

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Sept. 7, 2011



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**Forest Preserve makes two more 2011 referendum investments**

GENEVA, IL — The Forest Preserve District of Kane County added 70 acres with two more referendum investments — one in the north part of the county early this month, and another in the southern part in August.

The District expanded Freeman Kame-Meagher Forest Preserve in Gilberts by 51 acres Sept. 1. The District also expanded Lake Run Forest Preserve by roughly 19 acres on Aug. 11.

The properties are the second and third investments made with 2011 referendum funds. In April, Kane County voters approved a \$30 million referendum for land acquisition and preserve improvements. Both preserve additions meet the District's criteria to acquire land that increases acreage at existing preserves, increases flood control and water protection, and also preserves woodlands, wetlands and prairies.

The two purchases bring total Forest Preserve District holdings to 19,232 acres.

The Freeman Kame-Meagher Forest Preserve addition includes a wetland to the southeast of the existing preserve. Freeman Kame is one of the District's highest-quality natural areas. The preserve is considered to be some of Kane County's most picturesque topography, situated on the northern part of the kettle moraine complex north of Gilberts. Wet kettle pockets defined by the wooded kames and numerous hills and drumlins create a panorama of habitats.

“In an effort to expand preserve size and also to protect wetlands, this wetland property will be a great addition to the southern end of Freeman Kame,” said Drew Ullberg, director of natural resources for the District. “The larger the preserve, the better we’re able to establish or increase the biodiversity,” he said.

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Freeman Kame-Meagher Forest Preserve is located at 40W095 Freeman Rd., Gilberts.

The southern investment added almost 19 acres adjacent to Lake Run Forest Preserve in Sugar Grove, creating a 353-acre preserve. Lake Run is part of a trail connection that links Aurora West Forest Preserve. The District hopes to eventually connect Aurora West and Lake Run with Dick Young Forest Preserve in Batavia.

Lake Run Forest Preserve is located at 40W255 Tanner Rd., Sugar Grove.

For more information about Freeman Kame-Meagher Forest Preserve or Lake Run Forest Preserve, visit [kaneforest.com](http://kaneforest.com).

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