

12/11/03

From Ruth Najacht,
Spokesperson for the group **PRESERVE the DuPage County Forest PRESERVES**

To the Village of Woodridge Village Board

We want to protect all public lands from being used for any shooting ranges or a junkyard in DuPage County including the forest preserves. The PRESERVE the DCFPD group is an all-volunteer consortium of individuals and groups working together to PRESERVE all the Forest Preserves in DuPage County and fight building the proposed gun and rifle shooting ranges (which would be at least the tenth and eleventh in the region) on any public lands (DuPage County or DCFPD).

We are especially concerned about the plans for the proposed outdoor gun and rifle shooting range for DuPage County Sheriff Zaruba along with 30 additional law enforcement agencies and the 250 vehicle parking lot for abandoned and junked vehicles currently planned to be placed in the middle of the Greene Valley forest preserve and adjacent to the East Branch of the DuPage River. Now that opposition has been raised to these plans we now see Sheriff Zaruba and Chairman Schillerstrom pointing fingers at each other saying it was the other guy's idea. But neither one has come out with alternatives. Note no one has heard from the DCFPD President Dewey Pierotti.

We appreciate the proposed resolution opposing these plans that the Village of Woodridge will hopefully approve tonight (Thursday, 12/11/03). It is also important to have the support of the homeowners association of the Woods of Hobson Greene and many other groups and individuals from across the area. We need to continue to contact all our elected officials at the DuPage County Forest Preserve District, DuPage County Sheriff John Zaruba and the DuPage County Board (including Chairman Schillerstrom) asking them to stop plans for the proposed shooting range and junkyard in the middle of the Greene Valley forest preserve and adjacent to the East Branch of the DuPage River.

We need to know from the DCFPD, DuPage County Board and the DuPage County Sheriff if Greene Valley is not the location for the Sheriff's shooting range and junkyard, is it still being considered for the "recreational" shooting range? And then if not Greene Valley what other forest preserves might be ruined by these proposals? These are still terrible ideas if the Sheriff's or recreational gun and rifle shooting ranges were to be placed in or next to the nearby Springbrook Prairie forest preserve or other forest preserves in DuPage County like Danada, Timber Ridge, Pratts Wayne Woods, etc. Placing a parking lot for 250 abandoned, junked and/or seized vehicles in a forest preserve is just as bad of an idea and is no more fitting of preserving a forest preserve as is a shooting range. All these proposals should be stopped now.

In addition, the noise and disturbance to the birds and wildlife are real concerns. The shooting range would create environmental problems and cost the taxpayers money to monitor the area as well as cleaning it up.

PRESERVE the DuPage County Forest Preserves EMAIL: Preserve theDCFPD@aol.com