

Kendall County Forest Preserve District

Master Plan

2014-2019



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August 2014

Dear Kendall County Residents,

This Kendall County Forest Preserve District Master Plan is a document that not only reflects the future goals of the District, but documents the past. From a vision shared by several conservation minded acquaintances in the 1960's, through our rapid growth at the turn of the century, to the daily operations we now undertake, this plan shows the gradual journey to where we are now. The focus, however, is on the future, and what it will take to achieve the goals presented in this plan.

My sincere appreciation goes out to our Planning Ad-hoc Committee. For the better part of a year and a half, the group got together once a month in what soon became not only a planning, but a learning process. Each member of the committee brought their own area of expertise to the table, and the plan reflects this diversity. Thank you all!

Thanks to our Board of Commissioners, who reviewed and refined this document as it was developed. The approval of the plan reflects the input of all who are charged with its keeping.

My biggest thanks goes to our Director Jason Pettit, for all the time spent in preparing this document. From its original outline, to adding text, compiling maps and information, and its final preparation, this plan truly reflects his love of nature, and in particular, the natural resources of Kendall County. Thank you Jason!

From all of us, please accept this document as a guide to the future of our District, and a reflection of all the natural beauty we are so fortunate to enjoy.

Jeff Wehrli

President

Kendall County Forest Preserve District



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This Master Plan was approved by the Kendall County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners in August of 2014. The Planning Ad-hoc Committee met monthly for 18 months to draft the Master Plan. The Board of Commissioners reviewed sections of the plan over four month period. The District greatly appreciates the time and effort that the Planning Ad-hoc Committee put towards this plan.

The Board of Commissioners and staff will refer to this plan on a regular basis for guidance in the decision making process and to develop the goals and objectives of the District. This plan will be reviewed annually and updated as needed.

Maps courtesy of the Kendall County GIS Department.



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SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

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.

A group of residents formed the Kendall Natural Area Guardians (KNAGs) and from the 1970s to the 1990s 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 for many years for land acquisition purposes.

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.

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), an open space planning effort 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 its facilities and offer more recreational and environmental educational opportunities to residents than ever before.



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.

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.

SPOTLIGHT ON ARLENE & DALE ROBB

In 1857 Ephraim & Anna DeGroff purchased 120 acres along the Little Rock Creek north of Plano. For 150 years the same acres were owned and loved by the same family. As a child, Arlene Robb visited the property many times, which was then her Uncle Rene Jay's farm. She enjoyed the wildflowers, the birds, and sneaking cookies off to eat in the woods. When Arlene and her husband Dale inherited the property, they decided that they wanted to preserve this beautiful corner of Kendall County.

The Robbs donated 45 acres to the District through The Conservation Foundation, while 75 acres was purchased entirely with grant funds from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The generosity of the Robbs led to all 120 acres being preserved at no out-of-pocket cost to the District.



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 18 months to work on the Master Plan. The Master Plan was then reviewed and approved by the Kendall County Forest Preserve District Commission.

The Master Plan will be reviewed annually by Staff, the Planning Advisory Committee and the Board of Commissioners and updated as needed.

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, document 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)

SECTION 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 forms of wetlands dotted the landscape, some held snow-melt 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. Part of the Grand Prairie Natural Division, Kendall County has a rich natural history.

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, reducing the numbers of less-protected 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

NATURAL DIVISIONS OF ILLINOIS

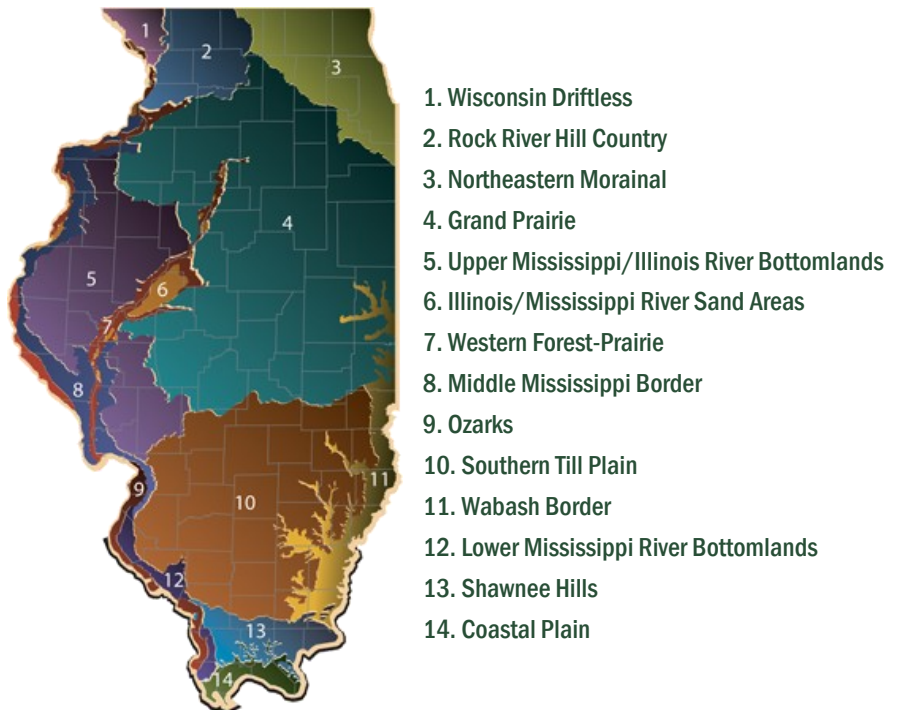


Image courtesy of the Illinois Natural History Survey

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.

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 sustained by frequent fire.

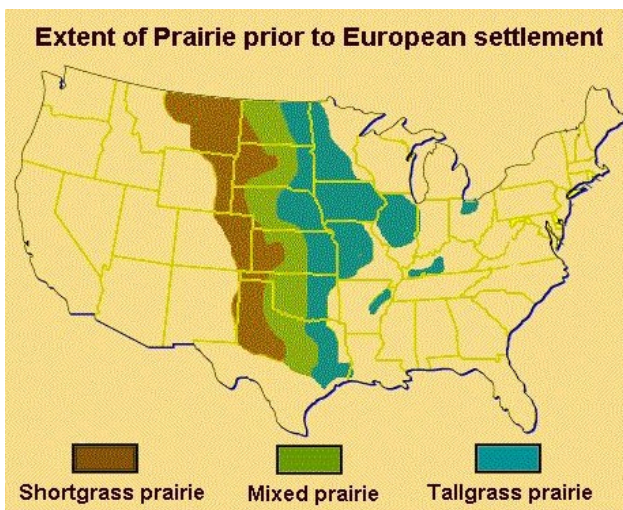


Image courtesy of Great Plains Nature Center

Prairies are classified by soil moisture (wet, wet-mesic, mesic, dry-mesic, dry) or type of soil (sand or gravel hill). Prior to European settlement, most prairies in Kendall County were 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.

Prairie Plants

Prior to European settlement, more than 300 plant species grew in tallgrass prairies, a diverse mix of grasses, sedges, and forbs. While grasses such as big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), and switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*) may have

been the most numerous plants on the prairie, forbs would have contributed vast diversity.

Most of the biomass of tallgrass prairie lies below the ground surface, where plant roots can reach over 15 feet in depth. These deep roots allow the prairie plants to survive the harsh prairie environment that includes drought, grazing, and fire. These roots are also important to develop prairie soil and infiltrate water into the ground.

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.

Prairie Restoration & Management

Unfortunately, no great expanses of intact prairie remain in Kendall County today. Due to the loss of prairie habitat in Kendall County, many native species of plants and animals have either been extirpated completely from the county, or have very small, and possibly unsustainable, populations. 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, whether a remnant or a restoration, 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.

WOODED COMMUNITIES

Kendall County has a number of wooded natural communities that are distinct in their species make-up, tree canopy coverage, topography, and hydrology. Most local 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.

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, 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.

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.

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.



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.



Photo courtesy of Larry Granat

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.

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.

WETLAND COMMUNITIES

Wetlands come in many forms. Some are wet year round, 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.

SPOTLIGHT ON KENDALL NATURAL AREA GUARDIANS

The Kendall Natural Area Guardians (KNAGs) formed in the late 1970's to assist the Kendall County Forest Preserve District in fulfilling its mission. The group led wildflower and fall color hikes, performed natural area management work, and compiled a thorough land acquisition list.

This land acquisition list identified and mapped the highest quality natural areas in Kendall County, as well as provided plant species list for many of these fine sites. For many years the District utilized 'the KNAG list' to guide its land acquisition program.

The KNAGs were under the umbrella of the Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District until they disbanded a few years ago. But while in existence, the KNAGs were instrumental in strengthening natural areas efforts across the county.

A partial list of KNAG members includes Marilyn Bohm, Keith Tucker, Neill & Parkie Emmons, Dave Oram, Dave Ramsden, Janet Schorr, and Mike Brock.



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.

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 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 regard 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.

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 too 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 significant 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 a 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.

SECTION 3 PRESERVES AND FACILITIES

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.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE OLD MILLBROOK BRIDGE



On the Fox River in Millbrook you cannot but help to spot an endangered species. But it is not a bird or a plant, or even an insect. Technically speaking it is a Pratt truss span bridge, but in laymen's terms it is called the Old Millbrook Bridge.

The bridge was originally built in 1897 by Bellefontaine Bridge & Iron Company in Bellefontaine, Ohio. Three spans of 132 feet each cross the Fox River, resting on two stone piers in the river and concrete abutments on each bank. Steel for two of the current spans were produced by Carnegie Steel, while the third span is a replacement that was milled by U.S. Steel.

The single lane bridge was used for vehicular traffic until 1984, when it was replaced by a new bridge a short distance downstream. The District acquired the bridge as a future trail crossing. The bridge connects to the Shuh Shuh Gah Canoe Launch and is nearby to Millbrook North Forest Preserve.

FACILITY CHART

	Acres	Parking	Trails	Picnic Shelters	Drinking Water	Bathrooms	Fishing	Tent Camping	Bunk-house	Baseball Field	Horse Arena	Sled Hill	Event Space	Canoe Launch
Baker Woods	252	✓	3.00	2		✓	✓				✓		✓ ¹	
Blackberry Trail	154	✓ ²	1.42	1 ²	✓ ²	✓ ²	✓							
Harris	94	✓	2.67	7	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Henneberry	216													
Hollenback Sugarbush	46													
Hoover	396	✓	6.64	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ³	✓		✓	✓ ⁴	
Jay Woods	120	✓	1.80	1	✓	✓								
Lyon	59	✓	1.34											
Maramech	92	✓	0.40	1	✓	✓								
Millbrook – North	302													
Millbrook - South	301	✓	2.65											
Millington	198													
Newark	42													
Pickertill-Pigott	96													
Richard Young	118	✓	1.54	2	✓	✓								
Shuh Shuh Gah	2	✓		1	✓	✓ ⁵	✓							✓
Subat	71	✓	0.98	1	✓	✓								
Other Parcels	104													
Total	2,663		22.44	17										

- 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:	Ellis House, stable, indoor & outdoor arenas, storage building				

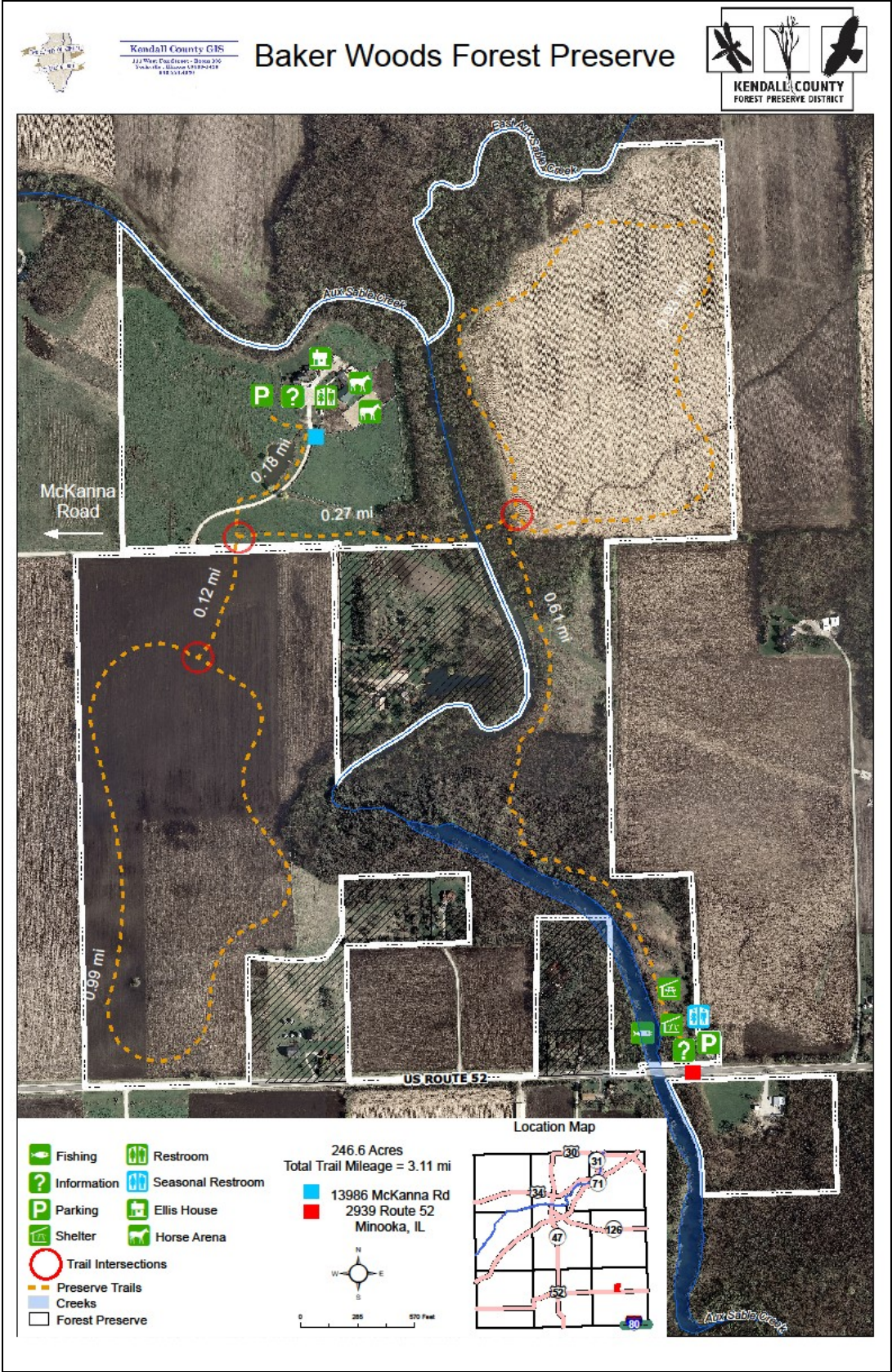
Acquisition History:

