



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Village of Woodridge "Shoots Down" Greene Valley Firing Range Idea**

The Village of Woodridge has taken a position strongly opposing the County's proposal to use land near the Greene Valley Forest Preserve for an Outdoor Firing Range and a 250-car impound lot to store cars seized during alcohol and drug related arrests.

"Those people have already paid their dues in terms of having facilities inappropriately located in their backyards", explained Woodridge Mayor William Murphy. "We need to help them keep their backyards safe and free from the noise pollution and increased traffic and unsightliness that would be generated from a firing range and impound lot".

Resident groups surrounding the land on all sides have expressed shock and outrage at the proposed uses.

*A consortium of groups under the banner "Preserve the DuPage County Forest Preserve District" has been extremely vocal in their opposition, encouraging all residents to make their voices heard by contacting County Board and Forest Preserve officials, writing letters to the editors of area newspapers, and sending a strong message that this is a misuse of open space and tax dollars. For more information about their message, visit: <http://hometown.aol.com/PreservetheDCFPD/>*

The Woods of Hobson Greene homeowners have weighed in with the following statement, "Greene Valley is a beautiful area – a real asset for Naperville, Woodridge, and Lisle. In the late 80's and early 90's many of us fought to close the landfill." 10 years later, residents face the same battle of trying to preserve open space and protect natural land. "...we were shocked to learn of a possible shooting range...and a proposed 250-space parking lot only makes us more upset...We expect our forest preserve officials to be champions of the preserves, please join us in opposing the proposed shooting range and parking lot."

Illinois Prairie Path Corporation members have also spoken out,

"It's preposterous," said Don Kirchenberg, president of the Illinois Prairie Path Corporation and chairman of Friends of the Great Western Trail. "I'm not against guns,

but I can't imagine how a shooting range would fit into the mission of the Forest Preserve District. I plan to ask the groups that I belong to take a position against it."

Jean Mooring, a charter member of the Illinois Prairie Path Corporation and an open-space advocate for more than 35 years said she opposes a shooting range anywhere on district land. "Why would we want to encourage guns in the preserves? I don't mind quiet types of recreation that don't cause too much disturbance to birds and animals and plants, but a shooting range would be noisy and disruptive," Mooring said. "It would be counter to the purposes for which the Forest Preserve District was established. Open space and natural areas are not preserved by shooting."

We thank District 3 Representatives Thomas Bennington and Kyle Gilgis for opposing the proposals. District 3 Representative and Chair of the Environmental Committee Michael McMahon has not yet taken a stance on the proposal, nor have his fellow committee members.

Residents are encouraged to contact the following representatives of DuPage County and the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County to strongly oppose the proposals to build a firing range and impound lot adjacent to or within the Greene Valley Forest Preserve. Please contact the following representative to voice your opinion today!

### **DuPage County Board Members**

Robert Schillerstrom	(630) 682-7282	<a href="mailto:rschillerstrom@dupageco.org">rschillerstrom@dupageco.org</a>
Michael McMahon	(630) 878-8198	<a href="mailto:mmcmahon@dupageco.org">mmcmahon@dupageco.org</a>
Patrick O'Shea	(630) 620-8551	<a href="mailto:poshea@dupageco.org">poshea@dupageco.org</a>
Brien Sheahan	(630) 833-4314	<a href="mailto:bsheahan@dupageco.org">bsheahan@dupageco.org</a>
Irene Stone	(630) 722-1285	<a href="mailto:istone@dupageco.org">istone@dupageco.org</a>
Thomas Bennington	(312) 855-4317	<a href="mailto:tbennington@dupageco.org">tbennington@dupageco.org</a>
Kyle Gilgis	(630) 969-3857	<a href="mailto:kgilgis@dupageco.org">kgilgis@dupageco.org</a>
James Healy	(630) 655-6000	<a href="mailto:jhealy@dupageco.org">jhealy@dupageco.org</a>
Robert Heap	(630) 369-4980	<a href="mailto:rheap@dupageco.org">rheap@dupageco.org</a>
Robert Schroeder	(630) 355-7417	<a href="mailto:rschroeder@dupageco.org">rschroeder@dupageco.org</a>

### **Forest Preserve District of DuPage County**

D. "Dewey" Pierotti, Jr. (President)	(630) 833-6981	<a href="mailto:dpierotti@dupageforest.com">dpierotti@dupageforest.com</a>
Brent Manning, Executive Director	(630) 933-7210	<a href="mailto:bmannings@dupageforest.com">bmannings@dupageforest.com</a>
Marsha Murphy	(630) 773-1917	<a href="mailto:mmurphy@dupageforest.com">mmurphy@dupageforest.com</a>
Joseph Cantore	(630) 673-2208	<a href="mailto:jcantore@dupageforest.com">jcantore@dupageforest.com</a>
Wallace Brown	(630) 852-8265	<a href="mailto:wbrown@dupageforest.com">wbrown@dupageforest.com</a>
Gwen Henry	(630) 665-4440	<a href="mailto:ghenry@dupageforest.com">ghenry@dupageforest.com</a>
Carl Schultz	(630) 336-4905	<a href="mailto:cschultz@dupageforest.com">cschultz@dupageforest.com</a>
Roger Kotecki	(630) 653-3737	<a href="mailto:rkotecki@dupageforest.com">rkotecki@dupageforest.com</a>