

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County exists to advance the vision of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County through philanthropic endeavors.

Message from the Chair



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County's board of directors, I am pleased to present our 2018 annual report.

As a result of the generosity of supporters and contributors like you and the efforts of our committed board of directors, the Friends dispersed over \$71,000 to the Forest Preserve District in 2018. Supported priority projects included: the restoration of the Horse Trough Fountain and improvements to the indoor riding arena at St. James Farm; medical care for the horses at Danada Equestrian Center; new recreational equipment for the Special Needs Adventure and Outdoor Education Day series; a new wood-burning stove

for programming at Kline Creek Farm; and new data loggers to help save a local endangered species, the Blanding's turtle.

The Friends would also like to thank you for the overwhelming support we received for our West Chicago Prairie restoration priority project. Because our goal was met, we received a 3-to-1 matching grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation.

In September, we held our first Friends fundraiser, "A Night for Nature: A Benefit for Wildlife and Wild Areas." Nearly 200 of you enjoyed horse-drawn wagon rides, entertainment and a delicious dinner inside the historic Danada House. The lovely evening was capped off with guests bidding on unique ways to "experience the wild" in our DuPage forest preserves and a great time was had by all! We hope you'll join us once again this year, so please save the date of Sept. 26 and watch for more information to come!

The Friends is committed to continuing its support of the Forest Preserve District's mission and goals in 2019. To accomplish this we hope to grow meaningful community partnerships with DuPage residents, business leaders, and volunteers. We started our Community Partners program in 2018, and we'd like to thank those who joined during its inaugural year: ComEd, Domtar Paper Company, Greenprint LLC, Pro-Pak Industries Inc. and REI. Our successes and contributions are a direct result of the support you give this foundation and its mission.

Thank you once again for your support of the Friends in 2018. The Forest Preserve District's nearly 26,000 acres, 145 miles of trails and 60 forest preserves are yours to explore and to enjoy, and we remain committed to stewarding and using your contributions to maximum effect in all.

With appreciation and gratitude,

Karyn M. Charvat 2019 Board Chair

Our preserves are beautiful spaces that refresh our spirit. - Terry Witt

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Executive Director, PowerForward DuPage

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Community Partners Program Launched

After much thoughtful development, the Friends launched the Community Partners program to grow our relationships with organizations, service groups, corporations and private foundations in the area. The program gives partners the opportunity to benefit a particular preserve, priority project, greatest needs or multiple designations that suit their interests. Then, we gladly provide many avenues



of recognition throughout the year to highlight what organizations share our values and work with the DuPage forest preserves to make wonderful things happen.

We are pleased to recognize the following partners from 2018: ComEd, Domtar Paper Company, Greenprint LLC, REI, and Pro-Pak Industries, Inc.

For information on joining this program, visit **dupageforest.org/ community-partner**.

A Night for Nature

The Friends hosted its first event fundraiser — A Night for Nature: A Benefit for Wildlife and Wild Areas — at the Danada House, raising \$31,000 last September.

The event welcomed nearly 200 guests and featured a meaningful video showcasing the hand-in-hand work between the Natural Resources department and Willowbrook Wildlife Center. The evening also offered a chance to win actual wildlife experiences in the forest preserves.

Two days later, guests who purchased one of three authenticlooking toy ducks to benefit restoration work at West Chicago Prairie joined a special race at St. James Farm sponsored by the DuPage Chapter 782 of Pheasants Forever, Inc. One hundred ducks floated



down Spring Brook Creek as guests followed their journey to the finish line. Winners Tim and Marianne Logsdon of Elmhurst donated half of their \$500 cash prize back to the West Chicago Prairie restoration project.

A fun video of the race is posted online at dupageforest.org/blog/duck-race-supports-habitat-restoration. Join us for this year's event on Sept. 26, 2019.



Adopt a Blanding's Turtle

Launched in July 2017, the Adopt a Blanding's Turtle program gives donors a direct way to support the Forest Preserve District's efforts to help these stateendangered reptiles.

For a \$100 donation, a supporter can "adopt" and name (but not keep) one of the year's hatchlings. As of 2018 more than 100 turtles have been adopted. Some of the proceeds helped to purchase battery-operated data loggers used to track Blanding's turtles in the wild. Other money raised will help fund larger initiatives to improve habitat in areas where the turtles are released.

