

The Friends

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County is a 501(c)(3) organization that helps the community support the Forest Preserve District's mission through philanthropic giving. In 2021, 898 donors gave \$211,759.85, many in support of several key projects.

Adopt an Animal at Willowbrook Wildlife Center – Over \$19,100 helped fund wildlife rehabilitation services, food, and supplies for treating wild animals.

ADA-Accessible Pier – Donors provided \$15,000 to help install an ADA-accessible pier to accommodate kayaks and canoes at Blackwell Forest Preserve.

Night for Nature Event – Thanks to 127 generous donors, this virtual event raised \$9,295 for wildlife. The Wheaton Lions Club in particular sponsored the event's duck race along Spring Brook.

Game Fish Stocking – Domtar Corporation presented \$2,500 to stock native game fish at a forest preserve lake and to support native wildlife rehabilitation at Willowbrook Wildlife Center.

Giving Tuesday – On Nov. 30, the Friends accepted a dollar-for-dollar matching grant challenge – up to \$3,000 – from one of its directors, who is also a volunteer. The fundraiser garnered \$12,733.32 in one-day gifts from 81 donors.

Green Energy Endowment – Established in 2021, this endowment will help fund green energy investments at Forest Preserve District facilities. Six people contributed to the new fund, including a major commitment by Ann Boisclair and Jeffrey Jens to support the installation of solar panels at the Forest Preserve District's fleet building.

Adopt a Blanding's Turtle Program and Breakfast with the Blanding's Turtles and Friends – One corporation and 24 people donated to the conservation of the state-endangered Blanding's turtle. The Friends also joined the Forest Preserve District and partner agency the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum for a virtual "Breakfast With the Blanding's Turtles," which showcased the District's captive-rearing head-start program.

Mayslake Hall Staircase Restoration – Donors, volunteers, and staff gathered in person to see the intricately detailed staircase and learn about its restoration process. A private donation and other funds from the Friends helped make the restoration possible after a pandemic-related delay.

To find out how to support this philanthropic arm of the Forest Preserve District, visit dupageforest.org/friends.



Our forest preserves are a treasure in our DuPage backyards. It's such a worthwhile mission, and I am grateful to serve with the Friends board as well as with District staff and volunteers, who do such amazing work.

– Diane Addante, Friends Board Chair

