

Mayslake: 2026 Preserve Master Plan

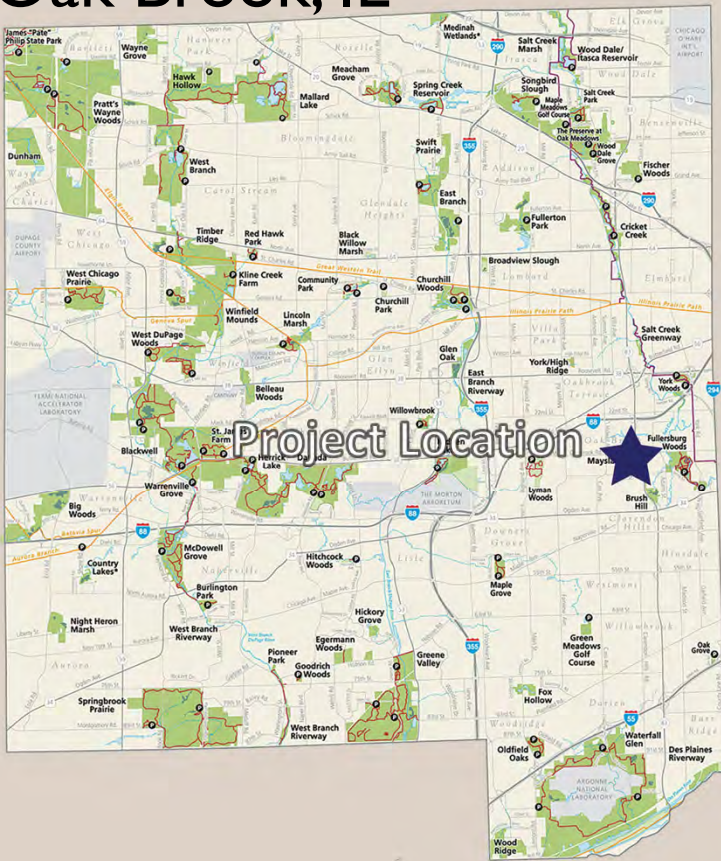
Public Input Meeting



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Location Map

Mayslake Forest Preserve Oak Brook, IL



Discussion Questions

1. What are things that you like about Mayslake?
2. What are things you least like about Mayslake?
3. What features would you like to see improved at Mayslake?
4. What features would you like to see removed from Mayslake?
5. What additional opportunities within the framework of the District's recreation and land use policies would you like to see added to Mayslake?
6. What in your opinion is the biggest concern or priority for Mayslake?
7. Other concerns or thoughts?



History

- A survey sketch from the 1830's shows Mayslake as mainly an open woodland, much of which survived future agriculture. Francis Peabody constructed two lakes on the property.



- In 1919, Francis Peabody commissioned architect Benjamin Marshall to design the Mayslake Hall. After his death in 1922, his family sold the estate to the Franciscans. The Franciscans sold off sections of the estate, the last piece of which the Forest Preserve District acquired in 1993.



Site Background

- Mayslake is 90 acres, featuring 13 acres of wetlands, 9 acres of lakes and ponds, and a 15-acre savanna and restored prairie. The preserve is home to the Mayslake Hall and Portiuncula Chapel, and a heavily used off-leash dog area.



Mayslake Hall Background

- Mayslake Hall and the “landscaped and natural acreage” are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The retreat wing was determined to be a contributing factor to the designation. The Chapel and Friary were non-contributing buildings. The site’s listing was approved after the District acquired the property in 1993.



Trinity/Mayslake Background

- The District jointly owns Mays (east) and Trinity (west) Lakes with two HOA groups. The District is obligated to pay 32% of expenses for maintenance and repair related to the lakes “detention and retention of storm water” in an easement. The lakes were natural depressions that were dug, shaped, and expanded in the 1910’s.



