

**Forest Preserves of Winnebago County  
BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, September 18, 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 August 21 and September 13

**D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AWARDS, and PRESENTATIONS**

1. Craig Campbell – Holt House
2. Eve Kirk – Macktown Bathrooms
3. Liz Hucker – Blanding’s Turtle Research

**E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS / DISCUSSION**

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Fee Schedules

Page

**G. ACTION ITEMS**

1. Bills for August
3. Sugar River Adventures Renewal Agreement
11. Authorizing Participation in the ComEd Green Region Grant Program
12. Vehicle Replacement Purchase from Insurance Claim
13. Annual Budget and Appropriations Layover
14. Annual Tax Levy Layover
15. Allocation of Sponsorship Funds for the Burpee Museum Nature Nook

**H. UPDATES and REPORTS**

16. Preserve Operations
20. Natural Resource Management
22. Golf
26. Marketing
28. Human Resources
29. Law Enforcement
7. Partner Groups

**I. CLOSED SESSION**

**J. ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

1. September 24 - Guided Hike at Hononegah Forest Preserve starting at 5:30pm.
2. September 28 - Nine and Dine at Ledges Golf Course.
3. October 5 - Walk with U Guided Hike at Roland Olson from 9:00am-10:00am.
4. October 5 - Backpacking with Burpee; Fossils at Seward Bluffs Forest Preserve starting at 10:00am.
5. October 17 - Trees & Shrubs for Wildlife Program Hike & Presentation starting at 5:00pm.

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

Budget Hearing– 5:15 PM on Wednesday, October 23, Forest Preserve Headquarters  
Next regular Board Meeting– 5:30 PM Wednesday, October 23, 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**



September 18, 2024

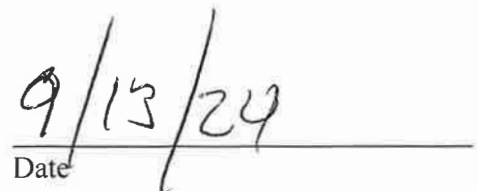
**TO: THE AUDITOR AND TREASURER OF THE  
FOREST PRESERVES OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY.**

Your Forest Preserves of Winnebago County Board of Commissioners, to whom were referred the following bills in the amount of **\$ 747,505.48** 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	270,806.99
BOTANICAL GARDEN FUND	3120	115,541.32
HEALTH BENEFITS FUND	3185	40,636.76
SOCIAL SECURITY FUND	3192	20,672.50
RETIREMENT FUND	3193	17,225.27
IMPROVEMENT & DEV. FUND	3302	95,920.50
CORPORATE FUND	3402	<u>186,702.14</u>
		<b>\$ 747,505.48</b>

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Chapman, Finance Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**RESOLUTION**

**No. 24-0901**

**PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR AUGUST**

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 August; 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 \$747,508.48 to be paid by the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County for the month of August, 2024.

Voting YES \_\_\_\_\_

Voting NO \_\_\_\_\_

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

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

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Jeff Tilly, President  
Board of Commissioners

## **RESOLUTION**

**No. 24-0902**

### **LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH SUGAR RIVER ADVENTURES**

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County (FPWC) and Sugar River Adventures (SRA) signed a license agreement that was drafted by FPWC's legal counsel, Sosnowski/Szeto LLC, and approved via Resolution #21-0101; and

WHEREAS, the license agreement has been in effect since March 01, 2021 and permits SRA to launch tubes and kayaks at the Colored Sands and Yale Bridge canoe launches and to use the Sugar River canoe launch as a takeout location as part of SRA's business venture; and

WHEREAS, SRA has been compliant with all stipulations of the license agreement and has a good working relationship with the staff at FPWC; and

WHEREAS, SRA made a request to renew their license agreement; and

WHEREAS, FPWC is willing to renew the agreement for a five (5) year term based on the same operating and payment terms as the former agreement running from March 01, 2025 through February 28, 2030;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners for the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County authorizes the License Agreement between the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County and Sugar River Adventures for a period of five (5) years.

Voting YES \_\_\_\_\_

Voting NO \_\_\_\_\_

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

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

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Jeff Tilly, President  
Board of Commissioners

## License Agreement

This License Agreement (“License”), made and entered into this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March 2025, to become effective immediately, by and between the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District (WCFPD), hereinafter referred to as “Licensor,” and, Sugar River Adventures, LLC (SRA), hereinafter referred to as “Licensee.”

Licensor and Licensee are collectively referred to herein at times as the “Parties”.

### W I T N E S S E T H:

WHEREAS, Licensor is the owner of the real property commonly known as Sugar River Forest Preserve, located in Durand, IL 61024, and the real property commonly known as Colored Sands Forest Preserve, located in Rockton, IL (such properties are collectively referred to herein as “Property”); and

WHEREAS, within the Property, there is located a Sugar River Forest Preserve Canoe Launch, the Colored Sands Forest Preserve Boat parking lot, and the Yale Bridge Boat Launch parking lot (collectively referred to herein as the “Licensed Premises”); and

WHEREAS, Licensor desires to license to Licensee, and Licensee desires to license from Licensor, access and use of the Licensed Premises to operate a tubing/kayaking business including the allowance to stage such tubes/kayaks on the Licensed Premises; and

WHEREAS, Licensor and Licensee have reached an accord as to the terms and conditions upon which the Licensed Premises will be licensed to Licensee and have memorialized the same herein.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the covenants, agreements, mutual promises and other provisions herein contained and other good and valuable consideration the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows:

#### I.

#### LICENSED PREMISES

Licensor hereby grants to Licensee a revocable, non-exclusive license for the use of the Licensed Premises upon the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth. The Licensed Premises is being delivered by Licensor to Licensee in “AS IS” condition and Licensor makes no representations or warranties to Licensee with regards to the Licensed Premises.

