

**ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA  
TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-SECOND MEETING**

Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Lake Level Conference Room  
One Natural Resource Way  
Springfield, IL 62702

February 3, 2026, 10:00 a.m.  
In-person meeting with WebEx option

\*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 251<sup>st</sup> Meeting, held on September 9, 2025**

*Note: Share Accomplishments Summary of the 251<sup>st</sup> INPC Meeting*

*At the 251<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the INPC, held on September 9, 2025, at Byron Forest Preserve in Byron, Illinois, legal protection was completed for six tracts of land totaling 125 acres. One of these tracts is privately owned, one is owned by a university, two are owned by a not-for-profit organization, and two are publicly owned. The owners of the private site donated the value of the protection agreement to the public. All tracts were dedicated as nature preserve or nature preserve buffer, including Addition and Buffer Addition to Barber Fen, Additions and Buffer Additions to Gensburg-Markham Prairie (with two owners/two tracts), Addition to Carl N. Becker Savanna, Addition to Forest Park South, and Indian Bluff Hill Prairie.*

*There are now 424 dedicated nature preserves with 65,368 acres and 216 registered land and water reserves with 60,041 acres. Altogether, there are 640 sites totaling 125,409 acres protected in the Illinois Nature Preserves System.*

**Item 4: Next Meeting Date and Location**

253	May 19, 2026	Peoria Park District Peoria, Illinois
254	September 15, 2026	Lake Sara Community Building Effingham, Illinois

**Item 5:\* INPC Staff Report**

REPORT  
Todd Strole, Assistant Director  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

**Item 6:\* IDNR Staff Report**

REPORT

Ann Marie Holtrop, Chief  
Division of Natural Heritage

**Item 7:\* Endangered Species Protection Board Report**

REPORT

Dr. Philip Willink, Chair  
Endangered Species Protection Board

**Item 8:\* Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves Report**

REPORT

Amy Doll, Director  
Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves

**Item 9:\* Champaign County – Salt Fork River Land and Water Reserve, Registration**

Homer Lake Forest Preserve is a 752-acre natural area in Champaign County that is owned and managed by Champaign County Forest Preserve District (CCFPD). CCFPD wishes to register 246.41-acres, more or less, as the Salt Fork River Land and Water Reserve (LWR). The proposed reserve includes five separate parcels along the Salt Fork of the Vermilion River which are adjacent to a portion of the Salt Fork Vermilion River Segment Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI #1427). This section of the river is on the INAI as a Category II for the state threatened purple wartyback (*Cyclonaias tuberculata*), state endangered wavy-rayed lampmussel (*Lampsilis fasciola*) and state threatened bluebreast darter (*Nothonotus camurus*); and as a Category VI for unusual concentration of invertebrates (mussels) and unusual concentration of fishes.

Protections for the Salt Fork River corridor will be extended and enhanced through registration. The Salt Fork River provides habitat for 14 aquatic species listed as threatened or endangered and two mussel Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). Species include: eastern sand darter (*Ammocrypta pellucida*), river redhorse (*Moxostoma carinatum*), bigeye chub (*Hybopsis amblops*), northern riffleshell (*Epioblasma rangiana*), monkeyface (*Quadrula metanevra*), clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*), purple lilliput (*Toxolasma lividum*), rainbow mussel (*Villosa iris*), spike (*Eurynia dilatata*), bigclaw crayfish *Faxonius placidus*, mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*), elktoe (*Alasmidonta marginata*), and pistolgrip (*Tritogonia verrucosa*).

The CCFPD reserves the following rights:

- 1) Erect informational trail signs and kiosks.
- 2) Maintain an existing 6-10 feet wide primitive hiking trail for visitors which can also serve as ATV/UTV access (for management or emergency response purposes only) and skid steer access (for management purposes only per the approved INPC management plan and schedule).
- 3) Allow for the future development of parking lot and canoe access area on the west bank of the Salt Fork Vermilion River, and north side of the bridge at County Road 1200 North if deemed necessary by CCFPD.

- 4) Control damage to natural features caused by nuisance wildlife (e.g. beaver or deer) using trapping or recreational hunters.
- 5) Allow for the future implementation of recreational hunting programs for deer or small game as needed for deer population control and/or to meet public demand.
- 6) Allow volunteer stewardship activities in accordance with INPC Management Plan and Activities Schedule.