Statistics

- 90 Acres
- Mid-range visitation at 7% (23rd), 147k cars in 2025 (6th)
- 1 mile trail
- Peabody Estate- Mayslake Hall & Portiuncula Chapel
- Fishing in Trinity & Mays lakes
- Off-leash dog area
- Mayslake Peabody Estate Improvement Plan Project



1993 Mayslake Master Plan

Master Planning Process

1. Information Gathering: March- June 2026
2. Analyze & Develop Goals: June - August 2026
3. Master Plan Development: August - November 2026
4. Draft Master Plan Review & Refinement: November - December 2026
5. Final Master Plan Delivery: January 2027



Master Planning Guardrails

- Downstate Forest Preserve Act
- Past Preserve Masterplans / History
- 2019 District Master Plan
- Land Use Classifications and Policies
- General Use Ordinance
- Intensive Recreation Use Ordinances



Downstate Forest Preserve Act

- Illinois law responsible for creating and managing Forest Preserve Districts state-wide
- Applies to all Forest Preserve Districts under 3,000,000 pop.
- “To acquire and hold lands containing natural forests... for the purpose of protecting and preserving the flora, fauna, and scenic beauties... in their natural state and condition, for the purpose of education, pleasure and recreation of the public”



General Use Ordinance

- District Approved Ordinance (Updated 2020)
- Dictates allowable recreation activities in Preserves
- Allows for application to Executive Director requesting activities not allowable within the ordinance
- Major Prohibited Activities:
 - Motorized vehicle use
 - Paintball guns, air rifles, fireworks
 - Hunting, trapping, collecting wildlife & plant material
- Special Use Permit Activities:
 - Fundraisers, races, training programs
 - Contests, shows, exhibitions
 - Public events, demonstrations, parades, speeches



District Ordinances/ Policies

- Intensive Recreation Ordinance
 - Limits “intense” recreation on District land
- Recreation Policy
 - Emphasizes passive, non-spectator recreation
 - District will not compete with other agencies or groups
- Land Management Policy
 - 10% development of preserves by land area
 - No development in Class 4 areas



Discussion Question

I. What are things that you like about Mayslake?



Discussion Question

2. What are things you least like about Mayslake?



Inventory Mapping - Aerials



1939 Aerial

 Mayslake Preserve Boundary



1978 Aerial

Legend

 Mayslake Preserve Boundary



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Current Aerial

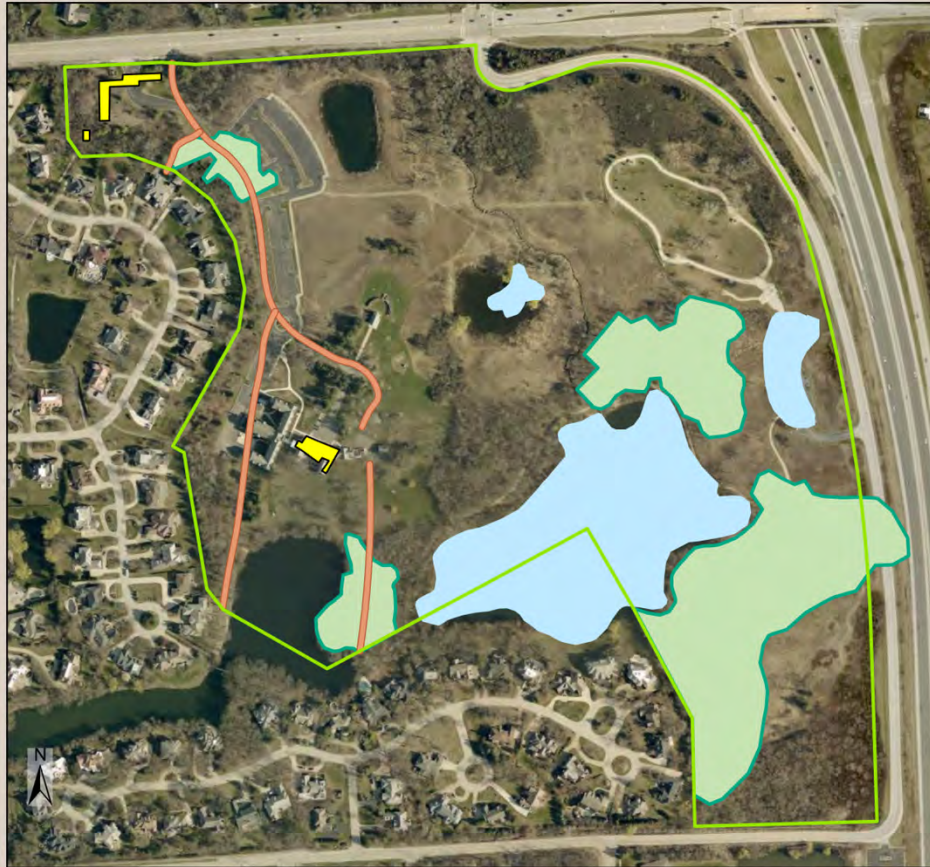


Current Aerial

 Mayslake Preserve Boundary



Land Use



Historical & Cultural

- Legend**
- Mayslake Preserve Boundary
 - Roads 1939
 - Buildings 1939
 - Forest 1939
 - Water bodies 1939



