

In September 2003 the DuPage County Forest Preserve District - DCFPD Recreational Committee composed of **Roger Kotecki, Carl Schultz and Joe Cantore** voted in favor of the DCFPD building an outdoor gun and rifle shooting range for "recreational" purposes. The Committee directed the DCFPD to begin looking for a 30 acre site for this proposed outdoor gun and rifle shooting range. **This is still an active and live proposal until the DCFPD Board of Commissioners votes against it. ANY forest preserve is still at risk to be ruined by the shooting range that would destroy 30 acres and the surrounding acres would not be of very good use with all the noise that an outdoor shooting range generates.**

Any citizens concerned about 30 acres of forest preserve being ruined by an outdoor gun and rifle shooting range should contact the DCFPD today! Their general email address is forest@dupageforest.com Tell the DCFPD that you want them to rescind plans for any outdoor recreational shooting range in any forest preserve in DuPage County.

And now that the DuPage County Public Works committee has taken the steps to stop plans for the DuPage County Sheriff to build an outdoor gun and rifle shooting range and junkyard/impound lot for 300 vehicles adjacent to the Greene Valley Forest Preserves they should give the 11.6 acres back of the original Greene Valley forest preserve. They should return this forest preserve land to the DuPage Forest Preserve District - DCFPD.

We know the DCFPD received 20+ acres of flood plain along the DesPlaines River for the Greene Valley forest preserve land. We are not going to get into a subjective argument with the DCFPD about the quality of the new flood plain acreage they received from the DuPage County government in return for the 11.6 acres of the Greene Valley forest preserve the DCFPD abandoned and gave to the DuPage County government (12/12/02).

If the DuPage County Board and Chairman truly believe that the Greene Valley forest preserve should not be disturbed/damaged by any new county owned and operated facilities they should make the magnanimous gesture of returning the 11.6 acres of original Greene Valley forest preserve land they received from the DCFPD.

Contact the DuPage County Chairman Robert Schillerstrom at rschillerstrom@dupageco.org To find your DuPage County Board member go to this website: http://www.co.dupage.il.us/cobrd/generic.cfm?doc_id=291

Please remember any discussion by the DCFPD about the quality of a flood plain acreage they received for the Greene Valley forest preserve land is just a smoke screen covering the fact that the DCFPD Recreational Committee voted in favor of having a recreational outdoor gun and rifle shooting range in the forest preserves. **There is still an active proposal to build a recreational outdoor shooting range that will destroy 30 acres of forest preserve!**

We need to get the DCFPD to vote against their Recreational Committee's proposal to build the outdoor gun and rifle shooting range to be used for "recreation." Contact them at the general email address: forest@dupageforest.com

When you write these officials also consider asking these remaining open questions:

-Where will they put the Sheriff's outdoor shooting range and junkyard/impound lot?

-What other forest preserve may be destroyed by these terrible proposals?

-Will The DuPage County Forest Preserve District giveaway (exchange?) more forest preserve land so the Sheriff can have his outdoor shooting range and junkyard/impound lot at another forest preserve other than Greene Valley?

-Where will the DCFPD put their Outdoor gun and rifle shooting range for recreational purposes that will take away 30 acres of forest preserve?

-Why aren't the DuPage County officials working together to solve these problems instead of pointing fingers at each other and then telling us (concerned citizens) that we are promoting a misconception?

Feel free to pass along this message to everyone you know that is concerned about the forest preserves and preserving their flora, fauna and open space.

Why must they rip out 30 acres of forest in the DuPage County Forest Preserves to build the tenth gun and rifle shooting range in the area? If the DuPage County Forest Preserve District (DCFPD) rips out 30 acres of forest to build the tenth gun and rifle shooting range should we support a new referendum to raise our taxes to buy more land?

WE SAY NO!

Make a case for new forest funds Daily Herald Editorial 10/19/03

In 1997, the DuPage County Forest Preserve Commission appealed to voters to approve a tax increase to buy \$75 million worth of land. The referendum was pitched as the last shot to get remaining open space before developers put malls and subdivisions on it. Voters said "yes." And that \$75 million has all been spent. But it may not have been the "last shot" after all. It appears the commission is about to reload. It is seriously thinking about going back to voters for more money in the 2004 election. And again, commissioners are saying there is land that needs to be bought before the bulldozers turn it over. **Our first question is: What exactly would this buy?** Even before 1997, most large tracts of land in DuPage County had been purchased from acquisition programs funded by loans in 1987 and 1991. This included 1,743 acres near Pratt's Wayne Woods in Wayne, 440 acres in the Big Woods preserve near Naperville, 800 acres of open space in the Danada Forest Preserve in Wheaton and 242 acres for the Maple Meadows Golf Course near Wood Dale.

By 2000, the forest preserve owned much of the land that hadn't been developed, outside of that held by park districts. But even then, there were still large land buys to make here and there. One such buy came in April 2000, when the forest preserve bought nearly 600 acres of the St. James Farm in Warrenville. By that time, little was left of the \$75 million voters in 1997 agreed to spend to preserve open space. So the commission borrowed \$84 million to complete the St. James purchase and make other land acquisitions. It didn't need voter approval of this loan because it didn't increase taxes.

So yet another question - besides what land is out there to buy - **is why the commission would need more money beyond the \$75 million from 1997 and the \$84 million borrowed in 2000.** DuPage County voters have been very supportive of forest preserve commission requests for new tax dollars for land preservation. They prize their open space as a buffer against burgeoning development. And in return for their tax dollars, they have been given a beautiful, well-run forest preserve system - much of it through the acquisition of expansive areas of open space. Now what is left are smaller, less enchanting, but very expensive tracts of land. Why would the acquisition of this land be so essential? Flood control? Trail development? Would buying this land spawn a new round of controversial condemnation proceedings?

Commissioners also have recently been receiving requests for land buys to accommodate nontraditional uses of the forest preserves, such as **a gun and rifle shooting range** and ball fields. **Does any of this factor into possibly seeking another referendum. If so, how could such purchases be justified?**

The forest preserve commission needs to make a strong case for a new round of taxpayer funds in the absence of what largely drove such requests before - the need to set aside large parcels of land for preservation, public enjoyment and flood control. It needs to be clear about what exactly it intends to buy, why it needs to make such purchases and why it needs more money beyond the \$159 million it has spent just since 1997. -----END OF THE Daily Herald EDITORIAL-----

CONTACT the DuPage County Forest Preserve District and tell them what you think!

There are already 4 gun and rifle shooting ranges in DuPage County: Bensenville, Naperville, Wheaton and West Chicago. There are 5 more shooting ranges outside of DuPage County in nearby towns: South Elgin, Franklin Park, Arlington Heights, Sugar Grove and Yorkville. Aren't 9 shooting ranges in the area enough? There are shooting ranges at a few golf courses too! In Illinois there are at least 105 shooting ranges in total. Aren't 105 shooting ranges in Illinois enough?

Contact the DCFPD President Dewey Pierotti and all 6 DCFPD Commissioners today!

See the listing of the DCFPD Commission at this website: <http://www.dupageforest.com/COMMISSION/comm.html>

Send a general email to everyone at: forest@dupageforest.com

Send letters to them at: P.O. Box 5000, Wheaton, IL 60189-5000.

- ALSO Send emails to the DuPage County Board c/o Chairman Schillerstrom at rschillerstrom@dupageco.org

These facts are presented to you by the PRESERVE the DuPage County FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT group.

Send us an email to: PRESERVEtheDCFPD@aol.com

For more info. checkout the web page: <http://hometown.aol.com/preservethedcfpd/myhomepage/photo.html>