



**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Capital Improvement Plan
Projects Status Report**

December 31, 2018

Project No.	Project Name	Status of Project
ONGOING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS		
60004	General Habitat Restoration	Funding for the Forest Preserve’s Land Management Program including on-going restoration improvements, management of grant and mitigation projects, ecological management and natural resource assessments of wildlife populations and habitats. This fiscal year (FY 2018/19) restoration efforts were implemented at Ethel’s Woods, Ray Lake–Cuneo Restoration, Van Patten and Wadsworth Savanna. Restoration work includes the removal of invasive woody vegetation and the purchase of native seed and plants. Plants and seed were installed in fall 2018.
60010	Preserve Tree Planting	In the Spring, Summer and Fall 2018, approximately 260 Trees, 270 shrubs and 3600 herbaceous perennials were planted with preserve tree planting and project specific funds at various forest preserves, including Fort Sheridan, General Offices, Grant Woods, Independence Grove, Middlefork Savanna, Lakewood, Rollins Savanna, Ryerson, Waukegan Savanna and Van Patten Woods.
60008	District-Wide Reforestation	In fall 2018, 943 native trees and 2,141 native shrubs were installed for habitat restoration across 154.5 acres at Grassy Lake, Van Patten Woods, Ray Lake, Lyons Woods Captain Daniel Wright Woods (Lloyd’s Woods) and Lakewood Forest Preserves. In 2019, it is anticipated that 566 trees and 1,607 shrubs will be installed at Greenbelt, Cuba Marsh, Rollins Savanna and Kettle Grove Forest Preserves.
60009	Repair of Existing Roads/Parking	In 2018, the Rollins Savanna Washington Street parking lot and seed nursery area was repaved. In 2019, contractual pavement maintenance will occur at various sites, including patching and pavement markings of roads and parking lots. Major repaving projects in 2019 are expected to include the parking lots at Sun Lake, Sedge Meadow Canoe Launch, and the Greenbelt Cultural Center, and may be influenced by the results of the District-wide accessibility assessment.
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 were completed in 2018 including: the retrofit of the outdoor storage facility at Greenbelt Cultural Center and the Flat Roof Replacement at the Independence Grove Visitor Center. Several projects are still identified for 2018/19. These include repair and retrofit of the low overhang roof section of the Independence Grove Visitor Center, exterior restoration to the Stevenson House and Service Building, Brushwood roof replacement at Ryerson, building upgrades at Fox River, building upgrades at Independence Grove, and maintenance shop improvements at Van Patten Woods and Old School.



60030	District-wide Accessibility Improvements	In an effort to improve accessibility to the District's preserves, facilities, programs and communications for people of all ages and abilities, the initial project includes performing a thorough review and assessment to identify accessibility deficiencies and to develop a long range plan for improvement. In March 2018, a contract was executed with a consultant to assist with the assessment and the transition plan that will identify and prioritize needed improvements. The assessment portion of the work is 90% complete and it is anticipated that the full assessment and transition plan will be completed in April 2019. Accessibility improvements that have been completed in 2018 include the acquisition of active listening devices to be used at future public meetings and door openers at the Independence Grove Visitor Center.
PUBLIC ACCESS / MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS		
64701	Buffalo Creek – LCDOT Mitigation Bank Trail	In April 2000, the District and the County of Lake executed an IGA that allowed the LCDOT to design and construct a wetland mitigation bank on District property for 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 as a feasible wetland bank site. In October 2016, the District and the County of Lake executed a new Intergovernmental and License Agreement that will allow for the construction of the wetland bank the expansion of hiking and biking trails at Buffalo Creek. Installation of the initial restoration plantings and construction of the trails were completed late summer 2018, and the wetland and upland planting establishment is subject to a five-year maintenance and monitoring period before final signoff by the USACE.
64710	Buffalo Creek – MWRD Reservoir Expansion	In February 2013, the Planning and Restoration Committee approved a concept plan and authorized staff to negotiate an IGA with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) for expansion of the existing reservoir to provide an additional 184 acre/feet of flood storage and completion of the District's planned public access improvements. The District approved the IGA in June 2016 and as a result the District is set to receive approximately \$3.5 million in public access and restoration improvements in exchange for allowing the expansion of the west basin of the existing reservoir. Construction began in June 2018 and completion is expected in late 2019 which will trigger the beginning of a three-year monitoring and management period before final signoff by the USACE.
60025	Duck Farm Dog Exercise Area Accessibility Improvements	A preliminary evaluation of accessibility deficiencies at the existing Dog Exercise Areas was conducted in 2015 and was further refined in 2017/18. The Duck Farm DEA was identified as a priority to coordinate with IDOT's planned re-alignment of the parking lot entrance. Engineering began in late fall 2018 with construction anticipated to begin in fall 2019.