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

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

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

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



BLACKBERRY TRAIL FOREST PRESERVE

Address: Caliendo Circle, Montgomery

Township: Bristol

Total Acres: 154

Existing Facilities:

Parking:	No*	Spaces:		
Trails:	Yes	Miles:	1.84	
Shelter:	No	Number:		Tables:
Restroom:	No			
V.I. Sign:	No			
Water:	No			
Other:				

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

Acquisition History:

<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Montgomery Crossing LLC	2004	Donation	0	0	74
Blackberry Crossing LLC	2005	Donation	0	0	8.41
Dickson	2007	Donation	0	0	24.28
Blackberry Pointe LLC	2009	Donation	0	0	52.47

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:

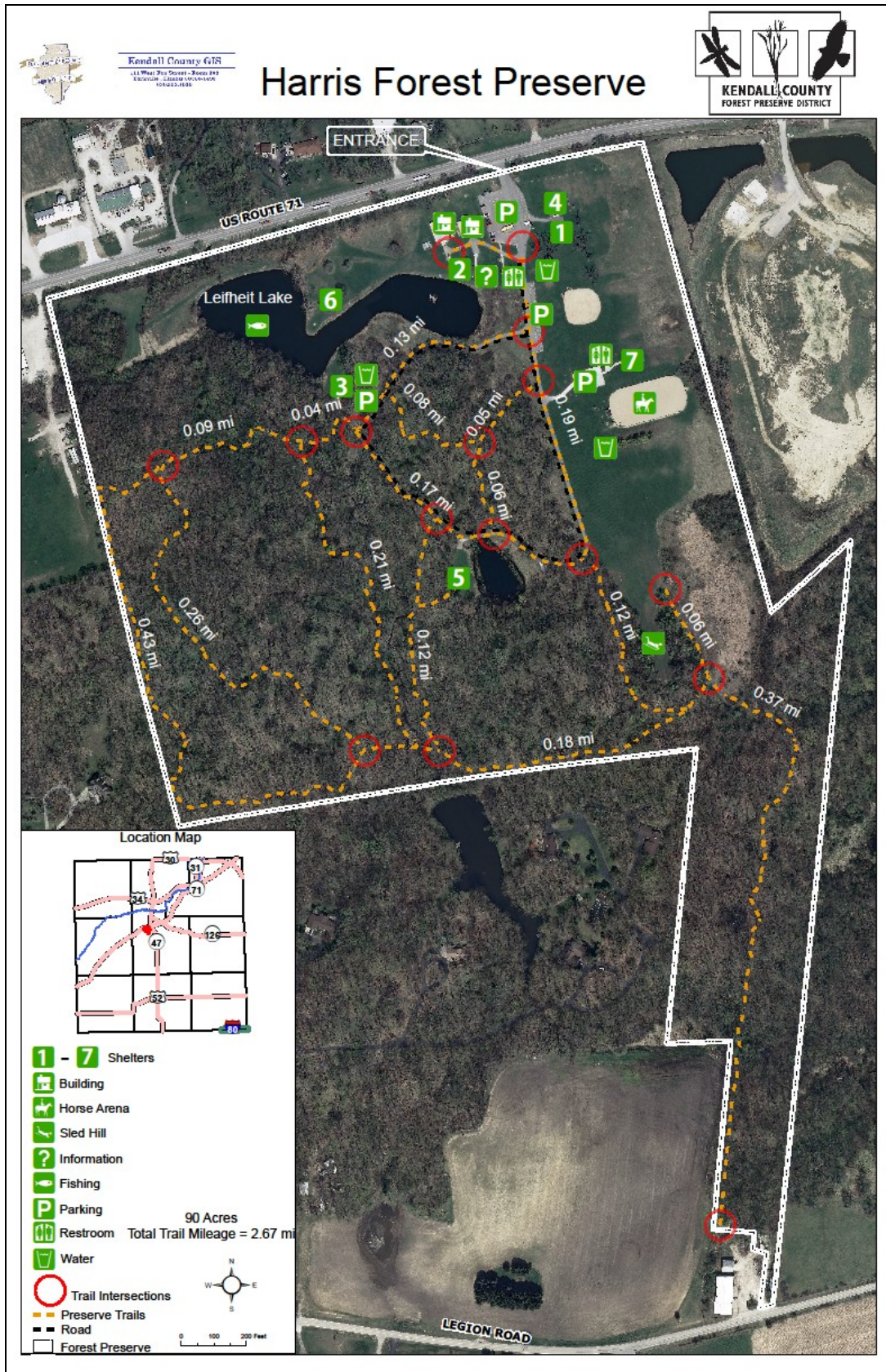
<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Harris	1968	Fee Simple	80,900	40,450	86
KC Recreation Assoc.	1990	Donation	0	0	6

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

Acquisition History:

<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Henneberry Woods LLC	2010	Fee Simple	5,312,189	780,000	217

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. The District monitors these bird species as part of the Bird Conservation Network's Prairie Bird Survey. 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.

HENNEBERRY FOREST PRESERVE



HOLLENBACK SUGARBUSH FOREST PRESERVE

Address: Route 71, Yorkville

Township: Fox

Total Acres: 46

Existing Facilities:

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

Acquisition History:

<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Welles	2005	Fee Simple	670,855		46.26

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.

HOLLENBACK SUGARBUSH FOREST PRESERVE



HOOVER FOREST PRESERVE

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			Nature Exploration Station	
	Staff residence			Sled hill	
	Maintenance building (2)			Ballfield	
	Education building (2)			Fox River decks (2)	
	Volunteer building			Amphitheater	
	Neshnabe'k Village				

Acquisition History:

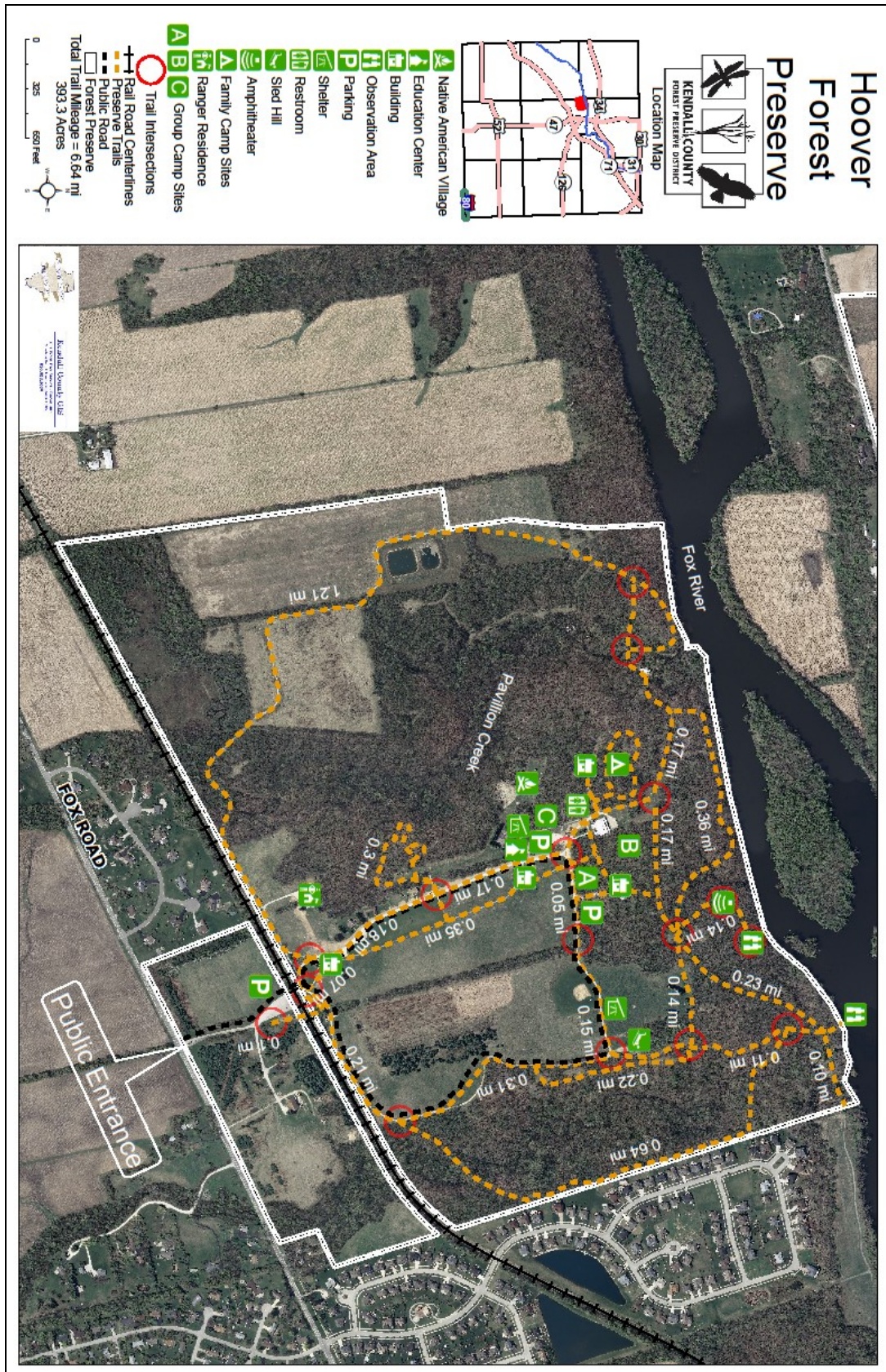
<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Chicago Area Council - Boy Scouts	2004	Fee Simple	6,394,275	6,119,391	140
Openlands	2004	Fee Simple	780,525	750,000	17
Openlands	2005	Fee Simple	7,020,524	5,930,538	152
Openlands	2007	Fee Simple	4,145,000	0	84

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



JAY WOODS FOREST PRESERVE

Address: 860 Creek Road, Plano

Township: Little Rock

Total Acres: 120

Existing Facilities:

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

Acquisition History:

<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Acres</u>
The Conservation Foundation	2007	Donation	0	0	45
Robb	2007	Fee Simple	750,000	750,000	75

Natural Communities:

Savanna, open woodland, prairie, stream

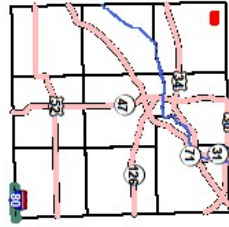
Jay Woods FP was acquired through a donation by Arlene and Dale Robb, as the property had been in Arlene's family since the 1850s. With the assistance of The Conservation Foundation as the holder of the donated parcel and a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the District was able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

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

Jay Woods Forest Preserve



Location Map



- Building
- Observation Area
- Parking
- Restroom
- Shelter
- Information
- Water

- Trail Intersections
- Preserve Trails
- Forest Preserve

120 Acres
Total Trail Mileage = 1.8 mi



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:		Tables:
Restroom:	No			
V.I. Sign:	No			
Water:	No			
Other:				

Acquisition History:

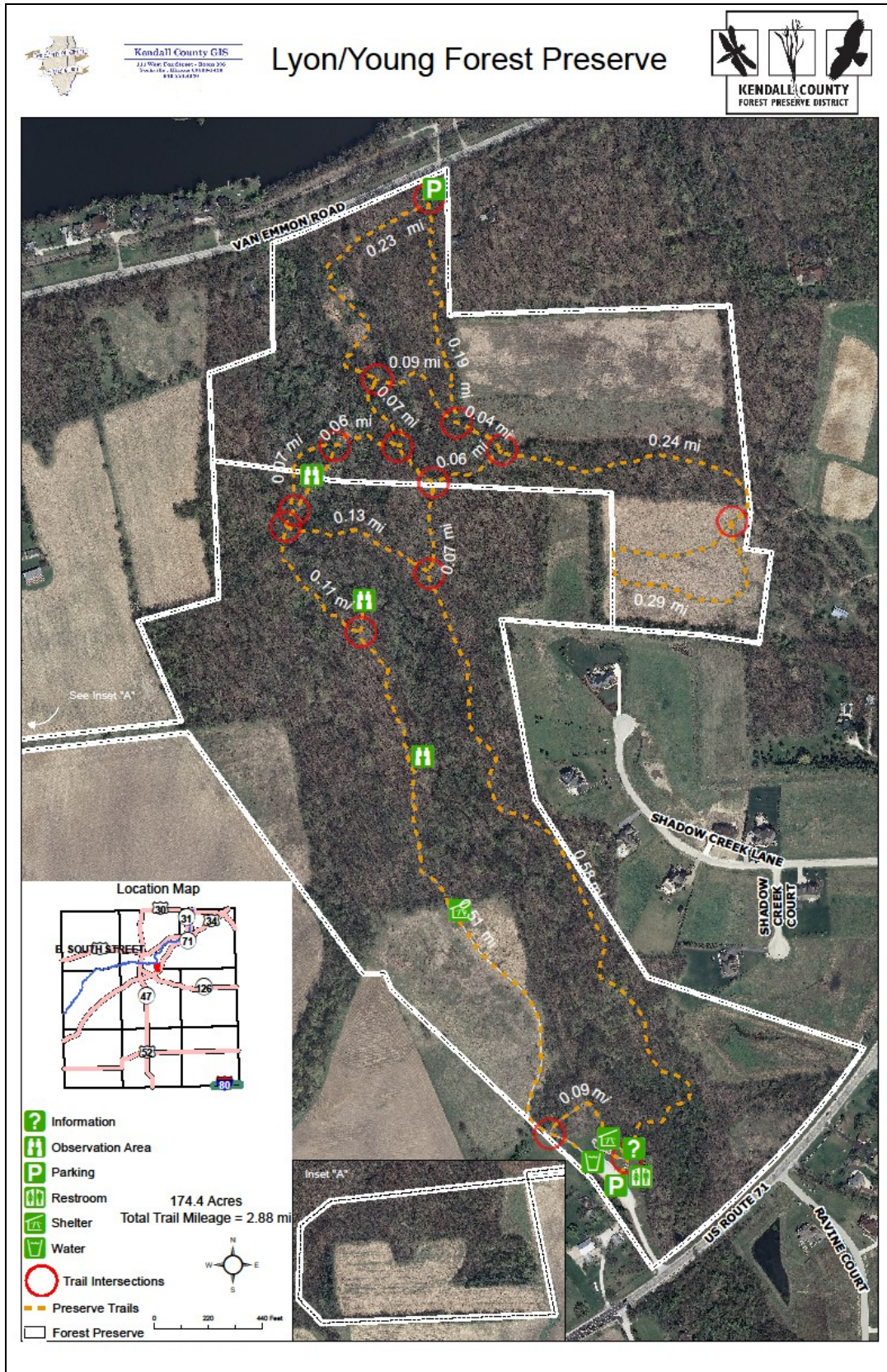
<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Lyon	1970	Donation	0	0	44.5

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. A Natural Area Volunteer Zone located in Lyon FP is a focus of the Natural Area Volunteers.



