

PF

PRESERVATION FOUNDATION



2022

# L C F

LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT



# PD

Annual Report

Core support for the Lake County Forest Preserves comes from annual tax revenue paid by Lake County residents. Responsible stewardship of tax payer dollars greatly benefits the 64 preserves we all enjoy.

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# PFF

To enhance support, the Preservation Foundation was established to provide corporations, foundations and individuals a way to directly impact specific LCFPD projects and programs that they are passionate about.







# Endowing Our Future

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We envision in 100 years, Lake County will be a healthy and resilient landscape with restored and preserved natural lands, waters and cultural assets.

To make this vision a reality, we must ensure that once our woodlands, prairies and wetlands are restored to ecological health, there are resources in place for ongoing care.

Once land has been restored, the Forest Preserves spends about \$75 per acre annually to guarantee the habitat remains healthy. At a midsize preserve, such as the 686-acre Middlefork Savanna in Lake Forest, more than \$50,000 a year will be spent on land management, including removing invasive species and supplementing restoration areas with climate-adapted native seed, plants, trees and shrubs.





# 35%

OF 31,100 ACRES OF  
FOREST PRESERVES LAND  
HAS BEEN RESTORED.

To provide funding to keep our restored lands healthy, we launched a community campaign to inspire gifts at every level from individuals, companies, and foundations to fund a permanent endowment. Our goal is \$20 million by the end of 2025.

We are well on our way. In 2022, donors contributed more than \$3.5 million. When we reach our goal, the endowment will generate investment returns, year after year, and the Foundation will direct an estimated \$800,000





annually to the Forest Preserves.  
This dependable source of  
funding will help ensure that  
Lake County's natural ecosystems  
remain healthy and resilient for  
generations to come.



## TO OUR FOUNDATION COMMUNITY

Thank you for making 2022 a fantastic year for the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves and ensuring our 15th anniversary was truly something to celebrate.

In many ways, last year marked the start of a new season of growth for the Foundation. With a new executive director starting in June, our Board of Directors continuing to grow, and more than 200 donors supporting our \$20 million endowment campaign, 2022 was an opportunity to leverage our existing world-class public/private partnership and help the Forest Preserves do more. But our work is just the soil; you are the one planting seeds and nurturing a growing landscape.

Whether you gave to the endowment, the Annual Fund, or to support a project or program in the preserves, you helped ensure that 100 years from now, Lake County will be a healthy and resilient landscape with restored and preserved natural lands, waters and cultural assets. Every gift helps extend and accelerate the work of the Forest Preserves and create a vibrant community now and for future generations.







# USG Free Nights

Thanks to the generous support of USG, visitors can enjoy free admission and special programs at the Bess Bower Dunn Museum in Libertyville.



USG is firmly committed to sustainability and supporting the communities where its employees live and work. For the sixth consecutive year, the Libertyville-based company's support allowed visitors free access to the Museum on the first and third Thursday of every month.

Their goal in supporting us is to increase access to the Museum and quality learning opportunities during extended hours on Thursday evenings.



# 1,147

PEOPLE ATTENDED A  
USG PROGRAM OR FREE  
ADMISSION NIGHT  
IN 2022.

