Friends of the
Forest Preserve District
of DuPage County

2025
Year in Review





Board of Directors

Mike Dyer
Chair

Jeanette Wells
Vice Chair

Ashley Guest
Treasurer

Joe Suchecki
Secretary

Denise Krohn

Larry C. Larson

Tom Murphy

Carl Schultz

Bob Watt

Tom Williams

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Ex-Officio Board Members

Jeff Gahris
Commissioner – District 4

Jeannine Kannegiesser
Chief Partnership & Philanthropy Officer

From Our Board of Directors

Dear friends,

As board members for the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, we share the responsibility of stewarding the resources entrusted to the nonprofit to make a difference for our DuPage forest preserves. Our focus is to improve wildlife conservation and rehabilitation, enhance habitat restoration, and support recreation and education programs. We help bring people and resources to nature.

In 2025, we were grateful to receive generous gifts from individuals, organizations, and corporations. We were proud to approve funds to the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County to help with programs and projects. Thanks to your generosity and partnership, the Friends provided $375,691 in supplemental funding to the Forest Preserve District for the following:

- DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center Improvements Phase 2 and operations support
- Natural Resources and Conservation, including species-recovery programs
- Public programs at education centers and forest preserves
- Benches in forest preserves that provide places for rest, contemplation, and conversation

We look forward to continuing to find ways to align our community members' generosity with needs in the forest preserves.

Thank you for being a friend!

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Jeff Gahris
Ex-Officio Member

Jeannine Kannegiesser
Ex-Officio Member



Left to right: Carl Schultz, Jeff Gahris, Dave Stang, Tom Murphy, Ashley Guest, Larry C. Larson, Denise Krohn, Mike Dyer, Jeanette Wells, Tom Williams, Daniel Hebreard, and Joe Suchecki

Financials

Statement of Activities for the Fiscal Year Ending Dec. 31, 2025

Revenues

Contributions, Grants, and Donations	$352,354
Special Events Income	46,664
Investment Income	27,820
Total Revenue	**$426,838**

Expenses

Forest Preserve District Program and Project Support	$375,691
Event Expenses	30,407
Other Expenses	26,941
Total Expenses	**$433,039**

* Excludes value of in-kind goods and services.

Net Assets and Fund Balance for the Fiscal Year Ending Dec. 31, 2025

Current Assets

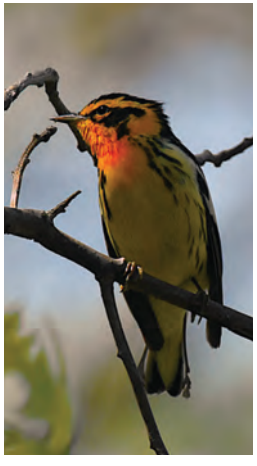
Cash and Investments	$998,085

Liabilities

Accounts Payable and Deferred Revenue	$113,715

Net Assets

With Donor Restrictions	$163,134
Without Donor Restrictions	721,237
Total Net Assets	**$884,371**





