

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Nov. 7, 2022



**CONTACT:**

Laurie Metanchuk, Director of Community Affairs  
Brittany Kovach, Communications & Marketing Coordinator  
630-232-5980 forestpreserve@kaneforest.com

Forest Preserve District of Kane County  
1996 S. Kirk Rd., Ste. 320, Geneva, IL 60134  
www.kaneforest.com

**Benjamin Haberthur named next Forest Preserve District Executive Director**

GENEVA, IL — The Forest Preserve Commission ratified Benjamin Haberthur’s contract as the next executive director of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, during the Commission’s Nov. 7, 2022, meeting.

Haberthur is currently the District’s director of natural resource management. He will formally assume executive director duties, Dec. 1.

The Forest Preserve District began an executive search in September, after current Executive Director Monica Meyers announced she would retire at the end of 2022, following 18 years of service at the Forest Preserve District.



*Photo courtesy Gabriella Figliozzi*

Forest Preserve Commission President Chris Kious named an interview panel of commissioners. The panel conducted interviews in late October.

“Ben took nothing for granted in the interview. He was very thorough in his presentation material, knowledgeable and thoughtful with each and every answer to the questions that the interview committee posted,” said Kious.

— MORE —

— ADD ONE —

Ben Haberthur named next Forest Preserve District Executive Director  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 7, 2022

“Of course, the immediate goal is for Ben to get settled in his new position. Ben is familiar with many of the aspects of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County already, and he has shown himself to be a quick study. I expect a relatively smooth transition.

“I think vision is one of Ben’s biggest strengths. Ben has shown he has a solid background in the basics of land management and well-above average communication and organizational skills. He understands the underlying principals necessary to build a solid organization, and he has a very innovative approach to almost all tasks. I expect him to be an administrator that will take our preserves to a place that Kane County deserves. I look forward to working with him in the future,” Kious said.

Executive Director Monica Meyers echoed Kious’ sentiments. “I’m really happy to see an internal promotion, and especially that of Ben. Passion is critical; it leads people to do the right thing and make the right decisions. Ben’s very intelligent, and that’s evident to all who know him and who have had the opportunity to work with him. With his years of service and passion for the District, I know he’ll do a terrific job as executive director. Plus, because he and I have worked together for years, it’ll be a seamless transition,” she said.

Haberthur brings more than 19 years of conservation experience to his new role, 11 of those with the Forest Preserve District of Kane County. He has served as the director of natural resource management since March 2016, and prior to that, was the District’s restoration ecologist. Haberthur previously worked as natural resources manager for Campton Township Open Space, and was formerly a GIS specialist and restoration technician with the McHenry County Conservation District. Haberthur holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Earth Systems Science & Policy from California State University-Monterey Bay. He also served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves. His Marine Corps experience actually led him toward a career in conservation.

“I first found a deep connection to nature after serving a combat tour in Iraq as a United States Marine,” Haberthur said. “Frequent and repeated hikes on public lands helped me process those experiences. Ever since that time, I’ve worked to increase my responsibility and commitment towards protecting and preserving natural areas, to ensure that they’ll persist,” Haberthur said.

— MORE —

— **ADD TWO** —

Ben Haberthur named next Forest Preserve District Executive Director  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 7, 2022

“While I’ve thoroughly enjoyed the challenge, sense of purpose, and camaraderie that come with leading one of the best restoration crews in the Midwest, I feel like I can make a bigger impact for conservation by serving as executive director. Climate change, loss of biodiversity, and vast pollution are some of the scariest problems we face, but all three of these environmental problems have nature-based solutions,” he said.

Haberthur added that he wasn’t looking for the executive director role, but having worked in conservation for years, he has the burden of knowing how quickly the aforementioned problems can affect the forest preserves, and what is needed to reverse the trends.

“When faced with the decision to take on more responsibility and lead the organization towards solving these problems, or pretending these weren’t my problems to solve, the decision was clear,” he said.

Haberthur will officially assume executive director duties on Dec. 1. Executive Director Meyers plans to stay at the District through year end, to help with the transition.

For more information on the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, visit our website at [www.kaneforest.com](http://www.kaneforest.com). You may also find the District on social media channels by searching @forestpreserve.

— ### —