



2024 Year in Review

Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



From Our Board

Dear friends,

Forest preserves provide clean air and water and protect biodiversity. Forest preserves provide public access to nature, programs, and recreational amenities. Forest preserves are the common ground beneath our feet — spaces for gathering, celebrating, and connecting. Forest preserves provide and improve awe-inspiring natural areas that thrive when we are good stewards, together. The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County manages nearly 27,000 acres, maintains 175 miles of trails, and operates education centers that enrich the lives of people of all ages and abilities.

In 2024, we bid farewell to longtime board members Diane Addante, Brian Battle, and Penny Chanez. We thank them for their service to our mission.

Gifts at every level make a difference and help to continue a proud tradition of conservation through strong public-and-private partnerships. We thank you for your love of the DuPage forest preserves. Your generosity allows the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County to make wise decisions, guided by the greatest needs for the Forest Preserve District, every year.

Thank you for being a friend!

Sincerely,

Friends of the Forest Preserve District
of DuPage County

On the cover: Blackwell Forest Preserve / © Mark Baldwin

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County's Vision

To be a nationally recognized conservation agency that envisions a community in which all citizens share a connection with nature and an appreciation for cultural history

Our Mission

To advance the vision of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County through philanthropic endeavors

Our Board of Directors & Staff

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Mike Dyer, Wheaton

Vice Chair

Bob Watt, Itasca

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Ashley Guest, Winfield

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Brian Battle, Wheaton

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Corporate & Community Giving Officer

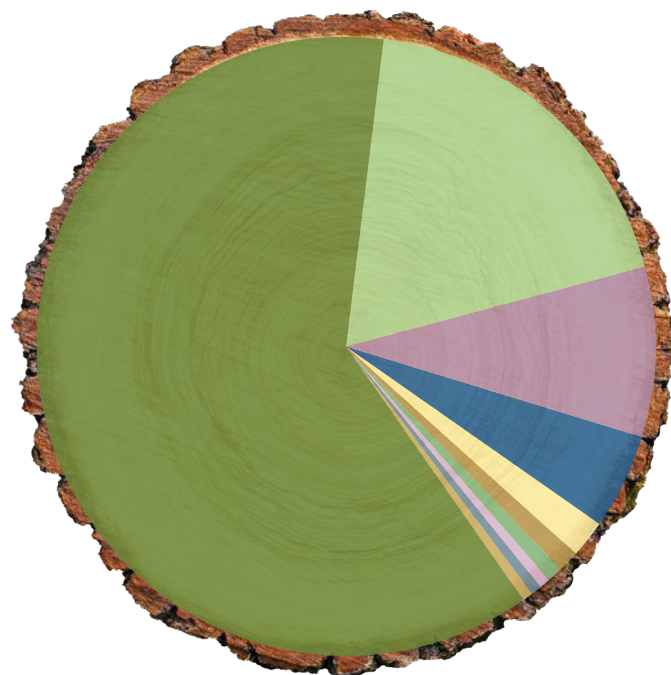
Francie Sheahan

Executive Assistant



Where Your Gifts Made a Difference

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County 501(c)(3) helps the community support the Forest Preserve District's mission. Nearly 1,000 individuals, corporations, civic groups, and foundations made gifts to the Friends of the Forest Preserve District to support the master plan, native wildlife rehabilitation, habitat restoration, and more.



- DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center Master Plan **62%**
- Wildlife Rehabilitation **19%**
- Habitat Restoration **9%**
- Mayslake Peabody Estate Master Plan **5%**
- Recreational Amenities & Improvements **2%**
- Educational Programs **1%**
- Danada Equestrian Center **1%**
- Blanding's Turtle Head-Start Program **<1%**
- Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center **<1%**
- Kline Creek Farm **<1%**

DuPage County Voters Say "Yes"

In November, DuPage County voters supported the Forest Preserve District's referendum, which demonstrated the community's commitment to its mission and vision. The Friends is grateful to voters for your willingness to approve additional resources through the tax levy. We remain committed to engaging the community in philanthropy for your DuPage forest preserves.