CCFPD seeks registration in perpetuity of the 246.41-acres. Registration of these parcels will protect these, and other, natural resources by preserving the unique natural heritage of the Vermilion River Section of the Wabash Border Natural Division in East Central Illinois.

**REPORT**

Phil Borsdorf  
Champaign County Forest Preserve District

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Approval for Registration

John Griesbaum  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**Item 10:\* Fulton County – Addition to Kedzior Woodlands Land and Water Reserve, Registration**

Dawn Trulson-Mustread (formerly Dawn Kedzior), as Trustee under the Dawn Kedzior Trust, requests approval for the registration of three tracts totaling 150.432 acres as an addition to Kedzior Woodlands LWR. The original registration of 120 acres was approved on February 17, 2004 as the 102nd Land and Water Reserve at the 181st meeting of the INPC, Resolution 1751. On August 16, 2006, a 33.661-acre addition was approved at the 191st INPC meeting, Resolution 1894. The first addition was disjunct from the original reserve located 600 feet to the west and adjacent to the southeast corner of the 37.27-acre Harper-Rector Woods Nature Preserve (INAI #0125) owned by IDNR. The addition will connect the two tracts of the current reserve and will also connect and provide access to Harper-Rector Woods NP. The addition also serves to protect a significant portion of Seville Savanna, recognized on the INAI (#1723) as a Category I site for 2.2 acres of Grade C best-of-kind mesic savanna.

Kedzior Woodlands is located in the Galesburg Section of the Western Forest-Prairie Natural Division. The site provides habitat for forest sensitive breeding birds by protecting a more than 300-acre block of forest located within the uplands east of the Spoon River. The site provides habitat for 23 wildlife SGCN and supports the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan campaigns for Forest and Woodland and Farmland and Prairie.

The landowner reserves the following rights:

1. Wildlife hunting in accordance with approved INPC management plan
2. Low-impact camping
3. Use of downed or standing dead wood for firewood or other purposes
4. Removal of trees for restoration management
5. Harvest of limited number of trees in accordance with forestry management plan.

**REPORT**

Angella Moorehouse  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Approval for Registration

**Item 11:\* Jackson County – Resilience Ridge Land and Water Reserve, Registration**

Debbie Scott Newman seeks registration of 119.72 acres as the Resilience Ridge LWR in northern Jackson County, Illinois. The proposed reserve is in the Mt. Vernon Hill Country Section of the Southern Till Plain Natural Division. It will protect the core of the currently unprotected 1427-acre Post Oak Glade INAI site (#1599) (Categories I, II, III, and VI) in perpetuity. This includes all of the Category I high-quality natural community acreage: 1.6 acres of Grade A and 2.85 acres of Grade B dry barrens, and 14.79 acres of Grade B dry-mesic woodland. Additional significant features of the proposed LWR include specific suitable habitat for four state threatened or endangered species and natural features critical for unusual concentrations of reptiles. Natural communities include dry barrens with dry sandstone cliff inclusion, dry-mesic barrens, dry-mesic woodland with dry woodland inclusions, mesic sandstone cliff, wet-mesic floodplain forest, low gradient medium stream, swamp, and old field. Over one mile of stream length along Rattlesnake Creek bisects the reserve. Across the site, botanical diversity is extremely high.

Within the proposed reserve, the landowner reserves the right to:

1. Construct two (2) small parking areas that hold up to five (5) vehicles, respectively, in pre-determined locations:
  - a. Along Route 4 and/or
  - b. At the south end of the driveway.
2. Maintain gravel driveway via tractor grading or addition of rock.
3. Allow current and future owners of the five-acre homesite to maintain utilities along the gravel driveway including waterline, telephone line, and electrical line.
4. Allow current and future owners of the five-acre homesite to use the access gravel driveway, in perpetuity, via a legally described easement.
5. Allow current and future owners of the five-acre homesite to remove select branches or trees within 50 feet of the southern property boundary of the home site, with prior NAPS (INPC) consultation, for passive solar and protection of the home.
6. Maintain access lanes, UTV-accessible roads and trails, and the old railroad spur.
7. Build trails, with prior NAPS (INPC) consultation, in the following locations:
  - a. From the main ridgeline above the barrens community to the railroad spur and
  - b. Connection trails to existing logging roads.
8. Construct two ephemeral ponds in the old field community.
9. Create three small berms in floodplain forest community at the downstream end of existing wetland depressions to reverse unnatural drainage into Rattlesnake Creek.
10. Maintain the slough through management actions as needed to prevent Rattlesnake Creek from eroding the old railroad bed spur that created the wetland. Maintenance may include use of small heavy equipment (e.g., miniature bobcat) to replace culverts and/or place rip rap along the slough's entry to Rattlesnake Creek.
11. Construct a bridge across Rattlesnake Creek.
12. Construct a primitive campsite, for personal use and with prior consultation with the NAPS, in a predetermined location (i.e., along the ridgeline trail north of the dry barrens) that will minimally disturb natural features.
13. Harvest of white-tailed deer, Eastern cottontail rabbit, wild turkey, Eastern gray or fox squirrel, and removal of species considered invasive, specifically nine-banded armadillo. Harvest of species other than those listed is prohibited.
14. Allow deer stands except within the dry barrens community.

15. Selective harvest or salvage for single trees only, for personal use, without the use of heavy equipment or skid roads.

Registration of the proposed site as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve should be considered for the following qualifying features and/or reasons:

1. Permanent protection of 119.72 acres of INAI #1599,
2. Permanent protection of 19.24 acres of Category I high-quality natural communities,
3. Provides specific suitable habitat for verified extant populations of four state threatened or endangered species: Cerulean warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*, ST), Chuck-will's-widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*, ST), Carolina whipgrass (*Scleria pauciflora*, SE), and timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*, ST),
4. Protects geological features critical to the survival of a state-listed herptile,
5. Provides habitat for 31 SGCN including 24 avian species that are confirmed as breeding on the proposed reserve, and
6. Supports various Illinois Wildlife Action Plan campaigns.

**REPORT**

Kevin Sierzega  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Approval for Registration

**Item 12:\* Lake County – Jean and John Greene Nature Preserve at McCormick Ravine, Preliminary Dedication**

Lake Forest Open Lands Association (LFOLA), Lake Forest Land Foundation, and the City of Lake Forest propose the dedication of 46.4 acres as nature preserve and 2.3 acres as nature preserve buffer. Together, these 48.7 acres will be known as the Jean and John Greene Nature Preserve at McCormick Ravine. This ravine system is in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The site consists of five natural communities associated with ravines that flow into Lake Michigan. The proposed nature preserve is within the McCormick Ravine Category I INAI site (#1008), which was originally recognized in 1976 for its Grade A and B dry-mesic and mesic upland forest communities, Grade A seeps, and several state threatened and endangered plant species. McCormick Ravine is likely the most intact example of the Lake Michigan ravine system, most of which has been highly altered by development.

**Easements and Reserved Rights:**

There is an existing 25-foot-wide sanitary sewer line easement that runs through a portion of the proposed nature preserve. The City also holds an access easement on a portion of the proposed nature preserve for day use of existing trails within the proposed nature preserve.

LFOLA will continue to maintain its existing trail infrastructure, including bridges, stairways, and boardwalks and to collaborate with neighbors along the northern boundary to stabilize the ravine, control erosion, and accommodate stormwater according to best management practices. LFOLA will also continue to maintain the nature-based erosion control infrastructure installed during the Great Lakes Fisheries Ecosystem Restoration and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration projects. In addition to these structures, LFOLA reserves the right to implement slope stabilization measures, particularly in collaboration with neighboring landowners to the north.

INPC staff recommend preliminary approval of the Jean and John Greene Nature Preserve at McCormick Ravine.

**REPORT**

Ryan London  
Lake Forest Open Lands Association

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

John Nelson  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**Item 13:\* Monroe County – Trout Hollow Hill Prairie Nature Preserve, Preliminary Dedication**

The proposed Trout Hollow Hill Prairie Nature Preserve is a 14-acre site located in the bluff corridor north of Valmeyer, Illinois, in Monroe County. The proposed preserve is in the Northern Section of the Ozark Natural Division. Dedication of the property will protect the Category II Trout Hollow Hill Prairie INAI site (#1997). The proposed preserve contains loess hill prairie, limestone glade, dry upland woodland, dry-mesic upland forest and one state-listed species, the crested coralroot orchid (*Hexalectris spicata*). This site contains the northernmost population of this orchid. The proposed preserve also contains significant cultural resources. The site fits into a larger forested bluff corridor that also provides important migration stopover habitat for birds in the Mississippi River Flyway.

