



2025 Rotary Day of Restoration

May 31, 2025

Scott Daniels
Environmental Chair
The Rotary Club of Glenview Sunrise



Protecting the Environment





Environment Area of Focus



Protecting the environment

Rotary members are tackling environmental issues the way they always do: coming up with projects, using their connections to change policy and planning for the future.



ENVIRONMENT



Rotary
District 6440





D6440 Clubs Inspire Environmental Action!





Rotary Day of Restoration



May 31, 2025



Objectives

- Ecologists estimate that nearly two-thirds of the forest preserves in Cook County are overrun by non-native species such as buckthorn, honeysuckle, and multiflora rose. On the surface, the invasive species brought over from other continents look lush and green; however, they steal the sunlight and water from the native plants. Insects and animals suffer too. Fewer birds, butterflies, and frogs can survive.
- The objective of this event was to gain knowledge of forest management issues and clear the selected site on non-native species, debris, and dead wood.



D6440 Rotary Team



The Rotary Day of Restoration “People of Action” Team was comprised of:

- 32 Rotary Members and Guests
- From 7 District 6440 Clubs, including
- Representatives from the 4 sponsoring Clubs, The Rotary Clubs of Evanston Lighthouse, Glenview, Glenview Sunrise, and Wilmette.





Activities



The day was led by 8 members of Friends' of the Forest Preserves Conservation Corps and Engagement Team and Support Staff.

- The site selected for the Rotary "Day of Restoration" was St. Paul Woods Grove #2, located near the Morton Grove Train Station in Morton Grove. The location was chosen to provide a suitable spot close the sponsoring clubs, and large enough to support up to 50 participants.
- Participants learned about the history of the preserves and unique qualities of the site. Participants also learned that Cook County's Forest Preserves contain some of the most diverse ecosystems in the world – comparable to the rainforests of the Southern Hemisphere – and include rare flora and fauna including the eastern prairie white fringed orchid, river otters, and sandhill cranes.
- Activities were customized to benefit this site. The participants were divided into three groups. One group searched for non-native species and debris. A second group concentrated on removal and burning of non-native species, primarily honeysuckle. A third group cut and burned dead wood.

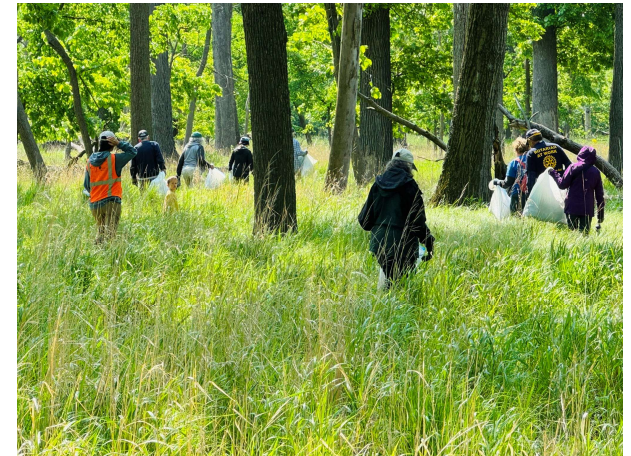


ENVIRONMENT

Activities (Continued)

Clearing the Forest of Non-Native Species and Debris

- Clearing the land of non-native species is expensive, labor intensive, and often misunderstood in the community. Removal of non-native species promotes the growth of healthy woodlands which are a priceless asset, and essential to our quality of life.
- Participants searched the forest for non-native species and debris, including butterweed, garlic mustard, and torilis.





Activities (Continued)



Clearing Honeysuckle. Honeysuckle and other invasive plants were cut and fed into a burn pile supervised by members of the Friends of the Forest Preserves Conservation Corps and Engagement Team staff.





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Objectives (Continued)

Clearing the Forest of Dead Wood

- Clearing the forest of dead wood and debris reduces fire risk, improves forest access and safety, promotes regeneration and growth, helps to control regeneration and growth, assists with controlling pests and diseases, and adds economic value.
- Participants cleared a section of the forest of dead wood and fed it to supervised burn pile.





Results



The following actions were achieved:

- 4 Areas of the St. Paul Woods, Grove #2 were cleared of invasive species, dead wood, and debris.
- \$3968.39 was donated by D6440 and the 4 Collaborating clubs in support of the Friends of the Forest Preserves.
- All 32 participants achieved increased awareness of the need and resources required to support our forest preserves
- Everyone enjoyed a great day in the forest!



