewage treatment facility, an aerator lagoon system that is located on the west side of Hoover. A building that used to house an indoor pool currently stands vacant on the property. Five buildings formerly on the property were demolished by the District.

Hoover FP has approximately 0.75 miles of Fox River frontage and the associated bluff and ravine system. Mixed mesic woodlands dominate the bluffs, while wet-mesic woodlands are found in the ravines. A number of seeps are located both on the Fox River bluffs and on the sides of the ravines. Hoover has a number of fields, mostly planted in cool season grass cover by the scouts years ago. Three areas of Hoover were planted with trees by the scouts. A former row crop field on the west side of Hoover is being restored to tallgrass prairie.
JAY WOODS FOREST PRESERVE

Address: 860 Creek Road, Plano

Township: Little Rock

Total Acres: 120

Existing Facilities:

- Parking: Yes  Spaces: 56
- Trails: Yes  Miles: 1.8
- Shelter: Yes  Number: 1  Tables: 8
- Restroom: Yes
- V.I. Sign: Yes
- Water: Yes
- Other: Overlook deck  Council ring
- Corn crib

Acquisition History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquired From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Conservation Foundation</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robb</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>750,000</td>
<td>750,000</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Natural Communities:

- Savanna, open woodland, prairie, stream

Jay Woods FP was acquired through a donation by Arlene and Dale Robb, as the property had been in Arlene's family since the 1850s. With the assistance of The Conservation Foundation as the holder of the donated parcel and a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the District was able to acquire the 120 at no cost. The District repurposed the 1950s corn crib as the trail head complete with interpretive signage.

Jay Woods contains 45 acres of woodlands east of Creek Road. These woodlands contain a variety of habitat types including oak savannas, mesic woodlands, and wet-mesic woodlands. The Little Rock Creek bisects the woodlands. The 75 acres on the west side of the preserve are being restored to tallgrass prairie and also have naturalized stormwater detention areas.
LYON FOREST PRESERVE

Address: 8300 Van Emmon Road, Yorkville

Township: Bristol & Kendall

Total Acres: 44.5

Existing Facilities:
- Parking: Yes
- Trails: Yes
- Shelter: No
- Restroom: No
- V.I. Sign: No
- Water: No
- Other:

Spaces: 12
Miles: 1.33

Acquisition History:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquired From</th>
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<th>Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Acres</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lyon</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>44.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Natural Communities:
- Open woodland, fen, seep, prairie, stream

Lyon FP contains a very diverse mixture of woodlands, seeps, fens, and tiny patches of remnant prairie. Lyon Creek bisects the preserve as it flows to meet the Fox River at the north edge of the site. Lyon FP was created when Frances Lyon donated property to the District in 1970. Mrs. Lyon also donated property to the Kendall County Historical Society that is today Lyon Farm.

Lyon FP contains narrow footpaths and links up to the Richard Young FP to the south. Although Lyon FP does not possess any public use facilities besides parking and trails, more facilities can be utilized by visitors at the Richard Young FP.
MARAMECH FOREST PRESERVE

Address: 14780 Griswold Springs Drive, Plano

Township: Little Rock

Total Acres: 92

Existing Facilities:
- Parking: Yes  Spaces: 19
- Trails: Yes  Miles: 0.4
- Shelter: Yes  Number: 1  Tables: 5
- Restroom: Yes
- V.I. Sign: Yes
- Water: Yes
- Other: Overlook deck

Acquisition History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquired From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First National Bank Trust</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>56,800</td>
<td>28,400</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Land Trade</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Natural Communities:
Open woodland, northern flatwoods, seep, prairie, marsh

Maramech Forest Preserve was the first acquisition of the Kendall County Forest Preserve District, but did not have public access until the early 2000s. Much of the site is a designated Illinois Nature Preserve, identifying it as one of the highest quality sites of its type in all of Illinois. The Nature Preserve designation provides additional protections, and also restrict some uses of the site. Other sections of the site are designated as Nature Preserve buffer areas.

Maramech contains high quality northern flatwoods, an uncommon habitat that only occurs with the right combination of topography, hydrology, and soils. The flatwoods are located in a basin surrounded by wooded bluffs on three sides. The flatwoods contain a unique assemblage of wetland and mesic plant species. Management of the flatwoods is ongoing, with a major focus on keeping invasive plant species under control.
MILLBROOK NORTH FOREST PRESERVE

Address: Fox River Drive, Millbrook

Township: Fox

Total Acres: 294

Existing Facilities:

Parking: No
Spaces: No
Trails: No
Miles: No
Shelter: No
Number: Tables:
Restroom: No
V.I. Sign: No
Water: No
Other: Silo, equipment shed

Acquisition History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquired From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lee</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>9,100,000</td>
<td>4,926,400</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Natural Communities:

