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**Bowes Creek Woods tree-thinning project begins this week**

GENEVA, IL — A tree-thinning project to improve woodlands will get underway at Bowes Creek Woods Forest Preserve in Elgin this week.

A contractor hired by the Forest Preserve District of Kane County will begin thinning trees growing in the woodlands and removing tree lines. The tree-thinning project will improve the woodlands by allowing more light to reach the woodland floor. “Oak seedlings need bright sunlight to thrive. The woods are currently very dark – even in the mid-summer sun,” said Drew Ullberg, director of natural resources for the District.

“Several treelines across the site will be thinned of invasive brush and non-native species. These treelines create artificial barriers across the site, provide safe havens for animals that feast on grassland nesting birds, and prevent trail users from fully enjoying the vistas,” Ullberg said.

Trees felled as part of this project will be re-used to the fullest extent possible. Most of the trees removed will be ground into mulch which then will be spread around other parkland trees. Mulch serves many purposes including protecting trees from mowers, conserving soil moisture, and preventing soil compaction and fine root damage.

The project will be paid for by an Open Space Land Acquisition & Development (OSLAD) grant.

Bowes Creek Woods Forest Preserve will not officially open until next spring. The District asks nearby residents to be mindful of the closure and the possibility of contractors and machinery in the preserve.