

Protect Your Heritage

“We do not inherit
the earth
from
our ancestors;
we borrow it
from
our children.”

— Chief Seattle

IN THIS ISSUE:

Goodbye from Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance

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On behalf of the PDHA board and officers, who have decided to formally dissolve the organization and have transferred our responsibilities to other organizations, we would like to express our deep gratitude to our members, allies, partners, donors, and correspondents over the last 30 years. It has been our privilege to serve the Downers Grove community as an advocate for the preservation of natural and historic resources. Beginning with the community-based effort to save Lyman Woods, we have had the pleasure of seeing the Woods preserved, expanded and developed as an educational resource, along with Belmont Prairie. We are blessed as a community to have two such high quality natural resources, under the management of the Downers Grove Park District.

We have also been pleased to see the Village adopt green practices in the management of open space, adoption of a quality urban forestry plan, protection for parkway trees, and a variety of measures to promote energy efficiency and environmental sustainability in village operations. Most recently it has been gratifying to see the Village join the Greenest Region Compact and embark on developing an Environmental Sustainability Plan.

Downers Grove also has developed a renewed appreciation for its architectural and historic heritage. With advocacy from PDHA and others, over the years the community has adopted a historic preservation ordinance, landmarked more than 30 properties, saved the historic 1846 Blodgett House, developed historic walking tours and other resources, and included a wealth of historic information on the Village website.

Again, we are grateful for the efforts of the many who served on our board, attended meetings, donated funds, joined us in advocacy, participated in our volunteer activities, and held us in your thoughts. While the organization is coming to an end, we are still keen to see the trends described above continue – and we hope you will be too! We invite you to follow the efforts of the Park District and the Village to preserve and highlight our quality natural resources and embody green practices and policies in daily village and park operations.

We also invite your attention and support for the following local organizations who are continuing the missions that PDHA worked for. In particular, our remaining resources are going to three environmental groups: the Conservation Foundation, the Chicago Region Trees Initiative, and Greener Grove. Their information is below along with a number of other groups we commend to your attention.

Conservation Foundation, <https://theconservationfoundation.org/>.

Chicago Region Trees Initiative, https://mortonarb.org/plant-and-protect/chicago-region-trees-initiative/?utm_source=301_CRTI&utm_medium=direct

Greener Grove, <https://www.greenergrove.org/>

Friends of the Edwards House, <https://friendsoftheedwardshouse.com/>

Downers Grove Historical Society, <https://dghistory.org/>

Friends of the Forest Preserve District, <https://www.dupageforest.org/friends>

Greater DuPage Wild Ones, <https://dupage.wildones.org/>.

Downers Grove Park District, <https://www.dgparks.org/> (with links to natural resource and historic assets and programs)

Downers Grove Village historic preservation page, <https://www.downers.us/historic-preservation>

Downers Grove Village sustainability page, <https://www.downers.us/environmental-sustainability>

With our sincere gratitude,

Ken Lerner, Chair

Chris Saricks, Chair pro-tem

Mark Bragen, Secretary

Gordon Goodman, Treasurer

Marge Earl, Director

Rich Kulovany, Director

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance

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Charley Smart helped young people at Pierce Downer School understand features of the pioneer 1846 Avis and Israel Blodgett House in Downers Grove, Illinois.



Lance Herning guided our walks in Lyman Woods and Belmont Prairie.

Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) carpet Lyman Woods in spring.



Perfoliate Bellwort (*Uvularia perfoliata*) blooms early in Lyman Woods.



On our walks in Lyman Woods we learned a great deal about trees.



Butterfly-weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) blooms throughout the Belmont Prairie.

Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*) thrives in the Belmont Prairie Illinois State Nature Preserve.

