

*FRIENDS OF THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY
BOARD MEETING AGENDA*

TUES., 7/26/22, 5 PM

*Forest Preserve District Headquarters
35580 Naperville Road, Wheaton, IL 60189*

1. Call to Order – Diane Addante, Chair
2. Roll Call – Penny Chanez, Secretary
3. Public Comment
4. Action Item: Motion for approving and placing on file board meeting minutes for meeting of May 24, 2022
5. Board Chair Report
6. Committee Reports
 - a. Finance Committee
 - i. Action Item: Acceptance of Financial Dashboard Summary and Profit & Loss Budget to Actual Report through June 30, 2022 & 2023
 - ii. Action Item: Approve transfer of \$128,552.16 to the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County for reimbursement of expenditures, including \$100,000 for Willowbrook Wildlife Center animal care.
 - b. Development Committee
 - i. Action Item: Board to consider and approve a campaign goal for gifts through Friends for Willowbrook Wildlife Center
 - c. Event Committee – Night for Nature Update
7. Ex Officio and Staff Liaisons Report
 - a. Jeannine Kannegiesser, Chief Partnership and Philanthropy Officer, FPDDC
 - b. Jeff Gahris – District Commissioner and Ex-Officio Liaison
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. Key Upcoming Dates
 - a. August 1, 2022 – Tickets for A Night for Nature & Ducks go on sale
 - b. August 13, 2022 – 9 a.m. Bagels with the Blanding's at HQ
 - c. August 16, 2022 – 10 a.m. Groundbreaking at Willowbrook Wildlife Center
 - d. September 15, 2022 – 5-9 p.m. A Night for Nature at St. James Farm
 - e. September 16, 2022 – Duck Race
 - f. October 8, 2022 – 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Friends' Hospitality at Fall Fest at Danada
 - g. November 15, 2022 – 5 p.m. Annual Meeting at The Preserve at Oak Meadows
11. Adjournment

**Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2022**

A Meeting of the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at the District Office of the Forest Preserve of DuPage County.

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm by Chairman Diane Addante. Roll was called with the following result:

Board Members Present: Diane Addante; Penny Chanez; Karyn Charvat; Ashley Guest; Larry Larson; Carl Schultz, Bob Watt, Commissioner Jeff Gahris.

Absent: Brian Battle; Ray Vogt

Staff Present: Jeannine Kannegiesser, Chief Partnership and Philanthropy Officer; Lulu Hertenstein, Corporate & Community Giving Officer; Brian Kuszewski, Assistant Finance Director; Johanna Biedron, Executive Assistant

Guests: Karen Gray FPDC Landscape Architect Supervisor, Kevin Horsfall, Director of Planning

Approval of Minutes - The minutes from the March 22, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting were accepted as written by general consent and placed on file.

Chairman's Comments - Chairman Addante welcomed everyone to the first in person meeting since the pandemic and gave a special welcome to the Friend's newest board member Bob Watt. Bob was recently appointed to the Friends Board during the last Forest Preserve's Board Meeting. Members Chanez and Larson were also reappointed by the District's board.

Chairman Addante introduced Karen Gray, FPDC Landscape Architect Supervisor and Kevin Horsfall, Director of Planning for the Forest Preserve who provided a presentation on Willowbrook Phase II Improvement Plan. Updates include a 27,000-square-foot wildlife rehabilitation clinic and visitor center that would replace the current 42-year-old building. Plans also include new outdoor and indoor animal rehabilitation areas, interactive educational exhibits on the wildlife rehabilitation process, an outdoor classroom, an interpretive trail with wildlife observation areas, and outdoor activity spaces that demonstrate how to attract and live in harmony with native wildlife. The building will also be the district's first net-zero building. Additional information can be found on the Forest Preserve's website.

Chairman Addante also shared current donation information to the Friends. The number of donors for all levels are like last year's numbers with one exception. The Steward level which is a \$500.00 annual donation has doubled in the number of donors from last year. Last year there were 13 donors at the Steward level and this year there currently are 25.

Board Member Comments

Larry provided an update on discussions for possible speakers for Night for Nature or the annual meeting. More updates to be provided at future meetings.