Dedication of Trout Hollow Hill Prairie supports several campaigns of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan including the Forest and Woodland, Invasive Species, and Land and Water Stewardship Campaigns. Action items in the Forest Campaign supported by this dedication include maintaining and enhancing the composition of Illinois forests, ecological connectivity and reducing fragmentation. Action items of the Invasive Species Campaign supported by the proposed Trout Hollow Hill Prairie preserve include removing invasive species from important natural areas and educating the public about controlling exotics. Action items in the Land and Water Stewardship Campaign supported by this site include improving the stewardship of private land resources. Additionally, the site is located within the Bluff Corridor/Karst Conservation Opportunity Area.

The proposed preserve is owned by Heartlands Conservancy. Dedicating this site is the culmination of a major collaborative effort to raise funds to save it from development. Heartlands Conservancy staff managed to raise the money needed in 65 days, with 841 donors coming from 42 states, and 4 countries.

The landowner reserves the following rights:

1. Install a small parking area for visitors along Trout Hollow Road, utilizing the already disturbed area around the powerline corridor.
2. Install a bridge over the creek if needed for the parking area.
3. Install one trail, either loop or in-and-out, in the preserve.
4. Install a viewing platform near the prairie to protect the prairie and the cultural resources from visitor entry and trampling.
5. Install sitting benches along the trail or near the prairie, and interpretive signs or

- kiosk.
6. Use cut cedars from the restoration efforts for visitor benches, a kiosk, or signposts. INPC and HC staff would prefer to have cedars removed, when possible, to reduce fire fuel loads during prescribed burns. This reserved right will complement restoration efforts. In addition to the removal of cedars, the owners reserve the right to remove any wood along designated firebreaks to reduce fuel loads, including if needed for firewood for HC events.
  7. Heartlands Conservancy will work with INPC staff for approval on placement of above structures.

The preservation of this site accomplishes important conservation goals for the area. INPC and many partners have been working tirelessly to protect as many of the rapidly disappearing loess hill prairies and limestone glades and their associated species along the 30-mile bluff corridor in Monroe and Randolph Counties. Several units of government, non-profits, and private landowners have permanently protected their hill prairie properties. The Trout Hollow Hill Prairie parcel will provide protection for another hill prairie. The proposed preserve is also an important habitat bridge between Eagle Cliff Prairie NP 1.5 miles to the north and Salt Lick Point LWR 1 mile to the south.

**REPORT**

Debbie Scott Newman  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

**Item 14: \*Peoria County – Mary Taylor's Mossville Road Hill Prairie Nature Preserve, Preliminary Dedication**

Bernard and Mary Taylor, owners of Mossville Road Hill Prairie, request preliminary approval for approximately 3.06 acres to be dedicated as Mary Taylor’s Mossville Road Hill Prairie NP. The site has approximately 1.2 acres of glacial drift hill prairie bordered by dry-mesic and mesic woodland. The site contains most of the Mossville Road Hill Prairie INAI site (0143) currently recognized as a Category I site containing 1.2 acres of Grade A glacial drift hill prairie. The hill prairie is located within the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. The site lies immediately north of land owned by the Peoria Park District and 0.1 miles north of Robinson Park Hill Prairie Nature Preserve. The federally listed rusty-patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*) has been observed within 0.4 miles from the site. Mossville Road Hill Prairie supports at least seven wildlife SGCN and supports the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan campaigns for Green Cities, Forest and Woodland, and Farmland and Prairie. The site is located within the center of the Peoria Bluff Legacy area, critically important as a large forest block supporting forest sensitive breeding birds as well as at least eight acres of high-quality remnant glacial drift hill prairie.

The landowners reserve the right to approve all management decisions including prescribed fire operations, tree clearing, and the use of herbicide to control unwanted vegetation. While the house, driveway, and land immediately surrounding the home are excluded from the dedication, the owners reserve the right to maintain the house and associated utilities including power, water, sewer, and any other necessary utilities.