Ecosystems

- Classification**
- I
 - II
 - III
 - IV

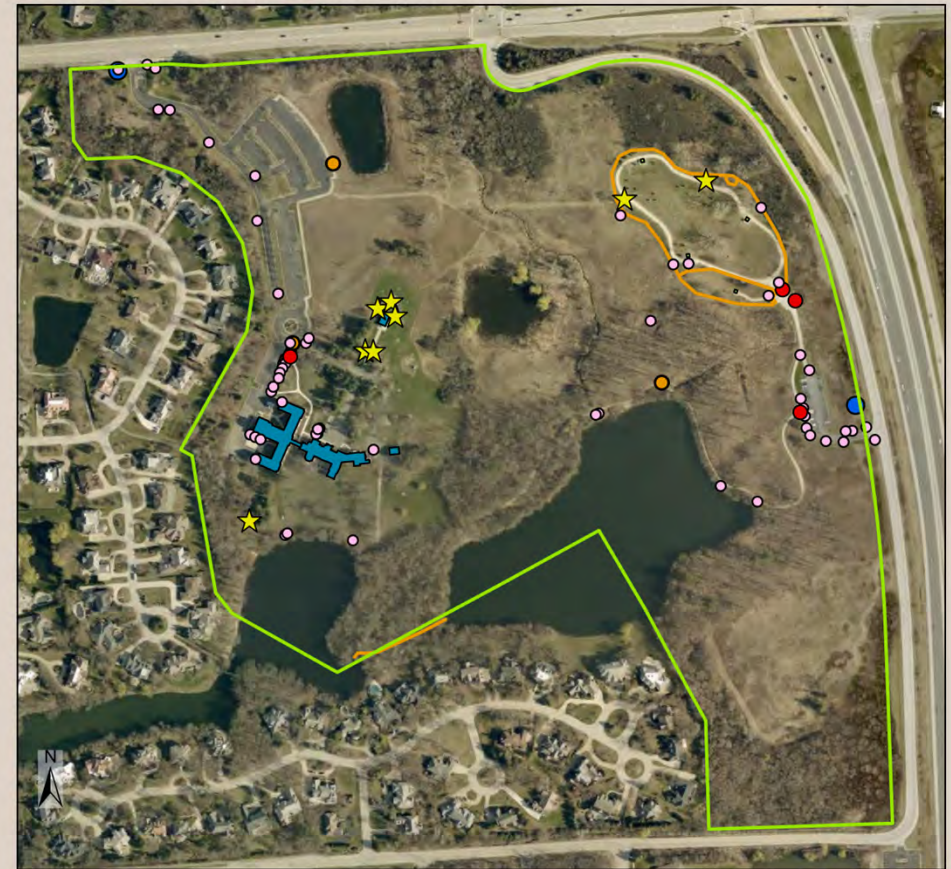


Circulation & Structures



Circulation

- Mayslake Preserve Boundary
- Connector
- Dog Field Trail
- Mayslake Estate Trail
- Mayslake Main Trail
- Service Road
- Sidewalk
- Sidewalk - Pending
- Regional Trails
- Preserve Roads and Lots
- Surrounding Roads