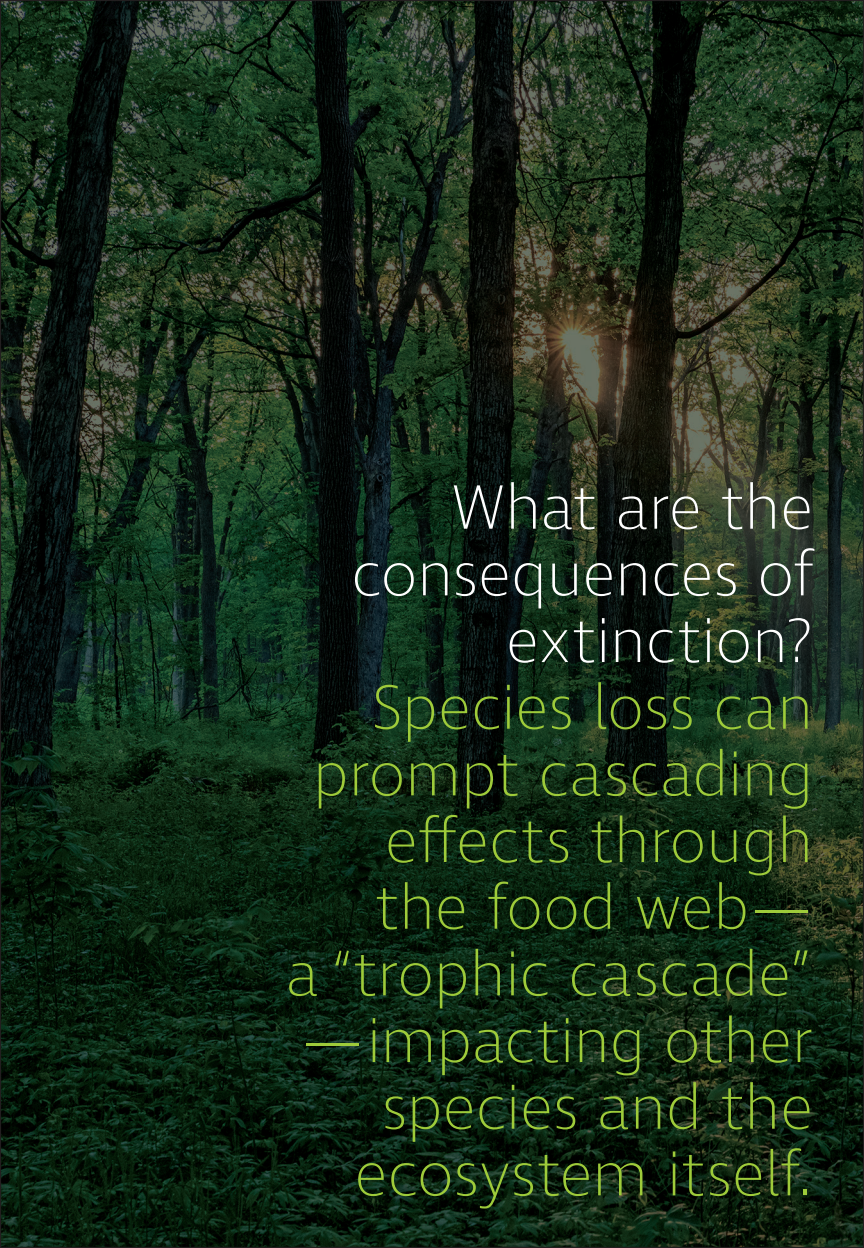


In a survey of Thursday evening visitors, 64% of respondents said that free admission prompted their visit. Specific program/event (53%) and evening hours (35%) were the second and third reasons given.



In 2022, Museum attendance reached nearly 16,000 with visitors from all zip codes in the county, 24 states and Puerto Rico. We are grateful to USG for their partnership and appreciate their help expanding the Dunn Museum's reach.



A photograph of a dense forest with tall, thin trees and lush green foliage. Sunlight is streaming through the canopy, creating a bright, hazy glow in the background. The overall tone is green and natural.

What are the  
consequences of  
extinction?

Species loss can  
prompt cascading  
effects through  
the food web—  
a “trophic cascade”  
—impacting other  
species and the  
ecosystem itself.



# Testing Blanding's Turtles

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Ecologists from the Lake County Forest Preserves worked with expert wildlife veterinarians to monitor Blanding's turtles and develop protocols to keep them safe from a new fungus detected in Lake County that may lead to a fatal disease.





Over the past 14 years, Manager of Conservation Ecology Gary Glowacki and his team have established the largest Blanding's turtle population in the state. Donor support allowed the team to conduct health assessments on the population —

something that is rarely done in these types of programs. During this assessment, some animals tested positive for *Emydomyces testavorans*, a fungus known to be highly associated with shell disease in other turtle species.







It was thanks to the on-going, generous support of donors to the turtle program that the potential problem was discovered. In 2022, 94 individuals gave more than \$21,000 to hire seasonal field technicians and purchase equipment to support our Blanding's Turtle Recovery Program.