**REPORT**

Angella Moorehouse  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

**Item 15:\* Putnam County – Thomas W. and Elizabeth Moews Dore Seep Nature Preserve Buffer Addition (Sandy Hollow), Preliminary Dedication**

The Wetlands Initiative (TWI) seeks approval for the dedication of 352.14 acres as a nature preserve buffer addition on a property known as Sandy Hollow, which borders the Thomas W. and Elizabeth Moews Dore Seep Nature Preserve. The site is in Putnam County and is part of the Sue and Wes Dixon Waterfowl Refuge, which is managed by TWI. The area straddles the border of the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois River Bottomlands Natural Division and the Illinois River and Mississippi River Sand Areas Natural Division. Sandy Hollow contains native ecosystems, including restored sand prairie, restored sand savanna, restored mesic prairie, oak-hickory woodland, and floodplain forest. Sandy Hollow is bordered to the west by Hennepin Hopper Lakes INAI site (#0825). This site is on the INAI as Category I for having a Grade B seep, Category II for providing suitable habitat for the king rail (*Rallus elegans*), yellow-headed blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*), and least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), and Category VI for having an unusual concentration of herptile species with 25 species documented. The proposed buffer addition shares a border with the Dore Seep Nature Preserve, protecting much of the upland recharge zone for the seep features found within the nature preserve. Furthermore, Sandy Hollow contains several state-listed plant species that have been introduced to the site through restoration efforts. The site is accessible to the public via a gravel driveway, gravel parking lot, and a network of mowed trails that wind throughout the diverse habitats.

Within the proposed Thomas W. and Elizabeth Moews Dore Seep Nature Preserve Buffer Addition (Sandy Hollow), TWI requests to reserve the following listed rights, related to the management and future low-impact development of the site to maintain this high-quality restoration and facilitate public access well into the future.

**Reserved Rights:**

1. Introduce native plant material (i.e., trees, shrubs, plugs, and seed) to the site to meet ongoing ecological restoration goals.
2. Maintain or improve the 1,250-foot gravel driveway from IL Route 26 to the parking lot with the same material or a low-impact paving alternative.
3. Maintain or improve the 5,100-square-foot gravel parking lot using the same material or a low-impact paving alternative.
4. Expand the existing gravel parking area by up to three times its current footprint.
5. Install a picnic pavilion at the parking lot.
6. Install a vault toilet structure at the parking lot.
7. Maintain or improve existing trails (totaling approximately 4.4 miles) with current surfaces (turfgrass, gravel, sand, cobble) or resurface with low-impact paving material.
8. Install additional spur trails to connect the existing trail network to trails on adjacent parcels that may be acquired and restored in the future.
9. Maintain, improve, or replace two concrete vehicle/equipment fords across the intermittent stream (tributary of the Illinois River), using the same or a lower-impact surface material.

10. Maintain, improve, or replace the existing small wooden pedestrian bridge over the intermittent stream (a tributary of the Illinois River).
11. Improve and maintain the informal pedestrian ford on the north side of the property, using concrete, riprap, pavers, or a low-impact pedestrian bridge.
12. Maintain, improve, or replace the Pyott Pavilion shelter.
13. Maintain, improve, or replace existing benches or low-impact bench platforms.
14. Install additional benches, low-impact bench platforms, or seating areas where appropriate.
15. Maintain, improve, replace, or install picnic tables where appropriate.
16. Maintain, improve, replace, or install signage for interpretation, donor recognition, wayfinding, rules and regulations, and visitor information. This includes maintenance of surrounding areas using mulch, gravel, herbicide, or other weed suppression methods.
17. Install and maintain low-impact wildlife observation platforms and/or towers.
18. Maintain, improve, replace, or install artificial wildlife structures, including bird boxes, bat boxes, bird nesting platforms, and herptile hibernacula.
19. Permit visitors to walk dogs on leashes not exceeding 10 feet.
20. Allow construction of a future multi-use bridge and/or multi-use recreational trail in the southwest section of the preserve buffer to connect a potential future levee-top trail at the Sue and Wes Dixon Waterfowl Refuge to a trail on an adjacent parcel south of Sandy Hollow. While no such access currently exists, this right would preserve long-term regional trail connectivity options.
21. Allow permitted hunting, fishing, and trapping solely for the management of nuisance wildlife species that cause ecological harm within the nature preserve buffer.

