

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA
TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702

January 26, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
WebEx meeting due to Covid-19 pandemic

*Documentary Material Enclosed

Item 1: Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

Item 2:* Adoption of Agenda

Item 3:* Approval of Minutes for the 236th Meeting, September 15, 2020

Item 4: Next meeting dates and locations

May 11, 2021	238 th Meeting - Starved Rock State Park Lodge, Oglesby, IL
September 14, 2021	239 th Meeting - Olney Central College, Olney, IL

NOTE: Meetings are subject to change to a virtual platform due to Pandemic.

Item 5:* INPC Staff Report

REPORT
Leon Hinz
Nature Preserves Commission

Item 6:* IDNR Staff Report

REPORT
Ann Marie Holtrop
Division of Natural Heritage

Item 7:* Endangered Species Protection Board Report

REPORT
Joyce Hofmann
Endangered Species Protection Board

Item 8:* Jackson Co. – Ralph Clover Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) seeks to register 60 acres of natural land in perpetuity as the Ralph Clover Land and Water Reserve (LWR). Registration will protect approximately half of the 14.5-acre Toothless Cave Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Site (INAI #0599), which is recognized as a Category I due to the presence of a high-quality terrestrial cave

community and as a Category II due to the presence of specific suitable habitat occupied by a state and federally listed bat species. The reserve is located near the southern edge of Jackson County within Pomona Township. It occurs at the southwestern edge of the Greater Shawnee Hills Section of the Shawnee Hills Natural Division. Natural communities include terrestrial cave (Grade B and C), dry-mesic upland forest (Grade C), mesic upland forest (Grade C), and a ~19-acre old field community (Grade D). The reserve will be open to the public, except for an area in the northwest corner containing the entrance to Toothless Cave, the sinkholes, and the entire extent of the INAI site within the proposed LWR boundary. The IDNR would like to thank Ralph Clover for his interest in conservation and support for the protection of this area.

Qualifying features include:

- 1) Permanent protection of ~7 acres of the INAI#0599 site;
- 2) Permanent protection of a bat hibernacula containing federally and state endangered Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), and northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*);
- 3) A state-threatened reptile has been frequently documented in the vicinity and the reserve provides suitable habitat for this species,
- 4) At least 29 Species in Greatest Need of Conservation (SGNC) occur on the reserve, including 19 avian species, six mammals, three herptiles, and one invertebrate;
- 5) Over 20 avian species susceptible to forest fragmentation breed on the reserve; and
- 6) Support of the Forest and Woodlands Campaign and Invasive Species Campaign of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan.

REPORT
Stephen Tillman
Department of Natural Resources

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Registration

Item 9:* Jo Daviess Co. – Addition to Casper Bluff Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation seeks to register a 19.68-acre addition to Casper Bluff Land and Water Reserve located in Northwest Jo Daviess County. The site lies within the Wisconsin Driftless Natural Division of Illinois and contains significant archaeological features in the form of ceremonial and burial mounds including a thunderbird effigy mound. Located on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River, the site is within the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Opportunity Area as well as the Wisconsin Driftless Forest and Apple River Canyon Conservation Opportunity Areas. A federal listed bee, *Bombus affinis* (rusty-patched bumble bee), has been documented utilizing the site along with at least six species of birds identified by the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP) as Species in Greatest Need of Conservation. Protection and management of this reserve will help meet the goals of multiple IWAP campaigns including: Farm and Grassland, Forest and Woodlands, Streams, Land and Water Stewardship, and Invasive Species.

REPORT
Angella Moorehouse
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Registration

Item 10:* Cook Co. – Somme Prairie Grove Nature Preserve, Preliminary Dedication

The Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC) proposes to dedicate 85 acres of the Somme Forest Preserve as the Somme Prairie Grove Nature Preserve. The proposed Somme Prairie Grove Nature

Preserve is part of a larger complex of preserves (approximately 730 acres) found along the west fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River near Northbrook, IL. The proposed nature preserve includes a small amount of remnant prairie and savanna, along with one of the oldest and most comprehensive savanna and woodland restorations in the Midwest, portions of which have been graded B by the Illinois Natural History Survey.

