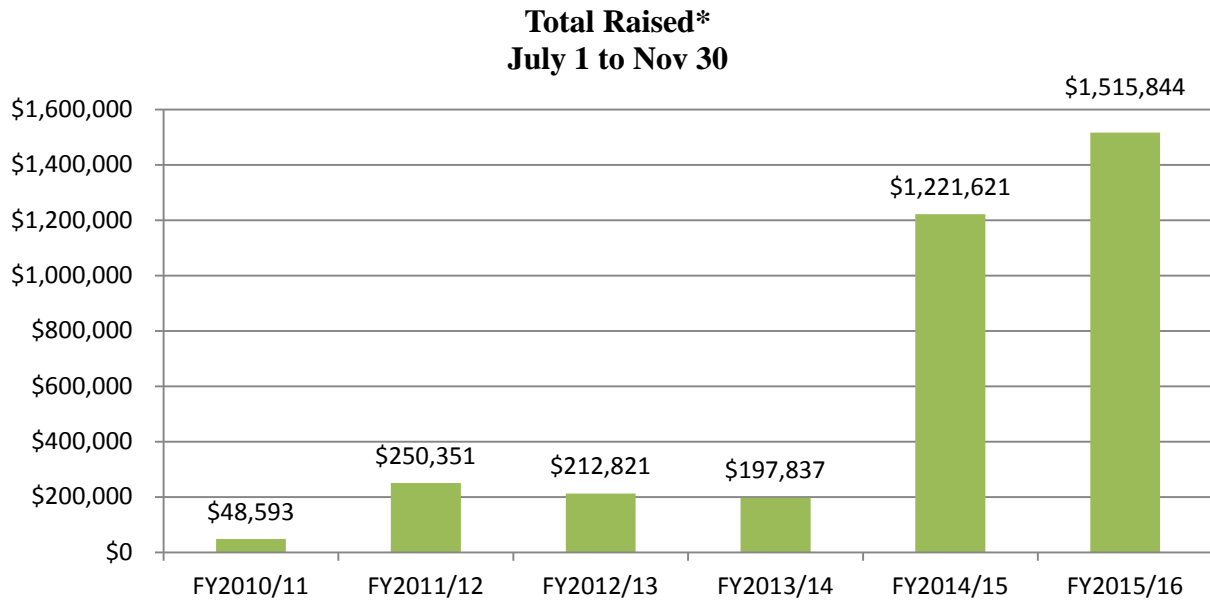
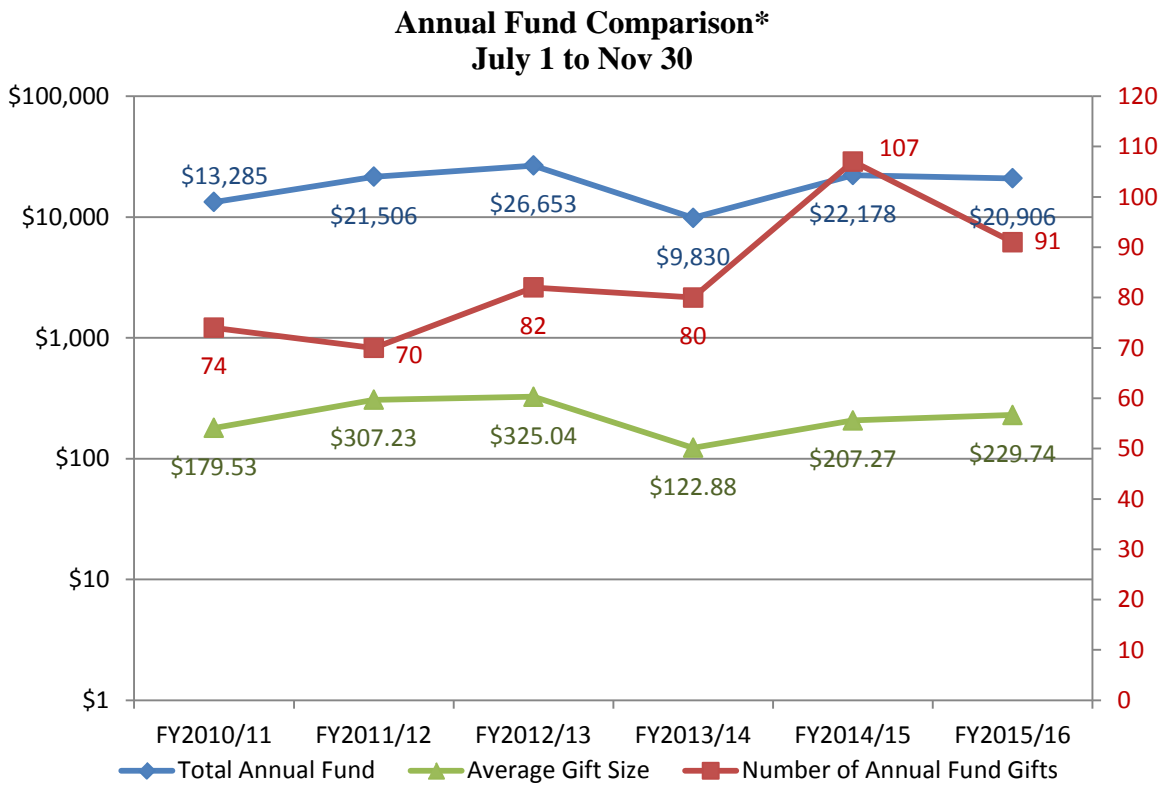