**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Capital Improvement Plan
Projects Status Report**

December 31, 2018

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 Forest Preserve 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. IDOT currently has the project scheduled for a spring 2019 letting.
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 North Mill Creek/Rasmussen Lake restoration, the District requested and received approval for an extension until late 2019 to complete construction. Construction began in March 2018 and completion is expected in summer 2019.
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 of Riverwoods' bike paths (to the east and south) to Captain Daniel Wright Woods and the DPR Trail. Engineering began in late summer 2014. 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 was split into two phases to coincide with LCDOT's planned road improvements. The District completed the first phase in July 2017 and the second phase will be completed by LCDOT in fall 2019.
60420	Fort Sheridan Preserve	The final Master Plan was approved by District Board in November 2015. Construction began in June 2017 and all work with the exception of the grass birding trail was completed and opened to the public on July 3, 2018. Turf establishment for the birding trail is continuing with the anticipated opening in June 2019.
61811	General Offices – Build Out /Misc. Infrastructure	With the successful move of the museum to the first floor and basement levels of the General offices, the District build out to the facility is complete. Efforts are still on-going to provide space for potential tenant(s) on the second floor of the General Offices.



**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Capital Improvement Plan
Projects Status Report**

December 31, 2018

64703	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. The District is awaiting final billing and close-out by IDOT.
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. The work remaining to be completed in 2019 includes re-seeding of the grass hiking trail and the fabrication and installation of the interpretive exhibits.
	Hastings Lake Trail Connection	The District and the Village of Lindenhurst have received numerous requests over the last several years to construct a small section of trail (370 lineal feet) connecting a portion of the Village to the District's existing trails at Hastings Lake. In September 2018, the District and the Village executed an IGA that identified general terms for completing the trail connection including the Village's commitment to purchase a vacant lot and to reimburse the District for material costs for the construction. The District has committed staff time to engineer and administer the project and to providing all labor and equipment to complete the construction of the trail. Completion of the trail connection is anticipated in the summer 2019.
64301	Heron Creek – IL. Route 22 Connection	The District has been working with IDOT regarding their planned improvements to IL Route 22 which includes the construction of a shared-use path on the south side of IL Route 22 that will provide an important connection linking together Egret Marsh and Heron Creek. The District is required to cover the local share costs for a 350-ft. section of trail connecting the shared-use path to the existing trails at Heron Creek. Execution of an IGA is expected in 2019 with construction in FY2018/19.
	Lake County Destination	To position the District to think about a Destination, there have been a number of projects in motion that will help to bring focus to the mission. The museum move is complete and the collection and archives are safely stored in the basement of the General Offices. The 'forever' buildings have been identified, and the District is working toward reducing its square footage, as well as right-sizing infrastructure. The Green Infrastructure Model is complete and can be used to make strategic decisions on the landscape.



**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Capital Improvement Plan
Projects Status Report**

December 31, 2018

61020	Lakewood Forest Preserve	<p>Major trail, tunnel crossings and main entrance improvements were completed in 2012 as part of LCDOT's Fairfield Road and IL Route 176 Intersection Improvement project. Additional stormwater management facilities were constructed in 2013. The new Master Plan for Lakewood began in 2017. Initial data collection on the existing buildings, parking lot use and future needs was completed in 2018. Two different architects have completed an analysis of the existing buildings to identify possible historic significance and potential re-use opportunities. A spring 2019 public open house is planned, and Board approval of the final plan is expected in fall 2019.</p>
61011	Lakewood – Grounds Maintenance Building Replacement	<p>As part of the master planning effort for Lakewood, preliminary cost estimates have been developed regarding required upgrades to the existing buildings currently occupied by the grounds maintenance staff versus the construction of a new building. Because of the code compliance costs required to improve the existing buildings, it was recommended that a new energy efficient building be constructed that is consistent with the District's overall efforts to right size infrastructure District-wide and reduce the long term operating costs. It is anticipated that this new maintenance building design will be a strong candidate for funding assistance through the Illinois Clean Energy Net Zero Energy Building Program. A request for qualifications to hire an architect with net zero building experience will be distributed in January 2019 and applications for the next cycle of funding assistance are due in June 2019.</p>
61010	Lakewood – Tree Planting	<p>As part of LCDOT's Fairfield Road and IL 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. A number of projects have been completed since 2015 including the removal of invasive plant species and native tree and shrub planting in the vicinity of the new intersection. In conjunction with the Lakewood Master Plan additional planning will occur in 2019 to identify the allocation of the remainder of the funding which will include additional vegetation removal, herbiciding, native seeding and tree planting.</p>
63010	Lyons Woods Trail Connection	<p>In 2010, the District completed the Waukegan Savanna Master Plan that included a regional trail connecting Lyons Woods and Waukegan Savanna 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. Construction began on the IDOT-led project that began in May 2017 and was completed and open to the public in August 2018. Currently awaiting final billing and close-out from IDOT.</p>



