

Woods of Wisconsin

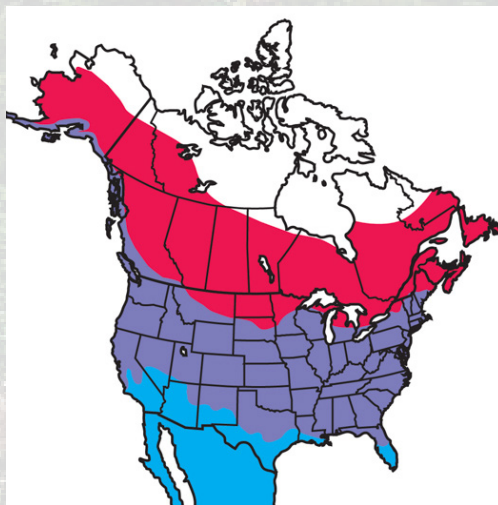
Newsletter of the Forest Preserve District of the Kankakee River Valley

"All ethics so far evolved rest upon a single premise: that the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts. The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants and animals, or collectively, the land... a land ethic changes the role of Homo Sapien from conqueror of the land community to plain member and citizen of it... it implies respect for his fellow members, and so also respect for the community as such."

— Aldo Leopold, "Sand County Almanac"

Kingfisher

A familiar sound in an Illinois summer is the rattling call of belted kingfishers as they hunt along the banks of a lake, pond, creek or river. The robust blocky body, powerful bill and strident vocals are all a part of the bold character of this North American kingfisher. Kingfishers are a large family of birds which inhabit stream, lake and river shorelines around the world. There are 114 species of kingfisher, most of which are found outside of the Americas.



The strong bill and vigorous flight of the belted kingfisher are the tools of a formidable hunter of aquatic prey, often diving after fish and crayfish from a perch over the water. They will also feed on insects, amphibians, reptiles, mollusks, other crustaceans, berries and even small mammals. Its short wings and stubby tail make for skillful power dives after prey, and quick maneuvering among creekside trees. A lucky observer may see their aerial skills while hovering over water before diving after a small fish.

While it is more likely to hear the rattle of the kingfisher, they can be seen using the creek or stream as a flyway. They will winter

in areas where the water doesn't freeze so that they can hunt their prey in open water.

Their nests are dug into the soft earthen banks, often directly over water. A breeding pair will have a territory a bit more than a half-mile along a streambed and the vegetation along the stream bank.

Resources:

<http://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/belted-kingfisher>
https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Belted_Kingfisher/id
<http://www.audubon.org/apps>
<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>

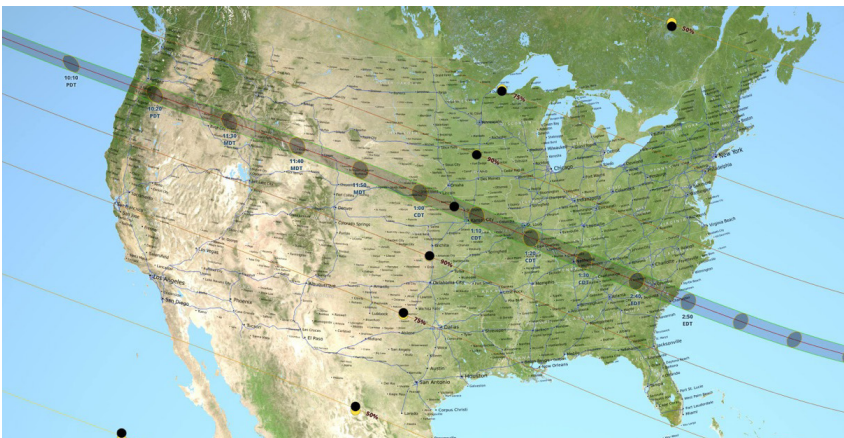
Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.

— John Muir

SOLAR ECLIPSE

AUGUST 21, 2017

This August will be the first total solar eclipse over the United States since 1979. Chicago is not in the path of the total eclipse, but will experience a partial eclipse beginning at 11:54 a.m., reaching the max at 1:19 p.m., and ending at 2:42 p.m.