#### II.

#### TERM

The term of this License shall be for sixty (60) months commencing on the 1st day of March, 2025 and expiring on the 28<sup>th</sup> day February, 2030. To the extent either party proposes any changes or additional terms, such changes or terms must be agreed to in writing by both Parties.

Either the Licensor or Licensee may terminate this License upon providing the other Party with at least thirty (30) days prior written notice of such intent to terminate this License.

### III. LICENSE FEE

Licensee shall pay Licensor a yearly license fee (the "License Fee") during the Term of this License, equal to the sum of Five Hundred and 00/100<sup>th</sup> Dollars (\$500.00). The first yearly license fee shall be due on or before March 1, 2025. Subsequent yearly license fees shall be due on or before March 1 of each year. Checks for the License Fee shall be made payable to the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District and mailed or delivered to 5500 Northrock Dr, Rockford, IL 61103, or such other address as Licensor may direct from time to time.

In further consideration of Licensor granting the License contemplated herein, Licensee agrees to pay to Licensor an additional two percent (2%) of any gross revenues in excess of the 2020 SRA revenues of Twenty-Eight Thousand and 00/100<sup>th</sup> Dollars (\$28,000), due at the end of each of Licensee's operating seasons (January 1<sup>st</sup>) during the Term of this Agreement or any extension thereof. ("Yearly Revenue Payments"). Licensee shall provide Licensor with a final revenue report at the end of each operating season, verifying the respective years revenues.

### IV. USE OF LICENSED PREMISES

The Licensee shall have the right to utilize the Licensed Premises to operate its tubing/kayaking operation including the right to stage tubes/kayaks. Licensee agrees to utilize such Licensed Premises in a commercially reasonable manner and only for their intended purposes. To the extent Licensee damages the Licensed Premises of Licensors, Licensee shall repair or replace such damage in a commercially reasonable timeframe, normal wear and tear excepted. Licensee agrees that its use of the Licensed Premises must not interfere with public parking or public access to boat/canoe launches on the Licensed Premises. Licensee further agrees that any rentals and/or fee transactions shall not take place on Licensor's Property. Licensee shall operate its business in accordance with any and all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules, and regulations.

Licensee shall not be permitted to make improvements and/or alterations to the Licensed Premises without the Licensor's prior written consent. Licensee shall not maintain any signs without Licensor's prior written consent which may be withheld for any or no reason. If any mechanic's lien is filed against the Licensed Premises or the Property as a result of any work or act of Licensee, Licensee, at its expense, shall discharge the same within thirty days from the filing thereof. If Licensee fails to discharge said mechanic's lien, Licensor may bond or pay without inquiring into the validity of merits of such lien and all sums so advanced shall be paid to Licensor by Licensee. Nothing in this License provides Licensee with the exclusive right to operate a tubing/kayaking operation on the Property.

V.  
INSURANCE

Licensee shall indemnify and defend the Licensor and Licensor's officials, successors, assigns, employees, and managers against and hold them harmless from any and all claims, liabilities, damages, losses, penalties, fines and expenses (including but not limited to reasonable attorneys' fees) for injuries to persons (including without limitation death) or property, (i) by reason of any accident or event occurring on the Licensed Premises during the term of this License or any extensions thereof, (ii) arising or resulting from Licensee's use and occupancy, or the use and occupancy by Licensee's employees, agents, contractors, vendors, customers, suppliers or invitees, of the Licensed Premises and/or the Property, and (iii) any act, omission or negligence of Licensee, or Licensee's employees, agents, contractors, vendors, customers, suppliers or invitees. Licensee shall, at its own expense, provide and keep the following insurance policies in force during the term of this License and any extensions thereof:

- a) Licensee shall carry, during the term of this License, an occurrence, rather than "claims made" type public liability insurance policy in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000.00 per person and \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence naming Licensor as additional insured and insuring against damage to any person (including death) or property resulting from any accident or occurrence on the Licensed Premises and including contractual liability coverage over the undertakings of the Licensee. Licensee shall notify Licensor at least thirty (30) days before the cancellation of any policy affecting the Licensed Premises. Cancellation of any insurance policy shall not relieve Licensee from its obligations in this Article. Licensee shall not have a lapse between one policy and another.
- b) Licensee shall keep in effect Worker's Compensation insurance for its employees in at least the amount required by the statute of the state in which Licensee is organized and the laws of State of Illinois, and require all of its agents, contractors, vendors and suppliers that come onto the Property to have such coverage.
- c) Property, fire, and casualty insurance in an amount sufficient to restore, in the event of a covered loss, the Licensed Premises, and its contents to their pre-loss condition. In the event of any loss, Licensee shall assign to Licensor all of the proceeds of such insurance and the right to settle such claim.
- d) Automobile Coverage. Licensee shall carry and maintain automobile coverage in amounts not less than \$500,000 per occurrence, combined single limit for: Bodily Injury Liability and Property Damage Liability.
- e) Licensee shall name Licensor, by endorsement, as a primary non-contributing additional insured on all insurance policies required by this License and shall annually provide certificates of insurance to the Licensor evidencing Licensor's inclusion as an additional insured. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, (i) Licensee's liability insurance shall cover all activities of Licensee, and Licensee's employee's, agents, contractors, vendors, suppliers, customers, licensees and invitees in the Licensed Premises and the Property, (ii) all insurance policies required to be maintained by Licensee hereunder shall

name Licensor as an additional insured and shall be primary, and any insurance carried by Licensor shall be excess and non-contributory. Neither the issuance of any insurance policy required hereunder, nor the minimum limits of specified herein shall be deemed to limit or restrict in any way Licensee's liability under the terms of this License.

