



**Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Board of Commissioners**

Journal of Proceedings of the FPD Board of Commissioners

10:00 AM

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

**Cook County Building, Board Room,
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

ATTENDANCE

Present: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Scott, Jr., to approve remote participation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Gainer and Moore (2)

CONSENT CALENDAR

There are no Consent items for this meeting.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Ruth Lynch, CMRJB Workers United

Kai Shin, Chicago Botanic Garden Workers United Union Effort

Lorilin Meyer, Wilmette

Matt Muchowski, Workers United

Devin McAllester, Chicago Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation

Robert Cheney, Winnetka

Tara Samuels, Green Corporation Supervisor

Henry, Johnson, Green Corporation Training

Paul Venerable, Concerned Citizen

PRESIDENT**25-0242****Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent**REPORT****Department:** Office of the General Superintendent**Request:** Receive and File**Report Title:** Conservation and Policy Council Monthly Report

Summary: Created in 2014, the Conservation and Policy Council advises the President, Board and the General Superintendent about conservation policies and practices, including the implementation of the Next Century Conservation Plan's vision of vibrant, ecologically healthy and welcoming forest preserves system.

Each month, a member of the Conservation and Policy Council will provide a verbal report detailing the work that the Conservation and Policy Council is doing as well as their recommendations to the Board regarding policies, practices, and other strategic initiatives of the Forest Preserves.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to defer 25-0242. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0296

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**REQUEST FOR GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT AUTHORITY TO APPROVE AND EXECUTE UTILITY AGREEMENTS**

WHEREAS, on 9/9/2025 the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners approved the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") entering into a contract with Ameresco, Inc. to provide energy consultant, procurement, bill payment and data management services for the procurement of and budgeting for electricity, natural gas, and renewable energy for Forest Preserves facilities (Board Item No. 25-0293) (the "Contract"); and

WHEREAS, the Contract is due to expire on 9/30/2028 and has one (1) two-year renewal option; and

WHEREAS, in order for the Forest Preserves to lock in the best utility rates, the Forest Preserves must approve rates and enter into corresponding energy agreements on a timeframe that is shorter than thirty (30) days; and

WHEREAS, under the Contract, Ameresco is tasked with soliciting quotes, recommending energy suppliers, and administering agreements with energy providers; and

WHEREAS, over the last three (3) years, the Forest Preserves has spent an average of approximately \$820,000.00 annually for electricity and natural gas to operate its facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners approved a similar resolution involving energy agreements and contract authorization on January 26, 2021 via Board Item No. 21-0125.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that President Toni Preckwinkle and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby authorize the Forest Preserves General Superintendent to approve and execute any agreements for energy providers recommended by Ameresco, Inc., pursuant to the Contract; provided, however, that (1) any such agreements do not exceed a duration of forty-eight (48) months, and (2) the annual aggregate spend on such agreements will not exceed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) (collectively, the “Energy Contracts”).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that on an annual basis, no later than the first Committee on Finance meeting after March 1st, the General Superintendent shall submit to the Committee a report covering all payments made pursuant to such Energy Contracts during the prior calendar year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 25-0296. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0338

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

2026 BOARD AGENDA MEETING ANNUAL CALENDAR DATES AND LOCATIONS

WHEREAS, in accordance with Title 1, Chapter 5, Section 4-1(a) of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code of Ordinances, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners shall hold regular meetings pursuant to an annual calendar adopted by resolution of the Board; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 2.03 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, every public body shall give public notice of the schedule of regular meetings at the beginning of each calendar or fiscal year and shall state the regular dates, times and places of such meetings; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by President Toni Preckwinkle and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners (the “Board”):

1. That the Board shall hold its regular meetings of the Board on the following dates during calendar year 2026, the time for holding the specified meetings is 10:00 a.m., local time:

Tuesday, January 13
Tuesday, February 3
Tuesday, March 10
Tuesday, April 14
Tuesday, May 5
Tuesday, June 9
Tuesday, July 7
Tuesday, September 15
Tuesday, October 20
Tuesday, November 17
Tuesday, December 15

2. That Board meetings may be conducted remotely by video and/or teleconferencing in accordance with public health authority guidelines and applicable provisions of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code of Ordinances, and executive orders related to a proclamation of disaster by the Governor of the State of Illinois. Otherwise, the place of Board meetings is the Cook County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, except for the following three meeting dates stated below in Sections 3, 4 and 5.
3. That the Board shall hold a regular meeting of the Board on Tuesday, May 5th at the Dan Ryan Woods Pavillion, S Western Ave & W 87th St, Chicago.
4. That the Board shall hold a regular meeting of the Board on Tuesday, July 7th at the Mathew Bieszczat Volunteer Resource Center, 6100 N Central Ave, Chicago.
5. That the Board shall hold a regular meeting of the Board on Tuesday, September 15th at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd, Glencoe.
6. That the same dates and locations listed here will be used to schedule the following standing committee meetings, set to begin at 9:30 a.m., local time: Subcommittee on Workers’ Compensation; Committee on Rules; Committee on Finance; and Committee on Real Estate.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 25-0338. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0353

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

Ordinance for the Levy of Taxes for the Year 2025

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County:

Section 1. That this Ordinance is and the same is hereby termed the “Ordinance for the Levy of Taxes for the Year 2025.”

Section 2. That the Committee on Finance of the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois has considered the subject of the Annual Tax Levy for the year 2025 and the several sums necessary to be levied to meet the needs and requirements of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County for said year and has recommended that this ordinance for the levy of taxes be adopted.

Section 3. That the Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, heretofore having approved and adopted the Annual Appropriation Ordinance for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County for the year commencing January 1, 2025 at its meeting held November 19, 2024, which ordinance was published by authority of said Board as provided by law and which portion of said Appropriation Ordinance pertaining to Fund and Departmental Appropriations (together with marginal columns captioned “ Payable from the Tax Levy” and “Payable from sources other than the 2025 Tax Levy” where applicable) is set forth hereinafter.

Section 4. That the sum of One Hundred and Forty-Five Million, One Hundred and Thirty-One Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirty-Eight Dollars and No Cents (\$145,131,538), being the sum of Appropriations heretofore legally made which are to be paid from the collection of the Annual Tax Levy of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois for the Levy Year 2025 A.D. for the corporate purposes, for the construction of improvements and development of the forests and lands, for payment for principal and interest on bonded debt, for payment for contributions to Employees’ Annuity and Benefit Fund, and for the payment of amounts to the Chicago Zoological Society and the Chicago Horticultural Society, all as adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County at its meeting held November 19, 2024 and published by the authority of said Board according to law, is hereby levied on all the taxable property within said Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois for the Levy Year 2025 being composed of the specific amounts for the various purposes herein before named.

Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois

ANNUAL TAX LEVY ORDINANCE
FOR THE YEAR COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2025SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND SOURCES THEREOF
ALL FUNDS

Section 5. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

Fund	Amount of Appropriation	Payable From The Tax Levy	Payable From Sources Other Than The 2025 Tax Levy
Corporate	89,290,230	77,243,969	12,046,261
Self-Insurance	8,530,000	0	8,530,000
Const. & Development	22,071,272	20,200,000	1,871,272
Bond & Interest	7,985,735	4,422,985	3,562,750
Employee Annuity & Benefit	12,687,782	12,284,768	403,014
Real Estate Acquisition	12,300,000	0	12,300,000
Capital Improvement	5,000,000	0	5,000,000
Resident Watchmen	523,000	0	523,000
Chicago Zoological	19,128,936	19,115,977	12,959
Chicago Horticultural	11,786,390	11,863,840	77,450 -77,450
Total	\$189,303,345	\$145,131,538	\$145,131,538 44,171,806

Effective date: This ordinance shall be in effect from and after its passage and approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to refer 25-0353 to the Finance Committee, as amended in the errata. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0359

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A FOREST PRESERVE NEAR BEAUBIEN WOODS

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A FOREST PRESERVE in parts of Sections 34 and 35, Township 37 North, Range 14, East of the Third Principal Meridian, all in Cook County, Illinois near Beaubien Woods in District 5.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois (the “District”), pursuant to the statutes in such case made and provided, has from time to time acquired by purchase, condemnation, gift, grant, devise, or otherwise, lands necessary and desirable for District purposes containing one or more natural forests or parts thereof, or lands connecting such forests or parts thereof, or lands capable of being reforested for the purpose of protecting and preserving the flora, fauna, and scenic beauties within the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois, and to restore, restock, protect, and preserve the natural forests and said lands together with their flora and fauna, as nearly as may be, in their natural state and condition, for the purpose of the education, pleasure, and recreation of the public; and

WHEREAS, the said Board of Commissioners of the District also has acquired in like manner lands for the consolidation of such preserves into unit areas of a size and form convenient and desirable for public use and economical maintenance and improvement, and lands for the purpose of connecting such preserves with forested ways or links in order to increase their accessibility, use, and enjoyment, and lands for improvement by forestation, roads, and pathways, and lands for the purpose of constructing, maintaining, and operating recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the District has in a like manner acquired lands along water courses or elsewhere which, in their judgment, were required to control drainage and water conditions and necessary for the preservation of forested areas acquired or to be acquired as preserves and lands for the purpose of extension of roads and forested ways around and by such preserves and for parking space for automobiles and other facilities not requiring forested areas but incidental to the use and protection thereof; and

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the District as follows:

Section 1. That a unified Forest Preserve be and the same is hereby created within the District which shall contain and connect lands now owned and lands to be acquired in substantial accordance with the plat now on file in the office of the General Superintendent of the District, which by reference is hereby made a part hereof, and for the purposes of said Forest Preserve and for the carrying out of the statutory purposes more particularly set out in the preamble of this ordinance, it is necessary and desirable for the District to own and it shall acquire property hereinafter described in Section 2 of this ordinance, for the purpose of creating a Forest Preserve and for District uses.

Section 2. That the lands referred to in Section 1 of this ordinance are more particularly described as follows:

S. Greenwood Avenue & E. 133rd Street, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois

THAT PART OF BLOCK 4 IN ALTGELD GARDENS SUBDIVISION, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 34, AND PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 35, ALL IN TOWNSHIP 37 NORTH, RANGE 14 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED MARCH 20, 1947 AS DOCUMENT NO. 14017505, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID BLOCK 4; THENCE NORTHERLY ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID BLOCK 4, BEING A 3233.00 FOOT RADIUS CURVE, CONCAVE WESTERLY, 33.23 FEET, THE CHORD OF SAID CURVE BEARS NORTH 06 DEGREES 09 MINUTES 53 SECONDS EAST, 33.23 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 25 MINUTES 07 SECONDS EAST, 37.50 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 59 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 46 SECONDS EAST, 64.07 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID BLOCK THAT IS 96.32 FEET EAST OF, THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID BLOCK, AS MEASURED ON SAID SOUTH LINE; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 25 MINUTES 07 SECONDS WEST, ON SAID SOUTH LINE, 96.32 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, ALL IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Part of PIN 25-35-100-020-0000

SAID PARCEL CONTAINING 2,224 SQUARE FEET, OR 0.05 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

Section 3. This ordinance is hereby made and ordained to be severable as to each parcel of land or portion thereof or right of interest in any of the same hereby authorized to be acquired, and failure to acquire any of the said parcels of land described in Section 2 hereof or right of interest in any of the same shall not impair or invalidate the authority by this ordinance granted to hold, own, or acquire any other of said parcels or any right or interest therein, it being the intention of said Board of Commissioners of the District to carry out the general plan provided in this ordinance so far as legally and financially practicable, and to negotiate for purchase, condemn, or otherwise acquire from time to time the parcel(s) of land described in Section 2 hereof and all right or interest therein.

Section 4. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

District 5..end

A motion was made to refer 25-0359 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0343

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF REAL ESTATE

Department: Legal Department

Other Part(ies): Chicago Housing Authority (“CHA”), Chicago, Illinois

Request: It is respectfully requested that this proposed purchase through an Intergovernmental Agreement with the CHA be approved.

Description of Real Estate: S. Greenwood Avenue & E. 133rd Street, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois

Section: N/A

Parcel(s): Part of PIN 25-35-100-020-0000

THAT PART OF BLOCK 4 IN ALTGELD GARDENS SUBDIVISION, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 34, AND PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 35, ALL IN TOWNSHIP 37 NORTH, RANGE 14 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED MARCH 20, 1947 AS DOCUMENT NO. 14017505, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID BLOCK 4; THENCE NORTHERLY ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID BLOCK 4, BEING A 3233.00 FOOT RADIUS CURVE, CONCAVE WESTERLY, 33.23 FEET, THE CHORD OF SAID CURVE BEARS NORTH 06 DEGREES 09 MINUTES 53 SECONDS EAST, 33.23 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 25 MINUTES 07 SECONDS EAST, 37.50 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 59 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 46 SECONDS EAST, 64.07 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID BLOCK THAT IS 96.32 FEET EAST OF, THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID BLOCK, AS MEASURED ON SAID SOUTH LINE; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 25 MINUTES 07 SECONDS WEST, ON SAID SOUTH LINE, 96.32 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, ALL IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

SAID PARCEL CONTAINING 2,224 SQUARE FEET, OR 0.05 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

Fiscal Impact: \$5,000.00 purchase price plus closing costs up to \$10,000.00 (up to \$15,000.00 in total).

Accounts: Real Estate and Land Acquisition Fund 51006.560010; and Land Improvements 51009.560019

District: 5

Summary: The proposed 130th Street Chicago Transit Authority (“CTA”) Station will be the new terminal station for the Red Line Extension located just to the east of the CHA Altgeld Gardens housing community. As mitigation for the effects of the extension project on the Forest Preserves of Cook County’s (“Forest Preserves”) Beaubien Woods and to support the CHA and other community members in the area, the CTA agreed to provide funding to the Forest Preserves to connect the Altgeld Gardens community to the Beaubien Woods Boat Launch (See Board Item Nos. 23-0515 and 23-0520).