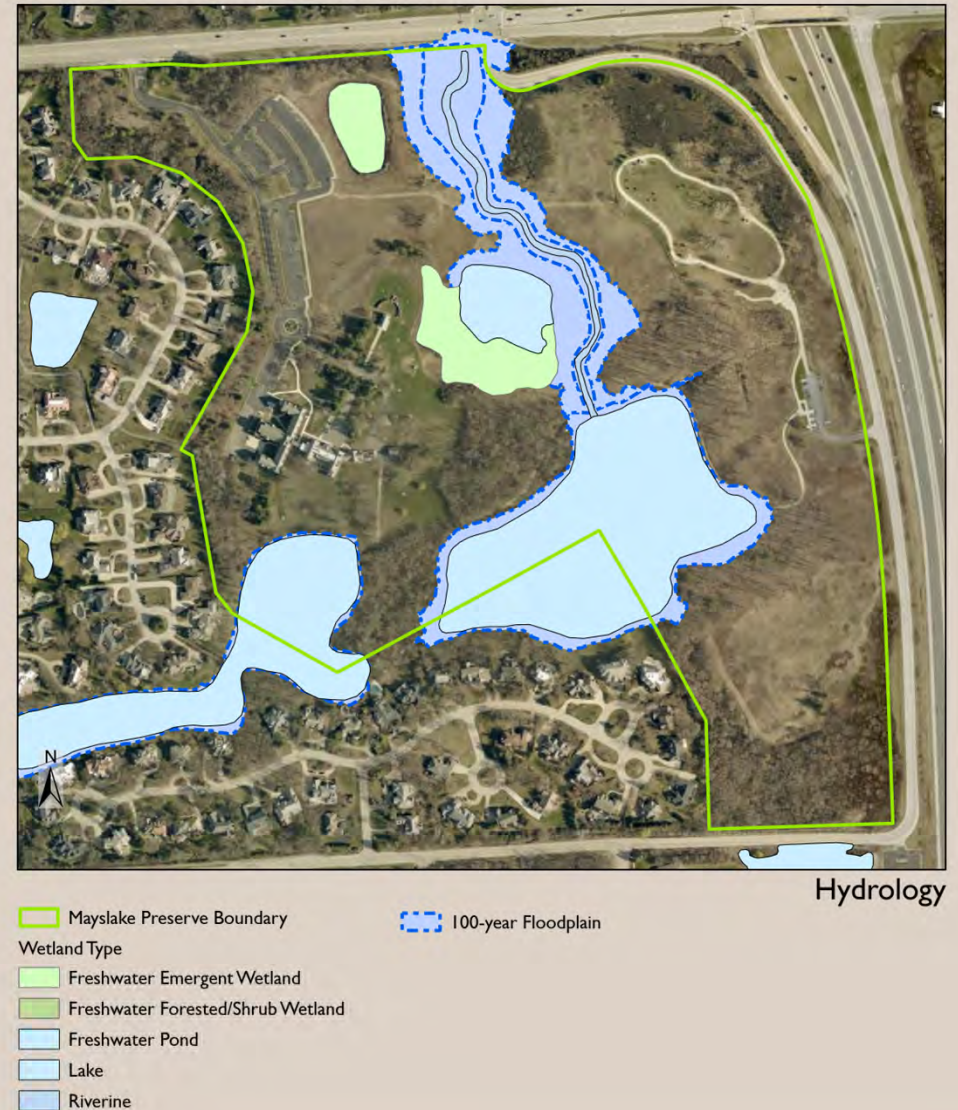


Structures

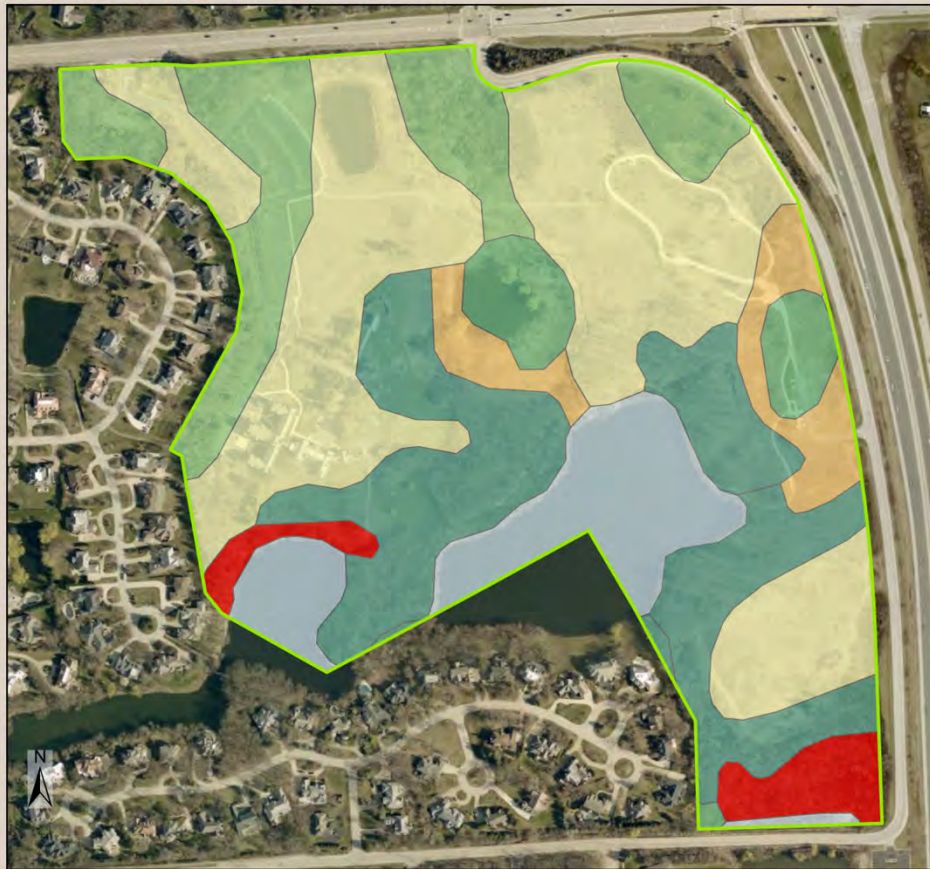
- Mayslake Preserve Boundary
- Trailside Directional
- Miscellaneous
- Visitor Information
- Regulatory
- Banner
- Other
- Sign Type**
 - Title
 - Secondary Title
 - Boundary
 - Handicapped
 - Interpretive
- ★ Benches
- Fences
- Structure Type**
 - Buildings
 - Latrines
 - Shelters



