

Prairie Buffer at Derwen Mawr and Skokie River Nature Preserves

As your local conservation land trust, much of our future success requires that we embrace the concept of community conservation by continuing to expand our community's ongoing commitment to land preservation and conservation. The recently added 1.5-acre nature preserve buffer donated to Lake Forest Open Lands is an excellent example of a community conservation success. This wonderful parcel is the most recent gift from the Chandler Family's 3rd generation of conservationists, who in the past have donated some of LFOLA's most cherished open spaces, including one of our highest quality prairie habitats called Haffner Meadow.



This exceptional addition of 1.5 acres of undeveloped land to Lake Forest Open Lands includes a prairie reconstruction that extends throughout the land and includes the characteristic native species found in the contiguous relic mesic prairie. While a newly reconstructed prairie, this lovely parcel also provides a critical visual and habitat buffer to the larger Haffner Meadow and Skokie River Nature Preserve that have both been recognized for their high quality by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC). Skokie River Nature Preserve encompasses a mosaic of wetlands, mesic prairies, and dry-mesic woodlands

arrayed along subtle elevation, moisture, and soil gradients within the Skokie River Valley.

With continuous land management, this newly preserved parcel will continue to improve in quality and composition for the benefit of the surrounding native prairie plants and animals. Importantly, this habitat buffer addition also will prevent future development within close proximity of the existing high-quality INPC preserved prairie and will improve the ability of the LFOLA staff to manage this cherished landscape. In recognition of the value of this newly preserved property to the overall prairie matrix, LFOLA has received preliminary approval from the INPC to dedicate this 1.5 acres as the Chandler Buffer addition to the Skokie River Nature Preserve. The anticipated buffer addition will increase the size of the Skokie River Prairie Nature Preserve to 140.31 acres.

Land Forest Open Lands would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Chandler family for their conservation leadership and continued commitment to the health and success of our community's important open spaces.