**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Capital Improvement Plan
Projects Status Report**

December 31, 2018

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, 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. Construction began in early spring 2017 and was opened to the public in November 2017. Final landscaping and signage were completed in spring 2018. Currently awaiting final billing and close-out from IDOT.
65503	Millennium Trail – McDonald Woods to Route 45	As part of the planned Millennium Trail extension connecting McDonald Woods, Raven Glen and Ethel’s Woods, the District is partnering with IDOT to incorporate a shared-use path within the planned Millburn bypass and U.S. 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 U.S. Route 45. IDOT began construction on the bypass in June 2018. Engineering on the District’s connection also began in June 2018 with construction to follow in 2020.
65203	Millennium Trail – Route 173	The District’s 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 IL 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. Currently awaiting IDOT’s final billing and closeout.
	Millennium Trail – Route 45 Tunnel and Trail (Ethel’s Woods)	The extension of the Millennium Trail north from McDonald Woods will require an underpass to provide a safe crossing of U.S. Route 45. It is anticipated that the underpass will be located just north of Miller Road and will provide the added benefit of safely connecting Raven Glen and Ethel’s Woods. This project has been identified as a strong candidate for federal funding assistance requiring a Phase I engineering study. Phase I engineering was completed in the fall 2018 and Phase II engineering is scheduled to begin in early 2019. It is anticipated that applications for CMAQ funded projects will be due in early 2019.
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 at the east boundary of Pine Dunes 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. 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. In March 2015, the District applied for federal funding assistance through the Regional Trails Program (RTP). In August 2016 the District was notified by IDNR that funding has been approved in the amount of \$200,000. The trail connection was completed and opened to the public in June 2018.



**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Capital Improvement Plan
Projects Status Report**

December 31, 2018

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. Currently awaiting final billing and close-out from IDOT.
61812	Museum Relocation	The project was completed in March 2018.
63801	Nippersink - LCDOT 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 has included negotiations with the District regarding additional ROW and plans for a 0.75-mile trail connection from the existing loop trail at Nippersink east to Cedar Lake Road. The District and LCDOT are coordinating the two projects as one to be built under the same contract. An IGA, that will identify the terms of the shared resources, was approved by the District Board in March 2017. Construction began in July 2017, and the work located on District property was completed and open to the public in December 2018.
	North-Central Preserve Connections	Due diligence continues on the feasibility of incorporating a rustic/alternative trail system within the North Central Preserves. Given the flooding event in July of 2017, staff is continuing to monitor funding opportunities with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers for restoration work on the North-Central Preserves.
	Oriole Grove – Master Plan	In December 2017, the District Board approved a land exchange with the State of Illinois that will transfer all of the States interest in Oriole Grove and Prairie Wolf Forest Preserves to the District in exchange for the State acquiring full ownership of Black Crown Forest Preserve. With full ownership of Oriole Grove, staff resources are needed to coordinate with Lake Bluff Openlands Association and Lake Forest Openlands Association, prepare a master plan for the Preserve and to fund raise for potential improvements and operational costs. The master plan process is scheduled to begin in January 2019.
64211	Pine Dunes – Wildlife Conservation Facility	As part of the District's efforts to reduce the number of facilities, the Wildlife Conservation Facility has been relocated from Fourth Lake to Pine Dunes. Construction will be completed in Spring of 2019 and staff has moved all operations out of the Fourth Lake facility and are functioning at the new Wildlife Conservation Facility.



