



McHENRY COUNTY CONSERVATION  
**FOUNDATION**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 15, 2023**

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## **McHenry County Conservation Foundation Awarded Nicor Gas Oak Ecosystem Conservation Grant**

McHenry County Conservation Foundation was awarded a \$9,995 Nicor Gas Oak Ecosystem Conservation Community Projects grant to assist with woodland reforestation efforts at Marengo Ridge Conservation Area.

The funds will support efforts of McHenry County Conservation District's Big Woods planting program, where nearly 600 native trees and shrubs will be planted on 10+ acres at Marengo Ridge Conservation Area in Marengo, IL.

Members of the public are invited to come out and join two Big Woods "Oaktober" planting parties at Marengo Ridge Conservation Area, [2411 N. Route 23](#), Marengo:

**October 14, from 1 -3 p.m.** – Help reforest the heart of Marengo Ridge by planting 350 oak trees and shrubs on 5.8 acres. This tree planting will complete a 27-acre reforestation project within the 818-acre woodland site.

**October 17, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.** – Take a guided educational .75 mile hike through the scenic trails of Marengo Ridge and learn about woodland management best practices at this popular site. The hike will conclude with the planting of 240 trees on 4.5 acres.

The "Big Woods" once covered over a third of McHenry County, and these programs support McHenry County Conservation District's effort to reestablish and reconnect hundreds of acres of woodland across the County. Since 2016, more than 3,565 trees and shrubs have been planted on over 50 acres, supporting the long term goal of improving the health of our county's oak ecosystems by filling in the fragmented landscape with contiguous woodland communities.

*The McHenry County Conservation Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works to obtain grants and gifts in support of the work of the McHenry County Conservation District. To learn more about the McHenry County Conservation Foundation or the projects it supports, visit <http://www.mchenryconservation.org> or call (815) 338-6223.*

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