

**Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, October 23, 2024 – 5:30 PM
Forest Preserve Headquarters



A G E N D A

A. ROLL CALL

B. PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE

C. APPROVAL of MINUTES

Minutes for September 18

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AWARDS, and PRESENTATIONS

John Nall – Forest Preserve Improvements

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS / DISCUSSION

F. NEW BUSINESS

G. ACTION ITEMS

Page

- 1. Bills for September
- 3. Removal of Structures
- 4. Budget and Appropriations Ordinance
- 7. Levy Ordinance
- 11. 2025 Fee Schedules
- 14. 2025 Holiday Schedule
- 16. Delegate to IAPD Annual Business Meeting
- 18. Alteration to the Personnel Policy Section 10.2 Weapons in the Workplace

H. UPDATES and REPORTS

- 19. Preserve Operations
- 23. Natural Resource Management
- 26. Golf
- 30. Marketing
- 32. Human Resources
- 33. Law Enforcement
- Partner Groups

I. CLOSED SESSION

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS

- 1. October 29 – Guided Hike at Seward Bluffs Forest Preserves at starting at 5:30pm.
- 2. November 2 – Walk with U Guided Walk from 9:00am-10:00am.
- 3. November 2 – Backpacking with Burpee at Hononegah Forest Preserve from 10:00am–12:00pm.
- 4. November 2 & 3 – Liberty & Lincoln at Macktown Living History Museum.
- 5. November 10 – Native American at Macktown Living History Museum.
- 6. November 15 – Howl at the Moon Night Hike J. Norman Jensen Forest Preserve starting at 4:30pm.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Next regular Board Meeting– 5:30 PM Wednesday, November 20, Forest Preserve Headquarters

Anyone wishing to address the Board must call 815-877-6100 or email ewendlandt@winnebagoforest.org in advance of the meeting.

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
Authorization to Process Payment of Bills



October 23, 2024

**TO: THE AUDITOR AND TREASURER OF THE
FOREST PRESERVES OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY.**

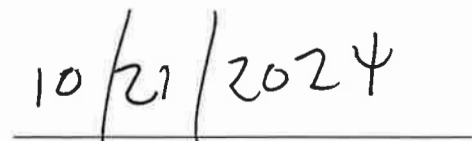
Your Forest Preserves of Winnebago County Board of Commissioners, to whom were referred the following bills in the amount of **\$ 690,608.65** against the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, have reviewed and approved and therefore respectfully request that orders be drawn on the account of the Forest Preserve District for their payment:

CORPORATE FUND	3001	270,236.13
BOTANICAL GARDEN FUND	3120	82,406.52
HEALTH BENEFITS FUND	3185	41,866.27
SOCIAL SECURITY FUND	3192	11,378.48
RETIREMENT FUND	3193	17,426.46
IMPROVEMENT & DEV. FUND	3302	92,069.61
CORPORATE FUND	3402	<u>175,225.18</u>
		\$ 690,608.65

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Chapman, Finance Director



Date

RESOLUTION

No. 24-1001

PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR SEPTEMBER

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserve incurs annual and monthly operating and capital expenditures during its budget cycle; and

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Finance Department compiled the attached invoices relating to Forest Preserve expenditures to be paid for the month of September; and

WHEREAS, our Finance Director, Steve Chapman, has reviewed the invoices and avows them to be accurate and appropriate for payment; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board authorizes the payment of the attached compilation of bills totaling \$690,608.65 to be paid by the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County for the month of September, 2024.

Voting YES _____

Voting NO _____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 23rd day of October, 2024.

That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

Jeff Tilly, President
Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION

No. 24-1002

DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL OF STRUCTURES AT SEVERSON DELLS FOREST PRESERVE

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County (Preserves) owns a property commonly known as Severson Dells Forest Preserve (Severson Dells); and,

WHEREAS, in the northwest quadrant of Severson Dells there is a former farmstead with an abandoned stone house and several outbuildings including a corn crib, small barn, large barn, garage, machine shed and several other incidental structures; and,

WHEREAS, the corn crib has deteriorated shingles, side walls that are bowing outward and is infested with raccoons; the small barn has deteriorated shingles, holes through the roof and a rotting upper-level floor; the stone house has several large holes in the deteriorated roof, ceilings and walls that are collapsing, broken windows, rotting flooring and is also infested with raccoons; and,

WHEREAS, these three buildings have no current or expected future use for the Preserves operations due to incompatible uses and high cost to repair or reuse them; and,

WHEREAS, these three buildings are in an advanced state of deterioration and are becoming a safety and health hazard as well as a liability to FPWC if they remain on site; and,

WHEREAS, the Preserves staff recommends the demolition and removal of these structures and have incorporated the demolition of these buildings in the FY 2024/2025 budget.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County Board of Commissioners elect to demolish and remove the stone house, corn crib and small barn from the former farmstead at Severson Dells Forest Preserve during the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

Voting YES_____

Voting NO_____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 23rd day of October, 2024.

That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

Jeff Tilly, President
Board of Commissioners

**Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD of COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA BACKGROUND INFORMATION

October 23, 2024

Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance

Contact	Steve Chapman	877-6100
	Mike Holan	877-6100

Background Information:

The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County’s fiscal year budget operates from November 1 through October 31. The Board of Commissioners have been presented the proposed 2024-2025 Annual Budget and Appropriation for review and adoption. The budget has been laid over for 30 days for public review and comment. No changes were made during the layover. It is requested the Board will approve the Ordinance to adopt the attached 2024-2025 Annual Budget and Appropriations.

Motion: To adopt the attached 2024-2025 Budget and Appropriations Ordinance.

ACTION required: Ordinance

September 18, 2024 – layover
October 23, 2024 – adoption
Rockford, Illinois

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County

BUDGET and APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE

No. 24-1003

for the fiscal period of November 1, 2024 through October 31, 2025

WHEREAS, the District staff in compliance with the provisions of the Illinois Municipal Budget Law, Illinois Revised Statutes, Section 70, paragraph 805 *et seq.*, has prepared an Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the District fiscal year beginning November 1, 2024 and ending October 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the said Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance was submitted to the District Board of Commissioners on September 18, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County as follows:

Section 1. That the attached schedules, containing the estimated cash on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year, the estimate of the cash expected to be received during the fiscal year from all sources, the estimate of the expenditures contemplated for said fiscal year, and the estimated cash expected to be on hand at the end of said fiscal year, be, and they are hereby approved as, the budget for the District fiscal year beginning November 1, 2024 and ending October 31, 2025.