Topo & Hydrology

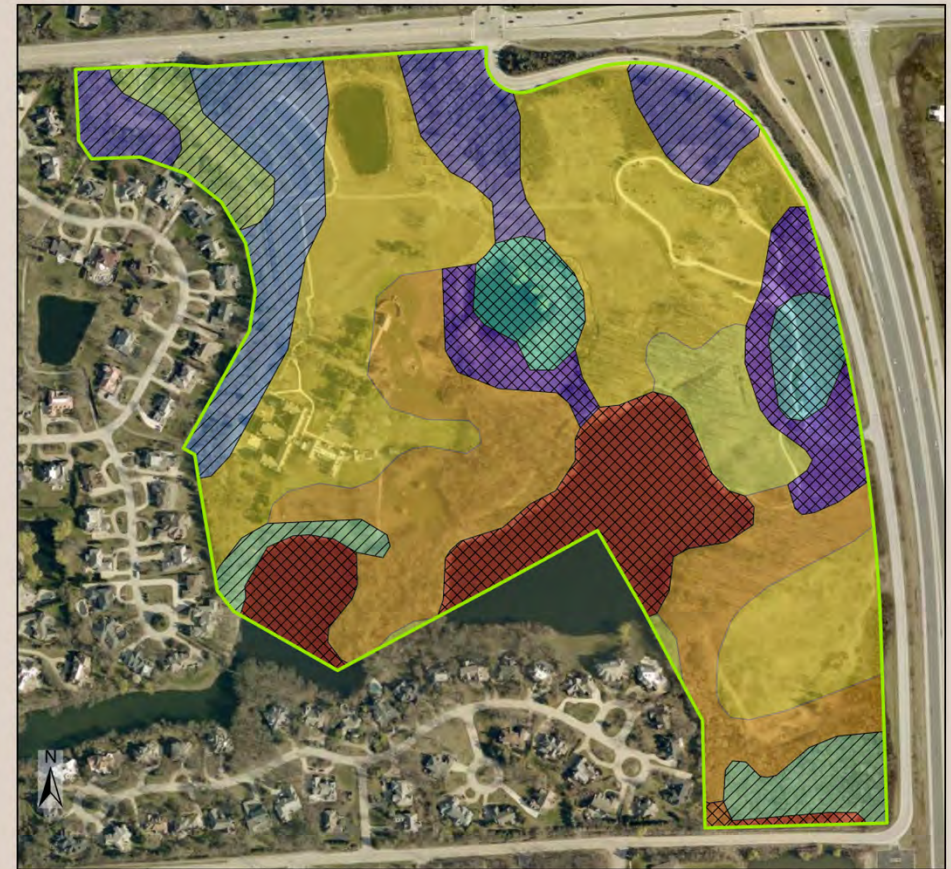


Restoration Potential & Soils



Pre-Settlement Soils

- Mayslake Preserve Boundary
- Presettlement Soils**
- Dry Mesic
- Wet Prairie
- Savanna / Barren
- Sedge / Marsh
- Upland Forest
- Urban
- Water