VI.  
RELEASE AND WAIVER

Licensee, on behalf of itself and anyone claiming through or under the Licensee by way of subrogation or otherwise, releases Licensor, and Licensor's officials, successors, assigns, employees, and managers from any and all liability for any loss of or damage which is covered under the insurance carried or required to be carried pursuant to the terms of this License, whether or not caused by the negligence or fault of the Licensor. Licensor is not responsible for any stolen or damaged property belonging to Licensee.

To the extent permitted by law, Licensor, and its officials, successors, assigns, agents, employees, and managers shall not be liable for, and Licensee releases and waives on behalf Licensee and all others claiming by, through or under Licensee (including without limitation, Licensee's employees, agents, contractors, vendors, licensees, customers, suppliers or invitees), all claims (including without limitation, subrogation claims) for damage or loss to persons (including without limitation, death) or property sustained by Licensee or any person claiming through Licensee resulting from any accident or occurrence in or upon the Licensed Premises or Property including, but not limited to, claims arising from: (a) Licensor's failure to keep any part of the Licensed Premises or Property in repair; (b) wind, water, or other natural element; (c) water, snow or ice; (d) resulting from any defect or negligence in the occupancy, construction, operation or use of any buildings or improvements in the Property, including the Licensed Premises, or any of the equipment, fixtures, machinery, appliances or apparatus therein; or (e) theft, vandalism, breakage, riot; or (f) acts or omissions of persons in the Licensed Premises or any other persons, including without limitation, Licensor, its officials, agents or employees. All property belonging to Licensee that is kept in the Licensed Premises shall be at Licensee's sole risk.

VII.  
NOTICES

Any notices required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and delivered to the other party or the other party's authorized agent, either in person or by United States Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, postage fully prepaid, to the address set forth hereinafter, or to such other addresses as either party may designate in writing and deliver as herein provided:

LICENSOR: Winnebago County Forest Preserve District  
Attn: Executive Director of the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District.  
5500 Northrock Drive,  
Rockford, IL 61103



LICENSEE: Sugar River Adventures, LLC  
Attn: Michael Marti  
7245 Shirland Road  
Rockton, IL 61072

VIII.  
SUCCESSORS

All of the terms, conditions, covenants and provisions set forth in this License shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the heirs, legal representatives, successors, executors and assigns of the Parties. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, this License is personal to, and non-assignable by, Licensee.

IX.  
ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This License constitutes the entire agreement of the Parties hereto. No representations, promises, terms, conditions, obligations or warranties whatsoever referring to the subject matters hereof other than those expressly set forth herein, shall be of any binding legal force or effect whatsoever. No modification, change or alteration of the within License agreement shall be of any legal force or effect whatsoever unless in writing, signed by all the Parties hereto or their respective successors or assigns. No waiver of any violation of any provision of this License shall be implied by any neglect of Licensor to enforce any remedy arising from such violation, or if such violation is continued or repeated. Licensor shall not be deemed to have waived any term hereof unless such waiver is in writing and signed by Licensor.

X.  
JURISDICTION AND OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS

The laws of the State of Illinois shall govern the interpretation, validity, performance and enforcement of this License. If any provision of this License shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable, the validity and enforceability of the remaining provisions of this License shall not be affected thereby. In the event of any litigation between the parties related to this License, jurisdiction and venue shall be exclusively limited to a court in Winnebago County, State of Illinois.

XI.  
LAWS

Licensee shall at its own expense, comply with all laws, orders, ordinances and with directions of public officers thereunder, respecting all matters of occupancy, condition or maintenance of the Licensed Premises, whether such orders or directions shall be directed to Licensee or Licensor, and Licensee shall hold Licensor harmless from any and all costs or expenses on account thereof, and Licensor shall have no obligation or responsibility for same.

XII.  
NO LEASE

Licensee agrees that no lease or other interest in land is created by this License, that no landlord-tenant relationship is created hereby, and that no foreclosure, eviction, forcible entry or detainer, or other statutory proceeding for the recovery of real property shall be required for Licensor to terminate this License and all rights of Licensee hereunder.

XIII.  
ATTORNEY FEES

In the event of any litigation between the parties related to or arising from this License, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover from the other party such prevailing party's reasonable costs, charges and expenses, including attorneys' fees in connection with same.

XIV.  
ACCESS

Licensor reserves the right to free access to the Licensed Premises at all reasonable hours for the purpose of examining or exhibiting the same, or to make any needful repairs on the Licensed Premises, which Licensor may deem fit to make. In the event of apparent or actual emergency, Licensor may enter the Licensed Premises at any time without notice. Licensor shall have the right to utilize the Licensed Premises at all times.

XV.  
DEFAULT

In the event of default by either party, upon written notice by the non-defaulting party of such default, the defaulting party shall have fifteen (15) days to cure such default. In the event the defaulting party fails to cure such default within the allotted timeframe, the non-defaulting party may pursue any remedy available to it at law or in equity, including, but not limited to terminating this License.

In the event Licensee terminates this License at any point during the Term of the License or any extension thereof, Licensee shall not be entitled to any refund of License Fees or Yearly Revenue Payments. In addition, Licensee shall still owe Licensor the Yearly Revenue Payment.

In the event Licensor terminates this License due to a breach of the License by Licensee or by the Licensee's violation of WCFPD Ordinances, Licensee shall not be entitled to any refund of License Fees or Yearly Revenue Payments.