It is very important to use eye protection when viewing a solar eclipse. NASA states emphatically:

"Never attempt to observe the partial or annular phases of any eclipse with the naked eye. Failure to use appropriate filtration may result in permanent damage or blindness."

<https://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEhelp/safety.html>

http://www.eclipse2017.org/glasses_order.htm



The closest place for Chicago area residents to see the total eclipse will be in southern Illinois. Carbondale is known as the "crossroads of the eclipse", as it will also experience the total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. The two eclipse paths intersect just south of the Southern Illinois University campus near Cedar Lake.

Those watching the eclipse along the path of the total eclipse in southern Illinois will experience 2 minutes and 45 seconds of totality. The totality of the eclipse will enter Illinois at 1:17 p.m. Central time, and leave at 1:25 p.m. CDT. In Carbondale, the partial phase of the eclipse will begin at 11:52 a.m. and end at 2:47 p.m. CDT. Totality will occur at 1:21 p.m. CDT.

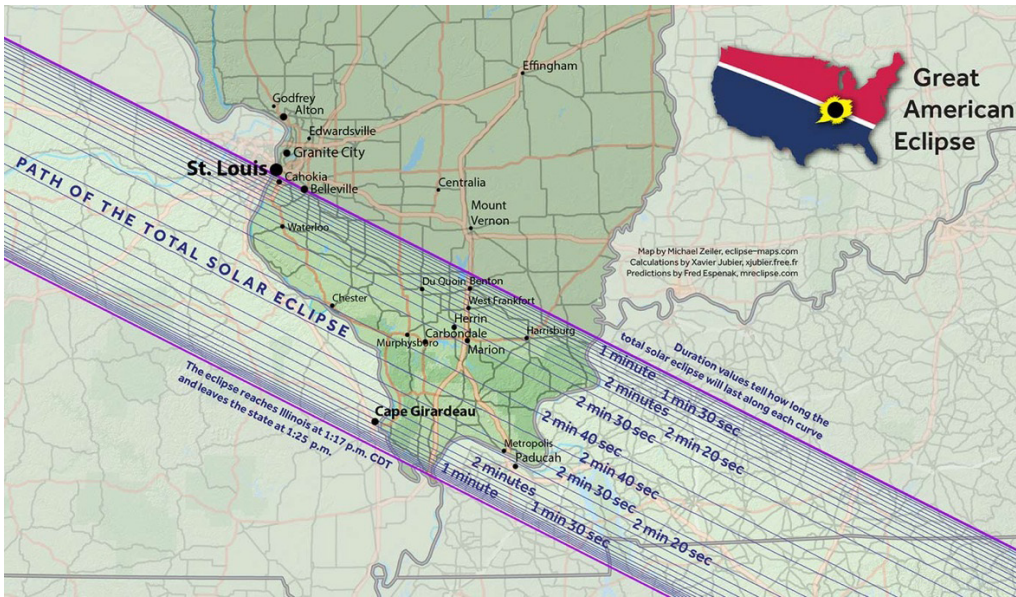
Southern Illinois University is coordinating eclipse events in southern Illinois. EclipseSIU is a partnership between Southern Illinois University, NASA Eclipse 2017, the Adler Planetarium of Chicago and the Louisiana Space Consortium. The partnership will feature a variety of events on the Southern Illinois University campus the day of the eclipse, with the main event to be a public viewing at the football stadium. Mat Kaplan, host and producer of Planetary Radio, which airs on 150 stations and online, will serve as host and guide. There also will be indoor viewing, talks and presentations, an arts and crafts fair, and an area dedicated to eclipse citizen science.

To find out about events in southern Illinois:
<http://eclipse.siu.edu/>

It is expected that record numbers of people will travel to areas where the total eclipse can be experienced. The Illinois DNR has camp-

(continued on page 3)

SOLAR ECLIPSE... (continued from page 2)

