KENDALL COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
PLANNING AD-HOC COMMITTEE

AGENDA

TUESDAY
APRIL 22, 2014

3:30 P.M.
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

III. PLANNING DISCUSSION

IV. OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

V. ADJOURNMENT
Kendall County Forest Preserve District
Master Plan
Table of Contents

1. Introduction
   a. History
   b. Organization
   c. Mission Statement and Goals
   d. Master Plan Goals & Objectives
   e. Countywide Forest Preserve Map

2. Kendall County Natural Resources

3. Inventory of Existing Preserves & Facilities
   a. Overview
   b. Preserve & Facility Chart
   c. Preserve Summaries
   d. Preserve Maps

4. Capital Projects
   a. Overview
   b. Capital Project Planning
   c. Goals & Objectives

5. Land Acquisition
   a. Overview
   b. Land Acquisition Evaluation Process
   c. Land Acquisition Chart
   d. Land Acquisition Maps
   e. Goals & Objectives

6. Management & Administration
   a. Organization
      i. Overview
      ii. Commission Organizational Chart
      iii. Staff Organization Chart
      iv. District Guidelines
   b. Administration
      i. Overview
      ii. Activities
      iii. Goals & Objectives
   c. Marketing & Outreach
      i. Overview
      ii. Activities
      iii. Goals & Objectives
7. Finances & Budget
   i. Overview
   ii. Activities
   iii. Goals & Objectives

8. Operations and Programming
   a. Grounds & Natural Resources
      i. Overview
      ii. Activities
      iii. Goals & Objectives
   b. Environmental Education
      i. Overview
      ii. Activities
      iii. Goals & Objectives
   c. Special Facilities
      i. Overview
      ii. Activities
      iii. Goals & Objectives
   d. Volunteer Programs
      i. Overview
      ii. Activities
      iii. Goals & Objectives

9. Glossary & Appendix
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 Citizens 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 land 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 2014 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 existing preserves have all been added to District holdings in the past decade. This additional acreage has permitted the District to expand it 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 resource 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.

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.

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 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 been converted to other land uses or have been invaded by trees and shrubs.

ii. 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 minimal 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).

In Kendall County, there are 53 native tree species. Many of these species 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 that are important for wildlife.
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 Animals
Because of the varied habitats 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.

vi. 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 an area’s 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. As only a limited number of wetlands remain intact, these are especially vital as refuges for plants and animals dependant on these natural areas.

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 Animals
Wetlands are extremely valuable natural areas as breeding grounds, nesting sites, and migratory stops for wildlife. Many species of herps, especially frogs, toads, and salamanders, depend on wetlands for breeding. These same species spend much of their adult lives in upland areas, but return to wetlands each spring to breed.

Many species of waterfowl, wading birds, and shorebirds utilize wetlands for rest and feed stops on their bi-annual migrations. Resident birds of all sorts nest in and around wetlands.

While dragonflies may be one of the most recognizable insects of local wetlands, damselflies, butterflies, and a host of less visible insects populate these important natural areas.

v. Wetland Restoration & Management
Due to the severe alterations that have been made to many wetlands, restoring these natural areas can involve more intensive planning and aggressive techniques. Planning for wetland restorations may require engineering, soil testing, and groundwater studies. Restoration work may include disabling drain tiles, earth-moving, and installation of water control structures.

Wetland restorations also may include seeding and/or planting with native plant species, control of invasive plant species such as Reed Canary Grass (Phalaris arundinacea) and Purple Loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria), and controlled burning.

D. Rivers and Streams
Kendall County is divided into two watersheds – the land that drains into the Fox River and its tributaries, and the land that drains into the Aux Sable Creek and its tributaries.
Approximately 60% of the county drains into the Fox River, while the remaining 40% drains into the Aux Sable Creek.

A high number of waterways in Kendall County are of high quality in terms of water quality and biotic diversity. The Fox River has rebounded from many decades of pollution and indifference to become both a natural and recreation resource. Fisherman and paddlers recreate on the river, while many others enjoy its beauty from trails and parks.

Fox River tributaries such as the Big Rock Creek and Little Rock Creek are some of the higher quality streams in northeastern Illinois. These streams possess diverse fish, mussel, and aquatic insect populations. Streams such as the Blackberry Creek, Hollenback Creek, and Waubonsie Creek have also improved in water quality over the past few decades. Dam removals on the Blackberry Creek and Waubonsie Creek have reconnected parts of those streams to improve fish habitat and spawning.