In the event that Licensor terminates this License prior to July 1 of the respective Term year for convenience, Licensor agrees to refund Licensee the amount of Two Hundred and Fifty and 00/100<sup>th</sup> Dollars (\$250.00), and further agrees that Licensee shall not be required to remit the Yearly Revenue Payments for the respective Term year.

XVI.  
SEVERABILITY AND COUNTERPARTS

If any of the provisions of this instrument are invalid with any statute or rule of law of the State of Illinois or of any judicial district in which it may be so brought to be enforced, then such provisions shall be deemed null and void to the extent that they may conflict herewith, however the remainder of this instrument and any other application of such provision shall not be affected hereby. This License may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties have hereunto set their hands as of the date first referenced above.

**LICENSOR:**

Winnebago County Forest Preserve District

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

**LICENSEE:**

Sugar River Adventures, LLC

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

September 18, 2024  
Rockford, Illinois

**RESOLUTION**  
**No.24-0903**

**AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE COMED GREEN REGION GRANT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the ComEd Green Region Grant program awards grants up to \$10,000.00 for conservation projects, pollinators, and climate resiliency based in northern Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County have been awarded \$10,000.00 from said program for its project entitled “Funderburg Forest Preserve Pollinator Habitat Improvement”, which will purchase a diverse, pollinator friendly seed mix to help restore the site; and,

WHEREAS, this grant award requires a 1:1 match of \$10,000.00; and,

WHEREAS, a total of \$20,000 for the completion of this project has been included in the draft FY2024-25 budget; and,

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County has received and understands the current ComEd Green Region program guidelines; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the board of commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County approves the acceptance of \$10,000.00 from the ComEd Green Region Program for the Funderburg Forest Preserve Pollinator Habitat Improvement Project and commits to the expenditure of matching funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 necessary for the project’s success.

Voting YES \_\_\_\_\_

Voting NO \_\_\_\_\_

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

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

---

Jeff Tilly, President  
Board of Commissioners

## **RESOLUTION**

**No. 24-0904**

### **VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PURCHASE FROM INSURANCE CLAIM**

WHEREAS, on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, a Forest Preserves of Winnebago County employee was driving a District vehicle and was involved in a collision with another vehicle causing total loss of the District vehicle; and,

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County contracts with IPARKS to provide general liability insurance coverage for District vehicles and where the damaged vehicle has been evaluated and will be assigned a replacement value; and,

WHEREAS, the District has identified a suitable replacement vehicle that most closely meets the necessary specifications thru the vendor that has the state bid, and where the vendor, Landmark Ford, has agreed to extend state bid pricing for this purchase; and,

WHEREAS, staff is recommending utilizing the insurance claim amount towards the purchase of one (1) replacement F250 standard cab pickup truck from Landmark Ford, Inc., Springfield, Illinois; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County approve the purchase of one (1) replacement F250 standard cab pickup truck from Landmark Ford, Springfield, Illinois in the amount of \$47,161.00.

Voting YES\_\_\_\_\_

Voting NO\_\_\_\_\_

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18th day of September, 2024.

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

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Jeff Tilly, President  
Board of Commissioners

**RESOLUTION**

**No. 24-0905**

**ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS LAYOVER**

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District (District) fiscal year budget operates from November 1 – October 31; and,

WHEREAS, the District’s Board of Commissioners (Board) has been presented the proposed 2024-2025 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for review and adoption; and,

WHEREAS, the District is required to layover the budget for a period of at least 30 days for public review and comment before it is adopted by the Board,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board will layover the 2024-2025 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for public review and comment until the October 23, 2024 Board meeting.

Voting YES \_\_\_\_\_

Voting NO \_\_\_\_\_

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18th day of September, 2024.

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

---

Jeff Tilly, President  
Board of Commissioners

**RESOLUTION**

**No. 24-0906**

**ANNUAL TAX LEVY LAYOVER**

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District (District) fiscal year budget operates from November 1 – October 31; and,

WHEREAS, the District’s Board of Commissioners (Board) 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; and,

WHEREAS, the District is required to layover the tax levy for a period of at least 30 days for public review and comment before it is adopted by the Board,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board will layover the tax levy for public review and comment until the October 23, 2024 Board meeting.

Voting YES \_\_\_\_\_

Voting NO \_\_\_\_\_

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18th day of September, 2024.

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

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Jeff Tilly, President  
Board of Commissioners

## **RESOLUTION**

**No. 24-0907**

### **ALLOCATION OF SPONSORSHIP FUNDS FOR THE BURPEE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY NATURE NOOK**

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County Board of Commissioners passed the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 budget on October 25, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners approved \$35,000 in budget funds to be allocated as needed to Forest Preserves of Winnebago County (FPWC) partner groups; and,

WHEREAS, Burpee Museum of Natural History (Burpee) is a FPWC partner group; and,

WHEREAS, Burpee is installing an outdoor interpretive area known as the “Nature Nook” on their museum campus; and,

WHEREAS, Burpee requests funding to assist with the purchase and installation of native plants and shrubs, which will play an important role in the Nature Nook; and,

WHEREAS, Burpee agrees to acknowledge FPWC as a partner and funding source in any published materials regarding the Nature Nook,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County does hereby grant Burpee Museum of Natural History \$4,000 to aid in the development of their Nature Nook interpretive area.

