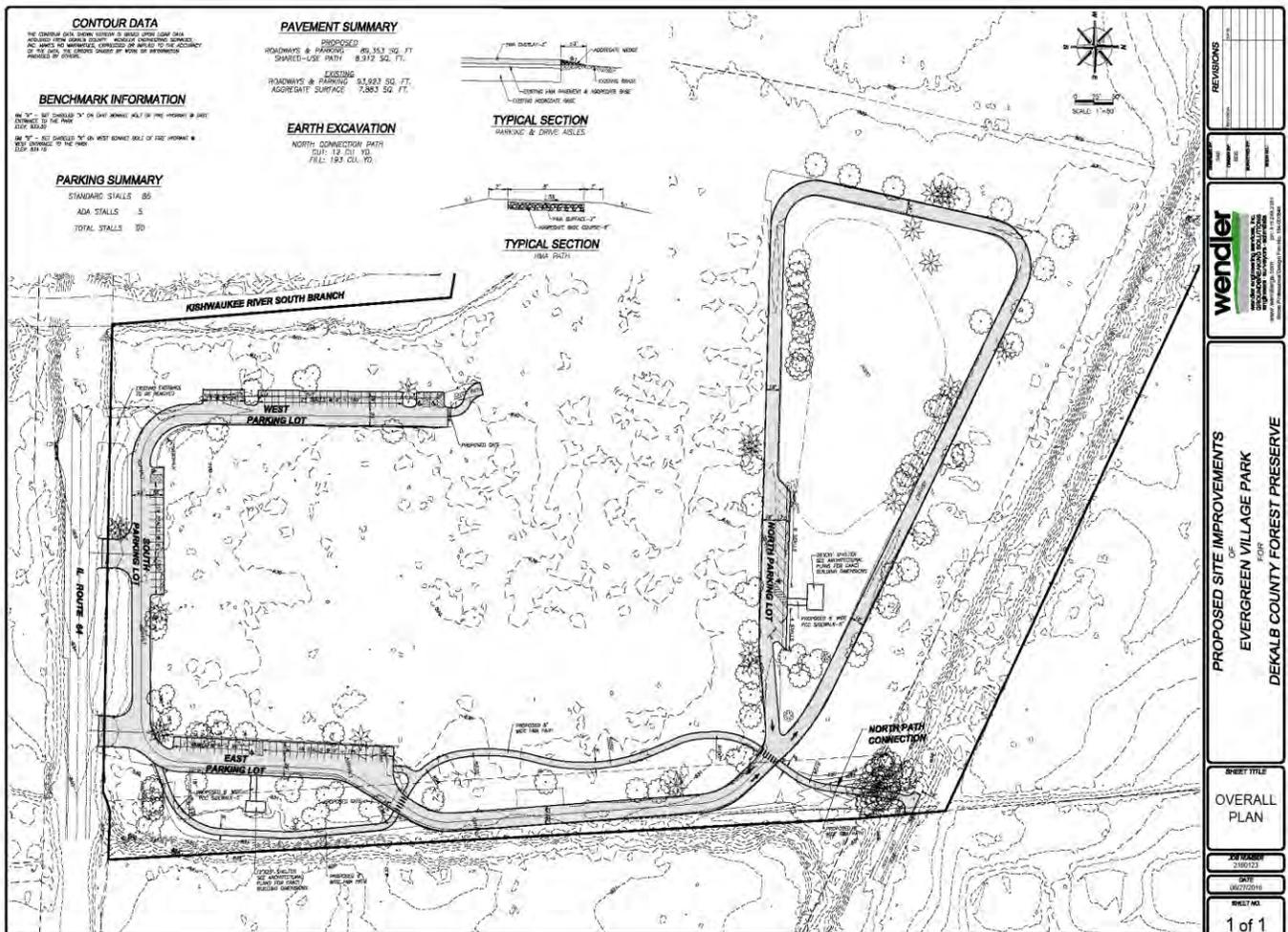
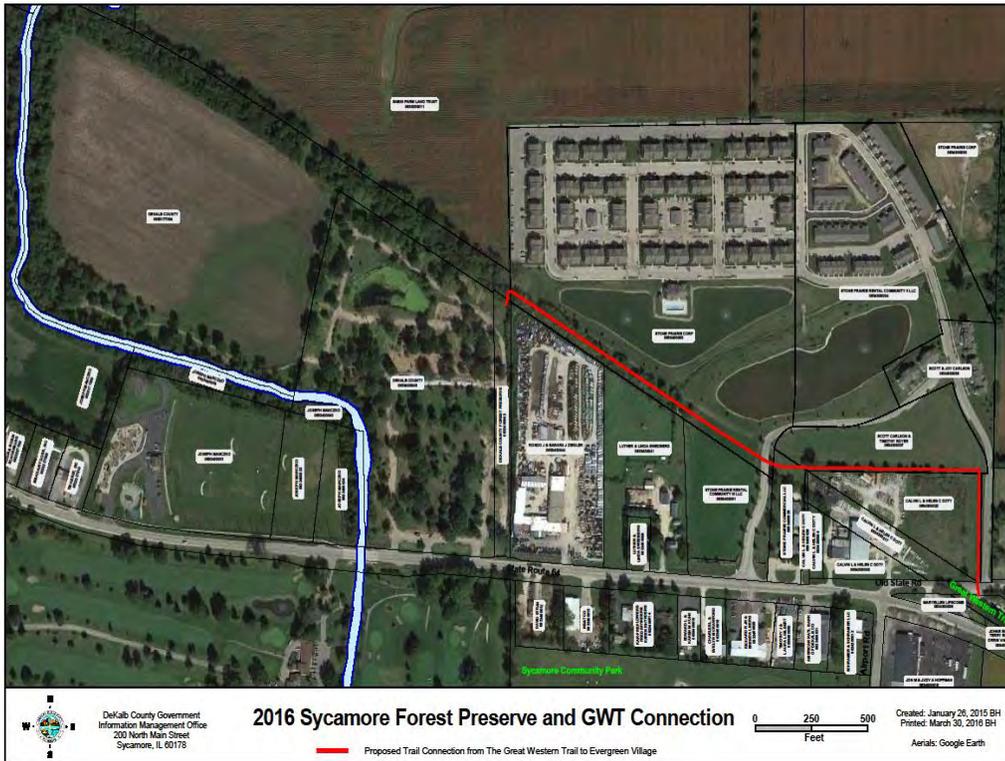