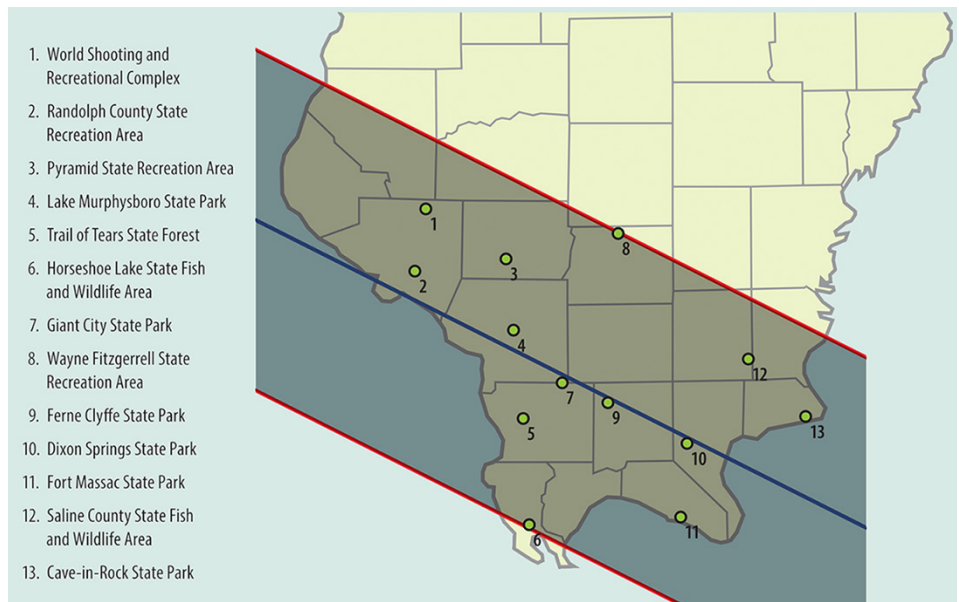


sites that can be available by advance reservation, and additional campsites for campers on a first come first serve basis. Record crowds are expected; nearby hotels and campsites are likely to be booked. The following DNR campsites are within the path of the total eclipse; those with campsites that can be reserved have that number in parenthesis. To reserve a campsite, visit: www.ReserveAmerica.com

- Cave-in-Rock State Park
- Randolph County State Recreation Area (51 with electric hookup)
- Saline County State Fish and Wildlife Area
- Dixon Springs State Park (12 with electric, two cabins, eight tent campsites)
- Ferne Clyffe State Park (34 with electric hookup)
- Giant City State Park (105 with electric hookup, 28 without electric)
- Fort Massac State Park (45 with electric hookup)
- Horseshoe Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area
- Lake Murphysboro State Park: (53

with electric hookup, 20 without electric)

- Pyramid State Recreation Area
- Trail of Tears State Forest (14 without electric)



Resources:

- <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/>
- <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2016/preparing-for-the-august-2017-total-solar-eclipse>
- <https://www.facebook.com/NASASunScience/>
- <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/nps-federal-land>
- <https://www.greatamericaneclipse.com/illinois/>
- <http://eclipse.siu.edu/>

- World Shooting and Recreational Complex (1,001 with electric hookup)
- Wayne Fitzgerald State Recreation Area (247 with electric hookup)

For more information, including an interactive map of sites within the path of the total eclipse, visit: <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/recreation/Pages/TotalSolarEclipse.aspx>

Carbondale will be hosting activities around the eclipse; NASA will be streaming the eclipse live from Carbondale, one of the designated sweet spots within the path of totality. For more information, visit: www.carbondaleeclipse.com

Shade Loving Native Plants

for the Home Landscape



BLUEBELLS



TROUT LILY



WILD GINGER



PHLOX

There is a bounty of native plants that will do very well in shady areas, many of which are also beneficial for birds, butterflies and other important insect pollinators. There are many advantages to having native plants in your yard; the perennials will beautify the yard year after year, and the native species most often provide superior nutrition for birds and insects compared to cultivars which may have essential nutritional components bred out in favor of size, color, or other visually attractive characteristics.

Plants that are in pots or root balls can be planted in the summer, as long as they can be kept watered during hot dry spells while they adapt to their new environment. Once established, native plants rarely need additional water, as they have been adapted to the Midwestern climate for millennia. Generally native plants will do better without regular fertilization. A good compost is the best environment for most species; a bit of research into their native environment will help decide whether you provide a shady moist area rich in leaf compost, or on the other hand, perhaps a sandy, poor soil such as is needed by plants such as Prickly Pear Cactus or St. John's Wort, which need a sunny, dry environment with very well drained soil. A bit of research into the native habitat of each is a good idea before acquiring the plants. The resources at the end of the article have very good information on native plants and their individual requirements.

