

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CONTACT:

Monica Meyers, Executive Director
Laurie Metanchuk, Director of Community Affairs
630-232-5980 forestpreserve@kaneforest.com

Forest Preserve District of Kane County
1996 S. Kirk Rd., Ste. 320, Geneva, IL 60134
www.kaneforest.com

Forest Preserve District receives \$400,000 grant to build campground

GENEVA, IL — The Forest Preserve District of Kane County was awarded a \$400,000 development grant from the state’s Open Space Land Acquisition & Development (OSLAD) program, May 26.

The grant was part of 11.7 million in grants announced by Gov. Pat Quinn and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

The Forest Preserve District will use the grant money to help build a campground at Big Rock Forest Preserve, in the southern part of the county. The District currently operates Paul Wolff Campground within Burnidge Forest Preserve in Elgin.

The Big Rock facility will include 105 improved camp sites with electric and water hook-ups, 20 primitive or tent camping sites, an entry road and parking, picnic shelter, camp restrooms, trails, and a well. Additionally, there will be 5 equestrian camp sites, where campers may stay with their horses.

“We’re excited that we can continue completing projects that have been prioritized in our five-year master plan,” said Executive Director Monica Meyers. “The addition of a southern campground will be a wonderful amenity for Kane County,” she said.

Construction is expected to begin in spring 2012 with completion in fall 2012. The campground is expected to open in spring 2013.

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Majority of the campground will be built north of Granart Road on a recently acquired addition to Big Rock Forest Preserve. The preserve is located at 46W524 Jericho Rd., Big Rock.

Additionally, IDNR awarded a \$400,000 OSLAD grant to the city of Elgin to develop the first phase of the Jack E. Cook Park & Forest Preserve (formerly named the Elgin Regional Park), on Plank Road in western Elgin. The city and the Forest Preserve District combined resources to acquire the property. The District's portion will be an open, natural area while the active recreation side of the park will include a tennis court, basketball court, two soccer fields, playground, shelter, pathway, entryway and parking lot.

“Our grant application program has been extremely successful,” added Meyers. “Any time we can obtain grants to help acquire land or develop preserve amenities, it really helps maximize what we can accomplish,” she said.

Visit www.kaneforest.com for more information about the Forest Preserve District of Kane County.

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