

**ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA  
TWO HUNDRED FORTY-FIFTH MEETING**

Monroe County Annex Building  
901 Illinois Avenue  
Waterloo, Illinois 62298

September 12, 2023, 10:00 AM  
In-person meeting with WebEx option

\*Documentary Material Enclosed

**Item 1: Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees**

**Item 2:\* Adoption of Agenda**

**Item 3:\* Approval of Minutes for the 244<sup>th</sup> Meeting on May 9, 2023**

*Note: Share Accomplishments Summary of the 244<sup>th</sup> INPC Meeting*

*At the 244<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the INPC, held on May 9, 2023, at the Lost Valley Visitor Center in Ringwood, Illinois, legal protection was completed by the Commission for one tract of land totaling 40 acres. This tract is the Addition to Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak Nature Preserve, which is publicly owned. Currently, there are 416 dedicated nature preserves with 62,803 acres and 206 registered land and water reserves with 58,729 acres. Altogether, there are 622 sites with 121,532 acres protected in the Illinois Nature Preserves System.*

*Note: Share Resolutions for Commissioners Pen DauBach, Jo-Elle Mogerma, and David Thomas*

**Item 4: Next Meeting Dates and Locations**

246	January 23, 2024	Joel Brunsvold Building Springfield, Illinois
247	May 14, 2024	Putnam County Conservation District Hennepin, Illinois
248	September 10, 2024	Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center Marion, Illinois

**Item 5:\* INPC Staff Report**

REPORT  
Todd Strole, Executive Director  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**Item 6:\* IDNR Staff Report**

REPORT  
Ann Marie Holtrop, Chief  
Division of Natural Heritage

**Item 7: Endangered Species Protection Board Report**

REPORT  
Samantha Chavez  
Endangered Species Protection Board

**Item 8:\* Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves Report**

REPORT  
Amy Doll, Director  
Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves

**Item 9: Committee of the Whole Meeting to Propose Nominations for Illinois Nature Preserves Commission Advisors, Consultants and Officers**

**Committee Chair:** Commissioner Szafoni

**A. Nomination of Advisors**

**Current Advisors:**

Natalie Finnie IL Dept. of Natural Resources <i>(Statutory Advisor)</i>	Dr. Eric M. Schauber IL Natural History Survey <i>(Statutory Advisor)</i>	Jennifer Edginton IL State Museum <i>(Statutory Advisor)</i>
Dr. Joyce Hofmann IL Endangered Species Protection Board	Dr. Richard C. Berg IL State Geological Survey	Mike Norris IL Dept. of Natural Resources Office of Historic Preservation
Dr. Timothy Pauketat IL State Archaeological Survey	Dr. Kevin O'Brien IL Sustainable Technology Center	Dr. Praveen Kumar Prairie Research Institute

**B. Nomination of Consultants**

**Current Consultants:**

Gerald Adelman	Jill Allread	Randy Heidorn
Harry Drucker	Fran Harty	Jill Riddell
Dr. Jim Herkert	Kerry Leigh	Joseph Roth
Lauren Rosenthal	Bruce Ross-Shannon	John White
John Schwegman	Michelle Carr	Dr. Charles Ruffner

## C. Nominations of Officers

### Current Officers:

Chair: Dr. Abigail Derby Lewis

Vice Chair: Vacant

Secretary: Michelle Parker

### Item 10:\* Coles County - Addition to Warbler Bottoms North Land and Water Reserve,

#### Registration

Grand Prairie Friends seeks registration of 45-acres as an addition to Warbler Bottoms North LWR. Warbler Bottoms North located within the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division, is part of the greater Warbler Woods Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI #1585) site, for Category I: Grade B dry-mesic upland forest, Category II: occurrence of state threatened smooth softshell turtle (*Apalone mutica*) and formerly state listed fibrous rooted sedge (*Carex communis*) and false hellebore (*Veratrum woodii*) and Category III: for containing one Nature Preserve (Warbler Woods NP) and five Land and Water Reserves (Embarras Ridges, Warbler Woods, Warbler Woods North, Warbler Bottoms North and Warbler Landing).