Potted perennials may be transplanted in the fall, as long as there are 6-8 weeks before heavy frost. Fall plants are often sent bare root as late as October when the plants are dormant. In either case, it is best to mulch the new plants with leaves or straw to protect the young roots over the winter. For seeding native plants, many advise that fall is the best time to plant seeds. The nursery where you buy the plants will be able to advise you how best to get the young plants started or how to prepare the seedbed for fall planting.

Never take plants from forest preserves, nature centers or state and national parklands, as these are protected natural areas. In some cases, native plants are threatened or endangered and wild populations should never be disturbed. There are very good resources for obtaining native

(continued on page 5)



WILD GINGER



MAIDENHAIR FERN



HONEYSUCKLE



SWEET JOE PYE WEED



WOODLAND SUNFLOWER



RED BANEERRY

plants at the end of this article. It is possible to obtain endangered species from nurseries that specialize in native plants and raise them from seed; by planting these in your landscape you can further the efforts to prevent the loss of native plant species.

Wildflowers that are found under the lowest forest canopy on the forest floor will do well in shady areas. Native shade lovers include: Jack in the Pulpit-*Arisaema triphyllum*, several species of Solomon's Seal-*Polygonatum spp.*, Bloodroot-*Sanguinaria canadensis*, several species of wild Violet, several species of woodland Trillium-*Trillium spp.*, Columbine-*Aquilegia canadensis*, Black Cohosh-*Actaea racemosa*, Blue Cohosh-*Caulophyllum thalictroides*, White Doll's Eyes-*Actaea pachypoda* or sometimes *Actaea alba* (also known as White Baneberry), Red Baneberry-*Actaea rubra*, Wild Ginger-*Asarum canadense*, Shooting Star-*Dodecatheon meadia*, Heart Leaved Aster-*Aster cordifolius*, White Woodland Aster-*Eurybia divaricata*, Calico Aster-*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*, Red Bee Balm-*Monarda didyma*, and Golden Alexanders-*Zizia aurea*.

Perennials that thrive under conifers include Wintergreen-*Gaultheria procumbens*, False Solomon's Seal-*Maianthemum racemosum* (classified on the Illinois Wildflowers site as *Smilacina racemose*), Bunchberry-*Cornus canadensis*, Wild Sasparilla-*Aralia nudicaulis*, Sessil-leaved Bellwort-*Uvularia sessilifolia*, Sharp Leaved Hepatica-*Hepatica*

nobilis acuta, Fire Pink-*Silene virginica*, Wild Sweet William-*Phlox divaricata*, and many species of native Violets.

Some of the taller species that thrive in shade include woodland sunflower-*Helianthus divaricatus*, Sweet Joe Pye Weed-*Eutrochium purpureum*, Tall Bellflower-*Campanula Americana*, Tall Blue Larkspur-*Delphinium exaltatum*, Wild Bleeding Heart-*Dicentra eximia*, Trout Lily-*Erythronium americanum*, Blue Mist flower - *Eupatorium coelestinum*, Zig-Zag Goldenrod-*Solidago flexicaulis*, and Anise Scented Goldenrod-*Solidago odora*.

Native ferns are especially beautiful, and include Christmas fern - *Polystichum acrostichoides*, New York fern-*Thelypteris noveboracensis*, Lady fern-*Athyrium filix-femina*, Maidenhair Fern-*Adiantum pedatum*, and Royal Fern-*Osmunda regalis*.

For areas with partial shade, less than six hours or day or dappled shade such as under lacy foliage: Northern Bush Honeysuckle-*Diervilla lonicera*



CONEFLOWER

(a native species that is not invasive), Tall Bellflower-*Campanula Americana*, Culver's Root-*Veronicastrum virginicum*, Bellwort-*Uvularia grandiflora*, Virginia Bluebells-*Mertensia virginica*, Wild Sweet William-*Phlox divaricata*, Cutleaf Coneflower-*Rudbeckia laciniata*, and Trout Lily-*Erythronium americanum*.



