In 2010 the voters of Winnebago County elected the first independent governing board for its forest preserve district. The new governance structure, a seven-member board elected at large, represents a new era in Winnebago County’s legacy of natural heritage stewardship. New leadership and a renewed commitment to ensuring the long-term health and quality of the county’s public lands, waters and natural communities led forest preserve elected officials and staff to clarify the organization’s vision and empower it with a dynamic strategic plan.

Mission

The Forest Preserve District is dedicated to protecting, conserving, enhancing and promoting Winnebago County’s natural heritage for the environmental, educational, and recreational benefit of present and future generations.

Core Values

- Protecting and preserving natural lands and natural communities.
- Connecting people to nature.
- Educating the community on benefits and history of the land.
- Being responsive to recreational needs while minimizing impact on the environment.

Strategic Goals

GOAL #1: Demonstrate excellence and good stewardship in management of natural resources and physical assets.

GOAL #2: Engage the public to increase awareness of the forest preserves and their value to the region.

GOAL #3: Expand opportunities for educational and recreational activities for all ages.

GOAL #4: Promote community-supported, value-driven, mission-centered revenue streams.

GOAL #5: Fulfill high standards of compliance, safety, and maintenance of property, infrastructure and equipment.