June / July 2016. Maintenance and safety checks of buildings and grounds, seasonal mowing, firewood cutting, splitting and stacking, storm clean-up, shelter house and toilet cleaning, litter pick-up and disposal, road grading, trail maintenance, equipment maintenance, scheduling shelter rentals and collecting 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.

Final Engineering plan for the Sycamore Forest Preserve. Bid opening for new asphalt roads, parking and trails will be in mid - August. Asphalt work, picnic shelters, signage, picnic tables are ready for installation as soon as F.E.M.A. building permits are granted. Hopefully the new forest preserve will be open in late Fall 2016.



The red line shows the future trail connection from Sycamore Forest Preserve through Stone Prairie apartment community to the Great Western Trail. The land through Stone Prairie will be transferred to the DeKalb County Forest Preserve District as per the City of Sycamore annexation agreement with Stone Prairie. The trail through Stone Prairie apartment community will then become part of the Great Western Trail. Sycamore Park District is working on new trail connections from Sycamore Forest Preserve into the City of Sycamore, Sycamore Parks and Schools.



Future Trail connection through Stone Prairie

Large limestone boulders were placed around roads and parking areas at Sycamore Forest Preserve to keep vehicles off grass areas.





Fishing pond and picnic shelter area at Sycamore Forest Preserve

July 2016- Southern and Central Preserves & Natural Resource Completed Project List-

Josh Clark

Maintenance

1. Completed replacing doors on north bathrooms at Afton



- 1. Continued cleaning and repairing large white barn at Afton.**
- 2. Assembled picnic tables for Sycamore Forest Preserve.**
- 3. Contractor installed gutters on Afton maintenance buildings and preserve residence. Soffit and fascia were installed on the Afton shop.**
- 4. Cleared tree line between Prairie Oaks and the new southern addition for tile repair.**
- 5. Installed horse trail closure signs at Shabbona so that staff can close the trails to horses when conditions are too wet for horses.**
- 6. Prepared supplies for Eagle Scout project at Shabbona.**
- 7. Trimmed trees around parking lot at Potawatomi Woods.**

Natural Resources

- 1. Mowed future South Afton wetland bank in preparation for future wetland bank install.**
- 2. Mowed weedy areas at Afton, Merritt, Prairie Oaks, and South Branch Prairie in preparation for invasive species spraying and re-seeding.**
- 3. Continue to develop area at Afton to be used as future plant propagation area.**



ZACH BUTTERFIELD•LAUREN CHRISS•JAQUELINE CONTRERAS•ROBBIE HILL•
•ELLIE MULLINS•KASEY PENNINGTON•LILY REYNOLDS•NATE REYNOLDS•

g2kpedway@gmail.com •1-815-757-4162•

Dear (landowner name),

Our group, G-K Community Problem Solvers (CmPSers), is a group of G-K students who are involved with the international Future Problem Solving Program (<http://fpspi.org/cmeps.html>). Through the problem solving process, we have discovered that the communities of Genoa and Kingston would greatly benefit from having a safe off-road path that connects the communities. This path would provide health and recreational opportunities, have connections to the Russell Woods Forest Preserve , the Natural Resource Education Center at Russell Woods, Genoa Prairie, South Branch Prairie, , and the Genoa-Kingston High School, and provide safer access to both communities for pedestrians and bicyclists than the current choices of Route 72 or the railroad tracks.