Voting YES\_\_\_\_\_

Voting NO\_\_\_\_\_

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September, 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  
Matt Weik & Scott Wallace, Preserve Managers  
Bryan Helmold, Facility & Equipment Manager  
August 2024 Activities Report

- Started removing overgrown set aside areas at Sugar River Campground.
- Trimmed low hanging limbs on camp sites in Sugar River and Hononegah Campgrounds.
- Trimmed back roadways at Macktown.
- Repaired Dehumidifiers in all four Macktown Historic District buildings.
- Repaired deck boards at Macktown visitors center.
- Filled hazardous holes behind both shelters at Kieselburg.
- Trimmed Cedar Trees along entrance drive at Headquarters.
- Installed blue thank you sign at Ferguson.
- Trimmed up low hanging limbs at the entrance to Hononegah and along sidewalk at playground.
- Mowed back along the roadway shoulders at Hononegah.
- Filled holes with concrete around Macktown Historic District cemetery.
- Split firewood and stocked firewood in campgrounds.
- Trimmed up trees on soccer field and around Kieselburg Black Willow Springs Shelter.
- Trimmed up all trees at the entrance to Roland Olson.
- Cleaned up boat launch from flood damage at Atwood.
- Fixed electrical issues in several pedestals and repaired a post at Sugar River Campground.
- Thorough cleaning of Sugar River well house and shower house.
- Blew debris off roadways in various preserves after thunderstorms.
- Thorough cleaning and reorganization of Sugar River Maintenance Shop.
- Trimmed trees along gravel path in Macktown Historic District.
- Removed brush and unwanted vegetation from around shower house at Sugar River.
- Started pruning back the paved path at Headquarters.
- Hauled rock to Jensen trail to repair washout.
- Hauled rock to Colored Sands Canoe launch.
- Utilized sweeper attachment from Central Shop to clean up flood damage at Atwood.
- Nate Hallgren started as new North Area Ranger.
- Hauled gravel to Hononegah boat ramp.
- Cleaned fire rings in Sugar River and Hononegah Campground.
- Edward Moreland started as new Hononegah Campground Host.

## **Preserve Operations**

### August 2024 Activities Report – Cont.

- Beverly Larson hired and started as new Sugar River Campground Attendant.
- Completed Monthly inspections.
- Blacktop patching at Pecatonica River and Trask Bridge Forest Preserves.
- Repaired washed out culvert on Seward Bluffs equestrian trail.
- Cleaned out fire rings at Seward Bluffs campground.
- Replaced six picnic tables at Kishwaukee East with newly rebuilt ones.
- Pressure washed the floor and tables at Blackhawk Springs Indian Springs Shelter.
- Repaired bridge approach on the Seward Bluffs trails.

## FOREST PRESERVES OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY

### November-August

	<u>2022-2023</u>		<u>2023-2024</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total</u>
Small Shelter Res.	75	\$5,450	56	\$4,760
Small Shelter N/Res.	4	\$400	7	\$700
Large Shelter Res.	139	\$13,900	130	\$14,300
Large Shelter N/Res.	17	\$2,125	5	\$675
Electric Res.	183	\$21,045	163	\$20,375
Electric N/Res.	10	\$1,450	12	\$1,860
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>\$44,370</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>\$42,670</b>
<b>ONLINE</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>68%</b>
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	5	\$250	1	\$100
Commercial Photography Permit	2	\$200	2	\$200
Special Use Permits	19	\$1,739	2	\$600
Rides	23	\$805	12	\$480
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>\$3,334</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>\$1,870</b>
<b>ONLINE</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>Equestrian Passes</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Total</b>
Yearly Tag Res.	91	\$4,550	100	\$5,000
Yearly Tag N/Res.	43	\$3,010	45	\$3,150
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>\$7,560</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>\$8,150</b>
<b>ONLINE</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Fly Field Passes</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Total</b>
Yearly Pass Res.	41	\$1,230	47	\$1,645
Yearly Pass N/Res.	11	\$440	11	\$495
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>\$1,670</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>\$2,140</b>
<b>ONLINE</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Metal Detecting Passes</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Total</b>
Yearly Pass Res.	29	\$725	35	\$875
Yearly Pass N/Res.	7	\$245	7	\$245
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>\$970</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>\$1,120</b>
<b>ONLINE</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>\$57,904</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>\$55,950</b>
<b>ONLINE</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>53%</b>

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

	<u>2021</u> (thru 8/29)	<u>2022</u> (thru 8/28)	<u>2023</u> (thru 8/27)	<u>2024</u> (thru 8/26)
<b>CAMPGROUND</b>				
Hononegah	\$17,355	\$22,145	\$27,448	\$25,307
Seward Bluffs	35,539	30,592	36,731	42,406
Sugar River	<u>73,419</u>	<u>61,545</u>	<u>61,151</u>	<u>63,067</u>
Campground Revenue	\$126,313	\$114,282	\$125,330	\$130,780
<b>SCOUT/YOUTH CAMPGROUNDS</b>				
Hononegah	60	160	265	168
Pecatonica River	345	505	490	540
Rockford Rotary	320	300	340	174
Seward Bluffs	205	150	100	0
Sugar River	<u>195</u>	<u>215</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>478</u>
Scout/Youth Campground Revenue	\$1,125	\$1,330	\$1,390	\$1,360
<b>EQUESTRIAN CAMPGROUNDS</b>				
Oak Ridge	\$54	\$0	\$64	\$302
Seward Bluffs	<u>625</u>	<u>556</u>	<u>922</u>	<u>775</u>
Equestrian Campground Revenue	\$679	\$556	\$986	\$1,077
<b>FIREWOOD</b>				
Hononegah	\$1,603	\$1,456	\$1,274	\$2,641
Seward Bluffs	1,953	1,589	2,632	3,049
Sugar River	<u>8,724</u>	<u>4,699</u>	<u>6,102</u>	<u>5,622</u>
Firewood Revenue	12,280	7,744	10,008	11,312
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$140,397</b>	<b>\$123,912</b>	<b>\$137,714</b>	<b>\$144,529</b>
 NUMBER OF GROUPS AT REGULAR CAMPGROUNDS (DOES NOT INCLUDE EQUESTRIAN AND SCOUT/YOUTH CAMPING)	 2,301	 1,964	 1,994	 2,012

