

Dear DuPage County Officials,

DuPage County forest preserves have been one of the strong points of this county for many years. Nationwide they have been recognized as being the best and most expansive for an urban community.

It is quite troubling to hear that there is a proposal to convert DuPage County forest preserve land to a seized vehicle impoundment site, or as it is being termed, a junkyard. County voters and tax payers have been under the impression that forest preserve land is just that-land to be preserved. Preservation implies something natural and even pristine. What is it about the name vehicle impoundment site or junkyard that gives the impression that this is not what the forest preserves are about? Is it the knowledge that vehicles will be leaking toxic and hazardous substances into the soil, groundwater, and the already polluted East Branch of the DuPage River? Is it the indisputable fact that towed vehicles will be constantly going in and out of this area producing high levels of noise in the process? What about the vegetation that will be destroyed? And of course, let's not forget the countless animal life that will be disturbed, displaced, and killed. When I think of all of this, the only thing that I see is that if this forest preserve land is converted to a junkyard then the DuPage County officials will have let down or even deceived the residents. I say deceived because when we voted in tax referendums for the purchase of land for the forest preserves, we were led to believe that this land would be used to further expand and upgrade the open space in DuPage and improve the quality of life for all beings-not just the human variety.

As this proposal has been communicated, there are many unanswered questions. Ones that I can think of are:

- * Why is all of this space needed for all these cars?
- * Is there any non-forest preserve land that is suitable and industrial zoned?
- * What is being done now for this storage?
- * What can be done to recycle the cars already taking up space, thereby reducing or eliminating the requirement for more storage area?
- * What is to say more land won't be taken in the future for the same thing?
- * Will this become a precedent for converting forest preserve land in the future for non-preservation purposes (such as shooting ranges)?

With all of this being said, I implore you to look at this proposal sanely and do the right thing. Please consider the long term effect and turn down this idea to misuse forest preserve land.

Regards,
Jan A. Stortz
Villa Park, Illinois