



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
Capital Improvement Plan
Projects Status Report
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Project No.	Project Name	Status of Project
60004	General Habitat Restoration	Funding for on-going restoration improvements, ecological management and natural resource assessments of wildlife populations and habitats. This fiscal year (FY 2015/16) restoration efforts are planned for Greenbelt, Middlefork Savanna, Rollins Savanna, Van Patten and Wadsworth Savanna Forest Preserves. Restoration work includes the removal of invasive woody vegetation and the purchase of native seed. Seed will be installed in fall/winter 2015/2016.
60010	Preserve Tree Planting	In Fall 2015, 4,234 shrubs and 1,715 trees were planted for habitat reforestation across 273 acres at Singing Hills, MacArthur Woods, Ryerson, Wright Woods and Fort Sheridan Forest Preserves and an additional 45 trees were planted as replacement trees at Independence Grove, Hastings Lake, Ryerson and Countryside. In Spring 2016, approximately 150 trees and 500 shrubs will be planted along recent development sites, including Greenbelt, Pine Dunes, Independence Grove, Sedge Meadow and the Millennium Trail underpasses at Wilson Road.
60009	Repair of Existing Roads/Parking	Major improvements were made at Independence Grove to the roads and portions of the parking lots in Fall 2015. Contractual pavement maintenance is planned for late Spring 2016 at various sites, including asphalt patching, crack sealing, and pavement markings of roads and parking lots. An engineering contract will be issued in Spring 2016 for Fall 2016 major pavement improvements work to be determined.
60015	Trail Signage & Benches	The new trail sign marking system was installed at Wright Woods and Van Patten Woods as pilot projects. Based upon input received from these projects adjustments were completed in an effort to implement the system at additional sites throughout the District over the next several years. Using the new system, map signs were replaced at Old School and Lyons Woods in 2015. New map signs will be installed at Cuba Marsh, Oriole Grove, Heron Creek and Middlefork Savanna in 2016. Trail bench program is being implemented on an on-going basis throughout the District. In Spring 2016, benches will be installed on the 2.5 mile outer trail loop at Daniel Wright Woods.
60016	Property Fencing	Boundary fencing was installed by YCC at Rollins Savanna along Linden Lane in late Summer 2015 to prevent unauthorized and uncontrolled access where habitat restoration has occurred. Additional fencing may be installed in Spring 2016 based on any on-going encroachment or access issues.
60018	Preserve Restrooms/Replacements	Three new evaporator toilet buildings were installed at Old School in Fall 2015 to replace the remaining original comfort stations. No other replacements are projected in the near future.



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60025	Dog Area Accessibility Improvements	An evaluation of the accessibility of the existing facilities at the four existing Dog Exercise Areas was conducted in 2015. A list of proposed improvements is under development and will be phased in at the various locations over the next four years.
60022	Facility and Infrastructure Improvements	Based on the information from the 2014 District Wide Facility Assessment of over 90 existing buildings and direction received from the District's Standing Committees, several projects have been initiated including: stabilization of the grounds maintenance staff building at Heron Creek, preparation of plans for roof repairs at the Independence Grove Visitor Center and Ryerson Welcome Center and preparation of plans for improvements to the Visitor Center and site lighting at Independence Grove. Additional priority projects are proposed for implementation in 2016.
64710	Buffalo Creek – MWRD Restoration	In February 2013, the Planning and Restoration Committee approved a concept plan and authorized staff to negotiate an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) for expansion of the existing reservoir to provide an additional 171 acre/feet of flood storage and completion of the District's planned public access improvements. The draft IGA is currently being finalized and is expected to be presented to the Committees in February 2016. If approved, the District is set to receive approximately \$3.3 million in public access and restoration work in exchange for allowing the expansion of the west basin of the existing reservoir.