The proposed addition lies within the ~1000-acre Warbler Ridge Conservation Area (WRCA), which itself contains six Illinois Natures Preserve Commission (INPC) protected sites: Warbler Woods Nature Preserve (NP)/LWR, Warbler Bottoms North LWR, Warbler Woods North LWR, Ambraw Woods LWR, Warbler Landing and Embarras Ridges LWR. This complex of sites occurs within a forested corridor that extends for several miles along the Embarras River corridor, from north of Lake Charleston to south of Fox Ridge State Park. The addition increases the size of the reserve, extends protection of the Embarras River, provides buffer to high quality resources, facilitates management activities, and reduces likelihood of future defense issues.

Grand Prairie Friends requests to reserve the following rights on the addition to Warbler Bottoms North with INPC approval:

- In consultation with and approval by INPC staff, create a multi-modal trail that connects with other, nearby Grand Prairie Friends properties.
  - Trail may accommodate hikers, bikers and
  - ATV/UTV access - for management or emergency response purposes only
  - be no-more than 15-20 ft. wide and
  - may comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
  - Trail route will avoid impacts to high quality resources, steep slopes, highly erodible soils and any threatened or endangered organism that currently occur or may be discovered in the future.

Permanent protection of the aquatic and forest communities benefit current and future visitors, researchers, and all citizens of Illinois by preserving the unique natural heritage of east central Illinois. Staff of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and Grand Prairie Friends recommend permanent registration of the 45-acre site as an addition to Warbler Bottoms North LWR.

#### **REPORT**

John Griesbaum

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

#### **ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Approval for Registration

**Item 11:\* Macoupin County - Beaver Dam Glacial Drift Hill Prairie Land and Water Reserve, Registration**

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) proposes to seek registration of the Beaver Dam Glacial Drift Hill Prairie Land and Water Reserve (LWR) with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC). The 40.35-acre parcel in Macoupin County lies in the northwest corner of IDNR – owned Beaver Dam State Park. The Park land cover dominated by dry-mesic upland forest and dry-mesic woodland is an important example of the natural communities of the Carlinville Section of the Western Forest-Prairie Natural Division. Registration of the proposed LWR is recommended to protect the high-quality natural communities and listed species that are found within the Beaver Dam Glacial Drift Hill Prairie Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI#1536). The site was added to the INAI in 1997 under Category II due to the presence of specific suitable habitat for the state-endangered large ground plum (*Astragalus crassicaarpus var. trichocalyx*) and formerly, but no longer, listed prairie trout lily (*Erythronium mesochoreum*). In 2011, resulting from survey work conducted during the INAI Update Project, the INAI was expanded to include a Category I designation for the high-quality Grade B Glacial Drift Hill Prairie and Grade C Best of Kind dry-mesic woodland. The balance of the proposed LWR acres include Grade C glacial drift hill prairie, non-qualifying woodland, artificial impoundment and reconstructed managed grassland. The objective is to manage the parcel as a natural area, while providing opportunities for hunting and other nature-based activities as has previously occurred.

IDNR reserves the following rights:

- Public access to the site will be allowed via a gravel parking area off Ridge Road.
- Unimproved hiking trails though the uplands will be maintained for public recreational use. Mowed hiking trails will be established in the floodplain areas in the coming years once the prairie plantings are established.
- Maintain and/or redesign the existing artificial impoundment to support potential future wetland expansion onto adjoining IDNR land south and outside of the proposed LWR via the intra-agency Plan of Work process.

Pre-existing right:

A hunting program will continue with the ability to allow furbearer trapping if deemed appropriate via the intra-agency Plan of Work process.

The proposed LWR contains habitat supporting at least eight bird species and one reptile identified as Species of Greatest Conservation Need from the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan. Registration of this parcel will highlight recognition of the significant natural features and be the first at Beaver Dam State Park in an area of the state with a very limited amount of public land.