Our Mission

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

Your Impact

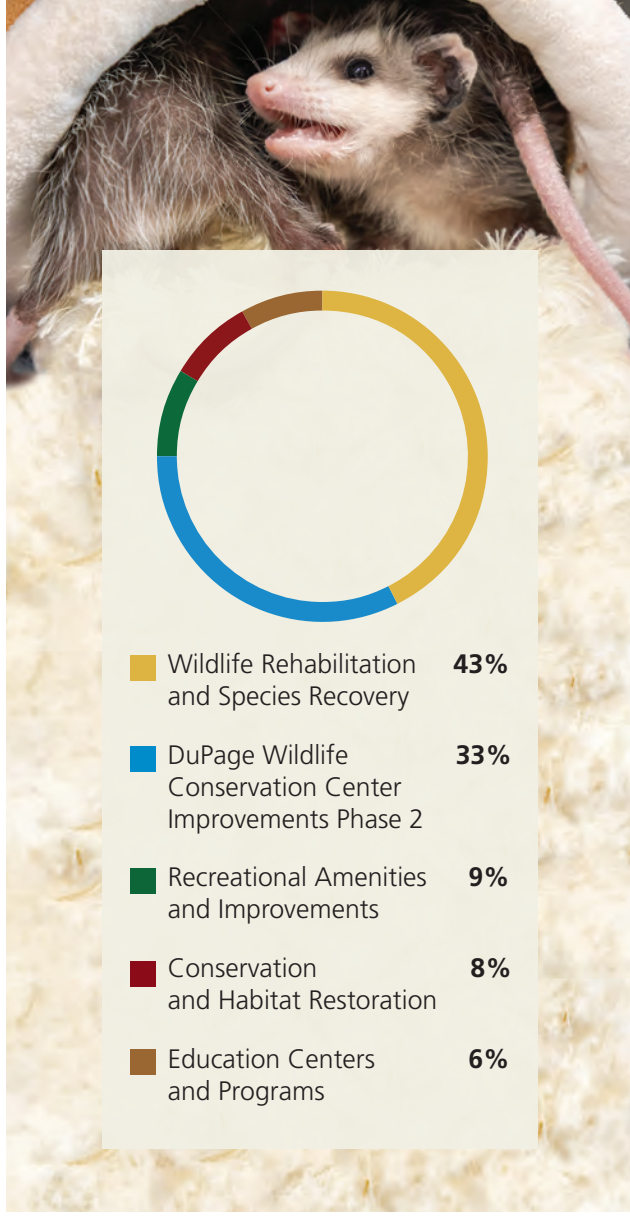
Where Your Gifts Made a Difference

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County helps the community support the Forest Preserve District's mission. Nearly 1,000 individuals, corporations, foundations, and civic groups made gifts to the Friends of the Forest Preserve District to support the Forest Preserve District's 2019 Master Plan, wildlife rehabilitation, habitat restoration, and more.

Because of you, the DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center is better equipped to care for sick, injured, and orphaned native wildlife, support critical species-recovery work, and welcome visitors to learn about and observe wildlife rehabilitation. Your generosity has strengthened our shared commitment to protecting native wildlife for generations.

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County remains committed to inviting donations and partnerships from the community to help continue care for animals and engage visitors at the wildlife center.

The wildlife center cares for approximately 10,000 animals — and 200 different species — every year. Your support provides supplies to care for baby animals, injured migratory birds, and endangered and threatened species.



With Gratitude

Donor Recognition Levels	Corporations, Foundations, and Civic Groups	Individuals
Community Partners $2,500 and More+	17	21
Ambassadors Circle $100 – 2,499	39	516
Total Donors	**68**	**981**

Community Partners $2,500 and More

The Alben F. and Clara G. Bates Foundation

ComEd, an Exelon Co.

CNH Industrial America LLC

Domtar

G. Carl Ball Family Foundation

Edward Jones

Ferrari Plumbing, Inc.

GreenState Credit Union

International

Komarek-Hyde-McQueen Foundation

Mary J. Demmon Private Foundation

nora fleming

Republic Bank of Chicago

The Richard Laurence Parish Foundation

Robert and Toni Bader Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

Tyndale House Publishers

V3 Companies, Ltd.

Wheaton Bank & Trust



Community Partners

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

DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center

Animal Care Moves to New Center at Willowbrook

In April staff and wildlife patients moved into the new 27,000-square-foot net-zero-designed DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center at Willowbrook. The state-of-the-art facility is the largest of its kind in Illinois. Nearly 30% of the cost of the $30 million facility was offset by grants and private donations to the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County.

The visitor center offers behind-the-scenes looks at the science of wildlife rehabilitation as well as exhibits on native wild animals and ways residents can coexist with wildlife in their own backyards.

The Forest Preserve District is monitoring the 625kW solar array, and the journey towards achieving net-zero energy use continues.







National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association's Annual Symposium Coming to DuPage County

In 2027 the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association will host its annual symposium just outside of Chicago, with the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County serving as the host. The annual event provides continuing education to wildlife rehabilitators from across the country. The DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center's staff will host and attend the symposium to learn, network, and stay up-to-date with industry best practices. It's also an opportunity to showcase the new facility and campus with other wildlife professionals.

Wildlife Center Improvements Phase 2 Support

Your generosity helped to turn the DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center Improvements Phase 2 into a reality to advance wildlife rehabilitation, provide nature-based education, and engage the community.