64701	Buffalo Creek Mitigation Bank Trail	In April 2000 the District and the Lake County Division of Transportation (LCDOT) executed an IGA that allowed LCDOT to design and construct a wetland mitigation bank on District property for the sole use by LCDOT for their road and transportation needs. In 2009, LCDOT approached the District and requested permission to investigate the western end of Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve as a feasible wetland bank site. LCDOT is currently preparing plans for the wetland bank that will include the expansion of hiking and biking trails within the design. Plans are expected to be complete in early 2016 with an anticipated construction start of late 2016.
65901	Chain O'Lakes Bike Path – Petite Lake Road Connection	As part of the LCDOT project to reconstruct Petite Lake Road between IL Route 59 and Fairfield Road, the District has agreed to fund the local share for the construction of a 750' section of path along Petite Lake Road that will extend the Chain O'Lakes bike path from the Lake Villa Township property to Bluebird Meadow Forest Preserve. The project was completed in August 2015.
64104	Cuba Marsh Habitat Restoration	Restoration of wetland marshes, prairie and savanna habitats to enhance wildlife populations and a remnant high quality dry prairie. Planning began in FY 2013/14 with implementation starting in FY 2014/15. During the winter 2014/15, 90 acres of prairie and wetland was cleared of woody invasive brush and native seed was sown in the fall of 2015. Restoration in FY2015/16 includes clearing of an additional 47 acres of prairie and shrubland habitat to be followed by native seeding in the fall for 2016.



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63302	DPR Trail – Ryerson North	A contract for land acquisition for the last remaining 1,500 foot section of the Des Plaines River Trail was approved by the Board on July 15, 2014. Engineering and permitting occurred in early 2015 and construction began in August and continued into the fall. The project was completed and opened to the public in October 2015.
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62902	DPR Trail – Wilmot Woods	The District completed a feasibility analysis for a possible trail connection through Wilmot Woods to the Des Plaines River Trail and is awaiting local neighborhood associations to agree on a preferred route. Recent discussions with LCDOT have presented a possible alternative route associated with LCDOT's planned bike path along Route 137 from the DPR Trail to Great Lakes Naval Base. LCDOT began Phase I engineering of the bike path in 2015. The District will continue to participate with the planning of this possible alternative.
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60301	Duck Farm Munn Road Access	IDOT's planned improvements to Il Route 132 (Grand Ave.) include a shared use path along the north side of the road connecting the Duck Farm to the Millennium Trail at Fourth Lake Forest Preserve. Neighborhoods along the way will be connected to the shared use path, including a Lindenhurst Park District connection north to Hastings Lake. The project will also include the relocation of the Duck Farm Dog Exercise Area entrance to align with the signalized intersection at Munn Road. Phase II engineering began in 2014 and is expected to be complete in early 2016. Construction is anticipated in 2016.
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63910	Ethel's Woods – N. Mill Creek Restoration	District's operating committees approved a concept plan in August 2004 to investigate the draining of Rasmussen Lake and the restoration of the North Mill Creek riparian corridor. An engineering contract was approved by the Board in January 2006 to investigate the project's feasibility and prepare restoration alternatives. The District awarded a contract to prepare engineering and permit drawings in October 2010. During the permitting review, a design modification was required and the District awarded an engineering contract in September 2013 to perform design revisions. Permits were secured for the revised design in the summer of 2014 and construction of Phase I began in the fall of 2014. The lowering of the lake water began in December 2014 and the final stop-log was removed October 2015 to reach the design water elevation for Phase I. It is anticipated to take two years (fall 2016) to allow drained sediments to stabilize. A contract for design, engineering and permitting for Phase II is expected in early 2016.



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63901	Ethel's Woods Public Access	The Ethel's Woods property was purchased with a State grant from the Open Lands Trust Fund. This grant requires public access improvements including a parking lot, restroom and trails. Due to the need to coordinate this project with the Rasmussen Lake restoration, the District sent a letter to IDNR requesting approval a preliminary schedule that would provide the District with an extension until 2019. IDNR recently granted the extension until 2019 without penalty. Implementation of this project will be combined with the Millennium Trail – Route 45 underpass project. Phase I preliminary engineering began in Summer 2015 to prepare both projects for the federally funded CMAQ program. The District recently received notice that CMAQ funding applications will not be accepted in 2016. It is anticipated that IDOT will place a call for CMAQ projects the following year in 2017.
