

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Raising and administering financial support for the Forest Preserve District of Will County is The Nature Foundation of Will County's mission. It is bolstered by a strong commitment to meeting the interests of its donors in supporting meaningful and impactful programs and projects that protect nature, inspire discovery and bring people and nature together.

Legacy Gifts

In 2023, The Nature Foundation received \$450,000 in legacy gifts for preserve improvements at Lake Chaminwood Preserve as well as habitat restoration at Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve (GGNP).



The legacy gift received for habitat restoration at GGNP also creates a new Land Stewardship Fund which the Foundation will use to grow its commitment to restoring biodiversity and improving habitat in the Will County forest preserves. Initially, the Foundation hopes to provide matching dollars for grants that the Forest Preserve receives from national, regional, state, and local granting agencies.

Invest in Nature Corporate Partnership Projects

In 2023, The Nature Foundation of Will County secured over \$62,500 in funding from corporations, businesses and foundations to support Forest Preserve District initiatives as well as the Foundation's native plant sales and its Bringing Nature Home Initiative.

- STEM & STEAM education programs at all Forest Preserve Visitor Centers with funding from Pembina, matched by gifts made to The Nature Foundation by its donors and supporters.
- Connecting Kids with Nature School Bus Scholarship Program with funding from Pembina.
- Community events including Eagle Watch, Migration Celebration, and Pelican Party at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in partnership with Enbridge Alliance.
- Trout restocking at Hidden Lakes Trout Farm in partnership with Bass Pro Shops & Cabela's Outdoor Fund.
- New benches at Hidden Oaks Nature Center and Hidden Lakes Trout Farm in partnership with Vulcan Materials Company.
- Education and fishing program equipment and supplies for Hidden Oaks Nature Center in partnership with the Sgt. Thomas M. Gilbert Memorial Foundation.
- Supplies and equipment for volunteer community workdays and the Adopt-A-Preserve program in partnership with Target.
- Bicycle repair stations along the Hickory Creek Bikeway and the Veteran's Memorial Trail in partnership with the Joliet Bicycle Club, matched by gifts made to The Nature Foundation by its donors and supporters.
- Support for native plant sale events and the Bringing Nature Home Initiative in partnership with Enbridge, Brent Hassert Consulting LLC, Nicor, Pizzo & Associates LTD, Pizzo Native Plant Nursery, PuroClean of Romeoville, CBBE, JULIE Inc., KGG LLC, A.J. Dralle Inc, Strand Associates, Village of Romeoville, and Uni-Max Management Corporation.



2023 Projects

In 2023, the Foundation provided \$50,000 in funding for Forest Preserve District programs and initiatives made possible by gifts from individual donors.

STEM & STEAM Nature Education Program Funding

Restore Will County Land Stewardship Small Grants Program

Serve Will County Youth Service Grant Program

Take It Outside Initiative

Will County Triple Crown Hiking Challenge

Harvest Hustle Virtual 5K

Pumpkin Fun Run

Willy'sWilderness.org

The Buzz Nature Show

Woods Walk Program

World's Finest: Fly Fishing Tackle Exhibition

Golden Opportunity: Botanical Illustrations Exhibition

Journey Stories Exhibition

Animal Ambassadors

Willy Woodchuck's Makeover