



SR0775

LRB104 21800 LAW 37506 r

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to congratulate Severson Dells Nature Center on the occasion of its 50th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, Severson Dells Nature Center was established in 1975 when the Harry and Fannie Severson family donated 369 acres of Midwest prairie and oak savannas to the Winnebago County Forest Preserves with the intention that the land be used for nature education, particularly for children; and

WHEREAS, Severson Dells Nature Center serves over 13,000 people each year with hands-on, science-based activities designed to inspire a love of nature that leads to a sense of stewardship for the environment; and

WHEREAS, Connecting people and place, Severson Dells Nature Center offers field trips and camps for children, STEM programming for families, and hikes, public programming, and conservation opportunities for adults; and

WHEREAS, Severson Dells Nature Center hosts a robust AmeriCorps program that teaches AmeriCorps members about environmental education and community advocacy and prepares them for postgraduate education and employment; and

1 WHEREAS, Severson Dells Nature Center purchased a 168-acre
2 shuttered golf course from the Rockford Park District in 2024,
3 and the nature center has begun a three-year restoration and
4 rewilding of the property with the goal of creating an urban
5 nature preserve to serve the east side of Rockford, which will
6 become one of the few preserves accessible by public
7 transportation in Rockford; and

8 WHEREAS, Through rewilding the golf course, Severson Dells
9 Nature Center intends to achieve a number of positive
10 environmental impacts, including increased carbon
11 sequestration, storm water management, and neutralization of
12 urban heat islands; and

13 WHEREAS, Severson Dells Nature Center will observe its
14 50th anniversary from June 26 to June 27, 2026; therefore, be
15 it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate
18 Severson Dells Nature Center on achieving its 50th
19 anniversary, and we thank the nature center for its continued
20 commitment to preserving nature through environmental
21 stewardship and providing nature education; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to Severson Dells Nature Center as an expression of
3 our esteem and respect.