65101	Everett Road Trail Connection	This proposed trail will connect Captain Daniel Wright Woods to the roundabout at Everett and Riverwoods Roads. Completion of this trail will link the existing Village bike paths (to the east and south) to Captain Daniel Wright Woods and the DPR Trail. Engineering began in the late summer 2014 with construction to follow in FY 2015/16. A grant application was filed with the IDNR in early 2014 for a potential \$200,000 Illinois Bike Path Grant. The District received notice in August 2015 that all funding through IDNR's Bike Path program will not be moving forward due to the State's fiscal constraints. The project is currently scheduled for bidding in April 2016 with an anticipated construction start in late June 2016.
60406	Fort Sheridan – USACE GLFER Restoration	The USACE Great Lakes Fish and Ecosystem Restoration project began November 2015 with habitat restoration and removal of marine debris along the lakeshore planned for the winter of 2015-16. Ravine, lake bluff, and lakeshore stabilization will begin in the spring/summer of 2016 and is designed to restore ecosystems and fish habitats across the Great Lakes watershed. This is a unique opportunity to work with partners to restore nearly 2 miles of critical lakefront habitat for trees, plants, fish and birds. In-water structures are currently being engineered with construction proposed for 2017-18.
60420	Fort Sheridan Preserve	After extensive public input and a report by an advisory committee the Board decided in March 2012 to not proceed with a golf course, and received concurrence from the Army that the deed restriction did not require the retainage of a golf course on the property. Staff was directed to begin working on a Master Plan that identified alternate land uses. Public open houses were held in June 2012 and in April 2015 to solicit planning ideas and review concept plans for future public access and habitat restoration. The final Master Plan was approved by District Board in November 2015. Engineering for the first phase of the Master Plan improvements is scheduled to begin in Spring 2016 with implementation to occur in 2017.



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64810	Fox River Addition	The project is being coordinated to connect the existing trail at Fox River Forest Preserve with LCDOT's intersection improvements at River and Roberts Roads. The District's portion of trail south of Roberts Road was constructed in 2014. LCDOT's improvement project began in 2014 and continued in 2015. The round-about was opened to traffic in November 2015. LCDOT is currently working on the completion of final landscaping prior to opening the trail connection. Due to concerns over the financial impacts on future operations and public safety, the District's Standing Committees have postponed any public access improvements north of Roberts Road that were identified in the approved Master Plan.
61811	General Offices – Build Out /Misc. Infrastructure	The plan for the General Offices build-out has evolved substantially following IDNR's suspension of the \$750,000 grant that was to support the renovation of the lower level of the General Offices to accommodate the storage of the Museum collections, the approval of legislation allowing the lease of office space and the intent to transfer the Curt Teich post card collection. Demolition of the lower level began in late 2015 and will continue through early 2016. Preparation of revised plans for the collections storage in the lower level has begun and construction is anticipated to start later in 2016. In late 2015, construction began on the new Committee room for the first floor which will allow for additional Museum exhibit space to be constructed in winter 2016/17. Additional work is planned in 2016 to accommodate Museum staff and potential tenant(s) on the second floor.
64603	Gilmer Road Crossing	Construction started in July 2011 and was completed in June 2012. Project was partially funded with an IDOT ITEP grant that covered 80% of the costs. The District recently received the final billing and closeout is expected by IDOT in early 2016.
60604	Grant Woods Restoration	Restoration planning began for Grant Woods FY 14/15. Habitat improvements will enhance woodlands and shrublands in the northern portion of the preserve, north of Monaville Road. Clearing of woody invasive brush across 70 acres began in the winter of FY 2015/16. Additional clearing and native seeding will be completed in FY 2016/17 with project completion in FY 2017/18.
60618	Grant Woods South Restroom	The District has received several requests from the community for a restroom facility on the south end of Grant Woods Forest Preserve at the Rollins Road trailhead. The proposed new evaporator toilet will also serve a portion of the Chain O'Lakes Bike Path and the Long Lake cartop-only boat launch. The project is currently in design with construction anticipated to occur in Summer 2016.