The CTA therefore transferred two (2) parcels of land to the Forest Preserves for this connection through an intergovernmental agreement. The acquisition now before the Board with the CHA includes an intergovernmental agreement between the parties (the “IGA”) to allow for the CHA to transfer approximately 2,224 square feet of additional CHA land near Greenwood Avenue to complete this trail connection (the “Property”). This new trail connection will encourage the community to use Beaubien Woods and its facilities. This project also includes a new public restroom at Beaubien Woods, which will require a connection for water service through the proposed trail corridor. The IGA and conveyance permits this water connection as well.

Through negotiations, the CHA has agreed to sell the Property to the Forest Preserves for the sum of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$5,000.00) plus closing costs up to \$10,000.00 (up to \$15,000.00 in total). The purchase price is based upon two (2) M.A.I. appraisals obtained by the Forest Preserves and is subject to the Forest Preserves’ satisfactory completion of its due diligence.

Permission is now sought, upon satisfactory completion of all due diligence and negotiation of any and all required documentation, as determined by the Forest Preserves Legal Department, to effectuate payment in the amount of the purchase price plus closing costs as full compensation for the acquisition of the Property.

This land acquisition advances the goals of the Forest Preserves’ Southeast Cook County Land Acquisition Plan, Land Acquisition Plan, and Acquisition and Disposition of Land Position Paper.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to refer 25-0343 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

COMMISSIONERS

25-0357

Sponsored by: SCOTT R. BRITTON, ALMA E. ANAYA, JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, FRANK AGUILAR, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BILL LOWRY, KISHA E. MCCASKILL, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN MORRISON, SEAN MORRISON, MICHAEL SCOTT, JR, TARA STAMPS and MAGGIE TREVOR, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**A RESOLUTION PLEDGING TO JOIN COOK COUNTY TO UNITE AGAINST HATE**

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) is dedicated to ensuring that all Cook County residents and visitors can avail themselves of the physical, mental, and emotional benefits that come from spending time in nature and therefore strives to ensure that everyone feels welcome, and we pledge to join Cook County United Against Hate, a diverse coalition of individuals and municipal, nonprofit, faith, and academic organizations that unite against hate; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves’ 2020 *Moving Toward Racial Equity* and 2022 *Amplifying Diversity and Inclusion* position papers outline a set of principles and recommendations to meet the Forest Preserves’ nature conservation mission in the most equitable way; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves works together with its Conservation & Policy Council and its partners to create a welcoming and inclusive environment that affirms values of equity and belonging for all; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves is one of the largest public conservation districts in the country and protects a diverse array of ecosystems that shelter thousands of plants and animals and provide the residents of Cook County and its visitors with opportunities to explore and experience nature; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves recognizes that in order for these public lands to thrive, they must be treasured by Cook County residents so that people will advocate and care for these lands for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves welcomes everyone with their unique experiences and characteristics, and we believe that we are stronger when we respect, accept and learn from our similarities and differences; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves values diversity in all aspects of our work and are committed to enhancing our cultural competency in order to best serve and engage Cook County residents and visitors in caring for the health and enjoyment of our natural and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves affirms the rights and the value of our staff, partners, volunteers, visitors and users of the Forest Preserves, regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, class, or other backgrounds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby pledges to support Cook County United Against Hate, to unite against prejudice, and to continue to promote equity at every level within the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 25-0357. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0377

Sponsored by: ALMA E. ANAYA, JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, FRANK AGUILAR, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BILL LOWRY, KISHA E. MCCASKILL, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN MORRISON, SEAN MORRISON, MICHAEL SCOTT, JR, TARA STAMPS and MAGGIE TREVOR, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN WORKERS

WHEREAS, the Chicago Horticultural Society opened the Chicago Botanic Garden (“the Garden”) in 1972. The Forest Preserves of Cook County owns the 385-acre land that currently houses the Garden, creating one of the world’s great living museums and one of the treasures of the Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County contributes significant financial support as one of the largest public funders of the Garden to date; and

WHEREAS, the Garden employs over 400 workers throughout the County, both at its main location in Glencoe, Illinois, and at their Windy City Harvest locations, including 10 urban farms in the city of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, the Garden workers include full-time, seasonal, and part-time employees in areas ranging from administration to horticulture, landscape, education, public programs, visitor experience, Windy City Harvest, and more; and

WHEREAS, the Garden celebrates their diverse workforce, which allows the Garden "to create extraordinary and welcoming experiences” for all county residents; and

WHEREAS, to continue the vision of being a world-renowned living museum and making a difference in communities throughout the County, it is critical to support and uplift the Garden’s workforce; and

WHEREAS, organized labor has deep historical roots in the Chicagoland area and unions represent a large and diverse number of workers; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2023 report from the U.S. Department of Treasury, workers who are a part of labor unions report better non-wage features of the workplace, such as workplace safety and flexible scheduling; and

WHEREAS, the Union Members 2024 Report released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics on January 28, 2025, found that “Nonunion workers had median weekly earnings that were 85 percent of earnings for workers who were union members (\$1,138 versus \$1,337),” and

WHEREAS, the Economic Policy Institute released a report in 2023 that showed that “the racial wealth gap among union members is substantially lower than for nonunion households,” as union representation helped to reduce racial pay disparities and to increase equity; and

WHEREAS, the Garden employees are currently engaging in organizing efforts to attempt to form a union; and

WHEREAS, from 2022 to the present, workers at different cultural institutions around Cook County have successfully voted to unionize, and some are currently enjoying the benefits of their first contract; and

WHEREAS, the workers at the Garden intend to file petitions with the National Labor Relations Board to unionize their workplaces and negotiate various workplace benefits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners expresses firm support for workers at the Chicago Botanic Garden and urges the Garden to accept card check neutrality, demonstrating the Garden as an employer committed to recognizing the autonomy of workers to exercise their rights.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 25-0377. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

Nays: None (0)

Present: Britton (1)

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

25-0326

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED GRANT AWARD

Department: Department of Resource Management

Grantee: Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”)

Grantor: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

Request: Authorization to accept grant and enter into a grant agreement

Purpose: Provide additional funding to the Greencorps Chicago Conservation Corps program

Grant Amount: \$220,200.00

Grant Period: 10/21/2025 - 6/30/2026

Fiscal Impact: N/A. The project will be implemented at no direct cost to the Forest Preserves, which may provide in-kind staff support for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the projects.

Accounts: Grant and Mitigation 51010.521314 and 51010.521444

Concurrences: The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final agreement is subject to legal review and approval.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Forest Preserves has been awarded grant funds from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority to support the Greencorps Chicago Conservation Corps program in 2025-2026. The program will engage approximately thirty-five (35) participants in hands-on conservation activities including, but not limited to, invasive species removal, assistance with prescribed burns, and seed collecting.

Greencorps Chicago is the City of Chicago's green-industry employment program, which provides job skills training for individuals with barriers to employment, including but not limited to previous involvement with the criminal justice system. Greencorps Chicago has been a Conservation Corps partner with the Forest Preserves since 2014. The program seeks to empower residents from Chicagoland's underserved neighborhoods to create change in their lives and communities through training, service, and career opportunities in environmental fields. This cultivates healthier, safer, and more engaged communities and individuals who are prepared for employment through practical field experience and technical training in a variety of environmentally related jobs.

