



Forest Preserves of Cook County Conservation & Policy Council Meeting
Thursday, June 25, 2026 at
Brookfield Zoo, 3300 Golf Rd, Brookfield, IL 60513

Directions: Please enter Brookfield Zoo Chicago at the South Gate, located near the corner of Golf Road and Ridgewood Road in Brookfield, IL (3300 Golf Road, Brookfield, IL 60513). At the parking gate, state you are here for the **Conservation & Policy Council Meeting**. Once past the parking gate, proceed left to park in the South Parking lot. Check in at South Gate Reception – they will direct you to the **Gorilla Conservation Center- Treetop Grand Vista Room**. A map and directions to the Gorilla Conservation Center-Treetop Grand Vista Room are included in Attachment 1.

Public Comments. Members of the public who wish to testify must register at least 24 hours before the scheduled start of the meeting. Register by sending your name and organization (if applicable) to Lydia.uhlir@cookcountyil.gov. Written-only comments provided 24 hours prior to the start of the Council meeting will be made part of the meeting record and available to all Council members. Anyone wishing to submit written public comments should send comments via email to Lydia.uhlir@cookcountyil.gov.

Accommodations. Brookfield Zoo Chicago is an accessible location and venue. The meeting will be held inside the Treetops Grand Vista Room which is accessible. To request live-captioning or other accommodations, please send an email to michelle.uting@cookcountyil.gov at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

A G E N D A

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| 10:00 am | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome (Mark Templeton, Chair, Conservation & Policy Council)2. Land Acknowledgement (Commissioner Frank J. Aguliar, 16th District)3. Brookfield Zoo Chicago Update (Dr. Mike Adkesson, President & CEO, Brookfield Zoo Chicago)4. Nature Spotlight: Vet in Residency program (Dr. Mike Adkesson) |
| 10:15 am | <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Public Comments |
| 10:20 am | <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Chair's report<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of Minutes (Attachment 2)• Standing items:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Update on engagement of teens within the preserves (Jacqui Ulrich, Director of Conservation & Experiential Programming, Forest Preserves of Cook County) (Attachment 3)○ Nominating Committee update (Henrietta "Hank" Saunders, Vice-Chair, Conservation & Policy Council) |
| 10:30 am | <ol style="list-style-type: none">7. General Superintendent Update (Adam Bianchi, General Superintendent, Forest Preserves of Cook County) |

- 10:50 am **8.** Engagement with Commissioners (Henrietta “Hank” Saunders and Benjamin Cox, Executive Director, Friends of the Forest Preserves)
- 11:20am **9.** Value of Nature Research Project (Mark Templeton and Elisabeth Garner, Data & Evaluation Analyst, Forest Preserves of Cook County) (Attachments 4 and 5)
- 11:40 am **10.** Communications Update (Carl Vogel, Director of Communications, Forest Preserves of Cook County) (Attachment 6)
- 11:50 am **11.** Updates from Strategic Partners (Attachment 6)
- 12:00 pm **12.** Adjourn. Next meeting scheduled for September 24, 2026 (9:00am to 2:00pm) at Thatcher Woods Pavilion, River Forest, IL