



### Base closure 1989 -1993

The Fort Sheridan 1989 base closing announcement launches a coordinated effort by local governments and area public officials to develop a reuse plan. Congressman Porter leads a planning group that finds a mix of open space, outdoor recreation and housing to be the preferred reuse.

**1990 - 1991** The Forest Preserve formally indicates interest in acquiring northern 253 acres of Fort property and makes \$10 million purchase offer to U.S. Department of Army.

### Joint Planning Committee 1993-1995

#### 1993

- Base closes and a Joint Planning Committee comprised of representatives from local government units is formed to provide local redevelopment oversight.
- Forest Preserve successful referendum provides \$1.7 million for Fort Sheridan.

#### 1994

- Forest Preserve leases golf course for \$1 per year and course opens for public play.
- Forest Preserve submits application to receive Fort Sheridan land at no cost through U.S. Department of Interior National Parks Service's Lands-to-Parks program.
- Joint Planning Commission adopts Concept Plan that includes Forest Preserve ownership of about 253 acres of Fort Sheridan property. Army supports the JPC Concept Plan.

#### 1995

- May 1995 Congressman Porter introduces the Porter Amendment to the Military Construction Appropriations Act of 1995 to transfer about 253 acres of Fort Sheridan to the Forest Preserve at no cost. Act signed into law later that year.

**Conditions to transfer:** The District shall ensure the continued protection and enhancement of the open spaces of Fort Sheridan in accordance with the Fort Sheridan Joint Planning Committee Concept Plan. Care and maintenance of cemetery required.



### Land Transfer 1996-2000

**1997 -** Agreements are reached between the Forest Preserve, Catholic Charities, Town of Fort Sheridan Company, the Army and the Local Redevelopment Authority that finalizes the Forest Preserve to receive about 259 acres at Fort Sheridan.

**1999 - 2001** Forest Preserve receives land in three phases as environmental clean-up is completed

## Detailed planning & bidding 2002-2004

**2001-2002** - Engineers and architects are hired to design golf course.

### 2003

- Forest Preserve Master Plan approved that includes restoration of the preserve's natural resources, creation of multipurpose trails and other public access improvements, and reconstruction of an existing 18-hole golf course.
- Forest Preserve budgets \$14,469,060 for Fort Sheridan project.
- Golf Course closes at season's end anticipating reconstruction.
- Demolition and site preparations begin.

### 2004

- Project estimates total about \$5.1 over approved budget
- Forest Preserve Board rejects bids because they substantially exceed budget.
- District staff and golf course professionals discuss options for reducing costs. Many golf course development and operational cost-reduction alternatives explored; many would reduce revenues.

**October, 2005** - Forest Preserve files a lawsuit against Town of Fort Sheridan Company, developer of adjacent residential areas, for violating 1997 agreement to remove about 235,000 cubic yards of dirt stockpiles, and failure to meet other contractual obligations.

## Public Access & Restoration 2005-2006

Following Board direction, the Forest Preserve moves ahead with the public access and ravine improvements while lawsuit is pending. Completed improvements include:

- Trails and parking opened
- Natural areas improved
- Trailside exhibits installed
- Educational curriculum completed
- Military cemetery enhanced



## Lawsuit 2008-2009

Lawsuit settled following 3-years' negotiations.

Forest Preserve used funding from the settlement to help pay for processing the stockpiles, separating debris that requires disposal from usable, clean fill. Remaining clean fill was used to:

- Sculpt the surrounding landscape of the old airfield
- Reroute storm water
- Support future use of the site: The recently completed earthmoving was designed to support use of the area for a golf course or other public use.

## Planning Advisory Committee 2009-2010

A Fort Sheridan Master Plan Advisory Committee was created to make a recommendation about the future of the golf course and other public uses at the Fort Sheridan preserve.

- Committee members included representatives from neighboring cities and park districts, Forest Preserve Commissioners from those communities, the Fort Sheridan Homeowners Association, the U.S. Department of the Army and the 10th District Congressional office.
- The committee held a series of six public meetings to discuss various options.
- The committee in early 2011 submitted a report of its findings to the Lake County Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners. The report included a compromise recommendation reached by the committee. It also summarized the public input it received on the issue.