Somme Prairie Grove is included within the Somme Prairie Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI #0245) site, lying within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division of Illinois. The western 70 acres of the Somme Prairie INAI site was dedicated as Somme Prairie Nature Preserve in September 1981 for Grade A and B dry-mesic, mesic, and wet-mesic prairie. This is one of the finest examples of a mesic prairie in Illinois. The original Somme Prairie INAI site was first evaluated in July 1976. It was then described as an 81-acre natural area with 12 acres of Grade A and B mesic prairie. Mesic prairie is the rarest prairie community type in Illinois. The site was expanded to its current size (408.5 total acres) in 2000 to include Somme Prairie Grove and suitable habitat supporting three state-endangered plants. While the current INAI does not list the presence of high-quality plant communities within the proposed Somme Prairie Grove Nature Preserve, surveys by the Illinois Natural History Survey in 2015-2016 determined the site now supports high-quality (Grade B) mesic savanna and dry-mesic woodland. At the time of survey, 8.25 acres of mesic savanna and 9.35 acres of dry-mesic woodland were graded B. Another 63.79 acres of mesic savanna was graded C+, a descriptor used for an area with high potential to be restored to Grade B. Another 0.8 acres of C+ sedge meadow also occurs within the proposed nature preserve.

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission staff and staff of the Forest Preserves of Cook County recommend preliminary dedication of 85 acres as the Somme Prairie Grove Nature Preserve.

REPORT
Rebecca Collings
Forest Preserves of Cook County

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 11:* Lake Co. – Schreiber Lake Bog Nature Preserve, Preliminary Dedication

The Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) proposes to dedicate 355.4 acres of the 2835.1-acre Lakewood Forest Preserve as the Schreiber Lake Bog Nature Preserve. Located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division of Illinois, the rolling kettle and moraine topography of the proposed nature preserve is a direct result of glacial influences, creating strong physical relief terrain. The site consists of a mosaic of upland oak/hickory woodlands, sedge meadow and wet prairie communities, cultural fields containing 30+year old reforestation plantings, successional fields, and prairie restoration plantings. A significant feature of this proposed dedication is the 5.36-acre glacial lake (Schreiber Lake) and its narrow fringe of floating sedge and willow hummocks that line portions of the lake's edge. These floating vegetative mats provide habitat for six state-listed northern relict bog plant species. Additionally, two state-listed aquatic emergent macrophytes occur in the regionally noted exceptionally clear waters of Schreiber Lake. Schreiber Lake and the downstream artificial impoundments of Owen and Davis Lakes encompass two Lake County Advanced Identification (ADID) wetlands (ADID #124 & #125) and Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Site (INAI #1502) Schreiber Lake Bog. The proposed nature preserve also provides habitat to 67 bird species, of which at least seven are state-endangered.

There are two existing nature preserves located within Lakewood Forest Preserve owned by the LCFPD: Wauconda Bog Nature Preserve and McLean Woods and Wetlands Nature Preserve. Additionally, Broberg Marsh Nature Preserve is also located within Lakewood Forest Preserve and

was granted preliminary approval for dedication by the INPC on September 15, 2020. If approved at the 237th INPC meeting, it will add 362 acres. Together, these two dedications (Broberg Marsh and Schreiber Lake Bog) will increase the amount of State protected land within Lakewood Forest Preserve from 600 acres to 1,317 acres, a 119% increase.

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission staff and staff of the Lake County Forest Preserve District recommend dedication of 355.4 acres of the Lakewood Forest Preserve as the Schreiber Lake Bog Nature Preserve.

