

**KENDALL COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT  
PLANNING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
AGENDA**

**TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2020  
6:00 P.M.**

**KENDALL COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE  
FIRST FLOOR EAST WING CONFERENCE ROOM**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Update on Completion of Open Meetings Act Online Training
- V. Public Comments

**OLD BUSINESS**

- VI. Review and Discussion of Revised Preliminary Recommendations
  - Trail System and Habitat Corridors
  - High-Quality Water Resources and Soil Erosion Control Projects

**NEW BUSINESS**

- VII. Presentations:
  - 1. Overview of Kendall County Forest Preserve District Education Services – 5-Year Plan Recommendations
- VIII. Education Services - Discussion of Preliminary Recommendations
- IX. Other Items of Business
- X. Public Comments
- XI. Adjournment

**LAND ACQUISITION**

Vision Statement	Strategic Priorities	Goals for Conserving Open Space	Strategies for Conserving Open Space	Affordable within Current Limits	Additional Resources Required
Kendall County Forest Preserve District is committed to protecting forest preserve areas for future generations to connect people to nature; preserve quality of life for Kendall County citizens; protect wildlife habitat and natural lands, and support recovery of Kendall County's rare, threatened and endangered species.	Expand existing, and establish new forest preserve areas along the Fox River and Fox River tributaries; high-quality oak ecosystem corridors, and the Aux Sable Creek corridor.	Maintain the current ratio 22.5-acres per 1,000 Kendall County resident population.	1. Restrict Land-Cash funds for use as local match for grant-funded acquisitions; 2. Promote and secure property donations; 3. Secure local, State and federal grants for purchase of property; 4. Partner with the Forest Foundation and The Conservation Foundation to acquire property.	1. Leverage federal, State and local grants with Land-Cash matching funds; 2. Market and encourage opportunities for property donations; 3. Consider releasing non-referendum limited-tax bonds to support land acquisition.	Increase dedicated capital funding to (\$750,000 every five years) to maintain the current ratio of 22.5-acres of open space per 1,000 population based on population projections. Consider establishing a Capital and Development Fund for the District under the provisions of the Illinois Downstate Forest Preserve District Act.
	Expand existing, and establish new publically-accessible forest preserve areas and outdoor recreation opportunities near Kendall County population centers.	Identify high-quality natural areas for future acquisition located near Kendall County's population centers.	Form a District staff and volunteer committee to identify, evaluate (with permissions) and map locations of high-quality natural resources. Update the KNAG list.	1. Open Pickerill-Pigott Forest Preserve to the public; 2. Open Fox River Bluffs Forest Preserve to the Public; 3. Establish a trail connection between Little Rock Creek and Maramech Forest Preserves.	Establish a regional trail spur/loop from Yorkville to Millbrook along the Fox River corridor.
	Identify and map locations of the remaining highest-quality natural resources in Kendall County based on expanded natural resources partner data, and floristic quality assessments.	Prioritize purchase of land containing Class III and Class IV natural areas based on floristic quality assessments.	Reach out to private land owners containing high-quality natural areas to express interest in future conservation opportunities and land-management approaches and incentives. Promote involvement in the Kane-Kendall Oak Ecosystem Recovery Group.	1. Continue to work with the Kane-Kendall Oak Ecosystem Recovery Group; 2. Continue to partner with the Chicago Botanic Garden Plants of Concern monitoring program; 3. Complete baseline floristic quality assessments for all major preserve holdings (Hoover; Fox River Bluffs; Little Rock Creek; Lyon-Richard Young; Millbrook North and South). 4. Form a working Committee to identify, assess, and map locations of high-quality natural areas.	Establish an ongoing natural resources monitoring and management program.