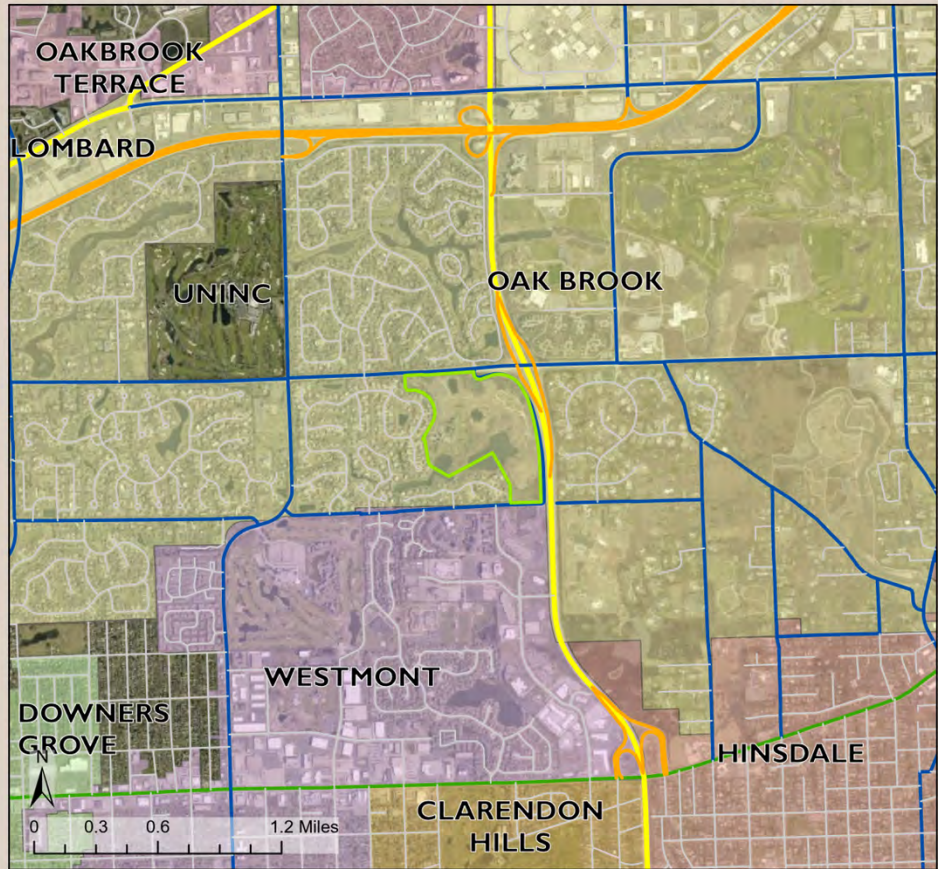


Soils

- Mayslake Preserve Boundary
- Hydric Soils**
- hydric
- hydric inclusions non-hydric
- <all other values>
- Soil Types**
- Ashkum silty, clay loam, 0-2 percent slopes
- Beecher silt loam, 0-2 percent slopes
- Blount silt loam, 0-2 percent slopes
- Muskego and Houghton mucks, 0-2 percent slopes
- Muskego and Houghton mucks, undrained, 0-2 percent slopes
- Orthents, clayey, undulating
- Ozaukee silt loam, 2-4 percent slopes
- Ozaukee silt loam, 20-30 percent slopes
- Ozaukee silt loam, 4-6 percent slopes, eroded
- Ozaukee silt loam, 6-12 percent slopes, eroded
- Peotone silty clay loam, 0-2 percent slopes
- Water
- <all other values>

