

XBC  
OUNID  
DARIE  
S

The image features large, bold, sans-serif text on a light blue background. The text is arranged in four rows: 'XBC', 'OUNID', 'DARIE', and 'S'. The letters are filled with a close-up photograph of a purple flower, likely a lily, with some letters being solid orange. The 'X' is a solid orange color, while the 'B', 'C', 'O', 'U', 'N', 'I', 'D', 'A', 'R', 'I', 'E', and 'S' are filled with the purple flower image. The flower's petals are a vibrant purple, and the background within the letters is a soft, out-of-focus green and yellow.

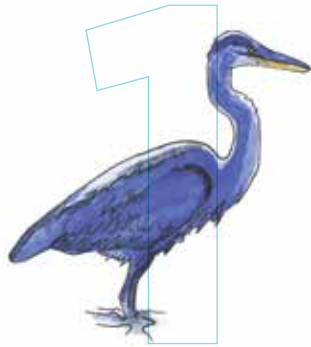


WATERS FLOW | SOILS ERODE AND DRIFT | ANIMALS  
MIGRATE | PLANTS MOVE BY WIND, WATER, AND WILDLIFE

# NATURE | KNOWS | NO | BOUNDARIES

FOR THIS REASON, the Lake County Forest Preserves works across property lines and political boundaries. Through partnerships and strategic collaborations, we go beyond our 31,000 acres.

DONORS TO THE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION HELP make this possible. With your support, we educate and inspire all of Lake County—residents, businesses, municipalities, schools, and civic organizations—to join in protecting the natural lands on which we all depend.



**ENDOWMENT IS A GIFT ACROSS TIME** with an impact that spans generations. An endowment donation today is invested in perpetuity, while the investment return provides a steady source of revenue. A robust endowment is a hedge against future fiscal challenges and a promise to future generations.

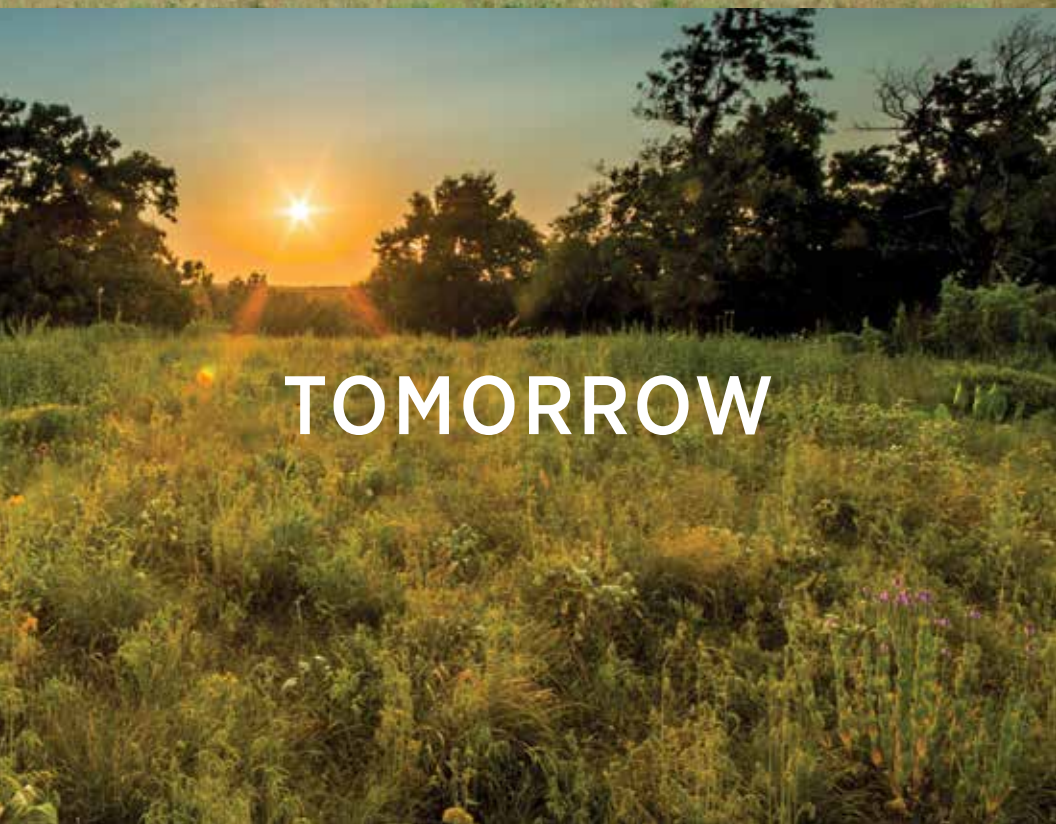
An endowment gift can be an especially meaningful way to remember a loved one, bringing a measure of peace and comfort to family and friends. In 2018, the Preservation Foundation received its first named endowment in memory of Derek Harms, who was just 20 years old when he passed away in the spring of that year.