WTTW will have *Nature Cat* (a children's series) at one of the two days at Fall Fest in October. Bob shared that he is working with the District staff on a potential corporate sponsorship project.

Committee Reports Finance Committee

Chairman Addante reviewed the financial dashboard in Mr. Battle's absence and reported on the Friends financial position, budget vs actual and profit and loss statements through April 30, 2022. Total Unrestricted funds as of April 30, 2022, are \$142,667.90

Net Revenue as of April 30, 2022 is \$155,532.85. This figure includes a \$100,000 donation made by a donor.

Mr. Battle moved monies into US Treasury Bills for investment purposes on 1/21/22 (\$250,000 due on 10/06/22) and 3/29/22 (\$240,000 due 09/22/22) and 5/09/22 (\$250,000 due 04/30/23) per Wintrust Wealth Management statement from May 31, 2022.

Chairman Addante asked for a motion to accept the Financial Dashboard and disbursements to the district as of April 30, 2022 as presented. It was moved by Karyn Charvat and seconded by Carl Schultz, and carried.

Development Committee

Larry provided the report.

The Development Committee met on April 19 to discuss strategy and fundraising planning for the year.

Discussion also included how to increase board cultivation and that any potential prospects be brought to the June Committee meeting.

Giving DuPage Update: \$6,085.00 was raised. 56 donations were received. Six board members donated.

Events Committee

Karyn shared planned details for the Night for Nature fundraising event scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 15 at St. James Farm Forest Preserve.

The format will be different than in previous years and will be more casual with an upscale rustic theme. Sponsorship levels are available. Ticket prices are \$100.00 per person. Friends will be needed for procurement of items.

Jeannine shared that the ADA Pier dedication was a very nice event and for future events would like to see even more guests attend.

The native plant sale was a success. The presale event sold out and 30% of the plants were sold at the presale event.

There were no updates at this time for Fall Fest.

Ex-Officio and Staff Report

Jeannine shared a draft communication for donors that focuses on larger donations for the Willowbrook Wildlife Center. Additional information will include donation levels that will result in having a donor's name placed on the dedication wall at the center. Jeannine also shared a draft communication on Night for Nature sponsorship levels.

On June 11th there will be public input session for 3 Forest Preserve master plans. Friends' members are encouraged to participate. The goal is to obtain public feedback on improvements and enhancements at Greene Valley, Blackwell, and Waterfall Glen.

The Friends board members will need to take online OMA training. Information about how to participate will come via e-mail.

Commission Gahrns shared that the Forest Preserve Board approved the construction of solar panels for the fleet management building at Blackwell Forest Preserve. Master plan projects

continue to be on schedule and board has ongoing discussions on future project needs.

Chairman Addante expressed the Friends appreciation to Johanna Biedron for her support to the Friends of the Forest Preserve. Johanna is transitioning in her role at the Forest Preserve.

Next Board Meeting: July 26, 2022 at 5 p.m. at District Headquarters.

Adjournment: With no further business to come before us, Chairman Addante adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
Financial Dashboard Summary as of June 30, 2022

Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)

	<u>@ 6/30/2022</u>	<u>@ 6/30/2021</u>	<u>@ 12/31/2021</u>
Cash Assets in Checking Account	\$ 200,045.75	\$ 154,060.62	\$ 232,239.25
Wintrust Wealth Management	741,041.60	492,391.08	492,523.62
Other Assets	5,170.40	100.00	100.00
Total Assets	\$ 946,257.75	\$ 646,551.70	\$ 724,862.87
 Total Liabilities (Accts Payable)	 \$ (1.67)	 \$ (1.67)	 \$ 498.33
 Total Assets less Liabilities	 \$ 946,259.42	 \$ 646,553.37	 \$ 724,364.54

Statement of Profit and Loss (Income Statement)

