

2010 Progress Report

On the 2007 General Obligation Bond Referendum

*Preserving Kane County
Open Space for 85 Years*



We're proud to present land acquisition and improvement

The preservation of natural and historic resources and habitats, flora or fauna

New 741-acre preserve

Brunner Family Forest Preserve

18N681 Route 31, Dundee

The Brunner Family Forest Preserve is truly a jewel for the residents of Kane County. This Dundee Township property is bordered by Buffalo Park Forest Preserve to the north, Fox River Shores Forest Preserve to the south, and was the largest remaining parcel of undeveloped land along the Fox River in Kane County. It is the largest property ever acquired from a single landowner, and the largest waterfront piece in the District's holdings. The addition of this preserve creates a 3.5-mile stretch of waterfront along the Fox River, and provides over 1,000 acres of contiguous open space.



Purchases of high-quality open space such as the Brunner property help the District qualify for grants — making acquisition dollars go even farther. The District was awarded a \$1,460,000 Foundation Signature Grant by the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation — one of the largest grants ever received by the District. Additionally, the District received a \$750,000 Open Space Land Acquisition & Development (OSLAD) grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

The area has been deemed some of the highest quality, unprotected habitat in Kane County. Bald eagles have been observed along the riverfront, in addition to rare mussels in the Fox River and regionally rare plant and shrub species. Among priorities for this site are bird habitats for the Willow Flycatcher, American Bittern and Sedge Wren. The District also plans brush removal to support habitats for Baltimore Checkerspot butterflies and other animals.



203-acre addition

Mill Creek Forest Preserve

Wenmoth Road, Batavia

A diverse wetland, sedge meadows, relic fens and a natural meandering creek dot this 327-acre preserve. South along Wenmoth Road sits an old farm field where prairie grasses were planted and are now showing colors as a fine habitat. This preserve helps establish north/south connectivity as part of the Mid-County Trail.

New 75-acre preserve

Mill Creek Greenway

Brundige Road, Geneva

Mill Creek Greenway is the initial 75 acres of a larger greenway plan in Geneva, along Brundige Road.



New 27-acre preserve

Brewster Creek Forest Preserve

6N921 Route 25, St. Charles

This 27-acre preserve is on the site of the former YWCA Camp Tu-Endie-Wei. The heavily wooded preserve is set along Brewster Creek at its north and east borders. It's an important part of the Brewster Creek greenway. The fully remodeled lodge opened in January 2010 as The Lodge at Brewster Creek, and is a meeting and special-event destination. Both the acquisition and the lodge remodel were made possible by referendum funds. Future plans include a youth camping area, habitat restoration and picnic areas.

nts made possible by support from Kane County citizens

144-acre addition

Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve

13N240 Engel Road, Burlington

Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve is one of those very rare parcels of land that through a series of fortunate land use events, remains as totally undisturbed prairie. There are over 215 native species resident here in this 35-acre prairie and wetland, which is now a dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve. Among them are the state-endangered White Lady Slipper Orchid and also the diminutive and fascinating *Carex crawei*, along with a host of other rare butterflies and plants. The addition creates an 828-acre preserve.



40-acre addition

Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve

42W797 Rohrsen Road, Hampshire

The nearly 800-acre Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve is situated in the heart of central Kane County. Across the gently rolling terrain are lands that long ago knew prairie flowers and bobolinks. The plow has erased most of the native Illinois landscape here, but the District is working to restore the former prairie. Amenities available in 2011 will include 4.25 miles of trails, equestrian facilities, picnic shelters, improved natural resources and restrooms. The District received a \$400,000 Open Space Land Acquisition & Development Grant for the preserve improvements.

New Partnerships

New Haven Forest Preserve and Community Park New Haven Street, Aurora **Elgin West Regional Park** Plank Road, Elgin

The Forest Preserve District purchased 5 acres as part of an intergovernmental agreement with the Fox Valley Park District for much-needed recreation space. The parcel was joined with land purchased by the Park District to establish a 17-acre neighborhood park in Aurora. Similarly, the District purchased 93 acres as part of an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Elgin to create their 224-acre West Regional Park.

New 38-acre preserve

Jelkes Creek Forest Preserve

Sleepy Hollow Road & Route 72, Sleepy Hollow

This preserve contains a very high-quality wetland. The property also connects to Schweitzer Woods Forest Preserve in Dundee.



86-acre addition

LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve

37W370 Dean Street, St. Charles

LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve contains a variety of natural habitats. Contained in this now 439-acre preserve is a true prairie relic — the Murray prairie, along with prairie restorations, meandering Ferson Creek, flood plain forests, seeps, oak woodlands and grassy fields. The only native colony of Speckled Alder is growing here, along the creek. The 86-acre “Creek Bend” addition is directly to the west of the original preserve. The District plans to relocate its Nature Center here, adaptively reusing the house on the property. The addition of the Nature Center on this site creates a museum campus for the District.

It is the mission of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County to acquire, hold and maintain lands within Kane County, which contribute to the preservation of natural and historic resources and habitats, flora or fauna; and to restore, restock, protect and preserve such lands for the education, recreation and pleasure of all its citizens.