The Derek Harms Endowed Fund for Grassy Lake Forest Preserve (Lake Barrington) is a fitting memorial to Derek, who had a passion for nature and being active in the outdoors. At the Riverwoods Scenic Overlook at Grassy Lake, his family and many friends can visit and remember Derek in a peaceful, natural setting that he would have loved.





TODAY



TOMORROW





LAKE

COOK



**WITHIN ROLLINS SAVANNA** Forest Preserve (Grayslake), one Forest Preserve staff member and a dozen dedicated volunteers in the Native Seed Nursery carefully collect, clean, process, and propagate rare seed from dozens of native plant species. Many of these species are cost prohibitive or impossible to purchase, making this work truly priceless.

Locally collected native seed is critical to habitat restoration, particularly in the face of a changing climate. In 2018, a Preservation Foundation Annual Fund grant—matched by funding from the Forest Preserves and Citizens for Conservation (CFC)—supported the addition of a full-time ecological technician over the next three years in order to scale up this important work.

The Preservation Foundation’s investment will have impacts far beyond the Forest Preserves. The highly skilled and experienced technician is recruiting and training new volunteers, who will work in our forest preserves and on other conservation lands in both Lake and Cook counties. More precious seed is collected, cultivated, and made available for habitat restoration projects on Forest Preserve lands, partner lands, corporate campuses, and even residential properties.









PUBLIC



PRIVATE



**CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS PROVIDE** private resources to extend our impact beyond what is possible with public funding alone.

REI opened its first Lake County store in Vernon Hills in 2018. The outdoor retailer specializes in gear and experiences related to hiking, biking, paddling, and camping. At various forest preserves, REI now offers skill-building programs, meeting a need that we no longer have the staff capacity to provide. Programs such as “How to Ride a Bike” and “Wilderness Survival Tips” benefit the public and attract new users.

Through a 2018 Community Stewardship Grant, REI also contributed \$20,000 for two access improvement projects. A flood-prone education trail at Ryerson Woods (Riverwoods) was improved by addition of a boardwalk, and habitat restoration at the Des Plaines River canoe launch at IL Route 60 stabilized the eroding shoreline.

ComEd continued its support in 2018, extending our capacity to deliver STEM-based (science, technology, engineering, and math) education programs. A \$20,000 grant enabled us to hire a ComEd Science Instructor, who delivered 86 STEM programs to more than 2,000 participants.





**THE HISTORY OF LAKE COUNTY** is a story of people shaping the land and being shaped by the land. The Bess Bower Dunn Museum (Libertyville) opened in 2018 to tell our intertwined human and natural history in a new way. We educate visitors through exhibits and programs and then inspire them to venture into the preserves. Each gallery includes interactive technology that invites visitors to walk the land where history happened.

We take the same approach with interpretive exhibits in our forest preserves. At sites including Fort Sheridan, Grassy Lake, and Spring Bluff, visitors are directed to continue learning Lake County's stories at the Dunn Museum. The approach blurs the boundary between the museum environment and the real world.

Major gifts helped make the Dunn Museum possible. Thanks to a \$100,000 gift from the company, the North Shore Gas Education Classroom is home base for field trips and public programs. The Teich Family Reading Room, named for the family's generous support, provides walk-in access to the Lake County History Archives, and a \$15,000 sponsorship gift from USG allows us to offer free admission and programs on the first and third Thursday of every month.



INSIDE



OUTSIDE





ILLINOIS



WISCONSIN





**THE CHIWAUKEE PRAIRIE** Illinois Beach Lake Plain is a cross-boundary partnership of global significance located along the Lake Michigan shore. In 2015, the 4,500-acre mosaic of protected lands was designated a Wetland of International Importance under the RAMSAR Convention. Other RAMSAR sites in the U.S. include Chesapeake Bay, the Everglades, and San Francisco Bay and Estuary.

Although Spring Bluff Forest Preserve (Winthrop Harbor), at just under 300 acres, is a small part of the broader landscape, the Forest Preserves is at the very heart of this bi state initiative, which crosses public and private lands. Through our leadership, more than \$4.5 million has been secured over the past decade through state and federal grants to support the partnership's shared vision and conservation actions.

Our record of success inspired one private foundation to award a \$750,000 grant over three years in late 2018 to continue our cross-boundary work throughout the Lake Plain. This leadership commitment is the first received from one of our region's key foundation funders of natural areas conservation.

“

IF YOUR ACTIONS INSPIRE  
OTHERS TO DREAM MORE,  
LEARN MORE, DO MORE &  
BECOME MORE, YOU ARE  
A LEADER.

”

John Quincy Adams

Dear Friends,

Leadership is core to the Forest Preserves mission, vision, and values. Not because we aspire to awards or accolades but because we recognize that nature knows no boundaries. We know—to protect the lands and waters on which our quality of life depends—we must engage, influence, and inspire beyond our 31,000 acres.