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:

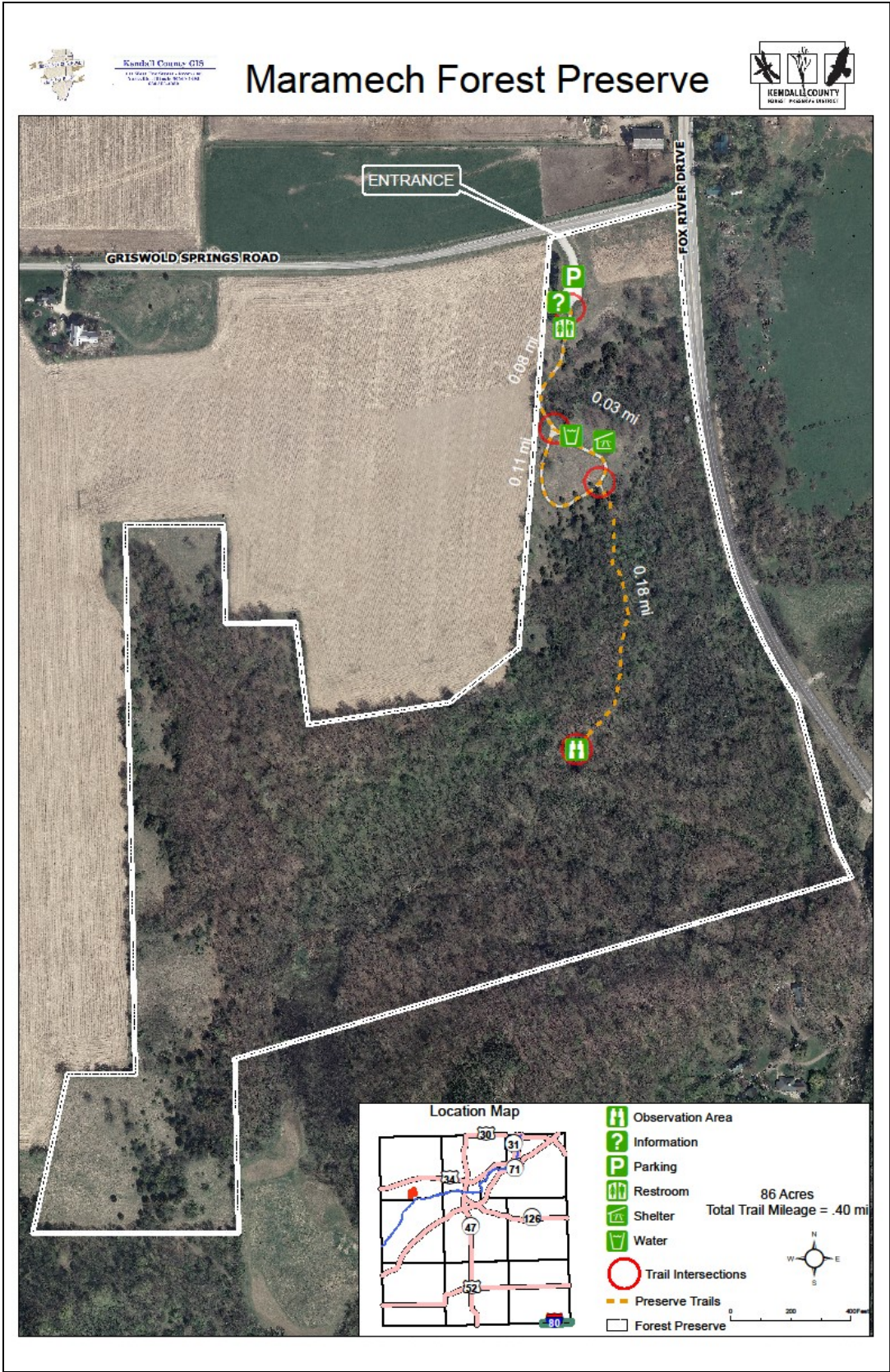
<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Acres</u>
First National Bank Trust	1966	Fee Simple	56,800	28,400	86
Silver	1968	Land Trade	0	0	6

Natural Communities:

Open woodland, northern flatwoods, seep, prairie, marsh

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

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



MILLBROOK NORTH FOREST PRESERVE

Address: Fox River Drive, Millbrook

Township: Fox

Total Acres: 294

Existing Facilities:

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

Acquisition History:

<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Lee	2007	Fee Simple	9,100,000	4,926,400	294

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 Hollenback 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 NORTH FOREST PRESERVE



MILLBROOK SOUTH FOREST PRESERVE

Address: Fox River Drive, Millbrook

Township: Fox

Total Acres: 308

Existing Facilities:

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

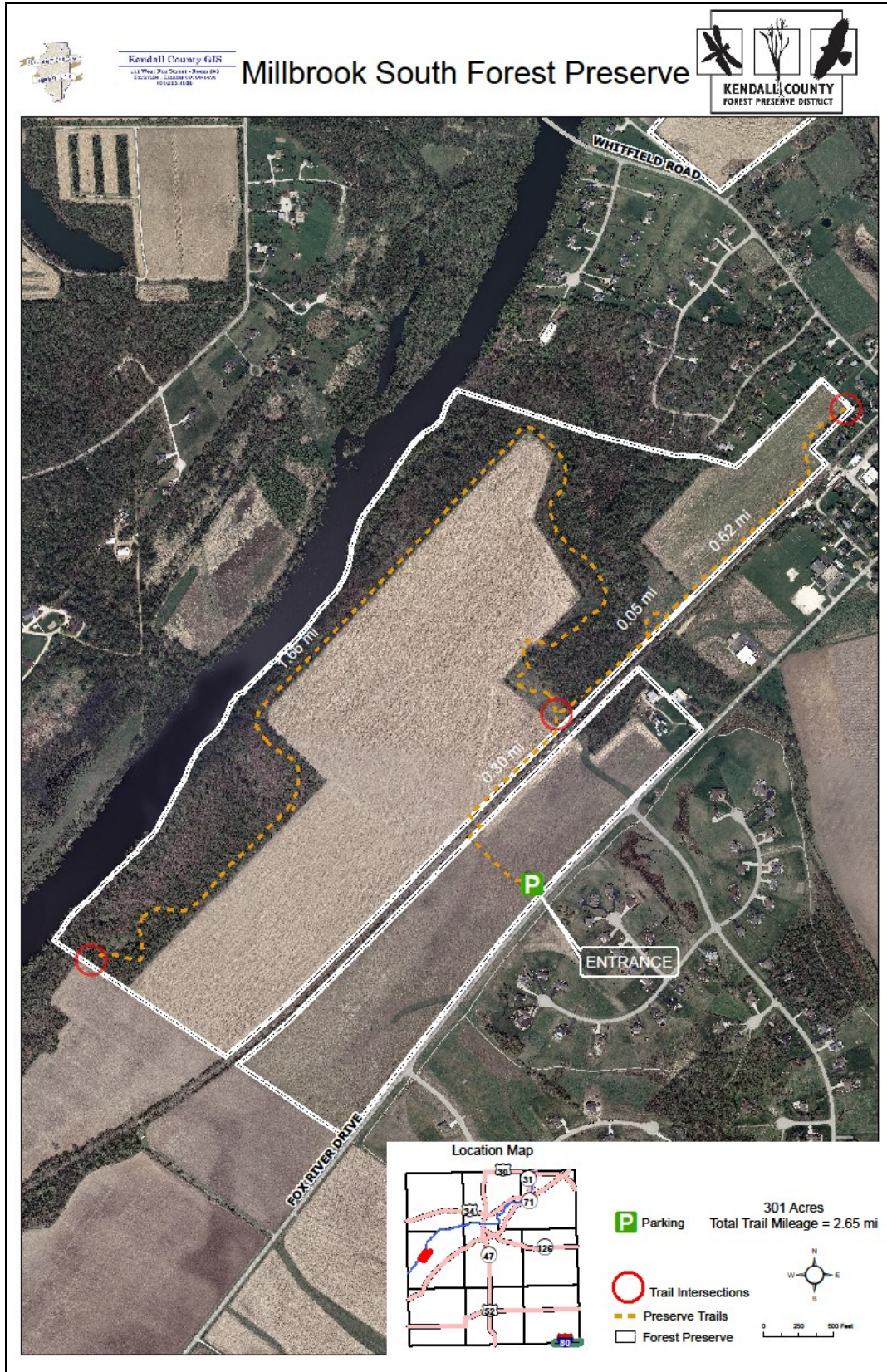
Acquisition History:

<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Lee	2007	Fee Simple	11,900,000	1,250,000	308

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:	Tables:
Restroom:	No		
V.I. Sign:	No		
Water:	No		
Other:			

Acquisition History:

<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Bright	2010	Fee Simple	1,584,125		198

Natural Communities:

Savanna, open woodland, grassland, pond

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

MILLINGTON FOREST PRESERVE



NEWARK FOREST PRESERVE

Address: Townhouse Road, Newark

Township: Big Grove

Total Acres: 42

Existing Facilities:

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

Acquisition History:

<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Friestad	1997	Fee Simple	177,000		42

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.

NEWARK FOREST PRESERVE



PICKERILL-PIGOTT FOREST PRESERVE

Address: 6350B Minkler Road, Yorkville

Township: Kendall

Total Acres: 102

Existing Facilities:

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

Acquisition History:

<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Pickerill	2008	Donation			32
Pigott	2008	Fee Simple	4,227,000		70

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.

PICKERILL-PIGOTT FOREST PRESERVE



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:

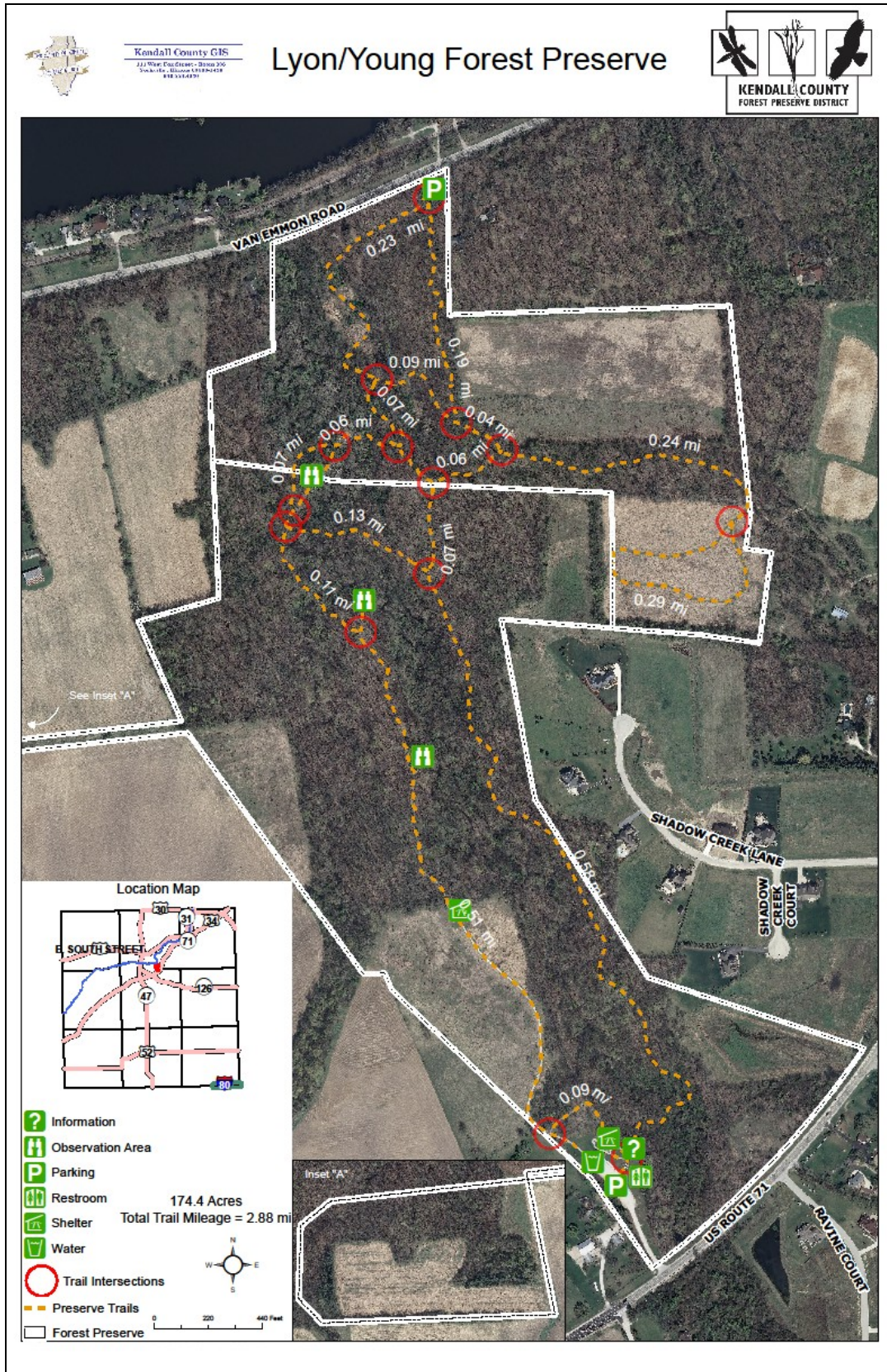
<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Cole Taylor Bank	1994	Fee Simple	770,000	388,500	98
Killian	2004	Fee Simple	804,250	0	32.17

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 surprising 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:

