

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 3, 2025

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Celebrating 100 Years
Conservation | Recreation | Education



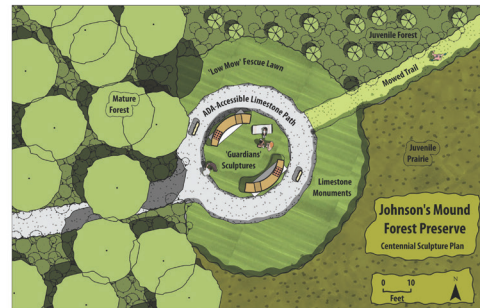
Sponsor a tree to help launch the Forest Preserve District's next century *Forest Preserve District Extends the Centennial Grove Project Sponsorship Deadline*

GENEVA, IL — The Forest Preserve District of Kane County is excited to celebrate its first 100 years of public land conservation and invites you to help us celebrate as we embark on our next century of conservation in Kane County.

On June 8, the Forest Preserve District will celebrate this monumental milestone with the unveiling of the Centennial Grove Project at Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve in Elburn. Johnson's Mound was the District's first forest preserve, and Executive Director Ben Haberthur said the site marks the perfect spot to launch the Forest Preserve District's next century of conservation.



Overall Centennial Grove Concept



Centennial Sculpture Plan



Centennial Grove Project
800-Tree Planting & New 23-Acre Prairie



Centennial Monument Concept



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CENTENNIAL GROVE PROJECT
Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve

— MORE —

— ADD ONE —

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"The beauty of the woods and the spring ephemerals at Johnson's Mound are what inspired the creation of the entire Forest Preserve District. We're excited about the celebration that we've got planned, to both honor our shared history, as well as recommit to a future with nature. Together, we'll be planting the newest trees here, next to the very first trees ever protected for the public, by the Forest Preserve District," Haberthur said.

Planned improvements include a new 800-tree centennial grove, made-up primarily of oaks but also a diverse native mix of species including hickories and maples; a new 23-acre prairie to further enhance the ecological diversity of the preserve; an ADA-accessible trail spur to help everyone get to the centennial site; and the District's first-ever public art installation – a two-piece sculpture, entitled Guardians, by renowned local artist Mike Baur.

"We've never done anything like this in our 100-year history, tying in the art with the natural environment. "The Centennial Grove Project is an opportunity to honor and show gratitude for the efforts of those who came before us, and to weave the efforts from one generation into the next" Haberthur said.

"Already, four to five generations of Kane County residents have committed to the mission of the Forest Preserve District. We preserve and maintain public land in every township of the County, for everyone's benefit. This long-term dedication needs to be celebrated and commemorated," he said.

The Kane Forest Preserve Foundation is seeking sponsorships to help fund the centennial grove. Bronze-etched plaques will adorn limestone walls at the site, to permanently acknowledge project sponsors.

Extended Sponsorship Opportunity

The deadline to sponsor a tree has been extended! Sponsorships received by **March 1, 2025** will have their names engraved on a bronze plaque installed before the Centennial Celebration on June 8, 2025. Sponsorships received between **March 2 and June 1, 2025**, will be acknowledged on a temporary sign at the event, with your name to be later inscribed on a bronze plaque and installed at a subsequent date.

Sponsorships are available at various levels, with each offering unique benefits:

— MORE —

— **ADD TWO** —

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- **Centennial Champion - \$800**

Centennial Champion names will be placed on a permanent bronze plaque near the Centennial Grove. A large, 1.5" caliper tree will be planted in their name, with GPS location provided, and a one-year replant guarantee. Centennial Champions will also be acknowledged in event email blasts and receive recognition on the Kane Forest Preserve Foundation website, for one year.

- **Heritage Partner - \$400**

Heritage Partners will receive a 3-5 gallon tree to plant in the Centennial Grove (or may opt to have it planted for them). Heritage Partner names will be placed on a permanent bronze plaque near the Centennial Grove. They'll also receive recognition on the Kane Forest Preserve Foundation website, for one year.

- **Friend of the Forest - \$100**

Friends of the Forest will be recognized on the Kane Forest Preserve Foundation website, for one year.

- **Corporate sponsorships** at various levels are also available.

To sponsor the Centennial Grove Project or for more information, visit
www.kaneforestpreservefoundation.org/centennial or call 630-232-5980.