HIGH-QUALITY NATURAL RESOURCES					
Vision Statement	Strategic Priorities	Goals for Sustaining High-Quality Natural Areas	Strategies for Sustaining High-Quality Natural Areas	Affordable within Current Limits	Additional Resources Required
Kendall County Forest Preserve District is committed to enhancing wildlife habitats, conserving Kendall County's natural history, and sustaining healthy wildlife populations.	Increase natural area monitoring and management activities in all Class III and Class IV preserves to increase habitat buffers and corridors; promote oak regeneration and ecosystem recovery; increase invasive species clearing and prescribed burning, and implement preserve management recommendations.	Establish management plans for all Class III and IV areas. Identify priority areas for natural areas management based on preserve quality and identified management needs. Track prescriptive management activities using the Kendall County Geographical Information System (KC-GIS).	Complete/repeat floristic quality studies for all preserves, noting and mapping locations of conservative plant communities and resources.	1. Continue to pursue and complete grant-funded restoration projects (Project Hoover; The Morton Arb. - US Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration Project; Fox River Bluffs conversion project). Secure small grants from local, state and federal agencies (USF&WS - IDNR - ICECF - TCF - FFKC).	Convert the District's remaining 571-acres currently in agricultural production to natural cover based on soil profiles and best practices. Pursue carbon credits for revenue generation for reforestry projects.
	Increase identification and monitoring, and management of Plants of Concern populations in partnership with the Chicago Botanic Garden.	Clear invasive species and fallen tree material around all known PoC populations. Reintroduce prescribed fire into oak woodland areas to support oak ecosystem regeneration.	Reintroduce prescribed fire into oak woodland areas. Encourage oak regeneration by thinning canopy and understory invasive brush within oak-dominated areas. Plant/seed native trees, shrubs and woodland mixes to increase species diversity.	Complete floristic quality inventories for all Class III and Class IV preserve areas. Implement management activities based on limited staffing resources and funding.	Complete FQI studies for all preserve areas every 10-years. Expand prescribed burning to 10% of preserve holdings annually. Increase invasive species clearing activities to 10% of preserve holdings annually.
	Increase identification, management, and monitoring for rare or declining species in greatest need for conservation. Support recovery plans for State and federally-listed species.	Determine locations of breeding populations of rare populations of species in greatest need for conservation. Increase monitoring, management, and habitat enhancement activities to sustain locally rare and declining populations.	Evaluate species need, and develop management plans that favor conditions for supporting known populations of rare, threatened and endangered species.	Complete habitat enhancement projects at Hoover and Fox River Bluffs Forest Preserves to support Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee recovery.	Document trends of loss and recovery of wildlife populations in greatest need for conservation in Kendall County.

PRESERVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS					
Vision Statement	Strategic Priorities	Goals for Preserve Improvement Projects	Strategies for Preserve Improvement Projects	Affordable within Current Limits	Additional Resources Required
<i>Trails and Corridors - Expand the trail system in Kendall County for walking, biking and outdoor recreation.</i>	Connect trails for walking and biking. Continue efforts to complete the Fox River regional trail and Fox River Water Trail.	Construct a regional trail connection from Hoover Forest Preserve to Millbrook South Forest Preserve.	Connect Hoover and Subat to Fox River Bluffs. Continue to examine opportunities for completing a regional trail spur/loop from Yorkville to Millbrook along the Fox River corridor.	TBD	TBD
<i>Amenities and Facilities - Expand outdoor recreation opportunities for fishing, hiking, picnicking and education.</i>	Construct a nature center for hosting at-leisure visitors, public and private functions at Subat Forest Preserve.	Complete a master plan and architectural drawings, specifications and cost estimates for all master plan elements.	Secure grant funds for facility construction and master plan improvements.	Leverage outside funding using endowment funds to complete Subat facility construction.	Operating funds for weekend interpretive staffing.
<i>Soil and Water Conservation - Address soil erosion and water quality impacts to Kendall County rivers, streams, and wetland areas.</i>	Complete projects to protect highly-erodible soils; reduce ravine head-cut erosion by establishing buffers and drainage swales to slow stormwater velocity. Repair and/or armor ravine head-cuts impacting District trails, overlooks, and bridge crossings.	Complete soil erosion control projects to repair ravine head-cut formations and address streambank erosion at Maramech, Little Rock Creek, Fox River Bluffs, Lyon-Young and Hoover Forest Preserves.	Establish drainage swale buffers and channel armoring, where practicable at various preserves. Complete stream channel armoring projects where erosion is impacting trails and overlook areas. Secure Army Corps of Engineers permits for addressing Fox River shoreline restoration projects.	Complete in-house soil erosion control projects at Little Rock Creek, Hoover, and Maramech Forest Preserves.	TBD
CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE AND OUTDOOR RECREATION					
Vision Statement	Strategic Priorities	Goals for Sustaining High-Quality Educational and Outdoor Recreational Services and Amenities	Strategies for Sustaining High-Quality Educational and Outdoor Recreational Services and Amenities	Affordable within Current Limits	Additional Resources Required
<i>Environmental Education - Offer and expand high-quality educational and recreational program services for all Kendall County citizens and families.</i>					



# Kendall County Forest Preserve District Education Department





# Why Environmental Education?

- The outdoors is a resource for learning, engagement, and health.
- Experiences in nature and greater access to the outdoors is associated with reduced stress, greater mental and physical health, and well being.



