

**October 2017.** 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 / Summer Camps at Russell Woods and making classroom visits. PDRMA Risk Management and Loss Control review and preserve safety in progress for 2016 compliance.

*Forest Preserve Committee meets at Sycamore Forest Preserve on a chilly night in October.....*



*Sycamore Lions shelter and pond Autumn colors at Sycamore Forest Preserve*



Sycamore leaves on newly planted Sycamore Tree.





# ***YOU ARE INVITED***

Please join us for the Grand Opening of the Sycamore Forest Preserve

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2017**

**10:00 A.M.**

955 E. State Street, Sycamore, IL

*(Former location of the Evergreen Mobile Home Park)*



West end of the Great Western Trail at Old State Rd. parking area now closed and trailhead parking now ¼ mile west at Sycamore Forest Preserve..... this area was too small and too congested with GWT users vehicles. Some vehicles would park along Old State Rd. shoulder.



# TRAIL SAFETY

The Illinois Association of Conservation and Forest Preserve Districts is urging all trail users to:

## PREVENT ACCIDENTS AND HAVE FUN

Trails are often perceived as safer than roadways, however many accidents and even deaths occur, often due to interactions with other users or lack of safety practices. Help prevent accidents and enjoy the trails by following these guidelines.

## TRAIL SAFETY TIPS

**HELMETS** – Are highly recommended and can save lives.

**BE COURTEOUS** – Make sure you are aware of other users and site conditions at all times.

**STAY TO THE RIGHT** – Don't block the entire trail. Don't use more than half of the trail width when in a group.

**MOVE OFF THE TRAIL** – If you have to stop.

**PASS ON THE LEFT** – When there is good visibility and conditions are safe.

**ANNOUNCE YOUR INTENTIONS TO PASS** – Say "on your left" and wait for the person to respond or wave before making your move.

**TRAVEL AT SAFE SPEEDS** – Maintain control and proceed at a slower pace when the trails are in heavy use. Slow down if trail conditions are dangerous due to water, ice, debris, curves, pedestrians or pets. Obey local speed limits where posted.

**TELL SOMEONE** – Where you will be and when you plan to be back.

**CARRY YOUR CELL PHONE** – Call 911 if there is an emergency.

**BIKERS SHOULD YIELD** – To walkers, horses and uphill trail users.

**USE YOUR VOICE** – Around horses rather than bicycle bells which could startle the animals.

**LISTEN** – Keep earphones on low or only use one earpiece.

**STAY ON THE TRAILS** – To avoid tick bites, poisonous plants and other hazards.

**LEASH YOUR PETS** – Shorten the leash when you or someone else is passing. Dogs should be kept to their owner's right and should remain at the owner's immediate side.

**WHILE YOU ARE ENJOYING THE TRAILS** – Keep them clean for other users and protect the environment. Pick up after yourself and your pets. Do not disturb wildlife or plants. And avoid natural surface trails when they are wet to prevent damage and erosion.

*Note: Some rules vary by district. Check with your local agency for its applicable rules.*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- League of Illinois Bicyclists – [www.bikelib.org](http://www.bikelib.org)
- Active Transportation Alliance – [www.activetrans.org](http://www.activetrans.org)
- Illinois Secretary of State, Rules of the Road – [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com)
- DeKalb County Forest Preserve District – [dekalbcounty.org/ForestPreserve/index.html](http://dekalbcounty.org/ForestPreserve/index.html)

Old Great Western Railroad mile marker on Great Western Trail .... 55 miles from Chicago.



## **Projects October – November 2017**

### **Bill Prain and Forest Preserve Staff Northern Preserves**

- Firewood cutting splitting stocking**
  - Welcome sign wood carving**
  - Shelving construction at Russell Woods shed**
  - Firewood bin storage repairs**
  - Electrical repairs parking lot lighting at McQueen**
  - Furnace repairs at McQueen Potawatomi Woods**
  - Bench construction and shed organization Thompson Rd**
  - Park bench and tree planting preparation at Sycamore FP**
  - Gate repairs at Thompson Rd**
  - Skid loader scheduled maintenance**
  - Mowing /Trimming**
  - Parking lot Limestone Boulder placement McQueen, Adee Woods Nehring and GWT**
  - General supply and equipment organization**
  - Administrative Priorities as called for ( materials and supply ordering, pick up and delivery )**
  - Safety investigation reporting and training**
  - Parking lot surface repairs at Russell Woods, Nehring, Prairie Oaks**
  - Welding and fabrication of Miller Cabin wood stove**
  - Equipment and materials purchase and transport**
  - Safety lane compliance for equipment trailer**
  - Potable water testing for compliance**
- Winterizing well and waterlines**
- Stove pipe inspection and repair**



**October 2017- Southern Preserves & Natural Resource Completed Project List-**  
**Josh Clark and South FP staff**

**Maintenance**

1. Cleaned and stored summer equipment.
2. Replaced small footbridge at Afton.
3. Cleaned and organized barn and shop areas.
4. Storm cleanup at Shabbona and Afton.
5. Prepared Swanson grove for Jeff's Trees planting.

**Natural Resources**

1. Continued cutting fire breaks throughout the district for fall and spring fire season.
2. Seed collection throughout the district.
3. Finishing touches on greenhouse at Afton.
4. Began brush clearing projects at Afton, Sannauk and Swanson Grove.
5. Prepared prescribed fire equipment.
6. Reviewed burn plans.

*Trail bridge over Haines Creek at Swanson Grove*