Total project costs are \$220,200.00, to be provided at no cost to the Forest Preserves, which may provide in-kind staff support for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the programs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to approve 25-0326. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0310**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent**PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT****Department:** Department of Facilities and Fleet**Other Part(ies):** Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability, Cook County, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with Cook County’s Department of Environment and Sustainability (“DES”)

Goods or Services: Cook County, through DES and in partnership with South Suburban College, owns and operates the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (“CHaRM Center”) in South Holland, Illinois. DES is willing to allow the CHaRM Center to receive and dispose of electronics, textiles, polystyrene, and other difficult to recycle materials that the Forest Preserves collects from illegally dumped materials throughout the Forest Preserves, and this agreement will provide the logistics and terms of such arrangement.

Agreement Number(s): N/A

Agreement Period: Date of Execution through 12/31/2027, with one (1) two-year extension option to be exercised at the discretion of the General Superintendent

Fiscal Impact: Not to Exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) for landscaping materials and services, and in-kind staff support in relation to the planning, furnishing, installation and maintenance of grass, plants, and trees for beautification.

Accounts: N/A**District(s):** 5

Summary: This proposed Intergovernmental Agreement with DES would allow the Forest Preserves to periodically transport illegally dumped household hazardous waste materials collected throughout the Forest Preserves to the CHaRM Center in South Holland, Illinois for their proper storage and disposal. The Forest Preserves will maintain logs of all waste collected and delivered to the CHaRM Center for at least three (3) years from the date the waste was delivered. In exchange, the Forest Preserves will work with the architects currently designing the facility landscape to help furnish and install grass, plants and trees for its beautification and maintain those improvements for up to two (2) years from completion (subject to agreement extension). The proposed agreement is estimated to save the Forest Preserves approximately forty-two thousand dollars (\$42,000.00) on an annual basis. Final Intergovernmental Agreement is subject to legal review and approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to approve 25-0310. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0329

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Department: Department of Resource Management

Other Part(ies): Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability, Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authority for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability (“CCDES”).

Goods or Services: Environmental assessment and remediation of polychlorinated biphenyls (“PCBs”) at Sauk Lake.

Agreement Number(s): N/A

Agreement Period: Five (5) years from date of execution, with one (1) five-year mutual extension option to be executed at the discretion of the General Superintendent

Fiscal Impact: N/A. The project will be implemented at no direct cost to the Forest Preserves, which may provide in-kind staff support for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the projects.

Accounts: Grant and Mitigation 51010.521314 and 51010.521444

District(s): 5, 6

Summary: CCDES has been allocated \$4,000,000.00 as a result of a class action settlement against Monsanto Company and its subsidiaries to resolve allegations of Polychlorinated Biphenyl (“PCB”) contamination of waterways. This amount will be sub-awarded in whole to the Forest Preserves to support environmental assessment and potential remediation of PCBs at Sauk Lake in South Chicago Heights. PCBs are persistent organic pollutants that were widely used in industrial applications until banned in the late 1970s. Despite regulatory prohibitions, historical use and improper disposal have led to legacy contamination in many water bodies, potentially including Sauk Lake. This work was predicated by preliminary sampling conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2015 indicating the presence of trace amounts of PCBs at the site. Further investigation is necessary to inform future efforts to address siltation within the lake, which presently inhibits ecological restoration and the ability to establish a sustainable fishery at the site.

Proposed project activities include sediment sampling to evaluate the source of any PCBs, along with the design, planning, and potential implementation of remediation measures if necessary to remove sediment. Removal of sediment may contribute to comprehensive watershed health and increased ecosystem services such as stormwater absorption, wildlife habitat, and resilience to climate change.

The Sauk Lake complex has been identified in the Natural and Cultural Resources Master Plan as the Forest Preserves' 10th highest priority landscape for ecological restoration.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to approve 25-0329. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0362

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Department: Department of Resource Management

Other Part(ies): University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Midwest Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Disease ("MCEVBD").

Goods or Services: Sharing of land management and mapping data for Forest Preserves properties from 2020 to present.

Agreement Number(s): N/A

Agreement Period: Three (3) years from date of execution

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Accounts: N/A

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Forest Preserves seeks to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with MCEVBD to contribute mapping and other data related to land management activities conducted on its properties (e.g. prescribed burning, invasive vegetation removal, deer management, etc.) from 2020 to present. This data will be utilized to evaluate the effectiveness of routine land management practices within the Forest Preserves as a strategy for reducing tick-borne disease risk within Cook County.

Sites will be surveyed to determine relative abundance of vector insect species, subject to the approval of the Forest Preserves, and correlated against historical land management activities to help answer questions about disease transmission and cooperative land management for the improvement of public health.

The Midwest Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Disease was established in 2017 with the cooperation of the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, along with research partners from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, and Illinois to build region-wide solutions to the problem of vector-borne disease in the Midwest.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to approve 25-0362. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0302

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

Department: Department of Planning and Development

Other Part(ies): Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways

Request: Authority for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to extend an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways

(“CCDOTH”).

Goods or Services: Agreement for CCDOTH to provide up to \$25 million of its motor fuel tax funds for various Forest Preserves transportation improvements.

Agreement Number: N/A

Agreement Period: 2/27/2020 - 2/26/2026

Proposed Extension: 2/27/2026 - 12/31/2027

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Accounts: N/A

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Forest Preserves is seeking to extend this existing Intergovernmental Agreement with CCDOTH due to delays in completing trail projects that have been authorized for Motor Fuel Tax funding by CCDOTH within the original term of the Agreement. The extension would also allow additional time for final closeout and invoicing of project costs by Forest Preserves contractors and final billing of the required local match for federally-funded projects by the Illinois Department of Transportation. Final amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to approve 25-0302. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0327

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Finance and Administration

Vendor: Various contractors establishing a Stihl Power Equipment, Parts, and Maintenance vendor pool listed below:

<u>Contract No.</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>
74000016805	Mowerworks, Ltd.
74000016807	Arlington Power Equipment, Inc.
74000016808	Russo Hardware, Inc. d/b/a Russo Power Equipment

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into and execute

Good(s) or Service(s): Stihl Power Equipment, Parts, and Maintenance

Contract Value: Not to exceed a combined total of \$1,000,000.00 over the five (5) year term across all contract numbers listed above. The General Superintendent may adjust via contract amendment funding amounts allocated to each vendor at their discretion within the total \$1,000,000.00 not-to-exceed amount.

Contract Period: 11/1/2025 - 10/31/2030

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2025 \$50,000.00, FY 2026 \$200,000.00, FY 2027 \$200,000.00, FY 2028 \$200,000.00, FY 2029 \$200,000.00, FY 2030 \$150,000.00

Accounts: Resource Ecology 51001.521449; Institutional Supplies 51001.530188, 51001.530170; Grant and Mitigation 51010.521314; Automotive Operations 51001.540250; Property Maintenance and Operations 51036.540345, 51001.540345; and all future Property Maintenance and Operations accounts

Contract Number(s): #74000016805, #74000016807, #74000016808

Concurrences: The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract is subject to legal review and approval.