The Aux Sable Creek, for covering such a large amount of Kendall County, is much lesser known than the Fox River. While it does not currently have some of the recreational opportunities as the Fox River, the Aux Sable is a very high quality stream based on its water quality and populations of fish, mussels, and aquatic insects. While many of the headwater streams of the Aux Sable Creek have been channelized, the main stem retains its original charm and character.

Many of the waterways in Kendall County have benefitted from watershed planning efforts over the past 15-20 years. These efforts bring together open space agencies, non-profit organizations, municipalities, wastewater treatment district, businesses, farmers, and others to plan for the protection and improvement of our waterways. The Fox River, Blackberry Creek, Big & Little Rock Creeks, Blackberry Creek, Waubonsie Creek, and Aux Sable Creek have all had watershed plans created. Many challenges remain for our waterways, especially as watersheds transform from agriculture to suburban landscapes. Meeting those challenges will take the continued cooperation of all of those who reside, work, and recreate in our watersheds.
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Chart</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Facility</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker Woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackberry Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henneberry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hollenback Sugarbush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay Woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maramech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millbrook - North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millbrook - South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plelerill-Pigott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shuh Shuh Gah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Parcels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
</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  Spaces: 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  Spaces: 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:

<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>Baker</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young American's Club</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>22,500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandstrom</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>1,117,390</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>64.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>1,909,000</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>95.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sova</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>20,723</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellis</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>2,440,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>44.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seward Township</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>199,875</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devries</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>110,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10.76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Baker Woods Forest Preserve consists of the Aux Sable Creek and it 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:

<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>Montgomery Crossing LLC</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackberry Crossing LLC</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dickson</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>24.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackberry Pointe LLC</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>52.47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
- Spaces: 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:

<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>Harris</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>80,900</td>
<td>40,450</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KC Recreation Assoc.</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 converted 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:

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>Henneberry Woods LLC</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>5,312,189</td>
<td>780,000</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Spaces: Miles: 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>Welles</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>670,855</td>
<td></td>
<td>46.26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)  Group and family campsites
  Meadowhawk Lodge  Neshnabe'k Village
  Staff residence  Sled hill
  Maintenance building (2)  Ballfield
  Education building (2)  Fox River decks (2)
  Volunteer building  Amphitheater

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>Chicago Area Council - Boy Scouts</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>6,394,275</td>
<td>6,119,391</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Openlands</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>780,525</td>
<td>750,000</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Openlands</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>7,020,524</td>
<td>5,930,538</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Openlands</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<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
- Trails: Yes
- Shelter: Yes
- Restroom: Yes
- V.I. Sign: Yes
- Water: Yes
- Other: Overlook deck, Council ring, Corn crib

Spaces: 56
Miles: 1.8
Number: 1
Tables: 8

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 interpretative 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  Spaces: 12
Trails: Yes  Miles: 1.33
Shelter: No  Number:
Restroom: No  Tables:
V.I. Sign: No
Water: No
Other:

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>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
- Trails: No
- Shelter: No
- 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
<th>Spaces</th>
<th>Miles</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Tables</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2.65</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restroom</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.I. Sign</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Barn, corn crib, grain bins</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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>Bright</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>1,584,125</td>
<td></td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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.
Pickerill-Pigott Forest Preserve

Address:

Township: Kendall

Total Acres: 102

Existing Facilities:

Parking: No  Spaces:  
Trails: No  Miles:  
Shelter: No  Number:  
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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fox Township</td>
<td></td>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.15</td>
</tr>
</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  Tables: 4
- Restroom: Yes
- V.L. 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>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Donation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10.71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freeman</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Fee Simple</td>
<td>156,600</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Capital Projects

a. Overview
Since 2007 the Kendall County Forest Preserve District has completed a significant capital project program. Using funds from the 2007 Open Space Referendum and numerous grants, these capital projects have opened many new acres of Forest Preserve lands to the public, significantly upgraded facilities at existing preserves, enhanced visitor experiences and restored natural areas (see Appendix #).

Capital projects are defined using these criteria:
1. Lifespan of at least 3 years
2. Upgrade, repair or replacement of existing facilities
3. Construction of new facilities
4. Restoration or management of natural resources

Examples of capital projects range from the construction of improvements at Jay Woods Forest Preserve that includes parking lots, multi-use trails, picnic shelter, signage, restroom, overlook deck and prairie restoration with cost totaling $800,000 to the replacement of a well pump at Hoover Forest Preserve that cost $7500.

