



McHenry County

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Connections in Conservation

Fall 2010

Grand Openings

This summer the Conservation District hosted four grand openings of new or improved sites to the public. These included the new Lost Valley Visitor Center in Glacial Park; the Trail head and parking lot for the HUM Trail in Marengo; The Kishwaukee Headwaters and the improved Nippersink Canoe Base.

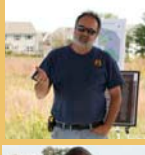


Over 500 people attended the grand opening of the Lost Valley Visitor Center in Glacial Park. The Center is open daily from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Top Left: McHenry County Conservation Foundation presents an \$80,000 donation to the Conservation District's Board of Trustees as part of the ceremonies.



The 153 acre Kishwaukee Headwaters located on Dean St. in Woodstock officially opened Sept. 9 with presentations from Woodstock Mayor Brian Sager, Environmental Defenders of McHenry County President Nancy Schietzelt, McHenry County Soil and Water Conservation District Manager Ed Weskerna, and The Kishwaukee River Ecosystem Partnership Representative Ders Anderson.



The wetland complex has a 1.75 mile hiking trail and is open daily sunrise to sunset.



The 370-acre Nippersink Canoe Base Conservation Area located on Route 12 in Spring Grove reopened Sept. 18. Brush Clearing opened up visibility to the site to reveal an inspiring oak and hickory woodland canopy. New restrooms, a picnic shelter, fire pit, benches and improved shoreline fishing access and canoe launch access were completed. A short .35 trail winds through the woods. Future plans are to extend the trail two miles to the north, not yet installed.



US Fish & Wildlife to host Open Houses on Proposed Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will host four public meeting in October to seek input from local residents and user groups on the potential wildlife refuge. The meetings will utilize an open format allowing members of the public to spend one-on-one time with service staff members to answer questions, offer comments and provide ideas on the refuge.

Tuesday, October 12, 4-8 p.m.
McHenry County Government Center Administration Building, 667 Ware St., Woodstock IL

Wednesday, October 13, 4-8 p.m.
Lost Valley Visitor Center in Glacial Park, Harts Rd. & Rte. 31, Ringwood IL

Wisconsin meetings:
Wednesday, October 20, 4-8 p.m.
Bristol Municipal Building, 19801 83rd St., Bristol, WI

Thursday, October 21, 4-8 p.m.
Lake Geneva City Hall, 626 Geneva St., Lake Geneva, WI

Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge Proposed for northern Illinois & southern Wisconsin

For more information visit:
www.hackmatacknwr.org

McHenry County Conservation District

Our Mission

The McHenry County Conservation District exists to preserve, restore and manage natural areas and open spaces for their intrinsic value and for the benefits to present and future generations.

Our Vision

By the year 2020, McHenry County Conservation District will be a premiere public agency in the country for preserving, protecting and managing open space. Residents will have developed a personal responsibility for their local environment, gained a greater appreciation for their natural world and invested into ensuring its future protection. Achieving this vision will:

- Inspire respect for the land;
- Promote sound environmental practices;
- Promote the long-term viability of the county's biodiversity;
- Provide opportunities for responsible use of the land in concert with natural resources;
- Promote environmental stewardship;
- Provide quality experiences that promote green, healthy and balanced lifestyles;
- Connect children to nature and;
- Foster public and private partnerships.

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McHenry County
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Gaining Ground: Land Acquisitions

The Conservation District currently owns or manages 24,351 acres throughout McHenry County. This past summer's land acquisitions include:

Hartland Township - In May 2010, the District acquired 247 acres north of Brookdale Conservation Area in Woodstock and adjacent to the existing Girl Scout camp. The property runs from Deep Cut Road and the railroad tracks. The north branch of the Kishwaukee River flows through the property.

Greenwood Township - In June 2010, the District closed on 157 acres along Allendale Road east to Queen Anne Road. A portion of Nippersink Creek runs through the site. The site adds to the existing 1,321 acre Queen Anne Macrosite.

Hartland Township - In July 2010, 41 acres were acquired adjacent to the 684-acre Rush Creek Conservation Area in Harvard. The parcel is located on the northwest corner of Streit & Lindwall Roads and lies within the Kishwaukee watershed.

Marengo Township - Also in July, the District closed on a small parcel located on County Line Road just north of Route 20 and the railroad tracks. The 1.1 acre parcel is bordered on three sides by the 2,803 acre Kishwaukee Corridor Conservation Area.