2024 Financials

Statement of Activities

Revenues

Contributions	\$395,301
Grants	58,753
Donations	2,117
Special Events Income	40,821
Investments	51,060
Miscellaneous	267

Total Income	\$548,319
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Expenses

Forest Preserve District Program and Project Support	\$750,155
Other Grants	62,000
Event Supplies	19,043
All Other Expenses	29,935

Total Expenses	\$ 861,133
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Financial Position Summary (as of Dec. 31, 2024)

Assets

Current Assets

Cash and Investments	\$888,615
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Liabilities

Accounts Payable	2,949
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Net Assets

With Donor Restrictions	366,976
Without Donor Restrictions	518,690

Total Net Assets	\$885,666
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In Support of the Forest Preserve District's Mission

Wildlife Rehabilitation & Species Recovery

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District partnered with the Forest Preserve District to complete the DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center Master Plan Phase II Improvements, a transformational investment for wildlife rehabilitation and visitor engagement. Your generosity helped bring this visionary project to life, and we eagerly anticipate the opening of the new visitor center.

In addition to project funding for the wildlife center, the Friends provided support for wildlife care, including the Blanding's turtle species-recovery program. This program is part of a regional network of agencies and organizations who work to boost populations of the state-endangered species in the wild. We celebrate everyone who contributed for native wildlife.

Habitat Restoration

Continuous management efforts are required to protect local biodiversity and sustain high-quality natural areas in the forest preserves. Strategies for restoration include the selective removal of invasive plants, collection and distribution of native seeds, and use of prescribed fire. Thanks to fundraising efforts and a matching grant, the Friends helped to fund habitat management in an important woodland at Churchill Woods Forest Preserve in Glen Ellyn. Contracted work helped to complement the volunteer stewardship efforts in the woodland.



In Support of the Forest Preserve District's Mission

Recreational Amenities & Preserve Improvements

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District offered the opportunity to dedicate new or existing benches in the forest preserves. Donations for such preserve improvements help to fulfill some of the Forest Preserve District's master plan initiatives, provide accessibility along the trails, and a way to memorialize or pay tribute to a loved one, friend, or special companion.



Education Centers & Programs

Donations for the education centers helped to provide resources not only to engage the public but also maintain natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. Your donations represent a deep love for the educational programs these centers provide to DuPage residents.



Community Partners

With Thanks to Our Community Partners

We build relationships with corporations, foundations, and civic groups to help support DuPage forest preserves and nature-based opportunities year-round. All contributions benefit the Forest Preserve District's mission, master plan and initiatives, and supplement tax revenue for the benefit of your community.

CNH Industrial Foundation

Domtar

Ecolab Foundation

Edward Jones — Financial Advisor:
Mike Dyer

Friends of Danada, Inc.

G. Carl Ball Family Foundation

International

Mary J. Demmon Private Foundation

Molex

Nicor

nora fleming

Ranch Spur Charitable Trust

Republic Bank of Chicago

Robert & Toni Bader Charitable
Foundation, Inc.

Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

Target

Wheaton Bank & Trust



Thank You for Being Our Friend

The following donors and community partners committed through Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County or Forest Preserve District. To discover more about the Friends of the Forest Preserve District, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to providing ways to help care for DuPage forest preserves, visit dupageforest.org/friends.

\$1 Million+

Estate of Charles Johnson

\$25,000 – \$99,999

International
Elaine Libovicz
Fidelity Charitable
TC Energy

\$10,000 – \$24,999

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Ecolab Foundation
Larry C. Larson

\$5,000 – \$9,999

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Marilyn Schweitzer and
Michael Firman
Daniel W. Soline
Target

\$2,500 – \$4,999

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Advisor: Mike Dyer
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Elaine Novak Jans
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Republic Bank of Chicago
David and Eileen Stang
Stantec Consulting Services,
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Michael and Diane Webb
Wheaton Bank & Trust
Mark Wight
Jerry and Jody Zamirowski

\$1,000 – \$2,499

Anonymous (two)
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Anthony and Joyce Carey
Rosemary and Robert Carroll
Chicago Ornithological
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Claudia and David D'Hooge
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Michael Ondek
Kerry Perry
Michael Pizzuto
Plote Construction Inc.
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Thank You for Being Our Friend

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 Philip and Etola Zinni
 Dora Lynn Zorich

Memorial & Tribute Gifts

In Honor

**All the Workers Saving
the Injured Wildlife**
Kathryne Piazza

Ann Arellano
Tom Eisenhart

**Chicago Wacker Site
Peregrine Fledglings**
Jennifer Johnson

Diane Miller
Robert Miller

Doug Cole
Audrey Gullotto

Ducky
Jesse Czach

Duke's Fourth Birthday
Rebekah Wilson

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the Evanston Falcon
Fledglings**
Evanston Fledge
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Judy Grey
Kathleen Kaempfen
Kieran Kaempfen and
Lori Kipp
Paul Clement
Riana and Riley
Kaempfen