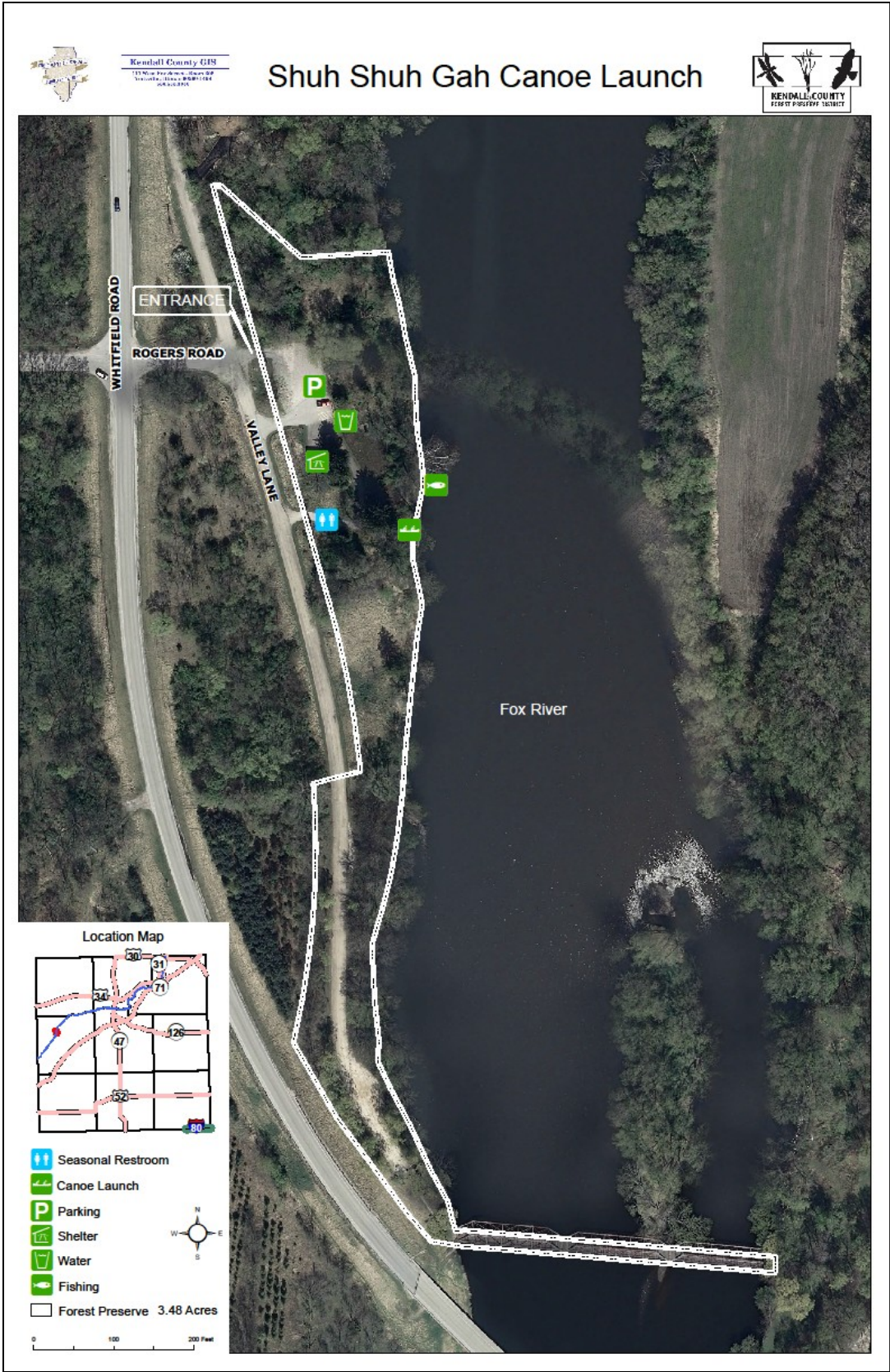
Parking:	Yes	Spaces:	16		
Trails:	No	Miles:			
Shelter:	Yes	Number:	1	Tables:	2
Restroom:	Seasonal				
V.I. Sign:	No				
Water:	Yes				
Other:	Canoe launch				
	Steel truss Fox River bridge				

Acquisition History:

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

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.I. Sign:	Yes				
Water:	Yes				
Other:	Overlook deck				

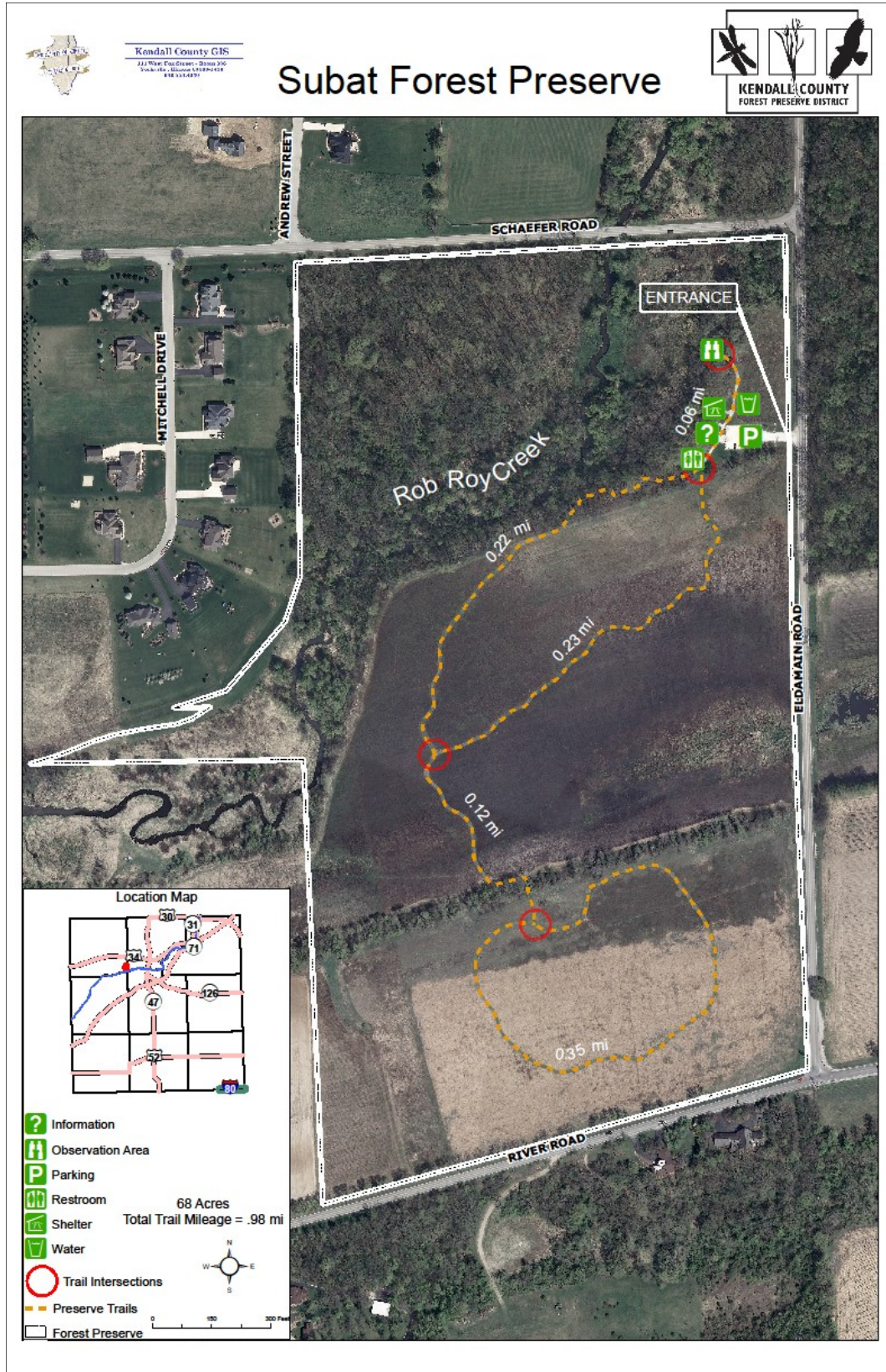
Acquisition History:

<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Subat	2002	Fee Simple	692,111	506,800	66
County of Kendall	2003	Donation	0	0	2

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

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

Acquisition History:

<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Acres</u>
FV Animal Welfare League	1992	Fee Simple	5,000		22
Hafenrichter/Church	1998	Donation			5

2. FOX RIVER BIKE TRAIL - Between Van Emmon Road and Saw Wee Kee Park as an eventual part of the Fox River Bike Trail.

Acquisition History:

<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Barber-Greene	1998	Fee Simple	2,443	1,221	0.42
Hide-A-Way Lakes	2000	Fee Simple	5,666	2,833	1.36

3. CANNONBALL SEDGE MEADOW - Has a quality sedge meadow and a naturalized detention basin.

Acquisition History:

<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Alan Dale Farms & Dev.	2000	Donation			10.71

4. SCHessler FEN - A very high quality fen wetland along the Blackberry Creek.

Acquisition History:

<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Schessler	2004	Donation			3.5

5. McDANIEL PROPERTY - This joint acquisition with the Village of Minooka has floodplain forest and Aux Sable Creek frontage.

Acquisition History:

<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>Acres</u>
McDaniel	2005	Fee Simple	365,552	213,276	18.13

6. RESERVATION WOODS - The District owns two parcels of this high quality woodland.

Acquisition History:

<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Gabel	2007	Fee Simple	150,000		13
Hugart	2010	Fee Simple	185,000		13.3

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

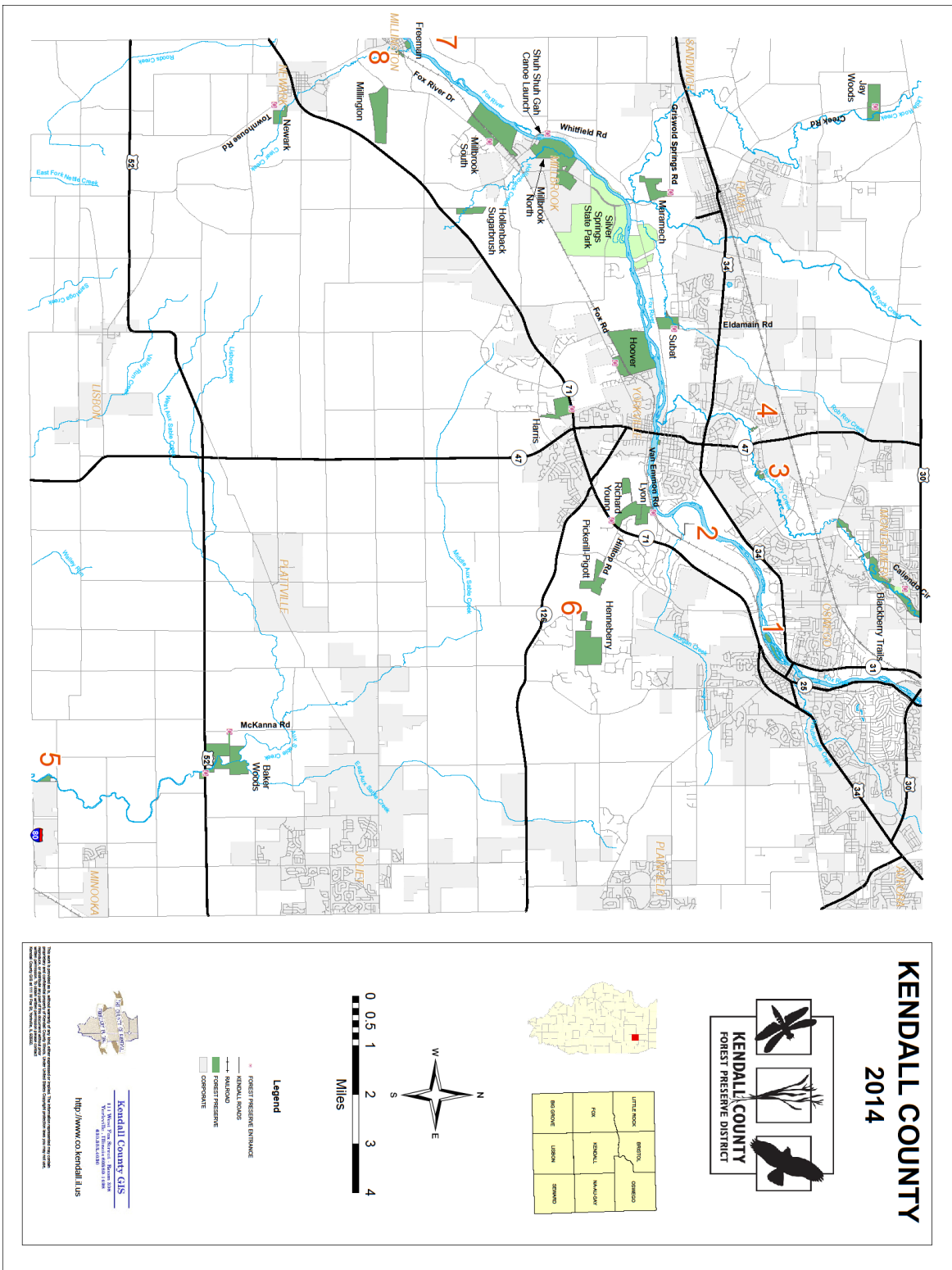
Acquisition History:

<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Freeman	10	Fee Simple	156,600		10

8. TUCKER-MILLINGTON FEN - An Illinois Nature Preserve that contains several state endangered and threatened plant species.

Acquisition History:

<u>Acquired From</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Tucker	2012	Fee Simple	35,000		4.5



SECTION 4 CAPITAL PROJECTS

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. For a list of major completed capital projects since 2007, please see Appendix 1.

Capital projects are defined using these criteria:

- Lifespan of at least 3 years
- Upgrade, repair or replacement of existing facilities
- Construction of new facilities
- 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.

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



Photo courtesy of Ken Mozingo

Since 2000 the District has striven to provide a number of basic amenities at newly opened preserves or those being upgraded. 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. A list of amenities and cost estimates is included in Appendix 2.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- Establish and maintain a five-year capital plan. Annually review and update the capital plan.
- Develop standardized construction details for use in the District’s capital projects.
- Solicit public input for capital projects.
- Develop concept plans, cost estimates, and construction documents for capital projects as needed.
- Apply for and utilize grants to maximize capital project funds.
- Develop a land use classification system to guide the location of capital improvements and protection of natural resources on District lands.
- 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.
- 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.
- Abide by Kendall County Planning, Building and Zoning Department codes and regulations for applicable capital projects.
- Construct and maintain facilities to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Facilitate donations of funds, goods, services, and labor for use with capital projects.

SECTION 5 LAND ACQUISITION

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 2014 the District acquired almost 1700 acres, nearly tripling its holdings. (Numerous capital improvement projects were also completed using bond funds from the 2007 referendum). The District also secured nearly \$8 million in land acquisition grant funding from 2007 to 2014.

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



LAND ACQUISITION EVALUATION PROCESS

The District becomes aware of potential acquisitions in several ways:

- 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.

- Landowner or real estate agent contacts the District regarding an available property.
- Resident informs the District of an available property.
- 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 (please see Appendix 3) 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, needs of the District, and grant requirements will also be 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.



Photo courtesy of Ken Mozingo

LAND ACQUISITION HISTORY AND MAPS

The land acquisition history of the Kendall County Forest Preserve District can be divided into three time periods:

- 1964-2002 – This period starts with the formation of the District and concludes just prior to the first open space referendum.
- 2003-2006 – This period begins with the District's first open space referendum in 2003 and ends just prior to the second open space referendum.
- 2007-2014 – This period starts with the District's second open space referendum in 2007 and concludes as those funds have been exhausted.

For the complete land acquisition history of the Kendall County Forest Preserve District, please see Appendix 4.

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 .
- 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.

SPOTLIGHT ON DICK YOUNG



Photo courtesy of Keith Johnson

For over half a century Dick Young led the way in awakening people to the beauty of local natural areas and in the fight to preserve them. He was green long before being green was good, or easy, and he left behind an environmental legacy unmatched in the Fox Valley.

In the mid-1960s, the lifelong Oswego resident was instrumental in the creation of both the Kendall County Forest Preserve District and the Oswegoland Park District. For many years Dick worked for the Kane County Forest Preserve District. Both Kendall and Kane counties have preserves named in his honor.