Algonquin Township - In August 2010, the District acquired 35 acres from the City of Crystal Lake adjacent to Lake in the Hills Fen Conservation Area in exchange for permitting the City of Crystal Lake to cross the Prairie Trail. The parcel is located at the corner of Randall and Rakow Roads, east of the CVS pharmacy.



CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

McHenry County Conservation District's Citizen Advisory Committee Members serve as advocates for the District in a volunteer capacity. They are updated regularly on the numerous preservation, restoration and site improvement projects underway so that they can help communicate the mission of the District. The group recently completed a task force study on Wind Energy, which can be found on the District's web site under publications. Currently the committee is researching the feasibility of the District providing open space for Community Gardens.

Current Members: Harold Abramson, Barbara Anderson, Dick Arsenaeanu, Susan Begley, Adrienne Burman, Bill Clow, Fred Durrenberg, John Engebretson, David Gervais, Don Giese, Bill Howenstine, Bill Kreznor, Larry Lane, Ed Laumbacker, George Mann, Bob Paine, Tom Paulsen, Harold Rail, Mike Salkas, Jeff Varda, and Dan Wilson.

NOTICE: Seasonal Site Closings Due to hunting in the area

Please advise residents that we are approaching hunting season and a sense of caution should be used whether on public or private lands. Please enter conservation areas at designated access points where site closings will be posted. There may not be hunting on a Conservation Area but adjacent private lands may be hunting their land - It is always a good idea to stay on marked trails and wear bright colors during hunting season.

Oct. 1	County Line Rd. Access
Oct. 30 - Nov. 7	Stickney Run
Nov. 6-14	Hickory Grove, Lyons Prairie Silver Creek
Nov. 19 -21	Pleasant Valley, Beck's Woods, Coral Woods, Harrison Benwell, Brookdale, Marengo Ridge and Rush Creek
* Dec. 2-5 p.m.	Glacial Park, Lost Valley Visitor Center, Beck's Woods, Coral Woods, Harrison Benwell, Brookdale, Marengo Ridge and Rush Creek

Municipal Resources

Natural Areas Impact Evaluation Policy - The District provides outreach to municipalities by completing a natural areas impact evaluation for sensitive areas slated for development. The District's role is to offer information on best conservation practices in an effort to enhance and protect the unique resources in the area.

The District can also provide municipalities with copies of **McHenry County Natural Areas Inventory** which identifies where threatened and endangered species reside in the county.

In addition, the District's **Natural Areas Protection Plan** specifically describes the best of the last remaining natural areas, the existing threats to these areas, and a resource list of local protection agencies and organizations.

Want to find out what's planned for a conservation site near you? Check out the online publication of the **Comprehensive Site Development and Public Access Plan**.

Get Connected @ www.MCCDistrict.org

View the Interactive Map & Calendar

Sign up for a variety of Education Programs, Camps & Activities

Get the latest news on Trail Development & Land Acquisitions

Download Maps, Brochures, Employment Applications & Internships

Do you Tweet? Get updates on special events, programs and nature

sightings. Follow us on Twitter.com @DiscoverMCCD



Cooperative Initiatives

- The District continues to work cooperatively with the Village of Huntley, McHenry County, and McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) on identifying a transportation corridor through the HUM Railroad Prairie near Coyne Station Road for the Algonquin Road Alignment.
- The District approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Richmond on a recent land acquisition along the Nippersink Creek known as the Smith Parcel.
- The District is participating in two watershed planning groups: Silver Creek and Sleepy Hollow Creek.
- The District proudly co-hosted the McHenry County Council of Governments September Meeting with the Village of Ringwood at the Lost Valley Visitor Center. Tours of the District's new facility were provided to showcase all of the green attributes of the building and site: geo thermal, day light harvesting, permeable pavers, rain gardens, etc.



News & Noteworthy

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission granted Preliminary Approval of a portion of both Boger Bog Conservation Area and Fel-Pro RRR Conservation Area for designation as an Illinois Nature Preserve on Tuesday, September 21, 2010. Receiving Preliminary Approval status means the site(s) are of ecological significance and meet the criteria for dedication as an Illinois Nature Preserve. The District will move forward with formal approval within the next couple of months.

~Celebrate Fall~

with McHenry County Conservation District

Trail of History

October 16-17

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Glacial Park, Ringwood



Harvest Gathering of 1858

November 7

Noon - 4 p.m.

Glacial Park Powers-Walker House