269-acre addition

Big Rock Forest Preserve

46W524 Jericho Road, Big Rock

High-quality marshes and many small specialized habitats are present here. Several high sandy bluffs overlook numerous woodland and prairie patches along creek valleys. Habitat restoration is planned for the area south and west of Jeter Road. Fishing is allowed in Siegler Lake in the former quarry. Planned improvements include a campground area — a much asked-for amenity by Kane County residents. The site would provide an estimated 105 camp sites with pads, electric and water hook-ups; 6 equestrian camp sites; 20 primitive sites for tent camping; and four miles of trail. The addition creates a 842-acre preserve and was acquired with assistance from an Illinois Department of Natural Resources Open Space Land Acquisition and Development grant Grant of \$750,000.



20-acre addition

Lake Run Forest Preserve

Tanner Road, North Aurora

The Lake Run Forest Preserve corridor is 314 acres of greenway along Lake Run Creek. The acquisition was done in an effort to make a future connection between the Dick Young Forest Preserve in Batavia and the Aurora West Forest Preserve. The greenway is the designated route for the Mid-County Trail. The District received a \$128,300 Bike Trail Grant to start the construction of this portion of the Mid-County Trail. Trails opened in summer 2010.

12-acre addition

Cardinal Creek Forest Preserve

Ellithorpe Road, Burlington

This 12-acre addition creates a 166-acre preserve in Burlington. The site helps us preserve land in Burlington and will protect this space as greenway in the County.



46-acre addition

Tekakwitha Woods Forest Preserve

Villa Marie Road, St. Charles

This property is virtually unrecognizable as the former site of the Illinois Youth Center. What was formerly numerous buildings behind miles of chain-link fence is now open space in preparation for a community park. The Forest Preserve District received a \$279,341 Community Development Block Grant to remove various structures from the property. An intergovernmental agreement with the St. Charles Park District allows the Park District to construct and manage the new recreational facility. The addition of this property creates 114 total acres of open space.