Section 2. That the amounts stated for the objects and purposes specified in the attached schedules, or so much thereof as may be authorized by law, or as may be needed are hereby appropriated for the fiscal year beginning November 1, 2024 and ending October 31, 2025, from the following funds: Corporate, Capital Improvement, Botanical Garden, Liability Reserve, Social Security, Retirement, 2011 Debt Service, 2016 Debt Service, and Health Insurance.

Section 3. That, except as otherwise provided by law, no personnel shall be added other than specifically stated in each department budget, and no further appropriation shall be made at any other time within said fiscal year; however, the Board of Commissioners may from time to time make transfers between object classifications in any fund not exceeding, in the aggregate, 10% of the total amount appropriated in said Fund, and the Board of Commissioners may amend said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance from time to time by following the same procedure employed in the adoption of this Ordinance.

Section 4. That the District Secretary is hereby directed to provide two copies of this laid-over budget available in the Forest Preserve District office for public review by Thursday, September 19, 2024.

Section 5. That the District Executive Director is, by way of layover, hereby directed to advertise and hold a public hearing at the District Headquarters at 5:15 PM Wednesday, October 23, 2024, to receive public testimony regarding this proposed budget.

Section 6. That the District Secretary is hereby directed to make publication of this Ordinance in a newspaper having general circulation in the District within ten days of adoption of this Ordinance; and said Ordinance shall take effect ten days following the date of said publication.

Section 7. That the Secretary of the Forest Preserve District is hereby authorized and directed to deliver copies of this Ordinance to the District Director, Treasurer, Director of Finance, and County Clerk.

Voting Yes

Judith Barnard

Mike Eickman

Audrey Johnson

Gloria Lind

Cheryl Maggio

Jerry Paulson

Jeff Tilly, President

Voting No

Judith Barnard

Mike Eickman

Audrey Johnson

Gloria Lind

Cheryl Maggio

Jerry Paulson

Jeff Tilly, President

The above and foregoing Ordinance was adopted this 23rd day of October, 2024.

Jeff Tilly, President

**Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD of COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA BACKGROUND INFORMATION

October 23, 2024

Tax Levy Ordinance

Contact	Steve Chapman	877-6100
	Mike Holan	877-6100

Background Information:

The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County’s fiscal year budget operates from November 1 through October 31. The Board of Commissioners have been presented a proposed tax levy that must be approved to finance the 2024-2025 Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance that has been presented to the Board. The tax levy has been laid over for 30 days for public review and comment. It is requested the Board will approve the Ordinance to adopt the attached Levy Ordinance.

Motion: To adopt the attached Levy Ordinance.

ACTION required: Ordinance

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County

LEVY ORDINANCE

No. 24-1004

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, pursuant to the requirements set forth in the Illinois Municipal Budget Law, adopted an Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the fiscal year beginning November 1, 2024 and ending October 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, per the Truth in Taxation law, the aggregate levy listed below did not increase over 2023 by 3.40% or more; and

WHEREAS, the District Executive Director did cause said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance to be made conveniently available for public inspection on and after September 19, 2024; and

WHEREAS, all legal requirements in connection with the preparation, public display, public hearings and adoption of the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance have been complied with; and

WHEREAS, said Ordinance will become effective ten days after its publication.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County as follows:

Section 1. That there be and is hereby levied the sum of two million, five hundred ninety-one thousand dollars (\$2,591,000) on all taxable property in the County of Winnebago, State of Illinois, as a General Corporate Tax for the year 2024 and that the County Clerk of said County be and is hereby authorized and directed to extend a rate of taxation that will produce said amount for the objects and purposes as set forth in the Corporate 2024-2025 appropriations; and

Section 2. That there be and is hereby levied the sum of one million, one hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$1,170,000) on all taxable property in the County of Winnebago, State of Illinois, as a Capital Improvement Tax for the year 2024, and that the County Clerk of said County be and is hereby authorized and directed to extend a rate of taxation that will produce said amount for the objects and purposes as set forth in the Capital Improvement Fund 2024-2025 appropriations; and

Section 3. That there be and is hereby levied the sum of two hundred thirty-two thousand dollars (\$232,000) on all taxable property in the County of Winnebago, State of Illinois, as a Botanical Garden Tax for the year 2024, and that the County Clerk of said County be and is hereby authorized and directed to extend a rate of taxation that will produce said amount for the objects and purposes as set forth in the Botanical Garden Fund 2024-2025 appropriations; and

Section 4. That there be and is hereby levied the sum of two hundred ninety-eight thousand dollars (\$298,000) on all taxable property in the County of Winnebago, State of Illinois, as a Liability Reserve Fund Tax for the year 2024 and that the County Clerk of said County be and is hereby authorized and directed to extend a rate of taxation that will produce said amount for the objects and purposes as set forth in the Liability Reserve Fund 2024-2025 appropriations; and

Section 5. That there be and is hereby levied the sum of one hundred ninety-three thousand dollars (\$193,000) on all taxable property in the County of Winnebago, State of Illinois, as IMRF Tax for the year 2024 and that the County Clerk of said County be and is hereby authorized and directed to extend a rate of taxation that will produce said amount for the objects and purposes as set forth in the Retirement Fund 2024-2025 appropriations; and

Section 6. That there be and is hereby levied the sum of one hundred ninety-five thousand dollars (\$195,000) on all taxable property in the County of Winnebago, State of Illinois, as a Social Security Tax the year 2024 and that the County Clerk of said County be and is hereby authorized and directed to extend a rate of taxation that will produce said amount for the objects and purposes as set forth in the Social Security Fund 2024-2025 appropriations; and

Section 7. That there be and is hereby levied the sum of three hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$325,000) on all taxable property in the County of Winnebago, State of Illinois, as a Debt Service Tax for the year 2024, as set forth in the 2011 Land Acquisition Bond Ordinance, and that the County Clerk of said County be and is hereby authorized and directed to extend a rate of taxation that will produce said amount for the objects and purposes as set forth in the 2011 Debt Service Fund 2024-2025 appropriations; and

Section 8. That there be and is hereby levied the sum of sixty-three thousand, eight hundred dollars (\$63,800) on all taxable property in the County of Winnebago State of Illinois as a 2016 Bond Debt Service Tax for the year 2024 as set forth in the 2016 Land Acquisition Bond Ordinance, and that the County Clerk of said County be and is hereby authorized and directed to extend a rate of taxation that will produce said amount for the objects and purpose as set forth in the 2016 Debt Service fund 2024-2025 appropriations; and

Section 9. That the Secretary of the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County is hereby directed to make a certified copy of this Ordinance and file such certified copy with the County Clerk of Winnebago County, Illinois, no later than October 31, 2024; and

Section 10. That the Secretary of the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County is hereby directed to deliver certified copies of this Ordinance to the District Executive Director, District Treasurer, and County Clerk.