“You cannot protect the environment unless you empower people, you inform them, and you help them understand that these resources are their own, that they must protect them.”

~Wangari Maathai



# Education Services

- Public Programs
- School Programs
- Summer Camps
- Natural Beginnings Early Learning Program
- Ellis House and Equestrian Center





# Public Programs



## 2019 Totals:

- Youth and Public Programs- 286 Participants
- Scout Programs- 100 Scouts
- Camps- 179 Campers
- Assisted Living Programs- 200 Participants
- Birthday Parties- 90 Participants
- Free Events (Example: Winterfest)- 200 Participants
- Professional Development Workshops- 40 Educators





# Camps

## 2019 Totals:

- Winter Break, Spring Break and Summer Camps- 179 Campers

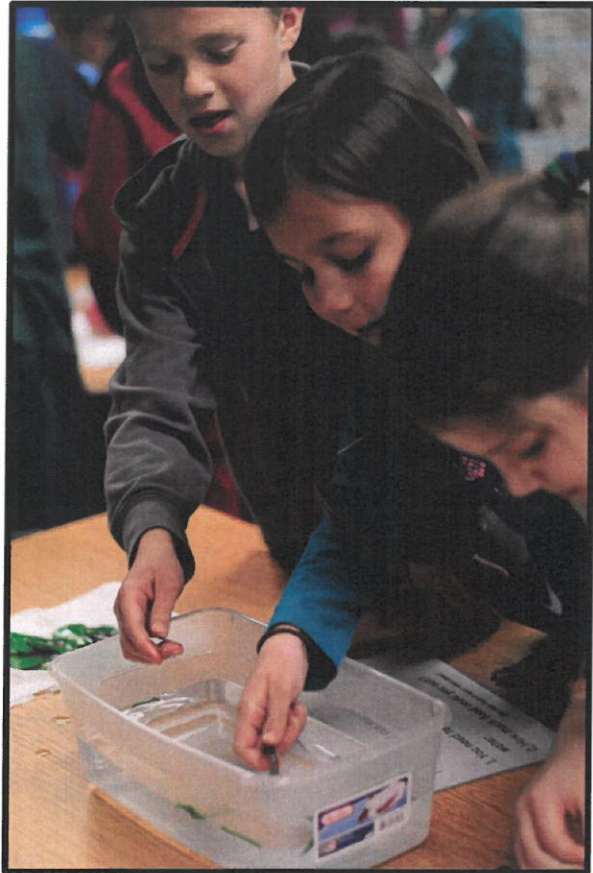




# School Programs

## 2019 Totals:

- PreK-12 School Programs- 6,890 students
- School programs are held at Harris Forest Preserve, Hoover Forest Preserve, and at the schools.





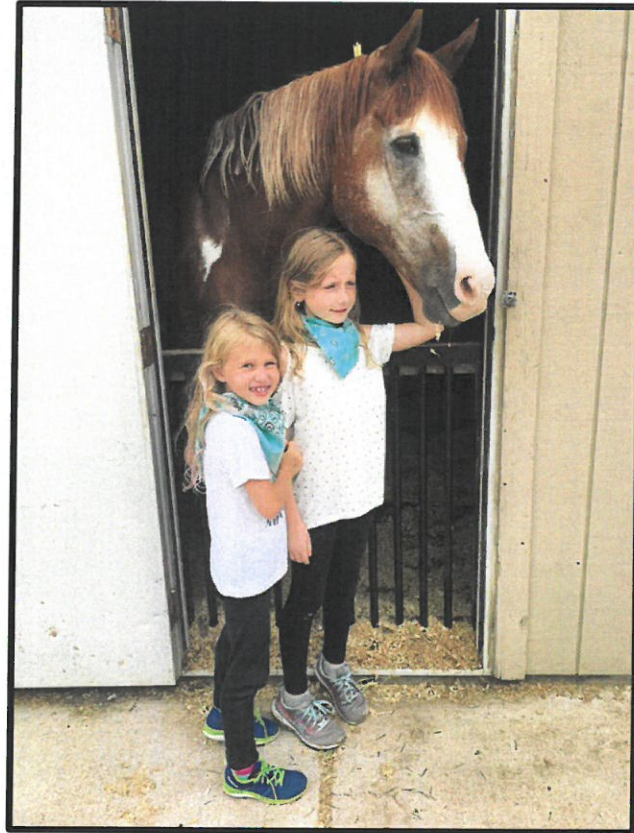
# Natural Beginnings Early Learning Program