**REPORT**

Byron Paulsen  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Approval for Registration

**Item 12:\* Williamson County - North Addition to Grisley Woods Land and Water Reserve, Registration**

Mr. William Grisley seeks to register five tracts of land comprising 135 acres in perpetuity as the North Addition to the Grisley Woods Land and Water Reserve (LWR #198, INAI site

#1968, Category III). Grisley Woods LWR was registered as a 107.5-acre contiguous tract on September 10, 2019, during the 233rd Illinois Nature Preserves Commission meeting. With this addition, the total LWR acreage will grow to 242.5. The proposed addition is within the Lake Creek Township of central Williamson County. It is in the Mount Vernon Hill Country Section of the Southern Till Plain Natural Division of Illinois. One-hundred eighteen (118) acres of Grade C and Grade D dry-mesic woodland complex comprise most of the north addition. Within the Grade C areas of this natural community, the herbaceous layer is particularly diverse, with woodland indicator plants such as purple milkweed, beebalm, pencil flower, American columbo, native lespedeza species and native grasses found throughout. The remaining 17 acres are Grade D old field communities that contain early-successional habitat. Although much of the acreage is low in vegetative quality (i.e., Grade D), the value of this habitat for wildlife, particularly birds, is high. Qualifying features include:

1. Expansion of the existing Grisley Woods LWR and INAI site #1968 Category III.
2. Proximity to Otey-Grisley Nature Preserve #387 located 0.25mi south.
3. Presence of six state-listed avian species, including breeding loggerhead shrike.
4. Twenty avian SGCN breed in the north addition and/or LWR. An additional seven SGCN over-winter or utilize the tract during migration. The SGCN eastern box turtle is abundant on the site.
5. Permanent protection of 242.5 acres of contiguous woodland and old field communities and breeding presence of 22 avian species susceptible to forest fragmentation.
6. Support of numerous goals outlined in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan

Registration approval is subject to severed mineral rights owned by Springfield Coal Company (SCC), 3008 Happy Landing Drive, Springfield IL 62711, excepting mineral rights in Tract 2.

Registration approval is subject upon acceptance of 17 acres that are currently enrolled in CRP programs with expiration dates of September 2023 and September 2025, respectively. This acreage will not be re-enrolled in CRP programs.

Access to the site is limited and visitation requires landowner permission prior to access. Activities allowed with landowner consent are detailed in the proposal. The landowner reserves the right to maintain existing roads and trails (including dam levees) for fire breaks and other management purposes.

**REPORT**

Kevin Sierzega  
Illinois Nature Preserve Commission

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Approval for Registration

**Item 13:\* Cook County - Addition and Buffer Addition to Paintbrush Prairie Nature Preserve, Preliminary Dedication**

Paintbrush Prairie Nature Preserve, owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), was originally dedicated in 1999 and was 68 acres in size. Subsequent additions of both nature preserve and nature preserve buffer have increased the total dedicated area of this site to 81.6 acres.

Paintbrush Prairie is located within the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural division. It is one of five nature preserves in south Cook County collectively and informally known as the “Indian Boundary Prairies.” At the time of its first dedication in 1999, the qualifying features for nature preserve status was 10 acres of high-quality remnant prairie with the presence of two state-listed plant species: eared false foxglove (*Tomanthera auriculata*) and early fen sedge (*Carex craweii*). These species are still found on site but have been de-listed by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board since the time of dedication. As management efforts increased and biological inventories were conducted, more than 200 native plant species, including the federally threatened eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) and state-endangered mountain blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium montanum*), have been documented. The proposed nature preserve addition occupies former road rights-of-way that were platted and graded, but never developed. The City of Markham has legally vacated 5.5 acres of road right-of-way within and adjacent to Paintbrush Prairie Nature Preserve, and TNC wishes to afford them the same level of legal protection as the rest of the site. The interior portions of former road right-of-way total 3.15 acres and are proposed nature preserve additions because they are similar in biological quality as the rest of the nature preserve. The more disturbed, exterior former road rights-of-way total 2.36 acres and are proposed as nature preserve buffer additions. Dedication of vacated road rights-of-way within and abutting Paintbrush Prairie Nature Preserve will protect additional acreage of remnant prairie and help complete good preserve design by providing legal protection under the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act. It is therefore recommended by field staff of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission the dedication of 3.15 acres as nature preserve addition, and 2.36 acres as nature preserve buffer addition.