Section 11. That this Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force and effect from and after its adoption by this Board of Commissioners.

Voting Yes

Judith Barnard

Mike Eickman

Audrey Johnson

Voting No

Judith Barnard

Mike Eickman

Audrey Johnson

Gloria Lind

Gloria Lind

Cheryl Maggio

Cheryl Maggio

Jerry Paulson

Jerry Paulson

Jeff Tilly, President

Jeff Tilly, President

The above and foregoing Ordinance was adopted this 23rd day of October, 2024.

Jeff Tilly, President

RESOLUTION
No. 24-1005
2025 FEE SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County have set annual fee schedules for Preserve Fees and Charges and Golf Fees and Charges; and,

WHEREAS, staff is proposing a per transaction credit card fee of 3% in order to cover associated bank fees with processing all credit card purchases; and,

WHEREAS, staff is proposing a tee time cancellation fee of \$10 in order to encourage customers not to overbook and block unused tee time slots; and,

WHEREAS, staff is proposing no additional increases for preserve and golf fees and charges in the 2025 fee schedule; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed 2025 fees and charges for preserves and golf are included on the following two (2) pages included with this Resolution,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County approve the attached 2025 Preserve Fees and Charges and 2025 Golf Fees and Charges.

Voting YES___

Voting NO___

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 23rd day of October, 2024.

That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

Jeff Tilly, President
Board of Commissioners



FOREST PRESERVES OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY
5500 Northrock Drive, Rockford, IL 61103 - 815-877-6100

2025 GOLF FEES AND CHARGES

2025 Proposed Changes

A credit card convenience fee of 3% will be applied to all transactions

		On or Before <u>Apr. 1</u>	After <u>Apr. 1</u>
<u>Preserve Pass Options</u>			
<i>(Valid January 1 - December 31, 2025)</i>			
*\$60 Capital Improvement Fee Included in Pass Pricing			
• Resident Premier Card	<i>(Valid when courses are open for play, weather permitting, not including playdays and tournaments.)</i>	*835	*860
• Non-Resident Premier Card		*860	*885
• Resident Player Card	<i>(Valid weekdays; after 11:00am on weekends & holidays, not including playdays and tournaments. Eligible for Player Card Privilege.)</i>	*635	*660
• Non-Resident Player Card		*655	*680
• Refer a Friend Discount Program	<i>(Discount for you and a friend, both receive \$100 off pass price if the friend has not had a pass in 2 years. Need not purchase same pass type. Excludes student)</i>	-100	-100
• Resident Student card	<i>(Full-time student through age 24 with student I.D. Valid weekdays; after 11:00am on weekends & holidays, not including playdays and tournaments.)</i>	230	240
• Non-Resident Student card		240	250
• Golf Team Pass	<i>Valid during the golf team's season for practice & competition</i>		80
• Replacement			10

<u>Greens Fees</u>			
<i>Fees are a maximum rate, not to exceed daily rate</i>			
*\$2.00 Capital Improvement Fee Included in Greens Fee Pricing			
• Resident 18-holes	<i>Weekdays</i>		*23
• Non-Resident 18-holes			*25
• Resident 18-holes	<i>Weekends & Holidays</i>		*28
• Non-Resident 18-holes			*30
• Resident 9-hole	<i>Weekdays</i>		*15
• Non-Resident 9-hole			*17
• Resident 9-hole	<i>Weekends & Holidays</i>		*19
• Non-Resident 9-hole			*21
• Student 18-holes	<i>18 through age 24 with student I.D.</i>		15
• Student 9-holes			10
• Jr. Golfer 18-holes	<i>17 years and under (before 5PM weekdays & after 1PM weekends)</i>		10
• Jr. Golfer 9-holes			5
• Player Card Privilege	<i>Discount greens fee on weekends & holidays before 11AM</i>		10
• Tee Time Cancellation Fee	<i>Fee charged per tee time if not cancelled 24 hours prior to tee time(s)</i>		10

<u>Special Fees</u>			
• Tournament Greens Fee			20
• Outing/Playday	<i>Monday-Thursday</i>	<i>Shotgun start with golf cart rental</i>	39
	<i>Friday-Sunday</i>	<i>(100 or more golfers)</i>	48
• Practice Range (per 1 bucket)	<i>Sold at Atwood & Ledges clubhouse only</i>		5
• Resident Practice Range Pass		200	225
• Non-Resident Practice Range Pass		225	250

<u>Golf Cart Registration</u>			
<i>(Only Grandfathered Private Carts - No New Registration)</i>			
• Single Ownership			650
• Outside Storage Fee	<i>In addition to ownership fee</i>		200
• Replacement of golf cart stickers			10

<u>Golf Cart Rental</u>			
• 9-hole per person	<i>Weekdays</i>		11
• 18-hole per person			16
• 9-hole per person	<i>Weekends & Holidays</i>		12
• 18-hole per person			17
• 9-hole Individual Cart Request	<i>Individual cart request subject to availability</i>		16
• 18-hole Individual Cart Request			27

<u>Banquet Room Rental</u>			
<i>(Contact Forest Preserve Headquarters at (815) 877-6100 for more information & reservations)</i>			
• Macktown (25 people maximum)	<i>Available for rental April 1 - October 31</i>		50
• Ledges (50 people maximum)			200

Holidays for 2025 are: Memorial Day - May 26, Independence Day - July 4, Labor Day - September 1

Atwood Homestead - 815/623-2411

Macktown - 815/624-7410

Ledges - 815/389-0979

www.playthepreserves.com



FOREST PRESERVES OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY
5500 Northrock Drive, Rockford, IL 61103 - (815) 877-6100
2025 PRESERVE FEES AND CHARGES

2025 Proposed Changes

A credit card convenience fee of 3% ~~\$2.00~~ will be applied to all transactions

	Resident	Non Resident
<u>Shelterhouses</u>		
• Daily reservation small shelter (<i>up to 80 people</i>)	85	110
• Daily reservation large shelter (<i>up to 300 people</i>)	110	135
• Daily reservation large shelter w/ electric (<i>up to 300 people</i>)	125	155
• Daily reservation large shelter (<i>over 300 people</i>)	500	600

Note: over 300, you must contact the office at (815)877-6100 to reserve. Reservation will require an opening in the schedule for day of and day after planned date. Forest Preserve District will provide one port-o-let along with one garbage dumpster. (Rate includes: shelter for day of and day after, port-o-let and garbage dumpster.)