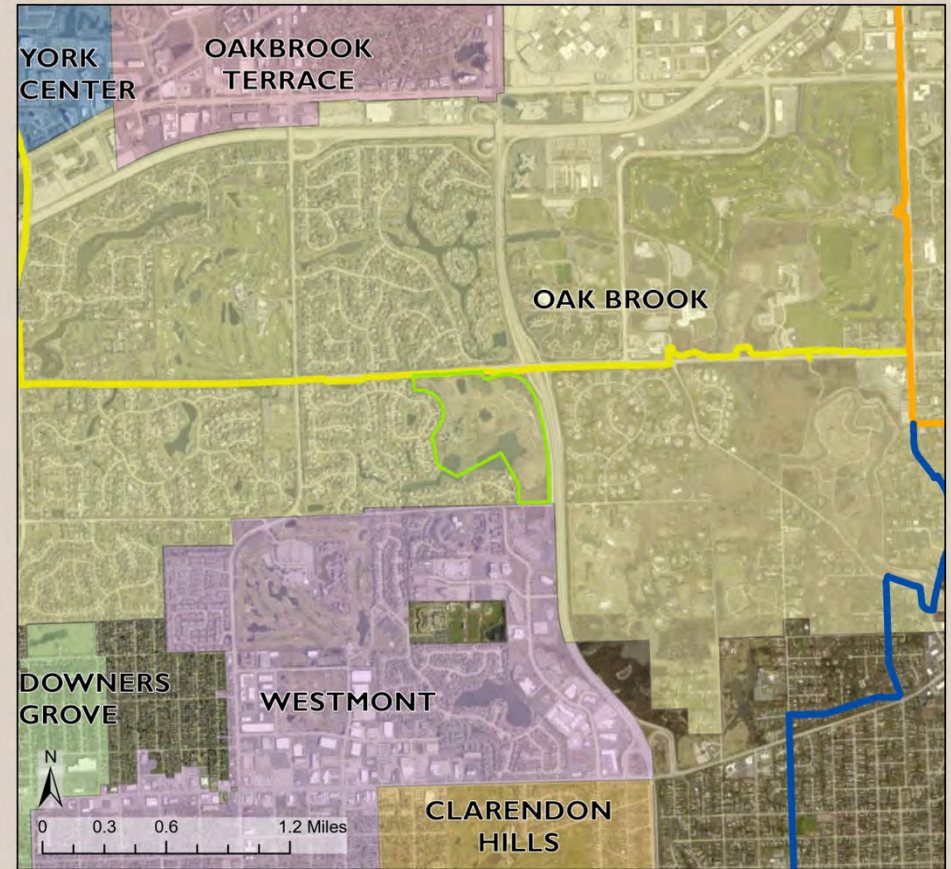


Preserve Context



Legend Roads & Municipalities

- Mayslake Preserve Boundary
- Interstates
- Major Roads
- Outside DuPage
- Ramps
- Residential Roads
- State Routes
- U.S. Routes



Legend Regional Trails & Park Districts

- Mayslake Preserve Boundary
- Hinsdale Bikeway
- I-88 Central DuPage Bikeway
- Salt Creek Greenway Trail



Discussion Question

3. What features would you like to see improved at Mayslake?



Discussion Question

4. What features, if any, would you like to see removed from Mayslake?



Potential Amenities



Trails & Trail Connections



Seating Opportunities



Walking Paths



Flush Washrooms



Interpretive Signage



Wayfinding Signage

Potential Amenities



Off-Leash Dog Area Improvements



Accessible Fishing



Habitat Restoration



Winter Activities



Nature Play Space



Historic Restoration

Discussion Question

5. What additional features, if any, within the District's policies would you like to see added to Mayslake?



Discussion Question

6. What in your opinion is the biggest concern or priority for Mayslake?



Identified Concerns

- Analyze main parking lot needs - reduce size if possible
- Improve dog area parking lot - size and/ or layout changes
- Increase awareness of the preserve & expand our audience
 - Enhance picnic opportunities for general use
 - Add picnic shelter
- Improve connectivity throughout the preserve
 - ADA access in mansion and grounds
 - **Connection to local trails**
 - **Preserve loop trail linking site features including lake**
 - Need to consider Mayslake in the context of the entire District



Identified Concerns

- Improve shoreline, water quality, and access to the lake
 - Shoreline stabilization, vegetated filterstrips, & hardened fishing nodes
- Improvements to existing infrastructure
 - Parking lot lighting
 - Chapel & Gatehouse wall renovations
 - Solar Array to offset energy demands of Mayslake Hall
 - Consider off-leash dog facility improvements/ expansion
- Keep development clear of volunteer restored areas and high-quality natural areas (oak savanna & prairie)



Master Plan Deliverable

- Final Preserve Master Plan
 - Document with a vision/goal, objectives, strategies and associated graphics, conceptual cost estimates, & appendices
 - Graphic plans conceptually showing all anticipated improvements
 - Preserve specific CIP recommendations
 - 0-5 Year Priorities
 - 5-10 Year Priorities
 - 10+ Year Priorities
 - “Current” for approximately 5 years for Grant requirements
 - Update required every 10-15 years (depending on Preserve)



Discussion Question

7. Other concerns or thoughts?



Questions?

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Forest Preserve District of DuPage County