Aside from deer, control of over-abundant native animals has not yet been approved by INPC as a standard management practice at nature preserves. There are significant examples in scientific literature documenting that overpopulation of common, generalist animal species (such as mesopredators) can negatively impact conservative, rare, threatened, or endangered species. Anthropogenic influences and limited habitat availability exacerbate negative impacts to rare native species. Control of overabundant animals is becoming a standard practice by land managers of natural habitat throughout Illinois on non-INPC lands. In consideration that the acres proposed for dedication were formerly agriculture (not INAI quality) and will be buffer - INPC staff recommend that the control as described be allowed as a reserved right within the buffer with INPC staff level coordination and review prior to implementation.

Staff of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission recommend preliminary dedication of 352.14 acres of nature preserve buffer as the Thomas W. and Elizabeth Moews Dore Seep Nature Preserve Buffer Addition (Sandy Hollow).

**REPORT**

Peter Goodspeed and Katie Kucera  
The Wetlands Initiative

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Lorraine Foelske and Byron Paulsen  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**Item 16:\* Marshall County – Buffer to Oak Bluff Savanna Nature Preserve, Preserve, Final Dedication**

The Peoria Audubon Society seeks final approval for the dedication of 14.5 acres as a buffer addition to the existing Oak Bluff Savanna Nature Preserve. Preliminary approval was granted at the 251st INPC meeting (Resolution 2687). The original 5-acre nature preserve was dedicated in 2002. This site is in Marshall County in a transition zone between the bluffs of the Illinois River and the state’s expansive Grand Prairie, containing forest, savanna, and prairie habitats. Oak Bluff Savanna is currently owned by Peoria Audubon Society. The site is part of the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. In 1999, Oak Bluff Savanna was recognized on the INAI (#1559) for 0.61 acres of Grade B dry-mesic savanna. Although the site has since been removed from the INAI as Category I due to acreage minimum requirements, Oak Bluff Savanna is an important natural area containing many conservative plant species including Hill’s thistle (*Cirsium hillii*), Seneca snakeroot (*Polygala senega*), and rough false foxglove (*Agalinis aspera*). The existing NP site remains on the INAI as Category III. Oak Bluff Savanna also provides critical bird habitat, especially for vulnerable species observed at the site including the state threatened black-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) and two state endangered birds – the northern harrier (*Circus hudsonius*) and American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). The site contains a mowed trail and is accessible to the public. This proposed 14.5-acre buffer area is primarily forested with several prairie openings, a 0.5-acre human-made pond, and a three-acre restored prairie. With the proposed addition, the site will total 19.5 acres.

Within the proposed Buffer to Oak Bluff Savanna Nature Preserve, Peoria Audubon Society reserves the following rights:

1. Maintain pond, pond berm, and drainage infrastructure
2. Maintain existing trails and signage.

**REPORT**

Mike Miller  
Peoria Audubon Society

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Final Approval for Dedication

Lorraine Foelske and Kaleb Baker  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**Item 17:\* Pope County – Buffer Addition to Spivey’s Valley Glade Nature Preserve, Final Dedication**

The Spivey family seeks final dedication of 2.9 acres of nature preserve buffer as Buffer Addition to Spivey’s Valley Glade NP in northeastern Pope County, Illinois. Spivey’s Valley Glade NP (#274) was dedicated as an Illinois nature preserve at the 157th INPC meeting in 1998; a later addition received final approval at the 250th INPC meeting in May 2025. This east buffer addition received preliminary approval for dedication at the 251st INPC meeting in September 2025. The nature preserve lies within the Lesser Shawnee Hills Section of the Shawnee Hills Natural Division of Illinois. Spivey’s Valley Glade INAI site (#1526) is recognized for Category I, II, and III features and totals 516.13 acres. The Category I high quality natural communities total 31.2 acres all of which are protected as nature preserve and include Grade A limestone glade, Grades A and B dry-mesic woodland, and Grade B dry-woodland natural communities. The preserve resides within the East Shawnee Conservation Opportunity Area.