	<u>@ 6/30/2022</u>	<u>@ 6/30/2021</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Individual & Business Donations	\$ 254,939.16	\$ 81,552.92
Corporate & Business Grants	\$ -	\$ -
Special Events Income	\$ 5,335.00	\$ -
Foundation Grants	5,000.00	-
Investment Income	76.14	68.41
Securities Income	-	95.17
Credit Card Fee Donations	431.01	584.16
Realized Gains	(206.00)	16.73
Unrealized Gains & Losses		
In-kind Public Support	33,794.80	32,590.00
Special Event Income (+GIK)		
Total Income	\$ 299,370.11	\$ 114,907.39
 Friends Operational Expenses	 \$ 39,875.92	 \$ 38,062.14
Unrealized Gains & Losses	1,558.16	
Distributions to District	36,041.15	36,362.76
Total Expenses and Distributions	\$ 77,475.23	\$ 74,424.90
 Net Income	 \$ 221,894.88	 \$ 40,482.49
 Total Unrestricted Funds	 \$ 160,582.95	 \$ 102,939.39
Restricted Funds @ 6/30/2022	\$ 792,390.93	\$ 543,612.31

Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
Financial Dashboard Summary as of June 30, 2022 (pg. 2)

Budget vs. Actual: Fiscal Year 2022

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Revenue		
Direct Public Grants	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Direct Public Support	288,733.96	\$ 230,000.00
Investments	76.14	\$ 200.00
Special Events Income	5,335.00	\$ 11,000.00
Investments	0.00	\$ 2,500.00
Total Income	\$ 299,145.10	\$ 263,700.00
Expenditures		
Awards and Grants	\$ 4,099.13	\$ 500.00
Business Expenses		\$ 100.00
Contract Services	34,882.79	\$ 105,600.00
Operations	691.09	\$ 22,000.00
Other Types of Expenses		\$ 500.00
Event Expenses	202.91	\$ 9,000.00
Travel and Meetings		\$ -
Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 39,875.92	\$ 137,700.00
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 259,269.18	\$ 126,000.00
Other Revenue	\$ (1,333.15)	\$ 1,500.00
Other Expenditures	\$ 36,041.15	\$ 125,000.00
Net Other Revenue	\$ 37,374.30	\$ 123,500.00
Net Revenue	\$ 221,894.88	\$ 2,500.00

Friends of the Forest Preserves of DuPage County							
Comprised of:			As of 12/31/2021	1/1/2022 through 6/30/2022		Fund Balances	January 2022
Programs:				Revenue	Expenses	@ 6/30/2022	Reimburse
100	Capital Funds						April 2022
	110 Mayslake		\$1,000.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,000.00
	111 Mayslake Back Courtyard		0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00
	112 Mayslake Staircase		0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00
	130 Willowbrook		189,957.99	52,313.00		\$242,270.99	
	140 Natural Resource Restoration		800.00	3,489.70	800.00	\$3,489.70	\$800.00
	150 Renewable Energy		1,270.00	100,250.00		\$101,520.00	
	Total 100 Capital Funds		\$193,027.99	\$157,402.70	\$1,800.00	\$348,630.69	\$1,800.00
							January 2022
200	Other Funds						Reimburse
	205 Conservation/Natural Resources		\$4,452.53	\$5,100.29	\$4,504.03	\$5,048.79	\$4,504.03
	206 Belleau Woods Restoration		0.00			\$0.00	
	207 Blanding's Turtles Program		1,430.00	1,825.00	\$1,315.00	\$1,940.00	\$1,315.00
	208 West Chicago Prairie Restoration		0.00			\$0.00	
	210 Mayslake Peabody Estate		900.00	900.00	\$850.00	\$950.00	\$850.00
	215 Education General		550.00	1,719.10	\$550.00	\$1,719.10	\$550.00
	220 St James Farm		50.00	5,500.00	\$50.00	\$5,500.00	\$50.00
	225 Kline Creek Farm		1,000.00	500.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
	230 Willowbrook Wildlife Center		375,281.70	44,666.08		\$419,947.78	
	235 Fullersburg Woods		1,000.00	350.00	\$1,000.00	\$350.00	\$1,000.00
	238 Greene Valley		4,099.13		4,099.13	\$0.00	
	240 Danada Equestrian Center		3,319.12	929.57	3,319.12	\$929.57	\$3,319.12
	245 Preserve Improvements		750.00	600.00	750.00	\$600.00	\$750.00
	246 ADA Piers		0.00			\$0.00	
	250 Recreation Improvements		1,103.00	225.00	1,103.00	\$225.00	\$1,103.00
	270 Volunteers		1,000.00		1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
	280 Land Acquisition		0.00			\$0.00	
	281 Land Management		6,550.00	5,200.00	5,800.00	\$5,950.00	\$5,800.00
	Total 200 Funds		\$401,485.48	\$67,515.04	\$25,340.28	\$443,660.24	\$0.00
							\$21,241.15
				Total 100 Capital Funds to be Reimbursed		\$0.00	\$1,800.00
	600 Special Events			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
997	Unrestricted Funds	Gifts	\$136,304.70	\$72,894.21	\$48,615.96	\$160,582.95	\$13,000.00
	Unclassified		\$100.00			\$100.00	
Grand Total (Restricted & Unrestricted)			\$730,918.17	\$297,811.95	\$75,756.24	\$952,973.88	\$13,000.00
							\$23,041.15
	Temporarily Restricted Funds:						
	Capital Programs		\$348,630.69				
	Other Non-Capital Programs		443,660.24				
	Unclassified		100.00				
			\$792,390.93				