Ground Use Permits

• Rides & amusements per day/ride (<i>i.e. Bouncy House-maximum 5</i>)	40	40
• Building Use Permits - Headquarters per day <i>(Use by community service organizations based on availability)</i>	100	100
• Other Ground Use Permits (<i>designated areas, tents</i>)	30	45
• Special Use Permits (<i>i.e. commercial videography, weddings</i>)	25 and up	
• Construction Permits	100 and up	
• Annual Commercial Photography Permit	100	125
• Daily Commercial Photography Permit	25	35

Camping

3 unit per site maximum (*Tent-max of 3; RV-max of 1 & up to 2 tent s*)

• Sugar River Campground	17	27
Senior (62 and over) & disabled per unit	15	25
Electric hookup (additional) per unit	10	10
Primitive	15	25
Primitive - Senior (62 and over) & disabled per unit	13	23
• Seward Bluffs & Hononegah Campgrounds	15	25
Senior (62 and over) & disabled per unit	13	23
Electric hookup (additional) per unit	10	10
• Organized Scout/Youth Group Camping by reservation only (<i>per weekend reservation</i>)		
25 or less people: <i>(Hononegah, Pecatonica River-Single Pod, Sugar River and Rockford Rotary)</i>	35	45
Over 25 people - base rate plus \$1.00 per person over 25 people: <i>(Rockford Rotary only)</i>	35+ \$1/person	45+ \$1/person
• Firewood from Host when available per bundle	8	8
• Non-camper dump station use fee	25	35

Note: A fee will be collected and separate permits will be issued for each unit, 3 units per site maximum (tent-max of 3; RV-max of 1 & up to 2 tents. All campers must be established and registered by 10:00 P.M.

Equestrian

• Bridle tag daily each rider	10	15
• Bridle tag seasonal each rider (<i>mid-April through mid-November</i>)	50	70
• Equestrian camping per night/per unit (<i>Oak Ridge & Seward Bluffs Forest Preserves only</i>)	15	20

Model Airplane Flying

• Individual Only per person (<i>calendar year</i>)	35	45
• 1 Day Pass	10	15

Metal Detectors

• Individual Only per person (<i>calendar year</i>)	25	35
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Geocaching/Letterboxing

• Individual Only per person (<i>calendar year</i>)	20	20
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RESOLUTION
No. 24-1006
2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, certain days of the calendar year are designated as scheduled holidays; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County has designated such dates to observe said holidays; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County elect to set the scheduled holidays for all Forest Preserve employees;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County approve the attached holiday schedule to be observed by the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County's employees for the year of 2025.

Voting YES _____

Voting NO _____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 23rd day of October, 2024.

That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

Jeff Tilly, President
Board of Commissioners



2025 Holiday Schedule

Wednesday	January 1	New Year's Holiday	
Monday	January 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	*
Monday	February 17	Presidents' Day	*
Friday	April 18	Good Friday	*
Monday	May 26	Memorial Day	
Friday	July 4	Independence Day	
Monday	September 1	Labor Day	
Monday	October 13	Columbus Day/ Indigenous Peoples' Day	*
Tuesday	November 11	Veterans' Day	*
Thursday	November 27	Thanksgiving Day	
Friday	November 28	Thanksgiving Holiday	
Wednesday	December 24	Christmas Holiday	
Thursday	December 25	Christmas Day	

* Floating Holidays (District offices and shops will remain open)

RESOLUTION

No. 24-1007

DELEGATES TO IAPD BUSINESS MEETING

WHEREAS, the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) requires each member agency to select delegates to their Annual Business Meeting which will be held on January 25, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County (FPWC) is an IAPD member and therefore must assign delegates to represent the FPWC; and

WHEREAS, the FPWC typically assigns the Executive Director and up to three (3) other individuals, comprised of staff and/or Board members, as delegates;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the individuals listed on IAPD Credentials Certificate be considered delegates to represent the FPWC at the IAPD Annual Business Meeting on January 25, 2025.

Voting YES_____

Voting NO_____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 23rd day of October, 2024.

That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

Jeff Tilly, President
Board of Commissioners

CREDENTIALS CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that at a meeting of the Governing Board of the

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County held at
(Name of Agency)

Rockford, IL on October 23, 2024 at 5:30pm
(Location) *(Month/Day/Year)* *(Time)*

the following individuals were designated to serve as delegate(s) to the Annual Business Meeting of the ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS to be held on **Saturday, January 25, 2025 at 3:30 p.m:**

	<u><i>Name</i></u>	<u><i>Title</i></u>
Delegate:	<u>Michael Holan</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>
1st Alternate:	<u>Vaughn Stamm</u>	<u>Director of Operations</u>

This is to certify that the foregoing is a statement of action taken at the board meeting cited above.

Affix Seal: Signed: _____
(President of Board) **Jeff Tilly**

Attest: _____
(Board Secretary) **Audrey Johnson**

Return this form to: Illinois Association of Park Districts
211 East Monroe Street
Springfield, IL 62701-1186
Email: iapd@ilparks.org

RESOLUTION
No. 24-1008
AMENDMENT OF PERSONNEL POLICY

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County’s Personnel Policy, adopted December 20, 2023, establishes the general guidelines for employee conduct; and

WHEREAS, from time to time it is necessary to amend the Personnel Policy for clarification or to better meet the needs of the employees and the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County; and

WHEREAS, internal review of the Personnel Policy identified needed modifications to the policy, and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County Board of Commissioners amend the Personnel Policy as follows:

Section 10.2 Weapons in the Workplace

Purpose. FPWC is committed to a safe and secure workplace environment. The purpose of this policy is to establish restrictions on possession, storage, and/or concealed carry of firearms and weapons on District property pursuant to the 2013 Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry Act (430 ILCS 66 et seq.).