REPORT
Jim Anderson
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 12:* McHenry Co. – Irish Oaks Savanna Nature Preserve, Preliminary Dedication

The Land Conservancy of McHenry County proposes to dedicate approximately 40 acres as the Irish Oaks Savanna Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve includes a portion of the Harvard Savanna Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (#1268) site. The qualifying feature is a Grade C dry-mesic savanna, best of kind within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. Presently, the Irish Oaks Savanna INAI site provides habitat for seven bird species listed as Species in Greatest Need of Conservation in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan and one bird species on the watch list. This list is likely to grow over the next few years since the property was acquired only a few years ago, and the savanna and associated wetlands are being restored. The Irish Oaks Savanna is unique today as it represents one of the best remaining examples of the oak savanna natural communities that once existed within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. While the site suffers from a proliferation of trees and other associated woody vegetation, its relatively limited land conversion history makes this preserve a remarkable opportunity for restoration that will benefit many species of wildlife. Volunteers and staff of The Land Conservancy of McHenry County have already cleared woody vegetation on approximately half of the site. Once fully restored, Irish Oaks Savanna Nature Preserve will be a fine example of the oak savanna and associated wetlands that once dominated this landscape.

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission staff recommends preliminary approval for dedication of the Irish Oaks Savanna Nature Preserve.

REPORT
Melissa Grycan
Department of Natural Resources

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 13:* Winnebago Co. – Burr Oak Valley Nature Preserve, Preliminary Dedication

The Natural Land Institute proposes to dedicate approximately 98.93 acres as the Burr Oak Valley Nature Preserve. This proposed nature preserve lies within the Winnebago Drift Section of the Eastern Morainal Natural Division of Illinois. The qualifying features for dedication as a nature preserve are suitable habitat for four state-listed plant species and one federally listed insect. A Grade C dry dolomite prairie is also a significant feature. The dolomite prairie has been nominated for inclusion on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) as a Category I, best of its kind and as a Category II, for presence of state-listed species. Burr Oak Valley is also documented to provide habitat for 13 faunal species listed in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP) as Species in Greatest Need of Conservation

(SGNC), as well as three state-threatened plants. One state-endangered plant has been successfully re-introduced to the site. The state-endangered and federally endangered rusty-patched bumble bee was documented on-site in 2018. The site is used by a variety of bird species, 13 of which are listed in the IWAP as SGNC. Of these 13 species, nine are documented to actively breed on site. Formal surveys for butterflies, dragonflies, and damselflies reveal a high diversity of insect fauna with some species being rare and habitat specific.

Staff of the NLI and INPC recommend dedication of 98.93 acres as the Burr Oak Valley Nature Preserve.

REPORT
Zach Grycan
Natural Land Institute

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 14:* Bureau Co. – Daisy Hill Prairie Nature Preserve, Final Dedication

The proposed Daisy Hill Prairie Nature Preserve was granted preliminary approval for dedication at the 236th meeting of the INPC held on September 15, 2020 (Resolution 2498). The proposed preserve, lying within the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois, consists of a very small, but very rare glacial drift hill prairie natural community. This natural community was evaluated in 2010 and later added to the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI #1824) as a Category I site for presence of Grade B and C glacial drift hill prairie natural communities. This relict natural area is currently owned by two adjacent landowners: Hungry World Farm and the Uher family. This request now is for final approval of the Hungry World Farm portion of the nature preserve proposal. If approved, the Daisy Hill Prairie Nature Preserve will be 1.77 acres (0.563 nature preserve and 1.211 nature preserve buffer). INPC staff will continue to work with the Uher family to secure protection of the remaining unprotected portion of the proposed nature preserve.

The staff of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and Illinois Department of Natural Resources recommend dedication of approximately 1.77 acres owned by Hungry World Farm as the Daisy Hill Prairie Nature Preserve. Dedication of this relict prairie will provide the best means available to ensure this INAI site is protected and survives long into the future.