Capital projects that upgrade, repair or replace existing facilities will generally have a minimal impact on operating expenses. Construction of new facilities, especially those on a large scale, will have an effect on the operating budget as they will require additional resources to maintain.

The Forest Preserve District continues to have undeveloped properties that have little to no public access. The District will also continue to pursue acquisition of land in the future. All of these properties will eventually require capital projects in order to provide public access and preserve natural resources.

As a conservation organization, the Forest Preserve District is committed to environmentally sensitive and sustainable projects. Several District projects have included environmentally sensitive components such as using recycled materials, protecting natural areas from construction and utilizing solar and geothermal power.

b. Capital Project Planning
Planning for the construction, installation, and maintenance of large scale capital projects typically occur over many years. These projects generally require architectural, engineering and other professional services.

A number of factors will be considered when the District plans for capital projects. The factors include, but may not be limited to:
- Kendall County Forest Preserve District mission statement and goals.
- Kendall County Forest Preserve District Master Plan
- Public input
- Capital Project Budget
- Availability of capital project grant funding
- General Fund Budget

Since 2000, at preserves that have been opened for the first time or that have been upgraded, the District has striven to provide a number of basic amenities. These basic amenities include parking, restroom, entrance signage, visitor information kiosk, drinking water, picnic shelter and trails. The District has also transformed two sites – Hoover Forest Preserve and Ellis House & Equestrian Center – into special facilities that offer a wider array of uses and programming. As the District moves forward it will continually need to reassess the types of facilities that will meet the District’s mission and budgetary conditions, as well the public interest.

c. Goals & Objectives
   i. Establish and maintain five-year capital plan. Review and update the capital plan annually.
   ii. Develop standardized construction details for use in the District’s capital projects.
   iii. Solicit public input for capital projects.
   iv. Develop concept plans, cost estimates, and construction documents for capital projects as needed.
   v. Apply for and utilize grants to maximize capital project funds.
   vi. Develop a land use classification system to guide the location of capital improvements and protection of natural resources on District lands.
   vii. Partner with other government agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses and the public on the acquisition of multipurpose trail corridors and the construction of such trails.
   viii. Partner with the Illinois Department of Transportation and other agencies on the construction and maintenance of multipurpose trails along state routes in Kendall County. Formally accept maintenance of such trails as feasible.
   ix. Abide by Kendall County Planning, Building and Zoning Department codes and regulations for applicable capital projects.
   x. Construct and maintain facilities to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
   xi. Facilitate donations of funds, goods, services, and labor for use with capital projects.
4. Capital Projects

a. Overview
   Since 2007 the Kendall County Forest Preserve District has completed a significant capital project program. Using funds from the 2007 Open Space Referendum and numerous grants, these capital projects have opened many new acres of Forest Preserve lands to the public, significantly upgraded facilities at existing preserves, enhanced visitor experiences and restored natural areas (see Appendix #).

   Capital projects are defined using these criteria:
   1. Lifespan of at least 3 years
   2. Upgrade, repair or replacement of existing facilities
   3. Construction of new facilities
   4. Restoration or management of natural resources

   Examples of capital projects range from the construction of improvements at Jay Woods Forest Preserve that includes parking lots, multi-use trails, picnic shelter, signage, restroom, overlook deck and prairie restoration with cost totaling $800,000 to the replacement of a well pump at Hoover Forest Preserve that cost $7500.

   Capital projects that upgrade, repair or replace existing facilities will generally have a minimal impact on operating expenses. Construction of new facilities, especially those on a large scale, will have an effect on the operating budget as they will require additional resources to maintain.

   The Forest Preserve District continues to have undeveloped properties that have little to no public access. The District will also continue to pursue acquisition of land in the future. All of these properties will eventually require capital projects in order to provide public access and preserve natural resources.

   As a conservation organization, the Forest Preserve District is committed to environmentally sensitive and sustainable projects. Several District projects have included environmentally sensitive components such as using recycled materials, protecting natural areas from construction and utilizing solar and geothermal power.

b. Capital Project Planning
   Planning for the construction, installation, and maintenance of large scale capital projects typically occur over many years. These projects generally require architectural, engineering and other professional services.

