

Forest Preserve District Green Initiatives



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

By the numbers

- 26,000 acres of land
- 60 forest preserves
- 47 miles of rivers and streams
- 175 miles of trails
- 7 education and cultural centers
- 3 golf preserves
- 500 nature programs per year
- 5.5 million visitors
- 2023 adopted Clean Energy, Resiliency and Sustainability Plan



Our Partnerships

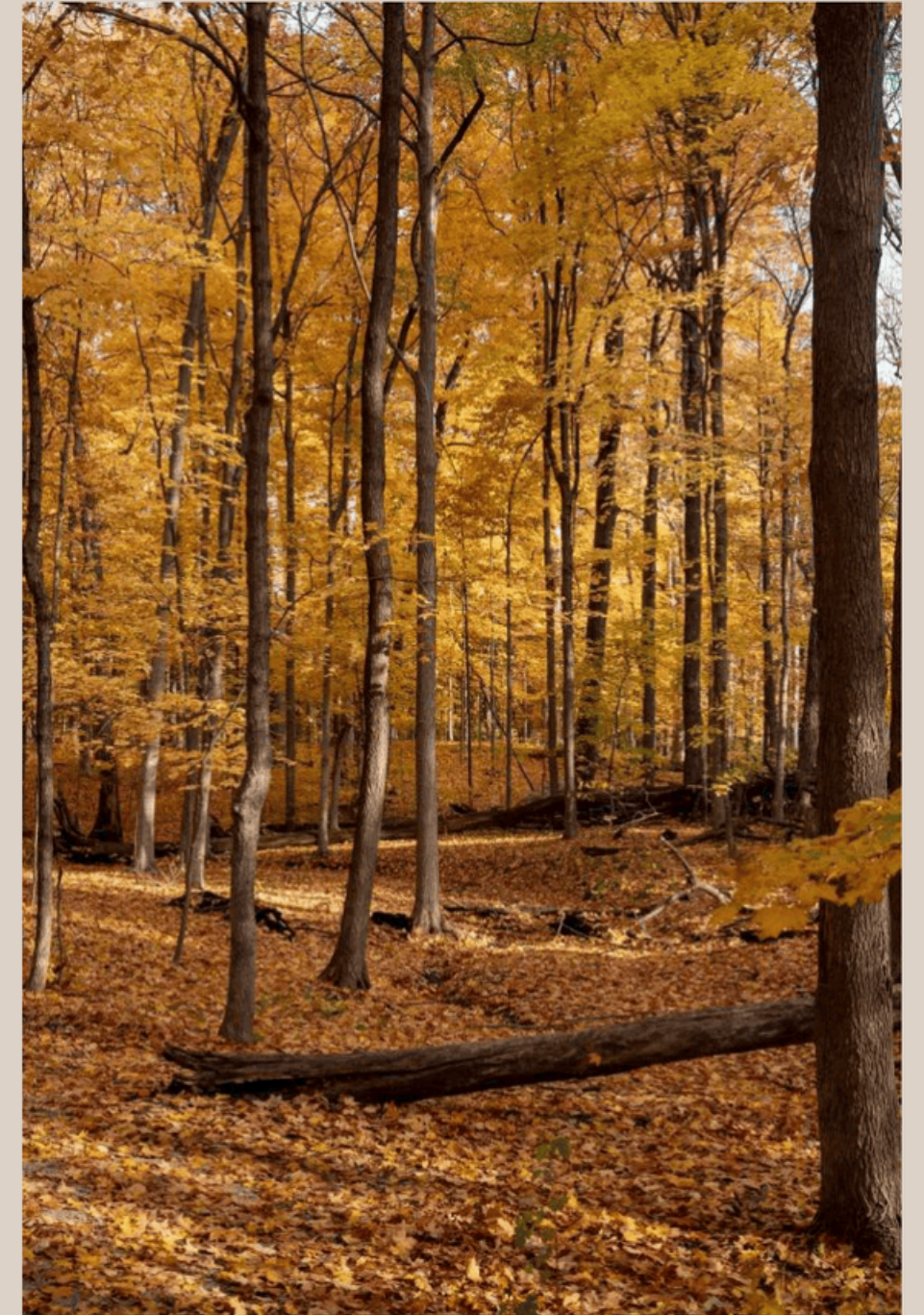
- Blanding's turtle species-recovery program partners
- Chicago Bird Collision Monitors
- Chicago Metro. Planning Agency
- Chicago Region Trees Initiative
- Chicago Wilderness Alliance
- The Conservation Foundation
- DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau
- DuPage County Stormwater Management
- DuPage Mayors & Managers
- DuPage Monarch Project
- Friends of Danada
- Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
- Illinois Assoc. of Conservation and Forest Preserve Districts
- Illinois Association of Park Districts
- Illinois Parks & Recreation Assoc.
- Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation
- Morton Arboretum
- Prairie State Conservation Coalition
- Salt Creek DuPage River Work Group