FPWC employees, unless authorized by law or a specific exception in this policy, are prohibited from:

- possessing, storing, carrying, or unlawfully using any weapon or firearm in any District facility, or in any vehicle owned, leased or controlled by FPWC, even if that person has a valid federal or state license to possess or carry a firearm (unless authorized to participate in a sanctioned wildlife management program. See “Exceptions” below);

Exceptions. The carrying or use of a firearm will be permitted in the following circumstances:

- The firearm is carried by an employee engaged in official duties as part of a sanctioned wildlife management program; or

Voting YES _____

Voting NO _____

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 23rd day of October, 2024.

That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

Jeff Tilly, President
Board of Commissioners

Preserve Operations

Vaughn Stamm, Director of Operations
Scott Wallace & Matt Weik, Preserve Managers
Bryan Helmold, Facility & Equipment Manager
September 2024 Activities Report

- Installed new information sign at Four Lakes dog training area.
- Repaired and pressure washed fence at Funderburg Farm property.
- Cleared and added asphalt to Pecatonica River boat ramp.
- Brush mowed along trail edges at Deer Run, Oak Ridge, Seward Bluffs and Pecatonica Wetlands.
- Restocked firewood at Seward bluffs Campground.
- Cleaned out the gutters around the Deer Lodge at Severson Dells.
- Leveled off and seeded areas along the Four Lakes parking lot.
- Repaired cable gate at Oak Ridge.
- Removed hazardous trees from Seward Bluffs Campground, Pecatonica River Scout Camp, and Kishwaukee Gorge.
- Added gravel and leveled off the Funderburg parking area and entrance drive.
- Painted entrance sign post at Blackhawk Springs, Kishwaukee River East and West, Deer Run, and the Funderburg property.
- Completed monthly safety inspections.
- Repaired door on the barn at the Funderburg property.
- Painted interior of concrete outhouses at Blackhawk Springs, Espenscheid, Kishwaukee River West, and Severson Dells.
- Clearing of leaves off roadways and parking lots.
- Tree removals along trails at Indian Hill and lower Kilbuck Bluffs.
- Pruned/Widened Kieselburg Trails.
- Pruned trees along Sugar River Roadway/Playground area.
- Replaced board on picnic table at entrance to Hononegah.
- Pruned entrance to Sugar River Primitive camping.
- Continued removal of set aside areas at Sugar River Campground.
- Finished pruning trails at Headquarters.
- Pruned trees along wood line at Kieselburg Fly Field.

Preserve Operations

September 2024 Activities Report – Cont.

- Pruned Trees at Atwood Homestead.
- Repainted entrance sign posts at all North Area Preserves.
- Brush cut/string trimmed along river at in Primitive Camping and select preserve areas at Sugar River.
- Brush cut/string trimmed along river at Two Rivers.
- Put out new garbage cans at Hononegah, Headquarters, Kieselburg and Olson.
- Started project to revamp wood splitting area/aggregate area at Sugar River Maintenance Shop.
- Pruned trees at Sand Bluff Shelter at Sugar River.
- Replaced Men's/Women's restroom signs at Sugar River shower house.
- Installed a few RV parking pads using RAP (Recycled Asphalt Product) at Sugar River Campground.
- Repaired broken gate at Atwood Homestead entrance.
- Repaired electrical issues at Hononegah Campground.
- Pole saw tree trimming at Colored Sands Bird Banding Station.
- Replaced missing nuts and bolts on picnic tables in and around Kieselburg Shelter Houses.
- Trained new Ranger Nathan Hallgren on Point of Sales system in Sugar River attendant building.
- Started updating Kiosks in preserves.
- Widened paths to campsites in Sugar River Primitive Camping.
- Identified trees for removal in fall/winter.
- Put together 75 bundles of firewood for Ukrainian camping event at Sugar River Campground.
- Split Firewood for campground/youth camp use.
- Cleaned up 7 dead pine trees at Towering Pines Shelter that were dropped by Sisson's Tree Service.
- Pruned and cut back trails at Hononegah.
- Ground Stumps in Sugar River Campground.
- Mowed trails back at Jensen with tractor.

FOREST PRESERVES OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY
November-September

	<u>2022-2023</u>		<u>2023-2024</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total</u>
Small Shelter Res.	79	\$5,450	58	\$4,930
Small Shelter N/Res.	4	\$400	7	\$770
Large Shelter Res.	144	\$14,400	135	\$14,850
Large Shelter N/Res.	18	\$2,250	5	\$675
Electric Res.	193	\$22,195	173	\$21,625
Electric N/Res.	10	\$1,450	14	\$2,170
TOTAL	448	\$46,145	392	\$45,020
ONLINE	315	70%	270	69%
Over 300 Res.	0	\$0	0	\$0
Over 300 N/Res.	0	\$0	0	\$0
Ground Use/Tent Res	12	\$300	13	\$390
Ground Use/Tent N/Res.	1	\$40	1	\$100
Building Use Permits	6	\$800	1	\$100
Commercial Photography Permit	2	\$200	2	\$200
Special Use Permits	19	\$3,402	4	\$880
Rides	23	\$805	12	\$480
TOTAL	63	\$5,547	33	\$2,150
ONLINE	23	37%	15	45%
Equestrian Passes	Number	Total	Number	Total
Yearly Tag Res.	92	\$4,450	102	\$5,100
Yearly Tag N/Res.	43	\$3,120	48	\$3,360
TOTAL	135	\$7,570	150	\$8,460
ONLINE	38	28%	43	29%
Fly Field Passes	Number	Total	Number	Total
Yearly Pass Res.	42	\$1,260	50	\$1,750
Yearly Pass N/Res.	11	\$440	11	\$495
TOTAL	53	\$1,700	61	\$2,245
ONLINE	11	21%	23	38%
Metal Detecting Passes	Number	Total	Number	Total
Yearly Pass Res.	29	\$725	35	\$875
Yearly Pass N/Res.	7	\$245	7	\$245
TOTAL	36	\$970	42	\$1,120
ONLINE	3	8%	9	21%
GRAND TOTAL	735	\$61,932	678	\$58,995
ONLINE	390	53%	360	53%