   A number of factors will be considered when the District plans for capital projects. The factors include, but may not be limited to:
• Kendall County Forest Preserve District mission statement and goals.
• Kendall County Forest Preserve District Master Plan
• Public input
• Capital Project Budget
• Availability of capital project grant funding
• General Fund Budget

Since 2000, at preserves that have been opened for the first time or that have been upgraded, the District has striven to provide a number of basic amenities. These basic amenities include parking, restroom, entrance signage, visitor information kiosk, drinking water, picnic shelter and trails. The District has also transformed two sites – Hoover Forest Preserve and Ellis House & Equestrian Center – into special facilities that offer a wider array of uses and programming. As the District moves forward it will continually need to reassess the types of facilities that will meet the District’s mission and budgetary conditions, as well the public interest.

c. Goals & Objectives
   i. Establish and maintain five-year capital plan. Review and update the capital plan annually.
   ii. Develop standardized construction details for use in the District’s capital projects.
   iii. Solicit public input for capital projects.
   iv. Develop concept plans, cost estimates, and construction documents for capital projects as needed.
   v. Apply for and utilize grants to maximize capital project funds.
   vi. Develop a land use classification system to guide the location of capital improvements and protection of natural resources on District lands.
   vii. Partner with other government agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses and the public on the acquisition of multipurpose trail corridors and the construction of such trails.
   viii. Partner with the Illinois Department of Transportation and other agencies on the construction and maintenance of multipurpose trails along state routes in Kendall County. Formally accept maintenance of such trails as feasible.
   ix. Abide by Kendall County Planning, Building and Zoning Department codes and regulations for applicable capital projects.
   x. Construct and maintain facilities to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
   xi. Facilitate donations of funds, goods, services, and labor for use with capital projects.
5. Land Acquisition

a. Overview

Shortly after the Kendall County Forest Preserve District was created in 1964, it began to acquire property. A short flurry of purchases and donations ended in 1970 with the District owning just over 260 acres. Two of the early land purchases (Maramech Forest Preserve and Harris Forest Preserve) were partially funded by grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. A long land acquisition drought followed however, with the only property acquired between 1970 and 1992 being 8 donated acres.

In 1994 the District made its first significant purchase in nearly two and one-half decades with the acquisition of the Richard Young Forest Preserve, which was partially funded by a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Although it would be a few years before additional large tract acquisitions were made, the public discussions surrounding the purchase of the Richard Young FP showed that Kendall County residents were warming up to the idea of a much more active Forest Preserve District.

From the late 1990s into the early 2000s, the population of Kendall County was booming. With one of the fastest growing populations in the nation, many Kendall County residents were interested in seeing open space and natural areas preserved. In 2003, Kendall County voters approved a $5 million open space bond referendum providing the Forest Preserve District with, for the first time in its history, significant dollars to acquire open space. With the aid of grants and donations, the District acquired nearly 500 acres from 2003 to 2006. These acquisitions nearly doubled the size of the Forest Preserve District.

As the county population continued to grow at unprecedented levels, voters approved a $45 million open space bond referendum in 2007. Between 2007 and late 2013 the District acquired more than 1830 acres, nearly tripling its holdings. (Numerous capital improvement projects were also completed using bond funds from the 2007 referendum). The District also secured close to $8 million in land acquisition grant funding from 2007 to 2013.

As of 2014, the District has limited land acquisition dollars available between remaining bond referendum funds and funds acquired from the Land-Cash Ordinance.

b. Land Acquisition Evaluation Process

The District becomes aware of potential acquisitions in several ways:

1. The District contacts a landowner directly to determine if there is interest to sell property. If there is no interest, the District does not pursue any further.
2. Landowner or real estate agent contacts the District regarding an available property.
3. Resident informs the District of an available property.
4. District works with other government agencies, non-profits, and developers on preservation of open space.

Once a property is determined to be available, information regarding the property is gathered by staff and presented to the Board of Commissioners. Included in this information is the Land Acquisition Worksheet (Appendix) that will assist the commissioners in evaluating the property based on its physical characteristics. Other factors including, but not limited to price, threats to the property and grant requirements are considered by the commissioners when making land acquisition decisions.

Forest Preserve Commissioners, through staff or consultants, negotiate the purchase of property. When agreements are reached with a landowner, the Forest Preserve Commission approves an Acquisition Ordinance providing the officers and staff the authority to carry out necessary due diligence and to complete the acquisition.

