



Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to develop a master plan for Fox River Forest Preserve - Addition comprised of two parcels totaling 312.43 acres north of Roberts Road. The master plan will outline public access opportunities for the site and potential areas for natural resource restoration and management. The Project Program is a working document that outlines the master plan program elements.

Summary of Program Elements

The following list summarizes the Program Elements. This is a preliminary list that reflects elements that could be included in the master plan. The program elements were developed during a July 2009 multi-department staff meeting to brainstorm possible program items for the Fox River Forest Preserve - Addition. In addition, program elements that satisfy District-wide needs were included.

Public Access	Wildlife Observation Areas	Picnic Areas (non-reserved)
Passive Use	Trails	
Habitat Restoration	Trail Connections	

In addition to specific recreation improvements, the staff group indicated a strong interest in improving the existing quality of the natural resources of the forest preserve. Any proposed plan should enhance the existing natural qualities of the site – the quality of the natural resources, openness of the landscape, the views, and enhance the feel of the oak woods.

Description of Program Elements

The following expanded list includes a short description of the program elements:

Public Access

Provide public access to the site. Investigate whether site should be accessed directly with a parking lot or through the existing Fox River trails south of Roberts Road and possible neighborhood connections.

Passive Use

During the discussion for uses of this site, passive activities were preferred as this site presents several natural resource challenges that divide the site such as the steep topography and there is really no major destination beyond this site. There are some nice natural resource features present on the site, i.e.: overlooks, fens, wetlands, oak groves that could be enhanced and allowed to be the main attraction of this site.

Habitat Restoration

Develop habitat restoration and management objectives that preserve and enhance the preserve's natural resources. Restoration areas could include the existing fen area, wetlands, agriculture fields, buckthorn scrub meadows, and the remnant oak groves. Establish a wildlife habitat corridor. It was repeatedly mentioned by staff that this site could be a natural resource protection and restoration site that would allow users to access and enjoy the natural resources that exist.

Wildlife Observation Areas

Provide the highest quality opportunities possible from which to observe and learn about wildlife.

Trails

Provide recreational trails that support walking and biking. In addition to traditional District crushed stone trails, explore the feasibility of more passive non-traditional trails including grass trails, or natural surface trails. In previous surveys, trails were the most requested activity. A variety of trail types including biking, hiking, running, dog walking, horseback riding and cross country skiing were suggested. For that reason the District will explore different possibilities.

Trail Connections

- ❖ Provide connections between Fox River Addition and the existing Fox River Preserve improvements south of Roberts Road.
- ❖ Provide connections between Fox River Preserve and other trails including possibly the Grassy Lake Trail.
- ❖ Provide safe access via trail connections to support people who walk or bike to the preserve from the surrounding neighborhoods.
- ❖ Investigate feasibility of providing trail access/connection to Anderson Road.

Picnic Areas

Provide shaded picnic areas. The picnic areas would NOT include large-scale rental shelters, but could include small non-reserved family-sized shelters.