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60701	Grass Lake Road Tunnel	In April 2013 the Board approved an IGA formalizing a partnership with the Lindenhurst Park District, Village of Lindenhurst and Lake Villa Township to construct a tunnel under Grass Lake Road connecting McDonald Woods to several parks and the Millburn West Middle School. District has agreed to allow a portion of the tunnel on District property and to contribute up to \$200,000 towards the project if grant funding doesn't cover all of the construction cost. The project was awarded a CMAQ funding and work began in August 2013. The project was completed and opened to the public in October 2015.
60701	Grassy Lake Improvements (Hurd property)	This project includes the construction of approximately 1.5-miles of gravel trail, 1-mile of mowed grass trail, a 24-car parking lot and restroom. Construction began in August 2014 and the public access improvements were completed and open to the public in October 2015. Outside private funding is currently being sought through the Preservation Foundation for restoration work and the educational interpretation features of the project. The habitat restoration work and follow up maintenance and monitoring will continue through 2017.
	Heron Creek – IL. Route 22 Connection	The District has been working with IDOT regarding their planned improvements to Route 22 which includes the construction of a shared-use path on the south side of Route 22 that will provide an important connection linking together Egret Marsh and Heron Creek Forest Preserves. The District is required to cover the local share costs for a 350' section of trail connecting the shared-use path to the existing trails at Heron Creek. Execution of an IGA is expected in 2016 with construction in FY2016/17.
64301	Heron Creek Phase II – Trail Addition	Phase II of the master plan includes a trail connection from the existing preserve trails south to Cuba Road. Engineering is scheduled to begin FY 2018/19 followed by construction in FY 2019/20.
	Independence Grove – Playground Shade Structure	The District has received several concerns regarding the lack of adequate shade for portions of the Children's Grove play area. The project includes design and construction of a woven fabric shade structure over a portion of the play area. Fabrication and construction is scheduled to occur in FY2016/17.
63610	Lake Carina - DPR Trail Bridge Connection	Project includes an expansion of the existing parking lot to accommodate equestrian trailers and the construction of a trail and bridge providing a connection to the existing DPR Trail. Engineering began in summer 2014 with construction anticipated to begin in FY2015/16. The District has been preliminarily awarded grant in the amount of \$200,000 through the federal Recreational Trail Program (RTP) administered through IDNR. The District is awaiting communication from IDNR on when we can proceed with bid advertisement which is currently scheduled for Spring 2016.



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64910	Lake Marie Public Access	Currently the District does not own a public access entrance to this preserve. This project includes funding for materials for the District's construction staff to build a short section of entrance road and a gravel parking lot to provide initial public access to the site and the District's only publicly accessible property on the Chain-O-Lakes. Implementation of the project will occur in FY 2017/18.
69101	Lakewood Dog Exercise Area – Use Area Expansion	This project includes the addition of approximately 5.5 acres to the existing 67-acre Dog Exercise Area at Lakewood by expanding into a portion of the former Four Winds Golf Course parcel and adding an additional 0.6 miles of mowed grass trails. The project was complete and open for public use in early October 2015.
61020	Lakewood Forest Preserve	Major trail, tunnel crossings and main entrance improvements were completed in 2012 as part of LCDOT's Route 176 and Fairfield Road Intersection Improvement project. Additional stormwater management facilities were constructed in 2013. Master plan development for Lakewood has been delayed pending decisions regarding the Lake County Discovery Museum and the future of the existing buildings.
61010	Lakewood – Tree Planting & Restoration	As part of LCDOT's Fairfield Road and Route 176 intersection improvement project, LCDOT has provided funding to the District in the amount of \$500,000 as mitigation for the tree impacts associated with the project. Initial clearing work is scheduled for winter 2015/16 and tree and shrub planting in the vicinity of the new intersection will began in the Spring 2016 and will continue through FY2016/17.
