

Forest Preserve Report

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By Connie Schmidt

Natural Areas Habitat Improvement: There is a project for upgrading the process for district wide natural areas designation and maintenance. This is a flexible and adaptive program that can be customized to the preserves and the flora and fauna within them depending on the needs for the district. There are six different contractors that are awarded these projects as the district requires.

Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve: A time extension was approved for the contract for construction of the [Sawmill Creek Pedestrian Bridge Replacement](#) in Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve. Winter is not a good time for laying asphalt so that part of the project will be completed in the Spring.

Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve: A trail connection project of .2 miles of concrete trail will link the [Lake Trail to West Trail Connector Trail](#) in Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve. This project was funded by a statewide grant. The project should begin in Spring of 2024 and be completed by Summer 2024.

Willowbrook Forest Preserve: A contract was awarded for clearing of about 10 acres of invasive trees and shrubs in the back area of Willowbrook Forest Preserve. Any native trees and shrubs that should not be removed will be flagged prior to the project. The project will begin in early 2024 and be completed by the end of Spring 2024.

More on Willowbrook: Eight bid packages are going out for Phase B/C which includes demolitions of the existing clinic and the outside enclosures as well as some other features. A reminder, the work on Willowbrook is creating a ["net-zero" building](#) and much of the funding was grant awards.

Danada Forest Preserve: Bid packages are going out for multiple projects for lowest bidders for the [Danada House](#) and Atrium Renovations Project. This involves both interior and exterior of the house area. Among the projects are windows, flooring, HVA system, tech access and comfort of the space. These bids in total will total as much as \$5 Million. In addition, there is asbestos and lead abatement projects that will have to precede some of the improvements. The banquet space should be amazing once completed.

Mayslake Forest Preserve: There has been a bit of a delay on delivery of some custom doors and a few other details which will not result in any increased cost or impede programing for the Mayslake Forest Preserve. There was a big art fair in early December and great reviews on the improvements made were shared with commissioners.

Danada Forest Preserve: The [Danada Model Farm Barn](#) is located near Naperville Road and Butterfield Rd. The barn had some [shingle and roof improvements](#) made but the contract was completed about two months later because of availability of some materials.

Countywide Survey: A random collection of responses on a survey for the Forest Preserve district were collected from nearly 1000 (947) household residents in DuPage. 82% were

favorable of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage with only 4 % containing negative viewpoints. The remaining percent were neutral. The ratings for DuPage FP District came out much higher than the average state rating. They were comparable to the nearby Lake County scores on a similar survey. All the scores were complimentary. The survey results are on the district site now, and folks could still comment through the end of 2023. Given that only 2% of a household's property taxes contribute to the District, general opinion was that the preserves are a very good value.