Open woodland, floodplain forest, prairie, marsh, stream

This preserve stretches for nearly one mile along the Fox River. The site contains high quality mesic woodlands, marsh, and the Hollenbach Creek. Millbrook South and Millbrook North were acquired from the same property owner, preserving over 600 acres and 1.75 miles of Fox River frontage in the largest acquisition by the District.
MILLBROOK SOUTH FOREST PRESERVE

Address: Fox River Drive, Millbrook

Township: Fox

Total Acres: 308

Existing Facilities:
- Parking: Yes
- Spaces: 15
- Trails: Yes
- Miles: 2.65
- Shelter: No
- Number: Tables: 1
- Restroom: No
- V.I. Sign: No
- Water: No
- Other: Barn, corn crib, grain bins

Acquisition History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquired From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lee</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>11,900,000</td>
<td>1,250,000</td>
<td>308</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Natural Communities:
- Savanna, open woodland, prairie, fen, seep, stream

This preserve stretches for nearly one mile along the Fox River. The site contains high quality mesic woodlands, seeps, oak savanna, and a fen. Approximately 70 acres of tallgrass prairie are being restored. Millbrook South and Millbrook North were acquired from the same property owner, preserving over 600 acres and 1.75 miles of Fox River frontage in the largest acquisition by the District.
MILLINGTON FOREST PRESERVE

Address: Fox River Drive, Millbrook
Township: Fox
Total Acres: 198

Existing Facilities:
- Parking: No
- Trails: No
- Shelter: No
- Restroom: No
- V.I. Sign: No
- Water: No
- Other:

Spaces:
- Miles:
- Number:
- Tables:

Acquisition History:
- Acquired From: Bright
- Year: 2010
- Type: Fee Simple
- Cost: 1,584,125
- Grants
- Acres: 198

Natural Communities:
- Savanna, open woodland, grassland, pond

This site contains a remnant bur oak savanna adjacent to Crimmins Road, six man-made ponds, grasslands, a stream and farm fields.
NEWARK FOREST PRESERVE

Address: Townhouse Road, Newark

Township: Big Grove

Total Acres: 42

Existing Facilities:
Parking: No  Trails: No  Shelter: No  Restroom: No  V.I. Sign: No  Water: No  Other:
Spaces:  Miles:  Number:  Tables:

Acquisition History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquired From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friestad</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>177,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Natural Communities:
Prairie, stream

This preserve contains restored prairies, woodlands, and a stretch of Clear Creek. Pedestrian access to the preserve can be made through the adjacent Newark Community Park.
Address:

Township: Kendall

Total Acres: 102

Existing Facilities:
- Parking: No
- Trails: No
- Shelter: No
- Restroom: No
- V.I. Sign: No
- Water: No
- Other: Ranch house, storage shed - Pigott property
          Home and storage building - Pickerill property

Acquisition History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquired From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pickerill</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Donation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pigott</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>4,227,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Natural Communities:
- Open woodland, grassland, pond

This preserve contains quality open woodlands, rolling grasslands, and two man-made ponds. The preserve has terrific views of the east of Reservation Woods and the Morgan Creek valley. Part of this preserve was donated to the District and is held in a life estate.
RICHARD YOUNG FOREST PRESERVE

Address: 8225 Route 71, Yorkville
Township: Bristol & Kendall
Total Acres: 130.17

Existing Facilities:
- Parking: Yes  Spaces: 45
- Trails: Yes  Miles: 1.55
- Shelter: Yes  Number: 2  Tables: 9
- Restroom: Yes
- V.I. Sign: Yes
- Water: Yes
- Other: Overlook deck  Council ring

Acquisition History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquired From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cole Taylor Bank</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>770,000</td>
<td>388,500</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killian</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>804,250</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>32.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Natural Communities:
- Open woodland, seep, prairie, stream

The core area of the Richard Young FP was the first major acquisition by the District in nearly 25 years and ushered in a new era of preserving open space. The preserve has suprising topography and a diverse assemblage of habitats, including mesic woodlands, wet-mesic woodlands, seeps, and restored prairies.

Young FP is bordered on the north by Lyon FP. Lyon Creek meanders through both preserves on its way to the Fox River. Young FP is named for lifelong Kendall County resident Richard Young, who was instrumental in preserving many natural areas in the Fox River valley and beyond.
SHUH SHUH GAH CANOE LAUNCH

Address: 7488 Valley Lane, Millbrook

Township: Fox

Total Acres: 3.5

Existing Facilities:
- Parking: Yes  Spaces: 16
- Trails: No  Miles: 
- Shelter: Yes  Number: 1  Tables: 2
- Restroom: Seasonal
- V.I. Sign: No
- Water: Yes
- Other: Canoe launch
  Steel truss Fox River bridge

Acquisition History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquired From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd Order of St. Francis</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>89,293</td>
<td>89,293</td>
<td>0.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>30,972</td>
<td>30,972</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soulsby</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>77,828</td>
<td>77,828</td>
<td>0.98</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fox Township</td>
<td></td>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.15</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Shuh Shuh Gah is located on the Fox River and is composed primarily of parcels acquired through the FEMA buy-out program following the incredible flood of 1996. Although there is little in the way of natural areas at the site, it does provide public access to the Fox River, which is limited south of Silver Springs State Park.

