Wow - Land Donations Creates New Public Access to Funderburg Conservation Area

K-B Farms Incorporated donated property to create a public access and parking area for the Funderburg Conservation Area. The access is located just east of Poplar Grove Road on Woodstock Road. A gravel entrance and parking area is being installed by district staff right now and should be available for use very soon.

The Funderburg Conservation Area features floodplain habitats next to the Piscasaw Creek. A stately grove of oak and hickory trees border the western edge of the floodplain along a short steep bluff. The bluff was formed by a larger river spawned from melting glaciers. This bluff provides a beautiful overlook of the remnant river valley and the Piscasaw Creek that now flows past.

The Boone County Conservation District is very grateful to have preserved this unique natural setting and is pleased that the owners of K-B Farms have generously provided this new property that facilitates this public access!

Birders will especially enjoy opportunities to observe the eagle nest located near the creek! Eagles use the nest to raise their young – visitors will need to observe these birds at a distance to ensure they are not disrupted. In the future, we hope to provide an observation deck where the public can observe this site’s unique beauty and not impact the natural features and wildlife that call this site home!
The Boone County Conservation District is to preserve and manage natural areas and open spaces for ecological, educational, and recreational benefits of present and future generations.

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Riffles & Eddies is a free newsletter published quarterly. If you know someone who would like to receive this publication, or has an address correction, please call our office at (815) 547-7935.

The Boone County Conservation District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age or handicap in admission or treatment, or employment in programs or activities. In compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the U.S. Constitution. The Equal Employment Opportunity Officer is responsible for compliance and may be reached at (217)423-7708.

Boone County Conservation District Awarded Environmental Grant from ComEd, Openlands to Support Local Open-Space Project

**Boone County has received $10,000 in funding through the annual ComEd Green Region Program**

**BELVIDERE, IL – July 17, 2019** – ComEd and Openlands announced today that the Boone County Conservation District is one of 26 public agencies from northern Illinois to receive an environmental grant from the organizations through the annual ComEd Green Region Program. The Boone County Conservation District has received $10,000 to establish 17 acres of new habitat at Sewell Conservation Area to benefit both pollinators and conservation area visitors for years to come. This agricultural conversion is part of a 200-acre conservation area that will become a high-quality wetland within the Kishwaukee River watershed in northern Illinois.

Since the inception of the Green Region Program in 2013, ComEd has awarded more than $1.3 million to municipalities across northern Illinois to help fund their open-space projects. ComEd provides the funding, and Openlands, one of the oldest metropolitan conservation organizations in the nation, administers the grants to local communities.

“Together with our partners at Openlands, we are proud to support organizations that are making meaningful differences to restore and enhance natural habitats and biodiversity,” said Melissa Washington, Vice President of Governmental and External Affairs at ComEd. “It’s the perfect balance of meeting our future energy needs and powering a brighter and more sustainable future for our customers and the communities we serve.”

Due to a recent decline in pollinators throughout northern Illinois, and strong interest in pollinator conservation, the 2019 Green Region projects again focus on advancing and protecting the region’s essential pollinator species. Earlier this year, public agencies from across communities that ComEd serves submitted grant applications, which were then reviewed by an advisory committee composed of county government officials and members of the region’s conservation community.

“The ComEd Green Region Program is an important commitment to sustainability across northern Illinois and a commitment to providing residents with access to natural open spaces,” said Jerry Adelmann, President and CEO of Openlands. “Over the last seven years, we’ve seen how the Green Region Program has helped communities enhance many parks and trails for learning, enjoyment, and supporting wildlife, and the support from ComEd has been vital. We extend our gratitude to ComEd, and we want to thank the many partners who have implemented these projects across the region.”

Additional information on the ComEd Green Region Program can be found at [Openlands.org/GreenRegion](http://Openlands.org/GreenRegion).
Conservation District land management staff will be conducting prescribed burns at several of our conservation areas in the late fall. Prescribed fire is an essential and efficient management practice for the health of our native ecosystems, including prairies, savannas, and woodlands. Fire helps return nutrients to the soil, helps control undesirable exotic weeds and shrubs, increases blooming and seed production among our native plants, and stimulates the growth of our native prairie and woodland plant species. District staff manage the burns to minimize smoke on highways and neighboring properties.