Dick was extremely knowledgeable, passionate, and hard-working. He could see the smallest detail, as evidenced by his book, Kane County Wild Plants and Natural Areas, which is full of charming observations on the beauty of our local flora. Dick was also big picture - visualizing and working to piece together large blocks of public open space, greenways, and trail networks.

Dick was a kind and gentle person who always took the time to teach - whether you were a board chairman or a youngster. Through the years, Dick was an advisor and mentor to the boards and staff of open space agencies in the Fox River valley and beyond.

SECTION 6 MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

ORGANIZATION

The Downstate Forest Preserve District Act provides the statutory authority and legal requirements for the formation and operations of all Forest Preserve Districts in Illinois outside of Cook County. The Kendall County Forest Preserve District is governed by a 10-member Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners elects a President, Vice-President, and Secretary, each of which serves a two year term. The Forest Preserve Director reports to the President and the Board of Commissioners.

The Board of Commissioners is responsible for understanding and meeting the open space needs of Kendall County residents as they pertain to the Forest Preserve District. Through its actions and policies, the Board of Commissioners preserves natural areas and open space, manages natural resources, offers environmental education programming, and provides recreational facilities to the public.

To conduct the business of the Forest Preserve District, the Board of Commissioners has several meetings and committees, each with specific functions:

- Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners – These meetings are held twice monthly, consist of all ten commissioners and are chaired by the President. Final approval for ordinances, claims, land acquisition, policies, budgets, levies and contracts is granted at the Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners meeting.
- Forest Preserve Committee of the Whole – This committee meets once per month, consists of all ten commissioners, and is chaired by the President. Typically, most items of business are discussed and vetted at the Forest Preserve Committee of the Whole meeting before being forwarded to the Board of Commissioners meeting.
- Forest Preserve Finance Committee – This committee meets twice monthly, consists of five commissioners appointed by the President and is chaired by a commissioner selected by the President. All claims are vetted by this committee and forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for final payment approval. The Finance Committee also oversees preparation of the annual budget and tax levy ordinances.
- Programming & Events Committee – This committee meets once per month, consists of 5 commissioners appointed by the President and is chaired by a commissioner selected by the President. This committee oversees items pertaining to Ellis House, Meadowhawk Lodge, and programming.



- Planning Advisory Committee – This committee meets annually or as needed, consists of a combination of 3 commissioners appointed by the President and 5 members of the public appointed by the President, and is chaired by a commissioner selected by the President. The Planning Advisory Committee provides input on long-term projects, reviews the Forest Preserve District’s Master Plan on an annual basis and reviews the District’s annual report.

Along with the Downstate Forest Preserve act, several ordinances and policies approved by the Board of Commissioners guide many of the activities that occur on District lands. These include the General Use Regulation Ordinance, Easement & License Ordinance, facility rental policies, and programming policies.

The Forest Preserve Director is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the District, and to implement the actions and policies of the Board of Commissioners.

The main offices of the Kendall County Forest Preserve District are located in the Kendall County Historic Courthouse, 110 West Madison Street, Yorkville, IL 60560.

Please see Appendix 5 for the Commission Organizational Chart and the Staff Organization Chart.

ADMINISTRATION

The District performs a wide variety of administrative duties typical of a governmental open space agency. Many of these tasks are internal including human resource duties, staff coordination and project administration. Other duties involve the public and the Board of Commissioners.

Some administrative duties are performed by the Forest Preserve Director, but many staff members are assigned significant administrative responsibilities.

Responsibilities:

- Coordinate District operations, programming, and facilities.
- Manage land acquisition and capital projects.
- Conducts human resources duties.
- Create and post meeting agendas, packets, and minutes.
- Process accounts payable and accounts receivable.
- Process facility rental permits and program registration forms.
- Process and track Freedom of Information Act requests.
- Coordinate with county departments, outside organizations and the public as needed.

Goals & Objectives:

- Update, create, and administer ordinances and policies that promote efficient operations and adhere to legal requirements.
- Develop, review and update job descriptions as needed.
- Update Employee Handbook as needed.
- Provide training and equipment that promotes a safe working environment for District staff.
- Encourage public input, participation, and feedback.
- Create and distribute an annual report for the District.
- Review the District’s Master Plan on an annual basis.

MARKETING AND OUTREACH

Communicating with the public is a critical component of the operations of the Kendall County Forest Preserve District. As the District is a public agency, it is paramount to produce and disseminate information about the District to residents.

The Kendall County Forest Preserve District utilizes a variety of print and electronic platforms to provide information about the facilities, programs and accomplishments of the District. While there is more to be done, in recent years the District has greatly expanded its ability to communicate with the public. Traditional sources such as a newsletter, flyers and press releases have been combined with electronic communications to distribute information in ways that are relevant to the public.



Responsibilities:

- Produce and distribute quarterly newsletter via mail and email.
- Produce and distribute press releases promoting District programs and events.
- Produce and distribute maps, brochures, and flyers promoting District programs and facilities.
- Maintain Facebook pages that promote District programs and facilities.
- Maintain email lists to provide the public with information on programs of the District.
- Respond to resident inquiries via phone, email, and in person.

Goals & Objectives:

- Continuously promote District sites, programs, and accomplishments.
- Produce and update appropriate newsletters, brochures, flyers, maps, and electronic platforms.
- Encourage public input, participation and feedback.
- Utilize media to promote District facilities, programs and accomplishments.
- Provide public presentations and informational sessions as needed.
- Evaluate the potential of an online facility reservation system.
- Continue to evaluate and utilize new electronic platforms of communicating information.
- Partner with applicable groups and organizations to promote District sites, programs and accomplishments.

SECTION 7 FINANCES & BUDGET

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.

District staff, in conjunction with Kendall County offices, processes payroll, accounts receivable and accounts payable. 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.



Photo courtesy of Ken Mozingo

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 only be used for land acquisition and capital projects. Land-Cash funds cannot be utilized to fund day-to-day operations.

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.

Applicable grant programs include, but are not limited to:
 Open Space Land Acquisition & Development – This Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) program provides matching funds for land acquisition (up to \$750,000) and development projects (up to \$400,000). Applicants must provide a minimum of 50% of the total project cost. Applications are typically due in July of each year.

Recreational Trails Program – This federal program is administered by IDNR and provides matching funds for trail construction and trail rehabilitation (up to \$200,000), and land acquisition for trails (no limit). Applicants must provide a minimum of 20% of the total project cost. Applications are typically due in March of each year.

Illinois Bicycle Path Grant Program – This IDNR program provides matching funds for bike trail construction and trail rehabilitation (up to \$200,000), and land acquisition for trails (no limit). Applicants must provide a minimum of 50% of the total project cost. Applications are typically due in March of each year.

Park & Recreational Facility Construction Program – This IDNR program provides matching funds for park and recreation unit construction projects, and land acquisition for such projects. Applications are typically due in January of each year.

SPOTLIGHT ON JOHN & MARY SUBAT

Nestled along Eldamain Road between Plano and Yorkville, Subat Forest Preserve is not the showiest or most well-known preserve. But the generosity of its namesake certainly calls for much pomp and circumstance.

In 2002, John & Mary Subat sold 68 acres to the Kendall County Forest Preserve District at well under market value. The Subats also worked with the District as grants were lined up to pay for nearly 75% of the acquisition.

The Subats then made a number of financial donations that went towards building the picnic shelter and other improvements at the preserve.

Lastly, but certainly not least, the Subats set up trusts which eventually led to \$816,500 being donated to the District to eventually build a nature preserve building at the site.



Public Museum Capital Grant Program – This program is jointly administered by IDNR and the Illinois State Museum and provides funds to public museums to develop or update exhibits and facilities (up to 100%).

Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation – This organization was established in 1999 as an independent foundation with a \$225 million endowment provided by Commonwealth Edison and whose mission is to improve energy efficiency, advance the development of renewable energy resources and protect natural areas in communities all across Illinois. Their land acquisition grant program provides up to 80% of projects costs, with the applicant supplying the remaining 20%. Letters of Inquiries are due in January and July.

Grand Victoria Foundation – This organization was established in 1996 by the Grand Victoria Casino in Elgin, which voluntarily donates 20 percent of its annual net operating income to fund initiatives that help turn local communities into vibrant civic hubs. This organization provides funding for land acquisition through its Vital Lands Illinois program. Applications can be submitted anytime during the year.

Kendall County Transportation Alternatives Program – This program is administered by Kendall County and provides matching funds for trail and sidewalk construction and rehabilitation along federal, state and county roads (up to \$50,000). Applicants must provide a minimum of 50% of the total project costs. Applications are due in April of each year.



Photo courtesy of Ken Mozingo

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. These fees are reviewed by the Forest Preserve Commission annually.

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. These licenses are reviewed and approved by the Forest Preserve Commission annually.

Responsibilities:

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

Goals & Objectives:

- Continue to review and improve the process and format of the annual general fund budget, capital budget and tax levies.
- Continue to review and improve multi-year budgeting for operations and capital expenditures.
- Review and improve the District's investment policy as necessary.
- Develop and institute new ways to gather and review pertinent financial information from District operations.
- Evaluate program fees and facility rental fees annually or as needed.
- Maintain and improve standards for obtaining quotes and bids for goods, services, and projects.
- 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.
- Review and implement recommendations of auditor as warranted.
- Analyze the need, cost and benefit to hire financial staff.
- Develop and implement strategy to improve fund balance.
- Investigate and evaluate alternate revenue streams.
- Investigate potential for an open space bond referendum.
- Investigate potential for creating tax levies specific to employee retirement, Medicare and insurance.
- Partner with applicable government agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses on cost saving and increased revenue initiatives.

SECTION 8 OPERATIONS & PROGRAMMING

The Kendall County Forest Preserve District is divided into several departments and programming centers. Staff, and in many instances, volunteers, strive daily to have the preserves and programs of the District meet the high standards required of a public open space organization. The various departments and programming centers work together everyday to ensure that the resources of the District are utilized as efficiently as possible. Hoover Forest Preserve and Ellis House & Equestrian Center, due to their high amounts of public usage compared to other preserves, are identified as separate operations.

Grounds & Natural Resources Department

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 significantly limited in its ability to have an impactful natural areas management program on a year round basis due to staff time limitations.

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.

Responsibilities:

- Prioritizes and implements natural areas land management activities.
- Maintains asphalt, limestone, woodchip, and dirt trails.
- Maintains picnic shelters, campsites, and baseball fields.

- Maintains wells, sewage treatment lagoon, septic fields and restroom buildings.
- Maintains bunkhouses, multipurpose event buildings, education buildings, horse stable, indoor riding arena and outdoor riding arenas.
- Maintains various maintenance, storage and ancillary structures.
- Maintains turf grass, landscaping, roads, parking lots and signage.
- With the Environmental Education Department, maintains the Neshnabe'k Native American Village, Rookery and Nature Exploration Station.
- Open and close preserves daily.
- Interacts with preserve visitors.
- Prepares and maintains rental facilities for use by the public.
- Maintains the District's equipment.
- Assists other departments.
- Coordinates community service workers.
- Coordinate sheriff's patrols.

Goals & Objectives:

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

SPOTLIGHT ON KIM OLSON

Forest Preserve Superintendent Kim Olson has worked for the Kendall County Forest Preserve District since 1999. But the years alone do not tell the story of the dedication that Kim shows every day.

In Kim's time on the job, things have changed dramatically. Years ago, mowing turf at a couple of preserves was tops on a fairly short list of duties. Now Kim and her staff take care of a wide range of public use facilities at eleven preserves.

The Grounds and Natural Resources Department that Kim oversees is also responsible for managing the District's natural areas, an area near and dear to her heart. With daughters and a granddaughter, being a steward of these special natural jewels is an inheritance she enjoys passing on.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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.

Responsibilities:

- Conducts summer camps.
- Conducts programming for of school groups.
- Conducts recurring programs.
- Conducts seasonal and one-time programs.
- Conducts Natural Beginnings Early Childhood program.
- Partners with other agencies to conduct large programs and events.
- Maintains exhibits in the Laws of Nature Center.
- Maintains accession records for the Laws of Nature Center.
- With the Grounds & Natural Resources Department, maintains the Neshnabe'k Native American Village and Rookery building.
- Coordinates Hoover Volunteer Program.

- Assists with production of the District's quarterly newsletter.
- Promotes environmental education programming via Facebook, email, flyers, events and print media.

Goals & Objectives:

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

ELLIS HOUSE & EQUESTRIAN CENTER

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.

Responsibilities:

- Conducts riding lessons.
- Conducts children's parties.
- Conducts summer camps.
- Conducts recurring programs.
- Conducts seasonal and one-time programs.
- Conducts annual Reindeer Run 5K in December.
- Partners with other agencies to conduct large programs and events.
- Conducts wedding and other house rentals.
- Coordinates Ellis House & Equestrian Center Volunteer Program.
- Coordinates community service workers.
- Assists with production of the District's quarterly newsletter.
- Promotes Ellis House & Equestrian Center via Facebook, email, flyers, events and print media.

Goals & Objectives:

- Continue to develop and offer quality equestrian programs and events to residents.
- Continue to provide superior rental facilities and services.
- Publicize Ellis facilities, programs and events to residents via print, electronic and other appropriate formats.
- Operate Ellis to a high standard of maintenance, cleanliness, and safety.
- Encourage public input, participation and feedback.
- Continue to develop the Ellis House & Equestrian Center Volunteer Program to assist with programming and facilities.
- Continue to develop and strengthen partnerships with other equestrian facilities and organizations.
- Participate in applicable equestrian organizations.
- Evaluate expenses and revenues of programs and facilities on a regular basis.

HOOVER FOREST PRESERVE

At just under 400 acres, Hoover Forest Preserve is the largest site owned by the Kendall County Forest Preserve District. Acquired from 2003-07, Hoover stretches along the Fox River for .75 miles and has wooded bluffs, fens, seeps and grasslands. As a former Boy Scout camp, Hoover possesses a number of buildings, most of which have undergone significant renovation since 2007. Hoover also has its own water system and wastewater treatment system.

Hoover is the busiest of the Kendall County Forest Preserves. With bunkhouses, campsites, trails, ballfield, picnic shelters and overlook decks, Hoover has plenty of attractions for outdoor enthusiasts. Meadowhawk Lodge provides a spacious indoor event space. The Rookery and the nearby Neshnabé Village and Nature Exploration Station are the core environmental education facilities of the District.

Hoover is also home to the Kendall County Outdoor Education Center, a cooperative of local school districts that brings thousands of students to Hoover during the school year.

Hoover has a Site Manager who lives at the preserve and maintains the grounds, buildings, and natural areas, with the assistance of other Grounds & Natural Resources staff. Environmental education staff members spend significant time at Hoover to conduct programming.

Responsibilities:

- Prepares and maintains Meadowhawk Lodge, bunkhouses and tent campsites for rental use by the public.
- With the Environmental Education Department, maintains the Neshnabé'k Native American Village, Rookery, and Nature Exploration Station.
- Maintains other structures, water system and wastewater treatment system.
- Maintains turf grass, landscaping, trails, roads, parking lots and signage.
- Open and close preserves daily.
- Interacts with preserve visitors.
- Maintains the District's equipment.
- Assists other departments.
- Coordinates community service workers.