Thank You's

To our Participants, Rotary Members and Guests, thank you!



Mary	Bak	Glenview-Sunrise	Jesse	Johnson	Evanston Lighthouse
John	Berg	Evanston	Christopher	Joyce	Evanston Lighthouse
Michele	Berg	Evanston	Sophia	Leaguedi	Glenview-Sunrise
Sophie	Berg	Evanston	Thomas	Meier	Glenview-Sunrise
Marcia	Cebula	Glenview-Sunrise	Debora	Morris	Wilmette Rotary Club
John	Crawford	Park Ridge	Ethan	Myers	Evanston
Scott	Daniels	Glenview-Sunrise	Jue	Myers	Evanston
Daniel	Davidson	Park Ridge	Nancy	Orr	Glenview-Sunrise
Richard	Day	Glenview-Sunrise	Allison	Plyer	Evanston Lighthouse
Marlene	Frisbie	Woodstock	Mary Beth	Raab	Glenview-Sunrise
Stephen	Goranson	Evanston Lighthouse	Henrietta	Saunders	Glenview-Sunrise
Bjorn	Gylling	Evanston	Charles	Uchtman	Evanston Lighthouse
Cecilia	Hagist	Glenview-Sunrise	Erick	Weingart	Glenview-Sunrise
Benjamin	Ivory	Wilmette Rotary Club			

This event could not have taken place without the help of the following individuals and their organizations/teams:

The Rotary Club of Evanston Lighthouse – Steve Goranson

The Rotary Club of Glenview – Terry Carr

The Rotary Club of Glenview Sunrise – Jay Greenstein and Wendy Colon, Cecilia Hagist, Dee Santucci

The Rotary Club of Wilmette – Ben Ivory

Rotary International District 6440 – Thor Davidson, Mike Quirk, Sam Martinez, Jillian Bernas Garcia



Future Opportunities



The Friends of the Forest Preserves serves to protect, promote, and care for the forest preserves to ensure they thrive for us and for future generations. You can volunteer to help!

For more information check out this link: <https://fotfp.org/get-involved/volunteer/>, or contact:



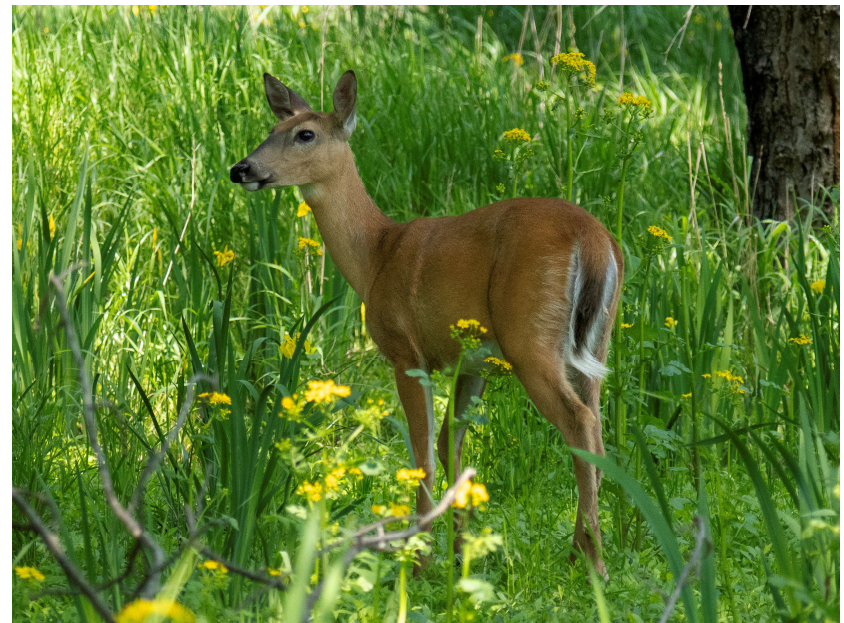
Radhika Miraglia ([pronounce name](#)) | she/her
Program Director
Friends of the Forest Preserves
(c) 773.316.7006
www.fotfp.org



In Closing...



During the event it was found our activities were being observed surreptitiously by an un-invited guest. The intruder was confronted and immediately vacated the premises.





Support our
Forest Preserves!

