

## **MCKEE HOUSE COALITION**

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*Join us to save one of the great historic buildings of DuPage County!*



### ***HELP US BUILD A NEW ROOF THIS FALL***

**This summer, in response to the potential demolition of the original WPA-built headquarters and superintendent's residence of the DuPage County Forest Preserve, a large coalition of preservationists, government organizations and residents came together in support of saving this remarkable piece of Illinois history.** Dedicated in 1936 to the residents of DuPage County by the Works Progress Administration, the stately Colonial Revival headquarters/residence, shop and well house were constructed of Naperville limestone by CCC relief workers. Located on St Charles Road between Lombard and Glen Ellyn, this became the home of Robert L. McKee, first superintendent of the Forest Preserve, for 24 years. McKee was responsible for acquiring a large part of the current preserves and was an early environmentalist who planted thousands of trees, spoke out against water pollution and battled the devastating spread of Dutch Elm disease. Also appreciative of historic structures, he was instrumental in the preservation of Graue Mill at Fullersburg Woods.

Now, the beautiful house in which he lived is recognized as a historically important structure. **In 2006, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency deemed the McKee House and outbuildings as likely candidates to be included on the National Register of Historic Places because of the quality of the Colonial Revival architecture, their relation to the WPA and also their historic association to local environmental conservation efforts.** That same year, Landmarks Illinois placed the buildings on their Chicagoland Watch List.

**The McKee House Coalition** is committed to working with the Forest Preserve to stabilize the condition of the residence, which is in urgent need of a new roof, and then to restore the site to the use of the residents of the county as a multi-purpose facility with interchangeable spaces for classrooms, meeting rooms and special events. Easily accessible from St.Charles Road, the idyllic setting on the edge of Churchill Woods Forest Preserve would welcome visitors into the surrounding native woodlands.

***This is an exciting opportunity to preserve an important piece of our county's history and at the same time an opportunity to provide public educational/event space in this part of the county.***

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## How you can help:

**At this time it is critical that the deteriorating roof of the main structure be replaced this fall.** We are writing to invite you to help sponsor this essential restoration to such an important historic structure, the first step in returning an irreplaceable asset to the citizens of DuPage County. **Citizens for Glen Ellyn Preservation**, a 501(c)(3), has established a special fund for this purpose at P.O. Box 454, Glen Ellyn, IL, 60138.\* Donations can also be made online at [http://www.glenellynpreservation.org/mckee\\_donation.html](http://www.glenellynpreservation.org/mckee_donation.html)

*Your sponsorship will play a vital role in maintaining the architectural and environmental history of our county and will return a valuable asset to its residents.* To join our coalition or if you have any questions please email Linda Gilbert at [lhkgilbert@gmail.com](mailto:lhkgilbert@gmail.com).

We thank you in advance for your thoughtful support and look forward to working with you as a sponsor of the McKee House.

**Sincerely,**

### **The supporters of the McKee House Coalition**

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\*Your contribution through Citizens for Glen Ellyn Preservation is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.