Lisa Shamrock
Luke Shamrock

Michele Wood
Samantha and Chris
Wood

**The Mourning Doves
Building a Nest on Our
Porch**
Leslie Abrahamson

My Friend, Annette
Talía Teplitzky

Nancy Kett
Colleen Lundell

Patti Buh
Cathy Clements

Richard Bank
Jessica, Jim, Mike and
Alex Interlandi

Robbie Pfister
Downers Grove Junior
Woman's Club

**Robert and Valencia
Boden**
Robert Boden

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Naomi Wu
Quinn Istwan

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Bond Dickson &
Conway

Bowman
Chandra Prasad
Christopher Burke
Cotter Consulting, Inc.
Dan Wagner
Daniel Dietzler
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Donald Zeilenga
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Provenzale, LLC
James Wolfe
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Plote Construction Inc.
Robert August Koranda
Memorial Foundation
Robinson Engineering,
Ltd.
S.T.A.T.E. Testing, LLC
Stephen Van Arsdell
V3 Companies, Ltd.
Wight & Company

Memorial & Tribute Gifts

In Memory

**Alexis Tableriou and
Colby Deguiseppe**
John Tableriou

**All My Dogs Who Loved
the Parks**
Rebecca McDade

Ann & Albin Palider
Carl Lidd

Barby Patronski
George W. Luvisi Jr.

Betty Stange
Lawrence Stange

Bibli
Christine Heim

The Big Judge
Andrew Lee

**Brett Sydor and His Love
of Animals, Especially
Birds of Prey**
Joyce Bowman-Kunath
Carol Lueth

Carl Hoppe
Kathleen Murphy

**Charles Xavier the
Squirrel (Ms.)**
Tom Lyman

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Guy Matthew

Moe Girkins
Kevin Condon

Nicholas Gross
Shannon Johnson

Red
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Robert Olsen
Paul Spinelli

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Raven, and Jeter**
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**Stanley and Maria
Borek**
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Karen Holden
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Zak
Devinne Stevens

Special Events, Programs, & More

Nature enthusiasts joined the "Friends Forest Tours," a monthly hike led by Mike Dyer, chair of the Friends of the Forest Preserve District. This year, hikers toured Danada, Cricket Creek, Fullersburg Woods, Greene Valley, Mallard Lake, McDowell Grove, Meacham Grove, Oldfield Oaks, Pratt's Wayne Woods, St. James Farm, and West Branch forest preserves. Folks also celebrated the winter equinox during a sunset hike at Meacham Grove Forest Preserve in Downers Grove.



Bird lovers united for "An Avian Affair" in February, which featured Joe Suchecki, board secretary of the Friends and volunteer steward with the Forest Preserve District, and Denis Kania, also a volunteer. The two birding experts shared stories and photographs of birds from their travels across the Americas and information about how to love birds in our own backyards.



Donors and volunteers joined a special program in March about the return of the periodical cicada with Carl Strang, volunteer steward and former employee with the Forest Preserve District.

Chicago and forest preserve history buffs enjoyed "An Evening with Geoffrey Baer" in April at the Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook. Baer captivated guests with his signature storytelling, which focused on forest preservation in the Chicago region.



Special Events, Programs, & More

Early shoppers joined the Friends at the Native Plant Presale in May at the Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook. The ever-popular event provides an exclusive shopping opportunity, featuring high-quality native plants to local gardeners, civic groups, churches, and corporations in DuPage County and beyond.

Community partners joined "Nature After Hours" in June to enjoy the outdoors and network at Herrick Lake Forest Preserve in Wheaton.

Spectators joined the Friends and race sponsors to cheer on rubber ducks at the annual Duck Race in September at St. James Farm Forest Preserve in Warrenville.

Over 200 guests joined A Night for Nature in September to raise funds to support wildlife and wild areas. Nature supporters enjoyed live music, wagon rides, and an auction while celebrating kinship and the nature they love in DuPage County.

The Friends of the Forest Preserve hosted its annual board meeting and donor reception in November at The Greenway Table & Tap at The Preserve at Oak Meadows in Addison. The Friends thanked departing board members Dianne Addante, Brian Battle, and Penny Chanez for their volunteer service and celebrated the generosity that makes a difference for the forest preserves.

If you would like to receive updates about the Friends' events and programs throughout the year, subscribe to The Steward monthly e-newsletter at **dupageforest.org/friends**.