Each donor receives a personalized adoption certificate with the turtle's number and photo, a Blanding's turtle information card, semiannual program updates, a plush turtle, and an invitation to a hatchling experience at the Urban Stream Research Center. In 2018, contributors also enjoyed an exclusive reception featuring a presentation by Forest Preserve District ecologist Dan Thompson as part of their invitation to Cosley Zoo's Endangered Species Day.

Since 1996 the Forest Preserve District has been tracking female Blanding's turtles during the breeding season, bringing them into captivity to collect their fertilized eggs and then releasing them back into the wild. By hatching eggs under controlled conditions and allowing the turtles to grow for a year before being released, ecologists can give the young stateendangered animals greater odds of survival in the wild.



2018 Accomplishments



Priority Projects

In 2018 the Friends' board voted to add two new priority projects to its current initiatives.

Search-and-Rescue Drone

A goal of the Forest Preserve District's law enforcement department is to ensure visitors' safety. As the Friends first project to assist the District's law enforcement department, \$8,000 is needed towards their purchase of their first search and rescue drone. With technological advancements of aerial photography and thermal imaging capabilities, this drone will be counted on to use in search and rescue operations (such as missing or lost individuals, elderly persons, suicidal subjects, crowd monitoring, or even a criminal suspect). The equipment will allow the officers to have a quicker response in locating an individual when time is of the essence. This device may help with lifesaving efforts and reduce the time needed to organize and call upon other resources for search and rescue efforts. In addition, law enforcement is willing to assist other municipalities if and when they need the support of a drone. To operate

this equipment, officers will undergo a training and obtain a pilot's license for this device. We are 25 percent to our goal and welcome support for this unique need.

West Chicago Prairie Restoration

West Chicago Prairie is one of the region's premier natural areas, containing over 600 species of native plants and animals including the federally-threatened Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid. This preserve is different in that it contains no large picnic areas, fishing lakes or network of trails. Instead, it offers visitors the unique opportunity to enjoy a tranquil walk along footpaths through one of the state's rarest and richest prairie ecosystems. The entire site has been protected as an Illinois Nature Preserve and Nature Preserve buffer. Inspired by the 3 to 1 matching Community Stewardship Challenge grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, just over \$7,000 was raised to benefit the West Chicago Prairie Restoration project. Funds were raised in seven months and the grant will provide an additional \$21,000 plus \$4,000 to account for the number of volunteer hours, completed by the West Chicago Prairie Stewardship Group, at that site.

Within the preserve are 6 particular acres that have been on the restoration priority list for some time. Funding from this priority project will remove trees of invasive species, control herbaceous invasive species and seed with native species to facilitate the restoration of these acres and steward these areas back to health.

Other Accomplishments

 Established a team of 11 (one of 70 charities represented) and participated in our second year at Giving DuPage's Human Race 5K, raising nearly \$400 from registration fees and donations



- Completed the \$26,200 Horse
 Trough Fountain restoration priority
 project at St. James Farm and
 contributed to other features and
 plantings near the fountain thanks
 to an anonymous grant and several
 individual donations
- Received \$6,000 from REI to complete the Friends' first trail restoration project, benefitting a segment of the Night Heron Trail at Fullersburg Woods
- Hosted donors at hospitality receptions at Kline Creek Farm and Danada Equestrian Center
- Received a \$1,000 gift from Exelon to benefit the Volunteer Services department following the company's volunteer restoration workday





 Received more than \$6,000 from Chamberlain Group Inc., Greenprint LLC, Rotary Club of Elmhurst and Cabela's for recreational equipment and supplies for 700 participants at the Special Needs Adventure Day and the Outdoor Education Day series at St. James Farm



- Accepted \$5,047 from the Mary
 J. Demmon Private Foundation for
 medical expenses for the horses at
 Danada Equestrian Center
- Awarded more than \$16,052 to Mayslake Peabody Estate for the library shelving project, photo restorations, outdoor lighting at the entrance roundabout and an authentic carpet runner for the upcoming staircase restoration project



- Received its fifth grant from the Rotary Club of Elmhurst, this one benefiting the Adopt a Blanding's Turtle program
- Received \$2,500 from Community Partner Domtar Paper Company to help us stock Mallard Lake with 900 walleye
- Received \$1,000 from the Valassis
 Direct Mail Inc. giving committee
 and a \$5,000 gift from ComEd for
 Willowbrook Wildlife Center
- Received more than \$600 worth of bait, equipment and prizes from Cabela's in Hoffman Estates for Forest Preserve District events



 Replaced Kline Creek Farm's kitchen stove with a fully restored wood-burning stove thanks to the generosity of a Kline Creek Farm volunteer and several donors