61006	Lakewood Habitat Restoration – Broberg Marsh	Restoration planning began for Broberg Marsh and surrounding uplands in FY 13/14. Habitat improvements will enhance this important wetland bird breeding area and the surrounding prairie and savanna. Clearing of woody invasive brush across 58 acres was completed in the winter of FY 2014/15 and drain tile removal and native seeding will be completed in FY 2015/16. Additional invasive plant control will be completed in the summer of 2016 with project completion in FY 2016/17.
61005	Lakewood Habitat Restoration – Schreiber Bog	Planning began for restoration of important wetland and bog communities in FY 2013/14. Clearing of woody invasive brush was completed across 37 acres of oak woodlands and wetland in FY 2014/15. Native seed was sown in fall of 2015. Additional clearing of 39 acres of woodland and wetland followed by native seeding will be completed in FY 2016/17 with project completion in FY 2017/18.



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63010	Lyons Woods Trail Connection	In 2010 the District Waukegan Savanna Master Plan that included regional trail connecting Lyons Woods and Waukegan Savanna Forest Preserves to the Des Plaines River Trail. Phase I engineering began in Fall 2014 for a 2.4 mile section of the proposed trail from Lyons Woods to Green Bay Road. The District applied for federal funding assistance through the CMAQ program in January 2015 and was notified in November 2015 that the funding had been approved through the TAP program. Phase II engineering is nearing completion and the project is currently on IDOT's schedule for an April 2016 letting. Construction is expected to begin in July 2016.
61101	Middlefork Savanna Trail Connection	This project is part of an overall effort to connect the Middlefork Trail and Greenway to the Des Plaines River Trail and represents a partnership between the District, City of Lake Forest, Village of Mettawa, Lake Forest Openlands and Lake Forest Academy. The District applied for federal funding assistance through the CMAQ program in January 2015 and was notified in November 2015 that the funding had been approved through the TAP program. Phase II engineering is nearing completion and the project is currently on IDOT's schedule for an April 2016 letting. Construction is expected to begin in late June 2016.
63214	Millennium Trail – Wilson Rd. Crossing	The construction portion of the project has been awarded funding assistance through Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) in the amount of \$2,267,674 toward construction. The project was bid by IDOT in June 2014, and work began in late Summer 2014. The underpass was complete and open for public use in late October 2015.
61314	Millennium Trail – Rollins Road Crossing	Engineering contract awarded by Board in November 2009 for crossing project. District received Federal ITEP funding through IDOT, which covers 80% of the project cost. Construction began in August 2013. The project is complete and was opened to the public in fall 2014. The District is awaiting final billing and closeout by IDOT.
63714	Millennium Trail – Grand Avenue Crossing	District received Federal ITEP funding through IDOT for this project which covers 80% of the project cost. Work began on the underpass in July 2012 and was completed and opened to the public in August 2013. The District recently received final billing and final closeout is expected by IDOT in early 2016.



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61706	Millennium Trail – Route 45 Tunnel (Ethel’s Woods)	The extension of the Millennium Trail north from McDonald Woods will require an underpass to provide a safe crossing of Route 45. It is anticipated that the underpass will be located just north of Miller Road and will provide the added benefit of connecting Raven Glen and Ethel’s Woods Forest Preserves. Implementation of this project will be combined with the Ethel’s Woods Public Access project. This project is expected to be a strong candidate for federal funding. Phase I preliminary engineering began in Summer 2015 to prepare both projects for the federally funded CMAQ program. The District recently received notice that CMAQ funding applications will not be accepted in 2016. It is anticipated that IDOT will place a call for CMAQ projects the following year in 2017.
65203	Millennium Trail – Route 173	District Board approved an IGA with IDOT in September 2013 authorizing IDOT to include the construction of a multi-use path along the north side of Illinois Route 173 as part of their road improvement project which includes the reconstruction of the bridge over Interstate 94. The District is responsible for the local share (20%) of the cost for construction of approximately 2,400 feet of 10-foot wide asphalt path. Work was completed in 2014.
