

KANKAKEE RIVER VALLEY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

Barry A. Jaffe, President



1992 IN RETROSPECT

A YEAR TO BE PROUD OF

Earth Day Every Day

LAND ACQUISITION:

In May, the Forest Preserve purchased from the Kankakee Valley Park District 24.25 acres of farm land adjacent to the Gar Creek Trails site for the purpose of establishing a natural grass prairie. The purchase required enabling action by the Illinois Legislature allowing for the sale of property by park districts to other municipal entities.

Several other sites within the District have been or are under consideration for acquisition.

DEVELOPMENT OF PROPERTIES:

Prairie grasses along with wild flowers were planted at the Gar Creek site. It will take about two years for the prairie to be fully developed.

In carrying forward the reforestation project at the Limestone Preserve, 3000 seedling trees were planted there in April. More trees are scheduled to be planted in the Spring of 1993. These tree seedlings are given to the Forest Preserve District by the Forestry Division of the Illinois Department of Conservation.

A bicycle tour guide was created by Commissioner Smead for the Gar Creek site and the 2 1/2 mile trail along the Kankakee River.

The District has contracted for the installation of a well and water fountain at the Aroma Preserve which will be available for use next summer.

PROGRAMS:

Numerous programs were held for the public throughout the Summer months, ranging from such events as Birds of Aroma Preserve, Nature Photography, and Walks with a Naturalist. Programs were conducted by the Audobon Society, the Kankakee Camera Club, Peter Dring (a Cook County Forest Preserve naturalist) and Charles Smead, Program Director for the Kankakee River Valley Forest Preserve.

Tree planting programs were held at Limestone and the Strasma Grove. At Strasma, a tree care seminar was conducted by Rob Frothingham, a local landscape specialist.

Special events were held for senior citizens and disabled persons.

Volunteer work days were held at the Limestone and Aroma Preserves, clearing brush and generally cleaning up the grounds. The work was performed by approximately 20 students at Limestone and was carried out by the Kankakee, Iroquois Volunteer Stewardship Network at the Aroma site.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

In November, the District moved its office from its Court Street location to the Town Mall at 150 N. Schuyler, second floor, Suite 1008.

As a condition of the purchase of the Gar Creek property from the Park District, the Forest Preserve inventoried the trees at the parks in the district, assembling facts such as numbers of trees, varieties of trees, ages, and dead trees that need to be removed and replaced.

The District purchased two golf carts to be used for the benefit of senior citizens and disabled persons, enabling them to participate in the various programs held.

The District was a sponsor in the Northern Illinois Anglers annual fishing derby. The District's fish was caught and the winner awarded \$500 worth of trees of his choosing.

The Forest Preserve participated in the Kankakee River cleanup sponsored by the Anglers Association.

In April, concurrent with the tree planting there, a portion of Limestone Preserve was dedicated as Lemon Grove and a plaque installed in memory of Jo Lemon, a Limestone school teacher who inspired his students and other volunteers to participate in making the Limestone reforestation project a reality.

The District joined with Kankakee Development Corporation and other organizations in support of the development of the Armory building for community recreational purposes.

The Forest Preserve has joined with the Illinois Association of Park Districts to create a Conservation and Forest Preserve District Task Force for pursuing their interests in legislative matters and other activities. Barry Jaffe is a member of the task force.

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Of a similar nature, the District continues to participate with other Illinois Forest Preserves in the Legislative Coalition of Forest Preserves. There are 14 Forest Preserves and 5 Conservation Districts in Illinois which will soon be formally organized as the Illinois Forest Preserve Association. President Barry Jaffe and President Richard Phelan of the Cook County Forest Preserve have been instrumental in promoting the new association.

Numerous talks were given to various service clubs, schools and other organizations by President Jaffe and Commissioner Smead about the Forest Preserve and its activities.

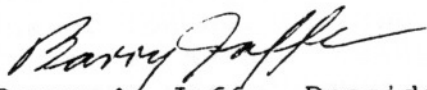
The District established its annual budget of \$300,500, comprised of \$171,300 on hand, anticipated other income of \$28,000 and \$100,800 from general property taxes.

GOALS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT:

President Barry Jaffe said he was extremely proud of the commissioners, staff and personnel for their personal involvement in the Forest Preserve District this year as in previous years. Our certain goals for the future will be land acquisition, continuing various programs for area residents and mutual cooperation among other recreational districts. Our consultants, Steve Liehr and Don Palzer, along with our Advisory Board and attorney, Jerome Shapiro, were also active and aggressive in helping maximize our output. My personal goal, again, is to make the Forest Preserve County wide, since people in other districts seem to enjoy our programs and involvement in preserving and protecting wooded areas and properties which need to reforested.

Jaffe wishes to especially thank the City of Kankakee for its help and cooperation and the volunteers who helped our year be the success it has been.

The Kankakee River Valley Forest Preserve District is one everyone can be proud of, and we certainly look forward to 1993 with anticipation and enthusiasm.



Barry A. Jaffe, President
and the Commissioners, James Fulton, Charles Smead, Kenneth Allers and Mickey Lile.