Friends of the Forest Preserves of DuPage County
Reimbursements to District

	January 2022	April 2022
	Reimburse	Reimburse
110 Mayslake		\$1,000.00
111 Mayslake Back Courtyard		
112 Mayslake Staircase		
140 Natural Resource Restoration		\$800.00
205 Conservation/Natural Resources		\$4,504.03
206 Belleau Woods Restoration		
207 Blanding's Turtles Program		\$1,315.00
208 West Chicago Prairie Restoration		
210 Mayslake Peabody Estate		\$850.00
215 Education General		\$550.00
220 St James Farm		\$50.00
225 Kline Creek Farm		\$1,000.00
230 Willowbrook Wildlife Center		
235 Fullersburg Woods		\$1,000.00
238 Greene Valley		
240 Danada Equestrian Center		\$3,319.12
245 Preserve Improvements		\$750.00
246 ADA Piers		
250 Recreation Improvements		\$1,103.00
270 Volunteers		\$1,000.00
280 Land Acquisition		
281 Land Management		\$5,800.00
	\$0.00	\$23,041.15
997 Unrestricted Operations	\$13,000.00	
Total Reimbursements in 2022	<u>\$13,000.00</u>	<u>\$36,041.15</u>



MEMO

Date: July 26, 2022

To: Friends of the Forest Preserve Board
Jeanine Kannegiesser – Chief Partnership & Philanthropy Officer

From: Andrew Brown – Director of Finance

CC: Brian Kuszewski – Assistant Finance Director

RE: July 2022 Funds Request

The District respectfully requests \$128,552.16 from donations received by the Friends of the Forest Preserve. The funding request will be used to reimburse the District for expenditures previously incurred for the associated functions/purposes/programs outlined by the donors.

Thank you for your continued support of the District's efforts and helping provide DuPage County residents with the highest level of services from the Forest Preserve District. Please see the detailed request below:

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County	
Funding Request: July 2022	
Program	Amount
110 Mayslake	\$1,350.00
140 Natural Resource Restoration	\$3,489.70
205 Conservation/Natural Resources	\$5,048.79
207 Blanding's Turtles Program	\$1,940.00
210 Mayslake Peabody Estate	\$950.00
215 Education General	\$1,719.10
220 St James Farm	\$5,500.00
225 Kline Creek Farm	\$500.00
230 Willowbrook Wildlife Center	\$100,000.00
235 Fullersburg Woods	\$350.00
240 Danada Equestrian Center	\$929.57
245 Preserve Improvements	\$600.00
250 Recreation Improvements	\$225.00
281 Land Management	\$5,950.00
Total	\$128,552.16



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P.O. Box 5000
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630.871.6400
fundraising@dupageforest.org

dupageforest.org/friends

July 22, 2022

To: Friends Board of Directors
From: Jeannine Kannegiesser, Executive Director and Diane Addante, Board Chair
RE: Willowbrook Wildlife Center Campaign Plan

Action Requested: Board approval of a Willowbrook Wildlife Center project campaign goal and commitment to collaborate with staff in its achievement.

