



# ALFORD EXECUTIVE SEARCH

Strengthening not-for-profits

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## **FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY NAMES ARNOLD BIONDO AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

On behalf of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, Alford Executive Search is pleased to announce that Arnold Biondo has recently been appointed by the Board of Commissioners as its next Executive Director.

Arnold is an experienced parks and recreation management executive, having served 18 years in his most recent role as Executive Director of the Carol Stream Park District. During his tenure, the Park District has won several accreditation and recognition awards, including one for excellence in financial reporting; and Arnold led the development of seven additional park sites totaling a 30 percent increase in territory. Arnold has formed and nurtured relationships with other park districts, forest preserves, IDOT, schools, and other key stakeholders throughout his career - work that will transfer seamlessly to this role with the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. Throughout his career in parks and recreation management, Arnold has held other similar positions in the Wheeling, Wheaton, and Oakbrook Terrace Park Districts. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Recreation and Park Management at the University of Oregon; and a Master of Arts in Service Marketing and Management at DePaul University.

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County was established in 1915 under the Illinois Downstate Forest Preserve Act. At the time it was the fifth such agency in the United States. County officials appropriated an initial \$8,000 to establish the agency and spent the first two years preparing operational policies. Today, the Forest Preserve District manages 25,000 acres of prairies, wetlands and woodlands, which are home to over 1,200 species of native plants and animals. It operates trails, picnic areas, fishing lakes, five education centers and other amenities for over 4 million visitors annually and provides regional flood control. For almost 100 years it has helped to improve the overall quality of life for DuPage County's citizens, which today number almost one million. Its nearly \$42 million annual operating budget is primarily funded by local real estate taxes and supports the agency's mission of conservation, education and recreation. To learn more about the Forest Preserve, visit [www.dupageforest.com](http://www.dupageforest.com).

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