13-acre property

Fox Valley Ice Arena

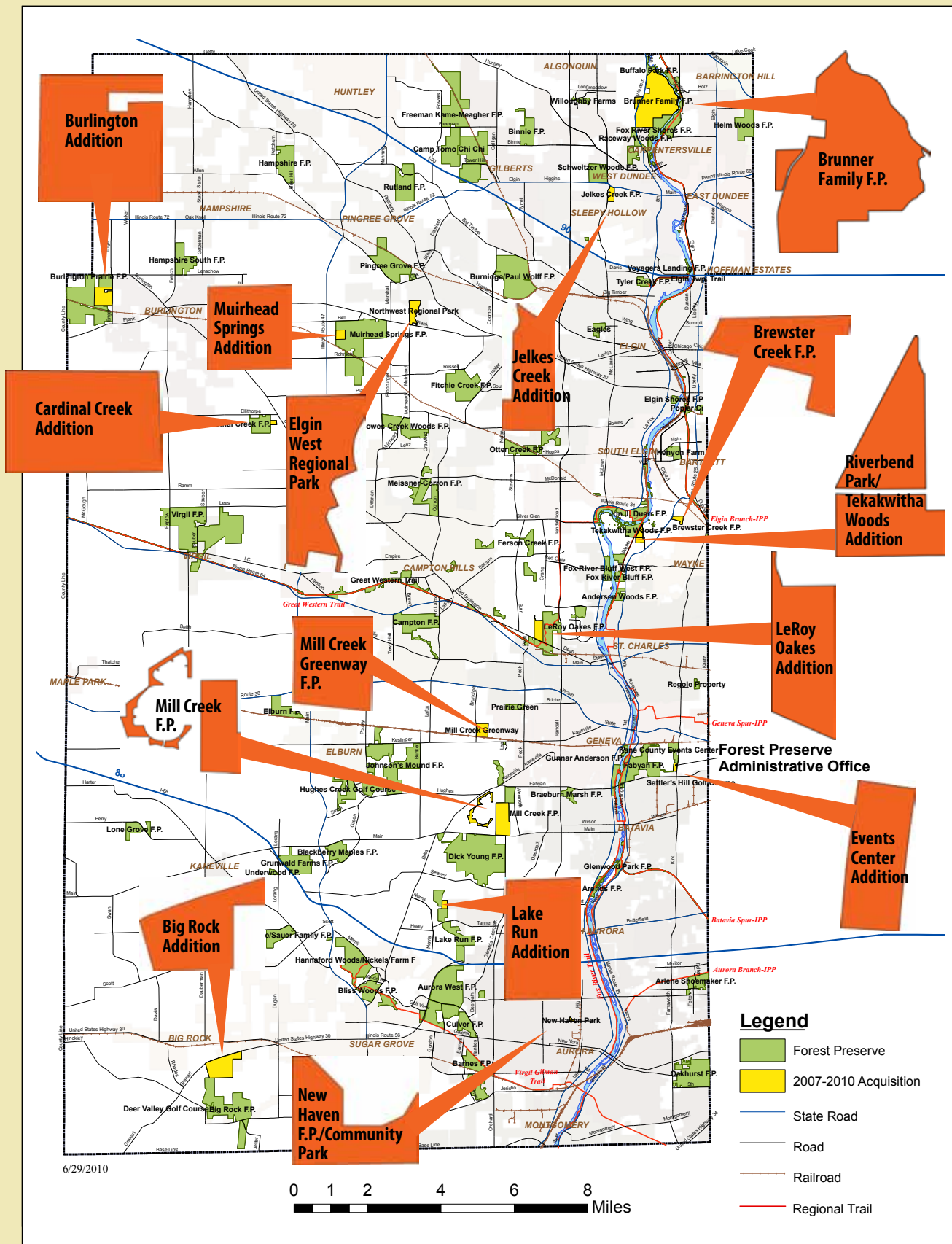
1996 South Kirk Road, Geneva

This property provides connectivity to other District lands (Fox Valley Strikers facility, Elfstrom Stadium & Settler's Hill Golf Course) as well as much-needed administrative space. District headquarters are now located here on the third floor. Total acreage for these connected properties is now 300 acres.



Kane County Forest Preserves

18,753 acres — To restore, restock and preserve



Capital Projects

For the education, recreation and pleasure of all Kane County citizens

Our Newest Improved Preserve

Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve

39W933 Russell Road, Elgin

Improvements within the 373-acre forest preserve include multipurpose trails for hiking, biking and equestrian use; an extension of the regional bike path (Fitchie Creek branch of the Mid-County Trail); interpretive and picnic shelters; 43 acres of prairie restoration; parking and restrooms. The District celebrated the opening of this preserve in April 2010, in conjunction with Earth Day. Over 30 members of the Fitchie family, direct descendants of the original landowners, were on hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Grand Opening 2011

Bowes Creek Woods Forest Preserve

Muirhead Road, Campton Hills

Bowes Creek Woods is a 245-acre preserve made up of glacial terrain and meandering segments of Bowes Creek. With the help of a \$400,000 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Open Space Land Acquisition and Development grant, planned improvements include woodland and stream bank restoration, access drives, parking, picnic areas and multipurpose trails with interpretive signage.

Trail Connection & New Parking

Elburn Forest Preserve

45W061 Route 38, Elburn

This 165-acre preserve is located on the outskirts of Elburn. Planned improvements include new parking areas; adding trail work to make the proposed connection to downtown Elburn; converting the balance of the farmland into prairie; and installing interpretive signage and kiosks. The project received an Illinois Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trails Program grant of \$200,000.

Fox River Trail, Parking & Drive Improvements

Fabyan Forest Preserve

Route 31 & Fabyan Parkway, Geneva

On the west side of Fabyan Forest Preserve, a new parking lot utilizes a flat area near the entrance for the main lot with additional parking along the current service road. The change allows better access to one of the shelters and the boat ramp, and separates trail users from vehicular traffic. Work is planned to restore the shoreline along the former parking lot. A buffer was planted that allows run-off to be filtered prior to entering the waterway. This minimizes salts and sediment from directly entering the river. This project was funded in part with a Fox River Trust Fund grant of \$180,000.

Campground Expansion

Paul Wolff Campground

38W235 Big Timber Road, Elgin

Paul Wolff Campground within Burnidge Forest Preserve is a 590-acre preserve that is currently home to the District's only public campground. The recent expansion provides 89 total camp sites with electric and water service, parking pads and fire rings; 10 primitive camp sites for tent-only camping; and 5 equestrian camp sites. The preserve includes 9 miles of trails including a 2.25-mile multipurpose trail suitable for hiking, biking or equestrian use. The preserve is along the proposed route for the Mid-County Trail, as proposed by the County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. This project received an Illinois Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trail Program grant of \$192,260.

Trail Development

Raceway Woods Forest Preserve

Route 31, Carpentersville

The master plan for this preserve is a cooperative effort among the Forest Preserve District, Dundee Township and the Dundee Township Park District. Initial work focused on reclaiming the disturbed areas of the site, protecting the environmentally sensitive areas, and combining them with the unique racetrack history. Recent improvements include developing the trail system on the District-owned portion of the preserve, following last year's bridge-installation project. The District repaved 2 miles of trail at Raceway Woods. The current phase, scheduled for completion in spring 2011, is the relocation of a pedestrian bridge from the Stearns Road Corridor, and the completion of the trail.

2007 Referendum Progress Report

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| Voter-Approved 2007 Referendum Funds..... | \$85,000,000 |
| Intergovernmental & Grant Funds | \$9,659,912 |
| Interest Earned..... | \$2,474,930 |
| TOTAL LAND ACQUISITION FUNDS | \$97,134,841 |

Funds Invested to Date

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Land Purchases as of June 30, 2010 | \$84,004,588 |
| Land Purchases Committed..... | \$2,000,000 |
| Preserve Improvements Accomplished | \$11,130,253 |
| TOTAL INVESTED FUNDS | \$97,134,841 |