61303	Millennium Trail – Route 83 & Rollins Road	District Board approved an IGA with LCDOT for the construction of a ¼-mile section of the proposed trail along Rollins Road between Hainesville Road and Hook Drive. The work will be completed in conjunction with LCDOT’s proposed grade separation improvements to the intersection of Route 83 and Rollins Road. The District will reimburse LCDOT for 12% of the local share of the engineering and construction cost. The project was complete and open to the public in August 2015.
61603	Millennium Trail – Van Patten Woods Connection	Engineering contract awarded in November 2013 for the design of a 0.5 mile section of shared use path along Russell Road. This new path will begin where LCDOT’s path terminates (east of I-94) and continue east to the existing Des Plaines River Trail at Van Patten Woods. This project will provide a link between Pine Dunes and Van Patten Woods Forest Preserves. An IGA with LCDOT, approved by District Board in November 2015, identified the needed ROW for the path improvements and future long term maintenance responsibilities. It is anticipated that LCDOT will need until April 2016 to secure the necessary ROW. It is estimated that the project will be advertised for bids in May and construction to follow in August 2016.
	Millennium Trail – McDonald Woods to Route 45	As part of the planning Millennium Trail extension connecting McDonald Woods, Raven Glen and Ethel’s Woods Forest Preserves, the District is partnering with IDOT to incorporate a shared-use path within the planned Millburn bypass and IL. Route 45 improvement project. The District is responsible for the construction of a 0.2 mile trail connection from the existing trails at McDonald Woods east to Route 45. Engineering is expected to begin in FY2016/17 and construction to follow in FY2017/18.



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63801	Nippersink Trail Connection	The District has been in discussions with LCDOT regarding their plans to reconstruct and widen Cedar Lake Road from IL Route 120 to Nippersink Road, that will include a shared use path to be constructed along the east side of Cedar Lake Road. LCDOT's project is expected to include negotiations with the District regarding additional right-of-way and stormwater management facilities. As part of the approved CIP, the District has plans for a ¾ mile trail connection from the existing loop trail at Nippersink Forest Preserve east to Cedar Lake Road. Staff is continuing discussions with LCDOT regarding their needs and the possibility of coordinating the two projects as one. Engineering is scheduled to begin in summer 2017 with construction to follow in 2018.
61911	Operations Facility – Solar Panels	As part of the strategic objective to reduce the amount of electricity purchased by the District, an option to retrofit the Operations and Public Safety facility with a solar panel system has been proposed. The District applied for an Illinois Clean Energy Coalition grant but was unsuccessful. Other opportunities to fund this project are being pursued by staff.
64201	Pine Dunes - SMD	An IGA with the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (ISTHA) was approved in May 2013 that allowed ISTHA to plan and construct wetland mitigation and additional improvements on a portion of the Pine Dunes Forest Preserve. In return for accommodating the wetland mitigation, the ISTHA will construct 2.6 miles of trails, four boardwalks, 25-car parking lot, evaporator toilet, restoration of approximately 286 acres of wetlands and upland areas and 1.4 miles of stream. The value of the restoration and public access improvements is estimated to be \$8,500,000 - \$9,000,000. The public access improvements were completed and open to the public in November 2015. The mitigation and restoration management and monitoring will be implemented by the ISTHA's contractor through 2021.
62001	Ray Lake – Fort Hill Trail Extension	Phase I of the Master Plan improvements was completed in spring 2012. These improvements included 2.7 miles of crushed stone trails, boardwalks, parking lot and restroom. Phase II is planned to include an additional trail loop and an extension of the Fort Hill Trail to Fremont Center Road. Initial engineering was completed in 2010 and the project is awaiting LCDOT's completion of the shared-use path along Fremont Center Road. Recent discussions with LCDOT indicate that they will not be ready for construction of the Fort Hill Trail along Fremont Center Road until 2018. Construction of the District's trail extension is anticipated in FY2018/19.



