

1990

CURRENT COMMISSIONERS:

Barry Jaffe, President  
James Fulton, Treasurer  
Charles Smead, Programs Chairman  
Kenneth Allers, Secretary

A new appointment will be made to the Board shortly.

Consultants:

Don Palzer, Past President  
Steve Liehr, former Commissioner

Property acquisitions:

Aroma Township Forest Preserve, on Highland Road, 1.4 miles south of Rt. 17.

Strasma Grove, on Duane Boulevard in Kankakee. A Donation from the Strasma Family.

Gar Creek Preserve on River Road. Leased from the Shapiro Developmental Center, in Kankakee Township.

Limestone Township Preserve. A Reforestation Project located on Township Road 3750 in Limestone.

DEVELOPMENT:

Aroma Preserve. Parking lot, 2.2 mile Nature Trail, Self Guided Tour. Kankakee Valley Park District has installed a playground park.

Gar Creek Preserve. Development is under way for a parking lot and nature trail to the Kankakee River. This project is in cooperation with the Park District for a walking and bicycle trail to I-57. This project is being aided by a grant from the State of Illinois in the amount of \$82,500.

Limestone Preserve. Open land where trees will be planted in a reforestation project. 5000 seedling trees, furnished by the Illinois Department of Conservation will be planted within the next week or two. The Department of Conservation is also participating in the cost of the planting.

Strasma Grove is expected to be retained in its natural state as a bird sanctuary.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Cavalier-DeLaSalle Park Project

Township meetings with Aroma Township and Limestone Township  
Kankakee County Intergovernmental Recreation Association

A cooperative effort has been established to form the Kankakee County Recreation Association, a coalition of all of the recreational agencies in the County to coordinate the activities of each and cooperate in an effort to provide a public outdoor swimming pool.

#### PROGRAMS:

Trail Guides have been printed and are available for the 39 station self guided nature trail at Aroma Township. A slide presentation with commentary has been produced. Tree planting at Limestone by Limestone School students. Tree planting at Aroma with the Rotary Interact Club. Several nature and wild life tours were held during the last Summer, and continued with one tour per month with various themes throughout the Winter and Spring. Tours are scheduled for the Summer and into the Fall for such things as flower identification and a study of the trees. The dates are available on our printed schedule.

These programs are conducted by or under the direction of Charles Smead, a Biologist and Teacher at Kankakee Community College.

#### THE FUTURE OF THE FOREST PRESERVE IS A BRIGHT ONE.

- A. Future land acquisitions. Several properties are under consideration. The priority at present is for properties in Kankakee Township.
- B. Future educational programs. Preservation and education about wild life. More programs for the people.
- C. More and increased intergovernmental cooperation.
- D. Seeking donations from people in the area.
- E. Seeking to expand the District by inducing more of the surrounding Townships to join the Forest Preserve District. Perhaps, ultimately, the entire County.
- F. To continue to seek grants from the State of Illinois for development of the Forest Preserve sites.
- G. The Forest Preserve District is financially sound. We have a comfortable balance in the bank and expect to receive about \$110,000 in taxes during the coming year.

It is clear that the future mandates preservation, education and environmental issues at the top of the list.

In closing, please help forest preserves save our precious land, environment and keep America beautiful, especially given the circumstances we are seeing today.

Remember- Earth Day, every day.

Thank you, and God bless the allied troops overseas, the United States and the Country of Israel.