**REPORT**

Kim Roman  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

**Item 14:\* Cook County - Addition and Buffer Addition to Sundrop Prairie Nature Preserve, Preliminary Dedication**

Sundrop Prairie Nature Preserve is owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and is located in south Cook County. It was first dedicated in 2000 and had three subsequent nature preserve additions to total 91.5 acres in size. Sundrop Prairie is one of five nature preserves in south Cook County collectively and informally known as the “Indian Boundary Prairies.” At the time of its first dedication in 2000, the qualifying feature for nature preserve status was the presence of the state-threatened early fen sedge (*Carex craweii*) in remnant prairie of the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural division. This species is still found on site but has been delisted by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board since the time of dedication. As management efforts increased and biological inventories were conducted, more than 200 native plant species, including the state-endangered mountain blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium montanum*), have been documented. The proposed nature preserves additions include three small undeveloped lots and also former road rights-of-way that were platted, but never developed. The City of Markham has legally vacated its road rights-of-way within and adjacent to Sundrop Prairie Nature Preserve, and TNC wishes to afford them the same level of legal protection as the rest of the site. The interior portions of former road right-of-way and three small lots total 21.4 acres and are proposed nature preserve additions because they are similar in biological quality as the rest of the nature preserve. The ecologically disturbed former road rights-of-

way total 3.3 acres and are proposed as nature preserve buffer additions. Dedication of undeveloped lots and vacated road rights-of-way within and abutting Sundrop Prairie Nature Preserve will protect additional acreage of remnant prairie and help complete good preserve design by providing legal protection under the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act. It is therefore recommended by field staff of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission the dedication of 21.4 acres as nature preserve addition, and 3.3 acres as nature preserve buffer addition.

**REPORT**

Kim Roman  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

**Item 15:\* Monroe County - Addition to White Rock Nature Preserve, Preliminary Dedication**

The proposed Addition to White Rock Nature Preserve (NP) is a 97.8-acre site in the bluffs of southwestern Illinois, south of St. Louis. The site lies in between and connects the 306.5-acre White Rock Nature Preserve and the 168-acre White Rock Land and Water Reserve, owned by Clifftop NFP (Conserving Lands in Farm, Forest, Talus Or Prairie, Not-For-Profit, also aka Clifftop, Inc.).

The White Rock Nature Preserve (NP) contains a mosaic of high-quality loess hill prairie, limestone glade, limestone cliffs and upland forest overlooking the Mississippi River floodplain and encompasses approximately 47 acres of the Monroe City Hill Prairie Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI #199). The White Rock Land and Water Reserve (LWR) also contains high-quality limestone glade along with mature dry, dry-mesic and mesic upland forest. The LWR encompasses approximately 50 acres of the Potato Hill INAI site (#200). Both the preserve and reserve contain populations of the state-threatened Missouri coneflower (*Rudbeckia missouriensis*), the state-endangered woolly buckthorn (*Bumelia lanuginosa*), and the state-threatened reptile. In addition, the state-endangered crested coralroot orchid (*Hexalectris spicata*), American bluehearts (*Buchnera americana*), stickleaf (*Mentzelia oligosperma*), and climbing milkweed (*Matelea decipiens*) are found on the nature preserve.

The proposed White Rock Nature Preserve Addition is located just outside of the current boundaries of the Monroe City and Potato Hill INAI sites. The site qualifies for nature preserve addition because it contains a tiny remnant, Grade C glade that contain at least two listed species, the Missouri coneflower and the woolly buckthorn; provides habitat for the timber rattlesnake since it is within a one-mile radius of known hibernacula and rookeries, and most likely has hibernacula located within its boundaries, also. The site also provides additional acres of mature upland forest connected to a larger complex of protected forest lands (657 acres) and provides important continuity of the same habitat between White Rock Nature Preserve and White Rock Land and Water Reserve.