The contract specific Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise goal for this contract was set to zero.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Forest Preserves issued a Request for Proposals (Solicitation No. 25-20-012405) for the ability to purchase Stihl Power Equipment, Parts, and Maintenance Services through authorized Stihl Power Equipment dealers. These contracts are critical to our departments that utilize Stihl Power Equipment to maintain over 70,000 acres of Forest Preserves.

The Forest Preserves is recommending awarding a contract to three (3) out of the four (4) vendors that submitted proposals following a competitive process wherein each vendor was evaluated based on quality of products and services offered, pricing and overall value, complete proposal meeting all material requirements of the RFP, and service delivery and support capabilities.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to approve 25-0327. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S.Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0351

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Law Enforcement

Vendor: Illinois Public Safety Agency Network (IPSAN), Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into and execute

Good(s) or Service(s): Public Safety Software

Contract Value: \$125,000.00

Contract Period: 1/1/2026 - 12/31/2030

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2026 \$25,000.00; FY 2027 \$25,000.00; FY 2028 \$25,000.00; FY 2029 \$25,000.00; FY 2030 \$25,000.00

Accounts: Professional Services 51001.520830

Contract Number(s): #74000016997

Concurrences: The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract is subject to legal review and approval.

The Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Ordinance is not applicable due to the contract value not exceeding \$25,000.00 per year.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Forest Preserves seeks authorization to enter into a sole source agreement with the Illinois Public Safety Agency Network (IPSAN) for public safety software. IPSAN is a nonprofit organization established under the Illinois Public Safety Agency Network Act, 50 ILCS 752/1 et seq., to promote intergovernmental cooperation among local public safety agencies. It is governed by various Illinois police chiefs and county sheriffs, including the Cook County Sheriff. IPSAN's systems are used by the Cook County Sheriff's Police Department and more than 100 law enforcement agencies in Cook County. The Forest Preserves' Department of Law Enforcement has used IPSAN since 2007.

IPSAN's software allows officers to securely access the Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) from portable handheld devices. This enables officers to conduct computerized inquiries during traffic, pedestrian, and investigatory stops, whether on foot, bicycle, ATV, or in a squad car. Officers also use the software to prepare reports.

The proposed agreement is a standard software license that may include non-standard provisions for the Forest Preserves, including terms related to disclaimers, limitations of liability, and warranties.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to approve 25-0351. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott and Trevor (14)

Nays: None (0)

Present: Anaya, Stamps and Vásquez (3)

25-0361**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent**PROPOSED CONTRACT****Department(s):** Department of Planning and Development**Vendor:** Commonwealth Edison Company (“ComEd”), Chicago, Illinois**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into and execute**Good(s) or Service(s):** Electric facilities and equipment to serve the Forest Preserves premises located at McGinnis Fisheries Field Station, 13700 108th Ave in Orland Township**Contract Value:** \$223,255.02**Contract Period:** Continuous**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$40,345.24 (amount due after application of credits totaling \$182,909.78)**Accounts:** N/A. Fees to be paid by the Public Building Commission of Chicago (“PBC”) using accounts authorized under a separate Intergovernmental Agreement with the PBC.**Contract Number(s):** N/A**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract is subject to legal review and approval.**District(s):** 17

Summary: The Forest Preserves has been working on updating the electricity at several buildings located at the McGinnis Fisheries Field Station operated by the Forest Preserves Department of Resource Management as part of a PBC-managed project to replace a dilapidated metal boat storage shed with a modern metal garage building. The Field Station buildings require a new ComEd transformer and other equipment and facilities to replace old facilities that have experienced recurring power outages. ComEd requires the Forest Preserves to enter into an Electric Facilities Service Acknowledgment contract to cover installation and payment of related fees. The equipment will be owned by ComEd. The continuous term of the agreement requires board approval, however, the agreement is terminable by the Forest Preserves.

This project is being managed by the PBC pursuant to an Intergovernmental Agreement approved by the Board of Commissioners on April 25, 2023 (Board Item No. 23-0299). Due to time sensitivities, the Forest Preserves respectfully requests authorization to have the General Superintendent execute this agreement.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to approve 25-0361. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0341

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Department(s): Department of Planning and Development

Vendor: Herc Rentals Inc., Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to extend and increase contract

Good(s) or Service(s): Equipment rentals and related products and services

Original Contract Period: 5/7/2025 - 10/31/2025

Proposed Contract Period Extension: 11/1/2025 - 10/31/2027

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: \$100,000.00

Original Approval: 5/7/2025, \$100,000.00

Previous Increase(s): N/A

This Increase Requested: \$300,000.00

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2025 \$100,000.00, FY 2026 \$100,000.00, FY 2027 \$100,000.00

Accounts: Property Maintenance and Operations 51009.560106, 51031.560106, 51034.560106, 51036.560106; Professional Services 51001.520830; and future Construction and Development accounts

Contract Number(s): #74000016006 issued under Omnia Partners piggyback agreement Herc Rentals Inc. contract #2019000318

Concurrences: The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

Piggyback contract based on a Cooperative Procurement Agreement. The contract-specific Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise goal for this contract was set to zero.

District(s): 9

Summary: The vendor provides rentals of temporary generators and other related equipment and services. Following the failure of the transformer serving the General Headquarters building earlier this year, the Forest Preserves Department of Facilities and Fleet utilized a piggyback agreement to fund a temporary generator rental. Subsequently, the Planning and Development Department entered into a separate piggyback agreement with the vendor to fund the generator rental to the present day. The agreement, which expires on October 31, 2025, now needs to be extended and increased to continue generator service until permanent power is restored at the General Headquarters building and to fund potential future needs for generator rentals throughout the Forest Preserves.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to approve 25-0341. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0342

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Department(s): Department of Planning and Development

Vendor: Burling Builders, Inc., Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to extend contract

Good(s) or Service(s): Construction services for the redevelopment of the Salt Creek Landscape Maintenance campus

Original Contract Period: 3/3/2023 - 9/23/2024; 9/24/2024 - 7/1/2025 (Administrative Extension); 7/2/2025 - 9/23/2025 (Administrative Extension)

Proposed Contract Period Extension: 9/24/2025 (retroactive) - 3/24/2026

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: \$8,113,500.00

Original Approval: 1/24/2023, \$8,113,500.00

Previous Increase(s): N/A

This Increase Requested: N/A

Estimated Fiscal Impact: N/A

Accounts: Property Maintenance and Operations 51009.560105, 51027.560105, 51031.560105, 51033.560105, 51036.560105, and 51010.560105; and all future Construction and Development accounts

Contract Number(s): #74000011607 issued under Project #22-80-26 and Solicitation #22-80-008044

Concurrences: The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

The Minority-and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Ordinance goals are not applicable for this amendment as there is no increased fiscal impact.

District(s): 16

Summary: An extension of contract #74000011607 issued under Project #22-80-26 for the redevelopment of the Salt Creek Landscape Maintenance Headquarters campus is necessary to address a request by an inspector for the contractor installing the Photovoltaic system to discontinue work until a specific permit is obtained. To complete the work on this system, the contractor was required to stop work, demobilize and to apply for and obtain a new permit for this work. The contractor applied for this permit in August 2025, and they have taken steps to complete permit requirements. This new permit is expected in October 2025 which will allow work to restart and to proceed to completion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to approve 25-0342. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0346

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Department(s): Department of Law Enforcement

Vendor: Stanard and Associates, Inc., Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to increase contract

Good(s) or Service(s): Professional Services Agreement to provide the Department of Law Enforcement with professional services that include but are not limited to behavioral assessments, testing, evaluations, and examinations for law enforcement positions.