Background: In April, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County's board of commissioners approved the contract to proceed with the Willowbrook Wildlife Center Master Plan Phase II Improvements. This is one of the largest projects in the 2019 master plan, and Willowbrook Wildlife Center is an important wildlife rehabilitation center locally, regionally, and nationally.

There is an opportunity to invite our supporters to deepen their support of the Forest Preserve District through the Friends to help cover the expenses related to the building and initial operations at the new facility. The Partnership & Philanthropy team have been developing the case for support in collaboration with the development committee and conversations with staff and fellow board members.

In approving a campaign goal and timeline tonight, we ask this board to commit its efforts to support the campaign with personal gifts and help staff qualify, cultivate, solicit, and steward donors.

Campaign Goals: Raise \$500,000 in new donations to support the Willowbrook Wildlife Center master-plan project through the end of 2024. Deciding to proceed with this campaign means that Friends would need to increase its revenue budget for 2023 and 2024 (compared to 2022).

Staff have developed a gift-range chart to support this campaign that would require us to secure around 100 gifts ranging from \$1,000 to \$100,000.

For reference, over the past three years we have had gifts in the \$250+ range as follows. This group will be our top group of prospects for outreach to upgrade gifts aligned with our chart. We will also be using this campaign to develop new connections with corporations and foundations in DuPage and beyond.

Range	Number of gifts given in 2020	Number of gifts given in 2021	Number of gifts given in 2022 to date
\$250-499	21	44	17
\$500-999	9	23	11
\$1,000-4999	18	21	10
\$5,000-\$9,999	1	1	2
\$10,000+	2	0	2
Totals	51	89	42

The Willowbrook project is budgeted and proceeding. The project is not only relevant to our current donors, animal and nature enthusiasts, and neighbors who live near the existing center but also presents an opportunity to maximize science-based animal rehabilitative services and energy-efficient, sustainable operations in DuPage and beyond.

Tentative timeline: Outreach to our donors will begin as soon as a one-page case with approved goal is created.

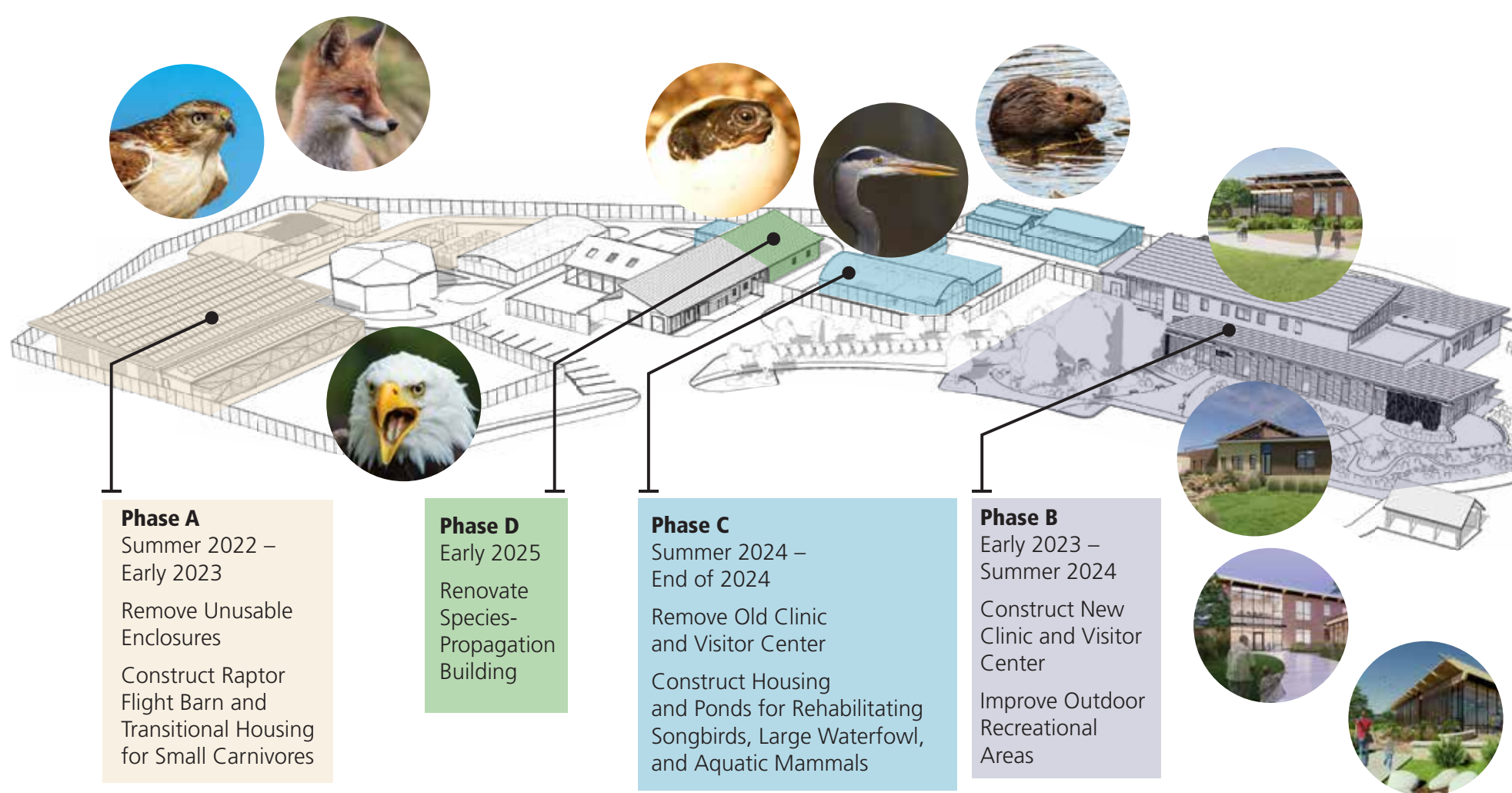
- Secure Friends' Board campaign commitments (nine members) by October 2022
(Challenge fund contributions will be welcomed)
- Meet with qualified top current donors and secure participation (20) by November 2022
- Meet with qualified top lapsed donors and secure participation (20) by December 2022
- Meet with top prospects for Willowbrook fund (10 corporations and foundations) by end of Feb 2023
- Invite upgraded gifts from next group of donors with a matching challenge appeal by spring 2022
- Continue requests within the campaign until we reach 90% of our campaign goal, at which time, we will do a wider appeal to our entire donor base before the end of 2024