Although not currently planned, the owners would like to reserve the right to:

- Conduct deer management as provided for in the management plan to control ecological imbalance that threatens the natural quality of the proposed Addition. The deer removal program would be outlined in the management plan and schedule and will conform to INPC rules for the management of deer herds on nature preserves.

- Remove downed wood along trails and firebreaks for firewood use as outlined in the management plan to reduce heavy fuels near/on firebreaks when trees/tree limbs come down along these areas.
- Place a structure in the disturbed area of the westernmost corner of the proposed Addition, to store maintenance equipment for management of the 600-acre complex.

Clifftop secured some of the funding to purchase the proposed Addition through a grant provided by the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF). Clifftop has been working for approximately 15 years to protect and steward important lands in the western half of Monroe County, especially in the bluffs and karst. The organization currently owns two registered land and water reserves, and three nature preserves and is committed to working with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) as a partner on many projects.

**REPORT**

Debbie S. Newman  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

**Item 16:\* Monroe County - Heather's Hollow Nature Preserve, Preliminary Dedication**

The proposed Heather's Hollow Nature Preserve (NP) is an 11-acre site in the bluffs of southwestern Illinois, south of St. Louis. Heather's Hollow is part of the 679-acre Columbia Hill Prairies Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI #201). The proposed preserve consists of 2 acres of Grade B limestone glade in several remnant patches intermingled with approximately 8 1/2 acres of Grade C mature, second-growth dry upland forest, and 1/2 acre of Duck Creek and mowed highway frontage along State Route 156. The proposed preserve also contains populations of the state-endangered woolly buckthorn (*Bumelia lanuginosa*), and a state-threatened reptile. The site is adjacent on 2 1/2 sides to the 594-acre Salt Lick Point Land and Water Reserve (LWR).

The site supports several campaigns identified in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP), including the Forests Campaign, the Invasive Species Campaign, and the Land & Water Stewardship Campaign. The site is located within IWAP's Bluff Corridor/Karst Conservation Opportunity Area (COA), and the Southwestern Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (SWIWAP) partnership area. Dedication of the proposed preserve would assist in fulfilling the partnership's strategic plan goals. These include preserving and stewarding additional acres of hill prairie, glade and forest and their associated species in the COA; addressing invasive species in the COA; encouraging landholders and policy makers to adopt sound land and wildlife management practices; and seeking resources and funding to implement goals of the SWIWAP.

The owner would like to reserve the right to:

- Conduct deer management as provided for in the management plan to control ecological imbalance that threatens the natural quality of the proposed preserve caused by an over-abundance of deer. The deer removal program will be outlined in the management plan and schedule and will conform to INPC rules for the management of deer herds on nature preserves.
- Remove downed wood along firebreaks and any trees that would come down outside of the proposed preserve near the residence or yard. As per the county highway Right-of-Way



and Ameren powerline corridors, normal maintenance will occur in these locations, including mowing and spraying to treat invasive species.

The proposed Heather's Hollow Nature Preserve is owned by Theresa Mueller. The proposed preserve was owned by Theresa and her late husband, Bruce, since 2001. Mr. and Mrs. Mueller enrolled the property in the Illinois Natural Heritage Landmark program in 2010. Mrs. Mueller is committed to permanently protecting her natural area and excited about preserving and managing the significant natural resources found on the property.

**REPORT**

Debbie S. Newman  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

**Item 17:\* Winnebago County - Lost Flora Fen on Raccoon Creek Nature Preserve, Preliminary Dedication**

The Natural Land Institute requests preliminary approval to dedicate 156.7 acres as the Lost Flora Fen on Raccoon Creek Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve includes a large portion of the Lost Flora Fen Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI #1972), which was recognized in 2021 as a Category I site. The qualifying feature is an 8.9-acre, Grade B sedge meadow and an associated 13-acre, Grade C sedge meadow. The entire INAI site is 62.9 acres in size and includes a portion of the surrounding landscape (41 acres) consisting of pasture, low-gradient stream, oxbow ponds, row crops, and unmanaged wetlands of lower quality but with good restoration potential. More than half of the INAI site (35.9 acres) is within the proposed nature preserve boundary. Lost Flora Fen was also included on the INAI as a Category II site for suitable habitat supporting two state endangered animals and one state endangered plant.

