



## Byron Forest Preserve District

# ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCY FOR **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

[WWW.BYRONFORESTPRESERVE.COM](http://WWW.BYRONFORESTPRESERVE.COM)

**OUR MISSION: PRESERVATION – EDUCATION – RECREATION -- THE MISSION OF THE BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT IS TO EFFECTIVELY AND RESPONSIVELY PLAN, ACQUIRE, DEVELOP, MAINTAIN, AND PRESERVE OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREAS. PROVIDE EDUCATION CONCERNING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT/HERITAGE, RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, AND ENTERPRISE OPERATIONS THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH OUR DISTRICT GOALS.**



# ABOUT

## About the Byron Forest Preserve District

The Byron Forest Preserve District was established in 1980 and is located on the rolling hills along the Rock River in Byron, Illinois. With over 2,000 acres of prairie and woodlands at 10 different preserves throughout Ogle County, you don't want to miss nature's beauty during all seasons! You can enjoy these natural areas by walking our trails, using one of our picnic shelters, playing on the playground, going horseback riding, playing a round of golf, hitting balls at our indoor/outdoor driving range, or just looking out over the prairie from the 2600-square-foot observation deck at the Jarrett Prairie Center. The Jarrett Prairie Center has a natural history museum with more than 4,000 square feet of exhibits and hands-on learning opportunities for visitors of all ages. Just a few of the exciting new exhibits include an immersive theater, large dioramas, fossil exhibits, prairie restoration information, and a prairie agriculture exhibit that lets visitors design their own farm. A live exhibit includes resident box turtles, Pebbles and GiGi.

## Facilities

The Weiskopf Observatory is a wonderful asset to the Byron Forest Preserve. With its 11" Celestron telescope, you may see some of the faintest objects in the sky. Free public skyviewing is every Tuesday (June, July, August) and Saturday evening beginning at dark.

Heritage Farm Museum was a working farm in 1843. The replica house is now a museum with wonderful exhibits that show how people lived. The restored farm buildings and antique equipment illustrate what early country life was all about.

PrairieView Golf Club and PrairieFire Golf & Grill are located on German Church Road in Byron, Illinois. PrairieView is a public 18-hole championship golf course, rated four stars by Golf Digest. This course has bent grass tees, greens, and fairways. PrairieView also offers a full service practice facility, equipment rental, fully stocked pro shop, dining area and bar, lessons, and handicap services. PrairieFire Golf & Grill has eight beautifully appointed, temperature-controlled private hitting bays looking out onto a vast targeted range. The facility has become a regional

favorite! Whether you're a single-digit handicapper or a casual player who rarely counts your strokes, there are digital Toptracer Range® games and modes to engage your imagination and keep you coming back for more. PrairieFire is great for groups, too – from twosomes and foursomes to large parties. It's digital, interactive fun like you've never experienced while socializing with friends and family regardless of golf skill levels. Creature comforts, food and libations are important too! That's why each heated bay features its own lounge seating, fire pits, and TV monitors. A food menu with plenty of shareables, sandwiches and a variety of beverages will round out your PrairieFire Golf & Grill experience.

The Keller Education Center is a platinum certified "green" building that houses our preschool program.

## Nature Preserves

The Byron Forest Preserve also owns and operates first-class nature preserves throughout Ogle County.

- **Bald Hill Prairie Preserve** - 380 acres and 3 miles of trails
- **Barrick Oaks Homestead Preserve** - 228 acres and 4 miles of trails
- **The Etnyre Preserve** - 47.5 acres and 4 miles of trails
- **He-Leo Two Rivers Preserve** - 48 acres plus a non-motorized boat launch, shelter and sand volleyball pit
- **Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve** - 321 acres and 7 miles of trails
- **The Jarrett Prairie Preserve** - 641 acres and 9 miles of trails including the Jarrett Prairie Center Museum and Banquet Facility, the Weiskopf Observatory, the Keller Education Center, picnic shelters, and the Don Hamer Recreation Path
- **The Mill Creek Wetland Preserve** - 80 acres plus River Park which offers a handicap accessible fishing pier and bike path
- **Ripplinger/Gouker Preserve** - 54 acres with 4 miles of trails and a picnic shelter and leashed dog walking
- **Stephen J. and Deirdre Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve** - 557 acres with 10 miles of horseback trails

# QUALIFICATIONS

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS IS SEEKING TO EMPLOY AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WITH THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS, CHARACTERISTICS, AND TRAITS:

1. A bachelor's degree and at least 5 years of administrative industry experience. Experience as a director preferred. Must reside in the agency's boundary within 6 months of employment.
2. Possess an understanding of sustainability principles and management of natural resources and the ecosystem.
3. A person of great integrity, honesty, self-confidence and charisma.
4. Excellent oral and written communication skills and the ability to manage competing priorities.
5. Preferred management style that is collaborative and emphasizes team management.
6. Knowledgeable of industry issues, trends, personnel management, creative financing, marketing and public relations.
7. Proven track record of developing strong intergovernmental relationships and cooperative efforts.
8. Strong personnel management skills, including the ability to assign personnel and delegate responsibilities with assurance and accountability.



## SALARY

## COMPENSATION

\$110,000 to \$160,000

Plus a comprehensive benefit package

## FINANCE

**Total 2024 Budget**  
\$6.27 million

**Operating Budget**  
\$3.8 million

**Capital Improvement Budget**  
\$2.0 million

**Debt Retirement Budget**  
\$474,000

**Dun & Bradstreet Rating**  
4A2

**Real Estate 2023 EAV**  
\$720,361,869

**Tax Rate 2023**  
\$0.456 per \$100

## BOARD

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

|                        | Elected | Term Expires |
|------------------------|---------|--------------|
| <b>Steve Patterson</b> | 2017    | 2025         |
| <b>Aaron Vincer</b>    | 2017    | 2027         |
| <b>Kris Baker</b>      | 2019    | 2027         |
| <b>Dave Breen</b>      | 2021    | 2027         |
| <b>Chris Remhof</b>    | 2021    | 2025         |

# APPLY

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT  
INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

*THE BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.*

## APPLICANT PACKETS MUST CONTAIN ALL INFORMATION FOR FULL CONSIDERATION.

1. Formal letter of application indicating reasons you desire to be a candidate.
2. Resume including employment history, duties, number of employees supervised and budget amount managed.
3. List of accomplishments/completed projects.
4. Provide at least 3 CURRENT (DATED) letters of recommendation. These written references ideally should include a balance of former employers, employees and board members.
5. Provide 3-6 PROFESSIONAL references with complete names, addresses and phone numbers. These references need to be different from those providing letters of recommendation.
6. Responses to the following management questions. Please limit your responses to each question to one page.
  - Describe your management style.
  - State and discuss your philosophy of forest preserve management and sustainability principles.
  - What issues do you consider to be critically important to the field today?
7. Transcript or copy of degree and any certifications.

ALL APPLICATIONS AND  
INQUIRIES SHOULD BE  
REFERRED TO:

**MAIL APPLICATIONS TO:**

SCREENING COMMITTEE  
ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS  
211 EAST MONROE STREET  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701-1186

QUESTIONS:

217-970-7317

OR

AHOWARD@ILPARKS.ORG



## TENTATIVE SELECTION PROCESS

**FEBRUARY 7, 2025:**  
DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS TO  
BE RECEIVED

**FEBRUARY 2025:**  
CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

**MARCH 3, 2025:**  
TENTATIVE DATE OF EMPLOYMENT