Environmental Benefits

The District's land management and ecosystem restoration practices benefit the environment.

- Sequestering 891 tCO₂e more carbon than emitted.
- Increasing climate resiliency and biodiversity.
- Reducing stormwater runoff.
- Promoting clean air and water.
- Preserving scenic viewsheds.



River restoration

Salt Creek Restoration at Fullersburg Woods

- Dam removal.
- Restore over 1 mile of river.
- Improved water quality by:
 - Removing blockage of fish passage.
 - Increasing dissolved oxygen.
 - Improving in-stream and riparian habitat.



Renewable Electricity

Renewable Energy Credits

- The District purchases credits for 100% wind energy to offset its energy usage.



Renewable Electricity

Solar Photovoltaic Projects - Implemented

- 262.2 kW Solar PV rooftop at Fleet Building.
- 41 kW Solar PV rooftop at The Preserve at Oak Meadows, which powers its golf cart fleet.
- 18.8 kW Solar PV rooftop at Danada Equestrian Center.



Renewable Electricity

Solar Photovoltaic Projects - Planned

- 409.5 kW ground mount Solar PV system at Headquarters Building.
- 500 kW rooftop Solar PV system at Grounds and Natural Resources Complex.
- Exploring floating solar.



Image credit: solarpowerworldonline.com



Net Zero

DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center

- 27,000 sf wildlife rehab and visitor center.
- 625 kW Solar PV system installed on the visitor center.
- 72.2 kW Solar PV system installed on species recovery building.
- Geothermal heating and cooling.
- Energy efficient features.



Landfill Sustainability

Phytoremediation at Mallard North Landfill

- Largest in the nation.
- 8,500 trees on 14.7 acres have treated over 20 million gallons of leachate.
- Trees soak up the leachate and release clean water through evapotranspiration.



Landfill Sustainability

Landfill Gas to Energy

- Landfill gas to energy plant operating at Greene Valley landfill since 1995.
- Previous gas to energy plant operated until 2018 at Mallard Lake. Pursuing a new landfill gas-to-energy project.