Also on this site and owned by the District is the historic Millbrook Bridge. This steel truss bridge dates to 1897 and while in need of repairs, promises to be a vital recreational link in the future.
SUBAT FOREST PRESERVE

Address: 4845 Eldamain Road, Plano

Township: Little Rock

Total Acres: 68

Existing Facilities:
- Parking: Yes
- Spaces: 19
- Trails: Yes
- Miles: 0.98
- Shelter: Yes
- Number: 1
- Restroom: Yes
- V.I. Sign: Yes
- Water: Yes
- Other: Overlook deck

Acquisition History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquired From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subat</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>692,111</td>
<td>506,800</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County of Kendall</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Natural Communities:
- Savanna, open woodland, prairie, sedge meadow, marsh, stream

Subat FP contains oak savanna, mesic woodlands, sedge meadow wetlands, restored tallgrass prairie, and the Rob Roy Creek. The preserve is named for John and Mary Subat, who sold the property at under fair market value and made several substantial financial donations to the District.
OTHER PARCELS

FOX RIVER ISLANDS
The District owns five islands in the Fox River south of the Route 34 bridge in Oswego.

Acquisition History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquired From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Donation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
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</table>

FOX RIVER BIKE TRAIL
These parcels are located between Van Emmon Road and Saw Wee Kee Park and were purchased as an eventual part of the Fox River Bike Trail.

Acquisition History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquired From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barber-Greene</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>2,443</td>
<td>1,221</td>
<td>0.42</td>
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</table>

CANNONBALL SEDGE MEADOW
This site contains both a quality sedge meadow along the Blackberry Creek and a naturalized detention basin.

Acquisition History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquired From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Acres</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Donation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10.71</td>
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</table>

SCHESSLER FEN
This site contains a very high quality fen wetland along the Blackberry Creek.

Acquisition History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquired From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schessler</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Donation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

McDANIEL PROPERTY
This joint acquisition between the District and the Village of Minooka contains floodplain forest, grasslands, and Aux Sable Creek frontage.

Acquisition History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquired From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McDaniel</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>365,552</td>
<td>213,276</td>
<td>18.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OTHER PARCELS

RESERVATION WOODS
The District owns two parcels of this high quality woodland located between Henneberry and Pickerill-Pigott Forest Preserve.

Acquisition History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquired From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gabel</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hugart</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>185,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FREEMAN PROPERTY
This site is located on the Fox River on the west side of Kendall County.

Acquisition History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquired From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Acres</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freeman</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>156,600</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

TUCKER-MILLINGTON FEN
This site is an Illinois Nature Preserve and contains several state endangered and threatened plant species.

Acquisition History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquired From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tucker</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.5</td>
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</table>
Learning through nature at Natural Beginnings Preschool

It's ok for kids to get a little muddy at this school

By Lisa Welz

All bundled up in winter coats, snow pants, hats, gloves, and mud-proof boots, 10 three and four year olds vibe with energy and excitement. They are about to set out on a hike through the woods with their teacher.

There are leaves, branches, and mud everywhere, once they have slid across the bit of ice that hasn't yet melted. There are no calls to stay on a trail, to not get dirty, or to put down a stick before someone gets hurt. One little girl finds a nice squishy bit of mud and steps right in with one foot and it makes a fun squelching sound as she pulls it out.

The kids make a beeline to a very large tree they call the “Grandpa tree” where they give it a hug, join hands in a circle, and sing it a song. This is a daily routine at Natural Beginnings Early Childhood Program run by the Kendall County Forest Preserve (KCFP).

Lead teacher Megan Gessler, who develops curriculum and oversees all aspects of it, loves every moment she spends with the kids. She said, “This, for me personally, has been the most rewarding place to work, where parents and the teachers make an awesome team to help make the kids the best they can be. I’ve never seen it like this anywhere three and four year olds, while the other is for four and five year olds.

Next year, the maximum will increase from 10 students per class to 12. “It’s amazing the boom that has happened in outdoor education for little children. I think we’re going to see an explosion in the next few years,” Gessler said.

She explained that the program, begun by Jessica Pierson, was eventually taken over by the Forest Preserve District, and has “Bloomed and grown since. It has changed a lot, curriculum-wise as well, but it still has that same, environmentally-driven curriculum.”