The Natural Land Institute reserves the right to:

- Add to, or modify the trail system with review and approval of staff of the INPC.
- Other amenities, such as foot bridges, boardwalks, kiosks, boot brushes, interpretive signs may be planned for visitor use or management purposes and will likewise be reviewed and approved by staff of the INPC.
- Control mesopredators, specifically raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), and opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) to reduce nest predation on native herpetofauna. Prior approval of the INPC is required.
- White-tailed deer control methodology shall occur on the property, conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, NLI Staff, and/or by a hunt club in accordance with INPCs and NLI's Deer Management Policies. The use of firearms in conjunction with the deer control program is a reserved right under this management plan.

Dedication of the Lost Flora Fen on Raccoon Creek Nature Preserve will help protect and restore high-quality wetlands on a landscape level scale. This dedication is the first step in legally protecting this unique natural area and will undoubtedly be followed by other dedications in the future by the Natural Land Institute.

**REPORT**

John C. Nelson  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED:**

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

**Item 18:\* Jasper County - Gowin-Boldrey Addition to Robert Ridgway Grasslands Nature Preserve, Final Dedication**

The proposed Gowin-Boldrey Addition to the Robert Ridgway Grasslands Nature Preserve will permanently protect 75 acres located within the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) boundary of the Prairie Ridge - Jasper County site (INAI #0754). The property is located in the Effingham Plain Section of the Southern Till Plain Natural Division of Illinois, and it provides additional habitat to at least 33 State endangered or threatened species known to occur at or near the Prairie Ridge State Natural Area (PRSNA) complex in Jasper County. With approval for dedication, the Gowin-Boldrey Addition to the Robert Ridgway Grasslands Nature Preserve will increase the amount of permanently protected property at the Jasper County complex of PRSNA to almost 3,000 acres.

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) staff and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) staff located at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, on behalf of the landowner, Illinois Audubon Society, recommend final approval for dedication of 75 acres as the Gowin-Boldrey Addition to the Robert Ridgway Grasslands Nature Preserve.

**REPORT**

Sami Childerson  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Final Approval for Dedication

**Item 19:\* McHenry County - Nature Preserve Addition to Gladstone Fen Nature Preserve, Final Dedication**

At its 244th meeting, the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission granted preliminary approval for the dedication of 1.4 acres as an addition to Gladstone Fen Nature Preserve. The addition will legally protect the remaining conservation land held by the Gladstone family at this site. The addition better defines the “footprint” of the existing home site and prevents potential encroachment into environmentally sensitive areas should the property change ownership. Ultimately, Lorna and Evan Gladstone wish for the nature preserve to be owned and managed by a land trust or appropriate conservation organization to ensure the long-term health and vitality of their nature preserve. This nature preserve design provides a defensible and manageable boundary between the nature preserve and homesite. Upon final approval of this this addition, Gladstone Fen Nature Preserve will total 13.18-acres.

**REPORT**

John C. Nelson  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Final Approval or Dedication

**Item 20:\* Pope County - Gibbons Creek Barrens Nature Preserve, Final Dedication**

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) seeks final approval for dedication for the existing 173.24-acre Gibbons Creek Barrens Land and Water Reserve located in the Greater and Lesser Sections of the Shawnee Hills Natural Division in Pope County as the Gibbons Creek Barrens Nature Preserve. The site was originally registered at INPC Meeting #215 on 10 September 2013 as LWR #172, but subsequent management and species surveys have elevated the quality and significance of the site. Preliminary approval for dedication was granted at the 244th INPC meeting on 9 May 2023. Final approval by the Commission will enhance protection for Category I, II, and III qualifying features within the IDNR-owned portion of the Gibbons Creek Barrens INAI site (#0339) including Grades A and B dry barrens and dry woodland natural communities. The Grade A dry barrens was noted in the original INAI documents as being the best example of this community type in southern Illinois, containing over 100 plant species and the only known population of state-endangered Hale’s corydalis (*Corydalis halei*) in Illinois. The site also provides habitat for three other state-listed species: endangered reptile, Carolina whipgrass (*Scleria pauciflora*), and shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*). Approximately 260 plant species have been recorded from the site as well as at least 13 Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

