



Some of the Things the Champaign County Forest Preserve District Does to Help the Environment

- In 2008, the Clean Energy Community Foundation provided a grant for the District to change all inefficient indoor lighting to more efficient bulbs. This initiative saved the District about 5% in annual energy costs.
- Each acre of CCFPD forest can absorb 2.6 tons of CO₂ from the atmosphere annually (EPA).
- The Early American Museum Annex and the Sangamon River Forest Preserve residence make use of geothermal systems that take advantage of steady ground temperatures in order to reduce the dependence on conventional heating and cooling methods. A geothermal system can cut CCFPD utility bills by 30%-50% compared to conventional heating and cooling systems.
- The Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden recently had insulation skirts installed on the greenhouse to reduce drafts and air temperature stratification in the winter. The garden also uses energy-efficient water heaters that hold the water at the ideal temperature for watering plants.
- Low-flush toilets, waterless urinals, and faucet timers have been installed in several restrooms. Compared to a 3.5-gallons-per-flush toilet, a WaterSense labeled toilet could save a family of four more than \$90 annually on their water bill, and \$2,000 over the lifetime of the toilet (US EPA).
- The District has begun purchasing more fuel-efficient vehicles, such as the Toyota Prius. Hybrid cars produce 90% less pollutants than comparable non-hybrid cars. By putting less harmful chemicals in the environment, the harmful effects of pollution can be halted or even reversed (hybrid-car.org).
- Approximately 1 billion trees worth of paper are thrown away every year in the U.S. Proudly, the CCFPD recycles paper, cardboard and aluminum at all preserves. Internally, plastic and glass are recycled by the Environmental Education and Natural Resources Departments. Also, light bulb, battery, and ink toner recycling programs have been initiated throughout various departments.
- Did you know that composting can facilitate reforestation, wetlands restoration, and habitat revitalization efforts by amending contaminated, compacted, and marginal soils (EPA)? At the CCFPD, plant materials are recycled through composting by the Environmental Education and Botanical Garden Departments.
- CCFPD has installed bioswales at the Golf Course and River Bend parking lots. Bioswales are landscaping elements designed to capture run-off and naturally filter it through plants to trap a majority of harmful pollutants and sediments before being released into the lakes.
- Every year in the United States, 136 million tons of construction and demolition waste are tossed into landfills. This debris amounts to more than half of all landfill waste (EPA). Building materials are saved at the CCFPD from demolition projects and used for future construction projects. For example, road materials from Lake of the Woods were used for trail construction at River Bend.
- Homer Lake installed photovoltaic lighting along walkways and in the parking lot. These lights directly convert sunlight to electrical energy. The fixture needs no electrical wiring and can store energy throughout the day.