“We are not a typical kindergarten-readiness program that you would find at, say, a regular, or typical, preschool. We don’t sit the kids down with worksheets at a desk and make them write out their ABC’s or something like that. We don’t have them write their address or telephone number,” Gessler said, adding that they took elements from German Forest Kindergarten and “married it to American preschool. It’s kind of a hodgepodge, but it works really well.”

At Natural Beginnings, they take the kids outside and, she says, “It seems to be the best place for them to absorb and to learn. If we’re talking about numbers, we’ll have them count things outside. Learning letters also takes place

Holding a pencil can be hard for young children so the school finds other ways, such as this, to build confidence and a love of learning, she explained. “So they can take a stick and write in the mud, or in the snow, and they’re not feeling the pressure of a worksheet and having their friends look at what they’re doing and feeling like I can’t do this, what do I do? We encourage them and say, absolutely, take your finger and write that in the mud. It’s a different kind of environment for them to learn, but it seems to me, and to other educators, that it just seemed a natural fit.”

Another facet of the program is acceptable risk. “When we’re outside with the children, we want them to challenge themselves physically. We want them to climb the trees and to go off-trail. When they’re here with us, they are outside with naturalists. We know not to step on the spring beauties when they’re coming up; we know where they can be off-trail and it won’t be a detriment to our forest preserve. We want them to feel confident in their own physical self, with their physical world. It’s great to watch the kids develop over two years.”

Although this may seem unique, Gessler said there are other forest preserves, parks districts, and nature centers who also have nature-based learning programs. In fact, they have partnered with Red Oak Nature
Natural Beginnings Preschool opens Nature Exploration Station

from page one

Botanic Gardens, Chicago Park District and Emily Oaks Nature Center in Skokie have all visited Natural Beginnings Preschool classes and talk so that they could open up a similar program at their facility.

The daily structure for the Natural Beginnings program is loose, allowing freedom to adjust based on student needs. It always begins with a significant amount of time outside so students are dropped off, dressed for the weather that day, which saves time for the teachers. Once they return to the building, off come the outer layers and on go slippers they keep in their cubbies. Joining in circle time, teachers work on literacy development and calendar, followed by a snack, chores, and station time activities.

Gessler said they have had many different themed units so far this school year, including plant life cycle, rocks and fossils, night creatures, mammals, animal homes, tracking, winter, and amphibians and reptiles. Currently they are studying weather and that will be followed by insects and, lastly, a unit on spring.

They also have a number of animals to care for, including a turtle, walking sticks, fish, and hissing cockroaches. The students care for them as part of their chores, and, Gessler said with a grin, love having a chance to pet the cockroaches.

Each month parents receive a newsletter, outlining what the children will be studying that month and offering highlights from the past month. Also included are curriculum notes outlining the books children will be reading with the teacher, what they will focus on in math and literacy, which letter and vocabulary will be worked on, and how they will focus on gross and fine motor skills. As an example, she said, children will soon be looking for things that are in the shape of a C while on their daily hike.

“Sometimes, when we go on a hike, I’ll say what starts with a T (making the a kids’ hideaway, herb gardens, a bench and stepping stones, as well as a tunnel entrance and a gated entrance. Children’s Nature Initiative, formed by family and friends of Tansey, has helped Gessler redevelop the whole acre, with Stephanie’s Garden as the cornerstone.

The Nature’s Exploration Station is what Gessler calls an “anti-playground” where children have a chance to reconnect with their environment through the use of natural items and design elements. In the gross motor area, children will have the chance to climb on logs and rocks, and maybe crawl through a hollowed out log. There will also be a stage area where an impromptu performance can be held and natural blocks for building things. The fine motor area is a space for children to sit and play with rocks, shells, and pine cones.

There will be several groups, such as the Yorkville High School music department, Yorkville Performing Arts Center, and Fox River Academy of Music, giving performances, and many other organizations who will also be on hand to support the effort that day and do projects with the kids, including the Yorkville Garden Club, Kendall Arts Guild, and the Yorkville High School art department.

The whole project has been a dream of Gessler’s for a couple of years, and when she heard Tansey and Dr. Natalie Lambajian-Drummond talking about the need for a children’s garden and nature play space while she was at Whole Child Pediatrics, she was excited to share her own ideas. She told them she had the space to build it, but needed funding.

“This is in honor of Stephanie, because about two months after we had that talk, she passed away unexpectedly. So Dr. Natalie and I got together and said, ok, we’re going to make this happen,” Gessler says, adding Savannah, above, collects seven leaves while on a hike through the woods at Hoover Outdoor Education Center, where Natural Beginnings Preschool is held. Below, Payton gathers sticks that he said would be used to build his mom a house.