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Rollins Savanna – Trail Connection	This project includes a ½ mile trail extension from the existing loop trail at Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve to the intersection of Dada Drive and Illinois Route 45 and will provide a needed connection linking the Village of Gurnee trail and other unincorporated areas to Rollins Savanna and the Millennium Trail. The Village of Gurnee has agreed to complete the trail connection east of Route 45 along Knowles Road. District staff has also been in discussions with the IDOT and has received a favorable response about their participation in the project. Engineering is currently scheduled to begin in FY 2016/17 with construction to follow in FY 2017/18.
61504 Singing Hills/Kettle Grove Restoration	Restoration planning began for Kettle Grove in FY 14/15. Habitat improvements will enhance this important wetland bird habitat and the surrounding woodland. Clearing of woody invasive brush across 35 acres began in the winter of FY 2015/16. Native seeding will be completed in FY 2016/17 with project completion in FY 2017/18.
64811 Spring Bluff Wildlife Observation Area	The project includes the enhancement of Spring Bluff Road as a trail and the placement of a wildlife observation platform. A grant application was filed with the IDNR in 2014 for a potential \$263,750 Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant. The District received a notice from IDNR in March, 2015 stating that the funding assistance for this project has been suspended until further notice. Staff is awaiting further direction on whether to proceed with planning and implementation without funding assistance.
65004 Southern DPR Habitat Restoration	Baseline data collection of tree canopy and herbaceous vegetation was completed in FY10/11. Vegetation analysis and a hydrologic assessment were completed in FY11/12. Implementation of canopy thinning strategies was completed across 440 acres of dry-mesic woods and northern flatwoods within Grainger Woods, MacArthur Woods, Ryerson Conservation Area, and Wright Woods-Elm Road Forest in FY12/13 and FY13/14, followed by native seeding to restore sedges, grasses and forbs to the understory. In FY14/15, clearing of invasive woody brush and thinning of canopy trees in gaps began across 266 acres of mesic forest and northern flatwoods in MacArthur Woods, Captain Daniel Wright Woods – Lloyds Woods, and Ryerson Woods and is anticipated to be completed in Fy2015/16. An additional 176 acres of clearing within Captain Daniel Wright Woods including removal of invasive brush and understory trees will be completed in FY2015/16.



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Upper DPR - USACE Phase II Ecosystem Restoration	The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has prepared an upper Des Plaines River Phase II plan to address flooding and water quality issues in Lake County and surrounding counties. The plan has identified ecosystem restoration projects at three different forest preserves including: Prairie Stream, Raven Glen and Sedge Meadow. In January 2014, the District Board approved a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to send a letter of Support for the restoration projects. The Upper Des Plaines River and Tributaries, IL and WI Feasibility Report and Integrated Environmental Assessment passed the Civil Works Review Board on May 20, 2015. Final Chief's Report has been transmitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASACOW) for their review. Once it has passed those two reviews it is transmitted to Congress for possible authorization. We anticipate that Congress will receive the Chief's Report in late 2015. The projects could be implemented over a 15 year period beginning in 2017.
Van Patten Woods – Equestrian & Public Parking Improvements	This project was approved in the 5-Year CIP due to the increased demand for additional parking at the existing Russell Road equestrian and general public parking lots. The improvements will expand the existing equestrian parking lot from 6 to 12 spaces and the general parking lot from 8 to 14 spaces. In March 2015, the District applied for federal funding assistance through the Regional Trails Program (RTP). The District is awaiting communication from IDNR on the list of selected projects.
64610 Waukegan Savanna – Phase I	The Master Plan was approved by District Board in August 2010. Phase I of the plan includes the implementation of the proposed Dog Exercise Area to be located at the northeast corner of Yorkhouse Road and Delany Road. Improvements include an 80-car parking lot, evaporator toilet and crushed stone trail loop. The project is currently scheduled for bidding in February 2016 with construction to begin in June 2016. A public opening is expected in the summer 2017.
62410 Wright Woods/McArthur Woods Dam Removal	Funding had been provided by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for the removal of two remaining dams on the Des Plaines River. In July 2015 the Forest Preserve was notified by the IDNR that the grant funding was suspended until further notice. We have this project under contract and the contractor has agreed to hold the contract until funding is available.