The Preservation Foundation is critical to fulfilling this vision of leadership. Resources we secure support a bi state initiative to protect a globally significant landscape. Corporate partnerships bring programs to the public that we otherwise could not provide. Collaborative fundraising and volunteers together help grow priceless seed needed for restoration across our region.

The people, companies, and foundations that invested in the Forest Preserves in 2018 did more than fund a project or program. They made it possible for us to lead in a meaningful way: by inspiring others to DREAM MORE, LEARN MORE, DO MORE, and BECOME MORE.

On behalf of the Lake County Forest Preserves and the Preservation Foundation, thank you.

Sincerely,

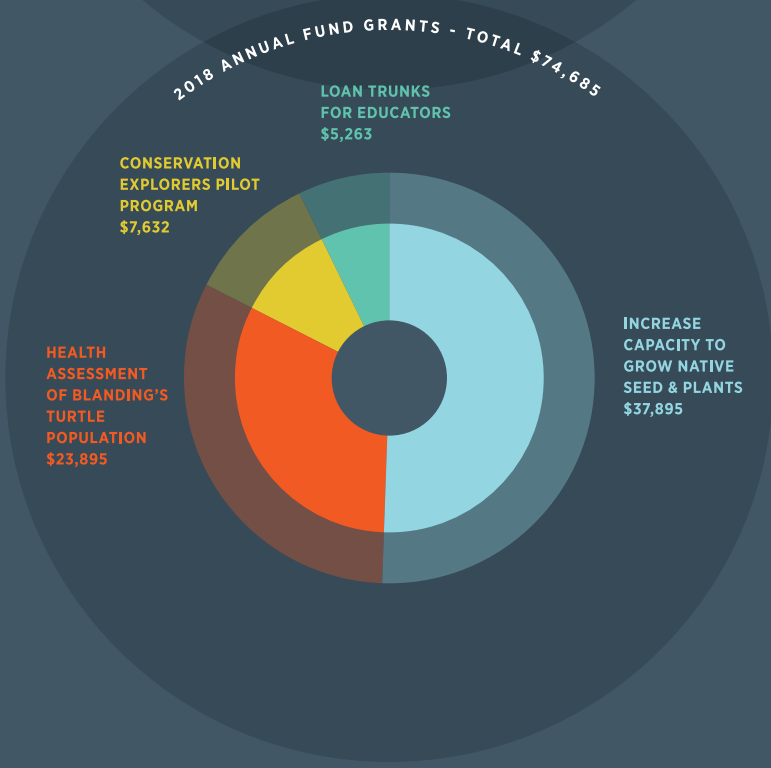
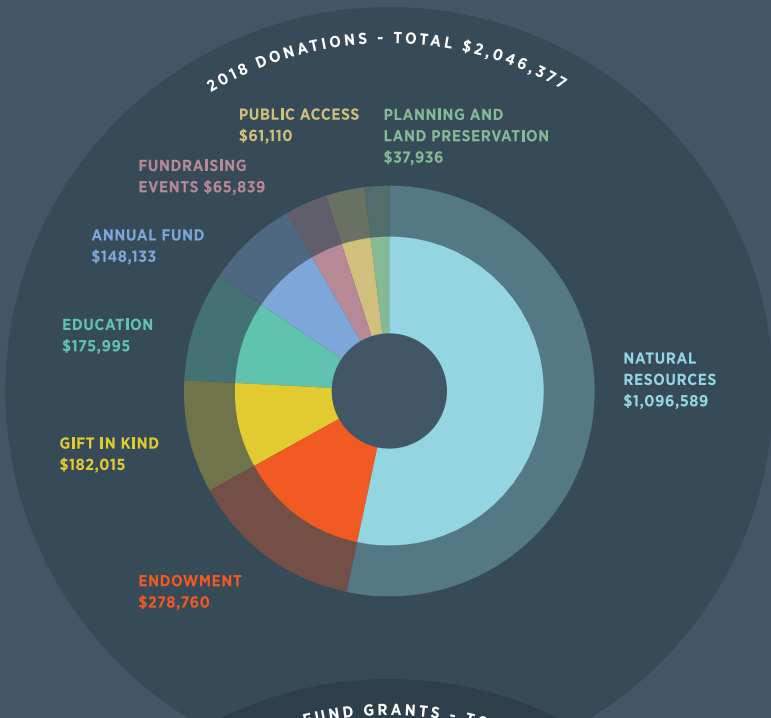


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***Audited financial statements and a complete list of institutional and individual donors can be found online at [ThePreservationFoundation.org](http://ThePreservationFoundation.org).***



Preservation Foundation  
*of the Lake County Forest Preserves*

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LAKE COUNTY  
FOREST PRESERVES