**FOREST PRESERVES OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY
2021-2024
CAMPING REVENUE COMPARISON**

	<u>2021</u> (thru 10/3)	<u>2022</u> (thru 10/2)	<u>2023</u> (thru 10/1)	<u>2024</u> (thru 10/2)
CAMPGROUND				
Hononegah	\$22,831	\$28,233	\$34,650	\$33,062
Seward Bluffs	43,866	35,987	42,716	49,422
Sugar River	<u>84,281</u>	<u>70,370</u>	<u>69,489</u>	<u>73,787</u>
Campground Revenue	\$150,978	\$134,590	\$146,855	\$156,271
SCOUT/YOUTH CAMPGROUNDS				
Hononegah	\$60	\$185	\$302	\$282
Pecatonica River	695	605	515	577
Rockford Rotary	320	300	340	331
Seward Bluffs	230	245	135	0
Sugar River	<u>220</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>589</u>
Scout/Youth Campground Revenue	\$1,525	\$1,575	\$1,487	\$1,779
EQUESTRIAN CAMPGROUNDS				
Oak Ridge	\$54	\$61	\$64	\$362
Seward Bluffs	<u>890</u>	<u>1,003</u>	<u>1,164</u>	<u>1,132</u>
Equestrian Campground Revenue	\$944	\$1,064	\$1,228	\$1,494
FIREWOOD				
Hononegah	\$2,009	\$1,750	\$1,719	\$3,233
Seward Bluffs	2,737	2,347	3,318	3,473
Sugar River	<u>10,873</u>	<u>6,740</u>	<u>8,293</u>	<u>7,580</u>
Firewood Revenue	\$15,619	\$10,837	\$13,330	\$14,286
TOTAL REVENUE	\$169,066	\$148,066	\$162,900	\$173,830

NUMBER OF GROUPS AT REGULAR CAMPGROUNDS
(DOES NOT INCLUDE EQUESTRIAN AND SCOUT/YOUTH CAMPING)

	2,793	2,346	2,476	2,472
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Natural Resource Management

Mike Brien, Director of Natural Resources

Mike Groves, Natural Resources Manager

Keith Krey, Stewardship Coordinator

Liz Hucker, Wildlife Biologist

September 2024 Activities Report

Natural Resources

- Hand collected seed of yellow coneflower, prairie cord grass, swamp betony, blazing stars, mountain mint, prairie dock, culver's root, cream gentian, nodding onion, butterfly milkweed, figwort, American bellflower, and others from preserves throughout the county.
- Boom sprayed areas to be restored at Funderburg and Seward Forest Preserves.
- Experimented with a new herbicide to help control woody species and multiflora rose along trail edges.
- Fixed an erosion issue at Espenscheid Forest Preserve.
- Used bucket truck to assist Klehm Arboretum with light replacements and tree removal.
- Forestry mowed brush and removed trees at Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve to allow access for bridge repairs.
- Cleaned up fallen trees on interior trails at Funderburg Forest Preserve.
- Tractor mowed new prairie plantings and woody invasives at Atwood, Hononegah, Ferguson, Severson Dells, and Four Lakes Forest Preserves.
- Department staff, with the assistance of volunteers, planted over 1,000 plants grown at the District's nursery.
- Processed seed at the Severson Dells facility.
- Watered 2023 and 2024 tree plantings as needed.
- Monitored several Plants of Concern species in preserves throughout the county, including American spikenard, downy rattlesnake plantain, and poke milkweed.
- Utilized seed stripper to harvest little bluestem from Sugar River Alder Forest Preserve.
- Assisted wildlife biologist with various projects as needed.
- Continued work on the 2024-25 budget.
- Applied for Chicago Region Trees Initiative tree planting kit grant, which will provide the District an assortment of tools to help facilitate volunteer tree plantings.
- Attended the Grassland Restoration Network's annual conference at Nachusa Grasslands in Oregon, IL.
- Coordinated seed collection effort at Bell Bowl Prairie with contractors employed by the Rockford Airport Authority.
- Reviewed plans and bid specifications for OSLAD nature playground at Klehm Arboretum with Alex Mills and landscape architectural firm.
- Participated in the Board of Commissioners tour of several District sites.

Natural Resource Management

September Activities Report – Cont.

- Mike Brien was interviewed by WNIJ regarding the recent grant award from ComEd's Green Regions program.
- Monitored ATV encroachments at Rotary Forest Preserve.
- Submitted an application to IDNR's Open Space Land and Development grant program for the remodeling and expansion of the restrooms at Klehm Arboretum's Clarcor Pavilion.
- Solicited quotes for the drain tile removal project at Funderburg Forest Preserve.

Wildlife

A majority of September was again dedicated to aquatic turtle trapping. Five species of turtles were encountered over the month, including one new state endangered Blanding's turtle and one state endangered river cooter. The Blanding's turtle was processed by District staff, fitted with a tracking device, and will be regularly monitored with the other tagged animals. The river cooter is native to the extreme southern tip of Illinois and was likely a pet that someone released in the preserves. The female turtle that was captured tested negative for *Emydomyces* (shell rot fungus) and was awaiting a permanent home at the time of this report.

Additional work accomplished includes:

- Monitoring snake coverboards.
- Presented to the Board about our Blanding's turtle work.
- Attended several bat acoustic monitoring training courses hosted by Wildlife Acoustics and analyzed several weeks' worth of data collected from the preserves by remote bat monitoring devices.
- Submitted abstract for the 2025 Wild Things conference in Chicago, IL.
- Assisted with bird banding at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory.

Stewardship

- Hosted seed collection workdays at Funderberg and Seward Bluffs Forest Preserves where volunteers collected rosinweed and yellow coneflower.
- Hosted a volunteer workday to plant butterfly milkweed, wild petunia, upland white goldenrod, and aromatic aster at Funderburg Forest Preserve.
- Rockford University removed honeysuckle and picked up litter at Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve as part of Jane Addams Day of Service.
- Staff from Wipfli, and accounting firm in Rockford, helped remove honeysuckle at Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve.
- Opened and cleaned bluebird nest boxes at Cedar Cliff and Funderburg Forest Preserves.
- Staffed the FPWC booth at Collins Aerospace health and wellness fair and Lifescape's Senior Expo.