- Held the foundation's annual meeting the day before National Philanthropy Day and presented accomplishments and current projects to donors as well as Forest Preserve District commissioners, volunteers and employees
- Benefited from a \$5,000
 matching-gift challenge during
 #GivingTuesday on Nov. 27, raising
 a total of nearly \$13,000 during the
 global day of giving, an increase of
 more than 300 percent over 2017

I see how many people use and enjoy the forest preserves and I believe they deserve support. Also, in our densely populated community, I think all efforts to conserve our environment are important. - Paul Herbert

Ambassadors Circle

In 2018 the Friends Ambassdors Circle

broke the 300 mark with 314 donors contributing \$100 or more. As a thank you, the Friends offered donors exclusive experiences designed to enrich their memories in the forest preserves, engage them with details on current initiatives, and encourage increased involvement.

The experiences gave the Friends a small way to show its great appreciation for supporters' ongoing generosity. We welcome new ideas of what you'd like to see for these unique activities.

- Acoustic bat monitoring and presentation at Fullersburg Woods
- Behind-the-scenes tours at Family Field Day at St. James Farm and Danada Fall Festival at the Danada Equestrian Center
- Cornbread-baking class using the wood-burning oven, outdoor dinner and horse-drawn hayride at Kline Creek Farm
- Behind-the-scenes tours of Willowbrook Wildlife Center

- Lecture and interactive experiences featuring federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonflies and state-endangered Blanding's turtles at the Urban Stream Research Center
- Behind-the-scenes tour of the Urban Stream Research Center featuring a presentation on the restoration of the West Branch DuPage River and the opportunity to mark freshwater mussels for later release









We need to have wild spaces to enjoy and keep us healthy. The animals need space too! Let's share. -Shari F.

Finances Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2018

Since its inception in 2010,

the 501(c)(3) nonprofit Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County has accepted more than \$915,000 in tax-deductible gifts for priority projects, favorite forest preserves, natural-resource initiatives, and other endeavors in need of support.

In 2018 the Friends raised \$154,924.92 in cash and \$5,675.72 in in-kind donations. We saw the number of online gifts doubled and total online dollars increased by 45 percent over 2017. Thanks to individuals who solicited matching gifts through their employers, 16 donations totaling \$5,469 added to already generous donations.

Expenditures supporting projects, preserves and operations as designated by donors totaled \$112,579.40, and the foundation closed the year with a balance of \$434,267.45.

Moving to the next level, the Friends established another investment account,

increasing the effect of the contributions it receives each year. The Friends Board stood behind the cause they support by celebrating another year of 100 percent participation in board giving. In fact, they increased their giving as a group by more than 400 percent!

PROGRESS	2017	2018	GROWTH
Total Gifts	602	858	43%
Matching Gifts	\$5,178	\$5,469	6%
Recurring Gifts	\$1,500	\$3,500	133%
Ambassadors Circle Donors	224	314	40%
Returning Donors	349	585	68%
Expenditures	\$197,279.72	\$112,579.40	- 43%

Ambassadors Circle Honor Roll

Visionary \$3,500 and Above

Anonymous (2) ComÉd The Estate of Lani K. Harrington Larry C. Larson Mary J. Demmon Private Foundation

Benefactor \$1,500 - \$3,499

Mark and Patricia Banaszak Seth Becker and Helen Nam **BP** Foundation Kenneth Bradley and Linda Schile-Bradley Domtar Paper Company Greenprint LLC Scott and Peggy Hardek Francis "Fritz" Karwoski The Kriauciunas Family Mary Ann Mahoney Kenneth McAfee in memory of Reau Medical Business Associates

Inc. in honor of Dr. Alberto "Tito" Saltiel and Francisca "Panchita" Aida Mendoza Saltiel

Pro-Pak Industries Inc. William II and Patricia Smith

Steward

\$500 - \$1,499 Anonymous (5) Susan Armitage Keenan Ballo and Allison Finn Bank of America Charitable Foundation Brian and Dana Battle Jerry and Linda Campbell Cantore Enterprises Cheryl Clark in memory of Sharon Heberling Tom and Ruth Cloonan David and A. Arlene DeMotte Timothy Elliot Exelon John and Diane Fiore Michael Firman and Marilyn L. Schweitzer David Ginther Howard Goldstein and Margaret McGrath (partial gift from Goldstein-McGrath Fund of the DuPage Foundation) Beth S. Gordon Daniel Grobe Sachs and Kathleen Sachs Nancy Hermann Craig J. Holderness Kathy Isoda Elaine Novak Jans Stephen Johnson Mark Koerner Jennifer Martyn Carol McGee Irene McMaster MC Squared Energy Services LLC Belinda Morgan in memory of Kathleen Morgan Brian Nalley
Mallory Kim Neuberg
Carol O'Neal Pheasants Forever Inc.,