REPORT
John C. Nelson
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 15:* Champaign Co. – Charlotte and Dan Brady Woods Nature Preserve, Final Dedication

The proposed Charlotte and Dan Brady Woods Nature Preserve (NP) is a ~20-acre property located along the Sangamon River about 4.5 miles southwest of the Village of Mahomet in Champaign County, lying within the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois. The proposed nature preserve was granted preliminary approval for dedication at the 236th meeting of the INPC held on September 15, 2020 (Resolution 2499). It protects a biologically diverse stretch of the Sangamon River and associated forest. In 2014, the land was gifted to the Land Conservation Foundation (LCF), a not-for-profit, charitable conservation organization and land trust, by Charlotte and Dan Brady of Seymour, Illinois for protection and conservation purposes. The property is adjacent to the Piatt County Forest Preserve District's 60-acre Sangamon River Park. These sites are part of a growing network of protected land along the Sangamon River corridor in Champaign and Piatt

Counties. Charlotte and Dan Brady Woods qualifies as a nature preserve because it protects both sides of a ~900 foot reach of the Sangamon River. The Sangamon River, for the river's entire length in Piatt and Champaign counties, is recognized by the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI #1449) for outstanding aquatic resources, especially fresh-water mussels. This stretch of the Sangamon River provides important habitat for a relatively high diversity of mussels and state listed species including the state threatened mussels slippershell (*Alasmidonta viridis*) and spike (*Elliptio dialata*) and state endangered salamander mussel (*Simpsonaias ambigua*). There are over a dozen species of mussels recorded from this stretch of river. This is noteworthy as freshwater mussels are considered to be the most endangered group of species in North America. This stretch of the Sangamon River also protects habitat for populations of the state threatened mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*), an aquatic salamander that occurs in the vicinity of the preserve. Charlotte and Dan Brady Woods also protects bottomland forest that contributes to the high natural quality of the river by buffering the channel and reducing runoff and sediments entering the river. It also supports a small great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*) rookery. This site is one of 19 protected natural areas that, when taken together, preserve over 17 miles of the Sangamon River and over 5075 acres of forest and other natural land along the Sangamon River corridor in Piatt and Champaign counties.

REPORT
John Griesbaum
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 16:* Lake Co. – Broberg Marsh Nature Preserve, Final Dedication

The Lake County Forest Preserve District proposes to dedicate 362 acres of the 2835.1-acre Lakewood Forest Preserve as the Broberg Marsh Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve, lying within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division of Illinois, was granted preliminary approval for dedication at the 236th meeting of the INPC held on September 15, 2020 (Resolution 2500). There are two existing nature preserves located within Lakewood Forest Preserve: Wauconda Bog Nature Preserve, consisting of approximately 68 acres, dedicated in 1970; and McLean Woods and Wetlands Nature Preserve with approximately 532 acres of protected land, dedicated in 2012. The proposed Broberg Marsh Nature Preserve would increase the amount of State protected land within Lakewood Forest Preserve from 600 acres to 962 acres. Broberg Marsh is recognized on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory as part of the Wauconda Bog (INAI Site # 1002). It is listed on the INAI as a Category I, II, and III site. The proposed Broberg Marsh Nature Preserve includes a mosaic of Grade B/C freshwater marsh and community reconstructions of savanna, wetland, and prairie. Broberg Marsh and associated wetlands are known to support a large assemblage of native wetland birds, one of the largest in Lake County. Previous investigations have even led researchers to comment that Broberg Marsh is one of the highest quality wetland bird habitats in Northeastern Illinois.

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission staff and staff of the Lake County Forest Preserve District recommend dedication of 362 acres of the Lakewood Forest Preserve as the Broberg Marsh Nature Preserve.