Natural Resource Management

September Activities Report – Cont.

- Presented to the Rotary Club of Loves Park about the District’s volunteer programs and opportunities.
- Attended The Stewardship Network’s webinar “Rethinking Warbler Conservation”.

2024 Statistics

A total of 170 volunteers earned 2,352.25 service hours from January 2024 through September 2024.

The monetary value of these service hours equals **\$78,776.96**. As of April 2024, the estimated national value of each volunteer hour is currently \$33.49 (based on the Independent Sector)

Golf Operations

Vaughn Stamm, Director of Operations
Rich Rosenstiel, Clubhouse Manager
Tyler Knapp & Mark Freiman, Golf Maintenance Managers
September 2024 Activities Report

Clubhouse Operations:

- Bob N Mike Fall Classic at Ledges GC - 124 participants
- Rockton Lions Club / Jack Lovejoy at Macktown GC - 100 participants
- Par-Tee Time / Prairie Hill Schools at Ledges GC - 132 participants
- High School NIC 10 Conference Championships
 - Hononegah Girls- Macktown
 - Harlem Boys- Atwood (2- day event)
- Boylan Invitational at Atwood Homestead GC- rained out
- Winnebago County Sr. AM at Macktown - 58 competitors
- Couples Fairways and Flannels Nine & Dine at Ledges GC - 26 couples / 52 participants
- 3 New Hires:
 - Lisebeth Kallstrom- Food & Beverage
 - David Thompson- Outside Attendant
 - Ryan Clark- Food & Beverage

Golf Maintenance:

Ledges

- Insulated pump house prior to freezing temperatures.
- Hand watered localized dry spots on greens and collars.
- Finished rebuilding all washed out bunker edges.
- Continued fertility program on all putting green surfaces, tee complexes, and on all fairways.
- Removed trees and unwanted vegetation by #11 green and tree removal and cleanup by #11 tee.
- Continued trimming low hanging limbs along property line.
- Replaced pilot valves on several irrigation heads.
- Replaced several nonfunctioning fairway irrigation heads with smaller internal components and conversion kits due to parts availability.
- Daily leaf cleanup on all greens, tees and fairways.
- Raised turf on several low spots in fairways.
- Trimmed all ornamental grass throughout golf course.
- Started cleaning, waxing and servicing golf car fleet.
- Trimmed ponds and waterways with boom mower.

Golf Operations

September 2024 Activities Report – Cont.

Macktown

- Daily leaf cleanup on all greens, tees and fairways.
- Raised turf on several low spots on collars and fairways.
- Edged bunkers and adjusted sand for proper playing depth.
- Cleaned all hickory nuts from around clubhouse.
- Trailered numerous pieces of equipment to Atwood for greens aeration.
- Continued fertility program on all tee complexes, all putting green surfaces, and on fairways.
- Continued trimming low hanging limbs throughout the golf course.
- Hand watered localized dry spots on greens and collars.
- String trimmed around trees throughout the golf course.
- Replaced several irrigation head risers.
- Replaced nozzles and motors in several irrigation heads.
- Sweep and blow leaves to keep playing surfaces clean.
- Prepare golf course for girl's conference tournament.
- Treat tee complex on hole #16 for grubs.
- Adjust greens irrigation program for adverse conditions.

Atwood

- Hand water localized dry areas on greens and collars.
- Repair irrigation heads with new drive motors and risers.
- Adjust sand in bunkers for proper playing depth.
- Prepare golf course for high school conference tournament, boy's regional tournament and girl's sectional tournament.
- Continue with green, tee, fairway turf fertility program.
- Verti-cut greens to remove thatch.
- Aerated greens to alleviate compaction.
- Top-dress greens with sand to smooth putting surface.
- Repair irrigation leak on pressure maintenance line.

**Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
Golf Course Revenue & Sales
November - September**

	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
<u>Atwood Homestead</u>				
Green Fees	\$271,707	\$244,423	\$251,756	\$285,138
Foot Golf Fees	\$120	\$0	\$0	\$0
Cart Rental	\$210,489	\$188,837	\$185,842	\$212,140
Merchandise	\$32,624	\$29,938	\$32,738	\$28,478
Gift Card	\$377	\$687	\$675	\$599
Discount Gift Card	\$64,094	\$58,472	\$64,481	\$78,880
Capital Improvement Fee	\$26,628	\$22,289	\$21,472	\$21,973
Food & Beverage	\$88,332	\$91,969	\$104,686	\$105,882
Golf Club Rental	\$0	\$0	\$600	\$880
Video Gaming & ATM	\$4,801	\$4,887	\$3,579	\$4,276
Total Atwood Revenue	\$699,172	\$641,502	\$665,829	\$738,245
<u>Ledges</u>				
Green Fees	\$272,159	\$262,507	\$267,795	\$280,510
Cart Rental	\$209,355	\$196,833	\$202,445	\$211,464
Merchandise	\$24,408	\$25,555	\$28,191	\$25,908
Gift Card	\$328	\$111	\$245	\$0
Discount Gift Card	\$56,385	\$65,078	\$73,405	\$79,528
Capital Improvement Fee	\$25,455	\$24,352	\$24,564	\$24,534
Food & Beverage	\$121,021	\$123,658	\$134,457	\$143,213
Golf Club Rental	\$0	\$0	\$680	\$670
Video Gaming & ATM	\$4,509	\$5,173	\$2,364	\$4,948
Total Ledges Revenue	\$713,620	\$703,266	\$734,147	\$770,775
<u>Macktown</u>				
Green Fees	\$188,180	\$177,854	\$200,956	\$200,242
Cart Rental	\$152,739	\$139,749	\$157,881	\$152,289
Merchandise	\$17,742	\$16,822	\$18,758	\$15,198
Gift Card	\$0	\$25	\$0	\$217
Discount Gift Card	\$92,952	\$78,056	\$93,483	\$94,196
Capital Improvement Fee	\$19,068	\$17,637	\$19,165	\$18,395
Food & Beverage	\$93,905	\$95,953	\$108,808	\$111,594
Golf Club Rental	\$0	\$0	\$200	\$110
Video Gaming & ATM	\$5,542	\$3,814	\$3,349	\$5,461
Total Macktown Revenue	\$570,128	\$529,910	\$602,601	\$597,702
<u>Headquarters</u>				
Gift Card	\$1,875	\$2,554	\$1,430	\$3,170
Discount Gift Card	\$29,243	\$34,072	\$29,954	\$31,020
Golf Passes	\$270,015	\$294,780	\$315,785	\$328,440
Capital Improvement Fee	\$29,770	\$32,820	\$32,338	\$32,880
Tournaments	\$14,455	\$16,670	\$18,623	\$23,815
Private Golf Cart Registration	\$12,500	\$11,650	\$11,650	\$10,150
Total Headquarters Revenue	\$357,858	\$392,546	\$409,779	\$429,475
Total Golf Course Revenue	\$2,340,778	\$2,267,225	\$2,412,355	\$2,536,196