Goals & Objectives:

- Keep the grounds and facilities of Hoover to a high standard of maintenance and cleanliness.
- Maintain Hoover facilities for the use and safety of the public, and for protection of natural resources.
- Publicize Hoover facilities to residents via print, electronic and other appropriate formats.
- Provide positive interactions with the public.
- Coordinate with the Kendall County Outdoor Education Center on a regular basis.
- Partner with other agencies, community groups and youth groups to assist with achieving goals and objectives.
- Continue to develop and implement a preventative maintenance schedule for Hoover facilities and equipment.
- Maintain the natural resources of Hoover through management and restoration projects.
- Encourage public input, participation, and feedback.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

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, natural areas and programs of the District. The District has three distinct volunteer groups - the Natural Areas Volunteer (NAV) Program, Ellis House & Equestrian Center Volunteer Program and the Hoover Volunteer Program.

The Natural Areas Volunteer Program was started in 2009. NAVs assist with natural areas management projects, monitor District trails, and participate in regional ecological monitoring programs such as Plants of Concern and the Prairie Bird Survey. The NAV Program is led by the Natural Areas Volunteer Coordinator, who handles the administration, training and scheduling for this group. The NAV Program utilizes a building at Hoover Forest Preserve for storage and training space. The NAV Coordinator works with the Superintendent of the Grounds & Natural Resources Department and the Forest Preserve Director to coordinate certain activities and goals. The NAVs work District-wide in many of the preserves. NAVs perform various resource management tasks such as native seed collection and processing, brush removal, invasive plant control and controlled burning.

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 Neshnabek Native American Village, Nature Exploration Station, maintaining the planting beds and rain gardens, and with Environmental Education programming at Hoover Forest Preserve. The Hoover Volunteer program is coordinated by one of the Naturalists in the Environmental Education Department. These volunteers work primarily at Hoover Forest Preserve.

Responsibilities:

- Collects and processes volunteer application forms, volunteer agreements, and background check forms.
- Conducts volunteer orientations and trainings.
- Supervises volunteer activities:
 - ◆ Natural Area Volunteers
 - * Natural areas management tasks such as brush removal, invasive plant control, native plant seed collection and assistance with prescribed burns.
 - * Monitors trails
 - * Conducts citizen scientist ecological monitoring including Plants of Concern and Prairie Bird Survey.
 - ◆ Ellis Volunteers
 - * Assists with barn chores and horse care.
 - * Assists with programming such as birthday parties, equestrian camps and family programs.
 - * Assists with weddings and other special events.
 - ◆ Hoover Volunteers
 - * Assists with maintaining Neshnabek and the Nature Exploration Station.
 - * Assists with maintaining the planting beds and rain gardens at Hoover FP.
 - * Assists with Environmental Education Department programming.

- Communicates with volunteers regarding scheduling, projects, and volunteer related issues.
- Tracks volunteer hours and projects.
- Maintains volunteer files.
- Maintains volunteer equipment and supplies.
- Schedules and supervises volunteer workdays and events.
- Coordinates with other agencies and organizations on projects.
- Hosts volunteer appreciation events.
- Assists with production of the District's quarterly newsletter.

Goals and Objectives :

- Continue to improve volunteer related forms and documentation.
- Develop and institute District-wide volunteer orientation.
- Continue to improve and expand volunteer trainings.
- Provide a safe working environment for all volunteers.
- Provide positive interactions with the public., staff and board.
- Promote the volunteer opportunities of the District to recruit additional volunteers.
- Develop a consistent volunteer appreciation and recognition program.
- Develop strategies and solicit input to foster volunteer retention.
- Encourage public input, participation, and feedback.
- Continue to develop and strengthen partnerships with other agencies and organizations.
- Participate in applicable volunteer management organizations.
- Develop and implement a program to train and utilize Site Stewards for the NAV Program.
- Utilize NAVs to educate citizens about the natural areas of Kendall County.



Photo courtesy of Ken Mozingo

APPENDIX 1: CAPITAL PROJECTS, 2007-14

<u>Forest Preserve</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grant Funding</u>	<u>Capital Project</u>
Baker Woods Forest Preserve	2008-09	529,500		Ellis House improvements, maintenance building, parking
	2008-09	50,000		Improvements to barn, arena, house
	2009	2,000		Improvements to riding arenas and pastures
	2011	3,000		Signage
	2011	35,000		Gravel parking & tent pad
	2012-13	950,000	200,000	Trails & bridge
	2014	36,000		Ellis House furnishings, storage, improvements
Blackberry Trails Forest Preserve	2008	4,000		Signage
Harris Forest Preserve	2008-10	8,500		Picnic shelter improvements
Hoover Forest Preserve	2008-12	134,500		Upgrades to sewage system & water system
	2009	15,000		Entrance Improvements
	2009-10	1,850,000		Renovate Rookery, bunkhouses, water main, entrance
	2010-13	17,600		Upgrade picnic shelters and Neshnabe'k Village
	2011	1,100,000	400,000	Trails, campgrounds, parking, restrooms, overlook decks
	2011	260,000		Staff residence
	2011	165,000		Maintenance building
	2011-13	2,800,000	650,000	Renovate Meadowhawk Lodge
	2014	7,700		Information kiosk
Jay Woods Forest Preserve	2009	800,000	369,000	Trails, parking, picnic shelter, overlook deck, restroom
Millbrook North Forest Preserve	2010	27,000	11,750	Floodplain Restoration Grant
Millbrook South Forest Preserve	2009	50,000		Native Prairie Seed - 75 acres
	2009	7,500		Parking, signage, trail
Pickerill-Pigott Forest Preserve	2009	28,700		Demolition & salvage
Richard Young Forest Preserve	2012	20,000		Bridge replacement, electric
Multiple Preserves	2009	25,000		Improve asphalt entrances
	2009	1,200		Dog stations
	2011	27,000		Demolition - Hoover, Baker Woods, Millington
	2011	7,000		Signage
Totals		8,961,200	1,630,750	

APPENDIX 2: ESTIMATE OF DEVELOPMENT COSTS

<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Material Only</u>	<u>Material & Labor</u>
Shelter (including excavation)	Each	\$	45,000.00
Concrete Floor for Shelter	Lump Sum	\$	14,000.00
Picnic Tables:			
6' Wood	Each	\$	800.00
6' Recycled Plastic	Each	\$	950.00
8' Wood ADA	Each	\$	950.00
8' Recycled ADA	Each	\$	1,100.00
Grills	Each	\$	500.00
Benches - 6' with arms:			
Wood	Each	\$	950.00
Recycled Plastic	Each	\$	900.00
Trash Receptacles	Each	\$	575.00
Bike Rack	Each	\$	950.00
Vault Latrine	Each	\$	32,000-35,000
Doggie Pot System	Each	\$	500.00
Park Signage:			
Entrance Sign	Each	\$	4,500-6,000
Kiosk - 3-sided	Each	\$7,700	\$ 12,000.00
Message Board Single-sided	Each	\$	9,000.00
Interpretive Sign	Each	\$700	\$ 1,800.00
Info, Park ID, Trail Markers	Each	\$25	
Fireplace in Shelter	Each	\$	8,000-10,000
Fire Pit	Each	\$	750 - 1,000
Council Ring	Each	\$	12,000-15,000
Trails:			
Excavation	C.Y.	\$	43.00
8" Depth Gravel	S.Y.	\$	17.00
2" Asphalt	S.Y.	\$	5.00
Limestone Surface	S.Y.	\$	2.25
Wood Chip Surface	S.Y.	\$	1.75
Concrete Walk	S.F.	\$	6.00
Footbridge 15' - Wooden	Lump Sum	\$500	\$ 1,500.00
Entrance Road & Parking Lot:			
Excavation (spoils removed from site)	CY	\$	45.00
Gravel (8" depth)	S.Y.	\$8	
Asphalt:			
1 1/2" Binder Course	S.Y.	\$	6.00
1" Surface Course	S.Y.	\$	4.00
Car Stops	Each	\$	37.00
Guardrail:			
Steel	L.F.	\$	19.00
Wooden - Timber	L.F.	\$	12.00

APPENDIX 2: ESTIMATE OF DEVELOPMENT COSTS - CONTINUED

<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Material Only</u>	<u>Material & Labor</u>
Bollards & Fencing:			
Drop Down	Each	\$750	\$ 1,250.00
Timber	Each	\$	350.00
Round Steel Pipe	Each	\$	650.00
Entrance Gate (arm style)	Each	\$	2,000.00
Split Rail Fence	L.F.	\$	11.50
Landscaping:			
Native Shade Tree 2" BB	Each	\$	350.00
Intermediate/Ornamental Tree 5' or 1 3/4"	Each	\$	250.00
Native Shrubs 24" - 30"	Each	\$	65.00
Turf Seeding	S.Y. or Acre		\$0.82 or \$4,000
Prairie Seeding	Acre	\$	6,000.00
Prairie Plugs, Plants	Each	\$	3.50
Well & Hand Pump		\$	7,500 - 10,000
Pond or Detention Construction:			
Excavation (spoils used on site)	C.Y.	\$	25.00
Excavation (spoils removed from site)	C.Y.	\$	45.00

1. Each price is for the item to be furnished and installed individually.
2. If these items are part of a larger project, the price could be less.
3. Add 2.5% each year for inflation

APPENDIX 3: LAND ACQUISITION WORKSHEET

Land Acquisition Worksheet

Decisions made regarding land acquisition are the responsibility of the Board of Commissioners of the Kendall County Forest Preserve District. This worksheet is meant to assist the board, along with staff recommendations and resident input, in the land acquisition process. Other factors including, but not limited to: price, threats to the property, needs of the District, and grant requirements will also be considered by the commissioners when making land acquisition decisions.

This worksheet is numerically based, with a high score indicating a property with high value as preserved open space. For each quality that a parcel possesses, it receives the corresponding score. The total score can then be compared with scores of other parcels in order to evaluate the properties as potential forest preserves.

Preserving Natural Features:

High Quality Natural Area (prairie, wetland, woodland, stream)	12	___
Fox Riverfront Property	12	___
Linkage between Protected Open Spaces	8	___
Streams/Lakes/Ponds	8	___
Expansion of Current Forest Preserve	4	___
Presence of Endangered or Threatened Species	4	___
Significant Geologic Features	4	___
100 acres or larger	4	___
Subtotal	<u>56</u>	___

Recreation and Education Potential:

Multi-purpose Trails	12	___
Nature Trails	8	___
Water/Fishing/Canoe Access	4	___
Picnic Areas/High Use Areas	4	___
Preserve Access/Parking	4	___
Subtotal	<u>32</u>	___

Complement Existing Plans:

Protect Kendall Now	8	___
Kendall County Land Resource Management Plan or Watershed Plan or Municipal/Park District Plan or Trail Plan	4	___
Subtotal	<u>12</u>	___

Total	100	___
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APPENDIX 4: LAND ACQUISITION HISTORY

Year	Preserve	Landowner	Acres	Type of Acquisition	Total Cost	Funding	Amount
1966	Maramech	First National Bank of Chicago	86	Fee Simple	56,800	HUD	28,400
1967	Baker	Baker	17.74	Donation			
1968	Maramech	Silver	6	Land Trade			
1968	Harris	Harris	87	Fee Simple	80,900	HUD	40,450
1970	Baker	Young American's Club	7.72	Fee Simple	22,500		
1970	Lyon	Lyon	44.5	Donation			
1974	Baker	Seward Township	0.34	Donation			
1990	Harris	Kendall County Recreation Assoc.	6	Donation			
1992	Fox River Islands	Fox Valley Animal Welfare League	22	Fee Simple	5,000		
1994	Richard Young	Rohrer, etal	98	Fee Simple	770,000	OSLAD	388,500
1997	Newark	Friestad	42	Fee Simple	177,000		
1998	Fox River Islands	Church/Hafennichter	5	Donation			
1998	Fox River Bike Trail	Barber-Green Hunt Club	0.42	Fee Simple	2,443	Bike Path ¹	1,955
1998	Shuh Shuh Gah	Kendall County	2.95	Fee Simple	196,800	FEMA	196,800
2000	Cannonball Sedge Meadow	Alan Dale Farms & Development	10.71	Donation			
2000	Fox River Bike Trail	Hide-a-way Lakes	1.364 0.637	Fee Simple Easement	5,666	Bike Path ¹	4,533
2002	Subat	Subat	68.7	Fee Simple	692,111	C2000 OLT DCCA FP Funds	129,000 127,800 250,000 185,311
2003	Subat	County of Kendall	2.022	Donation			
2004	Schessler's Fen	Schessler	3.5	Donation			

APPENDIX 4: LAND ACQUISITION HISTORY - CONTINUED

Year	Preserve	Landowner	Acres	Type of Acquisition	Total Cost	Funding	Amount
2004	Hoover	Chicago Area Council of BSA	140	Fee Simple	6,394,275	NPS ICECF 2003 Bonds	4,938,391 1,181,000 274,884
2004	Hoover	Openlands	17	Fee Simple	780,525	OSLAD 2003 Bonds	750,000 30,575
2004	Blackberry Trails	Montgomery Crossing LLC	74	Donation			
2004	Young	Killian	32.17	Fee Simple	804,250	2003 Bonds	804,250
2005	Hoover	Openlands	152	Fee Simple	7,020,524	NPS OLT 2003 Bonds	4,930,538 1,000,000 1,089,986
2005	McDaniel Property	McDaniel	18.13	Fee Simple	365,552	Minooka 2003 Bonds	213,276 152,276
2005	Hollenback Sugarbush	Welles	46.26	Fee Simple	670,855	2003 Bonds	670,855
2005	Blackberry Trail	Blackberry Crossing LLC	8.41	Donation			
2007	Jay Woods	Robb via The Cons. Found.	45	Donation			
2007	Jay Woods	Robb	75	Fee Simple	750,000	OSLAD	750,000
2007	Reservation Woods	Gabel	13	Fee Simple	150,000		
2007	Hoover	Openlands	84	Fee Simple	4,145,000	2007 Bonds	4,145,000
2007	Millbrook - North & South	Lee	603	Fee Simple	21,000,000	2007 Bonds OSLAD NPS ICECF	14,823,600 750,000 4,926,400 500,000
2007	Blackberry Trail	Dickson	24.28	Donation			
2008	Baker Woods	Sandstrom	64.33	Fee Simple	1,117,390	2007 Bonds	1,117,390
2008	Pickerill-Pigott	Pickerill	32.18	Donation			
2008	Pickerill-Pigott	Pigott	69.52	Fee Simple	4,227,000	2007 Bonds	4,227,000