REPORT
Jim Anderson
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 17:* Lake Co. – Illinois Beach Rubble Ridge - Shoreline Protection Pilot Project

Illinois Beach is a 3000-acre state park that supports the best remaining coastal wetlands, dune, prairie, and savanna habitats in Illinois. It is a critical habitat for threatened/endangered plants and animals including four federal, and 60 state-listed species. Coastal erosion at the park has been a long-standing issue due to a variety of factors. Erosion at the state park has accelerated greatly, especially in the northern portions over the last decade, resulting in a significant loss of nature preserve acreage that includes very high-quality coastal wetlands and other habitats. The current high lake levels are exacerbating the erosion rate and consequently, habitat loss. IDNR’s Coastal Management Program is working to develop more sustainable strategies to manage shoreline erosion. The proposed project was designed as a pilot or demonstration project to test a different type of shoreline protection that is a lower-cost and lower-impact intervention than large onshore or offshore breakwaters. It is an opportunity to field test a lab-developed design that, if successful, will provide a lower cost, lower maintenance method of shoreline protection for other areas within and outside of Illinois Beach State Park. This project should not negatively affect terrestrial or aquatic habitats and instead is expected to be beneficial for both habitat types. The concept of this intervention is to create an environment that would slow but not stop erosion, sand movement, and wave energy. The field condition is less reliant on the exact calibration of one particular feature, like an emergent breakwater to stop wave energy, and instead gradually allows the wave energy to be dissipated over a longer distance. This creates a more robust feature that works at varying storm wave angles, and at differing water levels. This project, and projects like it, are needed to protect a high-quality, critically rare panne wetland and other shoreline habitat from rapid, ongoing erosion that will result in complete loss of these rare habitats without intervention. The IDNR Coastal Management Program is requesting approval to construct this pilot structure project within the historic boundary of the North Dunes Nature Preserve in an effort to protect nature preserve land and habitats.

REPORT
Diane Tecic
Department of Natural Resources
Kelly Neal
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval of Shoreline Protection
Pilot Project

Item 18:* Lake Co. – Illinois Beach and North Dunes Nature Preserve - Shoreline Stabilization Project

The Illinois Beach State Park (encompassing North Dunes NP and Illinois Beach NP) lakeshore has experienced unprecedented shoreline erosion, far exceeding rates that have occurred since Illinois Beach was dedicated as the state’s first nature preserve in 1964. Shoreline losses have accelerated from 0.5 to 1.2 feet per year, to over 165 feet per year. The IDNR has at times utilized sand nourishment as a method to reduce the effects of lakeshore erosion. Those efforts are unsustainable. Historically high lake levels, together with reduced sand movement in the littoral zone due to armored shorelines further north, have affected the entirety of the Illinois Beach State Park lakeshore. Erosion has resulted in significant impacts to infrastructure (trails, roadways, utility services) and the loss of irreplaceable ecosystems. The over six-mile length of shoreline at Illinois Beach represents the only remnants of the beach ridge plain ecosystem. As the shoreline continues to recede, globally rare panne wetlands, foredunes, sand prairies, sedge meadows and other natural communities are lost, and with them the plants and animals they support. Not only are shorelines receding, but protective dunes have been over washed in storm surges, burying rare natural communities behind them beneath feet of sand.

The IDNR and the Illinois Capital Development Board are requesting INPC approval to construct and maintain a system of protective structures; offshore, submerged and emergent breakwaters; shore

attached revetments; and beach nourishment areas. This construction is intended as a one-time effort. Proposed submerged/emergent and shore attached structures will be located within the boundaries of the North Dunes NP. The offshore revetments will be placed in locations that at the time of dedication, represented high quality natural communities and supported a wide diversity of state-listed species. Since the time of dedication, however, over 112 acres of the nature preserve have been eroded into Lake Michigan and those natural features have been lost. Therefore, construction will be in locations that currently no longer represent the features of the preserve that had been recognized through dedication. The intended consequences of the project are to protect the remaining high-quality natural communities of the Illinois Dunes North INAI site and the North Dunes NP. The design of these structures is anticipated to not only protect existing shoreline and the Lake Plain ecosystem, but to hopefully allow for the accumulation of sand and the recovery of near shore natural features such as beach and foredune communities. Structures are not planned for construction within the dedicated Illinois Beach NP; however, proposed construction of nearshore and attached revetments will occur within the Illinois Beach INAI and immediately north of the NP. Consideration for impacts to the shoreline downdrift (south) are being evaluated in current modelling efforts. It is well known that erosion rates are accelerated south of hardened shoreline features. Modelling is evaluating the angle and length of the breakwater that is needed to ensure there will be no changes in erosional forces and subsequent impacts to Illinois Beach NP.