**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Capital Improvement Plan
Projects Status Report**

December 31, 2018

61301	Rollins Savanna – Gurnee Trail Connection	This project includes a 0.5-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 U.S. Route 45 along Knowles Road, and that work was completed in the summer 2018. Engineering was completed on the portion within Rollins Savanna and construction is expected to follow in 2019.
61310	Rollins Savanna – Third Lake Trail Improvements	For several years, the Village of Third Lake has approached the District regarding the possibility of installing gravel surfacing on the existing grass trail connection to Lake Avenue. In January 2016 the District received a letter from the Village committing \$30,000 to offset the cost of the gravel surfacing. During the budget discussions for FY 2017-18, the District Board approved the project and added it to the CIP. The District’s construction crew completed 75% of the work in the fall 2018 and it is anticipated that the remainder of the work will be completed in the spring 2019.
	Ryerson Barn – Education Classroom	Based on the District-wide Facility and Infrastructure Assessment, the decision was made to relocate the Ryerson education classrooms from the present location in the cabins to the main barn. Preliminary design concepts have been developed for the conversion of the barn to classrooms with bathroom facilities. Cost estimates are being put together for review with project construction tentatively scheduled for FY 2020 at the earliest.
64811	Spring Bluff Wildlife Observation Area	The project includes the enhancement of an existing asphalt road at Spring Bluff 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 delayed notice from IDNR in fall 2016 stating that the funding has been approved for the project. During the FY 2016/17 budget discussions, the project was removed from the CIP and placed on the unfunded list of potential projects for future consideration. In September 2016 the Board directed staff to except the grant funding and restore the original funding in the CIP for FY 2017/18. Construction in the road conversion was completed in the summer 2018 and construction of the observation platform was completed in the fall 2018. Currently awaiting the certificate of occupancy from the County before the platform can be open to the public.



64610 Waukegan Savanna – Dog Exercise Area	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 and Delany Roads. Improvements include a 60-car parking lot, evaporator toilet and concrete entrance and seating areas. Original bidding was over-budget, but a second bidding in December 2016 was favorable and construction began in spring 2017. All site grading, entrance drive, parking lot, toilet, concrete walks, shade shelters, perimeter fencing, entrance fencing with gates and final landscaping have been completed. Currently awaiting proper grass establishment before opening to the public.
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HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS

Buffalo Creek Mitigation - Wright Woods	As part of the approved IGA with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD), the District has received compensation in the amount of \$400,000 for wetland restoration and enhancement at Captain Daniel Wright Woods as offsite wetland mitigation compensation due to wetland impacts associated with MWRD's reservoir expansion project at Buffalo Creek. This project will begin with the clearing of woody invasive trees and shrubs over a 67-acre area and the restoration of northern flatwoods during the winter of FY2018/19, followed by native seeding and planting in the fall of 2019.
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64104 Cuba Marsh Habitat Restoration	Planning began in FY 2013/14 to restore wetland, prairie and savanna habitats to enhance wildlife populations and expand remnant high-quality vegetation, with implementation starting in FY 2014/15. From 2014-2016, 188 acres of woodland, prairie and wetland were cleared of woody invasive brush and sown with native seed. In addition, 650 trees and shrubs were planted on the western side of the preserve. Restoration activities in FY2017/18 included control of invasive herbaceous and woody resprouts, the completion of a site-wide hydrologic analysis that informs wetland restoration actions which will be implemented by in-house staff. The District is fostering and forming a new partnership between partners, including, Citizens for Conservation, the Bobolink Foundation, Great Lakes Audubon, and Friends of the Forest Preserve to work cooperatively to meet regional habitat restoration goals in the southwest portion of the county.
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63910 Ethel's Woods – N. Mill Creek Restoration	A contract for design, engineering and permitting for Phase II construction was executed in summer 2016. Final design was complete in early 2017 with all necessary permits secured in spring 2017. Competitive bids were accepted and a contract for construction awarded in September. Phase II construction started in fall 2017, with preliminary work completed over the winter. The bulk of new channel construction has occurred in 2018. There will need to be additional channel construction required in the Spring of 2019 with final seeding and planting in spring/summer of 2019.
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Lake County Forest Preserve District
Capital Improvement Plan
Projects Status Report