Recognition Plan: Donor recognition plaque is being incorporated into the visitor center design and will be an opportunity to display names of those who have donated \$1,000 minimum to support the project, including District grantors.

Naming opportunities will be limited for gifts of at least \$25,000 that cover 50%+ of the expense of a named element. Examples of naming areas include the visitor center (Mains Family), viewing windows (Beth Fikar Estate), indoor and outdoor classrooms, and wildlife overlook areas. Once the bench plan for this preserve is completed, there will also be a limited number of benches available as tributes with a \$5,000+ donation. (Naming opportunities to be approved by the Forest Preserve District's board of commissioners.)

We will celebrate project milestones with updates to donors and expect to host a grand opening celebration in 2025.

The NEW Willowbrook Wildlife Center



Big changes are coming to Willowbrook Wildlife Center!

When completed, the redeveloped campus will include several state-of-the-art facilities.

A 27,500-square-foot clinic and visitor center will support an efficient and safe rehabilitation process. Visitors will be able to view animals as they're examined, treated, in surgery, being fed, and rehabilitated behind one-way windows and through video monitors.

A new 28,400-square-foot support area will prepare animals for release into the wild.

A renovated 5,400-square-foot species-propagation and research center will support the captive rearing of at-risk species and research projects that will advance wildlife medicine and rehabilitation.

Part of these improvements will include the eventual elimination of the outdoor exhibits, so the geriatric animals that live along the trail will move to less-stressful enclosures in other parts of the center. (The latest scientific research on caring for disabled wildlife shows this is the best treatment for these special animals.)

During construction, Willowbrook will continue to accept animals, but the visitor center will be closed until the new building opens in 2024. Additionally, visitors to the Park Boulevard lot will not be able to access the picnic shelter or the trails. (Residents in the adjoining neighborhood to the north will be able to reach the trails from Milton Avenue, though.)

For more FAQs, scan the QR code.