The District utilizes fee simple purchases for the majority of its acquisitions. The District has acquired property via donations, dedication agreements with developers, partnerships with non-profits and the Kendall County Land-Cash Ordinance.

Funding for land acquisition comes from a variety of sources including, but not limited to open space bond referendums, state and federal grants and the Kendall County Land-Cash Ordinance.

c. Land Acquisition History and Maps
   Chart – complete, some updating needed

d. Land Acquisition Goals & Objectives
   - Apply for and utilize grants whenever possible to maximize land acquisition funds.
   - Create a list of high priority potential acquisition sites.
   - Consider a future open space acquisition bond referendum.
   - Utilize the Natural Treasures of Kendall County Plan as a guide for natural area and open space acquisitions (include map).
   - Expand existing preserves, especially those with limited opportunities for expansion or those with limited access.
   - Create and implement land acquisition procedures to streamline acquisition process.
   - Increase public awareness regarding land preservation efforts.
- Create greenway corridors along the Fox River and the significant creeks of Kendall County.
- Work in partnership with other governmental agencies, non-profit organizations and private citizens to maximize open space acquisition and preservation.
- Educate landowners on the benefits of land donations.
- Educate landowners and attorneys on the potential benefits and values of conservation easements.
- Educate landowners and attorneys on the variety of financial and estate planning techniques that can result in open space preservation.
- Work in partnership with the Kendall County Planning, Building and Zoning Department, municipalities and developers on conservation design as a means for the preservation of open space.
7. Finances & Budget

a. Overview
The Kendall County Forest Preserve District seeks to maintain and enhance sound fiscal practices and policies regarding collection of revenues, purchasing, contracts, payroll, auditing, insurance, investments and reporting.

The District currently utilizes the payroll, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and accounting systems of Kendall County. The Kendall County Treasurer is appointed every two years to serve as the Treasurer of the District.

The District maintains a general operating fund, capital funds, and special projects funds. The District’s Investment Policy guides how and where these funds are invested.

The Kendall County Forest Preserve District utilizes a variety of sources for funding operating expenses, land acquisition, capital projects, and programming. Many funding sources have restrictions on how they can be allocated or are sporadic in their availability.

Property Tax Levy
The yearly operating expenses of the District are funded predominately by a property tax levy. Expenses typically paid with property tax revenue include salaries, utilities, preserve maintenance, public programming, small equipment purchases, equipment maintenance, office supplies and insurance. The Downstate Forest Preserve Act prohibits property tax revenue collected for operating expenses from being used for the outright purchase of property. Property taxes collected that are to be used for operating expenses are deposited in the general fund budget.

The Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) determines the amount of revenue that can be generated by the property tax levy for operating expenses.

Land-Cash Ordinance
The Kendall County Land-Cash Ordinance requires that new residential developments provide for the open space needs of residents through either a dedication of property to the District or cash in lieu of land. Revenue generated through the Land-Cash Ordinance can be used for land acquisition and preserve development.

The Kendall County Land-Cash Ordinance applies only to new residences and housing developments that occur in unincorporated Kendall County. Residential developments within municipal boundaries are governed by the ordinances of that municipality and do not generate revenues for the District.

Revenues collected from the Land-Cash Ordinance are deposited by the Treasurer into a Land-Cash account.

Bonding Authority
The District possesses two types of bonding authority, non-referendum and referendum, which can generate revenue for land acquisition, preserve improvements and capital equipment purchases. Both types of bonds are repaid through property tax revenue.

Non-referendum bonding authority allows the District to issue a limited number of bonds determined by outstanding bond debt and interest rates. The Forest Preserve District Commission controls non-referendum bonding authority.

Referendum bonding authority allows the District to issue bonds for an amount not to exceed the statutory debt limit of the District. County residents control referendum bonding authority by voting to approve or disapprove of a referendum that is placed on the ballot by the District.

Grants
The District has been awarded a number of grants from a variety of state agencies, federal agencies and private foundations in recent years. While the vast majority of grants have been secured for land acquisition and capital improvements, grants have been utilized for staffing, programming and natural areas management. The District contracts with a grant administrator who assists with grant planning and prepares grant proposals.

List out grants/grantors specifically? – OSLAD, ICECF, RTP, Grand Vic?

Program and Facility Rental Fees
The District charges fees for certain programming and rental facilities. These fees help to offset the operational costs to provide the programming and to maintain the facilities. Program and facility rental fees are deposited into the District's general operating fund budget.