Original Contract Period: 1/1/2024 - 12/31/2026

Proposed Contract Period Extension: N/A

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: \$82,500.00

Original Approval: 1/1/2024, \$75,000.00

Previous Increase(s): 7/17/2025, \$7,500.00 (Administrative)

This Increase Requested: \$90,000.00

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2025 \$15,000.00, FY 2026 \$75,000.00

Accounts: Professional Services 51001.520830

Contract Number(s): #74000013382

Concurrences: The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

The Minority- and Women- Owned Business Enterprise goals are not applicable to this amendment as the original contract value per year was equal to or less than \$25,000.00.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Department of Law Enforcement is proposing to increase the compensation in its Professional Services Agreement with Stanard and Associates by the sum of \$90,000.00. Stanard and Associates provides behavioral assessments, testing, evaluations and examinations for law enforcement positions in accordance with the Forest Preserves' Employment Plan. Due to a recent hiring surge in the Department of Law Enforcement, which is expected to continue through 2025 and 2026, this additional sum of money is necessary. The vendor was selected via a competitive RFP process. The Forest Preserves has used the services of Stanard and Associates since at least 2013.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to approve 25-0346. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0347**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent**PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT****Department(s):** Department of Law Enforcement**Vendor:** Quicket Solutions, Inc., Chicago, Illinois**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to extend and increase contract**Good(s) or Service(s):** Web-Based Evidence Management System**Original Contract Period:** 9/1/2019 - 8/31/2024; 8/31/2024 - 8/31/2025 (Administrative Extension)**Proposed Contract Period Extension:** 9/1/2025 (retroactive) - 8/31/2026**Total Current Contract Amount Authority:** \$114,000.00**Original Approval:** 7/23/2019, \$110,000.00**Previous Increase(s):** 8/31/2024, \$4,000.00 (Administrative)**This Increase Requested:** \$3,000.00**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2026 \$23,000.00 (using \$20,000.00 of remaining currently authorized funds)**Accounts:** Professional Services 51001.520830**Contract Number(s):** #74000006619**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

The Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Ordinance is not applicable due to the contract value per year being equal to or less than \$25,000.00.

District(s): Districtwide**Summary:** The Department of Law Enforcement is proposing to extend its contract with Quicket Solutions for an additional year and to increase the contract amount by \$3,000.00. This extension and increase will ensure continued access to a cloud-based evidence management system while the Department of Law Enforcement transitions to a new system from Mark43, Inc.

On September 9, 2025, the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners approved Board Item No. 25-0307 for a Records Management System and an Evidence Management System for the Department of Law Enforcement with Mark43, Inc. Mark43's Records and Evidence Management system is expected to be operational in the 3rd quarter of 2026. Once the Mark43 system is live, services from Quicket Solutions will no longer be required.

This contract extension with Quicket Solutions is a necessary interim measure to maintain uninterrupted evidence management capabilities and to ensure continuity during the transition period.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to approve 25-0347. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0352

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Department(s): Department of Facilities and Fleet

Vendor: SMG Security Holdings LLC, Elk Grove Village, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") to increase contract

Good(s) or Service(s): Fire and Security Alarm Monitoring, Inspection and Maintenance Services

Original Contract Period: 8/1/2024 - 7/31/2027, plus two (2) one-year extension options to be exercised at the discretion of the General Superintendent.

Proposed Contract Period Extension: N/A

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: \$943,807.00

Original Approval: 7/23/2024, \$943,807.00

Previous Increase(s): N/A

This Increase Requested: \$290,000.00

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2025 \$290,000.00

Accounts: Professional Services 51001.520840

Contract Number(s): #74000014361 issued under Project 24-53-010553

Concurrences: The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

The Vendor has met the Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Ordinance via direct participation.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: In 2024, the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners authorized the Forest Preserves to engage SMG Security Holdings LLC (“SMG”) to monitor, inspect, and maintain security and fire alarm systems at various properties owned or leased by the Forest Preserves (Board Item No. 24-0271). SMG was selected after the Forest Preserves issued a Request for Proposals and received two (2) responses. The Forest Preserves determined that SMG was the most responsive and qualified respondent to manage the Forest Preserves’ existing security and fire alarm systems, while delivering an improved level of service. Services include support for over one hundred (100) existing security and fire alarm systems dispersed throughout forty-two (42) preserve locations.

Fire alarms are critical to the ongoing operations of our facilities, providing life safety protection at locations throughout the Forest Preserves. In recent weeks, several of our sites now need replacement notifier open-source type fire alarm panels and compatible devices. Existing systems are all twelve (12) to fifteen (15) plus years old. The age of the panels and devices are causing them to fail intermittently and compromised underground wiring is also causing intermittent connectivity issues.

The Forest Preserves is therefore requesting an additional two hundred and ninety thousand dollars (\$290,000.00) (which includes a 17.5% contingency) to fund replacement of notifier fire alarm panels, compatible devices, and wiring where necessary at the Central Maintenance Compound buildings, Camp Sullivan cabins and bathhouses, Thorn Creek (Resource Management building), and Tinley Creek (Landscape Maintenance buildings). Replacement of the panels helps maintain high standards by improving safety, ensuring legal and regulatory compliance, and enhancing operational efficiency.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to approve 25-0352. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

25-0358

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ITEM AMENDMENT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Authorization is sought to correct the expenditure amount for an intergovernmental agreement amendment with Cook County approved by the Board of Commissioners on 9/9/2025 (Board Item No. 25-0311). The correction will increase the expenditure amount by \$13,811.00.

Item Number: 25-0311

Fiscal Impact: Not to exceed an additional \$13,811.00 to the original \$2,447,177.00 expenditure amount

Original Text of Item:

PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Other Part(ies): Cook County Government, Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization to enter into the Fourteenth Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of Cook (the “County”) and the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) for the reimbursement or payment for certain services rendered by various County departments and by the Forest Preserves.

Goods or Services: The County and the Forest Preserves wish to amend and restate the Thirteenth Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement (approved by their respective Boards of Commissioners on 11/21/2024 and 11/19/2024 for FY 2025) whereby they provide various services for each other.

