



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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CONTACT:  
Shawna Flavell, MCCF Executive Director  
815.354.1374

### **\$8K Schwemm Family Foundation Grant Closes Funding Gap for Glacial Park Prairie Restoration**

A recent \$8K grant from the Schwemm Family Foundation helped the McHenry County Conservation Foundation reach their \$73,000 fundraising goal for restoration of 21 acres at Glacial Park Conservation Area in Ringwood, IL. These funds will be combined with previous grants received from Enbridge Fueling Futures, the Fairways Foundation, the Gerry and Bill Cowlin Foundation, and from individual donors to purchase the rich and diverse native seed mix necessary to restore high-quality prairie.

The prairie planting will take place in Winter 2023/2024 and will improve the habitat for numerous threatened or endangered species, including the monarch butterfly, the rusty patched bumblebee and the Blanding's turtle. The restoration will also decrease sedimentation runoff into the North Branch of Nippersink Creek, one of the highest quality streams in Illinois; and improve groundwater recharge, which is significant since McHenry County is 100% reliant upon groundwater as its source of drinking water.

Encompassing over 3,400 acres, Glacial Park is one of the largest contiguous areas of publicly managed land in McHenry County. More than 89,000 people visit the conservation area annually to experience numerous recreational opportunities and to take in breathtaking views.

The Schwemm Family Foundation seeks to promote programs and initiatives that strengthen communities through the enhancement of natural environments, promote programs and initiatives that help instill a sense of connection and belonging to one's community through the preservation of local history and culture, and foster thriving communities by supporting projects that build greener and more equitable living environments. For more information, visit <https://schwemmfamilyfoundation.org/>

*McHenry County Conservation Foundation works to obtain grants and gifts in support of the work of the McHenry County Conservation District, directing nearly all of its budget to conservation projects and environmental education programs that go beyond what government funding alone can provide. Grants and donations to the organization help ensure that McHenry County's public lands, water, and wildlife are preserved to benefit our way of live and that of future generations. McHenry County Conservation Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. To learn more visit <http://www.mchenryconservation.org> or call (815) 338.6223.*

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