Farm License Revenue
The District has farm licenses agreements for several properties that have been acquired in recent years. Such licenses are authorized by the Downstate Forest Preserve Act and the revenues are deposited in the District's general operating fund budget.

b. Activities
   1. Collect, track and deposit program and facility rental fees.
   2. Collect, track and deposit farm license revenue.
   3. Collect, track and deposit grant revenue.
   4. Receive and process accounts payable.
   5. Develop annual general fund budget, annual capital budget and tax levy.
   6. Obtain quotes for goods, services and projects as needed.
   7. Request proposals for professional services as needed.
   8. Provide local, state, and federal agencies with necessary financial reports.

c. Goals & Objectives
1. Continue to review and improve the process and format of the annual general fund budget, capital budget and tax levies.
2. Continue to review and improve multi-year budgeting for operations and capital expenditures.
3. Review and improve the District’s investment policy as necessary.
4. Develop and institute new ways to gather and review pertinent financial information from District operations.
5. Maintain and improve standards for obtaining quotes and bids for goods, services, and projects.
6. Review District insurance purchased through Kendall County for value and cost. Determine the financial and operational effects of the District purchasing insurance coverage separate from Kendall County.
7. Review and implement recommendations of auditor as warranted.
8. Analyze the need, cost and benefit to hire financial staff.
10. Investigate and evaluate alternate revenue streams.
11. Investigate potential for an open space bond referendum.
12. Investigate potential for creating tax levies specific to employee retirement, Medicare and insurance.
13. Partner with applicable government agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses on cost saving and increased revenue initiatives.
8. Operations & Programming

a. Grounds & Natural Resources Department
   i. Overview
      The Grounds & Natural Resources Department is responsible for maintaining all
      of the facilities and natural areas of the District. This department is led by the
      Superintendent of Grounds and Natural Resources and is housed mainly at
      Harris Forest Preserve. Hoover Forest Preserve and Ellis House & Equestrian
      Center also have maintenance equipment, facilities, and staff specific to those
      sites.

      The Grounds & Natural Resources Department provides visitors with a quality
      experience through a high standard of maintenance, cleanliness, and service. The
      department is also charged with performing natural areas management projects
      in the District woodlands, prairies, and wetlands.

      Currently, the District has no staff specifically dedicated to natural resources
      work. While the Grounds & Natural Resources staff performs a variety of natural
      areas management projects each year, the District is limited in its ability to have a
      focused natural areas management program on a year round basis.

      The Grounds & Natural Resources staff also maintains the District’s vehicles and
      capital equipment. The department possesses several trucks, trailers, mowers,
      and tractors. In the future, the department will require additional equipment in
      order to perform its duties safely and more efficiently.

   ii. Activities
      a. Maintains turf grass.
      b. Maintains asphalt, limestone, woodchip, and dirt trails.
      c. Maintains picnic shelters, campsites, and baseball fields.
      d. Maintains wells, sewage treatment lagoon, septic fields and restroom
         buildings.
      e. Maintains bunkhouses, multipurpose event buildings, education buildings,
         horse stable, indoor riding arena and outdoor riding arenas.
      f. Maintains various maintenance, storage and ancillary structures.
      g. Open and close preserves daily.
      h. Interacts with preserve visitors.
      i. Prepares rental facilities for use by the public.
      j. Performs natural areas management.
      k. Maintains the District’s equipment.
      l. Assists other departments.
      m. Coordinate sheriff’s patrols.

   iii. Goals & Objectives
a. Keep the grounds and facilities of the District to a high standard of maintenance and cleanliness.
b. Maintain District facilities for the use and safety of the public, and for protection of natural resources.
c. Provide positive interactions with the public.
d. Maintain District equipment and vehicles.
e. Coordinate with the District’s volunteer programs to assist with achieving goals and objectives.
f. Partner with other agencies, community groups and youth groups to assist with achieving goals and objectives.
g. Continue to develop and implement a preventative maintenance schedule for District facilities and equipment.
h. Maintain the natural resources of the District through management and restoration projects.
i. Create natural areas maps and natural areas management plans for the preserves.
j. Encourage public input, participation, and feedback.
k. Evaluate the need and opportunity to hire staff specific to natural resources.
l. Evaluate additional capital equipment purchases for efficiency and employee safety.
m. Evaluate sheriff’s patrols, employee safety and public safety.
n. Evaluate the ability of Harris Forest Preserve to be a viable Grounds & Natural Resources center of operations in the future.

b. Environmental Education Department
   i. Overview
      The Environmental Education Department is responsible for creating and implementing a wide variety of educational programs offered by the District. The department is led by the Supervisor of Environmental Education and is based out of the main District offices in the Kendall County Historic Courthouse. The Laws of Nature Center located in the Historic Courthouse, and The Rookery building and Neshnabe’k Native American Village at Hoover Forest Preserve are administered by the Environmental Education Department.