Monthly Meetings
(All meetings held at the Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center are open to the public)

BCCD Board of Trustees
Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m., Aug. 20th, Sept. 17th, and Oct. 15th.

Gardeners of America
Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m., Sept. 24th and Oct. 22nd.

Conservation Areas Closed
The conservation areas listed below will be closed for archery hunting and normal seasonal closing.

Shaw Road, Rainbow Gardens, Funderburg, Beaver Bluffs (dog park will remain open), Lucky Woods and Sewell will be closed:
October 1 - November 17
November 25 - December 1
December 9 - December 22
December 30 - January 19
Kinnikinnick Creek, Piscasaw Fen, East County Line, Silberhorn, Savannah Oaks and Kishwaukee Valley will be closed:
October 4 -- October 6
October 25 - October 27
November 8 - November 10
November 15 - November 17
November 25 - December 1
December 9 - December 22
December 30 - January 19
LIB, Distillery, Ipsen Road and Newburg Village will be closed:
October 4 - October 6
October 25 - October 27
November 8 - November 10
November 15 - November 17
December 13 - December 15
January 10 - January 12
January 17 - January 19

Scout Programs
We offer badge workshops and other programs for Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and BSA Scouts.

Please see our website for more information!

Thank You
We wish to thank all of the individuals and organizations who donated to our Send-a-Kid-to-Camp scholarship fund.

Your generosity helped fund 62 scholarships! Thanks for helping us get kids outside!

We also wish to thank the following businesses for their generous donations of items we need and use at camp:
Alpaca Pines - Applebee’s - Culver’s - Jimmy John’s - Mr. Goodwater - Sips & Sprinkles - Taco Bell - Unique Boutique

Prescribed Fire Season
Conservation District land management staff will be conducting prescribed burns at several of our conservation areas in the late fall. Prescribed fire is an essential and efficient management practice for the health of our native ecosystems, including prairies, savannas, and woodlands. Fire helps return nutrients to the soil, helps control undesirable exotic weeds and shrubs, increases blooming and seed production among our native plants, and stimulates the growth of our native prairie and woodland plant species. District staff manage the burns to minimize smoke on highways and neighboring properties.

Using Fire to Manage Natural Areas
Thursday, Oct 17
6:30 p.m. - Free

Have you ever been curious why the BCCD burns on conservation sites? Come learn about the BCCD’s ‘Prescribed Burn Program’. Join Josh Sage, Natural Resources Manager as he explains why, how, and where we use this tool. Also learn about where the controlled burns that are planned for this coming burn season will be.

Please call the office at (815) 547-7935 by Monday, Oct. 14 to sign up for this free program.

Ethnobotany Hike
Saturday September 7
6 a.m.

The connection between plants and the indigenous people who lived in Boone County is an interesting story. Come learn what people used for food, fuel, fiber and medicine in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The program will begin at the nature center with a discussion on the history of ethnobotany and the people who studied plants used by local tribes in Boone County. We will then go out into Spencer Conservation Area and look for plants that were used by the Potawatomi and Winnebago people and discuss what they were used for.

Dress for the weather and wear sturdy walking shoes.
Riffles & Eddies

603 Appleton Road, Belvidere, IL 61008

Return Service Requested

Autumn Pioneer Festival

Saturday, Sept. 28th  9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 29th  10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Travel back to the 1800's for a look at the lifestyles and crafts of the day. Talk to a flint knapper, watch a blacksmith, eat buffalo stew, pioneer fries, sample bean soup and apple butter. Visit the harvest table to purchase fresh vegetables or wander through the voyagers’ encampment, and 2 historic log cabins.

Admission is free, but donations are cheerfully accepted (Suggested donation of $5.00 per family)

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Belvidere, IL
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