The Forest Preserve District is funding these improvements with bond funds, tax revenues, grant funds, and donations from generous community members. If you or your company or organization would like to learn more about how to be involved with this project, please connect with our partner, the 501(c)(3) Friends of the Forest Preserve District, by scanning the QR code or contacting our Partnership and Philanthropy office at 630-871-6400 or fundraising@dupageforest.org.



Willowbrook Wildlife Center

2021 Stats

11,521
Animals Admitted

219
Unique Species

7
Threatened or Endangered Species

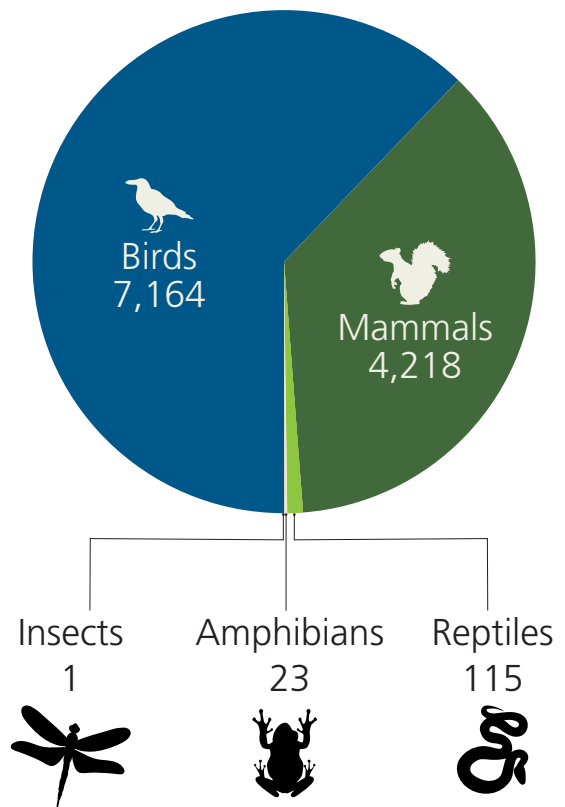
3
First-Time Species

71.4%
Release Rate After 24 Hours

16,183
Phone Calls

33
Agencies Supported

Admissions by Species Group



Willowbrook Wildlife Center

FAQs

An ambitious \$25.5 million master plan project is planned for Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn that will transform the center and make it the District's first net-zero building.

The centerpiece of the project is a 27,000-square-foot wildlife rehabilitation clinic and visitor center that would replace the current 42-year-old building.

Plans also include new outdoor and indoor animal rehabilitation areas, interactive educational exhibits on the wildlife rehabilitation process, an outdoor classroom, an interpretive trail with wildlife observation areas, and outdoor activity spaces that demonstrate how to attract and live in harmony with native wildlife.

What is Willowbrook Wildlife Center?

Willowbrook Wildlife Center is a nationally recognized wildlife rehabilitation facility that provides care and medical treatment to 10,000 sick, injured, and orphaned native wildlife each year. The aging clinic and outdoor rehabilitation area are not adequate for the needs of these wildlife patients.

Woodlands, wetlands, and prairies in DuPage and surrounding areas increase livability for people and wildlife, but urban development fragments larger habitats and presents hazards for wildlife (e.g. bird collisions with windows, vehicles, and power lines). This brings patients to Willowbrook on a regular basis.

Operated by the DuPage Forest Preserve District since 1956, the center is also a valuable resource for people to learn how to live in harmony with wildlife, offering educational programs for thousands of people, including school and scout groups, teachers, private rehabilitators, and municipalities.

Why does Willowbrook need a new facility? Will the improvements increase rehabilitation capacity?

The existing building is more than 40 years old. Since it was built, standards for wildlife rehabilitation have dramatically changed. Additionally, many of the building's mechanical systems are at the end of their useful lives and need to be replaced to support safe and effective operations for wildlife patients, staff, and volunteers.

The new facility will meet the center's current admissions, rehabilitation, and resident requirements.

Over the years, the area's human population has grown, impacting its wildlife population as well. Willowbrook treats an average of 10,000 sick, injured, and orphaned animals each year. The aging clinic and outdoor rehabilitation area are not adequate for the needs of these wildlife patients.

I hear the center is going to be "net-zero." What does that mean?

