



RIVER PRAIRIE GROUP

Hotline: 630-985-1185

GUN AND RIFLE RANGE IN OUR DU PAGE FOREST PRESERVES!

By Ruth Najacht, Linda Sullivan, and Frank Orto
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The DuPage County Forest Preserve District commissioners are considering adding a gun and rifle range to expand the district's roster of outdoor recreational opportunities, using approximately 20 acres of preserve land. If commissioners' approve the idea, the district would be the first forest preserve district in the Chicago area to build a shooting range.

Forest Preserve Commissioner Joseph Cantore from District 2 proposed the range and heads a committee that is studying the issue and has begun to search for a possible site.

The Forest Preserve District's land management policy established in 1966 calls for 90% of the preserves for passive use such as forests, savannah, meadows and the like and 10% for non-passive recreational use.

The River Prairie Group of the Sierra Club is not against having a new public gun and rifle range in DuPage County. We are opposed, however, to any gun and rifle shooting range that is located in our forest preserves, adjacent to our forest preserves or in environmentally sensitive areas.

The noise and disturbance to our wildlife and damage to the environment are real concerns. Contamination from lead bullets is unacceptable.

There are nine shooting ranges in the surrounding areas of DuPage and a total of 105 in the state.

Sheriff Zaruba of DuPage County needs a new outdoor shooting range as early as next spring. The county has offered the sheriff vacant land next to the county's wastewater treatment plant in the Green Valley Forest Preserve in Woodridge. North of the wastewater

treatment plant is the proposed site of the shooting range and southwest of the plant a proposed 250-car parking lot would house seized vehicles. All of the sites are situated on Forest Preserve property. The East Branch of the Du Page River traverses through the Forest Preserve and is located just west of the waste water treatment plant

A spokesman from the DuPage County Sheriff's Department said that the county uses copper-jacketed lead bullets. The Wheaton Police Department, according to a spokesman uses lead bullets.

Sheriff Zaruba was asked by the Airport Authority to leave his current site in West Chicago because a high tech park is planned for the area. Some 30-law enforcement agencies and police academies use the range. Environmental cleanup damage at the site has been estimated to be \$50,000. Lead is and would also be the polluting factor in our forest preserve.

No valid reasons exist for having these shooting ranges in our Forest Preserves. Shooting ranges in our Forest Preserves is not a benign sport. It would create environmental problems and cost the taxpayers money to monitor the area as well as cleaning it up.

The Sierra Club's River Prairie Group encourages all residents and non-residents of DuPage County to contact the following three public officials listed below.

- A. Dewey Pierotti, Jr., President of the DuPage County Forest Preserve.
- B. Robert J. Schillerstrom, Chairman of the DuPage County Board.
- C. Brent Manning, the Executive Director of the DuPage County Forest Preserve.

Furthermore, the Sierra Club's River Prairie Group encourages all residents of DuPage County to contact in addition to the three public officials listed above:

- D. Their one DuPage County Forest Preserve Commissioner.
- E. Their three DuPage County Board Commissioners.

Ask all these officials listed in A, B, C, D, and E

TO OPPOSE the establishment of any kind of shooting range on:

- F. DuPage County Forest Preserve Property.
- G. On land adjacent to DuPage County Forest Preserve Property.
- H. On other environmentally sensitive areas in the DuPage County.

Tell these public officials that the Sierra Club and you are not opposed to the establishment of gun and rifle shooting ranges on other properties. We are just opposed to the establishment of gun and rifle shooting ranges that fall within any of the parameters listed

above (F, G, and H).

What if you are concerned about this issue and are not a resident of DuPage County? Non-residents can state how, as a neighbor, you value the forest preserves of DuPage County as places of unique environmental sanctuaries and that you encourage these public officials to use their influence to maintain and preserve these unique areas.

You can contact these public officials by one of four ways:

1. Make a phone call.
2. Write a letter.
3. Send an email.
4. Send a fax.

You can contact Dewey Pierotti, Jr., President of the DuPage County Forest Preserve at

Dewey Pierotti, Jr.
President of the DuPage County Forest Preserve
710 E. Holly Court
Addison, IL 60101
630.833.6981 (work)
630-933-7225 (Forest Preserve District)
dpierotti@dupageforest.com

You can contact Robert J. Schillerstrom, Chairman of the DuPage County Board at

Robert J. Schillerstrom
Chairman of the DuPage County Board
421 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187
630.682.7282 (phone)
630.682.7571 (fax)
rschillerstrom@dupageco.org

You can contact Brent Manning, the Executive Director of the DuPage County Forest Preserve at

Brent Manning
Executive Director of the DuPage County Forest Preserve
DuPage County Forest Preserve
P.O. Box 5000
3 S. 580 Naperville Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60187
630.933.7210
bmanning@dupageforest.com

For DuPage County Residents:

For information on how to contact your three DuPage County Board Commissioners, click on this link [DuPage County Board Commissioners](#). To find out who are your three DuPage County Board Commissioners, click on this link [DuPage County Board District Map](#).

For information on how to contact your one DuPage Forest Preserve Commissioner, click on this link [DuPage County Forest Preserve](#).