RED TRILLIUM

Resources:

For information on native plants, and what each species requires in the way of light, moisture conditions and soil type:

<http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/>
<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/>
<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/>
<http://www.ecolandscaping.org/>
<http://wildseedproject.net/>
<http://www.wildones.org/>

For sources of seeds and plants, as well as information on cultivation:

<https://www.prairiemoon.com/>
<http://www.prairienursery.com>
<https://www.possibilityplace.com/>



Have you visited our
website lately?

www.krvfpd.org

9 Tips For Planting For Pollinators

- 1** No chemicals: pesticides and herbicides kill bees and other pollinators.
- 2** Plant big patches of pollinator-friendly plants.
- 3** Choose plants that bloom throughout the growing season.
- 4** Butterflies prefer red, purple or yellow flowers with sweet scents.
- 5** It's thought that hummingbirds prefer red-colored flowers; however, they will feed on any flower that produces nectar.
- 6** Pollinators are best adapted to local, native plants, which often need less water than ornamentals.
- 7** Butterflies favor platform-shaped sunflowers and asters but will feed on a variety of nectar-rich flowers, from violets to serviceberry shrubs.
- 8** To attract hummingbirds to your garden, provide them with nectar, starting in early spring.
- 9** It takes time for native plants to grow and for pollinators to find your garden, especially if you live far from wildlands; so be patient.

— Sourced from the US
Forest Service



On Trail At The Forest Preserve

INSECT WALK

On August 6, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at Shannon will be "Insect Walk". Dr. Rosenberger will host this walk. Supplies will be available for collecting and pinning insects. No fee for this walk.

People must register at:
web.extension.illinois.edu/gkw
by July 28 so we can
obtain adequate supplies.

Look at the trees,
look at the birds,
look at the clouds,
look at the stars...
and if you have eyes
you will be able to see that
the whole existence is joyful.
Everything is simply happy.
Trees are happy for no reason;
they are not going to become
prime ministers or presidents
and they are not going to
become rich and they will
never have any bank balance.
Look at the flowers -
for no reason.
It is simply unbelievable
how happy flowers are.

— Osho

FOREST PRESERVE SITES

Shannon Bayou Environmental Education Center and Administrative Office

This 46-acre preserve is located at 3301 Waldron Road in Aroma Park, along the Kankakee River. The Center provides space for programs about natural history, ecology and preservation of open space in the Kankakee River Valley. The walking trail area features plantings of many native trees and plants, including native tallgrass prairie species, a butterfly garden of native plants. The site includes ¾ mile asphalt and fine gravel walking trail, a picnic shelter, and picnic tables.

3301 Waldron Road
Aroma Park, IL 60910
41°04'47.61"N
87°48'44.31"W

Aroma Land and Water Reserve

One of the best sites in the area for woodland wildflowers, this 140 acre site is located on Hieland Road, 1.4 miles south of Highway 17 East. A 1.2 mile walking trail winds through several different types of natural areas, including high quality forest, prairie, and wetland ecosystems. It also has nearly ¼ mile of Kankakee River frontage, and the associated floodplain forest.

The Forest Preserve mows a loop trail that branches off the existing 1 ¼ mile trail that meanders through the main body of the Aroma LWR. In the summer of 2011, 49.5 acres of mixed pine and hardwood forest was added.

Approximately 40 percent of the Aroma Preserve is a wetland and lies within the flood plain of the Kankakee River. In the spring, the wet oak forest gives a spectacular wildflower display while the wetland and sand prairie are the most colorful in the summer. There is ample parking in the parking lot on Hieland Road, and a playground, maintained by the Kankakee River Valley Park District, for children.

1578 South Hieland Road
St. Anne, IL 60964
41°06'02.90"N
87°45'24.08"W

Gar Creek Trail and Prairie Restoration

Approximately 85 acres, this site is located about one-half mile east of Route 45 on River Road adjacent to Kankakee Community College. The 16-acre restored tall grass prairie was planted in 1992. A 2.5 mile trail, suitable for hiking, bicycling, and cross country skiing, is a cooperative project with the Kankakee Valley Park District. The trail begins at the prairie, winds along Gar Creek, through oak woodland, and down to the banks of the Kankakee River.

