



Why Buy Land Now?

- **66% of Lake County voters approved a November 2008 Forest Preserve referendum to issue \$185 million of bonds to preserve more Forest Preserve lands, restore wildlife habitats, construct trails and complete other improvements.**
 - Voters understood that approval of the referendum would not increase their current Forest Preserve tax rate because issuance of the new bonds would coincide with retirement of older existing bonds.
 - The Forest Preserve District is legally obligated to utilize 85% of the bonds within 3 years of their issuance and 100% of the bonds within 5 years.
 - The bonds have to be used for their stated purpose – land acquisition and public access improvements.

- **\$148 million of the bonds were designated for use in purchasing 2,500 to 3,500 acres of land.**
 - Many willing sellers have approached the District to offer properties that are highly desirable for Forest Preserve purposes at very favorable prices.
 - In 2009, 28 acquisitions were approved by the board of commissioners, adding 811 acres, including additions to 14 preserves and adding 2 entirely new preserves, at an average cost per acre of \$40,900.
 - Natural areas protected as Forest Preserves help protect and enhance area property values.
 - Forest Preserve lands don't put added burdens on other tax-supported government services, such as schools, roads, water and sewer, police and fire, and libraries.

- **\$37 million of the bonds were to be used for habitat restoration, trails and public access improvements.**
 - Contracts with area construction firms, landscape contractors, building suppliers and other businesses to complete the bond-funded Forest Preserve improvement projects are reinvested in the area economy.
 - Forest Preserve public access improvements give Lake County residents more convenient access to low-cost, close-to-home opportunities for outdoor recreation and education with family and friends.