The 2.9-acre buffer addition is contiguous with the east boundary of the existing nature preserve buffer. Natural communities in the addition are a combination old field and dry-mesic barrens. The mean coefficient of conservatism (c-value) is 4.3 for native species of flora. The native floristic quality index (FQI) is 46.7 and includes many highly conservative species including the state threatened (ST) spring ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes vernalis*) and ST creeping cucumber (*Melothria pendula*). Dedication of the proposed east buffer addition should be considered for the following qualifying features and/or reasons:

1. Permanent protection of 2.9 acres of NP buffer habitat with high restoration potential;
2. Verified extant populations of four state-listed species: Chuck-wills-widow (ST), Eastern narrowmouth toad (ST), spring ladies' tresses (ST), and squirting cucumber (ST);
3. Historic populations of three state-listed species: Loggerhead shrike (SE), Northern long-eared bat (FT, SE); and Bewick's wren (SE);
4. 103.6 acres of protected habitat for 37 SGCN including gray bat and 28 avian species that are confirmed as breeding on or proximate to the preserve; and
5. Supports the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, specifically the following campaigns: Forest and Woodland, Farmland and Prairie, and Invasive Species Campaigns.

Within the proposed NP buffer addition, the landowner reserves the right to:

1. Maintain a cleared path along the east property boundary,
2. Manage the old field communities as grassland or early successional habitat, or allow to succeed into woodland,
3. Manage white-tailed deer per the most recent IDNR wildlife regulations, and INPC's Deer Management Guideline,
4. Remove downed-woody debris (e.g., cedar slash) from woodland communities off the preserve to decrease fuel loads prior to prescribed burning.

**REPORT**

Kevin Sierzega  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Final Approval for Dedication

**Item 18:\* Tazewell – Coon Hill Prairie Nature Preserve, Final Dedication**

The proposed 3.39-acre Coon Hill Prairie NP is owned by Gary and Robin Coon. They enrolled the site in INPC's Natural Heritage Landmark Program (#173) in November of 2000. Gary and Robin received preliminary approval on September 9, 2025, at the 251st meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (Resolution 2689) for dedication of the proposed nature preserve. The proposed Coon Hill Prairie NP is located in Tazewell County in the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. The site is recognized on the INAI (#0129) as Category I for Grade B and C dry-mesic loess hill prairie. The proposed NP includes approximately 0.4 acres of dry-mesic loess hill prairie, 0.2 acres of reconstructed prairie, and 2.79 acres of dry-mesic upland forest located close to the Mackinaw River. The proposed NP supports several campaigns identified in the IWAP including the Farmland and Prairie, Forest and Woodland, Invasive Species, and Streams Campaigns.

Reserved rights include the ability to maintain existing trails, remove trees that fall on the trails and use as firewood, maintain 5 bluebird nest boxes, allow deer hunting on the property and use of all-terrain vehicles for management purposes only.

**REPORT**

Byron Paulsen  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Final Approval for Dedication

**Item 19:\* INPC Guidance on Reinterment of Tribal Ancestral Remains and Artifacts**

INPC staff worked closely with the Illinois State Museum and other IDNR staff including the Tribal Relations Director, Curator of Anthropology, and Archaeologist, and representatives of several federally recognized Tribal Nations, to compile a guidance document titled, 'INPC Guidance on Reinterment of Tribal Ancestral Remains and Artifacts'. This document was compiled in response to Resolution 2632, approved by the Commission at its 248th Special Meeting, requesting that "INPC staff work with the Illinois State Museum to begin discussions around removing barriers and constraints to repatriating ancestral remains and make recommendations to the Commission." This guidance provides the framework and procedures for the reinterment of Native American remains and funerary objects at INPC-protected sites. With permanent protection at INPC sites, federally recognized Tribal Nations will have an established pathway to work with INPC, IDNR, and landowners, to reinter their ancestors in suitable areas approved by all parties, where they will remain without fear of future disturbance. The guidance document includes the purpose, relevant definitions and statutory authorities, an outline for the reinterment process, and additional guidelines. Approval by the Commission and implementation of the reinterment process will cultivate and strengthen meaningful relationships with Indigenous people, who have stewarded and cared for these lands for thousands of years.

**REPORT**

Kaleb Baker  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Approval of INPC Guidance on  
Reinterment of Tribal Ancestral Remains  
and Artifacts

**Item 20: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)**

**Item 21: Other Business**

**Item 22: Adjournment**