APPENDIX 4: LAND ACQUISITION HISTORY - CONTINUED

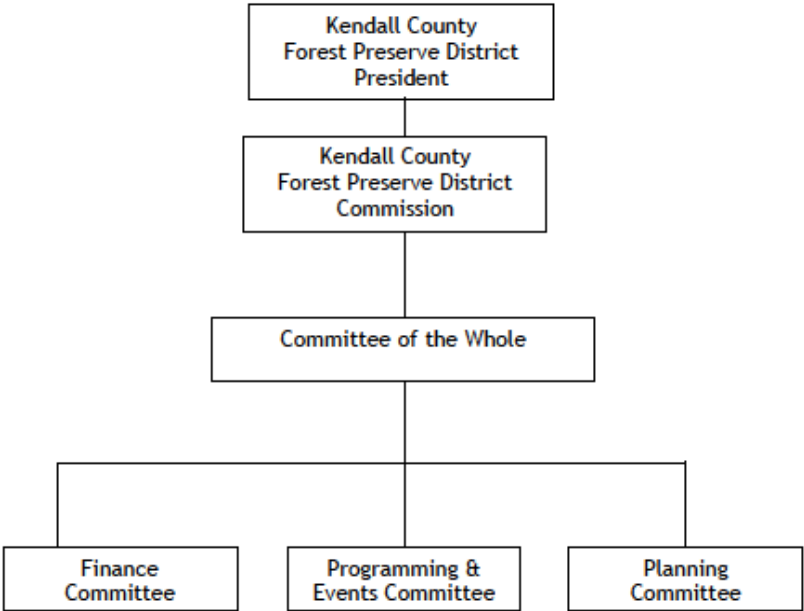
Year	Preserve	Landowner	Acres	Type of Acquisition	Total Cost	Funding	Amount
2008	Baker Woods	Baker	95.45	Fee Simple	1,909,000	2007 Bonds DCEO	1,659,000 250,000
2008	Baker Woods	Sova	0.78	Fee Simple	20,723	2007 Bonds	20,723
2008	Baker Woods	Ellis	44.9	Fee Simple	2,440,000	2007 Bonds	2,440,000
2009	Blackberry Trail	Blackberry Pointe LLC	52.47	Donation			
2009	Baker Woods	Seward Township	10	Fee Simple	199,875	2007 Bonds	199,875
2010	Henneberry	Henneberry Woods, Inc.	216.7	Fee Simple	5,312,189	2007 Bonds OSLAD TCF	4,532,189 750,000 30,000
2010	Millington	Bright	198	Fee Simple	1,584,125	2007 Bonds	1,584,125
2010	Millington	Freeman	10	Fee Simple	156,600	2007 Bonds	156,600
2010	Reservation Woods	Hugart	13.3	Fee Simple	185,000	2007 Bonds	185,000
2011	Baker Woods	Devries	10.76	Fee Simple	110,000	2007 Bonds	110,000
2012	Tucker-Millington Fen	Tucker	4.5	Fee Simple	35,000	2007 Bonds	35,000
2014	Subat	IDOT	30.7	Donation			
			<u>2698.44</u>				

TOTAL

¹ Joint project with OPD
 HUD - Department of Urban Development
 OSLAD - Open Space Land Acquisition & Development (IDNR)
 Bike Path - Illinois Bicycle Path Program (IDNR)
 FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency
 C2000 - Conservation 2000 (IDNR)
 OLT - Open Land Trust (IDNR)
 DCCA - Department of Commerce and Community Affairs
 DCEO - Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
 NPS - National Park Service
 ICECF - Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation
 TCF - The Conservation Foundation

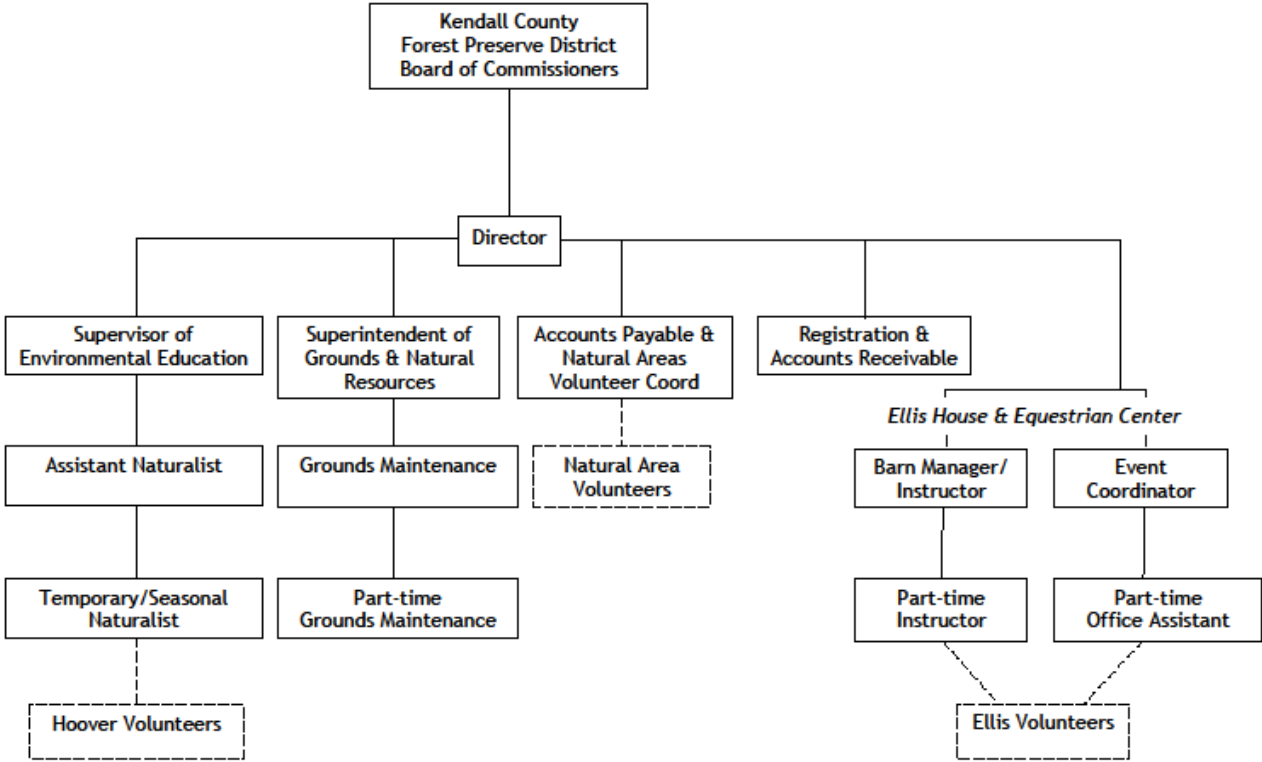
APPENDIX 5: ORGANIZATIONAL CHARTS

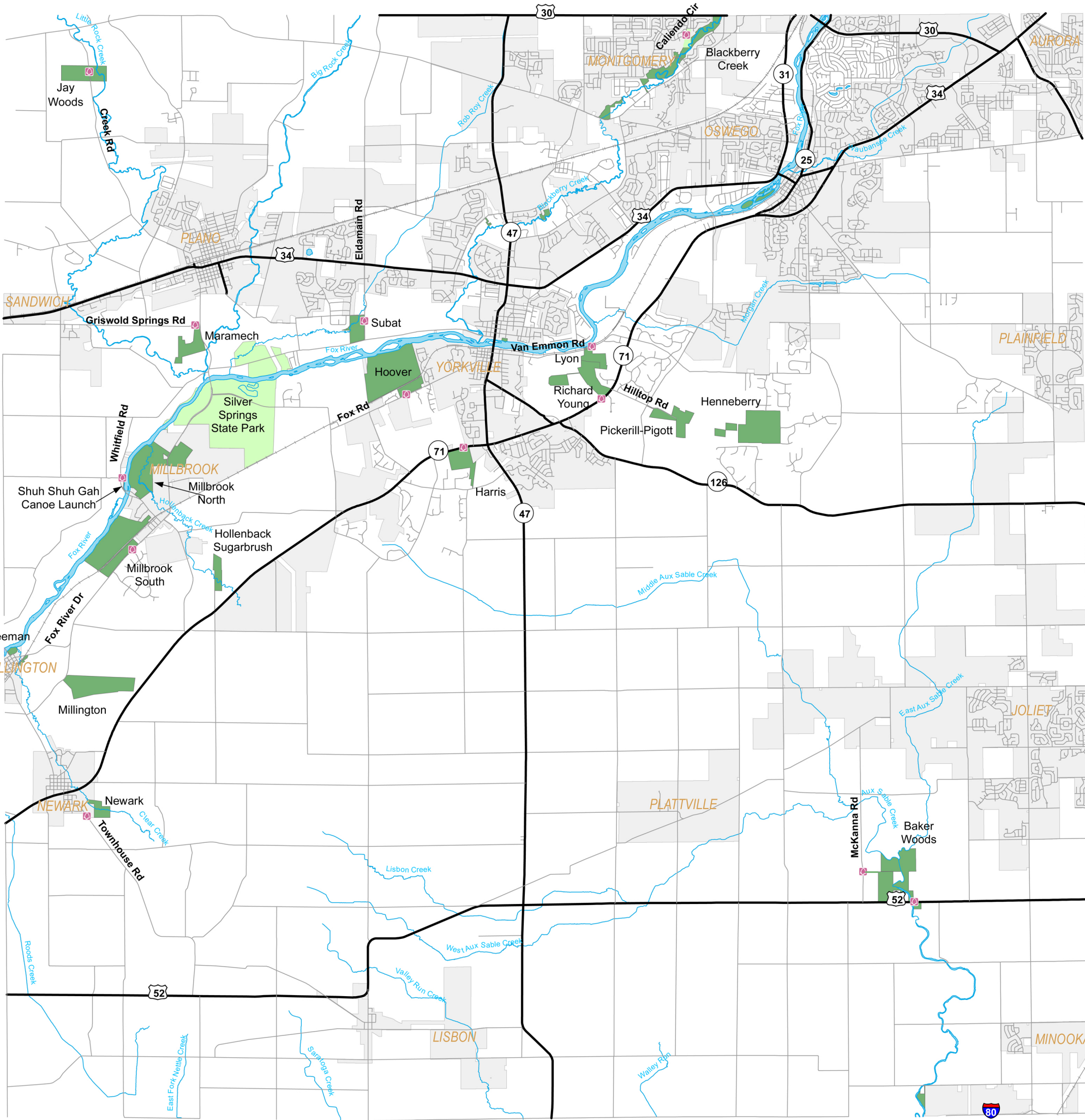
FOREST PRESERVE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



APPENDIX 5: ORGANIZATIONAL CHARTS

STAFF



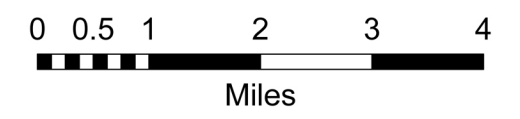
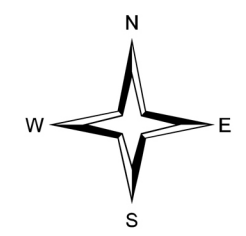


KENDALL COUNTY

2014



LITTLE ROCK	BRISTOL	OSWEGO
FOX	KENDALL	NA-AU-SAY
BIG GROVE	LISBON	SEWARD



Legend

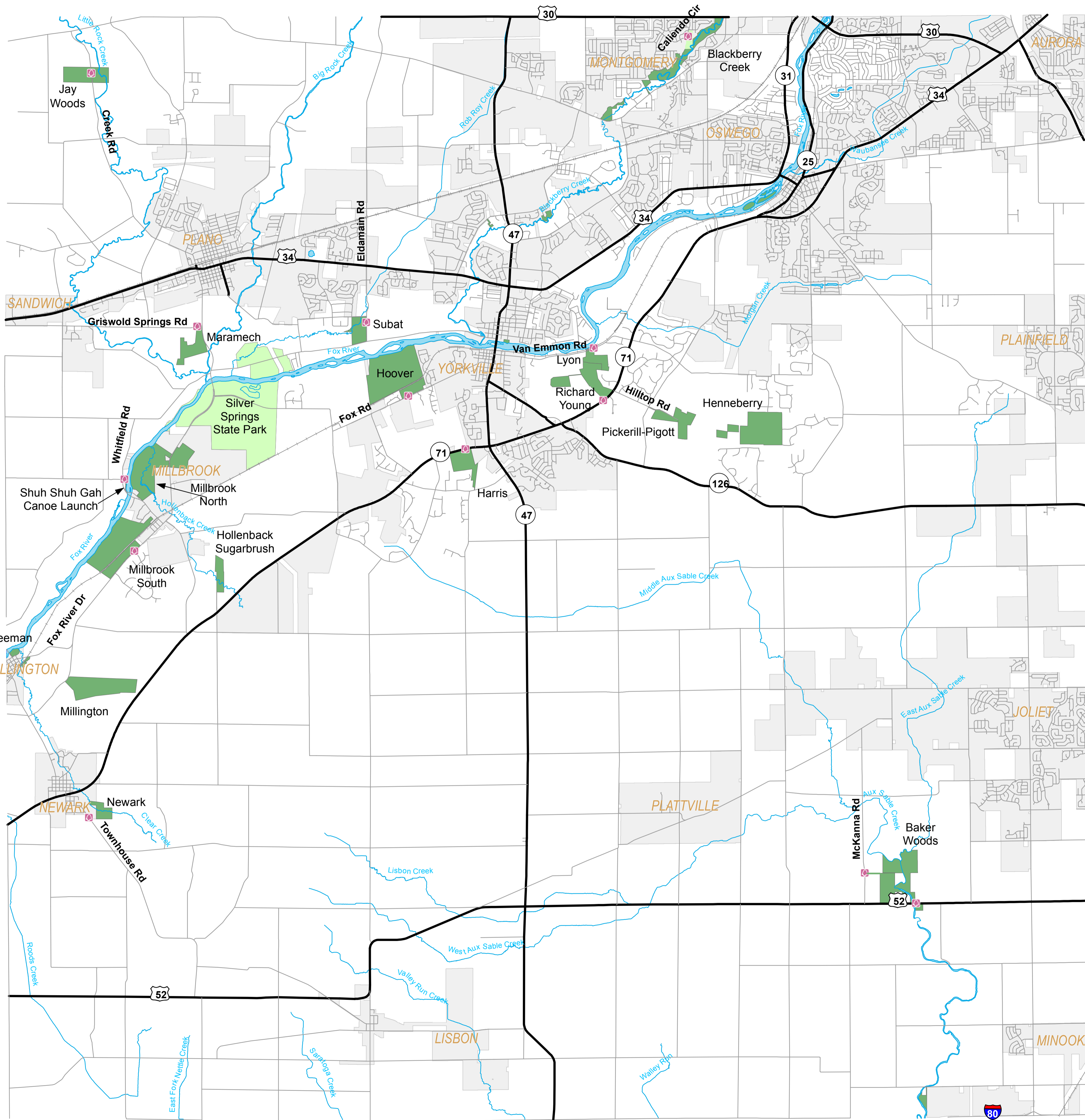
- ✱ FOREST PRESERVE ENTRANCE
- KENDALL ROADS
- +— RAILROAD
- FOREST PRESERVE
- CORPORATE