DuPage Chapter 782

Ranch Spur Charitable Trust

PowerForward DuPage

(Frank and Joyce Bauer) Jefferson and Catherine Reiter The Richard Laurence Parish Foundation Rotary Club of Elmhurst Bruce "Zink" and Martha Sanders Michael and Connie Schmidt Dennis Streicher Dawn Sullivan Keith Swiderski John and Marion Tableriou in memory of Alexis Breeze and Colby Jebidiah Diane Telander Laura Torphy Carlo Treviso U.S. Bank V3 Companies Ltd. Valassis Direct Mail Inc. Ray and Louise Vogt Robert Voice and Friends in memory of Bryan Falconer WBK Engineering Timothy Whelan Douglas Zimmer Daniel and Cheryl Zinnen

Guardian \$250 - \$499

Anonymous (3) Joseph and Diane Addante Marcia Basciano Fred and Kathleen Bauters James Jr. and Leslie Bayles Dan and Susan Black Tim and Kate Blackwelder Audra Mason Bonnet Richard A. Carrigan Jr. Carolyn S. Cates CNA Ínsurance Companies Inc. in memory of Patricia Dunbar David and Claudia D'Hooge Paul and Kathy Didzerekis Anamari Dorgan Gary and Juanita Durkin Sandy Feit Sean and Kathryn Gaskill Cynthia A. Gray Judith Grey Diana Hardek Douglas and Kathryn Harder Paul Herbert in memory of Nancy J. Herbert Ross A. Hill Allan Hins in honor of Illiana Hins Thomas and Loretta Jacobs Andrew and Cindy Klemens Patrick Kozlow Peggy Krihak William Kundert and Judith A. Davenport loel Lehman Timothy and Marianne Logsdon George W. Luvisi Jr. in memory of Barby Patronski Jarlath Lynch Krisree Mason Motorola Solutions Foundation Navistar Inc. Bill Nieman and Rita Nathanson Joan E. Norman Donald and Susan Panozzo Ann Peart Kurtis and Kathryn Peterson PK Tax Services, LLC in honor of Carl Dietrick

Jeffrey and Jodi Redick

Donald and Chris Shore

Stephanie Scurtu

Bernard and Karen Rudnik

Sierra Club River Prairie Group Joseph and Daphne Suchecki Scott Tausk John and Deborah Tritt George and Francene Turnpaugh Peggy Vos Hans and Lisa Weckerle Kate Welborn in honor of Howard the Duck Paul and Jennifer
"Ginger" Wheeler
Ellen A. Wier Friend \$100 - \$249 Anonymous (5) S. Addie AIG Financial Network Nancy Allured Amazon Smile Foundation Jaclyn Angiello Johnson

Jay and Sheryl Appleberry Mary Ayres in memory of Anthony Manganello Coral Baran squirrels Daniel and Melody Barszcz Thomas and Jane Both Alan and Margaret Busic John and Kathy Casiello Peter E. Castritsis in memory of Best Bud memory of Robert Claus Peter and Kathleen Connolly William C. Dawe Steven Dillie Stephen and Martha Dome Brenda L. Dorsey Rodrigue and Carmen Dube Ann Duszak Dennis Buck

Robin Gabriel Nancie Gallarneau Madonna "Meg" E. Gannon Joseph and Anna Garcia Allen and Patricia Gebala Girl Scout Troop 105 Hugh Glenn William G. Harman and Alzada Tipton Patricia Harris Alexandra Haser Sean Hayden and Jacqueline Harrison Robert and Anne Hayes Lila Heichel Hector and Beverly Hernandez Patricia Higgins
Andrew and Teri Hill Jack Hogan Marianna Holm Horticultural Consultants (Carl and Caryn Schultz) Rachel Ittnér James and Judith Jambor Ouinton Jensen JLC Wealth Management Inc. William and Ellen Johns Robert Kaiser and Susana Martinez Walter Dale and Davida Kalina Eric and Jeanne Kamrath Ali and Rana Keifari Allison Kennedy, Zookeepers and Staff at Lincoln Park Zoo in honor of Susan Moy Patricia Kennedy John Keough in memory of Gus Nazo Karl and Maria Knecht James Koehler David Koldoff Kelly and Holly Kost Roger Kotecki and Laurie Dettmers in honor of Carl Schultz Keith Kowalewski Elizabeth Kozak in honor of Lia C. Pitaro KPMG John and Lynda Krazinski Adam Kreúzer Emerson and Martha Lacey La Jerezana (Olivia Ramirez) G. Bradley Laken II in memory of Ruger Laken Mary Beth Lang Paul and Eileen LeFort Keith Letsche Walter and Angela Levernier Elaine Libovicz Lombard Junior Women's Club Lindsay Lotysz Deboráh K. Mackay Robert and Margaret Mark Antonio Martinez Jr. Marjorie McClow in memory of Bob McClow Kenneth and Lucinda McClurg Susan J. McCoy Stephen McCracken James and Elizabeth McDonald Scott Meister Jeffrey Michel Melvin and Kay Miller Kathy Morehouse Harry and Rosemarie Moreton in memory of Alexander Torsell Judith C. Morgan Al Murphy Murphy & Associates (Ron