**REPORT**

Christina Feng  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Final Approval for Dedication

**Item 21:\* Will County - Pilcher Park Land and Water Reserve, Reburial of Native American Cultural Materials**

Pilcher Park owned by the Joliet Park District is on the INAI (#937) for its high-quality mesic upland forest, wet-mesic upland forest, and seep communities. It encompasses 293 acres of dedicated nature preserve and 110 acres of registered land and water reserve, totaling 403 acres protected in the Illinois Nature Preserves System. The 110 acres were registered in 2018 as the 188<sup>th</sup> Illinois LWR. Significant cultural resources were referenced at the time of registration and dedication.

In September 1968, members of the Will County Historical Society (WCHS) excavated the site known as Gougar Mound (11WI64) with landowner permission in advance of the widening of Gougar Road. It was determined to be the location of a late 18<sup>th</sup> - early 19<sup>th</sup> century Potawatomi cemetery. Human remains and associated funerary objects were removed at this time. In June 1969, the Illinois State Museum (ISM) conducted salvage excavation at the site. The 1968 excavation heavily impacted the mound, and ISM staff recovered little cultural material. Remains of eight individuals were reinterred in nearby Pilcher Park, also referred to as Birdhaven Park, in July 1969 by the WCHS and Joliet Park District (JPD). Materials held by ISM were not included in this reburial. WCHS dedicated a plot of land measuring 12 feet by 12 feet to the Potawatomi Tribes for this reburial on May 27, 1969, and reinterment occurred on September 14, 1969.

In 2021, the Illinois State Museum (ISM) consulted with Potawatomi Tribal Nations on human remains and funerary objects collected from Gougar Mound during the 1969 salvage excavation that were only recently relocated in collections (86 FR 71662). It is highly probable that the fragmentary human remains held by the ISM correspond with individuals reburied in Pilcher Park. The boundaries of the reburial area were estimated based on 2013 research by the Illinois State Archaeological Survey (ISAS), who recorded the site in the Illinois Inventory of Archaeological Sites as 11WI4027. The site is protected under the Archaeological and Paleontological Resources Protection Act (APRPA) and the Human Remains Protection Act (HRPA). The affiliated Tribes

have requested that the ancestral remains and funerary objects held by the ISM, as well as funerary objects previously removed from Gougar Mound and held by the Will County Historical Museum, be reinterred in Pilcher Park LWR near the location of the reburial area created in 1969. The proposed activity will take place within a smaller area identified by geophysical survey and will minimally impact the INPC site.

**REPORT**

Brooke Morgan  
Heather Miller  
Illinois State Museum

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Approval for Reburial of  
Native American Cultural Materials

Kim Roman  
Kelly Neal  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**Item 22: Election of INPC Officers**

**REPORT**

Commissioner Szafoni

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Election of Officers

**Item 23: Election of INPC Advisors and Consultants**

**REPORT**

Commissioner Szafoni

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Election of Advisors and Consultants

**Item 24: Review of Closed Meeting Minute**

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Commissioners must review closed minutes at least twice a year to determine if they must remain closed. The following meetings had closed minutes and need to be reviewed: August 2, 2005; May 2, 2006; May 6, 2008; May 5, 2009; May 7, 2013; September 10, 2013; and September 10, 2019.

**REPORT**

Todd Strole  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Determination if closed minutes  
should remain closed

**Item 25: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)**

**Item 26: Other Business**

Items may be discussed, but no final action may occur for items not previously include on the agenda.

**Item 27: Adjournment**