Kendall County GIS
 111 West Fox Street - Room 308
 Yorkville, Illinois 60560-1498
 630.553.4030

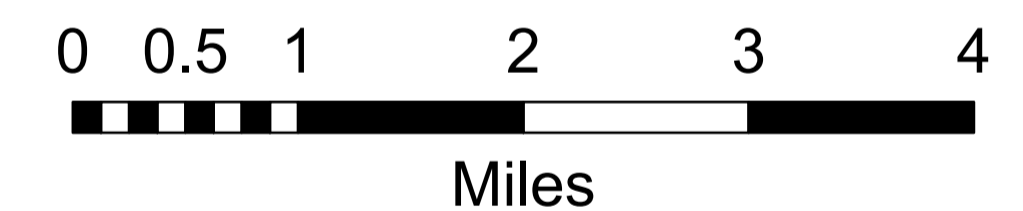
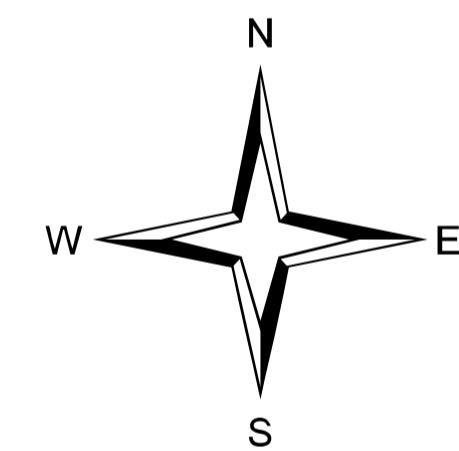
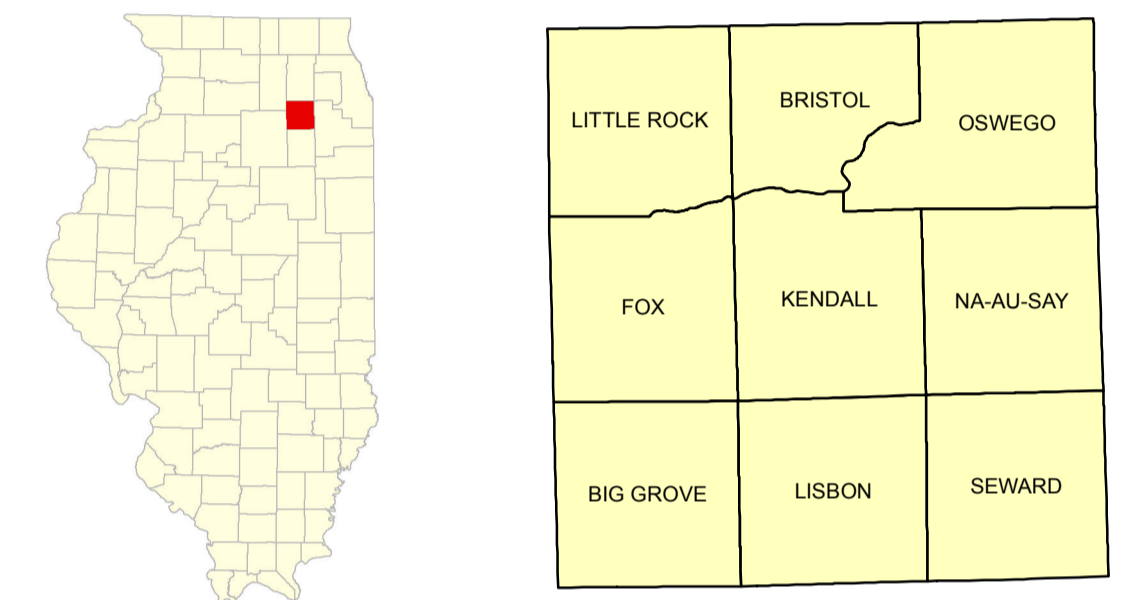
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KENDALL COUNTY

2014



Legend

- FOREST PRESERVE ENTRANCE
- KENDALL ROADS
- RAILROAD
- FOREST PRESERVE
- CORPORATE

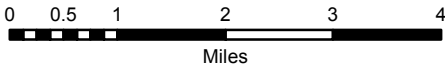
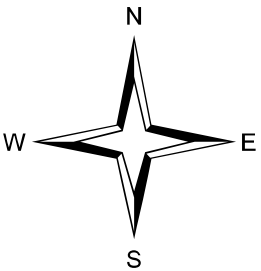
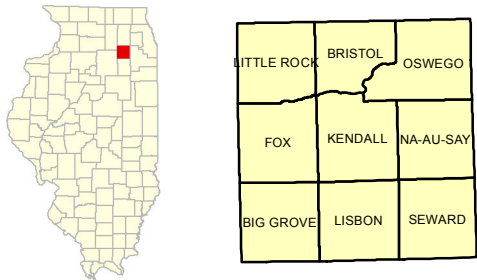


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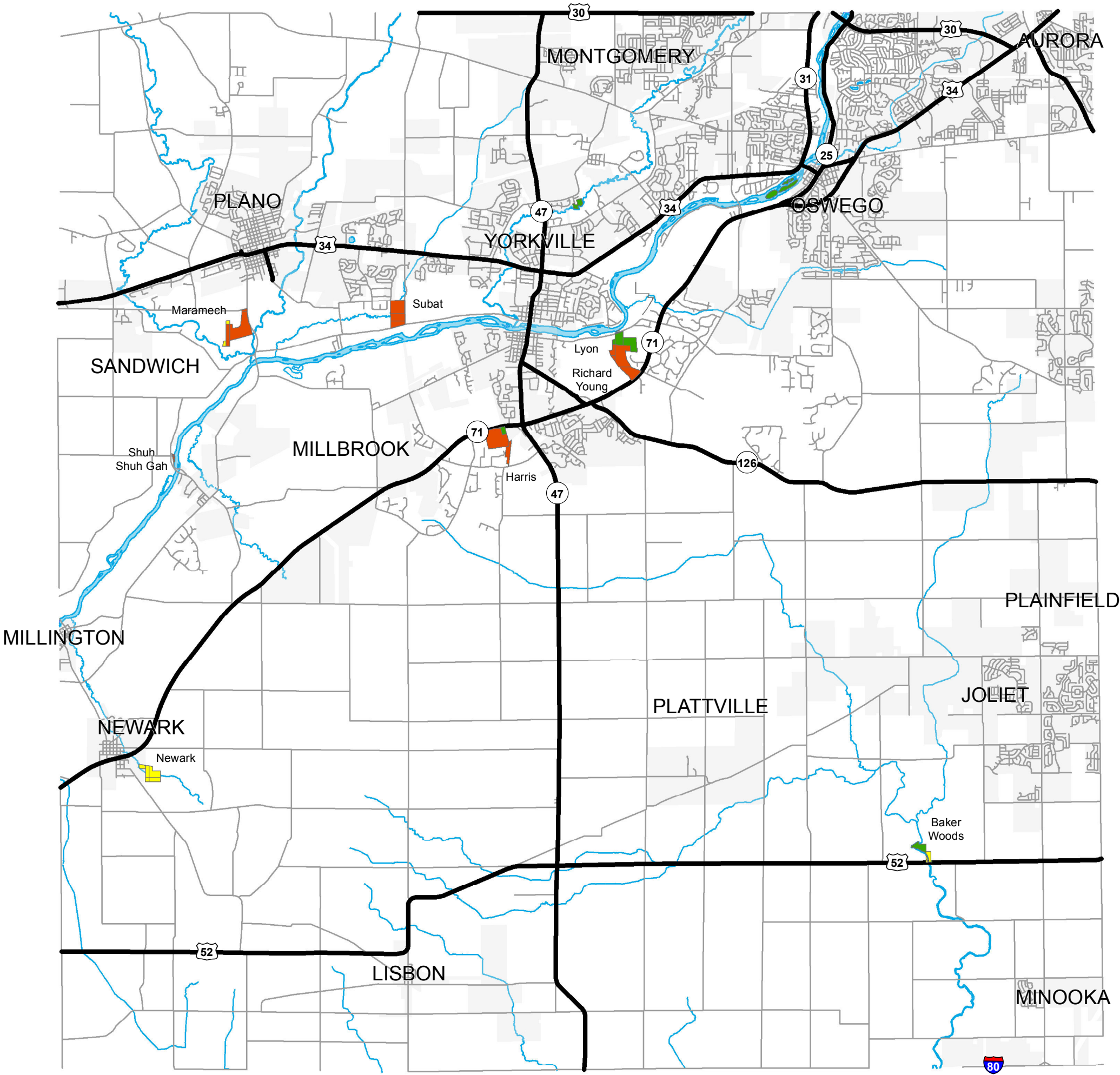
Land Acquisition 1964 - 2002



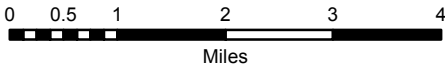
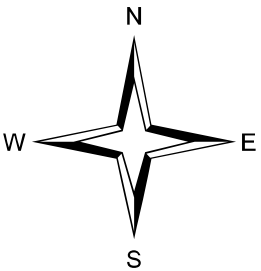
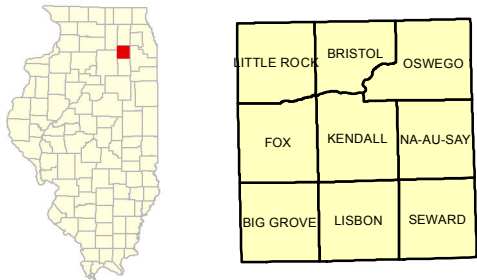
- 1964-2002, Donation
- 1964-2002, Purchased with Grant Assistance
- 1964-2002, Purchased without Grant Assistance



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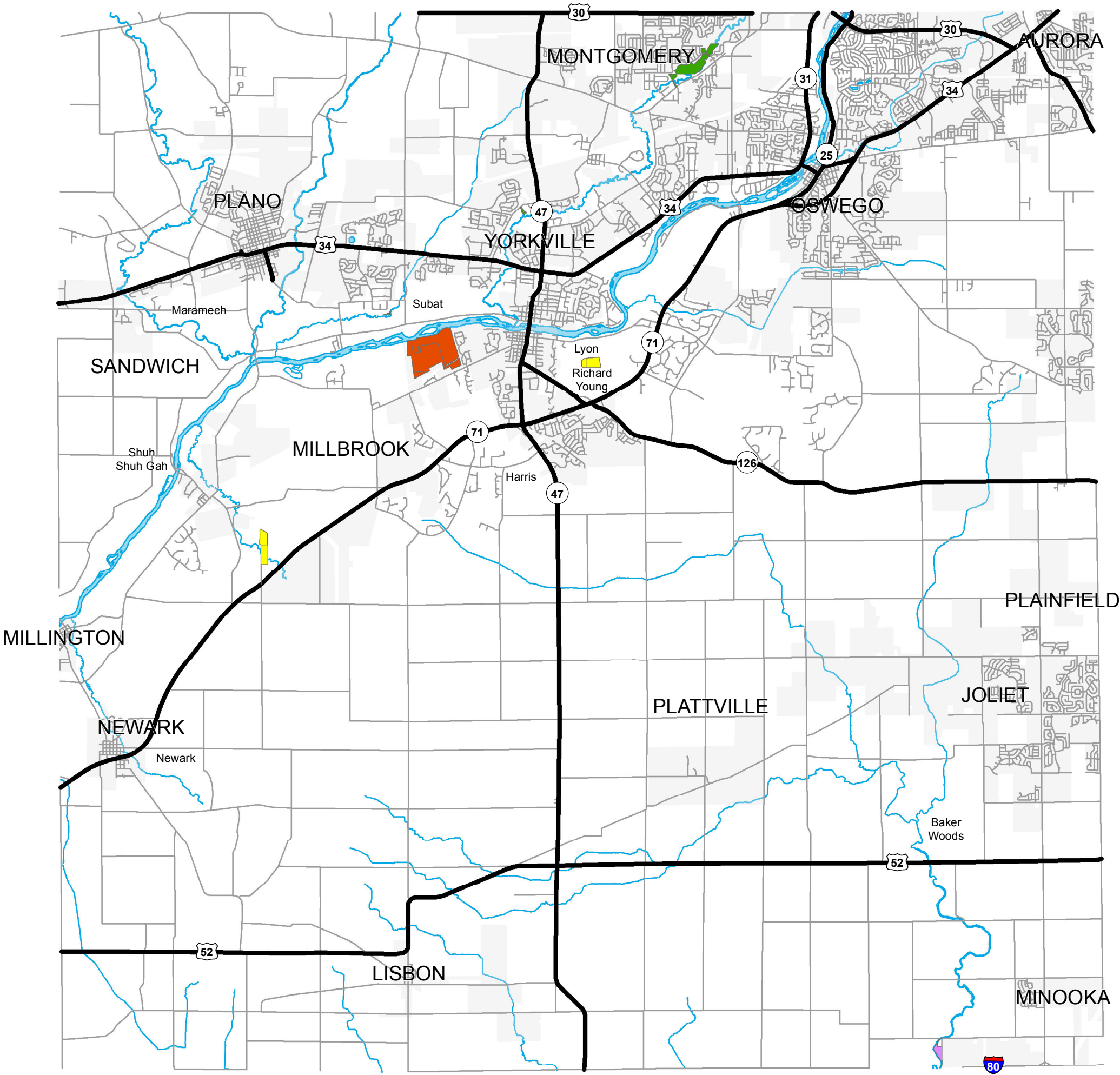
Land Acquisition 2003 - 2006



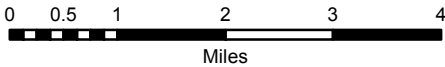
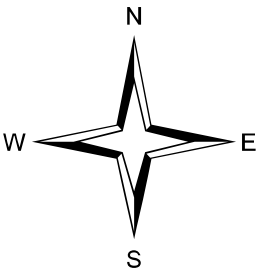
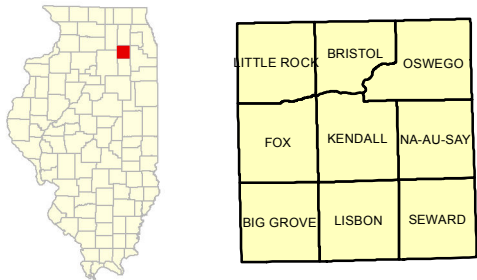
- 2003-2006, Donation
- 2003-2006, Joint Ownership
- 2003-2006, Purchased with Grant Assistance
- 2003-2006, Purchased without Grant Assistance



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Land Acquisition 2007 - 2014



- 2007-2014, Donation
- 2007-2014, Purchased with Grant Assistance
- 2007-2014, Purchased without Grant Assistance



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