# Natural Resource Management

Mike Brien, Director of Natural Resources

Mike Groves, Natural Resources Manager

Keith Krey, Stewardship Coordinator

Liz Hucker, Wildlife Biologist

August 2024 Activities Report

## Natural Resources

- Hand collected seed of Canada anemone, marbleseed, milkweeds, prairie dropseed, cream indigo, royal catchfly, compass plant, prairie dock, prairie clover meadow rue, green dragon, frostweed, pale purple coneflower, and others from preserves throughout the county
- Chemically treated purple loosestrife, silky bushclover, phragmites, pampas grass, autumn olive, bouncing bet, teasel, bird's-foot trefoil, crown vetch, and Canada thistle in preserves throughout the county
- Chemically treated woody resprouts emerging in forestry mowed units at Funderburg Forest Preserve
- Basal barked woody invasive species at Seward Bluffs and Stone Bridge Forest Preserve
- Fixed a trail washout at Deer Run Forest Preserve
- Tractor mowed new prairie plantings and woody invasives at Funderburg, Severson Dells, and Kishwaukee Gorge Forest Preserves
- Transplanting and weeding of plants in propagation area completed as needed
- Processed seed at the Severson Dells facility
- Cleaned out water control structures at Pecatonica Wetlands Forest Preserve
- Overseeded prairie restorations at Sugar River Alder
- Utilized seed stripper to harvest wild bergamont, side oats gramma, and purple prairie clover from Severson Dells and Deer Run Forest Preserves
- Staff assisted with all aspects of the District's outreach booth at the Winnebago County Fair, including set up and tear down, collecting fish for aquarium display, and staffing the booth during fair hours.
- Assisted wildlife biologist with various projects
- Continued work on the 2024-25 budget
- Submitted application for U.S. Fish and Wildlife's small grants program which will help fund the removal of drain tile from a farm field at Funderburg Forest Preserve before it is restored to prairie
- Met with Natural Resource Conservation Service to discuss management plan for the portion of Ferguson Forest Preserve that is enrolled in the Wetland Reserve Program
- Coordinated seed collection effort at Bell Bowl Prairie with contractors employed by the Rockford Airport Authority
- Reviewed plans for OSLAD nature playground at Klehm Arboretum with Alex Mills and landscape architect

# Natural Resource Management

## August 2024 Activities Report – Cont.

- Completed final inspection of Funderburg forestry mowing contract.
- Completed quarterly grant report for open UCF for Government Entities award from the Chicago Region Trees Initiative
- Created and distributed a request for quote for drain tile removal at Funderburg Forest Preserve
- Monitored ATV encroachments at Rotary Forest Preserve

### Wildlife

A majority of August was dedicated to aquatic turtle trapping. Over 200 traps night yielded four species of turtles; painted, snapping, musk, and Blanding's. The Blanding's turtle was processed by District staff and Dr. John Winters, a wildlife veterinary resident with the University of Illinois. After receiving a clean bill of health, the turtle was fitted with a tracking device and released back at the capture location. The turtle's location was tracked daily in order to help us better understand how this threatened species is utilizing the preserves.

Additional work accomplished includes:

- Monitoring snake coverboards
- Assisting at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory when possible
- Removing invasive carp from District waterways for use as turtle trap bait
- Continued monitoring badger activity at Colored Sands Forest Preserve
- Collected bat monitoring devices from preserves throughout the County

### Stewardship

- Hosted four seed collection workdays at Funderberg and Deer Run Forest Preserves where volunteers collected bottlebrush, golden alexanders, wild bergamont, compass plant, and butterfly milkweed seed.
- Monitored bluebird nest boxes at Cedar Cliff and Funderburg Forest Preserves
- Staffed the FPWC booth at National Night Out, Winnebago County Fair, 50 North's annual picnic, and U.W. Health's health and wellness fair
- Attended Better Impact's webinar "Reporting the Full Value of Volunteer Engagement"
- Attended iNaturalist's webinar "Biodiversity Impact"

### 2024 Statistics

A total of 167 volunteers earned 2,076 service hours from January 2024 through August 2024

The monetary value of these service hours equals **\$68,788.46**. 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  
August 2024 Activities Report

## Clubhouse Operations:

- Fraternal Order of Police Outing at Atwood Homestead GC - 100 participants
- South Beloit Businessman Outing at Macktown GC - 112 competitors
- Birdies for Ben Outing at Ledges GC - 116 participants
- High School Team Qualifying / Tryouts at Atwood, Ledges, & Macktown
  - Hononegah Boys & Girls
  - Boylan Boys & Girls
  - Harlem Boys & Girls
- Boylan Invitational at Atwood Homestead GC – rained out
- Jefferson Invitational / Beling Outing at Ledges GC - 14 area high schools
- Local 32 Laborer's Outing at Atwood Homestead GC - 100 participants
- Benny's Annual Outing at Ledges GC - 148 participants
- Blackhawk Athletic Club Outing at Ledges GC - 116 participants
- FPWC event, Couples Nine & Dine at Ledges GC - 32 participants

## Golf Maintenance:

### Ledges

- Daily scouting for fungal activity on greens, tees and fairways during prolonged periods of high heat and humidity.
- Hand watered localized dry spots on greens and collars.
- Continued fertility program on all putting green surfaces, all tee complexes, and on all fairways.
- Removed trees and unwanted vegetation behind #4 tee complex.
- 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.
- Put fresh edge on all bunkers.
- Burned brush pile.
- Trimmed ponds and waterways with boom mower.
- String trimmed trees throughout the golf course.
- Cut and cleanup of fallen tree on left side of #2 fairway.