Agreement Number: N/A

Agreement Period: 1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026

Fiscal Impact: Not to exceed ~~\$2,447,177.00~~ \$2,460,988.00 in expenditures and \$1,802,845.00 in revenue

Accounts: Various districtwide corporate expenditure and revenue accounts

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The County and the Forest Preserves entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement on 8/21/2012 authorizing the parties to perform various services for the other, in accordance with the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act. The parties agreed to provide various services and to provide reimbursement or payment for said services. The Intergovernmental Agreement was further amended around or about 4/25/2013, 6/18/2014, 9/8/2015, 11/15/2016, 6/6/2017, 4/25/2018, 9/26/2018, 2/21/2019, 10/22/2020, 1/28/2021, 10/5/2021, 10/18/2022, 11/14/2023, and 11/19/2024 to allow for additional cooperation. The Fourteenth Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement consolidates the prior agreements into one Intergovernmental Agreement, so the parties can refer to one agreement, and this document also contains additional services and reimbursements for FY 2026. This is a one-year agreement covering services and reimbursements from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to approve 25-0358. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0089

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Procurement and Disbursement Report

Report Period: 8/1/2025 - 8/31/2025

Summary: Submitting the Procurement and Disbursement Report for the period of August 2025. The report is to be received and filed in compliance with Section 1-8-2 (BB) of the District's Code of Ordinances.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to receive and file 25-0089. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0345

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Office of the General Superintendent

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Conservation and Policy Council Annual Progress Report and 2026 Budget Recommendation

Report Period: 1/1/2024 - 12/31/2024

Summary: Each year the Conservation and Policy Council reviews the Forest Preserves of Cook County annual budget proposal and makes a recommendation to the General Superintendent, the President and the Board of Commissioners about the budget and its alignment with the Next Century Conservation Plan.

Along with the budget recommendation the Council is also submitting an annual progress report on the implementation of the Next Century Conservation Plan (NCCP). The report describes updates on progress toward goals of the NCCP as they relate to restoration, land acquisition, and engaging people. The annual report of the Conservation and Policy Council is required by Section 1-18-5 of the Forest Preserves' Code of Ordinances.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to receive and file 25-0345. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0356

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Departments of Legal and Finance

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Workers' Compensation Report (August 2025)

Report Period: 8/1/2025 - 8/31/2025

Summary: The Forest Preserves of Cook County Departments of Legal and Finance are submitting Workers' Compensation Claim Payments for the month of August 2025. Payments total \$120,059.76 for August 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to receive and file 25-0356. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0339

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Department: Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming

Summary: Forest Preserves of Cook County Calendar of Events and Activities
10/21/2025-11/17/2025

Please check the Forest Preserves of Cook County’s website for updates and changes.

Tuesday, 10/21; 7:30pm

Nightfall’s Web, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Enjoy the outdoors and search for spiders under the stars. *Registration required. Please call (708)839-6897*

Wednesday, 10/22; 6:30pm

Owl Prowl, Eggers Grove, Chicago

Join a naturalist for an evening walk while searching for owls. *Registration required. Please visit the website.*

Saturday, 10/25; 10am—1pm

Fall Paddle Festival, Lake Arlington, Arlington Heights

Enjoy the fall season with family-friendly activities like paddling, pumpkin painting, food and more. *Registration required. This event is presented with the Arlington Heights Park District. Please visit the website.*

Saturday, 10/25; 2pm—5pm

Spooky Stories and S’mores, Thatcher Woods, River Forest

Join us for Halloween-themed trick-or-treat activity stations. The activities include pumpkin painting, making s’mores, and listening to Indigenous spooky children’s stories. *Participants are encouraged to wear costumes. For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

Saturday, 10/25; 8pm

River Trail Nightlife: The Return of Scary Stories, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Enjoy scary storytelling around the campfire at River Trail. *Registration required by 10/23. Ages 8 and up. The cost is \$5 per person. Please call (847)824-8360.*

Sunday, 10/26; 10:30am

The Un-Haunted Forest, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Enjoy a whimsical story-hike to solve a mystery. *Registration required by 10/24. Ages 10 and under with an adult. The cost is \$3 per child. This is a family program. Please call (847)824-8360.*

Sunday, 10/26; 11am—3pm

Pumpkin Scavenger Hunt, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Enjoy a fun self-guided scavenger hunt by finding all the hidden pumpkins. *Participants are encouraged to wear costumes. For more information, please call (847)381-6592.*

Sunday, 10/26; 12pm—4pm

Trunk or Treat, Eggers Grove, Chicago

Join us for this family-friendly event with plenty of candy. *This program is presented with the East Side Chamber of Commerce. For more information, please call (224)763-4317 or visit the website.*

Sunday, 10/26; 1:30pm

The Un-Haunted Forest, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Enjoy a whimsical story-hike to solve a mystery. *Registration required by 10/24. Ages 10 and under with an adult. The cost is \$3 per child. This is a family program. Please call (847)824-8360.*

Sunday, 10/26; 1:30pm

Costumed Scavenger Hunt Hike, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest

Bring your costume on this dress-up scavenger hunt. Participants will hike through our autumn woods while finding hidden treats. *Registration required. Due to possible allergies, the hidden treats will not contain any nuts. Please call (708)366-6530.*

Wednesday, 10/29; 11am

Everyone in Nature, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Participants can explore our sensory classroom and learn about nature in fall. *This program is for homeschool students and individuals with disabilities. For more information, please call (708)839-6897.*

Thursday, 10/30; 5:30pm—7:30pm

Fall Ceramics, Swallow Cliff Woods Pavilion, Palos Park

Participants can create a leaf impression bowl out of clay and learn why leaves change colors. *Registration required. Ages 13 and up. Please call (312)533-5751.*

Saturday, 11/1; 8am

Fishing Derby, Horsetail Lake, Palos Park

Join us for a family-fun day of fishing. *This event is presented with the Village of Palos Park. For more information, please call (312)533-5751 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 11/1; 10am—11:30am

Native American Bead and Cord Workshops, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Participants can learn traditional bead and cord making by Native American Artists from the Trickster Cultural Center. *Registration required. All materials will be provided. Please call (708)839-6897.*

Saturday, 11/1; 11am—2pm

Dia de Los Muertos Celebration, Eggers Grove, Chicago

Join us and celebrate the history of Dia de Los Muertos with games, exploration and artmaking. *For more information, please call (224)763-4317 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 11/1; 12:30pm—2pm

Native American Bead and Cord Workshops, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Participants can learn traditional bead and cord making by Native American Artists from the Trickster Cultural Center. *Registration required. All materials will be provided. Please call (708)839-6897.*

Saturday, 11/1; 1pm

Queen's Quest, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Participants can learn and explore the overwintering habits of bumblebees by completing the Queen's Quest survey. *Registration required. Please call (630)257-2045.*

Saturday, 11/1; 5pm—8pm

Stars, Stories and S'mores, LaBagh Woods, Chicago

Enjoy the day by listening to stories, taking a night hike, making s'mores and more. *This event will be held at Grove 2, and it is presented with the American Indian Health Services Center. For more information, please call (773)758-8899 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 11/1; 6pm—8pm

Owl-o-ween Prowl, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Join us for a not-so-spooky night by learning about and searching for these predators of the night. *Registration required. Participants are encouraged to wear costumes and candy will be provided. Please call (708)868-0606.*

Saturday, 11/1; 6pm—9pm

Dia de los Muertos Celebration, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Join us and celebrate Dia de los Muertos! Enjoy music, crafts, and a special ofrenda display. *Registration required. Participants can bring a photo of their cherished pet to honor their memory. Please call (847)381-6592.*

Saturday, 11/1; 10:30am

Fall in the Dolomite Prairie, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Enjoy and experience the array of colorful blooms in Sagawau's dolomite prairie. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. Please call (630)257-2045.*

Wednesday, 11/5; 6:30pm

Owl Prowl, Eggers Grove, Chicago

Join a naturalist for an evening walk while searching for owls. *Registration required. Please visit the website.*