Like other sections of the District, the Environmental Education Department has grown dramatically in recent years. The numbers of summer camps, school programs, recurring programs, and seasonal programs have expanded as public demand for these environmental education offerings has increased. The department also recently initiated an early childhood learning program that operates concurrently with the school year.

The Kendall County Outdoor Education Center (KCOEC) is located at Hoover Forest Preserve, but is not operated by the Forest Preserve District. Administered by the Regional Office of Education, the KCOEC is a cooperative of school districts that bus students to Hoover for outdoor education programming.
The KCOEC also does various other programs throughout the year, including several cooperative efforts with the District.

ii. Activities
   a. Conducts summer camps.
   b. Conducts programming for of school groups.
   c. Conducts recurring programs.
   d. Conducts seasonal and one-time programs.
   e. Conducts Natural Beginnings Early Childhood program.
   f. Partners with other agencies to conduct large programs and events.
   g. Maintains exhibits in the Laws of Nature Center.
   h. Maintains accession records for the Laws of Nature Center.
   i. With the Grounds & Natural Resources Department, maintains the Neshnabek Native American Village and Rookery building.
   j. Coordinates Hoover Volunteer Program.
   k. Assists with production of the District’s quarterly newsletter.
   l. Promotes environmental education programming via Facebook, email, flyers, events and print media.

iii. Goals & Objectives
   a. Continue to develop and offer a variety of quality environmental education programs and events to residents.
   b. Communicate environmental education programs and events to residents via print, electronic and other appropriate formats.
   c. Operate environmental education facilities to a high standard of maintenance, cleanliness and safety.
   d. Encourage public input, participation and feedback.
   e. Update interpretive signage in the preserves as needed.
   f. Continue to develop the Hoover Volunteer Program to assist with programming and facilities.
   g. Continue to develop and strengthen partnerships with traditional and non-traditional educators.
   h. Participate in applicable environmental education organizations.
   i. Evaluate potential online registration capability.
   j. Evaluate expenses and revenues of programs on a regular basis.
   k. Evaluate the location of the Laws of Nature Center as a viable, long-term education site.

c. Ellis House & Equestrian Center
   i. Overview
      The Ellis House & Equestrian Center location was acquired in 2008 and consists of 45 acres. Ellis is part of the 240 acre Baker Woods Forest Preserve that is located south and west of the house and stable. Ellis was opened in the summer of 2009.
Ellis House & Equestrian Center has two main centers of operations, house rentals and equestrian activities, although there is significant overlap between the two. House rentals involve the house, event tent and the grounds immediately surrounding the house. Operations related to rentals are administered by the Event Coordinator.

The equestrian activities involve the stable, indoor and outdoor riding arenas, pastures and hayfields. Ellis offers a variety of equestrian programming including riding lessons, children’s parties, summer camps and other special events. Ellis owns school horses that it utilizes for equestrian programming. The equestrian operations are administered by the Barn Manager.

The grounds and facilities of Ellis House & Equestrian Center are maintained by the Grounds & Natural Resources Department.

ii. Activities
a. Conducts riding lessons.
b. Conducts children’s parties.
c. Conducts summer camps.
d. Conducts Family Fun Night one time every month.
e. Conducts annual Reindeer Run 5K in December.
f. Conducts seasonal and one-time programs.
g. Partners with other agencies to conduct large programs and events.
h. Conducts wedding and other house rentals.
i. Coordinates Ellis House & Equestrian Center Volunteer Program.
j. Coordinates community service workers.
k. Assists with production of the District’s quarterly newsletter.
l. Promotes Ellis House & Equestrian Center via Facebook, email, flyers, events and print media.

