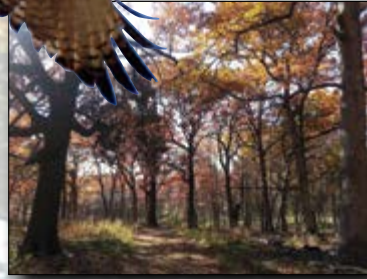


Key Milestones

1971-2021

2008

- Oaks of McHenry County Study Released
- Comprehensive Site Development and Public Access Plan Completed



2010

Lost Valley Visitor Center Opened as the First LEED Gold Facility in McHenry County



2012

- Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge Created



2013

- NRPA Barb King Award Excellence in Environmental Stewardship



2016

- Host McHenry County Conservation Congress; Declaration of Fundamental Conservation Principles Signed



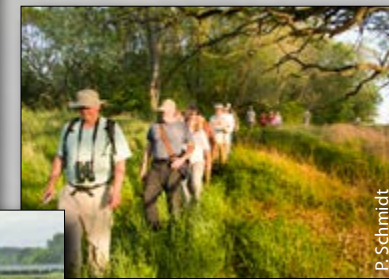
2007

Voters Approve \$73 Million Referendum



2001

Voters Approve \$68.5 Million Referendum



• After 50 Years the District has 35 Conservation Areas Open to the Public and Over 25,600 acres Protected for Future Generations.

1999

- Dechannelization of Nippersink Creek
- Prairieview Education Center Opens



1993

- Wildlife Resource Center Opens
- Blanding's Turtle Research Project Begins



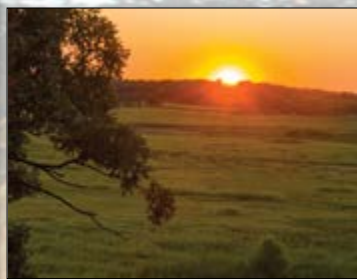
1989

- Glacial Park hosts the first Trail of History, Kames Rendezvous



1971

- Voters Establish McHenry County Conservation District



2021

1970s-1980s

- 1971 Voters of McHenry County support referendum to create a Conservation District.
- 1972 Ken Fiske is selected as first Executive Director (Served 1972-1985).
- District logo selected from thousands of submissions by county students.
- 1973 First parcel purchased - 50 acres in Beck's Woods, Chemung.
- 1973 First site opens to the public - Harrison Benwell, in Wonder Lake.
- 1975 Wildlife rehabilitation and education programs started.

- 1976 First Interpretive Naturalist hired.
- First Land and Facility Ranger hired.
- First District public newsletter Landscapes is published.
- 1979 First Festival of the Sugar Maples is held at Coral Woods in Marengo.
- 1986 McHenry County Conservation District Police Department formed.
- First Prescribed burn is conducted.
- 1987 Natural Resources Department formed.

1990s-2000s

- 1993 Wild turkeys reintroduced at Glacial Park.
- 1995 First Candlelight Ski program held.
- 1996 Restoration of the 1854 Powers-Walker House begins.
- 1999 Dechannelization of Nippersink Creek completed.
- McHenry County Conservation Foundation is chartered.
- Communications Department created.
- 2005 Camp Algonquin is purchased.
- 2006 Land acquisition tops 20,000 acres protected.
- Website and online registration begins.

- 2007 Voters approve \$73 million referendum for land acquisition, wildlife habitat restoration and recreational improvements.
- 2008 Comprehensive Site Dev. and Public Access Plan assesses the park and recreation needs of the county.
- A Recreational Use Policy is adopted to define activities allowed on District sites.
- The Oaks of McHenry County is published, appealing to local municipalities to protect the county's last remaining oak systems.
- 2009 Natural Areas Impact Evaluation Policy is adopted to provide best conservation practice for development proposals.

2010s-2020s

- 2010 Design Ordinance and Groundwater Monitoring Research is adopted and sets standards for developers to look at the land first to ensure that natural areas and groundwater recharge is being preserved.
- 15 groundwater monitoring wells are installed on District sites.
- The Lost Valley Visitor Center opens: a model for green technologies for reducing energy consumption and environmental design.
- The District kicks off S.W.E.E.P (Safety Watch Education Environmental Program), a cooperative effort between the District's Police Department and local residents.
- Education Programs, school field trips and outreach programs hosted for over 12,000 students, adults and families.
- 2011 Solar Powered Automatic Gates installed at all District sites.
- The Weekend of Restoration program is launched.
- Landscapes magazine transformed to a 40-page, color publication and distribution tops 20,000 households.
- 2012 District adopts the Americans with Disabilities Act System-Wide Site and Facility Accessibility Audit & Transition Plan

- Conservation District plays a key leadership role for the establishment of the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge in northeast Illinois and Wisconsin.
- 2015 Casual visitors to sites top 1 million for the first time.
- 2016 District hosts the first McHenry County Conservation Congress where over 100 delegates attend and sign the Declaration of Fundamental Conservation Principles.
- 2018 US Army Corps of Engineers completes The Nippersink 206 Project, restoration of 3.5 miles of the high-quality stream.

What's Next?