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District provided nearly $750,000 to supplement investments from public sources, including Forest Preserve District bond proceeds and federal and state grants. It managed corporate and foundation gifts as well as estate gifts (made to the District for the benefit of the wildlife center).

Our partnership helped to make the the DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center a nationally recognized wildlife rehabilitation center that meets its current admissions, rehabilitation, and resident needs. Some of the new facility's features include:

- A new wildlife rehabilitation clinic and modern indoor and outdoor rehabilitation areas
- Interactive educational exhibits on wildlife rehabilitation
- An outdoor classroom
- An interpretive trail with wildlife observation areas
- Outdoor activity spaces that demonstrate how to attract and live in harmony with native wildlife

Other planned amenities were integrated into a campus designed for long-term environmental sustainability, which is a win for the community it serves.

Thanks to the dedication of staff and volunteers, animal rehabilitation continued during construction.





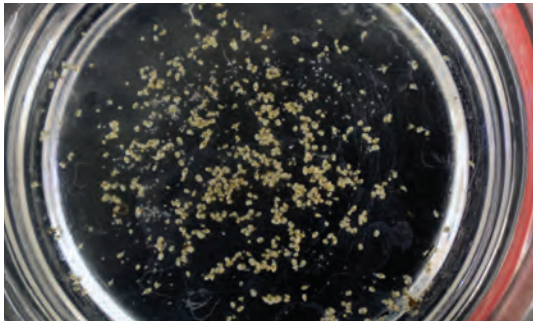


Programs and Special Events

Friends Hike the Forests

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, participants walked trails at Greene Valley, Hawk Hollow, Hidden Lake, Maple Grove, McDowell Grove, Meacham Grove, James "Pate" Philip State Park, Spring Creek Reservoir, Springbrook Prairie, Timber Ridge, Waterfall Glen, Wood Dale Grove, and York Woods.





For the Love of Wildlife

Andrés Ortega, aquatic resources supervisor at the Forest Preserve District's Urban Stream Research Center, led a program about healthy ecosystems and aquatic-species recovery. Ortega featured the freshwater mussel captive-rearing program and other efforts to conserve the state-endangered Blanding's turtle and federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly.

Duck Race Launches at Salt Creek

Racing fans and spectators watched the annual Duck Race from the flat bridge at Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve. First, second, and third place winners were present to take a photo with their prize-winning ducks.

The newly restored Salt Creek served as a beautiful venue for the race, which was sponsored by Hey and Associates, Inc.







Early Shopping at Plant Sale

Three hundred early shoppers joined the Friends at the Native Plant Presale at the Mayslake Peabody Estate. The ever-popular event provides an exclusive shopping opportunity, featuring high-quality native plants.

Hatchlings Debut at Program

Donors attended "Tacos and Turtles" to learn the latest about the Blanding's turtle head-start program from Dan Thompson, ecologist. Program volunteers introduced the newest hatchlings, and delicious tacos were donated by the Science of Spirituality.

A Night for Nature at Danada

Over 200 guests celebrated A Night for Nature at the Danada House to raise funds to support wildlife and wild areas. The newly renovated venue offered guests an indoor setting for the meal and live music, while the beautiful surrounding Danada Forest Preserve welcomed them for the reception and wagon rides.





Celebrating Generosity

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District hosted its board meeting and donor reception at The Greenway Table & Tap at The Preserve at Oak Meadows. The Friends thanked departing board member Bob Watt for his leadership and service and celebrated the generosity that makes a difference for the forest preserves.



Thank You for Being Our Friend

Sustainer
$50,000 and More

International

Restorer
$10,000 – $49,999

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CNH Industrial America LLC
G. Carl Ball Family Foundation
Larry C. Larson
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Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
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Chicago Ornithological Society
Susan and John Christensen
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Howard Goldstein and Peggy McGrath
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Paul H. Herbert

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Glenn Gabanski

Carol O'Neal
Sandra Black

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Joyce Keithley

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Brian Kuszewski
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Francie Sheehan
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The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County 501(c)(3) has served as the charitable partner of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County since 2010 and is eligible to receive tax-deductible donations. EIN 45-2343580





Partnership & Philanthropy | 3S580 Naperville Road | Wheaton
630-871-6400 | fundraising@dupageforest.org | dupageforest.org/friends