**Development Department Report
January 7, 2015**

Year-to-Date Fundraising Progress



* Includes cash, pledges, and in-kind gifts. Excludes payments received on pledges made in previous years.



*The FY2015/16 Annual Fund goal is \$70,000.

Recent Major Gifts and Grants

- A couple who has made previous gifts to Grassy Lake Forest Preserve has doubled their commitment, bringing their total support to \$150,000. The recent gift will be used to challenge other donors to support the project, to reach our \$400,000 fundraising goal, which will fund the full restoration and interpretation of the Hurd property.
- A \$35,000 gift was received from a couple that has made a previous major gift and given their time and energy as restoration volunteers for many years. The funds will be used to clear invasive plants at Fourth Lake Forest Preserve.
- A corporate donor recently contributed \$25,000 to support construction of the new bridge across the Metra tracks at Middlefork Savanna.
- A donor who has made previous major gifts to support the Curt Teich Postcard Archives has made a gift of approximately \$50,000 to support the *First Folio!* exhibition at the Discovery Museum. Combined with a \$15,000 grant from the Friends of the Lake County Discovery Museum, the costs to host this national traveling exhibition will be fully covered through private funding.

Preservation Foundation Board of Directors

- The Preservation Foundation Board had its quarterly meeting on November 11, where they approved the foundation's first strategic plan.
- The new strategic plan calls for governance changes, such as increasing the size of the board, introducing term limits, changing the length of the board term, and updating bylaws and policies.
 - o Three new standing committees will be formed: Executive, Finance and Development, and the board will recruit both new board members and new non-board members of these committees.
 - o The Friends of the Lake County Discovery Museum have voted to dissolve as an independent 501c3 organization in order to become an advisory committee of the Preservation Foundation. The Friends, formally called the Lake County Museum Association, have been an independent organization since the 1970s.
- The Preservation Foundation is audited annually as component of the District's audit. At the meeting, RSM (formerly McGladrey) issued a clean audit on the Preservation Foundation, with no management findings.
- At the November meeting, the foundation board approved a grant request from the Department of Natural Resources to fund outreach to private landowners adjacent to Ryerson Woods Conservation Area. The pilot project will seek to educate landowners on the work they can do on their properties to improve the ecological condition of Ryerson Woods, including clearing invasive buckthorn, and to enroll those landowners in the Conservation @ Home program.

Outreach and Awareness Efforts

- For the first time, the Development Department was able to send an appeal for support to most of the District's regular volunteers. Nearly 300 letters were sent to volunteers in a mid-December mailing.
- Staff promoted the Adopt an Acre/Adopt a Mile program as a holiday giving opportunity through a press release. WBBM picked up the story, and a segment on the program aired on December 9, directly resulting in at least two new donations and increased awareness of the program.
- Giving Tuesday Facebook promotion reached 343 people:



Lake County Forest Preserves

December 1 at 8:00am · 🌐

Today is #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving, and support your Lake County Forest Preserves.

There are many ways you can make an investment, including:

-Make a One Time Donation (<http://www.lcfd.org/preservation-foundation/donate-now/>)

-Adopt an Acre or Mile of Your Favorite Preserve (<http://www.lcfd.org/preservation-foundati.../.../adopt-an-acre/>)

-Make a Planned Gift (<http://thepreservationfoundation.giftplans.org/>)

-Give the Gift of Your Time and Talent (<http://www.lcfd.org/volunteer/>)

Last year, more than 30,000 organizations in 68 countries came together to celebrate #GivingTuesday. We invite you to join the movement this season and help extend and accelerate the impact of your Forest Preserves.



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