Powerful Benefits of Nature in Early Childhood  
cognitive, physical, socio-emotional  
60 students



# Ellis House and Equestrian Center

- Horsemanship Lessons- 300 students
- Pony Club- 8 Participants
- Summer Camps- 57 campers
- Sunrise Center North





# COVID-19 Impacts and Strategies

- School Programs
- Summer Camps
- Public Programs
- Natural Beginnings





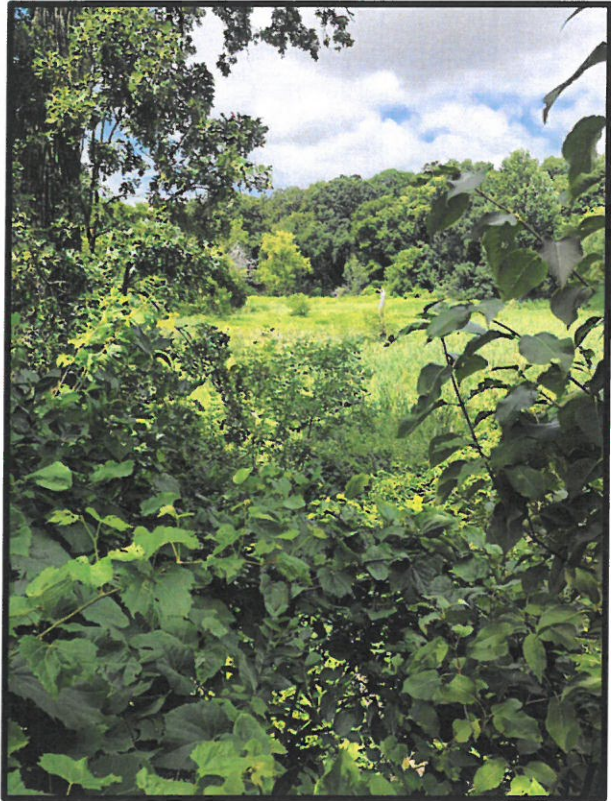
## Subat Forest Preserve- Multi-Use Education Center

- \$888,660 donation to build a nature center at Subat
- Vision: Stylized pavilion with a lookout (hillside structure)
- Outdoor classroom/rentable space
- Schaefer Fen at Subat FP





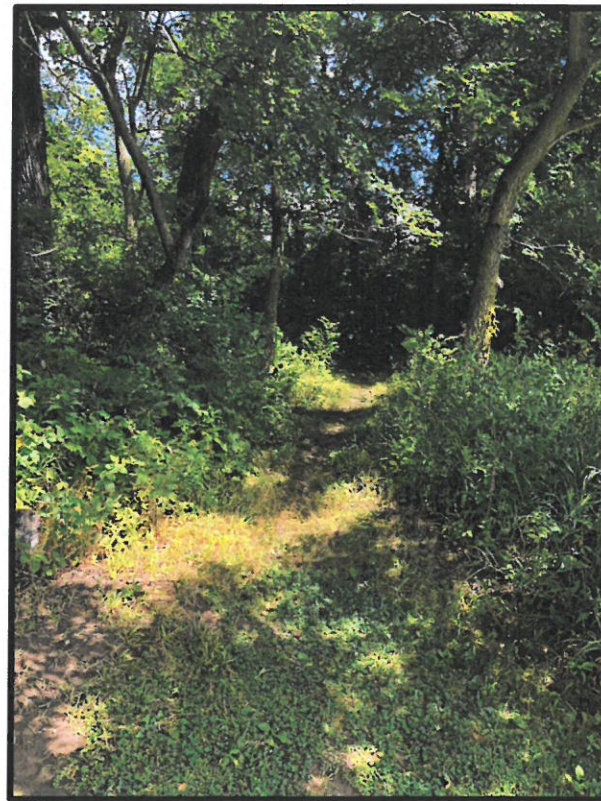
## 3 Habitats to Explore



Wetland



Prairie



Forest



## Recommendations for Discussion

- Budget- offset direct costs
- Environmental Education overlap with Natural Resource Projects (follow models similar to our Project Hoover and Project Maramech programs)
- Build a multi-use education facility at Subat Forest Preserve
- Diversification of programs until programming can return to “normal”





# Recommendations for Discussion



Continuum to Wonder

Diversifying the NB Program

(5 days classes, expanding children's age-range, increase of parent involvement, use preschool building during off times)

Long-term goal: preschool building extension