i. Goals & Objectives
a. Continue to develop and offer quality equestrian programs and events to residents.
b. Continue to provide superior rental facilities and services.
c. Communicate Ellis facilities, programs and events to residents via print, electronic and other appropriate formats.
d. Operate Ellis to a high standard of maintenance, cleanliness, and safety.
e. Encourage public input, participation and feedback.
f. Continue to develop the Ellis House & Equestrian Center Volunteer Program to assist with programming and facilities.
g. Continue to develop and strengthen partnerships with other equestrian facilities and organizations.
h. Participate in applicable equestrian organizations.
i. Evaluate expenses and revenues of programs and facilities on a regular basis.
k. Special Facilities
   i. Overview
       The District operates two special facilities – Ellis House at Baker Woods Forest Preserve, and Meadowhawk Lodge at Hoover Forest Preserve.
   ii. Activities
   iii. Goals & Objectives

l. Volunteer Programs
   i. Volunteers are instrumental in assisting the District achieve its goals and objectives, and in fostering public involvement and appreciation in District efforts. Volunteers provide experience, knowledge and time to improve the facilities and programs of the District. The District has three distinct volunteer groups - the Natural Area Volunteer (NAV) Program, Ellis House & Equestrian Center Volunteer Program and the Hoover Volunteer Program.

   The Natural Area Volunteer Program was started in 200_. NAVs assist with natural areas management projects, monitor District trails, and participate in regional monitoring programs such as Plants of Concern and the Bird Conservation Network. The NAV Program is led the Natural Area Volunteer Coordinator, who handles all of the administration, training and scheduling for this group. The NAV Program utilizes an old scout staff building at Hoover Forest Preserve for storage and training space. The NAV Coordinator works with the Superintendent of the Grounds & Natural Resources Department to coordinate certain activities. The NAVs work District-wide in many of the preserves.

   The Ellis House & Equestrian Center Volunteer Program began in 2009 and volunteers assist with maintenance, programming, events and horse care. Staff members at Ellis are responsible for administering, training and coordinating the Ellis volunteers. The vast majority of Ellis volunteer time is spent on-site, with occasional time spent at other preserves or promotional events.

   The Hoover Volunteer Program was initiated in 2012. These volunteers assist with the care and use of the Neshnaber'k Native American Village, and in maintaining the planting beds and rain gardens at Hoover Forest Preserve. The Hoover Volunteer program is coordinated by one of the Naturalists in the Environmental Education Department. These volunteers work exclusively at Hoover Forest Preserve.

   ii. Activities
a. Collects and processes volunteer application forms, volunteer agreements, and background check forms.
b. Conducts volunteer orientations and trainings.
c. Supervises volunteer activities.
d. Communicates with volunteers regarding scheduling, projects, and volunteer related issues.
e. Tracks volunteer hours and projects.
f. Maintains volunteer files.
g. Maintains volunteer equipment and supplies.
h. Schedules and supervises volunteer workdays and events.
i. Coordinates with other agencies and organizations on projects.
j. Hosts volunteer appreciation events.

iii. Goals and Objectives
   a. Continue to improve volunteer related forms and documentation.
b. Develop and institute District-wide volunteer orientation.
c. Continue to improve and expand volunteer trainings.
d. Provide a safe working environment for all volunteers.
e. Provide positive interactions with the public.
f. Promote the volunteer opportunities of the District to attract additional volunteers.
g. Develop a consistent volunteer appreciation and acknowledgment program.
h. Encourage public input, participation, and feedback.
i. Continue to work cooperatively with other agencies and organizations on projects.
MASTER PLAN PROJECT LIST – FY14

1. Adopt Land Acquisition Procedures – Board of Commissioners

2. Restructure the various FP committees – Board of Commissioners

3. Update and adopt Employee Handbook – FP Director & Board of Commissioners

4. Update and adopt Record Retention Policy – FP Director & Board of Commissioners

5. Complete Human Resources Audit – FP Director, Board of Commissioners

6. Apply for land acquisition grant funding – FP Director & Board of Commissioners

7. Complete marketing plan in conjunction with Illinois Benedictine University – FP staff, FP Director, Board of Commissioners

8. Develop and institute new ways to gather and review pertinent financial information from District operations – FP Director, Board of Commissioners, County Finance Director

9. Review and improve the process and format of the annual general fund budget, capital budget, and tax levies – FP Director, Board of Commissioners, County Finance Director

10. Create and adopt annual report – FP Staff, FP Director, Board of Commissioners

11. Review and update Master Plan – FP Director, Planning Ad-hoc Committee, Board of Commissioners

12. Create and adopt Master Plan Project List for FY15 – FP staff, FP Director, Planning Committee, Board of Commissioners