Option not available for that season

**Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
Golf Course Revenue & Sales
November - September**

	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
<u>Rounds Played</u>				
Atwood	27,008	23,024	23,026	25,398
Footgolf	24	0	0	0
Ledges	25,512	22,701	22,416	23,448
Macktown	23,699	20,156	21,241	22,218
Total Rounds Played	76,243	65,881	66,683	71,064
<u>Golf Passes</u>				
Premier Card Res.	29	31	28	28
Premier Card Res.-Refer-A-Friend	28	36	37	47
Premier Card Non-Res.	2	1	2	2
Premier Card Non-Res.-Refer-A-Friend	2	3	1	1
Player Card Res.	186	189	164	162
Player Card Res.-Refer-A-Friend	223	252	278	279
Player Card Non-Res.	10	11	9	11
Player Card Non-Res.-Refer-A-Friend	20	24	20	18
Student Card Res.	62	68	73	103
Student Card Non-Res.	3	5	10	10
Team Pass	19	17	15	8
Practice Range Res.	21	25	19	21
Practice Range Non-Res.	0	0	0	0
Total Passes	605	662	656	690
<u>Private Golf Cart Registration</u>				
Inside Storage	0	3	3	2
Outside Storage	4	15	14	13
Home Storage	15	15	14	13
Total Private Golf Cart Registration	19	18	17	15

Option not available for that season

Marketing & Communication Relations

Renee Pixler, Communications Coordinator
September 2024 Activities Report

Marketing/Advertising

- Have ads running on gorockford.com “Things To Do” pages
 - Sports (golf)
 - Outdoor Activities
 - Family Fun
- Working with Mid-West Family Broadcasting
 - Running digital ads and radio commercials
 - Running digital ads on Rock River Current website

Media Relations

- Featured in “*A Walk in the Park: Looking for deer? This Rockford area forest preserve is a good spot*” article on Rockford Register Star website
- Featured in “*Grant will help Winnebago County add pollinator-friendly flowers to the landscape*” article on NPR website
- Featured in “*Golden Hues and Scenic Views: Rockford’s Top Fall Foliage Spots*” article on GoRockford website

Events/Programs

- 9/15/24 – We had our Howl at the Moon Hike at Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve. We had around 15 participants who enjoyed a clear sky and beautiful full moon!
- 2024 Preserve Passport – We continue to see success and great engagement through the goosechase app! As of 9/30/24 we have:
 - **63 teams**
 - **745 submissions**

Community Engagement

- 9/4/24 – presented to Rockford Rotary group
- 9/18/24 – represented FPWC at Collin’s Aerospace Health and Wellness Fair
- 9/21/24 – represented FPWC at Lifescape’s Senior Expo



Marketing & Communication Relations

September 2024 Activities Report – Cont.

Miscellaneous

- Working on designing the 2025 FPWC Wall Calendar.
- Helping Sherry plan the employee Winter party.
- 9/24/24 – attended GoRockford Marketing Partner meeting at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden.

Social Media

- Social Media Stats (compared to August 2024 report)
 - FPWC Facebook: 5,047 followers (+19)
 - FPWC Instagram: 1,772 followers (+53)
 - FPWC Golf Facebook: 627 followers (+17)
 - FPWC Golf Instagram: 286 followers (+1)

Human Resources

Sherry Winebaugh, Human Resources Manager September 2024 Activities Report

- In September, I concentrated on several important areas, such as seasonal new hire orientation and safety training, overseeing employee benefits, conducting interviews, and handling various personnel matters.
- Throughout the month, I led two seasonal employee orientation and safety training sessions. These sessions emphasized our agency's culture, policies, and safety protocols, which are essential for fostering a positive and secure work environment.
- This month, we welcomed three new seasonal employees, bringing our seasonal staff count to 114.
- I also addressed various personnel issues for both seasonal and full-time staff, stressing our commitment to resolving employee concerns effectively while promoting a productive and positive workplace.
- As a member of the IPBC Board for the Membership Development Committee, I actively participated in our monthly Zoom meeting as well as the IPBC Board of Directors meetings.
- As part of a partnership with IPRA and HR Source, I participated in the 2025 Park and Recreation Compensation Survey, which earned our organization a complimentary copy of the results published in January 2025.
- On September 17, 2024, I had the pleasure of attending the Rockford Network of Professional Women's annual Kickoff Event at Hidden Creek Estates with Renee Pixler, Emily Wendlandt, and Kristy Knapp. It was a fantastic occasion!
- Looking ahead, plans are in motion for our employee Winter Party, scheduled for Friday, December 6, 2024, at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Law Enforcement

September 2024 Activities Report

There was nothing reported or handled in the Forest Preserves for the month of September 2024. We say goodbye to Deputy Chief Miceli who has served this community and the Forest Preserve with integrity and honor and wish him the best on a well-earned retirement. Deputy Chief Joshua Gesner will take on his role and responsibilities moving forward.

Brief Activity Summary

- There were 1 Criminal arrests
- There were 9 Calls for service inside of the Forest Preserves
- There were 15 Calls for service outside of the Forest Preserves
- There were 2 Reports written
- There were 0 Ordinance violations (citations) written
- There were 1 Written warning
- There were 18 Verbal warnings
- There were 4 Airfield permits
- There were 6 Equestrian bridle tags
- There were 31 Fishing license checks
- There were 59 Occupied shelter house patrols
- There were 32 Campground patrols
- There were 36 Patrols on trail systems
- There were 28 Directed patrol hours