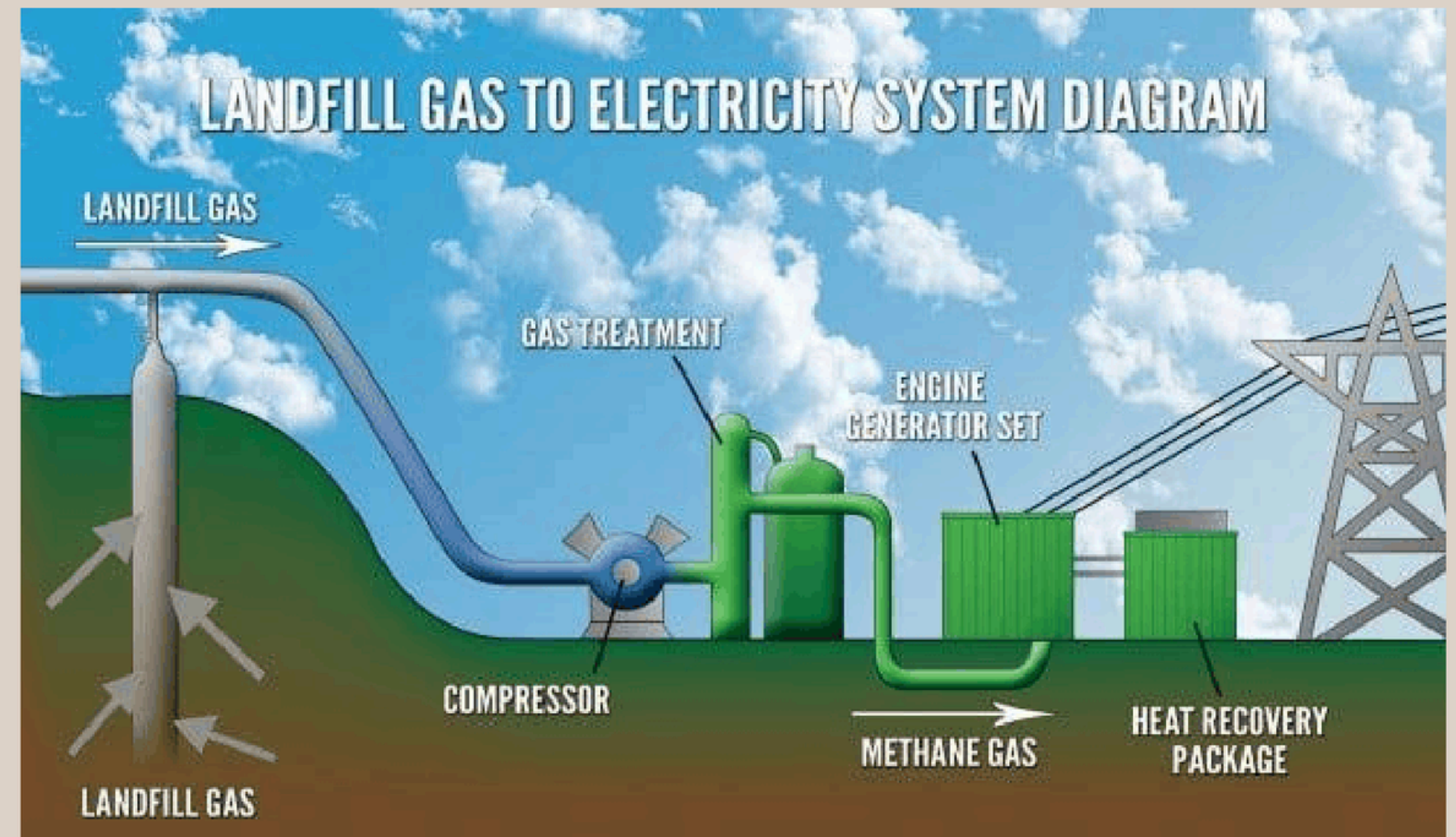


Image credit: nwitimes.com



Fleet Management

29,000 sf Fleet Maintenance facility built in 2018

Shop designed to LEED standards

- All LED lighting
- Dormers and Bay Door windows for natural lighting
- Exterior lighting Dark Sky Compliant
- Rain Gardens
- Recycled and Low-VOC materials
- Building, pavement, and stormwater BMPs used

Timers and Motion Sensors for lighting

Solar Arrays added in 2024 to provide 110% of power

- 324,000 kWh annually
- Includes two EV chargers

#1 Green Garage by NAFA in 2025

*#1 Leading Fleet by APWA / Govt Fleet Magazine in 2020
& 2023*

*100 Best Fleet 12 years in a row
Leading Fleet 10 years in a row*



Fleet Management

Summary of Fleet Assets:

- Established Alternative Fuel Policy in 2002 and started using B20
- Alternative Fuels used: CNG, LPG, E85, B20, EV, and Hybrid
- Currently have 12 EV Charging Stations
- Over 1600 Assets maintained
- 95% On-Road Vehicles use alternative fuel (out of 180 vehicles)
- Switching over to battery power on small equipment – chainsaws, trimmers, blowers
- Illinois' only Fuel Site with 4 unique alternative fuels: CNG, LPG, E85, B20.
- 100% Off-Road Diesel Equipment runs on B20
Including 1976 JD Grader



Fleet Management

What's Next:

- Move to B30 biodiesel blend for all diesel assets
- Test B100 biodiesel blend for mowers/tractors
- Add public facing EV chargers at new GNR facility
- Install heated DEF dispenser at fuel site
- Bring Police Upfitting back in-house



We are committed to becoming a climate leader

- Reduce carbon footprint
- Increase climate resiliency
- Wisely steward our forest preserves

