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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 makes first 2017 referendum investments

GENEVA, IL — The Forest Preserve District of Kane County made its first investments in new property, since passing a referendum in April of this year.

The Forest Preserve District acquired six Sugar Grove properties adjacent to Sauer Family Prairie Kame Forest Preserve. The District invested \$865,680 for six parcels totaling 71.48 acres. The land was purchased from the Cutsinger family. The new acres along the southeastern border of the preserve create a now 231-acre property.



While the land is currently in agriculture, Director of Natural Resources Ben Haberthur envisions a future wetland. “Not only does this addition buffer the historic kame and remnant prairie at the preserve, but there are hydric soils here that would be perfect for a future wetland restoration. Using a wet to mesic prairie mix, this area would be loaded with host and nectar plants for pollinators,” he said.

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Executive Director Monica Meyers added, “Open space improves the quality of life for all residents. Forest preserves increase property values, clean water and air, and provide opportunities for recreation and nature education. As the preserves grow in size, they better protect and connect crucial habitats, so plant and animal communities can be preserved and enhanced for future generations.”

The Sauer Family Prairie Kame addition is just the first of many acquisitions to come. The District passed a \$50 million referendum in April, and plans to acquire approximately 2,000 - 2,500 additional acres of open space in Kane County, as well as make various preserve improvements. Proceeds from the referendum are strictly limited to those two categories — land acquisition and preserve improvements.

“We’re following through on promises we made to Kane County residents. We lowered property taxes from the Forest Preserve District, due to sound financial management, refinancing of debt and paying off of bonds. Now, we’ve begun adding the acres we promised, to make our preserves system even better. This is part of our legacy,” said Forest Preserve District President Mike Kenyon.

Sauer Family Prairie Kame Forest Preserve is located at 44W705 Lasher Rd., Sugar Grove.

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