At river's edge, the trail connects with the Kankakee Riverfront Trail Project, which starts at the Aqua Illinois property at Hawkins and Water Streets, goes through Shapiro Developmental Center, Kankakee River Valley Forest Preserve, Kankakee Community College, and connects with River Road Park and Splash Valley, of the Kankakee Valley Park District.

501 River Road
Kankakee, IL 60901
41°05'30.84"N
87°51'32.78"W

Waldron Arboretum

Located 1.1 miles south of I-57, this site was once a landscape nursery. On this 90 acre site there is a fine gravel hiking trail suitable for bicycling and cross country skiing. The trail winds through 30 acres of woods, including a small prairie restoration area.

In the winter of 2008, the District acquired an additional 60 acre parcel which had been primarily in agriculture. Future development plans are pending based on the districts needs and funds available through federal and state grants.

2755 Waldron Road
Aroma Park, IL 60910
41°05'36.28"N
87°49'26.51"W

Hieland Lakes Nature Preserve

The Forest Preserve has a new site located about three miles east of Kankakee on Route 17. The new site is 64 acres, including two connected lakes. An aquatic survey will be conducted to determine the fish population; mean-

while, limited fishing is allowed. Bluegill may be kept by anglers - all other fish are catch-and-release.

Plans for the site include planting native wildflowers, prairie restoration and creation of a walking path. At this time, there is a mowed walking path, a parking lot, fencing, and a bridge at the point where the two lakes connect.

The site is a former sand gravel quarry, and while at this time, before restoration gets underway, there is not much in the way of native ecosystem remaining, the site offers a sparse population of native plant life, the area is abundant with wildlife such as deer, fox, coyote, and waterfowl including wood ducks, great blue heron and egret.

6692 Route 17 East
St. Anne, IL 60964
41°7'02.23"N
87°44'24.82"W

Strasma Grove

Nestled in a neighborhood on in Kankakee, this site is 2 acres of mature native trees.

Duane Boulevard
Kankakee, Illinois 60901
41°06'28.33"N
87°50'43.56"W

Limestone Reforestation Site

This site is a 30 acre preserve and reforestation site, with mixed trees and grasses.

County Road 3750 West
Kankakee, Illinois 60901
41°08'38.96"N
87°56'51.08"W

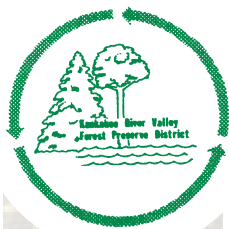
Zeedyk Meadows

Four acres of trees and grasses.
Warren Street

St. Anne, Illinois 60964
41° 06' 24.92" N
87° 44' 35.77" W

Snake Creek Preserve

5800 Darline Dr
St Anne, IL 60964
41.109752, 87.756308



Kankakee River Valley Forest Preserve District

3301 Waldron Road • P.O. Box 13
Aroma Park, Illinois 60910
815-935-5630

Web address: www.krvfpd.org

E-mail: forest@krvfpd.org

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KRVFPD/>

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #135
Kankakee, IL

Return Service Requested

ON TRAIL...

at the Forest Preserve

For information on times and dates for current programs at your forest preserve, call Jean Hurrel at 815-549-9072. Our programs include moonlight hikes, wildflower and native prairie walks, and local natural history. You can also find our programs advertised in the Outdoor section of The Daily Journal, or check out "programs" on our website: <http://www.krvfpd.org>

But when I consider that the nobler animals have been exterminated here - the cougar, panther, lynx, wolverine, wolf, bear, moose, deer, the beaver, the turkey, etc., etc. - I cannot but feel as if I live in a tamed, and as it were, emasculated country... I listen to a concert in which so many parts are wanting... for instance, thinking that I have here the entire poem, and then, to my chagrin, I hear that it is but an imperfect copy that I possess and have read, that my ancestors have torn out many of the first leaves and grandest passages.

- Henry David Thoreau, *Journal*, 1856

Board of Commissioners

Ken AllersPresident
Michael Quigley.....Treasurer
Amy Ciaccio-Jarvis.....Secretary
Sharlene Parr • Steve Worth

Staff

Dale Huizenga..... Administrator
Mike MorganMaintenance Supervisor
Doug ShortSite Development Director
Jean HurrelEditor



If you would like to subscribe to this free Newsletter, or to send an article, contact the Forest Preserve Office at 815-935-5630