



UPLAND FOREST
 Fort Sheridan was heavily forested before it was first developed as indicated by historical photos, public land survey notes, and adjacent forest habitat.
 Planting new oaks will maintain this unique resource and sustain the forest into the future.

PARKING AND WILDLIFE
 The placement and frequency of use of parking lots and trails directly affects wildlife populations. Human activity can affect the habitat selection, breeding and feeding behavior of birds.

FRAGMENTATION
 Fragmentation of the historical woodland/forest community impacts the quality of this unique ecosystem along Lake Michigan.

LAKE MICHIGAN BLUFFS
 Naturally forested, the bluffs shelter rare, relict populations of northern species rarely seen elsewhere in Illinois. The bluffs along the lake comprise the largest and best remaining examples of oak woodlands once prevalent along much of the lakeshore.
 Unauthorized trails have been created down the bluff and through the foredunes, causing erosion problems and the trampling of sensitive species. The toe of the bluff is not well protected from wave action and is prone to erosion.

UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE and UNDERWATER HAZARDS
 Swimming is not allowed due to possible unexploded ordnance and/or sharp metal objects left from former military activities.

LAKE MICHIGAN LAKESHORE
 This zone supports state-listed plants and numerous bird species. The dunes have long been highly regarded for rich biodiversity and unique geology.

NEARSHORE (to 100 feet in depth)
 The shallow waters along the coast provide important habitat for fish and other aquatic species, as well as natural processes that maintain and influence shoreline and dune systems.

TRAFFIC and PARKING
 On peak days the volume of traffic and vehicles has overflowed into the neighboring Fort Sheridan community. Previous expansion of the bluff parking lot has not decreased this pressure.

PUBLIC SAFETY
 The main issues for public safety include unauthorized swimming, parking, dogs off leash and in the lake, and after-hours usage including late night parties.
 Beyond regular patrols, officers are exclusively assigned to this preserve on summer weekends from Friday afternoon until Sunday evening. This does not occur at any other preserve. On Friday and Saturday nights they are on patrol until 1:00am to address late night usage violations.

TRAILS and SITE AMENITIES
 The north section of the preserve has a temporary turf trail loop, portable toilets and limited places to sit and enjoy views.

GEORGE BELL ROAD
 This road is not open to public vehicles, but is used for site maintenance. It has the potential to be converted to an entry point and a parking area with minimal cost.

HUTCHINSON RAVINE TRAIL
 Sections of the trail are very steep and limit accessibility for some user groups. The wood chip portion frequently washes out during rainstorms, which restricts accessibility to this portion of the trail.

PARADE GROUNDS
 The trail runs around half of the parade grounds. There are 53 acres of turfgrass to maintain. The majority of this turf area is not used for passive recreation.

AVIAN HABITAT
 Fort Sheridan is located within the Lake Michigan Flyway, a significant habitat corridor along Lake Michigan. Bird species migrate seasonally north and south along the lakeshore using Fort Sheridan for foraging and nesting. Many neo-tropical and woodland bird species are associated with the oak forest/woodlands found at the preserve.

Existing Conditions

Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve

LEGEND	
	Forest Preserve Boundary
	Restricted Parcels
	City of Lake Forest
	Cemetery
	Openlands
	Train Station
	Parking
	Gate
	Emergency/Private Gate
	Interpretive Exhibit
	Asphalt Trail
	Wood Chip Trail
	Turf Trail
	Crushed Stone Trail
	Bridge
	Illinois Natural Area Inventory Site
	Pond
	Channel
	Automobile
	Bike Path
	Train