December 31, 2018

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. Ravine, lake bluff, and lakeshore stabilization work began in spring 2016, and are part of the USACE’s effort to restore ecosystems and fish habitats across the Great Lakes watershed. Scott and Jane Ravine stream bank stabilization measures were installed in 2017. Due to significant storm events the ravine stabilization failed and will need to be remediated in 2019. Other restoration at the preserve including planting 250,000 sedge and forb plant plugs throughout the ravines and newly created sand dune habitat. 300 trees and shrubs and 30 acres of prairie seed were also planted in 2017. Ongoing control of invasive woody and herbaceous plants will continue into year three of the five-year federal project. In November of 2018 the US Army Corps of Engineers informed the Forest Preserve that they had secured \$1.8 million in funding for in-water habitat structures (natural stone reefs) which are currently being designed and engineered.
63709	Fourth Lake – Hepatica Restoration	With the financial support of a private donor through the Preservation Foundation, this woodland restoration will protect and expand the diverse, high-quality native plant community near the eastern shore of Fourth Lake. Invasive woody plant control began in winter of FY 2017/18, with follow-up seeding, plug planting, and management planned for summer and fall 2019.
60604	Grant Woods Restoration	Restoration planning began for Grant Woods FY 2014/15. Habitat improvements will enhance woodlands and shrublands in the northern portion of the preserve, north of Monaville Road. Since 2014/15 128 acres have been successfully cleared of invasive woody species. Clearing of woody invasive brush across 62 acres will be cleared in FY 2018/19, followed by seeding in fall 2019. Funding for this work is being provided by a private donor through the Preservation Foundation.
61012	Lakewood – Smooth Green Snake Reintroduction	Over the past decade, the District has purchased and restored a significant amount of land containing suitable green snake habitat at Lakewood Forest Preserve. This three phase project to recover the smooth green snake includes monitoring and refinement of suitable habitat, population supplementation and/or reintroduction of the smooth green snakes and long term monitoring of captive breed individuals in compliance with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Project will proceed in 2019.



Lake County Forest Preserve District
Capital Improvement Plan
Projects Status Report

December 31, 2018

61006	Lakewood Habitat Restoration – Broberg Marsh	Restoration planning began for Broberg Marsh and surrounding uplands in FY 2013/14. 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 followed by native seeding in FY 2015/16. Additional invasive plant control was completed in the summer of 2016 with Phase 2 clearing of all remaining areas occurring in the winter of 2016-2017. In fall 2017, drain tiles surrounding the marsh were disabled to restore the natural hydrology to the extent possible. Minor seeding will take place during winter/spring 2018/2019 to areas disturbed by the tile disablement. Some additional clearing of newly acquire parcels will occur in 2019.
61005	Lakewood Habitat Restoration – Schreiber Bog	Planning began for restoration of important wetland and woodland communities in FY 2013/14. Clearing of woody invasive species and native seeding has been completed across 114 acres of oak woodlands and wetland since beginning the project in FY 2014/15 and 2015/16, and a total of 1,815 native trees and shrubs have also been installed during that time. Additional clearing of 34 acres of woodland and wetland followed by native seeding was completed in FY 2017/18, with project completion in FY 2019/20.
61104	Middlefork Savanna – Buckthorn Pilot Project	In 2015, the District began leading a partnership of multiple agencies to explore potential strategies for eradicating buckthorn, an invasive species. During summer 2017, a public survey was sent to all residences surrounding Middlefork Savanna to inquire about buckthorn on their property, as well as to investigate the public’s views on buckthorn, their home landscapes, and the value of natural areas. Analysis of the survey results are ongoing and will be presented to the partnership in 2018 in order to determine the future steps of this project. Additionally, in 2016, the District was successful in receiving grant funds from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Chi-Cal Rivers Fund grant program to address approximately 62 acres of land at Middlefork Savanna impacted by buckthorn. Work began to clear this area in the winter of 2016/2017, with completion in 2018, followed by the installation of native seed. The Forest Preserve through a local donor is collaborating with several neighbors to conduct buckthorn removal on adjacent lands to Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve which is occurring this winter 2018/19.
Oak Woodland and Ecological Complexes	The Forest Preserve has been working with several partners through the Morton Arboretum’s Chicago Regional Tree Initiative to implement the Oak Ecosystem Recovery Plan. Goals in the plan include identifying restoration opportunities for 1,000-acre woodlands, increasing regeneration of oak species, reducing buckthorn densities, and encouraging restoration of urban woodland canopies in and around forest preserves, natural areas and adjacent residential areas. The Chicago Regional Trees Initiative is developing buckthorn reduction and canopy increase strategies. The Forest Preserve in collaboration with the Morton Arboretum has identified a focus area surrounding Ryerson Woods and Cahokia Flatwoods and is working to engage neighbors in the protection, restoration and management of the Natural and Urban Canopy in this area.	