Net-zero means the energy produced from renewable resources exceeds the energy consumed by a building.

The new facility will have energy-efficient features throughout, but two key elements will be its ground- and roof-mounted photovoltaic panels, which will convert the sun's energy into electricity, and a geothermal heating and cooling system.

A geothermal system circulates liquid through underground pipes and uses the natural ground temperature to heat and cool. In winter, the system extracts heat from the liquid and distributes it into the building. In summer, it removes heat from the building and carries it into the ground to cool.



Willowbrook Wildlife Center

FAQs

What will be different after the project is complete?

The clinic will increase efficiencies and ensure each species continues to receive appropriate medical care.

The visitor center will showcase the behind-the-scenes medical and rehabilitation process. Visitors will be able to view animals as they're examined, treated, in surgery, being fed, and rehabilitated behind one-way windows and through video monitors.

Existing nonreleasable resident animals, most of which are geriatric, will be housed in specially designed enclosures appropriate to their needs to allow them to live out their lives as humanely as possible. Video monitors will showcase select animals as well as animals in the rehabilitation enclosures.

A wildlife garden with songbird habitat and an interpretive trail will allow the public to see wildlife in natural settings through specially designed observation nodes.

What will happen to the resident animals currently on display at Willowbrook?

Willowbrook has a small population of resident animals that cannot be released due to injuries and debilitating conditions. These residents will be housed in specially designed enclosures that are species-appropriate to their needs and will allow them to live out their lives as humanely as possible. Staff will continue to provide enrichment activities and the public will be able to observe them through live camera feeds.

Can I still bring injured and orphaned animals to Willowbrook during construction?

Yes! The project is designed in multiple phases to continue the important work of wildlife rehabilitation uninterrupted throughout construction.

When will the new facility be open to the public?

We expect the clinic and visitor center to open by the middle of 2024. The existing building will come down after that. All work should wrap up by 2025.

How much will the project cost and how will it be funded? Will it increase my property taxes?

On April 19, 2022, the Forest Preserve District board of commissioners will vote on a \$25.5 million guaranteed maximum-price contract with Wight & Company to design and construct the new facility.

In November 2021, the Forest Preserve District board of commissioners approved issuing general obligation limited-tax bonds to support District master plan projects. Property taxes will not increase as a result of these improvements.

Approximately \$22 million from the bond sale will be dedicated to Willowbrook. The District is also pursuing an additional \$3.5 million in grant funding for the project.

As of April 2022, the District has also secured \$3.7 million in private donations to support the project. The Friends of the Forest Preserve District continues to develop donor opportunities for this critically important center.

All of Willowbrook's operating expenses are funded by the Forest Preserve District, grants, and private donations. The center does not receive state or federal funding.



Willowbrook Wildlife Center

FAQs

Can I still visit the trails at Willowbrook while construction is underway?

The main exhibit trail and parking lot will be closed from late 2022 until summer 2024. It will be a construction zone as we remove existing enclosures and build the new facility. Visitors will be able to reach the looped trail on the east side of Glen Crest Creek from Milton Avenue, but there may be periodic closures as we work on the trail, construct wildlife observation areas, and restore the surrounding habitats.

Who is doing the work?

The Forest Preserve District's planning department and Willowbrook Wildlife Center staff are collaborating with Wight & Company and Wight Construction Services. Wight & Company has worked with District staff since early 2021 to identify responsible solutions to the changing needs of animal rehabilitation and care. The multidisciplinary team at Wight & Company worked with the Forest Preserve District to develop the previous master plan for Willowbrook in 2011. For more information about the company visit wightco.com.

Why does Willowbrook treat wildlife from outside of DuPage County?

Native animals have ranges that overlap human-imposed boundaries. Migratory birds are a great example. Willowbrook Wildlife Center champions healthy interconnected ecosystems to foster and promote safe and sustainable communities for all living things in DuPage County and surrounding communities.

How can I support Willowbrook Wildlife Center?

To learn how to support the project contact Jeannine Kannegiesser, District chief partnership and philanthropy officer and executive director of the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County.

Who can I contact if I have more questions about the project?

Contact Anamari Dorgan, director of Community Engagement Services, at 630-462-5654 or adorgan@dupageforest.org.