REPORT
Laura Verden
Department of Natural Resources
Kelly Neal
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval of Large Capital Shoreline
Stabilization Project

Item 19:* LaSalle Co. – Matthiessen Dells Nature Preserve, Road and Trail Improvements, Update & Approval

Matthiessen Dells NP is an 86-acre nature preserve, and part of the 160-acre Matthiessen Dells INAI site (INAI #0079). The nature preserve is located within Matthiessen State Park, a few miles away from companion site Starved Rock State Park, the busiest park in the state (and one of the busiest state parks in the nation). Annual attendance numbers of Starved Rock frequently exceed 2.5 million visitors per year. Matthiessen State Park has become a “spillover” site where visitors are directed when Starved Rock reaches capacity. Matthiessen State Park receives approximately 450,000 visitors per year. When the official visitor parking lot at Matthiessen is at capacity, a second, overflow parking area east of the nature preserve is used. This creates the need for visitors to access the site once their vehicles have been parked. For safety reasons, pedestrians have been guided to walk on a dirt trail alongside and south of the Dells Access Road, which is within the nature preserve. While the minimally developed foot trail has long been used by the public, it was never designed to carry the amount of foot traffic that it currently receives. The additional pedestrian use is creating maintenance issues within the nature preserve and is fragmenting the forest.

The Dells Access Road, which hasn’t received significant maintenance in 35 years, is in extreme disrepair. Asphalt is deteriorating, and culverts need to be appropriately sized and positioned to minimize erosion. While it is possible to perform the necessary road improvements and route pedestrian traffic outside of the nature preserve boundaries (on the north side of the road), this option was dismissed early. The north side of the road, while not dedicated as a nature preserve, is also part of the INAI site. The north side of the road supports larger oaks, high quality understory vegetation, and has more challenging topography to work around. IDNR and INPC staff agreed it is more fitting to take a global approach to protect the resources on site to accommodate safe public access by using

natural resources (instead of strict nature preserve boundaries) to guide the necessary maintenance and construction. This proposal will align the pedestrian trail immediately adjacent to and south of the road, thus requiring additional area to be used within the nature preserve. It will avoid high-quality understory vegetation, avoid steep topography, and result in the abandonment of the deteriorating dirt path within the nature preserve. IDNR's approach to this situation is supported by INPC staff. While equipment access, minimal structural features, and vegetation maintenance is proposed to occur on the very northern edge of the nature preserve, it is deemed to be the best option for minimizing long-term impact to the natural resources within the greater Matthiessen Dells INAI site.

REPORT
Michael Bauling
Department of Natural Resources
Kelly Neal
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval of Road & Trail Improvements

Item 20: Herbicide Drift Monitoring and Reporting of Natural Areas in Illinois

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) developed an online tool in the spring of 2018 to provide locations of sensitive natural resources in Illinois to landowners, producers, and chemical applicators to help ensure compliance with herbicide application. In response to reports of herbicide drift and associated off-target injuries to natural areas, IDNR began working with the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) and other partner organizations on a monitoring and reporting program to assist IDOA with reports of suspected herbicide damage to trees and other plants. The IDNR continued monitoring and reporting efforts through the 2019 and 2020 growing seasons and is currently preparing for the 2021 growing season. Efforts have included training for staff, monitoring IDNR-owned or managed sites, reporting suspected injuries to trees and other plants using IDNR's online form, and submitting the reports to IDOA for further investigation. Many of the sites include dedicated nature preserves or registered land and water reserves where injuries have been documented year after year, raising concern for the long-term health of these protected high-quality natural areas.

REPORT
Chris Young
Department of Natural Resources
Debbie Newman
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Informational Presentation

Item 21: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Item 22: Other Business

Items may be discussed, but no final action may occur for items not previously included on the agenda.

Item 23: Adjournment