Lake County Forest Preserve District
Capital Improvement Plan
Projects Status Report

December 31, 2018

64404	Old School – Phase II Restoration	This project will restore oak woodland habitat in a 45-acre area located north of the existing loop road. The work will include clearing of woody invasive brush and successional tree species followed by seeding in an effort to establish a native herbaceous ground cover. Clearing work is scheduled for the winter of 2018-19.
62504	Prairie Wolf – Mitigation Project	With funding from a private developer for off-site wetland mitigation, the District began habitat restoration in FY 2018/19 by removing invasive woody plants within a 25-acre woodland bordering the Chicago River. The area will be seeded with native grasses and forbs in fall 2019, followed by native tree and shrub, wetland plug planting and a five year management period.
56055	Ray Lake – Cuneo Phase 1 Restoration	The District has received approximately \$83,000 in grant funding from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation and approximately \$70,000 of farm license revenue (over 2 years) to support site investigations and initial habitat restoration. A drain tile investigation and fish survey were completed in 2016, and detailed soil mapping was completed in fall 2017. Currently, a consultant is investigating the hydrology of the site to determine wetland restoration opportunities. Clearing of invasive woody vegetation has begun and subsequent seeding is planned for winter 2018/2019. A restoration plan is being developed to restore a large uninterrupted grassland/wetland ecological complex.
61504	Singing Hills/Kettle Grove Restoration	Restoration planning began for Kettle Grove in FY 2014/15. Habitat improvements will enhance this important wetland bird habitat and the surrounding woodland. Clearing of woody invasive brush and native seeding across 70 acres has been completed since starting the project in FY 2015/16. An additional 2.5 acres of woody invasive brush was cleared by in-house crews in winter FY 2017/18. Future work includes restoration of the agricultural fields, which will be funded by a private donation through the Preservation Foundation.
65004	Southern DPR Habitat Restoration	Since 2012, canopy thinning and removal of invasive woody brush has occurred across 1,195 acres of MacArthur Woods, Captain Daniel Wright Woods, Grainger Woods and Ryerson Conservation Area. In FY 2017/18, the final phase of canopy thinning was completed in the dry mesic woodlands of MacArthur Woods, Captain Daniel Wright Woods and Ryerson Conservation Area. In summer 2017, the District hosted a day-long seminar of oak ecosystem restoration with researchers from around the Midwest region. Assessment of the project is being conducted by researchers at the Morton Arboretum to look at the response of environmental conditions after the canopy thinning, by researchers at the Illinois Natural History Survey documenting avian response and by researchers at Southern Illinois University to document the occurrence of semi-aquatic mammals.



**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Capital Improvement Plan
Projects Status Report**

December 31, 2018

56050	Spring Bluff – Connecting Coastal Habitats (Lake Plain Habitat Restoration Project)	Funded in the fall of 2017, in the amount of \$1,000,000.00, this project will restore 683 acres of wetland and upland in the Chiwaukee Prairie Illinois Beach Lake Plain, begin restoration on 66 acres of wetland and savanna within the decommissioned the Zion Nuclear Power Plant (owned by Exelon Corporation), and, in partnership with UW Parkside, will collect baseline data on the invertebrate taxa across a range of conditions (remnant, restored and degraded habitat) to understand how insect species respond to restoration. The work of this project began in the spring of 2018 continuing through fall 2020 and will work across nine properties in Illinois and Wisconsin, eight of which are a part of the RAMSAR Wetland of International Importance. Partners include: the District, IDNR, WDNR, Village of Pleasant Prairie, Village of Winthrop Harbor, Zion Park District, Zion Solutions, Exelon Corporation, UW-Parkside, NIU, The Nature Conservancy, Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund, the Friends of Illinois Beach, and Volunteer Stewards at Fossland Park and Hosah Prairie. The Lakeplain Partnership sought and received funding assistance from a private donor in the amount of \$750,000 for the next three years.
65012	Southern DPR – Woodland Amphibian Reintroduction	In April 2014, following reintroduction efforts by the District, wood frogs were found breeding at MacArthur Woods for the first time since the mid 1980’s. In 2017, wood frogs were also reintroduced at Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area and Granger Woods. This project will continue the augmentation of these reintroduced populations and provide an additional three years of monitoring beginning in 2019