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In-Kind Donations Mari Affatato

Johanna Biedron Cabela's Carrie Carlson Chicago Bears Chicago Cubs

Chicago Wolves

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Theodore L. and Susan Antrim in memory of Dr. Marty

Jeffrey Barg and Marianne Bates Barg in memory of

Toni Bazon Gerald and Patricia Beeson Marilyn Bell

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Kelvin and Verla Boyle Rodney and Margaret Brandon Martha H. Bright James and Maria Brown

Katherine Bussey Kelly Cairns Anthony and Joyce Carey James and Valerie Carroll

Carl and Karyn Charvat Albert and Allison Claus in

Jeffrey Cooke Ronald Crayton George Crea Joe Cuturilo

E. Richard Dease Carol J. DeGreve Faith DeVine

Thomas and Mary Dillon Thomas Dillon Jr.

Bruce Dudzik Dennis Duszak in memory of

David Egner in honor of Danielle Fary Sasha Fenton

Sharon Edel Finzer Follett Corporation Franklin Middle School Friends of Danada Renae M. Frigo

Glenn Gabanski in honor of Brian Kraskiewicz

Chicago Marriott Oak Brook Chicago Sky
Chicago White Sox Charities

College of DuPage McAninch Arts Center

Drury Lane Productions DuPage Symphony Orchestra Emmett's Brewing Company Sandy Fejt

The Field Museum of Natural History

Glendale Lakes Golf Club

Illinois Railway Museum

John G. Shedd Aguarium

Kohl Children's Museum of

Greater Chicago The Malnati Organization

Medieval Times Illinois Inc.

Peggy Notebaert Nature

The Richard H. Driehaus

Nature of Things Photography

Denise Jones

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Music Box Theatre

Lorae Mundt

Museum

Howl at the Moon Chicago

Fire & Wine First Folio Theatre Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Kathryn S. Gaskill

Ryan Companies US Inc. Jim Salsbury William and Barbara Scanlan Sam and Suzanne Schiller

Geraldine Sczygiel Marilynn A. Sells in memory

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Matching-Gift Organizations

AIG Financial Network Bank of America Charitable Foundation The Boeing Company BP Foundation Caterpillar Foundation Charities Aid Foundation of America DLA Architects Ltd. Follett Corporation Motorola Solutions Foundation Network for Good News Corp Giving Praxair Inc Robert R. McCormick Foundation

Our sincere thanks to every donor! We are grateful for all contributors and gifts of all sizes that make a difference for our forest preserves. If we have missed your name as part of the Ambassadors Circle, please let us know.

UnitedHealth Group

U.S. Bank





3S580 Naperville Road Wheaton, IL 60189-5000



How Can You Get More Involved?

Please continue to stay in touch with the Friends. We hope to see you at upcoming events and programs.

- Like us on facebook.com/dupageforestfriends.
- Find Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County on LinkedIn.com.
- Follow us on Instagram
 @friendsofdupageforestpreserves
- Send your email to fundraising@dupageforest.org to receive updates and the monthly e-newsletter.
- Visit dupageforest.org/friends.
- Make a gift at dupageforest.org/donate.

- Join the Ambassadors Circle to attend exclusive programs.
- Choose the Friends of the Forest Preserve District
 of DuPage County as your beneficiary charity when
 you shop on Amazon.com, and the Amazon Smile
 Foundation will contribute 0.5 percent of your purchase
 to the Friends.
- Attend a Forest Preserve District event and stop by the Friends booth to say hi.
- Get outside and benefit from connecting with nature!