



**DATE:** November 13, 2025

**MEMO TO:** Elizabeth Hough, President  
Preservation Foundation Board

**FROM:** Rebekah Snyder  
Director of Community Engagement and Partnerships

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend approval of the establishment of a new endowed fund to support the management of Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area.

**BACKGROUND:**

In March 2025, staff met with an anonymous donor in person to solicit a donation to establish an endowment to support the Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area (Ryerson). In September, the donor made a written pledge of \$250,000, payable in the first quarter of 2026.

To date, \$265,000 in cash and pledges has been received to support a Ryerson endowment. The Preservation Foundation Endowment Policy allows for the establishment of new restricted endowment funds, with approval by the Preservation Foundation Board.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** Director of Natural Resources, Director of Finance, Forest Preserves Executive Director

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  Roll Call Vote; Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Nays: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Voice Vote; Majority Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Nays: \_\_\_\_\_

**PRESERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  Roll Call Vote; Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Nays: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Voice Vote; Majority Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Nays: \_\_\_\_\_