

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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Upcoming Board Meetings

June 16 | July 21 | August 18

Brookdale Administrative Offices
18410 US Hwy. 14, Woodstock

Executive Session begins at 6 p.m.
Public Session start varies by agenda, posted
on our website and at the District office.



McHenry County
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Message From the President

As I write this, we are waiting for spring to get "sprung". But our staff, like land managers all around us, are in the middle of burn season. I believe staff's passion about restoration work can be summed up in a recent emails sent by our friends in DeKalb County.

"Bluebirds followed our woodland burns at Sannauk Forest Preserve Tuesday and Wednesday...the back fire warmed up the leaves and insects were flushed out...about 15 Bluebirds followed the fire line all day feeding on the insects... Spring wildflowers flowers soon will come out of the ash. Garlic mustard and other non native plants are decreasing with these burns. ..."
Terry (Hannan, DeKalb County Forest Preserve)

This *Landscapes* issue is packed with the excitement of the awakening season including our current research on fungus (lichens) and oak acorn regeneration, and – doggone it – what's more fun than learning about fungus? (Hey, admit it, you're interested now – imagine the conversation possibilities at dinner parties!) Our staff's research on acorns and oak regeneration will inform you about the oak savanna community, the backbone of our county's natural system and considered a globally imperiled community by The Nature Conservancy.

April 6 marked the 40th anniversary of our Conservation District. Congratulations to the citizens of McHenry County on their foresight and commitment to the birds, fish, mammals, plants and yes, even the insects that make our county so rich. This is my last letter, as my five years serving on the Board of Trustees comes to a close in July. It has been a pleasure working with the Conservation District staff and the citizens of this beautiful county.

Sincerely,

Nancy Williamson
Board President



Landscapes is a FREE publication. To subscribe or update your contact info: email MCCD@MCCDistrict.org or call (815) 338-6223. The publication can also be read online at MCCDistrict.org.

Editor: Wendy Kummerer.

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Photographic contributors: Jennifer Holcombe, Kevin Horner, Dave Miller, Ryan Provenzano, Weg Thomas, Bob Williams.

Printed with soy ink on partially recycled paper, minimum 10% pcw.

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Join Us!

McHenry County Conservation Foundation was established in 2000 to help promote the goals and objectives of the McHenry County Conservation District in the area of land protection, management, conservation education, and research. The foundation plays a key role in protecting and preserving our natural heritage through such programs as grant support, fund raising and membership development.

The Foundation welcomes charitable gifts and memberships to assist in their goal to protect the quality of life, property values, air and water quality, and open space throughout the county. Support of McHenry County Conservation Foundation ensures the future protection of our natural heritage.

Visit www.mchenryconservation.org to find out how you can help.

McHenry County Conservation Foundation is a recognized not-for-profit, 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

McHenry County Conservation Foundation P.O. Box 1108, Woodstock, IL 60098 | (815) 759-9390

Gaining Ground: Land Acquisitions

The Conservation District currently owns or manages 24,894 acres.

In January the Conservation District acquired 46.7 acres in Richmond Township, east of Route 31, south of Route 12 and just north of Glacial Park Conservation Area.

The north branch of Nippersink Creek meanders through the property and it is also adjacent to land managed by the District via conservation easement with the Village of Richmond.

News and Noteworthy:

Conservation District receives National Award for Financing Excellence

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada awarded McHenry County Conservation District *The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* for its comprehensive annual financial report. This Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of government accounting and financial reporting and it represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Andy Dylak, Director of Finance for the Conservation District was also recognized individually by the government as primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning financial report. The Government Finance Officers Association is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals.

District wins Green Marketing Award & Fellow Award at IPRA Conference

The Conservation District's *Lost Valley Visitor Center: Building a "GREEN" future...* brochure was awarded Outstanding in Green Marketing at the annual Illinois Parks & Recreation (IPRA) conference held in January. In addition, Executive Director Elizabeth Kessler was presented with the IPRA Fellow Award given to a park and recreation professional who has shown excellence in promoting the parks and recreation movement on a statewide basis for over ten years and has served on the IPRA Board of Directors.



People Making A Difference



Employee of the Season— Restoration Ecologist

Brad Woodson was recently recognized by staff as a supervisor that goes above and beyond, willing to help any department, retains a positive attitude, continues to produce results on a "shoe-string" budget, leads by example, and is dedicated to the District's mission.

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On the Cover — Canoes at Keystone Road Landing-Glacial Park, photo by Anthony Tucker

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