Our *G2K: A Pedway Connection* plan would involve an easement on your property. Through our research we have learned there are several ways to do this and realize a request of this nature probably raises many questions and even concerns. We would like to meet with you to discover your questions and concerns so that we can find answers that will gain your support and move our project forward.

We would very much appreciate your contacting us (see contact information listed in the header) in order to schedule a meeting at your convenience so you can learn more about this project as well as share your thoughts and concerns with us. If you are unable to contact us, a group member will be reaching out to you in the near future. As you can see from the partnership list below, we have several groups that are ready to help. We would very much like to add your name to G2K's list of supporters.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

The Genoa-Kingston CmPS Group

Terry Hannan
Executive Director
DeKalb County Forest Preserve District
110 E. Sycamore St.
DeKalb, IL 60178
Re: June 29, 2016 Visit

Dear Terry:

It was a pleasure meeting with you on the date referenced above. The purpose of my visit was to obtain updates on past recommendations and land acquisitions and conduct work site and crew visits. As a result of our tour a few recommendations were made and are included here for your consideration.

Safety Manual and Training

- It is very encouraging to see that you were successful in creating and adopting the District's first ever safety manual. The manual lays the foundation for safe work practices and developing a culture of safety at the District. Additionally, it is great to see that safety training are continuing at District staff meetings to emphasize important injury prevention topics, like 3 Points of Contact, 30 Second Site Safety Survey, lifting, stretching and other topics. Very well done!

Property Acquisition

- We discussed several property acquisitions that the District is either actively engaged in or are being contemplated for the future. It is recommended that the District continue to ensure that the properties are added to the District's pollution liability policy by completing the application located on the PDRMA website and conducting Phase I environmental assessments. Please keep me advised as appropriate.

Creek/River Stabilization Project – Hoppe/Russell Woods

- During a work crew visit, I was able to observe a crew of six working along the river bank. We identified some at-risk behaviors that have the potential to cause injuries. I spent 20 minutes talking with the crew and reinforcing injury prevention principles and techniques (i.e. Core 6). The Crew was very receptive to my coaching and appeared genuinely motivated to practice these techniques during their work activities. Great crew!

Shelter Demolition Project – Russell Woods

- During a work crew visit, I was able to discuss the active demolition project with Bill and Dave. The crew was contemplating the best technique to topple the structure and we determined through a 30 Second Site Safety Survey an alternative approach that would better protect the workers from the potential for injury while the structure was being toppled. By using chains to pull the structure (instead of pushing using the skid steer) the workers could maintain a safe distance from the falling structure. This was a great example of a 30 Second Site Safety Survey by introducing high levels of safety into the project planning process while on-site.

We wrapped up the day visiting the Afton Preserve to quickly inspect the newly installed playground. As discussed, the new playground structure is a good alternative to more traditional playground features and should make it easier to maintain and inspect over time. Please continue your efforts to use the same approach for the other playground located at the preserve.

As mentioned, please let me know if I can be of assistance to talk with your staff during an upcoming staff meeting on the topic of mower safety or other related topics.

It is a pleasure to witness the gradual transformation of the District's safety program.

Nice work.

Thank you to everyone for their time during my visit. As you review this letter, please feel free to contact me with any questions that may arise.

