

**October / November 2016.** Maintenance and safety checks of buildings and grounds, seasonal mowing, firewood cutting splitting and stacking, storm clean-up, shelter house and toilet cleaning, litter pick-up and disposal, road grading, trail maintenance, equipment maintenance, scheduling shelter rentals and collecting shelter and camping fees, drinking water sampling . Shelter houses and Lodge are used every weekend by scouts, families and other groups. Natural Resource Center Educational Staff teaching school groups at Russell Woods and making classroom visits. PDRMA Risk Management and Loss Control review and preserve safety in progress for 2016 compliance.



Recently the Sycamore Lions presented a check to cover the cost of the new Sycamore Lions Shelter which was recently installed at the Sycamore Forest Preserve. The check was given to Terry Hannan, Superintendent DeKalb County Forest Preserve and Anita Turner DeKalb County Board, Forest Preserve Committee. The presentation was made at the new Lions Shelter in Sycamore Forest Preserve, formerly the Evergreen Village mobile home park property on the east side of Sycamore. The renovations of the property are in progress with opening planned for Spring 2017. The Lions are grateful to be able to provide this shelter for the residents of Sycamore, and guests of the DeKalb County Forest Preserve.

The Sycamore Lions have a long history with the DeKalb County Forest Preserve having adopted the Great Western Trail more than 25 years ago. Each spring the Lions clean the trail and the north side of Route 64. In 1998, the club's Fiftieth Anniversary, the Lions installed two handicap picnic tables on the trail, and in 2012 the lions funded and planted oak trees along the trail as part of the Lions Clubs Million Tree challenge. This year the Lions are celebrating the 100th anniversary of Lions Clubs International by providing service to one million people worldwide through centennial projects and service activities.

Lions Clubs International is the largest service club organization in the world. Its 1.35 million members in more than 46,000 clubs are serving communities in more than 200 countries and geographical areas around the globe. Since 1917, Lions clubs have aided the blind and visually impaired, championed youth initiatives and strengthened local communities through hands-on service and humanitarian projects. For more information about Lions Clubs International, visit [lionsclubs.org](http://lionsclubs.org).

***Sycamore Forest Preserve update:***

*The first "leveling layer" of asphalt was placed on roads, parking areas and multi - use paths at Sycamore Forest Preserve in late Fall 2016 ( see photos below). Sycamore Forest Preserve is "almost" completed. The final 3 " of asphalt will be placed in Spring of 2017, along with the final grading and landscaping, parking space painting, signage, gates , benches and other land improvement details.*

*The land also needs to be transferred from County ownership to Forest Preserve ownership by FEMA ( FEMA has told us it is a priority) . The 60 acre Sycamore Forest Preserve land needs to be in Forest Preserve District ownership as required by PDRMA <https://www.pdrma.org/> , the Forest Preserve District risk manager for liability and property insurance. The trail connection strip of land from Sycamore Forest Preserve east to the Great Western Trail through Stone Prairie Apartments land also needs to be transferred to the Forest Preserve District ( will have land transfer paperwork soon from Stone Prairie) ....so a few more things to do.*





## **Projects October – November 2016**

### **Bill Prain / Northern Preserves**

- Restore well jacks for southern preserves and backups
- Storm and deadfall removal
- Construction of Natural Resource Center accessible observation deck overlooking Kishwaukee River
- Assist contractor for bike /hike trail and road grading - Russell
- Winterize power equipment
- Replace bumpers near sledding hill with boulders
- Russell outhouse repairs – roof, interior paneling and trim
- Administrative Priorities as called for
- Safety investigation reporting and training
- Shut down well for winter (Lodge)
- Vandalism cleanup, prevention and reporting at Russell, Potawatomi Woods and Hoppe Farmstead
- Shelter house Stove pipe inspection and replacement
- Skid loader repairs
- Trailer signal repairs and maintenance
- Hole digging, sign post install and winter shut down (Sycamore Forest Preserve)
- Sledding Hill safety signage and Shelter House firewood supply work

## October/November 2016 south preserves maintenance and project work list Josh Clark

Cleaned up maintenance yard at Afton

Replaced stove pipe cap at sled hill shelter at Sannauk

Installed road gates at Afton and Sannauk

Continued cleaning up future plant nursery area at Afton

Repaired outhouse door and walls on Shabbona Preserve outhouse

Developing 2017 maintenance list for southern preserves

Cleaned and stored mowers and other equipment

Prepared winter and snow removal equipment

Erected new pallet shelving at Afton to store herbicide and fire spray tanks

Built room around well pressure tank at Afton

Removed beaver dams at Afton

Assisted with Sycamore Forest preserve opening preparation

Repaired bridges at Afton

Caged trees at Afton to protect from beavers

Assisted Adventure Works with some tree removals at their new headquarters building

Built new propagation boxes for plant propagation area

Installed bird houses throughout Afton

Attended Illinois Association of Conservation Districts meeting

### Natural Resources

Prepared fire breaks for spring burns

Assisted with seed processing and weighing

Began mixing seed for fall/winter planting

Conducted controlled fires at Afton and Swanson Grove.

Cleared brush at Swanson Grove and Afton, built brush piles to burn this winter

Cleared brush along old wire fence at Prairie Oaks in preparation for fence removal this winter

Placed metal posts at Swanson Grove to determine sedge meadow management areas for next spring