

Shooting range proposal is taken off the table

In recent weeks, there has been much discussion over a proposal that the DuPage County sheriff's office was considering regarding the relocation of their shooting range to a location west of Route 53 and 75th Street immediately adjacent to the Greene Valley Forest Preserve. After significant consideration and public comment, it is our understanding that the sheriff's office is no longer considering this site.

Should this proposal have been brought to the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County for formal consideration, it would have been evaluated by the district's Board of Commissioners and staff to determine whether it coincided with the district's mandate. It would not have been responsible to the citizens of DuPage County to respond with a knee-jerk reaction to this or any other

proposal regarding forest preserves or adjacent property. There are a great number of suggestions proposed for the more than 24,000 acres of forest preserve holdings, and we are continually deliberating these proposals in public sessions.

One of the greatest values of the DuPage County forest preserves is their peacefulness. They are beautiful areas where you can blend with the landscape, escape the stressors of this world, and listen to the natural sounds of the wind, birds, forests, frogs and creeks. The landscapes are expansive, but they are not continuous. We must be careful with all of

our developments in order to protect our natural resources.

I have always rejected any proposals that would negatively impact the natural domain. By the same token, all proposals must and will be carefully considered by the commission, staff and myself to determine whether they would further the district's mission of conservation, education and recreation and, by doing so, benefit not only the forest preserve system but also the people of DuPage County.

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