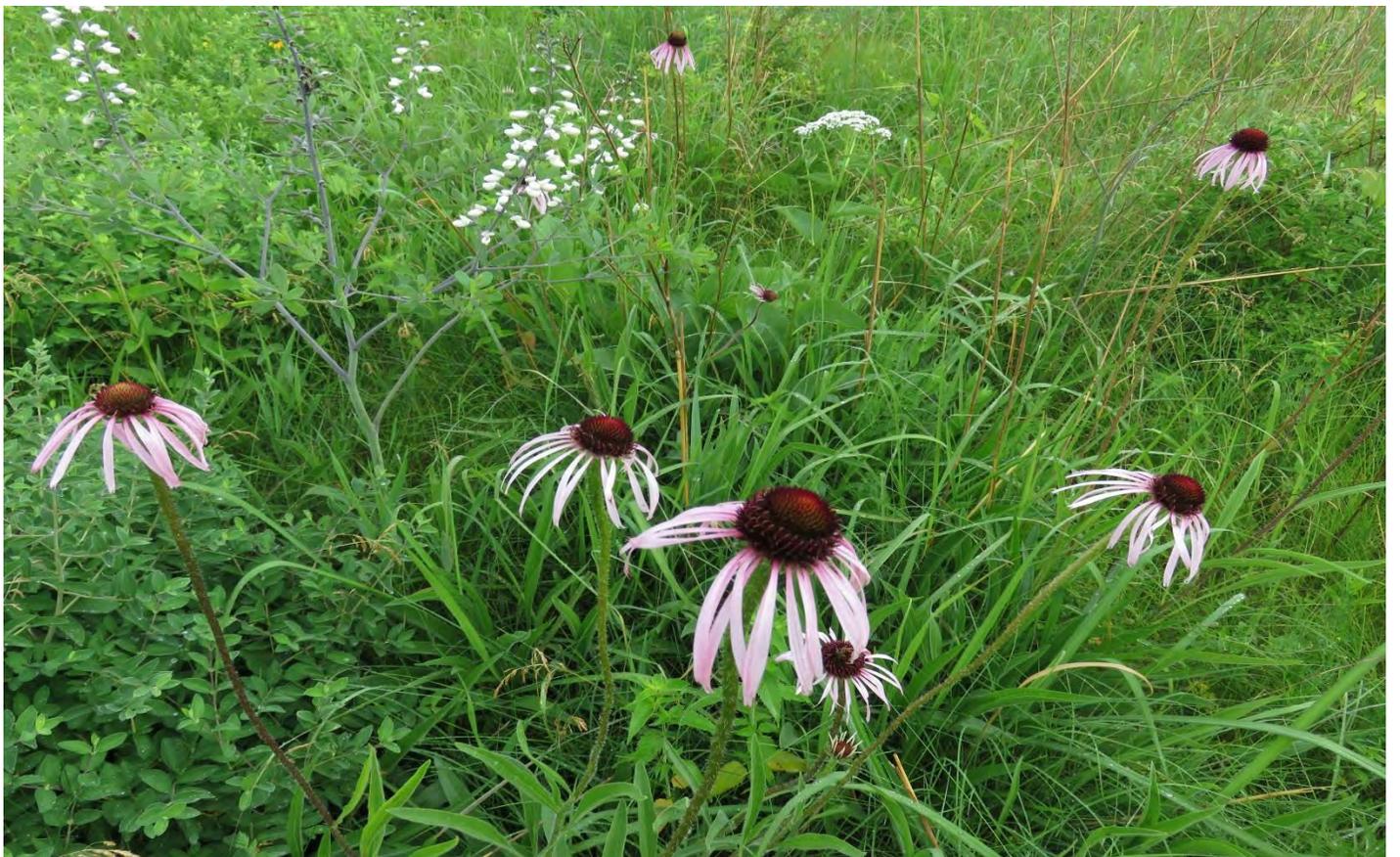
Sincerely,

Dane Mall, MPA, AIC, ARM

Risk Management Services Manager --

Mid -Summer Prairie blooms at forest preserve prairies







Fishing on the South Branch of the Kishwaukee at Potawatomi Woods and the South Branch Prairie



Forest Preserve maintenance staff mowing shoulders on great Western Trail



Forest Preserve staff student interns and volunteer land stewards work every Wednesday morning on various natural resource management projects in the forest preserves. Here they are collecting prairie seed along the Great Western Trail. They also found a Black Swallow Tail butterfly caterpillar.



The Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSPI) was founded in 1974 by Dr. E. Paul Torrance. The mission is “to develop the ability of young people globally to design and promote positive futures through problem solving using critical and creative thinking.” There are several competitive components offered. To date, Genoa-Kingston students have participated in the team problem solving, individual problem solving, scenario writing, and scenario performance. This is our first venture into Community Problem Solving. This program strives to teach “students to think systematically about problematic situations, to gather information to understand the situation, and to evaluate multiple solutions in order to best address the situation. Students learn about “creating change, about dealing with local authorities and organizations, and about making a positive impact.” Additional information about the organization can be found at www.fpspi.org.

When this group decided they wanted to participate in the Community Problem Solving Component, they brainstormed several problems they encountered in the community. After much discussion, they determined that the project they would like to tackle was a path connecting Genoa and Kingston resulting in G2K: A Pedway Connection. In the Spring they will submit their packet of materials describing their project to the Illinois Future Problem Solving Board for evaluation. The 8 students involved are currently enrolled in Middle School and High School, are all involved in at least one other competitive component of FPS, and have all competed at the state level. Four of the students have competed at least once at the International level.