## Where do they live?

BLANDING'S TURTLES ARE CONSIDERED SEMI-AQUATIC, DEPENDENT UPON BOTH WETLAND AND OPEN CANOPY UPLAND HABITAT FOR SURVIVAL. FEMALES WILL TRAVEL GREAT DISTANCES TO LAY EGGS IN DRY, WELL-DRAINED SOILS.

Gifts from \$5 to \$5,000 helped track turtles to determine the extent of their range and monitor their locations, understand threats to the population, and improve our efforts to keep adult turtles healthy in the wild.

The funds also provided support for additional testing and treatment of turtles both in captivity and in the wild.



"It is a positive thing that we found this fungus early and can work to prevent the spread of this contagious disease," Glowacki said. "We are in a very good place, thanks in part to donor support."





Donations to the **Annual Fund** provide immediate, flexible support for the Forest Preserves. An Annual Fund grant may be used to pilot a new initiative, accelerate research efforts or expand an existing program to reach more people.





## ***Motus Station***

A groundbreaking effort to study animal migration and provide real-time migratory data across the globe is underway at Ryerson Conservation Area in Riverwoods. The Motus Wildlife Tracking System uses automated radio telemetry – attaching tiny digitally encoded tags – to track birds, bats and large insects.

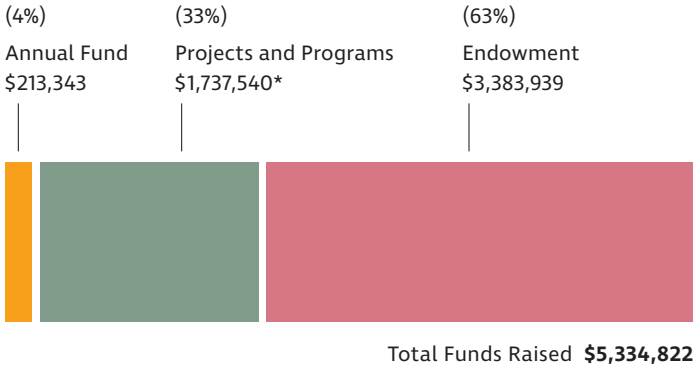


## ***Interest Survey***

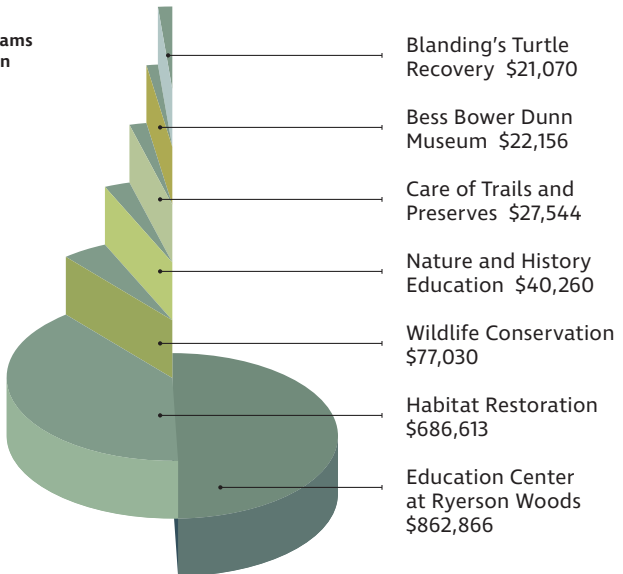
A 2022 countywide survey showed residents value their forest preserves as clean and safe places to relax and enjoy nature. "It's gratifying to learn that 89% of visitors report being somewhat or completely satisfied with their experience in the forest preserves," Executive Director Ty Kovach said of the survey.



## 2022 Funds Raised



### \*Projects and Programs Breakdown









## 2022 Donors

Preservation Foundation donors help the Forest Preserves do more in every aspect of our mission. Thank you to those who gave \$250 or more to the Foundation or the Forest Preserves in 2022.

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Preservation  
Foundation

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FOREST PRESERVES

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