VILLAGE OF
LINCOLNSHIRE

Press Release
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West Fork Friends Celebrate One Year of Dedicated Stewardship

(LINCOLNSHIRE, Ill.) The Village of Lincolnshire, in partnership with Friends of the Illinois Nature Preserves has organized a stewardship group, West Fork Friends, dedicated to preserving the West Fork Savanna, a rare and delicate ecosystem. Portions of the West Fork Preserves include Lincolnshire's own Florsheim Nature Preserve located at the northeast part of the Village along the tri-state tollway, consisting of over 100 acres of dedicated nature preserve.

In January of 2025, Friends of the Illinois Nature Preserves hosted a kick-off event at Florsheim Nature Preserve with the goal of building a stewardship and volunteer community to work regularly at Lincolnshire's North Park, Old Mill, and Florsheim Nature Preserves. Over 50 people attended kick-off, and since then volunteers from Lincolnshire and surrounding communities put in time every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., to care for these important ecosystems by doing work appropriate for each season. The group removes and burns invasive species, collects and spreads native seeds, and learn from experts about rare plants. This work is essential to prevent this habitat from degrading and losing richness and restore the biodiversity of the area. The group also brings snacks to share and find great value in building a meaningful stewardship community.

Last Sunday, West Fork Friends celebrated one year of dedicated stewardship. Over 20 volunteers helped clear buckthorn from wetland and celebrated with cake and other snacks. The group reflected on how stewardship adds a sense of meaning and purpose in their lives

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James Egan, Village of Lincolnshire certified arborist, has been working every Sunday since the group was established. He states:

"The community that has developed at West Fork is truly remarkable. Stewardship connects people to nature and instills a strong sense of purpose and belonging. Several stewards have mentioned that West Fork Friends has had such a positive impact on their lives, that the Sunday workday is their favorite day of the week! The rich biodiversity of sites like Florsheim, Old Mill, and North Park could not be restored or maintained without the dedicated efforts of volunteers."

The Village of Lincolnshire, 1957, is a northern suburb of Chicago and is conveniently adjacent to the Tri-State Tollway. Lincolnshire is home to 7,940 residents, two nationally-recognized public school districts, and over 400 businesses – a number of which are global headquarters and Fortune 500 companies.

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