

1 AN ACT concerning forest preserves.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Downstate Forest Preserve District Act is  
5 amended by changing Section 6 as follows:

6 (70 ILCS 805/6) (from Ch. 96 1/2, par. 6309)

7 Sec. 6. Acquisition of property. Any such District shall  
8 have power to acquire lands and grounds for the aforesaid  
9 purposes by lease, or in fee simple by gift, grant, legacy,  
10 purchase or condemnation, or to acquire easements in land,  
11 and to construct, lay out, improve and maintain wells, power  
12 plants, comfort stations, shelter houses, paths, driveways,  
13 public roads, roadways and other improvements and facilities  
14 in and through the such forest preserves as they shall deem  
15 necessary or desirable for the use of such forest preserves  
16 by the public and may acquire, develop, improve and maintain  
17 waterways in conjunction with the district. No district with  
18 a population less than 600,000 shall have the power to  
19 purchase, condemn, lease or acquire an easement in property  
20 within a municipality without the concurrence of the  
21 governing body of the municipality, except where such  
22 district is acquiring land for a linear park or trail not to  
23 exceed 100 yards in width or is acquiring land contiguous to  
24 an existing park or forest preserve, and no municipality  
25 shall annex any land for the purpose of defeating a District  
26 acquisition once the District has given notice of intent to  
27 acquire a specified parcel of land. No district with a  
28 population of less than 500,000 shall (i) have the power to  
29 condemn property for a linear park or trail within a  
30 municipality without the concurrence of the governing body of  
31 the municipality or (ii) have the power to condemn property

1 for a linear park or trail in an unincorporated area without  
2 the concurrence of the governing body of the township within  
3 which the property is located or (iii) once having commenced  
4 a proceeding to acquire land by condemnation, dismiss or  
5 abandon that proceeding without the consent of the property  
6 owners. No district shall establish a trail surface within 50  
7 feet of an occupied dwelling which was in existence prior to  
8 the approval of the acquisition by the district without  
9 obtaining permission of the owners of the premises or the  
10 concurrence of the governing body of the municipality or  
11 township within which the property is located. All  
12 acquisitions of land by a district with a population less  
13 than 600,000 within 1 1/2 miles of a municipality shall be  
14 preceded by a conference with the mayor or president of the  
15 municipality or his designated agent. If a forest preserve  
16 district is in negotiations for acquisition of land with  
17 owners of land adjacent to a municipality, the annexation of  
18 that land shall be deferred for 6 months. The district shall  
19 have no power to acquire an interest in real estate situated  
20 outside the district by the exercise of the right of eminent  
21 domain, by purchase or by lease, but shall have the power to  
22 acquire any such property, or an easement in any such  
23 property, which is contiguous to the district by gift,  
24 legacy, grant, or lease by the State of Illinois, subject to  
25 approval of the county board of the county, and of any forest  
26 preserve district or conservation district, within which the  
27 property is located. The district shall have the same  
28 control of and power over land, an interest in which it has  
29 so acquired, as over forest preserves within the district. If  
30 any of the powers to acquire lands and hold or improve the  
31 same given to Forest Preserve Districts, by Sections 5 and 6  
32 of this Act should be held invalid, such invalidity shall not  
33 invalidate the remainder of this Act or any of the other  
34 powers herein given and conferred upon the Forest Preserve

1 Districts. Such Forest Preserve Districts shall also have  
2 power to lease not to exceed 40 acres of the lands and  
3 grounds acquired by it, for a term of not more than 99 years  
4 to veterans' organizations as grounds for convalescing sick  
5 and disabled veterans, and as a place upon which to construct  
6 rehabilitation quarters, or to a county as grounds for a  
7 county nursing home or convalescent home. Any such Forest  
8 Preserve District shall also have power to grant licenses,  
9 easements and rights-of-way for the construction, operation  
10 and maintenance upon, under or across any property of such  
11 District of facilities for water, sewage, telephone,  
12 telegraph, electric, gas or other public service, subject to  
13 such terms and conditions as may be determined by such  
14 District.

15 Any such District may purchase, but not condemn, a parcel  
16 of land and sell a portion thereof for not less than fair  
17 market value pursuant to resolution of the Board. Such  
18 resolution shall be passed by the affirmative vote of at  
19 least 2/3 of all members of the board within 30 days after  
20 acquisition by the district of such parcel.

21 Whenever the board of any forest preserve district  
22 determines that the public interest will be subserved by  
23 vacating any street, roadway, or driveway, or part thereof,  
24 located within a forest preserve, it may vacate that street,  
25 roadway, or driveway, or part thereof, by an ordinance passed  
26 by the affirmative vote of at least 3/4 of all the members of  
27 the board. This vote shall be taken by ayes and nays and  
28 entered in the records of the board.

29 The determination of the board that the nature and extent  
30 of the public use or public interest to be subserved is such  
31 as to warrant the vacation of any street, roadway, or  
32 driveway, or part thereof, is conclusive, and the passage of  
33 such an ordinance is sufficient evidence of that  
34 determination, whether so recited in the ordinance or not.

1 The relief to the public from further burden and  
2 responsibility of maintaining any street, roadway or  
3 driveway, or part thereof, constitutes a public use or public  
4 interest authorizing the vacation.

5 Nothing contained in this Section shall be construed to  
6 authorize the board of any forest preserve district to vacate  
7 any street, roadway, or driveway, or part thereof, that is  
8 part of any State or county highway.

9 When property is damaged by the vacation or closing of  
10 any street, roadway, or driveway, or part thereof, damage  
11 shall be ascertained and paid as provided by law.

12 Except in cases where the deed, or other instrument  
13 dedicating a street, roadway, or driveway, or part thereof,  
14 has expressly provided for a specific devolution of the title  
15 thereto upon the abandonment or vacation thereof, and except  
16 where such street, roadway or driveway, or part thereof, is  
17 held by the district by lease, or where the district holds an  
18 easement in the land included within the street, roadway or  
19 driveway, whenever any street, roadway, or driveway, or part  
20 thereof is vacated under or by virtue of any ordinance of any  
21 forest preserve district, the title to the land in fee simple  
22 included within the street, roadway, or driveway, or part  
23 thereof, so vacated vests in the forest preserve district.

24 The board of any forest preserve district is authorized  
25 to sell at fair market price, gravel, sand, earth and any  
26 other material obtained from the lands and waters owned by  
27 the district.

28 For the purposes of this Section, "acquiring land"  
29 includes acquiring a fee simple, lease or easement in land.

30 (Source: P.A. 91-384, eff. 7-30-99.)