# Golf Operations

## August 2024 Activities Report – Cont.

### Macktown

- Daily scouting for fungal activity on greens, tees and fairways during prolonged periods of high heat and humidity.
- Continued fertility program on all tee complexes, all putting green surfaces, and on all fairways.
- Continued trimming low hanging limbs throughout the golf course.
- Repaired broken irrigation supply line for #3 fairway.
- Hand watered localized dry spots on greens and collars.
- Replaced cracked irrigation head on #1 fairway.
- String trimmed trees throughout the golf course.
- Replaced several irrigation head risers and replaced nozzles and motors in several other irrigation heads.
- Test fairway irrigation heads for pressure and coverage.
- Burned brush pile.
- Contracted repair of golf maintenance building water service line which was leaking.

### Atwood

- Applied granular fertilizer to tees.
- Scouted for turfgrass diseases daily due to hot and humid weather conditions.
- Adjusted sand in bunkers for proper playing depth.
- Repaired irrigation heads and replace swing joints on multiple holes.
- Adjusted applications to greens fertility and fungicide program due to adverse weather conditions.
- Continued trimming trees near fairways.
- Filled divots on tees with sand and seed.
- Hand watered greens and collars to alleviate localized dry areas.
- Preventative white grub application around fairways.
- Continued with fairway fertility program.



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

	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
<b><u>Atwood Homestead</u></b>				
Green Fees	\$209,630	\$187,422	\$214,315	\$239,411
Foot Golf Fees	\$85	\$0	\$0	\$0
Cart Rental	\$159,821	\$143,761	\$159,198	\$181,846
Merchandise	\$26,794	\$22,278	\$29,270	\$25,018
Gift Card	\$277	\$687	\$575	\$599
Discount Gift Card	\$52,398	\$46,828	\$55,958	\$70,043
Capital Improvement Fee	\$20,267	\$17,479	\$18,305	\$18,972
Food & Beverage	\$68,293	\$66,945	\$90,783	\$91,865
Golf Club Rental	\$0	\$0	\$360	\$820
Video Gaming & ATM	\$3,662	\$4,030	\$3,454	\$3,650
<b>Total Atwood Revenue</b>	<b>\$541,226</b>	<b>\$489,431</b>	<b>\$572,217</b>	<b>\$632,223</b>
<b><u>Ledges</u></b>				
Green Fees	\$210,579	\$202,128	\$224,080	\$230,166
Cart Rental	\$159,637	\$151,544	\$171,130	\$175,168
Merchandise	\$19,995	\$20,947	\$24,960	\$22,203
Gift Card	\$328	\$111	\$245	\$0
Discount Gift Card	\$46,406	\$55,898	\$65,585	\$69,711
Capital Improvement Fee	\$20,016	\$19,296	\$20,820	\$21,010
Food & Beverage	\$92,931	\$91,448	\$112,659	\$119,609
Golf Club Rental	\$0	\$0	\$440	\$460
Video Gaming & ATM	\$3,047	\$3,005	\$1,327	\$5,001
<b>Total Ledges Revenue</b>	<b>\$552,939</b>	<b>\$544,376</b>	<b>\$621,245</b>	<b>\$643,328</b>
<b><u>Macktown</u></b>				
Green Fees	\$139,658	\$137,796	\$168,257	\$168,623
Cart Rental	\$114,223	\$107,976	\$132,879	\$129,457
Merchandise	\$14,449	\$13,938	\$16,641	\$13,073
Gift Card	\$0	\$25	\$0	\$217
Discount Gift Card	\$77,499	\$65,127	\$81,396	\$80,673
Capital Improvement Fee	\$14,459	\$13,563	\$16,309	\$15,443
Food & Beverage	\$73,843	\$75,695	\$92,121	\$92,820
Golf Club Rental	\$0	\$0	\$120	\$110
Video Gaming & ATM	\$3,727	\$2,915	\$2,938	\$3,796
<b>Total Macktown Revenue</b>	<b>\$437,857</b>	<b>\$417,036</b>	<b>\$510,660</b>	<b>\$504,211</b>
<b><u>Headquarters</u></b>				
Gift Card	\$1,875	\$2,554	\$1,430	\$3,120
Discount Gift Card	\$28,333	\$32,419	\$29,428	\$30,680
Golf Passes	\$270,015	\$294,700	\$315,785	\$328,440
Capital Improvement Fee	\$29,770	\$32,820	\$32,338	\$32,880
Tournaments	\$13,356	\$15,730	\$17,988	\$21,330
Private Golf Cart Registration	\$12,500	\$11,650	\$11,650	\$10,150
<b>Total Headquarters Revenue</b>	<b>\$355,848</b>	<b>\$389,873</b>	<b>\$408,619</b>	<b>\$426,600</b>
<b>Total Golf Course Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,887,869</b>	<b>\$1,840,716</b>	<b>\$2,112,740</b>	<b>\$2,206,361</b>