Thursday, 11/6; 10am**Plants in the Military, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

In celebration of the upcoming Veterans Day, participants can learn and observe how plants were widely used in the military. *For more information, please call (847)381-6592.*

Friday, 11/7; 9:30am—11:30am**Fire Ecology 101, Red Gate Woods, Willow Springs**

Participants can learn about what effects a prescribed fire has on the environment by exploring why and how it is done. *This program will begin at Grove 1 and will include a 1.5-mile walk. For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

Friday, 11/7; 5pm—8pm**Stars, Stories, and S'mores, Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion, Chicago**

Join us for s'mores by the fire, storytelling, astronomy and more. *For more information, please call (224) 763-4317 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 11/8; 9am—11am**Conservation at Home: Seed Swap, Thatcher Woods Pavilion, River Forest**

Participants can bring seeds and/or take some seeds home at this free seed swap. *Experts will be available for advice. For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

Saturday, 11/8; 10am—12pm**River Trail Workday: Seeds and Stewardship, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Participants can learn how to collect native seeds and disperse them for restoration. *Registration required. Ages 10 and up. Ages 10-15 with an adult. Please call (847)824-8360.*

Saturday, 11/8; 10am—2pm**Sand Ridge: Calumet Heritage Day, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Join us as we explore the heritage of the Calumet Region with guided walks, regional activities and displays.

For more information, please call (708)868-0606 or visit the website.

Sunday, 11/9; 1pm—2:30pm**Earth and Echo: A Black Nature Poetry Gathering, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Join us for a book discussion as we explore the themes and messages found in “Black Nature: Four Centuries of African American Nature Poetry” by Camille Dungy. *Registration required. Participants must bring their own book. This program is presented by the Mbwakawen Harambee Collective. Please call (708)868-0606 or visit the website.*

Wednesday, 11/12; 10am—1pm**Open Nature Play Day, Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, Chicago**

Bring your little one for open nature play time! Enjoy the Dan Ryan Woods Nature Play space while helping your children connect with nature with stories, art and exploration. *For more information, please call (224)763-4317 or visit the website.*

Thursday, 11/13; 5pm—7pm

Wellness in the Woods Talks: Food Security Gardens, Caldwell Wellness Center, Chicago

Participants can learn about gardening and the effect plants can have on your well-being. *Registration required. This program is presented by the Wandering Paths Founder Navraaz Kaur Basati. Please visit the website.*

Saturday, 11/15; 10:30am

No Compass? No Problem, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest

Participants can always find their way by learning about and practicing different way-finding techniques without using a compass. *Registration required. Ages 13 and up. Please call (708)366-6530.*

Sunday, 11/16; 11am

Autumn Stories in Chinese, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

The Naperville Chinese Storytellers will share stories. *Ages 3 and up with an adult. For more information, please call (708)839-6897.*

Sunday, 11/16; 1pm

Autumn Antlers: The Science of the Rut, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Participants can learn about the biology and behavior of the white-tailed deer, which is one of Illinois' most iconic mammals. Discover how the fall breeding season, known as the rut, transforms the quiet woods into a stage for dramatic displays of dominance, courtship, and survival. *Registration required. Ages 13 and up. Please call (630)257-2045.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to receive and file 25-0339. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

COMMITTEE ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

25-0298

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Brandon Hayes

Position: Council Member

Department/Board/Commission: Conservation and Policy Council

Effective date: 9/9/2025

Expiration date: 12/31/2025

The Council Nominating Committee recommends the appointment of Brandon Hayes to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Megan Bang.

Brandon Hayes founded Bold Bison Communications and Consulting in 2019 to provide forward-thinking communications solutions, engaging strategy and facilitation services, and inspiring workshops and trainings for nonprofits, particularly in the conservation, climate, and local food movements. Bold Bison is a national firm-working from Florida to Alaska-with geographical emphases in the Great Lakes, Texas, and the West Coast. Clients include the Chicago Region Food System Fund, Chicago Wilderness Alliance, Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition, Green Spaces Alliance of South Texas, Houston Audubon, Iowa State University, The Land Trust Alliance, Montana Land Reliance, The Morton Arboretum, Nantucket Conservation Foundation, National Forest Foundation, and River Network, among many others including dozens of land trusts. Bold Bison is a Certified LGBT Business Enterprise. Brandon is Chair of the Board of Directors of the Institute of Conservation Leadership and is Board President of Chicago Artists for Action. He is a long-time volunteer for the International Crane Foundation's Annual Midwest Crane Count.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to approve 25-0298. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0368

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

SECRETARY TO THE BOARD, Lynne M. Turner, presented in printed form a record of the Journal of Proceedings of the regular meeting held on September 9, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to approve 25-0368. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0354

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (LITIGATION)

Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Litigation - 10/21/2025

The Finance Subcommittee on Litigation met on the above listed date and recommends the following for approval:

Proposed Settlements Approved Fiscal Year 2025 to Present: \$3,500,000.00
Proposed Settlements to Be Approved: \$0.00

Legal Fees Approved Fiscal Year 2025 to Present: \$608,298.82
Legal Fees for 10/21/2025 to Be Approved: \$58,262.90

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 25-0354. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0094

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Corporate Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures

Report Period: 1/1/2025 - 8/31/2025

Summary: Detailed Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures for August 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to receive and file 25-0094. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

25-0301

Presented by: HEATH WOLFE, County Auditor

REPORT

Department: Office of the County Auditor

Request: Refer to Audit Committee

Report Title: FPDCC Open Recommendations Report for July 2025

Report Period: July 2025

Summary: This report was designed to communicate the status of Open Recommendations regarding the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Degnen, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, to receive and file 25-0301. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

NEW ITEMS

25-0380

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Law Enforcement

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Utilization of Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives eTrace System

Report Period: N/A

Summary: On May 6, 2025, the Forest Preserves of Cook County Department of Law Enforcement presented to the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) for the purpose of utilizing its eTrace platform for submitting, retrieving, storing and querying firearms trace related information (Board Item No. 25-0189). There was no cost associated with the MOU and it would remain in effect until terminated. The board item was referred to the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

On May 31, 2025, Illinois House Bill (HB) 1373, requiring the use of the eTrace platform by all law enforcement agencies in Illinois, was passed by the Illinois Legislature. On July 28, 2025, the bill was approved by Governor Pritzker and became effective as Public Act 104-0030. Also, on July 28, 2025, the Illinois Attorney General’s Office confirmed that all local law enforcement agencies in Illinois are required to participate in the eTrace platform.

This report is to inform the Board of Commissioners that the Forest Preserves will comply with the new law by executing the MOU. Information acquired through the firearm tracing process can be utilized to solve individual cases, to maximize the investigative information available for use in identifying potential illegal firearms traffickers, and to supplement the analysis of crime trends and trafficking patterns.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to suspend the rules. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to receive and file 25-0380. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Britton, Daley, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and (14)

Nays: None (0)

Present: Anaya, Degnen and Vásquez (3)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to adjourn. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Nays: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman

Secretary
Journal #25-0384

A complete record of this meeting is available at <https://fpdcc.legistar.com>.