Option not available for that season

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

	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
<b><u>Rounds Played</u></b>				
Atwood	20,924	17,688	19,764	21,863
Footgolf	17	0	0	0
Ledges	19,611	17,636	18,962	19,726
Macktown	18,210	15,594	17,889	18,704
<b>Total Rounds Played</b>	<b>58,762</b>	<b>50,918</b>	<b>56,615</b>	<b>60,293</b>
<b><u>Golf Passes</u></b>				
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	16	15	8
Practice Range Res.	21	25	19	21
Practice Range Non-Res.	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Passes</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>690</b>
<b><u>Private Golf Cart Registration</u></b>				
Inside Storage	0	3	3	2
Outside Storage	4	15	14	13
Home Storage	15	18	17	15
<b>Total Private Golf Cart Registration</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>

*Option not available for that season*

# Marketing & Communication Relations

Renee Pixler, Communications Coordinator  
August 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
- Submitted 1/8-page ad in Stateline Connection publication

## Media Relations

- Featured in “*List of Rockford 815 Day 2024 events*” article on WIFR website.
- Featured in “*A Walk in the Park: Klehm Arboretum is a green getaway in south Rockford*” article on Rockford Register Star website.
- Featured in “*A Walk in the Park: This Rockford area forest preserve was once home to a polo complex*” article on Morningstar website.
- Featured in “*23 Illinois Communities Receive Total of \$200,000 in Environmental Grants from ComEd, Openlands*” article on Rockton-Roscoe News website.
- Featured in “*A Walk in the Park: Rockford area forest preserve gets its name from limestone cliffs*” article on Rockford Register Star website.
- Featured in “*Autumn Adventures: Embrace fall with Rockford’s best activities and events*” article on gorockford.com.

## Events/Programs

- **815 Day** – FPWC was a “hot spot” for 815 Day. We hosted an outdoor scavenger hunt and sold discounted merch. Participation was low due to the constant rain, but the people who did participate had a great time!
- 2024 Preserve Passport – We continue to see success and great engagement through the goosechase app! As of 8/9/24 we have:
  - **61 teams**
  - **704 submissions**

## Community Engagement

- 8/6/24 – represented FPWC at National Night Out at Harlem High School, hosted by the Winnebago County Sheriff’s Department.
- FPWC had a tent at the Winnebago County Fair that featured native plants, a live aquatic aquarium, and fun educational materials. I estimate we spoke to at least 500 people during the fair!
- 8/20/24 – represented FPWC at 50 North group annual picnic in Rockton, IL.

## Marketing & Communication Relations

### August 2024 Activities Report – Cont.

- 8/28/24 – represented FPWC at Winnebago County employee health & wellness fair in Rockford, IL.



### Social Media

- Social Media Stats (compared to July 2024 report)
  - FPWC Facebook: 5,028 followers (+52)
  - FPWC Instagram: 1,719 followers (+9)
  - FPWC Golf Facebook: 610 followers (+2)
  - FPWC Golf Instagram: 285 followers (+3)

## Human Resources

Sherry Winebaugh, Human Resources Manager  
August 2024 Activities Report

- In August, I focused on several important areas, such as seasonal and full-time new hire orientation and safety training, overseeing employee benefits, conducting interviews, and handling various personnel matters.
- I conducted two orientation and safety training sessions for seasonal employees and two for full-time staff, focusing on our agency's culture, policies, and safety procedures, all of which play a crucial role in developing a positive and secure work environment.
- This month, we hired three new seasonal employees, increasing our seasonal staff count to 111.
- I addressed various seasonal and full-time staff-related matters, reinforcing our commitment to resolving employee issues effectively while promoting a productive and positive work environment.
- Matt Weik and I interviewed four candidates for the North Area Ranger position. We selected Nathan Hallgren, who began his role on August 19th. Additionally, Austin Bernhard started his new position as South Area Ranger on August 5th.
- Kristy Knapp, Judy Barnard, and I worked the Forest Preserve tent at the Winnebago County Fair. We talked with several people and passed out a lot of candy!
- I attended my first Membership Development Committee meeting with the IPBC, as well as their Plan Rules and Administration Zoom meeting.

# Law Enforcement

## August 2024 Activities Report

08/07/2024 - 5360 S Mulford Rd., Death Investigation Deputies, Cherry Valley and Park District Officers, responded with Cherry Valley Fire to Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve for two people unresponsive in a vehicle. Aung Zin (22) and JM (16) were located by relatives in Aung's orange Ford Focus. Life saving measures were performed on both and they were both transported to OSF. Aung was pronounced dead at the hospital. JM was airlifted to UW Madison. Cause of death was later determined to be by CO2 poisoning. Sgt Jones and DC Boomer responded to the scene with detectives. CST Wysocki processed and the vehicle was towed to the crime scene bay. Sgt Riportella and Lt Broullard on scene.

08/28/2024 - 14950 Brick School Rd., Deputy Kempin was dispatched to Pecatonica River Forest Preserve located at 14960 Brick School Rd. for a property damage accident. Upon arrival Deputy Kempin met with a Conservation Police Officer that had struck a 4x4x8 post with his patrol vehicle causing damage to the vehicle and post that had broken at the base. Crash report was taken.

### **Brief Activity Summary**

- There were 0 Criminal arrests (one gun recovered patrol WCSO)
- There were 15 Calls for service inside of the Forest Preserves
- There were 13 Calls for service outside of the Forest Preserves
- There were 4 Reports written
- There were 0 Ordinance violations (citations) written
- There were 0 Written warnings
- There were 42 Verbal warnings
- There were 0 Airfield permits
- There were 5 Equestrian bridle tags
- There were 23 Fishing license checks
- There were 49 Occupied shelter house patrols
- There were 37 Campground patrols
- There were 31 Patrols on trail systems
- There were 23 Directed patrol hours